

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 35 Issue 2

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Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Hilltop Hideaway, one of many unique stops on Christmas Through Lowell tour this weekend



By Emma Palova

An oil candle with chestnuts, pine needles and pine cones in a canning jar is just one of Bethny Copeland's many unique creations ... there's also the sweet version that contains dried apples, oranges and cinnamon sticks.

"I just pick up different things in nature," she said. "I love working with greenery and dried fruits."

Copeland, a resident of Alto and a new crafter on the Christmas Through Lowell

tour, will showcase her gifts at her Hilltop Hideaway home. "It's the first time I am doing a home show," Copeland said. "I am very excited. I love the Christmas season."

Inspired by nature, Copeland has been doing crafts for years. She dries her own fruit for Christmas tree ornaments and gifts. Adorning her fireplace are birch and cedar candles, along with a small Christmas tree of orange and apple slices.

Other crafts at Hilltop Hideaway include baskets

made from old wooden boxes, handmade necklaces, and artificial arrangements.

"I hope to have a lot of people come to visit," she said. "I would like to get everybody into the Christmas spirit."

Although Hilltop Hideaway is the number one stop on the Christmas tour, the location was not printed on the brochure map. Directions from Lowell are: south on Alden Nash past 196 to 52nd St., right on 52nd to Timpson Ave., left on Timpson Ave. about a mile on the left-hand side.

Bethny Copeland, of Alto, is the #1 stop on the Christmas Through Lowell tour.

Property owners complain of chaotic airport expansion

By Emma Palova

While Scenic View Plat owners, William and JoAnne Schreur voiced concerns about chaotic expansion of the Lowell City Airport, officials say the issue is safety.

Complaints at the Lowell City Council meeting last week came on the heels of airport manager Jim Sowl's remarks about

trees surrounding the airport being a safety issue.

According to the Schreurs, the trees have been planted to provide a buffer and a privacy screen for residents living on property adjacent to the airport line.

"The trees have added significant aesthetic and monetary value to the land," said JoAnne Schreur.

According to her, Scenic View Plat was surveyed by Williams &

Works of Grand Rapids, and recorded in 1961, long before the airport was licensed.

Aerial photos from 1968 show no improvements on the airfield, with no flights over Scenic View Plat. It was being used by two or three hobby fliers and there were no flights over our property, said JoAnne Schreur. The airport became licensed in 1977.

The Schreurs said the

airstrip was relocated from north south to east west, and a new flight path was established over the Scenic View development. The city-owned airport is surrounded by a residentially-zoned area in Vergennes Township.

"By changing the airstrip, the airport knowingly and negligently violated our rights," said Bill Schreur Jr. "It was a total disregard for the existing residential area."

Schreur Jr. said the family had gone above and beyond all the requirements.

All the constructed homes are single-story and comply with the 70-foot setback requirement from the rear lot lines adjacent to the airport. The development is protected by restrictive covenants.

"For years, the airport has pursued efforts to expand without proper planning and with total disrespect for existing zoning surrounding its land," said JoAnne Schreur.

Schreur Jr. said he wants

the airport officials to honor the residential zoning.

"Let us build according to the zone," he said. "Respect our rights."

Randy Collier, inspector for the Aeronautics Division of the Michigan Department of Transportation, said as the trees continue to grow, they create a higher hazard.

"If they become taller obstructions, then they must be cut," he said.

According to the 1945 Aeronautics Code, it is illegal to obstruct and approach the protection area.

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Fire investigator named assistant fire chief

By Emma Palova

Fire investigator and former captain Ron vanOverbeek has been named the assistant fire chief of the Lowell Area Fire Department.

vanOverbeek, an employee of the Lowell Light and Power Company (LL&P), has been with the fire rescue since 1989. He will oversee day-to-day operations of the department when fire chief Frank Martin is not available.

A resident of Lowell Township for nine years,



Ron vanOverbeek

vanOverbeek has assisted with incident command on fire scenes; he is also a certified fire investigator by the Michigan State Police.

As an operations assistant in the engineering department at LL&P, vanOverbeek is allowed to respond to calls while at work.

"It makes me available when the chief is out of town," he said. "It's an honor to be appointed to the position." vanOverbeek said every fire is different and challenging.

"You have to first find out how and why, and then hopefully who," he said. "Each fire tells a different story."

Martin said van-

Overbeek deserved the appointment.

"He's been in the department for a long time," said Martin. "He is a good leader. Everybody looks up to him."

Last year, the department had 634 runs. They cover a 60-square-mile area including the city, and Lowell and Vergennes townships. The department has two new pumper tankers.

"We have good equipment and great people," said vanOverbeek.

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The Lowell Ledger

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Obituaries

APPEL

S. Barbara (Boulard), aged 80, went to be with her Lord and Savior on November 6, 2006, after a courageous battle with cancer. She was preceded in death by her husband Mike, her parents, sisters Elizabeth Boulard, Frances (Elmer) Sislock, brothers Clarke (Marge) Boulard, Ward Jr. Boulard, brother-in-law Ken Woods. She is survived by her children Terry (Katie) of IN, Cindie (Jim) Thompson, Kim (Linda) of MO; sister Isabelle Woods; several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews; great-nieces and great-nephews. She lived her last months at Luther Village. She was born in Alto on April 30, 1926, to Ward and Mary Boulard, graduated from Caledonia High School and was a cashier for many years. She was active in her church teaching Sunday School in the early years and worked on different committees throughout her adult life. She volunteered at Luther Home in addition to serving as treasurer and president of the Luther Home Service Guild. She was a Christian and member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Middleville. Memorial Service was at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids on Nov. 11 with Pastor Sikora officiating. In lieu of flowers the family is requesting that remembrances be made to Luther Village or Hospice of Michigan.

BOSS

Ardean Ruth Boss was surrounded by her family when she died on Tuesday, November 7, 2006. She was preceded in death by her husband Dorward (Toby) Boss in 1988 and special

cousin Fran Fynevever. She is survived by her children Phyllis and Bernie Schuitema of Byron Center, James and Jeanne Boss of Rockford, Douglas and Stephanie Boss of Wyoming; seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She was a member of Faith Reformed Church for 51 years. She was employed for many years by Montgomery Wards and was precinct chairman during elections for the city of Wyoming for 20 years. She was a wonderful mother, grandmother and friend. Funeral services for Ardean were held Saturday at Faith Reformed Church, 618 32nd St. SW. Interment Spring Lake Cemetery. The family suggests memorial contributions be made to the Faith Reformed Church Food Bank.

BROWN

Fondarae Lynn Brown, aged 57, of Grant, formerly of Lowell, passed away Friday, November 10, 2006. She was preceded in death by her sister and brother-in-law Shelly and Chris Thomas. She is survived by her husband of 37 years, Edward Arthur Brown; children Jeff (Coletta) Brown, Mark (Peggy) Brown, Melissa (William) Kincaid, Richard (Lisa) Brown, Kevin (Shannon) Brown, Jacoba Brown; 23 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; parents Lloyd and Betty Jane Powell; brothers and sister Lewis Powell, Lloyd Powell, Jane Smith. Fondarae was a graduate of Lowell High School, worked as a CNA for many years as well as worked at Steelcase, Attwood and Druce. She loved to go to Indian Pow Pows, antiquing and long rides. Funeral service was held Monday at Roth-Gerst Chapel with

Dr. Michael Conklin of First United Methodist Church of Lowell officiating. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to American Cancer Society.



DAWSON

Gale Maxine (Brogan) Dawson of Cincinnati, Ohio, was born February 1935 in Emmett, Idaho, and died November 10, 2006, after a long courageous battle with cancer in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She was 71. Gale's parents were Bill and Lelia Brogan. She became a committed Christian at age 16. She graduated from Emmett High School in 1953 and went to NNU in Nampa, Idaho, for pre-nursing courses. She took nurses training in Spokane, Washington, and graduated as a Registered Nurse from Oklahoma University in 1959. Gale married Bernard Dawson in 1957 in a double wedding with her sister Billie Mae (and Carl) Hatlestad. The wedding was in Emmett, Idaho. Gale and Bernie have five children: Daniel (Payette, ID), Darla Johns (Fort Wayne, IN), Duane (Cincinnati, OH), Dea Grove (Ontario, OR) and Dara (London, England). They have 14 grandchildren and two great-grandsons. Gale's parents predeceased her. Her brother Don (Washington) and sisters Billie Hatlestad (Washington) and Susie Ring (Tenn.) are still living. Gale's husband Bernard and father-in-law Lester Dawson (Clarksville, MI) are living

as well. Gale worked as an RN for 30 years concluding her professional career as Pediatric Nurse with Dr. Nora de La Paz in Ontario, OR. Gale's most fulfilling work was as a pastor's wife. She worked alongside her husband in churches located in Oklahoma City, OK, Sioux City, IA, West Des Moines, IA, Ottumwa, IA, Red Oak, IA, Ontario, OR, and for the past 18 years in London, England. She also directed a Pre-School in London for ten years. Gale traveled extensively visiting mission works in Africa, India, Europe and Central America. She edited a mission's periodical which had worldwide circulation. She was an active advocate for foreign missions and contributed generously to the support of this important work. Her interest was especially for children and she was urging special support for them until her death. Gale was a gifted seamstress and artist. Using acrylic, water paint and oils she captured still life, wildlife and scenic paintings on canvas. She also created an assortment of all occasion cards. Gale and Bernie recently were assigned to Cincinnati, Ohio, where Bernie is Missions Director for the Pillar of Fire International, a Christian Evangelical denomination. At the annual international conference in New Jersey in June of 2006, Gale was honored by being ordained a Deaconess. She was pleased with this recognition but felt unworthy. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to foreign missions in care of Pillar of Fire Missions, 3455 W. 83rd Avenue, Westminster, CO 80031. Services were held Monday, Nov. 13, 2006 at 1 p.m. at Lowell Church of the Nazarene, Lowell, MI. Visitation was on Monday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the church. Burial in Clarksville Cemetery, Clarksville, MI. Arrangements by McComb,

Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main Street, Auburn, IN.

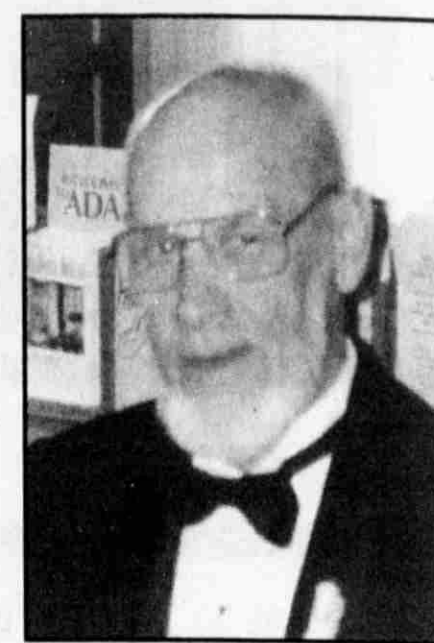
HORN

Donald A. Horn, aged 76, of Lowell, passed away Wednesday, November 8, 2006. He was a graduate of Shore High, Euclid, Ohio. He was a member of the International Association of Amalgamated Lithographers of America. Donald retired as account executive from Dean Witter Morgan Stanley in Cape Coral, Fla. He honorably served in the U.S. Army. He is survived by his wife Patricia Horn; children Donna Horn-Volk, Lori Weld and Donald Horn Jr.; stepson Tim Wolfe; nephew C.J. Horn; grandchildren Glenn and Leah Volk, Sierra and Skylee Weld, Lauren Wolfe; loving nurse of three years, Diana Eakin. Memorial services will be held Saturday, December 2, 2006, at 11 a.m. at the First Congregational Church of Lowell with Pastor Dr. Roger La Warre officiating. A reception and luncheon will follow at 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to Parkinson Research Fund, Cleveland Clinic, P.O. Box 931517, Cleveland, Ohio 44193-1655.

OSBORNE

Morris James Osborne, Sr., aged 82, formerly of Lowell, passed away November 10, 2006. He was preceded in death by his daughter Kitty Ryskamp. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Doris; children Elizabeth (John) Magness, Steven Osborne, Ron (Bonnie) Osborne, Jim (Connie) Osborne, Tim Osborne, Kathy (Dale) Wolf, Kim (Tom) Gless, Ricky Osborne, Pat Osborne, Scott (Kim) Osborne; son-in-law Jeff Ryskamp; sisters Jean Bakelarr, Jane Osborne; 25 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; a great-great-granddaughter; several nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held Tuesday at the Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, Dr. Mike Conklin of First United

Methodist Church of Lowell officiating. Interment Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens.



TIMINSKIS

Peter P. Timinskis, aged 83, of Lowell, passed away November 7, 2006. He was preceded in death by his brother Stanley, sister Sue, and brother-in-law Joseph Totoraitis. Pete is survived by his wife of 52 years, Kathryn; children Bill (Sylva) Timinskis of Alaska, Carole Timinskis of Lowell, Vicki (Philip) Schreur of Lowell, Trish (Dan) Shantz of Kalamazoo, Deb Timinskis of Grand Rapids, Pete (Kumari) Timinskis of California; six grandchildren Elizabeth, Eric, Daniel, Katrina, Katie, Jake and one expected new arrival; sisters Alice Totoraitis of Grand Rapids, Bernice (Lawrence) Oele of Belmont, Adelle (Tony) DeBrito of New Jersey, Florence (Tom) Scheidel of Lowell; sister-in-law Ruth Sarniak of Lowell. Peter was a committed and proud husband and father. He was a good neighbor and friend to all who knew him. He was always willing to offer a helping hand or lend a special tool. We will miss him dearly. The family would like to express their sincere gratitude to the caregivers at Faith Hospice and Visiting Angels for their support and time. Funeral services were held Saturday at the Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, Rev. Glenn Marks and Pastor Ken Ford officiating. Interment Alton Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Evergreen Missionary Church or The Family of Peter Timinskis.

Deadline quickly approaching for Lowell Community Fund requests

The deadline to request funds from the Lowell Community Fund is Friday, Dec. 8 at noon.

To receive consideration and approval, all requests must be for funds that will aid local organizations in providing help to persons in the Lowell area. The Heart of West Michigan United Way has set the December

date aside for those qualified to receive funding for 2007-2010.

It has now implemented a three-year funding cycle, which means groups interested in receiving funds will submit a formal funding request every year.

Request forms are available at Dr. James Reagan's office, 207 W.

Main St., or at Huntington Bank, 414 E. Main St. The formal request forms include a demographic data sheet on clients served, how funds from the previous year were spent, and the annual budget for the organizations requesting funds.

From 1955-2006, the Lowell Community Fund has dispersed over \$250,000

into the community.

