

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 37 Issue 21

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Huntington Bank robbed and evacuated for "hoax" bomb

by Molly Benningfield
Editor

The Huntington National Bank, on E. Main Street, was robbed last Wednesday afternoon, and the search for the male suspect is still ongoing.

Police chief Jim Valentine said the suspect displayed "some type of explosive device" on the counter in the bank around 3:30 p.m. Wednesday and asked the female teller for money. It is undetermined how much money he got a way with.



The suspect is seen on video surveillance from the bank.

The suspect is described as 5-foot-10 to 6-foot, a medium to stocky build, reddish hair and mustache and wearing a black bike helmet. He was also wearing a dark face mask at the bank. Valentine said he was seen riding away on a red bike in a southwest direction from the bank.

The Lowell police department had three officers on the scene, as well as state police in the area with tracking and bomb-sniffing dogs, and the local branch of the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation). Valentine said in any case of bank robberies, the FBI takes over the jurisdiction.

The Grand Rapids Police Department sent their bomb technician staff to the scene, as the state police bomb squad was tied up in Sparta.

The suspect was seen prior to the robbery in Dollar General.

The device he set on the counter at the bank was

homemade, Valentine said, and made to look like it was a bomb. "The way it was put together, it made it look like a bomb, but it was a hoax," Valentine said.

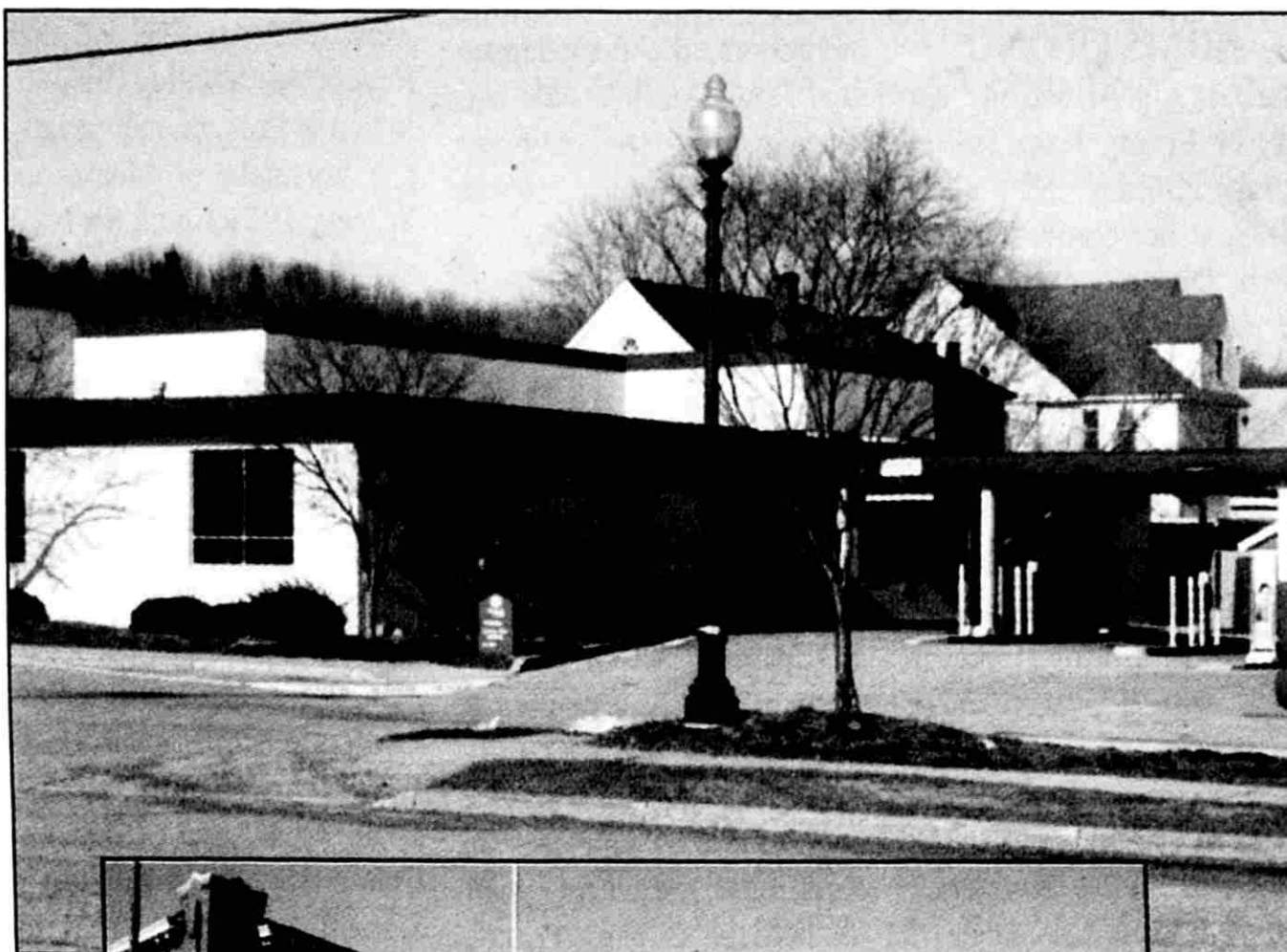
The bank was shut down for the duration of the afternoon and early evening, but opened again in the morning.

Valentine said that if anyone knew any information at all, to contact the Lowell Police, Silent Observer or the Kent County FBI. He said they have tracked down many tips and exhausted many options, but still haven't found the suspect. He said he's not sure if the man is local, if he plotted and planned the robbery, or if it was a copycat crime.

No one was injured during the robbery.

(Top): The Huntington National Bank at 414 E. Main St., Lowell.

(Right): Half of Main Street was shut down on Wednesday afternoon.



Downtown bridge slated for 2010 replacement

by Emma Palova

Parking, one-lane traffic, a catwalk or taking a canoe to work are major concerns of downtown business owners as the bridge replacement over the Flat River looms on the horizon.

And although, the project is planned for 2010, the bridge is currently in

the design stages by the Michigan Department of Transportation. (MDOT)

"The bridge will be a fit into the downtown atmosphere," said Art Green, Grand Rapids Transportation Service Center development manager.

The \$2.7 million bridge will have a new deck, but the existing footings will remain intact.

"We don't want to disrupt the buildings," said Green.

The project will be done in halves, and one-lane traffic will be maintained. Green estimated in the worst case scenario, it will take from mid-April to mid-November to complete the replacement. Bids will be let out in October of 2009. The project consultants are

HH Engineering based in Lowell.

MDOT is planning a series of meetings with the downtown business owners impacted by the project in late summer or fall.

As with any construction, there is panic among business owners. Some buildings appear to be literally sitting on the bridge, even though they're on engineered piers.

"There is some concern among business owners," said Dave Nichols, owner of Flat River Properties.

However, Nichols said the bridge replacement is a positive and significant investment into the community.

"It will make for a stronger downtown business district," said Nichols.

Nichols owns some of the buildings on the south side of the bridge built some 80 years ago.

Currently, their nervous tenants include Hungry Howies, Circle JF Saddlery and Buck Stop Barber Shop. The owners don't want to move unless they have to.

But, barber Trent Buck can't picture his older clients walking on a possible catwalk to get a haircut.

Buck is afraid if MDOT takes three feet off the concrete, the building will fall into the river.

"I am looking at different locations," he said. "Maybe back in Ada."

Joel Forrest, owner the Circle JF Saddlery, likes the location on the bridge. He enjoys a nice view, and due to the uniqueness of his

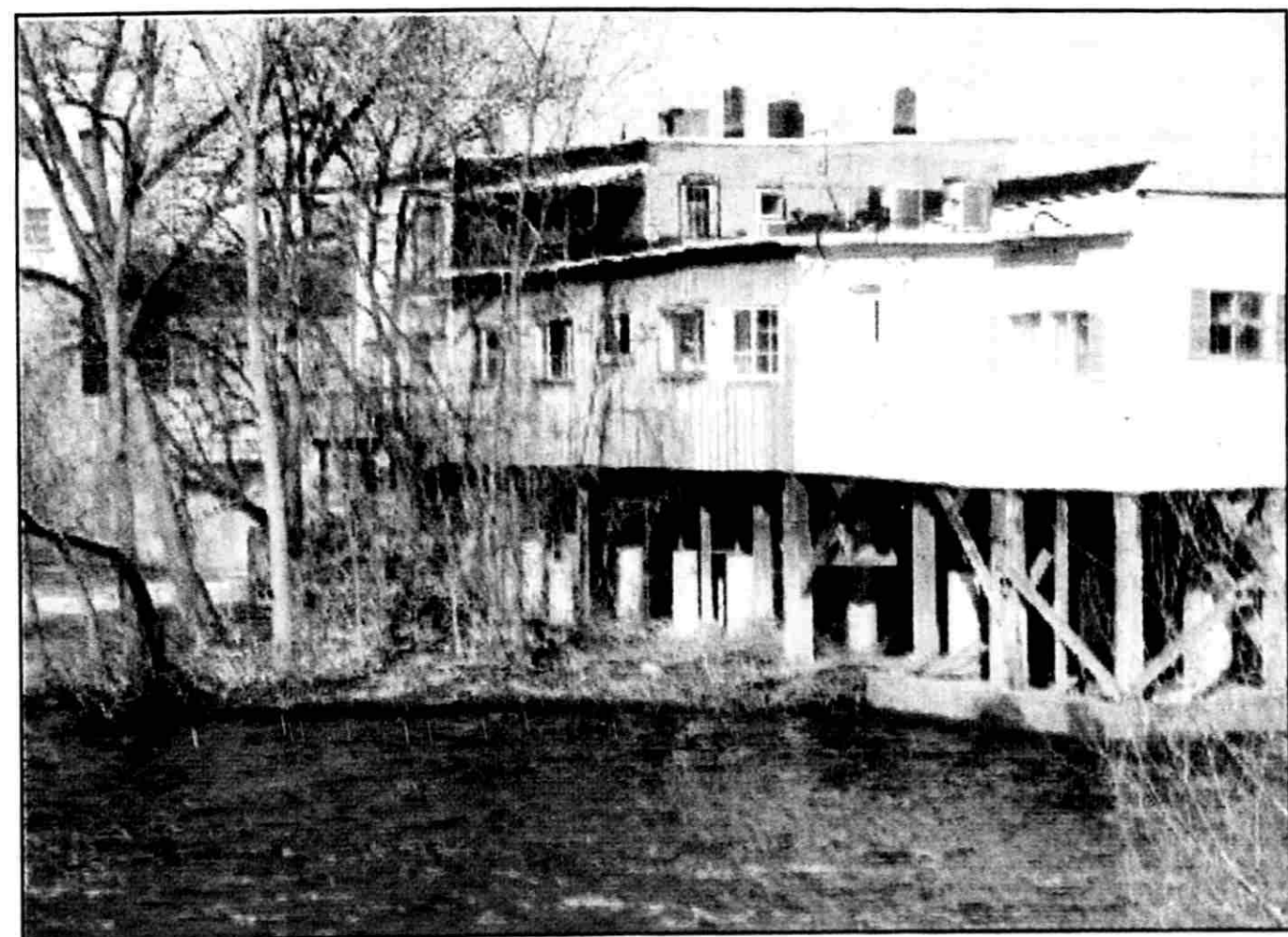
business, customers will come from far regardless of a detour.

