

The Lowell Ledger

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Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, February 19, 2003



George Hommowun is the new Lowell Performing Arts Center director for Lowell Area Schools.

Hommowun settles into new role

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

His introduction to the Lowell Performing Arts Center came ahead of schedule.

George Hommowun received a call a little less than a week before he was officially to begin his new job as director of the Lowell Performing Arts Center.

Lowell Area Arts Council's production of "The Glass Menagerie" was three days from opening and there was no technical director... therefore a call to Hommowun went out.

Hommowun commuted three days from the Detroit area so he could assist LAAC's Thebes Players in the production.

"Things went surprisingly well considering George had four days to prepare," said play director, Patrick Hobbs. "He came in and took charge, and made the changes that were needed."

A hurried, more frantic pace is nothing new to Hommowun. For the past 15 years he served as the assistant technical director and then as the technical director for the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts just outside of Detroit.

He was involved in the production of approximately 500 shows a year. Last year, the Lowell Performing Arts Center assisted in the production of 160 shows.

"I look forward to a more relaxed atmosphere," Hommowun explained. "This should be fun."

There is another difference. The American University graduate goes from working with college students to working with high school students.

"Now I get the students one step sooner with a chance to teach and prepare them before they go to college," Hommowun said.

LPAC Director, cont'd. pg. 8

Lowell School District begins preparing for huge cuts in 2003-04

By Thaddeus J. Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor

Valentine's Day came and went, and the executive cuts ordered by Gov. Jennifer Granholm remained.

For the Lowell School District, it meant a cut of \$261,000 in the 2002-03 budget. That's in addition to an amended budget which indicated the district was already carrying a \$314,000 deficit.

The \$314,000 figure will likely change, based on early retirement, utilities, gas prices and the weather. "Right now, it's not looking real good," said Connie Gillette, Lowell assistant superintendent to finance and personnel.

"The goal will be to do everything we possibly can not to lay off staff," Gillette said.

Gillette and other school administrators had already begun compiling a list of possible cuts with dollar amounts attached when Gillette received word on Monday that there's a possibility legislators will change the way funding cuts were calculated when determining the governor's executive cuts.

All that will seem easy compared to the cuts which will be needed for the 2003-04 school year.

Gillette estimated that anywhere from \$2-\$3 million in cuts will be necessary next year.

Between now and then, though, Gillette and administrators will be meeting with community and parent groups to garner as much information from the public as possible.

The first meeting is scheduled for March 4 at Alto Elementary at 7 p.m.

Other scheduled budget input meetings with parents throughout the district are Bushnell Elementary, Thursday, March 6, 7 p.m.; Lowell Middle School, Tuesday, March 11, 7 p.m.; Lowell High School/Unity, Thursday, March 20, 6:30 p.m.; and Cherry Creek Elementary, Thursday, March 27, 7 p.m.

"We'll be looking at ways to stretch the dollar and new ways to do things," Gillette said. "We'll take this as an opportunity to look closely at how we can improve the way we do things."

While the timing for the opening of two new buildings may not seem feasible, increasing student enrollment makes it necessary.

The addition to the high school is scheduled for fall of 2003 and a new elementary building is slated to open in the fall of 2004.

"There is a need for space based on enrollment projections," Gillette said. "Our revenue is driven by the number of students enrolled in Lowell Schools."

The district's fund balance is \$3.7 million - a small percent is actual cash. Much of it is money owed to it by the

Lowell School District Cuts, cont'd. Page 8

Grant to help "Y" address needs of Middle School kids

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

The result will be expansion of YMCA teen programs and outreach to middle school students.

Harold Englehardt's Lowell Area Community Fund grant of \$150,000 (\$50,000 per year for three years) to the Lowell YMCA will offer safe, structured year-round activities that provide teens with the tools and experience to become pro-

ductive members of the community through teen leadership training, service learning, character development, and health education programs.

Lowell YMCA executive director, Will Welsh says three primary areas will be the focus: leadership and service learning (e.g., Leaders Club academy and counselor-in-training); educational and life skills (e.g., partnership with arts council, mentoring and

tutoring) and health, safety and well-being (e.g., health academy, intramural team sports).

"This grant will allow us to address program and recreational needs for middle school kids," Welsh said. "Furthermore, it gives us leverage to pursue other grants."

The YMCA grant, one of five totaling \$186,770, was recommended by the Lowell Area Community Fund Advisory Committee and ap-

proved by the Grand Rapids Community Foundation board of trustees.

Other grants will be used to help purchase a new ambulance, provide Lowell and urban youth opportunities to spend time together, provide summer concert series, and offer community tennis instruction.

• Rockford Ambulance will receive \$20,000 toward

YMCA Grant, cont'd. pg. 8

Inside

The Lowell Ledger

Ethics and Diversity
Workshop,
Page 7

OBITUARIES

DALSTRA - Willahelmina "Minnie" Dalstra, aged 87, of Lowell, passed away Friday, February 14, 2003. She was preceded in death by her husband Gerritt and son Gerald. Mrs. Dalstra is survived by her children Judith (Robert) Ellison of Lowell, Linda Glaske of Rockford, Laura

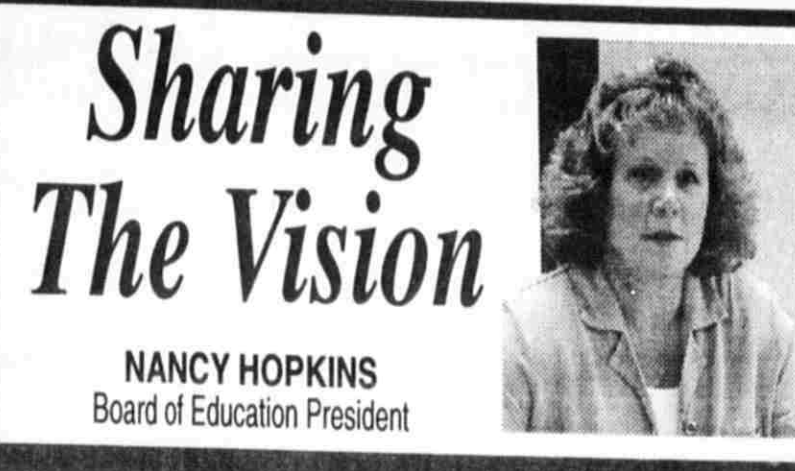
(Art) Low of Wyoming, Peggy McCaul of Lowell; sisters Francis Dunn of Grand Rapids, Gertrude (Gene) Huizing of Grand Rapids; sister-in-law Ada Heemstra of Ada; nine grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held Monday

at First United Methodist Church of Lowell, Rev. Gordie Barry and Rev. George Coons officiating. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Peter and Pat Cook Hospice, Library for the Blind - Kent County Library System.

PLESCHER - Mr. Harold J. Plescher, aged 77, went home to be with his Lord on Wednesday, February 12, 2003 at his home. Mr. Plescher was a retiree of GR Alloys where he

had worked for 18 years, and a member of VFW Post #3946 in Rockford. He attended Alpine Immanuel Baptist Church. During W.W. II he served his country in the U.S. Navy. Preceding him in death were his wife Barbara on October 16, 2000, daughter-in-law Tina, and brother Fred. Mr. Plescher is survived by his children Dan and Eileen Plescher of Calumet, Tom Plescher of Newberg, OR, Chris and Leslie Plescher of Lowell and Jill and Joe Leale

of Madison, WI; grandchildren Kelly Plescher, Nathan Plescher, Jacob Leale, Sarah Leale, Lindsey Plescher, Brittany Plescher and Tawnya; brothers and sisters George Plescher of Gernada, Don and Doris Plescher of Belmont, Mrs. Marjorie Heykoop of White Cloud and Joan and Ron Linticum of Springfield, VA; sisters-in-law Mrs. Beatrice Dykstra of Sparta and Mrs. Mildred Plescher of Rockford; brother-in-law Oscar Sunde of Blooming Prairie, MN; nieces and nephews. A memorial service will be Friday, Feb. 21 at 1 p.m. at Alpine Immanuel Baptist Church, 7 Mile Rd. with Pastor Doug Compton officiating. Inurnment in Englishville Cemetery. Military honors under the auspices of the Kent County Veterans Honor Guard. Those desiring an expression of sympathy may consider Hospice of Greater Grand Rapids, 1260 Ekhar NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.



Sharing The Vision
NANCY HOPKINS
Board of Education President

It would be easy in the face of the blunt financial realities facing public education in Michigan to lose sight of its many and on-going success stories. I would suggest that now more than ever is the time to concentrate on these success stories. By doing so we supply continued incentives for quality educational improvement, increased parental and community involvement, shared respect and the examination of how public education benefits all students.

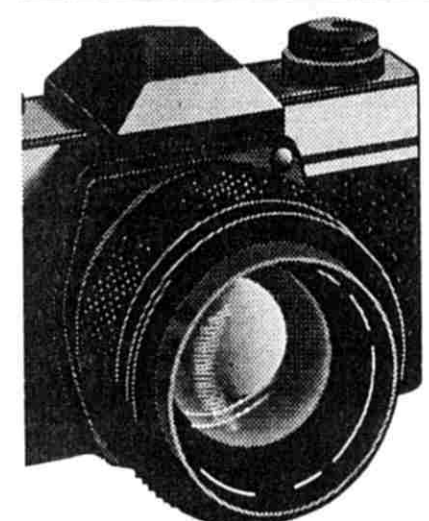
In our own district, success stories happen every day. Here is a short list. *A partnership being formed with Michigan State University focusing on K-12 literacy in the special education classroom. *Cherry Creek's annual school carnival reflects the dedication of parents and community. *A curriculum geared for all students, and our gifted and talented program (WINGS) that challenges and supports high-achieving students. *Students who through commitment and hard work, excel in academics, athletics and other extracurricular activities. *Teachers who share strategies and tools that benefit individual student learning needs. *And, the district's future guided by school improvement, a process that ensures LAS is continually looking at ways to better serve students and parents.

Clearly, we must continue to identify and effectively deal with the issues that impact our district. Both in the short and long term, balancing limited financial resources with student, employee and community needs can provide the framework for larger, more divisive issues.

Our success as a school community will continue. It will require trust and commitment from all of us - parents, teachers, staff, administrators and community members. It is up to all of us to maintain Lowell Area Schools' credibility by doing what is right for our students. In this way the success stories will continue - and there will be many of them

Don't dress a simple idea in complicated language.
—Edwin Newman

Attention All Coaches, Proud Parents, Athletes & Others Who Wish To Submit Photos In The Ledger...



It is important that the subject's face not be shaded in order to print your photo clearly in the paper.
All group pictures should be taken WITHOUT caps, visors, etc.
Photos will no longer be accepted if faces are too dark.

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Middle School academic track, March 19

Lowell Middle School will compete against Caledonia Middle School in Academic Track on March 19 in Caledonia.

Academic Track is a vehicle for competition, offering students an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge in a wide variety of academic subjects, drawing, and vocal, drama and instrumental performance.

Competitions take place throughout Michigan during March. Students may compete in three events, and events are limited to three or four students from each school. Academic subjects are scored with timed written tests taken on the day of the meet and performance and art events are judged while test results are being tallied.

Last year over 80 LMS seventh and eighth graders and a similar number of students from other schools joined together

to test their knowledge in the subject areas of math, biology, music history, trivia, word-o-clock, geography, physical and earth science, ancient history, spelling, speech and theater, and communication art. Art students had 40 minutes to complete drawings in either black and white or dry color media. Following a light dinner for the competitors, all students and an audience comprised of parents, grandparents, community members and invited judges gathered in the gym for performance events of interpretive reading, dramatic reading, vocal solos, quartet, trio, instrumental and keyboard solos and the instrumental group (jazz band).

A dress rehearsal will be held on March 10 at 5 p.m. in the LMS cafeteria. It is open to the public.

Overpopulation: A "pet" peeve for KAN

Every year, four to five million companion animals are euthanized in the U.S. because there are not enough homes for them. Concerned

with this trend, KAN, the Kent Animal Network, is sponsoring Spay Days, a month-long program to promote pet sterilization.

KAN is encouraging pet owners to have their pet(s) spayed or neutered during Spay Days, Feb. 14 - March 14. Anyone having their pet sterilized during this time will receive a Spay Days Thank You Pack that includes \$45 in gift certificates. Plus, each participant will be registered to win one of six \$50 cash prizes.

To qualify, pet owners simply need to present or mail the certificate of spay or neuter (performed during Spay Days) to the Kent County Humane Society or C-SNIP.

Through neutering, pet owners will help their dog or cat live a happier, healthier and longer life. And if you have more than one pet in your household, all the pets will get along better if they are neutered.

Animal sterilization is a safe and simple procedure that is performed by most veterinarians. If you need financial assistance, some veterinarians may be able to work out special financing options or you may be eligible for a low cost procedure from C-SNIP or the Humane Society of Kent County.

KAN, a coalition of C-SNIP (Community Spay/Neuter Initiative Partnership), the Humane Society of Kent County, the Kent County Animal Shelter, and Vicky's Pet Connection, is committed to the reduction and eventual elimination of pet euthanasia. For more information call C-SNIP at 364-1633 or the Humane Society of Kent County at 453-8900.

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Congratulations to our January Winner, Joni Robinson!

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CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Lowell Planning Commission-Citizen Advisory Committee will conduct a public hearing at their regularly scheduled meeting of Monday, February 24, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at the Englehardt Public Library Community Room, 200 N. Monroe Street, Lowell, Michigan for the purpose of receiving comments from the public on the following:

- To review the preliminary and final site plan for the Highland Hills Planned Unit Development.

Interested persons may submit written comments to Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street prior to the meeting or appear in person at Englehardt Public Library.

Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk
616-897-8457



CITY OF LOWELL NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF REVIEW

The Lowell City Board of Review will meet to receive and review the various Assessment Rolls for 2003 at City Hall on:

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2003 AT 9:00 A.M.

A second meeting, for the purpose of hearing appeals and a continuation thereof, will be held at City Hall on:


WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2003 FROM 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M., AND 1:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. AND 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M., if necessary

Appeals may be made by letter or on forms available at City Hall. Letters and/or forms must be submitted not later than March 7, 2003. A personal appearance is not required.

The following ratios and multipliers are expected for Real and Personal Property assessments:

Commercial Property	50.00%	1.0000
Industrial Property	50.00%	1.0000
Residential Property	50.00%	1.0000
Personal Property	50.00%	1.0000

C. Jeanne Shores, Mayor
James Marfia, Assessor



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BOWNE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING ACCESSORY BUILDINGS, SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING FLOOR AREA REQUIREMENTS, MINIMUM LOT AREA, WIDTH AND SETBACKS AND RELATED REQUIREMENTS IN THE AG DISTRICT AND R-1 RURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, AND MINIMUM LOT WIDTH ON CUL-DE-SAC LOTS

Public notice is hereby given that the Bowne Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 13, 2003 at 7:30 p.m., in the historic Township Hall, located at 8240 Alden Nash Avenue, Alto, Michigan, to hear public comments regarding a proposed amendment to the Township Zoning Ordinance (Ordinance No. 2000-3, as amended).

The proposed amendment would amend the Zoning Ordinance as follows:

- 1. Accessory Buildings on Waterfront Lots**
 - Amends Section 2.50.A. to provide that in case of a waterfront lot, the front lot line is the lot line on the waterfront.
 - Amends Section 3.02.D. to provide that on a waterfront lot, not more than one (1) accessory building shall be located between the dwelling and the street and to repeal the provision that accessory structures and uses shall be located at least twenty (20) feet from any public or private road right-of-way line.
 - Amends 3.02.G. to provide that on a waterfront lot, one (1) accessory building may be located between the water and the principal dwelling provided that it is not larger than 24 square feet and 8 feet in height.
- 2. Number and Size of Permitted Accessory Buildings**
 - Amends Section 3.02.F. to provide that within any Residential District or in connection with any dwelling, no more than two (2) accessory buildings (except those used in farming) shall be permitted on a lot. The aggregate gross square footage shall not exceed:
 - (1) For lots of one (1) acre or less: 720 square feet
 - (2) For lots greater than one (1) acre and less than three (3) acres: 1,000 square feet
 - (3) For lots of three (3) acres to five (5) acres: 1,500 square feet
 - (4) For lots of more than five (5) acres: 2,000 square feet.
- 3. Single-Family Dwelling Floor Area Requirements**
 - Amends Section 3.10.A. to provide that all single-family dwellings shall have a Gross Floor Area of 1,100 square feet, with at least 720 square feet on the ground floor for dwellings of more than one (1) story, provided no less than 380 square feet shall be provided on the second story; or shall have a total of not less than 1,100 square feet in a split-level family dwelling.
- 4. Minimum Lot Area, Width, Setback and Maximum Residential Lot Area - Agricultural District**
 - Amends Section 4.08, the Schedule of District Regulations, and Section 5.05.A. to require the following in the Agricultural (AG) District:

Minimum Lot Area:	3 acres
Minimum Lot Width:	330 feet
Side Yard Setback:	25 feet
Rear Yard Setback:	70 feet
 - Repeals Footnote 10 of Section 4.08, Schedule of District Regulations to eliminate parcels of less than ten (10) acres in size as special land uses in the Agricultural District.
 - Repeals Section 5.04.J. and 14.05.S. to eliminate parcels of less than 10 acres as special land uses in the Agricultural District.
- 5. Minimum Lot Area, Lot Width - R-1 Rural Residential District**
 - Amends Section 4.08, Schedule of District Regulations, to require the following in the R-1 District:

Minimum Lot Area:	2.5 acres
Minimum Lot Width:	250 feet
- 6. Cul-de-Sac Lots; Minimum Width**
 - Amends Footnote 9 of Section 4.08, Schedule of District Regulations (applicable to the Agricultural District, R-1 District, and R-2 District), to provide that lots on cul-de-sac turnarounds shall have a minimum lot width equal to 1/2 of the required lot width for the District and shall have at least 50 feet of frontage along the road right-of-way line.

The proposed amendment may be examined at the Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash Avenue, Alto, Michigan, on Wednesdays or Fridays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

February 19, 2003
Sandra Kowalczyk, Clerk
Bowne Township

Reflections Of Faith

Pastor Joe Fremer
Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church

As our nation continues on condition Orange security alert, I hear that some who reside in Washington DC are getting pretty nervous. After all, anti-missile emplacements have been set up around the city. There's a run on bottled water, and several stores have run out of duct tape. But nobody is really sure how to be safe when you don't even know what form an attack might take.

Jesus said that we would be shook up. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come (Mark 13:7 NIV). Don't

be alarmed? What about when Orange becomes Red? Should we be alarmed then?

