

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 23, Issue 4

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

'99 LHS graduate killed in crash

We all do marvelous things that help kids make good choices but it is not something we can quantify. It isn't enough because every day we read and hear of a young person being killed. It will be enough when students aren't being killed in needless accidents. I've taken it on as a personal challenge to look at what we can do better to prevent such tragedies.

Scott Vashaw, Lowell High School Principal

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Joshua Robert Ford, 18, filled his days with friends and having fun.

Saturday night, fun turned tragic when the 1999 high school graduate was killed in a single car accident that occurred on Whites Bridge Road south of Potters Road in Keene Township of Ionia County.

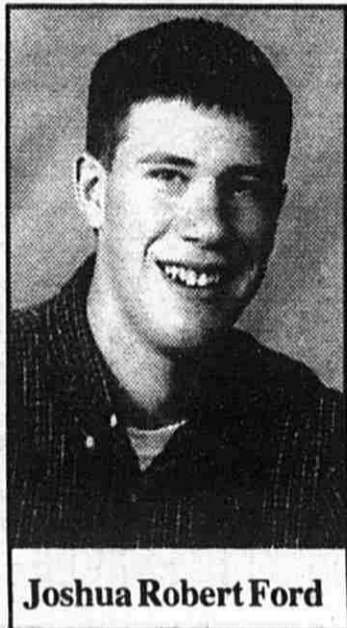
Ionia County Sheriff Department's preliminary accident investigation indicates that the vehicle driven by Dennis Snuffer, 20, of Lowell, of which Ford was a passenger, was northbound when he lost control. The vehicle left the roadway and rolled over several times ejecting Ford, who was pronounced dead at the scene.

Snuffer was airlifted from the scene by Aero-Med to Spectrum Health Downtown.

The Ionia County Sheriff's Department noted that it was still investigating the fatal accident. The report indicated that seat belts were not worn and alcohol was believed to have been a factor.

"Through our investigation, we learned the driver had been consuming alcohol," Ionia County Sgt. Michael Seinen said. "After all information is gathered, it will be forwarded to the prosecutor's office."

"We hope it is not," said Ford's stepfather Greg Ball. "If it is, we hope other kids can learn from this. Life is precious. It is not to be taken for granted. None of us are invincible. Josh is from a big family. We loved him. He will be greatly missed."



Joshua Robert Ford

Ball, speaking on behalf on Ford's mother Beth, said her son had a tremendous number of friends. "They visited the house often," Ball said. "Josh hadn't made up his mind what he wanted to do career-wise. He took every day as it came."

He had been contemplating attending Grand Rapids Community College in the winter, according to his mother.

Lowell High School principal Scott Vashaw said the tragedy is both frustrating and saddening. "Another fine young man has lost his life needlessly."

Earlier this year, Ford's fellow classmates Luke Swanson and Chris Cunningham lost their lives in a car accident.

"We have a crisis response team that is very helpful to students, staff and myself following such a tragedy," Vashaw said.

The Lowell High School principal said Ford's death has him weighing the need for a crisis prevention team.

"We all do marvelous things that help kids make good choices but it is not something we can quantify. It isn't enough because every day we read and hear of a young person being killed," Vashaw said. "It will be enough when students aren't being killed in needless accidents. I've taken it on as a personal challenge to look at what we can do better to prevent such tragedies."

Ford is survived by his parents Elizabeth (Greg) Ball and Tim Rittersdorf; brothers Gerrid, Justin Ball and Blake Rittersdorf; sister Michele Ford; grandparents Robert and Morna Ford, Alice and Al Meyer, Harold and Rose Ball, aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends. Funeral services will be held Wednesday (Nov. 10) at St. Mary's Church in Lowell, Rev. Gordon Barry officiating.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society and to a family garden memorial.

Novartis CEO gives small-town businesses a fighting chance against big corporate America

••• Alfred A. Piergallini urges small business owners to create an identity - something customers relate specifically to them.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

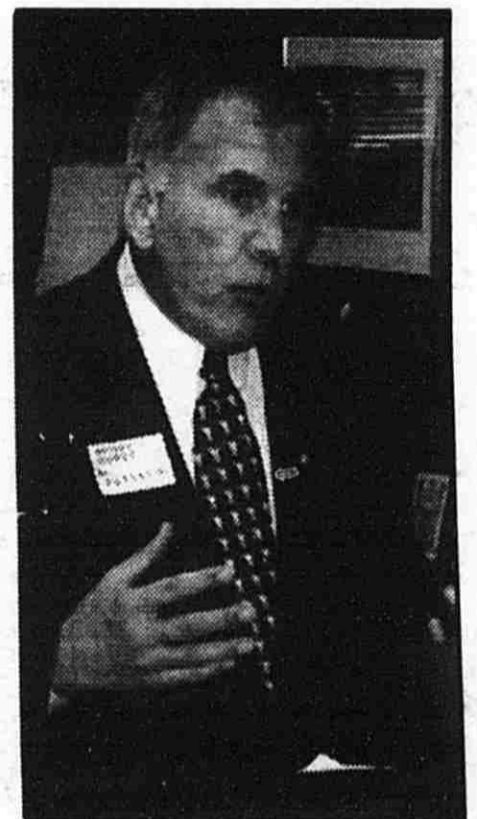
It is widely believed the arrival of a Meijer or a Witmark in a growing community destroys existing small-town retail shops.

Alfred A. Piergallini, president and CEO of Novartis Consumer Health North America, told Lowell Rotarians it doesn't have to.

"Meijer and Witmark stores destroy small businesses which haven't determined who their customer is, what it is they provide, how they can do it better than their competition and those who haven't identified their brand," Piergallini explained.

A brand is something customers identify with a business. The name Mickey is associated with Disney World. "Branding can be an owner, personality, product or a service," Piergallini said. "If I go to Bernard's True Value, Charlie (Bernard) tells me how to put in a light socket and what I'll need to do it."

The CEO added that a



Alfred A. Piergallini, president and CEO of Novartis Consumer Health North America, spoke to Lowell Rotarians.

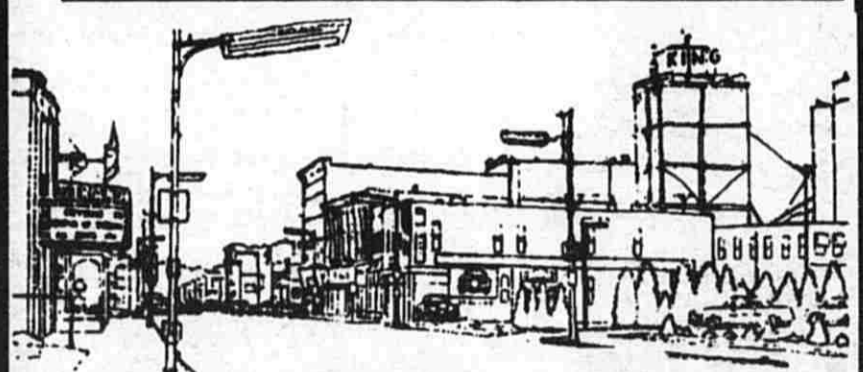
kid at Meijer will show a customer where to find something but isn't able to tell that customer how to do something.

"Is there viability for small businesses? Yes. But they must find that differential factor that separates them from their competition," Piergallini explains. "There are consultants out there who can help businesses identify their brand(s)."

Piergallini oversees the U.S. and Canadian operations of four Novartis Consumer Health businesses: Gerber Products Company, Novartis

Novartis, cont'd., pg. 8

Along Main Street



FREE PARENT WORKSHOP

"Parenting a Child with Attention Deficit Disorder," a workshop presented by the Educational Support Services department of Lowell Area Schools, will be presented Thursday, Nov. 11 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Come to the Board of Education meeting room at 300 High St. and listen to Dr. Brett May, one of the founders of the Pine Rest A.D.D. Institute, share some techniques and strategies to use with A.D.D./A.D.H.D. children. RSVP by Nov. 9 to either Jantina 897-1214 or Carol 897-1216.

Main Street, cont'd. pg. 8

Election merits four-year council seats for Blough and Quada

••• 403 registered voters took part in the city election on Nov. 2. Both charter amendments garnered voters' support.



Mike Blough
297 votes



Chuck Myers
273 votes



Ray Quada
286 votes

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Closing of the polls on Nov. 2 signified the end of another city council election campaign for city residents. City councilmembers, however, now begin preparing for

the mayoral campaign - in which they are the candidates and the electorate.

