

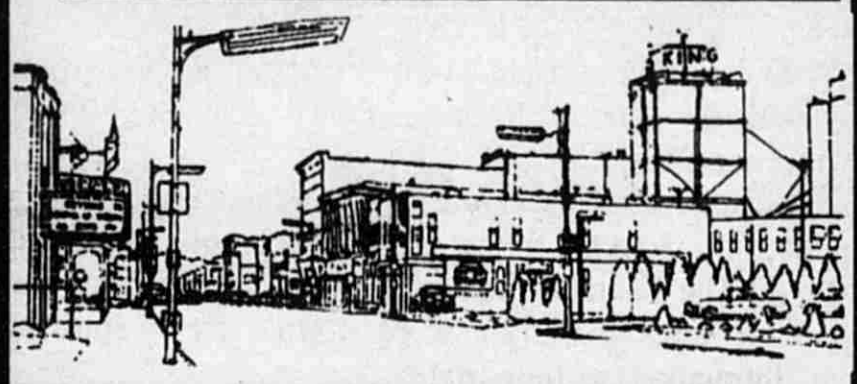
# The Lowell Ledger

Volume 23, Issue 23

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, March 14, 2001

## Along Main Street



### LOWELL AREA AAU VOLLEYBALL PROGRAM

Would you like to be part of a Lowell-based AAU volleyball club? Age groups are: 18 & under; 16 & under; 14 & under; 12 & under. Teams are divided by age and skill level. To pick up registration form, stop by LHS athletic office. Any questions, phone 897-6807 days; 897-0336 eves. ASAP. Leagues starting soon! Forms are due no later than March 14.

### PROJECT FISH

This workshop will be held at Wittenbach Center on Thursday, March 15 from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Adults will receive materials and partnerships to assist them in developing hands-on outdoor community education. \$50 funds available for Lowell residents. Call Tammy DeBaar at 987-1002 to sign up.

### DRIVER TRAINING SIGN-UP

Lowell Area School District students may pick up application forms for this summer's driver training program at Lowell High School, Lowell Middle School or Unity High School. To be eligible to take driver training, a student must have been born before Nov. 9, 1986. Cost is \$75 and includes Segment 2. Application and fee deadline Friday, March 30 with birth certificate. Two sessions: June 11-29 and July 9-27. A.M. and P.M. classes. Call Al Eckman for more info. 897-4125.

### DREAMCATCHERS PHOTO EXHIBITION

Photographs by Terry and Lori Huff of DreamCatchers will be displayed at Huntington National Bank, 414 E. Main St. from March 13 - April 17 during regular business hours.

For more information, contact Lorain Smalligan at the Lowell Area Arts Council at 897-8545.

### COLLEGE FAIR COMING TO LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL

Over 45 Michigan colleges and universities will offer material in Lowell High School's central hallway on Thursday, March 15 from 7-9 p.m. A financial aid seminar will be offered and military services will be represented. Admission is open to all eighth thru 12th grade students and their parents in the West Michigan school district area. For more information, call the SSC at 897-1465.

### CROP WALK RALLY KICK-OFF

First United Methodist Church of Lowell will hold the Crop Walk - 2001 Rally on Thursday, March 15 at 7 p.m. Pledge forms and recruiting information for the Crop Walk (May 6) will be available. Call 897-5936 with any questions.

### ANNUAL ELECTION FOR LOWELL HOCKEY

The annual election for the JV hockey team's Board of Directors will be held on Monday, March 19 at 7 p.m. in the classroom of Paul Jacobus at Cherry Creek Elementary. This is an open election for Lowell hockey.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT BLOOD DRIVE

The Lowell Area Fire Department is sponsoring a blood drive for the Grand Valley Blood program on Wednesday, March 21 from 3-7 p.m. at Look Memorial Fire Station located at 315 S. Hudson.

### CONCERT CHORALE AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

First Baptist Church will present a program of special

Main Street, cont'd pg. 8

## First phase of bond proposal comes in under budget

... A bidding market will save school district \$60,000 in bond's first phase.

By J.N. Boorsma  
Contributing Writer

Lowell Area Schools received some good news Monday night: its first phase for a \$29 million bond proposal came in \$60,000 under budget.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Jim White reported to the board of education that bids for 12 different categories went out for Alto Elementary School, Lowell Middle School, and Unity High School projects.

"We are in a bidding market," White said, adding after that meeting that "people are hungry."

What this means for the district is a savings of \$60,000 in project costs for the first phase. It was projected that the first phase, which includes a new gym at Alto Elementary along with various remodeling projects, would cost about

\$1,844,100. When the bidding process was done, the price tag was \$1,783,981.

The only item that had not been awarded was the roofing bids for Alto and Unity, White said, however, even with those bids, the project still had the \$60,000 savings.

"It is a very good start," White said.

The first groundbreaking will be at Alto Elementary where the new gym project is expected to start next week. "There has been some discussion of starting work in the middle school during the school year, provided it does not disrupt student activities. Otherwise, most projects will begin this summer," White said.

One project almost done is the high school cab lab. The district also received good news when it learned that the Vergennes Township Planning Commission had approved plans for one of two new schools to be built in the township. White said some detail drawings on that building need to be completed.

As for the next set of bids, the district will go out for fiber bids on March 15; those bids are expected to open on April 12.

The bond issue was approved by the voters in September. The construction manager on the project is Owen Ames Kimball.



Troy Ballard on the tenor saxophone.

## Ballard, Michigan Tech band, diggin' jazz in Lowell

By Thaddeus J. Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor

The award-winning sound of the Michigan Tech Jazz Lab Band, featuring a repertoire ranging from the big band era to today's contemporary sounds and original compositions, could be heard inside the walls of the Lowell Performing Arts Center on Wednesday.

Lowell High School was one of 11 stops on the 22-member jazz band's spring break tour.

For Troy Ballard, a 1997 LHS graduate and tenor saxophonist for the jazz band, it was a return home.

"It's great to be back here playing. There's no better place," Ballard explained. "People don't realize how spoiled they are by this center."

Ballard knows ... based on the number of gyms and cafeterias the jazz band has performed in.

It is Ballard's job to help director Michael Irish coordinate the tour and set hotel reservations.

The tour requires that band members be willing to make a huge sacrifice. They give up their spring break. "There are times I think I'd rather be in Cancun," Ballard says.

The jazz band performed selected pieces from Richard Rodgers, George Gershwin, Sonny Rollins, Tio Punte and others.

The band has been chosen as outstanding large ensemble at both the Aquinas Intercollegiate Big Band Festival and the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Collegiate Jazz Festival several times.

## Community gardens will be ready for May plantings

By Thaddeus J. Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor

Want a garden, but don't have the yard space?

Wittenbach Center's Community Gardens may be able to help. Plots are now available for May plantings.

The Wittenbach Center, through the organizational efforts of Raquel Clark and center director, Tammy DeBaar, will be leasing raised bed and flat bed plots for the purpose of creating organic gardens.

The construction of the gardens, which will be handicap accessible, will begin in April.

The idea became a reality when the Lowell Area Community Fund allocated \$14,000 to the community gardens for construction of garden beds, fencing, sidewalk and water access.

Gardeners will have the choice of leasing a 4-by-8 foot raised bed and a 4-by-10 foot flat bed space for \$45, or a single plot for \$27.50.

Community Gardens, cont'd, pg. 8

## Inside The Ledger

Ian DeRath  
Wins State Title,  
Story Page 12

## OBITUARIES

**BOUCK** - Thelma Vivian Bouck, aged 91, passed away March 7, 2001. She was born April 3, 1909, in Mecosta County to Jake and Mary Luke. Mrs. Bouck was preceded in death by her husband Roy and granddaughter Shelly Ann Powell. She is survived by her children Betty (Lloyd) Powell of Lowell, Gloria (Robert) King of Freeport, William (Louise) Bouck of Saranac; 15 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; eight great-great-grandchildren; as well as many nieces and nephews and a nephew close to her heart, Max Thiede and his wife Betty. She was a Tribal Elder of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe. Mrs. Bouck was the last of 10 siblings schooled in Indian Boarding Schools in Mt. Pleasant and Lawrence, Kansas, graduating from

Haskell Indian Boarding School in Lawrence in the 1920's. Funeral Services were held at Roth-Gerst Chapel, Interment at Saranac Cemetery.

**MEYERS** - Elizabeth (Betty) Ann Meyers, of Saranac, passed away March 10, 2001, in Grand Rapids. She was born August 19, 1950, the daughter of Verlin and Dorothy Fisher. She went on to marry Gary Meyers who survives her in Saranac. She was a member of Friendship Country Chapel where she taught Sunday school. She is survived by her sons Gary and Haideen Meyers of Saranac and Chad Meyers of Saranac; three brothers Duane and Barb Fisher of Saranac, Keith and Valerie Fisher of Lansing and Rick and Dawn Fisher of Lowell; one sister

Sharon and Ed Grayberg of Lake Odessa; one grandchild Shaelyn. Funeral services will be held Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Friendship Country Chapel with Rev. Robert Roush officiating. Burial will be made at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Ionia. Anyone wishing may make a memorial contribution to Friendship Country Chapel or Saranac Fire Department.

**MEYERS** - Marvin Lee "Chips," aged 90, of Ada, passed away Sunday evening March 11, 2001. He was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years Clara Lee. Chips lived at his Ada home until August, 2000. He spent the last eight months at the home of his son and daughter-in-law Robert and Barb. Chips enjoyed playing pool and cards as well as golf. He retired from driving school bus for Grand Rapids Public Schools in 1977. He is survived by his children Dr. Ronald and Garnett Meyers, Terry and Barb Meyers, Robert and Barb Meyers Sr., Gordy Meyers; grandchildren Eric and Kim (Meyers) DeGarmo, Scott and JoEllen Meyers, Steve and Theresa (Meyers) Longwell, Wade and Paula (Meyers) McClean, Michael Meyers, Matthew and Mindy Meyers, Bob

Meyers, Keith and Jill (Meyers) Thompson, Brian and Kelly (Meyers) Eberz, Heather Meyers, Robert Meyers Jr.; great-grandchildren Candie, Kristie, Amy, Katie, Emily, Nicholas, Mike, Tim, Andrea, Garrett, Megan, Aaron, Dylon, Austin and Hannah. The funeral service will be on Wednesday, March 14 at noon with a luncheon immediately following at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 E. Fulton, Grand Rapids with Rev. Paul Krupinski officiating. For those who wish, interment will be held at Lisbon Cemetery in Sparta at 3 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to Visiting Nurse and Hospice or a charity of one's choice.

