49284

# The Lowell Leager

Volume 37 Issue 18

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

## Property tax increase brings out residents to appeal - GOP proposes reform

by Emma Palova

n increase in property taxes Lin a depressed housing market brought out twice as many people to appeal their assessments in front of the board of review in Vergennes Township Monday.

In early March, residents received their yellow or white property notices showing skyrocketing property tax assessments, while their

home values have plunged due to the housing crisis.

According to Vergennes Township supervisor Tim Wittenbach, this has not happened since 1994 when Proposal A passed.

Proposal A capped the taxablevalueusedtocompute property taxes. Prior to the proposal, property taxes were calculated on state equalized value (SEV). SEV is 50 percent of the market value of a property.

Board of review chairman Jim Herb said assessments should be aligned with the market value of properties.

"Taxes should not go up," said Wittenbach.

But, they did, because the assessments are adjusted to the market value based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

For Betty and Lanny Mitchell, who have been living on Murray Lake



Vergennes Township board of review members Dan Faulkner, Jim Herb and Ken Ford listen to Lanny Mitchell.

Road for the last 40 years, the latest increase equaled \$2,500 more on their tax bill.

The couple came Monday to the board of review to oppose their assessment on seven acres of land, of which most is swamp. They had an independent appraisal done by an insurance company, which showed lower value than what the township had

for the property. Moreover, Mitchell's property is not located on the lake.

"Our taxes have gone up every year," said Betty Mitchell. "They should go down - our house is old. It's not worth what they say it's worth. We want it lowered a little bit."

Robert Guthrie had just moved into his new one-bedroom house with a pole barn on Kazemier

Woods in December. His assessment has been set at \$277,000. Guthrie said it's too high and he would like to have it lowered at least by \$50,000.

"It's not fair, property shouldn't values increasing," he said.

Roger Odell lives on 350 acres on farmland with old, obsolete barns. He too believes that his taxes are

> Property taxes, cont'd., pg. 16

#### House Republicans Glenn Steil, Dave Hildenbrand, Dave Agema and Mike Bender discuss the proposed reform.

## Lowell sees double as Morse and Boss take State championships

by Molly Benningfield **Editor** 

he Lowell wrestling team saw of their

individual State finals this weekend at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Justin Boss, a senior

ultimate prize during the Jackson Morse, a sophomore wrestling at 140, ended this weekend's tough schedule undefeated.

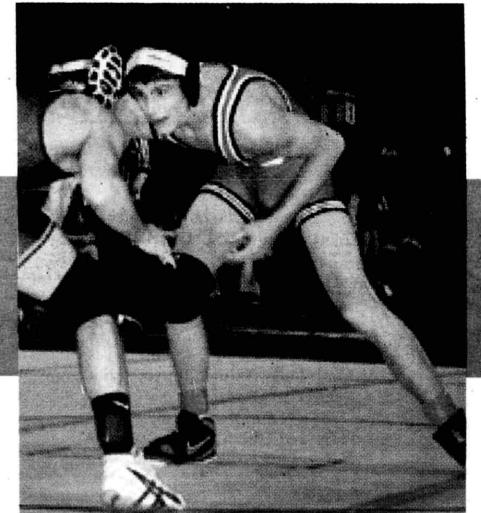
Boss finished with a wrestlers take home the wrestling at 152 pounds, and 29-6 record and his first

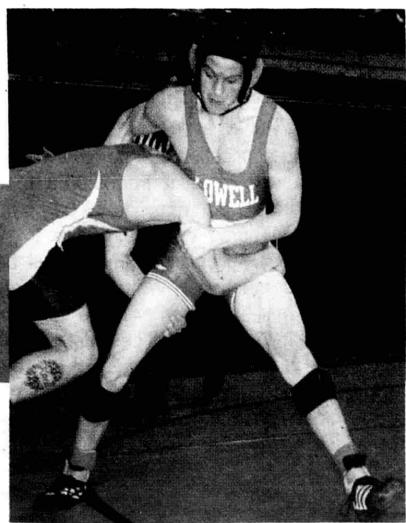
state title. He pinned Jacob Johnson of Dearborn Heights Crestwood in 4:48 during the finals.

Morse finished with a 37-2 record and his first state

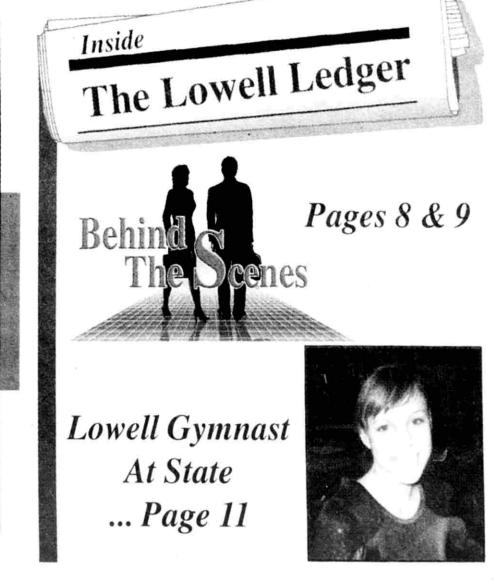
title, after taking second in his weight class last year. He beat Brennan Brumley of Warren Woods Tower 11-4 in the championship match. Brumley was undefeated for the season, with Morse giving him his first loss in 57 matches.

> Wrestling, cont'd., pg. 12





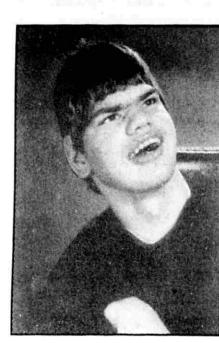
Jackson Morse and Justin Boss during state finals last weekend.



#### **BIGGS**

Arlene Gladys Biggs, aged Her husband Morris and son 49331. Dan Biggs preceded her in death. She is survived by her son, Dick and daughterin-law, Connie Biggs of Lowell; sisters, Opal Pringle and Garnet Wright; brother R.G. Ackels; grandchildren, David (Kathe) Biggs and Deb Biggs; five greatgrandchildren, Jimmie, Tony, Samantha Biggs and Kipp and Shawn Heydenburg; one great-great grandson, Austin. Arlene taught school in the Grand Rapids area until retiring. Funeral services will be 1 p.m., Friday, March 14 at the Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell with Rev. Roger LaWarre from First Congregational Church officiating. Interment Alton Cemetery. Schools. His father, Paul Visitation will be 2-4 p.m. Erickson and brother-in-law

the funeral home. Memoria contributions may be made 87 of Lowell, passed away to Laurels of Kent, 350 Monday, March 10, 2008. N. Center St. Lowell, MI



#### ERICKSON

Jason W. Erickson, aged 31 of Cedar Springs, passed away peacefully and entered into heaven while at home with his mom on March 10, 2008. Jason attended Kenosha and Lincoln Developmental and 6-8 p.m. Thursday at Jeff Rittersdorf preceded

#### Remembering ALCIDE (AL) BAKER Who passed away 25 years ago 3/17/1983

May the winds of love blow softly, and whisper so you will hear. We will always love and miss you, and wish that you were here. Precious memories never die. life goes on as years go by. No longer here, our lives to share, but in our hearts you are always there. Love and miss you Dad! Margi

If roses grow in Heaven Lord Please pick a bunch for me. Place them in my Father's arms and tell him they're from me. Tell him I love him and miss him, and when he turns to smile, Place a kiss upon his cheek and hold him for a while. Because remembering him is easy, I do it everyday, But there is an ache within my heart That will never go away. I love and miss you Dad. Love, Terri

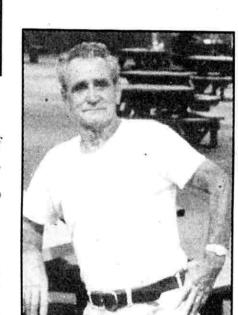
We thought of you with love today. But that is nothing new. We thought about you yesterday. And days before that too. We think of you in silence. We often speak your name. Now all we have is memories And your picture in a frame. Your memory is our keepsake With which we'll never part. God has you in his keeping, we have you in our heart.

Love, Steve

If I could have a lifetime wish, a dream that would come true. I'd pray to God with all my heart for yesterday and you. A thousand words can't bring you back. I know because I've tried. And neither will a million tears I know because I've cried. You left behind my broken heart and happy memories too. I never wanted memories... I only wanted you.

Love you Honey, Grace

Erickson; three sisters, Paula sense of humor. Funeral Ivette (Rivera) Rathbun; to all as "Pa Shaffer". He Rittersdorf, Denise Hoskin and Karla (Bob) Gilsdorf; one brother, Dale (Heather) greatly missed by his family In lieu of flowers, memorial and the many caregivers contributions may be made at Hope Network of West to Alzheimer's Association, Michigan. His life will be 213 Sheldon Blvd. SE, Suite Fund of Metro Health. celebrated with a private A, GR, MI 49503. memorial service. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Michigan or to



a charity of one's choice.

**MCCLURE** He is survived by his loving his nickname "Old Coot", Carocci of Portland, OR; collecting and working of Whitehall; also several in death by his parents, during WWII. He was a in-law, John and Bernice

him in death. He is survived was always willing to help his loving wife of 52 years, Tuesday, March 4, 2008. by his mother, Bertha others and had a wonderful Beatrice; his son, James and service will be 1 p.m. his son, Joseph and Dianna 305 N. Hudson, Lowell with Rev. Vance Dimmick, officiating. Chapel Hill one hour prior to service.



#### **RATHBUN**

Rathbun, aged 73 of Lowell, went to be with our Lord on Gerald R. McClure, aged Wednesday, March 5, 2008. 82 of Lowell, passed away He is best remembered for Thursday, March 6, 2008. his "punny" sense of humor, wife of 60 years, Betty; son, and his quick smile. He Steven McClure of Portland, also enjoyed Detroit Tigers OR; daughter, Christine games, Nascar races, stamp sister, Betty (Carl) Pierson puzzles. Fred was preceded loving nieces and nephews. Stanley and Alta Rathbun; Gerald was a veteran who hisbrother, Thomas Rathbun; served in the South Pacific and his brother and sister-

man of many friends, who Rathbun. He is survived by

**BOWNE TOWNSHIP** 

NOTICE

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS** 

**PUBLIC HEARING** 

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2008

7:30 P.M.

There will be a meeting of the Bowne

Township Zoning Board of Appeals on

Thursday, March 20, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the

Bowne Township Office located at 8240 Alden

Nash SE., PO Box 35, Alto, MI 49302-0035 to

Rex & Krista Beach - request a dimensional

variance in the R-1 Rural Residential Zoned

District Section 6.05 to reduce lot size to 1.02

acres from 2.50 acres, on parcel # 41-24-33-

The complete application can be reviewed at

the Bowne Township Office from 9:00 a.m. to

12 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday & Thursday, and 9:00 a.m. to 12

noon on Friday. Public comments will be

heard at the meeting. Written comments

received by mail, in person or in the mail slot

located at the Township Office entrance will

also be considered if received at the

Township Office prior to 5:00 p.m. on the day

of the meeting. Comments may also be e-

Sandra L. Kowalczyk

Bowne Township Clerk

mailed to clerk@bownetwp.cc.

200-006, 11960 100th Street SE., Alto.

hear the following variance requests.

Wednesday, March 12 at the Rathbun; his sister-in-law, Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, Marie Rathbun and several nieces, nephews and cousins. Mass of Christian burial was held Monday at St. Mary's Church. Interment St. Mary's Gardens. Visitation will be Cemetery. In celebration of Fred's life and in lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to the Assisted Breathing Center Please make checks payable to Metro Health Fund, 5900 Byron Center Ave. SW. Wyoming, MI 49519.



