

The Lowell Ledger

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Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, December 17, 2003

Firefighters injured battling morning house fire

By Dan Schneider

Firefighters from the Lowell Area Fire Department and the Ada Township Fire Department responded to a fire at 178 S. Pleasant St. Monday morning.

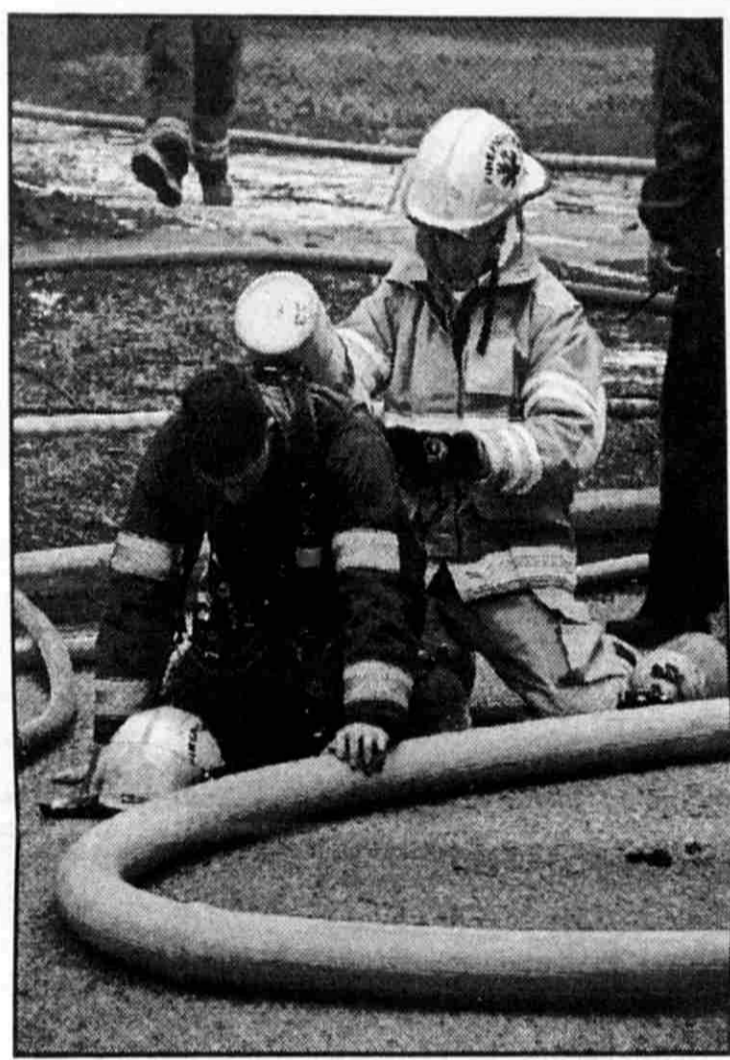
No one was home when the fire broke out.

The Lowell Area Fire Department received the call at approximately 11 a.m. Within four minutes they responded with three engines and a rescue truck on the scene. Ada Township firefighters arrived shortly after with two engines. In total, 25 firefighters responded to the call. Three firefighters sustained injuries. One was sent to Metropolitan Hospital in Grand Rapids after getting hit by a falling beam.

It took the two departments three hours to fully extinguish the blaze. Lowell fire chief, Frank Martin said the house was old and had no fire barriers. This allowed the fire to gain intensity and spread quickly.

The house belonged to Dave Himebaugh.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.



Todd West replaces Jimmy Hodges' oxygen tank at the scene of Monday's fire. Both firefighters are from the Lowell Area Fire Department.

New assistant superintendent for Lowell Area Schools

By Dan Schneider

For the past two weeks, Mark Kasmer has been working full time as Lowell Area Schools' assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. He said he is comfortable with the job so far.

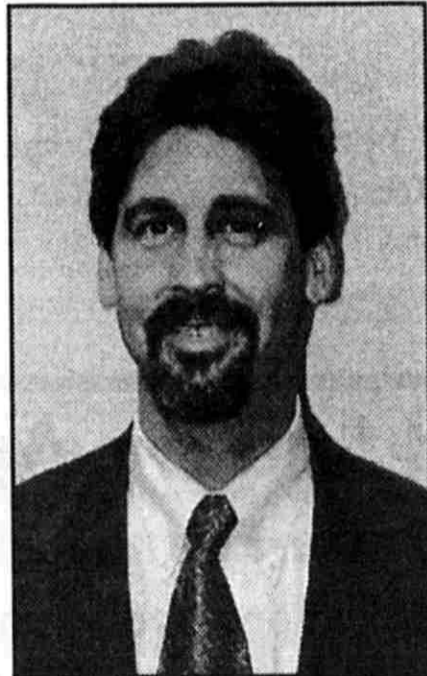
"Very comfortable and busy," he said.

As assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, it is Kasmer's job to make sure LAS teaches everything it needs to and with the proper books and materials. He replaces Jim White, who recently retired from that capacity though he remains involved in the schools in other roles.

With heavy demands at the state level from the Michigan Educational Assessment Program and at the national level with the No Child Left Behind program, fulfilling expectations in modern education is a difficult prospect.

"I wouldn't say it's impossible but it leans to impossible for any group of teachers to complete the curriculum that's expected of them," Kasmer said. "There are so many expectations be-

yond the borders of the school that it makes it difficult to add your own flavor ... to have your area influence what your kids are learning."



Mark Kasmer is the new assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction for Lowell Area Schools.

Kasmer said government education assessments work well to gauge progress within a district. However, they create an unfair comparison among districts with widely varying resources and those serving widely varying populations.

"I like the MEAP as an assessment," Kasmer said. "I don't like the way it's used as a comparator. It really creates

undue pressure on teachers and families and kids."

Kasmer said his experiences with the Lowell area so far have led him to believe it is capable of meeting its challenges in education.

"You have a very committed staff and a hard-working staff, and you also have a good community family structure, good family involvement," he said.

He has spent some of his time in his new job getting to know the community. He has attended Rotary Club meetings, for instance, and meetings of the Education Foundation.

"This is a community rich in some really unique things," Kasmer said. "The student performance is strong in all areas and there's a wonderful focus on the arts."

"There's kind of a real community focus on character development and values and effective ways of living. These are the things that set the climate for learning to take place."

Kasmer comes here from a post as an elementary principal in the Sparta school district.

"For the last five (years)

I've been looking to make that leap into this component of education," Kasmer said. "I was looking for a job that fit the world of curriculum and it seemed to be a good fit of what the district's needs are and what my skills are."

Lowell delegates attend "cool" conference

By Dan Schneider

Last Thursday seven people representing Lowell businesses and its arts community attended a conference in Lansing seeking ideas related to making Lowell a cooler city.

The conference, titled "Creating Cool: linking culture, community and the economy," was the ninth annual meeting of the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs. The idea of the conference was to get people talking about ways the business types and the creative types can work together to improve cities.

After completing college, Kasmer was an elementary teacher for three and a half years. He has been in education administration, mostly at the building level, since the age of 27.

He grew up in St. Joseph, Mich., did his undergraduate work at Northern Michigan University and his master's work in education administration at Southwest Texas State University.

This was a departure from the usual MCACA meetings, which in the past has focused only on the arts and culture part of the equation. The change resulted from two main factors.

The first: that cooperation between business and "Cool" conference, con't., pg. 3

Condo project go-ahead...Page 6
 Grapplers conference opener...
 Page 14

OBITUARIES

ECKMAN - Dale Erwin (Joyce) Eckman, Allan Eckman, aged 59, of Lowell, passed away December 13, 2003. He is survived by his friend Linda VanderVlught of Saranac; his sister Yvonne Routley; brothers Carroll

(Joyce) Eckman, Allan Eckman; children Dale G. Eckman, Dennis Eckman of Ionia, Joel Eckman; one grandson Christopher; best friend and cousin Tom (Sherry) Kehoe; and many

nieces and nephews. A memorial service will be held Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, Lowell, with Rev. Kirk Starkweather officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to service. Memorial contributions may be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.



'HARDT HAPPENINGS

A special program for kids in grades K-3 will be offered at the Englehardt Library on Tuesday, Jan. 6 at 6:30 p.m.

cause they are in school but still love a good book. They will play games and make crafts based on the books they hear. Registration is required.

This is for those kids who are too old for storytime be-

For more information, call the library at 647-3920.

Kent District Library invites adult readers to get together at the library for friendly informal discussions about some great books.

The Englehardt branch will feature "The Secret Life of Bees" by Sue Monk on Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 10 a.m. Copies of the title are available at the checkout desk or by calling 647-3920.

For more information on book discussions, call the KDL at 784-2007.

Local scouts visit WZZM weatherman



Meteorologist George Lessens of WZZM TV-13 was visited by the Cub Scouts of Pack 3106 from St. Patrick School on Dec. 11 during the 6 o'clock news. The scouts also collected pop cans and did extra chores to earn money to purchase toys for the Marine's Toys for Tots program.

"Cool" conference, continued...From Page 1

culture has been a common theme in recent civic thought. In her first state-of-the-state address at the beginning of this year, Gov. Jennifer Granholm talked about the need to create "cool cities" in Michigan; to stimulate thought about how to make Michigan cities vibrant and interesting, and places that people want to stay in and move to.

"The initiative is really becoming a movement," Maura Campbell said.

The result was a very large conference.

"Usually the arts conference is about a 300-400-person meeting, and yesterday was running into 1,300," Campbell said last Friday.

Campbell is the spokesperson for the recently established Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth.

The second reason was the main speaker at the event: Richard Florida, Ph.D. Florida wrote *The Rise of the Creative Class and How It's Transforming Work, Leisure, Community and Everyday Life*. The book is a best seller and is creating a lot of buzz these days among the civic-minded population. The book refers to creative people as a population segment and as a force for economic development in a community. "Creative people" in this case refers not only to artists and writers, etc., but also to people like engineers and computer programmers.



Business signs along the north side of Main St. Seven people representing Lowell businesses and culture attended a conference titled "Creating Cool: linking culture, community and the economy" dedicated to the synthesis of these two concepts.

At right, "Untitled" by Joseph Kinnebrow, 1967, located on the lawn outside the Lowell Area Arts Council.

"It (Florida) was the answer to getting the economic-business types at the table with the artists and artisans," Campbell said.

The conference last Thursday encouraged methods for culture and commerce to cooperate in ways beneficial to towns of varying sizes. The methods involve city business leaders, government officials and culture creators thinking and working together. And the cities themselves need to find paths of development that benefit them most. The goal is now to come up with a rational plan to make business benefit from art.

"What Lowell is going to

come up with is going to be different from what Ferndale is going to come up with," Campbell said.

She mentioned several characteristics that benefit cities in their quest to be cool. These include unique retail, businesses close together with residential areas, and downtowns and neighborhoods that are easy to negotiate on foot. These all attract creative people, adding to the culture of the city.

Lowell is already benefiting from partnerships between business and cultural institutions. The continual improvement of the historic downtown business district, for example, is largely due to cooperative efforts between the Downtown Historic District Association and the businesses themselves.

