

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 23, Issue 13

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, December 26, 2001

City council decides to let special zoning enforcement contract run out

By J.N. Boorsma
Contributing Writer

Due to the fact the zoning ordinance for RVs is under review, the Lowell City Council opted to let the special zoning agreement, to enforce such measures, run out after the 90-day trial period.

The council received a report from Imperial Municipal Services (IMS), which

was contracted with the city to serve as a Code Enforcement Officer seeking out violations on such issues as landscaping and RVs. During the 90-day trial period, IMS spent 38.75 hours performing the Code Enforcement inspections, which included handling phone calls and sending out letters to violators.

By the end of October, 145 violations had been verified as cleaned up. The of-

ficer also forwarded 13 unlicensed vehicles and/or junk violations to the Lowell Police Department.

"I am happy to see that they did more than just RV enforcement," said councilmember, Dan Brubaker.

Through the process of the Code Enforcement Officer, several residents were notified and not pleased to learn they were in violation of city ordinances when it came to such vehicles as motorhomes, boats, and other recreational-type crafts. Residents came to council and planning commission meetings with concerns over the way the ordinance was written and because of that, the planning commission is now reviewing a new RV ordinance.

Since that portion of the ordinance is under review, city manager, David Pasquale recommended the Code Enforcement Officer contract be allowed to run out until the ordinance is re-defined. IMS will still continue with planning and zon-

ing enforcement which will encompass sign permit applications.

Concerns over RVs or snow removal would be handled on a complaint basis for now, Pasquale said.

Mayor Mike Blough questioned, however, which ordinances would be enforced and felt the city really needed to consider what it was putting in its ordinance if the enforcement were only to be handled through a complaint-basis process.

The Code Enforcement Officer position became a reality after the planning commission decided to make changes to the landscaping ordinance and Blough raised the question of how it was going to be enforced.

Blough said he felt the city was kind of "dodging the bullet" on the issue of what to enforce. Brubaker said he could agree the need to carefully way changes does need to be enforced, but didn't have a problem suspending the Code Enforcement Officer for now.

Special Zoning, cont'd. pg. 8

2001 busy year for city and 2002 looks even busier

By J. N. Boorsma Contributing Writer

The Showboat agreement, irrigation system for Creekside Park and Recreation Park ballfield, a new historical museum, and the completion of S. Hudson St. — these are just a few of the accomplishments mentioned at the city council regular meeting Dec. 17.

"These really are not my accomplishments, but the city's," said city manager, David Pasquale as he presented a list of some of the major events that took place within the city of Lowell during 2001.

The list marks a busy time for the city which maintained and completed a full schedule of activities ranging from the turf runway being extended at the City Airport to the successful negotiation with Lowell Charter Township regarding a second amendment of the water supply agreement.

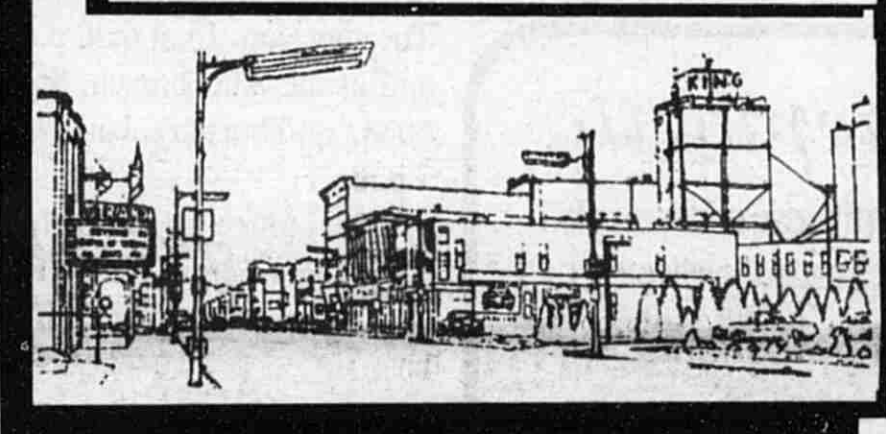
Perhaps the biggest accomplishment was the reconstruction project of S. Hudson, which was done in cooperation with the Kent County Road Commission.

"South Hudson was a major accomplishment," Pasquale said during a phone interview. "Anyone who is associated with the city is very happy with what was completed. It has certainly helped a great deal."

Of course, just as big was the opening in September of the Lowell Area Historical Museum, which got off to a great start. Organizers unveiled plans for the museum's expansion in the second half of the duplex building located on the corner of Main and Hudson streets. That will take place after the YMCA leaves its current office space for its

Busy 2002, cont'd. pg. 8

Along Main Street



CHAMBER HOLIDAY

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce office is currently closed for the holidays. It will reopen Jan. 2. Happy New Year and thank you for supporting Lowell businesses, organizations and government entities.

LOWELL SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB

Anyone who missed signing up for discount lift tickets for Cannonsburg Ski Area may still do so at the main office desk at Cannonsburg Ski Area. Ski Club advisors are Kathy Talus (middle and high school) and Heather Kohtz (elementary).

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR ALL-SCHOOL MUSICAL

Lowell High School is in need of many prom-style dresses for this year's all-school musical Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella*. If you would be willing to donate to the production, they may be brought into the high school office daily from 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.; all sizes and colors are needed but especially dresses with long full skirts.

YMCA HOLIDAY HOURS

The Lowell Wellness Center hours are: Dec. 26: 7 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.; Dec. 31 (New Year's Eve) from 5:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Jan. 1: Closed. The Teen Center and Lowell Main Office will be closed Dec. 31/Jan. 1.

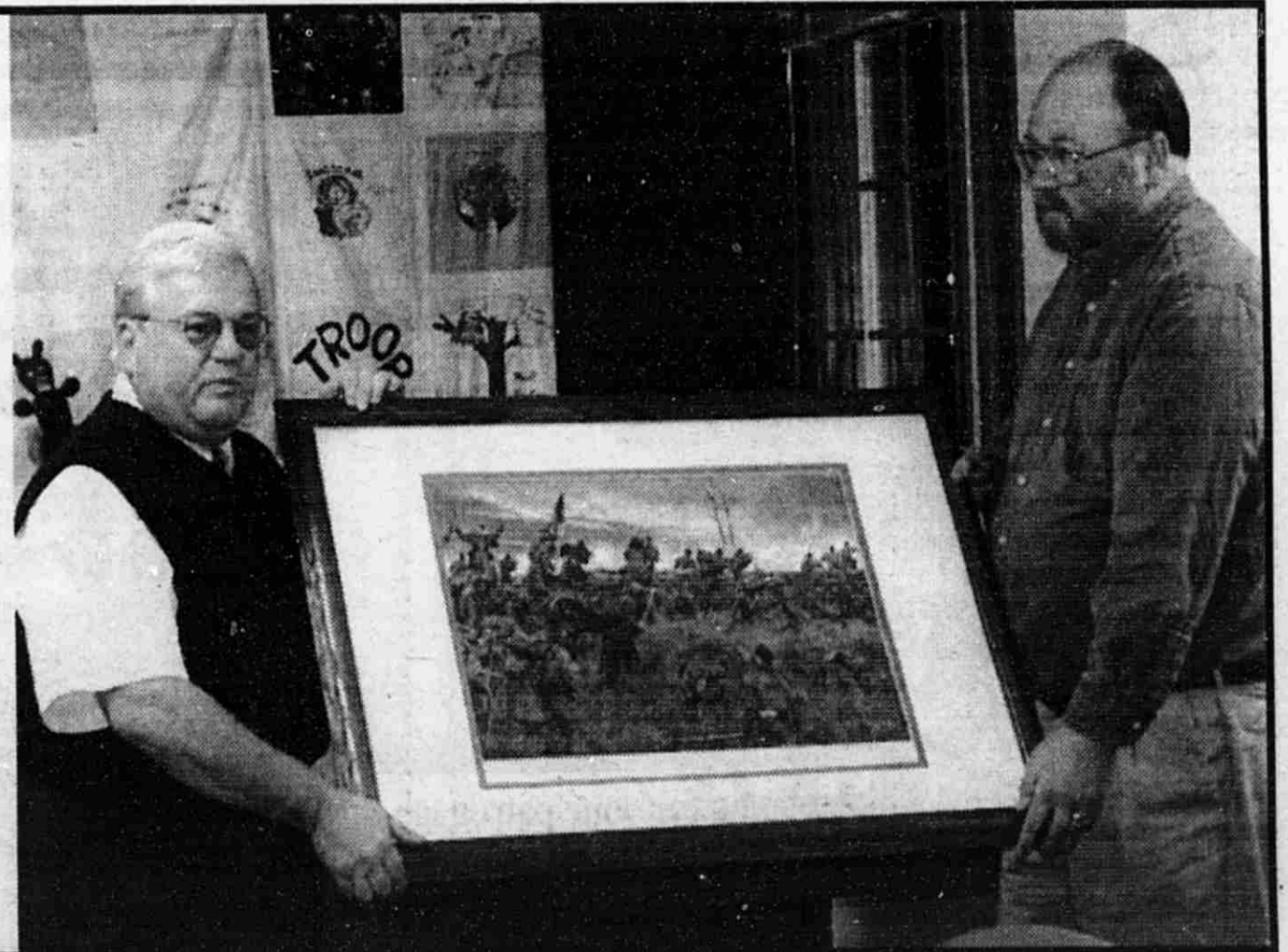
YMCA SPIRIT LEAGUE CLINIC

The YMCA will hold a second Spirit League clinic for 5th and 6th grade girls on Thursday, Jan. 3 at Cherry Creek Gym

Main Street, cont'd. pg. 8

City Hall presented Civil War print

Jack Misner, from Lowell Middle School's Benjamin Morse Society, presented the Lowell City Council with a limited edition Civil War print. Misner, left, standing with councilman Don Green, said the group was given the print and thought City Hall would be the best place to display it for the entire community to enjoy. Missing from the picture is society member, Sarah Lessens.



Here's to a Merry Christmas!

Hope you have a merry and safe holiday season.

Our best wishes to you and your family for happiness that lasts the whole year through!



INSIDE THE LEDGER

Page 14

LHS Football &
Lowell Lions
Club Champion
Book Drive For Kids

OBITUARIES

KINCAID - William C. Kincaid Jr., aged 69, of Lowell, passed away December 20, 2001. He was preceded in death by his wife Patricia, grandson Joseph, parents William C. Sr. and Isabella.

Mr. Kincaid is survived by his children William Kincaid of Lowell, Sandra (William) Carroll of Waterville, Ohio; grandchildren Christina, Misti and Jessica; brother Jack (Vera) Kincaid of Battle

Creek. Funeral services were held Sunday at Roth-Gerst Chapel, Lowell, Pastor Ken Ford of Alton Bible Church officiating. Interment Oakwood Cemetery.

RIES - Verity Jean Ries, aged 60, of Lowell, passed away

December 20, 2001, at Spectrum Health Butterworth Campus in Grand Rapids. She was born to Glen and Gladys (Ritenburgh) Ries on May 2, 1941 in Ionia. She graduated from Belding High School in 1959. She is survived by her mother and step-father Gladys

and Fred Blough of Lowell; two sisters Diane Sue Blough of Wyoming, MI, and Jennie Lou (Mark) Anderton of Oregon; three cousins Sylvia Sue Belcher of Lowell, Betty Lou and Wayne McKay of Kentwood and Thelma Lee (Bob)

Applegate of Grand Rapids; nieces and nephews Ken, Kelly, Reid, Elliott, Gus and Lynn; many aunts and uncles. Funeral services were held Saturday at Lake Funeral Home in Saranac with Rev. Joseph Fremmer officiating Interment Balcom Cemetery.

