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Volume 37 Issue 6

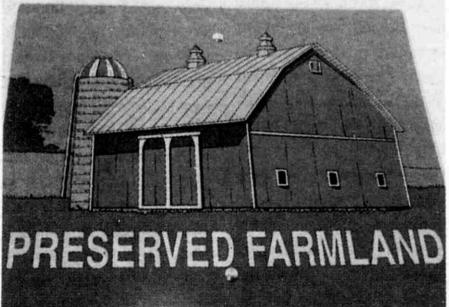
Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

The Lowell Ledger

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

35¢

For the love of land



by Emma Palova

Note: Have you noticed the colorful signs with a bright red barn nestled in a green pasture sprinkled around Grattan and Vergennes townships?

They designate preserved farmland. Over the next few weeks we will bring you a series of articles with the barn logo about local farmers who have decided to preserve their land for future generations.

Farmland preservation provides for quality of life for generations to come

49284

Part 1

fter sitting all behind day computer screen, answering cell and regular phones, constantly processing information, nothing feels better than driving home through serene rolling farm fields.

A covey of turkeys feeds on harvested corn fields, herons nest in the swamps off 2 Mile Road, deer munch on apples in the orchards. Horses graze on pastures off Parnell Road. Cows rest in the meadows surrounding Parnell.

Swans, geese and other

are abundant with fish.

A farmer sitting on a tractor works in the fields. Barns and silos are an integral part of the Vergennes and Grattan townships landscape.

Several local farmers have made sure the land stays that way by using the Kent County Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) voluntary program.

"We think that preserving farmland is part of Kent County's triple bottom line," said Kendra Wills, staff person to the Kent County Ag Preservation Board, "that is environment, economy and quality of life."

protect farmland against development, to preserve rural character and scenic attributes of the county, and to maintain the quality of life of the county residents.

The voluntary program compensates the farmer for his or her willingness to accept a permanent deed restriction on their land that limits future development for non-agricultural purposes.

Landowners are compensated for the fair market value of their land, based on the difference between what it could be sold for on the open market with no restrictions and what it can be sold for as

place, the landowner may still sell the land on the open market as farmland. Private property rights remain intact.

This price according to Wills averages between \$4,000 to \$5,000.

"The land cannot be developed in any way," said Wills. "It's a really nice tool. The farmer gets some cash, and has another option to get out of farming without selling."

Even though match state and federal funding is tight, farm preservation is here to stay. With Vergennes designating a section in the master plan for farm

fowl are omnipresent in Murray Lake and area ponds

The main purpose of the PDR program is to

farmland. Once an easement is in

Farmland, cont'd., pg. 3

Rail group targets August for grant application

by Emma Palova

citizens group working on the conversion of the Flat River railroad line to a trail set Aug. 1 as target date for state grant application. If approved, the funding would become available in 2009.

system would actually include two trails, from Lowell to Ionia and Lowell to Greenville.

In the meantime, the group consisting of several governmental jurisdictions, has to overcome major

hurdles.

First, purchase a agreement with Mid Michigan Railroad must be drafted. Second, the group will have to determine ownership/governance issues.

Last week at a meeting at the Lowell Area Chamber The proposed trail of Commerce, the group discussed the option of having an interlocal agreement to manage the future trail by June 1.

> The interlocal agreement could be formed between the major counties

The Lowell Ledger Inside

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involved and the cities along the two trails. This would include Kent, Ionia and Montcalm counties and the cities of Lowell, Belding, Ionia and Greenville.

This multijurisdictional agency would also apply for funding, determine construction and maintenance issues of the entire 40-mile long trail corridor.

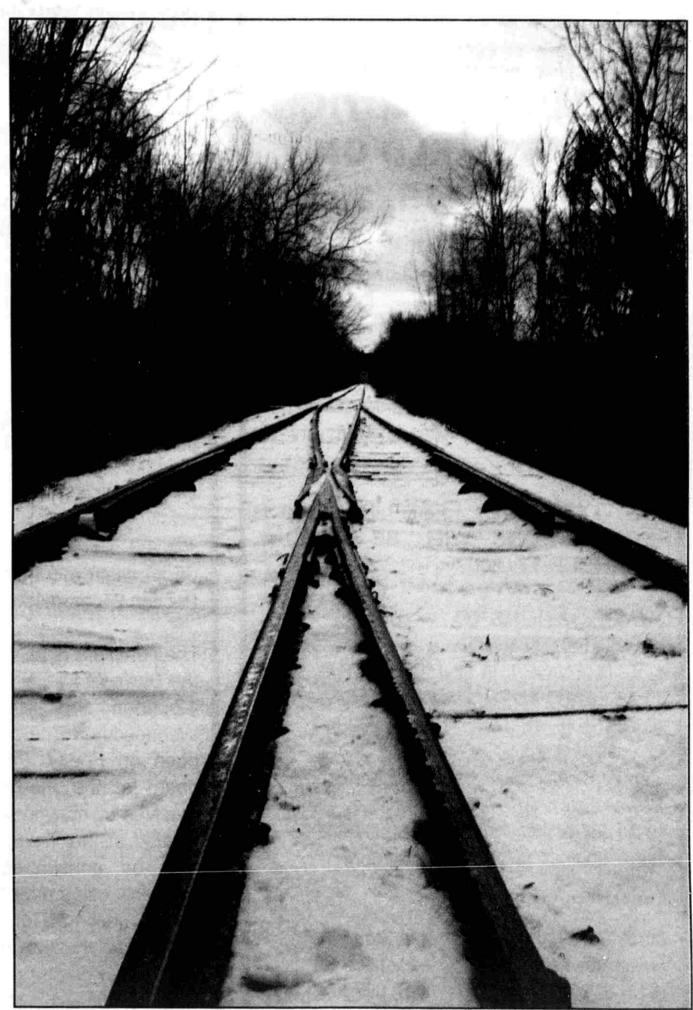
"We have many governmental jurisdictions involved that gives us a lot of options and opportunities," said facilitator Carolyn Kane, "but it is difficult to frame it."

Other trail systems such as the Clinton Ionia Shiawassee and the Lowell Area Recreation Authority also managed by are interlocal agreements.

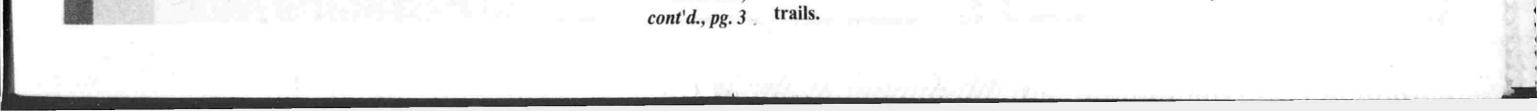
The group also discussed maintenance issues on the trail mainly mowing and plowing. The Kent Trails are mowed once a month, according to Roger Sabine, director of Kent County Parks and Recreation.

"We're advocates of non-plowing," said Sabine. "Some people want to roller blade in winter. We do blow off leaves in fall."

If an interlocal agreement is formed, then Railroad,



Railroad trussels in downtown Lowell. Lowell may become the hub of the two



THE LOWELL LEDGER - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2007 PAGE 2



BURTLE

Pauline B. (Potter) Burtle aged 93 of Lowell passed away Wednesday, December 5, 2007. She was preceded in death by her husband of 66 years, Clarence Burtle; two brothers, Lawrence and Carroll Potter: one sister, Janice Easton. She is survived by her daughters, Barbara (Howard) Briggs, Frances (Donald) Dawson. Evelyn (Ford) Devries and Eleanor Benbow VanTol; one sister, Jean Bishop; 13 grandchildren; great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; Funeral services were held Monday at the Roth-Gerst

Funeral Home. Memorial contributions may be made to Senior Neighbors of Lowell and First United Methodist Church of Lowell.



HAWKINS

Tanya Joy Hawkins, aged 29 of Lowell, went to be with her Lord suddenly on Thursday, December 6. 2007. She is survived by her loving husband, Joseph: her cherished children. Jacob Tristan and Preston Dylan; parents, George and Sharon Haga of Ada; sister, Karin (Lester) Givens of Lowell; grandmother, Alice

Haga of Grand Rapids; Edward parents-in-law, and Suzanne Hawkins of Rockford: brother-in-law, Rob (Jennifer) Sliter of OH; Toledo, sisters-inlaw, Nicole (Rob) Bowen of Cedar Springs, Theresa Schwartz of Detroit, also several nieces and nephews. Tanya had a huge heart and was very involved with her son's lives-volunteering at their Bushnell Elementary School. She loved playing the violin, taking pictures, and had an extreme love for animals and the outdoors. Funeral services were held Monday at Ada Christian Reformed Church. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Tanya Hawkins Memorial Fund (for Jacob & Preston Hawkins Education Fund).

HOUSER

June Rosemarie Houser. 85, of Luray, Virginia, died Wednesday, December 5, 2007 at Page Memorial Hospital in Luray. Mrs. Houser was born April 7, 1922 on a farm in Ionia County near Lowell. She was the daughter of the late Godfrey and Rose (Blaser) Roth. She graduated from Lowell High School in 1939. She was in the WAVES during World War II and was a member of Luray



United Methodist Church. On June 22, 1951, she married William B. Houser. He survives in Luray. Also Mrs. Troy was a dedicated surviving are a son, Roger W. (Debby) Houser of in a one room school house Luray: a daughter, Carol J. near Howell and taught for (Barry) Keyser of Luray; Lowell Schools for over 25 three brothers, Alfred (Joan) years. She was a member Roth, Edwin (Doris) Roth of of the VFW Auxilary 8303. Lowell and Walter (Kapua) Mass of Christian burial Roth of Okemos; sister-inlaws, Virginia Roth and June December 14, at St Mary Roth: a grandson, Kyle W. Church, 402 Amity, Lowell Houser of Harrisonburg; a with Rev George Fekete step-daughter, Helena Hill of Oklahoma and many nieces Graceland and nephews. Besides her Gardens. Visitation will be parents, she was preceded in Thursday, 6 - 8 p.m. at the death by her brothers; Fred Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, W. Roth of Ames, Iowa and 305 N Hudson Lowell. In Rudolph G. Roth of Lowell. The memorial services were held Saturday at the Bradley Funeral Home in Luray.

TROY

Cora Ann Troy aged 87 of VanderVeen, age 89, of Honolulu, Hawaii formerly Grand Rapids,

NOTICE **BOWNE TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2007** 7:30 P.M.

There will be a meeting of the Bowne Township Zoning Board of Appeals on Thursday, December 20, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the Bowne Township office located at 8240 Alden Nash S.E., P.O. Box 35, Alto, M 49302-0035 to hear the following variance requests.

Michael Groot - requesting a variance to place an accessory structure in the front yard Section 3.02D, Section 17 SW 1/4, Parcel #4-24-17-300-014.

Joe & Colleen Paiz - requesting a variance on lot width requirement in the AG. District, Section 24, parcel #41-24-24-100-024.

The complete application can be reviewed at the Bowne Township office from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday & Thursday and 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon on Friday. Public comments will be heard at the meeting. Written comments received by mail, in person or in the mail slot located at the Township office entrance will also be considered if received at the Township office prior to 5:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Comments may also be emailed to clerk@bownetwp.cc.

> Sandra L. Kowalczyk Bowne Township Clerk

from Lowell passed away December 1, 2007. She was husband of 42 years, John J Troy; parents, Charles

Mayme Bennett; and brothers, Herman, Fulton, Edwin Bennett. She is survived by her children, John J (Joan) Troy, Patrick A Troy, Pamela E Troy; grandchildren, Jennie Troy, John K Troy, Matthew Troy: great grandchildren, Jacqueline Troy, Dominic Trujillo; sisters, Francis Cipresso and Edna Rosato; several nieces and nephews. teacher, she started teaching will be 11 a.m., Friday, presiding. Entombment Memorial lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to charity of one's choice.

VANDERVEEN

Eunice Elizabeth passed away peacefully and went November 28, 2007. She was preceded in death by her husband, Hugh Jarlsberg, Rebecca Ann Jernigan, Timothy Hugh John VanderVeen; her grandchildren, Elizabeth Jarlsberg, grandchildren, Sarah Mariella Scott-Spisak and Michigan. Lois (Robert) Reynolds. A

Be civil to all; sociable to many; familiar with few; friend to one; enemy to none. - Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)



REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL **PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON JANUARY 15, 2008**

REMINDER NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any qualified elector of Bowne Township, Lowell Township Vergennes Township and the city of Lowell who is not already registered, may register to vote at the city or township offices, at any Secretary of State branch office, or other designated places for the presidential primary election to be held on Tuesday, January 15, 2008.

THE LAST DAY FOR RECEIVING REGISTRATIONS WILL BE MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2007.

QUALIFICATIONS TO **REGISTER TO VOTE:**

- CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES
- AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 15, 2008

Sandra Kowalczyk Bowne Township Clerk (616) 868-6846 9am - 3pm

Linda S. Regan Lowell Township Clerk (616) 897-7600 9am - 5pm

Mari Stone Vergennes Township (616) 897-5671 9am - 3pm

Betty Morlock

Lowell City Clerk

(616) 897-8457

8am - 5pm

memorial service was held at the Clark Retirement preceded in death by her Community Chapel. In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial contribution to either the Clark Retirement Community Foundation, the American Cancer Society or Lowell Area Historical Museum.

ZOPPA

Mr. Walter R. Zoppa, age 82, of Alto and formerly of Grand Rapids, passed away on Sunday, December 2, 2007. He bravely and courageously served his country in the US Marine Corp during WWII and was proud and honored defend his country. For 40 years he worked at Guardsman Chemical Coating as a shipping clerk. His family is cherished with memories of his great sense of humor. Walter was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting and fishing. He is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Helen; children, Wally Zoppa and his domestic partner, Jim Maloney of San Diego, CA, Michael and Debra Zoppa of Belmont, Anne Zoppa of Chevy Chase, MD, Donna and Bill Wesenick of Alto, MI, Tom and Diane Zoppa of Shelby Twp., Mi, Larry and Paula Zoppa of Grand Rapids, Rob and Starlene Zoppa of Brighton, and Linda and Michael to her Heavenly Home on Weirich of Caledonia; ten grandchildren; brother, Alvin and Marion Zoppa of Grand Rapids; sisters, Leona VanderVeen. Surviving are Belka of Grand Rapids, and her children, Jane Elizabeth Dolly Bruff of Belding; and nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death VanderVeen and Thomas by three brothers, four sisters, and his grandson, Joseph Steven Zoppa. The Christopher Mass of Christian Burial Jarlsberg, Jodee Gailey for Mr. Zoppa was offered and Todd Brower; great on Saturday at St. Jude's Catholic Church. In lieu Jarlsberg, Rachel Jarlsberg of flowers please consider andEmmaGailey; hersisters, memorials to Hospice of

Farmland, continued ... From Page 1

are waiting to have their land permanently preserved.

One of the goals is to have a block of 1,000 acres in the Parnell corridor preserved from 5 Mile Road to Bailey.

"We're getting closer," said Wills

adopted at the county level in 2002. The first preserved farm in Vergennes Township was in 2005.

In Grattan Township, some farms have been preserved without any

The PDR program was grant money by using noncontiguous open space program.