Our focus is on the wrong things. Matthew 10:28 this same Jesus says, Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. If you fear terrorists more than you fear God, you are making them more important in your life. You are giving them the attention that belongs to God. Whatever you fear, love, or trust the most becomes your god. It motivates you, and you act accordingly. What is your god? Anthrax? Nerve gas? A nuclear attack? If you fear them more than you fear God, you're in trouble. We should fear God... yes, and love Him too ... for in the very same

discourse, Jesus concluded, Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. God loves you, values you! Fearing God (giving Him that place of ultimate importance in your life) means believing in His love.

You may answer, "Well, God may be more important, but I can't see Him. But I have seen what a terrorist can do." So faith battles with fear. You want to see the love of God? Stop replaying that tape of the World Trade Center on fire, that tape in your mind, and change the channel. Look instead at the cross where Jesus died. Does God love you? Look at His Son bleeding and dying to pay for your mistakes! This is how much He loves you. And if He has invested so much in you, do you think He is going to forget to take care of you?

Having a gas mask under your bed won't make you feel safe. Falling asleep with CNN on is not a recipe for a good night's sleep. Put your trust in Jesus ... hold that cross before your eyes. It's the only real way to be safe from terror.

Lowell man's instant ticket worth \$100,000

A Lowell man went wild with excitement upon scratching off a Michigan Lottery "Casino Wild" instant ticket to reveal a \$100,000 top prize.

"I scratched off the ticket and knew right away I had a winner," said the lucky man. "I screamed and yelled with excitement!"

The lucky 34-year-old winner, who requested anonymity, purchased the winning ticket at Gas 4 Less in Walker.

The winner, who enjoys golfing and watching sports in his spare time, said he kept the winning ticket locked in a safe prior to turning it in at Lottery headquarters in Lansing. He added that he plans to use part of his winnings to buy a new car and new clothes.

"Casino Wild" is just one of many Michigan Lottery instant tickets available statewide.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

FEBRUARY 20: Mike Rivers, Gary Kemp, Barbara Carpenter, Sara Soyka.

FEBRUARY 21: Betsy Vezino, Ashton VanderWarf, Kimberly Sterzick, Robin Martin.

FEBRUARY 22: Kevin Gerard, Lloyd Powell, Rob Tulecki, Julie Shaffer, Jessy Dale Abel, Krista Foster.

FEBRUARY 23: Joe Ellis, Heather Essich, Sharon Miles.

FEBRUARY 24: Cliff Mulder, Amy Aksamitowski, Tarah Essich, Lizzy Decker.
FEBRUARY 25: Brett Taylor, Susan Miesal.
FEBRUARY 26: Nancy Porter, Barry Vezino, Jeremy Goff, Bob Ford, Leslie Rash.

COLLEGE NEWS

To qualify for the dean's list, a full-time student must have a grade point average of 3.5 or above in a minimum of 12 hours or more of graded credit in any semester.

Aquinas College has announced its dean's list for the 2002 fall semester.

From the Lowell area are: **Aaron Alsgaard, Katherine Blough, Susan Boogaard, Jessica Eimer, Megan Fleet, Amber Graham, Landon Graham, Angela Sinclair**

and **Bethany Weber**; from the Alto area are: **Amy Alms, Valerie Kunde and Molly Pickard.**

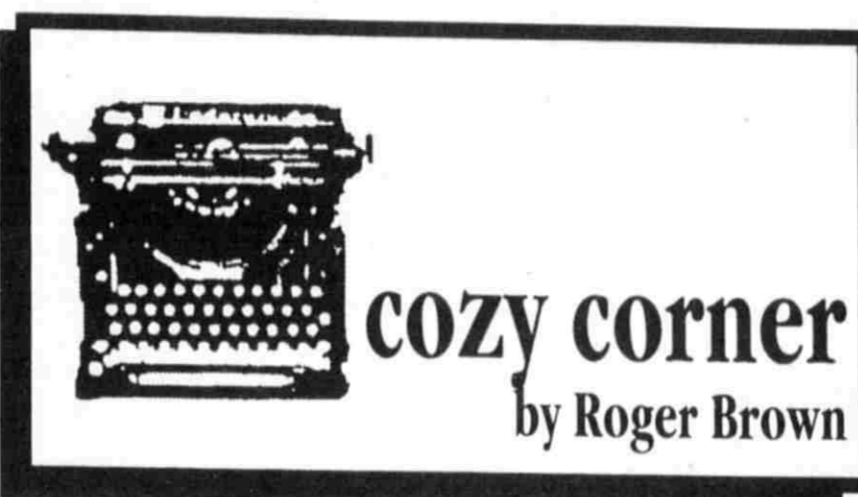
Nominations sought for Person of the Year

If you would like to nominate someone for the Person of the Year, send it in writing to LACC, PO Box 224, Lowell 49331, by fax 897-9101 or by email info@lowellchamber.org. Deadline: March 1.

Crop Walk rally, March 13

Lowell Area 9th annual Crop Walk rally will be at First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main St., on Thursday, March 13 at 7 p.m. Pick up pledge sheets, promotion materials for your group/organization. Call 897-5936 for more information on the May 4 Crop Walk.

Viewpoint . . .



Patience is not my strong suit. In fact, you might say if patience were trump, I wouldn't be holding any cards at all.

My lack of patience is especially evident when it comes to waiting in line. If they're lined up at a popular restaurant, I'm off to a drive-thru. If they're lined up at the drive-thru, I hit a convenience store for a stale tuna sandwich out of the cooler. If they're lined up at the convenience store buying smokes and lottery tickets, I go hungry.

I've often blamed my aversion to lines on being in the army. The army makes you wait in long lines for everything, to include painful vaccinations, a turn in the gas chamber and rectal exams. However, I remember hating the lunch line in elementary school. The food never seemed to be worth the wait. Actually, I think my impatience with lines goes deeper than environmental influences. I've gotta believe it's some sort of genetic disorder. Whatever the case, I've made my point ... I don't like lines!

A couple days ago I was headed home after a long day of hawking ads in our little publication. The wife had asked if I'd pick up something for dinner. I swung into the grocery for a rotisserie chicken. The chickens are pre-packaged and ready to go at the deli. I grabbed a barbecue and a lemon-pepper. I knew we were out of eggs so I picked up a dozen. I also snagged two containers of Egg-Beaters and hooked a half-gallon of milk with my left pinky. I was done shopping and off to the "Express Lane."

"Express Lane" ... now there is an oxymoron if I ever

heard one. There were ten or twelve people in the only open "Express Lane." They have three, but the others are apparently just for show. I made a quick check of the regular lanes. Only about three of a dozen or so were open, and there were heaping carts at every one. I stepped into the "Express Lane" and hoped for the best.

At first, things seemed to go smoothly enough. A couple people were checked through rather quickly, then we hit a price check snag. It took a few minutes to call in some help and work through that problem. The very next customer couldn't get their credit card to work. (It should be made a capital Federal offense ... no credit cards in express lanes, movie ticket lines or convenience stores!) After a several minute delay, the problem was solved when the customer used cash. Imagine that?

My "Express Lane" was going nowhere fast. I glanced down the line of regular checkouts. To my surprise, one of them had whittled its way down so that only the butt of the last person in line was sticking out from the tabloid racks. Changing lanes in a situation like this is a tough call, but I made my move.

Three shoppers were in front of me. They were all men. They each had a shopping cart, but the carts were far from full. The men were purchasing staples such as beer and chips. I thought to myself, "This could work out okay" as I glanced back at the still stationary "Express Lane." I should never "think to myself." In fact, life would be much simpler if I just didn't think at all.

The clerk checked through the first guy's beer and chips, but before he could ring a tally, the guy asked for two cartons of a certain brand of cigarettes. In this store the clerk has to lock the cash drawer and hike over to the customer service desk where they sell tobacco and lottery tickets. The clerk left, and returned a few minutes later with bad news. They didn't have the guy's brand. The customer couldn't believe it, and went to check for himself. When he returned, he confirmed the clerk's findings and ordered a couple packs of a substitute brand. The clerk locked up again and went for another hike. I was beginning to boil.

In the meantime, the "Express Lane" had swelled to

about twenty customers. Finally, a manager opened a second "Express Lane." Unfortunately, I was now penned in with customers behind me. I couldn't make the move to the second "Express Lane" quick enough to beat the stampede.

We finally got the "Marlboro Man" on his way and I was hoping for the best with just two customers ahead of me. No such luck. The very next customer disputed the price scanned on a case of Miller Lite. Instead of, "tastes great! ... less filling!" it was, "the sign said \$10.95 ... scanner says \$12.95." The clerk called for a manager. Of course the manager was busy running an "Express Lane." That was enough for me, I squeezed out of my spot and went back to take my chances in the original "Express Lane."

The line had been moving, but as soon as I stepped to the end of the eight or nine customers, it ground to a halt. There were price problems, checks to authorize, coupons to redeem, language barriers, no bag-boy, cigarette runs, etc. There was even a guy digging around in one of those little rubber coin purses trying to come up with the exact change. I was going nuts.

The "last straw" came when the line halted yet again. This time because, of all things, a "Customer Satisfaction" card. Customers at this store are encouraged to get one of these cards so the management can track your purchases. It's a "Big Brother" thing. The guise to get you into the program is a few pennies in savings here and there if you present the card while checking out. I was about third in line when the clerk shut down and called for a manager because a customer's "Satisfaction" card wouldn't scan. Jagger and Richards had it right ... "I can't get no Satisfaction!"

That was it for me. I'd been trying to check out for over a half hour and my pinky was blue from holding the milk jug. In a last ditch effort at making my purchase, I approached the customer service desk where two employees were doing nothing at all. I politely asked if I could check out there, and was told "no." "Fine," I said, "I hope you know where this stuff goes, cause I'm outta here!" Incredibly, I was able to resist the tremendous urge to splatter the eggs, Egg-Beaters, milk and chickens all over the check-out area.

We had peanut butter sandwiches for dinner.

Hall Monday, with music by Adam's band; admission 50 cents.

The argument in the general press goes on and on, about validity of the Jonah/whale story.

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER FEBRUARY 19, 1903

It was 20 below Monday night and a blizzard had been with us two days. Trains are getting through, so far. Jacob Callier, working on King Milling's floodgates, falls in the river Tuesday (below-zero day) but is none the worse for wear after a few hours recovery.

Canada and the United States are arguing over the Alaskan boundary lines.

Miss Jenny Andrews has closed her school at Pratt Lake. The gentleman with whom she boarded has smallpox.

Myron Kyser of East Lowell is having a concrete floor put in the basement of his barn.

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO FEBRUARY 23, 1928

E.C. Foreman's pen of 13 Barred Rocks breaks the all-state, all-breeds record for egg-laying in the recent Alabama State laying contest.

The park will be named Fallasburg. Argument settled. A half-page ad says "Harmony and Comedy" will be offered next week at City Hall when the Wolverine 4, plus accompanist, give their concert.

Last week's formation of the Lowell Fire Committee brings out a raft of fire insurance ads this week.

Yet another ad seeks your \$50 investment in a Detroit

company that has developed a new improved electric water heater and needs capital to manufacture some.

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER FEBRUARY 19, 1953

Lowell's first local primary election brought out 500 voters, with some confusion because primary tickets cannot be split.

Nickels and candy bars are stolen from both Lowell and Ada schools the same night. Juveniles are suspected.

Civil Defense volunteers serving two-hour Sky Watch shifts at the Ground Observation Post at Recreation Park are listed.

Lowell seniors are selling subscriptions to the Ledger to finance their yearbook.

Pinto, a Hollywood trick horse, escapes on the way to entertaining the Wittenbach Sales and Service Family Party at City Hall. Cecil Bibbler catches him, and the horse gets to the second floor in three jumps on the stairs.

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER FEBRUARY 22, 1978

Kent County's road equipment is in process of a color changeover, from orange to bright apple green.

Lowell Senior Neighbors Center will celebrate its fourth birthday on Feb. 24 with a party at the center on Main Street. A Grand Rapids School of Bible and Music student is killed when the plane he was training in crashes.

The varsity basketball team takes the Tri-River championship, and the varsity wrestling team shares a co-championship.

Grattan and Vergennes townships will work together on a sanitary sewer project and pass ordinances to do so.

School Menus

Week of 2/24 - 2/28

ELEMENTARY

MON: Mid-winter break - No school.

TUES: Mini corn dogs with bread or soft shell chicken taco with cheese & lettuce, pears, garden salad, creamy pudding.

WED: French toast sticks or assorted cereal, scrambled eggs, juice choice, hashbrown wedge.

THURS: Grilled cheese sandwich with surprise soup, sloppy joe on bun, peaches, mixed vegetables, cheesy popcorn.

FRI: Chicken nuggets or chili, French bread, mixed fruit, tater tots.

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DAREDEVIL
SHOWTIMES 2:17 - 2:20
DAREDEVIL (PG-13)
12:20, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:15
JUNGLE BOOK 2 (G)
12:40, 2:15, 3:55, 5:30, 7:10, 9:00
SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
(PG-13)
7:30, 9:45
HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS (PG-13)
11:45, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
THE RECRUIT (PG-13)
12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30

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Dave Noonon, Asst. Pastor
Stacy Peters, College & Twenties
Brian Baber, Youth Pastor
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WEDNESDAYS:
Family Night: (For All Ages) 7 p.m.
Generation Jacob Youth: 7 p.m.

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Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM
Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM
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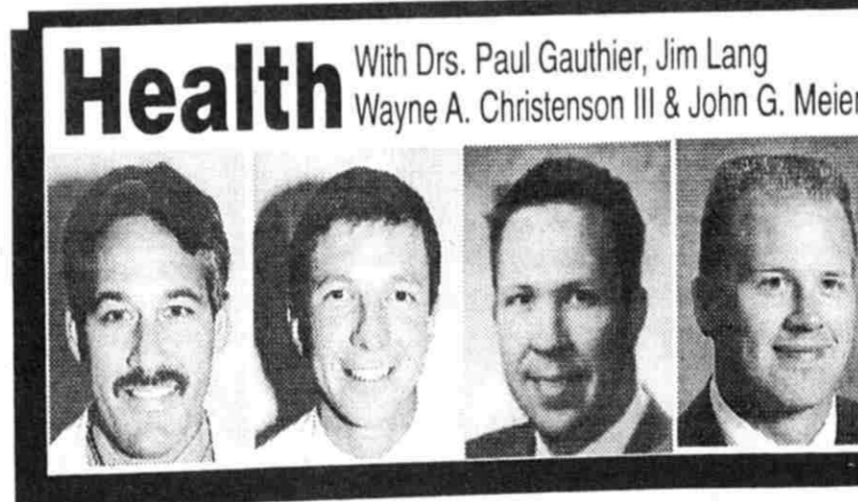
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AWANA/J.V.....Wed. 6:15 & 7 P.M.
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SORE THROAT

Sore throat is a common complaint of many people this time of year and can have multiple causes. People often assume they have a streptococcal infection (or strep throat); however, this is only to blame 10 percent of the time. Sometimes when mucus from your sinuses drains into your throat,

the drainage can make your throat feel sore. Viruses (such as those that cause the common cold) and bacteria (such as strep throat) can cause a sore throat. A sore throat may also be one of the symptoms of allergies or acid reflux.

Many of the illnesses that cause sore throats have similar symptoms. The initial treatment of a sore throat should consist of a mild over-the-counter pain reliever, such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen. If the soreness is accompanied by a runny nose or post-nasal drip, then an over-the-counter decongestant such as Pseudoephedrine (or Sudafed) should be tried. Gargling with warm salt water, sucking on throat lozenges, and using a home humidifier may also help. If the soreness persists beyond two days, call your health care provider. He or she may need to examine you and run some tests to determine the proper treatment.

Letters, Letters, Letters, Letters...
The Lowell Ledger welcomes all "Letters to the Editor" for publication on its "Viewpoint" page. Letters can be typed or written. However, we ask that they do not exceed 250 words.
"Letters to the Editor" should be sent to the Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, P.O. Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or emailed to: ledgerbgl@aol.com. Letters must be signed and please include a phone number when emailing.
Editing may be necessary for space, clarity and to avoid obscenity, libel or invasion of privacy.
The Lowell Ledger thanks you in advance for your cooperation.

LHS students all business at regional competition

Twenty-two business students from Lowell High School competed in the Business Professionals of America (BPA) Regional Workplace Skills Assessment competition at Davenport University in Grand Rapids on Jan. 10. Over 20 schools were represented from southwest Michigan with over 850 students taking part in the all-day competition.

Lowell students showcased their skills brilliantly with 12 students placing in the top seven in 13 different assessments and qualifying to compete at the State BPA Competition in March 2003, at the Detroit Renaissance, said Dee Crowley who serves as advisor. The following

students placed at the Regional Competition:

Andy Hansen - 1st in Mgmt/Mktg/HR Concepts; 5th in Information Tech Concepts; 5th in Computer Network Tech.

Anne Beenen - 1st in Economic Research Team

Katie Clements - 1st in Prepared Speech; 6th in Medical Office Procedures

Nikki Baker - 10th in Economic Research Ind.

Sarah Fitzpatrick - 4th in Economic Research Ind.

