SPRINGPORT, MICH.

The Lowell Leager

Volume 37 Issue 13

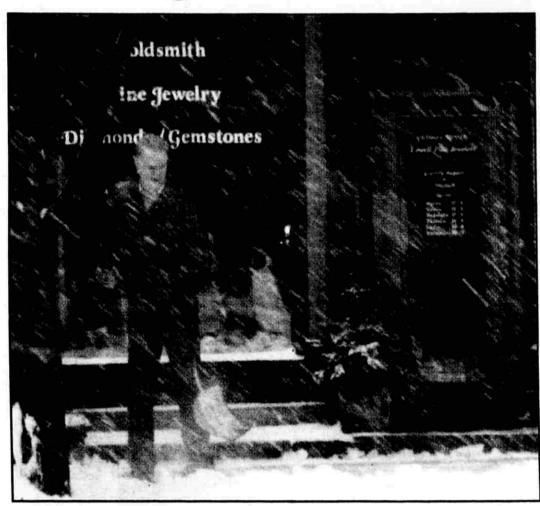
Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Lowell merchants shovel out during snowstorm



eavy snowfall Friday brought additional Laccumulation of two to four inches of fresh snow on top of the existing six inches. Area merchants, clockwise from left, Aaron Laux of Gary's Country Meats, Cliff Yankovich of Chimera's, Trent Buck of Buck Stop Barber Shop and Karen Wade of Flat River Cottage, shoveled sidewalks in front of their stores. More flurries followed by rain and fog on Monday and Tuesday gave area residents a slippery commute.







Little League president calls for customization of contract

by Emma Palova

\$5 user fee and a 10 percent tournaments are the results of year-long negotiations between the city parks sports commission and organizations.

The council city Monday approved a fiveyear contract with the Lowell Little League for Creekside Park use. The contract with the league is the same as with the other non-profit sports organizations.

League president Warning called for customization of the "cookie-cutter" contract.

"The agreements need to be customized per organization," he said. "We

type of reciprocation back for our time and money."

The league preps the fields for approximately 400 users, while the city mows the grass. Most recently, the league had to put in mandated break away bases.

It has been the parks commission and city council's philosophy that the city taxpayers should not be paying for non-residents using the parks. According to mayor Jeanne Shores, 75 percent of users are nonresidents.

"Lowell city residents are paying the taxes," said Shores. "When the economy was better you got away with it."

Confronting Warning's are really non-profit, all contention about increased volunteers. We want some league's expenses, council stonewall, but I don't want

member Jim Pfaller said league improvements such as the break away bases are for the organization's needs

"There's a lot more maintenance than just mowing grass," said Pfaller "It's the water and sewer charge."

Warning also struggled with the 10 percent fee from tournament revenues stating the organization will have to get more sponsors for the teams.

"This may create a burden on our budget," said Warning. "We depend on sponsorships."

In spite of the city fees, the league will not increase participation fees for the kids, according to Warning.

"I am not trying to

to hurt 400 kids for not playing ball," said Warning.

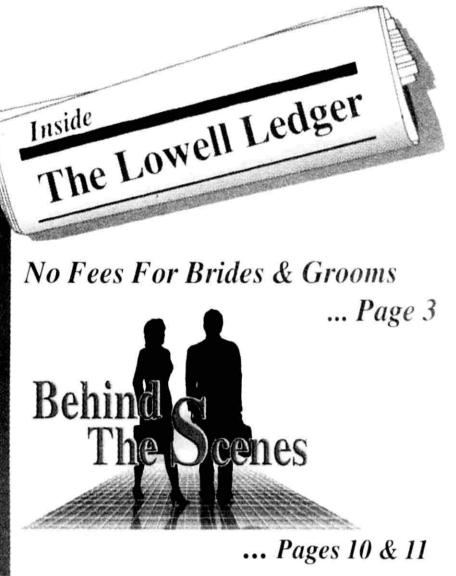
The league utilizes the fields at Creekside Park for 10 weeks. Last year, there were 32 teams.

"We don't do any harm to anything," said Warning. "You can't do harm with rubber cleats. We don't have the need for the city to maintain the fields."

On the contrary, the parks commission contains the parks and require greater maintenance because of the wear and tear from the games.

Warning said tournaments bring people to town.

"Things are good here," he said. "People will be shopping, buying and eating here."



The Ledger "Fan of the Week" ... Page 17

Lowell Grad Visits Africa

... Page 20

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LOWELL COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN

CUMBERLAND RIDGE STREET LIGHTING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Lowell, Kent County, Michigan, having determined to make certain public improvements consisting of the instal lation, improvement and maintenance of street lights (the "Improvements"), within the Cumberland Ridge Street Lighting Special Assessment District (the "District"), in accordance with Act 188 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1954, as amended. The Township Board has resolved its intent to make the Improvements in the Township. The Township Board has tentatively determined that the cost of the operation and maintenance of the Improvements shall be specially assessed against each of the following described lots and parcels of land which are benefitted by the Improvements and which together comprise the District:

CUMBERLAND RIDGE STREET LIGHTING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

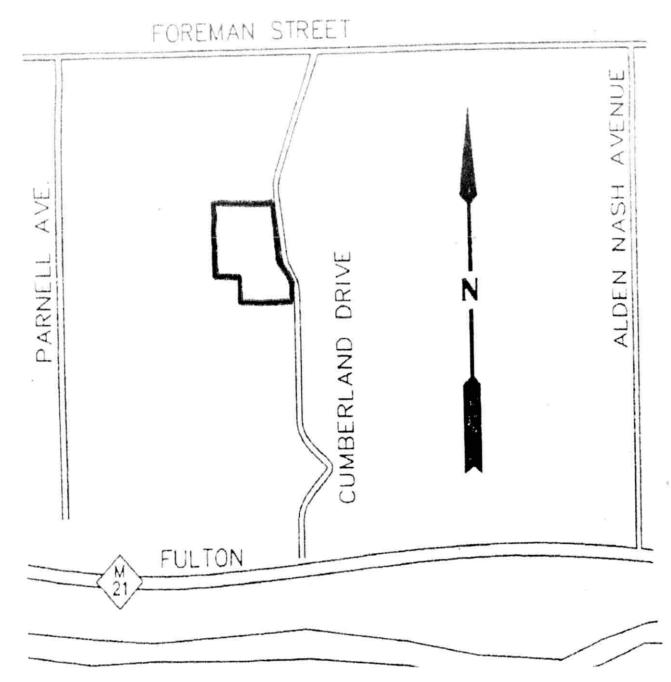
Units and Parcels Numbered

41-20-05-284-008

41-20-05-284-001	41-20-05-284-009	41-20-05-284-020	41-20-05-284-031
41-20-05-276-001	41-20-05-284-010	41-20-05-284-021	41-20-05-284-032
41-20-05-284-002	41-20-05-284-011	41-20-05-284-022	41-20-05-284-033
41-20-05-284-003	41-20-05-284-012	41-20-05-284-023	41-20-05-284-034
41-20-05-284-004	41-20-05-284-015	41-20-05-284-027	41-20-05-284-035
41-20-05-284-005	41-20-05-284-016	41-20-05-284-028	41-20-05-284-036
41-20-05-284-006	41-20-05-284-017	41-20-05-284-029	41-20-05-284-037
41-20-05-284-007	41-20-05-284-018	41-20-05-284-030	
		-	

41-20-05-284-019

MAP OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT



Boundary of Cumberland Ridge Street Lighting Special Assessment District (includes all units and real property located within all phases of the Cumberland Ridge Site Condominium)

TAKE NOTICE that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Lowell will hold a public hearing on February 19, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., at the Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash Ave., S.E., within the Township, to hear and consider any objections to the proposed Improvements, and all other matters relating to said Improvements and the District.

Preliminary plans and estimates of cost for the Improvements are on file with the Township Clerk for public examination.

Annual redeterminations of cost may be made without further notice to record owners or parties in interest in the property in the district, but if at any time an actual incremental cost increase exceeds the annual estimate of such increase by ten percent or more, an assessment reflecting such increase shall not be made until an additional public hearing is held, after the giving of public notice to the owners of property to be assessed in the district.

Property shall not be added to the proposed special assessment district and the original estimate of cost shall not be increased by more than 10% without further notice and public hearing.

This Notice was authorized by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Lowell. Dated: January 21, 2008 Linda S. Regan, Clerk **Charter Township of Lowell**

GELDERSMA

Russell E. Geldersma, age 82 of Lowell, passed away Friday, February 1, 2008. He was preceded in death by his eight brothers and two sisters; daughter-inlaw, Charlene Geldersma. Surviving are his wife of 54 years, Lillian; children, Keith (Sandy) Geldersma, Jim (Kelly) Geldersma, (John) Joling. Mark Geldersma, Carol Geldersma; brother, Don (Donna Ruth) VanDyke; sisters, Corinne (Bill) Weeks, Wilma Arendsen; (sound system). grandchildren, David.

Timothy, Benjamin, and Kyle Geldersma, Keegan (Brent) Folsom, Michael (Lisa) Joling, Brent Joling, Gus and Joshua Geldersma: grandchildren, Mathew, Nathaniel, and Elizabeth Joling and many, many nieces and nephews. Funeral services were Tuesday at Calvary Christian Reformed Church of Lowell. Interment Bailey Memorial Cemetery. contributions may be made to Calvary Christian Reformed Church of Lowell

Lend A Hand



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The Lowell Area Historical Museum will conduct a training session on Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m. for anyone interested in becoming a volunteer for the museum. We have alot of volunteer opportunities available. From volunteers for special events, to office and clerical support, to a museum greeter or tour guide, we have a spot for you. If you are interested in becoming more actively involved with the Museum, please give us a call at 897-7688 to register for the training session.

Abstinence program featured at Lowell High

Thing, a faith-based teen teenagers, who sign a abstinence program, will sexual abstinence pledge have a session in Lowell at and receive a silver ring to the high school's performing wear as a symbol of their arts center on Saturday, Feb. 23 from 6-8:30 p.m. Doors open at 5:15. Entry is \$5 at information, visit www. the door, and a ring is \$15.

The Silver Ring affected more than 70,000 commitment.

silverringthingmi.com. The program has

Men are not prisoners of fate, but only prisoners of their own minds.

Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882 - 1945)

The Lowell Ledger

(USPS 453-830)

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Relay for Life Kickoff Rally next week

Relay For Life of Lowell why they have a passion to 24-hour walk/run, to be will be kicked off on Relay. The event from 6:30- held at noon Friday, June High School Performing cancer survivors from our June 28, at Red Arrow Arts Center. This annual community and take some Memorial Stadium. Come event, beginning its third moments to remember those to our kickoff and learn committee is confident that year, is co-sponsored by loved ones who have lost how people with cancer The American Cancer their fight to cancer. Society and the Relay For The entire community American Cancer Society. Life of Lowell Planning and surrounding area is See how easy it is to form Committee. The Kickoff invited to this Relay For a team, raise some funds Rally, beginning at 6 p.m. Life Kickoff Rally, which and help us attain our 2008

survivors and caregivers

with a Jet's Pizza Party, begins our four-month goals of having 35 teams will feature local cancer focus on forming teams and raising over \$85,000 Briggs at 897-5501.

Mayor Shores waives fee for

It was the mayor's it waived," said Shores, mayor comes in."

said city manager Dave

residential customer bill will

\$3.44 per month.

increase by approximately

Experience teaches only the teachable.

"The cost of everything

"I felt it was high. I Pasquale. "It's not a big deal a year," she said. "It doesn't

choice not to get paid "It's my time. I don't want

for marriage ceremonies for performing wedding

per mayor Jeanne Shores ceremonies, not even in her

instituted by former mayor hall remodel.

Chuck Myers through a

motion of the city council.

Power Board has approved

a 6 percent rate increase

applicable to energy used

after Jan. 12. The increase

will show on March billing.

by Emma Palova

Monday waived a \$50 fee has not been charging to

The Lowell Light and tric usage, the average

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performing marriage money for my time."

performing marriage ceremonies

didn't vote for it. I want to change when another bring that much into the

According to clerk

Shores, who has served no expenses to the city to Beachum Flooring for

manager Tom Richards.

The increase will enable

the utility to continue funding

and keeping the system, that

has currently been suffering.

- Aldous Huxley (1894 - 1963)

ADA LOWELL 5

UALITY 616-897-FILM

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East of Amway H.Q

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THE BUCKET LIST (PG-13)

CLOVERFIELD (PG-13) 7:10, 9:15

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Last year, Lowell Light and

The city council as the mayor before Myers, staff if the mayor chooses replacement of carpet and

request. The fee was own home during the city ceremonies also for the Television endowment

Lowell Light and Power increases rates

"It's their prerogative," two townships.

