

the lowell ledger

wednesday • july • 20 • 2011

0 issue 41

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Meijer remodel set for October completion

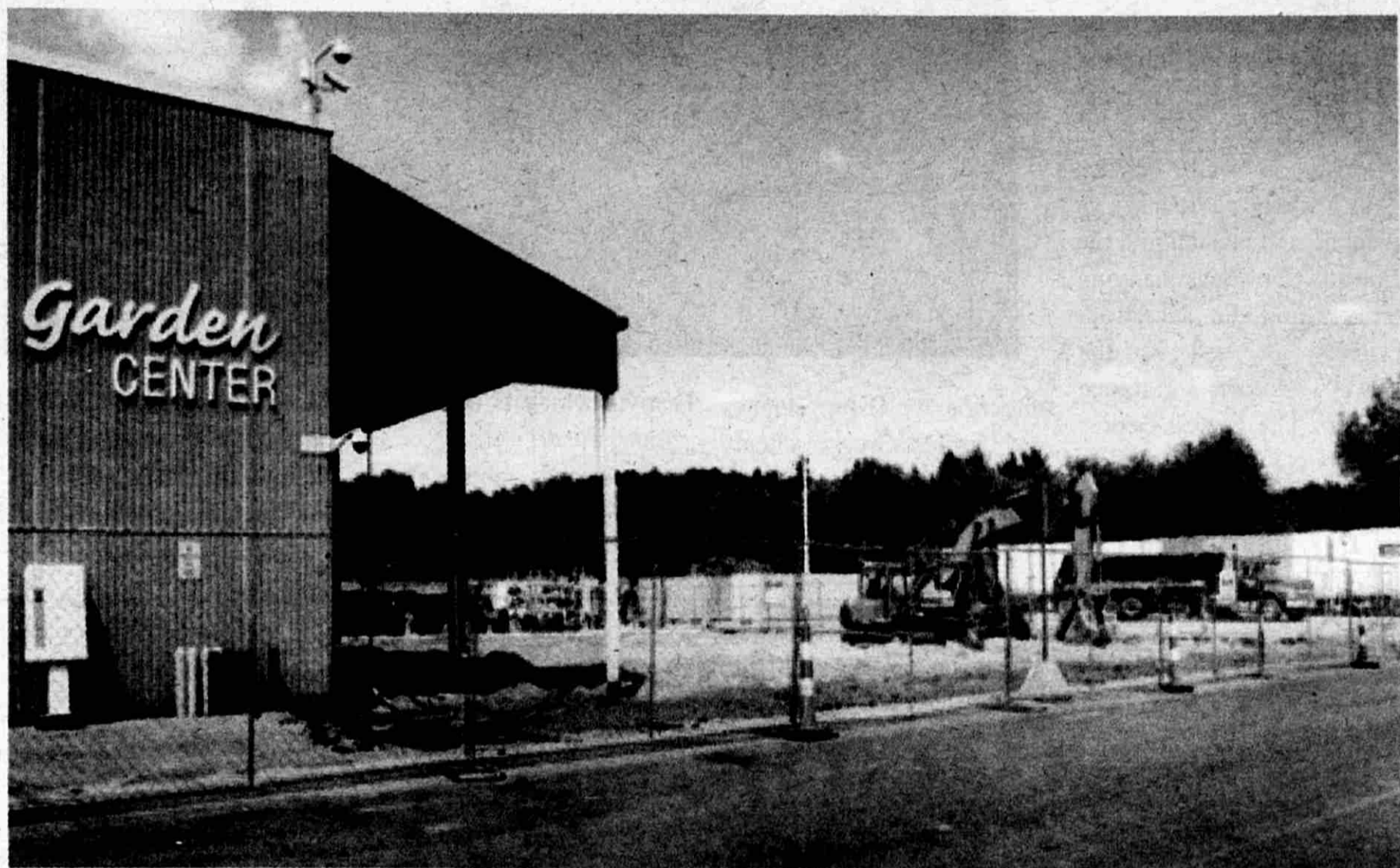
by Emma Palova

The first major remodel of the Meijer store in Lowell is set for October completion. The midsize store was built in 2001, in Lowell Township, on the west outskirts of town.

The store remodel is part of an upgrade plan for the 11 Meijer stores, mainly in Michigan, with a total investment of \$75 million. The main reason for the remodel is energy savings, according to Meijer spokesperson Dave Peterson.

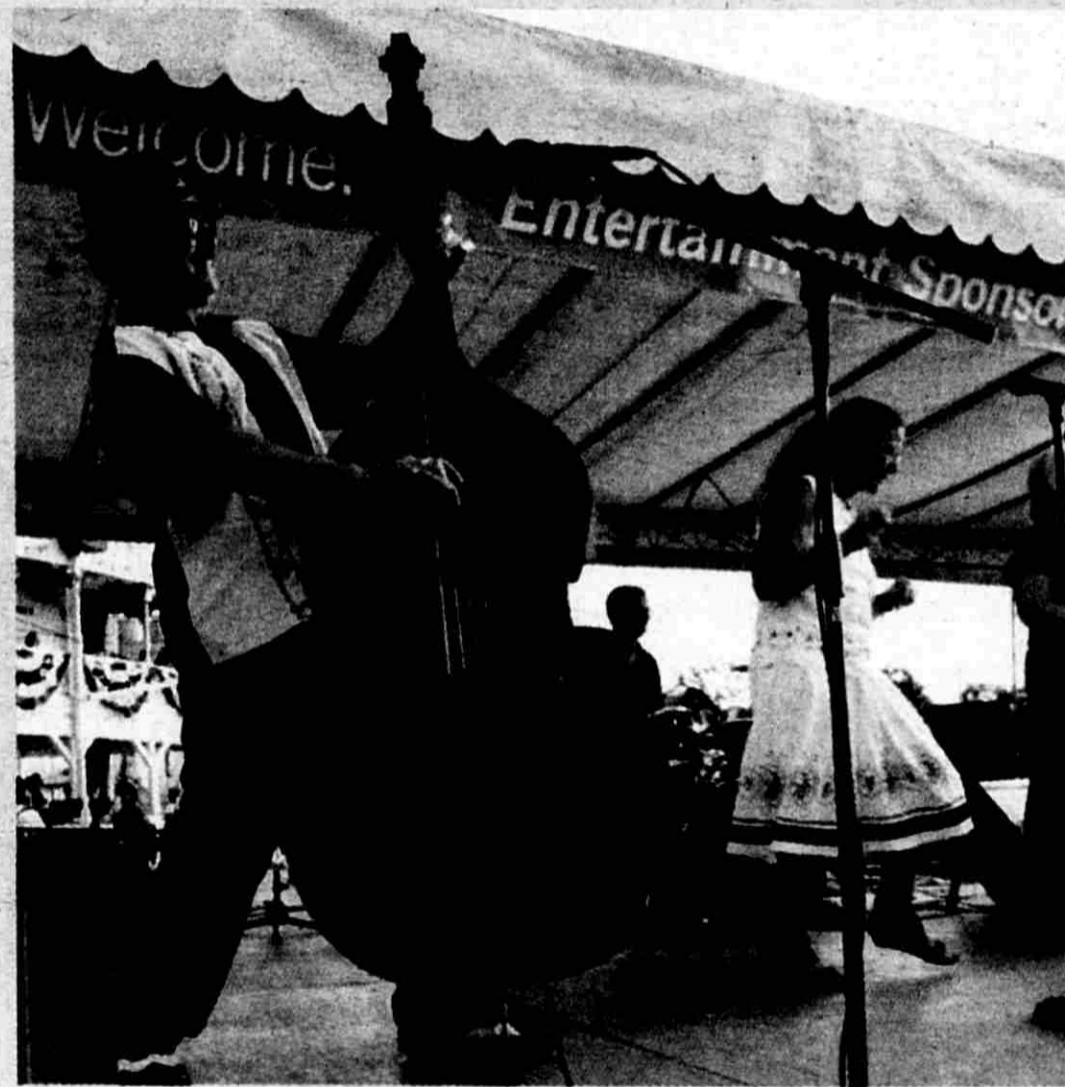
"We're looking to be much greener," said Peterson.

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Meijer store is undergoing an extensive remodel driven by needs to save energy.

Sizzlin' Summer rocks the Riverwalk



The Sizzlin' Summer concert series peaked last week with swing band Java Jive. They played the classics of popular music with a jazzy, swinging style. The band concentrates on the music of the 30s and 40s and on the songs of the big band era. Their unique sound combines female vocal harmony with a solid foundation of upright bass, jazz guitar, woodwinds and percussion. The members of the band are Mary Lewandoski as lead vocal, Vicki Uren (vocal harmony), Pete Lewandoski (guitar), Matt Porter (upright bass), Jim Saltsman (drums) and Rolly Smith (woodwinds and wind controller.)

The next concert will take place on July 21 with Kris Hitchcock and Small Town Son country band. The band is composed of multi-talented instrumentalists, songwriters and performers. They play dynamic local and regional favorites, a wide range of popular covers blended with creative originals.

The band puts on an electrifying show featuring classic and southern rock, bluegrass, blues and singer/songwriter music. Band members are Kris Hitchcock on guitar, piano and vocals; Ian Szarafinski on lead guitar, mandolin, banjo and backup vocals; Billy Justice on drums; Mike Howe on bass guitar and backup vocals; and Susan Belliel on violin.

Extreme heat scorches area

Temperatures well into the 90s with high humidity set the air conditioners rolling and sent many to the area water bodies. The beach at Stoney Lakeside Park welcomed visitors to its two gazebos last week.

However, as the week continued to heat up on Sunday, the streets of Lowell were ghastly quiet and many chose to stay home. The waters of

Sessions Lake in Ionia, Murray Lake and the Flat River were no longer refreshing.

The temperatures are expected to peak Wednesday and Thursday with no reprieve until Sunday or Monday.

Cooling tips include drawn down curtains and no heat leaks into dwellings.