Rachel Heinicke - 3rd in Global Mktg Team

Jean Kimberlin - 7th in Economic Research Ind.; 7th in Parliamentary Pro. Concepts

Kari King - 3rd in Global Mktg Team

Katie Lum - 1st in Economic Research Team; 4th in Interview Skills

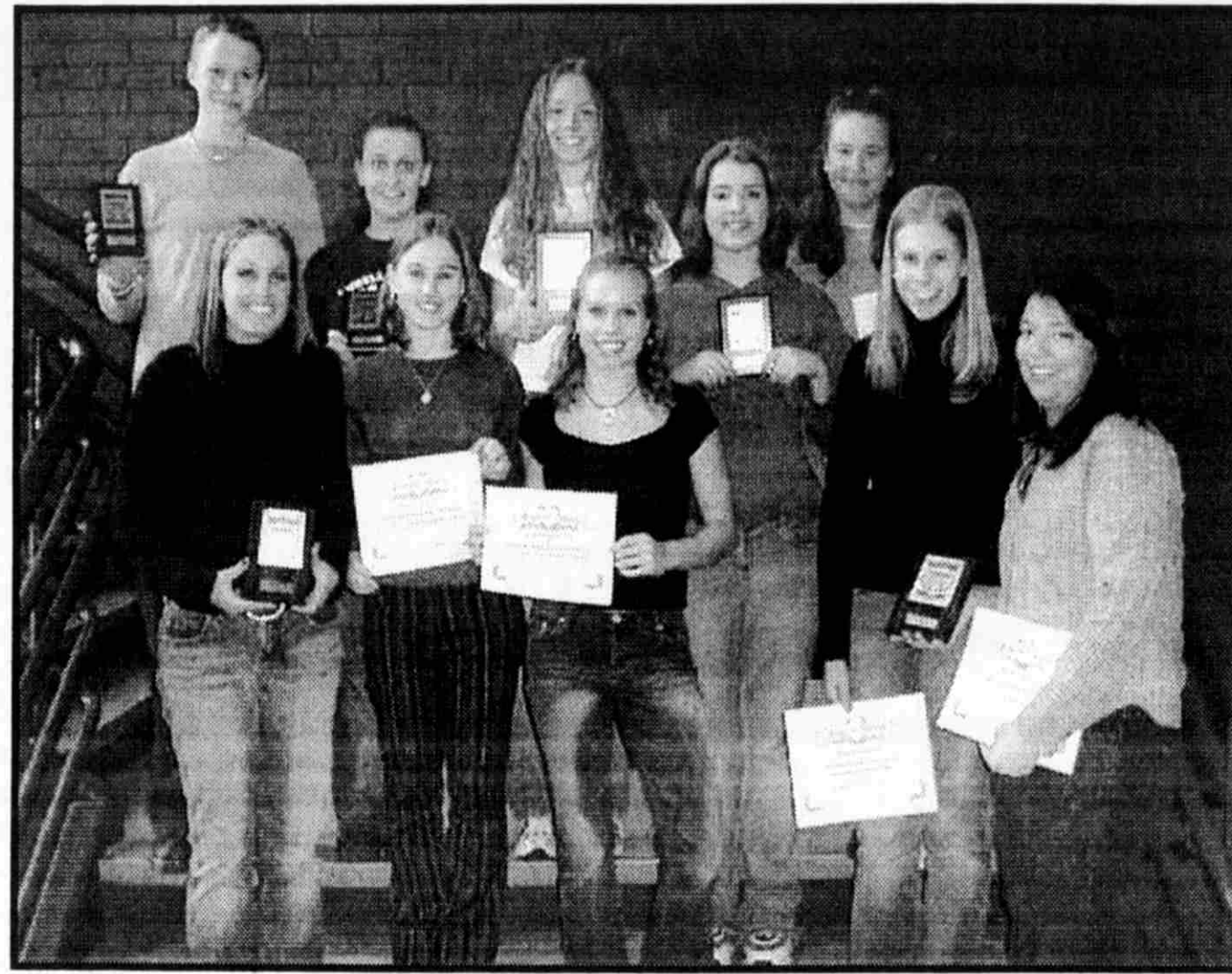
Tyler Nethercott - 3rd in Global Mktg Team

Kim Seaman - 4th in Fundamental Word Processing

Ashley VanEck - 1st in Database Applications

Nate Vos - 1st in JAVA Programmer; 2nd in Parliamentary Pro. Concepts

Parliamentary Procedure Team of Katie Clements, Ryan Curtis, Karly Batt, Sarah Fitzpatrick, Jean Kimberlin and Nate Vos took 2nd place.



Back row, left to right: Ryan Curtis, Karly Batt, Katie Clements, Sarah Fitzpatrick; front row, left to right: Ashley VanEck, Jean Kimberlin, Kim Seaman, Rachel Heinicke, Anne Beenen and Katie Lum. Missing from photo are: Kari King, Andy Hansen, Tyler Nethercott and Nate Vos.

Ethics and diversity in workplace topic for Feb. 27 workshop

••• Aquinas College professor Woody Hoover will lead the discussion

What is happening to ethics in the workplace? Professor and author Woody Hoover looks for a common thread in different teachings and examines what it means for

organizations in an Ethics and Diversity workshop on Thursday, Feb. 27.

The workshop will be held in the board room of the Lowell Area Schools Administration building, 300 High St.

The cost is \$10 per person or \$25 for three or more people from the same business or organization.

Hoover, a professor of business administration and chairperson of the department of business administration at Aquinas

College, has published writings in the area of business ethics and has held marketing and management positions with several major corporations.

He also holds a Ph.D. in business administration from Michigan State University.

The workshop, sponsored by Lowell Leadership, is being funded through the Harold Englehardt Lowell Area Community Fund.

Miller and Valentine guest speakers at Chamber's annual meeting

Food, friends and reflection on the school district, downtown development, and economic revitalization will all be part of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce's annual membership meeting and dinner.

The event is slated for Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 6:30 p.m. at Deer Run Country Club.

Following a social hour (6:30 p.m.) and dinner (7 p.m.), the meeting will focus on exciting initiatives taking place in the Lowell community.

Guest speakers for the event are Lowell Area Schools' superintendent Shari Miller and assistant city manager, Jim Valentine.

Miller will provide updates on the state of the education budget crisis, the building expansion program and her vision for the school district.

Valentine will address the major downtown projects and the status of the economic revitalization and future plans. The evening will be hosted by chamber executive direc-

tor, Liz Baker and chamber board president, Jim Herb. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$150 for a company table of eight.

"Chamber business members are encouraged to include employees, spouses and interested friends for this opportunity to mingle with friends, meet and establish new friendships, and learn more about Lowell's exciting future," Baker said.

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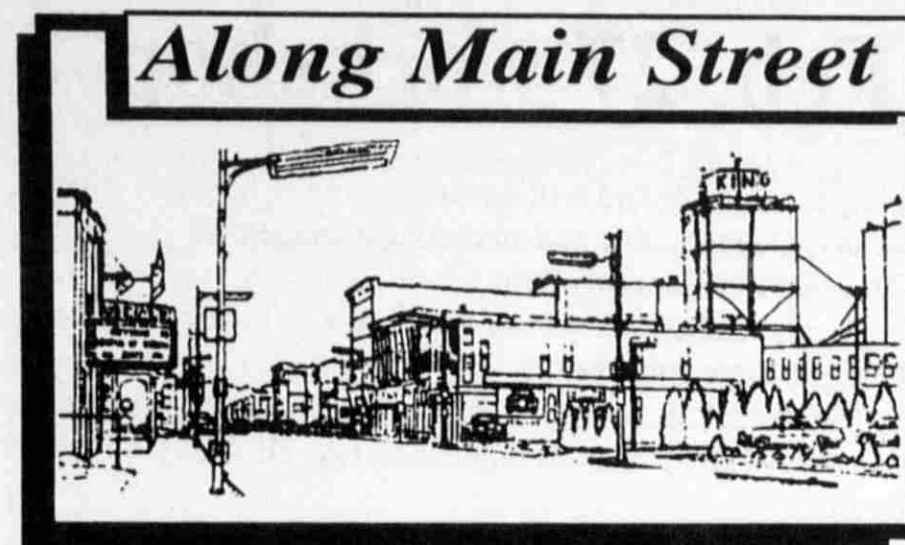
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Along Main Street

VARIETY SHOW AT LPAC

The annual Lowell High School staff/student variety show will be held tonight, Feb. 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Lowell Performing Arts Center. \$5 at the door.

LOWELL FIRE DEPT. SPONSORS BLOOD DRIVE

The Lowell Area Fire Department is sponsoring a blood drive for the Grand Valley Blood program this Wednesday, Feb. 19 from 2-7 p.m. at Look Memorial Fire Station, 315 S. Hudson St.

ROLLAWAY FUN CENTER EVENT

Lowell Senior Class is sponsoring a special high-school-only event on Saturday, Feb. 22 at 6 p.m. Skating, music and all the pizza and hot dogs you can eat for only \$6. Bring your friends.

MERCHANT MEETING AT CHAMBER OFFICE

There will be an informative meeting for merchants on

Wednesday, Feb. 26 at 7:45 a.m. Presented by the Lowell City Police: Dealing with Insufficient Funds and Closed Account Checks. Reg. merchants meeting to follow. Call Liz at 897-9161 for more information.

VOLLEYBALL CHALLENGE AT LHS

Senior guys vs. junior guys volleyball challenge on Thursday, Feb. 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the Lowell High School main gym. \$3 at the door. All profits go to the senior class.

AFRICAN TALES, A MUSICAL AT LPAC

The Dallas Children's Theater production of "African Tales of Earth & Sky" will be held in the Lowell Performing Arts Center at the high school on Friday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. Tickets for the one-hour musical are available at the Lowell Area Arts Council by calling 897-8545.

LOWELL LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

To see what is happening to ethics in the workplace and in our organizations, call the chamber at 897-9161 to register for a workshop on Feb. 27 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Lowell Area Schools Administration office at 300 High St.

ROGER MACNAUGHTON QUARTET TO PERFORM

The Lowell Area Arts Council presents a musical evening at Deer Run Golf Course on Saturday, March 1 from 7-10:30 p.m. The evening includes the Roger MacNaughton Quartet, light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Tickets are \$12.50 general admission and \$10 for LAAC members, seniors and students. Call 897-8545 for more information.

LOWELL DAY IN LAKELAND

Join the Lowell seniors in Lakeland, Fla., on Sunday, March 2 at Huntington Hills Country Club, Duff Rd. Invite all your Lowell friends to the 1 p.m. buffet. Call Mary Peckham at 863-683-6336, Carmen Roudabush at 863-604-9093 or Barb Curtis at 863-682-7136.

COMMODITIES DISTRIBUTION

Seniors may pick up commodities on Thursday, March 6 at the Lowell Recreation Bldg. from 8-? Bring your new benefit amount with you for 2003.

CROP WALK RALLY

Lowell Area 9th annual Crop Walk rally will be at First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main St., on Thursday, March 13 at 7 p.m. Pick up pledge sheets, promotion materials for your group/organization. Call 897-5936 for more information on the May 4 Crop Walk.

FUNDRAISER FOR ST. MARY'S PREGNANCY CENTER

The Lowell Institute for Volunteer Excellence is sponsoring a fundraiser for St. Mary's Pregnancy Center. Needed are diapers, wipes and formula; drop them off at the chamber office or at the Lowell Leadership booth at the Expo on Sat., March 22. Call Marcia at 897-5205 with any questions.

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR PERSON OF THE YEAR

If you would like to nominate someone for the Person of the Year, send it in writing to LACC, PO Box 224, Lowell 49331, by fax 897-9101 or by email info@lowellchamber.org. Deadline: March 1.

will turn his focus to long-term care of the facility. "I want to take the LPAC to the next level. Expand the working relationship with the Lowell Area Arts Council, with other community events and professional acts," Hommowun explained. "I think we can expand the number of productions to 200-250 a year."

In days of dwindling school budgets, Hommowun says the secret will be to upgrade and increase usership without spending money.

"I love the facility and the people I will be working with," Hommowun concluded.

LPAC Director, cont'd... From Page 1

He will focus on reorganizing and cleaning up the facility to start. "There was no one here for three-and-a-half months. There's some cleanup work to do. However, there are too many shows and not enough days off right now to do it," said the LPAC director.

Once the reorganization work is completed, Hommowun

YMCA Grant, cont'd... From Page 1

the purchase of a \$60,000 new ambulance for service in the Lowell community.

• Lowell Area Arts Council will receive \$10,000 to help underwrite the 2003 Lowell Showboat's Summer Concert Series.

• Lowell Area Schools will receive \$4,500 for a Lowell Community Tennis Program to promote healthy lifestyles and relationships for Lowell residents through quality tennis instruction.

BOWNE TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

PUBLIC HEARING THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2003 7:30 P.M.

HISTORIC TOWNSHIP HALL 8240 ALDEN NASH SE ALTO, MI 49302 868-6846

REQUEST #1 - Kenneth & Marian Adamy 11470 74th Street S.E., PP#41-24-09-300-011- Are asking for a variance to Article 3.02 Accessory Structures & Uses-location and square footage of an accessory building variance.

REQUEST #2 - Kenneth & Cathy Garnaat 9750 84th St SE - PP#41-24-18-351-023 - Are asking for a variance to Article 7.05 Height, Area and Dimension regulations in the Low Density Residential zoned area so that they may place an addition into the required setback area.

GLORIA KING
ZBA CHAIRPERSON

Lowell School District Cuts, cont'd... From Page 1

state. Also, \$300,000 of it is reserved for the opening of the new buildings and \$150,000 for curriculum.

Lowell will lose roughly \$67 per student this year unless an alternative solution is found.

"The formula being used punishes the districts which received catch-up funds last year. Those schools will take a bigger hit and the disparity gap in school funding will be widened," Gillette concluded.

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897-0099 Day or Night

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE BOARD OF REVIEW

THE BOARD OF REVIEW OF VERGENNES TOWNSHIP WILL MEET AT THE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP HALL 10381 BAILEY DRIVE LOWELL, MI, 49331 ON MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2003

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2003

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

You may appeal your assessed valuation one of two ways:

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

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

Letters must be received by
March 7, 2003

Mari Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk

Financial Focus

Edward Jones

Serving Individual Investors Since 1871

With Christopher C. Godbold



"RECOVERY PLAN" CAN KEEP YOU MOVING TOWARD FINANCIAL GOALS

Over the past couple of years, we've had a long bear market and a period of low interest rates. Consequently, it's been tough for stock owners and income-oriented investors. If you fall into either of those groups - and most people do - you may be wondering what to do. You can't control market volatility or the movement of interest rates. But you can create a "recovery plan" that will allow you to make the best of your situation - and, in the process, make progress toward your financial goals.

What, specifically, can you do? Here are some suggestions:

• **Put your losses to work** - Your investment losses are tax-deductible, to a point. You can use your capital losses to offset any capital gains you have, plus up to \$3,000 of other income, including earned income. So, for example, if you realized a \$1,000 capital gain this year from selling stocks or other appreciated investments, you could write off up to \$4,000 in losses. And you can carry forward any "excess" losses to future years.

• **Rebalance your portfolio** - Your investment portfolio may have become "unbalanced" - and you might

not even be aware that it happened. For example, if your stocks have declined sharply, then bonds or other fixed-income instruments may now make up a larger percentage of your portfolio's total value than you had originally intended. Consequently, you could be losing out on growth opportunities - which is why you'll need to rebalance your holdings to match your individual risk tolerance, goals and time horizon. (Keep in mind there may be tax consequences associated with one's rebalancing strategy.)

• **Stabilize your investment income** - What should you do with your bonds or certificates of deposit that mature when market interest rates are low? You could "park" the funds in a money market account until interest rates rise again, but that might take a while - and, in the meantime, you will have almost certainly missed out on some better opportunities.

You may be better off by building a "Bond Ladder." To create a bond ladder, you invest in an array of short-, intermediate- and long-term

high quality bonds. When rates are rising, you use the proceeds from your maturing bonds to buy new bonds at the higher levels. When market rates are falling, you'll continue to benefit from the higher rates offered by your longer-term bonds. Over time, a well structured bond ladder can help you stabilize the income you received from your fixed income portfolio.

• **Swap for quality** - Over the long term, high-quality investments, such as stocks of well-run companies with solid business plans, will reward investors more than in-

vestments that run "hot" and "cold." Look through your portfolio for opportunities to replace lower quality investments for higher-quality ones that may now be attractively priced.

• **Be a "tax-smart" investor** - Taxes can significantly erode your overall investment returns. That's why you need to look for tax-advantaged vehicles. Take full advantage of tax-deferred instruments such as your 401(k) and traditional IRA. You can get tax-free earnings growth from a Roth

IRA, provided you meet certain conditions. Depending on your tax bracket, you may also be able to benefit from municipal bonds, whose interest is exempt from federal income taxes, and may be exempt from state and local taxes as well. (However, municipal bonds may incur the alternative minimum tax.) Clearly, you've got many opportunities to create a recovery plan that can help keep you on track toward your long-term financial goals. Start exploring these possibilities soon.

A free insurance review

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AD-3359-1 (6/02)

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JANUARY SMILE OF THE MONTH:

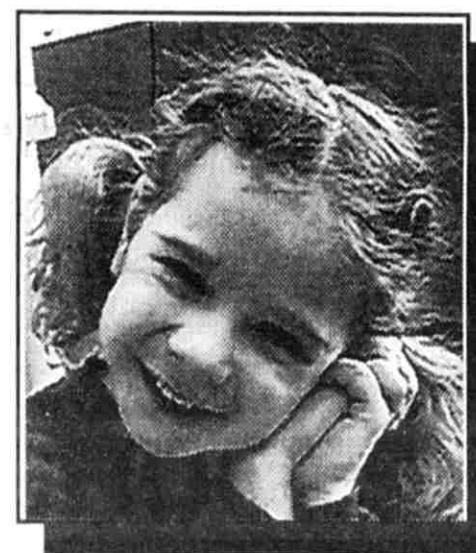
NAME:.....DARBY STIELSTRA

AGE:.....4 years old

BIRTHDAY:.....7/28/98

HOBBIES:.....Drawing & painting, ice skating, sledding, swimming

She receives a prize for her great checkup.



January "No Cavities" Club Members

Zac French	Andrew Potter	Emma MacDonald
Olivia Nurmikko	Kendra Whittemore	Darby Stielstra
Alex Nurmikko	Kiley Stickney	Shelby Stielstra
Tess Adams	Dakota Stickney	Hunter Owens
Tanner Owens	Nicholas MacDonald	Nick Price
Molly Willemstein		Mallory Paiz
Brianna Clarke		Dominic Stielstra

FAMILY DENTISTRY Ann Wilson, D.D.S.

New Patients Welcome!
147 N. Center St. • Lowell, MI 49331
897-4835

BENEFIT DINNER 50/50 RAFFLE
For Jerry, Angi & Haley Ladd
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2003 6 PM - MIDNIGHT

Don't Miss Out! **CASH BAR**

Larkin's 301/315 W. Main St
"The Other Place" 616-897-5977

Please come support the Ladd Family at Larkin's "The Other Place"! Your support can help pay for Jerry's physical therapy, prosthetic arm, uncovered medical expenses and shelter for the Ladds.

LOCAL MERCHANTS HAVE DONATED TONS OF PRIZES TO BE RAFFLED OFF EVERY 1/2 HOUR (VALUED OVER \$10,000)!

Buy your 50/50 tickets now at either City Looks Salon located in the Lowell Meijer, Larkin's Restaurant or Vitale's Pizzeria in Ada for \$1 each or 6/\$5. **TICKETS AT THE DOOR \$15 PER PERSON OR \$25 PER COUPLE**

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE AT ANY 5/3 BANK. LOCATION TO THE JERRY & ANGI LADD BENEFIT FUND. FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT EMILY MYERS AT 897-2122 (CITY LOOKS SALON). MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!

We want to be your Other Family Doctor.

- Sick or Injured Animals Seen Same Day
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- 24-Hour Emergency Service
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ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LOWELL

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STATE FARM INSURANCE • Chapman Agency RECOGNIZES THIS SEMESTER'S HONOR ROLL STUDENTS

Lowell High School Honor Roll 2ND MARKING PERIOD

*Denotes receiving a Gold Card. All A's on 4.00 scale.