Betty Morlock, there are council approved \$2,571

perform marriage tile at the fire station.

Shores does marriage discuss the Lowell Cable

village of Saranac and the fund and North Washington

we do is going up," said Power lost \$400,000 on a \$6

"The most I have is 10 11 at 7 p.m.

The 2008 season of sharing their stories and and raising funds for our for cancer research and

Last year, the Relay Tuesday, Feb. 12, at Lowell 7:30 p.m. will also recognize 27, to noon Saturday, For Life of Lowell raised with the support and help are supported through The of the community, we can achieve our 2008 goals. Join Kickoff Rally Feb. 12. 6 p.m. For more information about the event or to form a team, please contact Carol

In related business, the

A special meeting to

property will be held on Feb.

million operating budget.

was in 2004. Richards said

rates will be increased

whenever necessary to meet

the needs of the customers.

the utility's policy regarding

the late payment of electric

charges. Payments made

after the due date are subject

to an additional 2 percent

An average residential

customer uses 650 kilowatt

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charge or \$10.

hours per month.

The last rate increase

The board also revised

AND THE UGLY We want you to join the Lowell Area Arts Council. 149 S. Hudson St., for an evening of open mic poetry on Thurs., Feb. 7 at 7 p.m.

THE GOOD, THE BAD,

THE LOWELL LEDGER - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2008 PAGE 3

SPAGHETTI DINNER & SILENT AUCTION

Fri., Feb. 8, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at Alto Elementary School. Proceeds support 5th grade camp. Adult meal \$5, 5th grade student and under \$3, 3 yrs and under

COME JOIN THE FUN

Kick-Off Rally for '08 Relay for Life of Lowell on Tues., Feb. 12 on the concourse outside of the high school's Performing Arts Center, starting at 6 p.m. with a pizza party and at 6:30 p.m. learn how American Cancer Society is helping people fight this disease and hear from local survivors. For more information, contact Carol Briggs at 897-5501. Everyone welcomed. This year's 24-hour event will be held June 27 and 28.

ELEMENTARY PARENT SCIENCE NIGHT

Parents of students at Alto, Bushnell, Cherry Creek and Murray Lake are invited to join us at Cherry Creek Elementary on Wed., Feb. 13, from 6:30 - 8 p.m. for Elementary Parent Science Night.

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

Sign up at the Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St., Fri., Feb. 15 from 6 - 8 p.m. or Sat., Feb. 16 from 10 a.m. - 12 noon. Regular box is \$30. Everyone welcome. Any questions call Esther at 897-7395.

TIME MANAGEMENT CLASS

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce will offer a class on time management and organization on Feb. 15 from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$25 for chamber members and \$50 for nonmembers. RSVP by Feb. 12.

F.R.O.M.

The FROM Food Pantry is presently in need of canned fruit, crackers, juices, and hot and cold cereals. Please help if you are able.

CLASS OF 2008

Anyone interested in donating door prizes/money for the "Class of 2008", please contact Theresa Mundt at 897-4209.

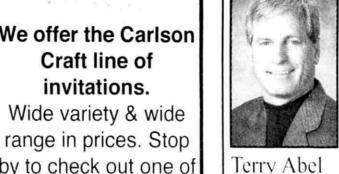
FREE PRESCHOOL

Lowell Head Start now enrolling. Eligibility: children ages 3 or 4 on or before Dec. 1 and incomebased. Call 897-7920.

CALL FOR ENTRY

The Lowell Area Arts Council is accepting applications for the 40th Annual Fallasburg Fall Festival. The deadline for submission of CDs is April 1. Contact LAAC, 149 S. Hudson, 897-8545.

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Sharing

With Mark Lessens **Board of Education President**

Many staff members, consultants, and the Board of Education have been busy over the past few months gathering information, completing drawings and specifications, and reviewing bid packages for the first of technology systems. These improvements will be funded bonds that were sold in late 2007.

throughout the district is based on the needs identified by our staff and our consultants, including Owen, Ames and Kimball (OAK), and information gathered from our community survey. The identified needs from OAK and our survey results indicate that three overriding areas should be the focus of our projects. These include: 1) maintaining our infrastructure and the integrity of our buildings; 2) incorporating increased student safety; and 3) ensuring technology use for all students.

The first bid package was reviewed and approved for distribution by the Board of Education at our Jan. 14 regular meeting. The largest portion of this bid package is focused on the Middle School, and includes: new carpet and flooring in many of the classrooms, new ceiling tiles throughout the building, a new roof, door replacements, new casework, and mechanical and electrical improvements. Also included is the canopy at the main entrance of the

The security of life insurance.

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Carsen McDonald

Kelum McDonald

Hannah Onan

Renn Osborne

Robin Passeno

Brayton A Phillips

Jasen Schaefer

Aaron Senneker

Ryan Stevens

Bailey Stormzand

Emmaline Wasciuk

Allison Young

the smiles of your children,
the help of your Farm Bureau Insurance

You Always Protect

building, new sidewalks, new whiteboards, casework for the orchestra room, new lockers, new air handlers, make-up air units and controls, and, new ductwork and a dust collection system for the shop classroom. These renovations and improvements ensure the integrity of the middle school, while also providing a safer and healthier environment for teaching and learning.

Additional bid packages are currently under design and review. The next bid package will include planned renovations primarily at the high school; while future bid packages will impact nearly all of our buildings.

In addition to improvements to our buildings we are several upcoming contracts to improve our facilities and also currently accepting bids for technology upgrades. The first bid package of technology upgrades includes: from the proceeds of the remaining 2000 construction new fiber switches at several buildings, new classroom computers, new core servers and additional onsite and The renovation and technology work that is planned offsite storage capacity, and new multi-media systems

in classrooms, including projectors, speakers and tuners. Technology updates in future bid packages will include a fiber optic connection to Alto Elementary and video monitoring cameras at the high school. All of these technology upgrades will enhance teaching and learning, while also ensuring that our data is available, yet secure,

Most of these building improvements and technology upgrades will take place this summer, including additional bid packages yet to be released. It is our plan that with these improvements and upgrades in place, Lowell Area Schools will provide a well-maintained infrastructure, providing a safe and secure teaching and learning environment, while utilizing technology to enhance everything we do.

Comments may be made to the Board of Education at boardofed@lowellschools.com.



Financial Focus

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WHEN CAN YOU START TAPPING INTO

I access it?

_OWELL CHARTER

BUDGET HEARING NOTICE

Linda S. Regan, Clerk

With Christopher C. Godbold **EdwardJones**

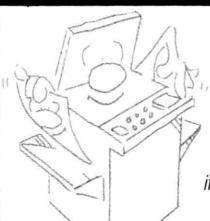
SOURCES OF RETIREMENT INCOME?

When you retire, it would be convenient if all your expenses were to "retire" as well. But they won't. In fact, you'll likely need between 80 percent and 100 percent of your pre-retirement income to maintain your standard of living in retirement. And you may need even more, depending on what you want to do during your retirement years. So, well before you retire, ask yourself a couple of key questions: Where will the money come from? And when can

TOWNSHIP

Please take notice that there will be a budget hearing on Tuesday, February 19, 2008 followed by a regular meeting of the Lowell Township Board. The hearing will be held at 7:00 P.M. at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash SE, Lowell, At such time, in accordance with the law, a budget covering proposed expenditures and estimated revenues of the Township shall be submitted for consideration. Copies of the proposed budget are available at the Township Hall during regular office hours.

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The Lowell Ledger

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Let's take a look at some of your likely retirement income "pools," along with the rules governing withdrawals from these sources.

 401(k) plan — If you have a 401(k) plan at work, take full advantage of it. Your earnings have the potential to grow on a tax-deferred basis and you typically contribute pretax dollars, so the more you put in, the lower your adjusted annual taxable income. Generally, you have to be at least age 59-1/2 to withdraw money from your 401(k) without incurring a penalty of 10 percent of the taxable amount of your withdrawal. However, you can avoid this penalty under the following circumstances:

 You leave your employer when you are at least 55 or you become disabled.

- You take a series of equal periodic payments, made at least annually, for your life or life expectancy.

You "roll" your 401(k) withdrawals into an IRA.

Of course, you may not want, or need, to tap into your 401(k) at either age 55 or 59 1/2. If that's the case, you can leave your account alone with the potential to continue growing. But you will have to start taking withdrawals when you reach 70 1/2, if you haven't already done so.

IRA - As is the case with your 401(k), you will in most cases have to pay a 10 percent penalty tax if you take distributions from your IRA before age 59 1/2. And you must begin taking required minimum distributions from a traditional IRA once you reach 70 1/2. If you have a Roth IRA, you face no mandatory distribution rules, so you never have to touch the money, which means it can potentially grow tax free for years.

 Social Security — You can start taking Social Security when you reach 62, but your monthly payments will only be about 70 percent to 75 percent — the exact amount depends on your age - of your payments if you wait until you reach "full" retirement age, which is probably 66 or 67. (Social Security determines your full retirement age by your year of birth.)

To most effectively incorporate your 401(k) and IRA withdrawals and Social Security payments into your retirement income, you'll need to consult with your financial advisor. Also, to make sure you're not adversely affecting your tax situation when you start taking these withdrawals and payments, talk to your tax advisor. But don't wait until you're almost retired to start preparing for it. Your decisions on when to take withdrawals from your various retirement accounts are usually irrevocable - so you'll want to get them right the first time.

The Foodmobile

Mobile Food Pantry

THIS MONTH'S SPONSOR: First Congregational Church

FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION

(mostly produce)

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Saturday, Feb. 9, 2008 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (or until food is gone)

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Viewpoint—

To The Editor

Dear Editor.

Once again a reminder to all to slow down and be patient, especially during the extreme winter weather we've been experiencing this season.

Hastings Road. The icy road was covered with blowing snow, and even with my truck in four-wheel drive, I could only keep a steady speed of 25-30 mph without breaking traction. I don't know what possessed the woman behind me to try and pass in those awful road conditions, but it was a terrible mistake. She must not have seen the pickup traveling toward her in the oncoming lane. As she passed me, I began to brake and brace myself for what I knew would be a terrible accident. There was no shoulder on either side of the road. I can still hear the terrible sound of the pickup crashing into her car nearly head on. I was able to stop my vehicle to help. Although dazed a bit, the driver of the truck appeared to be ok. Unfortunately, the driver who tried to To The Editor, pass me in such a hurry was not. I moved off the road and some other motorists had already stopped, and called for now. Over the past one and a half years, I have had the EMS. Her airbags had deployed, she had a pulse, but was otherwise unresponsive, and appeared to have sustained variety of reasons. head, and other multiple injuries. She had a child's car seat in the back of her vehicle, and fortunately, it was empty that and with Kathleen at Fire and Water. They both have such morning. We struggled to do what we could in the freezing beautiful artwork, photos, homemade jewelry, pottery and cold. We tried to determine who she was, and get some the like. You can even give them an idea of a piece of art information to notify her family of the accident. It was clear that you would like, and they will make it for you. that she was seriously injured, in shock and would not be able to communicate with us. She would not be showing up for whatever appointment she was so desperately racing to keep that morning.

EMS arrived, and I want to commend them for their dedication, and decisive action. The folks from Alto, and surrounding community EMS units were incredible. The weather and wind chill were extreme, and they worked very hard to assess her quickly, get oxygen started, extract her from the vehicle and transport her to the hospital. Our community is so fortunate to have such dedicated EMS professionals, willing to brave extreme conditions and come are our neighbors and friends, and represent the best and most dedicated of our communities. I will never understand what made the driver behind me think she could pass in such dangerous, extreme road conditions. What was so important for most of my life and I want to remind people to slow down and be patient in these conditions. In addition to experienced drivers, we also have youth out there who have only recently completed drivers training, and are driving these roads for their first winter season to and from school, practices and other events. Despite the image portrayed on the TV commercials, four-wheel drive, and a longer wheel base does not make your vehicle invincible to icy road conditions. Even if you have traction, cars in front or behind you may not.

While driving in extreme conditions, each of our lives depends on the judgment, skill, and split-second decisions made by others around us. The choices we make, or fail to make behind the wheel have consequences to all surrounding motorists. If we are distracted, or careless, there may be no second chance to hang up the cell phone, or rethink a bad decision. On extreme weather days, making a steady speed of 25-35 mph and arriving safely may be the best we can do. Please live with that, be thankful, and don't tailgate. I commute between Lowell and Battle Creek every day to work at the hospital as a clinical pharmacist. I have seen far too many accident victims along the road, spun out in ditches, and subsequently admitted to our ICU with life- with, and support the local merchants for that hometown altering injuries. This includes a number of people who feeling, but with a power pack of talent and product to were driving late model trucks and SUVs equipped with four-wheel drive who never thought something bad could happen to them. I have prayed for the driver who was so seriously injured, and her family.