"Agriculture Michigan's second largest industry," said Wills. "Farmers are doing well

with booming ethanol industry. Prices of milk are going up.' The next article will

farmers.

Railroad, continued ... From Page 1

the agencies share the costs of maintenance along the trail. In some cases, Friends of Trails take care of maintenance.

The citizens' group decided to fall back on a Friends' group in case an agreement between the multiple entities is not reached

group to apply for grants and other funding.

Other issues included connectivity of the two trails with the surrounding trail

Also a master plan systems. Further north in to Kane, Meijer Inc. may along the trail corridor has Greenville, the trail would to be drafted in order for the connect into Heartland Trail. "Connectivity is important," said Sabine,

> "surface is not." In further discussion of potential funding, according

provide funding for a grant match.

be held on Jan. 3 at 1 p.m. at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.

Voter registration deadline nears for presidential primary election

Secretary of State Terri Lvnn Land reminds residents that Monday, Dec. 17 is the last day to register to vote in the Jan. 15 presidential primary election.

"The primary is the first opportunity Michigan residents have to affect the election of a new president, said Land, the state's chief to do so as soon as possible. Voter participation is the foundation of our democracy."

To register, people must be at least 18 years be U.S. residents. They must also be residents of Michigan and of the city or township in which they wish to register.

in person or by mail. The mail-in form is on the

older, are disabled, or are year only. overseas

То check Michigan, I encourage you www.Michigan.gov/vote. Residents will be able to find information on voting by reminded of the identification absentee ballot, Michigan's identification voter requirement, using voting ID at the polls, such as a they're not in possession of a equipment and contacting Michigan driver's license or photo ID. Their ballots will old by Election Day and their local clerk. They will also find a map to their local polling place.

polls Jan. 15, voters will be asked which party's primary Voters may register they wish to vote in and they will receive a ballot for that personal identification card party. That ballot will also

Department of State Web contain any special election site at www.Michigan.gov/ issues. For voters who wish sos. First-time voters who only to vote in the special register by mail must vote in election, they can ask for a person in their first election, ballot that does not include unless they hand-deliver the presidential candidates. This application to their local election replaces the regular clerk, are 60 years old or February election for this

On the absentee voter their application, voters are registration status, voters reminded that they must election officer. "If you are may visit the Michigan check a box to indicate not yet registered to vote in Voter Information Center at which party's ballot they card with photo. would like.

> requirement. They will be asked to present photo identification card.

a Michigan driver's license Day. When they arrive at the or identification card can photo ID:

• Driver's license or Michigan.gov/sos.

issued by another state • Federal or state government-issued photo identification

• U.S. passport

card with photo with photo from a high school

of higher education, such as a college or university Tribal identification

Anyone who does not Voters are again have an acceptable form of

photo ID or is not carrying one can still vote. They will sign a brief form stating that be included with all others Voters who don't have and counted on Election

Additionalinformationis show the following forms of available on the Department of State Web site at www.

the man-in form is on the party. That banot will also	• LEGAL	NOTICE
GREG VAN STRIEN HEATING AND PLUMBING	STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT	dent are notif all claims aga estate will be
HEATING SERVICE & INSTALLATION AIR CONDITIONING SERVICE & INSTALLATION PLUMBING SERVICE & INSTALLATION WARM AIR/RADIANT HEAT OIL BURNER SERVICE	NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate	barred unless p to Joseph Scy Kathleen Scytk personal repres or proposed
(616) 897-5569	FILE NO. 07-184373-DE	representative, both the proba
Visa And Master Card Accepted	Estate of WALTER SZCZYTOKO	at 180 Ottav NW, Grand Ra
Still Need to make Plans for New Year's Eve?	a/k/a WALTER SCYTOKO, Deceased Date of birth:	49503 and the proposed representative
Al and the Black Cats <i>Larkin's Other Place</i> invites You to Rock in 2008	09/28/1928 TO ALL CREDITORS:	months after of publication notice.
with Lowell's very own: <i>A and the Black Cats!</i> <i>A and the Black Cats!</i> For Adults 21 and over & costs: 55 per person & \$25 per couple and includes: • Al and the Black Cats & a DJ • Food, Champagne & Dancing • Noise Makers, Hats and FUN! <i>The Second State Cats in the State</i>	NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Walter Szczytko a/k/a Scytoko, who lived at 1006 alpine Church St. NW, Comstock Park, Michigan died 11/29/2007.	SUSAN M. POT 410 Bridge St. Grand Rapids, (616) 454-4119 JOSEPH SCY KATHLEEN 850 N. Sun

Creditors of the dece-

THE LOWELL LEDGER - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2007 PAGE 3

profile one of the local

The next meeting will



Military identification

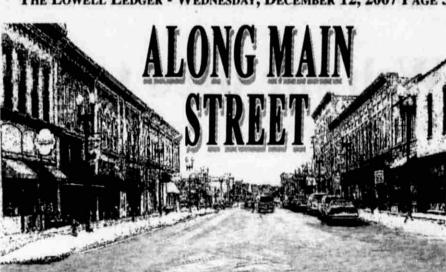
 Student identification or an accredited institution

> tified that ainst the e forever presented cytko and ko, named sentative personal or to pate court awa Ave. Rapids, MI e named/ personal e within 4 the date on of this

> > 12/6/07

TYRAJ NW MI 49504

YTKO and N SCYTKO nset Pines Sparta, MI 49345



LAS MUSIC BOOSTERS

Lowell Middle School Intermediate and Advanced Orchestra Holiday Concert, Tuesday, Dec. 18, 7 p.m. at Lowell Performing Arts Center. Lowell High School Choir Holiday Concert, Thursday, Dec. 20, 7 p.m. at LPAC.

HOCKEY PROGRAM

The Lowell/Caledonia Hockey Program will host its second annual Youth Night on Friday, Dec. 14 at Patterson Ice Center during the Varsity game against Forest Hills Central at 5:30 p.m. All youth players in the Lowell and Caledonia school districts will receive a free t-shirt, admission to the game, and they will be introduced during the intermission if they come in their hockey team jersey.

FREE ART WORKSHOP

Saturday, Dec. 15 from 12 - 4 p.m. at the Lowell Area Arts Council. Copper Painting on Rocks with artist Lori Kammeraad. Bring a favorite small smooth flat rock. You will apply multicolored copper leaf to creat a one-of-a-kind special rock. Drop in any time (allow 30 minutes). Open to all ages.

F.R.O.M. CHRISTMAS TOY & FOOD

If you need help this Christmas with food and/or toys for your children, register in the Food Pantry, 897-8260 for hours. If you wish to donate, we are collecting new, unwrapped toys and Christmas dinner-type foods. Please call the Food Pantry for locations of toy dropoffs or call the Haybarkers at 897-8829.

SUMMER CONCERTS

The Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts is seeking the best musicians and groups to perform in the summer of 2008. The ten-week Thursday night concert series begins June 19, 2008 and is located on Riverwalk Plaza on an outdoor covered stage in front of the Lowell Showboat. To be considered all applications must be received by Feb. 1, 2008. Complete packets include your CD demo, a brief bio, contact information (name, e-mail, and phone number) and a photo. Please mail to the Lowell Area Arts Council, PO Box 53, Lowell, MI 49331. For more information call 897-8545 or e-mail infor@lowellartscouncil.org.

DONATIONS NEEDED

Yarn and knitting needles size 7/8 for service learning project at LMS. Projects to benefit area veterans. Drop off donations to Lowell Middle School, c/o Lisa Camfferman.



Web site used to check plagiarism; board approves new buses

Murphy-

by Shelly MacNaughton special to the Ledger

Beachler Christine updated the board on a program used in the high school called Turnitin.com

This is a web site that LHS subscribes to, which allows students and teachers to scan writing assignments. The website scans the document and reports the percentage of plagiarism within the document

The school has subscribed to this web site for the past two years and it is used mostly by the English department. This year, at the request of new principal Tricia Murphywriting assignments.

"Teachers have said most of the time they are Alderman using this to help kids learn how to cite work properly," said Beachler.

Students are also able to scan the document and check their own plagiarism and correct documents before turning into the teacher. Teachers can pinpoint particular sentences to have students rework in their own words.

The web site is used in over 80 countries with over five billion indexed pages. Papers submitted to this web site are archived to prevent sharing of documents between students, web sites, the purchase of four new Alderman, teachers have siblings etc. This website is been encouraged to use this proving to be a tremendous site at least once with various asset to the staff as well as students.

Principal

presented updates to the LHS Student Handbook. The updates include a New Attendance Policy, New Tardy Policy, and revisions to the Student Code of Conduct. These updates were presented to the students and a summary sheet was sent home with students on Friday.

The changes are posted on the website, as well as the Parent Portal on Infinite Campus. Murphy-Alderman will also be mailing a letter of information including these updates later this week.

The Board approved buses for the 2008-09 school year from Capital City Bus Sales. John Zielinski also

Sheriff's department warns of thin ice danger

With the predicted forecasts of colder weather and potential snowfall over the next few days, thin ice will remain a danger on our inland lakes. Deputy Don Hamilton of the Kent County Sheriff Department Marine Unit wants all the outdoor enthusiasts to be aware of the thickness of ice necessary to sustain certain weights.

As a general guideline 3 inches of ice is required for an adult person. For a few people fishing in the same general area upon a lake you should have 4 inches. Snowmobiles generally require at least 5 inches of ice thickness. Operating a motor vehicle upon the ice is never recommended.

Ice does not have uniform thickness and frequent checks are necessary as you move across the lake. Use of a personal flotation device can add a measure of safety. Don't venture out on the ice without letting family or friends know where you're going to be. Fishing with a companion is always safer. Pull heavy additional equipment behind you to spread out the weight.

Snow will insulate the formation of ice and may not be as thick under a layer of snow. Try to learn more about the lakes that you are going out onto. Many have natural springs or inlets where the ice will not form as quickly as other areas of the lake.

For additional questions call Deputy Hamilton at 632-6223.



presented the board with a budget amendment in light of the updated information from Lansing.

Roger Bearup offered a curriculum report and noted that today was the first day of the new credit recovery program at the high school. "We currently have four

Planning commission wants corridor along M21 for consistency

by Emma Palova

The Lowell Planning Commission wants to establish a joint corridor with Lowell Township along the main M21 artery for consistency and enforcement.

Due to lack of signage enforcementbythetownship, the commissioners discussed the corridor Monday as a standalone zoning district with its own requirements.

Rodger Garner of Good Chevrolet said car dealers want equal enforcement in the city and the township.

"We enforce it, they don't," he said.

Unlike the township, the city has a mechanism for enforcement which is complaint-based. First a compliance, if that doesn't

a citation.

If the corridor is the township would share signage, setbacks and other zoning issues.

same requirements along the corridor, that would be a standalone," said vice-chair Clark Jahnke.

Enforcement of signage would then become a part of a bigger issue along the commission meetings. corridor.

"We want something all-encompassing beyond just the signs," said chair Maryalene LaPonsie.

Jeff Altoft, council member elect, suggested



teachers working on this program and 25 students participating," said Bearup.

work then the police issues discussions along Hudson and Lincoln Lake.

"We should send them established, the city and a formal letter that we are looking at some possibilities the same ordinances for where our master plan is going to take us," said Vance commissioner "You would have the Dimmick, "and that what we want to do is in concert with Vergennes Township."

Commissioner Garland Berry will be taking the issue of future corridors to both townships to their planning

Also in the spirit of cooperation with the townships, the planning commission will reinstate joint meetings targeting March for the first one.

"State law allows also involving Vergennes joint meetings for a larger letter goes out to ensure Township in the corridor area," said manager Dave Pasquale.

According to Pasquale, Fremont has one planning commission for the city and

the master plan over the next few months starting with changing the text on new mixed-use districts and downtown edge districts will be established, as well as rezoning on the west side

Viewpoint

To The Editor

Dear Editor.

I'm writing to let everyone know what a great time it was to be in the Lowell Christmas parade. "I'm Dreaming of a Redneck Christmas" was fun from the idea stage, right on through to the ride down Main Street.

I'd like to say a special thank you to Lee Houey (he built our porch) and to all of our contributors of redneck stuff.



One of my readers asked a questions about the holidays, "With the holidays just around the corner, extended family problems see to be magnified. How do I handle difficult relationships especially during the holidays?"

There are so many families that experience this during the holidays. You need to know that you are not alone in experiencing these problems. Family issues are an ongoing thing. Some years everything seems peaceful, and then other helps. Sometimes you can actually create a better mood by years family gatherings can be chaotic, toxic or even at times, volatile. Over the years the relationships in the family change. The following are three ways to manage family conflict and to maintain relationships through the holiday 1. Be aware of the "gravitational season: pull." When you grew up in your family you had a certain role to play. It might have been the "black sheep" role, the "hero child," the "responsible one," the "irresponsible one," the "clown," the "whiner." These are just some of the roles that are assigned to individuals in the family. When families get together, the "gravitational pull" will put you right back

We were a bit disappointed that the first place float didn't make the Lowell Ledger, but we are proudly displaying pictures at the Backwater Cafe.

We have decided to give our prize money from the float to the Lowell Skate Park. Thanks again to everybody who helped the great turnout for the parade. We're already thinking about next year!

into the role that you had as a child. No matter how much work you have done to grow out of that role, the family wants to put you back into it so there is a sense of sameness. People feel secure when there is no change. You job is to be aware of this gravitational pull, so that you prevent your family from defining you especially if you don't want to be in that role anymore.

strategy that is useful is to limit the time that you spend with your family. If you are an overnight guest, it can be harder to limit the time, but tell your family you're going out for a walk. Or, you could say that you want to "catch a movie." Time away from the gravitational pull helps you to think more clearly and it just gives you more breathing space. It is always good to get fresh air when you feel the toxicity in the family dynamic.

3. Finally, dwell on the positives of those around you THE LOWELL LEDGER **DECEMBER 12, 1907** "catching people doing good" and then, commenting on it. No entries for this date. This elevates the mood and changes the focus to something uplifting. It promotes good will. When the mood is lighter, 75 YEARS AGO people feel less anxious and when they feel less anxious, they THE LOWELL LEDGER AND ALTO SOLO are less defensive or on guard. When people are relaxed and less tense, they laugh more and take things less personally. **DECEMBER 8, 1932** Even though you were expecting a miserable time, you Whooping Cough, which appeared to have about died might find that you can renew relationships and that you can out in the community, has broken out afresh. Three new find joy in the holidays. It is my sincerest hope that you do cases reported Monday. find peace and joy throughout this season. Thank you reader Interest in aeronautics and in the Lowell airport for a very pertinent question! project are continuing to grow and considerable activity has already been displayed.



Janet Hard is a registered nurse, married, with two children living in the Saginaw area. She has had a Discover credit card for years, has always paid her bills on time, never exceeded the credit limit, and always paid at least the minimum amount due. Over the last twelve months, Ms. Hard spent less than \$100 on purchases and made steady monthly payments of \$200 for a total of \$2,400 in payments on her card. Shockingly, over this same period of time, Ms.

Hard's \$2,400 in payments reduced her debt by only \$350. How could \$2,400 result in only a \$350 reduction of Ms.