50
CENTS



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The Lowell Showboat Garden Club inducts officers

Betty Deans has been named the Lowell Showboat Garden Club President. Other officers include first vice president Gwen Hughes, second vice president Brenda Angelo, treasurer Carol McGregor and secretary Helen Cox.



The induction of officers, by first vice president of the Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Deannie Picciotti, took place on June 20, 2011.

The Lowell garden club actively participates in planting and maintaining the Lowell Showboat hanging baskets and the Riverwalk planters as well as the Lowell Airport entrance planter. The Lowell Senior Neighbors/Gilda's Club community garden is given

direction by Gwen Hughes and Carol McGregor, officers of the garden club. You will find their booth at Fallsburg

Festival which is the club's primary fundraiser. The club meets every third Monday of the month,

Oct-June, from 6:30-8:30 pm at the Nazarene Church Fellowship Bldg., 211 N. Washington, Lowell.

Local program invites families to host exchange students

STS Foundation, a local Foreign Exchange Program, is bringing a group of foreign exchange students to Michigan for the upcoming school year. The teenagers come from over 30 countries and families can choose from any country. They have their own spending money and insurance. They want to share their culture and customs with your family and community. Here are some of those students:

two older sisters aged 22 and 24. Her main hobbies and interests are dancing, working, music, make-up and church. They love dogs and own two. Her dad likes to hunt. In the USA Cecile would like to try swimming, tennis, gymnastics or even dancing. She attends church every weekend. Her parents describe her as being happy, open and positive. Her teachers say that she is hardworking and conscientious. She is open to being placed anywhere in the USA.

Cecile is from Svendborg, Denmark. Her dad is a truck driver and her mom is a nurse. She has

Randy comes from exchange students continued, page 3

Meijer, continued

The retailer uses an entire set of criteria when choosing which store to remodel. These include the age of the store, individual needs of the store and energy efficiencies.

The freezers, for example, will have brighter LED lighting.

So far, the jewelry, books and magazine sections have been updated.

This will be followed by the upgrade of freezers, automotive and sporting sections.

"The crews are going through the store methodically replacing everything with heating and lighting efficiencies," said Peterson.

The upgrade is done in various phases, based on what the needs are.

The store will utilize cross merchandising concepts in many areas, such as in the baking

section, where everything will be in one spot except, maybe, for milk and eggs.

"Everything will be right there," he said. "We group things that make sense."

As far as the exterior of the store, the pharmacy will be switched around with the gardening center for better flow of traffic and safety reasons.

The retailer owns 196 stores in the Midwest states: Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky. The most recently built stores are in Lincoln Township, south of Benton Harbor; and in Melrose Place, a suburb of Chicago.

"We are happy to be able to invest into the community," Peterson

said. "We're committed to staying in Lowell."

Apart from having its own brand, the retailer keeps adding new vendors continuously.

Bridge controversy continues

by Casey Cheney

The proposed bill to build a public bridge from Detroit to Windsor, Ontario, effectively divides the state. In its most recent development, the Detroit City Council unanimously backed the project, adding legislative power to the many businesses in support of the New International Trade Crossing project.

According to a Detroit News article, Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, who spoke before the council, said in the meeting, "Currently the Ambassador Bridge is the worst bottleneck in the Pan American trade system... Trucks can travel from Montreal to Mexico and never see a red light, but there are 17 traffic lights leading from the Ambassador Bridge to Highway 401 in Windsor."

Basically, trade with Canada has reached a structural breaking point.

Gov. Rick Snyder said the \$4 billion project would create no new taxes or costs for Michigan residents and Canada will pay \$550 million for the necessary improvements on the Michigan side. The Michigan portion of the bridge will be shouldered wholly by the private sector.

The division arises from the all-too-practical slogan that if it seems too

good to be true, it probably is. The Moroun family, who own the Ambassador Bridge in Detroit, says that this bridge will ultimately cost Michigan taxpayers millions, if not billions, of dollars. The promises of Snyder and his supporters are unfounded.

The Moroun alternative is to build another bridge alongside the Ambassador bridge to relieve the bottleneck. A report from Snyder's office, however, questions the intent of this endeavor, as the Morouns have also claimed a new bridge is not necessary. Matthew Moroun, vice chairman of the company, said traffic is down this year.

In an interview with AnnArbor.com, Moroun said that the reduced traffic will allow his father's company to finish cutting through red tape, giving the traffic crossing the border a chance to build back up.

With Snyder's proposal, he said, "The business economics are against them despite what they put in the legislation. And a careful reading of the bill discusses that there will still be availability payments, which are government subsidies.

So technically the bill still allows for Michigan taxpayer money to be involved and business economics scream that there's no way possible for it not to be involved."

This will ultimately lead to the annihilation of the taxpayers, Moroun said. Snyder and his group maintain that this cannot and will not happen and that the bridge must be built soon, projecting huge increases in traffic in the next 20 to 30 years. Moroun said those numbers are way off.

Originally, the plan was to be approved at the beginning of this month. However, the vote has been delayed until the fall.

A poll, commissioned by Lambert, Edwards and the Perricone Group; and conducted by Denno Research, of 600 residents questioned June 16 and June 17 revealed that 35 percent favored a public bridge by Snyder, while 31 percent backed a second bridge by the Ambassador Bridge company. The margin of error is plus or minus 4 percentage points, showing that indeed the state is still very much split on the issue.



GILDA'S CLUB ON THE GROW

Kids Talk, for children 1st-4th grade on a cancer or grief journey; Noogieland, a supervised play for children in kindergarten or younger; Camp Sparkle, for kids ages 6-12 who are affected by cancer or grief, Aug. 2, 9 and 16 from 2-4:30 pm. If interested in any of the above activities or wish to visit the Lowell Clubhouse, contact Gilda's Club at 897-8600 or visit www.gildasclub.org/lowell.html

LHS CLASS OF 1976

The Class of 1976 will have their 35th class reunion on Oct. 1, 2011, at the Grand Volute. Anyone who would like to help organize, meet July 28 at 7 pm at Larkin's, or contact Jim Reagan, 897-7179.

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.

DISCOVER LOWELL - YOUTH WORKSHOP

The Lowell Area Historical Museum presents a hands-on children's workshop, Thurs., July 21 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. The workshop is designed for children ages 8 to 14. An afternoon lunch and drink provided. Call 897-7688 for information and to register.

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

Sign up at the Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St., Sat., July 23, 10 am - noon. You may also order online using your debit or credit card. Go to www.angelfoodministries.com. Any questions, call Esther, 897-7395.

YOUTH THEATRE CLASS

"Kid-friendly" Shakespeare adaptation of Hamlet for theatrical production. Everyone will be involved in every facet of the production, from acting to simple costume and set design. Ages 7-18. Sat., July 23, at the Lowell Area Arts Council. "Auditions" - Everybody gets a part - this is just to determine who gets what part. Classes: August 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, and 10 at Fallsburg Park. Public performance on Aug. 11, beginning at 6:30 pm. Call LowellArts! for information and to register, 897-8545.

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

July 22, the Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center will be hosting a Nature Photography Workshop from 10-4 pm. This is a great workshop for people interested in photography as well as people that have been taking pictures for years - all skill levels are welcomed to attend. Call 987-2565 to register or if you have any questions.

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3:45, 6:45, 9:45

HORRIBLE BOSSES (R)

4:45, 7:05, 9:20

ZOOKEEPER (PG) 4:20, 6:55, 9:10

TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON (PG-13) 6:15, 9:30

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Exchange students, continued

a small village called Hellendoom in the Netherlands. He has three brothers aged 18, 11 and 10. His main interest is playing soccer. He practices twice a week and also coaches

garden or working with their animals. His family will miss him but thoroughly support his decision to become an exchange student for a year. Sally is 15 and comes from Australia. She lives

person who always has a smile on her face. Her teacher describes her as an excellent student who fully involves herself in the life of the school. She is a talented sportswoman,



a capable and intelligent learner and is supportive. Sally hopes to become a primary school teacher when she is older.

For questions about these and other students, call or email Dave Keating, 1-800-522-4678

five to nine year olds. His favorite position is striker. Randy considers himself as a social person and has a lot of friends through the soccer club. He hopes to try some American sports during his exchange program. He loves his family and likes to help his grandparents in the

with her parents and 12-year-old brother Charlie. They also have a dog named Jack. Sally's favorite sports are field hockey where she plays goalie, swimming and knee boarding. She also loves watching movies with her family. Sally considers herself to be a nice polite

or david@stsfoundation.org or simply fill out a host family application on our website at www.stsfoundation.org

STS Foundation is non-profit Student Exchange Program that is dedicated to opening hearts and homes to exchange students around the world.

July 28

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts

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Thirsty Perch Blues Band

In the late summer of 2008, the *Thirsty Perch Blues Band* solidified their lineup and built their foundation as a powerhouse rockin blues band that can best be described as a howling hurricane of a five piece ensemble. The band includes Phillip A. (bass & vocals), George Ferguson (percussion), Chris Collins (guitar & vocals), Chuck Luscombe (harmonica & vocals), and Dan Lomas (guitar & vocals). Their truly diverse musical influences are the driving force behind a proprietary sound that simply can't be matched by your average blues band on the local scene.

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NEED INFO?
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www.discoverlowell.org or 616.897.9161

The Healing Center offers holistic therapy

by Emma Palova

The Healing Center located in downtown Lowell on Main Street nurtures the mind, the body and the spirit.

Nothing feels better than a relaxing massage after a long week of sitting behind the computer. One of the advantages of having a massage done at a full

massage center, rather than at a chiropractic's office, is getting your money's worth, according to co-owner Brittany Rose.

Katie Ray and Rose opened the center on June 1 after a remodel of the building. The center is located on the main floor and has two massage rooms.

They studied, at Blue Heron Academy, medical and Chinese massage. Both worked at chiropractic offices.

"We decided to give it a try," said Rose.

Ray and Rose worked the Expo for Trombly to get a feel for the need of the healing center in the area.

Rose grew up in the area and she graduated from Lowell High School in 2008. Ray graduated from Hastings High School in 2005.

