

Springport Book Bindery
127 Railroad St
Springport MI 49284-9769

R001

the lowell ledger

wednesday • march • 24 • 2010

vol. 39 issue 24

for over 116 years • today - tomorrow - your lowell area news source

www.thelowellledger.com

troll project



page 8
spring
equinox



page 10

haiti photos



page 9

wires removed



page 3

Local doctor volunteers help in Haiti

by Emma Palova

Dr. James Lang of the Lowell Medical Center traveled to Haiti with a team of doctors and nurses from Orthopedic Associates of Michigan through Partners in Health affiliation.

The team spent a week, from Feb. 24 through March 3, on a farm, Double Harvest, approximately 20 minutes away from Port-au-Prince, the capital.

Lang worked in a triage area with physician's assistant Valerie Martin taking care of general medical needs of the earthquake victims. Also on the team were two orthopedic surgeons, Dr. Tom Malvitz and Dr. Karl Roberts, an anesthesiologist and nurses.

The team performed 60 surgeries on fractures and amputations and took care of medical problems of both adults and children.

The farm had been set up as a medical walk-in clinic. Here, Lang encountered tropical diseases almost

unknown in the USA, such as malaria, dengue fever and typhoid fever, but also dehydration and lacerations.

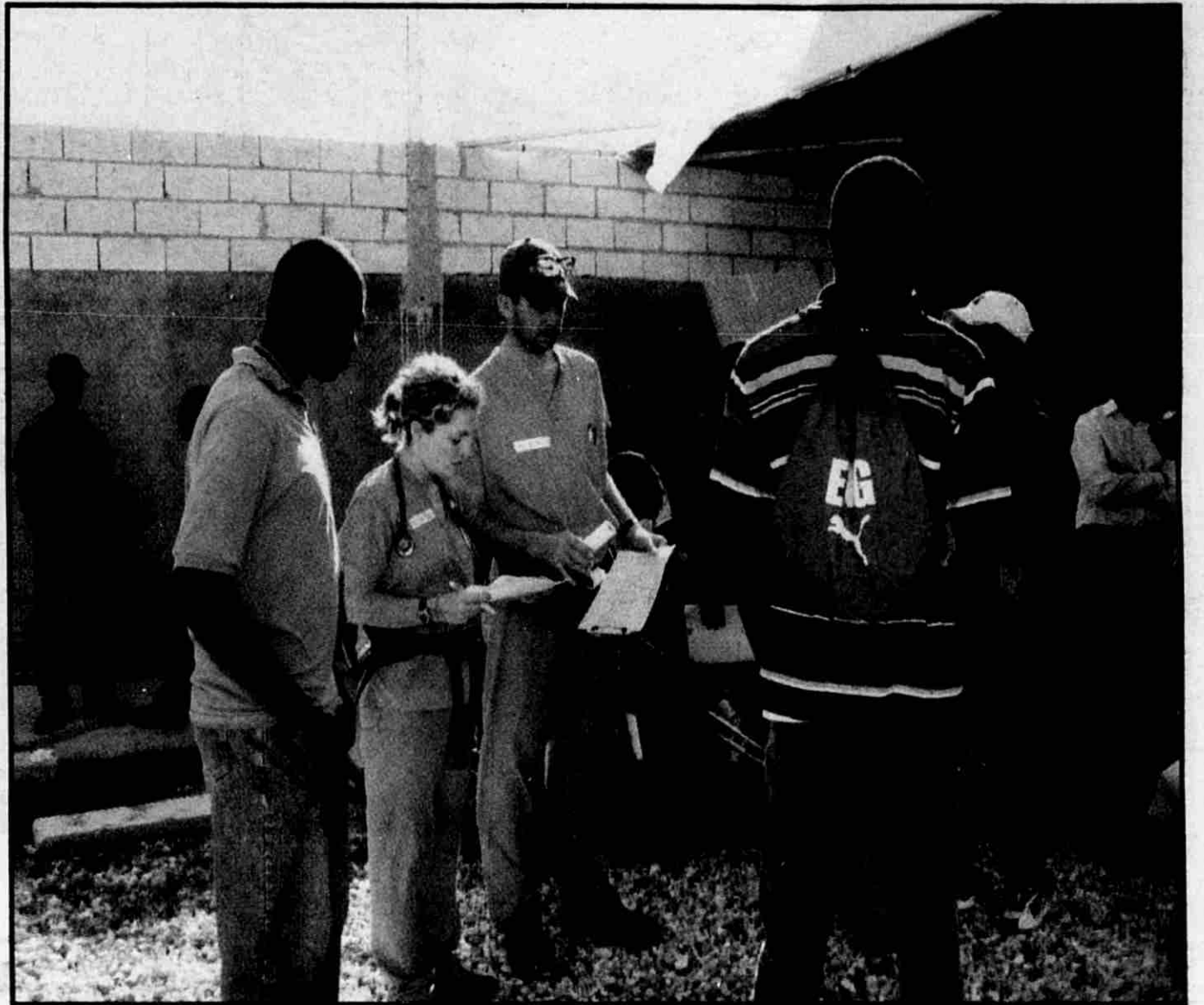
The work in the earthquake affected area was intense, from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., plus deliveries and emergencies at night.

"The pathology down there is different with advanced and tropical diseases," he said.

The biggest impact on the rotating teams was seeing all the devastation and the tent hospitals set up because the main hospital had been destroyed.

"There was a number of volunteers from all over the United States and the world working to make the situation better," said Lang. "It made me feel good about fellow volunteers."

In turn, the people of Haiti were very appreciative, according to Lang. The team used English and Creole translators. During their stay, they experienced an



An orthopedic team and Dr. James Lang volunteered help in Haiti.

aftershock at the clinic causing people to run out of the clinic in fear.

"The ground was shaking," said Lang. "There is no infrastructure, just dirt roads."

People were living in tent cities in approximately 85-degree temperatures.

"It was incredible, the amount of damage," he said. "The people have a lot of fortitude; they are hopeful things will improve."

During the lapse of time from the actual earthquake to the team's stay, the distribution of food and water had improved, according to Lang.

The clinic had an X-ray, IVs and a limited lab, as well as drugs for infection. However, most diagnosis was done by examination and logical thinking.

"We were coming up with the most logical diagnosis," said Lang.

Some of the surgical equipment was donated. The orthopedic group has been sending teams to Haiti for the last six weeks.

"They will still need help for a long time," he said.

Also, the medical school had been destroyed, so medical professionals are being trained in the USA in the meantime.

"It was a great experience," Lang said. "It's good to be back."

Rails to trails project set for June closing

by Emma Palova

The Lowell to Greenville portion of the rails to trails conversion is tentatively set for a June closing. The section is 21.8 miles long and the purchase will be offset with the help of a \$650,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation. The enhancement grant has received a preliminary approval. It is expected to be officially announced in April or early May.

"The grant is the key to making this happen," said Carolyn Kane of the West Michigan Trails and Greenways Coalition.

The group has been working for the last two years on the \$2.3 million purchase of the railroad bed from Mid Michigan railroad. The corridor has been rail banked.

"We have set the bar for other projects," said Kane.

The group expects to have an interlocal governmental agreement in place by early April. This agency will oversee the trail maintenance and the trail funds and it may contract for maintenance.

"We're heading into [the] right direction," said Ionia County administrator Mark Howe.

Also, as part of the planning process, a survey may be sent out next month to get public input on potential uses of the trail.

The other section from Ionia to Saranac has been purchased and now it is a matter of gifting the rest of the corridor to the DNR. The railroad cars will be removed.

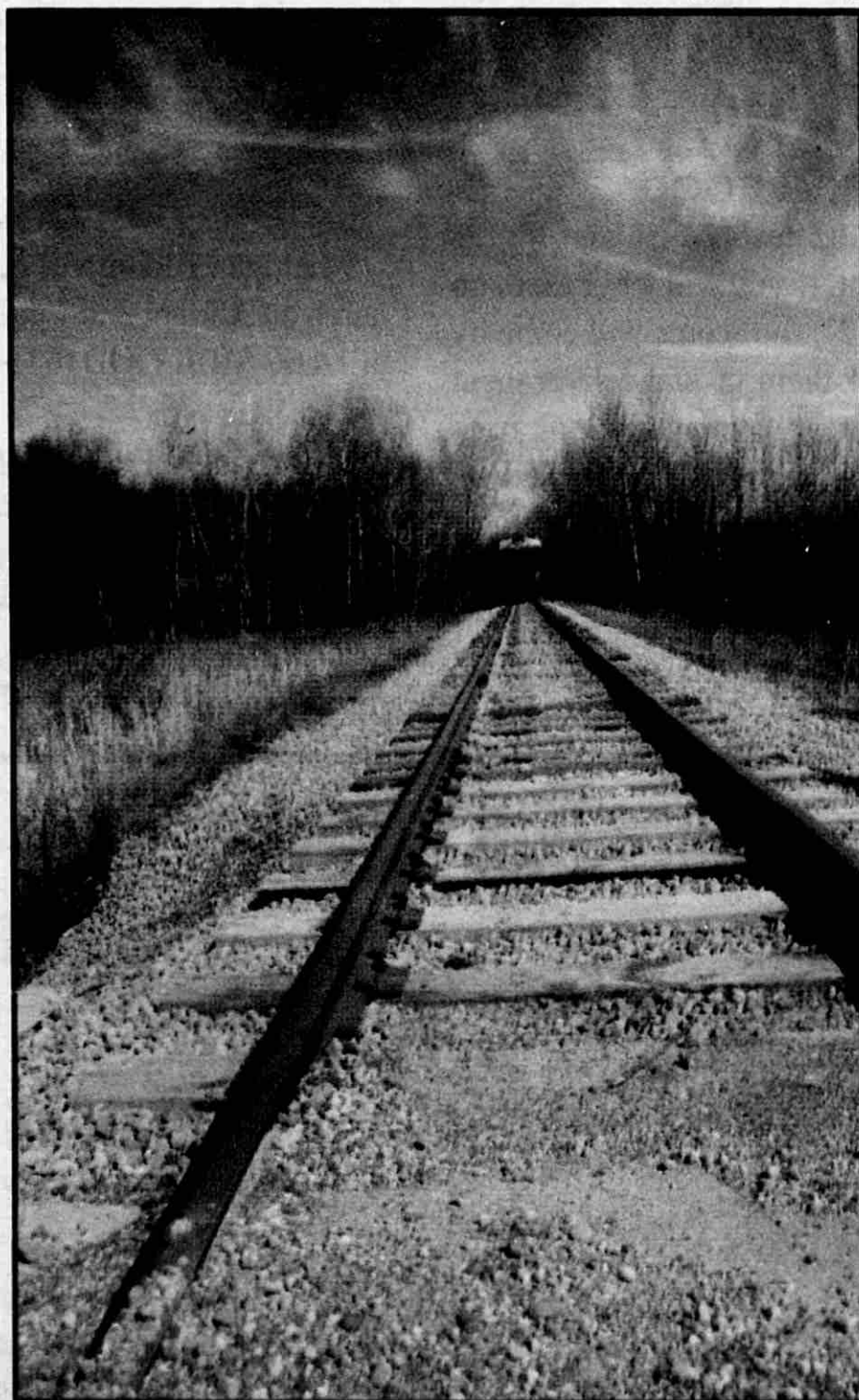
"We have interest from multiple users," said DNR representative Annamarie Bauer. "We go through an extensive design process to get a better understanding. We look at safety."