"It is important to note that this funding program is entirely separate from the Harold Englehardt funding program (Lowell Area Community Fund) which is handled through the Grand Rapids Foundation," said Dr. Bob Reagan, secretary/treasurer of the fund.

Scouts learning the basic skills of survival

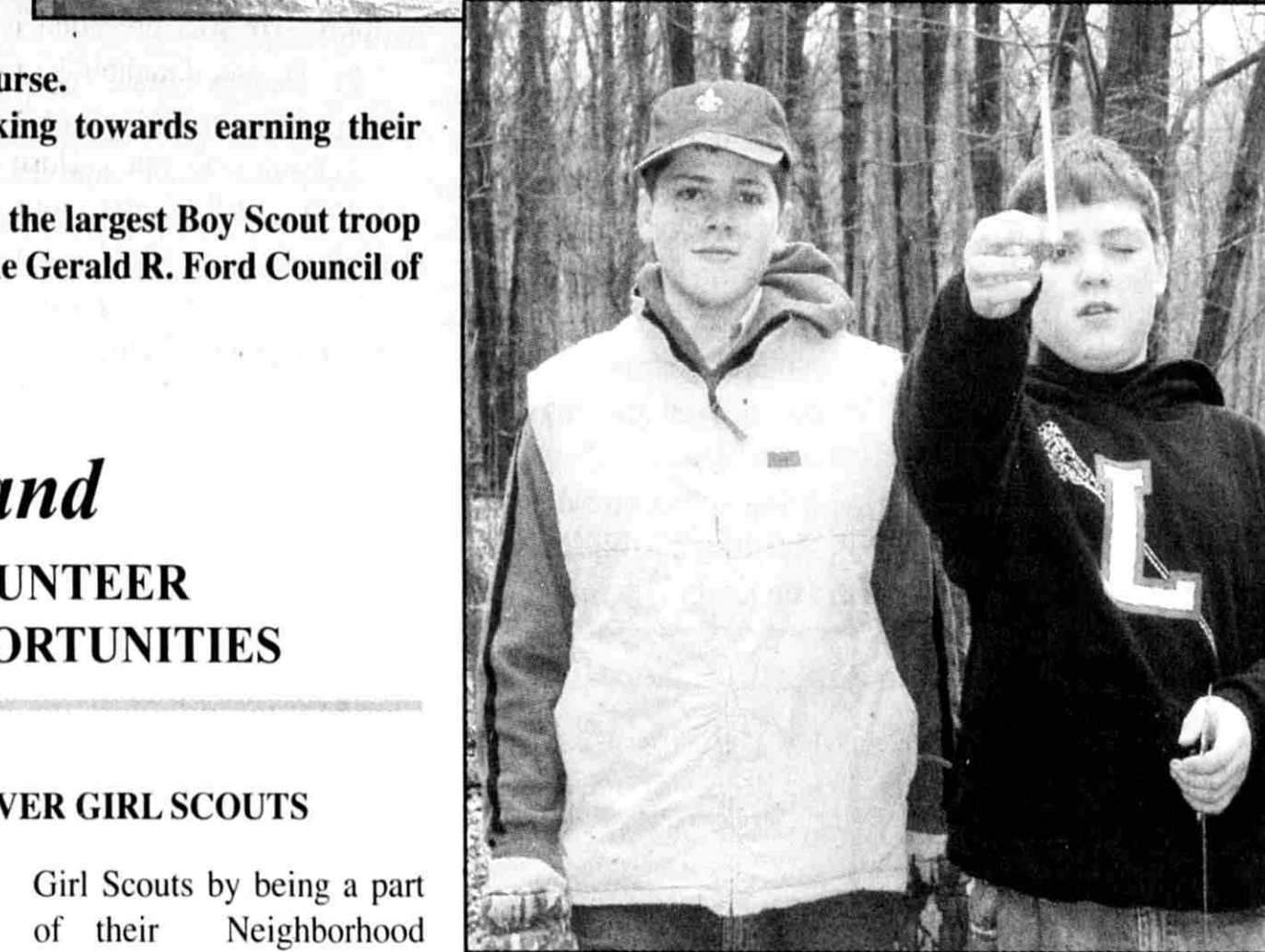
At right, Lowell Boy Scouts of Troop 102 cooked a full turkey dinner in this campfire oven at the Lowell Boy Scout Hut over Veterans Day weekend.

The scouts later served the dinner to their parents on Saturday evening. The troop hosted Lowell cub scouts and cub scouts from both Parnell and Alto in an overnight camp-out as part of the troop's annual recruitment drive.

Below, Boy Scouts Matt Majinska, left, and Reed Stormzand of Lowell's Boy Scout Troop 102 measure the height of a tree while negotiating a compass course.

The scouts are working towards earning their first class scout badge.

Lowell's Troop 102 is the largest Boy Scout troop in the Apollo district of the Gerald R. Ford Council of Grand Rapids.



Lend A Hand



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

HELP THE FLAT RIVER GIRL SCOUTS

Adult volunteers are needed to assist in bringing programs to the Flat River

Girl Scouts by being a part of their Neighborhood Leadership team. Troop leaders are also needed for girls of all ages. No experience is necessary; training is provided. Call Judy at 868-0321 or visit www.flatrivergirlscouts.org.

A sense of humor is part of the art of leadership, of getting along with people, of getting things done.

- Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890 - 1969)



FOR RENT - S. of Lowell 5 bedroom 1 bath in country. \$850/mo. plus utilities. No smoking or pets. 293-0980. Applications & credit reports required.



In The Ledger

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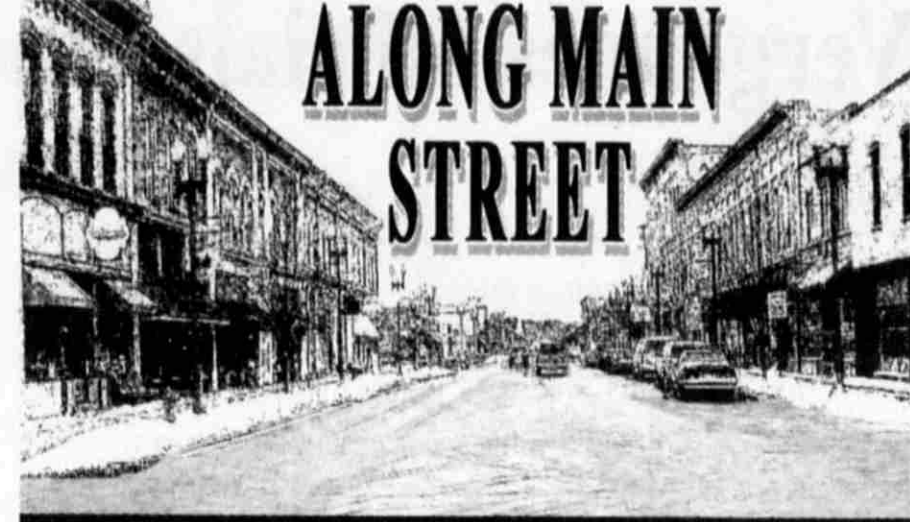
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STUDENTS 2 FOR TUESDAY

ONE NIGHT WITH THE KING (PG)
1:55, 4:20, 6:45, 9:10
SANTA CLAUSE 3: THE ESCAPE
CLAUSE (G)
1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
CFLUSHED AWAY (PG)
1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15
FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS (R)
12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40



FOOD PANTRY

If you can help, FROM food pantry needs canned or boxed potatoes, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, Hamburger Helper and Tuna Helper.

WOMEN'S CLUB LUNCHEON

The Lowell Women's Club luncheon will be held at the chamber of commerce, 113 Riverwalk Plaza, adjacent to the Showboat on Friday, Nov. 17 and Saturday, Nov. 18 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

NEW LEADERSHIP TRAINING SESSION

Applications for Lowell Institute for Volunteer Leadership are being accepted for the 2007 leadership training session Jan. 13 - March 6. Deadline is Dec. 1. Call Liz at 897-9161 for details and questions or visit www.lowellchamber.org.

ROTARY GIFT PACKS

Lowell Rotary Club is selling their holiday gift packs for \$12.50. See any Rotary member or purchase at 5/3 Bank, ICNB, Huntington Bank, City Hall, Cousin's, State Farm, LAAC, Bernard's Ace, and Springrove Variety.

LAAC GIFT GALLERY

"Sleigh Bells and Holly - A gallery of fine art and gifts" has over 20 artists/artisans with their artwork for sale at Lowell Area Arts Council, 149 S. Hudson now through Dec. 23. Visit www.lowellartscouncil.org for extended gallery hours.

MATH PARENT MEETING

Math Informational Night will be held at Cherry Creek this Thursday for parents of kindergarten - 5th grade students attending Bushnell and Cherry Creek elementary. Registration: 6:20; grade level meetings: 6:30. Call to register: Bushnell 987-2650; Cherry Creek 987-2700.

CHRISTMAS THROUGH LOWELL

Visit local artisans, crafters and retail establishments this weekend. Maps/pamphlets are available at the Lowell Ledger office or visit www.christmasthroughlowell.org.

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lowell City Council, acting as the Zoning Board of Appeals, will conduct a public hearing at their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, December 4, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lowell City Hall Council Chambers, Second Floor, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan.

The purpose of said hearing would be to receive comments on the following variance request:

753 Grindle - United Bank of Michigan request a variance allowing slopes up to 40% to be counted as open space for 16 housing unit cluster development where the ordinance requires at least 20% but not more than 40% of the property in a perpetually undeveloped state.

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

Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

Canfield

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FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS (R)
12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40

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Vergennes officials concerned about increased development density

By Emma Palova

After two years in the making, Vergennes Township officials were surprised Monday night with increased density for a development on Cook property off Alden Nash. The large-scale project on 177 acres has been plagued by complex urban services agreements between the city of Lowell, Vergennes

and Lowell townships and conditional land transfer. In the meantime, Scott Sanderson, president of Allen Edwin Homes of Portage, has taken over the project from original developer Rob Munger. At a joint meeting between the township board and the planning commission, Sanderson requested conditional rezoning to accommodate a

400-home development on small lots. However, the township zoning ordinance does not have a district that would accommodate that density. "First you have to have that type of a district," said consultant Jay Kilpatrick of Williams & Works. Original plans called for 300 homes serviced by Lowell city and Lowell Township water and sewer

under the Urban Cooperation Act. According to Kilpatrick, the township could create a high density residential district (R4) or a special use district for the development. However, the officials were set on 300 homes, not on 400. "We've put a lot of time into this," said Vergennes Township supervisor Tim Wittenbach. "I'd hate to see

the baby thrown in with the water. We have two years into this. I'd like to see it fly." Township officials, however, insisted the residents do not want a large development in order to maintain the rural character. All the township planning for the development has been based on 300 homes. The major concerns in the

township include the impact of the development on the schools, along with noise and traffic. However, Sanderson said if he takes off 100 homes, the project will not be as successful. "Land values have started to fall off," he said. "It's a matter of economics." **Development, cont'd., pg. 10**

Canine training center approved

By Emma Palova

The Vergennes Township Planning Commission Monday approved a special use permit and site plan for a canine training center to be located off Lincoln Lake Ave.

Owner Liz Fahrenstiel addressed some of the planners' concerns, mainly the disposal of animal waste, agility fencing and lighting. Animal waste will be disposed off in containers in plastic bags. The sign will

not be lit, and the existing two lights will be upgraded. The agility fencing is to be relocated 50 feet from property lines. The drainage plan has been revised, and dogs will be on leashes. The parking lot will

have a crushed concrete surface that meets the ordinance requirement for a dust-free surface. The commission waived the requirement that 80 percent of the facade must be either brick, wood or glass since the facility is an existing structure.



Sharing The Vision

With Gregory Pratt
LHS Superintendent

HIGH SCHOOL REFORM

On April 20, 2006, Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm signed into law a set of high school graduation requirements called the Michigan Merit Curriculum. In the past, courses and credits required to graduate from high school varied significantly from district to district. The content within the courses offered also varied from school to school. The Michigan Merit Curriculum will implement new high school graduation requirements. These requirements will provide educators state-wide with content expectations and guidelines to develop and align classroom instruction. Research now indicates that the knowledge and skills students need to be successful in college and/or the work place are similar.

The State's High School Reform Initiative with their new mandated high school curriculum continues to be a focus for the entire administrative team. Lowell Area Schools has split the project into three main areas at the high school level. Mr. Vashaw, high school principal, is working with his staff to:

- 1) Review State content expectations and align curriculum and pacing guides.
- 2) Review and recommend graduation requirements.
- 3) Review possible schedule configurations to deliver the content.

At the district level we will also address the communication timeline in order to get information out to students, parents and the public of the changes.

The first class affected by the reform will be next year's 9th grade class (the graduating class of 2011). This allows a

Sharing The Vision, cont'd., pg. 12

Permit granted for banquet hall

By Emma Palova

The Vergennes Planning Commission granted a special use permit for a banquet hall on Lincoln Lake Ave. to Kent McKay, contingent on a new forthcoming site plan.

heels of McKay's landslide victory in last week's election to sell spirits and mixed drinks for consumption on the premises. The proposal passed by 1,398 yes votes to 600 nay votes. Since the township has only two liquor licenses, clerk Mari Stone assured residents there won't be bars

springing up on every corner. In his Monday presentation, McKay addressed concerns of alcohol consumption at the banquet hall in a comprehensive manner. Although the state only requires one certified technician

Banquet, cont't., pg. 12

Viewpoint



Remember the old TV ads for Dunkin' Donuts? At least I think it was Dunkin' Donuts. Might have been some other company related to donuts. Whatever ... the ads featured an older Italian looking character getting out of bed in the morning in a zombie-like trance. He'd stumble around the house and finally get out the door repeating over and over, "Time to make the donuts. Time to make the donuts."

Aside from looking more like an old Dane than an old Italian, I could be that guy this morning. "Time to write a column. Time to write a column."

I could recite a litany of excuses for my zombie-like trance, but they are just that ... excuses. The bottom line is, I'm working under a deadline, my wife needs the computer and I really don't have a specific topic in mind. I've even shuffled through my stack of e-mail humor with no luck finding anything suitable for plagiarizing.

Consequently, this will be something a little different for me. I've decided to offer up a couple movie reviews. Both are available on DVD.

The first is "The World's Fastest Indian." We just watched it for the second time with visiting friends. Unanimous ... all eight thumbs, way up!

The film is set in the sixties and is ripe with old cars and motorcycles. Real eye-candy for old motor heads, like me, that grew up in that era.

It is a low-budget film with only one actor you'll recognize. Anthony Hopkins plays the crusty, but loveable Bruce Munro. The film is based on a true story. Munro is a New Zealander in his sixties, during the sixties. He scrimps and saves to get his souped-up old Indian motorcycle to the Bonneville Salt Flats for nothing short of a run at a speed record.

