

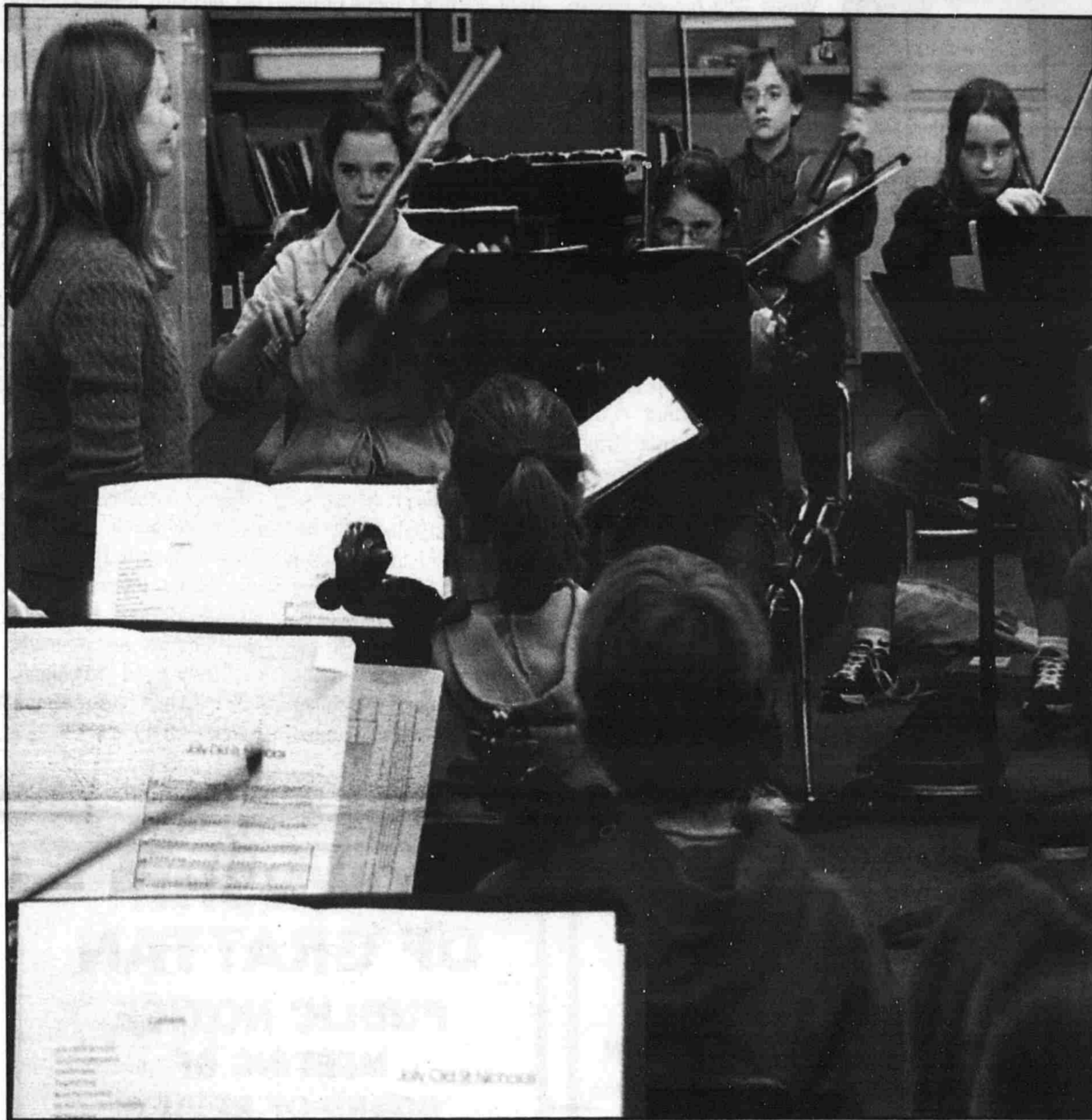
The Lowell Ledger

Volume 34 Issue 4

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, November 30, 2005

Fundraiser will benefit Lowell schools' orchestra program



The beginning orchestra class at Lowell Middle School practices a Christmas carol.

A fundraiser to benefit the Lowell Schools Orchestra Program will be held Friday night, Dec. 9, in the Lowell Performing Arts Center.

Music will be provided by the Lowell Music Ensemble, the headlining performers, who will play seasonal music and Archangelo Corelli's "Christmas Concerto Grosso No. 8." Wendy Tenney, Lowell schools' orchestra instructor, will perform a Rossini duet with her husband, Aaron, who teaches orchestra at Union High School in Grand Rapids. The Red Arrow Orchestra will be featured during the concert and the Lowell Fiddle Club will play before the concert which begins at 7:30 p.m.

A silent auction of decorated violins starts the happening at 6:45. The whole event is called "Art of the Violin 2005," so it is appropriate that a collection of small violins, decorated by local artists, will be sold by silent auction as part of the fundraiser. Violins can be seen around town in store display windows.

Among them is a violin that has been painted into a landscape; another features Victorian dancers. Both are on display at the Lowell Area Arts Council at 149 S. Hudson Street.

In addition to the music and violin auction, there will be refreshments available. Tickets to the event are \$5 for adults, \$2 for students and free for children under 10.

All proceeds benefit the fledgling orchestra program in Lowell Area Schools. The program is already enjoying popularity, especially at the middle school level. A beginning orchestra class has 29 sixth-graders in it and a small group of students are currently studying string music at the high school. This will grow into a full school orchestra as the middle school students graduate to high school.

"It's been a really neat thing for all the students involved," Tenney said. "A lot of these students have found their place in the school by being in the orchestra."

Orchestra fundraiser, cont'd., pg. 8

Lowell police tracking trespassing deer hunter

By Dan Schneider

One successful hunter from this year's opening day of gun deer season may not turn out to be so lucky.

