

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 28, Issue 18

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, March 12, 2003



Wednesday afternoon's robbery at Ionia County National Bank went down at approximately 1:45 p.m.

Lowell's first bank robbery a bust shortly after its ill-fated conception

By Thaddeus J. Kraus *Lowell Ledger Editor*

It will go down in the annals as the first Lowell bank robbery in the history of the city.

On Wednesday (March 5) around 1:45 p.m., Ionia County National Bank, 2601 W. Main, was robbed of an undisclosed amount of money.

Police had all three suspects and the undisclosed amount of money in custody within 90 minutes of the bank robbery.

Only Kristen Cole Greinke, 22, of Newaygo, has been formally charged. He was the only one of the three who entered the bank.

Greinke was later arrested at the Ada-Lowell 5 Theater by state police who were led to the location by a state police tracking dog.

Greinke was arraigned in state court Thursday (March 6) on resisting and obstructing justice charges and then made his initial appearance in Federal Court on Friday for the bank robbery (weapon implied). His detention hearing was scheduled for Tuesday of this week. He is currently being held in the Kent County Correctional Facility.

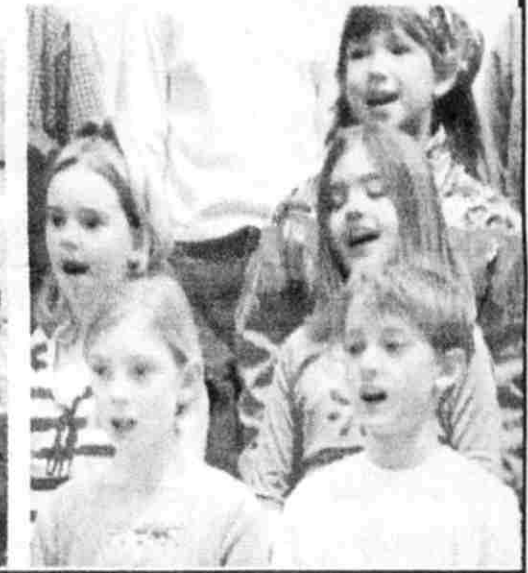
The two other suspects (two Lowell High School students - one male and one female) in the bank robbery were arrested in the nearby Meijer parking lot and later released, but neither has been officially charged in the case.

The robbery remains under investigation by the FBI. Ionia County National Bank opened a branch in Lowell in 1997. It is one of eight branches in the West Michigan area. It marks the third time one of its branches has been robbed. The other two were Sunfield and Woodland.



SONGS OF THE PIONEERS

Cherry Creek Elementary third-graders presented music of the Old West through ballads and folk music. From washboards to autoharps, the sounds and songs of the pioneers resonated throughout the Cherry Creek Elementary gymnasium on Thursday.



Bullying badgers students and their ability to learn

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

School officials are better at understanding bullying; the results and consequences that come with this knowledge are frightening.

"It has become increasingly obvious that many violent acts can be traced back to bullying behavior," said Lowell High School principal, Scott Vashaw. "Some of it's random and some of it's accumulative."

Research connects victims of violent behavior to bullying, according to Marcia McEvoy, a licensed psychologist, who hosted an in-service day (Violence Prevention in Schools: How to Prevent Student Bullying, Mean Teasing, Intimidation and Harassment) at Lowell High School

for district administrators and teachers.

"McEvoy is dynamic. She has experience and knowledge working in schools," said Lowell Middle School assistant principal, Cyndi Geiger. "Marcia shared the responsibility between the bully and victim, and what we tolerate and dismiss as normal adolescent and pre-adolescent behavior."

McEvoy's day-long presentation is intended to help the Lowell district staff and administrators address and respond to minor acts which oftentimes escalate into more violent behavior.

"Kids need to feel emotionally, psychologically and physically safe at school in order for them to learn and be

successful at school," Geiger says.

Implementing a comprehensive violence prevention program begins with recognizing the difference between what is normal peer conflict, bullying and harassment.

The violence continuum oftentimes begins with eye rolling, intimidating stare/leering or gossiping. Oftentimes how staff and administrators respond to minor acts determines if it builds up to pushing/shoving, hitting/punching or sometimes stabbing/shooting.

"It's a fallacy that bully-

ing doesn't bother kids and that the way to handle it is for victims to stand up and be a man," Vashaw explained.

The overlooked element in all of this is the bystander... the student who sees it, watches it, accepts it and encourages it—or the teacher who sees an intimidating stare or a rude gesture and turns and goes back into his or her classroom.

"Bystanders have a civil obligation to step in and prevent bullying behavior."

Bullying, cont'd. pg. 11

F.R.O.M. participating in "Feed the Hungry" campaign

Flat River Outreach Ministries is conducting a "Feed the Hungry" campaign during the months of March and April.

The Alan Shaw Feinstein Foundation of Rhode Island is offering a portion of a \$1 million grant to those nonprofit organizations participating in the "Feed the Hungry" mission.

Food and funds raised locally will allow Flat River Outreach Ministries to receive a portion of monies based on its total collection.

This is Flat River Outreach Ministries third year of in-

volvement in the mission, however, it is the first year it has asked the community at large to join in making the mission a success.

Food collection barrels and donation envelopes are available at the following locations: Huntington Bank, Springgrove Variety, Rite Aid, Brenda's Hair Design, YMCA and Fifth Third Bank.

Donation envelopes are also available at Ionia County National Bank and the Flat River Outreach Ministries Thrift Shop.

Inside

The Lowell Ledger

Second-Graders Learn About the Life of Lowell's Early Pioneers, Page 11

The Lowell Ledger (USPS 453-830)

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OBITUARIES

SIMINGTON - Genevieve Simington, aged 83, of Lowell, went to be with her Lord and Savior after a lengthy illness on Sunday, March 9, 2003. She was born March 16, 1919, in Koudum, Netherlands, to Clarence and Edith Venema. Mrs. Simington was preceded in death in 1979 by her husband George E. Simington and sister Margaret Gaus. She is survived by her four children Lorraine (Jerry) Denning of Lowell, Barbara (Michael) Wiese of Niles, Elaine (Larry) Vickers of Belmont, George (Molly) Simington of Stanwood; 12 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; a special adoptive family, James, Kim, Matt and Mark Huyge of Grand Rapids; brothers Maynard (Elsie) Venema of Eaton Rapids, Fred (Freida) Venema of Saginaw, Peter Venema of Cass City; sisters Sylvia Heilborn of Saginaw, Jeanette (Clare) Vernon of Lakeland, Fla., Mary Smith of Cass City, Gertrude Hendricks of Saginaw; brothers-in-law Adelbert (Ruth) Simington of Athens, Marion (Ruth) Simington of Grand Rapids; sisters-in-law Nora Bell (Ed) Rash of Lowell, Clara Simington of Hesperia; several nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be held Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the

Roth-Gerst Chapel, Lowell, Pastor Burland Margesson of the First Baptist Church of Lowell, officiating, Interment Graceland Memorial Park. Memorial contributions may be made to Laurels of Kent, 350 N. Center, Lowell, MI 49331.

THOMET - Kathleen Mae Thomet, aged 56, of Ada, passed away Saturday, March 8, 2003. She was preceded in death by her father, Theodore Lewis. She is survived by her husband of 23 years, Ronald; mother Pauline Lewis of Columbus, Ohio; children Amy (Patrick) McCaslin of Ada, Ben (Holly Adams) Thomet of Ada; granddaughter Emily Thomet; sisters Karen Bice of Columbus, Ohio and Karla (Scotty) Scott of Boulder City, Nev.; aunt Barbara Phellps of Crossville, Tenn.; many nieces and nephews. Visitation will be from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday and 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Thursday at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, Lowell. Private services will be held by the family. Memorial contributions may be made to Girl Scouts of Michigan Trails, 3275 Walker N.W., Walker, MI 49544 or SPEBSQSA, Harmony Foundation, 6315 Harmony Lane, Kenosha WI 53143-5199.

8th-grade band earns top rating at festival

The Lowell Middle School eighth-grade band came in with the top rating of division one at MSBOA District 10 Band Festival on Saturday, March 1 at the Lowell Performing Arts Center.

The eighth-grade band, under the direction of Dale Latva, played "Liberty March" by Edmondson, "Timberidge" by Fagan, and "Eaglerock" by Williams. The division one rating, in both performance of the three selections and in sight reading, is based on five areas of evaluation: rhythm, intonation, interpretation, tone and technique. For their division one rating, they will participate in the state band festival in May.

The seventh-grade band, under the direction of Kate Bredwell, also participated in band festival and earned a division two rating for their performance and in sight reading. This is the second best rating to be awarded. The seventh grade band played "Brandy Station March" by Edmondson, "Willow Grove" by Sheldon and "Matterhorn Overture" by Elledge.

Both bands will be awarded medals for their accomplishments.

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Lisa Johnson
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Derek Massey
Shannon Massey
Eric Mundt
Samantha Mundt
Andrew O'Connor
Christina Saenz
Eric Saenz
Colleen Sterly
Jordan Sterly
Kory Stevens
Ryan Stevens
Stephanie Stevens

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Kyle VanHeulen
Ryan VanHeulen
Thomas Welsh

IN THE SERVICE

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Joshua J. Van Alstine, son of Peggy J. and Mark A. Johnson of Alto, recently was promoted to his current rank while serving with Marine Air Support Squadron Two, Ma-

rine Air Control Group 18, Okinawa, Japan. Van Alstine was promoted based on sustained superior job performance and proficiency in his designated specialty.

He is a 1998 graduate of Lowell High School.

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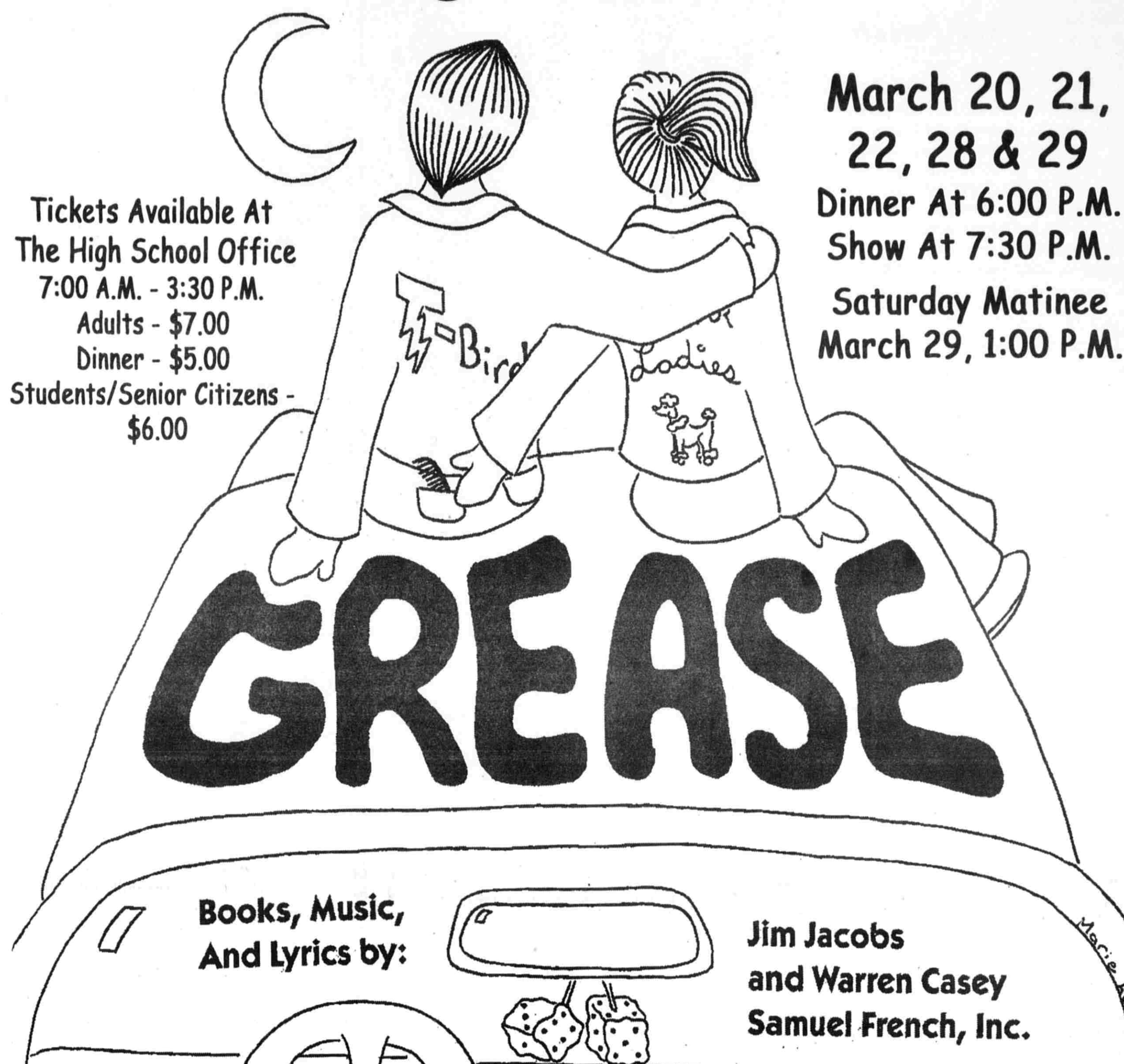
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Show At 7:30 P.M.
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Reflections