Ray and Rose are certified

points, and a glow of energy is going through it.

It has many beneficial effects such as feelings of well-being. It works in conjunction with all other

space to other therapists, such as acupuncture, reflexology and craino therapy.

Reiki nights offered at the center will educate about the technique.



Katie Ray and Brittany Rose recently opened The Healing Center in Lowell.

massage therapists and Reiki master practitioners.

Most people are familiar with different types of massages, including medical massage for the lower back, relaxation massage with light touch or therapeutic massage that uses deeper pressure.

However, Reiki has to be experienced either with or without a massage. It is a Japanese technique for stress reduction and relaxation by laying on hands that promotes healing.

A typical session may take either 30 or 60 minutes. It induces a meditative state when one can let go of everything. It removes energy blocks with the body and feels like the body wants to be lifted up in certain

medical and therapeutic techniques to relieve side effects and promote recovery.

Reiki practitioners such as Ray and Rose are able to channel life force energy into the recipient to create balance between the body, mind and the spirit. Approximately three to four sessions are recommended.

The healing can last long after leaving the office. All the services are meant to promote deep relaxation, stress reduction, remove energy blocks, increase circulation, release tension, increase range of motion in the joints and decrease inflammation.

The center plans to offer yoga next year and sublease

"We hope to educate people about the importance of total healing and to help them in their healing process," said Rose.

Ray said by opening the business, they want to help as many people as possible.

"We want to help people take care of themselves after leaving the office," she said.

They offer important occupational health tips, such as putting a towel in the chair to support the lower back and occasionally getting up and stretching. The work area should be adjusted to the person behind the computer, not the other way around.

You can visit them on the web at thehealingcenterof Lowell.com

Dance comes to Riverwalk



In a recent wave of dancing madness, there will be more dancing on the Riverwalk tonight, with Soft on the Feet Entertainment, along with a contest for the best costume. This week's theme is the 70s and the 80s. Owner Brad Smith is hoping to bring entertainment to the downtown area.

Sundays are dedicated to country line dancing, while Jimmy Buffet night will take place on July 27, followed by Ladies' Night on Aug. 3. The dance company made a cameo appearance at the spring Girls' Night Out.

viewpoint

to the editor

Dear Editor,

I am writing in regard to last week's "barefoot friendly" letter.

I need to inform Brandon Mulnix and others that he is wrong! While the Michigan Health Code, and more specifically the Kent County Health Department, may not dictate customer attire, or lack thereof, liability rulings will hold a business owner responsible for any injury that occurs on one's property. A slip, fall or any other injury will be the responsibility of the business owner, no matter who is at fault. Consider the case of the McDonald's "hot

coffee in the lap" lawsuit. We can reasonably surmise who was really at fault here, but it was McDonald's that was found liable.

Obviously, every business owner strives to maintain his establishment and keep it free of hazards, but the reality is accidents will happen.

Sorry, Brandon, I'd love for you to wiggle your toes against our cool tile floor, but that won't happen. You'll be hard pressed to find any business establishment that will allow bare feet.

Sincerely,
Nancy Stroosnyder
Fry Daddy's

health



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

A stress fracture is a break in the bone that is caused by repeated stress or pressure. Stress fractures are most common in the bones of the leg. High intensity exercise can put stress or pressure on your bones. Usually, the bone can heal itself. However, if you keep putting stress on the bone and it doesn't have time to heal, it can become weak. This can lead to a fracture.

Women are at a slightly higher risk than men for stress fractures. People who participate in track and field, basketball, volleyball, or soccer are also at higher risk for stress fractures. Also, people who run more than 25 miles per week are more likely to get stress fractures.

People who smoke, drink more than 10 drinks per week and get little exercise are also at risk.

If you have persistent pain in a certain area in your lower extremities, your doctor will order specific imaging studies to see if you have a stress fracture. If you are diagnosed with one, you will need to limit the activities that caused your injury and kept it from healing. Your doctor may recommend physical therapy and/or medicine for the pain. Most stress fractures heal without problems, but some fractures, such as those in the hip or ankle, may not heal as well. If these cause problems, you may need surgery.

financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Fear of losses may lead to negative investment behavior

Like every other investor, you prefer not to see the value of your investments drop. But at some point they will fall simply because of the ups and downs of the market. And how you respond to short-term losses can help determine if you enjoy long-term investment success.

Investors' feelings about losses can be complex. In the field of economics, an area of study is devoted to "loss aversion" — the concept that people dislike losing money so much that, given a choice, they'd prefer to avoid losses rather than take gains. For example, if you have a high degree of loss aversion, then you will find greater dissatisfaction by losing \$100 than you'd get satisfaction from taking a \$100 profit.

Loss aversion can lead to various forms of negative investment behavior. Here are two of the most common results:

- Seeking "risk-free" investments — When you think of investment losses, the first thing that probably comes to mind is a drop in stock prices. If you're really loss-averse, you might seek to avoid this situation by simply avoiding stocks and placing all your money in other investments. While some of these investments may seem "risk free," you must consider factors such as inflation risk — the possibility that these investments may provide returns that don't keep up with the rate of inflation.

- Holding "losers" too long — From time to time, you will own investments that, for whatever reason, underperform. If you're highly loss-averse, though, you may have a tough time acknowledging the losing nature of these investments, so you may be tempted to hold on to them until they "bounce back." But if the investment's fundamentals change, or if the investment no longer aligns with your goals, it may be time to sell it and look for other opportunities. Conversely, you may want to hold on to quality investments whose price has dropped in the short term, because these investments may well recover.

How can you avoid these types of behavior? For starters, you'll need to recognize the symptoms of loss

Financial, continued

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By Shelly MacNaughton

75 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo July 16, 1936

Lowell's first heat victim, J. B. McCartney, 72, was found dead in bed, Tuesday morning, in the humble quarters where he lived alone above the Moore Shoe Shop on East Main Street. Harry Waters, calling to deliver several express packages, discovered the tragedy.

He was a telegrapher for about forty years, a career which entailed residence in practically every large city in America. An inveterate student and reader, he retained possession to the last, a two hundred volume library testifying to the taste and wide interest of its owner.

50 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger July 20, 1961

A Lowell fisherman landed all prizes Sunday at a fishing contest, staged by William Kerekes, between local anglers and a group of fishing enthusiasts from Ionia.

25 Years Ago The Grand Valley Ledger July 23, 1986

The Lowell Area Arts Council has launched a fund drive to seek community support in order to make capital improvements and program expansions.

125 Years Ago The Lowell Journal Entry missing from files.

100 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger July 20, 1911

Matie, daughter of Archibald Stewart, aged 30 years, was run over and killed by the 3 o'clock a.m. westbound Grand Trunk freight train Monday morning, one half-mile east of her home which is three miles east of Lowell, in Ionia County.

It seems that the unfortunate woman had been ill and despondent for sometime and made frequent and long visits to her mother's grave in Saranac.

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.

WHEN SUBMITTING PHOTOS
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the ledger

happy birthday!

- JULY 20**
Cara Thaler, David Thaler III, Maureen Pawloski, Beth Berry.
- JULY 23**
Dave Fosburg, Nathan Swift, Heather Pretzel, Robert Jahnke.
- JULY 21**
Dara Anchors, Stephanie Wade, Carolyn Mercer, Jeff Gurney, Kelly Tulecki, Alexander Stiles.
- JULY 24**
Nathan Bush, Mike Lally.
- JULY 25**
Ella Tuinstra.
- JULY 22**
Kelly Marie Roth, Richard (Dick) Roth, Laurie Fonger, Eric Shear, Noreen Myers, T.J. Butler.
- JULY 26**
Elaine Gregersen, Eric Baird, Josh Geldersma, Ellen Dilly.

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Financial, continued

aversion in yourself — and then resolve to overcome them. Accept the fact that short-term losses are part of investing and that every single investment carries some type of risk.

This doesn't mean, of course, that you should do nothing to reduce your risk. One effective risk-fighting

measure you can take is to diversify your holdings by investing in a variety of stocks, bonds, government securities, CDs and other investment vehicles. If you had all your holdings in only stocks or bonds, a downturn primarily affecting one of those assets could lead to a big hit for your portfolio.

But by spreading your dollars among a variety of investments, you're also spreading the risk. Keep in mind, though, that diversification by itself can't guarantee a profit or protect against loss.

Investment losses, even short-term ones, aren't much fun. But by not

overreacting to these losses, and by diversifying your portfolio in a way that best meets your individual needs, you can look past today's losses toward tomorrow's possibilities.

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

Back-to-School checklist – Social Security form

If your son or daughter is a high school student turning 18, you've probably spent some time shopping for school supplies and the latest fashions, working out the schedule for the academic year, maybe even looking into colleges.

If your young senior is collecting monthly Social Security benefits, here's one more thing to add to your "Back-to-School" checklist. To make sure that Social Security benefits continue beyond age 18,

eligible students must obtain certification from school officials that they are still in high school and provide it to Social Security. Otherwise, monthly Social Security benefits automatically stop when a student turns 18.

For more information about Social Security student benefits, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/schoolofficials. The website outlines how the process works with instructions on what the student and school official must do to ensure that

benefits continue past the student's 18th birthday. With the appropriate certification, Social Security generally does not stop benefits until the month before the month the student turns 19, or the first month in which he or she is not a full-time high school student, whichever is earlier.

Some students receive Social Security survivors' benefits because a parent is deceased. Others may get dependent benefits because their parent receives Social Security retirement or disability benefits. Benefits for minor children generally continue until age 18 — or 19 if they're still in high school. The only exception to this

rule is if a student is disabled and eligible for childhood disability benefits. In that case, a separate application for benefits is required.

So, as you're buying school supplies, checking out back-to-school fashions, and figuring out when the holiday break begins, don't forget the important step of visiting www.socialsecurity.gov/schoolofficials.

Vonda VanTil is the public affairs specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp St NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525 or via email at vondav@ssa.gov

business matters

Greenridge Realty announced that Lisa Brown received Sales Associate of the Month in June.

