

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 34 Issue 16

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, February 22, 2006

Chamber shines the light on 2006 "Person of the Year"

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell business community is full of hearty and resourceful people.

That was proven last Thursday at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce's annual Winter Gathering, which was well attended despite the absence of electricity at the venue. Fortunately,

chamber director Liz Baker's son was married recently and several candles were left over after the reception. Baker brought these to the banquet hall and they provided enough light to eat by.

Deer Run Golf Club's banquet facility had been caught in last Thursday's winter storm power outages.

So the evening was a candlelight dinner before

speeches were read by flashlight.

Chamber board of directors member Cliff Yankovich gave the first speech, which was to recognize King Milling Company for receiving the chamber's business appreciation award.

"To say that King Milling is an important part of the community and has been an important part of the community for years is a vast understatement," he said.

The mill and its grain elevators continue to provide the majority of Lowell's skyline. And King Milling Company has employed hundreds of Lowellites over the years.

Founded in 1890 when Francis King and Frank T. King bought the bankrupt Superior Mill, King Milling Company has held on through thick and thin. It burned to the ground in 1943 on a day in March so cold

the firemen's water froze on contact with the building. It was rebuilt better than before, however, and continued on.

In 1890, there were more than 700 mills in Michigan. By 1958, that number had dwindled to 28. Today, King Milling is one of only five flour mills still in operation in the state of Michigan.

Following the business appreciation award was the presentation of the chamber's Person of the Year award. The award recognizes individuals who have freely donated considerable time to their community, school district, church or humanity over and above the demands of their regular profession.

Ray and Barb Zandstra, the collective recipients of this year's award, have done most of their work in

Chamber Winter Gathering, cont'd. pg 10



In lieu of electricity Liz Baker holds a flashlight for Ray and Barb Zandstra as they accept their "Person of the Year" award.

School board to wrap up interviews for new superintendent

By Dan Schneider

Tonight, the Lowell Area Schools board of education will interview the final two candidates to be the district's new superintendent.

The six candidates in this first round of interviews have diverse experience with a number of different school districts. All of them are from Michigan. Most are from West Michigan. Five of them are currently in district superintendent positions.

David Sipka was the first candidate interviewed Tuesday night.

Sipka, 53, is currently an assistant superintendent and elementary principal at Coopersville Area Public Schools, where he has worked since 1996. He said the experience from the multifaceted role he held at that district would serve him well if he were hired for the Lowell position.

"I think a superintendent needs to know a lot about a lot and I think that's why I'd be a great fit for Lowell," Sipka said.

Over the course of his almost 10 years at Coopersville, he served



Tom Langdon

as needed as personnel director, curriculum director, chief negotiator, and technology director. He was asked to step in as principal of the district's East Elementary school when it was experiencing

problems with divisiveness among its staff.

"I have been a troubleshooter in this district," Sipka said.

While he doesn't think that would be his primary role in Lowell Area Schools ...

"Lowell is a great school district already, its just time to take it to the next level."

... he sees challenges on the road ahead for



Roger Thelen

whomever is hired as the superintendent.

"One would be still recovering from the difficult negotiations that were had a few years ago and getting



Christine Beardsley

past that and looking toward the future," Sipka said. "And the devastation of losing a superintendent in office."

Communication will be the key.

"I think it will be incumbent on the next superintendent to be in really good communication with all the staff and with the community," Sipka said.

Prior to the assistant superintendent and principal post, Sipka was principal,

teacher, and principal/teacher at five different West Michigan Catholic elementary schools from 1974-1996. His wife is principal of St. Mary's school in Spring Lake and they have two sons about to graduate from college.

Tom Langdon, 41, is currently the superintendent of Big Rapids Public Schools.

He has been superintendent of Walkerville Public Schools (200-2004), a middle school principal at both Beaverton



Greg Pratt

Rural Schools and Union City Community Schools,



Keith Konarska

and an assistant middle school principal at Marshall Public Schools. He started his career in education as an assistant principal/teacher in the Parchment School District.

He applied for the Lowell superintendent's position because "they're doing some great, innovative things. They've got a great

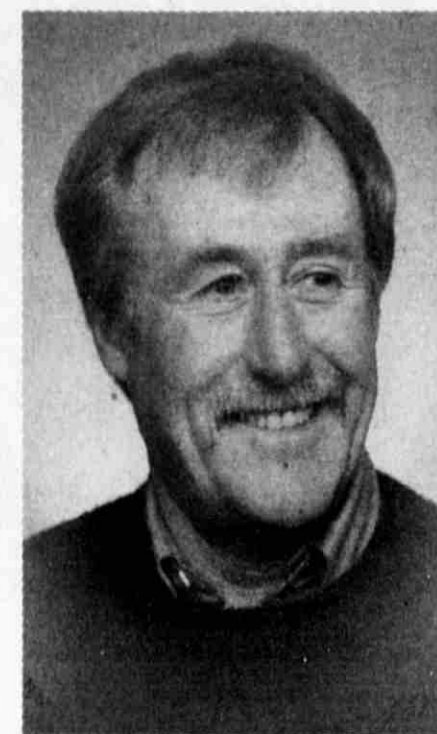
Interviews, cont'd. pg. 12

Obituaries



EWING
Charles "Jim" Ewing aged 76 of Lowell passed away February 16, 2006. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis; ex-wife, Elaine; children, George Ewing,

Luanne Ewing, Sandra (Paul) Blackburn, Charles A. Ewing III, Jamie (Lance) Nordstrand, Marty Phillips, Denise Phillips; brother, J.D. (Sue) McBride; sister, Irene Massengil; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; Jim was preceded in death by his brothers, Odell and Chester McBride. Funeral services were held Monday February 20th at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church with Rev. Joe Fremer officiating. Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson St. Memorial contributions may be made to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.



BARCLAY
Barclay, Dwight age 62 of Lowell passed away February 16, 2006 at his home. Dwight was a heavy equipment operator and member of the Operating Engineers Local 324. He loved to deer hunt, ride his quad, and was a hard worker. He also took great pride in his Chevy truck and always kept it clean inside and out. Beloved partner of Gloria. Loving father

of Robert (Shari) Trefil of Hastings and Melissa Trefil of Lansing. Grandfather of Britney, Joseph, Truman, Mekael and Ashton. Brother of Leonard (JoAnne) Barclay of Holt, Vern (Irene) Barclay of Ionia, Willard (Jill) Barclay of Holland, David (Rozanna) Barclay of Perry, Philip (Val) Barclay of Fenwick. Many nieces and nephews. The Funeral Service was held Monday, February 20, 2006, at Schrauben-Lehman Funeral Home - Ionia Chapel, 220 Rich Street, Ionia. Memorial contributions may be given to the American Cancer Society, Capitol Area Service Center, 1755 Abbey Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823. Arrangements by Holihan-Atkin Funeral Home, Grand Lodge, 517-627-2531 www.holihanatkin.com

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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
And
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.

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

Tentative equalization factor is 1.000000

James Marfia
Assessor, Grattan Township
Frank Force
Supervisor, Grattan Township

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

Ratio	Multiplier
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

BOWNE TOWNSHIP NOTICE BOARD OF REVIEW
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.

Consumers offers heating safety reminders

The chill of February and the high cost of heating fuels may encourage residents to use supplemental methods of heating their homes. In doing so, never use the cooking stove as the main heat source as it may be a safety hazard or cause a fire. Also, do not use gas-fired space heaters in small, enclosed areas due to the potential of carbon monoxide poisoning.

It is still most economical to use a home's furnace to heat large areas and multiple rooms. An electric space heater can be a good way to heat a small area.

If using an electric space heater, Consumers Energy offers the following safety tips:

- When purchasing an electric space heater, make sure it has an Underwriters Laboratories (UL) label.
- If the appliance has a three-prong plug, plug it directly into the wall outlet. The third prong grounds the appliance and prevents shocks. Some extension cords may not be able to handle the amount of electricity required to operate the appliance safely, and could cause a fire.
- Keep the heater away from curtains, drapes and bedspreads or anything flammable.
- Keep the heater away from water and never touch the heater when you're wet.
- Always unplug the heater before you go to bed or leave home.
- Do not use the space heater if the cord is frayed or damaged.
- Never use a space heater in place of your home heating system.
- Heating ducts and water pipes in unheated areas should be wrapped with insulation. If water pipes become frozen, never use electric appliances (such as hair dryers) to remedy the situation.

To maximize the warmth of your home, open the curtains on sunny days, and close doors of unused rooms like your attic, basement and storage areas.

Residents can perform an online energy analysis of their home, utilize energy saving calculators, and receive detailed recommendations to reduce energy costs by visiting www.consumersenergy.com

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 06-181,040-DE

Estate of RUTH V. ENGEL deceased

Date of birth 10/29/1925

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICETOCREDITORS: The decedent, RUTH V. ENGEL, who lived at 35 Frontenac St., S.E., Wyoming, MI died 05/25/2002.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to ARDITH PURCELL, c/o John D. Mitus, Attorney at Law, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Ave. N.W., Suite 2500, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice. February 15, 2006

John D. Mitus (P-31244)
410 Bridge St. N.W.
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-774-4001

Ardith Purcell
35 Frontenac, S.E.
Wyoming, MI 49548

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Foundation will boost donations to Flat River Outreach Ministries

By Dan Schneider

For anyone interested in making a donation to Flat River Outreach Ministries (F.R.O.M.) food pantry, the months of March and April will be a good time to do it.

From March 1 to April 30, monetary and food donations will be augmented by money from Alan Shawn Feinstein, who founded the Feinstein Foundation in 1996. The foundation is a philanthropic organization based in Rhode Island and dedicated to fighting world hunger. Feinstein, who was a teacher and then made his money in publishing before turning full-time to philanthropy, divides \$1 million annually among nationwide hunger fighting agencies.

Here's how it works: local agencies collect food and money from donors and add up the total. Each food item counts as a dollar. The local agencies add up their donations and the figure is calculated as a percentage of the total donations collected by all the agencies nationwide. Then, the agencies receive that percentage of the \$1 million.

The Feinstein money acts as a catalyst for local giving. Last year, Flat River Outreach Ministries collected \$22,719.54 (that figure includes their share of the Feinstein Foundation money, which totaled \$376.14, and counts donated food items as \$1 each) during the two months of the Feinstein challenge.

Flat River Outreach Ministries' food pantry plans to make the most of the challenge this year. The organization is sending letters about the challenge to 130 of its regular donors and to churches in the area. F.R.O.M. also plans to place food collection barrels at various locations around town.

City residents dodge last week's power outages

By Dan Schneider

While residents of many other cities in the area were in the dark, Lowell was relatively free of power outages after last Thursday's ice storm.

Lowell Light and Power received "only about a dozen" calls from customers with their power out, according to the utility's general manager, Tom Richards. Only one small line servicing customers near the intersection of 28th Street and Pratt Lake Avenue was knocked out of commission. An ice-laden tree branch striking the line caused the failure. Power was restored within three hours, Richards said.

Meanwhile, 124,000 Consumers Energy customers lost power Thursday night. Grand Rapids and the Greenville area were the hardest hit. As of 9:30 p.m., Thursday, 27,000 people in the Greenville area and 17,000 people in Grand Rapids were out of power.

As of 10:30 a.m. Monday, the number of people without power in surrounding cities had dwindled to about 5,800, with Greenville and Ionia accounting for 5,000. Consumer's Energy employed more than 340 utility, line clearing and contract crews in the effort, including 84 crews from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Richards attributed the reliability of the Lowell Light and Power's lines to the utility's diligence in clearing tree branches near the lines.

"It generally is because of the success we've had with out tree trimming and line clearing," Richards said.

The trimming program has sparked controversy in the past, especially among homeowners whose trees have been trimmed or removed. Richards said the power outages last week demonstrated the importance of the program.

"That was exactly the type of thing that our tree trimming program is looking to eliminate or at least minimize," Richards said.

At Your Local Library



BOOKWORMS' BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Bookworms' Book Discussion Group meets on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Titles and dates are:

- "The Bonesetter's Daughter" by Amy Tan - March 14

The Englehardt branch of the Kent District Library will host several book discussions this spring.

College News

Jacqueline Christina Dawn Vos of Alto has been recognized on the Anderson University's dean list for the fall semester. Students must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

University of Northwestern Ohio has announced

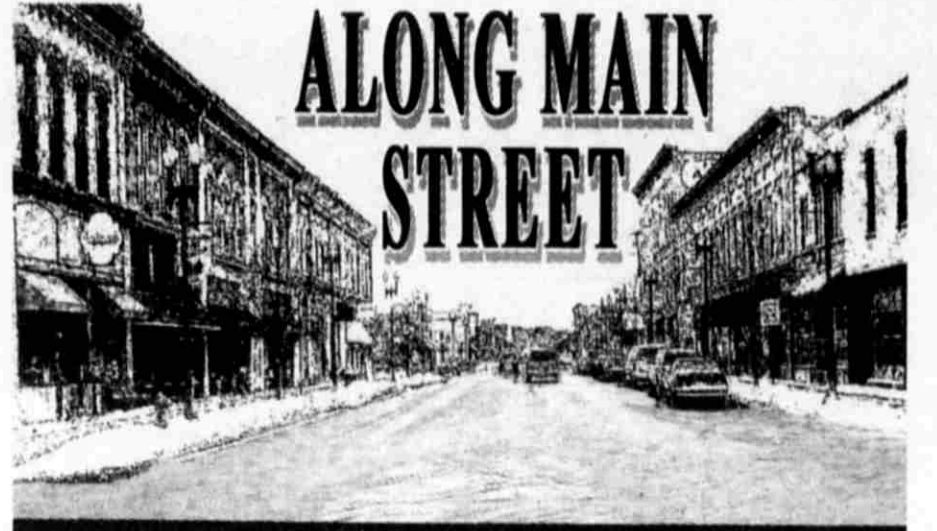
striking the line caused the failure. Power was restored within three hours, Richards said.

For more information contact the library at 647-3920.

WORKSHOP

The Englehardt Library Friends of the Library presents an Altered Book Workshop on Saturday, March 4, from 1 to 4 p.m. For more information call Joy Smith at 897-7957.

its dean's list for the November session for the College of Technologies. The following full-time students received a grade point average of 3.5 or better: **Ryan W. Ward** from the Lowell area; **David W. Elzinga** and **Kurt M. Rabley** from the Alto area.



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.

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.

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 COMPETITION

The 20th Annual West Michigan Regional (art) Competition at the Lowell Area Arts Council runs through March 25, 2006. The Lowell Area Arts Council is located at 149 S. Hudson, Lowell, MI. For more information on this exhibition contact the Lowell Area Arts Council 616-897-8545 / website: www.lowellartscouncil.org

ARMCHAIR ADVENTURE

Armchair Adventure! Hear the story of Himalayan trekking (Bhutan), temple-tramping at Angkor Wat (Cambodia), and working with elephants (Thailand). Offered by Kate Democour. No charge. Voyages Coffeeshop, Thursday, March 16, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

LAS ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB MEETING

The Athletic Boosters will hold their regular business meeting in the High School Staff Lounge on Monday the 6th of March at 7 p.m. Please come and help support our athletes.

CLASS OF 2006

Parents planning meeting for the Senior Class Trip, Monday, March 6, at LHS in the mathrooms, starting at 7pm. Bring coupon books.

LOWELL COMMUNITY WELLNESS

Lowell Community Wellness is updating the Community Resource Directory. This directory is a listing of health related services throughout our community and non-profit organizations. Please contact pselner@lowellschools.com to have your organization included. The deadline is February 28th. 340-7781.

BLOOD DRIVE

St. Mary's Catholic Church is having a Blood Drive, Sat., Feb. 25th, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 402 Amity St. Contact Cindy at 897-0452 if you need more info.

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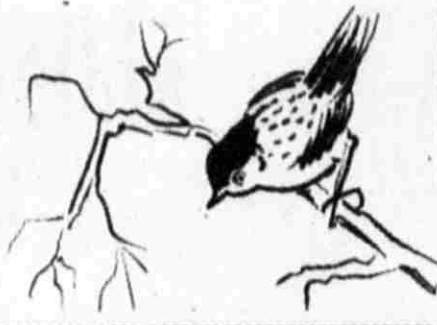
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Outdoors

By
Dave Stegehuis



WHERE ARE WE?

Getting lost or just being confused about where we are can be a little scary when roaming around Michigan backcountry. I was surprised at how much wild land still exists while riding a four-wheeler on abandoned logging roads in the Huron Mountains in the Upper Peninsula. The roads were so bad that in one place I wasn't sure if we would be able to proceed or even go back the way we had come without getting stranded. At that point, I was glad to have a Global Positioning System (GPS) with downloaded

detailed maps to determine our location. As it turned out, there was only one short mud run between us and a passable road which led back to our camp.

