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The Lowell Ledger

Volume 23, Issue 8

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, December 23, 1998



Lowell Middle School (6th-8th-grade) students collected non-perishable food items for the area needy prior to going on Christmas break. In two weeks the students collected over 3,000 items. The food items were donated to the Flat River Outreach Ministries/Access 6 food pantry. The contact periods competed against one another for juice and donuts. Kelly Moody's class won, bringing in 490 items of food. Jim Hubbard's class was second with 320 items.

Trash bag increase a result of increase in landfill cost

By J.N. Boorsma
Contributing Writer

Due to an unanticipated increase in landfill cost, residents will see a 10-cent increase in the price of garbage bags.

The Lowell City Council approved, by a 3 to 2 vote, the increase at its Monday night meeting. The increase came at the recommendation of city manager, David Pasquale, who met with representatives from Denny's Disposal, the company which provides garbage service to the city. The increase cost will be passed on to those who purchase the red garbage bags.

"I do feel that the time to negotiate prices is the time when you are negotiating the contract," said councilor Charles Myers who along with councilor Michael Blough voted against the increase.

"An inability to plan should not be born by the taxpayers," Blough said.

Mayor Bill Thompson noted that the contract does allow for Denny's Disposal to ask for a rate increase during a contract period.

"I have compared the cost to other cities and we are very reasonable to the taxpayer," said councilor Jeanne Shores. "An additional 10 cents a bag should not be that much of a problem."

Since 1994, Denny's Disposal has charged 50 cents per trash bag with the city providing 30 cents for each bag.

In November, Denny's Disposal was notified by Pitsch Landfill that there would be a 25-percent increase in the disposal company's cost to use

Trash Bags, cont'd. pg. 8

City looks to volunteers for Richards Park ice rink

By J.N. Boorsma
Contributing Writer

The city of Lowell could have an ice rink this year—provided that enough volunteers come out to help build it.

At its Monday night meeting the Lowell City Council gave approval to use Richards Park as the site for the ice rink, proposed by resident Bruce Walter, and to contribute \$1,500 for tools, supplies, and port-a-johns for the site. This is all contingent on Walter and his group supporting a rink in the city being able to get enough volunteers to help build, maintain and police the rink.

"If there is so much interest in the rink, then it shouldn't be that hard to find volunteers," said Mayor Bill Thompson, and the council agreed.

The idea for volunteers came out of the fact the Department of Public Works does not have enough full-time staff to help with the rink. City manager David Pasquale said all of the drivers have had some reluctance to working on the rink, coupled with the fact that during the winter most of them work 10-12 hour days plowing.

Dan Desjarden, DPW director, said it has been a chore for the department to maintain a rink. The department tried for seven years with warm weather being the main downfall of the rink.

Ice Rink, cont'd. pg. 8

Wittenbach to appoint Ken Ewing deputy supervisor

••• The Vergennes Township supervisor was asked by the board to first define what Ewing's role will be on a daily basis.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

The clerk and treasurer of Vergennes Township have a deputy and soon, so will its supervisor.

Tim Wittenbach, Vergennes Township supervisor, announced Monday night that he will appoint Ken Ewing as his deputy township supervisor.

"Ken is detail-oriented, meticulous and will add to my effectiveness as supervisor," Wittenbach explained.

While Ewing will have no voting rights, Wittenbach said Ewing will have the rights of a supervisor in his absence...which appeared to be the only stumbling block with the township board.

"I am uncomfortable with a deputy that is not elected, making decisions," township board member Mark Weber said. "This is something that can be worked out."

The five-member township board agreed that deputy job descriptions need to be written out and defined.

Planning commissioner Bob Pfaller recommended that Ewing be bonded. "We're all human and make mistakes. Having the deputy supervisor bonded protects township finances."

Township resident Kerry Tap questioned Wittenbach on the number of hours he spends in the office.

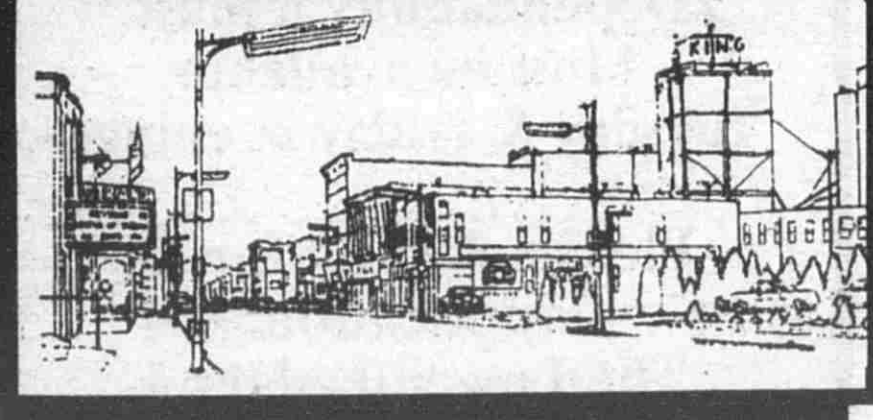
The township superintendent explained that by law he is required to spend four hours a week. Currently Wittenbach is in the office on Monday and Friday afternoons. "Although I have a pager and two cell phones. I am available if people need to get a hold of me."

Tap said he is against having decisions or opinions on township matters given by those not elected.

Craig Kulross countered that a deputy supervisor could enhance communication and ensure that important information get to

Deputy Supervisor, cont'd. pg. 8

Along Main Street



LAAC IS SEARCHING FOR A PRODUCER

Lowell Area Arts Council is searching for a producer or co-producers! The play *Blihe Spirit*, a ghostly farce, calls for a

cast of seven...five women and two men. Rehearsals are on their way soon. For further information call director Jim Marron at 897-7880 or the Arts Center at 897-8545.

LOWELL HOCKEY ALUMNI

The Lowell hockey program will host an alumni game at Michigan National Ice Center on Sunday, Dec. 27 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. If you are a former Lowell hockey player and are interested in playing, please contact Paul Whaley, 897-0103, or Jim Blair, 897-6436. Bring your skates. There will be a community open skate following the game. Admission is free.

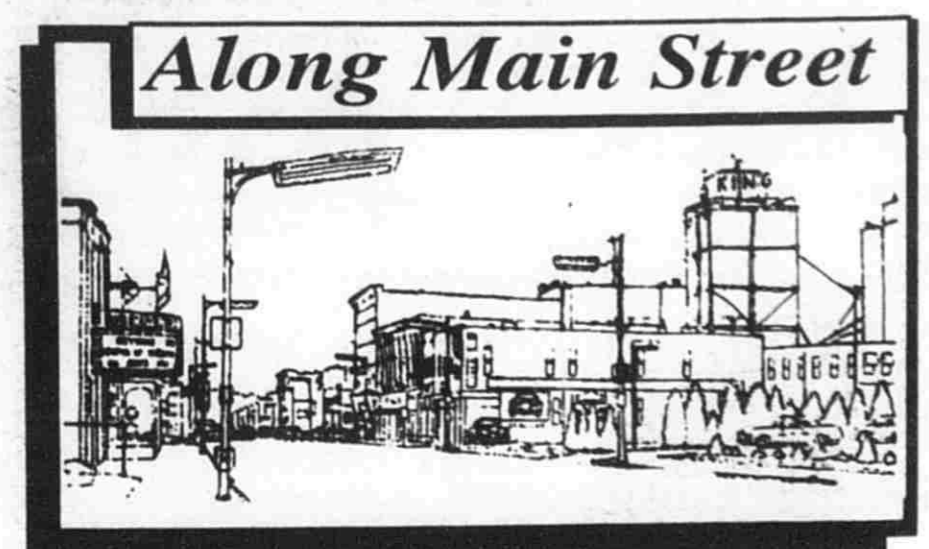
FINANCIAL AID MEETING

On Wednesday, Jan. 6 at 7 p.m., Jill Nutt, director of financial aid at GRCC, will speak at the Lowell Performing Arts Center to students and parents about the process of

Main Street, cont'd. pg.8

Inside the Ledger

Year-In-Review, Pages 13-32



Municipalities would join together under a recreational authority alliance

By Amy Briggs
Contributing Writer

What's a Recreation Authority, and what's it got to do with me?

The communities of Lowell Charter Township, the city of Lowell, and Vergennes Township are considering an alliance called a Recreation Authority. A Recreation Authority occurs when communities join together, cooperating to maintain and operate recreational facilities. This is in compliance with State of Michigan Act 156 which was developed in 1917.

At the Lowell Charter Township regular board meeting Dec. 21, board member Alyn Fletcher explained that the Recreation Authority was still in its "early formation stage" and, while the contract that has been drawn up is in its second draft, it is not yet ready for approval.

The three communities are considering the erection of a large recreational facility including soccer fields, baseball

diamonds, a community center, and a pool. The Recreation Authority would oversee these facilities, and operating and maintenance costs would be shared by districts in the Authority.

"The cost of a project like this one is monumental. It's not something one community can afford alone. But, joining together, we could see it happen," said Fletcher.

Fletcher indicated that without community approval, this project and the Recreation Authority may never get off the ground. Ways to voice opinions are available - it will be addressed at the City Manager's Roundtable Meeting Jan. 14, and surveys will be mailed to all voters in late January or early February, Fletcher said.

"Till we get the public knowledgeable about this, no decisions will be made," confirmed John Timpson, Lowell Township supervisor.

Lowell Charter Township purchases bookkeeping program

By Amy Briggs
Contributing Writer

Is a computer program geared toward organizing your banking worth \$2,000?

Lowell Charter Township answered "yes" to that question at their regular board meeting Dec. 21.

The board approved the FundBalance bookkeeping computer program for use in the Lowell Township treasury department once funds become available to purchase it.

Lowell Township treasurer and board member Jean Huver notified the board that the treasury's current computer bookkeeping system was slow, inaccurate and ineffective.

"Recently our department spent 10 days trying to work out an error in our system. With FundBalance, it could have taken 10 minutes," Huver said.

FundBalance's Reconcile system handles deposits of funds, checking, and incoming receipts, among other things, Huver explained.

"Considering the amount of time we spend remedying problems with our current system, this program would be an investment," said Huver.

FundBalance, a program out of Ann Arbor, MI, comes with training and a 24-hour phone helpline. The board hopes to purchase the program for the treasury before March 31, 1999, if possible.

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EIGHTH GRADE DRAMA PLAY

The Lowell Middle School eighth-grade drama class will present the play *Family Album* on Thursday, Jan. 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the LMS cafeteria at 750 Foreman Rd. Admission is free.

CLASS OF 1989 REUNION

A planning meeting for the Lowell High School class of 1989 reunion will be held Sunday, Jan. 17 at 6 p.m. at Barb Roth's house. For info. or address changes, call Debra Duiven at 897-6348 or Barb Roth at 897-6954.

Trash Bags, cont'd... From Page 1

the landfill. According to a report from Denny's Disposal representatives, after consideration, the company decided to ask for a 10-cent increase to help cover that cost.

With approval from the council, Denny's Disposal's amended contract would include a price of 60 cents per bag or \$6 per bundle. The new price goes into effect Jan. 1, the same day the landfill rate increase goes into effect.

The recycling and composting program will not be affected by the increase.

Ice Rink, cont'd... From Page 1

At the recommendation of councilor Don Green, the council decided that it was necessary to see that a good volunteer support-base be established for the rink to be a success.

"By having volunteers, I believe it makes people more aware and to take ownership in the project," Thompson said.

Also, Lowell Police Chief Jim Valentine said it helps to patrol the area and make it a safe place for everyone.

Deputy Supervisor, cont'd... From Page 1

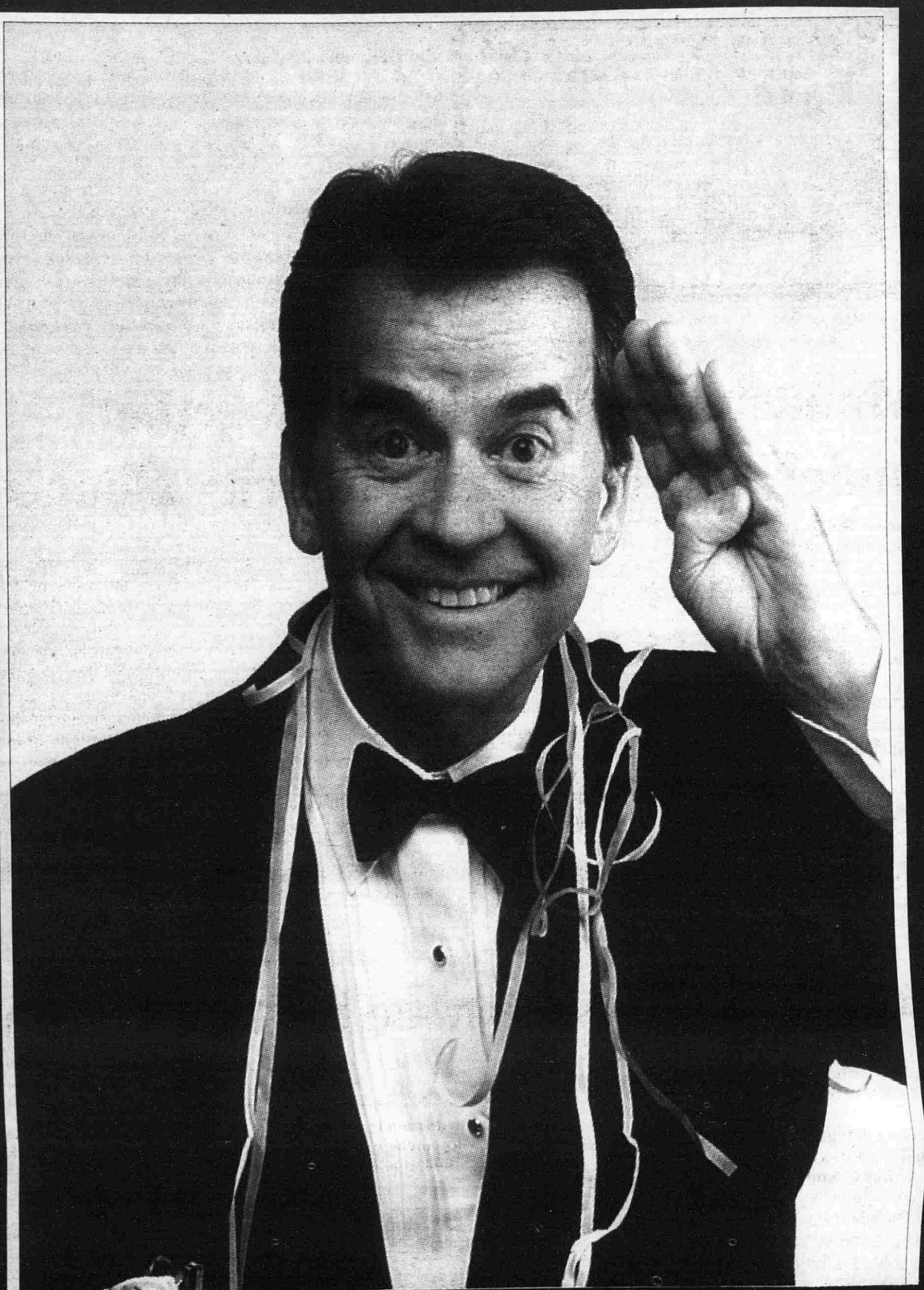
Wittenbach immediately when the supervisor is not in the office.

Ewing, in a letter to the township board, revealed he will not accept compensation for carrying out the duties of deputy supervisor. The Township resident declined to talk to the Ledger about any appointment until it is official.

The Ledger TV LISTING MAGAZINE

CHANNEL	SYMBOL
2	LOCAL
3	WWMT-3
4	WOTV-41
5	FX
6	WGVU-35
7	WXMI-17
8	WOOD-8
9	WLNS-6
10	WILX-10
11	WTLJ-54
12	WKAR-23
13	WZZM-13
14	DISNEY
15	WSYM-47
16	HBO**
17	WTBS
18	C-MAX**
19	FAM
21	MTV
22	VH-1
23	USA
24	DISCOVERY
25	WGN
26	ESPN
27	CNN
28	HN
29	NICK
30	A&E
31	FOX SPORTS
32	TNT
33	C-SPAN
34	EWTN
35	TNN
36	TRAVEL
37	LEARNING
38	SCI-FI
39	COMEDY CENTRAL
40	WEATHER
41	HISTORY
42	AMC
43	WZPX-43
44	HOME & GARDEN
45	LIFETIME
46	TOON DISNEY
47	MSNBC

* Denotes channels not appearing in the grids
** Denotes Premium Channels



FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 25 THRU DECEMBER 31

"The world's oldest teen-ager" returns to New York's Times Square to host his 27th consecutive New Year's Eve celebration. *Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve '99* airs Thursday on ABC. The Backstreet Boys, Bare-naked Ladies, Monica and Chicago are among the musical acts scheduled to perform during the festivities.

