

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 35 Issue 16

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, February 21, 2007

Possible user fees for city parks

By Emma Palova

In a heated discussion Saturday, the parks and recreation commission struggled to impose pay to play fees on Lowell city park users.

An agreement stipulating user fees for Lowell Youth Football, YMCA, Lowell Extreme Softball, Lowell Little League and Kent County Youth Fair is expected by April 1.

Due to a shrinking city budget and high park maintenance costs, the commission proposed a 10 percent user fee on any activity generating revenues such as tournaments, concessions, concerts and livestock shows. However, the proposal caused an outcry from affected parties, most already engaged in fund raising activities.

Some of the groups' officials insisted they have already started registration and scheduling of tournaments. Others,

like YMCA representatives, claimed that any park fees would only increase their prices.

Moreover, the proposed agreement requested that groups be responsible for water, sewer, electricity and insurance while the city stay in charge of facility scheduling.

"We're having (a) difficult time maintaining our parks," said commission chair Perry Beachum. "The budgets are shrinking. The money has to come from somewhere, otherwise we can't maintain the parks at the same level."

According to city council representative to the parks commission Jim Pfaller, the biggest wear and tear on the parks comes from athletic activities.

However, it was the contention of some residents that taxpayers living in the city shouldn't have to pay a user fee.

"Let's keep this competitive for our kids,"

said resident Tonia North. "I don't believe in user fees but I believe in a flat daily fee with a cap."

Some team representatives warned the commission that if the fee is instituted they would leave the city and go somewhere else.

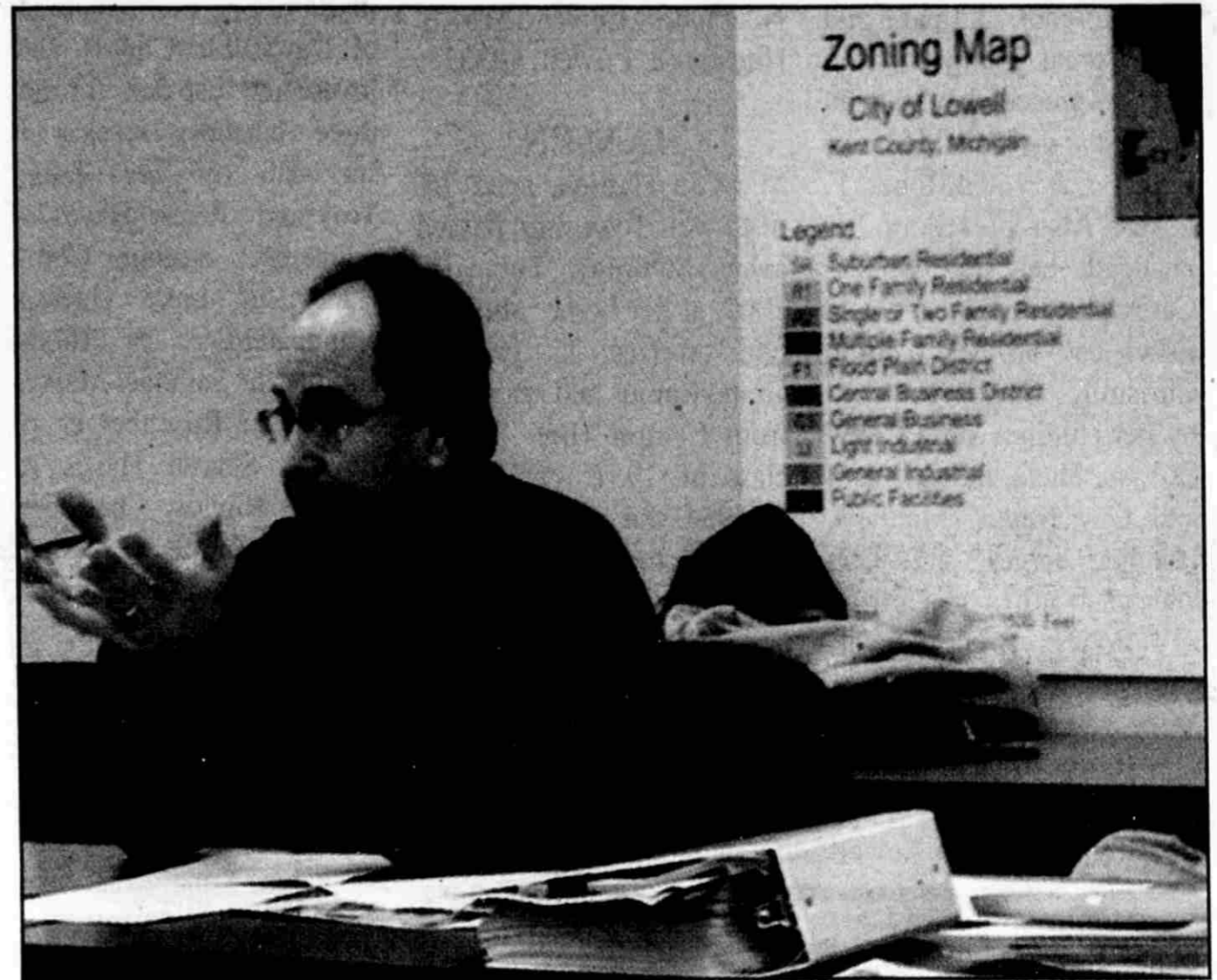
"You should be bringing people in not sending them away," said North.

Jim Hinton of Lowell Extreme Softball, said his group cannot afford the 10 percent user fee.

"We maintain the field," he said. "We've been asking for a breakdown of the softball field cost. We'd be paying twice."

Hinton added that the team is already paying \$150 per tournament plus rental fees for the pavilion at Creekside Park.

Lowell Youth Football officials also claimed that they already take care of maintenance and seeding of fields saving the city money.



Parks and recreation commission chair Perry Beachum struggles to bring a meeting to order during an outcry from residents against a proposed user fee on parks Saturday.

If the city imposes user fees, groups might go to school facilities, concerned athletic director Barry Hobrila said.

The parks and recreation commission will continue to mull the issue. "What I hear from everybody is they

want to control their own facility," said Beachum. "You should come up with long-term goals."

Beachum proposed a user fee on a graduated scale from \$2 to \$5 effective in 2008.

The commission meets

tonight from 7-8 p.m. at City Hall, 301 E. Main St. However, final approval of any agreement is up to the city council.

"The buck stops at the city council," said Beachum.

"Hale" this year's Business Appreciation Award recipient

By Emma Palova

Karen Hale, owner of Cousins' Hallmark, was named recipient of the Business Appreciation Award by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.

Hale, who has owned the business with husband Michael since 1984, has six part-time employees and loves the social expressions business of Hallmark cards. "You share events from the birth of a child to the death of a loved one," she said.

Hale said she was surprised by the award.

"I am very pleased to be in this town," she said. "My heart and soul (are) here. We want to stay as long as possible."

Throughout the years, Hale has overcome many

challenges starting with the boom of the mid-1980s, learning everything along the way by trial and error, high overhead costs and competition with big box stores.

The store is a full Hallmark Gold Crown store with a point system for spending habits. One of her hottest sales is the Willow Tree collection.

"We try really hard," she said. "We know our product, and we offer good customer service."

This is the fourth year for the Business Appreciation Award won last year by King Milling.

"We look at the criteria, and Karen has met them," said Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Liz Baker.

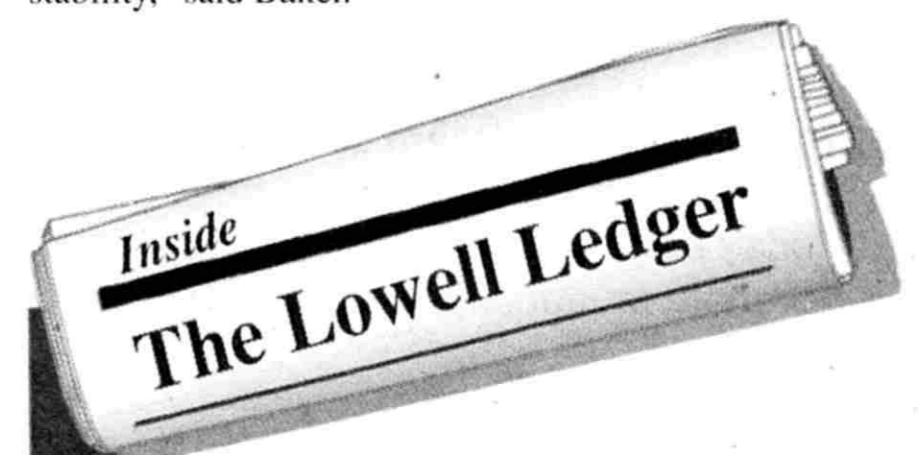
The criteria for the award includes investment in the community, creating employment opportunities, volunteering and outstanding community service.

"It's nice to have that stability," said Baker.

Hale will be presented with the award at the Annual Winter Gathering of the Chamber Membership on Feb. 22 at 6 p.m. at Deer Run Golf Club.



Karen Hale in front of the business she's owned since 1984.



New Trustee... Page 4

Heart Smart Students ... Page 7

Athletic Nominees Needed
... Page 9

Locks of Love ... Page 10

Artist Awarded... Page 11

Wege donation ... Page 20

Obituaries

ESKES Church of the Nazarene, 201 N. Washington. Pastor Michael Rhodabarger officiating. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Visitation will take place from 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 21 at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson St., Lowell. Memorial contributions may be made to: Lowell Senior Neighbors Center, 314 S. Hudson St. Lowell, 49331.

HANSEN Mary Jo Hansen, aged 75, of Lowell Township, passed away Saturday, Feb. 17, 2007, at her home. She was born on Dec. 25, 1931 in Grand Rapids and graduated from Central High School class of 1951. On March 6, 1954 she was united in marriage to Oluf G. Hansen who survives. Also surviving are three daughters, Linda Hansen, Sandra and Douglas Dood, and Brenda Hansen, all of Lowell. In keeping with her wishes there will be no visitation period and the

family will have a private time of remembering. Entombment will be at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens. Memorials may be made to The Salvation Army.

HAYES Jessica Lynne Hayes age 19, of Saranac passed away Feb. 9, 2007 in Saranac. She was born July 3, 1987 in Grand Rapids the daughter of Troy Hayes and Claire Hayes. Jessica graduated from Saranac High School in 2006. She was a member of Day Bible Chapel. She loved and babysat for her three cousins. Jessica is survived by her father Troy and Penny Hayes of Tennessee; mother, Claire Haney of Lake Odessa; grandparents Robert Gardner of Saranac, Marvin and Velda Rosenberger of Lowell, Sharon Hayes of Grand Rapids; brothers, Anthony Aaron Hayes of Grand Rapids, Nicholas Walkington of Lake Odessa; uncles, Anthony and Laurie Gardner of Portland and Vance and Kathy Hayes of Grand Rapids. She was preceded in death by one niece Lia. Funeral services



ROTH Ralph Monroe Roth aged 85, of Lowell passed away Feb. 14, 2007. He was preceded in

death by his wife, Betty. He is survived by his children Beverly (David) Lindau of Wauseon, Ohio, Sally Welch of Crofton, Maryland, Bruce Roth, Brian (Marcia) Roth, both of Lowell; eight grandchildren, Benjamin, Aaron (Kristi), April Lindau, Jason, Ryan Welch, Tyler and Evan Roth. Mr. Roth was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Lowell and Lowell Masonic Lodge. He attended Michigan State University, lived and worked the family farm all of his life before starting his own fruit farm. Funeral services were held Feb. 17 at First United Methodist Church of Lowell. Memorial contributions may be made to: Lowell Senior Center, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 49331.

SHEFFER Don B. Sheffer age 65 of Las Vegas, Nevada formerly of Greenville, passed away Feb. 13, 2007 at Spring Valley Hospital in Las Vegas. He was born Sept. 16, 1941 in Greenville, the son of Donald B. and Margelene E. (Coston) Sheffer. He had worked for Aero Liquid Transit in Lowell and Fisher Body in Lansing. Don was a former member of St. Charles Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus and the Lowell Moose Lodge, was honored by Dick Richards of Channel 13 Grand Rapids and the president of Blodgett Hospital with an over the top banquet and also was the treasurer and president. As president he started the JC club at Riverside Prison in Ionia and filled all of the requirements to hold the highest honor in the State of Michigan, which is Blue Chip, past member of the Lowell J.C.'s from 1973-1977, Walkathon Chair, Footsteps For Burns, and raised funds for the burn center in Ann Arbor and the burn unit in Grand Rapids. He had many obstacles to overcome in his life mainly a spinal cord injury in 1972. If anything, his life is an example for others who suffer, not to give up. The more he has done for others the less time he had to dwell on his own pain. Don is survived by his wife Kathy; daughters Laura Sheffer of Las Vegas and Teresa Sheffer of Portland,

Oregon; grandchildren Sarah (Daniel) Costia and Brian (Carrie) Woodman; great grandchildren Cora Daniel Costia; sisters and brothers in law Sandra (David) Smith of Greenville and Shelly (Duane) Ritter of Wyoming, Michigan, step sister Cheryl (Tom) Brock of North Carolina, Alice Tygeson, and Linda Beech; step brother Gail Bowerman, several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his sisters Rhonda and Star Bowerman, Tammy Little, brother Michael Bowerman and his parents. Funeral Mass was held Feb. 19 at St. Charles Catholic Church, Greenville. Memorial contributions can be made in Don's name to Mary Free Bed in Grand Rapids.

STINCHCOMB Cassie Gale Stinchcomb, aged 24, of Lake Odessa, passed away in a tragic car accident early Monday morning, February 12, 2007. Cassie was born on August 4, 1982, and was a 2000 graduate of Lakewood High School. She was a loving and nurturing individual who enjoyed outdoor activities. She was also an animal lover, enjoyed gardening in her flower garden, and surrounding herself with family and friends. Cassie was passionate about the Lord, and she will most be remembered for her magnificent personality, laughter, and beautiful smile. Cassie is survived by her grandparents, Betty and Gene Calton of Lowell, and Dorothy Sheldon of Lake Odessa; mother and step-father, Jackie and Art Sheldon of Lake Odessa; father, Mark Stinchcomb of Grand Rapids; sister, Carly Miller; and nephew, Tyler Miller of Lake Odessa; as well as many loving aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Carl Miller, James and Wanda Stinchcomb, and Arthur Sheldon. The memorial service was held Friday, February 16 at the Harvest Community Church in Lake Odessa. Memorials may be made to Mission Fund CRWRC through Harvest Community Church.

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE BOARD OF REVIEW

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

MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2007
between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 noon and from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

and also on

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2007
between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 noon and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.,

for the purpose of reviewing the tax roll and hearing all claims.

You may appeal an assessed valuation one of two ways:

1. To appear at the Board of Review, call 897-5671 on Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to schedule an appointment to appear in person.
2. By letter* addressed to:
Vergennes Township Assessor
P.O. Box 208
Lowell, MI 49331-0208

*Letters must be received by March 9, 2007

The tentative Real Property assessment ratio and estimated multipliers Required by MCL 211.34a are

Ratio - 50% Multiplier - 1.00

Mari Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 07-182,832-DE

Estate of
JOHN VINCENT SZCZYTKO aka JOHN VINCENT SCYTOKO
deceased
Date of birth:
9/23/1931

TO ALL CREDITORS:
The decedent, **JOHN VINCENT SZCZYTKO aka JOHN VINCENT SCYTOKO**, who lived at 872 Fifth Street NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan died 1/29/2007.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **EVELYN BALCER c/o John D. Mitus, Attorney at Law, named personal representative, or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.**
February 15, 2007

John D. Mitus
P31244
410 Bridge Street NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-774-4001

Susan M. Potyraj
P46249
410 Bridge Street NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-454-4119

Joseph and Kathleen Scytok
850 N. Sunset Pines
Sparta, MI 49345

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 06-182,588-DA

Estate of
LOUISE RYBISKI
deceased
Date of birth:
12/15/1914

TO ALL CREDITORS:
The decedent, **LOUISE RYBISKI**, who lived at **Fulton Manor, 1450 E. Fulton, Grand Rapids, Michigan** died 11/1/06.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **EVELYN BALCER c/o John D. Mitus, Attorney at Law, named personal representative, or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Ave. NW, Suite 2500, Grand Rapids, and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.**
February 15, 2007

John D. Mitus
P31244
410 Bridge Street NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-774-4001

Evelyn Balcer
2042 Blue Bell Way NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-453-2970

Museum planning spring event/raffle

"Rags to Rich's - A History of American Music" will highlight the Lowell Area Historical Museum's second Annual Spring Event on May 11, at 7 p.m. at the Lowell Performing Arts Center.

Nationally recognized pianist Rich Ridenour will perform a review of popular American music from Stephen Foster and Scott Joplin to Duke Ellington, George Gershwin, Billy Joel and many more.

Ridenour, a Julliard graduate, blends classical, jazz, pop and comedy punctuated with bits of history.

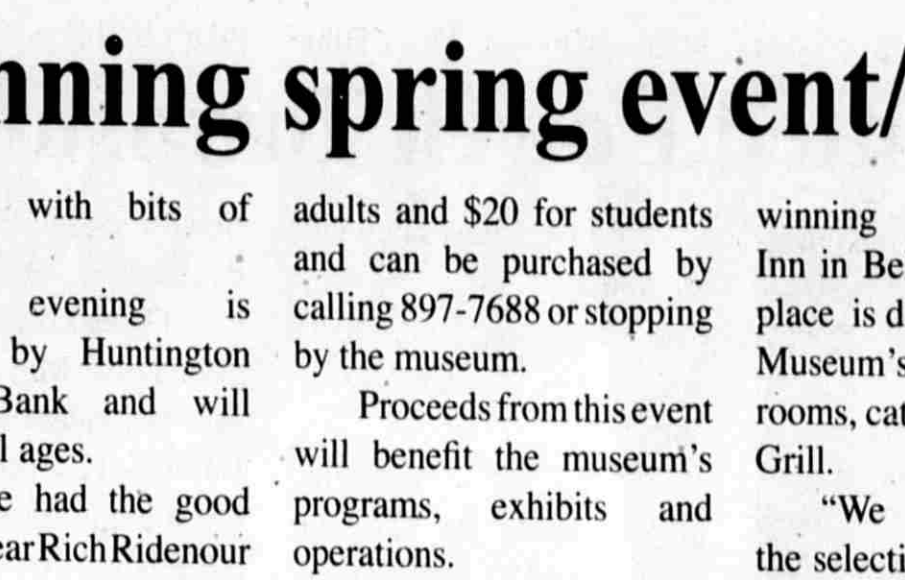
The evening is sponsored by Huntington National Bank and will appeal to all ages.

