

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 34 Issue 17

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Congregational church celebrates sesquicentennial this weekend



The First Congregational Church of Lowell's 150th Anniversary Committee is pictured in the church's sanctuary: from left to right are Pastor Dr. Roger La Warre, Lori Ingraham, Barb Pierce, Kara Bykerk, Dale Hanson, Gwen Stegehuis, Leah Vredenberg, Howard Thurtell and Ruth Thurtell. The stars on the walls in the background represent significant events in the history of the church.

By Dan Schneider

The steeple on the First Congregational Church of Lowell is visible from all over town.

It was damaged and repaired in the 1960s and still stands tall today. Its repair was a big event, remembers longtime church member Nancy Wood.

"When we put the new steeple up, everybody stood in the streets for blocks watching the new steeple go up," Wood said. "That was really quite a milestone."

Lowell's First Congregational Church will celebrate a big birthday this weekend: 150 years.

Rev. S.S. Brown and Cyprian S. Hooker were the originators. They organized the Union Sunday School in 1851. Five years later, on March 6, 1856, the Congregational Church Society was established with nine members. Rev. S. Hemenway was hired as pastor.

They dedicated their sanctuary on June 1, 1861. The church was built on land donated by a pair of doctors named Richards and Wickham and took nearly four years to complete. The building underwent a number of renovations over the years, which were detailed in an informal history of the church that members of the congregation have compiled over time.

That history includes many interesting events and characters in the church's 150 year history.

There was the Cheerful Doers organization, which started in 1910 visiting the sick, aged, and shut-ins, distributing bouquets, clothes and other cheer-related items. That group dissolved into the Esther Group in 1997, which became the Women's Fellowship in 1998.

The church was closed for the last two months of 1918 due to an influenza epidemic.

It describes Rev. Andrew Lemke, who came to the church in 1928, replacing Rev. A.J. Blair.

"Rev. Lemke was young and more liberal in his thinking than most past pastors had been," the history states.

Many of the stories in the history focus on the musical instruments in that church. Mr. R.D. Stocking played the church's organ for more than 50 years, always declining payment. The history states that no one was able to get the organ to work properly after Stocking died. In 1979, the church's piano was the victim of a frozen waterfall when the pipes broke during a brutally cold January day. Hans Fischer was able to repair the piano, which is still in the basement of the church.

Some time in the 1940s the church got its steeple. That structure can easily be seen from a number of vantage points in Lowell.

150 years,
cont'd., pg. 10

Search for superintendent narrows to two

The Lowell Area Schools board of education reduced the slate of candidates for the district's superintendent position to three last Thursday.

Roger Thelen, Keith Konarska and Gregory Pratt were selected to come back for second interviews this week.

The board interviewed Thelen, the current superintendent of Central Montcalm Public Schools, Tuesday. He has been the school's superintendent since 1995. Before that, he was superintendent of Colon Community Schools.

Konarska was slated to be interviewed Wednesday

evening. Currently serving as interim superintendent for Grand Haven Public Schools, he was hired by Grand Haven Schools Monday night.

The board will interview Pratt on Thursday night, also at 7:30. He is the superintendent of Kent City Community Schools. Prior to becoming superintendent, Pratt was a middle school principal in that district from 2000-2004.

Following this second round of interviews, the next step in the selection process will take place March 6-10, when the superintendent search committee will visit the remaining candidates' current districts. The selection of a finalist is scheduled for March 13.

ZBA resolves flag lighting issue

By Dan Schneider

The problems with a brightly lit American flag at the new Mobil station on Alden Nash Avenue were apparently resolved at last Wednesday's meeting of the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA).

The board met for a public hearing regarding a zoning variance to allow the uplighting of the flag.

Since it was installed in late December, the lighting on the giant flag near the highway had caused concern among some neighbors. Members of the Grand Rapids Amateur Astronomical Association (GRAAA), which owns the Veen Observatory in the township, were also concerned that the skyward lighting on the flag would impact the dark skies to the southeast of the facility. The southeast is their prime astronomical viewing area.

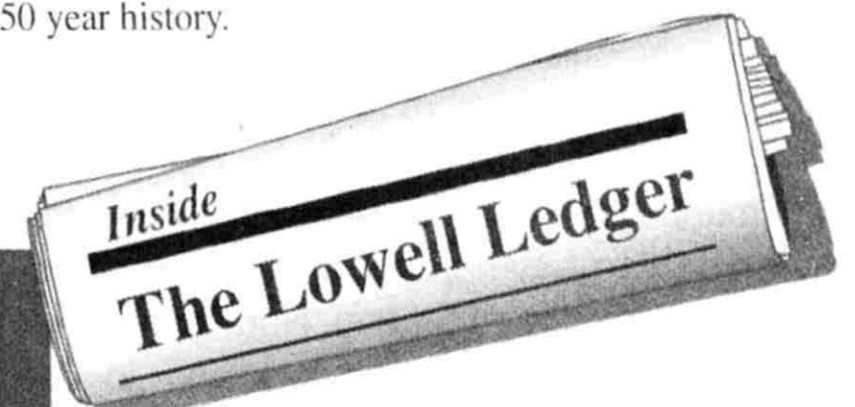
But a different lighting option may prove to be the solution everyone was looking for.

"One of our ZBA members, in fact our newest member, had gotten onto the internet and downloaded some information on a light fixture that would attach to the light pole from the top and illuminate the flag that way," ZBA chair Bill Thompson said. "That kind of device would resolve the issue, assuming it works and

I can't see any reason why it wouldn't. It would not be shining light in the night sky and creating problems for the observatory or for the neighbors."

The ZBA member who brought in the information was Gerald Persha, who is also a member of the GRAAA. Craig Hoppen, president of J&H Oil Company which owns the

