

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 30 Issue 1

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, November 12, 2003



A banner on Main Street advertises this weekend's Christmas Through Lowell - the biggest ever with six businesses and 36 homes selling the work of more than 125 artisans and crafters.

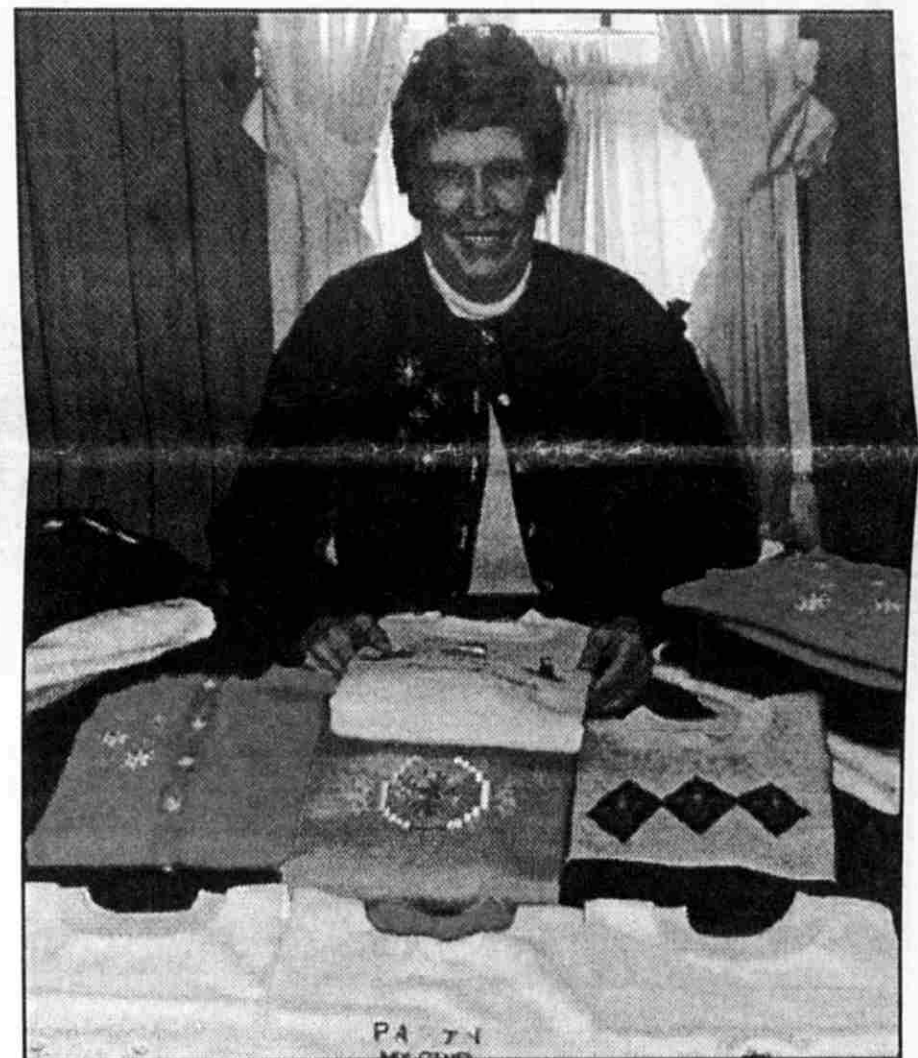
Christmas Through Lowell this weekend

By Dan Schneider

This weekend will be the twelfth and largest Christmas Through Lowell. More than 125 crafters will sell their creations in 36 homes and six businesses throughout the three-day event. Sixteen of those locations are new this year.

"This is the biggest one yet - the most we've ever had," said organizer Jody Haybarker. "So hopefully we'll have record crowds."

Last year, Christmas Through Lowell attracted at least 1,500 people. Christmas is some time from now, but the



Connie Kennedy is this year's featured crafter.

Progress stalled in Lowell schools contract negotiations

"In light of the issues with state funding, this could impact the proposal that we have on the table." — Connie Gillette

By Dan Schneider

Monday's Board of Education meeting on contract negotiations consisted mostly of a review of last month's update. Proposals for both sides remain the same.

The last mediation session between the board and the teachers' union occurred Monday, Oct. 20. The last formal proposal by the board was put forward Oct. 2. The Lowell Education Association made their last formal proposal on Sept. 15.

The next scheduled mediation is for Nov. 20. Connie Gillette, assistant superintendent for finance and personnel, said this was a mutually-agreed-upon delay. The reason for the delay is uncertainty regarding state funding, which the board hopes will become clearer by the 20th.

"In light of the issues with state funding, this could impact the proposal that we have

on the table," Gillette said.

The state is currently dealing with a \$361 million shortfall in its education budget.

On Thursday, Nov. 6, Gov. Jennifer Granholm sent a letter to the state legislatures announcing a \$196 cut in the state's per pupil allowance. Legislators have 30 days from the issuance of the letter to come up with alternatives to lessen the impact. If felt in full, the cut would mean a loss of \$765,000 in funding for Lowell Area Schools.

The teachers and union support staff have been without a contract since Aug. 31. Negotiations remain snagged on issues of health insurance costs. The board insists that teachers must share some of the cost of insurance. On their proposal, this comes in the form of monthly copays. In the proposal from the teachers and union support staff, there can be no employee participation in health insurance. The proposals also include different degrees of pay raises.

Contract talks, cont'd., pg. 8

Girl struck by car attempting to cross Main St.

by Dan Schneider

A nine-year-old girl was struck by a car Sunday on West Main Street.

The incident occurred at 4:55 p.m. in front of the Admiral Station. Preliminary reports indicate that the girl darted out into the street, failing to see a westbound car.

As of Monday morning, the girl was listed in fair con-

dition at Spectrum Health Butterworth Campus in Grand Rapids.

The driver was a 48-year-old man from Muskegon. The car was a 1999 Cadillac DeVille.

"It's a dangerous spot to cross mid-block," Lowell police chief, Jim Valentine said. "With the volumes of traffic and the speed limit being 45

there, we are very fortunate this wasn't a fatality."

Sgt. Stephen Junewick and officer Elizabeth Penning, of the Lowell Police Department, responded to the incident. They requested an accident reconstructionist from the Kent County Sheriff's Department to assist in the investigation.

Inside
The Lowell Ledger
 Hunters check point...
 Page 3
 Logging in preserve...Page 11

OBITUARIES

DRIFTMEYER - William H. Driftmeyer, aged 73, of Lowell, passed away Saturday, November 1, 2003. He was preceded in death by his parents Della and Hugh Driftmeyer. He is survived by his good friends Haans Fischer and Elton Newville. He was a life member of Lowell Serenity Club. Memorial services were held Saturday at Roth-Gerst Chapel, Lowell. Dr. Michael Conklin of the First United Methodist Church of Lowell officiating. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Lowell Serenity Club, 101 W. Main St., Lowell 49331.

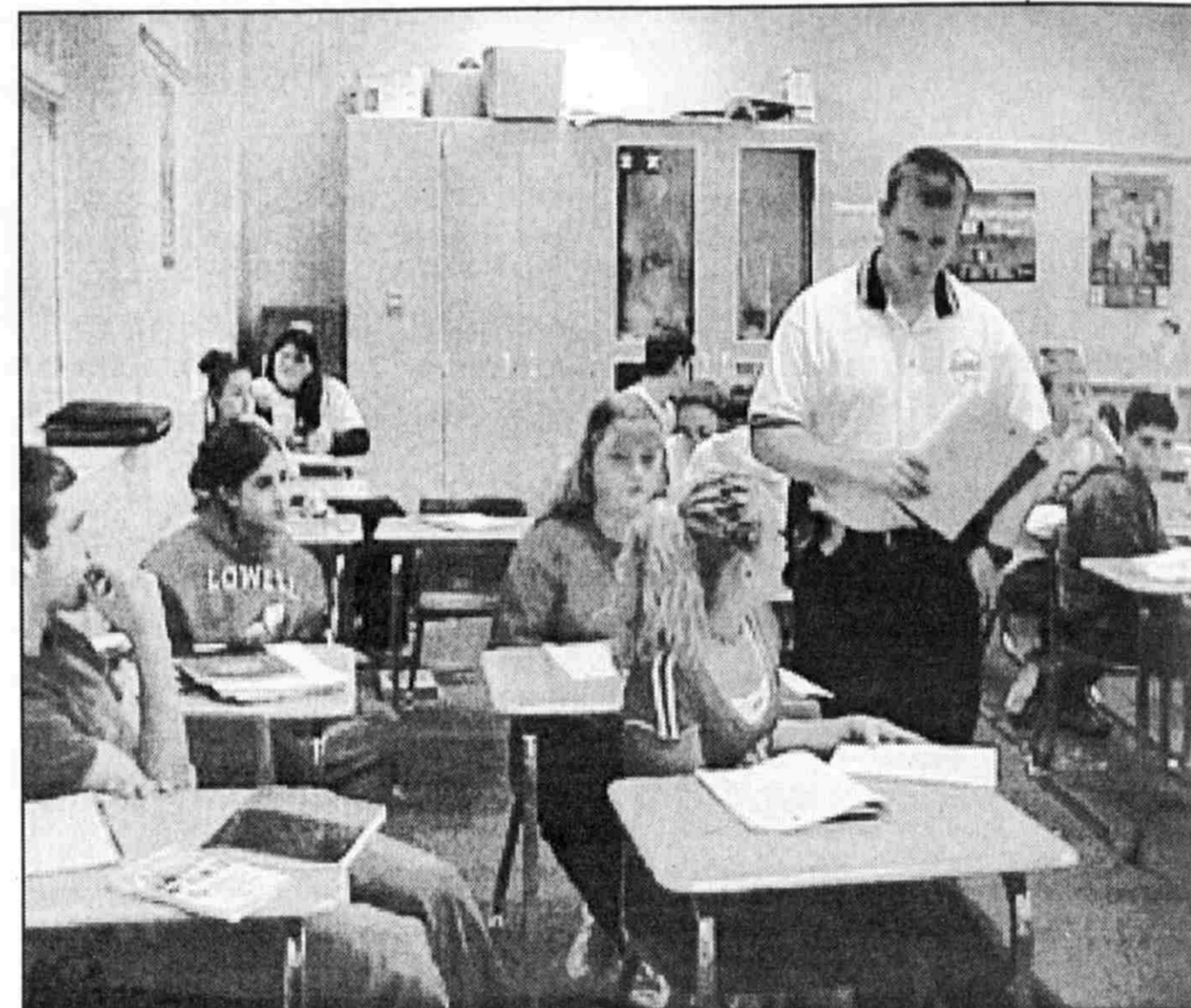
HIMEBAUGH - Hazel L. Himebaugh, aged 80, of Alto, passed away November 3, 2003. She was born February 18, 1923 in Monroe, Mich. She is survived by her five children Lois (Leon) Cooper

of Mississippi, Chet (Marion) Himebaugh of Grand Rapids, David (Diane) Himebaugh, Sue (Ron) Walling of Lowell, and Ricky (Patty) Himebaugh of Grand Rapids; one brother James Bitler of Shephard, MI; one sister Dorothy Himebaugh of Mt. Pleasant; 15 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held Friday at the Roth-Gerst Chapel with Rev. Ivan Stark officiating. Interment Bowne Center Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