#### **SHAFFER**

Walter Samuel Shaffer, aged 91 of Alto, passed away peacefully in his sleep,

Walter was best known was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Lois; brother, Raymond; and a son-in-law, Jim Ellis. Pa is survived by his wife Barbara of 66 years; children, Delores Ellis, Donna (William) Harrall, Wesley Shaffer, Richard (Debbie) Shaffer and Larry (Gail) Shaffer; sisters, Esther Slater and Elda Bretze; 11 grandchildren; 23 great grandchildren; two great-great grandsons; also many nieces and nephews. Pa Shaffer served in the Pacific during WWII. He was a farmer, worked construction and loved pulling modified tractors with his family. A private funeral service was held Friday. Interment Chapel Hills Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Faith Hospice at Trillium Woods, 8214 Pfeiffer Farms Dr. SW, Byron Center, MI and Flat River Outreach Ministries, 11535 E. Fulton,

#### • LEGAL NOTICE •

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT **CIRCUIT COURT -FAMILY DIVISION** 

**PUBLICATION OF** NOTICE OF HEARING FILE NUMBER 08-184746-GA

April 2, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at 180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge M. Murkowski, bar number P35026, for the following purpose: to appoint a guardian and conservator for Shirley Y. Wissman.

In the matter of: SHIRLEY Y. WISSMAN

SHIRLEY Y. WISSMAN

whose addess(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

### The Lowell Ledger

Published weekly for \$1700 a year in Kent County,

105 N. Broadway St., Lowell, MI 49331 J-AD GRAPHICS INC. ...... MOLLY BENNINGFIELD.... LEAD REPORTER TAMMY JANOWIAK.......CLASSIFIED/ACCOUNTING

#### (616) 897-9261

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P.O. Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331 www.lowellbuyersguide.com

# Women's History Month to be celebrated by local artists

by Emma Palova

In recognition of March as the Women's History Month, local artists will be celebrating with a tribute to other women artists who have inspired them.

"We want to look at the role of women who have inspired us," said Fire and Water Art gallery owner Kathleen Mooney.

And Mooney says that "women who inspire us make us strong." That saying will be used on stamps to imprint messages on aprons and greeting cards for Mother's Day.

"We will be reading stories about inspiration,' said Mooney.

However, the most striking part of the Women's History Month exhibit are the artists' self portraits. According to Mooney, women artists know how to invite the viewer to be a part of something greater than themselves and to explore other possibilities.

"Female artists open the eyes, ears, and minds of society and use art as a therapeutic tool," Mooney

For example, Mooney

Dey has presented herself

Godfrey, who has made a making. With her red heart comeback to Fire and Water combined with word "Love" Art gallery, was inspired she has inspired a postal by Mexican painter Frida stamp. Kahlo. Many of Kahlo's

and painting.

self-portraits express her the importance of women

"Women's History Month" will be held on on March 16 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the

"This exhibit honors gallery.

For Mooney, Sister artists in today's society," as a hippie, and Jan Upp Corita Kent has served as said Mooney. "Women standing in front of a canvas a definite inspiration. Kent intuitively know how to was known for serigraphy, inspire, motivate, and pave Artist-therapist Karen the art of silk screen print the way to a better world."

A reception to honor St., Fri., March 14, 6 - 8 p.m. or Sat., March 15, 10 a.m.

cont'd., pg. 6

PANCAKE BREAKFAST & MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL

noon. Regular box is \$30. Everyone welcome. Any

questions, call Esther, 897-7395.

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

Sign up at the Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington

THE LOWELL LEDGER - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2008 PAGE 3

The Wittenbach-Wege Agriscience Environmental Center, 11715 Vergennes Rd. on March 15 at 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$5 adults, \$3 children 12 and under, 5 and under free. Contact Ranger Steve at 987-1002 or e-mail smueller@lowellschools.com for more information.

#### WOMEN'S CLUB GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Lowell Women's Club will be requiring grant applications this year. Grant request information is available on our Web site at www.lowellwomensclub.org. Applications are due by March 15. For more information, contact Becky Reagan at 897-9656.

#### MUSIC BOOSTERS MEETING

Held on Monday, March 17 at 7 p.m. in the Lowell Middle School band room.

#### **CLASS OF 2012 ORIENTATION**

Orientation will be held at Lowell High School on Tues., March 18 at 7 p.m. in the Lowell Performing Arts Center. Teachers, as well as group/activity leaders, will be on hand.

#### TOBACCO-FREE FOR GOOD

Open house/class reunion on Tuesday, March 18, 6-8 p.m. at Lowell Family Medical Center, 2550 W. Main St This event is open to anyone who attended a TFFG class during 2007 or 2008. Please RSVP at (616) 446-7058.

#### LOWELL MOOSE EASTER EGG HUNT

Sat., March 22 at Creekside Park. 1-2 yr. at 11 a.m. 3 yr. at 11 a.m. 4-6 yr. at 11:45 a.m. 7-9 yr. at 12:30 p.m. \$25 top prize and 2 bicycles for each group.

#### PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Pancakes, eggs, sausage, milk and coffee. Sat., March 22, 7-11 a.m. at Look Memorial Fire Station, 315 S. Hudson. Cost is donations at the door.

#### 3RD ANNUAL RED ARROW SOFTBALL CLINIC

The Varsity softball team will hold the clinic for all girls in grades 4 to 8 on Mon., March 24 from 7-9 p.m. in the high school gym. Participants must bring glove, tennis shoes, and bat if they have one. Cost is \$25. Pick up registration forms at Lowell Middle School and local elementary schools or show up at the door.

#### WINTER FEST AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The community is invited to attend this event at Cherry Creek Elementary on Thurs., March 27 from 6:30-

#### **DEADLINE FOR FALLASBURG FESTIVAL**

The Lowell Area Arts Council is accepting applications for the Fallasburg Fall Festival. The deadline is April 1. Artists are selected by jury process based on jpegs written to CD's submitted for entry. The festival is Sept. 27-28. For more information contact the LAAC at 897-8545.

#### **CALL FOR AUDITIONS**

The Thebes Players community theatre is seeking eight actors for Jake's Women (one male in his 50s and seven female actors. Auditions are on Wed., April 2 and Thurs., April 3 at 7 p.m. at the Lowell Area Arts Council at 149 S. Hudson. For more information call 897-8545.

#### F.R.O.M. FOOD PANTRY

The pantry is presently in need of canned fruits, juices, cereal, green beans and corn. Please help if you

#### MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc. has available to Lowell area residents many types of medical equipment. This equipment is located in the F.R.O.M. Building, 11535

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Lowell, 49331.

TO ALL INTERESTED **PERSONS** including:\* the missing unknown children of

3/4/2008 John D. Flynn P27413 1275 Hawthorne Hills SE Ada, MI 49301 616-897-6632

Michelle Bolev 415 Franklin SE Grand Rapids, MI 49507 616-247-6176

(USPS 453-830)

\$2600 a year outside the county by the Lowell Ledger

ADVERTISING SALES

Kathleen Mooney will host Women's History Month celebration at the Fire and has portrayed herself as a Shiva woman, while Holli Water Art Gallery. NOTICE: A Art scholarships available hearing will be held on through the Lowell Area Arts Council David The Lowell Area (fine arts) Scholarship, Jack College, and said about his acting techniques through the

Arts Council may have Frost Memorial (visual scholarship, "It was very performances he has acted scholarship opportunities arts) Scholarship, and Jack nice and it bought me a in, as well as his on-going for high school seniors Frost (graphic arts) Design couple of books and helped theater classes at college. and students interested in Scholarship. The Thebes me decide to study music Currently David is the stage a summer arts learning Players (theatre) Scholarship and theater at GRCC". He manager for the upcoming experience. The Arts Council will make awards of up to \$4,000 from six the theater. scholarship programs each year. Funds for these scholarships have been provided by family and friends honoring loved ones active in the arts or

by art patrons wanting to further the arts through young people. Scholarships honoring

former artists are the Kathie Quada Memorial (fine arts) Scholarship. Louise Harper Memorial

As Low As \$99!

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See agent for details

BELDING

\$4.00 ALL SEATS SECURITY DEPOSIT LIMITED TIME SHOWTIMES 3/10 - 3/13 

No passes LEASE SPECIAL Select units available \$585.00 2 bd./\$495.00 1 bd. **SPRING MATINEES** Reserve your COOL PLACE TODAY 3/15-3/16 ARE WE DONE YET? (F Rent includes: heat, C/A. ○ 10,000 B.C. (PG-13) garbage service & water 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:25, 9:55 DEFINITELY, MAYBE (PG-13) Great downtown O SEMI-PRO (R) location on the Flat River STEP UP 2 THE STREETS (PG-1 Call Leasing Office 12:05, 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05 VANTAGE POINT (PG-13) 616-794-0370 THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES **Immediate Assistance** (PG) 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10 Nicole 616-477-3829 COUPON This offer is not valid with any other specials.

at Grand Rapids Community **ADA LOWELL 5** www.GQTI.com THEATERS

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On M-21, 5 Minutes
East of Amway H.Q. "Ladies Night Out" Fundraiser All Lounger Seats • All Digital Sound Free Drink Refills • 25¢ corn refills BIG SCREENS

year's recipient of the Thebes

Players award. He is now

studying music and theater

20oz.DRINK
with \$2.50 purchase
of 46oz. bag of buttery popcorn
on per ad 8 Adel-tumbs 5 - Exp. MAR 31, 2008 11.

garners funds through said the connection with the

donations from friends of Thebes Players has given

David Huffman was last opportunity to learn more

him a chance for a better

Deer Run Country Club 13955 Cascade Road, Lowell and Home Show consultants. Vendor space still available.

\$5/ticket presale; \$6/ticket at the door Tickets include admission, appetizers, soft drinks and coffee/tea. A cash bar will be available. Featuring several local Artisans

\_Artistry & Nutrilite • Hero Arts Rubber Stamps Inc • Stampin' Up

Alto Elementary

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Our First Annual

March 20, 2008

7 - 9:30 pm

To pre-order tickets, please e-mail Theresa at Theresa@rohdeconstruction.com

Tupperware • Cole Rose Designs • Uppercase Living • Silpada VALUE VALUE VALUE AND A PARTY AND A PARTY

or call 868-9792

# Lowell Area Schools achieve high marks in energy conservation

by Shelly MacNaughton contributing writer

The Lowell Area Schools Board of Education held its regular meeting Monday night. Jim White conservation.

Teachers and staff at Lowell Area Schools are leading the way for other school districts while achieving big savings with energy educator manager, energy-efficient behavior. tracks energy consumption, Four years ago, the district formed a strategic alliance sewer and natural gas with Energy Education using energy-accounting Inc., a national energy software. Lowell Area Schools has

Energy Education Inc. of savings at this stage of the program is a significant achievement. Strong support from Superintendent Greg your entire school district," continue to grow and ensure program and no longer has be the blood drive. even greater success well a financial commitment to William S. Spears, CEO company's service to the

Education, Inc."

mitment by our staff to save energy is commendable and we will continue to look for additional ways to become more efficient," said Pratt.

motivate everyone in the district to use energy wisely, conducts energy audits to ensure that students and only as necessary.

"You need to be proud of council said White. While Lowell

Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc.

At F.R.O.M.

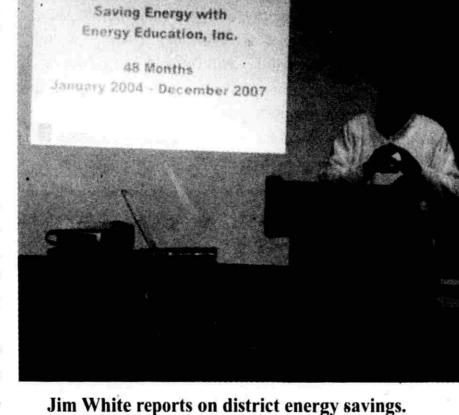
and founder of Energy The continued com-

As a key part of the program Jim White, retired assistant superintendent and current part-time district including electricity, water, He works hard to

district will continue on an asteachers are comfortable needed basis to help ensure "Reaching this level scheduled activities and to achieve considerable cost ensures that energy is used avoidance. Tyler Barkacs, a student

representative, reported that students have just finished second trimester have created an atmosphere Area Schools has finished exam week. The student of cooperation that should the paid contract term of its council's next big thing will

"There will not be an into the future," said Dr. Energy Education, Inc., the alternative Spring Break this



Lowell

Area Schools

year, we just didn't have the driving force behind it, and that the program continues the organizations that we spoke to in Mississippi are looking for skilled labor," said Barkacs.

