

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 23, Issue 24

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

McBride's recovery, from horse riding accident, on the "UPSwing"

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Mike McBride wheels himself out of room 312 and into the hallway at the Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Center.

As he peers up to view the linoleum road ahead, and peers through a pair of eyes shrouded in a dirty green, a tall lanky gentleman with a camera bag draped over his shoulder stands in his path.

He stops, pauses, thinks about smiling and then exclaims, "If you think you're taking a picture of me..."

McBride, still recovering from a near fatal horseback riding accident, is wearing a pair of light, cotton flannel bottoms and a blue sweatshirt, with a white inscription of his name on the front.

It's evident early on in the conversation that the 27-year Lowell UPS driver's ability to spar verbally has not been hindered by the accident.

"My wife (Pat - married 27 years) punched me twice," he banters in explaining his eye discoloration. "She went home. She tells me I get ornery in the late afternoon."

The timetable for his departure from Mary Free Bed? "Whose timetable do you want - theirs or mine?" McBride says. "I want to walk out of here next week."

He also wants to get back behind the wheel of his UPS truck.

But behind his bravado, McBride realizes the road back to the life that was may be a somewhat longer, winding road.

It was like many other Saturdays (Feb. 9) the Wayland resident drove down to Three Rivers.

"That's where my horses are," McBride explains. "I go down there and feed them, drive them in harness."

McBride's version of the day is limited to what he's been told by others - since he has no recollection of the day's events.

He saddled up Clare, his American Cream Draft Horse, and sauntered off.

At some point in his ride down Dutch Settlement Road, the straps to the stirrups broke, much to the amazement of McBride. "That's what they tell me. I can't believe it - that never happens. That, in conjunction with a fast car zipping past, startled Clare, who then threw McBride from the saddle.

He laid where he landed anywhere from 30-45 minutes before he was spotted by a passerby.

They called the ambulance, said they had found a man lying alongside the road and he was hurt.

Upon its arrival, ambulance personnel quickly determined that Aero Med would be needed.

An unconscious McBride was then helicoptered to Borgess Hospital in Kalamazoo.

Clare was found by his daughter, Carrie, in a corn field roughly a mile from the scene.

McBride would lie in a medically induced unconscious state for roughly a week before doctors allowed him to slowly come to.

X-rays indicated he sustained severe damage to the left side of his skull.

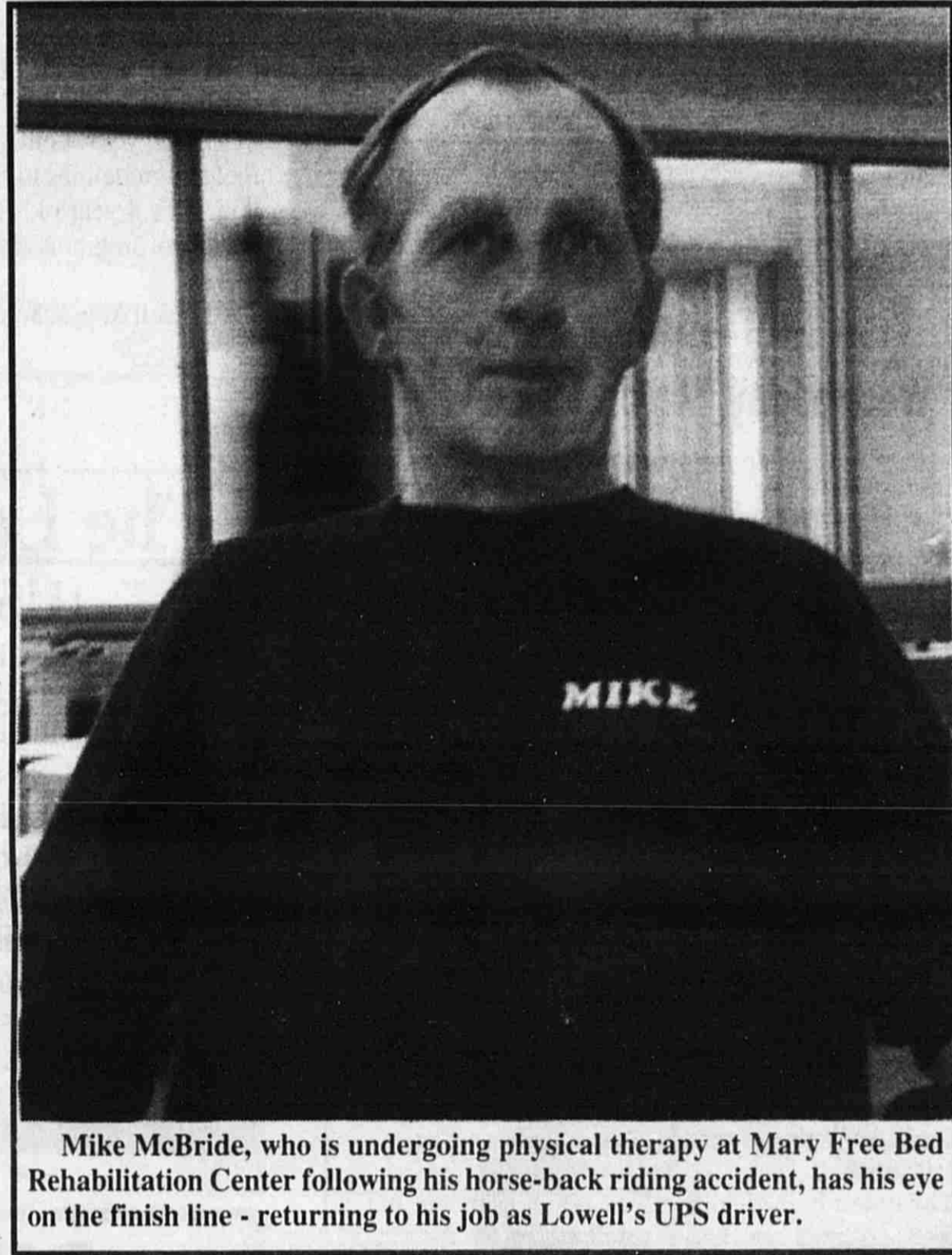
"Doctors tell me my head is healing nicely," McBride explains. "Although I still have strong pain in both my legs." He also complains of an echo sound in his left ear.

McBride is taken through three-four hours worth of therapy a day. He can walk on his own but admits he's more stable on his feet if he has something to hang on to.

While physical therapy will strengthen and eventually rehabilitate him to good health again, the outpouring of cards, calls and visits from the Lowell community has been rewarding.

"That's done more for my attitude than anything. It's been very rewarding to receive such an outpouring of support. The

thoughts, good wishes and cards I've received have been amazing. It's meant a lot to me. I can't thank the people of Lowell enough."



Mike McBride, who is undergoing physical therapy at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Center following his horse-back riding accident, has his eye on the finish line - returning to his job as Lowell's UPS driver.

Short- and long-term impact weigh heavily in board's decision to enter bid process

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Lowell Board of Education's approval to enter into the bidding process for the addition to the high school may indicate that any good plan can be changed.

Lowell Area Schools' superintendent, Bert Bleke admitted that his recommendation represented a flip-flop in the original bond construction plan to first erect an elementary school at Murray Lake.

"To build an elementary school at this time would be more expensive and more costly to our general fund," Bleke explained. "I believe we can add additional seating to the high school without greatly impacting the yearly budget."

A slowed economy and student growth also play big roles in delaying the start on the elementary building. "In another six months we can review those numbers again," Bleke said.

An ideal bid climate which would provide the best opportunity for the best value for the dollar supports the board's decision.

"When making the decision to go ahead, we must look at the short- and long-term impact. This decision allows us to continue to prepare for the long term and protects our general fund budget for the short term," Bleke explained.

Eventually the proposed additional seating at the high school will be geared toward a separate ninth-grade program. For the first couple of years, the addition will increase capacity for the system.

"This is a big step, but one the board has put a lot of thought into," said board president, Pete Gustafson, following a unanimous 6-0 vote to have the construction manager enter into a bid process for the addition to the high school with bids being presented to the board on April 15 for approval.

If the construction process goes smoothly, Bleke said students could be in the new section of the high school as early as May of 2003.

The bond for the addition to the high school was approved by the school district voters in September of 2000.

Sign issue may light up historic commission's March meeting

The ongoing saga of internally lit signs will continue at the Lowell Downtown Historic Commission March board meeting.

Dollar General's original signs were not appropriate because they were internally lit and not visually compatible with the historic district.

The historic allows for lit signs, just not internally lit signs.

Mark Ziegert, district manager of Dollar General, said lighted signage is needed to indicate to customers when they are open.

Dollar General was provided with suggested signs; included in its packet was the sign on the front of the Springrove Variety store building.

Both the Springrove wall sign facing Riverside Drive and the Dollar General wall

sign facing east are flat signs with painted letters.

Steve Doyle, chairman of the Lowell Downtown Historic Commission Board, said all signs are judged on their own merits and whether they are visually compatible with the resource or the historic district.

A second issue is that Dollar General has yet to submit a permit application to do work in the historic district or

a regular sign permit to the city building inspector (Imperial Municipal Services).

Doyle said he expects the commission to discuss that issue at its March meeting.

Historic District commissioner, Phil Johnson noted the commission has no intention of putting Dollar General out of business, but has to look at what's in the best interest of the overall district.

INSIDE THE LEDGER

Holly Plattner
Vaults Her Way
To Individual
State Title,
Story Page 9



OBITUARIES

DANIELS - Clifford W. Daniels Sr., aged 88, of Alto, passed away March 6, 2002. He is survived by his children Verlie Mae (John Sr.) Dykstra, Clifford Daniels Jr., Forrest Daniels, William Daniels; step-children Edith, Ellen, Veron, JoAnne; brother Virgil (Jessie) Daniels; sister Viola Schepkowski; 32 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; one great-great grandson. Funeral services were held Saturday at the Roth-Gerst Chapel, Lowell, Rev. Dominic Tommy of the Bowne Center United Methodist Church officiating. Interment Bowne Center Cemetery.

MORRIS - Betty Irene Morris, aged 75, of Lowell, passed away peacefully March 6, 2002. She was preceded in death by her husband Eugene. Mrs. Morris is survived by her children Sandra (Donald) VanDerWarf of Ada, Sheila Richards of Ada, Pamela Morris of Grand Rapids; brother Eugene (JoAnn) Miller of Lowell; sister Sharon (Richard) Johnson of Lowell; sisters-in-law Ellen Miller of Lowell, Joann Schmidt of Dorris; five grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held Friday at Roth-Gerst Chapel, Lowell, Rev. Ronald D. Hutchinson of St. Patrick Church, officiating. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to American Diabetes Association.

SMITH - Shirley Jane Smith, "Shirtail," aged 72, lifelong resident of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly. She was preceded in death by her parents Theron and Ruth Richmond. She is survived by her children Tom (Pat) Smith of Lowell, Gerry Smith of Grand Rapids, Tonia (John) North of IA; grandchildren Travis

Smith, Bonnie (Steve) Closson, Connie (Brian) Musser, J.P., Jacob and MacKenzie North, Landon and Logan Smith. She is also survived by her brother Tom Richmond of CA, sister Barbara Curtis of Lowell; several nieces, nephews and cousins. Funeral services were held Monday at Roth-Gerst Chapel, Rev. Gordie Barry of the First United Methodist Church officiating. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Lowell Historical Society.