Lowell police are looking for a man who killed a deer within city limits on the land between Stoney Lakeside Park and the Grand River. A nearby resident found a tree stand and a

pile of deer entrails there on Nov. 15, and brought the tree stand to police. Clearly this contravened several city ordinances.

"One, they're discharging a firearm in the city, and it's illegal to hunt in the city," Lowell police chief Jim Valentine said. "But we're more concerned because that's a public area."

There is the possibility that the hunter killed the deer with a bow, and not with a firearm. The police did not receive calls from anyone who heard shots fired in the area. But given the timing of the incident, on the first day of gun season, police feel a gun is likely to have been used.

Even if a firearm was not discharged, the hunter

could face a 90-day prison sentence if convicted of hunting within the city limits, a misdemeanor offense. Discharging a firearm within the city limits is also a 90-day misdemeanor. Currently, there are no suspects in the case.

"There were no identifiers on the tree stand," Valentine said.

The tree stand and gut

pile are apparently all the hunter left behind.

"We didn't get calls that somebody saw someone dragging a deer carcass and loading it on a truck," Valentine said. "They may

have been trying to (keep themselves) secret ... except for leaving the tree stand."

It isn't out of the

Deer hunter, cont'd., pg. 4

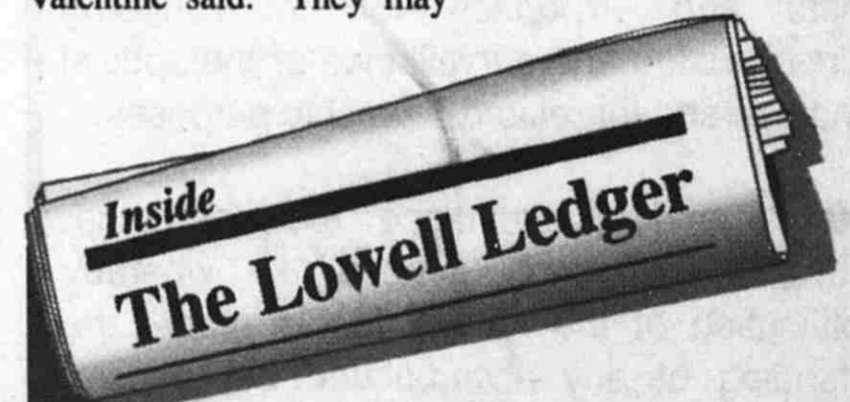
City opens chambers for Rotary meetings

The Rotary Club of Lowell has struck a deal with the city to have its weekly meetings in the city council chambers.

The council approved a one-year lease agreement with the Rotary Club to use the council chambers from 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Wednesdays for the group's regular meeting. The fee for the usage will be \$75, which city clerk Betty Morlock said covers the cost of having a city employee come in and set up tables.

Morlock said the cost for set up is about \$50 in labor. When asked if Rotary members could do that instead, Morlock said at this time, no. "A lot of people are happy to see the building being used," Morlock said, adding that it gives the city a chance to show off the space. Jim White, representing the Rotary, said the location is an ideal one for the group, providing a central spot for both merchants and residents to come to.

The Rotary will have access to the chambers, adjacent kitchenette, and conference room. The rental fee, \$3,900 a year, will be placed in the city's general fund.



Santa's On His Way ...Page 3

New Boutique In Town ... Page 4

Art At The Chamber ... Page 8

LHS Play Opens...Page 9

New look at fashion in Lowell as Elle Boutique opens its doors

By Dan Schneider

A new store has opened in Lowell with the goal of

offering women a unique shopping experience. Located at 212 W. Main, Elle Boutique sells women's clothing and not the variety available at the mall. "It's not what you can find anywhere else," store

owner Danielle Hulst said. She also wanted to create a local shopping experience.

It was the space that drew Hulst to start the business. She saw the Main Street storefront vacant after the Fuze clothing store closed. She grew up in Lowell, and liked the idea of owning a store here.

"Lowell is kind of like one of the last hidden treasures," Hulst said. "I drove by and I saw this space and I've always loved this space."

She liked the exposed brick and the old-time nature of the building. She

said it's hard to find space with that kind of ambience available in Grand Rapids, for instance.

Hulst is not new to small business ownership, having experience as the co-owner of a Caledonia ice cream shop. She put together the clothing boutique in the one-month span between the end of ice cream season and the clothing store's opening Nov. 18.

"I've always been interested in women's clothes and women's fashions," Hulst said. "It's something that I just love."

She thinks Lowell is

primed for a boutique women's clothing store. "I think that Lowell is definitely ready for it, it's growing," Hulst said.

The store's regular hours are 10-7 Monday through Friday, 10-5 on Saturday and 1-5 on Sunday.

Hulst also plans to host after-hours "boutique parties," where people can host a "shopping experience catered to you and your friends." The host and her friends get to shop with the store all to themselves, and the host earns store credit on a percentage of the night's sales.

January public hearing set for ordinance on canopies and awnings

By J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

For Lowell Planning Commission member Mark Mundt, the question was whether the city really needed another ordinance, this one specifically to regulate canopies and awnings.

It was a question he raised as the planning commission reviewed a proposed ordinance that established guidelines for canopies and awnings in the commercial, public facilities, and the historic districts.

"It's one more ordinance, one more ordinance to keep track of and enforce," Mundt said. But chairman Clark Jahnke

said he could see the need for it since the ordinances would establish guidelines for business owners to use without having to come before the planning commission to get approval for canopies or awnings, such as the car wash did several months ago.

With the proposed ordinance in the commercial and public facilities, awnings or canopies cannot

be less than seven feet from the ground at its lowest point and no greater than 10 feet. The awning or canopy cannot project from the building or structure more than five feet, cannot encroach beyond the public sidewalk into the street and shall be compatible with the building or structure. Awnings and canopies,

Ordinance, cont'd., pg. 12

Deer hunter, cont'd. ... From Page 1

question that the hunter may have traveled to the site by boat.

