



The Lowell Ledger

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Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Biggest ever Lowell Community Expo set for March 27

By Dan Schneider

This year's Lowell Community Expo, March 27th at Lowell High School, will be the largest in the eight-year history of the event.

The Expo is a once-a-year opportunity to find out what's going on around Lowell. Exhibitors include representatives of Lowell's businesses and industry, as well as its faith community and non-profit organizations.

"It's kind of a one-stop shopping event," Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Liz Baker said. "You could be looking for a pet, a car, a church, financial advice, all the way to finding out what's new in the schools."

"It's really good PR for the company and it gives potential customers a chance to meet the area businesses, put a face to the name type of thing," said Kim Harding, who owns Harding Enterprises with her husband, Mike. Their asphalt maintenance, landscaping and snowplowing business has been in the Expo since it



A banner across Main Street advertises the Lowell Community Expo. The Expo lasts from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

started.

This year's event will include 146 exhibitors from the Lowell area. Of those, 44 are brand new. Most of the new-

comers are businesses, but a few, such as the Lowell Area Recreation Authority, are non-profit groups.

"We've got a lot of dif-

ferent community efforts that people can get involved with," Rick Seese said. Seese is broker manager at Greenridge Realty, one of the businesses

that has been at the Expo all eight years. "We've been there from day one, but the nonprofits have been there from day one as well," he said.

Seese said the Expo has contributed to bringing new people into the area.

"We've had people come to the Expo and inquire a little bit... and they actually, after a period of time, decide to move to Lowell because of the things they find out," Seese said. "People are aware of Lowell to a certain degree but the Expo allows them to find out more."

For many, the Expo is mainly a social opportunity.

"It's a way for the community to come out in a relaxed atmosphere and if you've seen our booth, we

have a lot of fun," Dale Triplett said. He is the owner of Speerstra Insurance Agency, which is announcing its new name, Regal Insurance Agency, at the Expo.

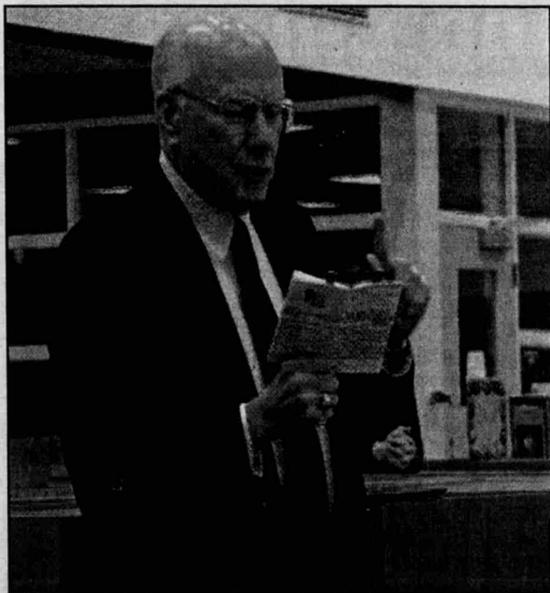
"For me, it's just a good old-fashioned community day," Triplett said.

The Expo takes place in the gym, cafeteria and some of the hallways at the high school. Baker said the original 137 booths planned for the event filled up. Adjustments were made to the Expo layout allowing the addition of 13 more booths, all of which are also filled.

In addition to community exposure, the Expo offers

Expo, cont'd., pg. 10

Ehlers addresses LHS government students



U.S. Representative Vernon Ehlers quotes the Constitution while speaking to a class at Lowell High School.

By Dan Schneider

U.S. Representative Vernon Ehlers toured Lowell High School and spoke in front of two classes last Friday. The purpose of the first address was to inform students about the history of the federal legislative process.

This included the principles upon which the U.S. government was founded. Ehlers contrasted the U.S. government's philosophy with the monarchical system of government historically popular in Europe.

In the governing style that thrived in the years before the American Revolution, "the people who benefited a lot were

the people at the top," Ehlers said. "The country you're living in was the first to answer that question differently."

Ehlers talked about government by the people and for the people, read from the Constitution, and explained the system of checks and balances. He used the example of the Supreme Court to explain how having three branches of government ensures no one person or branch obtains too much power.

"Even though the courts sometimes do a lot more than they should, you have the president and Congress to reign them in and say, 'Hey, you're not supposed to make the law, you're just supposed to make sure its constitutional.'"

The first class he spoke to was Keith Boeve's special needs government class. They have been learning about Michigan government at the Franciscan Life Process Center.

"This is the section on Michigan government so it seemed appropriate that we invite Representative Ehlers," said Sister Colleen Ann Nagle, who teaches at the center. "It's important for them to know that they're (government representatives) available for these people and everyone else."

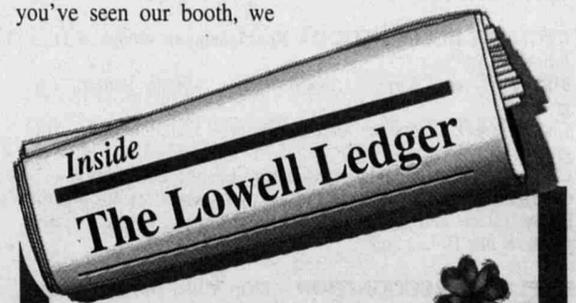
"They're studying the state of Michigan government so she (Nagle) contacted Vern because he's been at the state and federal level," said Rick Treur, Rep. Ehlers' community services director. "He was a professor, so he loves getting back into the classroom and he loves talking to kids."

Students asked Ehlers questions about various policy issues. One student asked why gasoline prices are so high.

"Because too many people use gas and we don't produce it in this country anymore," Ehlers said. "Part of the reason gas prices are so high is people think that SUVs are great and they use a lot of energy."

Ehlers expressed hope that district-to-district school funding inequalities will be evened out in the coming years. He also said a manned mission to Mars would be an inefficient use of scientific efforts. He explained that 1,000 robots could be sent to Mars for the cost of a manned mission.

Later in the morning, Ehlers held a question and answer session with Steve Kampfschulte's AP government class.



Transportation Bond
In Progress...Page 3

Fire Dept. Offers Smoke Detectors
...Page 10

Red Arrow Basketball...Page 12

OBITUARIES

DINTAMAN - Paul Lawrence Dintaman, aged 89 of Alto, born September 28, 1914, peacefully passed away Saturday, March 6, 2004 at the family home. He was preceded in death by his son Terry Dean Dintaman, his parents Hazel and Elmer Dintaman, his sister Opal Finies. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Eleanor; daughters: Sharon (Jim) McFall, Dianne

MacNaughton, Sue (Rick) Kinsley all of Lowell; daughter-in-law Kitty Dintaman of Alto; 19 grandchildren: Amy (Nick) Gless, Randy (Deb) Dintaman, Jeannie (Steve) Wernet, Kim (Russ) Race, Kathy (Tom) Nugent, Scott (Shelly) MacNaughton, Mark (Dempsey) Heidi (Joe) Kamen, Lindsay Bencker, Sabra and Nick Kinsley; 26 great-grand-

children: Erin Curtis, T.J. and Tyler Dintaman, Emily, Peter, Sam, Paul, Maggie, Mary Pat, Phillip, Thomas, Stephen and Teddy Wernet, Logan, Garrett, Holly and Breyden Race, Connor and Keegan Nugent, Jackson MacNaughton, Mallory Koster, Dominic, Autumn and Jordan Dempsey, Kaylin and Elijah Kamen; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law Elaine Neargarth of Iron Mountain, Charles and Helen Hobbs of Harrison, Eloise Courter of Clarksville, Evelyn and Bill Courter of Harlingen, Texas, Howard and Helen Hobbs of Alto and Harvey and Estelle Stark of Clarksville; many nieces, nephews and friends. He owned and managed the Dintaman Hardware in Alto for many years, was the former assistant fire chief of the Alto

Fire Dept., a former officer of the Alto School Board, Grand Marshal of Alto Festival in 1987. The Alto music room was dedicated to him in 1987. He loved gardening, fishing and hunting. According to his wishes, cremation has taken place. Graveside services were held Wednesday at Merriman Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, 5075 Cascade Rd. Suite F, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.

EICKHOFF - Joseph Edward Eickhoff, aged 67, of Willmar, MN, and formerly of Lowell, passed away Wednesday, March 10, at Rice Memorial Hospital in Willmar. He was born September 22, 1936, in Knox Co., Ill., the son of Harvey and Altha (Johnson)

Eickhoff. He grew up in Lowell and served in the U.S. Army from 1959 to 1967 in both the Korean and Vietnam wars. He is survived by his sons Kim Eickhoff of Willmar, Jeff and Christy Eickhoff of Montevideo, MN, Steven and Shannon Eickhoff of Lowell, Joseph Eickhoff Jr. of Lowell; five grandchildren; brothers Robert and Judy Eickhoff of Manchester, TN, Eugene and Nina Eickhoff of Maryland, Harvey and Shirley Eickhoff of Lowell, Gary and Sharon Eickhoff of Lowell. He was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers Jim, Don and Lonny, and one sister Bonnie. Funeral services were held Monday at the Saranac Community Church with Rev. Ken Harger officiating. Interment in Alton Cemetery.