VENEMA - Michael Lee Venema, 48, died unexpectedly October 7, 2003 in Ellsworth, ME. He was born in Grand Rapids, September 6, 1955, the son of Lee and Catherine (Wierenga) Venema. He is survived by his sister Sherrie Klynstra and

her husband Kelly, and his children Stafford and Bronwen. Mike was passionate about history, antiques, cinema and Hollywood but most of all his two beloved children. His interest in comedy and show business took him to California in 1979 and after attending college in Michigan and working briefly as a stand-up comic in Chicago, he eventually found his niche in public relations. He worked in radio syndication, became an entertainment manager and shifted his business in 1990 to fine art. He never forgot his birth place, Alto and the cast of loved characters that made up those early years of his life. A permanent memorial to Mike is a forest of black walnuts in Alto to be planted and maintained and put in trust for his children. May he rest in peace in the arms of angels. He was one. A memorial service will be held Wednesday, Nov. 12 at 6:30 p.m. at Community of Christ, 4186 68th St., Alto. Donations may be made to JK Trust, P.O. Box 66, Yorkville, TN 38389.

Bukala appointed president of state D.A.R.E officers' association



Officer Steve Bukala talks with students at LHS.

Officer Steve Bukala is back to work in health classes at Lowell High School presenting a two-week DARE unit. He has worked for five years with the fifth-grade DARE program and three years in the high school.

After being recommended by Jim Valentine, Lowell chief of police, Bukala was appointed by DARE officers of

Michigan to be the representative and serve as the state president for the DARE officers' association of Michigan. Last January, he attended a three-day conference in Las Vegas to review the new high school curriculum.

Bukala received his training at MSU. This consisted of 120 hours of materials, curriculum, lesson plans and teaching techniques. With funding provided by the Lowell police and innovative fundraising by Bukala, Officer Chris Hurst and Bukala have been able to bring the DARE program to fifth-, seventh- and ninth-grade classes.

Bukala has seen many positive results by working in the various schools. He bases his success on student surveys, adding that "95 percent of the students make positive comments about the program and most have a desire to avoid drugs and alcohol."

High school teachers, Marsha LaHaye and Kathy Talus agree that most students enjoy working with Bukala and really get involved in his group activities. Freshman Jessica Nelson said, "The way Officer Bukala teaches the class, students know the risks and consequences of making destructive decisions."

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What a pleasure life would be to live if everybody would try to do only half of what he expects others to do.
—William J.H. Boetcker

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In Memory
of
C. H. RUNCIMAN
who died
35 years
ago today,
Nov. 12, 1968

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Good conditions predicted for hunters; DNR encourages hunters to bring deer to checkpoints

By Dan Schneider

Deer populations and environmental conditions should add up to a good deer season, biologists say.

"The average deer in Kent County per square mile is in the low 30s," said Nick Kalejs.

Kalejs is a wildlife biologist with the DNR at the Muskegon State Game Area.

"The corn harvest is com-

ing along," Kalejs said. "It doesn't look like we're going to have a year where most of the corn is left standing."

Deer hunting can be more difficult in years with late corn harvests. The high corn gives deer a place to hide and where they can find food out of sight of hunters.

Other environmental factors are less favorable for deer,

but will probably not heavily impact this year's hunting.

"The mast crop, that's acorns and such, has been pretty spotty across most of the state," Kalejs said. "Some of the areas with good acorn production, it will be a bonus for them."

In last year's deer season, more than 5,000 deer were taken with a nearly even split

between bucks and does. The does actually outnumbered the bucks slightly, which Kalejs says is unusual.

The DNR is encouraging hunters to bring their deer to check stations for testing. The nearest check station to Lowell is at the Flat River State Game Area, 6640 Long Lake Rd. in Belding.

At the check stations, DNR biologists test the deer heads for disease. The two main causes for concern are Bovine Tuberculosis and Chronic Wasting Disease. Neither have yet been found in West Michigan deer herds but Bovine TB has been found in deer in the northern lower

peninsula. Chronic Wasting Disease has been a problem for deer herds in Wisconsin and Illinois.

"We want to keep it out of Michigan, but as part of that, we have to do some pretty extensive testing," Kalejs said.

The check stations also record details such as the age of the deer, where the deer was taken, and the measurement of the antlers for bucks. Biologists look at lactation in does, John Niewoonder said, to "get an indication of whether they were a successful breeder."

Niewoonder is the biologist at the Flat River State Game Area's check station.

"The more deer that we put into our model, the more accurate we can be in managing the deer population," Niewoonder said.

The check station at the Flat River State Game Area will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day of gun deer season except Thanksgiving and the day following.

The DNR will also have a representative accepting deer heads at Jones Meats in Saranac. Hunters who bring deer to the check stations will get a "DNR Deer Management Cooperator, 2003 Successful Hunter" patch. Hunters bringing bucks will be able to keep the antlers.

Alto Elementary students learn teamwork from sled dogs

By Dan Schneider

A dog and a sled helped teach students simultaneously about dogsledding and teamwork last Thursday at Alto Elementary.

The dog was Mohawk, lead sled dog on musher Tasha Stielstra's racing team.

Stielstra led three assemblies at the school. She gave slide shows about raising sled dogs, talked about what it

takes to be a musher, related the whole dog racing experience to the life of a student, and showed students what it would be like to be a sled dog.

"It's a real obvious example of teamwork for the kids to see," Stielstra said. "We try to connect everything to the kinds of things they do in school." The assemblies fit in with Lowell Area Schools' featured character trait this month: Respect.

"Part of our plan here is to develop character, and that includes working together and showing growth," said Alto Elementary principal, Mary Ann Schramm. "Respect is crucial to growing up and going through life."

Stielstra hooked up some of the students to the sled harness to show them how much effort it takes to move all together as a team. She also demonstrated Gee-ing and Haw-ing. "Gee" means turn right, "Haw" means turn left.

Stielstra and her husband, Ed, have raised sled dogs in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan for seven years. Having been a musher in five races, she has learned that victory doesn't have to come in the way she expected it to. She has never won a race but has won awards from the veterinary inspectors for best cared-for dogs.

Stielstra also brought Mohawk to elementary schools in Ionia and Belding last week. Ionia County National Bank sponsored the tour.

COLLEGE NEWS

Michigan State University lists 2,795 degree candidates for summer 2003.

From the Alto area are Donald J. Black and Sean M. Hartley.

University officials have announced that 885 students received Academic Honors for the semester ending August 2003 at Ferris State University and Kendall College of Art and Design.

L. Eldred, Michael Mastrovito, Heather Simmons, Michele M. Stauffer and Nicole E. VanderWal.

From the Alto area are Jeffrey Hekman and Matthew G. VanVelsen.

To be eligible for academic honors, undergraduate students must have accumulated at least a 3.5 grade point average in no fewer than 12 credit hours of coursework at the 100 level or higher during the given semester.



Students practicing mushing at Alto Elementary last week.

The whole secret of life is to be interested in one thing profoundly and in a thousand other things well.
—Hugh Walpole

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lowell City Council, acting as the Zoning Board of Appeals, will conduct a public hearing at their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, November 17, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lowell City Hall Council Chambers, Second Floor, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan.

The purpose of said hearing would be to receive comments on the following variance request:

- 901 Bowes Rd., (northwest corner of Bowes and South Center) - Saba Properties LCC has petitioned for a rear yard variance to construct a duplex 16 feet from the rear lot line where 25 feet is required.

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



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City Clerk
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Reflections Of Faith

John VanderWall, evangelist
Calvary Christian Reformed Church

There is a group of age 65 plus seniors called the YAHS for Young At Heart Seniors that meets once a month at Calvary for fellowship and discussion on the book of Proverbs. The next time we meet (oh, I'm not 65 yet so if you'd come too, you wouldn't be the youngest one) the discussion will be on chapter 11.

There are two verses that caught the eye of this evangelist. First is verse 19: "The truly righteous attains life, but the one who pursues evil goes to their death." It is plain truth that righteous people attain life on earth because they live life more

fully each day by consistently making the best choices and avoiding evil practices.

More importantly, the truly righteous are those who have received God's gift of Eternal life, by asking Jesus into their hearts. By contrast, those who pursue evil miss out on a life that is really satisfying here on earth, and they actually find eternal death.

We evangelists usually find our texts in the New Testament. But right here in Proverbs 11, there are two verses on living eternally! Verse 30 is the other evangelism verse: "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is

Franciscan Life Process Center presents first annual Christmas fair

The Franciscan Life Process Center will present its Christmas Fair on Saturday, Nov. 15 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public.