Sure, the movie is based on motorcycles, and you may hate those two-wheeled contraptions. But, as seems to be the case with any really good movie, the film is more about life and how some people seem to get the most out of it. My friend summed it up as, "Seabiscuit on a motorcycle." Very apropos!

This film is easy to recommend to almost anybody. If you don't like this movie, then you have a serious problem. I don't know what it is, but you do have a problem!

My wife said "W.F.I." reminds her of "The Straight Story", another low-budget film from a few years back. I tend to agree. If you like "World's Fastest Indian", you may want to look for Richard Farnsworth's Academy Award nominated lead in "The Straight Story." Good stuff!

Now we're going to switch gears, jump the tracks, do a 180, spin out of control and discuss a Jack Black film. This one is not for everybody, though a lot of you might be surprised if you give it a chance.

"Nacho Libre" is not based on a true story. At least I hope it's not. Jack Black plays an under-appreciated monk/cook in a Catholic orphanage located in remote Mexico. This film also "feels like" it is set in the sixties. "Nacho" has dreams of becoming a star wrestler on the exceedingly seedy local wrestling circuit.

Nacho's secret wrestling career begins when he is mugged and robbed of the orphanage's nachos. The mugger becomes his tag-team partner. They sew together some tacky costumes and take to the ring. The wrestling scenes are a fun romp. And, there is even a forbidden love interest between Nacho and a new nun at the orphanage.

The really big "thumbs up" for this one comes from my grandkids. Boog, my soon-to-be-eight-year-old grandson has watched it a dozen times since I bought it for him. Even my nine-year-old granddaughter, who is hung-up on girly stuff, loved "Nacho Libre." Grown-ups who claim to be "forced to watch" invariably come away with a smile on their face.

If you are lucky enough to have kids or grandkids around who are something like six to twelve-years-old, rent "Nacho Libre." You can always claim you only wasted time on it because of the kids.

Here's a word of warning. If you do watch "Nacho Libre" with the kids, especially young boys, be prepared to have some wrestling moves practiced on you. It's part of the fun!

You'll notice these films are not big studio, Hollywood blockbusters with big name stars. Seems like the less Hollywood has to do with a movie these days, the better I like it. Must be the "Ted" in me. Thanks for the hat Rog! (Inside joke ... sorry.)

I know this has been a little different for me. A little on the short side as well. Guess that's what happens when an old Dane is wandering around the house early in the morning chanting, "Time to write the column. Time to write the column."

Ledger Entries

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



By Priscilla Luusmyer

125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL NOVEMBER 16, 1881

No diphtheria in the village. Lowell continues to pay the highest market prices for wheat.

The South Boston Road is now completely cloyed. The Methodist church in Ionia is said to be haunted; the clock in its tower struck 250 on Tuesday night.

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER NOVEMBER 15, 1906

Charles Doyle is injured on Main Street by Ernest Pinckney's runaway team.

Charles A. Provin of Cannonsburg inherits \$500 from his recently-deceased brother.

Grand Rapids puts 800 grave sites on the market for \$10, to compete with outside cemeteries.

Mart Simpson is having a staying-in-business sale (Marks Rubin is going out).

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

Lowell footballers take the county championship for the second year in a row, beating both East Grand Rapids and Grandville, 14-0.

The new Strand Flying Club has its share of thrills with its glider.

President Hoover says 50,000 men are now working at constructing public buildings.

The Navy's new dirigible Akron performs well in tests and is expected to best the Germans' Graf Zeppelin.

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER NOVEMBER 15, 1956

An estimated 470 deer licenses have been sold locally for the opener today.

The football team closes its best season in seven years, beating Greenville for a 6-2-1 season.

Dan Himebaugh and Jean Bishop lead in the junior play, to be presented in the new "all-purpose room" of the elementary building.

Elvis Presley's "Love Me Tender" and and Fats Domino's "Blueberry Hill" are popular songs of the day.

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER NOVEMBER 12, 1981

The teacher contract has been ratified after a long struggle, with average salary of \$21,000. Michigan freeway rest areas and roadside parks are shut down a month early to save highway maintenance costs.

Amway sponsors a float in the Tournament of Roses parade in Pasadena.

The national honor society inducts 23 new members, and 31 high school students participate in the local close-up program.

To The Editor

Editor's note: During American Education Week (Nov. 13-17) several Lowell High School students have written to express their appreciation toward some of their mentors.

To The Editor,

I wanted to take a moment to thank Mrs. Gibson for all she has done in the past and present time. To begin, she helped me through science and English class. I remember one day that she said I could pass English, but I didn't think I could. She talked to me every day saying that I could do it, and I did. I also remember one time that I didn't do my work for a while, and she helped me get it done. Most importantly, she helped me do well in my hard classes, and if I want good grades, I just have to do the work and turn it in on time. You taught me that I can do everything everyone else is doing. Overall, thanks for listening to my troubles and hopes.

Eric Denhof

To The Editor,

Mrs. Neimila and Mrs. Heikila have changed my life. I am truly blessed to have had them to be a part of my life. Without them helping me out in 8th grade, I have no clue where I would be. But thanks to them, I have a sure shoot at a great future. Both of them showed to me what a teacher can do and both of them should be extremely proud because of what

Sydney Stuewe

To The Editor,

It was another school year, and I was dreading it. I was finally out of the almost suffocating halls of the freshman wing, and hoping that this year wouldn't be as terrible as the last. Luckily, I had the privilege of having Mr. Katt as my English teacher. Mr. Katt was my sophomore English

To The Editor, cont'd., pg. 9

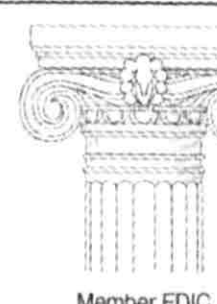
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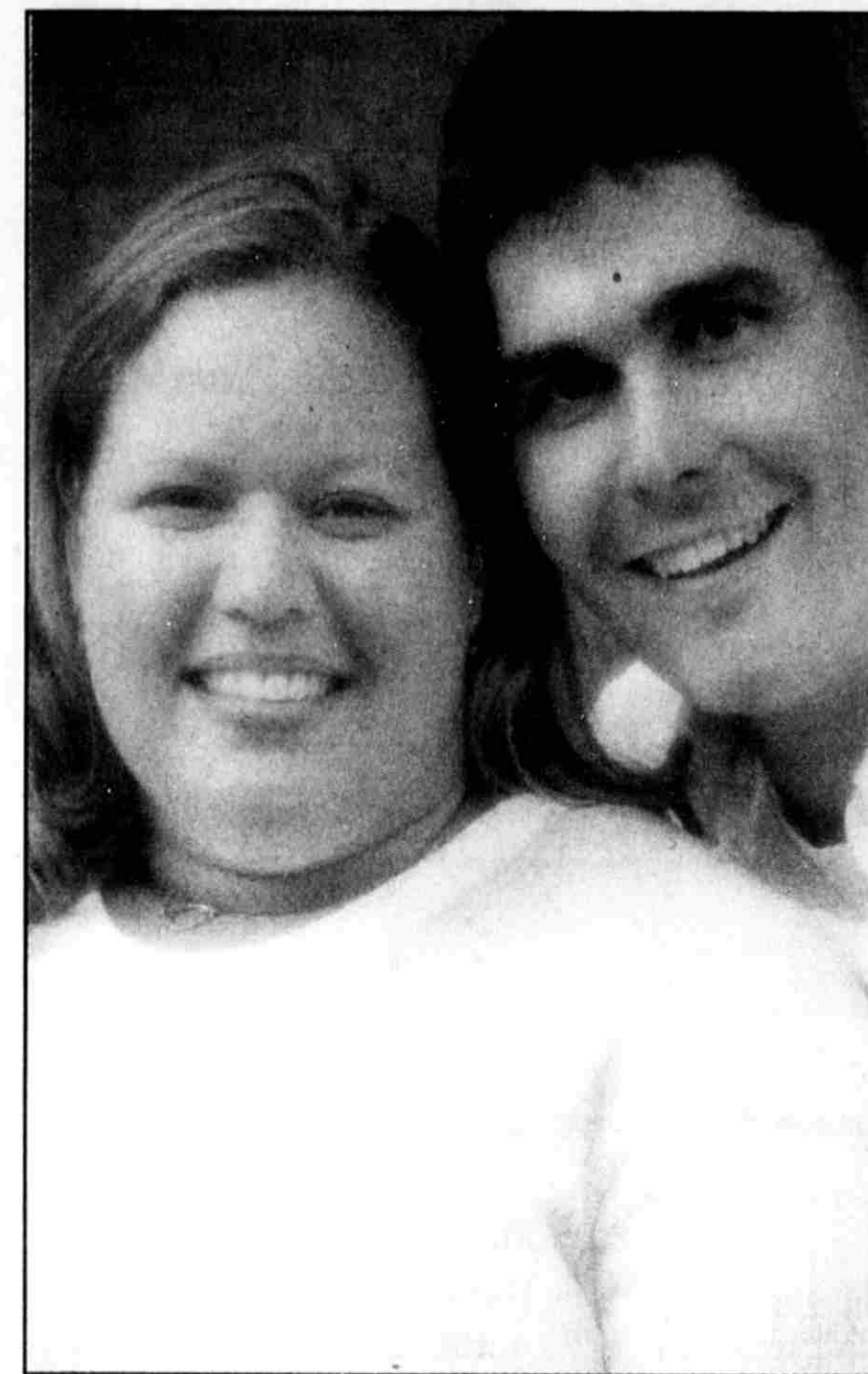
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Engagements



Lisa Moes and Bruce Phillips Jr.

Moes/Phillips

Lisa Moes of Holland and Bruce Phillips Jr. of Lowell are planning a December 9, 2006 wedding.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Tom and Jan Moes. She is a graduate of Holland High School and Wittenberg University.

She is currently employed by National Heritage Academics.

The future groom is the son of Bruce and Theresa Phillips and Bette and Leo Haybarker. He is a Lowell High School graduate and is employed by Senior Meals on Wheels, Inc.

Happy Birthday

NOV. 16:
Cherryl Lilley.

NOV. 17:
Scott MacNaughton, Cory DuBridge, Tyler Shindorf, Mary Schutts, Anastasia Barnes, Ali Wernet.

NOV. 18:
Brent Noskey, Fran Powell, Sandy Roe, Lillian Briggs.

NOV. 19:
Ken Mulder, Jamie Zoodsma, Marlene Nash, Lewis Powell.

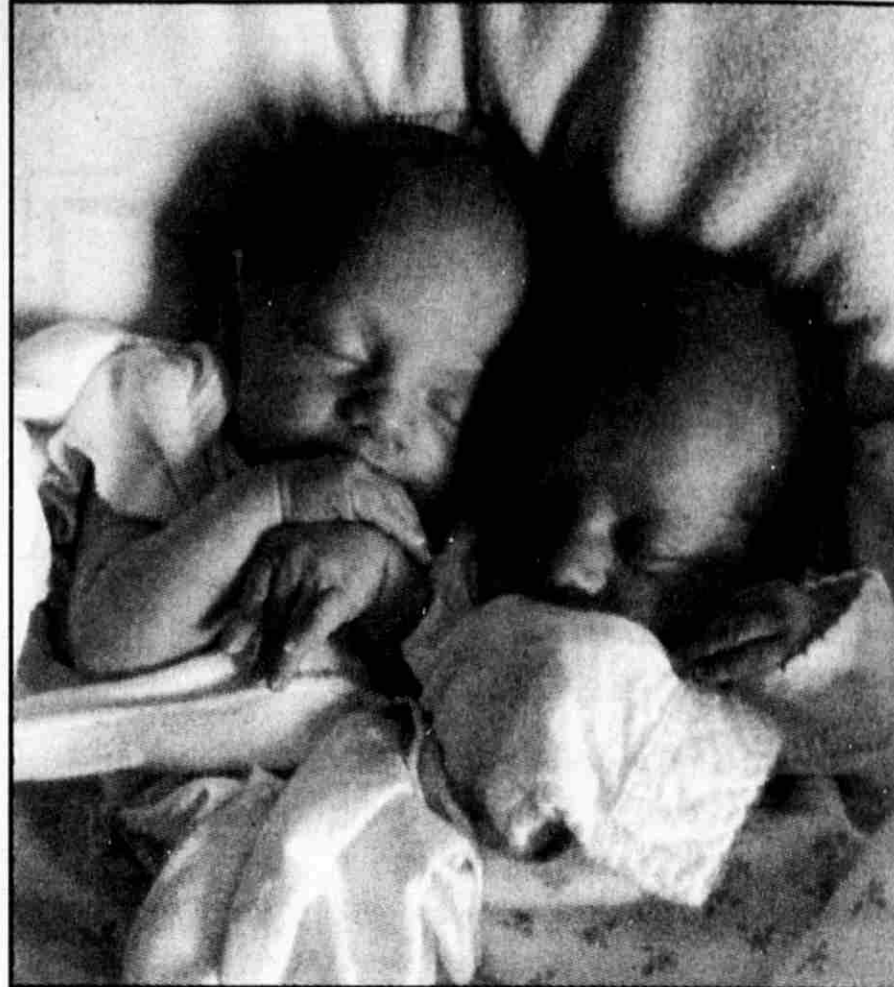
NOV. 20:
Brian Brown, John Butler Sr., Michelle Wernet.

NOV. 21:
Gert DeHaan, Michael Hewitt, Tammy Gildner.

NOV. 22:
Karrie Borton, Lou Green, Carla Briggs, Andrea Richmond, Joshua Gerard, Dylan Olin.

New Arrivals

Clinger



Peyton Edward and Paige Marie Clinger

Peyton Edward and Paige Marie Clinger were born October 24, 2006 to loving parents Troy and Monica Clinger.

Big brothers Mason, 4 1/2, and Caleb, 19 months, welcome them home.

Proud grandparents are Dan and Nancy Fansher, aunt Angela and cousin Ashlie Clinger, great-grandmas Madonna Bigelow and Arlene Fansher, all from the Lowell area.

Reflections of faith

Rev. Randy Meyers
Calvary Christian Reformed Church

PAIN

The band Three Days Grace has a song called "Pain." Some of the lyrics are as follows: "Pain can't get enough. Pain without love. I'd rather feel pain than nothing at all." And mixed in there somewhere is the line "Follow me I have a plan." O.K., I thought, let me see if I understand this? On a daily basis I try to avoid pain. You are singing about the "pursuit of pain" and asking that I follow you. Hmmm. Somewhere I must have missed something in school because that makes little sense to me.