New In The Community? Not Been To Church In Awhile? Need To Reconnect With Others In Faith? Now's the time to visit EMMAUS CHURCH!

December 24th
Christmas Eve 4:30
Candlelight Caroling Service

December 27th
1st Sunday after Christmas
9:30 Service

Advent Christmas
Emmaus
Lutheran Church

Meeting at Kettle Lake School
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DAYTIME MORNING BROADCAST STATIONS 5:00 5:30 6:00 6:30 7:00 7:30 8:00 8:30 9:00 9:30 10:00 10:30 11:00 11:30

DAYTIME AFTERNOON BROADCAST STATIONS 12:00 12:30 1:00 1:30 2:00 2:30 3:00 3:30 4:00 4:30 5:00 5:30 6:00 6:30

FRIDAY EVENING DECEMBER 25, 1998 BROADCAST STATIONS 7:00 7:30 8:00 8:30 9:00 9:30 10:00 10:30 11:00 11:30

FRIDAY LATE NIGHT DECEMBER 25, 1998 BROADCAST STATIONS 12:00 12:30 1:00 1:30 2:00 2:30 3:00 3:30 4:00 4:30

SATURDAY MORNING DECEMBER 26, 1998 BROADCAST STATIONS 5:00 5:30 6:00 6:30 7:00 7:30 8:00 8:30 9:00 9:30 10:00 10:30 11:00 11:30

SATURDAY AFTERNOON DECEMBER 26, 1998 BROADCAST STATIONS 12:00 12:30 1:00 1:30 2:00 2:30 3:00 3:30 4:00 4:30 5:00 5:30 6:00 6:30

The year that was... 1998 continued a trend of growth for the Lowell community. The second phase of the Downtown Development Association project is completed and whispers are heard of pursuing even more projects.

A grant program (through the Lowell Area Community Fund) is initiated by the Downtown Historical District to repair and restore buildings within the district.

The first round of grants from the Harold Englehardt Lowell Area Community Fund are awarded.

It was also a year where familiar faces vacated familiar posts. Dick Korb, after 20-plus years in the Lowell School District, left the district for a superintendent's position in Ipswich, Mass.; Judy Noonon, after a long stint as city treasurer, retired; Jim Cook and Gil Wise, after years of dedicated service to Vergennes Township, retire from public service; Paul Christman retires from his superintendent position with Lowell Light and Power and Lowell Cable Television; Jill VanAntwerp and Sandy VanWeelden step away from long and distinguished teaching careers in Lowell.

Lowell's Chris VanAntwerp didn't step away, he stepped up to receive the distinguished Governor's Award.

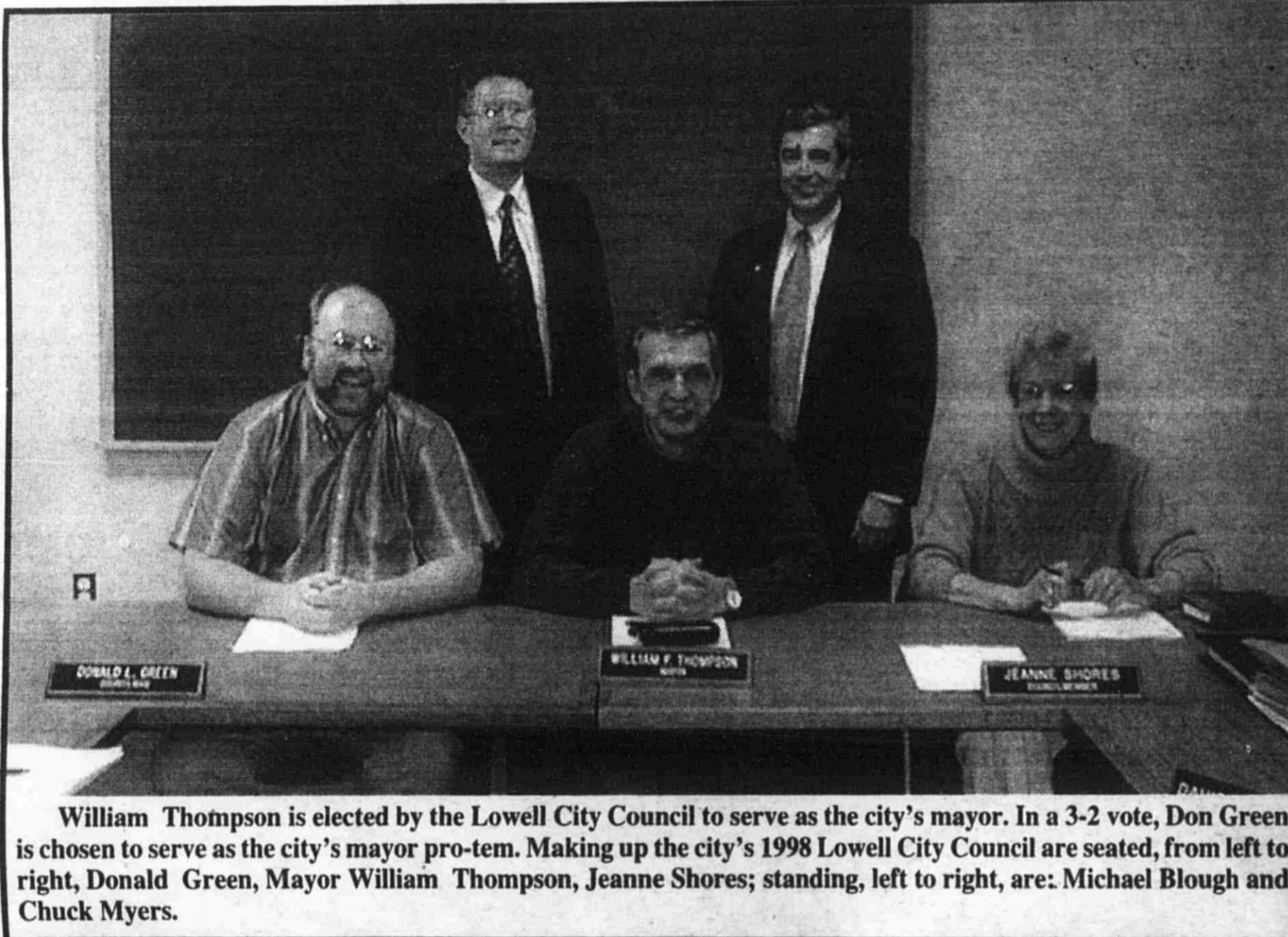
What follows is a week-by-week summary of these and other key happenings and news events of 1998. Enjoy.

January 7, 1998

After roughly a year of drafting a home-based business ordinance, Vergennes Township residents continue to express concerns with the proposed ordinance. The two sides discuss at what point does a home based business begin to interfere with maintaining a rural/agricultural property.

A grant helps keep the city streets a little safer - especially on the weekends. A safe and sober grant is designed to fund overtime pay to put an extra car on the streets during prime holiday times. Lowell is one of six Kent County law enforcement agencies participating in the grant.

Lowell's Gena Buhler earns her dance lines through hours of work at Interlochen. The lines on her feet are a



William Thompson is elected by the Lowell City Council to serve as the city's mayor. In a 3-2 vote, Don Green is chosen to serve as the city's mayor pro-tem. Making up the city's 1998 Lowell City Council are seated, from left to right, Donald Green, Mayor William Thompson, Jeanne Shores; standing, left to right, are: Michael Blough and Chuck Myers.

1998 - A Year-In-Review

result of breaking 15 pairs of point shoes while dancing. Buhler enrolled at Interlochen in September of 1997.

Lowell's Kevin Nugent is the recipient of the FFA's highest award ... the American FFA Degree.

Lowell City Council earmarks all but \$2,000 of its \$44,492.02 of Federal Community Development Block

January 14, 1998

Students interested in enrolling in driver's education are told they may have to foot a percentage of the program's cost. The school pays \$31,000 a year to run the program.

Lowell councilor Jeanne Shores said it is about time the city of Lowell got one... after all Vergennes and Cascade

Lowell's Danni Smith the contact person for West Michigan's Parents of Murdered Children and Other Survivors of Homicides. Smith's 23-year-old son Douglas Huffman was the victim in a fatal mugging on the street of Philadelphia in November of 1980.

Lowell Schools business director Connie Gillette responds to reports about state aid payments. Gillette said, contrary to reports, the district was not taken back by the announcements that state aid payments would be increased from nine to 10, not that this would put the district in any great financial crisis.

January 21, 1998

Vergennes Township holds a public meeting on a proposed water ordinance that will require new and existing homeowners to hookup to city water. Some township residents said they felt a requirement to hookup to water was unfair, especially since residents would have little or no say in the matter of prices or other issues once the ordinance was passed.

Lowell and Forest Hills schools deal with a second bomb threat within a month. A recorded message (bomb threat) was left on the recorder at Forest Hills Schools at 5:24 a.m. It was discovered...

Review, cont'd pg. 15

Grant funds toward the completion of sidewalk installation along West Main Street. The remaining \$2,000 goes to the North Kent Transit System.

townships, and the cities of Kentwood, Walker, Grand Rapids and East Grand Rapids have their own municipal flag.

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 14

ered by school officials at 7 a.m. The threat delayed the start of classes by two hours.

Grant applications for the Lowell Community Fund are due by April 27. The fund was established as a result of Harold Englehardt's \$12 million trust created for the Lowell area.

Alto resident Judy Harrison, Kent County commissioner for the past 12 years, announces she will seek Jack Horton's House of Representative seat.

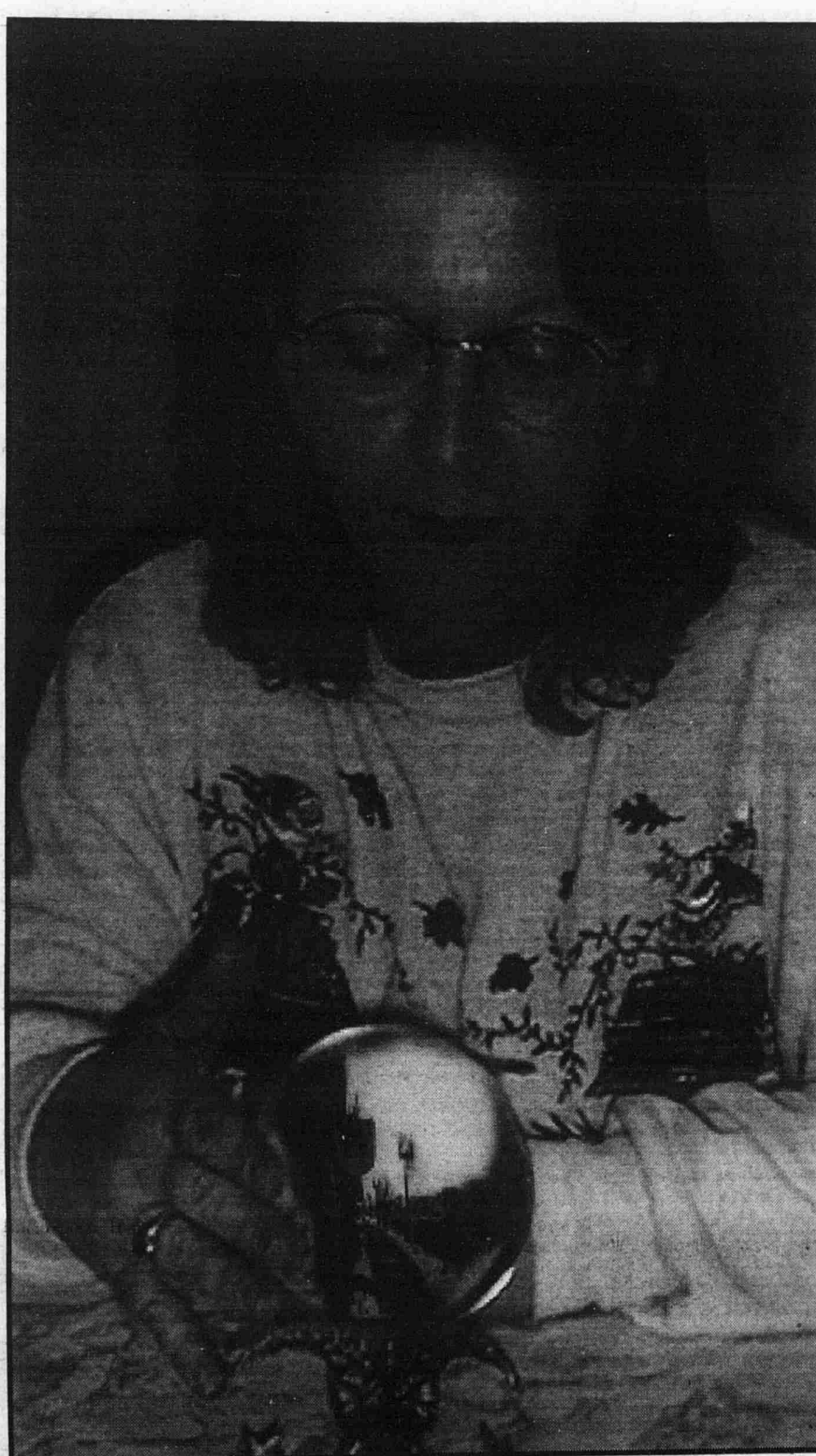
For 24 years, Joyce Blasher was a special education bus driver for Lowell Area Schools, serving the transportation needs of the severely handicapped. Blasher retired during Christmas break.

January 28, 1998

Getting the 1998 summer downtown construction project done as expeditiously as possible was the consensus among merchants and engineers in attendance at a Jan. 21 meeting. Lowell downtown business owners want contractor to be held responsible, asking that incentives be offered for early job completion.

Four-year veteran of the Lowell Planning Commission has been named its new chair. Dan Brubaker was unanimously voted by the commission to replace Michael Blough as the head of the planning commission. Blough was elected to the Lowell City Council by city residents in November of 1997.

Lowell Charter Township, Vergennes Township



Deb Pipe, owner of Rupert's Drop, looked for advanced warning of the impact the '98 downtown construction work would have on her business.

and the city of Lowell increase their Community Development Block Grant fund allocations which are earmarked toward providing transit assistance for senior citizens and handicapped riders.

Lowell city attorney Richard Wendt is charged with drafting up a proposed ordinance which prohibits dog owners from having their animals damaging landscaped areas.

Vergennes Township has given the go ahead for a renovation and expansion project designed to increase the number of lots in the Bailey Cemetery, located behind the Ver-

gennes United Methodist Church on Parnell Avenue.

February 4, 1998

Vergennes Township residents are concerned that the wording in the inspection provision of the amended proposed ordinance for home-based businesses strikes at their constitutional rights. The paragraph in question gave the zoning administrator or an appointee the right to inspect, upon request, the home-based business area and all buildings used in conjunction with the home-based business. Because the wording

Review, cont'd pg. 16

Drawn by:
Tim, 11
Cherry Creek Elementary
Mr. Jacobus

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Alto Elementary
Mrs. Schneider

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Happy Holidays

Drawn by:
Steven LaFave, 11
Cherry Creek Elementary
Ms. Hoats

James C. Lang, D.O.
Paul G. Gauthier, D.O.
Donette Bish, D.O.

147 N. Center, Lowell • 897-9209

Tis' the Season

Drawn by:
Jenny Zoodsma, 11
Alto Elementary
Mrs. Schneider

CF

1002 W Main, Lowell
897-6649

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 15

struck a nerve with residents, the township approved striking the paragraph from the ordinance.

Representatives of Lowell Area Schools, the Franciscan Life Process Center and the Lowell Area Arts Council meet to discuss art, and how to incorporate the best thinking of three different agencies in the area as well as how they might enhance arts in the Lowell community by working together.

Lowell residents planning to walk their dogs will need to prepare in advance so that they can clean up any messes. Lowell's City Council passes a new ordinance which prohibits owners of dogs from having their animals damage landscaped areas and not allowing dog increment without proper dis-



Joyce Blasher, bus driver, retired in December after 24 years of service with Lowell Schools.

posal on all public and private properties unless permission is granted.

February 11, 1998

The way the law reads on covering the cost for driver's education and the intent of law are not the same. The intent of the law was to have school districts match what the state gave; however, the way the law reads, schools are held harmless, and the difference between what a driver's education program costs and what the state provides is made up by the students. Lowell superintendent Bert Bleke said he was not comfortable going against the intent of the law.