Flag lighting,
cont'd., pg. 10



Museum Raffle Woes ... Page 3

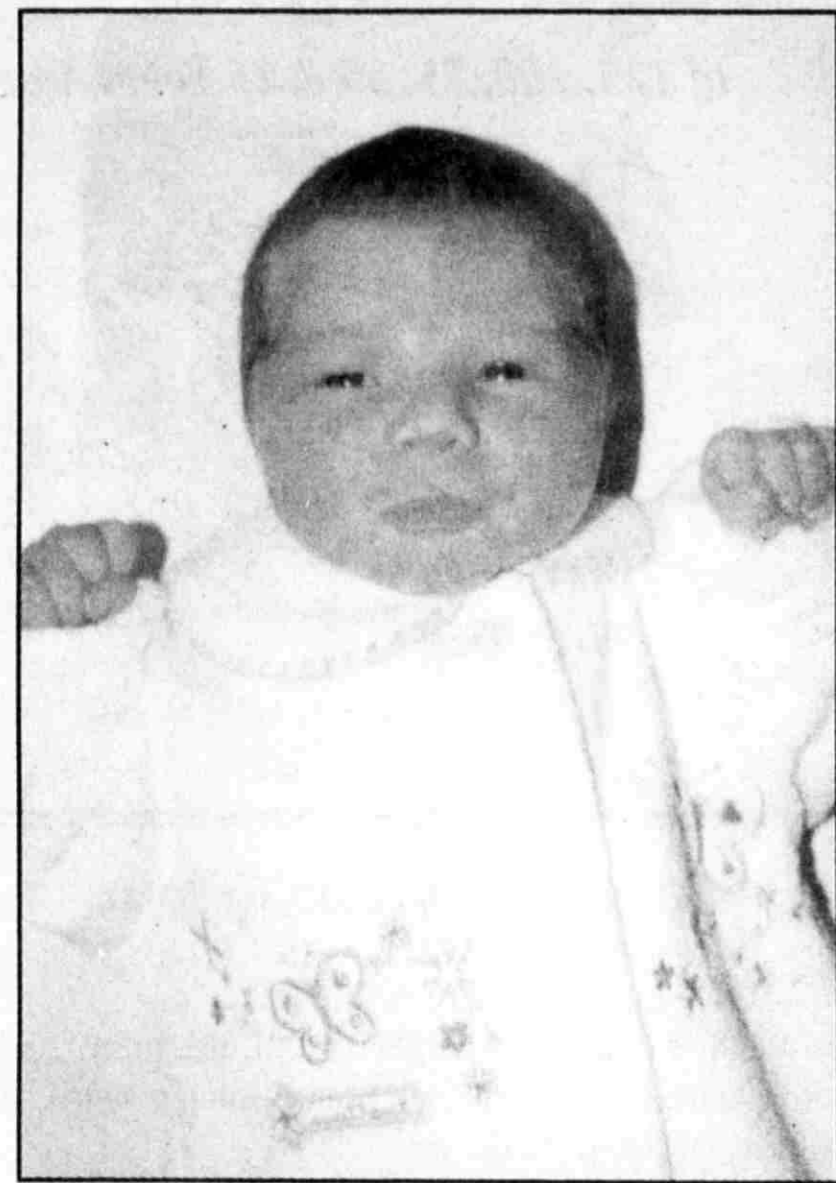
LL&P Purchase ... Page 4

National Champ ... Page 10

Chamber Art ... Page 11

New Arrivals

Bredwell

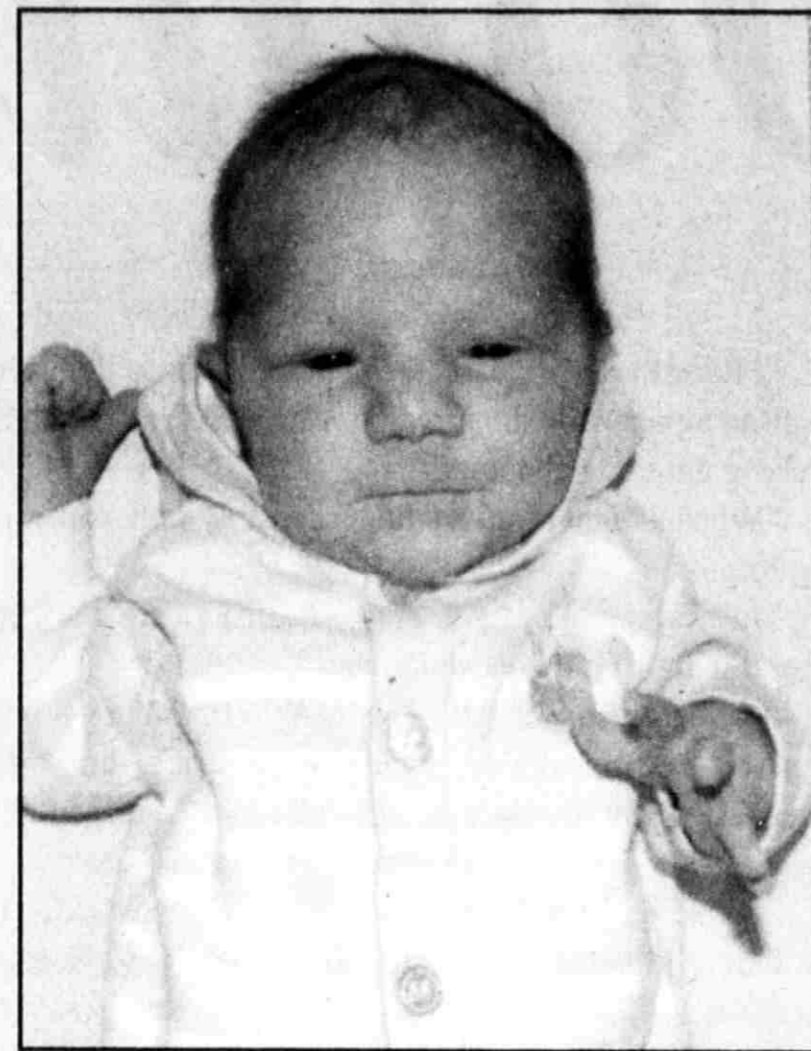


Alice Adele Briggs Bredwell

Kate and Bryan Bredwell of Lowell are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Alice Adele Briggs Bredwell. She was born February 7, 2006 at 8:45 a.m. She weighed 7 lbs. 1 oz. and measured 18 inches. Welcoming her home is big sister, Leah.

Proud grandparents are Dean and Pat Bredwell of Porterville and Jim Ketchum of Port Huron and the late Alice Ketchum.

Wood



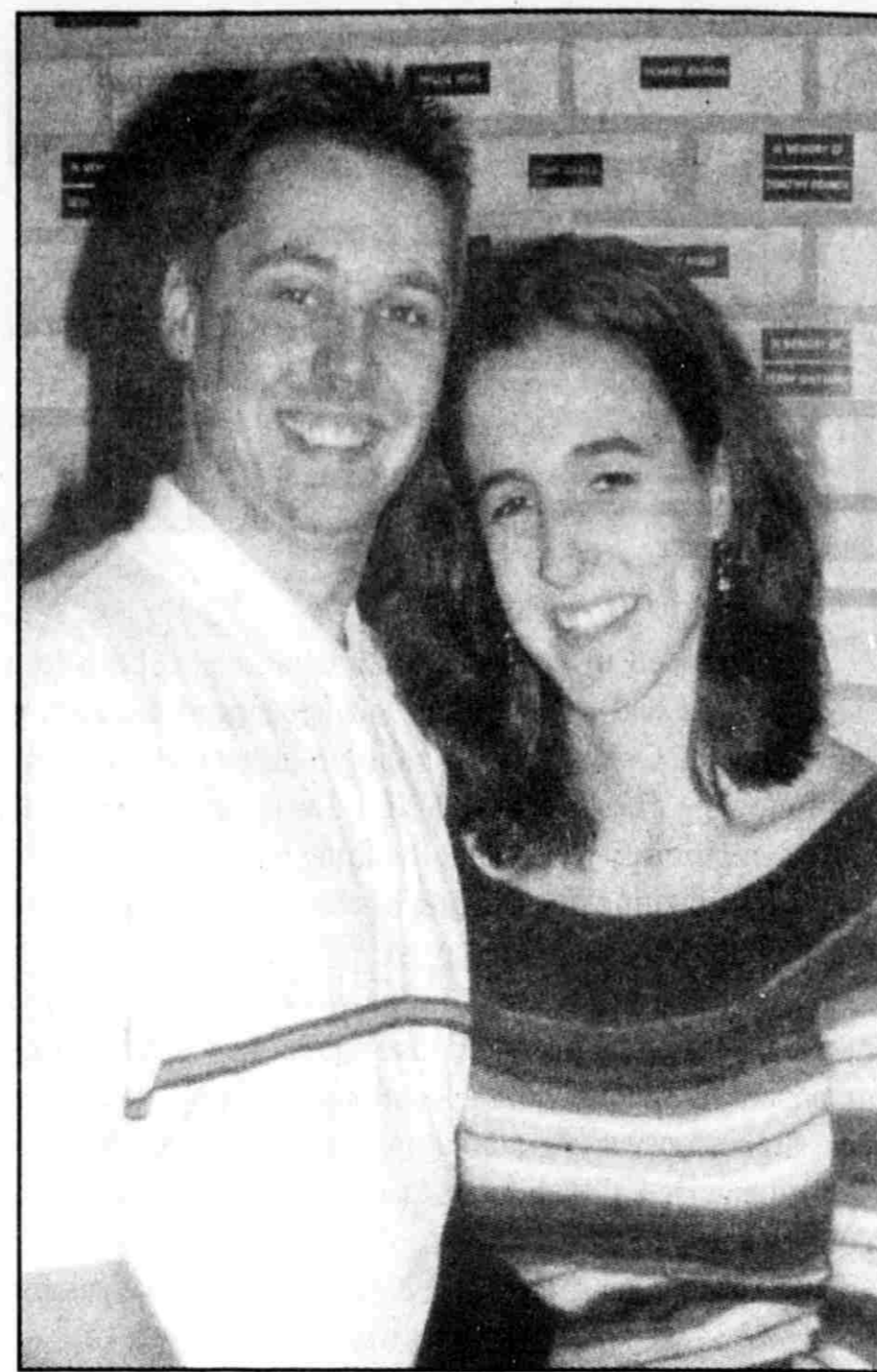
Connor John Wood

Andrew and Jessica Wood are happy to announce the birth of their son, Connor John, born February 16, 2006. He is welcomed home by big brother, Logan.

Proud grandparents are Thomas and Sue Wood and John and Cheryl Allen and proud great-grandma is Barb Allen.

Engagements

Hoppough/Dykhuus



Cody Dykhuis and Amy Hoppough

Amy Marie Hoppough and Cody John Dykhuis will exchange wedding vows on August 19, 2006.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of James Hoppough of Six Lakes and Valerie David of Alto. The future groom is the son of Scott and Denise Dykhuis of Lowell.

Parish mission presented

St. Mary Catholic Church of Lowell will present a parish mission titled "Healing and the Power of the Sacraments" beginning Sunday, March 5 and ending Thursday, March 9. The guest speaker is Fr. Christopher Crotty from the Fathers of Mercy, a religious

order of priests in Auburn, KY. For people who are not Catholic, the parish mission is an opportunity to hear what Catholics believe.

The mission will be presented over five consecutive evenings from 7-8 p.m. at the church, 402 Amity St.

As a Christian I often find myself thinking, "I can't wait until I get to Heaven." I wonder sometimes if this does not grieve God. I believe that it is all right to look forward to great things, but Jesus said in John 10:10 "I have come that they may have life, and life to the full." Not only did Christ come to give us a new life in Him but I believe that He wants the best for us in the here and now.

The snow is still falling. There is not enough to ski and too much to golf. But I sit here and gaze at the beauty of it as it does fall and I can guarantee that God has given each of us this day, snow and all, to use to the fullest. Instead of being anxious about tomorrow, ask God what he has to show you for today. I'll bet it will be as beautiful as the falling snow.

to ski and have not had the opportunity to engage in this activity yet this year. The snow continues to fall whether I make up my mind to enjoy it or wish it away.