Of Faith

Pastor Tim Deshaw
Church of the Nazarene

Living Water

The 40 days before Easter is called the Lenten season. It is a time of reflection and preparation as we look inward and examine our lives, in anticipation of Easter. In our fast-paced hectic lives, we find it hard to carve out a few minutes for personal reflection. We are just so busy, so many things to do, so many appointments to keep. The Lenten season calls for us to slow down, and examine our lives.

I remember one of my most powerful moments of reflection which occurred a few years ago, but it seems like only yesterday. Our youth group was hiking along the edge of the Great Dunes National Park. The park is a huge area of sand dunes on the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. Our guide, on one of the last days of the hike, dropped each one of us along the dunes and gave us a couple of hours to reflect on the past week's activities.

The first thing I noticed was the incredible rugged beauty of the mountains. The second thing I noticed was how hot it was getting and

how little water I had with me. As the time passed, it got hotter and hotter. The cool breeze of the morning became a hot wind that offered no relief, and I grew thirstier. Water soon went from just a passing thought, to an ever-increasing need. My mouth was dry and gritty with sand - what I would have given for just a drop of water.

When we pause to examine our spiritual lives, we sometimes find ourselves lingering in the wasteland. Inwardly we find our personal lives dry, empty, parched and cracked. But it does not have to be that way. If you find your life like that today, the good news is it can be different. To the thirsty, Jesus said, "Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life." (Rev. 22:17)

The prophet Isaiah added, "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation." (Isaiah 12:3)

Jesus went on to say, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me... streams of living water will flow from within him." (John 7:37)

As you take a moment from your busy life to look within, what do you see? Is it a dry and empty place, or a life rich and full because it is fed by streams of living water freely poured out from above?



Capen/ Ballard

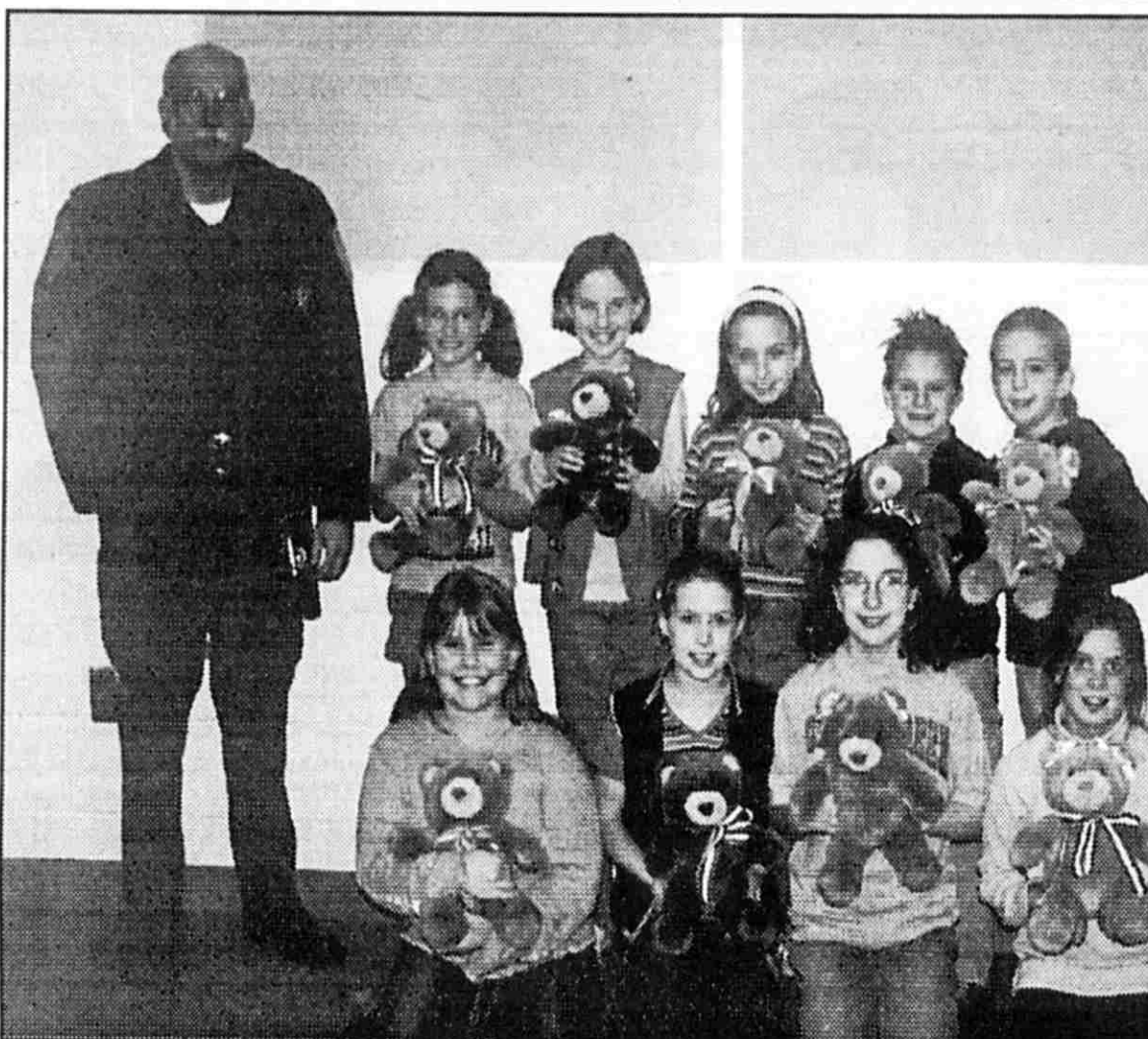
Kelly Capen and Troy Ballard, both of Portsmouth, Va., are engaged to be married.

The bride-to-be is a Lowell High School graduate and studied business at Michigan Tech University. She is the daughter of John and Lorie Capen of Alto.

The future groom also graduated from Lowell High School and from Michigan Tech University with a chemical engineering degree. He is the son of Arthur and Susan Ballard of Saranac.

The wedding is set for May 24, 2003.

Bearing in Mind Others' Needs



Lowell Girl Scout Troop 1256 donated nine stuffed bears to the Lowell Police Department. Each bear was specially made by a girl scout at Build-A-Bear in Grandville. The bears will be used by police officers to comfort children in need. Back row, left to right, are: Lowell police officer, Cal Kamphuis, Kyleigh Newman, Sarah Cyrocki, Jessica Lewis, Morgan Rogalke and Brynlee Pomper; front row: Lauren Dood, Kait Cummings, Carl Lewis and Hailey DeGrote.

Viewpoint . . .



Time for yet another in my "Bob Villas' Evil Twin" series of handyman ineptness stories. This week we'll explore plumbing. My dad always said you only need to know two things to be a plumber, "@#&% (A four-letter word for excrement) runs downhill ... and Friday is payday."

My dad was a funny guy, but he wasn't always right. I've learned for a fact that if you don't know what you're doing, that four-letter word stuff can run downhill all over you. And, I've darned sure never been paid on Friday for "my" plumbing services. I'm guessing there is a little more to the plumbing trade than described in my dad's crude anecdote.

My plumbing experience dates back about thirty years. I was newly married and building a small package home for our rapidly growing family. Money was very tight, and labor on the project was mostly mine or volunteers from my family. The only paid person on the project was a semi-retired friend of my father who worked for cash in his spare time. He was a union plumber at one time in his life ... hated it. He wouldn't actually "do" any of the plumbing work on my house, but he'd cuss like crazy and tell me how stupid I was when I'd mess something up. Our relationship was much the same as with my drill sergeant in basic training.

In the end, the @#&% did run downhill and water did get where it was supposed to go. We lived in the house five years, and there was a bowl under the kitchen sink trap the entire time. I never could get those connections to hold water. Some of the pipes rattled when certain faucets were opened and of course the workmanship was on the unsightly side. It's a good thing for Bob Villas' Evil Twin that most plumbing is in the basement or hidden behind walls.

Our next house was built in Lowell shortly after we bought the Ledger. I hired the home roughed-in, and either subbed-out the finish work or did it myself. I hired the plumbing roughed-in, and installed all the fixtures myself as the project came together. We lived there about eight years and there was a bowl under the kitchen sink trap the entire time.

Our next home was an old place that had been recently renovated. Shortly after moving in, the garbage disposal went on the fritz. I installed a new one, meaning I took the kitchen sink drain apart. We lived there for about ten years and there was a bowl under the kitchen sink trap all that time as well. That bowl has become a Brown family tradition. There is a bowl under the sink here in our new home and the trap doesn't even leak.

I have been a homeowner for over thirty years and a business owner nearly that long. Trying to keep water in the pipes and the other stuff in the drains while always on a tight budget has taught me a few things about plumbing I can share with you. It's a little more than that anecdote my dad passed along to me, but darned little. Here are a few tips that come to mind.

When using PVC pipes and gluing the joints, read the warning on the glue can. It will say something about "ventilated areas." Years ago, when helping to install pipes and drains in an addition on my brother's house, I did all the pipe

gluing because he was afraid of the spiders in the crawlspace. For several hours I called out measurements and he passed in pipe and fittings. When I came out I could barely stand up and wasn't coherent. As my dad would say, "I couldn't find my butt with either hand." I was never sure what that meant until that day with the glue.

Make sure you have gassed up your vehicle the night before a big day of plumbing in a new sink your wife picked out. You WILL make numerous trips to the hardware store! There is a formula I've developed that multiplies the number of fittings by the total length of pipe divided by the miles to the nearest hardware store. squared. If you times that number by your mileage and cost of gasoline per gallon, you get some idea of how much money you are NOT saving by NOT calling a plumber in the first place.