The land is covered by wooded brush in most places. The hunter may not

have known the spot was located in the city.

"They might, because of the rural appearance of the setting, not even have realized that they were breaking the law," Valentine said. "It's remote and it appears to be out in the country so they may have thought they were totally legal."

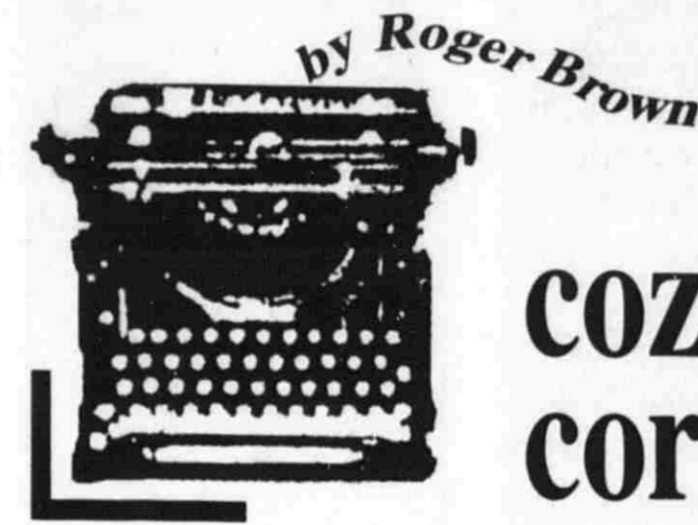
Police may have little to go on in investigating this incident, but hope to deter any future hunting in the area.

"We were made aware that it occurred, and we'll keep that in mind for opening day next year," Valentine said.



Danielle Hulst, owner of Elle Boutique, in her newly opened store.

Viewpoint



cozy corner

I'm guessing Derby goes back to those days when he was a young dog and I'd take him for those long walks in Arizona. It's the same deal in China. He waits outside the bathroom, sleeps next to my bed, follows me everywhere and has his head in my lap as soon as I sit down. It's really quite pathetic.

So, every morning in China I'd put on my walking shoes and head for the closet where the leash is kept. Derby would go crazy. Away we'd go, for a brisk one-hour walk around Chengdu.

There are a couple things I should mention. Chengdu is a huge city. My daughter told me the population is around eleven million. They live in the center of town and it is busy! The streets are jammed with vehicles. The wide bicycle lanes are packed with bikes and scooters. The sidewalks are bustling with people walking. Another thing I need to note is that Derby is a big dog. He probably weighs close to a hundred pounds. Finally, Chinese people are leery of, if not downright scared of, big dogs.

That pretty well sets the stage. Away we go, Derby and I always moved along at a pretty good clip through throngs of Chinese people. As we moved down the street, nearly everyone we met would lock his or her eyes on me. I am about a head taller than everyone, my skin is a different color, my hair is gray and I was moving faster than they were. I could walk for an hour, pass thousands of people, and often not see another Caucasian. It's hard to imagine how I could stick out more.

What I soon discovered was that people we met didn't see Derby until the last second, if at all. They would be staring so intently at me, they wouldn't see big old goofy Derby loping along at my side. When they did see him ... at the last instant of our passing and maybe just a few inches away ... they would panic and nearly jump out of their skin. Like I said, they generally seem to be very wary of big dogs. Needless to say, this became a great way to humor myself on these walks.

Whether we were meeting people or overtaking them on the sidewalk, it almost always went the same way. They would stare at the big old white guy trucking along in his shorts and T-shirt. When they finally noticed Derby it was too late and they were already much closer than they wanted to be. They would quickly jump out of the way with panic in their eyes. I'd politely say hello in Chinese and keep on moving. Yes, I'd chuckle a little to myself.

No, this type of behavior probably doesn't do much to enhance the opinion Chinese people have of westerners. I couldn't help myself. These walks had everything ... childish behavior ... a dog at my side ... and adult disapproval. That's me all over.

Dogs love me. I've mentioned that in this space a few times in the past. My guess is the affection comes from the fact I can easily operate at a dog's mentality. Kids like me as well ... for the same reason. Adults are a different matter. There are adults out there who don't cotton to being treated like a dog or a kid.

No dog loves me more than my daughter's big, goofy yellow Lab. His name is Derby. The name comes from being born on Kentucky Derby day. Clever.

Derby became part of their household a little over seven years ago. My granddaughter was about one and my daughter was pregnant for her second child. Derby had a good home, but given the circumstances he didn't get the attention an affectionate dog like a Lab craves. They lived in Arizona at the time, and we visited as often as we could. Derby thought I came just to see him.

Derby was nuts for our long daily walks. He was nuts for our games of fetch. He was nuts for wrestling around. He was nuts for the treats I'd buy for him or the scraps from the table. He was my constant companion. If I went in the bathroom, he waited outside the door. He slept beside my bed. He followed me everywhere. If I sat down, his head was in my lap. He loved his grandpa.

When my daughter first moved to China, Derby went to live with my son. That arrangement worked okay for a year or two. The grandkids got older and wanted their dog. My son was selling his house and moving to an apartment. The planets lined up and Derby moved to China.

At first he hated China, mostly because he didn't like Chinese people. He finally got over that when he figured out there are about 1.3 billion of them and there wasn't much future in having an attitude about all of them.

In fact, my daughter's maid and their driver idolize Derby. Obviously they are both Chinese. The driver exercises him by throwing a ball whenever he's waiting outside. The maid absolutely babies the big boob and jabbars away at him all day in Chinese. I don't know if Derby has picked up the language, but he likes the attention.

Ah, but when I show up, nobody else matters. In fact, it's as though all his other caregivers cease to exist. I think the maid is actually jealous.