A variety of arts and crafts items will be available for purchase as well as baked goods and treats from the pantry of the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist - one being their popular cinnamon roll originally sold at the Ada Bakery.

Roy Brown, coordinator of the event, is also an accomplished watercolor artist. He will be on hand to sign copies of "A Special Place," the young children's book he illustrated for author, Miranda Eden, another FLPC employee. Eden will be available

to sign copies of the 10-page publication which sells for \$15.

The center is located at 11650 Downes St. and proceeds from the event benefit the general operating fund of FLPC.

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS who helped make "Light the Night" possible on Halloween evening

Bernard's Ace Hardware
McDonalds - Lowell
NuBath Acrylic Bath Systems & Remodeling - Grand Rapids
Ed's Body Shop - Caledonia
First Horizon Home Loans - Grand Rapids
Hammersmith Equipment Comp. - Grand Rapids
Steve & Shirley Levingston
Doug & Gloria Burnett
Scot & Brenda Raymor
And the many, many volunteers!

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3050 Alden Nash • Lowell
Yes... we're open during the expansion of our church facilities!
Come worship with us Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Volunteer receives certification

Gayle Wissinger, of Lowell, recently received her certification as a volunteer in the YMCA Camp Manitou-Lin's Therapeutic Riding programs. The day-long clinic was held at the camp's horseback riding center.

To be eligible for certification, a volunteer must have

volunteered for 1 six-week riding session or for one week of day camp. The person must also have attended one volunteer certification training session specific to certification as a horse handler or side walker. Wissinger received

her certification in both of these areas.

For more information on the Therapeutic Riding programs, contact Ardhith Turpin, the horsemanship director at 269-795-9163.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

A good leader is a person who takes a little more than his share of the blame and a little less than his share of the credit.

—John C. Maxwell

NOV. 13: Brian Gerard.
NOV. 14: David Durkee, Doris Rhines, Ardean Boss.
NOV. 15: Beth Stouffer, Emily Myers, Gina Gildner, Doug Decker, Alyssa Rash, Dave Hildenbrand.

NOV. 16: Cheryl Lilley.
NOV. 17: Scott MacNaughton, Cory DuBridge, Tyler Shindorf, Mary Schutts, Anastasia Barnes, Ali Wernet.
NOV. 18: Brent Noskey, Fran Powell, Sandy Roe, Lillian Briggs.

NOV. 19: Ken Mulder, Jamie Zoodsma, Evelyn Roudabush, Marlene Nash, Lewis Powell.

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

Join Us In Worship

<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 Worship Hours...8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Sunday School...9:45 a.m.</p> <p>DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Nursery & child care available at both services Barrier - Free Entrance</p>	<p>EVERGREEN MISSIONARY CHURCH 10501 Settlewood • Ph. 897-7185 Sunday School...9:45 A.M. Morning Worship...11 A.M. Evening Service...6:00 P.M.</p> <p>Prayer and Praise - Wed., 7:00 P.M. Rev. Rick Ferguson - 987-6475 ALL ARE WELCOME! (Barrier-Free)</p>	<p>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God) 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Senior Pastor Dave Noonan, Asst. Pastor Stacy Holmes, College & Twenties Brian Baber, Youth Pastor</p> <p>SUNDAYS: Worship: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. WEDNESDAYS: Family Night: (For All Ages) 7 p.m. Generation Jacob Youth: 7 p.m.</p>	<p>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL Rev. William J. Ronkema - 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI Morning Worship...10:00 A.M. Sunday School...11:20 A.M. Evening Worship...6:00 P.M. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p>
<p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org Sunday School/Adult Bible Study...9:00 A.M. Sunday Worship...10:00 A.M.</p> <p>(Nursery available) Joseph Fremmer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p>APOSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M. SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M. At 215 1/2 W. Main, Lowell (entrance in rear of building) CALL FOR FREE HOME BIBLE STUDIES</p> <p>Pastor Robert L. Hubbard Phone: (616) 897-1267 website www.aplighthouse.com</p>	<p>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 201 N. Washington • 897-8800 Sunday School...9:45 A.M. Morning Worship...10:50 A.M. Sunday Evening...6:00 P.M. Wednesday Family Ministry...7:00 P.M.</p> <p>PASTOR TIM DESHAW Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>	<p>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Fr. George J. Fekete 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 P.M. SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10:30 AM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL BRENDA BERGON: 897-7515 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 49, EWTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>
<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org Rev. Burland Margesson & Rev. W. Lee Taylor Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor Sun. Worship Service...9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour...11:00 A.M. AWANA...Wed. 6:15 & 7 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free</p>	<p>ALTON BIBLE CHURCH Lincoln Lake Ave. at 3 Mile Road 897-5648 Sunday School...10:00 A.M. Morning Worship...11:00 A.M. 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 YOU ARE WELCOME!</p>	<p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL (United Church of Christ) 404 North Hudson • 897-5906 Worship and Church School...10:00 A.M. Dr. Roger LaWare...Pastor Megan MacNaughton...Music Director Barrier-Free...Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship</p>	

Viewpoint



As I peck away at the keyboard it is early Tuesday morning. My watch says it's 5:30. I am trying to convince myself that it is 5:30 a.m. Eastern Standard Time. My body clock is telling me it is 5:30 p.m. China Standard Time, which is late this afternoon. If you can figure that out, you're one up on me.

My wife and I just returned from visiting our grandkids in Shanghai, China. (Oh, by the way, we also visited my daughter and her husband.) This was our third such trip in as many years. We had a great time, did some new things, took in some different sights, had excellent weather ... no problems. (They have great Chinese food over there.) Still, I'm glad to be back in the good old U.S.A.!

Spending a couple weeks in a country as foreign as China begins to wear me down. Two weeks certainly isn't enough time to learn the language, adjust to the culture or build up antibodies against the stuff in the food and water. I was just beginning to get a handle on the currency. I was learning (quickly) to dodge the always heavy traffic. Drivers have no respect for pedestrians ... even in marked and lighted crosswalks. And, my body was starting to get the twelve-hour time change figured out when it was time to leave. Mostly, I was a fish out of water.

Driving over there is about the only thing that reminds me of the U.S. Not so much because it is congested, but because it is right-hand. The British had everybody on the wrong side of the road until World War II. After the war, our GIs went in as occupational troops, said, "To heck with this!" and got all the traffic going the right way. My dad was one of them. Thanks pops, and happy Veteran's Day.

To make matters worse, the Chinese have adopted the metric system. Temperatures are given in Celsius. I had no idea whether I should feel warm or cold, wear shorts, take a jacket along or dress for the beach. The only thing I know about the metric thermometer is that supposedly water freezes at zero and boils at one hundred. What's wrong with the Fahrenheit equivalents of 32 degrees and two hundred-and-something?

We were invited to a costume party and I had a jacket made for the event. My daughter took me to a huge fabric market. We found some gaudy material for my jacket at one of the booths. Each booth had a tailor available, so they began to measure me up. Not only were my daughter and the tailor speaking Chinese, they were using the metric system. There were some giggles as they measured out meter after meter of material. I think they were making fun of my size, but I can't

prove it. On the plus side, the custom-tailored jacket cost about the equivalent of twenty bucks U.S. in their Monopoly money.

All roads and streets are marked in kilometers. Liquid measures are in liters. Weights are in kilos. Even the speedometers in the cars are in kilometers only, so there is no way to cross reference to miles per hour. Honestly, I had as much trouble with the weights, measures and currency as I did with the language.

There was a single incident that put the spotlight on my ignorance of the metric system. The Chinese have recently completed a fast, elevated train from Pudong, the Shanghai suburb where my daughter's family lives, out to the international airport. I don't know how far it is, because it is in kilometers. The common denominator is that the trip is about a 45-minute car ride. The train makes the trip in just over seven minutes.

The train is not yet fully operational. The word I got is that the German company that supplied the equipment is feuding with the Chinese government, who built the concrete elevated rail system. Neither is willing to sign off on the project until they're assured the system is safe. In the meantime, they are running a limited schedule of full speed test runs loaded with tourists and thrill-seekers. Of course I gave it a try.

My wife and son-in-law opted out. My daughter and grandkids went with me. I'm not sure what that says about our family structure in terms of wisdom, responsibility, maturity, etc. Hey, you only live once!

The literature I read about the train said it reaches speeds of 430 kilometers per hour. As an extremely metrically challenged person, I have no idea if that is fast or not. My gut feeling was that it is very fast.

We made the round trip with no mishap. I have a picture of the digital speedometer in our car showing 432 kilometers per hour. After taking the trip to the airport and back, I can assure you that 432 kilometers per hour is extremely fast. I just don't know how fast.

I told people about the ride while at the aforementioned party. Everybody there was college educated and living in China. They are used to the metric system and felt no need to convert 432 kph to mph. Consequently, nobody could help me with a proper conversion.

Back here in the States, anybody I tell about my fast train ride is going to want to compare it with straightaway speeds at the Daytona 500 or top end in the Plymouth Roadrunner they had in high school. Nobody I know would have a handle on 432 kph.

I just dug out my little black pocket reference book. It tells me the multiplier to convert kph to mph is 0.62137. So 432 times 0.62137 is ... HOLY COW!!! over two hundred and sixty-eight miles per hour. No wonder my wife and son-in-law opted out. Maybe it's a good thing I am metrically challenged. I'm not sure I would have taken the trip if I had known it was that fast!!! They say, "ignorance is bliss." If that's the case I ought to be one happy guy ... metrically at least.

reporting of the news.

In fact, one program, "Hannity and Colmes" is hosted by a Conservative, Hannity and a Liberal, Colmes. They interview guests from both sides of an issue and let the viewer decide. The difference here between their show and other political "news" programs is they readily admit to their leanings.

