Volume 38 Issue 20

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, April 15, 2009

MEAP timelines leave school districts little time to reflect on results

by Thad Kraus

If the idea was to give school districts students now." Lthe gift of time, the state failed.

Michigan administered the MEAP test in October and were told their district results would be available in December.

December came and went. January came and went. February nearly came and went before the test results were delivered.

A caveat came with the delivery. Schools could review the results but could not release the results.

Permission to release the results to the media and to go public was not granted until April 3.

"It leaves schools six of Academic Progress. weeks to deal with the results. Not enough time to help students in their current grades now," said Lowell's director of curriculum, Roger Bearup. "Getting results in December would have provided schools with enough time to break down

the results and implement instructional things to help

The state's reason for delaying the release of the schools information was so school districts could look at scores and data and have an opportunity to appeal if they felt something was not right.

"How do we help improve on the scores when there is not time to reflect on what we've done?" Bearup explained.

Murray Lake Elementary principal Brent Noskey noted that ideally the turn around time from implementation to delivery of results should be closer to that of the Measurement sixth grade and eighth grade

Results from those reading and math tests were delivered within 72 hours.

While that is an unreasonable expectation for the MEAP, four months is also considered an unreasonable time frame.

As for the Lowell School

District, it accomplished one year's growth in one year's time.

In addition, there was no significant decrease (seven to 10 percent) in any grade level or core subject area.

Lowell student's proficiency grades were "very, very good" according to Bearup.

All elementary district English, averages in Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies were 90 percent or above except for fifth grade math which scored 89 percent.

Middle school seventh grade scored 90 percent or above in all four core curriculum areas, while scored in the 80 percent proficiency level in all subjects.

The class of 2015's math cohort scores dropped from 2005 to 2008. In 2005 the proficiency rating was 95 percent. In the fall of 2008, the same class, now in the sixth grade had a

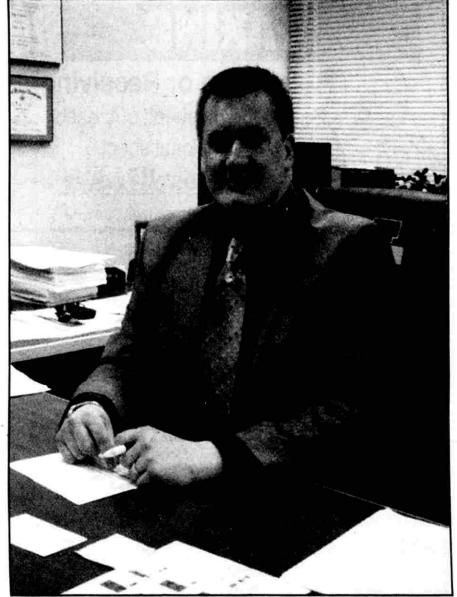
math proficiency rating of 83 percent.

"We have to look at the grade level content, our curriculum, and changes in the test," Bearup said. "The MEAP results don't give districts answers, but raises questions. Our goal is to address those areas."

Bearup said while the district is very happy with the overall scores, it is never satisfied.

"The goal is to always get better, but improvement is measured in smaller increments when your proficiency ratings are above 90 percent proficiency," Bearup said.

While county and state writing scores continue a trend of decline, Lowell saw consistent improvement in writing with few exceptions. Fourth grade writing slipped from 60 to 59 percent proficiency. Third grade fell from 76 to 73 percent and sixth grade proficiency dropped from 85 to 80 percent.



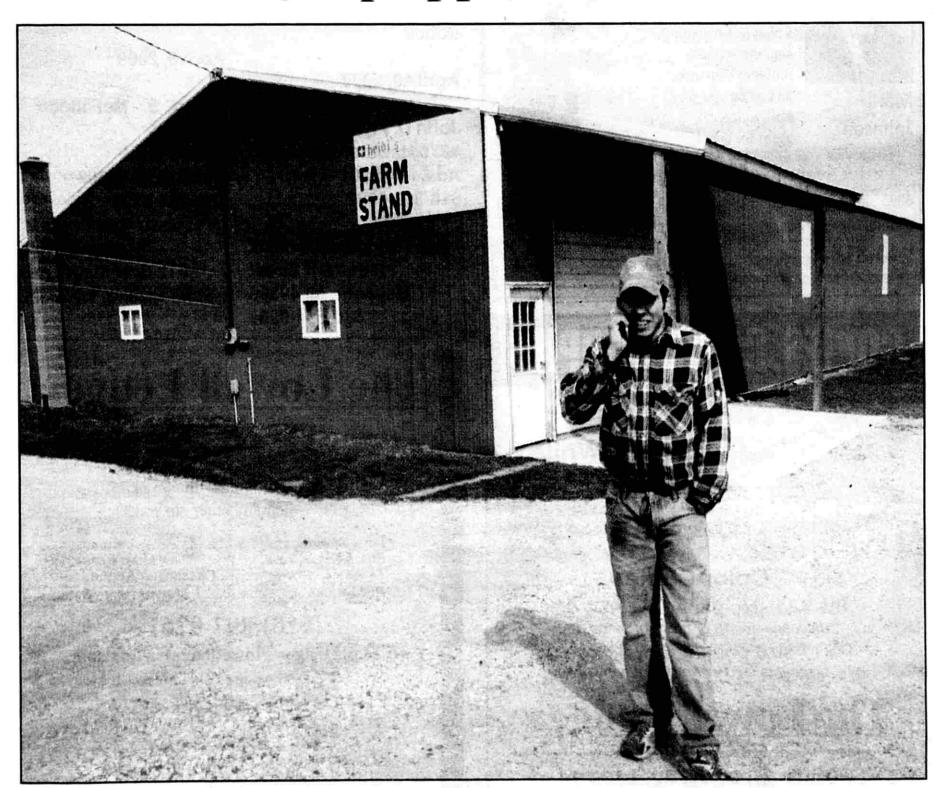
Curriculum director Roger Bearup.

District writing scores in grades five, seven and eight increased by an average of five percent.

"The MEAP is still a good test and provides

useful information. It's also better now at providing individual information on each student," Bearup concluded.

Lowell Township approves farm market expansion



Aaron Kaeb runs Heidi's Farm Market in Lowell Township.

by Emma Palova

Lowell Township Planning Commission approved Heidi's Farm Market expansion Monday night under an existing special use permit.

The farm market located at a business intersection on Alden Nash and Cascade Road has experienced steady growth since 2006. Owner Aaron Kaeb requested the expansion of nonfarm products, extension of hours for the corn maze in the fall and the addition of a petting zoo. The market will also expand parking with a grassy area. This year, Heidi's is also adding a bakery.

"We are extending our hours after dark," he said. "Our customers were staying longer last year tying up the parking lot. We didn't have enough parking. We will plant grass to support parking."

The request for the extension of hours is slated to attract teenagers to the corn maze.

The commissioners questioned whether the expansion was big enough to justify a public hearing and more permitting.

"You have greater and grander plans in 2009," said chairman Dave Simmonds.

The sale of nonfarm products will increase from 25 to 33 percent and will include jams and jellies, canned goods, popcorn, arts and crafts.

Under the special use permit, the market will also have a petting zoo of up to 10 animals that must be caged. Dennis Commissioner Sanford was concerned about the proximity of animals to a food operation, as well as traffic.

"We're going to have more traffic," said Sanford. "And I am concerned about having a petting zoo next to a food operation."

However, Kaeb said the petting zoo is a minor part

> Heidi's, cont'd., pg. 3

TAYLOR

George E. Taylor, age 48, of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, April 4, 2009. He was preceded in death by his parents, Rufus and Evelena Taylor. Surviving are his brothers and sisters, Jim and Pat Taylor, Buddy Taylor, Billy and Sandra Taylor,

Lynda and Marty Reynolds, Rick and Connie Taylor, Brenda and Bob Cilley, Carol and Bill Devereaux; several nieces and nephews. Memorial services were held Saturday at Matthysse-Kuiper-DeGraaf Funeral Home. Condolences may sent online at www. mkdfuneralhome.com.

FAXING



CITY OF LOWELL

KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE **ADOPTION** AND SUMMARY AN ORDINANCE SECTION **AMENDING** "DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE," OF CHAPTER 8, "R-3 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT," SECTION 9.01, "SCOPE, CHAPTER HOME PARK MANUFACTURED DISTRICT," SECTION 12.01 "DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE," OF CHAPTER **"C-3-GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT," AND SECTION** 16.01, "INTENT," OF CHAPTER 16, "PF PUBLIC FACILITIES DISTRICT," OF "APPENDIX A-ZONING ORDINANCE" OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LOWELL

The Lowell City Council adopted Ordinance No. 09-02 amending Section 8.01 "Description and purpose," of Chapter 8, "R-3 Residential District," Section 9.01, "Scope," o Chapter 9, "MHP-Manufactured Home Park District," Section 12.01, "Description o purpose," of Chapter 12, "C-3-General Business District," and Section 16.01, "Intent," of Chapter 16, "PF Public Facilities District," of "Appendix A-Zoning Ordinance" of the Code o Ordinances of the City of Lowell on April 6 2009. Ordinance 09-02 incorporates certain future land used categories of the City of Lowell Master Plan with related provisions of the City's Zoning Ordinance. A copy of Ordinance No. 09-02 is available from the City Clerk at the City Hall, 301 E. Main Street in the

Ordinance No. 09-02 is effective ten days after this publication.



Betty R. Morlock City Clerk



Army Reserve Pfc. Steven F. Antecki has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, Antecki studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises.