Alto Lions annual donation helps to develop practice habits and reading comprehension

The Alto Lions Club president, Bill Wieland, on behalf of the organization, presented a \$1500 check to Mary Ann Schram, principal of Alto Elementary on Dec. 3 for its Renaissance Accelerated Reading Program. This was the fifth year the Alto Lions have made a contribution to this particular program.

It originally grew out of a discussion with the school principal when the Lions Club representative sought to determine what children were in need of special attention in the Alto area. The question asked was, "What can we do to help?" The Lions have an outreach program to help meet the needs of the local community children and this is part of that program. Each year the Lions Club makes charitable contributions to over 20 individuals and groups, both locally and in the wider community.

The accelerated reading program is not a learn-to-read program, but is designed to develop comprehension and the practice of reading. The children select the books which are color-coded to individual reading levels. After reading the story, they discuss it with their reading partner. They also write a

book report and take a test by computer to discover how well they understood the point of the story. Each book has a point value based on difficulty and length. Credit is given to each child and recorded on a bulletin board for the number of points earned for each book.

Problems arose, however, when the number of recommended books in the library was inadequate. The contributions of the Alto Lions have enabled Alto Elementary to provide enough books which are sturdy hardcover and average about \$10 each.

Now that the program is in place for second through fifth grades, this year's contribution of \$1500 will enable Alto Elementary to purchase the necessary books to start the program for first graders. In the first grade all books will be kept in the classroom rather than the library, making it more accessible for both children and teachers.

The payoff for the Lions local outreach program has been the increase in the reading comprehension of the Alto students, and the feeling of community cooperation; or as Schram said, "This is a great community."

KDL presents Lord of the Rings

Teens can spend an hour in the alternative world of *Lord of the Rings* and learn about orcs, hobbits, dwarves and ents at Kent District Library. Look Who's "Tolkien," a program for ages 11 and up, comes to many Kent District Library branches in January.

The program, based on the popular *Lord of the Rings* series by J.R.R. Tolkien, fea-

tures several stations, with activities such as playing a trivia game, making a rune necklace out of clay and a glass bead, making Elven alphabet bookmarks, writing rune and Elven alphabet henna designs on participants' hands, solving Gollum's riddles from *The Hobbit* and playing a ring game. "Waybread" (Rice Crispy treats) will also be served.

The program will be at the Englehardt branch, 897-9596, Tuesday, Jan. 15 at 6:30 p.m. and at the Alto branch, 868-6038, on Thursday, Jan. 17 at 7 p.m.

For more information about the program, call Kent District Library at 784-2007.

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—Eleanor Roosevelt

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Lowell Campfire/USA Teens attend national convention

The Camp Fire USA EKA TA club of Lowell attended Camp Fire USA's *New Frontiers* National Convention in Fort Worth, Texas, in November. The group of teens: **Alex Getz, Bobby Gingerich, Christie Getz, Keri Justifer and Meagan Simpkins**, were chaperoned by Robin Getz and Kathy Gingerich.

The teens at the convention had two goals. The first was to focus on the last two years of activities in the various councils on the issue of Violence Prevention. The youth from councils all across the United States participated

in a March Against Violence through downtown Fort Worth. They carried posters, sang songs of unity and shouted anti-violence slogans. The march ended at the courthouse where the mayor of Fort Worth proclaimed Saturday, Nov. 3, 2001, as Camp Fire USA March Against Violence Day.

The second goal was to focus on a new issue for the next two years. The group attended presentations on three areas of concern: Social Justice, Media Literacy and Global Awareness. Global Awareness carried the most votes, and was chosen as the

next teen focus issue. In July, the Lowell teens hope to attend the Camp Fire USA Youth Forum in Atlanta, Georgia. At the forum, they will be presented with workshops on the subject of Global Awareness to increase their knowledge and ways in which they can enlighten, teach and advocate on the issue in their own community.

The Lowell youth had a wonderful time meeting Camp Fire USA youth from all across the country. Even within the United States, cultures vary. The friends and memories will last a lifetime.



Pictured, from left to right, are: Alex Getz, Meagan Simpkins, Robin Getz, Keri Justifer and Bobby Getz.

IN THE SERVICE

Army Pvt. William R. Hamilton has arrived at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Ala., to complete the ammunition specialist advanced individual training course.

The soldier will learn to assist in receipt, storage, issue, maintenance, modification, destruction, and demilitarization of conventional ammunition, munitions and explosive components according to technical and safety directives; perform ammunition supply stock control and accounting duties using

automated and manual procedures, and operate material handling equipment to maneuver ammunition
Hamilton is the son of William R. Hamilton and stepson of Chris Wendt of Lowell.
He is a 2001 graduate of Lowell Alternative High School.

Along The Trails of The Wittenbach Center
By Tammy DeBaar

The month of January is busy at the Wittenbach Agriculture and Environmental Center and Wege Natural Area. Winter programs abound. The following events will take place on Saturday, Jan. 5:

• Community Christmas Luminary Walk through the trails from 4-6 p.m. Showshoes are available to rent (\$10 adults/\$5 child size). Enjoy some hot chocolate and warm up after a walk thru nature.

• Christmas Tree Shredding from 12-4 p.m. This effort is supported by the Lowell High School Environmental Club to eliminate landfill waste and provide chips for the trails on the preserve.

• Trout Unlimited Junior Fishing Conservation Club (ages 12-18) will gather from 9-noon to fly tie, practice angling skills, study fish and clean local rivers.

• Girl Scout Badge program (\$2) is from 1-3 p.m.

A "Women's Hunter Safety Class" will be offered on Monday and Wednesday, Jan. 7 and 9 from 6-9 p.m. and on Saturday, Jan. 12 from 9-3 p.m. The cost is \$6 and includes lunch on Saturday.

For more information on these and other programs offered at the center, call Tammy at 987-1002.

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COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE AND SUMMARY OF THE REGULATORY EFFECT THEREOF

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on December 19, 2001, the Township Board of the Township of Grattan adopted Ordinance No. 01-03Z. The ordinance amends Section 18.01A of the Grattan Township Zoning Ordinance so to change the number of members on the Board of Appeals from five to seven members.

The amending ordinance will become effective January 2, 2002. A copy of the amending ordinance may be inspected or purchased at the Grattan Township offices, 12050 Old Belding Road, within the Township, during Township office hours.

Dated: December 26, 2001

TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GRATTA

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BUDGET HEARING NOTICE

Please take notice that there will be a budget hearing on Monday, January 7, 2002 followed by a Special Meeting of the Lowell Township Board. The hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash S.E., Lowell. At such time, in accordance with the law, a budget covering proposed expenditures and estimated revenues of the Township shall be submitted for consideration. Copies of the Proposed Budget are available at the Township Hall during regular office hours.

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Jerry Francis and Kathy Paroff of St. Mary's Catholic Church, standing in third row from the left, were part of an Italian singing tour with the Grand Rapids Diocese choir last month.

St. Mary's parishioners sing with Grand Rapids Diocese Choir

Jerry Francis and Kathy Paroff from St. Mary's Catholic Church of Lowell recently completed an Italian singing tour with the Grand Rapids Diocese Choir. Dr. Brandon Spence directed the Bishop's choir, leading them in six different locations between Nov. 21 and Dec. 1.

The group of 30 vocalists sang in St. Mark's Basilica in Venice, in the cathedral of St. Maria Del Fiore in Florence, and at the basilica of St. Francis of Assisi where the saint is buried. Rome was the city for the last three acappella stints. A public concert was held in the basilica of the 12 Holy Apostles for the people of Rome, and during a private audience a song was sung for Pope John Paul 2.

Songs included Gloria, Cantate Domino, Ave Maria by Stravinski, The Spirit of the Lord Is Upon Me, Salmo 150, Deep River and Go Now In Peace.

Some of the sites visited by the choral ensemble and their family members were St. Mark's Square, the Doge Place, Vatican Museum, Sistine Chapel, Trevi Fountain, Coliseum and many Roman ruins.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DEC. 27 - Helen Triplett, Mark Nyp, Linda Aksamitowski, Jay Clark.
DEC. 28 - Lisa Stormzand, C.J. Sokolowski, Matt Francisco.
DEC. 29 - Amanda Martin.

Donna Baker.
DEC. 30 - Stacy Klahn, Ben Hodges, Kyle Triplett, Joe Hunt, Stacey Craig, Joshua Gee, Maliree Trierweiler, Matthew Trierweiler.
DEC. 31 - Marcie Page, Bill DeHaan, Charles Boerema.
JAN. 1 - Tory Abel, John Wenger, Alice Hesche, Carolyn Yonker.
JAN. 2 - Rose Nead, Helen Kuiper.

ADA-LOWELL 5

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First shows on Christmas will start after 3pm.

SHOWTIMES 12/24 - 12/27

OLI (R) STARTS CHRISTMAS DAY
TUE 3:15, 6:45, 9:50
WED/TH 12:10, 3:15, 6:45, 9:50
KATE & LEOPOLD (PG-13)
STARTS CHRISTMAS DAY
TUE 4:50, 7:20, 9:45
WED/TH 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:45
JIMMY NEUTRON: BOY GENIUS (PG)
MON 11:00, 12:45, 2:30, 4:20
TUE 3:30, 5:15, 7:00, 8:45
WED/TH 12:00, 1:45, 3:30, 5:15, 7:00, 8:45
JOE SOMEBODY (PG)
MON 12:20, 2:30, 4:40
TUE 4:40, 7:10, 9:10
WED/TH 12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 7:10, 9:10
OLORO OF THE RINGS (PG-13)
MON 11:30, 3:00, 7:00
TUE 3:00, 6:30, 9:55
WED/TH 11:30, 3:00, 6:30, 9:55
NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE (R)
MON 11:10, 12:55, 2:40, 4:30
TU/WED/TH 10:30PM
HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE (PG)
MON 12:30, 4:00, 8:00
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| <p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street • 897-9396 Worship Sundays.....8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. Coffee Hour.....9:30 A.M. Sunday School.....9:50 A.M. REV. B. GORDON BARRY Nursery & child care available at both services Barrier - Free Entrance</p> | <p>EVERGREEN MISSIONARY CHURCH 10501 Sittewood • Ph. 897-7185 Sunday School.....9:45 A.M. Morning Worship.....11 A.M. Evening Service.....6:00 P.M. Prayer and Praise - Wed., 7:00 P.M. GLENN H. MARKS - Senior Pastor, 897-9110 STAN GERIG - Associate Pastor, 897-5894 ALL ARE WELCOME! (Barrier-Free)</p> | <p>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God) 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Pastor Jonathan Walker, Youth Pastor Jason Grear, Children & Young Adults SUNDAYS: Worship: 8:00 & 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. WEDNESDAYS: Family Night: (For All Ages) 7 p.m. Generation Jacob Youth: 7 p.m. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p> | <p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.iserv.net/~goodshp Sunday School.....9:00 A.M. Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p> | | |
| <p>THERE'S NO BETTER TIME TO BE AFFILIATED WITH A CHRISTIAN CHURCH Come worship with us. SUNDAY AT 11 A.M. LOWELL WESLEYAN CHURCH 1070 Lincoln Lake 1/2 mile north of Main Street</p> | <p>APOSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH Sunday Services 10:00 A.M. at the Cherry Creek Elementary School 12675 Foreman Road, Lowell, MI 49331 CALL FOR FREE HOME BIBLE STUDIES Pastor Robert L. Hubbard Phone: (616) 897-1267 website www.aplighthouse.com</p> | <p>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 201 N. Washington • 897-8800 Sunday School.....9:30 A.M. Morning Worship.....10:50 A.M. Sunday Evening.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday Family Ministry.....7:00 P.M. PASTOR TIM DESHAW Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p> | <p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.bclowell.org Rev. Burland Margesson & Rev. W. Lee Taylor Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor Sun. Worship Service..9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA/J.V.....Wed. 6:15 & 7 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free</p> | <p>ALTON BIBLE CHURCH Lincoln Lake Ave. at 3 Mile Road 897-5648 Sunday School.....10:00 A.M. Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M. Evening Praise.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday AWANA.....7:00 P.M. (Sept. - April) Prayer and Bible Study.....7:00 P.M. Pastor Ken Ford (Home) 897-6418 YOU ARE WELCOME!</p> | <p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL (United Church of Christ) 404 North Hudson • 897-5906 Worship and Church School.....10:00 A.M. Dr. Roger LaWarre.....Pastor Megan MacNaughton.....Music Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship</p> |



Viewpoint . . .



