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The Lowell Ledger

Volume 23, Issue 11

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, December 12, 2001



A LEG UP!

Detroit Lions kicker, Jason Hanson visited Lowell's Family Fare on Tuesday (Dec. 4). Hanson signed everything from pictures to footballs to legs. Speaking of legs, Hanson's went south in a loss to Chicago. He recovered in the warm climate of Tampa over the weekend where he booted four field goals in the Lions' 15-12 loss to Tampa Bay. Despite his dismal performance in Chicago, area residents lined up to speak to one of the NFL's premier field goal kickers.



5-5 YMCA BASKETBALL LEAGUE

The YMCA is now accepting team registrations for its winter basketball league starting Tuesday, Jan. 15. Stop in or call the YMCA at 897-8445 to sign up today.

SANTA VISITS WITH CHILDREN

Children will be able to visit with Santa at Cousin's Hallmark on Wednesday, Dec. 12 from 5:30 - 7 p.m. Pictures are available.

CARRIAGE RIDES CANCELLED

Free horse and carriage rides along Historic Main Street have been cancelled for this year. We thank you for your support and wish you a blessed holiday season.

YMCA REFEREES NEEDED

If you would be interested in being a referee for the YMCA winter basketball league, call Dan at 897-8445 ext. 705 for more information.

SANTA VISITS WITH PETS

Santa will be at the Animal Hospital and Pet Complex on Wednesday, Dec. 19 from 5:30 - 7 p.m. Pictures are available. Main Street, cont'd pg. 8

Not all area governments see value in natural feature inventory

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Two out of three is not bad, but it's not what volunteer organizers were hoping for.

Support for a proposed project to inventory all the natural features in Vergennes and Lowell townships and the city of Lowell was supported by the city (unanimous) and Vergennes Township (3-2) but was dropped for lack of support by Lowell Charter Township.

"It's hard to preserve rural character if you don't know the physical features of which it is comprised," said Vergennes Township resident, Marsha Wilcox. "The information is out there, but it's not all in one place - the inventory would do that. It would also tell what residents value."

The work would be completed by Calvin College biology department head, Randy VanDragt and his summer students. The estimated cost for inventory on three governmental entities is under \$25,000.

Natural Features, cont'd. pg. 8

Church preschool program the first among many

By Thaddeus J. Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor

It is the dean of preschool programs in Lowell. Lowell First United Methodist Church's time-honored preschool program has been serving pre-kindergarten area tots for over 25 years.

While the faces of the students and teachers have changed, the educational philosophy has not.

The philosophy is to provide a preschool education in a Christian environment where kids learn to function in groups and become social beings as well as prepare for kindergarten and learn Christian values.

This year, 71 three- and four-year-old kids, from a diverse background, are enrolled in the program. "Their families are not all members of the Methodist Church. There is a diverse group of religions represented, as well as non-churchgoers," said program director, Rachel Mullins.

The preschool program is funded completely through student enrollment. The church provides classroom space at no

charge. Its school year for the preschool evolves around the public school calendar.

Mullins and Gay Pfaller, in her seventh year as a preschool instructor, teach three classes of four-year-olds and one class of three-year-olds. Each class, while not every day, runs for two-and-a-half hours. The morning

class is from 9 until 11:30 a.m. and the afternoon class goes from 12:30 until 3 p.m.

Pfaller explains that there is a four-year-old class on Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning; Tuesday and Thursday afternoon; and Monday and Wednesday afternoon.

There is one 3-year-old class on Tuesday and Thursday morning. The maximum number of students allowed in each class is 20.

The daily schedule includes music, art, academics, stories, library time and outdoor activities/gym.

"Our curriculum is vaguely defined by our board of directors," Mullins said. "We stay in close contact with the public schools so Preschool, cont'd. pg. 8



Lowell First United Methodist Church director/teacher, Rachel Mullins works with Dylan Mankel on his art project Monday morning.

INSIDE THE LEDGER

Unity High School Mixes
Art & History,
Page 7

OBITUARIES

ANDERSON - Beatrice (Blair) Anderson, aged 90, of Greenville, formerly of Saranac, passed away December 10, 2001. She was preceded in death by her husband George. Mrs. Anderson is survived by her children: Barbara (Ralph) Gillette of Vermont, Dr. Fredrick L. Anderson of Mt. Pleasant, Arletta (Robert) Groves of Greenville, Eugene (Elva) Anderson of Saranac; sister-in-law June Blair; 14 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren. Funeral services will be held Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. Rev. Ronald Tuinstra, officiating. Interment Findley Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the South Boston Building Fund or the Saranac Public Library.

Deck the Halls with holly and poinsettia plants

Holly and poinsettia plants are classic symbols of the winter season. In addition to their role as traditional Christmas decorations, both can serve as tokens of goodwill, friendship and joy during the holiday season and beyond. Here are some care and handling tips from the floral experts at 1-800-flowers.com.

If you are one of the more than 50 million people purchasing a poinsettia plant this holiday season, select one with dark green foliage,

strong, stiff stems, and completely-colored flowers. Make sure your plant has no fallen or yellow leaves and that it is fully balanced and attractive from all sides.

While most Americans prefer traditional red poinsettias, there are more than 100 different varieties. The newest of these varieties to be cultivated, the Plum Pudding Poinsettia, is the first true purple poinsettia and is sure to compliment the purple accents in your holiday decorations.

Holly is another popular seasonal plant that can be used in a variety of ways to decorate homes for the holidays.

When choosing holly, look for quality branches with good color and ripe berries. Both the berries and foliage should be free of blemishes, scratches and other types of damage. Try not to cut holly in temperatures below freezing. Cut holly will last about a week indoors. Misting it with water daily will help to preserve its freshness.

Place your plants in a room with a temperature between 68 and 70 degrees and keep them away from cool

drafts, as well as direct sunlight or sources of heat. Waterpoinsettia plants only when soil feels dry to the touch - about every 3 to 5 days. If your plants are wrapped, unwrap them immediately to avoid deterioration. Following these care tips will keep your plants healthy well into the new year.

Visit 1800flowers.com on the Web for the Plum Pudding Poinsettia and more holiday fun.

Conscience is the inner voice which warns us somebody may be looking.

—HL Mencken

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TUES: Chili w/soft pretzel or sausage, egg & cheese on English muffin, fresh fruit choice, oven fries, homemade cookie!

WED: Pizza dippers or turkey & cheese on bagel, peaches, green beans.

THURS: Beef taco in soft shell w/lettuce & cheese or corn dog on a stick, pears, baby carrots & dip & a holiday treat.

FRI: Winter Break begins!



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The Lowell Ledger

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8240 ALDEN NASH S.E.
ALTO, MI 49302

To hear request from Brent Diemer of 11095 84th Street for a variance of Article 3.02 Article B. (To place an accessory structure in a front yard) in Section 17 located at 11095 84th Street.

Written comments concerning this issue should be received prior to the hearing and addressed to: Sandy Kowalczyk-Clerk Bowne Township Office P.O. Box 35 Alto, MI 49302

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Luncheon for Lady Arrows Varsity Club

Lowell High School's Lady Arrows Varsity Club enjoyed a special recognition luncheon at Duba's Restaurant on Thursday, Nov. 29. The luncheon was served to congratulate the successful fall sports teams and to promote and encourage female athletes in all their pursuits, both athletically and academically.

Keynote speaker was the Honorable Sara Smolenski, judge of the 63rd District Court in Cascade, who shared her philosophy on achievement. Using the "3-D" approach to success: Desire, Determination and Drive—Smolenski told stories of her personal history in athletics and its importance in her career and life. The Varsity Club members enjoyed the judge's great sense of humor and her encouragement as they continue their schooling and athletic pursuits.

Formed at the beginning of this school year, the Lady Arrows Varsity Club promotes leadership, recognition and community service on behalf of the many fine female athletes who attend Lowell High School. So far this school year the Varsity Club has mentored first and sixth graders in Lowell classrooms, and sponsored a Father/Daughter dance for students.

Any LHS girl who has earned a varsity letter in a sport is eligible to become a member. The group's advisors are Deanne Crowley and Kathy Talus, both LHS teachers.

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- Key Cards, \$10. Good thru 9/02. Discounts at Lowell & Grand Rapids businesses.
- In-county Subscription to the Lowell Ledger, \$12.50. We'll even send them a Christmas card for you.
- Litehouse Dressing, Dips & Sauces gift pack. Only \$10!

Stop by our office for one of these great gifts!

The Lowell Ledger

105 N. Broadway, Lowell
897-9261

St. Pat's holds 2nd annual New Year's Eve dance

The St. Patrick School Athletic Association (Boosters) is sponsoring a New Year's Eve Dance in the Parish Center on Monday, Dec. 31 from 7 p.m. - 1 a.m. Cost is \$35 per person and table reservations may be made

with a purchase of 10 tickets. Music is by "Two To Tango" and there will be a full buffet dinner with party favors and champagne at midnight. The dance is open to all school parents, adult parish-

ioners, family and friends, age 21 and over. If you have any questions, you may direct them to Joe Nawrocki at 874-4215, Sherri DuBridge at 691-8295 or to the school and parish office.

A lot of people like snow. I find it to be an unnecessary freezing of water.

Carl Reiner

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CHURCH OFFICE: 897-7060
e-mail: calvarycra@juno.com

Reflections Of Faith

Father George J. Fekete
St. Mary's Church

Since the Season of Advent is meant to be a period of devout and joyful expectation to celebrate Jesus' first coming and to prepare for His second coming, I want to share a short article from Father Charles E. Miller's book *Opening the Treasures*, page 11. It offers a practical spiritual habit for us to acquire this Advent.

