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The Lowell Ledger

Volume 23, Issue 23

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, March 6, 2002

DIVISION II WRESTLING

2002

STATE CHAMPIONS

Lowell

58

Middleville

12



Nobody stands in way of Red Arrows this time

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

A fury of falls enabled Lowell to pin down its first wrestling state championship Saturday at the Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek.

Having lost in the state finals in each of the last three years, there was no denying the Red Arrows on their fourth title try. They steamrolled through the tournament, with the crowning moment culminating in a 58-12 win over Middleville in an all West Michigan state final.

"There was never any doubt in our mind that we could do it," said Lowell senior heavyweight, Ben Vaught. "The emotion of this win is 10 times greater than the lows of losing the last three years. This was our goal and what we've worked so hard for."

The Red Arrows recorded seven pins against the 35-6 Trojans.

"I don't think Lowell wanted to come in second this year," said Middleville coach, Tom Lehman following his club's defeat. "They did a heck of a job. Lowell is just an awfully good wrestling program right now."

Following his club's 33-point loss to Lowell Friday night in the quarterfinals, Center Line coach, Bryan Lorenzo correctly stated that his club's team total may be the most points scored against Lowell throughout the tournament.

Lowell won its three state tournament matches against Center Line (51-18), Eaton Rapids (53-16) and Middleville by a combined score of 162-46.

"I never fathomed we'd do this against a Middleville wrestling program that, like us, has the ability to come out and

create situations," Lowell wrestling coach, Dave Strejc said. "The boys went out today and rose to a higher level. They have worked so hard all year and have faced and overcome many obstacles."

While the pins will get the press, Strejc said the pace for the championship match was set early on by Jim Kelly (145) and Braton Fredline (152).

"It started with them. They went out there for a full six minutes and only gave up decisions," Strejc explained. "That set everything up for our individual state qualifiers (10) to go out and do their job."

The job was executed with a machine-like precision. Trailing 6-0 after the opening two matches, Lowell won 11 of the final 12 matches. "We got hit by a freight train tonight," Lehman said in explaining the loss.

J.J. Wilder's pin (160 pounds) against Mark Price at 1:04 of the first period was a precursor to the pinning frenzy which would follow.

State Champions, cont'd. pg. 13

Growth brings residents forth to serve on planning commission

By J.N. Boorsma
Contributing Writer

After living in California for 28 years, Barbara Schmaltz is familiar with what unplanned growth can do to an area.

She would leave California and resettle in her native Michigan, relocating to Lowell, because of family . . . because the state simply had become "too crowded." Fourteen years later, she could see the growth potential for the Lowell area and her concerns led her to take a leadership class with the Lowell Chamber of Commerce. Her goal was to become a member of the Lowell Planning Commission.

Schmaltz along with David Rapp were sworn in at the

planning commission's Feb. 25 meeting as the newest commissioners to that board. They replace Jim Pfaller, who was elected to the Lowell City Council, and Trudy Cahoon, who resigned last year.

Schmaltz, whose son Mark and wife Mari live in Lowell, said after seeing what unplanned growth did in California, she didn't want the same things to happen in Lowell.

"I can really see what is happening in the population of the Greater Grand Rapids area," Schmaltz said. "People will migrate to this area. This is a wonderful town and I would like to see it remain that way with the growth."

New Commissioners, cont'd. pg. 8

INSIDE THE LEDGER



Championship
File Tucked
Away in
Wrestling Bag,
Story Page 12

OBITUARIES

BERTRAN - Catherine Jean Bertran, aged 77, of Cascade, passed away February 26, 2002 at home after a battle with cancer. She is survived by her husband Lloyd; children Linda (Bob) Miller, Harold Bertran, Wayne (Pamela) Bertran all of Ada; grandchildren Rob (Laura) Miller of Scottsdale, AZ, Brian Miller of Ada; great-grandson Ryan Miller; sister Dorothy Ponstein of Dearborn; best friend Ruth

Heubel of Alto; several nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held Saturday at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, Lowell. Rev. Michael Spitters of Cascade Christian Church officiating. Interment Cascade Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Michigan, 1260 Ekhart NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

McMAHON - Charlyn A. (Croninger), aged 69, passed

away February 27, 2002 at the Fountains in Yuba City CA. Married 47 years to Roger J.F. McMahon, formerly of Lowell. Charlyn was a 1950 graduate of Lowell High School, Grand Rapids Junior College and the University of Michigan. As a physical therapist, she worked in Grand Rapids and California, retiring in 1998. She is survived by her husband Roger of Yuba City, CA; son Brian McMahon, (Elaina) of Ridgecrest, CA; daughter Leian Ellis (Randy) of Yuba City, CA and one granddaughter Stephanie Ellis. Other survivors include three brothers Edward Campau (Ruth) of Greenfield, IN; Francis Campau (Ann) of Alto and Charles Croninger (Marge) of Temple, TX; two sisters Janet Johnson (Phil) of Lowell and Cara Lee Croninger of New York City.

and artist. She was a member of Temple Emanuel, Hadassah and B'nai B'rith and a devoted mother, grandmother and loyal friend to many. A memorial service will be held Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Metcalf & Jonkhoff Chapel. The family will greet friends one hour prior. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The American Cancer Society or Hospice of Michigan.

STORY - Lucille M. Talsma Boelens Story, formerly of Lowell, passed away on February 26, 2002 at the Evangelical Home in Saline, Michigan. She was born on March 6, 1909 to Murk A. and Laura Stidd Talsma. She was preceded in death by her parents; her sister Audrey; and her brother Keith. She is survived by her nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews who

loved her very much. A family service will be held at a later date.

VANSTRIGHT - Verne E. VanStright, aged 82, of Lowell, passed away March 2, 2002. He is survived by his wife Clara; children Karen (Henry) Velzen of Wyoming, Robert (Karen) VanStright of Rockford, Janice (Allan) Bosscher of Lowell; sisters Lavina Klassen of Pontiac, Lois (Neil) DeVries of Dutton; 10 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held Tuesday at Roth-Gerst Chapel, Lowell. Rev. Peter Adams of Grace United Reformed Church officiating. Interment Grandville Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Holland Home.

The Lowell Ledger (USPS 453-830)

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VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

NOTICE BOARD OF REVIEW

THE BOARD OF REVIEW OF VERGENNES TOWNSHIP WILL MEET AT THE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP HALL 10381 BAILEY DRIVE, LOWELL, MI, 49331 ON MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2002

between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and also on

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2002

between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the tax roll and hearing all claims.

You may appeal your assessed valuation one of two ways:

To appear at the Board of Review, call 897-5671 on Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for an appointment to appear in person.

By letter addressed to:
 Vergennes Township Assessor
 P.O. Box 208
 Lowell, MI 49331-0208

Mari Stone
 Vergennes Township Clerk

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP NOTICE BOARD OF REVIEW

THE BOARD OF REVIEW OF LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP WILL MEET AT THE LOWELL TOWNSHIP HALL 2910 ALDEN NASH, SE

ON MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2002 between the hours of 9 a.m. - 12 Noon and 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.; also on

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2002

between the hours of 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the tax roll and hearing all claims. You may appeal your assessed valuation one of two ways:

- 1) By letter addressed to the Lowell Charter Township Supervisor and received by him prior to March 11, 2002; or
- 2) By phoning the Township Hall (897-7600) for an appointment to appear in person.

The tentative Real Property assessment ratio and assessment multiplier required by P.A. 165 of 1971 are
 Ratio - 50% Multiplier - 1.00

Linda S. Regan, Clerk
 Lowell Charter Township

Curves for Women kicks off "Food for Friends" campaign

Lowell's Curves for Women will be joining the Curves International Inc. "Food for Friends" food drive, benefitting the Flat River Outreach Ministries' Food bank. During the month of March, members who bring a bag of nonperishable food items, exercise three times weekly and lose five pounds and five inches will receive a Food for Friends t-shirt. Anyone joining Curves the week of March 11 may bring a bag of groceries and have the normal service fee waived. For more information call 897-2686.

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CITY OF LOWELL

PUBLIC NOTICE

GYPSY MOTH PROGRAM 2002

Gypsy Moth monitoring and treatment programs are available through the Kent County Conservation District for your area.

If you are concerned about preserving the health and beauty of your trees, shrubs and ornamentals from this destructive pest, please contact the Kent County Conservation District office at (616) 336-8868 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. for more information.

 Betty R. Morlock
 City Clerk

LOWELL COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, March 13

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 315 S. Hudson, Lowell

2 to 7 P.M.

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LOWELL CABLE TV 127 N. Broadway Lowell, Michigan 897-8405	STATE FARM INSURANCE <i>Roger Chapman</i> 217 W. Main Lowell, Michigan 897-9237	LOWELL FAMILY MEDICAL CENTER Dr. Paul R. Gauthier, DO Dr. James C. Lang, DO Dr. John Meier DO Lowell, Michigan 252-5600	THE CITY OF LOWELL 301 E. Main, Lowell, Michigan 897-8457
LOWELL GRANITE 306 E. Main Lowell, Michigan 897-7191	SHOWBOAT AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY INC. 1450 W. Main Lowell, Michigan 897-9231	ANIMAL HOSPITAL & PET COMPLEX OF LOWELL 11610 E. Fulton Lowell, Michigan 897-8484	BUYERS GUIDE 105 N. Broadway Lowell, Michigan 897-9555