The apostle Paul has a similarly dismissive attitude toward pain in Romans 8:18 when he says that our present sufferings are hardly worth comparing with what will be revealed in us. Paul even goes on to describe how creation is frustrated with the decay it feels. Of course, this was before last year's Katrina, or Tsunami before that. Still Paul describes creation as a mother in labor without an epidural groaning in pain.

Paul, however, does not pursue pain. He asks us for patience. Paul paints a picture of us with new pain-free bodies and when we will receive them. We hope to get our new digs at the resurrection of the dead. Paul's hope is not the "I'm not sure if this will happen, but I hope so - kind of hope." Paul's hope is the "I am confident that this will happen - kind of hope."

A confident hope can be patient. An anxious hope probably pursues pain. It is not that all pain is bad, right? A burning sensation on your finger may alert you to the fact that your coffee mug is too hot. This pain prevents you, if you listen to it, from seriously scalding your tongue and throat. Even so, we would rather avoid all pain.

Paul once again recognizes this and gives us something far greater than an aspirin and a call back in the morning. Paul points our patient hope toward the Holy Spirit. He describes the Spirit as lifting our burdens, advocating on our behalf, and deeply knowing us.

Sometimes we suffer at the hands of too many people. Yet, more times than not we suffer because of too few people. In our loneliness we desperately seek to connect with people regardless of what they are preaching. Desperate anxious preachers may simply be selling more pain. And hey, if that sounds good and is what you need, follow them if you must.

In a clear contrast, the Holy Spirit does not offer you an embrace of your pain. You are given a way to endure and even thrive in the midst of pain. Maybe Three Days Grace already knows all of this? Besides, "Holy Spirit can't get enough. I'd rather feel the Holy Spirit than nothing at all..." hardly makes for good lyrics. Or do they? Access over 1 million songs - Yahoo! Music Unlimited.

Impact's new sanctuary is slated for January completion

By Emma Palova

Impact, a Wesleyan Church, will soon have a new sanctuary to serve its exponentially growing congregation.

The 285-seat sanctuary on Lincoln Lake Ave., with its friendly retail appearance, will have tall ceilings to create an open feeling; there will be no stained glass windows or steeples. The current building will be used for Sunday School classrooms, and sidewalks have been installed on Hudson Street and Lincoln Lake Ave.

According to project coordinator Cy Floyd, the \$800,000 addition is designed for future growth. The steel structure, of which 95 percent is located in Vergennes Township, is slated for January completion.

"The building will have a friendly retail appearance like Panera Bread," said Floyd. "We're pleased to have good weather. We will be utilizing the new building to serve the Greater Lowell community."



Sign in front of Impact Church shows services continue during construction.

The young congregation has grown from 20 to 450 members in three years.

Lead pastor Phillip Struckmeyer said Impact will also serve the unchurched who have had bad experiences with other churches in the past.

"We will be reaching out to the community," he said, "to those for whom church wasn't relevant to God."

According to Struckmeyer, Impact is more than a building or a Sunday morning routine.

Impact, he said, is trying to establish new traditions by building relationships, rather than relying on old traditions.

"We're not about conversion but conversation," he explained. "We talk about the purpose of life and how to experience life."

Struckmeyer spoke of church plantings in other communities such as Portland and Belding.

"We're searching for the loving God and banding together," he said. "I believe the local church is the hope of this world."

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 06-182-045-DE

Estate of
DAVID HUIZINGA,
deceased
SSN: 362-74-4842

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, DAVID HUIZINGA, who lived at 4615 Chesterfield NW, Walker, MI 49544, died August 17, 2006.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to RICK FISHER, named personal representative, or to both the probate court at 15730 Northland Dr.,

Cedar Springs, MI 49319, and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

November 8, 2006

Craig Avery
P10311
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HOT FLASHES IN WOMEN - NONHORMONAL OPTIONS

In susceptible women, a hot flash is a warm feeling from the chest up to the head. During a hot flash, you may have a headache or flushed skin, or feel your heart beating faster. You may also start to sweat or feel nauseous or dizzy.

Many women have taken hormones called estrogen and progesterones to help with hot flashes. Recent evidence, however, has shown that these medications may put you at more risk of cancer, stroke and blood clots.

If your doctor informs you that you should not take hormonal medication, you may want to try a nonhormonal preparation to try to dissipate the hot flashes. These medications may help some women, but they are not for everyone.

Some prescription medications that may be effective include several in the anti-depressant class (i.e., Paxil, Effexor). Other nonprescription substances include soy, red clover or black cohosh. Herbal medicines which may help are dong quai, evening primrose oil, ginseng, vitamin E and wild yam. In any event, if you suffer peri or post menopausal hot flashes, discuss possible treatments with your doctor, to see which one would be best for you.

HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY JIM!
Happy 52nd Birthday
Nov. 13 to JIM PERKINS
Hope your day was great!
Brad & Tammy

F.R.O.M. CHRISTMAS BOX DONATIONS

Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc. will be collecting new, unwrapped toys and gifts through December 15, 2006.

Angel Trees or Toy Barrels will be in place at the following locations beginning Friday, November 17:

- Showboat Automotive
- Rite Aid
- Huntington Bank
- Dollar General
- Ionia Co. Nat'l Bank
- Voyages Coffee Shop
- Springrove Variety
- Brenda's Hair Design
- Huntington Bank- West
- Reel Tyme
- Fifth Third Bank
- Englehardt Library

In addition, food will be collected at the movie theater and toys will be collected along the route of the Lowell Christmas Parade on December 2.

Food and gifts can be dropped off at the First United Methodist Church; food on December 14 & toys on December 14 & 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Jackson Street entrance). Food and toys will be distributed on Saturday, December 16. This program provides a helping hand for many area families financially stressed this time of year.

REMEMBER: This program is for our community! If we can be of assistance to your family with food and/or toys, please call the Food Pantry (897-4189) or visit the Thrift Shop to sign up.

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 897-6284 or 485-4195 10am Sunday School; 11am Morning Service; 6pm Evening Service; Wed., 7:30pm Prayer Meeting.</p>	<p>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M.</p> <p>OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p>DAY BIBLE CHAPEL 9305 Centerline, Saranac 897-6332 Worship.....9:45 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M.</p> <p>Nursery & Jr. Church Provided Rev. Frank Lattimore, Pastor "A Nondenominational Ministry With A Blended Word Centered Service!"</p>	<p>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL Rev. Randy Meyers - 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p>	<p>APOSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M. SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M. 119 Lincoln Lake, Lowell Pastor Robert L. Hubbard Phone: (616) 897-1267 website www.aplighthouse.com</p>
<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 Worship Services.....8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.</p> <p>DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Nursery & child care available at both services Barrier - Free Entrance</p>	<p>ALTON BIBLE CHURCH Lincoln Lake Ave. at 3 Mile Road 897-5648 Sunday School.....10:00 A.M. Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M. Evening Praise.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday AWANA.....7:00 P.M. (Sept. - April) Prayer and Bible Study.....7:00 P.M. Pastor Ken Ford (Home) 897-6418 YOU ARE WELCOME!</p>	<p>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God) 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Senior Pastor Dave Noonon, Asst. Pastor John King, Youth Pastor SUNDAYS: Worship: 10:00 a.m. - LIFE Home Groups & "XL" Youth Sunday evenings WEDNESDAYS: Family Night (For All Ages): 7:00 p.m. "XL" Youth: 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Fr. George J. Fekete 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 9:30 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETER WEGING 897-7015 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48, EWIN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>	<p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL (United Church of Christ) 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906 Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Thursday Faith Alive Worship.....7:00 P.M. Dr. Roger LaWare.....Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship</p>
<p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org Sunday School.....9:00 A.M. Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org Rev. David O. Sims & Rev. W. Lee Taylor Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA/CLUB JC.....Wed. 6:15 & 6:30 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 9:45 A.M.Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M.Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery & Children Worship Programs Provided A friend...a family...a mission!</p>	<p>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 201 N. Washington • 897-8800 Sunday School.....9:30 A.M. Morning Worship.....10:40 A.M. Sunday Evening.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday Family Ministry.....7:00 P.M.</p> <p>PASTOR MICHAEL RHODABARGER Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>	

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To The Editor, continued ... From Page 5

teacher; every day I was in his class, he would challenge me to "think outside the box." I remember the first day of class; I was assigned to make a key. On that key I was to write actions that would make my life more successful. I still have that key to success. From being in Mr. Katt's class, I learned that I actually like reading. He brought me into a world I had never known. The discussions we had in that class were phenomenal. I've never had that much fun in English, and I've never done that well in English before either.

the world to me. In his class, I acquired knowledge that I use every day. I will never forget Mr. Bot's lessons.
Otto McNaughton

To The Editor,

I am writing to thank the best teacher I have ever had, Mr. Michaud. Last year, he made sure I passed FST; he would give me all the attention that I needed, and I don't think that I ever truly thanked him enough. One specific moment comes to my mind when I think of Mr. Michaud, and that is last year, I wasn't feeling confident in myself that I was going to pass a difficult test. To make sure that I passed this specific test, he stayed after school with me for at least an hour. Knowing that he would be there and do that for me when I needed him made me realize how wonderful and dedicated a teacher he is. Mr. Michaud being the person he is swayed my opinion into thinking that all teachers will be there to help me; I just have to ask. While still moving on with my math classes, I will never forget the class I shared with Mr. Michaud. Completing his class showed me that I can accomplish anything I set my mind to, and I thank him deeply for always being there.

-Alexis Strouse

To The Editor,

I would like to thank Coach Hoyt for all he has taught me. I used to be his player, but now I am playing varsity;

it would be great if you were to move up and coach varsity - that way you would still be my coach! I remember the first time we won a game; the entire team was glad that we actually did it. I went home and wanted to tell everyone. Most importantly, you taught me all about lacrosse and how to play the game. After you taught me, I knew how to play much better. Overall, thanks for all you've done for me; you have completely changed my life. Because of sports; I have stayed out of trouble.

Matt Brearley

To The Editor,

Dear Mrs. Breuker, In honor of American Education Week, I wanted to take a moment and remember the times I had in class with you. To begin, I was in your 3rd grade class; you were my favorite teacher I have had. I remember one day, you did a magic trick with a string and had me pull on it, but the string broke. Thinking I had broken the string, you somehow managed to put it back together which was cool! I also remember one time we had made Christmas cards. Mine were chosen out of a couple that were made to give to people as actual cards. That's something I still remember. The most important lesson I learned from you is that I can do anything; all I have to do is work at it. Overall, thanks for all you taught me. Thanks for all the memorable times in your 3rd grade class.

Richard Mata

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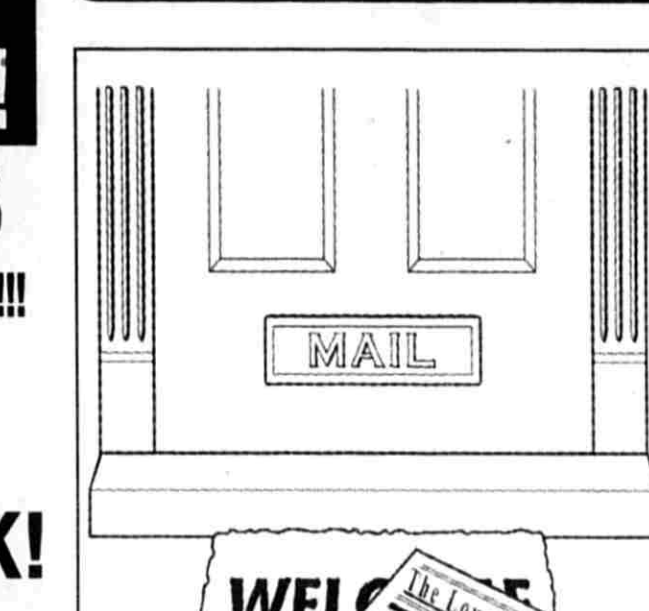
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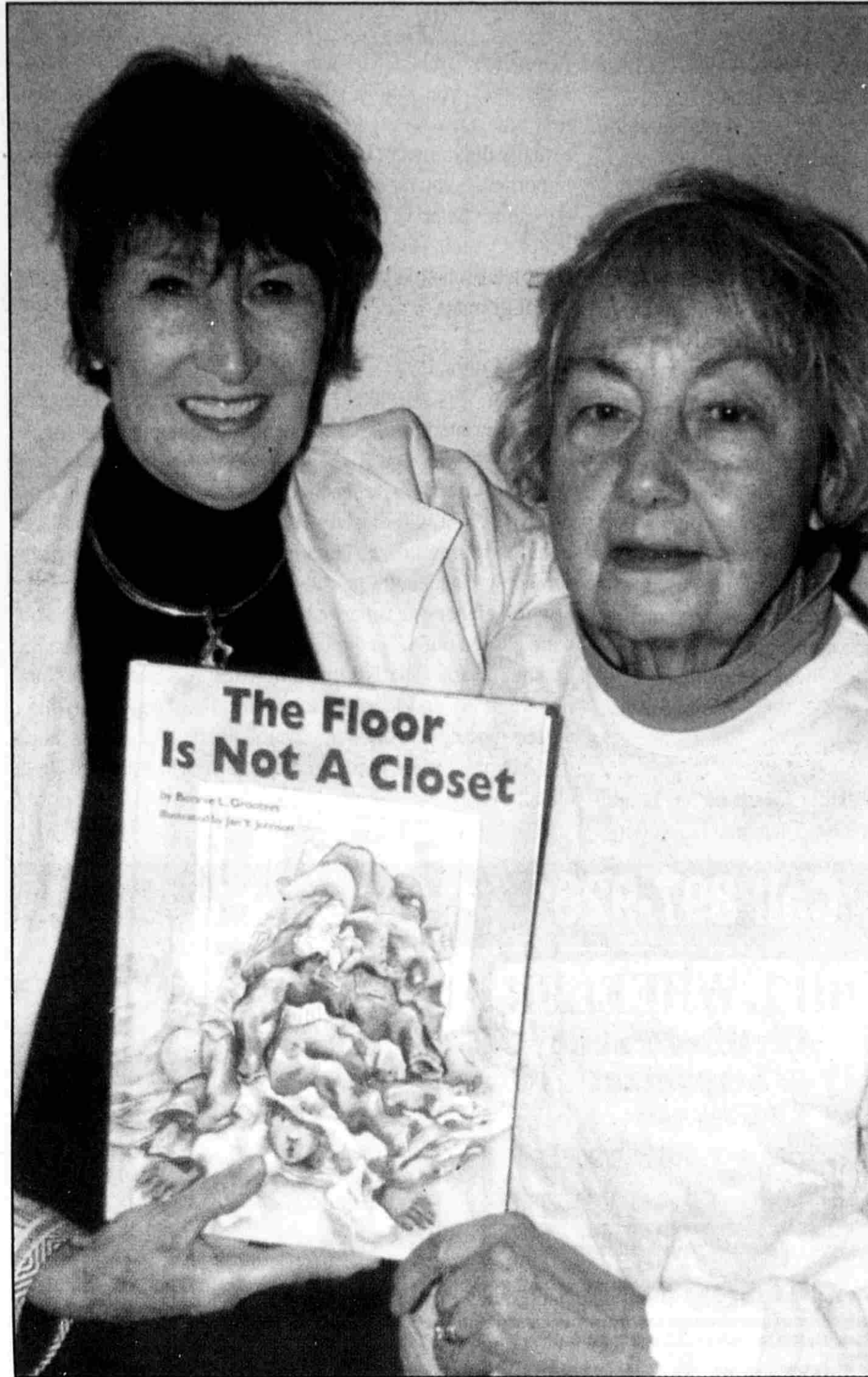


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Bonnie Grooters, left, with her picture book "The Floor Is Not a Closet" and illustrator Jan Johnson.