Lowell High School registrar Lila Grummet retires from Lowell Schools after 28 years of service.

Lowell assistant wrestling coach Dave Strejc is given an opportunity to coach against his former high school coach from Stevensville-Lakeshore, Bruce Bittenbender. Strejc and the Red Arrows defeated Lakeshore 39-21.

February 18, 1998

Answers to questions about funding for a community pool will have to be answered, before one is built. That is the thinking of a committee representing the

nine area finalists for \$1,000 scholarships under the 1998 Michigan High School Athletic Association Scholar-Athlete Award.

February 25, 1998

The Fallsburg Hist



city of Lowell, Lowell and Vergennes townships, and Lowell Area Schools.

One Stop Mart, 800 W. Main, is robbed. The robbery happened at about 9:50 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 12. The subject left with an undetermined amount of cash.

Lowell's Julie Wisner and Nate Schoen are two of the

Review, cont'd, pg. 17



Lowell/Rockford Ambulance purchases a new emergency vehicle.

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 16

proaches the township for a quit deed.

A lack of public interest forces the Lowell Board of Education to put an end to the Board Dialogue Sessions for at least a year. Board sessions were designed to give residents the opportunity to contribute input about what was going on in the district.

The Lowell Area Schools Board of Education agrees to settle with the state on the Durant Case despite the fact that the district may not be

Bruce Walter approaches the city council about doing a feasibility study on purchasing a refrigeration system to make it easier for a skating pond to be created and maintained, and determining a location for a skating rink.

March 4, 1998

Lowell Cable Television subscribers learn that beginning July 1 they will have six additional stations added to their basic cable package. With this addition, Lowell Cable will offer 43 channels.

Lowell and surrounding communities incur numerous break-ins over a two week period. In one case the culprits made off with \$2,000.

Jim Cook, a fixture in Vergennes Township government, decides after nearly 14 years of service to tender his resignation. Cook, who wrapped his life up in the capacity of supervisor, cited declining health as the reason for his resignation.

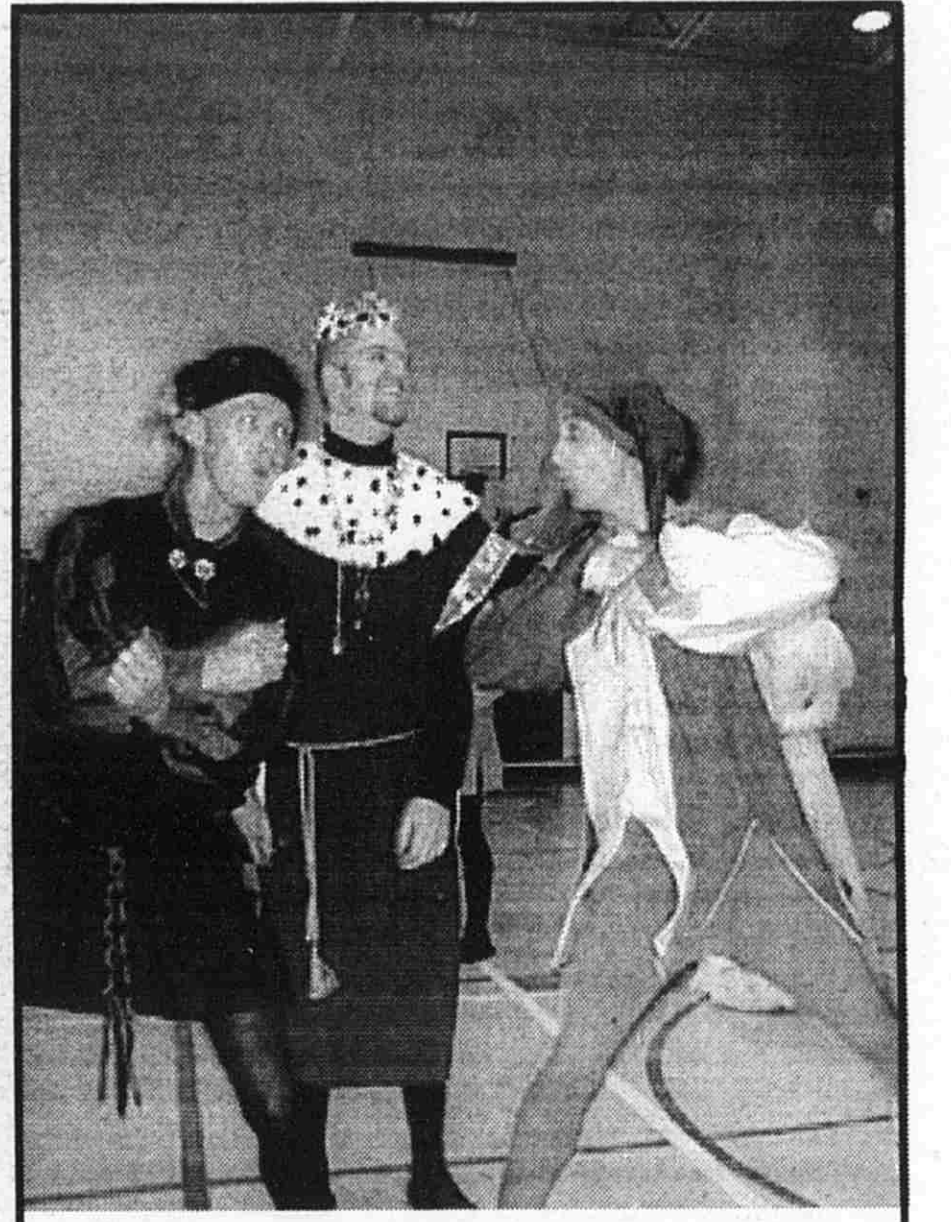
A change in the wording of an existing water ordinance makes it mandatory for existing homeowners in Lowell and Vergennes townships to hook up to city water.

Lowell's wrestling team earns a regional title with a 49-13 win over Greenville.

March 11, 1998

Eight members of the Detroit Lions brought their off-season basketball game to Lowell High School. The

Family and friends celebrate the life of Bob Hahn, 98, who was remembered for



The cast of 'Once Upon a Mattress' visited Cherry Creek Elementary School to perform some of the musical numbers from the show.

Drawn by: Erica Huizinga, 11 Cherry Creek Elementary Mr. Jacobus

SNEAKERS

211 E. MAIN
LOWELL, MI 49331
897-6746

Drawn by: Joseph Woodhead, 11 Cherry Creek Elementary Mr. Jacobus

Hahn Hardware

207 E. Main, Lowell 897-7501

Drawn by: Josh Morrison, 11 Cherry Creek Elementary Ms. Hoats

Keiser's Kitchen

700 E. Main St., Ph. 897-8455

Drawn by: Amy Leikert, 10 Cherry Creek Elementary Mrs. MacDonald

Beon Santa's good list

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP 10381 Bailey Drive Lowell, MI

Drawn by: Kirby, 10 Cherry Creek Elementary Mrs. Pupil

Its also easier were the chimney

Toy's vs

MERRY Christmas

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Drawn by: Brett Hobria, 10 Cherry Creek Elementary Mr. Noskey

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for santa

Blimpie

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Drawn by: Randi Millering, 10 Alto Elementary Mrs. Cuneo

Happy Holiday

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897-6546

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 15

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little bit of a pickle. The deed, to the property it wants to put a mill on, is about to expire. Since the mill has not been erected, the deed is set to expire with the property reverting back to the road commission. The historical society, so it could proceed with the mill project.

Review, cont'd. pg. 17



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Cherry Creek Elementary
Ms. Hoats

Keiser's Kitchen

700 E. Main St., Ph. 897-8455

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Amy Leikert, 10
Cherry Creek Elementary
Mrs. MacDonald

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP 10381 Bailey Drive
Lowell, MI

Drawn by:
Kirby, 10
Cherry Creek Elementary
Mrs. Pupil

Its also easier w/er's the chimney

MERRY Christmas

CUMBERLAND
RETIREMENT VILLAGE OF LOWELL
11535 E. Fulton • (616) 897-8413

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 16

proaches the township for a quit deed.

A lack of public interest forces the Lowell Board of Education to put an end to the Board Dialogue Sessions for at least a year. Board sessions were designed to give residents the opportunity to contribute input about what was going on in the district.

The Lowell Area Schools Board of Education agrees to settle with the state on the Durant Case despite the fact that the district may not be

Bruce Walter approaches the city council about doing a feasibility study on purchasing a refrigeration system to make it easier for a skating pond to be created and maintained, and determining a location for a skating rink.

March 4, 1998

Lowell Cable Television subscribers learn that beginning July 1 they will have six additional stations added to their basic cable package. With this addition, Lowell Cable will offer 43 channels.

Lowell and surrounding communities incur numerous break-ins over a two week period. In one case the culprits made off with \$2,000.

Jim Cook, a fixture in Vergennes Township government, decides after nearly 14 years of service to tender his resignation. Cook, who wrapped his life up in the capacity of supervisor, cited declining health as the reason for his resignation.

Eight members of the Detroit Lions brought their off-season basketball game to Lowell High School. The

of damage, but overall found the condition of the City Hall building to be in good shape.

A change in the wording of an existing water ordinance makes it mandatory for existing homeowners in Lowell and Vergennes townships to hook up to city water.

Lowell's wrestling team earns a regional title with a 49-13 win over Greenville.

March 11, 1998

Family and friends celebrate the life of Bob Hahn, 98, who was remembered for



The cast of Once Upon a Mattress visited Cherry Creek Elementary School to perform some of the musical numbers from the show.



The Lowell wrestling team advanced to the semi-state before losing in heart-breaking fashion to Dowagiac 31-29.

fund-raising pickup game benefitted a local family with some medical bills. A little over \$3,000 was presented to the family.

A report reveals that the City Hall structure is in good condition and worthy of consideration for renovation. The report was prepared by Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber and Redstone Tiseo Architects. The report does mention concerns about the potential use of existing mechanical and electrical systems, and some isolated areas

his heart, humor and incredible health. Hahn died at the Home of Hope Hospice of complications from congestive heart failure.

Marsha Wilcox is appointed to fill the interim position of Vergennes Township supervisor. She replaces Jim Cook who resigned earlier this month.

Lowell superintendent Bert Bleke reduces the administrative staff by two.

Review, cont'd. pg. 18

Drawn by:
Erica Huizinga, 11
Cherry Creek Elementary
Mr. Jacobus

SNEAKERS

211 E. MAIN
LOWELL, MI 49331
897-6746

Drawn by:
Brett Hobria, 10
Cherry Creek Elementary
Mr. Noskey

this is the perfect trap for santa

For santa

Happy Holidays

Simply **Blimpie**
For Fresh-Sliced Subs
2005 W. MAIN, LOWELL 897-3124

Happy Holiday

Drawn by:
Randi Millering, 10
Alto Elementary
Mrs. Cuneo

L.A. TRIM
LOWELL, MICHIGAN
897-6546

Merry chirmas

Drawn by:
Joseph Woodhead, 11
Cherry Creek Elementary
Mr. Jacobus

HANN HARDWARE
207 E. Main, Lowell 897-7501

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 17

Bleke's decision was guided by economic necessity. The positions impacted are Bushnell Elementary principalship and director of public relations. The reduction in staff will save the district \$150,000.

The home of Luke and Renee Brogger was severely damaged through the random, violent, malicious act of two 13 year olds. The damage totaled in the thousands of dollars.

Lowell's wrestling team is bumped out of the state wrestling tournament by the narrowest of margins. Dowagiac beat the Red Arrows 29-28. A controversial whistle stops action because in applying the headlock, Mike Arnswald's arm covers over the face of the Dowagiac wrestler.

March 18, 1998

Bids for the M-21 project

come in \$300,000 below the engineer's estimated costs. The bid, which was awarded to Reith Riley Construction, came in at \$1.4 million. It was below the engineer's estimate.

Ellen McClain, a school board trustee who at times was a lone voice in pointing out what is wrong with the Lowell School District and the need for change, announces she will not seek reelection for the school board in June.

Keith Ferguson reopens the Lowell Beer Store. The owner gives the store a refined image that offers a large selection of wines, micro and imported beers, and specialized liquors.

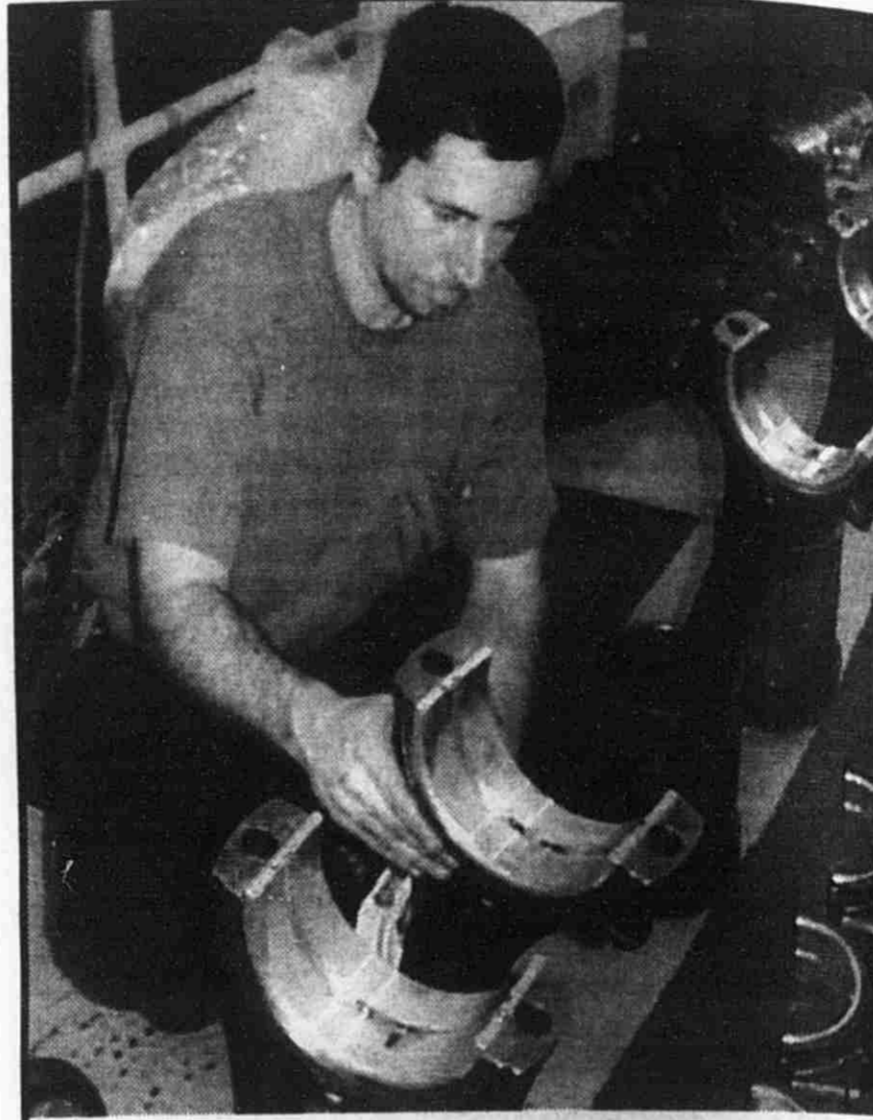
Lowell's Bill Stuffer (215 pounds) and Brett West (103 pounds) place second at the individual state meet in Battle Creek.

March 25, 1998

The Lowell Planning Commission tells local developer Michael Nosko it would not consider a single family development that would have heavy density levels. Nosko brings a proposal that if approved would develop about three acres of property at Ridgeview/Sibley using a new idea in single family building.

After a little over five years, Louis D'Agostino announces he is resigning from the Lowell Planning Commission. George Noble, of H&R Block, has his plan to construct a 7,700 square-foot building on the south side of West Main Street, west of Ridgeview Drive.

The Lowell Community Swimming Committee dis-



Lowell Light and Power plant supervisor Tom Russo worked on the diesel engines through the month of April.

usses the benefits of bonding for the capital aspect of pool construction through the school system.

April 1, 1998

Vergennes Township approves a home-based business ordinance after nearly two years of work.

The second annual Lowell Community Expo provides patrons with a hands-on opportunity to see and learn of products, and offers a look at area businesses and organizations.

Lowell police continue in their search for the assailant who robbed Burger King (March 26).

Lowell's Crystal L. Jones
Review, cont'd. pg. 19

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 18

celebrates her 100th birthday at Cumberland Retirement Village in Lowell.

