

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 30 Issue 5

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, December 10, 2003

Holidays start in a big way with "Small World Christmas" parade



Santa made his way along Main Street in style last Saturday in a one-horse carriage. Brian Doyle is at the helm.

By Dan Schneider

The annual Santa Parade and related festivities happened this weekend in downtown Lowell.

The parade made its way along Main Street starting at 10 a.m. The theme of the parade was "Small World Christmas." For their interpretation of this theme, the Alto Girl Scouts took first place honors in the parade. Dressed as international flags, the girls collected more than 60 toys for Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc.

Second place went to the Lowell Area Historical Museum's float. The Kent County Youth Fair, whose float featured livestock, took third place honors.

This year there were 70 entries in the parade, five more than last year.

The youth fair also hosted a breakfast in the morning. Organizer Pat Mager said this year's breakfast was a success. "We have been busy nonstop," Mager said. "We did well over what we did last year."

This was the third year the youth fair held the breakfast. They tried to use local products as much as possible. The sausage, butter and maple syrup all came from local producers. Voluntary donations from the breakfast will go to the youth fair's general building fund.

Various activities took place along the Riverwalk after the parade. Judges gave first place in the ice carving competition to Darrick Carter for his work titled "Spring Time." It was the second "Flat River Freeze" ice sculpture contest. Carter's sculpture depicted a lilly blossoming from the end of a spring coming out of a clock face. It was a precarious arrangement consisting of four separate blocks of ice fused together.

"That's what you should do to win nationals and things like that - defy the laws of physics," Carter explained.

The ice carvers are members of the Grand Rapids Community College ice sculpture club. The group participates in national ice sculpture competitions.

Phil DeBoer took the People's Choice award in the contest for his "Mermaid" sculpture.

Small World, cont'd., pages 8 and 9

Sundry green light on Highland Hill project

— Michigan Court of Appeals refuses to hear case

By J. Lobdell
 Contributing Writer

Those heading to the polls yesterday to vote on a referendum measure were greeted by a notice stating that the polls were closed.

Late Friday night, the Michigan Court of Appeals faxed a notice over to the city stating the court intended not to intervene on Circuit Court Judge Dennis B. Leiber's decision to suspend the referendum election that was set for yesterday, Dec. 9.

The referendum election was on a planned unit development ordinance for the Highland Hill project at 751 Grindle. The project, one part of a two-part plan for the property that includes both the Leeman and Phillips land, called for the construction of 52 homes on the Leeman land. The homes would be constructed in a neo-traditional style calling for clustering of the homes around a park area with all the backs facing a one-way street.

Residents objected to the development, which was ap-

proved by the city council with the final piece, the PUD ordinance, put in place in August. The residents filed a petition for a referendum vote which Sundry objected to, taking the issue to court for several rea-

sons including that the petitions were filed far too late under State law and city ordinances.

Leiber agreed that the election was not in accordance

with Michigan law and prohibited the election.

Last week, the city announced it would try to get an
Highland project, cont'd.,
 pg. 3

School contract negotiations to resume

...we're open to all possibilities.

— Doranne Truax

By Dan Schneider

Mediation between the Lowell Area Schools board of education and teachers' union will take place next Wednesday after months of delay.

The last mediation session took place Monday, Oct. 20. Soon thereafter, both sides agreed to delay the next mediation until Nov. 20. By then the school board had expected to have information about state funding cuts that could impact their proposal.

On Nov. 6, Gov. Jennifer Granholm announced a

\$196 cut to the state's per pupil allowance. The governor and legislatures have been working since then to come up with a better plan.

In her budget update at Monday's board of education meeting, Connie Gillette, assistant superintendent for finance and personnel, said the state should announce their school budget plan next Wednesday.

The LAS teachers have been without a contract since August 31. The support staff contract expired June 30. The failure to settle a contract is mostly due to employee participation in health care costs.

The school board's last formal proposal, made Oct. 2, calls for employee copays on insurance. The last union proposal for teachers and support staff, put forward Sept. 15, requires that there be no employee participation in paying for health insurance.

During Monday's school board meeting, several board members said the school budget leaves them little room for flexibility on this issue. Board treasurer, James Reagan urged teachers in attendance to think creatively to find solutions and reach a settlement.

School negotiations,
 cont'd., pg. 6

Inside
The Lowell Ledger

New string ensemble...
 Page 10

Wrestling season begins...Page 12

OBITUARIES



KETTNER - Greta Alida Kettner, aged 89, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family December 1, 2003. She was born in Utica, MI on June 20, 1914, the youngest daughter of Edith Mae Johnson and William Harold Hunter. In 1936, she married Harold George Kettner of Detroit. They moved to Vergennes Township in 1949. Greta was

a member of the Women of the Moose, and a charter member of the Vergennes Co-op and the Fallasburg Historical Society. She is survived by her husband Harold; two sons Harold Grant (Elizabeth) and Michael Bernard (Diane) Kettner; four grandchildren Mark S. Kettner of Lowell, Lt. Com. Brenden J. Kettner of San Francisco, CA, Sarah E. Lutz of Eureka, MO and Chad M. Kettner of Grand Rapids; eight great-grandchildren. A private service was held Friday with interment in Oakwood Cemetery in Lowell. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Michigan.

MILLER - Garry Lee Miller, aged 56, of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly December 7, 2003. He was born August 31, 1947, in Grand Rapids, the son of Francis and Leona (BeVier) Miller. He was a graduate of Saranac High School in 1965. He married Julie Renwick December 22, 1966 in Saranac. Garry served in the Army during the Vietnam War from 1966-1968. He was a charter member of Saranac Lions Club, president of Ionia Free Fair Association, and a member of American Legion of Saranac.

He worked for Crystal Flash Energy (Fairchild Division) from 1969 until retiring in 2002. He was currently employed by Coldwell Bank Furton Hoppough where he was recently named Realtor of the Year for Ionia County. Garry was a devoted husband, father and grandpa. He is survived by his loving wife Julie Miller of Lowell; father Francis Miller of Lowell; son

Scott and Kristy Miller of Rockford; daughter Jill and Todd Veenstra of Ellsworth; sisters Dee Parsons of Wyoming, MI, Stella and Tom Boyak of Wetmore, MI; brother-in-law Neil and Jan Renwick of Saranac; sisters-in-law Heather and Dan Pierce of Ionia, Gayle and Richard Peacock of Lake Odessa; grandchildren Ethan Veenstra, Nicholas Miller, Garret

Veenstra, Kaylee Miller; several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his mother August 16, 2001. Funeral services will be held at Saranac Community Church on Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 11 a.m. with Rev. Ben Ritter officiating. Interment Saranac Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Saranac First Responders, Fire Department or Saranac FFA.

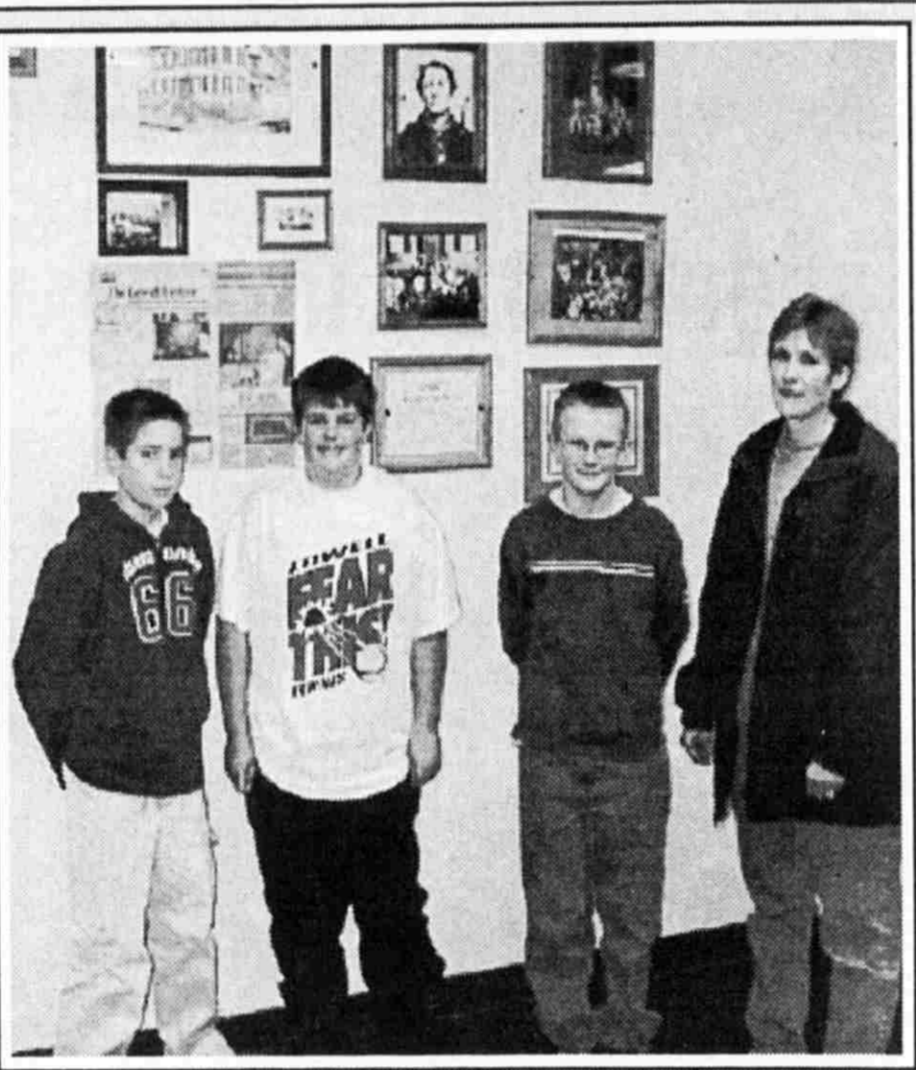
Martha Hayden's Bushnell Elementary first grade class earlier this year in the historic Fallasburg schoolhouse. This is the third year Hayden's class will make ornaments for the Christmas tree in the schoolhouse.

