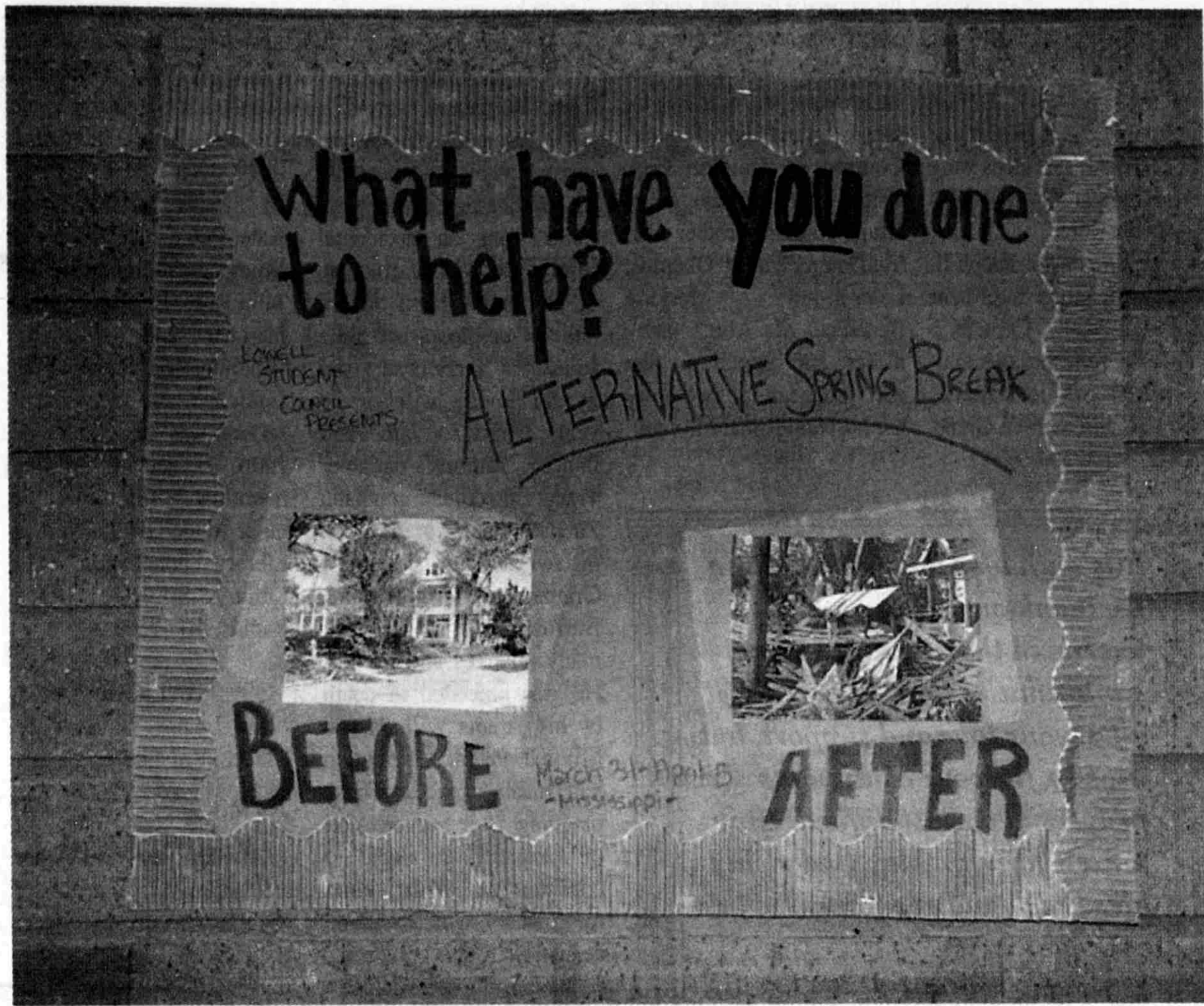


The Lowell Ledger

Volume 34 Issue 18

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, March 8, 2006



A poster in the hallway at Lowell High School seeking recruits for an alternative spring break service trip to Mississippi.

Students take an "alternative" spring break to Mississippi

By Dan Schneider

Students from Lowell High School will head south for spring break, but not for fun in the sun.

Well, there might be fun in the sun, but it will be strictly an accessory to a lot of work in the sun. The student council is planning an "alternative spring break" in which LHS students will travel to Pass Christian, a town in Mississippi that had a population of 6,579 as of the 2000 U.S. census. While there, they will do cleanup and reconstruction work to help the city, which is still recovering from the destruction wrought by Hurricane Katrina.

"We'll be roughing it," student council president Brooke Liu said. "We'll definitely be going down there to help other people, not for our own recreation."

The student council had been talking about a relief project since the beginning of the school year, shortly after Katrina slammed into the gulf coast. Rather than rush to put together a fundraiser, student council adviser Jaime Christians said, "We wanted to really do something that was meaningful."

They were able to contact retired LHS shop teacher and former student council adviser Curt Kaeb, who has been in Mississippi doing reconstruction work for the past three months. He is staying there indefinitely,

making only occasional trips home to Lowell. Through the organizations he is working with, he was able to make arrangements for the Lowell students to come down and work.

They don't know yet what the nature of the work is. It could be anything from cleaning debris to working in soup kitchens.

"Wherever they need us, we're basically willing to do anything and so are all the students who are interested in it," Liu said.

The plan is to leave from Lowell High School on a charter bus at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 30, drive through the night, work for several days, and return to the high school by 11 p.m. Wednesday, April 5. Plans are in progress to have the Lowell varsity softball team, which will be practicing in nearby Gulf Shores, Ala., join the crew for a work day.

The project has gotten support from other sports at the high school, as well, with the football team putting on a fundraiser during seminar.

It has generated a lot of interest inside and outside of the school. Close to 100 students attended an informational meeting about the trip last Wednesday.

Spring Break, cont'd., pg. 9

Lowell's own in tonight's fashion finale

By Dan Schneider

Daniel Vosovic has let his fashion designing talents carry him from Lowell to New York City.

And that was just a first stop.

Vosovic, 24, has traveled throughout Europe for seminars and prestigious competitions, and back to New York for an internship with designer Sari Gueron. He currently resides in New York City.

Vosovic's talents have also taken him into the

final round of the reality TV show, Project Runway 2 on the Bravo Network. The show airs Wednesday from 9 to 11 p.m. Vosovic is among three finalists in the fashion design competition hosted by Heidi Klum.

He made it through several rounds of competition to get to tonight's finale, where he's pitted against two other young designers: Chloe Dao and Santino Rice.

Vosovic lived in Lowell from age 13 and graduated from Lowell High School in 1999. He took classes

in fashion at Grand Rapids Community College before moving on to the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) in New York City.

While living in Lowell, he never had any doubt that he would one day live in America's biggest city and one of the fashion centers of the western world.

"There really was no other answer as to where I would be," Vosovic said.

He said it is the only city where a fashion designer can make the necessary connections, get exposure and opportunity. And the

reality show has been great for exposure.

"Even now, before people know the outcome, I've been getting so many support e-mails," he said. "Not just from fans of the show, but people who could help me. No matter what happens, this is going to be great for me."

In contrast to some of the brasher, more egotistical personalities on the show, Vosovic has built a reputation for being not only talented, but kind and

Vosovic, cont'd., pg. 8

Water and sewer rates may jump 20%

By J.Lobdell
Contributing Writer

Residents may see a jump of 20 percent in their sewer and water rates and non-residential users could see an upward of 69 percent if the Lowell City Council approves the recommendations of a sewer and water rate study.

Tetra Tech was hired by the city of Lowell in November to conduct the study which showed that the city was below what it should be in charging for both sewer and water.

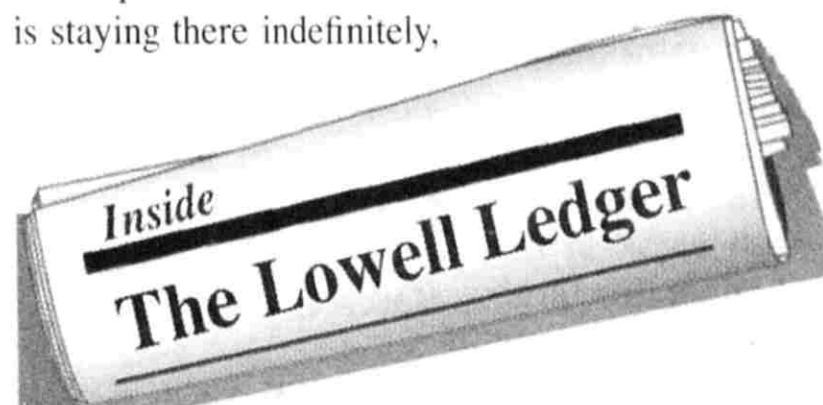
According to Vic Cooperwasser, a unit vice president for Tetra Tech, study results indicated the city should be charging about \$22.79 for readiness to serve, which is

about \$2 above the current \$20.75. The study proposed that the commodities per 1,000 gallon rate be lowered from \$1.68 to \$1.43.

For sewer, Cooperwasser said his company recommended the city apply the same model it uses for water on sewer rates, which would better reflect the demand from a customer on the system. With this proposal, sewer rates would jump more than \$4 for readiness to serve, going from \$13.50 to \$17.83. It was also recommended that commodity charges per 1,000 gallons increase from \$1.80 to \$2.91.

The result would be that residential users utilizing between 2,000 to 10,000 gallons of water a month, could

Rate increase, cont'd., pg. 8



Rotary Fundraiser ... Page 3

Superintendent Search... Page 4

Celebrate Reading ... Page 10

LHS Presents ... Page 11

Obituaries

BENJAMIN
David F. Benjamin, aged 58, of Cascade, died Monday, February 27, 2006. He was preceded in death by his mother Edwina Benjamin and brother Timothy. He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Paula; sons Paul (Dawn) of Lowell, Jason (fiance Rachael McCartney) of Brooklyn, NY, Justin of Allendale; father Daniel Benjamin; brother Daniel Jr. (Rose) Benjamin of Mt. Pleasant, Thomas (Joan) Benjamin of Rose City; grandsons Jakob and Jarrod. Mass of Christian Burial was offered Saturday at St. Robert of Newminster

Church, Ada, Rev. R. Louis Stasker, presiding. Memorial contributions may be made to God's Kitchen or Boy Scouts of America.

FEGEL
Louise D. Fegel (Schurk), aged 99, of Grand Rapids, passed on to the loving arms of Jesus on Saturday, February 25, 2006. Louise was born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1906. She married Ralph Fegel in 1932 and moved to Grand Rapids in 1939. Louise was the daughter of William and Henrietta Schurk and sister of Hazel, Julia and Wilbur, all of whom preceded her

in death. Louise was also preceded in death by her husband in 1955 and two daughters-in-law Connie, wife of Larry, and Joan, wife of Ralph. Louise is survived by her six children Ralph (Judy) of Pony, MT, Henrietta Mark of Grand Rapids, William (Paula) of Rockford, David of Roundup, MT, Dale (Darlene) of Lowell, Larry (Mary Kay) of Holland; numerous nieces and nephews; 24 grandchildren; 44 great-grandchildren; eight great-great-grandchildren. Family was the focus of Louise's life and her greatest source of joy. Funeral services were held Thursday at O'Brien-Eggebeen-Gerst Chapel, with her son Pastor Ralph E. Fegel, officiating. Interment Greenwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Ann's Home, 2161 Leonard St. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504.

INMAN
Dorothy Jean Inman, aged 77, of Flint, died Thursday, February 9, 2006 at McLaren Regional Medical Center. Dorothy was born in Grand Rapids on June 12, 1928, the daughter of the late John and Helen (Antonides) VanDommelen. She married Ronald Inman on November 10, 1949 in Grand Rapids. Cremation has taken place and no services are planned. Memorials may be directed to a charity of one's choice. Surviving are daughter and son-in-law Nannete and Larry Krueger of Traverse City; grandson Michael Courson of Traverse City; sister Corrine Levand of Grand Rapids; brother Carl VanDommelen of Okemos; sister-in-law Marjorie Benedict of Alto; many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband Ronald Inman.

METSKER
Leonard S. Metsker, aged 98, of Cascade Township, passed away February 26, 2006. He is survived by his wife Jean D. Metsker; three children Peter and Julie Metsker, Jeane T. Metsker, Joyce and Bruce Schlandlerer; seven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren. Private services will be held. Memorial contributions to Access of West Michigan or the Peke A Pzu Rescue would be appreciated.

PETERS
Terry W. Peters, aged 52, of Plainfield Township, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, March 3, 2006 from an accidental injury. He was a graduate of Northview High School and an employee of Betz Industries. Terry is survived by his loving wife of 29 years, Teresa; son James and fiancée Tammy; daughter Tracy; precious grandson Zachary; sister Karen Peters; in-laws Gene and Iris Funk of Grattan, special aunt Mona Burrows of Wisconsin; many relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents William and Mildred Peters. Cremation has taken place. Those planning an expression of sympathy are asked to consider the Trust Fund for Zachary which will be designated for his grandson's education at Lake Michigan Credit Union. A Celebration of his life was held March 5 at the Boy Scout Office in Walker.

WALKER
Mary Louise Walker (nee Glancey) of Lowell passed away March 2, 2006. She was born December 6, 1930. She is survived by her husband of 57 years Vally; daughter Deborah (Jerry) Hagerty of Westland, MI; son Michael (Cathy) of Jenison; grandchildren Jeremy and Rebecca, Mary Elizabeth, Daniel and Huyen, Crystal Dawn, Matthew and Stephanie; her pride and joy of five great-grandchildren Larissa, Aidan, Declan, Alena and Elijah. There will be no service. Donations to the Alzheimer's Foundation would be appreciated.