Defense bill will protect our country while changing course in Iraq

With Senator Carl Levin

One of the primary responsibilities of the Senate Armed Services Committee is to write the Defense Authorization bill every year. This critical legislation authorizes the programs of the Department of Defense, establishes their funding levels, and helps set America's defense policy.

As the senior Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, my highest priority is to help write a bipartisan defense bill that will protect our country and ensure the quality of life for our service members and their families.

The Senate recently passed the Defense Authorization bill for fiscal year 2006, and it now goes to a conference committee with the House of Representatives, where differences between the bills passed by the two chambers will be resolved. This bill is always critical for our national defense, but this year's Senate bill also recommends important changes to our Iraq policy.

During debate on the Senate floor, I offered an amendment that stated that in order to succeed in Iraq, "calendar year 2006 should be a period of significant transition to full Iraqi sovereignty, with Iraqi security forces taking the lead for the security of a free and sovereign Iraq, thereby creating the conditions for the phased redeployment

of United States forces from Iraq."

It stressed that our military forces should not stay in Iraq indefinitely and that the Iraqis must come together politically so that the insurgency can be defeated.

The amendment called for an explanation of the Administration's strategy for successful completion of the mission in Iraq and regular reports from the Administration on conditions to be met, including estimated dates for the phased redeployment of U.S. forces from Iraq as each condition is met, "with the understanding that unexpected contingencies may arise."

Although my original amendment was rejected, the Senate then adopted a somewhat weakened version of it offered by the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Sen. John Warner (R-VA). The so-called Republican version dropped my original language that said our military forces "should not stay in Iraq indefinitely" and instead substituted that our forces should not be there "any longer than required." The Republican version also deleted the reporting requirement relating to estimated dates for the phased redeployment of our forces from Iraq as each goal is met.

I supported this amendment and it was adopted on a strong bipartisan vote of 79-19. Even with the changes, the amendment's passage was still a clear signal to the Administration that we need to change the course in Iraq. "Stay the course" is a bumper sticker slogan, not a strategy. The Senate said clearly that a new strategy in Iraq is needed.

Levin, cont'd., pg. 14

Ledger Entries

of 125, 100, 75, 50 & 25 Years Ago

By Priscilla Lussmyer



125 YEARS

THE WEEKLY JOURNAL
DECEMBER 1, 1880

Over 125 teams (horses) were on the business streets at one time last Saturday.

The Journal editor promises better-quality paper as soon as he finds it.

Uncle Tom's Cabin is playing at Train's Hall tonight. Solomon Annis has raised 52-1/2 bushels of "Prolific" potatoes on a piece of ground 84 by 100 feet.

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER
NOVEMBER 30, 1905

Portland Supervisor Horner tracks down a hit-and-run driver by writing to the secretary of state with the license number.

The Standard and Pott companies in Portland have an oil war, and the going price of 12 cents a gallon is now down to six cents.

Mrs. T.A. Murphy keeps her photography studio open on Sundays and customers get a half-dozen photographs free.

Doors and windows were open to the balmy breezes Tuesday. Wednesday snow is flying "in a young jimmycane."

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER
AND THE ALTO SOLO
NOVEMBER 27, 1930

Thermometer reading in Lowell last Thursday: 72, slightly better than Los Angeles. Michigan's bean crop was the smallest on record this year, because of drought; the nation's was the largest.

Aviator helmets are the preferred head gear for boys. D.W.Griffeth's "Abraham Lincoln" will show at the Strand next week.

C.H.Runciman will sponsor poultry authority Prof. Krueck's lecture this Friday afternoon at City Hall.

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER
DECEMBER 1, 1955

Boy Scouts worked all day Saturday on replacing posts and fencing at the Showboat dock for safety.

The Ray Avery's open the new "Betty Kay Gift Shop" in addition to their jewelry store. Mrs. Bernie Bedell will operate it.

There is enough Salk anti-polio serum available for second shots to those having had the first inoculation a month ago; third shots come seven months after the seconds.

U.S. Rep. Gerald R. Ford answers questions about Social Security in his weekly column.

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER
NOVEMBER 26, 1980

With all the red tape, dismantling and replacement of the Division Street bridge, closed in May 1979, won't take place until next summer.

State aid cuts force the school board to cut the budget by \$184,000 and lay off five half-time aides. More cuts are in store.

The Blandford Nature Center's log cabin is ready for Christmas, decorated in the pioneer tradition.

The DNR opens a 24-hour, toll-free hot line for fish or game violations.

Lowell High School lists 27 all-A's among the Honor Roll achievers.

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Reflections of faith

Randy Meyers, pastor
Calvary Christian Reformed Church

Sunday Nov. 27, the Grand Rapids Press ran an article by Peter Luke calling for higher standards in our schools. He claimed that the middle class has to work longer to afford all the things the middle class needs. He states "\$12 an hour translates to \$9 take-home. Hours needed to make payment on a new Chevy Silverado? About 40. To make the monthly payment on a starter home? Try 80."

Luke is trying to make the case that schools need more rigorous standards in the areas of math and science so students are better prepared for college. Maybe if they are more qualified, more will attend college. If more attend college, they will hopefully be able to make more money so they can buy their new SUV and pay for the fuel that SUV consumes as well as "a couple of snowmobiles, a small lake cottage or large travel trailer."

Well, he is half right. There are only two ways to get more money. First, make more. He addresses that. Second, save more. Here he fails to mention the dangers of the so-called middle-class dream, namely all the maintenance and insurance costs, not to mention the payments that come with new SUV's, cottages and other toys.

This is not a financial column so I will not go into detail

on how that consumer thinking will never get you ahead. This is a reflection on faith column so I will ask the question: Why are you trying to get ahead?

