



The Lowell Ledger

Volume 38 Issue 12

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

Person of the year is an avid volunteer

by Emma Palova

John Stencel, an avid volunteer in the community, has been named the person of the year for his relentless service.

And although most people don't know he exists, Stencel quietly does things for the community without any hesitation.

"He is everywhere, but many people may not realize who he is, because he is there to serve, not to have a photo op," said Joe Fremer, pastor of Good Chapel Lutheran Church.

Ironically, many years ago, Stencel missed his first volunteer job in high school, because of an accident.

But, since then, he probably didn't miss a single opportunity to volunteer. His neighbor Al Haggi, 91, got him involved with chamber activities.

Stencel loves parades so much that he always helps with the line-up. He plans on getting involved with the new parade this year that will celebrate 75 years of fair.

"I don't think we have enough parades," said

Stencel. "I like to see all the people and their happiness."

He also hangs up the corporate ducks on lamp posts for the Riverwalk Festival. Last year, he hung 140 ducks that had to be doubled up.

"I like hanging ducks," said Stencel. "I just use a ladder."

Stencel always has fun while volunteering. He volunteers for the Flat River Outreach Ministries in the food pantry. He is also the head of roadside pick-up for Good Chapel Lutheran Church.

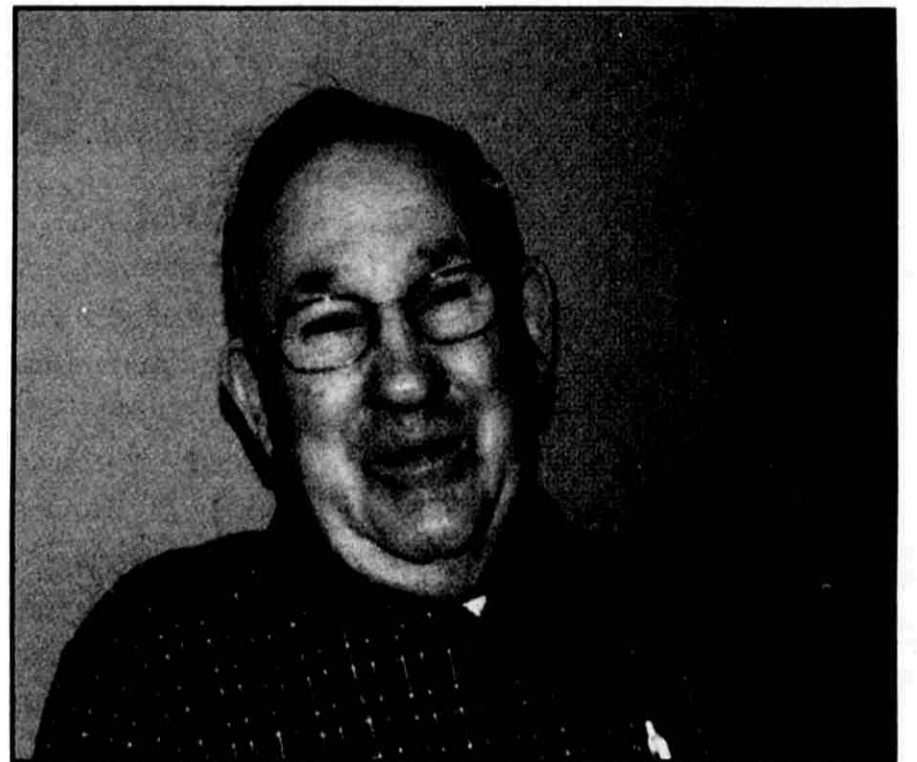
When chamber director Liz Baker made the announcement in church, Stencel was both shocked and embarrassed.

"I don't do it for the recognition," he said. "It's just something that needs to get done and I have fun doing it."

He was glad to see the success of the Pink Arrow Project.

"I will volunteer until I can't do it anymore," he said.

Baker said when the selection committee looks at the criteria, they look at all



John Stencel has been named person of the year.

the points. "They don't make split minute decisions," she said. "They don't base the person of the year on one good deed but several. They choose a person that has gone above and beyond for their community."

Person of the year, cont'd., pg. 3



February thaw

Heavy rains, thaw and temperatures around 59°F last week caused flooding in the low laying areas or the floodplains around the Grand River. The river spilled out at the fairgrounds by the boat launch. Most of the snow completely melted with just a few dirty banks left. However, that quickly changed with Friday night's snowfall and freezing temperatures again. More snow is on the way this week.

Only 30 days until
the first day of spring!

Albuquerque resident stays efficient with Ledger subscription

By Emma Palova

Albuquerque resident Angie Young feels more efficient whenever she comes back to Lowell for a visit, thanks to the Lowell Ledger.

"It keeps me current on activities," she said.

Young is up to speed on the growth in the community, and she also keeps tabs on her classmates like Kent McKay and active Lowell residents like Ivan Blough or on her brother-in-law Brian Doyle.

She was happy to learn about McKay's new ballroom hall, Grand Volute. Young likes to follow the

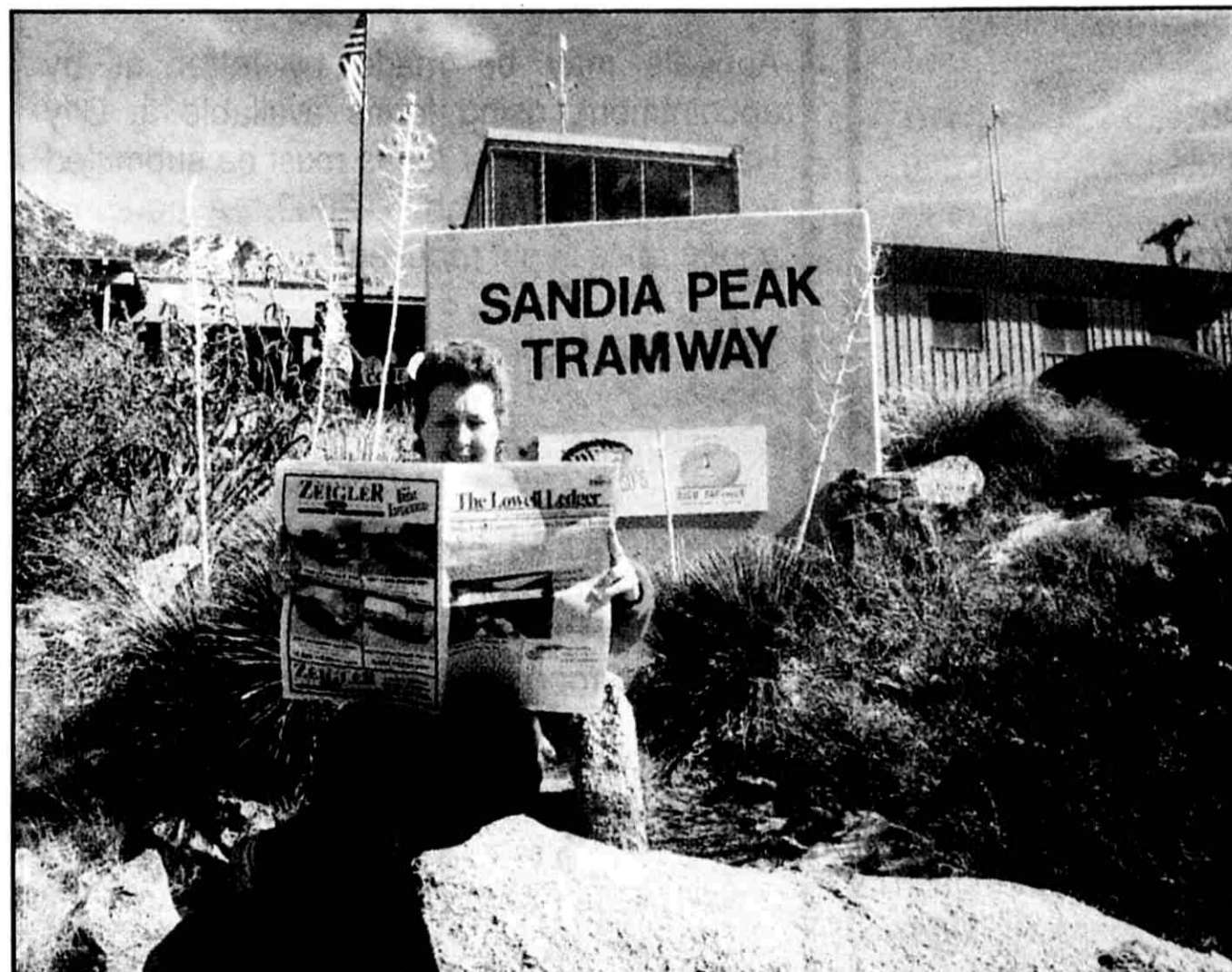
changes at the city council level.

"It's nice to see that new facility," she said.

Young moved out of Lowell in 1978, when she got a special education teaching job in Georgia. Five years later, she met her husband David and moved to Albuquerque to take the job of speech and language pathologist for public schools.

Young, a 1974 graduate of Lowell High School likes living in progressive New Mexico, where different cultures co-exist side by side.

"We're very intercultural with Hispanics



Angie Young reading her Ledger in the New Mexico sunshine.

and Navajos populations," she said.

The education in New Mexico is scientific and technology based due to the many labs located in the area. These include Phillips Lab, Sandia Lab, Los Alamos Lab and Intel. The sand by the Rio Grande is good for water processing of the microchips, according to Young.

She has been a subscriber to the paper since 1983 when Young came to Albuquerque.

"As I kept moving further and further, I was

New Mexico subscriber, cont'd., pg. 9

Obituaries

FITZGIBBON

Raymond Peter Fitzgibbon, age 71, of Wyoming, passed away Tuesday, February 10, 2009. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Karen; children, Vera, Martin, Ray (Rose) Fitzgibbon; brother, Thomas (Barb) Fitzgibbon; grandchildren, Stephanie, Melanie VanderJagt, Amber, Katlyn Fitzgibbon, Scott and Christina Levendosky, Diana and Julian Garcia; great-grandchildren, Kyle VanderJagt and Devon Bird. Memorial services were held Friday at Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to The Fitzgibbon Family, c/o Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331.



PNIEWSKI

Denise Ann Pniewski, age 48, of Rockford and Lowell, passed away Wednesday, February 11, 2009. She was preceded in death by her father, E. Kenneth Pniewski; grandparents, Frank and Gertrude Ryder, and Anne and Elwood Pniewski. She is survived

by her mother, Bernadette Pniewski of Lowell; brother, Michael (Stacey) Pniewski; sister, Suzanne Rich of Beulah; nieces and nephews, Katherine and Elizabeth Pniewski, Melissa and Phillip Rich, Natalie Rich, ShiLeigh Shepard and Aydon Sterk; aunts, Geraldine (Ryder) and Godfrey VanderWerff, Mary Pniewski; uncles, Gary (Carol) Pniewski, Richard (Kathy) Pniewski; many VanderWerff and Pniewski cousins and special friends. Denise was a 1983 graduate from Kendall College of Art & Design. She used her wonderful artistic abilities in positions of Marketing and Advertising, Communications Design in Detroit, Massachusetts and Grand Rapids for the past 10 years. She worked most recently at Spectrum and Holland Hospitals. Funeral services were held Saturday at Roth-Gerst Funeral Chapel. In lieu of flowers,

please consider contributions to Life Outreach (Water for Life) under James and Betty Robinson Ministry, P.O. Box 982000, Fort Worth, TX 76182-8000 or DeVos Children's Hospital Foundation, 100 Michigan St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

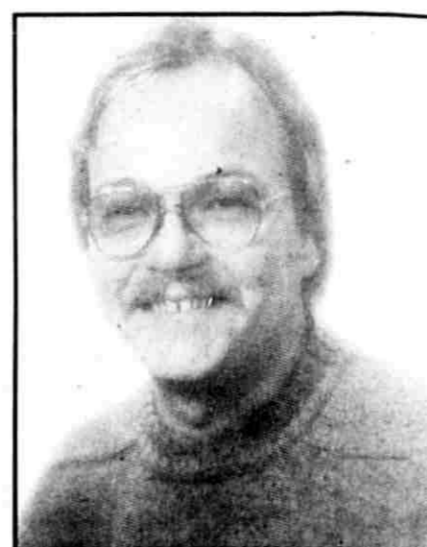
STAUFFER

Lyle J Stauffer, aged 87, of Alto, born August 24, 1921, passed away on Sunday, February 15, 2009. He was preceded in death by his wife of over 54 years Marguerite; and two children, Christie Ruth at age 13 and John Albert at age 5. He is survived by sisters-in-law Eileen Flynn and Caryl Jean DeLeeuw both of Wyoming and brother-in-law Royle and Leta Bailard of Alto. Several nieces and nephews including; Tom (Joyce) Munger, Marilyn (Ed) Lawrence, Carol Flynn, Rosa (Joe) Macomber, Errol (Judy) Flynn, Doug (Amy)

DeLeeuw, Lisa Ruso, Dan (Christine) Bailard, Becky Nugent and several cousins. Lyle was a lifelong farmer in Alto and worked at Bergy Brothers Elevator for 30 years. Funeral Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at O'Brien-Eggebeen-Gerst Chapel, 3980 Cascade Rd. SE with Rev. Al Strouse officiating. Interment Bowne Center Cemetery. Visitation Wednesday 2 to 4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. and Thursday 10 to 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, please make memorial donations to Faith Hospice of Trillium Woods and Benevolent Fund, 2100 Raybrook St. S.E., Suite 300, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.