GRAHAM - Evan Louis Graham, aged 83, of Clarksville, went to be with his Lord, Monday, March 8, 2004. He was born in Lowell Township in Kent County on May 27, 1920, to Frank and Isa (Sowerby) Graham. Evan served in the Medical Corps during WWII in England, Scotland, Algeria and Italy. He returned to the states in 1945 and farmed in partnership with his father and brother Ken. He and Shirley were married on June 8, 1957

and lived in Clarksville all their married life. He served as Campbell Township supervisor and assessor for 22 years. Evan was a walking history book and loved talking about the history of this area. He loved traveling and went to 46 of the 50 states. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Shirley; children Louis H. Graham of Gun Lake, Laurie (Jim) King of Big Rapids, Mark E. (Laura) Graham of Wyoming, Barbara (Louis) Graham-Castaneda of Rockford, Kristine K. Graham of St. Johns, Mary L. Graham of Grand Rapids, Joseph L. Graham of Clarksville; special foster son Jeremy T. Ackerson of Hubbardston; sisters Lois (Clyde) Rhoadem of Overton, NE, Blenn (Loren) Meigs of Long Beach, CA, Eva G. Lambert of Grand Rapids; 10 grandchildren; sisters-in-law Hermina Graham of Grand Rapids, Darlene (Douglas) Berkshire of Kalkaska; several nieces, nephews and friends. Evan was preceded in death by his parents and brothers Kenneth and Morris. The funeral service was held March 11 at the Kooops Memorial Chapel in Clarksville with the Rev. Dean Bailey officiating. Burial in Clarksville Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to American Cancer Society or Ionia Area Hospice.

SYNOPSIS REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL MARCH 1, 2004, 7:30 P.M.

Minutes of the February 17, 2004 Regular Meeting were approved as written and bills and the accounts payable were approved.

The following motions were approved:

- Motion to set a public hearing for March 15, 2004 concerning the proposed zoning ordinance amendment regarding fences and walls and primary accessory buildings.
- Motion to strike the delinquent personal property taxes of three businesses amounting to \$539.25.
- Motion to set a public hearing for March 15, 2004 to consider the amendment to the historic district ordinance.
- Motion to endorse the Lowell Area Fire Departments request for the Lowell Area Community Fund for a grant of \$100,000 toward the purchase of a new pumper.
- Motion to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. The next Regularly Scheduled Meeting will be Monday, March 15, 2004.

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

Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk
City of Lowell

BONELESS PORK RIB DINNER
SAT., MARCH 20
5-7 P.M.
Bowne Center United
Methodist Church
(Corner of 84th & Alden Nash (M-50) • Alto

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Coldwell Banker opens real estate office in Lowell

By Dan Schneider

The Hoppough and Associates Coldwell Banker real estate office on Main Street has been open since early February. It's the second branch for owner Cathy Hoppough. "I've had an office in Ionia for 20 years," Hoppough said. "We've been the number one agency in Ionia County forever."

The office has 11 agents, offering both commercial and residential real estate services. Hoppough has been considering opening an office in Lowell for quite some time. She was just waiting for the right building space on Main Street.

"I think it's really important to be downtown," she said. "It's crucial to the community that people invest in downtowns."

So when the space at 200 West Main Street became available, Hoppough took the opportunity. The space started

as Lowell's first theater, the Star, and has been occupied by a variety of businesses ever since.

"I like the integrity of the old building that we were able to keep," Hoppough said. "I didn't want to be in a box, I

wanted something with some charm and character." Hoppough is active in community life in Ionia, where



Some of the employees at the new Hoppough and Associates Coldwell Banker real estate office are, from left: Tim McCaul, agent; Cathy Hoppough, owner; Hailee Hoppough, marketing director; Caren Parker, office manager; Lina Strong, agent; and Brett Patterson, agent.

Council moves forward on bonding issue for city roads

By J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

Not committing to anything, the Lowell City Council decided to start the process for a \$600,000 transportation bond that would go toward reconstructing Grindle and Sibley streets. The council had reviewed such a proposal last year, but shot it down after concerns of the current economic climate and the need to keep a lean budget.

After councilman Al Mathews raised concerns about the amount of construction traffic on Grindle Dr. due to the Highland Hills project, the council revisited the bonding issue at its meeting Monday night. "With the (planned unit development) and the truck route, I know what it's going to do to that road," said Mathews, who owns Tip Top Gravel and is familiar with construction work. "Bonding

is decent and the prices are going to be decent. I'd like to see Grindle completed."

Most of the council concurred with Mathews' thoughts on the issue and unanimously approved a motion to start the process for bonding. City manager David Pasquale said he would bring forth a resolution at the city's next meeting for that starting process. "You can start the process, but you don't really make a commitment to it until that final motion," Pasquale said.

Previously the issue for the council was the cost: At the meeting last night, Dave Austin, from the city's engineering firm Williams & Works, presented a cost analysis for both Grindle and Sibley. The total cost for Grindle would be about \$372,000. The cost was broken down into three parts:

\$105,000 for 730 feet running from Jackson to Shepard; \$138,200 for 870 feet running from Shepard to Hillside; and \$128,300 for 825 feet running from Hillside Ct. to Grindle. The width of the entire road would be 24 feet.

For the Sibley portion, the total cost would be around \$336,800. Break downs for this work would be: Center to 150 feet west of West Street, 520 feet at \$25,300; 150 feet west of West Street to Valley Vista, 1,080 feet at \$189,200; Valley Vista to 300 feet east of Ridgeview, 1,200 feet at \$103,400; and 330 feet east of Ridgeview to Ridgeview, 300 feet at \$18,900.

The road would be 27 feet in width, except for the portion from West Street to Valley Vista - 28 feet in width. Pasquale said city officials included Sibley on the pro-

posal because of the condition of the road, which Public Works director Dan DesJardens echoed by saying, "You don't really want to drive down it unless you've got some good shocks."

The city could do a portion of Sibley to keep costs down, Pasquale said, as long as the city does not exceed 50 percent of the average annual debt service to the P.A. 51 revenue the city receives. The city could bond from \$400,000 to \$600,000, which would keep the city below that 50 percent, he explained.

Pasquale said the city would also be able to maintain the mill and grind project of local streets that have curb and gutter. Most of that program would be funded through the community development block grant funds.

she lives. She expects her Lowell office will also make a contribution to the community here.

"I think Lowell is a warm community; I feel welcomed here," she said. "I think they've done phenomenal things with their downtown and I hope to be a part of things for a long time."

Coldwell Banker recently won the J.D. Powers Award for being number one in satisfaction for first-time home buyers and sellers from J.D.

Powers and Associates. Since Coldwell Banker is a national network, Hoppough said, it is especially good for customers making cross-country moves. Locally, it offers services such as the Concierge program, a contractor-referral program for services such as painting and roof repair. "We try to use local as much as possible," Hoppough said. Coldwell Banker will be at the eighth annual Lowell Community Expo Saturday, March 27.

Township accepts mowing bid

By Dan Schneider

At its meeting Monday, the Lowell Charter Township Board approved a one-year contract with Luscious Landscapes to take care of the township's four cemeteries, water tower, township hall grounds and Grand River Riverfront Park. Their bid of \$19,310 was the lowest of the three bids received.

Township trustee Paula Blumm said the bid should be accepted on the additional grounds that Luscious Landscapes has adequate equipment to handle any projects that might arise. The company has worked well for the township in the past, she said.

The board approved \$2,533 for the Lowell Area Fire Department. This covers one third of matching funds necessary for the department to procure a grant under the Federal Emergency Management Act. Fire chief Frank Martin said the department has already ordered an exhaust-removal system for the firehouse and new air packs for the firefighters.

The board also approved the writing of a letter of support for a grant to the fire department from the Lowell Area Community Fund. The grant request will be for \$100,000 toward the purchase of a new pump truck.

The board denied a request by Fuller Septic Service on Bowes Road to dis-

charge pretreated wastewater into the township's wastewater foremain. The foremain is an eight-inch pipe that runs along Bowes Road and connects to the city of Lowell's wastewater treatment facility. Kent S. Trierweiler, senior engineering manager at Infrastructure Alternatives, recommended the township deny the request. Development pressure which may approach the capacity of the foremain as well as concerns about shallow residential wells in the area contributed to the recommendation.

The township board will ask Tim Johnson of Main Street Planning, a consulting firm, to prepare a proposal rezoning property at I-96 and Alden Nash from light industrial to light industrial PUD. The addition of Planned Unit Development to the zoning would give the township more discretion in development on the property.

Gary Postma of the Kent County Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) committee gave a report to the township board. The PDR program uses federal matching funds to purchase the development rights on farms in order to keep the land in agriculture.

Of the two applications farmers submitted, one met federal criteria and will continue through the PDR process. County-wide, 44 farms applied for the program and 27 passed criteria.

LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS BOARD BRIEFS

Regular Meeting of March 8, 2004

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT - Matt Hansen reported that the Wrestling Team won the State Championship, students participating in Model UN did very well in the competition, and students from the Business Professionals of America recently competed and several students placed in their events. The Student Council is sponsoring a blood drive on March 15 from 8 to 1:30. Students in grades 9th, 10th, and 11th are working on schedules for next year, and seniors are beginning to apply for scholarships. The Academic Dessert will be held on April 20 for Freshman students and on March 22 for 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students.

STUDENT RECOGNITION - Board members recognized the following students:
Middle School Character Award Winner - Ryan Verdon, 7th grader.
Cherry Creek Character Award Winner - Caleb Schultz, 5th grader.
Cherry Creek - National Current Events League Competition - Certificates were awarded to the top two scorers for 4th grade: Haley Talcott and Ryan Woodhead and the top scorer for 5th grade: Kallie Holzhueter

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION - Shari Miller announced that Bob Ticoombe was named Cherry Creek's Staff Member of the Month.

ACTION ITEMS - Accepted the following Gifts:
• Ron and Dianna Lyons donation of books valued at \$125 to be used in the elementary media centers and donation of books valued at \$100 to be used by the high school media center.
• Mr. and Mrs. Tim Bushell donation of clothing valued at \$400 to be used by the Lowell Middle School family outreach center.
• Gerald Persha donation of \$150 to be used by the Lowell High School Science Olympiad.
• Mark Family donation of preschool computer software

valued at \$105 to be used by the Readiness Program. Adopted the resolution authorizing the sale of bonds in the amount of \$3,565,000 to finish the Murray Lake Elementary School.