All GPS units display the present location, plot a trail, and store waypoints. Others have enough memory to download topographic maps, road maps and marine charts. Some models also give locations of gas stations, hotels and restaurants, as well as turn-by-turn directions to a desired destination, all in living color.

A GPS would seem to be the complete answer for navigation. It's not. These devices require electrical power and can fail if batteries become weak or die. It is always advisable to carry a good old-fashioned magnetic compass. The compass always works, but it won't tell you where you are like the GPS, so it is necessary to pay attention to landmarks and map features as you travel.

It is wise to practice using a compass and GPS before venturing into unknown territory. Orienteering and geocaching are a fun and sometimes competitive way to

develop navigation skills. Geocaching requires a GPS to follow a series of instructions and clues to locate the next waypoint or "treasure." Orienteering involves using a compass to follow pre-determined headings to a specific destination.

These activities are a great way for a family to spend time together outdoors. Our grandson, Tristan, was getting a compass for Christmas so we reviewed basic compass reading and took him along on a rabbit hunt. After we had wandered around in the woods for a while on a cold snowy morning, I handed him a detailed map of the area and a compass and asked him to find a shortcut back to the truck. He was really tickled about having led his grandparents out of the "wilderness" that day.

Whether skiing, hiking, hunting, picking mushrooms or whatever takes you off the beaten path, using a compass or GPS can provide peace of mind to make the experience more enjoyable.

Group formed to promote Lowell's positive attributes

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell area has a lot going for it: two rivers, its school system, its historic downtown, family festivals, and its arts community, to name a few positive aspects of this town.

A group of people are now putting together a plan to let more people know about this in an effort to stimulate economic growth in the area.

"I think when we live someplace, we tend to take things for granted and I

think we have a lot to brag about here in Lowell," Cliff Yankovich said.

The owner of Chimer Design, Yankovich is a member of the community-wide marketing committee. The group is putting together a marketing plan to promote Lowell to the wider West Michigan area as a place to live, work, visit, shop, and go to school. The idea has been developing over the course of the last two years.

"The historical museum is a good example of

how the community really rallied around and created a first-class facility," Yankovich said, adding that it is one of many amenities that make the Lowell area an attractive place to live.

He was speaking at last Thursday's meeting of the Lowell Downtown Development Authority (DDA). The committee was seeking financial support for the project, which has an estimated minimum cost of about \$100,000 per year.

Promotional efforts would include things like billboard advertisements along I-94, flyers, and newspaper ads. With financial

help from the DDA, there will be a booth promoting Lowell at the West Michigan Women's Expo March 10-12 at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids.

The Lowell Area Community Fund has already approved \$32,500 in matching funds for the project. The committee was asking the DDA for \$25,000 and will

Grand Rapids, said the marketing plan would help local businesses grow.

"There's two ways to do that (grow), one is to take a bigger slice of the pie that

THE NEXT PLACE TO BE! LOWELL

The Lowell community-wide marketing committee plans to use this logo and slogan to promote Lowell to the wider West Michigan area.

Local artist Gary Eldridge was commissioned to create a logo and slogan for the effort. The slogan is: "Lowell, the next place to be."

The marketing committee is made up mostly of members of the local business community. Lowell Area Arts Council director Lorain Smalligan is a member.

"When we started talking about this marketing plan, it looked like something very manageable," Smalligan said. "I'm fairly confident that \$100,000 is within reach."

seek additional support from local businesses.

"I think we as the DDA ... we could be the spark for the city, for the businesses, for the townships to create a vision of what we want to be down the road," said DDA board member Mike Sprenger, who is also a member of the marketing committee. "I think we would help the city eventually by investing this money."

Committee member Eric Hallstedt, who owns a Regal Financial Group branch on 44th Street in

exists, the other is to make the pie bigger," Hallstedt said. "The pie will get bigger and that's what I like about this plan."

Support for the marketing plan has also come from the general Lowell population. The committee hired the Grand Rapids advertising firm Aegis Marketing to conduct a survey of 800 Lowell area residents: 385 people returned the survey and 84 percent of them said they would support the establishment of a community-wide marketing plan.

Promotion, cont'd., pg. 11

LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT 2ND ROUND INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

The public is invited to attend any or all of the Superintendent 2nd round interviews:

Tuesday, February 28, 2006
7:30 P.M.

Wednesday, March 1, 2006
7:30 P.M.

Thursday, March 2, 2006
7:30 P.M.

Runciman Board of Education Office - Board Room
300 High St., Lowell

*Please check the Lowell Area Schools website at www.lowellschools.com for candidates to be interviewed.

(These interviews will be broadcast on Channel 20 on March 1, 2 and 3 at 6:00 p.m.)

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

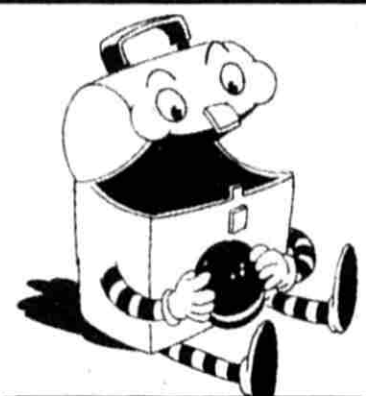
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2006
between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 noon and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
for the purpose of reviewing the tax roll and hearing all claims.

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



LUNCH MENU

ELEMENTARY MENU

Week of Feb. 27, 2006

MON: Pancakes w/ maple syrup or cereal, scrambled eggs, oven potatoes, fruit or juice, milk.

TUES: Chicken drumstick (stacked ham/cheese on bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), mashed potatoes & gravy, assorted fruit, milk.

WED: Macaroni & cheese w/mini soft pretzel (3 meat sub also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), steamed broccoli, assorted fruit, milk.

THURS: Green eggs & ham, applesauce, fruit juice, cinnamon roll, milk.

FRI: Cheeseburger on bun or fish/cheese on bun, oven French fries, assorted fruit, milk.

Viewpoint



by Roger Brown

cozy corner

Both dogs have to be at the vet's early this morning. I'm taking them. We are in the final stages of production in publishing our monthly real estate guide. That means my wife will be up soon and eager to get at this computer.

Two good excuses, but the real reason I'm cheating on a column this week is a mild case of writer's block. In other words, I can't figure a way to make my boring life seem interesting, or funny, on paper.

For example, we've been hard at work on the paper for a week... boring. Went to a wedding over the weekend... boring. Bought my wife an iPod for Valentine's Day. Now I'm spending every evening downloading our CD collection to it... really boring. Not much in the way of column material there.

It seems like dogs have been front and center lately. Because of a slight emergency we had to baby-sit a neighbor's year-old yellow Lab last week. The first thing he did was start marking out his territory... in our house. Houseguest, or not, he was immediately made to understand that was not acceptable behavior!

I mentioned my dogs' pending vet visit. They have some sort of skin issue going on that we can't get under control. They're getting a lime and sulfur dip every week for four weeks. That should be fun. And smell good, too.

In recent conversations with my daughter, it's becoming more and more likely we may inherit Derby, their eight-year-old yellow Lab. Tito, our eleven-year-old chocolate Lab was originally her dog. He was "temporarily" pawed off on us about ten years ago. Along with thirteen-year-old Max, we'll have a regular canine nursing home going here.

In other dog news, the "Westminster" was last week. I watched a little of that (in between copying CDs). I was also channel-surfing the Winter Olympics, the Michigan State vs. Iowa basketball game and a "Sopranos" re-run. Oh, and raiding the fridge for dinner. Talk about multi-tasking!

Seated next to us at the wedding reception was a guy who had just seen "Best In Show" for the first time. He was also a Steelers fan. With a few drinks under his belt, he proceeded to repeatedly give everyone in earshot a loud blow-by-blow account of the Super Bowl and a five-year-old movie. Hey fella, can you say "OBNOXIOUS"? We have all seen "Best in Show" and we all saw the Steelers and referees beat the Seahawks.

With all this "dog stuff" permeating into my life, here's a little dog something that came to me over the Internet.

HOW MANY DOGS DOES IT TAKE TO CHANGE A LIGHT BULB?

1. Golden Retriever: The sun is shining, the day is young, we've got our whole lives ahead of us, and you're inside worrying about a stupid light bulb?

2. Border Collie: Just one. And then I'll replace any wiring that's not up to code.
 3. Dachshund: You know I can't reach that stupid lamp!
 4. Rottweiler: Make me!
 5. Boxer: Who cares? I can still play with my squeaky toys in the dark.
 6. Labrador: Oh, me, me!!! Pleeeeeze let me change the light bulb. Can I? Can I? Huh? Huh? Huh? Can I? Pleeeeeze, please, please, please!!!
 7. German Shepherd: I'll change it as soon as I've led these people from the dark, check to make sure I haven't missed any, and make just one more perimeter patrol to see that no one has tried to take advantage of the situation.
 8. Jack Russell Terrier: I'll just pop it in while I'm bouncing off the walls and furniture.
 9. Old English Sheep Dog: Light bulb? I'm sorry, but I don't see a light bulb.
 10. Cocker Spaniel: Why change it? I can still pee on the carpet in the dark. (To any cocker owners out there... I didn't write this.)
 11. Chihuahua: Yo quiero Taco Bulb.
 12. Pointer: I see it, there it is, right there...
 13. Greyhound: It isn't moving, who cares?
 14. Australian Shepherd: First, I'll put all the light bulbs in a little circle...
 15. Poodle: I'll just blow in the Border Collie's ear and he'll do it. By the time he finishes rewiring the house, my nails will be dry.
- All of which proves, once again, that while dogs have masters, cats have staff.

What is a cat?

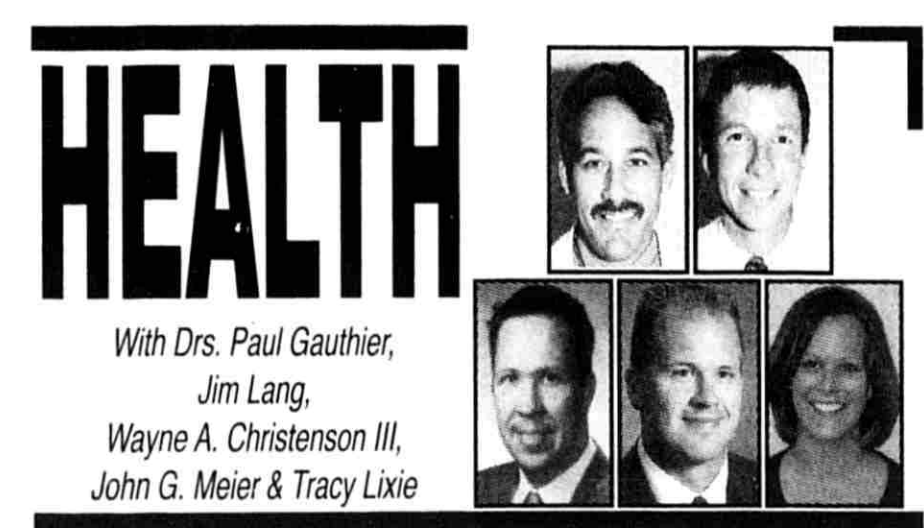
1. Cats do what they want.
 2. They rarely listen to you.
 3. They're totally unpredictable.
 4. When you want to play, they want to be alone.
 5. When you want to be alone, they want to play.
 6. They expect you to cater to their every whim.
 7. They're moody.
 8. They leave hair everywhere.
- Conclusion: They're tiny women in little fur coats.

What is a dog?

1. Dogs spend all day sprawled on the most comfortable piece of furniture in the house.
 2. They can hear a package of food opening half a block away, but don't hear you when you're in the same room.
 3. They can look dumb and lovable all at the same time.
 4. They growl when they are not happy.
 5. When you want to play, they want to play.
 6. When you want to be left alone, they want to play.
 7. They leave their toys everywhere.
 8. They do disgusting thing with their mouths when giving a kiss.
 9. They go right for your (I'll leave this to the imagination) as soon as they meet you.
- Conclusion: They're tiny men in little fur coats. Once again, a big "thank you" to Al Gore for inventing the Internet.

typically makes this condition occur more commonly in the winter months. The skin typically appears reddened, itchy, and possibly swollen. It is not contagious. It can appear anywhere, but most common areas include the folds in the elbows and behind the knees.

Avoiding dry skin is the easiest way to prevent or combat dermatitis. Use an unscented moisturizing soap such as Dove or Ivory. When bathing, use warm instead of hot water and limit yourself to 15 minutes. Use a moisturizing cream immediately after drying off. Eucerin or Aquaphor are excellent moisturizers. Using an antihistamine is useful when the itching is severe. At times, the only help will come in the form of a steroid cream such as hydrocortisone.



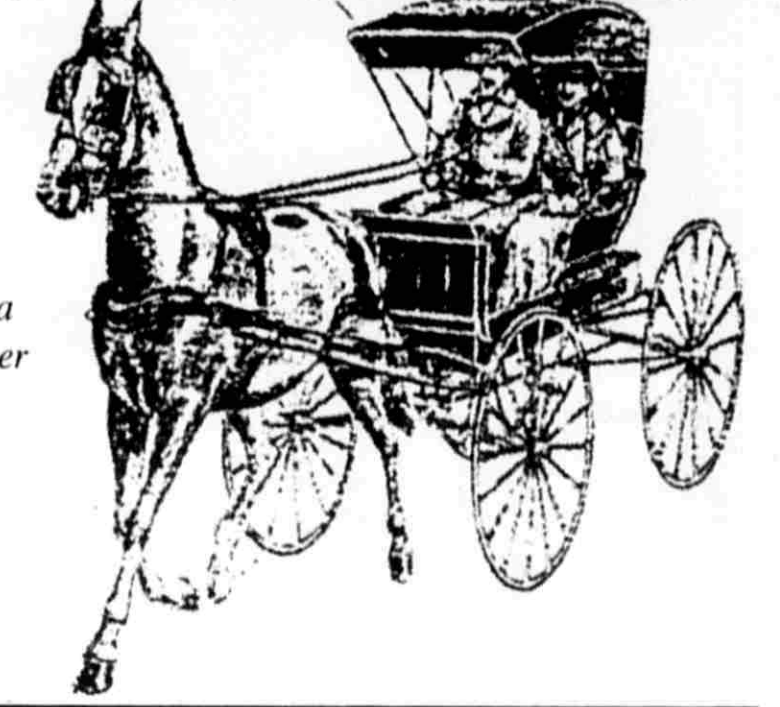
With Drs. Paul Gauthier, Jim Lang, Wayne A. Christenson III, John G. Meier & Tracy Lixie

DERMATITIS

Dermatitis, or eczema, is an inflammation of the skin. It can occur from a variety of causes. The dry winter air

Ledger Entries

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



By
Priscilla
Lussmyer

125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL FEBRUARY 23, 1881

All 8000 of the Pennsylvania National Guard will march in the Garfield inaugural parade.

A constitutional amendment for Prohibition failed in the House by three votes on Thursday.

Mrs. A. Bancroft of Lowell has woven 2,171 yards of rag carpet in the past year.

The rain and breakup turned to snow and freeze-up. The Journal praises Lowell as a very good manufacturing town.

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER FEBRUARY 22, 1906

The front-page article describes Jane Addams' Hull House social settlement in Chicago, the first dedicated to needs of the poor.

A detailed description of railway mail cars, "traveling post offices", describes their setups and operations.

The Ladies' Aid Society of the Methodist Church puts on a chicken pie supper as a fundraiser for the new parsonage.

"Over half the deaths reported in Ionia County in December were persons 65 years old or over."

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO FEBRUARY 19, 1931

There were 500 who showed up for the largest-ever village caucus and elected druggist M.N. Henry village president.

The Grange and other farm groups are campaigning against the use of margarine, the farmer's "most deadly competitor."

Federal and local officers staged three liquor raids in Lowell Township last night, with three arrests and confiscation of considerable beer and moonshine.

The fourth of a series of muck soils schools will be held next week at Byron Center and Alto. Note whether they are scheduled for fast time or slow time.

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER FEBRUARY 23, 1956

The Lowell-Vergennes Methodist Churches will televise services over WOOD-TV this Sunday from Woodland Chapel, complete with choir and ushers.

A flock of 21 Canadian yellow Grosbeaks spent Tuesday morning under the dripping eaves, on the grass of the post office building.

C.H. Runciman is president of the new Sortex Company, which manufactures machines to sort beans and peas, which will be leased throughout North America.

King Milling's ad this week features a recipe for old-fashioned molasses cookies.

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER FEBRUARY 18, 1981

The library's new schedule includes no evening hours, so a meeting of the board is scheduled to address the problem.

