

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 23, Issue 66

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, January 1, 2003



Flat River Grill pre-opening to raise funds for foundation

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
 Lowell Ledger Editor

Lowell Area Education Foundation will hold a benefit fundraiser at the new Flat River Grill the evenings of Jan. 7-9.

"Our five-point mission

focuses on enhancing and being an asset to the community," explained Greg Gilmore, chief executive and president of Gilmore Enterprises. "We try to do things for organizations throughout the community but really look

for things pertaining to children and education."

Every dollar raised for the foundation will be used toward activity work for children in the Lowell School District. "There are no administrative costs," said Dave Th-

ompson, vice chairman for fundraising.

Tickets are \$35 per person; this will include appetizer, salad, entree, dessert and beverage (coffee, etc.). Cash bar and gratuities are extra.

There is a limit of 50 diners per evening (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday).

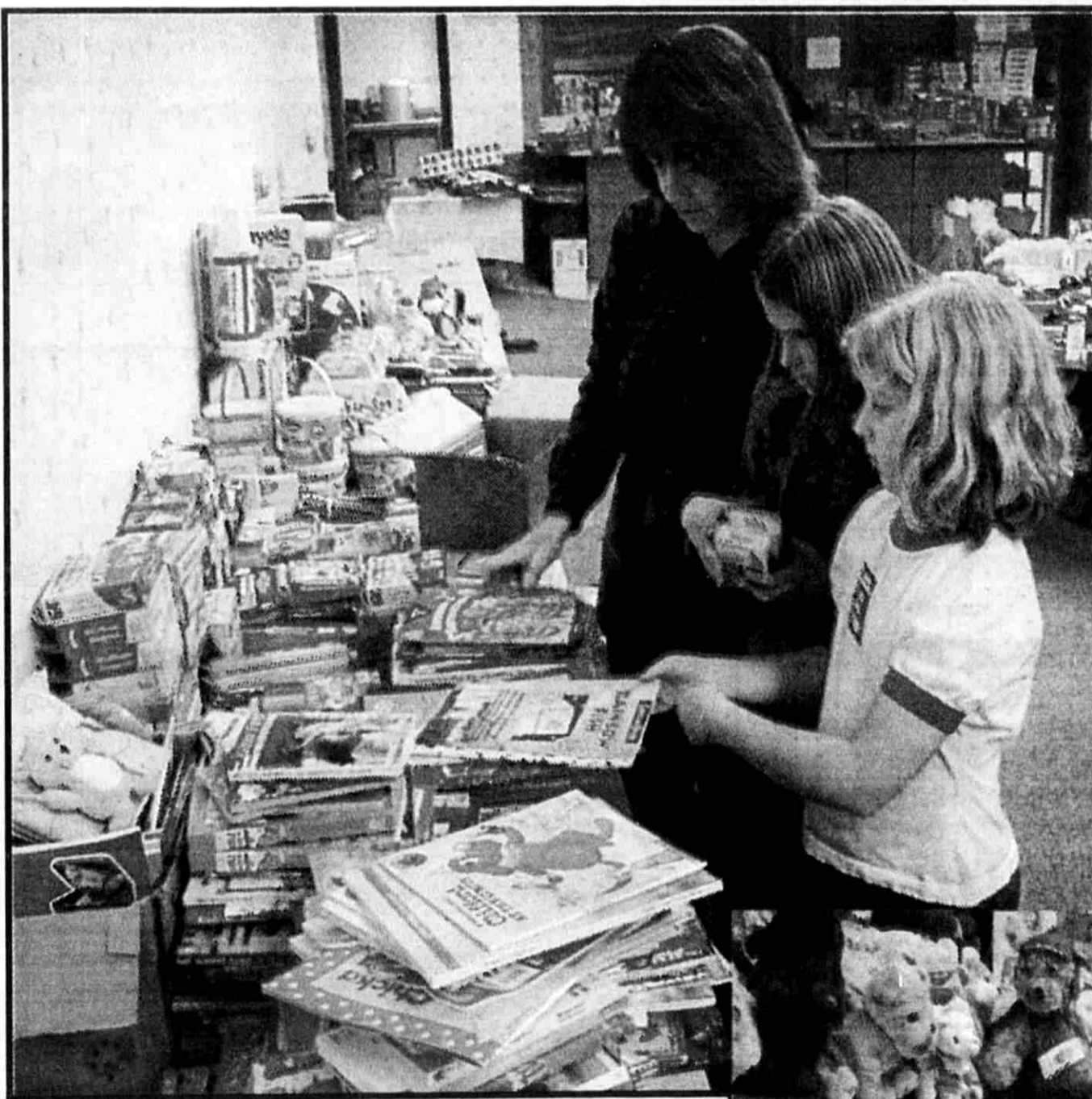
The pre-opening fundraiser begins at 5 p.m. and runs until diners are finished on each of the three evenings.

"We think the tickets will go quickly, so to be among the first Flat River diners, interested parties should call and make reservations," said foundation president, Marsha Wilcox.

Gilmore, who bought the building two years ago, began the renovation work within the last year.

"Lowell's a wonderful little town. We're located on Main Street where there is a lot of hustle and bustle, we have the river, and a patio

Benefit, cont'd. pg. 8



On Jan. 7-9 the Flat River Grill will hold a benefit pre-opening for the Lowell Area Education Foundation.

Reaching Out Over the Holidays

Flat River Outreach Ministries' thrift shop provided food boxes and gifts for 126 area families and over 300 children this holiday season. The food and gifts were distributed from the Lowell First United Methodist Church on Saturday, Dec. 14. Pictured above, sorting through books, from left to right, are; Mary Esparza, Ashley Hausserman and Kaitlyn Theisen. Pictured to the right, sorting through stuffed animals, is sixth-grader, Michelle Hausserman. Jodi Haybarker coordinated the activity for the Flat River Outreach Ministry.



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OBITUARIES

WIERCKZ - Patricia M. Wierckz, aged 59, of Lowell, went to be with her Lord, Wednesday, December 25, 2002. She was preceded in death by her parents Bertrand and Naomi Byrne. She is survived by her son Michael (Jessica) Wierckz and grandson Quinn; brothers Jim (Cheryl) Byrne of Greenville, Jerry (Connie) Byrne of Montrose; sisters Donna Carter of Kentwood,

Rosalie McKay of Ada, Marilyn (Rich) Oldenkamp of Lowell; many nieces and nephews. She had been an employee of Amway for 37 years. Funeral services were held Saturday at Alton Bible Church, Rev. Ken Ford, officiating, Interment Alton Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Alton Bible Church, 2780 Lincoln Lake Ave. NE, Lowell, MI 49331.

Never judge a work of art by its defects.
—Washington Allston

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NOTICE OF MEETING FEDERAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM SMALL URBAN PROGRAM LOWELL AREA

A meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 22, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the Englehardt Public Library Community Room (200 North Monroe Street) to receive comments on eligible street improvement projects in the Lowell area for the Federal Surface Transportation Program allocated to the Small Urban Program.

Road and transit projects are eligible for funding under the Small Urban Program. All road projects must be located on the Federal-aid highway system, and within the federal urban area boundaries of cities within 5,000 to 50,000 populations. Projects must be consistent with regional land use and development plans.

The Michigan Department of Transportation is accepting Small Urban Program project applications for the years 2004 and 2005. An application from the Lowell area will be submitted after the public meeting and in consultation with transportation agencies.

If there are any questions, please contact David M. Pasquale, City Manager at 897-8457 or write to 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan 49331. Written comments prior to the meeting will be accepted.

Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

Travelers not driven by holiday season

An estimated 1 million Michiganders - 10 percent of state residents - had travel plans over the Christmas holiday period, according to an AAA Michigan survey.

That's a 42-percent decrease over last year, when an estimated 1.7 million planned a Yuletide car, train or plane ride.

The decrease is at least partially attributable to an increase in the number of undecided survey respondents this year compared to last. Those who did not traveling cited the economy as the main reason. Projected travel is also down nationwide - AAA reports 59.1 million Americans had travel plans this Christmas, a 1-percent decrease from last year.

The number of travelers for Christmas 2002 was the lowest since 1996, when AAA

Michigan began tracking holiday travel intentions. The average cost of this year's Christmas vacation was less than last year. In 2001, survey respondents indicated they would spend an average \$2,000, compared with \$1,320 in 2002 - a decrease of 34 percent.