Lowell is also home to an unusually large and active artistic population for a city its size.

"... One thing I really noticed working here," Lowell Area Arts Council director, Lorain Smalligan said. "Working here, there is almost like this underground of artists in this community that are slowly coming out of the woodwork."

Smalligan attended the conference and said she sees ways the Arts Council has benefited Lowell business. The city's proximity to Grand Rapids facilitates this.

"If people come down here for our events," Smalligan said, "they end up seeing the community and they end up participating in the business community... whether they choose to go out to dinner at one of the restaurants or shop at one of the stores."

Liz Baker, executive director of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, sent surveys out to local businesses following the recent "Small World Christmas" parade and events. She said most businesses downtown reported an increase in business that day.

"I think that Grand Rapids is realistic to realize that Lowell is not that far and it's a nice break from the hustle and bustle," she said.

Baker also attended the conference. She sees clearly a connection between creativity and business success here in Lowell.

"When there's so much creativity here, it makes Lowell a destination versus just another town to go to," Baker said. "I think our downtown businesses are specialty businesses. They're fun places to go to."

*** Put yourself on view. This brings your talents to light. -Baltasar Gracian ***



Sterzicks celebrate 50 years of matrimony

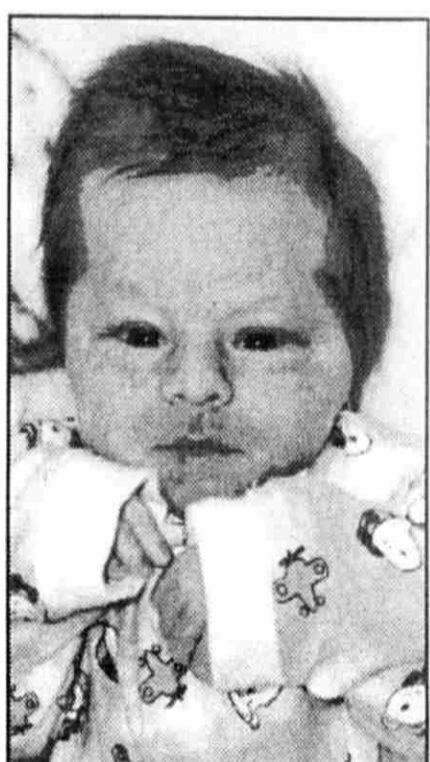
Bill and Hilde Sterzick will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary on December 19, 2003 (actual date: Dec. 18) with a family dinner.

The couple have two children: Vickie and Doug Coates and Barbara and Craig Paull. They have four grandchildren.



AREA BIRTHS

Captain Alan and Michelle Robertson, of Hill Air Force Base, Utah, are happy to announce the birth of their son, Brayton Flint, named after his great grandfather Brayton Flint Golds and his great-great-grandfather Brayton Flint Wilkinson of Saranac. He weighed 8 lbs. 5 1/2 oz. and measured 21 1/2 inches long.



Brayton Flint Robertson

Proud grandparents are Sally Golds of Lowell, David Robertson of Fort Scott, Kan., and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Maxa of Chesaning, Mich.

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LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS BOARD BRIEFS

Regular Meeting of December 8, 2003

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT - Matt Hansen reported the Lowell Middle School Student Council has gathered over 4000 items for the food drive and raised \$400 for the Flat River Outreach Ministries. The high school play was excellent. A new milk vending machine has been delivered to the high school. Student Council members continue the discussion of bullying policies with fellow students and have met with the principal. Matt expressed concern over the very icy roads at the high school last week and said there was a need for more salt.

STUDENT RECOGNITION - Board members recognized the following students:

Middle School Character Award - Tricia Thuston, 8th grader
Cherry Creek Character Award - Ryan Denbraven, 2nd grader
Character in Action Award Winners from Cherry Creek - Valdete Selini, Michelle Griffioen, Shelby Antel, Ryan Van Heulen, Nora Edwards, Chase Treglia, Shawn Dulin, Tory Abel, Licia Feuerstein, Krysta Jankowski, Jack Dues, Derek Bitterman, Grant Noskey, Danny Cowden, Delainey Ferguson, Tyler Collins, Erin Duma, Lauren Blanchard, Kelvin Anderson, Makela Chapman, Mary Thielking, Griffin Brenk, Adam Hubert, Hailey Duran, and Kyle Rogers.
Bus driver Jan Herb along with her bus students sang a "character" chant.

AUDIT REPORT - District auditor, Phil Saurman, reported that the audit revealed a fund balance at approximately 13% which is within the recommended 10-20 percent. He said the fund balance gives the district more stable operating funds and decreases the need to borrow for short term cash flow purposes.

BUS PURCHASE - The board approved the purchase of two buses for the 2004-2005 school year.

ACTION ITEMS - Accepted the following Gifts:
• Susan Frasier donation of an additional \$300 scholarship for volunteerism to Anthony Pedley to help with college costs.
• Michael Stephens donation of \$200 to be used by Unity Alternative Education.
• Mike & Dee McKendrick donation of a desk valued at \$200 to be used by the Cherry Creek Family Resource Center.

- Margaret & Jeff Tuori donation of dolls and toddler toys valued at \$50 to be used by the TOTS Program.
- Bob VanBelois donation of a computer valued at \$200 to be used by the Lowell High School Counseling Department.
- Dirt Cheap Excavation donation of green fees and team banquet valued at \$470 for the high school Golf Program.
- Alto Lions Club donation of \$500 to be used by the Alto Elementary Reading Program.

CONSENT ITEMS - Approved/adopted/accepted were:
• Minutes of November 3, 2003 Special Meeting and Board Workshop, November 10, 2003 Board Meeting & Closed Session, November 24, 2003 Board Workshop & Closed Session
• The following payment of bills for October 2003:
GENERAL FUND.....\$956,366.17
SCHOOL SERVICES FUND
A. Food Service Fund.....\$84,337.30
B. Athletic Fund.....\$29,272.94
2000 CONSTRUCTION FUND.....\$663,864.12
TRUST AND AGENCY FUND.....\$18,802.09

- A resolution listing voting members in the West Michigan Risk Management Trust Insurance Pool.
- A resolution calling for the February 24, 2004 Special Intermediate School District Election to allow a vote to increase the original millage limitation on the annual property tax by 1 mill to be used for the education of persons with disabilities.

LOWELL EDUCATION FOUNDATION - Marsha Wilcox, Chairperson of the Lowell Education Foundation, gave a report of the many fundraisers the foundation sponsor in order to provide educational enrichment opportunities to enhance student learning.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE - Jim White reported on the progress of the Murray Lake Elementary School. An Open House has been set for Saturday, January 17 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. The Murray Lake Family Links Group is now in place and the core staffs of teachers are: Karla Byrne, Nancy Breuker, Sally Sterly, Bob Titcombe, Matt Quada, and Mike Fillman.

BUDGET UPDATE - Connie Gillette reported that the district is still waiting on news from Lansing to see what the actual impact

of the State economy will have on Lowell Area Schools. A budget amendment will be brought to the January meeting for Board action.

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE - Connie Gillette reported that the mediation session scheduled for November 20 was canceled due to no word from Lansing. The next mediation is scheduled for December 17.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - The following people addressed the Board regarding staff negotiations: Jack Misner, Crystal Sefton, Sharon MacDermaid, Julie Hillary, Dominic Lowe, Carmon Campbell, and Tom Rhein.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Shari Miller stated that a staff member was lined up to video tape and she did not know why the person was not in attendance. Due to the size of the gym, it is very difficult to get good sound quality on the videotape. The Demographics Committee proposed a 5-6 building when the second elementary is built. Administration will closely watch student enrollment numbers to monitor building numbers. Thank you to Jan Herb and her bus students for a great performance. The play Friday evening was outstanding. Runciman Bright Beginnings had a Grandparents Days last week and it was very well attended. The district is looking at a new Student Management System (SMS) to be funded through bond money. It will allow parents, teachers, administrators to view schedules, homework assignments, attendance, grades and report cards through the internet. Thanks was given to Marsha Wilcox and the Lowell Education Foundation for all their volunteer work to provide additional funds for student learning.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:
Board Workshop
Monday, December 15, 2003
Runciman Administration Building - Board Room - 5:30 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting
Monday, January 12, 2004
Runciman Administration Building - Board Room - 7:00 p.m.
Please visit our web page at www.lowell.k12.mi.us

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Developer gets go ahead to build condo project

By J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

After a 4 to 1 vote, the Lowell City Council decided to allow a rezoning of a commercial piece of property to residential so a developer could construct homes on the parcel.

Developer Michael Nosko was seeking the rezoning to be changed to R-1 resi-

dential so as to allow him to construct condominiums on the property. According to the ordinance, Nosko would be allowed to construct up to 22 units. At the Monday night meeting he explained he was planning between 18 and 20 on the property located at the northwest corner of Valley Vista and Bowes Road.

Councilman, Jim Pfaller,

the only no vote, said he could not support the project because of the land uses that surround the property, which include Showboat Auto. This was despite the fact that John Curtis, of Curtis Cleaners, sent a letter of support.

Councilman, Chuck Myers said he had called a couple of the business owners in the area, who showed sup-

port for the project. He said he felt the project would not only offer reasonably priced homes, but the homes would be one level, providing an excellent option for senior housing.

"If it were going to go commercial, I think it would have gone a long time ago," said councilman, Al Mathews, who at first was concerned

about losing the commercial land. However, having worked with Nosko in the past on projects and seeing the results, Mathews said he felt he could support the measure.

Councilman, Mike Blough said he felt it provided an excellent transition to the area which included industrial as well as the mobile home park. Blough added that hav-

ing a variety of housing was good for the community.

Mayor Jeanne Shores echoed that as well with her comment of, "I believe it would be a good fit," especially after looking over where the project would be. The next step for Nosko will be to present a site plan to the planning commission for approval.

Court may make final decision on backyard tree

By J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

For Sandy Johnston, the fate of a tree in her backyard at 1201 Sibley still remains unknown.

At the Monday night Lowell City Council meeting, city attorney, Richard Wendt said while the city or Lowell Light and Power Company did not have a written easement to the power lines behind Johnston's house, there did appear to be a prescriptive easement. Such an easement exists when something has used a portion of a piece of property openly for more than 15 years.

Wendt said the power lines appear to have been in place for about 40 years, since the development of that area

in the 1960s. However, of greater concern to the city is the hazard the tree creates being so close to the power line. Earlier this month, Lowell Light and Power general manager, Tom Richards said the line running behind Johnston's house was a 4,000-volt distribution line. Wendt said he could see where the tree creates a nuisance because of its close proximity to the power lines.

Wendt said the issue at hand is that the city does not have a clear right-of-way to enter Johnston's fenced-in backyard to remove the tree, therefore he recommended the city or Lowell Light and Power take the matter to court seeking a determination that the

tree is a hazard, that it be removed, and who is responsible for removing it.