I promise...Scout's honor... cross my heart... hope to die... this is the last question and answer column on the China trip. And yes, I was a Boy Scout. After nearly three years I struggled to the rank of "second class". I believe that may still hold as a Beaver Patrol record in under-achievement.

Q. What is traffic like in China?
A. While in the cities of Shanghai, Beijing or Xian, the traffic was, in a word, confusing. Traffic is very heavy. Trucks, buses, taxis, cars, bicyclists, pedestrians and donkey carts somehow all get where they are going with minimal carnage. Drivers change lanes constantly with no turn signal. They use the horn instead. They use the horn for everything. They honk when changing lanes. They honk when passing. They honk when being passed. They honk when they are about to run your ass (donkey) over!

...I used the word "confusing" because, as a driver trained in the U.S., I can't understand why there isn't any road rage in this pandemonium. Not once did I see a driver so much as get the bird when cutting someone else off. My son-in-law's company provides him with a Chinese driver. This is understandable. Only a few Americans behind the wheel could easily tip the balance of their incoherent yet peaceful traffic structure, leading to a diplomatic crisis.

Q. How do the Chinese treat Americans?
A. The short answer is, "with open arms". I might add, "with outstretched palms". As with anywhere in the world, Americans mean money. Aside from that, I think the Chinese get a kick out of our culture. I'd thumb through the driver's newspaper everyday to look at the pictures, trying to get an idea of what was being covered. One day I was surprised to find an entire special supplement in the sports section about the National Basketball Association. No, I'm not referring to the Chinese NBA. There were color photos of Shaq and other NBA stars on every page. Go figure.

If the Chinese are receptive to us, then they downright worship American kids. You know I'd be lying if I didn't think my grandkids are extra cute, but the Chinese treat them like movie stars, or royalty, or zoo animals, or aliens, or something! My four-year-old granddaughter, Jim, has blond curls and is Shirley temple cute. My almost three-year-old grandson, Boog, has blond hair, blue eyes and a tan. He looks like a little surfer. Among 20 million Chinese in Shanghai who all share the same hair color, eye color and complexion, my grandkids do indeed stand out like they are from another planet.

Whenever we were out and about with the kids, even a rather imperceptive lout like myself soon noticed a crowd of people tagging along. When you made eye contact with one of these "followers" they would point at Jim or Boog and pantomime taking a picture. If we granted the request, the next thing we knew there would be a line of Chinese waiting to pose with Jim and/or Boog. It was like Santa Claus in a department store. The kids are going to grow up thinking they are rock stars.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. I have two photos that really illustrate the grandkid phenomenon. If I

published them, I wouldn't have anything to write about, so I'll try to explain them.

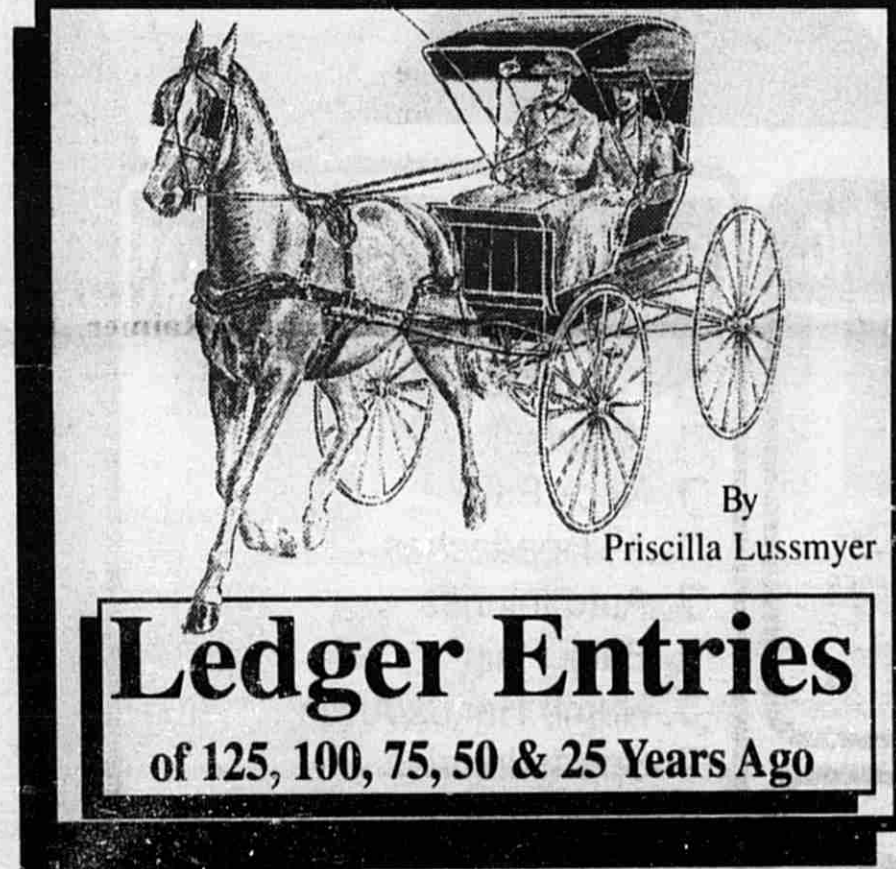
The first picture shows a group of maybe fifty Chinese in a curious throng. It was taken on a Sunday afternoon along the Shanghai waterfront area called the Bund. In a second picture I moved into the edge of the group, held the camera high over my head and shot down into the middle. The resulting photo revealed the top of Boog's blond head in this crowd of Chinese. He was in there shaking hands, having his picture taken and acting like the attention is an everyday occurrence. Which it is. These kids are in for a rude awakening when they come back to the States and they look like every other kid.

Q. Is your daughter's family enjoying their time in China?
A. The answer to that is, "what's not to enjoy"? They have good housing, great schools for the kids, an active social life among other ex-pats and a chance to spend two years in a completely different culture. Terese and I are thrilled that they have had this opportunity, even if they did "Shanghai" our grandkids.

Here's a little sidebar to all of this, then I'm going to keep my promise and end this "China Syndrome"

My granddaughter goes to school all day, five days per week. She gets her lessons in English and Chinese. She's only four years old, has been in country less than six months and can count in Chinese. She knows colors, shapes, body parts, etc. in Chinese. She has some conversational skills in Chinese and she can sing songs in the language. Saturday was my birthday and she sang "Happy Birthday" in Chinese over the phone. Priceless!!!

The first of the Scout Laws is, a Scout is Trustworthy. I'm keeping my promise. No more China stories... at least until I go for another visit. Merry Christmas!



100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER JANUARY 2, 1902;
This issue is missing, as well as every issue until May, 1902; we substitute columns from the first year Ledger Entries was published 1987-8.

114 YEARS JANUARY 6, 1888
This issue tells about the "Lowell War" of Nov. 21, 1857 when laborers building the Detroit and Milwaukee Railroad massed at a Lowell hotel, threatening to fire the building and kill three railroad officials inside. It seems that they had not been paid, but had been living off what they could scrounge from farms along the right-of-way. The Grand Rapids Militia was dispatched but, the weather being cold, they frequently stopped to "get something warm" and by the time the sleighs got to Ada, word was received that all was again quiet on the Flat River. So the thoroughly warmed militia turned around and staggered home. End of story.

The editor suggests that local "moneyed men" invest in building an electric light plant. He also backs the movement to install two public watering troughs, but only if the new Water Co. donates the water.

The Lowell Cutter Co. is starting to make buggies also.

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO JANUARY 6, 1927
The County Board of Supervisors will meet tomorrow for a 4 or 5-day session, the last before elections in April. A big issue concerns building a \$25,000 annex to the jail.

The Greenville farmer who fatally shot a chicken thief will have support from several other farmers at his hearing. Emotions are running high about the case.

An article about messages in bottles found on the seashore indicates that most are by survivors of shipwrecks, storms or shipboard epidemics.

125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL JANUARY 3, 1877;
This issue is missing. We substitute January 14, 1874.
"That little row at a saloon on the West Side the other night was rocked to sleep by the marshal."
Drs. Peck and McDannell have a new office over Hunt & Hunter's drug store.
A Grange has been formed in Vergennes, with 65 members and Morgan Lyon the Master.
The Lowell National Bank declares its usual five percent dividend, in spite of the financial troubles times the past year.
Charles Annis, on his way to Jackson prison, jumps off the train. He is found several hours later in a farmer's wagon, covered with straw.

Radio sets are becoming more complicated but easier to tune, with but one control on the newest models.

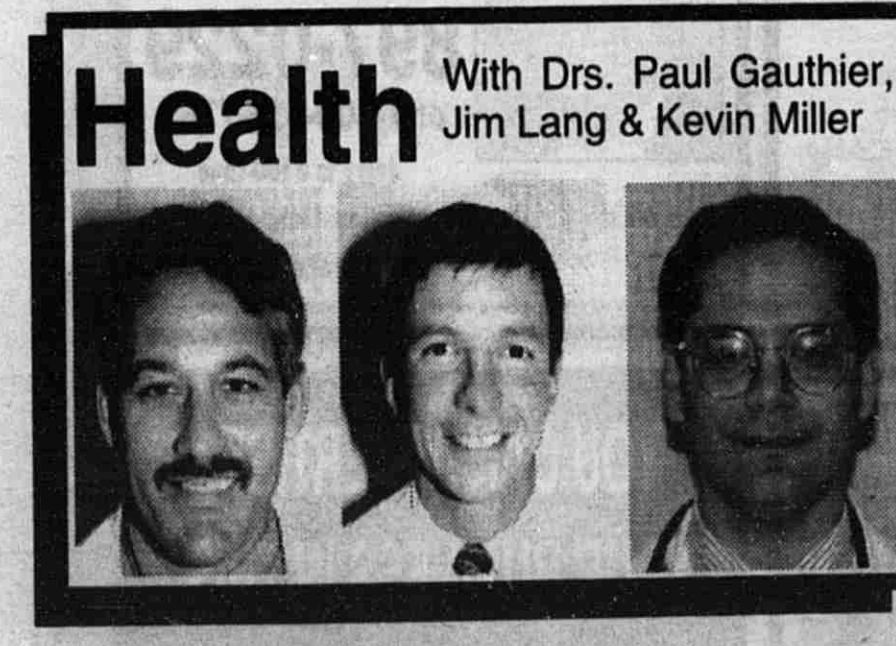
50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER, JANUARY 3, 1952
Only 659 registered voters out of 2,150 residents: 344 were removed from rolls after not voting for four years by state law. Voters in Lowell must register both with the township clerk (national and state elections) and the village clerk (local elections).