**MYERS** - Bertha May Myers, aged 95, of Clarksville, formerly of Chippewa Lake, passed away March 12, 2001. She is survived by her sister Laura McDonald; grandchildren John and Sandra Batchelder, Gary and Sharon Smith, Marty and Linda Brenner; great-grandchildren Steven and Jodi Smith, Garrad and Denise Smith, Steven and Destini Baldwin, John and Sara Zwerk, Bert Jones and special friend T.J. Dunklee, Marty Brenner Jr., Kathy and Kenneth Kent; 10 great-great-

grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; her best friend and faithful companion Misty. Mrs. Myers is being welcomed into heaven by her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; her husband William Wallace; daughters Marilyn May and Shirley Lavonne Brenner; parents Roy and Eva Blain. They moved in 1952 to Chippewa Lake, running Myers Resort for 22 years. Though she only had two children of her own, she was a

mother to many. She opened her heart and home to foster children as well as her own grandchildren. Funeral Services will be held Thursday at 1 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home in Lowell, Rev. Mark Pflug of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church of Greenville officiating. Interment Garfield Park Cemetery, Visitation Wed. 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Michigan.

## Cantata choir to sing at St. Roberts

The Grand Rapids Cantata Choir will present "An Afternoon with Sr. Richard Rodney Bennett," at St. Roberts Newminster Church.

The event includes a lecture and discussion by the English composer at 2:30 p.m., followed by a concert of his music at 3:30 p.m. The Cantata Choir will sing "The Glory and the Dream," a cantata based on Wordsworth's deeply spiritual poem "Intimations of Immortality."

The piece was commissioned this year by a coalition of 18 choirs from England, the U.S., Australia and Canada.

Lowell residents Vance Dimmick and Priscilla Lussmyer are members of the Cantata Choir.

Tickets to the event can be purchased from them. Tickets at the door will be \$12 for adults and \$9 for students. Call Suzanne Tiemstra at 616-575-SING (7464) for more information.

## In 1897, the apple blossom is adopted as Michigan's official state flower

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## CITY OF LOWELL SALE OF VEHICLES ADVERTISEMENT OF BID

The City of Lowell is accepting bids for the following described vehicles:

- (1) 1994 Chevrolet Caprice 4 door police car
- (1) 1995 Chevrolet Caprice 4 door police car

The vehicles and maintenance records are available for inspection at the Department of Public Works, 217 South Hudson St., Lowell, Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope. The outside of the envelope must state **BID FOR POLICE CAR**. Bids must be submitted to Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main St., Lowell, MI 49331. There is no minimum bid amount. Bids must be received no later than Wednesday, March 28th at 1:30 p.m. at which time these will be publicly opened and read.

Once approved, the successful bidder will have seven (7) business days to complete the transaction. Payment will be in the form of a certified check or money order payable to the City of Lowell for the exact amount of the bid to complete the purchase.

The City of Lowell reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The City may award conveyance to someone other than the highest monetary bidder. The City has the right to waive any formal defects in bids when deemed in the best interest of the city.



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## GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

### HEARING OF THE PUBLIC GRATTAN TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

A Public Hearing before the Grattan Zoning Board of Appeals will be held at the Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Road, on:

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2001  
AT 7:30 P.M.**

at which time and place the following request will be heard:

Randy Mast has made application for two (2) variances:


Article 3 - Section 3.46, building footprint exceeds 30% of lot coverage.  
Article 4 - Sections 4.04A and 4.04C to exceed maximum height of 20'-0" to a height of 34'-0" (14'-0" variance).

Parcel #41-12-33-327-038

Written comments concerning this issue should be received prior to the hearing and addressed to:

Al Berry  
Grattan Township Zoning Board of Appeals  
12050 Old Belding Road  
Belding, MI 48809.

## WELCOME TO LOWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL



### CHECK ... MATES

Jim Bell, Lowell Middle School sixth-grader, won the first annual Lowell Middle School Chess Club tournament. The club commenced in October and ran through January. The tournament was held from Nov. 29 through Jan. 24. More than 30 students participated in this year's inaugural event. Bell defeated Mike Nichols (first runner-up) in the championship match. Dave Huffman was second runner-up. Austin Hoyt was the 2000-01 club president. Pictured from left to right, are: Nichols, Hoyt, Bell and Huffman.

## Rotary accepting scholarship applications

Rotary Club of Lowell Community Foundation is now accepting applications for the Rotary Club of Lowell Scholarship.

The Rotary Club of Lowell has been awarding scholarships to graduating Lowell High School seniors since 1997. For the 2001-2002 school year, the scholarship has been expanded to grant a one-, two- and four-year scholarship. All applicants must be either a graduating senior attending Lowell High School or a graduating senior living in the Lowell Area School District, attending any public, private, charter or home based school. In line with the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self," community service is a primary factor in awarding the scholarship. Applications must be postmarked by April 1, 2001.

"We are pleased to increase the number of scholarships which will be awarded, and hope that area students, upon graduation, will return to Lowell to be leaders in the community," said Greg Flick, chairman of Rotary Club of Lowell Community Foundation. "The scholarship has been set up as an endowment and we look forward to granting

scholarships for years to come."

For more information on the scholarship or to obtain an application, write the Rotary Club of Lowell Community Foundation, P.O. Box 223, Lowell, MI 49331. Scholarship applications may also be obtained from the Student Services Center at Lowell High School.

## Larkin's Restaurant

Invites you to celebrate

### St. Patrick's Day

Saturday, March 17

Of course we will be serving the traditional

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# Reflections

## Of Faith

Gordie Barry, Pastor,  
First United Methodist Church

Every once in a while we get those flashes of insight or "ahas" where the light goes on and we realize something about ourselves or a situation or question becomes clear. I was thinking about who I was as we have entered in the part of the Church Year called Lent.

Why do I think like I do? Why do I behave like I do?

To answer those questions I look at the following scripture lessons:

"...be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness...Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ has loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." (Ephesians 4:23-5:2)

"So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth... And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." (Colossians 3:1,2,15)

I am challenged and inspired by such words to the church as it was beginning and to us, the present church, who are hearing these same words. What do they mean? Do these words have anything to do with you or me? We are on a difficult road to walk. This road is full of symbolic potholes which will never go away.

These words inspire me because they tell who I can become - a Child of God - one who can imitate God through my life and one who

can show God's love through my everyday acting and living.

For example, we have set aside certain values that we as a community say we will live out through our school system, in our families and in our community as a whole. When I live out this calling and new life God offers me, I will most certainly live out our values of: Compassion, Honesty, Respect, Integrity, Responsibility.

I am challenged because it is tough to be consistent in this imitating God all the time! It takes work to be always on alert to where I could go astray and compromise these values and this lifestyle. I was made aware of this one Saturday night when some members of our church attended a Grifins hockey game. As we watched the beginning of the game, I heard the song, "Send in the Clowns" being sung as the opposing team came on the ice. What kind of behavior is this? Yes, we could laugh it off and say it is only in fun, but what is this teaching?

If that were not enough, when each of the names of the opposing team were announced, that crowd yelled out in unison, "Who cares!" I care! I care as such an attitude that we can say too is only in fun, but what happens when the words become even more deadly and even more damaging? What does this say about our imitating God? What does this say about our living out that higher way - God's way?

I close with the Word we began with thinking about. I am a person of God, and I am an imitator of God. I am not a pretender, but I AM one who is an imitator of God. Yes, this sounds like an impossible task, but as God calls, so does God enable. If we are called to imitate God, then we can be sure that we are able to imitate God. It is a joy to be a part of God's family, the church.

Blessings on our entire community and surrounding area as we seek to live this call out.

## AREA BIRTHS

Christopher and Melissa Freeman are happy to announce the arrival of a daughter, Acacia Sloane Freeman. She was born Thursday, February 22, 2001, weighing 9 lbs. 15 oz. and measuring 22 inches long.

She is welcomed home by big brothers Kieran Paige and Lochlainn Beck.

Proud grandparents are Cary and Gwen Freeman of Lowell and Arden and Daisy Williams of Grand Rapids.

## Baptist Bible College Concert Chorale to visit Lowell

The Concert Chorale of Baptist Bible College, Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania, will present a program of special music on Wednesday, March 21 at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Lowell.

The 45-member Concert Chorale is one of three groups that perform for churches and Christian schools during annual concert tours. Director Dr. Larry Kauffman is professor of music and chairman of BBC's music department.

Participation in the Chorale is open by audition to all students at BBS. Luke Rosenberger, a 1999 Lowell High School graduate, is a member of this musical group.

Besides performing on the road, the Chorale maintains a busy schedule on the campus appearing in the Community Christmas Concert and Chapel as well as in the Spring Festival Concert. The Chorale recently produced a recording, "Canticle of Heaven," available in CD and cassette.

# Viewpoint . . .



## Ledger Entries

of 125, 100, 75, 50 & 25 Years Ago

### 125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL

MARCH 15, 1876

This issue is missing. We substitute March 15, 1871.

A portion of the upper Grand River bridge settled about two feet last week, due to timbers damaged by flood waters.

The Library Association has dissolved and the few books it purchased lie idle, due to lack of interest in the village.

County Superintendent of Schools Henry B. Fallas announces the schedule of spring examinations for first, second and third grade teachers and advises them to review their books thoroughly beforehand.

An anonymous reader blasts the persons who paint commercial signs on peoples' fences.

Logging on the Flat River has started, far upstream.

### 100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER

MARCH 14, 1901

The Ionia-Grand Haven electric railroad will be built this summer, say officials, who expect a portion of the money in hand in three weeks, guaranteed by two large life insurance companies.

High winds have taken down trees and C.O. Lawrence's door.

Michigan's salt output in 1900 was five million barrels.