FRESHMEN
Bradley Amidon
Danielle Anchors
Donald Anderson
Lucas Anstett
Allan Aquino
Kyle Austin
Adam Baker*
Caleb Baker*
Tara Baker
Kathryn Barnes*
Matthew Batchelor
Erin Beddows
LynnAnn Bell
Collette Benmark
Kenneth Bieri
Tiffany Blanchard
Austin Blough
Melissa Blough
Alice Blumm
Anna Boeve
Melody Bont
Lisa Boomers
Sarah Boomers
Holly Borth
Kelsey Brenk
Elizabeth Brooke
Kaitlyn Brower
Lisa Brown*
Zachary Burger
Phillip Burton
Malley Cahoon
Mary Calvi*
Kelly Carson
Rose Chambers
Quade Chesebro
Britta Cieslak
Ardie Clark
Nathaniel Clements
Ashley Colon*
Ryan Converse
Holly Cook
Bradley Corlett
Laura Crimmins*
Tyler Davis
Rebecca DeLiefde
Gabriel Dendek
Benjamin DenHouter*
Richard Deshaw
Brittany Dietz
Thomas Doll*
Elizabeth Drain
Chad Dreth*
Jamie Dryer
Rebecca Duley
Danielle Dupree
Amanda Durkee
Jacob Eldridge
Maya Esparza-Siegers
Kyle Estes
Anthony Everitt
Amanda Ezinga
Shannon Fitzpatrick
Megan Fizer
Brittany Foley
Trevor Foss*
Matthew Francisco
Nicholas Freeburg
Chelsea Freed*
Randall Frye
Nathan Galbreath
Julie Geelhoed*
Benjamin Geldersma
Alexander Getz
William Gill
Jenna Gilliam
Joshua Gilliard
Louis Glinzak*
Katie Goldner*
Brock Graham*
Nicole Green
Onwon Griner
Brandon Grochowalski
Audrey Grummet
Benjamin Hanson*
Andrew Hattie
Heather Harrigan*
Angela Harman
Christine Haynes
Allison Heffron
Karina Hernandez
Brandon Herring
Joshua Hettinga*
Elise Hill
Jordan Hill
Brett Hohlra*
Andrew Hopkins
Ashley Hundley
Greg Huyser*
Adam Ingraham
Kayla Irwin
Carolyn Johnson*
Kristin Johnson*

Christopher Jones*
Cory Jones
Ryder Jones
Amy Junewick*
Lindsay Vos
Ryan Junglas
Abbot Kastanek*
Emily Keener
Stephen Kerr II
Jennifer Kettel
Bradley Kiczenski
Hannah Kinney
Andrew Kleves*
Rachael Klinge
Hannah Knudstrup
Kelly Koning
Christina Kosbar
Andrea Koster*
Cory Kowalski
Devin Kyllonen*
Angela Lachniet
Steven LaFave
Austin Lancaster
Ryan Lane*
Jon Latva
Paula Lawrence*
Marie Lazar*
Sarah Lessens
Rachelle Livingston
Michael Long
Jodi Lupton
Laura Maki
Kelly Malling
Seth Mayhew*
Kristen McAlpine*
Austin McGregor
Megan Meade
Kimberly Meeuwssen
Ashleigh Menter
Nikita Miles
Angela Miller
Jeanette Miller
Jenna Mitchell
Samantha Mol
Ocean Moore
William Moore
Joshua Morrison
Elizabeth Mosher*
Amy Moudwiler*
Megan Murphy
Autumn Nethercott*
Kyle Neubecker
Alison Nugent
Erin Nugent
Richard Nugent
Steven Nugent
Caitlyn O'Haire
Robert Onan
Cassandra Oracz
Tara Ormiston
Amber Osborne*
Gary Osborne
Raymond Phillips
Megan Plotner
Rebecca Plummer*
Michael Pretzel
Wayne Racine
Jonathan Riddle
Benjamin Ritzema*
Michael Roberts
Christopher Roelofs
Nicole Rottier
Cory Russink
Amanda Schneider
Patrick Schneider
Andrew Schultz
Leannah Seese
Bradley Shea
Nicole Shepard*
Kirby Siek
Ashley Slater
Chelsea Smith
Crystal Smith
Lori Smith*
Ashley Spencer
Jared Spencer
Ashley Spicer
Blake Spoelman
Danielle Sturgis
Ryan Szarowicz
Joshua Tapia
Micah Tawney
Melissa Telman
Emily Timpon
Alisha Trebian
Sarah Troyer
Nicholas Truszkowski
Rebecca Underwood
Andrew VanderKlok
James VanderLaan
Adam VanderPols
Ashley VanderWal
Brook VanEck

Lauren VanEns
David VanKeulen
Megan Vaught*
Lindsay Vos
Sarah Waldorf
Melissa Warners*
Amanda Weaver
Alicia Weeber
Eva Wilcox*
Cassandra Wildey
Andrew Wilterink
Janice Wisniewski
Kyle Wittenbach*
Joseph Woodhead
Hannah Wright
Melissa Wright
Aaron Young
Bobbi Young
Tara Zamarron*
Jennifer Zoodsma
Audrey Zook
Katelynn Zuiderveen*
SOPHOMORES
Shannon Alger
Alvin Aquino
Nathan Arnett
Katie Baker
Nicole Baker
Koltan Bashore*
Rebecca Batt
Benjamin Baughman
Laura Baum
Meghan Beachum
Katrina Beatson
Kristin Befus
Adam Bodus
Taylor Verdon
Casandra Vredevoogd
Marie Wade*
Ashley Waldron
Jonathan Walker
Catherine Ward
Jennifer Watikunas
Rachelle Werner*
Kaitlyn Wheeler
Tiffany Wilkins
Elise Wisniewski
Michelle Wolf
Rebekah Woods
JUNIORS
Joshua Abdoon
Lyndsey Adriance
Amanda Alexander
Joshua Anderson
Stacey Anderson
Audrey Bailey*
Jacob Baker
Darcie Banfill
Allison Bault
Heather Becker
Andrew Benedict
Aaron Benmark*
Stefany Bieber
Andrea Black
David Blair*
Melissa Blattner
Joe Blumm
Amy Bogner
Ben Boomers
Anna Boruta
Amanda Bouwkamp
Daniel Brinks
Elizabeth Brower
Heather Cadwallader
Bradley Calvi
Elizabeth Camp
Kathryn Capps
Jamie Cardani
Cody Carr
Renee Catlin
Marc Cauchi
Christopher Chambers
Jamie Clark
Ashley Claypool
Christian Colley
Amanda Craig
Helen Crimmins*
Ryan Datema
Michael Davis
Tera DesJarden
Annie Didion
Patrick Doyle
Tobynya Doyle
Nicholas Duley*
Thomas Dridger*
Nancy Elmer
Heather Essich
Claire Evans
Jamie Fink
Sarah Fitzpatrick
Stacy Fleet

Frank Mulder
Paul Mundt
Nicholas Myers*
Amy Oberlin*
Nicholas Olson
Jakub Pala
Mandy Phillips
Justin Quist
Amanda Rau
Caleb Reinhold
Aimee Richards
Amanda Roberts
Timothy Ross
David Roth
Eric Schumm
Shaun Scudder
Terence Seelye
David Sefton*
Katherine Serne
Stephanie Sherry
Meghan Silverman
Andrew Smith
Dennis Smith
Jonathan Sper
Travis Stanard
Jessica Stephens
Michael Straub
Megan Stubbs
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Maliree Trierweiler
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Nicholas Duley*
Thomas Dridger*
Nancy Elmer
Heather Essich
Claire Evans
Jamie Fink
Sarah Fitzpatrick
Stacy Fleet

Jerrica Foss
Kevin Frazier
Christopher Gallagher
Matthew Geldersma
Derek Germond
Stacy Grasman
Amanda Grochowalski
Mackenzie Hacker
Julie Halbeisen*
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Kaitlyn Hanrahan
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Brendon Harden
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Amy Hoppough
Eric Horsford
Lynda Horsley
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Kristen Maki
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David Maylene*
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Caitlin Meaney
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Megan Mingerink
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Emily Nurmi
Samuel Oberlin
Jonathan Ossewaarde
Dustin Pedley
Raquel Pereira
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Terese Phillips
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Kyle Rozema
Elise Sandnes
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Johannes Scheidle
Paul Schellenberger
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Benjamin Schloop
Caitlin Searfoss
Wendy Seif
Megan Shellenbarger
Joshua Sherman
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Sophia D'Agostino
Carmen Datema
Jennifer Dee
Paul Despres
Michael Deters
Neal DeVoid
Noelle Dewey
James DeWit
Evan Dorrough
Anne-Gaelle Dosne*
Cori Dreth*
Sara Droese
Michelle Dykstra
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Joshua Fisher
Matthew Foster
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Timothy Freed
Heather Geelhoed
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Christina Getz
Travis Gillan
Brandon Gillikin
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Keaton Moore
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Amanda Oracz
Nathan Parnofield
Anthony Pedley*
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Courtney Phillips*
Holly Plattner
Crystal Porritt
Sean Pullen
Jessica Quist
Laura Rasch*
Chad Rau
Patrick Regan
Merrith Richards
Alisha Rickert
Jacob Rickert
Erin Riemer
Andrew Riemersma
Kayla Ritenburgh
Andrew Roberts
Anthony Robinson
Kyle Rollins
Jolene Roth
Jordan Schaefer
Sara Schoen
Kimberly Seaman
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John Wilder III
Sara Willett
Brian Williams
Linsay Wohlin
Lisa Wojciakowski
Molliejo Zanella
Lori Zillmer

Lowell volunteer honored by MAMSE

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Kris Gallagher's desire to feel that her presence has made a difference has been a driving force behind the Ada resident's 17 years of volunteer service in the Lowell School District. "I've always wanted to be involved where I can be useful," Gallagher explained. "My volunteer work has also allowed me to follow my kids through school."

Gallagher and her husband Dan have four boys: two (Chad and Jordan) are out of school and two (Chris and David) are in 11th and eighth-grade respectively.

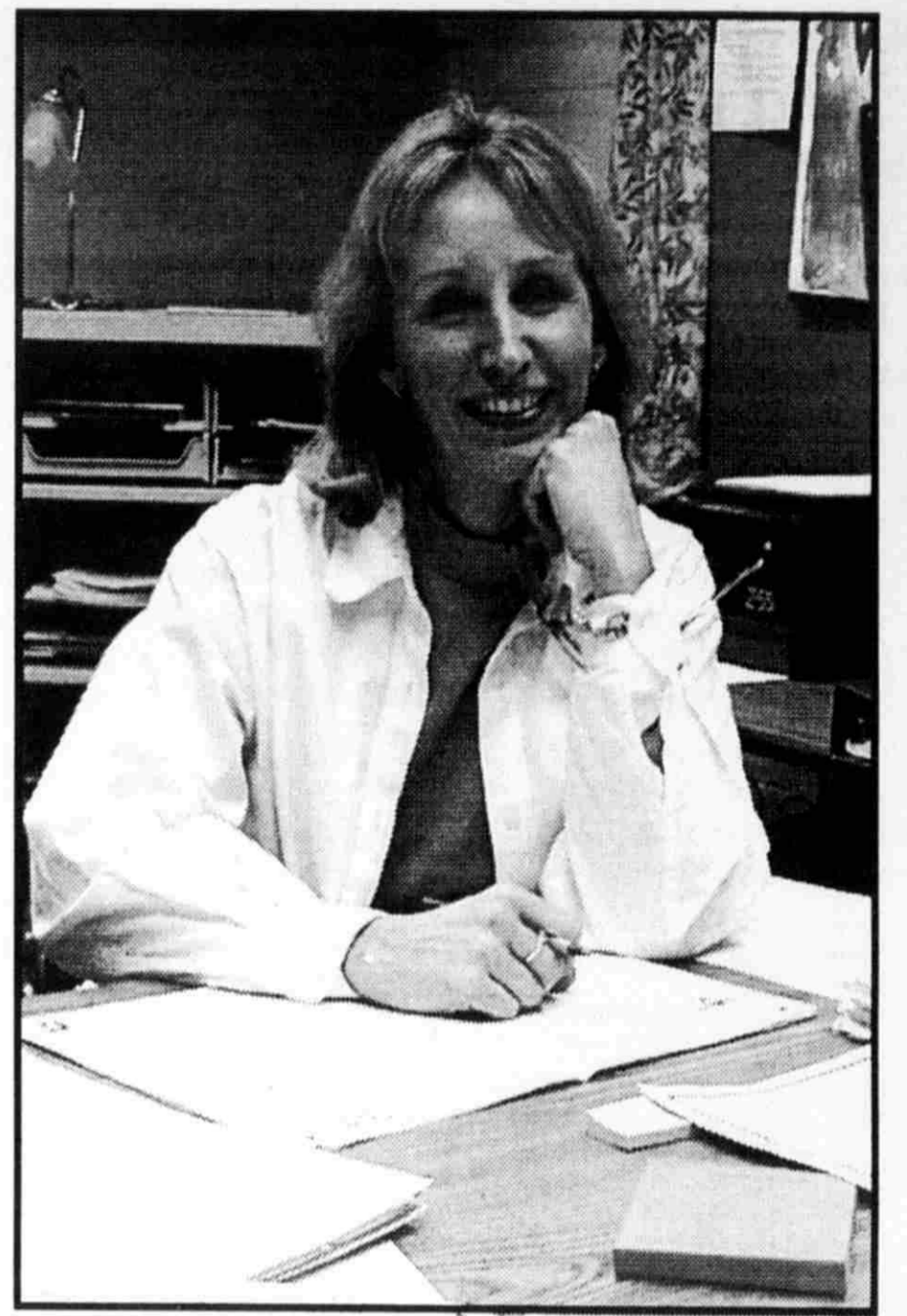
Gallagher's many years of service will be honored at the Region IX state convention in Sault Ste. Marie in March. She will be presented with the Region IX Michigan Association for Middle School Education Parent of the Year award.

"Kris does so much work here at the middle school - getting parents involved as well as coordinating activities and fundraising," said Lowell Middle School principal, Linda Warren.

Gallagher has been involved as coordinator of the middle school family resource center, coordinates fundraising for middle school equipment, serves as a contact person for distribution of information to parents, runs the scrapbooking club, the mother/daughter night and helps find parents to be on the academic track committee, to name a few.

"Kris doesn't wait for parents to contact her, she goes to them," Warren said. "She came to us and wanted to be a liaison person and asked what she could do to help."

Gallagher concludes that she loves people and feeling that she is a part of the answer to bettering public education.



Kris Gallagher will be honored in March at the Region IX state convention.



Charles Lupton Joice Smith Suzanne Reinbold

Four RE/MAX realtors from the Lowell office, 2050 W. Main, received awards at the RE/MAX of Michigan Conference held at the Grand Traverse Resort.

Toni Schaefer received the 100 Percent Club award for the 2002 year and Pat Schaefer earned the Executive Club award. The husband and wife team exceeded \$7 million in sales volume.

Charles Lupton received the President Club award.

Joice Smith earned the 100 Percent Club award for a second consecutive year with over \$4 million in closed volume sales.

Suzanne Reinbold attended the RE/MAX conference. Reinbold joined the RE/MAX staff last fall.

What would life be if we had no courage to attempt anything?
Vincent van Gogh

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The Lowell Ledger
105 N. Broadway • 897-9261

RE/MAX

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Country Hills

897-8106

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Hilltop ranch, 4 bed., 3 bath, new carpet, central air, sliders to deck, all on 20 acres. Living room with fireplace. Walkout lower level. Attached 2-stall garage. New 32 x 48 heated floor pole barn. 4 miles north of town. Call for a tour. Reduced! \$239,900 Joice Smith

Jordan Lake!

Lake Odessa. REDUCED. \$129,900! Affordable lake living. Recently remodeled year-round home in upscale, professional neighborhood, oversized backyard, lake view. Deeded lake access. Sellers motivated. Suzie Reinbold

Lowell: New Listing!

Affordable home in Lowell just waiting for someone to love it. With a little elbow grease, this would be a great starter home or rental. Vinyl siding, large rooms, fenced back yard, storage shed & more. Own your own home today at a very hard to find price in Lowell. Immediate possession! \$799,900 Pat & Toni Schaefer

Lowell: New Construction!

New construction, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, over 1800 sq. ft. The home features an open floor plan, hardwood floors, fireplace, MFI, open stairwell and a great master suite with walk-in closet. There is also a bonus room that is 12x24 and full walkout basement just waiting to be finished. All this sits on a beautiful 1-acre lot in Deer Haven Park! Only \$197,500 Charles Lupton

Lowell: Affordable Living!

Wow! This spacious ranch offers over 1,700 sq. ft. of living space and is waiting for a family of its own! Huge master bedroom addition with 1/2 bath that could easily be turned into a full bath, 3 total bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, hardwood floors, fireplace in living room, 1 acre, children's play equipment and everything on one level! Who could ask for more at only \$112,900 Toni Schaefer

Lowell: New Construction

Quality Sundry built 2-story in fantastic new Bloomington Hills Development. 2300 sq. ft. with a fantastic view of woods and conservancy property. Formal dining room, large living room with fireplace, spacious master suite. Main floor laundry and 1/2 bath off garage. Great walkout level ready to be finished. \$299,900 Pat Schaefer

Saranac: Only \$125,000

This home has all been remodeled and has new mechanicals, roof, windows and siding! With 1900 sq. ft., three bedrooms, an office and two bathrooms the home is much larger than it looks. An all-new "Top of the line" kitchen with hardwood floors is something you would see in your favorite magazine. The bathrooms feature claw foot tub, tile shower and pedestal sink. A great value. Charles Lupton

Saranac: 7+ Acre Farm

4 bed., 3.5 bath, south of Saranac with an easy commute to driving range. This home has a lot of living space. Big formal dining room. All three living room, main floor family room and downstairs rec room, big rooms!!! New real hardwood floor in master bedroom and down the hall. Extra kitchen downstairs. Red barn with loft, pastures fenced for cattle or horses. Hills and valleys. Check it out. \$210,000. Joice Smith

Joice Smith
Cell #293-0980
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OUTDOORS

By Dave Stegehuis



BIG BAD WOLF

Since the early 1970s wolves have been migrating to Michigan from Minnesota and Ontario. The Department of Natural Resources has placed radio collars on about 40 wolves. The animals are now residing in all Upper Peninsula counties, and numbers are expected to continue to increase through natural reproduction and migration. The estimated 280 animals spread in packs across the U.P. are more than enough to allow wolves to be removed from the federal endangered species list and reclassified as threatened under Michigan and federal law. The reclassification is still pending federal approval because of pressure from some groups to extend the endangered species protection.

Besides concerns about livestock predation, some hunters blame the wolf for reduced deer numbers and view the creature as competition. Six wolves have been killed by humans over the last year, a crime punishable by heavy fines and prison time. Wolves are not considered to be a threat to humans. The natural reintroduction of gray wolves to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan has not occurred without difficulty. There have been a limited number of incidents where livestock was preyed upon by wolves. A fund is available to cover these losses. There are ways to reduce livestock losses such as not drawing wolves to farmland by leaving dead livestock out for the animals to find. Wolves can be live-trapped and relocated to a more suitable habitat. The state can use lethal

means as a management tool to control numbers and remove problem animals once wolves are removed from the endangered list. Besides concerns about livestock predation, some hunters blame the wolf for reduced deer numbers and view the creature as competition. Six wolves have been killed by humans over the last year, a crime punishable by heavy fines and prison time. Wolves are not considered to be a threat to humans. The natural reintroduction of gray wolves to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan has not occurred without difficulty. There have been a limited number of incidents where livestock was preyed upon by wolves. A fund is available to cover these losses. There are ways to reduce livestock losses such as not drawing wolves to farmland by leaving dead livestock out for the animals to find. Wolves can be live-trapped and relocated to a more suitable habitat. The state can use lethal

means as a management tool to control numbers and remove problem animals once wolves are removed from the endangered list. Educating the public about

the wolves' role in nature will be necessary if they are to continue to be part of our world. The return of the gray

wolf to Michigan is good news because we have recovered a missing link in our ecosystem.



