

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 30 Issue 16

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

Authorities apprehend mail theft suspect

By Dan Schneider

U.S. postal inspectors arrested Matthew Crouthamel last Friday in Mount Pleasant in connection with the recent string of mid-Michigan postal drop box break-ins.

Crouthamel, 24, was arrested without incident and charged with theft of U.S. mail and possession of stolen mail. Crouthamel is suspected of breaking into postal drop boxes in 13 small towns since Jan. 21. That includes the Lowell post office drop box

break-in on the night of Feb. 11. Drop boxes in Carson City, Ionia and Ada were also hit that night.

"This was the sole party responsible," U.S. postal inspector Cheryl Smith said.

Inspectors used eyewitness accounts describing his

car to track him to his residence in Mount Pleasant. They found stolen mail in his house, though investigators believe much of the stolen mail was discarded.

An Inspection Service news release said postal customers will be notified as

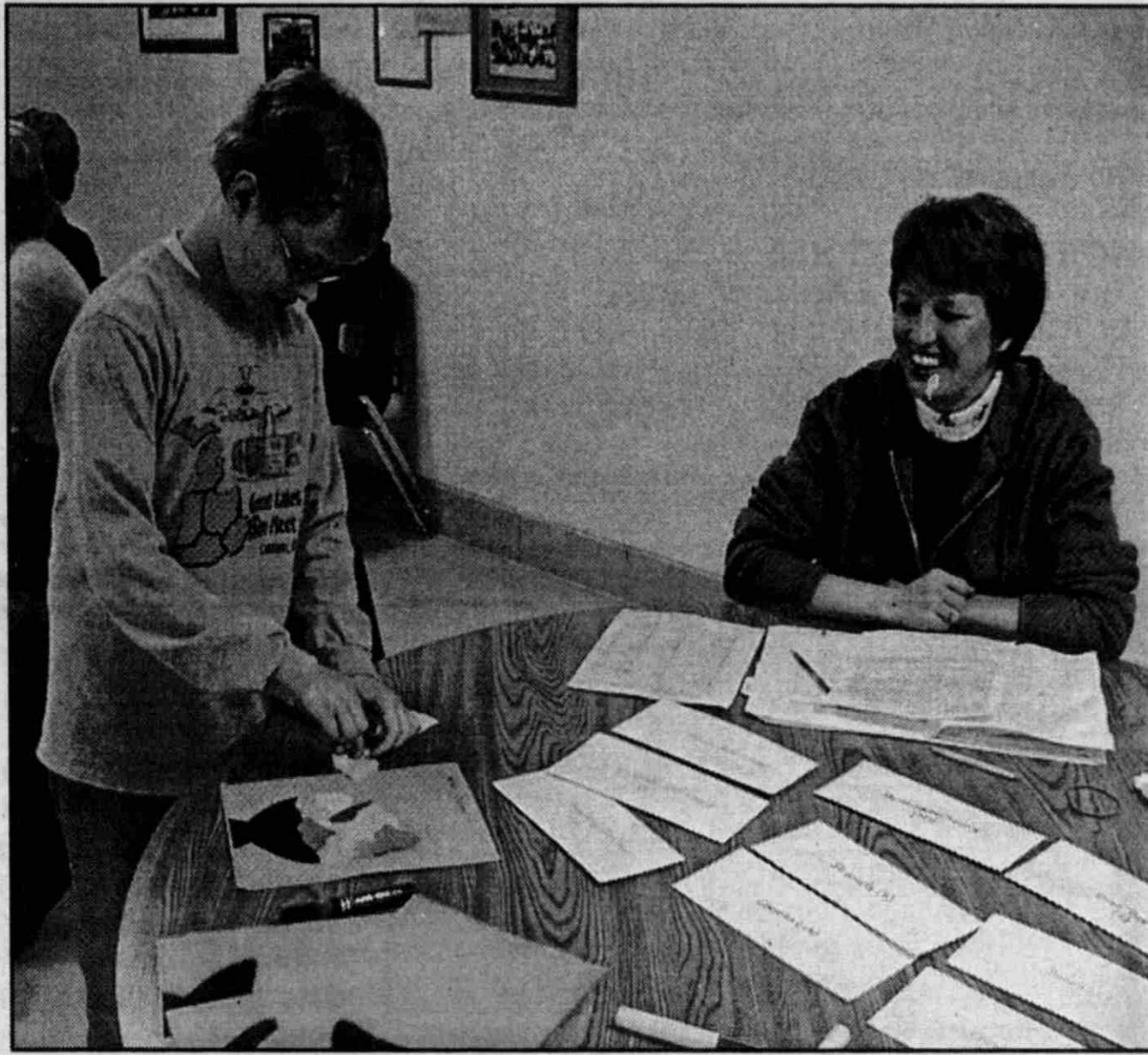
soon as possible if law enforcement was able to recover any of their mail.

"What mail they have, the case agents are still going through," Smith said.

Postal customers who believe their mail may have been stolen are advised to contact

the addressees, especially in cases involving bill payments or important documents.

If convicted, the maximum penalty Crouthamel could face for each count of mail theft or possession of stolen mail is five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.



Nathan Baker, sixth grader, affixes a scoop of vanilla ice cream to his construction-paper sundae. He will get to eat the real sundae on March 19, the day after the conclusion of the Battle of the Books. Baker earned the scoop by reading *The Rescue of Josh Maguire* by Ben Mikaelson.

Ice cream whets an appetite for reading at middle school

By Dan Schneider

Sixth graders at Lowell Middle School are well on their way to towering sundaes and probable ice-cream headaches. Last Friday concluded week five of the Battle of the Books.

Students choose books to read from a list of 32 titles. They fill out a form answering questions about each book and then have a conversation with a book expert to determine their understanding of the major characters and themes. They are awarded a scoop of ice cream or sundae topping for each completed book.

This has been going on at the middle school for several years now. The tactic is apparently quite successful in encouraging readers.

"I have a kid in my class who's read 800 pages and he was never really into reading, it just caught his interest," said sixth grade teacher Betty Brink, one of the organizers this year.

Brink said the variety of subject matter in the books keeps the students interested. The books range in length from 75 to 425 pages. A popular read is *The Year My Parents Ruined My Life* by Martha Freeman.

The scooped ice cream will be constructed and eaten on March 19 following eight weeks of regular reading and the week-long Battle of the Books. Until then, the sixth-graders keep track of the size of their sundaes by gluing together construction-paper sundaes. These are displayed on their lockers throughout the contest.

Some of the construction-paper sundaes are starting to symbolize impressively large sundaes. Brink expects several students to read all 32 books this year. As of last Friday, the sixth-graders had cumulatively read 152,000 pages.

The actual battle, set to take place March 18, pits teams of four to seven students against each other. They will attempt to answer questions, one from each book. The team members who have read the most books will have the advantage.

YMCA -Lowell community look toward cooperative future

By Dan Schneider

Since last October, a rift has existed between the metro Grand Rapids YMCA board and the Lowell YMCA's board of managers. The problem started when YMCA administrators in Grand Rapids fired Will Welsh, then executive director of the Lowell branch, without prior communication with the Lowell board.

"Part of the problem that developed over the departure of the previous director was there was not much communication," said Barry Getzen, the Lowell board's associate chair.

Members of the Lowell YMCA board of managers felt left in the dark about the decision to let Welsh go. This is in addition to feeling the loss of someone who had con-

tributed greatly to the Lowell YMCA and community.

Welsh has since been hired as executive director of the Paris, Illinois YMCA. It is an independent YMCA serving an area with roughly the population of the Lowell area.

In January, the metro YMCA board hired a new before and after school care director to replace Teri Sikkenga. This prompted the

resignation of Rick Seese and Dan Brubaker from the board of managers of the Lowell YMCA. They cited as reasons for their decision not only the lack of communication in the firing of Welsh and replacement of Sikkenga, but the subsequent uncertainty of the metro board's vision for the future of the Lowell YMCA.

On Feb. 11, members of

the Lowell community met with metro YMCA representatives to make sure the Lowell board will have a say in that future. Getzen said the meeting was also productive in addressing the grievances of the last four months.

Superintendent of Lowell Area Schools Shari Miller; mayor Jeanne Shores; city manager Dave Pasquale;

Future cooperation, cont'd., pg. 8

Worker injured at King Milling

By Dan Schneider

A worker was hospitalized last Wednesday after falling through a hole in the roof of the addition atop King Milling's main flour mill.

Eric Sanderson, 23, of Middleville, sustained substantial injuries after falling nearly 20 feet and landing on equipment.

"He had some obvious facial injuries, he had a fractured jaw," said Lowell po-

lice sgt. Steve Junewick, who responded to the incident along with Lowell Fire Rescue and a paramedic.

