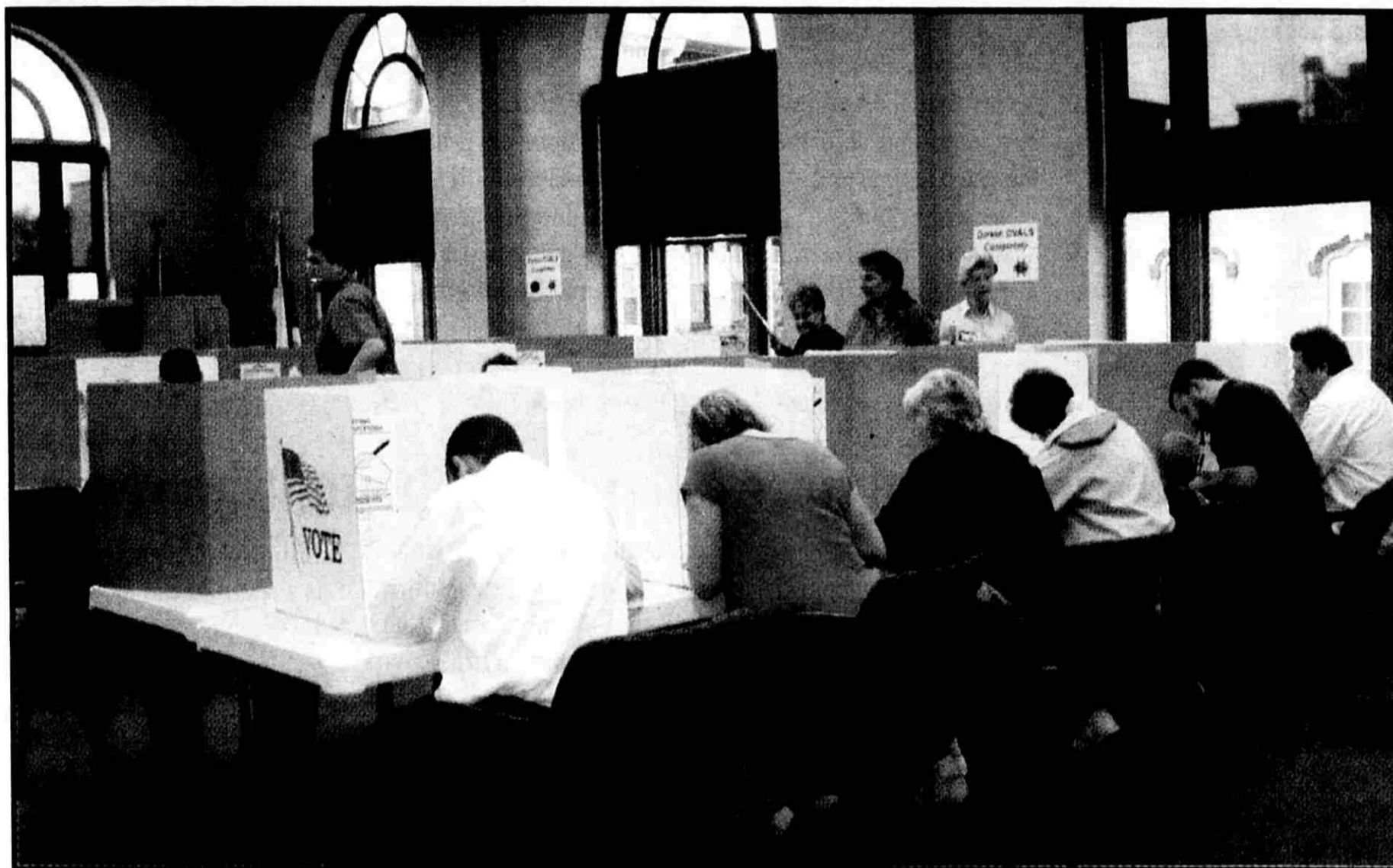


The Lowell Ledger

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Wednesday, November 5, 2008



Election Day 2008

Hundreds of voters flocked to the polls Tuesday in the historical US presidential election. At 10 a.m., the parking lot in front of the city hall was full, and people were streaming in. All the voting booths were taken and election workers were busy handing out registration forms and ballots.