When selecting the kind of pipe and connections you'll use on your project, do everything possible to avoid sweating copper fittings. Trust me on this one. There are flared fittings, compression fittings, rubber washer fittings, threaded fittings, glued PVC fittings ... anything but sweated (soldered) copper. Before the end of a day sweating copper joints, you will be soaked. Your house will be soaked. You will be burned. You will be drunk. You will be calling a plumber.

At the first hint of a drain problem, call the "Roto" guy in the Yellow Pages. Sure, you can try drain cleaners. You can use a plunger. You can buy or rent mechanical snakes to run down the clogged drain. But after you've cleaned up a clogged sewer mess in your basement just once, you will wish you had taken my advice on this one. That stuff does run downhill, and the bottom of the hill is your basement. YUKKK!!!

That's about it on plumbing from Bob Villas' Evil Twin. Next week we'll cover carpentry or small engine maintenance or safety tips for roofing your house.

Officer Edie took a Vergennes man to the county jail Monday for debt.

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER MARCH 12, 1903

There were 403 voters, the largest turnout in years, who decided on Citizens candidate H.W. Hakes for village president, over F.N. White.

W. E. Tench & Co. of Detroit advertises for workers for six months at high pay to build the new dam and power house. Cutting off the oxbow with a 1200-foot trench will give the dam a 30-foot head.

No great damage from this year's Grand River flood; water is several inches deep in the Cutter factory engine room. The flood carries ice, breaking the dam at Ionia and the North Park bridge in Grand Rapids, plus damaging the Pere Marquette trestle in Grand Rapids.

Lowell Cutter Company is building two large warehouses by the Grand Trunk and Pere Marquette tracks, to store cutter and buggy bodies awaiting shipment.

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO MARCH 15, 1928

Dr. Solomon Lee is vacationing in the Barbados and writes his impressions of the islands.

The Ledger endorses Arthur Vandenberg's candidacy for senator, over three-term incumbent and former governor, Ferris.

About one third of agricultural college graduates in the

United States go to farming after graduation.

Mr. Smith announces that his high school Ag department will again test seed corn for any farmer who requests it.

Dr. L. E. Heasley will give a free Poultry lecture at Vergennes Grange Hall Friday evening.

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER MARCH 12, 1953

W. A. Roth beats Elmer Schaefer for village president in the first two-party election in 20 years.

The Senior class sold over 100 subscriptions to the Ledger, netting one dollar each for their fundraiser.

The insecticide Chlordane is also recommended to kill chickweed and crabgrass without harming the lawn.

Secretary of State Owen Clearly announces a campaign to improve driver license control: Michigan ranks 29th in that category (driving with suspended license).

The new light Ford pickup trucks now have automatic transmissions available for the first time.

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER MARCH 15, 1978

Lowell High School prepares for the committee of 21 visitors from the North Central Association to evaluate the total school program. Lowell has been accredited since 1903.

The Saranac Redskins go on to take the Region 23 basketball championship.

The Ada bridge is to be resurfaced, the first repair since the bridge was built in 1957.

The school district telephone survey, in preparation for renewal of operating millage this spring, shows that people think an increase in property taxes results in more money for schools also. Sorry, not so.

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Sunday School.....11:20 A.M.
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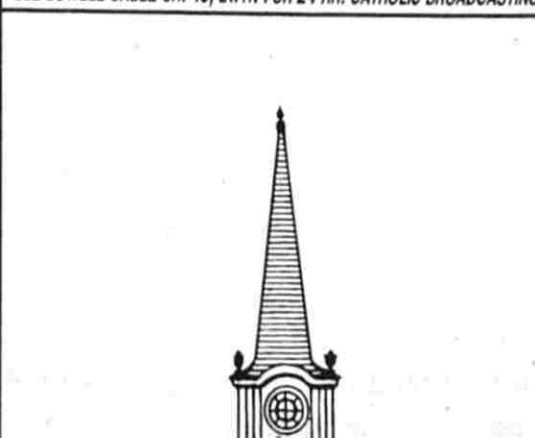
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Evening Praise.....6:00 P.M.
Wednesday AWANA.....7:00 P.M.
(Sept. - April)
Prayer and Bible Study.....7:00 P.M.
Pastor Ken Ford (Home) 897-6418
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Health



STROKE

A stroke occurs when the blood supply to a part of the brain is interrupted by a blockage or rupture of the blood vessel. Strokes can be mild or severe depending on the amount of damage done to the brain.

Most strokes occur on older individuals and men are involved more often than women. Blacks also tend to have a higher risk of strokes. Other risk factors for stroke include high blood pressure, smoking, elevated cholesterol, diabetes and certain abnormal heart rhythms.

Some people may experience a transient ischemic attack or TIA which may be a warning sign of future strokes. A TIA is a transient disorder of neurologic function that varies with the part of the brain involved. Symptoms include inability to

move one extremity or side of the body, inability to speak, visual changes, difficulty with coordination, or memory problems. Symptoms resolve completely within minutes to hours and signify a return of normal brain function. Even though symptoms completely resolve, a TIA means that conditions are right for a true stroke to occur. You should see your physician or go to the emergency room if these symptoms occur.

Medication is currently available in the emergency room to prevent further damage and dissolve blood clots if begun within a couple of hours after symptoms of stroke present in certain cases. Blood thinners are intended to help dissolve clots within the blood vessel and allow return of blood flow to the brain. Not all cases of strokes can be treated with this newer modality and it can actually worsen the situation when strokes are due to a hemorrhage.

Aspirin and newer antiplatelet medications are often prescribed to prevent strokes in patients that have experienced TIAs.

Advances in treatment have improved the outcomes of those suffering a stroke but prevention is still the key and involves controlling high blood pressure, adequately treating diabetes, avoidance of smoking and taking appropriate medications to control irregular heart rhythms.

TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,
Thanks for the old picture of the Rotary Club and for the list of names compiled by Charlie and Norm. As one who grew up in Lowell, I had pondered over it, as had another friend in Dorra and many others I'm sure.

Our Ledger comes late and travels far so I've just had the list of names this week. The boys did a great job identifying that distinguished group, better than I could have. However, I did have thoughts about the two who weren't recognized and I may be wrong, but I would say that in the front row, next to Wes Roth was Mr. Barksdale, our Congregational minister, and the man between Dr. Oatley and Frank Coons looks like Mr. Swarouth (Fred) to me.

Thanks to Ron Story for the picture and to you for printing it.

Donna Thorne Johnson
Letters, cont'd., Page 9

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O TEARS OF THE SUN (R)
11:45, 2:10, 4:50, 7:10, 9:35
CHICAGO (PG-13)
12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:50
CRADLE 2 THE GRAVE (R)
1:00, 5:10, 9:45
OLD SCHOOL (R)
1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:30, 9:25
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Greater achievement pushes LHS to change its system of recognizing academic excellence

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Implementation of a more traditional level of academic recognition will replace the antiquated Top 10 approach at this year's Lowell High School Senior Honors night.

"A survey of local schools indicated Lowell was the only school still using the Top 10 standard," said Lowell High School principal, Scott Vashaw.

This year the district will begin moving to a system which is divided into three levels - summa cum laude, magna cum laude and cum laude.

So that the change does not penalize any student, Vashaw said some of the old standards will be included in the new system this year.

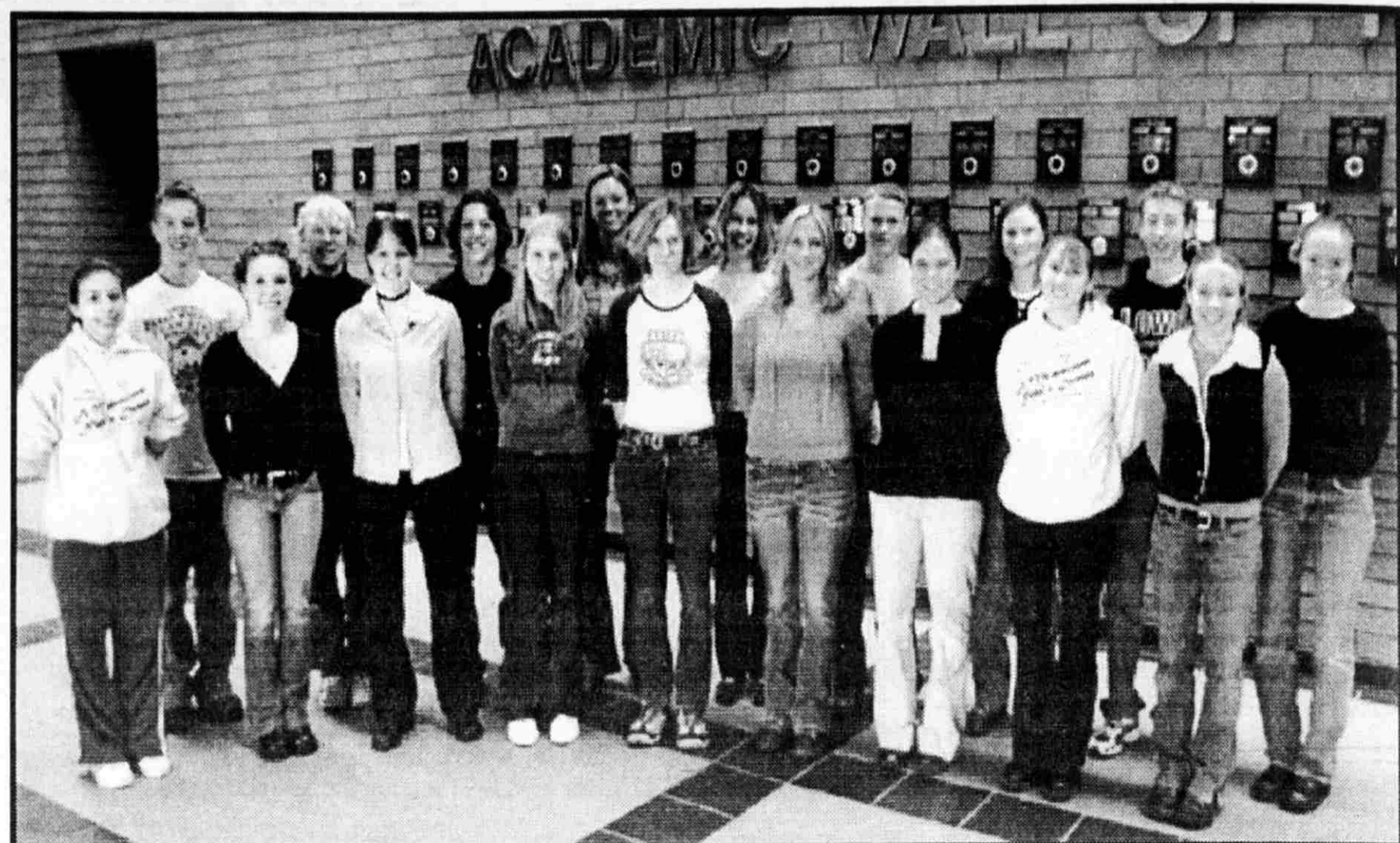
This year, cum laude will require a grade point average of 3.0. Next year that will be bumped up to 3.5 or higher.

Magna cum laude this year will require a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. Next year, the standard will be raised to 3.75.

To achieve the highest level, summa cum laude, students will need a grade point average of 3.95 or higher.

Using the old Top 10 standard this year, Cori Drenth, with a grade point average of 4.027, would not have been recognized. "That seems a little cold to me," Vashaw explained.

Katie Hettinga has earned the honor of 2003 valedictorian while Katherine McAlpine was named salutatorian.