The initial examination of Sanderson revealed he likely had internal injuries as well. Rather than carry him down

narrow flights of stairs, rescuers had the crane operator lower Sanderson to a waiting ambulance. Sanderson was taken to Spectrum

Worker injured, continued, pg. 8

Inside The Lowell Ledger

- Sluggish school contract negotiations...Page 9
- Sundry request additional variance...Page 7

OBITUARIES

AVERILL - Leslie H. Averill, aged 57, of Battle Creek, died Thursday, February 19, 2004, at home. He was born November 11, 1946, in Ada to Frank and Janice Averill. He graduated from Lowell High School in 1964 and served two tours in Vietnam with the U.S. Navy from 1965 - 1968. Leslie lived in Lowell until he moved to Battle Creek in 1989 and was a member of the Lowell Moose Lodge. He worked as a welder with many construction firms in the area. He married Janet Urton on August 3, 2001, she survives. Also surviving are daughter Debbie Stinson of Canyon Lake, Texas; son Dusty

Averill of Ada; father Frank Averill Jr. of Ada; mother Janice Heiney of Mesa, Arizona; brother Bud (Cindy) Averill of Traverse City; sisters Sue Brown of Lowell and Sandy (Barry) Papple of Sterling. Services were held at Shaw Funeral Home on Tuesday, Pastor Charles Farnum officiating. Interment Fort Custer National Cemetery, Augusta. Memorials to Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Battle Creek.

MARTIN - Sally Lou Martin, aged 84, of Lowell, passed away Wednesday, February 18, 2004. She is survived by her children Michelle (Arlan) Overholt of Ionia, W.E.

HOWARD - Beatrice Bernice (Bea), aged 92, of Roswell, New Mexico, formerly of Lowell, widow of Arthur (Curly) Howard, began eter-

nal rest February 13, 2004. She lives in the memories of her children James Howard and Bonnie Balcerzak; her grandchildren Steven Howard and Luann Palcowski; great-grandchildren Hailey and Morgan Duram. Predeceasing her was a grandchild Thomas Balcerzak. Prior to her marriage Bea worked for the U.S. government in Washington, D.C. After marriage she worked as office manager for Drs. McKay and Gerard and as executive secretary to Jay VanAnDel of the Amway Corporation. She will be missed by her bingo buddies.

Stebens (Mary) Martin of Hastings; grandchildren Paul "Reg" (Brenda) Owen, Mike (Julie) Owen, Jason Seely, Eric Oesch, Arlan Overholt Jr., Jeff (Esther) Lambert, Wendy (Russ) Gleason, Julie (Ed) Sanders, Jackie (Scott) Foster, Jeanine (Bob) Hynes, Jeanette Overholt; 18 great-grandchildren; many special friends. Services were held February 21 at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, Rev. Dean Bailey of Alto United Methodist Church officiating. Interment at Merriman Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Visiting Nurse

WOODMAN - William H. Woodman, aged 76, of Lake Odessa, formerly of Lowell, passed away Friday, February 20, 2004. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Florence M. (Kelly) Woodman; children Charmaine M. (Woodman) Hoyer, William H. (Karen) Woodman III, and Wendy M. (Steve) Christensen; grandchildren Nicole Harvill, Douglas (Melanie) Warner, Taniel Warner, William (Christine) Woodman IV, Sarah

Woodman, Brian Woodman, Krista and Courtney Christensen; eight great-grandchildren; sister-in-law Joni Woodman Matteson. William served in the Navy during WWII. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered February 23 at St. Mary's Church, Lowell, Rev. George Fekete officiating. Interment at Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or Hospice Visiting Nurses Services, 825 W. Michigan, Lansing, MI 48912.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 04-177,024-DE

Estate of
SADIE De VOOGD,
deceased
Date of birth: 11/27/1906

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, SADIE DeVOOGD, who lived at 1018 Arianna, N.W., Grand Rapids, Michigan died 12/04/2003.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless

presented to KEITH KLOET, named personal representative, or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at *Suite 2400, 180 Ottawa Ave., N.W., Grand Rapids, MI and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

CRAIG A. BRUGGINK
P.L.C.
(P29358)
429 Turner N.W.
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
(616) 456-5048

KEITH KLOET
959 Autumn, S.E.
Grand Rapids, MI
49546-3869
(616) 676-0370

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 04-176,981-DE

Estate of
NANCY ANN NEUHAUS,
deceased
Date of birth: 1/30/1930

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, NANCY ANN NEUHAUS, who lived at 2260 Raybrook S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan died 1/6/04.

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

2/20/04

SUSAN M. POTYRAJ P.L.C.
(P46249)
410 Bridge St. N.W.
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
(616) 454-4119

JOHN A. NEUHAUS
169 W. Goethe St.
Chicago, IL 60610

Numbers add up to busy city service departments

By J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

The Lowell Police Department made 400 arrests last year. The Lowell Fire Department answered 562 calls, 221 of which were fire calls. The Lowell Public Works Department spent 201.5 hours in January plowing 2,027 miles of roadway.

The Lowell City Council receives reports from various

departments at each meeting on activities that have taken place during the month, and at year-end, over the entire year. "It is nice to know what is going on and to see these numbers," said councilman Chuck Myers at last week's council meeting.

Myers commented on the reports because he wanted those who put them together to know they are being reviewed, he said. "It is interesting to note that less than one-third of our fire calls are within the city limits," he said, adding that the rest were mainly in surrounding communities such as Lowell and Vergennes townships. It is also nice to know the city is providing such services to its neighbors, Myers said.

The reports also give the council an idea of how often something is used. The city helped purchase a thermal

camera for the fire department so the department could keep track of its firefighters during a blaze. In January, the camera was used twice - a little less than last January when it was used four times.

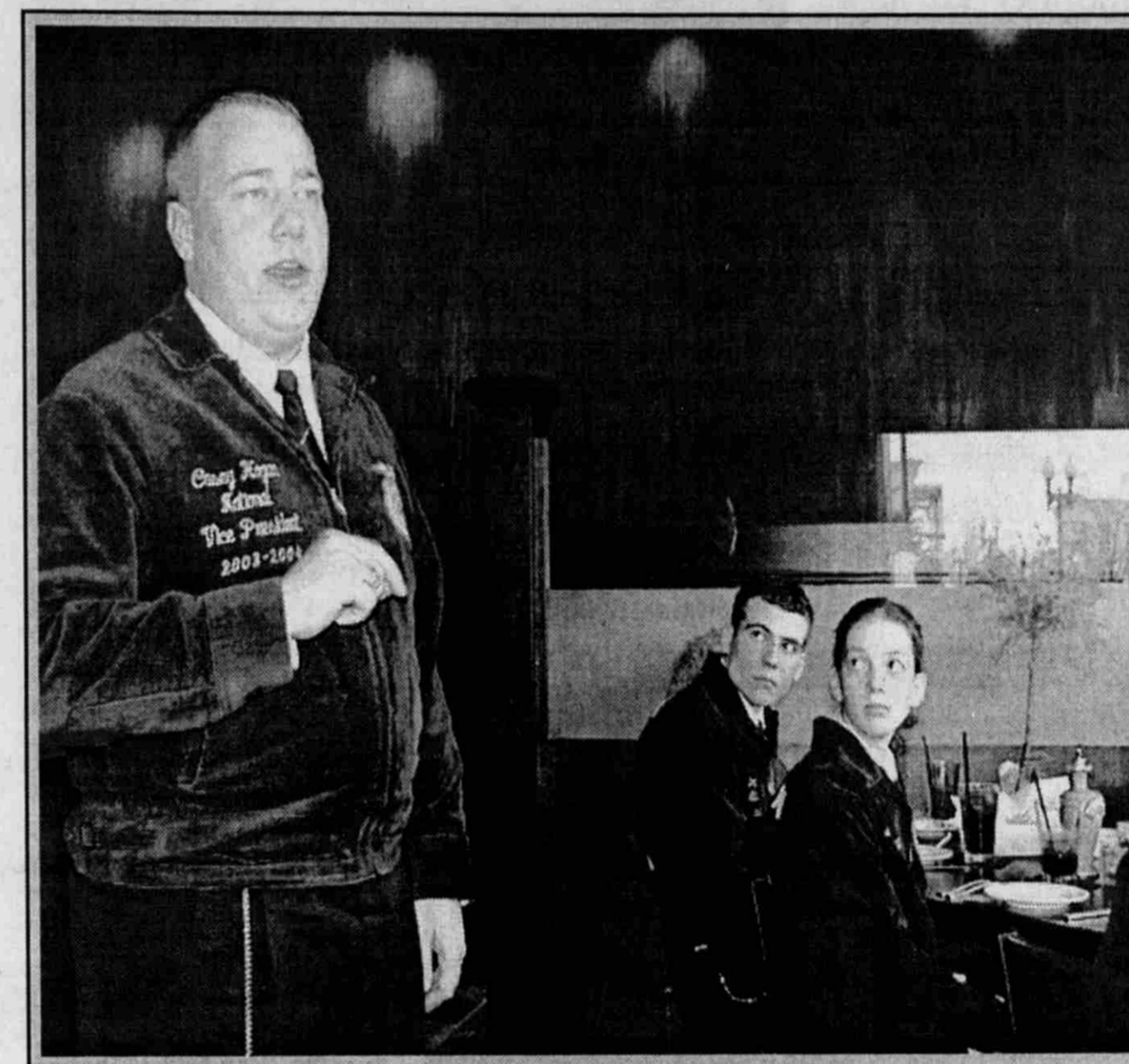
For the month of January 2004, the department responded to 15 fire calls and 28 medical calls. Myers noted that more traffic stops result in warnings (1,640 for last year) than actual citations (1,151). The department made 120 warrant arrests and 58 arrests for alcohol-related of-

fenses such as minor in possession or open alcohol. The police department had 31 arrests for drunk driving and 37 arrests for drug-related charges.