STIEHL

James O. Stiehl, aged 56, of Lowell, went to be with his Lord on February 11, 2009. He was preceded in death by his mother, Dorothy Stiehl; and stepmother, Laura Jane Stiehl. He is survived by his loving wife,



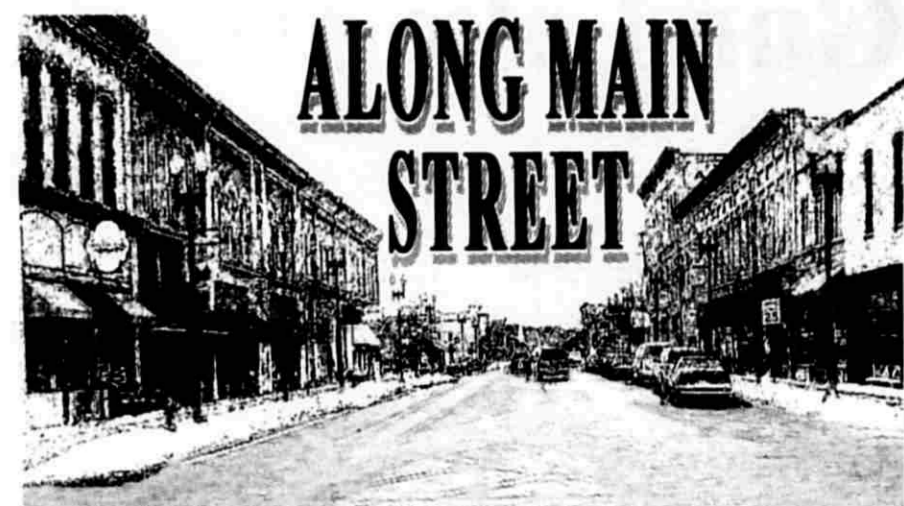
Shelley Stiehl; beloved son, Travis Stiehl; father, Charles Stiehl; brother and sister-in-law, Brian and Laurel Stiehl; nephew, Casey Stiehl; and many special aunts, uncles, and cousins. Funeral services for James were held Saturday at South United Methodist Church. Interment in Rest Lawn Memorial Park. The family suggests memorial contributions be made to South United Methodist Church, Lacks Cancer Center or Faith Hospice. Condolences may be sent online at www.mkdfuneralhome.com.

Trail group asks for more time

The regional rails to trails group, in their quest to convert the Lowell to Ionia and Lowell to Greenville railroad corridors into trails, has requested a six month extension on the option to buy the Lowell to Greenville portion from Mid Michigan Railroad. The approval of the extension would prompt a \$300,000 option payment by June 30 with approval from MDOT.



In the meantime, the city of Belding submitted an application for a Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) grant on Feb. 2, on behalf of the regional rails to trails group, to help offset the costs of purchasing the Lowell to Greenville railroad corridor owned by Mid Michigan Railroad. The Soper and Associates are conducting trail appraisal on the Lowell to Ionia corridor. The trail progress will be showcased at the upcoming community expos in Ionia on March 7 and in Lowell on March 28. The next meeting is scheduled for March 12 at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce at 1 p.m.



FAT FRIDAY PRIME RIB ROAST

Friday, Feb. 20, 5:30-8 p.m., St. Patrick Parish Center. Tickets are \$10 per person in advance, \$14 at the door. Reserve by calling the school office, 691-8833; Stacey Nugent, 874-7779 or emailing staceynuge@msn.com. Proceeds to benefit St. Patrick School.

MICHIGAN SNAKES ALIVE

St. Mary's Conquest Boys Club is sponsoring an educational show 'Michigan Snakes Alive!' on Sat., Feb. 21, 10 - 11:30 a.m. at St. Mary's School, All Purpose Room, 402 Amity St. Free, but donations to club accepted.

GEOCACHE CLASS

Sat., Feb. 21, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Lowell Community Education will be offering a Geocache class here at the Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center, 11715 Vergennes. Chuck Hayden will show you fun and new ways to use your GPS unit for something other than finding directions. To register, contact Beth Hemry with Lowell Community Education at 616-987-2510 or bhemry@lowellschools.com.

ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

The Lowell Area Schools Athletic Boosters will hold their regular business meeting in the high school staff lounge on Mon., March 2 at 7 p.m.

Small business owners - join the online world

There is an old business rule that says "No job is finished until the paperwork is done." If you are one of the millions of small business owners in this country, you undoubtedly know the truth of this statement. But did you know that Social Security can lighten your paperwork filing burden with free, fast and secure online business services?

For example, you can stop doing all your wage reports

on paper and start doing them online. That includes Forms W-2 for your employees and Forms W-2 and W-3 for Uncle Sam. All you need are two things you probably already have: a computer and an Internet connection.

From our employer homepage, www.socialsecurity.gov/employer, simply visit the "Business Services Online" link, and then

select the "Register" option. You register for a User ID Number only once, not every year. You can register at any time, with the best time being now, before the tax-filing season.

Another big advantage to electronic wage reporting is the ease of making corrections. If you find a mistake before you have actually submitted your report, you simply log in and make the changes, then print new W-2s for the employees

involved. And even if you need to make corrections after you have submitted your wage reports to Social Security you can file the correction forms (W-2c and W-3c) online, too.

Visit Social Security's Business Services Online at www.socialsecurity.gov/employer.

Vonda VanTil is the public affairs specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 50 College SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or via email at vonda.vantil@ssa.gov.

Person of the year, continued ... From Page 1

The committee looks at a much larger snapshot of that person's involvement, according to Baker.

"And that is why people like John Stencil are chosen," said Baker.

Following are the criteria for the selection:

Over time, the candidate has freely donated considerable time to the community, school district, church or humanity. This is

new and innovative ideas that benefit the community.

The candidate cannot be a chamber board/foundation board member at the time of nomination.

The selection committee consists of the previous five persons of the year.

The candidate positively promotes the community in both word and action.

The candidate possesses

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BOWNE TOWNSHIP

Bowne Township is now accepting Bids for the 2009 Lawn Maintenance Season.

Specifications are available at the Township Office
8240 Alden Nash SE
PO Box 35
Alto, MI 49302-0035
616 868-6846

Wed, Thurs 9-5,
Friday 9-Noon.

The Lowell Ledger

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VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE

2009 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The Vergennes Township Board of Review for 2009 will be held at the Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Dr, on the following dates:

- *Tuesday, March 3, 7:30 am, = Organizational Meeting
- *Monday, March 9, 12 pm to 5:00 pm & 6 pm to 9 pm = Appeal Hearing
- *Wednesday, March 11, 8:00 am to 1:00 pm = Appeal Hearing

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2009 assessments. By board resolution, residents are able to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 6.

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2009 are as follows:

*Agricultural	49.49%	1.0110
*Commercial.....	49.90%	1.0020
*Residential.....	52.98%	.9437
*Industrial.....	50.27%	.9946
*Personal Property.....	50.00%	1.0000

American With Disabilities (ADA) Notice
The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 4 days notice.
Contact: Tim Wittenbach, 13005 3 Mile Rd, 616-292-4595

Board of Review Members, Jim Herb, Ken Ford, Dan Faulkner and Tim Wittenbach, Secretary of Board of Review

LEDGER SUBSCRIPTIONS
We can take care of it right over the phone - place it on your credit card & receive your first issue the following Wednesday in the mail!
The Lowell Ledger
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CITY OF LOWELL

NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF REVIEW

The Lowell City Board of Review will meet to receive and review the various Assessment Rolls for 2009 at City Hall on:

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2009
AT 10:00 A.M.

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2009
from
9:30 A.M. - 12 P.M., AND 1:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
and
6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. if necessary

Appeals may be made by letter or by appointment, using forms available at City Hall. Letters and/or forms must be submitted not later than March 7, 2009. A personal appearance is not required.

The following ratios and multiplier are expected for Real and personal Property assessments:

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



James W. Hodges, Mayor
James Marfia, Assessor

Lowell High School Performs

Seussical

the musical

March 6 @ 7:00
March 7 @ 7:00
March 8 @ 3:00

March 13 @ 7:00
March 14 @ 2:00
March 14 @ 7:00

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

Lowell Performing Arts Center
For show information call 987-2956

Tickets on Sale starting February 17 in the LHS Main Office or at Pep Talk in downtown Lowell

Gun Lake Tribe's land put into trust

The federal government placed 147 acres of land into trust for the benefit of the Gun Lake Tribe to use for economic development purposes. The Tribe may now proceed with construction of the Gun Lake Casino. Two recent significant federal court rulings preceded the trust acquisition.

"Today, we rejoice knowing that all our hard work has paid off and the sacrifices of our ancestors was not made in vain," said D.K. Sprague, tribal chairman in a press release Friday. "Now it's official. Justice has been served to those who were motivated by greed and power to delay this project for nearly 10 years."

The casino land title was transferred to the United States government Jan. 30 to be held in trust on behalf of the tribe. The Department of the Interior authorized the title transfer, which is not open to a legal challenge.

This action ends any legal

ambiguity about the tribe's ability to conduct gaming in accordance with federal law. Trust status was stalled for nearly four years by lawsuits from Michigan Gambling Opposition (MichGO) and its financiers in '23 is Enough.' The last legal motions were rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court and finally Federal District Judge Richard J. Leon.

"We said from day one that we will prevail over these frivolous legal challenges, and we did. We also said that we will never do business with any person or group that opposed this project," said Sprague.

Through many legal victories that were followed by long periods of delay, thousands of people stuck by the tribe, he said. The first of these groups was Friends of the Gun Lake Indians (FOGLI). Beginning with just a handful, FOGLI has grown to over 10,000 supporters.

Local governments, business chambers, building

trade unions and civic groups followed to number more than 40 different organizations that support the casino.

The casino proposal that started amongst public chaos caused by casino opponents ended with editorial endorsements from newspapers in Detroit all the way to Holland.

"One of our dearest friends was the late Bill Brown, the beloved editor of the Allegan County News, who once wrote an article titled 'In Land We Trust.' The tribe is thankful for all our

Stabenow appointed Chair of the Energy Subcommittee on Water and Power

U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) today announced her appointment as Chair of the Energy Subcommittee on Water and Power under the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. This subcommittee will oversee important irrigation, land reclamation, and flood control issues along with energy development and its impact on our water resources. As chair, Stabenow will play a leading role in shaping national energy policy in the 111th Congress.

"My new responsibilities as Chair of the Energy Subcommittee on Water and Power will allow

me to strengthen the role our state has in crafting national energy policy and its effects on our rivers and waterways," Stabenow said. "As a member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I'm also very pleased to serve on the Subcommittees on Energy and National Parks. We have important work ahead of us, and I will continue to fight every day

for the policies that reduce our dependence on foreign oil, combat global warming, and create good-paying jobs at home."

She will continue to serve on the influential Senate Finance Committee, the Senate Agriculture Committee, and the Senate Budget Committee, all of which have jurisdiction over a wide range of issues

important to Michigan. She will also once again serve in her leadership position as the Chair of the Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee.

To see a full list of committee assignments and descriptions, please visit: www.stabenow.senate.gov/press/2009/011309energycommittee.htm.

compensation package of \$40,000; 3,100 indirect jobs; and more than \$20 million per year in direct purchases of goods and services from West Michigan businesses. For more information visit www.mbpi.org, and www.fogli.org.

The Gun Lake Casino will be operated by the tribe's management partner, Station Casinos. Electronic versions of this release, a historical timeline, a hearing transcript before Federal District Judge Leon, and Gun Lake Casino renderings are available at www.mbpi.org.

Viewpoint



Progress and a Piece of History

With Senator Carl Levin

On August 28, 1963, exactly 45 years to the day that Barack Obama accepted his party's nomination for President, a native of Detroit named Edith Lee Payne was in Washington, DC. Edith, then 12 years old, was taking part in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. That day, she would hear Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech. And, someone would take a photograph of her.

Shortly after Barack Obama was elected as the nation's first African American president, Edith discovered that the picture of her - which she never even knew existed - had become a symbol of the March on Washington. She first saw a copy of it on the cover of a 2009 Black History Calendar, and later discovered that it is featured in the National Archives file devoted to the March.

The photographer is still unknown, but the image is a testament to the hope and resolve of the civil rights era, and to the progress since realized.

As Edith took part in the March on Washington, she gripped a flag in her hand; on it was a drawing of the Lincoln Memorial with the words "I was there" along with the bolded words "March For Jobs & Freedom." The photograph captures her holding the flag, looking up apparently towards the speakers that day, her eyes focused intently forward.

Edith watched what Dr. King called "the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation." But what lay ahead for the country was even more remarkable than what Edith saw before her that day. The March on Washington helped precipitate the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. These pieces of legislation cleared the way for immense social progress.

Segregation was outlawed and the U.S. Justice Department was empowered to file law suits to enforce desegregation. Racial discrimination by employers was barred, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission was established to combat discrimination in workplaces. The Voting Rights Act made barriers to Black suffrage, such as poll tests, illegal.

With African Americans empowered to vote in significant numbers throughout the South, Black Americans across the country benefited from greater representation in Congress. Leaders like John Conyers of Michigan and John Lewis of Georgia have influenced countless pieces of legislation that have benefited people of all races. They - and Edith and so many others - paved the way for the remarkable progress we see today in our newly elected President.

During his campaign, Barack Obama said, "I'm here today because somebody marched. I'm here because you all sacrificed for me. I stand on the shoulders of giants." One of those on whose shoulders he stands is Michigan's very own Edith Lee Payne, and her role in this remarkable chapter of America's story will be forever memorialized in that photograph in the National Archives. The proud memory of what she was a part of, and what that movement did for the entire country, lives on this month, and continues to strengthen our nation.