Bauer said DNR likes to stay away from shared corridors for motorized uses and non-motorized uses.

"We try to achieve as much separation as possible," she said. "It depends on the interest. There is much more development here than up north."

Usually there is also interest from the equine community and different sections of trails can have different uses.

The group also collects railroad leases for an annual revenue of \$25,000. There are



Purchase of Lowell to Greenville railroad section is ready for a June closing.

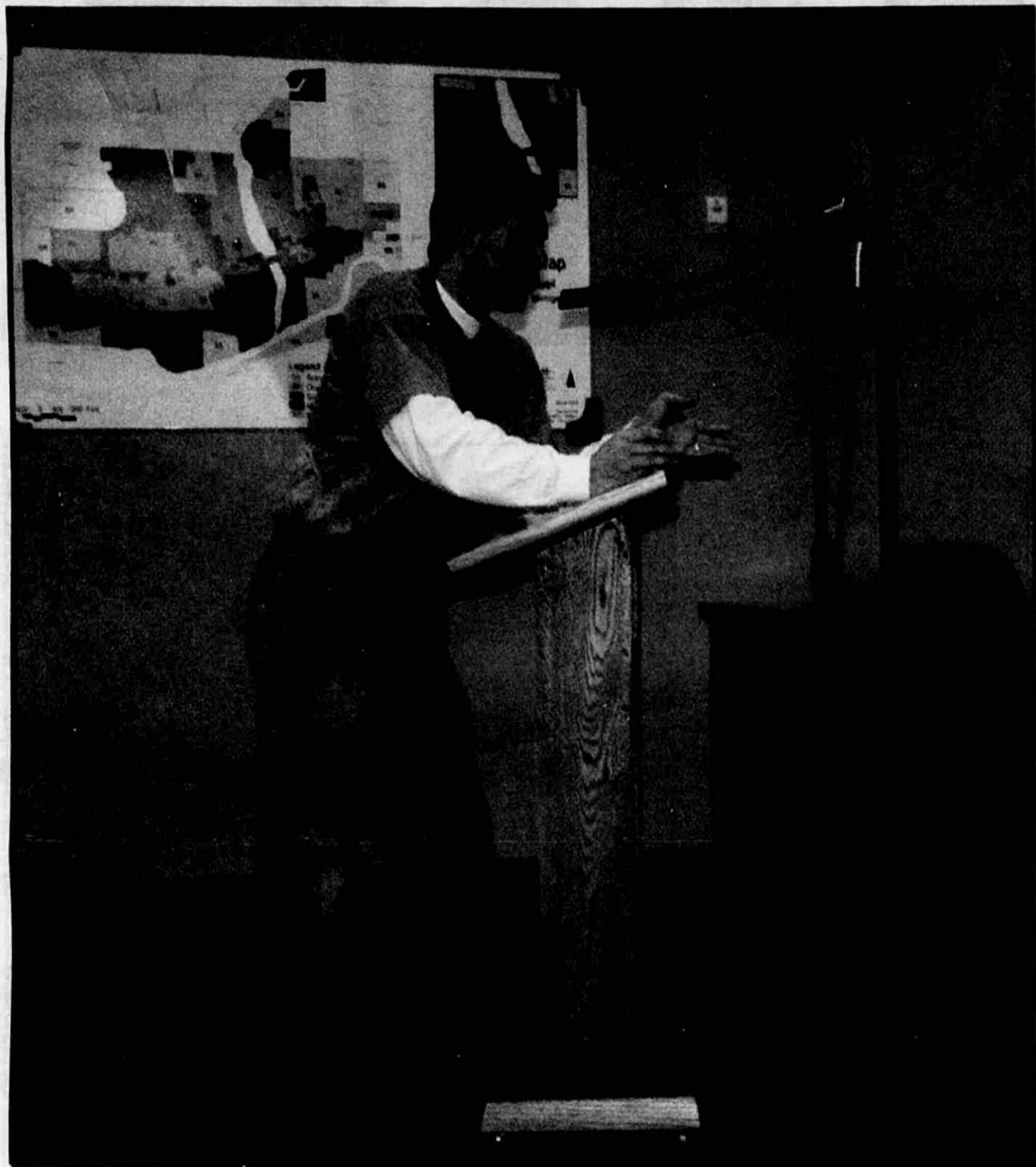
Rails, continued, page 2

50
CENTS



Masonic Lodge may be used as a wrestling center

by Emma Palova



Dave Dean explains his proposal for the Masonic Lodge.

The Masonic Lodge on Lincoln Lake Avenue may be used as a wrestling center and dormitory for wrestlers.

Dave Dean presented the plan Monday night to the planning commission. The upstairs would be used as a training wrestling center, while the downstairs would have room to wrestle.

"We feel we could build a business that will bring people to Lowell from out of town," said Dean.

The building, zoned as public facility, would require general business zoning with special use for the housing portion of it. The upstairs is 2,200 square feet, while the downstairs would accommodate 20 bunk beds.

The idea, according to Dean, is to lower the cost for the parent, so the wrestlers don't have to stay in a motel.

Commissioner Don Green said it's a real neat idea. Parking could be

provided in the vacant lot on the north side.

In other business, the planning commission recommended the approval of the soft-sided temporary garages to the city council after holding a public hearing.

Opposing the proposal were residents Steve Doyle and Chris Fleszar. Fleszar said they collected a petition with 50 signatures.

"We're not alone in our opposition," said Fleszar. "Fifty citizens have signed the petition. This does not make Lowell a better place to be. Stop trying to push this through."

The vote for the temporary soft-sided garages passed on a three to one vote. Opposing was commissioner Jim Hall.

"I am totally against it," he said. "It doesn't add anything to our neighborhoods. It's an embarrassment. It just tears down the community. It should have never been considered."

However, after much discussion, most of the commissioners were in favor. Maryalene LaPonsie said she could not find on the Internet research that it would decrease property values.

Hard surface driveways to the structure would have to be approved by the planning commission. The council also approved the installation of a radio antenna at Cherry Creek Elementary for amateur club, as well as a 70-foot antenna for resident Robert Robinson.

The council approved a special use permit for a second floor for a condo apartment as requested by Greg Canfield on the northwest side of the bridge. The space will accommodate three bedrooms with a view of the river. It is approximately 1,600 square feet.

Rails, continued

approximately 30 leases on the Ionia to Lowell corridor. Ionia County may serve as a fiduciary for the funds until an authority is established.

The group will be at the Belding Expo on March 25 and at the Lowell Expo on March 27. They are also looking for people from the involved communities to form a Friends group.

"People like to be involved at their community level," said Kane.



Feel free to send your event information to the Ledger for Along Main St. All submission requests for Along Main St. are subject to space limitations and The Ledger makes no assurances that they will appear in print. To ensure that an event notification will appear in the Ledger, it is best to place a paid advertisement. All efforts will be made to place suitable items in the Along Main St. column but they are printed at the discretion of the publisher. For profit events, church services, yard sales and the like, will not appear in this column.

The Lowell Ledger

(USPS 453-830)

Published weekly for \$22⁹⁹ a year for zip codes beginning with 493 or 495 \$32⁹⁹ a year any other zip code.

J-AD GRAPHICS INC. PUBLISHER
EMMA PALOVA LEAD REPORTER
TRAD KRAUS SPORTS/SALES
TAMMY JANOWIAK CLASSIFIED/ACCOUNTING
JON JACOBS ADVERTISING SALES

(616) 897-9261

E-Mail: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com
Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI

Published every Wednesday
POSTMASTER: Send address change to:
The Lowell Ledger
P.O. Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331
www.lowellbuyersguide.com

LOWELL WOMEN'S CLUB

The Lowell Women's Club is accepting grant requests from Lowell Community Organizations. This application does not apply to LWC Scholarships. Access application form at the website: www.lowellwomensclub.org or call Karen Thomure at 897-9862. Deadline for requests is March 25.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD

Lowell Boy Scout Troop 102 dropped off bags for the annual Scouting for Food event. If you will leave them on your porch on Saturday, Mar. 27, the scouts will come by between 8 a.m. to noon to pick them up and deliver them to Flat River Outreach Ministries. Huntington Bank bags can be dropped off at the bank; these will be picked up Friday, Mar. 26 by closing time.

LHS HELPS HAITIAN EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

Lowell High School partners with Rays of Hope for Haiti to collect needed supplies, such as food, water, over-the-counter medical items, personal hygiene items, and funds to aid earthquake victims in Haiti. This event ends March 27. For more information contact RJ Boudrou, 987-2978.

BLOOD DRIVE

Michigan Blood will be at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on April 6, 3 to 7 p.m. To schedule a donation time call 1-866-MIBLOOD (642-5663).

BUILD A TROLL

Drop by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce building, 113 Riverwalk Plaza, anytime April 8 and 9 between 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and build a troll to showcase at a Lowell business during the Troll Project. For more information call 897-9161.

Get a Ledger Subscription Today!

spring into action

Keep yourself informed!
As low as \$22 per year for Lowell

the **lowell** ledger

Wolverine power line removed, poles topped

by Emma Palova

Contractor Hydacker-Wheatlake Co. out of Reed city removed, last week, old Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative 69,000 V transmission power lines. They will no longer be needed since Lowell Light and Power is converting to the new 138,000 V Bowes Road substation.

