



The Lowell Ledger

Volume 38 Issue 28

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Good Chevy Buick asks community for support to retain franchise

by Emma Palova

Good Chevy Buick is asking the community for support due to a recent termination of the franchise agreement with GM.

But the franchise is fighting back with an appeal of the decision.

"We plan on fighting this to the end," said Rodger Garner, the general manager. "We are open for business and will be for the foreseeable future."

If the franchise closes, 15 to 20 jobs will be lost, not to mention the loss of taxes to the city of Lowell.

But it's not just the jobs and the tax loss, it's the massive involvement of the dealership in the community and the sponsorship of events.

That's how city manager, Dave Pasquale, sees the situation at this point in time.

"Good Chevrolet has been a good supporter of Lowell," he said. "They care so much about Lowell."

The dealership has been a major sponsor of almost every event in Lowell including Expo, Riverwalk, Summer Concert Series, Lowell Sports, Rotary, Art Attack, Fallasburg Festival

and the Pink Arrow Project.

"The effects of losing both the monetary and the efforts of the Good employees in these events will be terrible," said the general manager.

The sales, according to Garner, have remained leveled even though GM sales are down over 40 percent.

And the management believes a good small town dealership will have its place in the new GM.

"Our customer satisfaction routinely ranks among the top dealers in the country," said Garner "I believe small dealers have a place in the new GM, and that Good Chevy Buick represents all that is good in a local business."

Liz Baker, executive director of the Lowell Chamber of Commerce commented, "It's not only the sponsorship that will be hard for the chamber it's much more than that."

"Losing this dealership will have a crippling effect on the Lowell Community. Several employees will lose their jobs, many groups and nonprofits will lose funding and volunteers, the city of Lowell will lose a significant tax base and gain one more empty building that will

be hard to fill because of its specialized use." Baker added.

Jon Jacobs, publisher of The Lowell Ledger and Buyers Guide, said the community needs to work together.

"Good plays a vital role," he said. "Not only are we talking about 15 to 20

jobs and a loss in tax revenue, but most importantly about all the community support.

Jacobs said "Good has provided a perfect example over the years of being a community partner."

"If GM is going to turn the corner, it's not going to be through superstore loca-

tions 40 miles away," he said. "It's going to be your local GM dealer that you know and trust that will get across to you the value and the product."

Jacobs encouraged people to speak out and get involved to keep Good in the community.

"Time is short. We have a small window; we need to act now," he said.

Please e-mail and give your support to your local dealer:

GMDealerNetworkquestions@gm.com and copy to: rgarner@goodchevybuick.com



DDA may pursue \$30,000 project to save buildings on bridge

by Emma Palova

The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) may financially assist with

the renovations of buildings located on the north side of the bridge, based on the city attorney's opinion.

Recently, Greg Canfield purchased two buildings that were slated for demolition due to public safety concerns

and structural instability. He requested \$30,000 from the DDA for the renovations that would, in the long run,

save the city money by preserving their tax revenue. The money would be used to secure the south foundation wall, which is required even if the buildings are removed.

"I am trying to get the buildings fixed up and restored," said Canfield. "They will add to the

downtown. It's not a money making deal. I'll be lucky if I break even." Canfield said the proposed renovation will save the city \$75,000, and in five years the city will get back the \$30,000 in tax revenues from the three buildings. However, in order to use the DDA funds, the renovation must include a justified public improvement like a sidewalk or a parking lot, according to city manager Dave Pasquale. DDA could also purchase the third building, and sell it to Canfield, but it would have to go through a bid process.

"We have to find the cleanest way to do it," said Pasquale. "My preference is that any DDA money goes toward public

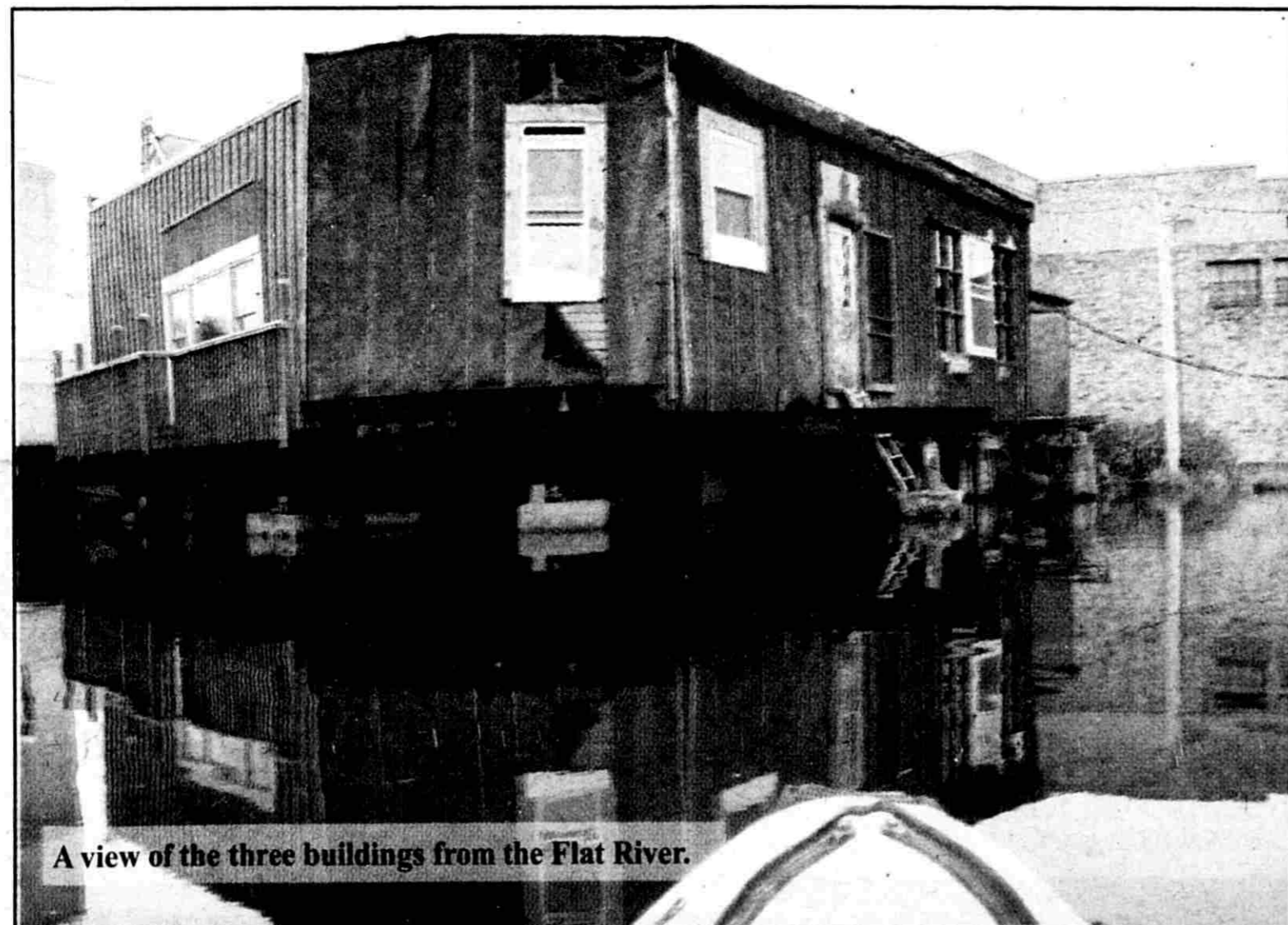
improvements. The wall is a public improvement."

Department of Public Works director, Dan DesJarden, said he was concerned about the river and the eroding bank. If the buildings were removed, the city would have to pour a concrete wall against the bridge like in the case of Lee's Landing that used to be east of the three buildings.

"The buildings on the bridge are an asset," he said, "if they're marketable. Anytime you can save a building, it will keep it on the tax rolls."

Bob Ford said he was not looking forward to not having any buildings on the bridge and to just having the dam.

"If we can do it, let's do it," said Ford.

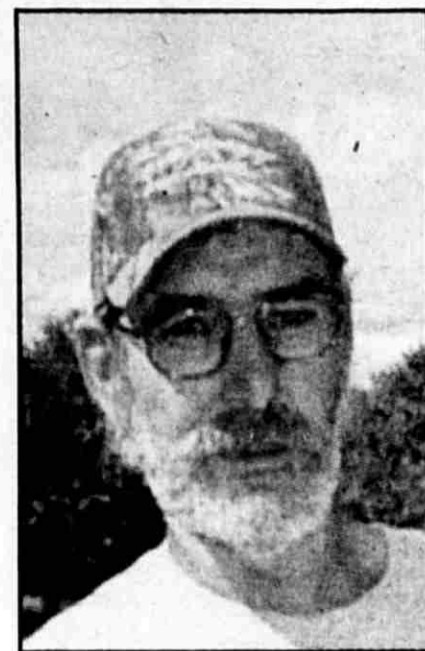


A view of the three buildings from the Flat River.

Obituaries

BRENK

Catherine Mary (Potter) Brenk of Tawas City, formerly of Lowell, born January 26, 1934, passed away after a courageous battle with cancer on June 4, 2009. She joins her husband, Dennis Edward Brenk Sr., in rest at Arlington National Cemetery, Washington DC. She leaves behind her children, Denise (Christopher) Woolfenden, Patrick (Nancy) Brenk, William (Patti) Brenk, Danielle Daboll, Dennis (Tonia) Brenk Jr., Alvin (Lee Ann) Brenk; her grandchildren, Ian, Hayley, Kelsey, Logan, Griffin, Betsey, Lydia, Alvin Jr., Morgan, and Kayla. Catherine was the daughter of Byron and Euzefa (Byrnes) Potter of Lowell, and stepdaughter to Kayren Mason of Lowell/Belding. She was sister to Joe, Bill, Dave, Susan, Gerarda and Sharon. Catherine was a member of the USAF, a lifetime member of the VFW, American Legion, Moose and many other organizations in her life time. There will be no services per her request. Donations may be made to a charity of one's choice or your local chapter of Hospice.