"If we had to be deprived of one of our human faculties, I suspect that most of us would be least willing to give up our power of sight. The prospect of never again seeing the faces of those we love, the beauty of a spring day, even a movie or television, is indeed frightening. We can close our eyes and try to imagine what it would be like to be totally blind - but of course all the while we know that we can simply open our eyes to see again.

The scriptures frequently present sinfulness in terms of blindness, and redemption in terms of seeing. In this context Isaiah wrote, "Out of gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see" (Is. 29:18). Because of the coming of Jesus Christ, we live in the age of redemption. In baptism our eyes were opened to see the Lord in Faith. But do we keep our eyes open?"

God is present for us to see everywhere, especially in people. His joy is in the smile of an infant. His acceptance of us is in the affection of a child. His vibrance is in the energy of an adolescent. His power is in the strength of an athlete. His beauty is in the loveliness of a young girl. His concern is in the devotion of a parent. His wisdom is in the prudence of the elderly. Every human person has something of the goodness of God with him. What a shame it is to close our eyes to God's presence, to live in darkness and gloom, when all we have to do is open our eyes in faith to see Him. God love you.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- DEC. 13: Chrys Thaler.
- DEC. 14: Chris Kropf, Bryan Robert Roth.
- DEC. 15: Karen Latva, Tammy Baird, Roger Brown, Kathryn Duiven, Kristin Ellis, Danielle Brenk, Marea Borg.
- DEC. 17: Bill Ellison.
- DEC. 18: Danielle Anchors, Hillary Graves, Cliff Walling.
- DEC. 19: Lori Moore, Carol Chamberlain.



Songs of Peace & Hope

This holiday season won't be copacetic without a copy of the holiday CD/cassette, "All is Well."

St. Mary's Choir recorded the 21-song, holiday musical CD/cassette.

It is available through the holidays at Springrove Variety, businesses along Main Street and through choir members.

The price for a CD is \$12 and the cassette is \$10.

Proceeds from the CD/cassette sale will go toward the 776-square foot St. Mary's Church Family Life Center addition. Among the amenities are a gym/hall with seating up to 300, meeting room, nursery and kitchen.

Members of the choir are director, June Serne, Becky Regan, Jerry Francis, Kathy Paroff, Carolyn Lessens, Jean Huver, Mike Lessens and Mark Lessens.

Background music was provided by Roger MacNaughton. It was recorded and produced by Michael Dollar.

"It sounds really good, nothing like us," Huver quips and then laughs.

LAAC receives Michigan Art Education Association distinguished service award

The Michigan Art Education Association (MAEA) presented a Distinguished Service Award to the Lowell Area Arts Council for its contribution to arts education in the state of Michigan, during the MAEA annual conference. The arts council was recognized for its growth since 1977 from a fledgling volunteer group to a professionally staffed organization that provides a phenomenal amount of support for all the arts in the area.

The LAAC was nominated by Karen Thomure,

longtime arts council member, volunteer, and retired art teacher from Lowell Middle School. "The Lowell Area Arts Council is an example of what couldn't be done in a small town that was done! We credit the key to success in the many people who donated time, energy and money in amounts with which they felt comfortable. Big or small, they were committed. The LAAC has served the artistic needs of all the arts of our community from preschool through the octogenarian ages. The LAAC gives to the

community and the community gives to the LAAC!" Lorain Smalligan, LAAC's executive director, shares, "We are very proud to receive this award. The Lowell Area Arts Council is very unique for a smaller, rural community. The fact that the LAAC has consistently grown over the years in its offerings of visual and performing arts programs and classes speaks well of the community's support for its endeavors. The LAAC is in-

tegrated into the fabric of this community from its support for arts education in the Lowell Area Schools, to its support for local artists, and its offerings of arts programs throughout the community." Lowell Area Arts Council - Statement of Purpose: To encourage the understanding and importance of the arts in the schools and communities we serve and to provide expression and enjoyment of the arts to all segments of these communities.

The supreme happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved; loved for ourselves.
—Victor Hugo

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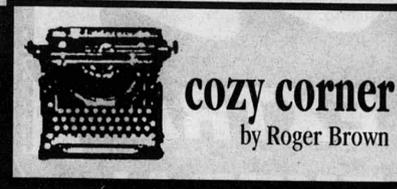
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SHOWTIMES 12/7 - 12/13
OCEAN'S ELEVEN (PG-13)
12:00, 2:20, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20
BEHIND ENEMY LINES (PG-13)
12:20, 2:50, 5:00, 7:40, 9:50
HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE (PG)
12:20, 3:20, 6:30, 9:25
MONSTERS, INC. (G)
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Viewpoint . . .



cozy corner by Roger Brown

I've always thought my signature to be unique. It's sort of stupid looking. It looks hurried. It looks as though little thought or care was put into its appearance. If you didn't know my name when looking at it, you would never be able to tell what it says. It's a mess which, of course, makes it a perfect reflection of me.

Along about second grade, they began trying to force cursive writing on me. Mrs. Franklin, or "Old Lady Franklin" to us boys who didn't much care for her strict discipline, stood over us as we struggled with the technique. Equipped with coarse manila paper and big blue pencils, I chewed on my tongue and tried to duplicate those curvaceous lines. I was a good student back then, but try as I might, my penmanship looked like I was destined to write nothing but ransom notes.

My penmanship skills were awful back in grade school. They became worse with age. Sometime after getting into the publishing business I simply had to give up cursive writing. I'd cover a meeting or take some ad copy and couldn't read it when I got back to the shop. I reverted to writing in block letters. Because I'm always having to write quickly as people speak, even my once neat block letters (perfected in mechanical drawing classes) have digressed into a barely legible scrawl. My daughter calls my penmanship "serial killer handwriting."

Needless to say, my signature has degenerated along with my handwriting. The "Roger" has a fairly recognizable capital "R." The lower case "o" does look more like an "o" than an "a" or "e." The "g," because of its descender, could be a "g, j, y, q or p." The remaining "e-r" is just a squiggle.

The army insisted I use my middle initial whenever I signed one of their countless forms. The "K" for Karl, in my signature is probably the most definitive part of the entire

plotch. It looks something like the "K" on a box of popular breakfast food. That is not meant to imply there is anything "special" about my "K." A capital "K" is distinct. There is no other letter that looks much like it, so even my scrawl can't disguise it.

The "B" in Brown looks pretty much like a "B." Sometimes I don't quite bring the bottom bulge back toward the vertical backbone of the letter so it can resemble a capital "R." From there on out, my signature is smooth sailing. There might be an ever so small bump where the "f" should be and maybe a slight wave for the "o-w-n." Usually there isn't even that much and the "r-o-w-n" is simply a straight line. My signature has evolved into this . . .

All this background about something as mundane as my signature brings us to the office of an F and I guy (finance and insurance) at a local car dealership a week or so ago. I had made an auto purchase and was signing the numerous documents. During the transaction a rather official looking General Motors warranty statement was slid across the desk at me. Suddenly, it was as though I had just entered the Twilight Zone. I had entered a parallel universe. I had come face to face with my twin.

I inspected the document, wondering why the dealership would already have my signature on something. As it turned out, it wasn't my signature, but of a Roy K. Rowan, or something close to that. (Play the Twilight Zone theme music in your head at this point.)

It was almost a dead ringer for my signature. I had to really look at it closely for minute differences in the "g" and the "y." The "B" and the "R" at the beginning of the last name were close, but not quite the same. Other than those minor differences, I had a twin working at General Motors! If I had known that, I would have qualified for a GM employee's family discount.

I'd like to know more about Roy. I want to know if he's a big fat guy with gray hair and a fondness for Ben & Jerry's "Wavy Gravy." I want to know if he loves dogs and hates cell phones. Does he toe in slightly with his left foot? Did he have "Old Lady Franklin" in the second grade? If I have a twin out there, I'd like to get to know him. I'd send him a letter if I thought he could read my writing.

THE CHIROPRACTIC REPORT

DR. PAUL TUTHILL DR. ANTHONY TROMBLY

PREPARATION FOR OUTDOOR WINTER ACTIVITIES KEY TO PREVENTING INJURY

"If and when snow, ice and frigid weather blast into Michigan, watch out," say chiropractors, Dr. Paul Tuthill and Dr. Anthony Trombly. Winter recreational activities and chores can pose problems for the outdoor enthusiast whose body is not in condition.

Winter sports like skating, skiing, and sledding can cause painful muscle spasms, strains or tears if you're not in shape. Even shoveling snow the wrong way, clambering awkwardly over snow banks, slipping on sidewalks and wearing the wrong kinds of clothing can all pose the potential for spasms, strains and sprains.

Simply walking outside in the freezing weather without layers of warm clothing can intensify older joint problems and cause a great deal of pain. Preparation for an outdoor winter activity, including conditioning the areas of the body that are most vulnerable, can help avoid injury and costly health care bills.

"Simply put, warming up is essential," says ACA (American Chiropractic Association) sponsored Olympic speed skater Derek Parra, gold medal winner in the 1500 meters this November at World Cup event in the Netherlands. "In fact, when pressed for time, it's better to shorten the length of your workout and keep a good warm-up than to skip the warm-up and dive right into the workout. Skipping your warm-up is the best way to get hurt."

Parra, the United States' best chance for a gold medal in speed skating at the upcoming Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, UT, adds that, "You can complete a good warm-up in 15-20 minutes. And believe me, it will make your workout more pleasant and safe."