Of the five councilmembers, only newly-elected councilman Ray Quada, earning a four-year seat with 286 votes, has said he is not interested in pursuing the mayoral seat.

The former city manager, however, has kept the door slightly ajar. "If the council were to ask me to be mayor - that would change things," Quada explained.

That seems highly unlikely considering the four other

Council Election, cont'd. pg. 8

INSIDE THE LEDGER

Bleke Speaks Out On Funding Inequity, See Page 25

OBITUARIES

AMES - Lawrence Ames, aged 87, of Lowell, went to be with his Lord Friday, November 5, 1999. He was preceded in death by his wife Catherine. Surviving are his children Lawrence (Ann) Ames, Jr. of Grand Rapids, Florence Whyte of Grand Rapids; stepson Lynn (Judy) Doehring of Lowell; stepdaughter Lorna (Dick) Moore of Grand Rapids; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews. A Memorial Service was held Monday at the United Wesleyan Church, 5440 Wilson S.W. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the United Wesleyan Church Memorial Fund.

FORD - Josh Ford, aged 18, of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly of accidental injuries Saturday, November 6, 1999. He is survived by his parents Elizabeth (Greg) Ball and Tim Rittersdorf; sister Michele Ford; brothers Gerrid, Justin Ball and Blake Rittersdorf; grandparents Robert and Morna Ford, Alice and Al Meyer, Harold and Rose Ball; many aunts, uncles, and cousins; and many friends. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday (today) at 1 p.m. in St. Mary Church in Lowell, Rev. Gordon Barry officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

MARSHALL - Donnal Edwin Marshall, aged 55, of San Jose, CA, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, November 2, 1999, after a short battle with cancer. Don was born in Owosso, MI, on June 30, 1944, to Edwin and Faith (Truesdell) Marshall, the second child in a family that was, eventually, to grow to nine children. He was a 1962 graduate of Lowell High School and joined the US Navy immediately after graduation. He saw service in the Dominican Republic Campaign of 1964 and was honorably discharged as an SO (SS) 2/c. He moved to San Jose in 1966. He worked 24 years for Pacific Bell, from

lineman to regional planner, and retired in 1991. Don was very active in California as a breeder of canaries and pigeons, had served as judge in shows and competitions for pigeons and had raced pigeons. He was predeceased by his mother Faith, sisters Gerylyn and Laurie. He is survived by his father Edwin (Barbara) Marshall and brother Gordon (Marlene) of Lowell; sister Janice Sampson of Twin Lake; brothers Charles of Colorado Springs, CO, Dale (Toinette) of N. Richland Hills, TX; sisters Margaret (Richard) Howey of Grand Rapids, Janelle Gue of Muskegon and numerous nephews and nieces. Cremation has taken place. Interment will be at Bailey Cemetery, Vergennes Township. A memorial is being planned for a later date.

O'CONNOR - Kyran "Jay" O'Connor, aged 63, of Vergennes, passed away unexpectedly November 1, 1999. He was preceded in death by his son Robert Schafer and parents Kyran and Alice O'Connor. Mr. O'Connor is survived by his wife of 35 years, Mary Ellen; children Kathleen (David Sirahan) Schafer, James (Kathy) Schafer, Thomas (Carie) O'Connor, Tammy (David) Munro; grandchildren Christopher Blain, Jamie Schafer, Jim and Jenny Smith, Matt Alexander, Patrick O'Connor, Tony and Jessica Adams; two great-grandsons Calob Blain and Triston Smith; one great-granddaughter Darian Morgan; sisters Geraldine (George) Demenor, Jenny (Dan Zimmerman) McGuire; several aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. Mass of Christian Burial will be held Friday at St. Patrick's Church, Rev. Ronald Hutchinson, Celebrant. Interment St. Patrick's Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to American Heart Association or American Lung Association.

Memory of traumatic mishap remains, Lowell senior moves on

Five years ago, Emily Janes nearly lost her left leg. The traumatic experience has shaped who the senior is today, battered leg and all.

rail where the girls were sitting. "Angie got bumped by the car and was scratched and bruised," Janes said. "I had thrown my right leg over the rail and was attempting to throw my left leg over when

the car hit me below by left knee." The next thing Janes remembers is waking up in the hospital with lights shining down on her and a tube in her throat. "I didn't know why I was there, but I didn't ask ei-

ther," Janes said. The information doctors shared with her parents, back in 1994, was not something they felt comfortable discussing with a groggy 12 year old. Her left leg was battered and doctors were not sure they would be able to save it. In

fact, the first two-three weeks they discussed the likelihood of a prosthesis for their daughter. A visit from a specialist changed the discussion from the probability of a prosthesis to reconstruction of Janes' lower left leg.

Rebuilding the leg required taking muscle from her upper back, skin grafts from

probably walk with a limp the rest of my life," she says. "I don't have a limp." Cosmetic surgery on the leg was also offered as a possibility. That has since been retracted. "Doctors don't want to mess with the muscle they used to rebuild the leg. They are afraid that any infection could bring on gangrene," said the high school senior.

Janes still deals with post traumatic stress disorder. She describes it as an anxiety attack which brings about a nauseous, light-headed feeling.

For a period of time, Janes saw a psychologist for the disorder. "He helped me a lot and he inspired me," she reflects.

The Lowell student intends to study to become a psychologist.

The inspiration helped Janes muster the courage to remain active. The senior has been a cheerleader for three of the last four years and enjoys ice skating and other water hobbies.

That doesn't mean it's been easy.

Janes is still self-conscious about performing hello cheers in front of other schools' fans. "I notice others staring at my leg. That still bothers me. But I don't let those feelings stop me from doing things."

Emily Janes

her right hip and a vein from her lower right leg.

"It required nine-10 surgeries within a five-day period," Janes recalls.

The 12-year-olds first look at her newly reconstructed leg came three months after the surgeries.

Her initial reaction was "Wow, that's my leg?" Janes now admits that it didn't really matter how it looked... by this time she was thankful to have it.

Janes was out of the hospital six months before she began walking again; she needed eight-nine months of physical therapy.

"Doctors told me I'd

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Lowell Middle School seventh-graders Emily Janes and Angie Lake tagged along with Janes' older sister (Liz) for freshman orientation at the new high school.

After checking out the new high school digs, the seventh-graders walked down toward the football practice field to sneak a gander at the Red Arrow football players.

"We didn't want to look obvious or suspicious," Emily Janes recalls.

So the girls walked down past the fields, then followed the drive which leads to Alden Nash.

"We got to the guard rails and then decided to sit down," Janes explains.

A short time later, a friend drove past Janes and Lake. Recognizing them, the driver stopped and then proceeded to back up to where the girls were.

In the process, the friend lost control and ran into the



Lowell senior Emily Janes would like to study psychology in Colorado following her 2000 graduation.

Englehardt Library business meeting, Nov. 19

The Friends of the Englehardt Library will hold a business meeting on Friday, Nov. 19 at 10 a.m. at the library. All old and new members are invited to attend. This meeting will be a good chance for new members to meet current members and to learn about a Friends membership. Friends of the Library activities will be discussed.

For more information about the business meeting, call the Englehardt Library, a branch of the Kent District Library, at 897-9596. The Englehardt Library is located at 200 N. Monroe in Lowell.

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Rebecca Martin
Katie Weaver
Laura Baum
Molly LaLone
Stephanie Cantrell
John Martin
Sara Weaver
Paige Newton
Lauren Ferguson
Nick Weaver
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BUSINESS MATTERS

Jennifer Village has been hired as the assistant vice president and manager of the Independent Bank office in Saranac.



Jennifer Village

She will be assuming her new responsibilities from Fran Borup who is retiring at the end of this year after 30 years of service with Independent Bank.

Village will be supervising the overall business operations of the Saranac branch including deposit accounts, consumer loans, mortgages and commercial accounts.

She previously worked as office manager for the Ionia County National Bank in Lowell and was the assistant manager of the Comerica Bank in Portage. She holds a

master's degree of business administration in finance from Western Michigan University and a bachelor's degree in

Russian from the University of Michigan. She is active in the Lowell community as a member of Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce and Junior Achievement.

"Jennifer's extensive background in community banking and finance will be a tremendous asset for Independent Bank Corporation. We are happy to have her as part of our team," commented Michael M. Magee Jr., president and CEO of Independent Bank.

