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Wednesday, February 16, 1994

Local bands reunite at beach bash to help Blanding blot out medical expenses

David Blanding benefit Saturday at Larkin's "The Other Place"



By Thad Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Bands with local ties will reunite Saturday for a beach bash party at Larkin's "The Other Place" to benefit David Blanding.

Members from Hit & Run (formerly Moonlighting), Headhunters and other guests will break out the music for friend and former Lowellian, David Blanding.

Blanding, with the assistance from his brother, Mark, underwent a bone marrow transplant on Oct. 8. Mark was found to match on five of six antigens. Over one liter of marrow was removed from Mark's hip bones and injected into David's blood stream.

An imperfect match leads to Graft-Host disease. Blanding

Benefit, cont'd. pg. 8

Much discussed technology plan approved; staff, computers and voice and video play a large role in committee's recommendation

By Thad Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Jim White, director of curriculum and instruction, vowed that a lesson was learned from history and that the Lowell Schools would not repeat the same mistake.

White was referring to the district's purchase of Apple II E computers through the use of federal grant money. "We did so, but without the proper staff training so that the computers could be used most effectively," White said.

With that history lesson tucked away, the technology committee's three-point recommendation included proper staffing commitments in place prior to the implementation and installation - specifically of computer labs at the elementary and middle school levels.

"We have heard from our community and staff that

training is paramount if computers and other technology are to be used successfully," White said.

The recommendation also requires that voice, video and data infrastructure be implemented and at least \$473,000 be maintained for computers.

"The technology committee still feels that voice and video portions of the plan are vitally important, and that the infrastructure should be installed as soon as possible, via awarding bids," White said.

The third recommendation from the technology committee asked that the board endorse, in concept, its support for additional monies (beyond \$473,000) for the purchase of computer hardware and software from contingency dollars which may become available at the end of the school project.

White said it would be the board's intent to purchase computers throughout the next academic year to meet the technology plan's recommendations.

In addition to the recommendations, at a minimum the committee recommended the hiring of a staff that would include a K-12 technology coordinator/technician, one elementary computer teacher/staff trainer, and one middle school computer teacher/staff trainer.

White said the committee couldn't recommend a specific number of additional computers or a dollar amount to be set aside at this time. He did say though that the contingency funds remain in good shape.

"We will look to fill top priorities such as computers, other technologies, tables and chairs with some of that

money, auditorium equipment, and energy and maintenance equipment" White said. We will also be looking to change and upgrade a few things."

During the recent cold snap, a coil broke in the heating equipment. While the below normal temperatures are not an annual thing, White said changes can be made so that if such temperatures occur again in 10-15 years, the damage will be minimal, if any.

In another motion the school board approved the issuing of contracts to Industrial Communication (\$496,740); Ascom (\$16,516); AT&T (\$112,936); Fretter, Inc. (\$80,669); and Clover Communications, Inc. (\$82,406).

The amount of the bids that were awarded did not exceed \$789,267.

17 years later, young and old still compelled to the theatric camaraderie of the LAAC play

By Thad Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

"Oh, listen to them chickens. That's much, much better than last night," interrupts Dode Dey in the midst of an interview.

"Yes," concurs producer Jim Blodgett. "That's just about right on the volume."

The 30-plus member cast plus its production crew are within single digits of opening night for a Thornton Wilder classic.

"Our Town" will mark the 17th winter play performed at the Lowell Middle School cafeteria by the Lowell Area Arts Council.

This year's script is being directed by Jim Marron and Jim Ball. It's being produced by Jim Blodgett and Louise Weeks.

For 17 years the LAAC has given area residents a reason to venture out of the warmth of their February home.