Chas. McCarty returns from his western trip, saying he helped initiate the president of Mexico into the shrine, had seven different kinds of wine at the banquet following, and saw a bull fight.

A series of articles tell about Central and South American countries, and the Pan American exposition coming to Buffalo, New York.

### 75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO MARCH 11, 1926

Dr. Solomon S. Lee is taking a cruise and writes a long letter to the Ledger about his impressions.

The ag department of the high school offers to test seed corn for farmers. Lots of moisture and early frost last autumn may have damaged it.

President Coolidge signs the bill to reduce income taxes and eliminate the last of the World War II taxes.

The editor rewards local correspondents with subscriptions to the Ladies Home Journal.

Lowell High School teachers put on a comedy farce, "A Poor Married Man," for the benefit of the athletic fund. It will be presented at City Hall.

### 50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER

MARCH 15, 1951

A blood drive for the war effort and civilian needs: 200 pints of blood are the goal for the one-day collection at City Hall in two weeks.

Drivers of older cars without stop and turn signals are reminded to use arm signals, either Michigan's one straight-arm all-purpose signal or the up-straight-down for right-stop-left signals for other states and the military.

Leonard and Dale Johnson spot, and report to state police, an army red weather balloon that lands on their farm.

State railroad taxes are entirely allotted to Michigan's primary school fund.

The 130 Home Ec girls in grades 7-11 have their annual Fashion Show.

### 25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER

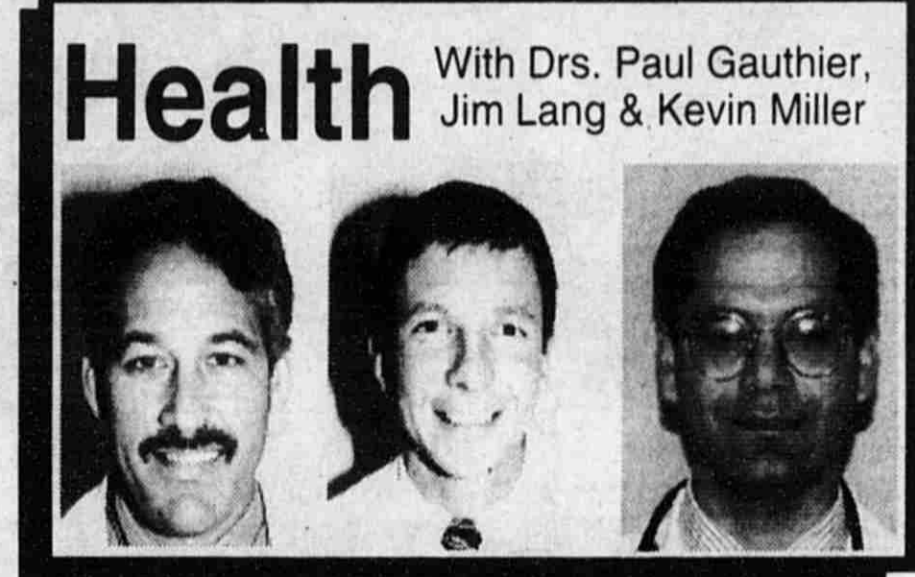
MARCH 11, 1976

Last week's ice storm was followed by floods. A photo shows South Jackson as a lake.

Jim Maatman and Roger Van Vleck open the Modern Photographics Studio on Main Street. Their photos of the ice storm and flood occupy half of page 2's feature on the storms.

The school board is willing to pay the extra required to have a flashing stop light controlled at the Monroe/High Street crossing, instead of the city's flashing 15 mph sign.

Monday brought out the first robin report, as well as the first grass fire.



## Health

With Drs. Paul Gauthier, Jim Lang & Kevin Miller

### NOSEBLEEDS

Nosebleeds are a very common problem... especially this time of year. Most commonly the bleeding originates from the anterior nose. This area is filled with tiny blood vessels that are located close to the surface. They serve to warm and humidify the air that is inhaled. These vessels are very fragile and can rupture causing a nosebleed. When a person has a "cold," the vessels become dilated and bleeding may occur when one sneezes, coughs or blows their nose. These vessels can also rupture spontaneously, especially when the air is very dry.

Bleeding may also begin in the posterior aspect of the nose. Patients typically will feel blood trickle down the back of their throat. This type of nosebleed is a more serious problem and can indicate problems with blood clotting or high blood pressure. This type occurs most often in the elderly population. This type of bleed requires immediate medical attention.

If you experience a nosebleed, first sit or stand up as this will lower your blood pressure. Hold your head forward, not back. Then pinch the nose tightly, holding it closed for five minutes. Gently release the nose and check for bleeding. If bleeding continues, pinch the nose closed for 10 to 15 minutes without releasing. You should seek medical care if: the bleeding continues for 15 to 30 minutes, you feel weak, you are on coumadin (a blood thinner), the bleed is rapid with large amounts of blood, or you are having frequent nosebleeds. Your doctor will attempt to cauterize a bleeding vessel or pack the nose to stop the bleeding.

To prevent nosebleeds, use a humidifier during the winter. Furnace humidifiers generally do a poor job at keeping the air moist. You can also use saline nasal spray every one or two hours during the day, or apply Vaseline to the inside of your nose.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- MARCH 15: Daniel Vegter, Ward Boulard Jr., Brett Hobria, Margot Miller.
- MARCH 16: Greg Briggs, Louise Weeks.
- MARCH 17: Renee Barnes.
- MARCH 18: Bruce Phillips Jr., Chase Treglia, Jim Hacker, Denise (Brenk) Woolfender.
- MARCH 19: Jeremy Barber, Elmer Czapek, Terry B. Abel, Kimberly Dixon, Sean Ellison.
- MARCH 20: John Roudabush, Cody Moore.
- MARCH 21: Terry Raymor, Ardis Barber, Gary Yeiter, Molly Clark.

## KDL spring storytime series

The Englehardt Library will be presenting the "Storytime" series this spring. It will take place at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, March 26, April 2, 9 and 16 and at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 29, April 5, 12 and 19.

The storytime series features stories, songs, crafts and other book-related fun with a different theme each week.

The program is for ages 3-6 and registration is required. For more information or to register, contact the Englehardt Library, 200 N. Monroe St. at 897-9596.

## In 1913, Henry Ford installs the first moving assembly line in Detroit.

# AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p><b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936</p> <p>Worship.....8:30 A.M. Coffee &amp; Fellowship Time.....9:30 A.M. Sunday School.....9:50 A.M. Worship.....11:00 A.M. Kids Club (Wed.).....3:30 P.M. Dinner (Wed.).....5:30 P.M.</p> <p>REV. B. GORDON BARRY Nursery &amp; child care available at both services Barrier - Free Entrance</p>	<p><b>EVERGREEN MISSIONARY CHURCH</b> 10501 Settlemood • Ph. 897-7185</p> <p>Sunday School.....9:45 A.M. Morning Worship.....11 A.M. Evening Service.....6:00 P.M.</p> <p>Prayer and Praise - Wed., 7:00 P.M.</p> <p>GLENN H. MARKS - Senior Pastor, 897-9110 STAN GERIG - Associate Pastor, 897-5894 ALL ARE WELCOME! (Barrier-Free)</p>	<p><b>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)</b> 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery</p> <p>Robert W. Holmes, Pastor Jonathan Walker, Youth Pastor</p> <p><b>SUNDAYS:</b> Worship Celebration: 8:30 &amp; 11 a.m. Sunday Night Alive: 6 p.m. <b>WEDNESDAYS:</b> Family Night: (for All Ages) 7 p.m.</p>	<p><b>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> Rev. William J. Renkema - 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI</p> <p>Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.</p> <p>Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p>
<p><b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbcloowell.org Rev. Burland Margesson &amp; Rev. W. Lee Taylor Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor</p> <p>Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. &amp; 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA/JV.....Wed. 6:15 &amp; 7 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free</p>	<p><b>APOSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH</b> at the Cherry Creek Elementary School 12675 Foreman Road, Lowell, MI 49331 CALL FOR FREE HOME BIBLE STUDIES</p> <p>Pastor Robert L. Hubbard Phone: (616) 241-1739 email: aplighthouse@yahoo.com</p>	<p><b>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> 201 N. Washington • 897-8800</p> <p>Sunday School.....10:00 A.M. Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday Family Ministry.....7:00 P.M.</p> <p>TIMOTHY E. HARMON, Minister Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>	<p><b>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell &amp; Saranac on M-21</p> <p>www.iserv.net/~goodshop Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Wednesday Evening.....7:00 P.M.</p> <p>Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>
<p><b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbcloowell.org Rev. Burland Margesson &amp; Rev. W. Lee Taylor Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor</p> <p>Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. &amp; 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA/JV.....Wed. 6:15 &amp; 7 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free</p>	<p><b>ALTON BIBLE CHURCH</b> Lincoln Lake Ave. at 3 Mile Road 897-5648</p> <p>Sunday School.....10:00 A.M. Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M. Evening Praise.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday AWANA.....7:00 P.M. (Sept. - April) Prayer and Bible Study.....7:00 P.M. Pastor Ken Ford (Home) 897-6418 YOU ARE WELCOME!</p>	<p><b>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> (United Church of Christ) 404 North Hudson • 897-5906</p> <p>Worship and Church School.....10:00 A.M. Dr. Roger LaWarre.....Pastor Megan MacNaughton.....Music Director Shannon Hanley.....Interim C.E. Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided</p> <p><b>Come Join Us For Praise &amp; Worship</b></p>	<p><b>Financial Focus</b></p> <p>With Christopher J. Bouma</p> <p>Edward Jones Serving Individual Investors Since 1871</p> <p><b>IS IT TIME TO CONSOLIDATE IRAS?</b></p> <p>Do you know where all your IRAs are? Actually, the answer may be trickier than you would have thought. Over the years, you may have started IRAs with a variety of financial institutions. You could have a traditional IRA at one place and a Roth IRA at another. If you're self-employed, you also may own a Simplified Employee Pension (SEP) IRA. To complicate matters further, your spouse also could have multiple IRAs at multiple locations.</p> <p>Is there anything really wrong with having all these IRAs all over the place? After all, what difference does it make where they are, as long as they're (hopefully) still growing? Actually, it could make a considerable difference to you. For one thing, you could lose track of some of these IRAs. And if you think things like that don't happen, just ask any bank,</p>

## OUTDOORS

By Dave Stegehuis

When I was a kid, there wasn't a lot going on in our neck of the woods during late winter, so when what we called "the sport show" came to town, it was considered a happening. It was held at the Civic Auditorium in Grand Rapids.