By Shelly MacNaughton

125 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL JOURNAL FEBRUARY 20, 1884

Will Burnett has bought the Oberly express line. Yesterday was a real spring day - warm and watery. Grand and Flat rivers rose two feet Monday and are still rising.

100 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER FEBRUARY 18, 1909

Out in Vergennes lives a grizzled old Veteran of the Civil War whose most treasured remembrance of the great struggles is not the battles nor skirmishes, but of a matter that really had little to do with the war itself.

He is J. H. Andrews, known to hundreds of friends in the eastern part of Kent as "Os" Andres, and the memory he treasures so vividly is that of standing guard at the coffin of the great Lincoln.

75 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER AND ALTO SOLO FEBRUARY 22, 1934

When it's cold enough to make the roofs and sidewalks creak you know it's C-O-L-D! And there were many such sounds when Lowell awakened Tuesday morning to find thermometer readings ranging from 18 to 26 below. Several school children suffered frost nipped ears and noses.

50 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER FEBRUARY 19, 1959

At a meeting last week Theron Richmond, who had previously asked to be replaced on the Showboat Board of Directors, was prevailed upon by other board members to take over as president this year.

Richmond has served as secretary for several years.

25 YEARS AGO THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER FEBRUARY 22, 1984

The Fallsburg Powerhouse north of Lowell has gained some national attention since its renovation and return to an operational facility. The restoration, which was supervised by the Firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill of Chicago, was recognized by the American Institute of Architects as a small, but significant building design in 1983. The article covered two pages in the prestigious periodical.

Everyone is talking about the Ledger! Get your subscription today! 897-9261



BOWNE TOWNSHIP

NOTICE

BOARD OF REVIEW
THE BOARD OF REVIEW OF BOWNE TOWNSHIP WILL MEET IN THE NEW TOWNSHIP OFFICE BUILDING - 8240 ALDEN NASH SE., ALTO ON:

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009 10:00 A.M. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2009 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2009 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. **EVENING HOURS- BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

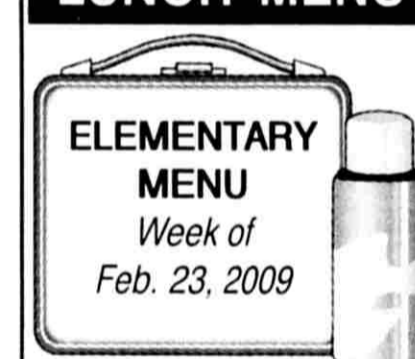
FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING THE TAX ROLL AND HEARING ALL CLAIMS. YOU MAY APPEAL YOUR ASSESSED VALUATION ONE OF (2) WAYS: BY LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE BOWNE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR AND RECEIVED BY HIM PRIOR TO MARCH 6, 2009 OR BY APPEARING IN PERSON ON ONE OF THE DATES THE BOARD OF REVIEW MEETS.

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

Agricultural Ratio	48.54	Multiplier	1.0300
Commercial Ratio	47.06	Multiplier	1.0624
Industrial Ratio	48.82	Multiplier	1.0241
Residential Ratio	51.93	Multiplier	.9628

DENNIS MCKELVEY-ASSESSOR
CHRISTIAN WENGER-SUPERVISOR
BOWNE TOWNSHIP

LUNCH MENU



ELEMENTARY MENU
Week of Feb. 23, 2009
MON: Baked mini cornedogs (hamburger on bun also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), oven French fries, assorted fruit, milk.

TUES: Pizza dippers w/ sauce (3 meat sub also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), fresh tossed salad, assorted fruit, milk.

WED: Tony's cheese pizza (chili w/crackers also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), broccoli, warm baked apples, milk.

THURS: French toast sticks/syrup or cereal/graham crackers & scrambled eggs, applesauce, 100% fruit juice, milk.

FRI: Grilled cheese sandwich (turkey & cheese on bun also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), tomato soup, vegetable pasta salad, pears, milk.

Medical scholarship applications now being taken

Lowell High School is currently accepting applications for the first-ever Donald G. Gerard M.D. Medical Scholarship. Eligible applicants must have been accepted into or are currently attending a medical school in pursuit of an M.D. or D.O. Application forms are available at the high school student services center. For more information please contact Lisa Nauta at (616)897-2808. The grant application deadline is June 1.

Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc.

There is no better time than now to shop at the
**F.R.O.M. THRIFT SHOP/
BOUTIQUE/FURNITURE STORE!**

WE HAVE ABSOLUTELY THE LOWEST PRICES IN LOWELL!

When you shop with us, you are helping with heating costs, housing expenses, and other critical needs of some of your Lowell-area neighbors. You also help with your donations of clean, gently-used goods, non-perishable foods, money and prayers.

**FROM SILVERWARE TO SOFAS,
AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN,
YOU'LL PROBABLY FIND IT AT F.R.O.M.**

**We have a selection of formals
for the coming season,
complete with
handbags and footwear.**

LOCATED AT: 11535 FULTON STREET E (JUST PAST GOODWILL)

WE ARE OPEN:
WED., THURS., FRI.: 10 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.
• SATURDAY: 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

REMEMBER: GREAT SHOPPING - GREAT CAUSE!

Need Help Filing Unemployment Claims?

With Rep. Dave Hildenbrand

Many people have contacted my office because they are having trouble filing unemployment claims due to jammed phone lines at the Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA).

It is frustrating to me as a State Representative to know that people who have lost their job and have families to support are unable to receive needed benefits because the government failed to properly plan for the rise in new claims. If you or someone you know is having difficulty filing for unemployment, please do not hesitate to contact my office. My staff and I will do whatever we can to help.

Residents may contact my office by calling (877) 328-3086 or via email: rephildenbrand@house.mi.gov. You may also visit my website at www.gophouse.com/hildenbrand.htm to fill out an online form which will help me process your claim faster.

The easiest way to file a claim is online at www.michigan.gov/uiu. The UIA website is available from 7 a.m. Monday through 7 p.m. Saturday. Although the UIA has added an additional server to speed up the website, the best time to file a claim is outside of normal business hours, when there is less traffic and the site is less likely to be busy.

Workers who have applied for unemployment benefits must call the UIA's automated system once every two weeks to certify eligibility requirements; callers who have not been able to get through at their appointed time due to high call volume should call 1-866-638-3993 Thursday or Friday between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Writing to the editor ...

The requirements are:

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

Engagements

Festin/Gingerich

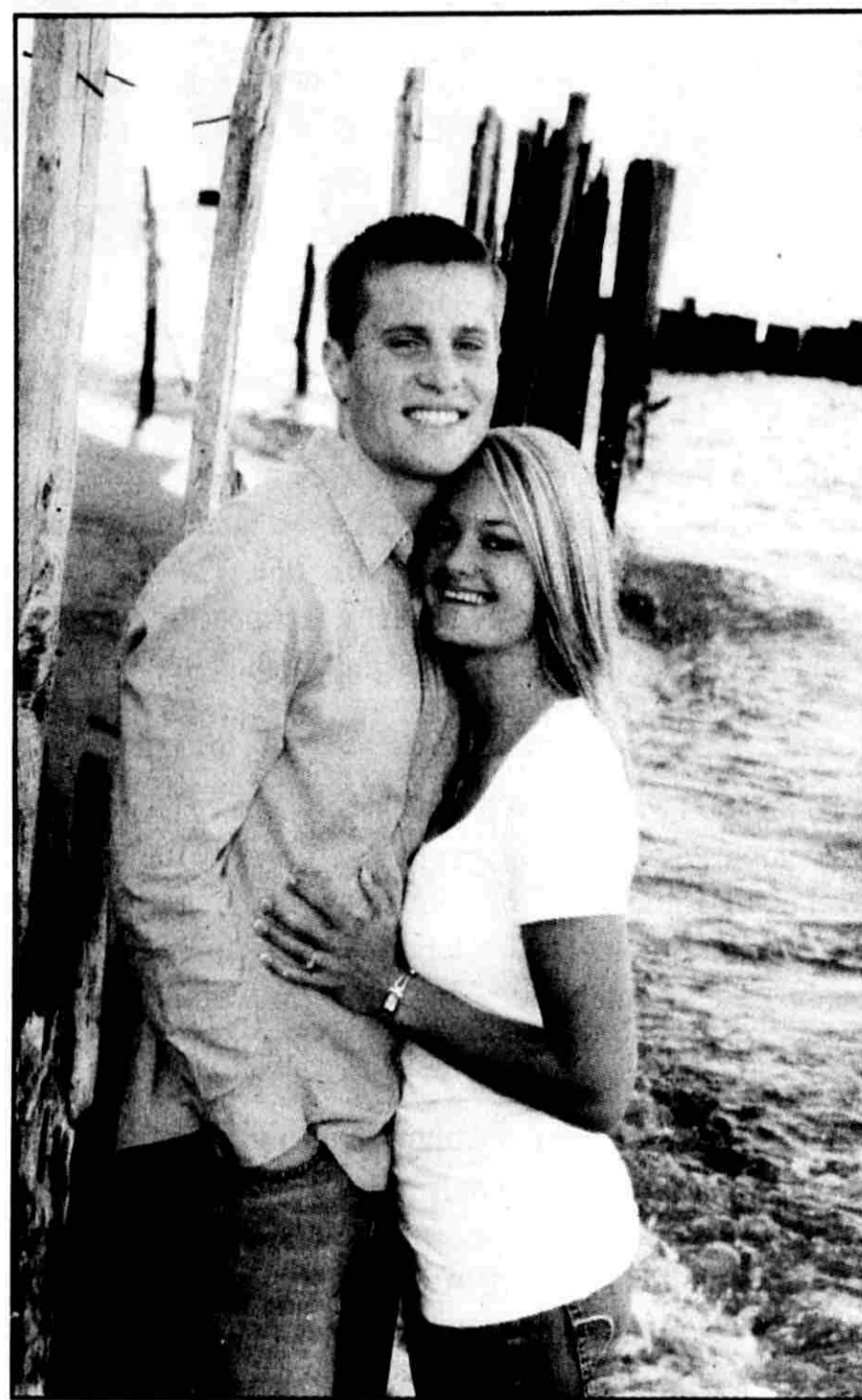


Ashley Festin and Bobby Gingerich

Ashley Festin and Bobby Gingerich will be united in matrimony on October 10, 2009 at St. Alphonsus in Lemont, Ill. Their parents are Dan and Leeann Festin of Lemont, Ill. and Bob and Kathy Gingerich of Lowell. The bride-to-be is a graduate

of Lemont High School and will receive a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from North Central College. The future groom is a graduate of Lowell High School and received a Bachelor's Degree from North Central College.

Woods/Graham



Rebekah Woods and Brock Graham

Rebekah Jean Woods and Brock Roger Graham will be united in matrimony on May 23, 2009. The bride-to-be is a graduate of Lowell High School and Hope College. She is the daughter of David and Jean Woods of Lowell. The future groom is also a

graduate of Lowell High School and Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Ind. He is the son of Roger and Karen Graham of Alto. The couple are planning their ceremony and reception at Hope College.

New Arrivals

Yaw

On December 10, 2008, God blessed Sean and Jody Yaw along with big sisters Mallery, Maysen and McKenna with a baby boy, McKoye Andrew Yaw. He entered the world at 8:30 a.m. at Spectrum Health Butterworth, weighing 8 lbs. 4 oz. and measured 20 inches. He was welcomed home by his excited and

proud grandparents, Dan and Jean Hoffman of Lowell and Mike and Jill Yaw of Saranac; great-grandparents, Shirley Hoffman of Lowell and Dee and Joyce Yaw of Saranac. McKoye is named after "Our Special Cousin" that was very close to our hearts, the late Andrew Benedict.

Happy Birthday

FEBRUARY 18: Sterzick, Robin Martin, Richard Claypool, Courtney Philllips, Luke Landman.

FEBRUARY 19: Jerrica Foss, Bruce Baird, Betty Newhouse.
FEBRUARY 20: Mike Rivers, Gary Kemp, Barbara Carpenter, Sara Soyka, Madison Emelander, Nate Sloan.

FEBRUARY 21: Betsy Vezino, Ashton VanDerWarf, Kimberly

FEBRUARY 22: Kevin Gerard, Lloyd Powell, Rob Tulecki, Julie Shaffer, Jessie Dale Abel, Krista Foster.

FEBRUARY 23: Joe Ellis, Heather Essich, Sharon Miles.

FEBRUARY 24: Cliff Mulder, Amy Aksamitowski, Tarah Essich, Lizzy Decker.

Reflections of faith

by Pastor Joe Fremer, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Lowell

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God."

Colossians 3:1-3 above is talking to people who have died with Christ. In other words, people who have put their trust in Jesus, have a new life that is not easy to see in this world. That life is hidden, just like the Source of that life is.

Out of sight, out of mind... that's fine for ostriches, but we grown men and women know that just because something is invisible, doesn't mean it is unimportant.

Jesus is invisible to us in the life we're living now, but we affirm that He is not only relevant. He is in charge! The whole point of the last book of the Bible (Revelation) is to reveal Jesus as the "Lamb looking as if it were slain" who lives and holds human history in His nail-pierced hands. He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and a Day is coming when His will be the only kingdom.