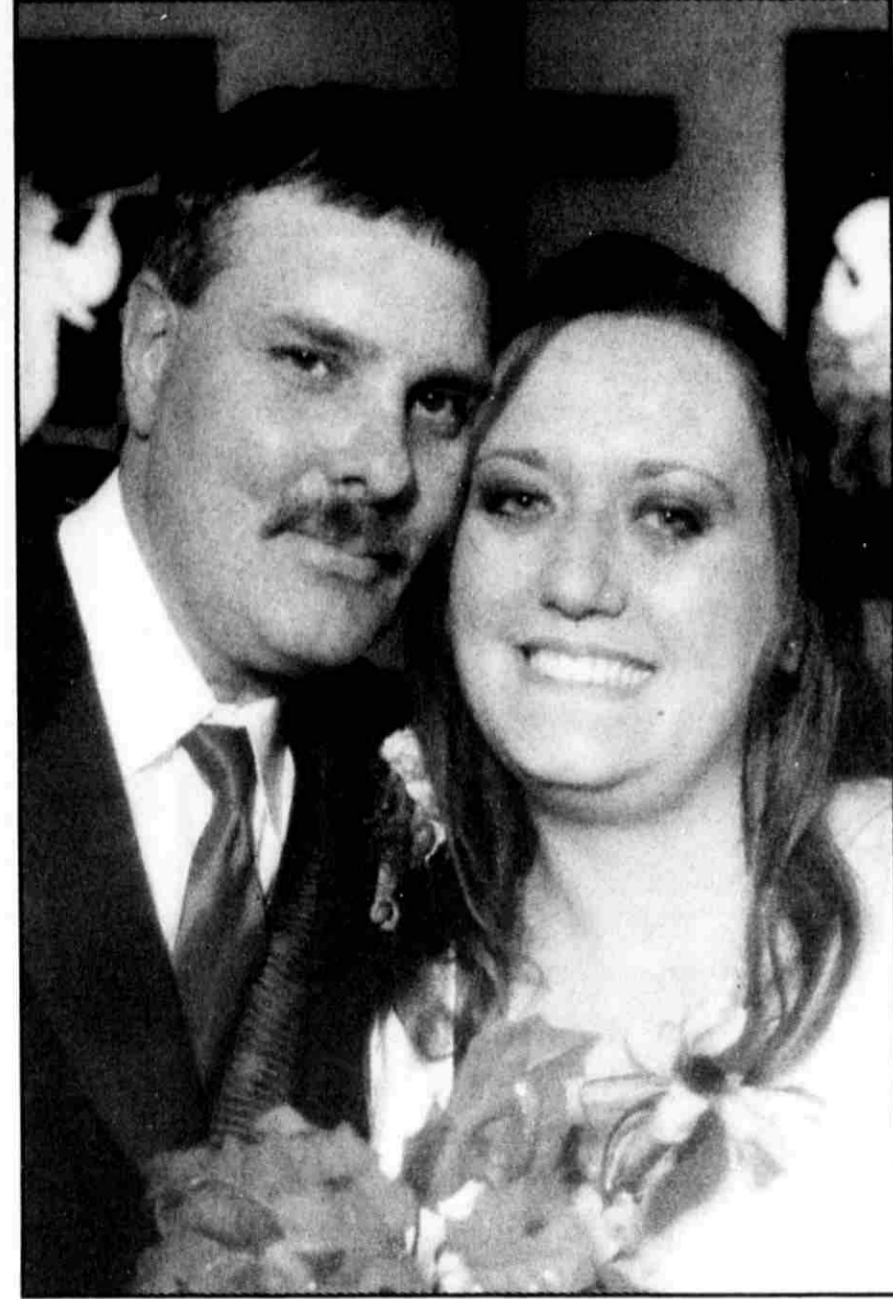
Bud's Ambulance Service pulls out of its Lowell location to one in Kentwood, surprising local officials.

Schools were closed last week because of the snow. This week the temperature is nearly 50 degrees.

The Congregational Church celebrates its 125th anniversary and Mrs. Robert Hahn is recognized for having the longest current membership.

Weddings

Yeiter/Fetterhoff



Bruce and Michelle Yeiter

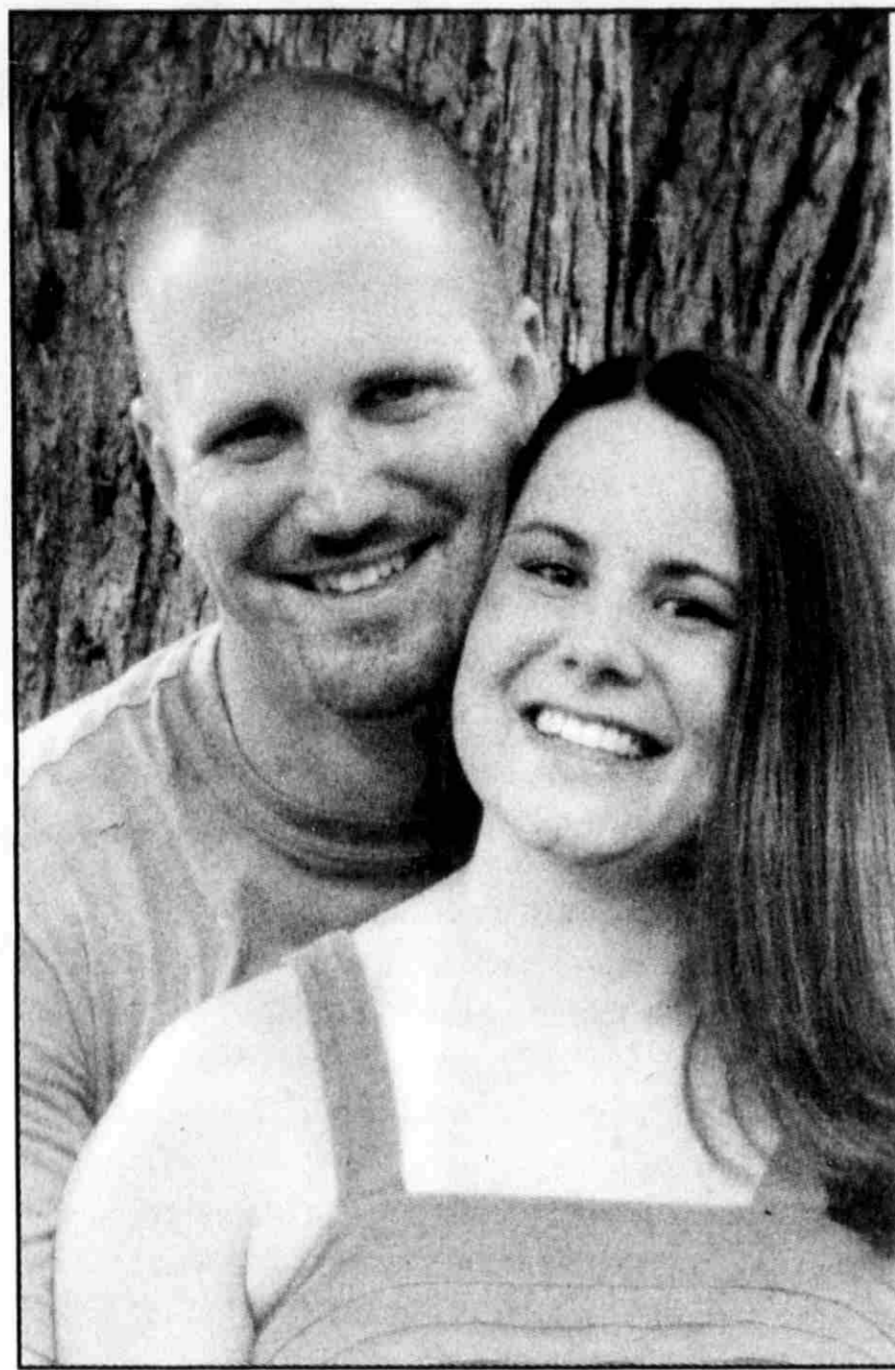
The October 8, 2005 wedding of Michelle Fetterhoff and Bruce Yeiter took place at the Church of Nazarene. Parents of the couple are Teresa Fetterhoff of Wyoming and Cora Yeiter of Lowell.

Maid of Honor was Hollie Fetterhoff. Bridesmaids were Kaila Fetterhoff and Alicia Yeiter.

Flower girl was Hayley Fetterhoff.

Best man was David Yeiter. Groomsmen were Jeff Brown and Tony Whaley. Ushers were Steve Fetterhoff and Ted Bristol. Ringbearer was Terryn Quayle.

Mistresses of ceremonies were Becky Yeiter and Kelly Stanger.



Jeremy Rubel and Brenda Lacey

Engagements

Lacey/Rubel

David and Gail Hays of Lowell and Ken Lacey of Caro would like to announce the engagement of their daughter, Brenda Lacey to Jeremy Rubel, son of Larry and Suzanne Rubel of Dubuque, Iowa.

The bride-elect is a 1998 graduate of Lowell High School. She is currently attending Northeast Iowa College and works for Finley Hospital.

The future groom is a 2000 graduate of West Dubuque High School and a 2003 graduate of Kirkwood College. He currently works for Dish Network.

The couple will be married August 19, 2006 at Fallsburg Park.

Always get married early in the morning. That way, if it doesn't work out, you haven't wasted a whole day.

Mickey Rooney (1920 -)

Reflections of faith

Pastor Joe Fremer,
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Recent world events remind us that what we call "civilization" is not as universal and widespread as we thought. When we tell our children to "act civilized" we are sitting on a whole host of assumptions about how civilization helps people behave well. We forget that there are other civilizations, if we can call them that--other cultures--in which selfish or vicious actions are OK, even for grownups. We forget that the police also catch bad guys even here in the "civilized world."

The Bible says that we human beings are deeply flawed, even at our best. We are programmed from conception with a tendency to want our own way. From birth we are intent on world domination, loudly demanding that others serve our every whim. If we don't get our way, we'll do whatever it takes to bend others to our will, including holding our breath until we turn blue. Parents are forced to disabuse the little tyrants of such notions. I heartily encourage that. If you are one of those confused parents who's not sure if it's

psychologically healthy to make your child obey your will, here's a tiny piece of advice. Do it. Now. Get your child under control now, or the State Police will be doing it for all of our sakes later.

God is a strict Father. He is perfect Justice, but if that's all He was, He would just be the ultimate Policeman. Some of us want Him to be just that, and nothing more. And we complain that He's not doing His job.

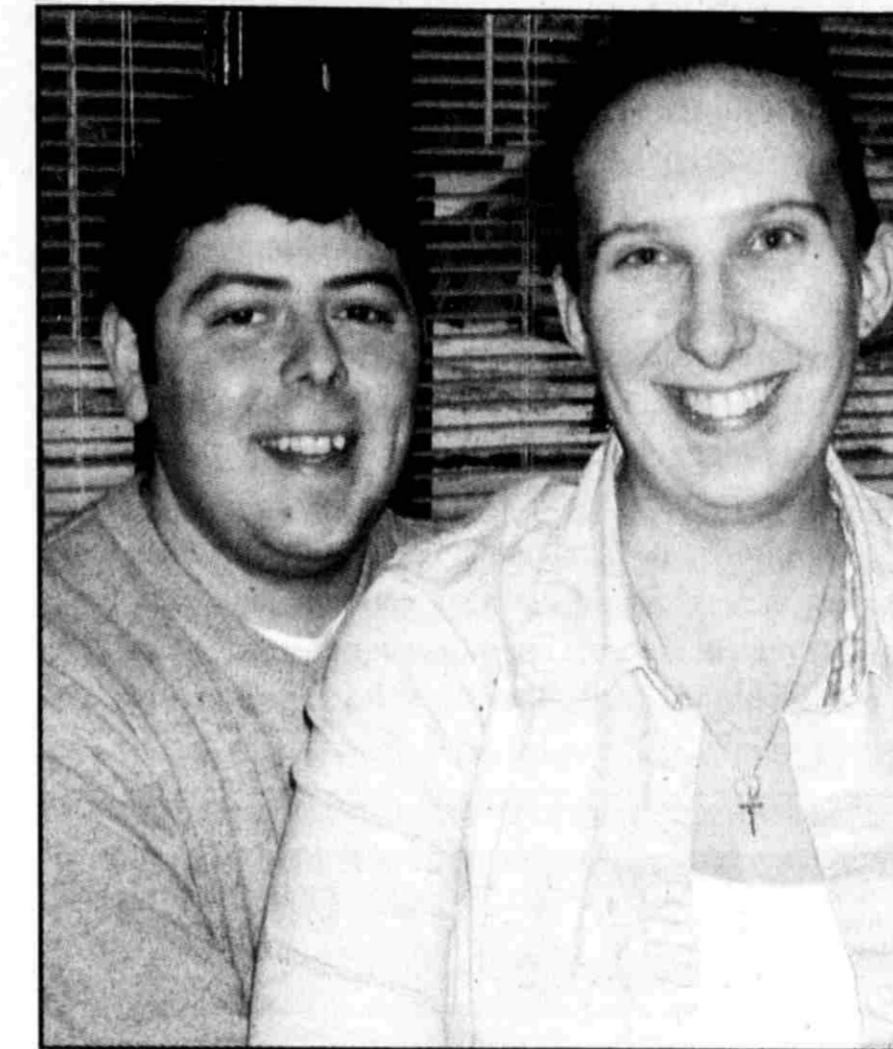
But He's more than that. He is also perfect Love. He loves us so much He didn't simply destroy the whole human race, though He would be justified in doing so. He loves us so much that a part of Him, His Son, became one of us, to suffer and die for our self-centered, self-absorbed rebelliousness. Jesus came back to life to lead us back to the Father's arms, in life as well as in death. Since that first Easter, nothing can separate us from the love of God that is ours in Jesus.

On the other hand, apart from Jesus, we have no family connection with Him. Only the Son can lead us to the Father. Only He could teach us to pray, "Our Father who art in heaven..." Without the Son, we have no Father, just a fearsome Policeman and Judge.

The balance of love and justice is more than just the basis for healthy child-rearing. It's also the basis for everything we know as civilization. But on an individual level, for you the reader, it is also a fork in the road, for you have a choice. With Jesus you get a loving Father. Without Jesus, you face a stern Judge. What'll it be?

Engagements

Soyka/Nevarez



Tony Nevarez and Sara Soyka

Sara Soyka and Tony Nevarez of Lowell would like to announce their engagement. They are planning an August 5, 2006 wedding. Both are 2001 graduates of Lowell High School and are dually enrolled at Grand Rapids Community College and Ferris State University in the Culinary Arts Program. Parents of the bride are Mark and Vicki Soyka and Brian and Maria Childs of Lowell.

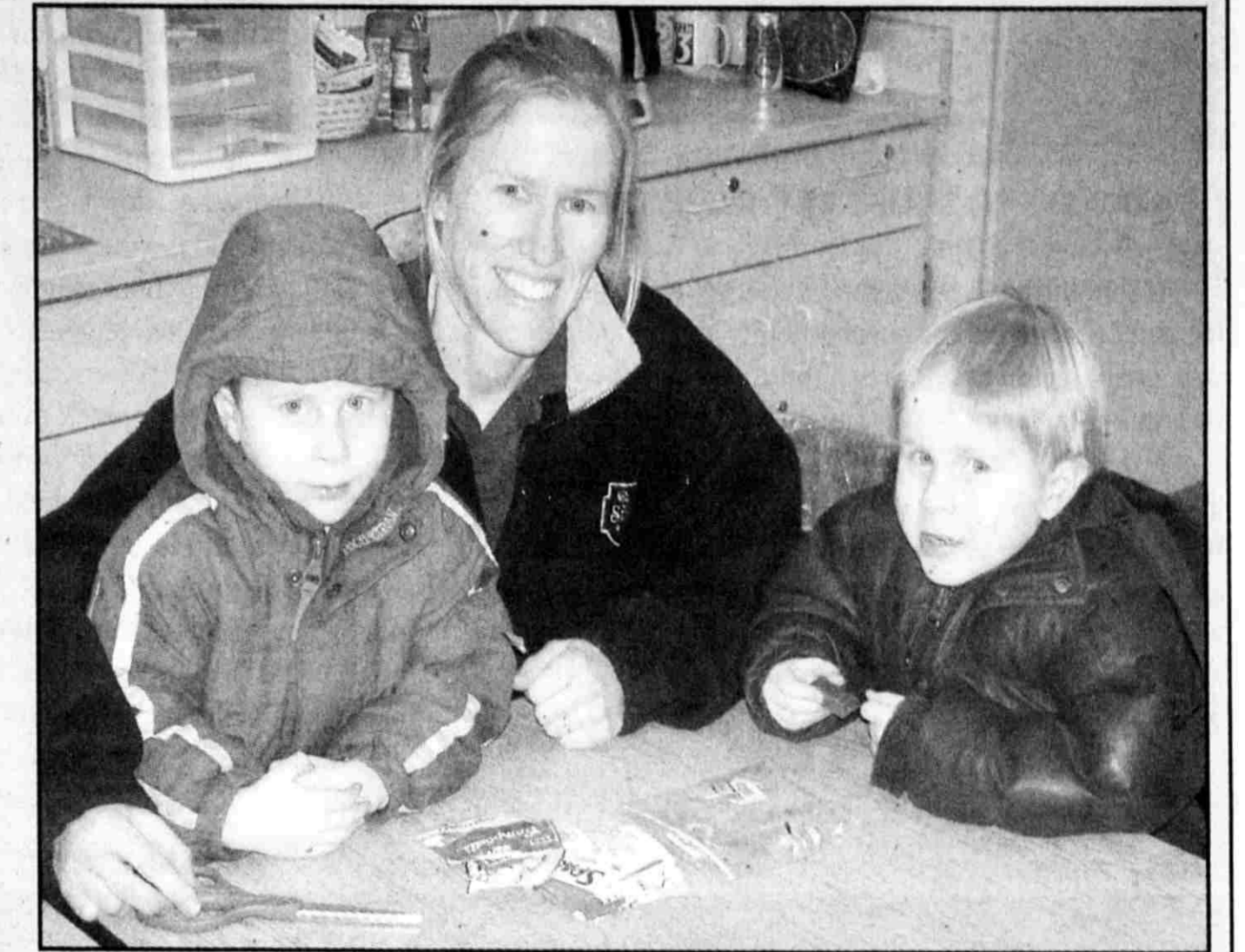
Volunteer of the month at Murray Lake

The first recipient of Murray Lake Elementary's volunteer of the month award is Karen Roest. Her children, Trevor, Alyssa and Briana attend Murray Lake.

