

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 34 Issue 15

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Park plans closer to going to the dogs

Dog park plans coming together, commission will consider naming rights policy for city parks

By Dan Schneider

Step by step and with help from interested people in the community, Lowell is getting closer to having a dog park.

"Whenever I see someone in Lowell walking a dog, it think that someday they could be walking to a dog park," said Lowell resident Jeff Eckstrom, who has spearheaded an effort to build such a park in Lowell.

After seeing dog parks in Manhattan on a trip to New York City, Eckstrom became interested in making one happen here. The city of Grand Rapids already has a successful dog park on its northeast side.

From late August to mid-September, Eckstrom conducted a survey of Lowell's licensed dog owners, veterinary customers, and people who shop at local dog food distributors. Of the 44 people who returned surveys (a total of 191 were sent out), 35 said they would use a city owned dog park. Some showed a higher level of interest, and now a committee of five people is helping put the foundations in place for creating the park.

The first element that has to enter the equation is the place for the park.

"As soon as we zero in on a specific location, we can talk about the plans and what we want to put there," Eckstrom said.

When Eckstrom met Saturday with the Lowell City Parks and Recreation Commission, two locations in the city rose to the top of the list. Eckstrom and another member of the committee plan to talk to residents near those locations Wednesday evening to get an idea of how the residents would feel about a dog park.

Though the parks commission has not made a formal recommendation in favor of the dog park, chairman Perry Beachum said the committee supports the idea.

"I think in concept, in general, the commission is in favor of it," Beachum said. "We're looking at what the impact is, what the cost is, all those sorts of things."

When more details are in place, the dog park committee plans to approach the city council with the idea.

Once a location is decided upon, the committee

can move ahead more in earnest with the work it is doing.

"We're currently putting together our budget and our marketing plan for financial support for the park," Eckstrom said.

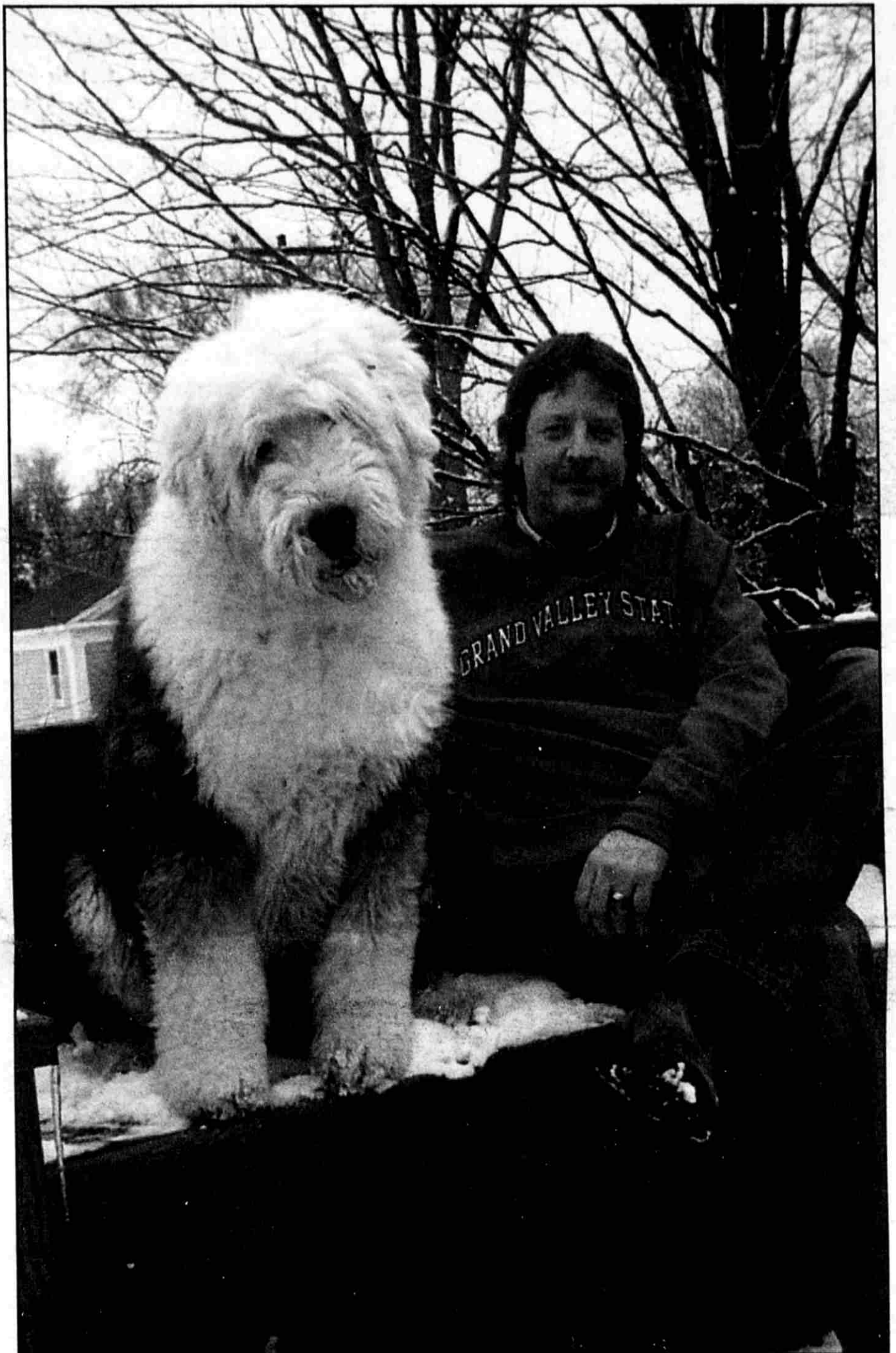
An account has already been set up through Lowell City Hall to make donations for the park with checks payable to "Lowell Dog Park Project."

Eckstrom also has talked to the commission about the possibility of a corporate sponsor for the park. Beachum said such sponsorships, and the naming rights associated with them, are something the parks commission should consider.

"As money gets tighter and tighter, and we don't see it getting much better, that would be a way to raise revenue to support the parks," Beachum said.

The commission has scheduled a work meeting for Feb. 25 to establish a policy for naming facilities in city parks.

For more information about the proposed dog park, contact Eckstrom at 897-6677.



Jeff Eckstrom's big dog, Chapin, is one of possibly several dogs in Lowell that would use a dog park if one were to be built.

Music therapy benefits from Harp Throbs

By Dan Schneider

This year's Harp Throbs fundraising event at the Franciscan Life Process Center will feature the jazz music of New Orleans ... played on harps.

Last year, the theme was Celtic music, which is closer to the realm of what most people consider to be harp music. But this year, Sister Mary Margaret, some of her past harp students, and a number of harpists from the West Michigan area will be playing songs like "My Heart Beats in Sixths," "Fly Me to the Moon," and two Scott Joplin rags. Some concertos are also on the program.

Sister Mary Margaret will be among the harpists playing jazz at the center's "Harp Throbs" concerts this weekend.

This is both a mardi gras celebration and a transition into the Lent season. After playing their harp jazz licks, the harpists will conclude with some prayerful songs for Lenten reflection.

Performances will be held Saturday, Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 19 at 3 p.m.

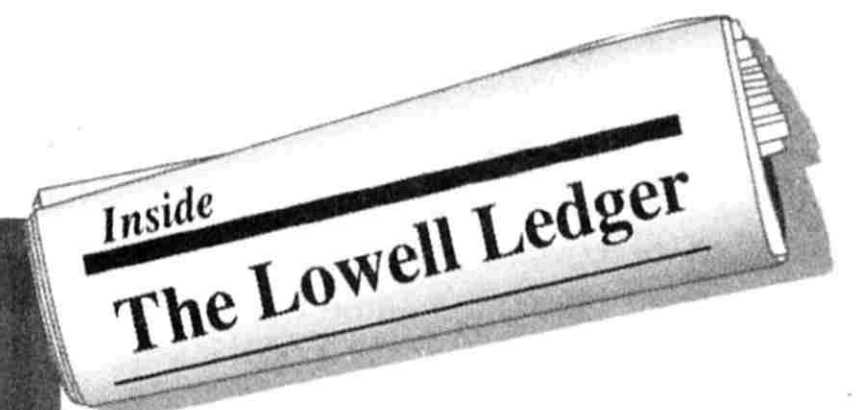
Tickets are still available. Prices are \$20 for an individual ticket, \$30 for a pair of tickets, and \$50 for a family ticket. Proceeds benefit the center's music therapy program.

Call 897-7482 for more information. The Franciscan Life Process Center is located at 11650

Downes Street in Vergennes Township.

The Center is also hosting a series of "Lenten lunches" every Wednesday from March 1 to March

29. A different pot of soup is served each Wednesday from noon to 1:30 p.m. with bread, dessert and a beverage for a freewill donation.



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Taxi!!!... Page 13

Local Businesses

Work Together ... Page 24

Obituaries

FOSTER
Eveard Charles Foster, aged 92, of Fennville, passed away Tuesday, February 7, 2006. He was born September 3, 1913 in Fennville to Edward and Margaret (Kluck) Foster. Mr. Foster was an army veteran of WWII. He owned and operated Foster's Market in Fennville for over 30 years. He was a member of the I.O.O.F., the American Legion, the Masonic Lodge, the Fennville Rod and Gun Club. He attended the Community Church in Douglas and also volunteered for the Salvation Army. Surviving are his wife Florence (Heinze) Foster; sons Raymond and Wenona Foster of Grand Rapids, Charles and Shelley Foster of Lowell, Robert and Helen Foster of L'Anse,

Richard and Susan Foster of Jackson; daughter Anita and Daniel Exline of Caledonia; 11 grandchildren; sisters Elaine Brooke of Grand Blanc, Marion St. John of Douglas; sister-in-law Marie Foster of Fennville. Funeral services were held Feb. 11 at the Chappell Funeral Home, Inc., Dr. Daniel N. Miller officiating. Interment in Fennville Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Fennville District Library.

HAFÉY
Opal May Hafey, age 70, of Lowell, MI, formerly of Howard City, Amble area, passed away Saturday, February 11, 2006 at Spectrum Health-Butterworth Campus in Grand Rapids, MI. Opal is

survived by three daughters and sons-in-law, Sherry and Tom Grimm of Lowell, Patricia and Bart Kjolhede of Laingsburg, MI, Karen Moon and Steven Wright of Orleans, MI, Paula Jo and Tom Olsen of Amble, David Hafey of Laingsburg, Robert K. and LeeAnn Hafey of Ada, Michael and Janet Hafey of Amble; eighteen grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Opal was preceded in death by her husband, Norman, parents, one grandson, Matthew Hafey, daughter-in-law, Susan Marie Hafey, three brothers, Pearly JR, Joseph, and Othar Grandstaff and sister, Hazel Pellin. Funeral services for Opal are today (Wednesday) at 11 a.m. at Brigham Funeral Chapel in Six Lakes, MI with Pastor David Gotshall officiating.

HARDY
George J. Hardy, aged 81, of Lowell, formerly of Ionia, passed away February 6, 2006. He was preceded in death by his twin brother

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
06-180,918 DE

Estate of HENRY PAUL TOCZYDLOWSKI
Date of birth
03/07/1924

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, HENRY PAUL TOCZYDLOWSKI, who lived at 508 Diamond NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, died 10/09/2005.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to PAUL HENRY TOCZYDLOWSKI, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Ave. N.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
February 3, 2006

Deno P. Fotieo
P28355
146 Monroe Center St.
NW
Suite 1100
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616-459-4279

Betty R. Morlock,
City Clerk
897-8457

Paul Henry
Toczydlowski
7155 Concolor Dr. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Robert, one other brother and sister. He is survived by his wife of 21 years, Barbara; children, Jeff (Pamela) Jantzen, Wanda Weber, Kim Hardy; two brothers-in-law and four sisters-in-law; grandchildren Morgan and Dillon Jantzen, Cherelle Weber, Casey (Kevin) Craig; several nieces and nephews. George was a member of Moose Lodge 980 in Ionia for over 25 years. He enjoyed bowling and golf. A memorial service was held Feb. 9 at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home. Lowell, Pastor Joe Fremmer of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church officiating. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Laurels of Kent, 350 N. Center St., Lowell, MI 49331.

Free blue spruce trees offered by Arbor Day Foundation

Ten free Colorado blue spruce trees will be given to each person from Michigan who joins The National Arbor Day Foundation during February 2006. The free trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

"Colorado blue spruces, with their silver blue-green color and attractive conical shape, will give year-round beauty to homes in MICHIGAN," said John Rosenow, Arbor Day Foundation president. "They can be used as individual ornaments, an energy-saving windbreak, a privacy screen, or as living Christmas trees. They'll also add to the proud heritage of MICHIGAN's 100 Tree City USA communities. For three decades, Tree City USA has supported community forestry across MICHIGAN, and planting these graceful trees will add

to this vital tree-planting tradition. The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting between March 1 and May 31 with enclosed planting instructions. The six to twelve inch trees are guaranteed to grow, or they will be replaced free of charge. Members also receive a subscription to the Foundation's colorful bimonthly publication, Arbor Day, and The Tree Book with information about tree planting and care.

The Lowell Ledger

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WRIGHT
Henry Wayne Wright, aged 79 of Lowell, died Friday, February 10, 2006. He was preceded in death by his wives, Ida Jean Wright and Violet Mae Wright. He is survived by his children, Grant and Janet Wright of Lowell, Bryan and Jackie Wright of Valdosta, GA, Denise and Bill Dupras of Marquette; step-daughter, Sandra and Eric Bothea of Brighton; daughter, Spring Wright of Grand Rapids; sister, Hortense and August Katsma of Grand Rapids; eight grandchildren, two step-grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Mr. Wright was an Elder at Community of Christ Church and retired after 42 years from Consumers Energy. Memorial services will be announced at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of one's choice.

Child identification day to be held Friday

By Dan Schneider
A child identification day will be held Friday, Feb. 17 at the Lowell branch of the River Valley Credit Union. Parents can bring their children there from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. to have their fingerprints taken. The parents keep the fingerprints, which can provide vitally important information to police in the event a child goes missing. "It's an 'in case of emergency, break glass' type of thing," said Lowell police detective Steve Bukala, who will be on hand that afternoon. "It's a tool that can help law enforcement or the media identify a kid if there were to be an Amber Alert or something." Alitcor in Ada is sponsoring the child identification drive. It is being held on Friday because Lowell Area Schools is not in session that day. The fingerprinting is free and refreshments will be served. It is the first time the

Treadmill challenge to benefit Strong Kids Campaign
Treadmills will be rolling for 24 hours straight Friday and Saturday at the Lowell YMCA. Saturday, five teams will be continuously running and/or walking on treadmills at the YMCA fitness center. The team members have been collecting pledges based on mileage or flat amounts. Money raised will benefit the Lowell YMCA's scholarship for underprivileged children and families. Last year's event raised about \$2,000 after team members walked and ran a collective 481 miles. There are still places available on teams for walkers and runners. Snacks, water and sports drinks will be provided. People can also help out by pledging runners or stopping in to support the participants. Call 897-8445 for more information about participating or pledging a tax-deductible donation.

Secretary of State offices will be closed Feb. 20

The Department of State mails notices to motorists 45 days before their driver's licenses or license plates expire to give them ample time to renew. Licenses and plates that expire on a day when state offices are closed, such as a holiday or weekend, can be renewed the following day without penalty. The Department of State mails notices to motorists 45 days before their driver's licenses or license plates expire to give them ample time to renew. Licenses and plates that expire on a day when state offices are closed, such as a holiday or weekend, can be renewed the following day without penalty.

Lowell Police search home for narcotics

The Lowell Police Department executed a search warrant for controlled substances last Friday, at a residence on North Monroe Street. The department began an investigation of the residence after receiving complaints of suspected drug activity. The investigation culminated in the issuance of a search warrant for the residence. Officers seized a small amount of narcotics and drug paraphernalia from the residence and also from persons present during the execution of the search warrant. Four males ages 17 to 26 were cited for use of marijuana, and given a court arraignment date of February 22. A 16 year old male will be petitioned into Prosecutor's Office for a review of criminal charges against the residents. The Prosecutor's Office could authorize additional felony or misdemeanor charges against the residents.

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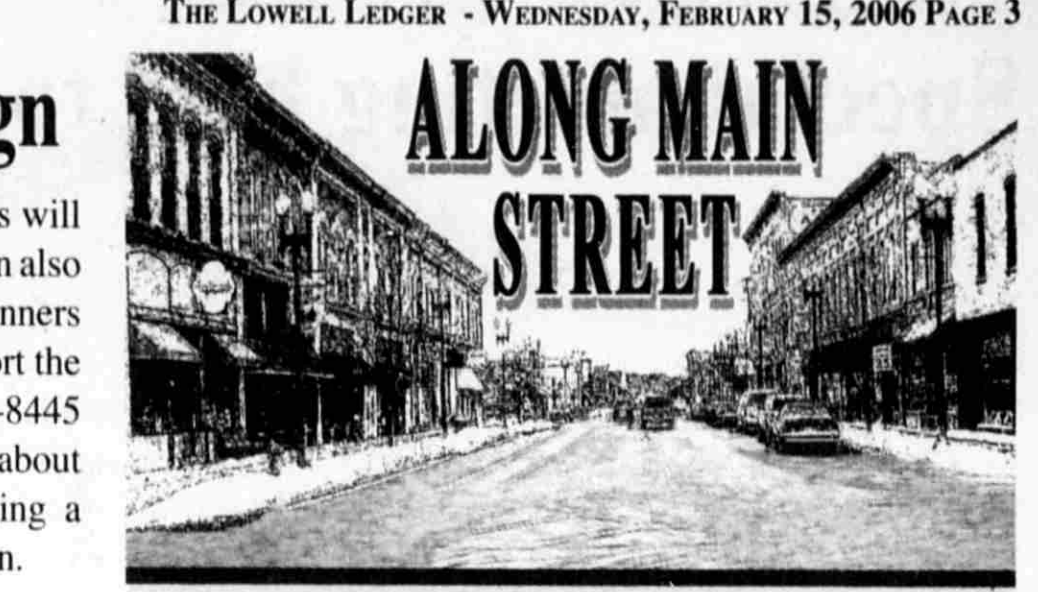
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DONATIONS ARE NEEDED
The F.R.O.M. Food Pantry is in need of boxed potatoes, baked beans, boxed cereal, soda crackers, canned fruit and spaghetti.