A Winning Effort!

The St. Patrick's eighth-grade boys basketball team finished its 2003 season with a record of 15-2. That was a single season record for most wins in one year. St. Patrick was the 2003 City Championship runner-up and the St. Patrick School Invitational Tournament champions. Pictured, front row, left to right, are: Eric Dean, Patrick Schoenborn, Dan Stoffer and Justin Shanghai; back row are: Coach Paul Lang, Erin Bronkella, Evan Ormiston, Richard Martinus, Michael Lang and Coach Richard Martinus.

I don't believe in circumstances. The people who get on in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want, and, if they can't find them, make them.

- George Bernard Shaw

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LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS BOARD BRIEFS

Regular Meeting of February 10, 2003

AGENDA ADDITION - The Board added "Closed Session" to the agenda to begin preliminary discussion of the superintendent evaluation.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT - Tom Eldridge, President of the Junior Class, filled in for Matt Tomko. Tom reported that the Sweetheart Swirl dance is set for this Friday, and the student body is participating in spirit days this week. March 20-22 is the musical "Grease" and Model UN is March 13. Cheerleaders took first place in their recent competition, and the regional wrestling tournament will be held this week. There will be a variety show on Wednesday, February 19 at 7:30 p.m. Recently students gave input on technology needs and stated that they would like to have access to their school account from home and be able to check teacher web sites for homework assignments in case students miss class due to illness.

STUDENT RECOGNITION - Board members recognized the outstanding achievements made by the following students:

- Middle School Dignity and Respect Award** - Anna Lane, an 8th grader
- Cherry Creek Dignity and Respect Award** - Hallie Thomas, a 5th grader
- Alto Spelling Bee Winner** - Jonathan Hanson, a 5th grader
- Cherry Creek Spelling Bee Winner** - Megan Rogers, a 5th grader
- Cherry Creek Geography Bee Winner** - Dylan Olin, a 5th grader

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION - Nancy Hopkins and Shari Miller recognized Kris Gallagher who was recently named Parent of the Year - Region 9 by the Michigan Association of Middle School Educators.

STUDENT REPORTS - Middle School - School Improvement and Professional Development - Linda Warren, Middle School Principal, along with several teachers and students, presented the Middle School's School Improvement and Professional Development plans in a student-centered approach.

Readiness Program - Karen Eldridge and a few of her students shared what they have been learning in their Readiness program this year.

ACTION ITEMS -

Accepted the following Gifts:

- Jerry Chase/Barb Plenning donation of workbooks, nature crafts, and bird feeders valued at \$80 to be used by the Wittenbach Center.
- Joanne Parker donation of 14 gowns and a man's suit valued at \$226 to be used by the High School Drama Department.
- Sara Guile donation of 5 prom/wedding dresses valued at \$500 to be used by the Lowell Middle School Drama Department.
- Larry Visser donation of a computer valued at \$50 to be used by the TOTS program.
- Robert Nurmi donation of a flute and a percussion kit valued at \$550 to be used by the Lowell Middle School Band.
- James and Phyllis Karsina donation of a computer monitor valued at \$100 to be used by the Tech Department.
- Mary Ann Schramm donation of fish tank and supplies valued at \$200 to be used by the Wittenbach Center.

CONSENT ITEMS - Approved/accepted were:

- The minutes for January 6, 2003, January 13, 2003 Regular Meeting, January 13, 2003 Closed Session, and January 27, 2003 Workshop Session.
- The following payment of bills for January 2003:

GENERAL FUND.....	\$1,037,891.22
SCHOOL SERVICES FUND	
A. Food Service Fund.....	\$49,765.25
B. Athletic Fund.....	\$3,903.27
2000 CONSTRUCTION FUND.....	\$252,701.25
TRUST AND AGENCY FUND.....	\$20,101.96
- Annual Election Resolution calling for the election to be held on June 9, 2003
- Schools of Choice Resolution to participate in the Kent County Intermediate School District Collaborative Schools of Choice Plan and accept residents of contiguous intermediate school districts by mutual agreements of the superintendents for the 2003-2004 school year.
- Resolution to continue to support the Kent County/Kent ISD Common Calendar Agreement
- Approve the change order in the amount of \$26,980 to install the HWAT-Plus System at the new Murray Lake Elementary School

CONSTRUCTION FOLLOW-UP - Jim White reported that tile work is next on the schedule for the new wing at the high school. During Lowell EXPO on Saturday, March 22 people will have the opportunity to tour the high school's new wing. Construction for the Murray Lake Elementary should begin in March. A groundbreaking ceremony is being planned. Renovations on the Bushnell and Cherry Creek projects are underway.

MEDICATION POLICY REVISION - Shari Miller presented the need to review the Board's medication policy due to changes in the State law. This policy will come back to the March meeting for revision.

BUDGET UPDATE - Connie Gillette reviewed what the budget picture looks like due to Governor Granholm's executive order to reduce the School Aid Foundation Allowance. The administration is meeting with students, community leaders, staff, and parents in an effort to seek input about potential cuts or ways in which to obtain additional revenue.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Shari Miller presented a list of target areas for the 2003-2004 school year that she developed following her meetings with Board members, staff, students, parents, and community members. Nancy Hopkins, Board President, read a resolution announcing that February 9-15 is Principals' Week and a certificate of appreciation was presented to Scott Vashaw, Marlene Heemstra, Linda Warren, Mary Ann Schramm, Maureen Dorrough, and Karen Burd.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Board Workshop
Monday, February 24, 2003
Runciman Admin. Building - Board Room - 5:45 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting
Monday, March 10, 2003
Runciman Admin. Building - Board Room - 7:00 p.m.

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COMING EVENTS

Notices in The Ledger's "Coming Events" are free of charge to any nonprofit organization in the Lowell, Ada, Alto & Saranac areas. We prefer such notices to be kept brief and to be submitted by mail, but will accept notices by phone at 897-9261.

EVERY MONTH: Flat River Snowmobile Club meets at clubhouse (11841 Potters Rd.) east of Montcalm Ave. For dates call 897-5015. Guests welcome.

EVERY OTHER SUN: Single adults, ages 25-50 years, meet 4 - 5:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church of Lowell. Social time/ lt. Bible study. Call Mark 897-8642 or Tammy 897-0872.

EVERY MON: Lowell High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Friends - meets from 7-8:30 p.m. in members' homes. Call 676-1355 for details.

SECOND MON. OF EACH MONTH: Fallasburg Historical Society holds monthly board meeting at chamber office at 7 p.m. Public invited. 897-7161.

SECOND MON. OF EACH MONTH: The Lowell Board of Education meets at 7:00 p.m. in Administration Building, 300 High Street.

SECOND MON. OF EACH MONTH: Bowne Township Historical Society holds its regular meeting at the Historical Museum at 84th and Alden Nash, 7:30 p.m.

THIRD MON. OF THE MONTH: Lowell Showboat Garden Club meets at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall of the Nazarene Church. For info. call Dave : 897-2533.

MON. OR TUES.: Cub Scouts for boys in 1st - 5th grades, Alto or Lowell. Call Terry Amidon at 897-8751.

FOURTH MON. OF EACH MONTH: American Legion Clark-Ellis Post 152 at Schneider Manor, Bldg. D, 725 Bowes Rd. 8 p.m.

1ST MON. OF THE MONTH: Diabetic Support group (7 p.m.) at 1st United Methodist Church dining room. ?'s call 897-2760.

THIRD MON. OF EACH MONTH: Women of the Moose business meeting at 7:30 p.m.

EVERY 1ST MON.: V.F.W. Post #8303 meets at 7:00 p.m. (at Schneider Manor until further notice.)

EVERY MON.: Boy Scout Troop 102: boys 11 & up or completing 5th-grade, meets 7 - 8:30 p.m. at Scout Cabin on N. Washington St. Call Terry 868-6481.

EVERY TUES.: Scrapbook Club at LMS after school. Contact Kris Gallagher at 897-9222.

1ST & 3RD TUES.: Diabetic Support group meets at Schneider Manor Community Room at 9:30 a.m. ?'s call 897-2760.

SECOND TUES.: G.R. Chapter of the American Sewing Guild meets at Plainfield Senior Center, 5255 Grand River Dr. 6:30 social time; 7 p.m. program. Call Sandy at 285-0621.

TUES.: Take Off Pounds Sensibly Tops MI#372 meets Key Heights Mobile Home Park Community Bldg. Weigh-ins 5:45 p.m.

TUES.: Flat River Woodcarvers meet at LAAC 6:30-8:30 p.m. New members welcome.

1ST TUES.: Adults with AD/HD at Calvin College, 7-9 p.m. Free. Call Gary Engle at 897-6325 or 248-2423.

1ST TUES.: WINGS Parent Group meets 7:30 - 9 p.m., in Board Room at 300 High St. Business meetings/odd mos; program meetings/even mos.

EVERY SECOND & FOURTH TUES.: Knights of Columbus #7719 meets St. Mary School, 7:30 p.m.

EVERY SECOND TUES.: Lowell Masonic Lodge reg. meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Masonic Center, 119 Lincoln Lake.

SECOND TUES.: G.R. region of the Horseless Carriage Club meets 7 p.m. at old S&H Green Stamp storefront in Rogers Plaza. Anyone interested in historical autos welcome. Call Bob 891-2205 for more information.

EVERY 1ST & 3RD TUES.: Lowell Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Look Memorial Fire Station, 315 S. Hudson St.

EVERY 3RD TUES.: Parents of children w/AD/HD at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 32156 4 Mile NE (E. Beltline) 7 p.m. Call Linda 874-5662; teen group: Call Sarah 281-6588.

EVERY 1ST TUES.: Adults w/ AD/HD Issues Group meeting: Calvin College #206 of the Commons. Connie 942-6887.

EVERY OTHER WED.: 6:45-8:45 p.m. G.E.M.S. Girls Club - Calvary Christian Reformed Church, Girls ages 8-13. 897-8694.

EVERY WED.: Pioneer Clubs 6:30-8 p.m. Evergreen Missionary Church, 10501 Settlewood Dr. Children 4-7th grade. 897-5894 for details.

WED.: 8 p.m. ALANON meets at Lowell Congregational Church upstairs.

EVERY WED.: Rotary meets at noon at Lowell Masonic Temple.

EVERY WED.: "Peppers" (Sr. adults) at Franciscan Life Process Center: 1:30-3 p.m. \$10/wk. Transportation? Call Pat 897-7842.

EVERY WED.: Lowell Church of the Nazarene Caravan children's program, 7 p.m., 5-12 years. Call 897-8800 with ???'s.

EVERY SECOND WED.: Kent County Youth Fair Board meets at 7:30 p.m. at King Memorial Youth Center at the Fairgrounds. Call 897-6050.

EVERY SECOND WED.: Lowell Women's Club meets noon in community room at Schneider Manor, 725 Bowes Rd.

EVERY FOURTH WED.: Elderly volunteers needed for Intergenerational program w/school children from Lowell in activities. 9:45-10:45 a.m. or 12:45 - 1:45 p.m. Call Sister Colleen F.S.E. at Franciscan Child Development Center, 897-7842.

EVERY FOURTH WED.: Support group for Peripheral neuropathy meets at 4 p.m. at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Grand Rapids. 897-9794.

THURS.: Weight Watchers at Lowell Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington, 5:30 & 7 p.m. Register 1/2 hr. before meetings. New members invited 1-800-651-6000.

EVERY THURS.: Saranac Area Musicians and Singers: Saranac High School, Choir: 6 - 7 p.m./band: 7 - 8 p.m. Kathy 897-5981.

EVERY THURS.: Pottery classes at Franciscan Life Process Center from 6:30

- 8:30 p.m. \$10/hour/ \$15 for two. 897-7842 for info.

EVERY THURS. - St. Mary's Pregnancy Crisis Center, 402 Amity St., non-denominational help for pregnant women / adolescents at the school: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Mondays: 5:30 - 8 p.m. 897-9393.

FIRST THURS.: 4-H drama club meetings at Lowell Middle School choir room. 897-1502 after 5.

FIRST AND THIRD THURS.: Alto Lions Club meets at a new location: Annalaine's on S. Alden Nash at 7 p.m.

EVERY 2ND THURS.: N.A.R.F.E. meets 1:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 E. Fulton.

EVERY 3RD THURS.: Rubber stamping group at Christian Life Center 6-9 p.m. Create cards, scrapbooks, etc. Share supplies. Call Dawn 862-8841.

EVERY 3RD THURS.: VFW #8303 Ladies Auxiliary: 3 p.m. at Schneider Manor (until further notice).

EVERY THIRD THURS.: Parents Supporting Parents group at Franciscan Life Process Center: discussion for parents of children. Call 897-7842.

EVERY THIRD THURS.: Royal Arch Masons regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Lowell Masonic Center, 119 Lincoln Lake, Lowell. Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

EVERY THIRD THURS.: LaLeche League of Ada, Cascade, Lowell 6:30 p.m. socializing; meeting 7 p.m. Mother-mother support for pregnant & breastfeeding women. Nursing children welcome. Ada church. Call 752-8300.

SECOND THURS. OF EACH MONTH: Genealogy - Alto Family Tree Club at Alto Library 6:30 - 8 p.m.

SECOND SAT. OF EVERY MONTH: Ada Historical Society 1 p.m. at Averill Historical Museum of Ada, 7144 Headley.

SECOND SAT.: Lowell Amateur Radio Club at Lowell High School 9 a.m. social time; 10 a.m. meeting. LARC sponsors the 145.27 MHz area radio repeater system.

EVERY FRI. & SAT.: Averill Historical Museum of Ada, 7144 Headley 1-4 p.m. By appt.: 676-9346.

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM HOURS: Tues., Sat & Sun.: 1-4 p.m.; Thurs., 1-8 p.m. Families: \$10; individuals \$3; ages 5-17 \$1.50; members free.

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES THRIFT SHOP HOURS: Wed.-Fri.: 12-6 p.m.; Sat.: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 519 E. Main St. 897-2037.

ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY HOURS: Mon.-Wed., 12-8 p.m.; Thurs. - Fri.: 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat.: 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. 200 N. Monroe St. 647-3920.

LOWELL AREA ARTS COUNCIL: Open Tues., Wed. & Fri.: noon - 5 p.m.; Thurs.: noon - 7 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m. 149 S. Hudson. Call 897-8545.

WED., FEB. 19: Lowell Fire Dept. blood drive for Grand Valley Blood program, 2-7 p.m. at Look Memorial Fire Station, 315 S. Hudson.

WED., FEB. 19: Annual LHS staff/student variety show at LPAC (7:30 p.m.) \$5 at the door.

WED., FEB. 26: Merchant meeting at Chamber, 7:45 a.m. informative meeting on dealing with insufficient funds & closed account checks, presented by Lowell City Police. Call Liz at 897-9161 for information. Regular merchants meeting follows.

THURS., FEB. 27: Ethics and diversity Lowell Leadership workshop at Lowell Area Schools Administration Building, 300 High St. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Call chamber at 897-9161 to register.

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THURS., FEB. 27: LHS Sr. vs. Jr. guys volleyball challenge in Lowell High School main gym, 7:30 p.m. \$3 at the door. Profits go to senior class.

FRI., FEB. 28: Dallas Children's Theater production of "African Tales of Earth & Sky," 1 hr. musical at LPAC at 7 p.m. Tickets at LAAC 897-8545.

SAT., MARCH 1: Women's Retreat at Franciscan Life Process Center. Call 897-7842 for a brochure on this spiritual enrichment experience.

SUN., MARCH 2: Lowell Day at Lakeland, Fla. Huntington Hills Country Club, Duff Rd. Buffet at 1 p.m. Call Mary Peckham 863-683-6336, Carmen Roudabush at 863-604-9093 or Barb Curtis at 863-682-7136.

MON., MARCH 3: Athletic Boosters regular meeting at 7 p.m. in the high school staff lounge.

THURS., MARCH 6: Commodities distribution at Lowell Recreational Building, 8 a.m. - ?

THURS., MARCH 13: Crop Walk Rally at 1st United Methodist Church Education Wing at 7 p.m. Send a rep for pledge sheets and promo materials; call 897-5936.

COMING EVENT - Lowell Seniors Travel (all ages). Italy (Tuscany area) March 29 - April 6 all inclusive. Call Mary 897-7092 for more information.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

LOWELL SENIOR NEIGHBORS CALENDAR 897-5949

MON.: 9 a.m. Walk/Shop at Woodland Mall.

TUES.: 9 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall. 12:45 p.m. Bible Study.

WED., FEB. 19: 10 a.m. Advisory Council.

THURS., FEB. 20: 12:00 p.m. Dance.

FRI., FEB. 21: 12 p.m. Birthday/Anniversary celebration; 12:45 Bingo.

MON., FEB. 24: 12:45 p.m. Video "Songs That Won WW II" by famous singers.

THURS.: 9 a.m. Walk/Shop at the Malls; 9:30 Crafts; 1 p.m. Euchre.

FRI.: 9 a.m. Walk/Shop at Woodland Mall.

TUES., FEB. 25: 12:30 p.m. Seniors' lunch at Alto Elementary School; 12:45 p.m. Bible Study.

WED., FEB. 26: 8:30 a.m. Women's Breakfast.

THURS., FEB. 27: 12:45 p.m. Shop Greenville K-Mart & Dollar Store.

FRI., FEB. 28: 12:45 p.m. Bingo.

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOWELL

For the Regular Meeting of **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2003.**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Shores and the City Clerk called Roll.

Present: Councilmembers Blough, Brubaker, Myers Pfaller and Mayor Shores.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Dave Pasquale, City Clerk Betty Morlock, Police Chief Jim Valentine, Public Works Director Dan DesJarden and Planning Commission Chairman Clark Jahnke.

IT WAS MOVED BY BLOUGH and seconded by MYERS that the minutes of the January 21, 2003 regular meeting be approved as corrected.

YEA: 5.

NAY: 0.

ABSENT: 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY MYERS and seconded by PFALLER that the bills and accounts payable be allowed and the warrants issued.

YEA: 5.

NAY: 0.