Free educational screening, April 19 & 26

Does your child seem to be growing and learning at a slower rate than other children the same age? Does your child have speech difficulties? Does your family meet income guidelines to qualify your 3 or 4 year old for free preschool programs like Head Start? Lowell Area Schools Tots

on Track for School (TOTS) will offer a free educational screening for preschoolers 2 1/2 to 5 years old on Friday, April 19 and 26 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at 300 High St. in the TOTS activity room. To schedule an appointment or for further information, contact Carol Briggs at 897-8415. Deadline is April 15.

Volunteer excellence group to collect used sports equipment

The class members of the second Lowell Institute for Volunteer Excellence will be collecting used sports equipment at the Lowell Community Expo on Saturday, March 23 at Lowell High School.

The Lowell YMCA and local school coaches will coordinate the distribution of donated equipment. It will be made available to families whose financial needs make it difficult to purchase new sports equipment for their children.

Those who donate equipment will receive a tax deduction form. Other collection dates will be March 28, 29 and 30 at the YMCA Wellness Center, located at 1335 W. Main St., from 7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. "Many of our parents and students have used sports equipment that's sitting in storage. It's too good to throw away, but the equipment is no longer needed," said pastor Gordie Barry of First United Methodist Church of Lowell. "This will allow them to bring equipment in, receive a tax credit, and know that the equipment will go to other community members." The Lowell Institute for Volunteer Excellence is an offshoot of the Lowell Leadership Institute. The city of Lowell, Lowell and Vergennes townships, Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Lowell Area Schools sponsor the program. Its purpose is to broaden and deepen the leadership potential of individuals and the Greater Lowell community.

Special Events Bakery a sweet surprise for area residents

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

While Tammy Dobbins baked cakes for friends from her home, she used to dream of someday owning her own cake shop.

One that would provide cakes for weddings, birthdays and special occasions while also provide morning commuters with a place where they could pick up a cup of coffee, cappuccino or latte and a donut, muffin or bagel to go with it. Having enjoyed his wife's baked goods, Dennis Dobbins warmed up to the idea of sharing her specialized talent with others.

Once in sync with pursuing the dream, Tammy Dobbins began looking for a building.

"I knew this building (formerly a floral shop) was empty. I used to work here at Audrey's Floral," Dobbins explained. With a lease agreement worked out with Admiral (owners of the building), the Dobbins hired Erik Decker Builders, Inc. to begin the lengthy process of transforming the building into Special Events Bakery (2333 W. Main).

The work was completed and Dobbins opened the doors to her own cake shop on Feb. 20.

Despite growing up in Forest Hills, Lowell has always been home to me. It's where her father (Bob O'Neill) graduated and it's where she wanted her bakery.

Helping Dobbins with the baking chores is certified baking chef, Lena Johnson.

Dobbins and Johnson take orders for specialty cakes. "The dates fill up quickly, so we encourage people to plan ahead," Dobbins said. "We have books at the bakery for customers to browse through for decorating ideas."



Tammy Dobbins and Lena Johnson display a few trays of baked goods at Lowell's newest business - Special Events Bakery.

Special Events Bakery is open Monday through Friday from 5:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. and from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Saturday; also on Friday and Saturday evenings from 7-11 p.m. "The hours are long, but it's fun baking. The most important thing is to set the timers and don't burn anything," Dobbins said.

Sometimes a person's mind is stretched by a new idea and never does go back to its old dimensions.

—Oliver Wendell Holmes

Visit McDonald's In Lowell
Wednesday, March 13 • 6 - 8 PM
to help support the
Lowell High School Chapter of
Business Professionals of America
in funding their State Competition.

Make the Most of Weed Control in One Pass

There never seems to be enough time for applicators and growers as they race the weather and the calendar each spring to plant corn and apply fertilizers and crop protection products in a timely manner.

So anytime you can cut down on the number of trips across the field, you come out ahead and make time for other important tasks. That's where partnering your grass and broadleaf herbicide in one tank-mix application can pay dividends.

The Perfect Partners program's aim is to help growers and applicators control grass, small-seeded broadleaf weeds like waterhemp, and large-seeded broadleaf weeds like ragweeds and velvetleaf with one trip through the field. The partners include one of three preemerge grass herbicides - Surpass*, TopNotch* or FullTime* - and Hornet* WDG herbicide.

Acetochlor, the active ingredient found in Surpass, TopNotch and FullTime, not only controls grass, but has been proven effective at controlling waterhemp, a weed proliferating throughout the Midwest in no-till and reduced-tillage programs. Adding Hornet to the tank mix as a one-pass weed control program just prior to planting provides control of large-seeded broadleaf weeds like cocklebur, common and giant ragweed, and velvetleaf.

And if your field situation calls for waiting to apply a broadleaf herbicide, Hornet gives applicators and growers the flexibility to hold off on an application all the way up to 20-inch corn.

To learn more about controlling both grass and waterhemp with Surpass, TopNotch and FullTime herbicides, and tank-mixing Hornet WDG as a total one-pass weed control program, contact your local ag retailer.



Leslie Abbott
Sales Representative
Lowell

Dow AgroSciences

*Trademark of Dow AgroSciences LLC Surpass, TopNotch and FullTime are federally Restricted Use Pesticides and are not registered for sale, distribution or use in the State of New York. Always read and follow label directions.

www.dowagro.com/midwest

The Lowell Ledger (USPS 453-830)

Published weekly for \$12.00 a year in Kent County, \$17.00 a year outside the county by the Lowell Ledger Publishing Company, 105 N. Broadway St., Lowell, MI 49331
Roger K. Brown Publisher (616) 897-9261
Thad Kraus Editor
Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI
Published every Wednesday
POSTMASTER: Send address change to:
The Lowell Ledger
P.O. Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331

Laughter and tears are both responses to frustration and exhaustion. I myself prefer to laugh, since there is less cleaning up to do afterward.

Kurt Vonnegut

HAPPY 40th BIRTHDAY MARCH 19!
JAY RICKERT

DRIVERS TRAINING SIGN-UP

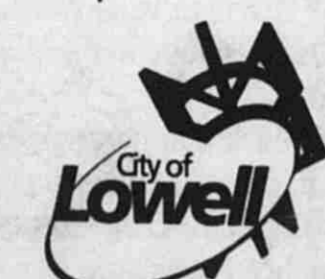
Lowell Area Schools has announced that district students can pick up application forms for this summer's drivers training program at Lowell High School, Lowell Middle School and Unity High School. To be eligible to take driver's training, a student must have been born before November 8, 1987. The cost 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.

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

AD-3053-1 (12/99)



MARK JOHNSON
6095-28th Street Ste. 4
Grand Rapids, MI
49546 • 940-8181

A RETIREMENT INCOME FOR LIFE... AND BIG TAX SAVINGS

Our annuities and IRAs offer tax advantages, high interest earnings, and a lifetime retirement income. It's not who you call after retirement, it's who you call BEFORE that makes the difference. Call today!

Making Your Future More Predictable
FARM BUREAU INSURANCE
FARM BUREAU MUTUAL • FARM BUREAU LIFE • FARM BUREAU GENERAL
www.farmbureauinsurance-mi.com



TAX RETURN PREPARATION

A Community Service Underwritten By Coda & Morgan, PC, CPA'S FOR SENIOR CITIZENS of LOWELL, LOWELL & VERGENNES TOWNSHIPS

FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY
At the SENIOR NEIGHBORS CENTER
314 S. Hudson
(Across from the Fair Grounds)

Call For Appointment

897-1560 or 897-5949

Senior Retirees - \$25
Senior Retired Veterans - \$20

#1

ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LOWELL
11610 E. Fulton St.
Bruce Langlois, D.V.M.
FAMILY PET PRACTICE

• Evenings & Saturday Hours Available

- Early Drop Off & House Calls
- 24 Hour Emergency Service
- Science Diet Pet Foods
- Boarding & Grooming
- Sick or Injured Animals Seen The Same Day

Call 897-8484

We want to be your other family doctor!

GOING TO THE DENTIST DOESN'T HAVE TO HURT ANYMORE!

COMPLETE FAMILY DENTAL CARE
Accepting New Patients



"Gentle & Painless Dentistry Is Our Goal"

COMPLETE SERVICES:

- ✓ Gentle Dentistry for Children & Adults
- ✓ Immediate Emergency Treatment
- ✓ Cosmetic Dentistry, Teeth Whitening
- ✓ Preventive Care
- ✓ Extractions/Broken Tooth Repaired
- ✓ Dentures (Same Day Repair)
- ✓ Insurance Plans Accepted
- ✓ Day & Evening Hours:

Monday 1 to 8 p.m.
Tuesday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Wednesday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Thursday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Judd T. Carroll, D.M.D.
103 East Main • Lowell, Michigan
(616) 897-7595

CHEVROLET WE'LL BE THERE
Thomet
CHEVROLET BUICK
1250 W. Main, Lowell 897-9294

Is Your Source For Top Quality GM Vehicles From:

Or check out Thomet's online at: gmbuypower.com or email us at: s.thomet@inetmail.att.net



Most Dependable, Longest-Lasting Trucks on the Road



"It's All Good"

A Great Selection Of Used Cars & Trucks & New Car Trades

Also See Us For Authorized GM Parts & Service





Along Main Street

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AT SSC

Lowell High School seniors may now pick up local scholarship information and applications in the Student Services Center. In addition, some scholarships are available to students who do not attend LHS but live in Vergennes or Lowell townships, or the city of Lowell. They are the Englehardt Scholarship and scholarships through the Grand Rapids Foundation. For more information call 897-1465.

FIRE DEPT. BLOOD DRIVE

The Lowell Area Fire Department is sponsoring a blood drive for the Grand Valley Blood program on Wednesday, March 13 from 2-7 p.m. at Look Memorial Fire Station, 315 S. Hudson.

COLLEGE FAIR

Lowell High School will be having its College Fair on Thursday, March 14 from 7-9 p.m. Michigan public and private colleges and universities as well as military representatives will be at the free event with displays/information, college admissions, financial aid seminar and door prizes. Parents: Please plan to attend with your student. For more information call 897-4165.

STUDENT COUNCIL BLOOD DRIVE

The Lowell student council blood drive will be held at Lowell High School's small gym on Friday, March 15 from 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. It is open to the public.

FOODMOBILE - MOBILE FOOD PANTRY
Free food, mostly produce, available at the 4-H Fairgrounds in Foreman Bldg. on Saturday, March 16 from 10-noon. Bring your container. Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc. 897-2037.

ALL-SCHOOL MUSICAL AT LPAC

Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella" will be performed at Lowell High School in the Performing Arts Center on Thursday, March 21 and Friday, March 22 at 8 p.m.; on Saturday, March 23 at 1 and 8 p.m. Tickets: \$7; special rates for children 14 and under for Saturday matinee. Ticket info. call 897-4449; ticket purchases call 897-4125.

PLAN NOW FOR THE CROP WALK

The Lowell area 8th annual crop walk rally will be at First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main on Thursday, March 21 at 7 p.m. If your group or organization would like to participate by walking or sponsoring a group at the crop walk on May 5, send a rep to this rally. For information call the church office at 897-5936.