"I have had the good fortune to hear Rich Ridenour perform more than once and it is always a treat. You find yourself humming the tunes for days afterward," remarked museum president Jim Doyle. "This will be a memorable evening."

A gourmet dessert and coffee bar will be served prior to the performance. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$20 for students and can be purchased by calling 897-7688 or stopping by the museum.

Proceeds from this event will benefit the museum's programs, exhibits and operations.

As a part of the annual spring event the museum will once again conduct a raffle. The top prize this year is a beautiful alder-wood, hand painted chairside table from Superior Furniture Company; second place is a two-night stay in a deluxe suite at the award-



ALONG MAIN STREET

DINNER WITH FRIENDS
Make your reservations now for Dinner with Friends, Feb. 24. Choose from one of five special Lowell homes, each featuring an exciting theme. Call Melanie at 897-8711 with questions or to make your reservation. Proceeds benefit the Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation.

LOWELL LITTLE LEAGUE
Registration for the 2007 season for Lowell Little League will be held on Feb. 24 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Feb. 28 from 6-8 p.m., March 7 from 6-8 p.m. and March 10 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Children ages 7 to 14 who live within the Lowell Little League boundaries are eligible to play. Registration will be held at Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, 113 Riverwalk Plaza. For more information, call 616-752-8109.

FREE JUGGLING WORKSHOP
The Lowell Area Juggling Club will be offering a free juggling workshop on Monday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. in the community room of the Englehardt Public Library, 200 N. Monroe. Both beginning and intermediate ball juggling skills will be taught. The workshop is open to ages 10 and up. Pre-registration is encouraged but not required. For more information or to register, call 897-9879.

FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION
Free food distribution is Thursday, March 1 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the old Cumberland Manor, 11535 East Fulton. Distribution will NOT be at the Moose building. Recipients must have proof for source of all income and Social Security numbers for entire household. Bring bags.

BLUEGRASS HOTBANDS FUNDRAISER
The Bluegrass Hotbands Fundraiser is March 3 at Riverview Restaurant in Lowell. There will be two bands, a big jam session and food. Cost is \$5. Begins at 6:30 p.m.

NEW EXHIBIT
A collection of work by March artist-in-residence, mixed media artist Meredith Parrish, opens March 3 at the Franciscan Life Process Center, 11650 Downes St. NE, Lowell. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday - Friday and weekends by appointment. A reception will be held Saturday, March 17, from 4-7 p.m. For more information call 897-7842.

MEET KENT CO. DRAIN COMMISSIONER
Meet Kent County Drain Commissioner Bill Byl. Byl will speak on storm water runoff and other important drain related issues from 6:15-7 p.m. Monday, March 5 at Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Dr. The event is hosted by the Open Space Committee for Vergennes Twp. Refreshments will be served. Call 897-5671 for more information.

THEBES PLAYERS COMMUNITY THEATRE
The Thebes Players are seeking directors and producers for the following four productions: Velvetene Rabbit - (Youth Theatre Production), Production Oct. 2007 (includes daytime school performances); Moon Over Buffalo - Production Feb. 2008; Honk! - (Youth Theatre Production) Production March 2008 (includes daytime school performances); Jake's Women - Production June 2008. Interested applicants must submit a theatre experience resume by April 28 to LAAC (Thebes Players), PO Box 53, Lowell, MI 49331. For more information call 616-897-8545, e-mail info@lowellartscouncil.org, web site at www.lowellartscouncil.org.

FROM FOOD PANTRY
The FROM Food Pantry is presently in need of dairy products (cheese, milk, yogurt), canned fruit, laundry soap, and paper products. Please help if you are able. The FROM Food Pantry is now located at 11535 Fulton St. E. (former Cumberland Manor). 897-8260.

Alto Cub Scouts at the Ledger

Alto Boy Scouts from Pack 3180 toured The Ledger on Monday in their quest for more badges. The well-mannered group received a brief primer on the basics of publishing and visited the print shop to see some of the equipment used for smaller print orders. Pictured in back, left to right: Andrew LaFebre, John Gutowski and Jacob Gutowski; in front, Caleb Swain and Zachary Swain.

Lowell grads to perform with Alma College Choir

The Alma College College Choir is performing throughout Illinois and Michigan during its spring break Feb. 23-March 1. It also will conclude its tour with a performance at the Alma College Heritage Center on Monday, March 5 at 8 p.m. For more information go to www.alma.edu or call the Alma College Music Department at 989-463-7167. Members of the Choir include Katelyn Bush and Cori Drenth, both 2003 graduates of Lowell High School.

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SHOWTIMES VALID 2/21-2/22

GHOST RIDER (PG-13)
12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40
BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA (PG)
1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
MUSIC AND LYRICS (PG-13)
1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50
HANNIBAL RISING (R)
2:05, 4:40, 7:10, 9:45
NORBIT (PG-13)
12:10, 2:20, 4:30, 6:45, 9:15

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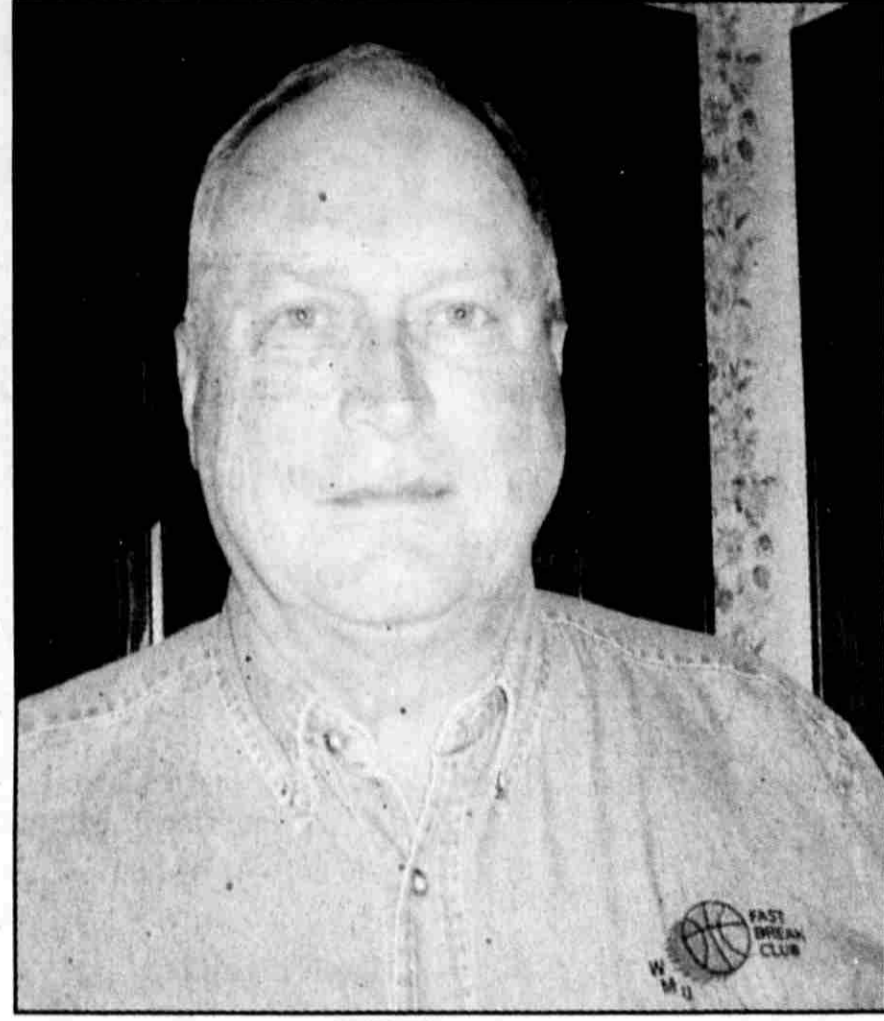
Long time ZBA chair appointed Lowell Township trustee

By Emma Palova

Bill Thompson, 65, long time Zoning Board of Appeals chairman, was appointed Lowell Township Board trustee.

Thompson fills the vacancy left by Paula Blumm who became township supervisor in January. Thompson served on the ZBA for the last 30 years and on the recreation committee two decades ago.

The new trustee said the township needs orderly growth as it changes from rural farming community to rural residential.



Bill Thompson

"Our greatest challenge is managing the growth," said Thompson, "but we still are a rural character township."

Part of managing growth could be designating a mixed use residential/business area on the township class A roads such as Cascade and M-21. "We need to maintain proper services," said Thompson. "We will always have fiscal challenges."

Thompson is hoping to become a board representative to the ZBA. As a ZBA chair, he always tried to explain to the affected par-

ties the rationale behind any decision.

Thompson is retired owner of Malecki Music, Inc. headquartered in Grand Rapids. The company sold printed music to schools and churches.

Blumm said Thompson brings to the township a much needed viewpoint as the only board member living north of the Grand River.

"I believe that his proven good judgment and business acumen will be a definite asset to Lowell Township," said Blumm. "Bill is very familiar with how the township operates as he has been the chairman of our ZBA."

The township received three applications for the trustee position. Thompson will run for the seat in the 2008 general election.

School survey to gauge interest in bond issue for facility improvements

By Emma Palova

An online Lowell Area Schools survey will gauge the public's interest in financing district facility improvements.

The 2000 bond issue left the district with \$10.9 million of unspent money because there was no need

for building a second new elementary school.

"We have just not seen the growth," said Connie Gillette, assistant superintendent for finance and personnel. The bond money authorized by the taxpayers wasn't sold, however the authorization

remains in place indefinitely, according to Gillette.

Now, after identifying the need for \$25 million in facility improvements, the district has two options. School officials can ask for an additional bond issue for \$14.1 million or ask for a new bond totaling \$25 million, while rescinding the 2000 bond authorization.

In either case, voter approval of another bond sale above the remaining balance of \$10.9 million would not result in an increase of the current seven mill debt levy the taxpayers are paying, according to Gillette.

However, the total bond debt would be extended into 2026 instead of 2021. "We're trying to get feedback from the people," said Gillette.

Superintendent Greg Pratt said the intent of the survey is to gather information that will be used to build the district strategic plan, curriculum and facilities

for building a second new elementary school.

Other questions in the survey touch on demographics, school environment, learning and achievement.

To this date, the 2000 bond money has been used to build Murray Lake Elementary, the high school freshman wing, adding a gymnasium to Alto Elementary, installing fiber for technology and modifications to playgrounds.

The survey is now available at the Lowell Area Schools web site at www.lowell.k12.mi.us. Survey forms are due March 16.

Pratt expects to have the results tabulated by the end of March. If the board decides to go ahead with a new bond issue, it would have to be approved by taxpayers.

The future identified improvements would include updating older buildings, mainly Alto, Bushnell and Cherry Creek elementaries and Lowell Middle School. Targeted improvements also include technology, safety and security, athletic facilities, improving energy efficiency and maintenance.

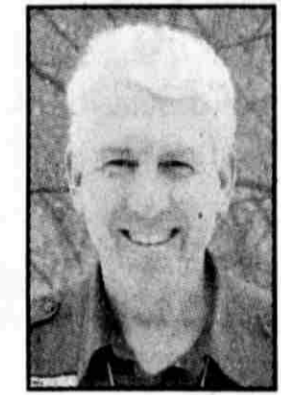
The machine is a horse drawn corn binder. Corn binders were invented during the 1880's to help reduce the labor of cutting cornstalks by hand. If you have not examined the binder, please come to the WWC and take a look at its gears mechanisms.

The machine has a divider that passes on each side of the cornrow to feed cornstalks into a cutter. The cutter is a serrated knife that moves back and forth from side to side. Gearing attached to the largest steel ground wheel on the machine drives the cutter. As the horses pulled the heavy machine down the cornrow, the knife blade cut the each stalks and fed them back to be packed and bound with twine into the typical corn shock bundles most of us are familiar with.

The bound bundles would fall to the ground and were later picked up. Some binders actually fed the bundles onto a trailer that traveled along side of the binder. The corn was usually harvested green and run through a shredder or fodder chopper to provide food for livestock. Shredded stalks were stored in a silo to preserve it for later use as feed.

Chains attached to gear mechanisms were used to catch the lower and upper portions of the cornstalks and feed them into the binder where they were packed and tied with twine by a component called the knotting device. I have not determined exactly how it worked because the machinery is old, rusty, and missing parts. I would love to have farmers come visit with me to explain how these work.

The binders weighed about as much as horse and required three horses to pull its draft of over 400 pounds



On The Wild Side

With Ranger Steve Wittenbach/Wege Center Director

MYSTERY FARM EQUIPMENT CONTEST WINNER ANNOUNCED

It was 100-plus years ago that the machinery displayed at the entrance of the Wittenbach/Wege Agri-science and Environmental Center (WWC) was state of the art equipment. Edwin and Doris Roth came to WWC, examined the equipment, and successfully identified it by name and described its use accurately. He has won a birdhouse. We hope about 80 people will stop in to pick up a birdhouse and make a donation to support WWC. We suggest \$10 but you decide what fits your pocket book and please provide cavity-nesting birds with a box.

The machine is a horse drawn corn binder. Corn binders were invented during the 1880's to help reduce the labor of cutting cornstalks by hand. If you have not examined the binder, please come to the WWC and take a look at its gears mechanisms.

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Wildside, cont'd., pg. 9

Local therapist opens second office and adds an associate to better serve the needs of families in our area

Beverly Anderson LMSW and her Associate Susan Wiggins, MA are now accepting clients in two locations: 215 E. State Road, Suite A, in Belding, and 865 Lincoln Lake, Lowell (in the new Congregational Church).

Beverly and Susan are committed to serving all populations (children, teens, adults and families).

Beverly has 14 years of experience in the Social Work field and specializes in Trauma, EMDR, and other trauma related therapies. Susan has worked for 8 years in diverse settings with different populations with an emphasis in Crisis Management. She also specializes in Pastoral counseling.

You may contact them at the office in Belding: 616-794-9999, or on their individual cell phones: Beverly, 616-430-8555; Susan, 616-826-1291.

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TOWNSHIP OF LOWELL COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE OF MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2007

Between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. and
From 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2007

Between the hour of 9:00 a.m. and 12 noon and from 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the tax roll and hearing all claims.

You may appeal assessed valuation One of two ways:

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

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

Letter must be received prior to March 8, 2007

The tentative Real Property assessment ratio and estimated multipliers required by MCL 211.34 are
Ratio - 50% Multiplier - 1.00

Linda S. Regan
Lowell Township Clerk

Viewpoint



I'm experiencing the "Perfect Storm" of writer's block this morning.

First, I can't think of a thing to write about. Given the typical slant of my column, that's a good thing. No mangled fingers, speeding tickets, ailments, broken stuff, etc. Well, not any foibles worthy of column material. I did drop the bedroom TV and smash it to bits. That might have been a column, but I dropped the old one. It had croaked. If I had dropped the new one, that would have been a column.

Second, my wife needs the computer, so I can't dally over this. Stress and writer's block do not go well together. Finally, I worked on a painting project until nine last night. I showered and had a bowl of my wife's chili as a late dinner. Bad move! I may as well have had a go at this around 2:00 a.m. for all the sleep I got.

This "Perfect Storm" leaves me no alternative but to dig into the pile of e-mails on my desk. I save these for just such emergencies. This bit of plagiarism, on my part, is credited to the great comedian, George Carlin. Here goes...

"George Carlin's Views on Aging"
Do you realize that the only time in our lives when we like to get old is when we're kids? If you're less than 10 years old, you're so excited about aging that you think in fractions.

"How old are you?" "I'm four and a half!" You're never 36 and a half. You're four and a half, going on five!

That's the key.
You get into your teens, now they can't hold you back. You jump to the next number, or even a few ahead.

"How old are you?" "I'm gonna be 16!" You could be 13, but hey, you're gonna be 16! And then the greatest day of your life... you become 21.

The words come out like a ceremony... YOU BECOME 21. YESSSS!!!

But then you turn 30. Oooohh, what happened there? Makes you sound like bad milk! He TURNED; we had to throw him out. There's no fun now, you're just a sour dumpling. What's wrong? What's changed?

You BECOME 21, you TURN 30, then you're PUSHING 40. Whoa! Put on the brakes, it's all slipping away. Before you know it, you REACH 50 and your dreams are gone.

To The Editor

Dear Editor,

I'm writing in reference to an article in the Lowell Ledger by Mr. Reagan about his solution to the 27 acres on N. Washington St. and that it could be easily sold to a developer for \$500,000 which would bring in about \$5,000 in tax revenue to the city of Lowell; but instead of selling its property he was sure that there would be enough property holders in Vergennes and the city of Lowell that would be willing to have their property taxes increased each year to cover that \$5,000 loss of tax revenue.

It's a good thing I'm Scottish and understand Irish humor. It was humor wasn't it Mr. Reagan? I'll have to inform you that they can't lose something they never had in the first place and the only thing they can do is anticipate a gain. It would be a loss to the city of Lowell if part of their heritage was sold. It's ironic that the city of Lowell can preserve all the old buildings consisting of our downtown and then put a piece of property that has been endeared by so many now and in the past on the chopping block. Maybe we could sell another piece of property like the Birch football field and the fairgrounds or how about the airport- they could put a

But wait!!! You MAKE it to 60. You didn't think you would!

So you BECOME 21, TURN 30, PUSH 40, REACH 50 and MAKE it to 60.

You've built up so much speed that you HIT 70! After that it's a day-to-day thing. You HIT Wednesday!