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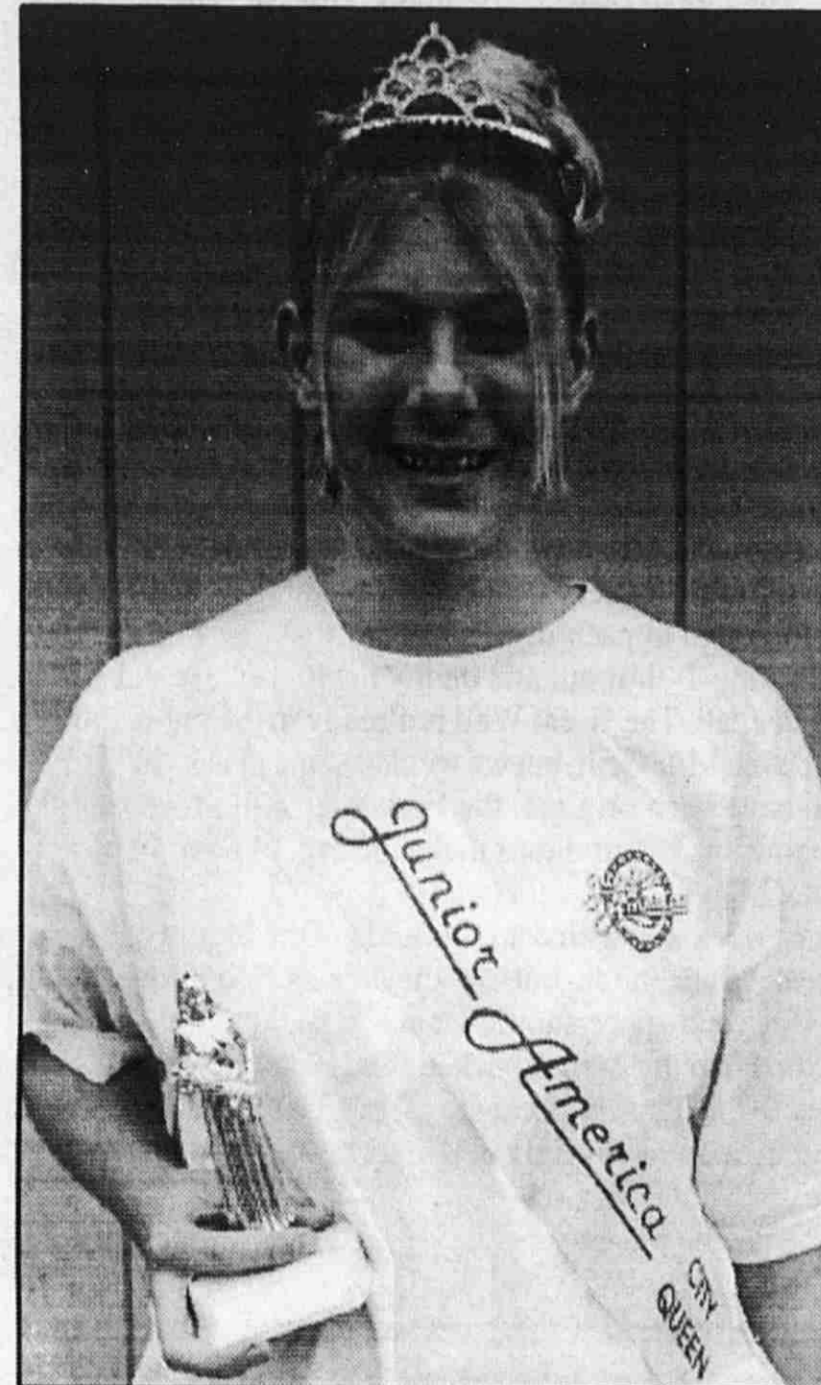
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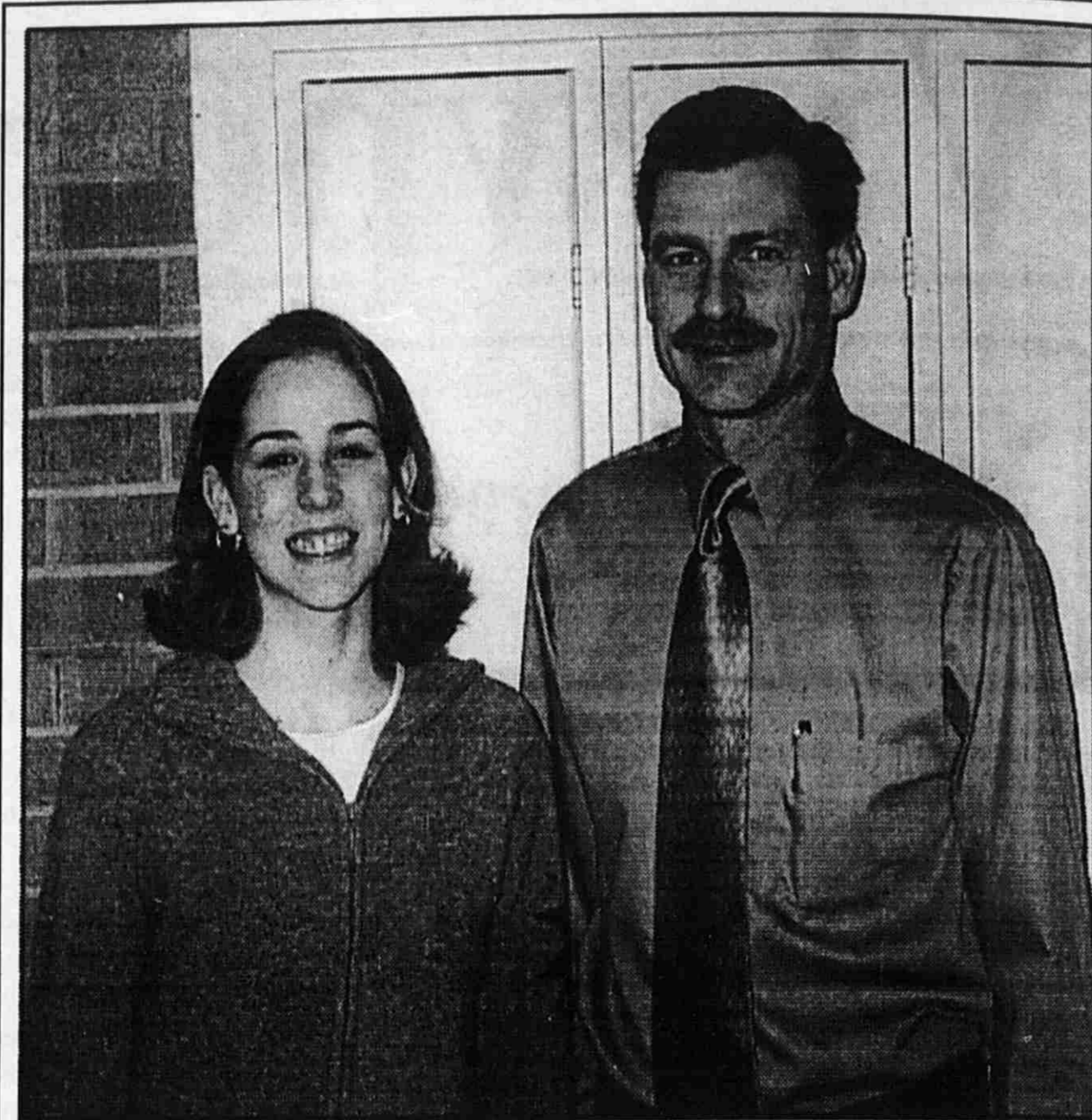
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City Queen

Lowell's Cora Spickler competed against 182 girls from around the state at the Miss Junior America Pageant on Saturday (Feb. 23). The top 15 girls advanced to the national competition. Spickler, while not advancing, was named Lowell's City Queen by the pageant. Spickler is the daughter of Thomas and Marie Spickler.



Farm Bureau's Mark Johnson stands with America & Me Essay Contest local winner Megan Vaught. The contest, in its 33rd year, was once again sponsored by Farm Bureau.

Lowell eighth-grader wins essay contest

Megan Vaught, an eighth-grade student at Lowell Middle School, has been named a local winner in the 33rd annual America & Me Essay Contest. It was sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance agent, Mark Johnson of Grand Rapids.

Vaught will receive an award certificate for the achievement and her name will be engraved on a plaque for permanent display in the school.

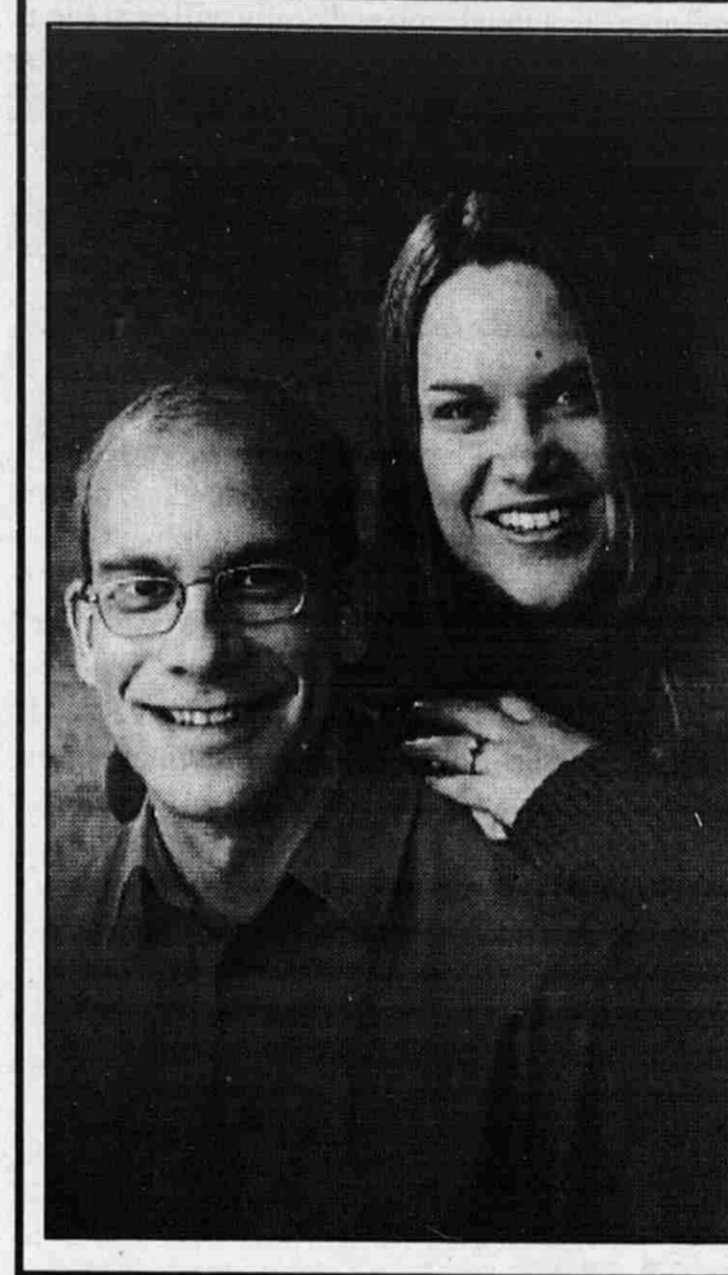
Vaught's first-place essay now advances to the state level competition, from which the top 10 essays in Michigan will be selected. The top 10 statewide winners, who will be announced in April, will receive plaques, cash and U.S. savings bonds valued from \$500 to \$1,000. In addition, the top 10 essayists will be honored at a banquet in Lansing, meet with Michigan's top governmental leaders and be the featured guests at a Lansing Lugnuts minor league baseball game dedicated in their honor.