Local author will hold book signing during Christmas Through Lowell

When Bonnie Grooters finished writing her children's picture book, "The Floor Is Not a Closet," she looked to Jan Johnson to illustrate it. Johnson's background, a graduate of Kendall School of Design, a professional illustrator and her creative watercolor artwork were the ideal combination for this book. Johnson and Grooters are both active members of the Lowell Area Arts Council.

The idea for the book came to Grooters from years of being a landlord in a heavily populated student area. She found that clothes on a bedroom floor are the rule, not the exception. Therefore the book isn't just for kids ... it's for kids of all ages.

Her dad's favorite saying was "A place for everything and everything in its place." A rule she admits she bends.

A limited edition has been printed for the Christmas Through Lowell tour with copies available at First Congregational Church and You Crack Me Up; both are located on Lincoln Lake Ave. Copies will be published by Ex Libris and can be purchased from Amazon.com., Grooters or Johnson. The two will be at the church Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. - noon for signing.

Development, continued ... From Page 4

The proposed project would have amenities such as a community center, a club house, swimming pool, sidewalks, large open space and an on-site sewer system.

"It is family-friendly and pedestrian-minded," said Sanderson. "We're backing homes to green space."

The public roads in the development must be approved by the Kent County Road Commission. Some officials were concerned about long cul-de-sacs in the development that do not adhere to the international fire code.

Other concerns included the look of roof tops of the two-story homes with high visibility off Alden Nash. Sanderson called the project a retro project with narrow lots.

"From a planning and legal point of view, the project is doable," said Wittenbach. "The number of units is an issue. The density has gone up 25 percent. We've never been exposed to anything on this scale."

According to Wittenbach, only 20 home permits were taken out last year.

Sanderson said he would

be willing to scale down the project by eight homes but keep the amenity package. He could make some changes along Vergennes Road.

"I need the number of the units to have the velocity for this project to be successful," he said. "It is financial motivation."

Homes would average \$275,000.

The township board will further discuss the project on Nov. 20 at the regular board meeting. A committee may be set up to meet with the developers and to look at their existing projects in the Kalamazoo area.

Floral design shop offers unique fresh & silk arrangements

By Emma Palova

A new floral and garden design shop in downtown Lowell will offer fresh flowers, appealing arrangements and gifts.

Wildflowers by Wildwood is located inside an 1875 Italianate architectural style building with an uncovered brick wall, tall tin ceiling and hardwood floor.

Charming angels adorn tables and display walls. A large arrangement of silk sunflowers is grouped to look like just-cut flowers from the fields.

The florists have 40 years of combined experience. Mary Rieth, with 20 years, is one of the designers.

"We love the historic downtown area and with Ball's closing doors, we want to have a good quality floral shop in town," said Justin Heyboer, president of Wildwood Landscape, Inc.

Based in Alto, Wildwood Landscape, Inc. is the main company. Both companies offer worldwide delivery through Teleflora.

"We have gifts and styles for every person," said Heyboer. "We are the largest floral shop in town."

What is unique about the shop is that customers can select their own fresh or silk flowers and make their own arrangement, or the designers will customize an arrangement for them.

"We can custom design any type of arrangement," said Heyboer. "We have competitive prices and gifts for all budgets."

And the cooler is always stocked with fresh flowers.

"Our line of products is unique," said Heyboer.

Wildflowers by Wildwood will be part of the Christmas Through Lowell tour, where snacks and

giveaways will be offered.

The shop, located at 214 E. Main Street, has full service delivery to businesses, residences and

other venues. Call 987-4500 to order.

Hours for the new shop are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Wildwood Landscape, Inc. is also a full service

landscape company with a retail center in Whitneyville.



Designer Mary Rieth works on an arrangement at Wildflowers.



Justin Heyboer, president of Wildwood Landscape, Inc.

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- ★ Energy Star Certified!

The Cheshire
1395 Highland Hill Drive

★ Price Reduced to \$155,900!
★ Community Park!!!

- ★ 1597 Square Feet
- ★ 2 Bedrooms
- ★ 1 Bathroom
- ★ Finished L.L. Family Room
- ★ 15' Covered Porch Accessible from Master Bedroom

Cindy Foster will be hosting an Open House at the Avalon in our Highland Hill Community on Sunday, November 19th from 1pm - 4pm. If you'd like a tour of these homes or communities, be sure to stop by! Can't make the Open House? Call Cindy at 292-7522 for your personal tour of these extremely affordable homes!!!

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Airport, continued ... From Page 1

"The Lowell airport has an approach protection area," he said. "It creates a hazard to grow anything into the protection area. It creates liability for the property owners."

Coller said it is MDOT's preference that airports buy air easement rights from property owners to protect the approaches. The other option is to functionally restrict the use of the airport.

Air easements are needed to cut the trees. So far, the airport board has obtained easements from four property owners. According to Coller, all the property owners would have to agree to sell their air easements. The airport is inspected every year.

Coller conducted the last inspection in the spring. At that inspection, he found displaced thresholds at the runway 30 approach that will need attention soon. A threshold is the clear area needed for safe landing observed at a 15-degree glide slope angle. If an obstruction, such as a tree, grows into the threshold, then the threshold has to be displaced. A displaced threshold shortens the

runway, not leaving enough safe landing length.

"As the trees grow taller, you have to displace the threshold," said Dean Peterson, aircraft mechanic. If the trees grow too tall, then MDOT may restrict the use of the runway or revoke the airport's license. The three airport runways have trees at both ends.

"The state and federal agencies have guide lines for safe operations for aircraft at airports," said Howard Van Horn, assistant airport manager for 10 years. "Planes do fly over that development."

Last year, the School of Missionary Aviation Technology flew 1,600 hours or one flight per hour every day.

According to Van Horn, it becomes dangerous when an occasional transit airplane comes in.

"They don't know the conditions with the trees and short narrow runways," said Van Horn. "It is a safety issue for the integrity of the airport."

Van Horn said the airport has not been expanding except for lengthening one runway.

The airport master plan dates back to 1993, and the city has no intention of updating it, said city manager Dave Pasquale.

The Schreurs also contend the airport is seeking general utility status in order to be eligible for grants to expand the airport.

Schreur Jr. said the airport has enough runway length beyond the current displaced threshold.

In another letter submitted to mayor Charles Myers, the Schreurs stated that the runway far exceeds the basic utility status requirements for safe

take-off and landing. "In our opinion the airport is attempting to set the stage for expansion using an incremental approach under the guise of safety," they wrote.

Forstrom Street resident Bob Coffey also submitted a

letter to the council opposing enhancements at the airport.

"I don't mind the current level of air traffic," he wrote. "However, if aircraft were coming and going on a more continuous basis, day and night, it would become a nuisance."

Banquet hall, continued ... From Page 4

cial for alcohol awareness on the premises, all of McKay's servers will be certified for alcohol awareness.

"My food and beverage servers will all be trained in alcohol awareness," he said. "I will be putting trained eyes out there to protect the business and the public. I have too much at risk."

The servers will be trained to recognize different stages of intoxication, from the loss of inhibition to the loss of coordination.

Also, alcohol will be served only to invited guests much like in a private club.

"They have to be a member of a group," he said.

Bailey Drive resident Pete Gustafson was concerned if McKay's business was unsuccessful and a restaurant were to move in.

"By tweaking and converting it to a restaurant we would have traffic seven days a week," he said.



Kent McKay

In that case a new special use permit would have to be approved by the planning commission.

McKay said his business will only generate traffic on Saturdays, and not all at the same time. He estimated the traffic generated from his banquet facility to be 142 vehicles per week in 2007, and 242 by 2010.

"Everyone does not

leave at the same time," he said. "Lincoln Lake can handle the traffic load."

The traffic load on Lincoln Lake is 8,800 vehicles daily compared to 16,000 on Fulton Street (M-21).

According to township consultant Jay Kilpatrick, the proposed special use is consistent with the township master plan.

Sharing The Vision, continued ... From Page 4

time of transition for the district, but will force us to look at our middle school and high school programs as we meet the reform mandated by the State.

The Michigan Merit Curriculum is represented by four core curricular areas, physical education, visual and performing arts. Students will be required to take four credits of mathematics including courses in Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and a credit of math in the student's senior year. Additional graduation requirements will include an online learning experience and world language requirements of 2 credits beginning with the class of 2016.

We will host parent meetings and distribute information as we continue to work towards solutions. If you are looking for more information regarding the high school reform please visit the LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS web site at www.lowellschools.com and click on the corresponding link titled "Parent Info - H.S. Reform."

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



Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold
Edward Jones
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OPENING A SMALL BUSINESS? DON'T GIVE UP FINANCIAL SECURITY

Last year, more than 670,000 businesses opened their doors, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration. In fact, hundreds of thousands of people set up their own shops every single year. If you're considering joining these ranks, you've got a lot to be excited about, and you may be prepared to make large sacrifices to help your business succeed. But there's one sacrifice you don't have to make: your financial security.

Unfortunately, many business owners pour their entire lives' savings into making their new ventures succeed - and that's probably a big mistake. When you start up a business, you are already taking on a degree of risk, but you don't need to jeopardize all your plans for the future.

So, before you launch your business, try to follow these basic guidelines:

- Build an emergency fund. Make sure you keep at least six months' worth of living expenses available in some type of liquid account - one that is completely separate from your business accounts. If you need to pay for a major car repair, buy an expensive appliance or cover a major medical bill, you'll want to be prepared. And if you can't pay for these items, your business will likely suffer, too.

- Review your insurance coverage. Do you have enough life insurance to pay off your home and educate

your children if anything happens to you? If not, you'll want to upgrade your coverage. You also might want to add a mortgage protection benefit to your life insurance policy, so that you can keep up your house payments if you become disabled and can't run your business for a while. Disability insurance may also be valuable, though you'll need to shop around for a reasonably priced policy, as this coverage can be expensive.

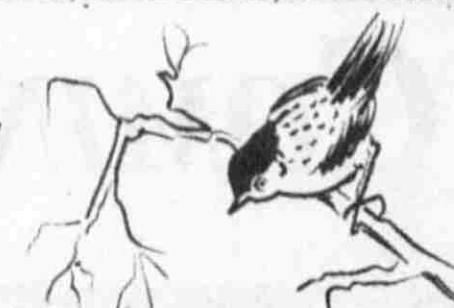
- Set up a retirement plan. If you worked in a large company before striking out on your own, you might have contributed to a 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. But now that you're the business owner yourself, you'll have to set up your own retirement plan. Fortunately, many good plans are available. For example, if your business has no employees except you and your spouse, you can choose a SEP IRA, an "owner-only" 401(k) or an "owner-only" defined benefit plan. If you're going to have employees, you might want to explore a SIMPLE IRA or a "Safe Harbor" 401(k). All these plans have both advantages and limitations; to find the one that's right for you, meet with a financial professional who is experienced in helping small-business owners.

- Choose the correct ownership structure. As a small-business person, you could be a sole proprietor, you could form a partnership or you might set up what's known as an "S corporation." The ownership structure you choose can have a big effect on some important issues, such as whether your health insurance premiums are tax deductible. Consequently, you may want to consult with your tax advisor before making a decision as to which route you will follow.

By following the above suggestions, you should be able to focus more intently on those tasks that can help you grow your business. So, before you make the "jump," plan ahead. You'll be glad you did.

Outdoors

By Dave Stegehuis



THERE'S ALWAYS A WAY

By now the sun had slipped below the horizon and darkness was closing in on the surrounding woods and fields. Flashlights and headlamps illuminated the tangle of brush and tall grass as four men and a young boy searched for the downed whitetail. The search was brief as the deer had traveled only a short distance after being hit by the bolt from a crossbow. The recovery was the culmination of what has become an annual weekend bow hunt for the group.

None of this would be happening, but for the special regulations that allowed our friend John to hunt with a crossbow. After a serious operation on his shoulder, John is unable to draw a conventional bow. In the past, this disability would have meant that John and others with permanent disabilities would have to give up bow hunting. But now, if one has at least 80 percent permanent disability in combination or individual impairment of a hand, elbow or shoulder, it is possible to qualify for a crossbow permit for hunting.

There are additional regulations that assist disabled hunters. These rules address the needs of legally blind hunters, those who are paraplegic, amputees, and others permanently disabled because of disease or injury. These rules allow disabled hunters to use special equipment which would be illegal for able hunters to use. The current Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide includes application procedures for obtaining the special permits.

The physical and emotional challenges of a permanent disability must be trying enough, but to also be forced to give up a highly valued activity like hunting makes it more difficult to pursue a normal lifestyle. For most of us who hunt, hunting is not merely a sport or pastime. It is a significant part of who we are.

Just as important is the fact that John probably would not have been with us at all if he were unable to participate in the hunt. I know that taking a deer is not the only reason John hunts, but his confidence in his new hunting method will surely help motivate him to return to the woods and fields for many more seasons to come. We all look forward to these times. Where there's a will there's always a way.

Lowell High School October Students of the Month

Sapna Patel, a sophomore, and Donald Ward, a sophomore, are the October Students of the Month at Lowell High School.

To be eligible for this honor, a student must be nominated by a teacher. All the nomination forms for the month are reviewed

and voted on at the monthly department chair meeting. The department chairs select two students each month, based on academics, character and work ethic. They receive a \$20 gift card and a certificate. There are 1,328 students eligible for nomination.

Sapna Patel was nominated by Cyndi Gibson, and she writes, "Sapna has been successful in school and in life as a result of her determination and dedication. She is very organized and responsible. She volunteers at the public library and also volunteers to teach kids how to ski."

Donald Ward was nominated by Mike Michaud, and he writes, "Donald has already shown tremendous initiative and

determination. Since the second week of school, Don has attended my seminar to do his homework every day. Don's hard work continues to pay dividends."