LHS VARIETY SHOW
Help support the Anna Organek Fund and attend the LHS variety show, Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. \$4 pre-sale/\$5 at the door. Half of proceeds go to Anna's fund. See Robin Briggs/Laurie Summerfield or purchase during lunch in main cafeteria.

BLUEGRASS JAMMING
West Mich. Bluegrass Music Assoc. jamming will be at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 18 at the Riverview in the banquet room. Public is invited.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING AT MUSEUM
The Lowell Area Historical Museum will be conducting its next Volunteer Training on Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. at the museum (Hudson and Main streets). Volunteers, from museum greeters and tour guides to processing donations, clerical support and special events, are needed. Call Judy Straub at 897-7688 if you are interested.

KENT DISTRICT LIBRARY
The 18 branches and service center of the Kent District Library will be closed Monday, Feb. 20 for an in-service training day.

COMMODITIES DISTRIBUTED
Free food (USDA) surplus food will be distributed March 2 at Lowell Moose Recreation Bldg., 1320 E. Main from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. To register you must have proof of income for household members, Social Sec. numbers and verification of address.

LOWELL REUNION IN LAKELAND, FLORIDA
The annual dinner/reunion for folks from Lowell and surrounding areas will be on Sunday, March 5, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. at Huntington Hills Country Club. Please call Carmen Roudabush at 863-683-9071 for further information. We hope to see you there!

REGIONAL ART COMPETITION
The 20th Annual West Michigan Regional (art) Competition at the Lowell Area Arts Council runs from February 19 - March 25, 2006 with an opening reception on Sunday, February 19 from 1:30 - 3:30 pm. The Lowell Area Arts Council is located at 149 S. Hudson, Lowell, Michigan. For more information on this exhibition contact the Lowell Area Arts Council 616-897-8545 / website: www.lowellartscouncil.org

LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

The public is invited to attend any or all of the Superintendent 1st Round interviews:

Monday, February 20, 2006
6:00 P.M. - 1st interview*
8:00 P.M. - 2nd interview*

Tuesday, February 21, 2006
6:00 P.M. - 1st interview*
8:00 P.M. - 2nd interview*

Wednesday, February 22, 2006
6:00 P.M. - 1st interview*
8:00 P.M. - 2nd interview*

*Please check the Lowell Area Schools website at www.lowellschools.com for names to be interviewed.
Runciman Board of Education Office - Board Room
300 High St., Lowell
(These interviews will be broadcast on Channel 20 on Feb. 21, 22 and 23 at 6:00 p.m.)

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF LOWELL

A Public Hearing for the proposed purchase by the Board of Light and Power of a 6.78 acre industrial property at 625 Chatham Street will be held at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Lowell City Council on Tuesday, February 21 at 7:30 P.M. at the Lowell City Hall, 301 E. Main St. Lowell.

The Board of Light and Power has recommended the Council's approval for the purchase of the property and the existing building for the utility's use for the storage of poles, transformers, vehicles and utility materials. If approved, the utility will relocate all of its existing warehousing and storage from its current facilities at 900 N. Washington St.

The Board has determined that either relocation or significant improvements to the Washington Street Storage site are required to meet the utility's needs and new environmental regulations.

Copies of the resolution approving and authorizing the execution of a purchase agreement are available at the Lowell City Hall Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Additional information regarding the proposed purchase is available at the offices of Lowell Light and Power, 127 N. Broadway, during the same hours.

Public comment from all interested persons will be heard at the meeting. Written comments may be submitted to City Hall prior to the public hearing.

Dated: February 8, 2006

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FINAL DESTINATION 3 (R)
1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS (PG-13) 1:05, 3:05, 5:05, 7:05, 9:05
ANNAPOLIS (PG-13)
3:25, 5:35, 9:50
BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 (PG-13)
1:20, 7:45

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Special meeting held to review candidates for superintendent

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell Area Schools board of education held a special meeting Saturday to review applications for district superintendent.

They selected six candidates to interview. The deadline for applications for the position was Feb. 3. By that date, 25 candidates had submitted applications. The district posted the position Dec. 14.

The six candidates the board selected are Christine Beardsley, currently superintendent of Oscoda Area Schools; Keith P. Konarska, currently serving as interim superintendent of Grand Haven Area Public Schools; Big Rapids Public Schools superintendent Thomas Langdon; Gregory Pratt, Kent City Community Schools' current superintendent; David L. Sipka, currently an assistant superintendent and elementary principal at Coopersville Area Public Schools; and Roger A. Thelen, superintendent of Central Montcalm Public Schools in Stanton, Mich.

Board members feel they have a good crop of candidates to pick from.

"Each of them has a very strong educational leadership background, staff building and relationship background ... everything

These meetings are open to the public and members of the community will have the opportunity to submit interview questions through the interview facilitator. All interviews will be broadcast the next day on Lowell Cable Channel 20.

Thursday, Feb. 23, the board will meet to decide which candidates should be called back for a second interview. Second interviews are scheduled for March 1 and 2. Community visitations are scheduled for March 6-10. The finalist will be selected and appointed March 13.

The new superintendent's starting date is negotiable, with July 1 being the latest date.

Additional biographical information on the six candidates is available on the Lowell Area Schools web site, www.lowellschools.com.

Sharing The Vision

With Connie Gillette
Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Personnel

On May 2, 2006, voters in the Lowell Area School District will vote on a restoration of the 18-mill non-homestead property tax levy. This levy applies only to industrial, commercial, business, rental and second homes

and does not affect the millage rate (6 mills) on owner-occupied primary residences. Voters approved the initial 18-mill levy in 1996 and a renewal in 2000. The renewal in 2000 was for five years and expires in June, 2006.

In the last three of the past five years, the millage amount and the dollars it generates has been reduced because of a roll-back provision in the Headlee Amendment to the Michigan Constitution. As a result, the district's current non-homestead millage is 16.9751 mills instead of the originally approved 18 mills. This reduces the amount of local tax support the district receives from non-homestead

property owners and prevents us from receiving the full per-pupil funding from the State of Michigan. Restoration to the full 18 mills will raise an estimated \$178,000 for district operating funds in the first year. Because the accumulated reduction over the past three years exceeds a half mill, the law requires that two ballot proposals be presented: 1) to renew the current 16.9751 mills and 2) to restore the 1.0249 lost through rollbacks.

The 18-mill levy raises over \$3 million each year and represents approximately 10 percent of the district's total operating budget. This also represents funding for over 450 students at the current per-pupil rate for State funding.

Please remember that due to election law changes, there are no longer school district precincts as there have been in the past. Voting will take place at your city or township precincts, and you may obtain absentee ballots from your city or township clerks. For those citizens who are not currently registered to vote, the deadline to register to vote at the May 2 election is April 3, 2006. You may register at your city or township offices or at the Secretary of State's office. The application to register to vote can also be obtained online at the following address: www.michigan.gov/sos.

More detailed information will be provided on our website, along with answers to most frequently asked questions. For specific information and a personal contact, please call Connie Gillette, assistant superintendent for finance and personnel, at 987-2500 or e-mail at cgillette@lowellschools.com.

Your comments about this matter or any issue would be greatly appreciated. Send to Interim Superintendent Pat Murphy, Lowell Area Schools, 300 High St., Lowell, MI 49331 or pmurphy@lowellschools.com (check out our Web page at www.lowellschools.com or make comments to the Board of Education at boardofed@lowellschools.com)

At the beginning of the meeting, director of special education Jonathan Schelke gave a presentation about the direction the program is headed in Lowell schools. There are 469 students in Lowell's special education

School board,
cont'd., pg. 8

School board hears about memorial project, energy efficiency, Wittenbach Wege Center plan

By Dan Schneider

At Monday's meeting, the Lowell Area Schools board of education heard about an ambitious and important project being undertaken by this year's senior class.

Class president

Nikita Miles gave a brief presentation about a memorial to be built for the too many Lowell High School students who have died at a young age. It will be a two-tiered observation deck at the southeast end of the school building; a reflective space overlooking

forest, hillside and Red Arrow Stadium. It will include a stone monument.

"This monument will sit right next to the walkway where the seniors will take their final walk (at graduation)," Miles said.

The monument will not list names, but will stand for all LHS students who died before their time.

High School principal Scott Vashaw said some community members have already pledged financial support for the project.

"Our goal is for this to be a no-cost project to the district," Vashaw said.

The seniors' goal is to break ground by April and have the memorial completed in time for graduation.

Board members and administrators were quick to express their support.

"I don't think any

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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.

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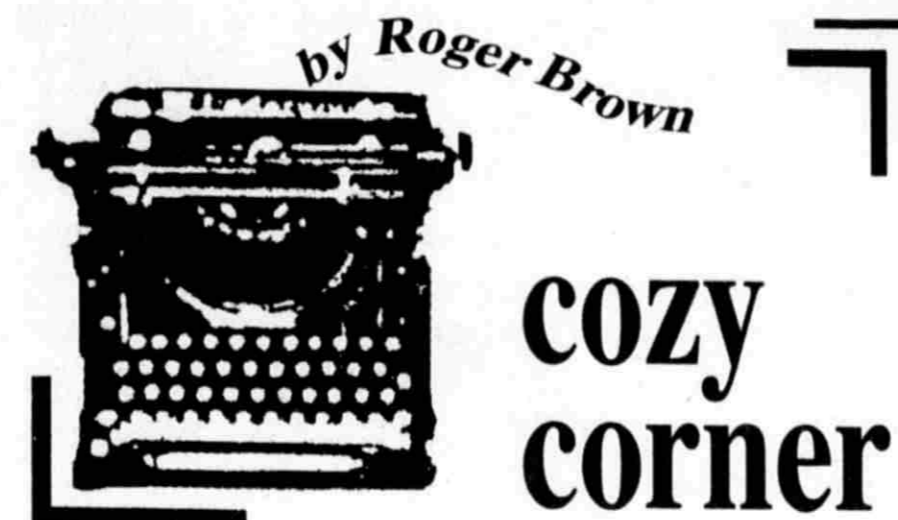
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Please support the willingness and need of Light and Power to move from its N. Washington location to a place more suitable for service, expansion, economics and security. Allow the end of N. Washington to fulfill the inherent potential there that citizens deserve.

Please attend the City Council public hearing meeting on February 21 at 7:30 p.m.

PAID FOR BY GARY DIETZEL

Viewpoint



That's it!!! That's all I can stand!!! I'm packing up and moving. I'm going back to my homeland... my roots!!!

That kind of talk has been a running gag with me and mostly my wife. My kids are in on it, but we aren't together much anymore. Maybe they got tired of my rants.

My "back to my roots" rant has been around for a long time. It may date back to the non-stop coverage of the O.J. trial, which no American could escape short of going into a coma. Somewhere along the line I threw out the idea of leaving the country. When asked where I'd go, I responded with a sleepy little European country that doesn't get much press. We'll get into what country and why I chose that one in a minute.

For some reason, the idea of me bolting from the U.S. strikes me as funny, so I've kept up the running joke. I was born, raised and educated here. I've run a business, raised my family and own property. I'm a veteran, pay taxes and speeding fines. I figure all that gives me the right to complain a little about the way things are going and threaten to leave if it doesn't get any better. That's "better" in my judgment.

My dad traced the Brown name back to colonial days. His maternal great-great grandfather died serving with the Union Army in the Civil War. When my dad was a kid he asked Grandpa Haney what nationality he was. Gramps responded with a stern, "You're a @#% & \$%#@ Yankee, and don't you ever forget it!" So much for any ties to the "old country" on that side of the family.

On my mom's side my grandpa Reynolds was a few less generations removed from Europe. His lineage was English on his mother's side and Irish on his father's, but the lines were diluted in both cases. There is just enough Irish there for me to wear a little green on St. Paddy's Day.

Ah, but my maternal grandmother is different. Her parents were both born here of immigrants from the country I refer to in my gag/threat. My grandma spoke the language with her relatives and swore at us kids when we were bad in this native tongue. In my grandmother I have a shred of a connection to the "old country". The shred may be 150 years old, but it's all I've got, and it's the sleepy little country I keep threatening to retreat to.

For years my wife has had to endure my rants. For

instance, an ordinarily attractive young woman may be our waitress at a nice American restaurant like "Fridays". I look up from my menu to see that she is slathered in tattoos, pierced everywhere imaginable and can barely speak because of a tongue stud. After the waitress has left with our order I'll say, "That's it, I'm moving to Yada, Yada, Yada".

The evening news is almost always good for one of my rants. It can be a runaway bride, Scott Peterson, Michael Jackson, and Kobe Bryant whatever the media's "beat-it-to-death" story of the month is. After being thoroughly sickened by the endless details I give out my, "I've had it! That's all I can take! I'm heading for my homeland!" Of course my wife is the only person within earshot, and she has long since tuned me out. One dog still gets upset, but the other one is now deaf. These outbursts do make me feel better.

Just the sight of certain people on TV can incite my rant. Donald Trump, Terrell Owens, Hillary Clinton, most Hollywood types, all rappers and anyone connected with any kind of "reality TV." Yup, that means I'm pretty much relegated to the History Channel.

Other things can bring on my tirade. A property tax bill can do it. A traffic jam can put me over the edge. Smokers, cell phones, aggressive drivers and rude people in general will induce my threat to leave the country. I'm happiest when off by myself or with friends or family. My reclusive habits are why my daughter calls me Ted. She thinks I've taken on the traits Ted Kaczynski (the Uni-Bomber) and his hermit lifestyle in Montana.

It's time to let the cat out of the bag. The sleepy little country is Denmark. I don't know much about the country other than they have great blue cheese, wonderful pastry, pretty girls and still support a king and queen. Yes, I'm aware that they probably have high taxes, bad TV, obnoxious public figures, traffic problems and rude citizens. But, anyone can have a dream, and mine was a reclusive life in a sleepy little Danish village.

All that is gone now. Ever since a Danish newspaper cartoonist had the audacity to whip out a couple drawings critical of Muhammad. A Muslim would never draw a cartoon critical of a Christian or Jew. Bombs yes, cartoons, no.

The Danes must think they've suddenly become an American state. Muslims are burning their flag, chanting death slogans about them and boycotting their products. The Danish government is closing embassies all over the world and is taking a pretty good beating in the press.

Denmark might as well be New Jersey or Alabama or Michigan or Arizona or anywhere here in the U.S.A. There goes my dream. Guess I'll have to come up with a new rant to counter the likes of Ted Kennedy, Britney Spears, Brad and Angelina and just plain rude people everywhere.

saves the money of paying another teacher. Helping the class is actually fun, and for those parents that work full time, I am sure you could find another parent willing to work something out with you.

And as for the quality, nothing lacking there! Miss Rhonda is so good with those children, she believes they are sponges ... and she is right! My son has learned so much, working with the alphabet (learning zoophones which will tie into kindergarten), learning about exercise and the food pyramid, numbers and counting (he counts a lot higher than my two girls did at this age), practicing good manners (Miss Rhonda never overlooks an opportunity to praise the children for using good manners.) and learning the Character Counts program (which also ties into kindergarten and beyond).

Another thing I really like is that the children each have jobs every day. From meteorologist (telling the weather and the date, including month/day/year and counting the days with the class and stopping on the correct one) to electrician (turning on and off the lights in the gym and classroom to save energy), the children learn a sense of responsibility and belonging.

I am so glad that we ended up at the Curiosity Corner preschool. They have definitely exceeded our expectations!

Michele DeHaan

To the Editor,

The controversy about the brightly-lit flag at the new gas station by the highway is not about patriotism. I love

To The Editor, cont'd., pg. 10

Ledger Entries

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

By Priscilla Lussmyer



125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL
FEBRUARY 16, 1881

Ionia has 45 attorneys, with more in training. It is said that post cards have reduced the sale of writing paper by \$12 million annually in the U.S.

Prof. Ransom will organize a singing school at Train's Hall Thursday evening.

Greenbacks and Republicans hold their county conventions this week.

Railroad tickets to Gen. Garfield's Inaugural in March cost \$22 for the round trip to Washington D.C.

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER
FEBRUARY 15, 1906

M.A. Hewitt and Charles Morse, brothers-in-law and good friends, die 1 1/2 hours apart.

The merger of Detroit Edison, Detroit Central Heating and eight area city power companies, plus construction of a dam on the Huron River, will allow electric power transmission between the eight cities.

Illinois mine owners refuse to raise miner wages; a walkout is certain, non-union labor unobtainable, so stock up now if you want heat.

Cutting and storing ice blocks is the main activity at dams and lakes; quality is good.

75 YEARS
THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO
FEBRUARY 12, 1931

A caucus will be held at City Hall next Monday evening to nominate and elect village officers. A large attendance is predicted.

Truck looters board moving trucks and throw off packages which are picked up by accomplices following in a car. A looter was recently killed trying to board a truck from a running board.

Half of all the 2,281 forest fires in Michigan last summer were started by smokers tossing butts.