"The line is not energized," said utility foreman Tom Russo. "It has not been used since Christmas."

The contractor also topped off the poles. The Lowell Light and Power lines run below and new poles will be set next to the old ones to transfer the power lines to the new poles. Twelve poles will be replaced next week.

"Then they will remove the poles from the system," said Russo.

There were four crews working in town on the lines. Lane shifts helped redirect the traffic to ease the work.



Lowell Light and Power will be putting new poles.

New Vergennes trustee appointed to the board

by Emma Palova

Longtime Vergennes planning commissioner Rick Gillett, 57, has been appointed to the township board to fill the vacancy after Vern Nauta.



Rick Gillett

Gillett, who is a fifth grade teacher at the Goodwillie Environmental School, will serve his term until December and then run in the regular November election for a four year term.

Gillett served on the planning commission for 18 years.

"I've enjoyed planning, making Vergennes township a good place to live in," he said, "and helping maintain the rural character."

As a trustee, Gillett wants to continue the excellent job the township board has done by listening to the people.

"We want to maintain the township as a place where you want to reside and raise your family," he said.

Along with other communities, the biggest issue the township is facing is the cut of revenues from the state.

Currently, according to Gillett, since development has practically stopped, the board and the planning commission have been tweaking some ordinances.

"We have no major issues on the planning plate," he said.

Gillett, much like the entire board, wants to be receptive to the community and to make good decisions for the people.

"The beauty of township government is that [it] is one of the last places where [you] can face your government official and

have a good discussion," he said.

Gillett takes his trustee position as a stewardship to keep the excellent standard of living that is being offered.

Other issues in the township include the lack of high speed Internet.

"We're in a dead zone as a township," he said. "But we do have to look at it."

As more people work out of their homes, high speed Internet access becomes a necessity.

"It's a frustration, a tough question," said Gillett.

"We don't have enough homes for Comcast to put cables in. We're hoping as technology develops there will be more innovative ways to access high speed Internet. It depends on the density of housing."

An important issue in

the township remains the preservation of farmland as in the case of preserving the entire Parnell corridor in the northwest section of the township.

"It's a tremendous way to protect and allow agriculture and farmers to keep their land and get some retirement plan out of it," he said.

The new planning commissioner is Duane Rasch.

Hall for rent with kitchen

SEATS 150
Located at the fairgrounds
Call 897-6050

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider a Special Land Use and site plan request from Arlin Maas to establish a 20 unit senior assisted living facility and a seven unit specialized senior care facility on the same parcel. The vacant property consists of 4.02 acres and is zoned AG-2, Rural Agricultural.

Property Address:
11440 East Fulton Street SE.
General Location:
South side of East Fulton Street (M-21) on the west side of the Lowell Lanes bowling alley

The public is invited to attend this hearing which will be held as follows:

WHEN: MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2010
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
LOWELL, MI 49331

The proposed site plan and other materials pertaining to this project are available for review at the Lowell Charter Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, Michigan, 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday or by calling 897-7600.

Tim Clements, Secretary
Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission

ADA LOWELL 5

616-897-3456
On M-21, 5 Minutes East of Ardenwy, MI
www.GOTI.com

Quality THEATERS
All Lounger Seats • All Digital Sound

\$4.50 to \$5.00
ALL SEATS
(except adult evening)

SHOWTIMES 3:22 - 3:25
No passes

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID (PG)
5:10, 7:10, 9:15
THE BOUNTY HUNTER (PG-13)
6:55, 7:20, 9:45
GREEN ZONE (R) 4:45, 7:15, 9:40
SHE'S OUT OF MY LEAGUE (R)
5:05, 7:30, 9:50
ALICE IN WONDERLAND (PG)
4:35, 7:00, 9:30

COUPON FREE
with \$3.00 purchase of 48¢ movie or program

We want to be your Other Family Doctor.

Animal Hospital of Lowell

- Sick or Injured Animals Seen Same Day
- Evenings & Saturday Hours Available
- Early Drop-offs & House Calls
- 24-Hour Emergency Service
- Science Diet Pet Foods
- Boarding & Grooming

Call 897-8484
11610 East Fulton Street • Lowell, Michigan

Rudd's SEPTIC SERVICE

- Septic Tanks Cleaned
- Home Sale Evaluations
- 3 Months Free Additives

WE WILL ACCEPT COMPETITOR'S COUPONS (ONE COUPON PER VISIT)

1 Year Supply Of Custom Bio Bacteria
OR \$15 Off Septic Pumping.
(VALUE \$39.95)

897-8560

Boy Scouts to hold open house

100 years ago, Feb. 8, 1910, Boy Scouts of America was born.

79 years ago, 1931, Lowell's first Eagle Scout earned his award - congrats Sam Yeiter.

68 years ago, 1942, Boy Scout Troop 102 was born.

58 years ago, Boy Scouts, leaders, parents, and community members from Troop 102 and Lowell worked together to build the scout cabin.

Quite a history, quite a Lowell tradition.

Troop 102 has been active ever since then. In those years, Troop 102 has produced 61 Eagle Scouts. Already this year another scout has earned his Eagle Scout rank, the highest rank in scouting. In 2008, six scouts earned their Eagle, the most ever for Troop 102 in one year. But there is much more to Troop 102 than just the Eagle Scouts they produce. Whether a scout earns Eagle or not, they are better young men for the experience they

get here in Lowell and the community is better because of the scouts.

Over the years, these young men have worked countless hours of community service. Each Eagle Scout has planned, organized and managed a project that benefits some organization outside of scouting, not to mention all the other advancement requirements. Many hours go into the planning of the projects and many more hours go into the work, all led by a young man in a scout uniform. A young man, anywhere from age 14 to 17, managing other scouts and adults.

You also see them in parades, working at the Lowell Expo, putting out flags in the cemetery and along Main St. putting up flags for fallen heroes, helping out the food bank with Scouting for Food, and helping out the 4H Fair. All this and still going to meetings and camping at the scout cabin, learning life skills, citizenship and community pride.

Recently, the fate of the scout cabin was up in the air. There were questions about whether or not the scouts would be able to keep it. But the people of Lowell stood up for the scouts and said they wanted it to stay. When Troop 102 needed the community, it came through for them.

On Saturday, April 10, Troop 102 will open the scout cabin doors and the property around the cabin to the Lowell community. From noon to 4 p.m. there will be demonstrations of activities that scouts participate in on campouts. Historical displays will be set up to show scouting in Lowell over the years: Eagle projects, community service and scouts just having fun. There will be outdoor demonstrations of scouting activities and skills, such as pioneering, first aid, and map and compass. A model campsite will be set up, as will a survival shelter and lunch will be served throughout the afternoon cooked Boy Scout style in cast iron Dutch ovens.

All veterans around the area are invited to the cabin at 5 p.m. A Boy Scout dinner using Dutch ovens will be prepared showing the cabin and grounds, the skills of our scouts, past accomplishments and history of the scouts.

Around dusk, the troop will perform one of the most solemn duties, a Flag Retirement ceremony. The troop has gotten support from area veterans over the years. There are several former scouts, some Eagle Scouts, on active duty in the Armed Forces right now, as well as members of the VFW and American Legion that the scouts want to honor.

If you would like to see what happens at the scout cabin, come on out on April 10. The scouts and leaders are proud of the cabin and grounds, and proud to be part of the Lowell community. Come out and experience the best Boy Scouting around - Boy Scouting of Lowell.

Lowell Relay for Life June 11 and 12

submitted by Carolyn Cavanaugh

Lowell will celebrate the fifth year of hosting a Relay for Life on Friday and Saturday June 11 and 12 from 3 p.m. to 3 p.m. This is a 24 hour event to raise cancer awareness and money for research by the American Cancer Society.

The goal is to have teams from businesses, organizations or even ones made up from friends and family walking the track at Red Arrow Memorial stadium having people on the track for the entire time. Hundreds of people take part in the event each year.

Each person participating has their own reason for walking with stories that are very moving. The reasons range from having been through cancer themselves to a dear friend or family member has been affected. For myself, my husband has been through cancer, in fact two types. He went through treatment and has thankfully been in remission for coming up on four years. Each person has a story of going through their time of illness with the support of friends, family, and their medical team. There is camaraderie among cancer patients which is kind of a special bond in some way only they can share. It is always interesting to sit back and listen to them as they talk about what it means to have been through cancer and keeping track of how they are doing. It is things like how were your latest test results, how long have you been in remission, or perhaps sharing their stories. There is also sadness when someone has relapsed.

All the people who attend have the purpose of working to someday find a cure for cancer. We are in the process of signing up teams for Relay for Life right now. If you have any questions please contact Carol Briggs at cbriggs@lowellschools.com or visit us online at www.relayforlife.org/lowellmi. Come help us celebrate, remember, and fight back.



viewpoint

financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Put your tax refund to work

It's Tax Refund Season again. This year, if you're going to get a check from your Uncle Sam, why not put it to work to help you meet your financial goals?

Last year, the average tax refund was more than \$2,700, according to the IRS. The size of your refund, or whether you will get one at all, depends on your individual circumstances. But if you are going to get a refund, plan ahead for what you'll do with it. Here are a few possibilities:

- **Pay down some debts.** In these difficult economic times, you may be carrying a higher debt load than usual. If so, you may want to use some of your refund to pay down some of these debts. The lower your debt payments, the better your cash flow and the more money you'll have to invest for the future.

- **Build an emergency fund.** If you don't already have an emergency fund containing six to 12 months' worth of living expenses, you could use your tax refund to start one. Without such a fund, you may find yourself constantly dipping into your long-term investments to pay for unexpected costs, such as a new furnace or an expensive car repair. Keep your emergency fund in a liquid account — one that you don't draw on for your day-to-day expenses.

- **Help fund your IRA.** In 2010, you can put in up to \$5,000 to your IRA. Consequently, if you received a \$2,700 refund, you'd have more than half of what you need to fully fund your IRA for the year. (If you're 50 or older, however, you can contribute up to \$6,000 per year.)

You might not think that your \$2,700 would make much of a difference in the long run. But by investing your refund and giving it many years of growth potential, you could end up with a sizable amount. Consider the following:

- If you put \$2,700 in your IRA, and you earned, on average, seven percent a year for 30 years, you'd end up with about \$20,000, even if you never invested another dime.