## Financial Focus

With Christopher J. Bouma

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**IS IT TIME TO CONSOLIDATE IRAS?**

Do you know where all your IRAs are? Actually, the answer may be trickier than you would have thought. Over the years, you may have started IRAs with a variety of financial institutions. You could have a traditional IRA at one place and a Roth IRA at another. If you're self-employed, you also may own a Simplified Employee Pension (SEP) IRA. To complicate matters further, your spouse also could have multiple IRAs at multiple locations.

Is there anything really wrong with having all these IRAs all over the place? After all, what difference does it make where they are, as long as they're (hopefully) still growing? Actually, it could make a considerable difference to you. For one thing, you could lose track of some of these IRAs. And if you think things like that don't happen, just ask any bank,

One evening was called plaid shirt night when almost everyone wore a red plaid flannel shirt. I can't recall anymore what that was all about, but I still wear a red plaid flannel shirt. It was a long time ago. Anyway, we always looked forward to going. A show with a similar outdoor theme has been scheduled every year since and I have only missed a few.

This year the Grand Center Sport, Fishing & Travel Show will be held March 15-18 at the Grand Center. Displays of outdoor equipment, seminars, and entertainment will appeal to a variety of outdoor enthusiasts. The show can provide an opportunity to compare products and gather information.

There will be exhibits by manufacturers and retailers of tackle, boats and motors, RV's, clothing, and more. Many of the products represented can be purchased at special show prices. Resorts, campgrounds, and outfitters will have folks there to provide information for planning that fishing or hunting trip, or vacation. Great taxidermy and woodcarving

exhibits present an exciting collection of fish, birds, and animals that alone would make it worthwhile attending. There will also be fishing ponds where the kids can try their luck at catching trout.

Experts and professionals will hold a full schedule of seminars, workshops, and demonstrations which can help improve outdoor skills such as turkey calling, dog training, and fishing different species. Bring pencil and paper to take notes. I usually don't have time to attend all of the sessions that I would like to. With so many options, you may need to set priorities in order to make sure you don't miss something important.

At a time of the year when hunting, fishing, and camping activities are at a low ebb, it may be a good opportunity to create some excitement by attending the show and getting a head start on next season's activities. See you at the show.

brokerage or insurance company how much time and effort they've spent trying to track down the rightful owners of savings accounts, stocks and insurance policies. Through death, divorce, moves and other factors, owners and heirs of valuable assets get separated from their property—and sometimes they never get it back.

You may think this will never happen to you and your IRAs. And maybe it won't. But even if you know exactly where all your IRAs are, that doesn't mean it's a good idea to have them all spread out. You may want to consolidate them—in other words, keep all your IRA accounts at one financial institution.

Consolidation offers some potentially significant advantages. There's the reduced paperwork, for starters. Instead of having to deal with multiple statements from different companies, you'll only have one. Also, you may be able to reduce the fees you're paying to maintain all your IRAs. By consolidating them, you should be able to pay just one fee to one institution.

Saving paperwork and fees are two of the most obvious benefits of consolidating IRAs. But there's another one that may be just as important: tracking your required minimum distributions. If you have a traditional IRA, you will need to take required minimum distributions beginning at age 70-1/2. With all your IRAs in one account, it will be easier for you to keep tabs on these distributions—and on how much money you have left after the distributions are made. Also, some

financial-services companies will even calculate the distributions for you. You'll find these calculations extremely useful in helping you map out your finances during retirement. Keep in mind that, if you're already over age 70-1/2, you'll have to take your required minimum distribution for the current year before you transfer your IRA.

Consolidating IRAs can clearly pay off for you in a few different ways. But before you make any moves, it's a good idea to consult with your tax adviser. Also, do your homework on the financial-services institution you're thinking about using as a "consolidator." Have them convince you that they're experts at handling IRAs. Your IRAs may play a big part in financing your retirement—so you want them to be in good hands.

## Letters, Letters, Letters, Letters...

The Lowell Ledger welcomes all "Letters to the Editor" for publication on its "Viewpoint" page. Letters can be typed or written. However, we ask that they do not exceed one written page or one typed, double-spaced page.

"Letters to the Editor" should be sent to the Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, P.O. Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331.

Editing may be necessary for space, clarity, and to avoid obscenity, libel or invasion of privacy.

The Lowell Ledger thanks you in advance for your cooperation.



## On the 100th day of school...

St. Patrick School kindergarten class celebrated the 100th day of school. The class started its day with breakfast consisting of one sausage and two pancakes. The rest of the day was filled with activities dealing with 100. The children licked a lollipop 100 times, did 100 jumping jacks, strung together 100 Fruit Loops, put together a 100-piece puzzle, and read "100 Busy Ants."

## BUSINESS MATTERS

Mark Johnson, LUTCF, local agent for Farm Bureau Insurance, has been named one of the company's top agents of the year for his outstanding record of sales and service.



Johnson earned the 2000 all American and Executives Club Awards, recognizing him as one of the top agents in Michigan. As a member of the Executives Club, he joins an elite group of Michigan's top 25 Farm Bureau Insurance agents. "The awards indicate that Mark is a leader in sales and client service," said Larry Thomas, executive vice president of Farm Bureau Insurance. "He is the kind of agent who does an outstanding job of serving the community."

In addition, Johnson qualified to be a member in the prestigious Multi-Line Sales Council and the Leaders for Life in 2001. He was among the top 10 agents in New Annuity Premium.

## Son's struggles with cystic fibrosis have family taking great strides to find cure

By Thaddeus J. Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor

Their strides will vary ... long, short, quick and slow, but there will be a uniformity in their purpose.

Pete and Bobbie Odland are organizing Lowell's first "Great Strides - Walk to Cure Cystic Fibrosis." The 10K walk will take place on Saturday, May 19 at 10 a.m. at the Calvary Christian Reformed Church. Check-in begins at 9 a.m.

Cystic fibrosis has invaded the life of Odland's four-year old son, Dylan. "Bobbie and I will walk. I will be carrying Dylan on my shoulders," Pete Odland said.

The Odlands, along with other walkers, will be asking businesses and individuals to sponsor them with a tax-deductible donation in the amount of \$25, \$50, \$100 or \$200, or whatever a person can afford. All checks should be made out to "Cystic Fibrosis Foundation" and mailed to the Foundation at 3835 28th St. SE, Suite #105, Grand Rapids, MI 49512.

Cystic fibrosis is the number one inherited fatal disease in the U.S. It currently affects about 30,000 children and young adults. About 50 percent of the children born with cystic fibrosis live to the age of 33. While that statistic is staggering, it does represent improvement. In 1950, it is unlikely a child would have lived long enough to attend elementary school.

With cystic fibrosis, the body produces thick, sticky mucus that clogs the lungs, causing those affected with coughing, wheezing and serious lung infections. The mucus also blocks the flow of pancreatic enzymes to the intestines, impeding digestion and resulting in poor weight gain. Be-

cause of this, Dylan, and all those affected, take enzymes with each meal and snack to help the absorption of their food.

They also require several other medicines, vitamins, breathing treatments and therapies as well as routine doctor visits and hospital stays.

## Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition in Greenville, March 17-April 28

Ray guns, robots and plans for a nuclear-powered car are all part of "Yesterday's Tomorrows: Past Visions of the American Future," a new traveling exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service.

The Flat River Historical Society and the Greenville Area Community Center, 900 E. Kent Rd., Greenville, will be hosting the exhibition March 17 through April 28.

Hours for the exhibition are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.; and Sunday from 1 until 4 p.m.

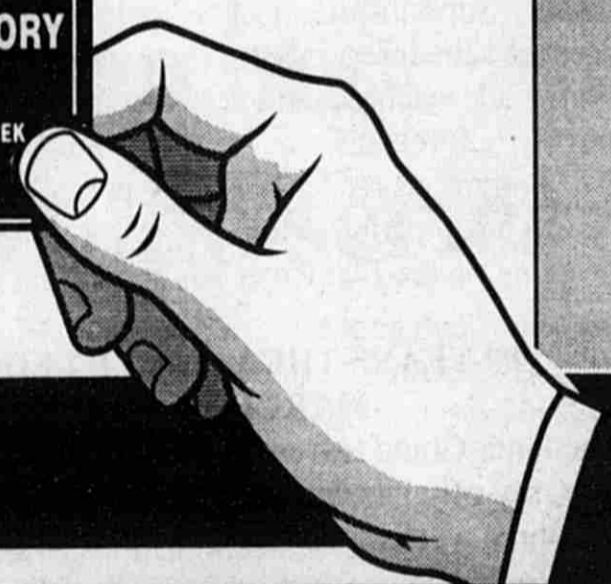
Admission is free. Additional special events and activities will run in conjunction with the month-long exhibit.

## In 1896, the first Ford automobile is completed, in a brick workshed in Detroit.

## In 1842, Michigan's first free tax-supported school opens at Detroit.

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## Community Gardens, cont'd... From Page 1

Clark explained that gardeners will be eligible for a \$10 refund in the fall once their site is cleaned up.

As part of their membership, free organic materials will be provided to the gardeners as well as basic gardening classes.

All gardeners will be required to put in 10 hours of volunteer work in the spring, setting up garden sites and wood chip trails and three hours in the fall, tearing down the garden sites.

Clark and DeBaar will seek funds from the Look Fund toward the hiring of an on-site community gardens coordinator position.

The Wittenbach Center Community Gardens will have a booth at the Lowell Community Expo on March 24 to answer questions and/or reserve garden space.

### WINTER CLEARANCE AT: FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Clothing and Household Thrift Shop  
Corner of Main and Jackson

Hours: W-F Noon-6:00 p.m.  
Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Come in and fill up a grocery bag for just \$3.00 on winter clothing!

Donations accepted—Wednesdays—4-7 p.m. at the store.