In January, the Lowell Police Department made 22 arrests and a total of 164 traffic stops. Also in January, the Waste Water Treatment Plant spent 241.9 hours in pumping, treating and distributing about 15.42 million gallons of raw water. Cost per million gallons for chemicals and electrical: \$238.30.

And even in the winter, the city's sexton is busy. For the month of January, Don DeJong had two burials; he spent time researching records for information about those buried in Oakwood Cemetery. DeJong spent 63.5 hours plus 10 in overtime clearing the city's sidewalks along with another six hours plowing and clearing parking lots. "These reports show the amount of effort it takes to keep our city running," Myers said.

National FFA vice president addresses Lowell future farmers



Casey Hogan, national vice president of Future Farmers of America, addressed representatives of the Lowell High School FFA chapter Monday at the Flat River Grill. Pictured are, from left, Ryan Peterson, FFA president for Michigan, and Missy Blough, of the Lowell FFA chapter. The Lowell FFA chapter hosted Hogan, who will tour at least 42 states in his year as a national FFA officer, to kick off FFA week. It was Hogan's first time in Lowell, or in Michigan, for that matter. "One of the things I was told is that the Lowell FFA chapter is one of the finest in the state of Michigan," Hogan said.

'HARDT HAPPENINGS'



CELEBRATE DR. SEUSS' BIRTHDAY

In honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday, several branches of Kent District Library are hosting a Dr. Seuss Centennial Celebration. Hear your favorite Dr. Seuss stories, share some birthday cake and make a hat! Children and their families are invited.

Theodor Seuss Geisel, a.k.a. Dr. Seuss, has written

and illustrated 44 children's books: *Green Eggs and Ham*, *Oh, the Places You'll Go* and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* are just a few. The Englehardt branch will offer the program on Tuesday, March 2 at 6:30 p.m. Call 647-3920 for more information. For other dates and locations, call 784-2007.

SHARE A MEMORY

Kent District Library is inviting people to share their favorite library memories. Do you have fond memories of a favorite library book? A special librarian who made a difference? Visit any branch and fill out a *Share a Memory* entry form. Completed entries can be returned to your local KDL branch.

If selected, your memory and a picture of you will be featured in a *Grand Rapids Family Magazine* advertisement. This contest is open to all ages. For more information call 784-2007.



Dr. Steve Brown has joined the physician's staff at Doctors Chiropractic in Lowell.

Dr. Brown brings an ex-

pertise in injury rehabilitation, sports medicine and computerized adjusting to the practice.



Dr. Steve Brown

Are you living life on purpose or by chance?
You are invited to join us at Calvary Church for a life changing event:
The Purpose Driven Life discussion based on Rick Warren's book.

For five weeks, beginning March 7, at 10 a.m. Rev. Bill Renkema will preach on the topic, following the discussion after coffee time.

Prepare for a profound experience!

Calvary Church is located across from Burger King on M-21

CITY OF LOWELL

NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF REVIEW

The Lowell City Board of Review will meet to receive and review the various Assessment Rolls for 2004 at City Hall on:

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2004
AT 9:00 A.M.

A second meeting, for the purpose of hearing appeals and a continuation thereof, will be held at City Hall on:

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2004
FROM
9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M., AND 1:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
AND
6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M., if necessary

Appeals may be made by letter or on forms available at City Hall. Letters and/or forms must be submitted not later than March 5, 2004. A personal appearance is not required.

The following ratios and multipliers are expected for Real and Personal Property assessments:

Commercial Property	50.00%	1.0000
Industrial Property	50.00%	1.0000
Residential Property	50.00%	1.0000
Personal Property	50.00%	1.0000

C. Jeanne Shores, Mayor
James Marfia, Assessor

The Lowell Ledger

(USPS 453-830)

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Reflections

Of Faith

Pastor Joe Fremer

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Did you know the word "crucial" comes from the Latin word for "cross"? I think it would be interesting to trace how an ancient instrument of execution wound up in such a word in the English language.

There are many things in this world that are considered crucial. They are so important that people cannot ignore them, or do so at their own peril. They demand decision. I suppose that means they represent a crossroads—shall I go left, or right? Shall I marry this person, or wait? Shall I attempt a career change, or stick with what I know?

There is nothing more demanding than the cross of Christ or, more specifically, the message about that. He died, and Scripture claims that it was for your benefit. Somehow He, the innocent sacrificial Lamb of God, took your punishment, accepted your guilt, drawing it to Himself out of all your bad choices and mean moments. He traded places with you to take your sin.

In exchange, He offers you His spotless record. So far nothing is demanded, only offered. But the *portrayal* of that sacrifice, the news of that offer, places a demand upon you. What will you do with it? The demand becomes especially weighty when you realize that this crucified Jesus didn't stay dead. He came back to life, and is watching you read this little column. He waits to see what you will do with the news that He loved you to death.

What will you do with that information? Will you smile blithely, say "How nice," and go on your way unchanged? Will you say, "Oh boy, another religious pitch—I'll put it in the pile and come back to it later"? Will you say, "Aw gee, too bad, he seemed like such a nice guy," and mentally add Jesus' name to some roster of Great People in History? Or will you respond with the answer of a Christian, "That's exactly what I need: a Savior! Thank you, Jesus! You died for me; I'll live for you!" It's a crucial question: What will you do with the crucified Jesus?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

FEBRUARY 26: Nancy Porter, Jeremy Goff, Barry Vezino, Bob Ford, Leslie Rash

FEBRUARY 27: Joshua Soyka, Justin Soyka.

FEBRUARY 28: Mark V. Ritze, Connie Roth, Scott Denton, Claesa Guastavino.

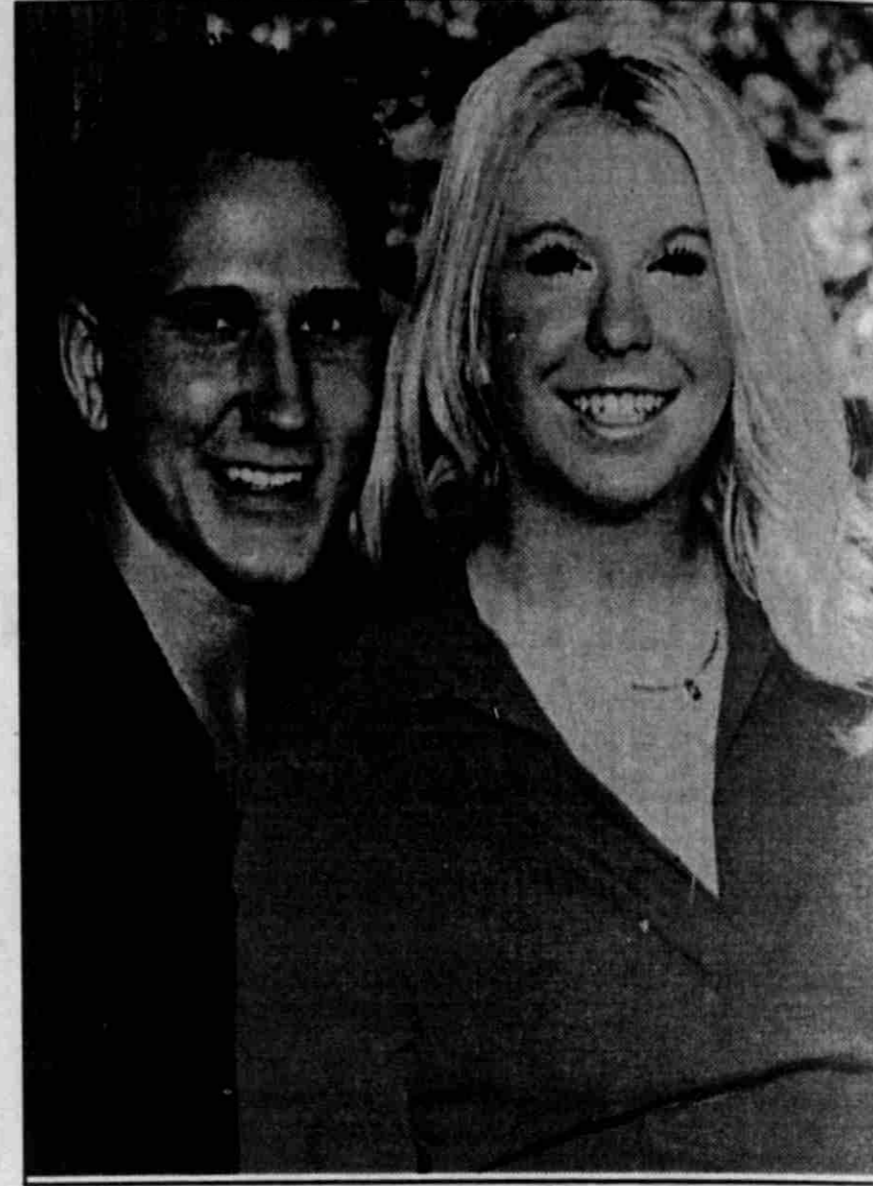
MARCH 1: Barak Brown, Jill Callihan, Laura Christiansen.