The new organ and rebuilt chancel of the Methodist Church are dedicated.
John Erickson is in a prisoner-of-war camp in Manchuria. He had been reported missing in action.
The high school gym acquires folding bleachers.
The state is running a budget deficit of \$40 million.

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER JANUARY 6, 1977
Council purchases an electronic data-processing machine for water and power billing, now done by the County School Board. The \$600/month savings should pay for the machine soon.
Some revamping of plans for the M-21 rebuilding by the County Road Commission saves the 108-year-old Collins Schoolhouse opposite Crahen Ave.

TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor,
I have lived in Lowell for over 20 years and did most of my shopping locally. I always tried to do most of my Christmas shopping in town.
Unfortunately two years ago I became disabled to the point where I either use my wheel chair or electric scooter to get around in. Now I cannot shop in Lowell, as most of the stores are not handicap-accessible.
I love the dime store but their aisles are too full of stuff to allow a larger wheel chair or scooter to maneuver around in. Therefore I have had to do most of my shopping at Meijer or go into Ionia or Grand Rapids.
When we try to go to some of the stores, they do not have handicap parking (the strip mall by Family Fare) of any kind so I have to be dropped off while my family finds a place to park.
I really want to do my shopping and business in Lowell, but with the current way that places are set up, they have no room for my business.
Sincerely,
Janet Wright



Health With Drs. Paul Gauthier, Jim Lang & Kevin Miller
Tick-borne diseases are a group of illnesses that people get from tick bites. They can occur in all areas of the U.S. and can affect people of all ages. Spring and summer months are the most common times of the year for tick bites. Ticks can cause several diseases: Lyme disease, Ehrlichiosis, Rocky Mountain

Spotted Fever and Tularemia. In Michigan, one primarily worries about tick bites causing Lyme disease.
People at risk for these types of bites are those who spend more time outdoors - workmen, farmers, hunters, children playing, etc.
If you suspect you have been bitten by a tick, see your doctor. You may develop a rash, low grade fever, or flu-like symptoms. Unfortunately, you may not even recall being bitten by a tick.
The best way to prevent tick-borne illnesses is to avoid being bitten by ticks. Use tick repellent when going outdoors for any significant period of time. Repellents containing DEET can be applied directly to the skin and are very effective.
If you are bitten, and the tick remains attached to your skin, remove it using fine tweezers, grabbing the tick firmly by the head or the trunk, and pull. Avoid using heat, matches, etc. They will not work, and may cause injury.



Lunchtime Champions

Lowell Middle School recently crowned its Paper Football champions. There were 32 sixth-graders who took part in the lunchtime Paper Football Tournament. Pictured, from left to right, are: Jacob Moore, 2nd place round two; Elvis Lane, 1st place round two and second place round one; and Josh Hobrila, first place round one.

Wishing You the Happiest and Healthiest of New Years

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New building and technology bring Family Dentistry of Lowell into new year

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

The holidays are an exciting time of year for all. That really holds true for the staff and patients at Family Dentistry of Lowell.

Christmas is less than a week away and they've already been treated to a new office and the latest in dental technology. Dr. Ann Wilson's dental office relocated to 147 N. Center (formerly Lowell Family Medical Center) on Nov. 1 after spending the previous 11 years at 505 W. Main.

"It's great," said practice administrator, Loretta Hall. "We've more than doubled our floor space. I'm not sure how we fit everything into that other office."

Family Dentistry of Lowell employs three front desk employees, three hygienists, three assistants and three dentists.

The dentists are Wilson (in practice since 1986), Robert Mull (1999), and Bess Afendoulis (1984).

The renovation of the new building started in July. It was carried out by Stovall Construction. Canfield Plumbing and Heating was also contracted.

"We have windows. We're all happy about that," Hall said.

The staff camaraderie and playful spirit, Hall believes, has been a big part of Family Dentistry of Lowell's success. "We do fun stuff. A patient's visit is not a traumatic experience."

Within the last three months Family Dentistry of Lowell has begun to offer its patients the convenience of the CEREC



Happy is the staff of Dr. Ann Wilson who is working in their new office at 147 N. Center. Above, Wilson, third from the left, and members of her staff hold some of the toys collected for their Angel Tree.

(Chairside Economical Restoration of Esthetic Ceramics) machine.

It enables the dentists to provide a lab fabricating machine. Once the tooth is prepared, the crown is designed, milled and delivered in the same day. Hall says the whole process takes roughly two hours.

It has also added an intra-oral camera which is used to detect fractures and decay.

As a way to reach out to those less fortunate this holiday season, Family Dentistry of Lowell collected toys for the Salvation Army and WOOD TV-8's Angel Tree. The toys were then delivered to underprivileged children.

"We're not an official sponsor, but we're happy to help out," Hall concluded.

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at 5:30 p.m. for those who missed the first clinic. If you did not participate in the first clinic, but wish to be on a Spirit League team this winter, you must be at this clinic. No exceptions. Call Dan at 897-8445 ext. 705 with any questions.

WINTER FAST PITCH CLINIC TO BE OFFERED
Lowell High School softball coaches will hold a winter

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

**NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate**

FILE NO. 01-172, 270-DE

**Estate of
HENRIETTE ROBYNS
DATE OF BIRTH:
11/4/1911**

**TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:**

The decedent, **HENRIETTE ROBYNS, who lived at 2433 Byron Center Ave. S.W., Wyoming, Michigan, died September 6, 2001.**

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to PETER E. ROBYNS, named personal representative, or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa N.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

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LOWELL AREA

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Nominated by Mark & Nancy Russell
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Nancy is one of the few people we know who possesses all of our community's character traits. She is kind and caring and genuine, and never says a bad word about anyone. We strive to be more like her every day.

GEORGE MICKEL

Nominated by LAAC
Character Traits Exhibited: Compassion, Honesty & Responsibility

George always has time for the Lowell Community. He donates endless hours of his time volunteering for LACC and LAAC. George delivers the LAAC's program information throughout the Lowell and Grand Rapids areas in addition to his time spent at Fallasburg Festival and area events. George takes great pride in servicing Lowell and encourages others to do so as well.

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 (school) or 245-4596 for info.

**MUSEUM HOLIDAY HOURS
AND NEW DOCENT TRAINING**

The Lowell Area Historical Museum, with galleries featuring Lowell's early history, industry and retailing, as well as the showboat, will be open during Christmas break. If you and your family are looking for something interesting and fun to do, stop in on Thursday between 1 and 8 p.m. or Saturday/Sunday between 1 and 4 p.m. Closed Christmas and New Year's Day.

Museum docent training will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. If interested in being a volunteer and providing a much needed service, contact Judy at 897-7688.

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.

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT AT LPAC

The Lowell High School counseling staff is sponsoring a financial aid night for students planning to attend college next fall. Juniors, seniors and their parents are invited to attend this informative meeting on Thursday, Jan. 10 at 7 p.m. at Lowell High School.

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 Jan. 21. To receive a listing of the class offerings, call 897-8545 or e-mail: lowellartscouncil@ameritech.net.

NEW LOCATION FOR YOUR NEWSPAPERS

The Lowell High School girls softball team is still collecting newspapers and phone books, but there is a new location for dropping them off - It is now at Family Fare parking lot in the trailer near Main Street.

**Busy 2002, continued...
From Page 1**

planned new facility.

Then there was the completion of the downtown parking lots and Riverwalk improvements done by the Downtown Development Authority. Landscaping and reconfigured parking lots were all funded and developed by the DDA. These lots are located behind City Hall along Avery and near the King Milling building.

Other projects included the completion of sidewalk and street improvements on Bowes Road, the Flat River water main crossing, the Employee Classification and Compensation Study, property acquisition for the City Hall/police station project, engineering work for the reconstruction of N. Division Street and Valley Vista Drive along with curb work for Bowes Road and M-21, Wastewater Treatment Plant re-rating, and the new Light and Power substation and acquisition of property.

"This year was busy and next year will be even busier," Pasquale said.

This includes the work on the City Hall/police station project and more road work, set to start in the summer of 2002.

Special Zoning, cont'd... From Page 1

Councilmember, Don Green said a positive from this is that the residents were baffled about being in violation because their neighbors had never said anything which

resulted in a community effort on redefining the ordinance.

The council agreed to wait on any further action on the Code Enforcement Of-

ficer position until the planning commission came back with its report on the new RV ordinance.

Thebes Players looking for a few good "Nerds"

The Lowell Area Arts Council's Thebes Players are seeking actors for *The Nerd* by Larry Shue. Public performances of this dinner theater production will be at Larkin's Other Place in downtown historic Lowell on 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 on Jan. 8 and 10 from 7-9 p.m. Directing the play is Cheryl Blodgett with Anne Pasquale as assistant director.

The story: Now an aspiring young architect in Terre Haute, Indiana, Willum Cubbert has often told his friends about the debt he owes to Rick Stedman, a fellow ex-GI whom he has never met but who saved his life after he was seriously wounded in Vietnam. Rick shows up unexpectedly at Willum's apart-

ment at his 34th birthday party. He soon realizes that Rick is a hopeless "nerd." Rick stays on and on with one uproarious incident after another. Come and see the surprising "twist" ending of the play.

For more information and to borrow a script for review, call the LAAC at 897-8545.

COLLEGE NEWS

The dean's list at Kettering University is an honor earned by students who, in a given term, have attained a minimum weighted grade average of 92.0 out of a possible 100, have received no grades below 85, and have earned a minimum of 16 credits. **Mary Palbykin** of Alto was named to the dean's list at the university for the spring 2001 semester, representing April through June of 2001.

Kettering University is the country's premier co-op institution and provides 2,500 students with career-based education in engineering, applied sciences, mathematics and business management. Founded in 1919, the university also offers graduate programs in engineering, manufacturing management and is ranked among the nation's finest specialty schools by *U.S. News and World Report*.

Jeffrey Nethercot of Lowell and **Miranda Reimann** of Alto have been named to the president's list for the fall term at Northwood University.

To achieve president's list recognition, students must earn a 3.85 grade point on a 4.0 scale.

Jennifer L. Reimann of Alto has been named to the dean's list for the fall term. A student must earn a 3.25 grade point on a 4.0 scale.

Northwood University, located in Midland, is a private, accredited university specializing in managerial and entrepreneurial education offering two- and four-year degrees in a variety of enterprise fields. The university emphasizes the importance of free enterprise and is dedicated to the preservation of the free market and the important relationship between business and the arts.

Look Who Dropped In!



Maria DeCator is excited to announce the arrival of her baby sister, Olivia Marie. Olivia was born November 21, 2001 at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Rapids.

She weighed 7 lbs. 13 oz. & measured 21 inches long. Proud parents are **Darl and Jill DeCator of Lowell.** Olivia is also welcomed home by big sisters, **Cassie and Devin DeCator.**

Grandparents are **Linda DeCator of Lowell, Drake DeCator of Ada and Pat and Judy Ormiston of Ft. Wayne, IN.**

Great-grandparents are **Darl and Eleanor DeCator of Lowell, Maria and the late Margarito Bernal of Killeen, TX, Ruth and Richard Repine of Ft. Wayne, IN, and Shirley and the late Rodney Ormiston of Ft. Wayne, IN.**

Financial Aid night set for Jan. 10

The Lowell High School counseling staff is sponsoring a financial aid night for students planning to attend college next fall. Juniors, seniors and their parents will be guided through the process of filing for and receiving financial assistance.

JoAnn Litton, assistant director of financial aid at Grand Valley State University, will simplify the sometimes confusing process of filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), applying for grants, scholarships and certain low interest loans.

