

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 37 Issue 34

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, July 16, 2008



Farmer's Market - It's the berries!

Raspberries, strawberries, blackberries, cherries, peas and tomatoes, all sweet and fresh from the local patches were available last week at the Farmer's Market located

at the fairgrounds. Vendors like Rasch and Heidi's Farm Market peddled local produce. From both ends of town, south and north. Also available were cheeses from Lakeview, hand-crafted breads, jewelry and flowers.

Pictured are Derek Gross and Carl and John Rasch with customers Juanita Griner and Catherine Haefner of Lowell. Gary Blough of Heidi's showed off his produce from south of town.



Lowell candidates want rural township to be a nice place to live

by Emma Palova

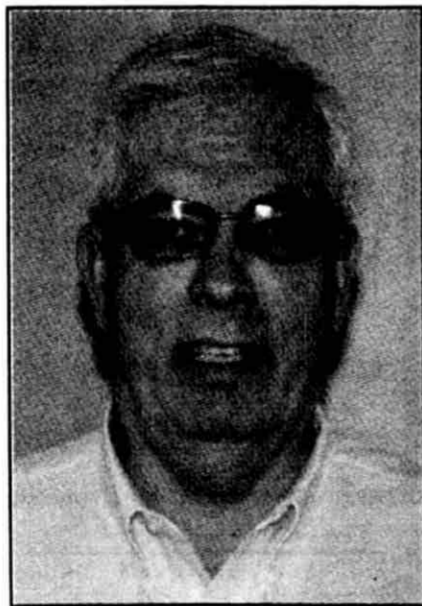
A crowded ballot with all the seats on the Lowell Township Board contested is shaping up for the Aug. 5 primary.

For Lowell township just like many townships in the area, the primary is the decisive race due to the prevailing Republican partisanship. A total of 13 candidates are vying for seven open seats, all on the Republican ticket. All terms are for four years.

In the race for the Lowell Township supervisor seat, incumbent Paula Blumm is facing off against newcomer Jerry Hale.

the township since 1991. Blumm, a Republican, was first elected trustee in 2000. Since then, she has deepened her involvement in the township government.

"I get a lot of satisfaction from being able to help



Jerry Hale

a certified assessor with eight years of experience in township government at various levels. Blumm is a graduate of Township Governance Academy, a 70-credit series of classes.

"I feel uniquely prepared for challenges of managing a modern township," said Blumm. "This is where I raised my kids. I want to keep it a wonderful place to live."

Blumm's goals include keeping all the township interests in balance, maintaining low taxes, fiscal management, using excess revenues for an additional eight acres of parkland at the Grand River Park, improve gravel roads, and



Linda Regan

people navigate through governmental process," said Blumm. Just like many other governmental units, the township is facing major financial challenges, along with growth. The township has grown by 29 percent according to the U.S. Census since 2000.

"This rapid growth creates conflicts between new residents and people who have been here forever," said Blumm.

Blumm has been preparing herself to handle these challenges. She is

continue the on-going battle with gypsy moth.

"How do we maintain services through diligent

management of funds," she said.

Last year, expenditures came \$45,000 under budget. Blumm hopes to use this for recreational and road improvements.



Monica Burt

So, what makes Blumm stand apart from her opponent?

"I have the big picture of the township," she said, "the ability to keep a balance between different viewpoints in the township."

Blumm is married to husband John. They have son Joe, 22, and daughter Alice, 20.

Newcomer Jerry Hale, 64, Republican, is running against Blumm in the supervisor race. Hale has been a resident of Lowell Township for 1.5 years.

"I was approached and

people asked me to run," said Hale. "I didn't like the direction the township is moving in."

Hale believes that one's voice needs to be heard, rather than to just complain



Sandra Miles

and not do anything about a situation.

His experience includes trustee on the Keene Township Board and a member of Keene planning commission. Hale was the president of the Lowell Rotary, some 18 years ago. He also served on the Board of Directors for the Federal Land Bank for the Michigan Region, an agricultural cooperative banking institution.

As a definite challenge in the township, Hale sees

Candidates, cont'd., pg. 4



Paula Blumm

Blumm, 57, was appointed to the post in January of 2007, after John Timpson resigned. She has been the resident of



Festival Scenes ... Page 8-9

Pink Arrows ... Page 11

Trustee Candidates

... Page 16

Obituaries



BURTON

Shawne W. Burton, aged 49, of Jenison, died July 6, 2008 after a long illness. She is survived by her parents,

George W. and Darolyn Burton of Jenison; sisters, Kitty (Jack) Scheffers of Kalamazoo and Lisa (Dwayne) Byxbe of Byron Center, nieces and nephews, Leah and Nathan Scheffers, Dwayne Jr., Tara and Wade Byxbe; a longtime friend, Ann Knappe Daniels; several aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends. Funeral services were held Thursday at the Roth-Gerst Chapel. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.



WINGEIER

Clara May Callier Wingeier, age 79 of Lowell, passed away May 19, 2008. She was preceded in death by her husbands Jacob Clayton Callier and Kenneth Jack Wingeier; and daughter Amy

Jo Callier. She is survived by her children, Elizabeth (Libby) (Barry) Johnson, Jake (Lisa) Callier, Greg Callier, Joseph (Joanne Rogers) Callier; step-children, Michael (Karen) Wingeier, Gary Wingeier, Scott Wingeier, Marie Wingeier; grandchildren, Dr. Aryn (Rachel Kemink) Johnson, Jacob (Keleigh) Callier, Justin Farmer; step-grandchildren, Kirsten Wingeier, Denton Wingeier, Andrew Wingeier, Ianna Gruber; great grandson, Kaide Callier. A family graveside memorial service was held at Oakwood Cemetery in Lowell on July 8.

• LEGAL NOTICE •

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 08-185345-DE

Estate of
JUANITA IRENE
SCHULER, deceased

Date of birth:
10/08/1913

TO ALL CREDITORS:
The decedent, JUANITA IRENE SCHULER, who lived at 5980 Eastern SE, Kentwood, Michigan 49508 died 06/30/2008.

Creditors of the decedent

are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to ROBERT COOK, 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.

Robert Cook
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7/09/2008

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Short-term plates available for troops on leave

U.S. military personnel and other Michigan motorists have the option of buying temporary license plates for vehicles they drive infrequently, Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land reminded them today.

"Temporary plates are a great option for service members home on leave for a few weeks," Land said. "Instead of buying a full-year license plate, military personnel and other drivers should consider these less-costly plates."

A 30-day plate costs one-tenth of the vehicle's annual registration fee or \$20, whichever is more, plus a \$10 service fee. A 60-day plate costs one-fifth of the registration fee or \$40, whichever is more, plus a \$10 service fee. The plate is a paper permit that must be displayed in the vehicle's rear window.

People can apply for the temporary plates at any Secretary of State office. They will need to bring proof of Michigan no-fault insurance and proof of ownership, such as the vehicle's Michigan title or expired plate registration.

Visit www.Michigan.gov/sos for more information about Secretary of State services.

To travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive.

- Robert Louis Stevenson (1850 - 1894)

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BOWNE TOWNSHIP
OPTECH PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST
PRIMARY ELECTION
AUGUST 5, 2008

There will be a public accuracy test of the Optech Tabulator on Thursday, July 17, 2008 at 3:30 p.m. in the Township Office, 8240 Alden Nash SE., Alto, MI 49302 in preparation for the Primary Election to be held August 5, 2008.

Sandra L. Kowalczyk
Bowne Township Clerk

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Sunny skies prevail for annual bike tour

On a lovely Sunday morning, Nancy Drapalski and Julie Callahan from the Detroit area found themselves at the Fallasburg Historical Village readying for a 28-mile bike ride to Ada and back. "This is beautiful country," said Drapalski.

At 10:26 a.m., the 14th Annual Covered Bridge Bike Tour, a fundraiser for the Fallasburg Historical Society, had registered 180 bikers.

"I think it's a great cause," said Drapalski, who found out about the tour from the Michigan bicycle league.

One of the organizers Dave Emmette said the event so far has had luck with great weather. Upon return, participants enjoyed a spaghetti meal.



Country rocks the stage

Country band Bronk Brothers took to the stage last Thursday. Striking the guitars, harmonica and drums, the band donning cowboy hats delivered true country. Riverwalk was packed with concert goers of all ages. Dancing, recently, has become a staple of this event. The weather was beautiful at summer's height. Next concert is Blue Number Nine playing funk, rock, soul and jazz.



After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music.

- Aldous Huxley (1894 - 1963)

THE FOODMOBILE
MOBILE FOOD PANTRY
This Month's Sponsor: ALTO/BOWNE CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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SATURDAY, JULY 19, 2008
10:00 AM TO 11:00 AM (or until food is gone)

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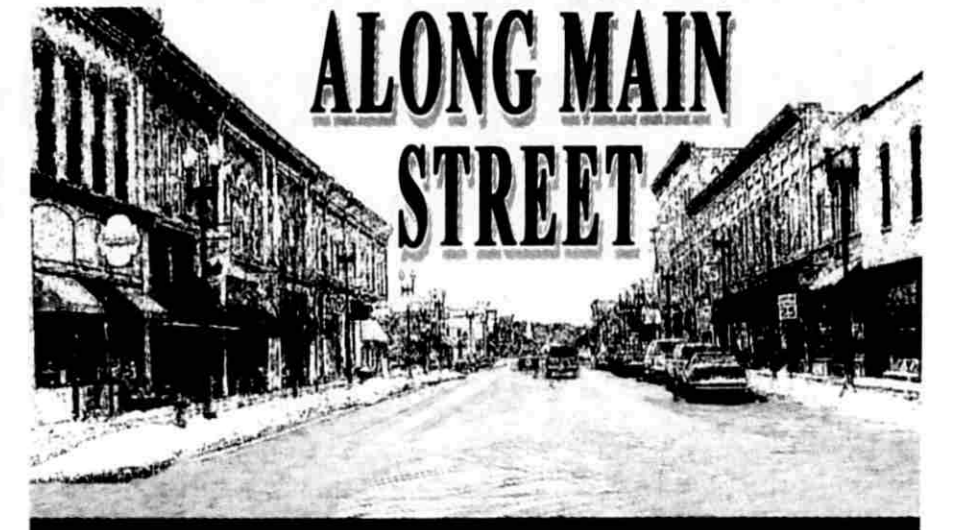
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MEET DAVE (PG)
12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:30
HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY (PG-13)
11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 9:55
HANDICAP (PG-13)
11:00, 12:30, 1:10, 2:40, 3:20, 4:50, 5:30, 7:00, 7:40, 9:05, 9:50
WALL-E (G)
11:30, 1:50, 4:30, 6:50, 9:15



LOWELL ROTARY

Dr. Michael J. Deeb, author of Duty and Honor, will give a presentation about American society at the time of the Civil War at the Lowell Rotary lunch on July 16 at noon.

HISTORICAL MUSEUM

"River of Time Pageant", a historical pageant portraying the people of the area we now call Lowell from about 1780 to 1860. Admission is free and it will take place on the Flat River at the 4H Fairgrounds, Sat., July 26 at 2 p.m. Please call the Lowell Area Historical Museum for more information, 897-7688.

LOWELL YOUTH FOOTBALL SIGN-UP

Sat., July 26, 8 a.m.-Noon, Tues., July 29, 6-8 p.m. and Thurs., Aug. 14, 6-8 p.m. at Burch Field. All new players must bring a copy of Birth Certificate for birth date verification. Flag Football, ages 4-7 years, must be 4 by/Nov. 1. Youth Football & 78er's, 8 years-8th grade, must be 8 by/Nov. 1. 78er's Cheerleading, 7th & 8th grade. For more information, 897-7896 or email: lowellyouthfootballleague@yahoo.com

NEW ART EXHIBIT OPENS

Franciscan Life Process Center, 11650 Downes St. "Visions at Seventy, A Painterly Approach". A selection of works by Don Zenas. July 28 - Sept. 24, hours 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Mon. through Fri. Evenings by appointment. For more information call 897-7842.