This award recognizes Brown for her outstanding success and achievements.



Lisa Brown

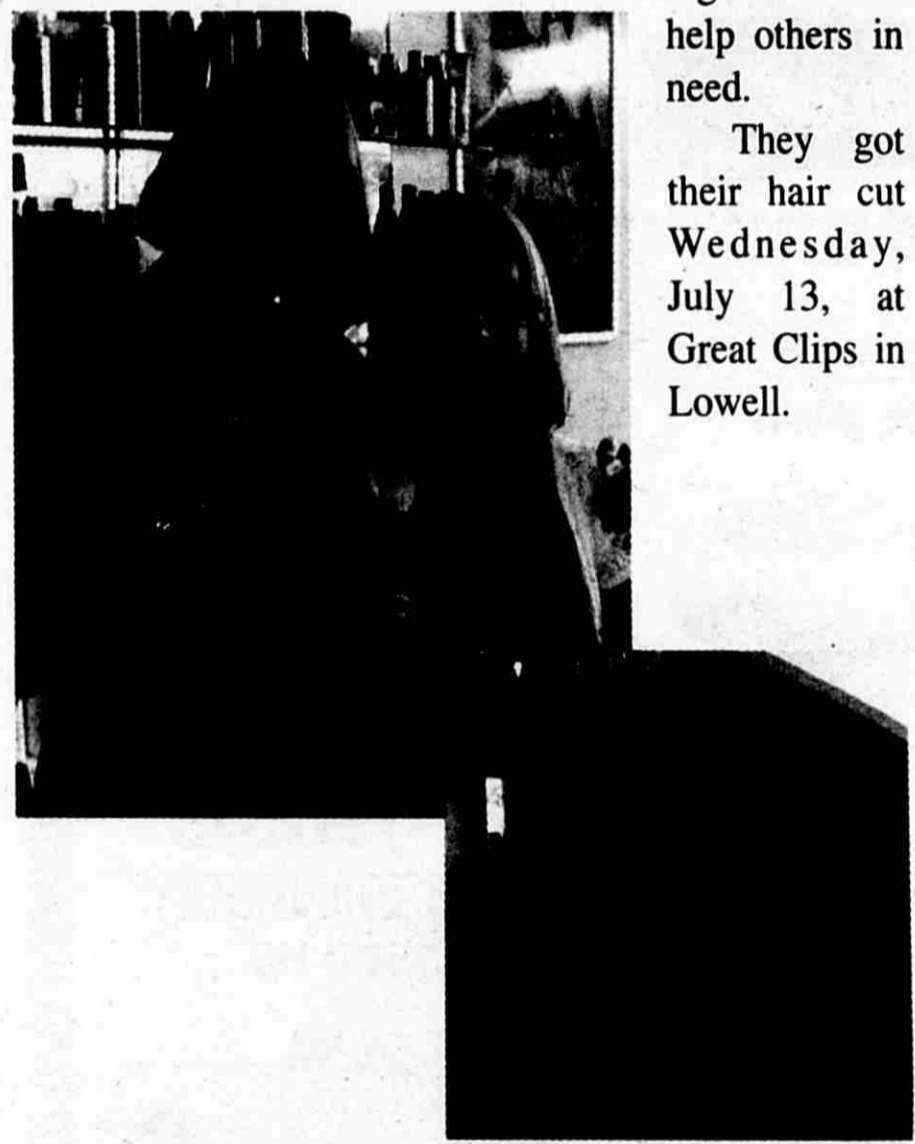
Mother and daughter donate to Locks of Love

Sydney Riffle, age 10, donated 10 inches and her mother, Lisa Riffle, donated six inches of hair for Locks of Love.

Sydney, who attends Murray Lake Elementary, asked if her mom would be willing to grow her hair out so they could donate

together to help others in need.

They got their hair cut Wednesday, July 13, at Great Clips in Lowell.



college news

Addison Yeates of Alto was named to the spring 2011 dean's list at Taylor University.

Full-time students are named to the dean's list when they have earned a GPA of 3.60 or higher for the term and at least 12 hours credit point values.

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Woody's "Fantastic" Golf Outing raises \$7,000

Woody's "Fantastic" Golf Outing raises over \$7,000 to help students of Lowell Area Schools. Friends and family of Jim Wood, came together to celebrate his life by organizing the Woody's "I'm so Fantastic" Golf Outing. This event, held at Deer Run Golf Course, took place on June 25, 2011.

Wood passed away unexpectedly on June 25, 2010, while playing golf at Deer Run Golf Course.

A total of 148 golfers participated and several others showed their support by attending the banquet. There were 97 sponsors, including Brian and Stacy Vanden Akker, who gave \$1,000 in the name of www.wishbonepetrescue.com/SecondChanceFund; and help from 34 volunteers and the Deer Run staff. This combination raised over \$7,000.

To recognize Wood's enthusiastic support of school events, the proceeds from the outing will be used to give assistance to students of Lowell Area Schools on an individual need basis.

Thank You!

Woody's "I'm so Fantastic" Golf Classic would like to thank all the sponsors

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Second Chance Fund

Congratulations to:

Men's Longest Driver Winner: Mike Poll
Women's Longest Drive Winner: Louise Bouck
Men's Longest Putt Winner: Brian Johnson
Women's Longest Putt Winner: Stacy Vanden Akker
Men's Closest to Pin Winner: Dave Gonyon
Women's Closest to Pin Winner: Tony Anderson

1st Place: "Earthworm" (Dave Gonyon, Joe Collor, Mike Poll, Kyle Poll)
2nd Place: "Putt Pirates" (Darl DeCator, Dina DeCator, Kris Elzinga, Steve Kovalic)
A 4-way tie was broken for "Fantastic 17th Place" and the winning team was "D-Cup Hunters" (Troy Sloan, Matt Rehl, Steve Strouse, Jeff Wolters)

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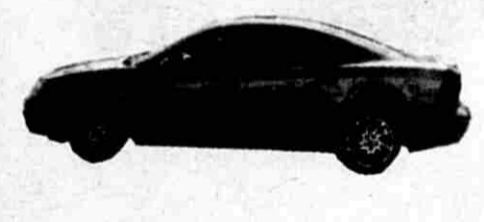











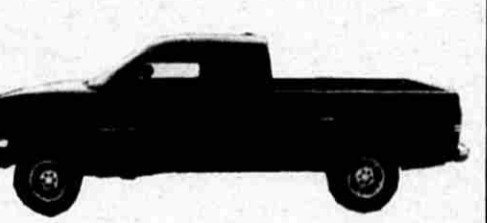


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2011 GMC TERRAIN SLE  Only 3,599 miles, 5 yr/100,000 warranty, navigation \$26,990	2008 CADILLAC SRX4  Ultra view sunroof, heated leather \$21,788	2000 DODGE DAKOTA  4.7L, ext. cab \$5,998	2006 GMC ENVOY  4.2L, 4x4, leather, moonroof, chrome wheels \$13,900	2010 SILVERADO 1500 LT EXT. CAB  GM certified \$27,350

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exploring our national parks

Kurt Hieshetter

The time has come for us to leave Colorado and head to Utah. This also meant leaving the cooling effect that the mountains can bring to the temperature. While traveling on US 666 Northwest from Cortez, CO, towards Monticello, UT, it starts to become very noticeable just how dry this part of the country is. The main farm crop is hay and it is heavily irrigated. However, water is not free in the US Southwest. Most water rights have been passed down from rancher to rancher like an old piece of jewelry. The Dolores River, which is the source of the water for irrigation, is barely a trickle by August.

The closer we came to Utah, it started to become quite clear it was getting hot. Very hot. Our morning departure temperature was in the 70's. As morning became noon and as the sun grew higher in the sky, we were quickly approaching 100 degrees. Little did we know that 100 is the average temperature in Moab for the first of August. This presented a problem for us. Sleeping in a trailer after a 100 degree day is next to impossible. We could not use the AC because the national park campground at Arches National Park does not have electricity. This meant we might have to give up our campsite at Arches. The hard part of thinking about giving up our reservation at the national park, a reservation that was made in January, is that the campsite was one of the most scenic we would have ever stayed at. When you make a reservation at Arches on the internet, you can actually see a picture of the site. The view from site #24 was unbelievable. However, the thought of no sleep, no pool and no micro brewery was just more than this family could handle. We had to find a private campground in town with electricity and give up our scenic spot deep in Arches National Park.

A few quick clicks of the GPS, a search of RV Park Review and a phone call found us at Canyonlands Campground. This turned out to be a very conveniently located campground right on main street, three blocks south of downtown. With a pool for the kids and all Moab has to offer within walking distance, this turned out to be a good move.

Moab is centrally located to allow you to explore two national parks.

The entrance to Arches is five miles north on Highway 191. Canyonlands, on the other hand, is not so easy to enter. As the crow flies, the park boundary is about fifteen miles, which could be hiked with a lot of water and a good pair of legs. Driving on paved roads requires a 32-mile trip north to one visitor center. Driving 76 miles will get you to the second visitors' center.

On our first day we planned to visit the Island in the Sky Visitors' Center. This was the closest access point from Moab. Canyonlands National Park is divided into three distinct areas. It is almost impossible to visit all of them in one day. The Needles, the Maze and Islands in The Sky are separated by two rivers: 1) The Colorado, which is responsible for most of the vast canyons of the west like the Grand Canyon; and 2) the Green River, which carves its way through the western area of the park. These two great rivers come together at the confluence. From this point, the combined rivers form the lower Colorado creating some of the most dramatic canyons in the world. They also form Lake Powell at the Glen Canyon Dam and Lake Mead at Hoover Dam.

Canyon Overlook. It is here that the road threads its way between two canyons, an area called the neck. The drop on both sides of the road makes one think that in one hundred years, as the two canyons continue to carve away at the rock, the road will no longer exist.