A favorite of millions of viewers who have discovered Fox News is the O'Reilly Factor. Bill O'Reilly is an independent thinking, staunch Catholic, political commentator who will take on any and all subjects, including pedophile priests and those who try to protect them. He is indignant about our government's indifference to the lax security at our borders too. Have they forgotten 9/11 already? And illegal drugs flow from Mexico and Canada like water. Hello in Washington!

The only rule a guest must follow to be on O'Reilly's show is that they come prepared to back up anything they say in the debate with provable facts. It isn't called the "No Spin Zone" for nothing. The right and left wing ideologues stay away from his show in droves.

So if any Lowell television viewers are interested in an alternative to liberally slanted news, you can do what I did ... switch to a satellite company. It is only a few dollars more a month and then you have a choice in what you watch. I told Lowell Cable Company I was going to have to do that if they did not add Fox News to the Lowell Cable lineup. I was told to do whatever I had to do. I wonder if the Cable Board will have that attitude if hundreds of customers decide to do the same.

Barb Barber,
Lowell

To the Editor, continued, pg.8



Ledger Entries of 125, 100, 75, 50 and 25 years ago

125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL, NOVEMBER 13, 1878

Pay for your Journal subscription for one year with a cord of good maple wood, or \$1.50.

The Australian spiritualist gave a good talk at Train's Hall last Friday.

The sidewalk on the bridge has been raised and a good foundation put under it.

The Segwun Debating Club will discuss "Resolved: that women should exercise the right of franchise" next Tuesday.

Miss Carrie Truax has returned from Grand Rapids and will spend the winter at home.

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER NOV. 12, 1903

Martin N. Hine, builder of the Central School and Congregational Church, banker and town leader, dies at age 72.

Also this week, Theodore Mueller, 71, charter member and leader of the Joseph Wilson GAR Post, veteran of many Civil War battles and person camp, dies while serving on a jury in Grand Rapids.

Lowell has three electric light and power plants.

The editor blames the increase in drunkenness downtown on the influx of foreign workers building the new dam north of town.

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

The Ledger publishes its serials in large installments (about a page) so readers get the added value of a book, at only \$2 a year.

Uncle Marcus' Cozy Corner lauds the election of Herbert Hoover over Al Smith's "bads and wets" of New York and Chicago.

There are two surviving veterans of the Mexican War of 1848: one is 98 and the other is 100.

Subscribers may call at the Ledger office for a handsome 1929 calendar, issued in honor of Uncle Marcus' 36th year in business in Lowell.

Hudson Mfg. Co. of Hastings, Minnesota, has bought the Lowell Specialty Co. and is shipping machinery here to make additional lines of sprayers.

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER NOV. 12, 1953

The grade and high school buildings were built for \$238 thousand and are appraised at \$519 thousand; the grade school is being paid for by funds from tuition pupils.

The Nativity Scene will be relocated from Richards Park to the Foreman property on West Main. Volunteers are needed to repair the aging figures.

The Ground Observer Corps has another duty, to report weathers conditions, especially sudden changes, for the benefit of jet aircraft.

The big UM-MSU football game in East Lansing will be telecast Saturday at 1:30 p.m. Tickets are long since sold out.

Carroll Burch resigns as football coach after 17 years in Lowell and nine years in Sebawaing.

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER NOVEMBER 15, 1978

Local independent auto mechanics protest mandatory licensing by the state because state licensing does not require good or honest repairs.

The Veterans Administration raises the amount veterans can borrow to buy homes.

The Ledger celebrates its third year with owners, Roger and Terese Brown.

During a housecleaning at the Ledger a quantity of old books, "Lowell, 100 Years of History, 1831-1931" is discovered. They are for sale for \$5.

Lowell and Alto Lions clubs have a blood donation competition going.

Elementary students raise \$30,000 for education

A successful fundraising drive by students from Cherry Creek and Bushnell elementaries sold \$62,000 in a two-week period. Students took home catalogs and sold gift items to family and friends. The students netted \$30,000 for the school.

This is the main fundraiser held each year through Lowell Family Links. Each teacher receives up to \$150 to spend on educational items in their

classroom; funds are also used to pay for field trips, copiers, cameras, books, etc. at the two schools.

Top seller for Bushnell Elementary was Aaron Goos; at Cherry Creek, Samantha Wright. Each won a family weekend at the Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth.

Krysten Grover and Jordan Vandenhout were the winners of Toys 'R Us gift cards in the amount of \$100.



Krysten Grover



Jordan Vandenhout



Austin Goos



Samantha Wright

COLLEGE NEWS

A total of 467 students completed the requirements for graduation at Ferris State University, Kendall College

of Art and Design, and the College of Professional and Technological Studies for

summer semester ending August 2003.

From the Lowell area are **Christine A. Bussell** and **Heather Simmons**.

From the Alto area is **Jeffery Hekman**.

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We do not deal much in facts when we are contemplating ourselves.
—Mark Twain

November Students of the Month

Lowell High School selects students to be honored for their achievements.

Amanda Grochowalski, a senior, was chosen by the Life Management Department. The daughter of Tony Grochowalski and Renee Bischoff, are both of Alto. Her extracurricular activities include basketball, tennis, track, cheerleading, National Honor Society and Lady Arrows Varsity Club. She is also the treasurer of the YMCA Leaders Club and is employed at Bob Evans. Grochowalski hopes to attend Michigan State University next year. Her teacher nominator said that her mentor in the School to Work program says she is a delight to work with.

The English Department is honoring senior **Kelly Umlauf**. The daughter of John and Theresa Umlauf, of Lowell, is active in Student Coun-

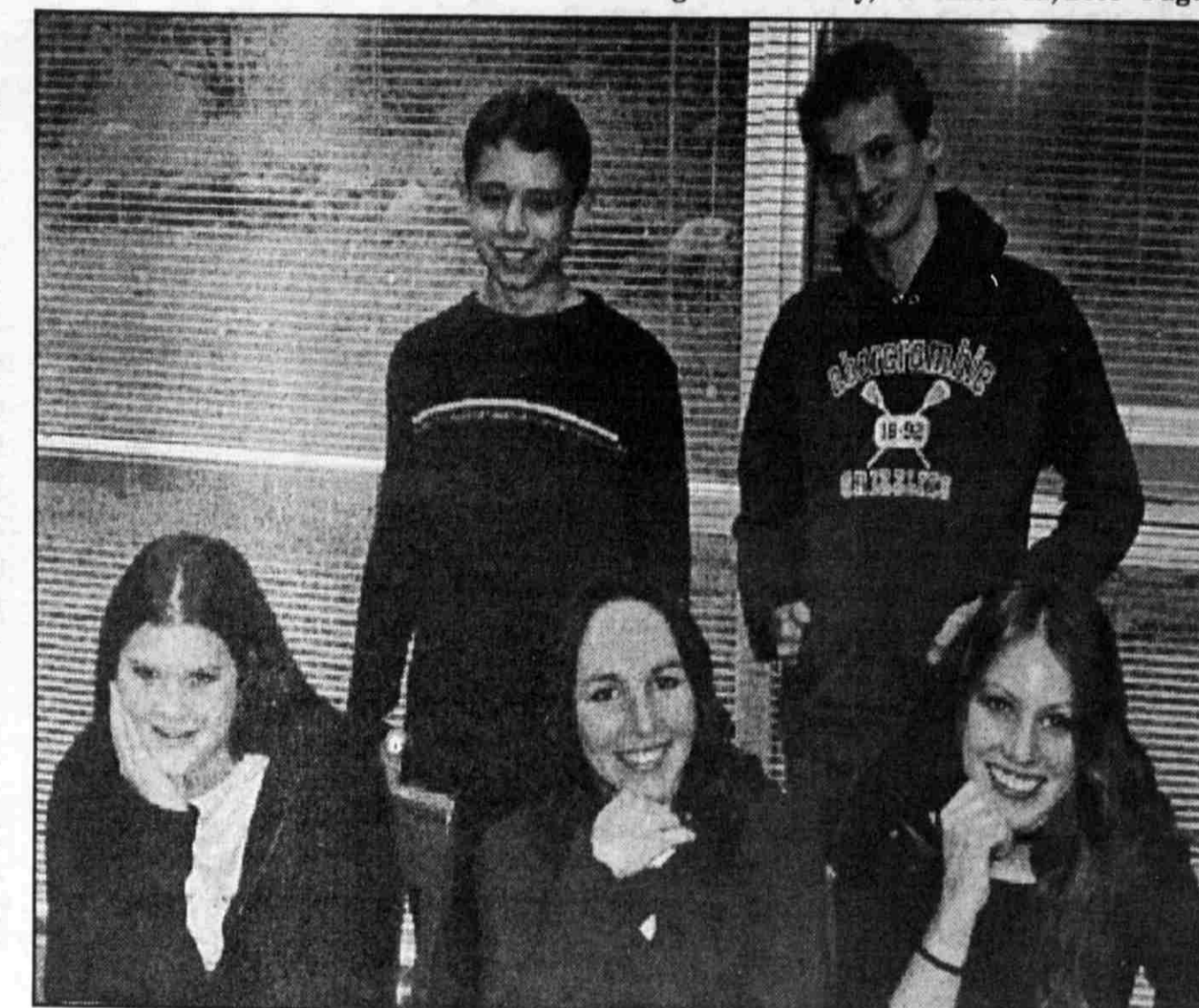
cil as treasurer, National Honor Society, cheerleading and Model UN. She is employed at the Alto Marathon station. She plans to attend Indiana University next year to study pre-med. Her teacher nominator said she is one of the top students in her AP English Literature and Composition class. Her natural skills encourage her classmates to work harder to reach her level of achievement.

Senior **Annie Didion** was chosen by the Social Studies Department. She is the daughter of Mary Didion of Lowell and Dave and Julie Didion of Caledonia. Her extracurricular activities include tennis, Pals, Model UN and World Studies Council. She is active in her church youth groups. Her teacher nominator said Didion has taken all of the AP courses offered by the Social Studies Department and has

done exceedingly well. Didion also can be counted on to carry out any assignment with a high degree of excellence.