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www.lowellchamber.org - 897-9161

Township candidates, continued ... From Page 1

growth control, promoting jobs, and equitable property rights. His main goal is that everyone gets treated fairly. On the issue of DuRay development annexation of Cook property, Hale said he served as the listing agent for the property seller.

"I acted in their best interest," he said. "I had no involvement in the annexation."

Hale, a former dairy farmer and self-employed businessman, has knowledge of working with the townships in conjunction with residential and commercial developments. He was instrumental in getting zoning in Keene Township.

So, what sets apart Hale from opponent Blumm?

"I have a more well-rounded view of issues from all sides," he said. "I have the people skills to negotiate. No resident should ever feel they have been shut out from receiving a fair review or burdened with unreasonable and costly demands."

He and his wife Joann raised five children on the family farm in Keene Township.

In the clerk's race, incumbent Linda Regan, Republican, is facing off against newcomers, both Republicans Monica Burt and Sandra Miles.

Regan, 52, has been the clerk since 2000. Currently, she is seeking her third term. She has been a resident of the township for 19 years. Regan was appointed in 2000 to finish Carol Well's term upon her retirement.

"I want to continue to do the job I've been doing," she said.

Her experience includes serving on the

LARA board, developing the township budget and overseeing expenditures. She has served on all the township committees.

As a major challenge in the township, Regan views the township budget and managing it responsibly for the betterment of the entire township.



Leslie Stougaard

"My goal is to keep it a nice place to live," she said.

Other goals include maintaining the township's rural character in accordance with the master plan. Regan sets herself apart from opponents with her active duty as the township clerk.

"I am experienced and knowledgeable," she said. "I play an intricate part in developing the budget."

Regan, a master gardener, is married to husband George. They have a son, Patrick.

Burt, 46, a Republican, has lived in the township her entire life.

"I want to have a voice in the community," said Burt.

Her political experience includes serving two years as deputy clerk for Grattan Township, taking minutes

and attending board meetings.

In Lowell Township, Burt sees as major challenges, growth and changes in the rural township.

"I want to help support the changes, but to still allow residents to feel like they have what they need," she said.

Burt considers herself a team player who easily comes up with solutions in support of board decisions. She stands apart from her opponents as a problem solver.

"I have township experience and I don't allow others to persuade me in decisions," she said. "I am valuable on the board as a problem solver. I get details and work with it."

Burt believes the main role of the township government should be supporting the structure of ordinances to facilitate residents' needs.

She is married to husband Bill, and they have three children.

Miles, 45, a Republican, has been a resident of the township for 10 years.

"I am running for clerk because Lowell Township needs new leadership dedicated to meeting the public's needs in a fair and consistent manner," said Miles.

Miles has 20 years of experience working in the legal field.

"As a result, I understand how the legislative process works and affects local government," said Miles.

The biggest challenge in the township, according to Miles, is keeping the township's character along with being a sustainable

community. This could be achieved through citizen involvement, maintaining the quality of life, ensuring public safety and health and providing job opportunities.

"As a public servant, I will keep the public's best interest in mind and base my decisions on comprehensive research and understanding of issues," she said.

Her goals include soliciting public input and participation, producing and maintaining the best public records, well-organized elections, increase voter

registration, provide a welcoming environment in the office and strengthening team player attitudes.

Miles regularly attends and engages in township board, zoning board of appeals and planning commission. She has provided the local cable company recordings of the meetings for public broadcast.

"I will endeavor to bring a positive atmosphere in the township office," she said.

If elected, Miles said she would implement new and creative ideas, share more information with the public,



Mike Seiloff

organize and maintain township records, maintain minutes accurately with citizen name and comment.

"I believe in servant leadership," she said. "Residents are the key stakeholders, they should be welcomed to participate and express their views."

Miles is married with four children. In the treasurer's race, incumbent Leslie Stougaard, is facing off against newcomer Mike Seiloff.

Stougaard, 51, a Republican, has lived in Lowell since 1995. She was elected treasurer in 2004.

"I am interested in maintaining accountability to manage the fiscal health of the township and the preservation of rural integrity and natural beauty of the community," she said.

As the treasurer, she has developed and improved systems for money management and reporting, created strategies for maximum return on investments, and succeeded in keeping the township millage rates low.

"I am proud to work for the township and I hope to continue to serve as a prudent representative for this community," she said.

One of the major challenges, according to Stougaard, will be seeking alternative and competitive investments within the guidelines of the township investment policy to maintain the best possible rate of return.

Seiloff's goals include improving the performance of the township's invested funds within the restrictions imposed, to collect taxes with utmost accuracy, to actively seek input from township citizens and to participate in the discussion of all issues.

Seiloff differs from opponent by virtue of relevant educational background and past employment experience in local government budget management, accounting and strategic planning.

He believes the role of the township government should be to protect the health, safety and welfare of all its citizens in a manner that does not infringe on individual citizens, adoption of ordinances written in clear language and their fair enforcement.

"I would like to encourage citizens' ingenuity and inventiveness to develop alternative solutions to local issues," he said.

He resides in the Alto area with daughter Shawna and granddaughter Kaedin.

not only provide reports on the financial status of the township, but also participate in the discussion of other issues that come before the board.

Seiloff has served in the capacity of a governmental budget analyst in local governments outside of Kent County, as well as in non-governmental capacities. He has also worked as adjunct faculty in finance/management at GVSU.

Seiloff has attended nearly all the regular and special meetings of the township board, planning commission and the zoning board of appeals. He has provided video recordings of the proceedings as a public service to a local broadcast company.

Some of the most important challenges in the township, according to Seiloff, are maintaining township services in light of reduced state revenue sharing, providing an easy-to-read and understand budget proposal and quarterly reports, adoption of new and revised local ordinances written in clear and concise language and the enforcement of local ordinances in a fair and consistent manner.

These challenges should be handled through a comprehensive examination of the township budget, more comprehensive format of the annual budget, a review of the ordinances that are not written clearly and careful adoption of new and revised ordinances.

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He resides in the Alto area with daughter Shawna and granddaughter Kaedin.

Viewpoint

To The Editor

Dear Editor:

Your July 9, 2008 front page headline, "Many township elections largely uncontested, but Lowell Township promises to be a good race" really piqued my interest. Let us hope indeed that it is a race where "good" prevails.

Leadership in Lowell Township remained unchanged for nearly two decades. In that time, a network of family and friends grew accustomed to favoritism, and crony application of zoning and taxes within the township.

Three years ago that changed when Paula Blumm became Lowell Township Supervisor. Her track record during that time has demonstrated equality and fairness for all township residents under the statutes.

It appears that the old network has developed a sense of entitlement to their status/perks. Now that they are asked to comply with the law, they are outraged and tell everyone what a terrible job Mrs. Blumm is doing. Their anger has reached vendetta proportions with their sponsorship of Mr. Hale.

Attitude always starts at the top. I hope the Lowell Township voters desire continued honesty and integrity at the top, rather than a return to the good ol' boy machine. Let's keep Paula Blumm as Lowell Township Supervisor.

Sincerely,
Vaughn L. Morrison

Dear Editor:

Let me be the voice that asks you to listen to your heart and mind when voting for Township Supervisor this August 5, 2008.

Paula Blumm has been a dear friend for over 15 years; our children have grown up together. During that time, I have only known a woman who cares deeply about her family and her community.

Her desire to treat all residents of the township fairly has been her goal since taking office. She is willing to listen to all sides of an issue and apply the statutes evenly.

She is creative and intelligent as well as being diplomatic. She has done much to bring honesty and integrity to the Township.

Before you believe the rumors, why don't you ask Paula herself? Her door is always open.

This is our 23rd year living in Lowell Township, and I prefer the way it is being governed now.

Sincerely yours,
Reverend Marjorie Morrison

Dear Editor:

Hhmm, it seems the bishop may have sniffed too many corks when he took out his ad in the Ledger last week. This letter probably is not necessary, but it may alert those who haven't sufficient time to confirm facts for themselves to be leery of whom they listen too. Many people who are familiar with the Lowell area already know of Jerry Hale's history as a longtime dairy farmer. In fact, the previous owner of this fine newspaper would probably have advised the bishop not to spend money foolishly, as said owner enjoyed spending time with Jerry Hale at his dairy farm. Jerry does

not currently operate a dairy farm but he spent most of his life as a self-employed businessman-dairy farmer, this fact is listed as part of his leadership experience on his website, www.electjerryhale.com. In fact, the Michigan State University veterinarian program so respected Jerry Hale that he was invited to speak to the students going into large animal medicine. Jerry is currently my neighbor and as I have gotten to know him better these recent months, working on his election campaign for Lowell Township Supervisor, I can say that he is a man of integrity for whom I have a great deal of respect. I have also learned that he has that same respect as well as support from many people in this community because he treats everyone with respect and dignity.

Sincerely,
Veronica Blough

Dear Editor,

I am writing in reaction to the letters regarding a community skate park.

"Our kids are our future" is a wise and simple saying. Anyone who agrees with it realizes that we adults have a responsibility: to provide any and every feasible advantage that can help our kids develop to their full potential. Skateboarders are remarkable athletes, and deserve the recognition that warrants providing them with every possible opportunity to realize success.

We are the models for our kids. Our role is to teach respect, by showing respect.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Blodgett

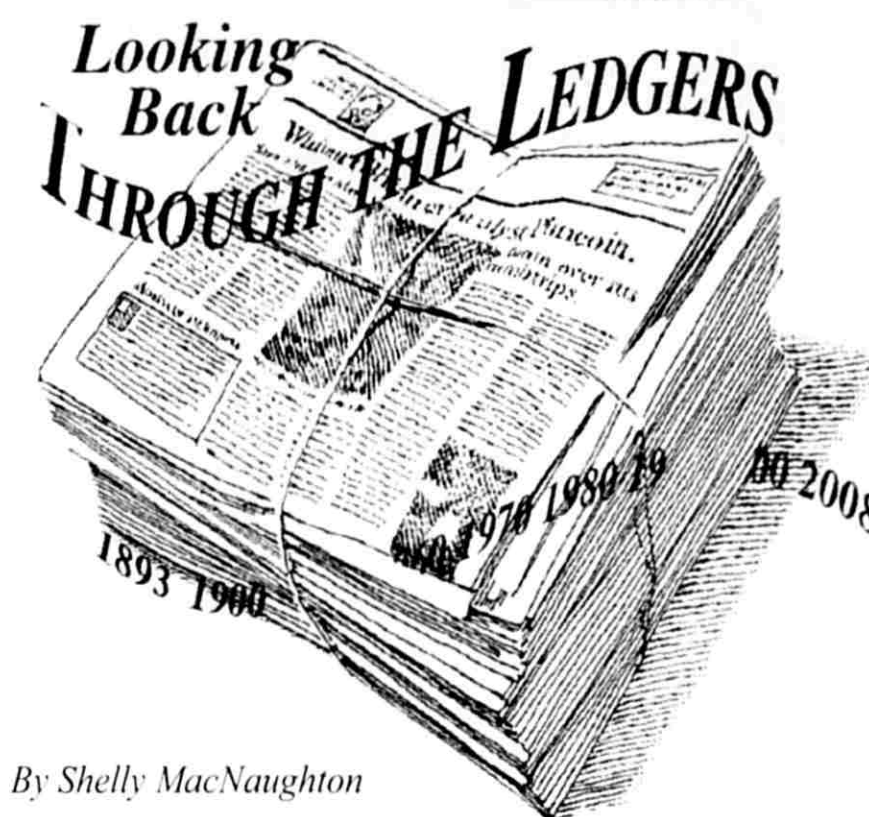
To the Editor,

My name is Mattie Kropf and I am writing on behalf of the Our Love Skatepark Committee. I serve as the secretary, but I also am the president of the Youth Justice Squad at First Congregational Church. This a group committed to solving injustice whether it be locally or globally. Nearly two years ago, the Youth Justice Squad decided to work toward getting a skatepark in Lowell because we saw that skateboarders were being unfairly discriminated against and given no legal place to practice their chosen sport. Since, we have worked to raise support, awareness, and funds.