Building the new Butterworth Road at Johnson Park, and snow removal in villages, is to be farmed out to unemployed workers.

The union welfare center in Lowell is running out of food and clothing supplies, as the Depression deepens.

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER
FEBRUARY 16, 1956

The Lowell Ground Observer Corps has been operating its post on the 4H Fairgrounds for four years.

Heavy snowfall Saturday kept the street department very busy, but there was only one minor accident in spite of slippery streets.

Lylia Johnson, Jack Tornga, Howard Clack, Louis Kingsley and Harold Myers D.O. are running for the three village council seats open.

King Milling hosts 16 visiting MSU students taking the Elevator Short Course, at the Levee Restaurant.

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER
FEBRUARY 11, 1981

As the Ledger goes to press, school has been canceled for perhaps the biggest snow of the season.

Lowell schools conduct a telephone survey about priorities in view of drastic state aid cuts.

Old photos of Lowell scenes are requested for the History of Lowell, 1931-1981 book to be published for the Sesquicentennial.

Reflections of faith

Pastor Joe Fremer
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

One year when I was pretty young, it was a leap year. "What's that?" I wanted to know, because I heard people talking about it. "It's terrible!" one male classmate of mine wailed. Another one pshawed that notion, and went on to tell me what it really is. I turned back to the first kid. "Why's it terrible?" "Because," he said, with his eyes wide, "on Leap Year the girls chase you, and if you get caught, you have to let them give you a kiss!" "Ewwwww" we all said in unison, and the fear of catching "cooties" became a strong social factor for the next week. It was like double jeopardy--we had just escaped Valentine's Day, and now this?

I managed to get through February 29th cootie-free that year, even though my mom wouldn't let me bring my pet garter snake to school to protect me.

I didn't learn until I was an adult that St. Valentine was a third-century Christian martyr who died for his faith. There are worse things, obviously, than being caught and forced to submit to a peck on the cheek! Love and sacrifice ought to go together. That's why I never marry a couple unless I have enough time to meet with them several times for premarital counseling, where I drive that point home repeatedly.

Jesus is the highest expression of that love, because He was bringing His Father's love to earth, but He didn't bring candy or flowers. He didn't write a mushy poem. He let Himself be caught--and nailed to a cross. He was innocent, but submitted to execution in our place.

That's real love, and that's the engine that can drive a joyous courtship, and sustain a successful marriage. Since He became alive again, and offers His help from above, we can abandon the pathetic, stressful and ultimately self-defeating search for "someone to love me." Stop running. Let Love Himself catch you.

Stroke screening available in March

Life Line Screening will be at the Christian Life Center, 3050 Alden Nash Ave. SE, on Wednesday, March 15 for Lowell area residents. The screening is a preventative for strokes.

A stroke, also known as a "brain attack," is ranked as the third leading killer in the world, and the second

among women. Through preventive screenings, the risk of having a stroke can be greatly reduced.

Screenings are fast, painless and low cost. They involve the use of ultrasound technology, and scan for potential health problems related to blocked arteries which can lead to a stroke,

aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta, and hardening of the arteries in the legs, which are a strong predictor of heart disease. A bone density screening to assess risk for osteoporosis is also offered.

Each screening requires 10 minutes or less. A

complete vascular screening package is \$109; with the osteoporosis screening it is \$129.

For more information regarding the screenings or to schedule an appointment call 1-877-237-1287. Pre-registration is required.

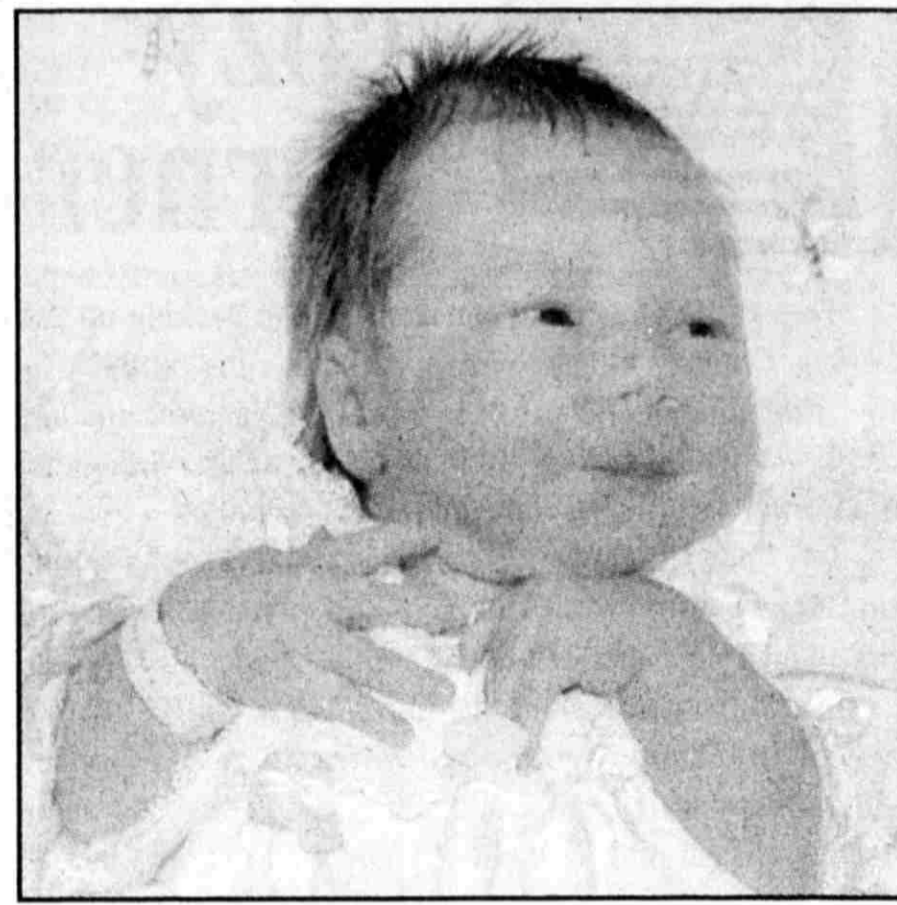
New Arrivals

Carney

Kelli Carney of Lowell is happy to announce the birth of her daughter, Katelynn Aileen Carney. She was born January 30, 2006 at 6:15 p.m. She weighed 6

lbs. 13 ozs. and measured 18 1/2 inches long.

Also welcoming her home are her proud grandparents Ron and Jan Carney of Lowell.



Katelynn Aileen Carney

Happy Birthday

FEBRUARY 16

George Blocher, Matthew Schuitema, Tracey Main.

FEBRUARY 17

Chris Hodges, Justin Stanford, Stephanie Ellison, Reatha Johnson, Lynda Horsley, Deb Tulecki.

FEBRUARY 18

Richard Claypool, Courtney Phillips.

FEBRUARY 1

Jerrica Foss, Bruce Baird, Betty Newhouse.

FEBRUARY 20

Mike Rivers, Gary Kemp, Barbara Carpenter, Sara Soyka.

FEBRUARY 21

Betsy Vezino, Ashton VanDerWarf, Kimberly Sterzick, Robin Martin.

FEBRUARY 22

Kevin Gerard, Lloyd Powell, Rob Tulecki, Julie Shaffer, Jessy Dale Abel, Krista Foster.

College News

Central Michigan University's fall semester honors list includes the following Lowell area students: Kristen J. Alters, Courtney J. Baker, Andrew C. Benedict, Karl D. Bouwhuis, Matthew D. Brown, Abigail E. Conklin, Jeremy K. Goff, Michael

J. Scott and Lyndsey A. Trierweiler.

From the Alto area is Jessi J. Olczak.

To be recognized on this list, a student must earn a 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) or higher grade point average. The fall semester ended December 2005.

"Winter Olympics" at St. Patrick School

St. Patrick School students recently finished a week long class competition in their first ever St. Patrick School Winter Olympics.

These class competitions were part of their annual Catholic Schools Week festivities. The students celebrated this year's theme of "Character, Compassion, Values" in daily school assembly lessons and applied these qualities in a fun and exciting way, during the week of Winter Olympic school events.

From Jan. 30 to Feb. 3, classes competed against one another within age appropriate categories. The Olympics included physical

events of skill, endurance and derring-do, such as class relays involving speed skating, the teddy bear luge, and floor hockey pass and shoot.

The week started with an opening ceremony in the gym, and ended with a closing medal awards ceremony on Friday. Fifteen different events throughout the week contributed to the cumulative point totals for each class. On Friday, the overall placements among classes were so close, that the awarding of gold, silver and bronze medals was determined by one point or less for seven of the nine total classes.



The second grade hoists their American flags after receiving gold medals during Friday's medal closing awards ceremony. First row: Isabella Szebelledy, Matthew DeBrueler, Ondine Eardley and Sarena Wilterdink; middle row: Rachael Fotis, Bridget Lally and Cassandra Herrington and back row: Emma Heffron, Elizabeth Pniewski, Miss Kathleen Schoenborn, Natalie Charron, Sophi Paganelli, Mason Misiak, (Missing - Kristina Samson).

College News



Abby M. Vos

Abby M. Vos has accepted membership in Golden Key International Honour Society at the University of South Florida. She is majoring in psychology and studying criminology/ forensic science. Vos is a 2003 graduate of Lowell High School.

Western Michigan University has announced its dean's list for fall semester 2005.

From Lowell is Alyssa B. Coffey in the College of Arts and Sciences. She is the daughter of Bob and Tammy Coffey.

A total of 278 students have been named to the Olivet College 2005 fall semester dean's list.

From Lowell is Craig Carpenter, who earned a 4.0 grade point average for the semester. He is the son of Scott and Barbara Carpenter.

Lauren Vashaw, a junior guard on the women's basketball team at Denison University in Granville, Ohio, has played in all 20 games for the Big Red this

season. She is currently tied for first on the team in assists with 47 on the year and has 16 steals. Vashaw, a 2003 Lowell High School graduate, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Scott Vashaw.

Central Michigan University has announced its dean's list for the fall 2005 semester. Included on that list is Michael Scott of Lowell.

Northern Michigan University announces the dean's list for the fall 2005 semester.

From the Ada area, Cole T. Schmidt qualified with a grade point average of 3.25 to 3.99.

From the Alto area Meghan E. Silverman.

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School board, continued ...From Page 4

programs this year; 46 of the major changes special district for programming education is undergoing is not offered here.

Schelke said among the major changes special education is undergoing is a new focus on progress in the general curriculum, rather than evaluation on a more individual basis.

He said though the district makes good use of its reimbursement from county, state, federal and other sources, the program still uses a little more than \$1.1 million from the district's general budget.

He counted a positive staff working relationship, long-term programs, access to programs in other districts (Grand Rapids, Northview) and a supportive administration among the strengths of the Lowell special education program.

Wittenbach-Wege Agriscience and Environmental Center director Steve Mueller gave a presentation about the center's vision for the coming weeks, months and years.

Among them are to integrate science with other school subjects such

as social studies and English. The center plans to increase contact time with students, even doubling it, in order to integrate the inquiry-based Battle Creek Science Kit program now used in the Lowell Area Schools.

The Center also hopes to attract students from other school districts.

"We are working on a countywide basis to bring other school districts in," Mueller said. "Hopefully, by the end of this month we will be ready to go to press with a brochure."

The center also hopes to become more accessible for general community use.

Attracting students from outside districts is one means by which the center hopes to meet its financial goal of becoming more self-sustaining.

Lowell Area Schools energy manager Jim White gave an update on savings to the district from installing more energy efficient heating and electrical components, and from educating staff in energy conservation practices.

In the two years the district has participated in a program through Energy Education, Inc., it has saved \$831,444 on energy costs.

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Driver smashes car into utility pole on Bowes Road

By Dan Schneider

A drunk driver crashed a '93 Chevy Lumina into a utility pole on Bowes Road Saturday morning, breaking the pole in two and closing the road to traffic for more than an hour.

The incident occurred shortly after 8 a.m. The driver, a 20-year old male from Sheridan in Montcalm County, and 19-year old male passenger from Saranac were driving eastbound on Bowes Road after turning onto Bowes from Main Street. The driver

lost control on the last of the series of turns, slid off the road, and crashed into one of the utility poles on the south side of the street.

"They were going too fast for conditions because the road was a little bit slippery," said Lowell police chief Jim Valentine, who assisted at the scene.

The impact caused the car to spin 180 degrees and turn onto its side. The upper portion of the utility pole hung in the air, suspended by the utility poles.

It was a one car accident with no injuries. Both the

driver and passenger left the scene and made it up to Main Street on foot, where Sgt. James Hinton picked them up. Hinton was able to identify them based on a description from a resident near the crash scene.

The driver was arrested for driving while intoxicated and careless driving and was lodged at Kent County Jail. He had a blood-alcohol content of .14. The legal limit in Michigan is .08.

The passenger was cited for minor consuming alcohol and is scheduled for a Feb. 22 arraignment.

No transmission lines came down, but a service feed to a house was hanging low after the crash. No power outage occurred.

"Just a blink, basically," Lowell Light and Power operations manager Jeff Mullins said.

A Lowell Light and Power crew secured the lines Saturday, but has not yet replaced the pole.

"It happened to be in a short span, so it can hold the weight for a little while but not indefinitely," Mullins said.



This is what was left of a utility pole on Bowes Road after a car crashed into it Saturday morning.

The ideals which have lighted my way, and time after time have given me new courage to face life cheerfully, have been Kindness, Beauty, and Truth. The trite subjects of human efforts, possessions, outward success, luxury have always seemed to me contemptible.

- Albert Einstein (1879 - 1955)

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BUSINESSES SERVICES

BUSINESSES SERVICES

To The Editor, continued ...From Page 5

our flag, and appreciate seeing it fly. However, anyone who thinks that flag is there solely out of patriotism is missing what I think may be more to the point: the owners' desire to attract business from the cars and trucks passing on the highway.

It seems understandable that the new gas station owners would want to create an impression, but so far the insistence on lighting that flag in a way that destroys the night skies for miles around is not the sort of impression they should want to make. That lighting is a real nuisance. I first noticed the problem when I was driving north on Alden Nash from 52nd Street at night. It was so bright that I thought a plane was about to crash just north of the highway. The spotlight on the flag was literally blinding, even from about 3/4 mile away.

I'm told the flag's owner is applying to Lowell Township for a variance. I encourage anyone who can to register their opposition to this idea at the ZBA hearing on February 22, Lowell Township Hall, 7:00 PM. Please support the concept of protecting our area's night skies from such light pollution, and help encourage the new business to turn out the light. I'll be happy to buy gas there once they do the right thing.

Kate Democour

Taste of Home Magazine is launching a new party plan company in Spring 2006.

Enrollment is limited to 3,000 founding consultants nationally. Get in at the top as a charter consultant!

Want more details?
Call 616.897.4053 or contact me at kenda.haines@sbcglobal.net

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

NOTICE BOARD OF REVIEW

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

MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2006

between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 noon and from 6 p.m. and 9 p.m., and also on

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2006

between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 noon and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the tax roll and hearing all claims.

You may appeal an assessed valuation one of two ways:

1. To appear at the Board of Review, call 897-5671 on Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to schedule an appointment to appear in person.

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

*Letters must be received by March 6, 2006
Mari Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk

Dear Editor,

A recap of the proposal to relocate the LL&P storage facility was presented in last week's Ledger.

If you enjoy walking N. Washington Street up to the Boy Scout cabin, are involved with the scouts using the area on a regular basis or enjoy the other recreational opportunities in the area you've seen this facility. If you don't use this area please take the short drive to the end of N. Washington St. you'll see how out-of-place this facility is with the natural quiet and beauty of the area.

This is only the beginning. If the facility is forced to remain where it is any future move would be extremely costly and thus highly unlikely. Making this move now is vital. Due to EPA requirements, security issues, and needs for expansion we would soon see a much greater impact to the surrounding natural environment. This site would likely become their permanent location with devastating future results to the area.

If this move is allowed to take place there would be very little if any additional impact to the new location because of the existing buildings and security that is already in place.

If you would like to see this change take place, please support this move to the more appropriate industrial area of town where the facility will be secure and out of sight indoors. The public hearing to be held on Feb. 21 at 7:30 will give us the chance to encourage this move and possibly open the way for preservation and more enjoyable appropriate recreational uses of this area in the future.

Peggy Covert

Dear Editor,

I've just returned to my office from the Murray Lake 1st, 2nd, & 3rd grade concert "Sing Out for Patriotism." What a great concert!! Murray Lake and Lowell Area School is very fortunate to have Jacqui Dimmick as our music teacher.

Jean Hoffman

Dear Editor,

It was my privilege to attend a patriotic concert at the Murray Lake Elementary school on February 10. What a thrill to hear the 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade classes sing and recite material that a lot of adults cannot do.

Hats off to the music director, Mrs. Dimmick and to

the 9 teachers who put in hours of preparation. A rendition of Sousa's "The Stars and Stripes Forever," was performed by all grades...instead of singing they all had red, white and blue streamers that they waved in cadence with the song... now that took a lot of practice, I'm sure. It was moving to hear the children singing America, God Bless America, The Battle Hymn of the Republic, just to name a few and end with Cohen's "You're a Grand Old Flag." There was a special tribute to our men in the service...their names on hearts displayed on either side of the flag.

It was great to see so much family support for these kids. I sat next to a grandparent who drove from Howard City; my daughter drove from Detroit that morning to attend and I'm sure there were many others that put forth an effort to be there. My great-granddaughter is in Mrs. Sterly's second grade and she had 3 generations represented. It was evident that there was a lot of parental support, they gym was full.

Perhaps this generation, when they are great-grandparents, will also remember the songs they learned in elementary school.