I get a little anxious for things at times. Today I find myself anxious for one or the other; either bring on the snow or bring on the sun. One of the greatest evangelists to ever walk the face of the earth wrote in the book of Philippians 4:6, "Do not be anxious for anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." I find it difficult not to be anxious sometimes, but when I think about the reasoning behind this, it begins to make more sense. You see, when we are anxious about things we forget to live for the moment. We wish our lives away, so to speak.

Reflections of faith

Pastor Michael Rhodabarger
Lowell Church of the Nazarene

As I sit in my office, my attention is suddenly caught by the snow that is beginning to fall, and fall quite heavily. It brings to my senses mixed emotions. It is now almost March and I have to say that I am ready for spring. However, I love

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

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 Vennin Dodge dealership. 897-6284 or 485-4195 10AM Sunday School; 11AM Morning Service; 6PM Evening Service; Wed., 7:30PM Prayer Meeting.	ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M. OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey	DAY BIBLE CHAPEL 9305 Centerline, Saranac 897-6332 Worship.....9:45 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M. Nursery & Jr. Church Provided Rev. Frank Lattimore, Pastor "A Nondenominational Ministry With A Blended Word Centered Service!"	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	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
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	"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 McCallough.....Clergy in Charge Reverend Deacon Mark O. Fleet, Clergy In Assistance Parsonage.....(616) 897-2587 Corporate Web Page.....http://www.eacna.org May the Lord fill you and bless you this day!	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.	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 Masses: 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, ENTVN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING	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 LaWarre.....Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship
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)	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 Haines, Youth Pastor Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA CLUB J.C.....Wed. 6:15 & 6:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free	SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Thurian 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!	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. PASTOR MICHAEL RHODABARGER Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance	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!

Rotary Club of Lowell accepting scholarship applications

The Rotary Club of Lowell Community Foundation is now accepting applications for four Rotary Club of Lowell scholarships.

These scholarships have been awarded to graduating Lowell area seniors since 1997; one is specifically designated for a student attending Cornerstone University, while the other three are not university specific. All applicants must be either a graduating senior attending Lowell High School or a

graduating senior, living in the Lowell Area School District, attending any public, private, charter or home based school.

In line with the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self," community service is a primary factor in awarding the scholarship. Applications must be postmarked by April 1, 2006.

"We are pleased to increase the size of the scholarships which will be awarded this year, and hope that area students, upon graduation, will return to Lowell to be leaders in the community," said Greg Flick, chairman of the Rotary Club of Lowell Community Foundation.

Since 1997, over \$40,000 worth of scholarships have been granted.

For more information, visit www.lowellrotary.org or write the Rotary Club of Lowell Community Foundation P.O. Box 223, Lowell, MI 49331.

Moose lodge Super Bowl raffle benefits Lowell football teams

Bucky Curtis (left) representing Lowell Football receives a check from Moose Lodge administrator Jerry Cole. The Moose Lodge sponsored the raffle of a pair of Super Bowl tickets to benefit Lowell Football. The raffle raised \$7,000. Varsity football coach Noel Dean received the tickets for the raffle on short notice, only two weeks before the game. The Moose covered the cost of the state raffle permit and Cole drove the paperwork to Lansing himself to expedite the process.

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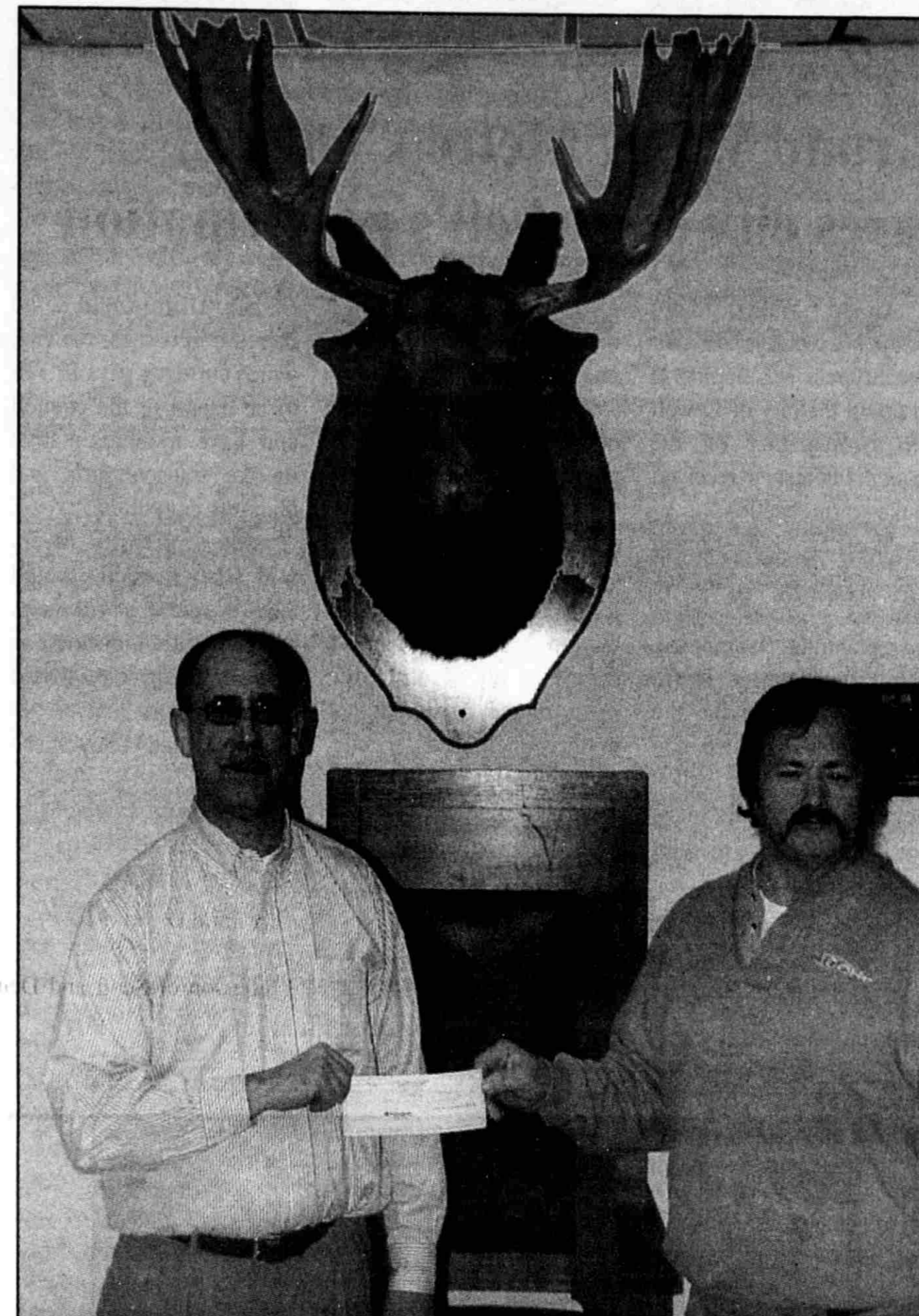
ASSE International Student Exchange Programs (ASSE) is seeking local host families for students from a

variety of countries. These students, 15-18 years old, are coming to this area for the upcoming high school

year or semester and will arrive shortly before school begins.

Each ASSE student is well screened and families may select the student from extensive student applications, family photos and biographical essays.

To find out more about the program, call Pat Juhl at 1-800-677-2773.



Happy Birthday

- MARCH 2**
Mary Vezino, Lisa Schoen, Roger MacNaughton, Anna Kline, Martin Johnson.
- MARCH 3**
Sarah Newell, Roselynn Peters.
- MARCH 4**
Scott Vashaw, Bryce Tulppo, Patrick N. Johnson, Art Warning, Rex Crout.
- MARCH 5**
Don Silvis, Michael Nearing.
- MARCH 6**
Pat Covell, Darlene McClure, Velda Butler.
- MARCH 7**
Carrie Metternick, Marshal Mooney, Michael Barnes, Shirley Canfield, Marion Carrigan.
- MARCH 8**
Amber Rittersdorf, D.J. Main, Charles Drake.

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DALE TRIPLETT

Wingeier bequests benefit local organizations

By Dan Schneider

Bequests totaling more than \$1 million will benefit four local organizations.

In his will, longtime Lowell area resident Samuel "Babe" Wingeier left a total of \$1,260,900 to Lowell Area Housing (Schneider Manor), Lowell Area Schools, the Lowell YMCA and Lowell Senior Neighbors.

Schneider Manor will receive the largest portion, \$504,360, for its building fund. The board of the senior apartment center plans to begin building a new unit with eight new apartments immediately.

"We'll be getting going on that new building right away," board president Phil Schneider said.

While the gift won't cover the entire cost of building the unit, Schneider said, "It certainly will put a great big dent in it."

Schneider, who was a longtime friend

of Wingeier's, was not surprised that Schneider Manor received such consideration in his will.

"He had more than one thing that was important to him, but it was certainly one of the more important things in his life that he wanted to provide for and he did," Schneider said.