Three quarters of those traveling (78 percent) traveled outside of Michigan during the Christmas holiday. Thirty-eight percent flew to their final destination - an increase of 8 percentage points from last year. This year, 55 percent said they traveled by car, truck or van. The remaining travelers went by train (5 percent) or in an RV or motor home (3 percent).

The average planned length for a holiday trip is eight days, compared with nine last year.

Other survey findings:

- Sixty-five percent of those taking a vacation over Christmas will be visited relatives.

- Upon arrival at the destination, plans for accommodations are: with relatives (48 percent); hotel/motel/resort (25 percent); rented cottage/second home (8 percent); trailer/RV (5 percent).

Michigan motorists paid about 20.4 cents more for a gallon of gas this year (\$1.348 as of Dec. 8), compared to last year at this time.

During last year's (2001) 102-hour Christmas holiday period, 12 persons died in Michigan in 12 fatal traffic crashes. Of the 12 fatal

crashes, two (17 percent) involved alcohol. Restraints were not used by three of the 10 victims who had them available (30 percent).

During last year's 102-hour New Year holiday period, 11 people died in 10 fatal crashes statewide. Of the 10 fatal crashes, five (50 percent) involved alcohol. Restraints were not used by two of the seven victims who had them available (29 percent).

Michigan's safety belt law requires that the driver and all front seat passengers be buckled, children under the age of four must be in a child safety seat, preferably in the back seat, and children up to age 16 must be restrained no matter where they're riding. AAA Michigan urges motorists to allow extra time, buckle safety belts, get plenty of sleep and avoid alcohol (for a complete list of nonalcoholic drink recipes, visit What's New at www.aaamich.com).

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Artist Alliance group exhibition at LAAC

Patrons of the Arts Council will be familiar with the group of artists displaying their work which includes pastels, watercolors, acrylic and other diverse mediums.

One of the first exhibits of the Artist Alliance was held in 1994 at the Ada Township Hall. Now this diverse and talented group returns to the area with an exhibit at the Lowell Area Arts Council at 149 S. Hudson. The public is cordially invited to attend the opening reception to meet the artists on Sunday, Jan. 5 from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. The exhibit runs through Feb. 1.

"These artists have been very involved with the council in years past," said Lowell Area Arts Council's executive director, Lorain Smalligan. "Many have long-term relationships with the council that extend back to our origin."

This diverse show features the work of 11 West Michigan Regional artists with state and national recognition. Their artistic styles include nonobjective and abstract to realistic, offering an interesting combination of technical skills and imaginative efforts for the viewer.

Well-known Grand Rapids' artists include "Eunice Bolt's" impeccable veils of sheer watercolor, and "Betts Casey's" non-objective black and white abstracts on canvas. "Lin Westra" offers hand-

made paper with strong colors in acrylic.

Holland papermaker "Alice Breese" produces sculptural vessels of leaves, figures and large compositions on floating sheets of handmade paper.

Two Grand Haven artists new to the group are "Howard Garet" with his realistic compositions of local scenes in pastel and watercolor, and "Anne Morgan's" unique sepia assemblages and works on paper.

Spring Lake artists "Carol Brauer Schmidt" presents her landscapes and whimsical people with soft edges in oil pastels, the medium also used by "Carol Cousineau" who produces jewel-like colorful landscapes.

Three other painters are also from Spring Lake: "Linda Baker" is well known for her transparent watercolors of her favorite wicker furniture and flowers, while watercolorist "Deborah Lass" has built a fine reputation for her water and Koi fish compositions. "Wanda Gringhuis Anderson" creates unique abstract watermedia pieces embellished with collage, stitching and patterning.

The Alliance was formed in 1992 as an offshoot of the Rivertown Artists' Guild out of a desire to show in more challenging areas and to market their work as a group pro-

viding professional exhibits for the national galleries, art centers and museums.

Approximately 20 shows later, this professional group has exhibited in Michigan and in such far-off states as Connecticut, New Jersey and Florida. Though artists have changed through the years,

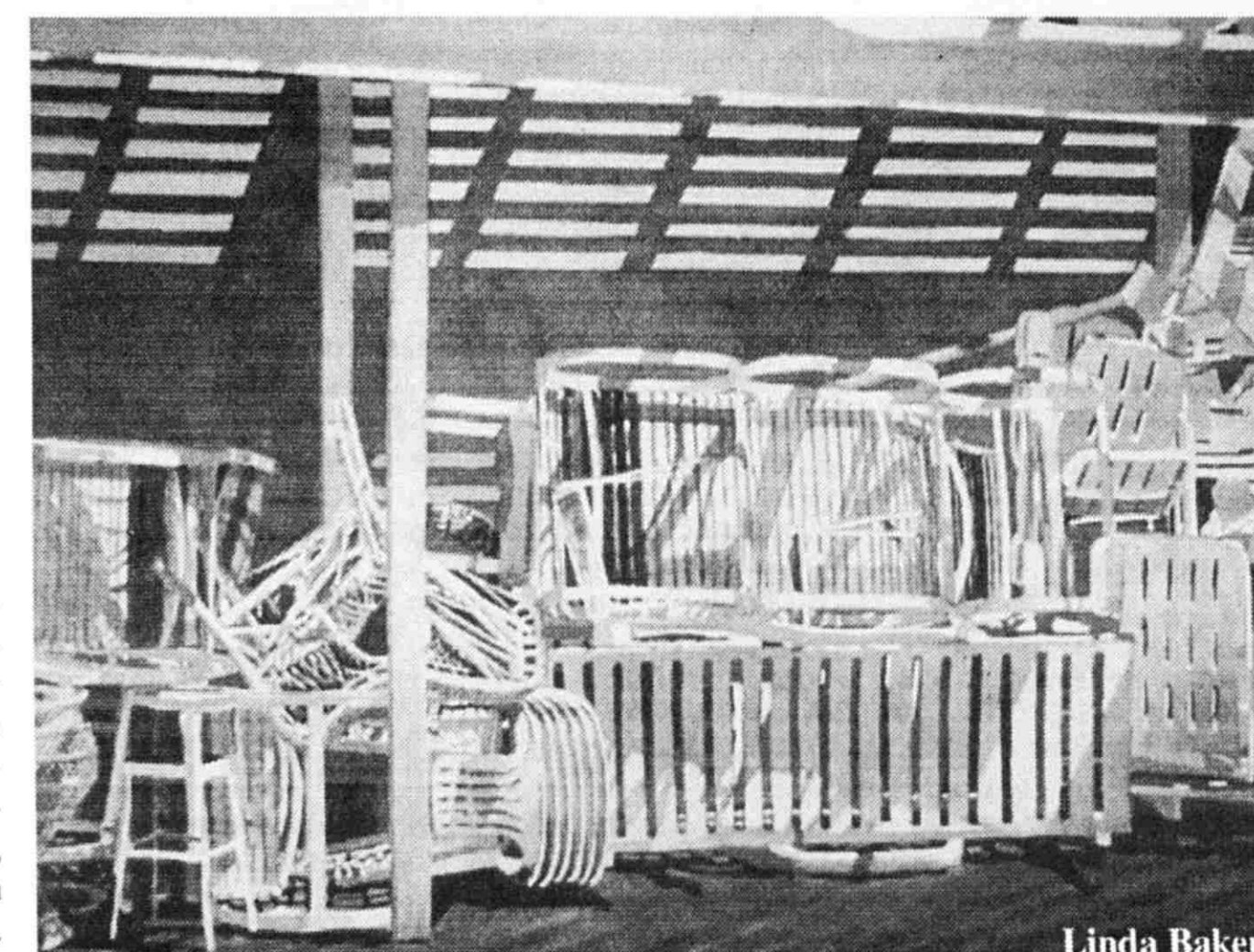
These artists have been very involved with the council in years past. Many have long-term relationships with the council that extend back to our origin.

Lorain Smalligan, Lowell Area Arts Council's executive director

their commitment to professional excellence has not wavered. They are united in their desire to artistically create. In an egalitarian fashion, everyone shares the work and planning, marketing and shipping, and all members are active in securing shows for the group.



Deborah Lass - "Koi Chaos"



Linda Baker

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LHS December Students of the Month

The December Students of the Month at Lowell High School are being honored for their exceptional talents and interest in a particular area.