Plan to attend this informative meeting Thursday, Jan. 10 at 7 p.m. at Lowell High School Performing Arts Center.

**Council honors
Green for tenure**

Councilmember **Jeanne Shores** presented councilmember **Don Green** with a plaque for his years of service with the Lowell City Council. Green has been on the council for 10 years and announced earlier this year he would not seek re-election. Monday night was his last meeting, which he was able to lead since both Mayor **Mike Blough** and Mayor Pro Tem **Charles Myers** had other obligations and were not there for some of the meeting. Green said it has been an honor and a blessing to serve the city this way.



DDA increases its funds for Showboat Summer Concert Series

By **Thaddeus J. Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor**

Lowell Showboat Summer Concert Series is six months old, and already steps are being taken to make the event's second year even better than the first.

Evaluations from visitors at the 2001 summer concerts included complaints about the inadequate sound system.

Organizers used the Lowell Area Schools equipment and technician. The equipment was unable to produce the professional sound required to satisfy concert audiences.

Therefore, the 2002 series budget includes contracting an outside professional sound technician. The estimated cost to

upgrade the sound is approximately \$8,600, with \$10,000 being budgeted.

It's anticipated that funds for the program will come from many sources including the Lowell Area Community Fund, City of Lowell (Downtown Development Authority), Look Memorial Fund, concession revenues, concert merchandise (t-shirts, hats), and concert donations.

Lorain Smalligan, executive director for the Lowell Area Arts Council, and **Liz Baker**, executive director for the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, are cochairpersons of the event. They have already secured a \$7,000 commitment from the

DDA for the 2002 programs, an increase of roughly \$4,000 from a year ago.

Last year's show cost \$16,946. In next year's budget, expenses have been elevated to \$26,850.

Cost is not the only change planned for 2002. The 10-week series will start two weeks later, running from June 12 to Aug. 15.

The starting time has been moved to 7 p.m. Last year's shows began at 6:30 p.m.

Accomplished musicians interested in performing in the concert series next summer may contact the Lowell Area Arts Council, 897-8545.

LEGAL EASE
By **Jonathan David**

LEGAL EASE

DEAR JONATHAN: I am in the process of transferring assets to my living trust. How do I go about transferring my life insurance policies to the trust?

JONATHAN SAYS: You don't transfer ownership of a life insurance policy to the trust in the manner that you would transfer the title on a bank account or a stock certificate. Instead, if you want the trust to be a beneficiary of those life insurance proceeds, you would name the trust as a beneficiary—either primary or contingent beneficiary depending upon the circumstances. The ownership of the policy, however, would remain in your name.

DEAR JONATHAN: I am an only child. My father recently remarried after being a widower for five years. Over dinner last week he told me that he put his new wife's name on all of his assets, including his house, bank accounts, CD's, stocks, etc., as well as naming her as a beneficiary on his life

Training parents to manage defiant children

A 12-week class at the Franciscan Life Process Center is being offered to parents who are experiencing frustration in dealing with their child's "acting-out" behavior. Assessment and registration are required at least two weeks before classes begin.

Starting Monday, Jan. 7 and running through March 27, classes will be held once a week Monday mornings, Wednesday afternoons or Wednesday evenings. Total cost is \$300 or \$25 per class. Scholarships are available upon request.

Please contact **Beverly Anderson** or **Melissa Athmann** at 897-7842 for information and for specific dates and times of the classes.

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.

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.

MS sixth-graders revel in Sudanese life's journey

By Thaddeus J. Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor

For nearly six months now, Jacob, a 17-year-old Sudanese refugee, has experienced the virtues of living in a strong, free nation.

A stark contrast from the nine years of desperation-filled days he spent in a Sudan refugee camp.

"I thought I was going to die," Jacob shares with Lowell Middle School sixth-grade students. "It was a time of desperation. I would sometimes go without food for two days. There were times when I'd eat grass and leaves and feel as if I were full. I feel good now and try to forget about my life before."

Jacob and his two brothers, Abraham and Peter live with Connie Gillette, Lowell assistant superintendent to finance and personnel, and her husband Jim.

Jacob talked to students about how grateful he is for his new life. "The U.S. is a very strong nation, no one is put down here. The people are united," he explains to the students.

In talking to the sixth-graders, Jacob left no doubt that he most values the education he is receiving. "I love school more than anything," he said.

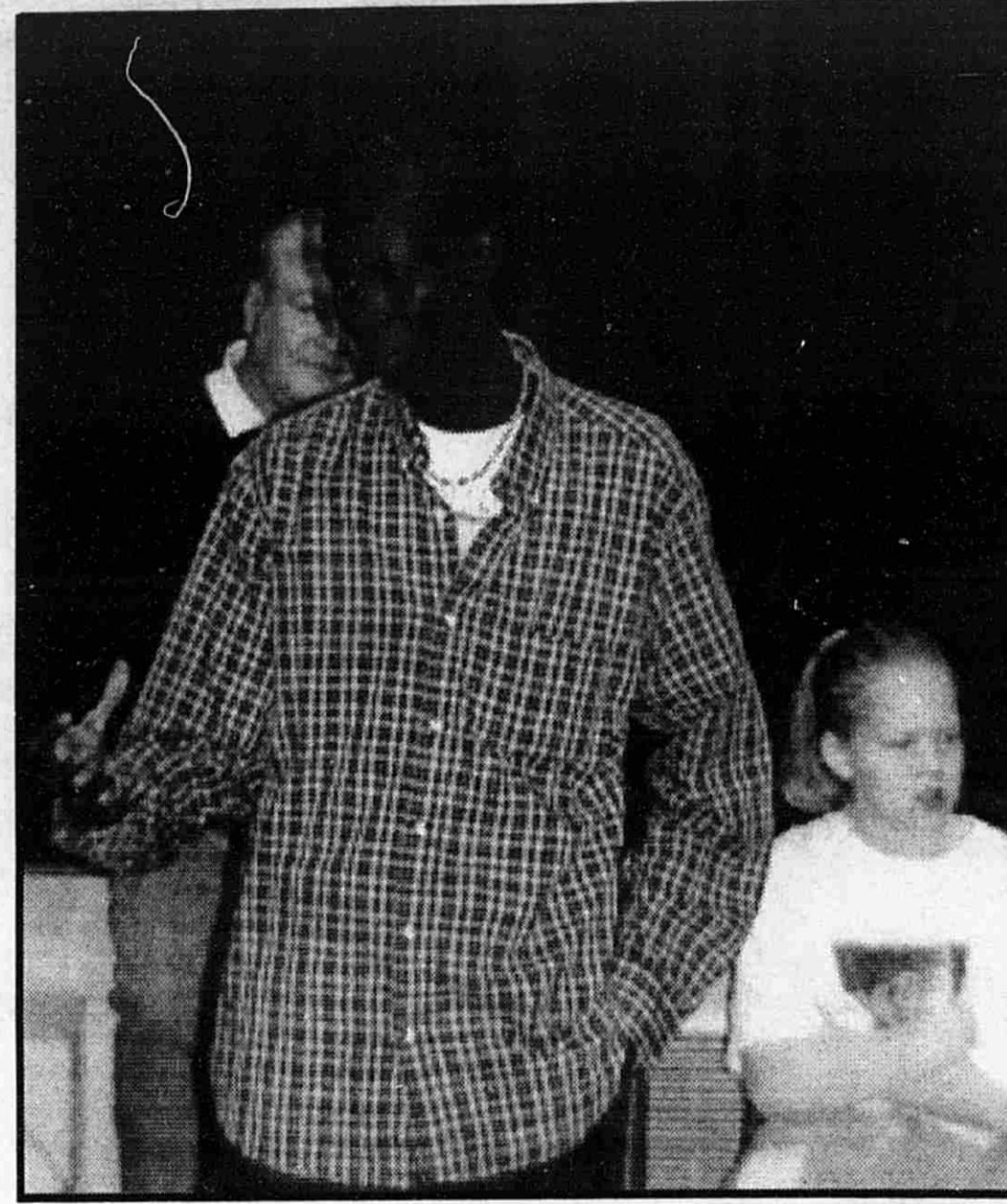
One of his more immediate adjustments upon arriving in the United States (Michigan) was the climate. "I used to wear three pairs of pants, four shirts and a coat. The climate here is horrible," Jacob said.

He is also hopeful of becoming a U.S. citizen and then one day visiting his people back in Sudan.

Jacob was invited to speak to the students as part of their unit on the many diverse cultures. His talk also tied into next month's area of focus (Africa).

"Connie (Gillette) came and talked to the students about taking Sudanese refugees into her home. From there I asked her if Jacob could come and speak to the class," said Lowell Middle School sixth-grade teacher, Jack Misner. "They both were just terrific."

Sudanese refugee, Jacob, answers questions from Lowell Middle School sixth-graders.



Ada salon steps in to help world trade center salon

Heidi Christine's Salon & Spa is reaching out to those directly affected by the Sept. 11, 2001 tragedy by raising funds locally. Heidi Christine's Salons will donate any monies raised this holiday season. Each year this local salon helps those in need with a variety of fundraisers, cut-a-thons, and various events. This year's Christmas project hits close to the heart of all the stylists, aestheticians and nail technicians here in West Michigan.

Natisse International, a 17-year run salon occupying

the main floor of the World Trade Center, Tower One, was part of the devastation in New York. Staff members not only lost their facility, tools, supplies and income but, sadly, a large portion of their clientele. Getting on with their personal and professional lives has been a challenging task.

According to Patty Elzinga, owner, president and CEO of Heidi Christine's, "The lives of the living have been greatly affected, but little money has been raised to help them. We wish we could help all of those involved in this

tragedy, but we've chosen to help the salon professionals from Natisse International."

The public can help by stopping in either the Ada or Caledonia salons and donate money, regardless if services

Parenting with love and logic

The Franciscan Life Process Center is offering a class dealing with a sensible approach to parenting in today's world. Classes begin Jan. 14 and run every other week through April 22nd. Days are Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays

at various times. The cost is \$210 or \$30 per family per class. Scholarships are available upon request. There will be a one-time material fee of \$15 per person which is due at the time of registration (by Jan. 4).

For more details contact Beverly Anderson or Melissa Athmann at 897-7842.

Alto student council coordinates successful Christmas food/toy drive

Alto Elementary's student council coordinated a two-week school-wide food/toy campaign for Lowell's Flat River Outreach Ministries.

Throughout the two-week campaign, the food and toys were displayed on the stage in the cafeteria.

"It gave students an opportunity to see what they'd been collecting and just how much cool stuff they had brought in," said student council teacher representative, Sharon Vensus who, along with parent representative, DeeAnn Wilcox oversaw the project.

The council boxed the items on so they could be delivered on Friday (Dec. 14).

THANK YOU

The Alto Lions Club Would Like To Thank All Those Who Donated To The Children's Christmas Party Held At The Alto School On December 15, 2001



Alto Beauty Shop
Alto Fire Department
Alto Garage
Alto Gas
Alto Library
Alto Marathon
Alto Meat Processing
Alto Parent Teachers Club
Alto Underground Storage
American Legion
American Legion Auxiliary
American Cast Iron Pipe
Mary Benedict, Attorney At Law
Deter Home Remodeling
Durkee Lumber
Endless Lawn Care
Freeport Elevator
Great Lakes Automatic Door
Robert Grummet
Heritage Furniture Restoration
Ice Cream Caboose
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897-9261

Methodist Preschool Kids Break Out the Christmas Carols



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 7-8:30 p.m. in members' homes. See poster in high school cafeteria or call 676-1355 for details.