VANDER VEEN
Richard (Dick) Vander Veen of Grand Rapids was born November 26, 1922 in Grand Rapids and died here, leaving his loving wife of almost 60 years,

Come join the fun this weekend

Enjoy an evening of improvisational theatre with the River City Improv, a Calvin alumni improv team, this Saturday, March 11 at Deer Run Golf Club.

The comedy show, with its skits, games and songs, is sponsored by the Lowell Area Arts Council. A cash bar will open the event at 6 p.m., followed by a buffet dinner from 6:30-7:30. The performance begins at 8 p.m. Bring your creative suggestions for the actors.

Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$18 for LAAC members, seniors and students. They may be purchased at the Lowell Area Arts Council, 149 S. Hudson, by calling 897-8545 or visit www.lowellartscouncil.org.



Rotary raising money to buy library books

By Dan Schneider

Lowell's Rotary Club is raising money to purchase books for the libraries at Lowell Area Schools.

Every year, the Rotary Club undertakes an international and a local project. This year, Lowell Rotary Club's international project is to help provide clean drinking water in the Dominican Republic. Their local project is to improve literacy. It is part of a regional effort by Rotary clubs which are buying books for their local libraries.

Slippery roads a factor in morning accident

An early morning accident last Thursday claimed the lives of two people from Grattan Township. A third person injured in the crash was transported to Spectrum Health Butterworth Campus in serious condition.

The accident happened on Belding Rd. (M-44) just east of Ramsdell Dr. NE. The driver, Melissa Evans, 26, was traveling westbound in her 1998 Hyundai when she lost control on wet conditions and slid sideways left of center. She and her passenger, Eric Evans, 19, were pronounced dead at the scene.

Christine Keener, 26, of Plainfield Township, was driving eastbound in a 2001 Nissan. She received multiple injuries.

The Lowell Rotary Club is purchasing books for the district's school libraries.

"It is, though, because a lot of the books we have are outdated," LAS director of library media services Christine Beachler said.

The annual book budget for each library in the district is \$2,700, she said, so \$10,000 from the Rotary Club and community fund would be very beneficial this year. The money would be split among the district's libraries according to the needs at each building, Beachler said.

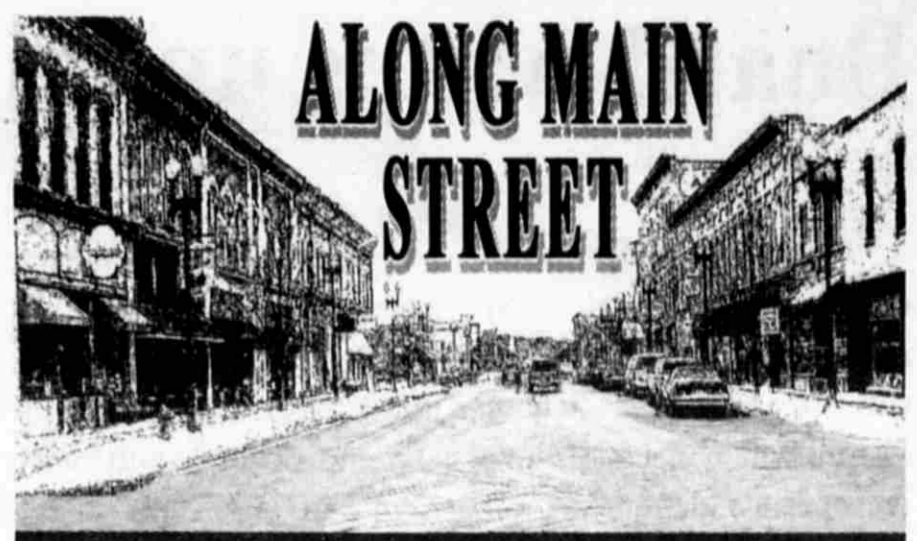
This year, the club is raffling off a Florida condominium vacation. The money raised will benefit the literacy project. Tickets are available from any Rotarian, from Lowell State Farm Insurance, the Lowell Area Arts Council, or from various school buildings in the district. People wishing to donate money to the school libraries can make them through the Rotary Club. These donations will be eligible for the community fund match. Checks should be made payable to "Lowell Rotary Club" and designated for the library project. These can be given to White or Beachler.

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APPS ACCEPTED FOR DRIVER'S ED
Applications for Driver's Ed may be picked up at the high school, middle school and at Unity now through March 30. A certified copy of the student's birth certificate and \$150 are needed to sign up; the remaining \$150 is due the first day of class. Classes: June 12-29/ July 10-27. Eligibility date: Nov. 10, 1991.

LHS MUSICAL
"Beauty and the Beast" performances are March 9, 10, 11, 17 & 18 at 7:30 p.m. in Lowell Performing Arts Center. Matinee at 2 p.m. on March 18. Tickets available at LHS or at the door: adults, \$7, seniors and students, \$5.

SCHOLARSHIP APPS AVAILABLE
LHS seniors can now pick up general local scholarship applications at the Student Services Center. They are due to Mrs. Nauta in the SSC by Friday, March 17. Other scholarships are available to students who do not attend LHS, but live in Vergennes, Lowell Twp., or the city of Lowell. Call 987-2913 for a list.

NEEDED FOR SPRING MUSICAL
If you have deer heads or antlers for set decorations of the LHS spring musical starting March 9, please call Nancy Wood at 897-8546.

CROP WALK RALLY
The Lowell Crop Walk rally is Thursday at 7 p.m. at Lowell First United Methodist Church. Send a rep for pledge packets for the May 7 Crop Walk.

PROM DRESS SWAP
Drop off your slightly used formal dresses to C-102 at LHS on March 8 & 9 during school hours for the dress swap March 11, 9 a.m. - noon, at Northview High School. Fundraiser for the junior class. ???s call Mrs. Schutte at 987-2990.

FOODMOBILE
Free food from the Foodmobile at Lowell Fairgrounds on Saturday, March 11, 10-11 a.m. Bring own box or bag. Distributed by Flat River Outreach Ministries.

FLPC NEW EXHIBIT
A collection of work by artist/muralist Gretka Domer is at the Franciscan Life Process Center now through March 31, Mon. - Fri., 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Weekends by appt.

ACRYLICS WORKSHOP
A 2-day workshop "Murals in Acrylics" will be taught by Gretka Domer at the Franciscan Life Process Center March 10-11. Register 897-7842.

IRISH HERITAGE
The Lowell Area Historical Museum will present a program "Lowell's Irish Heritage and the Art of Irish Dance" by Pat Nugent, March 14 at 7 p.m. at Lowell Twp. Hall. Public welcome.

CLASS OF 2010 ORIENTATION
Parents and students are invited to attend the Class of 2010 orientation at LHS in the LPAC on Tuesday, March 14 at 7 p.m.

ARMCHAIR ADVENTURE
Hear the story of Himalayan trekking (Bhutan), temple-tramping at Angkor Wat (Cambodia), and working with elephants (Thailand) by Kate Democoeur. Voyages Coffee Shop, March 16, 5:30-7 p.m. Free admission.

LOWELL VETS TO TALK AT LPAC
The program "Wartime Heroes-The Lifesavers" will be at Lowell High School on March 21 at 7 p.m. Vets will discuss their wartime experiences (WWII & Vietnam). All welcome.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN JUDICIAL DISTRICT KENT JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

be filed with this court. Dated: February 15, 2006

Daniel V. Zemaitis, Judge

ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION POSTING AND NOTICE OF ACTION CASE NO. 06-01638-DM 180 Ottawa Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 06-181,061-DE

Estate of PERYL LYNN WILCOX deceased Date of birth 10/19/1947

Plaintiff Joselyn T. DeBonte 4495 Frost Ave. NE Grand Rapids, MI 49525

Plaintiff's attorney Mary L. Benedict (P45285) Mary L. Benedict, P.C. 4519 Cascade Rd. SE, Ste. 14 Grand Rapids, MI 49546

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, PERYL LYNN WILCOX, who lived at 8183 Landstar Dr. SW, Byron Center, Michigan died 11/14/2005. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to MEREDITH LYNN WILCOX, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa St. NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

March 6, 2006 Henry S. Emrich P29948 2025 E. Beltline SE Suite 209 Grand Rapids, MI 49546 616-285-0143

Meredith Lynn Wilcox 8183 Landstar Dr. SW Byron Center, MI 49315 616-262-0934

It is with love and appreciation we thank our relatives and friends in the Alto and Lowell communities for the monetary gifts, your love and support, but mostly, for your continuous prayers at a most difficult time for our family. May God richly bless each and everyone.

The Posthumus Family, Tony, Janet, Cole, Reece and Blake

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BOWNE TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2006 7:30 PM

There will be a meeting of the Bowne Township Zoning Board of Appeals on Thursday, March 16, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in the Bowne Township offices located at 8240 Alden Nash S.E., P.O. Box 35, Alto to hear the following variance application:

ESCO Properties are requesting a variance at 6301 Alden Nash S.E., located in Section 4 NE 1/4, parcel number 41-24-04-200-011. The request is for Section 13 Article 13.05 Height, Area and Dimension Regulations to construct a self-storage building 5 feet from the property line instead of the 20 feet required by the ordinance.

The complete application can be reviewed at the Bowne Township Hall from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Public comments will be heard at the meeting. Written comments received by mail, in person or in the mail slot located at the office entrance will also be considered if received at the Township office prior to 7:30 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Comments may also be emailed to clerk@bownetwp.cc.

Sandra L. Kowalczyk Bowne Township Clerk

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ADA-LOWELL 5
QUALITY THEATERS
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SHOWTIMES 3/6 - 3/9

16 BLOCKS (PG-13) 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:10, 9:25
AQUAMARINE (PG) 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 7:00, 9:15
DODGAL (G) 12:50, 2:35, 4:20, 6:05
CURIOUS GEORGE (G) 1:30, 3:30, 5:30
EIGHT BELOW (PG) 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
DATE MOVIE (PG-13) 7:30, 9:30
PINK PANTHER (PG) 7:50, 9:50

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March 9, 10, 11 & 17 @ 7:30pm
March 18 @ 2:00 & 7:30

\$5 Students/Seniors \$7 General Public
\$8 All Tickets at the Door

Tickets on Sale in the Main Office Lowell High School - 11700 Vergennes St For Show Information call 987-2956

Board wraps up final round of superintendent interviews

By Dan Schneider

TheLowellAreaSchools board of education voted unanimously to visit the Kent City Community School district where Gregory Pratt is superintendent, after its second round of interviews last week.

"We just felt that he had the best fit for our district now and for taking it on into the future," school board president Nancy Hopkins said.

The field of three second-interview candidates was narrowed to two when Keith Konarska took the job of superintendent at Grand Haven Area Public Schools last Monday.

While the board has not made its decision about who the new superintendent will be, the superintendent selection committee will not visit the district of Roger Thelen, superintendent of Central Montcalm Public Schools and the other remaining candidate for the Lowell position.

Thelen was the first candidate interviewed last week. His district in Stanton has about 2,100 students with two K-3 elementary schools, one 4-6 elementary, one 7-8 middle school, a

high school, and a space for adult and community education.

Pratt was interviewed last Thursday evening. His current district in northwest Kent County has about 1,500 students. Kent City Community Schools has two elementary schools, one middle school, a high school and is looking for a place to restart its alternative education program.

Both candidates were asked to give a prepared opening address on the topics of teamwork and communication.

Thelen talked about the importance of team building both within the district and with the community. He said he would facilitate building-level work on determining the direction of the district.

"I think it's important that our buildings and our programs have goals that are important to that building or program but that also support the district's vision and plan," Thelen said.

One important team is the team of building administrators, he said.

"I would work with each individual administrator and establish individual goals related to their expectations

for the next 12 months," Thelen said.

He said these would usually involve five goals, most coinciding with district and building goals, but would also include a personal professional goal.

Pratt said he would extend teamwork and cooperation outside the boundaries of the district to increase educational options.

"I see that students here have a long history of taking AP courses, a lot of dual enrollment," he said. "My suggestion is to continue to collaborate with places like Grand Rapids Community College to find ways that we can get more opportunities for students in our area."

He suggested the district partner with neighboring districts to make that happen.

"The KISD (Kent Intermediate School District) has found a way for us to cross districts and it's a resource that should get used in the future," said Pratt.

Both candidates listed staff and instruction among the district's current strengths.

"The first thing that comes to my mind in terms of strengths of the district is personnel," Pratt said. "I saw excellent instruction."

"The first thing that really jumped out at me was the warmth and caring that I felt in the different buildings I visited today," Thelen said. "I saw a lot of kids learning today."

Communication was an area where both saw room for improvement in the district.

"I think we can improve upon our communication ... with our parents and community members," Pratt said.

Thelen said communication within the district will be helpful, too.

"I think there's still some relationships that need to be improved upon that were bruised during the last collective bargaining contract," he said.

Thelen said his number one mistake he could make in the first three months if selected would be "not listening."

"You've got to do a

lot of listening early on," Thelen said.

Pratt said not being visible would be a mistake in the first few months.

"Not being visible and not being able to develop time to communicate," Pratt said.

He said it is especially important since the district has been so long without a permanent superintendent.

"I think the district is looking for leadership," Pratt said. I think the district is lucky to have a man like Pat Murphy to sit in."

The board asked how each candidate would respond to criticism of policies from the community.

"I'm a planner and I believe effective planning with stake holder involvement prevents or at least minimizes the opportunity for you to get cross waves with a group in the community," Thelen said.

If a grievance does arise over a decision or policy, Thelen said, he would reevaluate it, looking

at the information used to make the decision or policy.

He said he would determine with other administrators whether the information is sound, and if it isn't, seek better information to craft a new policy.

Pratt said policies should be allowed to receive criticism before they are implemented.

"I think that's part of the process," he said. "I think you have to take that time, to take that plan or that initiative out to the public and get that feedback. That is an important piece of information."