LOWELL AREA FIRE DEPT. PANCAKE BREAKFAST

A breakfast of pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee and milk will be served at the Look Memorial Fire Station, 315 S. Hudson on Saturday, March 23 from 7-11 a.m. Cost: donations at the door. Proceeds to go toward fire equipment.

ACADEMIC DESSERT - STUDENT AWARD PRESENTATION

The Lowell High School Performing Arts Center will have the Academic Dessert-Student Award presentation on Monday, March 25 at 7 p.m. Call 897-4125 for information.

USED SPORTS EQUIPMENT COLLECTED AT EXPO

Those wishing to donate used sports equipment at the Lowell Community Expo on Saturday, March 23 from 9-3:30 p.m. will receive a tax donation form. Equipment may be

dropped off at the front entrance of Lowell High School. Other collection dates are March 28, 29 and 30 at the YMCA Wellness Center from 7 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. For further information call Dan Stevens at 897-8445.

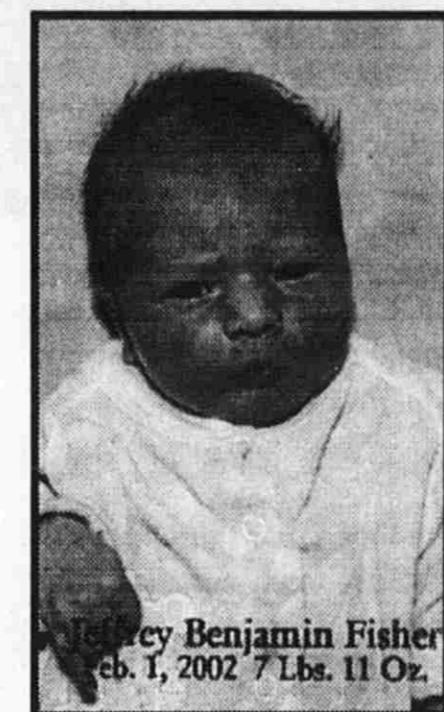
LOWELL JV HOCKEY TRYOUTS

Lowell junior varsity hockey tryouts for the 2002-3 season will be held on Tuesday, March 26 and Wednesday, March 27 at Standard Federal Ice Center. Registration begins at 6 p.m. on March 26 with tryouts from 7-8:30 p.m. each evening. Call Jim Blair with any questions 897-6436

NEWSPAPER DROP-OFF

The Lowell High School girls softball team has a trailer located at Family Fare for newspapers; phone books are also welcome.

AREA BIRTHS



Jeffrey Benjamin Fisher
Feb. 1, 2002 7 Lbs. 11 Oz.

Charlie and Karen Fisher of Winter Haven, FL, would like to announce the birth of their son, Jeffrey Benjamin, born at the Regency Medical Center in Winter Haven on Friday, February 1, 2002. He weighed 7 lbs. 11 oz. and measured 19 1/2 inches long.

He is welcomed home by his big brother, Jonathan. Proud grandparents are Mary Peckham of Lakeland, FL, formerly of Lowell and the late Richard Peckham, and Gilbert and Doris Fisher of Rocky Mount, NC.



Dinner and a Play

Lowell Area Arts Council's Thebes Players run through their dress rehearsal prior to opening night (Thursday, March 7). Three shows are scheduled this weekend for Friday and Saturday nights (6:30) and Sunday afternoon (1 p.m.). Pictured, left to right, are: Jim Hodges, Denise Mingerink and Jamie Christians.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

ADVERTISE
IN THE
LEDGER BUSINESS DIRECTORY
As Low as **\$6⁶⁰** PER WEEK
Call 897-9261

RE/MAX
Custom Service, Just For You!
897-8106
617-1862
CHARLES LUPTON
RE/MAX Country Hills
2050 W. Main St. • Suite C, Lowell
* Each office independently owned and operated

Durkee Lumber, Inc.
Lumber and Building Materials
868-6026
6071 Depot St.
Alto, MI

MARCH SPECIAL
Household Items - 25% Off
BEDSPREADS, COMFORTERS, AFGHANS, SLEEPING BAGS, BLANKETS, PILLOWS, DRAPES, CURTAINS
- COUPON -
Bring in 3* (like garments) & Get 1 Free with coupon
*3 pants, 3 sweaters, 3 suits, etc.
Good for drycleaning, wet cleaning & shirt laundry
Excludes leathers
NOT VALID WITH OTHER OFFERS EXPIRES 3-31-02
- COUPON -
CURTIS CLEANERS
SHIRT LAUNDRY • TUX RENTAL
Open 7 Days • 897-9809 • 1410 W. Main

FREE 1/2 HOUR MASSAGE
★ New Patients Only
★ Certified Massage Therapist
★ Doctor Supervised
Auto Injury, Neck And Back Pain Relief
All Insurance Accepted
DOCTORS CHIROPRACTIC
897-4999

Advertise in this space for only **\$6⁶⁰ PER WEEK**
Call 897-9261

HEATING • AIR CONDITIONING
• New Homes • Replacements
• Upgrades • Conversions Etc.
Free Estimates!
Arctic, Inc. bryant
1301 Bowes Rd., Lowell, MI 49331
Phone 897-4123

CURTIS CLEANERS
SHIRT LAUNDRY • TUX RENTAL
Open 7 Days • 897-9809 • 1410 W. Main

MIKA MEYERS BECKETT & JONES PLC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
117 West Main Street
Lowell, MI 49331
(616) 897-3111
Ross A. Leisman
Daniel C. Brubaker

Special EX INC.
Car Stereo & Truck Accessories
"never go second best"
11390 E. FULTON
897-8411

Noon Tire
STEVE NOON
11930 E. Fulton (M-21)
Lowell, MI 49331
Dealing In Most Brands
(616) 897-5925

Buy life insurance and save on your home and car.

When you buy your life insurance from us through Auto-Owners Insurance, you'll receive special discounts on your home, mobile home or car insurance. We'll save you money. As an independent Auto-Owners agent, we take great interest in you - as well as your home and car. We are specialists in insuring people and the things they own.

Speerstra Agency
835 W. Main St.
Lowell, MI 49331
897-9259
(800)804-3322 Dale Triplett

Showboat
AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY, INC.
1450 W. Main St., Lowell, MI
(616) 897-9231
HOURS: MON - FRI 8-7; SAT 8-5:30; SUN 9-3

AT YOUR SERVICE
Thomet
Chevrolet BUICK
SERVICE HOURS: M, T, TH & FR • 8-5; WED • 8-8
Phone 897-9294

QUALITY TAX SERVICE, INC.
216 E. Main St., Lowell
(616) 897-7668
• CORPORATE, BUSINESS & PERSONAL TAX PREPARATIONS
• BUSINESS START-UP & CONSULTING
• PAYROLL AND ACCOUNTING SERVICES
HOURS:
MON - FRI 9 AM - 6 PM • SATURDAY 9 AM - 1 PM
Others By Appointment

LOOKING TO BUILD A NEW HOME?
Plans Available • Free Estimates
MODEL HOMES NOW AVAILABLE TO TOUR
Call:
NEIL FRENCH BUILDER LLC
LICENSED BUILDER HOME: (616) 987-9285
HBA MEMBER CELL: (616) 292-3481

STOP SUFFERING!
We Successfully Treat:
 Whiplash
 Neck Pain
 All Headaches
 Auto Injuries
 Back Pain
 Numb Hands/Arms
 Sports Injuries
 Work Injuries
See a Specialist and See Results!
897-4999
DOCTORS CHIROPRACTIC
Dr. Anthony Trombly

BILL WHEELER
Certified Public Accountant
MICHIGAN
103 Riverside Dr.
Lowell, Michigan 49331
616-897-7711

Your "Close to Home" Rehab Center
The Laurels of Kent Comprehensive Rehab Programs Include:
• Post hip fracture rehab • Stroke Rehab • Balance Training • Home Reentry Program
How can you stay closer to your family, friends and home when needing inpatient rehabilitation care or transitional care between hospital and home? State to your doctor or hospital personnel that your first choice is to be closer to home. Choose The Laurels in Lowell.
LAURELS OF KENT
350 N. Center • Lowell, MI 49331
Call us at 897-8473
for information on how Medicare can cover your rehab stay.

PREVIEW PROPERTIES.COM
CALL **JERRY HALE**
897-0229
or 1-800-515-7763
Jerry is a full-time professional who will serve all your real estate needs.

JB HARRISON INSURANCE AGENCY
COMPETITIVE AUTO RATES
Daniel Ulrich
6090 Alden Nash, Alto 868-0050
Hastings Mutual Insurance Company
Hastings, Michigan
www.hastingsmutual.com
Judy Harrison

OUT OF THIS WORLD ADVERTISING RATES!!!
THIS SPACE Only **\$13²⁰ PER WEEK!!!**

Plattner captures Division II state championship

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

The last words of advice Lowell assistant gymnastics coach, Dan Vosovic gave to Holly Plattner before her second vault was, "Keep your head up and look for the landing."

The junior Red Arrow heeded his advice and landed herself a Division II individual state championship on the vault Saturday at Rockford.

The fact Plattner was able to land the pike was not surprising... the fact that it was the first time she's ever tried that vault in competition says something about the competitive fire that burns inside the diminutive Red Arrow.

The highest score a gymnast can receive for the vault is 9.6. Plattner scored a 9.425.

On her first vault, a tuck, Plattner received a 9.3 from the judges.

"Holly said she wanted to try the pike, I said, 'Go for it.'" Vosovic said. "It was nearly perfect. Holly is always willing to try new things."

Plattner, participating in her third consecutive state meet, but her first time in all four exercises, placed in two of the events and finished fifth overall in all-around points.

"I didn't know what to expect on the vault. The wait before the second vault made me nervous," Plattner said. "It was long enough, though, that it gave me time to calm myself down and visualize what I had to do."

Her mark on the vault set a school record.

"Holly definitely picked the right place to beat the school record," said Lowell gymnastics coach, Michele DeHaan.

Plattner's strongest event all year has been the floor exercise. However, on the day, the junior scored a 9.075. Good, but not what she's been scoring (9.2-9.4) leading up to the state meet.

"I was the second to compete in the floor exercise and I was a little tense," Plattner admitted afterwards. She tied for fifth with Rockford's Danielle Couturier.

"I was hoping for a top five in the floor exercise. As for the all-around, I would have been happy with 10th."