First grade teacher, Denise Washburn said, "Karen not only helps in my classroom doing just about anything and everything, but helps our school in a variety of ways."

Principal Brent Noskey added, "It seems like Karen is here almost every day, and she does this despite having three-year-old twins at home. She is a blessing to our school. She currently is in charge of running our boxtop and soup label program, has helped run our mileage club, as well as helping all around our school."

Roest said, "Being a volunteer at school is important to me because I have always wanted to be a part of my kids' lives. I like being part of the classroom. It gives me a good feel for how their day goes. Also, it is nice getting to know the teachers and staff. Being a part of other activities gives a feeling of knowing what is happening at school. Along with other parents, we can give our kids the best chance for a happy and successful life."



Karen Roest cutting out soup labels with the help of her sons' Nathan and Ryan.

In The Service

The Kent County Literacy Council is a non-profit, United Way agency devoted to reducing illiteracy in our community. Based on 1990 census figures, at least 19,000 adults in Kent County cannot read at a functional level. At least 6,000 adults cannot speak or understand English well. By training people to be tutors, the Council can offer one-on-one reading help to adults asking for assistance in reading or English as a Second Language (ESL). You do not need to speak another language to tutor ESL.

The information session will be held at the Yankee Clipper Library located at 2025 Leonard St., NE, Grand Rapids. Please call us at 459-5151 to register.



Sean Devette

Air Force Airman 1st Class Sean Devette has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force. He is the son of Jack and Monica Devette of Alto and is a 2002 graduate of Ottawa Hills High School, Grand Rapids.

Happy Birthday

- FEBRUARY 23: Joe Ellis, Heather Essich, Sharon Miles.
- FEBRUARY 24: Cliff Mulder, Amy Aksamitowski, Tarah Essich, Lizzy Decker.
- FEBRUARY 25: Susan Miesal, Mike Nearing.
- FEBRUARY 26: Jeremy Goff, Barry Vezino, Bob Ford, Nancy Porter, Leslie Rash.
- FEBRUARY 27: Joshua Soyka, Justin Soyka.
- FEBRUARY 28: Mark V. Ritzema, Connie Roth, Scott Denton, Claressa Guastavino.
- MARCH 1: Barak Brown, Jill Callihan, Laura Christiansen.

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<p>ATTENTION: BIBLE BELIEVERS If you would like to attend a church where the King James Bible is held up as the perfect, preserved word of God with all the words of God for all English speaking people, then give us a visit at: 901 W. Main, Lowell Across the street from the Venner Dodge dealership. 897-6284 or 485-4195 10AM Sunday School; 11AM Morning Service; 6PM Evening Service; Wed., 7:30PM Prayer Meeting.</p>	<p>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M.</p> <p>OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p>DAY BIBLE CHAPEL 9305 Centerline, Saranac 897-6332 Worship.....9:45 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M.</p> <p>Nursery & Jr. Church Provided Rev. Frank Lattimore, Pastor "A Nondenominational Ministry With A Blended Word Centered Service!"</p>	<p>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL Rev. Randy Meyers - 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p>	<p>APOSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M. SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M. 119 Lincoln Lake, Lowell CALL FOR FREE HOME BIBLE STUDIES Pastor Robert L. Hubbard Phone: (616) 897-1267 website www.aplighthouse.com</p>
<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 Worship Services.....8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Sunday School.....9:45 - 10:45 a.m. Kids Club Wednesdays After school to.....5:30 p.m. DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Nursery & child care available at both services Barrier - Free Entrance</p>	<p>"Lowell Mission" of the Evangelical APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA Located at 404 North Hudson (First Congregational Church Facility) Christ Centered Sunday Worship.....4:00 PM Bishop Alex McCullough.....Clergy In Charge Reverend Deacon Mark O. Fleet, Clergy In Assistance Parsonage.....(616) 897-2587 Corporate Web Page.....http://www.ecna.org May the Lord fill you and bless you this day!</p>	<p>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God) 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Senior Pastor Dave Noonon, Asst. Pastor Jonathan & Stacy Holmes, Youth Pastors SUNDAYS: Worship: 10:00 a.m. - Life Home Groups & "XL" Youth Sunday evenings WEDNESDAYS: Family Night (For All Ages): 7 p.m. "XL" Youth: 7 p.m.</p>	<p>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Fr. George J. Fekete 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com Weekend Masses: Sat. 5 PM, Sun. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL BRENDA BERG 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48 EFTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>	<p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL (United Church of Christ) 404 North Hudson • 897-5906 Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Dr. Roger LaWare.....Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship</p>
<p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org Sunday School & Adult Bible Study. 9 A.M. Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org Rev. David O. Sims & Rev. W. Lee Taylor Wayne Hanes, Youth Pastor Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA CLUB, BC.....Wed. 6:15 & 8:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free</p>	<p>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Thurlan Meredith 9:45 A.M.Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M.Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery & Children Worship Programs Provided A friend...a family...a mission!</p>	<p>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 201 N. Washington • 897-8800 Sunday School.....9:30 A.M. Morning Worship.....10:40 A.M. Sunday Evening.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday Family Ministry.....7:00 P.M.</p> <p>PASTOR MICHAEL RHODABARGER Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>	<p>ALTON BIBLE CHURCH Lincoln Lake Ave. at 3 Mile Road 897-5648 Sunday School.....10:00 A.M. Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M. Evening Praise.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday AWANA.....7:00 P.M. (Sept. - April) Prayer and Bible Study.....7:00 P.M. Pastor Ken Ford (Home) 897-6418 YOU ARE WELCOME!</p>

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Financial Focus

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TWO WAYS TO BOOST RETIREMENT INCOME

If you have several years to go until retirement, now is the right time to determine about how much annual income you can count on as a retiree. And if it looks like you might be coming up short, you'll want to take action soon.

Even if you've been investing for many years, you may not be able to count on a typical portfolio of stocks and bonds to provide you with the income you'll need to enjoy a comfortable retirement lifestyle. Consequently, you may want to consider these two moves: purchasing an immediate annuity and delaying your Social Security payments. Let's examine both these options.

Immediate results that last a lifetime

An immediate annuity works pretty much as the name suggests. You make a lump-sum payment to an insurance

company, and you immediately start receiving an income stream, which can last the rest of your life. Immediate annuities are fairly low-risk, especially if you buy one from a company that receives the highest ratings for safety and stability from one of the independent rating agencies. And they can provide a reasonable amount of income: If you are 65, and you buy a \$100,000 immediate annuity, you'll receive an annual lifetime income of \$7,848 if you are a man and \$7,392 if you are a woman (as of 8/22/05). (These amounts can vary, depending on the current interest rate environment and the state in which you live.)

Still, immediate annuities do have a "down" side. Specifically, the fixed payments you receive each month are subject to inflation. You could easily live another two or even three decades in retirement; over that time, even a relatively mild inflation rate can seriously erode the purchasing power of your fixed-income payments.

To combat this problem, you might want to look for an immediate annuity that is indexed for inflation. Your monthly payments in the first few years might be lower than those offered by a non-indexed annuity, but each year, your income will increase along with inflation.

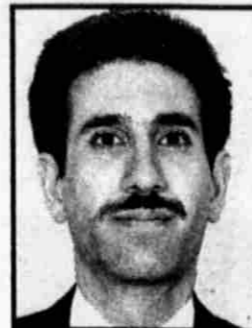
As you might have guessed, another possible drawback to an immediate annuity is longevity. While you can't predict

the future, you may want to take into account your family history of longevity before you purchase an immediate annuity. You also can structure your annuity to "protect" your investment. For example, you could accept lower monthly payments in exchange for the ability to name a beneficiary to receive your income stream for a designated number of years.

Delaying Social Security

Another way to boost your retirement income is to delay taking Social Security payments. Suppose, for instance, that you were born between 1943 and 1954, and you were eligible to receive \$750 each month in Social Security once you reached 62. If you could just wait four more years, until you were 66, you'd receive \$1,000 a month. This strategy depends, of course, on whether you'd have sufficient income to tide you over for those four years - but if you do, it's something to consider. And again, if you have concerns about your longevity, this "delaying" technique may not be right for you.

Buying immediate annuities and delaying Social Security are just two of the ways you may be able to boost your retirement income. For more suggestions, consult with a financial professional. But don't delay: The more time you have on your side, the better your options.



Legal Ease

With Jonathan David

DEAR JONATHAN: How much is the federal estate tax exemption this year?

JONATHAN SAYS: As of January 1, 2006, the federal estate tax exemption was increased to \$2,000,000 per person. Under the current law, this exemption is scheduled to stay in place for the years 2006 and 2007. As a result, with proper planning, a husband and wife can shelter up to \$4,000,000 of their assets from federal estate taxes.

DEAR JONATHAN: My wife died about a year ago. She is still named as a beneficiary on all my life insurance policies, IRA and 401k. What happens to those proceeds at my death? Do they automatically go to my children or would they pass to her estate?

JONATHAN SAYS: Since your wife failed to survive you, then the proceeds of those investments would pass

to whomever you have named as the contingent beneficiary (ies) on those investments. If you have not named contingent beneficiaries on any of those investments, then those proceeds would pass to your estate (not her estate) upon your death. As a result, those assets would have to go through probate before passing to the beneficiaries you have named in your will, or if you do not leave a will, to your heirs pursuant to state law.

My recommendation is that you execute change of beneficiary forms for each of those investments, naming a new primary beneficiary (ies), as well as contingent beneficiaries for each one of those investments.

DEAR JONATHAN: If I have prepared a trust and I have transferred all of my applicable assets to that trust for probate avoidance, why does my lawyer insist that I also have a will?

JONATHAN SAYS: The purpose of the will in this instance is to make sure that any assets that end up going through probate upon your death pour over to your trust upon the completion of probate. Even though you may have currently funded your trust with all of your assets, at some point in

the future you may acquire an asset and title it in your name alone. If this happens and that asset is still titled in your name alone at the time of your death, then you will want the will to control where that asset goes, i.e., to your trust. If you have no will, then that asset, as well as any other probatable assets, will pass to your heirs pursuant to state law and will automatically bypass your trust.

Another reason to have a will is if you have children under the age of 18. In this event, you can name in your will who you want to act as the guardian and conservator of those children and their estates.

DEAR JONATHAN: What is the annual exclusion for gifts made in 2006? Is it still \$11,000?

JONATHAN SAYS: The annual exclusion for gifts made in 2006 has been increased to \$12,000 per person.

The information contained in this column is not to be construed as legal advice or legal representation and should not be relied upon as such. If legal advice or legal representation is desired, please consult with an attorney.

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Chamber winter gathering, continued ... From Page 1

the community behind the scenes. Jim White, who once again gave the speech about the person of the year, called them "two people who shun the spotlight for their efforts, but who certainly deserve an honor."

So it may have been appropriate that even while they were being recognized as 2006 Person of the Year, the only spotlights shining on them were a pair of flashlights.

"She is very vibrant and she does things for people, sometimes for individuals, without letting anyone else know," Betty Yeiter said of her fellow Lowell Women's Club Member Barb Zands- tra.

The things she does include visiting the elderly, serving on the Laurels of Kent family council, chairing the arts and crafts portion of the annual Riverwalk Festival, along with serv-

ing on the Expo committee. She's a general volunteer at the chamber, doing everything from putting stamps on mailings to vacuuming the floor.

"She does all this without looking for accolades," Yeiter said.

The same can be said for Ray Zandstra, who puts his mark on several community events long before anyone else arrives to see him do it. Every year, he draws out the

layouts for the booths at the Lowell Community Expo, the Riverwalk Festival, and the Lowell Area Arts Council's Fallasburg Fall Festival.

"Every Friday morning (of Fallasburg Festival week-end), he goes out and stakes out where all the booths go," arts council director Lorain Smaligian said.

He is also highly involved in the Riverwalk Cruise-in. And he has been a member of several city boards over the years, including the planning commission, the construction board of appeals and the historic commission.

"He's had a number of years of service with the city in terms of volunteering for those boards and commissions," Lowell city manager Dave Pasquale said.

In an acceptance speech, Ray Zandstra credited his wife with inspiring him to volunteer frequently--or, more accurately, for signing him up for various volunteer projects. In addition to their more formal volunteer roles with Lowell organizations, their neighbors will attest that both are eager to help with things like plowing snow and raking leaves and are generally a positive influence.



Cass Kilyanek of Dery Physical Therapy (from left) and Russ and Rae-Ann Oakley of Hooper Printing were among several Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce members who enjoyed last Thursday's chamber dinner by candlelight due to a power outage.



Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Liz Baker and King Milling president Brian Doyle with the 2006 Lowell Chamber of Commerce business appreciation award.

College News

Richard Ford, of Lowell, Mich., made the Dean's List and the Honor Roll during a recent term of study at The Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

Founded in 1972, Cooley Law School is the largest law school in the country. Cooley has the second-largest enrollment in African-American students of any law school and the

highest number of minorities overall in the United States. Cooley has three campuses across Michigan; its main campus is in downtown Lansing, its downtown Grand Rapids/Western Michigan University campus in west Michigan, and its Rochester/Oakland University campus in southeast Michigan.

Some 669 students completed the requirements for certificates, associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees at Ferris State University, Kendall College of Art and Design and the College of Professional and Technological Studies during the fall semester that ended in December 2005.

Students graduating from this area were: Emily A. Cromartie, receiving a BFA, and Jordan M. Moore, receiving an AAS, both graduates are from Ada.

Aquinas College has announced its dean's list for the fall semester. The following students received a grade point average of 3.5 or better: Landon Graham, Natalie Kent, Tyler Nethercott, Brienne Taber, Jenny VanLaan, Anna Veinbergs, and Elise Wisnieski from the Lowell area. Jackson Botsford, Robert Dordan, Kaye Littell and Janine Wilson from the Alto area.