Robert Coffey

To The Editor,

I'm not sure about a giant step forward for man kind but it's surely a giant step forward for the city of Lowell. That's how I see the first of many hopefully informal discussion forums with it's constituents at meetings called "coffee with the council", a two-hour session scheduled for the first Saturday of every month. I believe the council is I was traveling on 92nd earlier this week toward recognizing that they are not only a decider but the servant to the constituents of Lowell and these forums will be a healing and connecting process between the council and it's constituents. All I expect out of these forums is the truth and everything else eventually will fall in place. Congratulations again to the city council, those words I would never have thought would come from my lips till just recently.

> Sincerely. Jim Howard

I have been meaning to write this article for some time occasion to frequent many of the shops here in Lowell for a

I have chatted with Susan at Glass House Designs

I visited the new owner of Daisy Floral and Gifts, Jennifer Lopez, no kidding. Leighanna, her sister, also works there and is helping me with my stepdaughter's wedding. They are together designing floral arrangements, wreaths, and so many beautiful decorations for one's home or to send to a friend or loved one. There is such room for parking there. I had a lot of fun shopping there for Christmas decorations and the like. They say they realize they are consumers first and keep that in mind when selling to the public. As they put it, they are just doing what they love best and are lucky enough to do it as a living.

The people at Redfrog Technologies, who do Internet to our aid in moments of true crisis. These first responders and computer repair and sales, helped me with my computer needs and saved me quite a bit of money from buying a new computer system when it was not necessary. They were very courteous and friendly to do business with.

Lynn, at Salon 206, is very creative and talented as a to risk your life that way for? I've driven Michigan roads hair stylist, and I enjoy chatting with her. While I only go there once a month, it is fun to catch up with her at those times. Salon 206 offers something for both men and women, even neck massages. Everyone is very friendly there!

B.C. Pizza and Pizza Hut have wonderful pizzas, and the workers there are always very courteous and friendly. Something that is hard to find with young people today, but not so in doing business with them. That's a nice change.

I love walking into Gary's Country Meats to select my fresh meats from the butcher's case. Plus, it is like a little store all in its own, with cheeses, milk and breads, and much more to sell. I enjoy talking to everyone there as well. They early Sunday morning about 12:30. Anthony Zoovas, can help you select the right choice of meat for whatever operator of Paul's Drive In, drove into the garage and meal or occasion you are planning.

both been great caretakers for my dog. I believe they have The shorter man was said to have been carrying the gun. his best interest in mind, and feel very comfortable with the care and love they demonstrate.

The bottom line, I guess, is to remind people to help the businesses of Lowell out with their bottom lines. There is such great talent here in Lowell with these merchants and many more. We are fortunate to be a community with a working downtown. I encourage everybody to visit, chat

> Respectfully Lynette Salzwedel



125 YEARS AGO LOWELL JOURNAL **FEBRUARY 7, 1883**

For the past week the weather here has been decidedly blue. Mercury has not been very low but it has snowed and blowed almost incessantly.

Scarlet fever is spreading in Kalamazoo:

100 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER **FEBRUARY 6, 1908**

Headline: Happy Golden Wedding Anniversary Mr. and Mrs. David O. Shear are giving a reception to more than one hundred relatives and friends at their home in the village today in honor of their golden wedding. They have four daughters and one son; Mrs. O. T. Hogan, Mrs. A. A. Flory and C. B. Shear of Grand Rapids, and Mesdames R. H. McCaul and Wilson Washburn of Lowell Township; and happily all are present on this important occasion.

75 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER AND ALTO SOLO **FEBRUARY 9, 1933**

Headline: Goes to Jail for Starving Hogs Robert Pillsbury, a farmer living four miles west of Cedar Springs, is serving a 15-day jail sentence in the Kent County Jail for having starved to death two hogs.

50 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER **FEBRUARY 6, 1958**

Oscar Nelson, Superintendent of the King Milling Company, has warned village officials of the danger when the spring thaws come about March 1, that the debris from the Main Street fire would block the gates and cause serious flood damage to sections of the village.

An armed robbery occurred at the old Central Garage parked his car. Two young men, described as 17-20 years And for the dog, Grand River Veterinary and Wags have old, opened the door and searched him finding about \$51.

25 YEARS AGO THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER **FEBRUARY 9, 1983**

School Superintendent Donald Kelly Tuesday publicly announced his resignation from the superintendency of Lowell Area School's effective June 30 of this year. Kelly has been part of the Lowell School system for the past 29

Lovers of softball and cold weather can indulge themselves this weekend at Lowell's first snowball tournament beginning at 8 a. m. Saturday, February 12. Tournament organizer Bob Ford explained that a snowball tournament is just softball played in the snow using orange

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Anthony Michael Lane and Courtney Anne Phillips

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marriage of from Webberville High Courtney Anne Phillips and School and Michigan State Anthony Michael Lane will University, and currently celebrated on March is employed by Target. The 29, 2008. The bride-to-be Rochester, Minnesota couple graduated from Lowell High are the children of Dale and School and Michigan State Mary Phillips, formerly of University. She is currently Lowell currently living in employed at Mayo Clinic. Chelsea and Tom and Lisa The future groom graduated Lane of Webberville.

Keflections

by Pastor Joe Fremer

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Lowell

I don't speak sports. You know, the special language that sports enthusiasts (and their newscasters) use. They use lots of letters like MVP and NBA, and they do funny things with numbers ("so far they're 0 for 6!") and I really don't

There are lots of other specialized languages among us. I love to hear military people talk. It even has a name: "MilSpeak." Then there's HGTV. I watch HGTV, and I understand it, but I will never be a native speaker of HGTV. just can't remember to include the word "space" and "pop" in every sentence. On the other hand, I can speak Geek (or is that Nerd?) Every so often I drop in at Red Frog and talk a little computer talk with the folks there.

And of course, I talk Church. Yes, it's true, sometimes Christians seem to be speaking in a foreign language. We refer to Jesus as "Lord" but the guy we work for in our day job we call Boss. We "talk" to people, but when we're talking to God, we say we "pray." At church we say "Amen" to express agreement with something, but elsewhere we say "You bet!" (My military friends prefer the MilSpeak by the hand and leads us into the strange, wonderful, and

Here's my theory on all this stuff. I think people who are fans of something talk to each other a lot about the thing that interests them. They get each other worked up about it, but we outsiders can't really get excited about their you ask Jesus Himself, it's an excellent place to start. There hobby. They develop a sort of shorthand. They don't mean

to exclude us. It just works out that way, because we don't have the passion they do for the details of the thing that

The specialized language in these groups carries with it a little bit of their history, the story of how that sport or activitiy has evolved and survived. We don't always get it, but we can respect the fervor and the drama of it. But when we outsiders want to know more, we need a phrase book, just to be able to understand a few of the basic terms and concepts. Sometimes even that is too big of a hurdle, so we need a guide, an interpreter to introduce us to the unfamiliar territory. Community Education is a great place to get an introduction into The Fascinating World of (whatever). Not everyone is able teach a Community Ed course. You have to know enough (and care enough) to be able to teach, but you also have to be able to translate it into regular American

God had a lot of very difficult, foreign concepts to communicate to mankind. He sent prophets and teachers. They accurately conveyed His messages, but God knew we needed more than a book. We need a guide, an interpreter, someone who has one foot in our world and one foot in His. "Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son." That's how the letter to the Hebrews begins in the Bible. God's Son is that guide, that interpreter, who doesn't just read to us, but takes us sometimes puzzling world of relating to God.

The Bible isn't "Christianity For Dummies." It's got some pretty advanced stuff in it! But if you ask for help from a practicing Christian who's active in a church, and if are some amazing discoveries waiting for you.

College News

point average.

Kathleen M. Ciosek, Lyndsey A. Trierweiler. Jacqueline L. Cress, Julie A. Ely, Aaron Taylor Hamm, Frank P. Heeringa, Erika Prescott.

From Alto: Laura B. Forton, Lisa Marie Johnson, Alison A. Krumrie, and Samantha M. Pleva.

From Lowell: Andrew University's fall semester C. Benedict, Karl D. honors list includes students Bouwhuis, Christin Marie who earned 3.5 (on a 4.0 Cardani, Kimberly Anne scale) and higher grade Hoogewind, Stephanie Marie Kempker, Jordan From Ada: Samantha Thomas Nawrocki, Taryn M. Britton, Brittny Burdick, Patricia Schumacher, and

Emily Gerard was named to the Fall 2007 L. Murray, and Laura E. Dean's List at Taylor University. She is a Junior majoring in Exercise Danielson, Lindsey Marie Science and is a graduate of Lowell High School.

Donna Oesch, Reed Stormzand, Norm Johnson, Angie Blough.

FEBRUARY 7: Margaret Peckham, Gordie Barry, Peggy Covert.

FEBRUARY 8: Laurie Chambers, Mava

Newhouse, Steve Estes, Karis Dilly.

FEBRUARY 9: Tom Covell, Alan Ryder,

Inga Weeks,

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FEBRUARY 6: Newhouse, Allee Brenk "AJ" Alvin Davis Brenk II, Adrian Sterzick, Brady Foster, Dave VanKeulen, Charlotte Drake.

> **FEBRUARY 10:** Korb. Eric Richard Kimble.

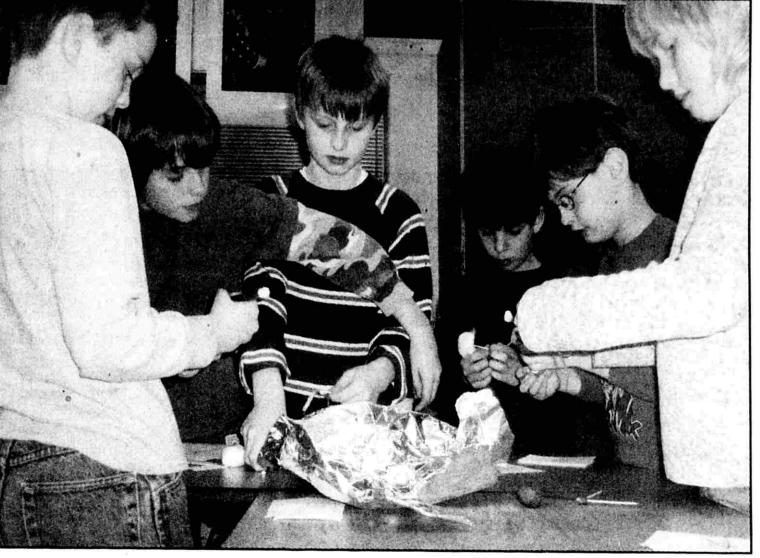
FEBRUARY 11: Kenney, Judy

Goodwin, Terry Nugent. **FEBRUARY 12:**

Stanford, Kurt Roudabush, Travis Bergy.

Odyssey of the Mind team prepares for regional competition

of the Mind a program that fosters creative thinking and problem-solving skills among kindergarten through collegestudents around the world. Teams work to solve any one of a number of longproblems, building mechanical devices and balsa wood structures to creating a unique interpretation of a literary classic. Recently, Odyssey of the



Mind teams from Lowell met at Murray Lake Elementary to practice a variety of spontaneous problems in preparation for nausea, and dizziness. their upcoming Region 13 competition on March 15. Working a hands-on problem are third graders (L-R) Adam Korzen, Riley Coxon, Eli Boulton, Ben Noffke, Tommy Hubert and Alyssa Roest. (Missing from the photo is Maddie Burt.)

Stimulating Michigan's economy

With Senator Carl Levin

The latest rounds of buyout offers for autoworkers are only the most recent sign that Michigan's economy needs an active administration in Washington that will fight for American jobs. For too long, the federal government has stood idle as Michigan's unemployment rate has soared, insurance, home heating assistance and food stamps, play three million manufacturing jobs have been lost, and a critical role even in good economic times. When the working families have felt the squeeze of rising costs of economy is struggling, hard working citizens who lose energy, health care and food.

across the nation. For the first time since the 2001 recession, net will also channel money to people who will spend it Congress and the President are moving on short-term measures to boost the economy, including some form of tax rebate designed to put money in the hands of consumers who will spend it and fuel growth and jobs. Michigan citizens

can benefit from the immediate economic stimulus that is under consideration, but our state needs more than just this kind of short-term infusion.

for states with a large manufacturing sector to get back on track. First, we can strengthen safety net programs, especially unemployment insurance. Second, we can protect families from losing their homes by taking steps to help atrisk homeowners. And third, we can target federal spending on infrastructure, advanced technology and redevelopment projects that will create jobs.