Proud to be an American and praise to Hayden Hoffman who never missed a beat on the drum while the 2nd grade classes sang "We Love the U.S.A." Great job!

Glad Fletcher

Dear Editor,

This was intended for "Sound Off" but it was too lengthy.

Does anyone else feel the need for some arrow signs on the curve on Bowes Road, by the pond, just south of M-21? When the weather conditions are bad, such as dark rainy nights or blowing snow, it is extremely difficult to see the edge of the road, which brings another matter to mind. Between Valley Vista St. and west to M-21, the center stripe and yellow stripes need repainting, you can barely see them.

I believe the arrow signs can be obtained from K.C.R.C. for under \$20 per sign. Just wondering if the city of Lowell could stretch the budget to include about 4 or 5 of these signs. Could prevent someone going into the pond...think about it!

Glad Fletcher

CITY OF LOWELL CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

The Lowell City Council will conduct a public hearing at their regular scheduled meeting of Tuesday, February 21, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI for the purpose of receiving comments from the public on the following:

- An Ordinance to amend Sections 2.02 (Awning) and 2.04 (Canopy) of Chapter 2, "Definitions," and add Section 4.23 of Chapter 4, "General Provisions," of Appendix A-Zoning Ordinance of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowell.

Copies of the proposed Ordinance are available for public inspection during normal business hours at City Hall and Englehardt Public Library.

Interested person may submit written comments to City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331 prior to the meeting or appear in person.

Betty R. Morlock,
City Clerk
(616) 897-8457



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Murray Lake staff member of the month

Murray Lake Elementary's staff nominated Sue Wilterink as staff member of the month.

Staff members commented on how caring Wilterink is to all of her students. Paraeducator Patty Sanborn said, "She treats each of them like her own child."

Murray Lake principal Brent Noskey said, "Sue has done an outstanding job for us. She truly cares about each of her students. She goes above and beyond to see that each one of them is successful. She also has a great rapport with our staff. She brings a great attitude

and a wonderful sense of humor to the building each and every day."

Wilterink grew up in Lowell. She and her husband John have two sons who attend Lowell schools: Andrew, a senior, and Evan, an eighth grader.

Wilterink, who graduated from Western Michigan University with a B.S. in education, is in her 24th year of teaching.

Wilterink has been inspired by three educators: "Margaret McMahon taught me that learning can and should be fun. Art Bieri taught me that middle school

kids will act like kids, but would expect us to treat them like adults. Ty Wessell, a college professor, taught me my philosophy for education: 'If you haven't learned, then I haven't taught you.'"

Wilterink has enjoyed her time at Murray Lake. "It takes good seeds, water, sunlight and a skillful gardener to create a beautiful productive garden. Murray Lake has them all. Murray Lake is a place where joy exists, knowledge is shared, and talent is appreciated. Every child is cared for and celebrated."



Pictured, left to right, are Sue Wilterink with students' Corynn Rogers, Robert Sheldon, Reese Vanderwarf and Avery Buckius.

On The Wild Side



With Ranger Steve Wittenbach/Wege Center Director

THE VALUE OF ENDANGERED SPECIES IN KENT COUNTY

The Land Conservancy of West Michigan that owns the Wege Natural Area at the Wittenbach/Wege Center recently secured other property to protect Kent County's only endangered species that reside here all year. The new preserve is in Algoma Township and will likely increase economic development, quality of life, property values and family bonding opportunities created by preserving the karnar blue butterfly.

Young families living in a mobile home park adjacent to the karnar blue butterfly habitat may have difficulty affording movies or a WhiteCaps ball game. I recall those days for my family when we could not take a longer scenic drive home from church because the few additional cents spent for gasoline would prevent buying food or paying our mortgage bill.

One summer when I was laid off from work, we leased our home to an elderly couple and spent the summer living out of our car and camping in a tent. The income received from the couple covered our mortgage payments. These were not unhappy times. Our daughter Jenny Jo, one year old at the time, spent her summer crawling around wild places getting to know the natural world that sustains her life. Our family enjoyed simple meaningful pleasures.

There is great social and economic value for preserving endangered species. The list is long. I hope township officials

and citizens frequently contemplate the significance of endangered species for our lives because there is an effort to repeal the Endangered Species Act.

Zea diploperennis is a perennial corn that was discovered when only a few acres of it survived on the earth. This relative of field corn may some day be used to create perennial corn crops by splicing genes with corn. Think of the economic benefits if farmers no longer needed to replant corn annually. Zea diploperennis is also resistant to some viruses and grows in wet soils. Perhaps we can protect field corn using genes from the endangered species that almost became extinct.

A garden snail was found to contain proteins that agglutinate bacteria and is now used to make medicine for people with asthma. Asthma continues to increase with current air pollution emissions. What if we did not protect rare snails and mollusks? Your grandkids might die because we allowed undiscovered biochemistry to become extinct.

What if the snail were allowed to become extinct because a township board or supervisor did not understand how a wild snail can benefit people? The real benefit might not occur during the lifetimes of township board members. Benefits of Ginkgo biloba did not occur during the lifetime of the Chinese monks who preserved Ginkgo biloba. From these remnant few trees, millions if not billions of dollars of economic value have been generated to help people.

What if those plants were not preserved? People would not have Ginkgo nutritional supplements. Private businesses would not be reaping the benefits. Nursery growers would not be selling the species to communities for economic, scenic and health reasons. The Ginkgo depends on human help for continued reproduction.

It took centuries before the monks' vision of preserving the trees became an economic and socially beneficial product. People with vision have human welfare at heart. Lessons like these are taught in school but often forgotten.

Scientists predict monarch butterflies will no longer live in the U.S. east of the Rocky Mountains in 15 years if current deforestation trends continue at monarch wintering range in Mexico. How many people know chemicals in the wings of monarchs are used to help people with heart disease? Monarch biochemistry has helped people.

When species become extinct, people are hurt and we lose the opportunity to learn about chemicals or genes they possessed that could revolutionize agriculture and even save the small family farm.

Small family farms are learning their survival is becoming more dependent on specialty crops because corporate farms produce general crops more economically. Disease resistant genes in endangered species may save the family farm.

I hope community members understand rare and endangered species may help our nation continue as a world leader economically, socially and environmentally.

Let's hope Kent County citizens will collaborate to save the Federally Endangered karnar blue butterfly. This is Kent County's only Federally Endangered species that lives in the county all year long. We can be like the monks that saved Ginkgo biloba.

Thanks to the Land Conservancy of West Michigan, life is more sustainable. Come to the Wittenbach/Wege Center to visit the Wege Natural Area, learn more about agri-science and environmental stewardship.

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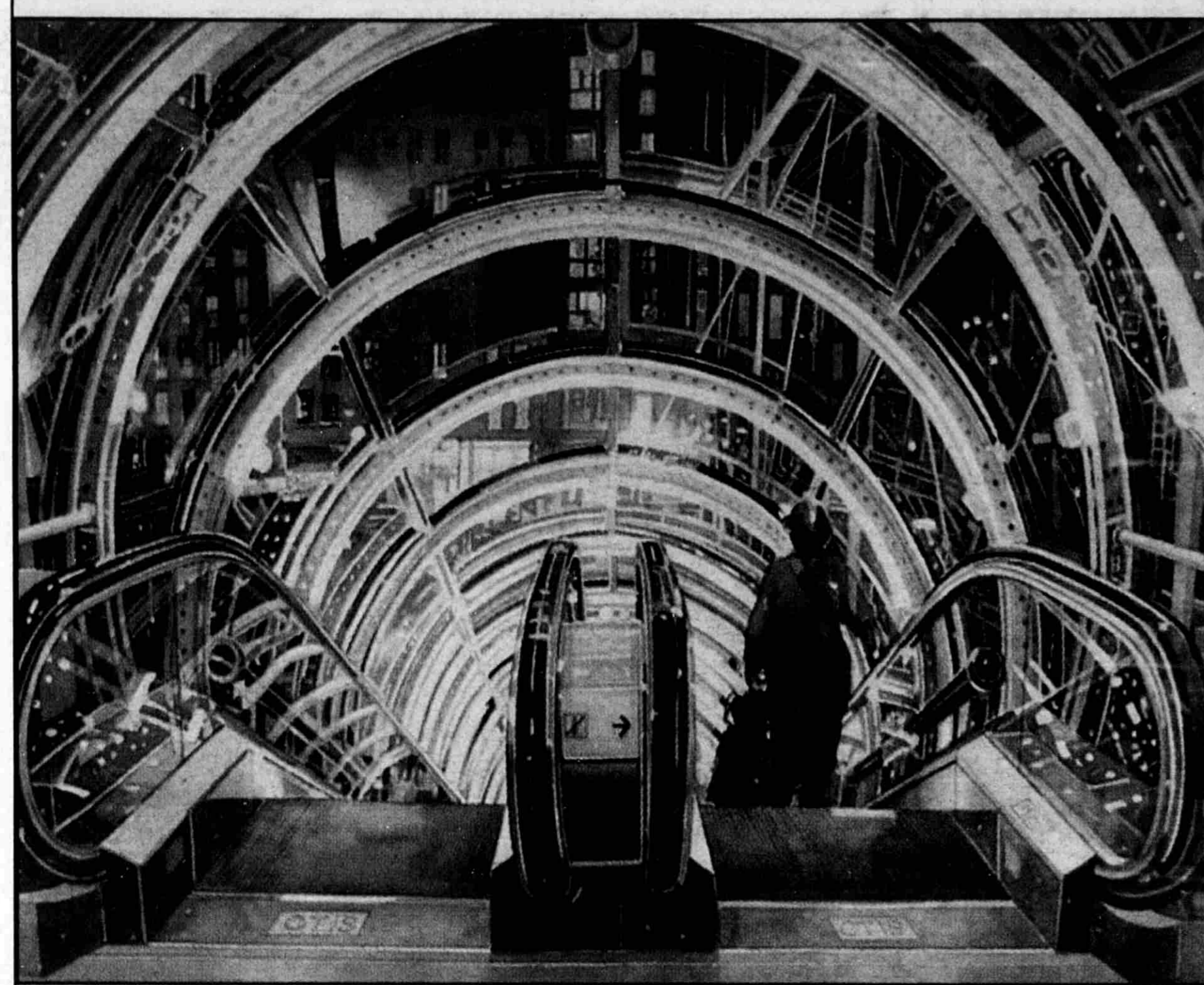
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Annual art competition this weekend at LAAC

The 20th Annual West Michigan Regional (art) Competition opens this weekend at the Lowell Area Arts Council.

Consistently one of the most eclectic exhibitions the arts council hosts each year, the juried show features works by artists throughout West Michigan.

This year's best of show prize went to Bruce McComb's of Holland for his "Pompidou Centre" watercolor. Ken Wilding of Spring Lake took first place with his oil painting "Dance is the Interruption of Movement, Music -- The Silence Between Sound." Margaret Benefiel's colored pencil and pen work "Blue Night Twilight" took second place. Benefiel is from Conklin. Brian Buck of Grand Rapids took third place in this year's competition for his ink work "In the Drink Again (Rhino)," and Brenda Mattson of Muskegon received honorable mention for her mixed media piece, "Over Exposed."

An opening reception will be held Sunday from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The art will be on display through March 25. The arts council is located at 149 South Hudson Street.

Bruce McComb's "Pompidou Centre" watercolor was awarded best of show in the West Michigan Regional (art) Competition now on exhibit at the Lowell Area Arts Council.

Just dropping in

Chiropractic offices are fairly easy to spot from ground level. Particularly an office like Doctors Chiropractic in Lowell, which has one of the spinal-column mailbox posts that would look completely out of place in any context other than in front of a chiropractor's office.

But a spinal-column mailbox is not visible, or at least not readily identifiable as a spinal-column mailbox, from the air. So when Eric Swanson dropped in for an appointment Feb. 3, he had to find the place without the benefit of a novelty mailbox post.

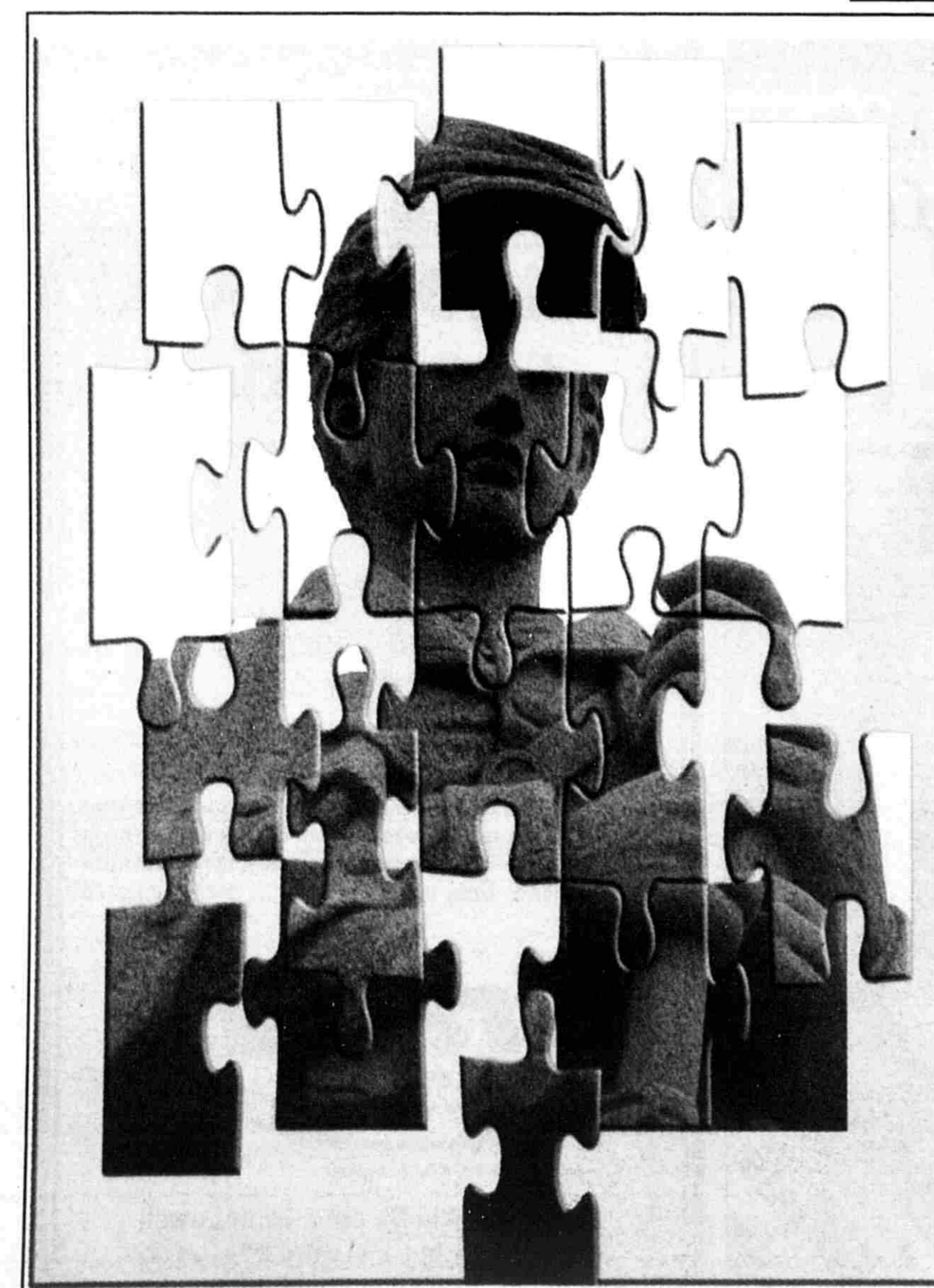
"He called me and said 'I have to fly in for my appointment and fly right back out.'" Dr. Paul Tuthill said. "And I said, 'sure, come on out,' and he said, 'No, I need to fly in and then fly someplace else.'"

It took a while for Tuthill to catch on that his patient was not just using "fly" as an expression, but intended to land a helicopter on the property.

"He thought this was the best way to get his adjustment," Tuthill said. "This seems to be the way he likes to get around."

Swanson was off to Detroit after his appointment. It was the first instance of a patient arriving at the office via such an unusual mode of transportation.

"Most people come by truck, I don't think we've even had anybody come by snowmobile," Tuthill said. "No mule trains."



Around The Town PUZZLE

We've rescrambled last week's puzzle. Can you tell us where it is now?

At left is a scrambled landmark, person or place in Lowell. Can you guess who or what it is & where?

If you think you know, fill out the form below and bring it in or mail it to the Ledger office at 105 N. Broadway.

OR CALL US WITH YOUR GUESS - 897-9261

(Before noon Tuesday, Feb. 21)

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Up to three correct answers will be drawn next Tuesday.

The answer and the winner's names will appear in the next edition of the Ledger.

Winners will receive an "I Solved The Ledger Puzzle" window decal.

NAME _____

Phone # _____

My guess is _____

New taxi service picking up business in Lowell area

By Dan Schneider

On the streets of New York City, yellow taxi cabs drive by about as often as any other type of car.

While that's not the case in Lowell, this town does have its own taxi cab. Roger Bont has been running the Lowell Rider Taxi service since Sept. 1. His cab isn't yellow, it's blue, but he hopes it will be an increasingly common sight on the streets of Lowell.

"It was kind of slow to begin with," Bont said. "It started picking up around New Years and has been picking up considerably since then."

His taxi is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If business picks up too much, he might have to cut back on the nighttime service, but so far he's only gotten a few calls later than 2:30 a.m.

Bont looks forward to weekends.

"Fridays and Saturdays, they keep me hopping," Bont said.

He said he's glad to be able to provide Lowell area residents a safe ride home from the local bars. But he also likes the social aspect of his job.