After seeing the positive effects skateparks have had on numerous cities throughout Michigan, our committee is confident that a skatepark would be a valuable addition to Lowell. Not only have we garnered the written support of over 400 Lowell area residents in just one day at the Lowell Expo, but we have received support from prominent local officials, who believes that the park would make a positive impact on the community as a whole.

In closing, I would like to point out that just because a person who happens to skateboard is disrespectful, does not mean that every skateboarder is disrespectful. I doubt the reason behind the individual's actions is because they are a skateboarder. I know that the stereotype that goes along with skateboarders is going to be hard to break, but after working for two years on this project, I would hope that people realize that there are responsible, respectful, and mature skateboarders in this community.

Mattie Kropf



By Shelly MacNaughton

125 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL JOURNAL JULY 18, 1883

The chimney above the JOURNAL office was struck by lightning Sunday evening. The good and righteous are visited first.

Tom Thumb died Sunday, at Middleboro, Mass. The depot road (Hudson Street) has been placed in deplorable condition by drawing stones and old rubbish onto it.

100 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER JULY 16, 1908

A number of Indians, some of whom lived here in their childhood during the pioneer days and all of whom are descendants of the Grand River Valley tribe, have written J. S. Hooker that they will attend Lowell Home-Coming with their families and will tent on the island.

Among those who will be here are Lewis Medavis and family of Dorr and Wabska Omemee and family of Bradley who are descendants of Skibegosh, Cogzhesay of Grand Haven, son of Chief Cobmoosay, will make the journey up the river in an Indian canoe and join the others here.

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

The work of building Lowell's second showboat was begun by a crew of skilled workmen Monday. We are confident that the boat will be of even more substantial construction than last year's.

50 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER JULY 17, 1958

Headline: First Anniversary of Eberhard's Super Market

Lowell Eberhard's Super Market is celebrating its first anniversary this week with an outstanding array of values for its patrons. L. V. Eberhard purchased the Christiansen Super Market and expanded his operation outside Grand Rapids.

Nancy Roth, 4, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Roth of Rte. 3, Lowell, was slightly injured when she fell through the bleacher seats some 15 feet to the ground Saturday night. She was examined immediately by a local physician who could discover no injury outside of some scratches and bruises and she rejoined her family in the stands for the remainder of the show.

25 YEARS AGO THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER JULY 20, 1983

City gives initial approval to pursuing a "Gus Macker" park. The approximately 25 "Gus Macker" supporters gave the Lowell City Council a round of applause following their agreement to commit to helping pursue a new city park with the "Macker" as the main theme. Jerry Kellogg, a spokesperson for the group, told the council that they had circulated petitions asking for support in keeping the "Macker" in Lowell, and developing a "Macker" park.

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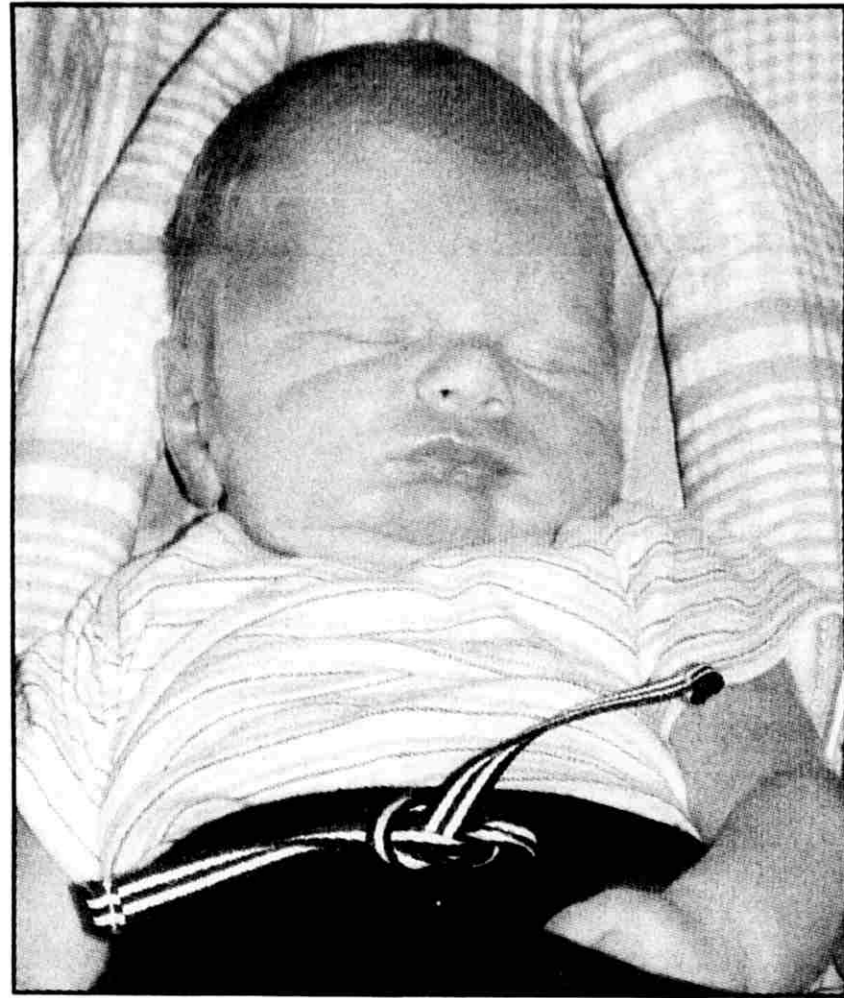
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The Lowell Ledger

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New Arrivals



Myles Jeffrey Kuehle

Jeff and Jennifer Kuehle, along with big sister Maddy, would like to announce the arrival of Myles Jeffrey Kuehle. He was born on June 26 at 7:57 p.m., weighed 7 lbs. 13 oz. and was 19.5 inches long.

Local student makes Eagle Scout

Alexander Brock received his Eagle Scout Award in a ceremony on June 21 at the Lowell United Methodist Church.

"Brock has been a member of Troop 102 in Lowell for seven years and served in a leadership role as troop librarian. He also served for three years with Troop 111 Governor's Honor Guard on Mackinaw Island and one year as assistant patrol leader."

His Eagle Scout project was building two bridges and a bench and updating a nature trail on the property of Trinity Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids where he is a member.

His parents are William and Kimberly Brock of Lowell and he has one sister, Samantha. Alex is Troop 102's 52nd Eagle Scout.



Alexander Brock is pictured on the nature trail he built as part of his Eagle Scout project. His arm injury occurred while playing for the LHS rugby team.



Happy Birthday

- JULY 16:** James Stanley Smith, Caleb Rinard.
- JULY 17:** Vicki VanDerWarf, Ken Willmarth, Marian Mayou, Tom Karp.
- JULY 18:** Dianne Scanlon, Bette Phillips Haybarker, Emily Borton.
- JULY 19:** Bob Elzinga, Danielle Rittersdorf.
- JULY 20:** Cara Thaler, David Thaler III, Marueen Pawloski, Beth Berry.
- JULY 21:** Dara Anchors, Stephanie Wade, Carolyn Mercer, Jeff Gurney, Kelly Tulecki, Alexander Stiles.
- JULY 22:** Kelly Marie Roth, Richard (Dick) Roth, Laurie Fonger, Eric Shear, Noreen Myers, T.J. Butler.

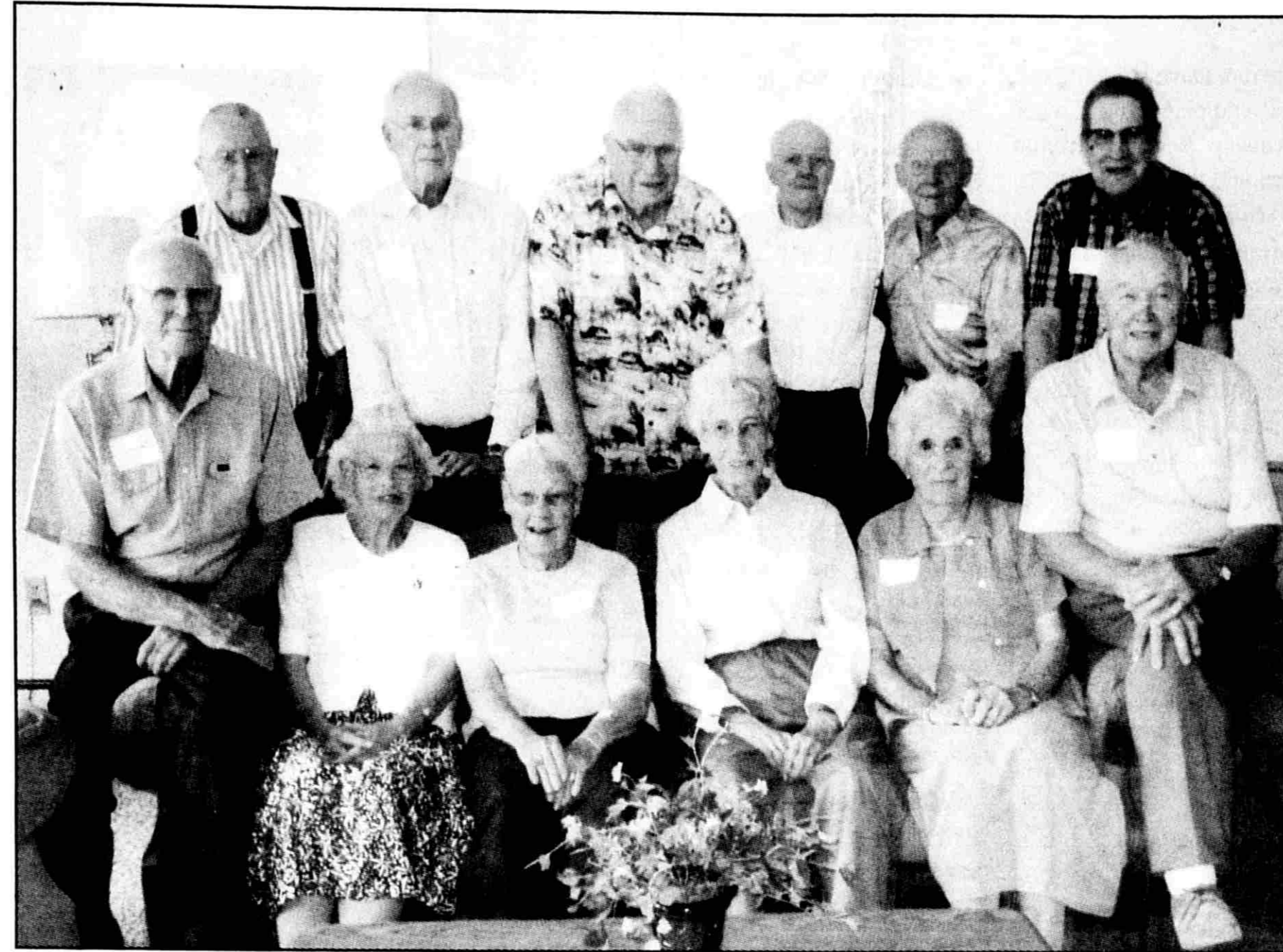
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Lowell High School 66th Reunion



The Lowell High School Class of 1942 held its 66th reunion at noon on July 10 at Schneider Manor. Twelve members of the class attended along with eight spouses or guests. The 1942 class had 72 members and today 30 are still alive. Backwater Cafe catered a fine luncheon. Ed Myers was the chairman of the reunion and he presented a program about numerous students who attended the old West Ward School. A great deal of time was spent in renewing old friendships. First row, left to right: Jake Hoover, Marguerite Kropf Blough, Frieda Buzinski Bailey, Evelyn Wheat Cooper, Marie Watson Doyle and Walter Roth; second row, left to right: Harold Dollaway, Ed Myers, Dick Gephart, Bert Haw, Dick Young and David Miller.