MARCH 2: Mary Vezino, Roger MacNaughton, Anna Kline.

MARCH 3: Sarah Newell.

ENGAGEMENTS

Dalga/Fizer



Joshua James Fizer and Shawna Marie Dalga

Shawna Marie Dalga and Joshua James Fizer, both of Lowell, are engaged and planning a May wedding.

Parents of the couple are Kenneth and Cyndi Dalga of Lowell, James and Sandra Fizer of Lowell and Jeff and Debora Hill of Lowell.

The bride-elect and the future groom are both graduates of Lowell High School.

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PH: 616.897.0898

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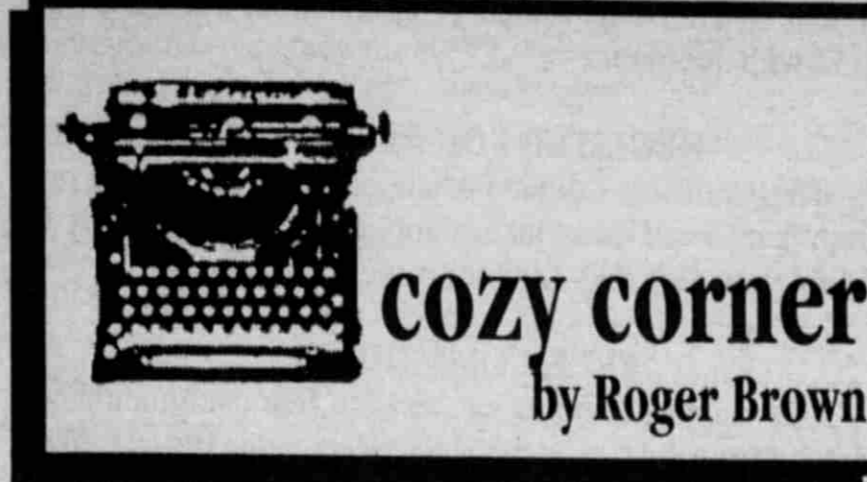
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SUNDAY 12:00 TO 5:00 PM

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH <i>Kirby and Harrison</i> Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M. OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p>Contemporary Services Lowell High School Auditorium (Nursery & Children's Ministry Provided) Sunday Mornings.....10 AM Impact Youth (Sunday's at the Pastor's home).....5 PM Phone us @ 897-0333 or 437-5093 Call for a free CD Service Sample</p>	<p>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL Rev. William J. Renkema • 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI Morning Worship.....10:00 A. M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p>	<p>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH <i>Ft. George J. Fekete</i> 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL BRENDA BEHRENG 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48, ENTIRE FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>
<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 Worship Hours: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Nursery & child care available at both services Barrier - Free Entrance</p>	<p>EVERGREEN MISSIONARY CHURCH 10501 Settlement • Ph. 897-7185 Sunday School.....9:45 A.M. Morning Worship.....11 A.M. Evening Service.....6:00 P.M. Prayer and Praise - Wed., 7:00 P.M. Rev. Rick Ferguson - 897-6475 ALL ARE WELCOME! (Barrier-Free)</p>	<p>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God) 3050 Aiden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Senior Pastor Dave Noonon, Asst. Pastor Stacy Holmes, College & Twenties Brian Baber, Youth Pastor SUNDAYS: Worship: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. WEDNESDAYS: Family Night: (For All Ages) 7 p.m. Generation Jacob Youth: 7 p.m.</p>	<p>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 201 N. Washington • 897-8800 Sunday School.....9:45 A.M. Morning Worship.....10:50 A.M. Sunday Evening.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday Family Ministry.....7:00 P.M. PASTOR TIM DESHAW Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>
<p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluelwater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org Sunday School/Adult Bible Study.....9:00 A.M. Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p>APOSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M. SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M. At 215 1/2 W. Main, Lowell (entrance in rear of building) CALL FOR FREE HOME BIBLE STUDIES Pastor Robert L. Hubbard Phone: (616) 897-1267 www.aplighthouse.com</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 LaWare.....Pastor Megan MacNaughton.....Music Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship</p>	
<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbcloell.org Rev. Burton Mangerson & 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/JV.....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>		

Viewpoint . . .



My neighbor and I have been working like common day laborers on a couple shared projects we have going. Another neighbor said we need some "hairy-backed boys" to help us with this heavy work. The term was a new one on us, but we liked it. We now refer to each other as hairy-backed boys, even though we're really gray-haired old guys.

We bought some special tools and are helping each other with these projects. We're convinced we're saving big dollars. The reality is, if we worked our real jobs as hard as we're working these projects, we'd be able to pay a contractor and be money ahead. I guess it's a guy thing. Something we learned from Bob Vila.

Working like this has been good for me. I think. Even though I still eat like a horse, my clothes fit better. I feel better. I seem to have more energy. The only problem is, about three or four o'clock in the morning I'm wide-awake. My back aches, my shoulders hurt, my arms are asleep. I am definitely not a hairy-backed boy anymore.

About five o'clock last Saturday morning I was up ... driven from bed by my aches and pains. I was halfway through my first cup of coffee and catching up on some reading when the phone rang. Phone calls at five in the morning are almost never a good thing. I hustled (actually hobbled) to the phone, trying to get it before my wife woke up. I didn't have much time to consider what catastrophe had happened, but scenarios were racing through my mind.

Imagine my surprise when the voice on the other end was my six-year-old granddaughter. "Hi grandpa," she said in a sleepy little voice. "Hey Jim," I said, "Why are you calling your old grandpa?" I knew what was up, and it was thankfully not a catastrophe.

Jim (Maddie), her brother Boog (Zach) and their parents live in Shanghai, China ... 13 time zones away. Their parents had departed earlier in the day to take care of some business in the States. The kids were left in the care of their nanny and a bevy of neighbors and friends. They both had colds and Jim had been at a sleepover the night before. They were tired and going to bed early. It was about six o'clock Saturday evening there.

Since their parents were in transit and not available by phone, Jim called the next best person to tell her goodnight. At least I like to think I'm number two on her list. No ego problem here.

We had a nice chat, and I was glad my aching back had me out of bed and awake for this early morning treat. I talked to Boog as well. I tried to talk like a girl and pretend I was the dreaded Tooth Fairy. He knew it was just his old grandpa and my feeble attempt at playing the Tooth Fairy got a big laugh out of the little guy.

We talked for quite awhile, and they made me promise to call them in "their" morning so we could talk some more. We said our good-byes, and they went to bed. I was extremely envious of the fact they would probably sleep soundly for about twelve hours. These days I'm lucky to string together more than four hours of sleep.

After hanging up it was time to get around for my morning walk. Limered up from the three-mile walk, I fed the dogs, grabbed a bite for breakfast and went off to work. The daily cycle had begun. I'd feel pretty good until the reality of my age caught up with me in the form of aches and pains in the middle of the night.

The end is in sight for our construction projects. When we're done, maybe I should quit behaving like a hairy-backed boy and try to get some sleep.



Ledger Entries

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

125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL FEBRUARY 26, 1879
Slippery sidewalks are yielding big crops of bumps. Washington's birthday was observed at the Journal; somebody made off with the hatchet. Messrs. Peck, Train and Look are delegates to the green-back party county convention. Notice to late subscribers: time's up; your money or your cordwood is due now. The almost-full-page Journal ad promises \$10,000 to the person bringing in 50,000 paid \$1 subscriptions to the Journal by July 4.

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER FEBRUARY 25, 1904
The village has over \$6,000 in the treasury, \$5,000 more than last year. Streets have been graveled, cement sidewalks built, and street lamps replaced in the past year. The village caucus will have booth voting rather than by acclamation. Try Zest, the new breakfast food. A cup and saucer comes in each package. Attorney Springett is collecting village ordinances, scattered through many years' records, into one list.

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO FEBRUARY 28, 1929
Lowell doctors and dentists, plus county nurses, will give health exams to all Lowell school children on March 7 and 8. Vaccinations will also be given as requested by parents. The next article says preschoolers accompanied by a parent can be examined, and that high schoolers who did not bring the notice home can still be vaccinated upon request. The Ledger will give free theatre tickets to two subscribers each week, starting with A this week, B next, etc. C. H. Runciman also offers a free Strand ticket for purchase of a ton of coal. Snow has gradually melted, so probably no floods here this spring.

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER FEBRUARY 25, 1954
A perfect cribbage hand was dealt by Jay Bolens to Hugo Hammerslag at Curley's Monday afternoon. Nancy Oatley, trombonist in the senior band since fifth grade, brings home her 16th first-division medal from the District Solo and Ensemble festival. Wm. Christiansen works on permits for his ultra-modern supermarket addition to the locker plant at Main and Washington.