"If it is considered a hazard, there is a likelihood that the homeowner could be held responsible for removing the tree," Wendt said. Because the situation has been pointed out as a hazard, this increases the city's liability because the city is aware of the situation, Wendt said, adding the city should try to address this as quickly as possible.

Johnston, who stated at the last council meeting that this is the only tree in her backyard, was unhappy about the decision and again stated she is willing to have the offending branches trimmed, but did not want the tree to be

removed. She also brought in pictures from various areas in the city, including property of the Lowell Light and Power, which showed similar trees where power lines were running through branches or trees were planted right under the lines, as in the case of the LL&P building. Most of these trees are not fenced in with anyone being able to climb them and touch a power line, she added.

Johnston said that if the safety of the citizens were that much of a concern, wouldn't these trees also need to be trimmed or removed? And if her tree had to come down, the city better maintain the same policy for everyone, she said.

Richards said he had not seen the pictures, but that the Lowell Light and Power had a plan in place to visit various sections of the city to trim trees. Sometimes the service lines to the home are going through trees, which is really the homeowner's responsibility. In those cases, Richards said LL&P has pointed out the situation and tried to help the homeowner in trimming those trees.

Richards said LL&P does follow set standards by national organizations in determining how much space needs to be between an ungrounded wire, i.e., the one near the Johnston home, and a

grounded object like a tree. The company tries to maintain a 10-foot area where branches and possible debris could create a hazard.

"If we could create a 10-foot distance from the tree, we would not remove it," Richards said. "If we could find a creative way to do that, it would be totally non-traditional. It is not our intention to remove the tree. It is our intention to create that safety zone."

The council, by consensus, decided to turn the matter over to Wendt and Richards in hopes that a resolution could be determined.



Sharing The Vision
SHARI MILLER
Lowell Schools Superintendent

The job market in our society has changed greatly. Twenty percent of today's jobs require a high school diploma while 80 percent require some kind of post-secondary training. Employers have identified three competencies that are necessary in today's world of work: the ability to solve problems, to work in a team, and to be a life-long learner. As we teach our students the academics, it is also essential that we provide them with the tools for these three competencies.

Another survey that Wagner cited referred to similar responses of college professors and employers regarding essential skills for students. These skills were writing, work habits, motivation, basic math skills, curiosity, and respect. The basic math skills included a working knowledge of statistics, graphing, and spreadsheets. As we review the curriculum used in each content area at Lowell, we will also be discussing ways in which we can assist all of our students in attaining each of the essential skills.

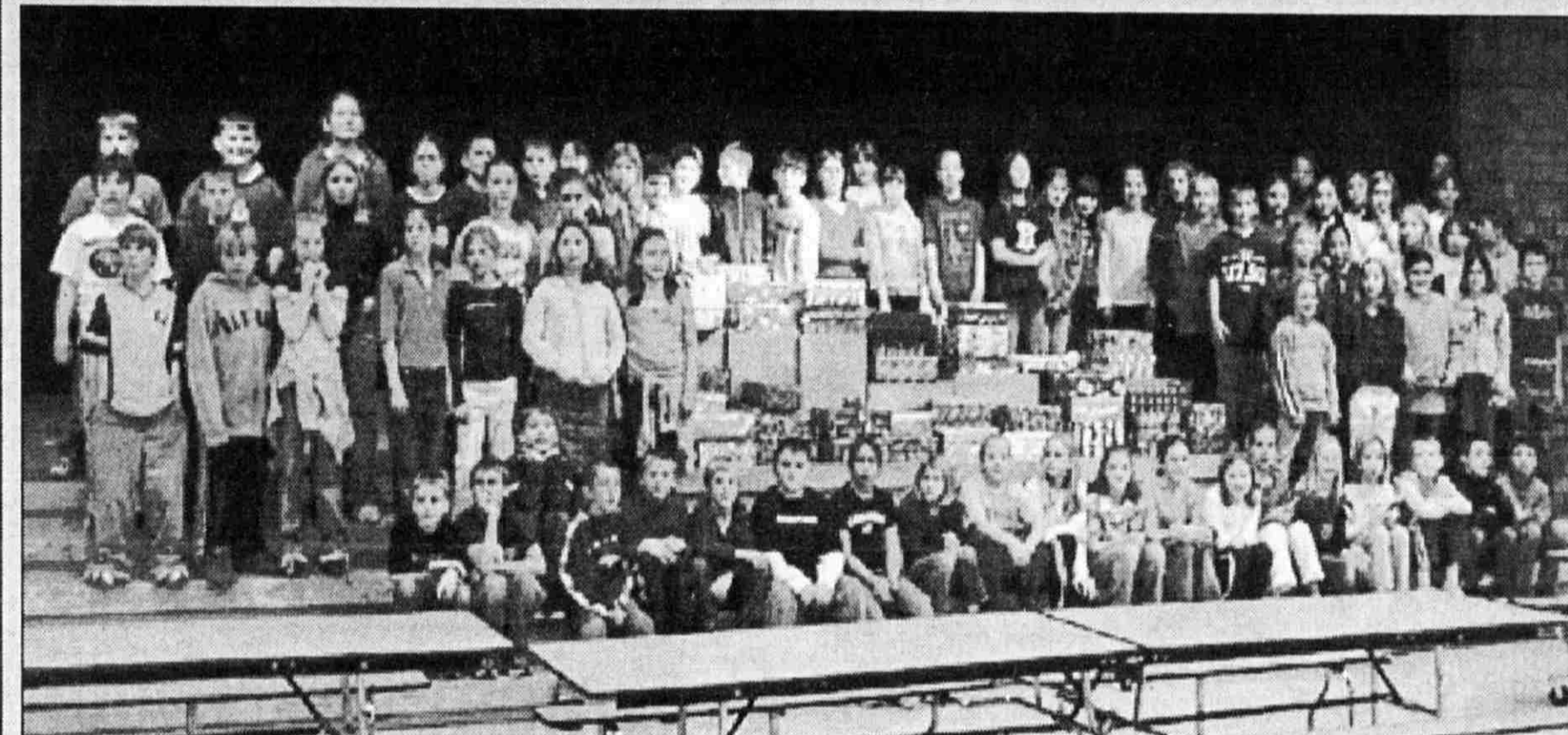
As career demands change, our schools must keep pace.

Through professional development, curriculum reviews, and updates from employers, we are committed to meeting this need.

We extend our best wishes to you and your families for a happy and healthy holiday season and new year.

Your comments about this concern or any issue would be greatly appreciated. Send to Shari Miller, Lowell Area Schools, 300 High St., Lowell, MI 49331 or bbleke@remc.k12.mi.us. (check out our web page at www.lowell.k12.mi.us)

Project Hero helps to send packages to Lowell area soldiers this Christmas



Pictured are many of the Cherry Creek Elementary fifth graders who participated in "Project Hero".

Fifth graders at Cherry Creek Elementary shipped out 170 holiday care packages to service men and women in Iraq. The name of the project was "Project Hero." The boxes will go to three different soldiers from the Lowell area for them to distribute to their units.

One student in Mrs. Pupil's second grade class took it upon herself to collect more than \$200 from family and friends. She personally brought in 47 boxes for the troops. The boxes contained items such as snacks, toiletries, flashlights and playing cards. Most students included letters or Christmas cards with their boxes. Parents and fifth grade staff helped fill out customs forms for each of the 170 boxes.

Sheryl Cadwallader, an employee at Root-Lowell, first brought the "Project Hero" idea to fifth-grade teacher, Mary Beth Reed. Root-Lowell donated the first \$100 of the nearly \$500 in shipping costs to send the packages. Several other Lowell businesses contributed money for shipping, and students collected money for that purpose as well.

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New sign in the works for city hall/police station

By J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

The Department of Public Works has one. Lowell Light and Power has one. And

now the newly remodeled City Hall and police station will have one: a sign.

At the Monday night meeting, the Lowell City Council unanimously agreed to purchase a sign for the building to be created by Lowell's Digital Image Signs and Graphics for \$2,000. The Lowell company was the lowest of two bids with Wyoming-based DeReuter Woodcrafts coming in at \$2,365 for the sign.

At the last meeting, the council decided to have the city logo featured on the sign instead of an image of the City Hall since the sign would be right next to the building. The

question for the night was whether the sign should have a blue or black background; after some discussion, the council opted for a dark blue, similar to that in the DPW's sign.

The two-sided sign will be a ground sign about 4 feet by 4.5 feet. The sign will be located near the building and include the date when the city was established.

Every calling is great when greatly pursued.
—Oliver Wendell Holmes

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<p>Lowell: Possible 6 Bedroom! Spacious contemporary ranch only 3 years old. Extensive landscaping. Lower level partially finished with 3 extra bedrooms, family room and plumbed for 3rd bath. With 2,057 sq. ft. on the main this is a lot of house for the money. Big backyard surrounded by woods for the kids to play in and vegetable/flower garden. The big back deck is great for the barbecue. In the country yet neighborhood for the kid's friends. Separate schools but Lowell school bus at corner if school of choice program is exercised. \$199,900 Joice Smith</p>	<p>Lowell: Like New Condition! Over the river and through the woods to grandmother's house... and move in just-in-time for the holidays and enjoy all your ranch home that was well cared for and recently updated and remodeled. Amazing newer amenities include: central air, water softener, water filter system, outside solar lights, silent light switches, carbon monoxide detector, new carpet and pad, and a deck! Newer mechanicals include: Anderson windows, a roof and new garage door for the insulated finished garage! \$149,900 Suzie Reinbold</p>	<p>Lowell! 4-10 or 14 Acres! Come home to this secluded sprawling ranch on a 4.10 or 14 wooded acres. Where you will enjoy watching the wildlife right outside your window. 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths. Fantastic living room w/beautiful fieldstone fireplace. Lower level with walkout family room where the kids can play in the yard. Even a 3-stall garage! All this and only 2 miles out of town! \$279,900-\$320,000-\$350,000! Joice Smith</p>		
<p>Cascade/Lowell: Spectacular Home! Quality Sundry built 2-story in fantastic Bloomington Hills Development. 2,300 sq. ft. finished. Great floor plan with a beautiful view of woods and conservancy property. Formal dining room, large living room with fireplace, spacious master suite. Main floor laundry and 1/2 bath off garage. Great walkout level ready to be finished. This one you have to see! \$286,900! Pat Schaefer</p>	<p>Diamond 6 Ranch For Sale! This farm is perfect for the growing family. It offers 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths. An extra room down could be converted to a 5th bedroom. Big country kitchen formal dining room, large living room, a family room on the main floor with a fireplace and another family room and kitchen down. New Pergo or real wood flooring along with some rooms with new paint. New landscaping and brick sidewalk! Property is gorgeous with giant hardwood trees in the yard and pastures. Set up for horses or cattle. Short distance from expressway for easy commute to Grand Rapids or Lansing. \$199,900 Joice Smith</p>	<p>Cascade: New Home/New Listing! Great 4 bedroom 3 bath family home. Over 3,000 finished sq.ft. Spacious rooms and friendly floor plan. Quality Sundry Construction in beautiful Bloomington Hills. Enjoy 23-acre conservancy and community park. Great location convenient to Cascade, parks, and golf course and all in fantastic Lowell Schools. \$286,900 Pat Schaefer</p>	<p>Lowell: Reduced! Wonderful opportunity in downtown Lowell to start your dream business. Formerly Rupert's Drop, this 3-story building is loaded with character and potential. 1st floor boasts hardwood floors, 4'1" ceilings and brick walls, 2nd floor apartment is currently rented and offers great income potential & 3rd floor is unfinished. Building is in a high-traffic zone in an area of new & pre-existing businesses. \$179,900 Pat & Toni Schaefer</p>	<p>Lowell: New Construction! Great open-floor plan in this spacious 4 bedroom, 3 full bath walkout ranch! Main floor boasts large rooms, cathedral ceilings, fireplace in living room that overlooks woods and wildlife. Master bath has whirlpool tub and huge walk-in closet. Lower level has 2 huge bedrooms. Large living room with sliders and full bath. All on a gorgeous 2.5-acre parcel! \$249,900! Pat & Toni Schaefer</p>