College News

Central Michigan University's spring semester honors students who earned 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) and higher grade point average.

Kathleen Ciosek, Kathryn Davis, Molly Gerst, Aaron Hamm, Alex Hubbard and Erika Murray, all of Ada.

Laura Danielson and Lindsey Forton, both of Alto.

Karl Bouwhuis, Christin Cardani, Jamie Cardani, Keegan Folsom, Justin Harden, Kimberly Hoogewind, Autumn Nethercott, Justin Peterson, Taryn Schumacher, Ashley Spicer, and Lyndsey Trierweiler, all of Lowell.

Annie Whitlock has been awarded the top student in the major award from Grand Valley State



Annie Whitlock

University. Whitlock is a graduate of Lowell High School and is the daughter of Mitch and Jody McManon.

Whitlock received the graduate departmental award for the Master's of General Education with an emphasis in reading. At the graduate level, faculty review the academic records of master's

degree candidates to choose the one award recipient for each graduate degree program.

Collin Roth, of Ada, a sophomore at Hillsdale College was named to the Dean's List for the 2008 spring semester.

Calvin College has announced its spring 2008 graduates.

Derek Boogaart, David Korringa, Joshua Oele, Brian Pirog, Jacqueline Smith, and Alyson Yeates, all of Ada.

Sara Post of Alto, Jared Huffman and Jessica Tjapkes, both of Lowell.

Approximately 850 students participated in the spring Commencement ceremony, held in Grand Rapids at the end of May.

HEALTH

With Drs. Paul Gauthier, Jim Lang, Wayne A. Christenson III, John G. Meier & Tracy Lixie



POISON IVY, OAK AND SUMAC

Poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac are all plants that can cause contact dermatitis. Contact dermatitis is an itchy, blistering, allergic skin rash that is caused by exposure to the oil found on these plants. A person can be exposed to this oil directly by touching one of these plants, or indirectly by touching objects, such as gardening tools, gloves, camping equipment, and even a pet's fur. If one of these poisonous plants is accidentally burned, the smoke can cause serious irritation to not only the skin, but also the eyes, nasal passages, throat and lungs.

Typically, a rash will develop at the sites where the poisonous oil touched the skin. Once the oil has been washed off the skin with soap and water, it can no longer be transferred to other bodily locations or persons. The rash can take from one to seven days to erupt, and become irritating. Some locations react instantly, while others may not appear for days. This causes many people to believe they are contagious for several days because new lesions continue to arise. This is not true. Once they have properly bathed after the exposure, they are no longer contagious to themselves or others. The typical rash lasts from one to two weeks, but in several cases can last up to one month.

Treatment for the itch associated with minor rashes includes over-the-counter medications, such as Benedryl and cortisone cream. Rashes that cover a larger area of the body or that involve the face or genitals may require stronger medicines and should be evaluated by your health care provider. For serious reactions that involve swelling or difficulty breathing, seek medical attention immediately.

Prevention of contact dermatitis includes learning to identify these poisonous plants ahead of time and avoiding them. If you plan to be in the woods where these plants are prevalent, wear protective clothing, including long-sleeved shirts, long pants, boots and gloves.

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- U. S. Army veteran

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AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M.</p> <p>OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p>DAY BIBLE CHAPEL 9305 Centerline, Saranac 897-6332</p> <p>Worship.....9:45 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M.</p> <p>Nursery & Jr. Church Provided Rev. Frank Lattimore, Pastor "A Nondenominational Ministry With A Blended Word Centered Service!"</p>	<p>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL 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>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</p> <p>621 E. Main Street • 897-5936</p> <p>Worship.....8:30 & 10:15 a.m.</p> <p>DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Barrier - Free Entrance</p>		<p>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God) 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Lead Pastor John King, Youth Pastor</p> <p>SUNDAYS: 10:00 a.m. - Worship & Evening; LIFE Home Groups & "The Source" Youth</p> <p>WEDNESDAYS: Family Night: (for all ages) 7:00 p.m. "The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m. Loving God... Loving People!</p>	<p>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH 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 & 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM</p> <p>Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETE WINGANG 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48, ENT FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>	<p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL (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 LaWare.....Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship</p>
<p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org</p> <p>Worship Service.....9:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremier, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbcloowell.org Rev. David O. Sims & Rev. W. Lee Taylor Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor</p> <p>Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA CLUB J.C.Wed. 6:15 & 6:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free</p>	<p>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Vance Dimmick Jr.</p> <p>9:45 A.M.Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M.Sunday School</p> <p>897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery & Children Worship Programs Provided</p> <p>A friend...a family...a mission!</p>	<p>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</p> <p>Greeting & 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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2008 Riverwalk Festival, a myriad of fun activities

by Emma Palova

In between drops of rain and sunshine, the Riverwalk Festival, truly held on tight to its title. Starting off the parade was the yellow and orange omnipresent Duck mascot. In fact, ducks, paper, rubber or real swimming in the Flat River, were everywhere.

The parade with traditional floats such as 'The River of Time' by the historical museum or the Kent County Youth Fair with the royal court was enhanced with novelties like the Kent County Sheriff Mounted Division.

Street clowns collected cans of food for the local pantry. Best of all, area politicians took advantage of the parade to present their campaigns and faces. Among many were 63rd District Judge Sara Smolenski, Kent County sheriff candidates,

state rep. Dave Hildenbrand, local campaigns for Lowell Township clerk by Monica Burt and Sandi Miles. But in the muggy morning, nothing sounded better than a voyage in bright green, blue, yellow and red kayaks on the Flat River. Although Lowell Area Schools superintendent, Greg Pratt, preferred to get dunked in the tank in front of the chamber offices.

Crafters set up their treasurers nearly all the way to the amphitheater. Goods ranged from jewelry, rugs to garden products. Around 1 p.m., Brian Mead Memorial Cruise-in classic cars took to the streets of Lowell from the fairgrounds.

Chamber director Liz Baker estimated the turnout at 10,000 people. "Our numbers were down a little given the weather and the economic conditions, but we were extremely pleased with attendance," said Baker.



Clowns collect cans of food.

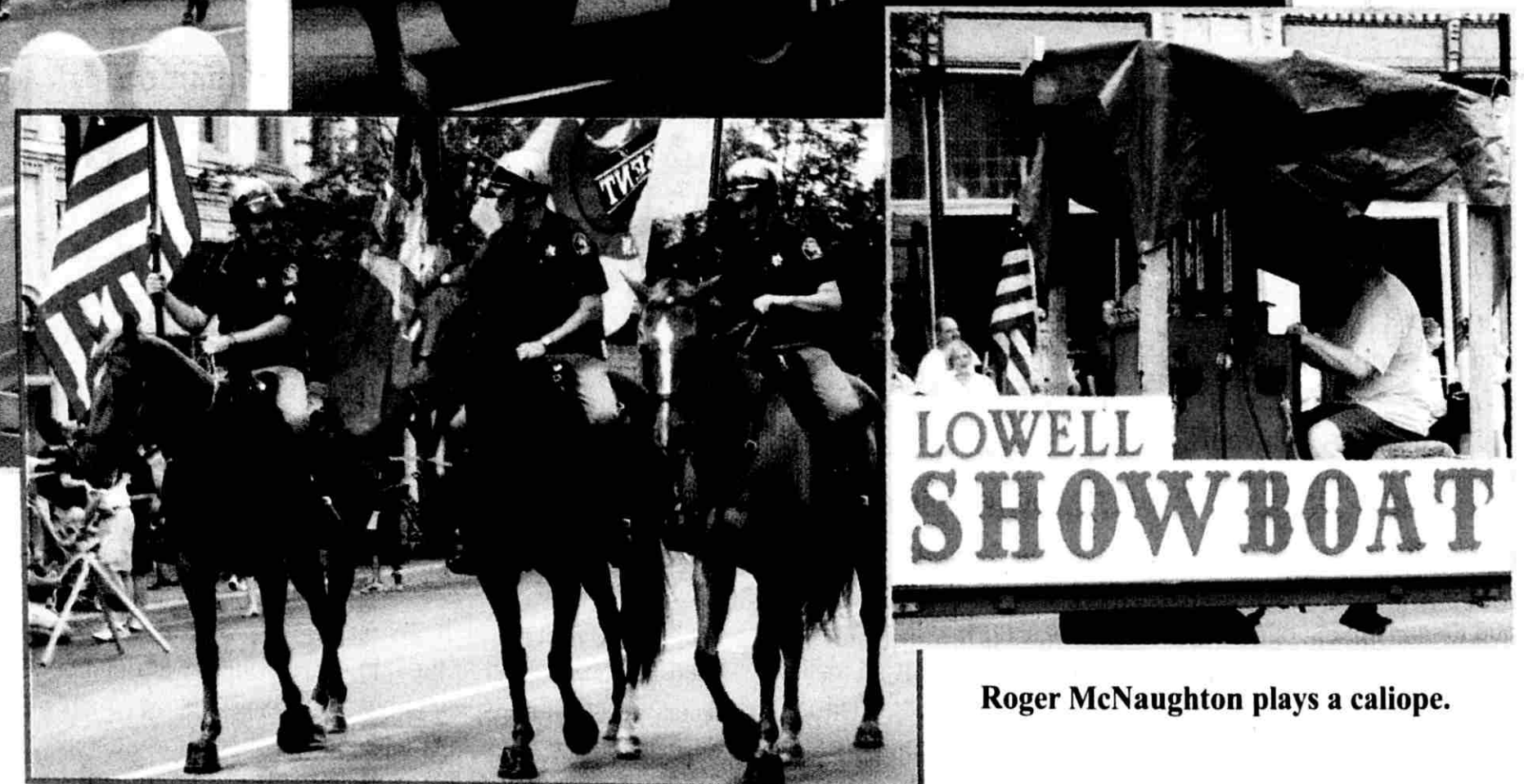
The parade had 51 entries. The winners of the parade will each receive a trophy. First place goes to Miss Belding float, second to Heidi's Farm Market and third to the Lowell Area Historical Museum. The duck race winners were: \$1,000 to Andrew Kiczenski. When asked how he was going to spend his money, Kiczenski said he was thinking about a BMX bike. Other \$100 winners were: William Evans, Pete Odland, Fred Schaub, Maliki Hager and Rich Curtis. The duck race went off in record time this year. Due to the recent downpours and

Kent County Youth Fair float was also in the parade. Festival, Pg. 9

Omnipresent Duck mascot starts off the parade.



Traditional floats by the historical museum.



From left, Scott Swem, Don DeGroot and Teresa Wochholz of the Kent County Sheriff's Mounted Division wrap up the parade.