Independent Bank is a subsidiary of Independent Bank Corporation. The bank operates 20 offices in the communities of Ionia, Belding, Carson City, Lyons, Portland, Saranac, South Ionia, Rose City, Hale, Whittemore, East Tawas, Tawas, Oscoda, Glennie, Hubbard Lake, Hillman, Alpena, Rogers City and West Branch.

Don Schneider has been appointed assistant vice president, Lowell office manager at ICNB (Ionia

County National Bank), president James D. Fast recently announced.

With 23 years in the banking industry, Schneider brings an extensive consumer lending background to ICNB. He is a graduate of Grand Rapids Junior College and the University of Wisconsin.

Active in the community, Schneider is a board member for the consumer credit association of Greater Grand Rapids and serves on the Advisory Council/Board for The Salvation Army. In addition, he is the business manager/



Donald Schneider

vice chairman for a local community church.

ICNB is a diversified financial services company providing a wide range of banking and investment op-

tions. ICNB is a wholly owned subsidiary of ICNB Financial Corporation operating offices in Ionia, Belding, Lowell, Sunfield and Woodland.

COLLEGE NEWS

Jennifer Sobie, of Lowell, is among 11 Western Michigan University students selected to receive awards to spend the current fall semester working on research projects with faculty mentors.

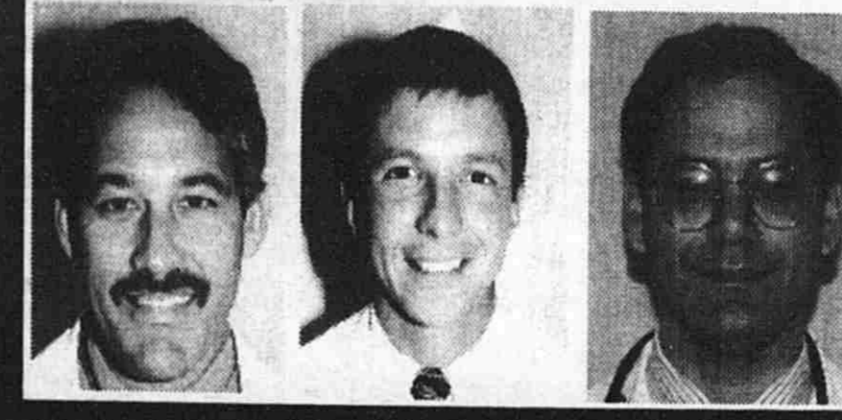
Sobie is a senior majoring in psychology and a member of the Lee Honors College. She and Dr. Lisa Baker, associate professor of psychology, are studying "The Effects of Prompted Responding (Targeting) in Dogs on Avoidance Behavior Around Strangers."

Each winner was selected by a faculty review committee to receive a 1999 fall undergraduate Research and Creative Activities award, which includes a \$1,200 stipend to undertake the research or creative project in cooperation with a faculty adviser.

Tamara Stauffer, of Lowell, is among 16 transfer students named recipients of the Community College President's Scholarship from Western Michigan University.

Each award totals \$4,000 over two years. To be eligible, students must have earned at least a 3.5 grade point average at their community college.

Health With Drs. Paul Gauthier, Jim Lang & Kevin Miller



GINKGO

It seems these days that more and more of our patients are asking us about alternative medications and vitamins. One of the most commonly asked questions is whether regular use of ginkgo extract helps prevent Alzheimer's disease or improve memory.

To The Editor, continued...From page 5

I have heard it said that we live in the great age of technology. A society that can afford a million and a half dollars for one dress worn by Marilyn Monroe and a third of a billion dollars for a new stadium for our great Lions team to play in should be able to afford the sacrifice for public education that our parents made. With that commitment to our children's future our next millennium might well be known as the Great Age of Wisdom.

Jack Misner

so many years before that, boys even kept their hunting guns in their lockers at school. My grandfather took his 20-gauge with him when he drove a Lowell school bus because his route ended near some prime pheasant land.

The idea of a gun dealer is not new. What is new, is the fear and loathing of a valuable tool. The reality is that we are not only petrified of guns... we are scared of each other. Why does the federal government assume that Thomas and Tschannen are dangerous? Why is the BATF involved in something that should be a local issue? The federalizing of gun laws, and demonizing of guns in general has had a deleterious effect upon our society.

Or... maybe some of the deleterious effects of society have contributed to the demonizing of a tool we have a right to own. A constitutionally guaranteed right to own. When we, as a society, have allowed personal liberty to rise to the level of license, when we value "security" more than we value life, we invite tyranny. Maybe if we had a little more self-control, there wouldn't be such a cry for government control.

Which reminds me, at one time merchants could even display their wares outside on Main Street...

At your service,
Donald L. Green

Dear Editor,

I noticed with some bemusement your headline about Lowell's "first gun dealer" (11/3/99). How short our institutional memories are.

It was not that many years ago that there were multiple places that sold guns on Main Street. At one time, every hardware store sold ammunition and most sold guns. House of Townsend and Western Auto both sold guns. Even Lippert's Drug Store sold ammo and hunting gear. When guns were plentiful, I could walk home from school, stop in at these stores and look at and even handle guns.

When I was in high school, we left our shotguns in the trunk of our car, so we could go hunting right after school. Not

blood, possibly improving blood flow to the brain and other vital organs. Ginkgo can prolong bleeding time and shouldn't be taken with aspirin, coumadin or other blood thinners.

The research on ginkgo is still somewhat spotty and we aren't recommending it for widespread use. A longer study on the use of Ginkgo biloba extract for Alzheimer's disease should be released next spring. Many patients have been taking the supplement hoping that it provides some benefit. Because of interactions with blood thinning drugs, we recommend not taking it if you are also taking aspirin or other blood thinners.

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

WED., NOVEMBER 17, 1999 AT 7:30 P.M.

Grattan Township Hall
12050 Old Belding Rd.

AT WHICH TIME AND PLACE THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WILL BE HEARD:

Sharon Y. Betz - 10650 7 Mile Road N.E., Rockford, MI 49341 requests a variance from Article 3, Section 3.01 B 3. (b) & (c), front yard setback for garage to be 91' - 0" in lieu of 110' - 0". Property located at 10650 7 Mile Road N.E., Rockford, MI 49341 parcel 41-12-20-100-022.

Written comments concerning these issues should be received prior to the hearing and addressed to: Al Berry, Grattan Township Zoning Board of Appeals, 12050 Old Belding Rd., Belding, MI 48809.

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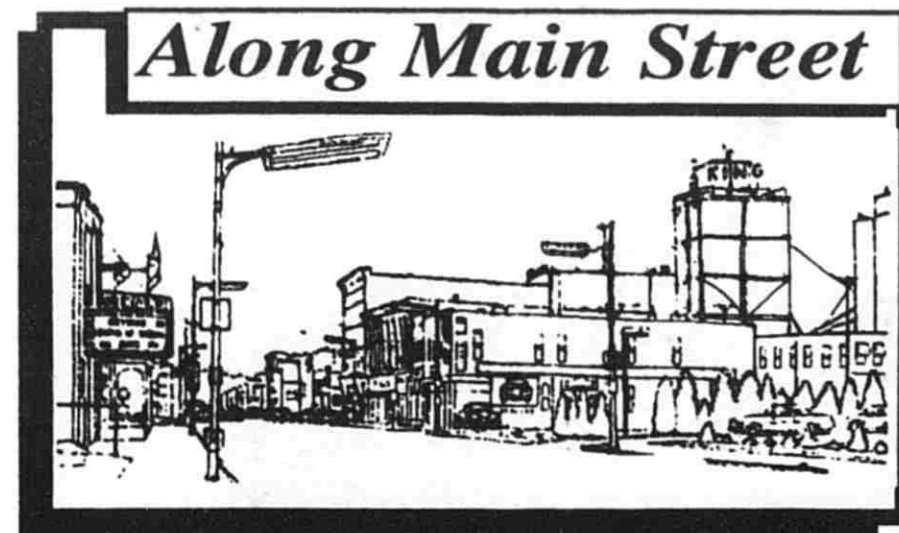
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SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB INFORMATION
Lowell Ski and Snowboard Club information is available at Alto and Cherry Creek elementaries and Lowell Middle School

in the offices. High school students should contact Ms. Talus. For more information call Robin Briggs at 897-9904 or Kathy Talus at 897-4125.