CONSENT ITEMS - Approved/adopted/awarded were:
• Minutes of February 2, 2004 Workshop Meeting and Closed Session, February 5, 2004 Special Meeting and Closed Session, February 9, 2004 Regular Meeting and Closed Session, and the February 23, 2004 Special Meeting and Workshop Session.
• The following payment of bills for February 2004:
GENERAL FUND.....\$ 916,825.05
SCHOOL SERVICES FUND
A. Food Service Fund.....\$76,155.27
B. Athletic Fund.....\$27,109.84
2000 CONSTRUCTION FUND.....\$417,242.04
TRUST AND AGENCY FUND.....\$ 19,992.04
Scholarship Fund.....\$300.00
• Personnel Report
• The Waiver and Consent form to strike property taxes in the amount of \$9.49 from Grattan Township tax rolls and \$965.25 from the City of Lowell.
• The bid from Chartwells for management of the food service program.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE - Jim White reported that the Murray Lake Elementary building is 75% complete. Office areas now have drywall. Bids for furniture and loose equipment will be on the April Board meeting agenda.

BUDGET AND NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE - Connie Gillette reported that next year's school funding may be based on a 50/50 blended student count, and the district received notice that the retirement rate may be increased. The money from the special ed millage passage will help offset the projected budget deficit of \$1.7 million. The negotiation mediation sessions scheduled for Feb. 11 and March 4 were cancelled per a request from the union. The next scheduled session is March 24.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Shari Miller congratulated the wrestlers for their State Wrestling Championship - and also congratulated Coach Strejc for his 200th victory. Students participating in Model UN at Hope College won 17 awards. Megan Shellenbarger earned 1st place in Graphic Design and Sarah Fitzpatrick earned 4th place in Economic Research Individual in the BPA state competition. Congratulations to the Boys Basketball Team for an excellent season. Sam Oberlin for scoring his 1000th point Friday evening, and also to the High School Bands for two Division 1 ratings and one Division 2 rating at last Thursday's District Band Festival. The high school students will be presenting the Musical - *Pirates of Penzance* this month. The District Leadership Team met to review strategic initiatives and plan for curriculum development. Volleyball had a strong showing at the Conference and District matches finishing 2nd in both. The Cheerleading Squad scored well this past Saturday and will advance to the next level of competition. FFA had 7 teams that won at regional and will be going to state this week. Good luck to them. HS and elementary conferences are this week - thanks to staff members for their work in providing conference information and to parents for attending. A Transportation Community Meeting was held in February. Comments and recommendations from that meeting will come back to the Transportation Committee and to a future Board Workshop with possible Board action in April.

CLOSED SESSION - The Board met in closed session to discuss negotiations.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:
Board Workshop
Monday, March 22, 2004
Runciman Administration Building - Board Room - 5:30 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting
Monday, April 19, 2004
Runciman Administration Building - Board Room - 7:00 p.m.

We Value:
Responsibility • Integrity • Compassion • Honesty
• Respect • Character Counts

NOTICE MIGRANT HOUSING LEASE BID PROPOSAL

Grattan Township is accepting bids on the lease of a migrant housing unit located near the northeast corner of Lincoln Lake and Heffron. Terms of the lease and bid documents are available at the Township Hall Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or by phone 616-691-8450.

Sealed bids shall be submitted on the "Official Lease Bid Application" no later than 4:00 p.m. on Monday, May 3, 2004.

Submit bids to:
Migrant Housing Bid Proposal
Richard A. Herweyer
12250 Old Belding Road
Belding, MI 48809

Richard A. Herweyer, Supervisor
Grattan Township



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Reflections Of Faith

Pastor Tim Deshaw
Lowell Church of the Nazarene

REMEMBERING, FORGIVING AND FORGETTING
"Their sins and their lawless acts I will remember no more." (Hebrews 10:17)

During the Lenten season we have been reflecting on the different characteristics of God. This week I would like us to think about remembering and forgetting. Every day we have opportunities to remember. We can look back over the last couple of days and in our minds' eye see the robins outside our window, the sun setting over the river, the delicious hot dinner we had last night, and the peaceful night's rest which followed. We can remember lots of different things. But our verse from the Bible tells us that, "the Lord does not remember some things." The Lord's memory is incredible; He knows all about the birds in the air, and the hairs on your head and even if a sparrow falls.

But He has said, "I will remember their sins no more." That is incredibly good news for all of us. God not only forgives us our sins, but He forgets them as well. He wipes the slate clean. That is like a black board after it is washed, all of the evidence is gone.

God may forgive us totally, and forget about it completely. But some of us have a hard time doing that. Reminds me of the little girl who was trying to say the Lord's Prayer and got it mixed up "... And forgive us our trash baskets, as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

We all know people who have been devastated by unforgiveness. Some people cannot forgive others while others cannot forgive themselves. We all know people whose lives are frozen by their unforgiveness.

I am here to tell you today that God's memory is short (when it comes to confessed sin) and long when it comes to grace and forgiveness. If you are struggling with unforgiveness, the Bible tells us: "If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse our hearts from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

All we have to do is say we are sorry to God and He will forgive us. Reminds me of a story of a little boy in school who

was given an assignment and a single piece of white paper. The child messes up his drawing and goes up to the teacher and asks if he can have another piece of paper. Unforgiveness says, "You messed it up, deal with what you have." But forgiveness is like the teacher who gives the boy a fresh sheet of paper and says, "Here you go, you can start all over again."

Remember during this Lenten season, we have a God who forgives and forgets.

VOWS SPOKEN



Jennifer and Andrew Dykstra

Dykstra/Dennis

Jennifer Dennis and Andrew Dykstra were married on December 27, 2003 at Deer Run Golf Club in Lowell.

Parents of the bride are Bruce Dennis of Crystal and Gail Warren of Lowell. The groom's parents are Jerry and Linda Dykstra, also of Lowell.

Maid of honor was Genessa Shirey. The brides-

maids were Jennifer Aerts and Amber Inman.

The groom's attendants were Courtenay Bryant and Heather Yeager. Ushers were Karen Dykstra and Kristie and Tracy Warren.

The couple resides in Ames, Iowa, where Jennifer is a graduate student at Iowa State University and Andrew works for the city of Ankeny police department.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

MARCH 18: Bruce Phillips Jr., Chase Treglia, Jim Hacker, Denise (Brenk) Woolfender.

MARCH 19: Jeremy Barber, Elmer Czapek, Terry B. Abel, Kimberly Dixon, Sean Ellison, Alberta Ryder.

MARCH 20: John Roudabush, Cody Moore.

MARCH 21: Terry Raymor, Ardis Barber, Gary Yeiter, Molly Clark.

MARCH 23: Brian Gabrion, Richard King.

MARCH 24: Joe Vezino Jr., Candy Speerstra, Isobel Edwards, Angela Titcombe, Marian Rutherford.

Franciscan Life Process Center receives music grant

By Dan Schneider

The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Outstate Michigan approved a grant to the Franciscan Life Process Center (FLPC) to help bring its music therapy program into Lowell Area Schools elementarys. The grant, for \$18,500, is dependent on the approval grant

requests to fund the rest of the project from other sources in the Lowell area.

The FLPC currently offers music therapy to special needs students at its Vergennes Township facility. The grants would allow the purchase of new equipment necessary to bring the program into the schools. The center's development director, Judy

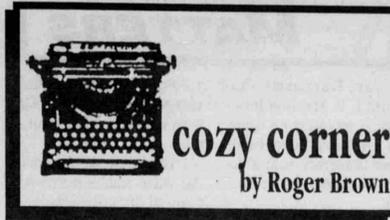
Carl, said their current equipment is worn out and not suitable to transport from school to school.

The grant will buy mostly percussion instruments.

"We do a lot with percussion because they are non-tonal instruments," said Sister Mary Margaret Delasky, director of music programs at the center.

Music therapy, according to Delasky, helps special needs students with a variety of skills. This includes language and social skills as well as motor skills and perceptual development. The music therapy would take place two times per week at each of the LAS elementarys, including Murray Lake.

Viewpoint . . .



Most people have trouble admitting their stupidity. Not me, I lay it out here in black and white every week.

At least one person has noticed. In our "Sound Off" column a few weeks back I was accused of over-examining my navel. So, what else is new? I've been doing that for years. Why? Other people don't want me examining their navels. That's why. Trust me, I've tried a few times and always end up in trouble.

This week I want to start right off with admitting my ignorance about Pavlov's Dogs. What I remember from high school is something like this.

Pavlov was a Russian or Eastern European (I'm just guessing because of the name) scientist who decided to conduct behavioral studies on his dog. Maybe there was more than one dog ... I don't remember. He used a dog, or dogs, because lab rats weren't easy to come by back then. They were all out spreading the plague.

So ... Pavlov gets busy training his dog. I'm guessing it was standard stuff like sit, speak, shake, high-five, etc. In return, they would get something good, like pork chops.

After years of training, old Pavlov comes to the conclusion that the dogs have turned the tables on him. They've conditioned his behavior at least as much as he has conditioned theirs. They're getting pork chops by enticing him to make them do tricks.

At least, that's how I remember the story. As I stated at the very beginning of this piece, due to my stupidity, my description of Pavlov's dog studies may not be very accurate. In fact, I don't know if I'm even spelling his name correctly.

For the sake of further discussion, let's assume I'm somewhere in the ballpark about Doc Pavlov. If the crux of Pavlov's work is the fact dogs are adept at conditioning human

behavior, then I'm having a Pavlovian experience with Max and Tito. It has been going on for years. Stupid old me, I'm just coming around to realizing what is going on.

