

# The Lowell Ledger

Volume 37 Issue 23

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

## Comcast upgrades with fiber optic cables across the Flat

by Emma Palova

Gusty winds and a strong current last week made stretching a fiber optic line across the Flat River from a rowboat next to impossible.

Jeff Pierce of All American Communications in vain pulled the lasher on the fiber line to straighten out the sag, while the current took him farther and farther down the river.

"We're doing it the old-fashioned way with a rowboat," said Pierce.

Usually, the crew uses a robot called a "Squirrel" on lengths of up to 500 feet to run lines across water.

However, in this case, with the river being 750-foot wide, the rowboat was a natural solution. The name of

the robot was in fact inspired by squirrels running on lines, according to Pierce.

"It's an unusual task," said Bob Munger of Advanced Communications.

The crew runs lines across water only once in two or three years.

Cameron Smith had to cut a path through the shrub on the island in the stream for the line.

The unusual task turned into a comical situation when Smith flipped the row boat, and waded in the freezing water to pull the lasher.

"Sometimes they poke the lines to get the lasher moving," said Munger.

The lasher wraps the fiber optic and glides on the lines based on gravity.

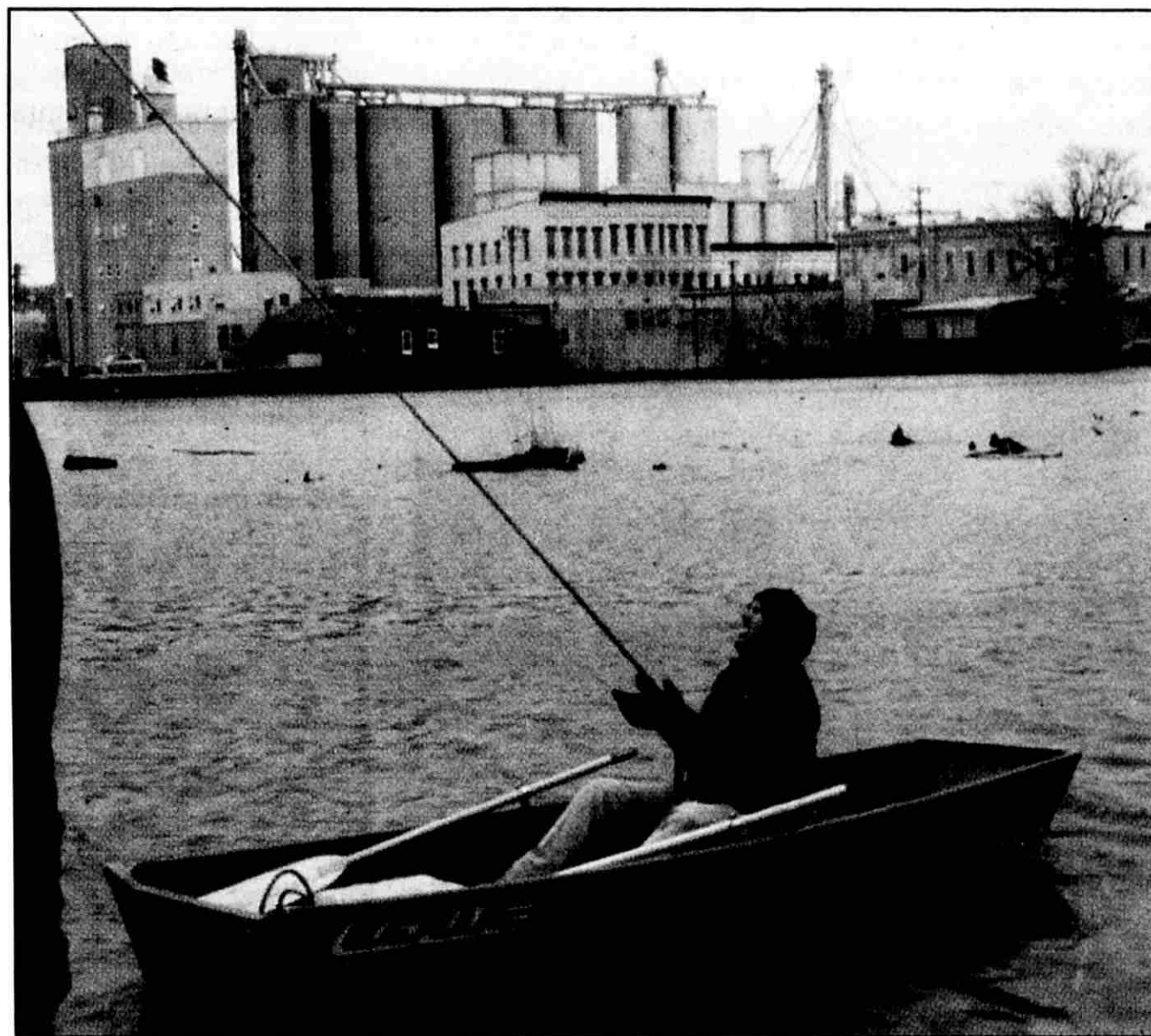
However, once it gets stuck, it loses momentum and has to be poked into motion again.

The hefty upgrade to the cable system by Comcast included the extension of 100 miles of new fiber optic into outlying areas.

Unlike existing analog lines, fiber optic allows the system to bundle cable TV, phone line and Internet all into one.

"It's one line for everything," said Pierce.

"Comcast is committed to investing in Michigan," said Patrick Paterno, communications director. "We are always looking to bring the ideal products, services to our 1.3 million Michigan customers."



Jeff Pierce stretches fiber optic lines across the Flat River last Wednesday.

## Invasive garlic mustard poses threat to ecology of Midwest towns - Several area activities planned honoring Earth Day

by Emma Palova

Beauty can be deceiving. In the case of the lovely garlic mustard plant with fragile white flowers, it is threatening to the ecology of the Midwest U.S. forest communities like Lowell.

Even though it's still cold outside and dry leaves are covering the ground, the invasive plant is already growing underneath. Soon it will show up as a rosette of green leaves close to the ground.

That is part of the problem, the plant's sneaky invasive nature.

"It grows under the snow," said Peggy Covert, local activist. "It is already growing."



Garlic mustard, along with purple loosestrife, are among the most aggressive invasive species in Michigan.

Covert discovered the invader four years ago in her backyard in the woods on North Washington. At first, she mistook it for a lovely groundcover. It wasn't until the next year that the plant started completely taking over.

"It out-competes the native plants and inhibits them," she said. "It even prevents the seedling of trees."

Rosettes remain green through the winter and develop into mature flowering plants the following spring.

The flowering plants reach from two to three-and-a-half feet in height and produce button-like clusters of small white flowers, each with four petals in the shape of a cross.

One of the main ways gar-

lic mustard competes is by changing the soil composition in which native plants grow. By eliminating a native fungus in Michigan soil, it creates an unfriendly environment for native species such as similar-looking violet and creeping Charlie. It can take over entire fields of trillium.

After pulling her own plants out, Covert decided to mobilize the community to rid the area woodlands of the invader. This year, she is on her fifth community pull in several parts of town.

Although there are less labor intensive alternatives to pulling such as using herbicides or controlled burning, the good old tug by hand will get rid of the plant with its root system on small patches. However,

any method must be conducted for five consecutive years.

"It takes time and persistence," said Covert.

And the mission is imminent, as the plant gets ready to produce seeds in erect, slender pods that turn black when they mature in May. By late June, when most garlic plants have died, they can be recognized only by the stalks of dry, pale brown seedpods, that hold viable seeds.

"It must be pulled before it finishes flowering," said Covert, "before the seeds actually develop."

Covert is encouraging people to pull on their own properties to help prevent the spreading of garlic mustard. The pulled plants must be bagged in dark plastic bags and burnt either in the sun or fire.

"The sun will bake the seeds," said Covert.

Garlic mustard cannot be left in compost piles because the plant grows out from rotted piles and further spreads.

After years of pulling, Covert has noticed that her jack-in-the-pulpits, marsh marigolds and lilacs are finally coming back.

"It's very important to

pull it if it's just starting to come in the area," said Pete DeBoer, land protection specialist at Land Conservancy of West Michigan.

Fire, according to DeBoer, may actually help spread it along.

"There are no biological controls so far," said DeBoer.

Unlike its fellow invader, purple loosestrife, research is currently in process to use Japanese beetles in combat against the purple threat in the wetlands.

*Invasive plants, cont'd., pg. 4*



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The Lowell Ledger

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# Obituaries

## DEN HOUTER

Marie C. DenHouter, aged 92, of Alto, passed peacefully on Palm Sunday, March 16, 2008 and is now rejoicing with her Lord in Heaven. She was preceded in death by her husband, Leonard "Neil" DenHouter; seven brothers and sisters, Julius Post, August Post, Annetta Betten, Lena Stroe, Maxine Oosterhouse, John Post, and Andrew Post. Marie is survived by her son, Harold Holscher; two grandchildren; one great-

## FAIRCHILD

Lois Irene Fairchild, 87, of Lowell, died Saturday, March 22, 2008 at Spectrum Health Butterworth Campus in Grand Rapids. Lois was born February 15, 1921 in Ewart the daughter of John and Gladys Bieri. Lois was a longtime member of Vergennes United Methodist Church. She also volunteered at the Veterans Home in Grand Rapids and on the American Cancer Society Fund Drive and American Diabetes Association Fund Drive. She also worked on the church missions. She was married on November 22, 1939 in Sylvan to Clyde Fairchild and he survives along with their children, Judith and Dr. Paul Kropp of Traverse City and Ace Fairchild and his fiancée, Sherry Decker of Belding. She is also survived by five grandchildren, nine great-

grandchildren, one great-grandchild, sister and brother-in-law, Connie Lea and Ron VanOrder, and her brother and sister-in-law, Stanley and Harriet Bieri, all of Ewart. Lois was preceded by her parents and her four brothers, Alex, Beauford, Paul and Philip Bieri. Funeral services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the Vergennes United Methodist Church (North of Lowell) with Pastor Nathaniel Johnson officiating. Interment will follow in Bailey Cemetery. Memorials may be given to the Vergennes United Methodist Church or United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan.

## GLAPA

Mrs. Marjean Glapa, age 57, of Alto, went into the arms of the Lord on Thursday, March 20, 2008. She was preceded in death by her parents, and is survived by

her loving husband of 37 years, Dennis; sister, Mary Hudson; stepmother, Lois Zylstra; and several nieces, nephews and cousins. She was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Alto, where a memorial service was held on Saturday.

## RUOSS

Kenneth Ruoss, age 60, of Gowen, went with Jesus to his heavenly home on March 19, 2008. He was born in Grand Rapids on September 19, 1947, the son of Chris and Esther Bielskas Ruoss, and was retired from Bosch Corp. He loved times spent with family and special friends and deer hunting and fishing. He is survived by his wife, Sheryl; and children, Robert (Alissa) Hirkaway of Stanton, and Kim Hirkaway of Greenville; grandchildren, Gabby, Lucas, Hailey and Jeremiah; his sister, Mary (Tony) Demski of Lowell; and nephews, Alex, Tyler and Kyle; brother, Richard (Linda) Ruoss of Grand Rapids; and niece, Rochelle; his aunts, Mary Doering and Terry Blanchard; and uncle, Rev. Fr. Ed Bielskas; his dear cousins; and Sheryl's family, her mother, Mary DeGraaf of Wyoming; and brother, Kenneth DeGraaf of Florida; and sister, Kimberly (Glenn) Minnaar of Byron Center, and Katie and Jack and many special friends. A memorial service will be held on Saturday at the Hurst Funeral Home in Greenville.

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## LEGAL NOTICES

**STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Decedent's Estate  
FILE NO. 08-184,955-DE

**STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Decedent's Estate  
FILE NO. 08-184,959-DE

Estate of **LEONARD H. BLOSSOM**, deceased

Estate of **ISABEL M. TRUSZKOWSKI**

Date of birth: 7/1/1928

Date of birth: July 29, 1919

**TO ALL CREDITORS:** The decedent, **LEONARD H. BLOSSOM**, who lived at 9968 Byron Center Avenue, Byron Center, Michigan, died 2/17/2008.