Seniors graduating summa cum laude, pictured front row, left to right, are: Jennifer Adams, Katie Hettinga, Rachel Penninga, Anne Beenen, Cori Drenth, Heather Geelhoed, Jacquelyn Benedict, Katie McAlpine, Jenny Gunberg; back, left to right, are: Jeremy Goff, Tyler Nethercott, Matt Tomko, Leslie Crowley, Natalie Kent, Ryan Curtis, Courtney Phillips, Eric Gillman and Katie Clements.

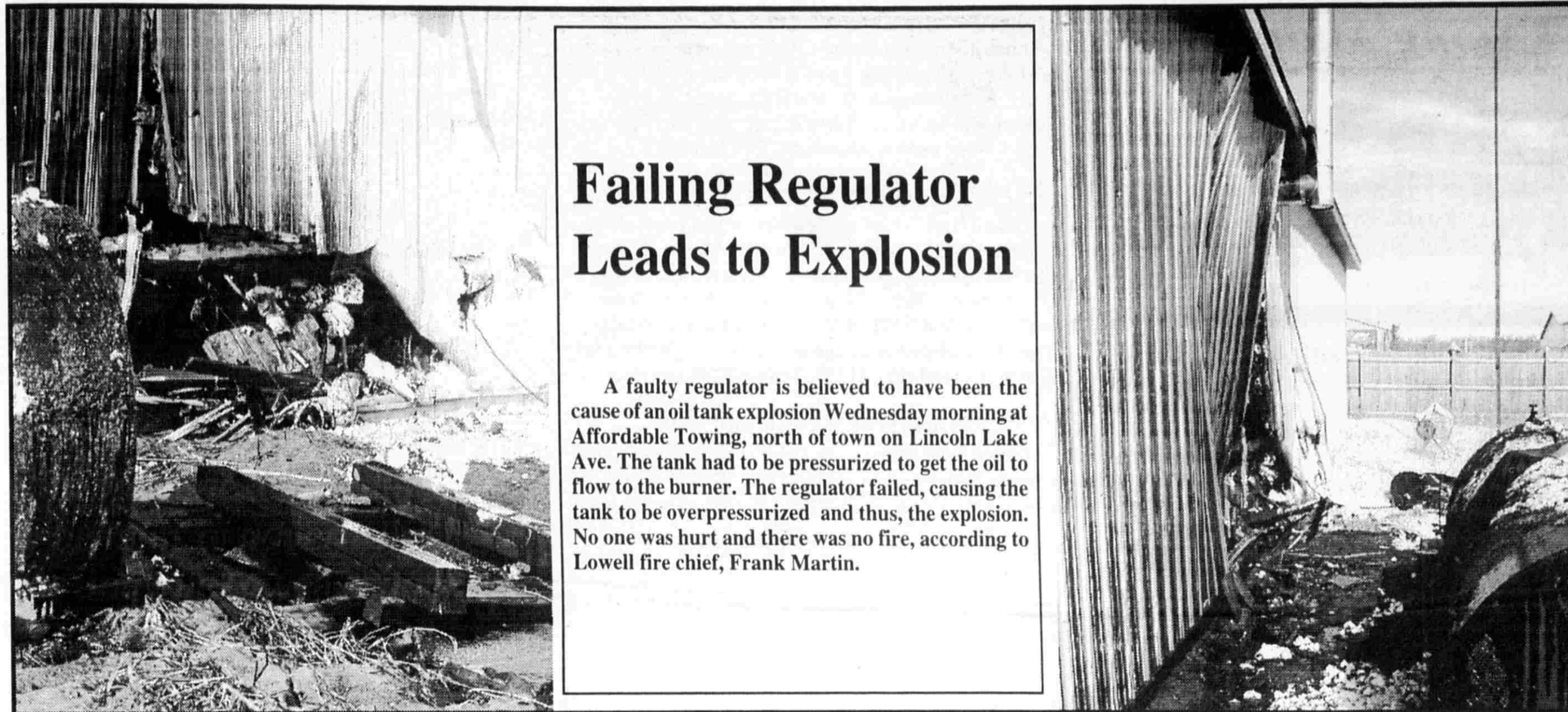
Hettinga will leave Lowell High School with a 4.155 grade point average while McAlpine graduates with a GPA of 4.137.

This year, 18 seniors will graduate with summa cum laude honors.

Joining Hettinga and McAlpine are Leslie Crowley 4.133, Matthew Tomko 4.083, Eric Gillman 4.082, Anne Beenen 4.068, Jennifer Gunberg 4.050, Katherine Clements 4.047, Jeremy Goff 4.044, Tyler Nethercott 4.042, Cori Drenth

4.027, Ryan Curtis 3.994, Heather Geelhoed 3.986, Natalie Kent 3.974, Rachel Penninga 3.957, Jennifer Adams 3.953, Jacquelyn Benedict 3.953 and Courtney Phillips 3.953.

The new three-level system will recognize more students, raise the academic standards and, with the availability of AP courses, give the potential for a student to attain a 5.0 grade point average.



Failing Regulator Leads to Explosion

A faulty regulator is believed to have been the cause of an oil tank explosion Wednesday morning at Affordable Towing, north of town on Lincoln Lake Ave. The tank had to be pressurized to get the oil to flow to the burner. The regulator failed, causing the tank to be overpressurized and thus, the explosion. No one was hurt and there was no fire, according to Lowell fire chief, Frank Martin.

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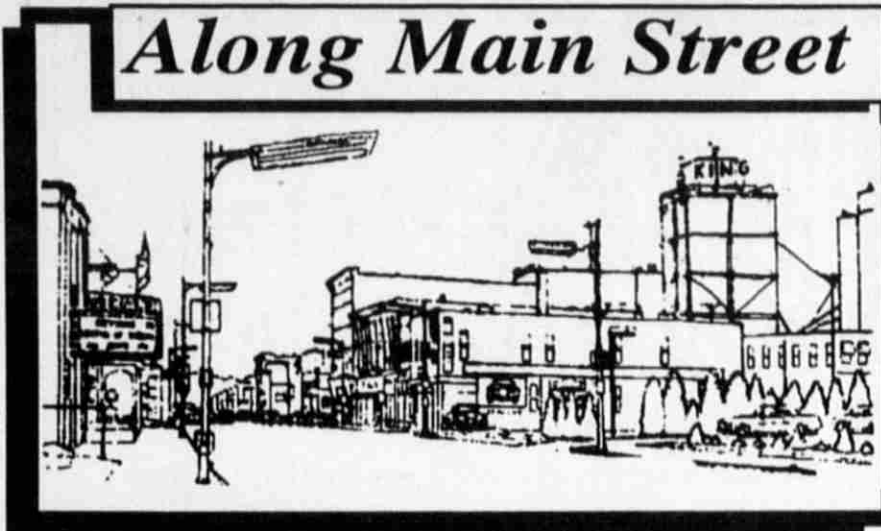
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Along Main Street

KINDERMUSIK CLASS

Becky Reagan will be instructing a Kindermusik class at the Englehardt Library for ages newborn - 1 1/2 years old. Music, motion and multi-sensory activities will be offered at the Saturday classes, March 15 - May 17 from 9:30-10:15 a.m. Pre-registration required; call the LAAC at 897-8545.

DIGITAL PHOTO SEMINAR THRU FHS

Professional photographer, Bruce Doll will conduct a digital photography seminar on Saturday, March 15 from 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at the Lowell Chamber office. The class will address cameras, storage, digital processing and output. Cameras will be provided if needed. Cost is \$15. Reserve your spot; space is limited. Call Kerry 897-7161 (sponsored by Fallsburg Historical Society) or email: Fallsburg@att.net

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- MARCH 13:** Sophia D'Agostino, Dode Dey, David Davis, Paul Seese, Tyler Schneider, Jack Robert Malone.
MARCH 14: Venita Wheeler, Mike Stevens, Dan Baird, Kari Merriman, Vickie Comdure.
MARCH 15: Daniel Vegter, Ward Boulard Jr., Brett Hobria, Margot Miller.
MARCH 16: Greg Briggs, Louise Weeks.
MARCH 17: Renee Barnes.
MARCH 18: Bruce Phillips Jr., Chase Treglia, Jim Hacker, Denise (Brenk) Woolfenden.
MARCH 19: Jeremy Barber, Elmer Czapek, Terry B. Abel, Kimberly Dixon, Sean Ellison, Alberta Ryder.

SPRING ARRIVES AT THE GARDEN CLUB
 Lowell Showboat Garden Club's first spring meeting will be Monday, March 17 at 7 p.m. at Nazarene Fellowship Hall at 211 N. Washington St. Mary Thompson from Daylily Flowers will speak on "Simple Tips for Flower Arrangements." Bring a friend. Questions? Call 897-2533.

"GREASE" - LHS MUSICAL
 Lowell High School musical *Grease* will be presented in the Performing Arts Center Thursday, March 20; Friday, March 21; Saturday, March 22; and Friday, March 28 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 29 at 1:00 and 7:30 p.m. Dinner (6 p.m.) available at 7:30 p.m. shows. Dinner tickets \$5; musical tickets \$6 (students/senior citizens), \$7 adults. Purchase tickets at high school (897-4125). Dress in a '50s costume!

PLANS FOR 20-YEAR REUNION
 Lowell High School class of 1983 is looking for classmates to help plan their 20-year class reunion. Please call Kristi (Dine) Alguire at 897-1777 ext. 247.

TROUT UNLIMITED JUNIOR
 Meet at the Wittenbach Center on Saturday, March 22. A

COLLEGE NEWS

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement, Trinity Christian College announces students named to the dean's list for fall 2002. **Alissa Bosscher**, a sophomore majoring in biology, was among the students on the list. She is the daughter of Allan and Janice Bosscher of Lowell.

Full-time Trinity students must earn a minimum 3.5 grade point average to qualify for his honor.

Trinity Christian College has an enrollment of nearly

900 traditional students. The four-year college provides excellence in Christian higher education taught from a Reformed perspective. The 50-acre campus is located in Palos Heights, a suburb of Chicago.

More than 700 students earned degrees from Grand Valley State University in December 2002.

From the Lowell area are: **Linda Beenen, Cynthia L. Covell, Jennifer K. Postema, Shannon R.**

trip to the Grand River in Grand Rapids is planned from 9-noon. Call 987-1002 with questions.

FIRE DEPT. PANCAKE BREAKFAST
 There will be a Lowell Area Fire Department pancake breakfast on Saturday, March 22 at Look Memorial Fire Station, 315 S. Hudson. Pancakes, sausage, eggs, coffee and juice will be served from 7-11 a.m. Donations at the door.

LOWELL COMMUNITY EXPO
 Visit the Expo at Lowell High School on Saturday, March 22 between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. and check out the many businesses, clubs and organizations in the area. Free admission; door prizes. Call the chamber at 897-9161 for more information.

FUNDRAISER FOR ST. MARY'S PREGNANCY CENTER
 The Lowell Institute for Volunteer Excellence is sponsoring a fundraiser for the St. Mary Pregnancy Center. Donations of diapers, wipes and formula may be brought to the Lowell Leadership booth at the Expo on March 22 or dropped off at the chamber. Call Marcia at 897-5205.

Searfoss, Lucas E. Taylor and Alana J. Valentine.
 From the Alto area are: **Jennifer R. DeVormer, Ghulam M. Malik, Donna Meekhof and Jennifer L. Zoeteman.**

KDL News & Notes:

Kent District Library invites adult readers to get together at the library branches for friendly, informal discussions about some great books. The Englehardt Library will have its book discussion on Tuesday, April 8 at 10 a.m. Call 647-3920 for the book title.