You get into you 80's and every day is a complete cycle; you HIT lunch; you TURN 4:30; you REACH bedtime.

And it doesn't end there. Into the 90's, you start going backwards; "I was JUST 92."

Then a strange thing happens. If you make it over 100, you become a little kid again. "I'm 100 and a half!!!" May you all make it to a healthy 100 and a half!!!

The following list titled, "How to Stay Young" was included in the same e-mail. I'm assuming this should also be credited to George Carlin.

1. Throw out non-essential numbers. This includes age, weight and height. Let the doctors worry about them. That is why you "pay them".

2. Keep only the cheerful friends. The grouches pull you down.

3. Keep learning. Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever. Never let the brain idle. "An idle mind is the devil's workshop." And the devil's name is Alzheimer's.

4. Enjoy the simple things.

5. Laugh often, long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath.

6. The tears happen. Endure, grieve, and move on. The only person who is with us our entire life, is ourselves. Be ALIVE while you are alive.

7. Surround yourself with what you love. Whether it's family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies, whatever. Your home is your refuge.

8. Cherish your health: If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.

9. Don't take guilt trips. Take a trip to the mall, even to the next county; to a foreign country but NOT to where the guilt is.

10. Tell the people you love that you love them, at every opportunity.

AND ALWAYS REMEMBER: Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.

That's it... end of the e-mail. Who would have thought such wonderful words of wisdom would come from the "Hippy-Dippy Weatherman"? Yes, I'm old enough to remember George Carlin's "Hippy-Dippy Weatherman" routine on TV. Yeah, it was probably even a black and white TV. No, I'm not saying how old I am. I refer you to George's rule number one.

small city out there. How's that for a little Scottish humor. This piece of property is part of Lowell's heritage and you do not sell your heritage. Is Lowell that desperate?

Sincerely,
Jim Howard

Dear Editor,

Thank you R.E. Regan for putting the cards on the table. Stop the tree hugging and stop the "quick fix it" schemes right now. We have got a lot of great people in this community who must have an idea on how we can generate the money needed by the City of Lowell. If you don't want to become part of the solution, then shut up and stand aside and watch all the beautiful trees and the wonderful landscape we all love get carted away. People of Lowell, help us find a solution, any and all ideas on how we can generate the money we are lacking is needed. Not another letter on how much we love the trees, the hiking hills, devils peak, pout, sob, cry...none of that, get it together and figure out how we can, as a community, generate the money needed.

Sincerely,
Tina Cadwallader

To The Editor, cont'd., pg. 8

Ledger Entries

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



By Priscilla Lussmyer

125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL FEBRUARY 22 1882

"Wanted--foot bridge across Flat River."
"Keep your cattle out of the streets and save money."
"Ought to have sold your wheat at \$1.30. The Journal's prediction was true."
"The Mississippi River is on a regular tear."

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER FEBRUARY 21 1907

P.S.Griffeth is fatally injured when his startled horse runs away, upsetting the buggy, at Ada.
D.G.Look ad: "The best cigars are now sold in the 2000 Drug Stores having the National Cigar Stands emblem in the window."

Headline: "Days of Dizziness Come to Hundreds of Lowell People" ---Doan's Kidney Pills ad.
Cannonsburg: "Mrs. Truman Hutchins will visit her son Lewis in Kalamazoo and Detroit in the near future."

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO FEB 18 1931

500 show up for the largest caucus ever held in Lowell and elect druggist M.N. Henry on the third ballot.
The Lowell Woman's Club gets famed Grand Rapids Herald editor Frank Sparks as speaker for their next meeting, open to the public.

The Conservation Department issued 1,046 clam licenses last year in Kent-Ionia counties, an increase of 30 percent over 1929.

County and federal officers made three moonshine raids in Lowell Township Wednesday evening, seizing beer and "alleged moonshine whiskey".

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER FEBRUARY 21 1957

Four village employees are laid off in efforts to balance the budget in recession times.

Almost 40 percent of Lowell Township voters turn out to elect Ray Rittenger for township supervisor.

Fred Pattison wins against three challengers and starts his tenth term as Bowne Township supervisor.

The post office will be closed Friday for George Washington's birthday.

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER FEBRUARY 18 1981

Bud's Ambulance Service moves to Kentwood without telling City Council of their plans.

Vergennes Township has differences of opinion with Kent County Library, so the KCL cuts 5 library hours in Lowell.

Sue Stormzand continues her high school performance, becoming Western Kentucky U's top gymnast.

Weddings

Yeiter/Brand



Tasha and Rich Brand

The wedding of Tasha Yeiter and Rich Brand took place at Grace Community Church in Belmont on Sept. 9, 2006. Parents of the couple are Craig and Chris Yeiter and Bruce and Judy Brand. Best man was Scott Brand. Groomsman was Bruce Brand. Ushers were Rich Weed and Gary Johnson. Master and mistress of ceremonies were Jim and Shirley Yeiter. The couple honeymooned in Traverse City and resides in Belmont. Matron of honor was Sarah Wallace. Bridesmaid was Jennifer Sytsma. Flower girls were Samantha Brand and Kennedy Weed.

50 years together

A golden wedding anniversary will be observed Feb. 23 by Arnie and Norann (Alexander) DeLoof of Lowell.

The DeLoof's children are Karen DeLoof, Brian and Barb DeLoof and Mark and Nancy Russell. They have 4 grandsons.

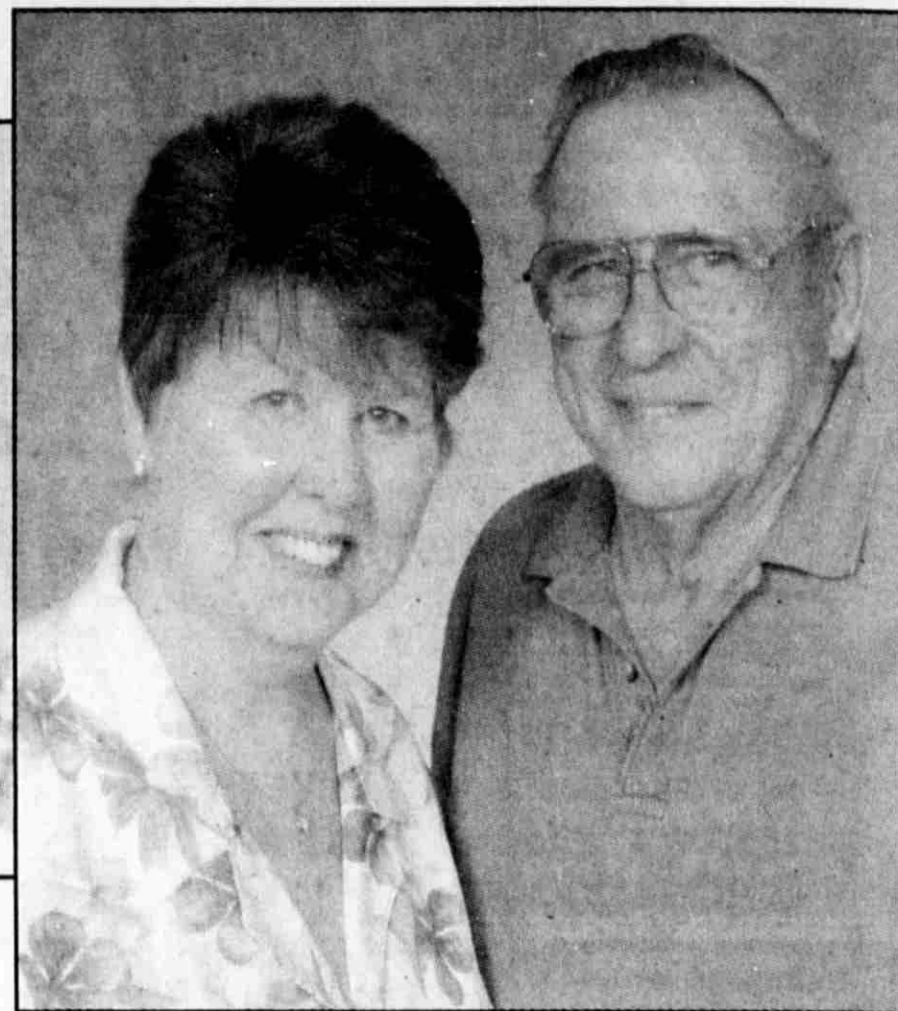


Arnie and Norann DeLoof on their wedding day and today.

Engagements

Hedlund/Barnhorst

Courtney Suzanne Hedlund and Andrew Nathan Barnhorst will be married on March 15, 2007 in Jacksonville, Florida. The bride-to-be graduated from Lowell High School in 2000 and in 2004 from Western Michigan University with a bachelors degree in aviation flight science. Her parents are Vicky and William Hedlund of Lowell. The future groom, a graduate of Elkhart, (Indiana) Central High School, lives in Red Feather Lakes, Colorado. His parents are Jacquelyn and Robert Barnhorst of Bristol, Indiana.



Courtney Hedlund and Andrew Barnhorst

Reflections of faith

By Pastor Joe Fremre
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Lowell

Today is designated in liturgical churches as Ash Wednesday. Tonight, at Good Shepherd's Lent Midweek service, people of all ages will come forward and have their foreheads marked with ashes. This will happen in countless churches across the world. It's not in the Bible, so it's optional. It's just a tradition that sprang up among human beings, to mark the beginning of Lent, the forty-plus days leading up to Easter. If you're not into that, that's okay.

It's not really important what days or traditions you observe, but you do need to make time for God to speak to you, to serve you the hot tasty dish of His Word. If you don't, you'll starve spiritually, for His words are what truly feeds your spirit. It's not important to get a black smudge on your head, but it is important for you to do what it symbolizes: "remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The black smudge is washed off, and rightly so, for the power of death has been overcome by the life of Jesus Christ. Our mortal life is wrapped in His immortal one when we are baptized. It is important for you to remember that you are mortal, and to address that, to trust in His life offered for yours. Unlike human traditions, it's not optional. Maybe you're not doing anything special today. Maybe you're not doing anything special on Sunday. That's okay. But it's not okay to keep putting Him off. As the Bible says in 2 Corinthians 6:2, "now is the favorable time; now is the day of salvation." He's calling you to come home to Him, by trusting in His Son Jesus. What are you waiting for?

Students learn to be heart smart

Alto Elementary students celebrated Valentine's Day by learning to keep their heart healthy.

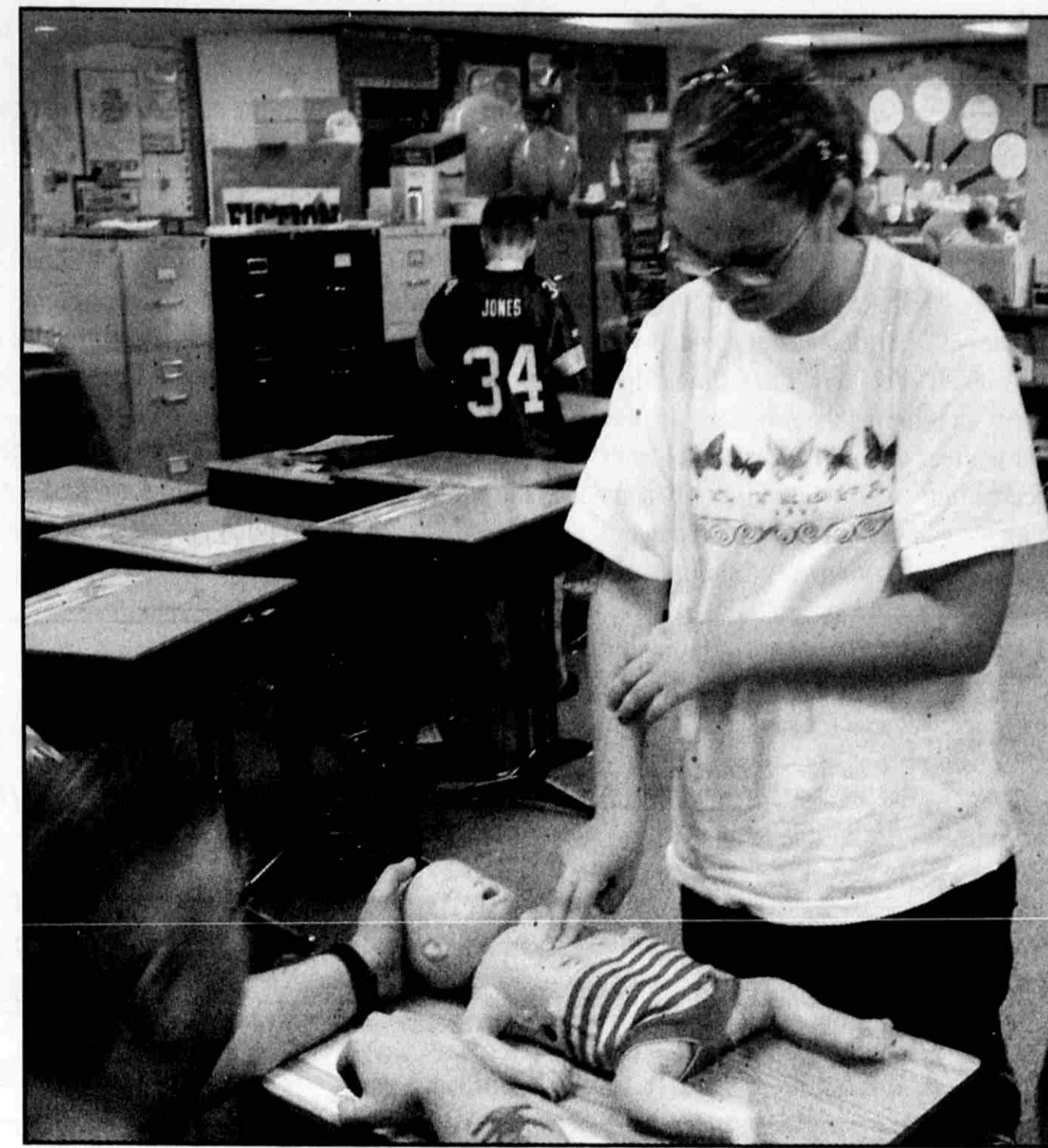
The day began with a presentation from Tim Peterson, a Physician's Assistant from Spectrum Health who gave a talk on the healthy heart.

Dawn Davies, a nutritionist from the Kent County Health Department, talked about nutrition and heart healthy foods. Students snacked on fresh fruit dipped in dark chocolate which is rich in antioxidants.

Lowell's wellness coordinator, Patty Sellner and physical education teacher Nancy Anderson spoke to the kids on the virtues of exercise, and put them through many exercises to get their hearts pumping.

In the computer lab, students viewed a virtual heart. Sue Beute, a retired Lowell teacher, brought in pentominoes, a tool to keep the brain healthy.

Rick Vriesenga, a Kentwood fireman, gave



Brittany Branagan practices CPR on a baby dummy.

a CPR demonstration and walking the path of blood multi-purpose room. It was flow through the heart a healthy way to celebrate a laid out on the floor of the usually sugary holiday.

HEALTH

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



HOW DO I KNOW IF I NEED AN ANTIBIOTIC?

Antibiotics are strong medicines that can treat certain infections and save lives. But used incorrectly, antibiotics can cause more harm than good. Antibiotics only work against infections caused by bacteria. They do not typically work against infections caused by viruses.

Usually, antibiotics kill bacteria or stop them from growing. However, some bacteria have become resistant to specific antibiotics so the antibiotics don't work against them. Resistant bacteria develop faster when antibiotics are used incorrectly.

How can you tell if you need an antibiotic? The following are some basic guidelines:

1. Common colds and the flu are caused by viruses and do not respond to antibiotics.
2. Bronchitis is almost always caused by a virus. However, if you have a chronic lung condition, or a long standing infection, greater than two weeks, you may require antibiotics.
3. Sore throats are typically caused by viruses and do not require antibiotics. The exception is strep throat which requires a lab test and an antibiotic to treat.
4. Ear infections can be caused by both viruses and bacteria. Antibiotics are used for some, but not all of these infections.
5. Sinus infections should only be treated with antibiotics if the infection is severe or persists for more than two weeks.

Often the best thing you can do for a mild illness such as the common cold or flu is to let it run its course. Sometimes this can take two weeks, or more. As always, see your doctor if you are not getting better, or if you have any questions.

Education is what survives when what has been learned has been forgotten.

- B. F. Skinner (1904 - 1990)-

Happy Birthday

- FEBRUARY 21:** Betsy Vezino, Ashton VanderWarf, Kimberly Sterzick, Robin Martin, Treva Johnson.
- FEBRUARY 24:** Cliff Mulder, Amy Aksamitowski, Tarah Essich, Lizzy Decker.
- FEBRUARY 25:** Susan Miesal, Mike Nearing.
- FEBRUARY 26:** Jeremy Goff, Barry Vezino, Bob Ford, Nancy Porter, Leslie Rash.
- FEBRUARY 27:** Joe Ellis, Heather Essich, Sharon Miles, Joshua Soyka, Justin Soyka.



Sharing The Vision

With Gregory Pratt
LHS Superintendent

DEAR PARENTS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS, AND STAFF MEMBERS

On behalf of the Lowell Area Schools Board of Education, I would like to invite you to participate in a survey to guide our Board in their decisions in the months ahead. The survey is designed in two parts and will gather the community's perception and opinions of our district's educational programs, operations and related facility needs.

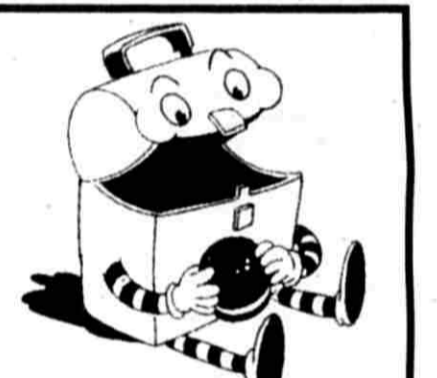
The on-line survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete and knowing how valuable your time is, I want you to know how much I appreciate your completion of the survey. Attached is a question and answer sheet for your review prior to completing the survey.