Tyler Nethercott, a senior, is being honored by the Foreign Language Department. His extracurricular activities include SADD, International Club treasurer and president, National Honor Society, Model UN, Boys State, Homecoming Court.

December students of the month pictured, back row, left to right, are: Tyler Nethercott, Megan Thompson and Anthony Mauric; front row: Timothy Freed and Jordan Nawrocki.

all-school play, all-school musical, cross country and track. Tyler plans to attend the University of Michigan or Notre Dame to study French and/or International Business. His teacher nominator says he is one of her top students in addition to being a fine person. He is the son of Michael and Bonnie Nethercott of Lowell.

Megan Thompson, a senior, was selected by the Drama Department. Her extracurricular activities include the LHS all-school plays and musicals, Art and Drama Club, FFA, International Club, SADD and manager of the girls varsity soccer team. She plans to attend Grand Valley State University in the fall. Her favorite classes are

drama, chemistry and genetics. Her teacher nominator says she displays outstanding efficiency in stage management and takes responsibility for many things without needing to be noticed. She is the daughter of William and Helen Thompson of Lowell.

Anthony Mauric, a junior, was selected by the Math Department. He is active in his church youth group and is a math tutor during the week. His favorite classes are AP calculus, honors chemistry and CAD. He hopes to study electrical or mechanical engineering in college. His teacher nominator says he has taken

LHS, cont'd pg. 7

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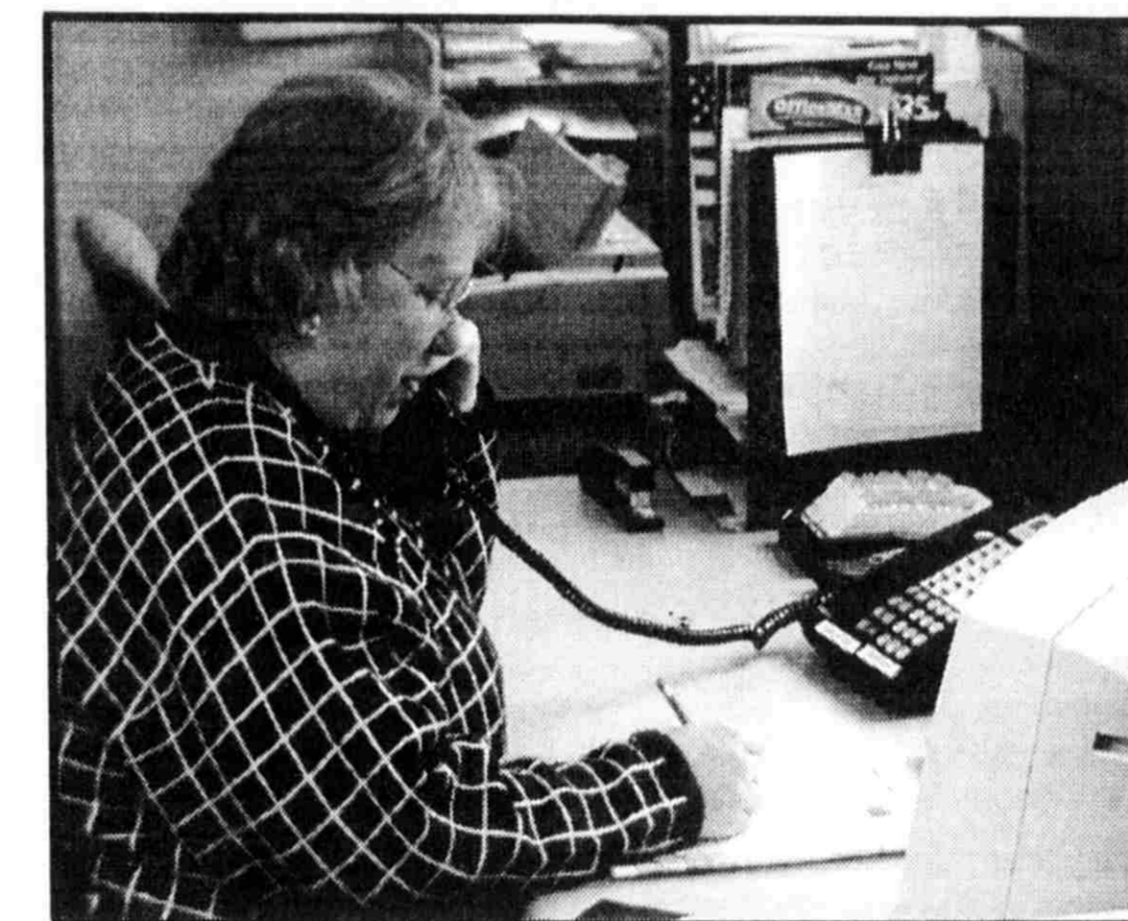
responsibility to work diligently to improve his grade in AP calculus. He is the son of Michael and Cynthia Mauric of Ada.

Timothy Freed, a senior, was chosen by the Science

Department. His activities include marching band and International Club. He is employed at the Alto Marathon and Taco Bell. He plans to attend Olivet Nazarene University. His

teacher nominator says his work shows a true ability to grasp concepts and problem-solve at the highest level in a very difficult physics class. He is the son of Rev. Greg and Chris Freed of Lowell.

Jordan Nawrocki, a junior, is the choice of the Social Studies Department. His activities include swim team, International Club and Young Republicans. Jordan's teacher nominator says he was selected for his extraordinary responsibility and curiosity in the field of history. He is the son of Chris and Kathy Hills of Lowell.



Vergennes' Newest

Janine Mork is the newest smiling face at Vergennes Township Hall. Mork began her role as the township receptionist in early December. Lowell Middle School and Cherry Creek Elementary students will recognize Mork as a district kitchen and playground employee. Mork and her husband Steve, and three children, Ellen, Kirsten and Katy have lived in Vergennes Township since March of 1995. Her role as township receptionist includes answering the phone and waiting on customers. Mork's hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

IN THE SERVICE

Air Force Master Sgt. David A. Wheelock Jr. has been named the winner of the 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron's non-commissioned officer of the year award and fourth quarter award.

Selection was based on the individual's exemplary duty performance, job knowledge, leadership qualities, sig-

nificant self-improvement, and other specific achievements and notable accomplishments.

The newly promoted master sergeant is an aerospace ground equipment technician assigned at Luke Air Force Base, Phoenix, Ariz.

Wheelock is a 1982 graduate of Saranac High School. He is the son of David and Julia Wheelock of Saranac.

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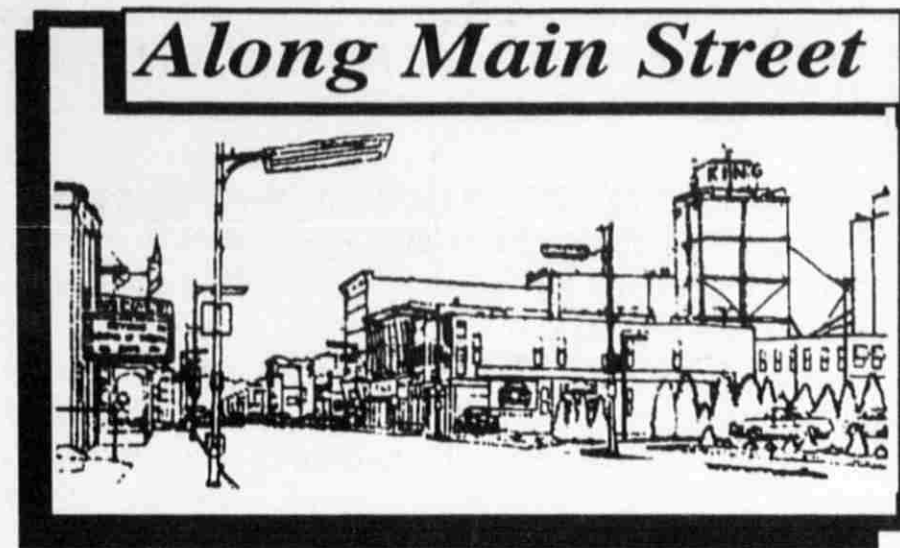
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LUMINARY WALK AT WITTENBACH CENTER
There will be a guided luminary walk on Saturday, Jan. 4 from 5-7 p.m. at the Wittenbach Center. Rent snowshoes! \$10 adults, \$5 kids. The HS Environmental Club will provide Christmas tree shredding from noon - 4 p.m. and there will be live music by Lowell Music Ensemble.