A team of finalist judges which includes a top Michigan government official and the sponsoring teachers of last year's top two statewide winners, will determine the ranking of the top 10 statewide winners this year.

Several thousand eighth grade students from nearly 525 Michigan schools participated in the 2001-2002 America & Me Essay Contest, which was conducted with the help of Farm Bureau Insurance agents across the state. The topic of the 2001-2002 contest was *Why I Am Grateful to America's Veterans.*

Started in 1968 and open to all Michigan eighth-grade students, the contest encourages Michigan youngsters to explore their roles in America's future. As sponsor of the contest, Farm Bureau Insurance has earned 11 national awards from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge.

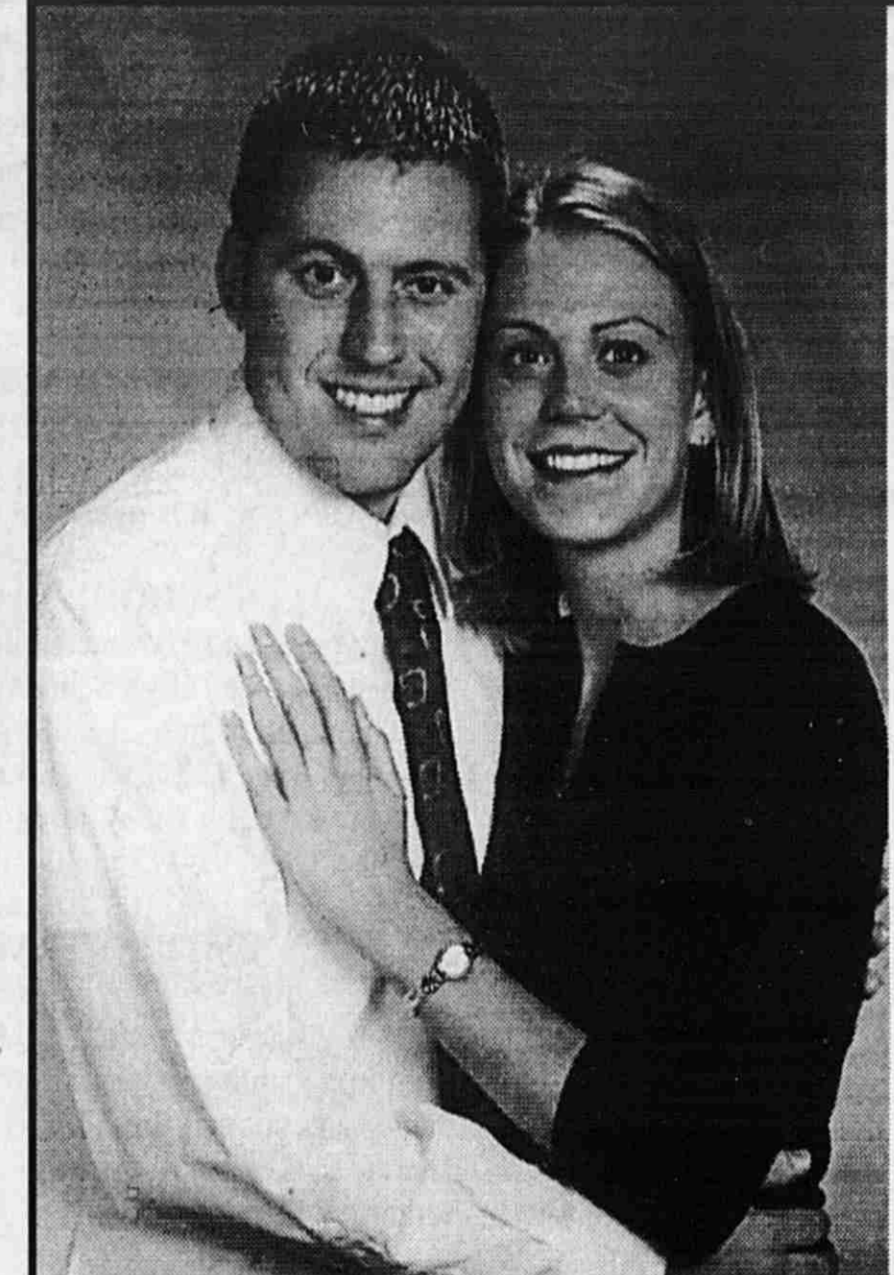
Newell/Peel



Stephanie B. Newell and Ryan J. Peel, both of Greensburg, Pa., are engaged and planning a May 25, 2002 wedding.

The future bride is the daughter of Steve and Deanne Newell of Lowell. Stephanie is a 1996 graduate of Lowell High School and graduated magna cum laude from Seton Hill College in Greensburg in December 2001 where she received a bachelor of arts degree. She will attend either Michigan State University or Western Michigan University in the fall to obtain a Ph.D. in clinical psychology.

The prospective groom is the son of Shirley Peel of Lowell and Jeff Peel of Coopersville. He graduated from Lowell High School in 1992 and from Aquinas College in 1996 with a bachelor of science degree. He currently works for Tribune-Review Publishing Co. in Pittsburgh, Pa.



Wilcox/Garrelts

Beth Marie Wilcox of Lowell and Nathan Clinton Garrelts of East Lansing are engaged and planning a July 20, 2002 wedding.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Rex and Barbara Wilcox of Lowell. She is a 1996 graduate of Lowell High School and a 2000 graduate of Michigan State University with a business degree in human resources management.

The future groom is the son of David and Judy Garrelts of Dowagiac. He is completing his doctor of philosophy at Michigan State University in American Studies and is currently teaching at Michigan State University and Lansing Community College.

Lowell's Finnegan named Truman Scholarship finalist

Junior Shannon Finnegan has been named a finalist for the prestigious Truman Scholarship. The Truman Scholarship, awarded to those interested in a career in public service, provides \$3,000 for a winner's senior year of college, and an additional \$27,000 for two years of graduate study. Approximately 75-80 Truman Scholarships are awarded yearly,

with each state getting at least one.

According to Sandy Hulme, associate professor of political science and the Truman faculty representative, "She is great." Hulme described Finnegan as a motivated conscientious worker who turned the daunting Truman application into a very smooth process. Asked about her chances, Hulme

assessed her as a "slam-dunk candidate," meaning she has an excellent chance of winning the scholarship at her March 15 interview in Ann Arbor.

According to Finnegan, "I'm very fortunate to get to go through the Truman process. I'm thankful for the generous assistance of the faculty and all the hours they put into this, and now I'm very

excited about the interview."

Finnegan is pursuing a program of emphasis in environmental policy and public advocacy. She participates in Chorale, Students United for Nature, Alpha Xi Delta sorority, and Model United Nations.

Her off-campus activities, however, truly set Finnegan apart. As a participant in the Washington Semester Pro-

gram at American University, Finnegan studied environmental policy and completed an internship with the Embassy of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Finnegan worked on amendments to the Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Marshall Islands, helping to ensure that the U.S. government follows through on promises to cover

health care and environmental cleanup costs resulting from U.S. nuclear testing between 1946 and 1958.

Also during the Washington semester, Finnegan spent time studying the impact of international environmental and development issues on local communities in El Salvador. Finnegan particularly

Finnegan, cont'd. pg. 10

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Thank you in advance,
Peter Smith

Finnegan, cont'd... From Page 7

enjoyed living with a poor family in a rural agricultural village, watching as they learned to utilize eco-tourism and income from students like Finnegan to fund sustainable development projects.

As a recipient of the \$2,500 Currie Scholarship for summer study in 2001, Finnegan undertook what has become known as the Pine River Oral History Project, which recorded the reactions of local residents to the Pine River contamination, resulting health problems, and clean-up efforts.

Finnegan produced a video documentary of the interviews and a web site. She will present a paper on the project at the prestigious Undergraduate Honors Confer-

ence in Wisconsin this year. After completing a joint Juris Doctorate/Master of Science program at the University of Michigan, Finnegan hopes to work for a non-gov-

ernmental organization and involve herself in environmental lawsuits. Finnegan also wants to work for the Environmental Protection Agency or a similar government agency later in her career.

Finnegan is a 1999 Lowell High School graduate and the daughter of Nancy Finnegan of Lowell.

TO ELECTORS AND TAXPAYERS OF THE CITY OF LOWELL

KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ENTER INTO ONE OR MORE LIMITED FULL FAITH AND CREDIT GENERAL OBLIGATION CONTRACTS OF LEASE WITH THE CITY OF LOWELL BUILDING AUTHORITY PLEDGING THE CITY'S LIMITED TAXING POWER

- RIGHT OF REFERENDUM -

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Lowell, Kent County, Michigan (the "City") intends to enter into one or more limited full faith and credit general obligation contracts of lease with the City of Lowell Building Authority (the "Building Authority"), pursuant to which the Building Authority shall sell one or more series of Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$4,800,000 for the purpose of defraying all or a portion of the cost of renovating and expanding the City Hall/Police Station located at 301 E. Main Street within the City including the acquisition of real property for the expansion and related parking facilities.