If the King is invisible, and the kingdom is invisible, then

there is an invisible aspect to His loyal subjects. Invisible, but again, not irrelevant, not ineffective. Having a King produces certain restrictions on the life we live. It sometimes calls upon us to renounce other claims on our loyalty. It sometimes causes us to do things that aren't popular. It sometimes gets us in trouble with the tinpot kingdoms of this world. It always gives us advantages in our sense of well-being, things that we call "peace" and "joy." These side-effects of the invisible kingdom are visible and real, and Colossians 3 calls us to seek to maximize them, by "setting our minds on them."

Our vision needs continual refocus, off the earthly standards of success, and back on to what our King wants. His Word can make our way plain. May our lives make His will visible.

Award given for civilian service

Brian R. McMahon has received the Office of the Secretary of Defense Medal for exceptional civilian service as F-35 Lightning II (F-35 Stealth fighter to be used by USA and our NATO allies) Program Lethality Integrated Product Team Lead, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, from Jan. 2006 to Nov. 2007.

The citation accompanying the award states, in part, "The distinctive accomplishments of McMahon reflect great credit upon himself, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition,

Technology and Logistics, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense."

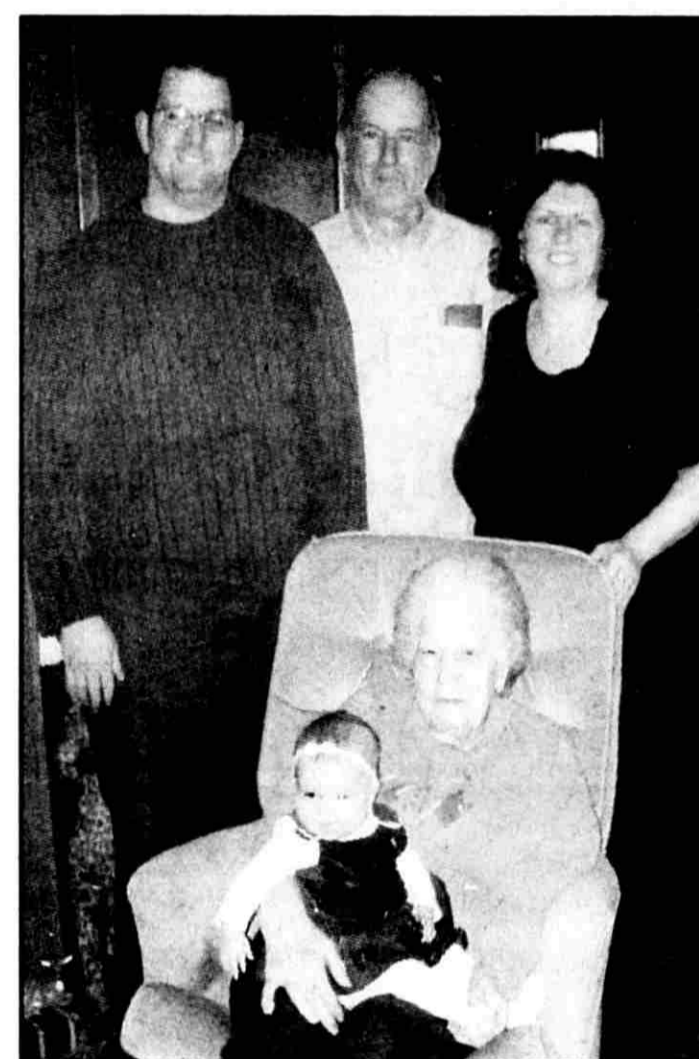
McMahon is the son of Col. Roger McMahon and the late Charlyn McMahon.

His parents were both 1950 graduates of Lowell High School.

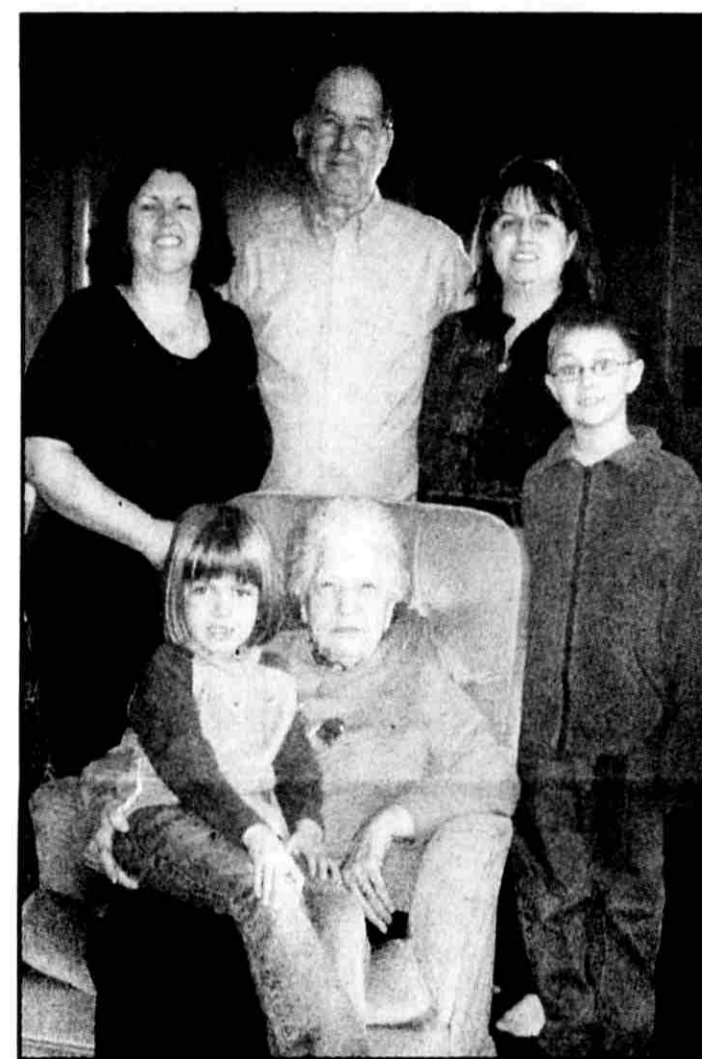


Pictured, left to right: Paul Wiedenhaffer, Brian McMahon and Scot O'Neal.

Celebrating five generations



Florence Videan celebrated her 88th birthday by posing for two five-generation pictures with her family. Pictured at left are Dustin Bruse, Donald R. Videan Sr., Valarie Videan Bruse, and great-grandma Florence holding Katelyn Camara Bruse. Pictured at right are Valarie Videan Bruse, Donald R. Videan Sr., April Bruse Streb, Dallas Streb, Carrie Mae Streb, and great-grandma Florence.



Correction:

The headline in the Ledger (2.11.09) "Fun with math at Alto Elementary" may have been misleading. The Odyssey of the Mind team pictured was from Murray Lake and all Lowell area elementary schools are participating in the program.

The secret of being a bore is to tell everything.

- Voltaire (1694 - 1778)

HEALTH

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



MIGRAINE HEADACHES

A migraine is a type of headache that is severe. Migraines may affect each of us differently. Often, people with migraines have blurred vision or a blind spot before the headache starts. If you have a migraine, you may feel a throbbing pain on one side of your head. Bright light or loud noises may make it worse. Some people have an upset stomach when they have a migraine, and some people may vomit.

Migraines may have different triggers in each separate case. Bright or flickering lights, some foods or smells, and some medicines may cause them. Stress, weather patterns and menstrual cycles may also induce migraines.

There is no cure for migraines but there are medicines that can help. It is important to find the medicine that works best for you.

Preventative medicines can prevent headaches from happening. Those who have migraines frequently may take preventative medicine every day. Even if you take preventative medicine, you still may need to take pain control medicine when you first feel the headache coming on.

Some pills that help migraines are sold without a prescription. These include Aleve, magnesium, Excedrin migraine and Vitamin B2 (riboflavin). Consult with your doctor to make sure these medicines don't interact with any others you are already taking.

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AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M. OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p>DAY BIBLE CHAPEL 9305 Centerline, Saranac 897-6332 Worship.....9:45 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M. Nursery & Jr. Church Provided Rev. Frank Lattimore, Pastor "A Nondenominational Ministry With A Blended Word Centered Service!"</p>	<p>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL Rev. Randy Meyers - 897-7060 • 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p>	
<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 www.lowellumc.com WORSHIP.....8:30 & 10:15 a.m. Rev. Rick Blunt Barrier-free entrance</p>		<p>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God) 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Lead Pastor John King, Youth Pastor SUNDAYS: 10:00 a.m. - Worship & Evening; LIFE Home Groups & "The Source" Youth WEDNESDAYS: Family Night: (for all ages) 7:00 p.m. "The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m. Loving God... Loving People!</p>	<p>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Fr. Eugene Okali 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10:30-30 AM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETER WIGGINS 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 49, EWTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>
<p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....9:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org Rev. David O. Sims & Rev. W. Lee Taylor Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA EXCITE-TEENS: Wed. 8:15 & 6:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free</p>	<p>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Vance Dimmick Jr. 9:45 A.M.Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M.Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery & Children Worship Programs Provided A friend...a family...a mission!</p>	

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE

March Board Meeting to be Held Tuesday, March 10, 2009, 7 PM
Annual Meeting to be Held Prior at 6 PM

The Vergennes Township Board has rescheduled its Regular March 9, 2009 meeting to March 10, 2009, at 7 pm, to accommodate the March Board of Review schedule. Prior to the Board meeting, an Annual Meeting of the Residents will be held at 6pm. There will be opportunity for residents to comment on any issue regarding the state of the township. The 2009-10 budget will also be reviewed.

The meetings will be held at the township hall located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, at the intersection of Bailey and Parnell NE.

Mari C. Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk

WEDDING INVITATIONS



We offer the Carlson Craft line of invitations. Wide variety & wide range in prices. Stop by to check out one of our books
Invitations back in 7-10 days.

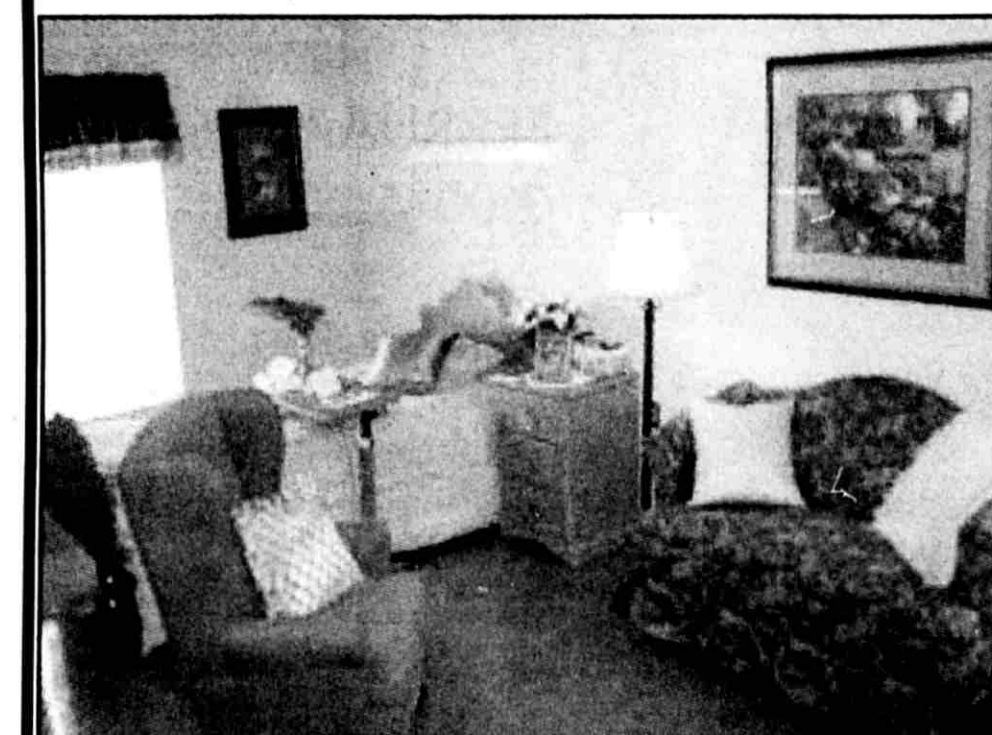
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Artist creates altered art on display at the Franciscan Life Process Center