SECOND MON. OF EACH MONTH: Needlecraft Day at Grattan Twp. Hall, 12050 Old Belding Rd., 1 p.m. following senior meal. Come knit & crochet or learn the craft. Get to know your neighbors. Call Lana at 691-8450 for info.

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 MON.: Boy Scout Troop 102, for boys 11 & up or completing the 5th-grade, meet 7 to 8:30 p.m. during the school year in the Scout Cabin at the end of N. Washington St. Enjoy activities like hiking and camping and learn skills that can last a lifetime. For info call Terry Cavanaugh, 868-6481.

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.: Walking-exercise program at 9 a.m. in Grattan Twp. Hall, 12050 Old Belding Rd. No charge. Call Lana 691-8450 for info.

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

1ST TUES.: Adults with AD/HD 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 SECOND & FOURTH TUES.: Knights of Columbus #7719 meets St. Mary School, 7:30 p.m.

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

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

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.

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

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.

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

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 Music Makers 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.

FRI.: Walking-exercise program at 9 a.m. in Grattan Twp. Hall, 12050 Old Belding Rd. No charge. Call Lana 691-8450 for info.

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.

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.

SAT., MARCH 16: Grattan Twp. "Family, Friends and Neighbors Committee Craft Show at Grattan Academy, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Now looking for vendors/crafters; reserve your booth now. Call 691-7778.



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.

Photos will no longer be accepted if faces are too dark.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

LOWELL SENIOR NEIGHBORS CALENDAR 897-5949

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>MON.: 8:30 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall.</p> <p>TUES.: 8:30 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall; 1 p.m. Bible Study.</p> <p>WED.: Varied activities.</p> | <p>THURS.: 9 a.m. Walk/Shop at the Malls; 9:30 a.m. Crafts; 1 p.m. Euchre.</p> <p>FRI.: 8:30 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall.</p> |
|---|--|

SPECIAL EVENTS

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>THURS., DEC. 27: 12:40 p.m. Shopping after Christmas Special!!!</p> <p>FRI., DEC. 28: 12:40 Bingo.</p> | <p>MON., DEC. 31: Center open.</p> <p>TUES., JAN. 1: Happy New Year!!! 2002!!! Center Closed.</p> |
|---|---|

Lowell Lions/ Lowell Football team collecting books for kids

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

For the second time in four years, Lowell football players in conjunction with the Lowell Lions Club will be collecting new and gently used children's books for children from zero to the fifth-grade.

"Anytime you can get more books into the hands of children and/or their parents, it's a wonderful thing," said

Cherry Creek Elementary principal, Maureen Dorough.

During a two-week stretch in January (2nd-15th), collection boxes will be displayed at Cherry Creek, Bushnell and Alto elementary schools, the middle school and the high school, as well as, The Lowell Ledger, Family Fare, Meijer, Ionia County National Bank, Springrove Variety and Huntington Banks.

The books will then be distributed in March (National Reading month). The administration will develop a process by which the books will

Lowell FFA teacher receives NAAE award

John Schut, a teacher and FFA advisor at Lowell High School, was one of six teachers who received the NAAE Outstanding Young Member Award on Dec. 12

at a special awards program at the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) annual conference held in New Orleans, La.

Schut had some big shoes to fill, not including his own size 14's. In the spring of 2000, there was an opening at one of the premier agriculture education programs in the state of Michigan.

"His ability to step into an extremely demanding and highly visible position in our community and perform the way he has done is nothing short of outstanding," said Bert Bleke, superintendent of Lowell Area Schools. "John is an individual possessing the ability to raise an already excellent program to a higher level."

Schut's teaching philosophy consists of six key beliefs with his primary focus being: "empowering young

people to achieve and become productive members of our community."

The NAAE Outstanding Young Member Award program is designed to recognize innovative young agricultural education teachers with an exceptional professional record in their early efforts in teaching, including participation in NAAE. NAAE members who have completed at least three, but not more than five years of teaching, are eligible for this award. The award is sponsored by John Deere.

"Agricultural education is continually faced with a shortage of qualified teachers," says NAAE president, Paul Jaure. "This program is designed to encourage young teachers to continue in the teaching profession."

NAAE is the professional association for agricultural educators. The mission

image to be sending to kids." The football players also take turns reading to elementary children on Fridays during the football season.



John Schut

of NAAE is "professionals providing agricultural education for the global community through visionary leadership, advocacy and service." The NAAE office is located in Alexandria, Va., near the nation's capital.

The biggest mistake people make in life is not trying to make a living at doing what they most enjoy.
Malcomb S. Forbes

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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.

- 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.
- Avoid having more than 5 people in a picture.
- If possible, no hats, caps or sunglasses.
- Include information on:

When the photo was taken _____

Where the photo was taken _____

Who took the photo _____

Any other information pertinent to the photo _____

STORIES: Stories should include information answering the six basic questions:

Who _____

What _____

When _____

Where _____

Why _____

How _____

- Also tell us how The Ledger can find the person who submitted the story and/or gather more information:

Your name _____

address _____

phone number _____

organization _____

contact person _____

his/her phone number _____

other information that may be helpful. _____

- Please double space copy.

Mail information to The Lowell Ledger,
105 N. Broadway, PO Box 128, Lowell, MI
49331 or drop it off at The Ledger office.

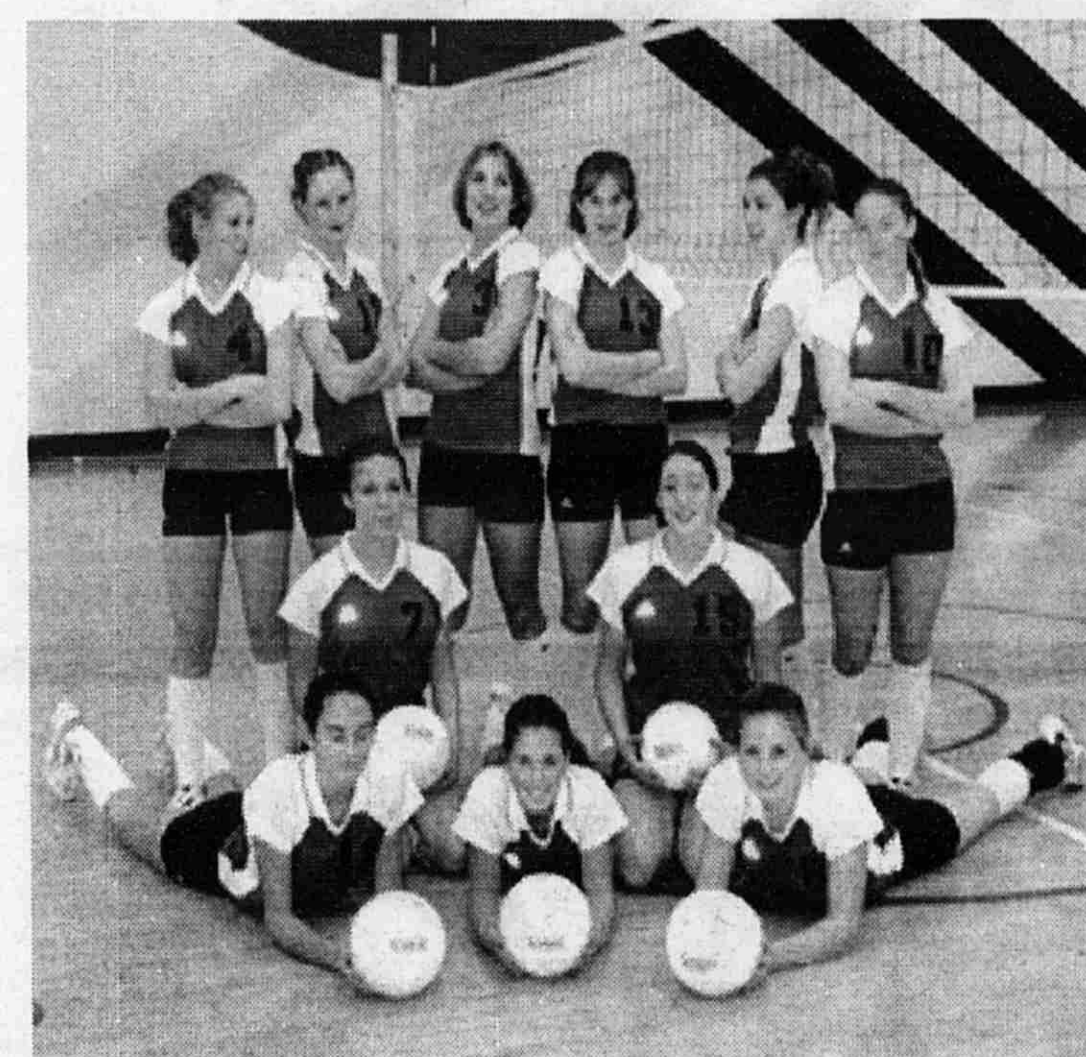
All items **MUST** be brought in **NO LATER THAN 5 p.m. ON THE MONDAY** before that week's issue.

LHS WINTER TEAM SPORTS



VARSITY BASKETBALL

First row (left to right): Head coach Jeff McDonald, asst. coach Dave VanKeulen; second row: Mark Catlin, Sam Oberlin, Andy McQueen, Mark Biener, Shaun Koning, Landon Trierweiler, Logan Dykstra, Mike Fosburg, Craig Carpenter, Zach Beachum, Bill Harrison, Nick Onan.



VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

First row (left to right): Kellie Baker, Jenny Wagner, Molly Clark; second row: Colleen Myers, Kelly Fitzpatrick; third row: Katelyn Bush, Courtney Phillips, Heather Becker, Cori Drenth, Jenell Gemmill, Kim Huyser.



GYMNASTICS

First row (left to right): Brianna Kinney, head coach Michele DeHaan, Krystal White, Kim Seaman, Holly Plattner, asst. coach Dan Vosovic, Kim Hoogewind; second row: Nicole Gillikin, Jenna Dickerman, Carmen Datema, Carisa Sayer, Katie Blough, Melissa Neubecker, Ashley Simon.



WRESTLING

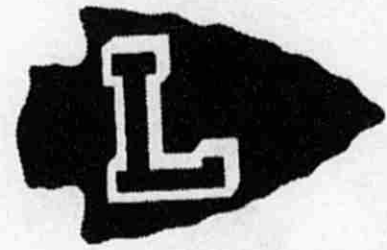
First row (left to right): Justin Hewitt, Andy Jousma, Mike Thomas, Kasey Kyser, Matthew Dood, Pete LaNore, Brandon Kinney, Joe Mendez, Jayme DeLiefde, mgr. Robbie Karasiewicz; second row: Ian DeRath, Sean Gannon, Matt Gillhespy, David Kropf, Dan Lyman, Matt Muha, Braton Fredline, Kevin Frazier, Bobby Gingerich, Mike Nearing, Beau Wilder, Jason Nearing; third row: Nate Luebs, Josh Meyers, Josiah Hull, Ken Kline, Philip Moerdyke, Mitch Solon, Eric Schumm, Josh Vaught, Ryan Karasiewicz, Jim Kelly, Mark Kimberlin, Greg VanderWal, Michael Wildey; fourth row: Asst. coach Steve Spicer, asst. coach Jeff Schildroth, Brendon Frazier, Ryan Churches, Roman Kuba, Mike Forward, Patrick Persons, Jason Murray, John Rasch, Ben Vaught, Pete Serne, Ben Fleet, Ben Barle, J.J. Wilder, head coach Dave Strejc, asst. coach Mike Gannon.

LHS WINTER SPORTS, CONTINUED...