Students raise funds for FROM

Diane Kleczynski was on hand last Wednesday to accept a donation from the Benjamin Morse Society on behalf of Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc. Student officers from the Society are, left to right, Dylan Dues, Patrick Misner and Ian Blodger. FROM will use the group's \$500 donation to help buy food for the holiday boxes it will distribute this weekend.

The Benjamin Morse Society was formed in 1996. Lowell Middle School teacher, Jack Misner leads the after-school classes. Benjamin Morse, the club's namesake, was a Civil War hero from Lowell. Morse won the Congressional Medal of Honor for his role in the Battle of the Wilderness, one of the most violent of the war.

The club takes annual trips to historically significant places. This year, they will travel to Independence, Missouri, to see sites related to President Harry S. Truman and to Lewis and Clark. The money for the donation to FROM came from surpluses in the club's trip budget.



Bushnell Elementary first-graders created decorations to be displayed at Fallasburg schoolhouse.

Decorations & dinner at Fallasburg - December 20

Decorations will include popcorn strings, salt-dough ornaments made to look like ginger bread, and bows tied from worn-out clothes. The idea behind the decorations is to be true to what first-graders might have created in decorating a 19th-century schoolhouse Christmas tree.

The tree will be on display in the historic schoolhouse during the Fallasburg Historical Society's Christmas festivities. These will take place Saturday, Dec. 20. The society will serve free wassail and cookies from 6 to 9 that evening in the schoolhouse. There will also be Christmas carols in the schoolhouse.

The dinner costs \$20 per person. For more information or to reserve one of the few remaining seats, contact Kerry Schubach, director of the Fallasburg Historical Society, at 897-7161. Proceeds from the dinner benefit the Fallasburg Historical Society.

Christmas lights on the covered bridge and the society will decorate the exteriors of the historic Fallasburg homes.

The Historical Society sold out its seats for a Dec. 20 Christmas dinner at the Fallasburg House, 13893 Covered Bridge Rd. They have added another dinner, on Dec. 27. At press time, there were still eight seats available for the second seating that night. The second seating begins at 8 p.m. The dinner features 19th-century foods like cranberry-glazed pork roast, mushroom pate, homemade bread and seasonal vegetables.

The dinner costs \$20 per person. For more information or to reserve one of the few remaining seats, contact Kerry Schubach, director of the Fallasburg Historical Society, at 897-7161. Proceeds from the dinner benefit the Fallasburg Historical Society.

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CITY OF LOWELL FALL LEAF PICKUP PROGRAM EXTENSION

The leaf pick up program will be extended through the second week of December, 2003 (Tuesday, December 9th and Thursday, December 11th) by Waste Management Company. You must purchase leaf bags at the same locations as the trash bags:

City Hall Meijer, Inc.
Springrove Variety

These bags are sold in lots of 20 for \$8.00. They hold 30 gallons and are made of a paper, biodegradable material. The leaves are taken to a compost area.

This is a leaf composting program. Leaves, yard waste and twigs up to 2" in diameter may be placed in the leaf bags. The composting operation cannot accept leaves in plastic bags.



If there are any questions, please contact City Hall (897-8457).

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CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE
The Lowell City Council will conduct a public hearing at their regularly scheduled meeting of Monday, December 15, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, Lowell City Hall, Second Floor, 301 E. Main Street, Lowell, Michigan for the purpose of receiving comments from the public on the following:

- To rezone the northwest corner of Valley Vista Drive and Bowes Road (parcel #41-20-03-478-029) from C-3 (General Business) to R-3 (Multiple Family).

Interested persons may submit written comments or appear in person at City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331

Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk
616-897-8457

Ann Bales named new president of Ionia Free Fair
Ann Bales, president-elect of the Ionia Free Fair, has become president of the fair following the sudden death Sunday of Garry Miller. Bales, 59, has been on the Free Fair board since 1994. She has served as secretary of the fair for a number of years and was elected president-elect in 2002. "All of us involved with the Ionia Free Fair are shocked and saddened by Garry's passing," Bales said. "He had a wonderful way of bringing people together which is a vital facet in the reorganization of the fair after the board voted to go back to the free gate," she added.

A native of Ionia, Bales retired as a sales executive of Waste Management. In addition, she has served as a volunteer for a number of community organizations. Miller has been on the Ionia Free Fair board of directors since 1997. He was a retired Crystal Flash executive, and had been a sales associate with Furton-Hoppough Real Estate in Ionia. Funeral arrangements are being made through Lake Funeral Home in Saranac. The funeral will be held at the Saranac Community Church at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 10.

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING OF BOARD OF REVIEW
The Lowell City Board of Review will meet to correct the various Assessment Rolls for 2003 at City Hall, 301 E. Main St., Lowell, Michigan on:
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2003
10:00 - 11:00 A.M.
C. Jeanne Shores, Mayor
James Marfia, Assessor

Highland Hill project, continued ...From Page 1

emergency hearing from the Michigan Court of Appeals. At 6 p.m., the Michigan Court of Appeals rendered its decision it would not hear the case. "[Sundry] can proceed with the project," said city manager, David Pasquale, indicating that the Michigan Court of Appeals' decision cleared the way for the project to go ahead. Sundry will be required to follow the PUD ordinance put in place at the Aug. 4 meeting. Lowell Charter Township resident, Simon Rosenbaum Jr., who headed the petition drive, stated his disappointment at last week's council meeting with the circuit court's decision to stop the election. In a press release issued last week, Sundry stated it was "confident that Judge Leiber's rulings will not be reversed by Judge Leiber or by the Court of Appeals."

Sundry has spent more than two years working on the development of the two sites. The upper portion, known as the Phillips property, will be designed under the suburban residential zoning. The Leeman area, with the neotraditional style housing, was changed to R-1 residential with a PUD to accommodate the number of houses on the property. Residents spent a number of months fighting the zoning change. Concerns then rose over the amount of traffic that the development would generate and whether the surrounding streets including Grindle, James and High could support the traffic. Several residents felt it was too many houses on the property. Sundry met with city officials and residents during meetings and committees to work out a design for the project. The city was able to get the watermain looped on the property to help the city's overall system, and Sundry did allow for one access point to meet residents' concerns.

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Holiday Hours
Wed., Dec. 24 & Wed., Dec. 31 - 8 a.m. - noon
Thurs., Dec. 25 & Thurs., Jan. 1 - closed
Fri., Dec. 26 & Fri., Jan. 2 - 8 a.m. - noon
Lowell Ledger 105 N. Broadway, Lowell • Phone 897-9261

Thank You
Renée Jackson's Family would like to thank Mr. Noskey and all of the teachers and staff from the Lowell School District. Because of all of your donations, our daughter will be able to get everything she needs to make a full recovery. And to Bob at Roll-Away and his staff, along with all the caring people who participated in Renée's fundraiser - Thank you for your support. A very special thank you to Taz and all of the Lowell firefighters for your amazing quick response which saved our daughter's life. We will forever be grateful.

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Reflections Of Faith

By Father George J. Fekete
St. Mary Church

It was a hot Sunday in June. Millions of Americans were watching the U.S. Golf Open on TV. At a critical point in the play, the camera focused on Jack Nicklaus. He was in the rough and preparing to shoot out. Slowly and deliberately he ad-

ressed the ball. Then for a full 20 seconds of prime TV time, he stood ready to swing. Suddenly at the last moment, he backed away from the ball and said loud enough for everyone to hear, "That's the wrong swing." The sports announcer covering the match was confused and said, "But he didn't swing! What's going on here?" A lot was going on and Nicklaus explains exactly what it was in his book. There he described how he prepares for every shot he takes. It's a process called mental rehearsal. This simply means that he plays every shot in his imagination before he plays it for real.

What Jack Nicklaus was doing that hot Sunday afternoon is what the Church asks us to do during this season of Advent. The Church asks us to go through a kind of mental rehearsal to prepare for the coming of Christ. And the coming of Christ that we are to prepare for is not just His coming at Bethlehem which we celebrate each Christmas. And it's not just His coming to us in the sacraments, or as He comes to us in our prayer, as important as these comings are. Rather, and most especially, it's to prepare for His final coming which will take place at the end of time or the end of our life, whichever comes first.

The Advent preparation the Church encourages us to do is to turn away from sin and to really live our lives as Jesus taught us to live them. We are encouraged to take a good look at our lives and to ask ourselves, "How do we stand before God right now?" Maybe, after we finish looking at ourselves, we'll have to do what Jack Nicklaus had to do in that U.S. Open. We'll have to stop, back away from the ball (of our present living) and say, "That's the wrong swing." Maybe we'll have to make some changes. God love you.

Szymczak/Malloy



VOWS SPOKEN

VanKuiken/Corbit



Dave VanKuiken and Rebecka Corbit were married on November 20, 2003 at Snow United Methodist Church. Mother of the bride is Diana Corbit. Parents of the groom are Linda and Dave VanKuiken.

David Szymczak and Deborah Anne Malloy were united in marriage on October 4, 2003 in St. Alphonsus Church in Grand Rapids.

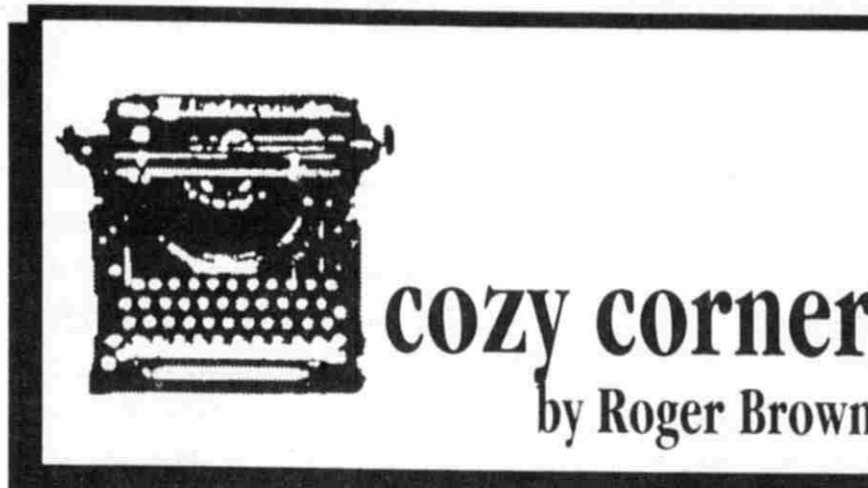
Parents of the bride are Patrick and Sally Malloy. Parents of the groom are Margaret Szymczak and the late Norbert Szymczak.