COLLINS

Russell Lee Collins, of Saranac, born November 16, 1950, passed away gently in his sleep surrounded by his family at home Thursday, June 14, from his battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Anna (Miller); sons, Leroy (Kerry) Lozada, James (Autumn) Lozada; daughters, Jennifer Collins, Lorrie Lee (Todd) VanWyck, Calina (Erick) Collins; 10 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; eight sisters, Evelyn, Margie, June, Helen, Edith, Rose, Donna, Nila; three brothers, Richard, Leonard, and Veril. He was preceded in death by his parents, Armitze Leonard and Dorothy Belle Collins. A memorial service will be held Sunday, June 14 at 1 p.m. at Riverside Fellowship of Seventh-day Adventists, 10300 Vergennes Ave. (Parnell and Vergennes) in Lowell. In lieu of flowers, donations would be appreciated to help the family with expenses. Please send to P.O. Box 102, Saranac, MI 48881.

ERICKSON

Robert "Bob" E. Erickson, age 66, of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, June 3, 2009. He was preceded in death by his wife, Carolyn. Surviving are his children, Matthew Erickson of Lowell and Meghan (Joseph) Hard of Grand Rapids; brothers, William (Loretta) Erickson, Edward Erickson; sister and brothers-in-law, Sandra (Lawrence) Williams, Gregory Schultz; also nieces and nephews. Funeral

HAWK

William Albert "Bert" Hawk, aged 84, of Wyoming, formerly of Lowell, died Tuesday, June 2, 2009. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary. He is survived by three wonderful sons and their wives, George E. and Susan (Smith) Raimor of Saranac, Rick and Lori (Swiger) Raimor of Lowell, and Gary and Lesa (Hazel) Raimor of Lake Odessa; ten grandchildren, Allan and Kara (Brown) Raimor, Tricia and Stephen Yonker, Michael Raimor, Amanda Raimor, Rebecca and Andrew Hauck.

RAIMER

George Allan Raimor, aged 72, a lifelong resident of rural Lowell and Saranac, passed away peacefully to be with his Lord and his parents, Garry and

Marguerite (Scott) Raimor on Wednesday, June 3 at his home with his family. He was born December 26, 1936 in Keene Township. He married Patricia Potter December 22, 1956 in Boston Township. George was a member of the First Baptist Church of Lowell, Boston Saranac Historical Society and the WOKR International Car Club. George is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Patricia Raimor, of Lowell. They were blessed with three wonderful sons and their wives, George E. and Susan (Smith) Raimor of Saranac, Rick and Lori (Swiger) Raimor of Lowell, and Gary and Lesa (Hazel) Raimor of Lake Odessa; ten grandchildren, Allan and Kara (Brown) Raimor, Tricia and Stephen Yonker, Michael Raimor, Amanda Raimor, Rebecca and Andrew Hauck.

Randi Raimor, Tom Raimor, Phil Raimor, Tyler Raimor and Kaelee Raimor; and five great-grandchildren, Xavier, Gibson, Zachariah, Eliot and Victoria; one brother, John and Marg Raimor of Saranac; two sisters, Lois and Clinton Sprague of Bitely, and Marla and Bruce Hinzman of Spring City, TN; two sisters-in-laws, Nancy (Potter) Porter of Lowell and Sally (Potter) Spens of Islamorada, FL. Funeral services were held Saturday at First Baptist Church of Lowell. Interment at Oakwood Cemetery in Lowell. In lieu of flowers you may make contributions to First Baptist Church of Lowell or the Boston Saranac Historical Society. Online condolences may be made at www.lakefuneralhomes.com.

This Father's Day, you may be able to help dad save some money

Fathers are often known for their good advice, whether it's how to catch a ball, ace a job interview, grill the perfect burger or get the best deal on a new car. But if your father is struggling with the high cost of prescription drugs, maybe it's time for you to give him a few words of advice. This Father's Day, you may be able to help your dad save an average of \$3,900 a year on his prescription drug costs. Here's how.

If your father, or any father figure you know, is

covered by Medicare and has limited income and resources, he may qualify for extra help — available through Social Security — to pay part of his monthly premiums, annual deductibles and prescription co-payments. The extra help is worth an average of \$3,900 per year.

To qualify for the extra help, he must have:

- Income limited to \$16,245 for an individual or \$21,855 for a married couple living together.
- Even if his annual income

is higher, he still may be able to get some help with monthly premiums, annual deductibles and prescription co-payments. Resources limited to \$12,510 for an individual or \$25,010 for a married couple living together. Resources include such things as bank accounts, stocks and bonds. We do not count his house or car as resources.

Social Security has an easy-to-use online application that you can

help complete for your dad. You can find it at www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp. To apply by phone or have an application mailed to you, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213. Vonda VanTil is the public affairs specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 50 College SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or via email at vonda.vantil@ssa.gov.

• LEGAL NOTICE • LEGAL NOTICE • LEGAL NOTICE •

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

File No. 09-186,929-DE

Estate of BETTE M TCHOZESKI, date of birth 9/22/1929.

TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE TO CREDITORS: Bette M. Tchozeski, who lived at 3962 Whispering Way, SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan died 3/19/2009.

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

forever barred unless presented to STEVEN TCHOZESKI, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative

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

June 2, 2009

Steven Tchozeski 7705 Canfield Rd. Belding, MI 48809

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CITY OF LOWELL

PUBLIC NOTICE

ATTENTION CITY OF LOWELL WATER CUSTOMERS

The Department of Public Works will conduct a hydrant-flushing program of the complete water system. Flushing will begin on Monday, June 8 through Friday, June 19, 2009.

City of Lowell Water Department

Alpha Women's Center of Lowell will be hosting annual LifeWalk on June 20

LifeWalk is Alpha's biggest fundraiser of the year, accounting for the majority of operating expenses. On average, about 100 people participate in the walk each year. Walkers gather pledges from family, friends and community to help raise money and awareness for the center.

Alpha Women's Center of Lowell is a nonprofit,

Christian organization (pregnancy care center) providing free pregnancy testing, diapers, formula, children's and maternity clothing and other supplies. Clients are asked to enroll in our unique "Earn While You Learn" program. In this program, clients watch videos pertaining to life situation and then meet with a trained client advocate to complete

a worksheet on that subject. Our videos are educational and teach pregnant or new moms about car seat safety, ultrasound, childbirth, discipline, shaken baby syndrome, first aid, hazards of smoking and much more. By participating in this program, clients earn "Alpha Bucks," which are used the same as cash, to shop in our boutique. This program is used widely across the country at other PCC's and is helpful in teaching responsibility. Women really have fun with it and it strengthens the bond between client and advocate.

Alpha Women's Center also has information available on alternatives to abortion and encourages any woman facing an unplanned pregnancy to contact the center.

Registration for LifeWalk 2009 begins at 8 a.m. at the center, located at 2251 W. Main St., with the 3 mile walk through town beginning at 9 a.m. Parking is available next door at the First Baptist Church of Lowell. If you are interested in participating in the walk or have any questions about the ministry, you may contact us at 987-9533 or stop in.

College News

Michigan Technological University honored the achievements of nearly 900 graduates May 2 at spring commencement.

Among them were the following from the local area:

Anthony Maurie, of Ada, achieved a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering.

David Steffler, of Alto, received a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering and Duane Stephenson, also of Alto, earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

Matthew Geldersma, of Belding, achieved a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering and Christopher Kmiecik, also of Belding, received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering.

James DeLiefde, of Lowell, earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering.

Lauren Hanson, daughter of Mary Jo and Don Hanson, of Ada, has been named to the Dean's List at Oakland University. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher for the fall and winter semesters. Hanson is in the School of Nursing program and is a 2008 Lowell High School graduate.

Tournament will raise funds for cystic fibrosis

A golf tournament set for June 20 at Arrowhead Golf Course will raise funds for Elyse Hope, who has been diagnosed with cystic fibrosis.

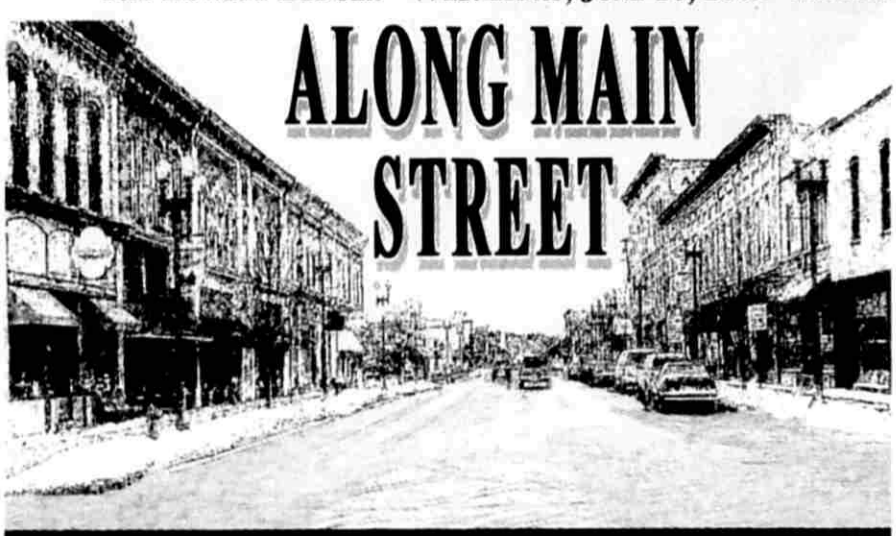
Last year, the first tournament raised more than \$10,000. The event starts with registration at 12:30 p.m. and a shotgun start at 1:30.

The cost is \$45 per

person or \$180 per team and includes dinner. The fundraiser includes 18-holes best ball scramble, pig roast, silent auction and raffle.

Contact Tara Veldman at 987-9268 or send payment to: 11800 Alden Court, Lowell, MI 49331.

Make checks payable to Hunt for a Cure.



ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

Order days at First Baptist Church, 2275 Main St. are Fri., June 12, 4 to 6 p.m. and Sat., June 13, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Delivery, June 27, 8:30-9:30 a.m. For info call IlaJean, 897-6609 or visit www.angelfoodministries.org.