- If you put \$2,700 every year in that same IRA, again earning an average seven percent annual return, you'd end up with more than \$270,000 after thirty years.

(These examples are hypothetical illustrations and do not represent any currently available investments.)

- You'd eventually have to pay taxes on your earnings, typically when you make withdrawals at retirement. And if you qualified for a Roth IRA, you'd never have to pay taxes on your earnings, as long as you had your account for at least five years and didn't start taking withdrawals until you were at least 59-1/2.

- **Contribute to a Section 529 plan.** If you have children or grandchildren, you may want to establish Section 529 plans to help them pay for college. You can contribute virtually any amount, and the earnings grow tax-free, provided the money is used for higher education expenses. (Withdrawals used for expenses other than qualified education expenses may be subject to federal, state and penalty taxes. Contributions are tax-deductible in certain states for residents who participate in their own state's plan. Please note that a 529 college savings plan could impact a beneficiary's ability to qualify for financial aid.)

You may be tempted to spend your tax refund on things you want today — but, with a little planning, you can use it for things you need tomorrow.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Winning the jobs fight, one battle after another



Sen. Carl Levin

The industrialist John D. Rockefeller believed that "the world owes no man a living but that it owes every man an opportunity to make a living." Far too many Michiganders these days are being denied that opportunity, but Congress has taken some important steps to boost job creation and put people back to work.

President Obama recently signed the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act, the first of what will be several job-creation measures Congress will take up. This legislation includes a number of important provisions that will help businesses begin hiring again.

Following up on that bill, the Senate and House have each approved the American Workers, State, and Business Relief Act, and I am optimistic we will soon reach agreement on a final version of that bill to send to the president. Later this spring, we plan to pass a third piece of legislation that will give businesses the greater access to credit they need to survive and grow.

No individual bill, by itself, will solve our jobs problem. Unfortunately, the depth of the crisis we face means solutions aren't simple or easy. We'll reduce unemployment with a series of small wins, not in one sweeping move, and these bills are important successes in that larger battle.

The bill the president signed in mid-March, for example, does a number of things to boost employment. It provides a tax credit to companies that add new workers, a credit that

Levin, continued, pg. 12

local business

TO ADVERTISE IN THE LEDGER BUSINESS DIRECTORY Call 897-9261

Certified Garment Care Professional

CURTIS
CLEANERS • LAUNDRY

FREE PICKUP & DELIVERY
Lowell • Ada • Cascade
Ionia • Grand Rapids

2009 AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

MARCH SPECIAL
20% OFF
3 OR MORE SWEATERS

(616) 897-9809 • 1410 W. Main • Lowell

MIKA MEYERS BECKETT & JONES PLC
ATTORNEYS

John T. Sperla
Mark A. Kehoe
Ross A. Leisman

Benjamin A. Zainca
Neil P. Jansen
Neil L. Kimball

(616) 897-3111 www.mmbjlaw.com

bloom where you're planted
BUY LOCAL

LOWELL
Live Your Hometown

Rich's Service Co.
In-Home Appliance Repair

INSURED • 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE
WASHERS • DRYERS • REFRIGERATORS
GARBAGE DISPOSALS • STOVES • DISHWASHERS

209 E. Main St.
Lowell, MI 49331

RICH CURTIS
(616) 897-5686

A BUSINESS AD THIS SIZE ONLY \$8.50 PER WEEK!

Call 897-9261

BILL WHEELER
Certified Public Accountant

W.J. WHEELER MICHIGAN
103 Riverside Dr.
Lowell, Michigan 49331

616-897-7711

FRY DADDY'S
608 West Main Street
Lowell, MI 49331

897-FISH

FISH SHRIMP WING DIMOS - CHICKEN STRIPS
DAILY SPECIALS
OPEN TUESDAY - SATURDAY
Best Fish In Town!!!

KIRK COLLINS
Owner
Showboat
AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY, INC.

Auto Value

1450 W. Main St., Lowell, MI
(616) 897-9231

HOURS: MON - FRI 8-7; SAT 8-5:30; SUN 9-3

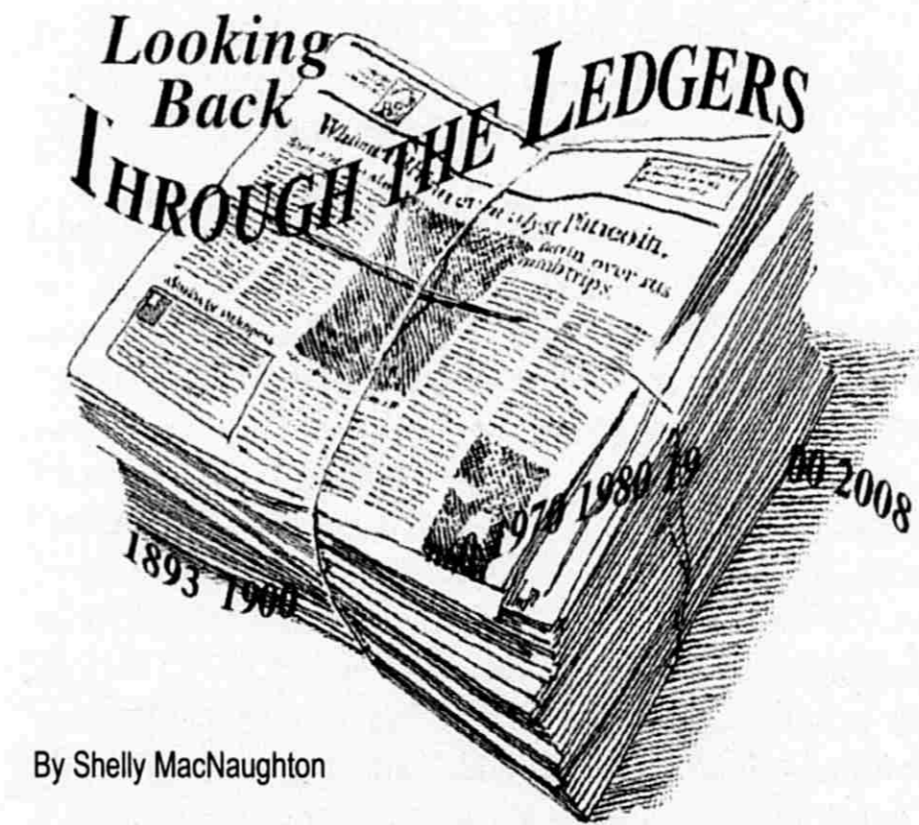
COMPUTER REHAB
www.ComputerRehab.ws
100 W. Main St. • Lowell, MI 49331
616-828-5346

• FREE COMPUTER RECYCLING
• VIRUS/SPYWARE REMOVAL & PREVENTION

HOURS:
Mon & Wed: 9:30 - 7:00
Tue, Thurs & Fri: 9:30 - 5:30
Saturday: 10:00 - 2:00

Richard Ostrander (616) 761-2084
richardroofer@sbcglobal.net

OSTRANDER
SIDING AND ROOFING COMPANY
9019 W. Belding Rd. (M-44), Belding, Michigan
Phone: (616) 794-0661 • Toll Free: (888) 750-7078
Fax (616) 794-0105
Email: ostrandrdsng@sbcglobal.net
Web: ostranderroofing.com



By Shelly MacNaughton

125 Years Ago
The Lowell Journal
March 25, 1885

Burglars took \$440 from Loren Tyler's home in Bowne. No clue.

The Lowell cornet band furnishes excellent music for the Rink.

Lorenzo Payne's examination adjourned until Thursday at 10 a.m.

100 Years Ago
The Lowell Ledger
March 24, 1910

Rose Anna Harris was born in Cayuga county, town of Conquest, state of New York, on Jan. 5, 1830. With her parents she moved to Brunso, Mich., in 1831; they built the first log house in the county. When about 19 years of age, she traveled alone the distance of 1100 miles to visit at the home of Edrak Clark in North Rochester, Mass. There she secured a common

school education and came back to Hillsdale where she taught school for some time. On Feb. 20, 1856 she was married to Lewis Warner. There were born to this union twelve children; seven of whom survive her. In 1869, they moved from Coldwater to near Grand Rapids in midwinter in sleighs, with a family of six children, to a farm in Walker Township on Alpine Ave. Those were true pioneer days for the family. They moved to Keene Township in 1875 where they lived until they left the farm and bought a home in the village of Alto in 1892. Here she united with the Baptist Church. She was a true devoted Christian.

75 Years Ago
The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo
March 28, 1935

Earl Cole has been busy the past week or two making a number of improvements to his store.

We stop the press to announce that word has just been received from Suttons Bay stating that the 1935 Lowell Showboat has come through the rigors of winter unscathed despite the worst ice jam of recent years. A man by the name of Munchasen is the authority for the statement that upon one occasion the Showboat came very near being crushed like an eggshell between two of the largest icebergs ever seen by the travelers of the deep. The Showboat is scheduled to arrive in the Flat River in the early summer and will be in the home port at Lowell the first Thursday, Friday and Saturday in August as scheduled.

Director Dan Wingier made the motion that the Showboat Corporation donate \$6,000 of the \$7,000 needed for the purpose of providing a 10 acre site on Flat River for the establishment of the new Attwood Brass factory. The motion was seconded by Roger Bieri, commander of the American Legion. The motion was voted unanimously by the directors present.

25 Years Ago
The Grand Valley Ledger
March 27, 1985

Roger Kropf thinks it's high time for some positive talk about agriculture. Kropf is a partner with his father Carl and brother Ken in Kropf Orchards and Kropf Chemical Co. An open house at Kropf Chemical last Friday drew well over 200 area farmers and growers. Kropf says, "They aren't ready to throw in the towel, or they wouldn't be here."

Representatives from five chemical companies were on hand at the open house to pass out literature on their products and to answer any questions that the farmers and growers had about the various fertilizers and pesticides.