> The board approved the purchase of Meal Magic Food Service software and a new work truck for the district. "The new software will be implemented this spring, we will work out kinks so we are off to a fresh start next school year," said Kay Hahn, food service

> Roger Bearup reported on the Nova Net program that was implemented in the second trimester. It is a credit recovery program for high school students funded by a grant. Bearup reported that four students were able to capture credit through this new initiative. The state of Michigan still has not released to the public the MEAP report. Bearup hopes to speak about the report at the next board meeting.

Outdoors

#### SLIPPING AWAY

In 1955, I was running my trap-line and noticed a number of painted stakes driven into the ground in an abandoned pasture. Within two years, the fields were replaced by asphalt roads lined with closely spaced lookalike houses. It was just the beginning. When I went back years later, I could not recognize the places where I hunted, hiked, and camped out under the stars listening to the drone of clouds of mosquitoes. The two-section area in was under asphalt, concrete, houses, lawns, businesses, and apartments. The kids growing up in that area now have no place to connect with wildlife or natural surroundings. Break out the interactive electronics-let's take a virtual

The current economic slump has tempered the momentum of suburban and rural development, but this will pass, and there will continue to be significant pressure on our remaining open spaces. At the same time, there is, fortunately, a higher level of concern for environmental

It is necessary to monitor land use decisions, especially when public land is involved. The state of Michigan is finishing the task of reviewing state owned property in all counties. Parcels are retained, sold, traded, or bought in order to consolidate holdings. The public has been invited to comment on the recommendations. Large tracts of corporate land are still open for regulated use by the public, although the last few years significant parcels have been sold to buyers who may have an interest in developing the property. Non-profit organizations have secured acreage for public access and habitat protection through conservation easements and purchases.

We need to continue to hold on to desirable public property and purchase additional acreage when possible. An expanding population will demand more space. The difficulty is to balance individual property rights and the requirements for economic expansion with the need for suitable wildlife habitat and public recreation opportunities. We have been fortunate in our area to see steady progress in protecting open spaces, establishing and maintaining parks, natural areas, and trails. This has been possible because of generous donations of property, hard work by concerned citizens, and the cooperation between governmental units.

Establishing public access to natural areas and trails can benefit the physical and mental well-being of residents. Children especially need time in natural settings for a balanced lifestyle and to understand the importance of being good stewards of the land which they can pass on to future generations. Improving the quality of life will also attract new residents and visitors, which will in turn support a growing economy. Because Michigan is known as a premier destination for outdoor recreation, tourism is a major segment of the state's economy. Wise use of our natural resources is critical to our quality of life and economic future. Let's not allow this opportunity to slip

When you play, play hard; when you work, don't play at all. - Theodore Roosevelt (1858 - 1919)



# Viewpoint-

public for comments on a subject. I believe the comment

### To The Editor

To The Editor.

Every other Monday, my father goes for an infusion treatment for a glycogen storage disease he was born with. These days are very long and tiring for him and may soon go to weekly visits. I too get tired, as taking care of a parent is a big journey. I try to do my best for him, which is very important to me. We have a routine on treatment days, after getting him settled and his equipment set up. I head to McDonald's for his breakfast. This week was no different than any other treatment week, except my kids were home sick so I was trying to get home to them as soon as possible. I went to the McDonald's on Leonard in Grand Rapids near treatment as usual and ordered the "usual", Egg McMuffin with regular bacon and a cappuccino for dad and a soda for myself. Only this day was different. I went to the first window to pay for our breakfast and the guy at the window started talking to me about when someone does something nice for you. I thought he was telling me a joke To The Editor, or something. He continued by telling me the lady in the car ahead of me paid for my breakfast. She had a cup of coffee and said she would like to get my tab as well and drove off. Now, I certainly had the money to pay for the breakfast I am sure she knew that. What I am sure she didn't know is what the gesture that morning would stand for me. She had no idea that on the days that I sometimes feel I am giving so much of myself, she took a moment to give to me out of the kindness in her heart. I was very overwhelmed! I guess that is why they call it "pay it forward".



A recent comment on how boring a "Sound Off" was and that there had to be only one person writing all that. First you have to understand that the Ledger asked the

One person writing all" is nothing more than a cynical and cheap shot that the Ledger would allow that to happen. I would like also to comment on a recent two-hour "Coffee with the Council " meeting that I attended. My question to the council was why has there been a proposal for a lease of the property on North Washington St. to be added to the Boy Scout Lease??? Why a lease when preservation has been the No. 1 agenda in the community??? I was told that the Boy Scouts represent Lowell. Could that answer along with a lease be used to bypass the preservation of the property on North Washington St.??? After two years of confutation and aggravation over preservation, why didn't the council have a straw poll taken??? Will the constituents of Lowell be denied preservation??? I believe the community is tired of being shackled by a city council that's only agenda is being the decider. Jim Howard

We have had several accounts with Lowell Light & Power over the past 19 years, from cable and high-speed Internet at our home to electric accounts on three separate houses in the city. During these 19 years, we have never missed a payment and were once late by 15 minutes, and charged a \$5 late fee.

I overlooked an \$8.74 electric charge on our home on Lafayette and was sent a "shut-off notice" with a \$10.17 late charge. I realize that consumers were sent a letter warning of these exorbitant late charges and I guess I will have to Becky Smith pay the ridiculous fee. But I do not appreciate being treated

the way of their cable and sells to Consumers Energy. Even though they are a monopoly, they certainly treat their power source.

Sincerely, Melinda Cosgrove



#### Protecting A merican Consumers

With Senator Carl Levin

March began with National Consumer Protection Week, and in the Senate we took a long overdue step forward to recalls of consumer products last year.

lack of resources and enforcement authority of the CPSC and its inability to adequately protect our children, our food supply and the general public from harmful or contaminated products.

The CPSC Reform Act would address the issues that undermined confidence in product safety following recalls of items including millions of toys. It would ban lead in children's products and institute safety measures to protect natural gas prices, resulting in higher costs for consumers. our children and grandchildren from unsafe products.

deadly products by improving information sharing and increasing the number of employees to monitor our nation's penalties for those who violate safety measures.

The CPSC Reform Act would also improve the effectiveness of recalls by giving the Consumer Product Internet database of product safety information.

Consumer product safety is an important aspect of consumer protection, but there are other areas that we are

working to address as well. As Chairman of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, I have been investigating a number of issues to help ensure that American consumers are not getting ripped off.

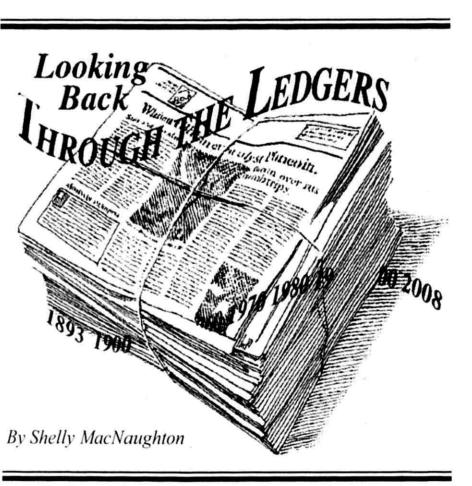
Last year I held a series of hearings on how credit card companies treat their customers. Our investigation determined that legislation is needed to protect consumers who are seeking to pay off their debts in good faith, but are being victimized by unfair and abusive credit card

Those abuses include credit card companies that charge protect consumers from unsafe products. We passed the interest on debt that is paid on time, impose repeated fees Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Reform for a single violation of a credit limit, and hike interest Act, a measure we began working on following widespread rates even for consumers who have paid their monthly bills on time. To outlaw these and other unfair tactics, I have As a grandfather and consumer, I am appalled at the introduced the Stop Unfair Practices in Credit Cards Act and I am fighting to win Senate action on the bill this year.

I have also been investigating high energy prices, focusing in particular on how market speculation can hike oil and natural gas prices for consumers when traders play regulated and unregulated commodity markets off each other. A hearing last year showed how a single hedge fund, Amaranth, used large trades on different markets to distort by a vote of 393 to 372.

This bill would prevent the importation of potentially Act to crack down on excessive speculation in energy markets and put the cop back on the beat in currently unregulated markets. I have worked with my colleagues part was watching the canceling machine. ports. And it would protect whistleblowers and increase to include that legislation in the farm bill that passed the Senate and hopefully will be enacted later this year.

From hazardous products, to abusive credit card practices, to high gas prices, American consumers are Safety Commission greater authority to order recalls, by falling victim to inadequate consumer protections. Passage banning the sale of recalled products, and by creating an of the CPSC Reform Act should be just the first step towards enacting new reforms to protect the public against unsafe goods, unfair prices and abusive practices.



#### 125 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL JOURNAL **MARCH 14, 1883**

Who will be Lowell's next supervisor? Time to look around and bring out candidates.

Mr. Edson English of South Boston is in very poor health. He was born in 1801 and his life has been one of activities and good deeds.

#### 100 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER **MARCH 12, 1908**

Work on the building for the Muskegon Carving and Art I can only hope that the Lowell Light & Power goes Furniture Company began Monday morning with nine or ten

The Lowell Lumber Company and Archie Lewis customers with much more dignity than our hometown have the contract and it is expected that the work will be completed in three weeks and ready for the machinery. The present Parks building will be raised eight feet and a ground story of cement blocks will be built under it.

#### 75 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER AND ALTO SOLO **MARCH 16, 1933**

Headline: L. H. S. graduates leading all others

The scholastic records made by the graduates of Lowell High School in the higher institutions of learning during the first semester are very gratifying. We find that the following percents of marks were earned: A's 10 percent, B's 43.3 percent, C's 36.7 percent, D's 10 percent. The normal curve for students at college is as follows: A's 5 percent, B's 20 percent, C's 50 percent, D's 20 percent, E's 5 percent. It will be observed that the averages obtained by the Lowell students is much higher than the general average.

#### **50 YEARS AGO** THE LOWELL LEDGER **MARCH 13, 1958**

Headline: Lowell's bid for city fails by 21 votes; will vote again on different boundaries

In a record turnout of 640 voters from the village and 125 from the proposed annexed portions of Lowell and Vergennes Township, the city proposition was turned down

Mrs. Lila Thaler's first grade class enjoyed a trip to the In response, I introduced the Close the Enron Loophole post office last Friday. Before going there, each pupil wrote a letter to Miss Marion Bushnell, a first grade teacher who is in the hospital. Most of the children felt the most exciting

#### 25 YEARS AGO THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER MARCH 16, 1983

John Pasanen, of 990 N. Hudson, was awakened about 1 a.m. Saturday by the sound of a nearby crash. A short time later, Lowell Police Officers knocked at his door to tell him that his garage had been knocked off it's foundation and smashed in on the north side when a pickup driven by Michael Wright went out of control.



Remember, the purchases you make help feed local families and provide financial assistance in difficult times.

#### **SHOP HOURS:**

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY: 10 AM TO 6 PM SATURDAY: 10 AM TO 4 PM

CALL: 897-8567

We are staffed entirely by volunteers

EARWAX BUILDUP

is a normally- occurring substance and is there to protect the

skin in your ear canal. While earwax naturally occurs, it can

build up and block your ear canal. This typically results in

a sense of fullness, decreased hearing, even pain, dizziness

common in: older people, people with mental retardation,

people who use cotton swabs in their ears, and people who

problem is indeed wax buildup. If the buildup is severe,

Although anyone can have earwax buildup, it is most

Your doctor will examine your ears to see if your

Earwax, or cerumen, is a wax made in your ear canal. It

With Drs. Paul Gauthier

Jim Łang,

John G. Meier & Tracy Lixie

Wayne A. Christenson II

or ringing in the ear.

use hearing aids or ear plugs.

by Beccy Blann, Children's Pastor Church of the Nazarene

when it came time to return it to the library.

soon after we finished with this book, our community hosted its annual Sugar and Shearing Festival. A local farmer actually came to the park to shear his sheep in a live demonstration. Of course, we had to go; there was no way we would miss such a thing. So on a Sunday afternoon, our family drove down to the park and squeezed in around the sheep pen to get a closer look.