Safety net programs, including unemployment their jobs and can't afford basic necessities like food and Now it appears that the economic downturn is spreading heat require additional protections. Investing in the safety immediately because they have no cash to spare, benefiting

Levin, cont'd., pg. 18

THE LOWELL LEDGER - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2008 PAGE 7

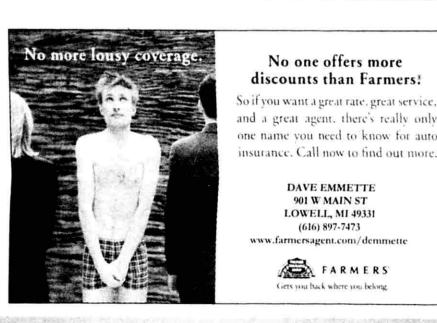


CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas, that's produced by the incomplete combustion of solid, liquid, and gaseous fuels. Appliances and engines that run on natural gas, liquefied petroleum (LP gas), oil, kerosene, coal, or wood may produce carbon monoxide.

Each year, hundreds of people die from carbon monoxide produced from their household furnaces, ranges, water heaters, and space heaters. Thousands more are treated each year in the emergency room for accidental poisonings. The initial symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are similar to the flu (but without the fever). They include: headache, fatigue, shortness of breath,

To protect yourself and your family from carbon monoxide gas, install carbon monoxide detectors in your home, R.V. and/or boat. Have your home heating system, including chimneys and vents, inspected annually. Never burn charcoal or portable fuel-burning camping equipment inside a home, garage, vehicle, or tent. Never There are several things that Washington needs to do use gas appliances such as ranges, ovens, or clothes dryers to heat your home. If you suspect that you may have carbon monoxide poisoning, get outside into the fresh air immediately, then call 911.



Business Matters

Greenridge announced that Joyce Thuston and Lisa Brown Shining received awards for 2007, for the Lowell office.





SYMPTOMS:

THE FOOT

THIGH, BACK OF CALF OR THE SOLE OF THE FOOT

> WEAKNESS OF THE KNEE OR FOOT

 INSTABILTY WHILE WALKING

♦ PAIN WHILE COUGHING OR SNEEZING

> 2531 W. Main St (616) 897-8284

SENSATION CHANGES lower back. These nerves make up what we know as ON THE BACK OF THE the sciatic nerves. If the vertebrae or bones in the CALF OR THE SOLE OF lower back are misaligned or out of place; or the disc between the vertebrae are swollen, bulged or herniated, the result can be pressure on those nearby • NUMBNESS, TINGLING, nerves. This can cause tremendous pain and normal BURNING, OR PAIN IN THE daily activities may become almost impossible. TREATMENT

Definition

Sciatica is defined as pain that radiates from the lower

back into the buttocks and down the back of one or

both legs. This can be caused by the irritation of the

sciatic nerves, the largest nerves of the body. It

usually begins as an acute pain in the lower back and

then radiates down the back of either or both legs.

There are 5 pairs of nerves that exit the spine in the

Chiropractic care works on correcting misaligned or fixated vertebrae and can remove the pressure placed on the sciatic nerve, reducing pain and improving flexibility and function. To see if chiropractic may be able to help you call either of our offices today for a complimentary consultation.

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Pastor Dean Bailey

Worship.

.9:30 A.M.

CHURCH OF LOWELL Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org Rev. David O. Sims & Rev. W. Lee Taylor

n. Worship Service......9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.

FIRST BAPTIST METHODIST CHURCH 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Thurlan Meredith 1:15 A.M..

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.9:45 A.M. Worship. Sunday School.. "A Nondenominational Ministry With A Blended

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10:00 a.m - Worship & Evening:

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WEDNESDAYS:

Family Night: (for all ages) 7:00 p.m.

"The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m.

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.10:00 A. M.

.11:20 A.M.

..6:00 P.M.

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WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M. 119 Lincoln Lake, Lowell **CALL FOR FREE HOME BIBLE STUDIES** Pastor Robert L. Hubbard Phone: (616) 897-1267

website www.aplighthouse.com FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL (United Church of Christ)

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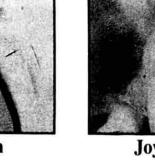
LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE Lowell High School Performing Arts Center

.10:15 A.M. Greeting & Fellowship... Sunday Morning Worship... ..10:40 A.M. Wednesday Discipleship Ministries.....7:00 P.M. Meets at 201 N. Washington

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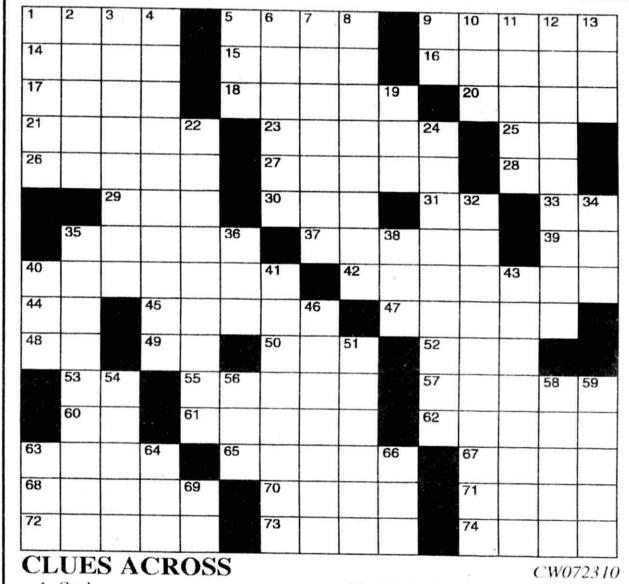
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1. Stake 5. Screech owl genus

9. Tupelos

15. Thomas

: British composer, 1700

16. Southern tree cultivated for

17. Opaque gem

18. Yemen capital 20. Soluble ribonucleic acid

21. Property ownership document 23. Whimpers

25. Product or service promotion 26. Type of small owl

27. _ & Whitney, engine mak-28. Manuscript (abbr.)

29. Neighborhood play center 30. Russian Intelligence Service

31. Morning 33. Rare earth element

35. Bo tree 37. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues

39. Expresses emotion **CLUES DOWN**

1. Residents of Glasgow

2. City in west Mexico 3. Cantata

4. Campana vegetable 5. U.S., Latin America, Canada

belong to 6. Treads down

7. Disturb the composure of

8. Toward the ocean 9. Neptunium

10. Affirmative

11. Buzz off 12. Sedimentary rock

13. A collection of anecdotes about a person or place 19. 1st octave above the treble staff 22. Revels

24. Flees in a headlong rush 32. Operated with strings

40. Visited stores

42. Having a high range 44. Academic degree

45. Impatiently desirous 47. Famous French river 48. Silver

49. Rural delivery (abbr.)

50. A stratum of rock 52. A very small circular shape

53. An alternative 55. NBC meteorologist Finch

57. Plantag ruled from 1154 to 1399 60. 5th most abundant element

in the earth's crust 61. Of Salian Franks 62. Intermediate stages of eco-

logical succession 63. Stableman in India 65. Wave a.k.a. tsunami

67. Young person, toddler 68. Near-earth asteroids

70. To overturn (Southern U.S.) 71. Having toes 72. Surrendered

73. Yelps t & Young

34. Conductance unit 35. Scavenger cell 36. Support limb

38. Goddess of the dawn 40. Helps little firms (abbr.)

41. Infirmity 43. Placed in front

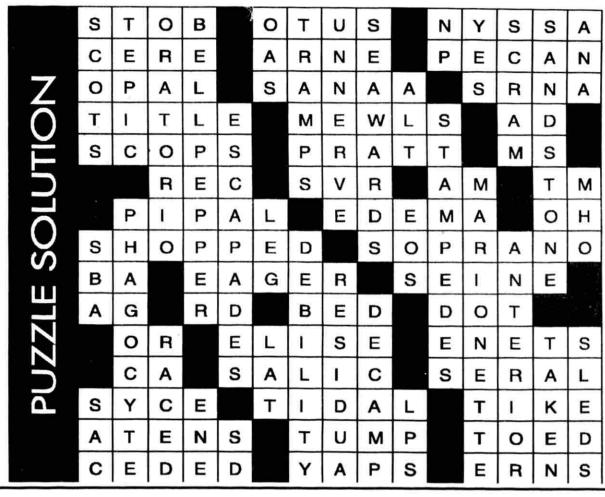
46. Remainders 51. Leave suddenly

54. Competed 56. Back muscle

58. Been ____ to the cleaners 59. Rides over snow 63. Strategic Air Command 64. Point midway between NE

and E 66. Lasting records 69. South Dakota

CW07231A



BANDOM THINGS ...

EXOTIC ANIMALS DO NOT MAKE GOOD PETS

It is dangerous to keep an "exotic" animal as a pet. It is also inhumane, say animal experts, because the pets are often forced to live captive. Wild animals are simply not accustomed to living with people and relying on them for care. Also, their unpredictability or size/strength make them a force to reckon with in many cases. Domesticated dogs and cats have been adjusting to life with humans for generations upon generations. One can't simply assume a wild animal will do this in a matter of months or years.

The risk of public injury is not restricted to size or type of wild animal. Exotics of all shapes and sizes can present unique risks. Small animals, such as lizards or arachnids, pose the same dangers as larger animals, such as birds of prey or large cats. Many exotics carry diseases for which there is no immunization o preventative vaccine available. Serious

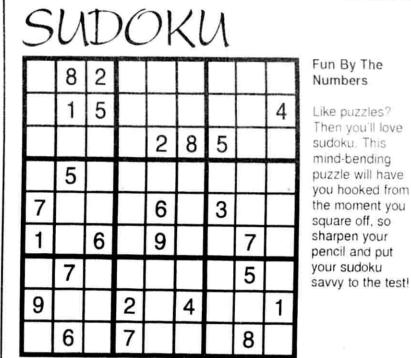
public health concerns, including rabies. ringworm, tuberculosis, and polio can be carried by wild animals.

According to the Centers for. Disease Control and Prevention, 93,000 cases of reptile-associated salmonellosis occur each year in the United States, resulting in as many as 10 deaths. All reptiles and amphibians carry salmonella and are capable of passing the bacteria on to household members even without direct contact. Macaque monkeys, a popular exotic pet, can transmit herpes B virus to humans through bites or saliva, with often fatal results.



Most regular people do not have the means, education and space necessary to care for wild animals. Case in point is the tiger attack that occurred in late 2007 at a California zoo, in which a Siberian tiger mauled two men and killed another. In general, zookeepers have an animal-care advantage over the general public in terms of knowing the precautions necessary for an animal of this size. But even the professionals at the zoo failed to realize the capabilities of the tiger, which scaled an enclosure that was not at the recommended height. Still, there are individuals who keep tigers, lions and other big cats at home as pets.

Exotic animals require specialized care and professional expertise. Ultimately the animal suffers if kept as a pet. Dogs and cats in shelters looking for homes make much better pets for the family



Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row.

column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will

appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The

more numbers you n										
	2	8	6	3	1	L	Þ	9	9	
	L	9	L	Þ	G	2	8	3	6	
	3	G	Þ	6	8	9	1	L	2	
	8	7	5	9	6	3	9	Þ	1	
	g	Þ	3	1	9	8	6	7	L	
	6	ļ	9	2	L	Þ	ω	G	8	
	9	3	ç	8	2	L	L	6	Þ	
	Þ	2	8	L	3	6	S	1	9	
	L	6	1	9	Þ	g	5	8	3	
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ATTENTION READERS Are You Feeling GREATIVE?

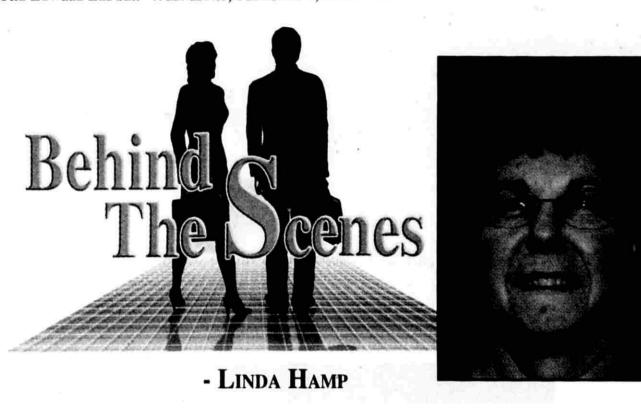
If you would like to submit a poem, verse, cartoon, drawing or recipe for the

Reader's Corner, we'd like to print it.

Not all will be accepted and submissions will not be returned unless a self-addressed, stamped envelope is included.