COMMODITIES DISTRIBUTION
Commodities will be distributed Thursday, Nov. 18 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Moose Recreational building.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY BANQUET
The annual banquet of Fallsburg Historical Society will be held at Schneider Manor on Monday, Nov. 15 at 6:30 p.m. A catered meal will be served and new president Michael Page's address will be *The State of the Society, and Historic Preservation and Historic Tourism.*
Reservations must be made by Thursday, Nov. 11 by calling either 897-6430 or 897-8151. The cost is \$8 per person.

8TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS THROUGH LOWELL
The 8th annual Christmas through Lowell will be held Nov. 19 through 21. Maps are available at: Wolf Tracks, Cousin's Hallmark, State Farm Insurance, Shorebird Gallery, Victorian Thymes and Rupert's Drop.
Call 897-8829 or 897-0064 for more information.

ENTERTAINMENT DISCOUNT BOOKS
Dine at your favorite restaurants, enjoy top local and national attractions, save on air fare, cruises, car rentals and over 1,600 hotels, plus much more - all at up to 50 percent off.
Purchase the Entertainment Discount Book from any Lowell Women's Club member and receive a bonus "Restaurant Secrets of Grand Rapids and Other Great Places" cookbook at no extra charge. Or you may order by phone by calling 897-8107. Proceeds will benefit Lowell High School scholarships.

Council Election, cont'd... From Page 1

councilmembers have expressed a strong interest in the position.

Whoever is appointed will need the support of two other councilmembers. Where Quada throws his support, therefore, will be a critical factor. "I have not decided who I will support for mayor," he says.

The mayoral appointment will be made at the Jan. 3, 2000 city council meeting.

The newly-elected mayor will be Lowell's 10th since 1960 and will replace Bill Thompson, who has served on the council for 16 years and as mayor for the past four years.

Shores admits there's a romance in becoming Lowell's

first woman mayor. If not nominated, however, she would support Don Green as mayor. "He has served four years as mayor protem. I think that puts him in line."

Neither Chuck Myers, Mike Blough nor Green have made a decision as to who they would support if they are not appointed.

"We're in a unique situation in that I don't think there has been this much interest in the past," Shores says.

Blough received the highest number of votes (297) on Nov. 2 and earned a four-year term. He believes the mayor should continue to further advance the role of the city as a primary leader in planned growth of the area. "The mayor should work to tie all interests together," he explained.

Myers defines a mayor's role as a facilitator of ideas and someone who works closely with the city manager. "I think there are a number of qualified individuals with different perspectives interested in serving as mayor."

Myers garnered 273 total votes and earned a two-year term. He is appreciative of the work out-going mayor, Bill Thompson has done. "Mayor Thompson has shown the ability to step back and access issues from an outside perspective even though he is directly involved. Bill has also had a calming effect when volatile issues have been discussed," said Myers.

Green concurs that all the councilmembers have the qualities needed to be mayor.

"I think being mayor in Lowell is a ceremonial role. Our city charter says the mayor is the chairman of the meeting. It is not someone who tries to manage or micro-manage the city," Green explains. "The mayor is a leader. The policy is set by the council; the action by the city manager."

Ed Boeve also vying for a council seat finished with 121 votes.

Charter amendments to compensate planning commissioners (263-127) and to extend the deadline to pay property taxes to Aug. 31 before any penalty accrues (274-111) both passed.

Novartis, cont'd... From Page 1

Medical Nutrition, Novartis OTC (over the counter medicines), and the newly formed Novartis Health and Functional Nutrition business unit. He has 30 years of marketing and operating experience with leading consumer goods companies.

Piergallini began his business career in 1970 as a marketing trainee at Procter & Gamble, where he quickly moved to brand manager and then to sales manager.

The CEO holds an M.B.A. in finance and marketing from the University of Chicago and a B.A. from Lafayette College.

The best way to predict the future is to create it.

—author Art Martell

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NOTICE

TORNADO SIREN TEST

On Friday, November 19, the City of Lowell will test the new tornado sirens. The sirens will be tested separately.

The West Side siren located at Sibley and Ridgeview will be tested at 11:00 a.m.

The East Side siren located at Division and Avery will be tested at 11:30 a.m.

SOCIAL WORK - RESIDENT ADVOCATE

Seeking resident advocates to work in a residential program for adults with mental illness and/or developmental and implementation of treatment plans, medication distribution, and crisis intervention. Wages begin at \$8.65 per hour with a \$0.50 increase upon completion of orientation and training. \$0.05 shift differential on weekends. Excellent written and verbal communication skills are a must.

If you are interested in this gaining valuable Mental Health experience, send/fax your resume to, at: Horizons of Michigan, West Lake location, 11652 Grand River Avenue, Lowell, MI 49331 or call 897-5900, ext. 27 to schedule an interview. H/V/M/F, Affiliate of Hope Network.

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Kaley Grummet
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Maxwell Stormzand
Brianna Thomet
Matthew Woodhead
Ryan Woodhead

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING VERGENNES TOWNSHIP KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

In accordance with Act 168 of the Public Acts of 1959, as amended, the Township Planning Act, Vergennes Township is preparing a Comprehensive Plan. The Vergennes Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed new Comprehensive Plan on Monday, November 22, 1999 at 7:00 P.M. The purpose of the hearing is to accept public comments on the proposed changes. A copy of the Comprehensive Plan and maps are available for public inspection at the Township Hall during regular business hours. There will also be copies available for viewing at the Lowell Public Library. The hearing will be conducted at the Lowell High School Band Room located at 11700 Vergennes SE, Lowell, MI. The Band Room is located on the West side of the school, and parking will be available in the West lot. All Township residents are encouraged to attend the hearing and express their opinions.

Vergennes Township Planning Commission
Rick Gillett, Chair

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	SHOWTIME
15	WSYM-47
16	HBO
17	THE MOVIE CHANNEL
18	C-MAX
19	FAM
20	LOCAL PROG./WEATHER
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	TBS
34	DISNEY
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
48	C-SPAN
49	EWTN

* Denotes Premium Channels

FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 12 THRU NOVEMBER 18

Black and Blue stars Mary Stuart Masterson as Frannie, the physically and emotionally abused wife of Detective Bobby Benedetto, played by Anthony LaPaglia. The new TV movie, based on the popular book of the same name by Anna Quindlen, airs Wednesday on CBS.

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SHOWTIME NO LIMITS
SATURDAY 8 P.M.

MONDAY - FRIDAY MORNINGS NOVEMBER 12, 1999 - NOVEMBER 18, 1999. Table with columns for time slots (5:00-11:30) and rows for Broadcast Channels (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.) and Cable Channels (FX, FAM, MTV, etc.).

MONDAY - FRIDAY AFTERNOONS NOVEMBER 12, 1999 - NOVEMBER 18, 1999. Table with columns for time slots (12:00-6:30) and rows for Broadcast Channels (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.) and Cable Channels (FX, FAM, MTV, etc.).

FRIDAY EVENING NOVEMBER 12, 1999. Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for Broadcast Channels (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.) and Cable Channels (FX, FAM, MTV, etc.).

Advertisement for GM Goodwrench Service and Wittenbach Lube, Oil Change, Filter. Includes a large price tag for \$17.95 and contact information for Wittenbach.

MONDAY - FRIDAY LATENIGHT NOVEMBER 12, 1999 - NOVEMBER 18, 1999. Table with columns for time slots (12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00) and rows for various channels (WVMT, WOV, WGVU, etc.) listing programs.

SATURDAY MORNING NOVEMBER 13, 1999. Table with columns for time slots (5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for various channels (WVMT, WOV, WGVU, etc.) listing programs.

SPORT HIGHLIGHTS

HOCKEY: FOXDT Fri. 7 p.m. College Hockey Bowling Green State at Michigan State. (Live)
TENNIS: ESPN Sun. 1 p.m. Tennis WTA Advanta Championships -- Final. From Philadelphia. (Live)
TRACK AND FIELD: WOOD Sun. 4 p.m.; WILX Sun. 4 p.m. Triathlon Ironman. From Kailua Kona, Hawaii, athletes compete in a 2.4-mile ocean swim, 112-mile bike ride and 26.2-mile run. (Taped)
WRESTLING: TNT Mon. 8 p.m. WCW Monday Nitro (Live)

SKATING: TNN Fri. 9 p.m. Rollerjam Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)
GOLF: ESPN Fri. 4 p.m. PGA Golf Tour Championship -- Third Round. From Sherwood Country Club in Thousand Oaks, Calif. (Live)
SOCCER: FOXDT Sun. 12 p.m. Women's College Soccer Conference USA Championship -- Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)
EQUESTRIAN: ESPN Sun. 5:30 p.m. Equestrian Grand Prix De Penn National. From Harrisburg, Pa. (Taped)

STRETCH YOUR ADVERTISING BUDGET! RUN 1 AD IN THIS SPACE - 4 WEEKS Only \$50! CARNATION SPECIAL 1 WRAPPED CARNATION CASH & CARRY ONLY 75¢

SATURDAY AFTERNOON NOVEMBER 13, 1999. Table with columns for time slots (12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 4:30, 5:00, 5:30, 6:00, 6:30) and rows for various channels (WVMT, WOV, WGVU, etc.) listing programs.