Hard's credit card debt? In 2006, out of the blue, Discover increased the interest rate on her card from an already high 18 percent up to 24 percent. Discover then retroactively applied this sky-high 24 percent rate to her existing credit card debt of \$8,300, increasing her finance charges and minimum payments. Even though Ms. Hard had not missed a payment to Discover and made all her payments on time for 48 months, she was still penalized.

The Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which I chair, held a hearing this month on credit card companies that hike the interest rates of hard working Americans, like Ms. Hard, who play by the rules.

It is the second in a series of hearings I am holding on unfair credit card practices. In March, we looked at a number of industry practices that seem rigged to keep families mired in debt. These practices include charging interest on payments made on time, imposing excessive and Levin, cont'd., pg. 7

Writing to the editor ...

The Lowell Ledger welcomes letters to the editor from readers,

but there are a few conditions that must be met before they will be published. The requirements are:

- All letters must be signed by the writer, with address and phone number provided for verification. All that will be printed is the writer's name and community of residence. Letters that contain statements that are libelous will not be published.
 - · All letters are subject to editing for style, grammar and sense.
- Letters that serve as testimonials for or criticisms of for-profit businesses will not be accepted.
- Letters serving the function of "cards of thanks" will not be accepted unless there is a compelling public interest, which will be determined by the editor.
- Letters that include attacks of a personal nature will not be published or will be edited heavily.
- "Crossfire" letters between the same two people on one issue will be limited to one for each writer.
- In an effort to keep opinions varied, there is a limit of one letter per person per week.
- We prefer letters to be printed legibly or typed, double-spaced. For e-mailed letters, please copy letter as part of the e-mail body and send to ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com.

Sincerely. Bif and Jeff Altoft Backwater Cafe

2. Another



125 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL JOURNAL **DECEMBER 13, 1882**

Lowell ought to be in the telephone circuit. Why not? The grand opening of Train's hotel Christmas night will be the event of the season it is said.

A stuffed swan in West & Company's drug store, a stuffed swan and owl in Look's drug store and a stuffed club to wollop noisy boys with, are a few of Lowell's attractions just now.

100 YEARS AGO

50 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER **DECEMBER 12, 1957**

Work has started the latter part of last week by the Lowell Construction Company on the new grade school locker addition which is to be built of brick veneer to match the other building and is to the located on the south side of the gymnasium.

Tax bills for Lowell Township placed in the mails this week by the treasurer, Lylia Johnson, totaled \$151,523.74 which tops all previous records in the amount of taxes assessed in this township.

25 YEARS AGO THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER **DECEMBER 8, 1982**

As of late Tuesday morning, the Lowell Cable TV Service planned on turning on the cable signal to homes that have been completely hooked up to cable service.

The Lowell Athletic Boosters met for nearly three hours Monday evening to plan fundraisers for the upcoming months and to present their first installment of \$15,000 of the pledged \$40,000 to school superintendent Donald

Grand Lux construction tops at highest point with Christmas tree

by Emma Palova

The Grand Lux construction topped at the highest point last week with the last steel beam in place. In keeping with construction custom, a tree was placed at the highest point of the building which is 35 feet, according to the Vergennes Township ordinance.

In the spirit of the season, the tree is a Christmas tree.

"Despite many days of sub-freezing weather and windy conditions, the construction is on schedule," said owner Kent McKay.

From now on, the building will branch out as electrical, plumbing, fire suppression, interior walls and more aspect electric screens and

systems are built and ceiling-mounted projectors. installed

arch of the building with the landing of the staircase about 20 feet from the wall of glass.

The arched portico roof will cover the portico and will lead the eye toward the 23-foot tall arched wall of glass. The wall of glass in the foyer will afford passers-by a view of the Grand Staircase.

sophisticated ballroom light control system will be built in addition to an audio visual ventilation, system that includes wide

The entire kitchen, The Grand Staircase including cooking surfaces, will be centered in the proofing ovens, walk-in refrigeration. ventilation

dishwashing systems. machines will be installed. inspected and licensed. The public grand opening is scheduled for where limousines arrive Saturday, March 29 from noon to 4 pm. A job fair will be conducted in early March.

The anticipated final day of construction is Feb. 29. For more information

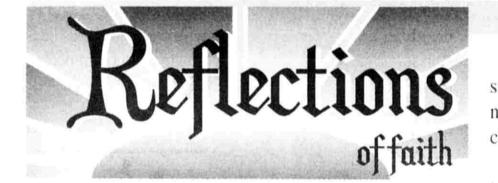
go to www.grandlux.com.

GrandLuxconstruction topped last week with the last steel beam in place.

If there were in the world today any large number of people who desired their own happiness more than they desired the unhappiness of others, we could have paradise in a few years.

- Bertrand Russell (1872 - 1970)





by Rev. Randy Mevers Calvary Christian Reformed Church

but deliver us from evil." A few weeks ago my four-yearold son asked me, "Dad when you were a little boy did you ever sneak a Hot Tamale candy without your Mom or Dad ever knowing?" I knew he was struggling with temptation! Fortunately the Bible gives us a way out of temptation by truth of scripture. Jesus modeled this perfectly in Matthew following God's lead which is a dance with four steps.

a quiet place in the world. I have the cutest recording of I'm not sure she meant it this way but my three-year-old my friend's little boy quoting Psalm 23. When he whispers "he leads me beside quiet waters" I yell, "Yes!" He gets the point of scripture that God is not in the earthquake never praise him." I smiled because I know that is what or the tornado. God is in the still small voice. Yet we are

surrounded with flare and blare and bling and glitz. In our noisy world through quiet times we can better hear God calling us away from temptation.

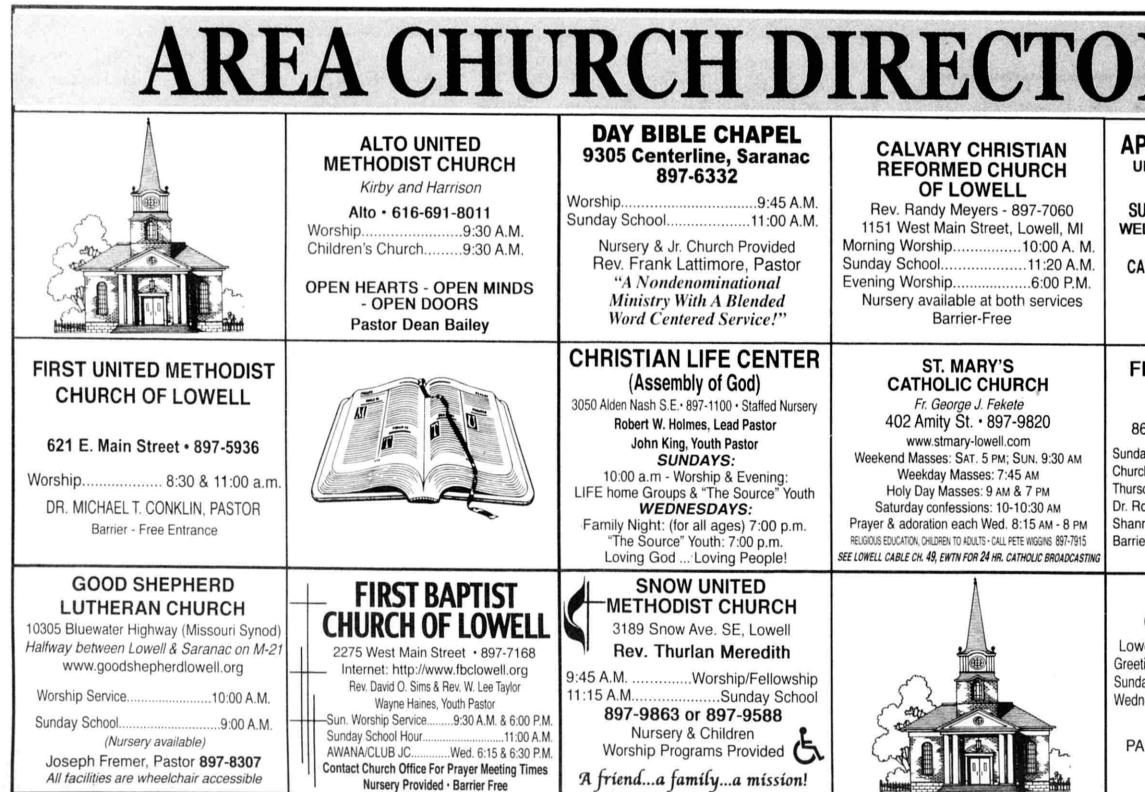
The second step is away from our sinful desires toward desiring the father. James 1:13&14 squarely places the blame for our temptation not on God but on our own desires. Recently a friend accidentally searched in his browser window for a Christian website I recommended This week we are praying, "Lead us not into temptation and he misspelled the site name. These two errors led him to a disgusting porn site. Yet how often don't we intentionally search for our desires in the wrong place? God calls us to desire him alone.

The third step is away from the lies of the devil to the 4 when Satan misused scripture to try to trip up Jesus. The first step is away from the noise of the world toward However, Jesus knew the truth and Satan left him alone. niece sang me a surprise version of "Step by Step." Her version was, "and step by step he leaves me, and I will

will happen to the devil when we quote scripture. The final step is to simply dance closer to Christ. Hebrews 4:15 tells us that Jesus was tempted in every for us to avoid temptation than dancing closer to Jesus? wallflower who did not get picked for Couple's Choice. What a gift we have been given in that Jesus chose to dance with us and holds us close. When God looks out across the heavenly ballroom and wonders how we got in. God will see that we are with his son and say, "Come on

way (and never failed) yet we often fail. What better way There is none. Remember your high school dance and the in. I'm glad you are not dancing with temptation."

I do not know what your Hot Tamale Temptation is, but I do know you can dance away from it by stepping away from the world, the flesh, and the devil and stepping toward God's still small voice, his desires, and scripture. Most of all you can avoid temptation by dancing closer to Jesus. For his is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen!



RY
A POSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M. SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES 6:00 P.M /EDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M. 119 Lincoln Lake, Lowell CALL FOR FREE HOME BIBLE STUDIES Pastor Robert L. Hubbard Phone: (616) 897-1267 website www.aplighthouse.com
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL (United Church of Christ) 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906 aday Worship
LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE owell High School Performing Arts Center beting & Fellowship

Levin, continued ... From Page 5

duplicative fees, and applying consumer payments first to asked about the account - 6 percent. These interest rates are the debt with lowest interest charges instead of to the debt all over the map. with the highest interest charges.

into unfair interest rate increases that uncovered some surprising facts. We learned that a consumer's credit score may drop for unspecified reasons, resulting in interest rate increases. The major credit card issuers often increase interest rates even though a cardholder has maintained a perfect payment history on their credit card.

We learned that the vast majority of the decisions to increase credit card interest rates are not made by credit card company employees, but by automated computer programs. These programs use complex mathematical formulas based on information about consumer credit scores, making them difficult to understand. And we learned that credit scores can be lowered if a consumer gets close to but does not credit card just to obtain a discount on a purchase.

We also saw plenty of evidence of arbitrary interest rates. One consumer, for example, had a Chase credit card that, in the last 12 months, had four different rates: 15 percent, 17 percent, 27 percent and - after my subcommittee is enough.

Our investigation has already led some credit card Our hearing this week was the result of an investigation companies to change their practices to be fairer and more consumer-friendly. Citi and Chase, for example, both recently decided to discontinue the practice of imposing interest rate increases on cardholders who meet the credit card issuer's obligations.

I hope others will follow suit, but we need more than voluntary action; we need to change regulations or law to prohibit unfair practices. That is why I have introduced the Stop Unfair Practices in Credit Cards Act, which would put an end to a variety of unfair credit card practices that make it difficult for working families to climb out of debt. The bill has been endorsed by the leading consumer groups and cosponsored by eight other senators.

Folks who meet their credit card obligations - pay their exceed their credit limit or if the consumer opens new a bills on time, stay under their credit limits and pay at least the minimum amount due - should not be hit with massive interest rate increases out of the blue. Credit card companies are too often squeezing and even gouging working families that play by the rules. It is time for Congress to say enough

DECEMBER 12: Briggs, Brad Stormzand, Matt Newhouse, Potter. Sally Hacker.

DECEMBER 13: Chrys Thaler, Jeff Bowne, Michelle Fyan

DECEMBER 14: Chris Kropf, Bryan Robert Roth.

DECEMBER 15: Karen Latva, Tammy Baird, Roger Brown, Kathryn Duiven, Kristin

WEDDING

INVITATIONS

8

13/

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Joyce Borg, Kimberly Kline, Kelly

Danielle Brenk, Marea

DECEMBER 16: Timmy Buechler.

DECEMBER 17: Bill Ellison, Jerry Scott.

Danielle Anchros, Hillary Graves, Cliff Walling, Julie



There are worse things in life than death. Have you ever spent an evening with an insurance salesman?





STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT **CIRCUIT COURT -**FAMILY DIVISION

PUBLICATION OF

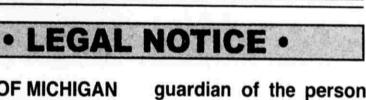
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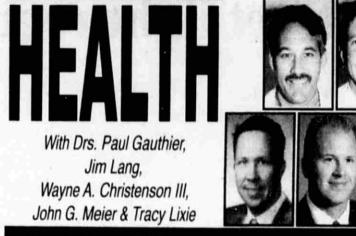
IN THE MATTER OF

guardian of the person and estate for Brandon Traylor.

John D. Flynn P27413 1275 Hawthorne Hills SE Ada, MI 49301 616-897-6632



12/3/2007



MENINGITIS

Meningitis is an infection of the fluid surrounding a person's brain and spinal cord. This infection is typically caused by either a virus or bacteria. It is very important to distinguish between the two. A viral infection is not as severe and resolves without treatment. Bacterial meningitis can result in severe brain damage and death within a very short period of time. Thanks to vaccines, the most common bacterial cause in children (Haemophilus influenza type b), no longer causes the majority of serious infections. The most common bacteria now are Streptococcus pneumoniae and Neisseria meningitides.

The most common symptoms of meningitis are: high fever, headache, stiff neck, vomiting, sensitivity to light, confusion, and sleepiness. These symptoms can occur over several hours and become rapidly progressive. Early diagnosis is very important. The diagnosis is made by a "spinal tap", a procedure which obtains a sample of spinal fluid, which is then analyzed and cultured. Antibiotics are effective in treating bacterial infections if they are started early.

Meningitis is contagious, and is spread by respiratory and mouth/throat secretions. It is not spread by simply breathing the air where a person with meningitis has been. Neisseria meningitides, (also known as meningococcal meningitis), is the bacteria we are most concerned with. Close household contacts of a person infected with

this type of bacteria are

Off street light regulation aims to reduce light output

by Emma Palova

A new section of the ordinance regulate off street lights in various districts. After

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Welcome

Lowell Ledger

897-9261

planning commission vice- costs are higher. chair Clark Jahnke presented a draft Monday in a work trespassing light to your session to be formally neighbors," said Jahnke. reviewed in January.

off street lighting regulation reduce energy costs.

growth," said Jahnke, "just regulations. light what you want lit."

requirements at some point, lights shining into the sky.

the works, even though the upfront

"The idea is to eliminate Jahnke. "It's a common problem The ultimate goal of the with car dealers."