**TO ALL CREDITORS:** The decedent, **ISABEL M. TRUSZKOWSKI**, who lived at 961 Garfield NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan, died January 6, 2008.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **DANIEL BEACH** named personal representative, or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Ave. NW, Suite 2500, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **DONALD TRUSZKOWSKI** named personal representative, or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Ave. NW, Suite 2500, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

**Craig Avery - P10311** 4/8/2008  
3875 W. River Dr.  
PO Box 327  
Comstock Park, MI 49321  
616-784-5080

**John D. Mitus (P-31244)**  
410 Bridge Street NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504  
616-774-4001

**Daniel Beach**  
20636 East Austin Road  
Manchester, MI 48158  
734-323-1838

**Donald Truszkowski**  
2741 Burrill St. NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

**CITY OF LOWELL**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST OF THE OPTICAL SCAN TABULATING EQUIPMENT FOR THE MAY 6, 2008 LOWELL AREA SCHOOL ELECTION**

Notice is hereby given that the public accuracy test of the Optical Scan Tabulating Equipment for the May 6, 2008 Lowell Area School Election will be conducted on Friday, April 18, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at Lowell City Hall, Second Floor Conference Room, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan.

Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk

**NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING**

Please take notice that the Vergennes Township Board will hold a Public Hearing during their regularly scheduled April 21, 2008 Board Meeting. The meeting will take place at 7:00 pm in the meeting room of the township offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr., at the corner of Parnell Road and Bailey Drive.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to hold a discussion and receive comment on the current status of the township's Historical Commission Ordinance.

Written comments will be included at the hearing as received by the Clerk prior to 7:00 pm April 21, 2008. These comments may be submitted in person or by mail at the township offices, by fax at 897-5674, or by email to clerk@vergennestwp.org.

Mari Stone  
Vergennes Township Clerk

\*\*\*  
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- Thomas Carlyle (1795 - 1881)

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(USPS 453-830)

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## Participate in Earth Day by nominating an environmental leader for recreational boating

Is there someone in your town who has helped boaters be more environmentally responsible and made their local waterways cleaner?

With Earth Day's arrival on April 22, the BoatU.S. Foundation plans to honor those who have made a significant contribution toward improving waterway ecology and educating boaters on how to minimize their environmental impact. Any group, organization, company, marina or individual who has worked hard to make a difference is eligible for the BoatU.S. Foundation Environmental Leadership Award. A \$1,000 prize is provided to help the winner continue their environmental efforts. The deadline to apply is June 30.

"We are looking for nominees who have had a real impact," said Susan Shingledecker, assistant vice president and director of environmental programs for the BoatU.S. Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water. "For example, the award could go to a group that has cleaned up miles of beaches, a hometown marina that has led the way in helping keep our waterways clean, or a boat club member who has spearheaded a local environmental education campaign," she added.

The award was created to complement the efforts of the BoatU.S. Foundation, which has had a long history of working with Clean Marina programs and local organizations throughout the country to help bring environmental messages directly to boaters.

Applications and more information about the award are available at <http://www.BoatUS.com/Foundation>. Any questions may be directed to Shingledecker at [SShingledecker@BoatUS.com](mailto:SShingledecker@BoatUS.com).

The BoatU.S. Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit education and research organization primarily funded by the voluntary contributions of the 650,000 members of BoatU.S. The Foundation operates more than a dozen programs including the only accredited, free, online general boating safety course, a low-cost EPIRB rental program, the "Help Stop the Drops" national clean fueling campaign, a free kid's Life Jacket Loaner Program, and has awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants for nonprofit groups for boating safety and environmental projects.

## GOP: Roll back the tax hike

Area House Republicans gathered Monday at the Grandville branch of the Kent District Library to announce legislation repealing the income tax increase enacted last year.

As a result of the \$744 million tax increase, the average Michigan family will be forced to send an additional \$300 to Lansing this year. For families living though Michigan's economic crisis, this could be crucial money needed for a mortgage or car payment.

"Last fall, we were told that a massive increase of several taxes and even creation of new taxes would be necessary to balance Michigan's budget," said state Rep. Dave Hildenbrand. "Rather than choosing to reform government and take a hard look at spending restraint, Lansing chose

of Olive Township. "We wanted to use the \$350 surplus to pay our bills instead of asking families for more money. Instead, it got spent. The extra \$300 families are sending to Lansing could have been used for eight or nine tanks of gas, or a house payment - people have a right to be angry."

"We can't tax Michigan into prosperity, no matter how badly this administration tries," said Rep. Dave Agema, of Grandville. "Lansing is broken and House Republicans are working hard to fix it. We didn't want this to be about partisanship, but leadership. Since House Democrats are failing to lead, House Republicans are ready to do the job they won't."

Upon returning for session on Tuesday, April

15, House Republicans will formally introduce the legislation to repeal the income tax increase.

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PROM NIGHT (PG-13)  
1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30

PENELOPE (PG) 9:00

WIN'S ISLAND (PG)  
12:35, 2:50, 5:05, 7:20, 9:35

THE RUINS (R)  
1:25, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00

21 (PG-13) 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO! (G)  
12:10, 2:20, 4:30, 6:50

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*The reason lightning doesn't strike twice in the same place is that the same place isn't there the second time.*

- Willie Tyler

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**COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN PARENT MEETING SCHEDULE**

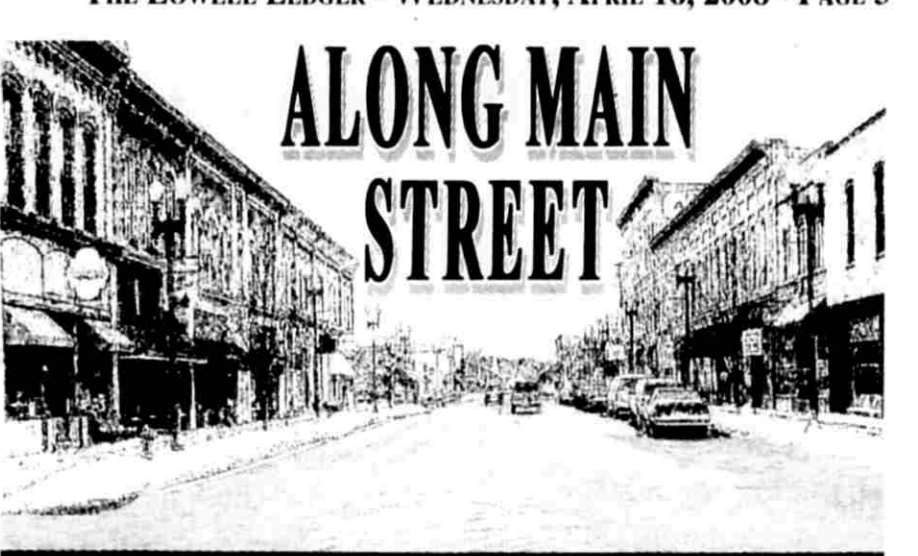
**Attendance is important!**

You will be scheduling your child's visitation time!

**ALTO ELEMENTARY**  
Kindergarten Parent Meeting  
THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2008  
6:00-6:25 PM - Sign-up  
6:30-7:30 PM - Meeting

**BUSHNELL ELEMENTARY**  
Kindergarten Parent Meeting  
THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2008  
6:00-6:25 PM - Sign-up  
6:30-7:30 PM - Meeting

**MURRAY LAKE ELEMENTARY**  
Kindergarten Parent Meeting  
TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2008  
6:15-6:25 PM - Sign-up  
6:30-7:30 PM - Meeting



**ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES**

Sign up at the Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St. Fri., April 11, 6-8 p.m. or Sat., April 12, 10 a.m. - noon. Everyone welcome. Regular box is \$30 and feeds a family of four approximately a week. Any questions call Esther at 897-7395.

**LAS ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB MEETING**

The Athletic Boosters will hold their regular business meeting in the high school staff lounge on Mon., April 14 at 7 p.m. Please come and support our athletes.

**ATTENTION LHS ALUMNI**

The Lowell Alumni Association will be publishing the second edition of the LHS Alumni Directory. If you are a LHS Alumni and your name was missing from the first edition or you now have changes in your information call Alumni Research at 1-800-299-1230 on weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. or Sat. from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. or go to [www.lowell.k12.mi.us](http://www.lowell.k12.mi.us), click on "Alumni" and "Online Alumni Community." The deadline is April 15. Completion is scheduled for July 2008.

**ALTO PARENT MEETING SCHEDULE**

Kindergarten parent meeting is Thurs., April 17, 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 13, a.m. only and Wed., May 14, a.m. only. Schedule visit 987-2600.

**PRE-SCHOOL SCREENING FOR PROGRAM PLACEMENT**

If you have 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, a.m. only and Wed., May 14, a.m. only. To schedule visit 987-2750.

**BUSHNELL PARENT MEETING SCHEDULE**

Kindergarten parent meeting is Thurs., April 24, 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 Wed., May 7, a.m. only and Thurs., May 8, a.m. only. Schedule visit 987-2650.

**LOOKING FOR RELAY FOR LIFE TEAMS**

Fundraising is starting during the months of March-June. The third Annual 24-hr. Relay for Life of Lowell will take place from noon to noon, Fri., June 27 - Sat., June 28. Teams are now forming, so consider forming a team. For more information please call event co-chair, Carol Briggs at 897-5501.

**VINTAGE BASEBALL**

Local vintage baseball team seeks players for 2008 season. Games are modified slow pitch, played by 1860 rules. Males and females eligible to play. Some travel, dues required. For more information call (616) 635-7992 or e-mail [Fallsburgcubsbb@yahoo.com](mailto:Fallsburgcubsbb@yahoo.com).



## City Council to control spending from cable TV fund - may patch streets

by Emma Palova

It wasn't just street talk Monday night at the city chambers, as the council focused attention on potholes and local streets falling apart after the harsh winter.

A potential \$100,000 allocation from the cable TV fund may be used to fix the streets, if approved at the next city council meeting.

With the last pending payment of \$359,000 from the cable TV sale due by the end of June, and budgeting in progress, the council held a workshop to determine its spending.

The \$2.4 million proceeds from the hefty sale have been placed into an endowment fund with the Grand Rapids Community Foundation. Now, it is up to the council how to spend the money from the interest.

Council member Jeff Altoft proposed to use the entire payment to jumpstart the depleted local street fund with a fund balance of \$5. The interest would be used until the streets are back in shape.

"The money belongs to the city of Lowell," said Altoft. "We have seven or eight community funds,

more scholarships than any other city, yet we have the worst streets in the state."

However, the majority of the council was against subsidizing the city general budget with cable funds.

"I have a problem with city government bailing out the budget," said council member Jim Pfaller. "We need to tighten our belts and earmark a mill toward local streets. Interest should be used for enhancements."

After an extensive discussion, the council proposed to allocate \$100,000 into the local street construction fund, and the rest

into the endowment fund. The street funds will be segregated from the operating monies.

"We have to do something, a lot of streets are a mess," said Altoft. "You have to drive to see that. Washington Street is a mess."

Council member Jim Hodges suggested the entire payment should go back into the principal.

The council will also stay in charge of the disbursement of monies from the endowment fund. Once a year, in a separate meeting, the council will accept proposals for funding of capital improvement projects only in the city of Lowell.

The target fund balance for the next fiscal year is \$155,000. Projected revenues from the parks are \$10,000.

"This is what we're looking at," said manager Dave Pasquale. "We want to keep the services intact."

The council will consider two resolutions Monday April 21, first on the allocation of a portion of cable TV funds for streets. The second resolution to accept annual proposals for funding of capital projects in the city only.

"We're still spending more money than we have," said Pfaller. "We have to work toward a 15 percent fund balance."

## Invasive plants, continued ... From Page 1

"The main food source for Japanese beetle is purple loosestrife," said DeBoer. "It's a known combat."

However, the research of biological combat against loosestrife took 10 to 12 years to develop.

The high visibility of garlic mustard in recent years has been caused by opening up or cutting areas in the woodlands, by increased transportation via automobiles, people walking and by animals by roadsides.

"It's pretty aggressive wherever humans go," said DeBoer. "It's one of the most aggressive in Michigan along with purple loosestrife."