For other libraries offering the program, call 784-2007.

Candice L. Skiffington, a graduate of Lowell High School, has recently graduated from Calvin College with a major in art. She is the daughter of Sandy Skiffington



Puppets Promote Acceptance

In an effort to bring awareness to Bushnell Elementary first-graders on diversity, Lowell Area Schools' Outreach Multi Cultural Diversity Group presented six performances on diversity, and accepting and celebrating differences in people. There are 40 high school members involved with the group which is advised by Lowell High School counselor, Bob VanBelois. Members shared information on diversity with the elementary children through a puppet skit. Pictured, from left to right, are Duncan Lammas, Joe Dykhuisen and Rob Reedy.

TO THE EDITOR

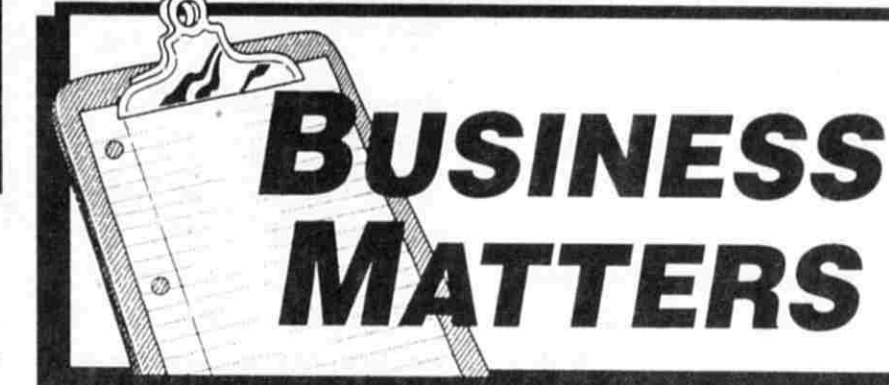
To the citizens of Lowell,

I was at the March 3rd city council meeting and observed something rather refreshing. Prior to a discussion and vote, councilmember Brubaker took the floor, stated that he had a conflict of interest and recused himself from the subsequent discussion and vote. It was a breath of fresh air to observe this. The matter at hand was quite obscure to most observers, so there is considerable doubt that anyone would have ever discovered how close councilmember Brubaker was to the issue. Councilmember Brubaker is to be commended for the example he set.

Sometimes a conflicting position isn't always clearly defined or apparent; perhaps even to the one placed in this position. A conflict of interest doesn't necessarily imply that there may be an exchange of money contingent upon the outcome. There are gains/losses to be had other than monetary. For example, one's current and future lifestyle might be positively or negatively impacted. One could reap intangible rewards like peace of mind, or the converse. If in a business, one could jeopardize one's customer base. No matter the gain/loss, public officials should never appear to place their own interests ahead of the community's.

This is not to say that the conflicted official shouldn't have a voice in the matter. They should express their opinion. To do so, however, they should vacate their council seat and speak at the citizen's microphone, making it clear that they are expressing an opinion solely as an affected citizen of the community.

Peter Vanderhorst



Greenridge Realty announced that Mara Bukala received Realtor of the Month in February.

This award recognizes Bukala for her outstanding success and achievements.



Bonnie Baird, of Realtors, received the Medallion Award for her sales and achievements in 2002 at the National Awards

Convention held in Las Vegas. The award recognizes Baird with one of the top awards available to Keller Williams Realtors.

Don't knock the weather; nine-tenths of the people couldn't start a conversation if it didn't change once in a while.

Kin Hubbard

HAPPY St. Patrick's Day

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Week of 3/17 - 3/21

ELEMENTARY

MON: Pepperoni pizza wedge or chicken on a bun, carrot coins, applesauce, Shamrock cookie.

TUES: Spaghetti with meat sauce and garlic toast or submarine sandwich, pears, sweet peas.

WED: Hot dog on bun or hot pretzel & cheese with ham slice, oven fries, fruit crisp.

THURS: Chicken rings and French bread or turkey & cheese on bun, whipped potatoes & gravy, rainbow apples.

FRI: Mozzarella cheese sticks or beef nachos with meat & cheese sauce, fresh veggies & dip, orange wedges.

Little Known Secret In Lowell

BY DAVID STOWERS

Many people in our community have no idea that there is a small company in the area called Netpenny.net. Netpenny offers fast, reliable, and extremely inexpensive dial-up Internet service to Lowell and our surrounding communities.

What's so refreshingly unusual is that Netpenny charges only \$4.95 a month for Internet access and they have no contracts, no set up fees and they don't even require a credit card. Netpenny is able to keep their cost low by utilizing an underground data center located 85 feet underground - not far from here.

Netpenny only has one billing rate and not only is it simple, it's fair because you only pay for what you use. Netpenny charges only 1 penny per minute. They have a \$4.95 minimum charge each month, however this includes 495 minutes (8.25 hours) of Internet service so people who don't use the Internet much win big. Then they simply charge 1 penny per minute after that with a maximum monthly charge of \$14.95, which is still a fantastic price for unlimited Internet service. Some people are saving as much as \$227 a year - which is a car payment, a boat payment or a weekend getaway year after year, just for switching Internet companies.

With the cost of Internet for most families in our area running in excess of \$19.95 or more per month, it's refreshing to know that there is high-quality/low-cost alternative for Lowell area residents. For more information about Netpenny.net just go to their website: www.netpenny.net and/or call them toll free - 1-888-248-7239.



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LHS' March Students of the Month

The March Students of the Month have been announced at Lowell High School. These students have been selected for their expertise and contributions to a particular area.

Jordan Whitman, a senior, is the son of Michael and Dianne Whitman of Lowell. He was chosen by the Agriscience Department. Whitman is active at LHS in Leaders Club, FFA, Project Pals, Men's Club, lacrosse and the school musical. Next year he plans to attend Grand Valley State University and study pre-dentistry. His teacher nominator says Whitman was selected as a state finalist in the Agriscience research competition and is on time with his duties and takes initiative.

Heather Geelhoed, a senior, is the daughter of Kevin and Karen Geelhoed of Ada.

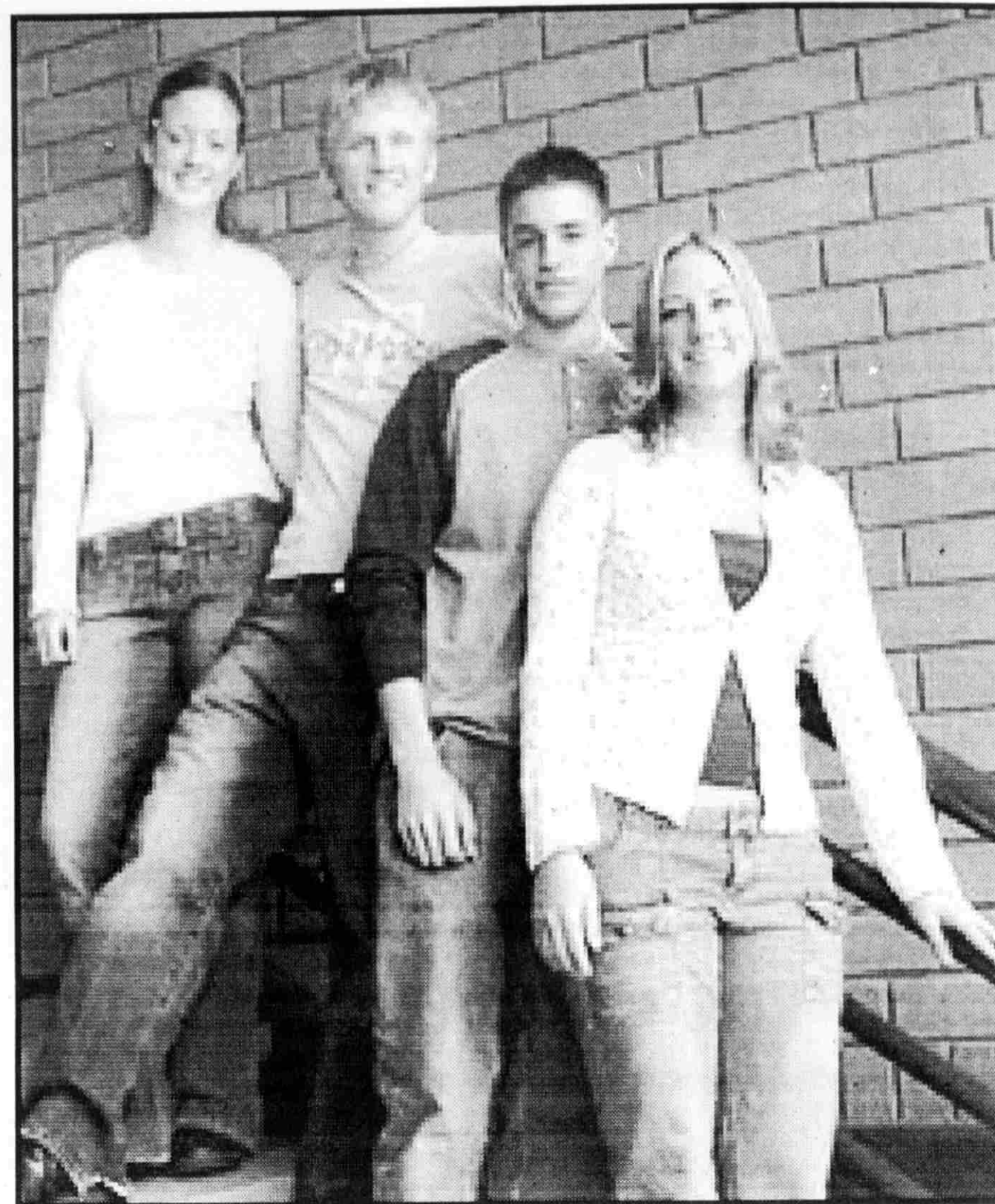
She was selected by the Science Department. Geelhoed's extracurricular activities include softball, captain of the tennis team, National Honor Society, Lady Arrow Varsity Club, SADD and International Club. In addition, she is employed at Brandywine Restaurant. She plans on attending Grand Valley State University to study medicine and health sciences. Her teacher nominator says that Geelhoed has consistently performed at a very high level in Physics while acting as an example for others by her actions.

Patrick Vogel, a senior, is the son of Chuck and Barb Vogel of Lowell. He is being honored by the Technology Department. Vogel has played on the soccer team and has served as its captain. Vogel plans to attend Ferris State University in the fall. His teacher nominator says

his efforts are always top notch. He is hard working and assists others in class. He is a role model for the character trait of responsibility.

Angie Nowak, a senior, is the daughter of Daniel and Patricia Nowak of Lowell. She was selected by the English Department. She is employed by the Speerstra Insurance Agency. Next year Nowak plans to attend Grand Rapids Community College to study dental hygiene. Her teacher nominator says she is a hard worker who gives 100 percent to her classroom preparation. Her "can do" attitude and enthusiasm make her an inspiration to others.

Students pictured, left to right, are: Angie Nowak, Jordan Whitman, Patrick Vogel and Heather Geelhoed.