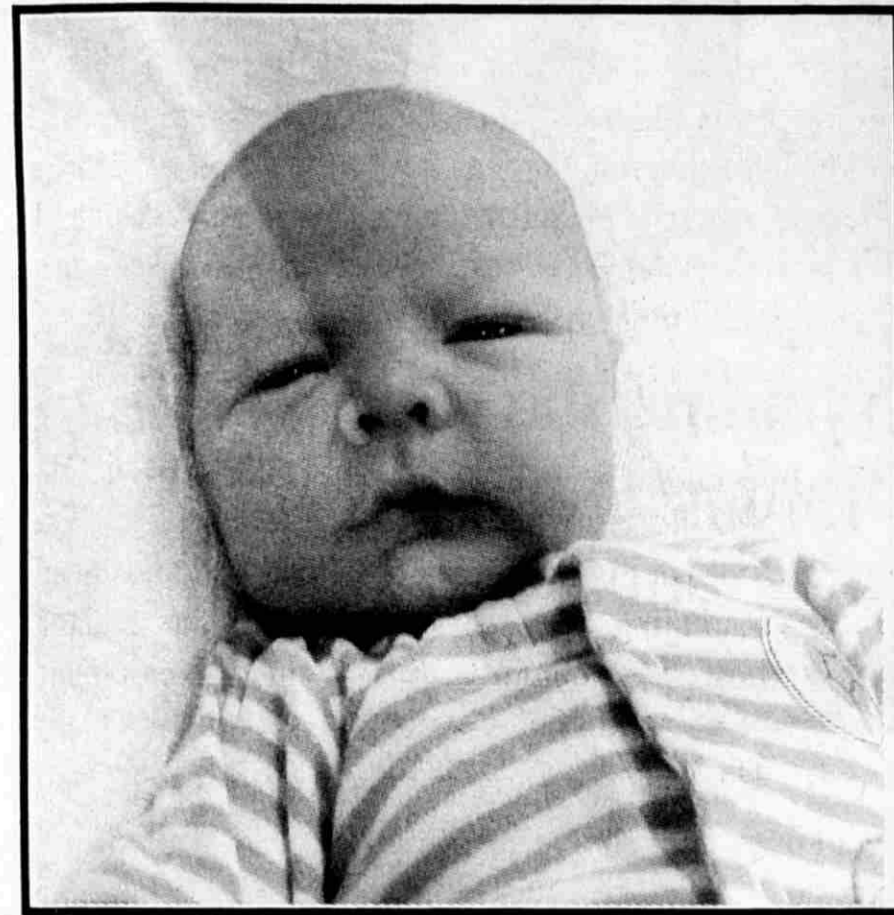
Letters To The Editor:

The Lowell Ledger welcomes your Letters to the Editor. Letters are required to bear the author's signature, phone number and address (for verification purposes only, not for publication). Letters will be published at the discretion of the publisher. All letters are subject to editing for length and grammar. Thank you letters, advertising or personal attacks will not be printed.

Letters may be submitted via email to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com ("to the Editor" in subject line) or dropped off or mailed to: The Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, MI 49331. Also, our website, www.lowellbuyersguide.com has a link to submit emails on the left side of the page.

new arrivals

Yeiter



Ryan Franklin Yeiter

Bruce and Michelle Yeiter welcomed Ryan Franklin to their family Feb. 11, 2010. He weighed 9 lbs. 7 oz. and measured 21 inches. He joins big sisters Alicia and Kara at home. Proud grandparents are Teresa and Mark Trunpower of Ross, North Dakota and Cora Yeiter of Lowell; and great-grandparents Henry and Kellie Fellerhoff of Gowen.

college news

Grand Valley State University has announced that the following students graduated at the conclusion of the fall 2009 semester in December:
Bryan T. Avery, BBA; Brian C. Boyce, BBA; Drew M. Clouse, BS; Geoffrey N. Dominiczak, BS; Michelle H. Harper, MED; Emily R. Henk, BS; Amer Kahrimanovic, BBA; Linda M. LeSage, MBA; Shannon M. Page, BA;

Laura E. Schuler, MED; and Justin A. Wassenaar, BBA; all of Ada.
Christopher D. Brubaker, BS; Christin J. Buchanan, BS; Joel E. Koning, BBA; and Andrew S. Vanderschaaf, BBA; all of Alto.
Mara L. Crawford, BA; Jared A. Hay, BSE; John M. Huston, BBA; and Amber L. Osborne, BSN; all of Lowell.

Postmaster Brown retiring



postmaster, Brown is the past president of the Lowell Rotary and an active member of the VFW.

Postmaster Gil Brown, retiring March 31, has 35 years service with the United States Postal Service. Brown came to Lowell as postmaster in 2001 to complete his career. He is a graduate of Northern Michigan University. He served in the U.S. Army including a tour of duty in Vietnam. Besides serving as Lowell's



- MARCH 24**
Joe Vezino Jr., Candy Speerstra, Isobel Edwards, Angela Titcombe, Marian Rutherford.
- MARCH 25**
Chris Yeiter, Shirley Carigon, Sari VanKeulen, Andy Quada, Troy Sloan.
- MARCH 26**
Margaret Hoats, Carol Maynard.
- MARCH 27**
Joel Roudabush, Kelly Geldersma.
- MARCH 28**
Amie Thaler, Aaron Kastanek, Beck Butler.
- MARCH 29**
John Ellison, Sandra VanWeelden, Judith Schafer Eiseman, Laura Rasch, Carl Rasch, Robin Burns, Casey Yonker, Brianna Homrich, Priscilla Nearing.
- MARCH 30**
Deb Maxim, Erin Wade, Delores Ellison, Laurinda Horsley, Patrick Drake.

health



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

PINK EYE

Pink eye is an inflammation of the tissue that covers the eyeball and the inside of the eyelid. Pink eye is also called conjunctivitis. It is usually caused by a mild infection that isn't serious. Most pink eye is caused by a virus, but it can also be caused by other germs (such as bacteria or fungi) or allergens (such as pollen or dust). Symptoms commonly seen with pink eye are redness and burning of the eye, watery or yellow discharge that can cause the eyelids to stick together, blurred vision or sensitivity to light, swollen eyelids, and tenderness around the eyes. You should see a doctor if any of the above symptoms last more than three days.

Treatment of pink eye depends on the cause. Pink eye caused by a virus goes away in about a week without treatment. Pink eye caused by bacteria also goes away without treatment, but if the infection is severe, antibiotic drops or gels may be used. If pink eye is caused by allergens, staying away from the things that trigger the reaction will help. Eye drops may be used to help soothe redness and itching.

Pink eye caused by allergens is not contagious, but pink eye caused by germs may be very contagious. You can get it by having direct contact with a person who has it. You can also get it by sharing personal items with someone who has pink eye, such as towels or makeup.

It is important that you wash your hands well and use tissues and paper towels. Don't share personal items. Don't wear contact lenses if eyes are red or inflamed. It may be a good idea to keep children home from school or daycare if they have pink eye.

service news

Navy Seaman Recruit Timothy M. Howard, son of Linda and Gary Howard of Lowell, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

During the eight-week program, Howard completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness.

The capstone event of boot camp is "Battle Stations." This exercise gives recruits the skills and confidence they need to succeed in the fleet. "Battle Stations" is designed to galvanize the basic warrior attributes of sacrifice, dedication, teamwork and endurance in each recruit through the practical application of basic Navy skills and the core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. Its distinctly "Navy" flavor was designed to take into account what it means to be a Sailor.

Howard is a 2006 graduate of Forest Hills Central High School of Forest Hills.

area churches

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
(United Church of Christ)
865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906
www.OurBigChurch.org
Sunday Worship.....10:00 a.m.
Church School.....10:15-11:15 a.m.
Thursday Faith Alive
Casual Worship.....6:30 P.M.
Barrier-free.....Nursery Provided
No matter where you are on life's journey, You are welcome here.

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

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)
Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21
www.goodshepherdlowell.org
Sunday School & Adult Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Worship Service.....10:00 A.M.
(Nursery available)
Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307
All facilities are wheelchair accessible

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)
3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery
Robert Holmes, Pastor
SUNDAYS:
Worship: 10 a.m.
WEDNESDAYS:
Family Night (for all ages): 7:00 p.m.
"The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m.
Loving God... Loving People!

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL
2275 West Main Street • 897-7168
Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org
Rev. David O. Sims, Rev. W. Lee Taylor & Pastor Phil Severn
Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.
Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M.
AYANAEKICITE-TEENS.....Wed. 8:15 P.M.
Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times
Nursery Provided • Barrier Free

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL
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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL
621 E. Main Street • 897-5936
www.lowellumc.com
WORSHIP.....8:30 & 10:30 a.m.
SUNDAY SCHOOL.....9:30 a.m.
Rev. Rick Blunt
Barrier-free entrance

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 WISNIE 897-7915
SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 303, ENTH FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING

SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell
Pastor Dr. Mike Conklin
9:45 A.M.....Sunday School
10:30 A.M.....Fellowship
11:00 A.M.....Worship
897-9863
Nursery & Children
Worship Programs Provided
A friend...a family...a mission!

GLASSIFIED ADS
4 weeks for the price of 3.
Call to place your ad, 897-9555

FAXING
SENDING OR RECEIVING
\$1.00 first sheet -
50¢ additional sheet
Buyers Guide
105 N. Broadway, Lowell • 897-9555

Bridge bucks, part of a community-wide business marketing plan

by Emma Palova

As part of a community-wide effort to embrace the upcoming bridge replacement project, bridge bucks will be issued to continue to motivate people to shop in the town up downtown.

The investment of \$300 spread over the project from April through September will provide the following: name on detour/parking map, individual businesses will be highlighted in the weekly troll story published in the Lowell Ledger, a two by two custom made troll for businesses, name on the bridge bucks, bridge construction blog and chamber website, 26 weekly drawings of bridge bucks at the participating businesses, Girls' Night Out (GNO), on April 15 and October 14.