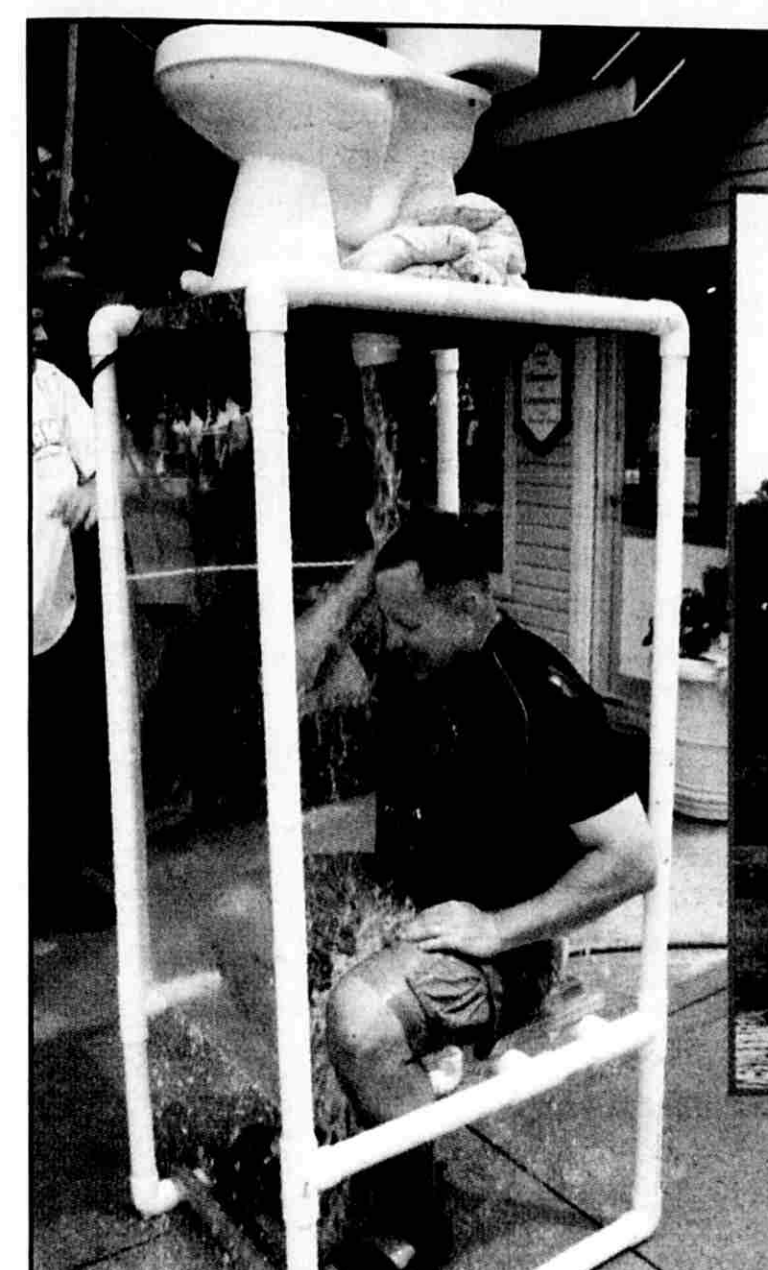
Roger McNaughton plays a callope.

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Riverwalk Festival, continued ... From Page 8

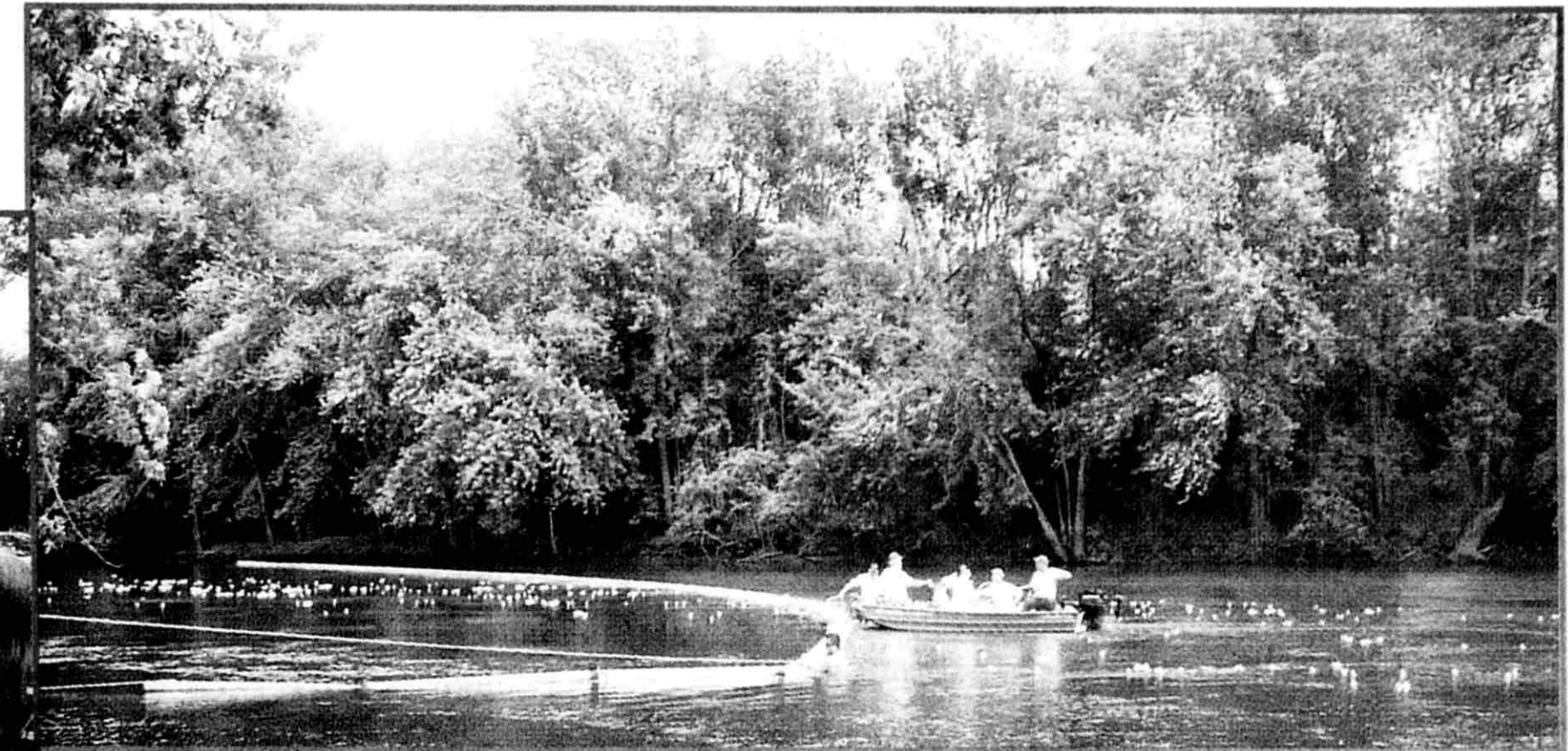
high waters, the estimated 7,500 ducks made their journey in 20 minutes, usually it takes about 40 minutes. "All in all, the Riverwalk Festival was another great success," said Baker, "we look forward to making this event even better next year." Mark your calendars, July 10 and 11, 2009.



LAS superintendent Greg Pratt gets dunked in tank.



Kayaks provided nice rides on the Flat past the Showboat and crafters set up in a lane on the Riverwalk.



Crowds gather to watch and see if their duck was a winner in the annual race.

Duck race photos submitted by Linda Barnes

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<p>YOUTH GOLF INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION Ages 5-16 Each hour session will focus on different golf fundamentals used in every aspect of the game from driving to putting. Swing analysis and weekly assessments will show target skills to which we will draw attention. Sessions will consist of situational training on the driving range and out on the golf course. All ages and skill levels will benefit from the instruction of our golf staff, including Derrick Terhaar, former All-Conference college golfer. Deer Run Golf Course July 24-August 28 Thursdays 5:00-9:00 p.m. (One Hour Sessions) YMCA Member: 3-Week Session: \$40 • 6-Week Session: \$75 Non-Member: 3-Week Session: \$80 • 6-Week Session: \$150 Contact Nash at 897-8445 or Npater@gymca.org for more details.</p>	<p>YOUTH BASKETBALL: INDIVIDUAL WORKOUTS One-on-One with an NBA Scout! Ages 5-18 Each hour session will focus on different core fundamentals used in every aspect of the game from offense to defense. Weekly assessments will show target skill sets on which we will concentrate. Sessions will consist of position-specific training and game situational training. Whether you are a beginner just learning how to dribble and shoot, or you are a Varsity player who wants to play in college, these sessions with Coach Nash Pater of Synergy Sports are guaranteed to make you a better basketball player! Runciman Building July 25-August 29 Fridays One Hour Sessions YMCA Member: 3-Week Session: \$40 • 6-Week Session: \$75 Non-Member: 3-Week Session: \$80 • 6-Week Session: \$150</p>	<p>TAE KWON DO Ages 5+ The martial arts provide excellent tools for personal development and self-growth. July 22-August 28 Tuesdays and Thursdays: 6:30-8:00 p.m. Location: Impact Church YMCA Member: \$55 • Non-Member: \$110</p>
<p>extreme FUN CLUB We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities. ages 5-12 June 9-August 29 (Monday-Friday) Location: Runciman Elementary Field Trips, Healthy U program, theme weeks, sports, games, arts, swimming, rock climbing YMCA Member: \$135/wk • Non-Member: \$145/wk YMCA Member: \$40/day • Non-Member: \$50/day Call Heather at 855-9575 for more information!</p>	<p>PRESCHOOL TUMBLEBUGS Ages 2-5 July 24-August 28 (6 week session) Impact Church Thursdays Ages 2-3: 11:15 a.m.-Noon Ages 3-4: 6:10-7:15 p.m. Ages 4-5: 7:10-8:05 p.m. YMCA Member: \$30 • Non-Member: \$60</p>	

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School Board approves six new hires at its regular meeting

by Shelly MacNaughton

The Lowell Area Schools board of education held their regular meeting Monday night. The board approved several new hires. Molly Burnett, 1st grade teacher at Murray Lake; Randall Fleanor, principal Alto; Katherine Hagen, counselor middle school; Diane Masters, 3rd grade teacher Alto; Tricia Miller, science high school; Julie Schloop, ASD special education Cherry Creek.

Alto Principal, Randy Fleanor, was present at the

meeting Monday night and addressed the board. "I'm living a dream, it is great to work in the community that you live in. I am really happy to be here and to serve," said Fleanor.

"Randy will be leading our Alto Staff, he is a dynamic young man that will bring a lot of energy and passion to the position. He has already made himself very available to staff throughout the summer months and we are very excited," said Superintendent Greg Pratt. Parents and students

will see a 10 cents increase for all meals served and for ala carte milk when they return to school in the fall. The board approved the necessary increase after consideration during a recent workshop meeting. The district did look around at what other districts are charging and due to the rise in food and energy costs found it necessary to raise the price by 10 cents.

Larry Mikulski offered the board an update on the various construction projects taking place at

the buildings throughout the district. The work at Cherry Creek elementary is approximately 75 percent complete. Bushnell has a new roof that is just about completed. The middle school projects are coming along and all are in various stages. The last of the windows should be put in this week and the marker boards are being installed in all classrooms. Black top is being poured this week at the high school parking lot. "Projects are coming along," said Mikulski. "I would like

to thank our grounds and maintenance crews they are doing a wonderful job," said Pratt.

Greg Pratt briefed the board on the technology upgrades taking place across the district. "We are working on getting fiber optics out to Alto. We will be putting in multimedia components throughout the district including new computers for teachers. Computers will not be placed until construction is complete and the staff return for school," said Pratt.

Roger Bearup updated the board on what is taking place regarding curriculum. "We are focusing on our professional development time later in August and also working on report cards so we have consistency throughout the buildings in the district," said Bearup.

"We will start screening for the position left vacant with the retirement of Ranger Steve at the Wittenbach Center next week," said Pratt.

School district hires two new elementary principals



Lowell Area Schools newest Principals Shelli Otten Cherry Creek and Randall Fleanor Alto.

by Molly Benningfield

Lowell Area Schools will see two new principals this school year, with Shelli Otten taking over at Cherry Creek Elementary and Randy Fleanor at Alto Elementary.

Otten will replace Maureen Dorough, who will become the special education director for the district. Otten moves to Lowell schools from the Grand Rapids Public School system. For the past five years, she was principal at Aberdeen Elementary, working a total of eight years as a principal.