Rodger Garner of Good is to limit light pollution to Chevrolet said the dealership keep a dark sky, as well as replaced lights last year for \$60,000 with directed "We want to reduce what lights. Garner questioned we're putting out along with his compliance with the new

of existing lights to the new eliminate 500-watt halogen

"The other idea is to eliminate the glare," said

Flashing lights still remain prohibited with the new lighting regulation.

In related business, the planning commission again revisited the issue of temporary signs. The body struggled with the verbiage of a proposed draft. Finally, the commission established 60 days as a The off street lighting limit for temporary signs for The off street regulations would also apply to businesses and non-profits, will require the replacement residential neighborhoods to and 21 days for residential

remains at \$25 for both nonprofits and profits.



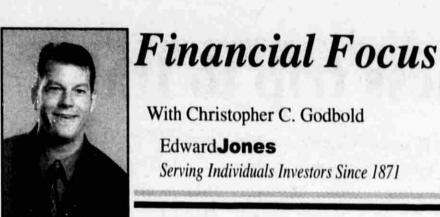
Greenridge Realty that announced Ann Wittenbach received Realtor of the Month in November. This award recognizes Wittenbach for her outstanding success and achievements.



areas. The application fee devoted to people walking around dressed as flashing signs, like in last week's Some discussion was parade.







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

INVESTMENTS CAN MAKE GREAT HOLIDAY GIFTS

Now that the holidays are here, you're probably looking around for the right gifts for your loved ones. Of course, as you know, it's not always easy to find gifts that are both meaningful and useful. This year, why not add financial gifts to your shopping list?

What types of financial gifts should you consider giving? Let's look at a few possibilities:

a child (or grandchild) that will be headed off to college in this information to determine gains or losses if they decide a few years, you may want to contribute to a Section 529 to sell the stock. (You'll also need to determine if you have ten after the holidays are over.

college savings plan. Your earnings and withdrawals will to pay gift taxes. You can give up to \$12,000 per year, free be exempt from federal taxes as long as the money goes of gift taxes, to as many people as you want; over your litoward paying college costs. There may be additional tax fetime, you can give up to \$1 million without incurring gift benefits to those who participate in their own state's plan. Also, you can contribute generous amounts to your savings plan. Plus, you can change beneficiaries; if you've been putting money in a Section 529 plan for your child or grandchild, and he or she decides to forego college, you can transfer the money to another family member.

• Contributions to an IRA – If you know a loved one has an IRA, consider making a contribution. Many people don't fully fund their IRA each year — so any help you can give toward that goal will be important.

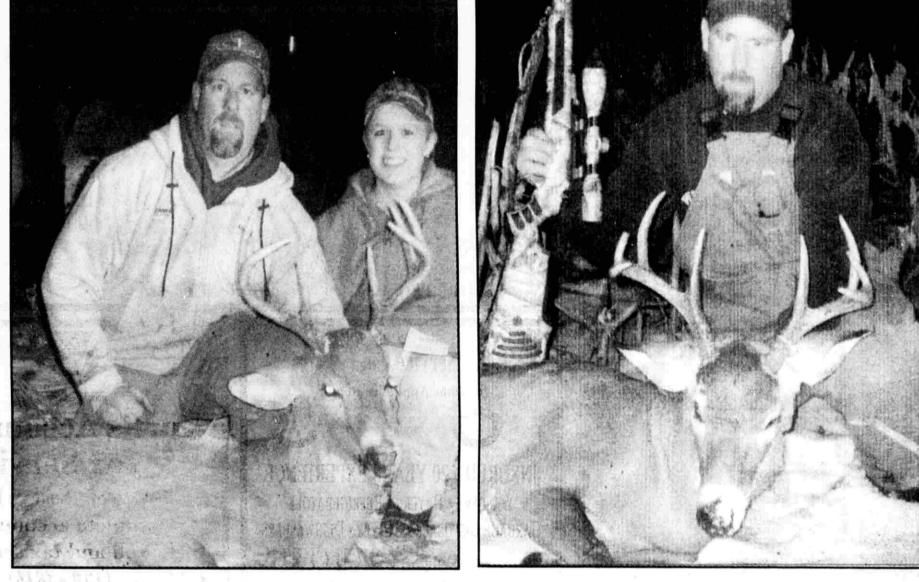
 Stocks — Consider giving shares of a company that produces products or services that are used by your intended recipient. If you're going to give away some of your own shares, you'll need to know what you originally paid for the stock, how long you've held it and its fair market va-• Contributions to Section 529 plans - If you have lue at the date of the gift. Recipients of your gift will need

Last week of deer season proves rewarding for two area hunters



Steven Stark, a 45-year-old man from Lowell, shot a 4-point, 125-pound deer in Alto last week, on an 80-yard shot. Stark lost his right hand last year, causing him to learn how to shoot left-handed.

Sound Uff



Kelsey Taylor, 15 and a student at Lowell High School, bagged a last-minute 9-point buck Friday night with her stepfather (shown), Jon Francis, just north of 3 Mile Road. Francis said Kelsev passed up several smaller bucks in hopes of getting a larger one.

The Christmas Parade was fabulous! The Lowell City Airport condemning land Thank you to the participants; your efforts to for their hobby airport? Sounds like we've provide us with the holiday sights & sounds got a new bully on the block. To the the of our beloved community are appreciated. new City Council--Find better ways Peace & Joy, The Barnes Family. to spend our tax dollars.

Kudos to the parents that actually controlled their children during the parade! You all exhibited wonderful parenting skills!

What is energy? Just wondering ...

Is it true the School District has a new security director?

Politicians and diapers both need to be changed, and for the same reason.

Just bought my Christmas tree near Flat River Dr. and Vergennes. Beautiful tree, great price!

The Ledger "Almost" Anything Goes Column



www.lowellbuyersguide.com Or CALL...897-0787

The Lowell Ledger welcomes all "Sound Off" comments, but would like to remind readers of the nature of the column. "Sound Off" is meant to be a community notice board, a means for comments that can be regarded as helpful, congratulatory, thankful and informational.

We will not print any comments that are offensive or libelous. Direct aims at individuals, political figures and businesses will not be printed. For direct opinions on a subject (including, but not limited to, politics, businesses, city government and Ledger criticisms), please send a letter "To the Editor". All letters must be signed (first and last names). Please check Page 5 of this week's paper for the complete guidelines.

All comments are submitted by the public and do not necessarily represent the views of the Ledger.

taxes.)

Savings Bonds - They may sound old-fashioned and stodgy, but U.S. Savings Bonds can still make nice financial gifts, especially for young people who can use the money in the future. Among the most popular savings bonds are Series EE Bonds, which can be purchased in denominations ranging from \$50 (or \$25.00 for Electronic EE Bonds) to \$10,000. Paper EE Bonds are sold at half their face amount and will increase in value until they are cashed in or reach final maturity in 30 years. Electronic EE Bonds are sold at face value and reach maturity immediately.

You can learn more about Series EE Bonds and TIPS, or even purchase them directly, from the Treasury Department's web site devoted to savings bonds: www.savingsbonds.gov.

A financial gift may not be traditional, but it can have a big impact on the recipient's life – and it won't be forgot-

Jon Francis shot an 8-point buck Monday night with a muzzle-loader at Thuston Farms.

A great big thank you to Mr. Nugent! He's a great teacher and does so much work for the local FFA chapter. Thanks Mr. Nugent!!!

Kudos to Don Dejong. So meticulously he clears the ice and snow from the library sidewalks, he also takes time assist the elderly to their cars. What a great person we have working for our city.

Special thanks to the rsvp volunteers. They did a great job and froze their keisters off.

Too many fire engines but it was a great parade. It was fun. Good job.

Fashionista Flair owner goes on business trip to Italy

by Emma Palova Just in time for Guys Nite Out, Fashionista Flair is now stocked with

genuine goods directly from November to do research, for gelato," she said. "I did Italy.

Owner Sara Harmon well as ideas. traveled Italy to in

and bring back goods, as

"I went to shop and

some research in Florence at the new market." The redesigned store



Vacanze Romane, glass and much more.

Fascinated by Florence writing. its Renaissance with atmosphere and late Ferragamo, Harmon visited the Ferragamo Shoe Museum.

Ferragamo, of the boycott against Mussolini, designed the for Hollywood stars.

"He made that don't hurt feet," said Harmon. "that



Florence.



now carries Calendario 2008 made me cry tears of joy." And since she couldn't candies, glass necklaces buy a Ferragamo shoe, based on a Venice design, Harmon bought a notebook lovely masks, silk scarves as a souvenir from the museum for very special

She also fell in love with Boticcelli's "Birth of shoe designer Salvatore Venus" and Michelangelo's "David."

After all her recent travels. Harmon believes who that everyone should learn couldn't get rubber because at least the basics of a second language.

That is why she will be wedge shoe with a cork offering Italian and French base. Ferragamo made shoes classes in January right inside her charming store shoes by the river.

Right now, she is also museum offering sewing classes.

Sara Harmon pictured at the new market in

Lowell area non-profit organizations Christmas wish lists

by Shelly MacNaughton special to the Ledger

in the midst holiday _of shopping, planning holiday gatherings, and enjoying the excitement that this season brings.

This time of year also brings an attention to those in need. Often people with a desire to help, either financially or physically, find themselves unsure of where to reach out. In an effort to help the people of Lowell understand the needs of our community, the Buyers Guide has asked local organizations to provide a Christmas Wish List.

Several organizations were asked to provide contact information, the mission of their organization and their top five wishes this Christmas Season. This list is not complete, and the Buyers Guide will expand it in the future. For those agencies wishing to be included on the list, please contact the Buyers Guide with a request.

This list is intended to help the community know entrance where help is needed. If you are planning to open grounds

your hearts to the needs of our community, please find for lawn mowers below a list of area nonprofit organizations, their mission and current needs.

Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc. 11535 Fulton St. E Lowell, MI 49331 Food Pantry: (616) 897-8260, leave message for Kraig Kraig Haybarker (616) 897-8829

We are committed providing emergency to financial and food assistance to those in their times of hardship. We are dedicated to serving and enhancing the quality of life in our community in a discreet and loving manner. Our vision is to continue touching the lives of others as Christ has touched ours. In this we can make a difference.

Wish List:

Fresh meat for food pantry freezers

New refrigerator for food pantry

Commercial double doors for thrift shop the Lowell area.

Small storage building

Franciscan Life Process Center 11650 Downes St.

Lowell, MI 49331-9489 Sister Colleen Ann Nagle, FSE

Phone: (616) 897-7842

To promote relationship with God that brings dignity and hope to the sacred process of all life through programs that assist educate, enrich and inform.

Wish Last:

Shovels (a Snow couple)

"walkie-Two-way talkies" (one set)

Lowell Area Arts Council 149 S. Hudson, PO Box 53 Lowell, MI 49331

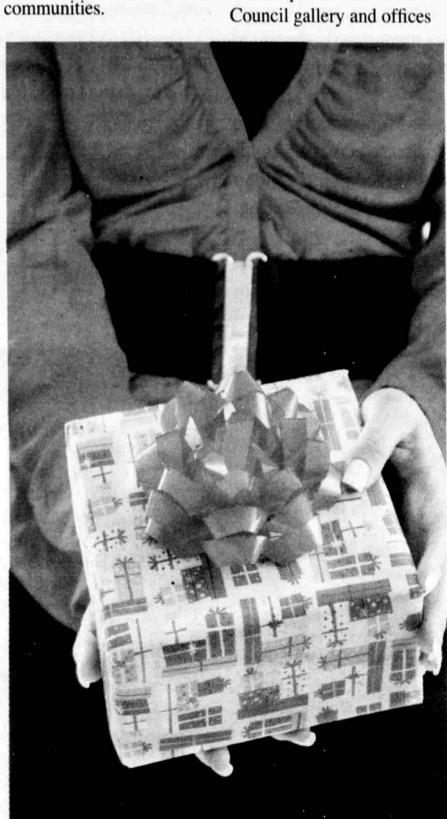
Phone: (616) 897-8545 E-mail:

info@lowellartscouncil.org Web site:

www.lowellartscouncil.org

The Lowell Area Arts Council will integrate the arts glass in daily life for all citizens in

Statement of purpose: To Riding lawn mower for encourage the understanding.



Christmas Downtown

Whether you're shopping for the perfect gift for that special someone or a present for your relative who has everything. Downtown Lowell has just what you need!!! Come spend a day in our beautiful downtown where you'll find...

Baked Goods Jewelry Hardware Antiques Art Galleries Clothing Shoes Gifts Variety Stores Automotive

Salons & Spas Pharmacies **Sporting Goods** Collectibles Historic Museum Library Restaurants Books Flowers

On

of the arts in the schools and communities we serve and to provide expression and enjoyment of the arts to all segments of these

appreciation and importance Wish Last:

or paint store for supplies offices to paint the Arts Council gallery walls

Carpet for the Arts

Vacuum cleaner for the Gift Card to a hardware Arts Council gallery and

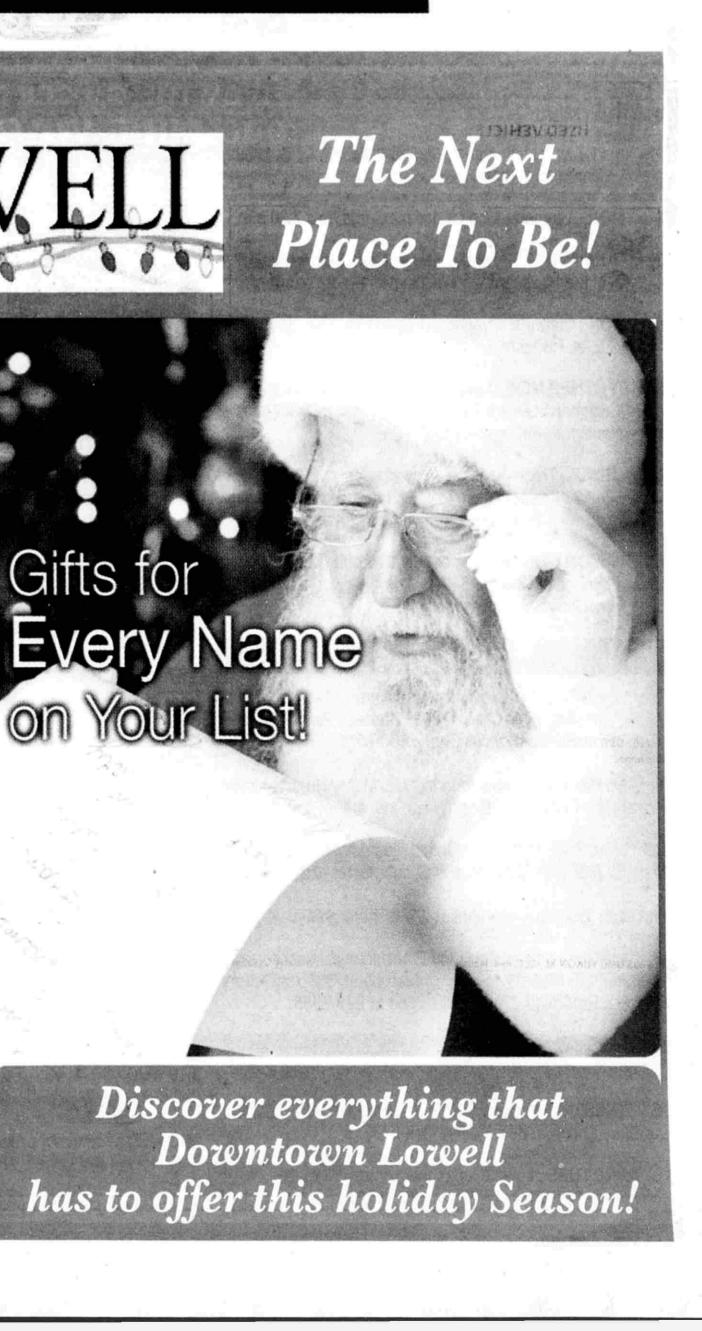
> Gift Card to a lumber store for wood to rebuild the Entertainment Stage for the Fallasburg Fall Festival

Donation toward the purchase of office software upgrade

Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce 113 Riverwalk Plaza PO Box 224 Lowell, MI 49331 Phone: (616) 897-9161 Fax: (616) 897-9101 Email: info@lowellchamber.org Web site: www.discoverlowell.org

The objective of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce is to promote the commercial welfare of the Lowell area, making the area a desirable location for capital investment and residence, also to promote the quality of life and harmony among the business and residential communities.