April 8, 1998

Vergennes Township approves a quit deed claim for the Vergennes Historical Society on property on the north side of the Fallsburg Covered Bridge, between the road that heads to the left and the river.

For the fifth straight year, Lowell High School students earn more awards than any other participating schools at the Hope College Model United Nations program.

A new ordinance will al-

disonored check of under \$50 would be a misdemeanor in the city code. It also allows the city to collect on any cost to recover the money owed on a dishonest check.

The Top 10 students of the 1998 senior class are announced. They are valedictorian Julie Wisner, salutatorian Jessica Winsor, Jeffery Nethercott, Misty Kooienga, Jonathan DenHouter, Kelly Biener, Michael Befus, Adam Mix, David Luik and Susan Clark.

Seven new honorees have their names inscribed on a brass leaf of the Tribute Tree that is prominently displayed at the high school. The recipients honored were Amanda Tichelaar, Harold Englehardt, Don Fizer, Steve Idema, John and Alice Blanding, King Doyle and Norm Byrne.



Attwood's Mike Rocheleau is presented with the keys to a new Harley Davidson. Rocheleau was the winner of the Lowell Rotary Auction drawing.

April 15, 1998

For the first time, the city of Lowell considers spraying for gypsy moths. The issue arises when Lowell Charter Township receives informa-

tion from the Kent County Gypsy Moth Suppression Program officials indicating that not only parts of the township did need spraying, but also areas in the city.

Tom Richards is hired as

director of cable services for Lowell Cable Television.

April 22, 1998

Jim White, Lowell Schools' director of curriculum and instruction, presents a new plan for kindergarten students. It calls for students to be grouped into two sessions. The first group will meet on Monday and Thursday and in the morning on Wednesday. The second group will meet on Tuesday and Friday and in the afternoon on Wednesday. The goal of the new schedule is to allow as much contact and time between students and teachers and create consistency in the kindergarten schedule.

The Lowell Rotary Auction, cont'd. pg. 20

The elves wish you a merry Christmas

Drawn by:
Jordan Hill, 10
Cherry Creek Elementary
Mrs. MacDonald

SHOWBOAT VIDEO
2333 W. Main Street
Lowell, Michigan

Merry Christmas to all and all good night

Metric Manufacturing Co.
1001 Foreman
Lowell
897-5959

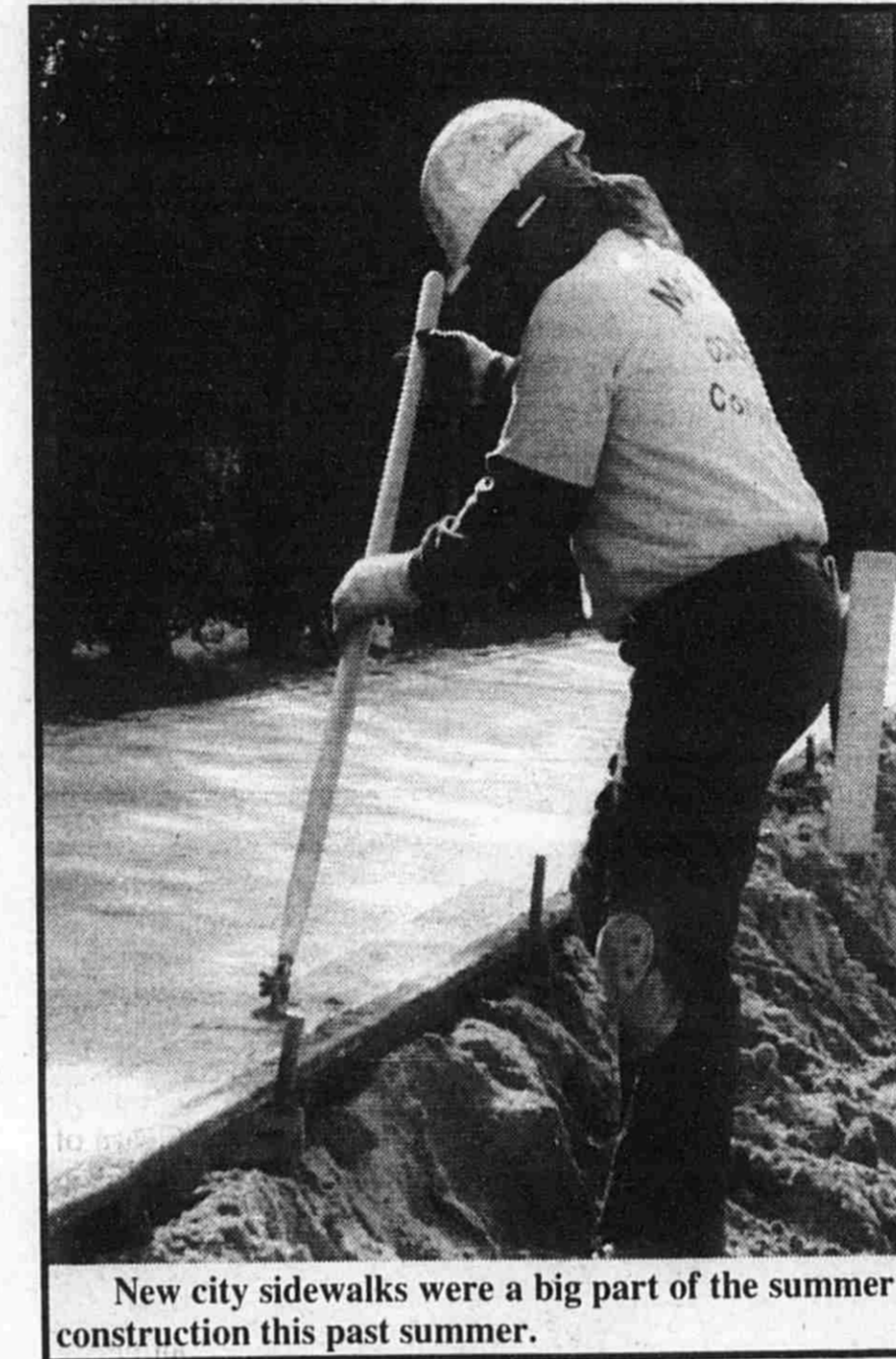
Drawn by:
Brook VanEck, 10
Alto Elementary
Mrs. Cuneo

LOWELL YMCA
323 West Main, Lowell
PHONE 897-8445

Ho! Ho! Ho!

Drawn by:
Ben Nugent, 11
Cherry Creek Elementary
Mrs. Hoats

SUPERIOR FURNITURE
318 E. Main • 897-9285
Lowell, Michigan 49331



New city sidewalks were a big part of the summer construction this past summer.

A Harold Englehardt scholarship program is created through a new initiative of the Lowell Area Community Fund. The new program will award a total of \$17,000 in scholarships in year one.

Drawn by:
Rachel Plotner, 10
Cherry Creek Elementary
Mr. Jacobus

LOWELL AUTO BODY, INC.
319 E. Main • 897-6431

Drawn by:
Elly Drain, 10
Cherry Creek Elementary
Ms. Hoats

May your holidays be merry and bright

COUSINS'
Hallmark
223 W. Main • Lowell • 897-5000

Merry Christmas

Drawn by:
Andrew Wiltterink, 10
Cherry Creek Elementary
Mrs. MacDonald

Lowell Granite Co.
306 E. Main, Lowell • 897-7191

Have a sweet Christmas

Drawn by:
Megan Fizer, 10
Alto Elementary
Mr. Hawkins

Modern Printing
(616) 897-6719
FAX (616) 897-6460
2125 Bowes Rd.
Lowell, MI 49531

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Drawn by:
Brad Corlett, 10
Alto Elementary
Mr. Hawkins

REEDY REALTY, INC.
119 W. Main
Lowell
897-0444

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 19

tion raises approximately \$20,000 in its second year. Attwood's Mike Rocheleau is the lucky winner in the Harley Davidson drawing.

Flat River Outreach Ministries, formerly ACCESS 6 Food Pantry, expands its ser-

vice to the underserved to reach beyond eastern Kent County and extend into western Ionia County. The purpose of the ministry is to meet the emergency needs of those in the Lowell area and surrounding communities. The pantry will be linked with a thrift shop to better enable families to manage their budgets.

Lowell Schools is the recipient of \$1,060 through Ionia County National Bank's own proprietary credit card program.

The Lowell School Board opts for Kent County Schools of Choice plan over the Governor's schools of choice program.

Lisa Posthumus is elected state FFA treasurer.

April 29, 1998

Lowell's Julie Wisner is the 31st recipient of the distinguished Roger B. Chaffee scholarship. She is the first Lowell High School senior to ever win the award.

Something as simple as a telephone call can now net Lowell Middle and High School students \$50. Students can earn \$50 if their call leads to the recovery of a weapon, drugs, or the identification of

the culprit of stolen or damaged school property.

The city plans to fight gypsy moth influx. Recent complaints from residents as well as cemetery problems being created moved the city to participate in the Kent County gypsy moth suppression program.

Lowell's Jim Reagan adds his name to the list of candidates who will seek a seat on the Kent County Board of Commissioners in November.

Two of the three individuals who are allegedly involved in the armed robbery of Burger King are arrested by the Ionia Department of Public Safety.

Bill and Ardis Barber, owners of McGee Homestead, celebrate the bed and breakfast's 10th anniversary.

May 6, 1998

There were approximately 200 area walkers who took part in the fourth annual Lowell Area CROP Walk. The walk raised money for the less fortunate.

The Harold Englehardt Lowell Community Fund advisory committee received 22 grant request applications



Julie Wisner is presented with the distinguished Roger B. Chaffee Scholarship.

from the community. The committee says it will announce on Monday, June 8, which grant requests will share in the \$500-\$600,000 of earned income from Englehardt's \$12.5 million bequest to Lowell.

Lowell High School loses one of the state's finest English teachers. Jill VanAntwerp announced that she will be taking a teaching position at Grand Valley State University. VanAntwerp taught at Lowell High School 22 years.

May 13, 1998



Ardis Barber and her McGee Homestead celebrated their 10th anniversary in April.



Tom Richards is hired by Lowell Cable Television as its new programming director.

Marsha Wilcox and John Timpson are the recipients of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce's "Person of the Year" award. Coopersville mayor, Randy Laug, called the gesture of going outside the city boundaries to honor Wilcox and Timpson "precedent setting." Laug took part in the Mayor Exchange part of the program.

The Downtown Development Authority's Main Street project begins in earnest. For local residents and passers-by through town, that meant the narrowing of M-21 to one lane, with a temporary traffic

Review, cont'd. pg. 21

Lowell Cable
127 N. Broadway
897-8405

Celebrate The Birth Of Christ

Jesus is the Reason For the Season!

Bernard's 1601 W. MAIN 897-9490
True Value Hardware Stores

Merry Christmas

James Reagan, D.D.S.
207 W. Main, Lowell, MI 49331
Ph. 897-7179

Parts 4 Plus
Showboat Automatic Supply, Inc.
1450 W. Main, Lowell, MI • (616) 897-9231 • 1-800-798-9973

Merry Christmas To All

James Reagan, D.D.S.
207 W. Main, Lowell, MI 49331
Ph. 897-7179

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 20

signal.

For the sixth consecutive year, Lowell fourth-grade students showed gradual improvement in their MEAP math scores. Fourth- and seventh-grade reading results were up for the third consecutive year. Seventh-grade math was also up from the previous

Sandy VanWeelden is weeks away from completing her 39th and final year as a Lowell Middle School teacher.

May 20, 1998

Dick Korb announces that his 21st year in the Lowell

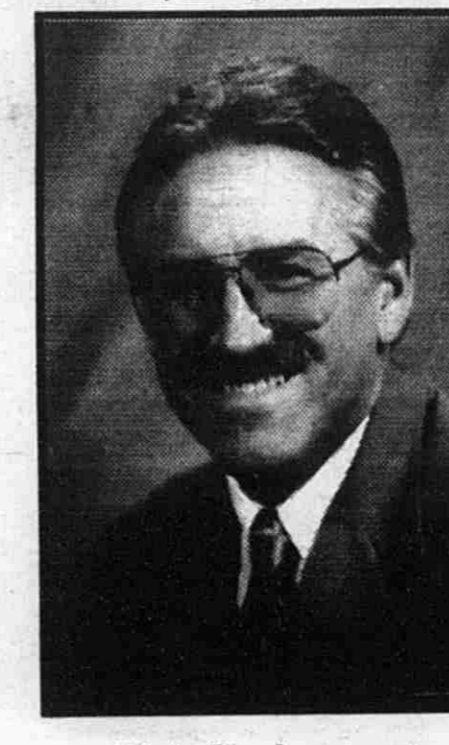


After 22 years of teaching at the high school level, Jill VanAntwerp decides to return to university life - this time as a professor.

Jacqueline Liversedge and Terry Trump of Nederveld Associates present proposed plans to Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission for a projected clustered site condominium development in the area of Parnell and Foreman. The plans incorporate 26 lots and 52 lots respectively.

The Lowell School Board is divided on the issue of whether it favors being a partner in a corporate marketing concept that determines what students are allowed to drink in school. A marketing company out of Colorado approaches the district about signing a group contract that would allow major soft drink providers to buy rights to be marketed in the schools.

In a preliminary report for the 1998-99 school budget, business/finance director Connie Gillette estimates that the district will overspend by \$374,000.



Dick Korb accepts a superintendent's position in Ipswich, Mass.

ship.

The city's West Main sidewalk project is delayed after it is discovered a permit was not issued to construct the sidewalks. Lowell City Council asks, "Who was responsible for getting the permit, the firm or the city?" Dennis J. Benoit, a MacNamee, Porter and Seeley representative, said the responsibility to get the permit falls on the contractor, according to the contract.

Zeeuw is named Kent County Education Association's parapro of the year.

Mike Fillman's fifth-graders discover the fun and hard work involved in designing their own Web page.

Lowell senior Julie Wisner sets a personal best mark of 17'2" in the long jump at the Champion of Champions meet.

June 3, 1998

Bill and Lori Ingraham's large silver maple tree is toppled by high winds (90-120 miles an hour). It barely



There were approximately 200 walkers who took the hunger challenge and raised money for the less fortunate.

A one-mill increase is discussed as a possible solution to cover cost for road and fire safety in Lowell Charter Township. It budgets about \$60,000 a year but spends an average amount of \$148,000 per year on these expenses.

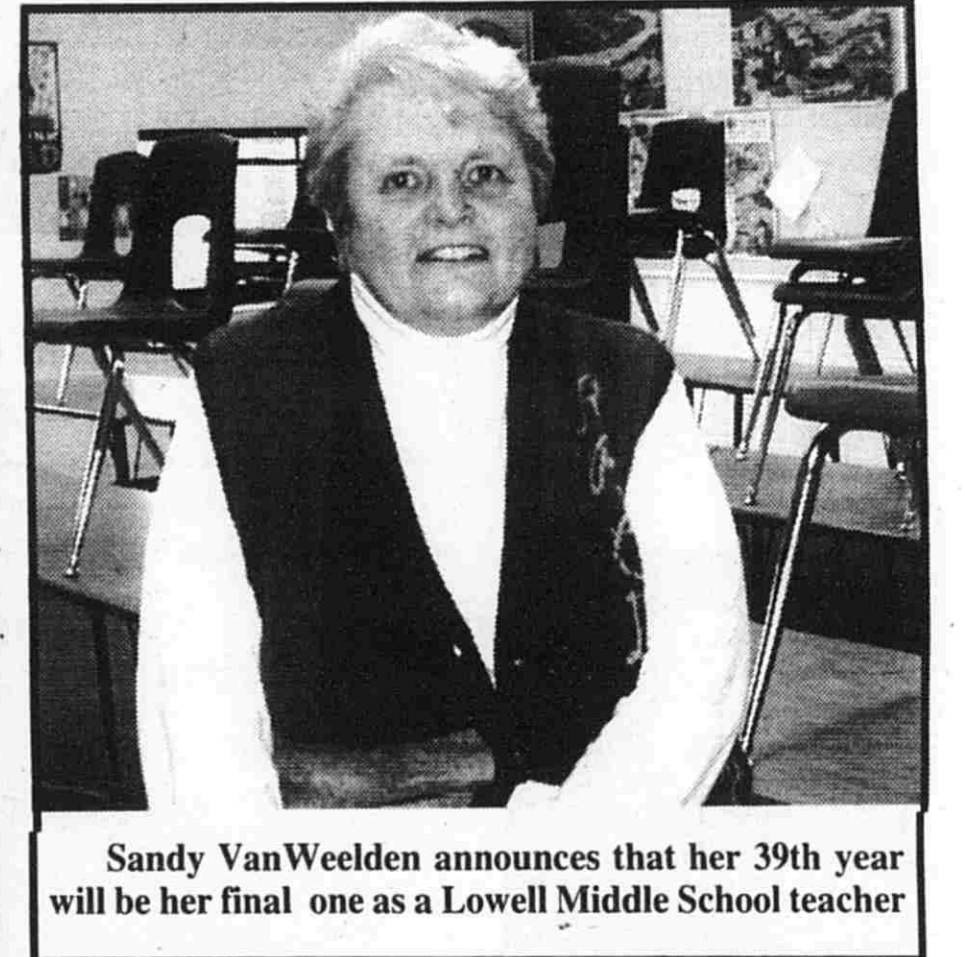
Lowell High School 1996 graduate Cara Thaler earns a full tuition scholarship to study psychology at the University of Michigan.