Randy Alcorn's challenging little book "The Treasure Principle" makes bold statements like these: "God does not bless you to increase your standard of living but to increase your standard of giving" and "Giving is the antidote to materialism." I do not suppose Alcorn would be opposed to higher educational standards in an attempt to make more money but he would oppose the corresponding American consumer mentality that contradicts the clear teaching of the Bible.

In addition to Alcorn's book which gives you the big picture, consider "Three Rules" by Theo Boers available by free download at www.threerules.org. Three Rules is a handy "workingman's" book which will challenge middle-class consumption assumptions. Beyond reading these, ask your local pastor to preach a stewardship sermon series. After all, Jesus spoke more about money than any other subject, so it is a fair challenge to give your pastor.

Finally, consider one of the many helpful community events designed to help you in these tough economic times. The not-for-profit organization called The Barnabas Foundation is underwriting a financial freedom seminar this Friday, Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. at the Calvary Christian Reformed Church. Whether you are middle-class, want to be, or would never go back, whether you "need it" or not, you will be challenged and blessed by this three-hour presentation. Call 897-7060 to RSVP and mention this reflection and there is no cost for the seminar.

Lowell schools are great and we can always improve our educational standards for our children. The Lowell community is growing and mostly in the middle. Are we getting ahead and what are we going to do with our money once we finally do?

New Arrivals

Need

Scott and Christy Nead of Saranac are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Claire Marie. She was born October 25, 2005, weighing 7 lbs. 7 oz. and measuring 20" long.

Proud grandparents are Dennis and Nancy Nead of Saranac, Debbie Ogonowski of Grand Rapids and Henry Ogonowski of Delray Beach, Florida. Great-grandparents are Doris Sahlbom of Coral, Mich., and Alice Ogonowski of Delray Beach, Florida.



Claire Marie Nead

Happy Birthday

- DEC. 1: Travis Briggs, Deb French, Casey French, Denny Brenk II, Joyce Watrous.
- DEC. 2: Morgan Boss, Chelsey Treglia, Kari Bergy, Mary Alice Starkweather, Karly Batt.
- DEC. 3: Chris Chambers, Chris Darby, Amanda Sterzick, Richard Kline.
- DEC. 4: Tennille Bryant,
- DEC. 5: Christopher Vickers.
- DEC. 6: Katie Blough, Kristopher Vezino, Phil Seese, Christopher DeBold, Maria Blough, Marc Wernet.
- DEC. 7: Jennifer Berry.

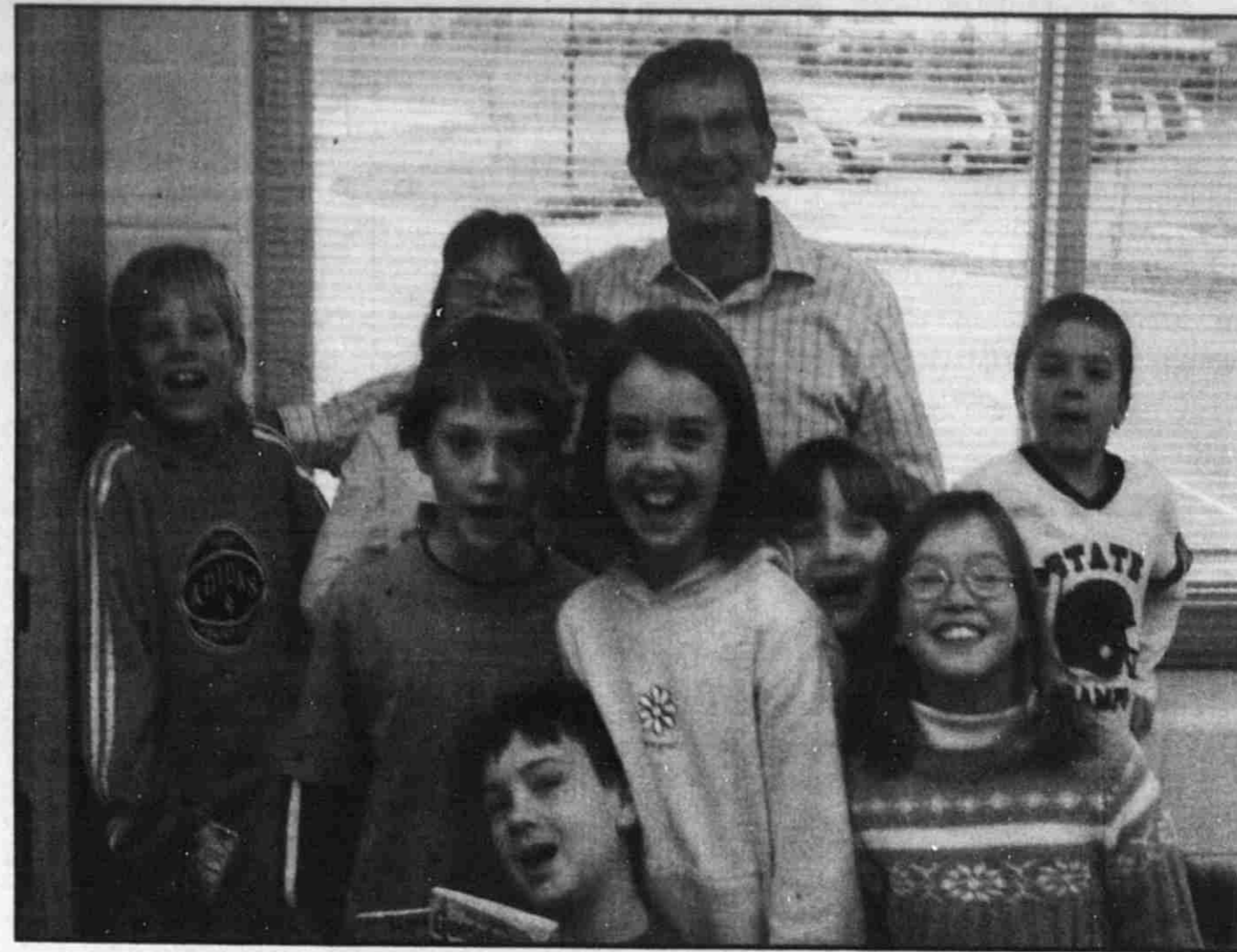
I would rather be exposed to the inconveniences attending too much liberty than to those attending too small a degree of it.