The bonds issued by the Building Authority shall be in an amount not to exceed \$4,800,000 and shall mature over a maximum of thirty (30) years with interest on the unpaid balance at a rate of not to exceed the highest rate permitted by law.

SOURCE OF PAYMENT

THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON SAID BONDS shall be payable primarily from cash rentals to be paid by the City to the Building Authority as set forth in a contract of lease between the City and the Building Authority, which bonds pledge said rentals to the payment thereof. The City intends to pay these cash rentals with general revenues of the City and tax increment revenues to be made available to the City of the City of Lowell Downtown Development Authority.

THE CITY WILL PLEDGE ITS LIMITED FULL FAITH AND CREDIT FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE CASH RENTALS NECESSARY TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE BONDS AS THEY SHALL BECOME DUE AND PAYABLE AND THE CITY SHALL, IF NECESSARY TO MAKE SUCH PAYMENT, LEVY AD VALOREM TAXES UPON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY IN THE CITY, WHICH TAXES SHALL BE LIMITED AS TO RATE AND AMOUNT BY EXISTING CHARTER, STATUTORY AND CONSTITUTIONAL TAX LIMITATIONS.

RIGHT OF REFERENDUM

THE CONTRACTS OF LEASE will be executed without a vote of the electors thereon, unless **A PETITION** signed by not less than ten percent (10%) **OF THE REGISTERED ELECTORS** in the City is filed with the City Clerk **WITHIN FORTY-FIVE (45) DAYS** after the date of publication of this Notice, in which case the contracts of lease shall not become effective unless approved by the majority of the electors of the City voting thereon at a special or general election.

THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN pursuant to the requirements of Section 8b of Act 31 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1948 (First Extra Session), as amended.



Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

Avery's poetry rides into cowboy/western museum

The National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum (The Cowboy Hall of Fame) in Oklahoma City, Okla., feels that "Cowboy poetry represents a genre that makes a significant statement on the nature of the American West and they wish to preserve this important aspect of our heritage for the benefit of future generations." This statement preceded the invitation for Roswell, N.M., cowboy, artist and poet, Keith W. Avery, to send copies of all his poetry to be deposited in the museum for the use of researchers.

Avery won the Governor's Award in 1994

for his cowboy art and poetry. His poetry is found in "Ridden Hard and Put Up Wet," a collection of his and his wife's Christmas cards of 30 years. The book, "Campfire Echoes" was published by New Mexico State University and displays both Avery's art and poetry. Sales of "Campfire Echoes" have funded a Keith W. Avery Scholarship Foundation at NMSU.

His biography "Trails of A Wanderer" also included some poetry. Proceeds from "Trails" were donated to the Cheff Center of Riding for Handicapped Children. The museum also requested Avery

tell of how his poetry was shared. He has attended many poetry gatherings and was the first New Mexico poet to attend the National Endowment for the Arts Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada, in 1986. His poems have been used at memorial services for Ken Curtis (Festus on Gunsmoke), Joel McCrae, Fern Sawyer, Ben Johnson, Richard Farnsworth, and Les Davis (CS Ranch, Cimmaron, N.M.)

Avery and his wife Carol live in East Grand Plains. Many family members reside in Roswell.

Council authorizes publication of intent

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

The city of Lowell will officially announce its intent to issue bonds involving the City Hall and police station.

Lowell's City Council adopted a resolution authorizing publication of the intent and related action of bonds not exceeding \$4.8 million. The bonds are proposed to be sold by late spring.

The construction will cost 3.5 mills. The Downtown Development Authority will

provide the equivalent of one mill bringing the total mill increase down to 2.5 mills in the first year. The DDA would still have monies available to continue with other projects.

The DDA will review its contribution on a yearly basis to assure it has the funding it needs for capital improvement projects.

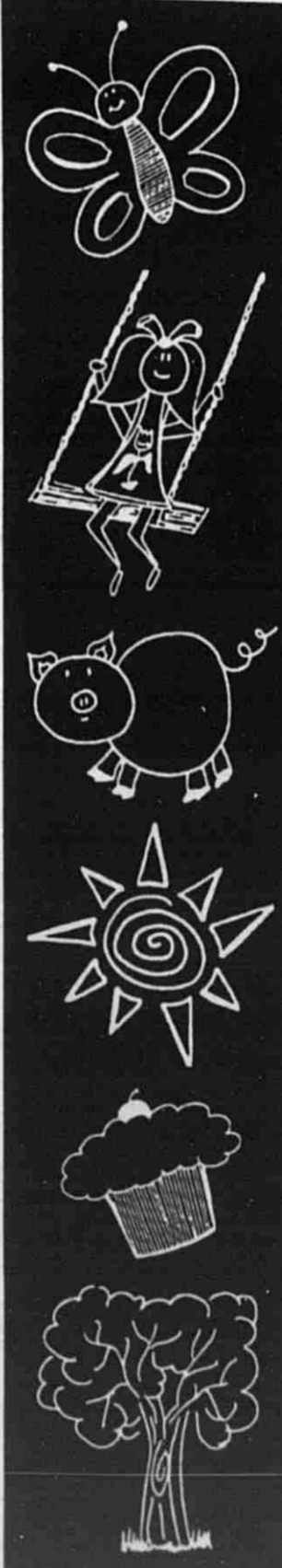
The city currently levies 13.85 mills. It's allowed to levy 18.8.

The city has spent

\$704,625 in property acquisition with a \$500,000 bond paying most of that, and the rest reimbursed to the city's general fund through the second bond issue.

"The city has worked to reduce as much of the burden to the taxpayer as possible," Lowell city manager, Dave Pasquale said.

The revenue bonds, which include all current bond costs, are proposed to be sold by late spring.



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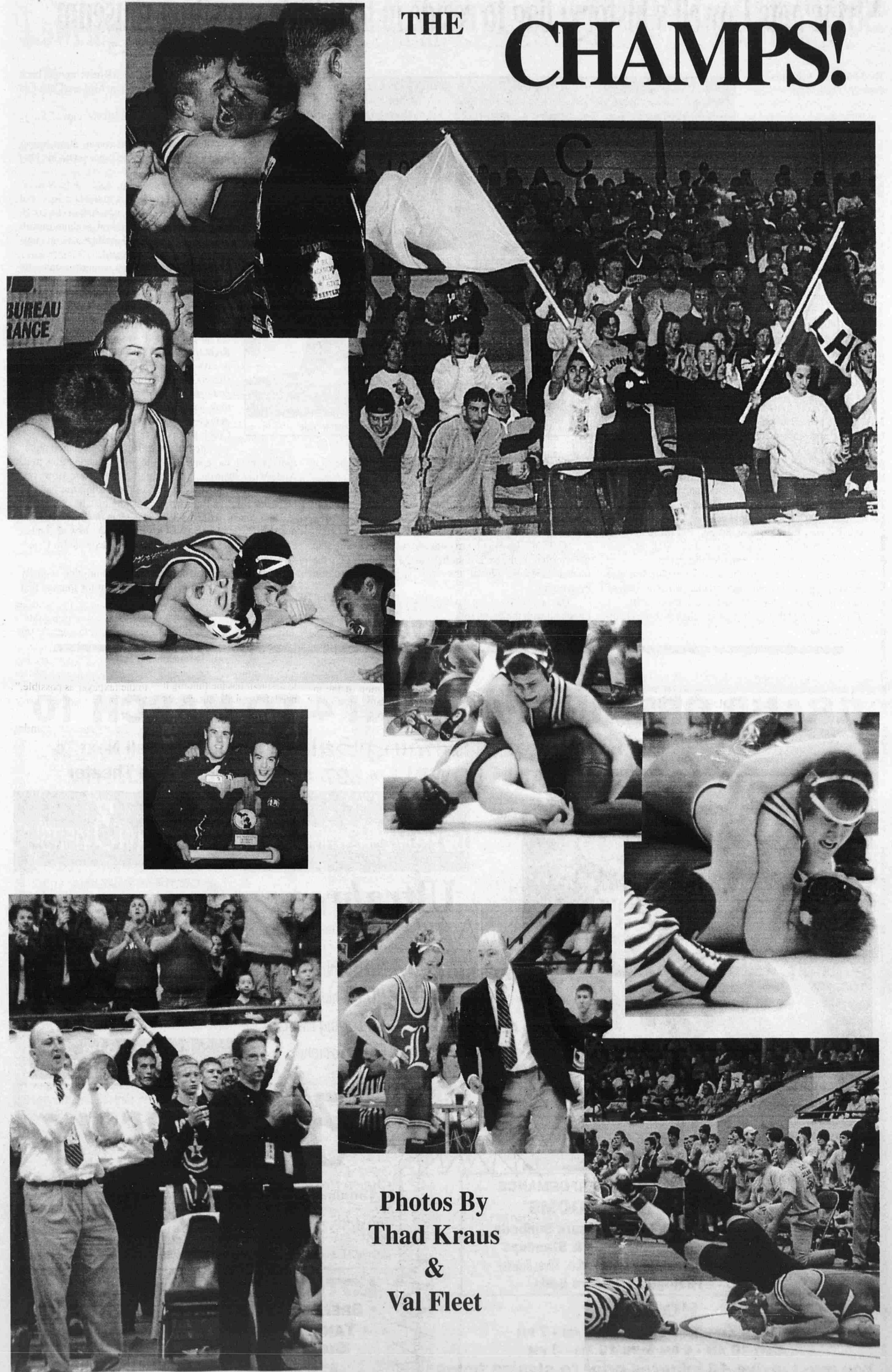
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THE CHAMPS!