Table with columns for SUNDAY EVENING / LATENIGHT, BROADCAST CHANNELS, and CABLE CHANNELS. Includes channel numbers, program titles, and descriptions.

Table with columns for MONDAY EVENING, BROADCAST CHANNELS, and CABLE CHANNELS. Includes channel numbers, program titles, and descriptions.

Table with columns for PREMIUM CHANNELS. Includes channel numbers, program titles, and descriptions.

Table with columns for PREMIUM CHANNELS. Includes channel numbers, program titles, and descriptions.

LOWELL WATER WORKS advertisement featuring a cartoon character and text: 'We have all new state of the art equipment and cleaning products to clean, protect & dry your vehicle.' Includes address: 1941 West Main - Lowell, MI 49331.

LOWELL WATER WORKS advertisement: '401(k) rollovers made easy. WIN FREE CAR WASHES. Bring in this coupon when you get your next wash & ENTER THE DRAWING FOR 1 YEAR OF FREE CAR WASHES!' Includes a form for name and phone.

Edward Jones advertisement: '401(k) rollovers made easy. Call or stop by today. Which IRA is right for you? Focused on planning for retirement? A traditional IRA or Roth IRA...' Includes contact information for Christopher J. Bouma.

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for various TV channels (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.) listing programs and their descriptions.

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for various TV channels (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.) listing programs and their descriptions.

SPRINGROVE VARIETY advertisement featuring 'DOWNTOWN LOWELL' and 'Shop in an atmosphere of days gone by!' with details on bulk candy, crafts, and home goods.

Touch of Country advertisement for 'AFFORDABLE SOLID OAK FURNITURE' and '10% Off ALL LAMPS' with contact information for Caledonia, MI.

Lowell's offense slumps in losses to Pioneers and Vikings

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

The Pioneers' 47-21 win over the Red Arrows may not have indicated it, but both East Grand Rapids (11-0, 18-0) and Lowell (4-8, 8-10) were struggling offensively entering Thursday night's game.

"Our offense has struggled recently; the girls haven't been attacking the basket and feeding the post," EGR basketball coach Colleen Lamoreaux-Tate said.

Minus the play of Jessica Hart, Emily Southworth and Malissa Burke, EGR's physical, body-up-style defense enabled the Pioneers to work through their offensive struggles.

"I'm proud of the effort the girls gave tonight. They showed that adversity didn't matter," Lamoreaux-Tate explained. "Defense has been a benchmark for us."

Lowell struggled against the Pioneers' pressure defense. "We were unable to

execute in our half court offense. We didn't have anyone attacking the basket. No one was looking for shots or taking shots," Lowell girls basketball coach Ken Akers said. "We didn't attack the basket against East or in our loss to Lakewood."

Red Arrow center Amanda Stoutjesdyk led all Lowell scorers with eight points. Lauren Vashaw and Jody Seif each added four points apiece.

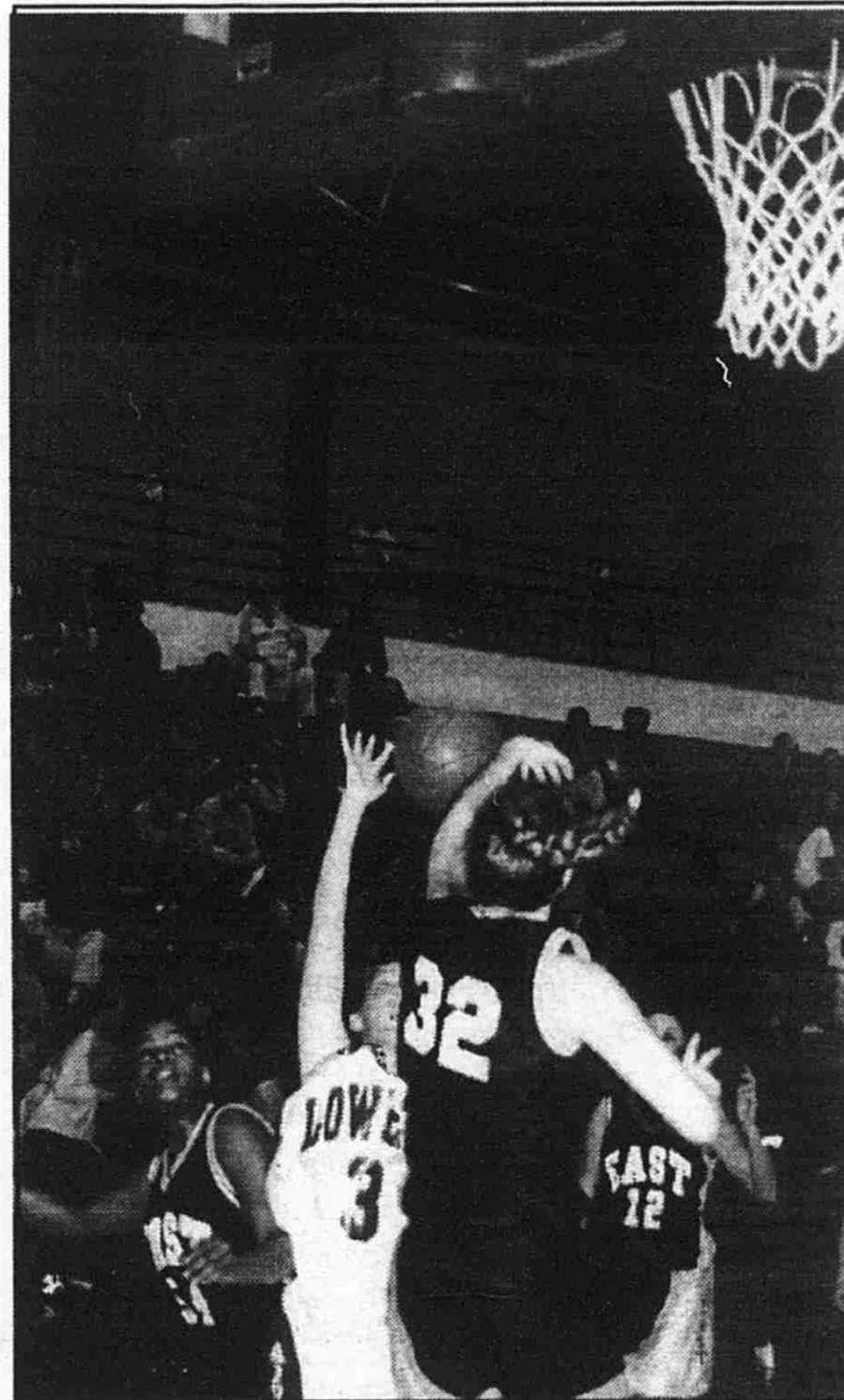
Danielle Grady and Claire Cunningham led a balanced East attack with eight

points each.

**Lakewood 39
Lowell 30**

Lakewood outscored Lowell 23-12 in the second and third quarters in posting a nine-point nonconference win against the Red Arrows. Jill Benschoter led the host with 13 points. Amanda Stoutjesdyk led Lowell with 10 points.

The Red Arrows close out their regular season with home games against Zeeland and Hastings this week.



Red Arrow Lauren Vashaw attempts a shot in the lane against EGR.

Red Arrow girls 18th in state meet

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

A young and upcoming Red Arrow girls cross country team made its way to the Michigan Speedway in Brooklyn, MI, for the Class A state finals on Saturday.

Lowell placed 18th (439) in a field of 27 schools. Red Arrow Katie Clements led all Lowell runners as she stopped the clock in 19:58, finishing 50th overall. "We were the youngest team down there," Lowell cross country coach Clay VanderWarf said. "I'm proud of the way the girls ran."

Teammate Lisa Wojciakowski placed 66th in a time of 20:06.8. Holly Plattner was 89th as she came off the 3.1 mile course in a time of 20:24.1.