The Science Department is honoring junior **Nick Myers**. He is the son of Marty and Leslie Myers of Ada. At LHS he is involved in FFA, Environmental Club, pit band for musicals, and marching band. His teacher nominator said Myers was chosen because of his excellent work in AP Biology and his outstanding lab and test scores.

Freshman **Grady Drown** was selected by the Agriscience Department. He is the son of Scott and Lynn Drown of Cedar Springs. He is active in the LHS FFA chapter, East Rent Beef and Wolverine Dairy 4-H Club. Drown's teacher nominator said he is a good example and takes initiative when presented with new challenges.



Seated, left to right: Annie Didion, Amanda Grochowalski and Kelly Umlauf; standing are Nick Myers and Grady Drown.

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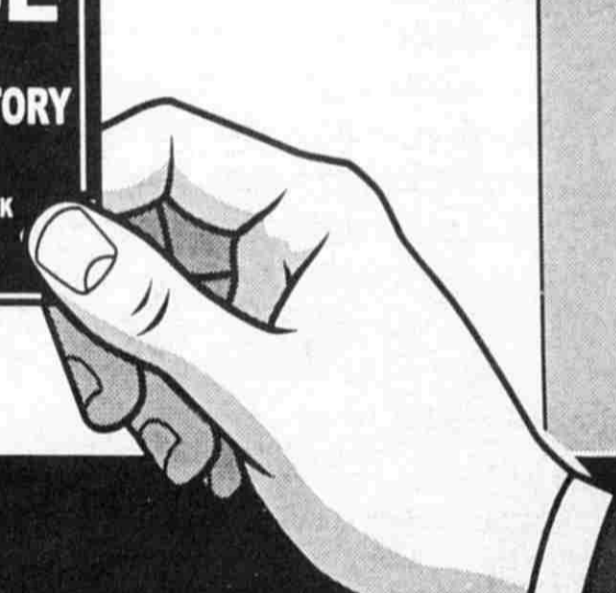
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To The Editor, cont'd...From Page 5

Dear Editor:

I have been following the entire school board/teacher debate and have also been reading up on the letters sent in by Lowell residents. I have not read a lot of letters of support on behalf of the school board. I have discussed the issue with a lot of people and they feel the same way I do.

We all feel that the teachers who work for Lowell Area Schools are great teachers! But, we feel that they need to change with the times just as all of us have had to do in the past 10 years or so.

My husband and I are self-employed. We both work very hard and long hours. Being that we are self-employed we are forced to pay our own premiums. Last year alone, we paid over \$18,000 into premiums and other medical expenses that the insurance company did not cover. Each month we pay \$973 for BCBS insurance. (About seven years ago we only paid \$267 per month). This coverage does not include vision, dental or chiropractic benefits. We do not have disability or workers comp insurance. We have a \$1,500 deductible per family member. Each time we go to the doctors we pay \$20; each time we get a prescription filled, we pay \$30. This is just to give you an idea of how expensive health care in America is.

We often consider getting a second job just so that we are able to have an employer pay for our insurance and save over \$1,000 per month in medical expenses. Each year our medical premiums go up at least 25 percent. Each year we have to pay that bill so that our children are healthy and have medical coverage. I am told that they are going to go up in March by another 30 percent at least.

I do not know if the teachers are watching the news or reading the papers but Health Insurance Cost is a big problem for a lot of businesses in America. I think the teachers should start doing some research into what insurance would cost for their family if it were not paid for by their employer.

There are so many people in America who do not have insurance simply because it is too expensive. We are not talking \$50; we are talking at least a paycheck. All of the people who have been laid off from Bosche, Steelcase, Amway, etc., now have to pay for Cobra insurance. They cannot afford it so they are uninsured. It is a problem that the United States is having to deal with - not just Lowell. Times are tough right now and I feel that the teachers need to support our board and

Beachler recognized as staff member of the month



Christine Beachler

Christine Beachler was nominated by fellow employees as October's staff member of the month. Beachler is Lowell Schools library media specialist for the district's elementary schools as well as working on getting things ready for the new Murray Lake library.

Her media specialist job

provides her with new challenges and opportunities, and she feels it is important to treat kids respectfully and be a person they can look up to by being a good role model through what you say and do.

One fellow employee said, "Christine has really gone above and beyond her job description. She has

such a positive attitude and is always willing to help."

Beachler is in her 15th year with the district, having spent her first 12 years as a high school teacher. She is married to Phil Beachler (math teacher at Lowell High School) and they have two children, Kortney and Matt.

our district and help out with a small portion of the health insurance premiums.

We value our teachers and know what a difference they make in our children's lives, but this is something I do not feel the Lowell School Board should budge on.

Sincerely, Carrie Curtis

To the Editor:

RE: Highland Hill Neighborhood - Because of the law suit that we have filed against the City of Lowell, our company believes an explanation to all residents is in order. In an effort to shed some light on this subject from our perspective, we offer the following extremely condensed version of our thoughts which summarizes justification of the law suit. We realize because of the need to be brief, there might be some questions created and if further explanations or clarification is desired, please feel free to contact our office and one of our representatives will be happy to talk with you (676-2537).

Frankly stated, we believe that certain members of the community are using their influence to manipulate the system to achieve the goals of their own special interest. We believe they have used, are using and will continue to use tax dollars of the entire community to fund their pursuit of achieving their goal. We understand city officials will state that this project has been approved by them and that it is the residents that are exercising their right to referenda any ordinance. We strongly believe in this case a referendum is wrong on many levels and

is certainly not in keeping with the spirit and intent of the city charter or ordinances. We also believe that upon the request of certain individuals, the "City Attorney" was directed to find any possible way to kill this project and this way appears to be through a referendum to repeal the PUD ordinance by a public vote. So with that, the community will now fund a special election to repeal the adopted "PUD" Ordinance.

This ordinance is nothing more than a document that neatly bundles all of the project's legislative and administrative items/decisions together in one book. The low importance of this ordinance is illustrated in a letter authored by "City Attorney" Richard A. Wendt, dated July 2, 2003 which states, that while the City Council may hold a public hearing on this ordinance prior to considering its adoption, such a public hearing is not required. The question that comes to mind is: if this PUD Ordinance were so important to ultimate approval of this project, why wouldn't a public hearing be necessary or at least recommended?

We hope this brief overview has provided you with some insight for our position and underscores the importance of paying close attention to how local government operates. The ultimate success of a community and government is directly related to citizen participation, and people who choose not to participate in government are doomed to be controlled by people who do.

We are encouraging all city residents to take action and vote December 9, 2003 to stop wasting taxpayer dollars and allow this project to proceed.

Sincerely, L.R. Cole

Contract talks, continued...From Page 1

Both proposals are package proposals. That means either side must accept all or none of the provisions in each.

This sparked some public comment at Monday's board meeting. Some teachers expressed that the contract would have more negotiating flexibility if the proposals could be accepted or rejected piece by piece.

As contract talks drag on in three other districts in the county—Kentwood, Kenowa Hills and Rockford—teachers countywide are making contingency plans for possible strikes. A vote among teachers represented by the Kent County Education Association is currently under way.

This would decide whether members throughout the county would have a sympathy walkout if negotiations in one of the districts led to a strike. Teachers at Monday's meeting stressed that they have no interest in striking, and have expressed none.

"I sat on the (union) crisis board," Kris Kropf said. "I've been to every meeting. Not one time has anyone said anything about a strike."

Teachers and board members both expressed Monday that the root problems of these strained negotiations are larger

issues. The problems of rising health care costs and a shaky economic outlook are not going to be solved within the Lowell School District. A better education system will require that these and other economic issues are dealt with well in the future.

"\$6,700 per student is shameful," said board trustee, Kate Democour, referring to the state's foundation grant. "When we get through this, I hope we can work together to correct that."

Lowell FFA youth attend world's largest annual student gathering

Members of the Lowell FFA Chapter traveled to Louisville, Ky., Oct. 29-Nov. 1 to participate in a once-in-a-lifetime event. The students, ranging in ages from 15 to 21 years, participated in the 76th National FFA Convention.