You may bring your signed creations to the Ledger office 105 N. Broadway, OR mail them to: Ledger/Readers Corner P.O. Box 126 Lowell, MI 49331 OR E-mail: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

Subject: "Readers Corner"



greets customers with a own clientele like regular

every day," she said. "It's a coming to the store on the

friendly, years.

customer Carol Leyman.

Leyman has been

corner of Main Street and

Riverside for the last 13

Clerk loves working in a unique dime store

smile on her face.

"I enjoy coming to work

small town atmosphere, not

by Emma Palova

On a chilly January morning with temperatures and a storm warning, Linda Hamp didn't mind coming to work

After all she's been

Position: Clerk at Springrove Variety

Residence: Lowell

Education: Lowell High School

Experience: Retail

Family:

Hobbies:

store for the last 29 years, rain or sunshine. Standing behind old-fashioned scale, Hamp the variety store enjoys its the location."

and spending time with grandchildren coming to the five and dime personalized service that makes this shop, where time creaking floors," she said. has stopped, hum. Well into "It's a cozy little place. I the bulk candy counter at the millennium with big like the music. They have Springrove Variety with an box stores to compete with, great prices, parking. I love

Husband, Len; children Tina, Denny, Heather and Mark

Used to bowl, camping, walking

dancing in the aisles and still diligently answered Elvis songs. "Working here gave

me the freedom to be goals," she said. "I just active with my children and enjoy helping customers." grandchildren in school," she said.

Yeah, it's been a long for sure. time for Hamp from Ben basic needs and unique gift Franklin store all the way to items," she said. "We listen to Hamp. Springrove. Only once it got to customers." a little bit scary when owner Jim Evans of then Lambert Variety retired. But, soon Hamp got a call from the with the changing times. new owner of Springrove The store did away with Variety, Mike Sprenger.

"She is the main part of on crafts. the company," said Sprenger "She is the rock. Linda is a customers," she said. big asset to the store."

Hamp is a master at with licorice, taffy and peanut clusters is largely customers, popular. Then, there are of

running the register, course, many party items Hamp to see customers answering the phones, she for all occasions, green beads for Saint Patrick's humming to the tunes of all the interview questions, Day and all the graduation laughing all the time.

> "I don't need to set "Welcome" flags and to Spice Time spices and canning jars, it's all right And if the store doesn't have it, Hamp will order it here at the fingertips. Also, many gifts such as stamped "We meet a lot of embroidery, are mailed to different states, according

> "I just can't think of So, how did the store enough nice things to say," survive in an era of mass said Leyman. "It's my favorite store. It's owned by production? Well, it changed a nice friendly man."

Yes, here it's all about clothing, and shifted focus smiles and eagerness to

"I would encourage "We gauge to our people to shop locally," said Hamp. "You'll save time The bulk candy counter before traveling all over."









- BIF ALTOFT

Position: Owner of the Backwater Cafe Residence: Lowell

Education: bachelor's degree in marketing from Davenport University

Experience: Restaurant business

Husband Jeff, daughters Allison and Angie, sons Matt and Jeff

Hobbies: Motorcycle riding, Nascar

good food.

Backwater Café finds niche in the marketplace

by Emma Palova

No longer in the shadow of competition, Backwater Café has found its own identity. Call it a niche on from Grand Rapids. Well, "dam good omelet." the market.

the view on the river dam

Using the redneck is scenic, the food is hometheme, the breakfast place made and the atmosphere on the Flat River enjoys a is jovial. One dish on the regular clientele all the way menu is even called, the

Owner Bif Altoft knows

elebration!

Friday, February 8, 2008

ALL DAY # FOOD # GIFTS

1425 West Main Street

Huntington

A bank invested in people*.

Stop by and meet

coffee all day long. "People got to have

people like their eggs and

Family:

their eggs," she said. "We Americana," said regular will continue with the redneck theme. It has gone keeps this town going." At any given time the restaurant business, first

during the day, people just plain like to gather at the House, Altoft has built café to talk, to swap news and to exchange ideas while

> business the hard way. "We're coming into side of the building out into our own," she said. "We've the river.

as the owner of the Ranch

gotten better." is made with love here. Altoft people keep coming back.

around home.

customer Scott Barnhart.

of Backwater Café. Altoft likes everything about the business, the cooking and the people.

"We're just people Lowell. here," Altoft said. "Come in, feel comfortable."

sipping coffee and enjoying didn't face any challenges on its long road to success. "It's a piece of In the mid-90s, it was the

road reconstruction. patron Darlene Nowak. "It "We had planks for people to get here," she said.

Since her early days in "You just keep on going." Today, Altoft is confident the business will up a loyal customer base. So confident, that having Although she admits she outgrown its own space, has learned the restaurant Altoft is planning an expansion to the northeast

"A new kitchen is And because everything definitely a motivator," said

addition will The In fact, it's just like sitting double the size of the current building and allow "It's great food," said for expansion of hours to include a dinner menu. Good food, service and Also additional staff will be

> addition, we will be very successful," said Altoft.

Both Bif and husband Jeff like doing business in

"Lowell is resilient," said Altoft about expanding Not that the business in harsh economic times.

CITY OF LOWELL

PLANNING COMMISSION-CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING

The City Planning Commission-Citizen Advisory Committee will conduct a public hearing at their regular scheduled meeting of Monday, February 25, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, Lowell City Hall. Second Floor, 301 East Main Street, Lowell for the purpose of receiving comments from the public on the following:

An Ordinance to Amend Section 20.07.B.2. and Section 20.07.E. of Chapter 20, "Signs" of "Appendix A - Zoning Ordinance" of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowell.

Copies of the proposed Ordinance are available for public inspection during normal business hours at City Hall and the Englehardt Public Library.

Interested persons may submit written comments to City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331 prior to the meeting or appear in person.



Betty R. Morlock City Clerk

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LOWELL COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN

WHISPERING HILLS STREET LIGHTING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

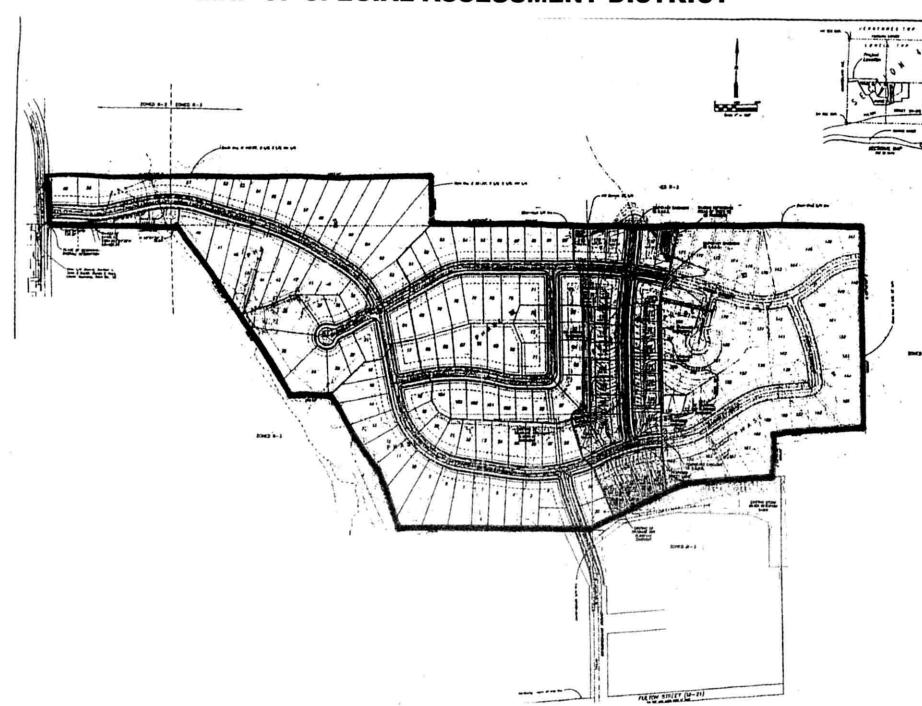
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Lowell, Kent County, Michigan, having determined to make certain public improvements consisting of the installation, improvement and maintenance of street lights (the "Improvements"), within the Whispering Hills Street Lighting Special Assessment District (the "District"), in accordance with Act 188 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1954, as amended. The Township Board has resolved its intent to make the Improvements in the Township. The Township Board has tentatively determined that the cost of the operation and maintenance of the Improvements shall be specially assessed against each of the following described lots and parcels of land which are benefitted by the Improvements and which together comprise the District:

WHISPERING HILLS STREET LIGHTING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

Lots and Parcels Numbered	×

iii a					
41-20-04-174-001	41-20-04-326-001	41-20-04-327-018	41-20-04-330-003	41-20-04-331-009	41-20-04-332-012
41-20-04-174-002	41-20-04-326-002	41-20-04-327-019	41-20-04-330-004	41-20-04-331-010	41-20-04-332-013
41-20-04-174-003	41-20-04-327-001	41-20-04-327-020	41-20-04-330-009	41-20-04-331-011	41-20-04-332-014
41-20-04-174-004	41-20-04-327-002	41-20-04-327-021	41-20-04-330-010	41-20-04-331-012	41-20-04-349-001
41-20-04-174-005	41-20-04-327-003	41-20-04-327-022	41-20-04-330-011	41-20-04-331-013	41-20-04-376-001
41-20-04-174-006	41-20-04-327-004	41-20-04-327-023	41-20-04-330-012	41-20-04-331-014	41-20-04-376-002
41-20-04-174-007	41-20-04-327-005	41-20-04-327-024	41-20-04-330-013	41-20-04-331-015	41-20-04-376-003
41-20-04-174-008	41-20-04-327-006	41-20-04-328-002	41-20-04-330-014	41-20-04-331-016	41-20-04-376-004
41-20-04-174-009	41-20-04-327-007	41-20-04-328-003	41-20-04-330-015	41-20-04-332-001	41-20-04-376-005
41-20-04-174-010	41-20-04-327-008	41-20-04-329-001	41-20-04-330-016	41-20-04-332-002	41-20-04-376-006
41-20-04-174-011	41-20-04-327-009	41-20-04-329-002	41-20-04-330-017	41-20-04-332-003	41-20-04-376-007
41-20-04-174-012	41-20-04-327-010	41-20-04-329-003	41-20-04-331-001	41-20-04-332-004	41-20-04-376-008
41-20-04-174-013	41-20-04-327-011	41-20-04-329-004	41-20-04-331-002	41-20-04-332-005	41-20-04-376-009
41-20-04-175-001	41-20-04-327-012	41-20-04-329-005	41-20-04-331-003	41-20-04-332-006	41-20-04-376-010
41-20-05-284-013	41-20-04-327-013	41-20-04-329-006	41-20-04-331-004	41-20-04-332-007	41-20-04-378-010
41-20-05-284-014	41-20-04-327-014	41-20-04-329-007	41-20-04-331-005	41-20-04-332-008	41-20-04-401-031
41-20-05-284-024	41-20-04-327-015	41-20-04-329-008	41-20-04-331-006	41-20-04-332-009	41-20-04-401-041
41-20-05-284-025	41-20-04-327-016	41-20-04-329-009	41-20-04-331-007	41-20-04-332-010	41-20-04-451-001
41-20-05-284-026	41-20-04-327-017	41-20-04-329-010	41-20-04-331-008	41-20-04-332-011	41-20-04-451-002

MAP OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT



Boundary of Whispering Hills Street Lighting Special Assessment District (includes all lots within all plats and phases of Whispering Hills subdivision)

TAKE NOTICE that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Lowell will hold a public hearing on February 19, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., at the Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash Ave., S.E., within the Township, to hear and consider any objections to the proposed Improvements, and all other matters relating to said Improvements and the District.

Preliminary plans and estimates of cost for the Improvements are on file with the Township Clerk for public examination.

Annual redeterminations of cost may be made without further notice to record owners or parties in interest in the property in the district, but if at any time an actual incremental cost increase exceeds the annual estimate of such increase by ten percent or more, an assessment reflecting such increase shall not be made until an additional public hearing is held, after the giving of public notice to the owners of property to be assessed in the district.

Property shall not be added to the proposed special assessment district and the original estimate of cost shall not be increased by more than 10% without further notice and public hearing.