We learned something about sheep that day. Cartoon Several years ago, when my daughter was about 4 years sheep are cute. Real sheep, not so much. Real sheep slobber old, we checked out a library book called "Farmer Brown when they eat. Real sheep take care of business whenever Shears His Sheep". It was a fun book in which the sheep and wherever they feel like it. Real sheep are dirty. And watched with dismay as their full woolly coats were cut off, real sheep smell. As fun and educational as the afternoon washed, spun, dyed, and knitted into human clothes. We was, we were thankful to be on the outside looking in. We loved reading this book over and over, and were quite sad watched from a clean, safe distance as the farmer held his dirty, smelly sheep close to do the shearing. We watched

Our disappointment was short-lived, however, because from outside the pen as he stepped in sheep droppings to get near his sheep to take care of her. Words cannot fully express how glad we were at the end of the day to return both to our clean home and our sanitized mental images of

> Those sanitized images of cute, fuzzy, amusingly mischievous sheep are much better to think about when we read that Jesus called us His sheep. We don't like to think that we are ugly, smelly, and helpless. The harsh reality is that we are. Sin affects each one of us, to the point that we are no better than sheep who cannot take care of themselves. But, just like sheep, we too have a Shepherd. He chose to step into our dirty, smelly world and live among us. He draws us near and holds us close. Most importantly, He loves us enough to lay down His life so we can be saved.

David Baird, Lisa Homrich. Laura Horsley, Julie Idema, Kathy Fyan.

**MARCH 12:** 

**MARCH 13:** 

Sophia D'Agostino, Dode Dey, David Davis, Paul Seese, Tyler Schneider, Jack Robert Malone.

**MARCH 14:** 

Wheeler, Mike Stevens, Dan Baird, Kari Merriman, Chase Peterson, Renee Barnes, Logan Shannon Lambert, Sara Landman Schoen.

**MARCH 15:** 

Jr., Brett Hobrla, Margot (Brenk) Woolfender.

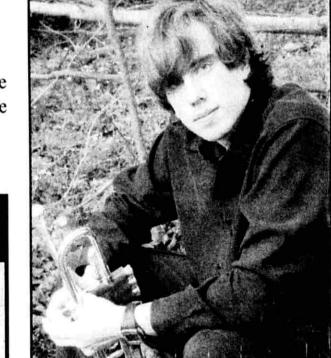
Anderson.

MARCH 16: Greg Briggs, Louise Weeks.

**MARCH 17:** 

**MARCH 18:** 

Bruce Phillips Jr., Chase Daniel Vegter, Ward Boulard Treglia, Jim Hacker, Denise



**David Huffman** 

Scholarships, continued ... From Page 3 Thebes Players production for students in grades 6 - 12 scholarship programs benefit

who would like to attend

of "The Velveteen Rabbit" on March 7-16.

Scholarship is designated throughrafflesalesofartwork

the Scholarship Bells and Holly" This scholarship in the art fields. fundraiser "Art Attack" on

Michigan protection...

Thanks for making your home in our

community. As Michigan's insurance company,

we know Michigan homes and the hazards they

face. We also know the kinds of discounts that

help you save a lot of money on

Aug. 23.

from public contributions. a summer arts camp or If you are interested in workshop. The scholarship contributing either now committee raises money or in a future endowment and donations to LAAC at 897-8545 or at info@lowellartscouncil. org. The growth of the ensure that art will stay vital in the Lowell community by encouraging young people

to find their dream careers

David Huffman is

feature artworks only one of many gifted art students who has benefited from the Lowell Area Arts Council Scholarship awards. Council This is the time of year for seniors to begin applying for scholarship funds. The Arts All of the Scholarship Applications for graduating seniors are now available at the Lowell High School Student Services Center, at the Lowell Arts Council office or online at www.lowellarts council org. Deadline for applying to these scholarships is Thursday, March 20. Summer scholarship applications are due on May 1.

### Going To The Dentist Doesn't Have To Hurt Anymore! **COMPLETE FAMILY DENTAL CARE**

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#### "Gentle & Painless Dentistry Is Our Goal" **COMPLETE SERVICES:**

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....9 a.m. to 5 p.m. .....9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday......9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday......8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Judd T. Carroll, D.M.D. 103 East Main • Lowell, Michigan (616) 897-7595

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**Grand Rapids** 

..9:45 A.M

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL

621 E. Main Street • 897-5936

8:30 & 11:00 a.n DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Barrier - Free Entrance

> **GOOD SHEPHERD** LUTHERAN CHURCH

10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org Worship Service.

.9:00 A.M. Sunday School... (Nursery available) Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307

**ALTO UNITED** METHODIST CHURCH Kirby and Harrison

Alto • 616-691-8011 ..9:30 A.M. Worship. Children's Church......9:30 A.M.

**OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS** - OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey

**FIRST BAPTIST** 

**CHURCH OF LOWELL** 

Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org

Rev. David O. Sims & Rev. W. Lee Taylor

AWANA/CLUB JC......Wed. 6:15 & 6:30 P.M.

Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER

Sunday School.

(Assembly of God) 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Lead Pastor John King, Youth Pastor SUNDAYS: 10:00 a.m - Worship & Evening: FE home Groups & "The Source" Youth

DAY BIBLE CHAPEL

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897-6332

Nursery & Jr. Church Provided

Rev. Frank Lattimore, Pastor

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Ministry With A Blended

Word Centered Service!"

WEDNESDAYS: Family Night: (for all ages) 7:00 p.m. "The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m. Loving God ... Loving People!

**SNOW UNITED** -METHODIST CHURCH 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Thurlan Meredith

.Worship/Fellowship .Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery & Children Worship Programs Provided 5 A friend...a family...a mission!

**CALVARY CHRISTIAN** REFORMED CHURCH **OF LOWELL** 

Rev. Randy Meyers - 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI Morning Worship .10:00 A. M. Sunday School. ..11:20 A.M. Evening Worship. Nursery available at both services

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ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Fr. George J. Fekete 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETE WIGGINS 897-7915

SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 49, EWTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING

(United Church of Christ) 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906 Sunday Worship. Church School. 10:15-11:15 A.N Thursday Faith Alive Worship. ....7:00 P.M Dr. Roger LaWarre.

#### **LOWELL CHURCH** OF THE NAZARENE

Come Join Us For Praise & Worship

..C.E. Directo

.. Nursery Provide

APOSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE

UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

**SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M.** 

**SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES 6:00 P.M.** 

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M.

119 Lincoln Lake, Lowell

CALL FOR FREE HOME BIBLE STUDIES

Pastor Robert L. Hubbard

Phone: (616) 897-1267

website www.aplighthouse.com

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

**CHURCH OF LOWELL** 

Greeting & Fellowship. Sunday Morning Worship... ..10:40 A.M. Wednesday Discipleship Ministries.....7:00 P.M. Meets at 201 N. Washington PASTOR MICHAEL RHODABARGER Staffed Nursery Provided

Alto teen makes Eagle Scout



Timothy Sinen of Alto, was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout on March 1st at a Court of Honor ceremony held at Oakwood Reformed Church in Belding. Sinen is a member of Boy Scout Troop 328 which is sponsored by Oakwood CRC. He earned 45 merit badges and his Eagle Leadership Service Project involved the restoration of the nature trail and outdoor classrooms at Alto Elementary School.

# Alto Elementary has received a \$500 grant

will Zanten of Lowell Mobile Corporation. This secure the grant which is 2008-09 school year. one of 4,000 available to schools across the country Educational

College News

Ashley Cunningham, an

occupational therapy major,

of Lowell, has attained a

grade point average of at

completed the requirements

for certificates, associate,

bachelor's.

Some 713 students

least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.

The Mobile Educational served by Exxon or Mobile program stations. The grants were to provide Exxon and support the school's Brain made possible by funding from the ExxonMobile Principal will keep the Brain Pop Mary Ann Schramm to subscription current for the

ExxonMobile

and doctoral degrees at

Ferris State University,

Kendall College of Art

College of Professional

and Technological Studies

during the semester that

honors

academic achievement on

the basis of GPAs computed

Students graduating

and Design, and

ended in Dec. 2007.

recognized for

on a 4.0 scale.

Mobile retailers with opportunity to invest in the future of their communities through educational grants to neighborhood schools. ExxonMobile that, as members of the community, local retailers

English

recognition are Highest

Distinction, 3.75 to 4.0;

High Distinction, 3.5 to

3.74; and Distinction, 3.25

Madison, Distinction honors

and Ward, Makielski,

Highest Distinction honors.

Demeyer, Jill Egler, and

Angela Vickery.

From Ada: Laura

From Lowell: Scott

levels of

believes

with local educators to help identify schools and programs most in need of

are best qualified to work

your doctor may ask you to use drops to soften the ear wax

for 7 to 10 days, then return to have the ear irrigated. Our best advice: Never put cotton swabs or other items in your ear canals. Talk to your doctor if you are worried about the possibility of wax buildup.



Alto Students using Brain Pop.

#### **GREG VAN STRIEN HEATING AND PLUMBING**

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### **BOWNE TOWNSHIP** NOTICE

The Bowne Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed budget for fiscal years 2008-09 at the Bowne Township Hall 8240 Alden Nash SE., Alto, MI 49302 on Monday, March 17, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. "The property tax Millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed Budget will be a subject of this hearing." A copy of the budget is available for public inspection at the Township Office at the above address Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., Friday 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

> Sandra L. Kowalczyk Bowne Township Clerk

# Pregnancy Explanation:

#### About half of all expectant mothers will develop lower back pain some time during their pregnancy. With

Recommended tips: back pain some time and 25 to 30lbs, you will find the average weight gain of 25 to 30lbs, you will find your center of gravity shifting and causing additional ♦ Get regular Chiropractic stress on your lower back. Many women have found checkups. relief from their lower back pain and have had easier deliveries by receiving chiropractic care throughout Do safe exercises like walking their pregnancy. Scientific studies have found that spinal manipulation carries no increased risk to the stationary cycling. mother or baby. Chiropractic care is also helpful ch after delivery as your body starts to tighten up those Wear flat shoes with good are

Use pregnancy pillow or full

body pillow when sleeping.

♦ Eat small meals or snacks every four hours.

♦ Take a good nutritional supplement with at least 400mcg of Folic Acid.

Lowell Chiropractic (616) 897 - 8284 Aaron J. Buys D.C. 2531 W. Main St

#### TREATMENT

loose ligaments that developed during your

Chiropractic care works on correcting misalignments that cause lower back pain associated with pregnancy. To see if chiropractic may be able to help you, call today for a complimentary

> Caledonia Chiropractic (616) 891 - 8153 Eric & Tanva Seif D.C.

**ELEMENTARY** MENU Week of March 17, 2008

MON: Baked chicken patty on bun (ham & cheese sub w/lettuce offered at Alto & Murray Lake), fresh fruit, apple juice, animal crackers.

TUES: Baked min corndogs (hamburger on bun offered at Alto & Murray Lake), oven baked beans, assorted fruit, milk.

WED: Baked chicken nuggets & dinner roll (turkey & cheese on bun offered at Alto & Murray Lake), mashed potatoes, peaches,

THURS: Cheese pizza (BBQ ribbette on bun offered at Alto & Murray Lake), green beans fruited gelatin salad,

FRI: Good Friday - No

Over the years the Smith's partner John Curtis.

Since 2005, Curtis

"We will continue to

Cleaners has held the

Award of Excellence from

the International Fabric

grow as there will be less

dry cleaners," said Smith

Association.

business has changed along

with the environmental

regulations and with more

environmentally friendly

fabrics and different dyes.

diversified itself by selling

equipment and training

other dry cleaners with

Co-owner of Curtis Cleaners

Education: Grand Rapids Community College

Nascar and Corvettes

Experience: 30 years of dry cleaning

The business has

Wife Helen, children Jonathan, Jennifer, Jodi, Dustin





# She gets a kick out of her job as a theater assistant manager

by Emma Palova

Posing by a poster with Owen Wills, the assistant manager at Ada Lowell 5, Marie Peterson chuckles about her favorite actor and said. her job.

mom, applied for the job new movies is accompanied and got it, right out of the by different activities.