ABSENT: 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (02/03/03)

GENERAL FUND	\$107,104.48
MAJOR STREET FUND	4,797.41
LOCAL STREET FUND	828.22
DDA FUND	1,736.85
AIRPORT FUND	5,460.81
WASTEWATER FUND	186,050.15
WATER FUND	10,157.60
DATA PROCESSING FUND	228.14
EQUIPMENT FUND	311.67
CURRENT TAX FUND	307,455.09
LOOK FUND	1,260.00

Item #1. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO CLARA BLAZO FOR THE NAMING OF UPPER BRIDGE PARK. Mayor Shores presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Clara Blazo (2898 Gulliford) in recognition of naming Lowell's newest park, "Upper Bridge Park." Shores thanked Blazo for her effort.

A total of 20 entries were reviewed from a "Name the Park" contest. The Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council selected Upper Bridge Park.

There was no further discussion.

Item #2. OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ORDINANCE - RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION - ADOPT OR SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE (2/18). Planning Commission Chairman Clark Jahnke and Councilmember Dan Brubaker spent much effort providing information for the Open Space Preservation Ordinance. The State passed Act 179 of 2001, which requires Michigan cities with adopted zoning ordinances, a population of 1800, and undeveloped land for residential development at a certain density adopt open space preservation provisions at the option of the land owner.

Over the past several months, the Planning Commission has reviewed the ordinance with Brubaker's assistance and laid out open space preservation standards in the residential areas.

Brubaker stated the wording in Section 23 "Qualifying Conditions," comes directly from the Act. The Act was meant to force communities to allow clustering under certain circumstances. Cities only have to allow clustering at 80 percent of development, allowing 20 percent open space. This ordinance provides such conditions. It sets forth an application and review procedure and includes much detail on the type of site plan which can be submitted. The ordinance also provides what is considered open space and what is not.

Brubaker suggested a public hearing be set for Tuesday, February 18, 2003. The process is very similar to the Planned Unit Development, although the City does not have as much discretion because it is a State mandated option.

IT WAS MOVED BY BRUBAKER and seconded by PFALLER to set a public hearing for February 18, 2003

to consider the adoption of the Open Space Preservation Ordinance.

YEA: 5.

NAY: 0.

ABSENT: 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Myers verified the ordinance would be published. City Manager Pasquale responded yes.

Item #3. AMENDMENTS OF THE SR AND R-1 DISTRICTS OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE - RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION - ADOPT OR SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE (2/18). After several months of review by the Planning Commission, the ordinance amendment revises several regulations involving the SR and R-1 districts. These are:

In the SR District

- reduce the front yard setback from 40 to 30 feet
- increase the rear yard setback from 25 to 35 feet
- decrease the minimum lot size from 35,000 to 23,000 square feet
- decrease the minimum lot width from 165 to 125 feet
- adjusted the minimum dwelling unit floor area previous: 1,500 square feet UFA proposed: Single Level Ranch 1,200 square feet main floor with attached garage Multi Level 780 square feet main floor 1,400 total square feet

In the R-1 District

- adjusted the minimum dwelling unit floor area previous: 1,500 square feet UFA proposed: Single Level 1,200 square feet main floor living area Multi Level 780 square feet main floor 1,400 total square feet

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER and seconded by BLOUGH to set a public hearing for February 18, 2003 to consider the amendments for the SR and R-1 districts.

YEA: 5.

NAY: 0.

ABSENT: 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

Item #4. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

417 Howard - Candice and Chris Fleszar-Smith-variance to allow a 4 - foot high front yard fence-public hearing date (2/3). Candice and Chris Fleszar-Smith wish to install a 4 - foot high fence in their required front yard located at 417 Howard. Under Section 4.07B., fences in the required front yard are limited to three feet in height. Thus, a variance has been requested.

At its January 27, 2003 meeting, the Planning Commission recommended against granting the variance. There were no unusual circumstances or undue hardships demonstrated. Also, this type of request had been received several times before.

The Planning Commission wishes to amend the ordinance allowing greater latitude for front yard fence height. A recommended ordinance amendment will be submitted to Council for consideration in the near future.

Candice Fleszar-Smith indicated she and her husband attended the Planning Commission meeting and understood it was denied in order to review the ordinance. They wish to install a scalloped picket fence. The motivation behind installing this fence is for their two small children. The yard consists of two side yards with no backyard. It is very difficult to be outside with their children for fear of them running into the street.

The Fleszar-Smith's wish to match the fence to one of their neighbor's fence, which is scalloped.

Fleszar-Smith stated she has had discussion with neighbors and received signatures, which expressed their support.

Zoning Boardmember Shores questioned the height of the neighbor's fence. Fleszar-Smith responded 53 inches at the top of the picket.

Zoning Board Chairman Brubaker asked if the signatures were presented to the Planning Commissioners. Fleszar-Smith responded no. The signatures were received over the past weekend. She noted the neighbors were provided with a picture of the fence and understood a variance was being sought. The neighbors also under-

stood signing the petition indicated support of the variance.

Zoning Boardmember Myers inquired regarding the composition of the fence. Fleszar-Smith responded vinyl. It is very durable.

Myers questioned the height at the bottom of the fence. Fleszar-Smith estimated approximately 9 inches.

Fleszar-Smith understood a change of the ordinance was being reviewed. She suggested the Council review construction materials of fences.

Brubaker read a letter from Susan Doyle of 516 Howard Street, which indicated she was against the variance. She believed the fence would interfere with sight lines and help destroy the aesthetics of the neighborhood.

Brubaker stated this issue arises often.

Planning Commission Chairman Jahnke stated the issue has been brought several times over the years. He considered the first criteria, regarding "is the request so general in nature that we should be looking at changing the ordinance itself."

Zoning Boardmember Pfaller asked when the proposed ordinance would be considered. Jahnke responded at least two months. The first step would be to receive input from Zoning Official (Building Inspector) Doug Hopkins during the February 24, 2003 meeting. Jahnke believed the first opportunity to review a draft would be during the March 24, 2003 meeting.

Blough considered tabling the issue until the Planning Commission has reviewed the ordinance and presented a recommendation, which may be comparable with what the homeowner can use.

Shores questioned when Fleszar-Smith wanted to install the fence. Fleszar-Smith responded as soon as possible. She was hopeful the Board would pass the variance and then review the ordinance.

Brubaker explained the Board was asking for her input because this could be deferred and may be in her best interest to do so. Fleszar-Smith understood the Board usually follows what the Planning Commission recommends.

Zoning Boardmember Myers appreciated Fleszar-Smith's comment suggesting a review of fence materials.

Pfaller wanted to see what the Planning Commission would recommend before a variance is issued.

Blough stated the Board has had this discussion a number of times. It is probably appropriate the Planning Commission is addressing it again. In the past, the City has been faced with installing a fence because of safety issues. This is a valid concern. There has always been a concern over what the correct height is for the safety of a child.

Blough was also in favor of addressing aesthetic and material aspects of a fence. Blough wanted to hear what the Planning Commission had to recommend.

Myers stated he would also tend to turn to the Planning Commission and follow their recommendation.

Shores agreed and believed an ordinance change should be carried out rather than a variance.

Myers noted when a variance is considered, this does not stay with the homeowner, but rather with the property.

Brubaker stated a variance is difficult to receive. He would also probably consider changing the ordinance and liked the proposal of incorporating design and material standards.

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER and seconded by SHORES to table the issue of front yard fence variance at 417 Howard Street pending ordinance review by the Planning Commission.

YEA: 5.

NAY: 0.

ABSENT: 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

Item #5. RENEWAL OF CHRISTMAS DECORATION CONTRACT - 2003 - 2005. A contract from Kenmark, Inc. provides for Christmas decorations downtown. These encompass 63 pole decorations at \$63 each (remains the same) and 11 bows with pole wrap at \$26 each

Lowell varsity cheer 2nd at DeWitt; JV 1st

Lowell's varsity sideline cheer team traveled to DeWitt Saturday for the Panther Cheer Classic. Competing against five teams in the Class A division, Lowell placed second behind Grand Ledge with L'anse Cruise North finishing third. There were more than 100 sideline and competitive cheer teams from youth to varsity which competed in the meet. In the junior varsity division, Lowell claimed honors. Lowell will travel to Grand Ledge on Saturday. Following Grand Ledge, Lowell travels to Byron Center on Feb. 27 in its final meet before the March 8 regional final in Hastings. Lowell must place in the top two in order to qualify for the state championship in Saginaw on March 15. Members of the winning junior varsity sideline cheer team, pictured left, are Katie Callihan, Erin Craig, Amanda Roberts, Nicole Swift, Julie Dunn, Kyleigh Gilliard, Jessica Stephens, Jessica Stincomb, Sarah McCarrick, Alyssa Rasch, Tracy Warren, Jenna White, Tiffany Wilkins and Karis Prill.



CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

(remains the same). Thus, the total of \$4,255 is kept as with the previous contract. The prices also remain for the next two years assuming the same kind of contracts. Councilmember Pfaller inquired why the expense was coming out of the unallocated account. City Manager Pasquale explained this is where it was placed in the budget.

IT WAS MOVED BY MYERS and seconded by PFALLER to renew the Christmas Decoration contract with Kenmark, Inc. as presented in the amount of \$4,255.

YEA: 5.

NAY: 0.

ABSENT: 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

Item #6. PROPOSAL TO PREPARE OFFICE FURNITURE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE CITY HALL - POLICE STATION FROM WEST MICHIGAN OFFICE INTERIORS. The City Hall - Police Station project is well on its way and the need of office furniture needs to be addressed. In discussing this with City staff, City Manager Pasquale said some assistance is needed to assemble a package, which can be placed for bids.

A letter submitted by West Michigan Office Interiors (WMOI) indicated a specifications package could be provided to receive bids. The cost for this service would not exceed \$4,000. If they happen to be a successful bidder, the fee would be waived.

Councilmember Myers questioned the conflict of WMOI bidding, while also providing assistance in the specifications. Pasquale stated the City maintains the right to choose based on the bids. Valentine mentioned it has been pointed out there have been several instances where WMOI acted as office furniture consultants, however the firm did not receive the bid.

Councilmember Blough questioned the budget for the furniture. Pasquale stated an allowance of \$100,000 was provided by Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber.

Councilmember Brubaker wanted to be careful about a perspective bidder working on the specifications in such a way it favors the bidder. He wanted to ensure Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber had enough input so the descriptions are generic enough and other companies will be able to bid successfully.

Myers believed a professional review is necessary.

Shores felt such a job would be overwhelming for staff.

Myers asked if there were any other companies who could provide specifications. Pasquale stated this could be reviewed. However, there is a time schedule which needs to be met.

Pasquale stated the City is familiar with this firm. Much time has been spent with WMOI's representatives. They have done a number of municipal projects, including the City of Coldwater, which was recently visited by City staff.

IT WAS MOVED BY MYERS and seconded by BRUBAKER to approve the proposal for office furniture specifications for the City Hall - Police Station which would be provided by West Michigan Office Interiors at a cost not to exceed \$4000.

YEA: 5.

NAY: 0.

ABSENT: 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

Item #7. PROPOSED ORDINANCE INCLUDING SEWER BACKUP AND OVERFLOW CLAIM REPORTING PROCEDURES TO THE WATER AND SEWER

DISPOSAL SERVICE CHAPTER, CODE OF ORDINANCES - TABLED FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING. City Councilmember Brubaker stated the ordinance was reviewed at the last meeting. However, definitions from Act 222 have now been added, as directed by Council.

Marilyn Branham of 280 Roberta Jayne wanted health and safety issues included in the information packet. By consensus, the Council believed these should be placed in the packet rather than the ordinance.

IT WAS MOVED BY BRUBAKER and seconded by MYERS to adopt the ordinance regarding sewer backup and overflow claim reporting procedures as submitted.

YEA: 5.

NAY: 0.

ABSENT: 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Shores thanked Councilmember Brubaker for his hard work on this ordinance.

Item #8. SANITARY SEWER AND STORM WATER BACKUPS - PROGRESS REPORT. Public Works Director Dan DesJarden reported since the last Council meeting there have been three sewer complaints. Upon investigation, it was determined to be the homeowners' laterals which were defected. The owners were informed to contact a licensed plumber to correct the problem.

During the same time period, there were no sewer backups from the sewer mains.

At the January 6, 2003 Council meeting, DesJarden submitted an information packet on drain floats and backflow devices asking the Council to review and submit comments. If the Council agreed this was sufficient, he would contact the Health Department.

Councilmember Brubaker questioned the sentence in the letter which states, "we would offer drain floats at no cost to residents who have experienced a backup due to a faulty sewer main or maintenance." Brubaker thought the City would offer a drain float whenever there was a backup or if more than one occurred.

Councilmember Blough believed the discussion was regardless of whether it was the City or homeowner's problem, City staff was still called out to investigate. Blough stated if the installation of the devices prevent a backup, this would be worth it.

Councilmember Pfaller suggested the letter read "the Lowell City Council has approved to offer the drain float at no cost to residents who have experienced a backup."

Blough wanted to review the budget which would be used to cover the particular item. He suggested capping it off at some budgetary amount.

Brubaker questioned the number of backups in a given year. DesJarden was unsure. There have been at least 20 since he started reporting this on the agenda.

Brubaker asked if a budgeted amount of \$500 would cover this for a year.

DesJarden explained there's a possibility one house may need four drain floats. Shores suggested the City provide two per household.

Blough proposed directing individuals to local vendors in town who carry these devices. He believed the City could probably handle the cost over the year and then re-evaluate it.

DesJarden stated he would review his record book from the past five years to determine how many calls and repeat calls have been received.

No further information was received.

Item #9. CITIZEN COMMENTS. Sandee Johnston of 1201 Sibley questioned the location of the three backups. DesJarden responded one was in the 1300 block of Jane Ellen, 200 block of Valley Vista and 100 block of East Main Street.

Johnston inquired when the lines were televised, could it be determined instantly if the laterals needed repair. Johnston thought there was also another lateral problem, which was not reported. DesJarden explained Johnston is referring to a homeowner who was replacing the water and sewer line due to the lateral being cast iron.

DesJarden stated the reason he does not give an exact address and cause of the backup is because he believes it is an invasion of privacy.

Item #10. COUNCIL COMMENTS. No comments were received.

Item #11. MANAGER'S REPORT. City Manager Pasquale reported on the following:

1. The following boards and commissions meetings minutes are provided:
 - Planning Commission minutes of November 25 and December 9, 2002 and January 13, 2003
 - NOTE: Clark Jahnke and Al Mathews were elected as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Commission for 2003
 - Downtown Development Authority meeting of December 12, 2002
 - Lowell Area Trails Meeting of January 22, 2003

2. City offices are closed on Monday, February 17th in observance of Presidents Day. The next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 18th.

3. At a meeting held on Wednesday, January 22, the Federal Surface Transportation Program - Small Urban Program and Lowell's participation were reviewed and discussed. Projects for the years 2004 and 2005 were considered with a maximum federal match of \$375,000 in a given year.

The reconstruction of Foreman Road from N. Hudson to Gee Drive was formally submitted. Since the engineering estimate is \$794,000, two years funding must be secured. An application will be submitted shortly.

Item #12. APPOINTMENTS. By general consensus, the Council reappointed Michael Sprenger and Michael Larkin to the Downtown Development Authority with terms expiring January 1, 2007.

By general consensus, the Council also reappointed Daniel Pipe and Steven Doyle to the Downtown Historic District Commission with terms expiring January 1, 2006.

Mayor Shores noted individuals who wish to serve on any Boards or Commissions should submit a letter to the City Clerk.

IT WAS MOVED BY MYERS to adjourn at 8:50 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: Monday, February 17, 2003

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

Senior gymnasts shine in home finale victory over Kenowa Hills

By Thaddeus J. Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor



Carisa Sayer recorded a personal best 8.65 on the balance beam in her final performance at home.

As freshmen, they were as good as any outgoing seniors; as seniors, they are the best class of gymnasts to come through Lowell High School.

Their names will be remembered for elevating a program from a pretender status to a contender in the O-K Rainbow. Lowell seniors ended an era Wednesday night, as they posted a 136.35-127.775 win over Kenowa Hills in their final home match of their high school careers.

"It definitely is the end of an era," said Lowell gymnastics coach, Michele DeHaan. "They definitely have elevated this program."

While the meet with the Knights was relaxing and fun, it was also bittersweet.

"Unlike in football and basketball where you have freshman and junior varsity teams, I've coached these girls for four years," DeHaan said. "I've really gotten to know them so well. They are like family."

Well, DeHaan's family was there for her again... against Kenowa Hills.

The Red Arrows outscored the Knights in four events. Holly Plattner led the way on the vault with a score of 9.0. She was followed by Melissa Neubecker, 8.6; Krystal White 8.45 and Leannah Seese 8.2.

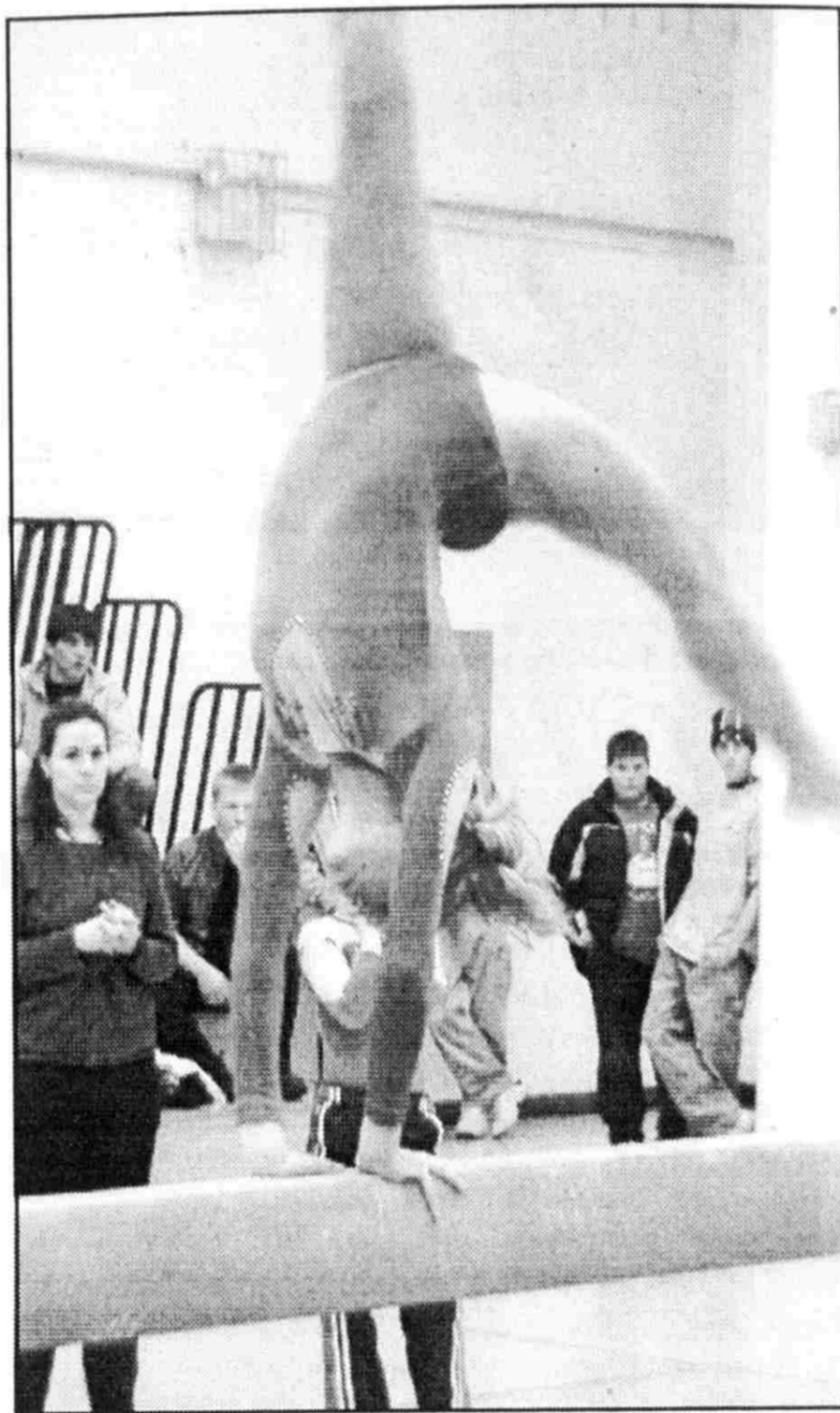
Plattner was the medalist on the beam with a score of 9.1. Senior Carisa Sayer gave a personal best performance in recording an 8.65 followed by White's 8.55 and Kim Seaman's 8.2.