> Wish lists, cont'd. pg. 18



COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

WED., DEC.12: Hooker Chapter #73, will hold its stated convocation in the lodge room of the Masonic Temple. 211 E. Main St., Belding beginning at 7:30 p.m. A dinner will precede the meeting in the dining room beginning at 6:30 p.m. All Royal Arch Masons may attend.

FRI., DEC. 14: Apublic installation of officers for Masonic Lodge #355, serving Belding, Ionia and Lowell areas, for the ensuing year will be held in the lodge room of the Belding Masonic Temple, 211 E. Main Street, Belding, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

SAT., DEC. 15: Free Bluegrass music jam session at TJ's Restaurant beginning at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome.

MONDAYS

Living Sober Group, New AA Group, 7:30 p.m. at 119 Lincoln Lake (behind Fireplace Plus).

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.: Alto American Legion Post 528 Auxiliary meets School at 7:30 p.m. at / p.m

2ND MON .: Bowne Township Historical Society meets Oct. - March 10 a.m. & April - Sept. 7 p.m. at historic museum, 84th/Alden Nash.

2ND & 4TH MON .: Needlers, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Schneider Manor Community Room.

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

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, www. freewebs.com/lowelljugglingclub.

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

Thornapple River Chapter BNI professional networking group, 7-8:30 a.m., Ada Bible Church, 8899 Cascade Rd., www.ThornappleRiverBNI.com or call Cheryl 868-7551.

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.

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 o Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Rd. Public invited.

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., DEC. 18: Lowell Middle School Intermediate and Advanced Orchestra holiday concer at Lowell Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m.

THURS., DEC. 20: Lowell High School holiday concert at 7 p.m. at the Lowell Performing Arts Center.



TUESDAYS

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

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

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

tion through Kindergarten) 9:15-11:30 a.m. at Impact Church, 1070 N. Hudson, 897-8304, ext 311,

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 .: AA meeting, Back to Basics, closed, at 865 Lincoln Lake 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking.

networking group, 7-8:30 a.m. Ada Bible Church, 8899 Cascade Rd. Cheryl 868-7551.

WEDNESDAYS

Living Sober Group, New AA Group, 7:30 p.m. at 119 Lincoln Lake (behind Fireplace Plus).

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

ALANON: Lowell First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main St. (Use west entrance off Jackson St.), 8 p.m. 897-5936.

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

1ST WED.: Free blood pressure screenings at Lowell Senior Neighbors provided by The Laurels of Kent.

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.

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. - 4 p.m. 11535 Fulton St. E. Call 897-8567. Pantry 897-8260.

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.

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 & 3RD THURS .: Alto Lions Club meets at United Methodist Church in Alto at 7 p.m.

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

EVERY TUES .: Thornapple River Chapter BNI professional 2ND & 4TH THURS .: GR/W. Michigan Scrabble Club, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Round Robin, bring your board, all levels, walkins 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 at 2 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.

Living Sober Group, New AA Group, 7:30 p.m. at 119 Lincoln Lake (behind Fireplace Plus).

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 11535 E. Fulton, Flat River Outreach Ministries. 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.

welcome.

2ND & 4TH TUES .: MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers (concep-

2ND & 4TH TUES .: Knights of Columbus #7719 at St. Mary

THURSDAYS

FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY

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



BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

* Indicates a home game at LHS Main Gym Games begin at 7:30 p.m. unless indicated 12/13 Greenville* 12/18 - 7 p.m. Lakewood* 12/21 at Caledonia 12/28 Thornapple Kellogg* 1/3 Forest Hills Central* 1/8 at Northview 1/11 at Kenowa Hills 1/14 - 7 p.m. Forest Hills Eastern 1/17 - 7 p.m. East Grand Rapids* 1/22 at Greenville 1/25 at Forest Hills Northern 1/28 - 7 p.m. Creston* 1/31 Caledonia* 2/5 at Forest Hills Central 2/8 Northview* 2/11 Grand Rapids Central* 2/14 Kenowa Hills* 2/19 at East Grand Rapids 2/21 Crossover w/green*

GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

* Indicates a home game at LHS Main Gym Games begin at 7 p.m. unless indicated 12/14 Forest Hills Central* 12/17 Byron Center* 12/20 Northview* 1/4 at Kenowa Hills 1/7 - 7:15 p.m. at Grand Rapids Christian 1/10 East Grand Rapids* 1/15 Greenville* 1/18 at Forest Hills Northern 1/24 at Caledonia 1/29 at Forest Hills Central 2/1 at Northview 2/4 East Kentwood* 2/7 Kenowa Hills* 2/12 at East Grand Rapids 2/15 Green Crossover*

VARSITY WRESTLING

* Indicates a home game at LHS Main Gym Games begin at 7 p.m. unless indicated 12/13 (Cherry Creek Gym) Sparta* 12/15 - 9 a.m. St. Ritas, Chicago 12/19 at Caledonia 12/28 - 9 a.m. Lowell Super Duals* 1/5 - 10 a.m. New Lothrop Tournament 1/9 Forest Hills Central* 1/12 - 9 a.m. Gary's Rivers Memorial Tourney* 1/16 at Northview 1/19 - noon Lakeshore Tournament 1/23 Kenowa Hills* 1/30 East Grand Rapids 2/2 - 10:30 a.m. Rockford Quad 2/6 - 7 p.m. Crossover* 2/9 - Time TBA - Conference at Kenowa Hills

* Indicates a home game at Lowell Lanes Games begin at 3:30 p.m. unless indicated 12/12 - 4 p.m. at Forest Hills Central 12/15 - 9 a.m. Kenowa Hills Invitational 1/5 - noon Fruitport Invitational 1/9 Kenowa Hills* 1/14 at East Grand Rapids 1/16 - 4 p.m. at Caledonia 1/21 at Northview 1/23 - 4 p.m. Forest Hills Central* 1/30 - 4 p.m. at Kenowa Hills 2/4 - 4 p.m. East Grand Rapids* 2/11 - 4 p.m. Caledonia*

2/16 time TBA Conference at Caledonia

* Indicates a home game at Patterson Ice Arena 12/14 - 5:30 p.m. Forest Hills Central* 12/15 - 3 p.m. Spring Lake* 12/21 - 8 p.m. Wayland* 12/22 - 3 p.m. Northview* 12/28 & 12/29 - 7 p.m. Lowell Tournament at Kentwood Ice Arena 1/5 - 7 p.m. at Manistee 1/9 - 7 p.m. at Spring Lake 1/11 - 8 p.m. at Northview 1/17 - 7:30 p.m. at Hudsonville 1/18 - 9 p.m. at South Christian 1/25 - 8 p.m. West Ottawa* 1/26 - 8 p.m. West Catholic* 2/1 & 2/2 - 6 p.m. Kalamazoo Blades Tourn. 2/8 - 5:30 p.m. Grand Haven* 2/9 - 6 p.m. South Christian* 2/15 - 9 p.m. at Wayland 2/20 - 8 p.m. at West Ottawa



For More Information on School **Athletics or for Directions to Area** Schools visit: www.lowell.k12.mi.us **Under Athletics.**

LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS **VARSITY WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE** This Page Brought to You By The Lowell Ledger

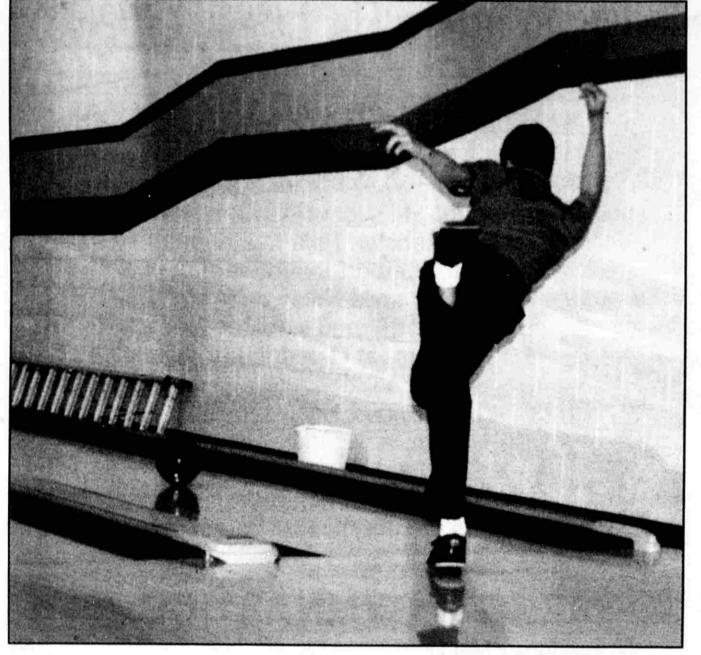
VARSITY BOWLING

VARSITY GYMNASTICS

* Indicates a home meet at LHS Auxiliary Gym Meets begin at 7 p.m. unless indicated 1/5 - 8 a.m. Rockford Invitational 1/16 at Rockford 1/19 - 10 a.m. Mona Shores Invitational 1/21 Lowell Triangular* 1/23 at East Kentwood 1/26 - 10 a.m. Kenowa Hills Invitational 1/30 Mona Shores* 2/2 - 10 a.m. St. Johns Invitational 2/6 Kenowa Hills* 2/13 Forest Hills Northern* 2/16 time TBA - Conference at Kenowa Hills

VARSITY ICE HOCKEY





Red Arrow junior Jeremy Drake of the boys' team at Wednesday's game.

Red Arrow bowling teams extend winning streak

By Molly Benningfield Editor

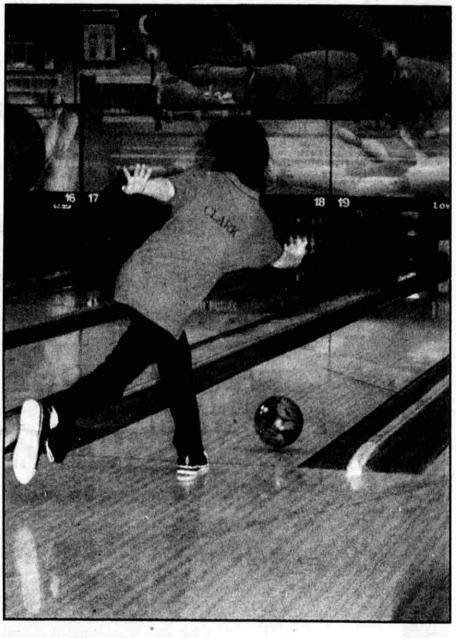
The boys' and girls' bowling teams have started Tournament on Saturday their season off strong. with big wins against defeated Portland 341-300. weekend.

The boys' team beat Nawrocki had a high series p.m. Northview 883-771 on of 566. Wednesday, with a high score coming from Trevor Washburn, who scored 205.

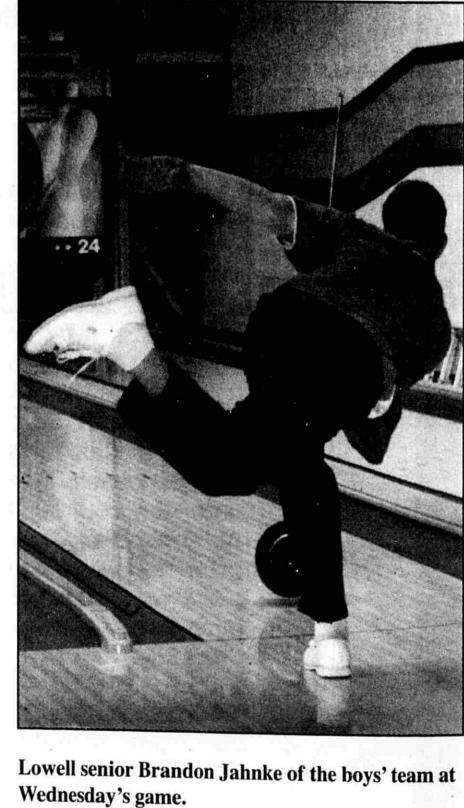
The girls' team also beat Northview, scoring 766 points against the Wildcats' 607. Liberty Clark had the high score for the Arrows,

bowling a 184 after scoring a turkey in her last frame.

the At morning, the girls' team



Red Arrow bowler Liberty Clark of the girls' team at Wednesday's game.



VERGENNES **TOWNSHIP** NOTICE OF **ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS** ADOPTION

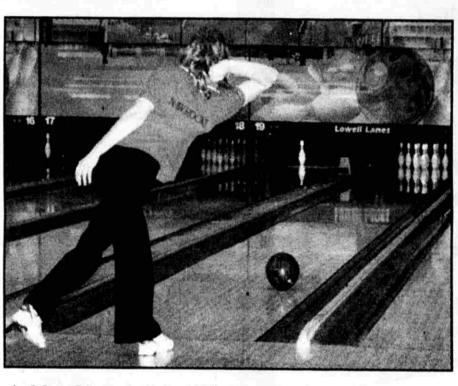
ORDINANCE No. 2007-3

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Vergennes Township Board has adopted Ordinance 2007 3. an ordinance to amend the zoning ordinance as summarized below. The amendments were adopted at a regular meeting of the Township Board on Monday, November 19, 2007 at 7:00 pm at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Dr, Lowell, MI.