THE FOODMOBILE

Mobile Food Pantry, free food distribution (mostly produce) Sat., June 13, 10-11 a.m. at the Lowell Fairgrounds, Foreman Building, S. Broadway. Distributed by Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc. Available to residents of the Greater Lowell area. Bring your own box or bag.

FOOD PANTRY

The F.R.O.M. Food Pantry is in need of canned fruit, juice, boxed potatoes, hamburger and chicken helper and paper products. Please help if you can.

EAST KENT COUNTY REPUBLICANS

The EKR will be meeting on Sat., June 13 at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, 113 Riverwalk Plaza, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. to discuss current events. Join for coffee and to share information about what you can do to become involved. Information, 897-6380 or 644-0759.

BLOOD DRIVE

Root-Lowell Mfg. blood drive, June 16, 1-4 p.m. at 1000 Foreman Rd. Public encouraged to donate.

ART CONTEST

Artists of all ages may submit their artwork of various media for a juried art contest for the Pink Arrow Project 2009 program cover. If you would like more info, call Perry or Teresa Beachum, 897-7768. Deadline for submission is June 30 to the Lowell Area Arts Council.

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LAND OF THE LOST (PG) 4:40, 7:00, 9:20

THE HANGOVER (R) 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

UP (PG) 4:50, 7:10, 9:40

DRAG ME TO HELL (PG-13) 7:20, 9:45

TERMINATOR SALVATION (PG-13) 4:30

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: BATTLE OF THE SMITHSONIAN (PG) 4:20, 6:50, 9:10

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MAY 14 THROUGH OCTOBER 8

Mark your calendar for two special added market dates:
Sunday, July 12, 11 am to 5 pm and
Saturday, Oct 10, 10 am to 2 pm

The Lake Odessa Area Arts Commission presents the 2009 Summer Concert Series

Rock the Port

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Weekly concerts throughout the summer, starting June 11, at the Village Park in Lake Odessa! All concerts begin at 7 p.m.

This week: Paradise Band

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For a complete concert schedule or for more info, visit "www.rocktheport.org"

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City of Lowell RV Park feasibility study explores use of Roger's and Moose properties

by Emma Palova

A recent MSU student feasibility study assessed the viability of the Moose and Roger's properties to determine the best use.

Jim Hall has been thinking about the use of the city-owned properties for the last 20 years.

He has a clear vision for it now as an ideal RV park. The 33-acre property, located at the confluence of the Flat River and Grand River, with islands and close proximity to town amenities is reminiscent of the Upper Peninsula's quaint sites.

"It's not usable for anything else than a potential park property," said Hall.

"It's just sitting there; it has a money making potential."

To accommodate one of the access points to the park, near the bridge over the Grand River, Hall is also trying to get South Division Street changed to South Jackson Street.

There could be potentially 50 to 100 sites for motor homes with water and sewer hook-ups and electrical. Hall has a vision for a visitor center with toilets.

The developed property could tie into local trail projects.

It sounds perfect, except both properties are in the flood plain, and the state mandates that utilities have to be above the flood plain.

"The main issue is with the flooding," said Hall in a meeting with the Downtown Development Authority.

"We're dealing with a lot of water."

According to the study, annually, the area receives six to 10 feet of flooding in the winter.

So, the major limitation to the RV park proposal is too much water and the price tag of \$2.5 million. But, the property is not making any money right now, and any development could be funded through a mix of state, federal and local grants, according to Hall.

"It would bring money to the city," said Hall.

Hall says a gravity sewer could be used and the water could be brought from Monroe Street and electrical extended overhead. Other access points could include vehicle access from under the bridge of the old railroad line, at the extreme end of



Jim Hall by the proposed RV park area.

South Monroe Street, and off Front Street near South Washington.

The study also listed alternatives to an RV park, and Hall wants to proceed with at least two of them.

"I will proceed with it in some fashion," he said.

If there is further interest, Hall would like to pursue semi-modern and tree house camping in limited amounts to start.

He will ask the Downtown Development Authority to incorporate the properties into its district much like the fairgrounds.

RV Park, cont'd., pg. 11

Lowell's 2009-2010 school budget cut \$1.5 million

Bleak state forecast has school district eyeing foundation allowance future

by Thad Kraus

Can teachers retire without a school district replacing them and not have the students' education be affected?

That is the question a \$1.5 million cut in the 2009-2010 Lowell school budget (\$34.1 million) raises.

It's not a question any district wants to have to ponder, but considering the financial questions its West Michigan brethren are

dealing with, Lowell may be the lucky one.

There are three teachers leaving the district which Lowell will not replace through the hiring process. Instead, it will shift staff to fill the needs.

"We feel comfortable that none of the cuts will affect the educational programs we are able to offer," Pratt explained. "With less people we will

have to ask others to pick up more work."

With the early teacher retirements and support staff cuts, the district will save \$600,000.

With declining diesel costs, the district is in position to use \$250,000 from the fuel budget to cover next year's shortfall.

"Some of this will probably change. This is the current budget we have

associated with the general fund. There is another piece of money that comes later associated with stimulus dollars through special ed and title dollars," Pratt explained.

The Lowell super-

intendent broke it down into three pots of money, for title, special education and stabilization. "That's [stabilization] the money the state will use to make sure foundation allowance is held whole," Pratt said.

A proration of \$250-\$265 per student will occur on this year's budget. It will use stabilization dollars to fill that gap.

School budget, cont'd., pg. 11

DDA to pay \$21,453 for unbilled streetscape project

A recent state audit has shown that the city of Lowell owes the Michigan Department of Transportation \$21,453 for a streetscape

project completed in 1997. The project included widening of Hudson Street, benches, sidewalks and lamps.

According to city manager, Dave Pasquale, the city has no choice but to pay it. If not, MDOT would take it out of other surface transportation funds dedicated to Lowell.


"The state got audited," said Pasquale. "They didn't bill us."

In related business, the DDA approved \$1,600 for electrical upgrades to the Showboat. The contractor is Spring Electric, Inc.


LOOK AT US NOW!!!

The Therapists at The Laurels of Kent say their goodbyes to Grace Hummel, Barbara Schmaltz and Pauline Ladue as they have met their therapy goals and return to their homes.


All 3 ladies were at The Laurels of Kent for different medical reasons, but all with the same goal to receive Sub-Acute Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Services, returning them to home.



Pauline Ladue
"I would never hesitate to return!"




Barbara Schmaltz
"Therapy did a great job!"



Grace Hummel
"Very clean place!"

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Viewpoint

To The Editor

Dear Editor,

Loved the story about the (friendly) pole vaulting rivalry that Thad wrote, about Richelle Kimble of Lowell and Sarah Birkmeier from Rockford. While I wish Richelle would have won the event, a story like this demonstrates that both of the young ladies are winners in every sense of the word.

When we are bombarded with sports news centered around doping, cheating, and temper tantrums, it is refreshing to read about true sportsmanship. There is no doubt that both these athletes did everything they could to win, but how great that they can mix their competitive spirit with friendship.

Bravo to Richelle and Sarah for setting the bar so high during their competition - literally and figuratively. What a great example they set for younger student athletes. Thanks to Thad for telling the story.

Cliff Yankovich

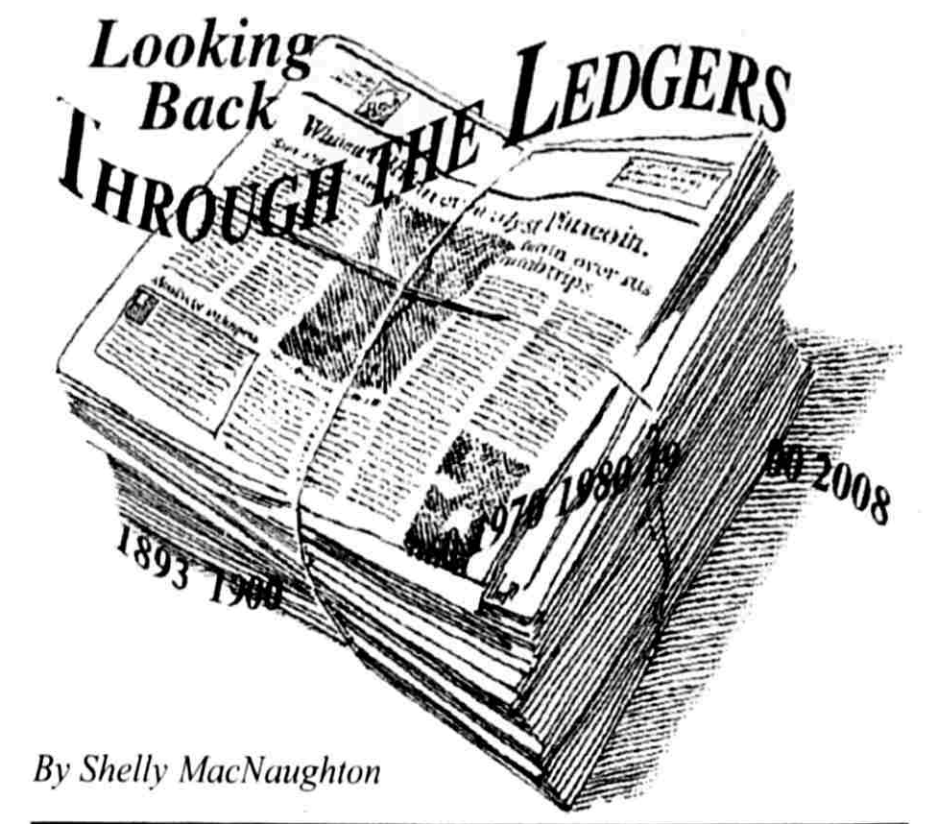
Resource management and conservation is an absolute necessity, if we are to survive. We have provided for the establishment of laws and protection for the lesser species of earth. Furthermore, it becomes our responsibility collectively that we come to recognize and protect the true interpretation and intent of conservation, so often misconstrued by some factions of our society of civilization.