Matron of honor was Jean Fishman. Bridesmaids were Lorraine Glaz, Linda Smith and Sandra Melcher; flower girl was Melanie Melcher.

Best man was Steve Muma. Groomsmen were Rich Schweitzer, Ed Thome and Ed Zadniskis; ushers were Dan Szymczak and John Szymczak.

Co-mistresses of ceremonies were Susan Miller and Dorrie Szymczak.

Viewpoint . . .



How 'bout them Lions?

I've been a Lions fan for my entire adult life. Since I have a birthday coming up on Monday, we'll say my tenure with the silver and blue is about forty years. Forty years of wasting three good hours every Sunday afternoon each fall. That's pretty pathetic. I know, because my wife has been reminding me of just how pathetic it is for the majority of those years.

I call myself a Lions fan, though I must fall somewhere in the middle with my degree of fanaticism. Here's an example of what I mean.

As I moved into some brothers from the east side of the state while at a wedding reception. The person making the introduction was looking for some common ground, and mentioned that I was a Lions fan. The brothers became visibly aroused and one of them said, "Oh yeah, where do you sit?" They were season ticket holders at the Silver Dome. Now that's pathetic.

My friends these days are from all over the country, but mostly northern states. I have friends who are avid fans of the Packers, Steelers, Redskins, Patriots, etc. Whenever the conversation rolls around to football, I begrudgingly mumble that I am a forty-year fan of the Detroit Lions. I wish it were meant as a joke, because it always gets a good laugh.

These friends may not be having a good season this year, but they all have something I don't have. They have all experienced successful seasons ... triumphal seasons ... Superbowl seasons ... even dynasties. As a forty-year Lions fan, I can remember maybe two or three division championships, a handful of playoff berths and only one first round playoff victory. Those brothers with season tickets might correct my numbers slightly, but that's pretty close ... and very pathetic.

Still, I pencil out time each Sunday to watch the game. And, as is the case again this season, I recite that old Cubs fan adage, "Wait until next year."

This past Sunday was so typical of my love-hate relationship with the Lions. They were fresh off a huge win over the Packers on National TV on Thanksgiving. They were playing the dismal San Diego Chargers at home in Detroit. Of all the games the Lions should win this season, this was it. I had a gut feeling it would be an awful game and the Lions would lose. I watched as my fears played out into reality in one of the most dismal games I've ever seen. Lions lost 12-6.

I almost missed this game. Perhaps somebody is trying to tell me something about my obsession with the Lions.

I was hurrying with a honey-do project that involved a ladder and power tools. This could have been a Bob Vila's Evil Twin episode, but I had to bring the Lions game into the picture to stretch this incident to a proper length for a column.

My project wasn't going very well. It was a little roof repair project that wasn't working out as planned. None of my projects go as planned. I was well into the first quarter and hurrying to finish, put away my tools and plunk down in front of the TV.

As I moved my eight-foot stepladder along the eave of my roof project, I was rudely reminded of an error made in haste. I had left my drill, a big and hefty 18-volt Dewalt rechargeable, on the top step of the ladder. I happened to glance up, just as the drill came down. Perfect "Evil Twin" timing.

The drill caught me a good one just above the left eye. It staggered me like a clean jab from a light-heavyweight. When I recovered my senses, I counted to ten while resisting the urge to throw the Dewalt through the roof. I settled myself down and continued with my repair as my head throbbled and I cursed the Lions for their inexplicable grip on me.

So, whadaya think? If the Lions lose their last few games, they'll have a top draft pick. Hopefully they can get a premier running back. If they get everybody healthy, make some key trades, nab some free-agents, maybe they can pull it all together next year!

TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

The gross domestic product of the United States increased by more than eight percent last quarter, the greatest increase since 1984 (G.R. Press, 11/25/03, A3). LeBron James is reporting \$110 million dollars in endorsements, up \$20 million dollars since I last addressed the board in September. This is in addition to his NBA contract (Darren Rovell, 9/10/03, ESPN).

Three Detroit casinos alone report revenues in excess of \$900 million dollars for the first 10 months of 2003 (www.michigan.gov). All three Detroit car manufacturers reported increased sales for November with General Motors leading the way at \$22 million dollars (G.R. Press, 12/3/03, A11).

Our Board of Education continues to promote Lowell Area Schools utilizing Standards and Poors' evaluation of: "Relative to other K-12 school districts in Michigan, Lowell Area Schools achieves well above average student results with comparatively low spending (www.lowell.k12.mi.us).

Fifteen of 20 Kent County boards of education have chosen to invest their precious funds in their human resources, freeing their time and energy to focus on lobbying Lansing to properly fund public education and promoting the upcoming Special Education millage. Of these, none have required a cap on their employees' health insurance.

Our Board of Education has decided to wait, and wait, and wait, creating an atmosphere of anger and mistrust in our community.

What makes the great majority of school boards in Kent County, many with lesser resources than we enjoy, so wrong and ours so right?

Jack Misner



By Priscilla Lussmeyer

Ledger Entries of 125, 100, 75, 50 and 25 years ago

125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL DECEMBER 11, 1878

Ad: "Chew Jackson's Best Sweet Navy Tobacco." Go to Train's Hall Friday or Saturday evening to hear "Miss Phonograph" sing Sweet By and By.

Township treasurer Mitchell will collect your taxes at Broad's shoe shop, opposite the Forrest Mill.

Mr. Chauncey C. Jenks, who works in Mr. Perry's office, has had his poetry published in several literary magazines and periodicals.

Prof. Kellogg and his wonderful restorations of antediluvian monsters, plus Edison's Phonograph, at Train's Hall Friday and Saturday.

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER DECEMBER 10, 1903

Albert C. Johnson, recently back in Lowell in spite of reports of his death by drowning, is arrested in Grand Rapids for horse stealing.

Five former aldermen and the head of Public Works in Grand Rapids admit to taking bribes.

Robert Kline of Dayton, Ohio, engineer for the Grand Rapids and Ionia railway, is studying the route in preparation for letting contracts in January.

The sport of football claimed 17 young lives this past season. It's a dangerous game.

Pres. Theodore Roosevelt argues for military promotion for merit, not seniority.

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO DECEMBER 13, 1928

The merger of Hudson Sprayer and Lowell Specialty Co. creates a need for a new factory building for the now largest sprayer company in the world.

A.H. "Stormy" Stormzand is doubling the size of his garage, using the old ax factory space.

The Detroit Free Press advertises 16 pages of comics in the Sunday editions.

A Chicago chemist has produced paper from corn stalks; perhaps trees will no longer be needed for paper pulp.

Pres. Hoover is on a good will trip to South America.

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER DECEMBER 10, 1953

Lowell Manufacturing Company and the Root Manufacturing Company of Malta, Ohio, merge.

High (65 mph) winds cause minor damage here, but free a freighter hung up on shoals near the Soo Locks.

Lowell's George R. Cook succeeds Fred N. Searl as Grand Rapids City Attorney.

Area boards of education mull over the possibility of an area agricultural high school to help relieve pressures of increasing enrollments.

King Milling's new hydraulic platform truck hoist goes into operation. It lifts and tilts the whole truck.

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER DECEMBER 13, 1978

New Year's Eve falls on Sunday, which will limit Kent and three other counties to beer and wine sales.

Roger Odell becomes the youngest township supervisor in Kent County, 120 years after great-great-grandfather Orlando Odell served as the first Vergennes Township supervisor.

The Rfloat the Showboat magic show had a light turnout due to sub-zero temperatures.

The new video recorders are \$1,000, plus \$50 per tape.

Mrs. Hugh Michael Beahan, alumnus of St. Mary's and Lowell High School, is honored for his inter-church work.

The Best to all of you,
Mary Ellen (Curtis) & Wayne Kingdom

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

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<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbclowell.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.....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 LaWarte.....Pastor Megan MacNaughton.....Music Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship</p>	

*** Wisdom begins in wonder. —Socrates ***

School negotiations, continued...From Page 1

In Kenowa Hills school district, the school board and union have begun investigating total compensation packages. In this type of package, the union and district agree on an amount of money in the contract. It is then up to the union and the employees to decide how that money, the total compensation, is apportioned toward paying for wages, health care and retirement benefits. This keeps the question of copays out of the contracts. "We're hoping that, as other school districts are looking at this, Lowell will look at this as well," LEA president, Doranne Truax said. "I mean, we're open to all possibilities."

During the public comment session at the school board meeting Monday, teachers and parents expressed their desire to get the contract settled quickly. They said the negotiations were causing bad feelings in the community and were an unnecessary distraction to the educators.

"Let's get back to the curriculum," Crystal Sefton, a parent, said.

Board members also said a contract settlement is important to the community within the district. "We want morale to improve," Reagan said.

In response to the long negotiations, the union has begun to help teachers look for work in other districts.

"We felt we had a responsibility to our members to help

them come up with a resume, forms and letters of recommendation and find districts that would be a good place to work in," Truax said.

Truax said the idea for the union-assisted job search came out of phone calls and e-mails requesting help. The union assistance has been ongoing for about three weeks now. Truax said about 30 teachers have sought the help; two have had job offers from other districts, she said.

At Monday's school board meeting, both public comment and commentary from board members expressed urgency and hope that the next mediation will result in a settlement.



Unwind from the stress of the holiday season! Enjoy a holiday tea with the Friends of the Englehardt Library on Friday, Dec. 19 at 1:30 p.m.

Entertainment will be provided by Dulcimer Friends, a group made up of two hammered dulcimers, guitar and acoustic bass. Registration is required and participation is limited.