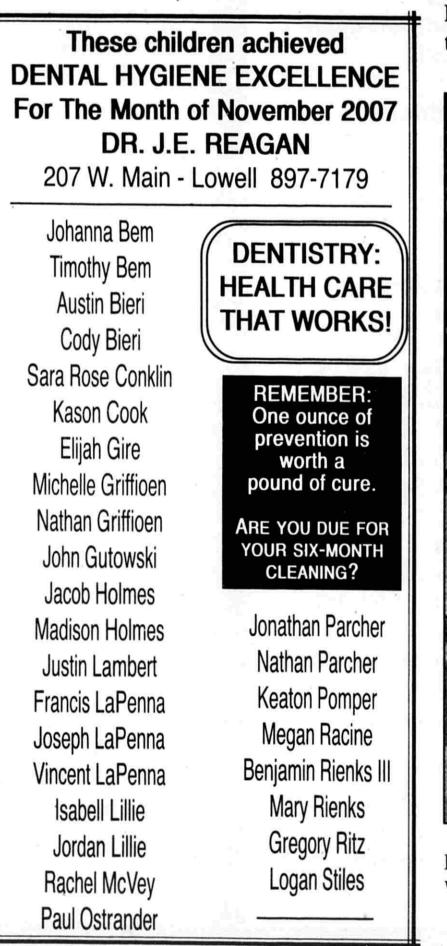
Amend Chapter 9 Amendments and Supplements to add a new section 201.902 Conditional Rezoning Agreements. This section is pursuant to Michigan Public Act No. 577 of 2004, effective January 4, 2005. The section allows an applicant, by voluntary action, to offer conditions and written restrictions in a rezoning application. The ordinance includes sections on purpose, procedures, standards for application approval, agreement expiration, extensions and rezone reversion, coordination and performance bonds for improvements, recording conditions, amendment of conditions process and violation procedures.

The complete text of the ordinance amendment can be reviewed at the Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 - Phone: (616) 897-5671 [fax 897-5674]. This ordinance takes effect 8 days after publication.

> Mari Stone Vergennes Township Clerk



Ashley Nawrocki at Wednesday's game.



Lowell

The No. 1 ranked boys' team was upset by Caledonia in the semifinals of the tournament.

Arrows will The face Forest Hills Central conference foes Northview They beat Kenowa Hills at Eastbrook Lanes this and a strong showing at the and Northview earlier, and afternoon at 4 p.m. Their Lowell Tournament over the earned a top seed with a next home match is Jan. 9 3,870 pin count Ashley versus Kenowa Hills at 3:30

RED ARROW SPORTS SALES A.

Lowell wrestling loses tough match to Greenville, bounces back at Warren Woods

By Molly Benningfield Editor

match against Greenville started with a quick onetwo-three punch by the Red Arrows, but ended in a head-scratching 45-15 loss in Lowell's first night of the turnaround. conference competition.

fire at the beginning of Lowell's only other win also had a good day, being the match, with Dan Fleet opening the night with a win against Steven Kurtz at 140 pounds.

pace at 145 pounds, pinning Darrek Ladermann in 2:41.

Tim Gingerich would be the last Arrow to score consecutively for the pounds.

An emotional match at 160 pounds pitted triumphed for the Arrows at Wednesday's wrestling Lowell's Justin Boss against Warren. Greenville's Tyler Fuller, who pinned Boss at 5:33. The momentum the Arrows finals last year, defeated had built was gone, and the Goodrich's Mark Weber Yellow Jackets thrived on at 140 pounds. Weber was

Greenville won nine his weight, Dean said. The Arrows were on of the next 10 games, with coming from Nate Vaught at 188

The loss proved to good showing at the Warren depth for the young team. Woods Duals in Warren.

strong Goodrich team.

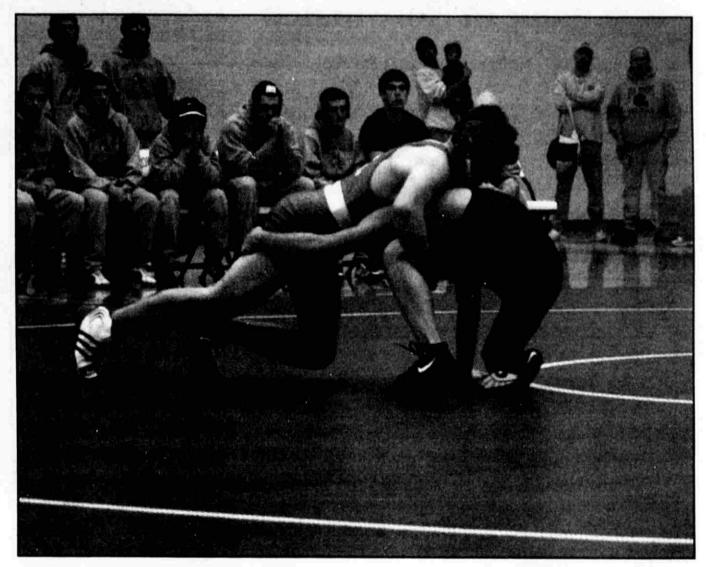
Individual wrestlers

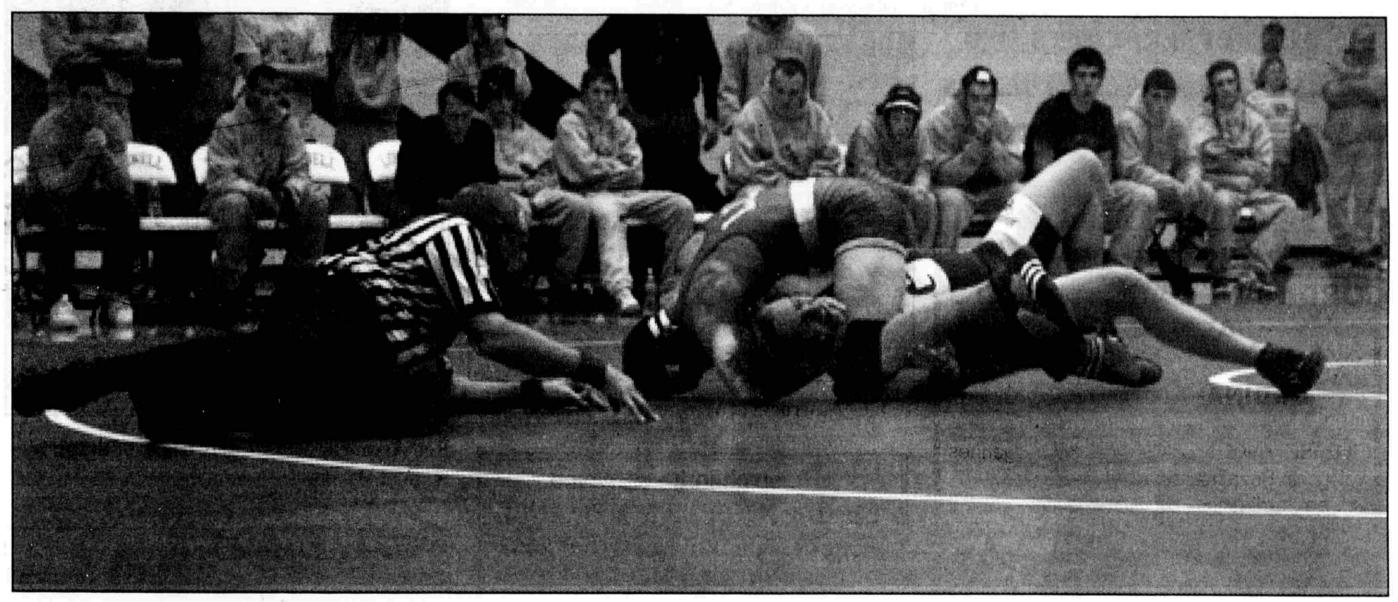
Jackson Morse, who was a runner-up at State ranked No. 1 in the nation at

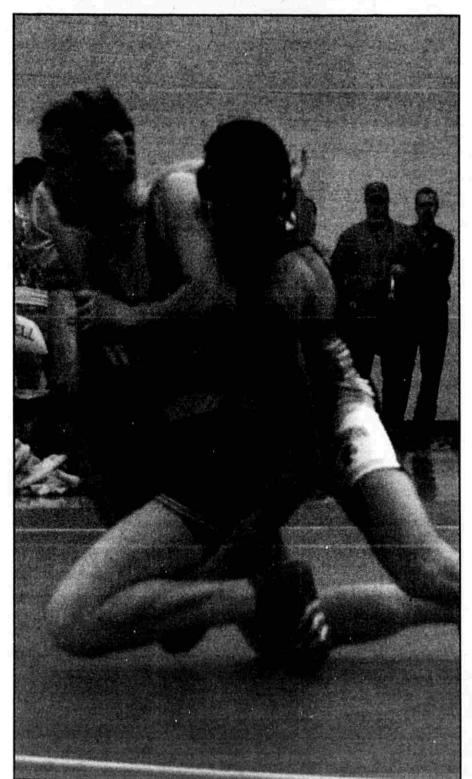
Ryan Olep (171 pounds) named outstanding wrestler of the entire tournament.

The loss against a be an eye-opener for the strong Greenville team and Jackson Morse kept the Arrows, who followed their triumphs in Warren early in loss Wednesday with a the season will help provide

Lowell will face off Coach Dave Dean said in a home match at Cherry the team was 4 and 1 on the Creeky Elementary's gym Arrows, winning at 152 day, taking second place to a against Sparta Thursday night at 7 p.m.







Nate Vaught won at 188 against **Greenville's** Justin Drobish.





THE LOWELL LEDGER - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2007 PAGE 15

Jackson Morse beat Greenville's Darrek Ladermann at 145 pounds.

Tim Gingerich beat Greenville's Benjamin Brodie at 152 pounds.



Boys' basketball loses first game in close match at Cedar Springs

By Molly Benningfield Editor

The boys' basketball team lost in a tight match against a strong Cedar Springs varsity Friday night, 52-56. Coach Jeff McDonald said his team "played their hearts out."

The team got off to a relatively good start, lead for part of the first half, the rest of the game

"We played back four points for some of the game," McDonald said.

only 6-13 in free throw Rex Collins.

Hockey team loses two against Lansing-area teams

The Lowell-Caledonia hockey team lost two games at home this week, with last week, falling to Dewitt matches against Forest 2-5 on Wednesday and Hills Central on Friday at Grand Ledge 5-9 on Friday. 5:30 p.m. and SL/MCC on

Mike Ballard said the Saturday at 3 p.m. Friday team is missing two key night's game is Youth Night players during their first six and will feature Griff from games and will have a full the Grand Rapids Griffins lineup this Saturday.

percentage, while the Red Hawks were 13-14 from the

Senior Matt Kurtz had a big game for the Arrows, posting 26 points. Brett McMahon had 9 points, while Spencer Sellner had 8 points and 7 rebounds.

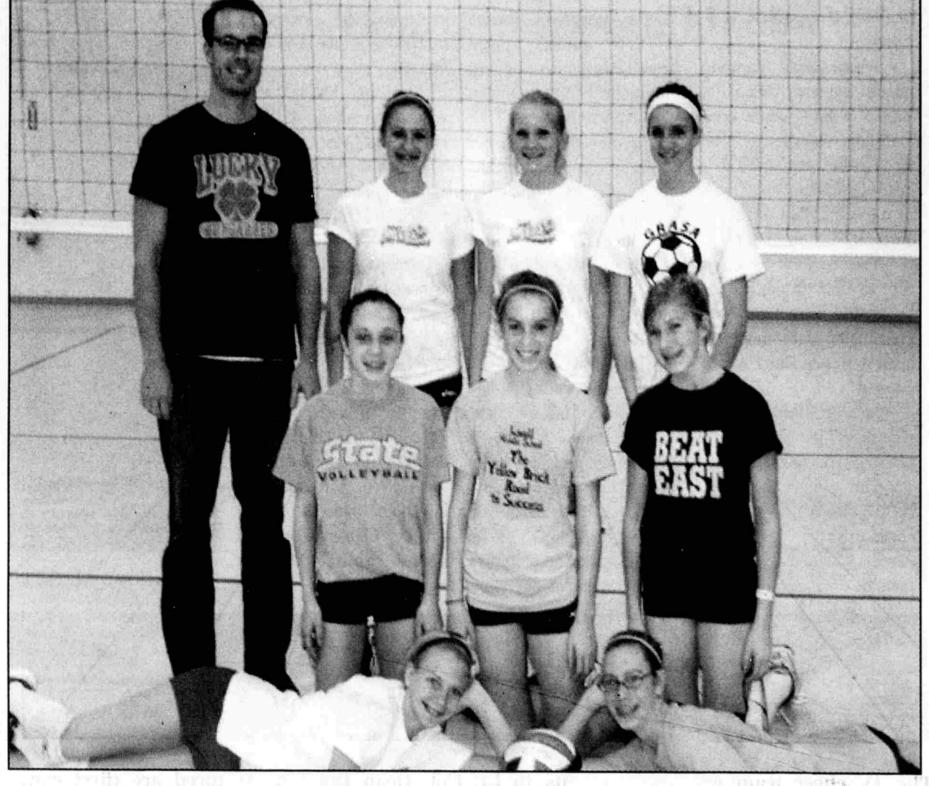
The team plays Thursday night against McDonald said, and had the Greenville in their first conference match-up and but kept playing catch up for first home game, at 7:30 p.m.