"Ninety-five percent of my business is outside of Kent County," said Forrest. "I cannot really close for the summer. I'll move the shop if I need more space, but not because of the bridge."

Brandon Mulnix, owner of Modern Photographics, has completely renovated his building last year.

"We are concerned about them moving dirt," he

Bridge Con'td., Pg. 7



Some business owners may consider moving to other locations due to bridge replacement. Pictured are Flat River Properties buildings from behind.

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Obituaries



ARMSTRONG

Barbara Ann Armstrong, age 81, of Spring Lake passed away Saturday, March 29, 2008, at her home. She was born December 12, 1926 in Grand Rapids to Don and Margaurite (Pyman) Canfield. She married Charles "Charlie" Armstrong on October 10, 1946, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Lowell. Mrs. Armstrong moved to Spring Lake in 1988 and was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Spring Lake. She was one of the original "Rosie the Riveters," and she also worked as a telegraph operator during World War II for Western Union in Grand Rapids and Chicago. The most important and rewarding aspect of her life was her family. Survivors include her loving husband, Charles "Charlie" Armstrong; her beloved children, Ann Marie (Dee) Armstrong of Walker and Michael (Maria) Armstrong of Holland; seven grandchildren: Barbie,

Rebecca, Thomas, Aleana, Nelia, Anita, and Michael; nine great-grandchildren; two sisters, Shirley (Gerald) Seese of Clarksville and Peg Canfield of Deptford, New Jersey; three brothers: Robert (Shirley) Canfield of Lowell, Thomas (Paula) Canfield of Clarksville, and Kenneth (Judy) Canfield of Whitehall; numerous nieces and nephews; dear friend Edie Branch; and special neighbors, the Peek-Jensen and Hoag families. She was preceded in death by her parents; one granddaughter, Jacqueline Armstrong in 1994; a sister, Catherine Canfield; and a half-sister and half-brother, Arlene Dart and Wayne Canfield. The funeral liturgy for Barbara will be held on Wednesday, April 2, at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Spring Lake with Rev. Leonard Sudlik as celebrant. Friends may meet the family one hour prior to the service on Wednesday at the church. Additional services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, April 4, 2008, at the Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson St., Lowell with visitation two hours prior to the service, from noon-2 p.m. Interment will be in Findlay Cemetery in Ada Township, Kent County. Memorial contributions in Barbara's name may be made to Hospice of North Ottawa Community, <http://www.noch.org/hospice.html>.

SAGANEK

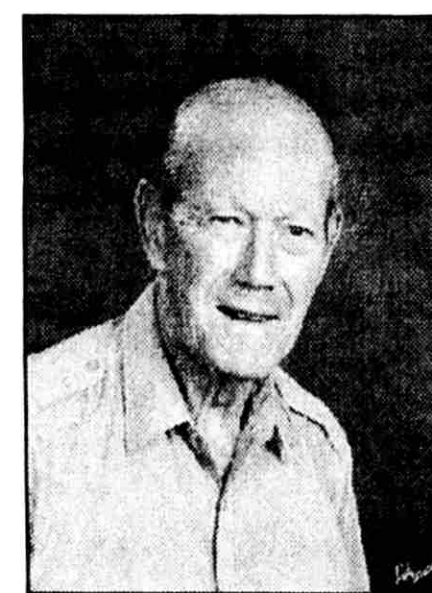
Viola Saganeck, aged 82, of Caledonia and formerly of Lowell, passed away Friday, March 28, 2008. She was preceded in death by her husband, Otto Saganeck in 1999 and her brothers and sisters. Viola will be lovingly remembered by her children, Mavis (Joseph) Moritti, Shirley (Curtiss) Chadwick, David Saganeck, Theresa (Dan) VanderZand; nine grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. Viola retired from General Motors on Alpine Ave. after 28 years of service. Funeral services were held Tuesday at the Reyers North Valley Chapel. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Meals on Wheels, 1279 Cedar St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

SCHERRET

Katherine Mae "Katy" Scherret, aged 77, of Lowell, passed away on Friday, March 28, 2008. She was preceded in death by her two sons, Robert William Scott and Daniel Lee Tucker. She is survived by her two daughters, Sandy Scott and Lea (Shawn) Garteck; son, Nelson "Skip" Stamm; grandchildren, Bob (Brandy) Ham, Lisa Wright, Tina (Jon) Cotton, Cody and Travis Stamm; nine great-grandchildren, Alisha, Kayla, Robert, Autumn, Samantha, Dustin, Shon, Justina, and Janina; one great-great-grandson, Christian; special niece, Debbie (Jimmy); special friend, Helen Thompson and many other friends. A Funeral Service will be held at Memorial Alternatives Chapel on Wednesday, April 2 at 1 p.m.

SENNEKER

Gertrude Senneker, aged 94, of Bellaire, formerly of Grand Rapids, went to be with her Lord on Sunday, March 23, 2008. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dick; son, Richard Jay; grandsons, Stephen Ray, Todd Raymond; and daughter-in-law, Robynne Kay. She is survived by her children, Ruth (Frank) Rivello of Pennsylvania, James (Janet) Senneker of Perry, Robert (Patricia) Senneker of Dorr, Josephine (Hector) Valle of Honduras, Terry (Marcia) Senneker of Wayland, Sherry (Grant) Marshall of Bellaire, Thomas Senneker of Lowell, Raymond (Sharon) Senneker of Florida; her daughter-in-law, Karen (James) Dantuma of Middleville; 19 grandchildren; 16 great grandchildren; sister-in-law, Marion Senneker of Denver; brother-in-law, Donald Senneker of Grand Rapids; and many nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held Thursday at the Matthyse-Kuiper-DeGraaf Funeral Home. Interment in Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens. The family request that memorial contributions be given to Mel Trotter Ministries or Christian Reformed World Relief Committee.



SMITH

Ernest Smith, aged 86 of Lowell, died Saturday, March 22, 2008. He was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Blanche. He is survived by his children, James (Judith) Smith of Florida, Ernestine Bundy of Lowell, Patricia Smith of Lowell; sister, Esther (Joseph) Hammons of KY; brothers-in-law, Dale (Barb) Little, Carl (Mabel) Little; sister-in-law, Mary Lou Heatherly; grandchildren, Jerre (Ryan) Sysma, James (Julie) Smith, Jr., Danielle Hulst, Rhea (Justin) Anes, Jennifer (Mark) Ruis, Brian Haan; six great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews. Mr. Smith was an Army Veteran of World War II and retired from General Motors. Funeral services were Friday at the First Congregational Church of Lowell. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the First Congregational Church of Lowell or Hospice of Michigan.

VAN SPRONSEN

Neil Van Spronsen, aged 73, of Ada died at his home on

Wednesday, March 26, 2008 and passed into the presence of his Lord and Savior. Neil was born on December 5, 1934 in California and came to Michigan in 1947, making the Ada area his home. He was an active member of Ada Christian Reformed Church. Surviving are his wife of 53 years, Carol Van Spronsen; his children, Robin (Lee) Baldwin of Ada, Randy (Sue) Van Spronsen of Lowell, Bob (Mary) Van Spronsen of Middleville, Rhonda (Dave) Fosburg of Ada, Roger (Connie) Van Spronsen of Ada; 16 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren; brothers and sisters, Cliff (Jackie) Van Spronsen of Lowell, John Jr. (Harriet) Van Spronsen of Hudsonville, Karl (Bonnie) Van Spronsen of Lowell, Nancy Mulder of Lowell and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by two grandchildren, Chad Van Spronsen in October of 2007 and Brook Van Spronsen in September of 1984. Funeral services were held Monday at Ada Christian Reformed Church. Interment Bailey Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Spectrum Health Hospice.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate FILE NO. 08-184,816-DE

Estate of ALLENE JOYCE KUIKSTRA, deceased

Date of birth: 10/14/1928

presented to SHARON CANALES, named personal representative, or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 752 Butterworth SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504 and the named/ proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent, ALLENE JOYCE KUIKSTRA, who lived at 3297 Butterworth SW, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504 died 1/26/2008.

3/28/2008

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

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless

Sharon Canales 752 Butterworth SW Grand Rapids, MI 49504 616-458-3651

The Lowell Ledger

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In Memory of Stacey Wolfe Ruge
Who left us six years ago on
Easter morning, March 31, 2002

We love and miss you very much.

ALWAYS in our hearts,
John & Peg; Wilma & Roger;
Todd, Tyler & Livvy;
Shan, Kathi, Jessica & Jensen;
Shelly, Gordon, Aubree & Corey

LOWELL AREA COMMUNITY FUND ACCEPTS GRANT PROPOSALS

All Proposals Must Be Submitted Online No Later Than April 18, 2008 to be considered.
Visit www.grfoundation.org/lowell to submit your application.

The Lowell Area Community Fund, a fund of Grand Rapids Community Foundation, awards grants to tax-exempt, nonprofit charitable organizations that have an impact in the Lowell area. The LACF funds innovative projects or programs that encourage community cooperation.

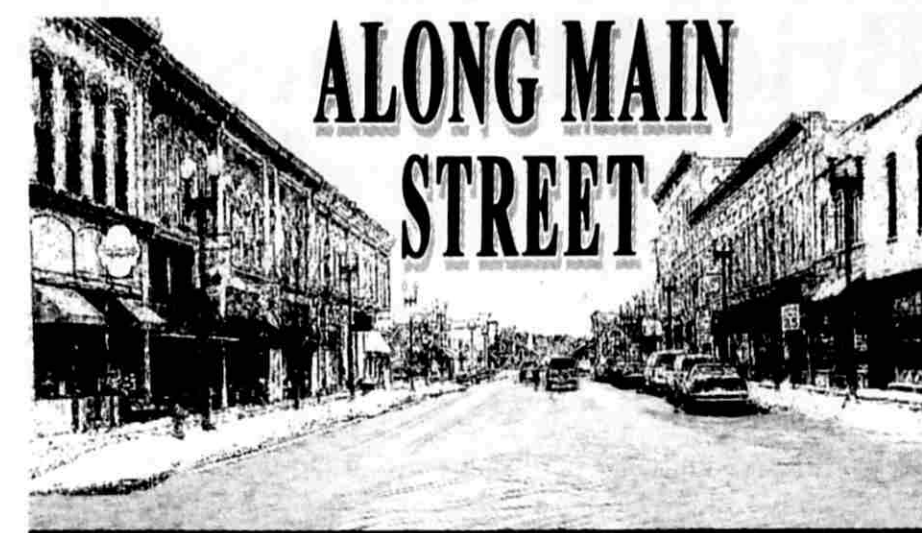
CITY OF LOWELL ALLIED WASTE SERVICES YARD WASTE PICKUP SCHEDULE FOR SPRING AND SUMMER 2008

The City of Lowell's Spring and Summer yard waste program is scheduled for the first and third Thursday of each month, unless there is a holiday in that week and the pickup day will be Friday. Your yard waste pickup will be the same day as your refuse/recycling pickup. The dates are listed below:

Yard Waste Pickup Schedule
April 3rd and 17th
May 1st and 15th
June 5th and 19th
July 3rd and 17th
August 7th and 21st
*September 5th and 18th

*PLEASE NOTE THIS DATE IS A FRIDAY PICKUP DUE TO HOLIDAY DURING THE WEEK.