For more information or to register, call 647-3920. The tea will be held at Englehardt Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell.

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Scenes from a Small World Christmas

On board the showboat was Santa, available most of the morning for pictures with children. The front of the *Robert E. Lee* was filled with entries in the Christmas tree decorating contest. Voting was by one-dollar donations to the nonprofit groups who decorated the trees. The groups involved took in

a total of \$324. The Women of the Lowell Moose won the contest, raising \$57. At the library, children created Christmas ornaments. Inside the chamber of commerce, there was a bake sale and music by Bruce Ling of Hawks and Owls, and Bill Van Vugt.

"We're playing a combination of traditional Christmas carols and old-time British Isles and American music," Ling said.

While all of this was going on, Bearclaw Jack was chainsawing a willow log into a bear by the Riverwalk entrance. "I had a friend who was a painter and he would take out his brush and he would whip it across the canvas and suddenly there was a human figure there," he said.

It's this kind of immediate realization of an artistic idea that led him to start working with chainsaws, which remove material more quickly than traditional woodworking tools.



In addition to collecting more than 60 toys for Flat River Outreach Ministries, the Alto Girl Scouts took top honors in the parade for their interpretation of "Small World Christmas." The girls are wearing cardboard representations of various international flags.



A Grattan Township Fire Department engine led a line of rescue vehicles that included several from the Lowell Area Fire Department.



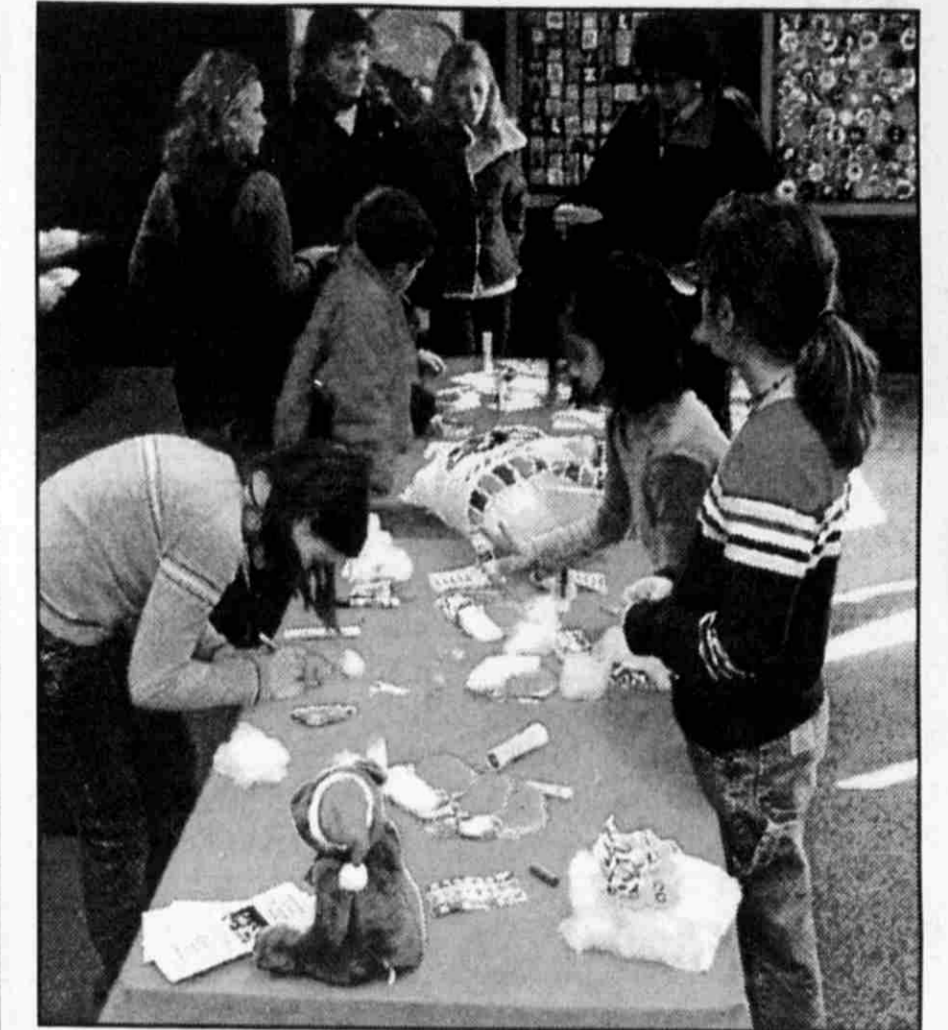
Near the end of the parade, the Lowell High School color guard leads the band.

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Small World, continued...



Classic cars, shining candy-colored in the sun, rev their way along Main Street.



The library offered craft-making as part of the holiday festivities. From left to right: Hannah Johnson, Jacey Culross and Abigail Johnson make Christmas ornaments at the Englehardt Library Saturday.



Bearclaw Jack chainsawed a willow log into a bear near the Riverwalk last Saturday.



Nancy Russell and Sue Sweet look up from the lower deck of the Showboat with the trees from the chamber of commerce's tree decorating contest. Sweet stands next to the LASSO entry she represented. Russell's tree, representing her Bushnell kindergarten class, was located inside the showboat.

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Phil DeBoer applies a propane flame to a fellow entrant's Rudolph. He explained that the flame melts away the flakes and chips of ice created by power tools, resulting in a clear, shiny ice surface.

String ensemble holds hope for school orchestra

By Dan Schneider

Sixth graders from Lowell Middle School performed string music for first graders at Bushnell Elementary last Friday.

The concert was the first in-school performance for the new string ensemble. Music teacher, Marti DeYoung has taught violin, viola and cello in after-school classes for the last five years. This year, sixth graders have been able to take orchestra class during the school day.

This is the start of what Lowell Area Schools hopes will eventually become an orchestra program. "It's our goal that this continue through middle school and in a few years we will be able to offer an orchestra program—have orchestra classes—at the high school," said superintendent, Shari Miller. "Our school district is certainly large enough to have this program."

Instrumental music in Lowell schools begins at the

sixth grade level. The string ensemble currently has 12 members, all of them sixth graders. The program will grow each year as new sixth graders join the existing group. An after-school feeder program starting in the second grade remains in place.

Stringed music in the Lowell schools started five years ago with the formation of the String Advocacy Committee.

"We came together be-

cause there were new students like my daughter who came into the district playing a stringed instrument and there was no orchestra for them to play in," Carol Drenth said.

Drenth is a founding member of the committee. She said Lowell is "one of the very few" school districts in the Kent County area lacking a school orchestra program.

DeYoung has been teaching the classes as an artist-in-residence. So far, the program

is not financed through the school district. A grant from the Lowell Area Community Fund has provided funding for the classes.

In their Friday performance, the string ensemble played folk songs and Christmas carols. The first graders in attendance sang along with several of the latter.

Drenth said the school district and the community have been very supportive of the program so far.

"They have worked with us a little each year to get to where we are now," Drenth said.

The String Advocacy Committee hopes people in the community who own stringed instruments they are not using would consider donating them to the program. It is especially important that the orchestra have its own large instruments, such as cellos and basses. It is helpful that these instruments be available at the school, DeYoung said, because they are cumbersome for students to always have to carry on the bus.



Pictured, front row, left to right, are: Jessica Ryder, Cassie Balfour, Phillip Getzen, Rachel Rowley, Cassie Miles and Sarah Buist; back row are: music teacher, Marti DeYoung, Parker Liu, Kyle Mayhew and Moriah Rowley.

Progress continues on new Murray Lake Elementary building

The new Murray Lake Elementary is proceeding on schedule. Exterior brickwork

is now complete, windows are in and the temporary heat has been turned on. This will allow workers to work through the winter on the interior of the building.

Members of the new Murray Lake Elementary Family Links group will staff an open house to take place Saturday, Jan. 17 from 1-3 p.m. Parents of students in the Murray Lake attendance area and the rest of the Lowell community are encouraged to attend.

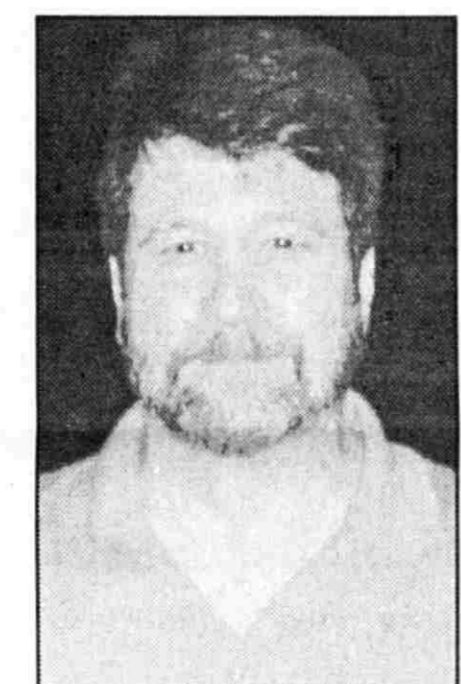
The building is scheduled to be substantially completed by June 14 and turned over to the district on July 12, Jim



Scott Rollins

Rollins named staff member of the month

Scott Rollins is listed as a custodian at Cherry Creek Elementary, but he is so much more than that to the students there. He is a person the kids look up to.



The kids at Cherry Creek all know "Scott" as a man who works very hard to keep our school clean, but also as a man who lives by Cherry Creek's Character Traits. He truly cares about the students and teachers with whom he works.

He was nominated for this recognition by several staff members who describe him as a person who goes out of his way to help others. He is never "too busy" to do things to help teachers make the classroom a better learning environment.

Rollins is married and he and his wife, Rose have two children, Lisa and Kyle. He has worked for Lowell schools for 14 years.

Financial Focus

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LEARN THE "BASICS" OF STOCKS AND BONDS

If you're fairly new at investing, you might find it to be somewhat confusing. What are the benefits of stocks and bonds? What are the risks? Is there a good reason to invest in both?

Once you know the answers to these questions, you'll have a good understanding of investment "basics"—and that knowledge can serve you well.