Big questions for the March 8 election: change Lowell from town to city; fluoridate the drinking water. The state health board will emphasize finding early tuberculosis cases before they spread TB to others.

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER FEBRUARY 28, 1979
The roof of the Ada Covered Bridge collapses under the weight of this winter's heavy snows. The Music Boosters schedule a Gong Show; proceeds to help buy new band uniforms. The Lowell "Broken Arrows" will play the Detroit Lions in a basketball game fundraiser Saturday. Congressman Hal Sawyer plans three constituent bus trips to Washington this spring, at nominal cost. Lowell's Steve Ries makes 75 hockey goals in one season, breaking the school record.

TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

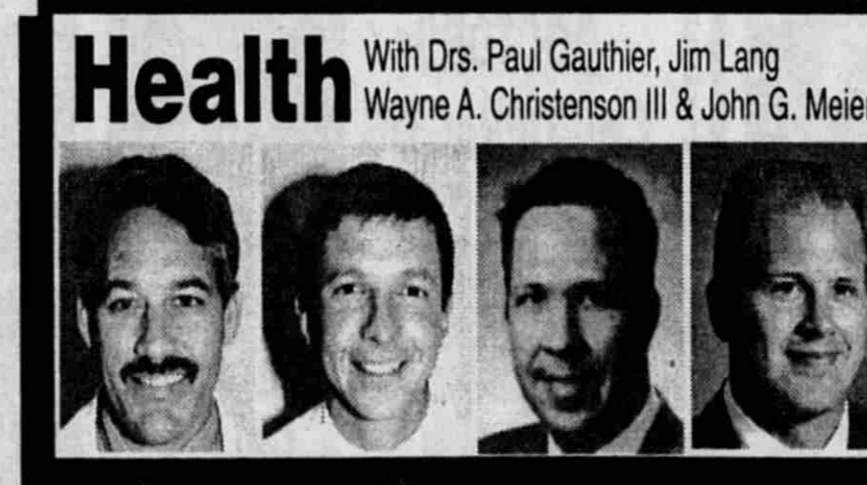
I have been putting this off too long now, and I have to make sure this gets to you before I forget again. In this day and age, it's refreshing to point out to this community a business that went above and beyond the call of duty to help out a fellow American.

You see, I stumbled on to this older couple at the Shell gas station who were desperately looking for a place that fixes flat tires. Clearly they were from out of town. The attendant at Shell was verbally trying to point them in the direction to get it fixed down M-21. (Bless her heart, she really was trying to help them out, but the place was swamped with customers).

I told them to follow me, and I would get them to the right spot. I took them to "the garage" to find that their employee was looking up for the night. (This is where the blessing comes in). After telling him about the tire, the employee eminently assured me and the elderly couple that they would be taken care of. (He didn't mention he was closed ... he just turned right around and opened up the garage door for the couple to pull in).

I then drove away, knowing they would be getting home, safe and sound tonight. Okay, so this wasn't a "save a life" story, but it is important to point out the good people who help out too. I don't remember the gentleman's name from "the garage" but you know who you are, and I wanted the rest of the community to know this little establishment has a great employee. Your stepping up and helping out was refreshing, and bless you for doing so.

Tina Cadwallader



CHICKENPOX

Chickenpox is a virus that is easily spread from person to person. It can affect people of all ages but tends to occur in children under 15 most often. Anyone who has contracted the virus in the past or received the vaccine will likely be immune to future exposures.

Chickenpox is usually a mild illness for most people, consisting of a fever and an outbreak of sores. In rare cases, it can cause problems like brain swelling, pneumonia and skin infections. For some unknown reason, children under 13 tend to get the milder cases, while adolescents and adults can have more severe cases. Once a person is exposed to chickenpox, it can take up to two weeks for them to develop symptoms. A person is considered contagious until all the sores have dried or crusted.

The varicella vaccine is a shot that can prevent chickenpox. Up to 90 percent of people who receive the vaccine will not get chickenpox, and if they do, it will be a milder form. The vaccine is not required like some other vaccines, but it is generally safe and may save your child from suffering. The vaccine is typically given to children 12 to 18 months old. Older children and adults who haven't had chickenpox should discuss this with their health care provider and probably receive the varicella vaccine.

Letters, Letters, Letters, Letters...

The Lowell Ledger welcomes all "Letters to the Editor" for publication on its "Viewpoint" page. Letters can be typed or written. However, we ask that they do not exceed one written page or one typed, double-spaced page. "Letters to the Editor" should be sent to the Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, P.O. Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or emailed to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com Letters must be signed and please include a phone number when emailing. Editing may be necessary for space, clarity and to avoid obscenity, libel or invasion of privacy. The Lowell Ledger thanks you in advance for your cooperation.



PERSON OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS
Deadline is Feb. 29 to nominate someone for the Lowell Chamber of Commerce Person of the Year award.

MAPLE SYRUP FEST
The Wittenbach Center maple syrup festival is Friday and Saturday, March 5 and 6 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Drop-in basketball is available for women over 30 on Monday nights from 7-9:30 p.m. at Cherry Creek Ele.

HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCES
Parent teacher conferences for Lowell High School are as follows: March 9, 5:30-8:30 p.m.; March 10 & 11, 3:30-7 p.m.

LOWELL MUSEUM OFFERS WORKSHOP
The Lowell Area Historical Museum will have an early settlers activities workshop on Saturday, March 20 from 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

RECYCLE YOUR OLD PHONE BOOKS
Cherry Creek Elementary will be participating in the Earth Day 2004 Recycling Challenge by collecting unwanted phone books.

LOWELL COMMUNITY EXPO MARCH 27
Early registration deadline is March 5 for next month's Expo. Call the chamber for an application/information for this premiere marketing opportunity at 897-9161 or www.lowellexpo.org.

LOWELL HEAD START
Now enrolling for fall 2004 is Lowell Head Start, a free preschool for 3 and 4 year olds who meet the eligibility guidelines. Call 897-7920 to receive more information.

LOWELL DAY IN LAKELAND
The annual Lowell day buffet will be held Sunday, March 7 at 1 p.m. at Huntington Hills Golf and Country Club. Call Carmen (863) 683-9071 or Mary (863) 683-6336 for more information.

ACADEMIC BOOSTERS MEET
Booster will meet in the volunteer room of Lowell High School on Thursday, March 11 at 8:30 a.m. Call Julie 897-6353 with questions.

REGISTER FOR PRESCHOOL
The Curiosity Corner Preschool Early Childhood program for 3s and 4s is taking applications for the 2004-05 school year. Call 897-1232 for more information.

FREE COMMODITIES
Low income families can receive free commodities on March 4 from 9-4 p.m. at the Moose Recreation Hall, W. Main St. Call Bernadette 897-5150 or Virginia 897-8754 with questions.

FUNDRAISERS FOR 8TH GRADE TRIP
Two fundraisers during the evening Lowell Middle School conferences will be held to assist with costs for the 8th grade East Coast trip.

Planning Commission sees flaw in ordinance

By J. Loddell
Contributing Writer

The answer to the question is 50 percent ... that is, if the question is whether the Lowell Planning Commission would agree to a variance to its current Open Space Preservation Ordinance and what the grade maximum would be.

Sundry Corporation put in a request late Monday afternoon seeking a variance that would eliminate the grade regulations in the city's Open Space Preservation Ordinance. City manager David Pasquale, who said earlier that Sundry could not be at the Monday night meeting, explained because of the late-

ness of the request, he told company officials he would present it to the planning commission to determine whether they would consider the variance request.

Pasquale said the planning commission had three items to determine before the property at 753 Grindle, also known as the Phillips property, could be approved under the open space ordinance. In January, Sundry came before the planning commission seeking counsel on placing the property under that particular ordinance. Items the planning commission needs to cover include an approval of a site plan, recommendation of the private road in conjunction to

the new site plan, and a variance for the 20 percent slope.

Currently under the ordinance, anything that has a slope of 20 percent or more is considered unbuildable and therefore cannot be counted in the developable land in determining housing. As it stands now, the property, zoned suburban residential, can have 16 homes on it. By placing the property under the Open Space Preservation Ordinance, Sundry wishes to take the 16 homes and cluster them together. The company at this time is not proposing any more than 16 homes.

After some discussion, Lowell Planning Commission chairman Clark Jahnke said

he could see where the ordinance was flawed in that the 20 percent grade may be too low, rendering the ordinance useless to developers. Jahnke would like to see the ordinance revisited, which could take up to three months to change and didn't feel it was fair to make the developer wait that long. He also was not certain about eliminating the grade altogether.

In conclusion, the planning commission decided that a variance with land 50 percent or more of a grade is unbuildable. If the developer decides he needs more, then Sundry must prove that, under the city's guidelines for variances, Jahnke said.

"My concern is that they do what we agree to do," said council member Barbara Schmaltz. The commission decided it would not consider a variance without a site plan to review and requested that one be presented to the commission at its next meeting in March. Pasquale said a site plan could be approved contingent on variance approval. The zoning board of appeals has the final decision on all variance requests.

Some concerns were raised over the water runoff from the property. Development was started and then halted as Sundry worked on

its other development at 751 Grindle. The 753 Grindle property is part of a natural drainage ditch with some water flooding, resulting in the partial work.