"I love the job and I love the staff," she said. "We're such a team. It's family-oriented.

Peterson loves that the

everyone who comes in. As see all the movies.

'Wedding Crashers," she enjoy it all.

For Peterson and a team It all started out as a of five managers, the job is ioke eight years ago, when super fun every day. Every Peterson, a stay-at-home fall and spring, the launch of

> Right now, the theater is working with ranger Steve Mueller on a presentation about beekeeping to tie into the movie, "Bee Movie,"

"Our goal is that movie theater is right in everyone enjoys their town and that she knows experience," said Peterson.

**VERGENNES** 

TOWNSHIP

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE** 

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing

before the Vergennes Township Planning

Commission will be held on Monday, March

31, 2008 at 7:00 PM, at the Vergennes

Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey

Drive, Lowell, MI to consider the following

proposed private road extension application:

Hidden Acre Development Co. Inc

requesting to extend the existing private road

within Alden Nash West development to the

north into the additional 3 acres they are

purchasing. There will be 5 new lots served by

the private road extension. The 3 acres is

adjacent to the Alden Nash West housing

development on the north side off Alden Nash

Ave north of Foreman, rear property area of

681 Alden Nash and just south of the high

school's east driveway. The additional property

will meet all development restrictions of the

The complete application can be reviewed at

the Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey

Drive, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 - Phone:

(616) 897-5671 [fax 897-5674]. Written and

oral comments will be received until the

conclusion of the public hearing. Written

comments may be addressed to the Planning

Commission Chairman or the Planning

Coordinator at the Township Offices.

Comments may be emailed to the Planning

Vergennes Township Planning Commission

Commission at: zoning@vergennestwp.org.

Alden Nash West housing development.

Even though the staff Sometimes the occasion may be face painting or gets very busy on Friday nights, they always project a firemen coming with fire professional image. trucks before the matinees.

Husband, Jim, children Alyshia, Jayme, Grant

Running kids around, loved dating husband, watching kids

Assistant manager

"We get very busy Along with people's habits, the movie-viewing on Friday nights, but the business has also changed staff steps right up," said tremendously, according to Peterson. "We want our customers to come back.

Position:

Family:

Hobbies:

Residence: Lowell

Education: Lowell High School

Experience: Movie theater, eight years

"We've lowered the And an added bonus, she gets to providing the best popcorn, ticket prices to keep us come back. There are five bringing people in from the service, coupons and a good competitive," said Peterson. houses in the cinema, two surrounding areas," said is movie, the customer should "And we have coupons for houses have Dolby surround Peterson. "We want them to concessions."

system that runs on discs

"We're not a digital theater," said Peterson.

However, the future five-year plan means going all digital to improve the quality of movie viewing.

"We want to keep the customers do hometown feeling, while system, three have DTS, a come in with a smile."



Marie Peterson, assistant manager at Ada Lowell 5, wants people to come in with a smile on their face.

# CITY OF LOWELL **PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Lowell City Council will conduct a public hearing at their regularly scheduled meeting of Monday, April 7, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, Lowell City Hall, Second Floor, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan for the purpose of receiving comments from the public on the following:

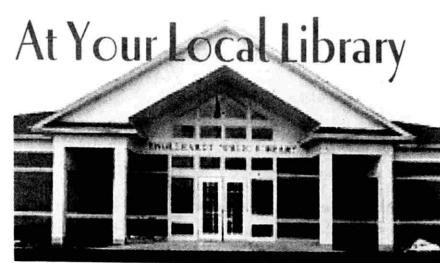
An Ordinance to Amend Section 20.07.B.2 and Section 20.07.E of Chapter 20, "Signs" of "Appendix A - Zoning Ordinance" of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowell.

Copies of the proposed Ordinance are available for public inspection during norma business hours at City Hall and the Englehardt Public Library.

Interested persons may submit written comments to City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331 prior to .the meeting or appear in person.



Betty R. Morlock City Clerk

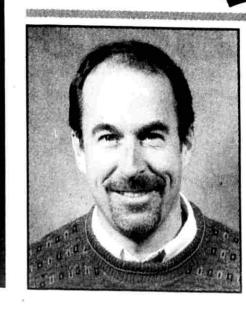


#### **EXPLORE WITH DORA AND DIEGO**

If your child loves Dora and Diego from "Dora the Explorer", don't miss this opportunity to go wild with crafts, games and other character-related fun at the Kent District Library. This program is best for children ages six and under. The Dora and Diego fun will be held at:

Englehardt Branch on Thursday, March 27 at 10:30 a.m. Alto Branch on Monday, April 15 at 10:30 a.m. For more information visit www.kdl.org.

### **Business Matters**



Greenridge announced Schwacha received Realtor of the Month in February.

This award recognizes for Schwacha outstanding success and achievements.



- KEVIN SMITH

# Curtis Cleaners owner stays up to speed with latest methods

by Emma Palova

model clean facility.

The team prides itself in several awards from the environmentally friendly," International Fabric Care said Smith. "If you can said Smith Association.

pre-spotting the bottom of to their new condition. the dress. The dress will get pressed.

cleaning," Smith says.

agencies.

Most recently, Curtis heads, and scaring co-Back behind the counter Cleaners has added a wet workers. at Curtis Cleaners, it's hot cleaning process to adhere even on a frigid day in early to the new regulations. them," he said. "It's done by dresses and suits ready to go uses solvents, wet cleaning gun." hang on the conveyors in the uses water and chemicals in special machines.

machine wash cold or dry

steam-cleaned by hand and cleaners have fun?" one atmosphere. might ask.

mascots like the Riverwalk own profession. The other art is staying Duck, the Easter bunny or fast-paced Chester Cheetos costume. over and above in the same friendly And of course running industry," he said. "I want us regulations set by different around wearing the mascot

March. Neatly - pressed Unlike dry cleaning, which hand with a pin point steam

An Elvis costume to clean was a challenge, as cleaning is well as fun.

"We just play around,"

Well, not all the time. Owner of 30 years, clean, we will wet clean it." Smith strives to put out high And Smith, who started quality finished products a wedding dress for a two- in the laundromat business, every day in the morning round cleaning job. He first enjoys the everyday when he comes to work. He has to remove the stains by challenge of restoring clothes likes to be viewed as a coworker rather than a boss by "Does the team at the his employees in a friendly

Among his peer business Absolutely. Nothing owners, he is known as a technique is the art of dry is more fun than cleaning knowledgeable person in his

"Our credentials are

#### Spoelman, Linda Stretton, Kevin Smith pre-spots the bottom of a wedding dress.

To be eligible for Honors,

# We'll be there!

to be the best. It's good for

times, the business continues

to grow, thanks to attention

on new methods and up-to-

date with equipment, quality

and service," said Smith.

Position:

Family:

Hobbies:

to detail and quality.

Even in hard economic

"We're staying current

Residence: Cascade

the business.'

**A**s your local, independent agent, we'll be there the day you come in for a quote...



you nee

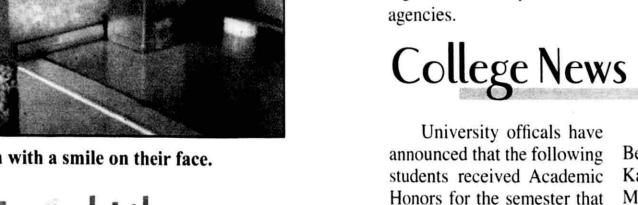
Through all the changes in your life, we'll be there to make sure your insurance coverage keeps up.

> Providing Safe. Sound. Secure.\* protection from Auto-Owners Insurance Company.

Auto-Owners Insurance

**AIC INSURANCE SERVICES** 7275 Bronson SE • 616-676-4000

Building relationships - providing peace of mind



#### Honors for the semester that Mendez. ended in Dec. 2007 at Ferris State University and Kendall

College of Art and Design: Jason Butts, Jill Donabauer, Mallarie Hiaeshutter, Tyler Tyler Flory, Jill Geenop, Hoard, Brittany Huisman, Lindsev Kicz, Kristie Kurth, Sarah Lockwood, Kari Searls, Kelly, Michael Kleinpaste, Alyssa Spielmaker, Lindsey Carlene Lyons, Paul McKay, Taber, Tricia Trombly, Sharon Eric Mundt, Andrew Nozal, GPA and a 3.3 cumulative

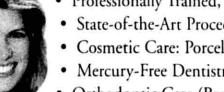
announced that the following Beresford, Thomas Forsbreg, students received Academic Kari King, and Judith From Lowell: Audrey

Bailey, Theodore Bergin, Mellissa Blattner, Tamara From Ada: Deborah Coffey, Corinne Cozzaglio, Jill Egler, Lori Gleason, Whitney Jernigan, Andrew Turner, and Paul Kolososki. Scott Shattuck, Blake GPA.

Marissa Tawney, and Andrew Academic

undergraduate students must have accumulated at least a 3.5 GPA in no fewer than 12 credit hours of course work at the 100-level or higher during the given semester, while part-time students must have accumulated at least 12 credit hours of graded coursework at the 100-level or higher with a 3.5 semester

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the "bond basics." Here are a few of them:

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will not change over the life of the bond. However, bonds "junk." are subject to "interest rate risk," which means that when interest rates rise, the prices of bonds can decrease, so if you sold your bond before it matured, you could lose some of before its maturity. If interest rates have declined since the In the financial world, stocks tend to get most of the the value of your principal. For example, suppose you own bond was issued, companies can call bonds and reissue them a \$1,000 bond that pays a 4 percent interest rate. If new at the lower, prevailing interest rate, thereby saving money bonds are issued at 5 percent, no one will pay you the full

"junk" bonds — those getting the lowest grades. Higherthe bond until it matures, you'll get your principal, or "par quality bonds carry less risk of default but pay a lower value," back (provided the issuer doesn't default) and, along interest rate than "junk" bonds, which must offer higher rates the way, you'll receive regular interest payments. A bond's to attract investors who may be worried about default risk. Generally speaking, you're probably better off by sticking · Bond prices will fluctuate. Your bond's interest rate with investment-grade bonds and staying away from the

Some bonds can be "called." A callable bond is a bond that can be redeemed — or "called" — by the issuer on interest payments. As an investor, this could be cause that the bond can't be called before a certain time.

# Red Arrow SPORIS

SHE NOW IS A ROCK AND A MATURE YOUNG LADY WHO HAD GREAT SPORTSMANSHIP ON SATURDAY.

- Coach Skye Fisher

# Richelle Kimble receives 8.6 on vault at State finals

but was in the top half of the young lady who had great

THE BENNING-FIELDER

by molly benningfield

Should the sports schedule

change to four seasons?

It's a topic that has been discussed to great lengths

According to the Michigan High School Athletic

With the change of seasons implemented thi

but with no exact outcome showing. The need for a

change in high school sports seasons is one that will go

Association (MHSAA) Web site, there needs to be some

sort of change so that schools and kids will not "become

year, many sports have suffered in participation, media

coverage and fan support. One of the most visual

examples of this was the move of girls' basketball to the winter season, resulting in two basketball teams playing

from Michigan are currently deciding how to improve

The MHSAA and school administrators and coaches

The Grand Rapids Press said the best plan right now

is a four-season model, with the start dates overlapping

currently-playing sports. Season 1 would include the

current fall sports, as well as volleyball (like this year)

and gymnastics. Season 2 would feature girls' basketball,

wrestling, skiing, bowling and hockey, and begin the

second week of November. Season 3, then, would have

boys' basketball, boys' swimming and competitive cheer,

starting in mid-December. Season 4, which would include

That was exhausting just writing it out and then

com or regular post, at P.O. Box 128, 105 N. Broadway,

the traditional spring sports, starts in late March.

on for a while, by the looks of it.

the losers".

at the same time.

the existing calendar.

sports editor

as she just learned it last 8.6, as she had at the regional girls that were in our region week," gymnastics coach finals. Kimble had scored in on." Skye Fisher said of Kimble's the Top 6 to move her on to state finals. The season for Kimble High School Saturday for

proved to be one dedicated the finals along with Kelsey to her hard work and strong Teft, a teammate and friend, will. In August, she broke said the experience was her femur (the bone in her "such a bonding moment." upper leg).