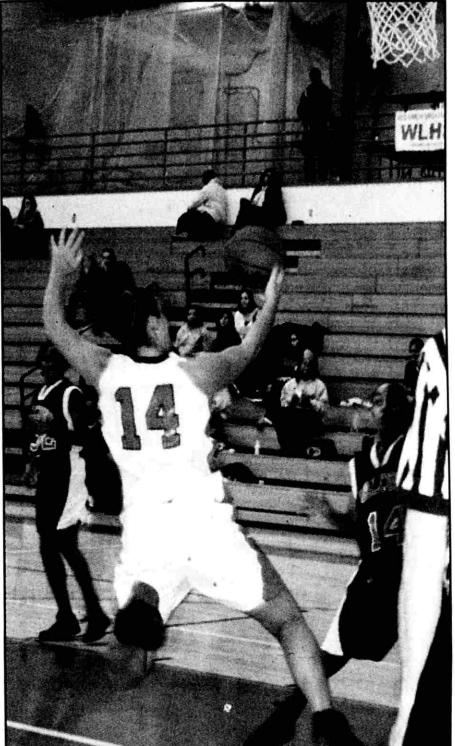
This Notice was authorized by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Lowell.

Dated: January 21, 2008

Linda S. Regan, Clerk Charter Township of Lowell

Red Arrow SPORTS

Second half rally isn't enough for the Arrows



by Molly Benningfield

and lost 50-55.

and were able to overcome play 'catch up'." but East Kentwood would shut out the team in the last few minutes.

Coach Danielle Gallert said her team needs to focus at drive to the other team.

night, but the Arrows in the second half so that's kinds of teams." couldn't finish with a win improvement for us," Gallert The Arrows fought work on not getting down growing. against a tough Falcon team, so much so we don't have to

East on matching their offensive said. "We ended the game the regular season is over with 17 turnovers and that and hopefully we are able "We were able to has to be cut in half if we are to gain some confidence and basketball game Monday come back from down 11 able to compete with these momentum with our last

However, she was happy

third and fourth quarters to hurdled for the team in the two previous games and Rasch added 11 points. get within reach of a win, Monday's loss was turning that's encouraging," Gallert

right now is turnovers," she things to improve on before

three games."

Hannah Oberlin

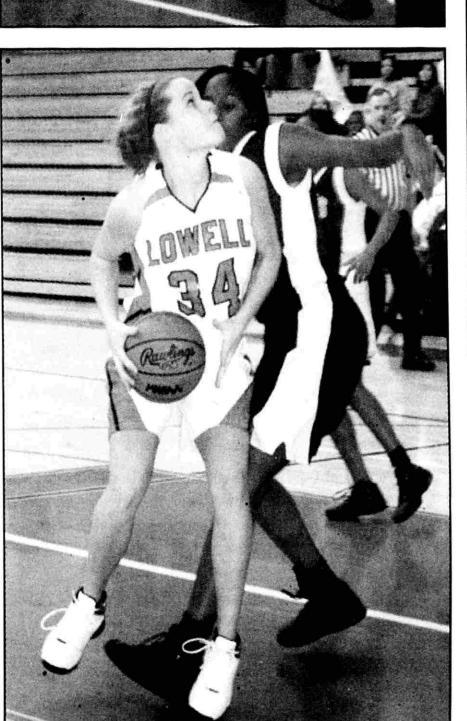
Chelsea Harrison led all said. "We really need to with the way the Arrows are scorers with an amazing 32 points, including five three-"I was excited to see pointers, with one being a some improvements in last buzzer beater launched at the She said the biggest night's game compared to end of the third quarter. Kara

The Arrows will take on Kenowa Hills at home "Our biggest problem "We still have some Thursday night at 7 p.m.

I WAS EXCITED TO SEE SOME IMPROVEMENTS IN LAST NIGHT'S GAME COMPARED TO THE TWO PREVIOUS GAMES AND THAT'S ENCOURAGING.

(Top): Mary VanderLaan (22) looks for an open teammate.

(Left): Sara Messing (32) drives the ball.



(Top Left): Chelsea Harrison (14) leaps for the ball Monday night.

(Left): Kara Rasch (34) eyes the basket as an EK opponent plays tough D.

OK-WHITE STANDINGS League/Overall

FHC 8-1 / 14-2 Northview 9-2 / 12-5 Lowell 7-3 / 9-8 Greenville 6-4 / 8-8 Caledonia 2-7 / 5-11 EGR 2-7 / 5-11 Kenowa 0-10 / 2-14

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Red Arrow SPORTS

WE WON BY ONE PIN OVER GRAND HAVEN ON SATURDAY. IT WAS EXCITING.

- Boys coach Dave Adrianse

Bowling teams knock down another league opponent

SYNOPSIS REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL **TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2008**

Minutes of the January 7, 2008 meeting were approved as written and the accounts payable were approved.

The following presentations and actions were taken:

A presentation from the Lowell Area Historical Museum was given by Executive Director Pat Allchin.

Steve Thompson of Biggs, Hausserman, Thompson and Dickinson presented the 2006-2007 City Audit.

presented the 2006-2007 Light and Power and Cable TV audits.

Motion to adopt the ordinance amendment providing memberships on the Arbor Board to the City Council and Light and Power Board.

Motion to strike the 2001-2002 delinquent personal property taxes as proposed.

A worksession was scheduled for Monday, February 11, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. regarding the LCTV Endowment Fund and North Washington Street property.

By general consensus, the following boards and commission positions were appointed:

Airport Board

Term Expires Paul Nicholls 01/01/2011 reappointment

Jim Sowle 01/01/2011 reappointment

Tom Grimm 01/01/2011

reappointment **Building Authority**

Jim Maatman 01/01/2011 reappointment **Elected Officers Compensation Commission**

> Barbara Vezino reappointment

06/30/2012

Motion to adjourn to closed session meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Motion to return to open session at 9:18 p.m.

Motion to adjourn at 9:19 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, February 4, 2008.

Complete minutes are available on the City's web page at www.ci.lowell.mi.us or at Lowell City Hall.



Betty R. Morlock City Clerk

bowling teams are on their Coach Dave Adrianse said way to a knockout season, they won an exciting match. and with wins against East Grand Rapids on Monday over Grand Haven on afternoon, they could be on Saturday," Adrianse said. "It their way to league titles as was exciting."

the Pioneers with a perfect with 684 points, and a slew Game 1 981-654 and Game 600s. Brandon Jahnke had 2 897-697.

team-high for two games 621 with a total score of 421. He ended his second game also seeded No. 2, but lost a with a turkey in the last two close match to Kelloggsville frames. Trevor Washburn (who won the tournament) took in 414 points for two and took third place.

winning 28-2. They won had 576. Game 1 by 300 points, 839-539 and Game 2 758-589.

Kristin Bouwhuis had the top score for the girls, Lowell Lanes. with 396 for two games.

The two teams also did well at a tournament in Reeths-Puffer Saturday.

NEXT GAME

Monday, Feb. 11 @ 4 p.m. **Lowell Lanes** vs. Caledonia

Incredible Rates



Classifieds 20 words for only **\$5**

Buyers Guide

The boys were seeded No. 2, and walked away Both boys' and girls' with the championship.

"We won by one pin

Jeremy Drake had a high The boys' team defeated score for the tournament score, 30-0. They won of Arrows also scored in the 644, Eric Bouwhuis had 635 Tommy Alberts had a and Trevor Washburn had

Kristin Bouwhuis had

The girls' team were

The girls' team also a score of 577 for three fared well against EGR, games, while Liberty Clark

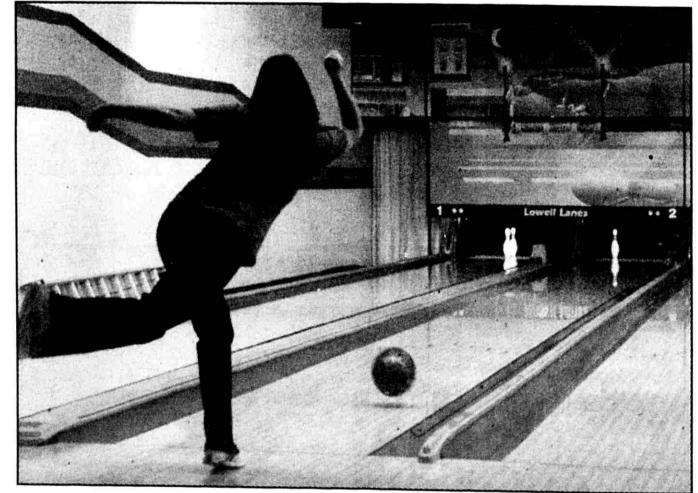
The Arrows will take on another league team, Caledonia, next Monday at



Ashley Nawrocki sends one down the lane.



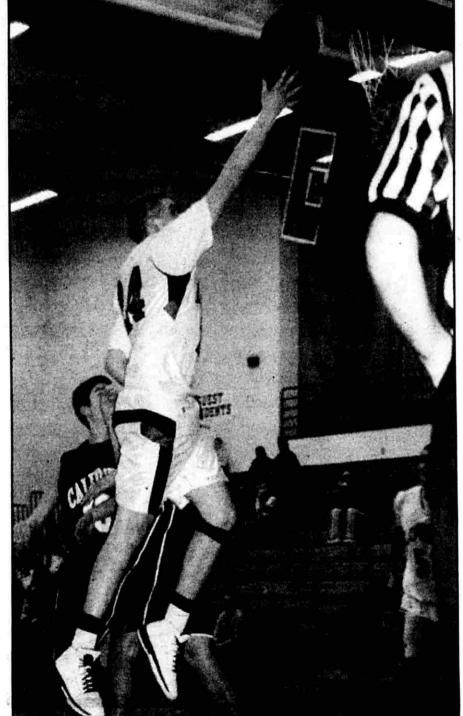
Tommy Alberts had a team-high score of 421 against East Grand Rapids on Monday.



Kristin Bouwhuis had the top score for the girls, with 396.

Red Arrow SPARIS

Boys' basketball works on consistency and balance



OK-WHITE

STANDINGS

League/Overall

EGR 6-2 / 8-6

FHC 6-2 / 8-7

Lowell 5-3 / 8-6

Northview 5-4 / 7-7

Caledonia 5-4 / 6-7

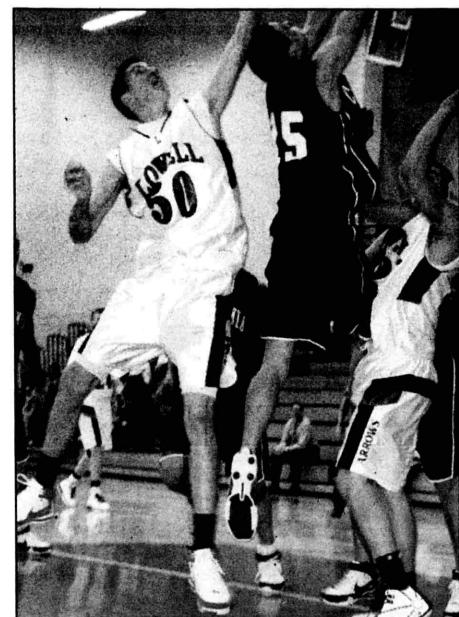
Kenowa 2-7 / 4-11

Greenville 1-8 / 4-11

(Top): Michael Schumm (24) takes the ball to the net.

(Right): Tim Hettinga (20) drives the ball down the court.

(Far right): Matt Kurtz (22) plays tough D while Michael Schumm (24) and Spencer Sellner (50) guard the basket.



Spencer Sellner (50) goes up for a rebound.

The Arrows fell short of revenge on Thursday night, as they lost to Caledonia made two free throws, and that we are really dangerous, 44-52. Lowell was looking made another triple. The but if we want to be great, to get payback after losing game essentially came down that we have to be consistent to the Scots in overtime in to that one minute." December. It was a close match- isn't disheartened

up for most of the game, as fourth-quarter ahead by a precious few possessions team. That's our identity. three, but got caught up near - that's what we're trying to But we are trying to work the end of the game.

Coach Jeff McDonald said the game was lost in understand how to do is sink those last fèw minutes.

"We were tied with Many of their games this 3:08 to go and then we had season have been decided by

However McDonald said. the lead bounced back and experience for our guys," he attacking the rim and settling said. "To know that we can for longer perimeter shots," went into halftime with a battle, fight, etc. and know he said. "There's no denying one-point lead and into the that it can all be over in just that we are a jump shooting

possessions, they hit a triple,

McDonald

learn and understand. What the team does and outside shots."