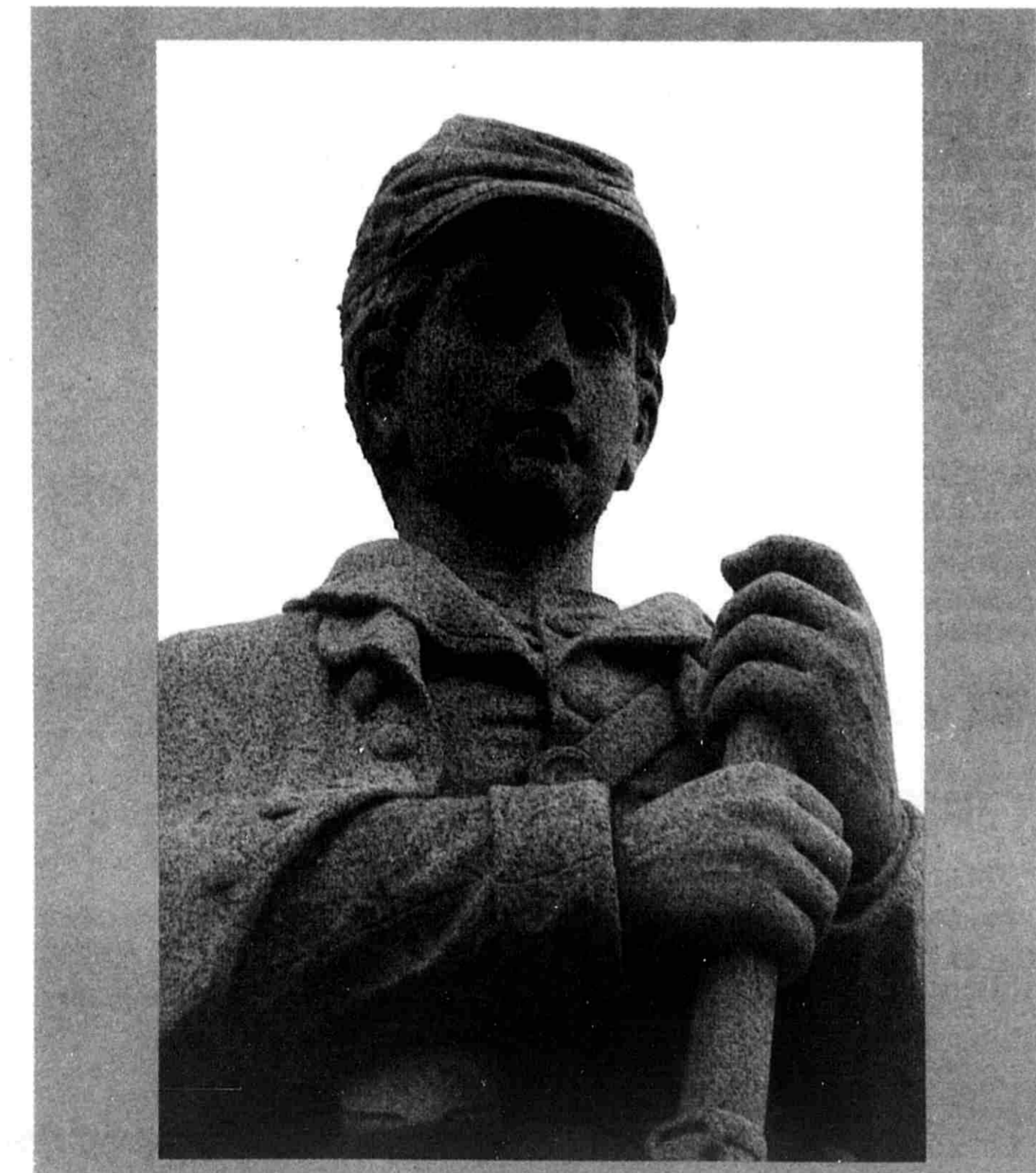
Around The Town

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West Michigan Regional Competition on display now at LAAC

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell Area Arts Council's biggest show of the year, the West Michigan Regional Competition, is up on the walls now at the Hudson Street Gallery.

There are paintings by 79 different artists in the exhibition, including 12 from Lowell and Alto. "Pompidou Centre" by Bruce McCombs of Holland was awarded best of show. There are works in a wide variety of media and with a wide variety of subjects.

"As a juror, the variety was the interesting thing, just a large variety of subject matter," juror Mary Cusack said. "I was really impressed with how large an area this contest draws people from."

Lots of color. Lots of art. It's worth a look.

There is a very small rhinoceros.

That rhinoceros is in a pointillist ink drawing by Brian Buck of Grand Rapids. It won third place in the competition. Buck has been drawing animals for a long time.

"I started when I was in middle school, doing oil paintings, wildlife mostly," Buck said.

Then he got interested in making images with

thousands of tiny ink dots, made on the paper with the smallest possible rapidograph pen. Actually, he no longer uses paper but a special board coated thinly with a clay material. This allows him to scrape away wayward dots, which he said are infrequent when his drawing is going well.

"I like doing detail stuff," Buck said. "I like realism as opposed to abstract."

So the very small pen became a necessity when he became interested in producing very small works.

"In order to get the detail I want, I need to use the smallest pen available," Buck said.

Spring Lake artist Ken Widing's first-place "Dance is the Interruption of Movement, Music--The Silence Between Sounds" started with a small drawing.

"I was sitting in front of the television doodling," Widing said. "It was just a very small sketch in a little leather-bound notebook."

He used to take ballroom dancing lessons. The fiery red dancer in his picture grew out of his affection for the dances tarantella and tango. It is visible in



Ken Widing's "Dance is the Interruption of Movement, Music--The Silence Between Sounds" was awarded first place in the Lowell Area Arts Council's West Michigan Regional Art Competition.

the figure's opaque, inward-focused eyes, translucent red dress (meant to suggest sensuality without distracting the viewer from the motion), whirling motion, and dark hair.

"The red dress has probably got to do with the tango," Widing said, calling it a "dance of fiery passion."

The dancer is wrapped up in the dance and that is what Widing was working to get across. The drab tones of the background evoke the feel of an old fresco.

"I was looking at deteriorated Roman frescoes and I noticed that what was left often had a power that is

more than what it was when it was all there," Widing said.

Deterioration is a term that applies to the subject of Brenda Mattson's mixed media, "Over Exposure," which won honorable mention in the competition. The piece uses ink, oil and encaustic wax to express

Mattson's reaction to last year's Terry Schiavo case in the same visual terms as the pirate practice of hanging

enemies in metal cages to starve.

"I was upset with the way they starved her, I thought it was inhumane," Mattson said.

Markings on either side of the image suggest film, and the media and political overexposure of the Schiavo case.

The exhibition will run through March 25. The arts council gallery is located at 149 S. Hudson Street.

Promotion, continued ...From Page 4

"This does not say come to Lowell for Chimera Design, come to Lowell for the Arts Council, it is a global endeavor, global at least for our community," Lowell mayor Chuck Myers said at the DDA meeting.

Myers was at the meeting in support of the project.

Yankovich said DDA support would go a long way toward giving other financial supporters confidence in the plan. "We feel it's the hub of the wheel," Yankovich said. "It'd be wonderful to know as soon as possible."

"Our goal is really to get this going by spring, into late spring, so we have this going in summer and really going into Christmas," Smaligian said.

The DDA voted to table the issue until its next meeting, pending a review of its projected budget. The only member of the board who appeared set against the DDA funding the project was Dean Lonnick.

"I do support the effort, but I cannot support spending tax dollars on it," Lonnick said.

He said he felt the DDA should devote most of its efforts toward physical projects within the district. These include aesthetic improvements such as street lighting and safety improvements such as sidewalk construction.

DDA chair Jim Reagan and member Mike Larkin were absent.

Myers said he expects the promotional effort would be a benefit to the DDA in the long run.

"If we're able to grow within the DDA district, and we capture those tax dollars, that will be more money for the DDA," Myers said.

He also cautioned the DDA against "supporting the city's deficit" by funding projects that should be in the city budget.

The DDA also tabled two other proposals it received Thursday. One was

a sidewalk project with an estimated cost of \$21,700 to build 1,085 feet of sidewalk. A significant portion of that sidewalk would dead-end until the completion of a city-funded sidewalk project next year. The other proposal was to fund a security fence around the lot where the Department of Public Works stores its equipment.

While it waits for an answer from the DDA, the marketing committee plans to continue its pursuit of other funding sources and continue developing the marketing plan.

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Interviews, continued ... From Page 1

staff, their education is solid, it's forward thinking."

Family considerations also enter the equation.

"I also have a son who'd be going to school and it's the kind of school I'd want him to attend," Langdon said.

He said Lowell was the geographical "epicenter" of his extended family.

Langdon said the Lowell superintendent seat comes with big shoes to fill.

"A challenge is replacing a very good superintendent," Langdon said. "The challenge they have now is to find an educational leader that can continue on with her educational vision, hers and the board's vision and the community's vision."

Langdon has a doctorate in educational leadership from Central Michigan University. He has taught at the masters and doctoral level there and at Ferris State University in the subjects of budgets, curriculum, and leadership.

He said his top priority is "always making sure that kids ... are in the forefront of consideration."

Langdon has a teamwork philosophy when it comes to the relationship between staff and administration.

"The thing that I really think is important is building relationships, teamwork, having a common vision for success," Langdon said. "Getting to know what their philosophies are of education."

Communication is also important, he said.

"My philosophy has been to always answer any communications within 24 hours, maybe even quicker, having an open door," he said.

Langdon said that for family and professional reasons, the Lowell superintendent's post is one he could commit to for a long time.

"It's one of those jobs where I would definitely stay the rest of my career," Langdon said.

Roger Thelen was the last candidate interviewed Tuesday night. Thelen, 49, is the current superintendent of Central Montcalm Public Schools in Stanton, where he has worked since 1995.

He started his career in education as an elementary teacher in Vassar Schools in 1980. After that, he was a sales representative for Equitable Life Insurance for two years before taking up teaching again at Fulton Public Schools. He stayed with that district as director of adult and community education before going to Lakeshore Public Schools to become their director of community affairs. His first superintendent's job was a Colon Community Schools from 1993-1995.

"The Lowell Area Schools and the Lowell community have a reputation of providing the learners in the community with a good education, so that's one of the key things that attracted me," Thelen said.

Finances are one of the problems facing all districts, he said.

"The challenge is, in spite of that, to build and improve on what is already a quality system (in Lowell)," Thelen said.

He said his 13 years of superintendent experience will be a benefit to him. And some of the things he has been working on recently at Central Montcalm parallel work that is ongoing in Lowell schools.

"In Central Montcalm schools, where I've been superintendent for 11 years, we've had a real strong focus on improving our curriculum development and alignment," Thelen said. "Improving our local assessment program and ultimately improving student achievement."

Thelen on communication: "I think open, honest communication and building

trust amongst all the staff who work with our students is critical."

He said he has had a good experience with labor relations in his district.

"In Central Montcalm district, we use a very collaborative collective bargaining process and it takes a lot of the emotion out of that process," Thelen said.

Greg Pratt, 37, is the superintendent of Kent City Community Schools.

He entered the education field as a teacher in that same district in 1996. He was a teacher at Muskegon Orchard View Schools from 1997 to 1999 before becoming a middle school assistant principal in that district. From 2000 to 2004 he was a middle school principal in Kent City Community Schools before he was hired as that district's superintendent.

"I chose to apply for this position, coming from a little smaller district, looking for some new challenges," Pratt said. "Across the board, Lowell presents itself as a very attractive place to work and live. If you look back over the years, Lowell continually scores high on standardized tests. The facilities are outstanding."

Pratt said all districts are facing funding problems.

"I also see the fact that the state is looking at some new graduation requirements," Pratt said.

He sees Kent City Community Schools as a logical stepping stone into a district like Lowell.

"Kent City is a lot like Lowell in that it's starting to see some slow growth," Pratt said. "I think it's kind of a small profile of what Lowell looked like a few years ago."

He said the potential for growth in the district will have a major impact in the near future.

"With Lowell being a rural district that's growing... I think it puts a lot of positive points and challenges in

front of it," Pratt said. "New stake holders and a lot of people coming in who will have new ideas."

On the challenge side, the district will need to make careful decisions about its facilities needs. He led the Kent City district through the construction of a new middle school with an \$18 million bond issue, including coordinating and developing the physical plans for the school.

He said his past experience with administration-staff relations has been positive.

"I think the idea that everybody is in this together really prevails in all the districts in which I've worked," Pratt said.

Christine Beardsley, 40, is currently superintendent of Oscoda Area Schools, a position she has held since 2001.

She started her career in education in 1992 as a career and job placement paraprofessional at Mott Community College in Flint. She was a client/provider relations specialist with Occupational Health Centers of America in Flint from 1993-1995.

She was an administrative secretary in Durand Area Schools from 1995-1997, when she became an assistant superintendent in the district. She held that position and was also an interim superintendent in Durand until 2001.

She is interested in working in Lowell because she is "looking to head toward the west side of the state" where she said she feels more philosophically at home. Oscoda is located in the northeast portion of the state, about midway up the index finger portion of the Michigan mitten.

Also, Beardsley's daughter lives in Lansing and her husband would have more opportunities in his truck driving career here.

Beardsley likes what she has learned about Lowell Area Schools.

"Everything that I looked at and people who I talked to about the district said I could be a really good fit," Beardsley said.

She said her main strength is in communication and involving the community in the school district. At Oscoda, she has held community meetings with open voting on the feasibility of ideas.

"I think I do have the ability to build relationships and bring people together," Beardsley said. "Good solutions come when there are more people at the table ... we're not all experts at the same thing."

She has had a variety of experience: administrative assistant (assistant superintendent) for business, transportation director, eighth-grade math and computers teacher for at-risk students.

"I don't value any one position in the district more than another," she said. "If you don't have one, the others suffer."

When her district was struggling to finance a marketing program, she started a class at the high school that produced a monthly newsletter about the district that was sent to parents.

Keith Konarska, 48, is the interim superintendent at Grand Haven Area Schools.

He moved into that position before the current school year after serving as the district's assistant superintendent for human services from 1999-2005.

He started his educational career as a speech pathologist for Grand Rapids Public Schools in 1980. He was a principal in that district from 1985 to 1993 when he became facilitator for quality/special education.

From 1996 to 1999, he was director of special education for the Kent Intermediate School District.

"Lowell is an outstanding district and community and one that I feel I could embrace and become part of," Konarska said. "I sense that children

come first in the Lowell district which is also a belief of mine. And the district is the central part of the community which is very important to me."

Funding a high quality educational system continues to be a challenge, he said.

"I think Lowell, like many other districts, will continue to face funding challenges," Konarska said. "There is no doubt the district needs to continue to put the children first."

He said his experience wide-ranging enough to fit this superintendent position.

"I think the superintendent role has become a very complex one," Konarska said. "I've been a building principal, I've been a teacher."

Teamwork is important to him.

"I think it is very important to develop a sense of team, to collaborate with staff and community," Konarska said. "I believe in collective thought."

Early in the application process, Konarska toured the district.

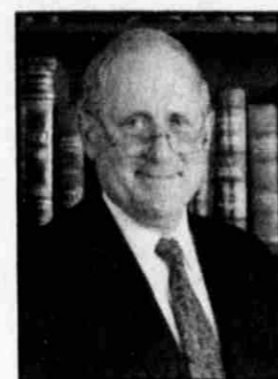
"When I looked at the district and what they have done to meet the needs of individual students, I was very, very impressed," he said.

He also said his experience with the larger Grand Haven school district (about 6,000 students) will prepare him for the kind of growth Lowell schools may see in upcoming years.

"I fully expect that Lowell will continue to grow over time," Konarska said.

Thursday at 6 p.m. in the board room of the Runciman Education Building, the Lowell Area Schools board of education will hold deliberations and select candidates to invite for a second interview. That meeting is open to the public.

Second interviews will take place Feb. 28 through March 2.



Fixing the Medicare prescription drug benefit

With Senator Carl Levin

Medicare, one of our nation's most successful and beloved programs, began offering a new prescription drug benefit to our nation's seniors on Jan. 1. The intent of the plan was to help seniors with high prescription drug costs and to protect seniors from unexpected prescription drug expenses.

Since the law took effect, my office has been inundated with calls, letters and e-mails from seniors throughout Michigan who have serious complaints about the new plan. In meetings with seniors and pharmacists, I have heard overwhelmingly that this new program is a disaster and needs to be fixed. I voted against this law in 2003 for many of the same reasons I am hearing about from seniors today.

Here's how the plan works. In Michigan, 18 insurance sponsors are offering 40 different prescription drug plans. Depending on the plan, a beneficiary typically pays a monthly premium of \$37 with a \$250 deductible. After the senior meets that deductible, he/she pays 25 percent of the cost of their prescriptions up to \$2250.

From \$2251 to \$3600, the beneficiary pays 100 percent of the cost of their prescription drugs. This gap in coverage is sometimes called the "doughnut hole." For prescription expenses above \$3601, Medicare pays 95 percent of the costs. Lower income beneficiaries may receive extra support with the premium, deductible and other prescription drug costs. In addition to the "doughnut hole," seniors and pharmacists have a number of concerns with the new program, which has left many beneficiaries worse off than they were before the bill became law. There have been many bugs in implementing the program, but there are also major structural problems with the drug plan itself, which will remain even after the snafus with the new program are ironed out - unless Congress acts.

First, many Michigan residents are retirees from good paying jobs with health plans that included prescription drug coverage. With the new Medicare prescription drug benefit, many companies have decided to scale back or eliminate that retiree coverage.

Second, many pharmaceutical companies have issued

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discount drug cards to, and are currently providing drugs to, low-income seniors. These programs are being discontinued at an alarming rate, and seniors are losing another method to obtain low cost prescription drugs.

Third, prescription drug plans can drop a drug from its list of covered drugs with 60 days notice at any time during the calendar year. This is particularly egregious for someone who chose a plan because it carried a specific medication. If the plan drops that particular drug, the senior could be stuck without their needed medicine while they wait for an open enrollment period during which they could switch to a new prescription drug plan that covers their needed drug.