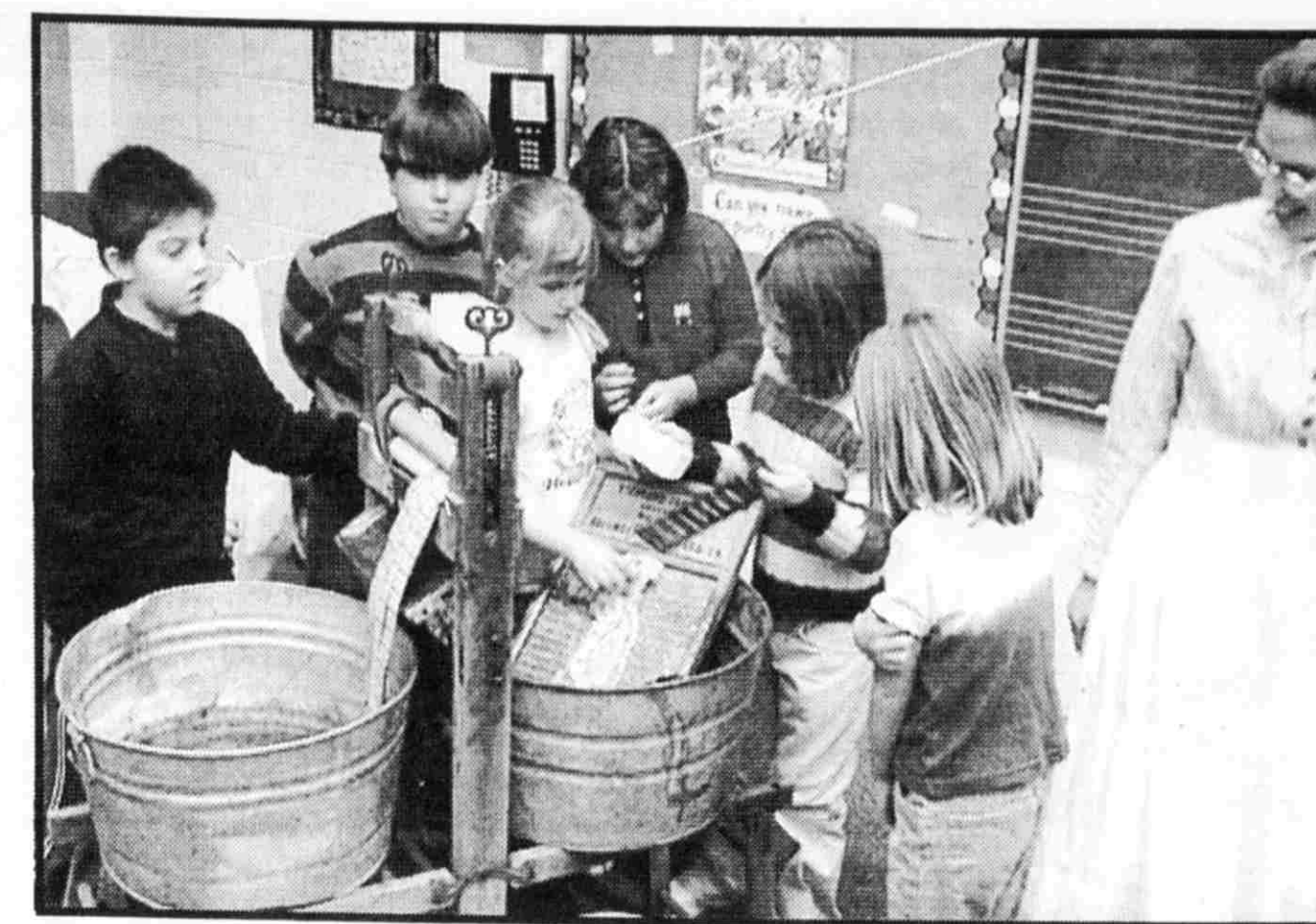
Students settle in for story of Lowell pioneers

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Luanne Kaeb and daughter, Heidi Stoller turned back the clock for some of Cherry Creek Elementary's youngest so they could learn about the early days of Lowell's pioneers.

"Grandma's Trunk," an interactive presentation through the Lowell Area Historical Museum, took second-graders through the daily life of the early 1800 settlers.

They quickly learned it did not include any 21st cen-



Washing clothes was more labor intensive than putting them in a washing machine.

good land (soil) and water (rivers) advantageous to their daily lives. Later (1858), settlers began arriving in larger numbers - thanks mainly to the railroad.

Early settler life was filled with carrying out life- and household-sustaining chores. Kaeb and Stoller explained each day was dedi-

ated to different household duties.

Washing clothes was on Monday, ironing on Tuesday, mending on Wednesday, churning on Thursday, cleaning on Friday and baking on Saturday; church and rest were set aside for Sunday.

Students also learned about the men's responsibili-

butter, roll dough, wash clothes, and play with some of the early 1800 toys.

The museum attained funding for the "Grandma's Trunk" presentation through the Michigan Council of Arts and Cultural Affairs.

"Grandma's Trunk" was presented to all second grade classes in the Lowell School District.



With clothing at a premium, mending was an important task.

ties and tasks and got a close-up look at many of the farming tools they used.

Following the presentation, students were provided with an opportunity to churn

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Bullying, cont'd... From Page 1

Geiger said. "Watching it only feeds the frenzy." McEvoy emphasizes training students, staff and parents on what is inappropriate as well as how to respond to inappropriate bullying behavior.

"Only when everyone addresses the issue will it make a difference," McEvoy said.

The psychologist says districts implementing a violence prevention program can expect more violence to come to their attention almost immediately. "More incidents mean more staff are no longer looking the other way or tolerating any form of violence," McEvoy explained. "The number of students involved at first may seem overwhelming, but things will improve as students and their parents begin to adjust to new expectations about their right to use violence, and to a new environment where even mild violence is not tolerated."

McEvoy adds that this systematic change takes time. "It takes time to change old habits and old ways of seeing things."

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BOWNE TOWNSHIP NOTICE

The Bowne Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed township budget for fiscal years 2003-2004 at the Bowne Township Historic Hall - 8240 Alden Nash S.E., Alto on Monday, March 17, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. "The property tax Millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed Budget will be a subject of this hearing." A copy of the budget is available for public inspection at the Township office, 8240 Alden Nash S.E., Alto, MI 49302 Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sandra L. Kowalczyk
Bowne Township Clerk

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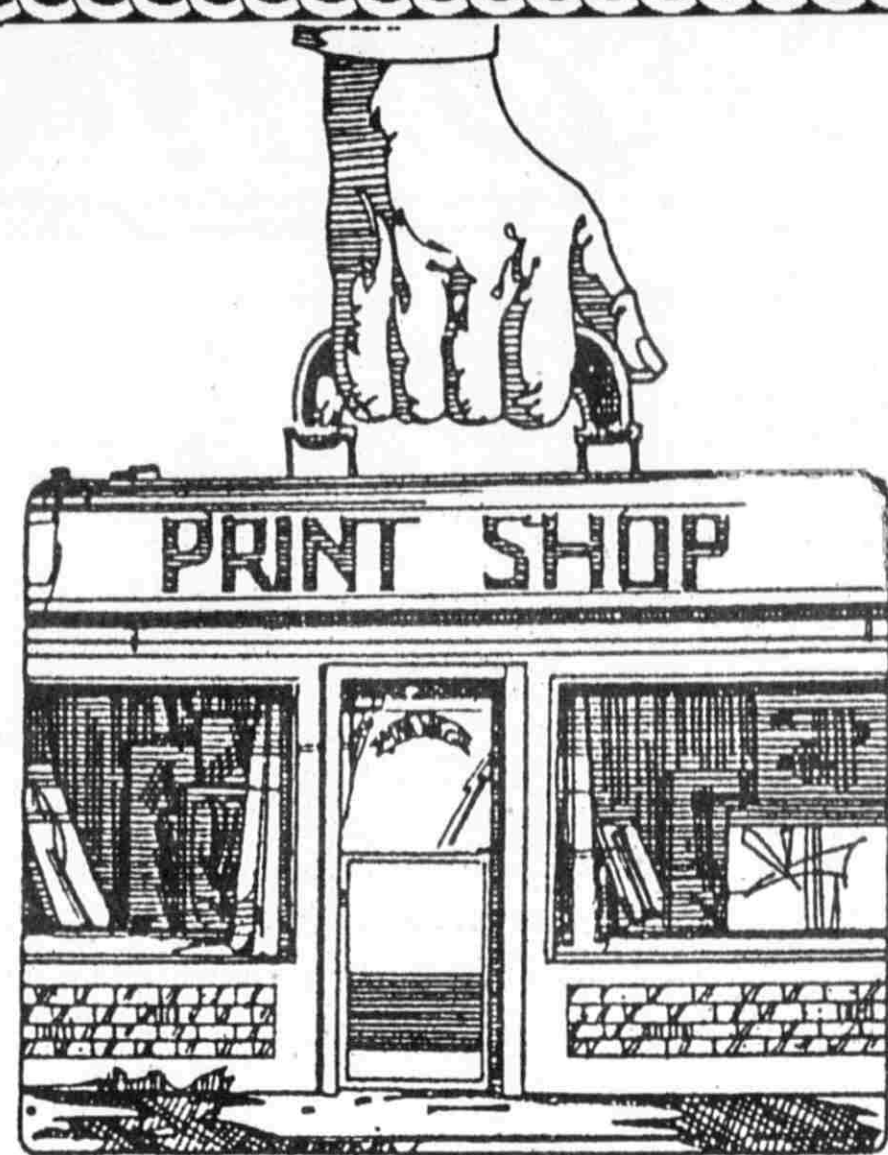
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COMING EVENTS

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.

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 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: 1-3:30 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 OPEN: 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.

THURS., MARCH 13: 30 yr. class reunion planning meeting for Saranac class of '73 at Saranac Elementary Library/ Media Center. Call Michele at 642-9190 with any questions.

THURS., MARCH 13: 30 yr. class reunion planning meeting for Saranac class of '73 at Saranac Elementary Library/ Media Center. Call Michele at 642-9190 with any questions.

SAT., MARCH 15: Digital photography seminar sponsored by Fallasburg Historical Society from 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at Lowell Chamber office. Bruce Doll instructor - Cost is \$15. Call Kerry at 897-7161 to register; space is limited.

MON., MARCH 17: Lowell Showboat Garden Club spring program: "Simple Tips for Flower Arrangements" at the Nazarene Fellowship Hall, 211 N. Washington St. at 7 p.m. Call 897-2533 with any questions.

SAT., MARCH 22: Lowell Community Expo held at Lowell High School. Observe local businesses, clubs & organizations from 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

SAT., MARCH 22: Trout Unlimited Junior, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Call Tammy at the Wittenbach Center 987-1002 for more information.

SAT., MARCH 22: Lowell Area Fire Department pancake breakfast, includes sausage, eggs, juice and coffee. 7 - 11 a.m. Donations taken at the door, 315 S. Hudson.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

LOWELL SENIOR NEIGHBORS CALENDAR 897-5949

MON.: 9 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall. **THURS.:** 9 a.m. Walk/Shop at the Malls; 9:30 Crafts; 1 p.m. Euchre.
TUES.: 9 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall. 12:45 p.m. Bible Study. **FRI.:** 9 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall.

SPECIAL EVENTS

WED., MARCH 12: 8:30 Co-ed Breakfast; Noon: Movies in Grand Rapids.

THURS., MARCH 13: 4:30 Saranac High School St. Patrick's Day Dinner \$6.

FRI., MARCH 14: 8:30 a.m. Tour Clark Retirement Community; Back To Lowell For Lunch; 12:45 p.m. Bingo.

MON., MARCH 17: 11 a.m. St. Ann's Home Grand Rapids Lunch and Live Irish Music \$3.

TUES., MARCH 18: 12:45 Stop Target and Wal-Mart.

WED., MARCH 19: 10 a.m. Advisory Council; 12:45 Shop Lowell Meijer.