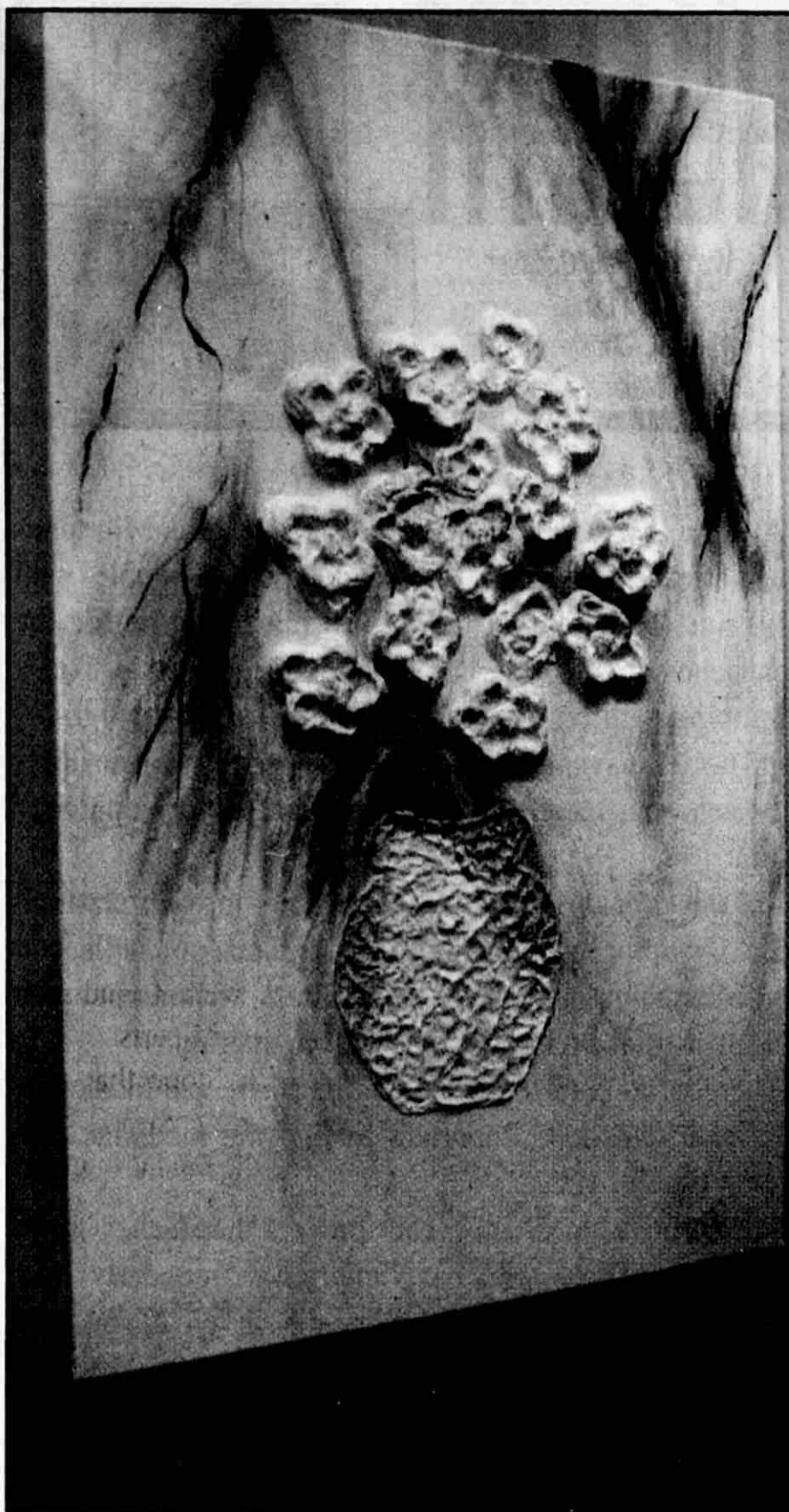
by Emma Palova

For Meredyth Parrish, any work of art she creates is always an adventure. That adventure transforms a vague idea or concept into perhaps her 'My Imaginary Garden' or 'Marble Frieze' acrylic paintings.

She discovered the magic of altered art six years ago with two artists and friends, Mary Foreman and Nelle Wortman. Altered art may start with something old and discarded, and then it is recycled into a new work of art.

"It's very freeing," Parrish said. "Everything I do is an adventure. I have an idea in my head and I express it. It gives me a feeling of accomplishment."

Artist Meredyth Parrish created pieces such as 'Marble Frieze,' and 'My Imaginary Garden.'



Her favorite themes are nature and animals. Parrish used to construct rock gardens, that too inspired her. Nothing is planned out in her artwork, it comes out as the unexpected.

The 'Marble Frieze' is an imitation of a marble carving. The flowers in the painting are imaginary, nothing specific.

Parrish, an investment broker with Century Securities Inc. in Grand Rapids, has a PhD. in industrial psychology. She started painting in grade school when she was allowed to decorate bulletin boards for teachers.

This, according to her artist's statement, earned her the title of "Teacher's Pet."

"The ridicule of my classmates, though, was a small price to pay for having free reign over the art supplies," she wrote.

Parrish even won an art contest in eighth grade with a \$25 prize attached to it.

"That was big money back then," she said.

Her artistic plans include creating more adventures and altered books. Her altered books, jewelry, and cards are also on display in the Giotto Studio display cases at the Franciscan Life Process Center. She has had one previous exhibit at the center that was also very successful.

"The response was positive and heartening," she said.

One sewing display is dedicated to her grandma, who was a seamstress.

"I hope everybody will come and enjoy my work," she said. "They will find something different."

The show runs through April 5 at the Franciscan Life Process Center. The artist's reception is on March 28 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.



It used to be, that anything would fly as long as the house got done and people could move in. Now, when the customers face the biggest investment in their lives, they want to make sure, that investment will last, if not grow, plus they are concerned about energy savings.

"Customers are educated now," said Bek. "They know what they want. They usually want something very efficient."

So, at a time, when efficiency is the name of the game, the Bek husband and wife team, have to stay on the fast track of constant education in a changing market place.

"The main challenge today," said Bek, "is you have to be educated. You have to know all the new equipment, furnaces and whatever is new on the market."

The couple came from the Netherlands in 1977 to Lowell, when Evert got a job offer from Pleune Service in Grand Rapids. They built a house in Lowell, because they wanted to make their roots here. The Beks first started their business from home, and later rented space by Crystal Flash. Then they built a facility on Boves Road.

Today, they work out of their home in cooperation with Advance Builders, and they go all over West Michigan. A lot of the work is geothermal, and wall hung boilers that heat the entire house while providing hot water.

"They have 99 percent efficiency," said Bek.

Catharina Bek does mostly the paperwork and estimates in the family business. Evert travels to do business as far as Canadian Lakes, Spring Lake and Grand Haven.

"You have to travel more to do business," said Bek.

Bek likes talking to the owners, because they soon become friends.

The couple's constant goal is to better serve the customer, because there is always room for improvement.

"When the customer is happy we are happy," she said.

The duo constantly goes to classes to keep up with the latest innovations.

"Education is very important in this business," she said.

And what motivates this hard working team? Well, mostly, it's travel, says Catharina Bek.

"We work hard, we play hard," she said.

The image presented to other business peers is definitely knowledge about different types of equipment available. Everything is interconnected in this business, so geothermal can work well with solar energy.

Whenever the Arctic team approaches a big project, everything is first laid out on paper and estimates are done. Then, comes a meeting with the customer and the builder over the blueprints. It may take a

whole month to complete a project in a large home over 3,000 square feet.

Communication between the clients and the customers is very important to assess the needs, they help out with the

according to Bek. "We know our business," she said.

It is the hope that son-in-law Steven Simon will take over the business in the future.

Riverwalk Festival and with the summer concerts.

Cherry Creek students visit Veterans

The Cherry Creek third grade classes of Carol Mandle and Mary Beth Reed visited the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans on Wednesday, Feb. 11. The visit was the final element of the Service Learning project that both classrooms complete each year. Other elements include corresponding with the Veterans and making lap blankets. Cards made by the students are sent to the Veterans every holiday during the school year. Lap blankets made by the students and parent volunteers were raffled off to the Veterans. The students enjoyed themselves singing patriotic songs, led by Cherry Creek music teacher, Barb Gumina, eating ice cream, and talking to the Veterans.



- CATHARINA BEK

Arctic Heating & Cooling stays on fast track with education and efficiency

by Emma Palova

The biggest change in the heating and cooling business over the years has been the customer, so says the co-owner of Arctic Heating & Cooling Catharina Bek.

Today, they work out of their home in cooperation with Advance Builders, and they go all over West Michigan. A lot of the work is geothermal, and wall hung boilers that heat the entire house while providing hot water.

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Riverwalk Festival and with the summer concerts.

Cherry Creek students visit Veterans

Position: Co-owner of Arctic Heating & Cooling
 Residence: Lowell
 Education: in the Netherlands
 Experience: 26 years in the business
 Family: Husband Evert, daughter Kim
 Hobbies: Reading, gardening, computers and traveling

trying to keep up," she said. "Ledge keeps me posted."

Young comes to visit Lowell usually once a year during summer time, and she loves the summer concerts on the Riverwalk. She likes the historical column in the Ledger, where she can read about her grandparents, Glen and Evelyn Parsons. Grandpa had a farm north of Lowell.

"The Ledger offers a good broad based connection to people," she said. "I'd like to see more positive comments in the Sound Off, because I like Lowell."

Ledge keeps me current on activities; when I get home I can be more efficient. I like the color pictures on the front."

New Mexico subscriber, continued ... From Page 1

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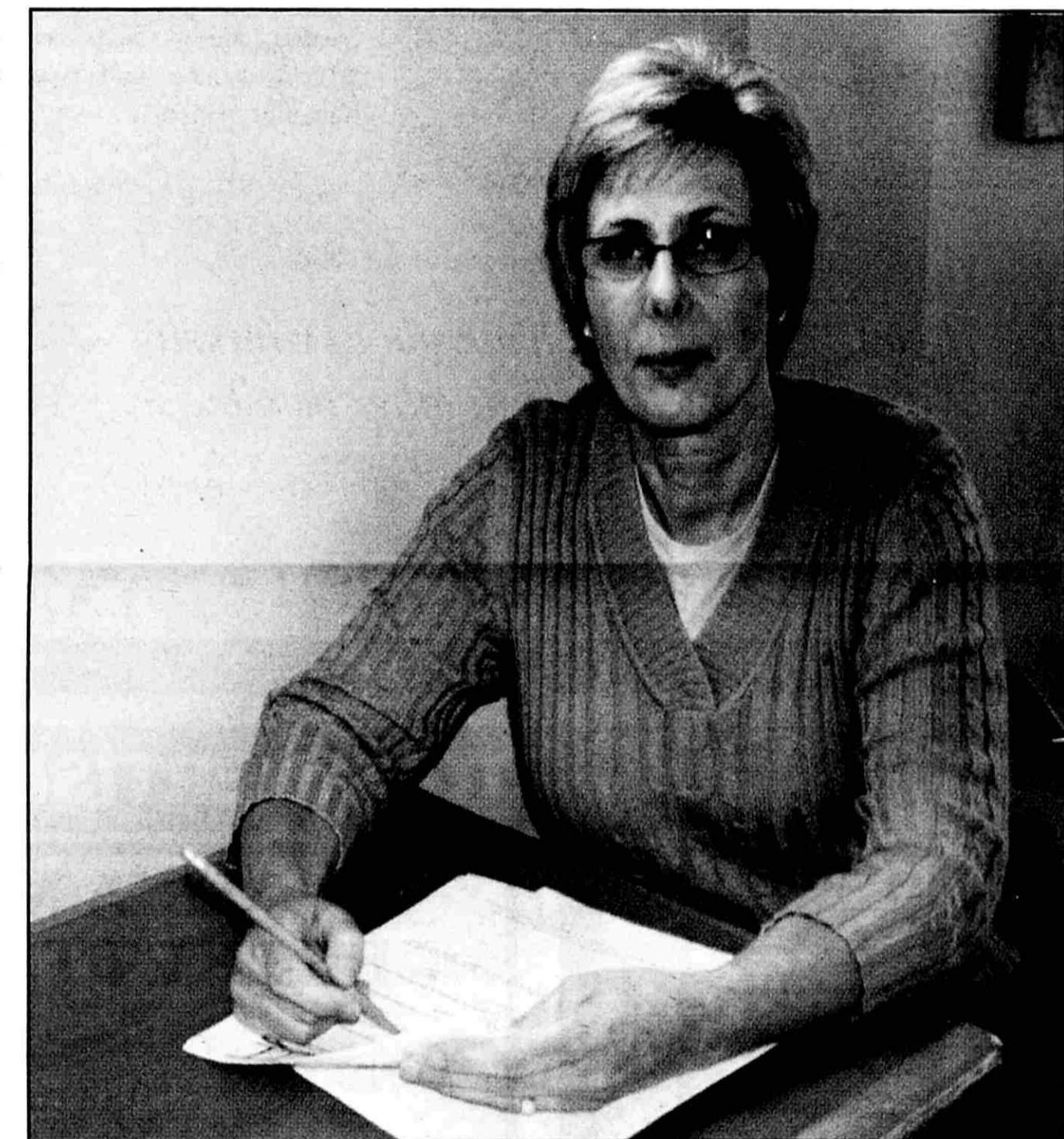
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EXCHANGE STUDENT PROGRAM
 You are invited to open your home to one of 83 exchange students currently requesting a 5-month or 10-month stay in the USA for the 2009-2010 school year. Your cost is to provide room, board guidance. Your payment is years of memories and enlightenment.
 Local residents Jan and Steve Ockaskis became a host family which led to Steve volunteering to be a Field Representative for the program.
 For further information contact Steve at 897-4830.



Catharina Bek likes working with the customer.

 If you do not tell the truth about yourself you cannot tell it about other people.
 - Virginia Woolf (1882 - 1941)

CHOCOLATE Indulgence

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A FEW NOTABLE EVENTS FROM FEBRUARY 12 - FEBRUARY 18 • 2009

- Continental flight 3407 on route to Buffalo, NY crashes into a residential neighborhood killing 49 persons on board and one on the ground. It is still unknown what caused the plane to crash. Victim's families are bussed to the sight to pay their respects.
- Two nuclear submarines from Britain and France collide in the Atlantic ocean at low speed. No injuries, no safety compromised.
- Secretary of State Hillary Clinton travels to Asia.
- Japan's finance minister resigns after he falls asleep on camera. He says it was too much cold medicine.
- Scientists say they have cracked the genetic code for the common cold.
- Pakistan admits attacks in Mumbai, India were partly plotted in Pakistan.
- A United States communications satellite collides with a Russian satellite in outer space.
- The cost of a first-class stamp will go up two cents in May.
- The state of Kansas is withholding tax refunds and may not be able to pay state employees.
- British rail stations ban kissing before boarding and on trains.
- Chrysler and General Motors plan to ask for more money. Three billion and four billion dollars respectively.
- In Connecticut, a woman is attacked by her friend's 14-year-old chimpanzee. The 70-year-old owner is also injured. The chimp, named Travis, was shot to death by police.
- Calvin College in Grand Rapids suspends student for Facebook entry.
- \$87 billion stimulus plan passes and President Obama signs it in Denver. The plan has \$7 billion slated for the state of Michigan.
- Microsoft offers \$250,000 bounty for worm creator.