Shafer Canyon Overlook gives you a great view of the White Rim Road. This 4x4 road follows a secondary rim which is 1,200 feet below the rim you are standing on. This 100-mile trip loops around the mesa top 1,000 feet above the rivers. This is a very popular three-day mountain bike trip, but can be driven in a high clearance vehicle. Needless to say, we did not attempt any part of this road. They tell you at the visitors' center that if you were to get stuck on your journey, a tow bill could exceed \$1,000. That might have put an end to our vacation. If we would have had a rental car and no kids, we might have attempted it!

With well over 100 miles of dirt roads and 20 miles of winding paved roads for the tourist, the Island in the Sky district has something for everyone. This remote area has both breathtaking beauty and unknown dangers. Flash flooding, heat stroke and two of the most wild rivers in America all add up to an adventure unmatched by any. I can't wait to go back when the kids are older. A class V river raft trip through Cataract Canyon is now on my bucket list.

The drive back to Moab, on the same road we came into the park on, was far less interesting. The kids were thinking only about the pool. Stephanie was thinking about cooking over the grill in 100-degree heat and I was thinking about the Moab Brewery across the street from the campground. We all were thinking about the next day when we were to visit Arches National Park. We had reservations to hike the Fiery Furnace. A three-hour guided trip into a maze of dead-end canyons and rock spires. You will have to wait until next time for the rest, so stay tuned.

Don't forget you can catch up on past trips at our blog, www.nationalparkswithtwins.blogspot.com



Time allowed us to visit only one area, Island in the Sky. This vast area between the two rivers offers views for miles across one canyon after another. Our first stop inside the park was the Island Visitors' Center. The kids picked up their Junior Ranger book and then we all sat in the air conditioned theater to watch a short film showing the history of this area.

A short distance from the visitors' center is the first overlook, Shafer



Shafer Overlook



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NOTICE OF REVIEW OF APPORTIONMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on Thursday, the 4th day of August, 2011, at the Kent County Drain Commissioner's Office, 1500 Scribner Ave., N.W., Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49504, County of Kent, or such place and time, I, William R. Byl, Kent County Drain Commissioner, may adjourn, the apportionment for benefits and the lands comprised within the "PRATT LAKE COUNTY DRAIN DRAINAGE DISTRICT", and the tentative apportionments against parcels and municipalities in the Drainage District will be subject to review on the above specified date only, from 8:30 A.M. until 4:30 P.M. Also on this date, the computation of cost for said drain will be open for inspection by any interested parties. You may also review your apportionments by phone at (616) 336-3688.

WHEREAS, You are further advised that, pursuant to Section 154 of the Michigan Drain Code of 1956, as amended, drain assessments against land will be collected in the same manner as property taxes. And also if drain assessments against land are collected by installment, the land owner may pay the assessments in full with any interest to date at any time and thereby avoid further interest charges.

WHEREAS, You are further advised that, pursuant to Section 155 of the Michigan Drain Code of 1956, as amended, any owner of land within the Drainage District or any city, village, township, district or county feeling aggrieved by the apportionment of benefits made by the drain commissioner, may appeal the apportionment within ten (10) days after the Day of Review of Apportionment by making an application to the Kent County Probate Court for the appointment of a Board of Review. If there is no appeal, the roll will be confirmed ten (10) days after the Day of Review of Apportionment. The confirmed roll may be slightly different from the roll presented at the Day of Review due to arguments made at the Day of Review.

AS A PROPERTY OWNER WITHIN THE DISTRICT, YOU ARE SUBJECT TO A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR A PORTION OF THE COST OF THIS PROJECT.

The following government units and permanent parcel numbers of the parcels of land within the Special Assessment District of said drain will be assessed:

- 41-20-22-300-013;
- 41-20-23-300-002, -003, -010, -016, -017; 400-003;
- 41-20-24-300-002, -005, -006; 400-004, -006 thru -009;
- 41-20-25-100-001, -004, -006, -008, -009; 200-002, -003, -006; 300-005 thru -009; 400-007 thru -009; 501-001;
- 41-20-26-100-002 thru -005, -007, -008; 200-001, -002; 300-001, -003, -005; 400-001, -002, -006, -009, -010;
- 41-20-27-100-002 thru -004; 200-001, -002; 300-001, -002; 400-004 thru -006;
- 41-20-28-300-004, -005, -007, -009, -011, -016, -020 thru -022, -026 thru -028; 400-003, -004;
- 41-20-33-100-004, -007, -010, -012, -014, -016, -018, -019, -023, -024, -026 thru -028, -030 thru -032, -034 thru -037; 200-002, -004 thru -008; 301-003, -006 thru -009; 326-002, -005; 351-002, -003, -006 thru -009; 352-001 thru -006; 376-001 thru -003, -006, -007, -011, -015 thru -018; 380-002, -004, -005; 400-009, -014, -015, -021, -022, -025, -027, -030 thru -035;
- 41-20-34-100-001, -002; 200-003, -005, -007 thru -012; 300-001, -008, -010, -011, -018 thru -022; 400-006, -008 thru -010;
- 41-20-35-100-002, -003, -005, -007 thru -012; 200-002, -006 thru -009; 300-001, -002; 400-004, -006, -009 thru -012;
- 41-20-36-100-005, -007, -009, -012, -013; 200-009; 300-006, -012 thru -016; 400-003, -004; 501-001;
- 41-24-01-100-005, -009, -012, -014, -016, -018 thru -024; 200-002, -009, -014 thru -016; 300-002, -003, -007, -010 thru -016; 400-009, -012; 501-004;
- 41-24-02-100-001, -002, -005 thru -009; 200-003 thru -007; 300-004, -005, -008,

-016, -017, -021 thru -024, -026, -028, -029, -032 thru -035; 400-002, -004, -005, -007, -009 thru -011; 501-001;

41-24-03-100-008, -010, -011, -013, -015, -016, -018, -021, -023 thru -025, -027, -029, -030; 200-001 thru -003; 300-001, -006, -007; 400-003, -004, -008, -015, -017, -022, -023; 501-001;

41-24-04-101-001 thru -005; 102-001 thru -003, -005; 103-007, -010, -011; 126-003 thru -009; 127-003 thru -010; 128-001, -004, -010 thru -014; 129-002, -005 thru -009; 130-001, -002, -004, -007, -008, -010, -011, -014, -015; 131-001, -002, -006, -009, -010, -012, -014, -022, -025 thru -027, -029 thru -032; 134-006, -007; 135-003, -006, -007, -009; 151-002 thru -009; 176-007 thru -010, -024, -025, -030; 200-001 thru -011, -013, -016, -017, -022 thru -024; 300-004, -007, -009 thru -014; 400-003, -012, -017, -018, -028, -029, -031 thru -034, -036, -037; 401-002, -004; 404-001 thru -061; 425-002; 501-001;

41-24-05-200-004; 400-007 thru -009, -015, -020, -022;

41-24-09-100-014; 200-007, -008, -013, -016, -020, -029 thru -031; 400-005, -006, -015, -016;

41-24-10-100-008, -010, -013; 200-005, -008 thru -011, -019, -021, -023 thru -025; 300-002, -005 thru -009; 400-002, -005 thru -007, -009, -011, -012;

41-24-11-100-003 thru -006; 200-003, -004; 300-002 thru -004; 400-002 thru -004;

41-24-12-100-001, -003 thru -006; 200-004; 300-003, -005 thru -010; 400-009;

41-24-13-100-003, -005 thru -008; 300-011;

41-24-14-100-002, -004, -005; 200-001, -005, -006, -010 thru -014; 300-001, -005, -010; 400-004, -007, -008;

41-24-15-100-003 thru -005; 200-003, -004; 300-016, -017, -020 thru -023; 400-004, -006, -007, -009, -010;

41-24-16-200-010 thru -012; 400-002, -007, -010 thru -012;

41-24-21-100-010; 200-003, -004, -007, -018 thru -021, -023, -024, -026; 400-005;

41-24-22-100-001 thru -005, -007, -008, -010, -011; 200-002, -006 thru -010; 300-003, -005, -006, -008, -009; 400-001, -005 thru -010;

41-24-23-100-002, -005 thru 009; 200-013, -016, -017, -019, -021, -023; 300-008, -013, -014; 400-010;

Bowne Township at large, Lowell Charter Township at large, the County of Kent on account of roads and the State of Michigan on account of State Highways.

NOW, THEREFORE, All unknown and non-resident persons, owners and persons interested in the above described lands, and you: Mary Hollinrake - Clerk of Kent County; Christian Wenger-Bowne Township Supervisor; Jerry Hale-Lowell Charter Township Supervisor; Kirk Steudle - Michigan Department of Transportation Director; and Jon Rice - Kent County Road Commission Managing Director; that at such time and place, as stated above, the apportionment for benefits and the lands comprised within the Pratt Lake County Drain Special Assessment District will be subject to review.

AND EACH OF YOU, owners and persons interested in the above referenced parcels of land, are hereby given the opportunity to appear at the time and place noted above to review the apportionments and be heard with respect to such special assessments and your interests in relation to them, if you so desire.

Dated this 8th day of July, 2011.

William R. Byl,
Kent County Drain Commissioner

Ada-Lowell Goodrich Quality Theater digitally remastered

by Casey Cheney

The Goodrich Quality Theater in Lowell, which switched from reels of film to digital within the last month, sold out their first 3-D showing, a midnight premier of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Pt. 2.

Despite the huge Potter legacy following and unbearable anticipation for the final chapter, assistant manager Micah Tawney predicted the show would not sell out simply because they hadn't had much time to advertise it. He said the staff did not know about the 3-D showing until the week prior to its opening.

Whether by a summoning charm, the Potter pandemonium or good old-fashioned word-of-mouth, word got out and the lobby was filled with buzzing Muggles of all ages two hours before showtime.

Christine Heckman and Taylor Kemmeter were first in line, setting up camp at 6:30 p.m., watching the Potter movies and writing postcards for girls at vacation Bible school. Both girls have read the books and watched all the movies, but made their way to a midnight premier for the first time Friday.