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music on Wednesday, March 21 at 7 p.m. with the Concert Choral of Baptist Bible College of Clarks Summit, Pa. The public is invited to hear this 45-member chorale.

## Driver training applications available at the high school

Lowell Area Schools has announced that district students may pick up application forms for this summer's driver training program at Lowell High School, Lowell Middle School and Unity High School. To be eligible to take driver training, a student must have been born before Nov. 9, 1986.

The cost of driver training is \$75 which includes the cost of Segment 2. Applications and fees must be turned in before Friday, March 30. A birth certificate must be shown when the application and fees are turned in.

The summer schedule is as follows: First session: June 11 - June 29 and second session: July 9 - 27. Two separate classes are held each session: 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. The older students (by birthdate) will have priority in their choice of session and class time.

If you have any questions, you can call Al Eckman at Lowell High School at 897-4125.

## Detecting carbon monoxide requires more than smell

Carbon monoxide is odorless and cannot be detected by smell, therefore it is a good practice to have a carbon monoxide detector in your home or place of business.

The best detector is the one which gives a read-out of the amount of carbon monoxide being detected so that you actually know there is carbon monoxide present and how much.

If the alarm goes off, immediately open windows to let fresh air in, shut off heating equipment, check on all occupants and have the heating equipment checked for leaks.

Carbon monoxide can also come from gas appliances, portable heaters, and having your car run in the garage.

One of the better carbon monoxide detectors is available at Consumers Energy. The initial investment is minor compared to the damage that can be done by carbon monoxide.

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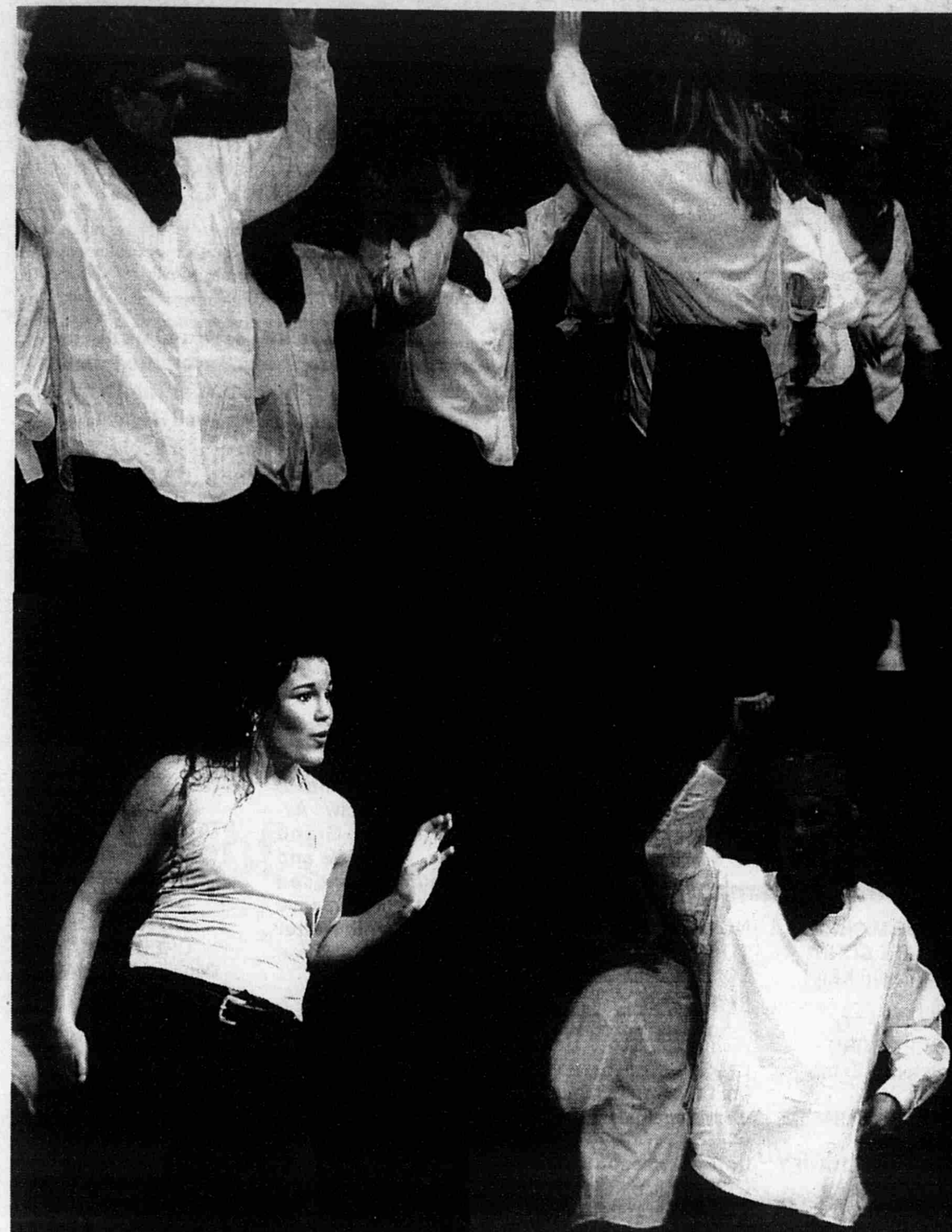
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## Variety of Entertainment

There were 15 acts in this year's Student and Staff Variety Show sponsored by the Lowell girls track team and the Art and Drama Club. Proceeds from the event will be used for track equipment and to help pay for the Art & Drama Club trip.



Kristi Ford

Dee Crowley



Katie Blough

## Lowell girls finish 14th in state cheerleading meet

The Lowell sideline cheerleading team placed 14th in the state meet over the weekend. Varsity cheerleaders Nikki Elliott (appendix removed) and Nicole Heacock (broken hand) were unable to compete. Filling in for them were Sarah Barley and Amy Catlin. "It was a great year. The highlight was the girls' peak performance came at the Caledonia meet where they took two firsts in the flat and stunt routines," said Lowell coach Amanita Fahrni.

## GRATTAN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC NOTICE BUDGET HEARING

Notice is hereby given that Grattan Township Board will hold a public hearing for the purpose of answering questions, reviewing and adopting the annual budget for the 2001/2002 fiscal year.

The meeting will be held on Monday, March 26, 2001 in the Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Road, Belding, Michigan at 7:00 p.m.

"The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing."

All interested parties are welcome. A copy of the proposed budgets can be viewed at the Township Hall prior to the public hearing.

Lana F. Green,  
Clerk

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## LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP REZONING HEARING

PLEASE BE NOTIFIED that the Lowell Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on

MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2001  
AT 7:00 P.M.

at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash S.E., Lowell.

The following changes of zoning will be considered:

Jacqueline Liversedge has requested rezoning of property located at 1408 Parnell Avenue S.E., Ada, Michigan from the current zoning classification of Rural Low Density Residential (R-1) to Planned Unit Development (PUD) for the purpose of development as single family homesites.

The original application and the township zoning map may be examined at the Township office during regular office hours. Please call 897-7600 for further information.

Linda S. Regan, Clerk  
Lowell Charter Township



## TUNING UP....

Lowell High School's red and white concert bands and the Lowell symphonic band all received a rating of two at the District Band Festival hosted by Lowell High School on Thursday. There were 18 schools which competed. Pictured to the left: Lowell High School band director Robert Rice directs the symphonic band through a warm-up prior to their performance in the Lowell Performing Arts Center.

### Middle school bands medal at district festival

For the first time ever, Lowell Middle School sent three bands to District 10 band festival. The two 7th grade bands, under the direction of Dale Latva and Kate Bredwell, and one 8th grade band, under the direction of Dale Latva, all came away earning medals for their efforts. There are a total 236 students in the three groups combined.

The 7th grade 2nd hour band received an overall division I rating for its performance. The 7th grade 1st hour band and the 8th grade band received overall division II ratings for their performances. The three bands combined earned a total of 236 medals and one trophy. The 2nd hour 7th grade band moves on to the state band festival either May 4 or 5.

## LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 01-170-995-DE

Estate of LON CHANEY JR., deceased  
Date of Birth: 08-12-1960

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, LON CHANEY JR., who lived at 1320 ORVILLE S.E., GRAND RAPIDS, MI died 01/18/2001.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to GWENDOLYN CHANEY, named personal representative, or proposed personal representative,

or to both the probate court at 320 Ottawa Avenue N.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

3/5/01

SUSAN M. POTYRAJ (P46249)  
410 Bridge St. NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504  
454-4119

GWENDOLYN CHANEY  
834 Alexander SE  
Grand Rapids, MI  
49504

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO.  
01-171, 044-DE

Estate of CLARENCE HIGHHOUSE, Deceased  
Date of birth: 09/16/1917

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, CLARENCE HIGHHOUSE, who lived at 1950 32nd St. S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan died 08/04/2000.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to JOHN VERECKEN, named personal representative, or to both the probate court at 320 Ottawa Ave. N.W. Grand Rapids, and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice

March 6, 2001

SUSAN M. POTYRAJ (P46249)  
410 Bridge St. N.W.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504  
(616) 454-4119

JOHN VERECKEN  
2006 LUCE S.W.  
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49544

Nature is full of genius, full of the divinity; so that not a snowflake escapes its fashioning hand.  
—Henry David Thoreau

Decide promptly, but never give your reasons. Your decisions may be right, but your reasons are sure to be wrong.  
—Lord Mansfield

## TOTS creates friendships and relationships for more than just preschool children

... Community response to three-year-old program, designed to help families with preschool children, has impact.

By J.N. Boorsma Contributing Writer

A few weeks ago, Kathy Cole was approached by six mothers wishing to drop out of the Tots on Track for Success (TOTS) playgroup.

As it turned out, the six moms had become really good friends and decided to form their own group. With that idea, they approached Cole about leaving the TOTS program so that others could get the chance to experience what they had.

"All of these women hadn't even known each other before this playgroup," Cole said. "However, this is what TOTS is about, developing friendship and support."

Started three years ago, TOTS is an outreach program designed for families with children who are infant to preschool age. Its purpose is to help families prepare children for school so they can be successful in that environment.

Cole, who heads up the program and who was report-

ing to the Lowell Board of Education about the success of TOTS at its Monday night meeting, said she has had many positive stories such as the one about the six moms.