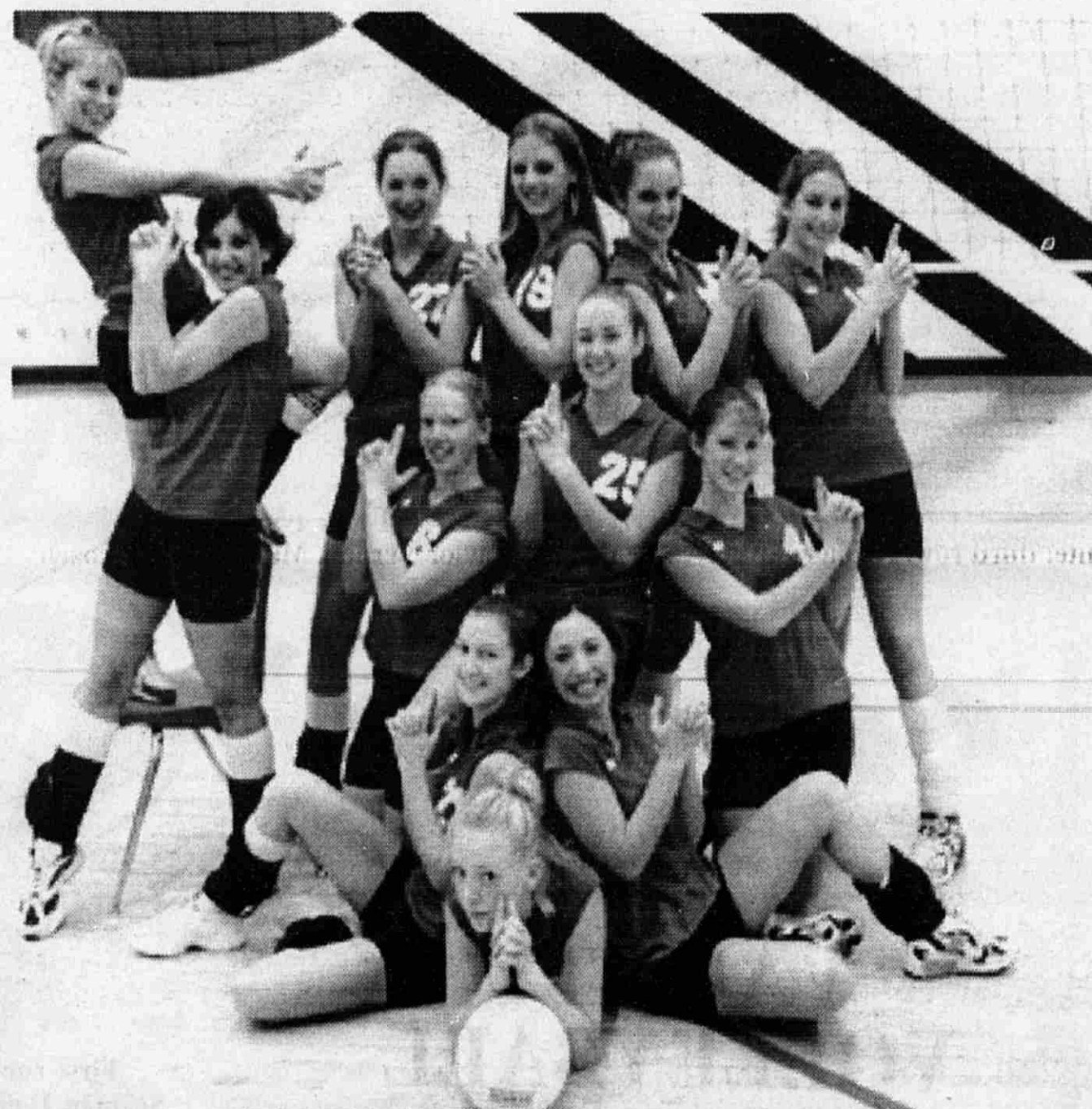
VARSITY CHEERLEADING

First row (left to right): Sara Bailey, Lena Dhayni, Nikki Elliott, Erin Weber, Ruthanne Oesch, Sara Schoen; second row: Jennifer Stewart, Aimee Catlin, Casey Weber, Janyka Truszkowski, Brittany Huisman, ReShanna Burr, Alex McMahon; third row: Mgr. Cassie, Sophia D'Agostino, Audrey Slater, Shanda Yonker, Katie Hettinga, Christine LaFave, asst. coach Susan Stewart, head coach Amanita Fahrni.



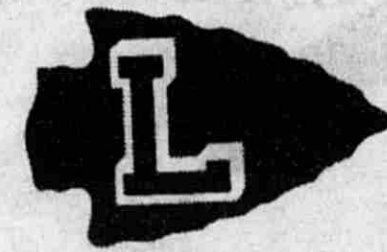
JV CHEERLEADING

First row (left to right): Lisa Roth, Lynda Horsley, Kelly Umlauf, Kati Capps, Renee Catlin; second row: Katie Sullivan, Caitlin Searfoss, Amanda Grochowalski, Kelly Johnson, Amanda Craig; third row: Coach Lori Catlin, Britney Batchelor, Leslie Koehn, Kaitlyn Hanrahan, Amanda Bouwkamp, Stephanie Blanchard, Lyndsey Adrianse.



JV VOLLEYBALL

First row (left to right): Julie Halbeisen, Sarah Swab, Karlee Perez; second row: Emily Nurmikko, Jessica Hamp, Amber VanSpronsen, Stephanie Wagner; third row: Melissa Blattner, Wendy Seif, Rachel Goeman, Katie Baker, Amy Oberlin, coach Gigi Peal.



FROSH CHEERLEADING

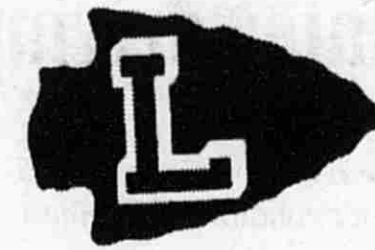
First row (left to right): Shannon Alger, Alyssa Rash, Karis Prill, Chelsea Karas, Sarah McCarrick, Kerri Kinsley, Nicole Swift, Tiffani Burr, Julie Dunn; second row: Krashawn McElveen, Chantal Todosciuk, Amanda Roberts, Erin Craig, Jessica Stinchcomb, Kyleigh Gilliard, Jenna White; third row: Coach Emily Liley.



JV BASKETBALL

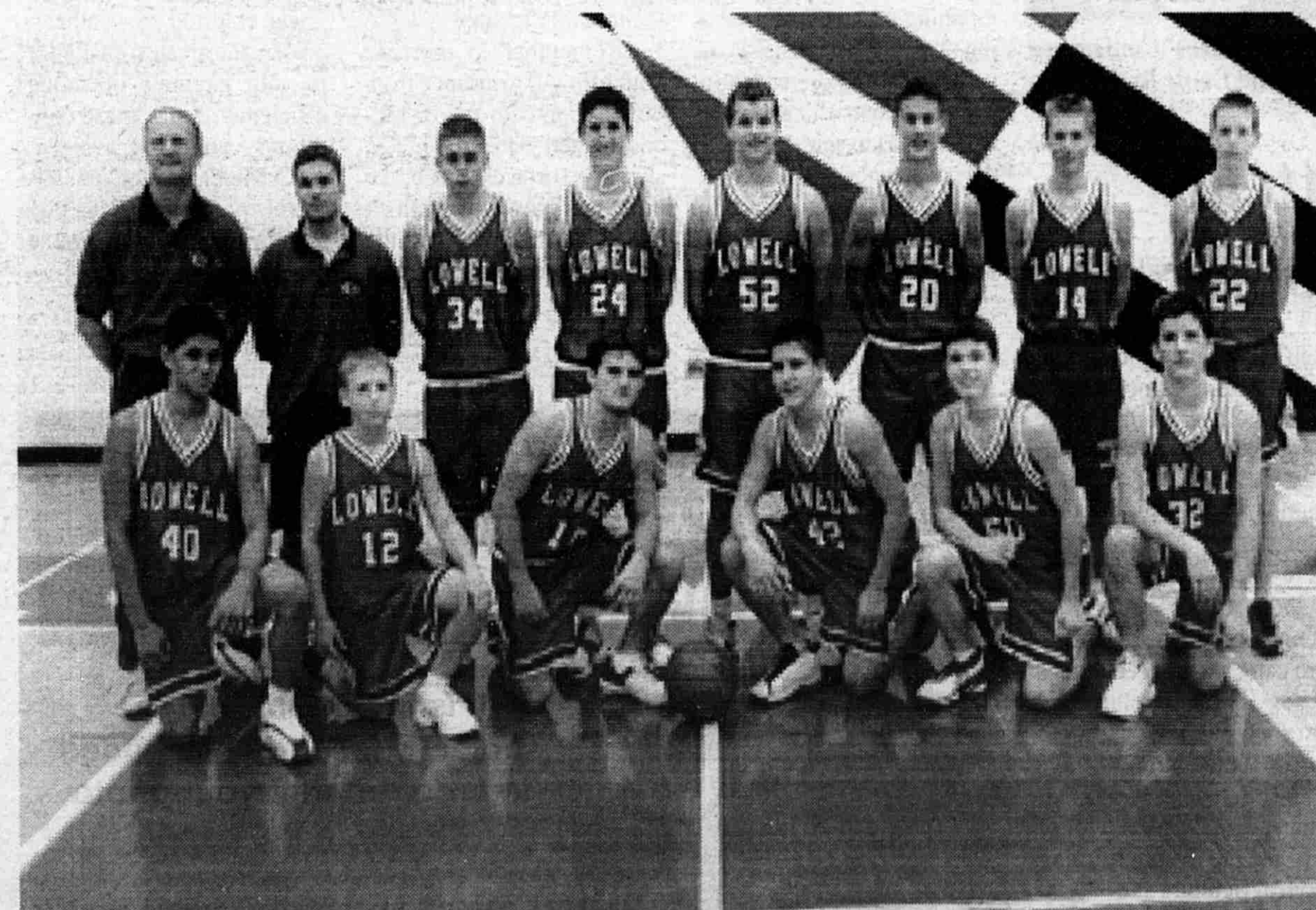


First row (left to right): Asst. coach Scott Pullen, head coach Dave VanKeulen; second row: Zach Horan, Chris Gallagher, Dan Vegter, Chris Lechner, Jon Howard, Kyle Rozema, Andrew Min, Tom White, Kevin Brubaker, Ben Lemke, Chris Raimer, Luke Tomczak, Dan Harrison, Josh Anderson, Wes Tweedale.



FROSH VOLLEYBALL

First row (left to right): Melody Dernocoeur, Andrea DeVoid, Rebekah Woods; second row: Devon Collins, Emily Gerard, Kim VandenBerg, Jessica Visser, Angie White; third row: Nicole Glover, Abbie Debiak, Taylor Verdon, Megan Stubbs, coach Tom Egeler.



FROSH BASKETBALL

First row (left to right): Alvin Aquino, Jason Welsh, Jon Eickhoff, Shane Stokes, Kyler Krieg, Frank Mulder; second row: Head coach Bill McElroy, asst. coach Austin Krieg, Dennis Smith, Tyler Hoard, Chris Meeuwsen, Mike Koster, Steve Ellison, Kevin Gillman.

GO RED ARROWS!

Red Arrow rally falls short at Northview, 58-51

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

The opening two minutes of the second half proved to be the undoing of the Lowell boys' basketball team as it dropped a 58-51 O-K White contest to Northview.