Parra and Drs. Tuthill and Trombly suggest that you start with some light aerobic activity (jogging, biking, fast walking), for about 7-10 minutes. Then follow these tips to help you fight back the winter weather:

Skiing - do 10 to 15 squats. Stand with your legs a shoulder's width apart, knees aligned over your feet. Slowly lower your

buttocks as you bend your knees over your feet. Stand up straight again.

Skating - do several lunges. Take a moderately advanced step with one foot. Let your back knee come down to the floor while keeping your shoulders in position over your hips. Repeat the process with your other foot.

Sledding/tobogganing - do knee-to-chest stretches to fight compression injuries caused by repetitive bouncing over the snow. Either sitting or lying on your back, pull your knees to your chest and hold for up to 30 seconds.

Don't forget cool-down stretching for all of these sports - At the bottom of the sledding hill, for instance, before trudging back up, do some more knees-to-chest stretches, or repetitive squatting movements to restore flexibility.

Shoveling snow can also wreak havoc on the musculoskeletal system. We suggest the following tips for exercise of the snow shoveling variety.

If you must shovel snow, be careful. Listen to weather forecasts so you can rise early and have time to shovel before work.

Layer clothing to keep your muscles warm and flexible. Do some warm-up stretching before you grab that shovel. When you do shovel, push the snow straight ahead. Don't try to throw it. Walk it to the snow bank. Avoid sudden bending, twisting and turning motions.

Bend your knees to lift when shoveling. Let the muscles of your legs and arms do the work, not your back. Take frequent rest breaks to take the strain off your muscles. A fatigued body asks for injury. Stop if you feel chest pain, or get really tired or have shortness of breath. You may need immediate professional help.

After any of these activities, if you are sore, apply an ice bag to the affected area for 20 minutes, then take it off for a couple of hours. Repeat a couple of times each day over the next day or two.

Letters, Letters, Letters, Letters...

The Lowell Ledger welcomes all "Letters to the Editor" for publication on its "Viewpoint" page. Letters can be typed or written. However, we ask that they do not exceed one written page or one typed, double-spaced page.

"Letters to the Editor" should be sent to the Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, P.O. Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or emailed to: ledgerb1@aol.com. Letters must be signed and please include a phone number when emailing.

Editing may be necessary for space, clarity and to avoid obscenity, libel or invasion of privacy.

The Lowell Ledger thanks you in advance for your cooperation.



By Priscilla Lussmyer

Ledger Entries of 125, 100, 75, 50 & 25 Years Ago

125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL DEC. 13, 1876
Mr. Potter is president of the Flat River and Houghton Lake Railroad and is looking over land to the north.

Bridge Street sidewalks have several "inclined planes" that should be mended for this slippery weather. No dog fights, runaways or police reports lately; nothing except little boys hopping on and off moving sleighs, which may produce some news yet.

C. R. Hines and C. T. Wooding have purchased quantities of logs and will start up the sawmill near the depot next spring. They plan to furnish a large part of local lumber needs. Some recent articles intended for publication have been too wordy. The editor suggests authors write less and say more.

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER DEC. 12, 1901;
This issue is missing, as well as every issue until May, 1902; we substitute columns from the first year Ledger Entries was published, 1987, 114 Years December 15, 1887

An elegant new hotel opens in Greenville. Lewis Kellay's saw and panel mill on Bowne Creek in Bowne Township burns down. He will rebuild if successful in collecting the insurance. "Santa Claus Headquarters" is at McPherson's Bazaar under Train's Hall. Sturgeon fishing season begins in Lake Michigan.

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO DECEMBER 16, 1926

Correspondents are asked to let the editor know if they will be continuing to collect neighborhood news next year. A free Ledger subscription, plus the Ladies Home Journal or Country Gentleman, is their reward.

Quarters of the Masons and Eastern Star on the third and fourth floors of the Reed Block have been painted and papered, and a new electric stove installed.

Edsel Ford strongly denies that there will be a new model, new Ford car, or any six or eight-cylinder models coming out. There have been rumors, says the ad.

Will Fase is thrown 20 feet in the air from his Ford, hit by the flyer while crossing the railroad track. He is only bruised, but the car is a total wreck.

Speed Bradford and his Star 4 Coach visits with a crowd at the Star garage. He drove 2,922 miles in 84 hours without stopping the motor or leaving the steering wheel. He loads 24 people all over the car and drives down Main Street.

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER DEC. 13, 1951

Michigan Bell Telephone's William Banks will tell high school students Friday how radar works and about building the microwave radio-relay system that television signals travel. M.S.C. sophomore Marilyn Rickert wins honors for the second time in the National Junior Vegetable Growers Association contest.

The lights are on over Main Street, windows decorated and stores are open evenings.

The Farm Photo Quiz is in its third week. Readers guess whose farm is shown in the aerial photo (usually the owners phone right in) and the farm and its operations are described.

County School Superintendent Lynn Clark complains that some rural school boards don't have deeds to their schools and don't know district boundaries.

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER DEC. 16, 1976

The Lowell congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses requests permission from Lowell Township to build a church building.

Cary Stiff continues the 25-year tradition of hanging an enormous Christmas wreath in his store. Cary's, The Western Michigan Snowmobile Trail opens on leased private land from Gun Lake to Deer Run Golf Club.

The school board is pleased to announce four years of rising Michigan Assessment scores, against the backdrop of falling national test scores.

Landowners in six counties including Kent can apply for the Water Bank Program, which pays for preserving wetlands.



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Unity High students enjoy a little history with their drawing

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
 Lowell Ledger Editor

There is no formal art program at Lowell's Unity High School, however, that doesn't mean there aren't any artists.

A \$30,000 grant funded by Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs provided an artists in residence program, bringing the creative and artistic talents of some Unity students to the surface.

The grant came through the work of Lowell Area Arts Council executive director, Lorain Smaligan and Unity High School principal, Marlene Heemstra. "It was Lorain's familiarity with these types of grants that made this possible," Heemstra said. "I just provided the numbers and history."

The grant funded the talents of artist/historian Tom Woodruff and story teller Carrie Wilson.

Woodruff exposed students to dialogue drawing, and through the process, he also introduced them to drawing techniques.

"He helped us with techniques which enabled us to draw different things," said Unity student Samantha Winglar. "Along the way he also taught us some history, which was nice."

Woodruff's background includes some work with the

Lowell elementary schools and he is responsible for the illustrations in the book titled "Great Lakes and Great Ships."

Keely Wolf told board of education members Monday night that she found the process to be fun, and through Woodruff's help she was able to produce her best drawings.

Both Winglar and Wolf

are students of John Stempian, a Unity High School social studies teacher and cartoonist.

The grant is for this school year. Smaligan said it could be reapplied for again next year.

The Unity High students are working on a book project

with Woodruff. It will have student drawings of historical spots in Lowell. When completed, a copy will be given to each Lowell second grader as well as a copy to the Lowell Area Historical Museum.

LEGAL EASE

By
 Jonathan David



DEAR JONATHAN: About a month ago I offered to purchase a house that was being sold by owner and the sellers accepted my offer. I told them at the time that all I needed to do was get my financing in order but that was not going to be a problem. I called back to discuss some of the details regarding the closing and they told me that they had sold the house to someone else. Apparently this person had made a cash offer and did not need to obtain financing, so the sellers thought this was a better deal. Don't the sellers have to honor my offer since mine was prior in time? I really want this house. What are my options?

JONATHAN SAYS: If your offer to purchase the house was not in writing, then it does not appear that you have any options. Under Michigan's Statute of Frauds, in order for an offer to purchase real property to be binding, it must be in writing. Consequently, your verbal agreement to purchase that property is unenforceable unless, subsequent to that agreement, there was some type of part performance that somehow validated the agreement, and it does not appear from your question that there was any type of performance that would have validated that contract.

Assuming there was no part performance, then your verbal agreement to purchase the property is unenforceable and there is nothing to prevent the sellers from selling the house to another party.

If, on the other hand, you have a written contract, then you should see an attorney who specializes in real estate law right away to discuss your various options. In this event, you don't want to delay because you will want to take action prior to the sellers' closing on the sale.

DEAR JONATHAN: Five years ago, my wife and I sold a piece of real estate on land contract. A year later, my wife died. The buyer of the property will be paying off the contract

in a couple of months and I am required at that time to give him a warranty deed. At the time we set up the land contract, my attorney drafted a warranty deed which my wife and I were to give to the buyer at the completion of the contract. Obviously, my wife can no longer sign that deed. Can I sign it on her behalf? If not, what do I have to do?

JONATHAN SAYS: Since your wife is deceased, you cannot sign that deed on her behalf. What you need to do is have a new deed prepared which reflects that you are the sole titleholder to the property and that your wife is deceased and then present that deed to the buyer along with a certified copy of your wife's death certificate. Since the preparation of deeds today can be tricky and since this is a deed given in satisfaction of a land contract, I suggest that you have an attorney draft it on your behalf.

On the other hand, if you are going to have this transaction closed by a title insurance company, they can draft the deed after you provide them with the pertinent information. In this event, however, I would recommend that you have an attorney at least review that deed and the other closing documents on your behalf.