Abby Vos, 113th, came home in 20:45.3. Molly Kirsch, 121st, came off the course in 21:01.3. "These girls seem to gel as a team. I think this group will stick around," VanderWarf said.

The only other area team to participate was Rockford. The Rams, ranked first in the state and second in the country, ran away from its competition.

Rockford placed five runners in the top 20 and three in the top 10. The Rams finished with 40 points. Its closest competitor was Rochester Adams, which finished over a 100 points back at 152. Traverse City Central was third with 216.



Sonny Moyer drives around her Pioneer defender.

Census looking for workers

A census recruiter will be at the Englehardt Library on Monday, Nov. 15 at 6 p.m. to conduct an eligibility test for census workers. The test has 28 multiple-choice questions. Samples of the test can be picked up at the Ada Township Clerk office. Most census positions will be enumerators who will go to the homes of those who do not return the census forms in April.

It is important to have enumerators who are familiar with the township to ensure an accurate count. The pay is \$10.50 an hour plus \$.31 mileage. There will also be some full-time and part-time clerical office positions available to process data and handle inquiries.

COLLEGE NEWS

David Luyk has been placed on the dean's honor list at the University of Michigan College of Engineering in recognition of his outstanding achievements for the winter term 1999. His major is computer science.

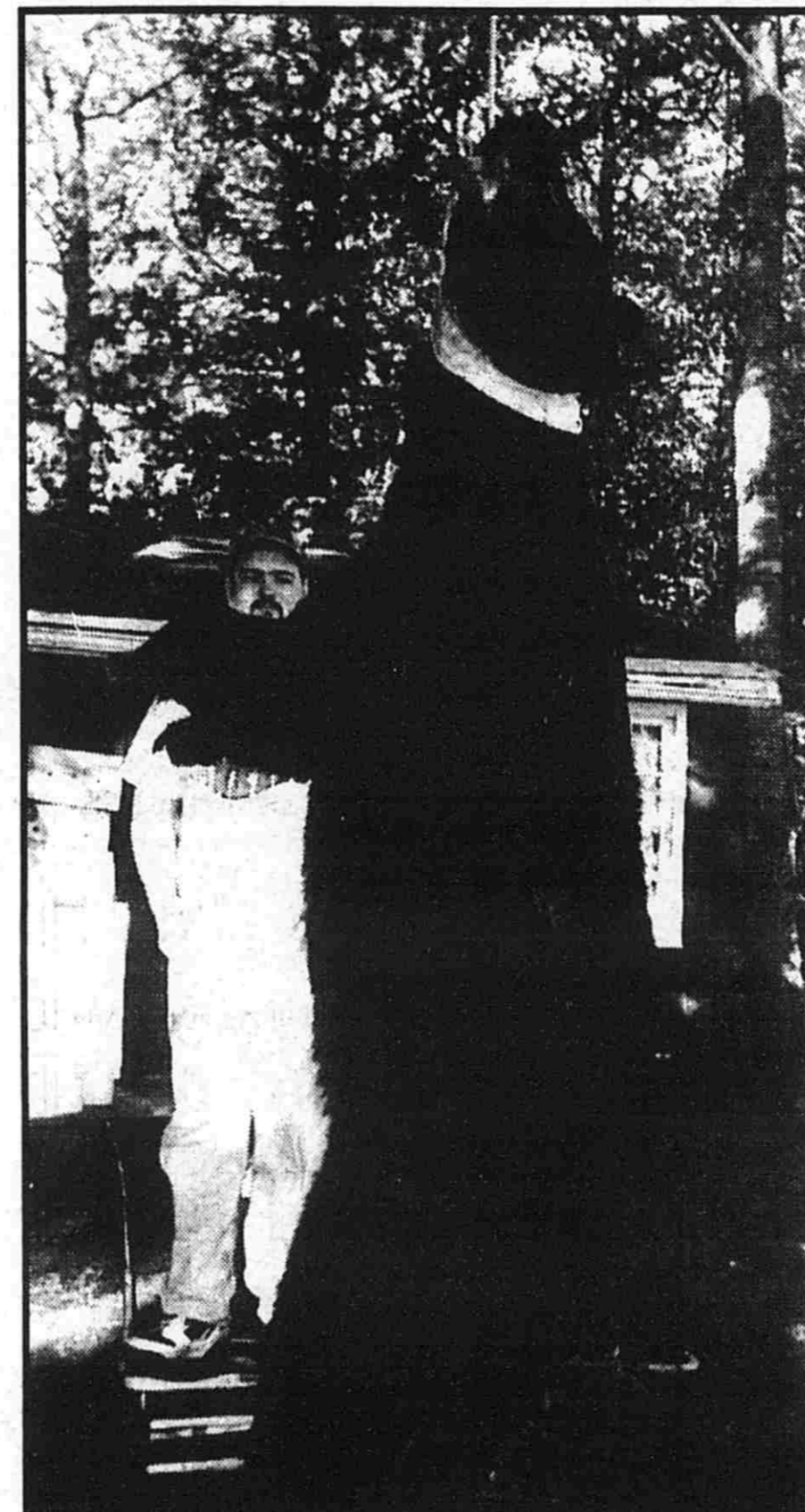
Anastasia Luyk graduated from Western Michigan University this past year. She earned her degree in biomedical and chemistry.

She is now working for Pharmacia and Upjohn in Portage as a chemist.

They are the son and daughter of Dan and Kris Luyk of Belding.

Kansas State University has awarded scholarships to more than 4,000 students for the 1999-2000 school year. Included on the list of recipients were Aaron John Plattner and Brett William Plattner of Lowell.

The scholarships total more than \$5 million and are made possible through donations and gifts to the KSU Foundation



Tony Witherell stands with his 291 1/2 pound black bear.

Witherell gets black bear on first trip

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Tony Witherell knows just how lucky he was to see, let alone drop, a black bear on his first day out.

"My understanding is that it isn't this easy," Witherell says. "The black bear has incredible sight and smell senses."

They are also very fast and difficult to detect when approaching.

Witherell dropped a 291 1/2 pound black bear up near Lake Geogebic.

Witherell and his guide Roger Negri set out a pile of bacon and donuts and then sat quietly in blind approximately 30 yards away.

Unlike hunting a buck where a hunter can hear one advancing, Witherell said he never heard the bear ap-

proaching the bait pile.

The Lowell resident, along with his father, Pat Witherell, took a three-day excursion to Lake Geogebic in search of the elusive black bear.

"Our blind was set up about eight miles into the woods," he says. He shot the large black bear through the chest with his 308. The bear ran about 50 feet before dropping over.

Witherell will have a half-body mount made of the black bear as a keepsake.

The average size of a Michigan black bear is roughly 125 pounds.

Hunters are required to report all large bear shootings to the Commemorative Buck of Michigan organization.

said Larry Moeder, K-State's director of student financial assistance and of admissions.

To help students take advantage of scholarship opportunities offered by K-State and through other sources, a financial aid and scholarship workshop will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Nov. 16 in Forum Hall at the K-State Student Union.

The workshop is an opportunity for K-State students to learn more about contacting scholarship sources and writing scholarship applications. Information on the federal student financial aid process also will be available. In addition,

students can fill out the on-line K-State scholarship application and complete a free application for federal student financial aid.

Rachel Ann Rice, daughter of Robert and Robin Rice of Lowell, has been accepted as an honor student at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, IN, for the 2000 fall semester and will study Christian Education.

She is welcomed to the IWU family of over 1,850 students who are preparing for their future.

Lowell Community Fund accepting requests

The deadline to request funds from the Lowell Community Fund is noon Wednesday, Dec. 1, 1999.

To receive consideration and approval, all requests must be for funds that will aid local organizations in providing help to persons in the Lowell area.

The Heart of West Michigan United Way has set the December date aside for those qualified to receive funding for 2000-2001.

It has now implemented a two-year funding cycle, which means groups interested in receiving funds will submit a formal funding request every other year.

Request forms may be picked up at Dr. James Reagan's

office at 207 W. Main St., or at the main branch of Huntington Bank at 414 E. Main St.

The formal request forms include a demographic data sheet on clients served, how funds from the previous year were spent, and the annual budget for the organization requesting funds.

Since 1955, up through 1999, the Lowell Community Fund has dispersed over \$150,000 into the community.

"It is important to note that this funding program is entirely separate from the Harold Englehardt funding program which is handled through the Grand Rapids Foundation," said Dr. Bob Reagan, secretary/treasurer of the fund.