He is the son of Stephen Antecki of Caledonia and brother of Maria Antecki of Lowell.

Antecki is a 2003 graduate of Caledonia High School.

• LEGAL NOTICES •

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

NOTICE TO **CREDITORS Decedent's Estate**

File No. 09-186,595-DE

Estate of ROBERT F. RICHARDS, Date of birth 12/4/1925.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO **CREDITORS: The** decedent, ROBERT F. RICHARDS, who lived at 1540 Floyd SW, Wyoming, MI 49509 died 12/17/12008.

Creditors of decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Paula L. Kopp and

Marilyn J. Silberbauer, named co-personal representatives proposed personal corepresentatives, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa NW, Ste. 2500, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/ proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this

April 13, 2009

notice.

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

> Paula L. Kopp Wyoming, MI 49548

Marilyn J. Silberbauer 1426 Donavon Mill Lane Powhatan, VA 23139

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The Lowell Ledger

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Lend A Hand



Get involved in your community, help protect the environment and have fun with others. Join us for the Fifth Annual Garlic Mustard Pull at Stoney Lakeside Park, Sat., May 9 at 10 a.m. For information or to sign up call Kris at 987-9343 or Peggy at 897-7948. Bring your family, friends or group and have fun while helping the environment and community.

· LEGAL NOTICES ·

STATE OF MICHIGAN

PROBATE COURT

COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO

CREDITORS

Decedent's Estate

File No. 09-186,663-DE

Estate of WILLIAM G.

ALDRICH

Date of birth: 1/30/1925

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO

CREDITORS: The

decedent, WILLIAM G.

ALDRICH, who lived

at 246 41st Street

SW, Grand Rapids, MI

49548, died 3/1/09.

that all claims against

presented to STEVEN

personal representative

representative, or to

personal representative

named

ALDRICH

by Emma Palova

Planning

The Lowell Township

tabled a request for special

use permit for MCTEE

on 36th Street in a district

zoned as AG-2 rural

agricultural. The township

zoning ordinance permits

businesses in agricultural

requested the change in use

Commercial storage use in

one of the buildings would

of the overall operation.

contracting

remain.

Heidi's,

proposition."

of 2010.

food safety issues.

Owner Michael Callhan

business.

continued ... From Page 1

"We only put up a couple of pens with rabbits,

Hand sanitizers will be placed in the area to address

Commissioner Mark Batchelor questioned the safety of

The market will open in mid June with strawberries

customers in a very busy area and suggested as the operation

The corn maze in October will be open from 10 a.m. to 10

grows, the market looks into liability issues.

p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

ADA LOWELL 5

616-897-3456

chickens and calves," he said. "It's not a money making

districts under special use.

The business is located

Enterprises Monday.

Commission

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File No. 09-186,584-DE

Decedent's Estate

Estate of MELVIN KINNAMAN Date of birth 11/8/1921

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO **CREDITORS: The** decedent, MELVIN KINNAMAN, who lived at 3000 Monroe NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505, died 2/17/09.

the estate will be forever barred unless presented forever barred unless JULIE BUDDEN BRONSINK named personal representative or proposed personal or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court both the probate court at 180 Ottawa NW, Ste. at 180 Ottawa NW, Grand 2500, Grand Rapids, MI Rapids, MI 49503 and 49503 and the named/ the named/proposed proposed personal representative within 4 within 4 months after months after the date the date of publication of publication of this of this notice.

April 10, 2009

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

Julie Budden-Bronsink 1161 76th Street Belmont, MI 49306 616-554-9594

April 8, 2009

Karen S. McFadden P57043 403 W. Main Belding, MI 48809 616-794-1220

Steven Aldrich 912 Grantham Lane Chesapeake, VA 23322

The Lowell Ledger

(USPS 453-830)

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Officer retires after 35 years of service

Lowell Township tables MCTEE request

non-conforming

Johnson. "It is a little bit

Appeals approved a use

variance for the hobby

illegally. Approximately two

of the property from a hobby from Metropolitan Homes farm on the other side of

to an electrical and data At one point, the business proposed office use in an

zoning violation against

MCTEE," said Johnson.

12 employees now.

garage and auto restoration and established offices. 36th Street, opposed the spotty.'

use," said planner Tim approved in 1980?"

"This would change "Does the change increase

compared to what was

would increase the township

the same situation," said

possible," she said. "I want

Jan-Apr Hours: M-F 9A-7P,

Sa 10A - 3P

May-Dec Hours: M-F 10A-6P

it to remain country.'

to continue.

John Timpson spoke in

"I've been through

a non-conforming use to degree of nonconformance

unusual, but the ordinance favor of the business that

The Zoning Board of tax base and keep jobs.

garage in 1980. However, Timpson, referring to a

years ago, MCTEE took over Robertson, who runs a small

"There is an outstanding agricultural as much as

by Metropolitan Homes zone two years ago.

employed 27. It is down to agricultural area.

the space was conflict over office use in a

converted into office space storage area in an agricultural for an upgrade.



Calvin Department city residents. Kamphuis worked for LPD from March 4, 1974 to March 2009. He will be replaced with a new a training ground," said chief James Hinton.

the area," he said. "It's a

completely different animal

than what was approved in

no employees involved in

the 1980 ZBA approved

also questioned the outside

storage area and the need

"Go back to 1980 and make

Rose assumptions," said Johnson.

"I want it to stay 11 planning commission

Simmonds said he finds it of special use permits

a little difficult to justify to Roanoke Ranch and

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Small Business Accounting • Payroll Services

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SERVICES, INC.

another nonconforming use DenHouter Sand Mining.

The commissioners

"We have to make some

The issue will be

In other business.

216 East Main Street

Entrance at Rear

Parking in Alley

the planning commission

Dave approved the renewal

discussed again at the May

hobby garage.

There were most likely

Kamphuis of the Lowell (LPD) has retired after 35 years of service to the full time officer. "We have a skilled seasoned personnel; we're not just

ANNUAL PRESCHOOL SCREENING

Lowell Area Schools annual preschool screening for program placement of 3 to 4 1/2 year olds is Wed., April 22 and Thurs., April 23, by appointment only at Bushnell Elementary School, music room, 700 Elizabeth St. To schedule a screening or for questions contact Carol Briggs at 987-2516. Deadline to schedule is Friday, April 17.

BLUEGRASS MUSIC CONCERT

Sat., April 18 at 7 p.m. at Larkin's Other Place. Only

LAS K-12 STUDENT ARTS EXHIBITION

High school and middle school show, April 20 - May 2, reception April 28, 5-7 p.m. Elementary school show, May 6-20, reception May 6, 5-7 p.m. at the Lowell Area Arts Council, 149 S. Hudson St. Gallery hours are Tue.-Fri., 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m.; Mon. and mornings by appointment only. 897-8545 or www.lowellartsc ouncil

BAG O'BOOKS SALE

Purchase a bag for \$4 and fill it with a great variety of adult and children's books. Fri., April 24, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sat., April 25, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Community Room of Englehardt Library. All proceeds go to the Kent District Library Foundation. Sponsored by the Friends of Englehardt Library.

YOUTH THEATRE

Thebes Players present "Danny Trooper, In the Land of ModMyth" on April 24, 25, May 2 at 7:30 p.m. and May 3 at 2:30 p.m. at the Lowell Performing Arts Center (Lowell High School), 11700 Vergennes. Tickets are \$6 in advance, \$8 day of show, available at Lowell Area Arts Council, 897-8545 and Rookies Sportscards, 897-5650. For more information, www.lowellartscouncil.org

LOVE4LIFE BENEFIT CONCERT

Do you have a Love4Life? April is Organ Donor Awareness Month. We are having a benefit concert supporting organ recipient Melissa Roche and her donor sister, April May. The concert will be held at Larkin's, 301 W. Main St. on April 25. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. They can be purchased by emailing Love4LifeBenefitConcert@yahoo.com or calling 897-5859.

COMMUNITY GARDEN EXCHANGE

Sat., April 25, 9-11 a.m. at First Baptist Church, 6015 Bancroft Ave., Alto. Share plants you have, take home others. Door prizes and garden help. Rain or shine. No charge.

TOBACCO FREE FOR GOOD

Smoking cessation class begins Tuesday, April 28. The class meets for six weeks on Tuesdays from 6-8 p.m. at Lowell Family Medical Center, 2550 E. Main St. Registration encouraged, but not required. Call 616-975-0123 or go to www.tobaccofreepartners.org.

CALLING ALL DIRECTORS/PRODUCERS

Lowell Area Arts Council is looking for creative people to direct or produce 2009/2010 Thebes Players productions. All interested should deliver or email their resume/interest to: Thebes Director/Producer, Lowell Area Arts Council. PO Box 53, Lowell, MI 49331, info@lowellartscouncil.org or call us for more information, 897-8545. Deadline is April 30/May 1.