- Thomas Jefferson (1743 - 1826)

Murray Lake staff member of the month

Bob Titcombe, a third grade teacher at Murray Lake Elementary, was nominated by staff members for October staff member of the month. They commented on his patience with students and caring attitude, and mentioned the time he has donated to the Service Learning Project that students and staff have been working on.

Recently, while reviewing for a social studies test, Titcombe and his class were discussing natural resources and recycling. He asked if they could think of a renewable resource in our community. Titcombe was going for pop cans, newspapers, or maybe plastic containers but not one hand went up. He was about to start the review over when slowly Tommy raised his hand. Titcombe asked, "Did you think of a good renewable resource?" Tommy looked his teacher



Bob Titcombe with several of his students.

in the eye, and announced, "You are! First you were my mom's teacher and now you're mine!"

With over 30 years of teaching students from kindergarten to eighth grade, Titcombe has had several stories like these to share.

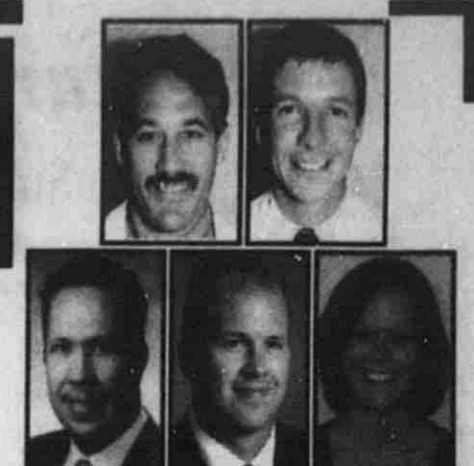
Other than the high school, Titcombe has taught in every building in the Lowell School District.

"I can't think of a career that could be more rewarding, more demanding, or more exhausting! I've been

blessed to have been guided and supported by dedicated people that make me proud to say I'm a teacher. It is wonderful to see the smiles and feel the warmth that is shared in Lowell Area Schools every day."

HEALTH

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



PERFORATED EARDRUM

Your eardrum (tympanic membrane) is a thin, oval layer deep in your ear canal. It helps protect the middle and inner ear from the outside world. Because it is so thin, your eardrum can be ruptured or punctured. The hole exposes the middle and inner ear to damage or infection.

There are several causes of perforated eardrums. These include infection of the middle ear (can be viral, bacterial or fungal), trauma (blunt or penetrating trauma from falls or something poked in your ear), rapid pressure changes (like with scuba diving), and other types of trauma, such as slaps to the ear, gunshot blasts, car accidents, and sports injuries.

Pain is the most common symptom of a perforated eardrum. Other symptoms include vertigo, ringing, buzzing, roaring, clicking, hearing loss and fluid or blood draining from your ear. Your doctor can diagnose eardrum rupture by looking in the ear with an otoscope. Occasionally, very small holes can be difficult to see and may require further testing.

Perforated eardrums usually heal on their own. Some large holes or nonhealing small holes may require surgery. This is done by an ear, nose and throat specialist, usually at the hospital.

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Blood Drive Tuesday, December 6, 3-7 PM
Sunday, December 11, 10:00 AM "Persistent Prayer"
Sunday, December 18, 10:00 AM "Winter Will End"
Children's Christmas program
Christmas Day, 10:00 AM "Jesus at the Open Door"

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SANTA'S HELPERS NEEDED

Volunteers are still needed on the showboat during the Christmas season. If you would like to be a Santa room helper or Robert E. Lee keeper, give Liz a call at the chamber (897-9161). The following dates are still open: Friday, Dec. 9, 5:30 - 7 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 10 and 17 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.; and Wednesday, Dec. 14 and 21 from 5:30 - 7 p.m.

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Amanda Durkee	Ryder Jones	Renee Buist	Kim Ward
Kristen McAlpine	Alex Getz	Al Freeburg	Becca Finnie
Blake Spoelman	Nick Gillhespy	Culver Redd	Andrew Wright
Holly Vaught	Brandon Herring	Doug Halbeisen	Sierra Moore
Garrison Fredline	Regan Doyle	Marshall Mooney	
Eric Holmgren	Erin Soules		
Sam Rinke	Hannah Knudstrup		
Heather Jousma	Heather Spratt		
Heather Walendzik	Sam Dilling		
Rob Hanks	Cody Herring		
Erin Jarmosco	Adam Schollaart		
Mike VanderHart	Dakota Bunn		
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Featured Artist

Debra Smale

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce now has artworks on display by an Ada artist.

Debra Smale has been an artist for a long time.

"I'm 53 and I've been an artist as long as I've known myself," she said.

She has art degrees in metalsmithing from Michigan State University. But for the last six years, she's been making mixed media pieces on paper. And that is what is on the walls of the chamber.

The pieces are made from papers, watercolor, pastel and ink. They are documents of places and buildings, but filtered

She accumulated several aerial sketches over the years.

"I worked in the automotive industry for 20 years and traveled extensively during that time, and during those travels I would draw aerial views from the airplane," Smale said.

She would also take photographs and make sketches on the ground. Another of her pieces includes parts of a sketch of a factory in New Jersey that has since been torn down. Another piece, "Skating in Grand Rapids," is her depiction of an old downtown building that was converted into a parking garage.

Such works, she said, are "a recording of time's effect on a building."