As to where the 20 percent grade came from, Pasquale said after discussing it with city attorney Richard Wendt, it is believed to have been part of a model ordinance. Such a requirement is not part of the state ordinance. City staff was going to look into whether other communities have such a grade requirement in their Open Space Preservation Ordinances.

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Lowell wrestlers roll through districts

By Dan Schneider

Greenville was the largest obstacle standing between Lowell wrestling and the district championship last Wednesday at Lowell High School. Despite coming out with more intensity than they showed in the conference dual meet against the Arrows ... and despite the fact that Lowell was missing three contributing wrestlers, the Yellow Jackets fell to Lowell 36-27 in the first round of the District tournament.

Greenville put up a good fight. Most matches went the full six minutes. "I think the kids were a little more ready to wrestle this time," Greenville coach Paul Johnston said. "Even the kids that lost, they wrestled really hard."

Lowell had three pins against Greenville. Mike Nearing pinned Zach Brown at 1:19, but nearly faced a major decision. Brown was up 10-1 before Nearing put his shoulder to the mat at the beginning of the third round.

"Really what it came down to was the Nearing kid had the experience, he took top," Johnston said.

Lowell coasted past Ionia in the finals, winning 59-18.

"We knew it was coming," Ionia coach Duane Chilcote said. "We've wrestled the Mason team and Hastings, so we pretty much knew what we were up against. They definitely reloaded," he added, referring to Lowell's three graduating individual state champions last year.

It was the ninth consecutive district championship for the Red Arrows.

Lowell had to make adjustments in the upper weights. They were wrestling without Ryan Dykhous (171), out with a broken third metacarpal, and Josh Vaught (189).

Brock Graham moved down from 215 to take Vaught's place. He won by decision, 11-2, against Jeremy Stilson of Greenville, and by forfeit against Ionia.

Ryan Esbaugh moved down to 215 from heavyweight, pinning Greenville's A.J. Gunn in 1:19. Ionia's Adam Warner pinned Esbaugh in 1:59. Matt Dood, wrestling heavyweight, was pinned by Greenville's Adam



The 2003-2004 Lowell wrestling squad with the team district championship trophy last Wednesday. It was the ninth straight district championship for the Red Arrows.

Typton in 1:19 and by Ionia's Scott Shattuck in 1:26.

Vaught was back in action Saturday at the individual districts at Mona Shores. He pinned Mona Shores' Mike Dean in 2:57 to become dis-

trict champion at 189. Lowell had wrestlers in half of the weight classes in the district finals and left the gym with five district champions including Vaught.

Mike Nearing won his

championship match at 119, pinning Dave Smalley of Wyoming Park in 2:34.

Joe Mendez won a major decision, 18-8, over Northview's Nate Basel at 130.

Matt Kilmartin won a 15-5 major decision over Mark Racalla of Kenowa Hills for the district championship at 135.

Kevin Frazier won the championship at 140, defeating Byron Center's Brent Mancarelli, 9-5.

Lowell's Ray Seese (103) and Jason Nearing (160) won their third-place matches.

Lowell will first face Byron Center Wednesday night in the team regionals at Sparta. Lowell beat Byron Center earlier in the year, but only by three points. If they beat them again Wednesday, Lowell will likely face Sparta in the regional finals. Sparta takes on Catholic Central in the first round.

"If we meet up with Sparta in the finals, it's going to be knock down, drag out for the finals," Lowell coach Dave Strejc said. "It's going to be a close one."

Vaught will be back again at 189 and Rob Karasiewicz will be back at 112. Dykhous has doctor's permission to wrestle within his pain threshold. This could put coach Strejc in a tight spot depending on what weight the match starts at.

"If we start at 171 we'll have to risk putting him out there, not knowing what the final score is going to be," Strejc said.

If the match starts at a higher weight, however, and Lowell is ahead by the time the 171 match comes around, they can afford to let Dykhous sit out.

"We need to focus, we need to come out, we need to come out tough against Sparta or we'll lose," Strejc said.

The regional tournament will determine who goes on to the state team tournament in Battle Creek. Regionals start at 6 p.m., Wednesday, at Sparta.

Gymnastics conference meet

By Dan Schneider

Lowell hosted the OK Conference gymnastics meet last weekend.

Forest Hills took first place in the meet with a team score of 140.925. Forest Hills won the meet largely on the performances of senior Christy Keller and junior Lindsay Orgeck. They finished first and second, respectively, in all-around scoring.

Keller posted an all-around score of 36.875. She medaled in all events, taking first place in the vault (9.35) and the bars (9.25). Medals went to the top five gymnasts in each event and all-around.

Orgeck's all-around score was 36.425. She medaled in all events except bars and took

first place on beam.

Kenowa Hills took second place in team gymnastics. The Knights' team score was 136.125. Caitlin Riley was the highest all-around scorer for Kenowa with 35.725. Rockford came in third place with a team score of 134.55.

For the Lowell team, Saturday was a laid-back final home meet.

"Today was a lot of fun," Lowell coach Michele DeHaan said at the meet's conclusion. "I don't think the girls felt as much pressure because we were home and you never feel as much pressure when you're home."

It was also a good chance for the Lowell gymnasts to see their competition for up-

coming individual regionals. Most of the teams that will be at regionals were in Lowell Saturday for the conference meet. At regionals, however, the gymnasts will be split into division I and division II.

Lowell finished seventh in the team standings. The Red Arrows' team score was 127.725.

Jenna Dickerman was Lowell's top all-around scorer with 34.6. She scored a 9.0 on the beam which put her in a tie for fifth in that event.

"This is the first time she's gotten a nine on the beam," DeHaan said.

She also scored 8.15 on an improved bars routine.

"She did a new routine today, she made a lot of

changes to it," DeHaan said.

The other all-around scorer for Lowell was Rebecca Underwood with 31.65.

The top Lowell scores in individual events were as follows:

On vault: Dickerman (8.6), Amanda Rau (8.5), LynnAnn Bell (7.95) and Underwood and Danielle White (both scored 7.9).

On bars: Dickerman (8.15), Rau (7.60), Underwood (7.2), and Kelli Kowalski (7.05).

On beam: Dickerman (9.0), Underwood (7.85), Kowalski (7.1), and Tiffanie Curtis (6.6).

On floor: Dickerman (8.85), Underwood (8.7), Rau (8.675), and Bell (8.0).



Lowell's Kelli Kowalski on floor at the OK Conference gymnastics meet.

Volleyball looks to post-season

By Dan Schneider

A loss at home against Byron Center in the OK-Gold crossover stopped the varsity volleyball team's winning streak at 11 games, Monday.

The Bulldogs beat the Red Arrows in two games, winning 15-5 and 15-8. It was a disappointing loss for a team that last week clinched second place in the OK White with a win at Sparta.

Lowell beat the Spartans in two games, 15-12 and 15-5.

Leaders for Lowell in that

game were Kristin Johnson with eight kills and Heather Becker with six kills, four blocks. Amy Oberlin had three blocks and Taylor Verdon had 14 assists.

Lowell's record, 34-11-1, after the loss to Byron Center, might surprise anyone who hasn't been watching the Arrows play volleyball this season.

"I don't know if people really realize how good the girls are playing," coach Gigi Peal said. "The next two weeks

will be the biggest opportunity Lowell has had in volleyball in ten years."

Finishing second in the conference regular season makes Lowell the second seed in the conference tournament this Saturday at Kenowa Hills. They start against Unity Christian, who they beat earlier in the season.

"Our only two losses are actually in the other bracket of the tournament," Peal said.

They include first-in-conference East Grand Rapids.

The second-in-conference standing also put Lowell up against Byron Center in the crossover with OK Gold, Monday.

Lowell's volleyball squad

is a young team, and looks to continue being a contender in OK White next year.

"Every time we go out on the court our goal isn't to win or lose; it's to play better as a team and grow as a program," Peal said.

The youth of the team in-

creases that potential.

"We always typically have two sophomores and two or three juniors on the court," Peal said. "We're losing a couple of key players but in perspective to other varsity volleyball teams, we're very young."



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VERGENNES TOWNSHIP Open Space Citizen's Committee 4th Annual Educational Forum

On March 17, 2004 the Vergennes Township Open Space Citizen's Committee will host their fourth annual Educational Forum at the Wittenbach Center at 7 PM. This event is open to the public, and all are welcome.

The forum will be an update on the latest options for preserving open space. Presenters will give a demonstration of how the Open Space Ordinance works, explain the Kent County Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program, answer questions and give an explanation of the Natural Features Inventory project, as well as other land preservation tools and processes. There will also be a presentation and discussion on the connection between open space preservation and water quality.

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The residents of Vergennes Township will hold an Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 27, 2004, at 1:00 p.m. There will be opportunity for residents to comment on any issue regarding the state of the township. The 2004-05 budget will also be reviewed.

The Annual Meeting will be held at the township offices located at the intersection of Bailey Drive and Parnell Road, address of 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI 49331.