Tolerance: An American value, a Lowell value

By Laura Evans

America is a melting pot of different races, cultures and societies. Webster's describes melting pot as "a process of blending that often results in invigoration or something new."

On April 27, 1999, Lowell Schools adopted a plan to promote character and diversity throughout the district. Our schools have become mini-melting pots representing different races, ethnic groups, religions and modes of dress. Misunderstanding occurs between people because of these differences. Racism, prejudice and intolerance often lead to violence.

Our diverse society is an opportunity to celebrate differences because they allow us to see the world from a different viewpoint, invigorating us with fresh ideas.

School cannot produce character driven, compassionate kids on their own. They need help from home. Mom and Dad: challenge your children to be aware of other people's feelings, how to care for them, and settle conflicts in meaningful, cooperative ways. "Do unto others"...teach them to treat other students with equal respect. Read, think and talk about tolerance at home. Safeguard your kids. We'll all be "RICHR" for it!

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lowell City Council will conduct a public hearing at their regularly scheduled meeting of Monday, November 15, 1999 at 7:30 p.m. at the Englehardt Public Library Community Room, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell, Michigan.

The purpose of said hearing will be to receive comments on the following:

Zoning Ordinance Amendment - elimination of new outside wiring, cable and conduit from buildings in the downtown business district - recommendation from the Planning Commission.

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

Betty R. Morlock
Deputy City Clerk
(616) 897-8457

"DRESS UP"

YOUR THANKSGIVING TABLE with HEFFRON FARMS "NATURAL" TURKEY

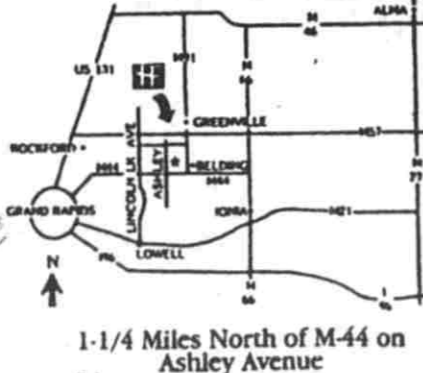
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TUESDAY, NOV. 23: 9 AM - 5 PM
WED., NOV. 24: 9 AM - 5 PM



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or 1-800-401-6443
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Lindhout's candle-making hobby keeps her bees(y)

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Sandy Lindhout, owner of The Honey Farm, began preparing early this summer for the eighth annual Christmas Through Lowell.

Lindhout is preparing to display approximately 600 candles for the roughly 1,200 patrons expected to participate in the event Nov. 19-21.

The Lowell resident started her hobby in 1972. "It is still a hobby, but now it pays for itself," Lindhout says.

With two exceptions, the Fallasburg Fall Festival and Christmas Through Lowell, all of Lindhout's work is done for two wholesale clients.

"My mom taught me how to hand-dip candles in our

attic and I've never grown out of it," Lindhout said.

In fact, Lindhout has expanded on it.

The local candlemaker, through molds, hand-dipping and rolled solid wax, uses roughly a couple hundred pounds of beeswax for each of the local sales.

Lindhout began using ecowax six months ago shortly after it was introduced into the market. "It's a renewable product made from several plants," she explains. "I mix it with beeswax and a coconut oil to make votive candles. Adding fragrance and color to the candles affect its burning quality."

Data is kept on the candles Lindhout makes to

insure consistency in the product.

"My Honey Farm business/hobby is a way for me to escape the everyday pressures," Lindhout says.

Lindhout owns and operates The Last Word, a typesetting and layout business in Ada.

Christmas Through Lowell will run from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 19; 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 20; and from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 21.

This year, there will be 18 different stops for participants in the Christmas Through Lowell event. The homes will offer hundreds of hand-crafted items by over 50 local artists.

Flu shot season has arrived

It's time to get your annual flu shot. Several reports are indicating that the flu season will arrive earlier than usual this year. Outbreaks in our area usually begin in December and last through the end of March. We recommend receiving the vaccine in October or November so that protective antibodies peak at the proper time and last throughout the entire flu season. Protective antibodies generally last up to six months after the vaccine is given.

Anyone who wishes to reduce their chances of getting the flu and experiencing possible complications is eligible to receive the vaccine. It is important that the following individuals at higher risk get the vaccine:

1. anyone over the age of 65.

2. residents of nursing homes or chronic care facilities.

3. anyone with a chronic medical condition like asthma, emphysema, kidney disease, diabetes or a heart condition.

Unfortunately 10,000-40,000 deaths occur in the U.S. from complications of the flu which may have been prevented if those individuals had been vaccinated. Only 20 percent of those at high risk of complications will receive the vaccine.

The flu vaccine is made

from inactivated virus grown in eggs. Except for some minor soreness at the injection site, adverse reactions are uncommon. A fever, muscle aches and malaise can occur in less than 10 percent of received.

The vaccine can be given in your physician's office and through other public health agencies. We strongly urge all who are at high risk to receive the vaccine.

The high school update was presented by Kristen Wysocki and Kelly Chapman.

The speaker of the day was Betty Yeiter who showed slides of her recent trip to the Philippines to work on Habitat for Humanity. There were 5,000 people from all over the world who worked alongside President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter.


Yeiter also showed slides of her recent trip to China. The next meeting will be held on November 10 at which time the speaker will be Richard Norton Smith, author and director of the Gerald R. Ford Museum and Library.

German aviation student to be baptized

No, not the classical composer, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, but Wolfgang Grotendiek, a student at the School of Missionary Aviation Technology will be baptized at Stoney Lakeside Park on Sunday, Nov. 14 at 5 p.m. Grotendiek is from Solinger, Germany. His parents live in Nurnberg, Germany.

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Supreme Court ruling tells state to comply with funding obligation

State underfunded special education by approximately \$375 million.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Stating it was unconstitutional to fund mandated programs with foundation allowance monies, the Supreme Court ruled that the state must comply with its obligation under a declaratory judgement no later than the next ensuing fiscal year.

J.B. Dixon, a spokesperson for the litigants (schools) in Durant II said the state underfunded special education last year between \$375 and \$400 million.

Prior to the 1997-98 school year, special education

funding included the student foundation allowance plus the percentage of expenses and transportation.

District litigants in Durant II claimed the state used the foundation grant dollars to help match the mandated percentage.

In the past, as expenses went up, districts were reimbursed with a greater amount. Districts claim that as its foundation allowance grant has gone up, its percentage of reimbursement has gone down.

The recent Supreme Court decision was handed down before the Lowell Board of Education took action to join the Durant II lawsuit.

With the ruling by the Supreme Court, Gov. John Engler said he considered the ruling a victory for legislature and the taxpayers of Michigan. The governor's way of thinking may have had something to do with the absence of money damages

awarded to the schools in the ruling.

Connie Gillette, Lowell assistant superintendent for finance and personnel, points out that in its 1997 Durant I decision, the court held that future suits of this type should be limited to declaratory relief, and not be brought for money damages.

Proposal A guarantees that allowance funding be used to defray the general operating cost of local school districts and cannot be restricted to fund special education services.

While schools received a declaratory judgment from the court, they realize this scenario could play out again (Durant III).

"The potential for the state to rob Peter to pay Paul is still there," declared Lowell School Board president Pete Gustafson. "School s will have to keep an eye on it. We're not sure where this will go."

School ready to take growth issue to the public

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

All school buildings in the Lowell Area School District are functionally full except the high school.

The bad news is there are projections for more growth. "The problem is going to become increasingly severe," said Lowell Area Schools Superintendent Bert Bleke.

The superintendent and the Lowell School Board heard this information in a demographics task force committee presentation back in June. The report came to the board following a two-year study.

Bleke expressed the next step is to create a public informational process.

"We want the community to be aware of the problem and to be part of the solution. Through building principals and parent support groups, it is time to share the information and concerns and, most importantly, listen to what the public has to say," said Bleke.

June has been identified as the month the board will take the information, solutions and options available and make some finite deci-

sions on how to handle the projected growth.

Alto, Cherry Creek and Bushnell elementaries and the Lowell Middle School are full. Bleke said if the district messes around with auxiliary programs (e.g., music, art, computers, media center) in each of those buildings, more students could be squeezed in. "We don't want to do that," he said.

The high school is designed for 1,200 students; it is currently at 1,100.

State funding not fair for all districts

Lowell superintendent says it's time the lower tier school districts apply some political pressure.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Rep. Terry Geiger's proposal to change the Proposal A finance-reform plan would help boost the lowest revenue school districts by reducing inequities between rich and poor school districts.