The dictionary definition of conservation, boils down to, but two words. Wise and use. In wisdom, we must use wisely. The failure of use is not wise, for the opposite is waste. Over-use therefore becomes as unwise as failure.

Many of our peers advocate nonuse as conservation and this is a reversal of intent, for this is waste. Renewable resources often fall, regrettably, within this consideration. It behooves us collectively to reverse this misguided train of thought.

Harvest what is necessary to prevent waste and waste not what you harvest. In doing so you will advocate what we profess and represent, conservation.

Jack Friesner



By Shelly MacNaughton

125 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL JOURNAL JUNE 11, 1884

The Ionia House of Correction now contains 526 convicts.

Large numbers of small pickerel are being taken from Flat River. Wouldn't it be better to let them remain in their native element a year or so longer?

The Salvation Army have some new converts in Lowell.

Strawberries from this vicinity begin to appear in the market.

100 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER JUNE 10, 1909

Ephraim J. Booth, a pioneer business man of Lowell, died Monday at 5 o'clock, a.m. at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Frank Eddy of 302 East Bridge Street, Grand Rapids, after an illness of but two hours.

The class of '09, Lowell High School, numbers thirteen and is composed of seven girls and six boys.

75 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER AND ALTO SOLO JUNE 14, 1934

Robert Yeiter spent the weekend at the Charles Smith home at Morse Lake.

Mrs. Valda Chaterdon and little daughter Phyllis have returned, from the Luz Maternity Hospital to their home on North St.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Mapes and Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Warren and family enjoyed a picnic dinner at the Bertha Brock park near Ionia on Sunday.

50 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER JUNE 11, 1959

The Lowell Board of Trade special promotion committee are urging all Lowell business places to "dress-up for Showboat." A concerted effort will be made to get all places of business to clean-up, paint-up and fix-up for the many guests of the community the week of July 20-25.

25 YEARS AGO THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER JUNE 13, 1984

With a combined total of 73 years of teaching in the Lowell systems behind them, Margaret McMahon, Marjorie Richards and Betty Yeiter are retiring this year.

Unofficial results show Jo Murphy and Wayne Dowling as the winners of Monday's School Board election. Both were elected to four year terms.

Dear Editor,

Does what is happening in our country today make you feel that you are helpless to do anything about it? Do you wish just once you had the power to say to someone in the government that this or that is a good idea or not and have them listen? Well, actually you can have that opportunity on June 10, at 7 p.m., Lowell City Hall, 2nd floor.

VOICE (Voters Organized In Civic Excellence) is a group of citizens of the Lowell Communities that will give you a voice in decisions with which our local governments, Lowell and Vergennes Townships, and the City of Lowell, are currently dealing.

VOICE is not just another group of people organizing to protest and complain about what our elected officials are doing. Our mission is to work with them, helping them to find alternatives and solutions to the difficult task of keeping our communities as beautiful, prosperous, and efficiently run as possible.

If you have always been shy about standing up and speaking before a group of people, VOICE is your opportunity to finally be heard. We have members willing to do the talking, but the more members we have, the louder our VOICE will be when we say it. Please attend just one meeting. If you are moved by our positive agenda, we invite you to join as a member.

Residents of the communities can attend our meetings, and our salaried and elected officials as well. Through September we have scheduled meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m., Lowell City Hall.

RE Reagan DDS, Chairman and Barb Barber, Secretary/Treasurer

Dear Editor,

Every fisherman, hunter, trapper and outdoors person, must consider themselves at the forefront of species conservation and management, as must all who harvest natural resources.

G.M. Ross

Writing to the editor ...

The requirements are:

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

SHOP AT HOME

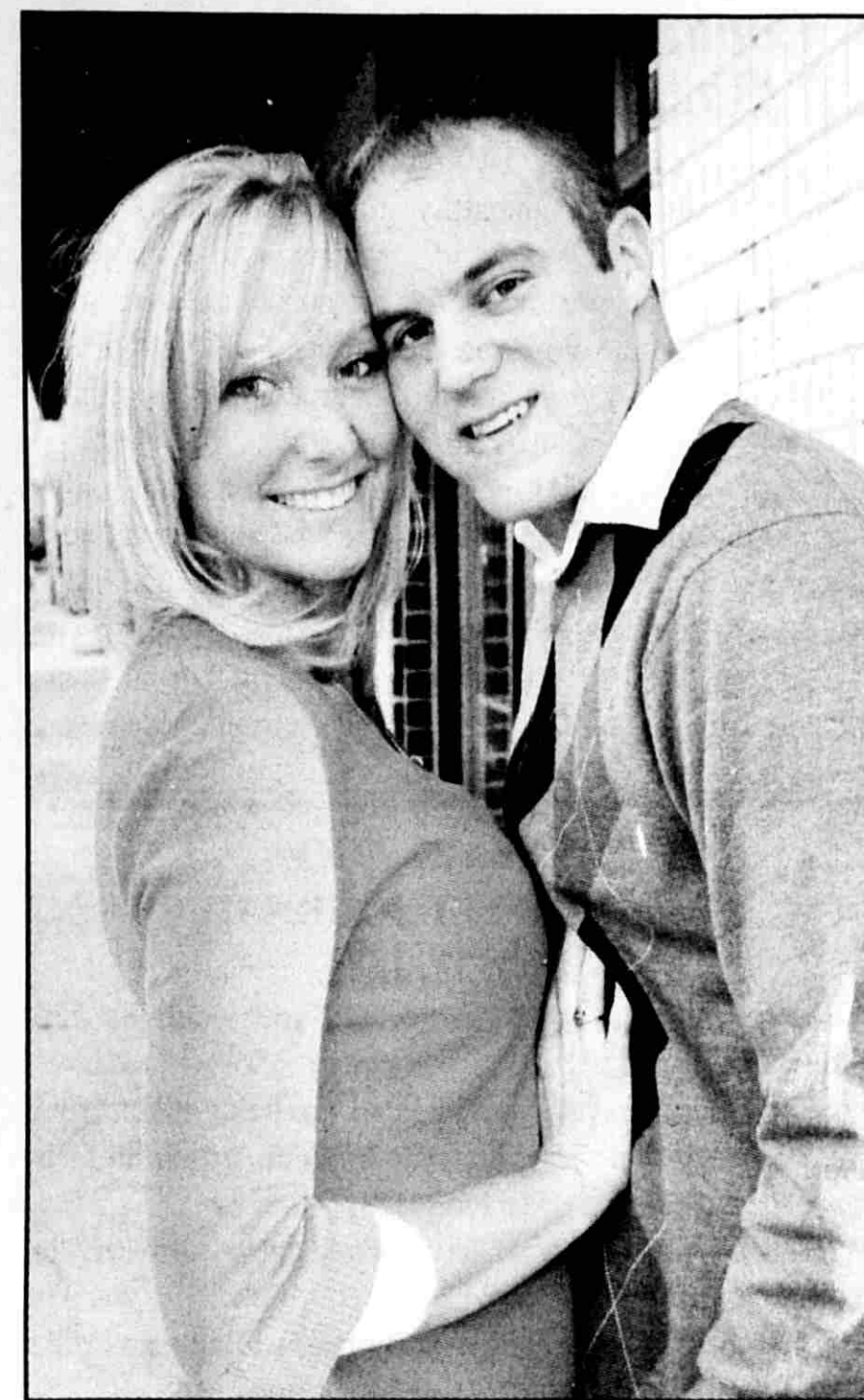


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Engagements

Hunt/Ford



Emily Hunt and Richard Ford

Dennis and LaVon Hunt, of Battle Creek, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Emily Nicole Hunt to Richard James Ford, son of Bob and Mary Ford, of Lowell. The bride-to-be graduated from Battle Creek Central High School in 2002 and Michigan State University in 2006, earning a degree in Urban Planning. She is currently a marketing coordinator for TowerPinkster in Kalamazoo. The future groom

Church awards 2009 scholarships

First Congregational United Church of Christ awarded 22 scholarships to Lowell High School graduates and community members. Scholarship awards totaled more than \$10,000 this year with most going to the graduating class of 2009. "This year, we are fortunate and proud to be able to award two scholarships to graduating members and eight community scholarships for this year's graduates," said Kyle Holst, chairperson of the Endowment Board and Scholarship Committee. The church also awarded 12 scholarships to graduates of previous years.

This year's awards pushed the church's scholarship awards to over \$130,000 since 1995. "Our church is committed to our community, to education and to our kids," remarked Terry Tessari, interim pastor at First Congregational. "Mission is important to the church and this is just one



way to act on our faith."

The scholarships are made possible through the Jurl and Amelia Armstrong Fund. In 1995, \$252,000 was bequeathed to the church without restrictions as to how the funds would be used. The church voted for these funds to be used for scholarship and Christian Education. "This gift allows

us to help our community and to remember the Armstrong family and their commitment to the church," said Holst.

Scholarships are awarded based on review of a submitted application. Applications are reviewed and recipients are selected based on academics, community involvement and

financial need. "As can be expected, we had a record number of applicants this year," stated Holst. "We are glad that we have this money to give." Recipients in the 2009 graduating class received their awards on Honors' Night. Other recipients received awards during the worship service on May 31.