Wingeier served on the Schneider Manor board of directors for 19 years, also serving as both manager and grounds manager. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (he served in the U.S. Army during World War II), American Legion, the Masonic Lodge and Lowell First United Methodist Church.

Wingeier worked for 20 years as a distributor for Standard Oil Company. His stocks in that company did quite well, and continued to do well when they turned into British Petroleum stocks. But he didn't flaunt any wealth.

"He was a very

successful businessman in his own right," Schneider said. "He didn't brag about it or anything like that."

Another portion (\$315,225) will go to Lowell Area Schools to establish a college scholarship fund. From the fund, two scholarships will be awarded annually to Lowell athletes, one male and one female. The scholarship will be given with an emphasis on need.

"Any time that we can help students reach their dreams and attend college, it's a benefit," LHS principal Scott Vashaw said. "We have many local scholarships ... and this is just one more example of someone giving back to the community through the schools."

Another \$315,225 was earmarked in the will for the "Lowell Pool Authority (or its equivalent)." This money will go to the Lowell YMCA to help fund the construction of a pool in the Y's proposed new facility here.

"We are very thankful that he gave us that donation," Lowell YMCA associate executive director Staci Messersmith said.

She did say, however, that the proposed facility is in its "very, very preliminary" stages.

"We do have some plans, but it is a long way off right now," Messersmith

said. "We're just trying to find out what the need is and whether or not Lowell could support something like that. And not just Lowell, but Alto, Saranac and Vergennes and Lowell townships."

Schneider said building a community pool for Lowell was another cause that was important to Wingeier.

Lowell Senior Neighbors received \$126,060 for its building fund, with interest earned to be directed towards its general operations.

The gifts are also made in the name of Wingeier's wife, Evelyn, who preceded him in death.

Grand Valley Metro Council lures city of Lowell's participation

Grand Valley Metro Council executive director Don Stypula was hoping to pump up the city of Lowell into participating on the council, but instead received a lukewarm reaction.

The city of Lowell does participate on the council's transportation and planning committee, with city manager David Pasquale representing the city. Stypula admitted that joining the Grand Valley Metro Council would mean the city would have more of

a voice in all of the council's decisions versus just on the one committee.

This would include decisions on the overall growth and development of the committees the council serves, which includes six counties: Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Montcalm and Ottawa. Stypula said he also serves as an advocate for many of the municipalities in the council, most recently working with Wyoming in securing funding for the

44th Street interchange at US131. There would be no increase in cost for the city, which currently pays \$1,726 to be a part of the council and have a representative on the transportation and planning committee.

Mayor Charles Myers said the council would take it under advisement, but gave little indication as to whether the city would pursue a more active role with the Grand Valley Metro Council.

Beware of the young doctor and the old barber.

Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)

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Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold
Edward Jones
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LONGEVITY IS KEY FACTOR IN LONG-TERM PLANNING

None of us can predict how long we'll live. And yet, as you chart your long-term financial goals, you'll at least want to think about longevity - because it's a key factor in developing appropriate savings, investment and retirement strategies. For starters, make an educated guess about how long you might reasonably expect to live, taking into account your own health-related characteristics and your family's health histories. You might also want to consult with an actuarial table.

You might be surprised at the results. With advances in medicine and greater awareness of healthy lifestyles, we are living longer than ever before. In fact, half of the 65-year-olds alive today will likely live beyond age 83, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

In short, you may need to plan on spending two, or even three, decades in retirement - a possibility that affects some important areas, including the following:

• **Risk tolerance** - Your individual risk tolerance helps determine the investments you choose. In other words, if you are risk-averse by nature, you may be more inclined to invest in fixed-income vehicles, such as bonds or Certificates of Deposit, that may offer greater preservation of principal but less chance of capital appreciation. Or, if you don't mind taking on a higher degree of risk to your principal in exchange for potentially higher returns, you may be drawn more to stocks. But if you believe that you are likely to live a long life, you may need to step outside your natural risk tolerance to choose a diversified mix of investments that offer the growth potential you need to stay ahead of inflation along with sufficient income during your retirement years.

• **Social Security** - You can begin collecting Social Security at age 62, but your monthly checks will be larger if you wait until your full retirement age, which can be anywhere from 65 to 67. For every year past your normal retirement age that you delay collecting benefits, you'll get "bonus" payments, which can be substantial. Once you reach

70, you'll have earned the largest monthly payment you're going to get. So, you can use your projected longevity as one important factor in determining when you should start collecting Social Security.

• **Retirement income** - Once you retire, you will need to decide when to start taking money from your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. You'll also need to decide how much you should take each month. And you'll need to establish a sensible withdrawal plan for all the other investments in your portfolio. These decisions hinge, in part, on about how long you think you are going to live. For example, if you plan to retire at 65 and you believe you will live another 30 years, you will want to withdraw less money per year than if you thought you were going to live another 20 years.

Get help with "number crunching"

It's not always easy to incorporate one's longevity into financial strategies. So, you may want to consult with a qualified financial professional - someone with the experience and technology to provide you with a number of savings/investment scenarios, based on different life expectancies. It's always a good idea to become familiar with the possibilities that lie ahead.

College News

Grand Valley State University announced the students recently placed on the dean's list for the fall 2005 semester. To qualify, a student must maintain at least a 3.5 grade point average and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits.

From the Ada area are: Brian J. Abbring, Stacey L. Arnswald, Anne K. Beenen, Rebecca J. Brinkley, Kelsey E. Capps, Katherine E. Cornish, Ryan T. Curtis, Jennifer L. Dee, Melissa A. Dennie, Noelle L. Dewey, Leah R. Dyksterhouse, Nicole L. Elliott, Brady A. Foster, Tiffany R. Gauger, Holly M. Grummet, Susan L. Hiaeshutter, Lindsay M. Koehn, Anna M. Komejan, Jennifer S. Manion, Caleb L. O'Boyle, Anthony M. Pedley, Kayla J. Ritenburgh, David J. Rozema and Tiffany T. Venneman.

From the Alto area are: Sarah E. Appold, Dana F. Bailey, Tara A.

Cavanaugh, Alexandra L. Cordingly, Molly C. Cramer, Steven R. DenHof, Joshua S. Ekkens, Sarah R. Fifer, Harmony L. Gould, Jessica L. Mervau, Crystal Porritt, Danielle N. Sims, Amanda M. Sinning, Angela M. Taylor and Christopher A. West.

From the Ada area are: Kellie A. Baker, Whitney L. Boyce, Christopher H. Bratt, Stephanie M. Cole, Rebecca L. Edwards, Nathan H. Entingh, Kelly A. Foote, Keith D. Hayes, Jordan F. Hefferan, Emily R. Henk, Andrew J. Hoover, Daryl J. Kamp, Kimberly A. Kessenich, Kristen K. Klotz, Sarah C. LaFave, Joseph M. Levering, Sarah C. Manion, Sarah N. Marthens, Craig M. Miller, Thomas R. Mitsos, Nicholas M. Myers, Meagan M. Pimm, Rachel R. Reister, Kelley M. Russo, Zachary C. Vandenberg, Jill R. VanDongen, Stacey L.

VanVossen, Katherine J. Vos, Lindsay R. Warnes, Sarah E. Wepman and Katherine A. Wert.

Alma College has named over 380 students to the dean's list for outstanding academic performance during the 2005 fall term which ended Dec. 16.

From the Lowell area are Cori Drenth and Zachary Sneider.

Students must achieve a 3.5 or better grade point average during a term, while carrying a minimum of 13 credits, to be named to the dean's list.

University of Northwestern Ohio is proud to acknowledge its dean's list for the January session for the College of Technologies.

From Lowell is Ryan W. Ward. From Alto is David W. Elzinga.

These full-time students received a grade point average of 3.5 or better.



In The Service

Navy Seaman Recruit Tera L. Kropf recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

During the eight-week program, Kropf completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid,

attributes of sacrifice, firefighting, water safety and survival, shipboard and aircraft safety, and physical fitness.

The capstone event of boot camp is "Battle Stations." This exercise gives recruits the skills and confidence they need to succeed in the fleet. "Battle Stations" is designed to galvanize the basic warrior

Kropf, a 1990 graduate of Lowell High School, is the daughter of Christine L. Kropf and stepdaughter of Jody A. Hall of Lowell.

Lowering the bar at RollAway

Contributed by Bob VanNoller



Anybody that has grown up in this area has likely either participated themselves or seen it done. Limbo at the skating rink - how low can you go. We believe we may have a record on our hands by a young lady from Alto - Ms. Allie Daniel. She is an 11 year old attending Clarksville Elementary and lives in



Alto with her parents and an older sister. Allie is 4 ft. 8 in. tall with an additional 4-inch lift from the skates. At the lowest #1 setting, the limbo bar is only 13.5 inches above the floor. To pull off such a feat of sailing cleanly under the lowest three settings, the skater needs topnotch balance, coordination and flexibility.

Pictured here is Allie as she just cleared the bar where her shoulder and knee are already rising from their contorted state just sub seconds before. "Pajama bottoms are a must," says Allie.