LAAC SUMMER SCHOLARSHIPS

Deadline is May 1 for Lowell Area Arts Council Summer Scholarships for students attending summer art/music classes and/or camp. All middle and high school students are eligible. For more information contact the LAAC office, 897-8545. Applications available at www.lowellartscouncil.org and a

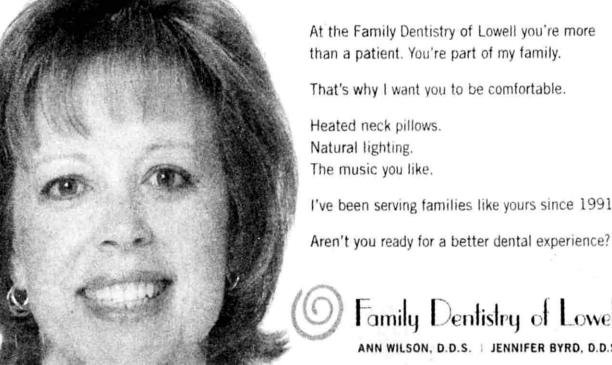
The special use permit will be up for review in April T: 616-897-7668 F: 616-897-7844 E-mail: mtaservices@sbcglobal.net

MAKE YOU COMFORTABLE



UE 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20 MON/WED/TH 4:40, 7:00, 9:20

TUE 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55 MON/WED/TH 5:05, 7:30, 9:55 THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT (PG-13) TUE 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30 UE 11:50, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40 MON/WED/TH 4:50, 7:15, 9:40 AONSTERS VS. ALIENS (PG) TUE 12:20, 2:30, 4:45, 6:50, 9:00 ON/WED/TH 4:45, 6:50, 9:00 FREQUENT MOVIEGOERS Sign up at www.gqtl.com for the Frequent Moviegoer Club Earn points & see movies for a bargain price. DOES YOUR DENTIST



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Sister donates gift of life; benefit concert to raise funds



Sisters Melissa Roche and April May

and April May have bonded forever. May has saved Roche's life by donating a major portion of her liver.

Roche was diagnosed with transplant surgery, where primary biliary cirrhosis, an 65 percent of May's liver autoimmune disorder, where was given to Roche. the patient's blood attacks the liver.

afterwards, especially May "There is no medication who got an internal leakage for that," said friend Angie Reedy. "She started getting and had to go back and forth really sick; she needed a to the clinic, the surgery new liver."

When Roche got really sick last year, she was put on the national liver registry. Roche only had a six percent chance of living for the next

Communications By Design

wide survey and a township

high-speed internet service

address

marketing pricing structures

the ability

willingness to pay for high-

marketing report.

author a community-

The survey questions

Sisters Melissa Roche five years, if she didn't get a four, has at least 20 years or more of life.

underwent

In spite of the fact

that both sisters were ill

hardship," said Reedy, "but

today both are doing well."

resident and a mother of

Roche, 38, a Lowell

was a success.

The month of April is Her younger sister May Organ Donor Awareness tested as a perfect match at the Mayo Clinic in January. On February 12, the two

A benefit concert for both sisters will be held at Larkin's on April 25. Doors open at 6 p.m. There will be a silent auction and performances by Josh Rose, Jo Gage, Jamie Miller and headliner Brian VanderArk, former player of Verve Pipe. All proceeds go to the sisters. Tickets are \$10 in advance, and \$15 at the door. For tickets call 897-5859 or e-mail Love4LifeBenefitC oncert@yahoo.com.

Resident's response will build case for high-speed Internet

by Thad Kraus

Walk into the Vergennes Township clerk's office and there's a real good chance Township? you'll find a sticky note by or near Mari Stone's computer.

That's not unique to the of township clerk. What many residents still do not have may find unique is what is access written on many of those internet.

Lowell Lacrosse

8:30

9:45

11:00

12:15

1:30

3:00

Lowell

FHE

Lowell

Holt

1:00 PM

3:00 PM

5:00 PM

7:30 PM

Portage M

Battle Creek

Organization

Presents....

to be available in Vergennes

unbelievable that a majority Vergennes Township

What many residence working to change that. It

The

Quik Stix

Invitational

April 18, 2009

Lowell High School

8 AM - 4 PM Middle School Round Robin Tournament

Haslett

Lowell

Haslett

FHE

Lowell JVB

Lowell JVA

Varsity

Battle Creek

Lacrosse Games played at Bob Perry Field

in the Red Arrow Stadium

Special Evening College Lacrosse Game

Davenport University vs.

Ferris State University

\$5.00 Entrance Fee Covers ALL DAY Admission

PLEASE COME ENJOY THE GAMES AND SUPPORT LOWELL LACROSSE!

Lacrosse Vendors On-site from 1 PM - 7 PM

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want to know is when is first must find and convince high-speed internet going a provider that there are enough potential customers in Vergennes Township For some it may be and to entice a potential investor and while fitting its business plan.

> "Residents are asking us to do something," Stone

Vergennes

Portage H

Portage H

Portage M

Haslett

FHN

Lowell JVB vs.

Lowell JVA vs.

Battle Creek

G.R. Christian JV

owell Varsity vs.

G.R. Christian Varsity

5th/6th grade exhibition

game at half-time

Battle Creek

Portage H

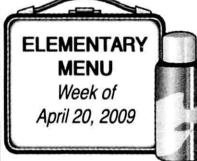
Portage M

FHN

Holt

The charge is for the looking for without creating a negative impression on

LUNCH MENU



MON: Taco (soft or hard shell) w/cheese, lettuce (ham & cheese sub w/ lettuce also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), fresh fruit, apple juice, animal crackers,

TUES: Hot dog on bun (3 meat sub also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), homemade vegetable soup, assorted fruit, milk.

WED: Macaroni & cheese (turkey & cheese wrap also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), fresh mini carrots, assorted fruit, iced cinnamon roll,

THURS: Pepperoni pizza (ravioli w/wheat roll also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), antipasto salad, pears, milk.

FRI: Cheeseburger on bun (quesadilla w/salsa also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), oven potatoes, fruited gelatin salad, milk.

At its conclusion, the report will include relevant information needed to build a business case which will compel service providers Vergennes Township market.

At the core of the Vergennes project, Township three major

A community survey

will be accessible through a web-based questionnaire. The township will responsible for inputting all paper submissions, however, emphasizes, the township asks that residents input the data onto the web-based questionnaire themselves.

Survey results and analysis is the second of the three deliverables. This

will be a full written report of the findings, including an analysis of the data.

Residents will be asked to fill out the web-based questionnaire over a twothree week period of time. Stone said the questionnaire should be ready within a week or two.

Finally, a high-speed internet market report will be provided (10 printed and bound copies).

The market report provide necessary information for service providers new to the township as well as data that may engage service providers in providing high-speed internet to all residents.

For its services Communication By Design will be paid \$11,800.

Stop in & See Us for Girls' Night Out Thurs., April 16

^{\$5} Eyebrow Waxing \$10 Eyelash Tinting



897-1700 204 W. Main, Lowell

Viewpoint

To The Editor

A recent headline in the Lowell Ledger stated - The City Council reviews preliminary 2009-2010 budget. It also said in the budget talks that a mil was allocated for street repair last year but the city manager was seeking council input on what should be done this year.

I believe our roads should be on top of the council's priority list.

Should the city cut back on services? Which ones? How about that two percent salary increase for city employees? I

say the answer to our budget problems comes from not just in cutting services but in utilizing all available taxes.

The community can no longer afford two governing bodies. In these dire times all of the city taxes, and that's including the DDA, should go into the general fund. We also have to stop spending on our wants before our needs and distinguish the difference between the two or we will continue to drown in debt and taxes.

It is no longer acceptable to ask the community to be burdened with more taxes or higher water rates considering Lowell is already near the tops in taxation in Kent county. Will our community continue down the same path with business as usual? With five more budget meetings to go it will be interesting, to say the least, in what our city servants come up with.

> Sincerely, Jim Howard



Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold **EdwardJones** Serving Individuals Investors Since 1871

Your tax refund: Invest today for tomorrow's goals

The tax-filing deadline arrives this week. Will you be getting a refund? If so, take the time to consider how best to use it - because, when used wisely, your tax refund can give you a few added steps on the road toward achieving your

Of course, if you filed your taxes weeks ago, you might have already received a refund. But given the current economic environment, you might have kept the money in a "holding place" while you waited for an uptick in the financial markets. At any rate, if you have access to a refund this year, you now have the opportunity to put that money to good use.

How? Here are a few ideas:

Help fund your IRA. In 2008, the average federal tax refund was \$2,429, according to the Internal Revenue Service. If you were to receive that amount, it would cover almost half of your IRA contribution for this year, as the annual limit is \$5,000. (You can put in \$6,000 if you're 50 or older). A traditional IRA grows tax deferred, while a Roth IRA grows tax free, provided you have held your account for at least five years and don't take withdrawals until you

reach age 59-1/2. Your IRA may have taken a hit last year, but if you fund it with quality investments and avoid making withdrawals until retirement, you can take important steps to help rebuild your portfolio.

Help build an emergency fund. You could use part of your refund for an IRA and part to help build an emergency fund. Ideally, you should have six to 12 months' worth of living expenses in a liquid account to help pay for unexpected costs, such as a major car repair, a new furnace or a costly medical bill. Without such an emergency fund, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments to pay for these costs - and that can hurt your progress toward your financial objectives.

Help rebalance your portfolio. Based on your risk tolerance, time horizon and long-term goals, you may have decided to put a certain percentage of your assets in "growth" vehicles and a certain percentage in incomeoriented investments. At that point, your portfolio was in equilibrium. But during the long bear market, your portfolio may have sustained enough losses to become "unbalanced." In other words, some of your investments may have lost so much value that they no longer make up the percentage of your holdings that you had originally intended. Of course, you could wait for these investments to bounce back - and they may, given enough time - but if you wanted to speed up the rebalancing process, you could use your tax refund to add the right types of new investments to your mix.

Ironic as it may seem, there may not be a better year in which to invest your refund. You can find many quality investments at reasonable prices today, so your refund can help you add extra shares to your accounts - and the more shares you own, the better off you may be when the market turns around. So put your refund to work soon.