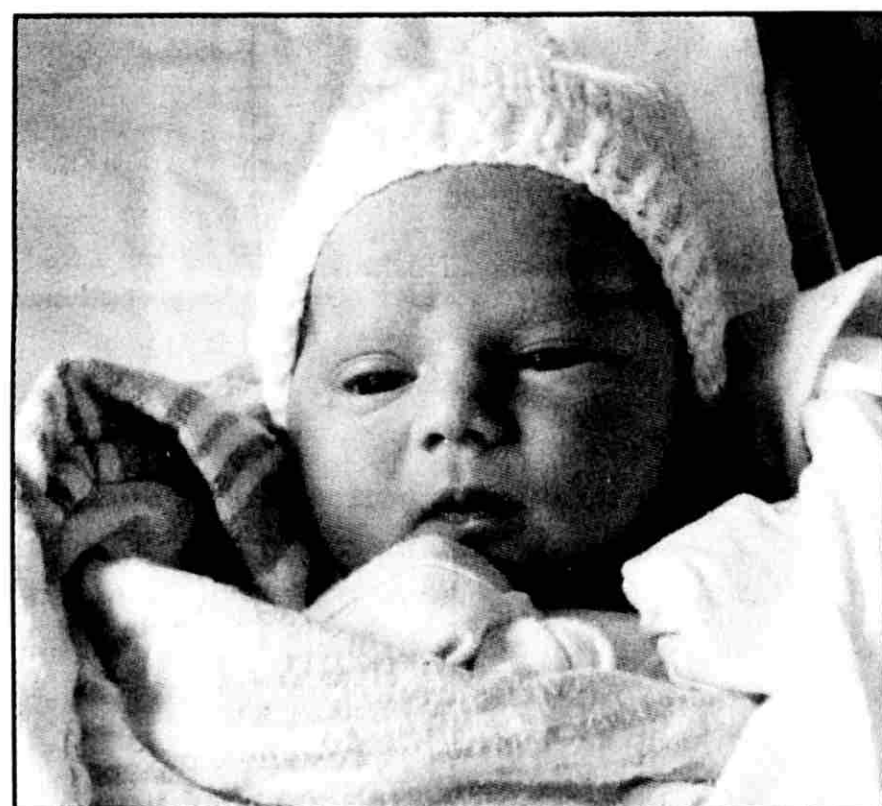


New Arrivals

Lyons

Brent and Carly Lyons are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, a son, Gavin Dean. He was born April 15, 2009, weighing 8 lbs. 5 oz. and measuring 20 1/2 inches. Proud grandparents are Ron and

Dianna Lyons, of Lowell, and John and Darlene Roelof, of Galesburg. Great-grandparents are Marilyn Lambson, Glenn Lyons, of Lowell, and Steve and Ann Leep, of Martin.



Gavin Dean Lyons

The truth is more important than the facts.

- Frank Lloyd Wright - US architect (1869 - 1959)

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 www.lowellumc.com WORSHIP..... 8:30 & 10:15 a.m. Rev. Rick Blunt Barrier-free entrance</p>	<p>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M. OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p>DAY BIBLE CHAPEL 9305 Centerline, Saranac 897-6332 Worship.....9:45 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M. 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 Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p>	
<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 www.lowellumc.com WORSHIP..... 8:30 & 10:15 a.m. Rev. Rick Blunt 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 SUNDAYS: 10:00 a.m. - Worship & Evening; LIFE home Groups & "The Source" Youth 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. Eugene Okoli 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM Saturday confessions: 4-4:45 PM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETE WIGGINS 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 49, EARTH FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>	<p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL (United Church of Christ) 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906 Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Thursday Faith Alive Worship.....7:00 P.M. Rev. Terry Tessari.....Interim 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 Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremmer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org Rev. David O. Sims & Rev. W. Lee Taylor Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA/EXCITE - TEENS. 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. 9:45 A.M.Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M.Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery & Children Worship Programs Provided A friend...a family...a mission!</p>		<p>Hope Community Church 7000 Myers Lake Ave, Rockford (1/4 mile north of Belding Rd/M44) 616-874-4673 www.hoperockford.org ELCA Lutheran Worship Sundays 10 AM Blended contemporary/traditional</p>

Field day fun at St. Patrick School



With a patriotic theme, St. Patrick School students decked themselves out in red, white and blue for field day activities. Students from preschool through eighth grade participated in events such as an obstacle course, the freedom dash and liberty long jump. Uncle Sam made a surprise visit and the students were treated to a Subway lunch compliments of the Boosters Club and the PTO.

Happy Birthday

- JUNE 10:** Jim Stone, Courtney Tulppo, April Decker, Gus Geldersma.
- JUNE 11:** Jeanne Boss, Terri S. Fonger, Dick Sturgis.
- JUNE 12:** Benjamin Zoodsma, Jenny Engle, Noah Green.
- JUNE 13:** Holly Fetterhoff, Vivian Hoskins.
- JUNE 14:** Kyle Manszewski.
- JUNE 15:** Joey Hunt Jr., Courtney Baker, Caran Schalow, Rachel Heinicke, Katlin Manszewski, Alice Monks, Sam Richmond.

I am free of all prejudice.
I hate everyone equally.

- W. C. Fields
US actor (1880 - 1946)

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PERIODONTAL DISEASE

Periodontal disease (unhealthy gums and teeth) often reflect serious health risks. Mild inflammation of the gums (gingivitis) can be prevented by regularly brushing and flossing teeth to remove plaque. This stops the development of tartar (hardened accumulation of plaque at the gum line) which can only be removed by dental cleaning. A more serious infection, called periodontitis, causes not only disease of the gums, but loss of teeth and the bone structures that support the teeth. Periodontitis can be associated with heart disease, stroke, and systemic infections. There is also evidence that premature births happen more often to women who have gum disease before or during their pregnancies.

There are several causes of periodontitis, including poor dental hygiene, smoking, viral or fungal infections, and poor nutrition, especially vitamin and mineral deficiencies. Smoking causes decreased oxygen to gum tissues, making it easier for bacteria to invade the gums. Some medications can cause overgrowth of gum tissue or receding gums. Signs and symptoms of periodontitis include receding or puffy, swollen gums, painful gums, bleeding when you brush your teeth, tooth loss or loose teeth in adults, pus draining from the gums, and bad breath that is not related to food and does not go away. To prevent periodontal disease, brush your teeth at least twice a day. Use dental floss regularly. Be sure to see a dentist for regular dental checkups. Maintain good nutrition, eating lots of fresh fruits and vegetables. Control chronic medical conditions and do not smoke.

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A 'fowl' farewell

A flock of pink flamingos were set down at Lowell Middle School in honor of principal Linda Warren's last day with her students. Warren has been a principal at the school for eight years and was recently honored at a retirement ceremony hosted by superintendent Greg Pratt for her service to Lowell schools. It is rumored that the middle school office staff lured the flamingos to the school's front lawn with promises of free shrimp.

Submitted by Ron Warren

In The Service

Marine Corps Reserve Lance Cpl. Brad J. Kovizh, son of Julie Echtenaw, of Lowell, and Mike Kovizh, of Rockford, and fellow Marines of the 24th Marine Regiment, Kansas City, Mo., recently participated in this year's Partnership of

Americas (POA) exercise at Naval Station Mayport and Camp Blanding, Fla.

U.S. Marines, partner nation marines from countries throughout Central and South America to include Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Mexico and Peru as well as Canadian soldiers partici-

pated alongside each other in order to promote maritime security. UNITAS Gold and POA were conducted simultaneously this year to showcase more than 25 ships, four submarines, 50 rotary and fixed-wing aircraft, 650 Marines and 6,500 sailors.

POA is an annual U.S. Marine Corps Forces, South multi-national joint exercise that focuses on enhancing interoperability between

U.S. Marines and partner nation marines in amphibious operations, non-combatant evacuation operations, peacekeeping and disaster relief.

Kovizh joined the Marine Corps Reserve in August 2008.

Marine Corps Reserve Lance Cpl. David J. Austin, a 2005 graduate of Saranac High School, and fellow

Marines of the 24th Marine Regiment, Kansas City, Mo., recently participated in this year's Partnership of the Americas (POA) exercise at Naval Station Mayport and Camp Blanding, Fla.

U.S. Marines, partner nation marines from countries throughout Central and South America to include Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Mexico and Peru as well as Canadian soldiers participated alongside each other in order to promote maritime security. UNITAS Gold and POA were conducted simultaneously this year to showcase more than 25 ships, four submarines, 50 rotary and fixed-wing aircraft, 650 Marines and 6,500 sailors.

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Austin joined the Marine Corps Reserve in May 2005.

Army Reserve Pfc. Patrick M. Gallagher has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier 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 David Gallagher, of Ada.

The private is a 2006 graduate of Forest Hills Central High School, Grand Rapids.

Milling superintendent Ball receives award

Milling superintendent, Greg Ball, received the Milling Operative of the Year award on April 30 at the International Association of Operative Millers (IAOM) conference and expo in Grand Rapids.

"It was a surprise. There are a lot of flour millers out there," Ball said. "It made me feel good."

For Ball, an employee of King Milling of 29 years and the only recipient of the award, the honor was gratifying.

"Other employees helped me succeed," he said.

Ball has worked as the superintendent for the last 16 years.

"We're very proud of him," Jim Doyle, vice-president, said. "He is well deserving of the award."

Nominations for the award came from all over the country and the world, according to Doyle.

King Milling is a family-run 120-year-old company that serves the commercial baking, cereal processing and food service industries.

The IAOM conference attracted 700 flour millers and allied trades from 26 countries around the world.

The award is sponsored by Milling and Baking News.



Greg Ball on the job at King Milling.

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Elementary student donates hair to Locks of Love

Alto Elementary student, Sophia Fuss, 6, donated 11 inches of her hair to Locks of Love on Saturday, May 30, 2009. She had her hair cut at Brenda's Hair Design in Lowell. Fuss had been growing her hair for two years and was very excited to send it in. She was inspired by her frequent visits to Devos Children's Hospital where she often accompanies her three year old brother who has a tumor in his spinal cord. She always said the snarls and discomfort of having it brushed is nothing compared to what some children go through. She has now set a goal to donate hair every two years.

When you make a world tolerable for yourself, you make a world tolerable for others.
- Anais Nin (1903 - 1977)

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A FEW NOTABLE EVENTS FROM JUNE 4 - JUNE 11 • 2009

- U.S. journalists sentenced to 12 years hard labor in North Korea.
- Sixteen bodies have been recovered from last week's Air France crash. The exact location of the crash has not been determined. The search area of debris is approximately 77,000 square miles.