Our morning walk is a good example. I'd like to get going earlier than we do. They like sleeping in. To change my behavior, they have taken to uncontrolled hysteria when I get my shoes out of the closet. They bark and bark and bark. They get all the neighborhood dogs barking and, of course, wake up any neighbor wishing to sleep past 6:00 a.m. Not a good idea if you want to be invited to the neighborhood block parties.

I can't break my two mutts of this incessant barking whenever they see my sneakers. Consequently, I've been conditioned to have a cup of coffee and watch Sportscenter while waiting for a decent hour to unleash the hounds.

Max and Tito spend the day patrolling the grounds, sleeping, eating and basically leading a totally enviable life. Each evening they claw, no, it's more like "Pound" at the door to come inside. I've been conditioned to scramble for the door before they scratch off any more of the finish.

From the door, I'm literally herded to the kitchen. The dogs are old enough that they are getting some medication for their aches and pains. They know the pills are in the kitchen. They have me conditioned to coat the pills with butter. They won't take them just plain. More human conditioning.

The medication states that it should be taken with food. The dogs know that as well, so from the kitchen they herd me to the utility room where the treats are kept. They have me conditioned to give them one jerky strip and one dog biscuit each. In exchange, they will half-heartedly perform a simple trick, like shake or sit or speak. Big deal.

There is a lot more. For instance, they now ride in the cab of the truck. I let them ride up there because they pretend to be too old to jump into the back. If they want to play while I'm watching the news, guess who wins. They pile soggy toys in my lap. They jump up on me. They bark until my wife yells at me to play with them so she can hear the TV.

This Pavlovian stuff goes on and on, but you get the idea ... my life has gone to the dogs.

So, that's my version of Pavlov's dogs. I invite any high school student to write in and set me straight. As was pointed out at the beginning, I'm not terribly bright. My version of most things is usually somewhat different than reality. Maybe it's all that fuzz in my navel.



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

125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL MARCH 19, 1879

F. King & Co. will cut about a million feet of logs this season.

Last week's spring weather left town. Atkins and Adams have built a very good sidewalk in front of their store.

Green and Fuller are selling many "Little Joker" washers, said to be the best made.

There are 60,000 white fish being planted in Nagle Lake (early name for Murray Lake) in Vergennes.

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER MARCH 17, 1904

A "terrific" snow storm results in only 177 votes cast at the village caucus. Pres. H.W.Hakes; trustees S. P. Hicks, W.S. Winegar, Clyde Collar; clerk T. A. Murphy; treas. F. J. McMahon; assessor J.B. Yeiter.

Dexter Look retires after 11 years on Common Council. Boylan's has 12-quart sap buckets for 12 cents each, plus other maple syrup supplies.

Bowling has become quite popular here, and several have scored around the 200 mark.

Frank Coons has been promoted to postal clerk on the Grand Rapids and Saginaw railroad post office on the Pere Marquette via Lowell.

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO MARCH 21, 1929

Coming soon: a vote on whether to add another diesel emergency generator to the Light and Power plant, in case the White's Bridge dam fails.

Uncle Marcus' Cozy Corner says that school taxes have reached their limit and must stop increasing. Saturday night Detroit policemen were out wrecking saloons with axes and dumping liquor.

A two-column item describes all Michigan legislative business for the past week.

The ad for Fletcher's Castoria ("Children cry for it") promises to put baby to sleep with its all-vegetable formula, and cure diarrhea and constipation.

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER MARCH 18, 1954

The hailstorm Friday night produced golf to tennis—ball-sized stones, shattering an estimated 1000 windows in town. The hail, driven by 75 mph winds, is expected to account for another surge of insurance claims when rain falls on damaged roofs.

Dr. Harold Myers applies for a building permit for a medical center on N. Center Street.

Lowell Senior Band is the only Grand Valley League band to receive a first-division rating in the district contest.

Michigan sold 664,000 resident hunting licenses in 1953, up 18,000 from the year before.

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER MARCH 21, 1979

Nine railroad cars (all empty but for one full of lumber) derail at the Monroe crossing about 1 a.m. Monday.

Council votes six years' tax relief for Attwood's planned 90,000 square foot addition.

George Lessens signs on for a six-month tour of duty with the National Weather Service.

Township annual meeting notices are published, most for the 31st.

Stanley Johnson, owner of Riverside Fireplace, buys Gee's Hardware and the dry goods part of Cary's.

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Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.
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Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M.
AWANA/JV.....Wed. 6:15 & 7 P.M.
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SIX PILLARS OF SELF-ESTEEM

Self-esteem's first characteristic: Living Consciously. The first "pillar" of self-esteem is choosing to live a conscious life. Many of us are "sleepwalking" through our day-to-day experiences. Becoming a "thinking" rather than a "nonthinking" person requires a desire to change and grow. This motivation to change helps us create a wider vision, a greater awareness, and ultimately greater wisdom.

Consciousness is the basic tool of survival. Survival means the ability to be aware of one's environment and to guide your actions accordingly. To quote Nathaniel Branden, "Our mind is our basic tool for survival. Betray it and our self-esteem suffers." Mindfulness is the basic underpinning of high self-esteem.

Sometimes we live in a mental "fog" which can govern our existence. This mental fog is indicated when we say statements like:

- "I know I'm not giving my job the best, but I don't want to think about it."
- "What do you mean, I drink too much? I can stop any time I want to."
- "I know the way I eat is wrecking my health, but I can't help myself."

These are just a few statements that we make which undermine our self-esteem. Essentially, our self-esteem is "the reputation we acquire with ourselves."

Individuals with high self-esteem can be characterized by a mind that is active rather than passive, an individual who is seeking ways to expand awareness and one who has made a commitment to growth and this decision has become their way of life. Fundamentally, "it is the act of self-assertion, the choice to think, and the seeking of awareness, understanding, knowledge, clarity" that raises self-esteem.

The second pillar of self-esteem is self-acceptance, and that will be discussed in the next article. To find out more about self-esteem, consider reading, "The Six Pillars of Self-esteem" by Nathaniel Branden.



February was National Children's Dental Health Month. Every year, several of our local dentists meet with our students to promote healthy lifestyles and dental care. We appreciate their time and attention to our students' physical health, one of the components of the Lowell Area Schools Vision. We also appreciate the work of the YMCA and Jessica Johnston, our Community Wellness Coordinator, as they reminded us to Get Moving and Get Healthy at the February Board meeting.

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1:20, 3:25, 5:30, 7:35, 9:40
HIDALGO (PG-13)
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OUTDOORS

By Dave Stegehuis



HUNTER EDUCATION

Rabbit and crow hunting seasons continue to the end of March. Other than that, hunting activity is limited this time of the year, and we are more interested in fishing, camping and picking mushrooms as milder weather comes to our part of the country. For that reason, hunter education may be the last thing on our mind. Anyone born after Jan. 1, 1960 must present a hunter education certificate when purchasing their first hunting license. Persons 12 and older may purchase a small game license and archery deer license. Those 14 and older may hunt big game with a firearm. Spring turkey season is approaching and, of course, by next fall many more hunting opportunities will be available, so it is time for those who want to hunt to become certified.

A primary objective of hunter education is to prevent accidents. Mandatory hunter education and the blaze orange law are credited with substantially reducing firearm hunting accidents to the point where mishaps are a rare occurrence. With proper training and common sense, hunting is one of the safest recreational activities.

Michigan hunter education goes beyond firearm knowledge and safety to teach hunter responsibility, personal preparedness, and wildlife conservation as well as introducing special topics like muzzleloaders, archery and tree stand safety.

Considering the number of firearms found in homes in our country and the concerns for protecting our environment and wildlife, participation in a hunter education class might be a good idea even for one who doesn't plan to hunt.

Our young people are very busy with school, competitive athletics, and other interests. For this reason, it may be better not to wait until the last minute to take a hunter education class. A young person would not want to have to choose between hunting and playing football or basketball. Now may be a good time to begin locating and planning for a class to avoid missing an upcoming hunting season.

Knowledgeable volunteers who are certified by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources teach these classes at a variety of locations such as schools, sportsmen's clubs, and businesses. Class dates, times and locations can be found on line at www.michigan.gov/dnr. Also, keep an eye on your local newspaper for announcements.

Lowell Women's Club News

The monthly meeting of the Lowell Women's Club was held on March 10 at Schneider Manor. The senior girls hosted the meeting and did presentations on education, stories from people who are successful in life due to the encouragement of a teacher, and summarized Peter McPherson's speech from January.

Next month's meeting will be held on April 14th at Schneider Manor. The program will be "Romance After 50."

BUSINESS MATTERS

Joe Ducharme has joined J. B. Harrison Insurance as an insurance agent. He graduated from Ferris State University with a degree in business administration.

Ducharme is an Independent agent which means he represents many different insurance companies, allowing him to shop for the best rates/coverage for his clients.

The Institute of Copywriting has awarded Yvonne Harmon its diploma in copywriting.

For the past year, Harmon, of Lowell, has been studying with the Institute.

To achieve the diploma, she had to achieve grades A-C in all 10 written assignments.

Harmon will be setting up as a copywriter, working for firms in the area. She will concentrate on providing direct mail letters, press releases, press ads and radio commercials.

Health

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



TESTICULAR CANCER SCREENING

Testicular cancer affects males of all ages, but is most prevalent in young men. It is one of the most common malignant tumors found in males ages 15-34. Some risk factors for testicular cancer include:

- being caucasian
 - having a brother or father with testicular cancer
 - having an undescended testicle (one that did not come down into the scrotum) even if it was surgically corrected
 - having small or irregularly shaped testicles
 - having Klinefelter's syndrome (a genetic condition)
- Some signs of testicular cancer include:
- a hard, painless lump in the testicle (most common)
 - a dull ache in the scrotum (less common)
 - a scrotum that feels heavy or swollen

Testicular cancer has good cure rates if found early and treated. All men should perform monthly testicular self-exams. If a lump, swelling, tenderness or any other change in the testicle is discovered, see your healthcare provider right away.