"Carisa has all of a sudden become so consistent for us. She's peaking at the right time," DeHaan said.

Plattner led all Lowell gymnasts on the uneven bars with a score of 8.4, followed by Neubecker and White with an 8.05 and Seese with a 7.95.

Plattner's 9.1 in the floor exercise was tops. Neubecker finished just shy of a nine with an 8.95 while White tallied an 8.65 and Carmen Datema scored an 8.45.

The win improved Lowell's record to 3-3 in league play.



Kim Hoogewind executes a hand stand on the beam.

Strong first period leads Arrow icers past Wildcats

The Lowell-Caledonia varsity hockey team defeated the Wildcats of Wayland Saturday night by the score of 4-2.

The Red Arrow victory keeps the goal of winning the conference title alive. Lowell currently sits in second place, and will need to win both games this weekend to gain sole possession of first place.

All the scoring action in Saturday night's game took place in the first period.

Ted McCoy and Corey Kelly accounted for the first three goals of the game. At three minutes into the game Kelly

picked off a stray Wildcat pass and broke free into the neutral zone. Skating in alone on goal, Kelly fired a low hard wrist shot, of which Wayland goaltender, Trevor Vanportfleet, made the initial save. The rebound came back to McCoy who wasted no time in finishing the play by firing the puck in the net.

Less than two minutes later, the duo did it again. This time Kelly broke free in the neutral zone, hit McCoy with a pass who had enough speed to get around the defenders and skate into on the Wayland goalie.

Lowell's third goal came when Eric Austin fed a pass to McCoy. Without even looking, McCoy passed the puck out in front of the Wayland goal where Kelly was waiting. As the puck came his way he snapped a shot past the Wayland goaltender for a 3-0 Lowell advantage.

The Wildcats followed with a goal on a power play to get on the scoreboard and cut the deficit to two at 3-1.

A Lowell infraction 40 seconds later gave Wayland another power play opportunity.

Some strong goaltending by Brandon John and some fancy stick work enabled Lowell to score a short-handed goal.

This time a McCoy shot went wide but the Red Arrow got his own rebound from behind the goal, and skated to the open side of the net and backhanded the puck past the Wayland goalie for a 4-1 Lowell lead.

The first period came to an end as Wayland closed the gap to 4-2, when the Wildcats scored on a power play goal with six seconds to play in the first period.

The next two periods, while scoreless, were filled with good hustle, hard hitting, and overall well played hockey by both sides. Wayland was unable to penetrate Lowell's defensive unit of Josh Baker, Bryan Posthumus, Brandon Gillikin and Ramsey Charrouf.

Six Red Arrows claim championships in Lowell's strong district showing

By Thaddeus J. Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor

It was the dream matchup of the Division II Individual District 10 championship Saturday at Lowell High School.

Lakewood's Tom Pett, defending Division II state champion at 152 pounds against Lowell's Bobby Gingerich, 2002 Division II runner-up at 140 pounds.

"The key to today's match was staying away from the upper body," Gingerich explained. "Tom's strength is catching you and then sticking you."

Pett (21-1) never caught Gingerich (45-1) Saturday as the Red Arrow stuck the Viking with his first loss (3-1) of the year.

"It feels real good to beat him. I've been picturing this moment all year," Gingerich said. "All those snow hills and long practices paid off."

Gingerich's district title was one of six collected by the Red Arrows. In all, Lowell sent 10 wrestlers into the final round.

"It was a good day. All but one of our wrestlers who made it into the finals or consolation round won their matches," Dave Strejc explained. "And he (Jayme DeLiefde) lost to his teammate (Kevin Frazier)."

Other Lowell grapplers earning district titles were J.J. Wilder, 160 pounds; Beau Wilder, 130; Matt Kilmartin,

125; Brandon Kinney, 119; and Joe Mendez, 112.

J.J. Wilder decided Caledonia's Corey Kilmartin 14-8 while Beau Wilder upended Wyoming Park's Ken Seganski 8-3.

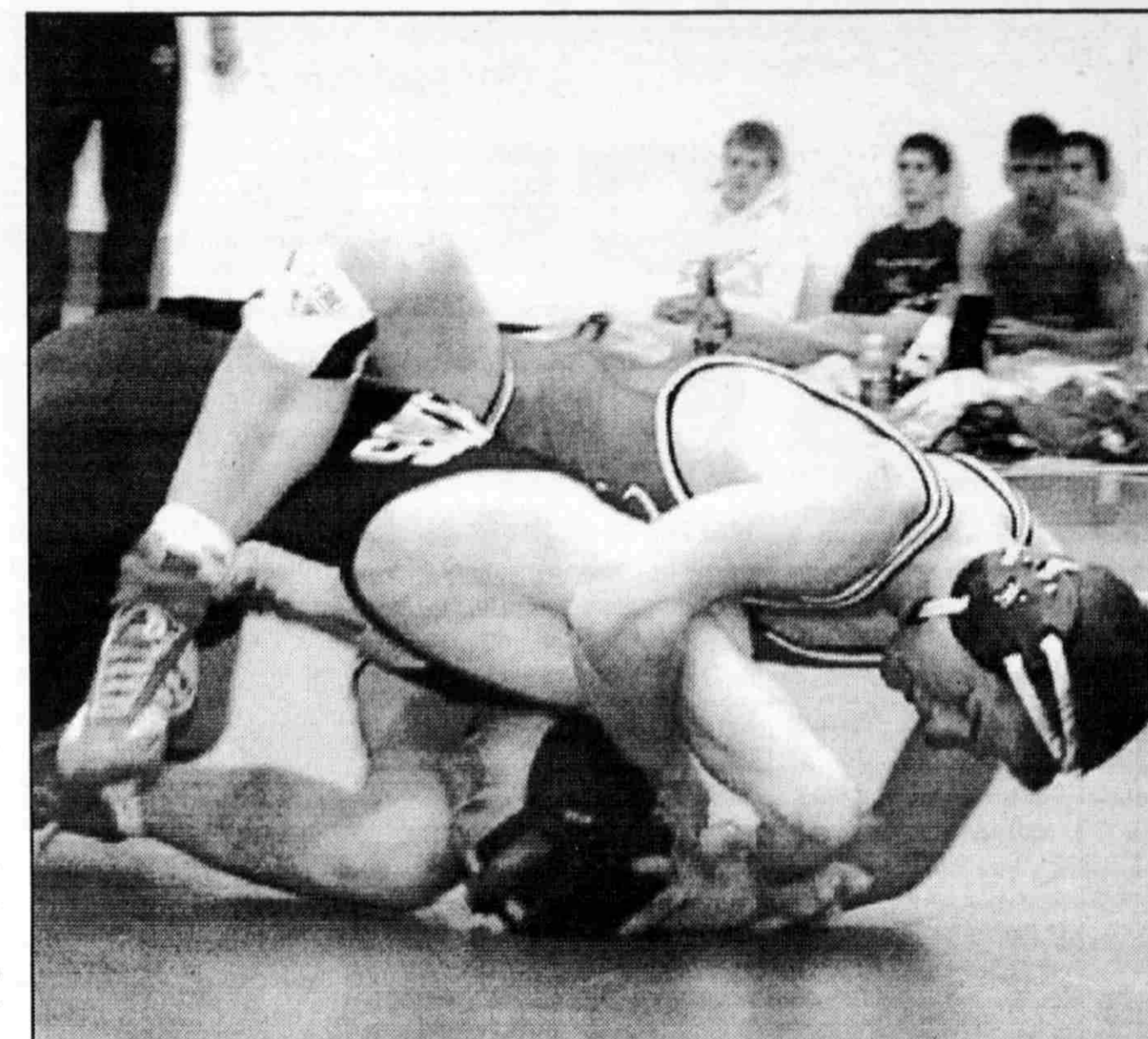
"Beau was ready for business today," Strejc said. "He's wrestling well."

Kilmartin decided Wyoming Park's Kevin Mix 3-1 in the finals at 125 pounds.

Kinney ran his record to 47-0 with a 10-3 win over Mark Dunham of Wyoming Park.

Mendez improved to 42-3 with a pin in 26 seconds of the first period against Kenowa Hills' Justin Truman.

Red Arrows who won their consolation matches and



Bobby Gingerich defeated defending state champion Tom Pett 3-1 in the 152 pound district final.

finished third were Ryan Dykhouse (160); Pieter Serne (189) and Kevin Frazier. Frazier decided

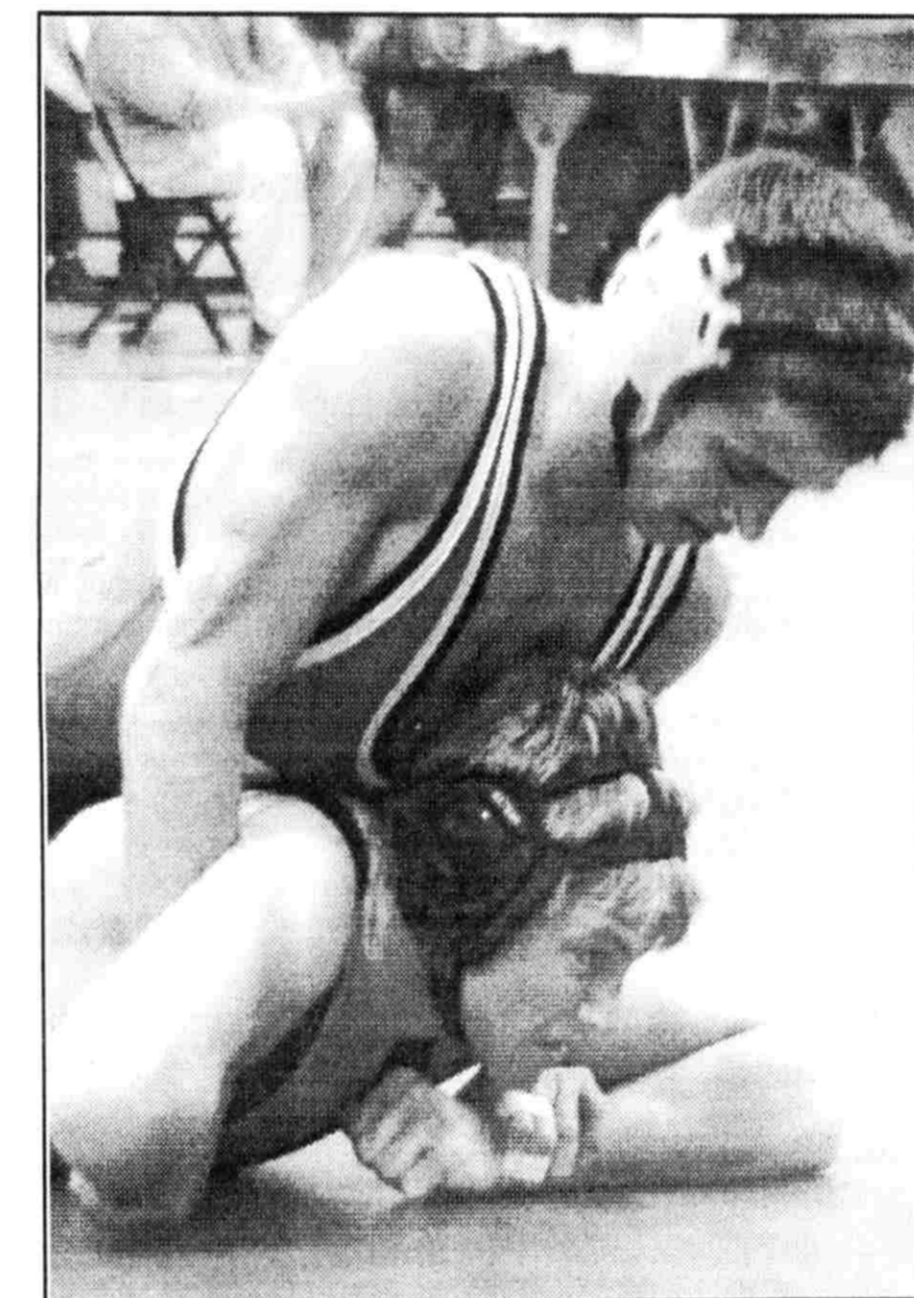
DeLiefde 7-6; Seme defeated Nate Trick of Kenowa Hills 10-3; and Dykhouse upended Middleville's Andrew Reeder 2-1.

"After his injuries, I was encouraged by what I saw from Ryan (Dykhouse)," Strejc said.

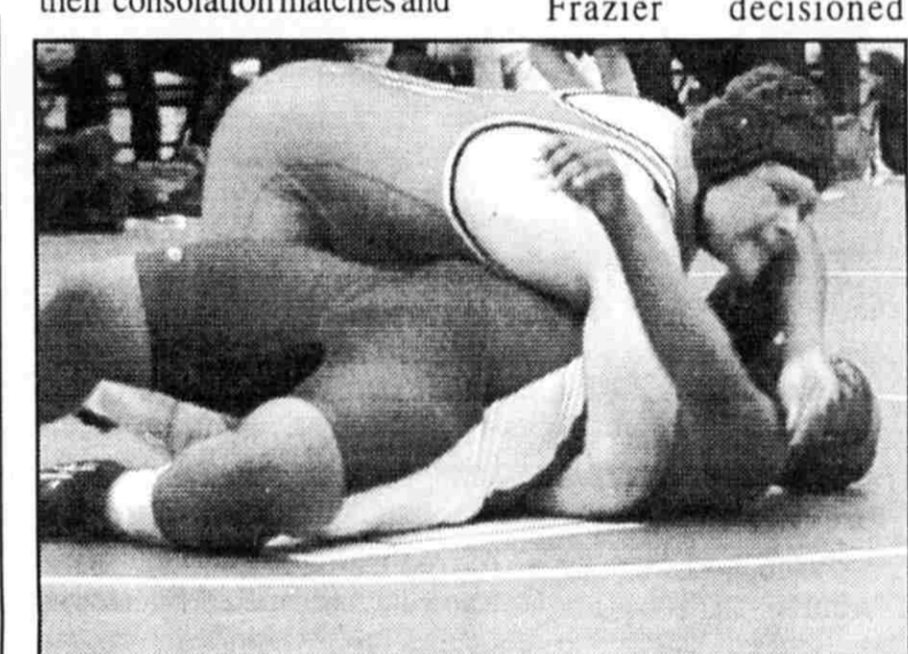
Both Strejc and Lakewood coach, Bob Veitch watched Saturday with added interest since the two clubs could meet in the team regional final on Wednesday at Ionia.

"I think we both probably learned something today. Wednesday will be the first time we could actually hook up head to head. We wrestled at Lakewood but they had a lot of guys out of the lineup," Strejc explained.

Veitch continued with his underdog mode. "I think we can scare Lowell, but I don't know that we have the horses to beat them," Veitch explained of a Viking club which has won four consecutive league titles.



Matt Kilmartin controlled the wrist and match against Wyoming Park's Kevin Mix.



Lowell heavyweight, John Rasch pins his Creston opponent. The Red Arrows defeated Creston 78-0 and then defeated East Grand Rapids 74-6 in the district team final.

SYNOPSIS GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 10, 2003

MOTIONS APPROVED:

- MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 27.
- MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.
- MOTION TO APPROVE THE BUDGET AS AMENDED.
- MOTION TO APPROVE THE PAYROLL.
- MOTION TO APPROVE THE VENDOR PAYMENTS.
- MOTION TO APPROVE THE SALARY FOR THE TREASURER, CLERK, SUPERVISOR AND TRUSTEES FOR 2003-2004.
- MOTION TO APPROVE SEWER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FINANCING AND FUNDING PLAN.
- APPROVE NEXT MEETING DATES AS TUESDAY, FEB. 18 AND NEXT BOARD MEETING ON FEB. 24, 2003 AT 7 P.M.
- MOTION TO ADJOURN. MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 9:38 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY JAN BREIMAYER, RECORDING SECRETARY

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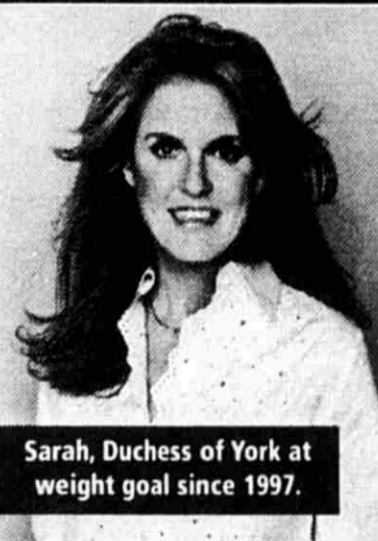
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Middle School Conferences:
4:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Full day for students and staff

THURSDAY, MARCH 6
Middle School Conferences:
4:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Full day for students and staff

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VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing before the Vergennes Township Planning Commission will be held on **Monday, March 3, 2003 at 7:00 PM, at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI** to consider a private road application.

Property known as 950 Lincoln Lake Ave, Lowell, parcel number 41-16-23-100-028, owned by Roger Bowen, has requested an application review to construct a private road named Bowen Ridge Court for access to four new lots. The road will be located on the east side of Lincoln Lake Ave north of Heim in the NW 1/4 of section 23.