Flexible summer schedules rather than fierce dedication, they said, prompted their early arrival.

Though Heckman ranked the Sorcerer's Stone as the No. 1 film in the series and Kemmeter, the Goblet of Fire, both said the final book capped the others in the series.

Once the theaters were opened, the initial crowd cleared out, but the lobby filled and re-filled in tides all the way until the show began.

Potter, raking in \$43.5 million across North America, was but the first of many 3-D movies hitting Lowell's screens, including Transformers: Dark of the Moon, which was also released last weekend.

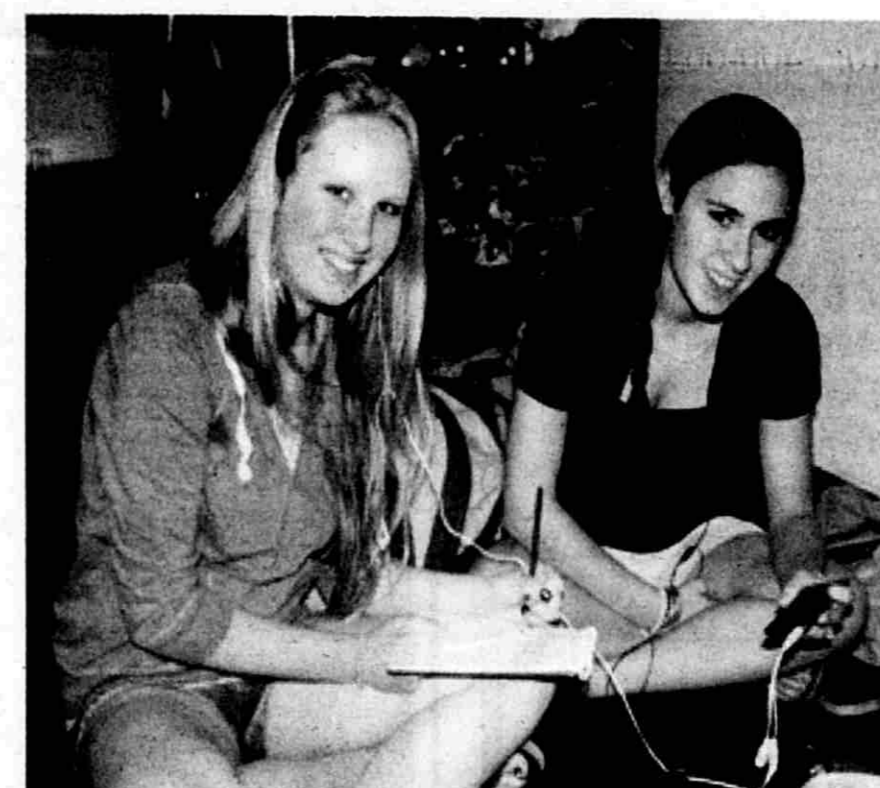
Tawney is excited about more than adding a new dimension to the theater's arsenal - going digital was a huge step.

"We weren't really expecting to go digital ever," he said.

Once Goodrich Quality Theaters got backed by banks, corporate could upgrade their equipment. Lowell was third on the list to receive the upgrade boasting higher quality, simplicity and versatility. Tawney credits this to a nearby theater that already had digital equipment getting theirs upgraded, so they passed some of their older equipment on to Lowell.

Now, the unwieldy reels several feet in diameter have been replaced by portable hard drives containing every possible version of a film, including 3-D. Soon, Tawney said, they will have a central system onto which each movie will be downloaded. From there, any movie can be sent to any screen and films can be stopped and started from downstairs rather than in the booth above.

On top of that, if something goes wrong on-screen, theater employees now have the ability to rewind.



Early arrivals - Christine Heckman, left, and Taylor Kemmeter watched the Harry Potter movies and wrote postcards to children at their vacation Bible school to pass the five-and-a-half hours before the epic midnight premier of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Pt. 2.

The upgrade also frees employees to do other tasks and the position of booth manager has now been eliminated. And a set-up process of 90 seconds for a pro, five minutes or more for a novice, before each showing has been rendered obsolete.

"It took forever to learn, but once you get it it's like riding a bike," Tawney said, clearly relieved to bid the complicated threading of film reel farewell.

"It's quite easy now," he added.

Though 3-D capability certainly gives the Lowell theater exciting versatility, Tawney does worry that it might reduce the number of films they can play. He said they have to find out if they are required to play 3-D-capable movies in both formats at all times, or if they can use one screen to play them at different times. Showing only four movies, he said, would not be ideal.

"We don't want to limit ourselves," Tawney said.

Though it all ends for the decades-long legacy of Harry Potter, a new and exciting chapter has begun at the Goodrich Quality Theater in Lowell.



Muggle madness - Jack Tromp, Megan Hanson (middle) and Taylor MacDonald appeared in the theater in full wizarding attire, among the few and proud to do so at Lowell's midnight premier. Nobly forgoing butterbeer for Mountain Dew, the three immersed themselves in the muggle world with wands at the ready should any Death Eaters decide to attend.

CITY OF LOWELL KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Lowell, Kent County, Michigan, has tentatively declared its intent to make certain public improvements consisting of the construction of a watermain extension and related appurtenances along a portion of Hunt Street to provide water service to adjacent properties (the "Improvements") and has resolved its intention to proceed pursuant to Chapter 10 of the City Charter and Chapter 18 of the City Code to make said Improvements in the City. The City Council has tentatively determined that a portion of the cost of said Improvements estimated to be \$37,000 shall be specifically assessed against each of the following described lots and parcels of land, which together comprise proposed Hunt Street Water Improvements Special Assessment District 11W:

Street Address	Permanent Parcel Number
802 Hunt Street	41-20-02-103-022
825 Hunt Street	41-20-02-101-042
898 Hunt Street	41-20-02-103-021
1030 Hunt Street	41-20-02-101-053

TAKE NOTICE the City Council of the City of Lowell will hold a public hearing on Monday, August 1, 2011 at 7:30 p.m., local time, at the City Hall located at 301 E. Main Street in said City to hear and consider any objections to the proposed Improvements, the proposed special assessment district, and all other matters relating to said Improvements.

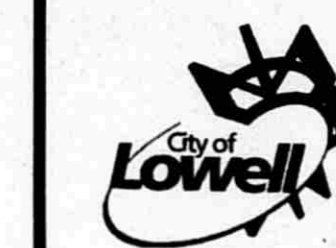
TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the plans and estimates of cost for the Improvements are on file with the City Clerk for public examination.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a person must either appear and object at the public hearing or submit a letter of appearance and objection to the City prior to the public hearing in order to protect his/her right to appeal the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. In order to appeal a special assessment the record owner of land must file a written appeal with the Michigan Tax Tribunal within thirty (30) days after confirmation of the special assessment roll.

PROPERTY SHALL NOT BE ADDED TO THE PROPOSED SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT AND THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATE OF THE COST SHALL NOT BE INCREASED BY MORE THAN 12% WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE AND PUBLIC HEARING.

This notice was authorized by the City Council of the City of Lowell.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
Mark A. Howe, City Manager
301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan 49331
Telephone: (616) 897-8457



Dated: July 18, 2011
Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

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obituaries

KAMMERS

Robert Dale Kammers Sr., age 70, of Lowell, passed away Friday, July 15, 2011. He was preceded in death by his sister, Phyllis Uham and brother, Harold Kammers. He is survived by his wife, Shirley; children, Robert Jr. (Alecia) Kammers, Roger (Roxanne) Kammers, Ron (Dena) Kammers, Donna Kammers, Roy Kammers, Deb Kammers; grandchildren, Matthew, Britni and Corey Kammers, Josh Chamberlain, Cody Kammers, Andy and Jake Chambers, Branden Kammers; brothers, Dale Kammers, Jerry (Mary Jo) Kammers; and sisters, LaVonna Kammers and Joann (Ron) Weck. Mass of Christian Burial was held Tuesday at St. Mary Catholic Church. Rev. Mark Mitchell presiding. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Heart and Vascular Center at Metro Health Hospital, 5900 Byron Center Ave. SW, Wyoming, MI 49519.

MARTIN

Larry Martin, Sr., age 69, went to be with his Lord on Saturday, July 9, 2011, in a bicycling accident. He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Jean Martin. Larry will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 42 years, Faith Martin (Ollman); his children, Susan (Dean) Diederich, Larry (Julie) Martin Jr.; his grandchildren, Victoria and Charlie Balzeski, Stephanie (Chris) Powell, Ryan, Jake, Jesse and Jacquelyn Martin; his great-grandson, Matthew Powell; his sister, Suzanne Martin; brother-in-law, Robert Ollman; and his cats, Buzz and Isabella. Larry was involved in many organizations, either on boards or volunteering. Larry had a long and successful career as a realtor in the Greater Grand Rapids area for 49 years. A time for guests to visit with Larry's family will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at the Cook Memorial Chapel in Grandville, 4235 Prairie St. SW (east building). Funeral services will be held 11 a.m. Thursday at Grandville-Jenison Congregational Church, 3900 Henry St. SW. Interment will be at Grandville Cemetery. In honor of Larry, contributions may be made to God's Kitchen or the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. The family welcomes memories and messages in their guestbook online at www.cookfamilycares.com

DEYOUNG

Louise Mae DeYoung (nee Posthumus), age 87, of Lowell, passed away July 13, 2011. She is survived by her husband of 66 years, Cornelius DeYoung; children, Gordon (Ann) DeYoung, Linda (Pete) Perdok, Lois DeYoung, Dan (Kathy) DeYoung; grandchildren, Roger (Carrie) DeYoung, Marty (Michelle) Perdok, Brenda (Ted) Matusik, Wendy (Chad) DeBoer; great-grandchildren, Kyle, Katelyn, Katie, Jamie, Alex, Anna, Linnae, Emalie; brother, Earl (Marianne) Cook; and several nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held Monday at Ada Community Reformed Church, Rev. Julie VanDerVeen-VanTil officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to Ada Community Reformed Church - Kitchen Renovation Fund.



Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

DRAFT SYNOPSIS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL MONDAY, JULY 18, 2011

- Motion to excuse the absence of Mayor Pro Tem Ellison.
- Motion to approve the agenda as presented.
- Motion to approve the minutes of the July 5, 2011 meeting as corrected.
- Motion to approve the accounts payables as presented.
- Motion to approve the designation of Chief of Police Barry Getzen as a signatory for bank accounts.
- Motion to approve the resolution authorizing signatures for a contract between the City and the Michigan Department of Transportation involving approach clearing on runway 12/30 (Phase 3) at the Lowell City Airport.
- Motion to award contract for the installation of a paved walkway from the parking lot to both the Dog Park and Skateboard Park to Stormzand Asphalt of Lowell.
- Motion to adjourn at 7:49 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, August 1, 2011.
- Complete minutes will be available after approved on August 1, 2011 on the City's web page at www.ci.lowell.mi.us or at City Hall.

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THANK YOU COACH JONATHAN GETZ Thank you for your involvement with lacrosse the past several years, and especially your most recent contribution towards girls' lacrosse. We appreciate that you started a girls' lacrosse program, and established girls' lacrosse as a varsity sport for Lowell. The time and effort you have given to the girls' program provides a sturdy foundation for future development. You will be missed. We wish you all the best. Sincerely, Lowell Lacrosse

Secretary of State's new website debuts

Secretary of State Ruth Johnson has announced that the website at www.Michigan.gov/sos has a new streamlined look and feel, with easier-to-read pages and colorful graphics. "I invite you to spend a few minutes looking over our website to experience our fresh look," Johnson said. "The redesigned site will help you find the information you need more quickly to better assist you in doing business with us." The main page features the most significant changes with categories now marked by graphics and social media links provided clearly on the right navigation. Johnson noted that the growing popularity of social media allows the department to reach its customers with an immediacy not available in more traditional forms of communication. Expandable menus connect users to the most frequently-visited pages and online services while providing links to popular forms and documents. Visitors can also easily keep up with the latest news and headlines. For more information, visit the Secretary of State website (www.Michigan.gov/sos) and sign up for official Secretary of State Twitter feeds (www.twitter.com/MichSOS) and Facebook updates (www.facebook.com/Michigansos). Customers also may call the Department of State Information Center to speak to a customer-service representative at (888) SOS-MICH (767-6424).

classifieds

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Community Calendar PLEASE NOTE - Coming Events are for non-profit organizations... LOWELL SERENITY CLUB MEETINGS - (AA) Mon., Wed., Thurs.: 12-1 & 8-9 p.m.; Tues. & Fri.: 12-1, 4:30-5:30 p.m. & 8-9 p.m.; Sat. & Sun.: 10-11 a.m. & 8-9 p.m. 101 W. Main. 897-8565... SHOTGUN & ARCHERY SHOOTING LEAGUES - at Caledonia Sportsman's Club (Alto/Freeport). Contact Al Potas 698-2051 or email shooting@cscs.com... MOBILE FOOD PANTRY - at Cascade Fellowship Christian Ref. Church, 6655 Cascade Rd. Free perishable food, 1st Monday. Register: 4:30 p.m. Distribution: 6 p.m... BINGO - Every Sunday 2 p.m. The Moose Rec Hall, 1320 E. Main St. Sponsored by W.O.T.M. Chapter #1388. Open to the public... EVERY THURSDAY - Night service at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 865 Lincoln Lake SE at 6:30 p.m. Public welcome... NEW CLASSES FOR EVERYONE - children - adults at Christian Life Center, 3050 Alden Nash SE Lowell. Every Wednesday 7-8 p.m. Bible-centered classes for children through 5th grade, youth group for 6th grade thru high school & adult prayer & Bible study. Everyone is invited to attend... ST. PATRICK PLAYGROUP - Thursdays 10 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. St. Patrick's preschool room. Stories, games, crafts, music & snack. Parents with young children welcome. Call Jennifer Post, 897-0251 or Sally Goffner, 863-4952 with any questions... FOOD PANTRY - at Lakeside Community Church, 6201 Whitneyville Rd. Free frozen, perishable food. First Friday. Registration 2:30, distribution 4 p.m. Bring own container... HUDSON, LOWELL... FLAT RIVER WOOD CARVERS - meets every Wed. 2-4 p.m. at the Lowell Area Arts Council. New carvers welcome... FREE ADDICTIONS PROGRAM - every Friday, 7 p.m. at Bible Believers Church, 404 N. Hudson St., Lowell. For more information call 616-485-2385... MOTHERS WHO HAVE OR HAVE HAD - sons/daughters serving in the military. We are meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. For more info call Sally 616-761-2042... NOOGIELAND - Tuesdays 5:30 - 7 p.m. Supervised play for children kindergarten or younger. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600. www.gildasclub.org/fpinkarrow... GRIEF - ADULT GROUP - Each Tuesday, 2-3 p.m. & second & fourth Tuesdays 5:30 - 7 p.m. A committed group for adults who have experienced the death of a family member or friend. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell... GRIEF - KIDS GROUP - Second & fourth Tuesdays, 5:30 - 7 p.m. A committed group for children in first - fourth grade on a grief journey. Incorporates curriculum-based activities, discussion & fun. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell... GRIEF - NEW MEMBER MEETING - Call the clubhouse to schedule your introductory meeting for grief support groups. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600... TEEN GROUP - CANCER AND GRIEF - First & third Tuesdays, 5:30 - 7 p.m. A committed group for teens in ninth - twelfth grade on a cancer or grief journey. Incorporates curriculum-based activities & discussion. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell... QUAK-KE-ZIK SPORTSMANS CLUB - 8731 Riversdale Dr., Saranac. Open to the public on Sundays thru Oct. 30. Except Holiday weekends. For more info call 642-9800. www.Quak-Ke-Zik.org... ALTO LIONS CLUB - Meets 1st & 3rd Thursday at 7 p.m. at Keiser's Kitchen.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE of property to satisfy landlord's lien Sale is August 6, 2011 at 10 a.m. at Priceless Storage, 5890 Alden Nash Ave SE, Lowell, MI. Property will be sold to highest bidder, cash only. Seller reserves right to withdraw property from sale. Property includes contents of spaces of the following tenants: Brandon Driskell, Alto, MI Pat Lyman, Freeport, MI Contents of these units will be sold as a whole unit. Bidders view it from the doorway - no one is allowed in the unit until after the locker is purchased. Buyer must take everything in the unit. You will have 24 hours to clean the unit out completely. *NOTE* The tenants have right up until the time that the sale starts to come in and pay off their delinquent balances, so that unit would not be sold as advertised.

Flat River Watershed Group has formed

submitted by Dick Smith
An organization called the Flat River Watershed Group has been formed to study the condition of the river and to concern itself with the river's welfare. Their meetings are presently being held in Lowell at the Main Street Inn at 6:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month.

The board of directors is working hard to make the watershed group a viable and effective organization right from the start. They have incorporated and they are seeking tax-exempt status as a 501(c)3 organization. They have already begun examining and monitoring some parts of the watershed to determine what problems exist and what needs to be done to protect the river and its tributaries. They

are working with some of the state and municipal organizations that have an interest in the river and they hope to start working with some of the riparian landowners soon. They have applied for government grants that will allow them to sample the water quality in more places along the river and to monitor the volume of the flow. The watershed group has begun a series of riverbank cleanups in areas that are frequented by a lot of people and they have plans for some canoe and kayak trips through areas of the Flat River that are not heavily utilized by people. They hope that the float trips will give them a better understanding of the condition of those portions of the river that are far from bridges.

People sometimes forget that a watershed is mostly land and that nearly every problem a river has begins somewhere on the land around it. Trees, grass and wetlands are valuable assets in a watershed, because they prevent the rapid and direct runoff of water from the land. They prevent soil erosion and they diminish the amount of contaminants that enter the water from the land. There has been a large increase in the human population along the river and there have been big changes in some of the farming practices. While cattle on most of the large dairy farms no longer graze freely the way they used to, their manure is still commonly used as fertilizer. It is spread on crop

fields, and when it is done properly, it is an acceptable farming practice. But in some instances, when it has not been spread properly, cattle manure has been documented as the cause of some serious problems in other watersheds. There have been fish kills caused by the heavy runoff of manure into some streams. Old septic systems that are near rivers frequently cause problems by allowing E. coli bacteria to enter the streams. Most of the studies done by other watershed groups indicate that there is usually far more E. coli bacteria present in those watersheds than anyone thought there would be.

The Flat River Watershed is a large one and it will take a long time, and a lot of work, for the watershed group to determine the condition of the river and its tributaries. They will need all the help they can get. They hope to attract a large number of people from all parts of the watershed and they would like the input and assistance of anyone who is interested in the condition and welfare of the Flat River Watershed. Anyone who is interested in helping to protect the river and its tributaries, and in maintaining water quality that is safe for swimming and other normal body contact can learn more about the watershed group online at flatriverwatershed.org or call 897-8709, or send an e-mail to snell@streamsidecco.com.

In Michigan, it is rare to have a large, clear stream that flows for so many miles through farm country and through so many cities. But the Flat River does that and it provides recreation and serenity for a lot of people. Its basically wild character makes it attractive to most people and the simple fact that it is a remarkably beautiful river makes it well worth protecting. If you walk the trails along the river, or put a canoe or kayak on the river, or you just like beautiful places, consider joining the Flat River Watershed Group so you can help them protect the areas of the river that are still in good condition and help them to improve those areas that have been degraded.