Over the last 20 years there have been just a few handfuls of skaters that can lay their claim to fame for the #2 notched position. The #1 setting was always thought to be impossible. Somebody forgot to tell Allie Daniel that.

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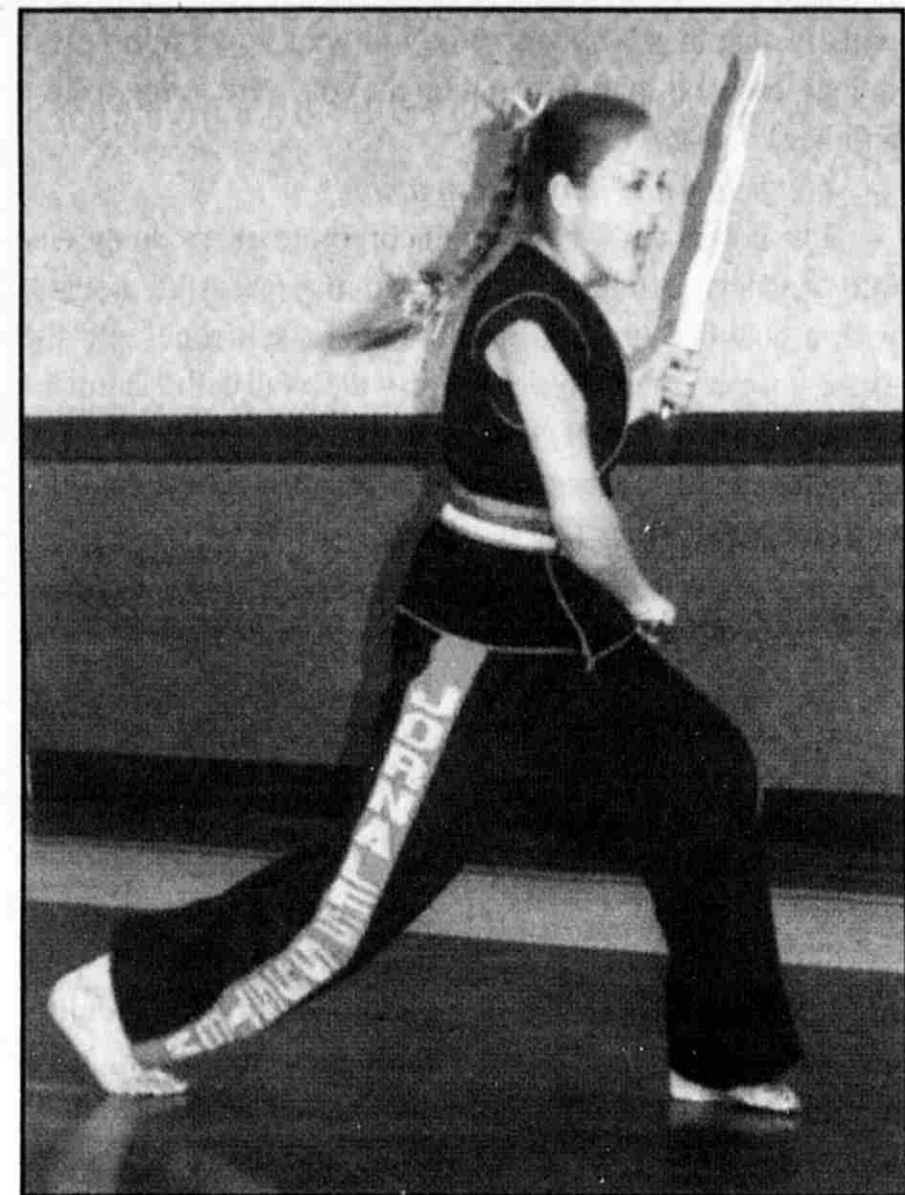
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Moore to represent U.S. in July World Championships

Local martial arts student, Mariah Moore, 12, traveled to Milwaukee, Wis., on Feb. 17 to represent the entire Midwest Region in

Fla., from July 2-9. Every other World Championships is held in the Philippines, home of the Filipino Martial Arts.



Moore in her gold medal Traditional Weapons event.

her division in the WEKAF (World Eskrima Kali Arnis Federation) U.S. National Competition.

With over 500 competitors from all over the United States, only those placing first and second move on to the next level of competition, the World Championships, which are held every second year. The 2006 World Championships will be held in Orlando,

At the National Championships, Moore entered four events and qualified for the U.S. National team in three of them. She brought home the gold medal in Traditional Double Weapons, the silver medal in the team competition, and the silver medal in the Junior Girls Lightweight Double Stick Sparring.

The church has had many pastors over the years from Hemenway and the liberal Lemke to Greenwood who arrived on the scene on a motorcycle in 1974. Dr. Roger La Warre has been the church's pastor since 1992. According to longtime members Ruth and Howard Thurtell, the church is now

150 years, continued ... From Page 1



An architect's drawing of the church's new sanctuary, which also features a tall steeple.

The Congregational Church played a role in some significant events in the history of the wider community. Local school teachers met there in the late 1970s when they voted to strike. Rev. Richard Greenwood made a successful appeal to a judge, preventing the prosecution of a number of Lowell citizens who were involved in the 1980s "numbers racket" or pyramid scheme scandal.

more vibrant than it has ever been. "Our present minister, he has been a spark plug, a big spark plug in the church," Howard Thurtell said. The church has become more involved in the community. "It's really a much more active church, into community things," Ruth Thurtell said. "Anything that's going on in the community, we know about it and we know what we can do."

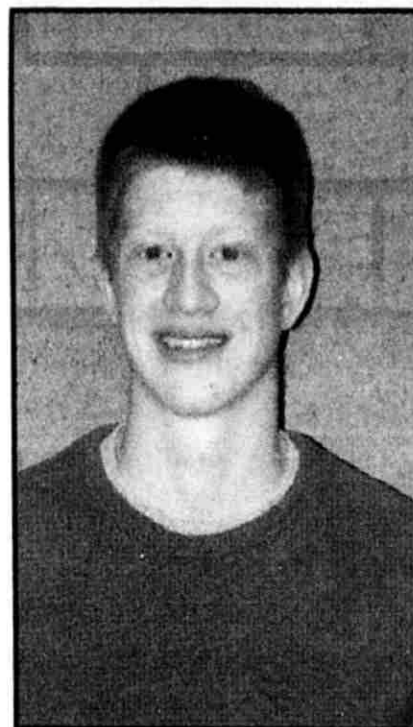
And the congregation is growing, so much so that a new sanctuary is under construction further north on Lincoln Lake Avenue. With construction beginning Feb. 6, the congregation should be able to move in by October or November. The old sanctuary will remain in religious use, a stipulation that was made when the property was donated.

To mark its 150th anniversary, the church is planning a celebration.

Following a 10 a.m. worship service Sunday, featuring associate conference minister Rev. David Reese and conference minister Rev. Kent Ulery, the congregation will go to the Lowell High School cafeteria at noon for a banquet and celebration.

The church is holding an open house Monday, March 6 from 6:30 - 8 p.m. The community is invited for cake and refreshments.

Lowell student headed for West Point



Benjamin Ritzema

Lowell High School senior Benjamin Ritzema was recently accepted into the United States Military Academy at West Point. He was appointed into a class of about 1,000 from across the U.S. To be able to attend West Point, Ritzema first had to apply for a nomination from a senator or representative. He was nominated by representative Vern Ehlers. He also filled out a regular application and passed a physical aptitude test. He leaves for cadet basic training in New York June 23. Ritzema plans to study electrical engineering at the academy.

LHS counselor Bob VanBelos said this is the first time in his 27 years on the job that a Lowell High School student has been accepted to the academy. The son of Dion and Cathy Ritzema, he carried a 3.95 grade point average at LHS.

Flag lighting, cont'd... From Page 1

station, was supportive of the idea. "I'd certainly be willing to do that, so I think it was a win for everybody," Hoppen said.

The station will remove the lights for now.

"It will just be dark until I can procure one of those down lighting deals," Hoppen said.

The ZBA gave Hoppen three options: withdraw the variance request, table it, or have the board vote on it. Hoppen chose to have the board table the issue until its April 24 meeting at which point, Thompson said, "I believe it will be a moot point because he already will probably have the down

lighting in place by that time."

The down-directed lighting would be acceptable under the township's commercial lighting ordinance, while keeping the flag illuminated at night.

"I think we've ended up with the best possible solution for everybody," Thompson said.

Hoppen was impressed that a solution was found so amicably. Emotions could have run high, he said, with neighbors bothered by the light pitted against the patriotism associated with the flag.

"You look at something like that and that can turn ugly in a hurry," Hoppen said. "But the people of Lowell conducted themselves with a lot of integrity, I thought."

Featured Artist

Ryan Teunis

By Dan Schneider

A local artist and Lowell High School graduate is displaying his artwork on the walls of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.

Ryan Teunis, 27, has a wide variety of pieces in several different mediums: There is photography, colored pencil drawings, charcoal, pen and ink.