So, let's begin with stocks. What are they and why do people invest in them?

Simply put, stocks represent ownership shares in a company. When you buy stock in Company ABC, you own a piece of it, however small. You'll receive ABC's annual report, and you are typically entitled to vote on some important company issues, such as whether to issue additional stock or replace ABC's board of directors.

People invest in stocks because they hope to profit by selling their shares for more than what they paid. The stocks

most likely to provide these profits are usually called "growth" stocks. But investors also purchase stocks for the income they can receive as *dividends*, which are paid from the company's profits. Stocks that offer both the potential for growth and the opportunity to receive dividends are generally called "growth-and-income" stocks.

When you buy stocks, you assume certain risks, such as the possible loss of principal. As a (very) general rule, the greater a stock's potential for growth, the greater the investment risk.

Now, let's switch from stocks to bonds. When you buy a bond, you don't own anything—you're just making a loan. You can buy bonds issued by companies (corporate bonds), the government (Treasury bonds) or cities and states (municipal bonds). In each case, you loan out your money in exchange for regular interest payments and the return of the bond's face value when the bond matures.

Bonds, like stocks, carry risks. If you buy a corporate bond from a company that runs into problems, the company may default on your bond, and you won't get your principal back. Generally, you can help avoid this problem by investing in high-quality bonds. Municipalities can also get into trouble and default. U.S. government bonds, though, are considered to be the safest investment in the world, at least in regard to default potential.

When you invest in bonds, you'll also take on other risks. For one thing, if your bond matures at a time when rates have fallen, you may have to reinvest the proceeds in a bond that pays a lower interest rate. But when interest rates rise, the value of your existing bonds will fall. To illustrate, suppose your bond pays four percent and market rates rise to six percent.

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Thank you to Liz Baker for an awesome Christmas Saturday!

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George Mickel - Baklava - hmmm mmm!!! Say no more! Thanks!

With all other factors being equal, no one will pay you the full price for your bond; to sell it, you'll have to offer it at a discount. By holding your bonds until maturity, though, you won't have to worry about price fluctuations.

Stocks and bonds clearly have some different benefits and different risks. And stocks and bonds frequently move in different directions. When the stock market is slumping, bonds sometimes perform well—and vice versa. That's why you'll want to build a *diversified* portfolio by investing in a variety of stocks and bonds. By spreading your dollars this way, you can help cushion your portfolio from downturns that hit one type of asset particularly hard—and you can give yourself more chances to succeed.

The investment world can get pretty complex. But it all starts with the basics: stocks and bonds. Try to become familiar with both of them—it will be time well spent.

Houseplants can play holiday role

A living Christmas tree need not be the traditional pine or spruce to give you years of enjoyment. A large houseplant can hold small, lightweight ornaments and then, after the holidays, take its place in your indoor landscape.

Favorite large-scale houseplants include parlor palm, dieffenbachia, schefflera and rubber plants, or ficus, says Mary McLellan, extension master gardener program coordinator at Michigan State University. If you want a more traditional evergreen look, there's always Norfolk Island pine.

These plants are well adapted to an indoor climate, though all will benefit from higher than normal in-home humidity levels. "The most common care problem with these plants is overwatering,"

McLellan points out. "Plant roots need air as well as water. Roots that sit in waterlogged soil die and rot, and eventually the whole plant dies. Even plants in pots with drainage holes can get too much water, and those in pots without drainage are seriously at risk."

To decorate large houseplants, use small lightweight ornaments—tinsel, bows, tiny glass balls, small artificial birds, etc.—and cool lights, she suggests. Spotting the plant is another lighting possibility. A tree skirt or colored felt could be draped over the plant pot, or that pot could be set inside another, more decorative one and the soil covered with small evergreen boughs for a woody look and smell. Small poinsettias could be added for holiday color.

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NOT A SPECIALIST

White, Murray Lake coordinator, reported in a construction update to the school board Monday.

White also announced the core team of teachers for the new school: Karla Byrne, kindergarten; Nancy Breuker, first grade; Sally Sterly, second grade; Bob Titcombe, third grade; Matt Quada, fourth grade; Mike Fillman, fifth grade.

I voiced my opinion in the Ledger Sound Off column! You Can too!

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Lowell wrestlers dominant in the first matches of the season

By Dan Schneider

The Red Arrow varsity wrestling team began its season last Thursday, defeating Comstock Park in the first match-up of a quad match at Greenville, 46-23.

Over the weekend, the team handily won the Paw Paw tournament. The B team from Hamilton High School took second place. Lowell defeated the Hamilton team 76-6. They beat Eau Claire by the same score and teams from Berrien Springs, East Jackson and Paw Paw by similarly wide margins.

Coach Dave Strejc admitted that the challengers in the opening matches of this season were easier to contend with than the opening schedule of last year. At the beginning of last season, instead of going to the Paw Paw tournament, the Arrows faced tougher competition at the Michigan Duels.

"That was just a brutal tournament," Strejc said.

In that tournament, the Red Arrows faced some of the toughest of the previous year's state-ranked teams. That tournament won't take place this season until Jan. 4. Comstock Park also defeated Lowell in its early-season meeting last year.

This season so far has followed a different scenario. The relatively light competition in these early matches has been grounds for developing new talent for the team.

"I think this is a better start than going straight into the ranked competition," Strejc said. "We weren't facing the most seasoned teams but we really worked at our basic skills and polished techniques."

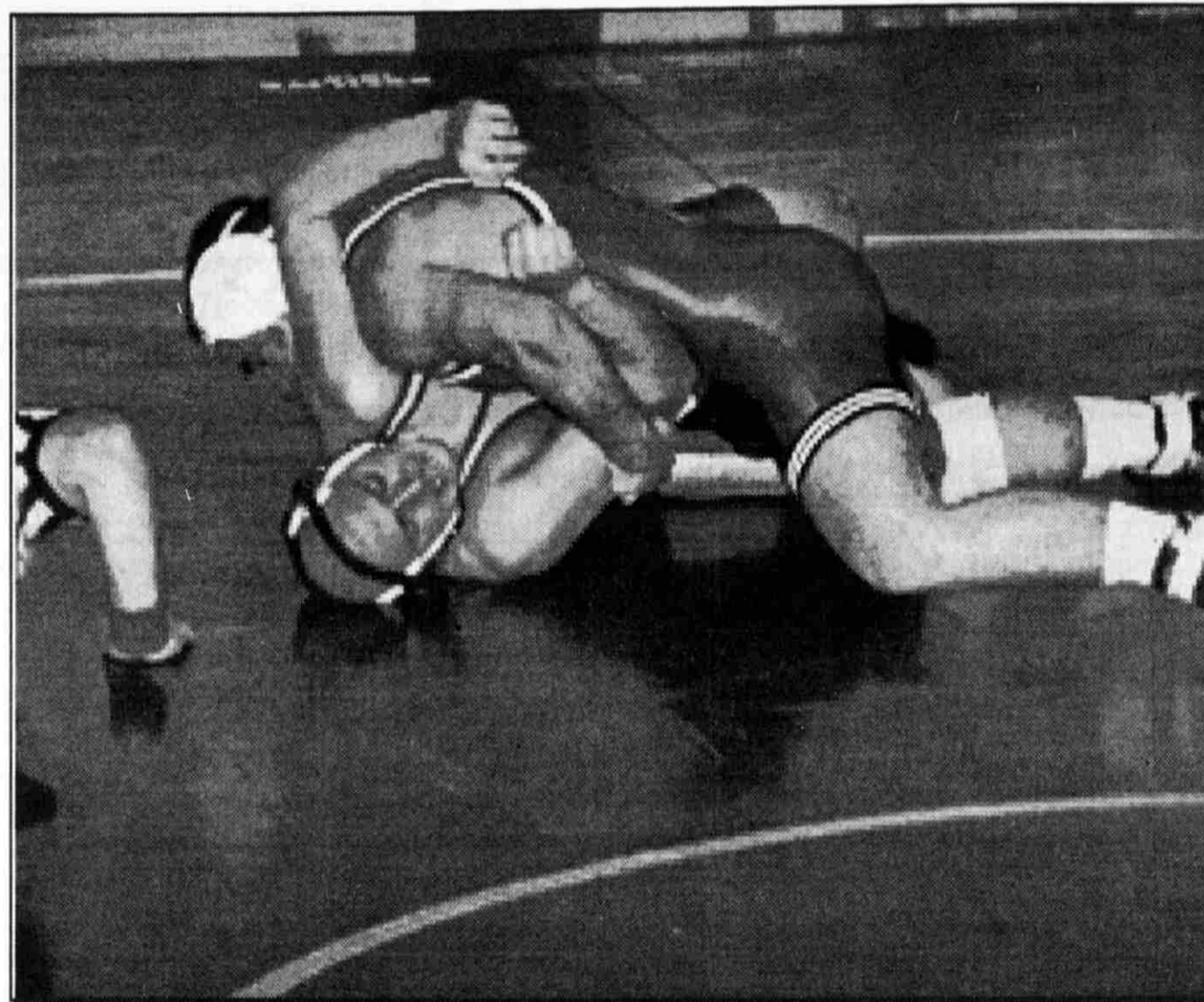
The caliber of opponents will take a steep jump this week with the conference

opener at Cedar Springs Thursday followed by the Howell Invitational Saturday.

"This week all barrels go blazing," Strejc said. "I'll have a really good idea of where we are at after this game Saturday. There will be nine state-ranked teams at this tournament so it's going to be a real barn-burner."

The Lowell wrestling squad awaits the return of its football players. Strejc requires football players to take two weeks off to recuperate before practicing. Then they must complete seven practices before they can wrestle in matches.

Returning individual state champion, Joe Mendez is already back on the mat this year for Lowell. So is Matt Kilmartin, who took fourth place individually in the state last season.



Red Arrow grappler just before pinning his Caledonia opponent.

Mendez is wrestling 130 this year. He won his championship at 112.

"He's moving up significantly," Strejc said. "It should be a pretty big task ahead of him but he's up to the challenge."