Joice Smith
Cell #293-0980
www.joicesmith.com

Toni Schaefer
Cell #581-7495
tonischaefer@grar.com
www.patschaefer.com

Pat Schaefer
Cell #581-7580
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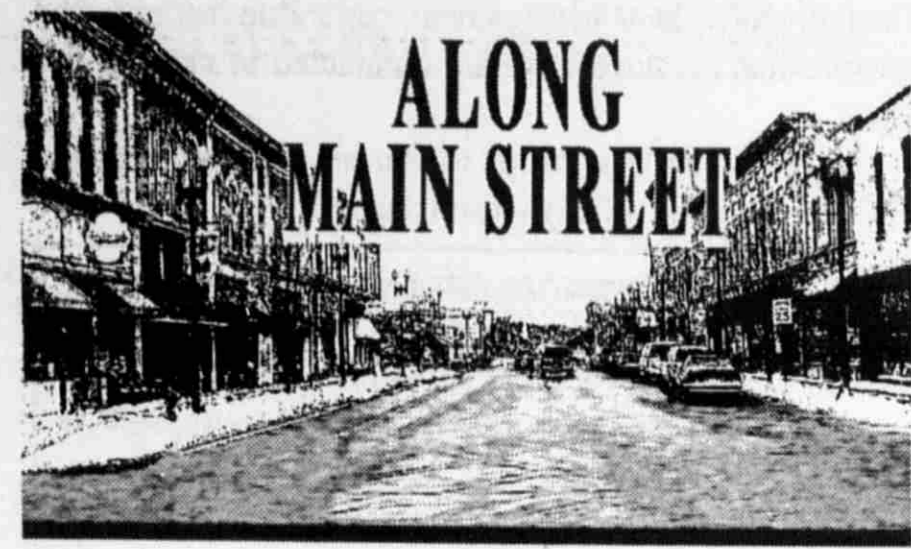
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LOWELL CABLE TV PRESENTS ...

The First United Methodist Church Children's Christmas program, "The Little Shepherd" on Channel 20: Wednesday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m.; Thursday, Dec. 18, 7 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 19, 4 p.m.; and Saturday, Dec. 20, 11 a.m.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

Need a last minute Christmas gift that people can enjoy all year? Get the Entertainment Book at Hahn Hardware or Huntington Bank, or call Marj at 897-8107. Sponsored by Lowell Women's Club, to benefit LHS senior girls scholarship fund.

HISTORIC FALLSBURG VILLAGE CHRISTMAS

An old-fashioned Christmas will be held in Fallsburg on Saturday, Dec. 20 from 6-9 p.m. Free to the public; call Kerry at 897-7161 for more info. or email: Fallsburg@att.net.

DROP IN ON SANTA

Visit Santa on the Showboat Wednesday, Dec. 17 from 6-8 p.m. and on Saturday, Dec. 20 from 1-3 p.m. ???'s, call 897-9161.

SPECIAL GUEST AT F.R.O.M.

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

LIVE NATIVITY

A drive-thru live nativity will be at the Bowne Center United Methodist Church on the corner of 84th St. and Alden Nash on Saturday, Dec. 20 from 6-9 p.m. Refreshments will be served in the fellowship hall.

LEA HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA

The Lowell Education Foundation has printed special

Wittenbach Center
11715 Vergennes • 987-1002

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING PROGRAM

Bring your Christmas Tree to the Wittenbach Center to be shredded into mulch for Nature Trails between Dec. 26th & Jan. 3rd.

If you would like your tree picked up within the city limits or Eastgate, please mark your tree with a pick up tag available at the Wittenbach Center, Buyers Guide or L&A Rent-All

This event is sponsored this year by:
The Buyers Guide & L&A Rent-All

COMMUNITY EVENT Sat., Jan. 3

Noon - 4 p.m. Christmas Tree Shredding
Shredder donated by L&A Rent-All

4-6 p.m. Luminary Walk

Snowshoes available for rent.
Live Music by Lowell String Ensemble

holiday cards with seasonal artwork created by Lowell students/teachers. Available at school offices thru Dec. 19; cost \$5. Proceeds support Lowell Education Foundation grants.

CHRISTMAS TREE SHREDDING

The Wittenbach Center will offer a community event on Saturday, Jan. 3. Christmas tree shredding from 12-4 p.m. (pick up available in city/Eastgate, 897-1355); also a luminary walk from 4-6 p.m. (snowshoes available for rent). Live music by Lowell String Ensemble.

WINTER FAST PITCH CLINIC

The LHS softball coaches will hold a fast pitch clinic at Riverside gym for girls interested in becoming a softball pitcher. Grades 6 and under at 6 p.m.; grades 7-8, 7 p.m. Dates: Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29 & Feb. 5, 12, 19 and 26. Cost: \$30, includes T-shirt. Pick up applications at Lowell Middle School, Cherry Creek, Alto and Bushnell elementaries. Call Bob Rodenhuis at 897-4125 (school) or 245-4596.

No argument - debate team growing at LHS

Lowell High School debate participated in two leagues this year: OK Gold and Grand Rapids Metro League.

Metro was held at Forest Hills Central on Oct. 29, Nov. 5, 12, 19, and Dec. 3. One 4-person novice team was sent to those debates; participants were switched each week to afford everyone the opportunity to participate. Winning rounds in that league for Lowell were Drew Ingraham, Collin Walsh, Dan Williams, Stephanie Raymor, Crystal Smith, Kim Carrier and Jess Smith.

For the OK Gold league (held at Zeeland High School) on Nov. 6, 13, 20 and Dec. 4, a varsity four-person team of Charles Roelofs and Paul Schellenberger, as affirmatives, and Dustin Pedley and Andy Hewitt, as negatives, attended. Another rotating novice team with Zach Butts, Brian Koehn, and Danielle Ettinger posted wins.

The topic for this year was "Resolved: That the United States Federal Government should establish an ocean policy substantially increasing protection of marine natural resources." Affirmatives

came up with researched plans to do this by creating fishing quotas, making marine reserves, stopping underwater nuclear testing, creating new coral reefs, stopping algae blooms, and instituting double hulled tankers among other options.

The varsity affirmative for Lowell proposed a plan to adopt the United Nation's Law of the Sea by having the Senate finally ratify what President Clinton signed. The negatives worked on researching weaknesses of these plans, finding disadvantages to implementing plans like these, and looking for counter plans or topicality violations.

The varsity negatives won two of their eight rounds and the varsity affirmatives won six of their eight rounds. Roelofs received third place in the league overall for speaker points.

Debate is growing at the high school and has returned as an elective/general English credit in the fall for students in grades 10-12 with a teacher's permission. Students interested must be self-motivated, interested in current events and politics, and have a competitive spirit.

Group exhibit celebrates the fun and magic of winter

An exhibition of artworks by Friends of the Lowell Area Arts Council is now on display at Huntington National Bank, 414 E. Main St., during regular business hours.

Artists participating in this exhibit, depicting the fun and magic of winter, include Connor Bergin, Mary Bommarito, Roy

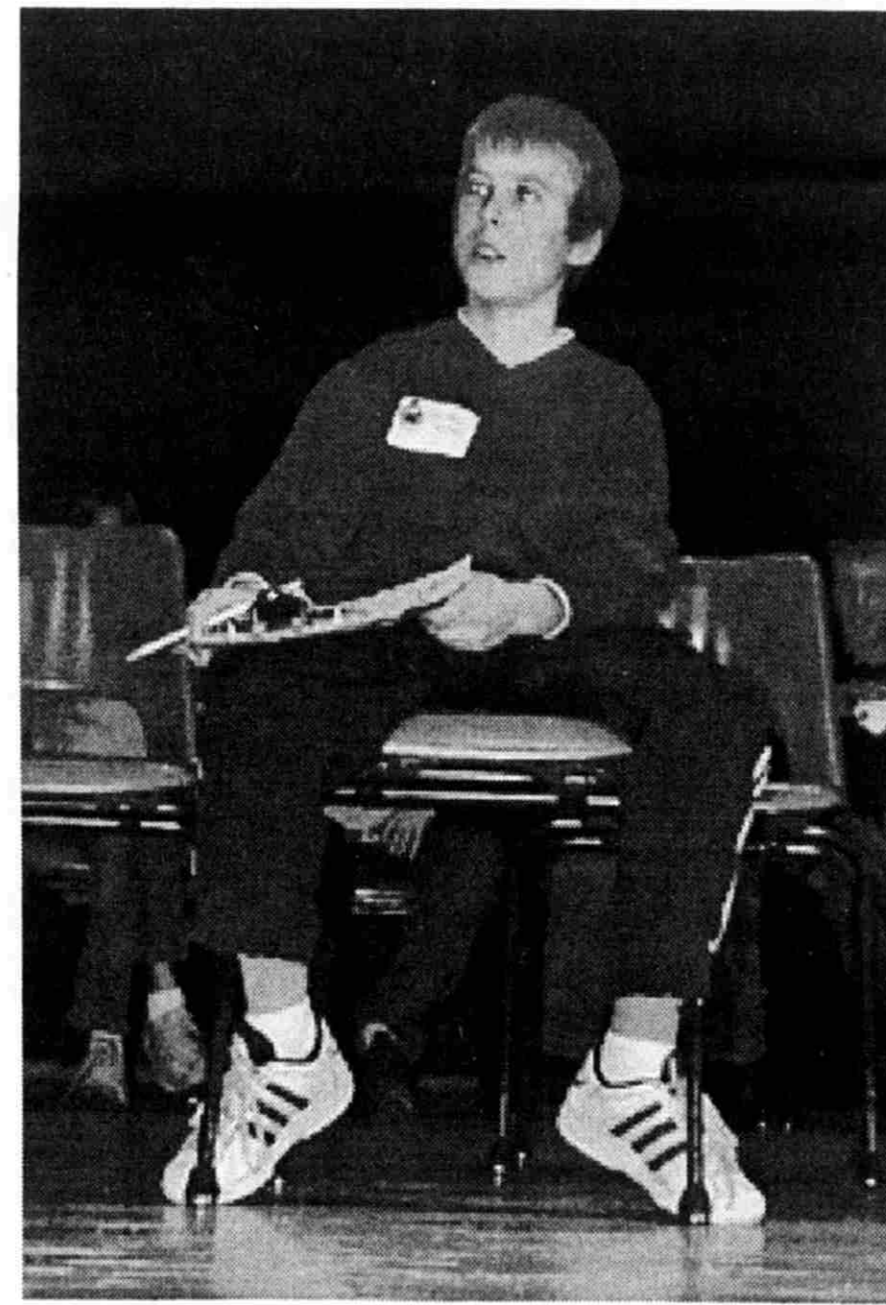
Brown, D. Fletcher Davis, Linda Hopkins, Vicky Graham, Jim Latta, Cheryl Perry, Rosalie Ripley, Daniel Scott, Ann Trowbridge and Ira Trowbridge.