"There's such a plethora of people out there and, being a taxi driver, you get to meet so many," Bont said. "Some of them are really off the wall and it's so much fun."

In the daytime hours during the week, his customers are typically people going on grocery runs or to doctor's appointments. He said he also likes this non-nightlife-related aspect of the job.

"You can see people for who they are because this (trip) is a part of their day," Bont said. "Everybody has a story, and that's what makes the job interesting."

Bont has had enough jobs to know when one is interesting. He has been a ship's carpenter and a cable installer in Grand Rapids. He was a production line worker at Lear Corp. When that company closed its doors, he thought it would be the right time to start the taxi business.

Not every town the size of Lowell has even one taxi. But a small town in Missouri, where Bont used to live, had what he called a "mom and pop" taxi service. That is where he got the idea. He held onto it for 18 years before he got a chance to capitalize on it.

He'd never driven a taxi before. In fact, he hadn't even ridden in a taxi before he got his own, a blue Chevrolet mini van.

"I wanted the van because of the seven-passenger capacity," Bont said. "I've had calls where they wanted 20 people moved."



Roger Bont, owner of Lowell's own taxi service, Lowell Rider Taxi, with his ride parked in front of the Lowell Showboat.

If business continues to improve, he hopes to get a vehicle with even more flexibility.

"If it goes over good and things pick up, then the next vehicle I buy will most likely be handicapped accessible," Bont said.

He came up with the name after hearing ZZ Top's version of the song "Low Rider" on the radio.

Rates are \$1.40 per mile from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and

\$1.50 per mile the rest of the day, plus an initial fee of \$3. Bont has flat rates to drive to Lansing and Detroit. He also drives people to Grand Rapids or to Gerald R. Ford

International Airport. He said making reservations ahead of time is a good way to guarantee his cab will be available.

Drive thy business or it will drive thee.

-Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)

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COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

THE LOWELL LEDGER - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2006 PAGE 15
 Notices in the "Coming Events" are free to any nonprofit organization in the Lowell, Ada, Alto & Saranac areas. Keep notices brief; may submit by mail, phone - 897-9261, fax - 897-4809 or email - ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com. All submissions are subject to available space.

WED., FEB. 15 - SUN., FEB. 19: Grand Rapids Boat Show at DeVos Place. 800-328-6550 for more information.

THURS., FEB. 16: LHS variety show, 7 p.m. in LPAC. \$4 presale/\$5 at door. Half of proceeds go to Anna Organek Fund. Tickets available during lunch in main cafeteria.

SAT., FEB. 18: West MI Bluegrass Music Assoc. jamming, 7 p.m. at Riverview, banquet room. Public welcome.

SAT., FEB. 18 & SUN., FEB. 19: Annual harpists' concert at Franciscan Life Process Center. Call 897-7842.

TUES., FEB. 21: Impact Church, 6 wk. series on 40 days of purpose, 40 days of community. 897-8304 for info.

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM: Tues., Sat. and Sun. 1-4 p.m.; Thurs., 1-8 p.m. Families: \$10; individuals \$3; 5-17 \$1.50; members are free. Call 897-7688.

ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY HOURS: Mon.- Wed., 12 - 8 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri.: 9:30 - 5 p.m.; Sat.: 9:30-1:30 p.m. 200 N. Monroe. Call 647-3920.

ALTO LIBRARY HOURS: Mon. & Sat. 9:30 - 1:30 p.m.; Tues. & Wed. 12-8 p.m.; Thurs. 1-5 p.m. 647-3820.

LOWELL AREA ARTS COUNCIL: Tues. - Fri.: 12 - 5 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m. Monday/a.m. by appt. 149 S. Hudson. Call 897-8545 or www.lowellartscouncil.org.

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

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

MONDAYS

Lowell High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes & Friends, 7-8:30 p.m. at Gallagher's. Call 676-1355.

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

Boy Scout Troop 102, 11 & up or completing 5th grade, meets 7-8:30 p.m. at Scout Cabin, end of N. Washington St. Call Tim Vanderwulp at 897-4302 for more info.

1ST MON.: Regular communication of the Belding-Ionia-Lowell Masonic Lodge #355 at 7:30 p.m. in lodge room, 211 E. Main, Belding. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. All Masons may attend.

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

2ND MON.: Lowell Board of Education meets 7 p.m. in Administration Building, 300 High Street. (Note: except in April due to spring break which is the 3rd Monday).

2ND MON.: Bowne Township Historical Society meets 7:30 at historic museum, 84th/Alden Nash.

3RD MON.: Fallasburg Historical Society board meetings at chamber office or Fallasburg, 7 p.m. All invited. Call 897-7161 for info. or location.

3RD MON.: Women of the Moose meetings are held at 7:30 p.m.

3RD MON.: Peripheral Neuropathy support group, 7 p.m. at Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd. Call Dorothy 897-9794.

3RD MON.: Lowell Showboat Garden Club meetings are held in the Fellowship Hall at the Church of the Nazarene, N. Washington St., at 7 p.m.

4TH MON.: Clark-Ellis American Legion Post 152, 3100 Alden Nash S.E. at 7:30 p.m.

EVERY OTHER MON.: The Lowell Area Juggling Club meets in the Community room at Englehardt Library, 6:30 - 8 p.m. Anyone 12 or older who can juggle 3 balls is welcome. No dues. Call 897-9879.

TUESDAYS

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

Cub Scout Pack 3188 meets at 1st United Methodist Church (as long as there is school), 6:30 p.m. 1st-5th grade boys. Contact Clarence Whittum at 897-8194 after 11 a.m.

Weight Watchers at Alto United Methodist Church, corner of Kirby & Harrison meets at 5:30 p.m. Register 1/2 hour before meeting. 800-651-6000.

Flat River Woodcarvers meet at LAAC from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Women's Community Bible Study. Free nursery and preschool story hour/craft time 9:45 - 11:15 a.m./women only at 7:15 p.m. Calvary Christian Reformed Church. Call 897-7060 or 897-7555.

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

1ST TUES.: Diabetic Support group, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Schneider Manor Community Rm., 725 Bowes Rd. 897-2760 or 897-9160.

TUESDAYS

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

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

2ND TUES.: G.R. Chapter of the American Sewing Guild, Plainfield Senior Center, 5255 Grand River Dr. NE. 6:30 p.m. refreshments/ 7 p.m. program Olga 616-975-9977/June 231-780-1249 info.

2ND & 3RD TUES.: Qua-Ke-Zik Sportsman's Club, 11400 Foreman Rd. at 8 p.m. Winter leagues start 1st week of January. Go to www.qua-ke-zik.org.

2ND & 4TH TUES.: MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers ... because mothering matters. 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Impact Church, 1070 N. Hudson. Call 897-8304.

2ND & 4TH TUES.: Saranac Needlers, needleart/quilting bee, 5-8:30 p.m., 4 Health Wellness Center, Bridge St., Saranac. All are welcome. Contact Bev or Melissa, 642-6466. Light dinner is provided.

2ND & 4TH TUES.: Knights of Columbus #7719 at St. Mary School at 7:30 p.m.

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 at 874-5662; teen group: call Sarah at 281-6588.

WEDNESDAYS

Rotary meets at noon at City Hall, 301 E. Main, 2nd floor.

8 p.m. ALANON upstairs at 1st Congregational Church, 404 N. Hudson St.

Tri-town Conservation Club trap & skeet league, 5616 Dunn Rd. 6-10 p.m. Larry 754-7104.

1ST WED.: GR area Scrabble Club at Schuler's Bookstore, 28th St. 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. Rd. Robin open play, all levels, walk-ins welcome. Jan 897-5759.

2ND WED.: Kent County Youth Fair Board meeting, 7:30 p.m., King Memorial Youth Center, 4-H Fairgrounds. Call 897-6050.

2ND WED.: Royal Arch Masons, Hooker Chapter #73 meets at 7:30 p.m. in Belding Masonic Temple, 211 E. Main; dinner at 6:30 p.m. All Royal Arch Masons are welcome.

2ND WED.: Lowell Women's Club, noon in Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd.

2ND WED.: Support group for Peripheral Neuropathy, 4 p.m., St. Paul's Anglican Catholic Church, Grand Rapids. Dorothy 897-9794.

3RD WED.: GR area Scrabble Club at Schuler's Bookstore, Alpine NW, 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. Rd. Robin open play, all levels, walk-ins. Jan 897-5759.

THURSDAYS

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

Saranac Area Musicians and Singers practice at Saranac High School Band Rm. Choir: 6-7 p.m./band: 7-8. Kathy Maatman, 897-5981.

THURSDAYS

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

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

1ST THURS.: Michigan Hepatitis C Foundation support meetings, 7-8:30 p.m. 250 Cherry, Lacks Cancer Center, Grand Rapids.

1ST THURS.: 4-H drama club meeting, Lowell Middle School choir room. Call 897-1502 after 5 p.m.

1ST & 3RD THURS.: Alto Lions Club meets at Monterey Grill at 7 p.m.

1ST & 3RD THURS.: Bluegrass Jam inside Kountry Korner of Alto, 6077 Linfield. 868-6371.

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

2ND THURS.: Loyal Order of the Moose, men's meeting at 7:30 p.m.

2ND THURS.: Genealogy-Alto Family Tree Club at Alto Library 6:30 - 8 p.m.

3RD THURS.: Rubber stamping at Christian Life Center 6-9 p.m. Call Dawn 862-8841.

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

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

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

FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY

1ST & 3RD FRI.: Teen MOPS support group for pregnant teens and teen moms, 9:15 - 11:30 a.m. at Impact Church, 1070 N. Hudson. 897-8304.

2ND & 4TH FRI.: GR area Scrabble Club at Meijer Cafe, Knapp's Corners, 10 - 3 p.m. Round Robin open play, all levels, walk-ins welcome. Jan 897-5759.

FRI.: Arts/Crafts volunteers, Franciscan Life Process Center, 9:30-12:30 p.m. Pat or Judy at 897-7842.

2ND SAT.: Ada Historical Society, 10:30 a.m. at Averill Historical Museum, 7144 Headley, Ada.

2ND SAT.: Lowell Amateur Radio Club, held at Lowell Airport, 730 Lincoln Lake NE. 9 a.m. social time; 10 a.m. meeting. LARC sponsors 145.27 MHz area radio repeater system.

FRI., SAT. & SUN.: Averill Historical Museum of Ada, located at 7144 Headley. Hours are 1-4 p.m. or by appointment. Call 676-9346.

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

STATE FARM INSURANCE • Chapman Agency
RECOGNIZES THIS SEMESTER'S HONOR ROLL STUDENTS

Lowell High School Honor Roll 2ND MARKING PERIOD

2nd Marking
 Period Honor Roll
 Lowell High School
 Asterisk After The Name
 Designates 3.667
 Or Higher In All Marks.

- 9TH GRADE**
 Olivia Abram
 Randy Adams
 Thomas Alberts Jr.
 Nicole Bailey
 Kayla Barr
 Sarah Baughman
 Garrett Beaman
 Thomas Beddows
 Philip Bieri
 Kathleen Billock
 Christopher Biski
 Nolan Blair
 Courtney Blanchard
 Laura Blanton
 Ian Blodger*
 Torsten Boss
 Erin Brechbiel*
 Andrew Brim
 Lucas Brower
 Cheyenne Brown
 Jaclyn Brown
 Nicholas Brown
 Elena Brubaker*
 Theresa Buist
 Dakota Bunn
 Heather Burger*
 Michelle Burk
 Sydney Burrows
 Chase Canning
 Aaron Christensen
 Ryan Christie
 Linnea Churches
 Michael Clover
 Andrea Coffey
 Nicholas Comdure
 Alexandra Cooley*
 Rachel Copeyoun
 Matthew Crain
 Allison Crumbach*
 Andrew Culross
 Ryan Dean
 Matthew Dec
 Alicia Decenzo
 Logan Declercq
 Zachary Denault
 Damien Donley
 Jeremy Drake
 Joshua Drake*
 Dylan Dues
 Kristin Dunn
 Chelsey Dye
 Chelsey Dyer*
 Kirstin Eickhoff
 Natasha Eickhoff
 Gabriel Elliott
 Lance Fargo
 Katherine Fetherhoff
 James Flanagan
 Thomas Fleeter
 Rachel Folkersma*
 Mark Ford
 Krista Foster
 Kyle Galbreath
 Kristina Garza
 Ashley Gaskin
 Augustus Geldersma
 Kirk Geldersma
 Timothy Gingerich
 Chelsey Grachtrup
 Amanda Graff*
 Samantha Grasman
 Jillian Griffin
 Miranda Grimm
 Nicole Halbeisen*
 Shaun Hale*
 Lauren Heemstra*
 Naomi Hennes
 Alexandra Herb*
 Timothy Hettinga
 Natalie Hewitt*
 Ashley Hoekstra
 Alexis Holloway
 Brittany Holst
 Brian Hook
 Sheryl Huber*
 Hannah Hudgens
 Lindsay Hyatt
 Audra Hysell
 Tyler Jack
 Erin Jarmosco
 Thomas Jeffrey
 Jeffrey Johnson
 Mark Johnson
 Stephanie Johnson
 Kylee Karas
 Cody Kastanek
 Mckenzie Keith
 Richelle Kimble

- Katie Krolewicz
 Jeffrey Kropf
 Kaila Kurzhals
 Phalesha Kyles
 Brett Lafave
 Daniel Lane
 Jillian Lane
 Anthony Lawrence*
 Michael Lazar*
 Brandon Lee*
 Sarah Light
 Craig Loetz
 Mitchell Malling*
 Jessica Mankel*
 Ian Manshum
 Morgan Marchido
 Brianna Mcbride
 Ashley Mcfaden
 Alisha Mcglamery*
 Abram Mcintire
 Jacob Mcvey
 Nicholas Mcvey
 Sara Messing
 Jessica Meyers
 Patrick Misner*
 Kayla Mohr*
 Sierra Moore
 Joel Morgan
 Nicholas Myaard
 Kyle Nanzer
 Trisha Nauta
 Jodi Nederhoed*
 Kirsten Nelson
 Robert Nichols
 James Nordman*
 David O'connor
 Hannah Oberlin
 Kandice Olthof
 Kayleigh Page
 Rachael Partridge
 Samantha Perrin*
 Ryan Persha
 Eric Petersen
 Brandy Phillips*
 Cole Posthumus
 Kara Rasch
 Felicia Rash
 Renae Reed
 Jessica Rehl*
 Yadira Reyes-Alfaro
 Mary Richardson*
 Keely Roberts
 Kirk Roerig
 Katie Rose
 Hannah Ross
 Kacie Roth
 Matthew Roth
 Matthew Schloop
 Cameron Schomaker*
 Taylor Schumacher*
 Katie Sefton
 Melissa Slater*
 Paige Smith
 Samantha Snyder
 Katelyn Sorenson*
 Matthew Spickler
 Brooke Spoelman*
 Kayla Stanford
 Zachary Stephens
 Kelsey Stickney*
 Matthew Strawser
 Jacob Tasna
 Marin Tawney
 Ashley Gaskin
 Brandon Thomas
 Allison Thompson
 Michael Thompson
 Michelle Thompson
 Sarah Thompson
 Elizabeth Timpon
 Cody Toomey
 Nicholas Trasky
 Jesse Vandebosch
 Patricia Vangessel*
 Chelsey Vannoord
 Ryan Verdon
 Jessica Vincent
 Rachel Vogel
 Cole Wade
 Rachel Walendzik*
 David Walker
 Joshua Walker*
 Donald Ward
 Jourdan Westdorp
 Zachary Wheeler
 Megan Whinery
 Ashley Whittington
 Megan Willemstein*
 Kelly Wingeier
 Brittany Wolfe
 Logan Wolfe
 Gabrielle Macdonald
 Megan Majestic*
 Katlin Manszewski*
 Meghan Matthews
 Frances Maycroft
 Katelyn Mcelroy
 Brett McMahon*

- 10TH GRADE**
 Nicholas Abdoo
 Nicole Baker
 Tanya Baker
 Fritz Ball
 Kyle Bardwell
 Tyler Barkacs
 Kelsey Bassin
 John Bateman II
 Zachary Baum*
 Hannah Becker*
 Richard Bent
 Travis Bergy
 Andrew Bewell
 Richard Bichler
 Rochelle Bieri
 Chelsey Bishop
 Justin Boss
 Bobbi Botsford
 Eric Bouwhuis
 Logan Brenk*
 Alexander Brock
 Joshua Brubaker*
 William Bryan
 Briana Buck
 Breanna Bueche*
 Alyssa Buikema
 Renee* Buist
 Kelsey Cailihan
 Stephanie Cantrell
 Cody Chambers
 Drake Chittenden
 Brittany Clark
 Michael Codeseal
 Kathryn Collins*
 Mackenzie Conley
 Andrea Converse*
 Kayleigh Cook
 Codyjames Dalton
 Andrew Davis*
 Corbin Debiak
 Devin Decator*
 Crystal Dietz
 Samantha Dilling
 Ethan Drain
 Alan Drake
 Anthony Dubbink
 Nathan Durley
 Ian Durkee
 Tyler Dykhouse
 Marissa Endres
 Priscilla Farias
 Rebecca Finnie
 Megan Fitzpatrick
 Hannah Fleet
 Cory Fosburg
 Anthony Freeburg
 Glenda Garza
 Andrew Gerig
 Leara Glinzak
 Tegan Greenwald
 Jeanette Griner
 Cory Hagerman
 Douglas Halbeisen
 Lauren Hanson*
 Rebecca Hattie
 Alexander Harrington
 Chelsey Harrison
 Mikhailea Hart*
 Melissa Hawks
 Kenneth Hayes*
 Anthony Herrera*
 Deanna Hewitt*
 Tarin Hippy
 Joshua Hobla
 Jasmine Holliman*
 Rebecca Hommowun*
 Jennifer Humphries
 Kyle Ingebretson
 Leah Jelsma
 Rex Jernigan
 Benjamin Johnson
 Joseph Johnson
 Heather Jousma*
 Stephanie Kehoe
 Rebecca Kempker
 Suyeun Kim
 Michael Kinsley
 Kimberly Kline
 Patrick Korolkiewicz
 Katie Kruse
 Andrew Kuhn
 Andrea Kulhawik
 Breanna Kurzhals
 Wan Ying Kwok
 Drew Kyllonen
 Elvis Lane Jr.
 Patricia Lawrence*
 Brittany Litchfield
 Gabrielle Macdonald
 Megan Majestic*
 Katlin Manszewski*
 Meghan Matthews
 Frances Maycroft
 Katelyn Mcelroy
 Brett McMahon*