Fourth, the situation for people who meet the eligibility criteria for both Medicare and Medicaid is worse now than before passage of the bill. Many people chose Medicaid because that program had prescription drug coverage while Medicare did not. Now these individuals are being forced into Medicare prescription drug coverage, potentially with different covered prescriptions and higher co-payments.

Finally, current law bars the Department of Health and Human Services from using its bargaining power to negotiate lower prescription drug prices with pharmaceutical companies. To address some of these problems, I introduced the Medicare Part D Reform Act of 2006 with my colleague Sen. Debbie Stabenow.

First, the bill would restore discount programs to seniors who were arbitrarily and precipitously cut off.

Second, prescription drug plans would not be permitted to remove drugs from the plan's list of covered drugs until the seniors who subscribed have an opportunity to switch to another plan.



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Third, co-payments would be waived for former Medicaid recipients who were involuntarily moved into the Medicare prescription drug program.

Finally, the legislation would remove the prohibition on the Department of Health and Human Services from negotiating bulk discount pricing with the pharmaceutical companies.

America must do better than the Medicare prescription drug plan we have today. The legislation I've introduced with Sen. Stabenow is designed to fix some of the major problems with the program and help make Medicare Part D more equitable and useable.

CITY OF LOWELL

NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF REVIEW

The Lowell City Board of Review will meet to receive and review the various Assessment Rolls for 2006 at City Hall on:

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2006
FROM
9:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M., AND 1:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
AND
6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M., if necessary

Appeals may be made by letter or on forms available at City Hall. Letters and/or forms must be submitted not later than March 10, 2006. A personal appearance is not required.

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

Commercial Property	50.00%	1.0000
Industrial Property	50.00%	1.0000
Residential Property	50.00%	1.0000
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COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

THUR. MAR. 2: Free food (USDA) surplus food. Lowell Moose Recreation Bldg., 1320 E. Main. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. To register you must have proof of income for household members, Social Security numbers and verification of address.

MON. MAR. 6: The regular communication of the Belding-Ionia-Lowell Masonic Lodge #355 at 7:30 p.m. in the lodge room, 211 E. Main St., Belding. There will be a dinner preceding the meeting, beginning at 6:30 in the dining room. All Masons may attend.

WED. MAR 8: Hooker Chapter #73, Royal Arch Masons will host a dinner beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the dining room of the Belding Masonic Temple, 211 E. Main St. The stated convocation will be held in the lodge room at 7:30 p.m. All Royal Arch Masons may attend.

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.: Fallsburg Historical Society board meetings at chamber office or Fallsburg, 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 M1#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.

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.

TUESDAYS

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

1ST TUES.: Lowell Lions Club, 12:00 luncheon, Chamber of Commerce office, 113 Lafayette Plaza, 897-5449 info.

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. 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. 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.

Alcoholics For Christ at Impact Church House, 1070 N. Hudson. A 12 step program for alcoholics, drug addicts & family members. Meetings start Mar. 2nd at 7 p.m. 527-7796, Paul for info.

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.

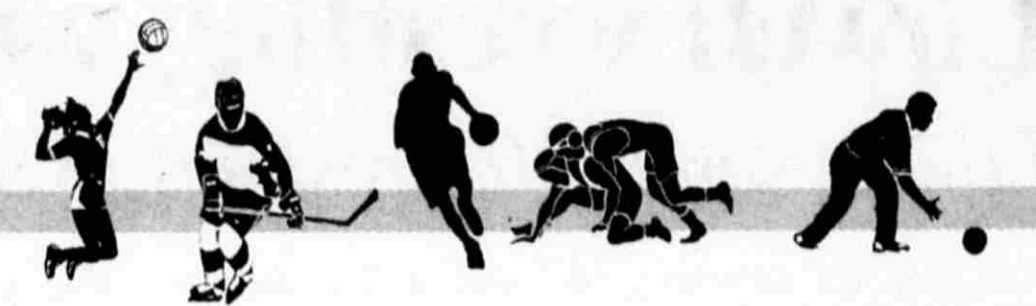
2ND SAT.: Ada Historical Society, 10:30 a.m. at Averill Historical Museum, 7144 Headley, Ada.

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.

RED ARROW SPORTS



Red Arrow volleyball spikes East Grand Rapids

Lowell dominates all three games for victory

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell varsity volleyball team handled the East Grand Rapids squad last Wednesday, winning in three games.

The scores were 25-21, 25-15 and 25-17. The Red Arrows never trailed in either of the first two games. In game one, Lowell was up 24-17, but the Pioneers rallied back to 24-21 before Lowell could put the game away.

In game two, the score was tied once at 3-3, but Lowell took the lead and kept it for the rest of the game, posting the widest margin at the 25-15 final score.

In game three, Lowell scored the first two points, but East tied the game at 3-3, then took their first lead of the match. Lowell trailed 7-4 and 9-6 then came back to tie the score at 10-10 on a kill by Samantha Mol. It was one

of several important kills for Mol in the game.

"Both of my outside hitters stepped up and put some balls away," Lowell coach Gigi Peal said. "Kristin (Johnson) is like power, power, power and Samantha is about finesse ... on the other side of the net you have to defend them both totally different ways.

A block by Malley Cahoon and Mary VanderLaan gave Lowell the lead, which they kept for the rest of the game.

"We had a hard time maintaining consistency in our play," East Grand Rapids coach Mike Dykstra said. "They served us real tough, we had a hard time with our service returns."

The win allowed Lowell to recover from a series of OK White losses.

"I think it was fun to pull out another conference win,"

Peal said. "We got past a couple of tough weeks. It was hopefully what we needed going into conference and districts."

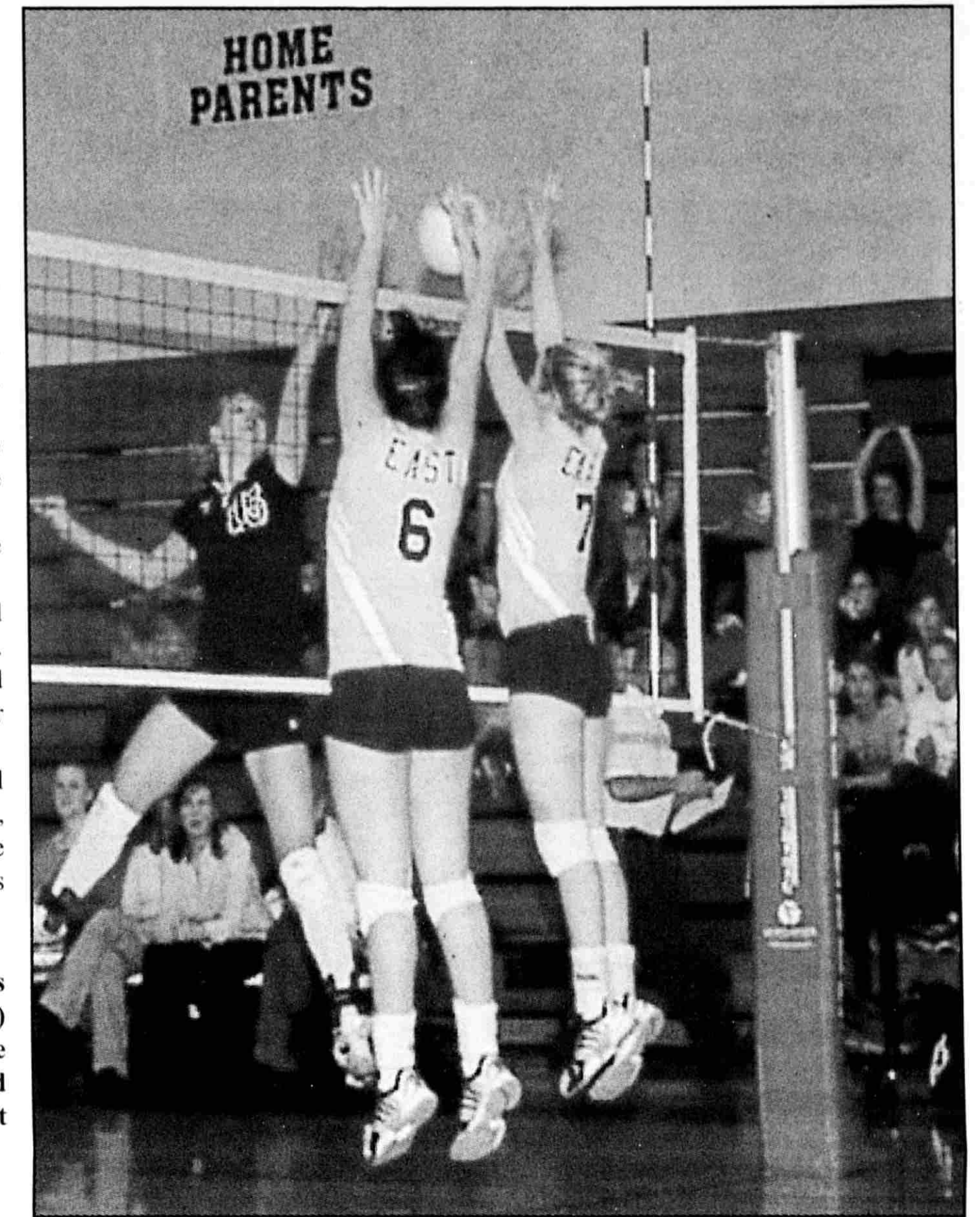
It was senior night, the last home dual match of the season.

"It was fun to let the seniors play," Peal said.

Kristin Johnson had 13 kills. Mol had 12 kills. Cahoon had 11 blocks and Amanda Schneider had four service aces on the night.

Wednesday, Lowell will host Coopersville, Belding and Grandville. The conference tournament is Saturday at Greenville.

At Right: Lowell's Kristin Johnson (#15) attempts to spike the ball past East Grand Rapids defenders in last Wednesday's game.



Lowell-Caledonia hockey beats Panthers in overtime

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell-Caledonia hockey team played overtime for the third game in a row Saturday night.

The Red Arrows/Fighting Scots hosted West Ottawa and won 3-2 in overtime.

"This was our fifth overtime game of the year," Lowell-Caledonia coach Mike Ballard said. "The first time we played them at their place it was 7-0 (Lowell-Caledonia loss)."

The second meeting was much more closely contested, with each team taking 20 shots in the game.

West Ottawa scored in the first period and was the first to score in the second for a 2-0 lead. Then Kyle Austin scored on an assist from Austin DeClercq and Justin

Story later in the second period. In the third period, Story scored on an assist from Austin to tie the score. Lowell-Caledonia held for the rest of regulation.

Then, 42 seconds into overtime, Story scored on an assist from Austin and Joel Scheele. It was the first shot of the overtime.

The win gave Lowell-Caledonia a 4-5-1 record in league play.

"People are finally starting to understand

what we've been working on with teamwork and communicating," Ballard said. "They're starting to play the first man get the body, the second man get the puck ... the race to the puck, the little things that add up to opportunities."

"I'm proud of them. The last week they bonded together really well after a real, real rough weekend."

Lowell-Caledonia played into overtime Friday at South Christian. That

game ended in a 2-2 tie after the extra eight minutes.

Story scored in the third period for Lowell-Caledonia on an assist from Brent Steel to tie the score at 1-1. South Christian went ahead 2-1 before DeClercq scored with 2:39 to go on an assist from Scheele.

"We out shot them 7-4 in overtime, but we couldn't get the goals to go in," Ballard said. "It was a good, solid game."

Lowell-Caledonia

buckled down on defense after being out shot 18-7 in the first period. At the end of the game, the shot count was still in favor of the Sailors, but only by a margin of 32-30.

Lowell-Caledonia plays their last regular season game Saturday at 3 p.m.

at the Patterson Ice Arena versus Grand Haven. Lowell-Caledonia is hosting this year's Michigan High School Athletic Association district tournament at Patterson. The Arrows/Scots face Rockford in round one, Feb. 27 at 6 p.m. (See bracket, page 16).

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Lowell wrestling wins team district championship

Lowell sends 10 wrestlers to individual regionals at Muskegon Reeths Puffer

Lowell left Saturday's division 2 individual wrestling districts at Northview with two district champions, four runners up and 10 wrestlers headed to the individual regional tournament.

Zach Baum wrestled his way to the final of the 119 weight class, where

he won a 2-1 decision over Greenville's Peter Hansen. At 130, Lowell's Rob Karasiewicz beat Andy Woodrow of Ionia by technical fall, 20-5.

John Fleet made it to the final round of the 160 weight class, where he lost by technical fall, 15-0, to Luke Boersma of Kenowa

Hills. In 171 championship match, Brock Graham lost a 7-4 decision to Joe Hollern of Grand Rapids Catholic Central. At 189, Northview's Alex Phillips won a close championship match over Lowell's Alex Fleet, 8-6. In the 275 individual championship, Lowell's Dominic Doyle lost a 5-2

decision to Scott Shattuck of Ionia.

Tyler Jack won the 103-pound third-place match by default. Tim Gingerich pinned East Grand Rapids' Chris Vulpetti to win third place at 135. At 145, Chris Roeloffs lost the third place match by a 5-2 decision to Grand Rapids Christian's Isaiah Proctor. In the 152 third place match, Ionia's

Jason Arrell decided Lowell's Nate Vaught 2-1.

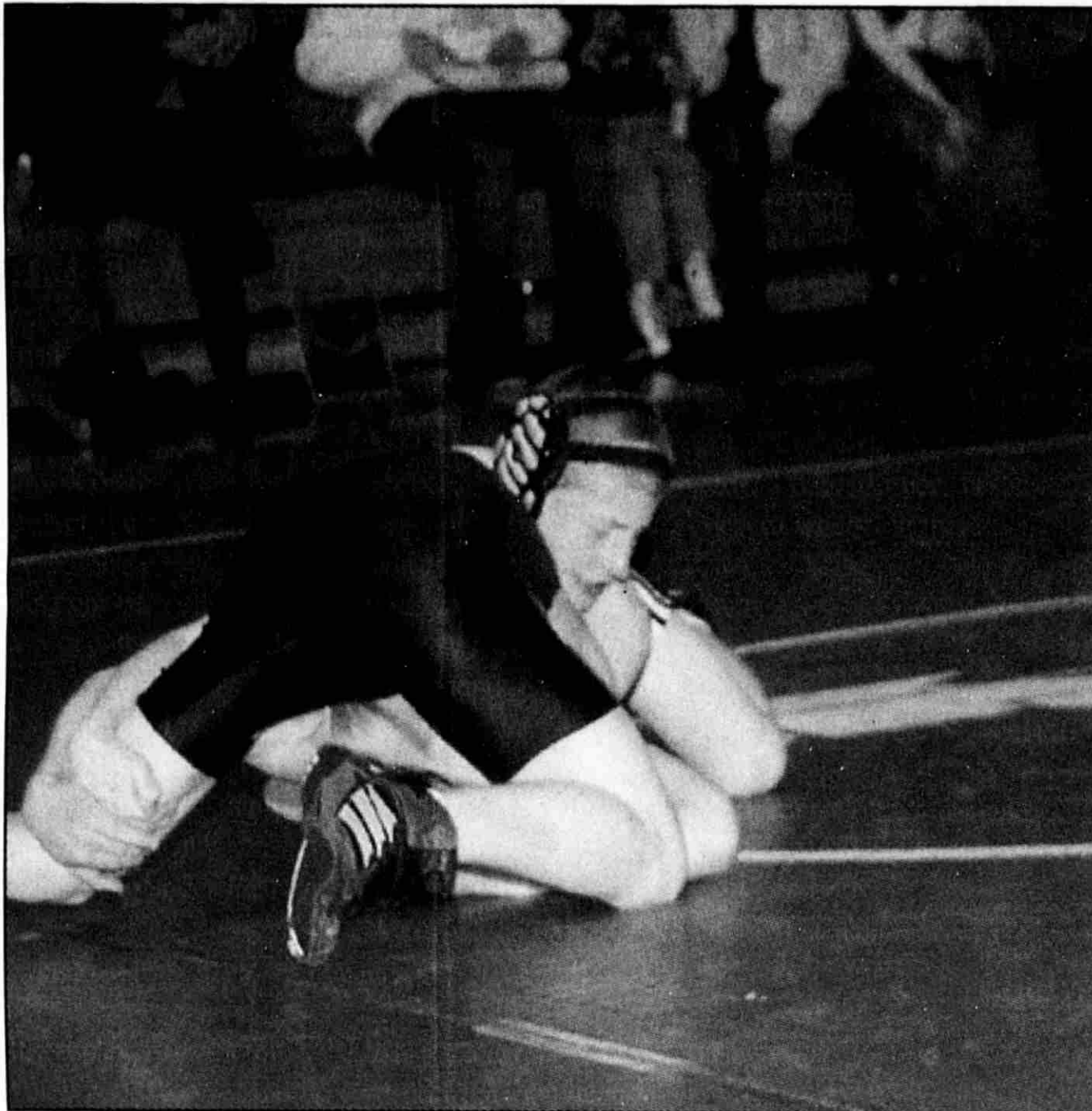
The top four individuals in each weight class advance to the regional competition.