The complete application can be reviewed at the Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 - Phone: (616) 897-5671 [fax 897-5674]. Written and oral comments will be received until the conclusion of the public hearing. Written comments may be addressed to the Planning Commission Chairman or the Planning Coordinator at the Township Offices. Comments may be emailed to the Planning Commission at: zoning@vergennestwp.org.

Vergennes Township Planning Commission

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BELLAMY ACRES - West of Ionia. Plat on corner of Bellamy Rd & Bradford, Ionia. We have 1 parcel left. 4.28 acre parcel. Parked. Located on new road in plat, Enterprise Dr., Lot K. For further information call Phil, 616-367-4900.

FOR RENT - 1 & 2 bedroom trailers \$1,000 - \$1,050 to move in. No dogs please. \$400 - \$420 per mo. plus 1/2 mo. rent deposit. Call 813-8041 or 616-754-0276.

IN MEMORIAM
In loving memory of **Beatrice A. Wilbur**. We caught the twinkle of your eyes in the winter's falling snow, Felt your presence beside us watching springs wildflowers grow. We heard the sound of your laughter blowing in the summer breeze, Saw the glow of your smile in the golden autumn leaves. As the hours turned to days and the months into seasons, You were right here with us for so many reasons. We miss your gentle ways and your caring heart From our lives and our minds you will never part. Your grandchildren Margaret, David, Kathryn & David Carey.

A BIG THANK YOU to the people of Lowell:
During the 2001 Christmas season, I told U.P.S. that it was the last Christmas I would work. I felt I could walk away and go on with life ... on my own. Then came Feb. 9, 2002, and the accident. What I know about that is other people's best guesses. I do know I was not thrown from my horse - I fell from Clar while she was running scared from a car with no exhaust. From what I have been told, I was lucky I fell on my head ... or I could have been seriously hurt. I am still trying to thank everyone for their kind thoughts, cards and prayers.

MATTRESS SETS - Brand names w/warranties. Never used still in plastic. Twins, \$130, full \$150, queens, \$200, kings, \$375 and up. 382-4767 or 888-682-6602. Can deliver.

WASHER, DRYER FOR SALE - Good running shape. \$67 each. Guaranteed. Dennis Distributing, 315 N. Lansing, St. Johns, 989-224-4822.

1999 DODGE RAM 2500 - 4x4, long box, 5.9 L., 5 spd. w/overdrive, PW & PL, running boards, new cap, sliding rear window, cruise & air. Mechanically excellent, low miles, all brackets for slide-in camper, \$16,500 obo. 897-5758.

CHECK OUT OUR WINTER SPECIALS - Pebble Beach Apartments. Call 897-6880.

SINGLE FAMILY HOME - \$600/month plus utilities (gas, phone, elec., cable) - Alden Nash Road. Appliances incl. Newly remodeled. Sec. Dep. \$300. References a must. Call 443-6959.

'99 JEEP CHEROKEE - 4x4, 4 dr., auto., power windows & locks, burgundy, 47,000 miles. \$8,300. Call 897-1597.

2000 JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT - 4x4, white, 4 dr., 30,000 miles, loaded, \$10,500. Call 897-1597.

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NHCD HIRING HOME TELEPHONE WORKERS - Weekly pay, advance quickly. http://smileworkathome.tripod.com 616-915-3899.

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FOR HIRE - I have my Real Estate license in Escrow but it does not work for me there so I wish to reclaim it & work either part-time or full-time for a local company. I am well educated, pleasantly spoken & with nice personality, so you see I could be an asset to your company. Resume available. I even clean up nice in a suit. Call me on 1-616-443-3718.

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IN MEMORIAM
In loving memory of our parents:
Emma E. Kropf June 17, 1909 February 24, 1958
Bertha M. Weir October 24, 1901 February 20, 1968
James W. Weir October 7, 1899 March 20, 1973
Carl Kropf September 13, 1909 January 18, 1993.

'93 CHEVY BLAZER LT - 4x4, 4 door, loaded 96,000, mint, \$4,500/obo. 897-6577.

OAK BUNK BEDS - Solid, w/mattresses. \$99 complete. Dennis Distributing, 315 N. Lansing, St. Johns, 989-224-4822.

FOR SALE - 3 bedroom mobile home, must sell. Asking \$3,950 obo. Call 897-3113.

WANTED "WHEELCHAIRS" - Did you know that your local VFW tries to keep a good inventory of medical equipment to loan out to those in our community? Right now we need more wheel chairs in good condition. Please call or FAX John @ 897-3010.

BEDS - Black wrought iron canopy, cherry sleigh beds, headboards, frames, and more. From Parade of Homes displays. 682-4767/888-682-6602.

FOR SALE - 1993 Ford Explorer Sport. Looks good, runs good. Must sell. \$3,000 obo. 890-6660.

29 PEOPLE WANTED - to earn \$\$\$, To lose up to 30lbs. in the next 30 days. Natural - Guaranteed. (616) 868-6371.

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FOR SALE - sofa-sleeper, blue, \$200. Excellent condition. 531-5453.

'93 CUTLASS SUPREME - runs good, \$2,500 obo. 987-9560.

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FORD TAURUS '92-'95 - Need front clip/parts car. Will pay up to \$150. Call 897-0776 or 897-7445.

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Be sure to check out the school lunch menu in this issue of the Ledger.

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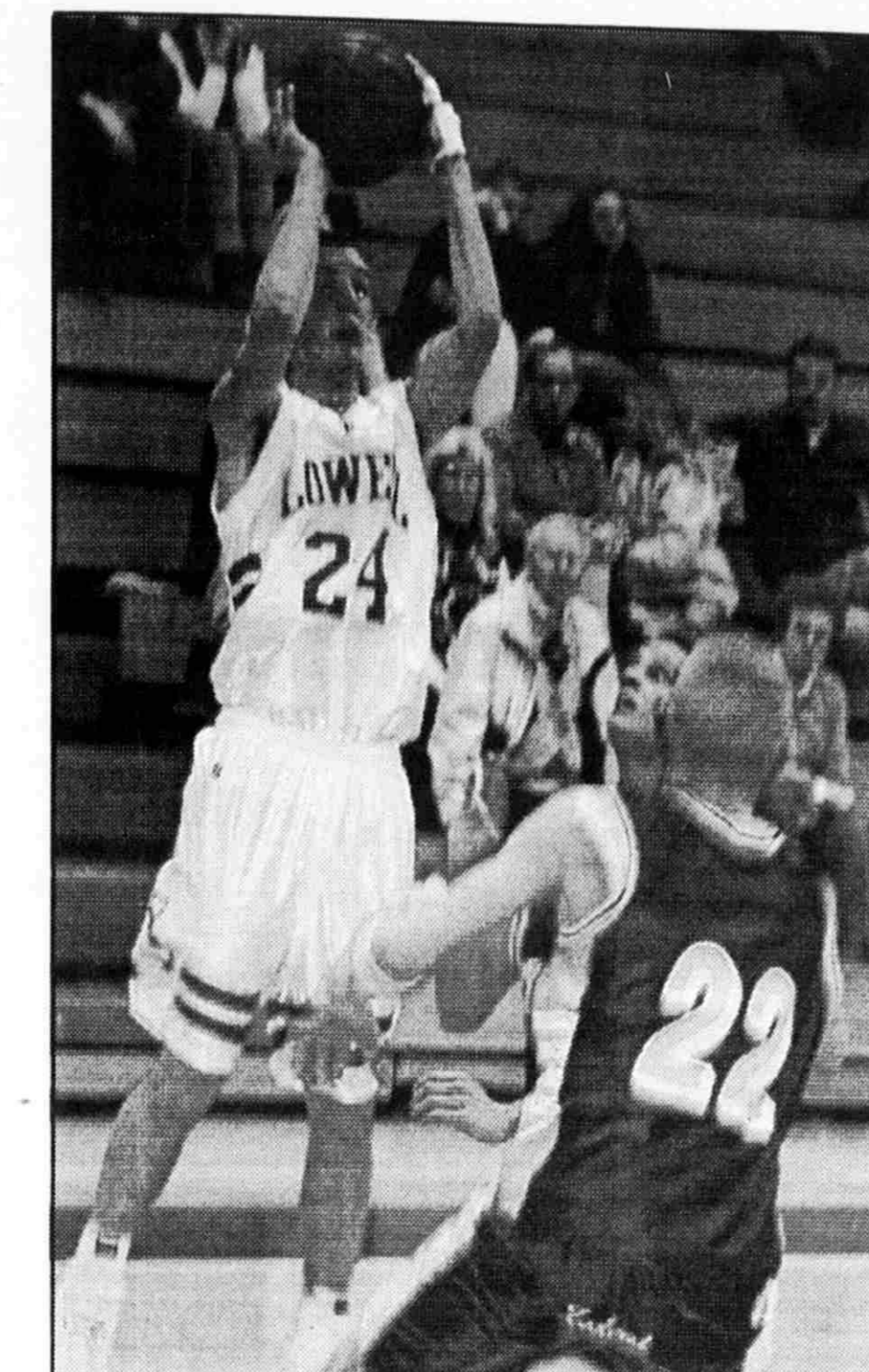
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Sam Oberlin pulls up for two of his 16 against Zeeland Monday night. Lowell lost the contest 66-55.

Lowell struggles to get started in losses to the Eagles and Chix

By Thaddeus J. Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor

Mickey Cochran knew the best half of his club's season would be the second part. His Chix continued their winning ways during the second half of the league season Monday night as they recorded a fourth consecutive win, this time at the expense of a reeling Red Arrow basketball team, 66-55. "Our guys were ready to play," Cochran said afterwards. His club's 11-0 run to start the game adds credibility to the coach's words. "We jumped on them with a press and we got a big three from Kyle (VanDussen)."

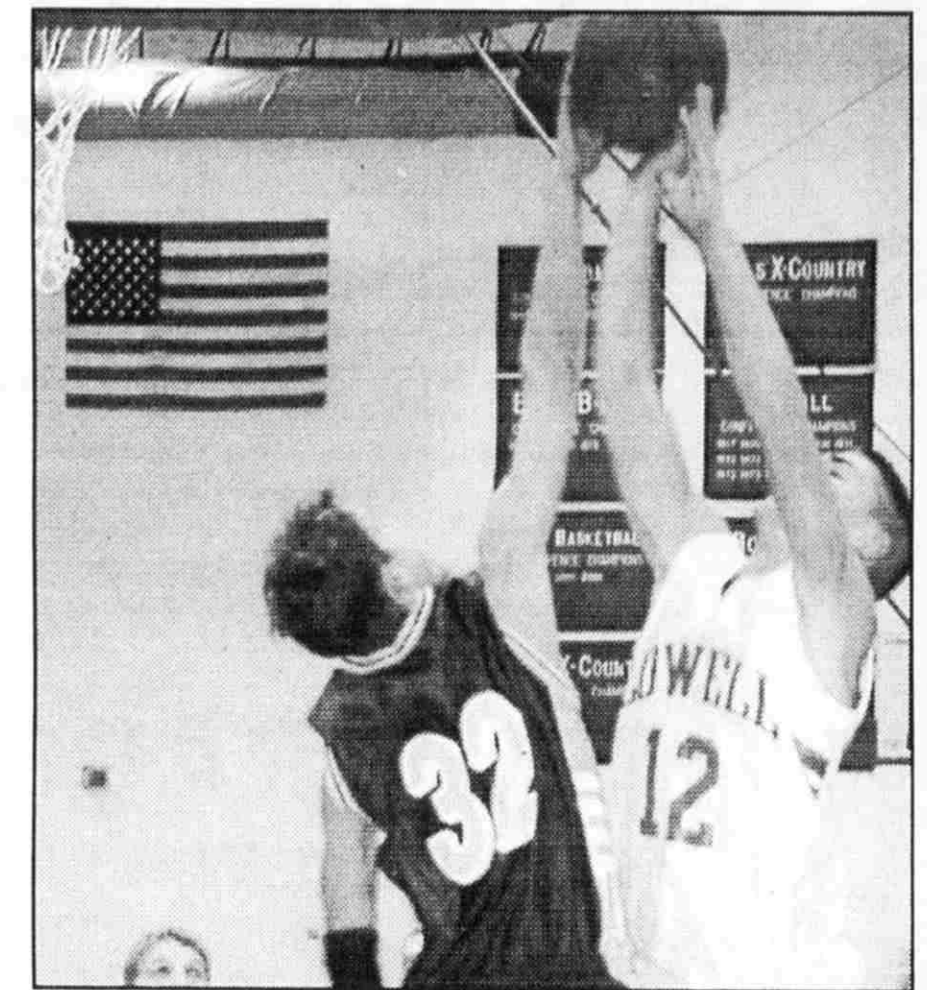
That quick start proved to be the difference as Lowell never got closer than five points the rest of the night. "We've turned things around. This was a good, tough road game for us to win," Cochran said. Van Dussen led all scorers with 25 points. Chix teammate Chad Kraai netted 16. The win improved Zeeland's overall record to 8-7 and 4-5 in league play. Lowell, meanwhile, dropped to 7-9 overall and 3-7 in the O-K White. "It's the second game in a row that we've gotten off to such a terrible start," bemoaned Red Arrow coach, Jeff McDonald. "The kids not being ready to play - that's the coach's fault."

The Red Arrows' attempt at a comeback was thwarted by a number of missed easy buckets. "It's amazing just how many easy shots we missed. I don't have an answer for that," McDonald said.

Sam Oberlin, in his first game back since injuring his hand

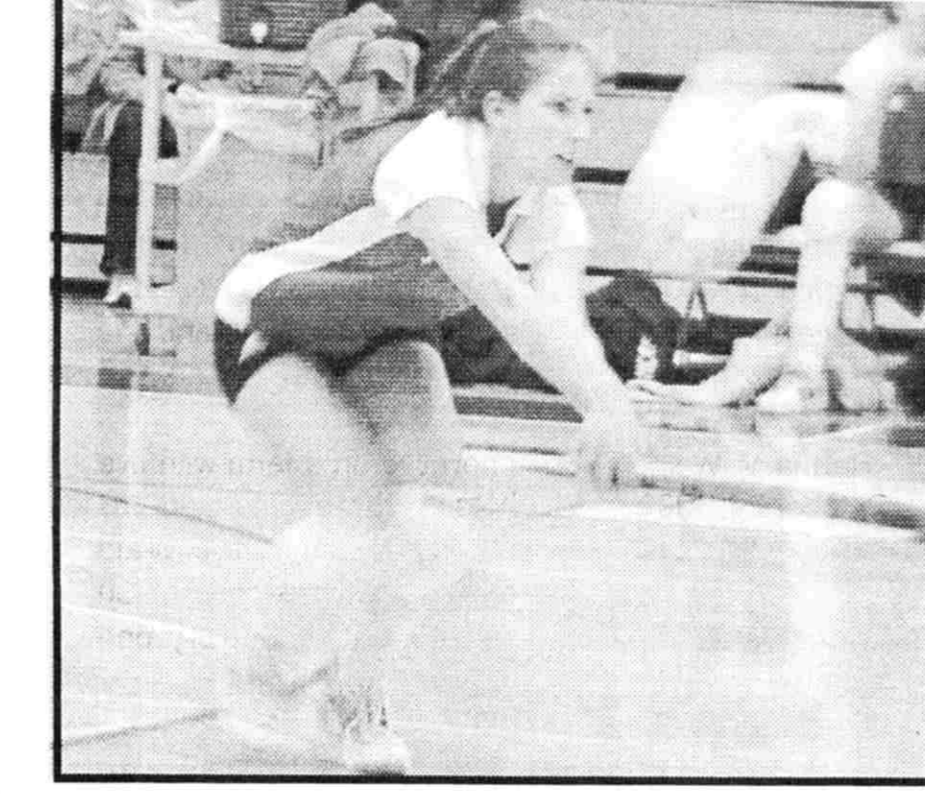
against East Grand Rapids, netted 16 points. Mike Koster chipped in with 13 and Andy McQueen tallied 12. "Sam was a little rusty, but he still makes things happen for us on the floor," McDonald said.

Hudsonville 71 Lowell 58
Lowell fell behind 9-0 to start, 19-8 after one quarter of play and 38-23 at halftime. The Red Arrows made a run in the second half, cutting the deficit to 54-45 after three and got to within six late in the game before Hudsonville netted its foul shots down the stretch. Mike Koster led Lowell in scoring with 13 points while Mark Catlin and Craig Carpenter each added 10.



Mike Koster and Andrew Riley (#32) meet at the ball during first half action.

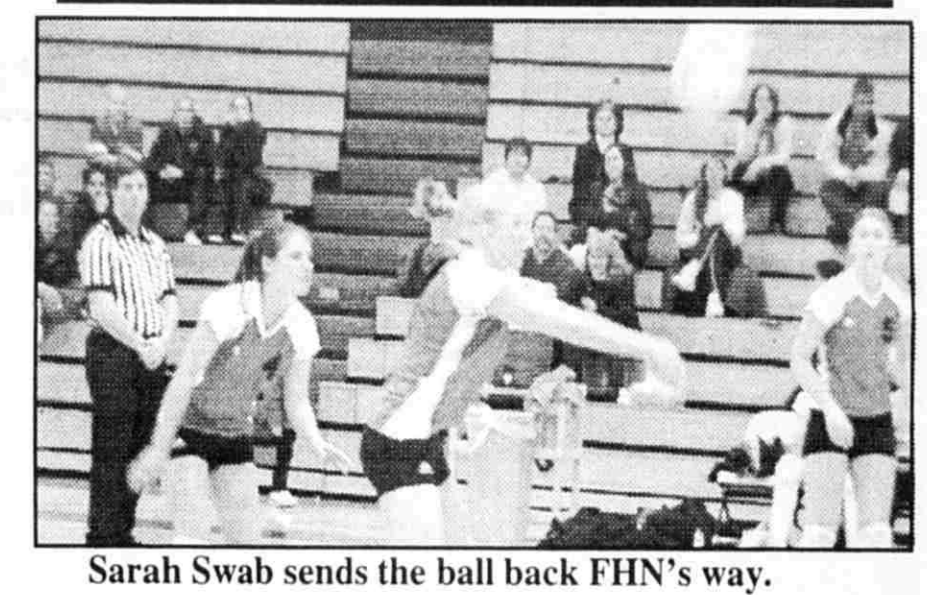
Northern blasts Lowell in straight sets



The top ranked volleyball team in Class A needed less than an hour to dispense of Lowell's Red Arrows. Forest Hills Northern defeated Lowell in straight sets 15-0, 15-5.

The Huskies scored 25 unanswered points to start the match before Lowell rallied for five points late in game two. Red Arrow Heather Becker posted a team-high three kills while Emily Nurmikko added an ace and Jessica Hamp recorded 10 assists. Molly Young recorded a game-leading seven kills for FHN. Meredith Young added three aces and Amanda Harrall finished with 25 assists.

Stephanie Wagner returns a FHN serve.



Sarah Swab sends the ball back FHN's way.

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