College News

Angela Miller, a freshman at Adrian College, participated in the music department's annual Showcase Concert last Saturday. She plays flute in the concert band and was one of more than 150 student

musicians who performed. Miller is a 2006 graduate of Lowell High School.

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COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

THURS., NOV. 16: Bushnell/Cherry Creek Math Parent meeting at Cherry Creek Elem. 6:20 p.m. registration; 6:30 grade level meeting begins. Call Bushnell 987-2650/Cherry Creek 987-2700 to register.

NOV. 17-19: Christmas Through Lowell. Call chamber 897-9161 for info.; maps, pamphlets at Lowell Ledger.

SAT., NOV. 18: Good News Community, "Big Event" at Deer Run Golf, 6 p.m.-12 a.m. \$27/ person. 363-0270.

MON., NOV. 20: Lowell Music Booster meeting in Lowell Middle School band room at 7 p.m.

TUES., NOV. 21: Traveling Breakfast "Breakfast Nook" 8:30 a.m. Lowell Senior Neighbors.

WED., NOV. 22: Movie at Center 12:45 p.m. Lowell

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, 3116 Alden Nash S.E. 7 p.m.

2ND MON.: Lowell Board of Education meets at 7 p.m. in Administration Building, 300 High Street.

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

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

3RD MON.: Peripheral Neuropathy support group, 7 p.m. at Schneider Manor Community Room. Will resume Sept 18.

3RD MON.: Lowell Showboat Garden Club, Fellowship Hall at 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.: Lowell Area Juggling Club, in Community room, Englehardt Library, 6:30 - 8, 12 or older. Call 897-9879.

MON., TUES., THURS.: Alpha Women's Center, 2251 W. Main. Call 987-9533 for appt./open Mon. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tu. 6-9 p.m., Th. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Diapers, formula and clothing.

EVERY MON: Women of Grace study series, St. Mary Church, 402 Amity, 7:30 - 9 p.m. Cheryl 868-6204.

EVERY MON.: Women for Sobriety, 7-8 p.m. Bowne Center United Methodist Church, 84th & Alden Nash. Call Sue 868-6219; www.womenforsobriety.org.

TUESDAYS

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

Cub Scout Pack 3188 at 1st United Methodist Church 621 E. Main St. 6:30 p.m. Call Bruce Doll, cubmaster at 304-0082.

Weight Watchers, Alto United Methodist Church, Kirby & Harrison, 5:30 p.m. Reg. 1/2 hr. 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/preschool story hour/craft time 9:45-11:15 a.m./women only at 7:15 p.m. Calvary Christian Reformed Church. 897-7060 or 897-7555.

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

2ND TUES.: Diabetic Support group, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Schneider Manor Community Rm., 725 Bowes Rd. 897-2760 or 897-9160.

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

Senior Neighbors.

THURS., NOV. 30: Noelle's for lunch 11 a.m. Lowell Senior Neighbors.

FRI., DEC. 1: Lowell Institute for Volunteer Leadership is accepting applications for the 2007 training session. Deadline is Dec. 1. Call Liz at 897-9161 for details.

MON., DEC. 4: Athletic Boosters regular business meeting in LHS staff lounge, 7 p.m.

THURS., DEC. 7: Vergennes Co-op Club Christmas dinner at Schneider Manor activities room, 12 p.m. punch bowl; 12:30 dinner. Surprise program. Gifts of paper products or food to FROM.

TUESDAYS

1ST & 3RD TUES.: Lowell Lions Club, 12 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce, 113 Riverwalk Plaza. 897-5449 for information.

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

2ND TUES.: Doric chapter #75, Order of Eastern Star 6:30 dinner, 7:30 p.m. regular meeting, 211 E Main, Belding.

2ND & 3RD TUES.: Qua-Ke-Zik Sportsman's Club, 8731 West Riverside Dr., 8 p.m. www.qua-ke-zik.org.

2ND & 4TH TUES.: MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers meets at Impact Church, 1069 Lincoln Lake, 9:15 - 11:30. 897-8304.

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. No cost.

TUES./THURS.: Back to Basics Closed AA meetings at 1st Congregational Church, 404 N. Hudson. 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking.

EVERY TUES.: Women of Grace study series, St. Mary Church, 402 Amity St., 9:15 - 10:45 a.m. Beth 897-5771.

WEDNESDAYS

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

8 p.m. ALANON upstairs at new 1st Congregational Church, 865 Lincoln Lake S.E. enter north parking lot, side door.

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

1ST WED.: GR/W. Mich. Scrabble Club at Schuler's Bookstore, 28th St. 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. walk-ins welcome. Jan 897-5759.

2ND WED.: Lowell Area Trailway, 6 p.m. alternate locations. Call Mari Stone 897-5671 or www.lowellareatrailway.org.

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

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

2ND WED.: Lowell Women's Club, 11:45 a.m. in Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd.

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

3RD WED.: GR/W. Mich. Scrabble Club at Schuler's Bookstore, 28th SE 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. walk-ins. Jan 897-5759.

3RD WED.: Alzheimer's Assoc. of West Mich. support group at Fountain View of Lowell, 11535 E. Fulton, 1 p.m. 897-8413.

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.

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: 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: 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 Wed.-Fri. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 519 E. Main St. Call 897-2037.

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: 5:30-7:30 p.m. 897-9393.

EVERY THURS.: Alpha Women's Center, 2251 W. Main. 987-9533, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Diapers, formula, clothing. Or by appointment

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 on Alden Nash S. at 7 p.m.

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

2ND & 4TH THURS.: GR/W. Michigan Scrabble Club, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Round Robin, bring your board, all levels, walk-ins are welcome. Call Jan 897-5759 for location and more information.

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

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

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

FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY

2ND & 4TH FRI.: Teen MOPS support group for pregnant teens/teen moms, 9:15-11:30 a.m. at Impact Church, 1070 N. Hudson. 897-8304.

FRI.: Arts/Crafts volunteers, Franciscan Life Process Center, 9:30-12:30 p.m. Call Pat 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.

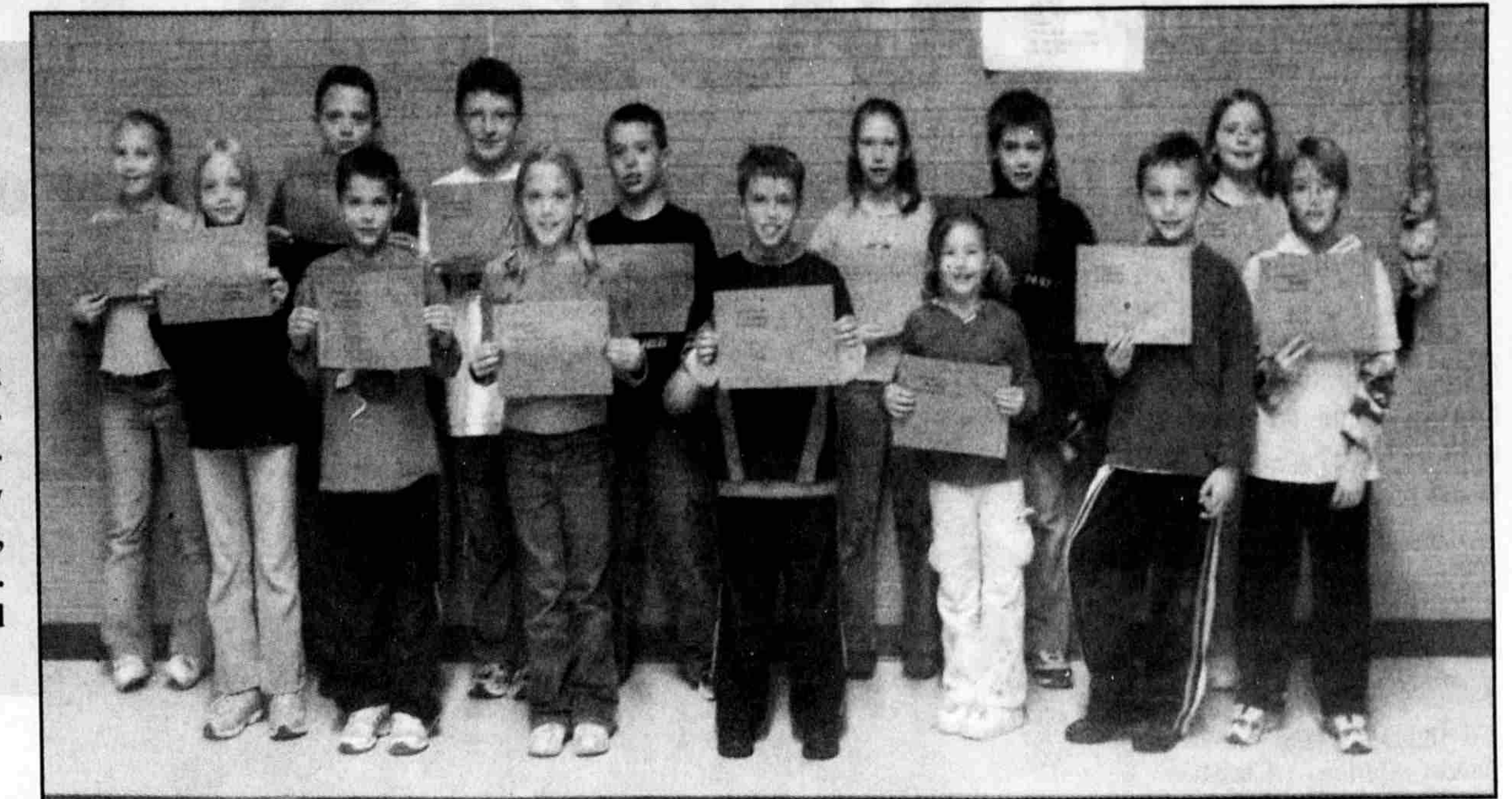
FRI., SAT. & SUN.: Averill Historical Museum of Ada, located at 7144 Headley. Hours are 1-4 p.m. or by appointment. Call 676-9346.

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

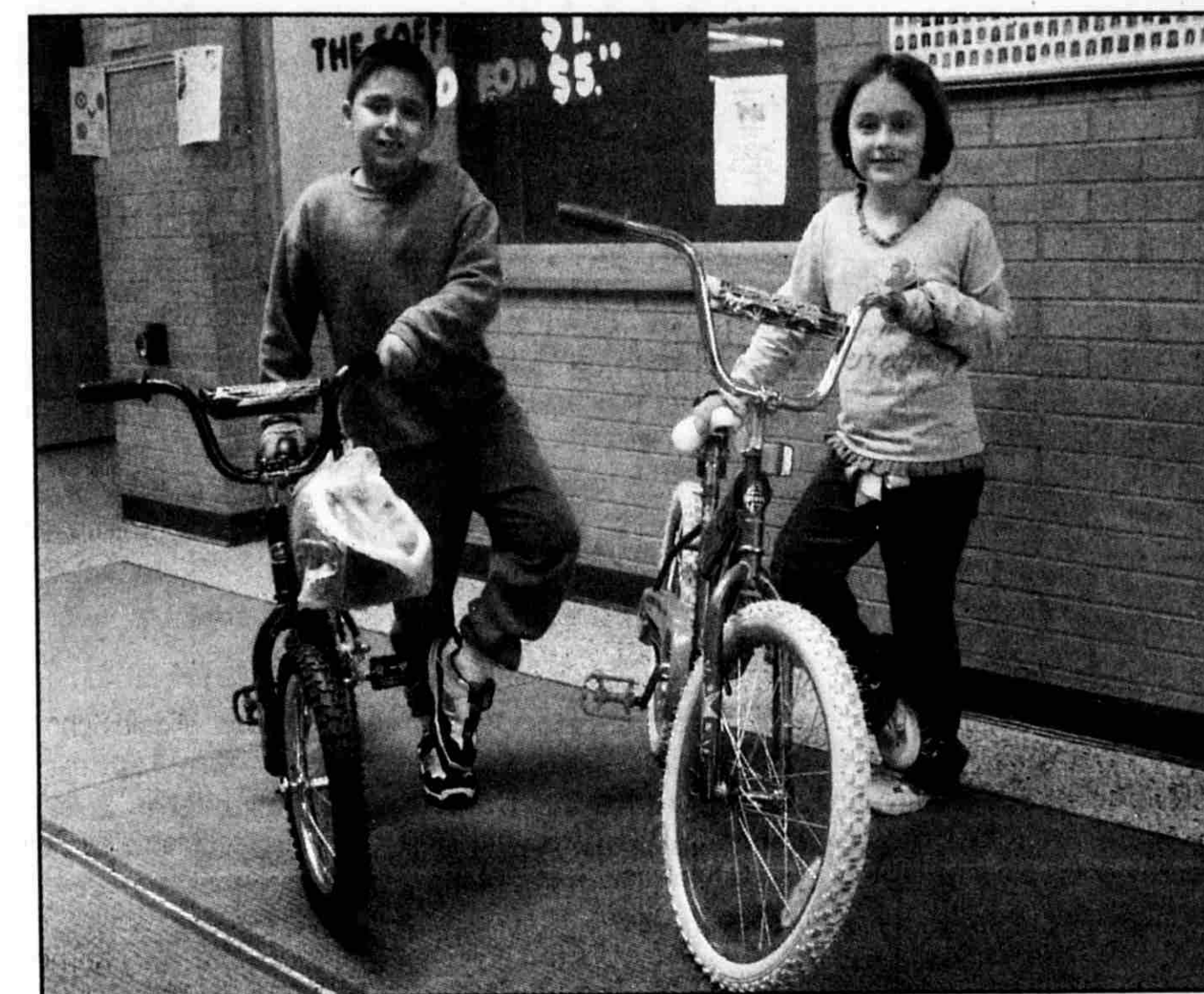
Accelerated reading at Alto Elementary

Alto Elementary students were issued Accelerated Reading (AR) certificates for the month of October. Points are earned when taking quizzes on books they read. For every 10 points earned, the student's name is entered into a drawing for a Meijer \$10 gift card. October had 16 students with over 10 points; two of them had 50 points!