The link to the survey will soon be posted on the Lowell Area Schools web page: www.lowellschools.com and will also be announced in school newsletters. Please be assured that your answers will remain completely confidential and anonymous. Your opinions are invaluable for coordinated strategic planning in the Lowell Area Schools.

Thank you again for your time in completing the survey. It is truly appreciated.

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LUNCH MENU

ELEMENTARY MENU
Week of Feb. 26, 2007
MON: Cheese pizza (ravioli also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), tossed salad, assorted fruit, milk.

TUES: Spaghetti & Italian meatsauce w/ garlic bread (3 meat sub also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), carrot coins, assorted fruit, milk.

WED: Soft taco w/ meat, lettuce & cheese (stacked ham/cheese on bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), green beans, assorted fruit, milk.

THURS: Chicken drumstick w/dinner roll (fish/cheese on bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), mashed potatoes/gravy, assorted fruit, milk.

FRI: Pizza dipper w/ sauce (sloppy jo on wheat bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), whole kernel corn, fresh fruit wedges, milk.

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<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. 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, Lead Pastor John King, Youth Pastor SUNDAYS: 10:00 a.m. - Worship & Evening: LIFE home Groups & "The Source" Youth WEDNESDAYS: Family Night: (for all ages) 7:00 p.m. "The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m. Loving God... Loving People!</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 TERE WIGANS 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48, EWTN 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 LaWarre.....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 Fremre, 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 J.C. Wed. 6:15 & 8:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free</p>	<p>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Thurian Meredith 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. PASTOR MICHAEL RHODABARGER Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>

To The Editor, continued ... From Page 5

Dear Editor,
Every Wednesday I open the Ledger with anticipation about one particular topic of conversation that has a fair share of residents concerned: the parcel that is referred to as the North Washington property. One has to admit, the

future of this land has people talking. Some readers voice their childhood memories about Devil's Peak, whereas other readers are concerned about preserving invaluable natural features from the next wave of development spurred on by such slogans as, "Lowell, the Next Place to Be."

Last week, upon reading what James Reagan wrote; I threw my hands up and yelled "Great!" Finally, there was someone offering a possible solution to how the land could be preserved. Mr. Reagan suggested 100 land owners from both Lowell and Vergennes townships help preserve the land by shouldering the projected \$5,000 annual tax burden. What is great about Mr. Reagan's idea is how it takes both concerns into view. While I initially applauded the solution, I think we can use his suggestion and build on it.

We, as a community, should address what natural resources we hold dear and what we want our children and grandchildren to have available during their lifetimes. Juggling our area's fiscal needs and preserving land will be a challenge. When all is said and done, the best solution will involve a compromise from all parties.

So here is my suggestion. Establish a venue to determine how all Lowell and Vergennes residents feel

about this property. Is North Washington worth protecting? Are we willing to buck up and share the tax responsibility of preserving such land? Is there another way to preserve lands other than taxation? Are there other special featured lands in both townships that are worthy of similar protection?

Lastly, here are my own two bits of hope. One hundred years down the road, I hope Lowell has benefited from the wisdom and foresight of today's residents. I hope we will be remembered as a community that was able to successfully iron out some different perspectives and come together about the important things.

So, for our future generations, let's create some open dialogue in effort to find out how important this North Washington property is to our residents.

Jeff Lende

*Happiness in intelligent people
is the rarest thing I know.*

- Ernest Hemingway

Committee seeks nominations for Athletic Honor Wall

By Emma Palova

The first inductees into Lowell's version of the Ath-

letic Hall of Fame, teachers Bob Perry and Kathy Talus, set the bar high for future nominations.

"They have set high standards for the nominees," said Teresa Beachum, member of last year's nomination committee. "We have high expectations."

The Lowell Athletic Wall Nomination Committee is now accepting nominations for the highest athletic honor until March 31. The nominee should have 10 years of dedication to Lowell High School athlet-

ics. The committee will meet, review applications and make its decision by a two-thirds majority ballot vote in May.

"It's a nice way to honor people who have contributed to the athletics program over the years," said committee member Robin Briggs. "It will be our version of the hall of fame."

The committee is looking for people who have

made an impact on Lowell athletics, according to committee member Perry Beachum.

Other members of the committee include athletic director Barry Hobla, high school principal Scott Washaw, assistant principal Kevin Pearson, Bob Reagan and Mark Russell.

Presentations will be made at the first football

game of the year. A granite plaque designed by the Lowell Granite Company will be placed on the honor wall, as well as a small replica given to the honoree.

The nomination form is on the Lowell Area Schools web site at www.lowellschools.com. Return application to: Lowell Athletic Honor Wall P.O. Box 95, Lowell, MI 49331.

Wildside, continued ... From Page 4

through corn planted in check-rows. It is my understanding that a check-row is simply corn planted in rows with space between rows to allow a cultivator to pass between the rows. I am not sure when people began planting crops in rows. I am getting old but I am not old enough to know that piece of history. I imagine it may even predate writing history.

With a corn binder, a farmer could harvest and bind seven to nine acres per day. A field hand could shock between three and four acres per day. By the late 1800's companies were producing thousands of corn binders each year as farmers adopted state of the art farming techniques. It would not be long until draft horses were no longer state of the art.

The interpretive center is now open for visitation on Sundays from 1-4 p.m. Community donations are appreciated to help maintain the trails, nature preserve, agriculture property and the interpretive center. Come examine the continuous developing displays and consider dropping a donation inside the interpretive center by the office door.

Come eat pancakes, learn the history of maple sugaring, and enjoy an Eastern Bluebird program on March 10. Our WWC sixth anniversary celebration is April 21 in association with Earth Day celebration activities. Bring family and friends to WWC for monthly community activities. WWC grounds are open for public use during daylight hours for hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, dog walking, and even horseback riding in limited areas.

At Your Local Library



KDL BOARD OF TRUSTEES WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

The Kent District Library recently welcomed Charles Fry to its eight member Board of Trustees.

Fry represents the City of East Grand Rapids, and the Townships of Ada, Cascade, and Grand Rapids. He fills the vacancy created by Michael A. Maier, who decided not to seek another term of office.

Fry was a minister for 40 years, and worked in clergy financial services for 25 of those years. For the past 10 years, he has served on the Cascade Township Library Advisory Board, and worked closely with the KDL staff on both its millage committee, and in raising over \$3 million for the creation of the Wisner Center.

Fry attended Albion College, Michigan State University, and Western Michigan University in order to receive his BS. He also earned a BD from Garrett Seminary. Additionally, Albion College granted him an Honorary Doctorate degree. His volunteerism includes involvement in reading tutoring, and work with both the Lions and Rotary Clubs.

KDL Director Martha Smart notes, "We are excited to have Charles Fry join the Board of Trustees. He is already visiting KDL branches, and his dedication and commitment to KDL is proven. We are honored that he will help us move into our bright future."

KDL Board meetings are held the third Thursday of each month. Times and locations are posted at www.kdl.org.

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Elementary student donates hair to Locks of Love

By Emma Palova

Shannon Hoekstra, second grade student at Cherry Creek Elementary, donated 10 inches of her hair to Locks of Love. "My daughter Shannon

has always wanted to help sick children and was intrigued by the Locks for Love program," said Shannon's mother Christine. Locks for Love is a public, non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged youth under age 18 suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis. Locks for Love uses

donated hair to create the highest quality prosthetics. Most of the children have lost their hair due to a medical condition called alopecia areata, which has no known cause or cure.

The criteria for donating to Locks for Love are: 10-inch minimum hair length, hair needs to be clean, dry, placed in a plastic bag and in a padded envelope.

Hair may be from young and old, all colors and races, colored or permed but not bleached or chemically damaged. Hair cut years ago is usable if it has been stored in a ponytail or braid.

Hair that is short, gray, or unsuitable for children will be separated from the ponytails and sold at fair market value to offset the cost of manufacturing.

The majority of all hair donated comes from children who wish to help other children. Layered hair may be divided into multiple ponytails for donation. Anyone can cut donated



Shannon holding her freshly sheared ponytail.

hair as long as the above guidelines are followed. For more information about

Locks for Love visit www.locksoflove.org.



A stylist cutting off Shannon Hoekstra's hair to be donated to Locks of Love.

Lowell Girl Scouts make/donate quilt

Lowell Girl Scout Troop 3079 made and donated fleece blankets to the Devos Children's hospital on Feb. 19. Pictured from left to right in front row: Anna Norder, Danielle Whaley. Middle row: Meghan Mills, Colleen Sterly, Haley Milks, Jillian Meade. Back row: Jodi Bauers-Devos Children's hospital and Breana Rich. Not pictured is Chloe Johnson and Allison Annable.



Go through your phone book, call people and ask them to drive you to the airport. The ones who will drive you are your true friends. The rest aren't bad people; they're just acquaintances.

- Jay Leno (1950 -)

First place for local artist at regional art competition

Five artists received awards in the 21st annual West Michigan Regional Competition.

The works will be on display through March 24 at the Lowell Area Arts Council, 149 S. Hudson St.

Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday noon-6 p.m. and Saturday from 1-4 p.m.

Prizes were handed out at an opening reception Feb. 18.

Paul Van Heest of Holland won Best of Show (\$500) for "Globaphobic Porcupine," a work in colored pencil.

First place (\$400) went to Mary Bommarito of Lowell for her watercolor "Beyond the Fence."

Gale Nobes of Muskegon took second place (\$300) for his photography "Wisdom."

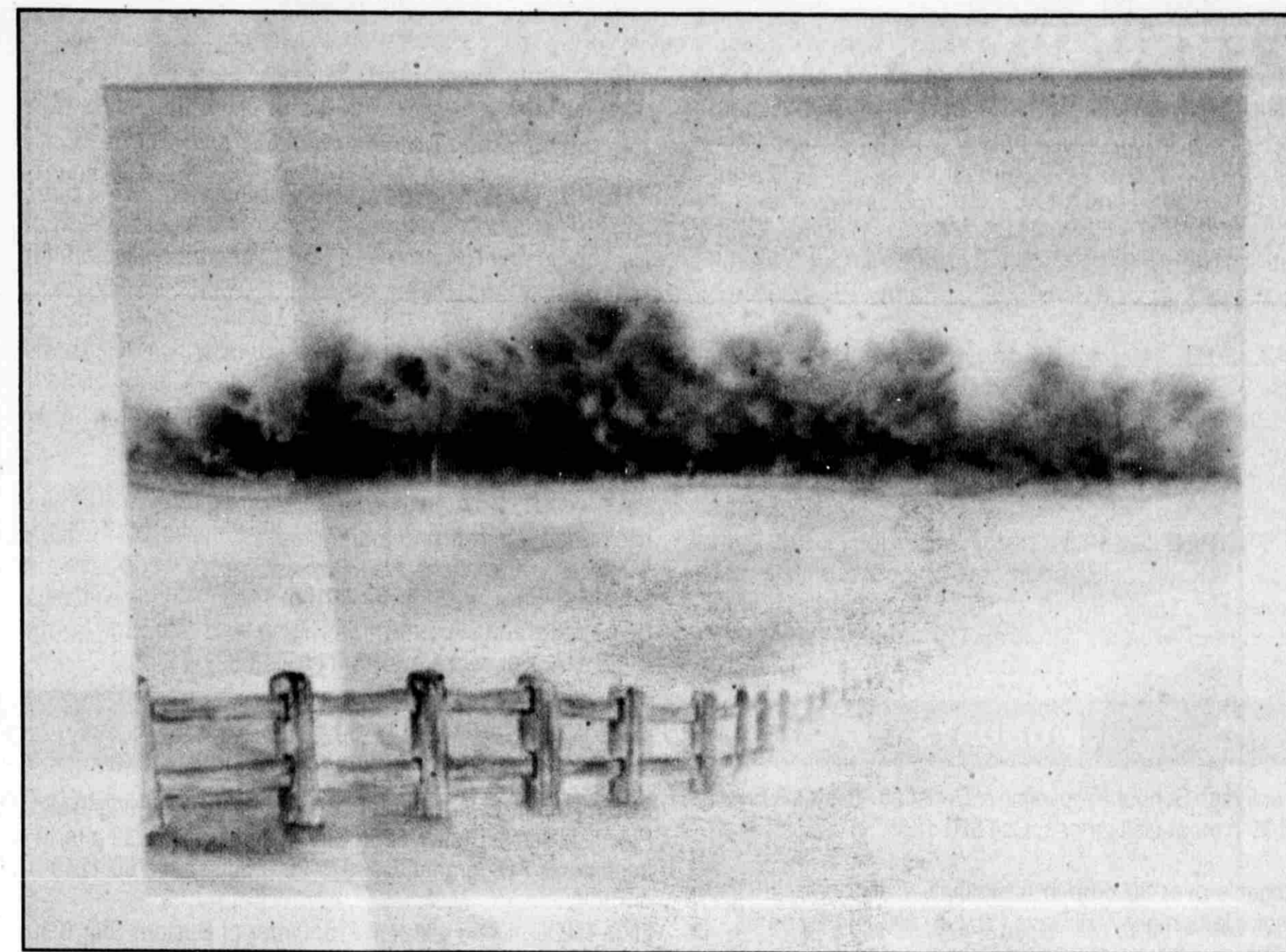
Diann Reicherts of Allegan won third place

(\$200) for her oil on canvas "Fern Valley Ways."

Honorable Mention (\$100) went to Christopher Hicks of Grand Rapids for "Untitled I," a metal and wood piece.

Pravin C. Sevak served as juror for this year's show. Pravin is an Associate Professor of Design at Western Michigan University. A native of India, Pravin has taught and practiced design in India and in Ohio, Missouri, Kentucky and Michigan. In more than 25 years as designer and teacher, he has participated in numerous design projects, workshops, exhibitions and conferences.

For more information on this exhibition contact the arts council at 897- 8545, info@lowellartscouncil.org or www.lowellartscouncil.org



Mary Bommarito's "Beyond the Fence" won first place at the West Michigan Regional Competition.

Valentine delivery at Laurels of Kent



Second grade Cub Scouts from St. Patrick Pack 3106 delivered Valentine cards to residents at the Laurels of Kent. The cards were made by the Lowell Women's Club and the residents were delighted when the boys delivered the cards on Valentine's Day. Pictured are front row: Seth Salinas, Tess Reagan (helper), Brendan Juarez; standing: Logan Jamison, Ryan Morris, Jack Malone, Alec Juarez, Nekotah Mask, Shane Endres, Matthew Bloom, Jake Reagan



Celebrating Black History Month

With Senator Carl Levin

Every February the nation celebrates the achievements, sacrifices and contributions of African Americans to our country. Although we honor those contributions year-round as a part of American history, dedicating a particular month as Black History Month has helped to highlight a legacy that has too often been overlooked.

The idea for a Black History Month was proposed by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a coal miner and the son of former slaves. Even while he was working in the mines, Dr. Woodson taught himself Latin and Greek, and he went on to become the second African American to receive a doctorate from Harvard. As a prominent scholar in African American studies, he worked tirelessly to ensure that the contributions of African Americans be given their proper place in history.

In that spirit, I want to pay tribute to two women who played pivotal roles in the struggle for civil rights and who also had close ties to Michigan. Sojourner Truth and Rosa Parks were women of different times, yet similar courage, who challenged the inequality and injustice of their eras, and both have also been recently honored by Congress.

Although unable to read and write, Sojourner Truth was widely regarded as one of the most effective spokespersons of her time. Born into slavery in New York, she endured years of harsh treatment before escaping at the age of 27. After gaining her freedom, she spoke eloquently and energetically

Levin, cont'd., pg. 13

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Of course, we still need your donations of clothing and housewares.

Hours are: Wed., Thurs., Fri.: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

FRI., FEB. 23: Masonic Lodge 355, serving Belding, Ionia and Lowell, and Doric Chapter 73, Order of Eastern Star, will co-host a Sesquicentennial Founder's Day Dinner (complete pork) and Art Hop, 5-7 p.m., in the dining room of the Masonic Temple, 211 E. Main St., Belding. Over 13 years of age, \$7.50; ages 5 to 12, \$3; under 5 free. For tickets call John at 374-7762 or Harley 794-2396.

SAT., FEB. 24: Second Annual Lowell Holistic Health Fair, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Lowell. Admission is free; a free-will donation will be taken for each presenter. For more information, or to request a booth, call Pamela Jones 897-5069.

TUES., FEB. 27: Kick-Off for Relay for Life of Lowell, 6:30-7:30 p.m., LHS Auditorium. Special guest: Anna Or-ganek, Heather Organek and Cheryl Valentine. Everyone welcome. For more info: Carol Briggs 897-5501.

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 Belding-Ionia-Lowell Masonic Lodge #355, 7:30 p.m. 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, 7 p.m. in Administration Building, 300 High Street.

2ND MON.: Bowne Township Historical Society meets Oct. thru March 10 a.m. & April thru Sept. 7 p.m. 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, Community room, Englehardt Library, 7-8:30 p.m. 12/older. 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 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 MI#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, 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.

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

TUES., FEB. 27: Traveling breakfast, Big O Cafe, 8:30 a.m. Sponsored by Lowell Senior Neighbors.

THURS., MAR. 1: Free food distribution, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 11535 E. Fulton, old Cumberland Manor. Must have proof for source of all income and Social Security numbers for entire household. Bring bags.

THURS., MAR. 1: Vergennes Co-operative Club will hold its first meeting of the new year, 1 p.m. at Schneider Manor activity room. Hostess: Phyllis Lessens and Algene Feurstein. Program? All are welcome! Dues \$5.

SAT., MAR. 3: A collection of work by March artist-in-residence, mixed-media artist Meredyth Parrish through March 31 at Franciscan Life Process Center, 11650 Downs St. NE. Hours are 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Mon.-Fri., weekends by appointment. A reception will be held March 17, from 4 - 7 p.m. For more information call 897-7842.

TUESDAYS

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.: Back to Basics Closed AA meetings at 404 N. Hudson St. 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking.

EVERY TUES.: Thornapple River Chapter BNI professional networking group, 7-8:30 a.m. Ada Bible Church, 8899 Cascade Rd. Cheryl 868-7551.