Photos By
Thad Kraus
&
Val Fleet



Counting Pennies for Devos Children's Hospital

The combined efforts of the Lowell Middle School and Alto Elementary students raised a little over \$1,500 for DeVos Children's Hospital. During a two-week fundraiser, titled Penny Sabotage, Alto raised \$913.43. Lowell Middle School raised \$588.01. The event was organized by the Alto and Middle School student councils. "The money will take care of the sick children at DeVos Children's Hospital," said Alto Elementary student, Elizabeth Mol. She knows from experience. "My brother went there." Schoolmate Sam Young adds, "It's not a whole hospital - it's just one floor of Spectrum." Lowell Middle School eighth-grade class vice president, Emily Timpson said last year's contest was between the different grades at the middle school; this year they decided to make it between schools. Other eighth-grade student officers who worked with Timpson to organize the fundraiser were Laura Maki, secretary; Hannah Kinney, treasurer; and Nikita Miles, president.

Gilmore's bid lands him Riverwalk property with covenant attached

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Greg Gilmore's bid to purchase a portion of city Riverwalk property (211 E. Main) was approved by the Lowell City Council Monday night, but not without assurances attached to it.

The city attached a covenant to the property. In the event Gilmore decides to resell the property at some point in time, the covenant will give the city the first right of refusal to

purchase back the 12 by 90 foot parcel for \$1.

It will also require that Gilmore restore the property to the conditions consistent with the rest of the Riverwalk area at the time of the resell. Such restoration would be done to the satisfaction and approval of the presiding city council and Downtown Development Authority.

DDA board member Dean Lonick, in a letter to the city, recommended that a covenant be attached to the property.

"I believe strongly in property rights. Normally I would not be in favor of attaching such a covenant. In this instance,

though, I think we should look at the Riverwalk as the center of our destination point," Lonick said. "Gilmore's proposed use is consistent with that view and enhances the attraction of the area, if not overshadowing it. I think this will provide the mechanism to provide Gilmore with all the controls he needs to operate his business and alleviate any fears anyone has down the road."

Gilmore's bid of \$1,000 for the property was the only bid received by the city. The amount was the value calculated by city assessor, Jim Marfia.

Financial Focus

Edward Jones
Serving Individual Investors Since 1871



With Christopher C. Godbold

Take Steps to Protect Your Inheritance

At some point in your life, you may inherit a sizeable sum of money - and what you do with it could have a major impact on your financial future.

How should you handle your inheritance? To begin with, don't make any quick decisions, especially if the money is coming from a parent or a particularly close relative. Even as an adult, you need time to recover from a major loss. So, rather than making any emotional choices, you may just want to "park" the inheritance funds in a money market account for a while.

Eventually, though, you will need to decide how to put this money to its best use. Here's one suggestion: If you are carrying a large balance on a high-rate credit card, you may want to pay it off now, while you have the money. Many cards have interest rates of 16 percent or more; since you would have a hard time finding an investment that paid that kind of return, your decision to get rid of the debt is smart use of your money.

Once you've paid off that credit card debt—or if you never had it in the first place—you'll want to look at other ways you can maximize your inheritance. Some people make the mistake of assuming that, since they didn't have the money before, they are now free to invest it aggressively. And yet, if their investment goes sour, they end up regretting it just as much as if they'd invested money they had earned. Don't make hasty decisions without considering potential risk, as well as your comfort level with that risk.

If you're a moderate or conservative investor, and you wouldn't feel comfortable investing aggressively under normal circumstances, then there's no way you're going to feel good about putting your inheritance in high-growth, high-risk vehicles.

So, before you invest a dime of your new money, ask yourself: "What sort of investor am I?" If you've been investing for a while, it won't take long to come up with the

answer. Then, ask yourself some more questions:

- What are my long-term investment goals?
- When will I need this money?
- Is my portfolio properly diversified?

The answers to these questions will help you determine how to invest the money from your inheritance. A qualified financial professional can help you assess your situation and make recommendations appropriate for your individual situation.

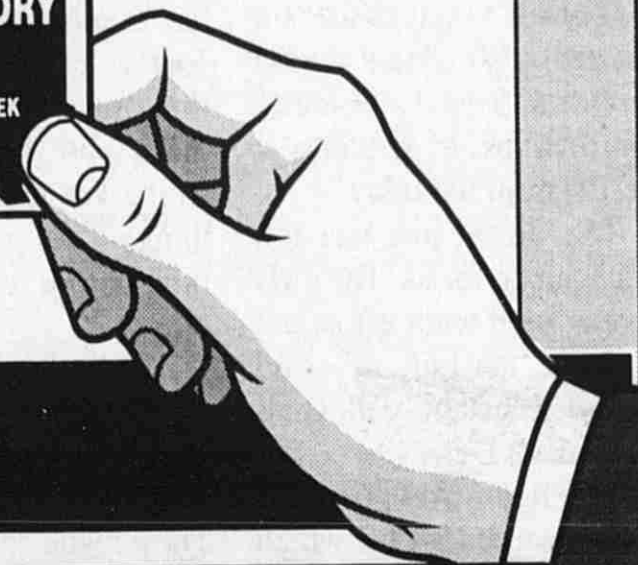
Thus far, we've just talked about what you might do with your money if there were no strings attached. If your inheritance is large enough, you may well face some estate taxes. If that's the case, then you'll need to deal with your tax situation before you start investing. Your tax adviser can help you make proper choices. You'll want to treat your inheritance with the respect it deserves. So, take the time you need to make the right moves.

Always behave as if nothing has happened no matter what has happened.

—Arnold Bennet

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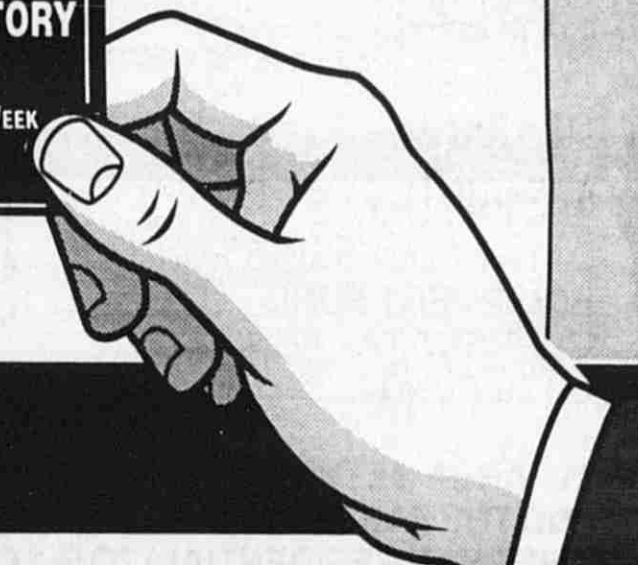
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Lowell's Katie Clements, left, earned a first-place gold rating in extemporaneous speaking at the FFA regional leadership contest in Cedar Springs. Melodie Dernocoeur, right, received a second-place gold rating in creed speaking. Both girls qualified for the State competition at Michigan State University.

Lowell FFA shines at district and regional leadership contests

Future Farmers of America regional leadership contest yielded five Lowell chapter teams which qualified them to compete at the State FFA Convention held at Michigan State University.

Lowell had 17 of its members perform at the leadership contest with four earning firsts, and one taking second. The top two teams in each leadership contest are selected to compete at State. "I am pleased with the students," said Lowell FFA advisor, John Schut. "They worked together to perform well and represented our FFA community well."

In preparation for the contests, members of the Lowell Agricultural Supports such as

Jaime Frain, Kerry Nugent, Mary Nugent, Reverend Jason Leininger, and Dr. Paul Bieneman mentored students and offered constructive feedback.

"The contests open up opportunity in leadership at many levels," Schut said. For the first time, Lowell Middle School FFA members (25) participated in the leadership contest. In their first year, they have 38 members.

Lowell had 10 teams from the district advance to the regional.

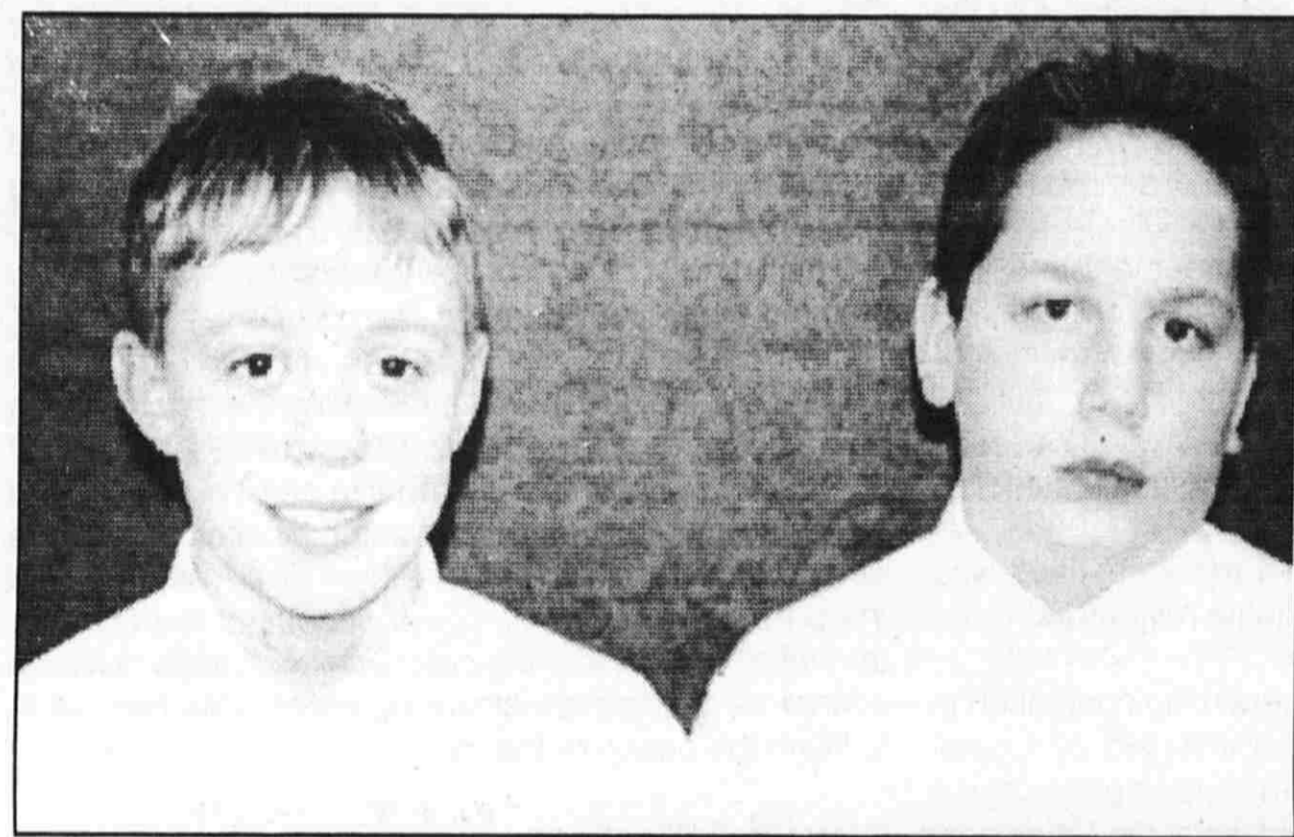
"The community expects that our kids will do well. These kids did a good job living up to those expectations," Schut concluded.