The garlic mustard plant is actually a biennial herb brought to the U.S. by early settlers from Europe. The first garlic mustard was recorded in 1868 in Long Island. It was likely introduced for food or medicinal purposes.

"Pull it and eat it," suggests Covert.

## Area Earth Day activities

Do something for planet Earth

- Help celebrate Earth Day on April 22 by pulling garlic mustard. Cherry Creek Elementary will pull under the leadership of Wendy Kapolka.
- Celebrate open space on April 19 at the Wege Wittenbach Center and at the Franciscan Life Process Center.
- Enter a photo contest organized by the Eastern Township of Kent County Open Space Council with the theme, "Wetlands and Water" - go to [www.vergenestwp.org](http://www.vergenestwp.org).
- Community pulls organized by the Lowell Area Conservation Association are set for April 26 and April 27 at Stoney Lakeside Park, Saturday at 10 a.m., Sunday at 2 p.m. and for April 30 at the Boy Scout Cabin.
- Join the "We Campaign" organized by the Alliance for Climate Protection go to [wecan-solveit.org](http://wecan-solveit.org).

# Viewpoint

## To The Editor

Dear Alto and Lowell Residents,

"12 million barrels of oil are consumed in manufacturing the plastic bags we use and discard each year (for paper bags, the toll is 14 million trees)."

During my daily walks in Alto, dozens of these bags lay in ditches, in ponds, lakes, farm fields and along the Alto Elementary School fence. A red-winged black bird sings while standing on a corn stalk festooned with a plastic bag.

Meijer and many other large stores have reusable bags for sale at very inexpensive prices - 99 cents. We can't complain about the price of gas if we use or throw away plastic bags (along with all the other plastic pop bottles and water bottles that I pick up - but that's another letter). So much of what we throw away can be recycled. If you are part of the problem, you can change. Make an investment in your future by purchasing the reusable bags and using them. If you use the reusable bags and are walking in the Alto/Lowell areas, pick up and recycle what you can. It's good for waist/waste management. We can do better.

Marcia Kapolka

to say sadly that I believe the the downtown area isn't one day closer to being the hub of our city's commerce. The facts are that Lowell is near the top in taxation in Kent County, and at the same time, cannot afford many of its necessities, like new roads. I believe the general fund needs every tax dollar to compensate for the overspending and a hard recession has taken on it, and eliminating anymore DDA projects and consolidating our tax dollars will do that. Lowell shouldn't be dependent on the raising of your property taxes. By the way did your property taxes go up recently?

Sincerely,  
Jim Howard

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to last week's Letter to the Editor from Kristen Johnson about the sad condition that Creekside Park has fallen into. I, like her parents, donated money and spent many, many hours building this park. We did this to provide a great playspace for our children and all children in our community. What I feel badly about is why Kristen, who benefits from the use of the park, feels she can only complain about the condition that has befallen it.

Why does she feel she can't help keep the park cleaned up? Picking up trash requires no financial out-of-pocket cost. Just because she doesn't live in the city doesn't mean she can't be involved with improving Creekside Kingdom. Many volunteers who built the park weren't Lowell citizens, yet they happily contributed their time. Perhaps it's time for Kristen's generation to step up and get involved.

I know the city council would be happy to have Kristen attend a council meeting. We welcome everyone who wants to help improve Lowell. The more people who get involved, the better the community becomes.

Jeff Altoft,  
City Council member

To The Editor,

I would like to comment about an article in the March 26 edition of the Lowell Ledger about the [DDA] Down Town Development Authority Act, which will sunset in 2013. I cannot say that the DDA hasn't done some good things for the downtown area, because it has with a river walk, parking lots, city hall and a new police station, and oh yes, the faithful town clock that has kept us all on time! It was said the main purpose of the DDA was, and remains, economic development and the improvement of the business environment. But after 15 years of cosmetic restoration of our downtown area with the use of our tax dollars, I have

## Water conservation starts in your backyard

Submitted by Minnie Kansman,  
for the Lowell Go Green Coalition

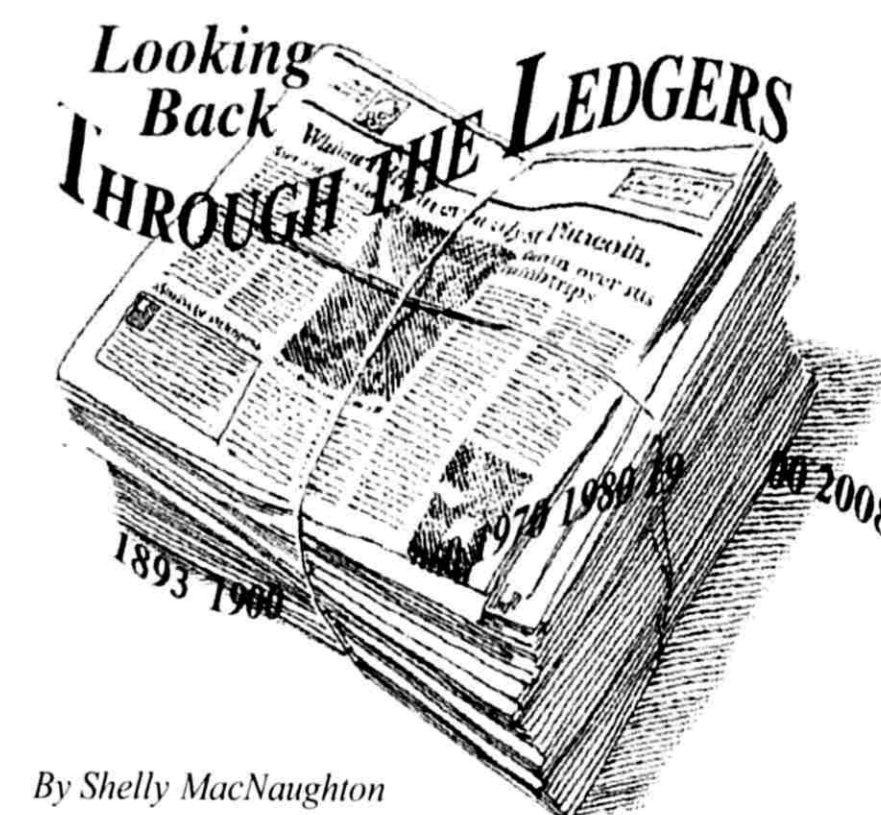
The wise use of water this spring and summer not only helps our environment, but can save you time and money. Becoming stewards of our groundwater ensures healthy vibrant water will be available for our children and grandchildren. Here are some ideas from the Lowell Go Green Coalition to get you started thinking green.

1. Consider what type of chemicals you are using on your lawn or garden. Water-soluble fertilizers and pesticides can easily leech into the groundwater. Read labels and follow the application directions carefully. Better yet, look for organic or "green" brands that are safe for humans and our environment. Many, such as compost, manures, and mulches release their nutrients slowly over the growing season.
2. Properly dispose of products according to your waste management provider. Never pour a pesticide or fertilizer down the drain or anywhere else it may contaminate the water supply.
3. Conserve water with a rain barrel. A large plastic

garbage container works well. Place it in areas of the garden that you have difficulty reaching with the hose. Cut a large three- to four-inch hole in the lid to allow water to accumulate, but not leaves and other debris. To control the breeding of mosquitoes in your rain barrel, float B.T.I. Briquettes. These rings contain bacillus thuringensis, which is consumed by mosquito larvae and kills them. It is safe for humans, fish, and other animals.

4. Practice Xeriscape gardening. Xeriscaping means using drought-resistant plants that survive on the water nature provides, with minimal assistance. Purple Coneflower, dusty miller, goldenrod, lavender, mullein, Queen-Anne's lace, Russian sage, sedum, thyme, yarrow, pine, hemlock, and juniper are all good candidates. These plants do need some attention their first year to become established.

5. Place a one-inch layer of mulch around trees and plants to slow down evaporation, and reduce the need to water. This can save 750 to 1,500 gallons of water a month. Set your lawnmower blades one notch higher to create longer grass with less evaporation, and that means less time mowing.



By Shelly MacNaughton

### 125 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL JOURNAL APRIL 18, 1883

Frank Cuykendall is reported very sick. A maple sugar party will be given at Cook's hotel, Cook's Corner's, Friday evening.

The Lowell flouring mill, which has been shut down for several weeks, was started up again last week.

A brook trout was caught in the Flat River Saturday by one of our fisherman.

### 100 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER APRIL 16, 1908

F. B. Rhodes has bought the photograph business of Avery E. Field and will take possession April 20. Mr. Rhodes is no stranger to the photograph trade in Lowell, having run a studio here several years. Both buyer and seller have our best wishes.

### 75 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER AND ALTO SOLO APRIL 20, 1933

Headline: Fine New Park Added to Lowell.  
For some time past workmen have been putting in odd hours clearing the underbrush on the top and sides of the hill on which is located the water works reservoir in the northeast part of the village, and as a result, the grounds have been much improved and beautified. The roadway leading to the crest of the hill is now being put into shape so that motorist may drive to the top. There is also a footpath starting from Jefferson St. When we asked Supt. Frank McMahon what the park would be called he quickly responded "Reservoir Park."

### 50 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER APRIL 17, 1958

Headline: Retires as Director of Lowell Building & Loan.

Frank F. Coons, secretary of the Lowell Building and Loan Association from 1931 until just recently and director of the association, announced his retirement because of moving to the Clark Memorial Home in Grand Rapids.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Jones have sold their home on East Main Street to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kerekes and went Tuesday to a home in Grand Rapids.

Mrs. Rose Wingeier was honored Saturday night with a personal shower by Mrs. Tony Kropf at their home on Vergennes Road.

### 25 YEARS AGO THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER APRIL 20, 1983

The Lowell City Council gave their nod of approval to the construction of a softball diamond in the city's west side park. The park is near the corner of Foreman and Gee Drive. It is eventually to be developed to provide a recreational area for west side residents, particularly those in the Valley Vista subdivision.

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PRESENTS

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Franciscan Life Process Center

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- Vergennes Township Open Space Committee
- Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board
- Frey Foundation
- Kent/MSU Extension
- United Growth for Kent County

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9:00-10:00 Breakfast  
10:00 Program

For more information:  
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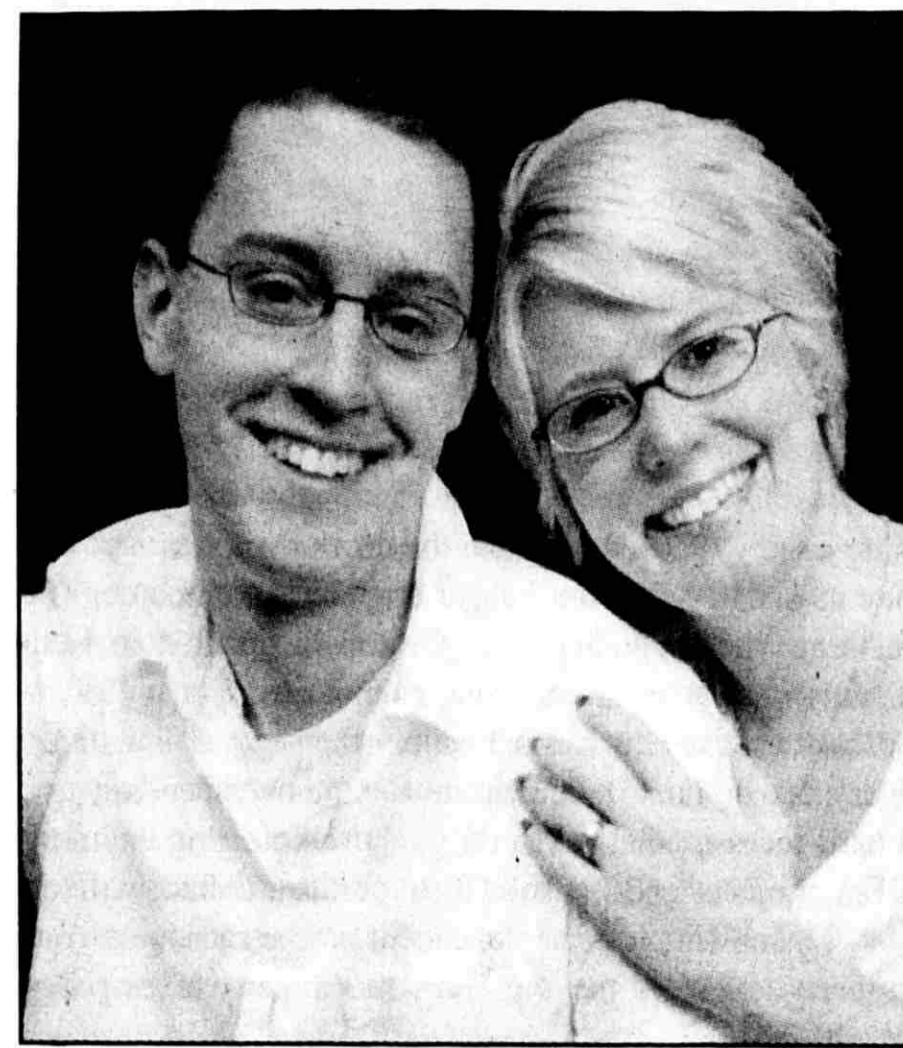
# Engagements

## Ellam/LaHaye

Michael and Marsha LaHaye of Pentwater, formerly of Lowell, announce the engagement of their daughter, Laura Elizabeth to Bryant Ellam, son of Roger and Phyllis Ellam and Brenda and Wesley Agresta of Aurora, Ill.