ATHLETIC BOOSTERS REGULAR MEETING
The Lowell Athletic Boosters meeting will be held on Monday, Jan. 6 at 7 p.m. in the staff lounge at the high school.

VOLUNTEER DOCENT TRAINING
The Lowell Area Historical Museum is conducting a Volunteer Docent Training on Tuesday, Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. at the museum (corner of Hudson and Main streets). If you are interested in learning more about Lowell area history while providing a much needed service, please call Judy Straub at 897-7688.

L.H.S. BAND CONCERT RESCHEDULED
The Lowell High School Bands Holiday Concert is rescheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. Admission is free; everyone is welcome to attend.

WINTER FAST PITCH CLINIC
The Lowell High School softball coaches will be holding a winter fast pitch pitching clinic at Riverside gym for girls interested in becoming a softball pitcher. Wednesdays: Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29 and Feb. 5, 12, 19. 6th graders and under report at 6 p.m.; 7-8 graders at 7 p.m. Clinic: \$25; applications at Lowell Middle School, Cherry Creek, Alto and Bushnell. Call Bob Rodenhouse at 897-4125 or 245-4596 for more information.

SNOWMOBILER TRAIL MAPS
The West Michigan Trail System is marked and ready to ride. The Trailhead is Deer Run Golf Course where maps are available as well as at other sites along the trail. For more information call Flat River Snowmobile Club at 897-5015.

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT JAN. 9 IN LPAC
The counseling staff at Lowell High School will have a financial aid night Thursday, Jan. 9 at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center for students planning to attend college next fall. Juniors, seniors and their parents are welcome.

FOODMOBILE COMING TO FAIRGROUNDS
The Foodmobile will be at the 4-H Fairgrounds, Foreman Building on S. Broadway on Saturday, Jan. 11 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. or until the food is gone. Bring your own box or bag. This food (mostly produce) is available to anyone. Distributed by Flat River Outreach Ministries.

The years teach much which the days never knew.
—Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Benefit, cont'd... From Page 1

with sun," Gilmore said. "Flat River Grill is also centrally located amidst other small towns. We're excited to be here in Lowell."
Flat River Grill, like other Gilmore Enterprise bistros, offers unique wood-fired feasts.
Nearly everything is made from scratch using fresh food and vegetables, and is cooked over burning wood. The grill also offers wines and specialty beers.
The new bistro is the 15th restaurant opened by Gilmore Enterprises. While there has been plenty of success, Gilmore says none of it has come without challenges.
"The number one reason for our success is the people working for us. Chris West will be our general manager in Lowell and she is just top notch," Gilmore said. "The fact she is a very familiar face in Lowell never crossed our mind in the selection process."

Changes may be in the offing for township ordinance

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor
Vergennes Township will begin the new year tackling changes to its home based business ordinance.
The changes will be discussed at the Vergennes Township Planning Commission's Jan. 6 meeting (7 p.m.).
The proposed changes will require a zoning compliance permit instead of a special use permit.
This will require that a resident sign a legal agreement stating they understand that if and when their business (home based, rental or home occupation) grows out of compliance, they must either move their business or downsize.
Rental storage application (for existing buildings) only applies to those living in an RA (Rural-Agricultural) district.
A public hearing will be held on the proposed changes on Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. The township's home-based business ordinance was first adopted in 1998.

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MADD of KENT COUNTY
146 MONROE CENTER N.W.
456-MADD

MADD Mission
"To stop drunk driving, support the victims of this violent crime and prevent underage drinking."

PUT THE BRAKES ON DRUNK DRIVING

Tie One On for Safety

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<p>ICNB Hometown Banking www.icnb.com 2602 W. Main 897-6171</p>	<p>HAROLD ZEIGLER FORD LOWELL 11979 E. Fulton, Lowell, MI 897-8431</p>	<p>Keiser's "A Family Tradition Since 1945" 724 E. MAIN LOWELL 897-8455</p>	<p>Fifth Third Bank 2230 West Main St. Lowell, MI 897-1800</p>	<p>Arctic, Inc. bryant LOWELL HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING 1301 Bowes Rd. • Lowell 897-4123</p>
<p>LOWELL POLICE DEPARTMENT 111 N. Monroe 897-7123</p>	<p>ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LOWELL 11610 E. Fulton 897-8484</p>	<p>JAMES E. REAGAN, D.D.S. 207 West Main 897-7179</p>	<p>Lowell Lanes 11550 E. Fulton, Lowell, MI 897-8443</p>	<p>Wittenbach OLDS PONTIAC GMC 749 West Main 897-9227</p>
<p>Thomet CHEVROLET • BUICK 1250 W. Main Lowell 897-9294</p>	<p>GERST FUNERAL HOMES Advanced Funeral Planning Specialists ROTH-GERST 305 N. Hudson, Lowell 897-7101 O'BRIEN-EGGEBEEN-GERST 3980 Cascade Rd., S.E., Grand Rapids 949-7350</p>	<p>SPEERSTRA INSURANCE 897-9259 Hastings Mutual Insurance Company We're only silent until you need us. 835 W. MAIN Dale & Nancy Triplett Agents</p>	<p>Showboat AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY, INC. Auto Value Parts Stores 1450 W. Main, Lowell, MI (616) 897-9231</p>	<p>STATE FARM INSURANCE Roger Chapman 217 West Main 897-9237</p>
<p>Bernard's ACE Hardware 1601 W. Main 897-9490</p>	<p>Little Caesars 505 W. Main 897-0043</p>	<p>DOCTORS CHIROPRACTIC 11827 E. FULTON 897-4999</p>	<p>LOWELL LITHO Lowell Ledger Buyers Guide "Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893" "Your Guide To Better Buying Since 1954" 105 N. Broadway 897-9261</p>	

OUTDOORS

By Dave Stegehuis



GILLMANIA

Last year was not, for me, a good year for ice fishing. The moderate temperatures last winter were not favorable for making solid ice. The water on some lakes finally froze solid enough to walk on, but I missed getting on them when the fish were biting. The hunger for a mess of fresh bluegills will motivate me to pay more attention to ice conditions and

fishing reports this year. I also plan to aggressively explore to locate unannounced hot-spots.

Early in the season when the first safe ice forms is a good time to fish gills. The fish generally feed aggressively at this time and are easier to find and catch. Later in the season the bite tends to slow down and one must work harder for a mess of gills. Keep your ears open and check with fishermen and bait shop proprietors to get tips on where the fish are biting. Driving around to different lakes and looking for groups of busy anglers can be an effective method for finding productive water. If none of the above work, you're on your own and will need to put in the time fishing spots that produced in the past or seek new locations and drill a lot of holes.

A short ultra light ice rod with a spring bobber, two to four pound-test monofilament line, an assortment of small #12 jigs in different colors, wax worms for bait, an ice auger, and a depth finder (a lead weight to clip onto the line) make up the required basic equipment. An electronic fish locator is helpful.

A friend has a Vexilar flasher and it works great. Wear plenty of warm clothes and you are in business.

Jig the bait at different depths. Most often gills hold just off the bottom, but will sometimes bite just below the ice or suspend in between. Sometimes fish will bite in one location and at other times it will be necessary to keep moving around to find fish.

If you catch some gills, the best part is yet to come. I prefer to fillet and scale the fish leaving the skin on. As soon as possible after catching the fish, roll them in flour and fry them quickly in hot sunflower oil. If you prefer baked or deep fried fish they will taste great cooked that way too. Bluegills are excellent table fare no matter how you fix them.

Pike, perch, and crappie (specks) could also be on the menu this time of the year, but that's another story. If you are not going to spend the winter in the Bahamas, catching and eating bluegills is a good way to spend a Michigan winter.

Health

With Drs. Paul Gauthier, Jim Lang, Wayne A. Christenson III & John G. Meier



KICKING THE HABIT

As we enter the New Year, many will make a New Year's resolution to quit smoking. If you are a smoker, quitting is the absolute best thing you can do for your health. Smoking causes cancer, heart disease, emphysema and increases your risk of stroke. Nicotine, which is present in tobacco, is the agent responsible for the physical addiction of smoking.