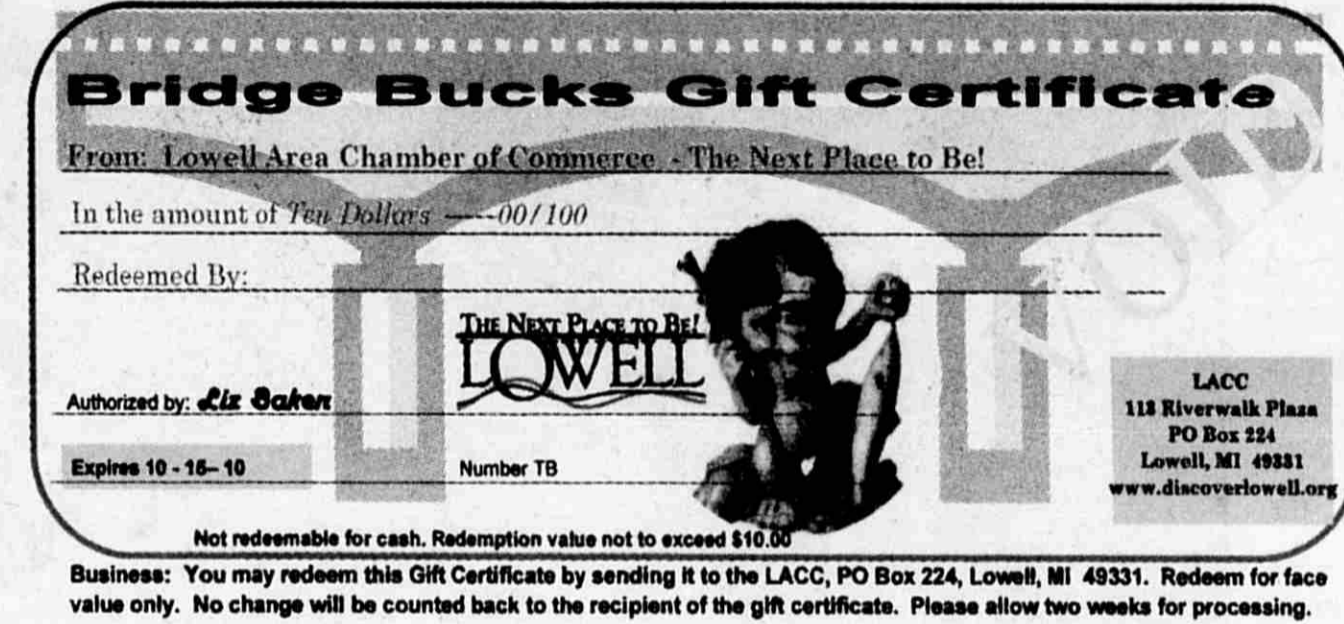
To celebrate the end of the project there will be a Bridge Celebration, also known as the Harvest Celebration, and a giant troll sculpture will be erected.

There will be four direct mailings throughout the project, GNO, one troll project and one Harvest Celebration, as well as increased marketing targeting Lowell.

The bridge investment is part of a larger pot of funds the Marketing Committee of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce is working on. The plans include seeking funding from the DDA, LACF, Look Fund and possibly from the Lowell Cable TV fund.

For the last three years, the chamber has received funding from the DDA and LACF to market Lowell. The result of this funding was the billboard on I-96 and a variety of ads. The chamber website has been redesigned so it is user friendly for visitors and members. With the funding promotional materials have been purchased. These include magnets t-shirts, canvas and Kraft paper shopping bags and water with the Lowell slogan on it. The chamber has given more than \$6,000 in Shop Lowell Gift Certificates, while redeeming \$2,000.

The mission of the community wide-business marketing plan is to strengthen the greater Lowell community through the development of a community wide business marketing plan. This plan promotes Lowell as an attractive place to work, start a business, relocate a plant, go to school, raise family, shop, dine and enjoy the amenities.



Fast facts about Social Security

When you think of Social Security, you probably think about a monthly payment for retired and disabled workers. Social Security has a rich history full of interesting facts. The program has been around for almost 75 years, so there has been ample time to put together a list of fun facts and figures.

Social Security paid benefits to about 55.8 million people in 2008. Fifty-six percent of adult beneficiaries were women.

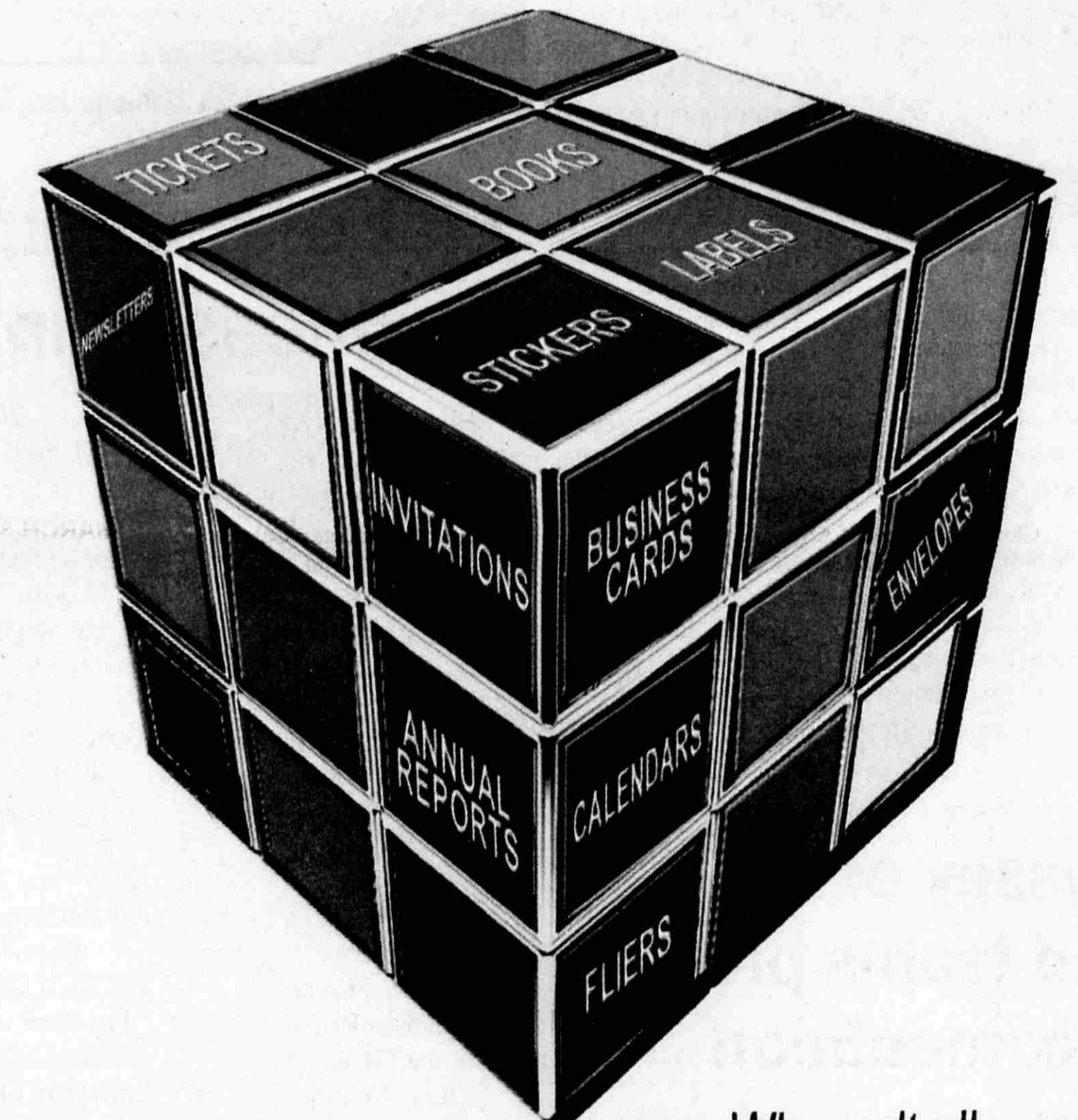
Here is some trivia about wages over the past few years. In 2007, the average annual wage was \$40,405. In 2008, it went up to \$41,679 (estimated) and in 2009, the average wage was \$42,041 (estimated). Looking at the average wages, it's plain to see how easy it is to reach your full Social Security credit each year. For example, in 2009, a wage-earner needed to earn and pay taxes on \$4,360 of wages to earn the full four credits of Social Security coverage for the year.

Social Security is the major source of income (providing at least 50 percent of total income) for 53 percent of aged beneficiary couples and 73 percent of aged single beneficiaries. Social Security makes up 90 percent or more of income for 21 percent of aged beneficiary couples and 44 percent of aged single beneficiaries.

Then there's Supplemental Security Income (SSI), a program that provides income to needy people aged 65 or older, or who are blind or disabled. Payments under SSI began in January 1974, with 3.2 million people receiving federally administered payments. As of December 2008, the number of recipients was 7.5 million.

To learn more, read our online publication Fast Facts and Figures About Social Security, 2009 at www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/chartbooks/fast_facts

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



LOWELL LITHO TOGETHER

105 N. Broadway • Lowell, MI 49341

No matter how difficult the challenge, no matter how complex the task, Lowell Litho offers proven solutions to solve most any printing puzzle.

Call today for a quote!
616.897.9261

LOWELL SHOPPERS UNITE

Please support a grass-roots effort to have Litehouse Dressings available in Lowell Meijer.

Each time you shop at Meijer, ASK for Litehouse Dressings!

If we band together we can shop locally instead of in Grand Rapids to purchase our Litehouse Dressings.



Thank you, Jan Thompson

Building trolls for business, part of marketing

by Emma Palova

Trolls and bridge bucks, that is the name of the game during the upcoming downtown bridge replacement project.

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce will officially announce the much talked about "Troll Project" at this year's Expo at noon.

The "Troll Project" is a way to keep people shopping in the downtown while it is being torn up with construction.

"We want to give people an incentive to continue to shop and support our businesses and restaurants," said Chimera owner and chamber board member Cliff Yankovich.

The signed up bridge investors have each put in \$50 a month for a six month period. The deadline to enter is March 31.

"The goal is to have \$5,000 worth of bridge bucks," said Yankovich.

Anytime shoppers do business at the participating merchants between April 5 and October 1, they can enter to win bridge bucks in weekly drawings.

In addition to retailers, also insurance agencies and businesses like Arctic Heating & Cooling are participating as well.

And what about the trolls? Well the trolls will serve as tool to keep people interested in supporting businesses in downtown Lowell.

Businesses along M-21 have adopted trolls and Lowell High School art students made some trolls from paper mache.

More trolls were built this Saturday in a troll building marathon held at the chamber.

Each business will have their very own personalized troll with a mischievous troll story like the story of the Hanger troll divaDaisy, who likes to talk too much on her cell phone. She carries a purse with her cell phone wherever she goes.

A permanent troll to mark the end of the construction will be constructed for grant money.

A troll drop is planned for Saturday, April 17 at the fairgrounds. Along with trolls, candy bars and \$200 worth of bridge bucks will be dropped from Greg VanStrein's paraglider.