Laura is a graduate of Western Michigan University with a degree in food marketing and completed her MBA degree in June of 2008. She is employed with Gordon Food Service in Grand Rapids as an inventory analyst. Bryant graduated from Southern Illinois with a degree in Marketing. He is also employed with Gordon Food Service as a CDS in Lansing.

The couple will be married in Pentwater on July 19, 2008 in an outdoor ceremony.



Bryant Ellam and Laura LaHaye

# New Arrivals

## Richmond

Ben and Karen Richmond of Lowell, are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth Denise. She was born April 9, 2008, weighing 7 lbs. 2 oz. and measuring 18 1/2 inches.

Proud siblings are Olivia, Alex, John-Luc, Anna, and Sam. Also welcoming her home are grandparents, Jerrold Richmond of Lowell and John and Pierrette Olinger of Heath, Ohio and great-grandmother, Virginia Uzarski of Grand Rapids.

\*\*\*

*What we obtain too cheap,  
we esteem too lightly.*

- Thomas Paine (1737 - 1809)

# New Arrivals

## Stoica

Anthony and Jamie (Zoodsma) Stoica of Oceanside, Calif., are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Logan Anthony. Born Christmas day 2007, weighing 9 lbs. 5 oz. and measuring 20 3/4 inches. Both parents are currently serving the United States Marine Corps. Proud grandparents include Ben Zoodsma of Lowell, Susan Zoodsma of Hastings, and Antonelia Stoica of New York City.



Logan Anthony Stoica

# Earth Day celebration -storytelling featured at Bostwick Lake Church

Blogging and texting will be turned off in favor of the authentic oral traditions of storytelling and fold singing on Earth Day, Sunday, April 20 at Bostwick Lake Congregational Church, Belding Road. Guest storyteller Robin Nott, Theatre and Oral Tradition Instructor for the Gull Lake Community Schools, will be sharing skills he has honed over the past 25 years at the church's 10:30 a.m. service. Currently a member of the National Storytelling Network, Nott is active in the perpetuation of oral tradition by blending story and folk song, which provides an invitation into the world of our first language, story.

In keeping with the storytelling theme, children of the congregation will re-

tell a version of the ancient wisdom of the Kabbalah, the Tree of Life and families will sign in American Sign Language to the anthem "Deep Peace" by Douglas E. Wagner.

Bostwick Lake Congregational Church, United Church of Christ welcomes all people just as they are and is located at 7979 Belding Rd. in Rockford.

## Lend A Hand VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



HELP PROMOTE LITERACY  
THE NEED IS URGENT AT THIS TIME

The Kent County Literacy Council has scheduled an information session on Thursday, April 24, for prospective volunteer tutors. This session is held at 6:30 p.m. and lasts one hour. It allows persons interested in becoming volunteer tutors to find out more about the Council and its literacy programs. At the end of the session, there will be an opportunity to sign up for tutor training.

The Kent County Literacy Council is a non-profit, United Way agency devoted to reducing illiteracy in our community. Based on 1990 census figures, at least 19,000 adults in Kent County cannot read at a functional level. At least 6,000 adults cannot speak or understand English well. By training people to be tutors, the Council can offer one-on-one reading help to adults asking for assistance in reading or English as a Second Language (ESL). You do not need to speak another language to tutor ESL.

The information session will be held at the Gaines Township Library located at 421 - 68th Street, SE, Grand Rapids. Please call 459-5151 to register.

## At Your Local Library



IT'S TEA TIME FOR MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS AT ENGLEHARDT BRANCH

Fans of the American Girl doll collection will not want to miss this special tea time with American Girl doll presenter Cheri Smith. Smith will host the "Friendship" program, a mother-daughter tea time that focuses on the newest dolls and the importance of friendships in girls' lives, at the Englehardt branch of the Kent District Library on Saturday, May 10 at 1:30 p.m.

Registration is required, so don't miss your chance to learn more about your favorite dolls. Call the Englehardt branch at 647-3920. This branch is located at 200 N. Monroe St. in Lowell.

# Reflections of faith

by Rev. Randy Meyers  
Calvary Christian Reformed Church

After the people of God were given the royal treatment of being ushered through the Red Sea on a "red carpet" of dry ground, they could not contain their praise. Moses and Miriam led the people in singing a couple of new praise

songs. Things could not be better. But after three days of travel through the desert without finding water, they grumbled.

When I hiked half of the Appalachian Trail, we grumbled about not finding water too. After a long day of hiking up and down mountains we would dream of cool springs and clean water to quench our thirst, cook our supper, and wash our face. However the maps did not take into account things like the dry season or other hikers who may have fouled the spring.

The worst was a misnamed water source. It was named Island Pond Outlet. We envisioned a clear river flowing out of a small lake. The reality was that we walked through a muddy section of the trail and kept on going only to realize that we had to go back and filter our drinking water out of the very footprints we had made! We grumbled. A lot. We would have cried, but that would have wasted precious water we did not have!

When the people of God finally found a spring, they found out it was bitter, even though it was appropriately named "Bitter Spring." They grumbled. But God was leading them and had a lesson for them there. After God showed Moses how to make the water drinkable, God gave them a test. God said that if the people would listen carefully to the voice of the LORD, do the right thing, and keep all the laws, they would be blessed with healing. They must have listened because God led them to a wonderful oasis with 12 springs and 70 palm trees where they could camp and heal.

On the Appalachian Trail we did not come upon an oasis, though we did find a nice restaurant playing Jimmy Buffet that served cold beverages and big steaks. However, we did learn some lessons about simplicity, solitude, and a greater concern about our impact on those who, literally, come behind us.

What bitter event, situation, person or people are you facing? Might it be that God has led you to this place so that you will be tested? How is the test going? Are you listening to the voice of the LORD? Are you paying careful attention to God's law? What kind of healing place does God want to bring you to? I am convinced that God has something in store for you that is immeasurably better than anything you can even dream about or imagine. But you must go on the journey with God and others to arrive at that place.

## She's 100!

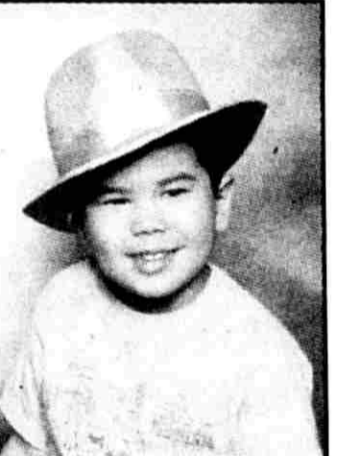
April 24, 1908 - 2008



Helen Morse  
Meengs

Jenison, MI

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# AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

 <p><b>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M.</p> <p><b>OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS</b> Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p><b>DAY BIBLE CHAPEL</b> 9305 Centerline, Saranac 897-6332</p> <p>Worship.....9:45 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M.</p> <p>Nursery &amp; Jr. Church Provided Rev. Frank Lattimore, Pastor "A Nondenominational Ministry With A Blended Word Centered Service!"</p>	<p><b>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL</b></p> <p>Rev. Randy Meyers • 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI</p> <p>Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.</p> <p>Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p> 	
<p><b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b></p> <p>621 E. Main Street • 897-5936</p> <p>Worship.....8:30 &amp; 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Barrier - Free Entrance</p> 	<p><b>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)</b> 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Lead Pastor John King, Youth Pastor</p> <p><b>SUNDAYS:</b> 10:00 a.m. - Worship &amp; Evening; LIFE home Groups &amp; "The Source" Youth</p> <p><b>WEDNESDAYS:</b> Family Night: (for all ages) 7:00 p.m. "The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m. Loving God ... Loving People!</p>	<p><b>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Fr. George J. Fekete 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com</p> <p>Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM &amp; 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer &amp; adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETE HIGGINS 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 49, EWTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>	<p><b>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> (United Church of Christ) 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906</p> <p>Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Thursday Faith Alive Worship.....7:00 P.M.</p> <p>Dr. Roger LaWarre.....Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director</p> <p>Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise &amp; Worship</p>
<p><b>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell &amp; Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org</p> <p>Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....9:00 A.M. (Nursery available)</p> <p>Joseph Fremter, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p><b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org Rev. David O. Sims &amp; Rev. W. Lee Taylor Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor</p> <p>Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. &amp; 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA CLUB J.C. ....Wed. 6:15 &amp; 6:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free</p>	 <p><b>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Thurian Meredith</p> <p>9:45 A.M. ....Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M. ....Sunday School</p> <p>897-9663 or 897-9588 Nursery &amp; Children Worship Programs Provided</p> <p><i>A friend...a family...a mission!</i></p>	<p><b>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b></p> <p>Greeting &amp; Fellowship.....10:15 A.M. Sunday Morning Worship.....10:40 A.M. Wednesday Discipleship Ministries.....7:00 P.M.</p> <p>Meets at 201 N. Washington PASTOR MICHAEL RHODABARGER Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>

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## PromoPrint & Stitches owner innovative

by Emma Palova

Vikki Kennedy proudly showed off a pair of screen-printed bride and groom t-shirts inside her new PromoPrint & Stitches shop in downtown Saranac.

The white shirt says "It's all about me" while the black one says "It's all about her." Also embroidered on the sleeve in nice letters are the names of the bride and groom, Kelly and Ben, and the date of their wedding.

The bridal t-shirts are just a sampling of fun stuff, Kennedy can do with her

embroidery and silk screen print.

However, the bulk of her work is in screen printing for athletic teams and little leagues. So, when Diana Smith, Saranac track coach, walked into the shop with a design of a track shoe last week, Kennedy was ready.

"And it's ready to wear," she said. Kennedy will first get the track shoe design production ready by having it vectorized or smoothing out the jags on the rendering.

Then she will burn a screen by putting photosensitive coating on a screen.

"I lay the artwork and expose it like a film and a camera," she said.

Then the ink is exposed to heat and it becomes a plastic raised design on the

material. In case of three-color designs, Kennedy needs three screens to do the print.

Once all inks are laid down, she runs the item through a large commercial 11-foot long oven to cure the ink.

"Now, she's back in downtown Saranac with print and stitches. Kennedy is an avid turkey hunter boasting World Slam title.

"I have limited hours, but I am here," said Kennedy. "Saranac is my home. I am glad to be back in business."

The retail store is open Tuesdays from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The retail store is open Tuesdays from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

wearing her print or stitched designs.

"I like that they can express themselves," she said.

Kennedy has been constantly reinventing herself, starting with SaraSnack fast food and ice cream in the '70s.

Now, she's back in downtown Saranac with print and stitches. Kennedy is an avid turkey hunter boasting World Slam title.

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Vikki Kennedy displays bride and groom t-shirts.



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## Local kids on the right track to becoming safe hunters

Area kids have completed a hunter's safety class over the spring break with instructor Lynn Seese. They are pictured left to right:

First row: Courtney Schmitd, Morgan Ziegler, Tyler Doane, Shane Endres, Chase Wilterdink, Jacob Gutowski, Noah Roth, Timothy Buechler, Jacob VanOss, Matthew Milstead, Brianna Higgins, Instructor Lynn Seese, and Ashton Pallottini.