WEDNESDAYS

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

8 p.m. ALANON new location: 206 N. Jackson, north of 1st United Methodist Church, corner of Avery & Jackson. 897-5936.

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.

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

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

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

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

LOWELL AREA ARTS COUNCIL: Tues.-Fri.: 12-6 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. 11535 Fulton St. E. Call 897-8567. Pantry 897-8260.

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 Deer Run Golf Course 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

1ST & 3RD 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.

Murray Lake Characters In Action

These students received Character in Action awards at Murray Lake Elementary for displaying the character traits of Caring and Trustworthiness.

Front row: Nick Dalessandro, Joe Heffron, Bryan Ashenbrenner, Carrie Roberts, Thomas Hubert, Adam Anderson, Brooke Newhouse, Kate Montgomery, Grant Pratt, Jordyn Carlson. Middle row: Anthony Erhardt, Tessa Micho, Josie Ladner, Olivia Hock, Danny Kruse, Reese VanDerWarf, Nick Kloosterman, Brianna Roest, Emily Kropf, Diana Roth, Anneke Breuker, Jared Hough, Micaela Vandenberg, Maddie Kaminski, Elizabeth Miller Back row: Robert Sheldon, Bailey Stormzand, Karmen Anderson, Schiann Engle, Mark Rasch, Lawson Weaver, Alix Bohn, Ben Bigham, Jon Kehoe, Ethan Ettinger, Brianna Vanderstelt, Travis Cornell

Missing from picture: Trevor Roest, Rose Ford-Weber, Callie Ford-Weber, Jessica Sheveland, Jocelyn Johnson, Richard Devon, Gavin Palmer, Derek Krajewski, Nathan Bush, Morgan Cremer, Hunter Kramer.



Levin, continued ... From Page 11

about the inhumanity and immorality of slavery. Truth also worked toward other social goals, especially women's rights.

In 1851, she delivered a famous speech at the Women's Convention in Akron, Ohio, attacking both the racist and sexist notions of the time. After listening to a speaker give reasons why women were inferior and shouldn't have the same rights as men, Truth described the hardships she had overcome as a slave and then challenged her audience by repeatedly asking "And ain't I a woman?"

During the mid-1850s, Sojourner Truth settled in Battle Creek. She traveled throughout Michigan during the Civil War to collect food and clothing for African American volunteer units. Truth also traveled to Washington, D.C. in 1864 to meet with President Abraham Lincoln and became a close advisor to the President on assisting freed slaves.

Michigan honored Sojourner Truth and her extraordinary legacy with the dedication of the Sojourner Truth Memorial Monument in Battle Creek, which was unveiled in 1999. Last year, Congress passed legislation I co-sponsored to display a bust of Sojourner Truth in the United States Capitol.

Sojourner Truth's legacy can also be found in the strength of the leaders who inherited her mantle. In 1955

in Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat and move to the back of the bus. Her action led to the boycott of the bus system in Montgomery and sparked a movement that called attention to the plight of African Americans nationwide.

To Rosa Parks, this was but a small part of a lifetime of struggle for equality and justice. Twelve years before her famous act of civil disobedience, Rosa Parks had been arrested for violating another segregation law, which required African Americans to pay their fares at the front of the bus, then exit and re-enter at the rear door. After moving to Detroit in 1957, she continued her service by working to promote opportunities for youth and later founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development in honor of her late husband.

On November 2, 2005, I joined over 4,000 mourners at Greater Grace Temple in Detroit to celebrate the life of Rosa Parks at her funeral. Just a few days earlier, Rosa Parks had become the first woman in the history of the United States to lie in honor in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda.

Like Sojourner Truth, Rosa Parks will also have a permanent place in the U.S. Capitol. It was my privilege to cosponsor legislation, which became law in December

2005, to place a statue of Rosa Parks in National Statuary Hall of the U.S. Capitol building. Sojourner Truth and Rosa Parks will become the first African American women to be represented in this place of honor.

We have come a long way toward achieving equality and justice for all in America, but we still have work to do. As we rededicate ourselves to continuing the struggle for civil rights and human rights, we draw strength from these giants of American history who are receiving the national recognition they deserve.

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LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS BOARD BRIEFS

Regular Meeting of February 12, 2007

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Tyler Barkacs, Vice President of the Student Council, reported that students are sharing concern over the consideration of a trimester at LHS and the possibility of losing their seminar period. Students are excited that they no longer have to take the MEAP test since it has been incorporated into other school tests. Seniors are starting the process of searching for scholarships. The Snow Ball dance is this Saturday. A dodge ball tournament is planned to raise money for the student council and many students are looking forward to the Alternative Spring Break trip to help hurricane victims.

PRINCIPAL WEEK RECOGNITION - School Board President Nancy Hopkins read a proclamation from Governor Jennifer Granholm in honor of our principals: Scott Vashaw, Kevin Pearson, Amy Pallo, Marlene Heemstra, Linda Warren, Nate Fowler, Mary Ann Schramm, Karen Burd, Maureen Dorough, and Brent Noskey.

REPORTS

Bus Fleet Safety Inspection

Larry Mikulski awarded a certificate to Leo Bowen for achieving a 100% Pass Rate for School Bus Safety Inspections issued by the Michigan State Police.

Continuous Improvement Monitoring System (CIMS)

Jonathan Schelke presented information regarding the Continuous Improvement Monitoring System (CIMS) that has been implemented by LAS to ensure the early intervention for special education services.

Energy Presentation

Jim White updated the Board regarding the dollars that the school did not have to spend because people are learning to conserve energy. This program is the Energy Education program and at the 3 year mark, LAS has avoided spending \$1,074,490 for energy.

Demographics

Larry reported on the findings of the Demographics Committee and from the OAK building needs report. It is estimated that LAS will see a flat enrollment for the next 2-5 years. The high school, middle school, and the Murray Lake school are close to maximum capacity so these need to be watched. There can be some movement of students into Bushnell and Cherry Creek due to running at a lower capacity. The OAK building needs report shows that several renovations of the buildings roofs and parking lots are needed.

There is a need to update the heating and cooling systems and maintaining and improving technology for the student classrooms is always a need.

ACTION ITEMS

The Board accepted the following gifts:

- Johnnie & Bob Wiegand donation of music CD's valued at \$350 to be used by the WLHS Radio Station.
- Steve Mueller donation of music CD's valued at \$30 to be used by the WLHS Radio Station.
- Tim Dimmick donation of music CD's valued at \$520 to be used by the WLHS Radio Station.
- Wendy Johnson donation of music CD's valued at \$270 to be used by the WLHS Radio Station.
- Lynda & Richard Wright donation of music CD's valued at \$140 to be used by the WLHS Radio Station.
- Connie Gillette donation of music CD's valued at \$300 to be used by the WLHS Radio Station.
- Jerry Witkowski donation of radio equipment valued at \$1690 to be used by the ARGYL (Amateur Radio Group of Youth in Lowell).
- Donna Schomer donation of books valued at \$50 to be used by Curiosity Corner Pre-School.
- Tom Stahr donation of books valued at \$300 to be used by the High School Media Center.
- Laurie Kuna donation of books valued at \$151 to be used by the High School Media Center.

CONSENT ITEMS

- Approved/adopted/amended were:
 - Minutes for the January 8, 2007 Special Meeting and Closed Session, January 8, 2007 Regular Meeting, January 22, 2007 Special Meeting, and the January 22, 2007 Board Workshop
 - The following payment of bills for January 2007:

GENERAL FUND.....	\$1,465,756.82
SCHOOL SERVICES FUND	
A. Food Service Fund.....	\$ 69,974.66
B. Athletic Fund.....	\$4,980.50
TRUST AND AGENCY FUND.....	\$ 35,923.47
• Substitute pay to \$105 on the 61st day in a single consecutive assignment	
• Alternative Spring Break trip from March 29-April 4 to Biloxi, Mississippi and the Girls Varsity Soccer team from April 2-9 to Rincon Puerto Rico	

BUDGET UPDATE - Connie Gillette reported that schools are still on a roller coaster ride when it comes to determining what the State will do with school finances. The Governor has come up with some creative ways to avoid cutting the school aid for this year and now her proposal must go before the legislators.

CURRICULUM UPDATE - Roger Bearup gave a report on the MEAP results. LAS students are doing very well but the results show the need for writing improvement.

DISCUSSION - Greg Pratt reviewed two new Board policies #2790 "School Safety" and #8455 "Unsafe School Choice Policy". With a possible alteration in the #8455 policy, these will come back to the March board meeting for adoption on their second reading.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Greg Pratt shared that due to a generous donation from Peter Wege of the Wege Foundation, the school was able to purchase property on the east side of the Wittenbach/Wege Center. The center is protected from further housing development and can maintain the area as an educational center for years to come. A dedication ceremony is being planned to honor Peter Wege and the Wege Foundation. Thanks to Connie Gillette for her years of service to LAS as she looks forward to her retirement in June. The 7 focus groups that were held recently helped with the development of a community survey. The survey tool will help the school district with their strategic planning, and the survey will be launched in the next week or two.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Board Workshop - Monday, February 26, 2007 - 6:30 p.m.
Runciman Administration Building - Board Room
300 High St., Lowell, MI

Regular Board Meeting - Monday, March 12, 2007
Runciman Administration Building - Board Room
300 High St., Lowell, MI - 7:00 p.m.

Please visit our web page at
www.lowellschools.com

We Value:
Responsibility • Respect • Caring • Trustworthiness
• Fairness • Citizenship



LITHOUSE

RECOGNIZES THIS SEMESTER'S HONOR ROLL STUDENTS

Lowell High School Honor Roll 2ND MARKING PERIOD

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

9TH GRADE

Cody Acker
Jill Alexander
Andy Amidon
Caitlin Baker
Nathan Baker*
Conor Barr
Erin Barkus
Jacob Bennett
Chris Bewell
Sam Billock
Paula Blough*
Kaitly Bocskey
Seth Boogaard
Dakota Both
Kristin Bouwhuis
Sean Briggs
Samantha Brock
Deanna Bunn
Danielle Carigon*
Devon Chopp
Alyssa Churches
Malorie Coble*
Joshua Corteville*
Lisa Crain
Hailey Degrote
Katie Dekraker*
Annelise Dlouhy*
Lauren Dood*
Linsey Dykhouse
Chris Eckman
Bailee Emelander
Nikki Everitt
Lauren Ferguson*
Kailey Feuerstein
Ross Finnie
Erin Fleet*
Sara Fosburg
Joe Foy*
Amanda Geldersma*
Josh Geldersma*
Ben Gerig*
Phil Getzen
Sam Gibbs
Kaily Gillan*
Stephen Gillhespy*
Gina Giuliano
Austin Graham
Carly Greenhoe
Sean Greenhoe
Matt Griffioen
Torin Hacker
Samantha Hagerman*
Matt Hanks
Jon Hanson*
Shelby Herb
Randy Hogan
Ali Huffman*
Joshua Jacobs
Anna Jakubielski
Tracy Jones*
Katie Jousma*
Stan Karas
Mattie Kropf*
Connor Kruse
Joshua Kyburz
Kelsey Langlois
Carli Lewis
Parker Liu*
Taylor Marchido*

Thomas Mark
Tyler Matteson
Kyle Mayhew*
Travis Meade
Brooke Mellema
Kaleigh Mete
Ashlea Middleditch
Cassie Miles
Jackson Morse
Sara Nagy
Zachary Noskey*
Dylan Olin
Nichelle Ortowski
Casey Oster
Meagan Padgett
Courtney Phenix
Katie Plutschow
Katie Postema
Troy Prill
Brittney Ramirez
June Ramsay
Linnea Rash
Erica Raymond
Hannah Ritzema
Shelby Roberts
Mackenzie Roerig*
Megan Rogers*
Kelly Roth
Kristi Roth
Rachael Rowley
Joe Schreur
Dylan Seese
Melissa Shepard*
Brenton Sirowatka*
Lauren Smit
Jeffrey Sova
Joshua Spratt
Lindsey Stehley
Jordan Sterly
Amanda Sterzick*
Kelly Stevens*
Molly Story
Jennifer Susan
Isaac Tawney
Lukas Thompson
Haleigh Timmers
Chelsey Treglia
Steven Trierweiler*
Chelsea Vanderpols
Mary Kate Walsh*
Jack Weeber Jr
Jessica Wehby*
Nathan Wells
Jessica White
Heather Wieberdink*
Courtney Wierzbicki
Kayla Williams
Stephanie Winsor*
Thomas Wodarek
Charlie Young
Megan Young

10TH GRADE

Randy Adams
Nicole Bailey
Kayla Barr
Sarah Baughman
Thomas Beddows*
Kathleen Billock
Courtney Blanchard
James Nordman*
Ian Blodger*
Erin Brechbiel
Cheyenne Brown
Jaclyn Brown
Carli Lewis
Elena Brubaker
Theresa Buist

Dakota Bunn
Heather Burger*
Sydney Burrows
Chase Canning
Natalia Chagas
Ryan Christie
Linnea Churches*
Michael Clover
Andrea Coffey
Alexandra Cooley
Racynda Corlis
Allison Crumback
Michael Cyl
Ryan Dean
Matthew Dec
Aleicia Decenzo
Logan Declercq
Zachary Denault
Joshua Drake*
Dylan Dues
Kristin Dunn
Chelsea Dyer
Natasha Eickhoff
Gabriel Elliott
Lance Fargo
Katherine Fetterhoff
Thomas Fleet
Rachel Folkersma
Krista Foster
Kyle Galbreath*
Augustus Geldersma
Kirk Geldersma*
Amanda Graff
Samantha Grasman
Lauren Gurd
Nicole Halbeisen*
Shaun Hale
Lauren Heemstra*
Alexandra Herb
Timothy Hettinga
Natalie Hewitt*
Alexis Holloway
Sheryl Huber*
Audra Hysell
Tyler Jack
Sebomi Jang*
Caleb Johnson*
Mark Johnson
Mary Kate Karas
Cody Kastanek
Richelle Kimble
Katie Krolewicz
Jeffrey Kropf
Phalesha Kyes
Anthony Lawrence*
Michael Lazar
Brandon Lee
Mitchell Malling*
Jessica Mankel
Ian Manshum
Morgan Marchido
Brianna Mcbryde
Alisha Mcglamery
Abram Mcintire
Patrick Misner*
Kayla Mohr
Sierra Moore*
Trisha Nauta
Jodi Nederhoed
Kyle Nichol
James Nordman*
Kandice Olthof*
Rachael Partridge
Samantha Perrin
Ryan Persha
Eric Petersen*
Brandy Phillips*

Michael Pietzsch
Kara Rasch
Felicia Rash
Renae Reed*
Jessica Rehl
Yadira Reyes-Alfaro
Mary Richardson*
Keely Roberts
Kirk Roerig
Kacie Roth
Matthew Schloop
Cameron Schomaker*
Taylor Schumacher
Katie Sefton
Agim Selimi
Kiley Six
Melissa Slater
Paige Smith
Samantha Snyder
Katelyn Sorenson
Brooke Spoelman
Zachary Stephens
Kelsey Stickney
Sara Tarchala
Jacob Tasma
Marin Tawney
Brandon Thomas
Allison Thompson
Michelle Thompson
Elizabeth Timpson
Patricia Vangessel
Chelsea Vannoord
Jessica Vincent
Rachel Vogel
Cole Wade
Rachel Walendzik*
Joshua Wallner*
Donald Ward*
Megan Whinery
Ashley Whittington
Megan Willemstein*
Lauren Wolfe
Jonathan Woods
Beth Wyckoff*

11TH GRADE

Nicole Baker*
Tanya Baker
Kyle Bardwell
Zachary Baum*
Travis Bergy
Andrew Bewell
Rochelle Bieri
Bobbi Botsford
Logan Brenk*
Alexander Brock
Chandel Bronkella
Joshua Brubaker
William Bryan*
Briana Buck
Breanna Bueche
Alyssa Buikema
Renee' Buist
Benjamin Canfield
Kathryn Collins
Andrea Converse*
James Crosby*
Andrew Davis
Corbin Debiak
Devin Decator*
Aubrey Dee*
Crystal Dietz
Samantha Dilling
Ethan Drain
Anthony Dubbink
Nathan Duley
Ian Durkee

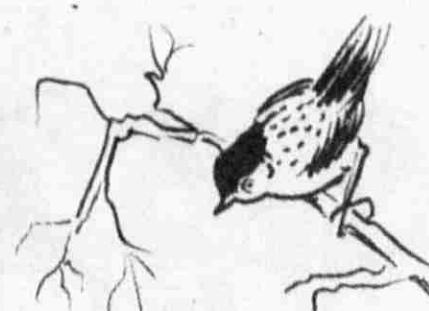
Marissa Endres
Rebecca Finnie
Megan Fitzpatrick*
Anthony Freeburg
Meaghan Gallup
Andrew Gerig
Leara Glinzak
Kayla Goins
Jeanette Griner
Cory Hagerman
Matthew Halbeisen
Douglas Halbeisen
Lauren Hanson*
Rebecca Happie
Alexander Harrington
Chelsea Harrison
Rebecca Happie
Christopher Abel
Melissa Addington
Chelsea Aiken*
Robert Alguire*
Matthew Amidon
Kathryn Bailey
Brandie Barnes
Tiffany Barrett
Daniel Barrett II
Scott Beatson*
Marissa Bergy
Corrine Bieber*
Kameron Blake
Jordan Blanchard*
Haley Briggs*
Rachel Brinks*
Brittany Bueche
Danielle Calkins
Christin Cardani
Kelsey Crowley*
Edward Dickerman
Keaton Dilly
Cameron Dilly
Regan Doyle
Ciji Eickhoff
Sarah Eickhoff
Jennifer Ettinger
Kellie Faulkner
Alexander Fleet*
Austyn Foster*
Ian Fowler
Garrison Fredline*
Nichole Freed
David Gallagher
Amanda Geelhoed*
Steven Geelhoed*
Aaron Geer
Hannah Gerig*
Hayley Getzen
Mary Gillhespy
Michael Griffioen
Hollie Gunderson
Shay Hacker
Brandon Hall
Kassandra Hanrahan
Justin Harden*
Timothy Harden
Charlie Hathaway
David Hefner
Mallory Hines*
Travis Hippey
Lindsay Hoogenboom*
Allen Huber
Lisa Johnson*
Lindsey Jousma*
Karen Judd*
Robert Karasiewicz
Stephanie Kempker*
Genevieve Kendall*
Tyler Kent
Gary Kilgore*
Michael Kleinpaste
Kelsey Koewers
Kelli Kowalski
Samantha Kozlik
Kyle Kropf