Mike Sprenger of Springrove Variety found 250 trolls for the troll drop.

Yellow hard hats will be available at the Expo and Girl's Nite Out.

There will be weekly progress meetings during the construction at the Chamber of Commerce building every Thursday from 1 to 2:30pm beginning March 25th. Bring your questions.

The latest tally of participating businesses in the troll project is 55. Here is the list:



Liz Baker and Jessica Galusha rebuild and build trolls for businesses participating in the Troll Project.

List of participating businesses in the Troll Project

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Advanced Eyecare Professionals | Curves for Women-Lowell | Glass House Designs | Modern Photographics |
| AIC Insurance Services | D & L Tax Service & Bookkeeping | Harding Enterprises | Nightforest Jewelry |
| All Weather Seal | Daisy Floral | Hearthstone Design Studio, LLC | Pep Talk |
| Alliance Financial and Insurance | Dery Physical Therapy Services PC | Hunan Garden's La Te Da's | River Valley Credit Union |
| Arctic Inc. Heating & Cooling | Digital Image Signs & Graphics | Hu sntington Bank | Rookies Sportcards Plus Salon 206 |
| Backwater Café | Dovetail Antiques | James E. Reagan D.D.S. Keiser's | Showboat Automotive Sneaker's |
| Ball's Softee Crème | Edward Jones Investments | King Milling Company L.A. Trim | Springrove Variety |
| Bernard's Ace Hardware | eja' Salon, Inc. | Larkin's Fine Food & Cocktails | The Hanger |
| Canfield Plumbing & Heating Inc. | Fifth Third Bank | Lowell Area Arts Council | YMCA - Lowell |
| Chimera Design Fine Jewelry | Fire and Water Art! Firstbank | Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce | |
| Collector's Korner | Flat River Cottage | Lowell Area Historical Museum | |
| Computer Rehab | Flat River Grill | Lowell Beer Store | |
| Cousins' Hallmark/River Hollow | Friends of the Englehardt Library | Lowell Showboat Garden Club | |
| Curtis Cleaners | Gary's Country Meats | | |

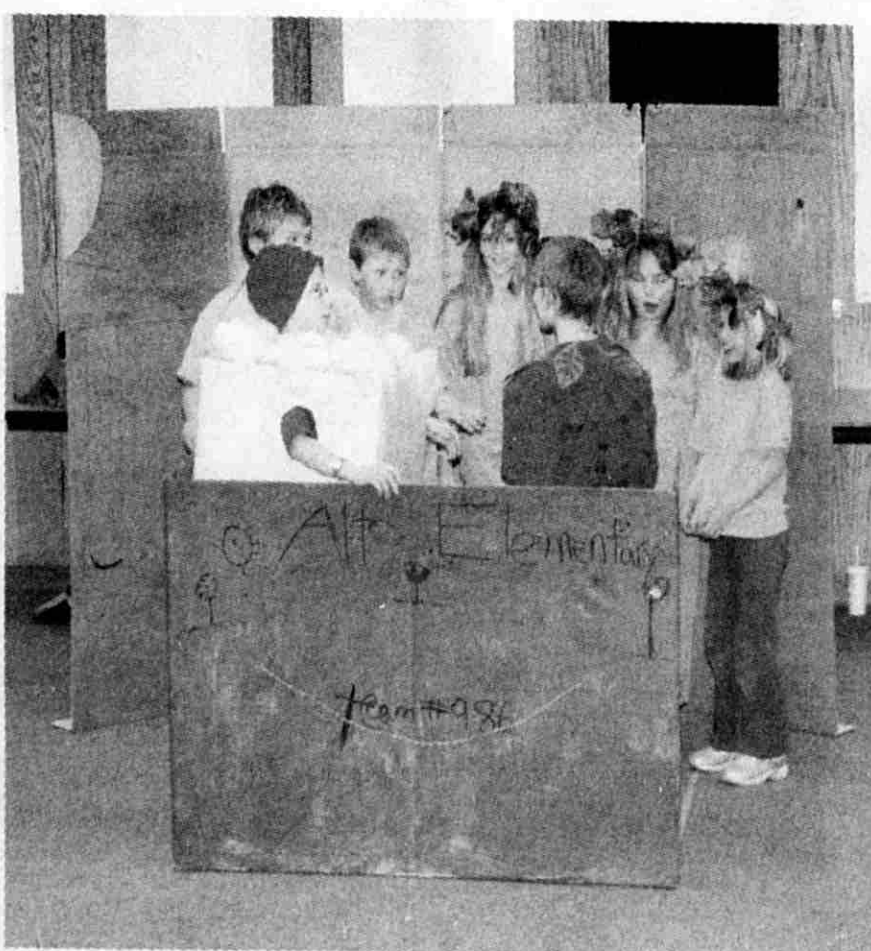
For weekly updates go to Cliff Yankovich bridge blog at the chamber web site www.lowellchamber.org

Odyssey of the Mind teams prepare for competition

Last week, ten teams from Lowell Area Schools met at Cherry Creek Elementary to show off their creativity in a dress rehearsal for their upcoming competition. The Lowell teams will travel to Greenville on Saturday, March 20 for the Region 13 Odyssey of the Mind Competition. The teams will perform a long term performance that they have been working on since October. The Lowell teams have been working on long term performances that include a humorous performance about a surprise party for something that is not usually celebrated, an original performance that portrays the discovery of two archeological treasures, a humorous performance where a food item is accused of being unhealthy and must defend itself among its food peers, and a series of aircraft that will complete a variety of flight plans. On the day of competition, the teams will also be judged on how well they solve a spontaneous problem.



Cherry Creek and Murray Lake students, left to right: Braydon Schramm, Jacob Holmes, Abigail Kastanek, Maria DeCator, Katrina Droski, Shannon Hoekstra and Logan Smith.



Preparing for their "FOOD COURT" are Alto students, front row, left to right: Connor Smithee and Eric Judd; back row, left to right: Steven Tripp, AJ Brandt, Robin Schultz, Sydney Tripp, and Erin Smithee.



Dancing to their chicken rap in their "FOOD COURT" are Murray Lake students, front row, left to right: Thomas Hubert, John Russell, and Tim Baerwalde; back row, left to right: Angie Baerwalde, Brianna Roest, Isabelle Fleszar and Alyssa Roest.

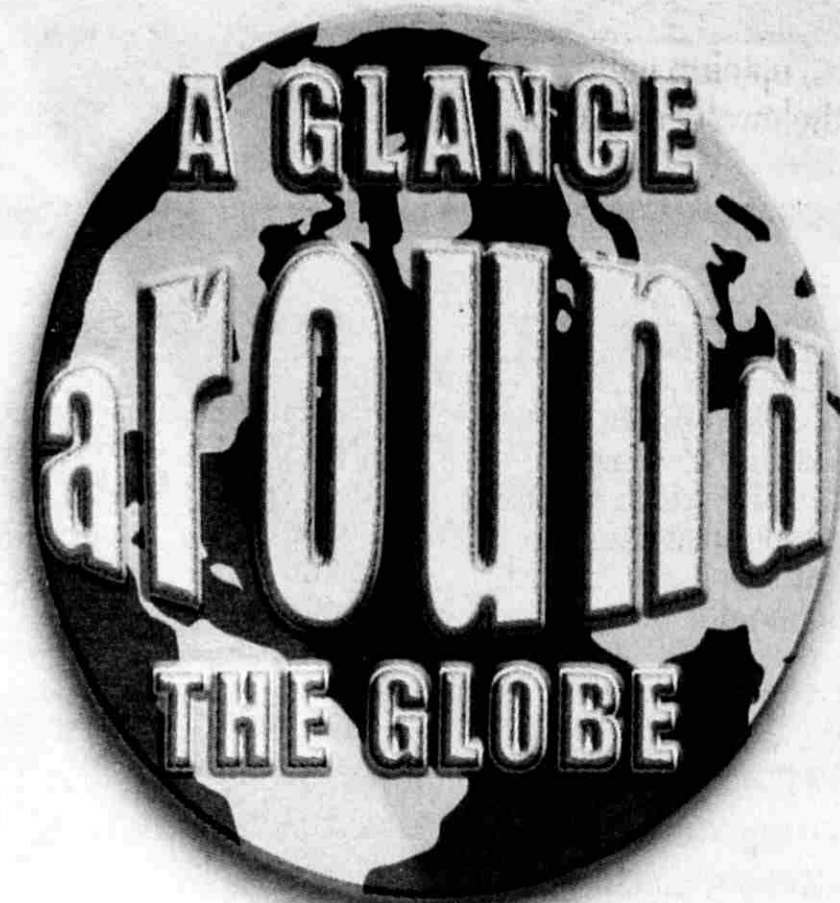
CLASSIFIED ADS

4 weeks for the price of 3.

Call to place your ad, 897-9555

Images from Haiti, two months after the earthquake





MARCH 17 - MARCH 23

- Landmark health care reform heads to Obama's desk. President Obama will sign a landmark \$875 billion health care reform bill into law on Tuesday.
- The Fiat 500 will be the first electric vehicle that Chrysler Group LLC will offer for sale, the automaker announces. An electric version of the car will go on sale in 2012.
- Angry shareholders are the largest group to sue Toyota in the wake of it's recall of 8.5 million vehicles worldwide over sudden acceleration concerns. The suits could cost the automaker billions and are likely to drag on for years.

- The Supreme Court turns down a second request to immediately close shipping locks to prevent invasive Asian carp from infesting the Great Lakes.
- New York - CBS News turns down an interview with Tiger Woods after being told the network would be limited to five minutes of questions.
- Elbert Lewis Thompson, a fugitive wanted in an Oakland County armed robbery, is in custody in Pennsylvania after police say he walked out of a Pittsburgh hospital and into a bar. He was still wearing the hospital gown and the IV needle was still in his arm. He was pulled over after fleeing a traffic stop and was hospitalized after complaining of feeling ill and passing out.
- Northern China had sandstorms blow in over the weekend. Beijing had an air quality index set at Level 5, the most serious, on Saturday. The sand is expected to linger through midweek.
- Minnesota Twins agree to extend Joe Mauer's contract eight years and \$184 million. The deal begins with the 2011 season and extends through 2018. There is also a no-trade clause.



616-897-0787

Sound Off! The Ledger's "Almost" anything goes column!