Thelen talked about a 20 percent or higher fund balance being appropriate for strong financial times, saying the Central Montcalm District has benefited from having that balance available to chip away at, once times started getting tight.

"Now we've been able to use that balance to

Superintendent interviews, cont'd., pg. 20

Last year of sewer maintenance program nearing completion

The city, in its fifth year, will complete its goal of cleaning and televising all of its sewer lines, a goal Department of Public Works director Dan DesJarden said he had hoped to complete sooner.

DesJarden had hoped to slow down the program and reduce the costs with only cleaning, but because there is a small portion on the east side of M-21 that still needs to be done, he is recommending the same amount be put toward the program.

In 2005, the city spent about \$37,000 on the sewer maintenance program cleaning and televising 22,098 feet of sewer mains. In the past four years, the city has cleaned and televised 78,185 feet of sewer mains, spending about \$133,599.

When asked how long before the

televising would need to be done again, DesJarden didn't have the answer. Later in the meeting, however, wastewater plant supervisor Mark Mundt said that televising the lines in five years would not show much change.

"Dan [DesJarden] and the city have done an excellent job in cleaning the sewer lines," Mundt said, adding that an industry standard is to clean the mains about every five to 10 years. Because the city has several deadend lines, those may need to be cleaned more often, Mundt said.

DesJarden said if the city approves the same amount every year for just cleaning, the city could cover an area about twice as large in one year as compared to televising and cleaning.

Good Automotive opens in Lowell

The Good Automotive Team announced the opening of Good Chevrolet Buick in Lowell.

Good Chevrolet Buick, located at 1250 W. Main St., was formerly Thomet Chevrolet Buick. It will continue to sell and service new Chevrolet and Buick cars and trucks, certified used vehicles and medium duty trucks and RV's.

General manager Rodger Garner says the dealership plans to be very active in the Lowell community.

"We are committed to the community and the surrounding area, and we plan on making investment not only in our facility but also in the Lowell community."

City turns over maintenance of township lines to Lowell Township

An act of vandalism has caused the city of Lowell to turn over the maintenance of the Lowell Township sewer lines to the Lowell Township.

At its regular Monday night meeting, the city agreed to a proposed resolution that would have the township assume respon-

sibility for the repair and maintenance of its own sewer and water lines, a proposal Department of Public Works director Dan DesJarden said he and his staff supported.

In November, while DesJarden was out of town, the township experienced a sewer backup to a remo-

te line which was the result of vandalism. According to a January letter from Lowell Township supervisor John Timpson, the township ended up taking care of the cost for repair and cleanup, but as a result, felt that the township should take care of its own water and sewer lines.

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Viewpoint



and I had a picture. If you know me, you know the story doesn't end there.

We played around with the thing. It is High Definition ready and has the wide screen format. We were trying the various screen width options when the thing turned itself off. We turned it back on and were watching the news or something, and off it went again. This went on all evening.

I made sure the sleep timer was off. I ran a heavy extension cord from an outlet on a different circuit in the house. I took the batteries out of the remote. Still the new TV had a mind of its own and turned itself off at irregular intervals. This meant the dreaded call to "Tech Support."

After working my way through a lengthy menu, I ended up on hold, waiting for a technician. Of course I was forced to listen to elevator music interrupted by messages promoting the product I was very close to throwing into the ocean.

After nearly an hour, I got a technician on the line. I told him what the TV was doing and what I'd done to rule out possible causes. His words ... "Yup ... it's broken." My options were to schedule service in the field or return it.

To me, returning the thing was the only real option. The down side of that option was the road trip. The TV came from a store in Miami. For us, it's a trip akin to driving from Lowell to Detroit, via M-21. Part of the price you pay for living on an island a hundred miles from the mainland.

Fortunately, (for me) my wife had to drive to Miami later in the week for some medical tests. I boxed up the new TV, loaded it in her car and watched Sports Center on the little TV in the bedroom for the rest of the week.

Long story, short ... I had the replacement TV installed late Friday night, just in time for the DirectTV installer. He was slated to install our High Definition service between 8:00 a.m. and noon on Saturday. Of course he didn't show up. No call, no nuthin'!

Finally, late in the afternoon, a scheduler who could barely speak English, called to tell me the installer had car trouble. She said he could be there Sunday morning between 10:00 and noon. We had plans to go out with friends, so I talked her into sometime after 4:00 p.m.

We got home at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday to find a note on the door. The installer had been there at 10:30. I called the scheduler. She called me back to say the installer would be at our house in an hour and a half. Three hours later, a nice young fellow who spoke almost no English, knocked on the door.

Again, long story, short ... he completed the installation. By this time it's fairly late Sunday evening. He hands over the remote and says something in Spanish. I'm not sure what he said, but a fair guess might be, "Good luck with this, you technically challenged old poop."

So, how do we like our new TV? There aren't many channels available in High Definition yet. What are there, are pretty cool, though my wife says the image makes her dizzy. I'm not so sure I don't agree.

My advice: If you haven't already taken the plunge, just keep whacking that old analog set until it dies.

Ledger Entries

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



125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL MARCH 9, 1881

There were no delegates to the Democratic county convention from Lowell.

Part of the Bridge Street bridge in Grand Rapids has been carried away by high water.

The flouring mills and ax factory have been shut down over a week with the high water. An ice breakup could carry away both Grand River bridges.

Mrs. Talmadge will open a dancing school at Music Hall. Married and single people are invited to join.

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER MARCH 8, 1906

Some regular advertisers in the Lowell Ledger (circulation 1322): Look's Drug and Book Store, "The Store of Quality," Lowell Music Store, R.D. Stocking: pianos, organs, violins, banjos, mandolins, Victor Talking Machines and other phonographs, records, music. Smith's Bakery: a new cake creation, "Chocolate Frost," 5c per cut. Scott & Winegar. Keen Kutter tools are the best made. A.L. Weyrick: Cut flowers, potted plants, meats, fish and cheese.

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO MARCH 5, 1931

The Board of Trade gives sanction for a Lowell Centennial, homecoming and "the greatest affair ever undertaken in Lowell's history."

Mrs. Robert Hahn is already at work compiling a history.

The Lowell basketball team wins the Kent County championship, defeating Sparta 18-12.

There were 228 rifles and 353 shotguns confiscated from game law violators in Michigan last year and sold at auction.

President Hoover signs the bill making Isle Royale a national park.

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER MARCH 8, 1956

Dr. Orval McKay and Peter Speerstra face off for the title of village president Monday.

A brand new Oldsmobile was taken from Wittenbach's, and a late-model Dodge from its owner on US-16 over the weekend.

The Grand River is expected to crest at 16.5 feet, the highest since 1948; it will flood Main Street.

A fire on Timpson Road, visible in Lowell, destroys more than 100 pigs and 15 tons of hay.

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER MARCH 4, 1981

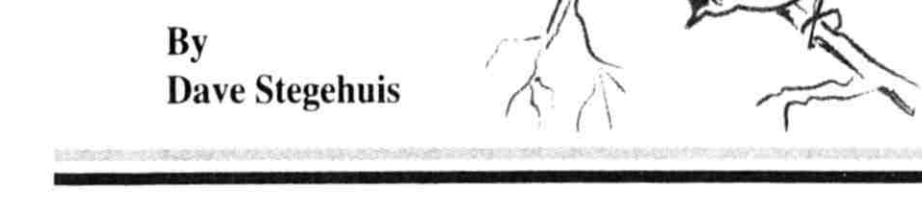
Ivan Blough says the water and ice in the showboat pontoons which cause it to list will be pumped out as soon as warmer weather arrives.

The MS Readathon is on again; students have pledge sheets to ask for donations to the Multiple Sclerosis Society for each book they read.

Brothers of the Brush are acquiring that unshaven look for the coming Sesquicentennial celebration. Certification costs five bucks.

The outlook for summer jobs for students is dismal, due to the recession.

Outdoors



FISH ON

Studies sponsored by the fishing tackle industry and lagging license sales across the country indicate a significant drop in the number of people participating in some type of sport fishing. Particularly disturbing is the lack of young people involved in the sport.

There may be several reasons for the declining interest in fishing. Today, there are many demands on a young person's time. A variety of competitive sports is available to most students if he or she wishes to participate. Of course, there is the ever-present computer and electronic game devices to draw their attention. Part-time jobs and just hanging out fill up remaining time slots. Parents have busy schedules themselves and are hard pressed to find time to fish with their children.

There was a time when hunting, fishing and gathering were necessary to complete a family's food supply. As we moved from an agricultural economy to manufacturing and now to the information age with the majority of people living in an urban setting, we are further removed from direct contact with the land. Out of sight, out of mind.

Another difficulty is that young and old have become accustomed to things happening fast. There is immediate feedback with the click of a switch or the push of a button. Fishing can provide fast action, but typically requires patience to get results. Unfulfilled expectations can be discouraging and cause young people, especially, to give up.

Fewer youngsters out fishing may not seem to be a big deal, but there are social, economic and environmental consequences to consider. Fishing skills for generations have been handed down from parent to child, and the activity brought parent and child together for a common purpose. It became a time to talk, have fun together, and share special experiences. Also, people who experience nature firsthand tend to pay more attention to environmental issues. Fishermen, for example, have a vested interest in issues like

Outdoors, cont'd., pg. 7

Reflections of faith

Pastor Michael Rhodabarger
Church of the Nazarene

Trying to focus on God can be very difficult at times. When I really feel I need Him the most, there seem to be more things attempting to abduct my attention.

Pressing responsibilities weigh heavy on my mind, and the noise... wow, the noise. My computer, the airplane passing overhead, cars driving by, even the ticking of the clock on my wall reminding me of the rapidly passing time. All of this is very distracting and interrupts like a redundant intruder. Have you ever experienced this? Does it make

you feel as though you're getting nowhere in your spiritual journey?

I read, recently, a truth that seemed to hit me as though it were the first time ever reading it. The author spoke of our spiritual journey as a life-long process but oftentimes we get frustrated because we cannot see the instant results that our culture embraces. We no longer have to look for a pay phone when driving; we can use our cell phones. E-mail and instant messaging allow us to dialogue with anyone around the world - right now! Did you know that you can catch a plane in Cleveland, Ohio, at noon and land in Los Angeles at noon? Three-hour flight, three-hour time difference; amazing, isn't it? So in this instant world that we live in, we must try to commune with God, who is not as instant as we would like him to be. What is communion with God? I do not believe that it is something we can "do" and then walk away from, like visiting an aunt. If we read in

the 1st chapter and 5th verse of Jeremiah, we can see where this communion began. Jeremiah quoted God as saying, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you." Then, we read in Colossians 3:4 that Paul said, "When Christ who is your life, appears, then you will also appear with him in glory." Communion with God is a life of living sacrifice for Him. It is having a relationship with His son, Jesus Christ, and striving to be more like him. Communion with God is a daily walk with Him.

Our journey; that communion with God, is a life-long process. We get so worked up sometimes when we do not feel that "Zap" or "Jolt" experience, or when we do not feel we are making a connection because of life's momentary distractions. I heard someone say once that we need to "Hang on to the fact, not the feeling." That is a great line but more important than that is what Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still, and know that I am God."

Happy Birthday

- MARCH 9:**
Bob Vezino, Marsha Roudabush, Mark Richmond.
- MARCH 10:**
Daniel Miller, Randy Kuiper.
- MARCH 11:**
Pat Ball, Kim Barnes, Renee Nugent, Larry Martin.
- MARCH 12:**
David Baird, Lisa Homrich, Laura Horsley, Julie Idema, Kathy Fyan.
- MARCH 13:**
Sophia D'Agostino, Dode Dey, David Davis, Paul Seese, Tyler Schneider, Jack Robert Malone.
- MARCH 14:**
Venita Wheeler, Mike Stevens, Dan Baird, Kari Merriman, Shannon Lambert, Sara Schoen.
- MARCH 15:**
Daniel Vegter, Ward Boulard Jr., Brett Hobra, Margot Miller, Skylar Bowne-Anderson.

Don't get soaked buying a flood-damaged car

In the wake of a major flood in the South last year, the Better Business Bureau urges new and used car buyers to be cautious of unscrupulous businesses and individuals who may try to sell flood-damaged cars without revealing the vehicles' history.

The BBB recommends the following tips to help consumers determine if a car is flood-damaged:

- Ask to see the title of a used car. Check the date and place of transfer to see if the car came from a flood-damaged state and if the title is stamped "salvage."
- Check all gauges on the dashboard to make sure they are accurate, and look for signs of water.
- Test lights, windshield wipers, turn signals, radio, heater and A/C to make sure they work.
- Look for discolored, faded upholstery and carpeting.
- Check for a well-defined line, or watermark, and for musty odors from mildew.
- If the car's history seems suspicious, ask the dealer or individual if the car has been damaged by flood water.
- Before buying, always get a pre-purchase inspection by a trusted mechanic.

Senators hope to give seniors the prescription drug benefit they deserve

U.S. senators Debbie Stabenow and Carl Levin introduced the Medicare-Guaranteed Prescription Drug Act of 2006 to offer a streamlined, user-friendly prescription drug benefit administered directly through Medicare. The new benefit will offer seniors and people with disabilities a real choice that alleviates many of the problems with the new Medicare Prescription Drug program.

"I have received thousands of calls and letters from people across Michigan about the trouble they are having with the new program," said Stabenow. Our bill will give seniors the prescription drug benefit they deserve - one that works for them, not against them." Levin said, "The response from Michigan's seniors has been loud and clear: this program needs to be fixed. Seniors across America are struggling with the current situation and it's time we take action to turn Medicare prescription drug coverage into a real benefit."

The Medicare-Guaranteed Prescription Drug Act will establish a standard prescription drug benefit administered directly by Medicare. Seniors who choose this option will have a modest deductible and co-payments for prescriptions, without any gaps in coverage. The benefit would also provide complete protection for seniors against drug costs above \$5,100 per year. Everyone who chooses this option would pay a low, uniform monthly premium.