Second row: Marissa McGlamery, Amber Cook, Cassidy Kryger, John Gutowski, Liam Peterson, John Donnelly, Dirk Hoekstra, Zachary Ritchie, Tyler Ritchie, Ryan Tarchala, Joshua Beuchler, Phillip Lemmink, and Nickolas Higgins.

Third row: Makela Chapman, Joseph Gauck, Reed Stormzand, Assistant David Roskamp, Joshua Bartholomew, Sarah Crosby, Katherine Bartholomew, Taryn Endres, Carl Mitchell, and David Crawford.



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## Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold  
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**TIME FOR SOME FINANCIAL SPRING CLEANING?**  
 You may or may not engage in many of the typical activities of "spring cleaning" - uncluttering the attic, reorganizing your closets, touching up the paint, etc. - but you can almost certainly benefit from "sprucing up" your financial situation.

As you survey your financial landscape, what areas might you want to tidy up? Here are a few suggestions:  
 • Clear your portfolio of "redundant" investments. Over time, you may have built a sizable investment portfolio. But if you have too many investments that look alike, you may actually be hindering your progress toward your goals. After all, if you own a dozen stocks of companies in the same industry, they're likely to be buffeted by the same economic forces. Look for opportunities to replace some

of these "redundancies" with different types of securities, taking into account your risk tolerance and time horizon.

• Organize your financial records. If you're like those of us who file our taxes at the last minute, now is the perfect time to organize your financial records, because you probably have them close at hand. And it's not just a matter of having your brokerage and 401(k) statements in nice, neat piles. Once you have these documents together, you might see opportunities to consolidate some of your accounts. For example, you may have established IRAs with different banks and financial services companies. By moving them to one provider, and possibly rolling a previous employer's 401(k) into an IRA, you could save some fees and reduce your paperwork, but, more importantly, you may find that such a move actually helps you better manage your investments. You'll know exactly where your money is going, and it will be easier to follow a single investment strategy. Also, with all your IRAs in one place, it will be much easier for you to manage the required minimum distributions you must start taking when you turn 70-1/2. (These distributions are not required for Roth IRAs.)

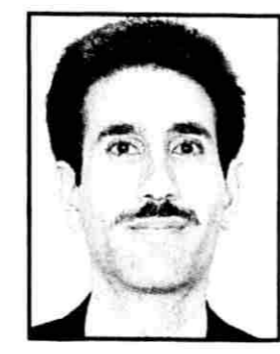
• Review your systematic investments. Many years ago, you might have started systematically moving money from your checking account into an investment. But perhaps

the circumstances of your life have changed and this money could be better used elsewhere. Scrutinize your systematic investments to see if they still make sense for you.

• Check your beneficiaries. Beneficiary designations on financial documents - insurance policies, IRAs, 401(k)s, etc. - are extremely important, because they supersede even the instructions in your will. Over time, your family situation may have changed through death, divorce, remarriage or the birth of children, so you should periodically review all your beneficiary designations.

• Examine your insurance coverage. When you have a young family, you need a certain amount of life insurance coverage to provide for some major expenses - such as your mortgage, college for your kids or perhaps some retirement funds for your spouse. But when your children have grown, your mortgage is paid and your spouse has decades' worth of retirement savings, your insurance needs may change considerably. At the same time, you may find other uses for insurance. Take some time to review your insurance coverage with your financial advisor.

By following these "spring cleaning" suggestions, you can help put your financial house in order for the seasons to follow. Take action soon.



## Legal Ease

With Jonathan David

**DEAR JONATHAN:**  
 I am a widow, and I have been advised by more than one person that I should put all my assets in a trust. However, the concept scares me and I really don't want to give up control; I don't want to have to go to a third person and ask for money if I run out. Am I worrying for nothing?

**JONATHAN SAYS:**  
 I don't know what type of trust you have been encouraged to implement, but if your circumstances call for you to set up a living trust, you don't have to worry. A living trust is a totally modifiable document which means you can change the terms, or even revoke the trust at any time. Further, by naming yourself as trustee, you control all of the assets in the trust; if you were to name a third party as trustee, then that individual or entity would control the assets in the trust. The beauty of a living trust is that by moving probatable assets, i.e., assets which are titled in your name alone, to the trust while you are alive, those assets will avoid having to be probated upon your death. Further, you don't lose any control over those assets because you are the trustee of the trust and you would also be the sole beneficiary of the trust while you are alive.

I recommend that you meet with an estate-planning attorney for the purpose of reviewing in more depth the attributes of a living trust and whether it makes sense in your circumstances. Good luck.

**DEAR JONATHAN:**  
 I am a widower and I have three adult children. My youngest son keeps nagging me to deed my home over to him. He claims that nothing will change and he is simply doing this so that my estate can avoid being probated. Is this something I should think about doing?

**JONATHAN SAYS:**  
 No, for a variety of reasons. First off, if you transfer ownership of your home to your son, you would in effect be making a gift to him of the value of the home and depending upon the size of your estate, there may be gift tax consequences to you.

Further, once you deed the home to your son, he will become the legal owner of the home and once he owns the home, he can do whatever he wants with that property, including evicting you. Further, he would not be required to share ownership of the home (or if he were to sell it, any of the proceeds received) with any of your other children.

You would also lose the principal residence exemption which you would be entitled to under Michigan law, which would result in higher real estate taxes.

Another disadvantage to consider is that if you ever need to qualify for Medicaid, transferring the home, which is currently an excluded asset when determining your Medicaid eligibility, would be considered a divestment. Consequently, even though you would no longer own the house, you could be disqualified from receiving Medicaid for a period of months or years depending on the value of the home at the time of its transfer.

Without knowing anything about your personal circumstances, I can tell you that if one of your goals is to avoid probate, you can set up a living trust naming yourself as trustee and then transfer your home to that trust. By doing so the home will not need to be probated upon your death, and while you are alive and acting as trustee, you have total control of the home and any other assets titled in the name of that trust.

Instead of giving in to your son, I recommend that you meet with an estate-planning attorney who can review your circumstances and determine whether a living trust is right for you. Good luck.

*The information contained in this column is not to be construed as legal advice or legal representation and should not be relied upon as such. If legal advice or legal representation is desired, please consult with an attorney.*

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**TUES:** Rotini & Italian meatsauce w/dinner roll (stacked ham & cheese on bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), mini carrots & dip, pineapple, milk.  
**WED:** Tony's pepperoni pizza (chili w/crackers also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), broccoli, warm baked apples, milk.  
**THURS:** French toast sticks/syrup or cereal/ graham crackers & scrambled eggs, applesauce, 100% fruit juice, milk.  
**FRI:** Glazed BBQ porkbites w/dinner roll (burrito w/sauce also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), corn, assorted fruit, peanut butter bar, milk.

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# LITEHOUSE

RECOGNIZES THIS SEMESTER'S HONOR ROLL STUDENTS

## LOWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

Trimester 2 Honor Roll

**6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

- Alberts, Isobel M
- Anderson, Kelvin B
- Anderson, Sidney N
- Anible, Michael T
- Antel, Shelby A
- Ashenbrenner, Kiersten A
- Barton, Nickolas A
- Bauman, Zachary A
- Beachler, Kortney A
- Beaup, Joshua
- Beers, Dominic
- Bergin, Connor S
- Bertone-Haywood, Patrick
- Bieri, Austin J
- Bigham, Benjamin S
- Bitley, Ashley M
- Bladey, Kaeziah K
- Blake, Michael E
- Blanchard, Lauren K
- Blough, Emmalee E
- Bocesky, Alexia K
- Bohn, Alex J
- Boogaard, Benjamin R
- Botma, Kaitly R
- Branagan, Brittany S
- Bremner, Isaac L
- Brinks, Randal A
- Brubaker, Travis C
- Canfield, Katherine S
- Carey, Taylor A
- Carvajal, Blythe R
- Chapman, Makela L
- Charron, Adam F
- Churches, Levi J
- Cummings, Abigail B
- Damian, Rau'l
- Davies, Kayleigh L
- Davis, Justin R
- DeBoer, Luke A
- Deiss, Samantha M
- DenBraven, Ryan
- DeVito, Nicholas S
- Dlouhy, Alexander K
- Dubisky, Allysen M
- Duma, Erin M
- Duma, Isaac A
- Engels, Hunter J
- Evans, Naomi J
- Everhart, Max M
- Flentje, Caleb T
- Flier, Cassandra M
- Frederickson, Makenzie M
- Fuller, Morgan C
- Garter, Tyler W
- Graves, Jessica J
- Griffioen, Michelle L
- Groendyke, Morgan L
- Groom, Parker D

- Haan, Kathryn A
- Hale, Paige N
- Harden, Dustin J
- Harris, Taylare E
- Hayden, Charlotte R
- Heikkila, Brittney L
- Holmes, Madison L
- Inda, Grace M
- Jack, Bailey D
- Johnson, Anna
- Kaminski, Alex M
- Kargl, Joseph A
- Kaywood, Zachary T
- Kazen, Jordan M
- Kelley, Liam M
- Kloosterman, Luke A
- Krebill, Austin T
- Lubbers, Ryan M
- Lytle, Jordan N
- Majnska, Catherine M
- Marsman, Robert M
- McBride, Brianna M
- McCormick, Alyssa M
- McCready, Kennedy G
- McKenna, Paige C
- McNaughton, Catherine C
- Metternick, Andrew M
- Mitchell, Adrian J
- Mitchell, Carl D
- Moody, William H
- Mosler, Kaelyn J
- Nelson, Hannah N
- Niemeier, Micah
- North, Jacob M
- Oesch, Sarah K
- Page, Brooke E
- Paiz, Mallory F
- Perry, Paige M
- Petersen, Jacob M
- Peterson, Benjamin W
- Peterson, Chase C
- Phelps, Rachel M
- Phillips, Tonya L
- Pitt, Brooke N
- Plutschow, Meghan K
- Poll, Jacob E
- Pomper, Keaton D
- Proefke, Nicholas L
- Roberts, Bailey F
- Rozell, Paige E
- Saunders, Jenna D
- Selli, Cody K
- Senneker, Brett M
- Simmons, Jackson D
- Sirowatka, Austin C
- Sirowatka, Christian A
- Skinner, Joshua T
- Slaktoski, Mark C
- Graves, Jessica J
- Slupe, McKenzie L
- Smelt, Julia E
- Smith, Karah R
- Smith, Michelle R

- Smith, Nicholas J
- Smoes, Tyler A
- Speck, Cassandra R
- Stadt, Madison R
- Stasiak, Hailey M
- Steed, Aubreigh M
- Stehley, Garrett S
- Stephens, Jacob D
- Stoffers, Forrest R
- Strzyzewski, Brandon L
- Summerfield, Quinn E
- Sweet, Jacob P
- Taylor, Trevor D
- Theisen, Joshua T
- Tidd, Shy A
- Tremblay, Alexandra P
- VandenBerg, Marc A
- vanOverbeek, Sydney A
- Vos, Brandon S
- Walters, Rachael M
- Walters, Ryan S
- Wenger, Jeremiah J
- White, Garret S
- Wildfong, Tyler C
- Willemstein, Madelynn A
- Young, Shelby M

**7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

- Anderson, Aaron J
- Anderson, Skylar E
- Anes, Jesse L
- Antel II, Timothy S
- Babcock, Micah D
- Bachmann, Michael A
- Baird, Shelby R
- Bancroft, Alanna J
- Paiz, William J
- Bencker, Perry L
- Bennett-Walsweer, Jorie
- Betts, Rebekah M
- Bieri, Cody J
- Bieri, Coryn E
- Bitterman, Derek N
- Blanchard, Kevin W
- Bowers, Kyle D
- Brzeznick, Nicholas S
- Buck, Haley J
- Bunn, Quinton D
- Burke, Mikayla B
- Burt, Hannah
- Casalina, Brigitte A
- Coble, Paige K
- Collins, Jacob
- Cowden, Daniel E
- Crawford, Zachary T
- Crosby, Sarah J
- Culross, Jacey B
- Dawson, Zachary A
- Dean, Kanon F
- Dec, Emilyn J
- DeRaad, Daryann S
- Dimmick, Heather A
- Dodde, Kennedy A