Lowell had no trouble winning its division 2 team district championship last Thursday, defeating first Forest Hills Northern and then Forest Hills Central. Forest Hills Central beat East Grand Rapids to advance to

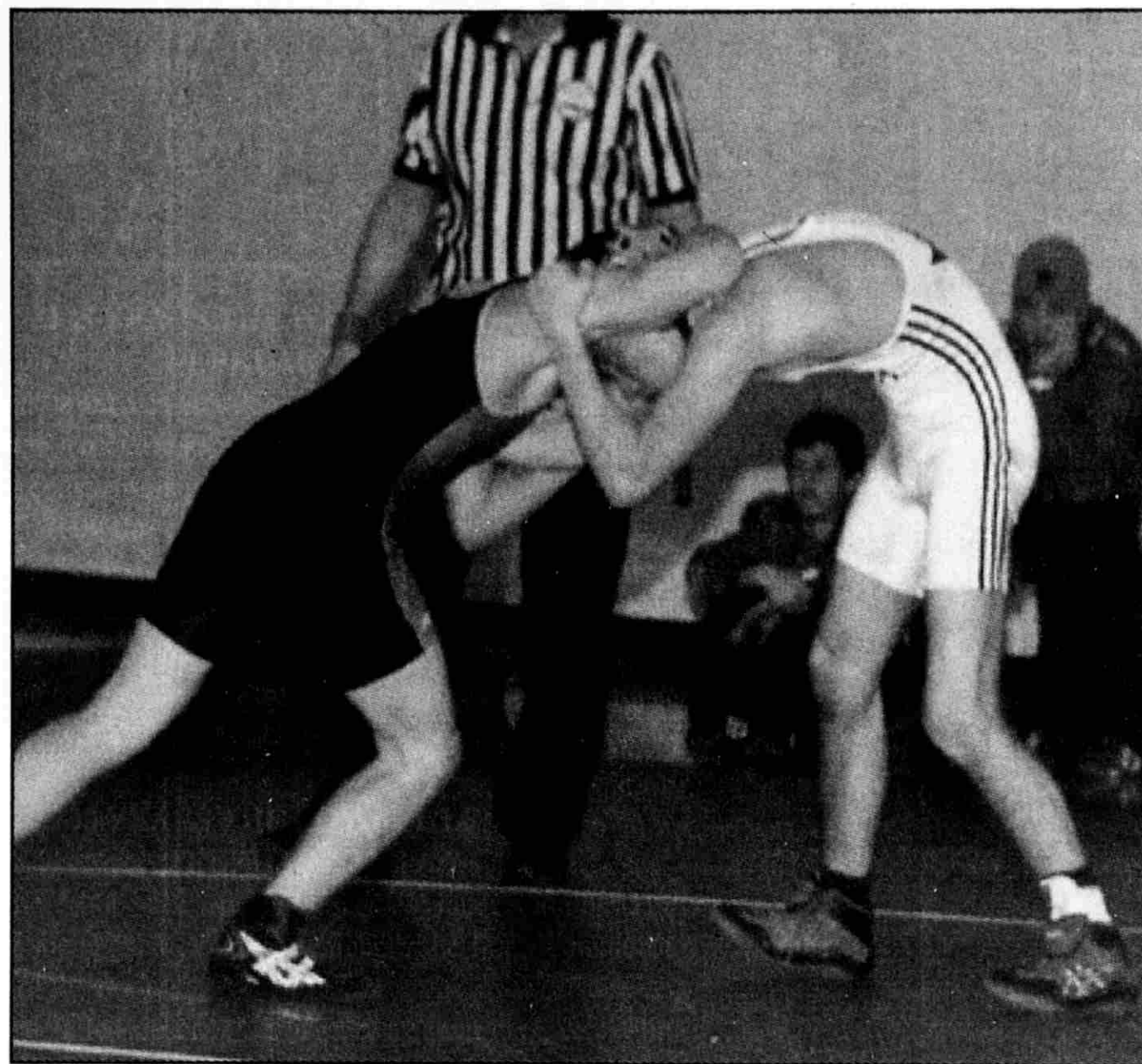
the district final.

Lowell hosts the division 2 team regional Wednesday. The Red Arrows will face Ionia in the first round with the winner advancing to face either Middleville-Thornapple Kellogg or Hamilton.

The division 2 individual regionals are Saturday at Muskegon Reeths Puffer High School.



Lowell's Ryan Dean attempts to overturn his Forest Hills Northern opponent during last Wednesday's team districts.



Lowell's Ray Seese returned from an injury to wrestle his first match of the season at 125 against Forest Hills Northern in the district semifinal.

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

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2006

Between the hours of 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. and from 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the tax roll and hearing all claims.

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

Lowell gymnastics wins second straight

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell gymnastics team won their third meet of the season and second

straight last Wednesday at East Kentwood High School. The Red Arrows scored

129.0 while the Falcons scored 106.1. Lowell's score was the second-highest team score this year and it was the

third consecutive time the Arrows scored above 128.0. Top scorers for Lowell on vault were Kelli Kowalski (8.55), Richelle Kimble (8.25), Becca Underwood (8.20) and Leannah Seese (7.95).

Top scorers on bars were Kimble (7.90), Underwood (7.65), Seese (7.40) and Kowalski (7.10).

Top scorers on beam were Underwood (8.65), Seese (8.35), Andrea Coffey (8.10) and Kimble (7.65).

Top scorers on floor exercise were Underwood (8.95), Seese (8.15), Kimble (8.10) and Coffey (8.05).

Lowell has picked a good time of year to put together a string of strong performances, with the conference meet at Mona Shores this Saturday and regionals the following weekend. Before their breakout performance (with a score of 132.425) at the St. Johns Invitational, Lowell's best score this season had been a 124.4 Jan. 11 when the Arrows hosted East Grand Rapids-Caledonia-West Catholic.

The conference meet starts at 10 a.m. at Mona Shores High School.

Ice Hockey Pre-Regional Tournament

Hosted by Lowell-Caledonia at Patterson Ice Center

Pre-Regional winner advances to Regional Final at Southside Ice Arena, Saturday, March 4 at 7 p.m.

Game #1: Feb. 27, 6 p.m.
Game #2: Feb. 27, 8 p.m.
Game #3: March 1, 6:30 p.m.

Red Arrow basketball beats Forest Hills Northern

Lowell one win away from .500 with three regular season games left

By Dan Schneider

On their reentry into OK White competition Friday, Lowell won 59-43, dominating Forest Hills Northern for three quarters and then hanging on to win.

Lowell started the game at a sprint, going up 23-4 after a first quarter of rebounding, stealing and recovering loose balls. The Red Arrows didn't slow down much in the second quarter, taking a 37-14 lead into halftime.

The Arrows hit the floor in the third quarter with a lot of reserves in. It was a slow-scoring quarter for both teams, with Lowell outscoring the huskies 10-8 for a 47-22 lead.

In the fourth quarter, Lowell struggled on offense while the Huskies scored 21 points. Forest Hills Northern pulled within nine points at one point in the final period. Lowell scored all of its 12 points at the free throw line. It was the strong free-throw shooting that kept the

Huskies from narrowing the margin closer than nine points.

"We played a Doctor Jeckyl and Mr. Hyde game," Lowell coach Jeff McDonald said. "We scored 23 points in the first quarter and then scored 22 points the whole second half."

"We brought the energy for three quarters and they brought it for the fourth."

In the second half, McDonald said, "We got a little un-aggressive and we fell in love with the three-ball."

Lowell's leading scorers were Josh Hettinga with 15, Mike McElroy with 14, Ryan Lane with 13. Brett McMahon scored six in his first varsity start for Lowell. Hettinga hit three 3-pointers and McMahon hit two.

Last Tuesday, Lowell beat Forest Hills Eastern in overtime in its third straight non-league game. Lowell led 33-28 at halftime, but the score was tied at 51 at the end of regulation.

Lowell won the overtime when a Drew Happie save found Ryan Lane open for a shot. Lowell won 60-57. It was a good win after an overtime loss in the previous game at Caledonia.

"I was glad that on a Tuesday night, we went on the road and got a win," McDonald said.

Happie and Lane scored 14 points each. Hettinga scored 13 and McElroy had 10 for Lowell.

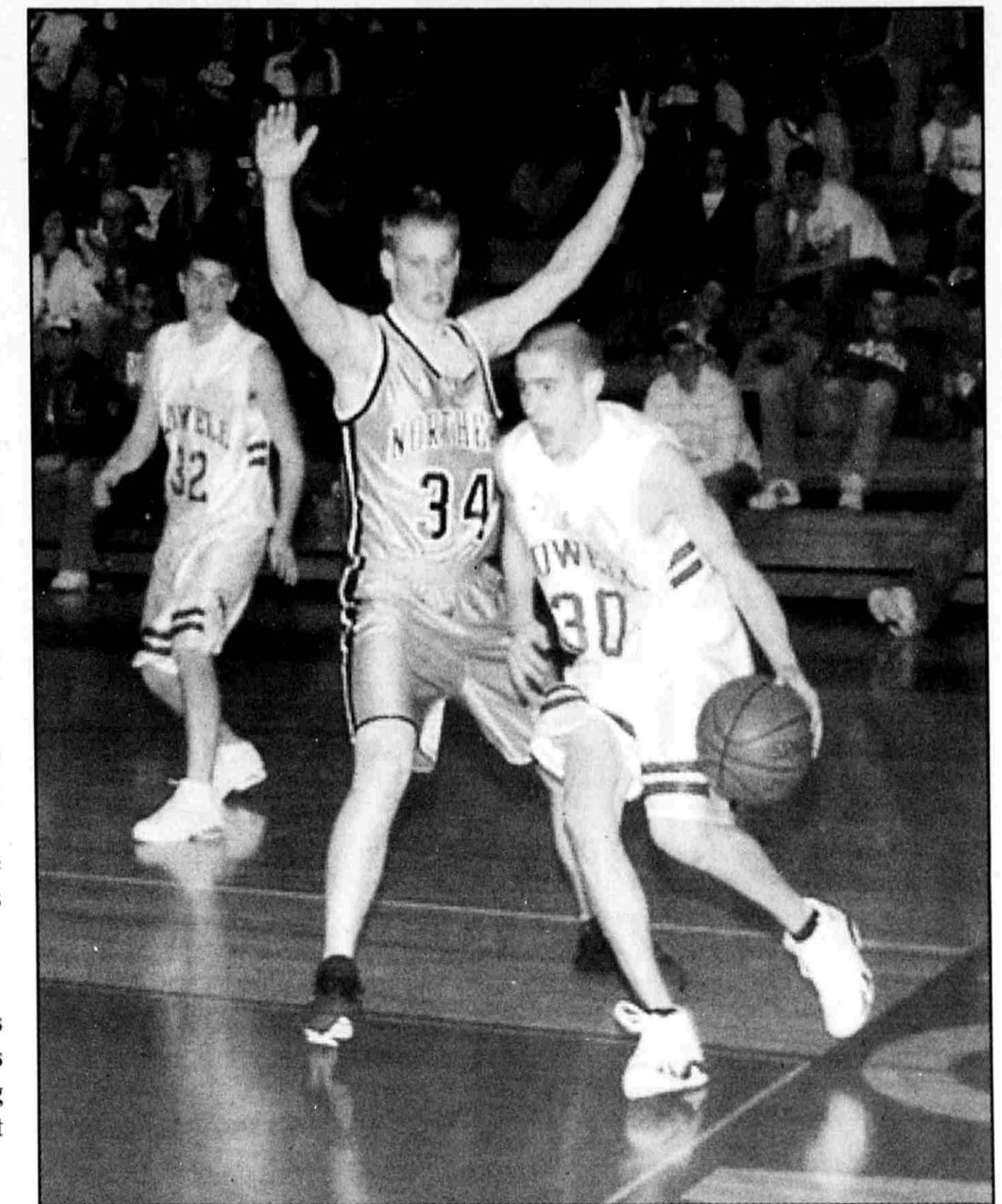
Lowell is 8-9 now overall.

"We're fighting like crazy to try to get to .500," McDonald said.

They are already .500 in the OK White, with a 5-5 conference record.

Lowell's next game is Friday at Forest Hills Central.

At Right: Lowell's Brett McMahon drives in under the hoop during last Friday's game against Forest Hills Northern.



Lowell competitive cheer team finishes familiar fifth

The Lowell varsity competitive cheer team finished fifth in last Wednesday's OK White/OK

Gold meet at Kenowa Hills. Lowell scored 174.0 in Round one, 167.9 in round two, and 282.0 in round three.

Those scores placed them in fifth place behind Caledonia. Byron Center finished third, the Forest Hills combined

team finished second and host Kenowa Hills finished first. Lowell placed ahead of Wayland Union, Hamilton

and Thornapple Kellogg. Lowell has remained in a fairly consistent fifth place in the overall conference

standings this season. The conference meet is Saturday at 7 p.m. at Kenowa Hills.

LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS BOARD BRIEFS

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Brooke Liu, Student Council President and Student Representative to the Board, reported that the Student Council is continually looking at new ideas in getting more involvement by the student body. A new legacy is being planned by students and more information will be shared later in the meeting. The Freshman class recently hosted a winter dance and student council members participated in some team building with the Alto Elementary Student Council members. An alternative spring break is being planned for some students and more information about that will be announced later in the meeting. Junior class members are working on the upcoming prom, and students have planned another blood drive on March 24.

PRINCIPAL WEEK RECOGNITION - School Board President Nancy Hopkins along with Assistant Superintendent Mark Kasmer presented the principals with a certificate for their dedication in serving the Lowell Area Schools in honor of Principal Week.

REPORTS -

Special Education Update

Special Education Director Jonathan Schelke shared demographic information related to the special education programs at Lowell Area Schools and noted how education for these youngsters has changed greatly over the years.

Wittenbach/Wege Center Strategic Plan

Ranger Steve Mueller presented the recently developed strategic plan for the Wittenbach/Wege Center. Curriculum for the center is continually being expanded, and a brochure is being developed to attract students from other school districts.

Energy Presentation

Jim White updated the Board regarding the dollars that the school did not have to spend because people are learning to conserve energy. This program is the Energy Education program and within the first 2 years of the program, LAS has avoided spending \$831,444 for energy.

ACTION ITEMS -

- The Board accepted the following gifts:
 - Stephen Wittenbach donation of \$1000 to be used by the Wittenbach/Wege Center.
 - Mary Ann Dewey donation of \$1000 to be used by the Wittenbach/Wege Center.
 - ICNB donation of \$200 to be used by the Lowell Wrestling Club.
 - L&A Rental donation of the use of a man lift valued at \$130 used by the LAS Grounds & Maintenance Personnel.
 - Al Eckman donation of \$2,000 to be used by the LAS Wireless Technology Class.

The Board named the following people to serve on the Naming Facilities Committee: Connie Gillette, Alex Fleet, Barry Hobria, Bryan Kyllonen, Diane VanEck, Kevin Pearson, Mark Lessens, Mark Russell, Robin Briggs, and Scott Vashaw.

CONSENT ITEMS - Approved/adopted were:

- Minutes for January 9, 2006 Special Meeting and Closed Session, January 9, 2006 Regular Meeting and Closed Session, January 23, 2006 Board Workshop and Closed Session, January 27, 2006 Special Meeting.
- The following payment of bills for January 2006:
 - GENERAL FUND.....\$1,356,874.42
 - SCHOOL SERVICES FUND
 - A. Food Service Fund.....\$51,726.23
 - B. Athletic Fund.....\$14,145.40
 - 1990 Debt Fund.....\$2,647.69
 - 2000 Debt Fund.....\$797.27
 - 2004 Debt Fund.....\$42.68
 - Scholarship Fund.....\$800.00
 - TRUST AND AGENCY FUND.....\$21,772.00
- Personal Property Taxes Stricken
- Election Resolution
- Schools of Choice Resolution
- Overnight Student Trip - High school students to Biloxi, Mississippi over Spring Break to help rebuild from Hurricane Katrina

BUDGET UPDATE - Connie Gillette reported that the Governor's 2006-07 budget proposal includes an increase of \$200 per student. There may also be an equity payment for districts with the smallest foundation allowances. The legislature will now make their proposal and it is our hope that a school aid budget will be in place by the end of June.