Prior to the game, The Arrows were also be dedicated in the name of

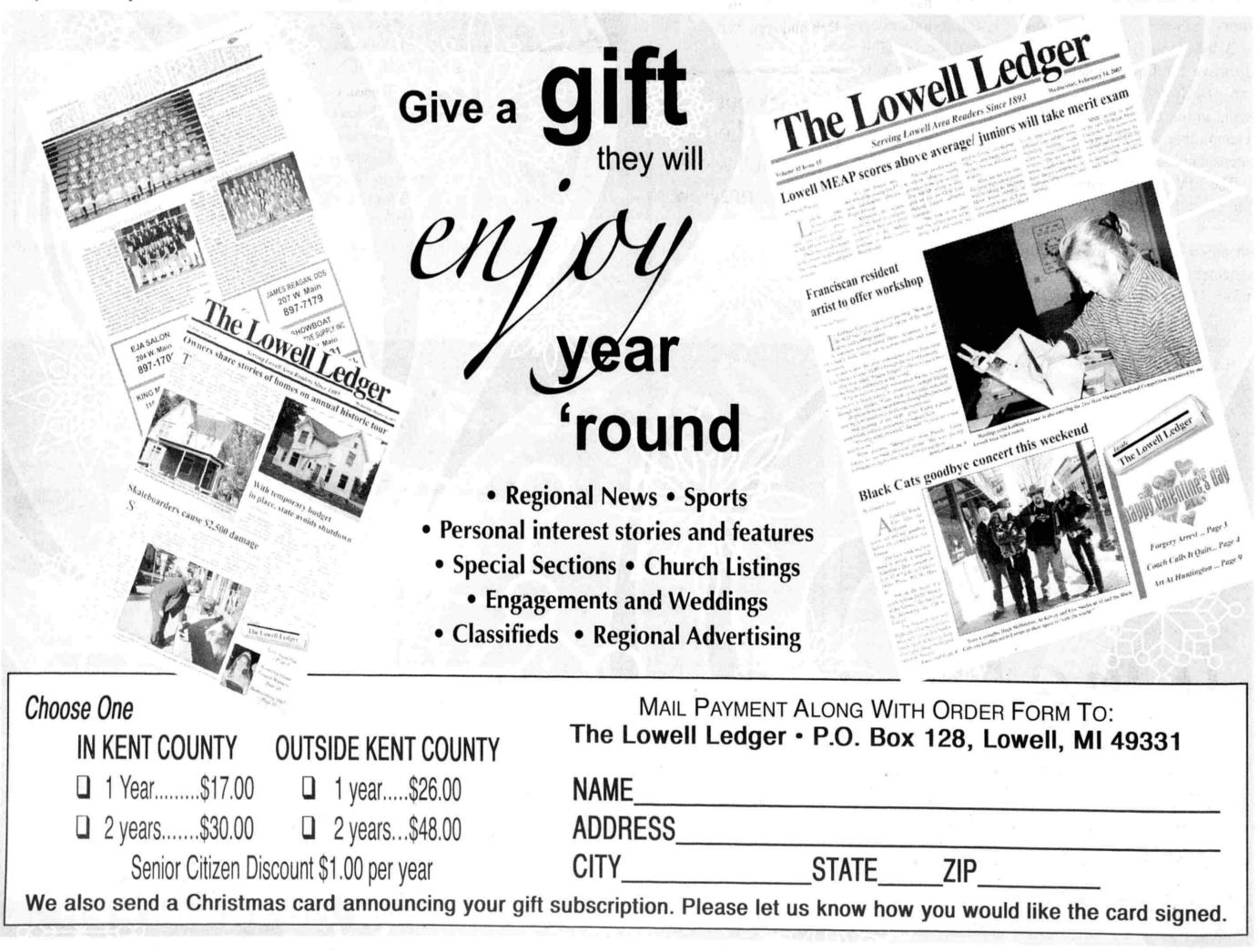
The team plays twice

the new scoreboard in the Lowell high school gym will

Lowell club team wins Grand Rapids Volleyball League

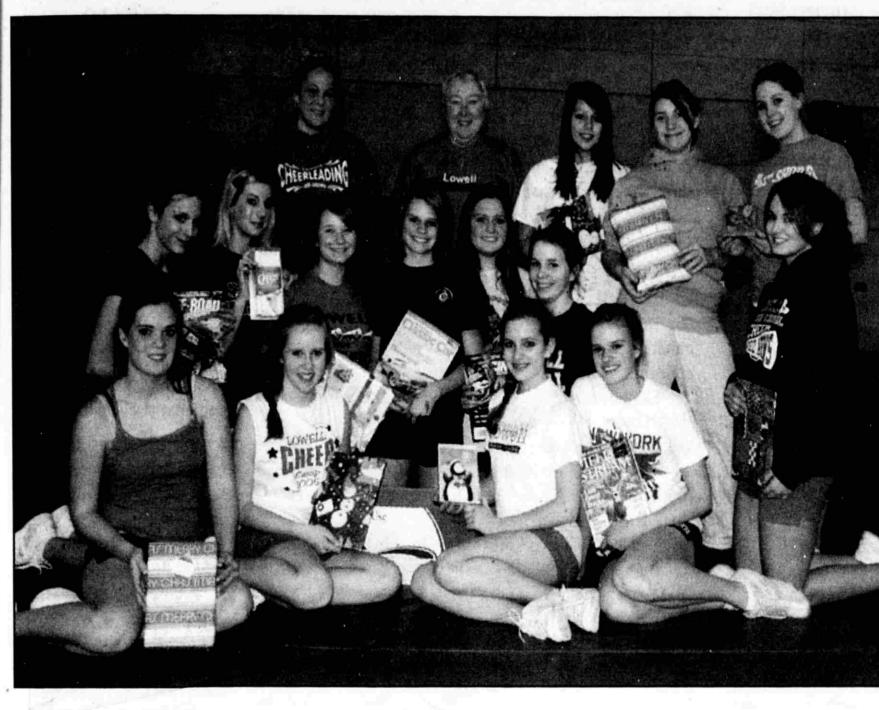


The Lowell Black volleyball team took first place in the Grand Rapids Middle School Volleyball League last week. The team is comprised of girls from Lowell Middle School, St. Patrick's, and Ada Christain. The Lowell Blue team tied for third place in the league. Pictured are members of the championship team: (first row, L-R) Jordan Timmer and Hannah Tawney; (second row, L-R) Arielle Nausieda, Jessie Montgomery, and Caitlin Fitzpatrick; (third row, L-R) Coach Ed Nausieda, Amanda Jakubiak, Anna Rozema, and Stephanie Stevens.



REDARROW SPORTS JAN.

JV cheer team to send holiday gifts to military dad from Lowell



The JV cheer team will send presents to Lt. Col. Dean DeGrote. Pictured are (first row, L-R) Hailey DeGrote (Dean's daughter), Courtney Race, Ericka Claypool and Anna Scudder; (second row, L-R) Ally Young, Montana Bergy, Maggie Lancaster, Kate Scudder, Lindsey Stehly, Dayna Crumback and Kaitlin Nichol; (third row, L-R) Coach Sheila Walling, Coach Shirley Jackson, Andrea Herrera, Paige Rash and Kait Cummings.

By Molly Benningfield

Editor will arrive for Lowell man Dean DeGrote, who is serving in the U.S. military at Camp Liberty in Iraq as a lieutenant colonel.

The JV cheer team from Lowell High School will send a box stocked those made for the team this with presents ranging from season, by Pep Talk magazines and Goldfish crackers to calling cards feature a "Support Our and extra razor blades for Troops" ribbon on the shaving.

on the team, said her coach, the shirts on the days of idea.

Jackson said she started adopt a platoon or a soldier Hailey said. and thought, "why not help somebody we knew?"

collecting the various items A bit of holiday cheer and will send the box this week, with all the presents inside wrapped by the cheerleaders.

They will also include a long-sleeved shirt with "Cheer Dad" written across the back, that will match

The shirts will also front, in honor of Hailey's Hailey DeGrote, who dad. Coach Sheila Walling is Dean's daughter and is said the girls usually wear Shirley Jackson, had the competitions over their uniforms.

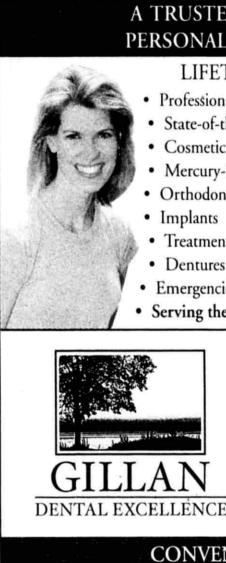
DeGrote left for Iraq in seeing stories during the fall September this year and will season about people who can be there for about a year,

> He trained in Wisconsin over the summer. Also in the

The team has been DeGrote family are wife, Deb and son, Anthony, 24.

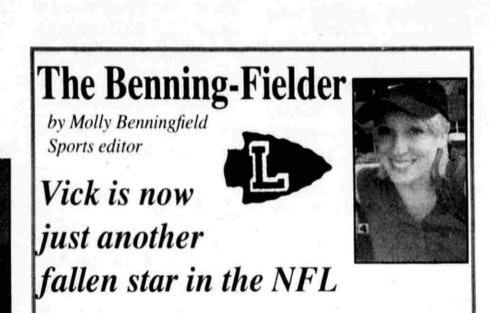
Check out next week's Ledger for a full winter sports preview.

Included in the section will be Varsity, JV and freshmen teams from all the winter sports, including: boys' and girls' basketball, boys' and girls' bowling, competitive cheerleading, gymnastics, ice hockey and wrestling.





THE LOWELL LEDGER - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2007 PAGE 17



Michael Vick, the fallen star of the Atlanta Falcons, was recently sentenced to 23 months behind bars for his role in a federal dogfighting case. Some are praising the judge for not giving in to his star power. Others say he was a bit harsh.

But most are saying he is finally paying the price for a drawn-out case that has caused a lot of controversy. Vick had many opportunities to show officials that he really did feel sorry. But instead, he had a myriad of drug problems, resulting in a flunked drug test and a failed lie-detector test to top it off.

Vick filed a guilty plea in August, and many reports are saying that if he would've cooperated better, he could've been seeing only 12-18 months in jail. A year versus two? Apparently Vick thought his fame could get him a little leniency.

Vick accepted responsibility as he should have. But the judge also said Vick's "false denials" was what pushed him over the edge. When Vick tried to make an apology to the judge, he was interrupted. The judge told him to instead "apologize to the million of kids who idolize [him]."

Outside the courtroom, Vick's lawyer said it almost perfectly, "never has someone fallen so hard, so fast and so far." But I can think of a few more who've been knocked off their pedestals.

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 Wisdom Teeth Extraction
- Implants TMJ (Jaw Pain Therapy)
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(616) 897-8491



Wish lists, continued ... From Page 11

Attend our "Dinner

Lowell Senior Center

314 S. Hudson

Lowell MI 49331

Marcia Roth

Senior Neighbors is

"Enhancing Senior Lives."

We address the needs of older

adults at their specific needs

level. Senior Neighbors is

responsive to the needs of

Kent County seniors and

programs to address trends

and needs

proactive in developing

Phone: (616) 897-5949

seniorneighbors.org

Web site: www,

Wish List:

Vacuum cleaner for the Showboat (Santa Room, Cookie & Stars Room)

Folder (letters and flyers)

Sound-proofing panels for the meeting room Shades for the windows

in the Director's Office as well as the big windows in the meeting room

Storage racks for the store room

Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation

The Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation is an independent not-forprofit organization whose purpose is to help Lowell Area School teachers and students excel in programs

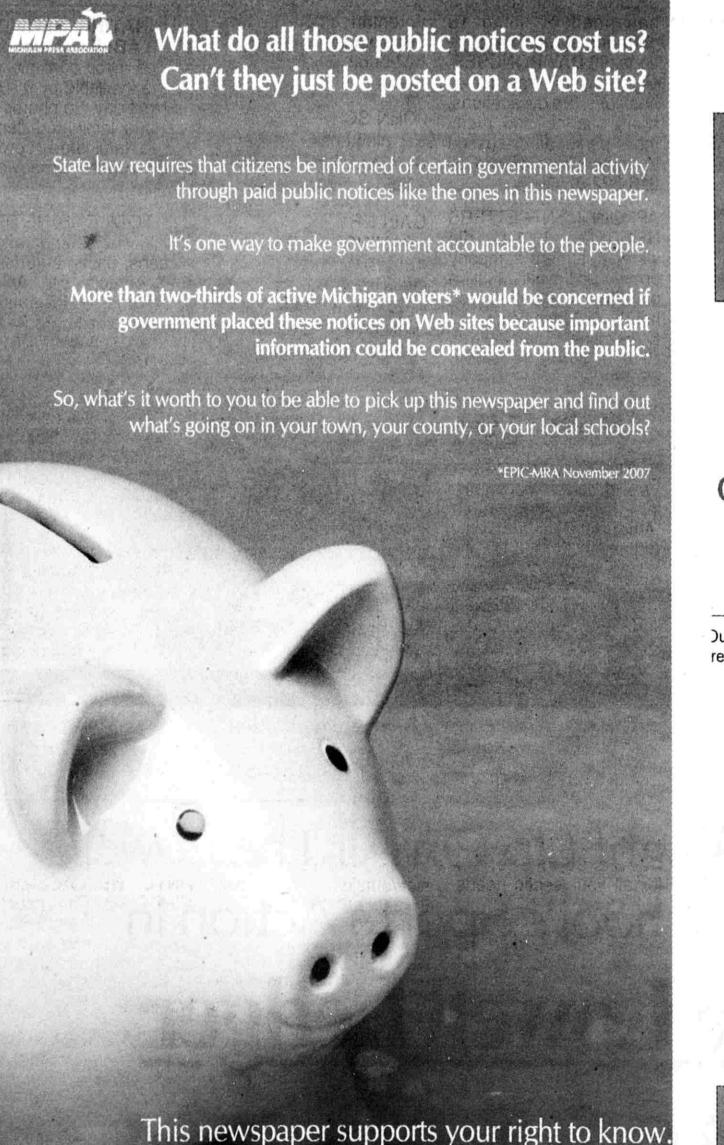
that are not funded by public tax revenues. Led by a with Friends" event volunteer Board of Directors February 2008. Experience made up of business, great food, conversation and education and community entertainment, and support leaders, the Foundation has our schools, too. raised over \$300,000 since its inception in 1995. The Foundation has awarded 22 Staff Innovative Grants already this year totaling almost \$15,000.

Wish List:

We happily accept donations of all amounts. Donated dollars are matched by a grant from the Lowell Area Community Fund doubling the impact of each gift. Learn more about the Education Foundation Visit our website at www. lowelleducationfoundation. org. Contact us if you have questions

The best thing to give to your enemy is forgiveness; to an opponent, tolerance; to a friend, your heart; to your child, a good example; to a father, deference; to your mother, conduct that will make her proud of you; to yourself, respect; to all men, charity.

- Francis Maitland Balfour



Wish List: Wii System Contributions for our uilding fund Coffee Paper Products

Lowell YMCA **Sports Department** 1335 W. Main St. Lowell, MI 49331 Steve Oakes Phone: (616) 897-8445

YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

Wish List:

New or gently used children's books childcare centers Skateboards and

skateboard helmets. kneepads, and elbow pads New or in-workingcondition Playstation 2 Xbox 360 games

New/ used/ in-workingcondition youth/children's DVDs rated G, PG, and PG-13

Used utility trailer for parades, moving soccer goals

St. Mary's Pregnancy Center 402 Amity St. Lowell, Mi 49331

to offer each girl hope in their time of need. We are dedicated to enhancing their quality of life in a discreet and loving manner. To touch the life of others as Christ has touched ours. St Mary's is a group of dedicated people who create a community of love and compassion for pregnant women and families with small children. They see 35 to 50 families a week providing them with The mission of the emotional support and assist them in practical ways.

Wish List:

Diapers, newborn-size 3. 4 and 5 Baby food Baby shampoo, wash &

Small used station

for wagon to pick up items Tots on Track for School

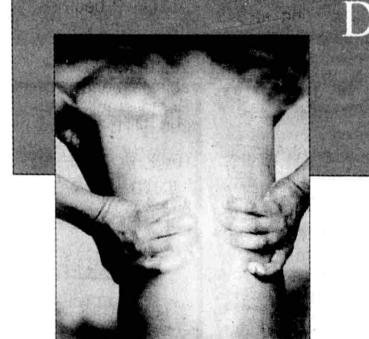
> 300 High St. Lowell, MI 49331 Phone: (616) 987-2532 Kathy Cole

To help families prepare their preschool children to enter school healthy and ready to learn.

> Wish List: Preschool

Preschool manipulatives and science resources Glue sticks

Paper products – paper



Come see how you can get rid of your pain with Chiropractic Care.

Dur patient centered approach has been successful in reating a multitude of health problems:

> Back and neck pain Headaches Joint Pain Sports and auto injuries Workers Compensation Injuries

Additional benefits of Chiropractic Care:

- AFFORDABLE. . . Many problems respond more rapidly to chiropractic care, thus avoiding surgery and expensive prescriptions. Insurance companies offer benefits for chiropractic care
- . We invest in the latest continuing education in QUALIFIED. our field ON-TIME We know your time is important, so we stay or
- time FOCUSED ON YOU... We want what is best for you. We take the time to get to know your individual needs. If we are unable to treat your specific condition, we will refer you to another doctor

Aaron J. Buys D.C. • John B. Wellman D.C. Lowell Chiropractic

(616) 897 - 8284

learning

towels, paper napkins, 5-oz. Dixie cups Art/Craft

supplies washable/safe for preschoolers paints, paint brushes, stickers, punches, stamping materials, craft paper, fabric, etc. Used parenting books/

resources

Friends and Neighbors 4-H Club 12272 Four Mile Rd.