"It's also kind of a recording of transition."

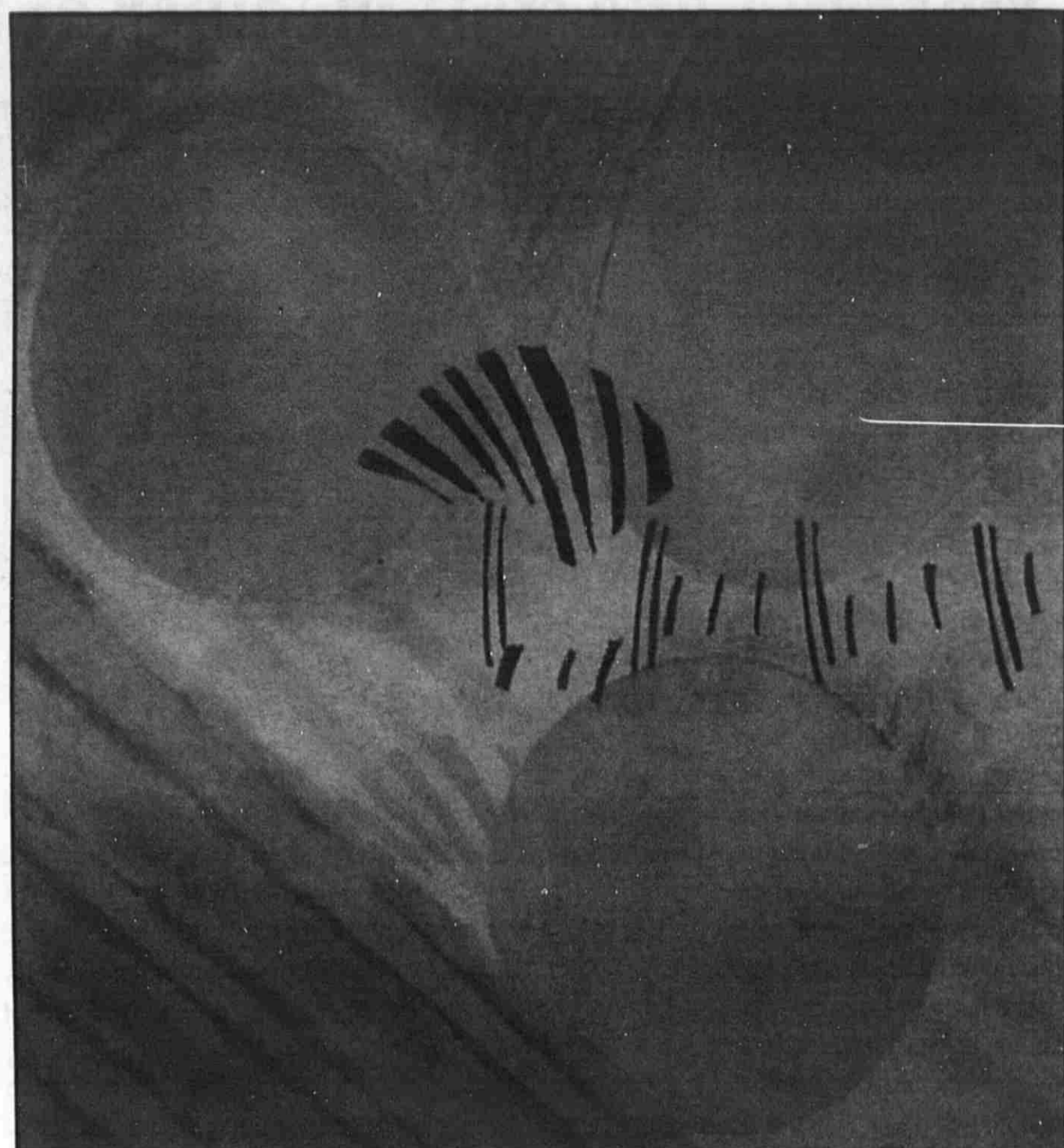
Smale's work will be on display until Dec. 20.

through several layers of Smale's perception.

"They are my impressions of things that I've seen in my travels," Smale said.

For instance, "On the Way to El Paso" is a conglomeration of yellow circles and burgundy shapes on a bright green background. The picture started as a sketch Smale did of a view out of an airplane window. Looking at the sketch several times, she would react to it differently each time and add that reaction to the piece.

"I really superimpose that second image on top of what I already have," said the Ada resident.



"On the Way to El Paso" is one of the works Debra Smale currently has on display.

Orchestra fundraiser, continued

...From Page 1



These are two of the artistically decorated violins that will be sold by silent auction in a fundraiser for the orchestra program at Lowell Area Schools.

The orchestra also allows the students to play a role in the community. They are frequently asked to perform at community events. The most recent of these occasions was at the Nov. 9 memorial celebration for Lowell Area Schools' late superintendent, Shari Miller.

"The kids really felt important and like they had something to offer," Tenney said.

Miller was an important advocate of the district's string program throughout its development.

Funds raised through the "Art of the Violin 2005" will be used to purchase instruments, sheet music and equipment for classrooms. The Lowell Education Foundation will match the funds raised by the violin auction up to \$1,000.

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LHS presents "The Man Who Came to Dinner" this week



Some of the cast members in a scene from Lowell High School's current production.

By Dan Schneider

The first three days of December, which start Thursday, all have something in common. All feature a performance of "The Man Who Came to Dinner" by the Lowell High School drama department in the Lowell Performing Arts Center.

The play is about a rich snob man of letters who eats dinner at a wealthy small-town family's house in Ohio. Sheridan Whiteside is the name of the visitor and he is played quite effectively by Gary Kilgore in the LHS production. The family is named the Stanleys. Garrison Fredline and Autumn Nethercot play Mr. and Mrs. Stanley.