"She couldn't feel the the season, Fisher said of nerve in her leg," Fisher said. Kimble, "She is very strong "We didn't even know if she all around." Kimble had would be competing. They a strong season, excelling had to build her a special in not only vault, but all brace, which she wore for apparatuses. the first part of the season."

Fisher said Kimble has Invitational also grown a lot, both as a February, Kimble took gymnast and a person.

"Richelle was my floor and uneven bars, as freshman who had good well as in all-around. under pressure. She now "a good year."

consistent," Fisher said, to the team next year as a "She used to come apart senior. Fisher said it will be

At the St. Johns

second place in the vault,

early

Fisher, who traveled

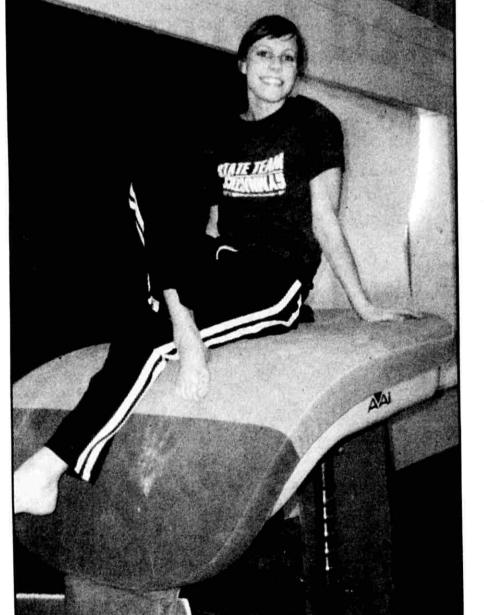
At the beginning of

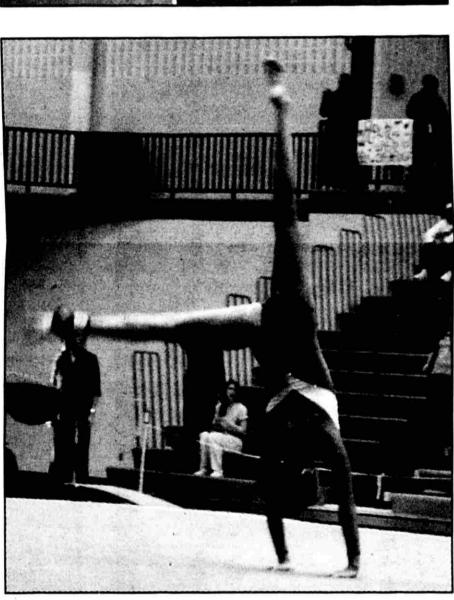
with Kimble to Canton

(Top Left): Richelle Kimble at Canton High School for State finals with coach Skye Fisher and teammate Kelsey Teft.

(Top right): Kimble on the vault after Saturday's finals.

(Bottom right): Kimble performs on floor during the individual regional finals, where her vault performance landed her in the Top 6 to go





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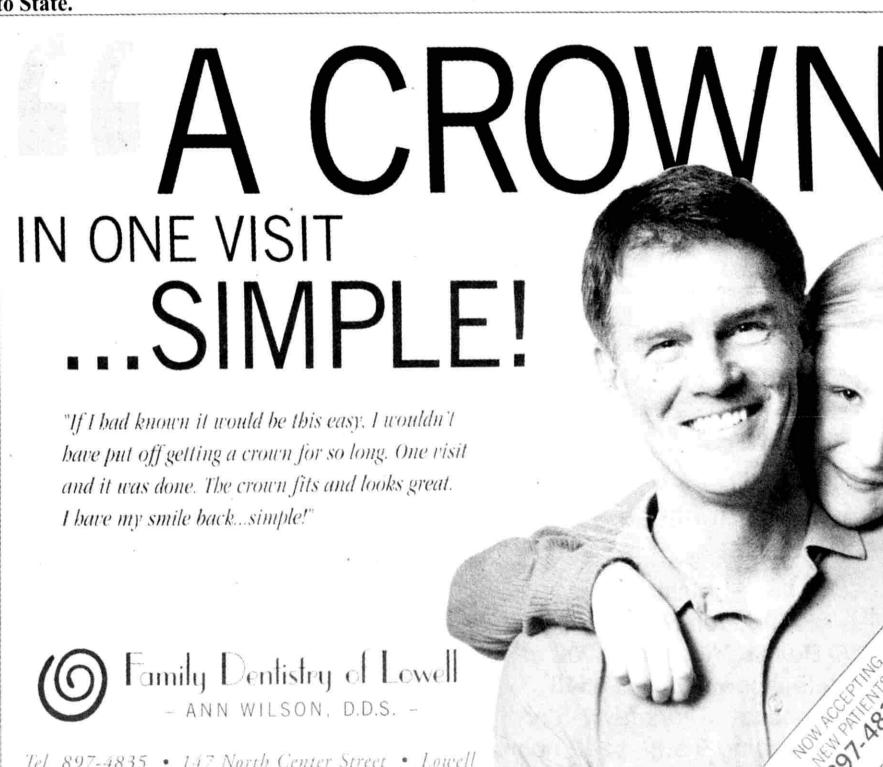
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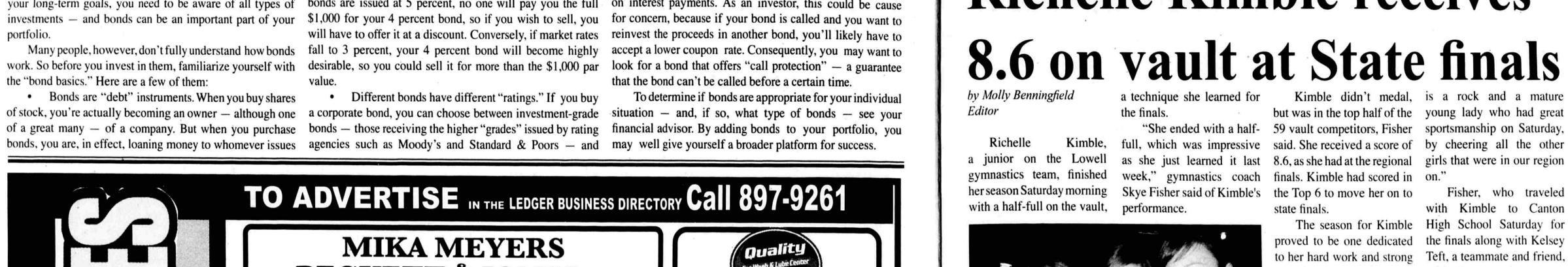
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#### thinking about it. It's hard to imagine all that going on, but it could work. What I'm wondering, is what the general public the people who are playing the sports, watching the sports and driving their sons and daughters to the events - is thinking. How do *you* think it would work out? I think it's a good idea to be in discussion about how to improve the sports schedule. There needs to be a change to make it all fair. Is four seasons the best idea? Write in and let me know. You can send your thoughts in by e-mail, at ledger@lowellbuyersguide.





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# Red Arrow SPORTS

# Red Arrow wrestling continues winning ways



Lowell wrestling gets two firsts and two seconds in dominant weekend at the Palace

(Left): Justin Boss was State champ at 152 pounds, Tim Gingerich was State runner-up at 145 pounds, Jackson Morse was State champ at 140 pounds and Ryan Olep was State runner-up at 160 pounds. (Photo courtesy of Laura Morse)

#### Justin Boss takes first State title in senior year

with a 29-6 record and as an to do that. days to achieve his first

moment felt "really good" senior year with a title.

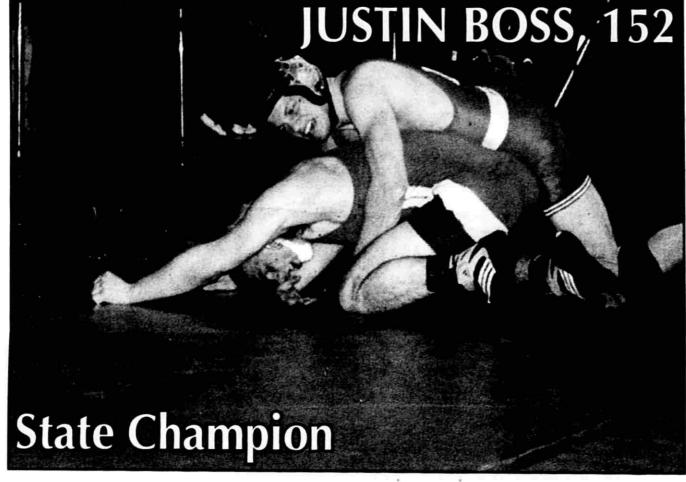
"Oh yeah, it feels great the finals - that was a good

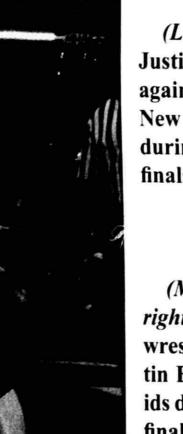
Boss wrestled his way to first match, Boss defeated Jacob Chad Koch of New Bostonlast weekend at the Palace Johnson of Dearborn Heights Huron in a 7-4 decision the semifinals, Boss pinned Brian Plummer of Byron Boss, a senior, said the Center in 3 minutes, 37

of Auburn Hills, knocking Crestwood by pinning him during the quarterfinals and in 4 minutes, 48 seconds. In Derek Horde of Sault Ste.

Marie 21-6 in 4 minutes, 26

Boss will attend Grand seconds. Boss said his best Valley State University next match of the weekend was year, and is unsure whether "the one that got me into or not he'll wrestle.





(Left and Top right): Justin Boss wrestles against Chad Koch of New Boston-Huron during the quarterfinals Friday morning.

(Middle and bottom right): Tim Gingerich wrestles against Martin Bell of Eaton Rapids during the quarterfinals Friday morning.

# TIM GINGERICH, State Runner-up

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### Tim Gingerich is second at 145

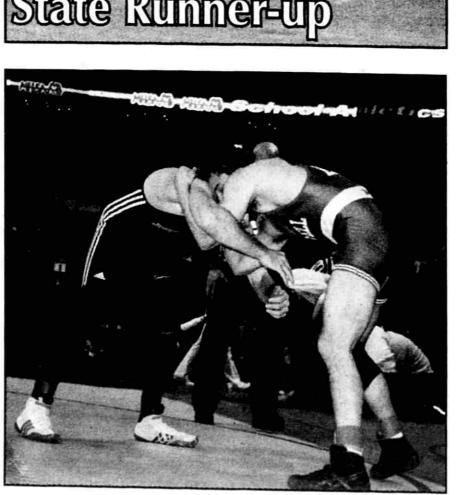
iunior year with a 36-7 He was defeated in an by knocking out three overtime match by Deven opponents from around

www.robertrealty.net 616-363-7900 ROBERT REALTY • DEAL BROKER DIRECT

Gingerich ends his Brown of Carlton Airport,

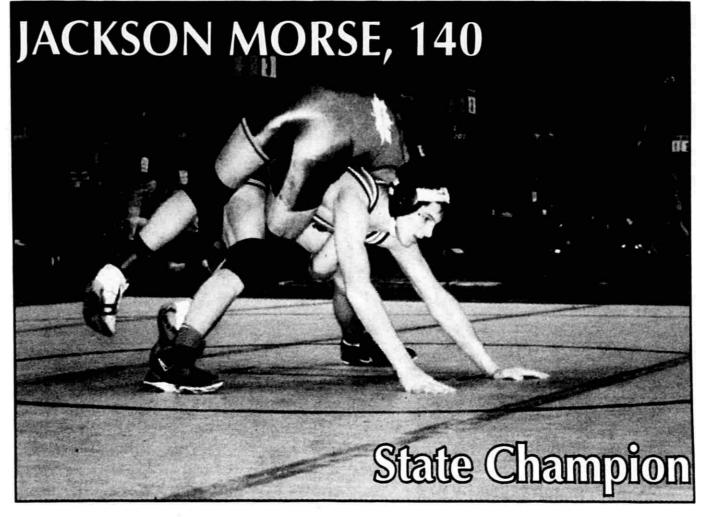
the state. In the semifinals Gingerich defeated Jake Potyraj of Wyoming Park in an 8-1 decision. He defeated Martin Bell of Eaton Rapids in an 8-5 decision in the quarterfinals and Anthony Balmaceda of Warren Fitzgerald 10-2 in the first