Mendez was 4-0 in his match-ups last Saturday. Kilmartin, wrestling at 135 up from 125 last year, went 5-0 last Saturday in Paw Paw.

Other wrestlers who went undefeated in their individual matches last Saturday were

David Kropf (119), Mike Nearing (125), Ryan Karsiewicz (140), Jayme DeLiefde (152), Jason Nearing (160) and Matt Gilhespy (215).

SANTA VISITS

Santa visits will be on the Lowell Showboat Wednesday, Dec. 10 and 17 from 6-8 p.m.; also on Saturday, Dec. 13 and 20 from 1-3 p.m. Call 897-9161 with questions.

SANTA VISITS F.R.O.M.

Be sure to visit Flat River Outreach Ministries thrift store (519 E. Main) on Friday, Dec. 19 at 5 p.m. Santa will be there!

COLLECTING FOR TOYS FOR TOTS

Family Friends & Neighbors of Grattan with Grattan Fire Dept. are collecting new unwrapped toys at Grattan Twp. Hall & fire station, Grattan Academy, Grattan General Store, Tri-Town Conservation Club now thru Dec. 20.

LEA HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA

The Lowell Education Foundation has printed special holiday cards with several designs of seasonal artwork created by Lowell students/teachers. Cost is \$5 and they are available at all school offices now thru Dec. 19. All proceeds go to support the Lowell Ed. Foundation's grants to teachers and students for innovative and creative educational projects.

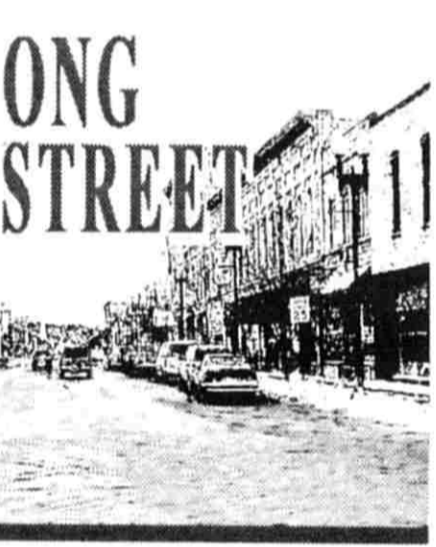
BLOOD DRIVE

Lowell Area Fire Dept. is sponsoring a blood drive for the Grand Valley Blood program, Wednesday, Dec. 10 from 2-7 p.m. at Look Memorial Fire Station, 315 S. Hudson.

HOLIDAY BAND CONCERTS

Lowell High School bands holiday concert will be on Wednesday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m. in Lowell Performing Arts Center; features Red, White and Symphonic bands.

The middle school bands concert will be Thursday, Dec. 11, 7 p.m., in the middle school gym; features 7th and 8th grade bands. The performances are free and open to the public.



CALL FOR AUDITIONS

The Thebes Players are seeking actors for "Escanaba in da Moonlight" by Jeff Daniels. Auditions for the five male and one female cast are Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 13 at 3 p.m. at Englehardt Library, 200 N. Monroe. Performances in February. To borrow a script for review, call LAAC at 897-8545.

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COMING EVENTS

Notices in The Ledger's "Coming Events" are free of charge to any nonprofit organization in the Lowell, Ada, Alto & 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 OTHER SUN: Single adults meet 4-5:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church of Lowell. Social time/lt. Bible study. Mark 897-8642/Tammy 897-0872.

EVERY MON: LHS Fellowship of Christian Athletes & Friends, 7-8:30 p.m. in members' homes. 676-1355.

THIRD MON. OF EACH MONTH: Fallsburg Historical Society monthly board meetings at Chamber office or Fallsburg at 7 p.m. All invited. Call 897-7161 for info. or location.

SECOND MON. OF EACH MONTH: Lowell Board of Education meets 7:00 p.m. in Administration Building, 300 High Street.

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

THIRD MON. OF THE MONTH: Lowell Showboat Garden Club, 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall of Nazarene Church. Call Dave, 897-2533.

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

FOURTH MON. OF EACH MONTH: Clark-Ellis American Legion Post 152 meets at 3100 Alden Nash S.E. at 7:30 p.m.

THIRD MON. OF EACH MONTH: Women of the Moose business meeting at 7:30 p.m.

EVERY 1ST MON.: V.F.W. Post #8303, 3116 Alden Nash S.E. at 7 p.m.

EVERY MON.: Boy Scout Troop 102, 11 & up or completing 5th-grade, meets 7-8:30 p.m. at Scout Cabin on N. Washington St. Call Terry 868-6481.

1ST & 3RD TUES.: Diabetic Support group meets at 9:30 a.m. at Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd.

2ND & 4TH TUES.: MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers...because mothering mat-

ters. 9:15-11:30 a.m. at Impact, a Wesleyan Church, 1070 N. Hudson. Call 897-8304 for details.

SECOND TUES.: G.R. Chapter of the American Sewing Guild meets at D.W. Richardson Center, 5255 Grand River Dr. 6:30 social time; 7 p.m. program. Sandy, 285-0621.

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

TUES.: Flat River Woodcarvers, LAAC, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

1ST TUES.: Adults with AD/HD at Calvin College, 7-9 p.m. Call Gary Engle at 897-6325 or 248-2423.

SECOND & FOURTH TUES.: Saranac Needlers, needleart/quilting bee meets 5-8:30 p.m. at the 4 Health Wellness Center in Saranac. Come for all or part time; all are invited. Contact Bev or Melissa at 642-6466 for more info. Light dinner provided.

EVERY SECOND & FOURTH TUES.: Knights of Columbus #7719 meets St. Mary School, 7:30 p.m.

EVERY SECOND TUES.: Lowell Masonic Lodge meeting, 7:30 p.m., Masonic Center, 119 Lincoln Lake.

EVERY 1ST & 3RD TUES.: Lowell Lions Club, 6:30 p.m., Look Memorial Fire Station, 315 S. Hudson St.

EVERY THIRD TUES.: Beginning January '04, the Saranac Scrapppers, new scrapbooking/journaling group will meet at 4 Health Wellness Center, Saranac, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Lt. refreshments served. Call Bev or Melissa at 642-6466.

EVERY 3RD TUES.: Parents of children w/AD/HD at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 32156 4 Mile NE /E. Bellline) 7 p.m. Call Linda 874-5662; teen group: Sarah 281-6588.

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

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

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

EVERY WED.: "Peppers" at Franciscan Life Process Center: 1-3:30 p.m. \$10/wk. Call Pat 897-7842.

EVERY WED.: Lowell Church of the Nazarene Caravan children's program, 7 p.m., 5-12 years. Call 897-8800 with ???'s.

EVERY SECOND WED.: Kent County Youth Fair Board, 7:30 p.m. at King Memorial Youth Center at Fairgrounds. 897-6050.

EVERY SECOND WED.: Lowell Women's Club meets noon in community room at Schneider Manor, 725 Bowes Rd.

EVERY FOURTH WED.: Elderly volunteers needed for Intergenerational program w/school children from Lowell in activities. 9:45-10:45 a.m. or 12:45-1:45 p.m. Call Sister Colleen F.S.E. 897-7842.

EVERY FOURTH WED.: Support group for Peripheral neuropathy, 4 p.m. at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Grand Rapids. 897-9794.

THURS.: Weight Watchers, Lowell Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington, 5:30 p.m. Register 1/2 hr. before meetings. 1-800-651-6000.

EVERY SECOND THURS.: Lowell Masonic Lodge meeting, 7:30 p.m., Masonic Center, 119 Lincoln Lake.

EVERY SECOND THURS.: Loyal Order of the Moose, men's general meeting at 7:30 p.m. - ? All members in good standing may attend.

THURS.: Saranac Area Musicians and Singers at Saranac H.S. Band Room. Choir: 6-7 p.m./ band: 7-8 p.m. Kathy Maatman 897-5981

EVERY THURS.: Pottery classes, Franciscan Life Process Center, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Call 897-7842

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

FIRST THURS.: 4-H drama club meetings at Lowell Middle School choir room. 897-1502 after 5.

FIRST AND THIRD THURS.: Alto Lions Club at Annalaine's on S. Alden Nash Ave. at 7 p.m.

EVERY 3RD THURS.: Rubber stamping group, Christian Life Center 6-9 p.m. Create scrapbooks, etc. Share supplies. Dawn 862-8841.

EVERY 3RD THURS.: VFW #8303 Ladies Auxiliary, 3116 Alden Nash S.E. at 3 p.m.

EVERY THIRD THURS.: Parents Supporting Parents group at Franciscan Life Process Center. Call 897-7842.

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

EVERY THIRD THURS.: LaLeche League of Ada, Cascade, Lowell 6:30 p.m. socializing; meeting 7 p.m. Mother-mother support for pregnant & breastfeeding women. Nursing children welcome. Ada church. 752-8300.

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

SECOND SAT. OF EVERY MONTH: Ada Historical Society at 10:30 a.m., Averill Historical Museum, 7144 Headley, Ada.

SECOND SAT.: Lowell Amateur Radio Club, Lowell City Airport, 730 Lincoln Lake NE. 9 a.m. social time; 10 a.m. meeting. LARC sponsors 145.27 MHz area radio repeater system.

EVERY FRI., SAT. & SUN.: Averill Historical Museum of Ada, 7144 Headley open 1-4 p.m. or by appt.: 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 free.

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES THRIFT SHOP HOURS: Wed.-Fri. 12-6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 519 E. Main St. 897-2037. Weekly specials.

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. 200 N. Monroe St. 647-3920.

LOWELL AREA ARTS COUNCIL: Tues. Wed. & Fri.: noon - 5 p.m. Thurs.: noon - 7 p.m. Sat., 1-4 p.m. 149 S. Hudson. 897-8545.

LOWELL SERENITY CLUB MEETINGS: (AA) Mon., Wed., Thurs: 12-1 & 8-9 p.m.; Tues./Fri: 12-1, 4:30-5:30 & 8-9 p.m.; Sat./Sun.: 10-11 a.m. & 8-9 p.m.; (NA) Mon./Thurs., 6-7:30 p.m. 101 W. Main. 897-8565.