CURRICULUM REPORT - Mark Kasmer mentioned that the state will be providing dollars for pre-school students and also for Middle School math in an effort to prepare students for the high school grades. The building leadership teams continue to meet. Teachers have recently received training on graphic organizers to assist teachers and students during instruction. Training continues for noting high ability students. A Wellness Committee has been established and a new wellness board policy will be put into place by July '06.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - Nikita Miles high school student - establishment of a memorial at LAS for students who have died.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Mark Kasmer thanked Nikita for her efforts with the memorial. The middle school feasibility report is due and the team will review the results of testing. Mark thanked the principals for all their hard work.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

1st Round Superintendent Interviews:
Runciman Administration Building - Board Room
Feb. 20, 21, 22 - 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Board Workshop - Monday, February 27, 2006
Runciman Administration Building - Board Room
300 High St., Lowell, MI - 5:30 p.m.

2nd Round Superintendent Interviews:
Runciman Administration Building - Board Room
Feb. 28, March 1, March 2 - 7:30 p.m.

Please visit our web page at www.lowellschools.com

Sound Off

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What a great tribute to Leonard Jackson from Roger Brown. Leonard and Gloria were truly a wonderful couple. They didn't come any better than Leonard.

Not sure whose dog, but I had a dog run after me in the dark cemetery. After obviously startling me, the owner made no attempt to apologize, or even call their dog. THAT is why they should not be allowed!

God Bless the brightly lit American Flag! Maybe you should have your son or daughter serving our country for you to know what that flag means! Keep it shining bright!

I just spent an enjoyable, relaxing, fun evening last Thursday at Spins & Needles with ladies working with their yarns and wools.

With all the talk about dogs it sounds like this town really needs a dog park. Keep up the good work.

We don't need any more chain restaurants or pizza places.

I think maybe two people in Lowell actually watched WKAR.

Don't you hate it when people nark on you for something when in turn they are the ones that are in the wrong?

City Hall needs a new flag.

Good neighbors keep their loud trucks and cars to themselves, they don't share them with their neighbors.

Thank Bush for low gas prices? The only thing we can thank him for is ruining our country.

WEDDING INVITATIONS



We offer the Carlson Craft line of invitations.

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I've said it before I'll say it again. Bush and Cheney are the worst of the worst. And the Republicans in Congress got to go.

The L.I.V.E. Class of 2006 is working on a really cool project!

If you received a questionnaire, please kindly respond!

My vote for a franchise restaurant would be Fazolis!

Can someone tell me how can gas prices go up and down three times in one week, when each gas station only gets one delivery- two at most?

I thank Bush for the \$2.13 a gal. gas price. It is, after all, his fault!

\$2.13 is outrageous, remember .99 a gal?

Thursday's weather was wild wasn't it?

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How funny! I got my Ledger on Tuesday too. Silly post office.

How come when I pay a bill online - it still takes 5 days to reach it's destination? Mailing it would be as fast.

If you allow your child to participate in sports/club activities, you are responsible to provide transportation to and from practices and events. Don't make your child beg for rides.

Is Caledonia schools a part of this community?

I enjoy reading about the activities and achievements of youth and residents of the Lowell area and there's enough to fill this newspaper.

Thank you to the lovely Burger King employee

Great job community weight loss people!

Great job community weight loss people!

Great job community weight loss people!

for your honesty. My son and I are grateful. -VB & AB

Congratulations to all Lowell FFA members who worked so hard with their leadership contests. Good luck to those competing at the state level.

A big thumbs up to the Kent County Road Commission. They are doing a wonderful job.

To the person who would like to open a franchise - I think it would be great to get a Ponderosa.

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FOR SALE

BRAND NEW HOME - Lowell Schools, sits on 1.72 acres, 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, cath. ceilings, covered grilling porch, walk-out basement, att. 2 stall garage, priced at \$249,000. For more info call Neil French Builder LLC at 616-292-3481.

MATTRESS/BOX SPRINGS - Brand new, \$69/set. Twin, full, queen, delivery available. Dennis Distributing, 989-224-4822.

MATTRESS - Name brand. All new, special purchase. While supply lasts, twins \$65; full \$75; queen \$95 & up. 682-4767 or 293-6160, can deliver. www.reddirect.com

MAPLE BEDROOM SET - 2 mos. old w/Sealy mattress (queen), like new. Cost \$1,400, sell \$350. 517-719-8062.

BERBER CARPET - 80 yards, beige color, bought, never used. Cost \$800, sell \$295. 517-719-0451.

MOTORHOME - 31 ft., 1989 Allegro. Runs good, new batteries & tires, \$9,000. 580-743-2104 or 897-1426.

MEMORY FOAM MATTRESS - Developed by NASA. Relieves back pain. Never used, \$700. 682-4767 or 293-6160, can deliver. www.reddirect.com

MISSION OAK DINING TABLE - 6 chairs, JC Penney brand (2 mos. old). Family size. Cost \$1,800, sell \$250/best. 517-719-8062.

BED & MATTRESS SET - Queen pillowtop (new, in plastic), never used, comes with warranty, \$125. Call 517-719-8062.

SEASONED FIREWOOD - hardwood, oak. Delivery available. \$55/truck load. 437-5204.

\$175 CHERRY SLEIGH BED - Queen w/pillowtop mattress set (never used), \$175. Call 517-719-8062.

AIR BED - Selecta comfort firmness for each of you. Great for couples of different sizes. Fully adjustable with remote. Never used, queen \$695, king \$895. 682-4767 or 293-6160, www.reddirect.com

2006 DEER RUN GOLF CLUB PREFERRED PLAYERS PASS - Pass includes: 4 free greens fees; 4 free weekday greens fees (Buy One Get One - BOGO), 4 free weekend greens fees (BOGO), 5 free buckets of range balls (BOGO) & \$10 off Pro Shop merchandise. A \$625 value - all for only \$50. Great Gift Ideal AVAILABLE AT THE BUYERS GUIDE OFFICE OR contact Jay at 897-1355.

NEW LOWELL CITY DIRECTORY PHONE BOOKS WILL BE OUT IN MARCH - And will be available at the Ledger Office.

FURNITURE - From Parade of Homes displays. Bedroom, dining room, kids & more. Some still in boxes. 682-4767 or 293-6160, can deliver. www.reddirect.com

FOR SALE - Tailgate, 1995 Chevy truck, white, \$50 obo; John Deere 322 front cab/enclosure, \$600 obo; Manco 3.5 HP mini bike, nice, \$350 obo; Yerf Dog 5 HP go-kart, nice, \$500 obo; 616-682-4997.

FOR SALE - 1994 Bravada Smart Track, 4 whl. dr., 108,500 mi., leather, clean inside, mechanical very good, some rust. Asking \$2,500. 616-942-9957.

TORO SNOWBLOWERS - End of season clearance. Mention this ad & get an additional 10% off sale price. Offer ends Feb. 25. Only at Godwin Ada Hardware, 676-2121.

GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPIES - AKC, looking for a warm, loving home. First shots & wormed. Both parents on site. Asking \$350. Call 897-0794.

FOR SALE

TRYING TO SELL A VEHICLE? - The Buyers Guide is offering a great deal on advertising your vehicle for sale! \$15 for your 2x1 ad with a description of your vehicle & a photo! If you choose to run more than 1 week, additional weeks are only \$10! Call or stop by the Buyers Guide office, 105 N. Broadway, 897-9555 for further details.

I NEED HOMES TO SELL! - I am a full-time Realtor in the Greater Lowell Area and a lifetime resident of our community. I have been one of the top leading realtors in the area for over 10 years and would enjoy the opportunity to work with you. I have been successful with my guaranteed marketing strategies. Call today Bonnie Baird 897-5208 Keller Williams Realty. Let's work together to get your home SOLD!

FOR SALE - Tailgate, 1995 Chevy truck, white, \$50 obo; John Deere 322 front cab/enclosure, \$600 obo; Manco 3.5 HP mini bike, nice, \$350 obo; Yerf Dog 5 HP go-kart, nice, \$500 obo; 616-682-4997.

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IONIC BREEZE QUADRA BY SHARPER IMAGE - This silent air purifier is brand new. No filters to replace. Black in color. \$125. Call Tim 897-9879.

FOR SALE - 1996 Classic Chevy Impala SS, asking \$10,500 obo; 2005 Yamaha V-Star Custom, asking \$8,500 obo. 897-5241, leave message.

EVENTS
ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT-FISH-FRY - Every Friday now thru April 14, serving 4-9 p.m. Also serving all-you-can-eat spaghetti & meatballs. Deer Run Golf Club, Cascade Rd., Lowell. For reservations, 897-8481.

WANTED
CHILD CARE NEEDED in our home. Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30 - 1p.m. Call Amanda at 635-0669.

PAYING CASH - for your old United States coins, call 616-291-7096.

WANTED - Motorcycles. Cash paid for road bikes, running or not. Call 446-8352.

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By Fax: 616-897-4809

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The Ledger must raise subscription rates. Beginning March 1 new rates will be

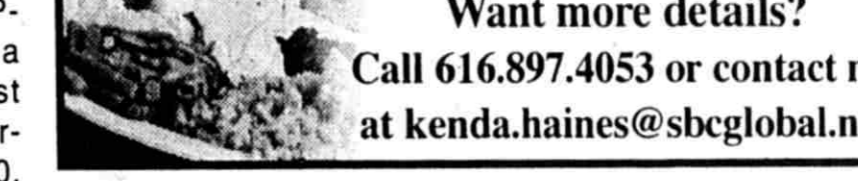
1 yr. in county - \$17;

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FOR RENT

APARTMENT FOR RENT - 2 bedroom, lower level, large fenced yard. Available March 1st, \$625 per month. Call Bob 299-3198.

FOR RENT - Very small 2 bedroom house, 2 miles North of Lowell. Includes newer, roomy, 2 stall garage. No pets. References & deposit required. \$500 month. Call 897-7130 for appointment.

HALL FOR RENT - with kitchen, seats 150. Call 897-6050.

APARTMENT FOR RENT - Immediately available, 2 bedroom, upstairs, large fenced yard, \$500 per month. Call Bob 299-3198.

FOR RENT - 1 & 2 bedroom trailers in Lowell. \$400 - \$420 per mo. plus 1 mo. rent deposit. No dogs please. Call 813-8041 or 616-754-0276.

APARTMENT FOR RENT - Immediately available, 1 bedroom, all utilities except phone included, cable TV, \$150 per week. Call Bob 299-3198.

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COUNTER PERSON NEEDED - Full-time. Apply in person at Cooper's Dry Cleaners, 6555 28th St. SE.

"TASTE OF HOME" Entertaining - New party plan. Absolute ground floor. No exclusives. Kathy 616-361-5429.

DELIVERY DRIVER - CDL-A drivers needed. Looking for dependable customer service oriented person w/ chauffers CDL-B, CDL-A license. Good working environment. Also hiring nights/weekends. 616-248-7729.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS BEEN DENIED? - We have represented unemployed workers since 1991. For possible assistance and free representation, call now! 1-800-305-2899.

WE ARE HIRING PEOPLE TO WORK - in our group home in the Lowell area. Supporting developmentally disabled adults with challenging behaviors. You'll have an opportunity to change someone's life for the better & change your own life at the same time. Full & part-time positions available on all shifts. \$8 per hour, more with experience. Call Nate at 616-897-8261 for more details or complete an application at 1348 Front NW, Grand Rapids, 49504. EEO/AA/H.

SCRATCH PADS OF PAPER - We have em! 2 different sizes. \$1.25 per lb. Lowell Litho/Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway.

BILL'S CUSTOM MADE FURNITURE & CABINETS - All types of wood: oak, maple, hickory, cherry plus others. Reasonable rates and free estimates. 989-855-3644.

JOHN DEBIAK HORSESHOEING & HOOF TRIMMING - Serving the Greater Kent/Ionia County area with 15 years of professional, full-time experience. Call 897-4290.

CUSTOMER SERVICE - Staffing service is seeking an energetic individual for an opening in their Lowell office. Duties include interviewing applicants, job placement, extensive customer contact & record maintenance. Candidates must have strong organizational skills & proficient using MS Office applications. Prior office experience, especially customer service, is preferred. Interested candidates are encouraged to fax their resume to the attention of Mark at 897-4801.

HORSE BARN WORK - (small private farm), approx. hours 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., 5 to 6 days per week (more hours are available). Dressing horses, turnouts, cleaning barn, general barn maintenance. Near Alden Nash/Cascade Rd., Lowell. 897-5139.

ENGLES DAYCARE - has one full-time opening, M-F, 6 a.m. - 5 p.m. Call Robin 897-4570 or 889-8384.

PAYROLL & BOOKKEEPING SERVICE - By certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-0686.

SHIP UPS AT THE LEDGER OFFICE - Daily pickup 3:30 p.m. 105 N. Broadway. Compare our prices - call for a price quote! (weight, dimensions & zip code required for a quote). 897-9261.

JOHN SCHLOOP BUILDER - New homes, additions & remodeling. Call 897-1335.

DOES YOUR CHRYSLER, PLYMOUTH, DODGE CAR, TRUCK OR VAN NEED REPAIR? - Don't make a mistake & take it anywhere else - give Geo-Tech a try! Contact George at Geo-Tech Transmission & Repair. Call 897-0743.

LICENSED DAYCARE - 36th and Cascade Rd. area. 20 years experience. Food program. 1 full / 1 part-time opening. Call 977-2618.

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FREE
FREE TO GOOD HOME ONLY - Large female dog, at least 6 mos. old, house and crate trained. Good with other animals. Call 642-6706.

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DO YOU LOVE COOKING and ENTERTAINING? - Looking for independent consultants for a brand new company called Taste of Home Entertaining that starts nationwide on May 1. Call Angie at 616-676-5559.

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DO YOU NEED - some type of clean up? Give me a call! 897-2125, cell 868-7571, Paul.

MOSAIC ART PARTIES! - My house or yours. Projects start at just \$10. Call 635-0669 for info.

PLUMBER - Experienced. Residential Service or New Construction. Reasonable rates. Call 897-2575.

BOB FORD - Formerly of Hahn Hardware, is doing all kinds of service work. Call 299-3198.

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Lowell FFA will compete at state competition

On Wednesday, February 15, 16 students from the Lowell FFA Chapter earned the right to compete at the State Competitions to be held March 8-10 at the State FFA Convention in East Lansing. The students competed in the Regional contests against schools from around the West Michigan area. The top two teams in each contest advance to the State level. Advancing from Lowell were students in

Agricultural Issues, Jr. High Conduct of Meetings, Creed Speaking, and Jr. High Public Speaking.

In the Agricultural Issues contest, the students have to discuss both sides of a local issue dealing with agriculture. The team consisting of Melissa Blough, Edie Chittenden, Amy Junewick, Hannah Knudstrup, Katie Rottier, and Kim Ward has researched the issues and interviewed people

about the use of biofuels like ethanol and soydiesel.

The Jr. High Conduct of Meetings team has to show that they can run an efficient meeting using correct Parliamentary Procedure. Members on this team are Emma Bencker, Kari Bergy, Kelsey Langlois, Josh Phelps, Chelsea Pipkins, Kelsey Ward and Jack Weeber.

In the public speaking contests, Rachel Folkersma will be representing Lowell in the Creed Speaking contest and Paula Blough and Sean Greenhoe will be competing in the Jr. High Speaking contest. The Creed Speaking contest involves reciting the FFA Creed and answering questions about how it relates to your life and the FFA. The Public Speakers researched, prepared and presented speeches on agricultural topics. Paula prepared a speech on Longhorn Cattle and Sean speaks about Biofuels.

Also competing at the Regional Contest for Lowell were Brian Sejat in the Prepared Public Speaking Contest and Grady Drown in the Extemporaneous Public Speaking contest as well as the team of Seth Boogaard, Bob Crosby, Steve Harden, Randy Hogan, Kendra Rasch, David Schrunk and Eric VanSledright in Jr. High Conduct of Meetings. All received Silver awards at the Regional Contests.

FFA is a national youth leadership organization that strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. The Lowell FFA is one of the largest chapters in Michigan with over 120 members.



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2003 CHEVROLET MALIBU Stk. # UP400 Low miles, full power  Only \$174.00* month	2001 CHEVROLET CAVALIER Stk. # UP394 Z-24, full power, sunroof  Only \$166.00* month	2003 FORD TAURUS Stk. # 6B031A Loaded, leather, roof  Only \$139.00* month
2004 BUICK RENDEZVOUS CX Stk. # UP408 Extra clean, full power, low miles  Only \$259.00* month	2005 CHEVROLET AVEO Stk. # UP406 Power windows, alum. wheels  Only \$174.00* month	2004 CHEVROLET VENTURE LS Stk. # UP409 Power locks, windows, rear air  Only \$174.00* month
2001 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE Stk. # 6T057A Limited, loaded, V8  Only \$259.00* month	2005 TOYOTA COROLLA Stk. # UP353 Full power, CD  Only \$242.00* month	2005 BUICK LACROSSE Stk. # UP387 3.8 V6, full power, low miles  Only \$312.00* month

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