- A former army captain, who was dismissed under a federal law dealing with gays and lesbians in the military, lost his appeal Monday at the U.S. Supreme Court.
- Saying the U. S. remains in a deep recession that will take time to escape, President Obama wants to hasten the flow of stimulus money to help stop the rising high employment numbers. The administration hopes to add 600,000 jobs this summer.
- Two young American journalists are sentenced to 12 years of hard labor in North Korea.
- The man accused of killing a doctor in Wichita, Kansas, warns that there are other acts of violence planned. The murdered doctor performed abortions.
- Possible closure of six free Shriners' Hospitals scares parents. Deflated investments and

- donations are main cause for hospital closures.
- Stephen Colbert left no doubt this week about his solidarity with American troops when he taped the first of four Comedy Central shows wearing a military haircut.
- New Orleans' mayor, Ray Nagin, who traveled to China on an economic development trip, flew on a plane that carried a passenger being treated for symptoms of swine flu. Nagin is now being quarantined.
- Supreme Court nominee, Sonia Sotomayor, broke her ankle Monday morning when she stumbled in New York's LaGuardia Airport.
- Fourteen year old boy in Oregon was struck in the head by lightning at the edge of a parking lot at his high school. He was treated in the burn unit and suffered a broken eardrum.

Lowell Area Schools receive the Chairman's Award from the Green Schools Program at school board meeting

At the regular meeting of the Lowell Area Schools Board of Education Monday night, the board received an update on the Response to Intervention (RTI) program taking place at Bushnell and Cherry Creek. RTI is a literacy intervention program designed to help identify struggling readers; teachers are then trained to intervene and help those struggling students in a variety of ways. Principals

Karen Burd and Shelli Otten along with several staff from each building presented data to the board on this venture. "I would like to thank our staff involved with RTI for their hard work on this innovation," said Greg Pratt, Superintendent. Pratt presented an award to the Board of Education stating, "On behalf of Jim White and the teachers of this district, for two years running, the Chairman's

Award from the Green Schools Program. White has helped the district and its teachers consume less energy. The money saved in energy is able to be applied to extra money for classrooms. Teachers, staff, administrators, and board members all do their part to help consume less energy." Roger Bearup offered a curriculum update to the board. Arrows on the Move is a summer school program

being offered throughout the district. "We have over 200 students signed up for Arrows on the Move. We are very excited about that," said Bearup. Cherry Creek received a Service Learning Grant this past school year. Students in each classroom in the building participated in the Service Learning Project. The school partnered with the Lowell Senior Citizens Center and had seniors

come into the classroom to share and be interviewed by students. Each classroom then wrote about their experience. A book was compiled sharing these experiences and is on display at the Lowell Senior Center, The Lowell Historical Museum, Engelhardt Library, and Cherry Creek Library. "One of the things I would like to highlight is the Marsha Wilcox Community

Service Award. Barbara Pierce was chosen as the recipient this year. She is the twelfth honoree of this award," said Pat Nugent, Secretary of the Board. "Construction is underway as of today. Summer is a week longer this year. Getting ready for construction in our buildings is a lot of work and our staff and custodians have done a great job of getting things ready," said Pratt.

School budget, continued ... From Page 4

The bad news is that shortfall could be almost \$500 next year. State revenues are not matching what was anticipated.

Lowell is getting \$7,316 this year. The largest issue facing school districts is the upside down state budget and there

is no guarantee that there will be stimulus dollars to hold the state's foundation allowance whole going forward.

"The state has an issue with their budget. They're upside down. Right now we're using federal dollars to fill that gap. What happens when those dollars are gone? The State has a lot of work in front of them. Our legislatures have to look at this and be prepared," Pratt explained. The bleak state forecast is grim when one looks at what is happening with Chrysler and GM. "That has a direct effect on the Lowell community.

We need to get in front of it and do everything we possibly can to maintain our educational programs and to balance our budget," Pratt said. When it comes to GM and Chrysler, not only does it mean Lowell may have people losing employment but you have parents who will be unemployed and trying to maintain families or moving out looking for work. "As the unemployment

rate increases we see the direct effect in the classroom as students are obviously concerned about what's happening at home," Pratt said. Lowell will also trim its fund balance by \$500,000 to deal with the general fund shortfalls which were created due to the economic climate and the loss of 30-50 students. "These are cautious times and sleepless nights are ahead," Pratt concluded.

Lowell Township planning commission moves closer to zoning ordinance revision

by Emma Palova

Inching toward a revised zoning ordinance slated for a public hearing in late summer, the Lowell Township planning commission worked on lot splits in the AG-1 zone on Monday.

The township has been working on updating an ordinance from June, 1980. In accordance with the goals of the township master plan to preserve the agricultural character of the township, density of residential housing is mainly controlled by land splits, according to planner, Tim Johnson. The requirements for land splits in AG-1 are minimum two-acre size lots with 200 feet of frontage, consistent with the same

requirements for AG-2. Also, the commission deleted the maximum size requirement. All other permitted uses in AG-1 such as greenhouses, storage and nurseries will be allowed on two acres rather than the obsolete 20 acres. "Uses in AG-1 need to be updated as they no longer apply," said Johnson. "We're dealing with a 30-year-old ordinance." The commission will look into regulating houses that may be built only on land that has no use for farming, with the goal of preserving productive farmland. However, Tim Clements, planning commission member, was concerned about making

things more complicated with new regulations. "We already have a complicated ordinance," he said. "You're going to run into a lot of complexities." The discussion turned to shared driveways that would allow access for fire trucks and other emergency vehicles. "We've made some headway," said chairman Dave Simmonds. A public hearing has been set for Walter Price Outdoor Storage on Alden Nash and 60th Street for RVs and boats for July 13. The planning commission will work on amending lot frontage requirements for essential services such as Consumers Energy. Final recom-

RV Park, continued ... From Page 4

Tree house cabins built on steel or wood posts eight to 12 feet above ground with amenities are a possibility. Other potential uses for the city-owned properties include primitive camping, hiking trails, temporary camping, camping cabins, a pavilion-educational area and water treatment pond. But, the RV Campground is the most ambitious alternative for the site due to the amount of restrictions and obstacles, as well as potential operating costs, according to the study. Final recom-

mendations of the study suggest creating a wetland inventory and wetland ordinance, conducting public information workshops, implementing trail development in the first phase, constructing a welcome center and three to four tree cabins, and adding 25 to 30 walk in sites in the second and third phases. However, in conclusion the study deems the RV park would be very costly. "In the long run we are going to have something there," Hall said. "I am not done with the issue."

The study is on the city website at www.ci.lowell.mi.us.

Most popular baby names

The Social Security Administration announced the most popular baby names in Michigan for 2008. Continuing a popular Mother's Day tradition, the federal government's top official for baby names, Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security, announced the nation's most popular baby names. How does Michigan compare to the rest of the country? Jacob and Olivia topped the list. Nationally, Emma and Jacob were the most popular baby names. Please click on the Most Popular Baby Names link at Social Security's

website -- <http://www.socialsecurity.gov> -- to see the top baby names for 2008. The top five boys' and girls' names for 2008 in Michigan were: Boys: 1) Jacob, 2) Ethan, 3) Michael, 4) Alexander, 5) Logan. Girls: 1) Olivia, 2) Ava, 3) Emma, 4) Madison, 5) Isabella. In addition to each state's top 100 baby names, Social Security's website

has a list of the 1,000 most popular boys' and girls' names for 2008 and a list of the top 100 names for twins born in 2008. Jacob and Joshua are the most popular twins' names. The website also offers lists of baby names for each year since 1880. New to the website this year is the "Change in Name Popularity" page. To read about this year's winner for biggest jump in popularity, how Barack is climbing the charts and whether or not Elvis still lives, go to <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pressoffice/pr/baby-names2008-pr.htm>.

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CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lowell City Council, acting as the Zoning Board of Appeals, will conduct public hearings at their regularly scheduled meeting of Monday, July 6, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lowell City Hall Council Chambers, Second Floor, 301 East Main Street. The purpose of said hearings would be to receive comments on the following variance requests:

- 430 N. Monroe (southwest corner of N. Monroe and North Streets) - Dan Phillips wishes to construct an enclosed porch at his home located at the corner of North Monroe and North Streets within ten (10) feet of the North Street right of way, which is the secondary front yard. (The principal front yard is the narrowest of lot width's Section 2.13). Thus 15 feet of front yard setback is required (R-2 district) off North Street or one-half of the principal front yard. Therefore, a five (5) foot variance has been requested.

- 925 W. Main - Self Serve Lumber wishes to utilize the existing pylon sign used by Stock Lumber (and previously Erb) in establishing their business at 925 W. Main. The sign is 128 square feet with a 32 square foot reader board. According to the sign ordinance, a freestanding (pylon) sign in the General Business District is limited to one hundred (100) square feet in area per sign (Section 20.08). No nonconforming sign may be reestablished or continued after the activity, business, or use to which it applied has been discontinued for 90 days or longer. (Section 20.10). It has been well over a year since Stock Lumber closed. Thus, a variance has been requested on the duration of reestablishing the business.

The Lowell City Council will also conduct a public hearing as follows:

- An Ordinance to amend Section 13-107 of and Add Section 13-112 (Hunting with bow and arrow) to Article IV, "Offenses Against Public Safety," of Chapter 13, "Offenses," of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowell.

Copies of the ordinance are available for inspection during normal business hours at City Hall and the Englehardt Public Library or on the City of Lowell's web page at www.ci.lowell.mi.us.

Interested persons may submit comments to the Lowell City Hall prior to the meeting or appear in person.



Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk



Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold
Edward Jones
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"CUTTING LOSSES" CAN BE MORE PAINFUL THAN YOU THINK

Why do stock prices fall? Various factors are involved, but in a nutshell, prices drop when more people want to sell stocks than buy them. Conversely, the more people who buy a particular stock, the faster that stock's price will rise. If you've studied basic economics and the law of supply and demand, you've already got a pretty clear sense of why stock prices move the way they do. And yet, while the process sounds fairly logical, the behavior of many investors isn't - which gives you some good investment opportunities right now.