"I just wanted to show off the amount of different art one person can produce," Teunis said.

Teunis has been producing art since he was

young. The assortment on display at the chamber grew out of his experience as an art teacher. He studied art education at Michigan State University, taught art at a school in Colorado and did art with students while he was an in-school suspension room monitor at Kelloggsville High School.

"Because I was in art education, we spent time doing all sorts of things," Teunis said.

A lot of his work was produced while in college, but everything on display

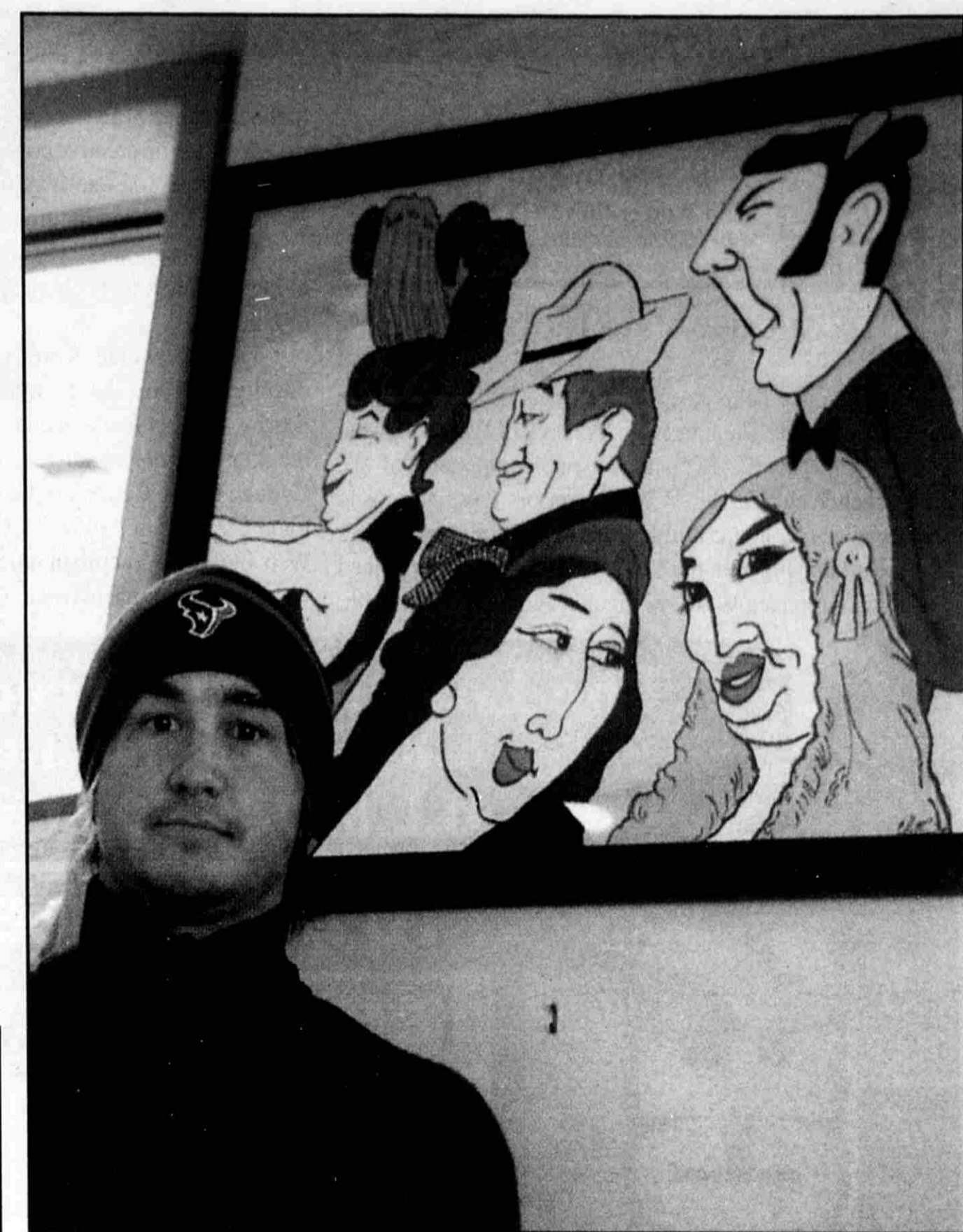
was created from 2000 to the present.

There are some photographs from a series he did in college titled "Internal Thoughts," featuring his college roommates in shots they set up around their apartment.

"The process was more fun than anything," Teunis said. "I thought the end result turned out pretty good."

There are also some Christmas-related works he produced for his mom.

The show will be on exhibit through March 22. Teunis will host an artist's reception Thursday, March 16 from 6 - 8 p.m. Anyone interested in talking to him about art can also catch him at the Flat River Grill, where he is a manager.



Lowell artist Ryan Teunis with his piece, "Actors," which is one of several on display at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.

Students receive National Merit honors



Lowell High School senior Marie Lazar, left, was named a National Merit Scholar and senior Kristen McAlpine was given a National Merit Commendation.

The National Merit designation recognizes Lazar as being in the top one percent in the scores, SAT scores and an application. The daughter of Ed and Michelle Lazar, she intends to study digital media design at either the University of Pennsylvania or Michigan State University. She has a 4.244 grade point average.

McAlpine, the daughter of Paul and Sally

McAlpine, plans to attend Michigan State University and become a hospital pediatrician, psychiatrist or kindergarten teacher.

Property purchase, cont'd... From Page 4

larger than the utility company needed. The facility includes 45,000 square feet; the company needs less than half of that and is looking to lease the rest.

Pfaller said he is more concerned with the cost of upgrading the facility to meet the Environmental Protection Agency's new Spill Prevention Control and Counter Measures (SPCC).

Richards said the

company is under the gun to meet those requirements by this summer. At the meeting, he estimated it would cost \$20,000 to \$30,000 to upgrade the Chatham facility to meet the SPCC requirements. Pfaller still felt the numbers needed to be more concrete than that, especially since it was going to cost more than \$1 million to construct a brand new facility to meet those requirements. Concerns were raised about the facility

being taken off the tax rolls. City attorney Richard Wendt said if a portion of the building is rented out, according to state law that portion has to go back on the tax rolls.

Councilman Al Mathews said the council should not wait too long in making a decision about what it wants to do with the North Washington site.

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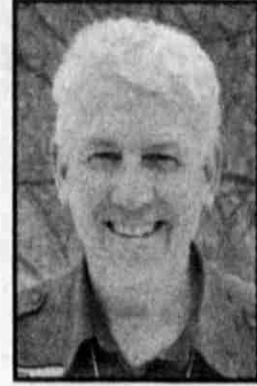


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On The Wild Side

With Ranger Steve Wittenbach/Wege Center Director

LOCAL GREEN SPACE PROTECTION

Green space helps keep Lowell and West Michigan a great place to live. The Land Conservancy of West Michigan which owns the Wege Natural Area component of the Wittenbach/Wege Center (WWC) sponsors presentations to help developers, home builders and community members plan for urban sprawl in the Lowell area. Carefully planned sprawl will enhance West Michigan's economy and health.

Careful planning can preserve valuable agricultural land, critical wetlands, and places for families to experience the highest quality of life.

Working on creative conservation plans with landowners and developers is one way the Land Conservancy and the WWC work to keep nature nearby for local communities.

The conservancy works with developers to show how to incorporate "green" concepts and to protect larger blocks of land.

The 6th annual Korth Conservation Series can help development in the Lowell area while keeping nature nearby. Contact the land conservancy directly to register for breakfast and presentation at 8 a.m. on March 9 at the Calvin College Prince Center on the East Beltline for a cost of \$15. Land Conservancy (451-9476) or lcwm@naturenearby.org. Web site: www.keepingnaturenearby.org.

The Wittenbach/Wege Center co-sponsors with the

Land Conservancy of West Michigan to support regional economic, social, and environmental healthy development. Conservation design of subdivisions that lessen negative impacts of development is important when determining a long-term positive impact of development for the community.