The Red Arrow's all-around point total was 35.500. Adrian's Jennifer Gracia was

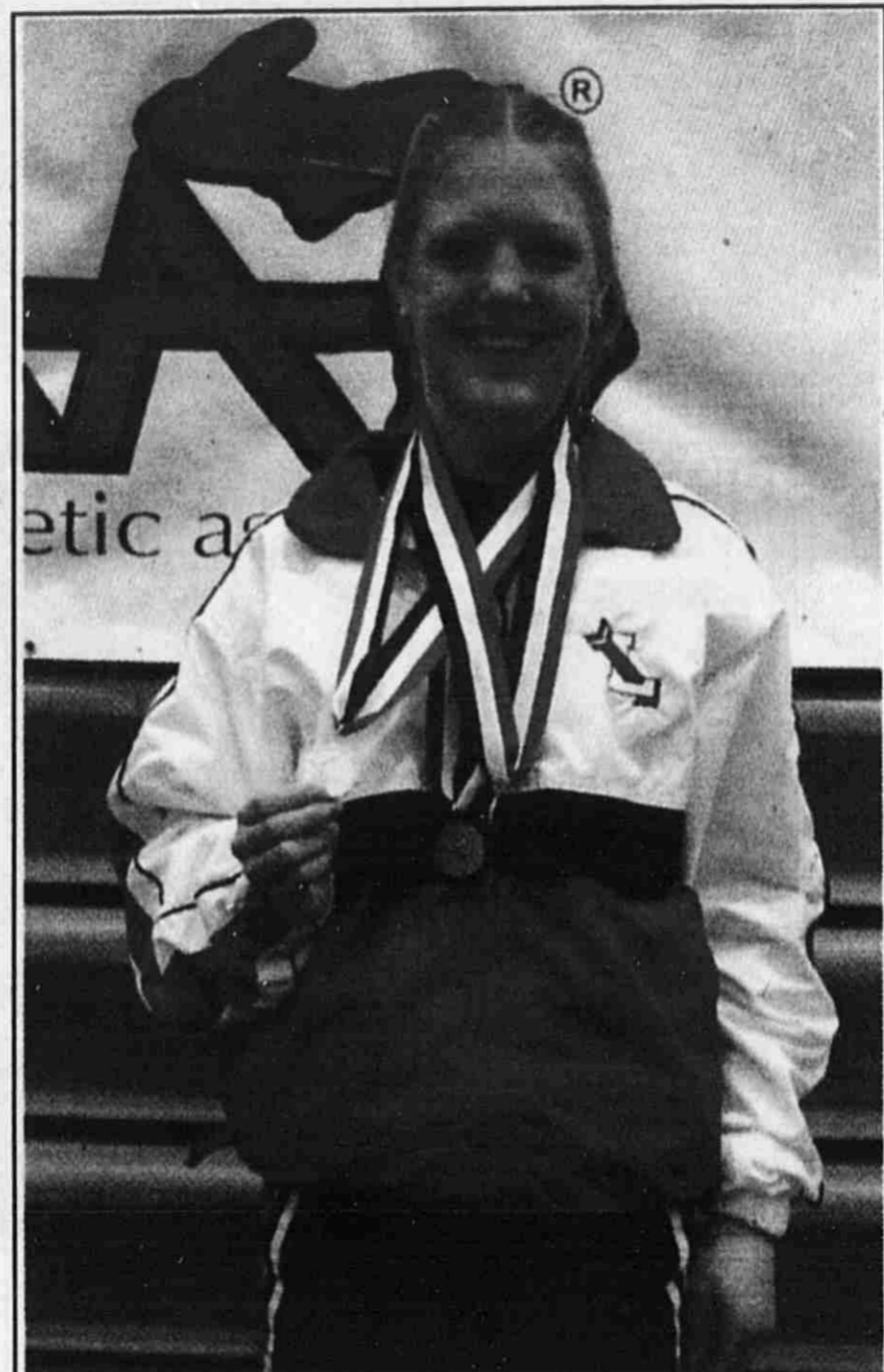
first with 36.400 points and Holland's Denay Kiple was third at 36.100.

On the uneven bars, Plattner scored an 8.475 and on the balance beam, an 8.525.

Lowell gymnasts' Krystal White and Melissa Neubecker qualified to compete in the floor exercise. White scored an 8.95 and Neubecker recorded an 8.75 - 9.05 was needed for a top 10 finish.

"I told the girls, 'Don't worry about the numbers, just do your best and have fun,'" DeHaan said. "All three girls were definitely glad to be here."

Looking ahead to next year, Plattner said she plans on working in the gym to become stronger on the uneven bars and balance beam.



Holly Plattner holds her first-place medal in the vault at the Division II individual gymnastics state meet.

Seven Red Arrow wrestlers snare all-state honors

••• Ian DeRath, Brandon Kinney and Joe Mendez win Division II state championships.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

A week ago Lowell demonstrated beyond a doubt that it was the best wrestling team in Division II.

Saturday, at The Palace in Auburn Hills, the individual parts that made up that team were showcased in the Division II Individual state wrestling meet.

The results were every bit as impressive.

The Red Arrows sent 10 wrestlers to the state meet - seven placed in the top 10.

Lowell garnered three state champions, two runners-up, a third and a seventh-place finish.

Ian DeRath defended his 2001 state championship at 125 pounds as he decided Lapeer West's Jon Ranger 9-7 in the finals.

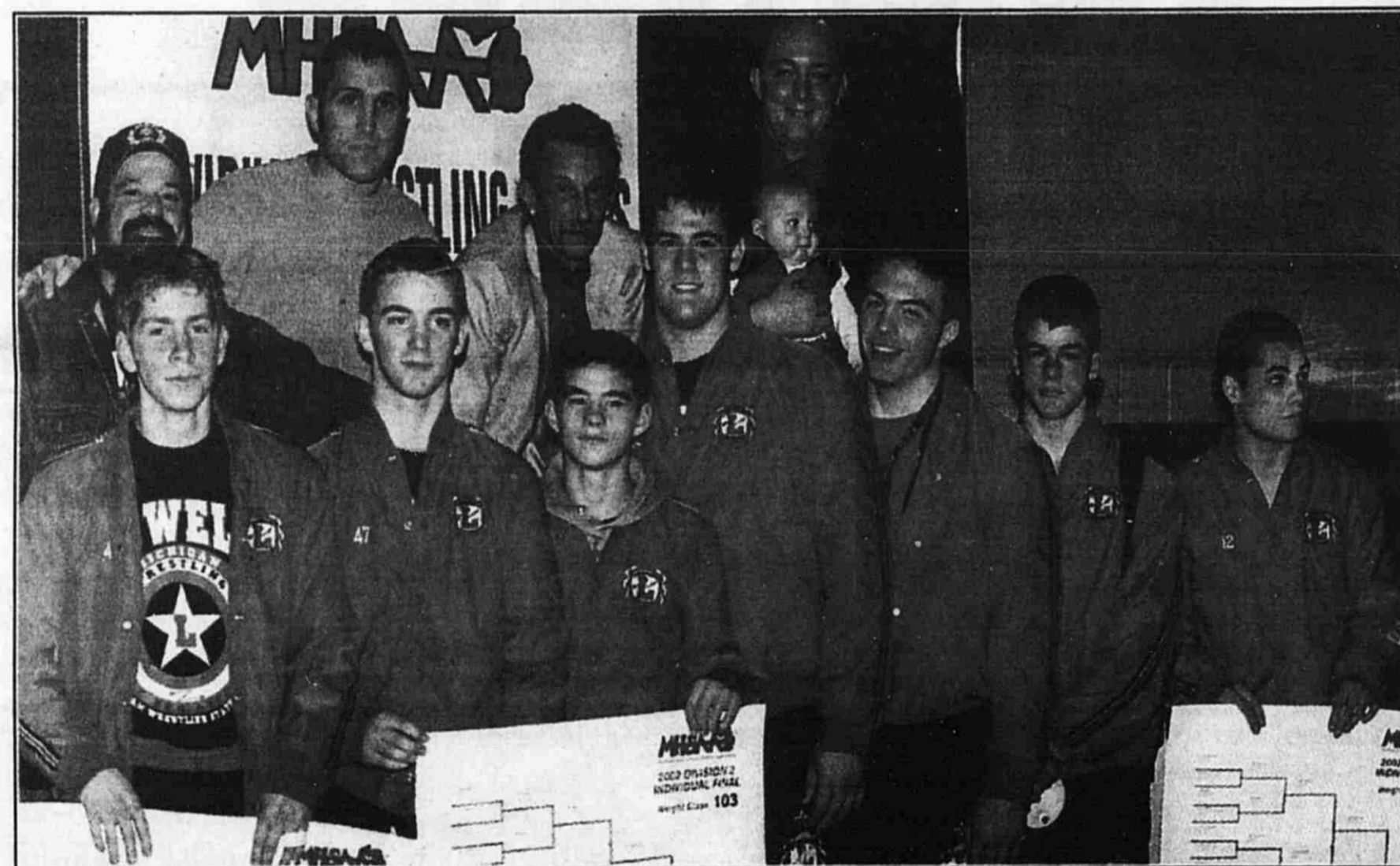
"The score was close, but Ian was in control the whole way," said Lowell wrestling coach, Dave Strejc. "What Ian did in his first three matches is what's impressive. He has such tremendous focus. It's what set him apart from his competition."

Freshman Joe Mendez, 103 pounds, won a state title with a pin at 1:13 of the first period against Haslett's Brent Hissong. Brandon Kinney, 119, in his second trip to the finals in as many years, made good on his second attempt as he decided Lapeer West's Justin Chronowski 6-5.

Senior Ben Fleet lost a heartbreaking 4-3 decision to Stevensville-Lakeshore's Ryan Huebner in the 215 pound final.

"My heart aches for Ben and Bobby Gingerich who came so close in their final matches," Strejc said. "I keep asking myself if there is anything we could have done differently to change the outcome."

It was Fleet's action following the championship match that grabbed the respect of Huebner's coach, Bruce Bittenbender.



Ten Lowell wrestlers competed in the individual state wrestling championship at Auburn Hills over the weekend. Lowell garnered three state championships, two runners-up, two third-place finishes, a third and a seventh-place finish.

Fleet asked the ref if he could raise the hand of his opponent. Bittenbender said he's never heard of anything like that in his 38 years of coaching.

"What a gesture of sportsmanship. It makes me proud to be a coach of such a scholar athlete and gentleman," Strejc explained.

Gingerich, 140, lost 7-5 in the closing seconds of his finals match to Portage Northern's James Bippus.

Ben Vaught, heavyweight, battled back from an opening round pin to Flint Kearsly's Brandon Frailing, to defeat Mason City's Josh Priebe in the consolation finals match 3-1. After losing his opening match, Vaught strung together five straight wins.

"Ben has the heart of a lion. He refocused after that first

match," Strejc said. Kevin Frazier, a sophomore at 135 pounds, placed seventh with a 5-2 decision over Mt. Clemens' Bryan Shores.

Both Mike Nearing, 112 pounds, and J.J. Wilder, 160, were 1-2 but did not place.

Mike Forward, 170, was 0-2 and did not place. Strejc said he felt like the canary who ate the cat. "I am just completely spent. I didn't do anything and I feel like I went three rounds with Mike Tyson," he explained. "This weekend these kids proved again that they are champions."

The Lowell coach quickly turned to the responsibility that comes with being a champion.

"You can't sit around and relax. There are programs around the state watching us. We must be an example with our attitude and how we conduct ourselves," he concluded.

20 points. Landon Trierweiler tallied six and led Lowell in rebounding with nine. The Red Arrows were outrebounded 39-26.

Ionia received a game-high 22 points from Mike Fuller while teammates' Garrett Bushong and Matt Spitzley each netted 11.

In Lowell's final regular season game of the 2001-02 basketball campaign, Oberlin led the Red Arrows to a 65-45 win over the Red Raiders. Oberlin netted 15 points in the nonleague game.