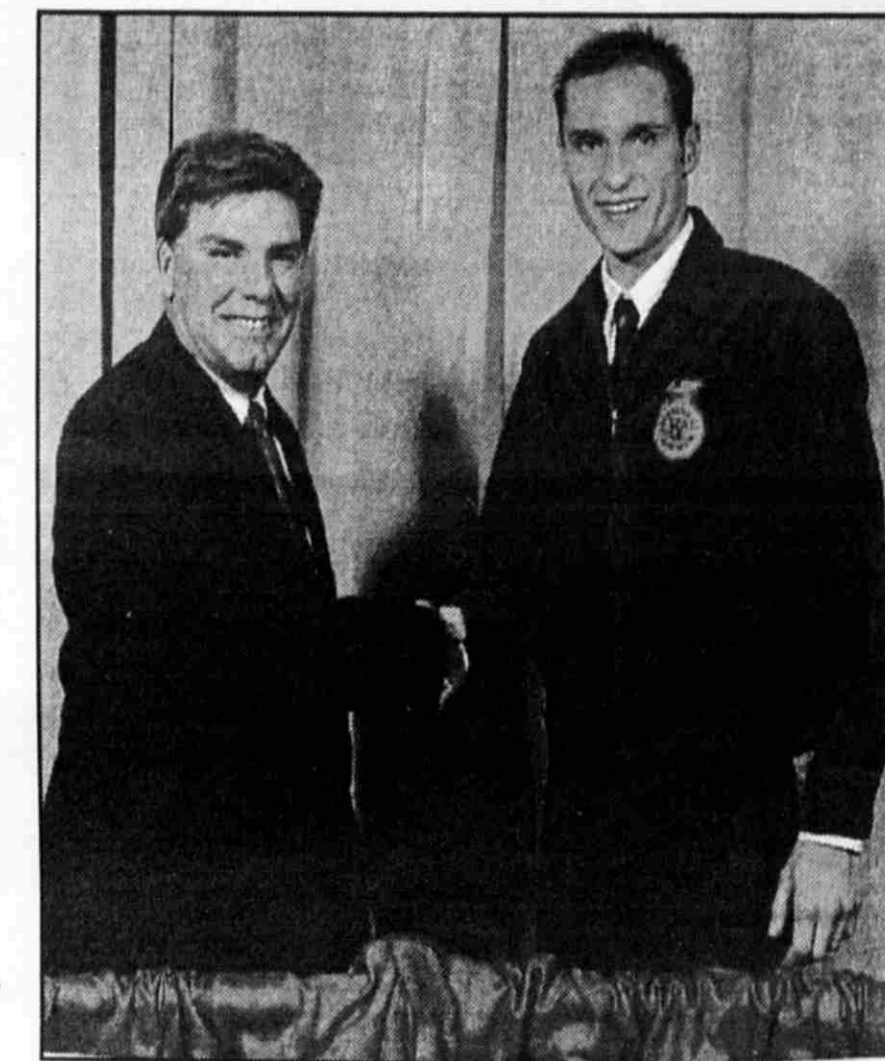
Along with high school

students from Lowell were graduates, Katie Clements who competed in Prepared Public Speaking and Kirk Johnson who competed in the Equine Science - Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award program. They are advised by Lowell High School teach-

ers, John Schut and Dan Young.

The Lowell FFA chapter was recognized with the 3-Star National Chapter Award which is given to the top 100 chapters in the United States. Brian Rasch was named in the

top 20 in his Proficiency Award area of Fruit Production-Placement. The Lowell Agricultural Supporters (LAS) was recognized by the National FFA Alumni as a National Outstanding Affiliate for 2003.



Rusty Bane, left, equine specialist, and Kirk Johnson, a national finalist in the Equine Science-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award Program. Johnson, a sophomore in pre-veterinary medicine, also operates a farrier business.

Students receive character in action award

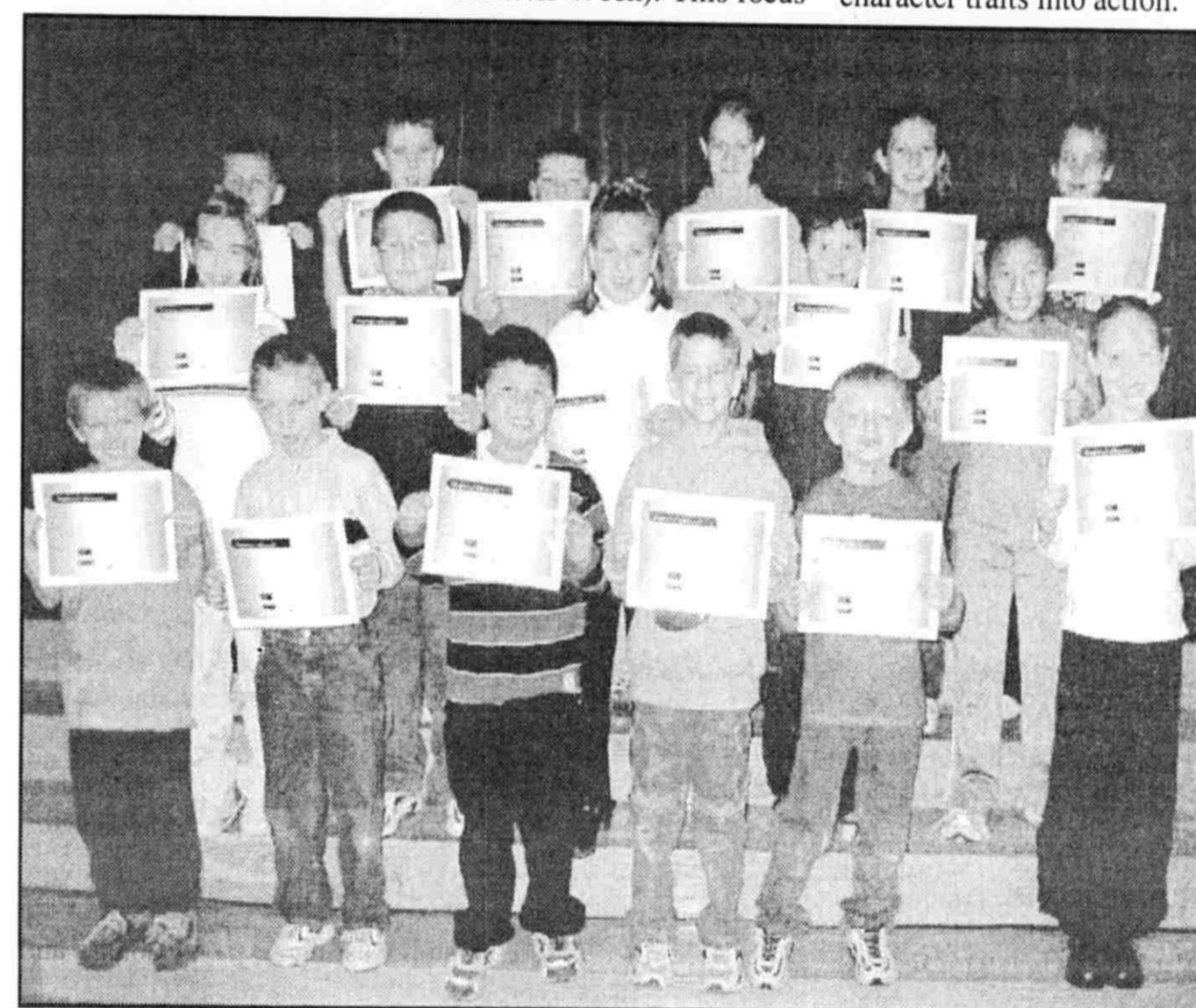
Cherry Creek Elementary School focused heavily on the district's character traits dur-

ing the month of October (which contains National Character Week). This focus

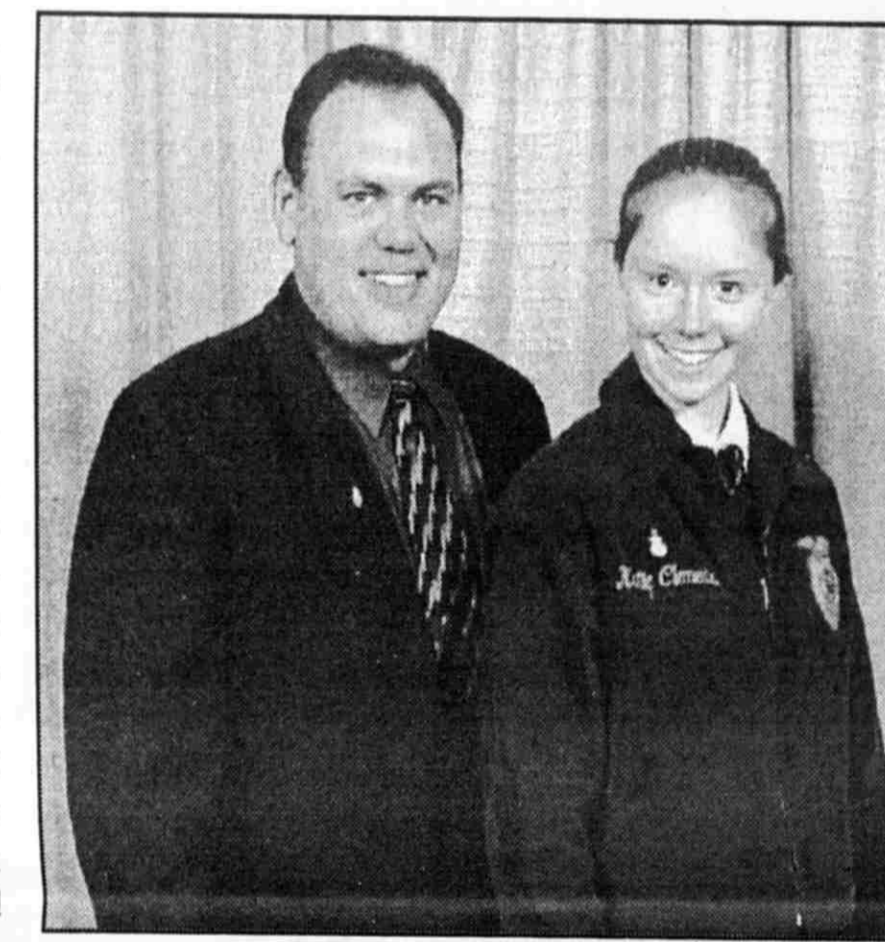
will continue each month by honoring students who put the character traits into action.

One award is the Meijer Dignity and Respect Award. This award is given to the student who is nominated most frequently by his fellow peers. October's winner was Tyler Prill. He was nominated for being caring and compassionate, someone who goes out of his way to help others and makes classmates feel welcomed. Prill received a certificate and a \$25 gift card to Meijer.

Seventeen other students, along with Prill, earned the Cherry Creek Character in Action Award, given to students who have been recognized by staff members as kids who truly live out the character traits with a positive attitude, and show caring and compassion for others. These students received recognition at the Nov. 10 school board meeting.



Cherry Creek students, top row, left to right: Joe Sweet, Patrick Dorsey, Justin Bedard, Shelby Mitchell, Emily Jelsma, Sarah Mundwiler, middle row, left to right: Ashley White, Tyler Prill, Grace Inda, Nick Deshaw and Chelsea Comdure. Bottom row, left to right: Nick Curtis, Jacob Stephens, Zachary Vanderstelt, Josh Skinner, Tad Rogers and Meghan Loser. Missing from picture: Paige Hale.