WED., DEC. 10: Lowell Area Fire Dept. blood drive from 2-7 p.m. at Look Memorial Fire Station at 315 S. Hudson.

SAT., DEC. 13: Party at Grattan Twp. Hall from 1-3 p.m. for Toys for Tots collection (new unwrapped toys) thru Dec. 20. Santa will be there; also punch and cookies will be served.

FRI., DEC. 19: Flat River Outreach Ministries thrift store will receive a visit from Santa at 5 p.m. Be sure to stop by!

SAT., DEC. 20.: Saranac Area Musicians & Singers (S.A.M.S.) Christmas concert, 7 p.m. at Saranac

High School. \$5 adults; \$3 seniors; \$2 students; free under five. Call 897-5981 (Kathy) or 522-0152 (Jodi).

SAT., JAN. 3: Christmas tree shredding at Wittenbach Center from 12-4 p.m. drop off; or for pickup call Jay 897-1355; 4-6 p.m. Luminary walk; live music: Lowell String Ensemble. Call 987-1002.

SAT., JAN. 3: Lowell alumni hockey game, 7-8:30 p.m. at Standard Federal Ice Center on Patterson Ave. in G.R.

SUN., JAN. 4: Tri-town Conservation Club trap & skeet league, 5616 Dunn Rd., 12-5 p.m.; also Wednesdays 6-10 p.m. Call Larry 754-7104 for info. Public welcome.

JULY 14 - 22, '04: Summer Irish Holiday, \$1,999 per person; deposit \$300. Call Mary Condon at 897-7092 for more information. Lowell Senior Neighbors.

LOWELL SENIOR NEIGHBORS CALENDAR
 897-5949

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

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

THURS., DEC. 11: 12:45 p.m. Tour Mayflower Church.

FRI., DEC. 12: 11 a.m. Connie Bos Luncheon.

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

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

MON., DEC. 22: 4:45 p.m. Dinner at Keiser's

TUES., DEC. 23: 12:45 p.m. Christmas Movies at Center.

WED., DEC. 24: Center Closed.

THURS., DEC. 25: Merry Christmas! Center Closed.

FRI., DEC. 26: 12:00 p.m. Birthday/Anniversary Party; 12:45 p.m. Bingo.

TUES., DEC. 16: 12:15 p.m. Alto Senior Lunch.

WED., DEC. 17: 10 a.m. Evergreen Commons for Lunch and Music.

THURS., DEC. 18: 12:45 p.m. Shop Target & K-Mart.

FRI., DEC. 19: 10:30 a.m. Christmas Party.

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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.
THURS., DEC. 11: 12:45 p.m. Tour Mayflower Church.
FRI., DEC. 12: 11 a.m. Connie Bos Luncheon.
MON., DEC. 15: 12:45 p.m. Visit Meijer Gardens Christmas Trees.
TUES., DEC. 16: 12:15 p.m. Alto Senior Lunch.
WED., DEC. 17: 10 a.m. Evergreen Commons for Lunch and Music.
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WED., DEC. 24: Center Closed.
THURS., DEC. 25: Merry Christmas! Center Closed.
FRI., DEC. 26: 12:00 p.m. Birthday/Anniversary Party; 12:45 p.m. Bingo.
MON., DEC. 29: 12:45 p.m. Treasured Memories.
TUES., DEC. 30: 4:30 p.m. Dinner at Deer Run.
WED., DEC. 31: 8:30 a.m. Traveling Breakfast; 12:30 p.m. Dessert, Music, White Elephant Exchange, Happy New Year!

Lowell-Caledonia hockey racks up two more wins

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell-Caledonia Red Arrows improved their conference record to 3-0 last weekend with wins over West Ottawa and Hudsonville.

The score in last Friday's game was Lowell-Caledonia, 7, West Ottawa, 2.

Panther goalie, Chase Bleeker had his glove on a puck but lost control, giving the Arrows their first goal at 2:38 into the first period.

David Sweeney was credited with the goal and Brandon John with the assist. Ted

McCoy put in an unassisted goal 43 seconds later. Corey Kelly shot in the third goal of the first period, with an assist by Pat McMahon and John.

The Panthers remained scoreless through the second period. Lowell-Caledonia fired in two more goals. The first was made by Kelly assisted by McCoy and David Maylone. The second was by Kyle Austin, assisted by John Truskowski.

West Ottawa had a power play to open the third period. They took advantage of that fact with a goal 43

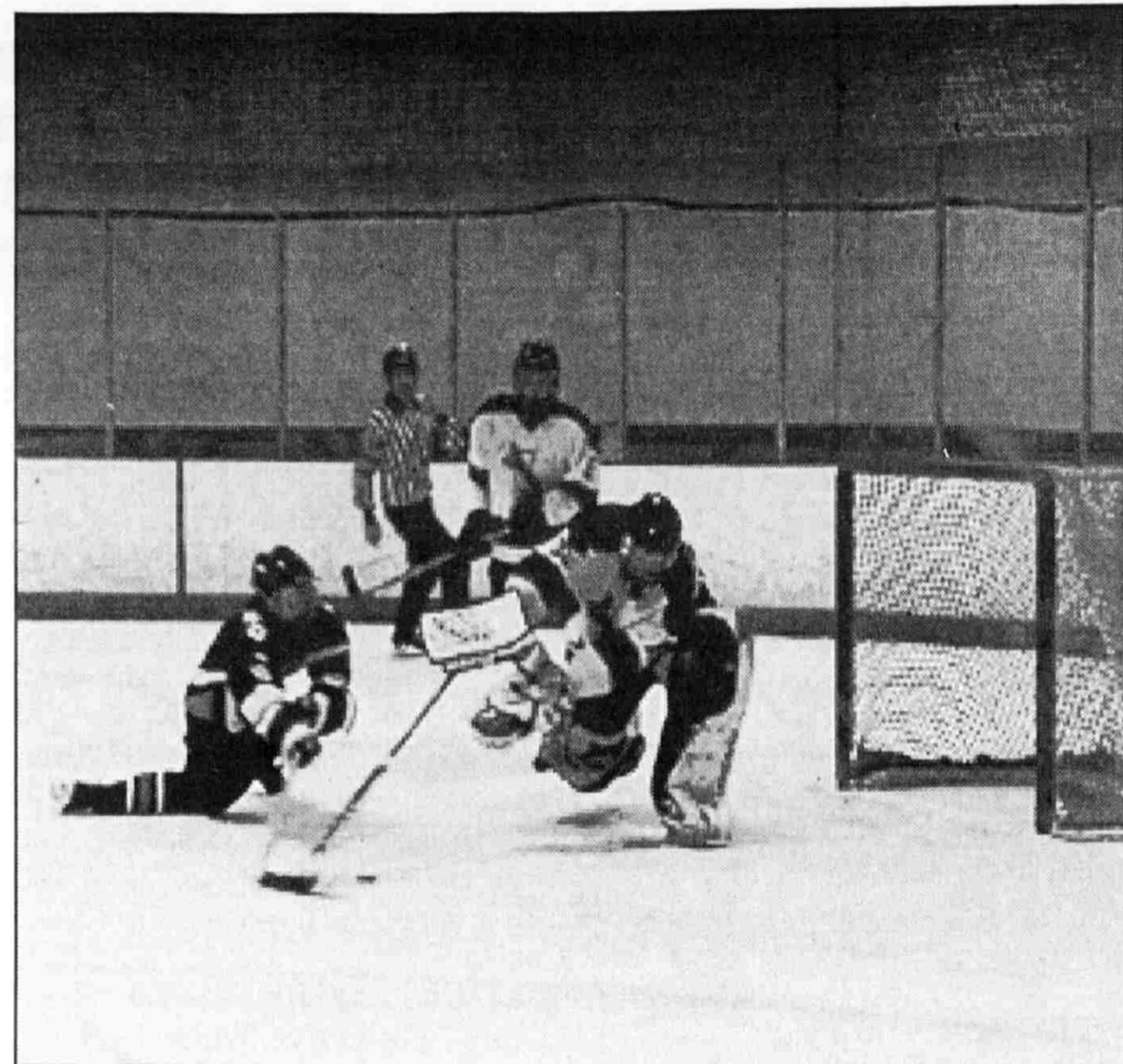
seconds into the period. Chad Bradbury scored that goal assisted by Adam Karsten and Kyle Malone.

Kelly had another goal in the third period (assisted by Aaron Benmark) and with McMahon assisted by McCoy. The Panthers put in their last goal with 52 seconds remaining to finish out the game's scoring.

"They definitely came ready to play and we're in game three of three nights on the road," West Ottawa coach Terry Cutters said. "But that's no excuse. They just came ready to play and we didn't."

"They got a lot of loose pucks - you've got to give them credit for hustling."

The West Ottawa



Red Arrow goalie, David Maylone from Lowell High School gets ready to stop a puck in last Friday's action against the West Ottawa Panthers.

coaches also gave credit to Lowell-Caledonia goalie Maylone. Maylone had 21

saves in the game for a 91 percent save average. "David had a very great

game in the nets," Lowell-Caledonia coach, Mike Ballard said. "He's playing his position well as far as staying in his crease, using his size to his advantage."

"He knows that through his play he can be a team leader and it shows."

On Saturday, the Red Arrows beat the Hudsonville Eagles for the second time this season. The score in that game was 5-1.

McCoy scored in the first period, assisted by John. John assisted another McCoy goal to open scoring in the second period. John put in the third goal assisted by Sweeney and McMahon. The Eagles quickly countered that goal for their only score of the afternoon.

Corey assisted another McCoy goal midway through the third period and McCoy finished the game's scoring with a corner shot.

"We are going in with good teamwork, good discipline," Ballard said. "I've said it before that the key to our success is to be disciplined and play as a team."

Maylone had 15 saves against the Eagles. The Red Arrows take on Grand Haven tonight and face Grand Rapids Catholic Central Saturday.



Lowell-Caledonia's Brandon John fights for the puck against Steve Stidham of West Ottawa. Both teams came out aggressive but the Red Arrows quickly took control.