If you have any questions, please contact City Hall (897-8457).



New services for smokers, more classes added

The success of local smoking cessation classes has helped over 50 people and now more services are being offered.

A local support group will begin meeting in June. A reunion for those who have taken classes in Lowell was held earlier this month. Some people were smoke free for a few weeks and others for several years. This confirms the benefit of social support.

Lowell is being recognized for its comprehensive approach. It started last year with free classes, now a support group. We even bring educational

programs into our schools.

"This collaboration is unmatched in Kent County," said Jodie Seese, intervention specialist and support coordinator.

Free smoking cessation classes are being offered in Lowell again. These group sessions meet for six weeks beginning Tuesday, April 15 at 6 p.m. The classes are held at Lowell Family Medical Center, 2550 West Main Street. To register call (616) 975-0123 or go to www.tobaccofreepartners.org and click on classes.

"I tell people, 'Now is a great time to be a smoker. You have more

resources, more options and more information than you've ever had. There's new medication, innovative online support programs and a free class right here in Lowell," said Seese.

Cessation classes are effective for a wide range of smokers. In Lowell's previous classes, there were family members who quit together; there were grandparents and new parents; there were people who smoked for only a few years and some who had smoked for over 20, 30 and even 50 years.

Elmer Scharaswak, of Lowell, was finally able to quit thanks to the Tobacco Free For Good classes in January of 2007. "I'd tell people to try the class. You can do it. I did! I quit after 52 years of smoking. The class was quite helpful. I learned many things about quitting that I didn't know. The class was a turning point. It's been 14 months now and I'm doing great," said Scharaswak.

Class topics include: developing your personal quit plan; reviewing medications and nicotine replacement therapies; understanding withdrawal symptoms; coping with stress; managing weight control & fitness; and preventing relapses.

According to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) participating in an educational program can increase your chances of quitting by 70 percent. "It's important for people to understand that quitting is a process, a transition. It's a learning experience and it's highly individualized. Every smoker is a little different and what worked for your neighbor or a coworker may not be right for you. The benefit of a class is that you determine you own quit plan based on your smoking patterns and previous quit attempts. You also have the support of everyone in that class which participants cite as a tremendous value to them," said Seese.

At Your Local Library



Jump into spring at the Alto branch of KDL

The Alto branch of the Kent District Library presents a special storytime event for preschool age children. Jump and move with your friends at the storytime about physical fitness. Prepare for a lot of outdoor fun this spring on Monday, April 7 at 10:30 a.m.

No registration is required. This storytime is for children ages six and under. For more information, please contact the Alto library at 647-3820. The Alto branch of Kent District Library is located at 6071 Linfield Ave. in Alto.

Get crafty at the Alto branch of KDL during spring break

Are you looking for something fun to do during spring break? Stop by the Alto branch of the Kent District Library for an afternoon of crafts. Use your imagination to create some fun springtime crafts. No registration is required. Drop in anytime on Wednesday, April 9 between 1 and 4 p.m.

For more information, please contact the Alto Library at 647-3820. The Alto branch of the Kent District Library is located at 6071 Linfield Ave. in Alto.

Creative beading with Liz Langenberg at the Kent District Library

If you enjoy making your own jewelry or have ever wanted to learn, this is your chance to get creative! Learn basic techniques for beading and jewelry-making as you create your own bracelet and a pair of coordinating earrings to take home. All supplies will be provided. Creative beading sessions will be held at the Alto branch on Tuesday, April 15 at 6:45 p.m.

Interested adults should register. Participation is limited to 20 per session. For more information, visit www.kdl.org.

Church and Angel Food Ministries partner for food-distribution program

The First Baptist Church of Lowell recently partnered with the Angel Food Ministries food distribution program. Earl Pomeroy, a spokesman for the church, said, "This program is for everyone. There are no applications to complete or qualifications to meet. Everyone, regardless of economic status, needs help with food costs."

First Baptist Church is the second of two churches in Lowell that are providing this service to the community. Lowell Church of the Nazarene has been providing this community service for some time. "Michigan's economy, being what it is, no single church can help everyone. We are excited to be partnering with an excellent organization like Angel Food Ministries

which serves over 3,000 local Host Sites in 32 states," said Pomeroy.

For \$30 in cash or Food Stamps, participants will receive a unit of food containing both fresh and frozen items. If purchased at a local grocery store, the food would retail between \$42 and \$78. The food items are first quality. There are no secondhand items, no damaged or outdated goods, no dented cans without labels, no day-old breads and no produce that is almost too ripe. Specialty items such as steaks, chicken and pork are available at additional cost.

Information about ordering or food pickup may be obtained by calling the church at 897-7168.

FREE SMOKING CESSATION CLASSES

Beginning Tuesday, April 15 for 6 weeks. Classes meet 6-8 p.m. at Lowell Family Medical Center, 2550 W. Main St. Call (616) 975-0123 to register or go to www.tobaccofreepartners.org.

ALTO PARENT MEETING SCHEDULE

Kindergarten parent meeting is Thurs., April 17, sign up and turn in completed paperwork 6-6:25 p.m., meeting 6:30-7:30 p.m. Parent information meeting during student visitation is Tues., May 13, a.m. only and Wed., May 14, a.m. only. For more information, call 987-2600.

PRESCHOOL SCREENING FOR PROGRAM PLACEMENT

If you have a 3-or 4-year-old that may have a developmental delay (speech, physical or behavioral) and would be eligible for our special education preschool program, or to be considered into the Kent Co. Head Start program or 4-year-old Readiness program, call Carol Briggs at 987-2516 to make an appointment for an April screening. Deadline is Fri., April 18.

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The museum is having their spring event "Somewhere in Time Gala," at the new Grand Lux Ballrooms on April 18. This year's program is titled "Dinner with the Lincolns." The evening will start at 6 p.m. with a social hour, a gourmet dinner, and raffle. Tickets are \$40. Please call the museum to reserve your ticket, 897-7688.

MURRAY LAKE PARENT MEETING SCHEDULE

Kindergarten parent meeting is Tues., April 22, sign up and turn in completed paperwork 6:15-6:25 p.m., meeting 6:30-7:30 p.m. Parent information meeting during student visitation is Tues., May 6. For more information, call 987-2750.

BUSHNELL PARENT MEETING SCHEDULE

Kindergarten parent meeting is Thurs., April 24, sign up and turn in completed paperwork 6-6:25 p.m., meeting 6:30-7:30 p.m. Parent information meeting during student visitation is Wed., May 7 and Thurs., May 8. For more information, call 987-2650.

ALMOST NEW SALE

Lowell Area Schools TOTS Program will be holding its annual sale on April 26 at Unity High School from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Free to sell. Please call Kathy at 987-2532 to reserve space.

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021 (PG-13)
11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50
THE BANK JOB (R)
12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45
0 DRILLBIT TAYLOR (PG-13)
12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00
0 SHUTTER (PG-13)
7:00, 9:05
0 COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (G)
11:05, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00
0 DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO! (G)
12:10, 2:20, 4:30, 6:50, 9:00

COUPON
FREE 20oz DRINK
with purchase of movie
at participating theaters

Bridal business finds perfect fit inside Fashionista Flair

by Emma Palova

Lowell needs something different. So says the new owner of Barb's Creations, Barb Mulnix.

And her custom bridal and alterations business found its niche inside Fashionista Flair on Main Street.

Mulnix is a master seamstress and designer, along with the rest of the team, Sarah and Yvonne Harmon.

"There's a great demand for alterations," said Mulnix. "Not too many people do it."

Mulnix works off a picture or with Sarah's help, she can create a completely new dress. To get the end result, she combines several different patterns. Any changes are always made on the lining of the dress.

The lining is also used for a fitting. And Mulnix is used to switching gears along the way while using any sources she can get her hands on.

The bride gets to pick the material, while Mulnix gets the pleasure of getting it from local sources, or from the fashion capital of the world itself, Paris.

Currently, Mulnix is working on a Renaissance bridal dress and a civil war re-enactment dress. She can make a bridal dress out the door in two weeks for \$300 - \$400.

The advantages of having a custom-made dress are many. The No. 1 advantage is no need for alterations.

"You get something unique that does not require alterations," said Mulnix.

This is especially true

in case of odd body shapes. Mulnix can conceal any body challenge, so the dress is becoming to the particular body structure.

Sarah compliments the dress with custom-made floral tiaras and bouquets, veils and head pieces, while Yvonne hammers out the sewing details. The team also decorates for weddings.

"This is a really good fit for us," said Yvonne. "We can cover most needs."

Prior to starting her creations business, Mulnix has made collector bears for Fashionista.

"This is a whole new endeavor," said Mulnix.

The team is looking forward to giving the bride what she really wants.

"We want to offer another option for brides-to-be," said Yvonne.



Barb Mulnix started Barb's Creations bridal and alterations inside Fashionista Flair.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 08-184,897-DE

Estate of
RICHARD J. REIF,
deceased

Date of birth:
4/28/1927

TO ALL CREDITORS:
The decedent, RICHARD
J. REIF, who lived at 1700
KnappNE, Grand Rapids,
Michigan died 2/1/2008.

Creditors of the

decendent are notified
that all claims against
the estate will be forever
barred unless presented
to LUKE J. REIF, named
personal representative,
or proposed personal
representative, or to
both the probate court
at 180 Ottawa Avenue
NW, Grand Rapids, MI
49503 and the named/
proposed personal
representative within 4

months after the date of
publication of this notice.