Quitting smoking is hard but thousands of people have been successful by using a number of different strategies. Pick a date and inform your family and friends of your decision. Joining a smoking cessation group through one of the local hospitals will give you support in your effort to quit.

Nicotine replacement therapy will help reduce the physical cravings for nicotine. Studies have shown that the various nicotine replacement products will increase your chances of successfully quitting. Nicotine gum can be used as needed when the smoker feels a craving for nicotine. Nicotine patches are worn throughout the day to keep a steady level of nicotine

in the body. Nicotine inhalers or nasal sprays are also available.

One of the most successful agents to help you quit is the medication Zyban. It is a prescription medication that affects certain chemicals in the brain to alleviate withdrawal symptoms. It is not a nicotine replacement drug and it can be used in combination with nicotine replacement systems. Usually

you take the medication for about a week prior to quitting. It is the most effective medication available for successful quitting. Even with use of this medication there is only about a 20 percent long-term quit rate.

If you are one of those who decided to quit this year, remember that it is the single most important thing you can do for your health. Good luck and best wishes in the New Year.

Red Arrow hockey team salvages one of three holiday games

The Christmas holiday season did not bring the cheer that the Red Arrow varsity hockey team had hoped for. The Lowell/Caledonia icers were dealt losses in two of the three games played during the holiday break.

Jackson High School ended a three-game winning streak for the Red Arrows by handing them an 8-4 loss at the Jackson Optimist Arena the Saturday before Christmas. In a very physical contest, the Red Arrows held their own through both the first and second periods with only a one-goal deficit separating the two teams going into the third period of play. Jackson scored quickly in the third; then a series of penalties left the Red Arrows short-handed for most of the remainder of the third

period allowing Jackson to build on their lead.

The Friday after Christmas Lowell hosted the Bay Area Thunder at Standard Federal Ice Center. An open net goal by Brandon John in the closing seconds sealed the 4-2 win for the Red Arrows. The Thunder struck first but Lowell quickly responded with Brandon John getting some assistance from his brother Josh to tie the game. The Red Arrows took a 2-1 lead when the John brothers reversed the scoring with Josh getting the goal and Brandon the assist. The game winner for the Red Arrows was scored by Brandon Gillikin late in the second with assists going to Josh Baker and Kraig Brown.

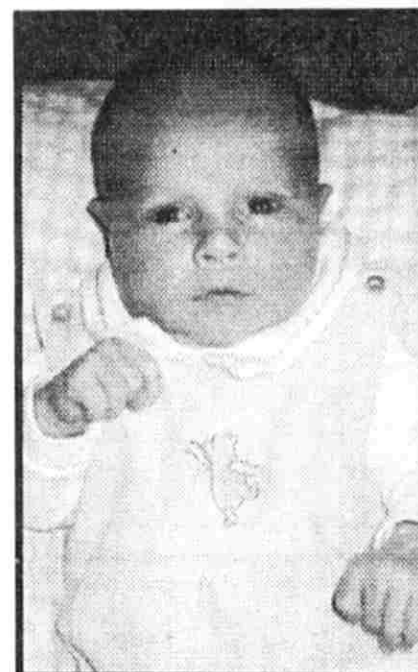
The following day Low-

ell traveled to Bay City to take on the Thunder at the Bay County Civic Center. In a reverse of the previous day, the Thunder scored an empty net goal in the waning moments of the game to defeat the Red Arrows 4-2. The Red Arrows chased the Thunder the entire game, trailing 2-0 at the end of the first and 3-1 at the end of the second. An unassisted goal by Brandon John in the second temporarily pulled the Red Arrows within one goal of the Thunder.

Eric Austin teamed with Chad Rau and Dustin Hofert to bring the Red Arrows within striking distance once again late in the third. With a little over a minute remaining, goaltender David Maylone skated to the bench and the ensuing six-man rush came within inches on two occasions of tying the game but the Thunder held on until they sealed the win with the empty netter.

The Red Arrows' record now stands at 4-4-1 and they are 1-0 in conference play. This week they will take on Union on Thursday, Jenison on Friday, and will travel to Holland on Saturday for their second conference game against West Ottawa.

AREA BIRTHS



Keegan Thomas Nugent

Tom and Kathy Nugent are proud to announce the birth of their second child, Keegan Thomas Nugent, born on November 16, 2002, at 5:34 a.m. He weighed 9 lbs. 6 oz. and measured 21 inches long. He is welcomed home by big brother Connor Ligouri.

Proud grandparents are Jim and Sharon McFall and Terry and Jean Nugent of Lowell. Great-grandparents are Paul and Eleanor Dintaman and Bonnie Jakeway. He is also welcomed home by aunts and uncles Renee Nugent, Sheila and Conan Burkhardt, Betsy and Mike Nugent and Kim and Russ Race, as well as cousins Tyler and Kristen Burkhardt, Steven Bouwman, Jacob and Nicole Nugent, and Logan, Garrett, Holly and Breyden Race.

When love speaks, the voice of all the gods make heaven drowsy with the harmony.

—William Shakespeare, Love's Labor's Lost

School Menus

Week of 1/6 - 1/10

ELEMENTARY

MON: Chicken nuggets or chili, bread slice, pineapple tidbits, garden salad.

TUES: Pancake dippers or assorted cereal, scrambled eggs, juice choice, later tots.

WED: Italian dunkers with meat sauce or Crispito and roll, cheese stick, sweet peas, cling peaches.

THURS: Taco in crunchy shell w/ lettuce and cheese or pork RibBQ on bun, fresh fruit choice, baked beans, homemade cookie.

FRI: Cheesey pizza or soft shell chicken taco, pasta salad, pears, carrots & celery.

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE

All meetings are held at the Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Dr., at 7:00 pm. For further information, phone 897-5671, or for a calendar of these and other events visit the township web site at www.vergennestwp.org.

THE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2003 ARE SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS:

January 20	July 21
February 17	August 18
March 10	September 15
April 21	October 20
May 19	November 17
June 16	December 15

THE PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS FOR 2003 ARE SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS:

January 6	July 7
February 3	August 4
March 3	September 8
March 31	October 6
May 5	November 3
June 2	December 1

The Zoning Board of Appeals meet as required or requested.

Mari Stone,
Vergennes Township Clerk

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

Notice of Adoption Ordinances 2002-16 and -17

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at a public meeting held on December 16, 2002, the Vergennes Township Board adopted Ordinances 2002-16 and -17, amendments to the Vergennes Township Zoning Ordinance. A summary of the text amendments follows:

Ordinance 2002-16

Section 201.3075 "R-L" Lake Residential - Chapter 3/Article III Zoning Districts

The amendments add clarification provisions for lots not served by public sewer to meet lot size, width and setbacks equivalent to the R-1 District (1 acre, 165' lot width).

Ordinance 2002-17

Section 201.309 Industrial District - Chapter 3/Article III Zoning Districts

The amendments add lighting standards for the Industrial District that mirror current standards of the Commercial District, with the purpose being to keep lighting at a minimum and within each development site.

The complete text of the adopted ordinance amendments can be reviewed at the Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 - Phone: (616) 897-5671. They will also be posted to the township web site at www.vergennestwp.org.

Mari Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk

Red Arrow grapplers stumble to Tri County; third at Grandville

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

History bares this out... Lowell has not enjoyed much success at the Tate and Marge Frederick Invitational in Grandville.

It repeated itself again on Saturday as the Red Arrow wrestling team placed third in the 10-team field.

Lowell lost its opening match of the tournament to Tri County for a second consecutive year. This time the Vikings upset the defending Division II state champion 34-32.

"It's always something. Something always seems to go wrong here and at Lake-wood," said Lowell wrestling coach, Dave Strejc in explaining his club's difficulties.

Some of that can be attributed to not yet being able to field his projected starting lineup. However, that same

point could also be said of Grandville and Tri County.

Strejc is now focused on getting his full squad on the mat by the end of January, beginning of February.

"I'd like to have the full squad on the mat for the Gary Rivers Memorial Tournament," Strejc explained. "If not that, then definitely Lake-wood."