- Jane Mcnaughton
 Jessica Meyer*
 Eric Meyers
 Jeremy Meyers
 Jensen Miller
 Jaclyn Moerdyke
 Ana Moore
 Ellen Mork
 Nathaniel Morrison
 Sarah Mosher
 Samantha Mundt
 Andrea Murray
 Kristin Nagy*
 Ashley Nawrocki
 Jacob Nawrocki
 Noelani Nichols
 Jason Nugent
 Casie Pedley*
 Bradley Piaat
 Katie Polaski
 Logan Porter
 Marie Richardson*
 Katie Riddle
 Kyle Riley*
 Peter Rissi
 Delos Rockwell
 Melanie Rogers
 Lyndsy Rolfe
 Brittany Rose
 Maranda Rueggeger*
 Conrad Ruffilo
 Katrina Schollaart
 Michael Schumm
 Miguel Scudder
 Spencer Sellner
 Kimberly Senneker
 Paige Senters
 Joshua Sheldon
 Jordan Skinner
 Katherine Statten
 Joshua Smith
 Justin Story
 Adriel Stout
 Alexis Strouse
 Tricia Thuston
 Travis Tol
 Gabrielle Tremblay
 Justin Vanacker
 Ashley Vanderheide
 Mary Vanderlaan
 Amy Vanens
 Nathan Vaught
 Nicole Videan
 Amber Waldron*
 Heather Walendzik*
 Laura Walsh
 Ryan Wenger*
 Timothy Wernert*
 Brandon White
 Kayla White
 Zachary Will
 Lauren Wisniewski
 April Wolf
 Andrew Wright
 Marina Yebenes
 Marylou Yowais
 Melissa Zuiderveen
 Maryann Zvirzdnis

- David Gallagher
 Amanda Geelhoed
 Steven Geelhoed*
 Hannah Gerig
 Hayley Getzen
 Mary Gillhespy
 Michael Griffioen
 Hollie Gunderson
 Shay Hacker*
 Brandon Hall
 Kassandra Hanrahan
 Justin Harden
 Charlie Hathaway
 Mallory Hines*
 Travis Hippy
 Haley Hobbs
 Matthew Hodges
 Lindsay Hoogenboom*
 Steffany Hooper
 Laurinda Horsley
 Allen Huber
 David Huffman
 Stacey Janeschek
 Julie Johnson
 Lisa Johnson
 Lindsey Jousma
 Karen Judd*
 Robert Karasiewicz
 Stephanie Kempker*
 Genevieve Kendall
 Tyler Kent*
 Gary Kilgore
 Joshua Kleczynski
 Michael Kleinpaste
 Kelli Kowalski
 Kaylyn Koza
 Samantha Kozlik
 Ashley Krolewicz
 Cody Krueger
 Gwynnd Lammias
 Samantha Lancaster
 Anna Lane*
 Brian Langlois
 Brooke Liu
 Brittany Lyman
 Andrew Mark
 Arielle Martin
 Michael Mcelroy
 Ryan Middelditch
 Kara Mott
 Eric Mundt*
 Rebecca Myers
 Tasha Nauta
 Vikki Neely
 Jessica Nelson
 Keith Nichol
 Michael Nichols
 Bradley Nordman*
 Andrew Nozal
 Lisa Nugent
 Timothy Oberlin
 Andrew Oesch
 Morgan Olm*
 Evan Ormiston
 Karri Ort
 Ryan Padgett
 Sapna Patel
 Suraj Patel
 Bethany Penninga
 Lance Perkins
 Cassandra Phillips
 Jamie Phillips
 Kelsey Quain
 Culver Redd*
 Deborah Reinbold
 Colin Rich*
 James Richardson
 Samantha Rinke
 Megan Risner
 Ashley Rodriguez
 Michael Roth*
 Kathryn Rotlier*
 Joseph Rozman
 Sarah Rushford
 Kara Schloop
 Allison Schneider
 Taryn Schumacher*
 Raymond Seese*
 Amanda SeEVERS
 Andrew Sejat*
 Timothy Sinen
 Caitlin Sirowatka*
 Ashleigh Smit
 Erin Soules
 Heather Spratt
 Zachary Steckler
 Greg Huyser
 Adam Ingraham
 Kayla Irwin
 David Jeltama
 Kristin-Anne Johnson*
 Kristin Johnson
 Christopher Jones
 Cory Jones
 Ryder Jones
 Amy Junewick
 Ryan Kalman

- Stephanie Wade
 Kelly Walker
 Patrick Walsh
 Coleton Webber
 Daniel White
 Scott White
 Tiffany Whittington
 Ashleigh Wible
 Nathan Willemstein*
 Sara Williamson
 Kristen Wolfe
 Kaylee Yonker
 Edward Zandbergen
 Dana Zerbe

- 12TH GRADE**
 Anthony Adrianse
 Bradley Amidon
 Donald Anderson*
 Lucas Anstett
 Allan Aquino*
 Kyle Austin
 Adam Baker
 Tara Baker*
 Kathryn Barnes
 Erin Beddows*
 Collette Benmark
 Austin Blough
 Melissa Blough
 Alice Blummm*
 Anna Boeve
 Lisa Boomers*
 Sarah Boomers
 Holly Borth
 Kelsey Brenk
 Elizabeth Brooke*
 Kaitlyn Brower
 Lisa Brown*
 Philip Burton
 Malley Cahoon*
 Mary Calvi*
 Jordyn Capman
 Alex Carpenter
 Kimberly Carrier
 Quade Chesebro
 Edith Chittenden
 Britta Cieslak
 Nathaniel Clements*
 Ashley Colon
 Ryan Converse
 Bradley Corlett
 Laura Crimmins*
 Tyler Davis
 Rebecca Dellefde
 Benjamin Denhouer*
 Thomas Doll
 Sean Donahue
 Elizabeth Drain*
 Chad Dreth*
 Rebecca Duley
 Jacob Eldridge
 Maya Esparza-Siegers
 Anthony Everitt
 Amanda Ezinga
 Megan Fizer
 John Fleet
 Brittany Foley*
 Trevor Foss
 Chelsey Freed*
 Nathan Galbreath
 Benjamin Geldersma*
 Jenna Gillan*
 Louis Glinzak*
 Katie Goldner*
 Brock Graham*
 Nicole Green
 Anthony Griffin
 Brandon Grochowalski
 Audrey Grummet
 Michael Haner*
 Benjamin Hanson*
 Andrew Hattie
 Heather Harrigan
 Angela Harvey
 Christine Haynes
 Courtney Henschke
 Karina Hernandez
 Brandon Herring*
 Joshua Hettinga*
 Brett Hobla
 Ashley Holcomb
 Jordan Holmgren
 Andrew Hopkins
 Alisha Hughes
 Ashley Hundley
 Greg Huyser
 Adam Ingraham
 Kayla Irwin
 David Jeltama
 Kristin-Anne Johnson*
 Kristin Johnson
 Christopher Jones
 Cory Jones
 Ryder Jones
 Amy Junewick
 Ryan Kalman

- Abbot Kastanek
 Stephen Kerr II
 Jennifer Kettel
 Hannah Kinney*
 Andrew Kleeves
 Hannah Knudstrup
 Kaley Koewers
 Christina Kosbar
 Andrea Koster*
 Angela Lachniet
 Steven Lafave
 Ryan Lane
 Jon Latva*
 Paula Lawrence
 Marie Lazar*
 Amy Leikert
 Sarah Lessens
 Rachelle Levingston
 Kelsey Lundstrom
 Jodi Lupton
 Laura Maki
 Kelly Malling*
 Seth Mayhew*
 Kristen Macpaine*
 Austin McGregor*
 Megan Meade*
 Mary Mendez
 Nikita Miles
 Angela Miller
 Jenna Mitchell
 Samantha Moore
 William Mol
 Dawn Morris
 Joshua Morrison
 Elizabeth Moshier
 Amy Mundwiler
 Megan Murphy*
 Rachel Murray
 Autumn Nethercott*
 Aric Newsted
 Alison Nugent*
 Erin Nugent
 Richard Nugent
 Steven Nugent
 Tara Ormiston
 Amber Osborne*
 Gary Osborne
 Brett Ostrander
 Raymond Phillips
 Rachel Plotner
 Rebecca Plummer
 Michael Pretzel
 Lisa Rasch
 Jonathan Riddle
 Kathleen Riley
 Benjamin Ritze
 Brandi Rix
 Michael Roberts
 Christopher Roelofs
 Nicole Rottier
 Cory Ruessink
 Amanda Schneider
 Patrick Schneider
 Andrew Schultz
 Leahna Seese
 Nicole Shepard*
 Zachary Sherman
 Lindsey Skinner
 Ashley Slater
 Crystal Smith
 Lori Smith
 Ashley Spencer
 Ashley Spicer
 Blake Spoelman
 Ashley Stebbins
 Melanierose Straub
 Danielle Sturgis
 Ryan Szarowicz
 Micah Tawney
 Melissa Telman*
 Emily Timpon
 Alisha Trebian
 Sarah Troyer
 Rebecca Underwood*
 Andrew Vanderklok
 James Vanderlaan
 Adam Vanderpols
 Ashley Vanderwal
 Brook Vaneck*
 Lauren Vanens
 Megan Vaught*
 Elyse Videto
 Melissa Warners*
 Alicia Weeber
 Eva Wilcox*
 Cassandra Wilder
 Andrew Wiltierink
 Janice Wisniewski*
 Kyle Wittenbach
 Chelsey Wolbers
 Joseph Woodhead
 Jessica Wright*
 Melissa Wright*
 Jennifer Zoodsma*
 Audrey Zook*
 Katelynn Zuiderveen*

RED ARROW **SPORTS**

Converse helps Lowell beat Thornapple-Kellogg

By Dan Schneider

Lowell needed a spark last Tuesday in a 49-42 home win over Thornapple Kellogg; a game that dragged at least for the first quarter and a half.

They found the spark in senior Ryan Converse, who came off the bench and put Lowell back in the game midway through the second quarter.

"I'm extremely proud of Ryan Converse and I'm proud for him because he is a senior who hasn't played much in the last couple of years but he's kept his chin up and he saved the day for us," Lowell coach Jeff McDonald said.

Converse hit three-pointers for Lowell on three consecutive possessions at the end of the second quarter. They included a buzzer beater that put Lowell within three, 22-19, going into halftime.

Lowell was up 8-6 after a first quarter in which neither team hit very many

shots. Josh Hettinga gave the Red Arrows the 8-6 lead, their first of the game, on a three-pointer with 2:40 left in the period.

The Trojans opened the second quarter with a three-pointer and looked to be making a run. They led 18-10 before Converse hit his first three-pointer. Converse shot the first one from the high left side.

Thornapple-Kellogg scored two, then Converse hit nothing but net from the left corner. The Trojans scored again, but then Converse knocked down the buzzer-beater.

Neither team could seem to find the basket in the second half's early going. Then, two minutes in, Converse hit another triple, his fourth of the game, to tie the score 22-22.

A Ryan Lane free throw a few possessions later tied the game at 25. Converse got the ball inside for a layup that put Lowell up 29-27.

The Trojans hit their own buzzer-beating three at the end of the third quarter, taking a 32-31 lead into the final eight minutes of play.

In the fourth quarter, Lowell took a 37-35 lead on a short jumper by Justin Harden. The Arrows kept the lead with help from a string of shots by Drew Hattie.

"Flat" is how McDonald described the game. "We were really flat, we didn't play with energy," he said. "The biggest thing was there wasn't any energy in the gym and we were supposed to bring it."

McDonald said Converse saved the game with his three-pointers and "Ryan Lane, defensively, saved us too. He's the one kid who, if he's sick, healthy or anywhere in between, will still come out and give it everything he's got."

Mike McElroy led Lowell with 15 points. Converse scored 14. Lane and Hattie each scored seven. Lowell was 14 of 25 from the free throw line.

Lowell played another non-league game Friday at Caledonia. The Arrows lost narrowly in overtime, 44-41. Caledonia led 21-15 at halftime. But Lowell outscored the Fighting Scots 13-5 in the third quarter to take a 28-26 lead. The score was tied at 36 at the end of regulation.



Lowell's Ryan Converse looks at a three-point shot in the third quarter of last Tuesday's game.



Lowell's Josh Hettinga gets pushed out of position in last Tuesday's game.

BOWNE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF REVIEW NOTICE

The Board of Review of Bowne Township will meet at the Historic Township Hall - 8240 Alden Nash S.E., Alto on:

MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2006 10:00 A.M. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2006 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2006 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. (EVENING HOURS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY)

For the purpose of reviewing the tax roll and hearing all claims. You may appeal your assessed valuation one of (2) ways: by letter addressed to the Bowne Township Supervisor and received by him prior to March 7, 2006. Or by appearing in person on one of the dates the Board of Review meets.

The tentative real property assessment and assessment multiplier required by PA 165 of 1971 are:

Agricultural Ratio	49.29	Multiplier	1.0144
Commercial Ratio	47.79	Multiplier	1.0462
Industrial Ratio	49.51	Multiplier	1.0098
Residential Ratio	47.01	Multiplier	1.0636

Dennis McKelvey-Assessor
 Christian Wenger-Supervisor
 Bowne Township

Mid-Michigan Safari Club
Live Auction for Big Game Hunts
 Dall Sheep • Brown Bear • Rhino
 Grizzly Bear • Desert Mule • Alaskan Moose
 and Much More
 Saturday, February 25th • 5pm
 Soaring Eagle Casino • Mt. Pleasant, MI
 For more information call 989-772-4737
 or visit www.midmichigansci.org

Data Dump.
 Your unwanted computer deserves a better home.
 Simply drop off your old computer equipment at a participating Goodwill store or donation site. This free program reuses or recycles electronics, helping the environment and putting people to work.
 And your old computer is entitled to a second lease on life.
 For more details: www.reconnectpartnership.com

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Lowell competitive cheer making strides in first season

By Dan Schneider

Basketball fans in Lowell may wonder why the cheerleading squad hasn't been on the sidelines this season.

It's because the sideline cheer team has become a competitive cheer team, competing in its own events. And it's a lot more work. There are back walkovers to master; front rolls, front kicks, even valdezes, and then the elusive team tuck.

Lowell's team has already competed in three conference matches, most of which take place Wednesday nights, and three Saturday invitationals. Competitions follow the same format: three different rounds with three different types of performance.

Round one looks essentially like traditional cheerleading to the observer. It incorporates cheers, which can include crowd response; two jumps; and floor formations. Teams are judged on accuracy of movement and arm motions. The maximum score for a team in round one, with a standard three-judge panel, is 210.

The second round is the technical round. "That's a very short round," Lowell competitive cheer coach Kari Dawson

said. "It's basically hit your skills and get off the mat."

It starts with the 10-count precision drill, in which every team performs a set of motions in the order on a list. Then the teams display five skills. One each from the categories of flexibility, jumps and tumbling are required, then the teams select two more skills from any of those categories to perform.

Each team has a base score for round two. The base score is the sum of the maximum possible point values for each skill (similar to gymnastics scoring, some skills can earn higher points). Lowell's round two base score has consistently been around 222 points this season. How close the cheerleaders get to that score depends on how well they execute their skills.

In round three, skills are put together into a routine. Whereas round two focuses on the technical side, Dawson said round three is "more creative, you cheer during it."

Similar to round two, the routines are judged based on the difficulty of the skills involved. Round three has even more variables than round two, including bonuses for execution and choreography. With a three-

judge panel, Lowell's routine has a base value of about 300 points this year.

In rounds one and two, penalty points can be deducted.

Competing as a competitive cheer team rather than as a sideline team has pushed Lowell's squad to progress in their skills.