3/27/2008

Craig Avery P10311
3875 W. River Dr.
PO Box 327
Comstock Park, MI
49321
616-784-5080

Luke J. Reif
1538 Holmden Road
S. Euclid, OH 44121
216-201-0609

In The Service

Michigan National Guard soldier from Lowell receives award

SPC Aaron Deur of Lowell has been awarded the Army Achievement Medal for exemplary performance while assigned as a Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic during Annual Training at the National Maintenance

Training Center Jan. 26-Feb. 10 with the 1073rd Maintenance Company of Greenville.

Deur has served six years with the Michigan Army National Guard.

Deur and his wife Kayne have been married for a year and have a daughter, Madeline Culberston, who is 6.

Deur is employed by the Combined Service Maintenance Support, Lansing.

Deur is the son of Marv and Sharon Deur, of Fremont.

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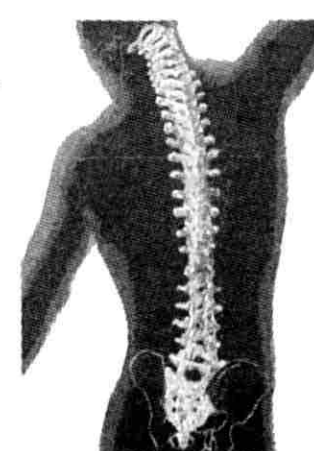
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And
What You Can Do About It

Orthopedic Surgeon
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Will Present At

THE LAURELS OF KENT 350 North Center St
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FRIDAY, APRIL 18 • 10:00-10:30AM
CALL to reserve a seat • (616) 897-8473



Barb Mulnix stands with fabric to create one of her dresses.

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Viewpoint

To The Editor

Citizens of Lowell,

I am a student at Grand Valley State University, and this semester, I have had the opportunity to participate in a multibillion dollar project for my policy process class that could put Michigan at the forefront of alternative energy innovation. As a former student of Lowell High School, I looked at what our project could do for Lowell and Michigan, and I wanted to be the first to tell you about it.

M&M Energy is working to bring a new energy park to mid-Michigan called the Great Lakes Energy and Research Park (GLERP). It would be one of the most advanced carbon-capture and storage systems in the country, and it is proposed for Alma, Mich. Our class is working to help bring this project to the public's attention and to help build support for a project that could help turn Michigan around.

The plant proposed for Gratiot County would utilize IGCC technology - Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle. Coal is separated molecularly, producing a clean-burning synthetic gas. Pollutants like mercury and sulfur are sufficiently reduced through this method, and the carbon dioxide gas is captured. The carbon dioxide is then pumped back into the ground to recover millions of barrels worth of stranded oil that wells couldn't reach. Both parts of this process have been used worldwide, including a similar park in Florida.

What does all this mean for Michigan? For one, jobs. Thousands of jobs would be created through the Park's construction and operation. Second, it would put millions of dollars into Michigan's economy by producing oil and energy, as well as making Michigan a leader in the alternative energy field. And finally, like I mentioned above, it would produce cleaner energy. Nearly 80 percent of the carbon dioxide produced by the plant would be recaptured, in addition to the mercury and sulfur reductions.

So far, our class has researched the project and worked to get attention for it, and last week, representatives from M&M Energy visited our class to discuss our goals. We've realized some of the difficulties M&M Energy face in their attempt to bring their project here, but support is bipartisan in the State Senate. The governor has come out in support of GLERP as a way to bring alternative energy to Michigan, but there still exists opposition, especially in the State House and from lobbyists for the major utility companies.

This project could put Michigan on the energy map, and there are many aspects of this project that could strongly benefit Michigan and its citizens.

Anna Lane

Dear Editor,

I would like to reflect on "Council reviews preliminary budget" in the March 26 edition of the Lowell Ledger. I believe Lowell is near the top in taxation in Kent county and at the same time has joined the rest of Michigan in a hard recession. Lowell's roads are almost twice the age of replacement and in need of dire repair. At the same time, I believe it is not feasible to ask the constituents of Lowell for more taxes or a millage at this time or in the foreseeable future. Could the rising cost of materials and road work be depleting the general fund? I think so. I also believe the only way to rectify this problem other than city cutbacks like job losses would be using the proceeds from the Lowell Cable TV fund for road repair. I believe this is just one of many ideas for the use of the proceeds from the Lowell Cable TV fund, but my question is: will the city of Lowell down the

road suffer from cutbacks like job losses because there was a poor choice of wants over needs in the use of the Lowell Cable TV fund?

James Howard

Dear Editor

As the economy continues on a downward trend, more and more families are struggling with basics, including trying to save the family home. Then, consider the past year in Lansing and their choices to balance the budget. Why is increasing taxes so easily considered - and passed - in Lansing, particularly considering the sagging Michigan economy? It seems that instead of setting real priorities (needs versus desires) and

squeezing out efficiencies in existing government operations, taxation is always the 'getaway' car on standby. Taking more money out of the pockets of Michigan's citizens happened when they can least afford it, and it happened with relative ease. Now, there is talk in Lansing that they might increase taxes again!

As a state senator, I introduced a measure that was very simple: initiating or increasing taxes should require a supermajority (two-thirds) vote of the legislature. (Currently, it only takes a simple majority.) A supermajority vote would provide one more source of protection and accountability for Michigan's citizens and businesses. Even more puzzling is the fact that it takes a supermajority vote in the legislature to even bring an issue to the vote of the people as a ballot initiative. Shouldn't increasing your tax burden have at least the same hurdles to overcome as simply asking you to vote on a statewide issue? The bottom line, Michigan citizens need more pocketbook protection and a supermajority is one more way to accomplish that goal.

Currently, there are 16 states that require a supermajority in some form to raise taxes. Michigan currently requires a supermajority to raise property taxes as they relate to mills levied for school district operations. No other tax group is currently subject to that requirement. My point is - why not?

Ronald Reagan once said about the federal government, "We don't have a trillion-dollar debt because we haven't taxed enough; we have a trillion-dollar debt because we spend too much."

The same holds true today as it did when I was serving in the legislature. Michigan needs to enact a supermajority vote of the legislature for any new taxes or tax increases.

Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard,
Oakland County

Dear Editor,

My first memories of David's art was when he was a teen. Under the tutelage of Blanche Mullen, he created exciting experimental collages or sand casts of created or found objects.

He disappeared into the corporate world of management of displays for Macy's, then decided to return to his roots. His tender care of Barb, his mother, cheered her last days. He opened his heart to others and shared his chaotic humor. David looked at the world with different eyes, finding beauty and humor in even his worst maladies. He created fabulous art. Betty Yieter's rolling hills became a quilt of vibrant beauty with a chuckle thrown in.

David, the teacher: in the recent juried LAAC regional competition, four of his students had their artwork chosen and displayed, a tribute to his teaching skills. What fun it was to be his student!

Even his clothing personified artist! How we will miss this spirited and charming man!

Janet Y. Johnson

Writing to the editor ...

The requirements are:

- All letters must be signed by the writer, with address and phone number provided for verification. All that will be printed is the writer's name and community of residence.
- Letters that contain statements that are libelous will not be published.
- All letters are subject to editing for style, grammar and sense.
- Letters that serve as testimonials for or criticisms of for-profit businesses will not be accepted.
- Letters serving the function of "cards of thanks" will not be accepted unless there is a compelling public interest, which will be determined by the editor.
- Letters that include attacks of a personal nature will not be published or will be edited heavily.
- "Crossfire" letters between the same two people on one issue will be limited to one for each writer.
- In an effort to keep opinions varied, at times there may be a limit of one letter per person per week.
- We prefer letters to be printed legibly or typed, double-spaced. For e-mailed letters, please copy letter as part of the e-mail body and send to ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com.



By Shelly MacNaughton

125 YEARS AGO
THE LOWELL JOURNAL
This week is missing from files.

100 YEARS AGO
THE LOWELL LEDGER
APRIL 2, 1908

The annual reunion of the Old Settler's Association will be held on Thursday evening April 23. There will be a picnic supper served promptly at 6 o'clock, followed by music, short addresses, recitations, etc., lasting for an hour or more. After the program will be the "hop".

75 YEARS AGO
THE LOWELL LEDGER AND ALTO SOLO
APRIL 6, 1933

The postmaster, the two post office clerks, the two city carriers and the five R. F. D. carriers of the Lowell post office are directly affected by the new federal economy bill recently enacted by congress, which became operative April 1. The total reduction applicable to all connected with the Lowell post office amounts to approximately \$3000 a year. Postmaster Borgerson's salary will now be \$2,040.

Old Don, the faithful old (pacer) horse of Ernie Fullington dropped dead Saturday night.

50 YEARS AGO
THE LOWELL LEDGER
APRIL 3, 1958

Lowell firemen were certainly busy this week fighting grass fires! Frank Baker, Fire Chief, estimated there were approximately 10 in the past two weeks. Burning rubbish carelessly seems to be the major cause of all the fires.

Jim White, a senior, is being honored this week because of his excellent work in the field of physics, especially in the field of electronics. At home he has four pieces of radio test equipment, which he built himself. During the past year he has fixed over 300 radios and is beginning to do some work on television sets.

25 YEARS AGO
THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER
APRIL 6, 1983

Lowell postal employee Eric Ring was presented Friday with a certificate and \$25 check as a result of a suggestion he forwarded to the Grand Rapids Sectional Mailing Center for improving mail service. Because during winter weather letters have a tendency to freeze to the bottom of collection boxes and tear when postal workers attempt to remove them. Ring proposed that strips of worn-out conveyor belts be laid at the bottom of boxes. The material in the belts is not as prone to clinging to envelopes as uncovered metal.

Maple syrup signals arrival of spring

by Emma Palova
A muddy two-track leads deep into the woods somewhere in Bowne Township near Alto.

The melting snow has turned ridges into streams carrying leaves like little vessels. A woodpecker chips away in the distance on a tall pine. Patches of old snow remain on the slopes bathing in the sun.

Sap dripping into tin buckets rhythmically contributes to the harmony of the sounds in the woods.

Ahead, smoke is coming from a cleared area. Logs of firewood are neatly piled in

the shed. The sugar shack with a tall chimney is hiding under a hill and behind the logs. Built in 1943, the shack hasn't changed much. The kitchen has a wood range with oven to feed the sap-collecting crews.

Walking into the evaporating room is like going to a sauna. Sweet steam almost sticks to the skin. Sap is bubbling in several compartments of the King Evaporator. The sap flows through flutes or channels, while in the compartments it's heated to 219 degrees F to be dense enough to become maple

syrup. Before the syrup is packaged, it goes through two filters for a clear syrup. Ron Wenger grabs large logs of beech wood from a swing and stuffs them into the evaporator. The crew of sap collectors is taking a break in the meantime.

Knowing it's hard work, Wenger likes to feed his volunteers good food whether it be German sausages or barbeque. Soon, they will head out on a wagon pulled by Belgian horses into the woods to collect sap from 1,200 buckets. They will empty the five-gallon pails into a tank on



(Top): Ron Wenger checks the status of the sap in the woods near in Bowne Township.

the wagon. Wenger's crew is one of few crews that uses horses to collect sap instead of a tractor.