John Schut, left, FFA advisor, and Katie Clements. She earned a silver award as one of 16 national semi-finalists from a field of 48 contestants.

Without courage all other virtues lose their meaning. —Sir Winston Churchill

These children achieved **DENTAL HYGIENE EXCELLENCE** For The Month of October 2003 **DR. J.E. REAGAN** 207 W. Main - Lowell 897-7179

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SYNOPSIS

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOWNE TOWNSHIP BOARD October 20, 2003 - 7:30 p.m.

- Minutes of the September regular meeting were approved as well as Special Meetings Sept. 26 and Oct. 3. List of invoices were also approved.

- Motion to correct errors in M50 Corridor Overlay Ordinance document.

- Motion to approve PA 116 application of Freeport Dairy LLC.

- Motion to approve Alto Car Wash.

- Motion to have township attorney create a Site Development and Stormwater Runoff Facility Maintenance Agreement.

Complete minutes are available on the township website at www.bownetwp.cc or at the township office located at 8240 Alden Nash SE., Alto.

The next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Bowne Township Board is November 17, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. at the Historic Township Hall, located at 8240 Alden Nash SE.

Sandra L. Kowalczyk
Bowne Township Clerk

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC GRATTAN TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

A Public Hearing before the Grattan Zoning Board of Appeals will be held at the Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Road, Belding, MI on:

Wednesday, November 19, 2003
At 7:00 p.m.

at which time and place the following requests will be heard:

Aaron Antcliff of 11673 Old Belding Rd., Belding, MI, PP#41-12-16-201-008 requests a variance from Article 8.03A to construct an accessory building 21' 0" tall or 5' taller than maximum allowed height of 16'0".

And
Thomas & Judith Byrne of 4600 Gettysburg Dr., Rolling Meadows, IL 60008, PP#41-12-29-202-003 request a variance from Article 7.03A & G, to allow a single family residential structure closer than 30' to the high water line at 11010 Crooked Lake Dr., Rockford, MI.

Written comments concerning this issue should be received prior to the hearing and addressed to Al Berry, Grattan Township Zoning Board of Appeals, 12050 Old Belding Road, Belding, MI 48809.

SYNOPSIS

REGULAR MEETING OF THE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP BOARD October 20, 2003 - 7:00 p.m.

Minutes of the September 15, 2003 Regular Meeting were approved. A list of invoices was also approved.

Motions approved:

- Motion to approve Garden Center Ordinance, 2003-6

- Motion to table Liquor Control Ordinance

- Motion to hold a Public Hearing regarding a Special Use Permit for the Kent County Road Commission for the purpose of gravel production

- Motion to adopt updated Building Inspector Fee Schedule

Complete minutes are available on the township web site at www.vergennewtp.org, or at the township offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell.

The next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Vergennes Township Board is November 17, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at the Vergennes Township Hall located at the corner of Parnell Road and Bailey Drive.

Mari Stone,
Vergennes Township Clerk

"Inspecting Carol" opens at Lowell Performing Arts Center

By Dan Schneider

Last weekend the Thebes Players' production of "Inspecting Carol" opened at the Lowell Performing Arts Center. Appropriate for the holidays, it was a take on the Dickens play, "A Christmas Carol."

Before Friday's performance, director Jim Marron and producer Debra Duiven, representing the Thebes Players, accepted a certificate of recognition from Mary Jo DeNolf, a board member of the Community Theater Association of Michigan. The certificate recognized the Thebes Players, having been in existence for 25 years.

"Inspecting Carol" is a play within a play; meta-theater. It is a comedy about a small-time theater company, the Soapbox Playhouse, in a sleepy midwestern town. They put on a production of the classic Charles Dickens play every year. Boredom and the fear of a suspected undercover agent from the National Endowment for the Arts lead

the company to adopt sweeping changes to the script.

The character Larry Vauxhall, an earnest but deluded ex-hippie, is responsible for most of the changes. He makes the play into a metaphor for the neglect of third-

world nations. Vauxhall is portrayed by Jeff Stacer, who would likely be an ex-hippie himself if he were old enough.

Dean Borth convincingly plays the role of the hapless, naive actor Wayne Wellacre. Wellacre butchers Shakespeare and is suspected of being a secret NEA agent. Bobby Willis probably got the most laughs from the audience on both Friday and Saturday nights in his role as Walter Parsons. Parsons is the first black actor in the Soapbox Playhouse company and plays the ghosts.

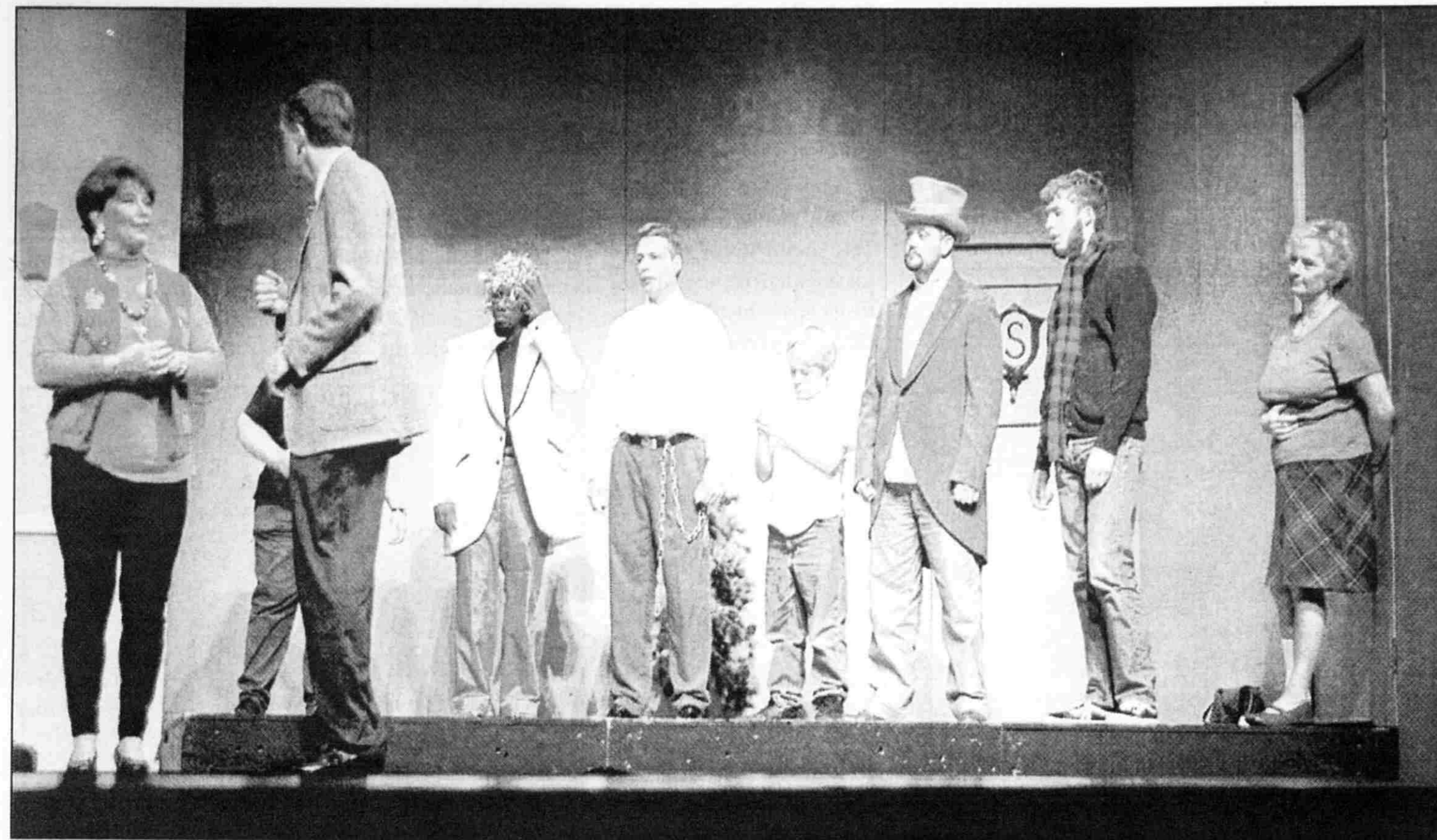
This journalist was a cast member, so any hope of an objective assessment of his portrayal of the character Phil Hewlitt can be thrown out the window.

That said, the part of Phil Hewlitt was played with breathtaking depth and clarity. The anger and apathy of the character were mined to new depths. It was inspirational. However, his butchering of the final song mostly overshadowed the rest of his performance.

The final dress rehearsal for "Inspecting Carol" was rough. The play remained a bit rough around the edges for Friday's opening. By Saturday the cast was clicking on all cylinders for the most part. Expect a good show this weekend, when the Thebes Players will give three performances.