Students at St. Patrick School celebrate 100th day



The students in Mrs. Walsh's kindergarten class celebrated 100 days on Monday, Feb. 23.

The morning started out with pancakes and sausage. They went on to do activities like: putting together a 100 piece puzzle, licking a lollipop 100 times and doing 100 jumping jacks. The day was made a big success with the help of parent volunteers.

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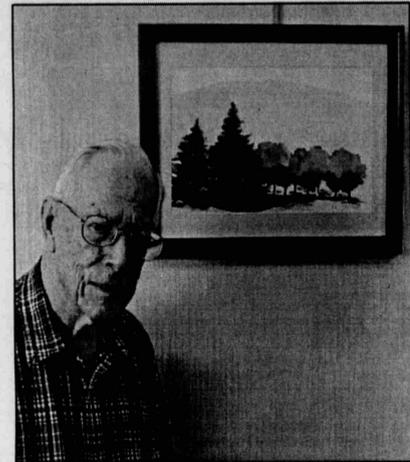
Featured Artist

Jim Latta

By Dan Schneider

Jim Latta paints his watercolors with bold, deep tones not usually associated with watercolor paintings. They're

not subtle, washed, pastel-looking or anything like that. "Sometimes I use the paint right from the tube without using any water," Latta said. The result is most notable



Jim Latta stands with his painting titled "Canadian Autumn."

in a few of his floral paintings—"Small Flora" and "Crystal Vase"—currently on the walls at the Huntington Galleria. But most of the paintings on exhibit are landscapes Latta has seen in his travels around Michigan. He has a painting of a scene on the Pere Marquette with some bright blue in the sky.

"That's an island in the Pere Marquette River where I did a lot of trout fishing," he said.

A lot of his paintings are of rivers. "I guess that's because I like to fish," he explained.

Latta, 85, has moved back and forth between Sault Ste. Marie and the Grand Rapids area since he retired from Wyoming Public Schools and started painting 12 years ago. He currently lives in Kentwood.

"I lived up in the Soo and I wanted something to do as a hobby and I started doing this," Latta said about painting. "And some of my friends said, 'Why don't you do this for keeps?'"

So he bought some paints and started painting. He's taken a few lessons over the years, some of them from a painter living in the area named Norma Stringholt. He had studied commercial art at Davis Tech, now Grand Rap-

ids Community College, and had taken art classes his senior year of high school. He drew cartoons when he was young.

"I had a living to make when I was younger so I had to give up the cartooning and go to work," Latta said.

He went to work and then to war, fighting in the European theater in World War II. He was in the Fifth Infantry Division of George S. Patton's Third Army.

He has shown work at The Big Fat Hen and Art on the Hill, two Grand Rapids galleries that have since closed, as well as at the Awakening Gallery in Saugatuck. He's also shown at Huntington before.

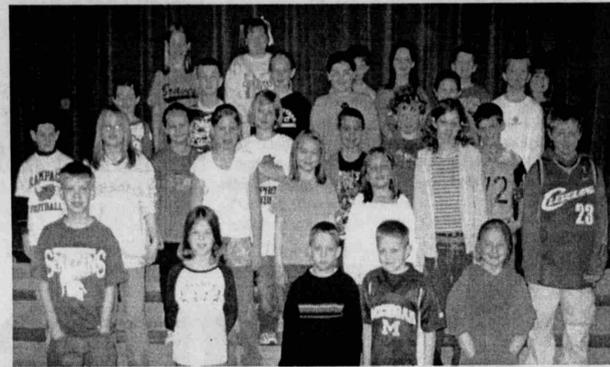
The current show consists entirely of recent work.

"I've spent a lot of time this winter studying and learning new techniques and that sort of thing," Latta said.

In his painting, "Carp River," he used almost exclusively sponges to create the orange sky and rusty riverbanks. Brushes were used only to add definition to tree branches. The Carp River is located in Chippewa County in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

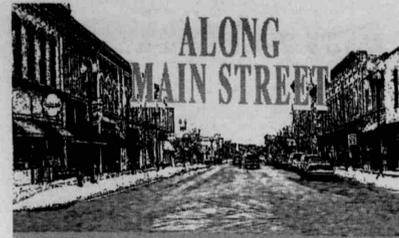
Latta's exhibit is currently up and runs through April 12 in the Huntington Bank branch at 414 E. Main Street.

Character in Action awards



Cherry Creek Elementary's "Character in Action" award winners for the month of February. These students are being recognized by staff members for modeling Lowell Area Schools Character Traits. Pictured, back row (left to right): Lindsey Crawford, Sharon Whaley, Jacob Towne, Nicole Platz, Kyle Wierzbicki, Shelby Young; fourth row: Kelsey Smith, Max Everhart, Brooke Curtis, Brandy Parrish, Kacy Nelson, Zach Rose; third row: Kyle Acker, Kiersten Ashenbrenner, Catherine Majinska, Lane Garcia, Christopher Renzema, Dylan Brower, Kim Green; second row: Chloe Renzema, Madison Hacker, Lindsey Myers, Kelsi Mitchell, Renn Osborne; front row: Jacob Weeks, Alexis Noffke, Nick Brzezniak, Alex Kaminski, Morgan Rogalke. Not pictured: James Kendall and Marie Dollar.

Caleb Schultz, at right, was Cherry Creek Elementary's Meijer Dignity and Respect award winner for February. He received a certificate and a \$25 gift card from Meijer. Schultz was nominated by several Cherry Creek students for being kind, caring, considerate, and a role model for fellow Cherry Creek students. Caleb is the son of Robert and Debra Schultz.



OPEN SPACE EDUCATIONAL FORUM
The Open Space Citizen Committee of Vergennes Township will host its 4th annual Educational Forum on Wednesday, March 17 from 7-9 p.m. at the Wittenbach Center, 11715 Vergennes. There is no cost to attend, refreshments will be served. Call the Vergennes Township offices, 897-5671.

FEED THE HUNGRY
Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc. is participating in the feed the hungry campaign during March and April. If you would like to donate, food barrels are at Fifth-Third Bank, Dollar Superstore, Curves, Gary's Country Meats, Dollar General, Parnell Grocery and Saranac Market.

LHS CREW TEAM NEEDS A BOAT!
The LHS crew team has doubled in size to over 20 rowers in just one year. They are looking for a 14 ft. aluminum boat with a 10-15 horse outboard to use for coaching and as a safety boat while the girls are practicing. If someone has a boat they can donate or the team can borrow or buy (at a reasonable price) contact Missy Harrison at 676-2674.

ACADEMIC DESSERT
LHS Academic Dessert (10-12 grades) and Student Award Presentation will be held Monday, March 22 at 7 p.m. in the Lowell Performing Arts Center. Call 897-4125 for information.

LHS FRESHMAN ORIENTATION
Students in the eighth grade and their parents are invited to attend a high school orientation in the Lowell Performing Arts Center on Tuesday, March 23 from 7-8 p.m.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Lowell Area Fire Dept. will sponsor a pancake breakfast on Saturday, March 27 from 7-11 a.m. at Look Memorial Fire Station, 315 S. Hudson. Donation at the door. Proceeds go to fire equipment. RSVPs are necessary. Call 897-8415 with any questions. April 1.

NEED ADDRESS INFO
Class of 1974 graduates or family members - reunion committee needs current contact information for graduates. Call Dave Beach at 897-6456 with current info.

PRESCHOOL OPENINGS
The Lowell United Methodist Preschool has openings for fall 2004-2005. Call today 897-8690.

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

PUBLIC NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF A SPECIAL USE APPLICATION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on:

Monday, March 22, 2004

at 7:00 p.m. at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash SE

At this hearing, the property owned by L & M Agricultural located at 12709 Cascade Road, PP# 41-20-22-400-004, will be considered for a special use permit to store, mix and sell agricultural fertilizers and chemicals.

The special use permit application and the Lowell Township Zoning Ordinance are available for public inspection at the Township Hall during regular office hours. Please call 897-7600 for further information.

Linda S. Regan
Lowell Township Clerk

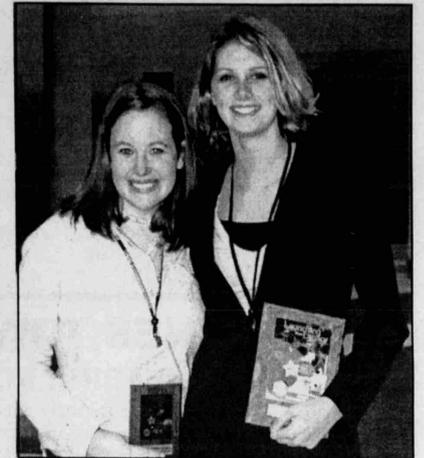
Lowell students shine at state conference

Matching skills with over 2,000 of their counterparts from across the state, outstanding business students from Lowell High School participated in the 32nd annual State Leadership Conference of the Michigan Association of Business Professionals of America. The conference, themed "Launching Your Legacy," saw students not only competing in demonstrations of their business technology skills, but attending workshops to aid in professional development and working hand-in-hand with an American Cancer Society service project.

At the State Leadership Conference, Lowell High School shined as two students placed in the top four in their

competitions. Winners included Megan Shellenbarger, who placed 1st in Graphic Design Promotion and Sarah Fitzpatrick who placed 4th in Economic Research Project. Fitzpatrick was also recognized with a Statesman Torch Award for her community, school and BPA leadership activities. Students who also competed at the State competition included Andrew Benedict, Matt Scheider, Caitie Searfoss, Meghan Beachum, Cara Mooney, Jean Kimberlin, Ashley VanEck, Nikki Baker and Emily Nurmikko.