Heather Walendzik*
Laura Walsh
Timothy Wernet*
Zachary Will
Lauren Wisnieski
Kourtney Wittenbach
Andrew Wright
Melissa Zuiderveen
Maryann Zvirzdis
Christopher Kuzmin
Gwynnd Lammas
Anna Lane*
Brian Langlois*
Brooke Liu
Brittany Lyman
Ryan Magnuson
Andrew Mark
Arielle Martin*
Michael Mcelroy
Ryan Middleditch
Marek Mikesell*
Leslie Morrison
Eric Mundt*
Rebecca Myers*
Tasha Nauta
Keith Nichol
Michael Nichols
Bradley Nordman*
Andrew Nozal
Lisa Nugent
Timothy Oberlin
Andrew Oesch
Morgan Olin
Evan Ormiston
Karri Ort
Ryan Padgett
Sapna Patel
Kristin Patrick
Bethany Penninga
Lance Perkins*
Cassandra Phillips
Jamie Phillips
Culver Redd*
Deborah Reinbold*
Colin Rich
James Richardson
Samantha Rinke
Megan Risner
Kathleen Riisi
Ashley Rodriguez
Michael Roth
Kathryn Rottier
Victoria Ruesink
Allison Schneider*
Taryn Schumacher
Allen Seese
Raymond Seese*
Amanda SeEVERS
Timothy Sinen
Caitlin Sirowatka*
Ashleigh Smit
Erin Soules
Heather Spratt
Joshua Stevens
Kory Stevens
Hannah Stewart*
Terrah Tawney*
Margaret Tichelaar
Lindsey Trierweiler*
Stacey Underwood*
Lauren Vandermark
Holly Vaught*
Amanda Vezino*
Jennifer Visser*
Stephanie Wade
Jonathan Wahl
Kelly Walker
Patrick Walsh
Ryan Watikunas
Daniel White
Tiffany Whittington
Ashleigh Wible
Nathan Willemstein
Sara Williamson*
Kristen Wolfe
Kaylee Yonker*
Megan Zinke

Maranda Ruegsegger*
Adam Schollaart
Katrina Schollaart
Michael Schumm
Peter Scudder
Katherine Slatten
Justin Story
Adriel Stout
Jordan Strah
Trisha Straub
Alexis Strouse*
Tricia Thuston
Travis Trapp
Justin Vanacker
Ashley Vanderheide
Mary Vanderlaan*
Andrew Vandiver
Amy Vanens
Amber Waldron

Outdoors

By
Dave Stegehuis



LEND A HAND

At least 30 birds representing seven different species were dropping out of the trees like falling leaves onto five backyard feeders. The extreme cold weather was sapping energy from their little bodies and they were fueling up on sunflower seeds, suet, and corn. Suddenly the entire flock disappeared—there wasn't a bird in sight. There must have been a predator in the area, probably a hawk, although I never determined what it was. Twenty minutes later, it was business as usual around the feeders. The feeders are

hanging under a canopy of tree limbs which discourages raptors from making passes at birds and animals in the area. The hawks and owls rarely come around because of the low success rate. They do better catching birds and rodents in more open landscapes.

Walking through the neighborhood past snow covered houses and yards I have noticed empty bird feeders swinging in the icy wind. Now is not the time to abandon our feathered friends. It is important to keep feeding the birds especially if one has done it in the past. The recent cold spell has put a lot of stress on birds and animals alike. Besides, the birds provide an interesting diversion in the cold and barren landscape. Also, there is satisfaction in helping resident wildlife through hard times.

Water is difficult for birds to find at this time, so it is important to provide a source. An electrically heated bowl

fastened to our deck rail draws a procession of thirsty visitors. A group of five bluebirds (I thought they were supposed to go south for the winter) perch side by side around the edge of the bowl for a daily coffee clutch. Being bug eaters, they don't stay around for the seeds, but always stop by for a drink.

As winter continues into spring, our wildlife neighbors will be dipping into their reserves to survive the long haul. A couple of years ago in the spring, there was a major fawn die-off in the southwestern Upper Peninsula. That particular winter was not considered severe, but the spring was unusually cold and new plant life came too late to help the young deer and many perished in relatively mild weather.

Even if the weather breaks soon, don't think that we can ignore the needs of local wildlife. Step up and lend a hand to our wildlife neighbors.

Helpful tips for driving in snowy conditions

Cold and snow can affect your car's handling and braking ability. Slow down, keep your distance and increase the chances you'll arrive at your destination safely.

AAA Michigan has the following winter driving suggestions:

- Slow down in bad weather. Remember,

posted speed limits are set for ideal road and weather conditions.

- Increase your following distance. Build in a six-second time gap. Pick a marker or sign and begin counting when the car ahead passes it — "one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two..."

- Exercise caution. Ice is most likely to form first

and be slipperiest in shaded areas, bridges, overpasses and intersections.

- Improve visibility. Clear snow and ice from the entire car. Brush away snow from the hood, roof, trunk, turn signals, lights, windows, mirrors, and fender wells.

- Drive with headlights on low beam. Lights at low beam provide better road

illumination in snow and fog than do high beams.

- Avoid sudden starts, stops and turns. Accelerate carefully so car wheels don't spin.

- Apply brakes firmly. The best technique for braking on ice or snow is "threshold" or "squeeze" braking. Apply brakes firmly to a point just short of lock-

up and ease off the brake pedal slightly.

- Steady pressure is better than "pumping" the brakes. For anti-lock brakes, continuous firm braking is recommended. Refer to your owner's manual for proper procedure.

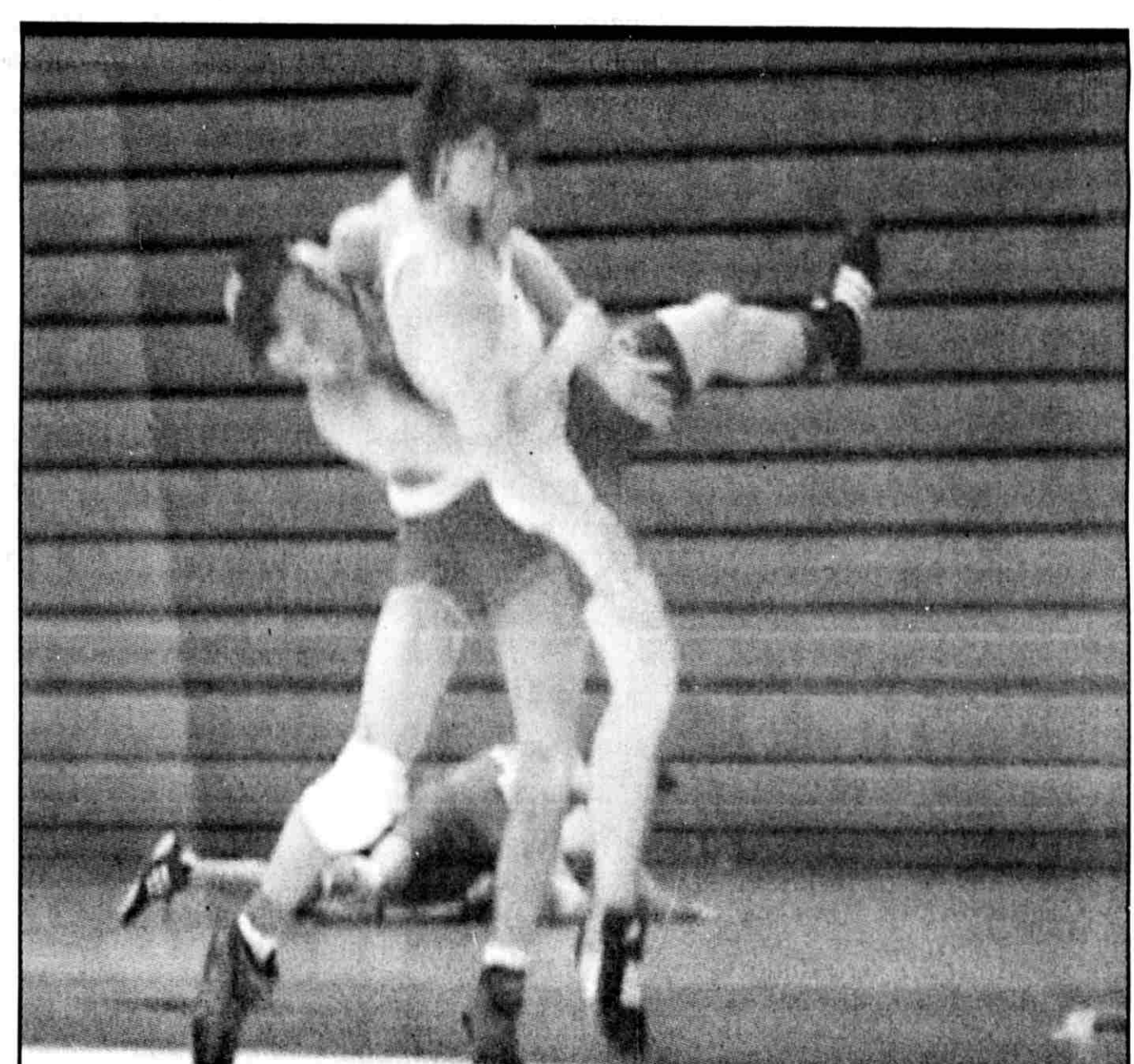
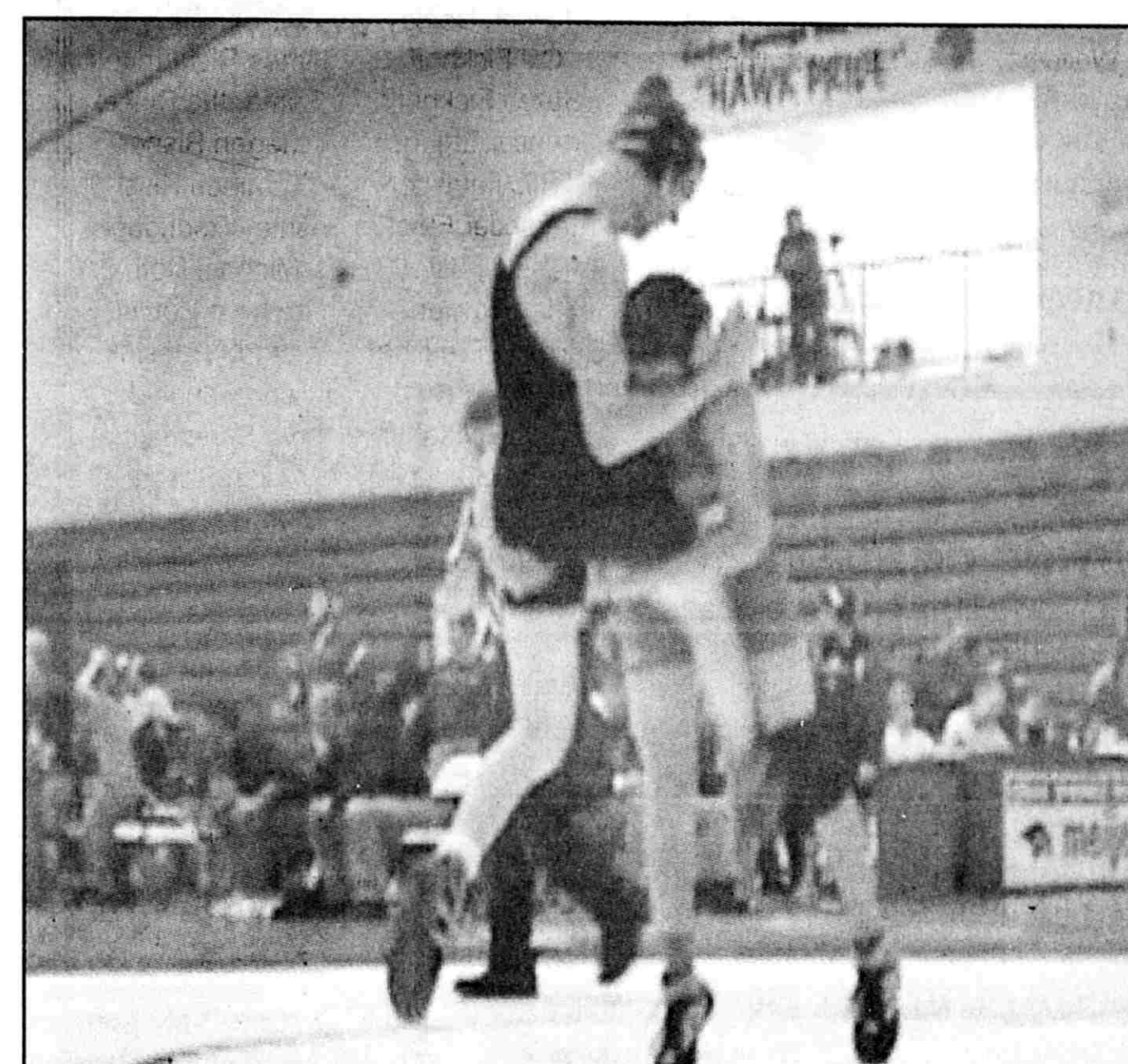
- In a skid, ease off the accelerator. Carefully steer in the direction you

want the car to go and straighten the wheel as soon as the car begins to go in the desired direction.

- Anticipate danger. Be on the lookout for ice on bridges, snow-covered lane markings, stalled cars and poor visibility. Watch for drivers who are unprepared for changing road conditions.

RED ARROW SPORTS

First-place conference wrestlers



Two wrestlers who were not mentioned in the OK-White conference story last week, Justin Boss, left, against Kenowa Hills opponent and Raymond Seese taking down a Sparta wrestler, both placed first at the conference.

ADVERTISE WITH THE BUYERS GUIDE AND THE LOWELL LEDGER

During the month of February we are offering a special package to introduce you to the many benefits of advertising in The Buyers Guide and The Lowell Ledger.

The Lowell Ledger **Buyers Guide**

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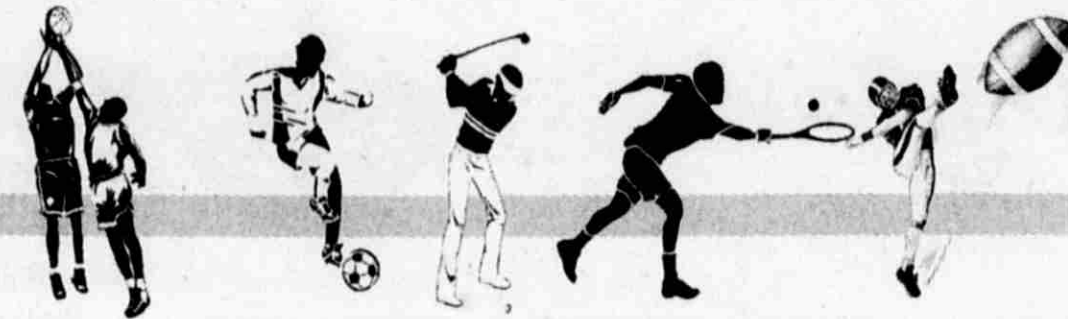
Place any size display ad in both papers* for two weeks & receive the 2nd week 1/2 off regular price!

*Must be same ad for both Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger, no changes. Not valid with other specials or offers. Please bring your ad into our office. Payment required at time of placement. Ad must run between February 5, 2007 & February 28, 2007.

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RED ARROW SPORTS



Quad Meet preps Lowell gymnasts for Conference

By Aly DeYoung

Even though the Lowell gymnasts lost to Forest Hills Northern 144.175-131.55 on Feb. 14, they did reach a team goal.

"We surpassed our goal of making it over 130, which was awesome," Coach Skye Fisher said of her team's final score. "We are going to regionals- we have four qualifying team scores. We should have a great meet."

The quad meet took place at Rockford High School. Rockford had a home meet against Kenowa

Hills that night, but Forest Hills wanted to use Rockford's springboard for their floor exercise. So all four teams just met there.

Rockford beat Kenowa 141.675-131.325. "I don't know if it's just because it was Senior Night, or everyone wanted to go full force," said Rockford coach Jacquie Caprathe. "But I'm just so proud of the girls."

In the vault, Lowell's top four were Kelsey Teft with 8.45, Richelle Kimble 8.40, Kelli Kowalski 8.25, and Kaylee Yonker 8.10.

The top score for Forest Hills on the vault went to Karen Verbrugge with 9.45. Rockford's top score was 9.10 from Kim Watters. Kenowa's Meg O'Brien scored 8.65.

On the uneven bars, Kimble led with 8.50. Kowalski got 7.80, and Teft was third with 7.7. Andrea Coffey scored 7.5.

Verbrugge again got the top score for Forest Hills

with 9.32. Alyssa Bryson led Rockford with 9.25. Neena Zwier got 8.80 for Kenowa.