Mari C. Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk

BOWNE TOWNSHIP NOTICE

BOARD OF REVIEW

The Board of Review of Bowne Township will meet at the Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash SE on

TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2004 - ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 8 - 12 NOON TO 4 P.M. 6 P.M. TO 9 P.M. (EVENING HRS BY APPT. ONLY)

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2004 - 12 NOON TO 5 P.M.

For the purpose of reviewing the tax roll and hearing all claims. You may appeal your assessed valuation one of (2) ways: By letter addressed to the Bowne Township Supervisor and received by him prior to March 5, or by appearing in person on one of the dates the Board of Review meets.

The tentative real property assessment ratios and assessment Multipliers are:

Agricultural Ratio	49.64	Multiplier	1.0072
Commercial Ratio	49.07	Multiplier	1.0189
Industrial Ratio	49.40	Multiplier	1.0121
Residential Ratio	50.15	Multiplier	.9970

Dennis McKelvey-Assessor
Pete Siler-Supervisor
Bowne Township

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

NOTICE BOARD OF REVIEW

THE BOARD OF REVIEW OF VERGENNES TOWNSHIP WILL MEET AT THE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP HALL 10381 BAILEY DRIVE LOWELL, MI 49331

ON MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2004

between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and also on

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2004 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the tax roll and hearing all claims.

You may appeal your assessed valuation one of two ways:
1) To appear at the Board of Review, call 897-5671 on Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for an appointment to appear in person.

2) By letter addressed to:
Vergennes Township Assessor
P.O. Box 208
Lowell, MI 49331-0208

Letters must be received by March 5, 2004

Mari Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

NOTICE BOARD OF REVIEW

THE BOARD OF REVIEW OF GRATTAN TOWNSHIP WILL MEET AT THE GRATTAN TOWNSHIP HALL 12050 OLD BELDING ROAD BELDING, MICHIGAN ON:

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2004 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 noon and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

And TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2004 Between the hours of 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

And from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the tax roll and hearing all claims.

You may appeal your assessed valuation in person or by letter addressed to The Board of Review 12050 Old Belding Rd. Belding, Michigan 48809

Written appeals must be received by March 5, 2004
Those wishing to appeal in person should call the Township office at 691-8450 before March 8, 2004 to pre-arrange an appointment.

	Tentative Ratio	Tentative Multiplier
Agriculture	50.00	1.0000
Commercial	50.00	1.0000
Residential	50.00	1.0000

Tentative equalization factor is 1.000000

James Marfia
Assessor, Grattan Township

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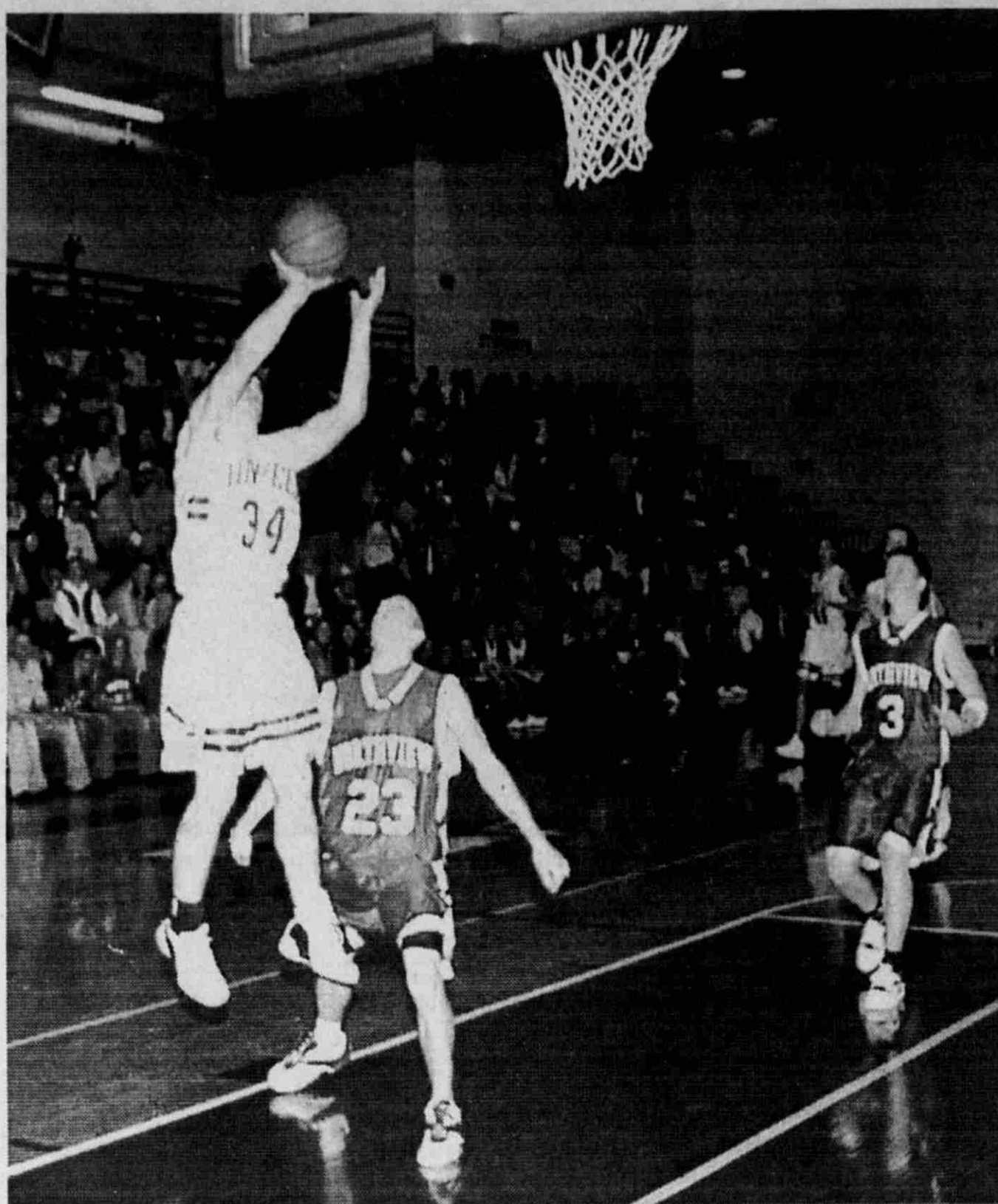
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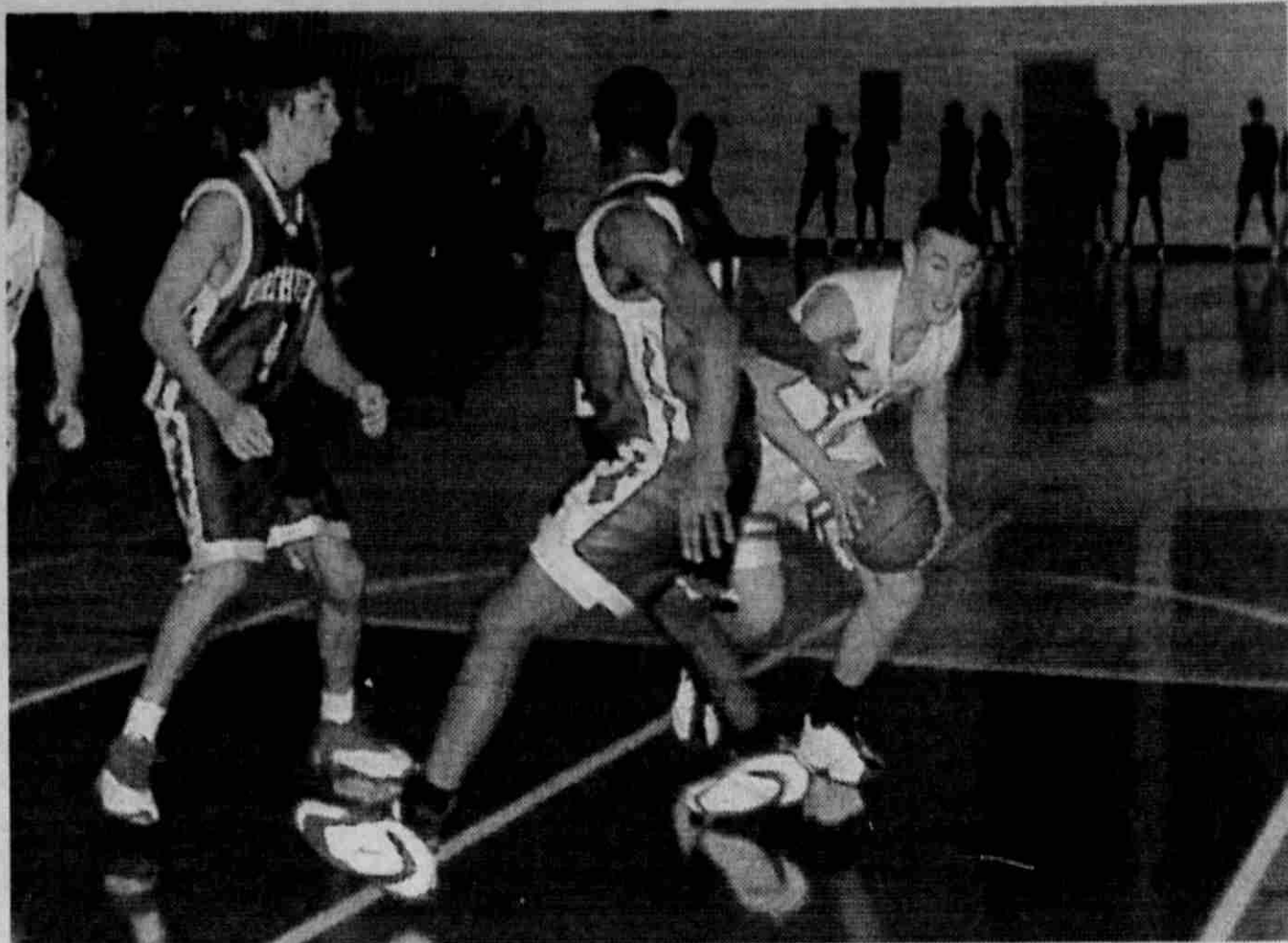
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Late in season, basketball still going strong



Lowell's Frank Mulder goes up for a fast-break layup in last Friday's 52-41 Red Arrow victory over Northview.