Beachum will represent Michigan at the 2004 National Leadership Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, in April.



Pictured are Sarah Fitzpatrick, left, and Megan Shellenbarger.

COLLEGE NEWS

Trevor Land, a 2000 Lowell High School graduate, will present a project at the 34th Conference on Senior Engineering Design Projects at Western Michigan University on April 13.

His project, one of 70, is titled medieval object launching device (M.O.L.D.). Land, the son of Peter and Debra Land of Lowell, plans to receive a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in June of this year.

Bethel College, in Mishawaka, Indiana, has announced its 2003 fall semester dean's list.

From the Lowell area is Erin J. Hollister.

To qualify for dean's list status, a student must have at least a 3.50 grade point average with 12 or more semester hours. college news

More than 1,400 students were placed on the fall 2003 dean's list at Michigan Technological University, earning grade point averages of 3.5 or higher.

The following students from the Lowell area were honored: David J. Bosscher, mechanical engineering; Melissa J. Collins*, biomedical engineering; Mark J. Maatman, materials science and engineering; and Rebecca M. Trierweiler, mechanical engineering.

Lowell grad double medalist for WMU track

Kristi Ford competed in her third 2004 Mid American Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships on Feb. 27 and 28 at Western Michigan University.

She placed third in the 20 pound weight throw, with a throw of 17.19 meters (56'4"), her season best. She also placed third in the high jump, clearing a lifetime best height of 174 centimeters (5'8 1/2").

She is the only athlete who has ever placed in both high jump and weight throw at an MAC championship.

Ford was the top point scorer for the WMU team, assisting the Broncos to a fifth place team finish out of 13 teams.

The outdoor season begins March 18-21 at The Alabama Relays in Tusculosa.

TOWNSHIP OF GRATTAN

COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the Township of Grattan will hold a public hearing on April 7, 2004 at 7:00 p.m., at the Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Road, within the Township, concerning two proposed ordinances that would amend the Zoning Ordinance of the Township of Grattan.

The first proposed ordinance would amend Article 7.03.G of Zoning Ordinance to clarify the manner in which minimum waterfront setbacks are to be measured on lots and parcels in the R-L Zoning District, and to add definitions for new terms that are used in the revised Article 7.03.G.

The second proposed ordinance would amend the provisions of Article 18 of the Zoning Ordinance governing the procedures for public hearings conducted by the Board of Appeals; the methods for recording Board of Appeals' decisions; and the standards the Board of Appeals is to use to evaluate applications for use variances and dimensional variances.

A copy of the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments is on file and may be examined the offices of the Grattan Township Clerk, during Township office hours. All interested persons may attend the public hearing and comment on the proposed amendments. Written comments concerning the same may be submitted to the Township office at the above-listed address, up to the time of the public hearing.

Dated: March 5, 2004

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ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LOWELL

FLAT RIVER ANTIQUE MALL

18th ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE
Fri., Sat. and Sun., March 19th, 20th and 21st

10-50% off Storewide
(Sale exceptions: Items \$10.00 and under; items marked sale or firm.)

Daily Door Prizes and Gift Certificate Giveaways

HOURS: FRIDAY 10 AM-8 PM; SATURDAY & SUNDAY 10 AM-6 PM
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2-bedroom, 1-bath!

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Maplewood Square Apartments • Ph: 616-682-1581

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Tuesday.....9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Wednesday.....9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday.....8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Judd T. Carroll, D.M.D.
103 East Main • Lowell, Michigan
(616) 897-7595

Community Expo continued...From Page 1

businesses and organizations a valuable networking opportunity.

"They get that walk-through time... they get a sense of what else is available in the community," Baker said. "Gordon Foods stopped in the other day and they were interested in making connections for their fundraising and I said, 'Well, the Lowell athletic boosters

are going to be three booths down.'"

There will be entertainment throughout the day at the Expo.

Between 9 and 10 a.m., Brennan Pearl of the Lowell boy scouts will sing the national anthem. The sixth-grade string orchestra will perform at 10:30. At 11:15, Lowell Area Schools assistant superintendent for curriculum and

instruction, Mark Kasmer, will sing and play piano. Peyton Murphy, a second grader at Cherry Creek Elementary, will sing at 12:45 p.m. At 2 p.m., the fourth grade Alto girl scouts will do a skit.

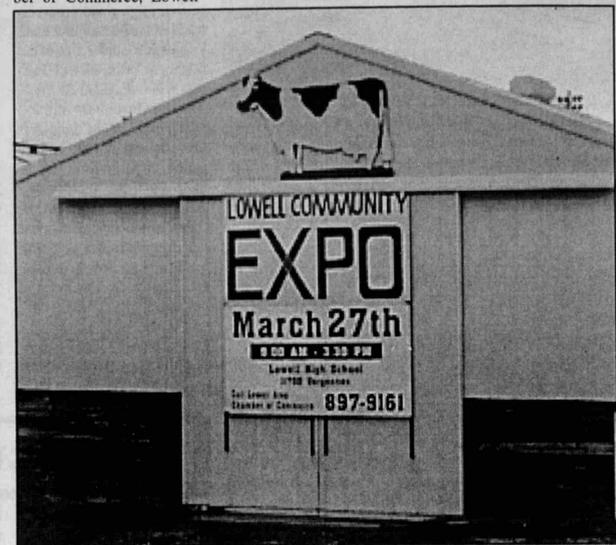
There will be giveaways and door prizes throughout the day. Famous mascots will be on hand, such as the Riverwalk Duck and Crash

the River Rat. Admission and parking are free.

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, Lowell

Area Schools, and Ionia County National Bank are the sponsors of the Expo.

The Lowell Community Expo starts at 9 a.m. and goes until 3:30 p.m.



A sign on the dairy barn at the Kent County 4-H Fairgrounds advertises the Lowell Community Expo.

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing before the Vergennes Township Planning Commission will be held on **Monday, April 12, 2004 at 7:00 PM, at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI** to consider proposed amendments to the Vergennes Township Zoning Ordinance. A summary follows for the proposed text amendments:

Chapter 3 Zoning Districts:

The proposed amendments to Section 201.308 (J) and 201.309 (G) add language to the commercial and industrial districts for a change in occupancy of a previously approved building will require a review by the zoning administrator to determine whether the new use is permitted and if a new or revised site plan will need to be submitted.

Chapter 4 General and Special Regulations:

1. The proposed amendment to Section 201.417 (F) (4) (c) will change the parking formula to read as follows:

c. **Mini warehouse:** Five (5) parking spaces plus one (1) space for every employee in the largest working shift, provided that parking and non-parking areas shall be clearly marked to facilitate ingress and egress and to eliminate hazards. Drive aisles serving mini warehouse facilities shall be at least thirty (30) feet wide to accommodate loading and unloading, the free flow of traffic between parked vehicles, and to prevent fire spread from building to building.

2. A proposed new ordinance is added as Section 201.436 Keyhole Development and Lake Access Regulations; Lot Width on Murray Lake. The new ordinance will regulate the number of dwellings and lots that can use the lake frontage based on a formula using the corresponding zoning district minimum lot width for lands on or near the lake.

3. The proposed amendment to Section 201.404 Animal and Pet Restrictions in Residential Areas will be changed for clarification of residential areas and to note the creation of a Temporary Animal Permit Ordinance primarily for the R-2 and R-3 zoning districts where animals are currently not permitted. Residents that may have the land and facilities available for some animal use such as 4-H projects can apply for the Permit. The permit ordinance itself will be a general law ordinance and coordinates with the zoning ordinance. The permit ordinance will require certain application requirements, a time limit, zoning administrator review and an appeal process to the Township Board. The public hearing held by the Planning Commission will be for both the general law ordinance and the corresponding zoning ordinance section.

Chapter 5 Special Exception Uses Section:

The proposed amendment to Section 201.502 (G) will add (1) (c) that a change in occupancy of a previously approved building in the Commercial and Industrial Districts will require the zoning administrator to review the proposed new use to determine whether the use is permitted and if a new or revised site plan will need to be submitted. A mis-numbering of that section will be corrected.

The complete text of the proposed ordinance amendments can be reviewed at the **Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 - Phone: (616) 897-5671 [fax 897-5674]** or on the website at www.vergennestwp.org. Written and oral comments will be received until the conclusion of the public hearing. Written comments may be addressed to the Planning Commission Chairman or the Planning Coordinator at the Township Offices. Comments may be emailed to the Planning Commission at: zoning@vergennestwp.org.

Vergennes Township Planning Commission

Fire department offers smoke detectors

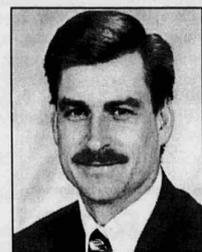
The Lowell Area Fire Department has smoke detectors available at no cost for residents of the Lowell area who qualify. Contact Lowell fire chief Frank Martin at 897-8135 for more information. The firehouse also has an answering machine on which residents can leave inquiries. That number is 897-7354. The smoke detectors were paid for using fire department funds with help from the department's Cadet program

at Lowell High School. The Cadet program raises money by selling green and white reflective address signs which make houses more recognizable to 911 emergency responders.



Mark Johnson, local agent for Farm Bureau Insurance, was honored at the recent sales convention held in Traverse City. Johnson earned the following recognition:

- 2003 All American Award, awarded to Farm Bureau Insurance's top agents in Michigan. The award is presented to the leaders in sales and client service, according



Mark Johnson to Larry Thomas, executive vice president of Farm Bureau Insurance.

• Membership in the Multi-line Sales Council (MLSC), an elite group of Multi-Line sales leaders, in recognition of outstanding insurance sales and service during 2003. MLSC is an organization of insurance professionals dedicated to serving their clients' needs.