**8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

- Aalsburg, Chloe J
- Aikens, Brandi L
- Anderson, Lindsay N
- Aranowski, Nicholas R
- Athmann, William P
- Bagin, Danielle R
- Baker, Jeffrey C
- Baker, Kirsten M
- Bassin, Kyle E
- Belile, Kendra R
- Beloncis, Zoe L
- Bencker, Analyse M
- Bigham, Luke M
- Bishop, Sydney P
- Blanton, Gregory D
- Blough, Michaela J
- Boogaard, Leigha M
- Brubaker, Martin N
- Buck, Dillon L
- Castro, Justin D
- Chapin, Micah A

- Drake, Sierra R
- Dues, Jack E
- Ellis, Abigail E
- Ferguson, Delainey M
- Feuerstein, Licia M
- Finch, Andrew J
- Finkhouse, Collin J
- Flentje, Abigail G
- Folkersma, Christina J
- Foote, Michelle A
- Fox, Jonathan R
- Gauk, Joseph R
- Gibbs, Gabrielle L
- Graves, Zachary D
- Hacker, Madison O
- Haefner, Bailey F
- Harrison, Taylor L
- Heffron, Alexander P
- Hessler, Emily M
- Hewitt, Joshua M
- Hibbitts, David L
- Higgins, Brianna L
- Hills, Marissa S
- Hindley, Brett M
- Hoff, Nicholas J
- Huber, Ashley M
- Huffman, Jennifer A
- Huisman, Christian
- Huver, Zachary A
- Johnson, Kaitlyn B
- Johnson, Maranda R
- Kaczanowski, Katelyn R
- Kehoe, Annette
- Kendall, James A
- Khodli, Jacob L
- Khodli, Sean H
- Kloosterman, Kolby C
- Kohtz, Sophie J
- Kyburz, Haley
- Lambert, Kayleigh
- Lemke, Austin M
- Lessens, Tyler J
- Ligman, Maxin J
- Lobbezoo, Brendan C
- Loughlin, Bailey B
- Lytle, Dakota R
- Majnska, Matthew J
- Malcolm, Kelli
- Marks, Tobias F
- Massey, Shannon D
- McIntire, Alexander D
- McKendrick, Breana C
- McVey, Morgan L
- Milstead, Emily L
- Misak, Sarah J
- Montgomery, Jessica M
- Mooney, Baylie A
- Newman, Mattie M
- Nordman, Doug R
- Noskey, Grant J
- Ordway, Danielle
- Padgett, Danielle
- Page, Brennan J
- Pearson, Audrey

- Peterson, Emily R
- Phenix, Logan R
- Platz, Nicole R
- Potter, Andrew S
- Rasch, Audrey K
- Rauch, Calvin J
- Rempalski, Elias B
- Rife, Alexis M
- Robinson, Nicholas
- Rogalke, Abigail J
- Roth, Rebecca A
- Roth, Tyler J
- Rude, Joelen C
- Schlosser, Leah B
- Schramm, John P
- Schreur, Emily A
- Scott, Justin O
- Shurlow, Kyle D
- Slupe, Nichole A
- Smith, Julie A
- Steiner, Brianna D
- Stormzand, Reed H
- Stougaard, Raechel L
- Stubbins, Kyle D
- Sutton, Ethan J
- Tasma, Brittany K
- Tichelaar, Brandon
- Timmers, Ryan L
- Tobin, Alexander M
- Tompkins, Emma L
- Tran, Thao N
- Walker, Nicholas S
- Whaley, Taylor N
- White, Ashley A
- Wierzbicki, Kyle J
- Wilder, Jenna K
- Wingenter, Brice C
- Wissman, Maggie C
- Zalis, Joshua R

- Charrouf, Matthew R
- Clover, Caitlin E
- Coffey, Robert F
- Collins, James E
- Copeyon, Peter T
- Corson, Drew A
- Crawford, Lindsey A
- Darnell, Victoria R
- Dean, Gabriel C
- Denault, Quincee J
- Downing, Elizabeth K
- Drake, Jordan M
- Droog, Laura L
- Dulin, Shawn M
- Durkee, Ryan C
- Edwards, Lenora G
- Eickhoff, Mackenzie A
- Ervin-Wakefield, Jordan K
- Foster, Alexis
- Fox, Mackenzie M
- Fyan, Denise J
- Gerig, Melody J
- Geurkink, Daniel
- Gilbert, Andrea B
- Groendyke, Bailey E
- Groom, Morgan D
- Gross, Casey M
- Haan, Matthew R
- Hall, Aaron S
- Harrington, Pauline K
- Hawks, Nicholas E
- Hovey, Lee F
- Hussey, Ashlyn N
- Jean, Kylie M
- Johnson, Bryce W
- Jones, Adam H
- Kehoe, Michaela L
- Keith, Michael B
- Kline, Stephanie M
- Kurtz, Lauren S
- Kyllonen, Matthew B
- Lane, Meredith A
- Light, Andrew G
- Ligman, Alexander D
- Litchfield, Jacob D
- Liu, Hanna S
- Maliepaard, Sage
- Mankel, Kelsey M
- Marks, Kyra A
- Marsalese, Christin M
- Martin, Taylor L
- Martinez, Dominique J
- McDannold, Wesley M
- McLane, Hannah E
- McQueen, Ashley M
- McQueen, Daniel D
- Merriman, Kendra M
- Milks, Torie C
- Milton, Deanna R
- Mixon, Derek A
- Morris, Bravot A
- Morris, Taryn L

- Morse, Andrew T
- Mosher, Melissa R
- Nausieda, Arielle M
- Niemann, Jonathan M
- Noffke, Alexis M
- Noffke, Alicia M
- Noon, Lauryn P
- Noon, Kristina L
- North, John P
- Nowak, Aaron J
- Nurmikko, Jordan I
- Onan, Jeffrey D
- Osborne, Renn M
- Oudbier, Hope A
- Paiz, Carissa L
- Paulin, Karlie A
- Petricovic, Jelena N
- Potter, Joseph E
- Pratt, Caleb
- Regenold, Miranda
- Reid, Kristin M
- Roeig, Alec B
- Rogers, Kyle B
- Rose, Shannon
- Rowley, Tara G
- Ruesink, Cody J
- Rybicki, Cassandra L
- Simmons, Madeline N
- Slotema, Tanner L
- Smith, Connor K
- Smith, Kelsey M
- Solon, Kendall A
- Southwell, Melissa S
- Stehley, Jacob R
- Stephens, Lucas W
- Sterzick, Jacob J
- Stevens, Stephanie R
- Strah, Shelby A
- Sweet, Joseph J
- Talcott, Haley E
- Tapia, Yanni M
- Tawney, Hannah L
- Thebo, Skyce A
- Thompson, Felicia M
- Thompson, William C
- Trebian, Derrek
- Treglia, Chase T
- Tremblay, Catherine J
- Trupke, Daniel J
- Velting II, William D
- Videto, Katelyn J
- Vietzke, Amanda J
- Whaley, Mackenzie R
- Whaley, Samuel T
- White, Rachel S
- Whittemore, Kendra L
- Will, Jake W
- Willson, Amanda L
- Wodarek, Jeremy A
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- Woodhead, Kasey L
- WorthingtonLepard, Jacob W
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# Red Arrow SPORTS

Varsity Home Games  
 tennis 9 a.m.  
 lacrosse 5:30 p.m.  
 golf 3:30 p.m.  
 baseball 4 p.m.  
 softball 4 p.m.  
 baseball 10 a.m.  
 golf 11 a.m.  
 lacrosse all day

## Lowell lacrosse teams host 3rd annual Lacrosse Day April 19

Five years ago, there were some high school kids who wanted to play lacrosse in Lowell, but they didn't have a coach. Eric Bredin, a teacher in the district, left his paid coaching job at EGR to volunteer his time for those 20 LHS student-athletes. Before the first season began, the 20 players turned to 40 and the Varsity became a JV and a Varsity.

"I remember starting the varsity on a drill, then running to the other side of the field to get the JV going," said Bredin. "We charged the kids about half of what it would cost them to play at any other school in the area. I wanted lacrosse to be a

sport anyone could play, not just those who could afford it."

The interest in lacrosse skyrocketed, and Lowell's program soon spanned 5th-12th grades, with well over 100 families involved. As teams were added, parents stepped up to the plate to volunteer their time.

Equipment was handed down from older kids to younger kids, and brave, new coaches read lacrosse books and watched instructional DVDs to learn the game they had maybe never even seen.

"The commitment by the coaches was astounding. Without them, we wouldn't

be where we are today," Bredin said. "Most of them learned the game along with the kids they coached."

Today, Lowell is respected for their class, sportsmanship and competitiveness, and with their deep middle school program, they hope to soon become an elite program in West Michigan.

Lowell now boasts six lacrosse teams, and all of them are completely self-funded. In 2005, lacrosse became a MSHAA-sponsored sport and Lowell's varsity team was granted "non-funded varsity" status. This means student-athletes earn their varsity letter and are held to the same high standards as other varsity athletes, but the district does not assume any of the financial burden associated with taking on a new sport. Through the combined efforts of parents and coaches, Lowell Lacrosse continues to thrive.

This Saturday, April 19, Lowell will have the opportunity to see just how far Lowell's lacrosse program has come.

Visit Red Arrow Stadium where you can enjoy over 140 Lowell lacrosse student-athletes representing our community in seven games throughout the day.

The event is capped by a Davenport vs. Western Michigan University match-up under the lights featuring former Lowell standout Adam Bowers and varsity assistant coach Sean Mandel.

This third annual Lowell LaxFest boasts games, vendors, and concessions, and the \$5 all-day admissions and can drive are important fundraisers for the program.

### LACROSSE DAY SCHEDULE

vs. Mattawan	7th grade	9 a.m.
vs. Northview	5th/6th grade	10:30 a.m.
vs. Mattawan	8th grade	12 p.m.
vs. Portage	Freshmen	1:30 p.m.
vs. Caledonia	JV	3 p.m.
vs. Holland	Varsity	5 p.m.

Davenport vs. WMU - 7:30 p.m.  
 Lowell vs. Northview 5th/6th grade will play at halftime



The 2008 varsity lacrosse team.

## Officials registration for 2008-09 begins online April 7

Registrations for individuals interested in becoming a high school athletic game official for the 2008-09 school year can do so beginning Monday (April 7) exclusively online through the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Web site - mhsaa.com.

From April 7 until about June 1, the Association will conduct an exclusive online registration period for new registrants and renewals. After June 1, applications will be accepted online, by mail, and on a walk-up basis in the MHSAA Office for the upcoming school year. The MHSAA Office has a lobby kiosk available for online registrations.

Registrations for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year will be accepted in all manners through April 30.

Online registrants will receive a \$5 discount off their processing fees, regardless of when they submit their application. MHSAA registration fees are among the lowest in the nation. A \$10 fee is charged for each sport in which an official wishes to register, and the online processing fee

is \$20. Officials submitting registration forms by mail or on a walk-up basis will incur a \$25 processing fee. Officials registered in 2007-08 will be assessed a late fee of \$20 for registration after July 11. The processing fee includes liability insurance coverage of up to \$1 million for officials while working contests involving MHSAA schools.

There is an officials' registration test, which is for first-time officials and officials not registered in the past year. The test consists of 50 questions derived from the MHSAA Officials Guidebook, which is available on the Officials page of the MHSAA Web site, and may be used during the open-book test.

To address the continued need for more officials in basketball and volleyball, the MHSAA will again provide an incentive to all currently registered individuals to add either or both of those sports to the activities they are already working when they renew their registration online. Those officials who add basketball or volleyball for the very first time for the coming year when they

register online will have their sport registration fee of \$10 waived.

Online registration can be accessed by clicking "Officials" on the Home Page of the MHSAA Web site. More information about officials registration may be obtained by contacting the MHSAA at 1661 Ramblewood Drive, East Lansing, MI 48823. Telephone: (517) 332-5046. E-mail: register@mhsaa.com.