"The weather outside in



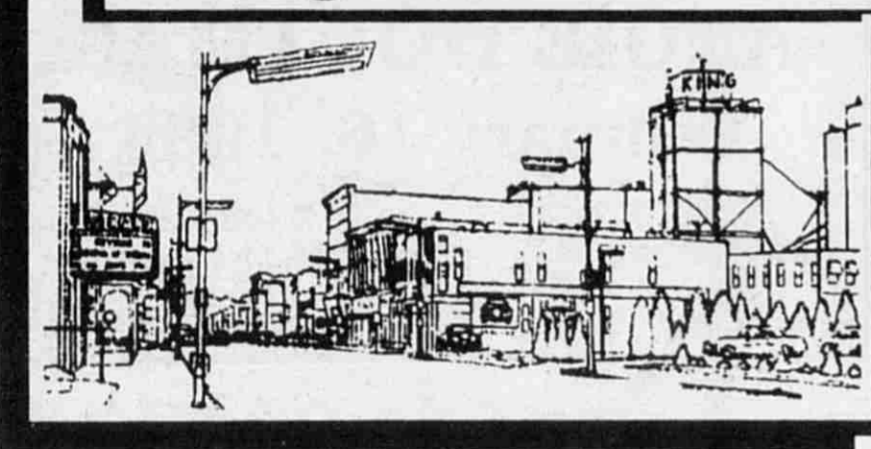
LAAC'S play "Our Town" begins this Thursday.

February is miserable and people want something they can smile and laugh about," says George Dey, who has been around for all 17 plays but has played a part in approximately 15 of them.

The play draws from all

Play, cont'd. pg. 8

Along Main Street



ATTENTION PARENTS OF CHOIR AND BAND MUSIC STUDENTS

Please attend an important music booster's meeting on Monday, Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. in the Lowell High School band room.

"OUR TOWN" PRESENTED BY ARTS COUNCIL

Tickets are now on sale at the Lowell Area Arts Council for its annual community play which will be held Feb. 17, 18, 19, 25 and 26. Come see your friends and neighbors in Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize winning "Our Town" which illustrates relationships and cycles of life in a small town at the turn of the century.

Ticket prices are \$4 for the February 17 performance with open seating and \$2.50 for senior citizens and students. The other evenings feature cabaret (reserved) seating at \$6. Ask about prepaid group discounts (20 or more). All performances