May 27, 1997

Lowell Schools' Nan



John Timpson and Marsha Wilcox are the 1998 recipients of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce's "Person of the Year" award.



Sandy VanWeelden announces that her 39th year will be her final one as a Lowell Middle School teacher

misses their home. The storm which ripped through large portions of the state early Sunday (May 31) morning was kind to Lowell in comparison to neighboring communities such as Walker and Rockford.

With a month still remaining on its contract to finish the bridge/sluiceway work on Main Street, Kamminga

Review, cont'd. pg. 22

CURTIS CLEANERS
LAUNDROMAT • SHIRT LAUNDRY

Greetings From Alto

DURKEE LUMBER
ALTO, MICHIGAN • 868-6026
HOURS: Monday thru Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon

Frosty wet the bed mom!

Happy Holidays
Kelly now knows why snow men should not sleep with people!

LOWELL MEDICAL SPECIALISTS
Mark Evenhouse • John Mogor • Joan Miedema
1150 N. Hudson, Lowell • 897-8436

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 21

& Roodvoets Inc. reported that it expects to complete the project a month early.

A demolition by neglect ordinance is adopted by the Lowell City Council. It gives the Lowell Historic District committee persuasion over building owners to repair their buildings.

Bert Bleke, Lowell High School superintendent, was presented the 1998 Thumb Sports Leader and Honorary Meet Director award as founder of the Thumb Meet of Champions.

Tim Harmon, minister of the Lowell Church of the Nazarene, is the guest baccalaureate speaker.



Bill and Lori Ingraham's large silver maple tree is toppled in a storm where winds reached as high as 90-120 miles an hour.



Tim Harmon

Alto fourth-grade students study animal adaptation at the Alto Elementary Outdoor Science classroom. It is done through a coordinated effort with high school advanced biology and ecology students of Bob Garcia.

June 10, 1998

The first round of grants awarded through the Lowell Area Community Fund are announced. There are 16 programs ranging from the establishment of a food pantry and thrift shop to a historical museum and innovative educational opportunities which are awarded grants totaling \$465,500 from the newly \$600,000 available.

Incumbent Pete Gustafson and newcomer Pat Nugent garner the highest number of votes in the Low-

ell School Board election. Gustafson receives the most votes with 588; Pat Nugent grabs 439 votes edging past Deb Canfield (433).

Lowell High School's 120th Commencement, featuring 201 students from the Class of 1998, marks a milestone in the high school's history. It was the first class to attend all four years at the new high school. It also broke a long tradition of graduating at the Lowell Showboat. The graduation was held at Red Arrow Stadium.

Vergennes Township's futuring session reveals a consensus that the township should preserve its rural character.

Students from the elementary classes of Nancy Misner and Lanie Rice share in a two-day multi-cultural exchange in an effort to better understand their diversity. The cultural exchange was coordinated with Alexander Elementary in Grand Rapids.

June 17, 1998

The city of Lowell, MDOT and engineering firm

McNamee, Porter, and Seeley, Inc. reach an agreement on how it is that a permit was not issued to construct sidewalks along West Main.

Writing skills of Lowell fifth-grade students continue to be among the very best in Kent County while eighth-grade results are the very best of the eighth-grade students taking the MEAP writing test, 96.8 percent were proficient. Lowell fifth-grade students are sixth best (86.6 percent). Lowell, however, had low scores in science with 58 percent of the fifth-graders proficient and 32.4 percent of the eighth-graders proficient. While science scores are low, they still are in line with county and state averages.

Parents and coaches vocalize their displeasure with the deteriorating baseball/softball diamonds and soccer fields.

Donald Gerard is the second recipient of the Marsha Wilcox Community Service award.

Gena Buhler, a former

its subscribers are not asked a dime more. The basic rate remains \$19.95. The new channels being added are Comedy Central, Home and Garden, Lifetime, Toon, Disney and MSNBC. The Disney channel is being switched from a premium to basic channel.

Omni point Communication's new project to construct three antennas to serve cellular customers in the area surrounding Lowell Township is met with approval from the Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission.

Lowell's Norm Byrne is honored at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Detroit for his lifelong story of courage, imagination and perseverance in pursuing his entrepreneurial dream. He is recognized with the 1998 Entrepreneur of the Year Humanitarian award.

Peggy Hayes announces she will retire after 27 years of driving a Lowell School bus.

July 8, 1998

Debate is raised on



Karen Burd is named Bushnell Elementary principal, giving up the property she claims is hers.

By a slim 3-2 margin, the Lowell City Council overturns a planning commission recommendation against approval of a variance. The council approved a variance for a rear yard setback for the construction of a self-storage warehouse at 2401 W. Main (Todd Landman).

Lowell city manager Dave Pasquale is given a four-percent raise in his base pay (from \$59,144 to \$61,918). Pasquale also received a lump sum payment of \$2,500 for travel allowances and other expenses.

Additional revenues and expenditures, less than anticipated, result in a school fund

Lowell High School student, is honored with the Louise Harper Memorial Scholarship.

June 24, 1998

Local GMC dealers lose customers to other dealers due to lack of availability.



Josephine Anstett and Nick Larisch look for leeches as part of an Alto Elementary Outdoor Science classroom project.

The shortfall in cars available to Wittenbach Olds Pontiac GMC is the direct result of the two-week-old GM strike.

Karen Burd is named the principal at Bushnell Elementary. She replaces Louie Dudeck.

Mike McBride, a UPS employee who makes 95 deliveries and 34 pickups on an average day in Lowell, is honored for his collision-free driving record for the past 26 years.

Cherry Creek Elementary principal Bill Markovich leaves his post to take a high school principal spot with Marcellus High School.

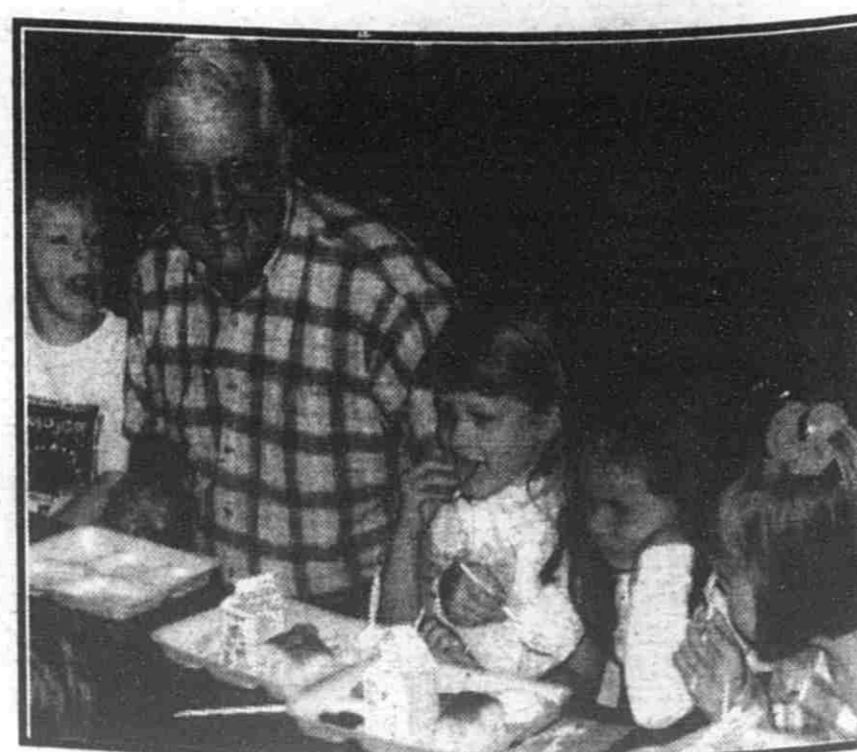
July 1, 1998

Six new channels are added to Lowell Cable's basic programming package and

whether the city deeded away its own property to Habitat for Humanity. Francis Swearingen claims the lot the city deeded over to Habitat for Humanity is hers. The resident is not interested in

equity healthier by roughly \$200,000.

The YMCA's fourth annual Showboat Hoops 3-on-3 Review, cont'd. pg. 24



Louie Dudeck steps down as Bushnell Elementary principal.



Jim Cook and Gil Wise are honored by the township for their 32 years of service and dedication.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Merry Christmas to one and all!

Drawn by: Gus Harper, 11 Alto Elementary Mr. Hawkins

Drawn by: Rebecca Underwood, 10 Alto Elementary Mr. Hawkins

Christmas Presents For good boys and girls

Have a

Drawn by: Megan Vaught, 10 Alto Elementary Mr. Hawkins

Happy Holiday

Drawn by: Kayla Irwin, 10 Alto Elementary Mr. Hawkins

Happy Holiday

Drawn by: Lindsay Vos, 10 Alto Elementary Mr. Hawkins

Happy New Year

Drawn by: Chad Risner, 11 Alto Elementary Mr. Hawkins

CITY OF LOWELL

301 E. MAIN STREET
LOWELL, MICHIGAN
897-8457

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 22



Area residents are asked to avoid swimming or having any contact with the water at Pebble Beach due to high E-coli counts.

basketball tournament raises \$5,000 which will be used to help fund YMCA youth programs.

July 15, 1998

Area residents are asked to avoid swimming or having any contact with the water at Pebble Beach due to high E-coli counts.

Connie Gillette, assistant superintendent for finance and personnel, unveils an amended 1997-98 budget showing an excess revenue in the amount of \$501,509 with a fund equity of \$2.345 million.

Lew Haec is presented the Paul Harris Fellowship award.

The Grand Rapids Explosion schedules a regular season soccer game for Red Arrow Stadium.

Lowell Public Schools and St. Patrick's agree to

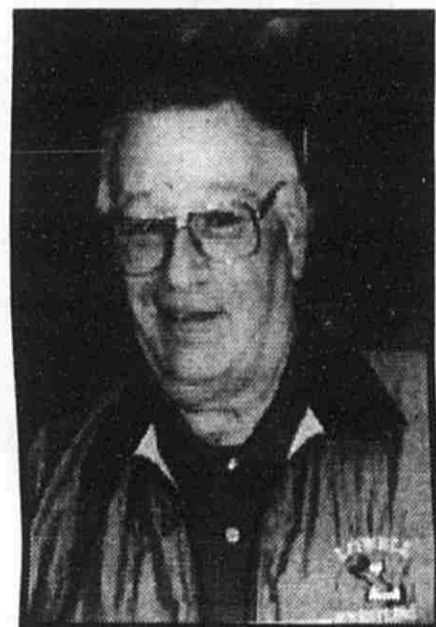
computerized security gate, convenient seven-day access, and 24-hour surveillance.

Sue Brander and Jody Haybarker open the doors to White Swan Coffee House and Gifts at 201 E. Main.

July 22, 1998

Gary Rivers, 62, Lowell's Hall of Fame wrestling coach, dies of a massive heart attack, leaving three generations of wrestlers and friends with a collective lump in their throat and an ache in their heart. Rivers had a history of heart problems. He survived a heart attack in December of 1991. With the help of medication, he was living tentatively, according to his wife Mary Ellen Rivers. Wrestlers learned about hard work, heart and never giving up. Their high school wrestling experiences were such that many returned as college students or fathers, in their post high school years, to assist Rivers in coaching. In 38 years, Rivers amassed a record of 499-133-6.

Mike Winick opens Ada-Lowell Self Storage (2075 Bowes Rd.). The three-acre



Lowell is saddened by the death of wrestling coach Gary Rivers.

parcel of land will hold approximately 300 rental units. The first phase will hold 71 units. The self-storage facility is state of the art. It has a

Habitat for Humanity's effort to clear the title in the Bowes Road site has not yet been successful, and ceasing



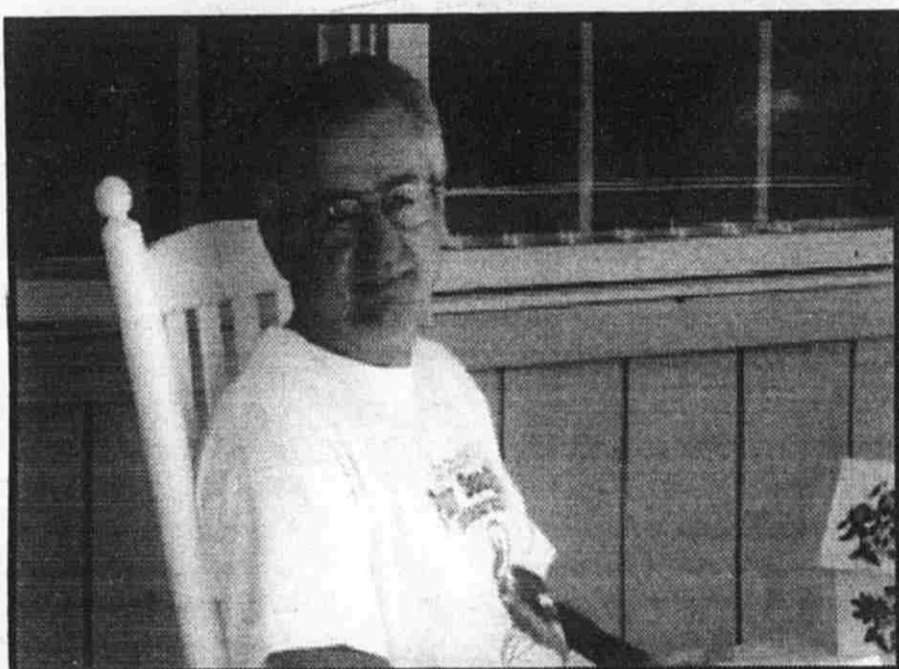
Lowell Police Chief Jim Valentine is presented with a check for \$2,500 by Cherry Creek coordinator Terry VanderWarf. The money was to be used for the D.A.R.E. program.

further efforts is a distinct possibility, according to Deb Stalsonburg.

Erin Umlauf, president of Lowell High School's student council, begins serving as the student representative on the Lowell School Board.

Alto's Dick Posthumus is chosen as Gov. John Engler's choice for lieutenant governor.

Robert Kyser is found safely lying in an embankment by the bridge on South Hudson and Bowes Road. Kyser was riding along the sidewalk in his car when a car horn scared him, sending



Gary Kemp made the 1997-98 school year his final one.

him down the embankment. Kyser was found 12 hours later by Lowell Firefighters.

Dick Korb cleans out his office as he prepares for his new position as superintendent of Ipswich, Massachusetts.

July 29, 1998

The intersection of M-21/Hudson Street is closed so that the intersection can be removed and a new water main can be laid.

Ginny Gauger is named the winner of the city logo contest. Her emblem portrays the joining of the Flat and

the primary election for township supervisor. Tim Wittenbach, running in his first political race, garners 56 percent of the vote as he easily outdistances interim supervisor Marsha Wilcox. Wittenbach tallies 568 votes compared to Wilcox's 334. "I don't know what pushed the election in my favor, but I ran on the premise of change," Wittenbach said after hearing the results.

The Lowell Police Officers Association and the city of Lowell go beyond the timeline, but both sides are content with an agreement in which officers receive a 3.5 percent wage increase in year one of a new three-year contract.

The city of Lowell's Zoning Board of Appeals reversal of a planning commission recommendation, in regards to a rear yard setback, leaves commissioners questioning the decision-making process in allowing a variance.

The city of Lowell extends the limits of milling and resurfacing beyond what is planned. The state is contracted to mill and resurface a short distance from M-21 in order to accommodate construction. With the council's approval, the milling goes from the south track crossing and north to the first intersection at Chatham Street.

Kristen Ference is named the new Lowell High School volleyball coach.

Grand rivers as well as the new city lights with the background of the Lowell Showboat.