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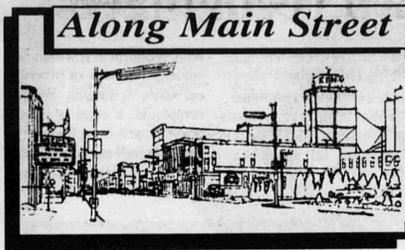
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WINTER FAST PITCH CLINIC TO BE OFFERED
 Lowell High School softball coaches will hold a winter fast pitch clinic for all elementary and middle school girls interested in becoming a softball pitcher. Alto gym: Thursdays, Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31 and Feb. 7, 14, 21. Grades 6 and under at 6 p.m.; grades 7-8 at 7 p.m. Cost: \$25, includes a T-shirt. Call Bob Rodenhouse at 897-4125 or 245-4596 for info.

Preschool, cont'd... From Page 1

that we are aware of what four-year-olds, preparing for kindergarten, should be able to do."
 Pfaller adds that many of the kids are children of children who attended the First United Methodist Church preschool program.
 A preschool registration open house is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. in the church's Albright Hall.
 It will give parents an opportunity to meet the teachers (Pfalter and Mullins) and to ask questions about the curriculum.
 There is a \$35 registration fee. Two-day a week classes are \$80 a month and three-day a week classes are \$100 a month. The preschool is licensed by the state and governed by the board.
 "We have many resources to refer parents to," Pfalter said. "We also have parent representatives who serve as liaisons between the classroom and board."

TOWNSHIP OF GRATTAN COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on December 18, 2001 at 7:00 p.m., the Planning Commission of the Township of Grattan will hold a public hearing at the Grattan Township offices, 12050 Old Belding Road, within the Township, concerning a proposed amendment in the Grattan Township Master Plan so as to designate the following described lands for Moderate Density Residential use:

The West 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4; the Northeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 EXCEPT the West 165 feet of the South, 188.57 feet thereof; and the South 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4, all in Section 35, Town 8 North, Range 9 West, Grattan Township, Kent County, Michigan,

and so as to amend the text of the Master Plan with respect to the designation of said lands for Moderate Density Residential use.

All interested persons may attend the public hearing and comment upon the proposed Master Plan amendment. Written comments may be submitted to the Township office at the above-stated address up to the time of the public hearing.

Dated: November 15, 2001
 PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE
 TOWNSHIP OF GRATTAN

LOWELL SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB
 It is not too late to sign up for discount option packages for Cannonsburg Ski Area. Elementary contact: Heather Kohtz 897-4125 ext. 440 or hkohtz@lowell12.mi.us; middle and high school contact: Kathy Talus 897-4125 or ktalus@lowell12.mi.us

ATTENTION: LOWELL HIGH ALUMNI NEAR AND FAR
 The Lowell Education Foundation will be printing a Lowell High School Alumni directory for years 1944-2001. If you have any reunion lists from 1963-1974, 1976, 1978-1988, and 1990 - 1994, please call Marsha Wilcox at 897-8949. Publication of the directory is winter of 2002.

LIBRARY BRANCHES CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY
 The Englehardt and Alto branches of Kent District Library and the KDL Service Center will be closed Monday, Dec. 24 and Tuesday, Dec. 25 for the Christmas holiday. Regular hours will resume on Wednesday, Dec. 26. They will also be closed on Tuesday, Jan. 1.

Natural Features, cont'd... From Page 1

"We're going to hold off applying for any grant and give people time to think about it a little longer," Wilcox said. "Not everybody is at the same stage of planning, but we all are at the edges of one another's boundaries. The inventory would be a helpful tool for the planning commissions."
 When completed, the inventory would be handed over to local governments to utilize or not - their choice.
 "We're a private property nation... no one is going to tell property owners what they must preserve," Wilcox said.
 Lowell Charter Township trustee, Richard Huver said many residents he's talked to plan on keeping it that way.
 "Some residents have told me they'd kick off anyone who came on their property for the purpose of an inventory," Huver said. "I don't want someone telling me because I have a 100-year-old maple tree on my property, it can't be developed."
 Huver does not believe the inventory would garner information Lowell Charter Township needs.
 After first hearing the inventory proposal, Paula Blumm, Lowell Charter Township trustee, thought the information could be useful to planning commissions when developers came in with site plans.
 "After attending a meeting, I've decided it would not be the useful tool that I thought because the information gathered would be almost all botanical. From a planning commission standpoint, I'm not sure that means a lot to us," Blumm explained. "Most of the information the inventory would provide, we already have in various forms. The inventory would just collate all the different maps and surveys."

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE

Public notice is hereby given that, pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered by the Circuit Court for the County of Kent, State of Michigan, on the 17th day of September 2001, in the action known as RICHARD G. BISHOP, Plaintiff versus BRADLEY JAY FELTY, Defendant, Case No. 01-6029-CH, I shall offer for sale to the highest bidder, at a public auction to be held at the West Entrance on the first floor of the Kent County Courthouse, 180 Ottawa Avenue N.W., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503, the place of holding the Circuit Court within Kent County, Michigan, on December 19, 2001, at 10:00 a.m. local time, the following described property:

Lot 5, Rathbone's Addition to the City of Grand Rapids, Section 2, Town 6 North, Range 12 West, according to the recorded plat thereof in Liber 20 of Plats, Page 28, Kent County Records Commonly known as 1219 Rathbone S.W., Wyoming, Michigan.

This property may be redeemed during the six (6) months following the sale.
 Dated: October 31, 2001

Mary Hollinrake
 Kent County Clerk
 ROBERT N. SWARTZ
 Attorney at Law
 1100 McKay Tower
 146 Monroe Center N.W.
 Grand Rapids, MI 49503
 (616) 459-3303

CLASS OF 1960 TO MEET AT BOB EVANS
 There will be a breakfast held at the Bob Evans on 28th St., west of Cascade, at 9:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 28 for the Lowell class of 1960. Bring your spouse or a friend.

WINTER ARTS CLASSES AT LAAC
 The Lowell Area Arts Council will be offering Winter Arts Classes for children (ages 5-12) and teens and adults beginning the week of January 21. To receive a listing of the class offerings, call 897-8545 or e-mail: lowellartscouncil@ameritech.net.

NEWSPAPERS NEEDED FOR SOFTBALL TEAM
 Lowell High School Red Arrow Stadium parking lot is a drop-off location for your old newspapers and phone books. Please help support the Lowell girls softball team by placing them in the trailer.

Auditions Jan. 8-10 for "The Nerd"

The concept is good, according to Blumm, but the information needs to be more thorough.
 "Its intent is to be a cooperative planning tool for the three governmental entities, and I think through the different planning commissions meeting regularly, there is already a good cooperative sense," Blumm concludes.

The Lowell Area Arts Council's Thebes Players are seeking actors for *The Nerd* by Larry Shue. Public performances of this dinner theatre production, directed by Cheryl Blodgett with Anne Pasquale as assistant director, will be at Larkin's Other Place in downtown historic Lowell on the following dates: Thursday, March 7 - Saturday, March 9, 2002.

This play requires four males, two females and one child (6-8 years old). Auditions will take place at the Englehardt Library from Jan. 8 - 10 between 7 and 9 p.m. Callbacks are on Jan. 11.
 For more information and to borrow a script for review, call the Lowell Area Arts Council at 897-8545.

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LHS' December students of the month recognized

The December Students of the Month were recently chosen at Lowell High School and are to be congratulated for their expertise and hard work in a particular area.
 Chosen by the Science Department was David Johnson, a senior. David is the son of Michael Johnson of Rockford and Leslie Johnson of Lowell. His extracurricular activities include editor-in-chief of the school newspaper, Science Olympiad, Model UN and golf. In addition, he is employed at Hollywood Video. He plans to attend Grand Valley State University next year to study business or chemistry. His teacher nominator says David has excelled in both Physics and AP chemistry. His work in both classes has been exemplary and he is a very valuable member of the Science Olympiad team.

The Drama Department selected Seth Hay, a senior. Seth is the son of Jim and Debby Hay of Lowell. In addition to his studies at LHS, he is involved in concert, marching and jazz bands. Next year, Seth plans to go to college somewhere near home. His teacher nominator says he is a kind young man and very conscientious about his class work.
 Chosen by the Math Department was Eric Gillman, a junior. He is the son of Dave and Barb Gillman of Lowell. Eric is active in National Honor Society, Model UN jazz band and varsity soccer, and was president of his freshman class. His teacher nominator says that Eric has received the top grade in AP calculus and has shown an intense desire to improve.
 The Foreign Language Department's selection was Megan Fleet, a senior. She is the daughter of Scott and Maureen Fleet. Megan's extracurricular activities include president of International Club, National Honor Society, All-School plays and musicals, Model UN, Forensics, SADD, drum major and tennis. Next year she plans to attend Aquinas College or GRCC to study political science, French and German. Megan's teacher nominator says her interest in foreign languages is inspiring and she is a first-rate language student.



Students of the month, from left to right, are: David Johnson, Seth Hay, Eric Gillman and Megan Fleet.

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP NOTICE

PLEASE BE NOTIFIED that the Lowell Township Board approved the Planning Commission's recommendation and rezoned Mark Vetting and Mike Slachter's property located at 4431 Bancroft Avenue, Permanent Parcel No. 41-20-28-200-016 and 4433 Bancroft Avenue, Permanent Parcel No. 41-20-28-200-020, from Prime Agricultural (Ag1), to Light Industrial. This rezoning will become effective thirty days from date of publication of this notice.

Linda S. Regan, Clerk
 Lowell Charter Township

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Red Arrow icers fall to Kenowa Hills and Wayland

The Lowell Hockey team lost to Kenowa Hills this past Thursday by a score of 7-1 and then dropped a close divisional game to Wayland on Saturday by a margin of 4-2.