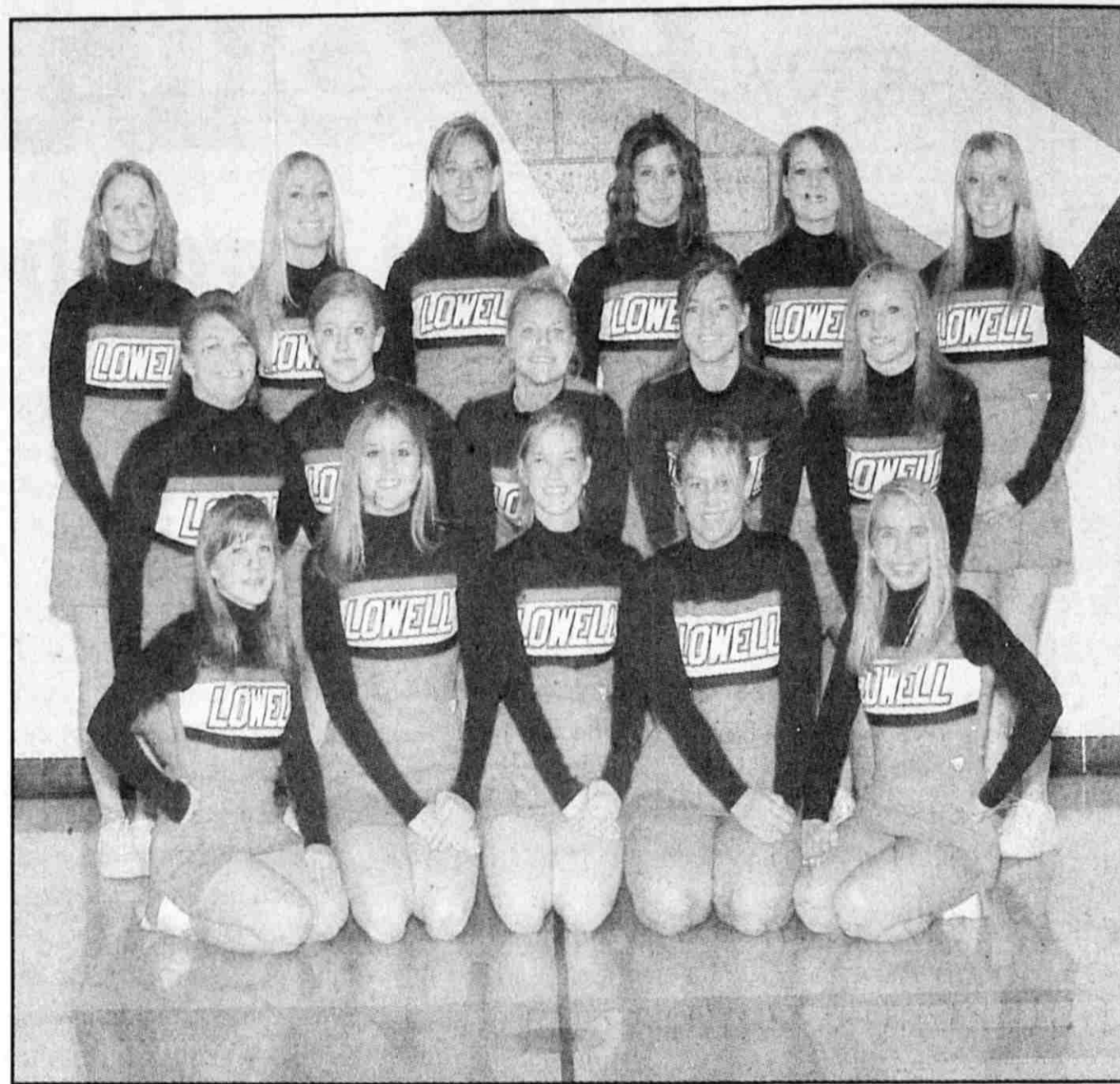
"I can't say enough about how far we've come," Dawson said. "Last year, we had about two standing back handsprings, this year we have about 50."

The team tuck might even be attainable in the foreseeable future.

"It's very possible that that will be a goal for next year," Dawson said.

Lowell competes in an OK White/OK Gold conference with Hamilton, Middleville-Thornapple Kellogg, Caledonia, Byron Center, Wayland, Kenowa Hills and a Forest Hills Central/Northern/Eastern cooperative team. At a conference meet, each team goes through the three rounds and is awarded season points based on their placement that day. So far this season, Lowell has been in fifth place consistently. They hope to score well enough in Wednesday's meet at Kenowa Hills to move into fourth place.

Lowell placed second at their first competition of



The Lowell varsity competitive cheer team. Pictured in the front row, left to right: Lindsey Jousma, Kelsey Brenk, Jenna Mitchell, Sheila Walling, Mackenzie Conley. Middle row, left to right: Tara Beran, Cassie Wildez, Nikita Miles, Jenna Gillan, Alyssa Buikema. Third row, left to right: Kaylyn Koza, Lisa Nugent, Katie Polaski, Tori Ruesink, Tiffanie Curtis, Stacey Janeschek.

the year, the Chippewa Hills Invitational Jan. 21. They placed fourth at the Byron Center Invitational the following week.

Lowell competed Saturday the PR Cheer event at the Delta Plex in Grand Rapids. Dawson said it was "basically Caledonia and ourselves and every team who qualified for the state

finals last year." At last Monday's conference meet at Hamilton, Lowell scored 178.5 in round one, 161.7 in round two and 222.5 in round three. Dawson said an inordinate number of penalties hurt the round three score.

At the Delta Plex event, Lowell scored 176.5 in round

one, 171.8 in round two, and 259.0 in round three.

There are 16 girls on Lowell's varsity team this year and 19 on the junior varsity.

Competitive cheer has been a Michigan High School Athletic Association sport since 1994. This is the first year it has been a varsity sport at Lowell.

Girls bowling falls to Rockford in first loss of season

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell girls bowling team suffered its first loss of the season last Monday at Rockford.

The Rams won by a score of 18 1/2 to 11 1/2. The half point came from the first regular game, where Lowell's Erin Sowles and a Rockford bowler both rolled a 122. Lowell lost both baker games and some close regular games.

"We lost it in the ninth and 10th frame of the second game," Lowell coach Rocky Eickhoff said. "We just missed too many easy spares. That can kill you in a close match."

Rolling high games for Lowell were Liberty Clark (167 in the first game, 199 in the second), Ashley Nawrocki (165, 175), Nicole Videan (168) and Chelsea Freed (166).

The boys team lost to Rockford by a score of 18-12. The Arrows lost both baker games and won six of the ten regular games. Rolling high games for Lowell were Greg Sherman (221 in game one, 207 in game two), Brandon Jahne (198, 203), Sean Adrianse (199 in the second), Anthony Everitt (199, 193).

Bowling, cont'd., pg. 20

Wrestling shares conference championship with Greenville

By Dan Schneider

Lowell placed second Saturday at the OK White conference tournament at Northview.

The Red Arrows scored 214.5 team points which put them behind Greenville (240) in the team standings. Lowell beat Greenville by one point during the regular conference season, which means the Red Arrows and the Yellowjackets will share this year's OK White championship.

Lowell advanced wrestlers to the final round of six different weight classes.

In the 130 final, Rob Karasiewicz pinned Greenville's Derrek Laderman in 4:28. Tim Gingerich took second place at 140, losing to Forest Hills Central's Brian Sinclair 11-6

in the final. At 160, Lowell's John Fleet placed second, losing to Kenowa Hills' Luke Boersma in the final.

Brock Graham pinned Northview's Jared Williams in 1:40 to win the 171 final.

At 189, Lowell's Alex Fleet was pinned in 3:44 by Northview's Alex Phillips.

Dominic Doyle won the 275 final for Lowell, pinning Forest Hills Northern's Carson Mulcher in 1:15.

Behind Lowell in the team standings were Northview, who scored 163.5; Kenowa Hills (134), Forest Hills Central (85), Forest Hills Northern (84.5) and East Grand Rapids (41).

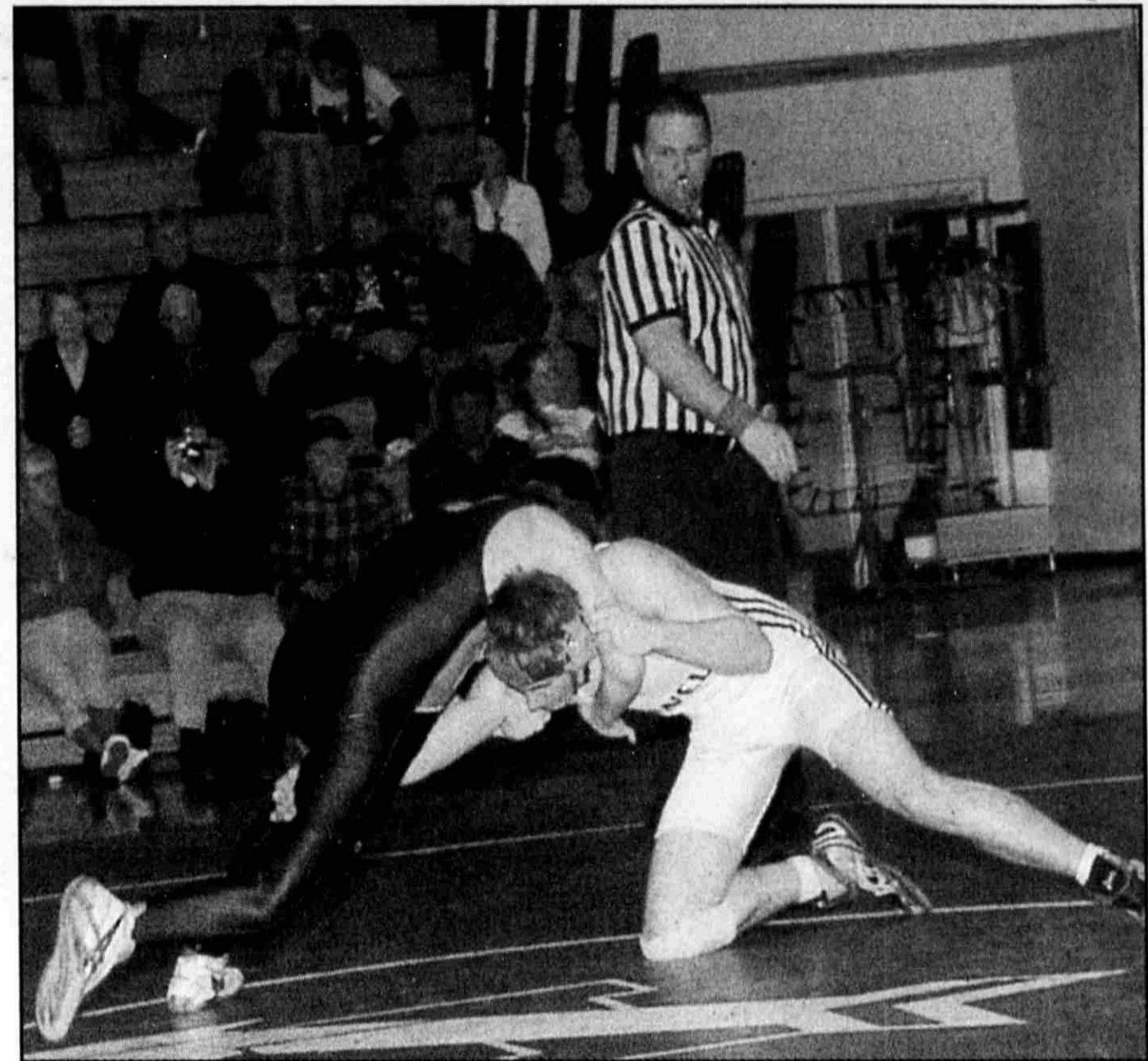
"One thing is when you wrestle against your conference, you get an inventory of your year because you get a lot of matches again," Lowell

coach Dave Dean said. "We've made strides. I felt really good about our team's effort."

Last week, Lowell fielded its "B" team against crossover opponents Comstock Park and Hastings. The Hastings "B" team defeated Lowell 54-24. Comstock Park beat the Lowell "B" team 60-19.

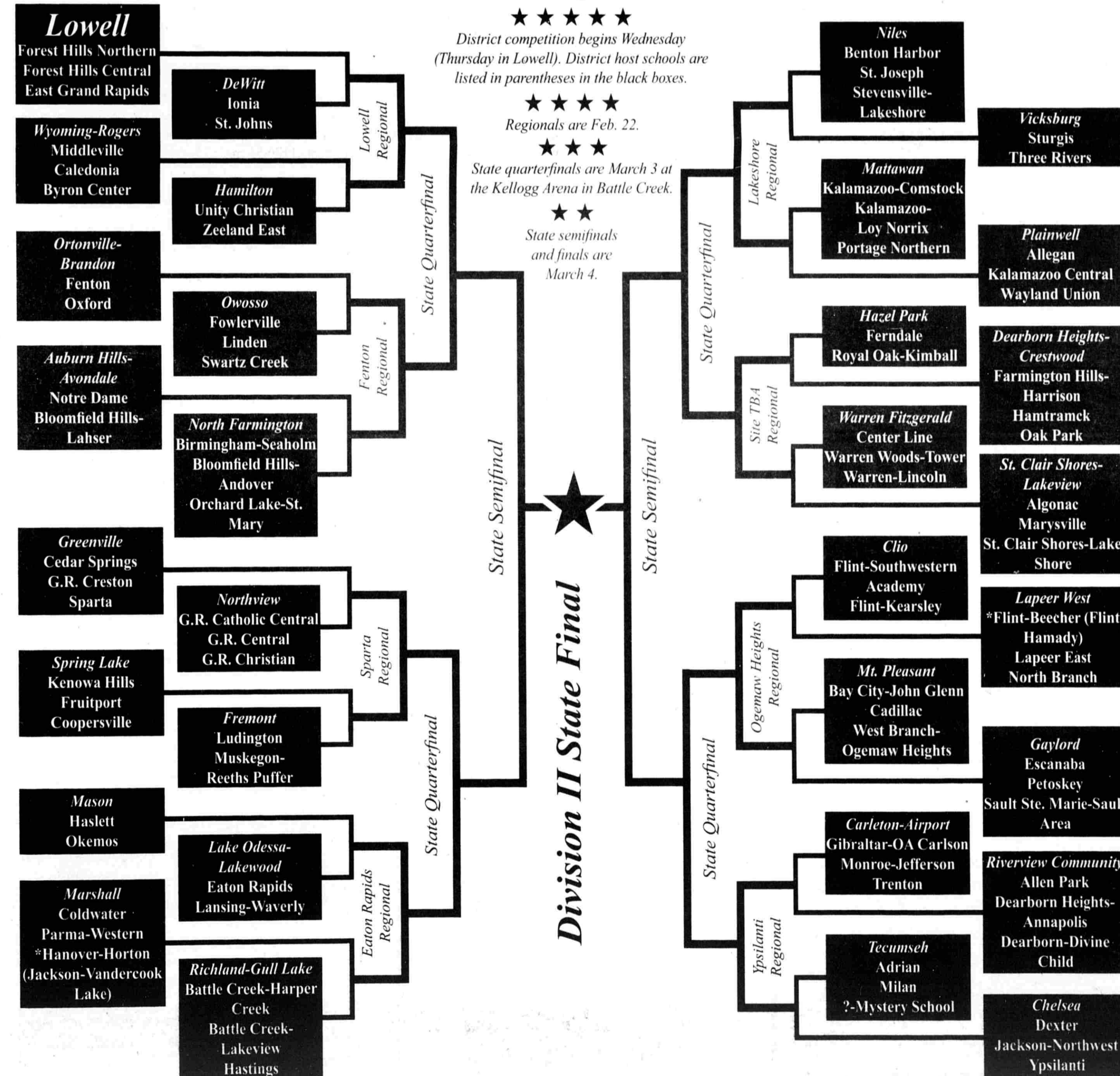
Lowell hosts Forest Hills Northern, Forest Hills Central and East Grand Rapids Thursday in the team district. Lowell will wrestle Forest Hills Northern at 6 p.m. and the winner will advance to face the winner of the East Grand Rapids/Forest Hills Central match.

Individual districts will be held Saturday at Northview High School. Wrestling starts at 10 a.m.



Lowell's Steve Kerr (in white) wrestles a Hastings opponent in last Wednesday's crossover match.

2006 MHSAA Division II Team State Wrestling Tournament



LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

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

- TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2006
- THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2006

Between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 noon and 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

You may appeal assessed valuation one of two ways:

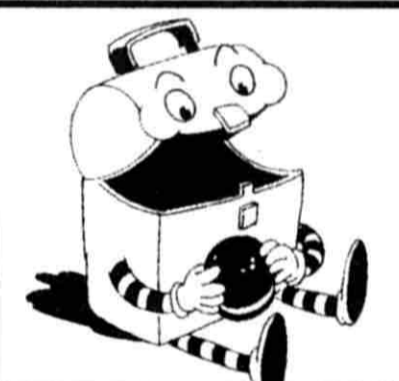
1.) To appear at the Board of Review, call on Tuesday or Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., (616) 897-7600, to schedule an appointment.

OR

2.) By letter addressed to:
Lowell Township/Assessor
2910 Alden Nash SE
Lowell, MI 49331

* MUST BE RECEIVED PRIOR TO MARCH 6, 2006

Linda Regan
Lowell Township Clerk



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- MON: Mid Winter Break.
- TUES: Hamburger on bun (ravioli w/bread also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), corn, assorted fruit, milk.
- WED: Ham & cheese Lunchable w/crackers (burrito also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), baked beans, fruited gelatin salad, milk.
- THURS: Chicken patty on bun (soft taco w/meat, cheese & lettuce also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), carrot sticks/fruit, peanut butter bar, milk.
- FRI: Sausage pizza (cheeseburger on bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), diced carrots, assorted fruit, milk.