By Shelly MacNaughton 125 Years Ago The Lowell Journal

April 16, 1884 Navigation closed on the flats several days ago. Fred B. Hine has a new patent Haven elevator in his

Frank Robinson has an incubator of his own get-up,

which he is successfully operating. A number of men from Lowell go to Washington

Territory this week to seek fortunes.

100 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger **April 15, 1909**

Headline: Ada Moonshiner Set Free

Kaleel Waar, the Syrian farmer of Ada Township, arrested some time ago for running an illicit still, was released from jail Monday on an order issued by Judge Knappen. Waar was sentenced to pay a fine of \$100 and to serve 30 days in the county jail. He has served two weeks over the 30 days, and was being held pending the payment of the \$100 fine. As his family is in destitute circumstances, he was released that he might provide for them.

75 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo **April 19, 1934**

M. D. Hoyt, who some months ago disposed of the Hoyt Lumber Co. to the Lowell Lumber Co. has reengaged in business here, having this week opened a retail store on West Main St., formerly occupied by the R. VanDyke Clothing store. Mr. Hoyt announces that he will specialize in builders' hardware, rooting material, paint, etc., and that he will also conduct a fuel business.

50 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger **April 16, 1959**

Gurney Hahn received an unprecedented honor at the Lowell Board of Trade 53rd Annual Dinner meeting Thursday evening at the Masonic Temple, when he was named as president of the organization for a second year. In the history of the organization this is the first time a member has been so honored.

25 Years Ago The Grand Valley Ledger **April 18, 1984**

The issue that sparked the most controversy, the "Letters to the Editor" page of the Ledger has seen in a long, long time, is not an issue any longer. Don Fizer, owner of Michigan Wire Processing Co. announced last week that he is retracting his offer to purchase the baseball/softball diamond in Recreation Park.

Everyone is talking about the Ledger! Get your subscription today! 897-9261

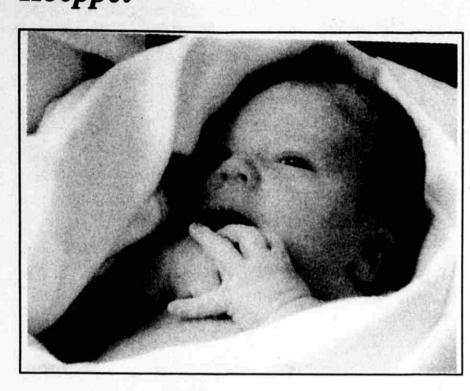
Writing to the editor ...

The requirements are:

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



Koeppel



Caleb Levi Koeppel

Eric and Justin Koeppel are pleased to announce the arrival of their son, Caleb Levi, born March 23, 2009. Caleb weighed 8 lbs. 7 oz. and measured 19 1/2 inches.

Proud grandparents are Ron and Peg Stanford, Dave and Julia Van Veldhuizen, all of Lowell, and Antonio Boiles, of Long Beach, CA.

CATHOLIC HOMECOMING

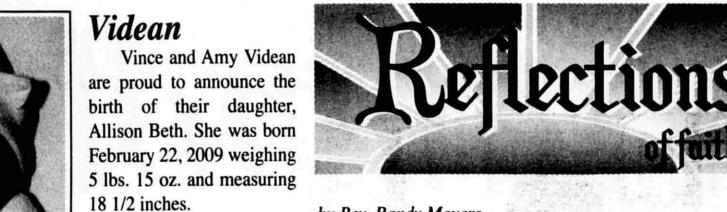
Are you a non-practicing Catholic who misses and yearns to once again receive the Eucharist? If so, you are cordially invited to **Catholic Homecoming**. An outreach to Catholics, who for whatever reason, no longer practice their faith - to return home to the Church and the Eucharist in a warm, welcoming, non-judgmental environment We at Catholic Homecoming would like to be the ears that hear what happened that led you to leave the Church; the heart that listens to your pain. We are eager to be the arms that welcome you home; to embrace you, as the father embraced his prodigal son.

Catholic Homecoming is a three week process that begins on Tuesday, April 21 at 7 p.m. at Saint Mary Church, 402 Amity, Lowell, MI.

For more information please call the Office of Religious Education at 897-7915.



Allison Beth Videan



Also welcoming her home was big brother,

Last week, part of my holy week spiritual disciplines included a 48 hour fast leading up to Good Friday. My wife did not help matters by making homemade cinnamon rolls smothered with homemade powdered sugar frosting. Even though I broke my fast Good Friday morning with a day old, not fresh, cinnamon roll, it was one of the best ever because

Likewise, the Monday after Easter I had similar feelings of hunger all day. I ate more than usual for breakfast, two cinnamon rolls with extra butter, and was hungry by 10:00. Hunger dogged me throughout the day. Looking back, I'm sure I ate more Easter ham and potatoes, corn and salad, plus fruit and strawberry shortcake than were really necessary to meet my daily calorie needs. Maybe I did stretch my stomach?

The observant will notice similar dynamics in relationship to worship. Returning to your church after a prolonged absence, worship often seems more refreshing than usual. After a week of suffering, worship encourages in just the right way. While mourning a dear loss, worship connects and fills the lonely spaces within like nothing else.

But also after a really filling smorgasbord worship, deep inner longings are roused. After just the right song compliments a direct word from Scripture, you can catch

Both of these dynamics point us to a greater reality. They direct us to the real world, the often unseen spiritual realm around us. Here, living in the holy middle, between paradise lost and the paradise to come, we live fast lives merely catching wafts of cinnamon and home. Aromatic spices, people, and places remind us that one day breakfast will be served hot, fresh, and will satisfy like no other has

Likewise, when we taste a prelude banquet served in honor of our redeemer king, Jesus, our heavenly tastebuds detect kingdom flavors of grace and mercy, justice paired with righteousness, and a dash of hope shaken with a spirit of courage. At these feasts we stretch our divine imaginations. We long to see what no eye has seen, strain to hear what no

I hope you had a good Friday and a happy Easter. I

Doug Anchors, Jon Kinsey,

Hayden; grandparents, Pat

and Char Pullen, of Ada, and

Denny and Jacque Videan,

of Alto.

Jason Borton.

APRIL 19:

Heidi Barber, Ruth Harris,

Karrie Akers, Krissie Akers,

Shaun Thompson, Lisa

Allchin, Sharon Bowden,

APRIL 20:

Jim Hodges, Rick Briggs,

Bobbie White, Donna

Peterson, Kendra Merriman,

Angela Miller, Charles

APRIL 21:

Roxann Roth, Connie

Phillips, Ian Newhouse,

Daniel Titcombe.

Marshall.

Michelle Billingsley.

APRIL 15:

Craig Yeiter, Margaret Yoder, Charles Behnke, Fred Oesch Jr., Dave Carpenter, Terry Kinsley.

APRIL 16:

Sam Roudabush, Kathleen Zywicki, Jack Ryder, Jacob Billingsley, Lori Gerard, Steve Kropf, Angie Farrell, Kristin Lee.

APRIL 17:

Elsie Franks, Heather Vezino, Roger Teale, Dennie Ryder, Joe Merriman, Jill Harris, Lucille Erickson, Erickson, Gary Pieroni, Candice Bowne, Jace Eliason.

APRIL 18: Rick Warner, Angela Vezino,





by Rev. Randy Meyers

Calvary Christian Reformed Church

I do not know if you have ever actually been hungry but I'd guess you know what feels like hunger. After feelings of hunger I find that I eat more than usual. It is also true for me that the day after I eat way too much food I seem even hungrier. I continue to eat more than I usually would. I have heard this is because my stomach was stretched out and I need more food to fill it.

I had been so hungry!

yourself wanting another such moment.

ear has heard, and salivate to taste the main course yet to

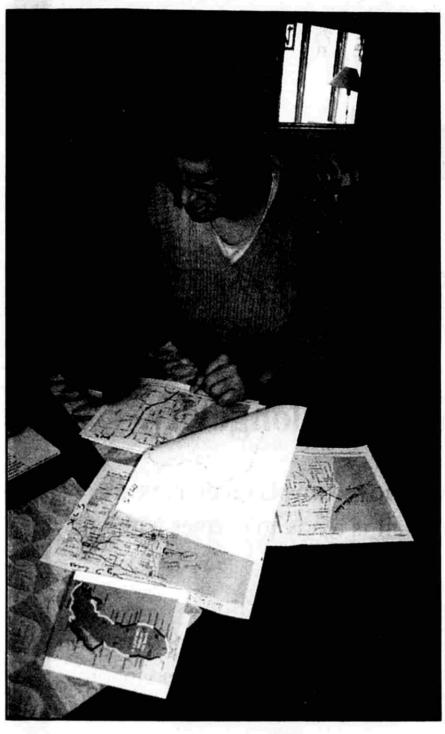
hope Good Friday filled you. I hope Easter stretched you.

Battle Creek woman walks 1,000 miles around Lake Michigan

Service

"When it gets warmer, I'll

switch to sandals."