"It was good for the kids to end the regular season with a win. It was our only victory in February," McDonald said.

Lowell ended its season at 6-15 overall. The Red Arrows were 2-12 in the O-K White.

Eight of the players on this year's roster could return next season.

"We played like underclassmen this year," McDonald said. "It's good that they have gone through a full season."

The first-year coach says his club has learned that they play in a tough league and that they will need to make a commitment to put in more time and improve themselves over the summer. "That's the only way they will have a chance to be successful next year," McDonald said. "They must remember how they felt in January and February in June and July."

My job as a coach is to provide them with an opportunity to improve (e.g., camps, weight room and a summer playing schedule)."

With college choice and rehab nearly behind her, Crowley ready to focus on senior year of basketball

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Leslie Crowley was the first high school girls' basketball player from this year's junior class to verbally accept a scholarship offer to play at the next level.

Named to the Detroit Free Press, Detroit News, AP and Basketball Coaches of Michigan all-state teams, Crowley, before the official November signing, has made a verbal commitment to attend the University of Michigan in the fall of 2003.

"Leslie wanted to have it done before her senior season. She's been offered a full-ride scholarship and feels comfortable with Michigan's program," said Lowell High School girls' basketball coach and mother, Dee Crowley. "Academically, she can't go wrong."

Crowley's performance in the classroom has been as strong or stronger than on the hardwood. She is one of 66 juniors and seniors to be named to the 2001-02 girls academic all-state list. The Lowell junior's 4.07 grade point average is the highest among those honored.

"It was an easy decision. I like the program, coach and the

school," Leslie Crowley said. "Now I can go out and play basketball my senior year and not have the questions."

Along with playing basketball for the U of M, Crowley will study physical therapy... an area she has become familiar with over the last year.

Crowley had a bone chip removed from her knee last June. In December, she had surgery for a miniscus tear, with repair and cleanup work done on her knee from the June surgery.

The knee is coming along quite well, according to the junior. Leslie goes to therapy three times a week. "I go for 90 minutes each day. It is so tiring," she explained. "I'm also lifting weights to build the muscle up in my leg."

There was some atrophy after not bearing any weight on it for six-eight weeks.

Doctors have given her clearance to begin testing her knee out and to run track this spring. Crowley can also begin playing AAU basketball following the March AAU season.

"Leslie is tired-of not being able to do things. She doesn't like to watch. She wants to run track," Dee Crowley explained.

Red Arrow soccer players sign with Indiana Tech

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Tom Hobbs will be able to forego introductions of a couple of the new recruits to the 2002 Indiana Tech soccer team.

Joining Hobbs, a 2001 Lowell High School graduate, will be fellow Red Arrows, Chris Cress and Zach Stauffer.

Both Lowell soccer players recently signed to play with Indiana Tech for the next four years.

"I think both players will succeed at the next level," said Lowell soccer coach, Paul Legge.

Cress earned all-conference and all-district honors in his senior season. The Red Arrow recorded six goals and assisted on 14 others.

"Chris is an extremely sound technical player," Legge said. "He breaks things down and when he sees things, he makes the right decisions."

Stauffer, a four-year

Eastern Illinois soccer player at Lowell, earned all-state billing twice and three times was named to the all-conference team.

"Zach is the best high school defender I've seen," Legge said. "He's sound and doesn't make many mistakes."

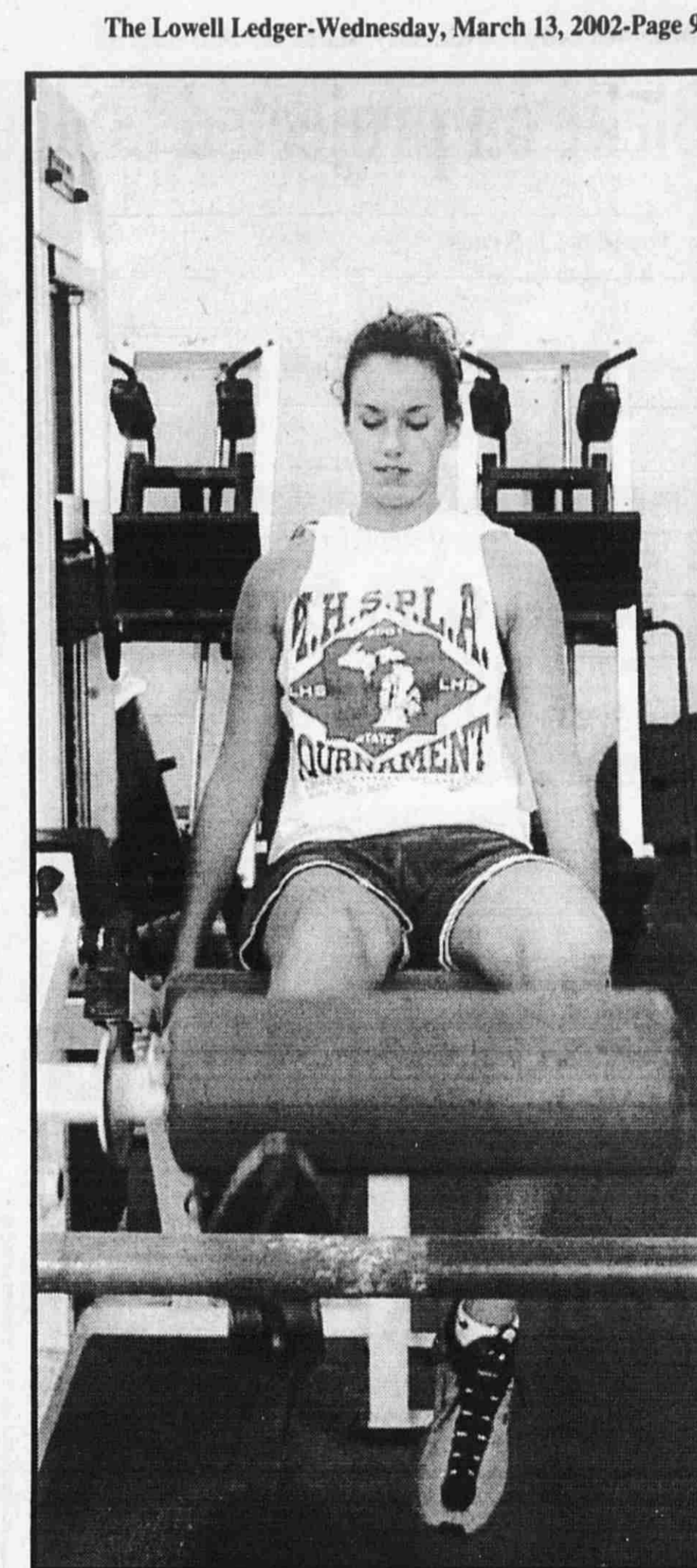
The Lowell coach gives Stauffer a good shot at starting as a freshman for Indiana Tech.

Eastern Illinois soccer

coach, Josh Oakley will hold his second and final indoor futsal training program in the Alto Elementary gymnasium on Saturday from 1-5.

Oakley held his first session for 13-14 year olds on Saturday (March 9).

Lowell coach, Paul Legge is holding an eight-week (one hour a week) foot skill training program for 9-12 year old Lowell soccer players.



Leslie Crowley's knee is nearing a full recovery following a December knee surgery.

Flat River Antique Mall
16th Anniversary
OPEN HOUSE
Sat. & Sun., March 16 & 17
Contests, Door Prizes, Gift Certificates & Store-wide Sales

Bring this ad to our Cafe for a **FREE** ice cream cone!

212 West Main, Lowell
897-5360
Hours: Sun. - Sat. 10-6

Happy St. Patrick's Day

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

Standing: Rachel, Jim, Julie & Gail; front row: Lynn, Carrie & Rebecca

IRISH

Ionia ends Lowell's season in district quarterfinal

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

To play high school basketball for any length of time in the month of March, a club's physicality, intensity and level of game must be turned up a notch.

Lowell boys basketball team was able to sustain a higher level for a half against Ionia before tiring in its 67-47 Class A District semifinal loss to the Bulldogs.

"I was excited about our competitive play in the first half, but Ionia turned it up a notch in the second half and we didn't match their play," Lowell basketball coach, Jeff McDonald said.

Sam Oberlin was the only Red Arrow to reach double figures in scoring. The Red Arrow guard netted a team-leading

Bleke on projected budget deficit: "Dipping into fund balance is risky"

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

"We've been here before," said Lowell superintendent, Bert Bleke in reference to the budget concerns facing the school district.

The Lowell Area School District was preparing for the worst - a \$2.4 million deficit budget for the 2002-03 school year. Bleke told the board Monday night it now looks as if the district will be looking at a \$500,000 deficit budget.

The Lowell superintendent reminded the board that Gov. John Engler's guarantee to keep his promise of increasing pupil funding for the next school year is being funded by borrowing money from one fiscal year and moving it into a different fiscal year.

"We must protect ourselves for the year that follows; it will be more difficult," Bleke said.

The two obvious ways are dipping into the fund balance or reducing the budget.

"I think dipping into the fund balance is risky because we don't know where the recession is going," Bleke said. "I'd recommend considering reducing the budget and protecting ourselves for a year or two. We can do this and keep cuts away from children."

The superintendent said decisions on cuts would not have to be made until May.

Lowell's varsity skaters lose final two games

The Lowell/Caledonia varsity hockey team ended its season this past week with a 5-1 loss to West Catholic in the final regular season game, and then a 5-0 loss to DeWitt in the first round of the District Tournament.

The Arrows had previously lost to West Catholic in the Pepsi Invitational Tournament during Christmas vacation by a score of 8-1. The

game took on a very defensive tone early on as neither team could muster more than 10 shots apiece in the game's first period. In fact, the Falcons only outshot the Red Arrows by a margin of 23-19 at the final buzzer. Lowell had several scoring chances, but couldn't capitalize, particularly late in the game. Junior defenseman Chad Rau scored Lowell's only goal at

the 7:17 mark of the second period on an assist from Chris Rybicki (Caledonia).

"I felt we played an excellent game, especially in our defensive zone, and I am very happy with the effort that the team put forth throughout the whole game," said head coach, Paul Jacobus.

The Red Arrows faced off against a very talented DeWitt team in the first round of the District Tournament at Griff's Ice House and lost to the Panthers by a score of 5-0. Following three first period goals,

the Red Arrows tightened up defensively and held the Panthers to only one goal in each of the remaining two periods of play. Senior goalie, Jeremy Stein (Caledonia) stopped 22 of 27 shots in his final game as a varsity player.


"We had trouble getting consistent scoring chances, but our team played excellent team defense and we skated hard the whole game," said Jacobus.

The Red Arrows finish the season with an overall record of 3-21-1.