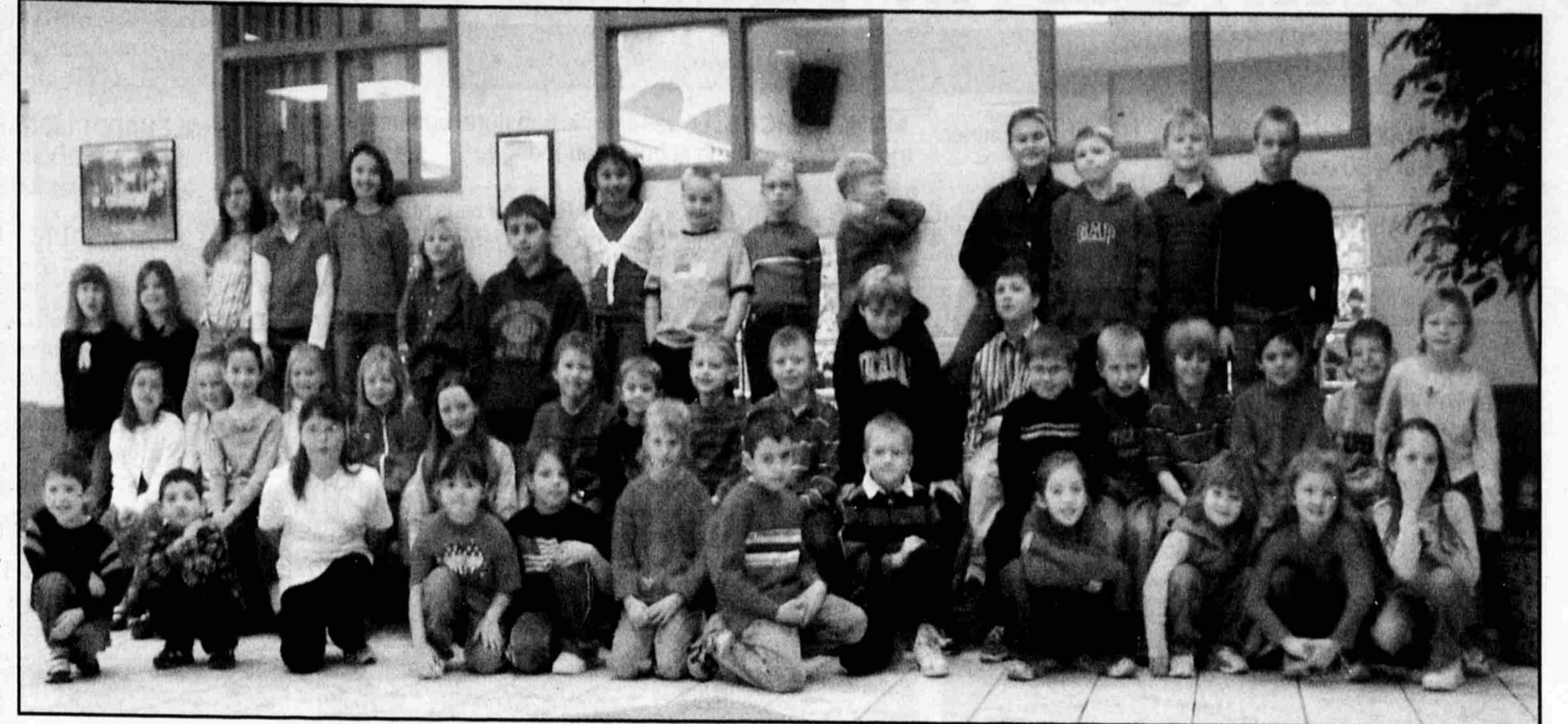
Planning at the very beginning of development by city and township boards can greatly improve the quality of life in the Lowell area and can protect agriculture and green space. Planning by individual landowners can support healthy and economical success.

Stop in at the WWC to learn about the Land Conservancy of West Michigan and the Wege Natural Area. A Land Conservancy newsletter is in our entry.

Call 987-1002 at WWC or visit the website smueller@lowellschools.com for more information.

Murray Lake Elementary Character in Action awards

The following kindergarten students at Murray Lake Elementary School received the Character in Action award: Front row, left to right, are: Jon-Luc Richmond, Zackery Post, Jocelyn Johnson, Alyssa McGill, Taelor McGill, Sara Majestic, Riley Coxon, Robbie Dubisky, Jessica Sheveland, Maddie Wittenbach, Kylee Stevens and Autumn Sheldon; middle row: Mackenzie Bush, Bethany Kaczanowski, Hannah Briggs, Danielle Krajewski, Francesca Robinson, Becka Roth, Trevor Roest, Bryan Ashenbremer, Anthony Pollock, Carter Noskey, Jacob Sweet, Max Dean, John Rogalke, Riley Nethercott, Gabe Steed, Robert Sheldon, Liam Peterson and Elizabeth Miller; back row: Ashley Bitely, Lauren Blanchard, Santana Boulton, Kennedy Coxon, Rachel Hindley, Karmen Anderson, Grant Noskey, Jesse Toomey, Angie Baerwalde, John Wade, Callie Ford-Weber, Bailey VanAmburgh, Nathan Kyburz, Landon Nethercott and John Donnelly.



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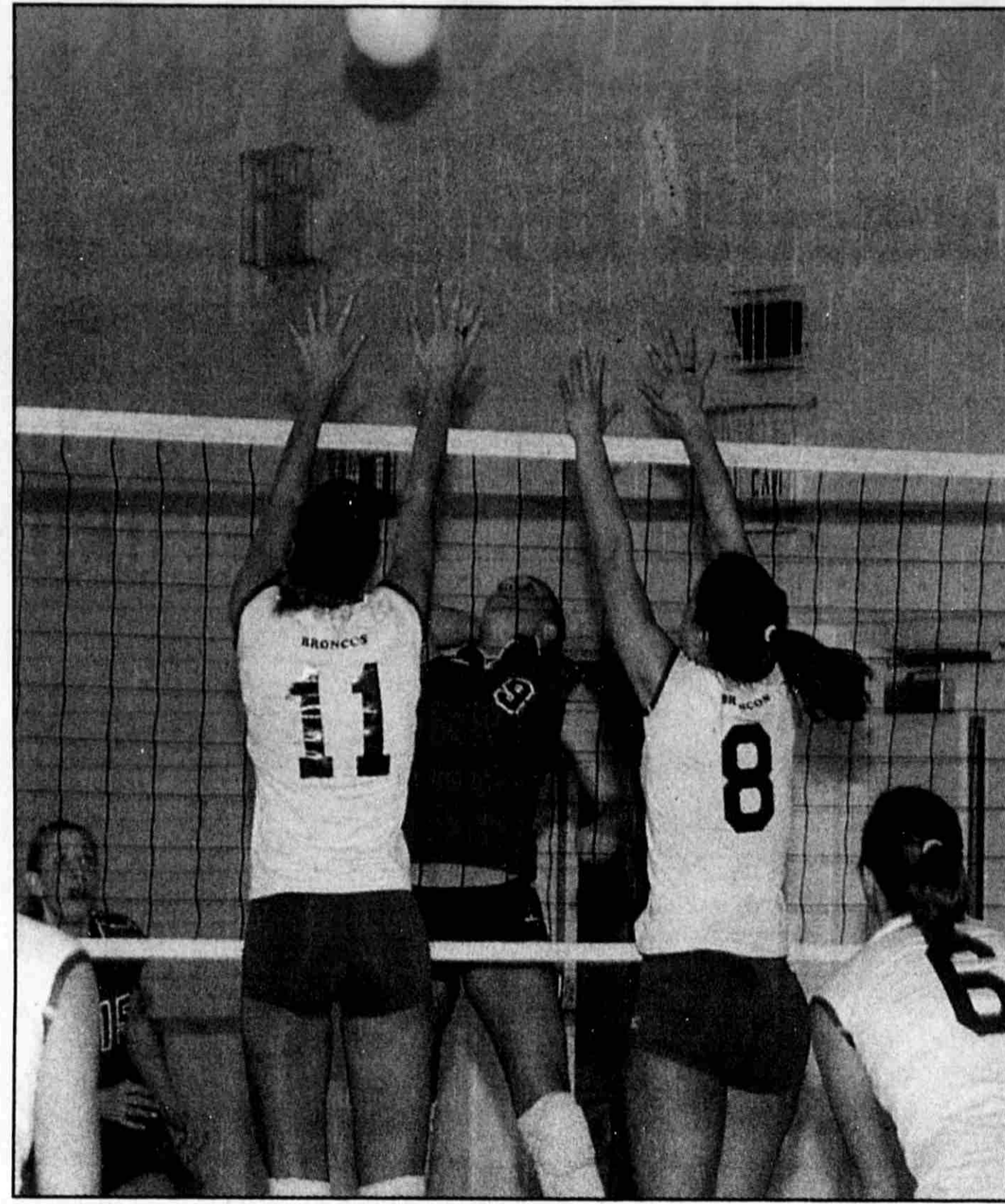
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Lowell volleyball places third in OK White tourney



By Dan Schneider

The Lowell volleyball team ended the conference season on a high note Saturday at the conference tournament in Greenville.

"We played incredible," Lowell coach Gigi Peal said.

The Red Arrows placed third in the tournament and got there the hard way.

In the first match against East Grand Rapids, Lowell split the first two games before losing the third and the match 16-14. That put Lowell in the loser's bracket where they had to beat Kenowa Hills and face East Grand Rapids again to get back in the winner's bracket of the double-elimination tournament.

Lowell's Eva Wilcox attempts to spike the ball past Coopersville defenders in last Tuesday's match.

"We had to take the tougher route," Peal said.

The team that I knew I had all season finally showed up to play," she said. "The intensity level was there. Nine, 10 people stepped up and played out of their mind."

Last Tuesday, Lowell hosted a match with Grandville, Coopersville and Belding. The Arrows beat the bulldogs and the Red Skins but lost to the Broncos.