THURS., MARCH 20: Noon Dance at Westside Complex. 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Ask the Lawyer.

FRI., MARCH 21: Noon Birthday/Anniversary Celebration.

MON., MARCH 24: 12:45 Syl Mosher discussion.

TUES., MARCH 25: 9:30 a.m. Tax Assistance; 9 - noon: Free Comprehensive Health Screening. No Bible Study.

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

THURS., MARCH 27: 12:45 p.m. Tour Lowell Historical Museum.

FRI., MARCH 28: 12:30 p.m. Lunch and Shop at Woodland Mall.

SUN., MARCH 30: Lawrence Welk Orchestra at Devos Hall, \$39.

MON., MARCH 31: Bible Study.

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During the month of March, we are offering a special package to introduce you to the many benefits of advertising in the Buyers Guide and The Lowell Ledger.

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LEGAL EASE

By Jonathan David



DEAR JONATHAN: Several years ago I purchased a life insurance policy for the purpose of providing for my sister if something happened to me. She was single, had no children and since our parents were deceased, I was the only family she had. My sister died a few years ago, but that life insurance policy is still in force. It turned out to be a decent investment and had built up some cash value, so I decided to keep it. Since I have not named a beneficiary to take those death benefits in place of my sister, what happens if I die before naming a new beneficiary?

JONATHAN SAYS: If you fail to name a new beneficiary of the death benefits of that life insurance policy, then upon your death, those death benefits will be distributed to your estate because the only named beneficiary on the policy, i.e., your sister, is deceased. Since those death benefits will be distributed to your estate, they will be subject to probate. Once probate is completed, those death benefits will pass pursuant to the terms of your last will and testament, if you have one, or if not, to your heirs in the manner required by state law.

I recommend that you name a new beneficiary, as well as a contingent beneficiary as soon as possible. By doing so, not only will you control who receives those death benefits, but you avoid having to have them probated upon your death.

DEAR JONATHAN: Can the person I have named as my agent under my financial durable power of attorney also act for me regarding my medical treatment?

JONATHAN SAYS: You can have the same person act in both capacities, but you need to have separate documents in place. In other words, not only do you need to have a financial durable power of attorney, but you have to have a separate durable power of attorney for health care. This is because a financial durable power of attorney only permits your named agent to make decisions regarding your property and financial matters; you cannot in that document authorize your agent to make medical treatment decisions on your behalf and even if there is language in that document giving your agent that right, it will not be enforceable.

In order to allow an agent to make medical treatment decisions on your behalf, a separate durable power of attorney needs to be prepared in compliance with Michigan's Estates and Protected Individuals Code (EPIC). This type of document goes by different names, including medical durable power of attorney, durable power of attorney for health care and durable power of attorney for personal and medical care decisions. Under EPIC, a person who is of sound mind and 18 years of age or older, may appoint an agent to make medical treatment decisions on their behalf. The person who creates the durable power of attorney is called the "patient" and the person being appointed under that durable power of attorney is called the "patient advocate."

EPIC requires that these types of durable power of attorneys be prepared, executed and implemented in a certain manner. First of all, this document must be signed by the patient in the presence of two witnesses who cannot be any of the following: the patient's spouse, parent, child, grandchild, sibling, presumptive heir, known devisee at the time of the witnessing, physician, patient advocate, employee of a life or health insurance provider for the patient, or an employee of the health facility or home for the aged where the patient is being treated or resides.

Once the durable power of attorney is executed, it must be made a part of the patient's medical records. Consequently, a copy of the document needs to be delivered to the patient's physician or if there is more than one, then to the patient's physicians. Further, if the patient resides at a nursing home or similar type of facility, then that facility needs to receive a copy of that document.

This durable power of attorney also cannot be used until the patient advocate who is named in the document signs an acceptance of his or her designation as patient advocate. In order to be effective, the form of this acceptance has to be prepared in the manner required by EPIC.

When naming your patient advocate, you should also name an alternate patient advocate. This is important because if the first person you have named as your patient advocate is unable to act for some reason, then the alternate patient advocate can assume this responsibility on your behalf. If the person you have named as your patient advocate stops acting and you do not have an alternate named, then the durable power of attorney will be of no use to you and, in fact, will be automatically terminated.

Because the form of this durable power of attorney must be prepared in a specific manner in order to be effective, you should make sure that you retain an attorney who is knowledgeable in the preparation of these types of documents to prepare the durable power of attorney for health care on your behalf.

TOWNSHIP OF GRATTAN COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on April 2, 2003 at 7:00 p.m., the Planning Commission of the Township of Grattan will hold a public hearing at the Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Road, within the Township, concerning a proposed amendment in the Grattan Township Zoning Ordinance.

The proposed amending ordinance would amend Section 3.34 of the Zoning Ordinance, to modify the requirement on site condominium compliance with Article 4 and Article 5 of the Grattan Township Subdivision Ordinance, so as to specify that any variances from the terms of said Article 4 and said Article 5, with respect to site condominiums, are to be considered and decided upon by the Township Planning Commission and Township Board, under the terms of the variance provisions in Article 6 of the Subdivision Ordinance.

All interested persons may attend the public hearing and comment on the proposed amending ordinance.

Written comments concerning the amending ordinance may be submitted to the Township office, at the above-stated address, up to the time of the public hearing.

Dated: March 10, 2003

PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GRATTAN

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CHANGING JOBS OR RETIRING? CONSIDER IRA ROLLOVER

In the near future, are you going to change jobs or retire? If so, then you'll have a lot of things to think about. And one of the most important considerations is what to do with the money you've accumulated in your former employer's 401(k) plan.

What are your choices? First, of course, you could always cash out your 401(k), but if you do, you'll only receive 80 percent of the total, because your employer is required to send the other 20 percent to the IRS, to be applied to your taxes. Also, if you're under 59 1/2 when you take the lump sum, you may have to pay a 10 percent penalty tax. However, if you really need the money - possibly to start your own business - then your retirement plan may be your biggest source of available cash. But once you've used it, it's gone, and you'll have to start rebuilding your retirement savings from other sources.

You may be able to move your 401(k) money to your new employer's plan, if the plan allows it. Or, you may even be able to keep your money in your former employer's plan. You won't be able to make any additional contributions, but, if you particularly like your investment options and how the plan is administered, this option may make sense.

Your other choice is to roll over all or part of the taxable portion of your 401(k) - pre-tax contributions, employer contributions, all earnings - into a new or existing IRA. You can

roll your plan into a "traditional" IRA. (You can't directly transfer 401(k) funds into a Roth IRA. You can convert your traditional IRA to a Roth later on, but you'll have to pay taxes on the conversion.)

By rolling your retirement plan over to a traditional IRA, you can build up the value of your existing account, and you can continue making contributions. With the new tax legislation of 2001, you have the flexibility of moving your traditional IRA into your future company's retirement plan if the plan allows for it.

By rolling your company plan into an IRA, you'll get some key advantages. First, you'll avoid all immediate taxes and penalties. Second, you'll continue to benefit from tax deferral. And third, IRAs offer you a wide variety of invest-

ment options. You can fund your IRA with stocks, mutual funds, bonds, government securities. By contrast, even a good 401(k) plan may have only a dozen or so investment funds to choose from.

Be aware, though, that if you do roll over your 401(k) distribution into a traditional IRA, you will lose the ability to take out a loan from this funding source. You may have found that borrowing from your 401(k) is preferable to other forms of loans. That's because, when you repay a 401(k), you are essentially paying yourself back, with interest.

Before making any moves with your 401(k), see your tax adviser. Your 401(k) may be the largest single source of money you ever have available - so make sure you take good care of it.

Ford places in two events at track championship

Kristi Ford, a 2001 Lowell High School graduate, competed for Western Michigan University in the 2003 Mid American Conference Indoor Track Championship on Feb. 28 - March 1 at Kent State University.

In her first event, the women's 20-pound weight throw, Ford threw a personal best and a WMU school record 58'6" to finish in 6th place. The top eight competitors in the event all threw for personal best. The winner was Donielle Swainey of Kent State with a new MAC record of 62'8".

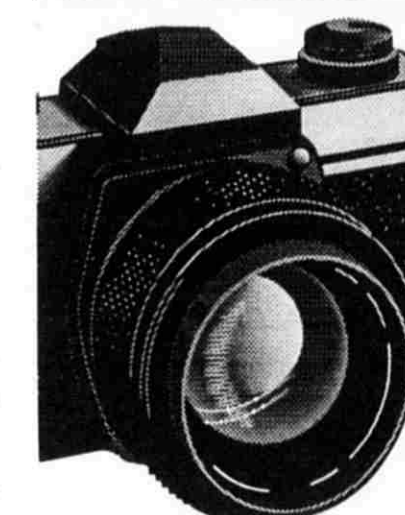
On the second day, Ford competed in the high jump. She cleared 5'5" with no misses and ended up in 5th place, improving on her 12th place finish from 2002. The winner was Alexandra Church of Kent State with a jump of 5'9". Ford successfully raised her personal record the previous week by clearing 5'7 3/4" at Muncie, Ind.

Kent State won the team title with a team total of 88.5 points. Western Michigan was able to finish in 5th place with a total of 72 points improving on their 9th place finish from 2002.

Ford will be competing in the hammer throw, high jump,

discus and shot put for the Bronco's outdoor season. Western Michigan University will be hosting three meets this year on March 29, April 19 and May 3 at Kanley Track in Kalamazoo.

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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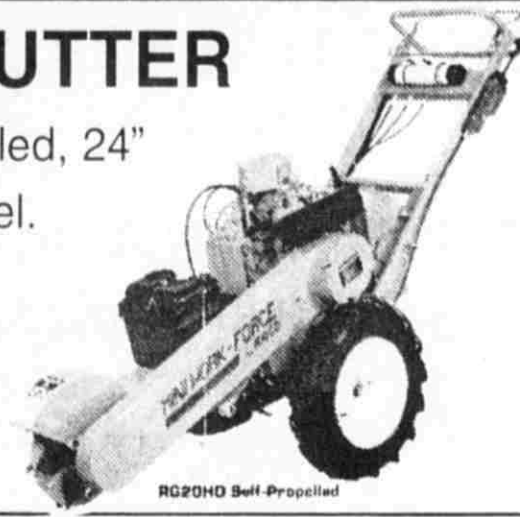
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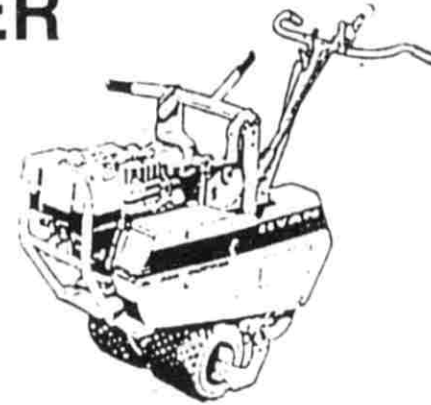
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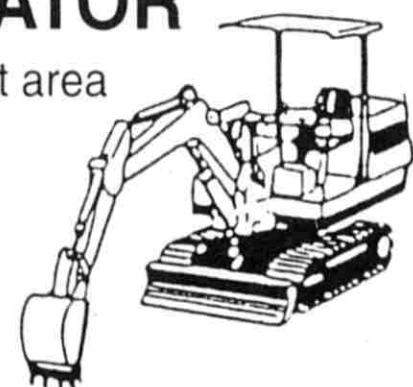
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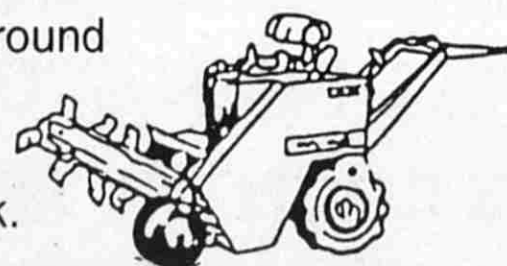
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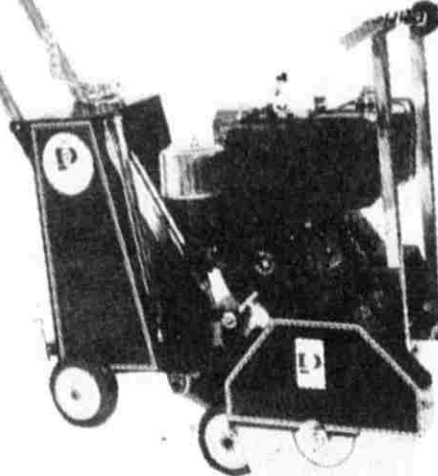
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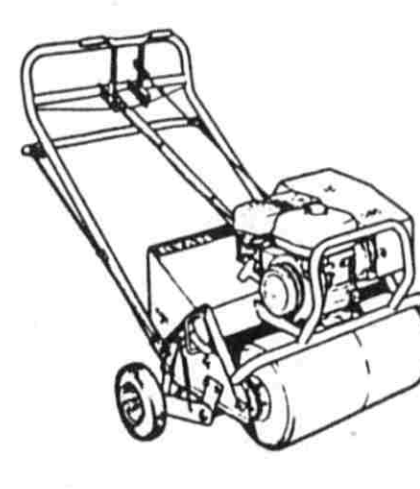
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Mendez, Gingerich and Kinney bring home individual state championships