Prior to that, she worked at Michigan State University as the supervisor for student teachers. She has taught in Michigan, Virginia and Massachusetts.

She received her bachelor's degree from MSU in elementary education, and her master's degree from MSU in curriculum and teaching.

Otten and her husband, Bill, have lived in Ada for 21 years. They have three children: Graham, 20, is a student at Ferris State University; Ross, 18, will start eight years as a principal.

at MSU in the fall; and Jill, 16, is a junior at Forest Hills Central High School.

She said she is excited to work in Lowell, not only because it's close to her home in Ada, but also because of the good reputation Lowell schools has.

"I am thrilled, really happy to work in Lowell," Otten said. "There's a great family in Lowell, and Lowell has a great reputation," said she is "looking forward to meeting with parents and getting to know the staff and students."

Fleanor will take over as principal at Alto Elementary, as former principal

Mary Ann Schramm retired after 29 years.

Fleanor has spent the last two years as principal at Lansing Christian Elementary, a school with 320 students. Previously, he worked at Northpointe Christian in Grand Rapids, serving two years as the elementary school principal, and two years as the high school principal.

He got his start teaching in the Kelloggsville district, teaching second grade at West Kelloggsville and fifth grade at East Kelloggsville.

He received his bachelor's degree in accounting from Cedarville University

in Dayton, Ohio, but quickly decided that his heart was in teaching. He went on to Aquinas College to receive his teaching certificate, and then got his master's in elementary education, also from Aquinas. He said he was glad he made the change.

Fleanor and his wife, Victoria, have lived in Lowell for 10 years. They have three boys: Geoffrey, 8, who attends Alto Elementary; James, 5, who will attend Alto; and newborn, Jack, who was born on Friday.

He said he was excited to come to Lowell because of his love for the commu-

nity and school district. "I was pretty ecstatic," he said. "Being able to work in a community I lived in is nice. I've been waiting for an opportunity to work in Lowell. We love the area, and I consider us part of the community."

He said the school district's reputation is also a plus. He listed "working at an excellent school system" as a major draw. "Really, it's just a dream job," he said. "I wouldn't want to work anywhere else."

Fleanor is currently finishing his master's in education leadership from MSU this summer.

Bus drivers set up scholarship fund

by Molly Benningfield

Bus drivers for Lowell Area Schools set up a scholarship fund this year to help out two recent graduates who will be attending college this fall.

Samantha Dilling and Nicole Gould were selected by the high school scholarship committee to receive a \$500 check from the bus drivers.

Bill Collins from the bus garage said that every regular bus driver has "a little bit taken out by paycheck each week" to finance the scholarships. This is their first year doing it, and he said they plan on continuing.

Dilling will attend Grand Rapids Community College in the fall for a general education degree, and

then pursue an English degree. She was involved in school plays in high school.

Gould will attend Purdue University in the fall to study psychology. She was

involved in musicals, cheerleading, student council and golf while in high school.



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Mike **SEILOFF**
Lowell Township Treasurer

Lowell Pink Arrow Project underway for first home football game

by Molly Benningfield

The Red Arrow football program will host the "Lowell Pink Arrow Project" during their first home game on Friday, Sept. 12.

The football team will wear pink jerseys during the game, sponsored in honor of a cancer survivor or in memory of a loved one lost.

The project was put

together when Coach Noel Dean and his athletes were trying to think of a unique community service project. Community service projects aren't a novelty for the team - they are involved in many events, like donating time to Rotary, reading programs and food drives. He said he knew what project to do when he saw a photo of Brett

Favre's wife in the stands wearing a pink Packers jersey. "Then, pieces just started falling in place."

Dean said he hasn't been "more excited about something I've done" before. He said the project is unique, because no other high school team has done something like this.

"It's a powerful statement to have young men concerned with primarily a female affliction," Dean said.

Proceeds from the event, which include t-shirt sales and jersey sponsorships, will all stay local.

One-third of the proceeds go to the Kathy Talus Memorial Scholarship, awarded annually to a female athlete graduating from LHS. The scholarship was set up in memory of a teacher and coach who lost her battle with breast cancer.

One-third of the proceeds will set up a scholarship fund in honor of longtime team doctor, Dr. Donald Gerard. The scholarship will fund graduates attending medical school.

One-third of the proceeds will go to Lowell Community Wellness to help Lowell families find the resources they need to "begin to deal with the many issues that engulf families who are dealing with breast cancer."

"This is one-of-a-kind, a great tribute for a lost loved one or survivor," Dean said. The football team will be wearing pink jerseys with the names of survivors or lost loved ones on the back. Dean said those who sponsor the jersey get to pick the name that is on the back.

There will also be a silent auction Friday during the day at Pep Talk, with a \$200 imminent bid. Pep Talk is also the place to start buying Pink Arrow support t-shirts, which are \$20 for

youth, \$15 for students and \$10 for youth. The shirts will get you into the game for free, and supporters can walk the track during pre-game warmups.

Prior to the game, a Pink Arrow parade from the high school cafeteria to the stadium will take place with a march with the varsity football team, marching band and t-shirt supporters.

Dean said they've partnered with Lacks Cancer Center of St. Mary's Hospital for a three-year promotional deal. He hopes they can do this event every year.

He said the football players are excited to take part in the event.

"At this point, they're excited - it makes kids feel good, with what this evening will mean," he said.

Dean said it was important for his team to give back to a community that's given them so much. "The respect of the community from the football program - it's about giving back," he said.

He said he encourages those who already have t-shirts to start wearing them on Fridays to begin the anticipation before the event.

Local student selected to attend soccer program

Adam Grinwis, of Ada, was one of only 102 male youth soccer players in the nation selected to attend the Adidas Elite Soccer Program (ESP) 2008 held July 3-8 at Dick's Sporting Goods Park in Denver, Colo.

"Adidas ESP is an excellent opportunity for coaches and professional scouts to identify the best young soccer talents in the country," said Ernesto

Bruch, sports marketing manager for adidas Soccer. "Adidas is committed to supporting all levels of soccer and our goal with adidas ESP is to prepare each athlete to reach their academic and athletic goals."

Adidas ESP is staffed by an experienced and well rounded group of coaches from the collegiate and professional levels. Major League Soccer player

development director Alfonso Mondelo served as Technical director for the boys' program. Also appearing at the event was MLS Ambassador Mark Santel, former Men's National Team and MLS coach Bob Gansler and former MLS and National Team standout Chris Henderson.

Adidas ESP is a sanctioned U.S. Youth Soccer Olympic

Program that identifies the country's best high school-aged players and provides them with a top level on-field training program along with a diverse off-field educational curriculum. An estimated 100 coaches from colleges, universities and professional teams were expected to scout the players attending adidas ESP.

The program immediately, as it will allow the proper time for the students and hosts to get to know one another before they actually meet for the first time.

Kent area families interested in learning more about student exchange or arranging for a meeting with a community representative may call P.I.E., toll-free, at 1-866-546-1402. The agency also has travel/study program opportunities available for American high school students as well as possibilities for community volunteers to assist and work with area host families, students and schools.

Lend A Hand VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



FINAL PLEA FOR KENT AREA HOST FAMILIES

Foreign high school students are scheduled to arrive soon for academic semester homestay programs, and the sponsoring organization needs a few more local host families. The students are anxiously awaiting news of their new families. These young ambassadors are looking forward to fulfilling their life-long dreams.

According to Pacific Intercultural Exchange (P.I.E.) President, John Doty, the students are all between the ages of 15 and 18 years, are English-speaking, have their own spending money, carry accident and health insurance, and are anxious to share their cultural experiences with their new American families. P.I.E. currently has programs to match almost every family's needs, ranging in length from a semester to a full academic year, where the students attend local high schools.

P.I.E. area representatives match students with host families by finding common interests and lifestyles through an informal in-home meeting. Prospective host families are able to review student applications and select the perfect match. As there are no "typical" host families, P.I.E. can fit a student into just about any situation, whether it is a single parent, a childless couple, a retired couple or a large family.

Families who host for P.I.E. are also eligible to claim a \$50.00 per month charitable contribution deduction on their itemized tax returns for each month they host a sponsored student.

For the upcoming programs, P.I.E. has students

from Germany, the Former Soviet Union, Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil, Japan, Hungary, Korea, Mexico, Australia, Yugoslavia, China, and many other countries. P.I.E. is also participating in two special government-funded programs to bring scholarship students from the Newly Independent States of the former Soviet Union as well as predominantly Islamic countries such as Yemen, Syria, Jordan, Morocco, Kuwait, Iraq and Qatar to the United States. P.I.E. is a non-profit educational organization that has sponsored more than 25,000 students from 45 countries since its founding in 1975. The organization is designated by the United States Department of State and is listed by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET), certifying that the organization complies with the standards set forth in CSIET's Standards for International Educational Travel Programs.

Doty encourages families to contact the

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Lowell Teachers Honored by KCEA

Lowell teachers Lanie Rice and Nicole Deckrow were honored at the annual Kent County Education Spring Awards Banquet. Rice received the award for "Lower Elementary Teacher of the Year" and Deckrow was the proud recipient of the Sue Burt Scholarship.

Currently a first grade teacher at Bushnell Elementary, Rice has been a member of the Lowell teaching staff for twenty-one years. She serves on Bushnell's S.O.S. Team and Math Committee and also served as the director of Public Relations for Lowell Education Association for many years. For Rice, who plans to retire at the end of next year, the award is a culmination of a long and distinguished career in Lowell.

"Lanie is truly a master teacher and her students are always at the center of all she does," said Bushnell Principal Karen Burd. "Without question, her instruction is based on data and best practices and she is very deserving of this award."

Rice is well respected by her colleagues for her work ethic, caring attitude and her ability to meet the needs of all her students. "Lanie is always on the cutting edge and is often one of the first to pilot new instructional programs," said Rochelle Cummings, a first grade teacher at Bushnell. "She is never satisfied with the status quo and is always trying to build connections with her students."

Nicole Deckrow just finished her third year as a special education teacher at Lowell High School where she has already earned the respect and admiration of many colleagues. Among her many duties, Deckrow successfully implemented a new curriculum for Community Based Instruction and has also participated in service learning with her students.

Deckrow's work ethic, positive attitude and ability to motivate students have helped to create a challenging and caring environment for her students. "Nicole's teaching methods, relationships with students and attitude make her stand out from all teachers," said friend and fellow high school teacher Margaret Tuori.

"In fifteen years of teaching I have never been more impressed by a young teacher," said fellow high school teacher Heather Snider. "Nicole is an invaluable asset to Lowell High School and she deserves this affirmation for all her efforts." The Sue Burt Memorial Scholarship is named in honor of Sue Burt, a former Lowell teacher, Lowell Education Association President and friend.

"Mrs. Lanie Rice and Mrs. Nicole Deckrow exemplify the quality of staff throughout our district," stated Greg Pratt, superintendent of Lowell Schools. Mr. Pratt went on to say, "Both Lanie and Nicole motivate students and develop their talents to ensure the students succeed."

Awards were presented to all recipients at the KCEA Spring Awards Banquet in early May.

Our Love Skatepark holds free concert



Our Love Skatepark hosted a free concert on Saturday, July 12 in Richard's Park. More than 200 people attended the event, listening to five bands play for four hours. The event was put on to raise funds and awareness for the need of a skatepark in Lowell. Our Love Skatepark raised around \$100 in donations, according to vice president Ellen Mork.



Skaters make use of the ice rink in Richard's Park.

Photos submitted by Shannon Hanley

RE-ELECT REGAN
LOWELL TOWNSHIP CLERK

Jake Tyson's Under-ground Experiment performs for the crowd.