Teresa Leasure earned a silver rating in prepared public speaking.



Courtney Perkins earned a first place gold rating and advanced to State in job interview.



Nathan Clements, left, earned a third-place gold rating in creed speaking. Lance Perkins earned a first-place gold rating in middle school public speaking. With the accomplishment, he advanced to the State competition.



The team of Hannah Knudstrup, Megan Vaught, Melissa Blough, Holly Vaught, Andrew Wilterink, Adam Baker and Caleb Shores earned a first-place gold rating in middle school conduct of meetings and advanced to State.



Charlie Craig, left, hands over a set of keys of a new 2002 Rendezvous to Ilene and Tom Wright of Belding. It marked the 2,500th sale for Craig since joining Thomet Chevrolet in 1982.

Thomet's Craig reaches milestone

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Purchasing a vehicle from Thomet Chevrolet was a new experience for Tom and Ilene Wright of Belding.

Their experience is one that car salesman, Charlie Craig has shared with a multitude of customers - 2,500 and counting.

"The door has swung both ways, the customers have been good to me, and I've always treated them like I would want to be treated," Craig explains. "I've been trying to change the car salesman's image."

The first new car Craig sold at Thomet Chevrolet was a 1982 Z-28 Camaro. The buyers were Lowell's Keith and Sandy Geldersma.

Adams' family featured at Englehardt

Two programs at the Englehardt Library will offer a glimpse into the lives of John and Abigail Adams.

On Tuesday, March 12, the library will present a discussion of the book *John Adams* by David McCullough at 10 a.m. The biography is about the second president of the United States, who served from 1797 to 1801.

On Tuesday, March 19, John Adams' wife, Abigail will be featured in a program at 7 p.m. Educator and lecturer, Shirley Meyer will play the role of the former first lady and dress in period costume. This is for ages 12 and up.

cut is several feet from the corner of Lincoln Lake Road and Chatham Street.

The commissioners were more concerned with getting a landscaping schedule and where lighting would be.

"If you could do something that would be visually appealing to the neighbors [along Chatham] so they are not looking at a wall, that would be nice," planning commission chairman, Jim Hall said. The back of the building would face the residents along Chatham and have back doors and a sidewalk. Hall suggested using nice doors or adding an awning to help blend the building with the surrounding area.

Hagen said, with the consensus from the commission, he would move forward on presenting a final site plan for the commission's review.

Developer gets nod of approval to construct new building

By J.N. Boorsma
Contributing Writer

Dan Hagen's only concern when he approached the Lowell Planning Commission Monday night was if the commission would agree to allow a third access route to the Lowell Plaza.

Hagen, of Decker Construction, presented a preliminary site plan to the planning commission to get the group's input on whether an access to Chatham from the property at 505 W. Main St. would be acceptable. By allowing the access point, it would reduce the green space property to about 40 percent of the property, he said.

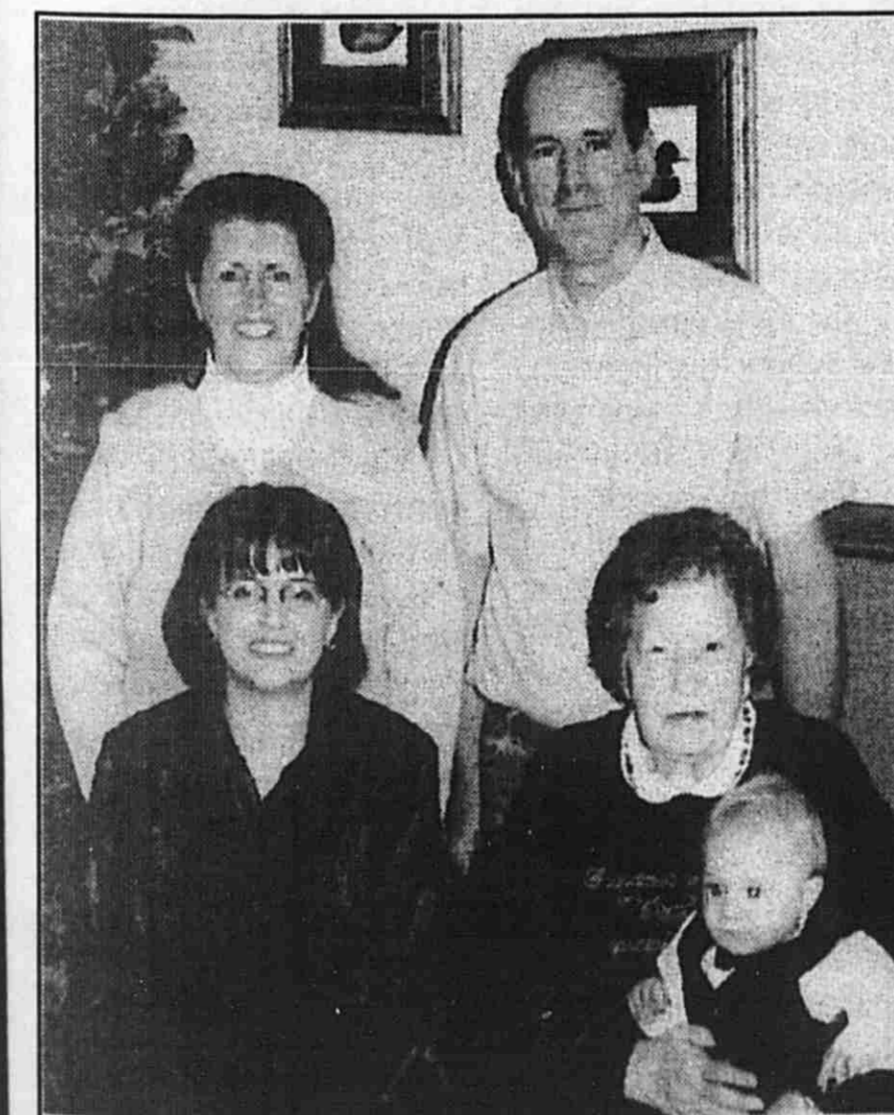
"I think we are required to have about 10,000 square feet of green space but with the back drive, we would fall about 1,500 square feet short," Hagen said, adding that the additional drive would take some pressure off the M-21/Main Street entrance.

The planning commis-

sion could see no problem with the access point to Chatham, and several of the commissioners thought it was a good idea. The driveway is part of the plans for the construction of an additional 5,400-square-foot building on the property that would add about four to five retail spaces to the area, Hagen said.

City manager, David Pasquale said there were a few issues with the preliminary plan: (1) that only 66 parking spaces were shown when 76 parking spaces were required. Pasquale said the ordinance does allow for deferred parking which across from Chatham is a parking lot that could pick up the extra spaces.

(2) The issue of sidewalks along Chatham would need to be addressed, he said. Hagen said he would talk to the Michigan Department of Transportation about the curb cut on Chatham to make sure it met with its regulations. The



5 Generations!

Florence Videan, Donald R. Videan Sr., Valarie (Videan) Bruse, April (Bruse) Streb, and Dallas Christian Streb. Dallas was born to Dean and April Streb on April 28, 2001.

C. Jeanne Shores, Mayor
Betty R. Morlock, Clerk

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

mind the problems outweigh the benefits. The problems are: first, it could change voting patterns because it would cause people to vote for only one person. The procedure would also cause tension among Council when it came to campaigning.

Brubaker believed as a group, the Council was qualified to select a mayor.

Brubaker stated at this time he would not be in favor of a charter amendment in front of the voters.

Councilmember Pfaller stated he proposed the issue in order to drive discussion. He believed this had been done and if it is the consensus of the board to not move forward on this, he had no problem.

Pfaller did believe the Council should consider increasing the size of the board.

Blough suggested holding a workshop to understand how in this community the Council can stimulate the type of discussion such that people in our community want to participate on this board.

No further action was taken.

Item #5. MONTHLY REPORTS. No comments were received.

Item #6. CITIZEN COMMENTS. Planning Commissioner John VanderWip apologized for the interruption after the public hearing.

Item #7. COUNCIL COMMENTS. Councilmember Brubaker stated he was the moderator during the Cand-

date Forum held previously in 1999 by the Chamber of Commerce. He was a little disappointed with the amount of individuals who showed to watch. However, in the end, he felt it was worth it because the candidates were prepared. Brubaker encouraged the Chamber to do this again.

Councilmember Blough did not believe the weight of holding a debate should fall on the Chamber of Commerce.

Item #8. MANAGER'S REPORT. City Manager Pasquale reported on the following:

A. The following information was provided:

- Downtown Historic District Commission meeting of November 19, 2001
- Parks and Recreation Commission meeting of January 12, 2002
- Chamber of Commerce meeting of January 9, 2002
- Downtown Development Authority meeting of January 17, 2002

B. At its February 11, 2002 meeting, the Grand Rapids Community Foundation Board and the Advisory Committee awarded a \$30,000 Lowell Area Community Fund grant for the City Hall-Police Station clock tower extension adding 25 feet to provide 57 feet of height giving the structure more visibility downtown as well as a landmark.