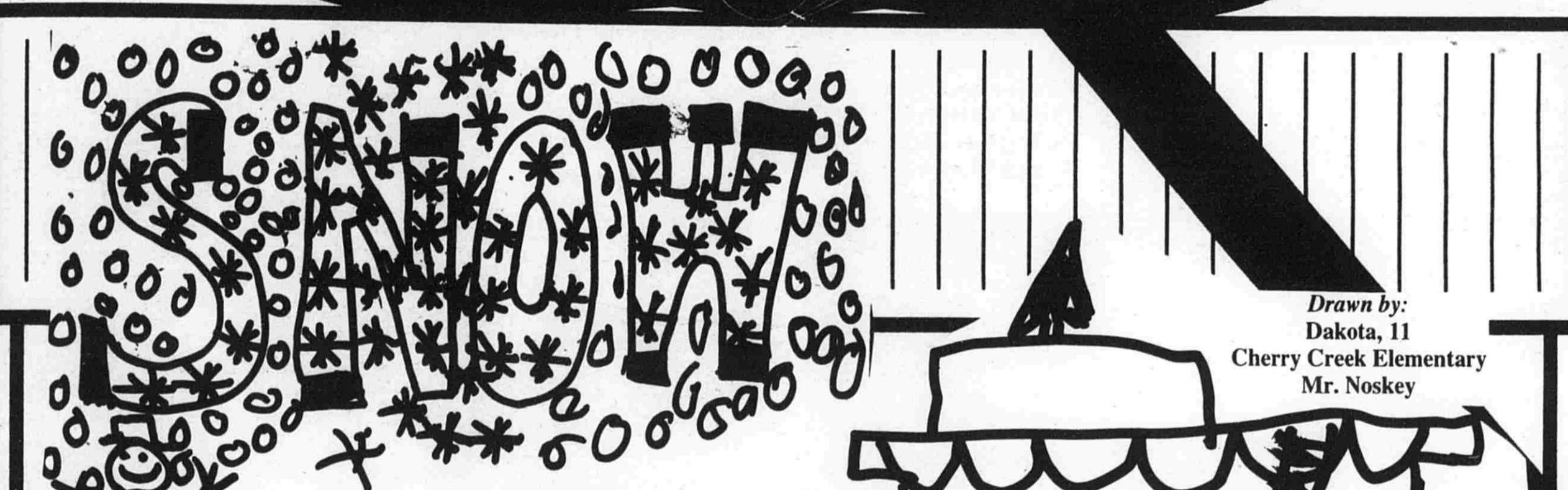
Gary Kemp announces his retirement from education after 30 years in education.

August 5, 1998

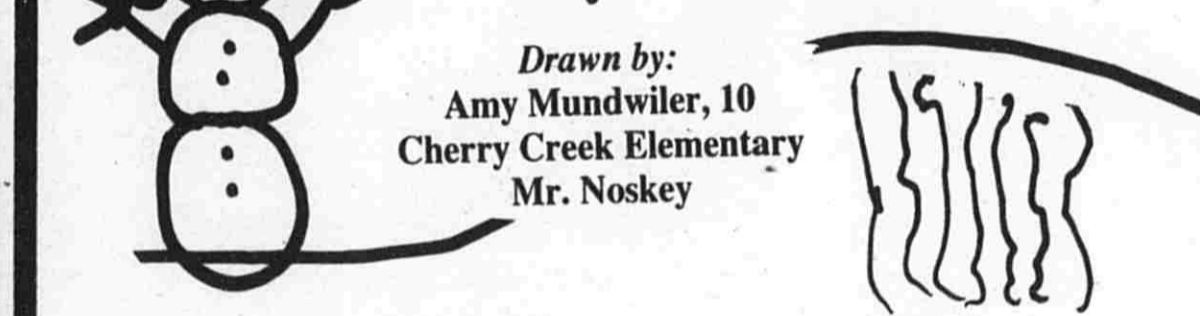
A record number of Vergennes Township registered voters (1,006) participated in

Lowell High School seniors clean tons of muck out of the Showboat pontoons and

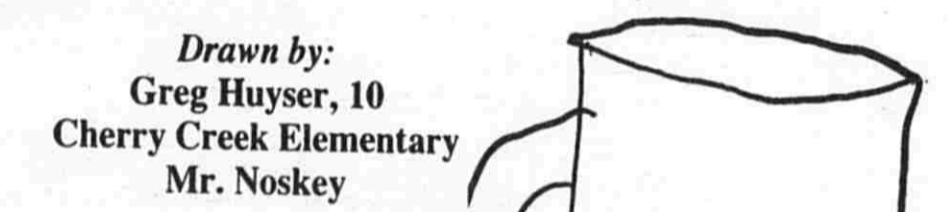
Review, cont'd. pg. 26



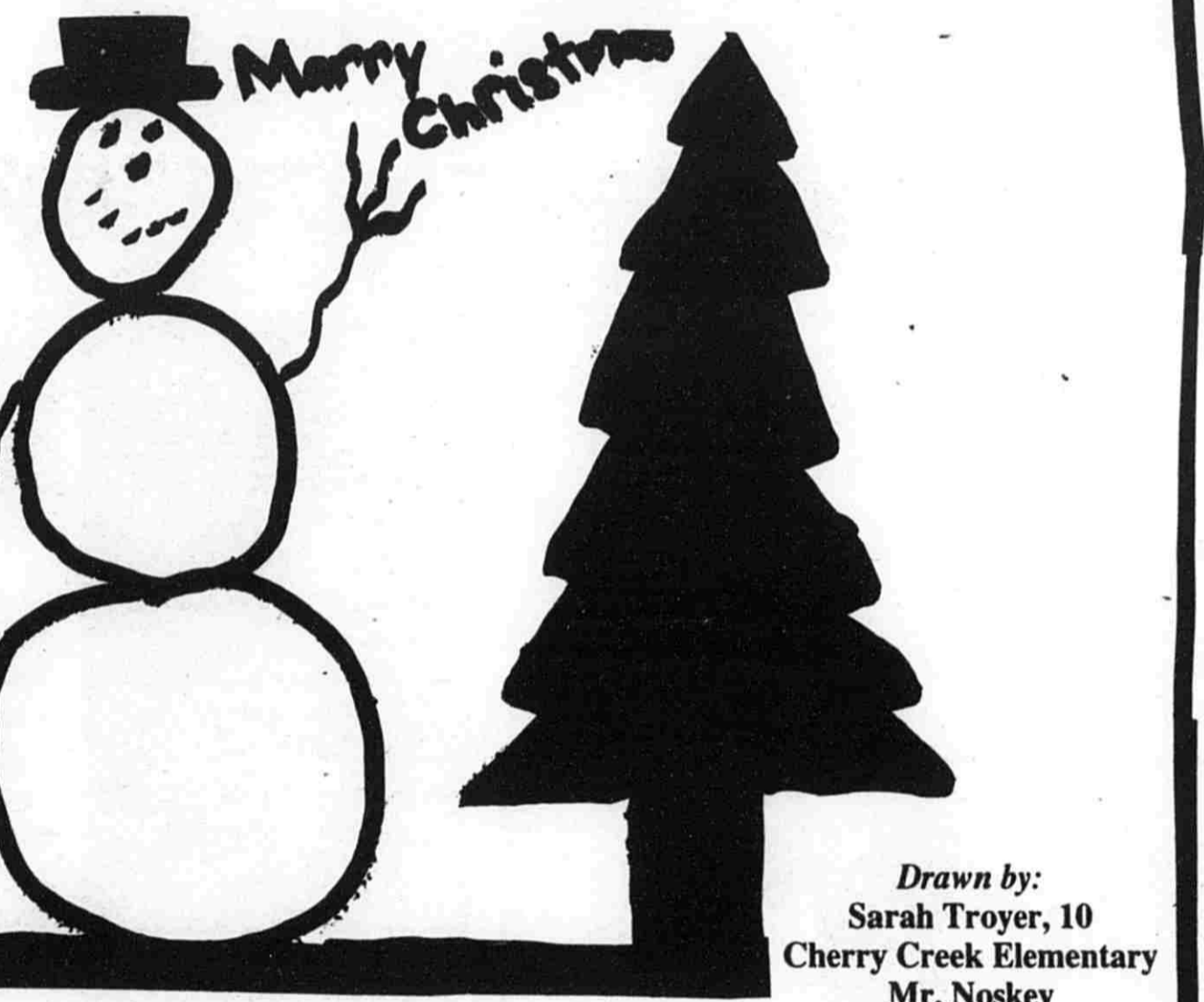
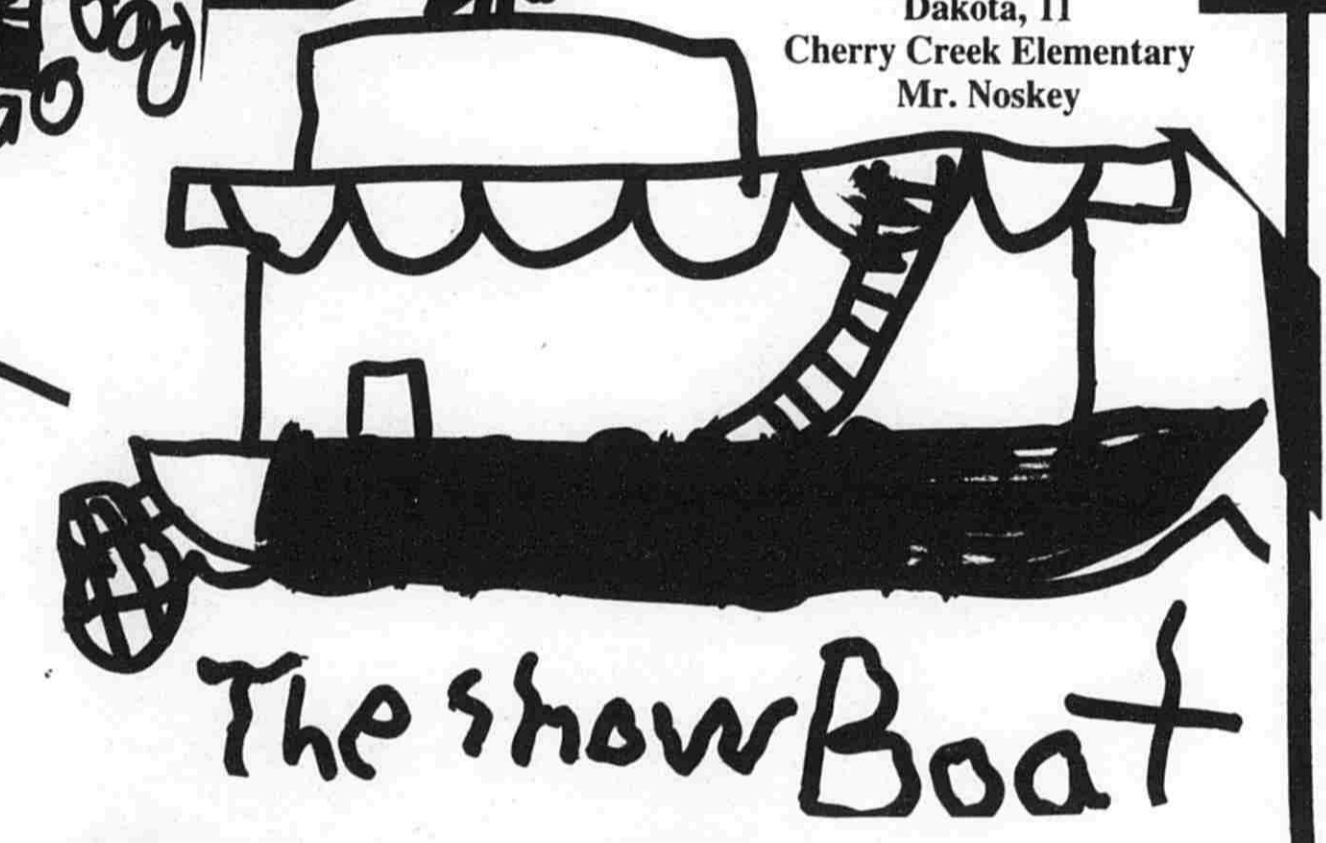
Drawn by: Dakota, 11 Cherry Creek Elementary Mr. Noskey



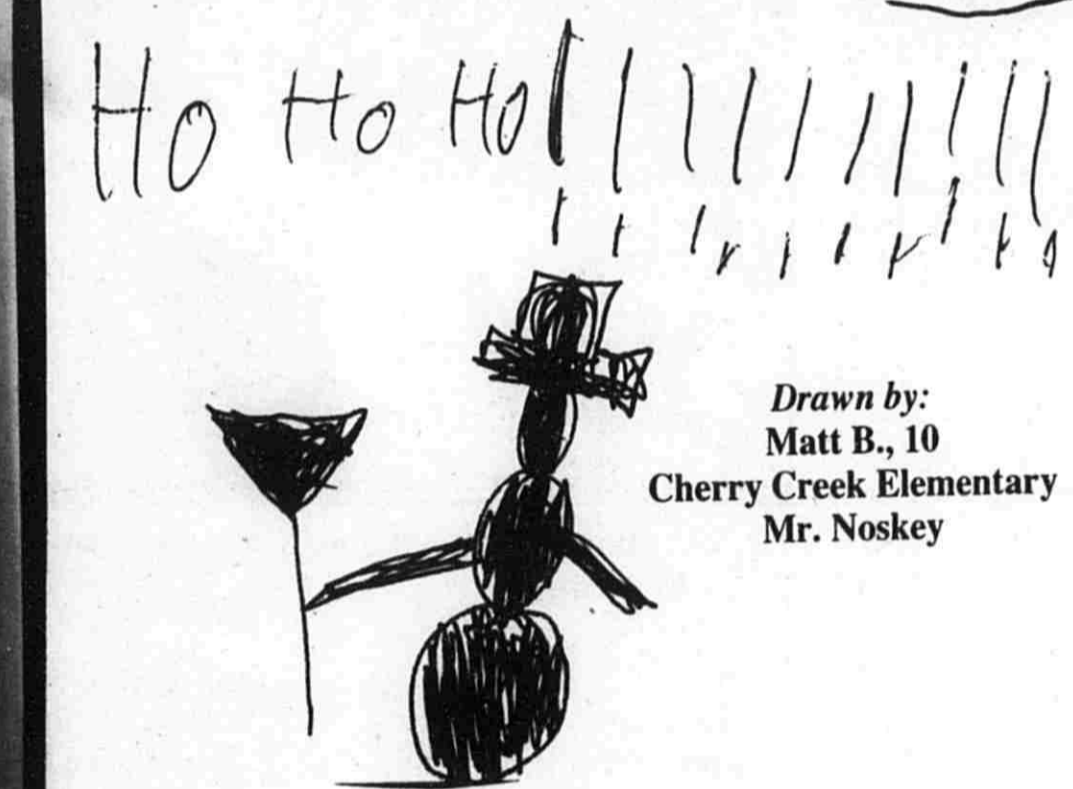
Drawn by: Amy Mundwiler, 10 Cherry Creek Elementary Mr. Noskey



Drawn by: Greg Huyser, 10 Cherry Creek Elementary Mr. Noskey



Drawn by: Sarah Troyer, 10 Cherry Creek Elementary Mr. Noskey



Drawn by: Matt B., 10 Cherry Creek Elementary Mr. Noskey



Drawn by: Jeanett Miller, 10 Cherry Creek Elementary Mrs. Noskey



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Drawn by: Ashley Colon, 10 1/2 Cherry Creek Elementary Mr. Fillman

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Merry Christmas

Drawn by: Ryan Junglas, 10 Cherry Creek Elementary Mrs. Young

Lowell Light & Power
127 N. Broadway
897-8402

Year-In-Review, continued.... From Page 27

open Mr. B's (2173 W. Main) in the Family Fare Shopping Center).

The YMCA's new spirit league is defined as being more conducive to building a stronger basketball program in Lowell and offers something to those looking for more than recreation. The spirit league offers a more advanced, structured basketball program for kids with advanced skills.

A half-a-century-old barn (1160 W. Main) is leveled by a fire. The barn was owned by Greenridge Realty.

Frank Kirsch and Dan Rottier qualify for the Class A cross country meet.

Volunteers work for three-four hours to clear junk from the old Bodyworks Gym. The building is prepared for renovation work so that a Flat River Outreach Ministries facility can be constructed.

November 11, 1998

Local churches and organizations begin raising money and emergency relief items for Hondurans who were devastated by Hurricane Mitch. Most of the agricultural land in Honduras is destroyed by flooding and mud slides.

The Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation awards \$5,000 in grants to 12 appli-

cants. In four years, the foundation has given away approximately \$30,000.