READ ALL ABOUT IT!
In The Ledger

Paid for by the committee to re-elect Linda S. Regan 12404 36th St. SE Lowell MI 49331

Outdoors

By Dave Stegehuis



ANOTHER WORLD

When walking around in a crowded mall, driving in bumper-to-bumper traffic, and everyone plugged into something, it would appear that technology has consumed us, and the world is finally all paved over. It would seem that any adventure in our lives will have to be found in air-conditioned movie theaters. Well, that is not entirely true.

Look at a road map of the Upper Peninsula, and notice the large areas that show few if any red and gray lines which represent paved roads. There are actually roads of varying degrees of impassability and trails which do not appear on the map.

Following these roads and trails will lead one through deep forests, impenetrable swamps, and over unnamed streams with the possibility of encounters with a variety of wildlife. It is possible to see deer, bear, moose, wolves, eagles, and small woodland creatures or at least signs of them. The Upper Peninsula is a great place to explore because a vast amount of the land is open to the public. The majority of property is in the hands of federal and state governments and large private corporations which typically enroll their land under the commercial forest act and also have been signing conservation easement agreements.

At the present time, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has a plan to purchase over 250,000 acres of conservation easement. The easements will permanently ensure public access for recreational purposes as well as support sustainable forest management practices which will help retain jobs and protect the land from fragmentation. This is good news because lately some private land has been parceled off for development.

All of this land is open for most recreational activities, however, if what you do involves an internal combustion engine, know that motorized vehicle use is limited in most areas. Check the rules before hitting the roads and trails.

It is possible to travel for long distances through country free of significant human encroachment and is clearly the home of wolves, bears, and wild trout. For safety and comfort, it is wise to become knowledgeable about the terrain, insects, and weather conditions before entering the wilderness. Using topographical maps, a compass, and G.P.S. unit takes the guesswork out of navigation. Cell phone service is often spotty, so 911 may not be an option if in fact someone could find you anyway, so be prepared.

This may not be a highly popular activity because I spent several days in the wild U.P. backcountry recently and never came across a creature that walked upright. It is good to know that there is another world out there where wildlife rules and there are individuals and organizations working hard to keep it that way.



Medicare payments for deceased doctors

With Senator Carl Levin

Medicare is a critically important program that provides essential health care to many folks across the country. But a recent investigation by my Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations uncovered unacceptable abuses in Medicare: payments in the name of deceased doctors.

How is that possible? From 2000 to 2007, we estimate that nearly half a million payments, totaling about \$76 million, went to durable medical equipment suppliers that had submitted claims using the identification numbers of 17,000 deceased doctors.

The Subcommittee reviewed a list of physicians who died between 1992 and 2002, and found more than 33,000 deceased physicians who had Medicare physician identification numbers. From that list, we created a small sample and then closely reviewed Medicare claims data for claims that occurred more than a year after the deaths of those physicians.

We found, for example, a physician in Florida who died in 1999. Six to seven years later, from November 2005 through November 2006, Medicare paid out over \$544,000 worth of durable medical equipment claims supposedly ordered by this physician.

How is it possible that Medicare paid over half a million dollars for durable medical equipment presumably ordered by a deceased physician six to seven years after his death? The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) failed to adequately monitor and audit their contractors who are paid to update the identification numbers used to keep track of physicians and to process claims for durable medical equipment.

These paid contractors are supposed to verify that the claim includes a valid and active Unique Physician Identification Number (UPIN) for the prescribing physician. If the number does not exist, or if it is assigned to a physician that is deceased, the claim should not be paid. It is supposed to be that simple.

Instead, in the Florida case and others across the country, contractors accepted claims using the deceased doctor's identification numbers. We estimate that about 2,500 deceased physicians still had active identification

Levin, cont'd., pg. 14

LOWELL YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE

REGISTRATION DATES 2008

Saturday, July 26,
8am - noon at Burch Field

Tuesday, July 29,
6-8 pm at Burch Field

Thursday, August 14,
6-8 pm at Burch Field
(Weigh-in and receive equipment July/August dates)

All new players must bring a copy of birth certificate for birth date verification. We will NOT need to retain a copy; we just need to see it.

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Ages 4-7
Must be 4 years old by Nov. 1st

Flag Football is a fun way to teach basic football fundamentals. No equipment necessary Monday or Tuesday nights

\$25.00 to play, includes a T-shirt

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Levin, continued ... From Page 13

2500 deceased physicians still had active identification numbers as of May of this year.

What makes matters worse is that Medicare administrators were alerted to this problem back in 2001, and said they took steps to correct it. A report at that time found over \$90 million had been paid for durable medical equipment and supply claims with invalid or inactive physician identification numbers in 1999 alone. But Medicare administrators never re-evaluated the situation to ensure the problem was fixed, and apparently neither they

nor their contractors did what they were supposed to do.

The failure to stop payment of deceased physician claims is inexcusable since dates of deaths are so readily available and appear on the CMS' own records. This type of abuse should have been stopped long ago. It is easy to obtain deceased physicians' identification numbers, and easy to use those numbers to obtain payouts through fraudulent claims. As long as millions of dollars in claims with deceased provider identification numbers are paid, fraudsters will continue to rip off the system.

At our hearing we asked these administrators tough questions, pressing them as hard as we can to end this taxpayer rip-off. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services promised to immediately correct this problem so that we will not be asking the same questions - and continuing this outrageous abuse of taxpayer dollars - in the years ahead. We will keep the heat and the light on to make sure they do just that.

Carl Levin is the senior U.S. senator from Michigan.



Let them know that you saw their ad in the Garage Sale Section!

GARAGE SALE
1212 Highland Hill, July 17 thru 19, 8 a.m. (James St. North off M21 and follow signs on High St.) Furniture, girls clothing size 10-12, mens and womens clothing, Verizon LG cell phones.

MOVING - DOWNSIZING JULY 19
Antiques, tools, Little Tykes, treadmill, ladders, shovels, furniture, lawncare, toys, go-cart, John Deere, snowblower, sports, bikes. Parnell north of Vergennes.

DOWNSIZING ESTATE SALE
July 18 & 19, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. 12918 64th. Alto. Furniture, appliances, tools & welding supplies. Avon figurines & lots of misc. items.

ESTATE SALE
10827 Keystone, Ada. 5 Mile & Parnell, follow signs. Starting Friday, 7/18, 9 to 8 p.m.

SUMMER SALE
July 17-19, Thurs. & Fri. 8-6, Sat. 8-4. First sale at this location, 11364 Ann St., Lot 9, Key Heights Mobile Home Park. Lots of great stuff! Piano bench, old sheet music, housewares, furniture, books, collectibles, M&M guys, boy baby clothes, tools & more!

MOVING SALE
Hunting, fishing and misc. Saturday, July 19, 10-3 at 10890 Grand River Dr.

MOVING SALE!
Furniture, electronics, clothes, household items, sports gear, tools, and more. July 19 at 7240 Rivendell Farms, Lowell, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m (off Cascade past Deer Run GC).

10809 SCONCEWOOD
July 18 & 19, Fri. 8-5, Sat. 8-12. Video games, PlayStation 2, Xbox, Xbox 360, PS2 system, Gameboy Advance SP, & controllers, DVDs, Beansies, Star War toys, 2 doz. new kids shoes, 3 doz. new socks, jewelry, bird cages, kid clothing & much more.

GARAGE SALE
Fri. & Sat., July 18 & 19, 9-4 p.m. Furniture, clothes, household items. 13421 Forest River.

2 FAMILY YARD SALE
July 17 & 18, 9-5, July 19, 9 - ? Corner of Chatham & Amity. Glass, brass, jewelry and more.

BARN SALE CLOSED THE COTTAGE
Downsized a gift shop - NEW gift items, rubber stamps, quilting & misc fabric bolts. USED furniture, books, appliances, housewares, clothing. FRIDAY ONLY, July 18, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. 775 Grand River Drive NE, Ada.

BIG BARN SALE
Gigantic NASCAR collection & also Green Bay Packer & Yankee collection, screened in porch, wooden double lawn swing, exercise equip., furniture, tools, many prom dresses, clothes & more. July 18 & 19, 9-6, 10395 36th St., Lowell.

HUGE MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE
July 26, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., St. Mary's, Miriam 9041 Krupp Road. Over 10 families with lots of merchandise - priced to sell! Held in St. Mary's Activity Center, Belding. Only 10 mi. north of Lowell.

GARAGE SALE
July 18 & 19, 8-4 p.m. & 8-12 p.m. 220 N. Jefferson, Lowell. Inflatable pool w/cover, jewelry boxes, clothing (girls 4-5T, women and mens), household items, kids/baby items including Pack-n-Play, baseball cards, garden items, and too many more to list. Must see!

HUGE MULTI-FAMILY SALE
Thurs. & Fri., July 17-18, 9-? 1898 McCabe between Bailey & 2 Mile. Tons of name brand clothes, boys & girls size infant to adult; battery operated quad & trailer; toys, some new; kids books; bedding, home decor, household & holiday items, too much to list.

We recommend you place your ad a week before the sale, not the weekend of your sale. Some people do not receive the Buyers Guide Sunday morning. We also recommend putting in some sort of directions.

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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, complimentary, 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.

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- Tyler Tokarchick
- Erin Wade
- Lucy Wade

Why won't any theaters in a 40 mile radius of Lowell show the film Gonzo: The Life and Work of Dr. Hunter S. Thompson? Are we being censored again by narrow minded people?

I thank Mr. Yankovich for his suggestion in the Viewpoint that I help in the advancement of the "Next Place To Be". How about a committee for better city government?

- Jim Howard

The City of Lowell provides residents curbside recycling; others should talk to their township board members about providing them recycling services.

Hey - has anyone else noticed the new blog about Lowell? Take a look at www.discoverlowellblog.blogspot.com.

Where will all the service men get jobs if they're brought home early? They make more if they serve overseas.

A big thank you to the Lowell Ledger for printing the luminary bag names of survivors and in memory of for Lowell's Relay for Life.

Thanks to someone for correcting the flags and flag poles by the memorials in town. Now we truly honor our Veterans. God bless our troops, and God bless America!

Did you know many businesses in Lowell are doing great this year? Look at the new blog - www.discoverlowellblog.blogspot.com

Many thanks to the Lowell Ledger for supporting Relay for Life. What a great way to acknowledge those who have had to deal with this horrendous disease.

- Peggy Idema

One of the best River-walk days yet. Great food, great entertainment, and wonderful crafts. Thanks to everyone that helped to make a fantastic weekend.

If you night fish on the Flat River with flood lights please point them down. They shine in our houses and it's hard to sleep when my room is lit like an airport runway.

We loved the music this past week!

CLASSIFIEDS

small ads **BIG** deals

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1996 LUND REBEL - 16', 25 horse Evinrude Shorelander roller trailer. Live well, rod storage, locking storage compartment, 4000 watt Garmin 240 Fish finder, 3 seats, MinnKota 765 MXT bow mount power drive trolling motor with bracket and 2 year old battery. Anchormate with anchor, spare tire carrier with spare, new tires on trailer 2 years ago, cover. Used 3 weeks last 7 years. Always stored inside, some scratches; excellent fishing boat, big lake or small, \$5,200 will consider all offers. 269-948-7921.

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CUTE ENGLISH BULL-DOGS - Purebred, male & females available w/pictures, 10 weeks, price \$650 (shipping included). For more details, call 897-6482 or email: cole1063@gmail.com.

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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 293-5188.

SARANAC - 3 bedroom ranch, \$169,900. Over 1600 sq. ft. Call Barb Saladin, Rustin Realty, 616-260-7870.

SKIDLOADER - 1835 Case, diesel, bucket and manure fork. \$5,000 or best. Call 616-458-3559.

FOR SALE - Harley Davidson 2005, Sportstra XL 1200, Screaming Eagle exhaust, black, sharp bike, well maintained. \$7,200. Call 897-5254 or 616-295-2350.