For more information on the show, call the Arts Council at 897-8545. It runs through Jan. 6.



"Winter in Riverside Park" by Ann Trowbridge is among works on display at the Huntington Galleria through Jan. 6. It is part of the "Snow Show," a collection of work by 12 artists associated with the Lowell Area Arts Council.

Geography bee champ



Fifth-grader Jonathan Nichols waits for a question during Monday's geography bee at Cherry Creek Elementary. Nichols won the National Geographic Bee in a tie-breaker round by correctly answering the question, "The Yukon River flows across Alaska before emptying into what sea?"

Brad Theel was the runner up and Brad Canfield took third place.

Nichols will now take a written test to qualify among 100 in the state of Michigan for the state bee next April. Winners of the state bees travel to Washington D.C. to compete for a \$25,000 college scholarship.

The answer to the question is the Bering Sea.

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OUTDOORS
By Dave Stegehuis

SMOKE POLES

Dec. 12 is opening day for deer hunting with a muzzleloader in the Lower Peninsula. The season opened on Dec. 5 in the Upper Peninsula. Each season runs for only 10 days.

The following are some challenges the smokepole (muzzleloader) crowd will have to address: The rut is mostly over so the bucks will not be traveling long distances, making it less likely to just happen upon one. The bucks, as well as antlerless deer, locate near reliable food sources and begin feeding early in the evening and late in the morning to build up fat reserves to carry them through a possibly severe winter. Finding these feeding areas will increase the chances of seeing deer.

The temperature can drop well below freezing this time of year making it difficult to stay comfortable while on stand. Layering with carefully selected items of clothing helps to keep off the chill. If you get wet, you get cold fast so start with a moisture wicking synthetic next to the skin. Then add layers

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

DRY SKIN

Dry skin is a big problem for some people, because it may lead to significant itching. Dry air can cause your skin to become dry and itchy. Some soaps can cause your skin to feel itchy. It's good to use a soap that is unscented and hypoallergenic. This kind of soap does not contain dyes or

perfumes that can irritate your skin. Also, use a mild, unscented, hypoallergenic laundry detergent. Avoid fabric softeners, and try using an extra rinse cycle to keep your clothes and bed sheets from making your skin itch.

Moisturizers work well to treat dry skin. The best moisturizers are also the most "goopy." Ointments (or oils) are best, followed by creams, then lotions.

Put a moisturizer on your skin three or four times a day. Always put the moisturizer on right after you wash or bathe. If you have very dry hands, put petroleum jelly on them and sleep with cotton gloves on your hands.

If moisturizers don't help, you could try using one percent hydrocortisone cream over-the-counter. If there is no improvement over several weeks, you should probably see your doctor to rule out other causes of dry skin, i.e., eczema, psoriasis, etc. Stronger prescription creams may then be needed to adequately treat you.

Nationwide program partners post office with "Gold Crown" stores

Postal customers will be able to experience a Gold Crown moment with crowning success at area Hallmark Gold Crown stores, thanks to a nationwide agreement that will allow select stores to provide USPS First-Class and Priority Mail services.

"The partnering of the United States Postal Service and Hallmark Gold Crown, two nationally trusted and recognized brands, will provide our mutual customers increased convenience and accessibility to Post Office products at Post Office

prices," said Lowell postmaster, Gil Brown.

In the case of the Hallmark Gold Crown store, you can buy your card or gift, package and send it all at the same time. It's one-stop shopping at its best.

Participating Hallmark stores, such as Cousins in Lowell, offer stamps, First-Class Mail and Priority Mail up to 20 pounds, as well as offer special services such as delivery confirmation, signature confirmation, insurance, certified mail, and return receipts.

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SYNOPSIS REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL DECEMBER 1, 2003, 7:30 P.M.

Minutes of the November 17, 2003 Regular Meeting were approved as corrected and Special and Closed Session meetings of November 24, 2003 were approved as submitted and bills and the accounts payable were approved.

Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce Director Liz Baker gave a progress report on the existing business and business start up packet.

Peter Haefner and Jason Gatza of Rehmann Robson presented the 2002-2003 City, Light and Power and Cable Television audits.

The following motions were approved:

- Motion to establish a public hearing for December 15, 2003 concerning the rezoning request from C-3 General Business to R-3 Multiple Family Residential at the northwest corner of Valley Vista and Bowes Road.
- Motion to purchase the BS&A Software for the tax rolls as well as the recommended five new computers not to exceed \$8,500.
- Motion to approve the bid of Team Excavators as recommended by City staff or the extension of Riverside Drive water main as well as the lateral for the sanitary sewer at a cost of \$10,600.
- Motion to appoint Jerri Teelander (802 Hunt) to the Planning Commission with a term expiring on June 30, 2005.
- Motion to adjourn at 8:49 p.m. The next Regularly Scheduled Meeting will be Monday, December 15, 2003.

Complete minutes are available at Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan.

Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk
City of Lowell

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The following offices will be closed Wednesday and Thursday, December 24th and 25th, 2003 in observance of the Christmas Holiday and Wednesday, December 31st, 2003 and Thursday, January 1, 2004 in observance of the New Year Holiday.

LOWELL LIGHT AND POWER AND LOWELL CABLE VISION

The following offices will close on Wednesday and Thursday, December 24th and 25th, 2003 in observance of the Christmas Holiday and Thursday, January 1st, 2004 in observance of the New Year Holiday.

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Work continues on Lowell Area Historical Museum expansion

By Dan Schneider

For the past several months, the Lowell Area Historical Museum has been undertaking the restoration of the second half of the house it occupies.

Now, it is stepping up efforts in phase two of its fund drive. The current fund drive, to finance the expansion of the museum, has been ongoing since the museum opened in the fall of 2001. The museum still needs to raise about \$130,000 in order to reach its goal of \$231,000.

The new part of the museum, which will occupy the east half of the first floor, will include two rooms for exhibits. In addition, the formal dining room will be restored as closely as possible to its original condition as will the front parlor. Plans also include a small gift shop.

The formal dining room will be available for use by local organizations and businesses for meetings and lunches. It is intended as an opportunity to actually live life in a historical setting.

The restoration also includes the installation of a Victorian-style garden on the east portion of the lot.

Until August, when restoration work began, the city was using the east half for storage. Before that, it housed the Lowell YMCA.

Robert William Graham, built the brick house at 325 W. Main St. in 1873. The house is Victorian in design.

Graham lived with his family in the west half of the home. Graham was a builder, farmer, superintendent of edu-

cation and a respected businessman around town. His son, Ernest R. Graham, became a famous architect with prominent buildings in Chicago, Washington D.C. and London.

Robert Graham's in-laws, Joseph and Julia Post, lived in the east side of the house. The Posts had moved to Lowell from Connecticut (Graham was born in Lancashire, England).

The Posts were apparently subscribers to a newspaper called *Moore's Rural New Yorker*. While doing restoration work, Ivan Blough found pages of the publication, some dated 1870 and earlier, in the walls.

The newspapers were nailed to the wall studs before the plaster lath was nailed on. Blough believes this facilitated more efficient plastering, allowing less plaster to push through the cracks.

The front page of one of the newspapers carries a story about the construction of a pneumatic tunnel transit system. It was a tunnel under Broadway with cars propelled by a ...

... monster blowing engine, having two pairs of wings or blades, which revolve in such a manner as to compress and exhaust an immense quantity of air at each revolution. By means of it, a strong current of air is forced into the tunnel and the car is propelled thereby as a sailboat is wafted before the wind. A very little atmospheric pressure to the square inch will insure a high rate of speed.

Of more interest to Blough and to the Historical Museum was a page bearing a picture of a Victorian house strikingly similar to the one the museum occupies. The pictured house, unlike the one at 325 W. Main, has porches. Blough said he can use the picture as a basis for the design of the porch to descend to the garden.

The various uses the building has been subject to over the years have made restoration more difficult. This is especially true of the modifications made to the space to convert it to a YMCA.

"Being remodeled, as it was, the ceiling is lowered and so that had to be redone," Blough said. "A lot of the walls were plastered over the old plaster. A lot of the trim was buried under that but fortunately it was still there."

In removing the modifications, Blough and several others who have worked on the house have learned a lot about how houses were constructed in the 1870s. For instance, they uncovered holes in the walls above doorways. The trim around the holes had been damaged when the YMCA installed its drop ceilings.

"Enough of it was left that I could tell how it was done but then the question remained

of why it was there," Blough said. The holes, it turns out, were there to allow hot air to move from room to room. Hot air rises, so the holes had to be at the top of the doorways to keep the air moving.

Though the drop ceilings caused some damage to the trim work, they actually preserved some of the historical elements of the house. In the two feet of space between the drop ceiling and the original ceiling, the walls were not plastered over, leaving layers of wallpaper. In the parlor, there were 10 total layers of wallpaper going back to 1873.

What used to be the stairway for the east portion of the house will be a time capsule once the restoration is complete. The stairway had been cut up and the space used variously as a closet and bathroom over the years. Now, those modifications have been undone to create a space that records the history of the house. In that space, the original wallpaper, later wallpaper and oil stains from kerosene lamps can be seen. In addition, the words "This place was sealed March 24, 1960 by Wayne Parks and Henry Koewers" are scrawled in pencil on a wall.

Magna-Donnelly employee donations help support Toys for Tots

Below, April Dilts and Marni Slagell stand at Michelle's Goldworks with toys they bought for Toys for Tots. Toys were purchased using money that employees at Magna-Donnelly contributed.

"We've been doing a lot of internal fundraising events," Dilts said.

After a rough financial

year for the company forced Magna-Donnelly, formerly Lowell Engineering, to cancel its usual employee Christmas dinner, Dilts and Slagell helped lead fundraising efforts for a holiday lunch.

Knowing half the money raised would go to Toys for Tots, Magna-Donnelly employees bidded on parking

spaces and one-day job switches with managers for a day. Between such auctions and candy bar sales, the employees contributed \$650 to buy toys since Thanksgiving. Dilts expects them to chip in another \$600 for Toys for Tots by Christmas.