Minus its 103 pounder, Tri County found a way to

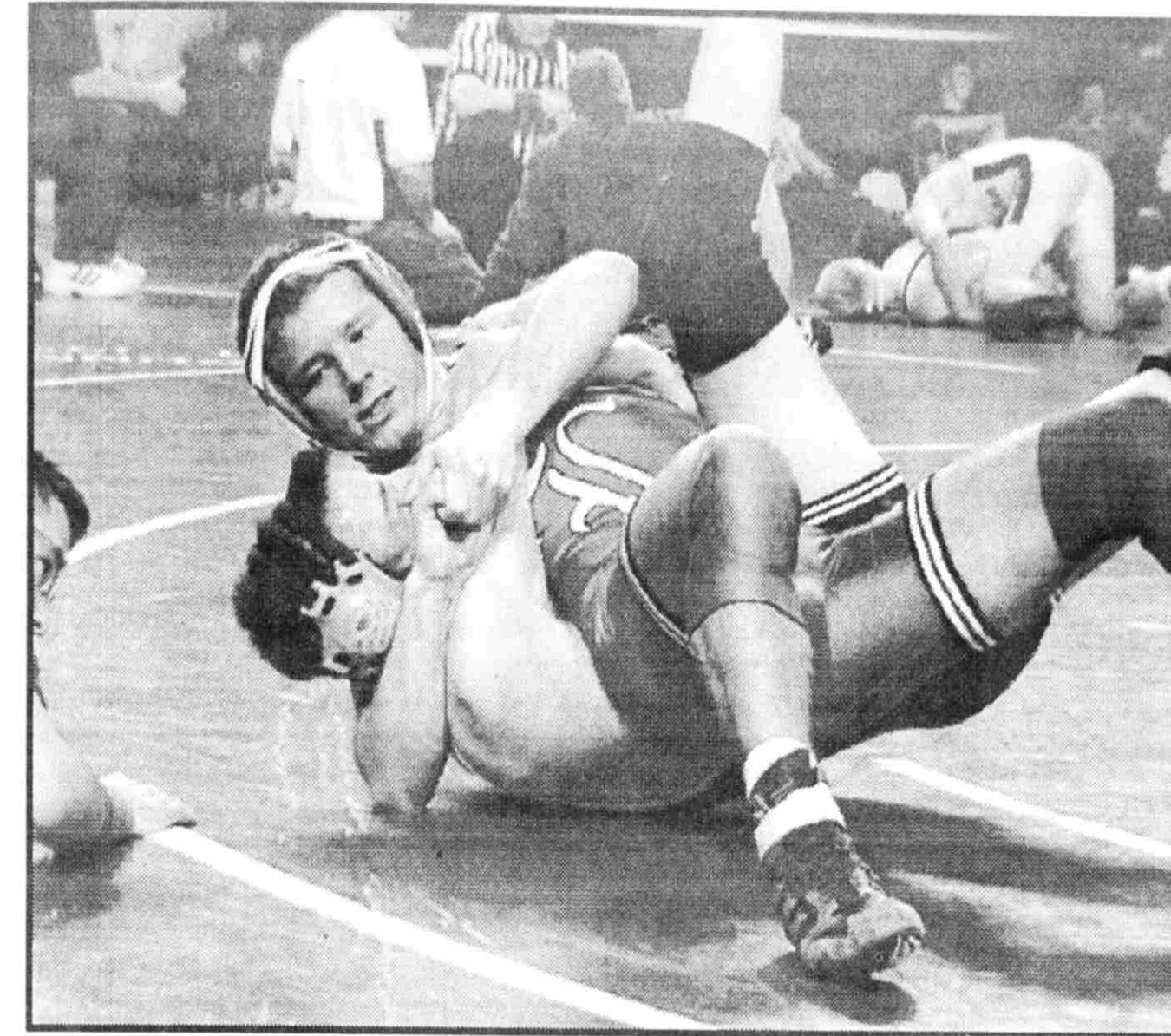
battle out a victory against Lowell.

"That was a huge win. Anytime you can beat Low-

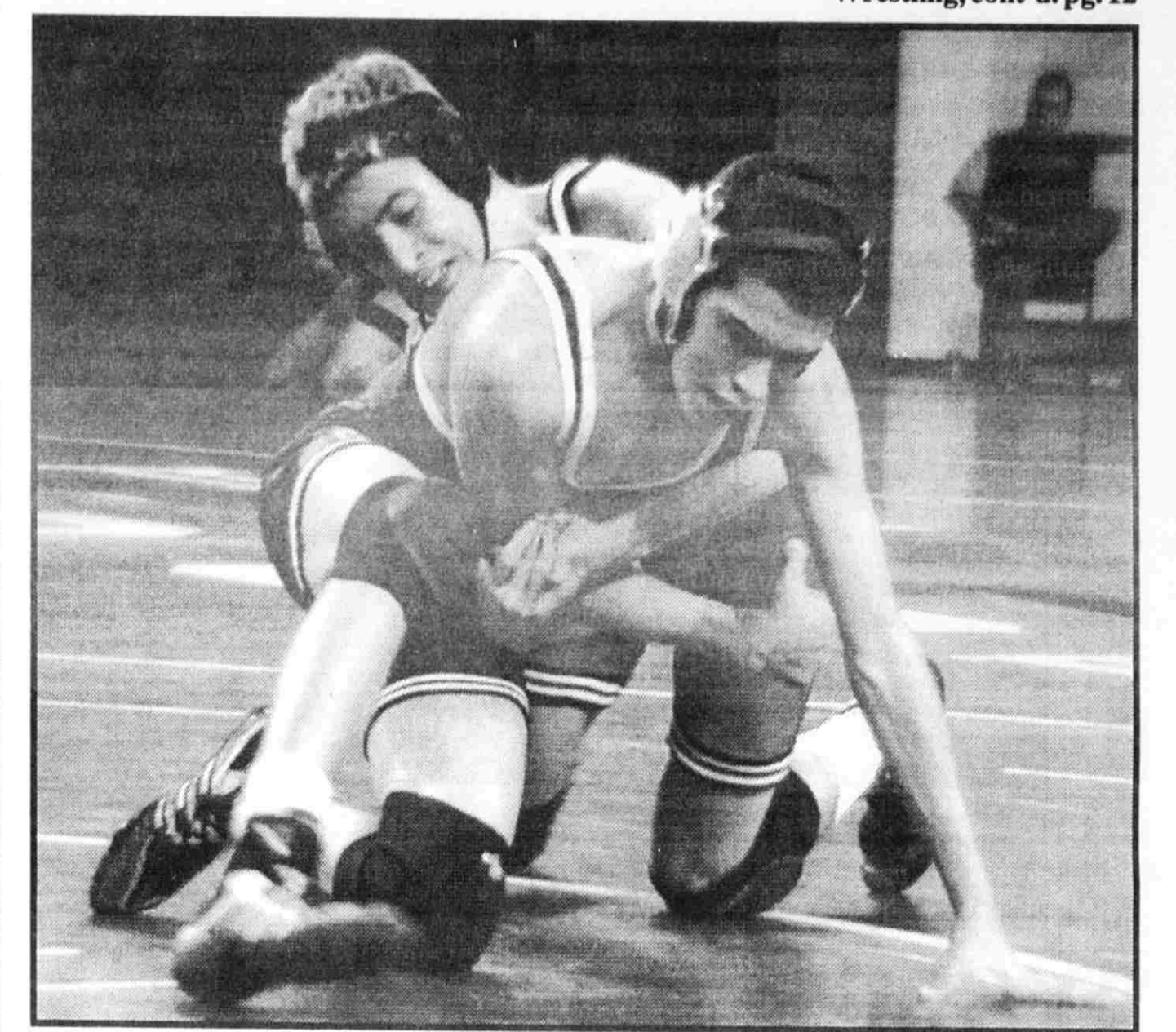
ell, it's big," said Tri County coach, Mike VanderHyde. "We beat them here last year. We wrestled really well in

that match today." Tri County won eight of the 14 matches, including a

Wrestling, cont'd pg. 12



Beau Wilder needed all of 52 seconds to pin his Jenison challenger.



David Kropf recorded a 9-1 major decision in Lowell's 50-22 win over Jenison.

FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE THROW TOURNAMENT

ALL BOYS & GIRLS AGES 10 THRU 14

are invited to participate in the 2003 St. Mary's Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. Participation is free.

Winners at each age level receive trophies and the opportunity to move on to the district competition.