The Red Arrows were forced to skate with only nine skaters against Kenowa Hills but still managed to play a very disciplined and aggressive game through two periods. Junior defenseman, Bryan Posthumus opened the scoring for both teams with an unassisted goal at the 3:14 mark of the first period. The Knights quickly countered with two goals of their own in the first period and one in the second to make the score 3-1 after two periods.

The Red Arrows struggled in the third period, however, and surrendered four unanswered goals to make the final score 7-1. "We played two very solid periods of hockey and we improved on many of the things that we have been working

on in practice," said head coach, Paul Jacobus. "In the third period, we just got tired and made some defensive mistakes that Kenowa was able to capitalize on."

On Saturday, Lowell lost to Wayland, a divisional opponent. In similar fashion, the Red Arrows played two strong periods of hockey and

went into the intermission tied 2-2 with a power play to start out the third period. Sophomore Daniel Woods opened the scoring for Lowell with an unassisted goal at the 13:10 mark of the first period. Senior Chris Rybicki (Caledonia) tied the score at the 13:30 mark of the second period with a power play goal

on an assist from senior, Matt Horan and Posthumus.

Lowell had the momentum going into the final period and played an excellent period despite being short-handed for 10 of the 15 final minutes. Wayland was able to capitalize on two power play opportunities to put the game out of reach. "This re-

ally was the first game this season that we have played well in all three periods, and we have improved in many different areas," said Jacobus. "But in the third period, we spent too much time in the penalty box and that took the game away from us."

The Red Arrows continue their schedule this Saturday when they play Grand Ledge at the Summit in Lansing at 8 p.m.

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VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Public notice is hereby given that the Vergennes Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, January 7, 2002 at 7:00 P.M. at the Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell, Michigan 49331**, to accept public comment on the following proposed zoning amendments:

A revised rezoning application by Jim and Berdie Cook has been submitted to amend the zoning ordinance map to rezone the following described property from Special Residential (R-3) to Commercial (C): The property consists of 1 parcel of 10 acres at the NW corner of Vergennes and Lincoln Lake, parcel #41-16-27-400-053. The parcel being considered is east of the railroad tracks and west of the two presently zoned commercial parcels at the corner of this intersection in the SE 1/4 of section 27. This rezoning is a modification of the original request that previously included two parcels to the north.

A text amendment is proposed for Article III Sections 201.308 and 201.311 of the commercial district to divide the current uses into permitted uses and special uses, to clarify language detailing residential uses, to add language detailing commercial lot size and width, to add a requirement that applicants must create a landscaping plan and pave drives and parking areas, to add front of building construction materials, to add a building footprint square foot size maximum by right and larger sizes by special use permit, to add a Township Board modification section and to update the bulk table.

A text amendment is proposed for Article II Definitions Section 201.202 to add Adult Use definitions, Article IV General and Special Regulations Section 201.433 to add an Adult Use and Entertainment section regulated as a special exception use permit. Amend Article III Zoning Districts Commercial Section 201.308 (C) (21) to add adult uses as a special exception use.

A text amendment is proposed for Article IV General and Special Regulations Section 201.434 to add a height exception section for flag poles and church spires up to 85 feet tall.

The application for the proposed zoning map and text ordinance amendments is on file at the Vergennes Township Hall and may be inspected during regular office hours between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Public comment will be accepted attend public hearing and written comments received by mail, in person or in the mail slot located at the office entrance will also be considered if received prior to 6:00 p.m. on January 7, 2002. Comments may also be emailed to zoning@vergennestwp.org.

Vergennes Township Planning Commission

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Lowell Area Community Fund grant works to preserve historic structures

The Downtown Lowell Historic District will receive a \$30,000 grant from the Lowell Area Community Fund (LACF), bringing the total funding for historic district rehabilitation to \$140,000.

The Historic District Commission (HDC) in Lowell will use the funds for incentive grants. To encourage building owners to renovate their storefronts, the HDC will cover 25 to 30 percent of a project's cost. In the past, the HDC has also used 10-year, no-interest loans to help property owners do the work.

The results of past LACF grants to the Historic District are evident in downtown Lowell. Since the first grant of \$30,000 in June 1998, improvements have started to restore the historic character to the business district. Additional grants included \$30,000 in December 1998, \$30,000 in June 1999, and \$20,000 in December 1999.

"The impact of these grants is clear," said Kate Luckert, program officer at the Grand Rapids Community Foundation. "The improvements work to preserve Lowell's historic structures, cultivate employment opportunities and foster civic pride."

The Lowell Area Community Fund awards grants to tax-exempt, nonprofit, charitable organizations that have an impact in the Lowell area. The LACF funds innovative projects or programs that encourage community cooperation, represent an original start-up effort, are capital in nature, serve a broad segment of the community, yield substantial community benefit and strengthen agency performance.

The LACF gives priority to projects that assure a healthy, dynamic community.

The Lowell Area Community Fund was established as a

donor-advised fund at the Grand Rapids Community Foundation in 1996 with a \$12.7 million bequest from Lowell resident, Harold Englehardt. A group of Lowell volunteers make up the fund's advisory committee and recommend grants from the fund to the Grand Rapids Community Foundation's Board of Trustees.

Applications for the next grant round are due Dec. 28. To receive a grant application packet, call Luckert at 616-454-1751 or download an application from the Grand Rapids Community Foundation website at www.grfoundation.org. You may also pick up an application at any of the following locations: Lowell Township Hall, Vergennes Township Hall, City Offices of Lowell, Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, the Englehardt Public Library or any Lowell area school.

BUSINESS MATTERS

Greenridge Realty announced that Joyce Thuston received Realtor of the Month in November. This award recognizes Joyce for her outstanding success and achievements.



Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all. Security is mostly a superstition. It does not exist in nature.

—Hellen Keller

AREA BIRTHS

Michael and Valeri Chumney are pleased to announce the birth of a daughter, Shelby Anne, born Thursday, November 15, 2001. She weighed 4 lbs. 3 oz. and measured 18 inches long.

Welcoming her home is big brother, Brendan Chumney. Proud grandparents are Barbara and Gene Chumney of Sparta; David and Jean Rudolph of Winston-Salem, NC, and Ron and Marjorie Waite of Lakeland, Fla.

Book discussions at KDL

Kent District Library invites adult readers to get together at the library for a friendly, informal discussion of some great books, as several KDL branches hold book discussions in January. Copies of the featured title are available at each library's checkout desk.

The Englehardt branch, 200 N. Monroe St., will discuss *The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant on Tuesday, Jan. 8 at 10 a.m.

For more information about the book discussions, please call Kent District Library at 784-2007.

Attention Lowell senior parents

The Lowell senior class trip 2002 is scheduled for May 23 with the cost at \$100 per student. It may be paid in one lump sum or by installments. Checks should be made payable to Lowell Senior Parents. Collections will be during lunch periods beginning again after the holiday break or directly made to the treasurer: Carol Drenth, 10200 Bennett, Lowell MI 49331.

BANK TELLERS

Ionia County National Bank has full-time positions open for that of a Bank Teller at our offices in Ionia. We are also seeking full-time Bank Tellers who will assist in covering vacations and leaves of absences in all offices. This is an excellent career opportunity for individuals who are seeking a pleasant work environment with opportunity for advancement. The ideal candidate will possess excellent customer service skills; the ability to process paying and receiving transactions accurately; have an excellent attendance record; and have an ability and eagerness to learn.

ICNB offers an excellent fringe benefit package for full-time positions. It is complete with health, dental and vision insurance, 401 (k) and other paid benefits. All qualified candidates should stop by any of our locations to complete an application or submit their resume to:

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Ionia County National Bank
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Ionia, MI 48846
Fax: 616-527-8734
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Health

With Drs. Paul Gauthier, Jim Lang & Kevin Miller



Reviewing cold related injuries

We still have not seen the cold and snow, but it will soon be upon us. Cold related injuries occur most commonly in children and the elderly. There are three conditions we will review. They are frostnip, frostbite, and hypothermia.

Frostnip and frostbite have to do with the amount of circulating heat in our extremities, especially fingers, toes, and nose. Frostnip is the freezing of the top layers of skin. Frostbite is the freezing of all layers of the skin. The skin affected turns waxy white and feels numb. Skin remains soft in frostnip, but is hard in frostbite. Treatment consists of warming the extremity. Never rub the skin to warm it as this can cause skin damage. Frostbite is a serious problem that requires medical attention.

Hypothermia is a condition that occurs when body temperature falls below 96 degrees. The elderly are at a higher risk for this than others. Signs of hypothermia include: confusion or sleepiness, slowed or slurred speech, behavior change, excess shivering, and slow reactions. Some illnesses and medications place a person at greater risk for hypothermia. Alcohol also lowers the body's ability to retain heat. Hypothermia requires prompt medical attention. The body must be slowly rewarmed under medical supervision.

Procrastination is the art of keeping up with yesterday.
—Don Marquis



EARN \$500 CASH IF YOU CAN FIND A BUYER FOR THIS MOBILE HOME!

11376 Denise St., S.E., Lowell, MI Lot #126
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For additional pictures of interior, please call or request via e-mail.

Contact Rodney D. VandenHout
Home (616) 897-0174 or Cell: (616) 299-2506
or e-mail: rodney_d_vanden-hout@yahoo.com

COMING EVENTS

Notices in The Ledger's "Coming Events" are free of charge to any nonprofit organization in the Lowell, Ada, Alto, and Saranac areas. We prefer such notices to be kept brief and to be submitted by mail, but will accept notices by phone at 897-9261.