"I had a mother call me at 4 p.m. just crying," Cole said. "Her child had a fever that she couldn't get down, her husband was at work, they had only been in the area for three weeks and didn't know where the hospital was."

In the end, Cole herself picked up the mother and her child and took them to a local doctor's office.

"Afterwards, she said she had never heard of a district going out of its way to help in such a way," Cole explained.

But that is the TOTS program, she said, adding that it is designed to create friendships and caring relationships that will hopefully impact the community.

During the past three years, TOTS has developed a number of programs - its most popular being the playgroups. There are now six with a waiting list. These groups provide not only play time for the children, and sometimes the adults, but also parenting information, connecting parents to each other, and modeling parents as teachers. It also has helped the district identify children who might have speech or language problems and get them into programs that can help.

Because of the popularity of the playgroups, a fourth and young fives group was developed, which helps families prepare their children to enter kindergarten.

This year the program piloted "Parents as Teachers,"

designed for infants to three years of age. The program, out of St. Louis, works with parents to help develop neurological pathways through various activities. Currently 18 families are served by this program.

The TOTS program also includes a resource room, new baby welcome bags, baby showers for expectant mothers, a second-hand sale, parenting classes, Magical Musical Mondays and family nights. Activities include teaching parents how to discipline in a positive way.

"You don't have to be a teacher to be involved with your children," Cole said, adding that's been the biggest lesson they have tried to teach the parents of the district.

As a reflection of what TOTS is doing, Cole said the organization has decided to change its wing name to Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Center, which is located adjacent to the district offices.

Cole also said the County Health Department is looking for a new home in the area for its program and is considering moving into the TOTS wing, which she believes would be a great addition to the program and looks forward to working with families who would utilize the program.

The TOTS program is funded through a grant from the Lowell Area Community Fund and with monies from Lowell Area Schools.

## Start of SRO program met with mixed reviews

By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

Some students believe ... some don't.

Either way the School Resource Officer program at Lowell High School began inauspiciously on the day there was a school shooting in California.

"This is Lowell. Not a whole lot goes on. I was fine before," said Lowell student Zach Beachum.

Christie Ladic doesn't see a need for a resource officer ... but for different reasons. "It's not a good idea. I don't feel safe now and I didn't feel safe before. Who is going to feel comfortable talking to him ... he's pulled half of us over. I don't think him being here will prevent anything ... It's not like he'd throw himself on a bomb for us."

The Lowell program wasn't even a week old and school resource officer, Steve Bukala sensed that his presence was having an impact and that student rapport and trust had already begun to take form.

"Students have started to say 'hi' and 'good morning' here. Things must be pretty slow in Lowell for him to be here," explained Corey Perdaris. Andy Curtis concurred. "I think he's wasting his time."

Students are relating to the officer as a person, not as an officer who is key to the program's success, according to Bukala.

"It is our belief that through gaining students' trust, the officer will become privileged to information and tips from students, as well as information that will be preventative in nature," said Lowell police chief, James Valentine.

Lowell is just the second

school in Kent County to initiate such a program. Byron Center started a similar program a little over a year ago. All schools in Ottawa County already have such a program in place.

"I don't feel any more safe with an officer here. Nothing bad happens around here. Things must be pretty slow in Lowell for him to be here," explained Corey Perdaris. Andy Curtis concurred. "I think he's wasting his time."

SRO is a community-not a high school program. "None of the funding for the program comes from the school district," said Lowell High School assistant principal,

Kevin Pearson. A Lowell Area Community Fund grant (\$22,670) is funding the program's first year.

The program enables Bukala to work with students on a different level, rather than a good guy - bad guy level.

The resource officer program has been a work in progress for the last year and a half, according to Lowell safety and security director, Al Eckman. "It will enhance the security and safety of our students," Eckman said.

The program will augment and assist the school security officers. "He (Steve) will handle criminal complaints and serve as a visible

proactive deterrent and as a confidant to students.

"We have a good high school and a good district ... this resource officer program is going to make it even better," Pearson said.

Mandy Croust shared similar thoughts. "I think the school resource officer is a good idea. It will help get and keep drugs and violence out of school," she said.

Any criminal complaints or tips from a student will be dealt with in a quicker more rapid manner. Previously, these matters were dealt with

by the Kent County Sheriff's Department. Now they will be handled by the school resource officer in cooperation with Kent County.

Bukala will spend around 80 percent of his time at the high school and middle school. The balance of his time will be spent in the elementary buildings providing safety programs. During the summer months and various extended school vacations, the SRO will resume patrol duties augmenting the patrol schedule.

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STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COUNTY OF KENT  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate

Estate of Patricia Crissman and Patricia Crissman Living Trust  
Date of Birth: 9-4-26

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Patricia Crissman who lived at 7525 Alaska Avenue, S.E., Caledonia, MI 49316, died on February 13, 2001. The decedent established the Patricia Crissman Living Trust on February 27, 1997. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate and trust will be forever barred unless presented to RICHARD K. CRISSMAN, TRUSTEE of the Patricia Crissman Living Trust within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

TRUSTEE: RICHARD K. CRISSMAN  
Address: 7525 Alaska Avenue, S.E., Caledonia, Michigan 49316

ATTORNEY: MICHAEL A. SHIELDS  
Address: Reed Stover P.C., 151 South Rose Street, Suite 800 Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007  
Telephone: (616) 381-3600

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- ESCANABA IN DA MOONLIGHT (PG-13) 12:10, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 9:40
- CHOCOLAT (R) 2:10, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50
- SWEET NOVEMBER (PG-13) 7:30, 10:00
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## Plattner's floor routine ranks among best at state meet

By Thaddeus J. Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor

The sophomore gymnastics duo of Holly Plattner and Krystal White put aside the butterflies and that sickly feeling in the pit of the stomach to compete in the Division II individual state tournament Saturday at Rockford.

The nervous jitters that come with competing in your first state meet were not noticeable during their floor routines.

Plattner, coming off a first-place performance at the regional, posted a 9.225, placing her fourth among the 42 Division II gymnasts competing in the floor exercise.

"I wanted to do my best, but I also wanted to place," Plattner explained afterwards. "I felt as if I was going to throw up before my routine. I'm pleased though with my routine. It was pretty clean."

White tallied an 8.9, placing her 11th, one spot shy of medaling. "I was excited about competing in the state meet. I had butterflies before I got out there. I did my best. The main thing is I made it here."

Lowell gymnastics coach, Michele DeHaan was elated with both of their performances. "I thought they both did great, considering it was their first time competing in a state meet," she said. "I think both Holly and Krystal had more confidence after doing so well in the regional."

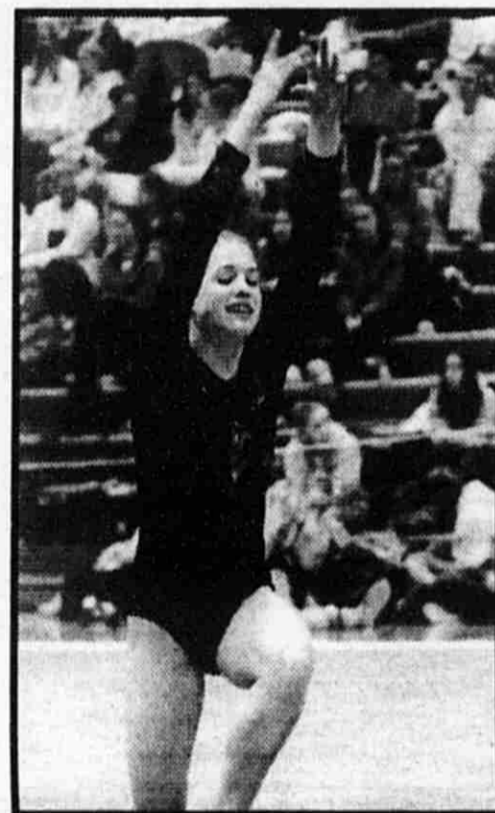
While their gymnastics season is over, their work is not. White will begin private lessons in two weeks. Plattner will start with lessons following the track season. Both girls will go into next season with new floor routines.

DeHaan knows the importance of off-season lessons. "I told all the girls that for us to take the next step, they must add difficulty to their vault and bar routines. Those tricks cannot be learned during the two-month season," she said. "They realize that I'm maxed out. I cannot teach them those higher level tricks."

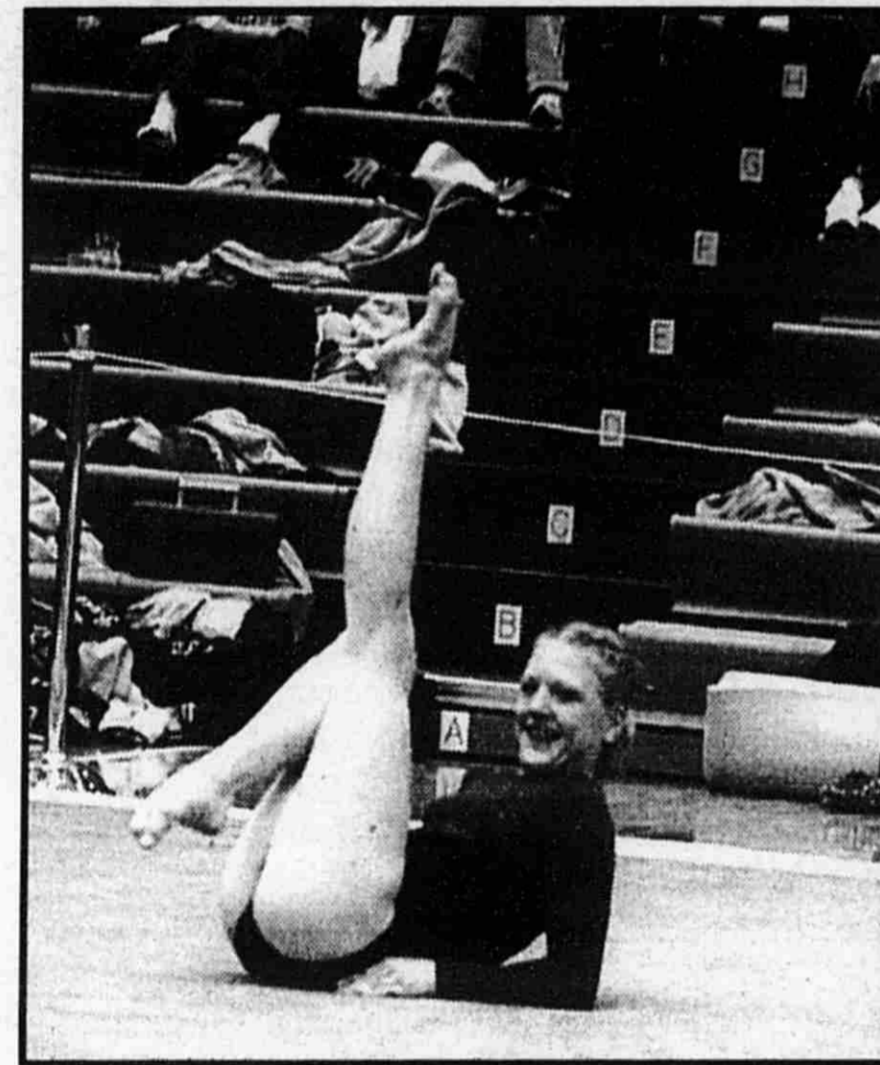
The Lowell coach believes the success of the 2001 season will drive her club to work in the off-season for next year.