Seeing it as an incentive for students to push themselves academically, the Lowell Board of Education voted to implement a weighted grade concept beginning with the second semester of the 1998-99 school year.

November 18, 1998

Tim Wittenbach is sworn in as Vergennes Township's new supervisor.

An electrical fire at Valley Vista Mobile Home Park claims the life of five-year-old Kathy Smith in an early morning fire.

The current management operation of Lowell Cable Television and Lowell Light and Power will remain the same at least for another year; it was determined following a discussion between Paul Christman, Lowell Cable and Lowell Light and Power superintendent; Dave Pasquale city manager, and Ray Quada, cable television board chairman.

A Leadership Lowell meeting is held to discover better ways for the Lowell community to work together; to increase individual involvement in the community; to provide increased learning opportunities; and to assure the maximum use of Lowell Area Community Fund grants.

Following months of renovation work, the refurbished Lowell Showboat is floated down in front of the Riverwalk Plaza where it will stay throughout the holidays.

Mike Jansma is the winner of the 1998 Lowell Ledger's 25th annual "First Buck" contest. Jansma pulled up in front of the Ledger office at 8:50 a.m. with a seven-point buck. The Lowell resi-

dent was the Ledger's very first winner of the "First Buck" contest in 1974.

November 25, 1998

The Lowell Police Department issues 11 felony warrants in connection with area break-ins and the Greenridge Realty barn fire.

Lowell Area Historical Association's (LAHA) Christmas tree entry is part of the traditional Christmas on the Grand celebration. LAHA's entry entitled *Lowell's Love for Farming* earns most creative honors. Decorating the tree for LAHA again this year were LAHA members Tina Phillips and Lori Mattingly.

The installation of Creative Microsystems Inc. (CMI) accounting software and equipment will replace the existing Versys accounting system and enable the city finance department to be compliant in the year 2000.

Eradicating improper addressing in the service area of the Lowell Area Fire Department and other emergency personnel is a frustrating task but is the charge of a new public awareness program. Residents, at a small cost, are provided with a "911" aluminum safety sign to put up in their yard.

With a moratorium on any new transient merchant license being issued, the Lowell Planning Commission sets the framework for a task force committee of nine to study the current ordinance and to discuss where transient merchants should appropriately be located.

Tim Antel is named Lowell's new varsity baseball coach.

December 2, 1998

Vergennes Township Planning Commission addresses the idea of possible city water and sewer agreements with the Lowell Planning Commission.

December 9, 1998

The city of Lowell focuses its efforts on pursuing property acquisition and organizing financial efforts, following the city council's unanimous vote to approve the schematic design presented by Dan Durkee of Fishbeck, Thompson Carr, and Huber of the development plan outline for the proposed renovation project of City Hall.

City Hall.

A proposed septic system on Rich Bieri's industrial park's is met with uncertainty by the Vergennes Township Planning Commission. While a community sewer/septic would far exceed waiting for public utility in expediency, it raises maintenance and contamination questions.

Santa Claus makes his traditional arrival in Lowell at the annual Christmas parade.

Vergennes Township contracts Marc Daneman to

Review, cont'd. pg. 29

Year-In-Review, cont'd.... From Page 28

assist its planning commission with board of review land use issues.

American Legion Post 152 donates \$5,000 toward the renovation of the Flat River Outreach Ministries Thrift Shop.

After deeming it unsafe, and getting no response from the owners, city officials decide to move ahead and tear down the canopy at the former Rite Aid building.

Ron Holcomb begins his new role as Lowell Light and Power and Lowell Cable Television superintendent. Holcomb replaces the retiring Paul Christman.

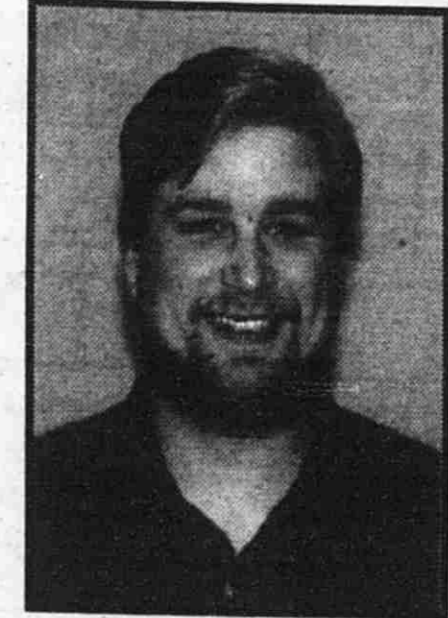
December 16, 1998

Growth leads the Lowell Downtown Development Authority to begin discussion about pursuing other downtown needs. The needs could include further parking lot improvements, an extension of Riverwalk, and the acquisition, renovation and resale of the old Hinkley building.

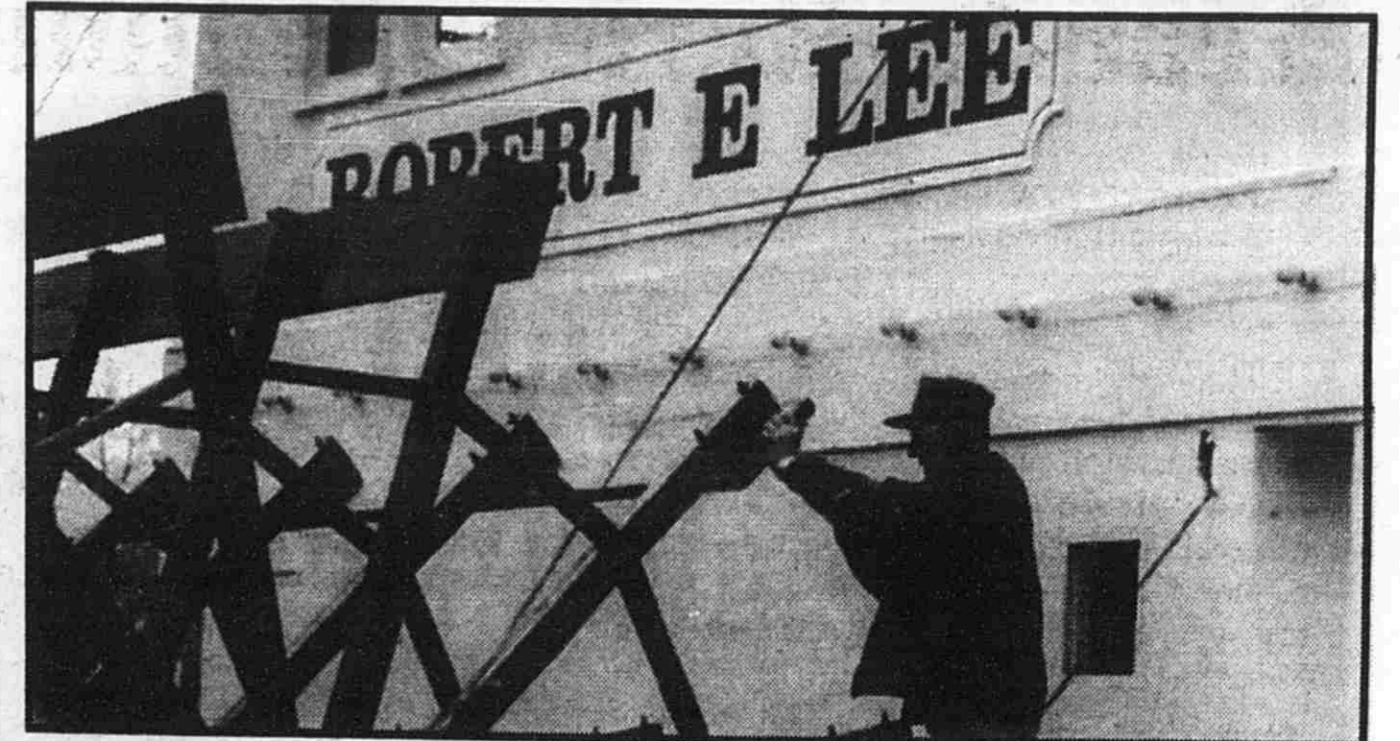
The Lowell Area Fire Department is awarded one of 14 grants distributed by the Lowell Area Community Fund. The grant was for \$6,620 toward the purchase of a thermal imaging camera.

Members of the Lowell

FFA attend a record-setting national convention in Kansas City. The convention drew 47,000 registrants.



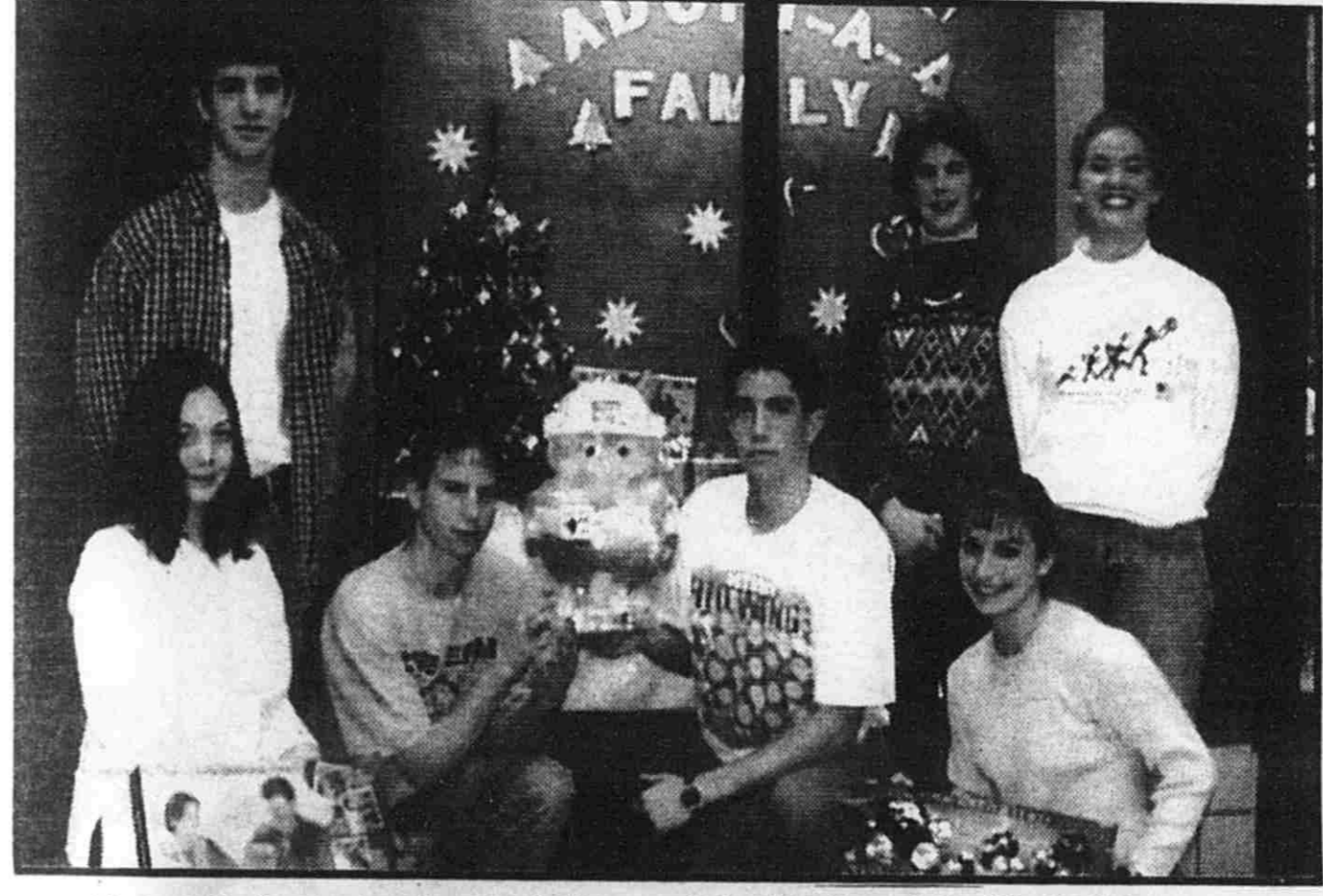
Tim Wittenbach is elected the new supervisor of Vergennes Township.



Ivan Blough, with the help of Lowell High School volunteers and members of the Showboat board, get a refurbished Showboat floating again.



This picture captures the fullness of the '98 fall season. Keaton Pomper is pictured above.



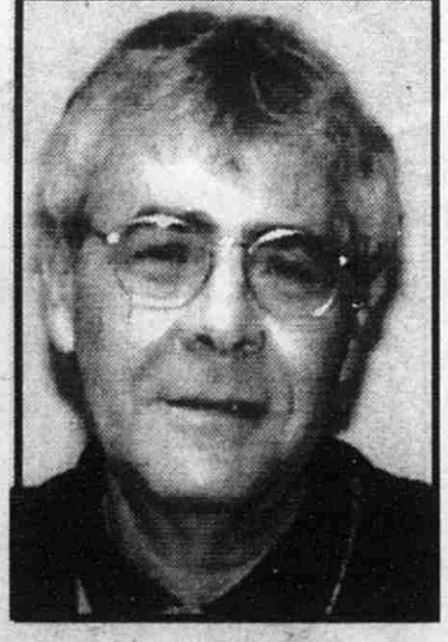
The spirit of volunteering one's time and sharing the spirit of the holiday season were no more visible than through the work of the FFA's Project Pals program.



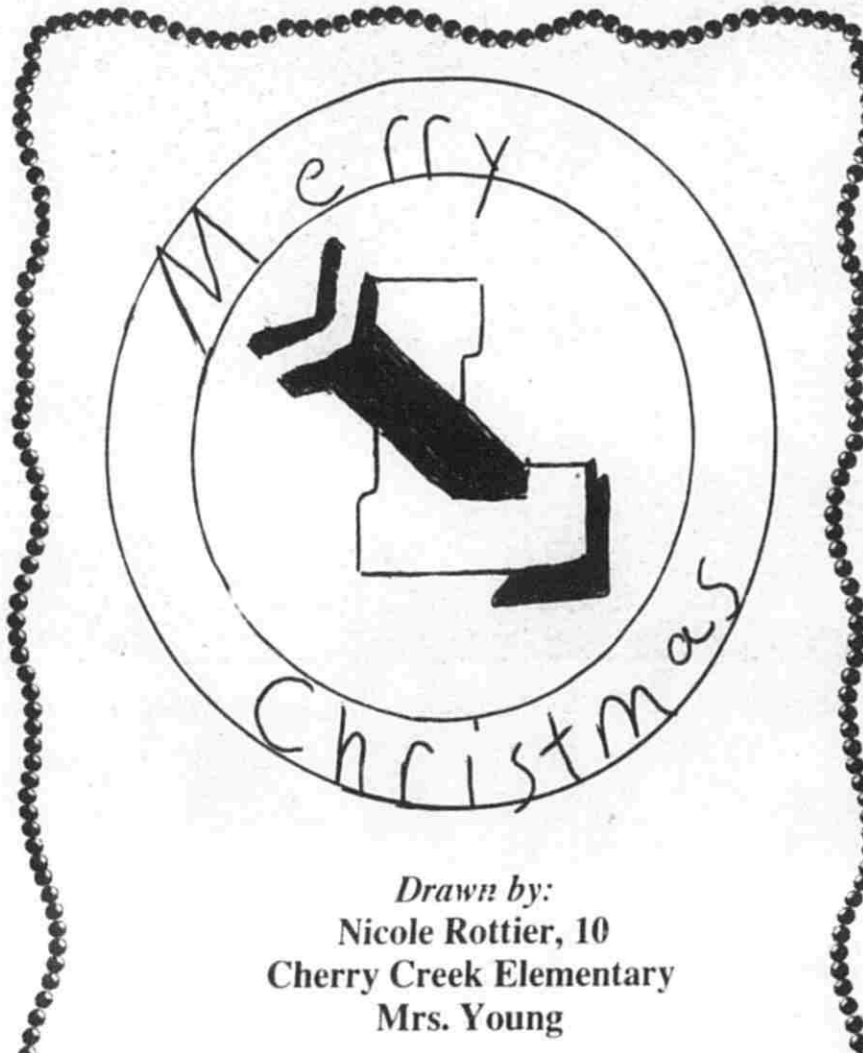
Dinorah Espinoza, a Family Fare pharmacist for three years, works to organize relief efforts to her homeland in Honduras.



Mike Jansma was the 1998 Lowell Ledger "First Buck" contest winner.



Paul Christman, Lowell Light and Power and Lowell Cable superintendent, retires.