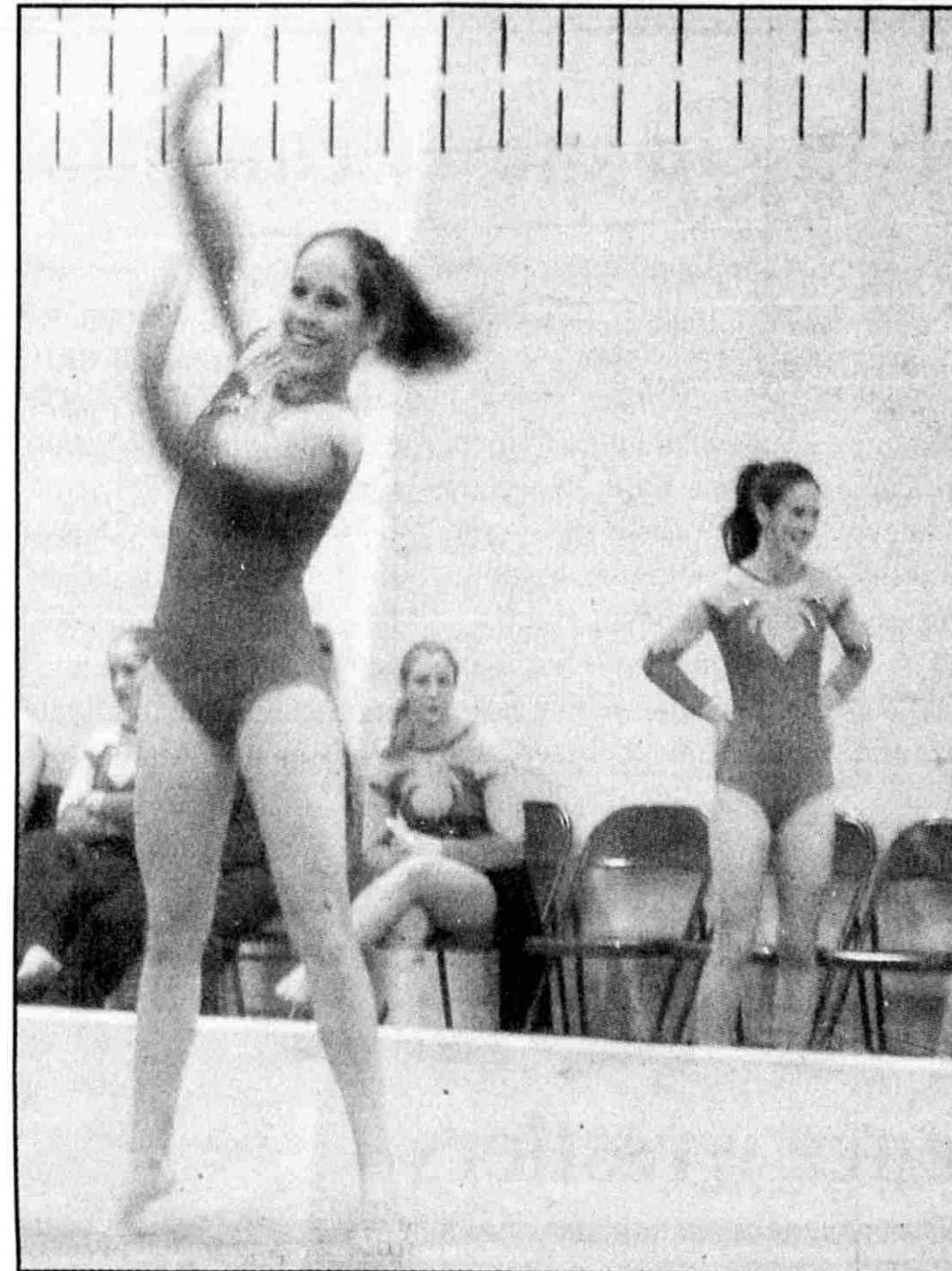
Kimble led Lowell again on the balance beam with 8.35. She was followed

by Teft 8.20, Mandy Vezino 8.00 and Kowalski 7.95.

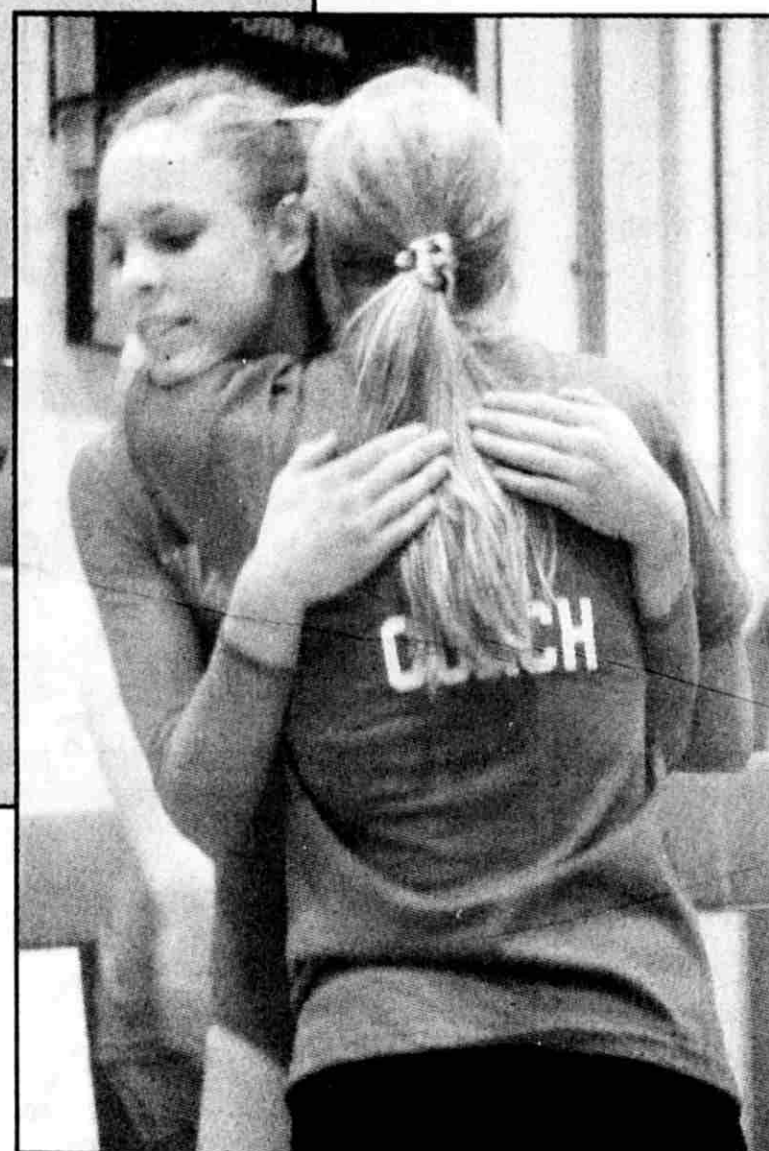
Verbrugge, with a 9.27, received top score for Forest Hills. Rockford's top scorer on beam was Bryson with 9.07. Michelle McCune scored 8.85 for Kenowa.

In the floor exercise, Teft took the lead with 8.77. Coffey scored 8.62, Kimble 8.60, and Kowalski 8.35.

Brandi Hagan led Forest Hills with a 9.42 score in the floor exercise. For Rockford, both Kim Cowen and Watters shared the top score of 9.15. McCune again led Kenowa with 8.62.



Andrea Coffey performing her floor exercise routine.



Coach Fisher hugs Richelle Kimble after her balance beam routine.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider the following amendments to the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance:

- Section 4.2.4.F, to amend regulations for accessory buildings pertaining to required set backs and to prohibit placement of an accessory building on a lot before construction of a house except for a farm building.
- Section 4.1.1, Table of Use Regulations, Column 2, to regulate the sale of farm products grown primarily on the land under the control of the person selling such products in the AG-1, AG-2 and R-1 Zones.
- Section 4.1.1, Table of Use Regulations, Column 3, to regulate the sale of non-farm products in conjunction with farm products and to regulate rural recreation/agricultural amusement enterprises in the AG-1 Zone as a Special Land Use.
- Section 4.1.1, Table of Use Regulations, to add a Notes Section listing specific standards for the sale of farm products and non-farm products from a building, and rural recreation/agricultural amusement enterprises.
- Section 2, Definitions, to amend the definition of front, side and rear yard; to add definitions for yard, required yard, farm building, setback, building, farm, farm operation, farm product and GAAMP.

The hearing will be held as follows:

WHEN: MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2007
TIME: 7:00 PM
WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
LOWELL, MI 49331

The proposed amendments are available for review at the Lowell Charter Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash SE, Lowell, Michigan 49331 during regular office hours on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

Tim Clements, Secretary
Lowell Charter Township
Planning Commission

CITY OF LOWELL NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF REVIEW

The Lowell City Board of Review will meet to receive and review the various Assessment Rolls for 2007 at City Hall on:

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2007
AT 10:00 A.M.

A second meeting, for the purpose of hearing appeals and a continuation thereof will be held at City Hall on:

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2007
from
9:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. and 1:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
and
6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. if necessary

Appeals may be made by letter or on forms available at City Hall. Letters and/or forms must be submitted not later than March 9, 2007. A personal appearance is not required.

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

Commercial Property	50.00%	1.0000
Industrial Property	50.00%	1.0000
Residential Property	50.00%	1.0000
Personal Property	50.00%	1.0000



Charles R. Myers, Mayor
James Marfia, Assessor

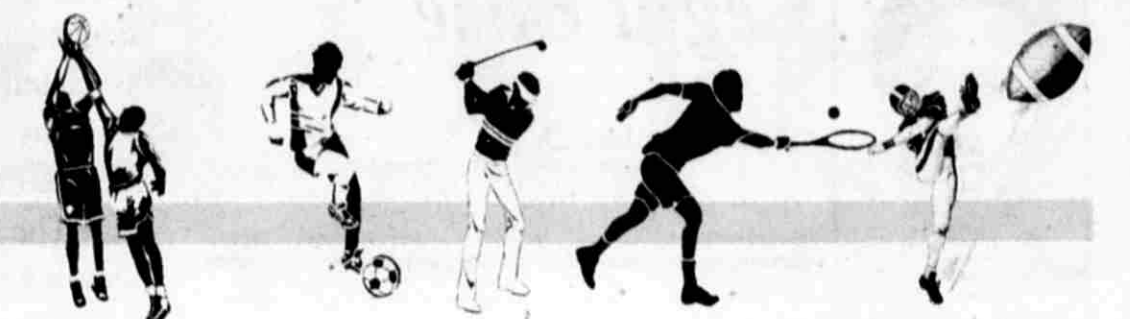
"My goal for Conference is to beat Kenowa Hills, who beat us in the dual meet," Fisher said. "But optimistically, we can beat them if we try hard. I am excited for conference, and see how some of my individual girls do. I would like to see some of them take home a medal."

College News

Caitlin Stevenson of Ada, and Edith Chittenden of Lowell were named to the Dean's List at Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Ind. for the fall 2006 semester. A student must achieve a grade point average of at least 3.4 on a 4.0 scale to earn academic honors at Saint Mary's.

Craig A. Larry and Brian M. Wierenga of Grand Rapids and Austin A. Blough of Lowell were named to the Dean's List for fall term at Northwood University in Midland. To achieve Dean's List recognition, students must earn a 3.25 grade point on a 4.0 scale.

RED ARROW SPORTS



Red Arrows place in conference meet at Forest Hills Northern

By Aly DeYoung

In all categories but the balance beam, Lowell gymnasts placed in the top 10 at the conference meet Feb. 17.

"We're going to try to get one more meet this week," said Lowell coach Skye Fisher, in hopes of getting any of her girls very close in individual scores into regionals.

Lowell's Richelle Kimble, who took fifth place in the all-around with a score of 34.80, also took fifth in the uneven bars with 8.55. She finished fourth in the floor exercise with 9.00 and tied for ninth place in

the vault with 8.55.

Kelsey Teft took 10th for Lowell in the all-around with a score of 32.50.

Six teams competed at the conference meet at Forest Hills Northern High School. As a team, Lowell, with a 129.02 score, took fourth place behind Forest Hills, Rockford, and Kenowa Hills. Behind Lowell were East Kentwood and Mona Shores.

East Grand Rapids was also represented by lone team member Alyssa Burke who competed with the Forest Hills team.

There were a number of injuries at conference.

Lowell's Andrea Coffey

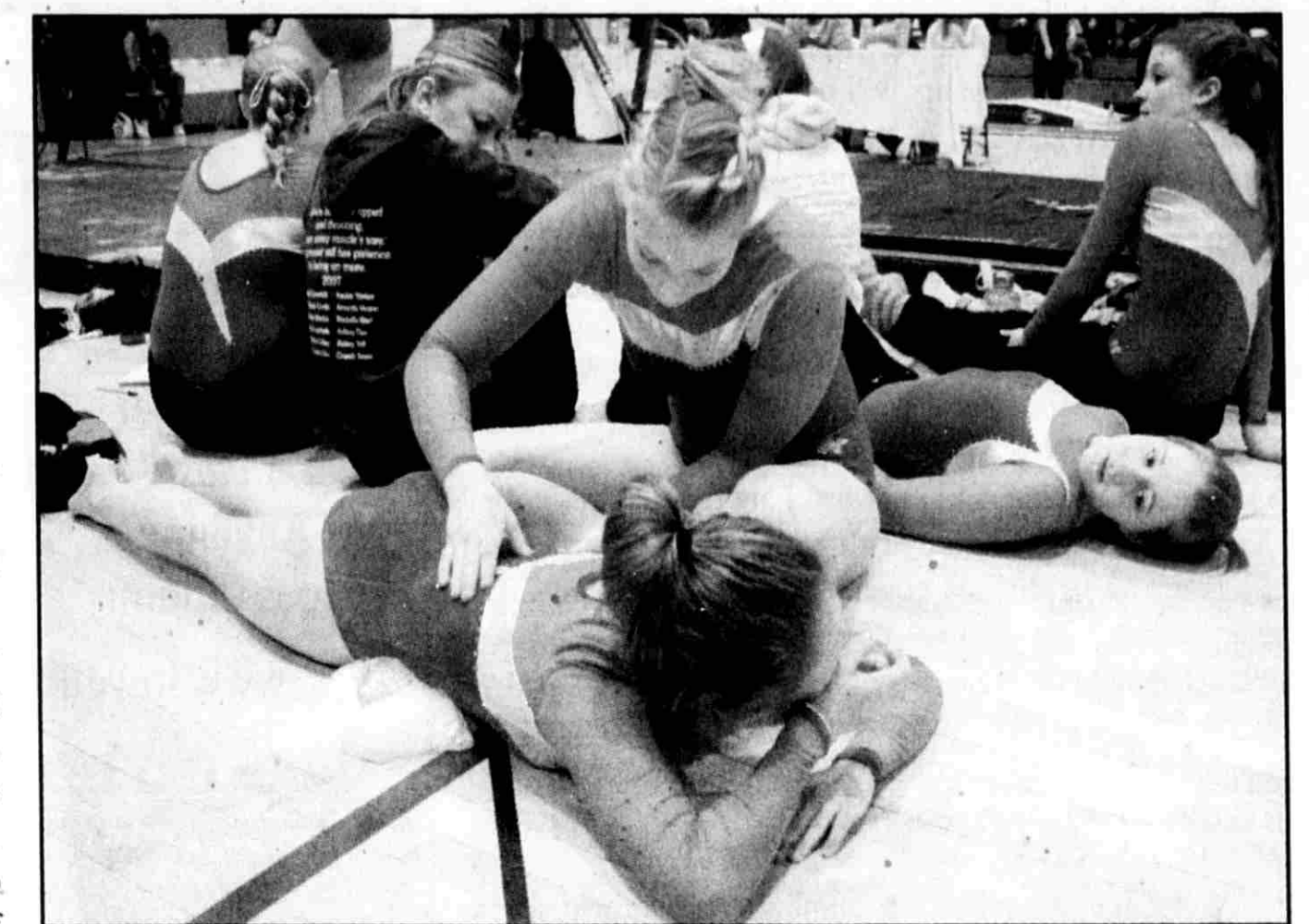
was injured on the uneven bars, forcing her to sit out the floor exercise. "It was the cartilage on my ribs," said Coffey, clutching the blanket around her. "It just popped out."

While the other Lowell gymnasts were able to perform, there was clearly tension in the air.

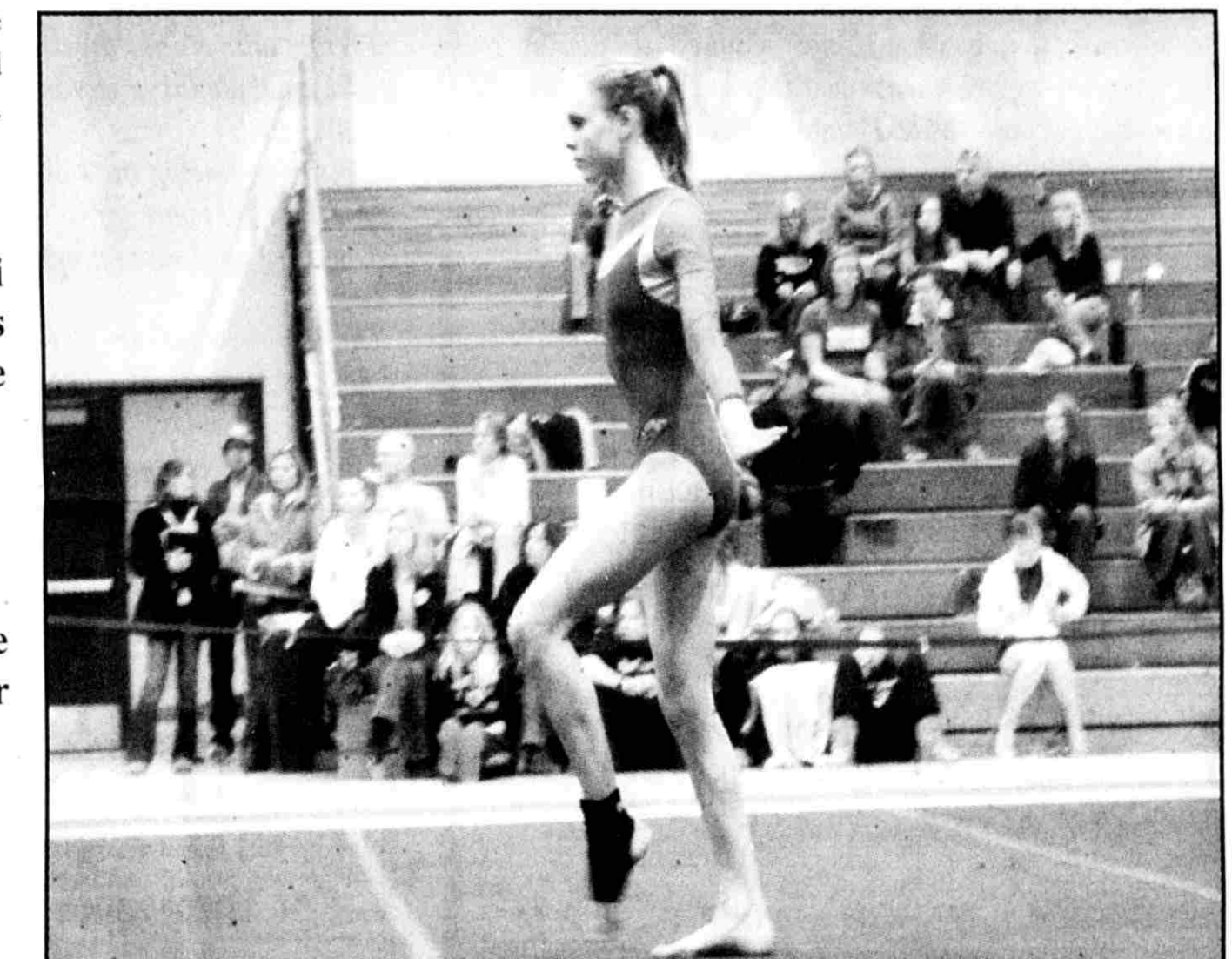
Teft, one of Lowell's top scorers, had to put a brace on her lower leg for the floor exercise, and even Mandy Vezino's sports-induced asthma was acting up.