Lowell's Mike Koster drives the lane against Northview's Derek Brooks last Friday. Koster had eight rebounds in the Lowell win.

By Dan Schneider

Lowell basketball coach Jeff McDonald was in a good mood in the locker room after last Friday's game. He was happy partly because Lowell beat Northview 52-41 that night, and mostly because that win is part of the best season Lowell basketball has had since the mid-1980s. "First of all, just a factual statement here, we've matched the best season since '86-'87," McDonald said. "These boys should feel good

about what they've accomplished so far." The win over Northview put Lowell's record at 11-6 overall and 8-4 in conference. Lowell was up 15-10 after the first quarter and 28-21 at the half. The Wildcats rallied back in the third, cutting the Lowell lead to a single point. The Wildcats kept within four through most of the fourth quarter. Lowell stopped their momentum when Kyle Rozema saved a ball into the hands of Northview's Brandon Watrous. Watrous began leisurely dribbling the ball down-court when Rozema swooped in, stole the ball, and made a layup. That put the score at 45-39 and guaranteed Lowell a win. "We just didn't get into our rhythm," Northview coach Mike Kapustka said. "Lowell is a strong defensive team ... took us out of our game a little bit." To McDonald, the win represented a strong team effort.

"We got lots of contributions from a lot of different people," McDonald said. "Everybody got a steal or a block or a rebound. I thought they played hard and our crowd was great, and I'm happy for these guys to be involved in the first winning season in 17 years." Lowell shot 40 percent from the field against Northview. The leading scorers were Sam Oberlin with 18 and Rozema with 11. Mike Koster had eight of Lowell's 39 rebounds. The team had 10 total steals and the same number of assists. Josh Hettinga emerged as a significant contributor in Lowell's two road games early last week. In the Red Arrows' 61-51 win over Ionia last Monday, he put up 12 points. Hettinga led the team in scoring with 17 points in last Tuesday's loss at St. Johns. Hettinga, a sophomore, came up from J.V. in Lowell's Feb. 6 win over Sparta. He

Basketball, cont'd., page 14

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.

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.

EVERY WED.: Rotary meets at noon at Lowell Masonic Temple, 119 Lincoln Lake Ave.

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

EVERY WED.: Tri-town Conservation Club trap & skeet league, 5616 Dunn Rd. 12-5 p.m. Call Larry at 754-7104. Public welcome.

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

EVERY MON.: Women's over 30 drop-in basketball, 7-9:30 p.m. at Cherry Creek Elem. starting March 9. Call Dave (YMCA) 897-8445 Fee \$3.

THIRD MON.: Fallsburg Historical Society board meetings at chamber office or Fallsburg, 7 p.m. All invited. Call 897-7161 for info. or location.

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

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

THIRD MON.: 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 school for more info.

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

THIRD MON.: 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. Call Terry 868-6481.

1ST TUES.: Grattan Historical Society meets in O'Brien Room of Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Rd. Public invited.

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

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

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

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

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

EVERY 3RD THURS.: Parents Supporting Parents group, Franciscan Life Process Center. 897-7842.

EVERY 3RD THURS.: Royal Arch Masons, 7:30 p.m., Lowell Masonic Center, 119 Lincoln Lake. Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

EVERY 3RD THURS.: LaLeche League of Ada, Cascade, Lowell 6:30 p.m. socializing; meeting 7 p.m. Support for pregnant/breastfeeding women; Ada church. 752-8300.

EVERY 3RD THURS.: Weight Watchers at Lowell Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St. 5:30 p.m. Register 1/2 hr. before the meeting. For info., 800-651-6000.

EVERY 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 at 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. Call 897-1502 after 5 p.m.

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

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

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. For info. call 897-8565.

EACH WED., FEB. 25 - APRIL 7: Franciscan Life Process Center lunch thru Lenten season. Soup, fresh bread, dessert, beverage for a donation; 11:30 - 1:30 p.m. Call 897-7842 to RSVP.

FRI., FEB. 27-SUN., 29: Bye Bye Birdie, Ionia Community Theatre. \$10 & \$5. For times & ticket info. call 527-2367. Also showing March 5-7.

MON., MARCH 1: Deadline for musicians to send in CD/cass., bio, photo of group for Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts, starting June 17, Call LAAC (897-8545) or LACC (897-9161).

THURS., MARCH 4: Vergennes Cooperative Club at Schneider Manor at 1 p.m. Bring wrapped Bingo prize (not over \$3). Hostesses: Norma Noall and Jeanne Shores. Sponsor: Phyllis Bieri. Bring items for FROM.

THURS., MARCH 4: Free commodities for low income families at Moose Recreation Hall, 9-4 p.m.

SUN., MARCH 7: Lowell Day in Lakeland, Fla. Buffet dinner, held at 1 p.m. at Huntington Hills Golf and Country Club.

SUN., MARCH 7: Greenville Performing Arts Center, 111 N. Hillcrest, will present "In The Mood" 1940's Big Band at 3 p.m. Tickets: \$15 in advance/\$17 at door. Call 754-9163.

MON., MARCH 8: Deadline for registering for activities workshop (March 20) at Wittenbach Center, sponsored by Lowell Area Historical Museum. Call 897-7688 or stop at your school office for entry form.

SAT., MARCH 27: Lowell Community Expo at Lowell High School.

EVERY FRI.: Arts/Crafts volunteers meet at Franciscan Life Process Center, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Call Pat or Judy at 897-7842 to meet new friends, share your talent.

SECOND SAT.: 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 appointment. 676-9346.

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM OPEN-Tues., Sat./Sun.: 1-4; Thurs., 1-8. Families: \$10; individuals \$3; 5-17 \$1.50; members: free.

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

SYNOPSIS

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 2, 2004, 7:30 P.M.

Minutes of the January 5, 2004 Regular Meeting were approved as corrected and bills and the accounts payable were approved.

Jessica Johnston, Director of the Lowell Community Wellness program presented the history and what the future holds for the program.

The following motions were approved:

- Motion to support the advertising signboards for the Little League fields project and allow it for a time period of five years.
- Motion to approve the bid of \$3,000 from Lee's Trenching Service to install a new water line at the Recreation Park Ballfield to the main lift station.
- Motion to adjourn at 8:06 p.m. The next Regularly Scheduled Meeting will be Tuesday, February 17, 2004.

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

 Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk
 City of Lowell

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LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

NOTICE OF BOARD OF REVIEW

The board of review of Lowell Township will meet at the Lowell Township Hall on:

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2004
 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 noon and from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2004
 Between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 noon and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the tax roll and hearing all claims.

You may appeal your assessed valuation one of two ways:

- 1) To appear at the Board of Review, call on Tuesday or Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., (616) 897-7600, to schedule an appointment. OR
- 2.) By letter addressed to:
 Lowell Township/Assessor
 2910 Alden Nash SE
 Lowell, MI 49331

*MUST BE RECEIVED PRIOR TO MARCH 4, 2004

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 Lowell Township Clerk

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VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PUBLIC NOTICE

The Vergennes Township Board will hold a Public Hearing to receive comments on a proposed ordinance adopting the 2000 edition of the National Fire Code of the National Fire Prevention Association. The hearing will be held at the regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, March 8, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell.

Copies of the proposed ordinance are available for public inspection at the township offices on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and also on the township website at www.vergennestwp.org.

Written comments will be accepted if received by 7 p.m. on March 8th by the Township Clerk. They can be sent to P.O. Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331, or by e-mail to clerk@vergennestwp.org.

Mari C. Stone
 Vergennes Township Clerk

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE

The Vergennes Township Board will hold a Public Hearing for comment on the proposed 2004-05 budget during the March 8, 2004 meeting of the board at 7:00 p.m. The board meets at the township offices located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI 49331.

Copies of the proposed budget are available at the Township Hall on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Written comments will be accepted if received by 7 p.m. on March 8th by the Township clerk. They can be sent to P.O. Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331, or by e-mail to clerk@vergennestwp.org.

Mari C. Stone
 Vergennes Township Clerk

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