Magna-Donnelly employees also donated \$100 to the Alto Lions' annual Christmas dinner.

Dilts works in the human resources department at Magna-Donnelly. Slagell is an executive assistant there. They chose Michelle's Goldworks as their drop-off site because Michelle Brigstock's husband, Brad, works in the tool room at Magna-Donnelly.



SYNOPSIS

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOWNE TOWNSHIP BOARD
NOVEMBER 17, 2003-7:30 P.M.

- Minutes of the November regular meeting were approved. List of invoices were also approved.
- Motion to increase contribution for operation to the Bowne Mennonite Cemetery.
- Motion to send board members to MTA Conference in Lansing January 2004.
- Motion to advertise for bids for repairs to ladies aide Hall museum.
- Motion to have parcels on Linfield surveyed.

Complete copies of the minutes are available at the township office located at 8240 Alden Nash SE., Alto.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Bowne Township Board is December 15, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. at the Historic Township Hall, located at 8240 Alden Nash SE., Alto.

Sandra L. Kowalczyk
Bowne Township Clerk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider amending Section 4.3 of the Zoning Ordinance of Lowell Charter Township. The proposed amendments would provide new regulations for outdoor lighting. The proposed regulations specify what exterior lighting is regulated, places restrictions on the location of exterior lighting and light output from exterior lighting. The regulations also provide for shielding of exterior lighting. In addition, the following Sections of the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance would be modified to conform to the lighting regulations: 3.4.5.F, 4.3.2, 4.444.E, 4.8.9.M, 5.4.1.H.o and 5.5.1.F.

The hearing will be held as follows:

Monday, January 12, 2004
7:00 P.M.
Lowell Charter Township Hall
2910 Alden Nash Avenue S.E.
Lowell, Michigan 49331

The proposed amendment is available for review at the Lowell Charter Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, Lowell, Michigan, 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday or by calling 897-7600.

Dave Simmonds, Secretary
Lowell Charter Township
Planning Commission

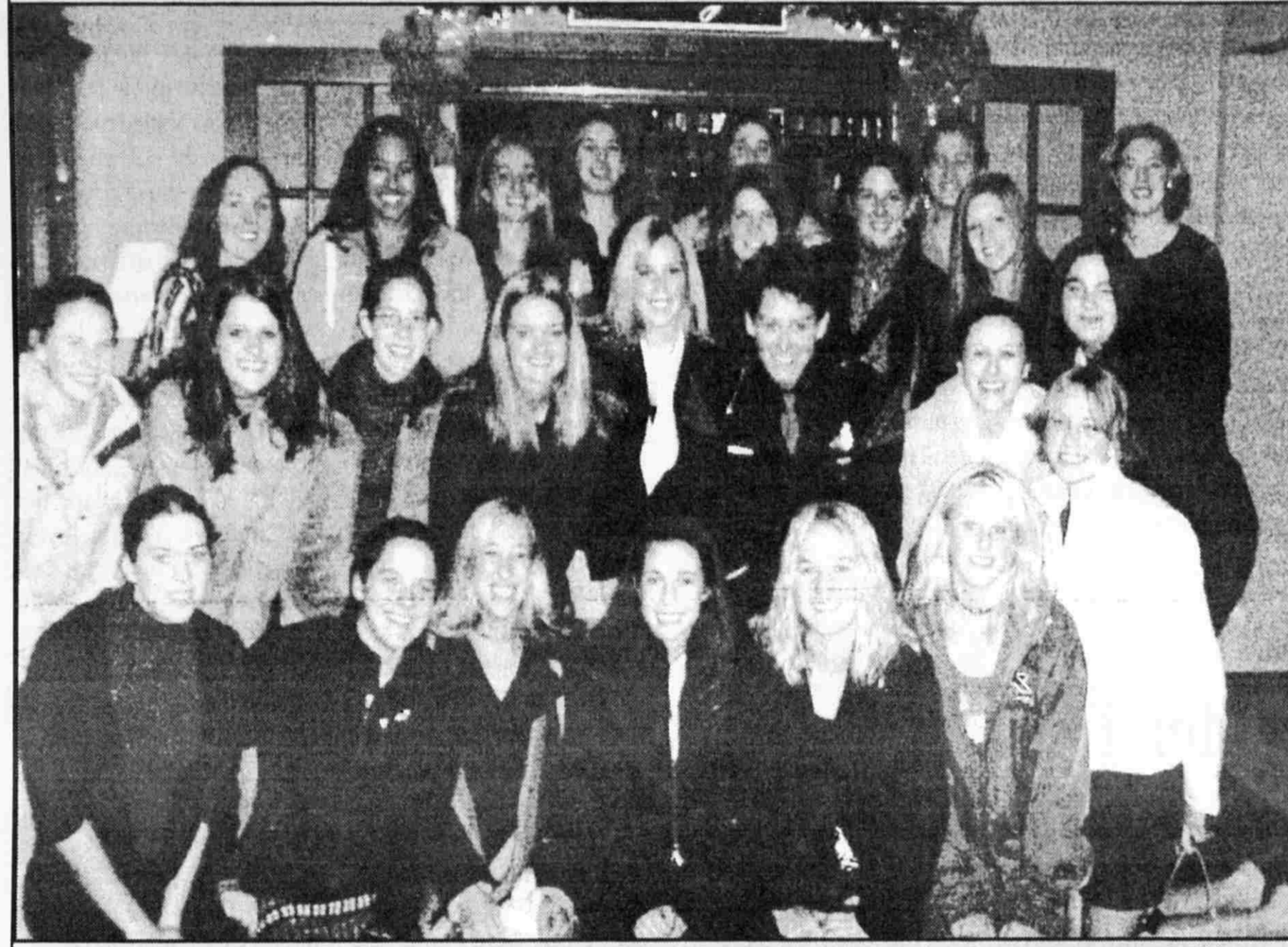
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Lady Arrows celebrate successful fall season



The Lady Arrows Varsity Club held its annual holiday luncheon to celebrate the accomplishments of the fall sports. Approximately 25 varsity athletes met on Dec. 15 at Duba's in Grand Rapids.

Dee Crowley, Lady Arrows Varsity Club advisor, recognized the cross country team for its accomplishments, with Sarah Swab and Abbie Debiak earning All Conference honors.

The Lady Arrows basketball team finished with a 19-3 record and OK White Conference Championship. Three players, Devon Collins, Amy Oberlin and Kendra Gallert made All Conference and earned all area recognition.

The tennis team won many invitational tournaments this year, with Mandy Gunberg earning All Conference honors.

The Father-Daughter dance that was sponsored in

Resort improvements, family emphasis welcome skiers to slopes

Michigan ski areas are banking that improvements they made over the summer will help attract ski-loving families for a profitable downhill season.

But it will take cold weather, manufactured and natural snow to make this sea-

son an all-round winner. Eleven of the state's ski resorts are adding trails, seven are beefing up terrain parks and two have new tubing runs. Snowmaking improvements are reported at 16 areas, with three having added safety helmet rental or fee usage.

In West Michigan, Crystal Mountain near Thompsonville opens 11 new north-facing downhill runs, four beginner and seven intermediate with glade trails up to 1,200 feet long. Runs are served by a new four-place chair lift. Cross-country ski trails were rerouted and two new black diamond routes cut. There will be disc golf and moonlight snowshoe hikes.

At Boyne Mountain's Mountain Grand Resort lodge, work has begun on a \$50 million, 160 suite development

which will also include Michigan's largest indoor water park and a spa when it opens next winter.

On the slopes, Boyne beginners can ski and snowboard free in select areas Wednesday through Saturday at both Boyne Mountain near Boyne Falls and Boyne Highlands, near Harbor Springs.

The Highlands' 25-kilometer cross-country ski system is expanded and widened, and if you buy equipment from Boyne Country Sports or at Boyne, you'll earn points

towards lift passes and equipment rentals. After being closed two seasons, Traverse City's Mount Holiday reopens as a nonprofit operation and all proceeds will go to improve the ski hill. At Nub's Nob, near Harbor Springs, a new warming house at the top of Pintail Peak will serve lunches.

Shanty Creek, near Bellaire, is lowering the cost of skiing with a \$29 daily lift ticket for adults, excluding holidays. Kids ages eight and under ski for free, and other passes are designed to lower costs for families. A new "super ticket" offers skiing on both Shanty and Schuss slopes.

Caberfae Peaks, near Cadillac, finished renovations to rooms at Mackenzie Lodge, added 300 pair of shaped skis and 50 snowboards for rent.

There's a new short trail linking the lodges with the North Peak chair, 10 percent more snowmaking and discount vouchers for sports shops in Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo. The Homestead, near Glen Arbor, remodeled

its 63-unit hotel near the lift, added features to its terrain parks and new learn-to-ski programs. Charlevoix's Mt. McSauba put in a new underground snowmaking system, increasing capacity 75 percent.

For more information on other ski locations in the state of Michigan, go to <http://www.aaamich.com> or call 313-336-1500.

TIPS FOR SKI SAFETY



- * Ski in control.
- * Look uphill when merging and do not obstruct trails.
- * People ahead of you have the right of way.
- * Obey area boundaries.
- * Know signs of frostbite.
- * Avoid alcohol; it promotes hypothermia.

There are two things to aim at in life; first, to get what you want; and, after that, to enjoy it. Only the wisest of mankind achieve the second.

—Logan Pearsall Smith

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. 1st United Methodist Church, Lowell. Social time/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 board meetings at chamber or Fallsburg, 7 p.m. All invited. 897-7161 for info.

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 meeting at Historical Museum, 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, 3100 Alden Nash S.E. at 7:30.

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. Terry 868-6481.

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

2ND & 4TH TUES.: MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers...because mothering matters. 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, 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. For all or part time; all invited. Contact Bev or Melissa, 642-6466 for info. Lt. dinner provided.

EVERY 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.: Jan. '04, Saranac Scrappers, scrapbooking/journaling group meets at 4 Health Wellness Center, Saranac, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Lt. refreshments served. Bev or Melissa, 642-6466.

EVERY 3RD TUES.: Parents of children w/AD/HD at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 32156 4 Mile NE (E. Beltline) 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, noon, Lowell Masonic Temple.

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

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., King Memorial Youth Center at Fairgrounds. 897-6050.

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

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

EVERY SECOND WED.: Support group for Peripheral Neuropathy, 4 p.m. at St. Paul's Anglican Catholic Church, Grand Rapids. Dorothy 897-9794. Jan. 14: guest speaker Sharon Vermuelen, reflexologist.

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

EVERY SECOND THURS.: Loyol 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. 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 meeting, Lowell Middle School choir room. 897-1502 after 5.

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

EVERY 3RD THURS.: Rubber stamping group, Christian Life Center 6-9

EVERY WED.: Lowell 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. 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 SATURDAY: Ada Historical Society at 10:30 a.m., Averill Historical Museum, 7144 Headley, Ada.

SECOND SAT.: Lowell Amateur Radio Club, Lowell 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, 1-4 p.m. or by appt.: 676-9346.

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM OPEN - 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.