"So far it's been good," said Wenger. "The muddier the tracks, the better the sap."

Yeah, compared to last year, when the hot weather

(Left): A romantic scene from the woods where the Wengers collect sap and make maple syrup.

made it almost impossible to collect sap at all.

Wenger explained the mechanism of sap flowing inside a sugar maple. When it's cold, the sap goes into the roots of the tree, so the tree is dormant. Early in the spring, as temperatures remain below zero at night, and rise during the day, the sap too rises inside the tree. The tree is tapped, and sap is collected. The rising sap prepares the tree for the spring, and it will provide food for the leaves.

Some 10 years ago, Wenger added plastic lines for collecting sap instead of the buckets, although the majority of the sap is still collected from the pails. Sap from the plastic lines flows freely by gravity into the tank.

In spite of the hard work, the magic of making maple syrup stays the same like centuries ago, when Indians gathered sap into troughs.

"You start dredging in the snow and when the maple syrup business is over, spring is here right around the corner," laughs Wenger.

Wrapping up this year's sweet season, Wenger and the crew have made 375 gallons of maple syrup. Most of the syrup will be sold locally, and some shipped out of state.

And as the old timers say, hard work gets both the horses and men in shape for the spring.

"It's been a good year," said Wenger.




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'Somewhere in Time' to raise money for historical museum

by Emma Palova

Using the 'Somewhere in Time' new logo, the Lowell Area Historical Museum will hold its annual spring fundraiser in style.

The event will feature dinner with President Abraham Lincoln and his wife Mary Todd Lincoln in a first-class venue.

"We're making history," said museum director Pat Allchin.

The fundraiser will become the first event held at the brand new Grand Lux Ballrooms on Lincoln Lake.

It is also the first major event put on by Allchin, who took over the helm of the museum director last fall.

"It's a magnificent facility," said Allchin. "It will make the event special."

The program will include a 45-minute performance by Fred and Bonnie Priebe as the presidential couple in full dress with first-person accounts of their courtship and marriage.

Unlike many Lincoln impersonators, Fred Priebe works with his wife, who portrays Mary Todd.

"Our style is different than most," said Fred Priebe. "We do a living history style. We do not use a scripted play."

The Priebes will put on 'Douglas, Duels and Dancing' about the courtship and marriage of the Lincolns as the umbrella subject.

"We will talk about character issues, honesty and integrity," said Fred Priebe.

The performance is

interactive with the Lincolns answering in first person, just like in 1865. Fred Priebe, a former teacher of 30 years, likes the show because he can teach without report cards and staff meetings.

"I like seeing the audience connect," said Fred Priebe. "We let the audience make the connection between 1865 and today."

Sometimes Fred Priebe gets asked to run for president today as Lincoln. However, most people only know about Lincoln who freed the slaves.

"He did not have a liberal social agenda," he said. "We hope people who attend will be entertained and educated in regard to life in times of President Lincoln and Mary."

The Priebes, listed in the current Touring Arts Directory of the Michigan Humanities Council, have been presenting the Lincolns in first person since 1996.

They have traveled to Gettysburg, Penn., Minneapolis, Georgia and Michigan. The Priebes have also presented the Lincolns in Canada, England, Australia and France.

To compliment the perfect evening, there will be a choice from two entrees, beef tenderloin kabobs or Michigan chicken with port reduction. All are served with fresh salads, breads and savory butter.

"I want people to walk away with a feeling that a program in history can be fun and exciting as well as knowledgeable," said Allchin.

A Chinese auction will offer an opportunity to win Michigan State University football tickets, Whitecap tickets, artwork and antiques.

Reservations must be made by April 8. The event will be held April 18 at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$40.

For more information about the Lincolns, go to www.alincolnstyle.com



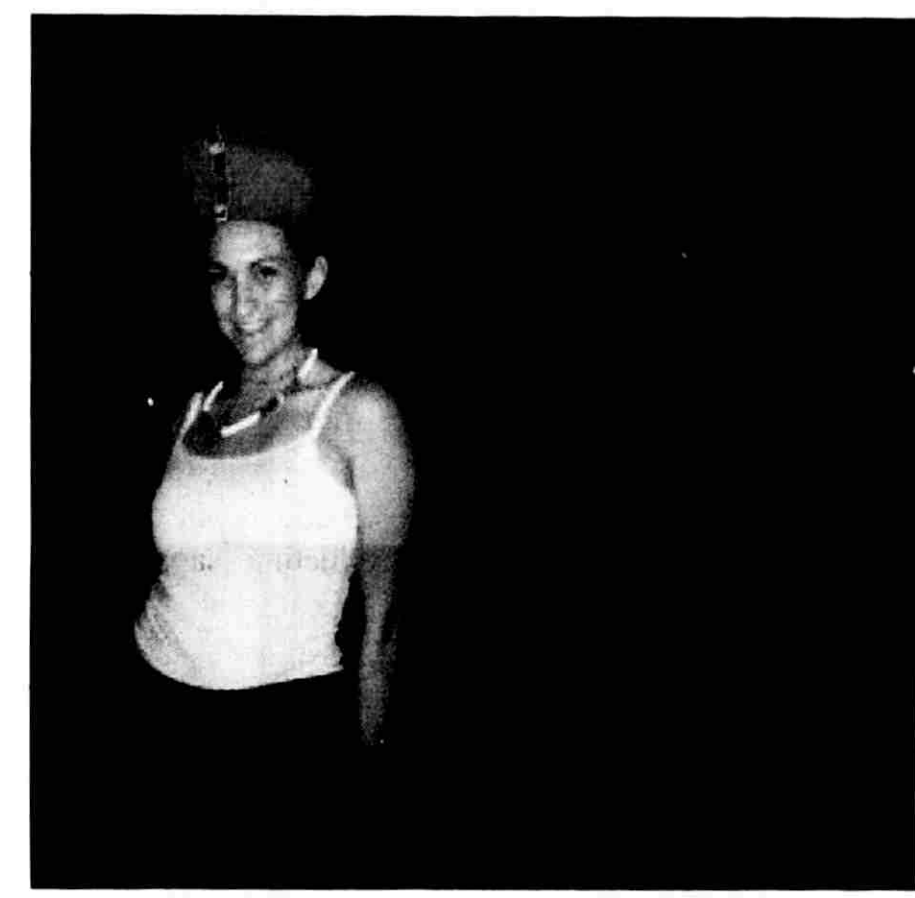
Fred and Bonnie Priebe as Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln. They will be at the 'Somewhere in Time' fundraiser.

LHS grad is volunteering and studying in South Africa

by Molly Benningfield
Editor

Imagine having to walk to school more than 30 minutes away. Uphill. In a blistering heat that reaches 80 degrees at sunrise. Sounds like something a relative would tell you when you complained about having to go to school every morning. But this is what everyday life is like for Kristen McAlpine, a 20-year-old former Lowell student, who is living in Durban, South Africa until June. But she's not complaining.

McAlpine, the 2006 valedictorian of her LHS class, is in her second year at Michigan State University and is studying with the school's famed study abroad program for the spring semester. An elementary education major, McAlpine has also found a love for pre-medicine, and would like to be able to combine her talents. "The only thing I know for sure is that I want to directly help people improve



their quality of life, and that unfortunately doesn't help a whole bunch," McAlpine said in an e-mail message. "I hope that this trip will help me decide what kind of career I want."

She is studying at the University of KwaZulu Natal in Durban, taking classes in Zulu language, service learning and counseling and psychotherapy, and is also volunteering at a primary school, with children in

grades R-7 ("just like our K-7").

"These students don't know English when they arrive at Hillview [the school], but the instruction is all in English," McAlpine said. "Consequently, a lot of the communication in the R-, 1st-, and 2nd-grade classrooms is non-verbal."

She has more recently picked up another volunteer job. "I am still planning on

LHS Grad cont'd., pg. 16

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"Take it Off" a success for area participants

by Molly Benningfield
Editor

The team "Flabulous Four" was the big winner of Take it Off, the Lowell Community Wellness weight-loss challenge.

The group members included Mark Sanders, Julie Bishop, Tim Bergy and Jane Sanders, and they lost 96 pounds among the four of them.

Second place went to "Three Guys and a Dame", who lost 90 pounds together. Teammates were Joe Melle, Sherri Melle, Jerry Dykstra and Scott Carpenter.

Third place went to

"Farmers, a Fattie and a Fund Balance", who lost 84 combined pounds.

The best team named was voted "Department of Waist Management."

Lowell Community Wellness also donated 95 pounds worth of food to Flat River Outreach Ministries earlier in the program.

Wellness director Patty Sellner said, "I encouraged teams to donate big on the last weigh in week and we collected 300 pound of food to FROM's shelves. It was a wonder to behold as the food just began to pile pile and file filling box after box."

The event, which was sponsored by Blue Cross, Blue Shield, took place from Jan. 9 through March 18. It was the fourth year. The Lowell teams competed against Greenville as a community this winter, with Greenville taking the lead this year.

Sellner said, "We have so many success stories from this event. Families who worked as a team to lose weight and plan to continue to work on it. This program is a just start for many individuals who are working to live a healthier lifestyle in 2008."



The winning team "Flabulous Four", of Mark Sanders, Julie Bishop, Tim Bergy and Jane Sanders lost a total of 96 pounds.

Legislation would hold public officials more accountable

State Rep. Brian Calley has introduced legislation that will hold elected officials to a higher standard if they violate public trust. Calley initiated the proposed legislation in the wake of Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's indictment on charges of perjury in connection with testimony he gave in a case involving an alleged affair with a member of his staff and the firing of two police officials.

House Bill 5923 states that if a municipal elected official has been convicted of a crime that has caused the municipality to sustain a financial loss due to a civil judgment or settlement, the municipality may bring a civil action against that elected official.

"I can think of almost a million reasons why Detroit

Mayor Kilpatrick should pay back the city for his breach of public trust," Calley, R-Portland, said.

"Each resident of Detroit trusted in the fact that their tax dollars would pay for needed police and fire protection, schools or other important services." Kilpatrick was forced to agree to an \$8.4 million settlement in a lawsuit filed by two fired Detroit police officers, who alleged they were fired for their investigation into misconduct by the mayor. "This secret deal is even more of an outrage when you consider that Detroit is in such desperate need of funding to help its residents and children," Calley said. "For too long, elected officials have not been held to the same standards as members of the public, and it's time to make our leaders



Representative Brian Calley

more accountable to the people they have taken an oath to serve."

The bill is currently being considered by the House Oversight and Investigations Committee in Lansing.