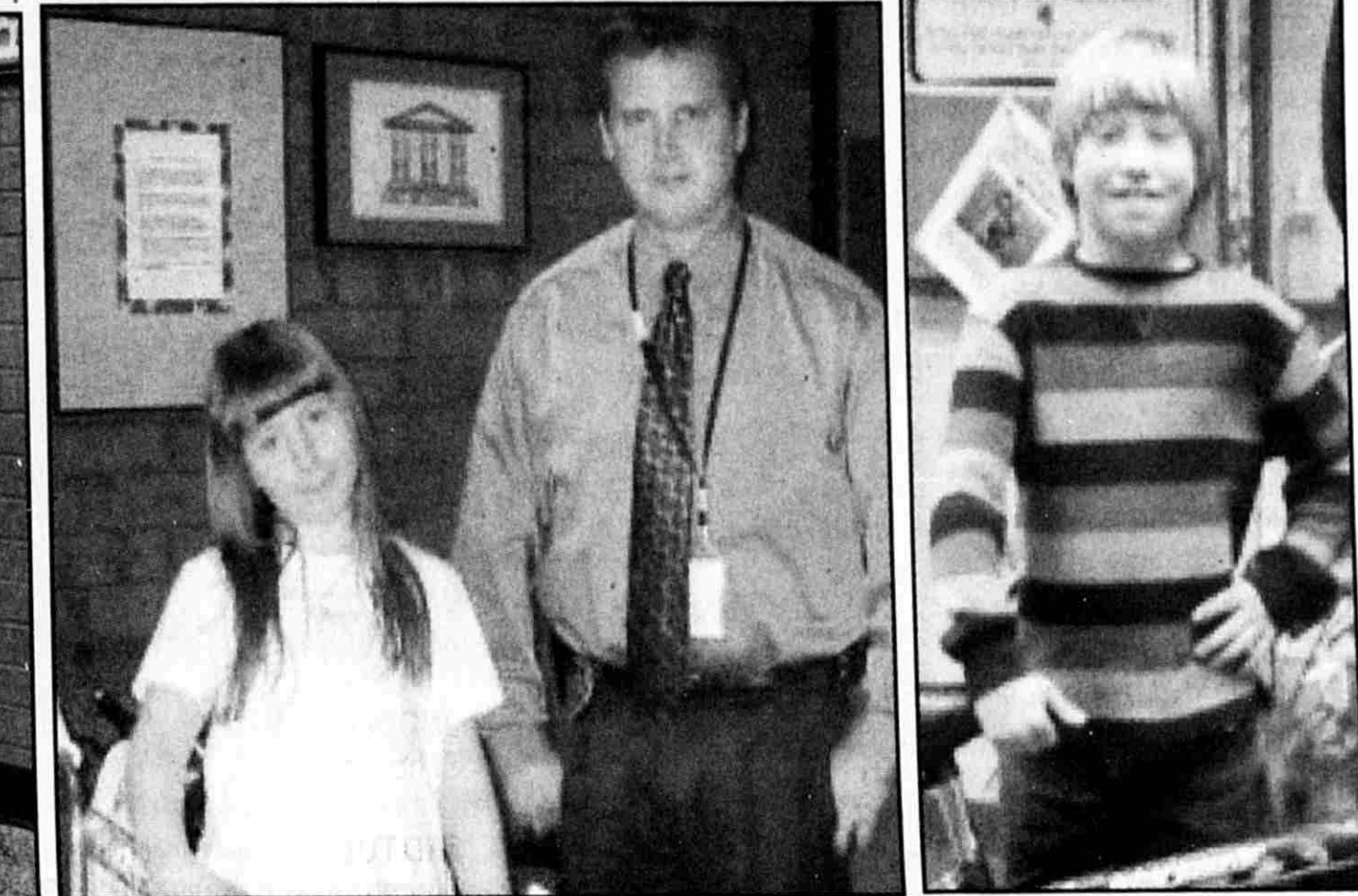
The following Alto students are winners: back row, left to right, are Tess Richardson, Mason Himebaugh, Josh Branagan, Kyle Potter, Sadie Richardson, Nick Longway and Marissa Sterzick; front row are Maria Blough, Ryan Stevens, Braylin Conner, Alex Bohr, Jenna Bessey, Austin Rife and Sage Moore. Not available for the photo were Ryan Hessler and Tess Chapin.



Alto and Cherry Creek elementaries announce bicycle winners



Alto Elementary students Michaela Duursma and Josiah Racine were the lucky winners of the DARE bike raffle. Two bikes, one a girl's and one a boy's, were anonymously donated to the school to help raise money for the DARE program.



Cherry Creek Elementary students, Rebecca Hall, left, and Dylan Odland, far right, were the lucky winners of new bikes. Officer Steve Bukala coordinated a raffle to raise funds for the fifth grade D.A.R.E. program. The bikes were donated from Meijer.



Get ready for the heating months by checking carbon monoxide levels

As the heating season begins, Consumers Energy urges customers to protect themselves against carbon monoxide (CO), a toxic gas that is colorless, odorless and tasteless, and can be produced when home appliances aren't operating or venting properly. Carbon monoxide poisoning is caused by the incomplete combustion of fuels including oil, propane, natural gas, coal, wood, kerosene, gasoline, diesel fuel and charcoal. Deadly amounts of carbon monoxide can be produced by defective or poorly vented appliances that use these fuels such as furnaces, fireplaces and wood stoves, as well as generators and vehicles. It has been reported to contribute to more than 2,000 poisoning deaths every year in the United States. Symptoms of CO poisoning often resemble those of the flu, and include headaches, nausea, fatigue, dizziness, shortness of breath, and stinging or burning of the eyes. Prolonged exposure can cause disorientation, convulsions, unconsciousness and death. A good defense against carbon monoxide problems is an audible carbon monoxide detector that meets or exceeds Underwriters Laboratory standards and will sound if dangerous levels of CO are present in a home or building. Underwriters Laboratory and manufacturers also recommend that any detector be replaced when its warranty expires. Most CO detectors have a one-to-five year warranty. Another way to protect against carbon monoxide poisoning is to make sure all fuel-burning appliances are properly installed and maintained. Furnaces should be cleaned and inspected annually by a qualified technician. Finally, venting on furnaces, water heaters and chimneys should be inspected periodically to be sure that animal nests or other debris do not interfere with proper ventilation. For more information call 1-800-500-6565 or visit www.consumersenergy.com.



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RED ARROW SPORTS



Equestrian team District 5 awards banquet officially ends season

Submitted by Mary Slatten

Lowell High School's 2006 equestrian team brought home three more trophies last Thursday at the District 5 Awards Banquet.

Individual Certificates of Recognition were awarded to the six seniors who have shared their varied riding skills on the team over the last four years: Jess Bouman, Randi Drier, Christian Koning, Lisa Nugent, Ashley VanSprosen and Kara Wilcox.

The following A-team riders earned recognition: April Wolf won the High Point Reserve Award in the Speed Division; Jess Bouman received the Overall High Point Grand Award; and Kara Wilcox was honored with the High Point Reserve Award.

B-team riders earning honors were Brooke Mellema who was given the High Point Grand Award and Katie Jousma who received High Point Reserve Award.

The following C-team riders were honored: Leigha Frisbie with the High Point Grand Award and speed rider Sara Fosburg for the High Point Reserve Award.

The Lowell riding team, coached by Mike and Linda Foote, Kathie VanEns and Mary Wolf, consisted of A-team: Jess Bouman,



District V Champions - A Division, back row, left to right, are: April Wolf, Ashley VanSprosen, Jess Bowman, Miranda Drier, Amy VanEns, Kourtney Wittenbach, Jennie Reeser; front row are: Rachelle Wilcox, Amber Waldron, Cara Wilcox, Andrea Kulhawik, Hanna Hudgens, Jessi Meyers. Not pictured are: Karlye Ordway, Christian Koning, Ashton VanderWarf, Maranda Rueggeger.

Randi Drier, Hanna VanderWarf, Amy VanEns, Hudgens, Christian Koning, Ashley VanSprosen, Andrea Kulhawik, Jessi Amber Waldron, Kourtney Meyers, Karlye Ordway, Jennie Reeser, Maranda B-team: Cassie Balfour, Rueggeger, Ashton Kari Bergy, Sarah Buist,

Nick Drake, Gina Giuliano, C-team: Ian Blodger, Blodger, Mikhaila Hart, Katie Jousma, Julie Brittany Devon, Sara Kirsten Mork, Makenzie Marsman, Brooke Mellema, Fosburg, Leigha Frisbie, Lisa Nugent, and Katelyn and Kelsey Langlois. And our helpful groomers: Audrey Schramm.

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RED ARROW SPORTS



Coach Crowley not concerned with late-season loss

District championship within reach

By Justin Swan

"It was a hard fought game." And Lowell girls basketball coach Dee Crowley will leave it at that. Following Lowell's 45-38 loss to Tri-Unity Christian during last week's O-K Green crossover match, a defeat that ended the Lady Red Arrows' season-long win streak at 15, Crowley has simply put the outcome behind her, and will draw from the positives as her squad enters the playoffs.

"I discovered that we

can play with one of the most talented teams in the state," Crowley said. "The loss doesn't concern me. I thought of it as a great preparation game and we played at a very high level. It's just a matter of being consistent with that high level of play throughout the (post-season)."

And while her team's luck may have run out late in the fourth quarter last Thursday, it quickly reprised itself during the selection process for this week's District

Tournament at Greenville High School, where Lowell earned a first round bye, meaning they'll begin post-season play on Wednesday.

"Just the luck of the draw," Crowley said. "We now have Monday and Tuesday, two good, hard days of practice to get ready for Wednesday."

Lowell will open against Forest Hills Central, a team they beat twice this season.

"The thing we talk about before every game is defense and rebounding,"

Crowley said. "We want to make sure we're defending and that we rebound on both ends of the court."

"We have six experienced players and all are leaders in their own way," she added. "They all have the experience of playing in big games and have the ability to encourage the team and be leaders on the court."

Of those six, five were recognized by the O-K White after being selected to the All-Conference team last week. Seniors Brittany

Bueche, Kelsey Crowley and Brittany Lyman, along with junior Chelsea Harrison were each named members of the 2006 All-Conference Team, with senior Lindsey Trierweiler recognized as an Honorable Mention.

"I would love to have gotten six selected as All-Conference players, but that's asking a lot when there's seven teams in there and only 15 girls get honored," Crowley said. "You can't be too greedy."

A thought that may prove noteworthy if the girls can spark another win streak beginning Wednesday. To be crowned District champs the Lady Red Arrows will need two wins in Greenville. An additional two would earn them a regional championship before heading to Lansing for the state quarterfinals, before the semifinal round and finals at the Breslin Center in East Lansing.

Boys basketball gearing up for an exciting season

By Justin Swan

It's darker than you'd expect at 6 a.m.; and colder. Even in November when it's always cold, there's a noticeable chill during those awkward morning hours just between sleep o'clock and your morning coffee. It's the one hour of the day when most can't even conjure up enough cognitive motivation to butter their toast, let alone run the outlet during a three-man weave.

"The timing has got to be perfect," Lowell basketball coach Jeff McDonald instructs over the squeaks and dribbles of Monday's basketball tryouts. "Next five guys, do it again. Get to the middle. Good. Again, next five."

In fact, if you take a hard look at Lowell's boys basketball program, you'll notice it's all about timing these days. Or maybe it's just about Lowell waking up to basketball in general. It wasn't long ago when you'd be hard pressed to find this much basketball talent, in this gym, all at the same time. But in the past, boys basketball hasn't mattered much. Fact is it's been 29 years since boys basketball has mattered. At least if those white and red banners that hang above this day's tryouts are any indication.

Words like Wrestling and Equestrian and Football, when followed by other words like State Championships sketch across those white banners, mean a lot to a lot of people around here. McDonald understands that, which makes this morning's basketball tryouts that much more important.

"We've never had a structured program here where we've aligned ourselves through some kind of consistency," McDonald said. "Consistent terminology and consistency in developing relationships with young kids - that's what's important."

For McDonald it started five years ago when he was hired to fix a wavering boys basketball program that hadn't produced a title of any kind since 1978. But today, through a youth program that emphasizes teaching simple basketball fundamentals to kids in kindergarten through sixth grade, McDonald, along with other coaches, parents and "people who just love basketball," have helped hundreds of youngsters become more familiar with the game.

"On Saturday mornings we have three gyms in Lowell filled with kids playing basketball," McDonald said. "It's exciting, it's cool because no matter what happens on Friday night - it can be a great win or a tough loss - at 6 a.m. the next day, kids are in those gyms, excited and ready to play."

"Shoes are squeaking, balls are bouncing, kids are high-fiving each other, learning how to play basketball. It's great to see."

As simple as it sounds, building a foundation behind a program that's under-achieved for so many years isn't easy. But it's not like they're teaching Greek to a bunch of talking Geckos.

For one, basketball isn't exactly new to Lowell. The girls program has been putting up titles since Stella's mom got her groove back.

The difficulty, rather, lies in selling a rebuilt program to a fan base and community that has few traditions in boys basketball, and which is locked up whole-heartedly in other sports venues. This is why the added effort behind this year's prospective team has been so important to McDonald, which goes back to the beginning of the school year.

"There are guys who have been here four or five days a week since Sept. I working on their skills," McDonald says. "I don't demand that ... they come in if they want. They're a competitive group and they've been working their butts off every morning at 6:45 a.m. in the gym this fall."

Even this year's players are recognizing a change in the atmosphere around the program as a whole. Most of those 14 young men hoping to make it past Wednesday's cuts have been together since the program began in 2002.

"When coach first started here we weren't competitive at all," said senior Justin Hardin. "Now we take East Grand Rapids to the wire, we take teams to the wire."

"I've been through this a few years already," added senior Colin Rich. "I've played basketball with (Hardin) for five years now so I have a good idea of what he's going to be doing."