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HOUSE FOR SALE - Sharp 3 bedroom home, 1 1/2 baths, oak kitchen cabinets with some kitchen appliances included, finished basement with pellet burner, private backyard with deck and patio, \$122,900. 281 Jane Ellen Dr. 897-8120.

CHRISTMAS TREES - \$30 Blue Spruce. Regular hours Sat: 10 - 5pm.; Sun. 12 - 5pm 8700 Morse Lake, Alto (S. of 84th St.)

1997 4x4 EXPLORER SPORT - Dave Ramsey says to sell. Great condition, auto starter, loaded, 91,000 miles, \$7,000 or make offer. 897-9729.

'94 CUTLASS CIERA - good car, bad transmission. Need parts? New brakes, 3 new tires, overall good condition. \$250. Call 897-4346.

LOWELL - This home has been lovingly remodeled. Beautiful new kitchen. Newer flooring, windows, electric, and furnace. 4 bedrooms. New vinyl siding. \$144,900. Sandra Keiser 616-293-3882. Century 21 Pearson-Cook 616-954-0990. PLE1SKEIS-A

HOME FOR SALE IN FOREMAN FARMS - 4 bedroom, 3 bath, inground heated pool. Immediate possession. (616)291-4180 or (616)897-9108.

FURNITURE - Bedroom sets, dining/kitchen sets, leather living room, canopy beds, to more extras from Parade of Home displays. Call 616-682-4767 or 293-6160.

FOR SALE - Vacuum cleaners, \$25 & up. Kirby's, \$85; Rainbow, \$350. Bags, belts & service on all makes & models. Lowell, 897-0044.

FIRST \$1,000 DOWN GETS - 3, 4 bedroom, 2 bath home. Immediate occupancy. Call 616-647-2563.

CARPET - 75 rolls in stock. Brand new. Plushes, berbers, remnants, \$49/up. Dennis Distributing 989-224-4822.

WEIMARANER PUPPIES AKC, 9 weeks, 2 Blue males, \$400 each, 1 silver/gray female, \$500. Call 868-7363.

SEALY, STEARNS & FOSTER, SERTA MATTRESS SALE - Queen & king sizes only. New, freight damaged, \$99 each piece until gone. (12 sets). Dennis Distributing 989-224-4822.

HEPA FILTER - Bagless, upright vacuum sale. 20 vacuums to sell, \$10 & up. Dennis Distributing 989-224-4822.

LAWN TRACTOR - 1997 Wheelhorse 20hp with snow thrower, push blade, 48 in. deck, weights and chains. Like new 245 hrs., \$3,950. Call 616-868-1008.

2000 FORD EXPLORER XLT - 4 dr, 4X4, excellent condition, white. Call 987-4410.

FOR SALE - 1995 Ski Doo formula with studs, low miles, good shape, \$1,195 or best offer. Call 676-0790.

'89 FORD F150 - with plow, \$1,500. Call 616-868-0619.

FOR SALE

PROPERTY FOR SALE - 2.2 acre lots for sale. M-21 to Hayes Rd., Muir, North 1/4 mile. Lots are on West Side of road. Look for signs. For more information call eves 269-367-4900. Phil Bishop.

MATTRESS/BOX SPRING SALE - \$49/set. Queen, full or twin, factory new, delivery available. Dennis Distributing 989-224-4822.

RAMADA INN BUY-OUT - Clean, sanitized mattress sets, w/frames. Most sizes, 20 sets. \$49 up. Dennis Distributing 989-224-4822.

AIR BED - Selecta comfort, firmness for each of you. Dual chambers, wireless remote, never used. Cost \$1400, sell \$600. Call 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160.

BUNK BED/ DESK COMBO - mattress & chair included \$150 obo. 868-6568.

APPLIANCES - Maytag, Whirlpool, GE, washers, dryers, refrigerators, over 100 in stock from \$59. Dennis Distributing 989-224-4822.

LUGER 10 22 CAL. RIM FIRE RIFLE FOR SALE - 2 clips, \$130. Call 868-0145.

CHERRY SLEIGH BED - Queen w/pillowtop mattress set. Bought, never used, sell \$175. 517-626-7089.

PILLOWTOP MATTRESS SET - New in plastic, queen \$135; king \$185. 517-719-8062.

AMISH QUEEN LOG BED - w/pillowtop mattress set. Bought, never used. Still in plastic. Sell \$125. 989-227-2986.

BERBER CARPET - Beautiful oatmeal color, 40 sq. yards. Bought, never used, still in plastic. Cost \$600, sell \$195/best. 517-719-0451.

MATTRESS SETS - Brand names, all new. No cycles or foam rejects. Pillowtop & plush air chamber & memory foam, twins & fulls, \$95; queens, \$115; kings, \$195 & up. 682-4767 or 293-6160. Can deliver.

FANTASTIC VALUE ON - 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Low down payment. Free washer & dryer if purchased by Christmas. Call 616-647-2563.

LOOKING FOR THAT PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT? - Shop at home and view over 200 unique items. We're adding more Each day! www.rivercitytrader.com

SNOWMOBILE - 1980 Yamaha Enticer 300. Good runner, new track, driveshaft, bearings, seat cover and windshield. Equipped with hot grips, too. Great kids sled. \$500. Call 868-7186.

LAWN TRACTOR - 1997 Wheelhorse 20hp with snow thrower, push blade, 48 in. deck, weights and chains. Like new 245 hrs., \$3,950. Call 616-868-1008.

2000 FORD EXPLORER XLT - 4 dr, 4X4, excellent condition, white. Call 987-4410.

FOR SALE - 1995 Ski Doo formula with studs, low miles, good shape, \$1,195 or best offer. Call 676-0790.

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By Phone: 616-897-9261

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HOLIDAY HOURS & DEADLINES

HOURS
Wed., Dec. 24 - 8 a.m. - noon
Thurs., Dec. 25 - closed
Fri., Dec. 26 - 8 a.m. - noon

Wed., Dec. 31 - 8 a.m. - noon
Thurs., Jan. 1 - closed
Fri., Jan. 2 - 8 a.m. - noon

DEADLINES
For Dec. 29 issue -
Wed., Dec. 24 at noon

For Jan. 5 issue -
Wed., Dec. 31 at noon

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website: www.lowellbuyersguide.com

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FOR RENT - 1 & 2 bedroom trailers \$1,000 - \$1,050 to move in. No dogs please. \$400 - \$420 per mo. plus 1/2 mo. rent deposit. Call 813-8041 or 616-754-0276.

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LOWELL AREA - 5 bedroom home for rent \$975 a month. First and last, \$500 Security deposit and references. No pets or smokers. 293-0980.

ROOM FOR RENT - Lowell area. Non smoker. No pets, \$275 mo. Call 616-813-2400.

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HELP WANTED - Roth Farm has 2nd shift opening for milking and general dairy chores. Also part time weekends. Experience preferred. 616-897-7435 or apply at 10030 Potters Rd., Lowell.

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WANTED

WANTED - car bed for Xmas present for little boy. Reasonable. Call 897-4389.

LOST

LOST - Orange tiger stripe cat, named Tony, vicinity of Murray Lake, Causeway Drive. 897-3059.

CARD OF THANKS

CARD OF THANKS
Thank you everyone for all the cards and flowers and my 100th Birthday Party.
Betty Wierenga

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897-0787

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A Sound Off Link can also be found on our website:
www.lowellbuyersguide.com or mail to: Sound Off, PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331

SHORT-STOP DAYCARE OPENINGS - Lowell & Saranac school area. 24 hrs./5 days. Call 897-4319.

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BOWNE TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that on Thursday, December 18, 2003 at 7:30 p.m., in the Bowne Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash S.E., the Bowne Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold public hearing for the purpose of hearing comments regarding a proposed appeal of the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance.

The appeal is in regard to Section 3.14 Height Exceptions of the zoning ordinance, relating to the height of the building.

Request from Mark Johnson to allow an accessory structure to exceed the allowed 20 ft. in height as designated in the Rural Residential zoned area. Located at 11650 74th Street S.E., Alto. Parcel #41-24-09-400-013.

Any written comments regarding this request may be addressed to: Gloria King, Chairperson, Bowne Township ZBA, 8240 Alden Nash S.E., P.O. Box 35, Alto, Michigan 49302-0035.

Gloria King, Chairperson
Bowne Township Zoning Board of Appeals

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THE LAST SAMURAI (R)
12:15, 3:15, 6:15, 9:15
THE HAUNTED MANSION (PG)
12:45, 3:00, 5:10, 7:30, 9:35
TIMELINE (PG-13)
11:00, 9:20
THE MISSING (R)
11:00, 1:35, 4:10, 6:45
THE CAT IN THE HAT (PG)
11:30, 1:25, 3:20, 5:15, 7:10, 9:05
ELF (PG) 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30

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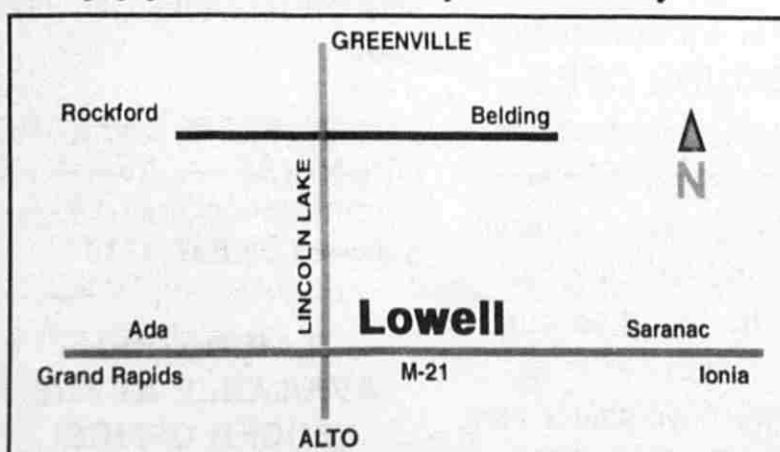


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