Lessens wins big for best weathercasts at WZZM-13



George Lessens, the WZZM-13 chief meteorologist, won Best and Merit awards for Best Weathercast at the Michigan Association of Broadcasters (MAB) 2007 annual awards dinner on Tuesday, March 11. He swept the category for the second time in five years. Lessens previously won Best Weathercast in 2003, 2005 and 2007 and Merit Weathercasts in 2003 and 2007. Previously, he won a Michigan Emmy award in 2005. Lessens is the son of Phyllis and the late Daniel Lessens of Lowell. He lives in East Grand Rapids with his wife, Sherry, and children Eric and Ariel.

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Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold
Edward Jones
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Here's how you can keep business "All in the Family"

If you own a small business, you've got a lot to think about: attracting customers, holding down expenses, keeping up with trends and competitors — the list goes on and on. In short, you do everything possible to make sure your business can support your family. But if you want to keep the business in the family after you're gone, you'll need to prepare a strategy — and the sooner you start, the better.

Of course, you could simply transfer your business to family members through the use of a will. However, the value of your business could contribute to a considerable estate tax burden for your heirs. (The future of estate taxes is unclear. In 2010, the estate tax is scheduled to disappear — for one year only. Unless Congress changes the laws before then, in 2011 the exemption amount — the amount you can pass to your heirs, free of estate taxes — will revert to \$1 million, with a maximum estate tax rate of 55 percent.)

Other than bequeathing your business to family members, how else might you transfer it? You can choose any of several alternatives. Let's look at two of them:

Buy-sell Agreements

Suppose you have a daughter who has shown a great aptitude for your business. You'd be delighted if she took it over when you were gone, but there's one problem: She can't afford to buy you out.

To help her purchase the company, you might want to establish a buy-sell agreement — a legally binding contract stipulating that, upon your death, the business will be sold to your daughter at an established price. To fund the sale of the business, you take out an insurance policy on your life, with your daughter as a beneficiary. You could choose term insurance, which will be fairly inexpensive, but you also might want to consider "whole life," which has higher premiums but offers the potential to build increasing cash value.

Family - Limited Partnerships

You could also transfer ownership of your business through a family-limited partnership. Here's how it works: Well before you retire, you decide to transfer interests in your business to a family-limited

partnership, creating general partnership shares and limited partnership shares. You hold on to the general partnership shares and give the limited shares to your daughter. At this point, you are still responsible for managing the company. At the same time, you are reducing your family's estate tax liability because you are removing assets (the limited partnership shares) from your estate. Furthermore, for gift tax purposes, you'll get a "discount" on the value of the limited partnership shares because, as "noncontrolling" interests, they are theoretically worth less to the recipients.

When you die, only the value of your ownership interest will be included in your taxable estate. And your daughter can then take formal responsibility for running the business.

Get Professional Help

A buy-sell agreement and a family limited partnership are considerably more complex than described here, so you will need to work with an estate-planning attorney before you launch either of these arrangements. Your attorney can also advise you on other business-succession alternatives. Start your preparations soon. Even if you are many years from retirement, it's nice to know you — and your family — will be ready.

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Red Arrow SPORTS

“THUS FAR, THE SEASON HAS GONE WELL IN TERMS OF THE AMOUNT OF PREPARATION TIME WE HAVE HAD.”

- Soccer coach Paul Legge

Girls' tennis wins first competition of season

The varsity tennis team competed at the Fruitport Invitational on Saturday and took first place overall.

Lowell had 20 points overall, while Hamilton had 17, Reeths-Puffer had 7, and Fruitport had 4.

Red Arrow winners were No. 1 singles player Kelly Trapp, a freshman, who won all three matches in straight sets, losing only two games in the three matches.

No. 4 singles player Tanya Baker took first as well, "but had a gritty win against the Hamilton play,

pulling the match out in a third set tie break 7-4," head coach Bonnie Wall said.

The No. 2 doubles team of senior Leara Glinzak and sophomore Caitlin Baker also took first place, winning an exciting match against Hamilton 6-1, 7-5.

The No. 3 doubles team of senior Patty Lawrence and freshman Taylor Mankel handled the pressure to take the first place medal, pulling out all three matches in third set tiebreaks.

The No. 4 doubles team of senior Ellen Mork and freshman Taylor Moore won

Mankel places third in lightweight category at crew meet

The Grand Rapids Spring Indoor Rowing Sprints were held two weeks ago. The annual event, hosted by Forest Hills Central, brought in the top rowers from eight area high schools to race on Concept2 indoor rowing machines.

Jessica Mankel, a junior at LHS, placed third in the women's lightweight category. Lowell crew team had a strong showing in the event and has begun practicing on the Grand River this week.

Whoever is crowned next week can say they were No. 1 throughout the entire run. And they have that gloating record forever. Well, at least until March roars in like a lion next year.

Coach Paul Legge said, "We played very well despite the terrible conditions for the first game of the season. We controlled almost then entire game and defensively shut Middleville down only allowing one shot on goal."

He said he was happy with the way the team has come together so far. "Thus far, the season has gone well in terms of the amount of preparation time we have had.



Jessica Mankel

THE BENNING-FIELDER



by molly benningfield
sports editor

All the No. 1 seeds head to the Final Four

For the first time in the history of the NCAA tournament, all four No. 1 seeds have advanced to the Final Four. I love the underdogs in these situations, so who am I supposed to root for?

I could go for UNC, who I chose as the champs in my bracket. I could cheer on Memphis, since they so handily defeated my Spartans in the Sweet 16. UCLA is always good - definitely a candidate. Or even Kansas, who knocked out the Cinderella team, Davidson.

I've decided that I'm not going to choose. It's cool enough that history is happening. And the fact that the organization who chose the seeds did a really good job probably makes them reach around and pat their backs. I've decided I'm just going to go with the flow. There is hardly any method to the madness that is March, and that's the way it should be anyway. The best games are those you didn't expect, and everyone's favorite team is the underdog (unless, of course, they're going against your favorite team).

Whoever is crowned next week can say they were No. 1 throughout the entire run. And they have that gloating record forever. Well, at least until March roars in like a lion next year.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 08-184,890-DE

Estate of
PATRICK J. MARZEAN,
deceased

Date of birth:
4/16/1938

TO ALL CREDITORS:
The decedent, PATRICK

J. MARZEAN, who lived at 210 Crown Street SW, Wyoming, Michigan died February 23, 2008.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to PATRICK J. MARZEAN JR., named personal representative, or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed

personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

3/26/2008

Mary L. Benedict
P45285
4519 Cascade Rd. SE
Suite 14
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-942-0020

Patrick J. Marzean Jr.
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Grandville, MI 49

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Red Arrow SPORTS

Hayes, varsity team make 28 wrestlers qualify state Academic All-State teams

(Below): The varsity team was also named Academic All-State, and were one of only 42 teams in the state to be named to the list.



(Top): Ken Hayes, a senior on the varsity hockey team this winter, was named Academic All-State for the 2007-08 season.



Youth wrestlers chosen for Team Michigan

Lowell youth wrestling had three wrestlers chosen to represent Team Michigan on the 5th-grade-and-under national team.

All three, Zeth Dean (75 pounds), Nate Limmex (90 pounds), and Max Dean

(116 pounds) are considered the best wrestlers at their respective weights in the state of Michigan from 5th grade down. They will be joining 16 other wrestlers from around the state to compete in the

AAU National Elementary Dual Championships in Kingsport, Tenn. on April 11-13.

Lowell is the only school to have three wrestlers selected for this prestigious honor.

submitted by Kim Taylor

The Red Arrow Wrestling Club qualified 28 wrestlers for the MYWA (Michigan Youth Wrestling Association) Individual State Championships. The tournament was held at Michigan State University on March 28-30.

MYWA has 220 clubs and over 7,000 wrestlers spread over eight regions in Michigan. Wrestlers needed to finish in the top four of their region to be eligible for state competition.

Finishing first at state in his respective age and weight division was Garret Stehley. Second place finishers included Gabe Dean, Max Dean, Zeth Dean, Nate Limmex, Jacob Stehley, Jacob Stephens and Jacob Sweet. Fourth place finishers included Austin Engle, Dan Fleet and Jacob Lynema. Zach White finished fifth. Sixth place went to Nick McKay and Sage Serbenta. Derek Krajewski finished in seventh place.

The Western Regionals were held at the Lowell High School on March 15 and 16. Qualifiers from the regional tournament for Lowell in the 5- and 6-year-old division were Doak Dean and Luke Skinner.

The 7- and 8-year-old qualifiers were Avry Mutschler, Sage Serbenta, Jared Hough and Austin Engle.

The 9- and 10-year-old division included Garret Taylor and Nathan Stephens. Qualifying for the 11- and 12-year-olds were Zeth Dean, Nate Limmex, Jacob Stephens, Max Dean and Jacob Sweet.

Derek Krajewski, Jake Mitchell, Gabe Dean, Joe

Sweet, Jake Stehley and Garret Stehley qualified in the 13- and 14-year-old division.

The 15- and 16-year-old qualifiers included Zach Jefferies, Dan Fleet, Wade Schlosser, Ryan Olin, Tyler Mitchell, Zach White, Nick McKay and Jake Lynema. Tom Fleet was the only qualifier in the 17- and 18-year-old division.

The Red Arrow Wrestling program has had a great year of wrestling and growth thanks to dedicated coaches, parents, volunteers and wrestlers and they are looking forward to another successful season next year.



Garret Stehley finished first in his weight class.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

BID PROPOSAL

Sealed bids, in triplicate, for Lowell Area Schools Re-roof Bushnell Elementary, will be received at Lowell Area Schools Administration Building, 300 High Street, Lowell, Michigan on Wednesday, April 2, 2008 at 10:00 a.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 not be held for this project. Site visits are encouraged and can be arranged by contacting York Tardy phone # 616-262-8172. The address for Bushnell Elementary is, 700 Elizabeth, Lowell, MI. All bidders are encouraged to visit the site. Construction can begin June 9, 2008 and needs to be completed August 15, 2008.

BID DOCUMENTS

The Bidding Documents may be obtained at Owen-Ames-Kimball Co., 300 Ionia 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 non-refundable 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.

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COMING EVENTS

APRIL

THUR., APR. 3: Vergennes Co-op club will meet at Schneider Manor activity room. Program: Betty Yeiter, trip to Russia. All welcome.

MON., APR. 7: Masonic Lodge #355, serving the Belding, Ionia and Lowell areas will hold its regular communication beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the lodge room of the Masonic Temple, 211 E. Main St., Belding. A special spaghetti dinner and award ceremony, by Doric Chapter #75, will precede the meeting beginning at 6 p.m. in the dining room. All Master Masons and their families may attend.

TUES., APR. 8: Doric Chapter #75, Order of Eastern Star will hold its regular communication in the chapter room of the Masonic Temple, 211 E. Main St., Belding,

beginning at 7:30 p.m. A dinner will precede the meeting in the dining room beginning at 6:30 p.m. All members of the Order of Eastern Star may attend.