Farm Bureau Insurance, one of the state's major insurers, has a statewide force of over 400 agents serving more than 375,000 policyholders.



CITY OF LOWELL/ WASTE MANAGEMENT

YARD WASTE PROGRAM FOR 2004

Yard waste pickup will be the same day as your recycling pickup.

Tuesday Yard Waste Pickup Schedule

April 6 & 20; May 4 & 18; June 1, 15 & 29;
July 13 & 27; August 10 & 24; September 7 & 21

Thursday Yard Waste Pickup Schedule

April 8 & 22; May 6 & 20; June 3 & 17;
July 1, 15 & 29; August 12 & 26; September 9 & 23



Lowell High School Presents

The Pirates of Penzance

A Modern Major General and His Daughters

• March 18, 19, 20, 26 - 7:30 pm

• March 27 - 1:00 & 7:30 pm

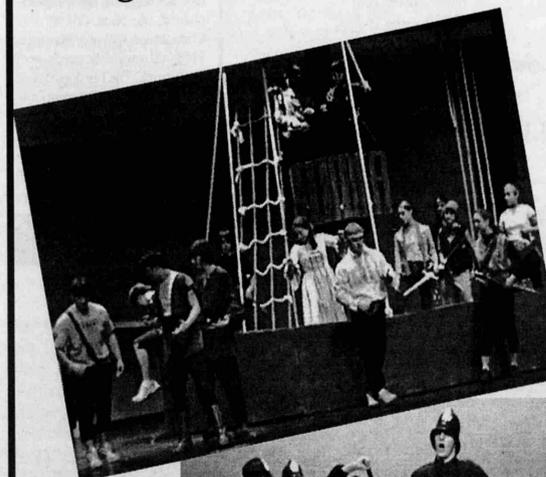
\$5 Students/Seniors • \$7 General Public • \$8 At the Door

Tickets 897-4125 or 897-4449

Lowell Performing Arts Center, 11700 Vergennes, Lowell, MI 49331

Performance rights granted through Music Theater International. www.MTIShows.com

Congratulations to the Cast, Crew and Orchestra of Pirates of Penzance



Tom Eldridge
Kacy Kilgore
Nancy Elmer
Katie Lowande
David Blair
Chad Drenth
Chelsea Babler
Katrina Beatson
Hillary Briggs
Dustin Burke
Justin Craig
John Fleet
Matt Gillhespy
Angela Harvey
Dave Huffman
Jenny Kettel
Nikita Miles
Nick Myers
Justin Quist
Blake Spoelman
Holly Vaught
Roger Weyersburg

Kristen Lee
Caitie Searfoss
Heidi Comejan
Holly Young
Elizabeth Stengel
Jay Eldridge
Nikki Baker
Alice Blumm
Rachel Brinks
Malley Cahoon
Amanda Durkee
Alex Getz
Nick Gillhespy
Mallory Hines
Hayley Irwin
Jon Latva
Joe Mull
Autumn Nethercott
Molly Richard
Brent Sutterfield
Megan Vaught
Nicki Wheeler

Chris Corlett
Stacy Fleet
Joe Blumm
David Rexford
Ben Schloop
Andy Oesch
Ben Baughman
Holly Borth
Natasha Buck
Alyssa Coffey
Audrey Fleet
Jenna Gillan
Rachael Goeman
Linda Howard
Ryder Jones
Chris Lechner
Lorri Myers
Alden Nyson
Maggie Ryan
Anna VanderHart
Tiffany Venneman
Megan Zinke

Arrows ice Polar Bears in district semifinal before season ends against Rams

By Dan Schneider

Rockford put an end to the best Lowell varsity basketball season in 20 years last Friday. The Rams beat the Red Arrows 59-40 in the final round of the district tournament.

The game got off to a fast-paced start on the Rockford court. Lowell began on a 7-0 run and had a 20-12 lead after the first quarter. With the Arrows scoring only four points in the second quarter, Rockford climbed back to tie the game at 24. Then the Rams

held the Arrows scoring to single digits for the final two quarters to win by a wide margin. "Our defense was what we expected in the last three quarters," Rockford coach Steve Majerle said. "First quarter we just didn't match

of these guys are hungry for more." The Lowell team succeeded by not giving up against Creston last Wednesday night at the district semifinals. The game went into two overtimes and was decided by a single trip to the free throw line.

The Polar Bears dominated most of the game. They were tenacious on defense and collected on offense, moving around the court at Rockford with synchronization akin to a flock of birds. Their full-court press, which they started right off the bat, flustered the Red Arrows. Creston didn't shoot particularly well, but this didn't matter because for most of the game, their strong rebounding gave them two or three attempts every trip to the paint.

But Lowell managed to hold it close.

The score was tied at 12 after the first. Then Creston was up 27-19 at half time. The Polar Bears' widest lead was 11 points in the third quarter. Then they started to unravel.

In the fourth quarter, Creston's shots were no longer going in. Lowell scrambled for the rebounds. The Red Arrows were hitting their free throws while some of the Creston starters got into foul trouble.

"What we talk about before every game is making sure we do the things that don't take talent," McDonald said. "That's hustling, that's boxing out, that's diving on the floor, that's doing all the things we need to do to win a one-point game like tonight."

Lowell had trouble scoring in the game, but it was good for the team to experience the intensity of a district final. A Red Arrow basketball team hasn't been that far since 1984.

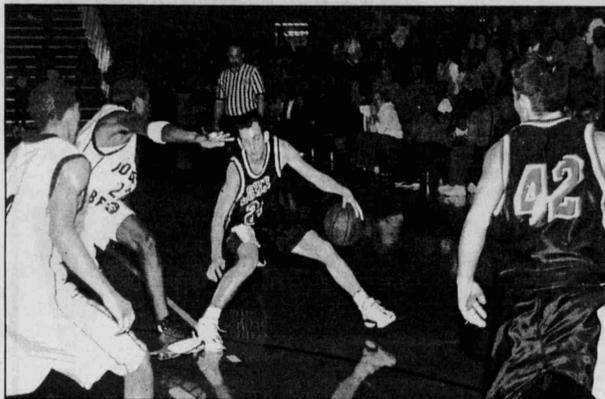
"They got a taste of it and I think we've got some young guys who are really excited about basketball," Lowell coach Jeff McDonald said. "We created a spark and some

hit a few from down court. The Arrows had gotten into the habit of dishing the ball to Sam Oberlin even when he was covered by two or three opponents. He managed to come up with two points on a surprising number of those occasions. He continued to confound the Polar Bears in the fourth.

It was tied at 48 with one minute left in regulation. Creston let time run out and the game went into an uneventful overtime, which ended tied at 50 with Creston killing the clock again.

Mike Koster started the fourth with a three-point conversion. Jason Hettinga, who hadn't been able to get many shots to fall earlier in the game,

ended tied at 50 with Creston killing the clock again. Oberlin went to the line with 15 seconds left in the game. He sunk both to make



Lowell's Sam Oberlin handles the ball around a Creston defender in last Wednesday's district semifinal. The Red Arrows won the game in double overtime.



Lowell's Shane Stokes drives against a Polar Bear opponent in last Wednesday's district semifinal.

the score 55-54, Creston. He stole the ball after the inbound. There was a scramble for it, then a jump ball went to the Arrows. A pass in to Oberlin, then to Koster, who found Andrew Min all alone in the paint. He missed the shot but drew a foul and the game came down to his two foul shots.

He sunk them both, the clock ran out and the bench and the Lowell student section rushed onto the court.

"We have talked all year saying our motto is 'as one,'" McDonald said. "I told these guys, 'Don't ever stop believing in yourself, don't ever stop believing in your teammates.'"

Correction: In the March 3, 2004 edition, *The Ledger* ran a story under the headline, "Lowell fire department will get new pump truck." The headline was inaccurate because, as the story explained, the Kent County Fire Commission will only give up to \$168,000 toward the purchase of a new truck. The fire department is seeking a \$100,000 grant from the Lowell Area Community Fund and will need \$17,000 from the city and Lowell and Vergennes townships before it can purchase the new truck.

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COMING EVENTS

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

SUNDAYS: 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. Call Dave (YMCA) 897-8445. Fee \$3.

THIRD MON.: Fallasburg Historical Society board meetings at chamber office or Fallasburg, 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 a.m. at Schneider Manor Community Rm., 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. meeting & program. Olga, 975-9977.

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

EVERY 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 4 Health Wellness Center in Saranac. For all or part time; Anyone is welcome. Contact Bev or Melissa, 642-6466 for info. A light dinner will be provided.

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

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

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

EVERY THIRD TUES.: Saranac Scrappers, scrapbooking/journaling group meets at 4 Health Wellness Center, Saranac, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be 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) 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 2ND THURS.: N.A.R.F.E. at 1:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 E. Fulton.

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. 6-10 p.m. Call Larry 754-7104. Public welcome.

EVERY SECOND WED.: Kent County Youth Fair Board meeting at 7:30 p.m., King Memorial Youth Center at 4-H Fairgrounds. 897-6050.

EVERY SECOND WED.: Lowell Women's Club meets at 12 p.m. in Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd.

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

EVERY 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 SECOND THURS.: Loyol Order of the Moose, men's general meeting from 7:30 p.m. - ? All members in good standing are invited to attend.

EVERY THURS.: Saranac Area Musicians and Singers practice at Saranac High School Band Room. Choir: 6-7 p.m./band: 7-8. Call Kathy Maatman at 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 meets 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.

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 THIRD THURS.: Parents Supporting Parents group, Franciscan Life Process Center. 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; Ada church. 752-8300.