Loreen sits at her dining room table in Battle Creek during a break between 10 planned segments of her walking journey around Lake Michigan. The 1,000 mile walk on the beach began March 16 in Chicago. This week, she planned to walk from South Haven to Grand Haven. (Photo by Shelly Sulser)



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by Shelly Sulser walk the third leg with her model I'd most closely like to J-Ad Graphics News already ambled 125 miles

Many have been around at Chicago's Navy Pier on the lake on wheels but as far as anyone knows, Battle "I feel a connection this week, Niewenhuis' plan agents interested in her Creek's Loreen Niewenhuis to the lake," said the exwill go down in history as cancer researcher. "And I've an adventurer who dared to traveled all over. I've been get around the 1,000 miles to Europe. I've been to the of Lake Michigan shoreline ocean. I love the ocean. I the old fashioned way - on love to walk on the beach but there's something about "I'm happy in my Lake Michigan and I don't boots," said Niewenhuis.

to explore."

fully understand it so I want

youngest son, Lucas, from emulate," said Niewenhuis, South Haven to Grand Haven already a published author since starting her journey during his Spring break who currently has a number from Lakeview High School of publishing houses and is to finish in October while current undertaking: A 1,000 taking a few days break Mile Walk on the Beach: in between to blog about One Woman's Trek of the her journey at LakeTrek. Perimeter of Lake Michigan. Blogspot.com.

> the reason for the enormous wonderful, very accessible endeavor - her book. "Bill Bryson's 'Walk in

Currently scheduled to the Woods,' that book is the

"You feel like you're out But her biggest goal there (on the Appalachian while at home is to work on Trail) with him. He's a writer who can also get the

cont'., pg. 9



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12 Years



30 Years

into Fountain

View of Lowell





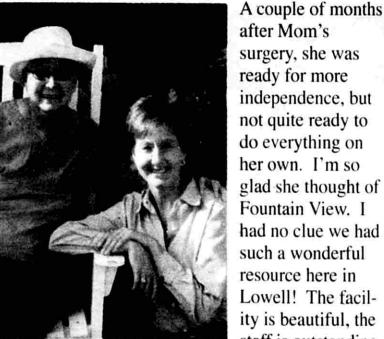
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and the other residents are delightful. Fountain View has been the perfect solution for us. Mom has the independence she enjoys and we have peace of mind!

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Walk, continued From Page 7

science in there."

The Michigan native has discovery along the way. long had an ongoing love affair with Lake Michigan to think about my life up since childhood.

parts of the state, Niewenhuis science degree from Calvin College in Grand Rapids and Wayne State. Most recently, arts in fiction writing from short fiction has appeared in a variety of publications including The Antioch reservations. Review and the Bellevue Literary Review.

a runner but found myself a week running because Amoco. I was thinking about the lake and thinking about this something that really clicks that," said Niewenhuis. with you to motivate yourself. I know I'll complete this and Whiting between Whiting will be looking for the next and East Chicago, which is thing really."

Her preparation also all, it's in Indiana.' involved reading as many as she could, including Peter for people. Annin's "The Great Lakes Lakes Compact that was ratified by all states and the two Canadian provinces last year, as well as books by others who had taken road trips around the lake.

She expects her book and shards of metal." will also serve to tell the

story of her anticipated self-

"It's a time to reflect to this point and about Aftergrowing up in other what comes next, when I have the empty nest," said

Niewenhuis, who, along with husband Jim, has two sons, Ben and Lucas. "It's her master of science from kind of a tipping point." Niewenhuis began the she received masters of fine first, 72-mile segment armed with a backpack, maps, a Spalding University and her GPS (global positioning she expects to camp out at system) unit and a cell night. phone as well as lodging

That leg ended in Union Pier, Michigan, but not "I think you need to find without meeting interesting something you're passionate people and experiencing the about and I'm very passionate enormous obstacle on the about Lake Michigan," she east side of Chicago known said of her latest adventure. as the BP oil refinery, which "I trained for seven months at over 100 years old, was before starting out. I'm not once the largest in the nation when it was owned getting up three to four days by Standard Oil and later,

"That was a lot of urban walking so it was nice to project and you need to find have a few days break after "That was just east of actually not in Chicago at

The refinery goes on on the history for "miles and miles" and her third leg Monday, April surrounding Lake Michigan they don't have sidewalks 6, her luck changed when "A lot of places there

weren't sidewalks," said. "So I was walking along the side of the road through weeds and trash That refinery seemed to pave the shoulders with shards of hard, hard coke.

Walking through the

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heavy industry during the colder months and early on the journey was not done by

"I couldn't see ending on that after seeing the beauty of everything," she said. "I wanted to get that over with. And then, to relate the rest of the lake to

Her planned timing also lands her in the Upper Peninsula in July when "So I won't have to go

X number of miles each day; I can go as long as I want; I can stop and have dinner and I can continue if I want," she said of not having to keep reservation deadlines. "If there's a full moon, I can walk on the beach at night. So I'm really looking forward to these two sections I can do back to back in July."

During a week-long break back at home in Battle Creek last week, Niewenhuis had so far dodged bad weather.

"I haven't been rained on or snowed on yet," she said Thursday, April 2. "So starting March 16, I really lucked out."

But with plans to begin a Sunday night snowstorm dumped about three to four inches onto her path, from the Lake Michigan shoreline east to Detroit.

Niewenhuis returned to Battle Creek after the first segment, which took five days to cover 72 miles, to pick up her eldest son Ben, a freshman at Calvin College.



Loreen Niewenhuis of Battle Creek calls herself a writer and adventurer.

walked from Union Pier to

covered a lovely section of the lake," she said. "The shoreline was quite varied. bluffs to sandy stretches, to eroding cliffs of clay and sand, to high dunes.'

jog the last mile that last

quiet with him, too," she said. "I'm looking forward to walking next week with

Jim, however, has no it was fantastic. She had plans to walk along the a local artist also come to South Haven, a distance of beach with his wife though breakfast with his wife. We they will all walk as a family had a lovely time talking "The second segment across the Mackinac Bridge about Michigan City and over Labor Day weekend, the lake."

Among the most with some people from the It ranged from high, treed memorable people she's met community, saw her off at so far is "the B&B lady" in the beach where she ambled Michigan City, Indiana, she into the horizon.

"She was just fantastic," miles per day, Niewenhuis said Niewenhuis. "She still has about 800 miles of except when he wanted to was so excited. She called walking ahead of her before community leaders - the she can settle down and mayor - to have breakfast with me the next day. They came and the reporter and the city councilmen and

> saw me off on the beach." "I thought 'this lady is really a puppet master," said Niewenhuis. "I thought

people from the community

In fact, the group along

Averaging 15 to 17

"I consider this my job right now," she said. "It will be a finding yourself sort of book. A lot of that will

Follow her progress at LakeTrek.Blogspot.com.



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THE LOWELL LEDGER - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2009 - PAGE 10



20 year old Ace Pitcher Adenhart, of the Angels, dies in a car crash.

AFEW

NOTABLE

APRIL 9 -

APRIL 15

- Navy Seal snipers take out three pirates to rescue American captain.
- Polar bear mauls woman at Berlin Zoo.

- Five dead in Florida boating wreck, seven injured, after 22-foot pleasure boat crashes into rear of tug boat.
- Cabrera wins playoff at the Masters against Kenny Perry and Chad Campbell.
- Obamas hold their first Easter egg hunt.
- The Obamas welcome their new puppy, a Portuguese Water Dog named Bo.
- Stimulus tallies 2,000 transportation projects. One in Kalamazoo underway, \$68 million project planned to widen interchange from four lanes to six lanes along Interstate 94
- North Korea vows to restart its nuclear reactor and boycott disarmament talks.
- Phil Spector found guilty of second-degree

murder in the shooting death of a woman at his home six years ago.

- Philadelphia Phillies broadcaster Harry Kalas, dies after being found in the broadcast booth.
- Mel Gibson's wife has filed for divorce after 28 years of marriage.
- Court declares Democrat Al Franken winner in the Minnesota senate race against Republican Norm Coleman.
- Former Piston great Isiah Thomas is expected to be named head coach this week at Florida International.
- Mark Fidrych, "the bird," former Detroit Tiger great dies at the age of 54.

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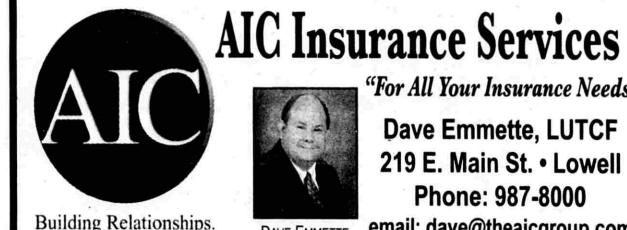
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Research options carefully when quitting smoking

assess what works.

There are many reasons and because quitting takes it's difficult for smokers to that looks promising, it is help you determine the to quit smoking and the tax increase that occurred last week may be a good one. The Centers for Disease Control track the impact smoking cessation efforts by smokers. The agency is able to predict the latest tax increase will help over one million smokers nationally to kick the habit. While expense is an issue, health is the reason cited by most smokers as their motivation to quit.