WED., APR. 9: Hooker Chapter #73, will hold its stated convocation in the lodge room of the Masonic Temple, 211 E. Main St., Belding beginning at 7:30 p.m. Dinner will be served in the dining room beginning at 6:30 p.m. All Royal Arch Masons may attend.

MON., APRIL 21: Lowell Showboat Garden Club meeting at Nazarene Church Fellowship Hall, 211 N. Washington St. Member Dana Chase will present "Composting" for better gardening results. Contact Nancy Benner for more information, 691-6406.

MONDAYS

Living Sober Group, New AA Group, 7:30 p.m. at 119 Lincoln Lake (behind Fireplace Plus).

Women's over 30 drop-in basketball, 7-9:30 p.m. at Cherry Creek Elementary. Call Dave (YMCA) 897-8445. Fee \$3.

Boy Scout Troop 102, 11 & up or completing 5th grade, meets 7-8:30 p.m. at Scout Cabin, end of N. Washington St. Call Tim Vanderwulp at 897-4302 for more info.

Women for Sobriety, 7-8 p.m. Bowne Center United Methodist Church, 84th & Alden Nash. Call Sue 868-6219; www.womenforsobriety.org.

1ST MON.: Regular communication of Belding-Ionia-Lowell Masonic Lodge #355, 7:30 p.m. 211 E. Main, Belding. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. All Masons may attend.

1ST MON.: V.F.W. Post #8303, 3116 Alden Nash S.E. 7 p.m.

1ST MON.: Lowell Area Juggling Club, Community room, Englehardt Library, 6:30-8:30 p.m. 12/older. 897-9879, www.freewebs.com/lowelljugglingclub.

2ND MON.: Lowell Board of Education, 7 p.m. in Administration Building, 300 High Street.

2ND MON.: Alto American Legion Post 528 Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m.

2ND MON.: Bowne Township Historical Society meets Oct. - March 10 a.m. & April - Sept. 7 p.m. at historic museum, 84th/Alden Nash.

2ND & 4TH MON: Needlers, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Schneider Manor Community Room.

3RD MON.: Women of the Moose meetings held 7:30 p.m.

3RD MON.: Lowell Showboat Garden Club, Fellowship Hall at Church of the Nazarene, N. Washington St. at 7 p.m.

4TH MON.: Clark-Ellis American Legion Post 152, 3100 Alden Nash S.E. at 7:30 p.m.

MON., TUES., THURS.: Alpha Women's Center, 2251 W. Main. Call 987-9533 for appt./open Mon. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tu. 6-9 p.m., Th. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Diapers, formula and clothing.

TUESDAYS

Thornapple River Chapter BNI professional networking group, 7-8:30 a.m., Ada Bible Church, 8899 Cascade Rd., www.ThornappleRiverBNI.com or call Cheryl 868-7551.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly Tops MI#372 at Key Heights Mobile Home Park Community Bldg. Weigh-ins are at 5:45 p.m.

AA meeting, Back to Basics, closed, at 865 Lincoln Lake 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking.

Thornapple River Chapter BNI professional networking group, 7-8:30 a.m. Ada Bible Church, 8899 Cascade Rd. Cheryl 868-7551, www.ThornappleRiverBNI.com.

Cub Scout Pack 3188 at 1st United Methodist Church 621 E. Main St. 6:30 p.m. Call Bruce Doll, cubmaster at 304-0082.

Flat River Woodcarvers meet at LAAC from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Women's Community Bible Study, Free nursery/preschool story hour/craft time 9-11:15 a.m./women only at 7:15 p.m. Calvary Christian Reformed Church. 897-7060 or 897-7555.

1ST TUES.: Grattan Historical Society at O'Brien Room of Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Rd. Public invited.

TUESDAYS

1ST TUES.: Adults with AD/HD at Calvin College, 7-9 p.m. Call Gary Engle at 897-6325 or 248-2423.

1ST & 3RD TUES.: Lowell Lions Club, 12 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce, 113 Riverwalk Plaza. 897-5449 for information.

2ND TUES.: Diabetic Support, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Schneider Manor Community Rm., 725 Bowes Rd. 897-2760 or 897-9160.

2ND TUES.: Doric chapter #75, Order of Eastern Star 6:30 dinner, 7:30 p.m. regular meeting, 211 E. Main, Belding.

2ND TUES.: G.R. Chapter of the American Sewing Guild, Plainfield Senior Center, 5255 Grand River Dr. NE. 6:30 p.m. refreshments/7 program Olga -975-9977/June 231-780-1249.

2ND & 3RD TUES.: Qua-Ke-Zik Sportsman's Club, 8731 West Riverside Dr., 8 p.m. www.qua-ke-zik.org.

2ND & 4TH TUES.: MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers (conception through Kindergarten) 9:15-11:30 a.m. at Impact Church, 1070 N. Hudson. 897-8304, ext 311.

2ND & 4TH TUES.: Knights of Columbus #7719 at St. Mary School at 7:30 p.m.

3RD TUES.: Parents of children w/AD/HD at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 32156 4 Mile NE/E. Beltline) at 7 p.m. Call Linda at 874-5662; teen group: call Sarah at 281-6588. No cost.

TUES., WED., THURS.: LAS Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Center, Tot's activity room 104, 300 High St. 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. or 10:45 - 11:45 a.m., through the school year. Call Kathy to register or for information, 987-2532.

WEDNESDAYS

Living Sober Group, New AA Group, 7:30 p.m. at 119 Lincoln Lake (behind Fireplace Plus).

Rotary meets at noon at City Hall, 301 E. Main, 2nd floor.

ALANON: Lowell First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main St. (Use west entrance off Jackson St.), 8 p.m. 897-5936.

Tri-town Conservation Club trap & skeet league, 5616 Dunn Rd. 6-10 p.m. Larry 754-7104.

1ST WED.: Free blood pressure screenings at Lowell Senior Neighbors provided by The Laurels of Kent.

1ST WED.: GR/W. Mich. Scrabble Club at Schuler's Bookstore, 28th St. 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. Walk-ins welcome. Jan 897-5759.

2ND WED.: Lowell Area Trailway, 6 p.m. alternate locations. Call Mari Stone 897-5671 or www.lowellareatrailway.org.

2ND WED.: Kent County Youth Fair Board meets 7:30 p.m., King Memorial Youth Center, 4-H Fairgrounds. Call 897-6050.

2ND WED.: Royal Arch Masons, Hooker Chapter #73, 7:30 p.m. in Belding Masonic Temple, 211 E. Main; dinner at 6:30 p.m.

2ND WED.: Lowell Women's Club, 11:45 a.m. in Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd.

2ND WED.: Support group for Peripheral Neuropathy, 4 p.m., St. Paul's Anglican Catholic Church, 2560 Lake Michigan Dr. NW, GR.Dorothy 897-9794.

3RD WED.: GR/W. Mich. Scrabble Club at Schuler's Bookstore, 28th SE 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. Walk-ins. Jan 897-5759.

3RD WED.: Alzheimer's Assoc. of West Mich. support group at Fountain View of Lowell, 11535 E. Fulton, 1 p.m. 897-8413.

Notices in the "Coming Events" are free to any nonprofit organization in the Lowell, Ada, Alto & Saranac areas. Keep notices brief; may submit by mail, phone - 897-9261, fax - 897-4809 or email - ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com. All submissions are subject to available space.

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM: Tues., Sat. and Sun. 1-4 p.m.; Thurs., 1-8 p.m. Families: \$10; individuals \$3; 5-17 \$1.50; members are free. Call 897-7688.

ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY: Mon. - Wed., 12-8 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri.: 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat.: 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 200 N. Monroe. Call 647-3920.

ALTO LIBRARY: Mon. & Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.; Tues. & Wed. 12-8 p.m.; Thurs. 1-5 p.m. 647-3820.

LOWELL AREA ARTS COUNCIL: Tues. - Fri.: 12-6 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m. Monday a.m. by appt. 149 S. Hudson. Call 897-8545 or www.lowellartscouncil.org.

LOWELL SERENITY CLUB MEETINGS: (AA) Mon., Wed., Thurs: 12-1 & 8-9 p.m.; Tues./Fri.: 12-1, 4:30-5:30 & 8-9 p.m.; Sat./Sun.: 10-11 a.m. & 8-9 p.m.; (NA) Mon./Thurs., 6-7:30 p.m. 101 W. Main. 897-8565.

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES THRIFT SHOP Wed. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 11535 Fulton St. E. Call 897-8567. Pantry 897-8260.

THURSDAYS

Weight Watchers at Lowell Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St. 5:30 p.m. Register 1/2 hr. before the meeting. For info. 1-800-651-6000.

Saranac Area Musicians and Singers practice at Saranac High School Band Rm. Choir: 6-7 p.m./band: 7-8. Kathy Maatman, 897-5981.

Pottery classes at Franciscan Life Process Center, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Call 897-7842.

St. Mary's Pregnancy Crisis Center, 402 Amity St., non-denominational help for pregnant women/adolescents, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; Mondays: 5:30-7:30 p.m. 897-9393.

Alpha Women's Center, 2251 W. Main. 987-9533, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Diapers, formula, clothing. Or by appointment.

1ST THURS.: Michigan Hepatitis C Foundation support meetings, 7-8:30 p.m. 250 Cherry, Lacks Cancer Center, Grand Rapids.

1ST & 3RD THURS.: Alto Lions Club meets at United Methodist Church in Alto at 7 p.m.

1ST & 3RD THURS.: Bible Study at Voyages Coffee Shop, 7 p.m. www.SimpleChurchLowell.com.

1ST & 3RD THURS.: Bluegrass Jam inside Kountry Korner of Alto, 6077 Linfield. 868-6371.

2ND & 4TH THURS.: GR/W. Michigan Scrabble Club, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Round Robin, bring your board, all levels, walk-ins are welcome. Call Jan 897-5759 for location and more information.

2ND THURS.: N.A.R.F.E., 1:30 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 E. Fulton.

2ND THURS.: Loyal Order of the Moose, men's meeting at 7:30 p.m.

2ND THURS.: Genealogy-Alto Family Tree Club at Alto Library at 2 p.m.

3RD THURS.: Parents Supporting Parents group, Franciscan Life Process Center. Call 897-7842.

3RD THURS.: LaLeche League of Ada, Cascade, Lowell 6:30 p.m. socializing; meeting 7. Support for pregnant/breastfeeding women, Ada 752-8300.

FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY

Living Sober Group, New AA Group, 7:30 p.m. at 119 Lincoln Lake (behind Fireplace Plus).

1ST & 3RD FRI.: Teen MOPS support group for pregnant teen/teen moms, 9:15-11:30 a.m. at Impact Church, 1070 N. Hudson. 897-8304.