To understand why so many investors have acted in a way that may be counter-productive, let's look at consumer behavior in another context. Suppose a hypothetical couple, Mike and Mary Ann, bought a house five years ago for \$200,000. They liked everything about the house, and it was the right size to meet their family's needs for many years to come. However, the sharp decline in the housing market has caused Mike and Mary Ann such concern that they decide to sell their house, even though they can only get \$160,000 for it. By selling now, they reason, they can avoid further drops, and when the market stabilizes, they can buy another house in the same neighborhood.

To sum up: Mike and Mary Ann took a \$40,000 loss on a house they didn't even need to sell. In essence, they

were betting that the housing market, against all historical evidence, would not recover enough to compensate them for staying put. Most people would question the rationality of this type of behavior. Yet many of these same people do the same thing when it comes to investments.

Specifically, over the past year and a half, they have sold investments - even quality investments - that still met their needs for growth, income or a combination of both. And when they've sold these investments, they've taken losses - sometimes, big losses. Just like Mike and Mary Ann, they thought they must sell now to avoid bigger setbacks later.

Don't make that mistake. If you weren't planning on selling your investments before the market decline, why sell them now, when you'll just be locking in a loss? Many successful investors hold the same investments for 20, 30 or 40 years - in fact, sometimes they pass these investments on to their children, who also hold them for decades. Are you so sure that your investments, which may indeed have declined 40 percent or more over the past couple of years, won't recover those losses and climb to new heights in the years ahead?

You may someday need to sell, but do so for the right reasons - a change in your goals, a need to rebalance your portfolio or a fundamental change in the companies in which you've invested. In the meantime, not only should you hold on to the investments that still meet your needs, but you should also consider adding new investments while the price is so low. The more shares you own, the better your financial position will be when the market turns around.

This type of behavior takes patience, discipline and faith in our markets. Over the past century, the investors who have demonstrated these traits have been well rewarded - and there's no reason you can't attain the same results.

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The People Papers



Relay for life 2009 slated for June 26

Has cancer touched your life? Perhaps a family member, a dear friend, or maybe even you, have heard those words...you have cancer. Men, women and children who have fought the fight against cancer are honored at Relay For Life events sponsored by The American Cancer Society.

This is Lowell's fourth year celebrating those lives. The Lowell Relay For Life will be held from noon to noon, Friday, June 26, to Saturday, June 27 at the Red Arrow Memorial Stadium, 11700 Vergennes. This event is free to the community and offers 24 hours of family

fun along with a spectacular luminary service, including Louie The Bagpiper, to honor survivors and remember those whose lives were lost because we have not found the cure to all forms of cancer yet.

Twenty-four teams consisting of families, schools, groups, churches, businesses and corporations come together by raising money through yard sales, cookouts, donation cans, jewelry & craft sales, dog washes, selling luminary bags and simply collecting donations from friends and family.

There will be fundraisers including chair massages, food and beverage sales and miscellaneous goods and services at team sites.

Another fundraiser we are very proud of is our silent auction which consists of well over 50 items. The silent auction starts at 2 p.m. on Friday and will begin closing in stages at 7:15 Friday evening. We have 152 participants currently registered and are expecting approximately 100 cancer survivors. All money raised will go to the American Cancer Society for education, advocacy, research and services.

Along with the Miss Relay contest there will be two new activities this year. At 10 p.m. Friday evening there will be a Relay Idol contest and at midnight, big screen movies. There is no charge for these events. Mayor Jim Hodges and Liz Baker from the LACC will be judging the performers

and are allowed to accept bribes which will go to the event and increase the chance of winning the Idol crown.

A pancake breakfast is open to the community on Saturday morning from 7 to 10 a.m. at which survivors eat free. The Backwater Café will be providing a survivors' dinner Friday evening during the survivor celebration. The many local event sponsors are greatly appreciated. They understand even with the current state of the economy, cancer occurrences don't go into a recession and there is still a need to raise awareness, funds, and continue the fight.

You can get more information about the Relay by visiting www.relayforlife.org/lowellmi or by calling 616-551-4034. If you'd like more information on cancer and programs offered, just call 1-800-ACS-2345 anytime 24/7.

Part of the secret of success in life is to eat what you like and let the food fight it out inside.
Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

Murray Lake's staff member of the month

Nancy Russell was named Murray Lake Elementary's May Staff Member of the Month. Russell is a second grade teacher at Murray Lake. She is married to Mark Russell, an elementary gym teacher and varsity football coach at Lowell schools, and they have three boys (David 23, Scott 20, and Andy 8). Russell has taught kindergarten through second grade in the Lowell school system for 23 years. Russell enjoys jogging, reading, and watching her son's sporting events.

Several Murray Lake staff members nominated Russell. "She has made the transition to a new grade level look so easy. Her classroom runs like a fine tuned Cadillac. Nancy has a great sense of humor and makes me laugh almost every

day," commented fellow teacher Sue Wilterink.

Fellow second grade teacher, Lori Cyrocki said, "Nancy has been a wonderful addition to second grade.

She is a lot of fun to work with."

"My favorite thing about education is teaching children to read, because once they figure it out, they

take off and make so many discoveries about the world. I love teaching at Murray Lake because of our friendly, humorous atmosphere."



Nancy Russell with her second grade class.



OKAY -

Someone Has To Say It ...

by Thad Kraus

Pop quiz time!

Do you remember who was seated to your right at your high school graduation?

How about to your left?

Who spoke to your graduating class?

What did they say? What was your Class Song? Motto? Flower?

You may remember. Or time may have erased any memories. Or you may have chosen to forget.

Or in my case, the mind may have tortured your mortal soul and hung on to a nugget you wished would have been lost along the way.

All these silly thoughts came back as I sat on a warm track while listening to and taking pictures at the 131st Lowell High School Commencement Exercise.

I'm sure these thoughts were also triggered by a phone call

I received from Kathy Niskula Davis a few days prior to the graduation.

Niskula Davis is a member of the Class of 1979. That would be 19%. Excuse me, I have a tickle in my throat. Let's try that again, 1979.

That's the year my beloved Pittsburgh Pirates won the World Series.

That's also my graduating class from Edwardsburg. Niskula-Davis and others are planning a 30th anniversary for the Class of 1979.

She is also one of the class officers responsible for selecting "Looks Like We Made It" (Barry Manilow) as our class song. That's the nugget!

The dilemma I now face is, do I stay or do I go?

Any previous class anniversaries I have stayed put.

I justified it by the

fact that I have no good memories of high school.

Now older and wiser, my justification is blurred now by the question(s), was it the class or did it have to do more with who I was at the time?

I'm going to have to go down to Spring Grove Variety and grab another #2 pencil to answer that question.

For now, it remains unanswered and by the time Lowell's 132nd Commencement rolls around, it may be forgotten.

Grappling with Academia

It seems the Lowell wrestling team did as well in the classroom as it did on the mat in 2009.

The Red Arrow wrestling team was named to the first team Academic All State. The Red Arrows were first among all four divisions.

The average of the top 14 grade-point-averages are used to determine all state selections.

To qualify, a team must have 14 athletes with a GPA of 3.2 or higher.

There were 22 Lowell wrestlers with a GPA of 3.2 or higher. Lowell's Academic All State team (top 14 wrestlers chosen) had an average GPA of 3.8.

Red Arrow Tyler Jack was also a member of Michigan's All State Team.

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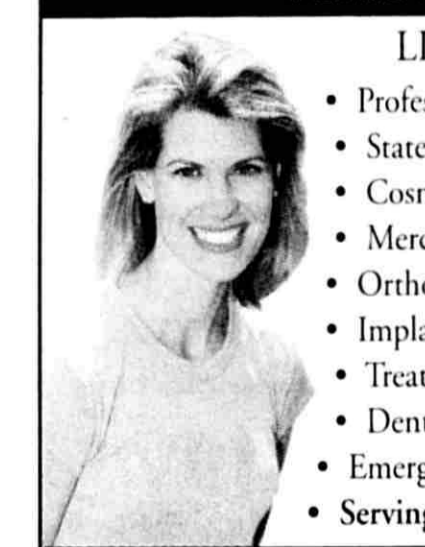
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Sound Off

The Ledger "Almost" Anything Goes Column

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Or CALL...897-0787



The Lowell Ledger welcomes all "Sound Off" comments, but would like to remind readers of the nature of the column.

Check us out online at ...

www.lowellbuyersguide.com

ONLINE POLL RESULTS SHOULD GAYS BE ALLOWED IN ALL BRANCHES OF THE MILITARY?

Table with poll results: YES 78%, NO 17%, NO OPINION 5%

To everyone upset about the disappearing flowers at Oakwood Cemetery. Don't be so quick to assume humans are to blame.

Thank you Karen Deruischer for your awesome donation. The Speedway girls appreciate it.

To the mother who placed her small children next to me in the theater and then sat someplace else while they talked, and moved around through the entire movie...next time, sit with your own kids!

Also, thank you Jeff Noon and Jon Francis for your time and help last Friday.

Congratulations to the U14 LASSO team for winning the Canton Cup soccer tournament.

Congratulations to the St. Patrick grads! Good luck in high school!

Beautiful graduation ceremony!! Very nice that Matt wasn't forgotten! However, what was up with the lady taking away beach balls?

Tom and Mike from Ronda Tire. You guys rock! Thanks for fixing my tire on Monday night.

and vote!

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ROOM FOR RENT - Private bath, \$300 a month. Call 897-7589.

2 ROOMS FOR RENT - Large storage area, car stall, washer & dryer, Dish Network, \$95/week.

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

CENTER COURT APT - first month rent free! (w/12 month lease). 2 bedrooms, \$600; 1 bedroom, \$500; on-site laundry & cats allowed.

HOUSE FOR RENT IN COUNTRY - 3 miles from Murray Lake. Cute, recently remodeled ranch w/garage, 2 carpeted bedrooms w/ large closets, hardwood floor in living room, full basement w/laundry facilities, appliances included.

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate!

SPACIOUS APARTMENT IN DOWNTOWN LOWELL - 2-3 bedroom. Close to schools, living room, dining room, open floor plan & large kitchen, washer & dryer, bath in lower level of the home.

COTTAGE ON MORRISON LAKE - 2 bedroom, fishing boat, paddle boat included. Pictures www.vrbo.com/22069 \$800/week.