By instructing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate prices directly with pharmaceutical companies on behalf of those enrolled in the Medicare-guaranteed option, the bill will help lower prescription drug costs. Negotiating group prices will result in lower expenses for seniors and savings for taxpayers.

Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold
Edward Jones
Serving Individuals Investors Since 1871



YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE MORE TO YOUR RETIREMENT PLAN IN '06

If you have a 401(k) plan, you've got a great way to save for retirement. And, as of the first of the year, your 401(k) got even better - because you can now contribute even more to it. The same is true of 457(b) plans (if you work for a governmental agency) or 403(b) plans (if you work for a nonprofit group). With all these plans, you can now put more in - which means that, someday, you should be able to take more out.

In 2006, you can put in up to \$15,000 to your 401(k), 403(b) or 457(b) plan, up from \$14,000 in 2005. And if you are 50 or older, you can make additional "catch-up" contributions of \$5,000 to your plan, giving you a ceiling of \$20,000. (In 2005, the "catch-up" limit was \$4,000.)

Furthermore, if you do participate in a 457(b) plan, and you are within three full calendar years of your normal retirement age, you may be able to contribute even more, sometimes up to double the limits. This means you may be able to put in up to \$30,000 to your plan in 2006. You can't take advantage of both the normal "catch-up" contribution and the double-contribution benefit in the same calendar year.

Of course, all the numbers we've mentioned thus far are sizeable sums, and you might not think you can afford to reach whichever limit applies to you. Still, do whatever you can to boost your contributions to your employer-sponsored retirement plan, because you'd have a hard time finding a better way to save for retirement. First of all, your contributions are typically made with "pre-tax" dollars, so the more you put in, the lower your adjusted gross income will be. Also, your earnings grow on a tax-deferred basis.

Business Matters

Beth McClellan has been named store manager at the Lowell Tractor Supply Company store.

McClellan joined the company as a manager trainee in Portage in 2005. Previous to that, she served in a managerial capacity for K-Mart.

In her new position, she will oversee all store operations including receiving, inventory control, merchandising, as well as customer relations and team member relations.

Outdoors, continued ... From Page 5

healthy fish populations and water quality. Fishermen also buy licenses and equipment which generates funding for fishery management. Fewer fishermen mean less funding for research, stocking programs, and law-enforcement.

This spring as the weather warms, start thinking about spending some time fishing. We have the Great Lakes, miles of streams, and lakes of all sizes. Take the opportunity to fish with family, friends and especially a youngster so the tradition will continue for another generation to enjoy.

HAPPY 47th

Jamie Schaub

At Your Local Library



"KIDZ KONSTRUCT"

Kids, are you feeling creative? Do you like junk? Come to a branch of the KDL and build a construction wonder with raw materials provided by the branch. Kids ages six and up are invited to become part of an assembly line and use their creative juices to "construct."

The program will be at the Englehardt Library on Tuesday, March 21 at 6:30 p.m. (647-3920) or the Alto Library on Wednesday, April 5 at 2 p.m. (647-3820).

College News

Grand Valley State University has announced its dean's list for fall 2005. From Lowell is **Brady Foster** who also graduated in December 2005. He received a bachelor's degree in social studies with certification in secondary education. Foster has a major in history and a minor in political science.

Treadmill challenge raises over \$1,000

The 24-hour treadmill challenge held Feb. 17 and 18 at the Lowell YMCA raised \$1,045.50 for the YMCA's Strong Kids Campaign. A total of 38 people participated in the fundraising event. The Strong Kids Campaign provides scholarships to give underprivileged children a chance to join the YMCA. Donations can still be made for the campaign. Contact the Lowell YMCA at 897-8445 for more details.

Lowell Holistic Health Fair
for the Body, Mind & Spirit

SATURDAY, MARCH 11 9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

First United Methodist Church
621 E. Main St. - Lowell

FREE ADMISSION!
Health-conscious luncheon served from 12:00 - 2:00 PM

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

<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</p> <p><small>Across the street from the Vermont Dodge dealership 897-6284 or 485-4195 10AM Sunday School; 11AM Morning Service; 6PM Evening Service; Wed., 7:30PM Prayer Meeting.</small></p>	<p>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH <i>Kirby and Harrison</i></p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p>
<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936</p> <p>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.</p> <p>DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Nursery & child care available at both services Barrier - Free Entrance</p>	<p>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)</p> <p>3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Senior Pastor Dave Noonon, Asst. Pastor Jonathan & Stacy Holmes, Youth Pastors</p> <p>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 <i>Fr. George J. Fekete</i> 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com</p> <p>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 <small>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL SISTER BERGON. 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48. EWTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</small></p>	<p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL (United Church of Christ) 404 North Hudson • 897-5906</p> <p>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</p> <p><i>Come Join Us For Praise & Worship</i></p>
<p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org</p> <p>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</p> <p>2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org Rev. David O. Sims & Rev. W. Lee Taylor Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor</p> <p>Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA CLUB.....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. Thurian Meredith</p> <p>9:45 A.M.Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M.Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588</p> <p>Nursery & Children Worship Programs Provided</p> <p><i>A friend...a family...a mission!</i></p>	<p>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 201 N. Washington • 897-8800</p> <p>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>ALTO BIBLE CHURCH Lincoln Lake Ave. at 3 Mile Road 897-5648</p> <p>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>		<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</p> <p>Pastor Robert L. Hubbard Phone: (616) 897-1267 website www.aplighthouse.com</p>	

LUNCH MENU

ELEMENTARY MENU

Week of March 13, 2006

MON: Chicken patty on bun (chili & crackers also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), mini carrots & dip, assorted fruit, chocolate chip cookie, milk.

TUES: French toast w/ syrup or cereal, sausage, hashbrown potato, fruit or juice, milk.

WED: Pepperoni pizza (stacked ham/cheese/bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), fresh tossed salad, assorted fruit, milk.

THURS: Cheeseburger on bun (3 meat sub also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), oven baked beans, assorted fruit, milk.

FRI: 1/2 day of school.

Happy St. Patrick's Day

From The Office Of
DR. JIM REAGAN
207 W. MAIN ST. • LOWELL • 897-7179

Dr. Reagan, Jean, Carrie, Rebecca, Sue, Lorie & Becky.

Vosovic, continued ... From Page 1

cooperative. That's no surprise to the people who have known him since he was a teenager in Lowell.

"Dan's always been a very down-to-earth guy along with being a very fashion-oriented person growing up with him," said Ross Veldheer, who has known Vosovic since they started into gymnastics together in elementary school. "He was always one of the more likeable guys you ever met. He was never looking for the spotlight, but people were always drawn to him."

His experiences in Lowell contributed to that personality, though not in the feel-good, down home kind of way one might expect.

"My feeling of exclusion, of not really fitting in made me who I am," Vosovic said. "Diversity is the key to acceptance, and unfortunately Lowell didn't have much diversity growing up."

In high school, he got all the treatment stereotypically expected for a male-aspiring fashion designer in a small, not-overly-diverse town. He was called names, pushed into lockers and the whole

works. But he found some people here and elsewhere who were accepting, and modeled his behavior after them.

"I saw how I wanted to be treated and I thought, 'Why live your life any way else?'" Vosovic said.

He ended up bringing some of those people with him. He lives with friends he has known since he was 18.

The bad experiences motivated him to look for better ones. While he was getting pushed into lockers at Lowell High School, he saw New York as a point of escape.

"Having the light at the end of the tunnel, saying, 'You know what? New York might be pretty cool, let's try that,'" Vosovic said. "There's always more to learn and there's always more to experience."

Still, he found creative outlets while he was in Lowell.

"I was always involved in many things, whether it was coaching or dancing or art," Vosovic said.

An accomplished competitive gymnast, Vosovic was an assistant gymnastics coach at Lowell

High School from 1999-2003.

"I'm just so excited about how well he's doing on the show because he's such a nice guy," said Michele DeHaan, Lowell community education gymnastics instructor and former Lowell High School varsity gymnastics coach.

Vosovic was DeHaan's assistant. She said he started out just giving the Lowell gymnasts some help with their tumbling. But soon he was choreographing their floor exercise routines, which gave his creativity a chance to shine.

"Lowell kind of came to be known over the last few years because of his floor routines," DeHaan said.

Vosovic had always

been interested in fashion, he said. "First interactions, strangers to me definitely have the upper hand because they know so much about me."

It was a hard adjustment for someone who always considered himself an observer.

"It's unusual to be on the flip side of that and be watched," he said. "It's difficult because it all happened so fast, in a matter of weeks."

Vosovic will definitely be watched Wednesday night when the final episode airs - watched in New York, in Lowell and across the country.

Eighty-nine of those retrofits will include buses from the mid-Michigan fleets that were not retrofitted under the 2004 grant allocation, while the remaining 283 buses will be retrofitted in every participating school district in the 25 counties.

"This Clean School Bus USA grant is part of EPA's effort to get rid of that all-too-familiar black puff of smoke and reduce the harmful health effects of diesel emissions," said Tom Skinner, administrator of EPA Region 5. "Children are among the most susceptible to health problems caused by the smog and the soot that diesel emissions produce, so the retrofitting of school buses is an important step."

In Michigan, approximately 17,800 school buses transport more than 850,000 children each school day. With those buses driving more than 10 million miles each year, pollution from these diesel vehicles has health implications for everyone.

The EPA has also awarded a grant to Traverse City Area Public Schools to retrofit 120 school buses with DOC's and to replace one 1984 model year school bus.

He continued the choreography even after he started attending FIT in New York, putting together the routines during winter breaks.

"I loved my time coaching, we had an amazing time together and I loved that," Vosovic said.

The girls on the team appreciated his gymnastics expertise. They also turned to him for fashion advice, asking about how to do their hair for school dances.

When Vosovic presented his fashion show after graduating from Grand Rapids Community College in 2002, members of the gymnastics team modeled his clothes.

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Rate increase, continued ... From Page 1

see a 20 percent increase in their overall sewer and water bill. For a home that uses 2,000 gallons a month, the bill would go from \$41.21 to \$49.30; a home that uses 10,000 gallons would see an increase from about \$69.05 to \$84.02.

Non-residential users could see a large increase depending on usage, from 50

to 69 percent, Cooperwasser said. For example, a non-residential user that uses 10,000 gallons could see its overall bill go from \$96.30 to about \$144.95.

The report also recommended that the city charge a capital connection fee for both sewer and water. The city currently does not do this except for a portion

on the northeast side that is considered a high pressure district, which is charged \$1,077. The fee for the capital connection for water would be \$343 and sewer would be \$401.

With such increases, the council decided to think over what it wanted to do and unanimously supported extending the current sewer and water rates through the next billing cycle, which ends April 15.

The council was encouraged by two residents, planning commission chair Clarke Jahnke and wastewater superintendent Mark Mundt to approve the new rates.

"This is what the city should be charging," Jahnke said, adding that by not charging the correct rates, the city could be putting itself in a hole operating the water and sewer plants.

Mundt said it was hard to approve such rates, but the study is based on fact and he, too, encouraged the city to make the move and bite the bullet for the large increase up front.

It was suggested that the city spread the increase over five years. There is, however, a chance the last year could see a larger increase to help raise the 25-percent reserve fund balance that is recommended by Tetra Tech.

Tetra Tech said it would help the city review its rates over a five-year period with a recommendation that the city do another full sewer and water rate study after that time period. The council plans to review the proposed rates at its March 20 meeting.

I base my fashion taste on what doesn't itch.

- Gilda Radner (1946 - 1989)

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP ASSISTANT TO THE ASSESSOR NEEDED

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Deadline is March 24, 2006

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider amendments to Section 4.5 of the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance regarding private roads. The specific amendments would in part: regulate existing private roads; require additional information to be submitted as part of the application; require a public hearing for a private road; require certification from a professional engineer or surveyor that the road was built to the approved construction plans; require a minimum and maximum right of way; require certain construction standards relative to the number of dwellings to be served; require a maintenance agreement; and require a second means of access if the private street serves more than 50 lots or dwellings. Additional definitions are also part of this amendment.

The hearing will be held as follows:

WHEN: MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2006

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
LOWELL, MI 49331

The proposed amendments are available for review at the Lowell Charter Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, Michigan, 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday or by calling 897-7600.