Whiteside eats dinner and then slips on some ice outside the Stanleys' house, apparently breaks his leg, threatens to sue them, and ends up living in their living room for a few weeks. His secretary, one of the few characters in the play willing to back-sass Whiteside, falls in love with a local newspaper reporter, Bert Jefferson. He is played by Chad Drenth. Maggie Cutler is the secretary; she is played by Amanda Durkee.

Whiteside endeavors to break them up, fearful of losing his secretary to a small Ohio town.

He uses his literary connections to prolong his stay in Ohio after the local doctor (played by Regan

Doyle) discovers the original X-rays were wrong, the leg was not broken. Lorraine Sheldon (Haley Briggs), a big-city actress, is invited to the Ohio town by Whiteside. She makes the secretary's relationship with the reporter into a live triangle, much to the dismay of the secretary. But things get patched up between the secretary and the reporter after somebody named Banjo (Ryder Jones) shows up and Sheldon gets shipped off in a mummy case.

It is worth mentioning that early in the play, a professor by the name of Professor Metz (David Huffman) shows up with wild hair and a box full of cockroaches.

Based on Monday's dress rehearsal, the play does quite well in the hands of the Lowell High School performers, stage crew and techs. The actors bring plenty of energy to their lines and the play keeps its momentum. There is plenty of humor in the script, and they do a good job of bringing it out.

All in all, it looks like it should be another solid production from the LHS theater crew.

Showtime is 7:30 p.m. for the Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances. Admission is \$5 for students and seniors, and \$7 for the general public if tickets are purchased in advance. Admission is \$8 at the door.

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- Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)

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January 7, 14, 21, & 28
February 4, 11, 18
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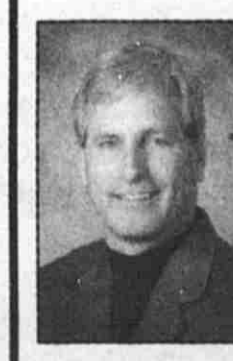
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Ordinance, continued ...From Page 4

without signage, may be placed around doors or windows and there is no limitation as to the number.

With the second proposed ordinance which covers the historic district, it does not allow an awning or canopy to exceed five feet from its starting point and there is no limit on

the number of canopies on a building as long as it's approved by the historic commission.

Mundt said he saw a number of awnings and canopies that would not fit the regulations of the proposed ordinance and would end up being grandfathered in. Also,

despite the fact that there is currently no ordinance regulating canopies and awnings, businesses have followed some guidelines, since those which are up are aesthetically pleasing and compliment the properties, he said.

If there needed to be an ordinance, Mundt said

he believed the seven-foot regulation was too limiting. He added that verbiage on the canopy being aesthetically pleasing, complimenting the surrounding properties, and not a safety hazard would be better.

Jahnke said such verbiage usually ends up being a judgment call on the

building inspector, which can lead to problems.

The planning commission set a public hearing on the ordinances at its Jan. 23 meeting. If approved, the ordinances would then head to the city council for final approval.

City manager David Pasquale said he planned to

have the historic commission look over the awning and canopy ordinance for the historic district and make a recommendation to the council. He hoped to be able to present both ordinances at the same time to the council for final approval.

Residents still have concerns about final details on Grindle Place

By J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

After a lengthy discussion over issues centered on a private street located off of Grindle, the Lowell City Council hopes it has finally put the issue to rest—but a couple of residents aren't certain they have.

Lowell resident John VanderWilt, who first raised the issue of the private street called Grindle Place which services 911, 925 and 951 Grindle, said he still believes the development is in violation since it has been split for a fourth home to be built.

"If you feel that way,

then you should contact the Kent County prosecutors office," said city attorney Richard Wendt. Wendt said he reviewed the state law regarding subdivisions, and the development does not fall under that until construction is started on the fourth parcel. For now, Wendt said it is his opinion that the property is not in violation of the state's subdivision requirements.

"I'm very disappointed with the whole matter," VanderWilt said. "I think the city needs to address it. We all know what happened and it's not right."

Several months ago, after VanderWilt pointed it out, it was determined Anderson Builders had

constructed the private drive which did not meet city ordinances. After review by city staff and Wendt, several waivers were drawn up to bring the drive up to city standards. Those waivers, which were approved at last week's city council meeting, included that Grindle Place be allowed to exceed the maximum 800-foot length and go up to 1,000 feet; that the first 424 feet of the private street would have a minimum 33-foot right-of-way versus 66 feet; that the paved portion not be 36 feet with curb and gutter but would have no less than 16 feet with one-foot gravel shoulder on each side of the pavement; and that the

valley gutter on each side of the paved portion of the street not be required.

After review from the city engineer, Williams & Works, it was determined that the private street could meet the 45-foot radius cul-de-sac; that requirement was left standing. Also the council is requiring that at least 950 feet from Grindle Drive to the east on the private street be paved in accordance with city requirements and specifications at a width of 16 feet and a thickness of three inches by Sept. 1, 2006.

Dave Austin, of Williams & Works, said his firm reviewed the waivers and recommended their

approval. He said access to the street should be limited to the homes currently on it and the developer should provide hydraulic calculations for the city's review and approval that support the sizing of all culverts shown on the as-built plan.

Water and where it is going was a big concern for resident James Berk, who lives at 911 Grindle, one of the homes serviced by the private drive. He said the water comes through his yard and goes behind the third house and that he could be back if something isn't done to improve the situation.

Councilman Al Mathews

said he sympathized with Berk on that issue. With all the development that has gone on in that area, no one seems to be willing to address the natural drainage that runs through the area.

Mathews said he still didn't understand how this development got to the point it was at and where the ball got dropped. City manager David Pasquale said when the third construction permit was pulled, the issue of the private drive becoming a private street at that point fell through the cracks. Pasquale said staff is working to make sure that doesn't happen again.

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