In Vergennes Township, some voters were congregating outside due to the beautiful weather under a canopy. Lines were forming inside. The crowded ballot could take up to 20 minutes to fill out.

Area business helps trigger hunt of a lifetime

by Thad Kraus

Imagine being an avid hunter and owning a large collection of guns and not able to pull the trigger on any of them.

Literally, not able to pull the trigger on any of them.

That has been the world of Chris Clark for the past 13 years.

A special set of events

changed all of that for the Idaho native.

Radio talk show host Glen Beck read about Chris's story, which was also a family hardship tale and decided something

should be done. Chris and his brothers Ben, Layel and Russell all suffer from the debilitating disease called muscular dystrophy.

Their sister, the only Clark sibling who did

not suffer from muscular dystrophy, had her life taken three years ago, after coming down with a rare stomach disorder.

Beck, learning of the family hardship, organized

a fundraiser for the family.

Learning that Clark and his brothers used to hunt, Beck wanted to get them hunting again.

Hunt, cont'd., pg. 2

Michigan Wildlife Center expands with addition

by Emma Palova

Igi, a seven-year-old iguana, rescued by volunteer Kristin Cowell now has a new home in the latest addition to the Michigan Wildlife Center.

Owners Sjana and Bob Gordon finished the building this summer to house incoming wildlife for rehabilitation on top of all their outdoor pens and barns on 20 acres of property off Vergennes Road.

Igi's not alone. He keeps good company with squirrels, possums and other mammals waiting for rehabilitation. All the animals on the property have been rescued.

The center is unique because it takes all animals unlike others specializing in certain animals only, according to Sjana. The 501C3 federal non-profit organization has a license to rehabilitate animals, which will later be released into the wild or adopted.

"We try to find homes for them," said Sjana, "people can adopt them."

Then, there are also pigs, Bogie Humphrey, who was found in downtown Grand Rapids and Betty Boo, left by their owners. Not to

mention countless goats, geese, ducks and horses. The only thing Sjana doesn't take are migratory birds, and the Department of Natural Resources does not allow her to take bats or skunks.

For Sjana, the center is more than just an expensive hobby which relies on donations and fundraisers. It's also a matter of providing balance in the nature and educating about her mission in schools.

"It's very rewarding seeing an animal go back into the wild," she said.

The center last summer during peak season had 900 to 1,000 animals including farm animals, also a relatively new addition to the rescue portfolio.

The challenges are many from funding to capacity to finding better formulas for animals that are hardest to rehabilitate.

"Every animal is different, they show pain different," Sjana said.

She considers fawns her specialty since the



Sjana Gordon with goats and, inset, Igi, 7, the iguana rescued by volunteer Kristin Cowell.

entire center started when Sjana found a fawn with a dead mama by the road. She brought the baby home and nourished it. But, Sjana also likes squirrels, while she compares raccoons to human babies.

"You have to physically

teach them everything," she said. "They stay with their mamas up to two years."

Sjana takes classes through Department of Natural Resources to keep up to date. "There's not a lot of people who do rehabilitation," she said.

"You have to have a permit to take any animal in."

The center is on the calling list of the Kent County Humane Society, police, Blanford Nature Center and other agencies.

The biggest fundraiser for Michigan Wildlife is the

upcoming Christmas tour through Lowell Nov. 14 through Nov. 16. They are also accepting donations of hay or any nuts dropped by Michigan trees.