Whether it is cost or better health, the American Society has Cancer reviewed data that shows over 84 percent of current smokers want to quit and nearly half - 48 percent will try to quit in the next 12 months. There are over 1.6 million smokers in Michigan, which keeps our state in the top 10 percent of smoking prevalence in the US. Ahead of Michigan are Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia, which are the

Because smoking is the result of an addiction

several attempts, there is no shortage of companies and on helping smokers quit.

sold over the Internet

products trying to cash in individuals

Every month there are that offer everything from new pills and new devices hypnosis to laser treatments and seed therapy that claim they can help physiological feedback for health care professional. These agencies do not sell

to

important to look beyond effectiveness of various treatments, products or of success. Spend the methods. Go to: www.cdc. time to find independent gov/tobacco, www.cancer. sources to confirm the org – guide for quitting results. Check with your smoking, physician or other trusted org or www.quitnet.com. products or services, rather

> research shown to improve Hospitals. clinical practice guidelines 2007. established by the US Department of Health and Human Services when counseling smokers on how to quit. The publication is entitled "Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence" and key recommendations are replacement a) group, individual and telephone counseling b) numerous FDA approved medications and nicotine therapies

they report on the results of

Counseling in the form of free cessation classes are available in Lowell starting April 28 at Lowell Family Medical Center. The curriculum follows national guidelines on counseling and is facilitated by a nationally certified tobacco addiction and treatment specialist. Tobacco Free For Good classes have been offered in Kent County since 1998 and available plans and physicians use in Lowell since January of

Classes help smokers develop their own plan to quit based on their smoking history, current smoking patterns and the environment in which they live and work. Other it was last updated in May topics include: review of of 2008. Included in the ten medications and nicotine understanding withdrawal symptoms; coping with stress; managing weight control and fitness; and preventing Anyone with questions can call 616-446-7058 or go to www.tobaccofreepartners. org to register.

smokers overcome the smoking cessation. Some Some alternative and replacement cravings and finally get services are performed in them to become smoke free. private offices while others be helpful; others are only top three tobacco producing Most of these products and use conference centers to devices are not reviewed accommodate large groups. by the FDA, the Federal Drug Administration, for searching on the Internet safety or effectiveness so or see an advertisement are a few websites that can

Whether you

complimentary methods can and c) incorporation of social support as part of looking to sell you a quick treatment.

smoking cessation, here

Most Secretary of State offices to offer ATM

up," Land

said.

customer-friendly service be completed in June. enhancements, Secretary

announced most branch offices will soon convenience of on-site cash machines.

that participated successful pilot program gauge customer demand. Installation of the automated teller machines

of State Terri Lynn Land service our No. 1 priority

Secretary Land: "Cash machines add convenience for customers."

ATMs will be at residents a trip to the is as quick as possible."

In addition to offering card. She ATMs in offices, Land recently

improvements that include "We've made customer creating six more PLUS offices by upgrading existing offices, putting Self-Service Stations in eight traditional offices and allowing people to buy their driving record at every branch.

"Saving Michigan office, she has created SUPER!Centers bank before visiting one PLUS offices, which of our offices is a great offer additional services, way to ensure conducting expanded hours and the branch office locations Secretary of State business ability to pay with a and services, as well as MasterCard or Discover

broadened available

In the latest wave of already has begun and will customer-service customers can skip the trip to a branch office entirely. The Self-Service Stations allow people to renew their license plate tabs with a swipe of a major credit or branded debit card.

The service fee for using an ATM at a Secretary of State office will be \$2, Since Land took of which a portion will go to the state's general fund.

Michigan.gov/sos more information about other Secretary of State

COUNTDOWN **TO KINDERGARTEN** PARENT MEETING SCHEDULE Attendance is important! You will be scheduling your child's visitation time!

ALTO ELEMENTARY

Kindergarten Parent Meeting THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2009 6:00-6:25 PM - Sign-up 6:30-7:30 РМ - Meeting

BUSHNELL ELEMENTARY

Kindergarten Parent Meeting WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2009 6:00-6:25 PM - Sign-up 6:30-7:30 PM - Meeting

MURRAY LAKE ELEMENTARY

Kindergarten Parent Meeting TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2009 6:15-6:25 PM - Sign-up 6:30-7:30 PM - Meeting





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Thebes Players present Danny Trooper

Whether you are 15 or memories of getting up theater director Brent Alles early on Saturday mornings definitely counts himself and rushing to the TV set as one of those who 'tuned long.

in Lowell, now seeks to you name it. When I began and film. "Danny Trooper in there was usually a rich the Land of ModMyth" tells and detailed 'mythology' who discovers a magical thinking about mythology land that is the source of in general, and how our inspiration for the heroes and feared from childhood to now, and along the way, the title character finds the or courage to overcome his leader Optimus Prime.' greatest losses and fears.

'modern mythology' really childhood 'heroes,' be it Superman, Davey Crockett,

The story begins with

playwright and community old boy who recently lost and excitement in the the most effective fantasy mother, Patricia, in the hopes get on a soapbox here, but in' to the Saturday morning of breaking Danny out of I worry sometimes when shows regularly. "My the shell he has developed, I hear about elementary want the audience to All shows are performed greatest love was of course takes him to a new school: schools cancelling recess think they are coming to at the Lowell Performing that seemed to play all day the comic book superheroes, Ryder Elementary. It is for various reasons; I worry there that Danny will meet that children are perhaps Players, a anything: Smurfs, G. I. Joe, new best friends, especially losing a major physical, Transformers, Janet Starr, a spunky fifth- social, and creative outlet." grade girl with secrets capture that nostalgia and to write 'Danny,' what I of her own. Alles drew ModMyth (short for the excitement in a loving reflected on was that even upon his own childhood aforementioned 'modern homage to all those who though many of these for the early scenes of mythology') is filled with have "inspired" children shows were ostensibly 30- the play, stating, "When I fantastic creatures, Alles over the years on television minute toy commercials, was in elementary school, also presents some all the story of a young boy to them. That got me I remember that kids would of a parent and dealing and villains we have loved has developed through our etc.; some kids would head things in a work of fantasy,

Grand Rapids area the introduction of Danny we loved. I hoped to capture Trooper, an eleven-year- some of that imagination them. Quite honestly, I think

> While the land recess was one of the most too-real life issues in the treasured times of the day. play, including the loss always divide into little with childhood illness. groups: the 'sporties' would When questioned about the play baseball, basketball, decision to include such characters and shows that sensitive but you ultimately stage.

don't have to 'talk down' to real with the surreal."

scenes, a GREAT main Commander Nightshadel.

There is apparently only Performing Arts Center straight for the playground Alles explained, "I'm of everybody munching on big for ages 7 and up; parents equipment - slides, swings; the firm belief that kids can bowls of cereal and milk should exercise discretion and then there were those take [the real-life issues]; as they watch our Saturday with viewers ages 6 and of us who would act out the that you certainly have to be morning cartoon put up on under.)

Thebes Players presents "Danny Trooper in the Land of ModMyth," a family play his father in the war. His opening of the play. Not to for children combines the in three acts, on April 24, April 25 and May 2 at 7:30 Still, Alles does not p.m., and May 3 at 2:30 p.m. see a 'downer.' Ouite the Arts Center (Lowell High opposite, he says, stating, School), 11700 Vergennes, "We have great actors, funny Lowell. Tickets in advance characters, thrilling battle are \$6 (general admission), villain [the megalomaniacal be purchased in advance and even a slight touch of 106 W. Main Street (616-897-5650) or at the Lowell Area Arts Council by one thing that Alles wished calling 616-897-8545 or for with this play that cannot by going online at www. happen. "The LPAC [Lowell lowellartscouncil.org(Show running time approximately has a pretty strict 'no food' 75 minutes. Due to some policy, so unfortunately scenes of fantasy battle, the we won't be able to have play is probably suitable

OKAY in Sunday's final round. Someone Has To Say It ...

by Thad Kraus

It was a masterpiece of an under card in Augusta on

Both Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson, seven shots in back of leader Kenny Perry, were paired up to shoot the final 18 holes together.

The insider scuttle is these two golfing giants don't like one another.

Whether that's true or not I don't know, but networks love to play it up. Makes for good theater.

Making matters even better, they both played well adding a compelling drama

Mickelson went out and shot a 30 on the front nine, but then double bogeyed 11.

Backayard dreams fielding traveling teams

communities.

Both Mickelson and Tiger got to 10 under at one point

They also both collapsed over the final couple of holes, eliminating any chances for a miraculous, charged Sunday

two short putts on 15 and 17 to end any chances of catching Perry and company

It was good television and it was only act one of the

After Woods and Mickelson exited the hallow grounds there was still the Master's to decide.

That drama was played out by Kenny Perry, Chad Campbell, and Angel Cabrera.

It ended on the second hole of sudden death when Cabrera parred hole number 10 while Perry carded a

Campbell was knocked out when he bogeyed 18 in the first hole of sudden death.

The only disturbing part of the whole CBS broadcast, for me, was Perry played flawless golf through 16 holes.

His first bad shot of the day came at 17 and it was like the announcers were just waiting so they could yammer on about the pressure getting to Perry.

Perry admitted afterwards that he didn't handle the pressure as well as he would have liked. However, Tiger bogeyed the final two holes. Mickelson missed Mickelson botched two makable putts at crucial points and not a word from the same television broadcast pundits

about Mickelson melting under the pressure. Maybe, because Phil has done it so often, they didn't think it was necessary to state the obvious.

I tend to think it's because Jim Nantz and company hold him up as the darling of golf.

Woods bogeyed the last two holes. Not a peep about him not handling the pressure. Yes, he's the greatest golfer. arguably of all time, but he's also human. Tiger too can break down and make bad shots when the tournament is on the line. Just not very often!

Listening to CBS announcers, made it clear to me why I like Johnny Miller. Tell me the truth; don't play me out as a dummy. I know what I saw.

Saving green while going green

show their Lowell pride, and save money at a growing list Marketing recently purchased some reusable canvas shopping bags with the logo: "Lowell - The Next Place to Be" in

bags will make their debut and sturdy. We are also very Committee over with the savings at participating businesses.

the bags," said Marketing Committee member Cliff

Thursday, April 16 from 5- were produced in the US. 9 p.m. The cost of the bags We felt that was important is \$5, but they will pay for in light of recent economic themselves many times developments." The vision for the bags was to accomplish

"We are very happy with several things at once and create a win-win situation. The first goal is to encourage local shopping and promote Lowell. Secondly, to lessen the number of plastic bags entering the waste stream by providing a good looking, reusable bag.