Lowell, MI 49331 Phone: (616) 897-9021 Web site: http:// friendsnneighbors4h. tripod.com

Our 4-H Mission: members are the "youth today, and leaders of of by making tomorrow" the "best even better", by learning lifelong skills having goals for the future, and participating in community events.

Wish List:

Gift cards/certificates to tack stores

Gift cards/certificates to feed mills

Gently-used Western/ English tack

Gently-used Western/ English show clothing and

boots YER. Participate in club fundraiser at Lily Pad Candle Shoppe. Mention our club and purchase a 6 oz. classic jar candle.

Does an Injury Have You Sidelined?



All new patients receive:

- A Consultation with the **Doctor about Your Health Problem**
- Orthopedic & Neurological Spinal Exam
- Initial X-rays (if necessary)

Report of Findings & Recommendations to the Patient

Call today to schedule your appointment! (616) 897 -8284



FOR SALE

LITEHOUSE DRESSING GIFT PACKS - are available at the following locations: Fifth Third, Bernards Ace Hardware, Cousins Hallmark, Springrove, Huntington Bank, Firstbank, Voyages, & Lowell Area Arts Council. or from any Rotarian. \$12.50 per pack

BED - Queen pillowtop mattress set. Brand new, in plastic, warranty. \$110. Can deliver. 616-318-6998.

LOOKING FOR UNIQUE & USEFUL CHRISTMAS GIFTS? - Birdhouses & feeders make great gifts. Bluebird, Wren & bat houses, bird & squirrel feeders. Good selection, top quality & best prices anywhere. Bob's Birdhouses, 12279 60th St., Alto, 868-6633.

2008 LOWELL HISTORIC CALENDARS NOW AVAIL-ABLE - for \$8. Calendars sold at Mandolin Design Hallmark, Springrove, the Museum & City Hall.

ALL-SPORTLAKEFRONT - home, Caledonia, 3 bedroom, 3 bath, \$349,000 remodeled or reduced "as is". 616-891-1840.

BEDROOM SET - 7pc Cherry bedroom set, includes Sleigh bed! Brand new. Must sell, \$550. Can deliver. 616-949-6525.

'97 CHEVY TAHOE LT -4WD, V8, automatic transmission, well maintained, 142,000 miles, ready for winter, \$4,800 obo. 897-9444.

FOR SALE OR LEASE - .1,400 sq. ft. condo. 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, whirlpool bathtub, great room w/fireplace, attached garage, covered patio, all appliances included. Call Michael at 676-9961. Open house, Saturdays 1 to 4 p.m., 186 S. Valley Vista. SEVEN DAY, SIX NIGHT - Disney area stay. 2 adult Disney tickets. Paid \$750, sacrifice \$249, good for one year. 616-305-0121

BUFFALO MEAT FOR SALE - Cut and packaged to your order. Hay fed, no hormones, low cholestrol, high nurtritional value, flavorful meat. Call 642-9206.

PUPPIES - Boston/Lab. 2 males, \$100. Call 897-7742.

MEMORY FOAM MAT-TRESS - Relieves back pain! Temperpedic queen, \$1,899; Theratouch queen "same thing", \$899. Is the name worth that much? Brand new. Also twin, full & kings. Try them at RCD Wholesale, G.R. 682-4767 or 293-6160.TEN

PARTING OUT-1985 GMC 4X4 with snow plow. Call 616-987-9525.

SPECTRE BASS GUITAR with Fender amplifer, like new, \$275. Call 897-6778.

SOFA AND LOVESEAT New set, microfiber still in original packaging. \$479. 949-2683, delivery possible.

HD TV'S - factory refurbished. Sony, Toshiba RCA, Samsong, etc. 42"-51" big screen, \$450 up DLP's 43"-61", \$650 up; plasmas, 42"-50", \$800 up. 616-622-2418.

LOWELL - Just like new 3 bedroom 1.5 bath ranch. Owner has just installed new windows, vinyl siding doors & interior trim. Kitch en has new maple cabinets. new vinyl floors, carpet 8 the 3 bedrooms have professionally refinished oak floors. Home has a heated & insulated 2.5 stall garage & a 12x20 storage building. \$129,900. Call Steve Ovkstra, 616-826-4387 Prudential Preferred Real tor, 616-866-1212.

PROPANE HOT WATER HEATER - with \$100 of double wall vent pipe, \$65. Call 897-9068.

FIREWOOD - Dry walnut \$50 per face cord. Call 616-868-7069.

BED - A new King pillowtop mattress set, in plastic, warranty. Can deliver. \$180. Also full size, only \$95. 616-949-2683.

FOR SALE - Washer/Dryer \$100 for both. Call 616 691-7176.

MATTRESSES - All new All sizes starting at \$49 Large selection. Low overhead = lower prices. Shop & compare before you buy R.C.D. Wholesale, G.R 682-4767 or 293-6160.TF

KEY CARDS AVAILABLE AT THE LEDGER OF FICE!THEY MAKE GREAT GIFTS! - Help support the LHS Academic Boosters & save a bunch of money too! Key Cards are good at various places in Lowell & GR! \$15, cash only. 105 N. Broadway, Lowell

AIR BEDS - Selecta comfort firmness for each of you. Dual chambers. Digital remote, never used. Perfect for couples with different firmness needs. Queen \$795 & King \$995. Air Bed Store, G.R., 682-4767 or 293-6160.TEN

COPY SERVICE, FAX SERVICE, LAMINATING, **UPS SHIPPING &** MORE! AVAILABLE AT THE LOWELL LEDGER HOURS M-Th. 8-5 p.m. Fri. 8-4 p.m. Closed Sat. & Sun. 105 N. Broadway Lowell

Ph. 897-9261 Fax 897-4809

.

FOR RENT

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 897-8303.TFN

ALTO - 3 bedroom, newly renovated, available ap prox. Dec. 1, \$500 deposit \$650 a month. Includes trash removal & sewer. washer/dryer hook up, rental credit application fee. Call 868-6411.

FOR RENT - Nice large 2 bedroom trailer on private land in the country between Belding and Lowell; downtown Belding apartment upstairs 3 bedroom. Call 616-794-1109.

SENIORS!! - Rent could be as low as \$70 per month! bedroom HUD subsidized apartments for rent! Rent based on income for those who qualify! BEAUTIFUL6 acre country setting! Pets welcome! Conveniently located 20 minutes East of Grand Rapids. Call today to join our small waiting list. Equal Housing Opportunity. 616-693-2271, hearing impaired dial 711.

FOR RENT - Newly remodeled and insulated 2 bedroom. 1 bath ranch. 3 miles from Murray Lake and elementary school. Laundry and garage. Call 897-9798.

ALTO - 2 bedroom apart ment, pond view, \$500/deposit, \$550/month includes rash removal, sewer, stackable washer/dryer hook-up. Rental/credit check. 616 868-6411.

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

EVENTS

CHRISTMAS SERVICE Church of the Nazarene, Dec. 23 at Lowell Performing Arts Center, 10:40 a.m. Live Nativity throughout the service and a special guest appearance. Come take a journey with us through time.

GUYS - you can be a HERO for the Holidays. Get your **Christmas shopping** done in Lowell Sat. Dec. 22 from 10 a.m to 3 p.m. Maximize your brownie points with your sweet heart, enjoy special prices and register to win the Beef 'n Beer Basket. Guys Day Out is just for you.

SWING DANCELESSONS with Mike & Amanda. 4 nights, \$45, Saturdays starting January 5. Level at 6 p.m.; Level II at 7 p.m. in Lowell at T.J. Sports Bar. Call 635-0668.

HELP WANTED

RN/LPN - Interested in oneon-one care? Looking for a relaxed working environment? Give home care a try! We have full & part-time opportunities available in the owell & Greenville area for evening & overnight shifts! We offer flexible scheduling & competitive wages. Call Community Care Givers at 616-531-9973 & ask for

HELP WANTED - Administrative assistant, p/t, \$8 per hour. Experience w/Peachtree, Microsoft office, customer service, confidential doc & phone sales. Fax resume to 616-285-3275.

RN/LPN - Home Care agency seeking nurses for in-home patient care! Ne have full & part-time opportunities in the Grand Rapids, Lowell & Greenville area for 2nd & 3rd shift cases! We offer flexible scheduling, competitive wages & a relaxed working environment! Call Community Care Givers at 616-531-9973 & ask for

CUSTOMER SERVICE - Over \$500/wk to start! Due to large increase in ousiness, local branch of international company expanded operations and has need of filling 18 Foreman & Cumberland permanent, full-time positions. 90 DAY BONUSES. Company will train for all positions. Paid vacations, profit sharing and many more perks, all discussed at personal interview. Call

616-522-9783. APPOINTMENTSETTERS NEEDED - 60 year old water treatment company opening in Lowell. Must be outgoing & a self-starter hourly & commission, ful & part-time. Call between 10 a.m. & 4 p.m. 1-800-589-6609.

WANTED

NEED HOLIDAY CA\$H? Buying estates, antiques ewelry, and many other Americana" items for cash Call today! 616-550-0521 WANTED TO BUY - 2 cycle gas driven ice auger. Cal

John, 897-5717.

SERVICES

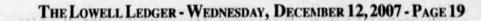
CLEANING - home or office. Thorough and dependable, references. Please call 616-365-2745 or 616-551-7654.

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

COPIES COPIES COPIES Color & black & white copiers! Excellent quality! Stop by our office, Lowell Litho, 05 N. Broadway.

C & S DRYWALL - Over 20 years experience. Complete drywall service. censed & insured, free estimates. Call 868-6140.

.





SERVICES



JOHN DEBIAK - certified farrier. Horseshoeing & hoof trimming with twenty vears of professional, full time experience. Call 897-4290.TEN

ZOOLAND DAYCARE has openings on 1st shif 5 a.m. to 4 p.m. Also, 3rd shift openings. Call 897-8386 or 308-0195.

WATSON'S HANDY-MAN SERVICES Decks, doors, drywall & misc. repairs. Basement remodels. Small jobs welcome. 10% of thru Dec. 897-6906

INDOW WASHING gutter cleaning and air duct cleaning. Reason able rates. Call Randy @ R&R Enterprises, 616-581-8561.

R & R YARD CLEANUP Outdoor clean up; also firewood for sale, \$125 cord. Snowplowing. Tree service. 897-9176. 322-7560.

OUT-A-TOWNERS PET SITTING - Call Michael R. Tummino. 616-889-9053

CHILDCARE - licensed home is looking for new friends to join our daycare family. Located near intersection. Please call 897-5068 for more information.

JOHN SCHLOOP BUILD ER - New homes, additions & remodeling. Call 897-1335.TEN

GALLERY & CUSTOM FRAMING - Fire and water Art! 219 W. Main in Lowell. Open Wed. - Sun. 1-6 p.m. Have your GRADUA-TION & WEDDING photos framed by the "Framing Artist." ART, artist created GIFTS, art CLASSES & MORE. www.fire-and-water-art.com or 890-1879. PAYROLL & BOOKKEEP-ING SERVICE - by certified Quickbooks advisor. Call

Kathy 897-6351. EOWTEN

PLUMBER - Licensed, 17 years Experienced. Residential, Service or New Construction. Reasonable Rates. No emergency or after hours fee. Call Platinum Plumbing, 897-2575.TEN

HORSE BOARDING - Inside/outside. For info call Peggy 897-5807 or 616-915-4200.

HANDY REPAIR SER-VICE - Bob Ford formally of Hahn Hardware is now doing all kinds of servie work at your home or business. Free estimates. Call 299-3198.TEN

SERVICES

SHIP UPS AT THE LED-**GER OFFICE** - Daily pickup at 3 p.m. We cannot accept hazardous materials or firearms. Compare our prices! Call for a price quote! We will need weight, zip code & dimensions for a price quote over the phone. 105 N. Broadway. 897-9261

CUSTOM CABINETRY Solid wood, handcrafted kitchens, baths, entertainment centers, etc. At or below cost of pre-builts! Stop in or call Personal Choice's showroom! 616-897-1130.

THIS OLD PAINTER - Interior & exterior, insured. free estimates. Call 897-5314

CARPET INSTALLATION Residential & commercial patches, restretch. Free estimates. Call Kevin at 616-813-4299.

C & S DRYWALL - Over 20 years experience. Complete drywall service, licensed & insured, free estimates. Call 868-6140 SPIELMAKER ACCOUNT-ING, INC. - Always on time with all your accounting 8 tax preparation needs. Licensed. 20 yrs. of practice experience. Limited space for new clients. Call now,

LAMINATING SERVICE AVAILABLE - Next day service. Drop off & pieces will be available by 9 a.m. the next day. No photos or previous laminated items will be laminated. Lowel Litho, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell

885-0432 or 897-1257.

CUSTOM CABINETRY Solid wood, handcrafted kitchens, baths, entertainment centers, etc. At or below cost of pre-builts! Stop in or call Persona Choice's showroom! 616-897-1130.

LAKE ODESSA CARPET CARE - Professional carpet and upholstery cleaning 24 hr flood service, 10% off upholstery cleaning Call 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. 616 902-4841.

CLIMBING HIGH TREE **SERVICE** - Complete tree & stump removal. Free estimates. Insured. Jamison German, 616-299-7874 or Mark Marentette, 291-2492.

SEAMLESS GUTTER Bleam Eavestroughing Free estimates, 50 colors leaf guards. Since 1959 Choose the experience! (616) 765-3333 or 1-877-945-RAIN. www.bleame aves.com

VINYL REPLACEMENT WINDOWS - Easy maintenance, never need painting. conserve energy, cut heating & cooling costs. DUR-KEE LUMBER, ALTO, 868-6026.

CERAMIC TILE & STONE 14 years experience - Insured. Floors, fireplaces, showers, tubs, kitchens and more. Quality workmanship. Call Rick for an estimate 616-868-7546.

THE LOWELL LEDGER WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2007 PAGE 20

Donor board all set at dog park

On Sunday, several individuals braved the cold to install a donors recognition board at the Animal Hospital of Lowell dog park at Stoney Lakeside Jeff Eckstrom said "We

a project in working towards the level of Eagle Scout for local Boy Scout Jacob Theisen.

Committee member Park. The board was built as are very impressed with

We are alone, absolutely alone on this chance planet: and, amid all the forms of life that surround us, not one, excepting the dog, has made an alliance with us.

- Maurice Maeterlinck (1862 - 1949)

LOWELL AREA **COMMUNITY FUND ACCEPTS GRANT** PROPOSALS

All Proposals Must Be Submitted **Online No Later Than** December 21, 2007 to be considered. Visit www.grfoundation.org/lowell to submit your application.

The Lowell Area Community Fund, a fund of Grand Rapids Community Foundation, awards grants to tax-exempt, nonprofit charitable organizations that have an impact in the Lowell area. The LACF funds innovative projects or programs that encourage community cooperation.

the workmanship that went into this. It's just one more thing that helps to make our dog park a little nicer. Our committee is very appreciative. Comments from dog owners using the park during the installation were very positive."

Pictured by the new donor recognition board are: Jacob Theisen, LDP committee member Jeff Eckstrom, Keffer Riley, Nick Warren, Josh Theisen, Jerry Change, LDP Committee member Dr. David Sova and on the ladder, Tim Theisen.



UPS SHIPPING

at the Lowell Ledger

Daily pickup at 3 p.m.