••• In all, six Lowell wrestlers placed in the individual state meet at the Palace in Auburn Hills over the weekend.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Six Lowell wrestlers placed at the Division II Individual State Championships at the Palace in Auburn Hills over the weekend.

The Red Arrows' show of force was highlighted by the crowning of three state champions.

Joe Mendez (112) and Brandon Kinney (119) won second consecutive state titles, while Bobby Gingerich (152), after narrow misses in each of the last two years, kicked the door down to win his first state title.

Also placing at the state meet were J.J. Wilder, 160, third; Matt Kilmartin, 130, fourth; and Pieter Serne, 189, eighth.

"There was no doubt that Lowell won the day on Saturday," said a proud Red Arrow wrestling coach, Dave Strejc. "Had a team score been kept, we were well ahead of the field. It's a credit to our young men and the adversity they overcame."

That was reflected most by Gingerich who finished second last year and the year before.

"I was most nervous going into Bobby's match, knowing what he's been through," Strejc said. "It's a great thing when good things happen to good people."

Gingerich major decisioned Brad Bauer, Flint Kearsley, 16-4 in the finals.

"I was focused that I was not going to let anything get

in my way," Gingerich explained. "I think I peaked at the state tournament. This was the pinnacle of my wrestling career."

The senior finished with a career record of 164-38. Gingerich was 54-1 this year.

Kinney ran his record to 56-0 and earned a second state title with a 9-7 decision over Flint Kearsley's Chris Diehl. The Red Arrow finishes his high school wrestling career with 217 wins (most ever by a Lowell wrestler) against just 11 defeats.

"I felt I wrestled better this weekend than I have been. I feel relieved knowing I'm done," Kinney said. "Winning titles back-to-back is pretty big, but winning a team title last year was also big."

Strejc said Kinney has always shown a maturity on the mat well beyond his years. "He's dedicated himself to the finer points of the sport. He has just been a solid wrestler. He's had an outstanding career."

Mendez won an 11-10 decision in the first round, followed by a win over previously undefeated Josh Deehl of Fenton, a pin in the semifinals and then an 8-6 win over defending state champion, Nick Longstreet.

The undefeated Coldwater wrestler had beaten Mendez twice earlier this season.

"Joe earned every bit of the state title. He is steady, confident and now a two-time state champion as a sophomore," Strejc said.

Mendez finished the year with a record of 50-4. He was 57-3 as a freshman.

"There is a huge difference in the skill level of the wrestlers at 112 pounds compared to 103," Mendez explained. "You're wrestling against more upperclassmen."

What's next for the sophomore? "I'd like to have fewer losses next year. In the end, the big goal is to be a four-time state champion."

Plattner vaults to another state title

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

The late Marquette basketball coach, Al McQuire said the sign of a champion is someone who does it over and over again.

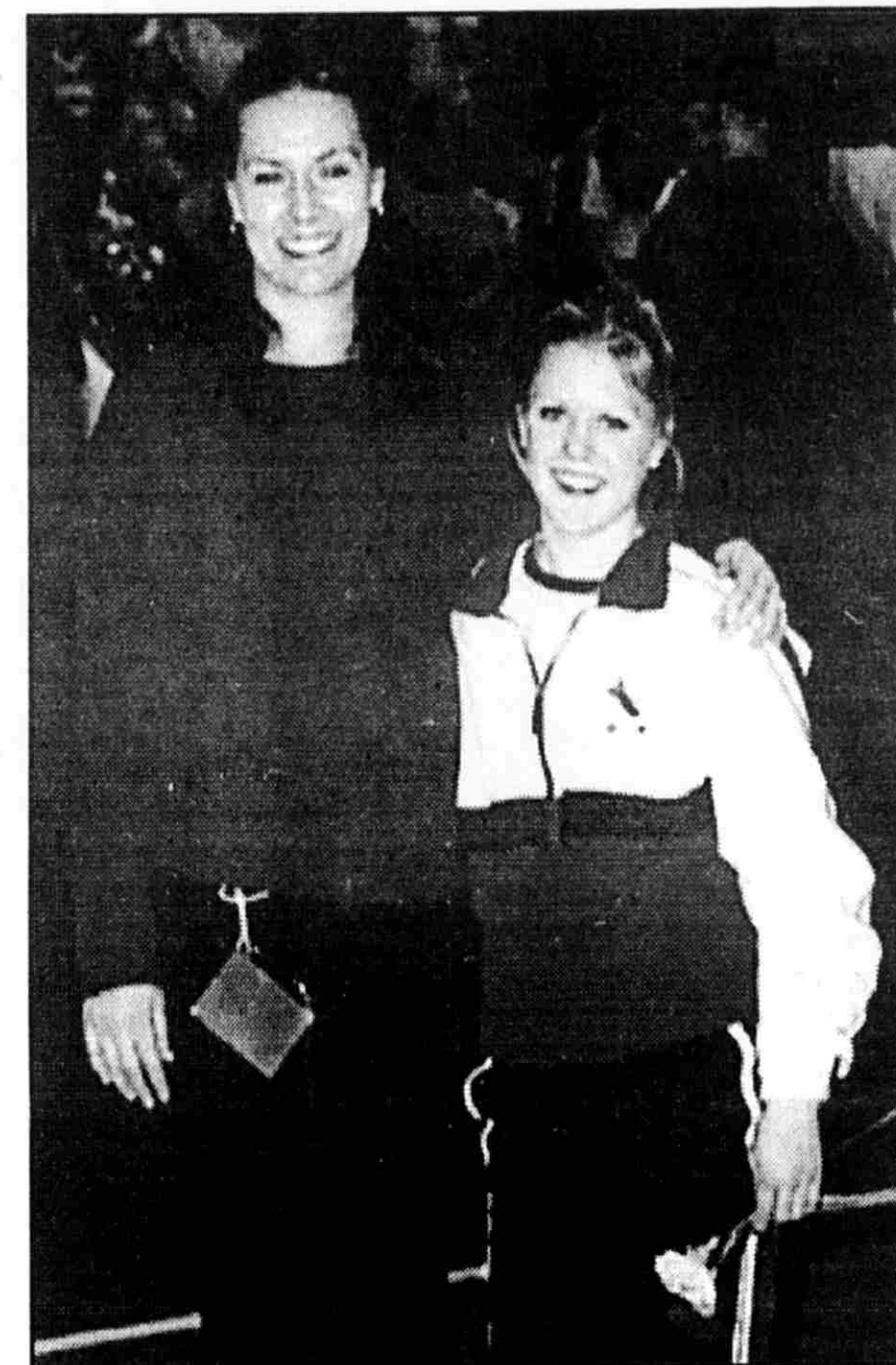
Lowell gymnast, Holly Plattner placed her name on that short list Saturday in Plymouth at the Division II gymnastics state finals when she successfully defended her 2002 state championship in the vault exercise.

The senior, completing

The Red Arrow put it behind her and focused on what was ahead of her. "Coach (Michele DeHaan) and my parents told me I needed to focus on the two events (vault and floor) I had left," Plattner said.

The senior's 9.25 earned her a fifth-place finish in the floor exercise.

"Holly is such a good kid and it's so nice for her to come back strong after last week's falls on the beam," DeHaan said.



Along with her state title in the vault exercise, Holly Plattner also placed fifth in the floor exercise.

A splendid four years of gymnastics at Lowell, scored a 9.45 to earn her a second straight state title.

"I am most proud of the fact that I've won a state championship two years in a row on the vault," Plattner said.

Her performance on Saturday came on the heels of a disappointing regional in Rockford a week earlier.

"I was really disappointed. My goal was to finish in the top five in the all-around at the state meet. But I made a couple of dumb mistakes," she explained.

McDonald said.

A year that began with promise was filled with more challenges than McDonald could have imagined.

His star player missed much of the second half of the season with a broken hand. Mono, a chipped bone in the foot, and the flu all tore away from the nucleus of the team.

"All of that plus things change when you begin losing games. Kids lose their energy and they get frustrated," McDonald said.

The Lowell coach has not lost his energy for the program. In fact, his eyes lighten up when he speaks of the future.

"We have kids coming up through the program where basketball is most important to them. That's exciting," McDonald explains.

A program's continuity is established when a head coach is directly involved at all levels.

Lowell basketball season ends; program building continues

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

By the end of the third quarter and beginning of the fourth quarter of Lowell's district basketball game against Forest Hills Central,

the Red Arrows' lineup consisted of freshmen and sophomores.

That fact indicated Lowell was in the midst of a 70-48 drubbing at the hands of the Class A's sixth-ranked basketball team.

It also displayed some newfound continuity in a struggling basketball program. There were four junior varsity players and a fresh-

man executing at the varsity level in the district basketball game.

"It was fun to see that fire in their eyes and setting staggered screens and working the ball around for a jump shot," said Lowell basketball coach, Jeff McDonald. "The other great thing was the supportive comments they were getting about their play from the seniors during time-outs. That's an intangible that you just can't measure."

That doesn't remove the

sting from a disappointing performance. "The way the kids were focused, I thought we'd have a more respectable performance and a better game," McDonald said.

"We just didn't have an answer for their energy."

Lowell finished the season at 8-13 - that's the most wins a Red Arrow club has had in 10 years.

"We started out 6-4 and finished up 2-9. I feel badly the seniors didn't go out on a more positive note," McDonald said.

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Basketball, continued

"Every coach I talk to - the first question I ask them is 'How do you build a successful basketball program?'" They all tell me success comes with being involved at the elementary level on up," McDonald said.

Lowell had 82 fifth- and sixth-grade boys playing basketball at the middle school level. That's up from 64 a year ago.

"I think we're going about it the right way. We have great youth coaches and parents putting in the time," McDonald said. "I want basketball to be a community thing like wrestling and football. That's where it all starts."



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