The Knights of Columbus is an international Catholic family fraternal service organization with more than 1.6 million members. Last year, Knights donated over 57 million volunteer hours and \$116 million to charitable causes to benefit their church, councils, communities, families and youth.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2003
7:00 P.M. AT CHERRY CREEK ELEMENTARY
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Conference provides FFA members agricultural career information

•• More than 180 members from across the state attend careers and leadership conference.

FFA members, as part of more than 180 FFA members from across the state, received in-depth leadership training and learned specific skills necessary within careers in agriculture and natural resources. Dec. 12-13, in Mt. Pleasant. The Michigan Farm Bureau sponsored the Ag Career and Leadership Conference where 37 FFA chapters attended.

"This conference is a great way for FFA members to learn more about agricultural careers," said Matt Smego, manager of the Young Farmer Department at Michigan Farm Bureau and conference coordinator. "Members got to hear firsthand from college students, advisors and professors

as to what to work on when looking for a career in agriculture." Vic Vercherou, a Farm Bureau Insurance agency manager and past state FFA president, kicked off the conference with inspirational stories and a message that each individual can achieve great things. The members then

heard from a panel of agricultural professionals who answered questions about their careers and how they got into their individual professions. Students also had a chance to hear from peers in the state Discussion Meet finals, as a panel of six FFA members discussed issues facing agriculture and natural resources. Specific topics included the future of biotechnology and how agriculture can be - and continues to be - a profitable industry that encourages producers to remain on the farm.

"The students had a great time and got to meet a lot of new people while learning about agriculture and natural resources professions," Smego said.



Katie Clements represented the Lowell FFA at the Ag Career and Leadership Conference in December.

Financial Focus



Edward Jones
Serving Individual Investors Since 1871

With Christopher C. Godbold

KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT FROM BONDS

When the stock market is going through rough times, many investors "rediscover" bonds. After all, the thinking goes, bonds are fixed-rate investments, so they must be more secure than stocks. And even if a bond's rate isn't particularly high right now, at least it's predictable. But are bonds really that solid and stable? Yes - and no.

Let's look at the "yes" side first. When you invest in bonds, you will receive a

regular stream of interest payments. And if you hold the bond until it matures, you will get the full value of your principal back, provided the issuer doesn't default. And there's not even much chance of that, as long as you purchase a government bond or a high-quality "investment-grade" bond.

So far, it looks like bonds do indeed offer the stability you seek. But now, let's look at what happens if you don't hold your bonds until maturity. To begin with, keep in

mind that bond prices rise and fall all the time. For example, if you have a bond that pays five percent interest, and market rates rise to six percent, then no one will want to buy your bond at full value, so, if you want to sell it, you'll have to offer it at a lower price. Conversely, if market rates fall to four percent, then your five-percent bond will look pretty good to other investors, so they'll pay you a premium over and above the face value.

Consequently, if you buy a bond with the intention of selling it before it matures, you need to be prepared for the ups and downs of the bond market. In that case, as a true investment, rather than just a source of income, bonds may not be quite as "stable" and "solid" as you might expect.

The only way you can be sure that you won't lose any principal on your bond is to

hold it until maturity. One way to do that is to match a bond's maturity with your needs. If you think you'll need proceeds from a bond in five years to help pay for a child's college education, you won't want to buy a 10-year bond. In five years, interest rates could have risen higher than what your 10-year bond is paying - so, if you want to sell it, you'd have to take a loss. But if you bought a five-year government bond, or a high-quality corporate or municipal bond, you can be reasonably certain of having the money you need in time for college.

It's so important to be aware of a couple of the characteristics of bonds. First, bonds with longer maturities

usually - but not always - pay higher interest rates than shorter-term bonds. And second, long-term bonds carry a higher degree of interest-rate risk. In other words, the longer you hold your bonds, the more susceptible you are to interest rate fluctuations and their impact on bond prices. You'll also need to be cognizant of the fact that your bond may be "called" at any time. Bond issuers may pay off principal early - or "call" their bonds - when interest rates have fallen. They can then reissue bonds at a lower rate. Some bonds, however, can't be paid off early, so, before buying a bond, find out if it offers this type of "call protection."

Since you usually don't

know exactly when you might need to sell a bond, a good long-term strategy would be to build a "bond ladder" containing bonds of varying maturities. Bond ladders also offer a degree of income protection: When market rates are low, you'll always have some higher-rate long bonds, and when market rates are high, you'll have short-term bonds coming due to reinvest. Bonds may not be the perfect safe and sound haven you seek from the stormy stock market, but they still offer good diversification benefits. In addition, if you take a long-term perspective, ladder bond maturities bonds can offer you smoother sailing.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JAN. 4: -Donna Johnson, Nicholas Knonenwetter.
JAN. 5: Ryan Sauber, Craig Carpenter, Pauline LaDue, Genie Southwick.
JAN. 6: Don Green, Mary Ellen Miller, Bob Kinsley, Lloyd Callihan.
Bobbi Jo Young, Terri Stuckey.
JAN. 7: Lois Seese, Gordie Barry, Helga Wester, Bob Leyman, Karen Cummings, Peggy Covert.

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\$50.00-\$99.99	SAVE \$10.00	\$200.00 OR MORE	SAVE \$25.00

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Wed. 7:30 - 7:00

Are You Missing A Picture??

Maybe It's At The Buyers Guide/Ledger Office

Also in order to keep pictures from piling up in the future, we are implementing a new policy. Anyone wanting their photographs returned after they have appeared in the Buyers Guide or Ledger must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope or pick up the photo within 60 days of publication. After 60 days, photos will be discarded.

Happy 2003! CLASSIFIEDS

SERVICES	SERVICES	FOR SALE	FOR SALE	HELP WANTED	FOR RENT
DOG & CAT GROOMING - Sr. Discounts & Grooming Plans Available. Evening & Saturday Appointments Available. 10 minutes north of Lowell. 616-794-9614.	GRANT PROGRAMS AMERIDREAM, HART, NEHEMIAH - 3 nonprofits will gift up to 7% to purchase your next home. No income restrictions. Call Michelle at CTX (616) 464-1348/(800) 282-0325, ext. 313 for more info. CTX is an Equal Housing Opportunity Lender.	PILLOWTOP MATTRESS SET - Plush top, firm in middle, queens \$175 & Kings \$275. Still in plastic, cost \$800. Call 517-719-8062.)	BELLAMY ACRES - West of Ionia. Plat on corner of Bellamy Rd & Bradford, Ionia. We have 1 parcel left. 4.28 acre parcel. Perked. Located on new road in plat, Enterprise Dr., Lot K. For further information call Phil, 616-367-4900.	DATA ENTRY INTERVIEWER - immediate openings. You must be able to read and communicate clearly. Typing skills required. Must work a weekend day each weekend. \$8.00 an hour. Apply in person, starting on January 6 at Barnes Research, 4920 Plainfield NE, Grand Rapids. We are located between 5 Mile Rd. and East Beltline/Northland Dr.	FOR RENT - 1 & 2 bedroom trailers \$1,000 - \$1,050 to move in. No dogs please. \$400 - \$420 per mo. plus 1 1/2 mo. rent deposit. Call 813-8041 or 616-754-0276.