1 BEDROOM APARTMENT - above Main St., in Lowell. Bath, kitchen & living room, washer & dryer on site. Gas, electric, water & cable. Deposit, \$150 & rent each week \$150.

HIGH EFFICIENCY - Central Boiler Classic Outdoor Wood Furnace, 25 year warranty. Dual fuel models. Maxim Corn & Pellet burner also available.

FOR RENT - Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment in Historic Downtown Lowell. \$625 per month + utilities. \$625 deposit. No pets. 897-0222.

RENT TOWN - Caledonia area, 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, Cape Cod walk-out, approx. 1400 sq. ft. New furnace & central air. Beautifully remodeled home. \$119,900. Down payment required. Call 616-260-5446.

VOICE - (Voters Organized in Civic Excellence) meeting June 10, 7 p.m. at Lowell City Hall, 2nd floor.

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EVENTS EVENTS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - "The Marketplace" Come Walk with Jesus. Mon., June 15-Thurs., June 18, 5-6 family dinner, 6-8:15 program. Vergennes United Methodist Church, corner of Bailey & Parnell.

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES - Sign up at the Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St., Lowell. Fri., June 12, 6-8 p.m. or Sat., June 13, 10 a.m. - noon. Everyone welcome. If you eat you qualify. Any questions call Esther, 897-7395.

RELAY FOR LIFE FUNDRAISER - Quarter Bingo, June 12, 1-5 p.m. & 6-10 p.m. at Moose Rec. Building, 1320 E. Main St., Lowell. All profits go to American Cancer Society. Hosted by Nic's Pit Crew.

SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - at 3189 Snow Ave. SE, will serve a family style roast pork & dressing dinner on Wed., June 10, starting at 5:30 p.m. Adults are \$9, children 6-12 are \$3 & children 5 & under are free. Take out dinners also available.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #7719 - second and fourth Tuesday at St. Mary School, 7:30 p.m.

GENEALOGY ALTO FAMILY TREE CLUB - second Thursday at Alto Library, 2 p.m.

ST. MARY'S PREGNANCY CRISIS CENTER - 402 Amity. Mondays: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Non-denominational. Help for pregnant women/adolescents in need. Provides support, referrals, food, clothing/infant items. Lowell area. 897-9393.

SUMMER SIZZLE FOR KIDS - (ages 4-12) starting Wed., June 10 - July 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Evergreen Church. Join us for puppets, ponies, treats & more! For more details see www.evergreenmc.org or call 897-7185.

LIFE WALK - June 20. Registration begins at 8, walk begins at 9 at the Alpha Women's Center of Lowell, 2251 W. Main St. For a pledge form or more information call the center at 987-9533.

CHICKEN BARBEQUE - Sat., June 27, 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 pm. at Saranac Community Church. Half chicken, \$8; quarter chicken, \$6. Side dishes included are: potato salad, cole slaw, baked beans, roll & dessert. Carry out available & delivery to Mill Creek Housing.

BABYSITTER LOOKING FOR SUMMER JOB - Very mature, patient 15 year old looking to babysit for 2-3 days per week for summer. \$5-\$8/hour or \$25/full day, pending on # of kids. Cal 460-4415 to set up interview or ask more questions.

COMPUTER REHAB - \$45 all repairs - Virus & Spyware removal. No diagnostic fees! Mon. - Sat., 100 W. Main St., Lowell. 616-828-5346, www-computerRehab.ws

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

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

FLAT RIVER WOOD CARVERS - Tuesdays at LAAC 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. New members welcome.

HELP WANTED SERVICES

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT CAPITAL CAMPAIGN - non-profit organization, basic clerical skills, computer literacy, maximum 20 hours/week. \$11/hour. Send resume to FROM, Box 63, Lowell, MI 49331.

DIRECTOR - Non-profit organization. Prior experience, organizational development. 20 hour/week, \$15 hours. Send resume to FROM, Box 63, Lowell, MI 49331.

CUSTOMER SERVICE/GENERAL HELP - Call now, \$400 & up weekly. Looking for summer help & permanent positions. Local factory outlet is now hiring & must fill several positions in the following areas: customer service, installation, training supervisor, inventory control & entry level management.

NEED A VIDEO? - Have old pictures that you want on a CD/DVD? Want a professional video made for any occasion? Call up Slide Thru Life, so we can meet all your needs! 616-765-3716.

DECLARE YOUR INDEPENDENCE! - Lose up to 30 lbs. in 30 days. For a free consultation call 1-616-636-7262 or email: usucceed2day@yahoo.com & declare your independence to wear your bathing suit again! Mention this ad & save 20%.

ART GALLERY and CUSTOMER FRAMING - Fire and Water Art! 219 W. Main St., Lowell. Open Wed. thru Sat. 890-1879.

ANGELA'S DAYCARE - Has immediate full-time openings for infants to toddlers. Licensed, food program, fenced play yard, 14 years experience. Call Angela 616-826-1192.

DO YOU OR YOUR LOVED ONES NEED A BREAK? - I can offer companionship and general assistance in your Lowell or Ada residence. Call for credentials and additional information. Principals only please. 897-7978 ask for Kathleen or leave a message and I will return it in a timely manner.

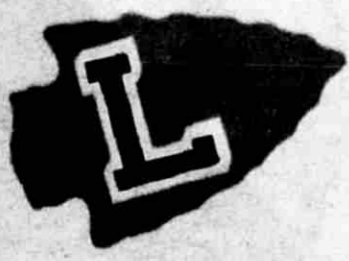
14 YEAR OLD GIRL SEEKING BABYSITTING JOBS - in your home, Red Cross certified. Call 897-1059 ask for Taylor.

COMPUTER REHAB - \$45 all repairs - Virus & Spyware removal. No diagnostic fees! Mon. - Sat., 100 W. Main St., Lowell. 616-828-5346, www-computerRehab.ws

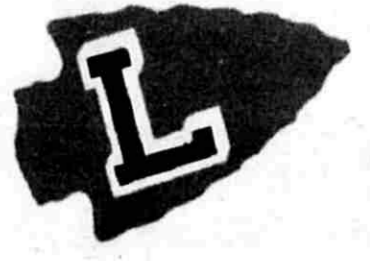
BABYSITTER LOOKING FOR SUMMER JOB - Very mature, patient 15 year old looking to babysit for 2-3 days per week for summer. \$5-\$8/hour or \$25/full day, pending on # of kids. Cal 460-4415 to set up interview or ask more questions.

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

FLAT RIVER WOOD CARVERS - Tuesdays at LAAC 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. New members welcome.



Unity High School Class of 2009



Congratulations Lowell Graduates!!!



ALAN ONAN



AMBER COLLINS



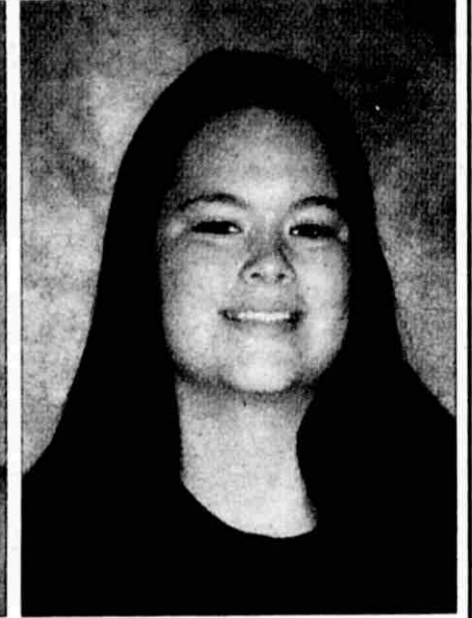
CHEYLENNE SICILIANO



JESSICA REEDY



KAYLA MILLSAP



KENDRA FOX



LINDSEY DEVRIES



MARGARITA CASTRO NUNEZ



MICHAEL WOOD



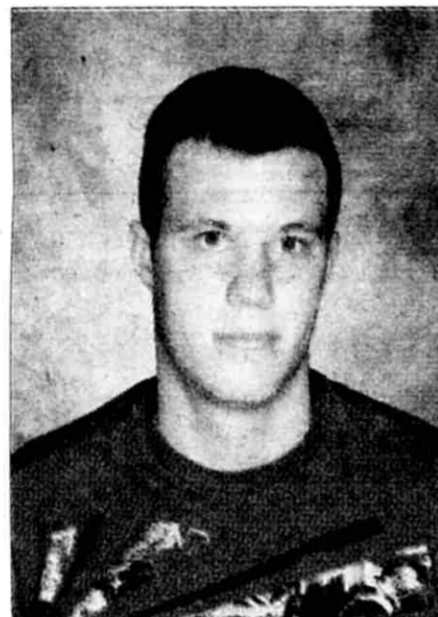
NICHOLAS JOURDAN



TARYN ULLERY



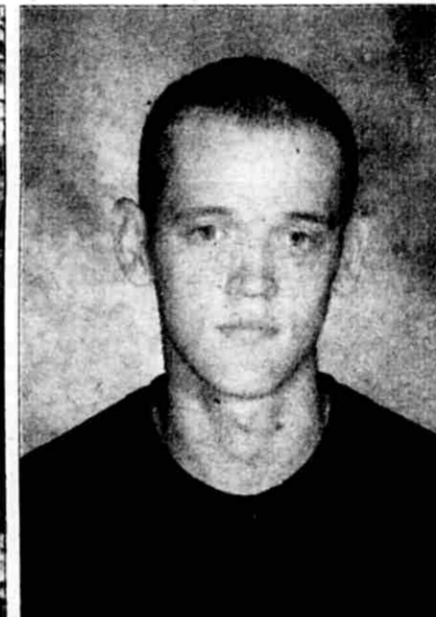
TAYLOR THOMPSON



TYLER RUGE



WILLIAM LITTLE



ZACHARIAH RAYMOR



Class of 2009 • Class of 2009 Class of 2009 • Class of 2009

Congratulations

CLASS OF 2009



301 E. Main Street
Lowell, Michigan
897-8457