Gingerich will be back as an Arrow next year for



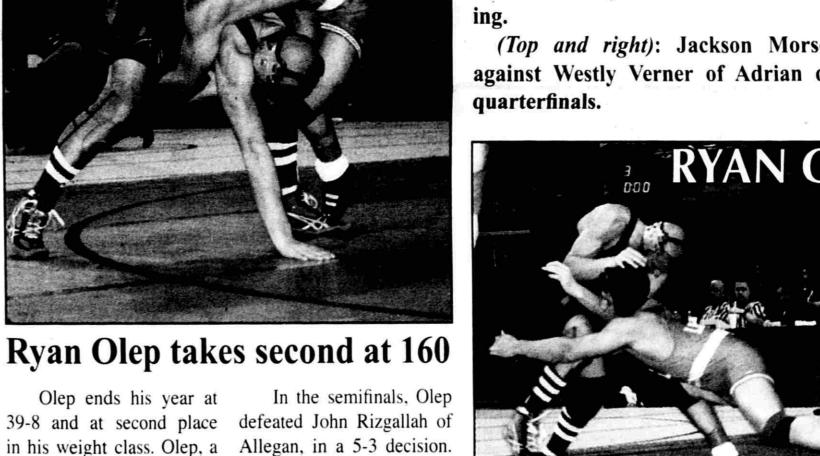
# Red Arrow SPORTS

# State finals continued ...



(Left and below): Ryan Olep takes on Larry Cervantes of Allen Park in the quarterfinals Friday morn-

(Top and right): Jackson Morse wrestles against Westly Verner of Adrian during the

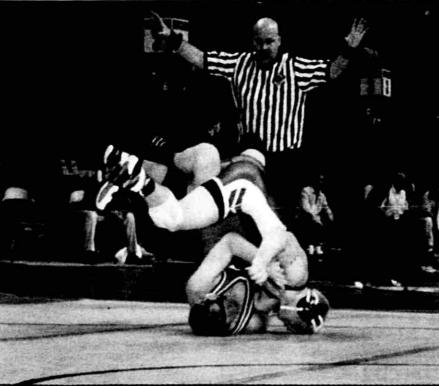


#### pinning him in 5 minutes, 51 by Adam Miller of Sparta, seconds and Dan Anderson

in a 1-0 decision. Olep wrestled his way of Mason in the first round, to the finals by knocking out three opponents from all over the state.

Olep ends his year at

with a 4-0 decision. Olep has two more years as a Lowell wrestler.



sophomore on the team, was He also took out Larry

defeated in the final round Cervantes of Allen Park by

Senior Nate Vaught went 0-2 for the day at 171 pounds, losing to Benjamin Hand of Ypsilanti in the first round by a decision of 5-3, and in the second round to Brandon Wrzesinski of Bay City John Glenn in a fall in 2 minutes, 22 seconds. (Photo by Brett Bremer)

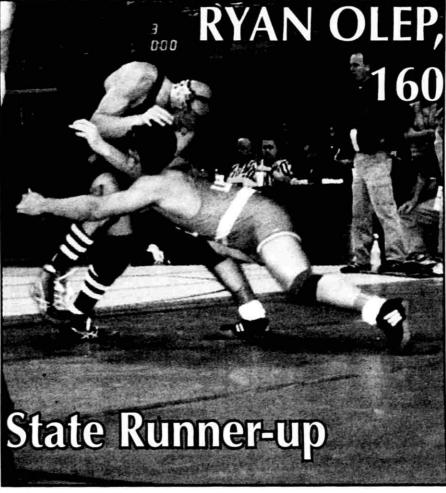
#### Jackson Morse is State champ as a sophomore Morse ended his during the quarterfinals,

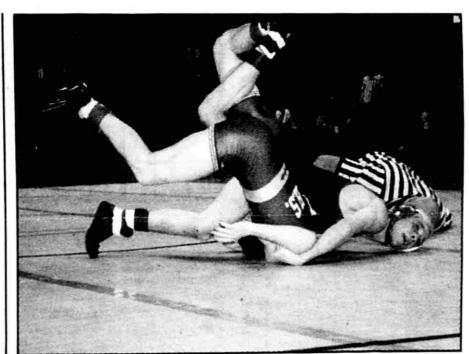
weight divisions. Morse wrestled four opponents in his journey at the Palace this

Morse said simply of his win, "It feels great."

He defeated Brennan Brumley of Warren Woods Tower in the championship match, by a decision of 11-4. He said that his best wrestling came "definitely the finals match."

Morse defeated Garrett Rozeboom of Mason, who was the defending state champ at 130 pounds. in a 10-4 decision in the semifinals, Westly Verner of Adrian in a 6-1 decision

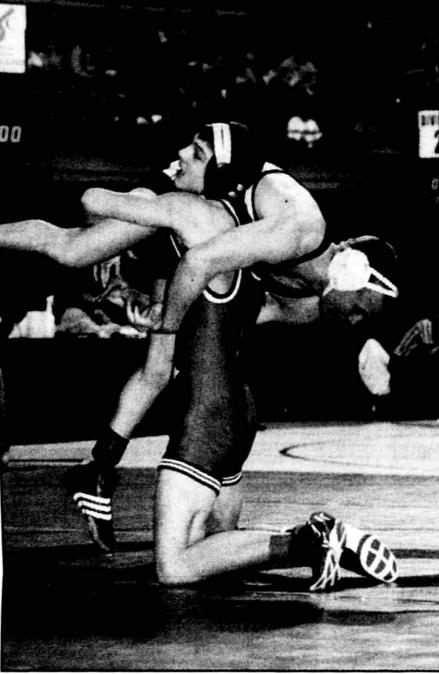




Senior Zach Baum went 1-2 for the day at 130 pounds, losing in the fourth round of the consolation bracket. He defeated Jimmy Mann of New Boston-Huron by pinning him in 1 minute, 10 seconds. He was defeated by Nick Humes of Stevensville Lakeshore 17-2 in the quarterfinals and Andrew Funsch of Ogemaw Heights by a 7-6 decision in the consolation round.

### Morse still has two

sophomore season as an and pinned Sean McCoy of more years on the team, and a 37-2 record Eaton Rapids in 3 minutes, said that one of his main state 26 seconds in the first goals for next year is "to win a team state title."



(Photo by Brett Bremer,

# CITY OF LOWELL

**PLANNING COMMISSION** -**CITIZEN ADVISORY** COMMITTEE **PUBLIC NOTICE** 

City Planning Commission-Citizen Advisory Committee will conduct a public hearing at their regularly scheduled meeting of Monday, March 24, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, Lowell City Hall Second Floor, 301 East Main Street, Lowell for the purpose of receiving comments from the public on the following:

An Ordinance to Amend the definitions of the Residential Zoning Districts.

Copies of the proposed Ordinance are available for public inspection during normal business hours at City Hall and Englehardt Public Library.

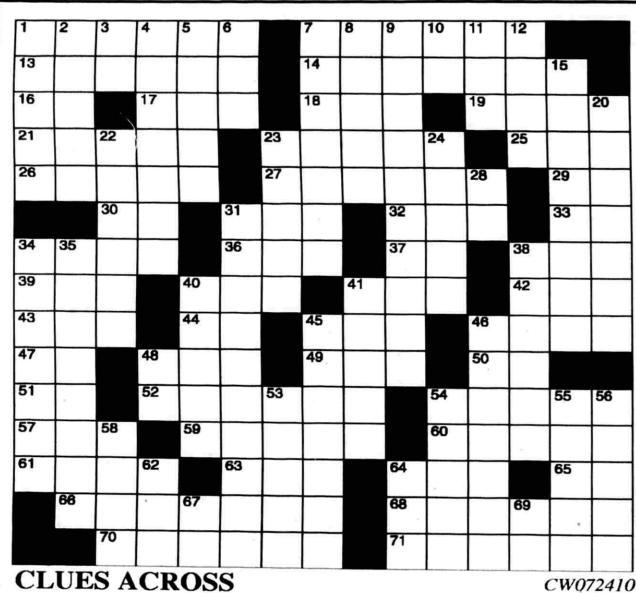
Interested persons may submit written comments to City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331 prior to the meeting or appear in person.



Betty R. Morlock City Clerk

deals

# PAUSE, PONDER & PASS SOME-TIME!



- 1. Reformation theologian : arrest authorization
- 13. Turkish capital 14. State flower of Indiana (pl.)
- 16. Initials of MI 3 star
- 17. Precedes CAM
- 18. \_\_, you!
- 19. Body art (sl.) 21. Disdained writers
- 23. Japanese insults 25. Body of water
- 26. Shopping binge
- 27. Psychiatric hospital 29. Alabama
- 30. Trauma center (abbr.) 31. \_\_liff: court officer
- 32. Beatles, The \_\_\_ Four
- 33. 12th Greek letter 34. 2nd longest running
- Broadway musical
- 36. Corpuscle (abbr.)
- 37. Leave (abbr.) 38. Take a seat
- 39. Conway, AR school (abbr.)
- 40. National airline of Pakistan 41. Billiard stick

#### **CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Plaster backings 2. Remove lid
- 3. Painter of light initials
- 4. They break into computers 5. Rub off
- 6. Radioactivity unit 7. Inability to use language
- 8. Smelly
- 9. Highest hand 10. Article
- 11. \_\_\_ wit: doofus
- 12. Afternoon repasts 15. More humid
- 20. Greetings
- 22. A resident of Crete
- 23. Senegalese singer Maal 24. Debonair
- 28. Megabyte
- 31. Wedding headgear

Extrinsive energy about the constraint of the co

34 Money collected under a tariff 35. Relating to liberal studies 38. Portions of bread 40. Chafflike bracts of grass

42. Confederate General Robert

43. Diego, Francisco, Anselmo

45. Volkswagen coupe con-

48. In the style or manner of

51. Kenzaburo \_\_: 1994 Nobel

44. Anno Domini (abbr.)

vertible

46. Gentlemen

50. Not DC

47. Touchdown

49. Rate of speed

in Literature

57. Woman (French)

59. Solemnly affirms

60. Peer Gynt author

63. Energy unit

68. False

65. Parent of NBC

70. Right and Blue

71. Listen again

54. Urges and helps on

52. Soft cotton pile fabric

61. Kitchen plumbing fixture

64. Young women's association

66. Leather made from beef skin

- 41. Principle sect of Christians in Egypt
- 45. Comes out of
- 46. Day of rest and worship
- 48. Early multimedia
- 53. Green (Span.)
- 54. No. French river
- 55. SW ankle-high moccasins
- 56. Evil smile
- 58. MI Senator D. Stab 62. Electrical power unit
- gle: sound a brook
- makes
- 67. Expresses surprise 69. Prefix for again CW07241A

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# Now this is a pileup!



This photograph taken by Mike Wood shows just how much snow piled up this season. Wood, a Unity High School senior, took the shot from the library parking lot of the school for his digital photo class.

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2	6		8			4		
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	2	3		1				5
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				5			6	
	7					8		
3								

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appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The

more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

L	5	6	Þ	8	1	9	g	3
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Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Closed Saturday & Sunday

& weekends. NEW LISTING! - Home sitting on 2 1/2 acres of land with garage & barn! Home each additional word 10¢ features a large living room Bold or Box \$1 each hardwood floors through out and more! Just \$99,900! Call Melinda Robison at 616-648-0151 or visit www. **HELP WANTED** 

HIGH EFFICIENCY - Central Boiler Classic Outdoor Wood Furnace, 25 year warranty. Dual fuel models. Maxim Corn & Pellet burners also available. Call today! SOS your "Stocking Dealer" Dutton, MI 616-554-8669 or 616-915-

Real Estate 791-1500.