TIM CLEMENTS, SECRETARY
Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission

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

The Cellular Connection grand opening planned for Wednesday, March 15

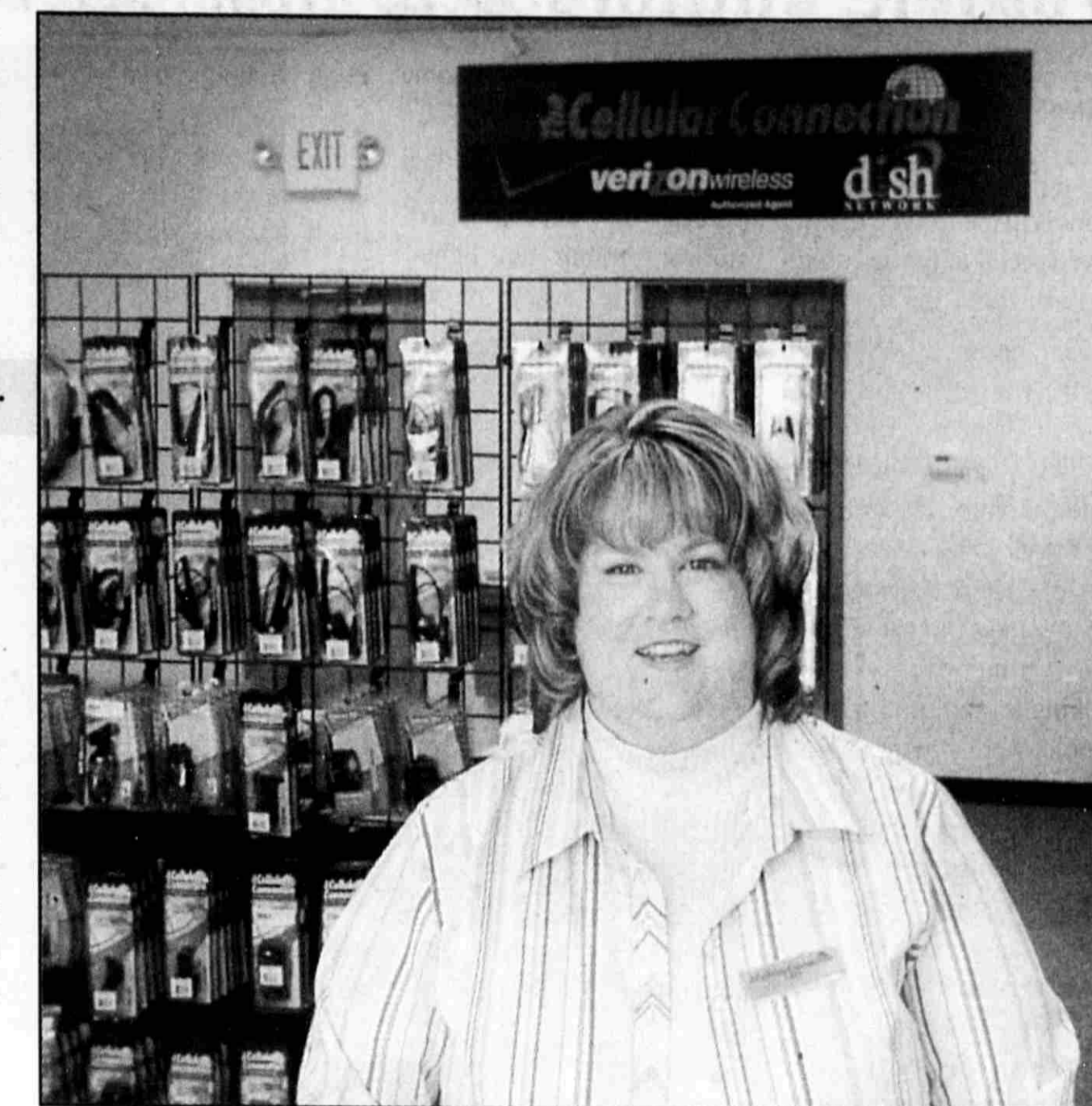
The Cellular Connection will celebrate the grand opening of its new store in Lowell on Wednesday, March 15. Located at 11635 Fulton St., suite 300, the public is invited to the special

ribbon-cutting ceremony at noon. Along with special grand opening discounts and lunch, customers will be able to register to win a flat screen television set.

The Cellular Connection is a retail store

providing wireless communication technology, including Verizon Wireless services, cellular telephones and accessories, satellite television via DISH Network.

At right, Manager Tami Liefers at The Cellular Connection.



USA grants to benefit Michigan school children

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has partnered with local public school districts to win a grant totaling \$388,519 through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean School Bus USA program. Funds from the grant will be used to reduce both children's exposure to diesel exhaust and the amount of air pollution created by diesel school buses.

This is the second grant in two years under this same program and will allow a 2004 pilot program, administered by the Okemos Public School District in 11 mid-Michigan counties, to be expanded to include interested school districts in the 25 Michigan counties considered to be out of compliance with ozone standards.

"We are pleased to partner with our schools to provide safer transport for the thousands of Michigan children who ride school buses every day," said DEQ director Steven E. Chester.

This grant will retrofit 372 buses with an EPA approved diesel oxidation catalyst, which uses a chemical process to break down pollutants in the exhaust stream into less harmful components.

For more information on the Clean School Bus USA program, visit www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus. For information on the National Clean Diesel Campaign, go to www.epa.gov/cleandiesel.

Spring Break, continued ... From Page 1

"We filled up the (Freshmen Center) commons," Liu said. "We had a very, very large amount of students."

Parents and other people in the community have stepped up to chaperone. Others have offered to donate scholarships to allow students to go who might not otherwise be able to afford it.

The 55-passenger charter bus will take 45 students and 10 chaperones. A second, 47-passenger bus has been put on reserve in case the wait list gets long enough to justify another bus.

"If the waiting list gets to be large enough, we will purchase a second bus," Liu said.

She said the trip is a step toward two of the student council's goals: to include

the wider student body in its projects and to bring the council more into the forefront of the community.

"We want to get the word out there that the students want to help," Liu said. "We want to show the adults in the community that we care about others, that we don't just care about

ourselves ... that we do have caring students, dedicated and motivated students."

Adults in the community are already starting to take notice.

"I am very proud of our students," high school principal Scott Vashaw said. "Not only the student council members who have pursued

the idea, but also kids who are not members of the council but are willing to go."

The board of education signed off on the project at its February meeting, granting permission for the overnight trip.

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Visiting authors help kids celebrate *March is Reading Month*

By Dan Schneider

Chillers and American Chillers book series.

All four elementary schools in the Lowell district have special activities going on throughout the month of March because "March is Reading Month."

Cherry Creek Elementary hosted Michigan author Johnathan Rand last Monday. He is the author of the popular Michigan

He talked about the process of writing scary stories: turning out lights, listening to scary music, and perfecting a ghoulish monster laugh. He gave a lesson in the latter skill to the Cherry Creek students assembled in the gym.

Rand also talked about the importance of reading



Author Johnathan Rand teaches Cherry Creek students how to laugh spookily.

and writing in his life and why he pursued both from a young age.

Bushnell Elementary held its kickoff event at the Lowell Performing Arts Center. It was a multi-media presentation including puppets and songs by Grand Rapids children's book author and illustrator Kevin Kammeraad. One of his books is a collection of poems titled "The Tomato Collection."

Bushnell's theme for March is "Ketchup on Reading." "We thought 'The Tomato Collection' kind of tied into that theme," said pre-

kindergarten teacher Angie Harder.

Kammeraad used a puppet and giant projected pictures to tell kids about the creative process and the importance of nurturing one's creative side throughout life. He even showed a picture of his pile of 17 drafts of "The Tomato Collection."

"My hope is that kids think to themselves, 'yeah, I've got some ideas' and it's obtainable to them and they think, 'yeah, I can do some things with my imagination,'" Kammeraad said.

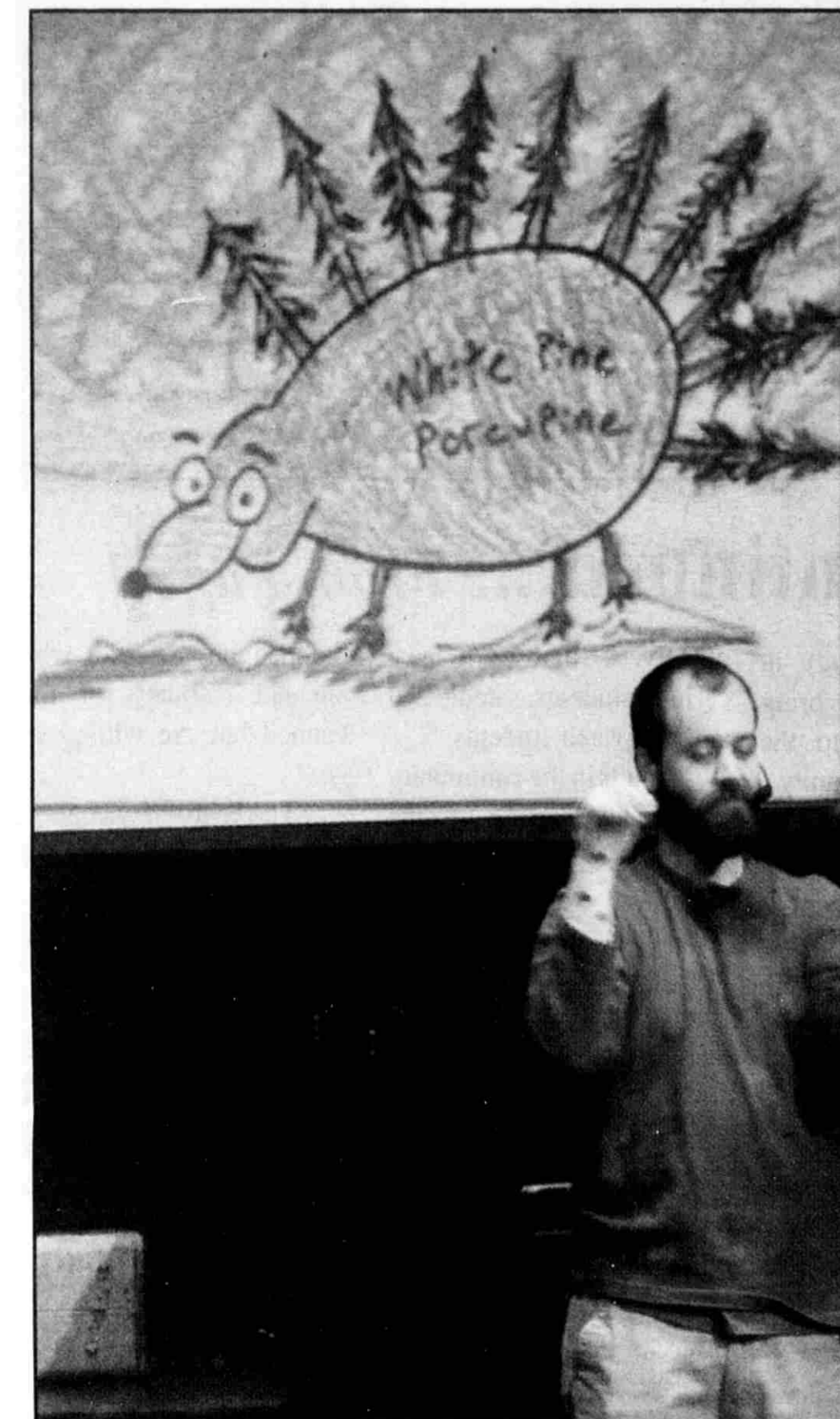
Alto Elementary has a variety of activities planned

for the month. That school's theme is "Taking Reading to the Extreme." If students read for 450 minutes during the month of March, they can earn a ticket to a child and an adult to the June 3 stock car race at Berlin Raceway in Marne. A BMX stunt show is planned for a wrap-up April 10.

Murray Lake Elementary is having weekly schoolwide challenges. Students can earn spirit days or a BMX stunt show by reading a cumulative 500 hours a week. They held a kickoff event with prizes for accelerated readers.

How many a man has dated a new era in his life from the reading of a book.

Henry David Thoreau (1817 - 1862)



Grand Rapids children's book author and illustrator Kevin Kammeraad enlists the help of puppets to sing a song about Michigan's state symbols during Bushnell Elementary's reading month kickoff at the Lowell Performing Arts Center.

Huge cast hits the high notes in LHS production of "Beauty and the Beast"

By Dan Schneider

For the first time in years, there is an orchestra in the orchestra pit beneath the stage at the Lowell Performing Arts Center.

That orchestra is there because it is playing the music for the Lowell High School spring musical production of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast." This musical has an absolutely huge cast with villagers, sheep, chorus, teacups, spoons and a talking candelabra.

Still, several cast members are called upon to play multiple roles. Megan Zinke, for instance, is Marie the baker's wife, a spoon, a broom and a member of the chorus. Jillian Lane is a villager, teacup, broom and angry mop. Alex Getz is a bookseller, wolf, candlestick and coat rack.

Amanda Durkee plays Belle, one of the lead roles and also the bookseller's best customer (she is looked upon as odd by the provincial villagers for her interest in reading).

The story begins in an isolated castle out in the middle of the woods. A prince is asked by an old, ragged woman (Holly Vaught) for a place to spend the night in exchange for a rose. He sends her away, which is a bad move for him because it turns out the old woman is actually an enchantress. She turns the prince into a beast (Ryder Jones) who must learn to love and be loved before her enchanted rose loses its petals.

He locks himself deep in his castle and starts transforming people into talking household objects.

Years later, Maurice (Jay Eldridge), who is Belle's father and an inventor, is taking his invention to exhibit it at a fair. Traveling through the woods, he is beset by wolves. He seeks refuge in an isolated castle and is let in by Lumiere (Chad Drenth), a talking candle.

Around this time, Belle is spurning the advances of Gaston (Andy Oesch), a local he-man egomaniac. He's the village heartthrob with a relatively neanderthal approach to romance. His songs are among the most amusing in the play.

After rejecting his offer

of marriage, Belle discovers her father's scarf, but not her father. Concerned, she ventures into the woods to find him. She comes upon an isolated castle, meets the beast, and the rest of the story will be told Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the Lowell Performing Arts Center. There are also performances March 17 at 7:30 p.m. and March 18 at 2 and 7:30 p.m.



Belle (Amanda Durkee) reads to some sheep to escape the provincial life of her French town in the Lowell High School production of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast."

putting together costumes for the huge cast. Ron and Bill Wood created some impressive specialty costumes as well. Tickets are \$5 for students and seniors and \$7 for the general public in advance. The charge is \$8 at the door. There is also the opportunity to enjoy dessert before the shows.

Nancy Wood is the director of the play. She also assisted Ruth Wood, Carol Drenth and Karen Eldridge

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CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

ATTENTION CITY OF LOWELL WATER CUSTOMERS

Due to contractors paint supply problems, the Water Plant softening process will not be in service from March 7 through March 20, 2006. We are sorry for any inconvenience.

If you have any questions, please contact the Water Treatment Plant (897-5234).

Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

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Around The Town PUZZLE

At left is a scrambled landmark, person or place in Lowell.

Can you guess who or what it is & where?

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

OR CALL US WITH YOUR GUESS - 897-9261

(Before noon Tuesday, March 14)

and we'll put you in the drawing!