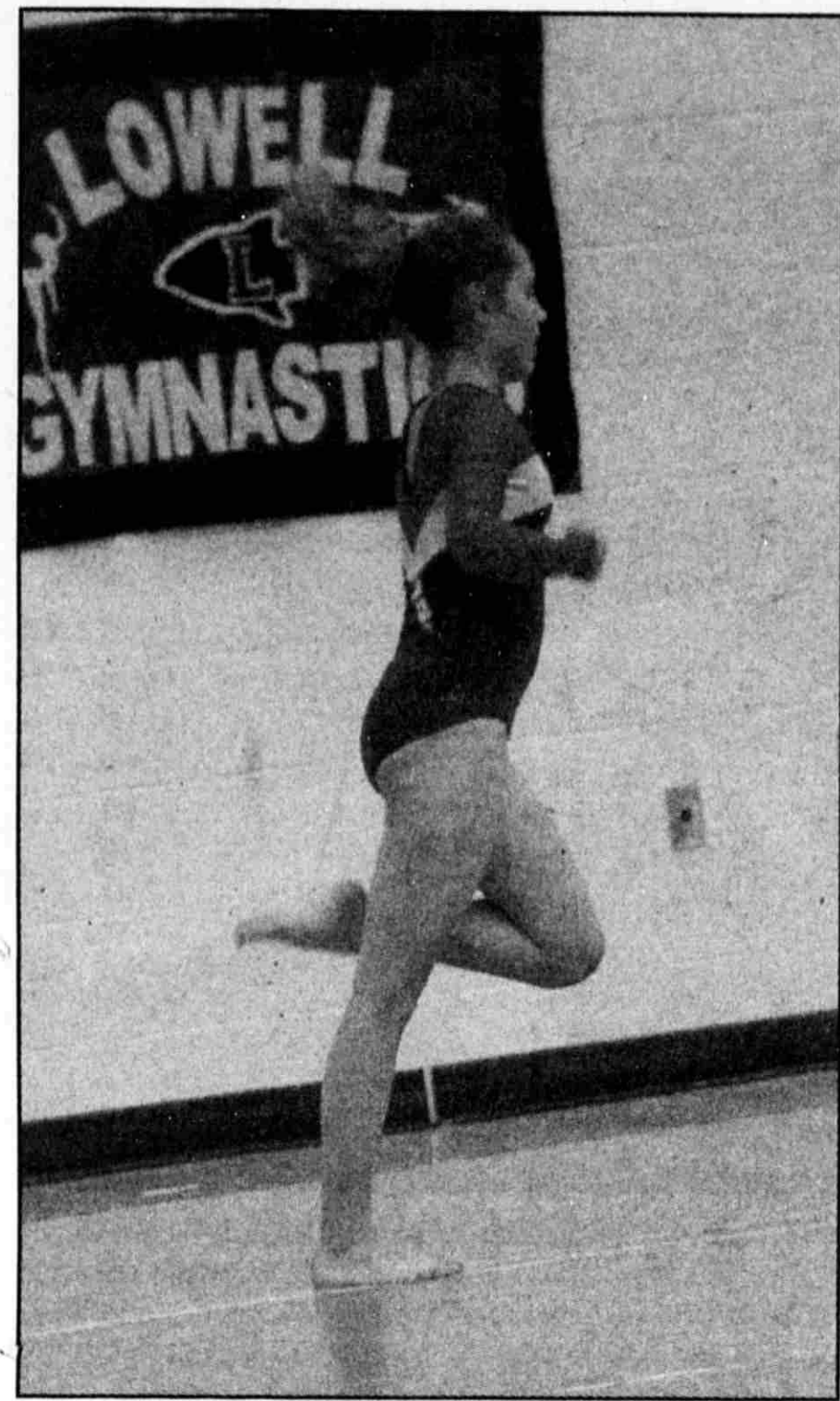
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Red Arrow gymnastics team beats Mona Shores



Lowell's Andrea Coffey part way through a floor exercise routine.

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell gymnastics team followed up its best team score of the season with its second best team score of the season.

After scoring 132.425 to take third place at the St. Johns Invitational Feb. 4, the Red Arrows put together a team score of 128.875 to beat Mona Shores at home last Wednesday. The Sailors scored 127.75 in the meet.

"That was probably the best of the season," Lowell coach Skye Fisher said. "They did really good at St. Johns so it really isn't that big of a surprise that they did good tonight."

Lowell had an especially good night on the balance beam. Five consecutive Lowell gymnasts executed beam routines without any falls.

"It was a good event, I was very proud of them," Fisher said.

Lowell senior Alicia Weeber completed the all-around for her first time in competition for Lowell.

"She's never ever done it, so we were very proud of her," Fisher said.

Mona Shores, which was struggling with some sick gymnasts, was glad to be able to field four gymnasts in all four events.

"We were a little worried when we got here, one girl went home from school," Mona Shores coach Carol Schneller said. "We were very pleased considering

what we were dealing with. We appreciate the hospitality we received from Lowell."

Lowell's top scorers on vault were Kelli Kowalski (8.55), Becca Underwood (8.25), Richelle Kimble (8.1), and Andrea Coffey (7.8).

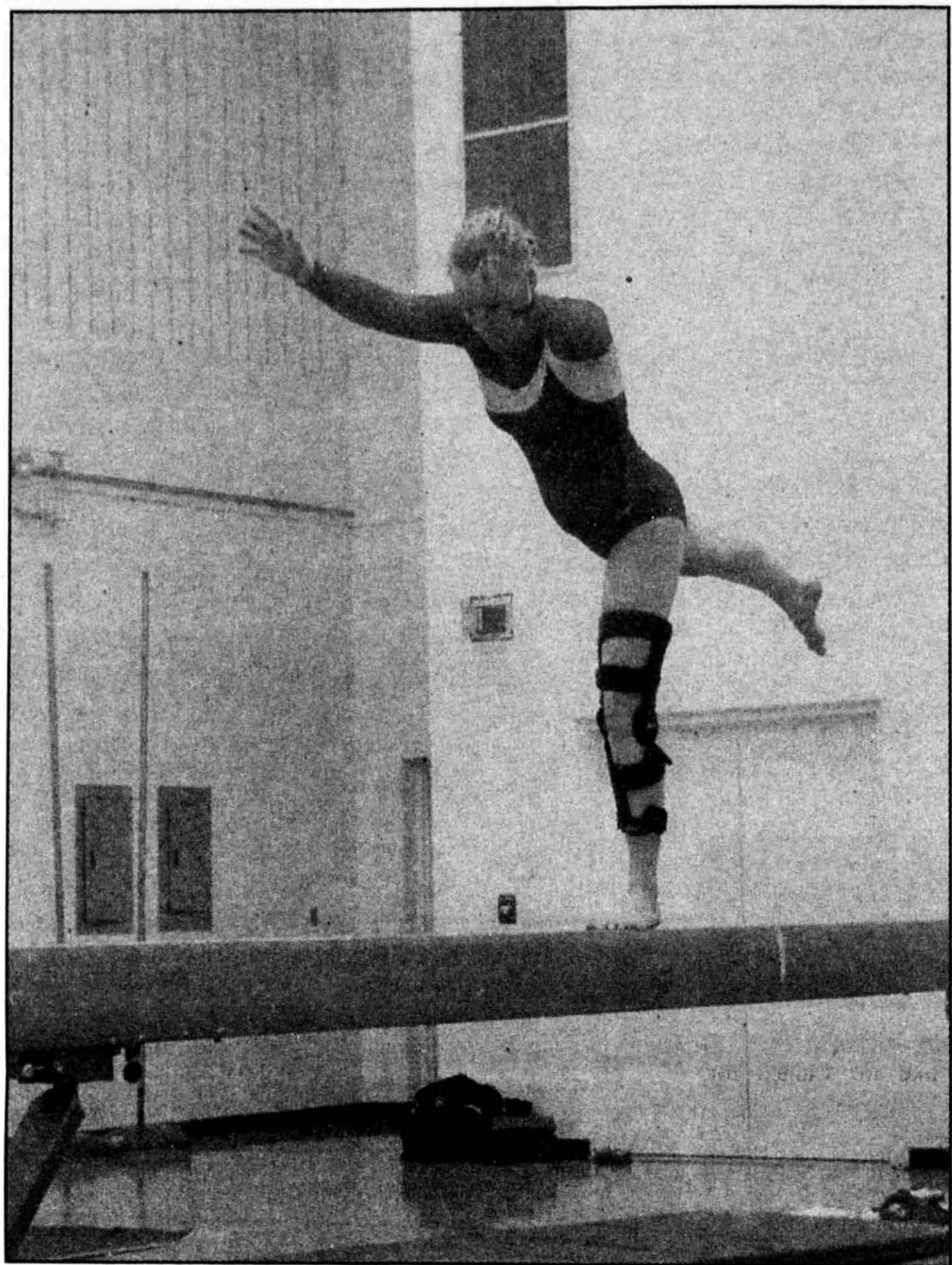
On bars: Underwood (7.8), Kimble (7.65), Leannah Seese (7.35), and Kowalski (7.2).

On beam: Underwood (8.7), Kimble (8.6), Weeber (8.3) and Kowalski (7.95).

Underwood was Lowell's top scorer on the

floor exercise with an 8.825 followed by Kimble (8.15), Seese (7.9) and Coffey (7.75).

Lowell's next match is Wednesday at East Kentwood.



Lowell's Leannah Seese executes a maneuver on the balance beam.

Bowling, continued ... From Page 18

The Lowell girls recovered from the loss at Rockford with a 28-2 win at Northview last Wednesday. The Arrows won both baker games and eight out of 10 regular games. Rolling high scores for Lowell were

Sowles (163 in game one, 183 in game two), Nawrocki (201 in game one), Freed (162 in game one) and Kim Ward (156 in game one).

The Lowell boys team lost to Northview 22-8. The Arrows lost both baker

games and won four of the 10 regular games. Rolling high games for Lowell were Sherman (175 in game one, 190 in game two), Jahnke (197, 251), Adriance (202 in game two), Everitt (177 in game two) and Jake Nawrocki (177 in game one).

Both teams went to the Hudsonville Invitational Saturday. The boys finished sixth behind Grand Haven, Unity Christian,

Hudsonville, Grand Rapids Union and Zeeland. Jahnke was named to the all-tournament team. The girls team finished seventh behind Rogers, Rockford, Hudsonville, Grand Ledge, Zeeland and Grand Rapids Union. Nawrocki was named to the all-tournament team.

Lowell hosted Muskegon Reeths Puffer Monday. The conference tournament is Saturday at Eastbrook Lanes.




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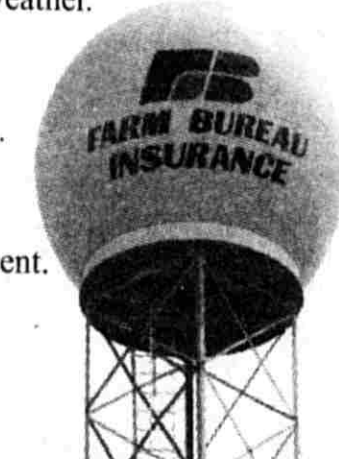
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Lowell-Caledonia hockey struggles in three losses

Red Arrows/Fighting Scots win first overtime match against Hudsonville

By Dan Schneider

Lowell-Caledonia hockey played a heavy schedule last week, with three games against tough opponents over the course of four days.

The first was a league game at last Wednesday at West Ottawa, which the Panthers won 7-0.

Then, Friday, Lowell-Caledonia played a non-league game against Holt on home ice. The Rams won in a shutout, 9-0, scoring three goals in each period.

"We weren't as well prepared and organized as we should have been," Lowell-Caledonia coach Mike Ballard said. "It was a rough weekend, but I think the team has become more unified mentally."

Team unity was the subject of a team meeting Friday and adjustments have been made to the lines to get the team operating with more fluidity.

On Saturday, Lowell-Caledonia lost 5-1 to Hudsonville on home ice. Ballard attributed that loss to the game being at the end of the tough week.

"The kids played the game like we wanted to

play, but three games in four days, that's a big toll," Ballard said.

Feb. 2, Lowell-Caledonia beat Hudsonville 3-2 in overtime.

"It was a great game, back and fourth, they scored in the first, we scored in the second," Ballard said.

Hudsonville scored again early in the third period, but Lowell-Caledonia answered later in the period, then wasted no time in overtime.

"The kids have lost two overtime games earlier in the year, and decided they didn't want to lose another one, so the went out and scored 13 seconds into the overtime," Ballard said.

Lowell-Caledonia's next two games are away league games. They face South Christian Friday and West Ottawa Saturday.

"We're hoping to finish out the year strong, the teams we have left we've been real competitive with this year," Ballard said. "Unfortunately, we've been on the wrong end."

Lowell-Caledonia is 3-5 in league games and 4-17 overall.



Lowell-Caledonia hockey players Justin Story, Cory Kowalski and Joel Scheele protect the goal during Friday's game against Holt.

Lowell volleyball falls in four games at Kenowa

By Dan Schneider

Lowell's varsity volleyball team had another setback last Thursday with a loss in four games to Kenowa Hills.

The Red Arrows won the first game of the match 27-25. Then they lost game two, 25-16; game three, 25-18; and game four, 25-17.

Lowell coach Gigi Peal said there was a lack of energy in the air, particularly on Lowell's side of the net.

"The whole night of

volleyball, I think on both sides of the court, was a very emotionless game," Peal said.

Lowell and Kenowa Hills have developed a rivalry in volleyball over the years, Peal said, but it was not overly evident on the court last Thursday.

"When it got time to do it on the court, there was just no one stepping up and getting the job done," Peal said.

It was a continuation

of Lowell's struggles with consistency this season, she said.

"It seems like we have a different go-to player every game," Peal said.

In terms of putting everything on the court, Peal said the five-game match against Northview two weeks ago was the team's best effort of the season, even though it was a loss.

"If you don't put your whole selves into it, you can always make excuses

afterward," Peal said. "I think what this group struggles with is putting it all out there and accepting the results."

She said the fact that the team played in a tough conference all season will be a benefit in the district tournament. The district title

is now the Lowell volleyball team's goal.

Lowell varsity's next game is Wednesday at 4:30 p.m., when the Red Arrows will host East Grand Rapids. The match was rescheduled to accommodate the Pioneers, who have a choir concert later in the evening.

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2006

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

Lowell Mobil Mart has made application for a variance from Section 4.3.4 Outdoor Lighting Requirements and Restrictions, J. Special Requirements by Zone, Table 2 Lighting, of the Lowell Township Zoning Ordinance to allow uplighting of a flag for property located at 4475 Alden Nash Avenue SE, Lowell, Permanent Parcel No. 41-20-28-200-022.

Linda S. Regan, Clerk

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GRATTAN TOWNSHIP NOTICE BOARD OF REVIEW

THE BOARD OF REVIEW OF GRATTAN TOWNSHIP WILL MEET AT THE GRATTAN TOWNSHIP HALL 12050 OLD BELDING ROAD BELDING, MICHIGAN 48809

ON

TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2006
Between 11 a.m. and 12 noon to receive the assessment roll

AND

TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2006
Between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 noon

from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the tax roll and hearing all claims. Additional hearings will be scheduled for 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. if required.

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

Written appeals must be received by March 9, 2006.

Those wishing to appeal in person should call the Township Office at 691-8450 before March 14, 2006 to pre-arrange an appointment.

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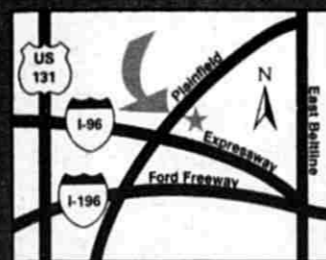
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Cooperation is the key for Main Street Businesses

By Dan Schneider

Lowell business owners say a cooperative atmosphere is something that sets this town apart from other, similar-sized communities.

Shoppers checking out one shop in Lowell are likely to hear about some of the other stores here. Chimera Design owner Cliff Yankovich said he often refers customers to other downtown stores, and other shops reciprocate.

"Referring customers up and down the street is really helpful," Yankovich said. "It's great marketing and it really doesn't cost you anything."

Talking up other peoples' stores might seem counterproductive to business success, but it's helpful when its part of the community's business culture.

"I have a regular spiel that I use for people and tell them, 'Now, you have to go here,'" said Susan Molnar, who owns Glasshouse Designs on Main Street.

She said she has had customers come into her shop because "someone down the way has given them a list of the stores (in Lowell)."

And Yankovich said the positive vibes are perceptible to customers.

"I think it helps people have a positive feeling about Lowell as a whole, when businesses talk well about each other," he said.

Molnar said it helps

to bring in customers from farther away.

"People won't come to Lowell just for Glass House Designs," she said. "You want them to come back and the more opportunities ... the more they can see here, the more reason to come back. It makes it a destination."

People from other towns have noticed Lowell's cooperation between businesses.

"I've had business owners from Ada, Cascade and Ionia come in and ask me questions like 'how do you guys do it here in Lowell,'" Yankovich said.

One Ada business owner even went so far as to attend a board meeting of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce just to hear the kinds of conversations business owners have in Lowell.

"Our group of merchants should be commended because they do work together rather well and other communities sometimes don't have that," Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Liz Baker said.

She said it has helped downtown Lowell continue to improve even as it faces the same challenges that are causing businesses to struggle statewide. Lowell has a merchants group and an "ambassador group" within the chamber that seek to promote networking and improve Lowell's business environment as a whole.

"The merchant's group

is very dynamic," Baker said.

She talked about how the state of the business community in Lowell has a broader impact on life here. For instance, the Riverwalk Plaza and other amenities downtown--in fact downtown itself--would not be in their present state if people did not support local business.

"It simply wouldn't thrive without the business community," Baker said. "They're the pulse of the community. It's so important to try and buy and shop and eat and do things locally."

The cooperative downtown atmosphere is part of what sets Lowell apart as a commercial entity from malls and big-box retailers.

"I think referral and cooperation is one of the big advantages that we have as downtown merchants," Yankovich said. "I mean, have you ever been in a store in a mall and not spent any money and had somebody tell you, 'Wow, you should try going down to ... it just doesn't happen.'"

Cooperation has had positive effects beyond building up business. It has also helped Lowell businesses deal with adversity.

"When (Dream Pieces owner) Carolyn (Price) was having shoplifting trouble, she let us all know and described what (the shoplifter) was wearing," Yankovich said.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

- Margaret Mead (1901 - 1978)

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