NEW HOME NEAR COMPLETION - 8705 Vergennes, Ada Township. Call John 498-0020.

FOR SALE

2002 SUZUKI VOLVUSIA INTRUDER - 800 cc cruiser, excellent condition, lots of chrome, 50 mpg, \$4500 obo. Call Chad at 616-204-9599.

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CONCERT TICKETS - Kenny Chesney, Keith Urban, & Leann Rhimes, August 2 at Ford Field House. \$180. 292-9502.

2003 HARLEY V-ROD - New custom paint, rims, pipes, brakes. Lowered 1", lots of chrome. This is an eye catching bike! Must see!! \$11,700. Call (616)893-6681.

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FOR RENT - 3 bedroom, 1 bath ranch home, very clean. Just minutes from downtown Lowell. Country setting, large lot. All appliances included. Central air, 1 stall garage, large deck. \$900 per mo. w/1 year lease. Call 446-5909.

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.

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The Lowell Ledger

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IMMEDIATE OPENING IN ALTO!! - \$10/hr. General cleaning in a production environment on Saturdays for 4 hours with a 5 p.m. start time. Apply in person: July 14 & 15, 9-4; July 16, noon-4; and July 17 & 18, 9-4. ENVIRO-Clean, 3801 Eastern Ave. SE (between 36th & 44th Streets), Grand Rapids. EOE.

HELP WANTED

TIG WELDER - Phoenix Personnel is looking for a 1st shift Tig welder with stainless steel experience. Sanitary welding experience a plus, pay starts at \$15/hr. Location is SE of Lowell office. Please send resumes with experience to lowell@phoenixpersonnel.com or call 616-897-7881 for more info. EOE.

WANTED

WE ARE LOOKING FOR - Sponsors to sponsor a pet in our Adopt A Pet section in the Buyers Guide. Only \$20 per week gets a homeless pet's photo out there for people to see & possibly adopt! Call the Buyers Guide, 897-9555 for details.

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WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK Dr. Langlois for saving our cat, Zander, Wed. night after hours. We are very pleased with his quick recovery and appreciate everything you did.

The Waldron family,

SOUND OFF
PHONE LINE 897-0787

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORY OF OUR MOM Linda Ann Sharpe Jan. 27, 1953 - July 13, 2002
Our family chain was broken, life will never be the same, but when God calls us one by one our chain will link again.

MARK TAYLOR KROPP

July 21, 1965 - June 18, 1970
In loving memory of our dear son and brother on his 43rd birthday. Gone from the earth so swiftly, like sand blowing off a dune, so young, so hopeful, so free, yet called away so soon. As we loved him, so we miss him.

SERVICES

PORTRAITS - Children, families, seniors, reasonable rates. Lifestyle photography, summer-lacey.blogspot.com or 897-2656.

NEED A DUMPSTER? - Dudley's Dumpsters. Dumpsters priced to get rid of your trash & save you cash! Garage, attic, household cleanup, roofing, trash, junk etc. 14 to 20 yards available. Call for free estimates. Now accepting credit cards. Contact Doug 616-295-6640.

SEWING & ALTERATIONS - by Patti Harrel. 897-0193.

WEDDING INVITATIONS - Available at Lowell Litho, Ph. 897-9261

EVENTS

LAKE ODESSA LIVE-STOCK AUCTION - Call 616-374-8213. Sale every Tuesday, 12 noon. Horse sale: 2nd & 4th Saturday of each month. Trucking available to and from market. Dave VanderBoon Call 616-374-0967 (home), 616-902-1130 (truck).

FLAG POLE SALES - Installation, repairs & maintenance. Call United Sign, 616-693-2400.

ALTO DAYCARE HAS 3 FULL-TIME OPENINGS - for 1st. shift, fenced in back yard, food program, CPR trained. Call 868-0752.

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

YOGA CLASSES - Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m., \$6 per class, The Hammock, 1701 Alden Nash Ave. SE, Lowell, 893-5661.

GARDNER AVAILABLE - for personalized help w/new plantings, clean up, revamping or routine care. 897-4220.

UPS SHIPPING AT THE LOWELL LEDGER! Call for a price quote! 897-9261

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HANDY REPAIR SERVICE - All kinds of service work: locks rekeyed, deadbolts installed, plumbing, electrical, screen & window repair. Call Bob Ford, 299-3198.

ANGELA'S DAYCARE - Immediate full time openings. Licensed, food program, fenced play yard, 13 years experience. Call 826-1192 or 868-6247.

WANTED - "Honest, dependable" man to install gutter. Jim 897-5236. Full or Part.

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Concerns about accelerated growth drives trustee candidates

by Emma Palova

In the trustee race for the Lowell Township board, six candidates are vying for four open seats.

Incumbents Carlton Blough, Clifford Bonn, Gerald Persha and William Thompson are facing off newcomers, Mark Anderson and Scott Edwards. All the candidates are running on Republican ticket for four-year terms.

Blough, 51, a Republican, has been a resident of the township his entire life.

"I am running for agricultural representation on the board," he said. "Nobody else has agricultural background."

Blough has served as a trustee for 12 years. He has also served on the planning commission, recreation committee, public safety committee, Kent County Farm Bureau state affairs and policy development committee.

One of the biggest challenges in the township, according to Blough, is balancing all the interests.

"We want to keep everybody happy," he said. "We want people to maintain property rights, but also have a great community they feel welcome to."

Blough stresses it's important to keep jobs and growth, so the township doesn't become a bedroom community.

Blough proposes to use one of the major tools in the township to handle the growth, that is the master plan.



Carlton Blough

"Our goals are on paper," he said. "We have a feeling for what people want. We have a designated light industrial area to get new companies in, that's why we changed the master plan."

Major goals apart from growth are maintaining the road system, mainly in the area of 36th Street and Alden Nash.

"I want to get more people to use the park," he said.

Blough stands apart

from his opponents with his experience as the longest serving member on the board. He is one of few remaining farmers in the township, farming a cash crop farm.

"I grew up in the community with an agricultural background," he said. "I want all of us to enjoy the township. I don't want the ordinances to be too restrictive."

He is married to wife Brenda, with children Paula, Michaela, and Maria.



Clifford Bonn

Bonn, 70, a Republican, has been a resident of the township for the last 24 years. He has served on the board of trustees one term.

"I want to continue the work on inter municipal fire and rescue board," he said.

The inter municipal fire and rescue board serves

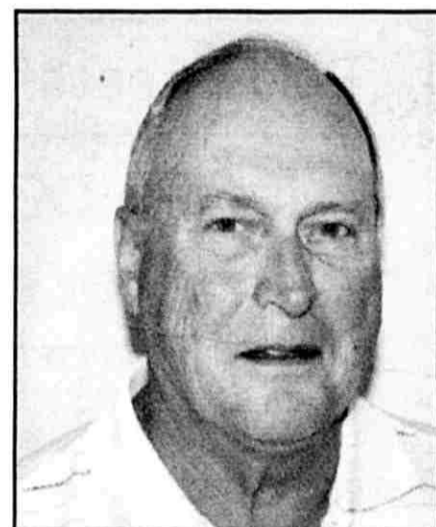
the residents of the city of Lowell, Vergennes and Lowell townships.

Bonn has 40 years of experience with governmental regulations in aviation maintenance and management responsibility for multimillion budgets. He has worked on the parks committee and election commission. Bonn served in the U.S. Navy from 1955 to 1961 in heavy patrol bomber's squadron.

"With my past experience and responsibilities with regulations and money," he said, "I will be a careful steward of taxpayers money."

As one of the major challenges, Bonn views the growth of the township.

"We want to keep that under control, managed properly in accordance with the ordinance," he said.



William Thompson

As an important both role and goal in the township, Bonn wants the government to stay hands-on working with smaller groups to enhance the environment, health and welfare of the people.

"We've done an excellent job of that so far," he said.

Bonn is married to wife Dee with five children, and five grandchildren.

Thompson, 66, a Republican, has been a resident of the township for 34 years.

He is running because the north side of the township needs representation. When Thompson sold his business four years ago, he decided to step up his public service involvement to serve on the board of trustees. He has served on the zoning board of appeals, most recently as chairman.

The major challenge, according to Thompson, is maintaining rural character of the township while promoting orderly growth.

The newly updated master plan will serve as the maintain tool to handle growth, according to Thompson.

"We have identified our prime agricultural and agricultural areas making sure there are appropriate buffers between zoning districts," he said.

To accommodate

growth, many changes will be needed in the zoning ordinance as well.

Up before the planning commission are proposals for an electric wind generation ordinance for a wind tower, development of the township park and support for the rails to trails program.

"We need to protect ag interests for remaining farms as well as hobby farms and stables," he said.

Thompson stands apart from opponents with his years of public service and experience as businessman of 38 years.



Mark Anderson

"I understand developer issues since I've been involved with apartment development," he said.

He believes the role of the government should be to protect the varied interests of residents through orderly growth and enforceable ordinances.

Thompson has been married to wife Gail with one son and one grandson.

Anderson, 38, a Republican, has been a resident of the township for 11.5 years.

"I feel it is time for me to help enrich the future of the community," he said.

Anderson is a member of the Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association (MNLA).

A major challenge in the township, according to Anderson, is protecting landowners' property rights, yet still controlling development.

One of Anderson's goals is to find the proper balance between community growth and business development.

"I want to help make the township a body of governance that is approachable," said Anderson. "All community members should feel they can come and voice their opinion and leave feeling they have been listened to."

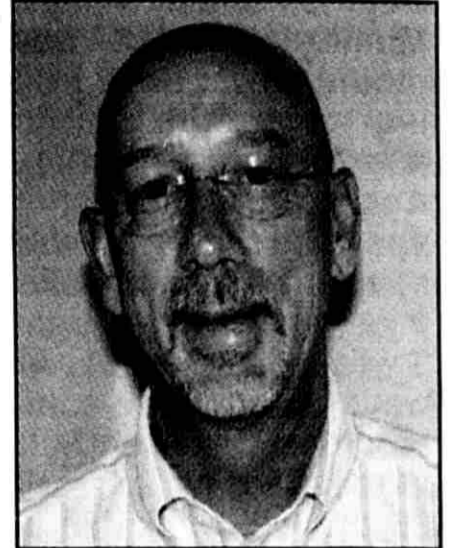
Other goals include completion of master plan that is available to the community, raising landscape requirements for commercial development and preserving current natural rural environment for the community, as well as luring new businesses.

Anderson stands apart from his opponents with

his involvement with the surrounding townships, including land preservation and development.

"I want to listen to the community and find solutions that everyone can live with," he said.

Anderson is married to wife Misty, children Chase, 7, and Ruthie, 5.



Scott Edwards

Edwards, 55, a Republican is a resident of the township of three years.

"I want to bring my experience over the last 30 years of managing companies into the township government," he said.

Edwards, vice-president of Gentex in Holland, is serving on the township zoning board of appeals his second term.

The major challenge, according to Edwards, is the budget in fiscal challenging times.

"We need to look at the way we tax residents of Lowell," he said. "Why do we saddle the residents with a huge amount to pay in the summer. We need to smooth this out."

As many residents may have noticed, the summer tax bill is enormously high compared to the winter tax bill. Most recently, the assessed values have gone down, while the taxation has skyrocketed.

Edwards first proposes discussions with Lowell Area Schools, the biggest recipient of township property taxes.

His goals include seeking grants for community projects.

So, what sets Edwards apart from his opponents?

"My business experience and executive leadership of 30 years," he said. "It clearly separates me. I am used to working with individuals to reach a compromise."

And Edwards says he cares about people.

"There are a lot of hurting people," he said. "We should be the servant to the township residents, listening to their concerns."

Edwards is married to wife Barb with two daughters, Kristina and Kelly.

Persha could not be reached for an interview at press time.



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