Up to three correct answers will be drawn next Tuesday.

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

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

NAME _____

Phone # _____

My guess is _____

*Our surcharges (incl. 2.29% Federal Universal Service (varies quarterly), 5¢ Regulatory & 40¢ Administrative/line mo., & others by area) are not taxes (details 1-888-684-1888); gov't taxes and our surcharges could add 6% to 33% to your bill. Activation fee: \$35 (\$25 for secondary Family SharePlan lines with 2-yr Agreements). IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION: Subject to Customer Agreement, Calling Plan, Get It Now Agreements, rebate form & credit approval. \$175 termination fee, 45-min after allowance, other charges & restrictions. Usage rounded to next full minute. Offers not available everywhere. America's Choice Coverage Area covers 291 million people. Network details, coverage limitations & maps at verizonwireless.com. Nights 9:01 pm - 5:59am M-F. Rebate takes 8-10 weeks. Limited time offer. ©2005 Verizon Wireless.

Students should be careful of spring break "deals"

If you haven't already made your spring break vacation plans, the Better Business Bureau warns you to be cautious. Each year, college students, especially,

get ripped off by fraudulent spring break offers that promise - but fail to deliver - that much needed "fun in the sun."

Not all fraudulent offers involve losing money; some are simply misleading. The accommodations may not be what you expected, or what you thought you paid for.

The BBB urges college students to take special

precautions when booking spring break trips:

- Before paying anything, request all details of the trip in writing, including total cost, restrictions where applicable, cancellation penalties, and exact names of the airlines and hotels included in the packet.
- If a charter flight is involved, ask for the charter operator's name and address and then check its registration with the U.S. Dept. of Transportation.
- Never give credit card info over the phone to a company or person you're not familiar with.
- Use reputable travel agents to plan your trip.
- Be wary of offers that promise "the moon" for a very low price, or ones that require immediate purchase to lock in the announced rate.
- Contact your BBB for a report on the company you're considering using.

Office of Consumer Affairs in Washington, D.C.

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Michigan - A new free report has just been released. It discloses vital information every car accident victim must know before they speak to anyone or seek medical help. If medical care has already started, you need this report even more. Hidden injuries: Research shows that even a so-called "fender bender" can cause hidden injuries: pain, headaches and lifelong arthritis which show up long after your rights under the law have ended. Many car accident victims worry more about their car than securing their rights. If you have been involved in an auto accident no matter how small, call the free 24-hour recorded message at 1-888-897-4994. This call is free and the report is free.



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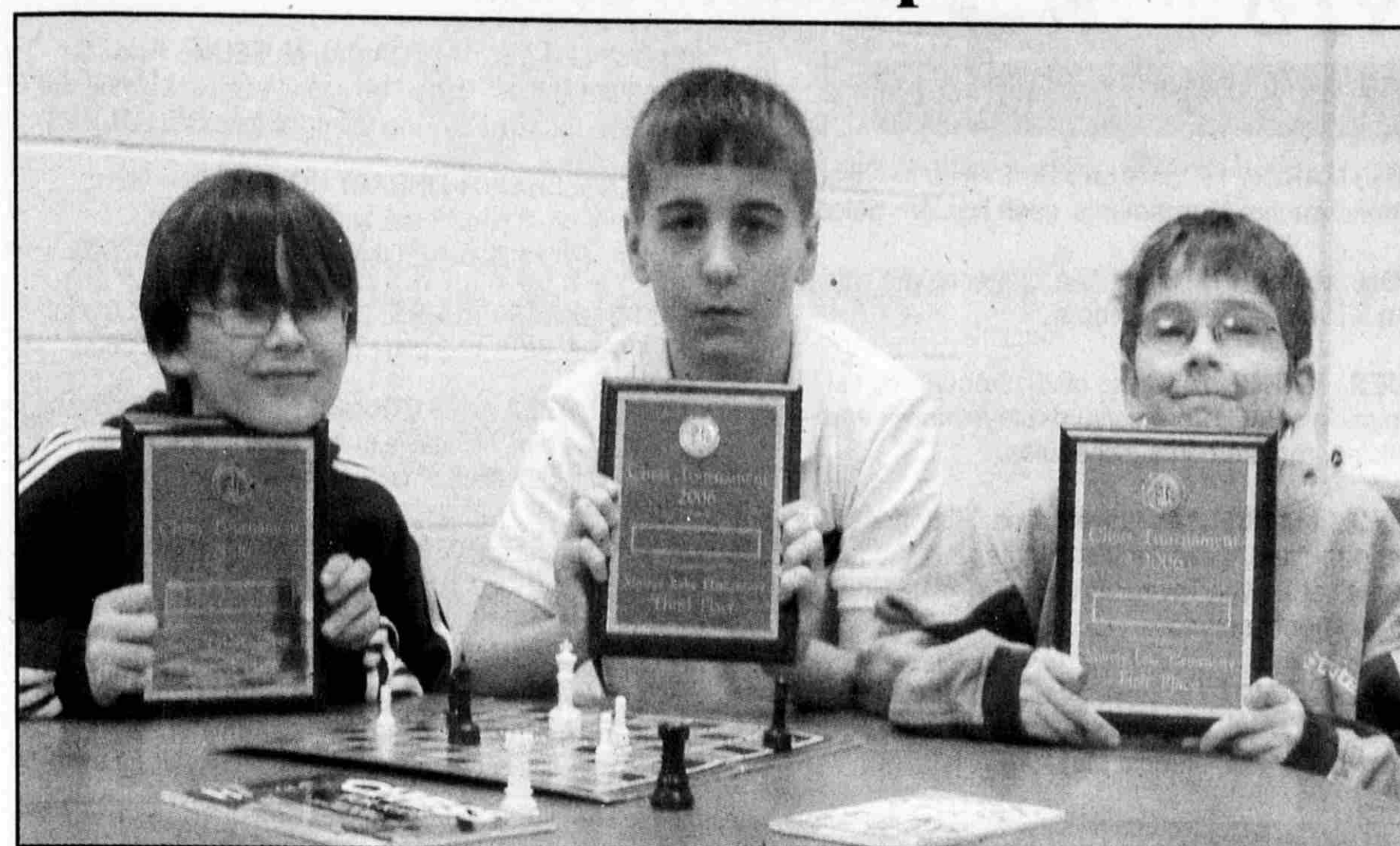
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Chess Champs



Murray Lake Elementary's double elimination chess tournament began with 58 contestants. The annual event, sponsored by RollAway Family Fun Center, ended with three finalists. Pictured, from left to right, are: Josh Burns (second place), Grant Noskey (third place) and Nick McCormick (champion).

High school principals hope to be pushed from offices during food drive

Lowell High School principal Scott Vashaw, assistant principal Kevin Pearson and assistant principal for the Freshman Center Amy Pallo hope to be evicted from their offices by the end of the month.

The students are collecting food items for Flat River Outreach Ministries and storing them in the principals' offices. Vashaw said the plan is for the students to fill the offices so full that one or more principals are forced to find office space elsewhere by the time spring break starts March 30.

Students can choose which principal they want to oust by choosing which office they wish to store their food donations in.

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COMING EVENTS

MARCH

THURS., MARCH 9: Crop Walk Rally for reps at 7 p.m. at First United Methodist Church. Call 897-5936 for info.

FRI., MARCH 10: Dinner at Keiser's at 4:30 p.m. Lowell Senior Neighbors.

SAT., MARCH 11: Holistic Health Fair at First United Methodist Church, 9-3 p.m. Free admission. Luncheon 12-2 p.m. Yoga, pilates, massage, aromatherapy, etc.

SAT., MARCH 11: Foodmobile at Lowell Fairgrounds, 10-11 a.m. Bring own box or bag. Distributed by F.R.O.M.

SAT., MARCH 11: Live auction at Caledonia High school to raise funds for Caledonia middle and high school bands, 7-11 p.m. Tickets: \$12 advance; \$15 at door. Free babysitting.

SAT., MARCH 11: Smyrna's St. Patrick's Celebration. Dinner, euchre tournaments, cash bar. All welcome.

MON., MARCH 13: Shop Ada, dinner at Vitale's at 12:45 p.m. Lowell Senior Neighbors.

TUES., MARCH 14: Class of 2010 orientation at LHS at 7 p.m. in LPAC. Parents/students invited. Learn about policies, requirements, schedules.

TUES., MARCH 14: Lowell Area Historical Museum program titled "Lowell's Irish Heritage & the Art of Irish Dance" at Lowell Township at 7 p.m. Public welcome, refreshments served.

TUES., MARCH 21: Lowell veterans speak at LPAC at 7 p.m. on WWII and Vietnam experiences. Sponsored by Lowell Area Historical Museum.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MONDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3RD MON.: 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 MI#372 meets at Key Heights Mobile Home Park Community Bldg. Weigh-ins are at 5:45 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

TUESDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3RD TUES.: Parents of children w/AD/HD at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 32156 4 Mile NE/E. Beltline) at 7 p.m. Call Linda at 874-5662; teen group: call Sarah at 281-6588.

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAYS

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

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

THURSDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3RD THURS.: VFW #8303 Ladies Auxiliary, 3116 Alden Nash S.E. at 9 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.

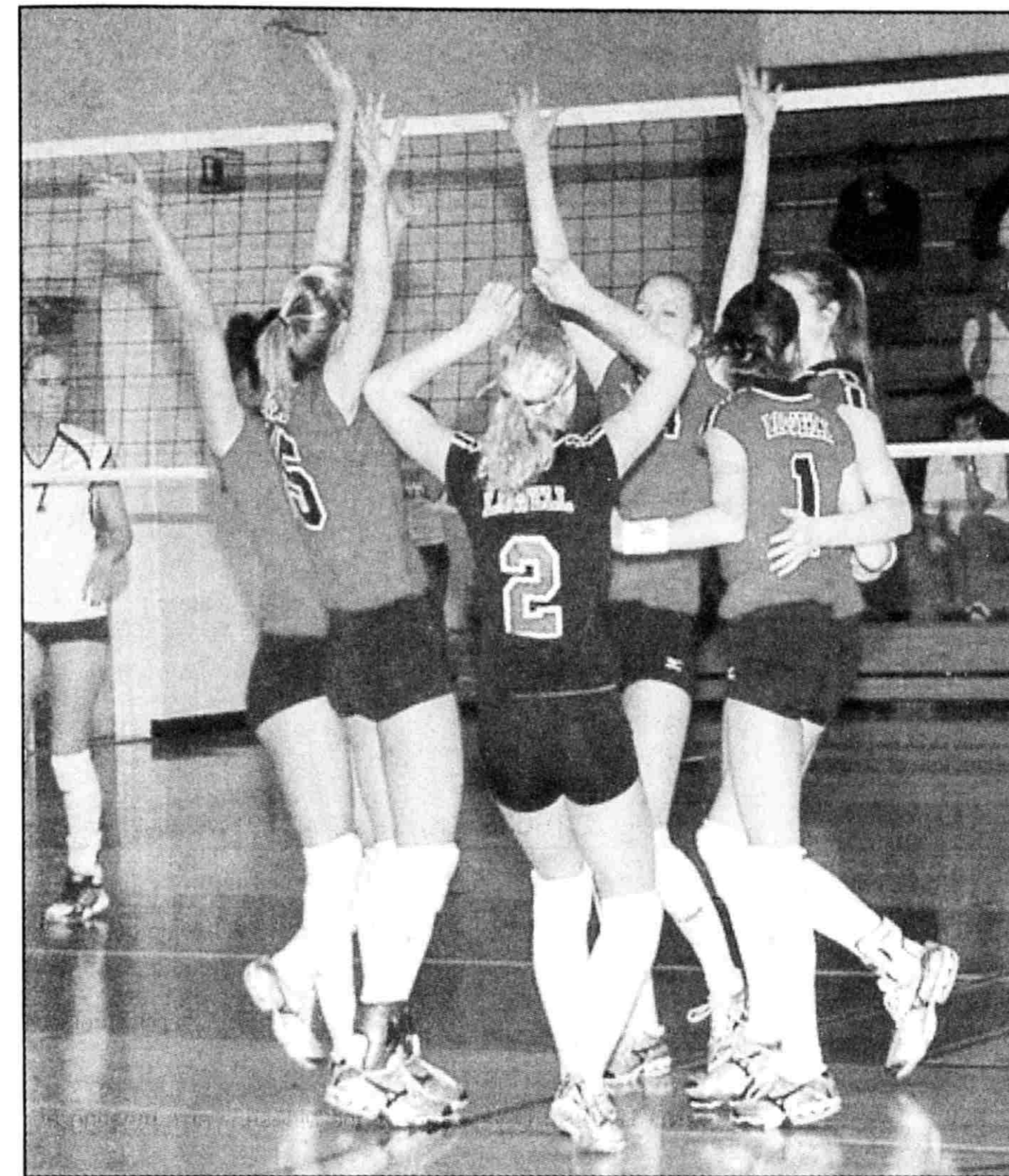
SUN.: Tri-town Conservation Club trap & skeet league, 5616 Dunn Rd. 12-5 p.m. Call Larry at 754-7104. Public welcome.

RED ARROW SPORTS



Lowell volleyball team wins district championship

Red Arrows' district final win is first in Lowell High School history



The Lowell volleyball team celebrates a point during Saturday's opening match of the district tournament against Cadillac.

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell volleyball team put together some of its best matches of the season to take third place in the conference tournament Feb. 25.

They stepped it up a notch further Saturday and claimed the first district championship in school history.

"They just played. I can't even explain what they put together and played. It was incredible," Lowell coach Gigi Peal said. "They just stepped up and played probably the best games of their life."

"It was even better that it was at Lowell."

Playing at their home court, the Red Arrows beat Mt. Pleasant in three close games to win the championship. The scores were 25-22, 25-23 and 25-19.