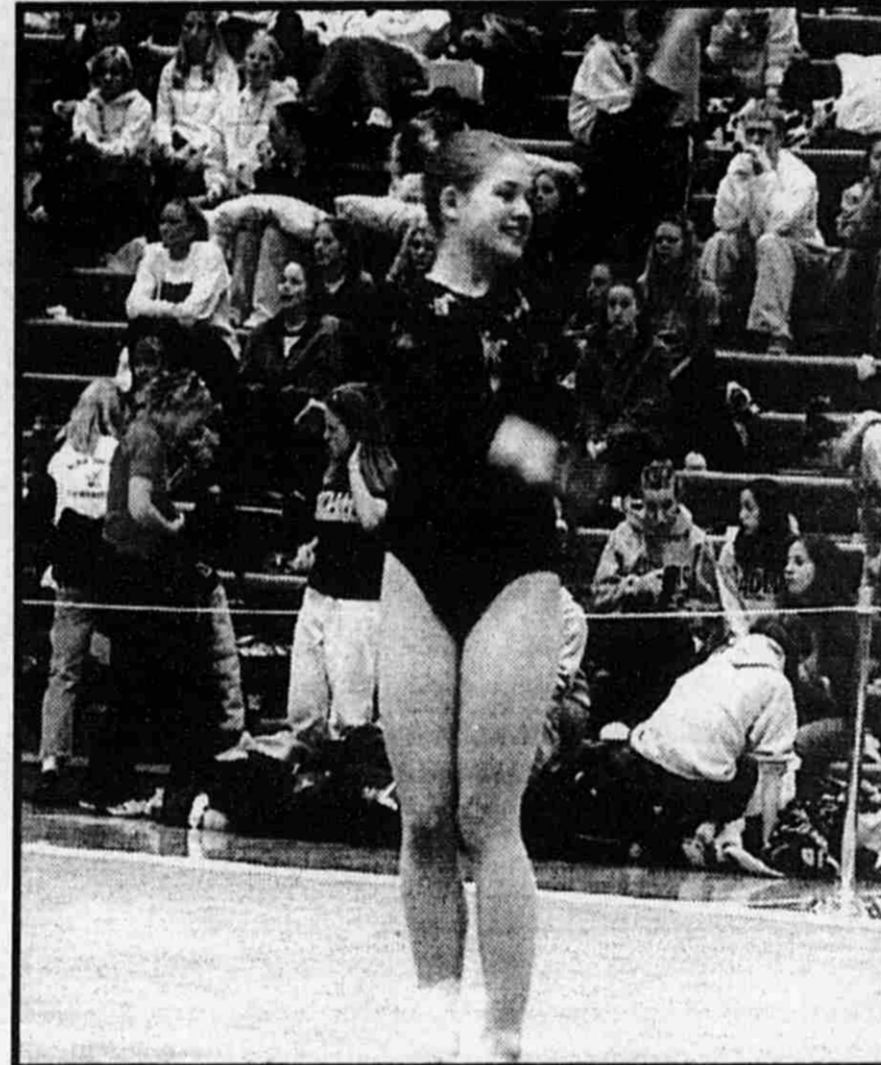
Holly Plattner successfully executes a ring leap during her floor routine Saturday at the state meet in Rockford.



Krystal White scored an 8.9 on her floor routine placing her 11th overall.




Holly Plattner



Krystal White

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**WANTED** - Sewer & drain cleaner/plumbing service technician. Some experience necessary. Good pay & benefits. Call 897-6017, 24 hrs.

**FOR RENT**  
**OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE** - Perfect for contractor. Call 897-4123.

**FOR SALE**  
**1989 PONTIAC GRAND AM LE - Auto.**, air, power windows/locks, AM/FM cassette. Runs excellent. \$2,000. 616-642-9926.

**BEAUTIFUL OAK FIREPLACE MANTEL** - Never used. \$500. 616-299-9902.

**DRIVER'S LICENSE SUSPENDED OR REVOKED?** - Don't get sucked into \$100-\$300 evaluation fees... NEVER charge for your record evaluation & consultation! Driver's license RESTORATION: \$900 incl. all filing fees AND FREE consultation & evaluation of your case. Have a question? Call Attorney Martin Mead (616) 235-0330 (Prices increase 4/1/01.)

**COMPUTER, INTERNET PEOPLE WANTED TO WORK ONLINE** - \$125-\$175 hr. Full training, vacations, bonuses & incentives. Bilinguals also needed. 49 countries. Ecash2Day.com.

**ASSEMBLY** - Great 1st & 2nd shift opportunities with local manufacturer. Qualified candidates will possess the following skills: dependability, punctual, have some assembly experience, and a willingness to learn. Call Jessica or Cindy at 293-9839 for details. Kelly Services, Inc. An equal opportunity employer. Never an applicant fee.

**STORAGE** - Pristine, state-of-the-art facility. New, dry, secure, 50 sq. ft. - 300 sq. ft. Residential and commercial. Move in special with ad. Ada - Lowell Self Storage. 897-1000.

**LOWELL SCHOOLS** - Walkout sites. 2.2 and 2.9 acres. \$39,900.00 cash or conventional. 3695 & 3665 Heron Hollow Pvt. Rd., off of 4 Mile, approx. 2 miles east of Lincoln Lake. Real Estate Broker Tom Deane 942-1689, 942-6716 or 291-4668.

**'96 CHEVY S10 PICKUP** - \$3,500. '91 Ford dump. \$7,800. '89 Dodge bus/camper. \$4,850. Ph. 868-1614 or 246-6028.

**PET GROOMING** - 12 years experience, reasonable prices, evening appointments available. Call for appointment, Marlene's Groom Room. 642-6770 or 642-0873.

**A CAREER IN REAL ESTATE WITH THE MARKET LEADER IN WEST MICHIGAN** - Imagine yourself as a professional with a new career & total control over your annual income & your work schedule. Imagine being with the market leader in West Michigan. Imagine being selected to fill a full-time position with Greenridge Realty, Inc. in a positive, high energy environment! We are interviewing now & provide complete, top quality training from licensing through career development. Call for an interview today! Call Rick Seese at 974-4250.

**PART-TIME POSITION** - Seeking someone to repair windows & screens. Definitely need someone w/experience or skills that would facilitate quick learning. Right person could pretty much work on their own schedule. Good wages & some benefits. Call or stop by & ask for Charlie or Matt. Bernard's Ace Hardware & Rental, 1601 W. Main, Lowell. 897-9490.

**FOR SALE BY OWNER** - Commercial/residential 4-bedroom house, located in the city of Lowell. Completely updated, including new furnace w/central air, newer appliances, new carpet, paint, etc...2 stall garage. \$129,900. Call 897-6615.

**AMISH LOG BEDROOM** - 8 piece set, includes Queen Sealy mattresses (1 month old), new \$4,200 sell \$1,950. Call 517-626-7089.

**DIRECT TV** - Mini-satellite dish. \$49.99 with free install. We beat all advertised prices. 1-800-459-7357, K-20.

**SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY DENIED?** - Get an attorney! No fee unless you win. 13 years experience. Call DAVID WOOD (616) 456-7496 M-F, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**BANQUET & WAITSTAFF NEEDED** - full & part-time. Please apply in person: Cascade Hills Country Club, 3725 Cascade Rd. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.

**DRIVER** - CDLB drivers needed. Looking for dependable, customer service oriented person w/chauffeur's CDLB, or CDLA license, full time and part time. Benefits (full time), good working environment, also hiring nights & weekends. Call 248-7729.

**FOR RENT** - One bedroom apartment in Ionia. New Kitchen & appliances \$400 a mo. plus deposit & utilities. 616-642-0274.

**STEEL BUILDINGS** - New, must sell. 40x60x12, was \$17,500, now \$10,971; 50x100x16 was \$27,850, now \$19,990; 80x135x16, was \$79,850, now \$44,990; 100x175x20, was \$129,650, now \$84,990. 1-800-406-5126.

**FOR SALE** - 2.5 acres w/4 bedroom, 2 bath mobile home. New roof, siding, windows. \$70,000. Call 616-642-6410.

**QUALITY COLLISION REPAIRS** - Let Bob's Body Shop repair your vehicle to factory specifications, using their new electronic measuring machine along with expert paint matching. Rental cars available while yours is being fixed. Call 897-9040 for details.

**JOURNEYMAN PLUMBER NEEDED** - Local plumbing service in need of journeyman plumber to work with master plumber. Drug free company with good benefits. Call 897-6017, 24 hrs.

**FREE FERTILIZER!** - Local septic service needs suitable farm land to recycle septage at Agronomic rates. Great soil builder & cash income for the farmer. Call 897-3050, 24 hrs.