"This floor is just really hard," Fisher said, adding that Teft was not injured. One of Rockford's players also limped off of the floor. "That was one of her top scorers," Fisher said of Rockford's coach, Jacquie Caprathe, and her injured gymnast, Alyssa Bryson.

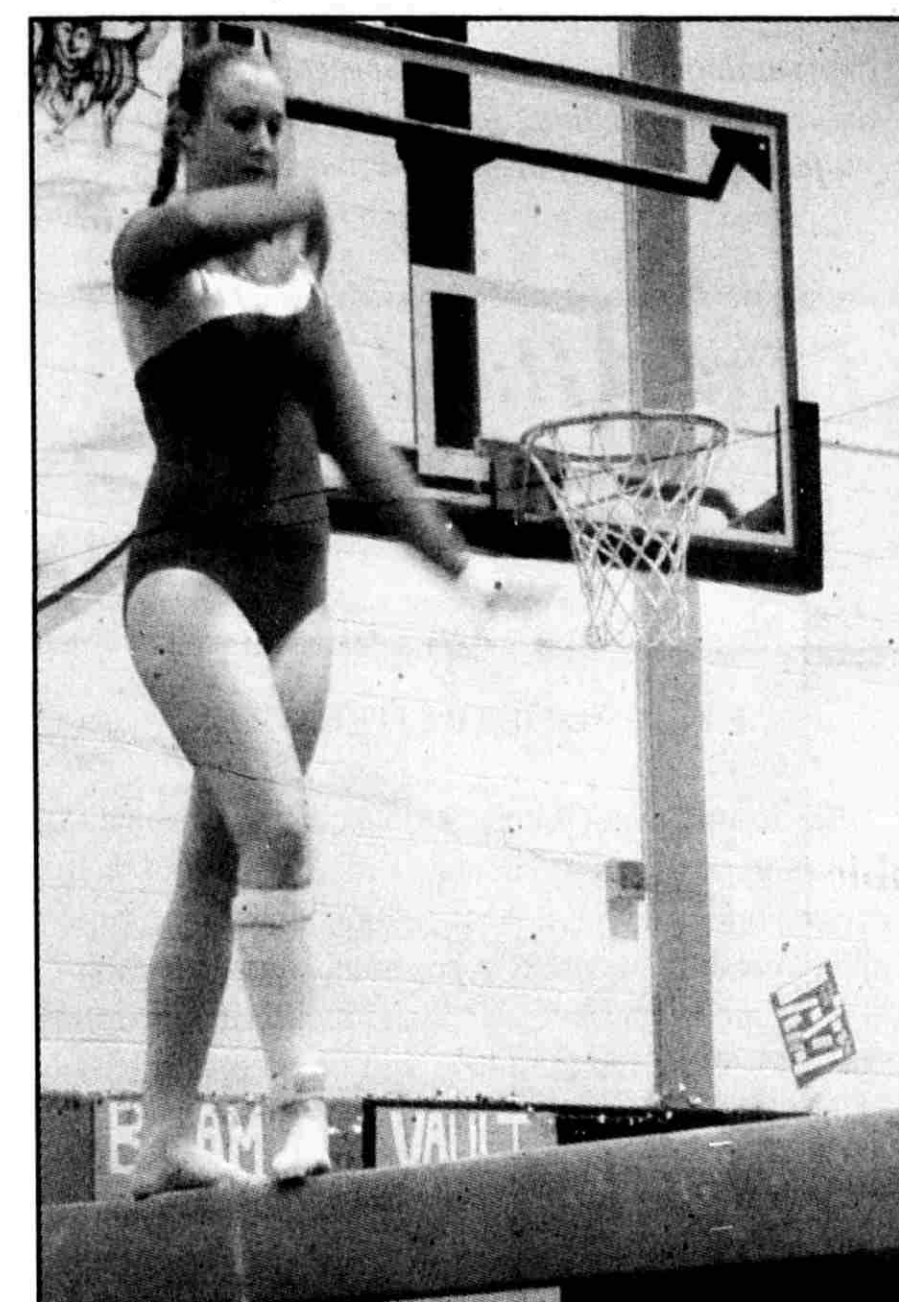
"No bones broken," said just going to go from there. The regional meet takes Caprathe. "No gymnastics We're probably going to place March 3. for a week, and then we're wait for an MRI."



Above right, Kelli Kowalski massages the injury of teammate Andrea Coffey.



At right, Richelle Kimble on her floor exercise routine.



Mandy Vezino on the balance beam.

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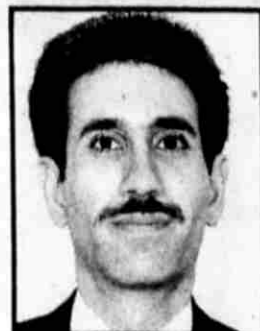
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Legal Ease

With Jonathan David

DEAR JONATHAN:

How much of my estate can be sheltered from federal estate tax in 2007?

JONATHAN SAYS:

Under current law, for this year and next year, the applicable exclusion amount is \$2,000,000. In 2009, the exclusion will increase to \$3,500,000, and 2010, there will be a one year repeal of the federal estate tax, until 2011 when the federal estate tax will be reinstated.

DEAR JONATHAN:

I know in 2006, I was able to make gifts of up to \$12,000 per person without incurring a federal gift tax. Is that amount going to change for 2007?

JONATHAN SAYS:

No. The annual gift tax exclusion will remain at \$12,000 for 2007.

DEAR JONATHAN:

I recently set up a living trust. I am the sole trustee and the sole beneficiary during my lifetime. When I die, the trust assets are to be divided equally among my children. The main reason I set the trust up was for probate avoidance. When I went to the bank to try to set up a trust bank account, they asked me for the trust's federal identification number. I didn't know how to respond. What is this number and how do I obtain one?

JONATHAN SAYS:

A federal identification number, also known as an employer identification number (EIN), is the number used to identify taxpayers that are required to file business tax returns, i.e., business entities such as corporations, partnerships and limited liability companies. Generally

speaking, trusts, other than grantor trusts, also must be assigned an EIN. The following characteristics are typically associated with grantor trusts:

- The trust is established during the grantor's (the person who establishes the trust) lifetime.
 - The grantor retains substantial control over the trust, including the power to revoke the trust.
 - The grantor is also the trustee of the trust.
 - The grantor is the trust's sole lifetime beneficiary.
- When the grantor retains so much control over the trust, the trust is disregarded as a separate taxpaying entity and the grantor is taxed as if he or she owned all the trust

assets outright. Since the trust is not deemed to be a separate taxpayer, it would not need to apply for an EIN.

Based on the information you provided, it appears that your trust would qualify as a grantor trust, and as such, you would not need to apply for an EIN. Your social security number will also be the trust's taxpayer number. Consequently, when the bank asks you for the trust's EIN, you should give them your social security number instead.

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

Sound Off

The Ledger
"Almost"
Anything
Goes Column

www.lowellbuyersguide.com

Or CALL...897-0787

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".

I really miss dinner theater at the old theater. Is the Arts Council planning anything for the near future? N.S.

Why develop the North Washington property? There are plenty of vacant homes in the city limits. We need some green space on the east side!

Thank you to the nice guy who helped me and my young boys with an auger and some bait while ice fishing last Sunday! You were VERY kind to us, (we were not very prepared)!

Thank you Dr. Reagan. First intelligent idea I have heard on the 27 acres at the end of Washington. Have all these people put their money where their mouths are?

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BOWNE TOWNSHIP NOTICE BOARD OF REVIEW

THE BOARD OF REVIEW OF BOWNE TOWNSHIP WILL MEET AT THE HISTORIC TOWNSHIP HALL - 8240 ALDEN NASH SE., ALTO ON:

MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2007 10:00 A.M. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2007 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2007 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 NOON 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. (EVENING HOURS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY).

FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING THE TAX ROLL AND HEARING ALL CLAIMS. YOU MAY APPEAL YOUR ASSESSED VALUATION ONE OF (2) WAYS: BY LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE BOWNE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR AND RECEIVED BY HIM PRIOR TO MARCH 7, 2007. OR BY APPEARING IN PERSON ON ONE OF THE DATES THE BOARD OF REVIEW MEETS.

THE TENTATIVE REAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AND ASSESSMENT MULTIPLIER REQUIRED BY PA 165 OF 1971 ARE:

Agricultural Ratio	49.30	Multiplier	1.0141
Commercial Ratio	47.65	Multiplier	1.0493
Industrial Ratio	46.62	Multiplier	1.0725
Residential Ratio	48.96	Multiplier	1.0212

DENNIS MCKELVEY - ASSESSOR
CHRISTIAN WENGER-SUPERVISOR
BOWNE TOWNSHIP

Why weren't LHS freshmen given information about class rings available at the local jewelry store? There is an alternative and they give a rebate to the class fund.

I like sound off I read it for the entertainment value its funny when people vent. Don't take it or yourselves so seriously. It makes you look foolish.

- Craig Conklin

To whomever has plowed out my mailbox the last two snows - Thanks. It is much appreciated by me and the mailman. - Al Walker

Wasn't it nice having the kids home for two days. I took the day off and my son and I bought some home improvement projects and mom, dad and son put it all together.

Just wanted to say we have such an awesome varsity bowling team!

Congratulations to the Lowell Tobacco Free For Good class on a job well done. You are an inspiration to your families, your physicians and your community.

Best wishes. - Jodie Seese

Lend A Hand
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

HELP PROMOTE LITERACY!!!

The Kent County Literacy Council has scheduled an information session on Tuesday Feb. 27 for prospective volunteer tutors. The one-hour session starts at 6:30 p.m. It allows persons interested in becoming volunteer tutors to find out more about the Council and its literacy programs. At the end of the session, there will be an opportunity to sign up for tutor training.

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

The information session will be held at the Cascade Library located at 2870 Jacksmith Avenue, SE, Grand Rapids. Please call 459-5151 to register.

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NEW CONSTRUCTION - Country setting, barrier free, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, central air, 2 car attached garage. \$1,000 + deposit. Call 616-374-5381.

A KING SIZE - pillow top mattress set, never used with deluxe frame, still in box, cost \$1,050, sacrifice \$335, 616-452-8430.

7 YR OLD REGISTERED GELDING - very sweet but experienced riders only. 17 hands tall and sorrel in color, \$500 obo. Please call 616-560-7272.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE - \$115 a cord with delivery within 10 miles of Lowell. 262-0757.

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A BED - A new queen pillowtop mattress set, still in plastic. Must sell \$120, 616-318-6998. Can deliver.

WOODED ACREAGE - Nice 6.7 acre build site! Located off Pinckney Rd., Saranac Schools. West Michigan Real Estate. 897-0530.

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A BRAND NEW king pillowtop mattress set \$225. Call 616-949-2683.

MEMORY FOAM MATTRESS - Relieves back pain. YES it really does. All sizes. ALL NEW. Try it FREE. G.R. 616-682-4767 or 293-6160.

FOR SALE - 1996 Pontiac Grand Am SE sedan. 117,000 mi. New tires, \$2,000. Call 868-7573 or 560-6845 ask for Paul.

ABED - Tempurpedic style memory foam mattress set. Value over \$1800 must sell \$395. 616-949-6525, delivery available.

TOTAL BODY GYM 1000 - \$100; 8 piece Christmas dishes, Folk Craft Winter Wonderland, \$25; Men's Carhart Arctic Coat, sz. 40, \$40. Call 897-6897.

A BEDROOM SET - 7 pc complete set with sleigh bed! Brand new, never used. Value \$2,000 sell \$575. 616-318-6998.

4 MOS. OLD BLOOD HOUND - male, very friendly, partially housetrained. Black & tan color. \$600 obo. Everything included. 616-894-3574.

1998 JEEP CHEROKEE - 4x4, 4 door, Limited, red, new tires, loaded, \$5,500. Call 897-1597 or 745-2161.

FOR SALE - 2002 Arctic Cat ZR600, runs great, excellent condition, 5,000 miles. \$2,400 obo. Call 897-1753 or 291-2964.

NEW POSEY BED SENSOR PAD - & Posey chair sensor pad w/keep safe alarm. Walker clarity (hearing - braille). Ph. 897-6218.

3 BEDROOM - 2 bath doublewide only \$31,900. 4% FIXED RATE for qualified buyers. Call Claudia at Valley Vista, 877-634-6700 www.hometownamerica.net

FOR SALE - SkiDoo Formula Mx. 440 liquid cooled w/electric start. New battery in 2007. \$800. Call 868-7573 or 560-6845 ask for Paul.

2003 GRAND PRIX GT - 60,000 miles even, 4 dr., dark blue, new brakes and tires. Loaded! \$8,500. Call 897-1597 or 745-2161.

A AMISH LOG HEADBOARD - and queen pillow top mattress set, new in plastic, sell all for \$275, 616-248-4930.

'93 FORD - FWD, PW, PL, 4 speed & OD, high miles, one owner, never plowed. Good shape. \$2,500. Call 897-8527.

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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 - Ada Twp., Lowell Schools. Ranch, 3 bedroom, 1 bath main, 1 bedroom, 1 bath in daylight basement, 3.3 acres. \$1,200/mo. 616-915-3927.

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SENIORS!! - Rent could be as low as \$70 per month! 1 bedroom HUD subsidized apartments for rent! Rent based on income for those who qualify! BEAUTIFUL 6 acre country setting! Pets welcome! IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY! Conveniently located 20 minutes East of Grand Rapids. HURRY... before they are gone! Equal Housing Opportunity. 616-693-2271, hearing impaired dial 711.

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

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! Call John at 299-0486 or

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

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PRODUCTION MOLDERS WANTED - Polyurethane experience a plus. Apply in person PURforms Inc., 615 Chatham St., Lowell, 897-3000.

MR. R'S A+ DRIVING SCHOOL - Now offering classes for Segment 1 & Segment 2 at the YMCA Teen Center. Next Segment 1 class begins Mon., March 5. Ph. 616-761-2217.

BUSINESS CARDS - For as little as \$25 for 250. (white card stock, black ink). We can print cards in 4 color (for as low as \$20). Before you order your cards from somewhere else - check our rates & our new styles! Call Lowell Litho, 897-9261.

HELP WANTED - Need Daycare assistant for my group daycare. P/T but possibility of fulltime. Hours will vary. Must be flexible & love kids. Call Lisa at 897-3065.

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GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL COACH - Applications should be submitted with a cover letter & resume to Barry Hobria, Athletic Director, Lowell High School, 11700 Vergennes, Lowell, MI 49331 by 12 noon, February 26, 2007.

STAND UP FORKLIFF OPERATOR - Manpower in Lowell is seeking a licensed forklift operator who has at least 3 months of experience (within the last 12 months) operating a stand-up forklift. Successful candidates will be available to train from 12 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. & then be able to work any shift. Drug screen required. Apply in person to Manpower, 505-D West Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331. Ph. 616-897-0050.

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LOWELL CITY DIRECTORY - New books will be available in March.

LOST - Yellow/orange cat. Long hair, no collar, female, declawed & spayed. Lost in the Riverside/Hudson area. 897-5018.

IN MEMORIAM - In loving memory of our parents: Emma E. Kropf, June 17, 1909 - February 24, 1998; Bertha M. Weir, October 24, 1901 - February 20, 1968; James W. Weir, October 7, 1899 - March 20, 1973; Carl Kropf, September 13, 1909 - January 18, 1993.

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Those we love remain with us; for love itself lives on, and cherished memories never fade, because a loved one's gone. Those we love will never be more than a thought apart, for as long as there is memory, they'll live on in our hearts. Lovingly, your family

LAS receives donation from the Wege Foundation for purchase of property

By Emma Palova

The Lowell school district received \$250,000 from the Wege Foundation for the purchase of property adjacent to the Wittenbach-Wege Center.

The donation will protect the 6.8-acre parcel from development, according to superintendent Greg Pratt. A small home that sits on the land owned by Richard Dubridge will eventually be razed.

"The acquisition of this property completes a vision for the center started years ago," said Pratt.

Center director Steve Mueller said the property has been of interest to the center for a long time. The property sits in the middle between Wege and Wittenbach properties. "It filled the missing piece," said Mueller.

Currently, there are no specific plans for the property located at 11849 Vergennes Road. Mueller said the

trail system may be expanded to make the trails more accessible.

The center will be holding an open house in conjunction with its sixth anniversary celebration April 21. "We're very grateful," said Pratt. "It came at an opportune time."

Pratt said he expects increased use of the center. With the property acquisition, the center will have close to 150 acres.

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