Significantly, Lowell trailed in all those games before reclaiming the momentum for the win. The Arrows were down 20-14 in game one and 11-4 in game two before rallying back to win those games.

"All three games, we had to overcome a pretty big point deficit," Peal said. "It was an exciting day."

Lowell beat Cadillac 25-

14, 25-13 and 25-23 in the first round of the tournament. It took four games (27-25, 16-25, 25-17 and 25-15) to beat Northview in the semifinal.

Mt. Pleasant advanced to the final by beating Rockford. Both teams received honorable mention in the last state coaches' poll.

Kristin Johnson had 47 kills and eight blocks on the day for Lowell. Samantha Mol had 27 kills. Malley Cahoon had 19 kills and 13 blocks. Amanda Schneider had 16 kills and eight blocks.

"All of the kids along the net just played incredible," Peal said. "Katie McElroy played just incredible defense, not many balls hit the floor."

Lisa Johnson had 51 assists and Taryn Schumacher had 47 on the day. Lowell had 30 aces on the day.

"They were just on a mission and everything was clicking ... and the best part was they just had fun doing it," Peal said.

Lowell hopes to continue that at Saturday's regional opener at Bay City

Central. The Red Arrows play Flushing.

The Arrows traveled to Caledonia last Wednesday to play crossover matches with Caledonia from the OK Gold and Cedar Springs from the OK Blue. Lowell lost both matches after winning the first game of each.

Peal said the Arrows had a hard time getting excited about the crossover since districts were coming up.

"When you're getting excited for tournament time, a lot of times this night gets overshadowed," she said.

In the first match against Caledonia, Lowell won game one 25-20, lost game two 25-23 and lost game three 15-13.

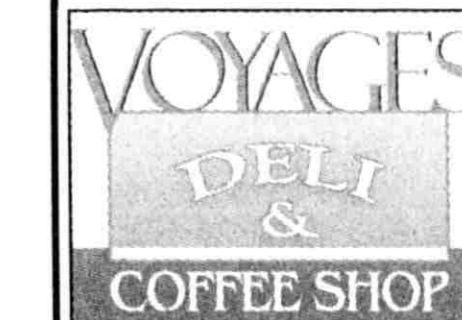
The third game was back and

forth and Peal called it one of the team's best 15-point games of the season.

Volleyball, cont'd., pg. 16



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Lowell basketball beats Zeeland East in crossover

Arrows finish regular season at .500, fall to Rockford in districts

By Dan Schneider

Lowell boys basketball hit the .500 mark for the overall season, picking up their 10th win of the season against Zeeland East in Friday's crossover match.

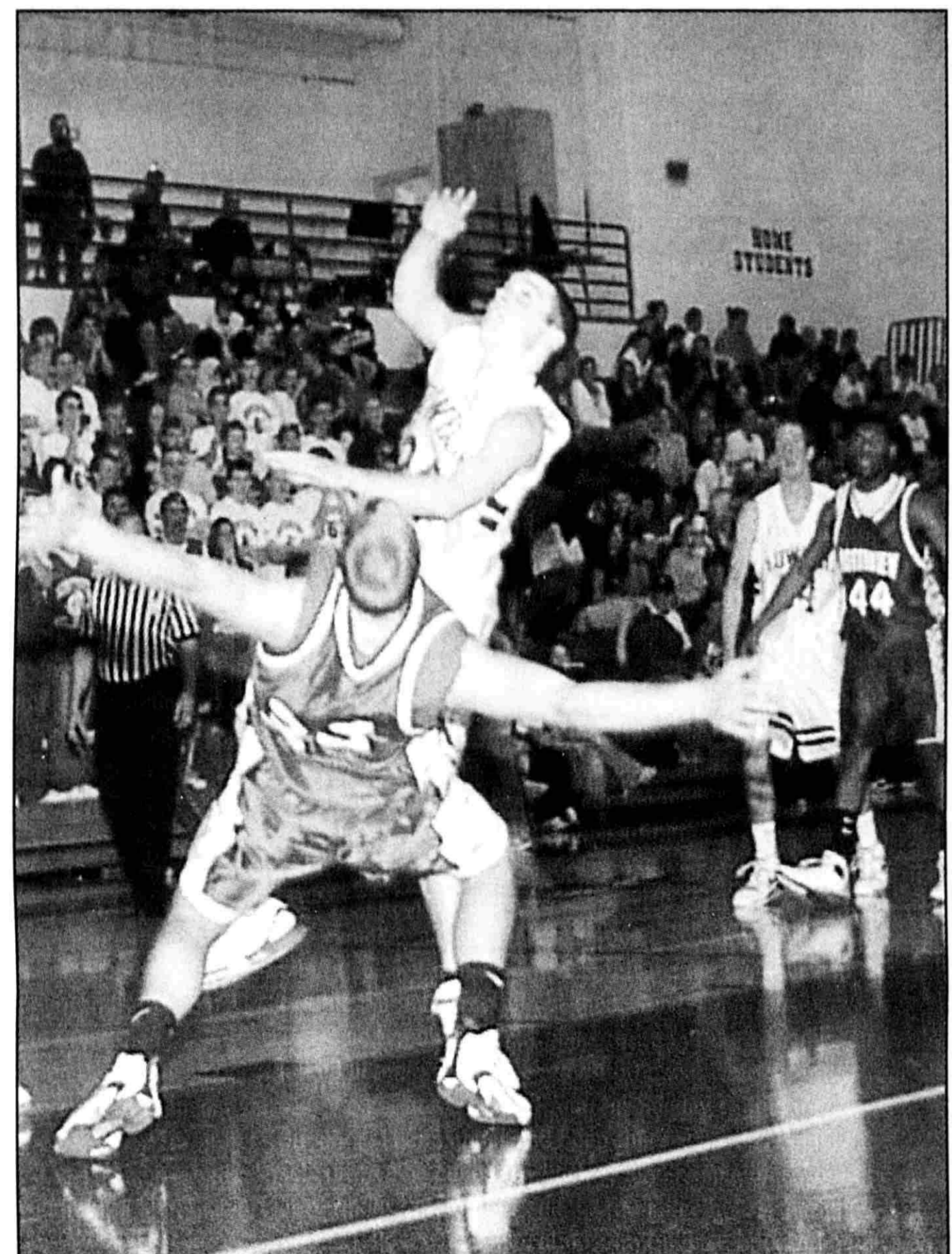
The Red Arrows beat the Chix 51-47. Leading 12-8 after the first quarter,

Lowell didn't trail until the third quarter, which they finished down 37-32. The Arrows outscored the Chix 19-10 in the fourth quarter to erase that deficit and get the win.

Josh Hettinga led the Lowell offense with 16 points, including four 3-

pointers. Drew Happte scored 11; Mike McElroy, Brett McMahon and Ryan Lane each added seven. The win gave the Arrows an overall regular season record of 10-10.

With a 51-41 loss to league co-champion Northview last Tuesday,



Lowell's Josh Hettinga collides with a Northview defender after putting up a shot during last Tuesday's game.



Justin Harden drives the ball around the top of the key in last Tuesday's game.

Lowell fell to 6-6 in the OK White. The Arrows and the Wildcats were on fairly equal footing that night in that neither team brought much fire to the floor. It was a slow-paced game with no real sense of flow. Both teams put together a few consecutive baskets on rare occasions, but they also turned the ball over a lot with sloppy passing.

"That was not a good performance by us," said Lowell coach Jeff McDonald. "We just didn't play well all the way around."

The score was 15-10 in favor of Northview after one quarter. With 2:37 left in the half, Lowell tied it up at 19 when Justin Harden hit a pair of free throws. By halftime, the score had only grown to 21-19 in favor of Northview.

It was a physical game, and referee whistles were a likely contributing factor to the game's lack of flow. Players from both teams flew all over the floor after loose balls.

Lowell got its first points of the second half on a clean steal and fast break by Harden that made it a 23-21 game. Northview had its widest lead of the game at the end of the third, 36-23. They matched that 13-point deficit later in the third quarter, but not until after Lowell trimmed the lead to eight, 44-36, on a Ryan Lane layup with 3:15 remaining in the game.

That was as close as the Arrows got, however, and Northview went on to win. "We hung around, we just can't dig ourselves a 12-point hole because we can't score well enough to get ourselves out of it," McDonald said.

He saw the game as a missed opportunity to beat one of the area's top teams. "I just wish we would have given ourselves a chance to win the game," he said.

Harden led Lowell with 14 points. Josh Hettinga scored 12 and Lane added six.

Rockford ended Lowell's season 69-62 Monday at Forest Hills Central.

Volleyball, continued ... From Page 15

"We've struggled with 15-point games," Peal said. The Lowell coach said the team has had a hard time getting off to a fast enough start to be competitive in the

15-point super tie-breaker games this season. Against Cedar Springs, Lowell won game one 25-12 but lost game two 25-21 and game three 15-8.

SYNOPSIS
BOWNE TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2006

Motions approved:

- Minutes of January 16th and February 2 meetings.
- List of all invoices paid.
- Motion to approve 3rd amendment agreement with Thornapple River Development.
- Motion to approve site plan review Sandy Ambrus.
- Motion to approve resolution for consolidation of Elections.
- Motion to accept contract with Auditors.
- Motion to submit to Planning Commission C-1
- Zoning revisions.
- Motion to adopt Principle Residence Poverty Exemption.

Complete copies of the minutes are available at the Township Office or on the website www.bownetwp.cc.

Sandra L. Kowalczyk
 Clerk

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Red Arrow bowling teams compete at state meet

Boys team, girls team, three individuals bowl in Sterling Heights

By Dan Schneider

Lowell was well represented over the weekend at the state bowling finals at Sunnybrook Lanes in Sterling Heights.

The boys and girls teams competed in the team finals Saturday, though neither qualified for bracket play. Three Lowell bowlers, two boys and one girl, competed in Friday's singles state finals, though all three

finished outside of the top 16 in qualifying.

The boys' team was 19 pins shy of qualifying for match play at the team state finals Saturday.

Lowell rolled team scores of 889 and 1,044 in two regular games during qualifying. In the two qualifying baker games, the Arrows rolled 209 and 203. Add all that up and their total pin score was 2,345.

Lowell individuals' Brandon Jahnke and Greg Sherman qualified outside of the round of 16 (bracket play) in Friday's state singles competition. Jahnke was in 23rd place in the qualifying block, Sherman finished 26th.

Jahnke's top scores were a 235 and a 221 in the third and fourth games. He rolled a cumulative score of 1,121 for six games. Sherman rolled a 232 in game five and a 183 in game six. His total for six games was 1,091.

Kalamazoo Loy Norrix was the top qualifier with a score of 2,510. They beat Fremont for the championship.

The Lowell girls' team finished 14th in the qualifying rounds with a team score of 1,821. The Arrows scored 756 and 774 in their two regular games. They rolled baker games of 164 and 127.

Owosso took the eighth and final qualifying spot with a team score of 2,093. Coldwater was the top qualifier with 2,320. Coldwater was also the state champion, defeating Bangor John Glenn in the finals.

Lowell's Ashley Nawrocki was two spots short of qualifying for the round of 16 in the girls' singles Friday. She tied for 18th in qualifying with Brittany Gaillard. Both had a total pin score of 1,079 for six games.

Nawrocki rolled a 205 in game two and a 204 in game four in the qualifying round.

Gymnastics team finishes in eighth place at regionals

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell gymnastics team placed eighth in Saturday's regional meet at Rockford.

The Red Arrows put together a team score of 126.25.

Forest Hills took first place in the regional with a score of 143.175. Rockford

was the second-place team, recording a score of 142.275. Those two schools, along with Kenowa Hills, advanced to Friday's team finals at Troy Athens High School.

Arrow top scorers on the vault were Kelli Kowalski (8.40), Richelle Kimble (8.15), Becca Underwood (8.05) and Leannah Seese (7.75).

Kimble was the top scorer for Lowell on uneven bars with an 8.30. Underwood was next, scoring 7.85 followed by Kowalski (7.25) and Seese (6.90).

On beam, Seese turned in the Arrows' top score

of 8.0. Underwood was next with a score of 7.8. Kowalski and Kimble both scored 7.50.

Underwood had

Lowell's top score in the floor exercise. She tallied an 8.7. Kimble scored 8.15. Mandy Vezino and Andrea Coffey both scored 7.95 on

the regional with a total score of 703.9. With only the top two teams advancing from each regional, Lowell ended their season Saturday.