**FOR SALE** - with 2 stall garage, 2 miles outside of Saranac. Very nice, under \$100,000, 616-642-0280.

**1973 BUICK LESABRE** - Asking \$500, engine runs good, needs some work. 101,000 original miles. 897-9306.

**POODLE** - AKC male. 9 weeks old, shots. \$200. Call 897-2101.

**FOUND**  
**FOUND** - Black & brown female hound. Murray Lake area. Please call 691-8866.

**FREE**  
**NOTICE!** - Local septic service needs suitable farm land to recycle septage at Agronomic rates. Great soil builder & cash income for the farmer. Call 897-3050, 24 hrs.

**4 POSTER BED** - King, solid wood head, rear board. Includes pillowtop mattress set. (Bought new, never used.) \$17,217.00. sell \$375/best. 517-227-0006.


**SEARS KENMORE HEAVY DUTY WASHER & ELEC. DRYER** - used only 1 year. \$400 for both; solid oak buffet & light hutch, \$275. Call 682-2000.

**1992 20 FT. PLAYBOUY SAFARI PONTON** - 40 h.p. Marner, oil injected, trim & tilt motor, fish finder, live well, carriage top, swim ladder. Playboud trailer & paddle boat. All very good. \$6,200. Call 642-3652.

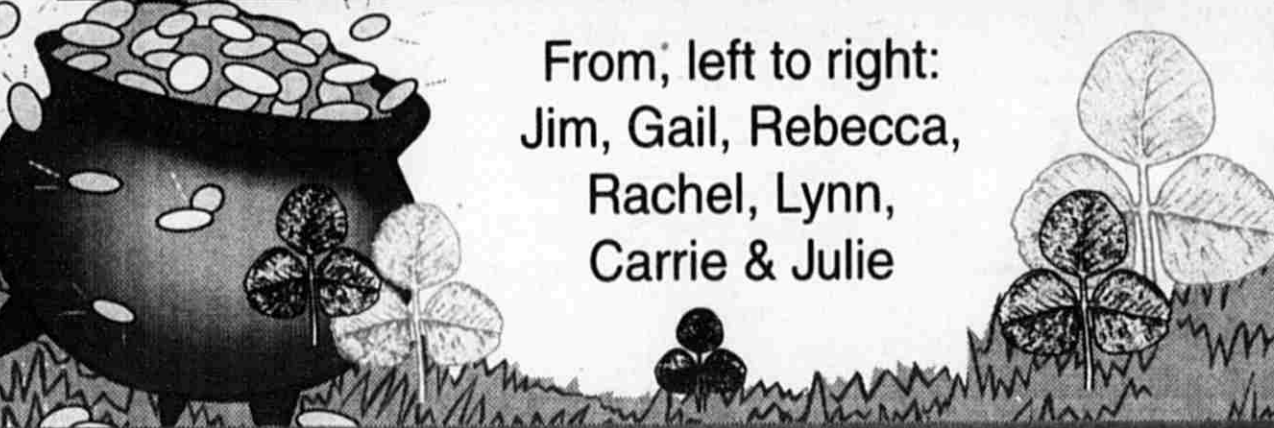
*Our Deadline is  
Mon. at 5 p.m. or  
Wed. paper*

**Happy St. Patrick's Day!**

**From the office of  
DR. JIM REAGAN**  
207 W. Main St. • Lowell • 897-7179



From, left to right:  
Jim, Gail, Rebecca,  
Rachel, Lynn,  
Carrie & Julie



## TOTS program receives new computer

The Tots on Track for Success program at Lowell Area Schools received the gift of a Macintosh computer from a Lowell resident. Terry Kropf donated the computer and equipment, valued at \$400, to the program, which is designed as an outreach program for young families

with children in infant through preschool age.

The Lowell Board of Education unanimously accepted the gift at its Monday night board meeting. The computer is a Macintosh 6116 CD computer and includes monitor and programs.

TOTS has been running in the district for three years

and has met with much success during that time.

Superintendent Bert Bleke said it is the only such program in the county and probably the state and national level as well.

It has become a model that can and should be for our county and maybe in the state, Bleke added.

### DO YOU LOVE TO GARDEN, BUT HAVE NO AVAILABLE SPACE?

*Have you never gardened, but would like to try?*

Join the new Wittenbach

Community Garden!

For \$45 you'll receive a 4'x8' raised bed plot & a 4'x10' flat garden space. Single plots available for \$27.50 (fees include \$10 deposit, refunded upon fall clean up).

Respond by April 15.

**For more information call 897-7607**

### In 1854, the nation's first Republican party is organized at Jackson

#### BUY NOW AND SAVE!!!

##### Air-conditioning Package

Starting at \$1,250.00 (tax included).

Completely installed to your existing ductwork and furnace

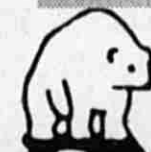
or

##### Furnace and

##### Air-conditioning Package

Starting at \$2,500.00 (tax included).

Completely installed to your existing ductwork (liner not included, if needed) (while quantities last)



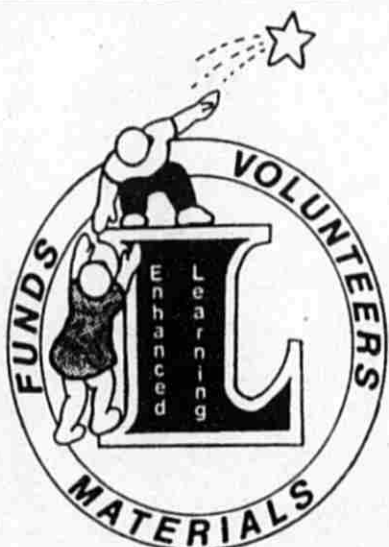
**Arctic, Inc.**

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

VISA MC 1301 Bowes Rd., Lowell • (616) 897-4123

VISIT US AT WWW.HEATINGCOOLINGONLINE.COM

## Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation 2001 Tribute Tree Celebration



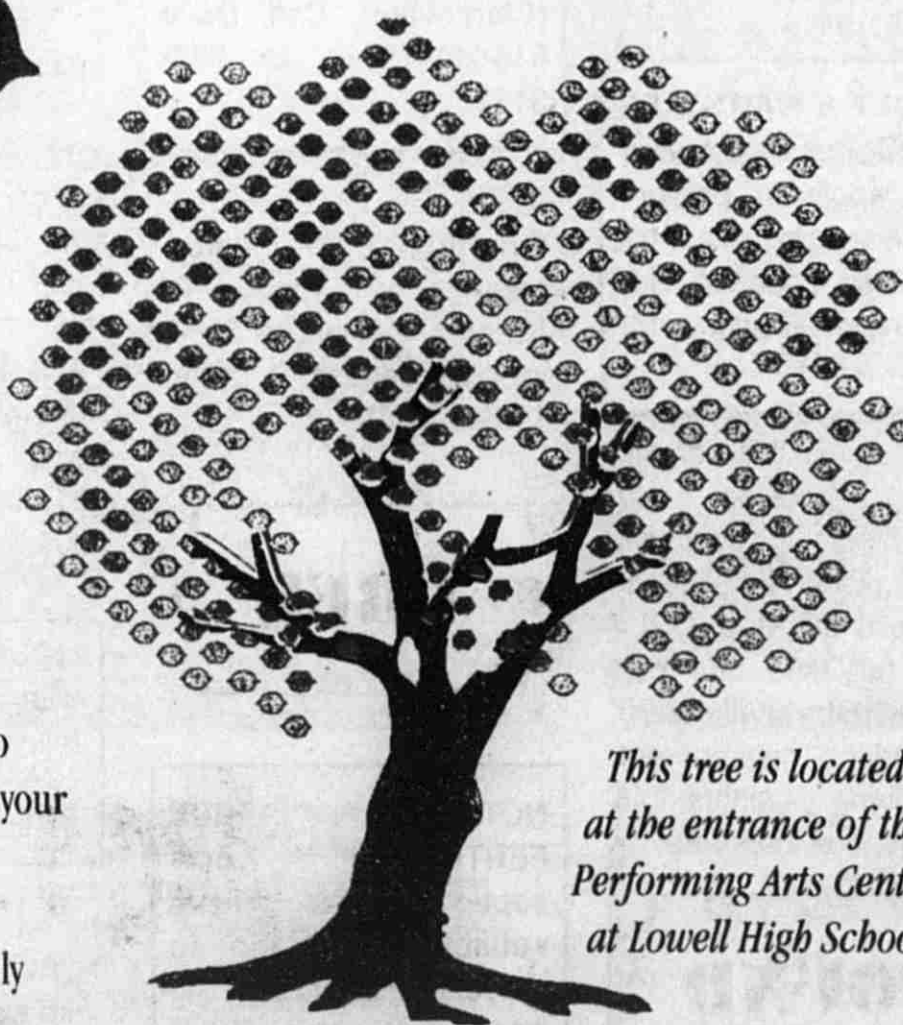
### The Tribute Tree is a way for...

- ...Friends and community members to honor individuals who have helped improve the Lowell School System
- ...Graduating and reunion classes to honor a favorite teacher or class member
- ...Booster clubs and sports teams to honor a coach or player
- ...A family to honor a member who is or was a teacher
- ...Faculty and staff to honor retiring colleagues
- ...Student organizations to honor their sponsoring teachers.

**When you give, the memories will last forever.**

When you dedicate a brass leaf on our tribute tree to someone, you're ensuring that their contribution to your life and the lives of others will never be forgotten.

With your contribution of \$400 or more, you not only honor someone who made a difference, you make exciting learning opportunities possible for children in Lowell today. When completely filled, the Tribute Tree will have generated an endowment of \$160,000, the proceeds of which will be used to fund extraordinary learning opportunities in Lowell Schools.



*This tree is located at the entrance of the Performing Arts Center at Lowell High School*

Learning  
Is Growing!

### Celebrate with us!

Friday, May 4, 2001 at 6:30 p.m., the Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation will hold a banquet to honor the year's new "leaves."

We are interested in dedicating a leaf on the Lowell Area Schools Foundation's Tribute Tree, and supporting extraordinary learning in the Lowell schools. Please contact us about the size and lettering options.

Our Name/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Person/Organization being honored: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe briefly this person's contribution/dedication to the Lowell Area Schools:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

By April 20, 2001, return this section to:

LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

300 High Street  
Lowell, Michigan 49331