EVERY MONTH: The Flat River Snowmobile Club meets at the clubhouse at 11841 Potters Rd. just east of Montcalm Ave. For meeting dates and times call 897-5015. Guests are welcome.

1ST SUN. OF EACH MON.: Family Council of Laurels of Kent volunteer group meets at 3 p.m. to discuss enhancing the lives of residents and staff, promoting a more pleasant living and working environment in the home. Public is invited to attend.

EVERY MON.: Lowell High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Friends - meets from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in members' homes. See poster in high school cafeteria or call 676-1355 for details.

SECOND MON. OF EACH MONTH: Fallsburg Historical Society holds its monthly board meeting in the meeting room of Englehardt Library at 7 p.m. Public invited.

SECOND MON. OF EACH MONTH: The Lowell Board of Education meets at 7:00 p.m. in the Administration Building, former Runciman Elementary, 300 High Street.

SECOND MON. OF EACH MONTH: The Bowne Township Historical Society holds its regular meetings at the Historical Museum at 84th and Alden Nash, 7:30 p.m.

MON. OR TUES.: Cub Scouts for boys in 1st - 5th grades, in Alto or in Lowell. Contact Terry Amidon at 897-8751 for more information.

FOURTH MONDAY OF EACH MONTH: American Legion Clark-Ellis Post 152 at Lowell V.F.W. Hall, 307 E. Main St. at 8 p.m.

EVERY 1ST MON.: V.F.W. Post #8303 meets at V.F.W. Clubroom, 307 E. Main St., Lowell, 7:30 p.m.

EVERY 1ST TUES.: Adults with AD/HD Issues Group meeting at Calvin College, 7-9 p.m. No cost. All welcome. For info, call Gary Engle at 897-6325 or 248-2423.

1ST TUES.: WINGS Parent Group meetings from 7:30 to 9 p.m., usually in Board Room at 300 High St. Business meetings are on odd months & program meetings on even months. Open to any interested parents.

EVERY 1ST TUES.: Adults with AD/HD Issues Group meeting at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 32156 4 Mile NE (& E. Beltline) at 7 p.m. Call Linda at 874-5662. For teen group info., call Sarah 281-6588.

TUES.: Take Off Pounds Sensibly Tops MI#372 meets at Key Heights Mobile Home Park Community Building. Weigh-ins at 5:45 p.m.

TUES.: Flat River Woodcarvers meet at LAAC from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. New members welcome.

EVERY 2ND WED.: Grand Rapids Machine Knitters Club meets at Kentwood Library, 4799 Kalamazoo Ave. SE at 1 p.m. Call Sara Coates 365-1247 or Bette Frieswyk at 949-8655 for info.

EVERY 2ND WED.: G.F.W.C. Lowell Women's Club meets at 12 p.m. in the community room at Schneider Manor, 725 Bowes Rd.

EVERY 2ND TUES.: Lowell Masonic Lodge regular meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Center, 119 Lincoln Lake, Lowell. All Masons are welcome.

EVERY 3RD TUES.: Parents of children with AD/HD Issues Group meeting at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 32156 4 Mile NE (& E. Beltline) at 7 p.m. Call Linda at 874-5662. For teen group info., call Sarah 281-6588.

EVERY 1ST & 3RD TUES.: Lowell Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Look Memorial Fire Station, S. Hudson.

EVERY 3RD TUES.: Parents of children with AD/HD Issues Group meeting at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 32156 4 Mile NE (& E. Beltline) at 7 p.m. Call Linda at 874-5662. For teen group info., call Sarah 281-6588.

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EVERY OTHER WED.: 6:45-8:45 p.m. G.E.M.S. Girls Club - Calvary Christian Reformed Church. Girls ages 8-13. 897-8694.

EVERY WED.: Pioneer Clubs 6:30-8 p.m. Evergreen Missionary Church, 10501 Settlewood Dr. Children ages 4 thru 7th grade. Call 897-5894 for details.

EVERY WED.: 8 p.m. ALANON meets at Lowell Congregational Church basement.

EVERY WED.: Rotary meets at noon at Lowell Masonic Temple.

EVERY WED.: The "Peppers" (senior adults) meets at Franciscan Life Process Center from 1-3:30 p.m. \$10 per week. Transportation available. Call Pat at 897-7842.

EVERY 2ND WED.: Grand Rapids Machine Knitters Club meets at Kentwood Library, 4799 Kalamazoo Ave. SE at 1 p.m. Call Sara Coates 365-1247 or Bette Frieswyk at 949-8655 for info.

EVERY 2ND WED.: G.F.W.C. Lowell Women's Club meets at 12 p.m. in the community room at Schneider Manor, 725 Bowes Rd.

EVERY 4TH WED.: Elderly volunteers needed to participate in the Intergenerational program with school-age children from Lowell in seasonal activities. Times available: 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. or 12:45 to 1:45 p.m. Call Sister Colleen Ann Nagle, F.S.E. at the Franciscan Child Development Center, 897-7842.

EVERY 4TH WED.: Support group for Peripheral neuropathy meets at 4 p.m. at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 2560 Lake Michigan Dr. N.W., Grand Rapids. Call 897-9794.

EVERY WED.: Overeaters Anonymous, 7:30 p.m. at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, 7495 Cascade Rd. (at 36th St.) No fees, no dues, no weigh-ins.

EVERY THURS.: Take Off Pounds Sensibly Tops MI No. 333, Saranac, meets at the Saranac Public Library. Weigh-ins at 6:45 p.m.

THURS.: Weight Watchers meets at Lowell Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington, at 5:30 and 7 p.m. Registration begins 1/2 hour before meetings. New members are invited to join at any time. Call 1-800-651-6000.

EVERY THURS.: - St. Mary's Pregnancy Crisis Center, 402 Amity St., non-denominational help for pregnant women and adolescents at the school. From 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.; on Mondays from 5:30 - 8 p.m. Phone 897-9393.

FIRST THURS.: 4-H drama club examines theater-related topics, creative and personal development skills. Meetings held at Lowell Middle School choir room. For information call 897-1502 after 5 p.m.

FIRST AND THIRD THURS.: The Alto Lions Club meets at Bowne Center Fellowship Hall, corner of 84th & M-50 (Alden Nash) at 7 p.m.

EVERY 2ND THURS.: N.A.R.F.E. meets 1:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 E. Fulton.

EVERY THURS.: Saranac Community and Area MusicMakers at Saranac High School. Choir: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; Band: 7:30 - 8:15 p.m. Call Kathy at 642-6316/897-5981 for info.

EVERY SECOND THURS.: Lowell V.F.W. Auxiliary #8303 meets at 3:30 p.m. at the V.F.W. Post, 307 W. Main St., Lowell.

EVERY THIRD THURS.: Parents Supporting Parents-support group at Franciscan Life Process Center offers topics and discussion for parents of children all ages. Call 897-7842 for time.

EVERY THIRD THURS.: Royal Arch Masons regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Lowell Masonic Center, 119 Lincoln Lake, Lowell. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

EVERY THIRD THURS.: LaLeche League of Ada, Cascade & Lowell meets at 6:30 p.m. for socializing; meeting at 7 p.m. Mother to mother support for pregnant & breastfeeding women. Nursing children are welcome to attend. Located at a church in Ada. Please call 752-8300 for more information.

SECOND SAT. OF EVERY MONTH: The Ada Historical Society meets at the Averill Historical Museum of Ada, 7144 Headley at 1 p.m.

SECOND THURS. OF EACH MONTH: Genealogy - The Alto Family Tree Club meets at Alto Public Library from 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

ONCE A MONTH SAT.: Franciscan Life Process Center program for siblings of children with special needs, ages 5-15 from 1-4 p.m. Activities include cooking, music, arts, crafts, etc. Call Sister Mary Margaret 897-7842 to register and find out dates.

SECOND SAT.: Lowell Amateur Radio Club meets at Lowell High School. 9 a.m. social gathering; 10 a.m. meeting. LARC sponsors the 145.27 MHz area radio repeater system.

EVERY FRI. & SAT.: Averill Historical Museum of Ada at 7144 Headley is open from 1 to 4 p.m. Open other times by appointment. Call 676-9346.

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM HOURS: Tues., Sat. & Sun.: 1-4 p.m.; Thurs., 1-8 p.m. Families: \$10; individuals \$3; ages 5-17 \$1.50; members are free.

ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY HOURS: Mon. - Wed., 12-8 p.m.; Thurs. & Fri.: 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat.: 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

WOMEN OF THE MOOSE: Business meeting held the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

LOWELL AREA ARTS COUNCIL: Open Tues., Wed. & Fri.: noon - 5 p.m.; Thurs.: noon - 7 p.m.; Sat.: 1-4 p.m. 149 S. Hudson.

FRI., DEC. 14: Cyclamen Chapter #94 OES potluck dinner before the regular meeting at Lowell Masonic Center. Bring dish to pass & own table service. Family invited to dinner at 6 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

SAT., DEC. 22: Past Matrons of Cyclamen Chapter #94 OES meet at Bill & Nancy Wood's for Christmas potluck. Husbands invited. Bring a dish to pass and Teddy Bear for the Hug-A-Bear program. Eat at 6 p.m. Social time before dinner; meat/beverage furnished.

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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

LOWELL SENIOR NEIGHBORS CALENDAR 897-5949

MON.: 8:30 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall.

TUES.: 8:30 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall; 1 p.m. Bible Study.

WED.: Varied activities.