The added incentive

Lowell shoppers can big letters on the side. The Yankovich. "They are roomy reuse, the bags is that they can save 10 percent when during Girls Night Out on proud of the fact that they they bring their bag into a growing list of retail shops, restaurants, and service providers in Lowell.

Participating members of the Lowell Area Chamber Commerce include: Advanced Eyecare, Chimera Design, Cousin's Hallmark and River Hollow, eja Salon,

THE NEXT PLACE TO BE!

WELL

Area Historical Museum Larkins, Simple Pleasures Springrove Variety, Roll Away Family Fun Center, The Hanger, and Wildflowers of

River Grill, Glass

Designs, Lowell

Baker,

Lowell

Area Chamber of

Commerce, said

"As the word gets

out and these bags

start appearing

on the arms of

Lowell shoppers

we are hoping the

list of participants

will grow."

That's where Shane president Beach, Backyard Dreams, hopes his program will help players and coaches

by Thad Kraus

backyards.

experienced.

The baseball dreams of

most young boys growing

fun and the team culture is

For many that

enough. For some, their

talents and desire demand

more dedicated services.

up start in their own "I am a baseball traditionalist. The backyard For many, those dreams is where I played ball and are eventually transferred dreamed as a kid," Beach onto a Little League diamond where recreational

play the game.

While he supports the bring some kids back Little League program, Beach understands there

better themselves in the

fundamentals and learn the

right way to to coach and

are some boys who need and desire more. Backyard Dreams, traveling

baseball organization for boys the game's fundamentals, This year it will field four technique and terminology.

Many kids this type of professional coaching. If it is not available in their hometown their parents find it in other

"By providing these dedicated services to our local community, it will to Lowell because the opportunity is now here," Beach said. "This is not

why Little League remains important.' In year one, Backyard ages nine to 12, pitches Dreams fielded two teams

for everyone, which is

The nine and 10-year olds will play their games at the Alto ball field (near Alto Elementary) and local 11 and 12-year olds will play home games at Recreational

The season runs through the third week in July with each team playing 45-50 his ways are my ways."

players on each squad.

weekends. and players are excited and the the West Michigan area. coaches are eager to put in the time and do what is best be about more than just for everybody."

Ideally, Beach projects Backyard Dreams growing into a feeder program for the high school.

"Coach Juston Miller is being kept in the loop as to what I'm trying to build," Beach explains. "It's an easy thing because

The goal or dream if There will be 10-12 you will, is to have a team at every age level eight Teams rotate play on through 18 and for it to evolve into a successful program such as others in

> "We want this to baseball. We would like

the program to help grow these kids into responsible young men and teach them life skills as well," Beach

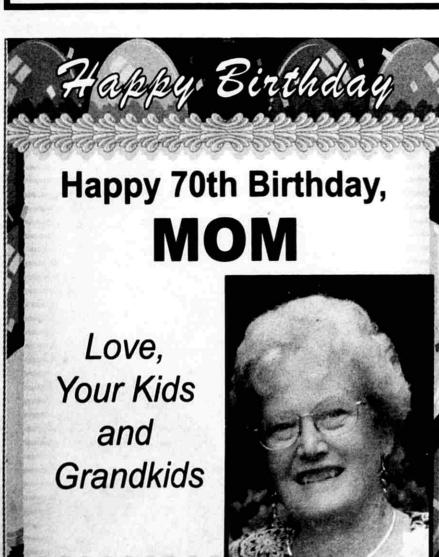
Currently, traveling league teams and their families are working together to cut wood for an area family whose father is serving in Iraq.

Beach said Backyard Dreams is still looking to add players. For more information or interest in playing on a traveling baseball team, parents/ players may call Shane at

BOWNE TOWNSHIP NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the OPTECH Computer Program Testing for the May 5, 2009 School Election is Wednesday, April 22, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the Township Office, 8240 Alden Nash SE, Alto.

> Sandra L. Kowalczyk Bowne Township Clerk



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All-day everyday has high price tag

by Thad Kraus

school districts.

That appears to be capacity (half-time) will where things are with the allday, everyday kindergarten State of Michigan.

two years. Districts will now wait and see until the pike."

Pratt and other school officials, in the meantime the district to add classroom have met with over 100 parents through 10 open require asking district voters forums to discuss concerns to approve a bond issue in and challenges pertaining to order to house the program. the legislation.

Pratt shared his belief that there is a need for local control associated with the Young Five's program.

The Young Five's program is designed for students whose birthdays fall between the start of the school year and Sept. 1.

Some of the staunch issues that would face school districts when the bill is 12. passed would include a cost

very familiar to Michigan Five's program. Running 2009-2010. the program at its current

cost nearly the same. three-year for mandate proposed by the implementation of all-day, everyday kindergarten would "The bill is in the add nearly \$1.3 million as stretched. The cost of \$1.3 back the requirements for million was calculated based per pupil. on the costs of additional teachers, paraprofessionals, information is pushed down bus drivers, buses and supplies for students.

> It would also require space. To do that would To receive a full-time

foundation equivalency allowance for students schools will have to meet time requirements.

Beginning in the 2009-2010 school year, to receive a full foundation allowance for pupils in a developmental program, the number of pupil instructional hours must meet that of grades 1-

A half-day program, with the implementation of therefore would generate .5 Wait and see is a process an all-day, everyday Young FTE per pupil beginning in

> 2011, to receive a full pupils kindergarten, instructional hours must be at least 60 percent of the in expenses to the district required hours for grades budget which Pratt defines 1-12. A half-day program would generate 0.83 FTE

Beginning in 2011-2012, the instructional hours in the kindergarten program must be at least 70 percent of the required hours in grades Beginning in 2010-1-12. A half-day program would generate 0.71 FTE

> per pupil. challenge remains to provide the best educational programs for all students within the potential limitations that have been placed upon us," Pratt concluded.

For what shall it profit a man ...if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Mark 8:36

Bible Study

Location: Veterans Center

Time: 3rd Tuesday of each month 7:00 p.m.

3116 Alden Nash, Lowell

Leader: Glenn H. Marks VFW Chaplain WWII Veteran

All are welcome to join us! Nondenominational

Hockey Awards make top shelf

Post-season awards were handed out at the hockey banquet held at the Deer Run Golf Course.

Receiving awards were Billy Watson, MVP and leading scorer; Nolan Blair, Hobey Baker Award; Michael Przybysz and Braden McGillicudy, Sportsmanship Award; Jake Anderson, Scholar Award; Logan McGregor, Most Improved; Brent Steele and Justin Bowyer, Academic All State; and Lowell Junior Varsity hockey team, Tier 2 Champions.



Michigan answers call to give gift of life

girls' night out

THURSDAY, APRIL 16 · 5 to 9 PM

Terri Lynn Land applauded the thousands of people lifesaving transplants. Their week or in the past. who pledged to give the gift of life by joining the in 17,672 people "showing done. We must continue this Michigan Organ Donor calling their generosity an inspiration for all. She also encouraged more people to register throughout the year because the need for organ

transplants remains great. Land, in conjunction with Gift of Life Michigan and the Michigan Eye-Bank, celebrated April as Donate Life Month this events that

AIC Insurance - 219 E Main Street

All Weather Seal - 319 E Main Street

Chimera Design - 208 E Main St

There will be store-wide savings.

eia' Salon - 204 W Main St

Collectors Korner - 218 W Main St

\$5 eyebrow waxes and \$10 eye lash tint.

Fire and Water Art! - 219 W Main St

Flat River Cottage - 317 E Main St

Glass House Designs - 215 W Main St

and materials and supplies for the home.

selections (steak, chicken breast or shrimp).

Modern Photographics - 104 W Main St

Ladies get your photo for free!

Pep Talk - 207 E Main St

Hearthstone Design Studio - 218 E Main St

Larkin's Fine Food & Cocktails - 301 W Main St

Lowell Area Historical Museum - 325 W Main St

Flat River Grill - 201 E Main St

martini special.

and cocktails!

Stop by and check out our new digs. Enjoy tasty hors dourves

Full staff on hand to answer questions about energy efficiency, the

Come in & check out our great collections & jewelry, we pay more

Free gifts with purchase, great new in-store specials. Refreshments!

for your gold & metal scrap than anyone else guaranteed!

Cousin's Hallmark/River Hollow - 223 W Main St

Big prize drawing at 8:00 pm - must be present to win!

20% off regular priced appetizers and check out our "GNO"

Drawing for \$25 gift certificate. Champagne and chocolate!

Offering a 25% off discount on all in-stock displays, antiques

Stop in for a \$1 Bacardi Breezer and enjoy one of our \$6 dinner

10% discounts in the gift shop and 10% off on facility rentals.

Drawings throughout the evening for unique gifts.

new tax incentive and building codes. Refreshments!

successful efforts resulted

giving the gift of life can organ transplant in Michigan decided to be a donor. promoted organ donation so each donor makes a

and educated people about huge difference. I applaud the constant need for everyone who signed up this

"But our work here isn't their heart" by joining the week's success throughout registry since April 1 via the the year so the number of Web or at Secretary of State people who must wait for a lifesaving transplant can be "One person selflessly reduced."

People who join the save or improve the lives registry receive a heart logo of up to 50 people," Land sticker that goes on their said. "I encourage everyone driver's license, allowing to take a few moments them to "show their heart." and sign up today. At this The sticker gives emergency moment, almost 3,000 responders a quick visual people are waiting for an cue to know if someone has

340 "Buddies" in Secretary

organ donation or strongly waiting lists. Transplant support it. The events also surgeries often are more featured transplant recipient successful when the donor included having more than Ann Arbor resident Dr. and recipient are members Michael Hagan, who is a of the same racial group. of State offices across the liver recipient and director The campaign also has state to talk with customers of quality improvement run in Kent, Genesee and

Saginaw counties.