EVERY THIRD THURS.: Parent Support Group meets 7-8:30 p.m. at The 4 Health Wellness Center in Saranac. Many educational topics related to parenting and parenting issues are discussed. Call Bev or Melissa at 642-6466 for more information.

SECOND THURS.: Genealogy-Alto Fam. Tree Club, Alto Library 6:30 - 8 p.m.

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.

ENGLHARDT LIBRARY HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 12-8 p.m.; Thurs.-Fri. 9:30-5 p.m.; Sat.: 9:30-2:30 p.m. -7 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m. 149 S. Hudson. Call 897-8545.

LOWELL AREA ARTS COUNCIL: Tues., Wed. & Fri.: 12-5 p.m.; Thurs.: 12-7 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m. 149 S. Hudson. Call 897-8545.

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

EACH WED. - 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.

SAT., MARCH 27: Lowell Area Fire Dept. pancake breakfast, 7-11 a.m. at Look Memorial Fire Station. Donation at the door.

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS

March 10 Puzzle

O	R	A	L	B	A	L	E	G	R	E	G	
D	A	N	E	A	L	E	R	T	O	I	L	S
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A	L	A	S	R	U	T	H	D	O	N	S	

LOWELL SENIOR NEIGHBORS CALENDAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

897-5949

MON.: 9:00 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall. **THURS.:** 9:00 a.m. Walk/Shop at Malls; 9:30 a.m. Crafts; 1:00 p.m. Euchre.

TUES.: 9:00 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall; 12:45 p.m. Bible Study **FRI.:** 9:00 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall.

SPECIAL EVENTS

THURS., MARCH 18: 11 a.m. Chris Wilkes; 12 p.m. Center Shower; 12:45 G.R. Art Museum. **TUES., MARCH 23:** 12:15 p.m. Alto School lunch.

WED., MARCH 24: 12:45 p.m. Shop Meijer. **FRI., MARCH 26:** 12:45 p.m. Shop Salvation Army Store; 12:45 p.m. Bingo.

FRI., MARCH 19: 11 a.m. Dr. Flohr "Glaucoma"; Birthday/Anniversary; 12:45 p.m. Bingo. **MON., MARCH 29:** 12:45 p.m. Syl Mosier "Growth Through Loss."

MON., MARCH 22: 12:45 p.m. Shop Horrocks & Ice Cream at Steak & Shake.

Mendez wins third straight individual state title

By Dan Schneider

Lowell's Joe Mendez won his third Division II individual state wrestling title last Saturday at the Palace of Auburn Hills. This year it was at the 130 weight.

Mendez technical failed Jeff Leone of Birmingham Seaholm in the first round, won a 12-6 decision over

Allegan's Clayton Butcher in the quarterfinal. He technical-failed Dave Szokola of Marysville in the semifinals, then won the championship with a 9-7 decision over Bill Freese of Swartz Creek.

The junior finished the season with an impressive 54-4 record and two state

championship medals in the weekend following the Red Arrows' triumph in the team state finals.

Senior Matt Kilmartin battled his way to the final round of the 135 weight. He fell short of the title, however, losing by a 7-0 decision against Justin Chrzanoski of Lapeer West. Taking second in the state,

Kilmartin finished the season 51-6.

Kevin Frazier lost a close match by a 4-3 decision to Rich Stafford of Hazel Park in the first round at the 140 weight. The senior fought his way to the final round in the third-place tournament, but lost a 3-0 decision to Matt

Burodich of Harper Woods Notre Dame to take fourth in state. Frazier finished his season with a 45-7 record.

David Kropf went out in the first round of the championship tournament, losing a 10-9 decision to Nick Uhlman of Hazel Park. The senior finished the season 45-12 after

losing in the second round of the third-place tournament.

Jayne DeLiefde lost a 6-4 decision in overtime to Randy Champagne in the first round of the 145 tournament. He finished the season 39-16 after losing in the first round of the third-place tournament.

Sideline cheer team makes surprising moves at state competition

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell High School varsity cheer team finished 23rd out of 30 teams in the class A state finals put on by the Michigan Cheerleading Coaches Association last Saturday at Saginaw Valley State University. But they turned some heads in the process.

"We had a couple unusual stunts and it put the crowd in awe and got a lot of people talking," cheerleading coach Carrie Dawson said. "We were very creative."

One stunt she calls the chin stunt. Lisa Roth does this stunt, which involves standing on one leg held aloft by three teammates and bending her leg around to tuck her foot under her chin. It takes flexibility.

"A lot of the stunts are the same over and over again but when you pull out something different, it gets talked about," Dawson said.

This is Dawson's first year coaching sideline cheer at Lowell. She previously coached at Saranac High

School. "It was a new experience in class A for me," she said.

Sideline cheerleading competitions are scored in two rounds. The first round is called the leadership round and teams are judged on their ability to get a crowd cheering. Round two is the creative round in which cheerleaders do pyramids and tumbling.

Lowell scored 230 in the first round and 274 in the second round for a total score of 504 at state. The state champions, Eisenhower High School, had a total score of 617.

Lowell struggled in the second round of competitions because of a lack of strong tumblers on the team.

"Tumbling is such a big part of it and that's where we're sort of at a disadvantage because we have a strong gymnastics team," Dawson said, explaining the gymnastics draws away potential tumblers.

Unlike competitive cheerleading teams, which

exist solely for competition, the sideline cheer teams cheer at boys basketball games in addition to competing on weekends.

"They have to do double duty," Dawson said.

Sideline cheer competitions are more prevalent on the east side of the state. Most of the major contenders at the state competition were from that side.

"The east side of the state has tons of class A teams and to travel over there, we didn't get much of a chance to do that," Dawson said.

This was the first year

Lowell's sideline cheer team went to competitions. The experience of state level competition was good for the team, according to Dawson.

"There were a few girls who went there and said, 'Well, I understand now, it's not just about cheering for the boys,'" she said. "This is their competition."

To go to state, Lowell had to score more than 90 percent of the top score at their March 6 regional at Hastings. Grand Ledge had the top score at the regional. Lowell finished third behind Northview and had a score good enough for state competition.

At state, Grand Ledge finished eighth and Northview finished directly behind Lowell.



The 2003-2004 Lowell varsity cheer team, front row, left to right, are: Stephanie Blanchard, Lisa Roth, Jenna White, Julie Dunn, Kyleigh Gilliard, and Jamie Zoodsma; second row, left to right, are: Amanda Craig, Heather Essich, Katie Sullivan and Tiffany Wilkins; third row, left to right, are: Renee Catlin, Suzy Richardson, Amanda Roberts, Leslie Koehn, Kati Capps, Alyssa Rash and Kaitlyn Hanrahan; last row, left to right, are: Katie Calihan and Nichole Swift. Not pictured is Sarah McCarrick.

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FFA brings home medals in state competition

Several students in Lowell's FFA chapter won recognition in the state finals last week at the Michigan FFA convention. The competition took place last Tuesday and Wednesday.

Ian Blodger, a seventh-grade student at Lowell Middle School, won first place

in the state for Middle School Public Speaking. He gave a speech about Canada dumping garbage in Michigan landfills. Lowell's Jenny Humphries took the silver medal in Middle School Public Speaking.

At the high school level, Andy Oesch won a silver

medal in Creed Speaking. Melody Democour took fifth in the state in the Job Interview contest.

The teams at the high school level also did well. The team of Katie Rottier, Grady Drown, Regan Doyle, Morgan Olin, Holly Vaught, Mike Roth, Nick Canfield, Patric Walsh and Tim Harden won the bronze medal in Conduct of Meetings.

The team of Marie Wade, Katie Serne, Patti Leasure, Shelly Wernet, Katie Ward, Kelly Foote and Julie Dunn took third in state in Agricultural Issues.

Local poet published

By Dan Schneider

Responding to an item in the Jan. 8, 2003 edition of the Lowell Ledger, Tammy Adriane submitted a poem to the Celestial Arts poetry contest out of Oregon. The poem, "My Wobbly Toddler," was published in a collection of submissions last December.

"It's a big, thick book, it's full of poems from all over," Adriane said.

Her poem is about her daughter, Lindsay, growing up. Lindsay Adriane will graduate from Lowell High School this spring.

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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 eyes 269-367-4900. Phil Bishop.

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.

HOUSE FOR SALE - Large corner lot with big trees, kitchen, living room, dining room and 2-3 bedrooms, garage. Call 897-4010.

\$125 AMISH QUEEN LOG BED - w/pillowtop mattress set. Bought, never used. Still in plastic. 989-227-9886.

1995 CHEVY 1/2 TON PICKUP - V6 auto, new mechanics and tires. Asking \$3,750 or offer. Call 897-6045.

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1995 SKIDOO SNOWMOBILE - Formula S, 380. Must sell \$1,500 obo. Call 890-6660.

VISTA DOUBLEWIDE HOME - 24x50, 8x8 deck, 3 BR, 1 bath new; large kitchen updated, upright freezer including new sliders, newer carpet in bedrooms, newer furnace, water heater. \$15,500 obo. 897-6774, leave message.

BUNK BED - Oak, has mattresses (2 mos. old). Sell \$125. 517-719-0451.

'96 FORD F-150 - 2 WD, green, \$4,500. Call 897-1597 or 450-7910.

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IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM In loving memory of **Alcide J. Baker** who passed away March 17, 1983.

The special bond and memories we've shared, We'll never be apart Because you're a treasure Dear, Tucked deep within my heart.

Missed by your wife, Grace

IN MEMORIAM For My Dad, **Alcide J. Baker**

Dad, If I could turn back time and once more hear your voice, I'd tell you that out of all the Dads you would still be my choice. Please always know I love you and no one can take your place, Years may come and go but your memory will never be erased. Today, Jesus, as you are listening in your home above, Would you go and find my Dad and give him all my love.

Love, Terri

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