"Northview dropped four quick buckets on us in a hurry to start the third quarter," said Lowell coach, Jeff McDonald. "We went from two down (21-19) at halftime to 10. We don't have the type of offense that can easily overcome big deficits."

Most upsetting to the Red Arrow coach was that the Wildcats scored many points on easy fastbreak buckets. "We did not make Northview make tough shots. Our defense was

okay in the halfcourt, but we did not do a good job of getting back in transition," explained McDonald.

Northview's lead in the second half grew to as many as 17, but had to stave off a Lowell rally to secure its first league victory.

The Red Arrows rallied from 17 down and had a three-point shot bounce off the front of the rim with 40 seconds to play. It would have pulled Lowell to within one.

"The upside is this team continues to play hard, unselfish basketball. The boys will be okay and stay in games if they continue to do that," McDonald said. "We also continue to

shoot well from the foul line."

Lowell (1-2, 2-3) made 15-of-19 free throw shots against the Wildcats.

Sam Oberlin led Lowell in scoring with 24 points. "They had a kid on his uniform the whole first half," McDonald explained.

Andy McQueen and Mark Catlin each added 10 points. Northview (1-2, 3-2) got a team-leading 17 points from Tom Rich.

Baker and Cole have solid outings in FHC/Lowell tie with Rogers

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Chris Rozman fought off his Wyoming Roger challenger to hold on to third in the 400 freestyle relay and assure Forest Hills/Lowell a 92-92 tie with the Golden Hawks.

"We needed a first and a third in the 400 freestyle relay to tie the meet," said Ranger swim coach, Heather Heritage.

Rozman teamed with Scott Sprenger, Mac Russell and John Little to stop the clock in 4:33.09.

The freestyle team of Luke Baker, John Mishler, Mark Kwast and Adam Cole took top honors, coming home in 3:49.93.

Cole had a good day as he added a first and two seconds.

He took a first in the backstroke with a strong performance, finishing in 1:04.96.

The Ranger was second in the 200 IM with a time of 2:19.57 and he partnered with Kwast, Baker and Mishler in the medley relay, hitting the wall at 2:00.77.

Russell won the diving event with 218.55 points.

Kwast gave a strong, winning performance in the 200 freestyle. He stopped the clock in a time of 2:15.01. The Ranger also placed second in the 500 freestyle, touched out in 5:51.23.

Baker earned top honors in the 50 freestyle with a time of 24:58. "He had a great finish and showed good power," Heritage said.

Mishler also handed in an outstanding performance in the 50 freestyle as he came home second at 25.50. "John was incredible," Heritage said.

In other events, Baker placed second in the 100 butterfly; Mishler, 100 freestyle, 3rd, 58.47; Greg Metzner, 100 breaststroke, 2nd, 1:21.41; Keith Osmun, 100 breaststroke, 3rd, 1:25.49; and the relay team of Sprenger, Paulo Sena, Corey Scudder, and Russell were second in the 200 freestyle with a time of 1:50.57.

"We had some excellent performances by the majority of the team," Heritage said. "There are some areas to improve on and make people more competitive."

Challenge of winter driving approaches

Navigating through snow-covered streets can be challenging, even for experienced drivers. But reviewing winter driving techniques can help ease the stress and difficulties involved in driving, AAA Michigan says in its brochure: "How to Go on Ice and Snow," available free at AAA branches statewide.

The pamphlet presents well-illustrated, easy-to-read information on driving on slippery surfaces, regaining control of the vehicle if it skids, and braking on ice and snow, among other tips and precautions.

To drive on slippery surfaces, remember: Traction is greatest just before the wheels spin. Gentle pressure on the accelerator pedal when starting is the best method for retaining traction and avoiding skids - especially if your vehicle is not equipped with a traction-assist device. If your wheels start to spin, let up on the accelerator until traction returns.

Sometimes all four wheels lose traction. This generally occurs when the ve-

hicle is driven at a speed too fast for conditions. The most effective way to get your vehicle back under control when all four wheels skid is:

- Ease your foot off the accelerator or take your foot off the brake.
- Shift to neutral (if you are certain of finding neutral immediately) on a vehicle with automatic transmission.
- Look and steer in the direction you want the front of the vehicle to go.
- Wait for the wheels to grip the road again. As soon as the wheels regain traction, the vehicle will travel in the desired direction.
- Shift to drive and maintain a safe speed.

The most common driver action preceding a crash is the inability to stop.

Remember to increase your following distance from three seconds to 8 - 10 seconds when driving on icy, slippery surfaces. To brake on ice and snow with antilock brakes, use the heel-and-toe method to make a controlled

stop. Keep the heel of your foot on the floor and use your toes to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal. You will notice a mechanical sound and typically feel the brake pedal pulse back against your foot. Do not pump the pedal or remove your foot from the brake.

Another key suggestion in the brochure: Carry a winter driving kit in your vehicle should an emergency develop. These items should include abrasive material (sand, salt or cat litter), shovel, jumper cables, warning devices (flares or triangles), flashlight, snow brush, windshield washing solvent, cellular phone and blanket.

From a mechanical standpoint, winter conditions - wet, cold and icy weather - present the greatest challenge to your engine's operating efficiency. Since these conditions cannot be avoided, AAA Michigan recommends drivers prepare for winter by getting a complete vehicle checkup.



Lowell FFA chapter members attending the Ag Careers and Leaders' Conference are, back row, (l to r): Dan Young - advisor, Samantha Hoekstra and Emily Roth; front row, (l to r): Courtney Perkins and Teresa Leasure.

Lowell FFA members attend career and leadership conference

Lowell FFA members, as part of more than 180 FFA members from across the state, received in-depth leadership training and learned specific skills necessary within careers in agriculture and natural resources, Dec. 12-13, in Mt. Pleasant. The Michigan Farm Bureau sponsored the Ag Career and Leadership Conference where 37 FFA chapters attended. Representing Lowell FFA were Samantha Hoekstra, Emily Roth, Courtney Perkins and Teresa Leasure.

"This conference is a great way for FFA members to learn more about agricultural careers," said Mat

Smego, manager of the Young Farmer Department at Michigan Farm Bureau and conference coordinator. "Members got to hear firsthand from college students, advisors and professors as to what to work on when looking for a career in agriculture."

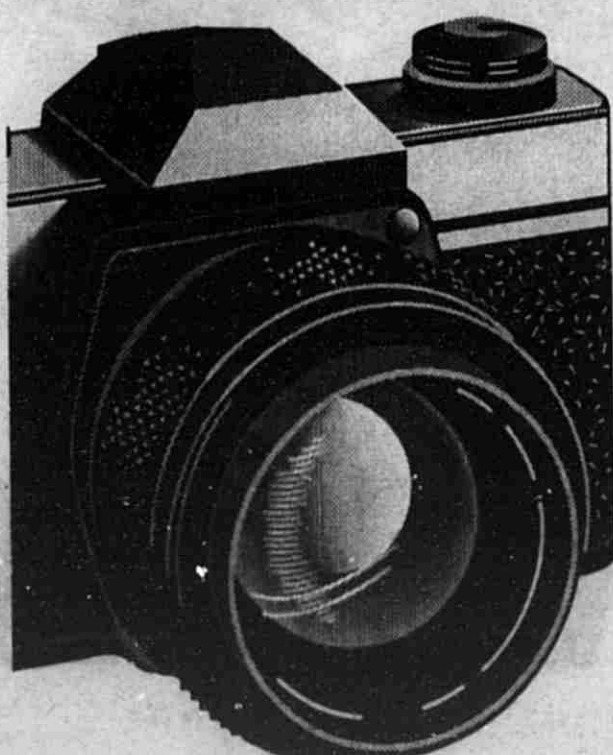
Vic Vercheriau, a Farm Bureau Insurance agency manager and past state FFA president, kicked off the conference with inspirational stories and a message that each individual can achieve great things. The members then heard from a panel of agricultural professionals who answered questions about their careers and how they got into

their individual professions.

Students also had a chance to hear from peers in the state Discussion Meet finals, as a panel of six FFA members discussed issues facing agriculture and natural resources. Specific topics included the future of biotechnology and how agriculture can be - and continues to be - a profitable industry that encourages producers to remain on the farm.

"The students had a great time and got to meet a lot of new people while learning about agriculture and natural resources professions," Smego said.

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IN MEMORIAM - In loving memory of our Mother, Grandmother Nita Czapek. Remembering the times we shared - not the day God called you away. Thank you for your unconditional love and care. "Merry Christmas" to you... Face to face we wish we could say.

Love, your children and grandchildren

IN MEMORIAM - In loving memory of our grandpa Gerrit VanderMark who passed away Christmas Eve 1998.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief, Don't lengthen it now with undue grief. Lift up your hearts and peace to thee, God wanted me more - He set me free.

Missed everyday, Gary, Robin, Michelle & David

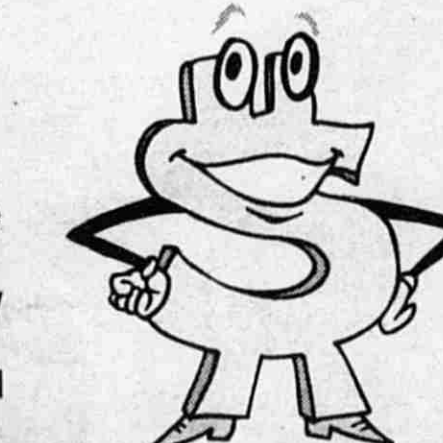
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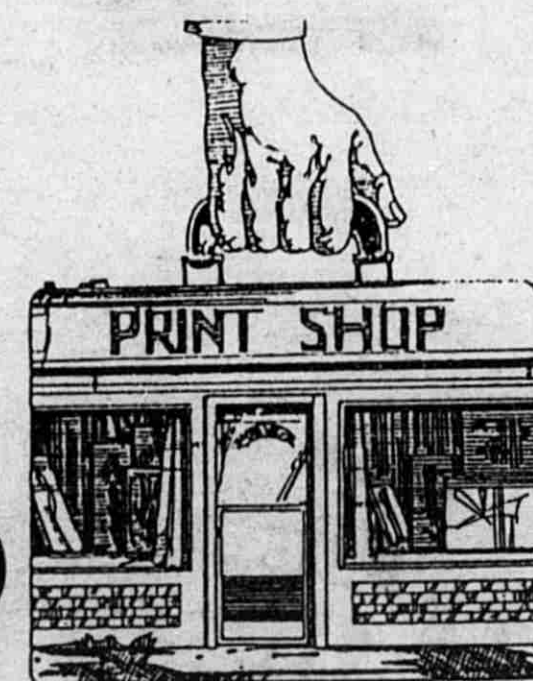
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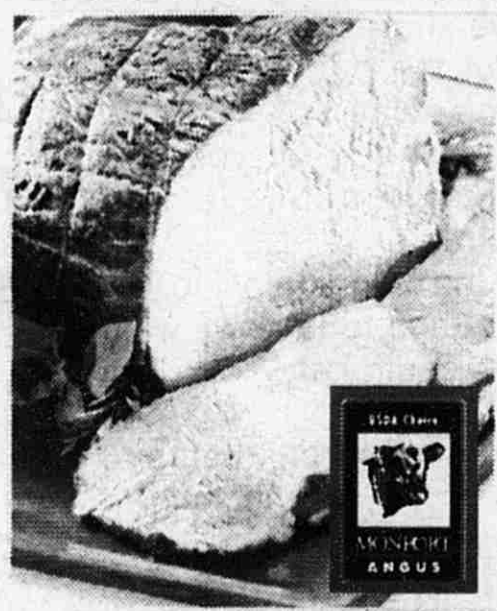
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