Gift of

Life Michigan

is the state's

federally

certified, full

service organ

recovery

organization.

NATIONAL

about the importance of for Gift of Life Michigan. organ donation. Buddies

Hagan spoke about his are volunteers who have bond with the family of a staff and transplant centers. Highlights of the week been personally affected by 21-year-old woman, who For more information about liver went to Hagan. At contact Gift of Life Community College student org. Kathleen Mather spoke about receiving a heart transplant when she was

> Month efforts have been complemented by the "Tell Us Now" campaign, which is paid for with a federal grant and has been running on the importance of eye, in southeastern Michigan. organ and tissue donation. The advertising campaign To learn more, call (800) encourages people to join 247-7250 or visit the the organ donor registry organization's Web site at by sharing the stories of those whose lives have org. been transformed by organ promotes organ donation among minorities, who disproportionately Michigan.gov/sos. represented on transplant

> donors, physicians, hospital died tragically and whose organ and tissue donation, another event, Wyoming Michigan at (800) 482-4881 resident and Grand Rapids or www.giftoflifemichigan. The Michigan Eye-

mission is the restoration of sight. It recovers, evaluates and The 2009 Donate Life distributes corneas for transplantation, eye and vision research and offers public and professional www.michiganeyebank.

> For more information State organ and tissue donor initiatives, visit www.

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WIN A \$1,000 - Buy a ticket before May 3 & win a \$1,000, dinner for 7 at the Museum or 2 nights at the Grand Victorian Inn. Tickets are \$3 ea. or 4 to \$10. Stop by the Lowell Area Historical Museum or Buyers Guide or call 897-7688.

897-8992.

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utitilties. Call 897-7176 or

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299-3198.

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the label.

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MATTRESSES - Large selection of name brand mattresses at 30% less "sale" price. Yes, 30% less! RCD Wholesale, 616-682-4767 or 293-5188.TFN

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The Lowell Ledger

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www.lowellbuyersquide.com

EVENTS

Events are for non-profit organizations. They are ran on a space available basis & are not guaranteed to run. If you would like to make sure your event is placed in the paper, please call our office & place it as

FOR RENT - Spacious 2

BLUEGRASS MUSIC Veteran's Center, 3100 CONCERT - Sat., Alden Nash. Newly remod-April 18 at 7 p.m. Only \$5. www.vfw8393.org. Call

> 25, 9-11 a.m. First Baptist bushes, shrubs, bulbs, house plants. Door prizes,

BAG O'BOOKS SALE

bargain prices! Purchase CENTER COURT APT a bag for \$4 & fill it with first month rent free! (w/12 month lease.) 2 bedrooms, \$600; 1 bedroom, 24, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. & Sat. \$500; on-site laundry & cats April 25 from 10 - 1 p.m. allowed. Center Court Apt. in the Community Room 201 N. Center St., Lowell of Englehardt Libary. All Call CB Richard Ellis/Grand proceeds go to the Kent District Library Foundation. Sponsored by the Friends

Bliss & Portland, bet. Mor-

rison Lake & Raceway

activity center.)

Look for the beautiful new

COUNTDOWN TO KIN-

DERGARTEN - Parents

of children who will be five

year s old on or before

Dec. 1, 2009, are invited to

Countdown to Kindergar-

ten. A parent informational

packet mailed to you, or for

VENDORS EXPO - Sat.,

May 2, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Friendship Country Chapel,

10200 Grand River Ave.

SALES

GARAGE SALE - Friday,

April 17 & Sat. 18, 2335

Segwun Ave.(4th house on rt. S of Grand River Dr.)

Toaster ovens, musical

instruments, WWII helmet,

old political buttons, and

lots of misc.

Lowell. Free admission.

any questions.

EVENTS PLEASE NOTE - Coming REVIVE GATHERING -Sun., April 19, 5:30 - 6:30

p.m. Nontraditional, multichuch, casual worship gathering with live band. Great for the whole family. Popcorn, coffee, tea & hot cocoa provided. Everyone is welcome. West Berlin Weslevan Church, 5110 a classified ad. Portland Road, (corner of

GIRLS NITE OUT - Century Post Pub. Live music by Jake Stevens, 8-12 p.m.

Larkin's Other Place.

COMMUNITY GARDEN meeting will be held April **EXCHANGE** - Sat., April 21 at Murray Lake Elementary (987-2750), April 22 at Church, 6015 Bancroft Bushnell Elementary (987-2650) and April 16 at Alto Ave., Alto. Share plants Elementary (987-2600). A you have, take home others. Flowers, grasses, fruit kindergarten information packet should be requ hereby, ground cover & ested prior to the parent meeting. Please call the refreshments & garden school in which you reside help. Rain or shine. No to have an enrollment

- Great used books at a great variety of adult & chidren's books. Fri., April of the Englehardt Library.

HELP WANTED

CUSTOMER RELATIONS/ GENERAL HELP - Big opportunity. Paid weekly \$10 -\$15 to start. Call now, apply tomorrow, start Monday. Growing company s in need of full-time help Company has created several new openings in its workforce. These positions consist of customer service. account reps, team leader and more. Must be friendly, hard working and good communication skills are a must. Call for interview 616-243-1250 Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

COMMERCIAL CLEAN-ING POSITIONS - Part time positions available immediately in the Lowell area, Tuesday & Thursday, day shift, approximately 3 hours a trip. Transportation and valid drivers license required. Stop in soon and fill out an application: Metropolitan Building Maintenance, 868 Barnum SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49509.

LIVE IN CARE GIVER Housing utilities, food and a small monthly salary will be paid for sleeping hours 9 p.m. to 8 a.m. each day and two full weekends a month (employment outside of the required hours permitted) Experience working with develop mentally disabled required. Call Jennifer 616-868-6302.

LPN - Medicare certified home care agency seeking skilled nurses for care in the clients home. We have opportunities for evenings overnights and weekends for pediatric & adult clients.

Call Community Care Givers at 616-531-9973. Terry at 897-4932.

SERVICES ZOOLAND DAY CARE HAS OPENINGS - on 1st & 2nd shifts. Call 897-8386 or

Lowell. Open Wed. thru NEED A DUMP-**HOT TUB SERVICE** - Every make & model, covers, the HotwaterDr. 616-874-3385 or contact hotwaterdr.

16-291-2492.

com.TEN LICENSED DAYCARE - in Eastgate for over 15 years. Program includes arts & crafts, pre-reading & pre-math skills. First aid & CPR certified. Fencedin backyard, reasonable rates. First shift. Call Diane at 897-8398

Water Art! 219 W. Main St...

Sat. 890-1879.TEN

ST. PATRICK SCHOOL -Christ-centered education for 115 years. Come see all we have to offer! Spanish (K-8), Accelerated Reader, Science Olympiad, Odyssey of the Mind, Writers Workshop, 3 or 5 day kindergarten, Young 5s, preschool, tuition assistance available. Call 691-8833 to schedule a tour!

SERVICES

HELP IS ON THE WAY Residential cleaning, Many years experience. Call for in-home quote. Stephanie 616-835-3392.

ALTO AREA DAYCARE has 2 openings. First shift fenced in back yard. See website for more details www.amyskidsdaycare com/default.aspx or 868

COMPUTER REHAB · Virus & Spyware removal & prevention, \$45; upgrades & repairs, \$45. Pickup & drop off \$10 extra. Lowell area. 616-828-5346, 100 W. Main St. www.computer-Rehab.ws

YOGA CLASSES - Fri mornings starting 4/17 thru 6/5, 9:30-10:30 a.m Cost \$40 at Dery Physica Therapy. Call 897-7055 to reserve your spot. Yoga classes at Cherry Creek Elementary, Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m., \$6 per class. Sara at The Hammock, 893-5661

NEED HELP CUTTING BRUSH? - Paid by the job. Call 616-292-7738.

TAXES, PAYROLL QUICKBOOKS, & AC-COUNTING SERVICE by certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-

?? PARTY ?? - Graduation wedding, birthdays, catering for any occasion, full menu available including pig roast. For more info, cal

LOOKING FOR AN EX-CELLENT TREE SER-VICE? - Tree service without tearing up your yard from heavy equipment Call the experts in climbing tree repair or complete re-moval stump grinding. Free estimates & references ART GALLERY and CUS-(insured). Mark Marentette. TOM FRAMING - Fire and

> STER? - Dudley's **Dumpsters. Dump**sters priced to get rid of your trash & save you cash! Garage, attic, household cleanup, roofing, trash junk etc. 14 to 20 vards available. Call for free estimates Contact Doug 616-295-6640.TEN

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

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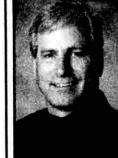
10% off storewide! Rookies Sportcards Plus - 106 W Main St 20% Off Webkinz and Board Games! Simple Pleasures Fine Bath & Body - 508 W Main St New SPA Facial Line, new fragrances, gorgeous magnetic jewelry (custom fitted), specials throughout the store.

Springrove Variety - 123 W Main St 25% off entire store, excluding Count On Us items.

The Hanger - 209 W Main St. Free gift with purchase!

Wildflowers of Lowell - 214 E Main St 20% off one item of your choice.

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- 2010 Ford Fusion the most fuel-efficient mid-size sedan in America.

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