Red Arrow SPORTS

DeClercq's buzzer-beater lifts Lowell past Knights

by Thad Kraus

Sometimes what a coach draws up in the huddle doesn't work, therefore a backup play must be employed on the fly.

That's where Lowell's girls basketball team found itself in the final seconds of its nonconference confrontation with Kenowa Hills.

"The play was designed to get Krista Foster or Kallie

Holzhueter an open look at the basket," said Lowell coach Dani Gallert.

When that failed, senior point guard Logan DeClercq, with time running out, reverted back to 'chuck and pray.'

"I'm not sure she even saw the basket, but Logan was aware of the time and the need to get a shot off," Gallert explained.

DeClercq, not only got the shot off, she found the bottom of the net lifting Lowell to a dramatic 37-36 win over the Knights.

"It's a pretty good feeling.

That's the first time for me making a shot at the buzzer," DeClercq said. "I was about two feet behind the three-point line on the right side. I chucked it up and said a prayer."

DeClercq was the team's leading scorer with 11 points. Holzhueter netted seven while Hannah Oberlin, Kara Rasch and Katie Tompkins all finished with five points each.

"We did a good job of getting the ball inside tonight. We didn't finish as well as I would like," Gallert explained.

Lowell girls committed just nine turnovers.

Lowell 53
Creston 34

A strong first-half performance distanced the Red Arrows (9-8) from the Polar Bears in an O-K White battle.

"The girls played a really good and aggressive first half," Lowell girls basketball coach Dani Gallert said.

Kallie Holzhueter led all scorers with a game-high 20 points. Logan DeClercq netted nine and Katie Tompkins added seven points.

DeClercq signs with Ferris

by Thad Kraus

Lowell senior varsity soccer player, Logan DeClercq announced this week that she will take her game to the next level as she signed a letter of intent with Ferris State University.

"I am excited that my senior year of high school will not be the end of soccer for me," DeClercq said. "I liked Ferris because of its size; it allows me to continue playing soccer and it is a good optometry school."

DeClercq chose Ferris State over Lewis University (Illinois) and Michigan State University.

In three years of soccer at Lowell High School the senior has played forward

and midfield, although her preference is midfield. "I just like being in the middle."

"My freshman year we won the district. I'd like to see us go beyond that and take a good shot at state," DeClercq explained.

Lowell's soccer coach, Paul Legge calls DeClercq the most well conditioned female athlete he's coached.

"Logan is also an extremely intense and competitive athlete," Legge said. "In four years with the Lowell soccer program, Logan has run the spectrum of maturity."

As one would expect, Legge notes that DeClercq has matured greatly into a real good soccer player.



Logan DeClercq will play soccer in the fall at Ferris State University.

That is where Ferris State has initially penciled in DeClercq.

Her aspirations for this

Basketball teams help out



High school basketball teams delivered 688 non-perishable food items to the Lowell/Forest Hills Central basketball games. The food was donated to the Flat River Outreach Ministries in Lowell. Shown unloading some of the items are, from left to right: Danny Lane, Logan DeClercq and Sarah Fetzer.

Bowling team is rolling toward districts

by Thad Kraus

Lowell's boys and girls bowling teams rolled their way to dual victories against Creston and Grand Rapids Christian.

The boys defeated Creston 28-2 and Grand Rapids Christian 29-1.

Trevor Washburn led the way with a 439 series (216-223) against the Polar Bears.

Tom Alberts Jr. rolled a 418 (213-205) while Ryan Hook had a single game high of 243.

Against the Eagles, Washburn penciled in a 436 (228-208).

Notable single game scores were rolled by Dillon Buck (240), Jeremy Drake (213) and Alberts (205).

The girls upended Creston 29-1 and rolled past Grand

Rapids Christian 26-4 to remain undefeated in league play.

Liberty Clark had the team-high series against the Polar Bears with a 423 (232-191).

Kristin Bouwhuis took top honors against the Eagles with a 391 (175-216).

Single game highs were rolled by Shelby Mitchell (195), and Amber Geldersma (189).

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Red Arrow SPORTS

Lowell wrestlers stung for a second time by Yellow Jackets

by Thad Kraus

After his clubs 31-28 dual meet win over Lowell two weeks ago, Greenville coach Paul Johnson said his club was lucky enough to win.

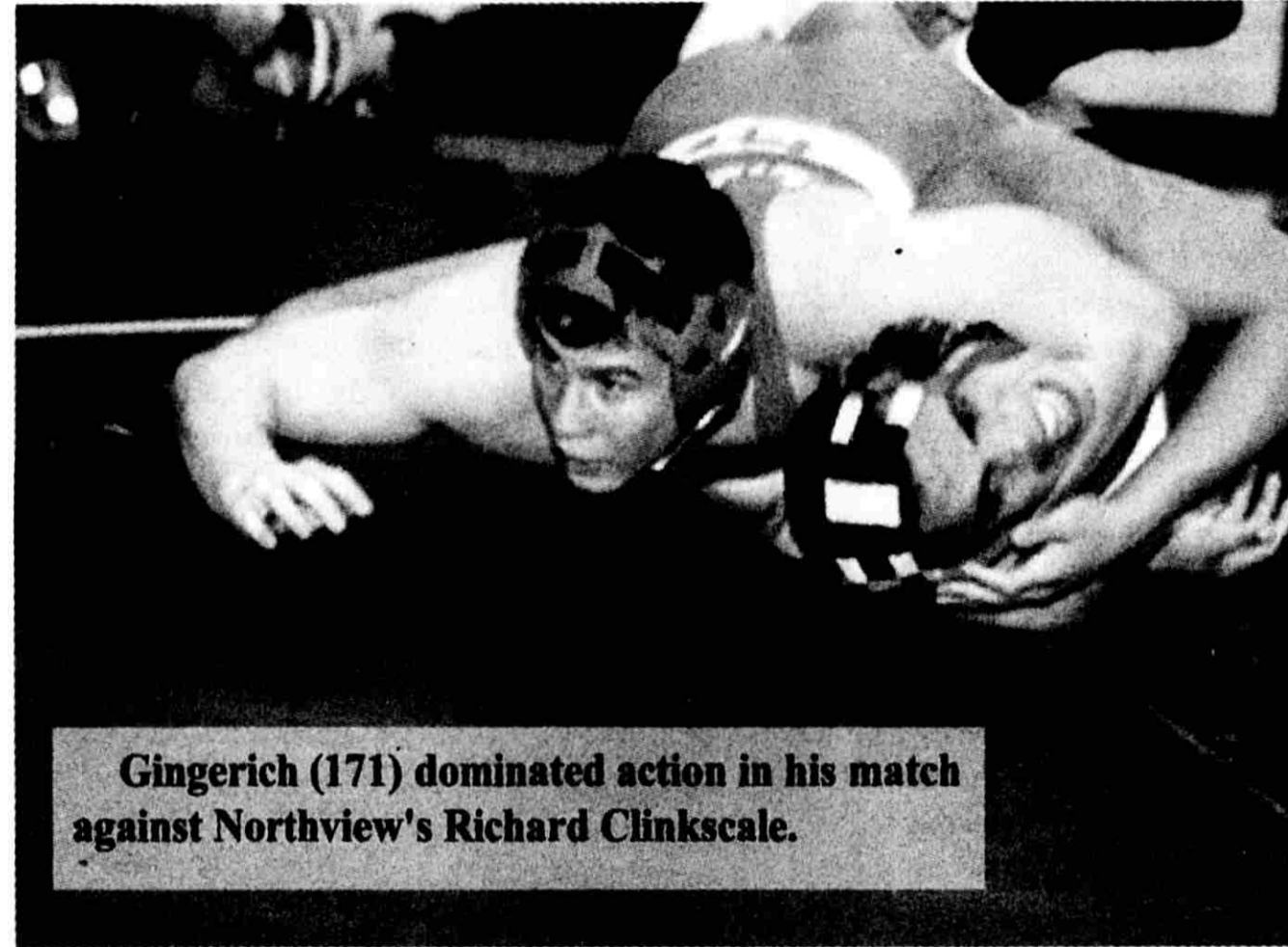
Following his club's 246-242.5 win over Lowell in the O-K White Conference meet Friday night, Johnson was back at it. "I'm surprised by the final score because Lowell had seven conference champions and we had six," Johnson explained. "I feel like we survived."

Both schools had 11 wrestlers reach the championship round. "This was basically another dual with Lowell," Johnson explained.

A third dual awaits the two schools in the regional final on Feb. 25 (Wednesday) with a trip to the state tournament on the line.

If a second close defeat in as many weeks was eating away at Lowell wrestling coach Dave Dean, he wasn't showing it or talking like it.

"Do I feel bad? No! I feel real good. We're getting



Gingerich (171) dominated action in his match against Northview's Richard Clinkscale.

better. Our boys had better position and made better decisions out there tonight," Dean said. "Tonight, the whole lineup took a step forward. This (the conference meet) is not our goal."

Lowell and Greenville met eight times in the championship match. They each won four matches.

Earning conference crowns for Lowell were Gabe Morse (125), Andrew Morse (135), Ryan Dean (140), Jackson Morse (152), Tim Gingerich (171), Ryan Olep (189), and Connor Kruse (285).

Placing second in their perspective weight classes were Dan Fleet (130), Rocky Pabon (145), Gabe

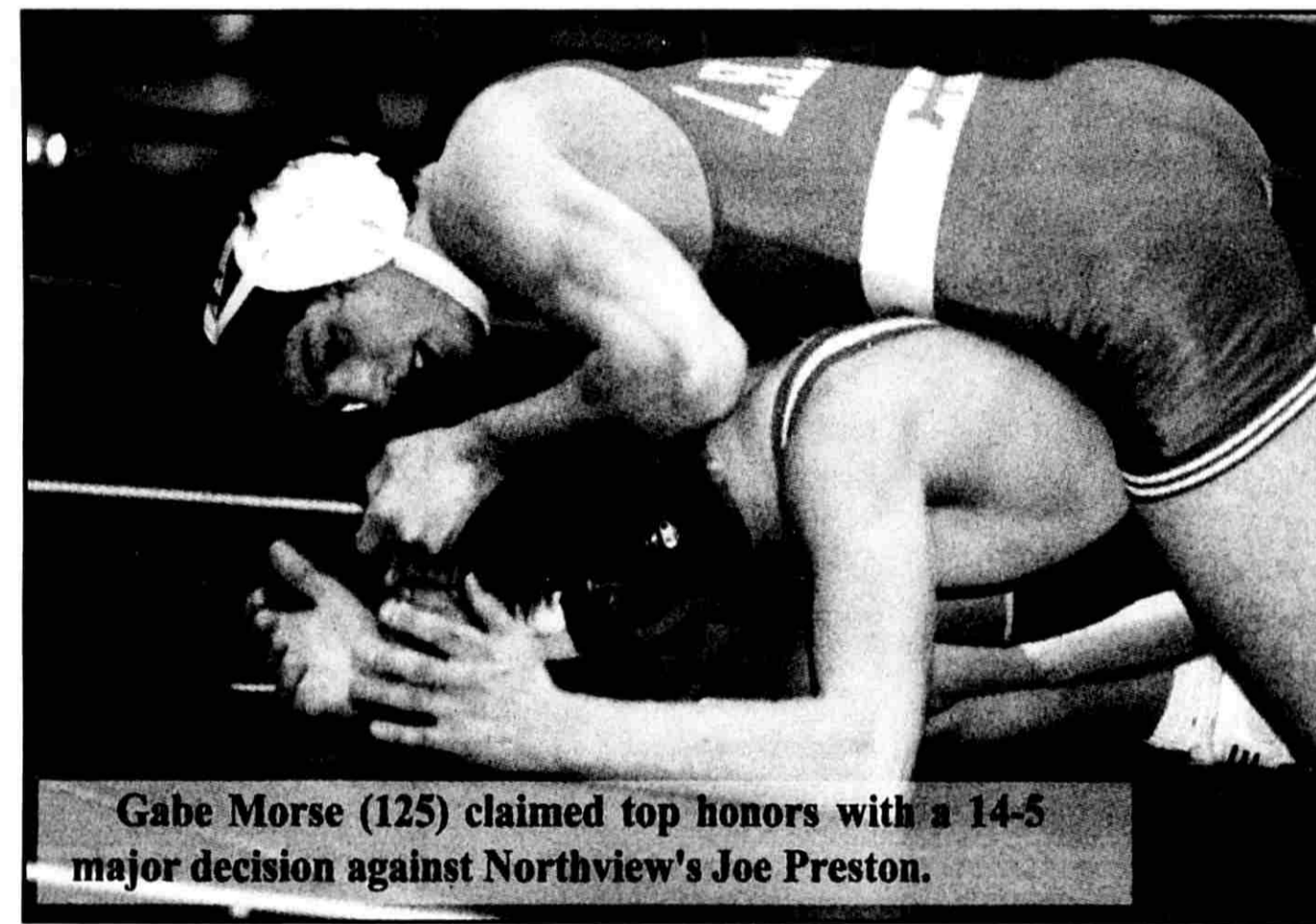
Dean (160), and Tom Fleet (215).