Forgot to order your Girl Scout Cookies?
Alto Girl Scouts
will be selling cookies
March 16th & 23rd
from 11 am - 5 pm
ALTO MARATHON
11990 64th Street • Alto




50s DAY!
At *Keiser's*
TUESDAY MARCH 19
50s Music!
50s Clothes!
ALMOST 50s Prices!
700 E Main • Lowell
897-8455



Possibilities
You've worked hard for it. You've worked hard on it too.
Now, isn't it time the land you own began working for you?
To learn more about unlocking the potential in your property, please contact Jay Hobbs today at 616.676.4043

SUNDRY
DEVELOPMENT CONSULTING



WANTED
GOLF LEAGUES 2002
CALL NOW • RESERVE
616-794-0520
*50 Bonus Coupons
For anyone who signs
up a league of 20 or more players.
DOUBLE R RANCH
RESORT & GOLF
4424 Whites Bridge Road • Belding, MI 48809

With increase in ridership, city's NKTS subsidy rate hiked

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

An increase in the ridership numbers brought North Kent Transit Service back before the Lowell City Council

seeking a contract amendment.

The amendment, approved by the council, will increase the subsidy rate paid by Lowell through its Community Development Block Grant funds for senior and handicapped riders from \$11.81 per ride to \$16.

"The increase is necessary to keep up with the cost of ridership," said North Kent Transit Service's Dan Gowdy.

Currently, each senior and handicapped rider must pay \$3 per ride in the North Kent Transit Service area and \$6 per ride outside of the area.

The current budget supports 20 rides a month. In the month of January alone, Lowell's ridership hit 69.


Since July of 2001, the average monthly ridership numbers have been above 20.

The contract amendment approved by the council will be retroactive to July 1 of 2001. Through December, the city was \$150 over budget. With the new amended rate, the city is \$16 over the \$4,000 it budgeted for the service.

City manager, Dave Pasquale said the city will receive discretionary funds from the Kent County Development Block Grant needed to complete ridership subsidies.

"When the city is over the allotment, the CDBG amends the budget and pushes it up higher to cover the cost," Pasquale explained.

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



Irritable Bowel Syndrome

Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) is a condition in which a person experiences abdominal pain and bloating with alternating constipation and diarrhea. Abdominal pain is usually relieved by bowel movements. Symptoms typically become worse with certain foods and periods of high stress.

There are no specific tests to diagnose IBS. Initial treatment revolves around increasing dietary fiber which is typically quite low in American diets. Occasionally other medications are needed, including anti-diarrheals or laxatives.

Irritable Bowel Syndrome typically persists for several years. It does not progress to more serious conditions.

IN THE SERVICE

Keri E. Jastifer and **Tiffani J. Jastifer**, seniors at Lowell High School, have joined the United States Army under the Delayed Entry Program. The program gives young men and women the opportunity to delay entering active duty for up to one year.

The enlistment gives the new soldier the option to learn a new skill, travel and become eligible to receive as much as \$50,000 toward a college education.

The two soldiers will report to Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. for basic training.

Keri is the daughter of Robert and Chris Jastifer of Lowell.

Tiffani is the daughter of Russell and Starlene Jastifer of Ada.

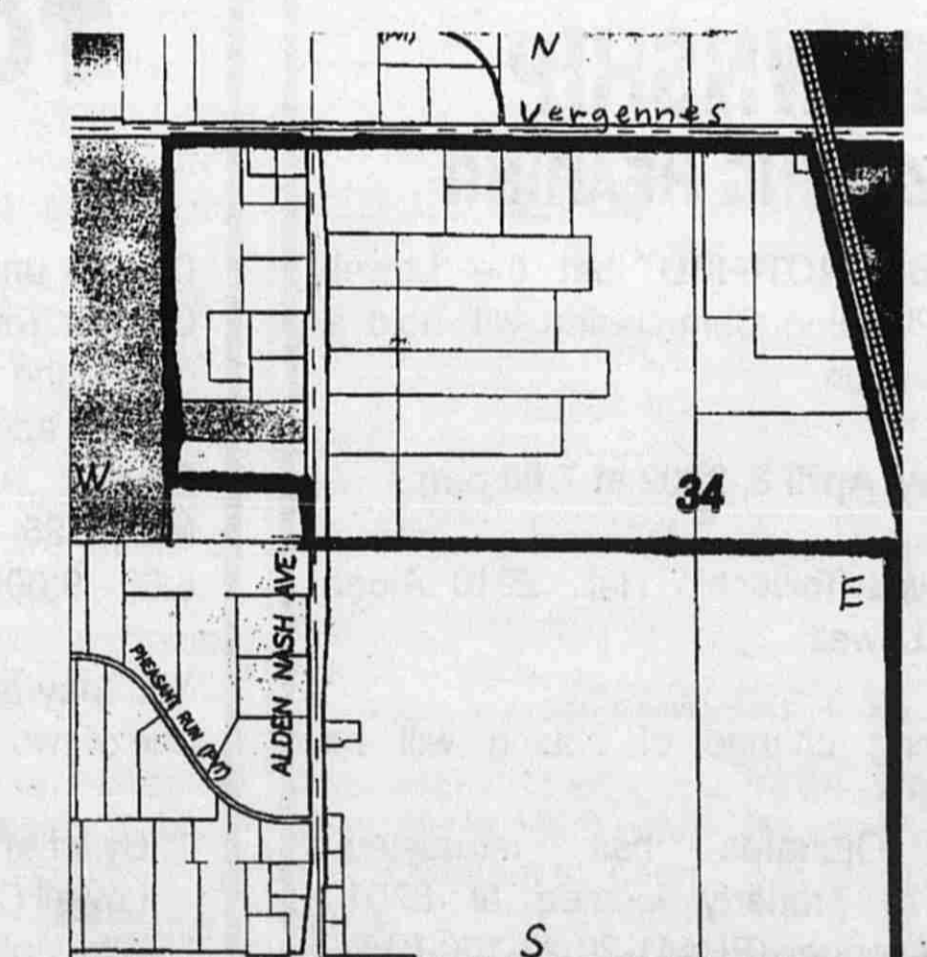
VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Public notice is hereby given that the Vergennes Township Planning Commission will be conducting their regular scheduled meeting and holding a public hearing on **Monday, April 8, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell, Michigan 49331**, to accept public comment on the following:

The Planning Commission proposes a zoning map amendment to the zoning ordinance to rezone properties listed below from Rural-Agriculture (R-A) to Low Density Residential (R-1). The properties are within an area bordered by Vergennes St. to the north, beginning at the east side of the Lowell High School property and going east to the railroad tracks, and south to the half section line. These properties are in the northeast quarter of section 33 and the northwest and part of the northeast quarter of section 34.

The properties that are proposed to be rezoned are listed below by tax permanent parcel number: 41-16-33-200-011, 41-16-33-200-032, 41-16-33-200-010, 41-16-33-200-003, 41-16-33-200-033, 41-16-33-200-034, 41-16-33-200-025, 41-16-33-200-019, 41-16-33-200-026, 41-16-33-200-020, 41-16-33-200-016, 41-16-33-200-017, 41-16-33-200-035, 41-16-33-200-036, 41-16-34-451-001, 41-16-34-201-005, 41-16-34-100-017, 41-16-34-100-030, 41-16-34-100-019, 41-16-34-100-020, 41-16-34-100-031, 41-16-34-100-014, 41-16-34-100-022, 41-16-34-100-024, 41-16-34-100-026, 41-16-34-100-028, 41-16-34-201-006, 41-16-34-201-007, 41-16-34-201-005, 41-16-34-201-002, 41-16-34-201-003.

The area depicted in the map below encircled with a dark line indicate the properties proposed to be rezoned from R-A to R-1:



The proposed zoning map amendment is on file at the Vergennes Township Hall and may be inspected during regular office hours between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. Public comment will be accepted at the public hearing and written comments received by mail, in person or in the mail slot located at the office entrance will also be considered if received prior to 3:00 p.m. on April 8, 2002. Comments may also be emailed to zoning@vergennestwp.org.

Vergennes Township Planning Commission

Lowell YMCA
Teen Director

The Lowell Sports/Teen Director is responsible for the budget, development, program plans, program and development, implementation, evaluation and expansion of the Sports and Teen Programs. Bachelor's degree (B.A.) from four-year college or university; one to two years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Excellent benefits include 12% retirement, \$26,000-\$31,000. Contact: Fax resumes to (616) 456-7232, 40 Monroe N.W. Suite 201, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or email at jobs@gymca.org or visit our web site at www.gymca.org Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.


St. Patrick Parish
LAS VEGAS NIGHT
SATURDAY, MARCH 16
7:00 PM - 12:00 AM

- Roulette
- Money Wheel
- Beat-the-Dealer
- Black Jack

Beer & Wine Available
ADMISSION \$2
You Must Be 18 To Enter
License #1-01307




FOR SALE
1995 ISUZU RODEO



V-6, 5-spd., 4 WD, high miles (139,000) but runs and looks great! AM/FM cassette, air, tilt, cruise, power windows, locks, mirrors, "Roo" bars, fog lamps, roof rack. Blue Book at \$5,500, asking \$4,495. Must sell, make offer. Can be seen in front of Showboat Automotive, W. Main, Lowell. Call 616-794-2983 (Belding) or Call 616-292-5210

Ada Chiropractic
Offering Holistic healthcare through chiropractic, nutrition and exercise.
Now accepting new patients.



DR. KAREN CLARK
545 Ada Drive
In the Village of Ada
676-2888



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - BOWNE TOWNSHIP
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 Dygett 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


Family Dentistry & Braces
Todd Gillan, D.D.S.

Quality Dental Care
For You & Your Family

- We Welcome New Patients
- Early Morning & Evening Appointments Available
- We Cater To Cowards
- Free Evaluation For Braces

897-8491

(across from Family Fare Shopping Plaza)
2186 W. Main • Lowell



Franciscan Life Process Center
Preschool Program

Where Children Play to Learn!

Feel the energy at the Franciscan Life Process Center Preschool Program! In our multi-age classes, we help children three to five build enthusiasm and confidence, using state-of-the-art standards of early childhood education.