SPECIAL EVENTS

WED., DEC. 12: 10:45 a.m. Nails by Sharon; Noon: Movie.

THURS., DEC. 13: Noon Luncheon with Connie Bos in Saranac, \$4.

FRI., DEC. 14: 12:40 Shopping at Family Fare; Noon: Birthday/Anniv. Party, Bingo.

SUN., DEC. 16: 4 p.m. Holiday concert @ Mayflower Cong. Church.

MON., DEC. 17: 12:40 p.m. Shopping at Centerpointe Mall; cribbage.

MON. & TUES., DEC. 24 & 25: Center closed.

THURS.: 9 a.m. Walk/Shop at the Malls; 9:30 a.m. Crafts; 1 p.m. Euchre.

FRI.: 8:30 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall.

TUES., DEC. 18: Noon Christmas Party, \$3 gift exchange, Christmas music & singing, Skip Weymouth at the keyboard.

WED., DEC. 19: 8 a.m. Women's breakfast; 10:30 Advisory Council; 12:40 p.m. Shopping at Family Fare.

THURS., DEC. 20: Noon: Dance.

FRI., DEC. 21: 12:40 p.m. Program by Christian Life Center.

2001-02 Red Arrow spikers set to implement quick hit style

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Under the tutelage of second-year head coach, Connie Black, Lowell's volleyball team will play an old traditional-style game this season.

"It's a new system, but I think it fits our personnel," Black

explains. "It's a quicker attack system that uses multiple attack patterns. The idea is simple: attack quickly and where the opponents aren't."

The system requires a setter to read the defense and get the ball to the right hitter. Black believes he's got just the right person in junior, Katelyn Bush. "She's smart, quick and eager to learn," Black said. "It requires her to read the defense, make good decisions and for the quick hitter to read the timing."

Bush's four biggest targets will be Kelly Fitzpatrick, Kellie Baker, Courtney Phillips and Heather Becker. "Kelly is strong and understands the philosophy. She's looking good early," Black explains. "Kellie is a terrific blocker, a strong

hitter and quite the team leader. Courtney is quick and super athletic. Heather is my super sophomore. She's going to be good."

Filling the outside hitting positions will be Colleen Myers, Jenell Gemmill, Kim Huyser and Cori Drenth.

Gemmill is described as a tenacious athlete. "She's coming along and will help us on the outside. She and Kim are fitting and learning," Black said. "Cori will be used in the middle and on the outside as an option player."

Defensively Black will count on his "defensive demons," Jenny Wagner, Myers and Molly Clark. "We will count heavily on them for serve reception."

There is never a better measure of what a person is than what he does when he's absolutely free to choose.

William M. Bulger

You can't depend on your judgement when your imagination is out of focus.
—Mark Twain

Attention All Coaches, Proud Parents, Athletes & Others Who Wish To Submit Photos In The Ledger...



It is important that the subject's face not be shaded in order to print your photo clearly in the paper.

All group pictures should be taken WITHOUT caps, visors, etc.

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Lowell spikers tie for 5th at Creston invitational

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Lowell's volleyball team did not lose a game until the quarterfinals of the Creston Invitational on Saturday.

The Red Arrows finished fifth overall, winning eight of the 10 games it played. Their only two defeats came at the hands of West Catholic 13-15, 4-15.

"The girls had a bit of a letdown and missed some serves against West Catholic," Lowell volleyball coach, Connie Black said. "Eliminating service errors is something we need to work on."

As a team, Lowell's service percentage was 80 percent for the day. "We missed serves at the wrong time, es-

pecially against West Catholic," said Black. In pool play, the Red Arrows defeated Tri County 15-3, 15-13; Ottawa Hills 15-4, 15-12; and Creston 15-1, 15-7.

In the opening round of the playoff, Lowell swept Grand Rapids Central 15-8, 15-6.

"Winning eight of 10 games is definitely a confidence builder. Overall, I thought the girls played well," Black said. "This was a good experience situation for the girls."

Courtney Phillips and Kelly Fitzpatrick led Lowell

in blocks with four apiece. They also had a team-leading 22 and 20 kills respectively. Katelyn Bush recorded 57 assists for the day while hitting on 94 percent (50 of 53) of her serves and dropping in 15 aces.

Jenny Wagner and Jenell Gemmill led Lowell in serve receive percentage at 97 and 92 percent respectively. Lowell hosts Greenville on Wednesday (Dec. 12).

The art of living lies not in eliminating but in growing with troubles.
—Bernard M. Baruch

Post season soccer honors handed out to a handful of Red Arrows

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Solid team play often results in many post-season individual awards.

Lowell soccer team's 15-5-1 record, the best in school history, did just that.

Senior Zach Stauffer and sophomore Sam Oberlin both were recognized with all-state honors.

Stauffer, named to second team all-state, was honored for his defensive efforts as a sweeper and Oberlin, third team all-state, was recognized for his play at midfield.

Oberlin finished the season with school records for goals (24) and points (53) in a season.

The two Red Arrow soccer players were also the only two Lowell players to receive all regional, all district and all conference honors.

Teammate Chris Cross was tabbed honorable mention all conference. The senior finished the year with four goals and 15 assists. He was also recognized with all district honors as well as Craig Carpenter and Josh Anderson.

Carpenter collected two goals and an assist while Anderson gave up an average of just one goal per game during the 2001 season. In 22 games, the Lowell keeper allowed just 22 goals. He recorded 153 saves.

"It was a great season," said Lowell soccer coach, Paul Legge.



The mail box was invented in 1810 by Thomas Brown. He later became Governor of Florida in 1849.

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PICTURES: Pictures will be kept on file at The Ledger office for two months after it's been published. They will then be discarded.

- a). Pictures submitted to The Ledger for publication **MUST** include names (from left to right) of everyone in the picture. Pictures submitted without names will not be published.
- b). Avoid having more than 5 people in a picture.
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Mail information to The Lowell Ledger,
105 N. Broadway, PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or drop it off at The Ledger office.

All items MUST be brought in NO LATER THAN 5 p.m. ON THE MONDAY before that week's issue.

DeRath and Mendez lead the way to Lowell's crowning point at Howell

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

When looking for weights where one might be able to exploit Lowell's wrestling lineup, they may start with the freshman at 103 pounds.

As Woodhaven, Constantine and Howell found out Saturday at the Howell Invitational, that would be a mistake.

Joe Mendez may be a freshman in numerical terms, but he wrestles with the poise and confidence of an upperclassman.

Mendez went 4-0 Saturday in winning the championship at 103 pounds. The Red Arrow had to defeat two state qualifiers in the semifinals and finals. He was named the invitational's outstanding lightweight wrestler.

"Am I surprised? Not really. Not with what he did this past summer and the good tourney he had in Fargo, North Dakota," Lowell wrestling coach, Dave Strejc said. "I know Joe's ability. He wrestles with the poise and confidence of an upperclassman."

In the semifinals, Mendez defeated Howell's Dave Feeley 4-3 and then in the finals he decisioned Feeley's teammate, Drew Minoch 8-2.

Defending state champion, Ian DeRath cruised through his four matches with three pins and an 11-4 decision over Northview's Tony Pitsch in the finals.

"Ian just has fantastic technique," Strejc said.

The Red Arrows won the tournament with 177 points. Howell was second with 162 and Northview placed third with 159.5. Finishing out the top 10 were Goodrich 136, Northmont 113, Rochester Adams 102.5, Constantine 97.5, Portage Central 96.5, Flat Rock 90 and Fraser 79.5.

Taking second in their respective weight classes were Brandon Kinney (119), Mike Forward (171) and Brendon Frazier (189).

Kinney posted two pins and a major decision before getting pinned by Fraser's Martin Fall at 1:47 of the first period.

Forward recorded three pins on his way to finals where he

was major decisioned by Brighton's Craig Kern.

Frazier earned two decisions and posted a pin before losing 13-6 in the finals to Eaton Rapids' John Dickerson.

"Brendon's setting the stage and getting ready for the end of the year. I like where he is right now," Strejc said.

Bobby Gingerich, wrestling at 145, finished third with his only loss coming in the semi-finals to Craig Fraser of Rochester Adams.

"I'm pleased with the way everyone wrestled. Everyone is doing the good and right things," Strejc explained. "There is a foundation on which we can build."

Lowell entered the tournament without three of its starters: J.J. Wilder (recovering from an ankle injury), and Ben Fleet and Ben Vaught who did not make the trip so they could take their ACT's.

Other Red Arrows who wrestled on Saturday were Mike Nearing, 112 pounds, 3-2; Beau Wilder, 130, 3-2; Kevin Frazier, 135, 1-2; Jim Kelly, 140, 2-3; Braton Fredline, 152, 3-2; Greg Vanderwal, 160, 0-2; Jason Murray, 215, 1-2; and Ben Barle, HWT, 0-2.

Lowell boys energized in 58-53 win over Lakewood

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

With its energy level eclipsing the excitement identified with a season-opener high school boys basketball game, Lowell dealt Lakewood a 58-53 nonconference loss Tuesday night.

The victory held other significance as well - it was first-year coach Jeff McDonald's first win as a varsity coach; it was also the second straight year the Red

Arrows opened the season with a win against the Vikings.

"I was extremely pleased with the competitiveness and energy level our boys displayed - especially in that first quarter," McDonald explained.

Lowell's fast-start fortunes were fueled by two Mark Catlin buckets off offensive rebounds in the game's opening minutes. "That set the tone for the rest

of the game," McDonald said.