Winning consolation matches for Lowell were Aaron Nowak (103); and Zach Jeffries (112). Tyler Martin wrestling at 119 pounds placed fourth.

The only championship match not decided by a Red Arrow or Yellow Jacket was at 112 pounds. That honor went to Northview's Travis Krauss who dethroned Greenville's Mike Martinez. Greenville's Nick Bogue who edged Lowell's Gabe Morse (125) 6-4 (ot) in the teams' dual meet, turned around on Friday and narrowly defeated Lowell's Dan Fleet 3-2 at 130 pounds.

"He's a great athlete who also has great heart," Johnson said.

Greenville's win signified the second straight outright O-K White championship for the Yellow Jackets in as many years. Greenville shared the title with Lowell in 2007 and 2006.



Gabe Morse (125) claimed top honors with a 14-5 major decision against Northview's Joe Preston.

Lowell Individual Results:

- 103: Nowak p. James Longfield (EGR) 4:26
- 112: Jeffries p. Chris DePiazza (EGR) 3:26
- 119: Ike Tinkovich (EGR) p. Martin 5:58
- 125: G. Morse md Joe Preston (NVW) 14-5
- 130: Nick Bogue (GRV) dec. D. Fleet 3-2
- 135: A. Morse dec. Collin Fuller (GRV) 6-1
- 140: R. Dean dec. Otis Putt (GRV) 10-3
- 145: Jordan Thomas (GRV) dec. Pabon 6-2
- 152: J. Morse md Adam Bonner (GRV) 20-9
- 160: Tyler Fuller (GRV) md G. Dean 15-7
- 171: Gingerich md Richard Clinkscale (NVW) 20-6
- 189: Olep p. Jay Whitley (NVW) 2:54
- 215: Justin Drobish (GRV) dec. T. Fleet 8-1
- 285: Kruse md Ike Hansen (GRV) 10-1

BOWNE TOWNSHIP NOTICE

The public accuracy test of the Optech tabulator will be held on Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in preparation for the Special Election "Fire Millage Renewal" to be held on February 24th.

The office will be open on Saturday, February 21st from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon for absentee voters and again on Monday, February 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sandra L. Kowalczyk
Bowne Township Clerk

2009 BOARD OF REVIEW NOTICE

LOWELL TOWNSHIP
2910 Alden Nash Ave SE
Lowell, MI. 49331

2009 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The Lowell Township Board of Review for 2009 will be held at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE, on the following dates:

Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. - Organizational Meeting

Monday, March 9, 2009 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon & 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

&

Thursday, March 12, 2009 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

To appear at the March Board of Review, call on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 616-897-7600, to Schedule an Appointment.

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2009 assessments.

By Board resolution, residents are able to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 12.

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2009 are as follows:

*Agricultural.....	48.79%.....	1.0248
*Commercial.....	49.95%.....	1.0010
*Residential.....	52.61%.....	0.9503
*Industrial.....	47.06%.....	1.0624
*Personal.....	49.93%.....	1.0000

Americans With Disabilities (ADA) Notice

The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 2 days notice.

Contact: Supervisor Jerry Hale, 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE 616-897-7600

Board of Review Members:
Dave Simmonds, Barbara Tremblay & James Foerch.
Jerry Hale, Township Supervisor, Secretary of Board of Review.

Red Arrow SPORTS

Red Arrows misfire at Greenville

by Thad Kraus

Lowell boys basketball team did not play well enough long enough to earn a victory against Greenville Thursday night.

The result was the Yellow Jackets turned back the Red Arrows 46-39.

"It was fundamentals. The simple things," said Lowell boys' basketball coach Jeff McDonald. "Too many turnovers and too many missed lay-ups and foul shots."

From an offensive standpoint, the game was

difficult to watch in the first half. Neither team was able to find the net with any consistency. Proof was in the half-time score - Greenville 14, Lowell 8.

Both clubs found their mark in the third quarter.

Lowell netted five threes and tallied 19 points, trimming a six-point half-time deficit to five at 32-27.

Twice over the final eight minutes, Lowell trailed by three and was at the foul line, only to miss the front end of a one-and-one.

Adding to the frustration,

the Red Arrows had the ball, down three with a little over a minute to play and failed to get off a shot before turning the ball over.

"We had trouble matching up out of our press in that third quarter," said Greenville coach Mark Haist. "I can't fault the effort. We're playing better and our intensity is better."

Middleville 69

Lowell 52

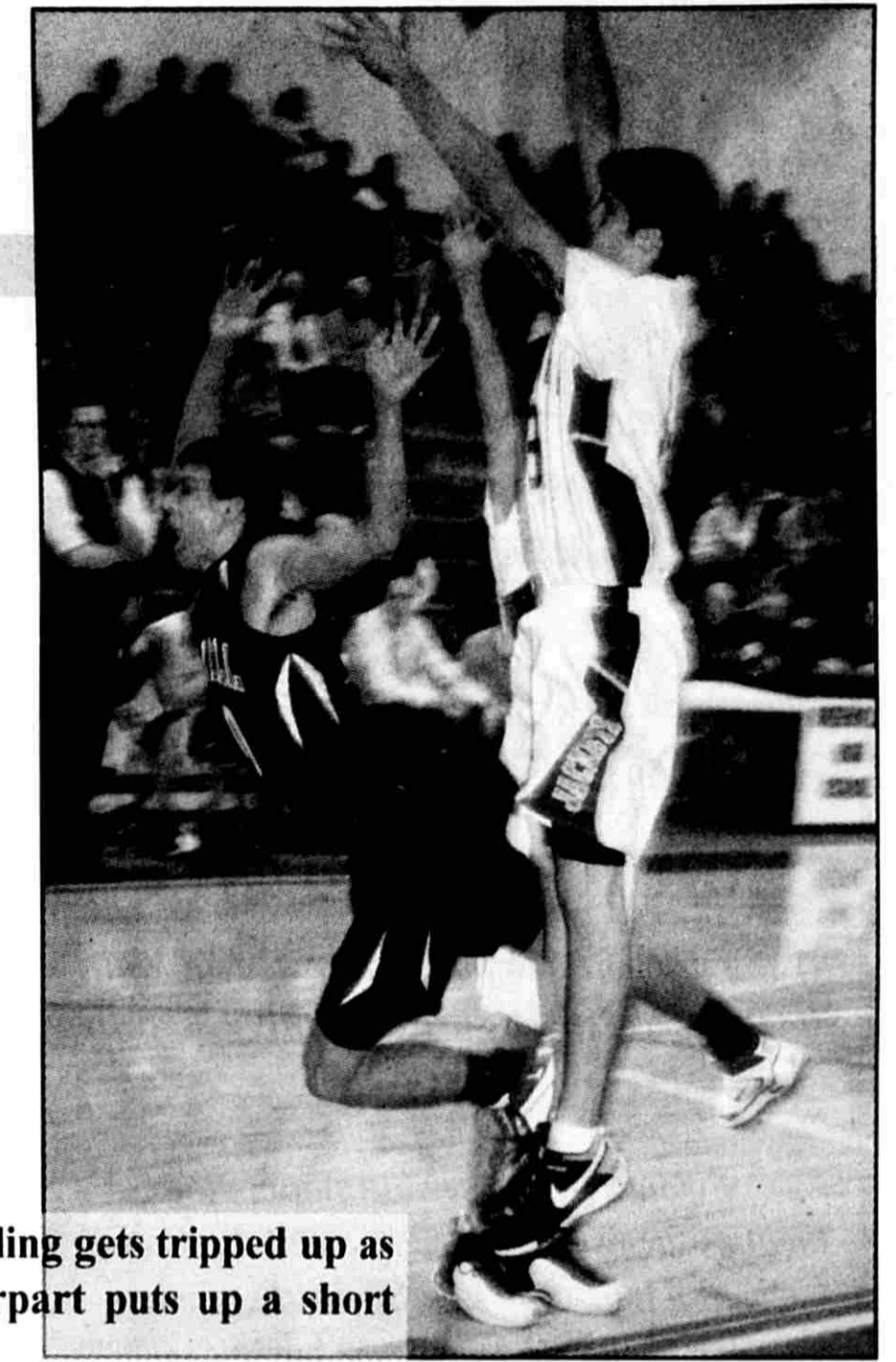
Isaac Tanney scored 20 points, but Middleville's size proved to be too much

in a nonconference defeat. "We played better, but with their size it just got away from us," said Lowell basketball coach Jeff McDonald.

The only other Red Arrow in double figures was Danny Lane who threw in 11.

Tim Hettinga added eight. Coley McKeough and Carter Whitney tallied 13 and 12 points respectively for the winning Trojans.

Lowell's Mitch Malling gets tripped up as his Greenville counterpart puts up a short jump shot.



Final two meets prepare Lowell cheer team for districts

by Thad Kraus

Second round disappointment strengthened the resolve of Lowell's competitive cheer team for round three.

"Our second round score (192.15) was not what the girls wanted but they didn't give up and focused on what lay ahead," said Lowell competitive cheer coach Kari Dawson.

What lay ahead was round three. The Red Arrow girls met the challenge and delivered their third highest score (286.5) of the year with their execution and stunts.

"The girls took ownership of what happened in round two and came out and delivered in round three," Dawson said.

In round two (192.15), the Red Arrows fell short in execution of their back walkovers.

Lowell, however, still finished fourth at the Northview conference meet with a team total 684.5.

Conference Final G.R. Christian

Having slumped a little

with its back walkovers at the Northview conference meet, Lowell's competitive cheer squad was dedicated and focused on righting the ship.

It was also successful as Lowell improved its back walkover score from seven to 8.5.

"That's a big improvement," said Lowell competitive cheer coach Kari Dawson. "Especially with it being done in three days."

The Red Arrows' round one total of 211.9 was two points higher than the team

goal. Lowell's round two score (204.3380) was its highest of the year.

Lowell placed fifth overall with a team total of 695.7380. Grand Rapids Christian won the meet with 772.6608 points followed by Kenowa Hills 763.282; Mona Shores 714.6608; and Reeths-Puffer 701.2056.

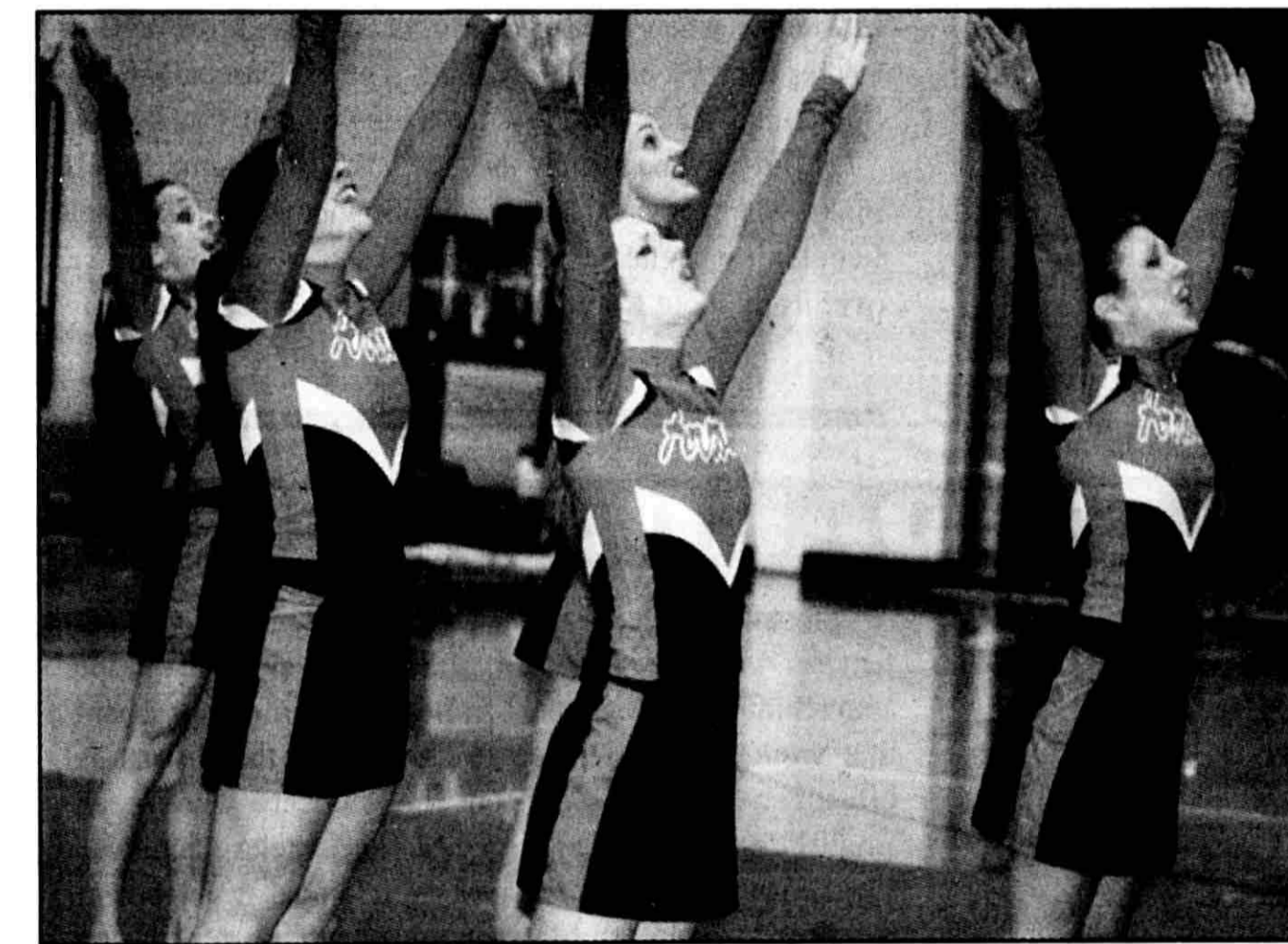
Finishing behind Lowell were Northview 657.2280 and Union 439.2460.