TOWING - Servicing Lowell & surrounding areas. Flat bed & wrecker, Tire changes, Jump starts, Lock outs, 24 Hr. service. Call Lincoln Lake Autos 446-5909.	BRENDA B'S LICENSED CHRISTIAN DAY CARE - has full- or part-time openings. Food program. Please call 987-9351.	QUEEN LOG BED - Amish made, new mattress set. Cost \$1,000, sell \$185. Call 517-626-7089.	HOUSE FOR SALE - near Saranac on Bluewater Hwy. Like new on 3 wooded acres, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2-stall garage, large kitchen & utility room. Includes all appliances: stove, refrigerator, dish washer, washer/dryer & air cond. Over 1300 sq. ft. 100% financing. \$690/month. Only \$109,900. Call Herb 897-1438 ext. 2.	\$500.00/WEEK CUSTOMER SERVICE - We Want You! Quality for \$1,000.00 January Bonus. Join a great company and start a new job. No experience required, hiring immediately. We offer: Flexible hours, paid weekly, performance reviews, clean work environment, paid vacations. For one on one interview call 616-243-9132 between 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	WANTED
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PAYROLL & BOOKKEEPING SERVICE - by certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-0686.	JOHN DEBIAK HORSESHOEING & HOOF TRIMMING - Serving the Greater Kent/Ionia County area with 15 years of professional, full-time experience. Call 897-4290.	BERBER CARPET - Gorgeous honey oatmeal, 50 yards, still on roll (bought, never used), new \$600, sell \$225. 517-209-0600.	KEY HEIGHTS - 1995 Redman, 28x56, 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Sale priced \$27,999. Great condition. Call North Harbor Homes, 1-800-824-9811.	WANTED TO BUY - Land, 1-80 acres, w/shed, barn or other outbuildings. 446-8240.
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SNOW REMOVAL - Driveways, roofs, sidewalks, etc. Reasonable rates. Call Uhen Construction 299-1249.	RESIDENTIAL PLUMBER - Service or new construction, reasonable rates. Call 897-2575.	MATTRESS PRICES REDUCED! - Queen, full, twin, (brand new), \$37 each, frames \$20. Dennis Distributing, 989-224-4822.	'96 DODGE CLUB CAB PICK-UP - 2wd, with matching cap, 100,000 miles. Mint, loaded, \$7,995 obo. Call 897-6577.	HELP WANTED - Fun and enthusiastic people needed to fill part-time positions at the Lowell YMCA Child Development Center. Positions available include cook and teacher aides. Wages based on education and experience. Apply in person at: YMCA Child Dev. Center 404 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331.
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CLEANING BY KAREN - Too busy? Too tired? No problem! Residential & commercial cleaning. Insured & bonded. 897-4010.	FREE GRANTS - Never Repay, Acceptance Guaranteed. Government and private sources. \$500.00-\$500,000.00. Education, Home Repairs, Home Purchase, Business. Live Operators 8 a.m.-11 p.m. Monday-Saturday. 1-800-339-2817 Extension #48.	MAPLE BUNK BEDS - 10 sets only. Can be separated, come with mattresses. \$79 till gone. Dennis Distributing, 989-224-4822.	'99 FORD WINDSTAR - 45,000 miles, quad seats and doors, loaded. \$8,995 obo. Call 897-6577.	CARD OF THANKS - We would like to thank the Lowell division of the Rockford Ambulance service, Deputy Cook and all the others who responded promptly to our call for help on Nov. 15 for our dear husband and father, Warren Cattanch. We appreciate everything you tried to do for him. Our thanks also goes out to all of our friends and co-workers who attended the visitation or funeral. May God bless you all. Rose, Rachel, Shawn and Becky Cattanch
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BED & BREAKFAST - McGee Homestead, Gracious accommodations for your out-of-town guests. Gift certificates available. Call 897-8142 or www.iserv.net/~mcggeb.	THINKING ABOUT REMODELING? - Adding an addition or fixing that old roof? We also do siding, windows, kitchens & baths, ceramic tile, pole barns, decks, concrete, water-scapes & much more. Call the experts - JLS Contracting, Inc. Licensed & Insured. One call does it all. Call Gary 299-6989.	WASHER, DRYER, REFRIGERATOR, FREEZER - serviced, warranteed (Whirlpool), \$67 each. Dennis Distributing, 989-224-4822.	"1ST \$1,000 DOWN TAKES IT!" 3-4 bedroom, 2 bath, immediate occupancy, country setting, must sell by Jan. 20th. No-body refused. 1-800-615-1224.	EVENTS
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Happy New Year!

The Ledger Thanks You For Your Past Support And We Look Forward To Serving You In The Future.

Lowell YMCA • 1335 W. Main • 616-897-8445

Next To Mancinos

Welcome to the **YMCA**...
...a place where you belong.

KEEP YOUR RESOLUTION & JOIN THE FITNESS REVOLUTION

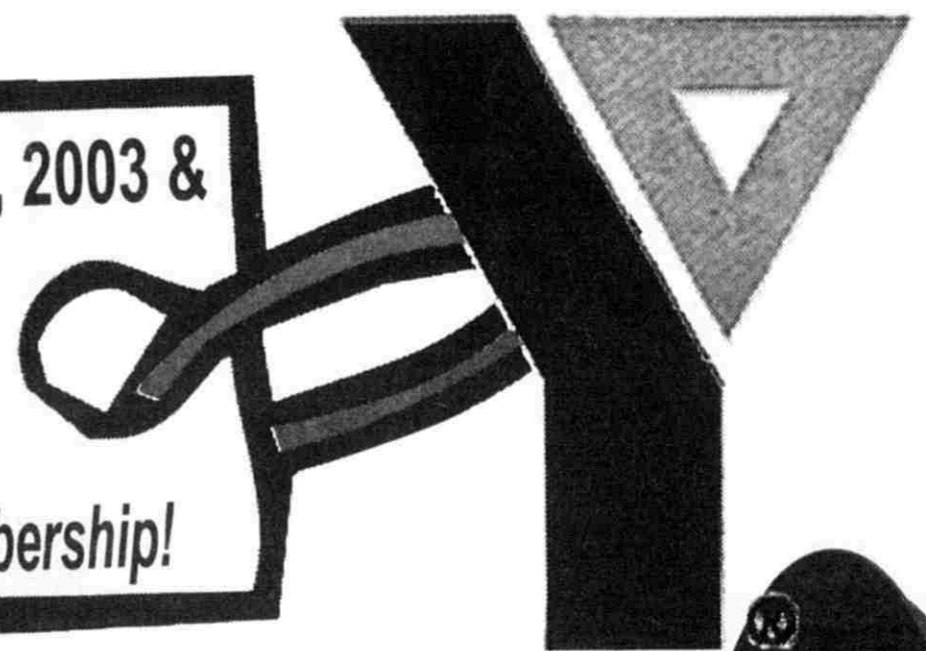
Join The Lowell
YMCA And Be
Healthy In Spirit,
Mind & Body.

**Financial assistance is available
to those who qualify.*

JOIN BEFORE JANUARY 31, 2003 &

SAVE \$50

On An Adult, Family,
Senior Or Senior Couples Membership!



Y fitness for living

FREE FOR MEMBERS!

Fitness for Living is a program that will enhance your capacity to become active, stay active, and become healthier in spirit, mind and body. It is designed for any fitness level and is based on the review of a lifestyle interview you will take with a YMCA fitness coach. You and your fitness coach will review the results of a lifestyle interview and choose which of the following Fitness for Living program levels you should participate in.

All Fitness for Living programs are for members only and include orientations on the exercise equipment.

12 WEEK PERSONAL FITNESS PLAN This new program is designed for the beginning exerciser or the person who has been inactive for a lengthy period of time. You will receive a personalized approach to fitness that meets your goals, needs and schedule.

- One-on-one consultations with your Fitness Coach to create and monitor your customized exercise program.
- Qualified fitness staff available in our fitness centers to offer personal attention, answer questions and monitor your progress.
- Plenty of comfortable user-friendly equipment available in a welcoming environment.
- Educational information is readily available in the areas of nutrition, diet, stress management and behavior modification through qualified experts.

6 WEEKS TO A BETTER YOU This program is designed for the member that has been exercising in the past and has a good general Personal Fitness Plan and follows the same philosophy and protocol.

- New - 30 Minute Women's Only Classes start January 14th
- New - Lunch & Learn: The 2nd & 4th Wednesday every month from 12:00 - 1:00
- "Get Real" Weight Management Program!

**NEW
KARATE
CLASSES
STARTING
IN
JANUARY.**
Call the Y
for more
details.

What we have to offer:

- ★ 18 different Cybex resistance-training machines
- ★ Variety of cardiovascular equipment
- ★ Free weights
- ★ Aerobics for all levels
- ★ Men's & Women's locker rooms
- ★ Kids Corner - Child Care
- ★ Teen Center
- ★ Friendly, knowledgeable staff
- ★ Pleasant workout environment

TEEN CENTER:

- ★ Rock climbing wall
- ★ Pool and air hockey tables
- ★ Computer Center
- ★ Mini-Basketball Court
- ★ Ping Pong Table
- ★ Big Screen TV & Video Games

Teens in Grades 6-8 come in for a 1-week trial membership at the Teen Center. Planned activities everyday - including art and guitar lessons, tournaments, games and movie days. Come hang out with your friends!

YMCA Mission
To put Christian principles into
practice through programs that build
healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

**Bring This
Coupon In for a
1 WEEK FREE
TRIAL
MEMBERSHIP!**

EXPIRES 1-31-03



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