THE GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD approved the following holiday closing dates for calendar year 2004.

Holiday Closing

January 1.....New Year's Day
 January 19.....Martin Luther King Day
 February 16.....President's Day
 May 31.....Memorial Day
 July 5.....Independence Day Observed
 September 6.....Labor Day
 October 11.....Columbus Day Observed
 November 11.....Veterans' Day
 November (Noon) 24-25.....Thanksgiving
 December 24-30.....Christmas Break

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

LOWELL SENIOR NEIGHBORS CALENDAR 897-5949

MON.: 8:30 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall.	THURS.: 9 a.m. Walk/Shop at Malls; 9:30 Crafts; 1 p.m. Euchre.
TUES.: 8:30 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall.	FRI.: 8:30 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall.

SPECIAL EVENTS

WED., DEC. 17: 10 a.m. Evergreen Commons for Lunch and Music.	THURS., DEC. 25: Merry Christmas! Center Closed.
THURS., DEC. 18: 12:45 p.m. Shop Target & K-Mart.	FRI., DEC. 26: 12:00 p.m. Birthday/Anniversary Party; 12:45 p.m. Bingo.
FRI., DEC. 19: 10:30 a.m. Christmas Party.	MON., DEC. 29: 12:45 p.m. Treasured Memories.
MON., DEC. 22: 4:45 p.m. Dinner at Keiser's	TUES., DEC. 30: 4:30 p.m. Dinner at Deer Run.
TUES., DEC. 23: 12:45 p.m. Christmas Movies at Center.	WED., DEC. 31: 8:30 a.m. Traveling Breakfast; 12:30 p.m. Dessert, Music, White Elephant Exchange. Happy New Year!
WED., DEC. 24: Center Closed.	

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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Red Arrow wrestlers win conference opener

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell varsity wrestling team won its first conference match of the season in Cedar Springs last Thursday. The Red Arrows defeated the Redhaws 48-18.

Coach Dave Strejc said he hadn't expected to win by that high a score against a tough opponent.

"I was surprised that we won as many matches as we did," Strejc said. "We won some close ones. It was really

a good effort by our kids."

Winning by pin for the Red Arrows were Ray Seese (103) over Kyle Gezon, David Kropf (119) over Micah Carter, Kevin Frazier (145) over Kyle Kelley, and James DeLiefde (152) over Anthony Lawrence.

For Cedar Springs, Ryan Case (215) pinned Joe Woodhead and Alan Headley (275) pinned Matt Dood.

Joe Mendez (130) and Matt Kilmartin (135) both won

by technical fall for Lowell. Matt Francisco (189) won a close decision over Cedar Springs' David Cloud, 6-5. Cedar Springs' Adam Draves (112) beat Mike Thomas by a close 8-7 decision.

Including the five wins at the Paw Paw Tournament, the Red Arrow grapplers now have an 8-0 team record in dual matches. Tomorrow they face Sparta at home. Sparta won their conference opener last Thursday at Kenowa Hills,

beating the Knights 70-12.

The Red Arrows finished fourth overall at the Howell Invitational over the weekend.

Strejc said Seese, who took a personal fourth in the tournament "just wrestled an outstanding tournament."

Kropf defeated Dan Schaaf, who was fourth in the state last year, on his way to taking a personal second. Kropf lost a close match with Drew Minock, who was third

in state last year.

Also placing for the Arrows were Mike Nearing (125, 7th), Mendez (125, 2nd), Kilmartin (135, 2nd), Ryan Karasiewicz (140, 8th), Frazier (145, 3rd), John Fleet (152, 8th) and Ryan Dykhouse (171, 3rd).

"We know where we are physically," Strejc said. "Mentally, we just really need to bring it up a notch. We're getting done with the pre-

season. We need to get that intensity."

Strejc said the Red Arrows will definitely need the intensity going into tomorrow's match against Sparta.

"Right now, looking at the lineups, I've got them picked as six-point favorites against us," Strejc said. "So we've got to come out wrestling to take one away from them."

Lowell martial artist offered chance to train in China

By Dan Schneider

Susan Hoag may get the chance next summer to become more of a part of international Wushu culture.

Wushu is a standardized type of what is commonly known as Kung Fu. Kung Fu is actually a term defining a more Americanized perception of the martial art. Wushu is a more traditional Chinese martial art. It has been standardized by a set of moves that are the basis for judging in international competitions.

Grand Master Wu Bin is a highly noted master of Wushu. In addition to being the head coach of the Beijing Wushu team, Wu Bin trains motion picture stars like Jackie Chan and Jet Li. In July of this year, Wu Bin traveled to Michigan to be a trainer in a summer camp put on by Young Champions.

Young Champions is a

national martial arts and self-defense training organization based in Grand Rapids. The organization is a prominent advocate of Wushu.

It was at the summer camp that Wu Bin noticed Hoag's talent. He has invited her and nine other Michigan martial

artists to come to Beijing for intensive training in June of next year.

"He thinks that she is of good quality to be trained," Ming Liu said, translating for Wu Bin. "Her movements are very flexible and she is very strong."

Ming Liu works in communications and marketing for Young Champions. Wu Bin was in Grand Rapids last week to discuss next year's summer camp and the status of Wushu in America.

"Right now he is trying to make Wushu more popular-

ized," Ming Liu said. "Wushu has a long history, more than Karate and Tai Kwan Do.

There is a possibility that Wushu may become an official Olympics sport. It will be an exhibition sport in the 2008 Olympics held in Beijing.

After her training next summer plus an additional three months of intensive training in the future, Hoag may become part of the eight-person team that would represent the United States in the Wushu event at the Beijing Olympics.

Wushu includes three forms: Kata, which consists of a series of moves fighting an imaginary opponent and is judged on movements and body position; and Tai Chi, consisting of slow movements focusing on energy.

Hoag has focused her training on the third form, San

Sau. San Sau is full contact fighting against an opponent.

Unfortunately, this form faces more obstacles to becoming an Olympics sport than the others. Ming Liu explained that under Olympics rules, a sport must have had world championship competitions for at least two years for both male and female competitors. So far, San Sau world championships have been open only to men.

"Still, Hoag wants to improve her skills to win consideration if a U.S. Olympics Wushu team does come to fruition. She is fundraising and saving money she earns teaching martial arts and self-defense around the state of Michigan. In the future she plans to open her own dojo. She is also accepting donations to help fund the trip.



Susan Hoag with Grand Master Wu Bin, a world-renowned Wushu trainer, in July of this year. Wu Bin invited Hoag to come to Beijing, China, to train at his school next summer.

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MON-TH 1:05, 3:05, 5:05, 7:10, 9:20

THE HAUNTED MANSION (PG)
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ELF (PG) MON-TH 1:15, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:35

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Varsity hoopsters split two opening challenges

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell varsity basketball team began their season last Tuesday with a win against Lakewood High School. The Red Arrows beat the Vikings 49-37.

"I was really pleased with how hard we played and how physical we played," coach Jeff McDonald said. "That's a quality win. Those guys win about 15. 16 games a year."

McDonald said Lakewood won its district the previous two years.

Sam Oberlin had 15 points in the game. He also led the Arrows in rebounds.

Playing at home, the Red Arrows went down early against the Vikings but gained the lead by the end of the first quarter. They kept it the rest of the game.

On Friday the Red Arrows lost to the Forest Hills Central Rangers. Lowell was down by six at the half and had cut the deficit to five near the end of the third quarter. But Forest Hills Central drained two straight three-pointers before the quarter ended and kept a lead for the

rest of the game. The final score was 55-39, Forest Hills Central.

The Lowell varsity team has two returning seniors this year. Oberlin has been a four-year starter for the team. Andrew Min also returns.

"We have an interesting mix of experience and youth,"

McDonald said of this year's team.

Three of last year's starters return as juniors. They are Mike Koster, Kevin Gillman and Shane Stokes. The team has one sophomore, Ryan Lane and one freshman, Mike McElroy.

Last night, the team had

their conference opener at Cedar Springs. The game occurred after the paper went to press. Look in next week's Ledger for a report.

McDonald expects a tough game against the Redhawks. The next game will be at home against Sparta.

Disciplined play leads to victory on the ice

By Dan Schneider

The Red Arrows won last Wednesday's game by playing disciplined hockey.

In the first period, the

Grand Haven Buccaneers played some of the toughest hockey the Lowell-Caledonia team had yet faced in league play. Grand Haven was first to put a puck in the net mid-

way through period one. Justin Mathis took the shot, assisted by Dan Baker.

Lowell's Brandon John had the first goal for the Arrows, with Ted McCoy and

Cory Kelly assisting. John scored another goal 1:07 into the second period, Kelly with the assist.

That goal came on a power play from a holding penalty

called against Grand Haven's Ian VanOverem late in the first period. It was the second in a string of penalties that hurt the Buccaneers on the way to a 5-1 loss.

"We made very, very poor choices," Grand Haven coach Mike Forbes said. "You can't play that much time short-

Hockey, cont'd., pg. 17

Hockey, continued...From Page 16

handed and make those decisions and expect to win hockey games."

Grand Haven had eight penalties to Lowell-Caledonia's one, a high-stick-

ing call against McCoy. Cumulatively, the penalties accounted for nearly a full period of ice time.

Lowell-Caledonia scored two power-play goals and was

on double power play twice during the game.

Forbes said, because of the high number of penalties, he will make major changes in the line-up for upcoming games.

"I thought our behavior in the last few minutes in the last period was disgraceful," Forbes said. "I'd sooner play with 10 guys who want to play than 21 who are going to go out there and play self-

ishly. You can't be successful playing hockey that way."

Lowell-Caledonia was on double power play for most of the last two minutes of the game. This was the result of two roughing penalties and a misconduct penalty against the Buccaneers.

After John's two goals, McCoy scored two in the second period. Ramsey Charouf, recovered from an injury and playing in his first game of the season, assisted McCoy's first goal. John assisted the second. John's brother, Josh, also returned to the Lowell-Caledonia line-up for the first time this season.

McCoy scored the final goal of the game, Kelly with the assist, 3:41 into the third period.