The energized start propelled Lowell to a 19-9 first-quarter advantage against Lakewood's zone.

"We did a pretty nice job of running our offense against their zone," McDonald said.

"The key was we displayed patience and discipline, and Sam (Oberlin) did a nice job with penetration. We didn't settle for the 19-footer. We reversed the ball two-four

times and got shots that were good for us."

At the defensive end, the Red Arrows employed a conservative press supported by a hard man-to-man defense.

"We didn't shoot well, but we kept shooting," said Lakewood coach Mark Farrell.

"When we got down early, I thought after the adrenaline settled, we'd be all right. However, we'd make a little run and then we'd miss a key shot or two."

Lowell built a 39-25 advantage late in the third quarter before withstanding a 9-0 Viking run which cut the Red Arrow lead to five at 39-34 early in the fourth quarter.

Near perfection from the foul line in the fourth quarter enabled Lowell to overcome its struggles in the final eight minutes. "We didn't take care of the ball real well," McDonald explained.

It won the game, however, with 13-of-14 shooting from the charity stripe. Lowell netted 12 straight shots from the line in the final four-and-a-half minutes of the contest.

"It's good that we were able to withstand Lakewood's run in the fourth quarter. That helps build confidence," McDonald said.

Oberlin led all Lowell scorers with 17 points. Catlin

netted 15, of which 11 came from the foul line. He was also Lowell's leading rebounder with nine.

Creston 59
Lowell 57

The Polar Bears used their athleticism and jumped on the Red Arrows early in building a 16-6 first quarter advantage.

It extended the lead to 32-14 at halftime en route to a 22-point victory.

Mark Catlin and Sam Oberlin led Lowell in scoring with nine and eight points respectively.



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Lowell: Ranch home on 2 acre wooded lot. 5 bedrooms, 3 full baths and over 2,700 sq. ft. of living space. Gas log fireplace. Walkout with finished family room, big back deck. **\$199,900. Joice Smith**

Saranac: All brick multi-level home on country acre at the city limits. Large bedrooms. Fireplace with wood insert. Large pole barn. New roof and windows. **\$169,900. Joice Smith**



Saranac: (M-21 E. to Pinckney N. to Centerline W.) 3 br., 2 bath on beautiful hilltop 2 acres. Great floor plan and new carpet. Lowell phone # and address. Saranac schools. 1000 feet off blacktop. **\$106,000. Joice Smith**



Lowell: (Lincoln Lk. N to Fallsburg Pk., N to Downes E.). Hilltop ranch, 4 bd., 3 bath, new carpet, central air, sliders to deck, all on 10 acres. Living room with fireplace. Walkout lower level. Attached 2-stall garage. New 32x48 heated floor pole barn. 4 miles north of town. **\$239,900. Joice Smith**



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Murray Lake Access: Great family home, just 3 years new, with 4 huge bedrooms, and 3 full baths. Over 2,300 sq. ft. finished and a lower level offering additional future living area. Added features of this home include central air, underground sprinkling, appliances and immediate possession. Access to private park on Murray Lake with picnic area, beach and much more. **\$174,900. Pat & Toni Schaefer**



Lowell: Close to town with over 2 acres! This 3 bedroom 1 1/2 bath home offers the convenience of being less than 1 mile from town and the security of country living. The home has a maintenance-free exterior and recently remodeled inside! **\$110,000. Charles Lupton**



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Lowell: Home shows like new. Completely remodeled. Big master suite. Fieldstone fireplace. Beautiful 3 seasons room with tile floor. Hardwood floor in formal dining room. Cathedral ceiling in living room. All on 6 private acres. **\$239,900. Joice Smith**



Lowell: Great starter home. 3 bedroom and 1+ bath. New Pergo floor in living room. All freshly painted white and waiting for your color finish. Full basement open and dry. **\$106,900. Joice Smith**



Lowell Masterpiece: Situated on 2.4 acres this breathtaking all-brick two-story home boasts quality, and pride of ownership. Relax and enjoy views of the Flat River and state-owned land from the kitchen, dining area, living room and sitting area in deluxe master suite. Features of the home include: a beautiful fireplace, kitchen with maple cabinetry, built-in buffet and desk, formal dining room, three-stall garage, central air, underground sprinkling and huge family entrance to home with loads of storage, access to laundry, half bath and mud room. Plus much more. **\$474,000. Pat & Toni Schaefer**

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Lowell Classic: Lovely all-brick home with 70 ft. of frontage on the Flat River. Loads of character with original woodwork, walnut staircase, stone fireplace, beautiful formal dining room with built-ins. Enjoy the wonderful landscaping on this, one of the largest lots in the city of Lowell. Features include air and underground sprinkling. **\$184,900. Pat & Toni Schaefer**



Lowell new construction: Quality Sundry home on 2.1 acres. Spacious kitchen with maple cabinetry and center island with snack bar. The great room is extra large with cathedral ceilings and a deluxe fireplace. Enjoy the views from the 8x32 front porch or the 10 x 24 back deck. The master suite is decked out with whirlpool tub, double vanity and a huge walk-in closet. The setting is peaceful and convenient just minutes to Fallsburg Park, the Flat River and thousands of acres of state land. **\$219,900. Pat Schaefer**

Lowell: Vacant land 40 secluded acres, rolling and wooded. **\$189,900. Joice Smith**

JV icers upend Jenison

Lowell's junior varsity hockey team defeated Jenison 5-3.
 Ted McCoy recorded a hat trick with assists from Corey Kelly, Ramsey Charrouf, Brandon John and John Truskowski. David Blair and David Sweeney also contributed with goals.
 Goaltender David Maylone saved 20 of 23 shots. The JV team now stands at 1-1-3

Truth exists, only falsehood has to be invented. —Georges Braque



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SYNOPSIS REGULAR MEETING OF THE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP BOARD
November 19, 2001 - 7:00 p.m.

Minutes of the October 15, 2001 Regular Meeting Accepted as Read

Motions Approved:

- Motion to return General and Community Commercial District Amendments to Planning Commission for further review
- Motion to approve Special Use Permit amendments for ITM
- Motion to adopt Federal Poverty Income Standards for 2002 assessments.
- Motion to adopt Township web site policy
- Motion to adopt Resolution 4-2001, approving precinct split for Vergennes Township
- Motion to approve meeting schedule for 2002
- Motion to support joint grant application to Lowell Area Community Fund for Natural Features inventory of community
- Motion to approve agreement with Kent County for Wide Area Network, contingent upon attorney review
- Motion to request Planning Commission to develop ordinance language regarding allowances for height of steeples
- Motion to request Planning Commission to review ordinance regarding front setback requirements for signs.
- Motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Next regularly scheduled meeting December 17, 2001.

Complete minutes are available on the township web site at www.vergennestwp.org or at the township offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell.

Mari Stone, Vergennes Township Clerk

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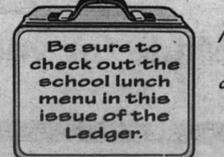
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Thank you to all who shared in my 90th birthday party, for your cards, gifts and friendship.
 Dorothy Alderink.

Fiscal forecast has Gillette and district saving every dollar

By Thaddeus J. Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor

An amendment to the June budget showed revenues exceeding expenditures.

Reason to celebrate? "We haven't seen that too often," concurred Lowell Schools assistant superintendent to finance and personnel, Connie Gillette.

While the immediate amended snapshot shows the district with a budget in the black in the amount of \$52,429, it was clouded up by what the near future holds.

Gillette told the board of education Monday night that she is already beginning to take precautionary steps in anticipation of having to cut \$1-\$1.5 million from next year's budget.

"We've been told we're in a recession, that our foundation allowance funds will be frozen next year at the current state aid amount of \$6,500," Gillette said.

Resulting in the district receiving approximately \$800,000 less than anticipated in student aid.

Gillette said she also expects categorical cuts in At-Risk and the Readiness programs.

In an effort to be proactive, Gillette said the district will look to see what it can do in the second semester of this year to begin preparing for next year.

"All districts are sharing in this pain, if comfort can be found in that," Gillette explained.

Lowell superintendent, Bert Bleke said the district will take a hard look at things and plan for the worse case scenario. "We will be creative and systematic in an effort to maintain the quality of education in Lowell," Bleke said.

In identifying what affects the budget and fund balance, Gillette points to decisions at the state level, unanticipated revenues and expenses, gas prices, heating prices (being helped so far this year by the warm temperatures) and interest rates.

Reasons the amended budget currently shows excess

revenue according to the assistant superintendent to finance and personnel are:

- Increased revenues in student numbers because of the district's Young 5's program;
- A carry over of federal funds and universal service funds;

and decreased interest rates.

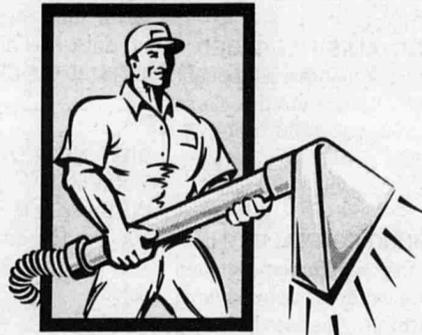
Changes on the expenditure side of the ledger were:

- A decrease in the proposed 3 percent increase in discretionary items;
- Increased summer school costs;
- and cash purchase of one used bus and two new buses.

Gillette noted that while the school fund balance is at \$3.1 million, \$264,000 of that is in reserve for the opening of the district's new Murray Lake Elementary building.

With a bleak financial forecast staring it in the face, Gillette said the district will need to protect every dollar.

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