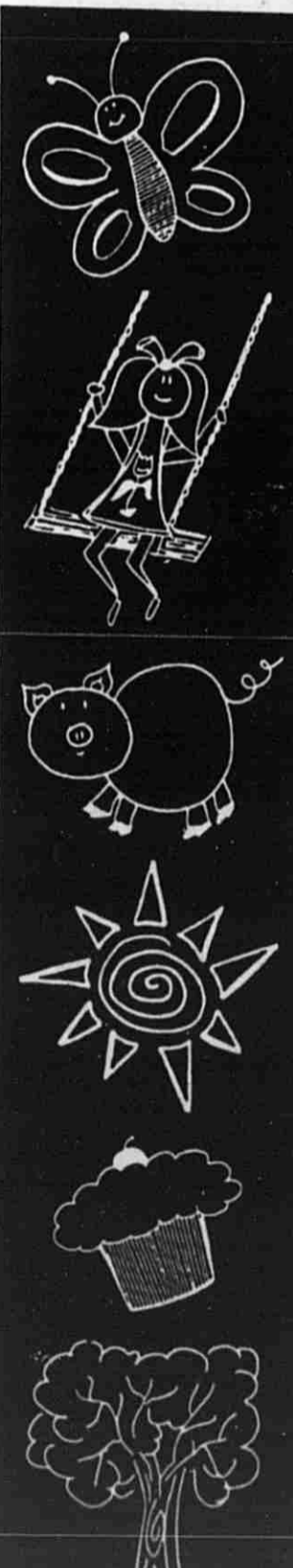
In our process approach, we help children develop:

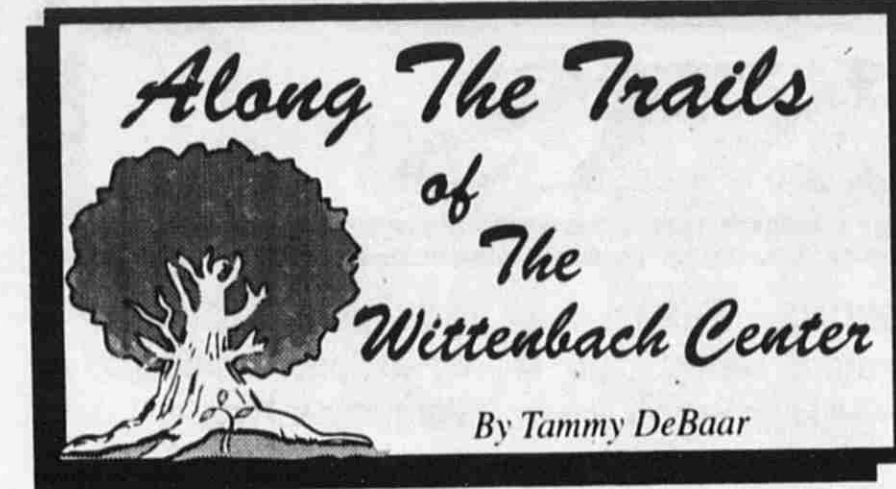
- thinking and creativity
- social and problem solving skills
- their own wonderful talents and interests

And they enjoy integrated nature, science, and art experiences in a rich natural setting that includes:

- a working farm
- wooded trails
- orchards

11650 Downes Street, Lowell, MI 49331-9489
Phone (616) 897-7842 for information





Did you know that it takes 700 trees to produce the Sunday Grand Rapids Press? Did you know that it cost the Kent County Department of Public Works almost \$100,000 last fiscal year to remove all of the non-recyclables people mixed in with their recyclables?

Did you know that it has never been easier to recycle? No label removing, crushing of cans, removing of address windows in junk mail... The high school Environmental Awareness Club found out about these facts and more on Saturday, March 9, when they toured the Kent County recycling center where, hopefully, our recyclables from Lowell end up.

In their visit to the recycling center, these students learned about the process of recycling. I was interested to learn that

since Pitsch and Sunset (the Lowell removal companies) have their own landfills, they may or may not deliver them into Grand Rapids to the recycling center. If the items are delivered to the recycling center, they are dumped into two categories: paper and cardboard (except pizza boxes because of the cooked on food and waxed containers); and clear glass, aluminum and #1 and #2 plastic only.

If items that do not belong are dumped into the recyclables (like #4 or #7 plastic-check the bottom), workers must remove them and they must be dumped—thus the \$100,000 cost to the city.

The center also recycles batteries (which become extremely hazardous in the trash and can be dumped at the library) and computers, and supplies a one-time a year removal of hazardous waste, such as lawn chemicals.

This club is in its second year. Two girls approached me last year from the high school to start up the club. I became the adult advisor and watched as these determined students developed a club that now numbers 20. These students developed a paper recycling program at the high school and a lunchroom recycling program at Cherry Creek Elementary. These students remove the paper once a week from all participating rooms at the high school, during seminar. They have spent time cleaning and studying the quality of Cherry Creek at Creekside Park with Adopt-A-Stream and have discussed

current environmental topics such as Burger King vs. McDonald's, composting, etc.

On behalf of the Environmental Awareness Club, please remember to reduce your waste by buying products with minimal to no packaging, reuse items, thus saving you money and recycling.

Earth and sky topics at open space forum

Have you ever stopped on a cloudless night to stare at the beautiful, starry heavens? They are so incredible in the country! But our "countryside" is eroding, and the night skies are vulnerable. To hear about light pollution and how to preserve night skies, plan to come to Wittenbach Center for a free-of-charge presentation Wednesday, March 13 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

To balance the program, the topic of native plants and how to recognize and preserve them will also be addressed.

The program, hosted by the Open Space Citizen Committee of Vergennes Township, is titled "Earth & Sky," and promises to be worth the trip. Two representatives from Veen Observatory, Ed Ketterer and Sandy Caras, will explain solutions to light pollution. Dave Warners, a professor in the science department at Calvin College, will describe native plants and how to preserve them while controlling plants that threaten native species.

The mission of the Open Space Citizen Committee of Vergennes Township is to promote protection of the township's rural character, open spaces and natural areas, while respecting property rights and enhancing property value.

Find Your Pot Of Gold In The Ledger CLASSIFIEDS

EXTRA!!! The Lowell Ledger EXTRA!!!

CARD OF THANKS

EXTRA!!! The Lowell Ledger EXTRA!!!

HELP WANTED

EXTRA!!! The Lowell Ledger EXTRA!!!

FOR SALE

EXTRA!!! The Lowell Ledger EXTRA!!!

FOR SALE

EXTRA!!! The Lowell Ledger EXTRA!!!

FOR SALE

EXTRA!!! The Lowell Ledger EXTRA!!!

BUSINESS SERVICES

THANK YOU
 Many thanks to the Lowell Light & Power crew that restored the power to my home. It was cold, windy and snowing, not a nice time to be 25 ft. up on a pole.
 Barb Brown

ATTENTION - Customer service management. Quality for \$1,000 springtime production bonus, over \$500/week to start. Growing company is in need of full-time help. Company has created several new openings in its workforce. These are permanent positions with no strikes or layoffs projected. The personnel manager will discuss hours, pay scales & bonuses at a one-on-one interview. For appt. call 243-9131 between 10 am. - 3 p.m. Company encourages people with no experience to apply. On job training is provided.

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

1974 PULL BEHIND TRAVEL TRAILER - 27 ft., sleeps 8, new mini blinds. Refrigerator & microwave, full bath, \$2,200. Call 987-9423.

www.sundrydev.com \$\$ - Turn Your Land Into Money. \$616.676.4043.

FOR SALE - 10086 French Dr. Lowell Schools, 2 1/2 acres, only 3 yrs. old. 3 bedroom+, 1 1/2 baths, 2,100 sq. ft. w/out w/pool & deck. Slider to deck & cathedral ceilings. 5 miles to schools & town. \$155,000. By owner: Mike or Lori 897-7770.

FOR SALE - 1987 Dodge 100 1/2 ton pickup w/topper, new tires, new brakes, good condition. Call 897-6686.

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

TOWING - Servicing Lowell & surrounding areas. Flat bed & wrecker, Tire changes, Jump starts, Lock outs, 24 Hr. service. Call Lincoln Lake Autos 897-9040.

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

CERAMIC TILE - for as little as 99c per sq. foot. Installation - available. Tileworks, 1301 Bowes Road, 897-0991. M, Tu, Th, F - 9-6 p.m.; W - 9-8 p.m. Sat. 9 - 1 p.m. Other hours by appointment.

'94 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SE - Excellent condition, 3.3L V6, power windows, locks & mirrors, dual air & heat, integrated child seats, keyless entry. \$2,900. 897-5096.

QUEEN PLYS PULLTOP - 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.

DISCOUNT MANUFACTURED HOMES - Repossessed, late model homes offered at discounted prices. Some like new. Some fixer uppers. Financing available. All offers considered. Call North Harbor Homes 1-800-824-9811 or 616-822-2318.

DISH NETWORK - No equipment to buy. Up to 4 receivers. Three months FREE programming 100 or 150 channels. Call TOM'S SATELLITE SYSTEMS at 897-2016.

1988 STERLING DOUBLE WIDE (28x52) - 3 bedroom, 2 bath, new stove, refrigerator, washer/dryer, dishwasher, central air, new ceiling fans, 2 skylights, 12 x 16 shed & 12 x 24 deck. \$38,000 obo. Call after 6 p.m. 897-2031.

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.

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

WANTED - Old folk guitar, Gibson, Martin, etc. 897-9624.

WANTED - Wrestling shoes, size 9 1/2 & other equipment for beginner. Call 897-5562.

WANTED - Old farm tractors, running or parts. Call 481-7937.

QUICKBOOKS BOOKKEEPING SERVICE - and advisor. Call Kathy 897-0686.

BED & BREAKFAST - McGee Homestead. Gracious accommodations for your out-of-town guests. Gift certificates available. Call 897-8142 or www.iserv.net/~mcgeebb.

MERRY MUNCHKINS LICENSED DAYCARE - Has openings. Ask for Jenny 897-8406.

HOUSECLEANING - Openings in Cannonsburg, Lowell, Ada area. References available. Call Anna or Lia at 691-7978.

PLEASE NOTE: In order to advertise daycare or babysitting, the State requires a license number on file at the newspaper. If you do not have a daycare license, we cannot place an ad for you. If you are a teenager willing to do babysitting, you can run an ad, but must state you are a teenager.

JR ENTERPRISES

233 County Line Rd. • Freeport, MI 49325
616-868-7033
SPECIALIZING IN:
 Tractor Rentals, Brush Hog Services, Material Deliveries, Grade & Prep Work, Tractor Services.

School Menus

Week of 3/18 - 3/22
ELEMENTARY

Lunch: \$1.45 Milk \$0.30
 Peanut butter & jelly sandwich & chef's salad are also available daily as lunch options.

MON: Chicken rings & things or beefy burrito, French bread slice, dried fruit, peas.

TUES: Turkey & gravy w/roll or ham, egg & cheese on English muffin, whipped potatoes, mixed fruit, mini twix bar!

WED: Corndog & roll or chicken patty on bun, celery sticks & peanut butter, berry crisp!

THURS: Chicken taco or dino pasta & franks, cornbread, peaches, fresh veggies & dip.

FRI: Pancake dippers or assorted cereal, scrambled eggs, orange juice, potato wedges.

These children achieved
DENTAL HYGIENE EXCELLENCE
 For The Month of February 2002
DR. J.E. REAGAN
 207 W. Main - Lowell 897-7179

DENTISTRY: HEALTH CARE THAT WORKS!

REMEMBER: One ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

ARE YOU DUE FOR YOUR SIX-MONTH CLEANING?

Mckensie Barnes
 Tanner Barnes
 Jacob Bennett
 Blake Bergy
 Maria Briggs
 Lucas Brower
 Emily Churches
 Connor Duiven
 Ian Duiven
 Brittany Essich
 Tarah Essich
 Joshua Felling
 David Fron, Jr.
 Marcus Fron
 Elijah Gire
 Mackenzie Gire
 Mallory Hines
 Dandon Jernberg
 Caitlin Jernigan
 Jenni Lupton
 Morgan Perkins
 Jamie Phillips
 Olivia Richmond
 Megan Rogers

Karah Smith
 Kyle Smith
 Jennifer Spaans
 Katelynne Spaans
 Shawn Spivey
 Emma Tompkins
 Katherine Tompkins
 Nicholas Toomey
 Parker Travis
 Lindsey Trierweiler
 Kelsey Wittenbach

In Memory Of Our Grandpa
FRED PROBST
We love and miss you.
 D.J., Jordan & Bailey

If Tears Could Build A Stairway

If tears could build a stairway
 And memories were a lane
 We would walk right up to heaven
 And bring you back again.
 No farewell words were spoken
 No time to say good-bye
 You were gone before we knew it
 And only God knows why.
 Our hearts still ache in sadness
 And secret tears still flow
 What it meant to lose you
 No one can ever know.
 But now we know you want us
 To mourn for you no more
 To remember all the happy times
 Life still has much in store.
 Since you'll never be forgotten
 We pledge to you today
 A hallowed place within our hearts
 Is where you'll always stay.