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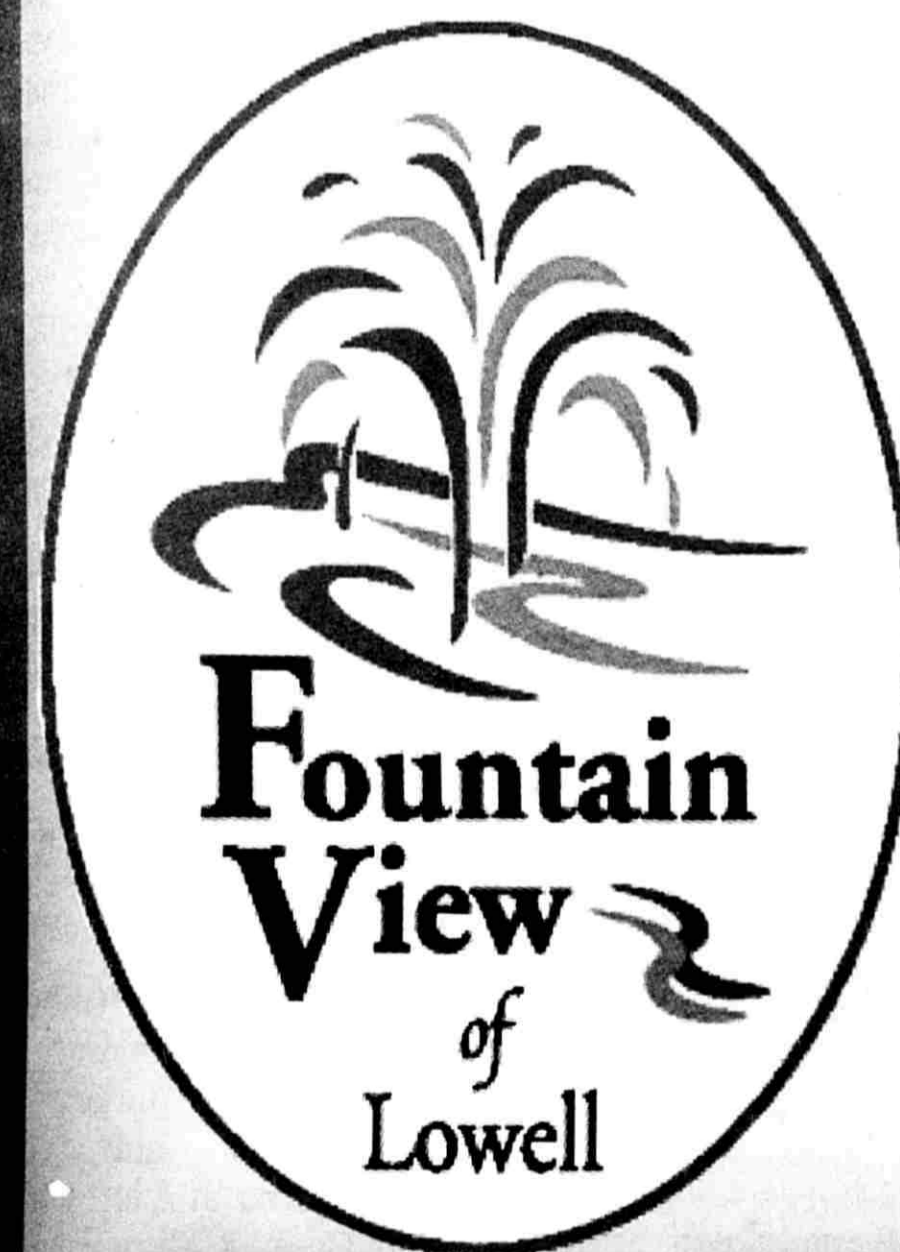
A couple of months after Mom's surgery, she was ready for more independence, but not quite ready to do everything on her own. I'm so glad she thought of Fountain View.

I had no clue we had such a wonderful resource here in Lowell!

The facility is beautiful, the staff is outstanding, and the other residents are delightful. Fountain View has been the perfect solution for us.

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- Carla Stone and Jeanne Shores



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Featured Artist

Bommarito

by Emma Palova

When artist Mary Bommarito opens her doors on this year's Christmas tour, visitors will find a big collection of paintings by her colleagues. Call it a temporary gallery, if you will.