Also, \$25,000 was granted by the Lowell Area Community Fund for a new roof to the Graham Building. As you know, the City will provide \$10,000 allocated from the Community Development Block Grant. Lowell Township has provided \$5,000 in CDBG funds. With a total esti-

mated cost of \$50,000, the amount of \$10,000 still needs to be raised.

C. The Lowell Youth Football 2001 report was provided for review.

Item #9. APPOINTMENTS. By general consensus, Carolyn Price was reappointed to the Downtown Development Authority expiring January 1, 2006.

Mayor Shores stated she received several letters from individuals interested in serving on the Planning Commission. She received letters from David S. Rapp of 810 High Street, Barbara Schmaltz of 324 Elizabeth Dean and Traci Laughlin of 2435 Gee Drive.

Brubaker suggested receiving feedback from Planning Commission Chairman Jim Hall concerning who should be appointed.

IT WAS MOVED BY SHORES and seconded by BLOUGH to appoint David Rapp and Barbara Schmaltz to the Planning Commission.

YEA: 3. (Councilmembers Blough and Pfaller and Mayor Shores)

NAY: 2. (Councilmembers Brubaker and Myers)

MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY MYERS to adjourn at 9:36 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: Monday, March 3, 2002

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2002 7:00 P.M. HISTORIC TOWNSHIP HALL 8240 ALDEN NASH SE ALTO, MI 49302 616-868-6846

REQUEST #1 Variance of Article 7 - 7.05 height, area and dimension regulation for the Low Density Residential District by Michelle Gillespie-Parcel #41-24-19-101-018- 8600 Dygert Drive.

REQUEST #2 Variance of Article 5 - 5.05 - height, area and dimension regulations for the Agricultural District by Barton Dalley-Parcel #41-24-27-400-003-12453 100th Street.

WRITTEN COMMENTS CONCERNING THIS ISSUE SHOULD BE RECEIVED PRIOR TO THE HEARING AND ADDRESSED TO THE BOWNE TOWNSHIP OFFICE 8240 Alden Nash S.E. P.O. Box 35 Alto, MI 49302-0035

Gloria King - Chairperson
Zoning Board of Appeals

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- April 13th & 27th
- May 4th & 18th

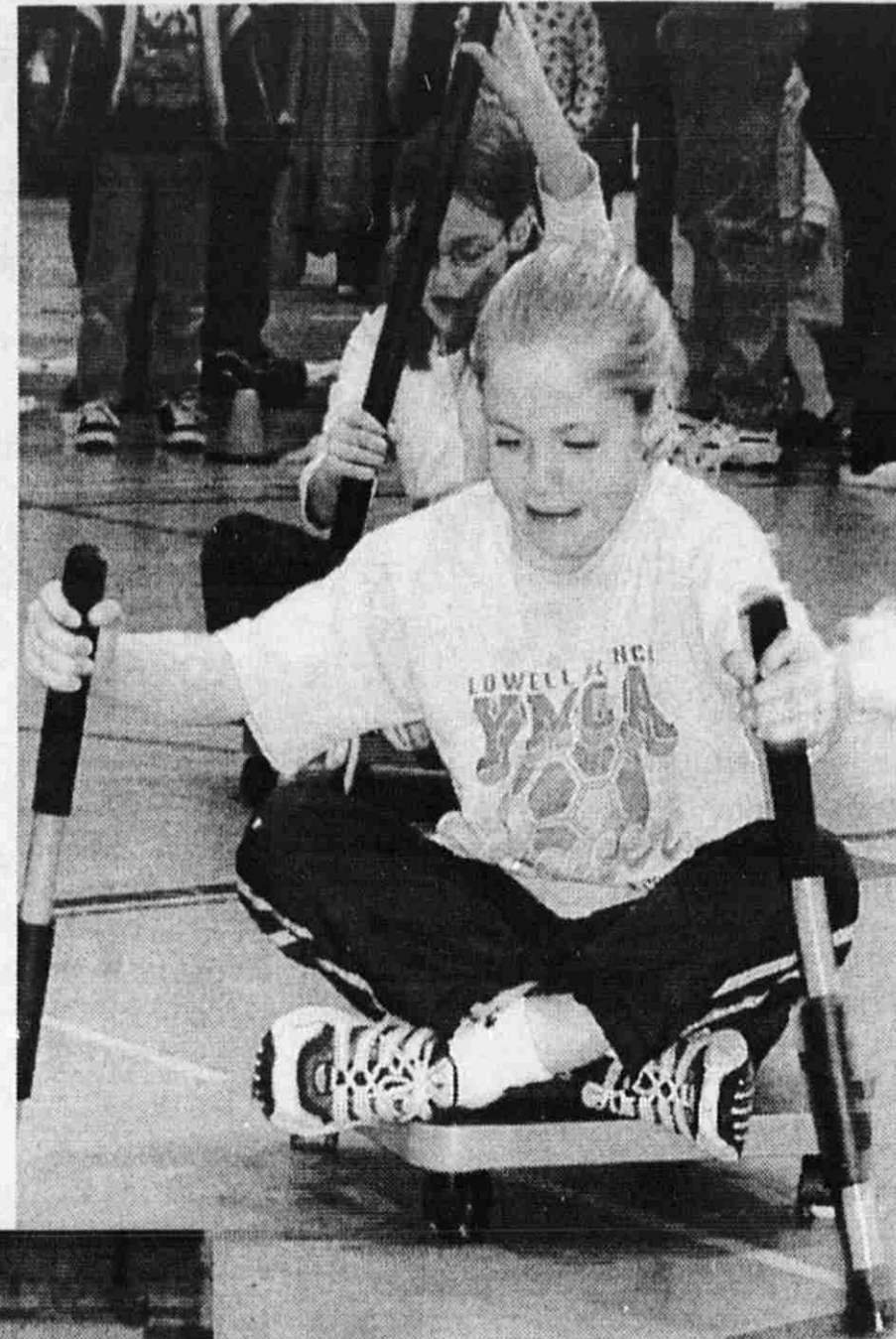
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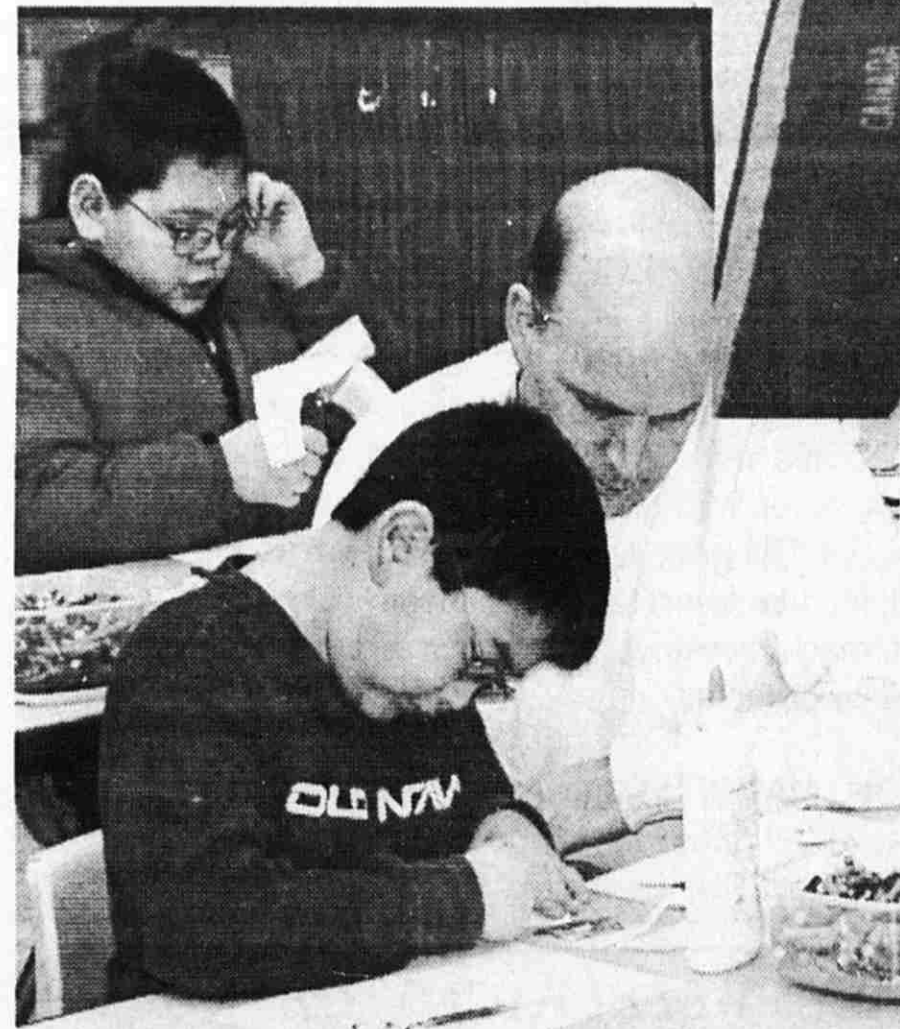
I Promise to Read Each Day and Night ...

Cherry Creek Elementary students celebrated National Reading Month with its 5th annual Read Across America night of activities. Reading was tied into a number of activities including Read a Rug, Travel the Mississippi, Hop, Skip & Jump Around the U.S., The 13 Colonies and Clue Detective.



Torie Milks, back, and Kay VanKeulen canoe around on the Great Lakes.

Before all the snow came Friday night, this was as close to snow boarding as Lowell residents were going to get.



Cherry Creek fourth-graders, left to right, Kendra Rasch, Lisa Crain and Kristen Mork, take their turn at State Twister. Students had to use their arms and legs to identify the different states.

Orin Comdure helps his fifth-grade son Nick put together six states to form a turtle. The states were Oklahoma, Nebraska, Kentucky, Alabama and Missouri.