The MHSAA is a private, not-for-profit corporation of voluntary membership by over 1,800 public and private senior high schools and junior high/middle schools which exists to develop common rules for athletic eligibility and competition. No government funds or tax dollars support the MHSAA, which was the first such association nationally to not accept membership dues or tournament entry fees from schools. Member schools which enforce these rules are permitted to participate in MHSAA tournaments, which attract approximately 1.6 million spectators each year.

### THE BENNING-FIELDER



by molly benningfield sports editor

#### Are the Tigers worth all the hype?

The Tigers were supposed to have the best lineup. Ever.

OK, that was an exaggeration, but seriously. They were hyped all off-season long and gossiped about after winter acquisitions. Many claimed the Tigers were going to "win it all". I mean, let's not get ahead of ourselves, but geez - I was excited just thinking about how awesome the team was going to be.

Granderson, who is on the DL right now, could really be helping the team out. He's supposed to get back to batting practice this week, so fingers crossed that he will be the spark that needs to majorly fire up the Tigers.

Detroit has the worst record in the league - ahem, in baseball - but not all is lost. Their rally on Monday was their first home win, and boy, was it a big one. Down by four, the Tigers scored six runs in the eighth inning. The whole lineup pitched in, with good plays by Pudge, Placido, Magglio and Guillen.

If they can get their pitching on par and straighten up a bit, good things can come to Motown, which has been all abuzz for the past few seasons as the Tigers have proved something good to watch. It's only April, and we have a good six months ahead of us.

## Lowell softball team heads south for spring break training

The Lowell softball team spent their spring break basking in the warm Alabama sun - but didn't spend too much time relaxing, as much of their time was devoted to training for the season, which will kick into full swing this week.

Coach Bob Rodenhouse said the team practiced each morning, and worked on hitting and fielding, as well as

scrimmaging each other and playing "pitching machine ball". Katie McElroy won the home run derby, with 10 home runs.

Rodenhouse said it was a bit cloudy, but warm, "great softball-playing weather" while they were in Gulf Shores.





## College News

Grand Valley State University announces the names of students who were placed on the dean's list for the all 2007 semester. The list includes those students who have maintained a 3.5 grad point average and been enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits.

From Ada: Michel Andreasen, Bryan Avery, Brian Boyce, Patrick Brodeur, James Canda, Stephanie Cole, Mara Crawford, Timothy Dawe, Marybeth Deiters, Kelly Dittmer, Rebecca Edwards, Timothy Flanders, Treena Gilbert, Madeleine Hart, Emily Henk, Aaron Hoover, Andrew Hoover, Seay Huyge, Corey Kapolka, Sarah La Fave, Laura LaFave, Mathew Lamoe, Anna Lane, Jeffrey Lanning, Scott Levering, Sarah Manion, Kevin Maupin, Jennifer Meyers, Andrew Osborne, Meredith Osborne, Sean Pulen, Kaitlyn Ratkowiak, Rachel Reister, Alissa Richards, Sarah Schulte, Sarah Stawicki, Calvin Vanderboon, Stacey Vanvossen, and Katherine Vos.

From Alto: Dana Bailey, Alexandra Cordingly, Molly Cramer, Ross Ezinga, Sarah Hoff, Joel Koning, Allison Kunde, Caitlin Sirowatka, Jennifer Stewart, and Kaylee Yonker.

From Lowell: Kolton Bashore, Kelsey Crowley, Kayne Culbertson, Nicole Elliott, Ian Fields, Tiffany Gauger, Samuel Girwamouth, Holly Grummet, Lindsay Hoogenboom, Katy Hyatt, Diane Johnson, Ashley Kehoe, Rachel Nawrocki, Eric Olchowski, Amber Osborne, Shawn Rosema, and Amanda Vezino.

Grand Valley State University is proud to announce the graduation of Kyle Rozema with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering, emphasis in Mechanical Engineering and Product Design and Manufacturing Engineering, in April 2008. Kyle has been accepted and plans to attend Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego, Calif. in September 2008 to study Intellectual Property Law.

## Meteorologist Lessens receives GRCC alumnus award for contributions to local education

Chances are better than ever that Grand Rapids Community College will have a beautiful sunny day for their commencement ceremonies Friday, May 2. The Grand Rapids Community College Alumni Association has named local TV meteorologist George Lessens their Distinguished Alumni of the Year.

Lessens will be guest of honor at a reception Friday, April 28 at 6:15 p.m. in GRCC's Applied Technology Center and will be the keynote speaker for Grand Rapids Community College's commencement program May 2.

Lessens attended GRCC from 1975-77, after graduating from Lowell High School, and prior to receiving his B.S. in Meteorology from Penn State. He arrived at WZZM-TV in 1980 and became their Chief Meteorologist in 2001. He reached another milestone when, in October 2007, he became the longest tenured meteorologist at any single West Michigan TV station with 26 years and 11 months of service at that time.

Perhaps more noteworthy were the awards he received as the 2007 Michigan Association of Broadcasters "Best Weathercast" and "Merit Weathercast", the second time he has received both awards in the same year.

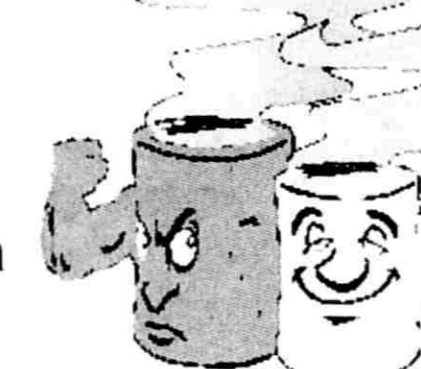
The GRCC Alumni Association chose Lessens as Distinguished Alumni based on his contributions to education and community service, two of GRCC's strongest institutional values.

For information on the Distinguished Alumni award and events, go to [www.grcc.edu](http://www.grcc.edu).

Grand Rapids Community College, established in 1914, offers both liberal arts and workforce development degrees, classes and workshops. Student enrollment for both credit and non-credit courses averages 26,000 per year.

## Sound Off

The Ledger "Almost" Anything Goes Column



The Lowell Ledger welcomes all "Sound Off" comments, but would like to remind readers of the nature of the column. "Sound Off" is meant to be a community notice board, a means for comments that can be regarded as helpful, congratulatory, thankful and informational.

We will not print any comments that are offensive or libelous. Direct aims at individuals, political figures and businesses will not be printed. For direct opinions on a subject (including, but not limited to, politics, businesses, city government and Ledger criticisms), please send a letter "To the Editor". All letters must be signed (first and last names). Please check Page 5 of this week's paper for the complete guidelines.

All comments are submitted by the public and do not necessarily represent the views of the Ledger.

www.lowellbuyersguide.com  
Or CALL...897-0787

\*\*\*  
*My mother loved children -- she would have given anything if I had been one.*

- Groucho Marx (1890 - 1977)

*Just exactly what Lowell needs ... is another park! Put your brains in your head, not in your feet.*

*My dog and I love the new dog park. Thank you Bruce and all of those who made it possible.*

*Please replace the historical marker in Stoney Creek park to it's rightful place. It denotes one of the oldest historical sites in Kent County.*  
- Mark D. Johnson

*Eastgate Grand Slam is always on the first Saturday of May, and this year it happens to be May 3. So come on out and get some great deals.*

*Security for the North Washington property is the main reason we need the tenants to stay on the property.*

*Please don't ever consider selling Lowell Light & Power.*

*With \$25,000 from Lowell Area Community Fund and \$8,000 from LL&P (1 yr.) we should be able to make this town a 'forest'.*

# The Lowell Ledger

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# CLASSIFIEDS

small ads **BIG** deals

### FOR SALE

ROLL TICKETS AVAILABLE AT LOWELL LITHO - Single & double rolls, variety of colors. Single roll, \$5 ea. + tax & double rolls \$7.50 + tax ea. Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, Ph. 897-9261.

**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.

**2005 DODGE RAM** - Quad cab w/hemi. Excellent condition. Towing package, PW, PL, 54,000 miles. \$17,500. Call 897-9082.

**POTTED TREES** - 4 to 5 ft. Blue Spruce, \$25; 2 to 3 ft. Blue Spruce, \$15. 616-761-7588.

**1994 SAAB SERIES 900** - sharp! Needs head rebuilt. Leather interior, all power, \$750 obo. 897-0833.

**FOR SALE** - Above ground pool, 18x48. Call 269-945-9382, if no answer, leave name & number, we'll call you back.

**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.

**4 BEDROOM WALKOUT** - in-ground pool, land contract terms available. Call 293-1142.

**FOR SALE** - Circle Y show saddle. Matching headstall & breast collar. Can be seen at Circle JF Saddlery. Asking \$1,050. Call 897-8550.

**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.

**NEWSPAPER END ROLLS AVAILABLE AT THE BUYERS GUIDE OFFICE** - Many uses! Stop by & grab one today! 105 N. Broadway.

**GREAT GIFT!** - A picture pen! Will hold a 2 1/2" x 1 3/4" photo around the barrel of the pen! Only \$5.99 + tax. Perfect for Mother's Day or Father's Day! Available at the Buyers Guide office, 105 N. Broadway.

**10% OFF** - any Deck Package plus free delivery thru April. **OPEN SATURDAY.** Durkee Lumber, Alto, MI. 616-868-6026.

**TIOGA MOTORHOME** - 20', excellent condition, low mileage, full bath, 1 permanent bed, 350 Chevy, good mileage, 11 mpg, sleeps 6, real nice. Asking \$4,200. Call 868-6091.

**SOUND OFF PHONE LINE 897-0787**

### FOR SALE

**LOWELL CITY DIRECTORIES ARE HERE!** - If you need an extra one or didn't receive one - stop by the Ledger office!

### FREE

**FEMALE KITTY KAT** - Needs a new, loving family. "Loves" to hunt for mice. Call after 6 p.m. 642-6979.

### CARD OF THANKS

Thank you so very much for the lovely celebration for my 90th birthday. What a wonderful afternoon! Seeing everyone at the open house & receiving so many cards from folks far and near have made this a life-milestone to cherish. My thought continues to be, "How can I ever thank everyone enough." I would especially like to thank my thoughtful, fun-loving and generous nieces and friends for hosting an open house. This special day would not have occurred had it not been for all their enthusiasm, planning, food preparation, decorating and photography. Again, many thanks to everyone who attended or sent birthday wishes. You are truly remarkable friends and relatives, each of you woven into the fabric of my life.

Marion "Spooky" (Monks) Rutherford

### EVENTS

**CPR - 1st Aid Certification** Classes offered May 1, 2 or 3, choose one. Reserve your spot, space limited. For info call The Hammock 616-893-5661.

**BLUEGRASS HOT-BANDS FUNDRAISER - April 19 at TJ's Sport Bar & Grille in Lowell. Two bands, big jam session & food, all for only \$5. Begins at 7 p.m.**

**EASTGATE GRANDSLAM SALES** - Always the first Saturday in May.

**GARAGE SALE SECTION IS BACK** - beginning with the April 27 edition. For only \$12 for 20 words your sale will be advertised in the Buyers Guide & The Lowell Ledger on the Garage Sale Page. Deadline is Thursday at 5 p.m. Receive a free sign when you bring your ad in & pay for it at the counter. 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, Ph. 897-9555, fax 897-4809, email: [classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com](mailto:classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com)

## 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  
E mail: [classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com](mailto:classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com)  
Deadline Monday at 5 p.m.

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Friday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
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20 words...\$4  
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### FOR RENT

**LOWELL MOBILE HOME PARK** - Under new management. Nice 1, 2 & 3 bedroom trailer for rent. For info call George at 616-754-0276 or 616-813-8041.

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

**WATERFRONT COTTAGES** - It's time to get away, weekly & daily rental, completely furnished. Boats & air conditioning included. 897-5062.

**FOR RENT** - 3 bedroom, 1 bath house, Lowell area. 616-862-6712.

**FOR RENT** - Campau Lake, mobile home, 2 bedroom. \$430 a month. 1st. & last, no pets. 868-6950.

**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.

**UPS SHIPPING AT THE LOWELL LEDGER!**  
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**WANTED** - Cars, trucks & vans. Free pickup. Licensed dealer paying minimum \$200 up to \$1,000. Call 616-899-0899.