When submitting your opinion to Sound Off!, we ask you to follow a few guidelines.

Sound Off! is meant to be a way for you to compliment or vent your feelings with civility. A healthy way to get something off your chest or spread a little kindness.

We welcome your comments, with or without signatures, but signing your name to your comment does increase the odds of seeing it in print.

Threatening or deliberately cruel comments will not be accepted and, of course, no advertising a product or service please.

So basically, submit anything - but not everything will make it to print.

The Ledger reserves the right to choose what is printed, and reminds the public that views expressed in Sound Off!, unless otherwise stated, are not the opinions of the The Ledger staff or its publishers.

The Trolls, they came from the U.P., Arrived in Lowell for the first Showboat partie, A day of dancing and song, Here they knew they belonged, In Lowell, The Next Place To Be.

Now Trolls can be misunderstood, Stay hidden they would, if they could, But homes they all need, "Among the 'Byggers'," they plead, And promise, for all this is good.

Lowell High School Robotics Club - congratulations on your success at the Grand Valley robotics competition last weekend earning trophies for Highest Rookie Seed award and Rookie All Star award.

GREG VAN STRIEN HEATING AND PLUMBING

HEATING SERVICE & INSTALLATION AIR CONDITIONING SERVICE & INSTALLATION PLUMBING SERVICE & INSTALLATION WARM AIR/RADIANT HEAT OIL BURNER SERVICE

(616) 897-5569

Visa And Master Card Accepted

BOWNE TOWNSHIP REQUESTING BIDS NOTICE

Bowne Township is accepting bids for 3 areas needing maintenance of our buildings, specifications are available at the Township Office, 8240 Alden Nash SE, Alto, MI 49302 or by calling 616-868-6846 during regular office hours: Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Deadline April 15, 2010.

Bowne Township Board

Kid Scoop

For puzzle answers, games, opinion polls and much more go to: www.thelowledger.com AND CLICK ON KIDS SCOOP BUTTON

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH Louisa May Alcott

Louisa May Alcott was born on November 29, 1832. She was the second oldest of four girls. Her love of her sisters helped her to become one of America's most beloved children's book authors.

If she were alive today, how old would she be? 2010 - 1832 =



Money Troubles

Louisa's family did not have much money. To help out, Louisa started taking on as many jobs as a young girl could find. She read for an elderly man and his sister. Louisa and her sister Anna taught young children and mended and washed laundry.

In 1852, Louisa's first poem was published in a magazine, and she made her first money from writing.

Use the code to find out the name of Louisa's first published poem.

SECRET CODE grid with symbols and letters B, G, H, I, L, N, S, T, U

"I b _ l _ _ ve sch _ l s sh _ l d be a pl _ ce wh _ r ch _ l dr _ n enj _ y l _ _ rn _ ng!"

Teacher in the Family

As a child, Louisa and her family moved to Boston, Massachusetts where her father, Amos Alcott, set up a school based upon his beliefs about education.

Put the vowels back in this sentence to find out what Amos Alcott believed about education.

Standards Link: Spelling: Spell grade-level appropriate words correctly.

Two of the books below were not written by Louisa. Do the math and cross out the two with odd-numbered answers.

Math problems: 19 + 7 =, 18 - 5 =, 14 + 8 =, 21 - 9 =, 12 + 14 =, 16 - 7 =. Includes book covers for Little Women, Little House on the Prairie, Jo's Boys, Good Wives, Little Men, Heidi.

Standards Link: Number Sense: Calculate sums and differences.

Responsibility: Though poor themselves, Louisa's family always tried to help people who were worse off than they were.

Standards Link: Civics: Understand how character traits help fulfill personal responsibilities.

Rights for Women: Louisa worked hard to help women get the right to vote. She wrote articles about equality for women and went door-to-door encouraging women to register to vote.

Kid Scoop Puzzler: Louisa's parents encouraged her to follow her dreams and to hold on to her freedom in life. Her father Amos had very advanced ideas about childhood and education.

Here is an activity to help you find creative writing ideas. For more information go to www.kidscoop.com/kids

FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

Women in the News: When Louisa May Alcott was alive, not many jobs were available to women. Look through the newspaper and make a list of all of the jobs a woman with the right experience and training could get today.

Standards Link: Career: Understand general preparation for entering the workforce.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

Word search grid with words: ELDERLY, TYPHOID, MERCURY, MEDICINE, INSTANT, VOTE, BALLOT, WORSE, VOWELS, LAUNDRY, POEM, FEVER, NOVEL, CAST

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Kid Scoop Together: Newspaper Blackout Poetry

Louisa Alcott loved poetry. She loved to read it and to write it.

Modern day poet Austin Kleon came up with an idea for creating poetry with a newspaper, a black marker and creativity.

Here is an example of a poem he made by clipping an article from the newspaper and crossing out all the words, except for the ones he wanted in his poem:

BEFORE: The home needed extensive refurbishment. Jim Meadows, a local architect, was hired to supervise the project. He designed the award-winning Laurel Street Library in 2003.

Meadows worked with local historian Yolanda Henderson, who said, "Tradition and style were essential on this project."

BEFORE and AFTER newspaper blackout poem examples

Make a Newspaper Blackout Poem

- Grab a newspaper.
- Grab a marker.
- Find an article.
- Cross out words, leaving behind the ones you like.
- Pretty soon you'll have a poem.

To learn more about Newspaper Blackout poetry, visit:

www.kidscoop.com/kids

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow multiple-step directions.

Kid Scoop - John

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word LOUISA in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

LOUISA word search grid

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: ENCOURAGE

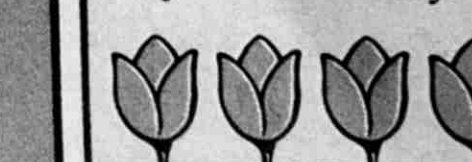
The verb encourage means to give support or advice to a person to do something.

My teacher likes to encourage us to keep our backpacks organized.

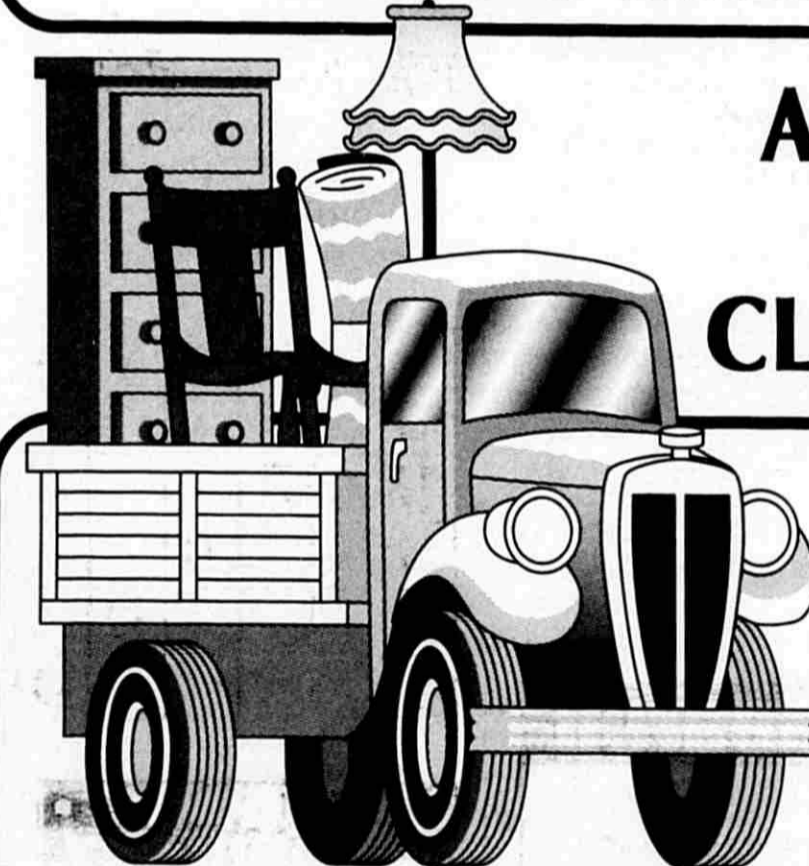
Try to use the word encourage in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

Write On! Spring Poems

Write a poem that describes spring in your community.



There's a better way to move that old furniture...



ADVERTISE IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

Unload your unwanted items & pick up some quick cash!

One Call Moves It All - 897-9555

Buyers Guide Classifieds

20 words for \$6, each additional word is 15¢

Lowell Ledger Classifieds

20 words for \$4, each additional word is 10¢

SPECIAL OFFERS

4 weeks for the price of 3

When ad is placed in both Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger & paid for in advance!

Must mention special to receive discount.

Only 1 discount offer per ad.

the buyers guide the lowell ledger

105 N. Broadway, Lowell • 897-9555

email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com

LOW COST SPAY & NEUTER. For feral, barn and cat colonies and for dogs and cats of low income families. AS LOW AS \$10 Call 897-8865

LUNCH MENU. ELEMENTARY MENU Week of March 29, 2010

MON: Cheeseburger on bun (yogurt & cracker stackers - ham, cheese, crackers - also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), oven baked French fries, mixed fruit, milk.

TUES: Walking taco w/ lettuce & tomato (tuna salad sandwich - also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), Fritos corn chips/corn, assorted fruit, milk.

WED: Chef Boyardee Ravioli w/cinnamon roll (stacked ham/cheese on a bun also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), tossed salad/lite dressing, pineapple, milk.

THURS: Cinnamon glazed pancakes or cereal & scrambled eggs, fresh fruit, fruit juice, milk.

FRI: Spring Break begins.

Your Hometown Heroes

As your local independent insurance agent, our mission is to provide the best service in the universe.

Looks like doing the right thing is still what matters most to the people in West Michigan.



Thank you for rating Auto-Owners Insurance "Highest in Customer Satisfaction with the Auto Insurance Claims Experience, Two Years in a Row" according to J.D. Power and Associates.

We are independent agents proudly representing Auto-Owners Insurance.

AIC INSURANCE SERVICES

219 E. Main Street
Lowell • 616-987-8000

7275 Bronson Street SE
Ada • 616-676-4000

Insurance policies are issued by member companies of The J.D. Power and Associates Group. All "Quality Awards" based on claims experience. See your insurance documents for full details. Awards are based on claims experience and are not a reflection of overall company performance. For more information, visit www.jdpower.com.