Main St., cont'd., pg. 8

INSIDE THE LEDGER
KISD names Mulder to
School Board, pg. 7

Red Arrow girls surprise
Rangers, pg. 12

Plumb's

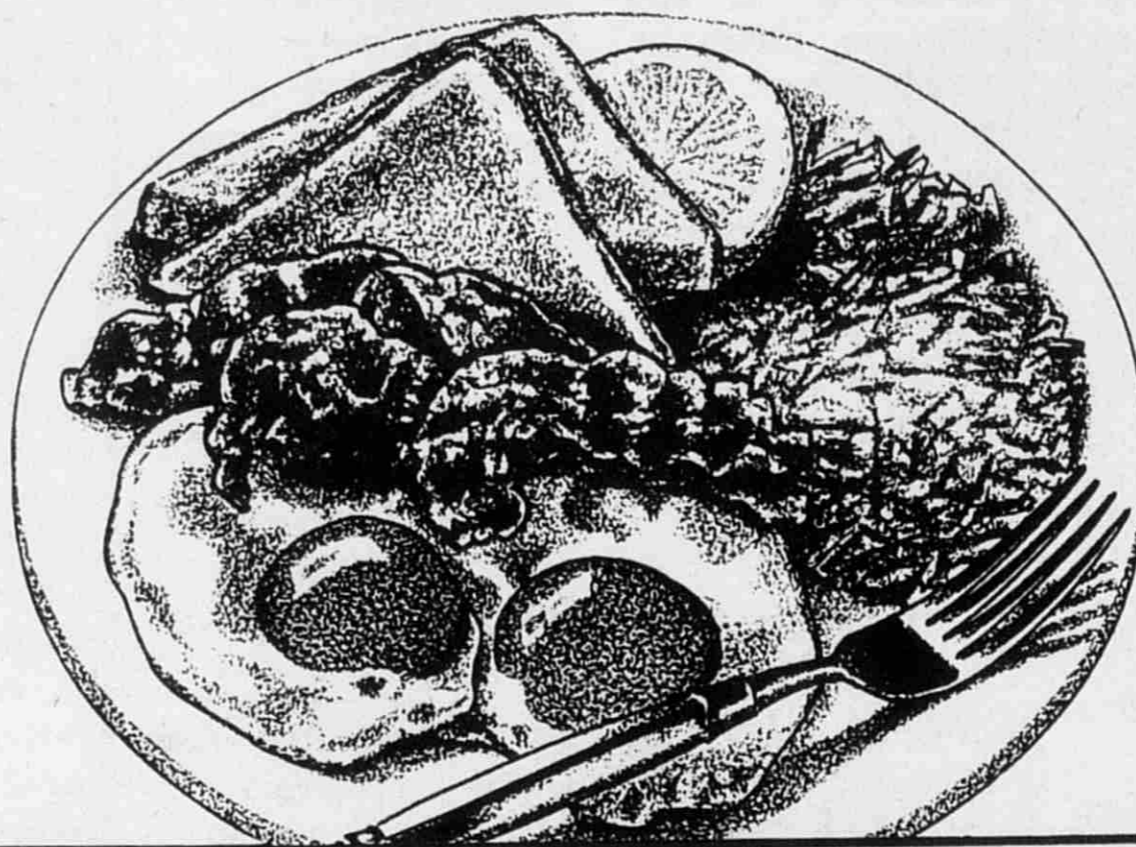
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