### HELP WANTED SERVICES

**IMMEDIATE OPENING IN ALTO!!** - \$9/hr., full-time, 1st shift (Mon.-Fri.), start time 5 a.m. Seeking self-directed person to perform general cleaning and operating floor care equipment in production environment. Experience preferred in commercial cleaning but will never over-look to train a motivated person. Apply in person: April 15-18, ENVIRO-CLEAN, 3801 Eastern Ave. SE (between 36th & 44th Streets), Grand Rapids. 616-574-2623. EOE.

**DRIVER** - Reg/OTR! Earn up to \$.50 cpm! Home Weekly! No Touch! BC/BS. Holiday Vac Pay! TranswayInc.com. 800-632-5300 X 3538

**SALES** - In-home sales, experience helps. Highest pay in the industry. Make 60K first year. Health insurance, investment program. Call Scott at 616-648-7036.

**RECREATION PROGRAM ASSISTANT/CLERICAL SUPPORT** - for Ada Township Parks. P/T, seasonal position to assist in the development & implementation of recreation, education & interpretive programs for a wide range of audiences. Requires ability to work outdoors & move across rough terrain, general knowledge of local natural history, positive demeanor w/people, professional work ethic & experience or training related to parks & recreation services, interpretation and/or outdoor environmental education. Rate of pay: \$12/hour. Submit letter of application, work history or resume & 3 references to: Parks Director, Ada Township, P.O. Box 370, 7330 Thornapple River Dr., Ada, MI 49301. Open until filled.

**TELEMARKETING MANAGER NEEDED** - 648-7036.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/LIGHT ACCOUNTING** - Lowell family owned propane company wants FT employee for customer management, payroll, accounts receivable/payable & phones. Email resume to: [dlpg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dlpg@sbcglobal.net) or fax to 616-897-0240.

**ATTENTION** - Immediate hire. No experience necessary, \$600 weekly. Company take-over has created openings for several positions: delivery, set-up, general help & customer service. Company training provided. We have bonuses & paid vacations. For interview call 616-522-9783 between 9:30 a.m. & 4:30 p.m. Ask for extension 8.

**PARK MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT** - for Ada Township Parks. Part-time, seasonal position requiring weekends and some evening hours to assist with grounds, facility maintenance and gates. Requires ability to work outdoors, move across rough terrain, general knowledge and interest in parks and recreation services, positive demeanor with people and a professional work ethic. Rate of pay: \$9.83/hour. Submit letter of application, work history and 3 references to: Parks Director, Ada Township, P.O. Box 370, 7330 Thornapple River Dr., Ada, MI 49301. Open until filled.

**CASH FOR GOLD & SILVER** - Antiques, collections & other vintage items. Turn your stuff into \$\$\$! Call 616-550-0521 today!

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

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**PIANO INSTRUCTION** - Spring and Summer openings with patient & experienced performer in Vergennes Township. 897-9485 MissMeowisc@msn.com

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**PAYROLL & BOOKKEEPING SERVICE** - by certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-6351.

**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

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# Grand River rises high after rainstorms

by Molly Benningfield  
Editor

Just take a look at the Grand River from the Fairgrounds' point-of-view, and it's easy to see that the rainstorms that hit Lowell last week caused a bit of flooding in the area.

The last time the Grand River flooded badly was in 2004, when it reached 17.26 feet (the highest since 1976), according to the June 2, 2004 issue of the Ledger.

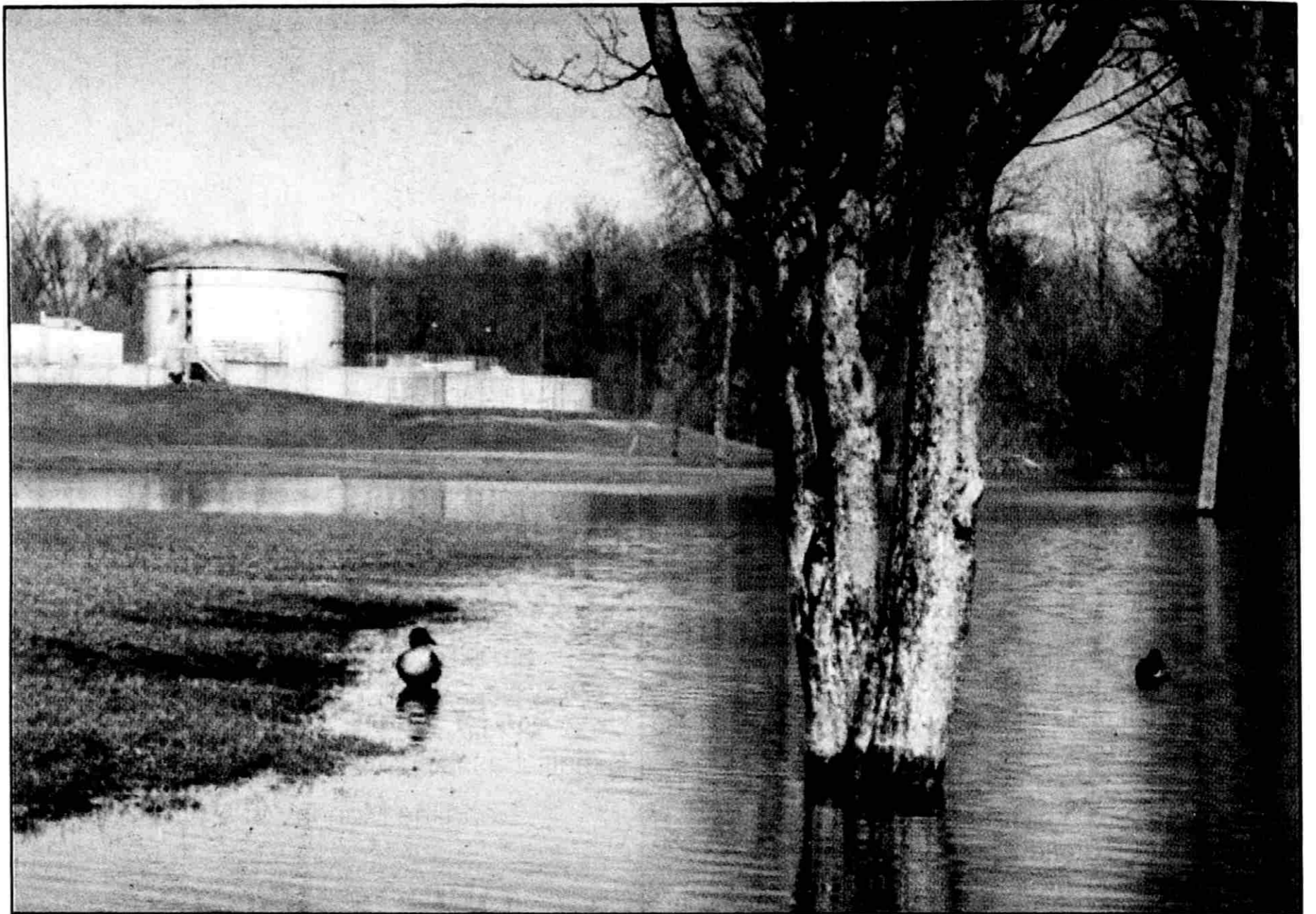
The river is nowhere near the height it was four years ago, but water has crept into the fairgrounds and has caused some reworking for people who use the river, like the crew team from the high school.

The 2004 flood drowned the fairgrounds and turned the football and baseball fields into swamps, as well as

covering Bows Road. Lowell has also seen major floods in 1947 and 1948, when much of Main Street was underwater.

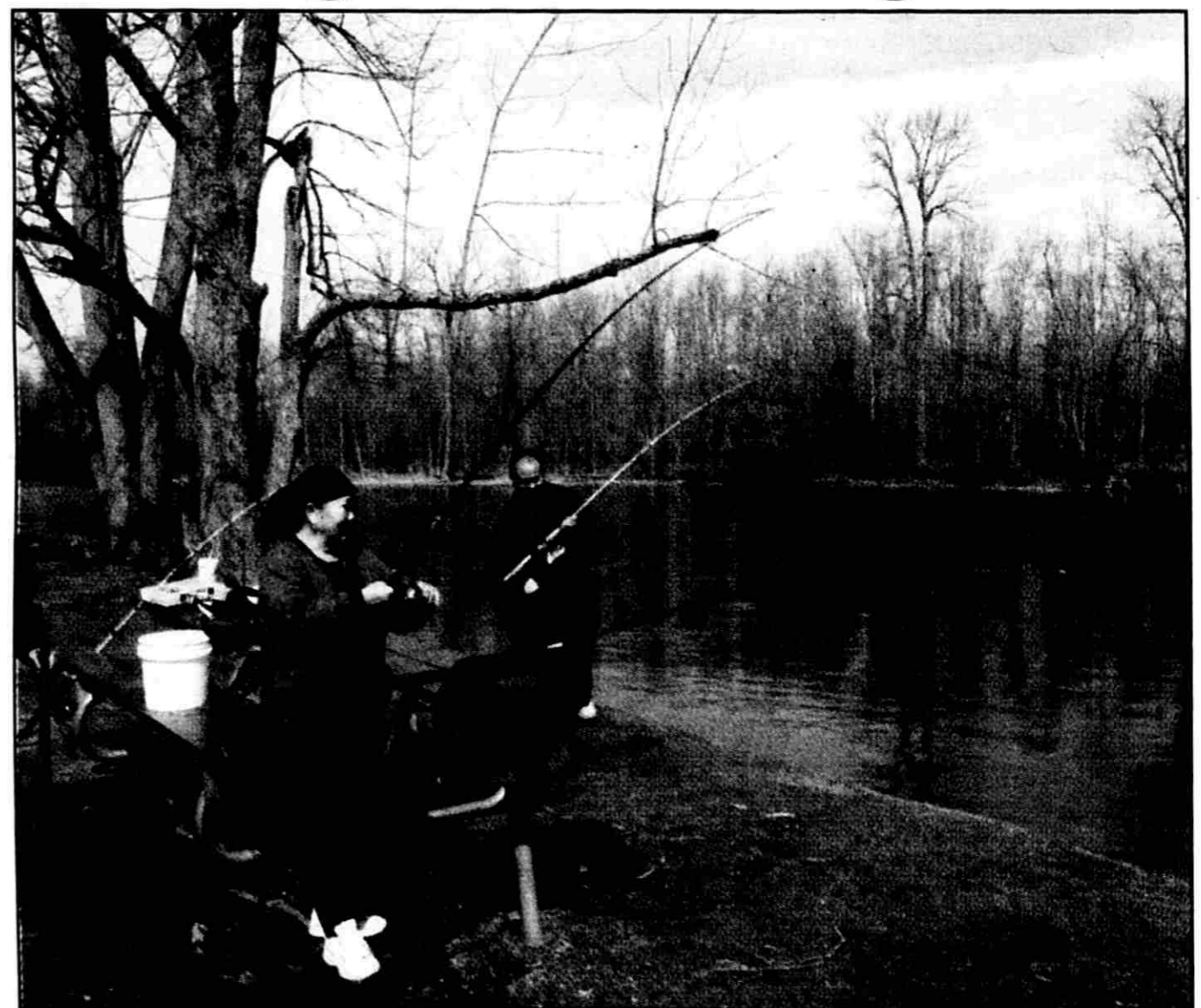
The Grand River has been pushed up to "flood stage" in some parts of Grand Rapids, with the three inches of rain causing damage near Comstock Park. The Grand Rapids area has received 3.12 inches of rain already this month, with the normal amount hitting 1.53 inches, according to Wood TV 8. Kent County was under a flood warning Tuesday until early Wednesday morning.

The area will be hit again with showers and thunderstorms this weekend, and clear up for most of next week, according to reports.



The Grand River, as seen from the Fairgrounds.

## Fishing in Fallasburg Park



Warm weather last week brought out fishermen for a spring catch. Bliia Lee, Bai Lee and Mee Lee of Lansing ventured outdoors to the Fallasburg Park for the first time. "It's a pretty park," said Mee Lee. "We came to have fun." They also enjoyed walking around Lowell.

\*\*\*

*It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment.*

- Ansel Adams

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