"I support Rep. Geiger's concept," said Lowell Superintendent Bert Bleke. "If passed, this proposal would raise the lower tier schools' foundation allowance by \$500 over a 10-year period."

This means, in 10 years, Lowell would be in the Kentwood School District foundation allowance range.

The result: Forest Hills School District would receive \$3.5 million more a year in 2009 than Lowell instead of the approximately \$5 million more it is now receiving.

"Where's the fairness in that?" Bleke questioned. Lowell School Board president Pete Gustafson said Lowell is paying precisely the same taxes (percentage of property tax) to support education.

"All that money is put into one pot, and then Lowell is only getting 60-70 cents back

on its dollar," Gustafson said. "The rest of our money is going to the Byron Centers, Forest Hills and Caledonias."

Lowell assistant superintendent of finance and personnel Connie Gillette said the state argues that those districts have a higher tax base.

"The tax base, however, never determined a district's millage rate - a vote of the people did," Gustafson explained.

Board trustee Pat Nugent said money is not the only way to determine the quality of education a student receives. "Money is the way, however, schools purchase top materials, technology and teachers," Nugent explains. "Lowell and other districts (e.g., Rockford, Grandville, Northview) are receiving bottom level income (\$5,696 foundation allowance per pupil) and being asked to put out a top level product."

Bleke added Lowell needs to be competitive and its students deserve competitive funding.

"There are two things lower-tier districts can do: 1. apply political pressure to get equity in funding and 2. absent of that, the alternative for lower tier school districts is to sue the state," Bleke concluded.

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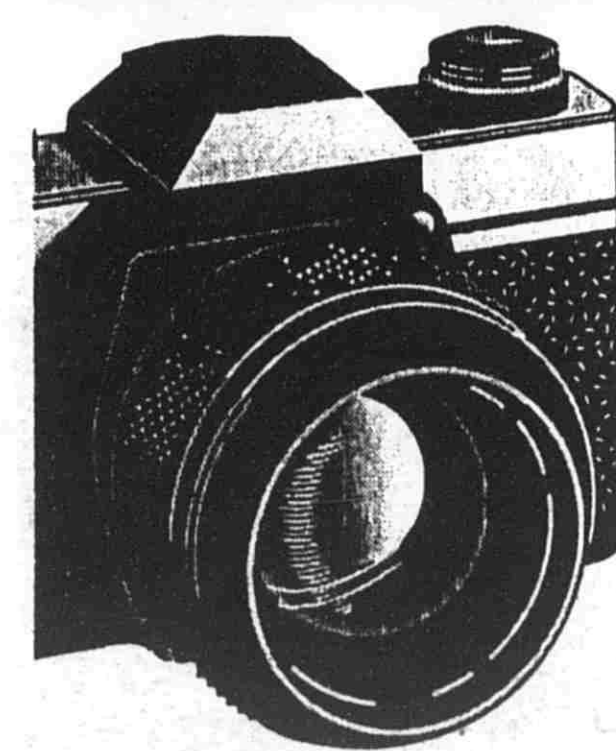
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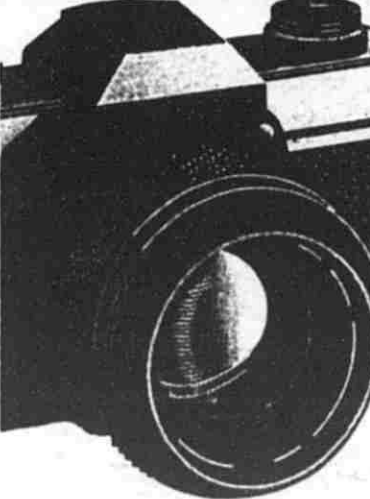


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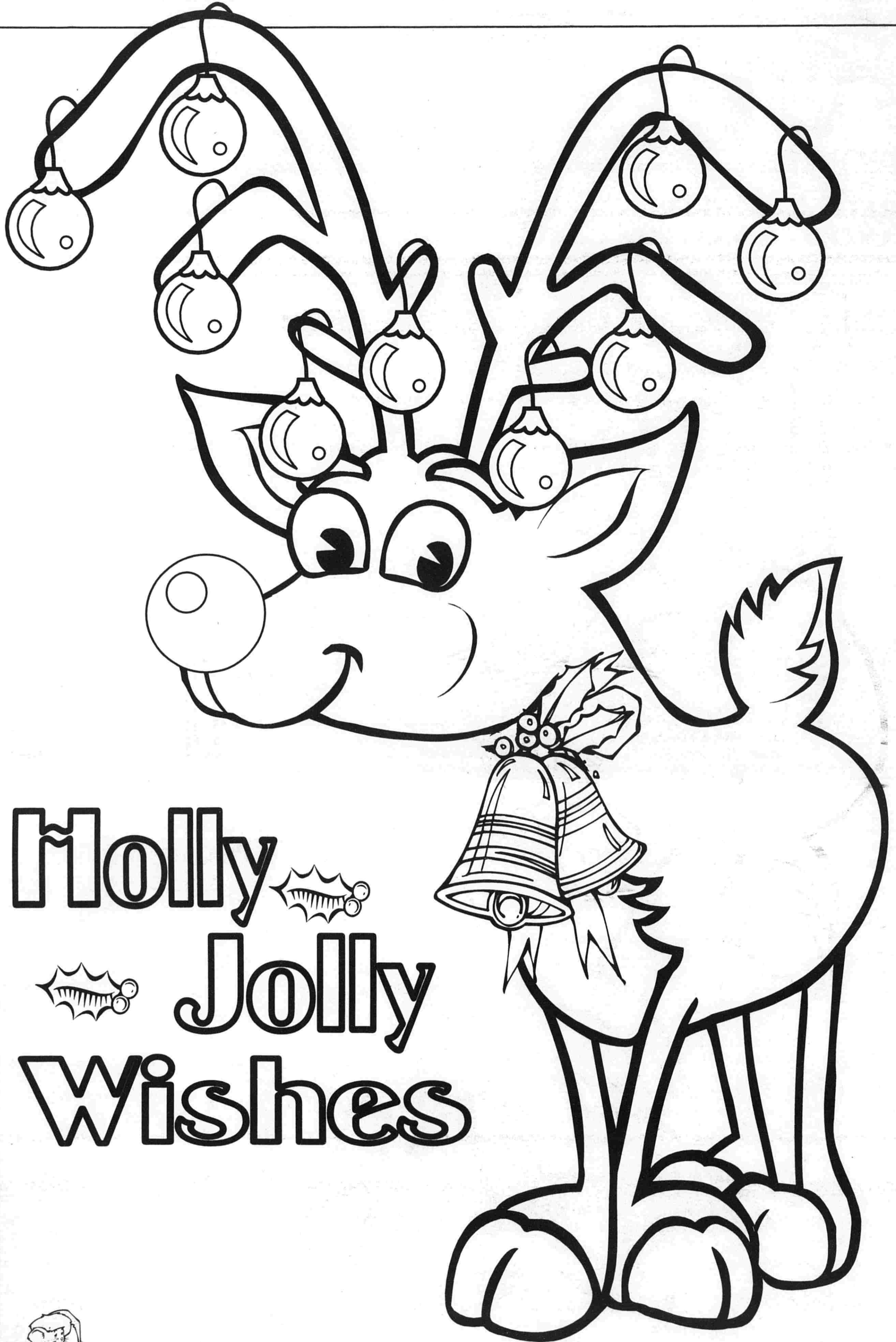
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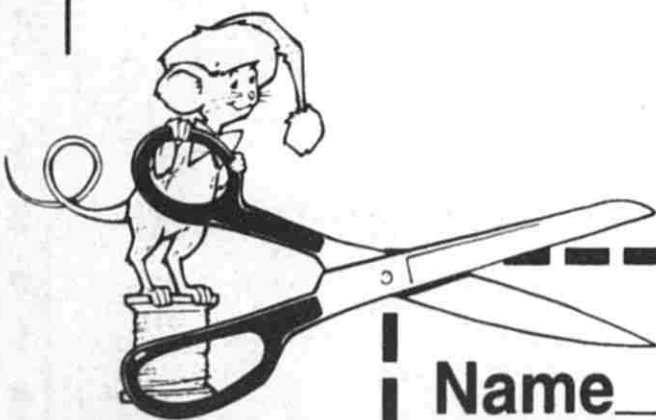
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