The fourth place OK White finish gives Lowell some good competition for Wednesday's crossover match with Zeeland East and Caledonia at Caledonia.

"That was probably the most intense match these guys have played," Peal said.

Lowell won the match in two games, 25-19 and 29-27.

Then Lowell faced East again, this time winning in two games, 25-20 and 28-26, to get back into the winner's bracket. There, the Arrows lost to Forest Hills Central, who went on to lose to Forest Hills Northern in the final match.

The third place finish put Lowell in fourth place in the overall conference standings for the season.

Their play also gave Peal some confidence going into Saturday's district tournament, which Lowell is hosting.

"Hopefully, we have exactly what we need going into the district tournament," Peal said.

The district tournament begins at 10 a.m. Saturday at Lowell High School. Lowell starts out against Cadillac.

Peal said.

Lowell-Caledonia hockey shows spark in loss to Rockford

By Dan Schneider

Even though the result was a season-ending loss for Lowell-Caledonia, the team couldn't ask for a better game than Monday's pre-regional first-round match with Rockford.

Lowell-Caledonia, which tied for fourth place this season in tier three of the OK hockey league, took Rockford, which tied for third place in tier one into double overtime at Patterson Ice Center. Even though it was a 3-2 loss, the Red Arrows/Fighting Scots ended the season with their most spectacular game, and most spectacular effort.

"That's an amazing effort by the kids," said Lowell-Caledonia coach Mike Ballard. "On the one hand, I'm really proud of their effort and on the other hand, I'm sad that it had to end that way."

Lowell-Caledonia jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first period. The first goal was scored unassisted and shorthanded by Kyle Baker at the 4:28 mark. At 5:24 into the game, Joel Scheele scored on an assist from Kyle Austin and Austin DeClerq.

Rockford scored in the second period and again with 5:55 left in the third.

With strong defense and some great saves by Cory Kowalski, the Arrows/Scots held the 2-2 tie for the rest of regulation and through the first eight-minute overtime. Lowell-Caledonia was able to control the puck enough to put pressure on the Rockford goalkeeper in overtime, but was unable to get a lot of high-percentage shots. Rockford won the game on a goal 2:05 into the second overtime.

"Our goaltender, Cory Kowalski was outstanding," Ballard said. "I told him before the game he would have to have the game of his life and he pretty much did."

Kowalski stopped 48 out of 51 shots for a save percentage of 94.

Overall, the game was a good experience for a young team.

"I feel badly for the two seniors who are leaving us, but what a way to go, to get to play in such an exciting game," Ballard said. "The kids who are coming back next year, they finally understand the kind of effort they need to have every game and I'm just proud of them."

Scheele, a junior from Caledonia, received all-conference honors this season. Austin, a senior from Lowell, received honorable mention all conference.



Lowell-Caledonia's Blake Myers (right) fights for control of the puck during Monday's game.

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

Lowell bowling headed for state

By Dan Schneider

Both Red Arrow bowling teams qualified for the team state meet at Saturday's regional at Northway Lanes in Muskegon. The boys' team finished second and the girls' team finished third. The top four teams in each regional advance to state.

The boys team finished behind Fremont and had a team pin total of 4,072. Rogers took first place in the girls regional, rolling 3,502 followed by Sparta with 3,309. The Lowell girls' pin total was 3,306.

Three Red Arrows also

qualified for the singles state meet.

Ashley Nawrocki placed second in girls' singles competition at the regional, with a six-game score of 1,119. That's an average of 186 per game.

For the Lowell boys, Brandon Jahnke finished fifth with a six-game score of 1,236 (average of 206 per game). Greg Sherman placed sixth with a six-game score of 1,229 (per-game average of 204). Anthony Everitt rolled a six-game score of 1,215 (202 per game average) to tie for the

seventh and final singles state qualifying spot, but lost 40-38 in a 9/10 frame rolloff.

The singles state meet starts at 8:30 a.m. Friday (7 a.m. check-in). The team

Cheerleading takes fifth place at conference meet

The Lowell varsity competitive cheer team placed fifth Saturday at the OK White/Gold conference meet at Kenowa Hills.

Lowell's scores were 174.5 in round one, 163.8 in round two, and 279.5 in round three for a total score of 617.8.

The Forest Hills combined team took first place at the event with a score of 686.0. Kenowa Hills placed second followed by Caledonia and Byron Center, whose score was 639.8.

Lowell finished well ahead of sixth-place Wayland Union, which scored 575.0. Middleville Thornapple-Kellogg placed seventh; Hamilton, eighth.

Lowell's next competition is the regional meet Saturday at Mt. Pleasant.

CITY OF LOWELL

KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 06-01 ADOPTED BY THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL ON FEBRUARY 21, 2006

Ordinance No. 06-01 amends Sections 2.02 and 2.04 of Chapter 2 and adds Section 4.23 to Chapter 4 of Appendix A - Zoning Ordinance of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowell. Such amendment defines the terms "awning" and "canopy" and regulates their location in certain zone districts.

Ordinance No. 06-01 is effective 10 days after this publication.

Betty R. Morlock City Clerk

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Red Arrow basketball victorious over Forest Hills Central

The Lowell boys basketball team hit the .500 mark overall and were guaranteed at least a .500 finish in conference games this season with a win Friday at Forest Hills Central.

Shots from behind

the arc played a key role in Lowell's 65-58 win. The Arrows hit 10 of 14 three point shots, with Josh Hetta supplying six of them.

Lowell led 17-10 after one quarter, but the Rangers

climbed back in it, trailing only 31-28 at halftime. Forest Hills Central took the lead in the third quarter. They were on top 47-44 at the end of that period.

Lowell took control in the final quarter of the game,

however, outscoring the Rangers 21-11 for the win.

Hetta led Lowell with 28 points. He was six-for-seven from the free throw line. Justin Harden put in nine points for Lowell, Mike McElroy scored eight

as did Ryan Lane. Ryan Converse scored five for the Red Arrows.

As a team, Lowell was 15-21 from the free throw line.

The Rangers out-rebounded the Arrows 28-

20. Lane led Lowell with eight boards.

Lowell played Northview Tuesday. They host an OK Green crossover game this Friday.

Lowell gymnastics takes sixth place at conference meet

By Dan Schneider

Lowell placed sixth Saturday in the OK Rainbow gymnastics tournament.

Their team score was 126.875.

Lowell's top scorers on vault were Kelli Kowalski

(8.4), Becca Underwood (8.35), Richelle Kimble (8.20) and Leeannah Seese (7.85).

Top Red Arrow scorers on bars were Kimble (8.35), Underwood (7.95), Seese (7.55), and Andrea Coffey (7.05).

On beam were Underwood (8.45), Seese (7.9), Kowalski (7.65) and Kimble (7.6).

Lowell's top scorers on floor exercise were Underwood (8.825), Seese (7.675), Kimble (7.575) and Mandy Vezino (7.50).

Underwood's floor exercise score was the sixth-highest overall at the conference meet. She

Lowell's Becca Underwood, pictured far left, placed sixth overall in the floor exercise event.

received all conference honorable mention.

Forest Hills Blue took first place at the meet with a score of 141.050. Rockford was second followed by Kenowa Hills, East Grand Rapids-Caledonia-

West Catholic, and Mona Shores. Lowell finished ahead of Holland and East Kentwood.

Lowell will travel to Rockford Saturday for the regional meet.



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NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at the regularly scheduled meeting of February 21, 2006, the Lowell Charter Township Board of Trustees adopted Ordinance No. 02-2006, an amendment to the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance. The amending ordinance amends Sections 6.6.2 through 6.7.4 which pertains to the Township Zoning Board of Appeals. The amendments provide specific standards for the review of variance requests, prohibit the Board from granting use variances and prohibit the Board from hearing appeals pertaining to special land uses and planned unit developments.

The ordinance shall become effective March 8, 2006. A copy of the complete text of the ordinance can be obtained at the Lowell Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, during regular office hours or by calling 897-7600.

Linda S. Regan, Clerk Lowell Charter Township

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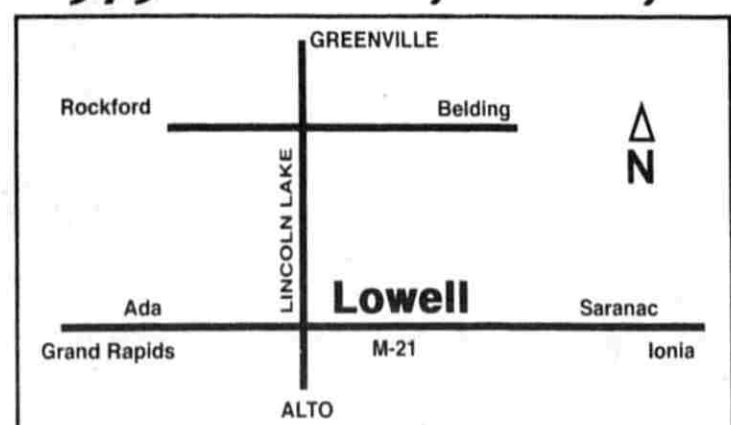


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