I TOLD OUR YOUNG MEN THAT

(no points) only a few points, and were game, but also finishing to well-played up until the last the last minute. "We also have to

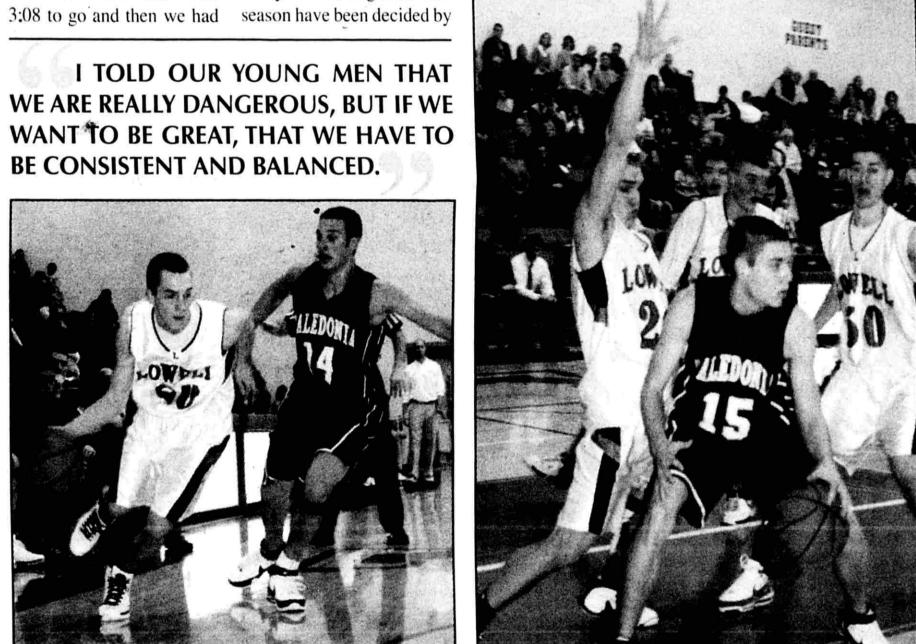
Matt Kurtz

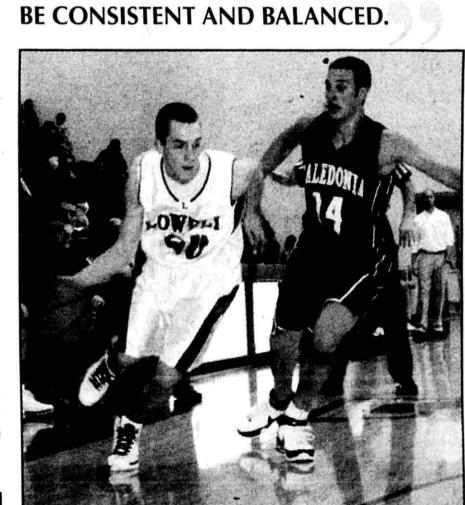
"I told our young men continue to mature and understand how to handle the end of quarters," McDonald and balanced." McDonald to handle the last minute of quarters more efficiently "We are still working and that can be worth six "What a learning on having a balance between to eight points a game. We

> guarantee it." Brett McMahon and Tim Hettinga each scored 10 points to lead the Arrows.

will improve in that area. I

Lowell will play at on a balance between inside home Friday night against league team Northview, who Not only will the team sits just below the Arrows in threes and play with passion. work on balancing their conference standing.







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Red Arrow SPORTS

HEADS UP

The next home hockey game will be Friday, Feb. 8 at 5:30 p.m. It will be Parent Night.

Gymnastics team takes first place trophy in St. Johns



The gymnastics team took first place at the St. Johns Invitational Saturday, with their highest team score of the year - 134.150.

LUNCH MENU

ELEMENTARY

MENU

MON: Taco w/cheese

lettuce (ham & cheese

sub/lettuce offered at

Alto & Murray Lake)

fruit, milk.

potatoes,

FRI: Macaroni

assorted fruit,

warm pretzel, milk.

milk.

Week of Feb. 11, 2008

In the all-around category, Lowell saw two gymnasts score high, with Richelle Kimble at second with a score of 35.2 and Andrea Coffey at fifth with 33.2. Kelsey Teft took first place on the vault

after being sidelined for a few weeks by an injury.

Kimble also received second place honors on vault, floor and uneven bars. Coffey took fourth place on floor. Sara Tarchala took third on the vault.

The Arrows compete at home tonight against Kenowa Hills, starting at 7 p.m.

Tel. 897-4835 • 147 North Center Street • Lowell

Varsity cheer takes 2nd place

varsity cheer team took place at their own invitational Saturday afternoon Division 2. They will travel to Hills Forest Northern tonight for a competition at 7 p.m.

L/C takes second in Kzoo tourney

The Lowell/Caledonia hockey team traveled to Kalamazoo this weekend for a four-team tournament. taking second place after falling to Auburn Hills Avondale in the championship game, 2-3.

THE BENNING-FIELDER



by molly benningfield sports editor

I'll eat my humble pie

A few weeks ago, I said I was sick of football. I wasn't even that excited for the Super Bowl. I was rooting for the Giants, but I had nothing invested in them. That all changed on Sunday when one of the best endings to a game in Superbowl history happened. At first, I sat in front of the TV knowing full well why I wasn't pumped to watch the game. It was good football, obviously - these two teams knocked out the other opponents to make their way to the final. But I wasn't excited.

That all changed when Eli Manning threw one of the best passes I've ever seen - after scrambling to his right and avoiding a sack, he lobbed the ball to David Tyree for a ridiculous, circus-like catch down the field where he pinned the ball against his helmet before falling to the ground. And this is why I, and so many in the country, love sports-- the sheer excitement of it all. Manning would connect with Plaxico Burress in the end zone to get the lead, and the Giants held off the Patriots - who, knowing their past record, honestly could've scored in those last 35 seconds, but didn't.

So, when I say I'm ready to move on to the next season and new sports, maybe I should give the ones I've been watching for a few months a chance. You never know, the game might turn around and surprise you. And in this case, I feel like it couldn't have happened to a better team. Sure, it would've been cool to see the Pats go undefeated (unless you were a '72 Dolphin), but c'mon, seeing the genuine grins on the faces of all the Giants - the Davids to New England's Goliaths - seemed right.

season in the L/C Christmas

The team out shot Avondale 13-2 in the third period after trailing 3-0, but couldn't find the last goal to force an overtime. L/C out shot AHA 33-18.

The Arrows made it to the championship game by defeating host team Kalamazoo 4-3 Friday

The game was scoreless until the last period, until the Arrows scored on a power play less than one minute into the third.

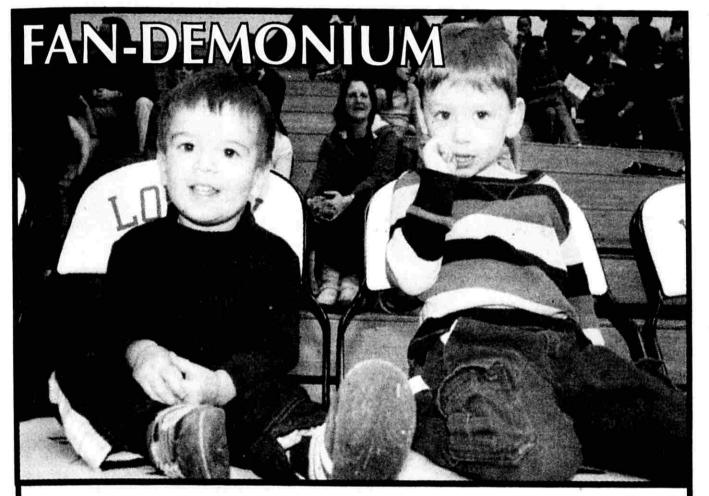
The team will play Grand Haven at Patterson Arena Friday night at 5:30 p.m. The game will also be Parent Night.

> Check out sports online -

> > coming soon!

Red Arrow SPORTS

Want to be one of the fans of the week? Make sure we can see you cheering loudly for the **Red Arrows at home matches!**



Zachary and Morgan Kistler are the Ledger's first "Fans of the Week". The two boys are shown on the sidelines in Lowell basketball seats before the start of the boys' basketball game against Caledonia last Thursday. If you'd like to be "Fan of the Week", or know someone who should, make your presence known at all home matches in Lowell.

Lowell announces scholar athletes for first trimester

To be a scholar athlete, Hannah Geelhoed, Chelsea Maggie Lancaster, Courtney each student must have a Harrison, Shelby Herb, Race, Anna Scudder. GPA of 3.2 or higher.

scholar athletes for the first Lillie, Bryleigh Loughlin,

BOYS BASKETBALL

Hanson, Tim Hettinga, Sterzick, Kelly Stevens, Young. Matt Houston, Matt Kurtz, Katherine Tompkins, Mary Mitch Malling, Connor VanderLaan, Sam Visscher. McCarrey, Brett McMahon, Jacob Meyer, Zach Noskey, William Plummer, Mike Hook, Jacob Nawrocki. Schumm, Spencer Sellner, Josh Spratt, Sam Steed, Austin Tackman, Issac Chelsey Treglia. Tawney, Jesse Vanden Bosch, Tyler Wallner, Bob Wernet,

Dan Wernet. GIRLS BASKETBALL Bueche, Brooke Curtis, Crumback, Hailey DeGrote, Sam Young.

DOWNHILL SKIING Kallie Holzhueter, Emily The following are Jelsma, Tracy Jones, Jasmine Samantha Hagerman. **GYMNASTICS** Megan Montgomery, Emily Oberlin, Hannah Oberlin, Kara Rasch, Megan Dee, Richelle Kimble,

GIRLS BOWLING

Kristin

Andrea Coffey, Aubrey Destine, Elliott Drain, Lance Rogers, Courtney Schmidt, Cassie Miles, Sara Tarchala, Fargo, Braydon Foley, Jon Melissa Shepard, Amanda Shannon Theisen, Allison ICE HOCKEY

> Ken Hayes, Jon Woods. **BOYS BOWLING** WRESTLING Zach Baum, John Eric Bouwhuis, Brian

Bogardus, Justin Boss, Chase Bueche, Nick Crook, Dan Bouwhuis, Fleet, Thomas Fleet, Austin Graham, Matt Griffioen, Erick Ingebretson, Tyler COMPETITIVE CHEER Jack, Mark Johnson, Connor Sydney Kruse, Abe McIntire, Nick Burrows, Alex Cooley, McKay, Jackson Morse, Griffin Brenk, Breanna Rachel Copeyon, Dayna Dylan Olin, Zach White,

Wrestling team loses tough matches at Rockford Quad

wrestlers outside of their 46, who were national conference to improve his champions last year, and 20team and make them ready 43 to Davison, a strong team for State competition.

The Arrows traveled lost two tough matches a sophomore; and Nate for a match. to a defending national Vaught, a senior, all went

from the east side.

Coach Dave Dean said championship team and a 2-0 for the day. Picking up their 100th wins in their high Lowell lost to St. school careers were senior Justin Boss, who went 1-1, and junior Tim Gingerich,

The varsity team wrestles in Mona Shores Jackson Morse, a tonight, while the JV team to Rockford Saturday and sophomore; Ryan Olep, heads to East Grand Rapids

who also went 1-1.

Winter color guard teams off to a good start

Middle School's competitive competition of 2008.

consists of seven middle school students placed first in the flag line class to AAA from Regional A at

and Almost Home, Lowell "You are my Sunshine".

Exit 52, made up of team, traveled to Northview 12 high school students Northview, performing to for their first regular season competes in the AAA class, which requires higher skill Almost Home, which levels and a longer, more intricate show.