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Lowell competitive cheer places sixth at regional meet

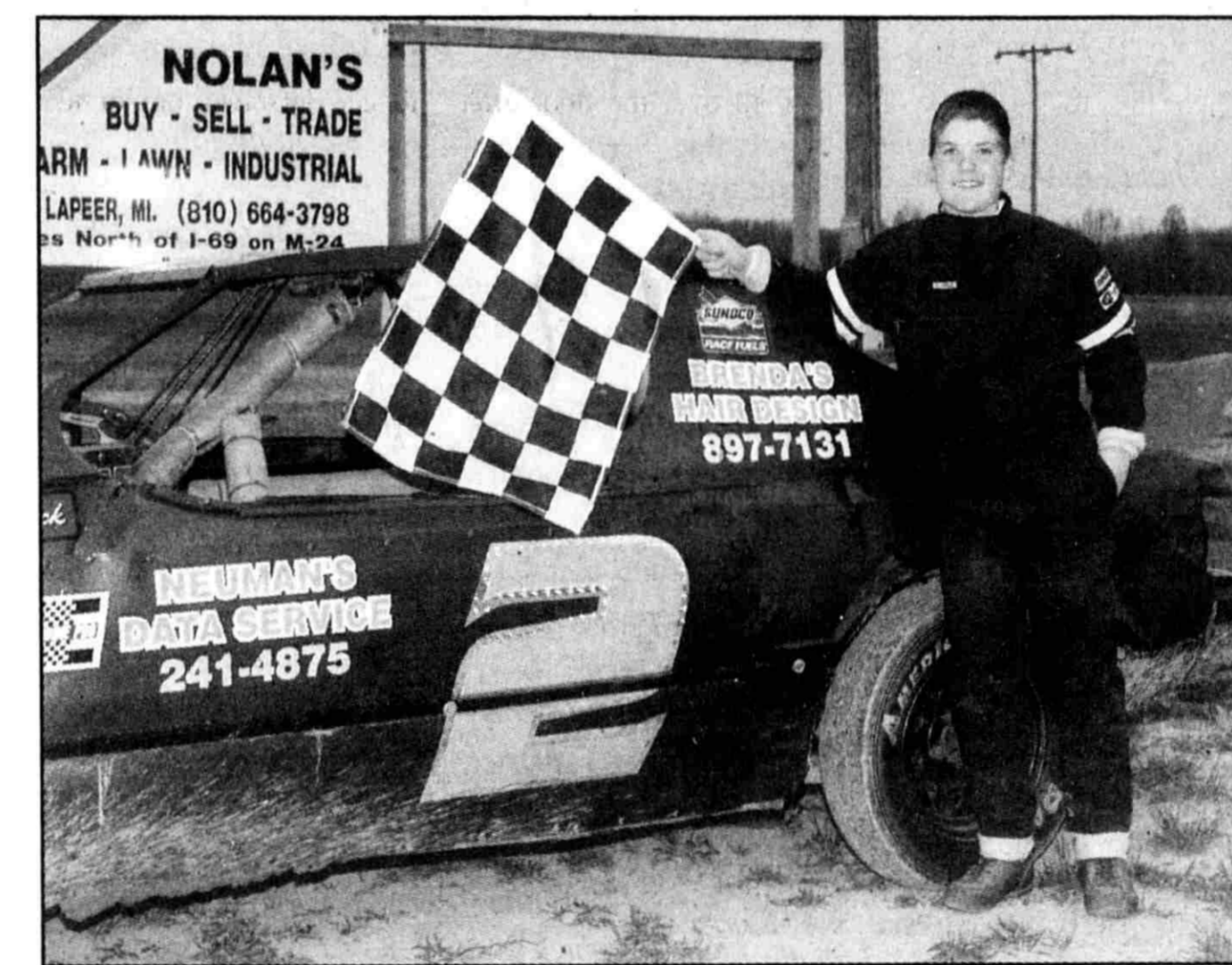
The Lowell competitive cheer team placed sixth at the class A regional Saturday at Mt. Pleasant.

The Red Arrows recorded 158.5 in the first round, 170.7 in round two, and 282.0 in round three for

a total score of 611.2. That score placed them ahead of Mona Shores (608.3) and behind fifth-place Muskegon Reeths Puffer (617.5). Rockford took first place at the regional, recording a 726.8. Mt. Pleasant also

advanced out of the regional with a total score of 703.9. With only the top two teams advancing from each regional, Lowell ended their season Saturday.

Local racecar driver named Rookie of the Year



Bry Sloan-Johnson, a sophomore at Lowell High School, was recognized at the Feb. 25 1-96 Speedway Drivers' Banquet for finishing in third place in points and for being Rookie of the Year for the 2005 season. Sloan, 15, who was 14 years old last year for his rookie season, drove a Ford Mustang in the four-cylinder mini-stock division. He'll race a different Mustang this year.

CONGRATULATIONS
 to Bry Sloan-Johnson
 for getting 3rd in Points & Rookie-of-the-year in the 4 cyl. mini-stock division at I-96 Speedway, for the 2005 Season.

Love, Troy & Mom
 Dad, Kristi & Amanda
 Grampa Jim & Grandma Ruth Wood
 Grandma Sunny
 Uncle Jeff, Aunt Candi & Skylar

Sloan Racing would also like to thank our family, friends & sponsors for all your support - Woody's Vacs, Brenda's Hair Designs, Neuman Data Service & Sloan Builders
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Alto Fire Department holds icy rescue practice

The Alto Fire Department hosted an ice rescue class Feb. 25. A total of 30 firefighters from Alto, Clarksville, Freeport and Hopkins fire departments went through approximately four hours of classroom work that morning before heading out to Bill Wieland's farm in southern Lowell Township to practice rescue techniques on the ice of his pond. Fourteen of the firefighters were from the Alto Fire Department. The department bought ice rescue equipment last year.

"We have many lakes around here and had no way to help people if they went through," Alto fire chief Jerry Posthumus said.

Last year, two snowmobilers went through the ice on lakes in the township.

"It was shallow and there was no problem, but it did happen," Posthumus said.

Michigan Rescue Concepts, the company that sold the department the ice rescue equipment, provided the training.

The Lowell Ledger CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

MOBILE HOME FOR SALE - Repo, must sell ASAP, 2 bed., 2 bath, make an offer. Call 616-308-0991.

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

FOR SALE - 2003 F7 Firecat, 1,300 miles, \$4,500 obo; 1993 Yamaha Banshee, \$2,000 obo. Call 868-1058

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

100+ ANTIQUE WOODEN APPLE CRATES - \$100 obo. Call 616-794-4030.

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

FOR SALE - 1998 Chrysler Sebring LX, 2 door, automatic, PW, PL, chrome wheels, 76,900 miles, \$4,600. Call 891-0479.

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

PATIO - outdoor wrought iron table, 66" x 38", oval shape with 6 rocking chairs, excellent condition, \$275. 868-6344.

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

2006 DEER RUN GOLF CLUB PREFERRED PLAYERS PASS - Pass includes: 4 free greens fees; 4 free weekend 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.

MEMORY FOAM MATTRESS - Developed by NASA. Relieves back pain. Never used. Retail \$1800, sell \$800. Call 682-4767, can deliver.

BOAT FOR SALE - 1997, 14 ft., 25 HP, loaded, lots of options, \$5,000 obo. Call & make a deal. 897-0191.

AIR BED - As seen on TV or at mall. Dual chambers, number remote; warranty, never used, mall price, \$1,800; sell \$850. Call Air Bed Store of GR, 682-4767, www.rddirect.com.

FOR SALE

BORDER COLLIES - "World's Smartest Dog," eyes & hips certified. Shots, wormed, red & white or black & white. Lowell, 897-9081.

CHAIN SAW - Stihl 026 Pro. Excellent condition, \$160. Call 897-6608.

MATTRESS - Large selection, all new, all sizes. Twin, \$65, full \$75, queen \$95 & up. Call 682-4767, can deliver.

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!

FISH FOR STOCKING - Most varieties, ponds, lakes. Laggis' Fish Farm, 269-628-2056 days, 269-624-6215 eves.

FOR SALE - Kiln dried lumber: pine, cherry, walnut, poplar, oak, basswood, also hardwood molding & flooring. 1500 N. State Rd., Ionia. Call 616-527-4142.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE - Oak & cherry, split \$40 per pick-up load. Delivery available. Call Paul 897-8717.

SNAP-ON TOOL BOX - 16 drawers, new trim & paint, \$1,600. Call 868-7354.

SNOWMOBILES - '85 Yamaha 540, runs great, \$450; '83 Yamaha 340, \$200. Call 616-262-9717.

PLYMOUTH 1993 SUNDANCE - 2 door, auto., A/C, new brakes, good condition, great gas mileage. Excellent student or second car. 175,000 miles. \$795 obo. Call John at 897-6747.

PHEASANTS - roosters \$10; hens \$5. Call 682-1486.

FOR SALE - 1st cutting clover/grass hay mix, 2nd cutting alfalfa hay (60 bales); old Ni #19 manure spreader, 120 bu. capacity, PTO drive. Call 897-6487.

SALES

NEW/USED TACK SALE - Sat., March 18, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saranac High School. New this year - free clinics on bits & tack by Holly Sue Spooner at 10:30 a.m. & noon. For further info or booth rental call DeAnn Wilcox at 868-6042 or email: crclrlfctn@aol.com. Sponsored by Ionia County 4-H Horse Development Committee.

ROOM AVAILABLE - for semi-independent, high functioning, mentally challenged individual. Located in Cascade area off Whitteville Rd SE. Call 616-723-3929

DUPLIX FOR RENT - Upper 2 bedroom, laundry hook-up, living room, dining area, off street parking, pets ok. \$550/mo. 754-4147.

FOR RENT - 3 bedroom home less than 1 1/2 miles from MSU, \$325 per person. Call 897-7512.

WHY?

To the no conscience, evil minded person or persons (although my husband has proof of some) not to let him enjoy his animals and life is so cruel. To think that damaging his equipment, scaring and injuring his animals, his life threatened with a gun, damage to his new truck and now cutting the electric fence to protect his animals - you have gone too far!

My husband thought this location, which was offered to him, would be good for him and his animals and having to build new buildings and cleaning it up with several people helping, cutting down so many trees for trails for walking. He is so disappointed and hurt to think someone could do this to him. John is always doing things for other people with no hesitation. You know the place for people like you and it is not to be free. We both are not getting any younger (76) and to think we have this to contend with.

For John's willingness in helping so many people without saying no, especially being a P.O.W. of the Korean War for 33 months is what he's made of and then these things have to be done to him. Mrs. John (Lucille) Erickson

Sound Off

The Ledger "Almost" Anything Goes Column
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Or CALL...897-0787

Send us your comments, criticisms and compliments. Some will be edited and or rejected do to space limitations, and content. Longer submissions should be signed and sent To the Editor.

Thank you to our M.S.wrestling coach. You are an incredible coach & role model for our children! Thank you for your commitment to the program & the children. -From many appreciative parents!

If parents would wait to smoke 'til after they drop their kids off at school, then their kids wouldn't walk in stinking like cigarettes! Common sense people!

I don't remember \$2,000 for a new car. My point is gas prices are out of hand.

Great Job Middle School Wrestlers! We are proud of all of you!

Thanking the President in the Ledger will surely make its way to him. Funny stuff.

Grocery? There's one on M-21 - it's called Meijer.

Are we still working on a skate park?

Thanks to the lady in Meijer who gave me the recipe for round steak and salsa. Really great. I will make it again as well as pass the recipe to others.

The Lowell Ledger has always put Alto in the backseat.

Not only did Mariah Moore do awesome at Nationals and made the World Team, but reminded the Ledger, Alto is still here.

It's about time The Ledger printed something about Alto people.

LOOK AT ME NOW!!

Michael Bramble came to The Laurels of Kent not believing that he needed rehabilitation. He soon realized when working with Jay Maglasang, his Physical Therapist and Tracy Perrin, his Occupational Therapy Assistant, strengthening was exactly what he needed prior to returning home. "The best part is that I lost 43 lbs, and I now realize that I need to be more active at home." Visits from Mr. Bramble's dog/companion, Riley, added to his successful return home.



Congratulations, Mike!

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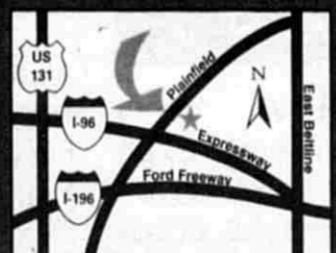
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Superintendent interviews, continued ... From Page 4

maintain programs and compensation," Thelen said. However, times are tight now.

"When you start to get down to the 5-6 percent (fund balance), you're starting to get pretty tight and that's where a lot of districts find themselves today."

"Most auditors would say somewhere around the 15 percent mark," Pratt said. "We've (Kent City Community Schools) been hanging around 10 percent for the last few years and have been feeling pretty good about it. I'd like to see a 10 percent minimum but unfortunately I'm not sure how realistic that is, to be honest."

He said cooperation again is key as districts face difficult financial times.

"I don't know if there are that many districts

building. Then the central office evaluates those recommendations to see if they create equitable funding between buildings, meet district goals, and state and federal requirements.

Pratt said Kent City Community Schools seeks community involvement in setting its budget priorities.

"What we've done in the past is take our preliminary budgets out to the community and ask for ideas," Pratt said. "We've taken ideas out of the public and we have used those ideas."

He said his district has sought out alternative revenue sources such as selling advertisements on scoreboards, and is putting together a new package to promote the district through local realtors.

Pratt said districts must be cautious when seeking new revenue streams.

"Our district in the past has resisted attempts to kind of commercialize the district," Pratt said. "For example, we're not a part of the Coca Cola consortium."

"I think the board and the district have to be cognizant of how we create that and how does that influence the students within the district."

Vending contracts with soda companies, for example, have health ramifications.

"With things like that wellness program that's out there now, it's probably not a good idea to be selling pop in the district and I don't think it's good for kids," Pratt said.

Both candidates have been reluctant to privatize services in their districts.

One new development Thelen has helped put in place in the Central Montcalm district is getting laptop computers for all teachers. He said this is a

possible precursor to laptops for students.

Pratt said as superintendent of a small district, he has had a role in diverse aspects of running a school district.

Thelen said he would plan to stay with Lowell Area Schools until retirement if hired. "I believe that I've got the energy, experience and the desire to help you get there and would certainly welcome the challenge and wish you my best in making your decision," Thelen said.

Pratt said the Lowell Area Schools would be "a long-term position" for him.

He said his "passion, energy, dedication, drive, and caring about kids" make him the right candidate for the job.



Gregory Pratt

that can hang on that long without some kind of collaborative effort working not only within the district but outside the district," Pratt said.

For budget planning at Central Montcalm Public Schools, Thelen said central office administration present building leaders with a cost estimate for their facility based on budget estimates for the upcoming year. The building administrators then make recommendations on how to best spend that money to accomplish the educational goals of the



Roger Thelen

"I think I wear that on my shirtsleeve in my current position and I know that I would carry it over to the new position in Lowell."

The superintendent selection committee was scheduled to tour Kent City Community Schools on Tuesday. The school board also scheduled a special meeting that evening to discuss how to proceed with the hiring process. The board plans to announce the new superintendent at its regular meeting next Monday.

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