Freedom might be free

by Casey Cheney
Arguably the greatest perpetrators of grossly misusing the freedom of speech are professional sports players. Arguably the greatest perpetrator of that category is former defensive player of the year James Harrison of the Pittsburgh Steelers. His recent interview in Men's Health magazine should remove all doubt. Harrison effectively insulting NFL commissioner

Roger Goodell in every other quote and a fellow teammate or player in just about all the rest. He's since issued an apology to fellow Steeler Ben Roethlisberger for his apparent disdain for the quarterback's abilities, a misrepresentation of his words according to Harrison.
There's no apology for Goodell, however, no alleged twisting of words, the publishing of what was

meant to be off-the-record. He meant each verbal blow he rained on Goodell, from the homosexual, to calling him "stupid," "a devil," a "crook and a puppet," to his comment, "If that man was on fire and I had to piss to put him out, I wouldn't do it." To cap it off, Harrison informs readers he will never respect the commissioner.
Yeah, we picked up that vibe.
Much of the media

frowns on his comments and encourages some disciplinary action from the Steelers and the NFL, but say this tirade fell within his right to free speech. It seems more like his trite comments dangerously flirt with hate speech.
Not to bog the issue down with legal precedent, let's take a quick look at what qualifies as hate speech.
In the 1942 Supreme Court case Chaplinsky v. New Hampshire, the court found the following to be outside the freedom of speech: words "which by their very utterance inflict injury" and which "are no essential part of any exposition of ideas." The limitations have been

further refined over the years.
In Snyder v. Phelps, the most recent Supreme Court case on the issue, Chief Justice John Roberts wrote that even hurtful speech should be protected regarding public issues for the protection of public debate.
Was Harrison's speech hurtful? Most definitely.
Some might argue that his comments regarded a public issue, promoting public debate. Sure, it had a public platform, but the context of the interview clearly shows that Harrison is on a personal vendetta, regardless of whether people

can relate to his complaints or not.
Don't get me wrong - Harrison is free to speak his mind in his private conversations. These statements, published on a site averaging 3 million unique visitors per month and a magazine circulation of more than 1.8 million, according to Rodale, Inc., are far from private.
What is freedom of speech without the conscious respect, restraint and responsibility of the speaker? A mockery of its original intent.
Information on Supreme Court cases taken from the University of Missouri-Kansas Law School website.

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EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment



July 13 to July 19

Dear EarthTalk: What are the major issues with protecting migratory birds that groups like the Nature Conservancy are working on? -- Lorinda Bennet, Albuquerque, NM
Migratory birds, like other animals, need suitable habitat and food sources to survive. But unlike other animals which stay primarily in one place, migratory birds depend on the availability of food and habitat all along their migration paths, which for some are thousands of miles long. Changing environmental conditions along routes can hinder birds' ability to survive their often arduous long distance journeys.
Some 1,800 of the world's 10,000 bird species migrate long distances every year. Typically birds fly to the far north in the summer to feed and return south for the winter to breed, but many variations and exceptions exist. The long-distance record holders are Sooty Shearwaters, which migrate 9,000 miles between nesting sites in the Falkland Islands and feeding sites in the North Atlantic Ocean off of Norway.
Chief among environmental threats to migratory birds is habitat destruction. Human development of wetlands areas leaves many birds without suitable habitat for stopovers and even wintering sites. Global warming only twists the knife by making usual stopover sites even less hospitable. Biologists see that widespread climate change is already starting to have a negative effect on the timing of migration cycles and breeding patterns, leading to population declines in species already considered threatened. Hunting is another threat to birds which pass over countries without the resources or will to enforce protections. Obstructions such as power lines, wind farms and offshore oil rigs also negatively affect migratory birds.
A large number of international treaties and domestic laws provide protection for migratory birds. For example, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 affirms the U.S. government's commitment to international conventions protecting migratory birds (and their eggs and nests) passing through Canada, Japan, Mexico and Russia at some point during their annual travels. Upwards of 1,000 different bird species, as listed on the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Migratory Bird Program website, are protected under this Act. A similar treaty called the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement seeks to protect migratory birds along another of the world's major migratory bird flyways.
While governments only do so much to protect migratory birds, private non-profits are working hard - and devoting millions of dollars - to try to take up the slack. One of the leaders in this battle is the Nature Conservancy, which employs hundreds of ornithologists and planners who identify networks of habitats needed by bird species throughout North America, Latin America and the Caribbean and then work to protect these crucial areas for current and future generations of migratory birds.
Conservancy projects focus on important ecosystems, from the grasslands of the Great Plains to the pine oak forests of Central America and points beyond, identifying and protecting a network of high-quality stopover habitats around the Gulf of Mexico as well as along the Pacific Coast of the U.S. and Canada - and studying how climate change and other environmental factors affect bird migration throughout the Western hemisphere.

- Germany - Japan wins the women's world cup, stunning the U.S. 3-1 in a penalty shootout Sunday after coming from behind twice in a 2-2 tie.
- After three years in jail and a "trial of the century," Casey Anthony is free. But the 25-year-old Florida woman faces an uncertain future and an uphill battle as she re-enters society.
- Today is John Glenn's 90th birthday. Glenn's many accomplishments include being the first American to orbit earth, a decorated Marine Corps vet and U.S. senator.
- After scoring the largest midnight debt and opening day, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 2, also lands the big one: best opening weekend. According to studio estimates, the movie collected \$168.6 million, passing Dark Night with \$158.4 million.



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.

This past week I saw a little lost boy on M-21. A woman had stopped to help him on this busy road. She also called the police on her cell and Lowell sent two cop cars. Thank you lady for stopping and getting help for this little lost boy so he didn't get hit on M-21. He was small.
A thankful resident

The mail pick-up times on Lowell's post office boxes need to be updated. The one at Meijer states 2 pm, I saw a mailperson pick it up at 11:40 am. At Huntington Bank, I saw mail picked up two hours before it was posted. Could result in late fees if paying bills this way.

Open House: Sun, July 24 from 3-5 p.m.

Ada/Lowell - 2 acres **\$179,900**
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N. off M-21 on St. to house, between Ada & Lowell

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this week's poll result:

If you had caught Derek Jeter's record Ball what would you have done with it?

9% ... Given it back to the team
28% Auctioned it off
45% Kept it
18% Given it to charity

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A-1 MOBILE ROOF-OVER SYSTEM

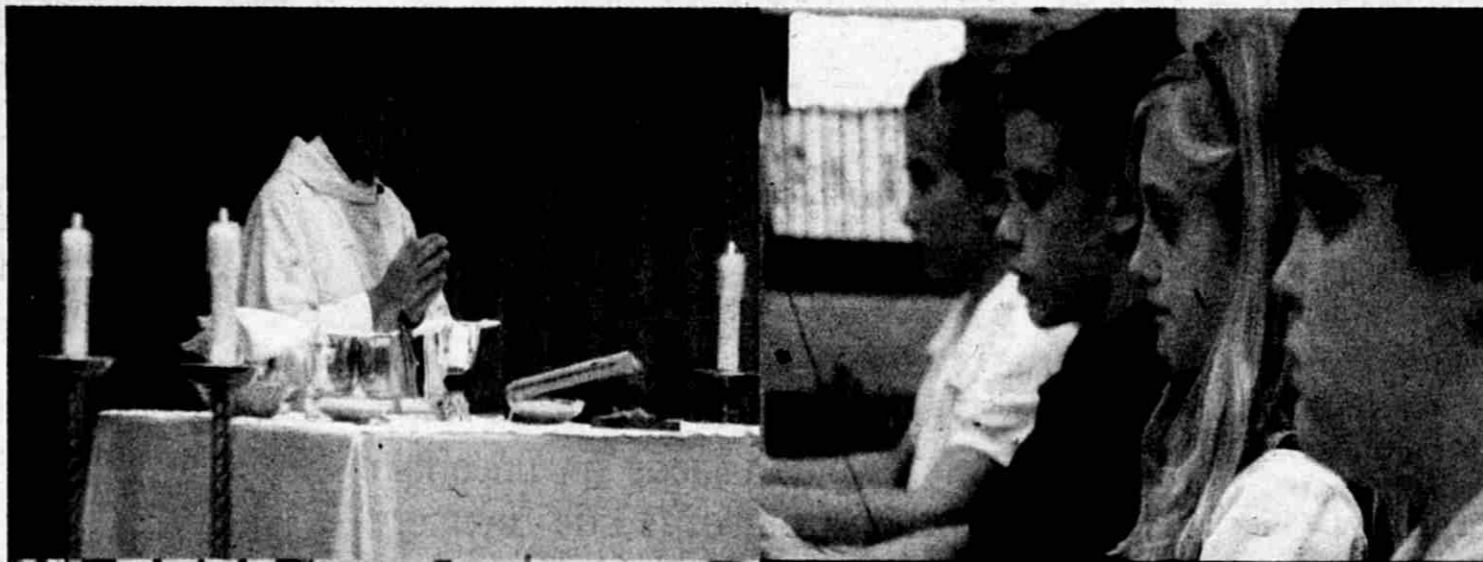
Michigan's Oldest and Finest Roof Replacement System
FREE ESTIMATES
12x60 **\$2980** Installed 14x70 **\$3980**

Conserves Energy • Made in Michigan
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118 Years and Counting

...and Praying, Reading, Writing, and More!

*Students celebrate
Weekly Mass,
Daily Prayer,
Religious Instruction
and Christian
Service Projects*



*Facilities include
Computer Lab, Gym,
Cafeteria, Library and a
Large Updated Playground*

*Favorable Student
Teacher Ratios
and an Emphasis on
Individualized Learning*



*20% of Lowell High
School Honors Seniors
are St. Patrick Graduates*

A Legacy of Learning, A Journey of Faith

State-Accredited Curriculum for Preschool through 8th Grade

Art, Music, Gym, Computer Lab, Accelerated Reading, Writers Workshop, Library, Field Trips

Special Education Services provided by Lowell Area Schools

Middle School Athletic Program (Participant Grand Rapids Area Catholic Elementary Athletic Council)

Extracurricular Activities Ski Club, Mileage Club, Scouts, Challenge Girls Club,

Seasonal Performances, Science Olympiad


Unique Rural Location with a Long Heritage of Catholic Education

Private Tours Available with School Principal—Call to Schedule

Families New to the School, Half Price First Year Tuition!

(applies to fulltime programs, K-8)

Saint
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691-8833
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