The chemistry between Hardin and Rich should prove useful to McDonald as he prepares for a difficult schedule this season in the O-K White. East Grand Rapids, last year's State Runner-Up, will return three starters - all of which will be

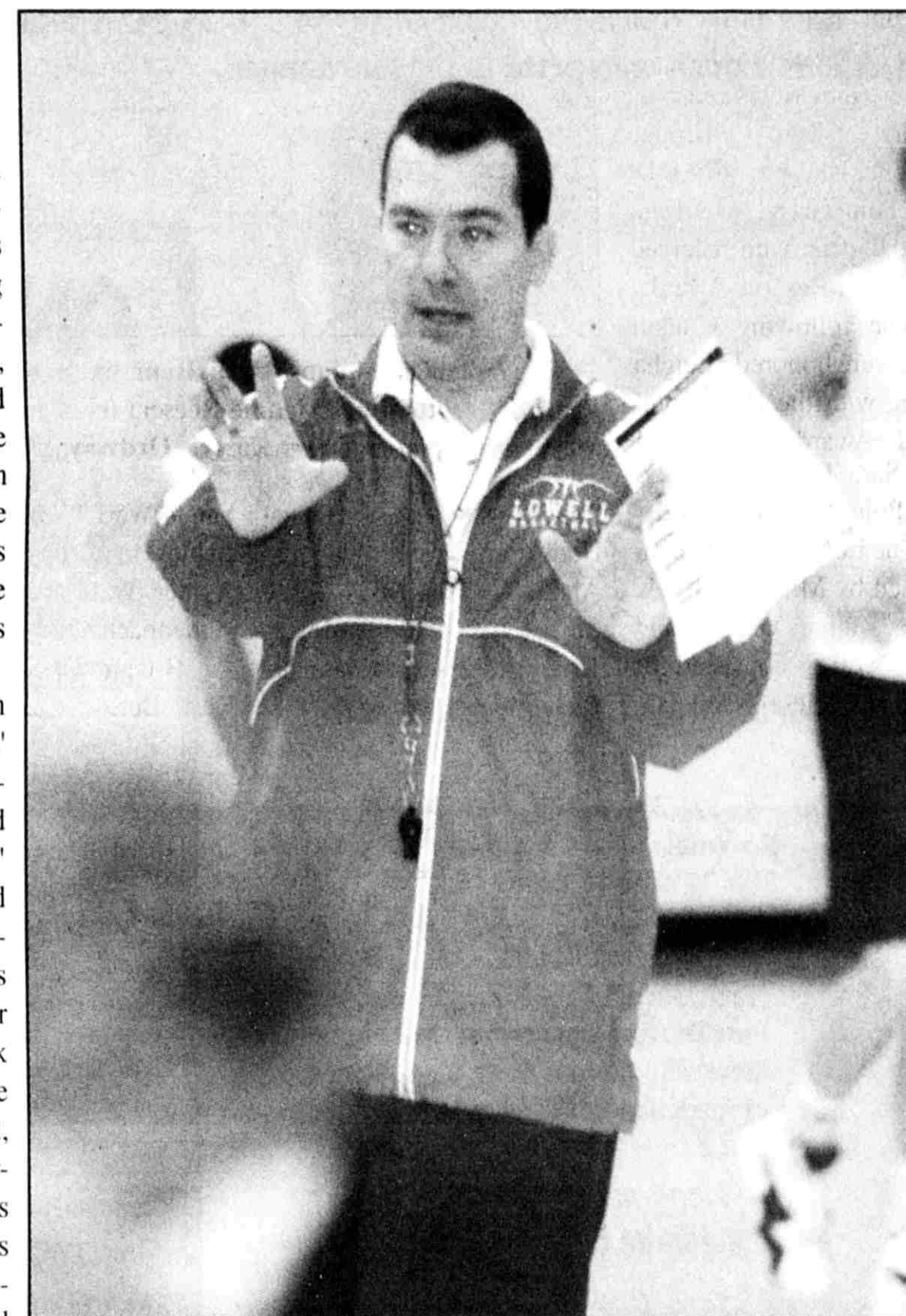
headed to Division I schools next fall. And with some up-and-comers remaining in the conference, McDonald hopes the competition won't dilute the efforts made at the grass roots level.

"On paper, 'East' is in really good shape," McDonald said. "Kenowa Hills has four starters back so they'll be really good, and Forest Hills Central has some really talented kids, so those three teams can put some talent on the floor."

"It's funny because if you look at our schedule from last year we had 11 losses," McDonald added. "Eight of those teams won a district championship last year. It's just amazing, but we pride ourselves on our schedule."

And while the schedule will highlight some exciting match-ups this season, one of the first things McDonald noticed was a lack of height in his players, which could spell for some defensive shortcomings.

"You have to turn your weakness into a strength,"



Coach Jeff McDonald enters his fifth season as head coach, and hopes his program will continue to grow.

McDonald said. "We might not match up well defensively, but on the offensive side we can stretch the floor. Other teams may have trouble bringing a forward out to defend one of our guards who can shoot the ball, or just go by him."

"Everything in this world is give and take and certainly we've got basketball players out here with some skills."

And even if those skills don't turn into wins immediately, the mentality and tradition can be recognized through the leadership exuding from those early risers on Monday morning.

Through those 14 guys who bought into the system, and showed up ready to run 6 a.m. suicides on a cold November morning, it's just a glimpse into what McDonald hopes will continue to grow.

And while their talents may not earn them one of the fancy white banners, their determination may earn them some ink on the red banners.

"It's about having energy, about being loud in the gym, getting everyone working hard. And that's our motivation right there," Hardin said, pointing to the empty Boys Basketball banner. "1978."

Correction
In last week's edition of the Lowell Ledger, in the article titled "Lowell soccer yields honors for junior player Abdo," it should have said Nick Abdo was third team all-state and Chris Barlow was honorable mention all-state.

Tournament champs



The seventh and eighth grade girls basketball team from St. Patrick School is the Invitational Tournament Champions. They defeated Holy Spirit the weekend of Nov. 4, 38-34. A total of eight Catholic schools competed in the tournament.

Sound Off

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Brief, "Sound Off" comments are always welcome but will be, at times, edited for content and length. All comments are submitted by the public and do not necessarily represent the views of the Ledger. Feel free to sign your comment. For more lengthy views please consider a letter "To The Editor".

Get the lead out: the Boy Scout property was a shooting range for many years. Is the land now lead-free?

Lowell Middle School Counselors are the best! Keep up the good work! We love you!

We love you Black Cats! Congratulations on your success in Europe - can't wait to see you here in Lowell!

Red Arrows, you guys rock. Thanks for such a fabulous season. We love you!!



Can you please remove the political trash that is littering our landscape? If you put it out, take it down.

When you visit our lovely Key Heights community, we ask that you honor our 10 mph speed limit.

Want to know how your middle school and high schooler is doing academically? Check out the K12 Planet website daily. You'll know everything!

Nice job on the Christmas Through Lowell decorations.

I still think the cops are afraid of the truck drivers and the kids and they pick on the old people.

To the man in the green Dodge Dakota - you handled this hot head real well.

Thank you so much for burning leaves at the end of Bowes Rd. I had to go to my allergist.

During education week let's all give a big thanks to our school employees.

Great job and a big thanks to the caterer for the wonderful food.

The LMS Kitchen staff is awesome! They really care about kids! When a student has a problem they go out of their way to help. Pat and Laurie - you're the best!

To the person that has a problem with customer service - It's too bad you were there then but the store has stuff it has to get done too.

Congrats to the Lowell Football Team and Mr. Dean for a magnificent effort at the game. Lowell will always cheer you on.

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APPLIANCES - Refrigerators, stoves, washers & dryers. Reconditioned & warranted from \$69. Delivery available. Dennis Distributing, 315 N. Lansing, St. Johns, 989-224-4822.

FOR SALE - Ski-Doo 1998 Mach Z 800 triple, only 800 miles, 1 owner. Serious inquiries. Call 616-460-6634.

I BUY FURNITURE, APPLIANCES - (good shape). 989-224-1297.

BED A VISCO TEMPUR-PEDIC - style mattress set. Total support, relieves back pain. 20-year warranty. Store price \$1899, will sell \$899. Never used. 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160. Can deliver.

1998 JEEP CHEROKEE - 4x4, 4 door, Limited, red, new tires, loaded, \$6,500. 897-1597 or 745-2161.

AIR BED - Selecta comfort firmness for each of you. Harmony 5000 pillowtop set. Dual chambers. Digital number remote. Never used. Mall price \$1799, sell \$1099. 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160.

KENMORE SIDE X SIDE REFRIGERATOR - ice and water in the door. Call 897-8306.

BED - A new king pillowtop mattress, with warranty, must sell. \$175. Call 616-949-2683. Can deliver.

FOR SALE - Carhart bibs, size 18 - 20, brand new, \$30; paintball gun, used twice, \$30; Universal steering wheel for PlayStation, X-Box & Game Cube, used once, \$40. Call 897-7785.

BEDS * BEDS * BEDS - Yearend closeout "Sale". All 2006 styles must go at reduced prices. All sizes. Large selection. No bait & switch fake pillowtops or used hotel. 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160. Can deliver.

LOWELL ROTARY CLUB IS SELLING HOLIDAY GIFT PACKS - For \$12.50. See any Rotary member or they are available at Fifth Third Bank, ICNB, Huntington Bank, City Hall, Cousins, State Farm, Lowell Area Arts Council, Bernard's & Springrove.

2007 ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS - are available by Lowell Women's Club. Only \$25 each & are good through Oct. of 2007. They can be purchased at Brenda's Hair Designs, Huntington Bank, by club members or Marj at 897-8107. Proceeds go toward senior girls scholarships & local projects.

AMERICAN GIRL DOLL CLOTHES - homemade. Outfits \$10 & under. Come see my clothes at Vergennes Church on Bailey Dr. Nov. 17 & 18 or call 642-6097.

FOR SALE - Pickup cap off full size '94 Dodge. Fiberglass, great condition, grey, \$200 obo. Call 897-6765 leave message.

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT - 1301 Bowes Rd., Lowell. Call 897-4123.

APARTMENT FOR RENT - one bedroom, in Lowell, includes gas, electric, water & trash; has A/C, coin washer & dryer, possible cable TV, \$150/week. Call 299-3198.

SARANAC - for rent, 1 bedroom upper. Utilities included, \$425/month plus deposit. Call 616-890-2594.

HOUSE RENTAL - Murray Lake - 2 bedroom walkout, lg. garage with heated workshop. Best view on the lake! 866-4913 or 866-2748.

FOR RENT - 1 br, 1 ba upper apt. A/C & trash pickup. \$450/mo. plus utilities. \$300 deposit. No smoking, no pets. 897-4829.

GARAGE SALE - 210 Marsac, Lowell. Nov. 17-18, 8 to 5. Military stuff, tools, Indian pottery, Indian pictures, coins, glassware, everything cheap, brass candle holders. Free table. Heated garage.

FOR RENT - 1 br, 1 ba upper apt. A/C & trash pickup. \$450/mo. plus utilities. \$300 deposit. No smoking, no pets. 897-4829.

COZY - 3 bedroom, 1 bath home in Lowell, 713 N Washington. Lots of storage room, \$775 plus utilities. Call 897-9357 or 648-5533.

BUYING OR SELLING YOUR HOME? - www.robertrealty.net.

LOWELL - \$500 moves you in. 1 bdrm 1.5 bath - 2 bdrm 2 bath, washer/dryer hookups, air, garage, cathedral ceilings, \$650-675/month. Stoneridge Apts. 1-866-443-3098. www.wrpmonline.com.

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

AVAILABLE JAN. 1ST - upstairs 1 bedroom apt. in Lowell, \$650 includes utilities. Call 897-7176.

FOR RENT - Available December 1st, nice 2 bedroom home in great Lowell neighborhood. \$780 per month plus \$500 security deposit. Pets okay on approval. Call 897-2033.

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

HOUSE FOR RENT - short term lease through May 15, 2007. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, ranch on 3 country acres. All new flooring. \$800. Call 897-0686.

FOR RENT - 2 bedroom mobile home with 2 stall garage on 1/2 acre. Quiet country setting, 10 minutes from Lowell. No pets. \$550/month plus deposit. Call 987-9374 after 5 p.m.

FOR RENT - Lowell Veterans Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.

BRAND AUDITORS - Get paid for evaluating customer service in Ionia. Must have email. Visit second-to-none.com to complete a free application.

WANTED ENTHUSIASTIC PERSON - to make appointments for sales rep. Flexible hours, approx. 10/week, \$7 per hour + bonuses. Call Sarah, 897-8909.

RESIDENT AIDE/CNA - Need flexible, experienced person to assist residents in an elegant retirement community 24-40 hours per week. Call 616-957-9767 Mon.-Fri. 10am - 5pm for more information.

PART TIME MAINTENANCE/HANDY PERSON NEEDED - must enjoy a wide range of duties to help maintain a wonderful assisted living facility. Please apply at Fountain View of Lowell, 11535 E. Fulton, Lowell (look for the blue canopy) Mon-Fri 8:30am - 4:30pm.

PRODUCTION EMPLOYEE - Steel Processing company is seeking individuals with good work ethic, able to read micrometer, work in multiple departments in an industrial setting. Excellent health insurance, dental, 401(k). Apply in person at: Michigan Wire Processing Co., 2487 W. Main St., Lowell, MI 49331.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS BEEN DENIED? - Employer or state stopping your benefits? For information, help protesting & possible Free representation, call 1-800-305-2899.

LOST

LOST DOG - black & white Border Collie, Lincoln Lake & McPherson area. 862-8293.

LOST DOG - black & white Border collie. Please call 616-885-3109. Reward.

PERSONALS

YOUR SIGN IS DONE - I lost your phone number. Call Bill 897-0064.

EVENTS

LOWELL MOPS 2ND ANNUAL 2-DAY CRAFT SHOW - Nov. 17, 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. & Nov. 18, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. 1069 N. Hudson, Impact Church. Crafts, baked goods & more!

DANCE YOURSELF THIN OPEN HOUSE PREVIEW - 6:30 - 10 a.m. & 2:30 - 6 p.m. Nov. 13 - Nov. 26 at RollAway, 805 E. Main, Lowell, 897-0001.

SOUND OFF PHONE LINE 897-0787

D.M. MOORE FINE HARDWOOD FLOOR REFINISHING & INSTALLATIONS - Over 25 years experience. Highest quality guaranteed. See www.dnmoore.com or call 616-802-0120 for unsurpassed 2006 Fall Specials.

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ZOOLAND DAYCARE - Full-time & part-time openings for 1st & 2nd shifts. All ages and special needs children accepted. Call for more information or to schedule an interview. 897-8386 or 308-0195.

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

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HOLIDAY SPECIAL - Have your dining room chairs reglued for \$35.00 each and receive FREE pickup and delivery, save \$25.00. Call Bob at Heritage Furniture Restoration, 616-868-1220.

SEPTIC CLEANING - Call Rudd's Septic Service for all your septic needs. 897-8560.

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ARE YOU HEADING SOUTH FOR THE WINTER - & tired of driving your car or truck all the way there & then back in the spring? If so, call Jennifer with Nice Car Transport at 616-915-2268 to get a quote to transport your vehicle to your warmer winter destination!

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JIM'S FLOOR COVERING SALES & INSTALLATION - 22 years experience. Best price & quality installation on vinyl, carpet, and laminate flooring. 897-0737 or 560-8515, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., leave message.

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BUSINESS CARDS - For as little as \$26 for 250. (white card stock, black ink). We can also print cards in 4 color. Before you order your cards from somewhere else - check our rates! Call Lowell Litho, 897-9261.

THANKSGIVING DEADLINE

Deadline for the Nov. 29 edition of the Ledger is **10 a.m. Mon., Nov. 27**

Ads requiring a proof should be here Wed., Nov. 22, by 5 p.m.

The Lowell Ledger
897-9261

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Auto., leather, white w/ black roof, 18,000 mi.
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Leather, pwr. moonroof, loaded, 20,000 mi.
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\$267 MO.



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