The guard was promoted

Saturday, Jan. with a score of 77.8. The the Michigan Color Guard 26, Exit 52, Lowell High team is in their first season Circuit Championships in competitive of competition, and is April 2007, when they placed winter color guard team, performing to the song, fourth in the class overall. Exit 52 placed a close second in the AAA class at "I Can Only Imagine." The team received a 36.6 and placed first in the movement





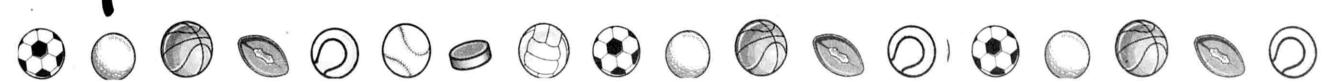
Logan DeClercq, Kaitlin Erin Fleet, Hannah Fleet,

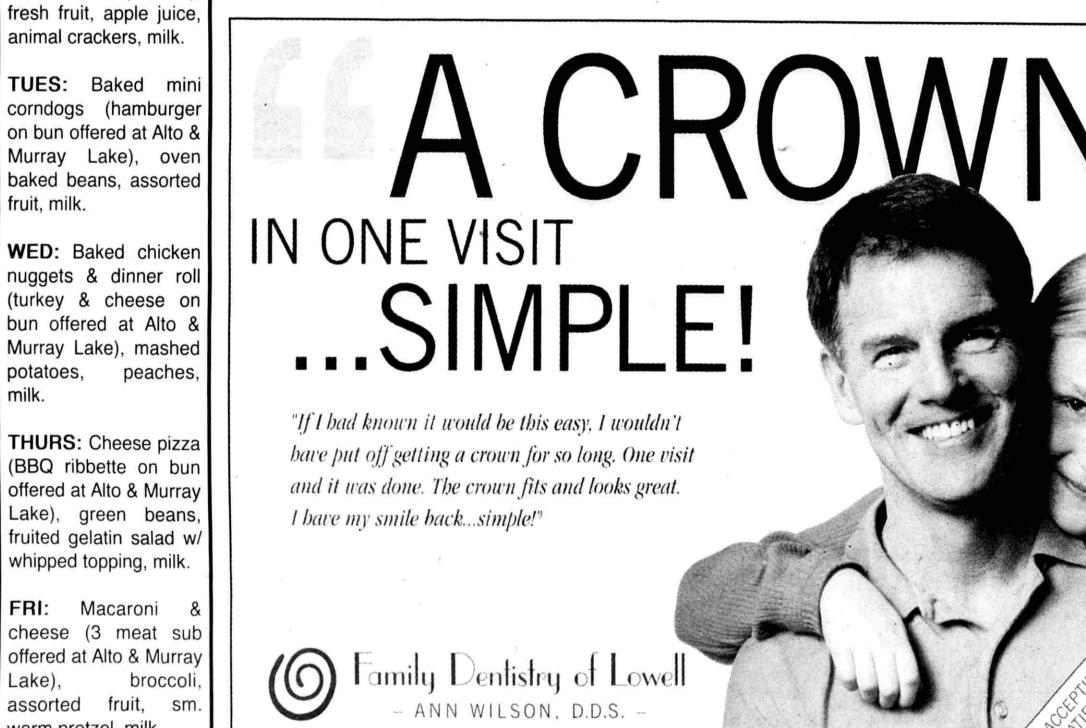
Drudy, Sarah Fetzer, Taylor Jillian Griffin, Alex Herb,

Flanagan, Krista Foster, Brittany Holst, Kylee Karas,

Keep Caught Up On All The Lowell High School's Sports Action In

The Lowell Ledger





Levin, continued ... From Page 7

local economies very quickly through increased consumer unemployment benefits, each time during a recession. spending.

the highest unemployment rate in the nation. About 145,000 Michigan residents have exhausted their unemployment benefits and can't find jobs. Between now and June, 72,000 more people will face the same difficult situation. I have cosponsored a bill that would extend unemployment insurance by 20 weeks for all states and add an additional 13 weeks for high unemployment states like Michigan. This bill would also add \$50 a week to unemployment benefits.

Extending unemployment insurance during times of recession is nothing new. In the past 30 years, the Congress has acted three times to establish temporary extended

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Studies indicate that extending unemployment insurance After losing 400,000 jobs in recent years, Michigan has during tough times provides the best return of economic benefits compared to other stimulus options, and this money can be distributed within weeks. Extending unemployment insurance is essential to provide much-needed support to those who have lost their jobs and are struggling to re-enter

Even families who have held on to their jobs are falling victim to increasing prices of energy and other goods. I have proposed to fully fund the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program so that no Michigan family has to choose between putting food on the table and paying their energy bill. Additionally, we can help struggling families and spur consumer spending by increasing the food stamp benefit, which has not come close to keeping up with inflation.

We also need to confront housing foreclosures. More than 89,000 Michigan home loans are currently in foreclosure and over 40,000 subprime loans have scheduled rate increases this year. Many families are at risk of losing their homes, with devastating consequences. Beyond the personal impact, rampant foreclosures can decimate communities. I support providing federal assistance, such as block grants or tax-free bonds, so that state and local agencies can help homeowners affordably refinance. These steps can prevent further deepening of the foreclosure crisis, keep families in their homes, and protect neighborhoods from blight, which results from large numbers of vacant houses.

Our long-term economic growth requires investments by the federal government to create jobs and help our businesses grow and compete. Infrastructure and advanced technology should be our top priorities. Businesses that are successful are more inclined to hire new workers and expand. In Michigan, we know that success for many of our industries requires good roads, safe bridges, and harbors that are dredged to promote dependable shipping Immediate federal spending on infrastructure and dredging projects can put people to work and lay the foundation for future growth.

Investments in advanced technology can have similar long-term benefits. For example, developing the next-

generation advanced batteries for hybrid cars could lead to enormous growth of our auto industry. I have proposed public-private partnerships for research and development of a host of technologies that offer much potential for jobcreation

No state is struggling more than Michigan in this tough economy. Michigan families and workers deserve action from the federal government to address short-term and long-term economic challenges. A strong short-term stimulus package should be the first order of business in Washington, and Congress and the President need to act quickly on a bipartisan basis.



The Ledger "Almost" Goes Column



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I would like to apologize to Mr. Howard if he found my comments to be offensive. It was written with tongue in cheek and meant to stimulate responses. That's what Sound Off is all about to me.

I urge every citizen of this great country to contact their U.S. senator and tell them to make the Bush tax cuts permanent.

The Our Love Skate Park Committee would like to thank everyone who has given financial support over the last year.

I've been tightening my belt on everything just to make ends meet. I practically live in the dark to save on electric. Thanks for raising our rates!

Why is the Ledger looking so bare? Where's all the feel good gobbly-goo stories?

I alal

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Why does Lowell Water have a meter reader? The single person household gets charged unfairly! It doesn't matter if we try to conserve or not. I have yet to see a credit on my statement.

With the North Washington property permanent preservation being the centerpiece of the election, and yet the old council members are still rejecting our vote to preserve it. Stop the arrogance!

for the warning.

vigilant though.

I don't think it is my job to

'stimulate' the economy.

Leave my tax refund alone.

George has had many

opportunities to help the

economy, but refused

to do it.

Whoever plans the lunch

menu for the kids isn't

thinking of the kids.

They're just thinking of the

cheapest meal possible. And

that really grinds my gears.

A huge thank you to the

Lowell Ledger for their

article on not leaving pets

outside in the winter.

It's nice to know we have

a compassionate

Delivery available. Call 616-293-3575 or 616-868-Our amazing news media is finally acknowledging we're FOR SALE - Ariens snowin a recession...about 1-2 blower, self-propelled, 11 years after the fact? Thanks hp. electric start, hand

616-292-1251 or 616-527-My husband and I really hope that the Boy Scout BEDROOM SET - 7 pc. property is preserved per-Cherry bedroom set, includes sleigh bed! Brand manently. After seeing those new. Must sell. \$500. Can election results it should be deliver. 616-949-6525. a slam dunk. Best to remain

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Publication.

held on Sat., Feb. 23 from 1 - 7 p.m. at Maccabee Hall in Smyrna. Food, silent auction, 50/50 and more Proceeds are to help Al & his family with expenses incurred with Al's diagnosis of Leukemia. If there are questions or to give donations for the silent auction, please call Doug Anderson at Ridgeview Golf Club 616-794-0946 or by email ridgeviewgc@auis.net. If unable to attend, donations may be made at FirstBank West Michigan, 105 S. Pearl St., Belding, 48809, to the Al & Shirley Road bikes only. Call Bonz Heaton Benefit Account.

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CARD OF **THANKS**

CARD OF THANKS The family of Sue Wester would like to thank all of our family and friends for their thoughts and prayers, many meals and cards, donations and support. Thank you to the Women of the Moose who provided the luncheon. A special thank you to the nurses and staff at Lacks Cancer Center who provided Sue and our family with great care and thoughtfulness.

Andy & Sue

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LHS grad has life-changing volunteer trip in South Africa

Submitted by Alison Costello

When 21-year-old Amanda Grochowalski told her friends she planned to spend last summer volunteering in South Africa, they laughed.

"No one took me seriously, but I can't blame them," she said. "It was a crazy idea, and I guess I'm a little crazy."

Grochowalski, a Lowell native, believes in the power of people helping one another, and has molded her life around that philosophy, making plans to volunteer this summer.

"That trip made me want to volunteer forever. I'm looking to get an internship at an international nonprofit (organization) for this summer."

Those who know her best call her 'Grouch,' but she usually isn't 'grouchy' at all, they say.

"Amanda puts other people before herself," said her brother, Brandon Grochowalski. "She is loving, she wants to help people. She is adventurous. She has a good head on her shoulders."

"As people, we need to help other people," she said. "People are just people. Just because someone is a different race doesn't mean they don't have anything to do with you. We're all people." Last June, with two suitcases, a brave heart, and a fat loan check in tow, she flew across the world to Cape Town, the capitol city of South Africa to spend the month in its rural cities' struggling health and daycare clinics.

"My biggest fear is to regret or not listen to my heart... to not do the things I've always dreamt of doing. I don't want to look back and see that I didn't do something because it wasn't feasible at the time. The biggest mistake anyone can make is to not listen to their heart," said Grochowalski.

After the trip, Grochowalski vowed to

the things spend her life helping others.
It of doing. She changed her major at Michigan State University from nursing to global and area studies, focusing on the African continent.

"My dream job is to be"

a health director or advisor, helping people in a foreign country, doing hands-on work - I want to know that I'm helping people on a personal level," she said. "I love my classes now and am excited to learn. I listen to lectures, rent documentaries. I would have never done that in nursing."

Every week, Grochowalski reads news headlines from South Africa online. She goes to parties with her friends and relaxes on the weekend, and when she has time, she spends her day at a bookstore reading travel writing and literature about Africa.

"I've made a connection with the people there. I've met people with AIDS, tuberculosis, all of the major health issues they're encountering. I can imagine all the people I saw and talked to when I read."

The trip was organized through Dream Catchers, a South African organization that strives to empower woman by teaching them business skills. The group helps women from small communities improve their English and hospitality skills to host travelers.

Grochowalski stayed in Worcester (pronounced "voosta"), a suburb of Capetown, with a woman she called "momma" for 30

days.

"She cooked constantly for me. She'd find out I liked tomatoes with my breakfast, and everyday I'd have more tomatoes on my plate than anyone could ever eat. It was the same with fried chicken, mashed potatoes, everything for lunch and dinner."

She spent a few days volunteering at a daycare center, which acted as an educational center to promote Christianity. She then spent the rest of her trip touring the wards of a government health clinic, where patients could receive free health care without restrictions.

"I administered tuberculosis drugs, in-

jections, witnessed child births, evaluated children in pediatrics - I learned how different it is, how advanced we are."

Grochowalski said she was surprised to encounter racial discrimination in Capetown and its surrounding cities.

"I knew that there were problems, but I thought they were mostly health problems," she said. "My momma didn't want me to walk to town alone from her house. She said it was OK for her--a 60-year-old-woman to go, but not for me."

Grochowalski's parents refused to help her out with the trip until she had made financial arrangements of her own. She said finding money to pay for the trip was the hardest part.

"The day after I got approved for a loan, I booked my flight to South Africa. My dad was surprised. He called me back and tried to give me money to pay for the trip, but I didn't want it. I said, 'I'll do it on my own."

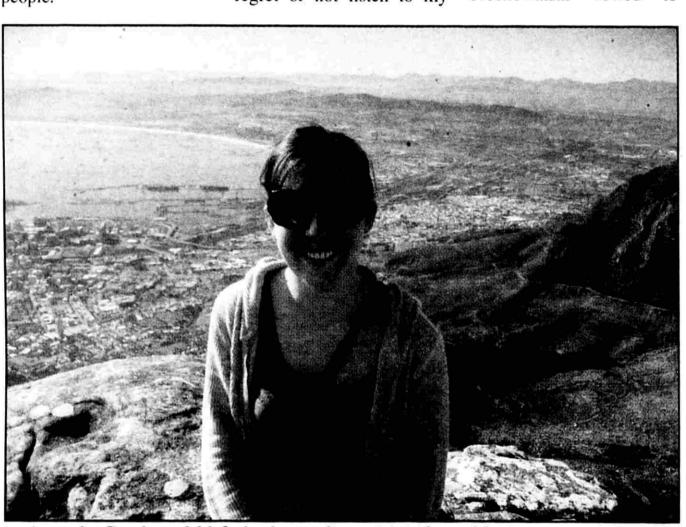
She received a \$4,500 private loan, and has been working as a server at the Carriage House restaurant on Mackinac Island and at DeLuca's restaurant in Lansing to pay for her trip.

"I'm putting \$100 in savings every month to pay if off. I have \$3,000 to go. But it was worth it."

Grochowalski hopes to return to the clinics where she worked and thinks everyone should travel independently.

"It was incredible doing the whole thing by myself-- traveling by myself, not talking to my friends or family every day," she said. "It was amazing to be forced to learn about someone else who was nothing like me. You learn the more important things about yourself."

Grochowalski attended Lowell High School where she played basketball, tennis, track, and was a member of Varsity Club, National Honors Society and YMCA. She moved to the Lansing area in 2004, attended Lansing Community College, and is now a full-time MSU student, planning her next volunteer activity this summer.



Amanda Grochowalski feels she made a connection with the people she met in South Africa.