The Red Arrows' third round score of 279.5 was hindered due to an ankle injury to Sarah Baughman.

"The girls goal for Saturday's district at Grand Rapids Christian is to reach the 700-point plateau," Dawson said. "The girls want to go out strong. They can do that by focusing on what they control and how they perform."

Junior Varsity Wins

Lowell's junior varsity competitive cheer team claimed firsts at the Northview conference meet and at the conference final at Grand Rapids Christian on Saturday.



Lowell varsity competitive cheer team placed fourth at the Northview conference meet.



The Red Arrow junior varsity competitive cheer squad earned top honors at both Northview and Grand Rapids Christian.

Lowell gymnasts raising the team score bar

by Thad Kraus

Lowell gymnastics' team has quietly positioned itself as a player in the upcoming conference meet.

The Red Arrows have consistently scored in the low 130-point range over the last two weeks. That will position them as a player in the O-K Rainbow and could allow them to jump-frog over a team or two they lost to in a regular-season dual meet.

"The girls were really competitive with Forest Hills. A score of over 130 will enable us to compete with them at the league meet," Lowell gymnastics coach Skye Fisher said. "There are a lot of competitive teams in our conference. Most of them have 12-plus gymnasts. We've competed this year with 10."

The Red Arrows were hurt early in the year when Sarah

Tarachala went down with a broken arm during her uneven bar routine.

In a 138-130 loss to Kenowa Hills, Lowell recorded some notable scores.

Most notably in its floor routine. Andrea Coffey tallied a mark of 8.775. She threw a back flip with a half-twist for the first time

this year. "Andrea nailed it. It was great," Fisher said.

Kelsey Teft recorded a team-leading 9.2 in her floor exercise which included a full-twisting back flip. She also performed near flawlessly on the balance beam, tallying a 9.2 and no falls.

Richelle Kimble's 8.95 was Lowell's second best score in the floor exercise.

Kimble and Coffey were near mirror images of one another on the balance beam. Kimble recorded an 8.55 while Coffey finished with an 8.5.

Lowell's fourth score on the beam was handed in by Cassie Miles with a 7.125.

Sarah Piell delivered the fourth team score in the floor exercise with a mark of 6.975.

On the uneven bars, Kimble was the leader with a score of 8.425. Teft finished at 8.1, while Coffey and Piell tallied marks of 7.5 and 6.0 respectively.

On the vault Teft and Kimble penciled in an 8.7 while Coffey scored a 7.95 and Piell finished at 7.9.

Sound Off

The Ledger
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OKAY - Someone Has To Say It ...

by Thad Kraus

1. Does anyone believe that Republican senator Judd Gregg did not know three weeks ago that he was a little too conservative to serve as President Obama's commerce secretary?

2. Is anyone surprised that all but three middle of the road Republicans voted no on the stimulus package?

3. Do you think it had to do with conservative values or the fact that if the stimulus package fails, by voting no, they are better situated to gain seats in 2010? After all, these are the same guys who presided over a doubling of the national debt during Bush's eight years.

4. The doctor, who provided medical aid which enabled Nadya Suleman to become pregnant with octuplets, shouldn't he somehow be held accountable? This 33-year old woman who gave birth on Jan. 26, was receiving \$490 in monthly food stamps, and three of her seven children were receiving Social Security payment because they are disabled. This has nothing to do with whether Suleman is a nice person; it does have everything to do with doing what is right and responsible. The single mother, now has 15 children, no job, no income and owes \$50,000 in student loans. Don't feel sorry for her, feel sorry for those kids, the one party who didn't have a say in any of this.

5. Grand Rapids Press columnist David Mayo was suspended last week after being arrested for having more than 20 marijuana plants but less than 200 in his house. His lawyer noted that many of the plants were in their infant stages. They had no buds. Like that somehow lessens the fact that what Mayo was doing is illegal. My guess is the intent was for those plants to grow up and blossom some day.

I will also add I doubt Mayo will ever write again for the Grand Rapids Press. If it is proven his intent was to distribute, he will not avoid jail time and Mr. Mayo has some long, tough days ahead.

6. Within the last six months Sirius Radio bought XM. Upon hearing this and hearing that the shares were below a dollar, I thought this might be a good investment. You know, buy cheap and over time sell high. After some investigation and determining the money I'd need to make it worth my time, I chose to delay any Sirius purchase. I forward you to Sunday when I read that Sirius XM has hired advisers to prepare for a bankruptcy filing. The old baseball adage... Sometimes the best trade is the trade you didn't make!

7. Did anyone watch the NBA All-Star game Sunday night? Me, neither! Oh well, so goes another All Star game. I couldn't have taken 30 seconds of the media lathering all over itself about Kobe and Shaq playing together again.

A Competitive Necessity in a Global Economy.

The event features guest speaker Bill Millett, President of Scope View Strategic Advantage. Mr. Bearup informed the Board that work is taking place to assure that the district is effectively making provisions for students who speak English as a second language and for homeless families. Mr. Bearup noted that the next professional development day is scheduled for March 6 and the focus will be on Power Standards and Unwrapping Power Standards.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Pratt announced that he and Mr. Turner traveled to the Governor's Office to discuss concerns regarding the most recent State Aid bill. He explained that the bill stipulates that in order for the district to receive full funding for students enrolled in Young Fives in the 2009-2010 school year, they must attend full-time. The bill also mandates that Kindergarten would be required to move to all day, everyday over the next three years. Superintendent Pratt announced that community forums have been held and school officials have met with more than 105 parents to discuss this issue. While the district supports individualized education, there is not support for the concept that all students are in need of all day Young Fives and all day, everyday kindergarten programming. Mr. Pratt spoke of the difficult economic environment faced by schools and commented that a \$1.3 million price tag would accompany this mandate. Mr. Pratt stated that a determination regarding young fives programming will be made in early April.

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

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MATTRESS SALE - Factory new mattress/boxspring sets, \$69 each. Twin, full or queen. Mention this ad for free 30 mile delivery. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600

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SALES

4H TACK SALE - Mar. 21, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Saranac High School. New & used, over 30 suppliers. For booth info call 616-868-6042.

PERSONALS

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REWARD - for return of 20-25 1 oz. silver dollar coins, never circulated. Very sentimental. Please call 616-881-9355 with any information. Stolen from my home - could have been given to someone without realizing the value of them. Please, please return safely by calling 881-9355. Thank you!

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EVENTS

PLEASE NOTE - Coming Events are for non-profit organizations. They are ran on a space available basis & are not guaranteed to run. If you would like to make sure your event is placed in the paper, please call our office & place it as a classified ad.

COFFEE WITH THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL - First Saturday each month, 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. at Chamber office, 113 Riverwalk Plaza. Concerns & ideas welcome.

STORYTIME AT THE CLARKSVILLE AREA LIBRARY - Thursdays at 10 a.m.

ALPHA WOMEN'S CENTER - 2251 W. Main. Hours: Mon. 11-5 p.m.; Tues. 6-9 p.m.; Thurs. 10-6 p.m. 987-9533. Diapers, formula, clothing & free pregnancy testing available.

NEW AA GROUP - in Lowell at 119 Lincoln Lake in back of old Masonic Temple, one block off of Main St. behind Fireplaces Plus. Living Sober Group meets Mon., Wed. and Fri. nights at 7:30 p.m.

JOIN A PLAYGROUP - Play for 40 minutes, eat a snack & go to circle for music & movement fun. Lots of free parenting resources available. \$1 per child. Tues., Wed. & Thurs. through the school year. 9:30-10:30 a.m. or 10:45-11:45 a.m. At TOTS Activity Room 104, Lowell Area Schools, 300 High St., Lowell. Call Kathy to register 987-2532.

ALTO PLAYGROUPS - Birth - 5 years. Open play time, a snack & circle time music & story. \$1 per child donation. Thursdays, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. at Alto Elementary School music room. For information call 987-2600.

BIBLE STUDY - 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at Voyages Coffee Shop. www.SimpleChurchLowell.com.

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HELP WANTED

TELEMARKETER - hourly plus commission, apply at 319 E. Main St., Lowell, MI 49331. Mon.-Fri., 9-5 p.m.

SALES POSITION AVAILABLE FOR THE RIGHT PERSON - 50K first year. Strong work ethic needed. Email resume to Scott at scott@awswest.com

EVENTS

NEEDLERS - Second & fourth Monday evenings, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Schneider Manor Community Room.

MENDEED HEARTS - a volunteer non-profit support group affiliated with the American Heart Assoc. is meeting the first Tues. of the month at the Spectrum Health Fred & Lena Meijer Heart Center at 100 Michigan St. NE, Grand Rapids, in room 8815 on the eighth floor at 7 p.m. Mended Hearts offers hope, information and encouragement to heart patients families and caregivers through those who have experienced heart disease. For more information, contact Jim Oldfield at 891-9395.

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BIBLE STUDY - Meets third Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Veterans' building, 3116 Alden Nash. Everyone is welcome. For more info contact Glenn Marks at 897-9110.

LOWELL MUSIC BOOSTERS MEETING DATES - All meetings are on Tuesdays in the Lowell Middle School Band Room & begin at 3 p.m. Feb. 17, March 17, April 21 & May 19.

BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT & INFORMATION - La Leche League of Grand Rapids, open to all women interested and/or currently breastfeeding. Second Thursday of each month. Meeting at Cascade Library, 2870 Jacksmith Ave, SE, Grand Rapids. For more info call 752-8300.

ART GALLERY and CUSTOM FRAMING - Fire and Water Art! 219 W. Main St., Lowell. Open Wednesday thru Sunday. 890-1879.

BUSINESS CARDS - For as little as \$28 for 250. (white card, black ink). Before you order your cards from somewhere else - check our rates! Call Lowell Litho, 897-9261.

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM
In loving memory of our parents:
Emma E. Kropf, June 17, 1909 - February 24, 1988;
Bertha M. Weir, October 24, 1901 - February 20, 1968;
James W. Weir, October 7, 1899 - March 20, 1973;
Carl Kropf
September 13, 1909 - January 18, 1993
Those we love remain with us;
for love itself lives on, and cherished memories never fade,
because a loved one's gone.
Those we love will never be more than a thought apart,
for as long as there is memory, they'll live on in our hearts.
Lovingly, your family

EVENTS SERVICES

LOWELL LITTLE LEAGUE SIGNUPS - Sat., Feb. 7, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Wed., Feb. 18 & 25, 6-8 p.m. & Sat., Feb. 28, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, 113 Riverwalk Plaza. Cost \$75 without fundraiser or \$50 with fundraiser. Signup online also available: www.eteamz.com/LowellLittleLeague

ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS - coming to Lowell! Daytime & evening classes starting up in February. Zumba is a fun Latin-inspired dance/fitness class anyone can do. It's fun, it's different, it's easy, it's effective, it's exercise in disguise! Call or email me for more information about Zumba & for current class schedules. Ditch the routine, join the Party! Cheryl, 897-0697 or pratt123@sbcglobal.net.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY - First Baptist Church of Alto, meets Tues. mornings, 10 - 11:45 Sept. - April. Child-care provided. 868-6403.

BIBLE STUDY - Meets third Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Veterans' building, 3116 Alden Nash. Everyone is welcome. For more info contact Glenn Marks at 897-9110.

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A Better Place ... The Place of Choice

Fountain View of Lowell understands the importance of staff longevity.

We recognize its importance in fostering trust and confidence in knowing your loved one is receiving care from dedicated, experienced people. The committed staff at Fountain View of Lowell is ready to partner with you when assisted living or specialized memory care needs arise.

At Fountain View of Lowell you'll find us focusing on the whole person, from nutrition to spiritual well-being. Each resident has a care plan designed specifically for their needs to preserve dignity and encourage independence while enjoying around-the-clock companionship and care in a strong family Christian atmosphere.



7 Years



11 Years



11 Years



11 Years



12 Years



30 Years



10 Years



Peace of mind is the most important for my sister and me. Mom is 95 years young and has been residing at Fountain View of Lowell for 2 years. Mom loves attention and the staff really does care for her as well as all the residents. Knowing her physical, mental and spiritual needs are met we have that peace of mind. Thank you Fountain View.

- Shirley Baxter and Janice Sauber



Lowell and everyone are part of one big family. Thank God we have Fountain View of Lowell."

"When we walked into Fountain View of Lowell we just felt that this was the best place for my mom. Everyone is very special. At Fountain View they not only take care of your loved one Fountain View also give families so much support. We feel like Fountain View of Lowell and everyone are part of one big family. Thank God we have Fountain View of Lowell."

- Kay Barnes



A couple of months after Mom's surgery, she was ready for more independence, but not quite ready to do everything on her own. I'm so glad she thought of Fountain View. I had no clue we had such a wonderful resource here in Lowell! The facility is beautiful, the staff is outstanding, and the other residents are delightful. Fountain View has been the perfect solution for us. Mom has the independence she enjoys and we have peace of mind!

- Carla Stone

Call for your personalized tour and discover the Fountain View difference ... (616) 897-8413

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