Drawn by: Nicole Rottier, 10 Cherry Creek Elementary Mrs. Young

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897-8429

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2186 W. Main St., Lowell • 897-8486

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Speerstra Agency
Dale Triplett
835 W. Main St. 897-9259

Drawn by: Nathaniel Clements, 10 Alto Elementary Mr. Hawkins

NAPA 2240 W. Main Lowell, MI 897-9234

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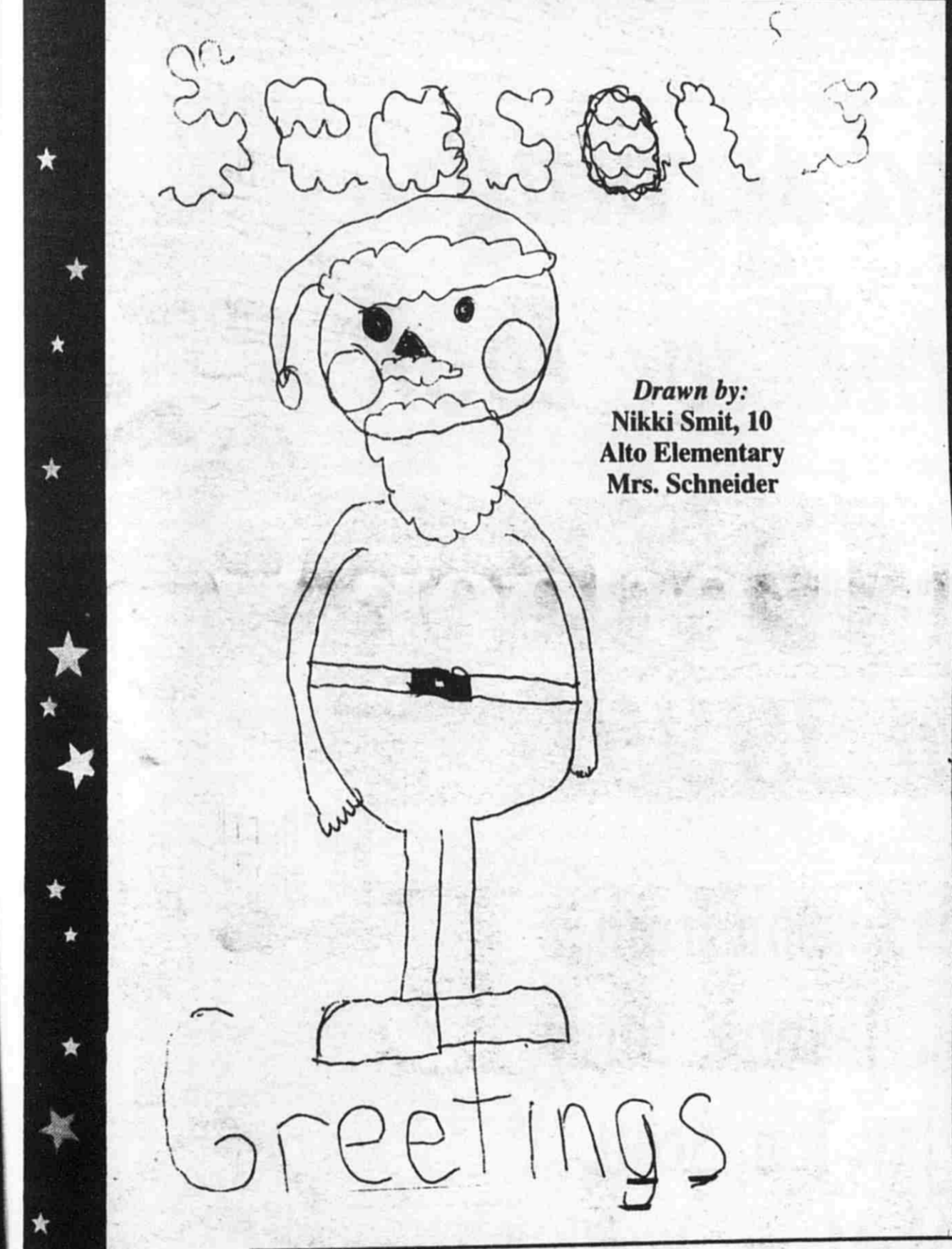
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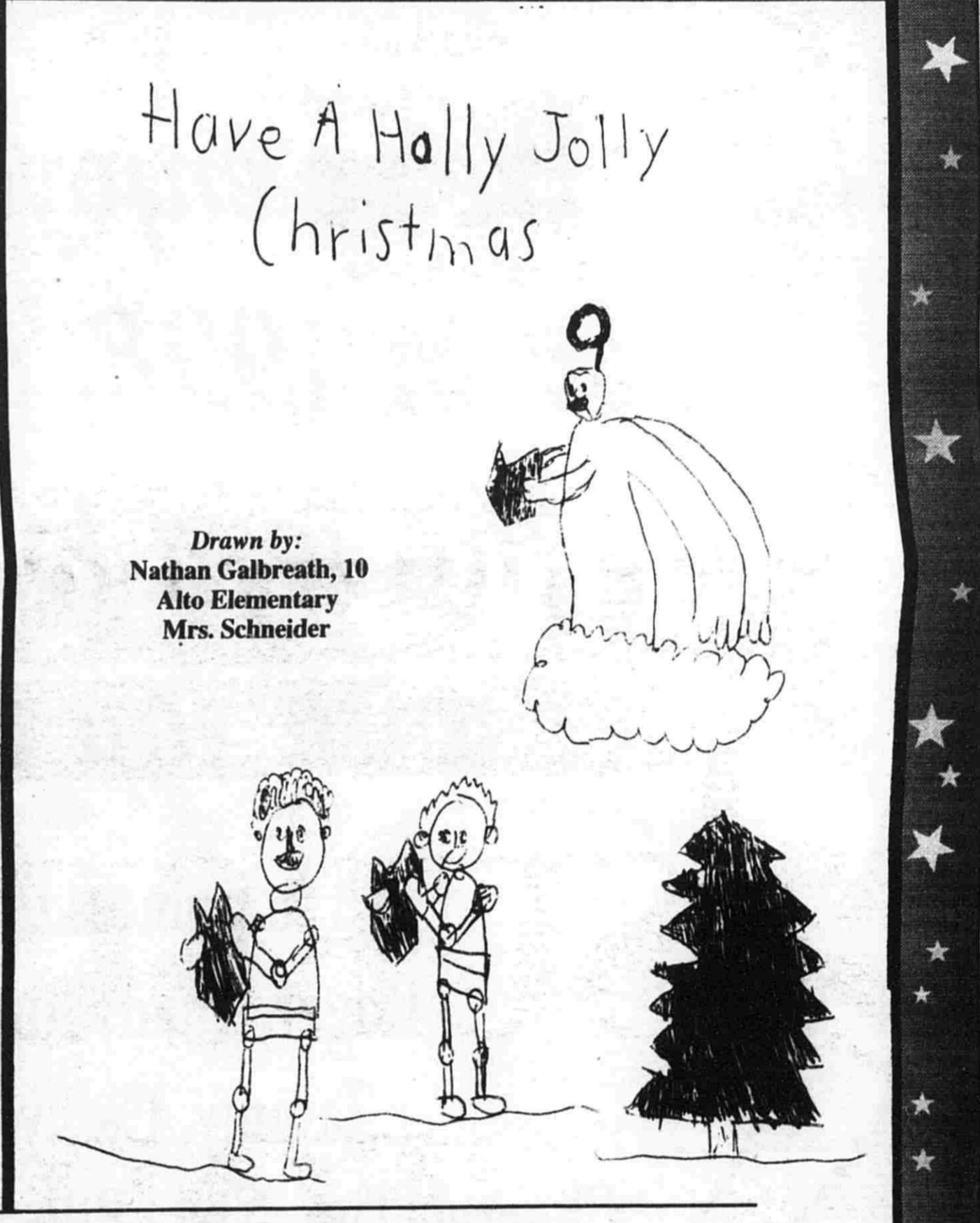
Drawn by:
Ben Hanson, 10
Alto Elementary
Mrs. Schneider



Drawn by:
Nikki Smit, 10
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Drawn by:
Nathan Galbreath, 10
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MONDAY EVENING DECEMBER 28, 1998. Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WZZM, FX, DISN, TBS, FAM, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, NICK, A&E, FSD, TNT, NASH, TLC, SCIF, COM, HIST, AMC, H&G, LIFE, HBO, MAX).

MONDAY LATE NIGHT DECEMBER 28, 1998. Table with columns for time slots (12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WZZM, FX, DISN, TBS, FAM, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, NICK, A&E, FSD, TNT, NASH, TLC, SCIF, COM, HIST, AMC, H&G, LIFE, HBO, MAX).

TUESDAY LATE NIGHT DECEMBER 29, 1998. Table with columns for time slots (12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WZZM, FX, DISN, TBS, FAM, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, NICK, A&E, FSD, TNT, NASH, TLC, SCIF, COM, HIST, AMC, H&G, LIFE, HBO, MAX).

WEDNESDAY EVENING DECEMBER 30, 1998. Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WZZM, FX, DISN, TBS, FAM, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, NICK, A&E, FSD, TNT, NASH, TLC, SCIF, COM, HIST, AMC, H&G, LIFE, HBO, MAX).

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Township denies Shady Acres beer and wine license

••• Vergennes Township asks planning commission to develop ordinance to regulate liquor license.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

A request for a beer and wine license by Thomas Widerski, owner of Shady Acres, a banquet hall at 10336 Bailey Drive, was denied by the Vergennes Township Board.

The denial was based on inconsistency with current zoning, with traffic at the intersection (Bailey/Vergennes), objection by neighbors, a lack of a township property ordinance and an impending recommendation from the planning commission.

The ability to run the business there is grandfathered in with the property. The business predates zoning in the township and thus has a legal, "non-conforming use" zoning status.

A license would allow Widerski to control who is drinking and how much is being consumed.

Township clerk Mari Stone said she always thought Shady Acres was a hay ride place. Widerski explained that it has always been a place for alcohol parties such as New Year's. A license would enable him to employ bar serv-

ers and cut people off before they become abusive; also all liquor would have to be consumed inside the building.

When asked whether the way liquor is currently being served is legal, township zoning administrator Jeanne VanderSloot said it is allowed.

If a license is allowed, township board member Mark Weber would like to see ordinances in place dealing with parking and to ensure neighbors are not inconvenienced. He noted that Widerski has the right to run a business as long as it is not out of sync with the laws.

In denying Widerski's request for a liquor license, the township board requested the planning commission develop an ordinance to regulate the use of the liquor license.

Lowell joins pop vending consortium

••• By joining 17 other KISD schools in the pop alliance, the Lowell School District will see a dramatic increase in vending revenue.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

The number of machines, the amount of advertising and who determines what is sold in the soda vending machines will all remain the same.

"Nothing will change. The district will do the same thing that it is doing under its current contract, but will do it for more money," Lowell superintendent Bert Bleke explained about the board's decision to participate in the Kent Intermediate School District beverage consortium cooperative agreement.

Under its current contract with Coke, Lowell received \$8,400 last year.

That will change dramatically with the consortium agreement. Connie Gillette, Lowell assistant superintendent for finance and personnel, said the district would be in line to receive \$25 per pupil or \$91,500. "There is a possibility we could get even more money per pupil," Gillette said.

That is good news unless your area dentist is board trustee James Reagan.

"This agreement is not in the best interest of student health. This is a strong arm freeze-out tactic by cash-rich companies who are bypassing parents in supermarkets by going right after the young kids in school. I see the damage these companies are doing everyday," stated Reagan.

Board secretary Ann Mulder was the only board member to side with Reagan and vote no on the agreement.

"There are those who feel we should participate in the

consortium because we need money for schools. We shouldn't go along with it if we don't feel good about it. There has to be other ways," Mulder said.

The Lowell School District currently has seven years remaining on its contract with Coke.

It, like other schools in the consortium, will have to buyout any contracts it works under, even if it's the same soda company.

For Lowell, that would mean a cost of \$14,000. That is the preliminary estimate given by Coke.

"The estimate would be up for discussion before Lowell would agree to pay it," Gillette said.

Board trustee Norm Byrne said the contract is more practical than what Reagan and Mulder suggest and is a strike against student rights.

"I think it would be impractical and unfair to high school students not to have pop machines available. Lowell High School is a closed campus (students can't leave the grounds). It would force students to bring their own pop to school," Byrne explained.

Mark Blanding, board vice president, said machines need to be available for after school events, meetings and public use.

Pete Gustafson, board president, noted that the district still determines how many machines, where they are located and what is vended.

Currently, 17 schools in the KISD have signed on to the agreement, two have not.

After the board approved the agreement by a 5-2 vote, Gustafson appointed an ad hoc committee to devote its overall attention to nutrition. It will be headed by Reagan.



Santas All Are We!

It's become a tradition for employees at Huntington Banks (formerly FMB) to adopt needy area families during the holidays. Huntington Banks employees adopted three Lowell families this year. They provided families with Thanksgiving Day dinners and delivered Christmas gifts from Santa on Tuesday. The Flat River Outreach Ministries Thrift Shop/Access 6 will also deliver Christmas baskets to the homes. This is done in lieu of an employee gift exchange," coordinator Sue Heinicke said. "All employees participated." Each year the bank has received an anonymous donation from one of its employees. "This year, the spouse's workplace matched the donation," Heinicke said. Pictured above with the gifts are Huntington Banks employees, left to right: Chuck Myers, Chris Barret, Erica Shier, Ginny Gauger, Sue Heinicke and Noreen Balaam.

New Year's Eve party at Cherry Creek Elementary

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Bring in the new year with middle school age students, family and friends at Lowell Schools rockin' New Year's Eve.

The New Year's Eve party will take place at Cherry Creek Elementary.

The fun will begin at 8 p.m. and end at midnight with a New Year's countdown.

The evening of activities will be spread out in a number of locations throughout the school. The activities will include art, basketball, volleyball, karaoke, dancing and a play room for ages eight and under accompanied by an adult.

"We invite families to come and go as it fits their schedule," said event coordinator, Pinky McPherson.

There will be a \$2 per person cost. Passes can be purchased at Front Row Video, Keiser's Kitchen, Mancino's Restaurant, Roll-Away Roller Rink, Springrove Variety, Victorian Thymes and the White Swan Coffee Shop.

Adults interested in being a volunteer for an hour at a station, please call McPherson at 897-7203.

CITY OF LOWELL

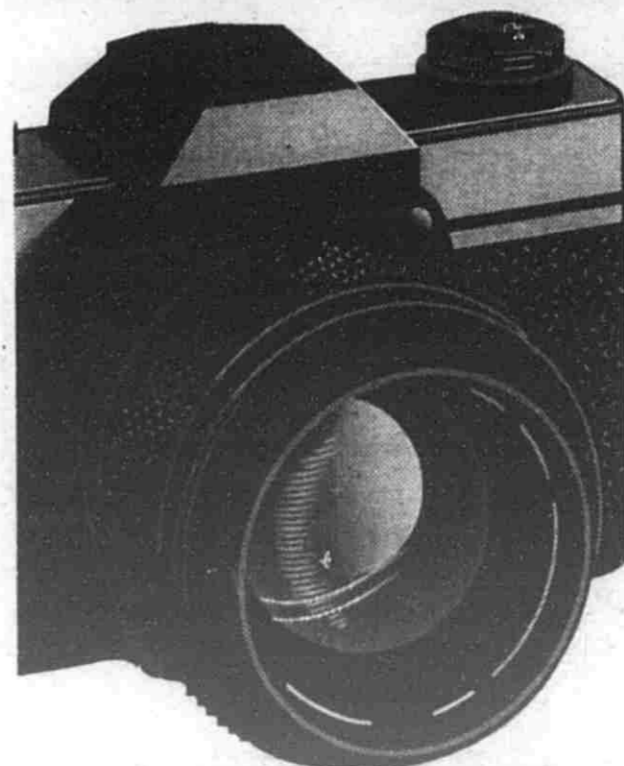
PUBLIC NOTICE ON THE RED TRASH BAG PROGRAM

Starting the week of January 4th, the red trash bags will cost \$6.00 for a roll of ten bags. These bags can be purchased at the following locations:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| City Hall | Hahn's Hardware |
| Family Fare | Crystal Flash |
| Supermarket | (1002 W. Main) |

If there are any questions, please contact Denny's Disposal (691-8530) or City Hall (897-8457).

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It is important that the subject's face not be shaded in order to print your photo clearly in the paper.

All group pictures should be taken WITHOUT caps, visors, etc.

Photos will no longer be accepted if faces are too dark.