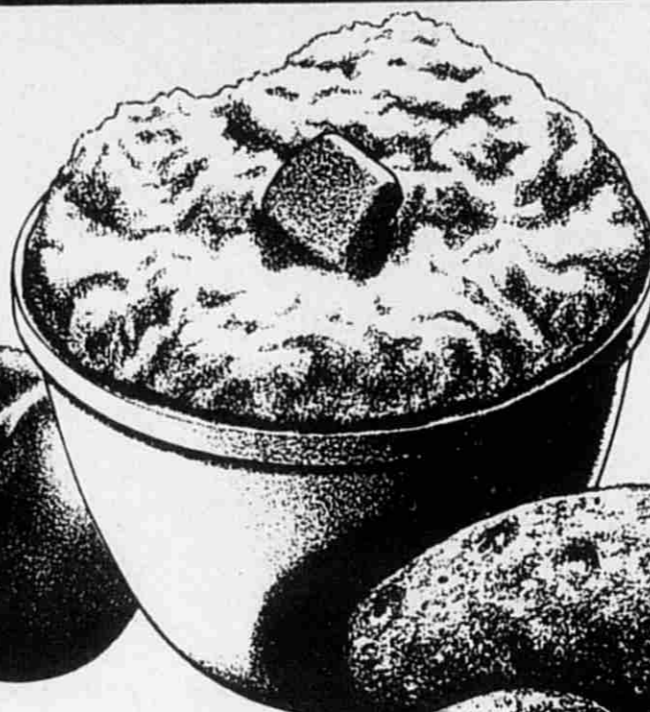
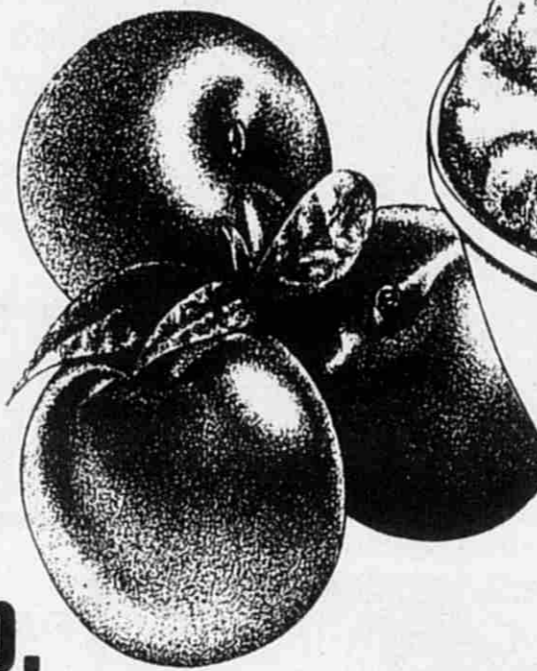
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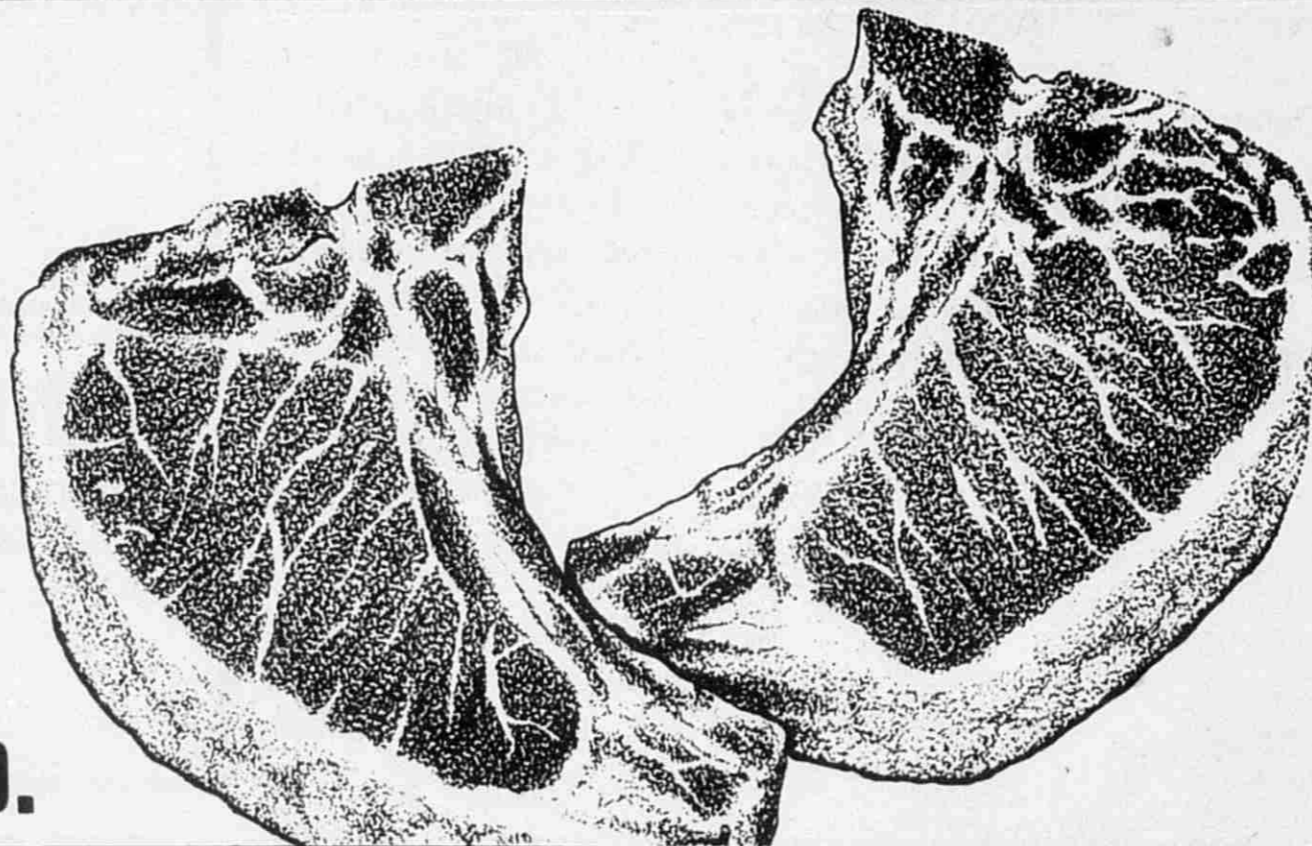
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