DRIVERS TRAINING SIGN-UP
Lowell Area Schools has announced that district students can pick up application forms for this summer's drivers training program at Lowell High School, Lowell Middle School and Unity High School. To be eligible to take driver's training, a student must have been born before November 8, 1987. The cost of drivers training is \$75.00, which includes the cost of Segment 2. Applications and fees must be turned in before Wednesday, March 27th. A certified birth certificate must be shown when the application and fees are turned in. Hospital certificates are not accepted. A Michigan state identification card, or moped license, will also be accepted.
The summer schedule is as follows: First Session: June 17th thru July 3rd, and second session: July 8th thru July 25th. Two separate classes are held each session: 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The older students (by birth date) will have priority in their choice of session and class time. If you have any questions, or you need an application sent to your residence, call Al Eckman at Lowell High School: 616-897-4125.

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FOR CARPET INSTALLATION - Call 616-642-6471, ask for Phil (access to affordable carpet).

CAREGIVER AVAILABLE - for elderly or sick in your home. Hourly or daily rates. Call Nancy 527-8512 or 522-0610.

NEED HELP AROUND THE HOUSE? - I am available for light household chores, getting groceries, doing laundry, cleaning floors, local errands, reading tutor for children, pet-sitting. 20 years experience cleaning homes. Call Linda at 897-9202.

HERBALIFE INDEPENDENT DISTRIBUTOR - for opportunity or products. Call toll free: 1-877-493-3715.

SPECIAL EVENTS BAKERY - 2333 W. Main. Cakes for all occasions. Book your wedding now. 897-1298. Open Mon. thru Fri., 5:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. & Sat., 5:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

PT SITTEER NEEDED - for 2 young boys. Afternoons, prefer our home. Please call 897-8065.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE - Seasoned cherry, oak & maple. \$30 level pickup load, you haul. Call 891-8078.

QUEEN PLUSH PILLOWTOP - floor display, mattress set, \$250. Still in plastic. Also full & king. F/Q cherry sleigh bed, \$300; F/Q Canopy bed, \$100; frames \$45; assorted head/foot boards. All new. 682-4767/293-7430.

LOWELL BROWNIE TROOP 1824 - will have Girl Scout Cookies for sale, Sat., March 9 from 2 p.m. until 8 p.m. at L.A. Video.

EXTRA!!! The Lowell Ledger EXTRA!!!
LOST

LOST - Female brindle pit bull, very gentle & loving. Reward! Lost near Grand River Dr. Call 897-4223.

OFFICE POSITION - Grattan Township is accepting applications for a part-time office person. A successful applicant must be able to work with the public, maintain files & have a working knowledge of computer applications. Applications are available at the Grattan Township office M-Th from 9-4 p.m. or fax resumes Attn: Office Position, 616-691-8804.

IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY - First time home buyer program, as little as \$500 down, 3/4 bed, 2 bath home. Call 1-800-615-1224.

LAND FOR SALE - Three, 3+ acre parcels 1 1/2 miles W. of Saranac on M-21. Excellent hillside wooded sites, perfect for modular homes on basement walk-outs: \$30,000 each or make offer. Call Mike at 642-6933.

IMMEDIATE HELP WANTED - In the Birchwood Ct. & Hunt Street area in Lowell. We need a student or adult to deliver the Grand Rapids Press. No collecting. Call 897-5793 to apply or leave message.

FOR SALE - 1985 Honda TRX125 Quad. Asking \$1,000. Call 897-7770.

BASSETT YOUTH FURNITURE - maple finish, 1 tall chest, 1 low short chest & matching mirror, exc. cond. originally over \$600, asking \$200. Take all. 897-4986.

1995 ISUZU RODEO - 4x4, V6, air, PW, PL, non-smoker, great condition. 139,000 miles. \$4,495 obso. Call 794-2983 or 318-6189.

SEEKING MOMS & OTHERS TO WORK FROM HOME AS A STARLIGHT INT'L DISTRIBUTOR - Earn a potential \$500, \$1,000 + a month. Represent the finest wellness products. Local training. Quality for new car & luxury travel. 897-1543.

FOR SALE - '94 Suzuki Sidekick, 4 wheel drive, PW, PL, AC, clean, high miles. \$3,200. Call 897-1162.

FOR SALE - '95 Geo Tracker, black, 4WD, hard top convertible, sharp & clean. \$3,200. Call 897-9351.

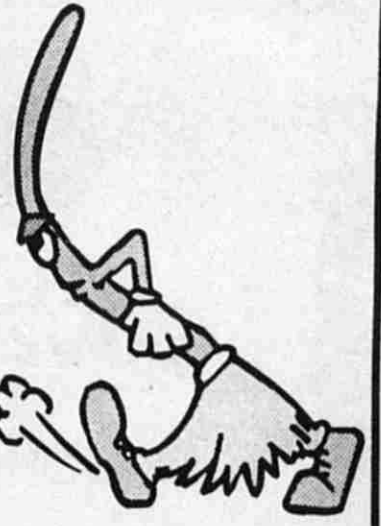
AMISH QUEEN LOG BED - & hand built (mattress never used). In plastic. Cost \$900, sell \$175/best. 517-626-7089.

FOR SALE - 1999 Chrysler 300M, metallic platinum exterior, dark gray leather interior, 12 CD changer w/remote, aluminum alloy rims, seat warmers, moon roof, options too numerous to list! \$13,500. Call 581-4957 or 897-0724.

EXTRA!!! The Lowell Ledger EXTRA!!!
FOR RENT

SHARP 2 BEDROOM APT. - \$600/month plus utilities. Call 897-5591 after 5 p.m.

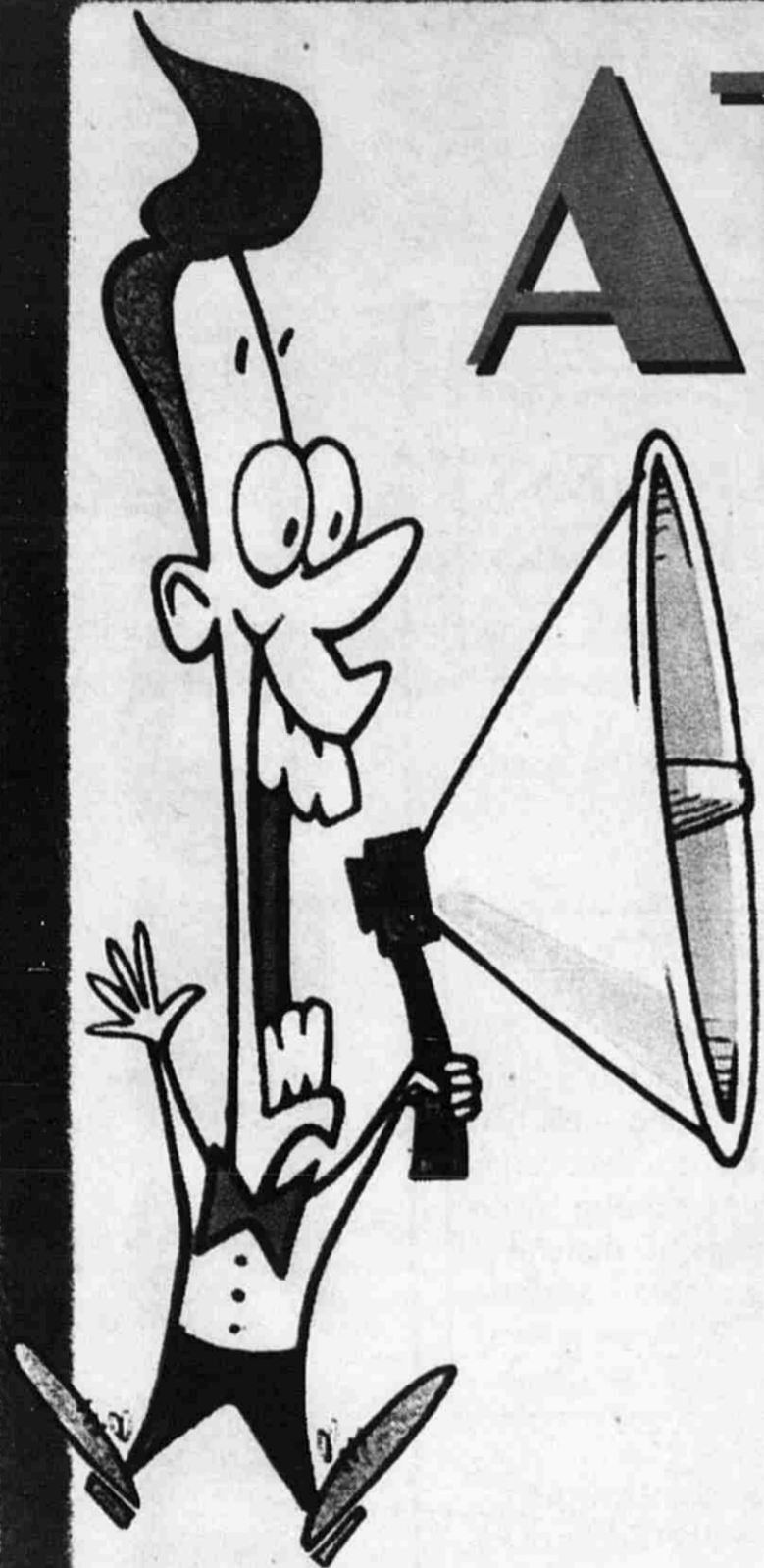
CORNER



Your Ad! 897-9261

Call To Place

ATTENTION



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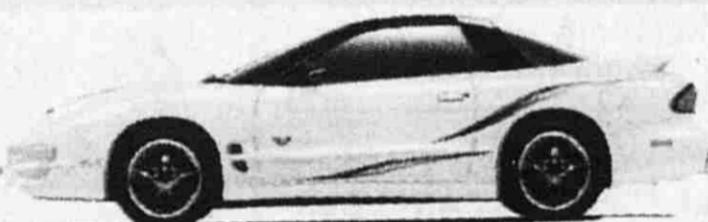
Does your GMAC Lease on your Chevrolet - Cadillac - Pontiac - Oldsmobile - Buick - GMC or Saturn expire between May 1, 2002 and September 30, 2002? If yes, General Motors will let you walk away from your remaining payments if you purchase or lease a new car or truck!

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