FRI.: Arts/Crafts volunteers, Franciscan Life Process Center, 9:30-12:30 p.m. Call Pat at 897-7842.

1ST SAT.: Come have coffee with the city council, 8-10 a.m. at Chamber office, 113 Riverwalk Plaza.

2ND SAT.: Ada Historical Society, 10:30 a.m. at Averill Historical Museum, 7144 Headley, Ada.

2ND SAT.: Lowell Amateur Radio Club, held at 11535 E. Fulton, 9 a.m. social time; 10 a.m. meeting. LARC sponsors 145.27 MHz area radio repeater system.

FRI., SAT. & SUN.: Averill Historical Museum of Ada, 7144 Headley. Hours are 1-4 p.m. or by appointment. 676-9346.

SUN.: Tri-town Conservation Club trap & skeet league, 5616 Dunn Rd. 12-5 p.m. Call Larry at 754-7104.

CLASSIFIEDS

small ads **BIG** deals

FOR SALE

MATTRESSES - All new. All sizes starting at \$49. Large selection. Low overhead = lower prices. Shop & compare before you buy! R.C.D. Wholesale, G.R. 682-4767 or 293-6160.

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BOB'S ANNUAL BIRDHOUSE SALE - Think spring! Welcome your favorite birds back with a fresh new bird house. Nice selection of bluebird, wren & bat houses. Various styles. Top quality materials & workmanship at the best prices anywhere. Bob's Bird Houses, 12279 60th St., Alto. 868-6633.

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LASERMARK WIZARD LM30 - Rotary laser level with LD120 Detector, complete kit, excellent condition, \$250. 881-9849.

FOR SALE - five-year-old 18x34 above-ground pool, Dough Boy, deck plus toys & all accessories included. Very good condition. Buyer must disassemble & move. Call 616-642-9522.

HAY FOR SALE - 3rd cutting, excellent quality hay harvested under optimum conditions, \$6. Call 897-5590.

AIR BEDS - Selecta comfort firmness for each of you. Dual chambers. Digital remote, never used. Perfect for couples with different firmness needs. Queen \$795, king \$995. Air Bed Store, G.R., 682-4767 or 293-6160.

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SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - at 3189 Snow Ave. SE will serve a family style Turkey & Dressing dinner on Wed., April 9, starting at 5:30 p.m. Adults are \$8, children 6-12 are \$2 & children 5 & under are free. Take out dinners also available.

SOUND OFF LINE 897-0787
Voice your opinion!

FOR SALE

MEMORY FOAM MATTRESS - Relieves back pain! Temperpedic queen, \$1,899; Theratouch queen "something", \$899. Is the name worth that much? Brand new. Also twin, full & kings. Try them at RCD Wholesale, G.R. 682-4767 or 293-6160.

CARD OF THANKS

CARD OF THANKS The family of Fred Rathbun would like to express our gratitude to the many people who helped us around the time of Fred's passing. We wish to thank Angel Care home health aides for their outstanding care and compassion, Roth-Gerst Funeral Home for their wonderful arrangements, Lowell police department and ambulance for prompt responses to our calls over the last years. Thank you to all who sent cards and letters and made contributions in Fred's name, to Father Fekete for the beautiful service and to St. Mary's Altar Society for their excellent luncheon. Your love and support are greatly comforting.

CARD OF THANKS

We would like to say "Thank You" to everyone who thought of us with prayers, cards and food in our time of grief. We also want to say thanks to Impact Church for the use of their facility and for serving lunch to family and friends.
Richard Chaterdon family

EVENTS

LOWELL COMMUNITY-WIDE GARAGE SALE EVENT - Fri. & Sat., May 2-3, 2008. Bring your ad in by 5 p.m. Thurs., April 24. Your ad will appear on the Garage Sale Page in the April 26 Buyers Guide & in the Lowell Ledger on April 30 for only \$12 (20 words or less. 25¢ each additional word.) Free sign with your paid ad. 105 N. Broadway, Lowell. Ph. 897-9555 or 897-9261. email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com.

SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - at 3189 Snow Ave. SE will serve a family style Turkey & Dressing dinner on Wed., April 9, starting at 5:30 p.m. Adults are \$8, children 6-12 are \$2 & children 5 & under are free. Take out dinners also available.

The Lowell Ledger

CLASSIFIEDS

TO PLACE AN AD

In Person: 105 N. Broadway, Lowell
By Mail: PO BOX 128, Lowell, MI 49331
By Phone: 616-897-9261
By Fax: 616-897-4809
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WANTED - Cash paid for motorcycles, running or not. Road bikes only. Call Bonz 616-446-8352.

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LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS IS CURRENTLY SEEKING - qualified applicants for the following position: Elementary School Principal. For a full job description please

LHS Grad continued ... From Page 9

volunteering at the school one or two days a week helping out in classrooms and tutoring three boys in math. But as of last Friday, I will be volunteering in a children's home from 9:30 to 4:30 on Fridays."

The children's home McAlpine spoke of houses children aged 0-5, who are either orphaned or are very sick. She said that though

she finds numerous benefits to volunteering with these children, there are still the hard times. "I think the hardest part of this volunteer placement will be not getting attached," she said.

She also talked about both sides of the volunteering life.

"I love the idea that I can really make a difference in the lives of children, and

I learn so much from the experience."

However, there are times when she can't seem to separate the bad from the good. "The hardest part is seeing all of the people that need help, and knowing that a large portion of them will not get the aid they need. Knowing that there are children wasting away from AIDS and they will most likely die simply because they will not receive the medicine that would save their lives. It is difficult to know that so many people need aid, and less than half of them will receive it."

McAlpine has also been able to taste a bit of what life is like for a young adult in South Africa - "kind of."

"I probably, day-to-day, get more of a taste of what life for an upper-middle-class South African is like,"

she said. She lives in a flat (apartment) with 12 other MSU study abroad students and has been able to see a bit of the country outside of her schoolwork and volunteering. She has visited Zululand, where she was able to try the traditional Zulu dance and visit the game parks. If her schedule allows, it she'd like to visit a bit more of the countryside as well.

The problems that faced South Africans more than a decade ago when apartheid ended are still relevant in many of the areas McAlpine has visited. "Racism is still very apparent here, which shouldn't be that surprising seeing as apartheid only ended 14 years ago. People are very much separated by the color of their skin, not by law but by preference (friends, family, jobs, etc.)"

She did say, though, that she hasn't encountered much tension toward her. "Once



people discovered that we are American, everyone has been pretty friendly and helpful. It is almost like we can cross those racial lines because we are foreigners. It is a very interesting situation to be in, especially because many people of different skin tones have given us their candid perspective on post-apartheid South Africa."

McAlpine will end her most recent trip abroad

in June, but seeing how many times her passport has been stamped makes one think she'll be headed somewhere soon again. She traveled to Honduras on a trip where she was able to volunteer at medical clinics and to Mexico with the International Volunteer Action Corps, with MSU. In high school, she said she loved to travel and volunteer. She was in the Michigan Service Learning Youth Council, worked as a mentor, and volunteered with Habitat for Humanity.

It seems apparent, though, that even if she had to walk to school for 30 minutes uphill in 80-degree heat, she'd still take it all in stride. She is, after all, a world-class traveler by now.



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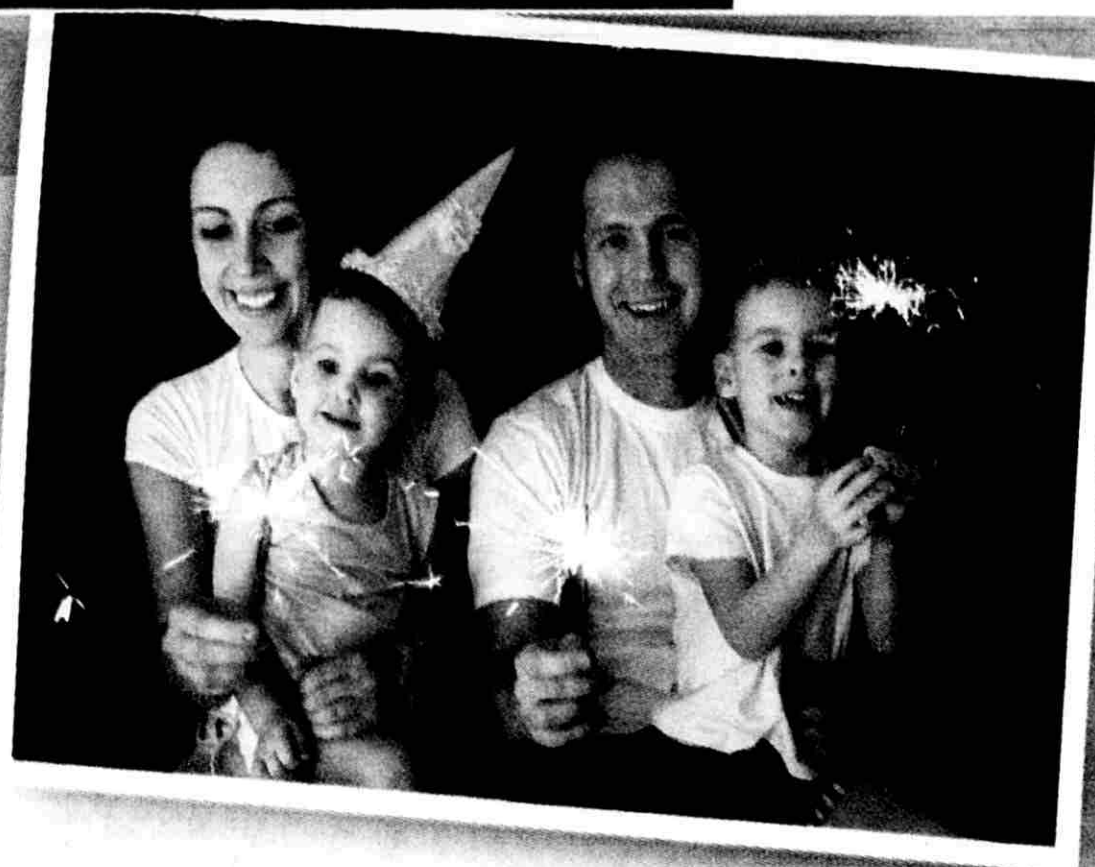
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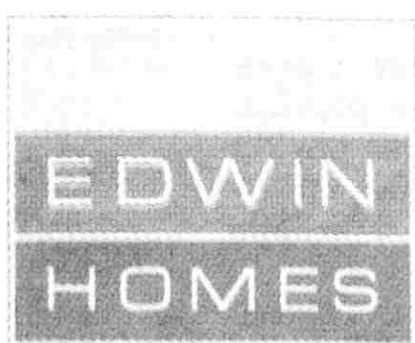


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