### **PERSONALS**

**PLEASE HONOR** ner with a card for her 95th birthday on March 12. Roxie Hunter, Lacey's Too, 11981 Potters Road, Lowell

### **EVENTS**

LOWELL LITTLE LEAGUE Late registrations will be accepted at Lowell Little League booth at the Lowell Expo on March 22, 9-3:30 p.m. Lowell High School.

PILATES CLASSES at First Congregational Church, 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. March 3 - April 10. Mondays 8:30 a.m.; Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. & Thursdays 2 p.m. Cost is \$6 per class or 6 classes for \$25 or all 18 classes for \$50. For more info, call 897-5906.

RELAY FOR LIFE OF LOWELL - Looking for teams to participate in this vear's event. Fundraising has begun by 18 current teams! Looking for 16 more teams! Call Carol By Fax: 616-897-4809

Classified ad rates: 20 words...\$2

LPN'S/RN'S - Sign on

bonus. Metron of Beld-

ing is seeking Full Time,

Part Time and Per Diem

Licensed Nurses. We of-

and benefit package and

flexible schedules. For

more information or for

please email, fax, or stop

at the facility to see: Hu-

man Resources, Metron

of Belding, 414 E. State

St., Belding, MI 48809. Fax #616-794-0209, Bev-

erly.Baldwin@metronihs.

IN

**MEMORIAM** 

IN MEMORIAM

In memory of our Mom,

Annie Felling,

March 15, 2001 and

Our Dad,

Alcide "Peanuts" Baker.

March 17, 1983.

Last night I had a crazy

A wish was granted just

It could be for anything

Or a mansion in Malibu

One more sunset, maybe

I know what it would do

Leave me wishing still, for

We Miss You Both

Love, Doug & Donna

one more day with you

I didn't ask for money

more day with you

One more day

One more time

I'd be satisfied

But then again

#### **FOR RENT**

GoMelinda.com Five Star SENIORS!! - Rent could be as low as \$70 per month! 1 bedroom HUD subsidized apartments for rent! Rent based on income for those who qualify! BEAUTIFUL 6 fer a new enhanced wage acre country setting! Pets welcome! Conveniently located 20 minutes East of Grand Rapids. Call today to immediate consideration, ioin our small waiting list. Equal Housing Opportunity. 616-693-2271, hearing impaired dial 711.TEN

> HOT RENTAL SPECIAL 2 bedroom \$499 with swimming pool & playaround. Pets welcomed. 616-897-8427.

HALL FOR RENT - with kitchen, seats 150. Call 897-6050. TEN

FOR RENT - Lowell. Murray Lake school district, very nice 3 bedroom home with acreage, central air, large basement with finished office. \$900 per month. 616-897-9174.

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.TFN

#### **FREE**

FREE LAB - females w/ I simply wished, for one AKC papers ages from 10 months to 3 years. All colors. 897-5874.

### **HELP WANTED**

**EXPERIENCED STYLIST** NEEDED - full time, minimum 3 years for new very busy downtown Ionia salon. 320 W. Main 522-9870.

MARKETING PERSON Briggs at 897-5501 to find NEEDED - hourly plus commission. Call 616-897-7300

### **SERVICES**

GALLERY and CUSTOM FRAMING - Fire and Water Art! 219 W. Main St., Lowell 890-1879. OPEN Wed. - Sun. 1-6 p.m. and Friday 1-7 p.m. NEW ART created by OUR 25 leading local artists! ART CLASSES! www. fire-and-water-art.com

ALTO DAYCARE - has 4 full time openings, infant - school age, fenced in back yard, food program, planned activities, CPR trained. Call 868-0752

WE ARE BUYING - Collector's Korner LLC. Coins, stamps, pocket watches, collectibles, estate jewelry. Will pay more for your scrap gold & silver jewelry than anyone else! Buy, sell trade, appraisals. If you come & see me. You won't be turned away. Appraisals, \$5/hr. Tues-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 218 W. Main, Lowell 616-821-9232. Come see a professional. We are buying!

NEW CONSTRUCTION - Remodeling or odd jobs around the house. Big jobs, small jobs, we can help! 17 years experience. Professional & reliable References available. 616-897-7777, ask for Bill.

ZOOLAND DAYCARE HAS OPENINGS - on 1st, 2nd & 3rd shifts. Call 897-8386 or 308-0195.

GET A HEAD START ON SPRING CLEANING window washing, inside Hastings Country Club and out, commercial and residential. Makes a great Mother's Day gift also. Other services available include: gutter cleaning; power washing houses & decks; deck staining & air duct cleaning. Call Randy for a free estimate 616-581-8561.

VER - Antiques, collections & other vintage items. Turn your stuff into \$\$\$. Call 616-550-0521 today!

VENTS, LLC - Air duct cleaning, 616-897-7777, www.myvents.com.

PAINTING - Exp. painter for 25 years, fast, neat & clean professional. From drywall hanging to finish paint, 1 room to whole house. 616-340-6221.

**BUSINESS CARDS** - For as little as \$26 for 250. (white card, black ink). Before you order your cards from somewhere else check our rates! Call Lowell Litho, 897-9261

PAYROLL & BOOKKEEP-ING SERVICE - by certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-6351. EOWTEN

HANDY REPAIR SER-VICE - Bob Ford formally of Hahn Hardware is now doing all kinds of service work at your home or business. Free estimates. Call Everyday 299-3198.

> SOUND OFF LINE 897-0787 Voice your opinion!

#### **SERVICES**

NEW OFFICE HOURS M-Th 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. & Fr. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Buyers Guide Lowell Ledger, Lowell Litho 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

JIM'S FLOOR COVERING Discount prices on flooring. 23 years experience 897-0737, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. leave message.TEN

COMING IN THE MARCH 23 EDITION OF THE BUY-ERS GUIDE - Spring Home Improvement section! Ads will run from \$72.24 for an 1/8 page to \$510.72 for a full page. The Hastings Reminder, will also be running a Home Improvement Section, please call for Reminder pricing. Deadline for ads is 5 p.m. Thurs., March 20. If you are interested in placing an ad in this section please call our office.

PLUMBER - Licensed, 17 yrs. experience. Residential service or new construction. reasonable rates. No emergency or after hours fee. Call Platnium Plumbing 897-2575.TEN

JOHN SCHLOOP BUILD-ER - New homes, additions & remodeling, Call 897-

JUST ANNOUNCED! -- new rates for '08. Single membership, \$800 (reg. \$1,300); family membership, \$1,300 (reg. \$1,975) No initiation fee (\$300 savings). Hastings Country Club, 1550 N. Broadway, Hastings. 269-945-2756.

SELL YOUR GOLD TO CHIMERA DESIGN - Old CA\$H FOR GOLD & SIL- rings, broken jewelry, dental gold, single earrings, etc. We will pay you or you can take a store credit towards new jewelry, jewelry repair, or custom design. Chimera Design, 208 E. Main in Lowell. 616-897-9480



Mon. - Thurs. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. <u>Friday</u>

8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Closed Sat. & Sun.

> "The People Paper" The Lowell Ledger

> > 105 N. Broadway 897-9261

### Property taxes, continued ... From Page 1

exuberant on the dilapidated buildings. He requested the board of review to bring down the values of the buildings to zero.

"I am arguing about the value of the barns," he said. "The buildings are old."

Odell said the taxpayer is getting squeezed from both ends by higher taxes and lesser values of property.

While the board of reviews listened to appeals, earlier in the morning House Republicans proposed a

**WE SHIP UPS!** 

The Lowell Ledger

reform to help the struggling homeowners at the Home and Builders Association in Grand Rapids.

Presented Republican Floor Leader Dave Hildenbrand Lowell, the proposal would prohibit tax increases if a home value decreases.

"If home values go down, taxes cannot go up," he said. "We cannot tax ourselves to prosperity."

The second goal of the proposal is to make the appeals process in front of

Heating & Cooling

(616) 897-4123

website www.HeatingCoolingOnline.com

the board of reviews easier by expanding their hours and extending the time frame for burden." the appeal.

of reviews meet during the day. In some cases residents have 10 days to appeal their taxes, a short time frame between the mailing of the notices and the meetings.

"This is one of the worst housing markets in the history of the state," said Hildenbrand. "Our reform will help keep at-

risk families in their homes and reduce the overall tax

The plan would ensure Currently, many board that assessments reflect reality by using calculations to determine property values based on current data and to include foreclosures.

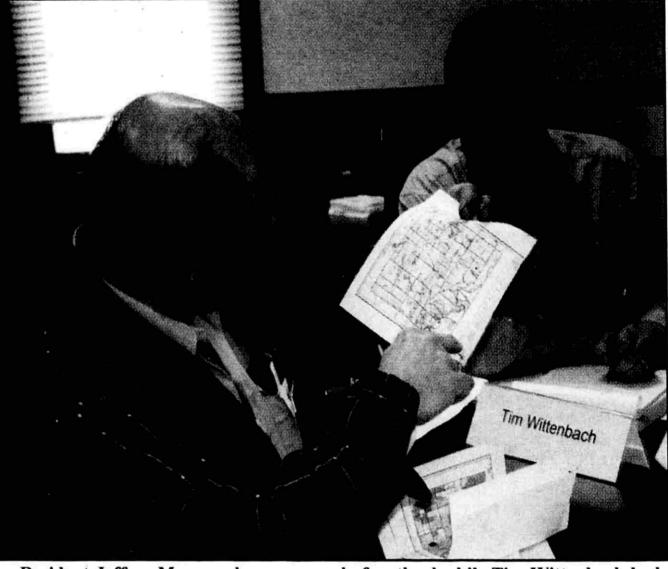
"I think it's a step in the right direction," said Odell in response to the GOP reform. "We're all upset."

Wittenbach considered the GOP's proposal to be fair.

Remaining board reviews:

 City of Lowell March 12 from 9:30 a.m. to noon, 1:30p.m. to 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. if necessary.

 Lowell Township March 13 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.



Resident Jeffrey Morgan shows a parcel of wetland while Tim Wittenbach looks

\*\*\*

Unquestionably, there is progress. The average American now pays out twice as much in taxes as he formerly got in wages.

- H. L. Mencken (1880 - 1956)

#### **ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

#### **BID PROPOSAL**

Sealed bids, in triplicate, for Lowell Area Schools High School & Cherry Creek Renovations, will be received at Lowell Area Schools Administration Building, 300 High Street, Lowell, Michigan on Thursday, March 20, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

All proposals received (mailed and delivered) will be opened and read publicly shortly after 2:00 p.m. local time in Lowell Area Schools Administration Building Board Conference Room 300 High Street, Lowell, MI.

Bids may be mailed to Lowell Area Schools, 300 High Street, Lowell, Michigan 49331. Mailed bids must be received prior to the bid due time and date stated above. FAXED BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

#### SITE INSPECTION

A construction pre-bid meeting will be held at Lowell High School, 11700 Vergennes, Lowell, MI on Thursday, March 13, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. local time. The meeting will be held in Room A120 Cafeteria/Commons. All bidders are encouraged to attend.

#### **BID DOCUMENTS**

The Bidding Documents may be obtained at Owen-Ames-Kimball Co., 300 lonia N.W., Grand Rapids, MI. A deposit of \$100.00 is required. The deposit will be refunded if documents are returned within 60 days after bid opening. A nonrefundable charge of \$20.00 will be required for mailing documents.

#### **BIDDER QUALIFICATIONS**

Bidders submitting a Bid for this Project shall have qualifications as follows:

- Shall be a reputable, recognized organization, with at least five (5) years successful experience on work of this type and scope of this project.
- Shall have a license where required by public authorities having jurisdiction.
- Shall have ample financial resources for work of this magnitude.

#### **BID SECURITY - PERFORMANCE BONDS**

Each bid shall be accompanied by good and sufficient bid security or bid bond in an amount not less than 5% of the Bid amount and shall secure the Owner from loss or damage by reason of the withdrawal of the Bid by a Bidder or by failure of the successful Bidder to enter into a Contract with the Owner if his Bid is accepted by the Owner.

The successful Bidder will be required to secure Performance, Labor and Material bonds for all contracts exceeding \$50,000, from a surety company having a rating of A- or better, for the full amount of the Contract.