"We played defensive hockey up and down the ice and took our opportunities when we were able," Lowell-Caledonia coach, Mike

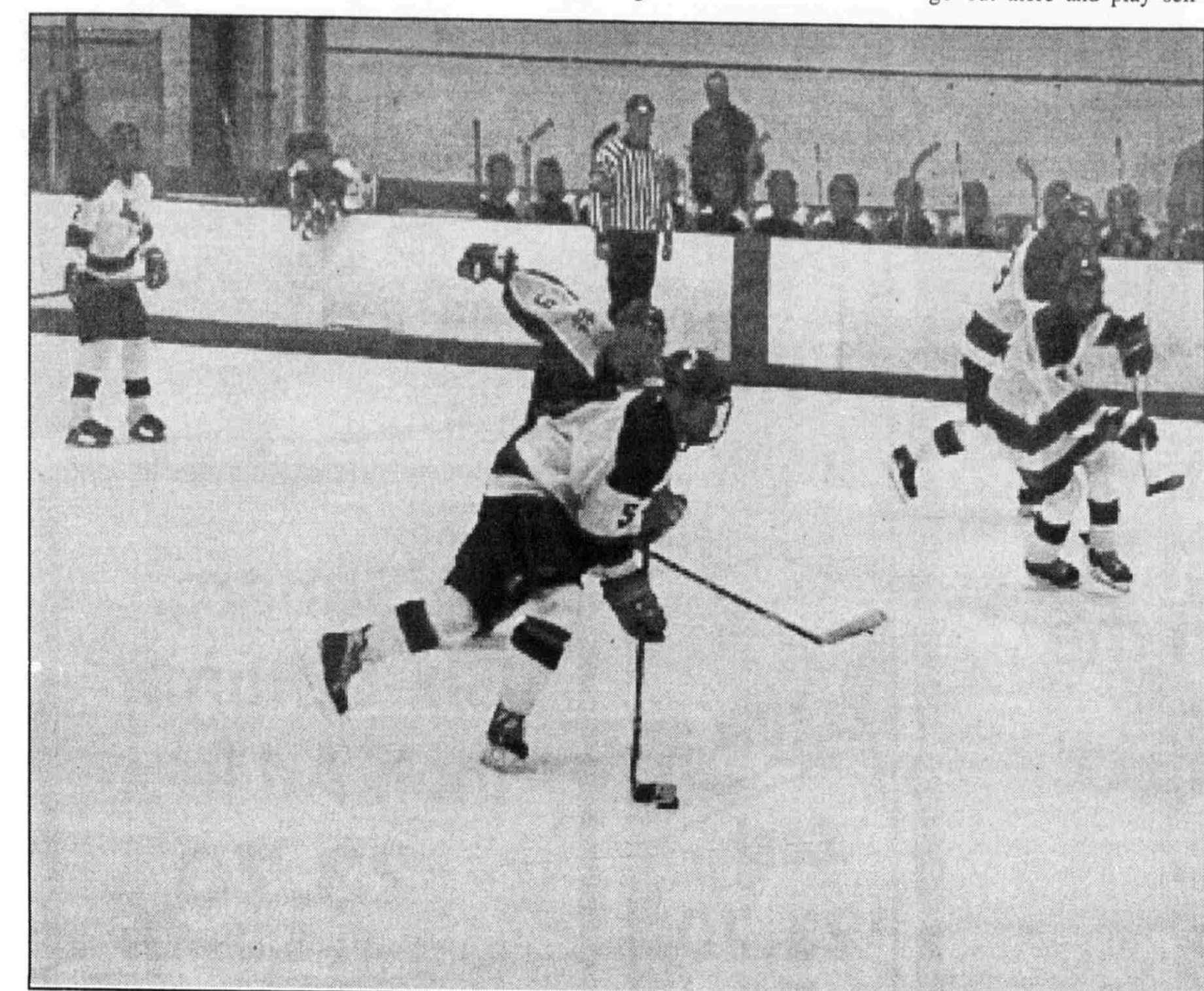
Ballard said.

The Red Arrows also playing disciplined hockey. "We talked a lot about what it would take this year and one of our main focuses is on team discipline," Ballard said.

On Saturday, the Red Arrows tied the Grand Rapids Catholic Central Cougars 3-3 in overtime. Brandon John had two goals in that game. McCoy had the other. Kelly and Will Holland each had one assist.

Lowell-Caledonia goalie, David Maylone had a save percentage of 93 in the game. The Cougars outshot the Arrows 43-28.

Ballard said in an e-mail that Catholic Central is annually in contention for the City League title. A tie against an opponent of the Cougars' caliber, Ballard said, is a strong accomplishment for the Arrows.



Red Arrow, Brandon John of Lowell moved the puck down the ice last Wednesday with Lowell-Caledonia teammates. The Grand Haven Buccaneers played nearly a third of the game short-handed because of penalty trouble. John had two goals in the game.

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1x2
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 Just...
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1x6
**A
 Real
 Attention
 Getter
 Like
 This
 Cost...
 \$23.70**
 \$17.70

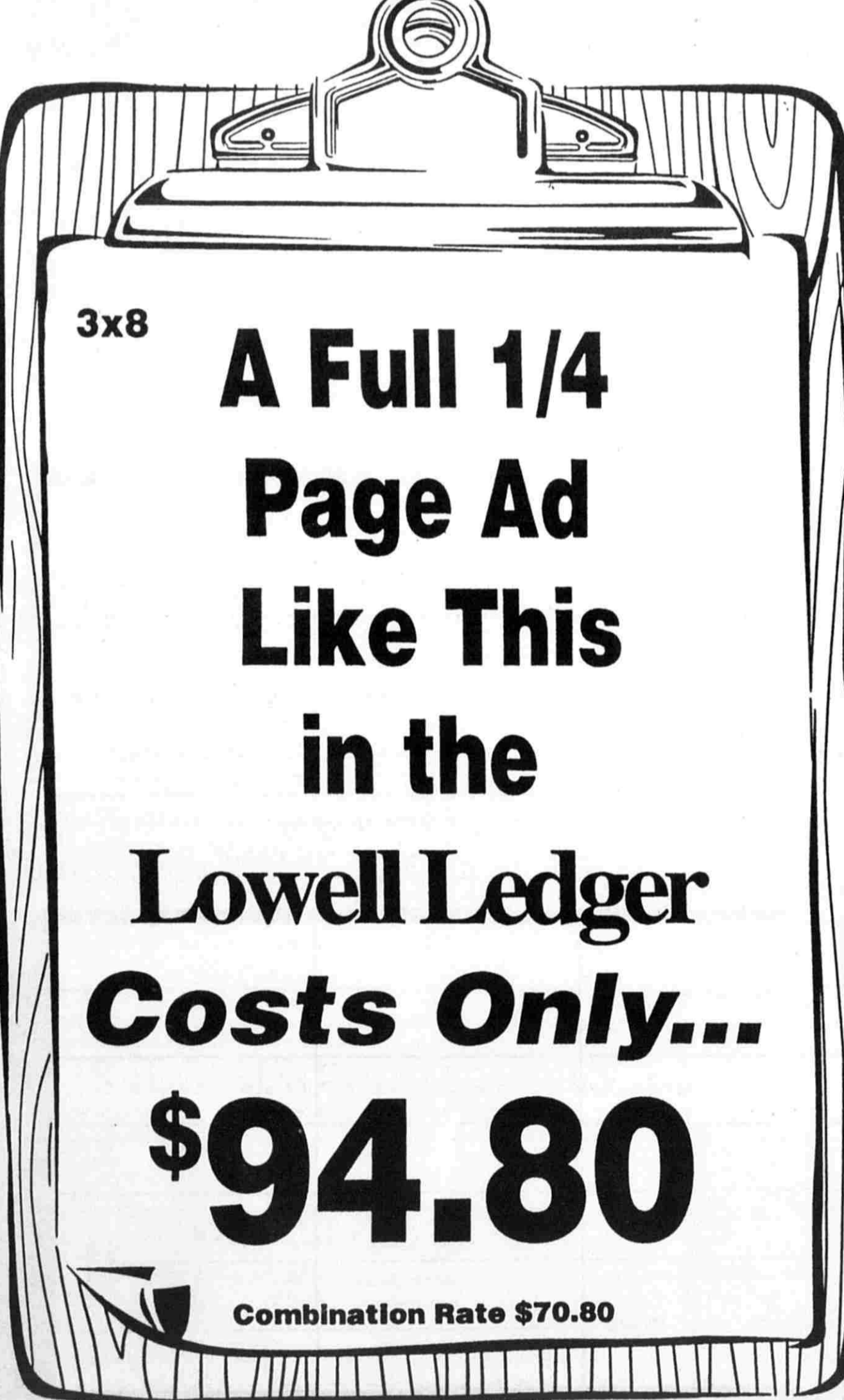
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FOR SALE
 HOUSE FOR SALE - Sharp 3 bedroom home, 1 1/2 baths, oak kitchen cabinets with some kitchen appliances included, finished basement with pellet burner, private backyard with deck and patio, \$122,900. 281 Jane Ellen Dr. 897-8120.

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.

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

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

BEDROOM SET - Complete bed, dresser, mirror, chest, night stand and brand new mattress. Never used. Full \$600; queen \$650. Call 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160.

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.

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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.

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

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

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. PLEISKEIS-A

BED - Air chamber or memory foam. Brand new. Still in original plastic. Cost \$1400; sell \$600. Call 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160.

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.

HOLIDAY BONUS! EXPANDING - Local company looking for men and women to fill 27 full time permanent positions. No experience necessary; we train. Must start immediately. \$1,600 per month. Phone 245-7400.

HELP WANTED - Grand Rapids area Concrete Sawing and Drilling Co. now accepting applications for full and seasonal positions. Construction and mechanical experience a plus. Must have good driving record. Pre-employment physical required. Competitive wages including pension, health care and vacation. Send resume: Attn: Terrie, 443 Jefferson SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or call 616-451-2886 EOE.

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DEADLINE MONDAYS AT 5 PM
*During the Holiday
 Season our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible.*
Happy Holidays
 From the Lowell Ledger Staff

EVENTS
 LIVE NATIVITY - Drive thru Saturday, December 20th, 6-9PM. Bowne Center United Methodist Church, corner of 84th and Alden Nash. Refreshments served in the fellowship hall.

LOST
 LOST - Men's diamond ring. Cash reward. Call 897-8973.

HELP WANTED
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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 of Buyers Guide - Wed., Dec. 24 at noon
 For Jan. 5 issue of Buyers Guide - Wed., Dec. 31 at noon

FOR RENT
 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.

WHITNEYVILLE SELF STORAGE - large 1,300 sq. ft. area. (4) 10 ft. high overhead doors, \$325 per month. Call 868-0273 or 299-6221.

HOUSE FOR RENT IN LOWELL - 2 BR, 1 bath, 1 1/2 stall garage. \$700/mon. 897-6767 after 3:30.
FOR RENT - 1 bedroom duplex with garage. New building, country setting, 1 mile south of Lowell, \$550 a month. Available December 23. Call 682-0138.

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THANK YOU
 I wish to express my appreciation for the nice party that my family gave for me and to thank all my friends for all the beautiful cards they sent me on my ninetieth birthday. Thanks to all of you.
 Pauline Burtle

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Sale Price...\$14,301.00

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\$3,500

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If you have a current GMAC lease on a Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, GMC, Oldsmobile, Pontiac or Saturn that expires between Dec. 1, 2003 and June 30, 2004, you can terminate that lease and have the final payments waived with the purchase or lease of any 2004 Chevrolet or Buick from Thomet. LEASE OFFER EXTENDED UNTIL JANUARY 2, 2004

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Rendezvous	\$26,670	36	\$180.00	12,000	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$200.00	\$2,210.80	\$9,394.00	\$14,136.00	.20
Rainier	\$40,210	36	\$320.00	12,000	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$350.00	\$2,689.20	\$11,520.00	\$23,321.00	.20

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