In loving memory of FREDERICK A. PROBST
 Loving husband, dedicated father, dear grandfather and very good friend. You are very much missed.

Your wife Sandra Probst; sons Ted, Todd & Derek; daughter-in-laws Ann, Deb, Michelle and grandchildren

Around The Block Quilt Shop

We will have quilts hung throughout the store that have been made by customers. Come help us celebrate on March 15 & 16! Bernina sewing machines will be specially priced! See our large fabric and pattern selection.

NATIONAL DAY OF QUILTING

Store Hours: M, W, F, Sat 10-6; & Tues. & Thurs. 10-8
 120 Maple St., Portland, MI 48875

517-647-5430
 e-mail: Aroundtheblock@mvcc.com

EXTRA!!! The Lowell Ledger EXTRA!!!

LOST - Black lab mix, red collar, 75 lbs. friendly. Answers to Max. 52nd St. and Pratt Lake area. Please call 897-5516 with any information.

EXTRA!!! The Lowell Ledger EXTRA!!!

FREE

GOOD HOME NEEDED - for 1 year old lab collie mix. Very good with kids, needs space to run. Call to inquire 897-0788.

SUPERVISOR - PT shift supervisor to manage market research call center. "No Sales Calls." Shift hours: Sat. 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; Sun. 1:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.; Wed., 4 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. \$10 per hour. Must be able to motivate & manage people of diverse background & ages. Needs to be reliable, responsible & fun to be around. If this sounds like you please call Shannon. Barnes Research, 363-7643.

1998 FORD WINDSTAR - excellent condition, very low miles, \$10,995. Call 897-5629.

DIRECTV - Mini-satellite dish FREE equip. & FREE install! New subscribers only. Call for details. 1-800-459-7357 K-20.

FOR SALE - Lincoln Town Car, 1995 Executive. Immaculate throughout. Estate car, must sell now! White leather, full power, great for trailer hauling. New \$700 EGR valve and more, have receipts. Book \$8,500, make offer. (616) 774-2358 eves.

TRY A CLASSIFIED! 897-9261

We Ship UPS! At The Lowell Ledger!

It's a mad madmad SALE!

KELLY TIRES®

It's almost tournament time and that inspires us to go a little crazy on our already low prices. Come join us for our March Madness Sale at...



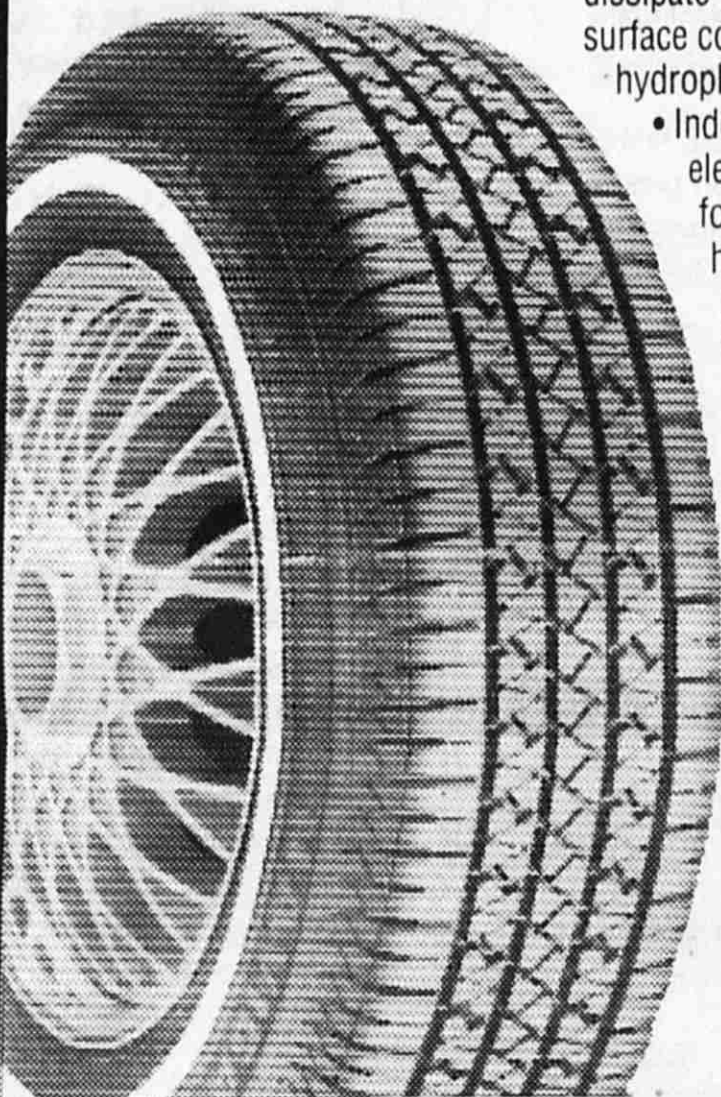
LOWELL
TIRE
CENTER

KELLY TIRES

NAVIGATOR GOLD PREMIUM ALL-SEASON STEEL-BELTED RADIAL

\$56⁷⁵
P185/80R13 90S

- 70,000-mile limited warranty by Kelly
- "S" speed-rated* for a blend of handling and ride comfort
- Circumferential grooves help dissipate water for improved surface contact and reduced hydroplaning
- Independently isolated tread elements are interlocked for superb traction and handling in wet and dry conditions
- Optimized rubber distribution combined with alternating shoulder slots offers smooth, quiet control



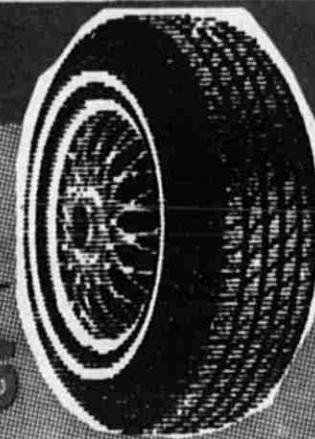
P155/80R13 79S	\$49.70
P205/75R14 95S	\$64.45
P175/70R13 82S	\$53.82
P175/70R14 84S	\$53.60
P215/70R15 97S	\$69.35
P175/65R14 81S	\$54.65
P205/65R15 92S	\$63.72
P215/65R14 91S	\$68.88
P215/60R14 94S	\$80.55
P225/60R15 97S	\$83.36

KELLY TIRES

EXPLORER

ALL SEASON STEEL BELTED RADIAL

\$34²⁵
P165/80R13

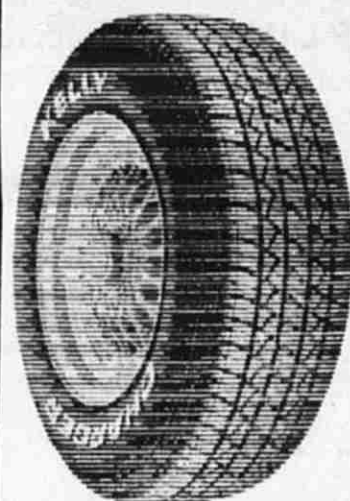


P175/80R13	\$35.25
P185/80R13	\$37.25
P185/75R14	\$38.25
P195/75R14	\$41.25
P205/75R14	\$43.25
P205/75R15	\$45.25
P215/75R15	\$47.25
P225/75R15	\$49.25
P235/75R15	\$50.25

- 40,000 mile limited warranty by Kelly
- Isolated tread elements, full-slotting and blading provide superior all-season traction
- Two steel belts stabilize tread for good handling and grip

KELLY TIRES

CHARGER SR 60 SERIES PERFORMANCE STEEL-BELTED RADIAL



\$61¹⁷
P205/60R13 86S

- 50,000 mile limited warranty by Kelly
- "S" speed rated for sustained speeds up to 112 mph*
- Low profile, wide tread and straighter sidewalls for more responsive handling

RAISED WHITE LETTERS	
P215/60R14 91S	\$63.40
P225/60R14 94S	\$66.63
P235/60R14 96S	\$70.27
P245/60R14 98S	\$75.84
P235/60R15 98S	\$72.00
P245/60R15 100S	\$75.24
P255/60R15 102S	\$79.60
P275/60R15 107S	\$85.72
BLACKWALL	
P185/60R14 82S	\$55.30
P195/60R14 85S	\$55.67
P195/60R15 87S	\$57.90
P205/60R15 90S	\$59.64
P215/60R15 93S	\$62.99
P225/60R15 95S	\$64.68
P215/60R16 94S	\$74.27
P225/60R16 97S	\$78.01

* Kelly-Springfield does not recommend use of any of its products in excess of legal speed limits.

KELLY TIRES

Safari AWR PREMIUM ALL-TERRAIN STEEL-BELTED LIGHT TRUCK RADIAL

\$68⁹⁴
P205



P215	\$72.64
P225	\$76.39
P235	\$80.02
P26515	\$83.75
LT215	\$96.83
P22516	\$77.20
P24516	\$79.16
LT23515	\$97.76
P22516	\$71.80
LT22516	\$99.72

- 40,000 mile limited warranty
- Unique tread block elements deliver all-terrain, all-weather traction

TRANSMISSION

FLUSH SERVICE Special

\$69⁹⁵

OFFER EXPIRES 3-31-2002

SERVICE SPECIAL

FUEL INTAKE SERVICE

Special **\$89⁹⁵**

OFFER EXPIRES 3-31-02

SERVICE SPECIAL

LUBE, OIL & FILTER

SAVE \$20⁹⁵

Featuring Quality NAPA Products

* Includes up to five quarts of NAPA oil and NAPA SILVERLIN E® oil filter. Present this coupon at our NAPA AutoCare Center. Expires 3-31-02

SERVICE SPECIAL

POWER STEERING FLUSH & FILL

Special

OFFER EXPIRES 3-31-02

YOUR COMPLETE AUTO SERVICE CENTER

- Transmission Filter Fluid Change
- Shocks, Brakes & Exhaust
- Air Conditioning Service
- Coolant Flush By Glyclean Equipment
- Tires Purchased Here Rotated FREE Every 5 to 7,000 Miles
- Electrical Diagnostics & Service
- Road Hazards Policy Available
- Lube, Oil & Filters
- Tires - Car, Truck Trailer & ATV's
- Hunter Computerized Alignment
- Tune-up & Computer Diagnostics

CALL FOR APPOINTMENT:

897-6200

SEE US FOR YOUR AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE NEEDS!

RONDA TIRE, INC.

Grand Rapids

A Great Place to Re-tire

LOWELL • 746 W. MAIN STREET

JENISON

GRAND RAPIDS

241 Church 457-6401

130 Market S.W.- 456-5321

LOWELL HOURS: Mon. - Fri. • 8 - 5:30; Sat. • 8 - Noon



JOHN STUCKEY



KEN EZINGA



CASEY IRWIN