A mainstay of the tour, Bommarito is number 14 located off Cumberland Road. All the rooms in the house will be adorned with art including a spot dedicated to late David Davis, a mentor to many artists.

Since Bommarito doesn't charge commission, the venue is profitable and affordable to the artists and the customers.

"It's nice for the artists to be able to sell a piece and for people to see their art," she said. "I encourage everyone to come and enjoy it."

Moreover, Bommarito loves seeing all the artwork in her own home. She came up with the idea of showcasing art nine years ago, before the Christmas

through Lowell tour started.

"I love to see the different interpretations," she said.

Quite often, the circle of artists get together and paint the same subject matter. The final results are surprising. The group has met through Davis and Loretta Sailors.

"First we were spread out, but then we met and it grew into a love affair we have with each other like a big family," she said.

At first, Bommarito wasn't sure how the show would be taken, but encouraged by Davis she went ahead.

"It's always been a wonderful show," she said. "It's bittersweet for me that

he cannot be here. But we will keep his spirit."

Bommarito promises that nobody who walks into her home will be disappointed. She will have art by Davis, Sailors, Doris

Larson, wooden bowls and her own watercolors by Lars Larson, Bonnie Osborne, Gerard Wood, Gerri Treves, Cheryl Perry, lotions by Dee Bellini, new cement casting birdbaths

and mixed media. "I will keep doing it until it's no fun anymore," she said.

The tour runs Nov. 14 through Nov. 16.



Mary Bommarito hanging her art will play host to other artists.

Area businesses enjoy some Halloween fun



Did they do that? Laboite Inc. employees certainly did dress up for Halloween. Pictured from left to right, are: Cindy, Rose, Allan, Sue, Richard, Bill and Lisa.

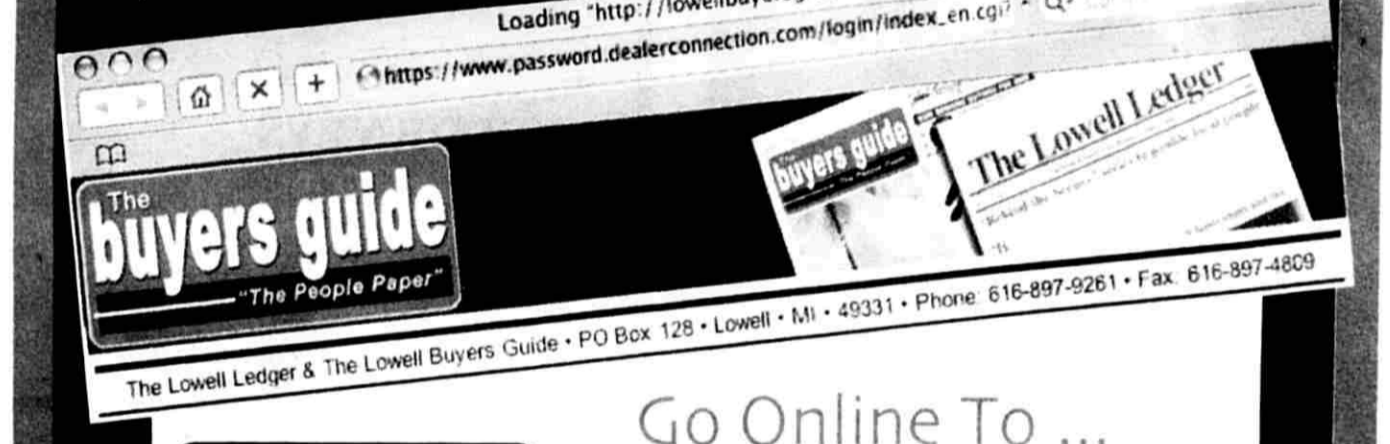


The spirit of Halloween was served up at Lowell's Backwater Cafe on Friday. Dressed up in their Halloween costumes are, left to right, Billie Jo, Shelly, Kelly, Linda and Bif.

You know what's interesting about Washington?
It's the kind of place where second-guessing
has become second nature.

- George W. Bush (1946 -), Speech on May 17, 2002

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