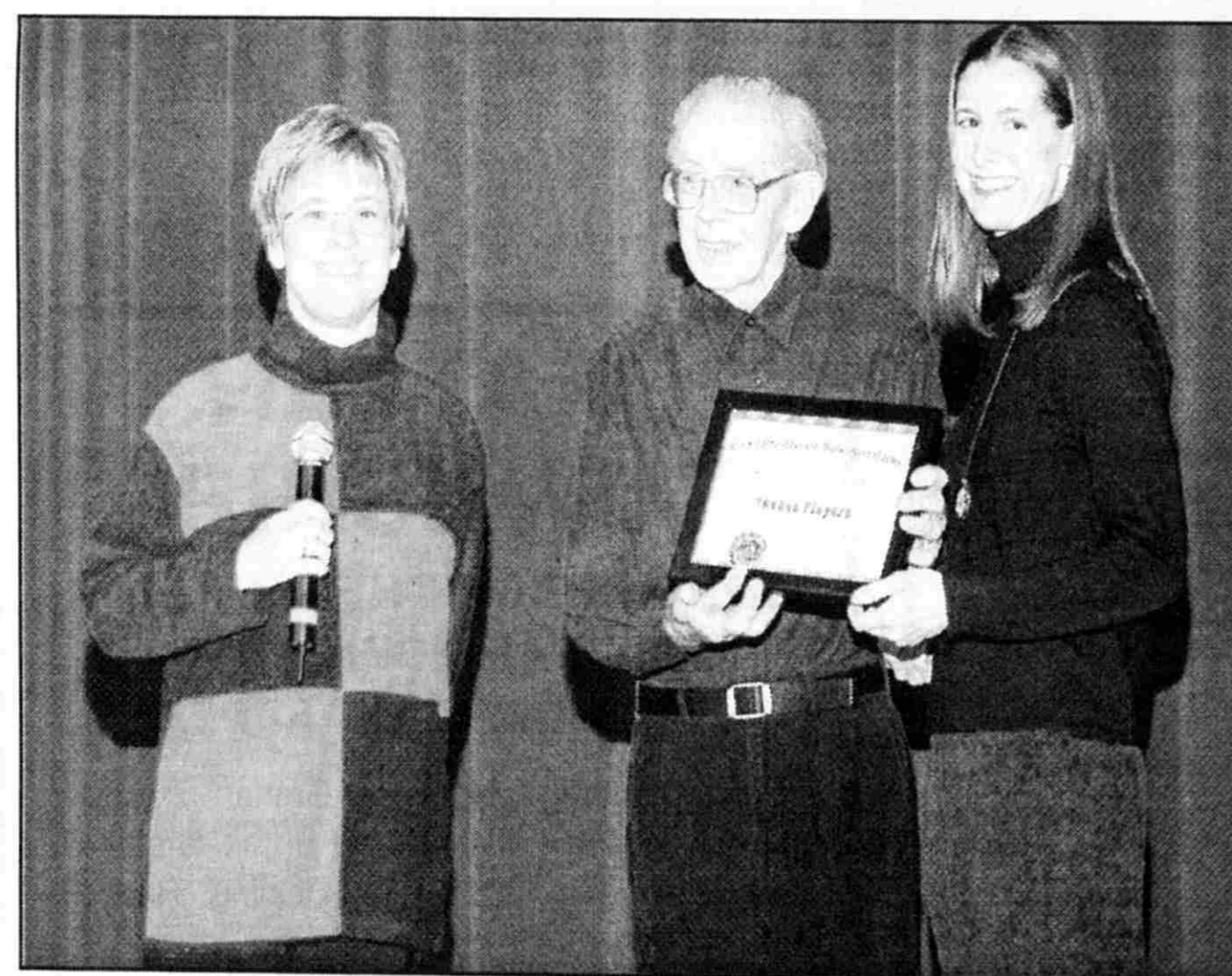
Tickets are still available for Friday's 8 p.m. show as well as for the 3 p.m. matinee and 8 p.m. performances on Saturday. Tickets can be purchased at the Lowell Area Arts Council or at the LPAC box office before the show. Ticket prices are \$8.00 general admission, \$6.50 for students, seniors and LAAC members.

*** Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off the goal. —Henry Ford ***



On stage, from left to right, are: Sue Veenema (Zorah), Dean Borth (Wayne), Bobby Willis (Walter), Dave Durkee (Sidney), Jacob Pitsch (Luther), Jeff Stacer (Larry), Dan Schneider (Phil) and Pat Watkins (Dorothy). Hidden behind Borth is Anne Pasquale (MJ).

APPLE PIE SALE
NOV. 22 • 10-4 PM
 Homemade pies packaged in plastic & boxed for ease of handling. Ready to freeze or bake. May freeze up to 6 months.
\$6 Per Pie Or 3/\$15
ST. PATRICK'S SCHOOL
 Corner of 5 Mile & Parnell
 Preorders welcome - **691-8833**



Mary Jo DeNolf, left, presents Jim Marron and Deb Duiven with a certificate recognizing Thebes Players for 25 years of community theater.

FREE HEALTH CLINIC
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19
10-NOON • OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
 Great Lakes Hearing will be on site for free video otoscope and complimentary hearing aid cleaning and hearing testing.
Repair and service on all hearing makes and models.

CUMBERLAND 11535 E. Fulton
 Retirement Village Lowell
 of Lowell **897-8413**
FREE Blood Pressure Screening!

Conservatory Woods condominiums
Starting at \$139,900
 Carefree living in the heart of Lowell
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 For information call
Todd Holton
 Office 249-9052
 Cell # 485-5625

Timber harvested at Cooper Woodland Preserve

By Dan Schneider

A lumber company from Paris, Mich., is in the process of logging off 285 large trees from the Cooper Woodland Preserve.

Last year Dick and Shirley Cooper donated 34.7 acres of land, with a deed that included logging rights, to the Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation. The forest consists of mixed hardwood-oak

and maple—the largest of which are being harvested. The land is located on the northeast corner of Alden Nash Ave. and Foreman Street.

The Coopers donated the property with the intention that it remain a natural woodland.

"The thing of it is, if my dad had wanted to log it off,



Fallen logs lay in stark contrast to property sign.



A wheel loader loads logs onto a semi trailer at the Cooper Woodland Preserve, Monday. Dick and Shirley Cooper donated the land to the Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation last year to preserve it.

he would have had it logged off himself," said son Tim Cooper. "But he donated it because he wanted to see the land preserved."

When the land was originally donated, the board of the foundation had a forester from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) make an assessment of the stand of trees. He recommended it for use as a teaching woods, according to Education Foundation chair, Marsha Wilcox, but its isolation from the schools made this difficult.

After making the decision to log the trees last month by a unanimous vote of their board, the Education Foundation consulted a forester from the lumber company to mark which trees should be harvested. The board did not bring in an NRCS forester to look at the trees before harvesting.

The logging is taking place now, Wilcox said, so as not to disturb planned hiking trails in the woods or likely development on adjacent properties.

Wilcox said the logging should benefit the forest in the end.

"As long as all those trees are in there, they form a complete canopy which shuts out all the light," Wilcox said.

"The forest fills in wherever there is sunlight available and that would be rather soon, I'm sure."

Tamara Karczewski, daughter of Dick and Shirley Cooper, said the community should judge the impact on the woods for themselves.

"You have to go inside to see how much is down," she said. "Those woods are just wide open in there now."

Karczewski said her father has not taken the news of the logging lightly.

"Trees were his love and so this has really done a number on him," she said.

The Coopers, in Green Valley, Ariz., could not be reached for comment as of press time.

"Sleigh Bells and Holly" again this year at the LAAC

By Dan Schneider

This Christmas season the Lowell Area Arts Council will again exhibit and sell artwork in their gallery space on Hudson Street. "Sleigh Bells and Holly: A Gallery of Fine Art and Gifts" features the work of 19 artists from the Lowell area.

This is the second year the exhibition has gone by that name. Previously, it had been the "Christmas Gift Shop." The name changed last year to reflect the new character of the exhibition. The emphasis is on local artists, and LAAC executive director, Lorain Smalligan said, "It tends to be more fine art and craft."

Work includes pottery, jewelry, prints, watercolors and carvings. "The real intent is that artists are making things that are giftable," Smalligan said. "So you're not going to see, for instance, really expensive watercolors."

The exhibition opens

Thursday with an artists' reception from 6 to 8 p.m. at the LAAC gallery. For more information or for gallery hours call the LAAC at 897-8545 or visit www.lowellartscouncil.org.

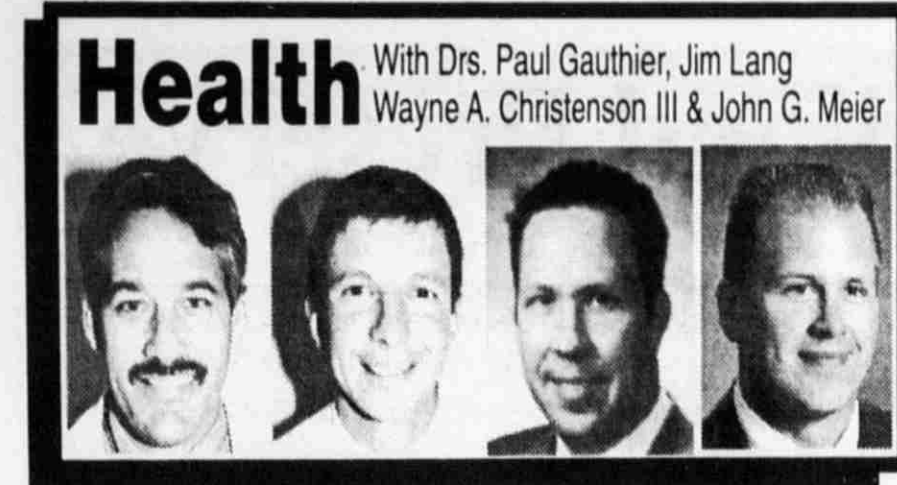
You're Invited to the...

Annual Hog Roast
WHO: YOU and all your friends & family
WHEN: Friday, November 14th
WHERE: LHS Main Cafeteria
DINNER: 5:30 - 7 PM
AUCTION 6:30
 The Silent Auction will be held during dinner to help benefit the various Lowell FFA activities. Items up for bid have been donated by various local businesses!
Thank You For Your Support!
 Money earned through the Hog Roast and Auction will be used towards various Lowell FFA activities, such as National Convention and contests duties. The Lowell FFA members thank you!

 One Mission: Student Success. Sponsored by the Lowell FFA Chapter

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

DIABETES AND HEART DISEASE
If you have diabetes, you're at increased risk of having a heart attack or stroke compared to the general public. Diabetes is considered one of the five risk factors for heart disease. The other four consist of family history of heart disease, smoking, high cholesterol, and hypertension (high blood pressure). If you have diabetes, there are things you can do to reduce your risk for heart disease. Learning the ABCS of diabetes can help you control your condition and stay healthy.

A stands for the A1C test. This test, also called glycosylated

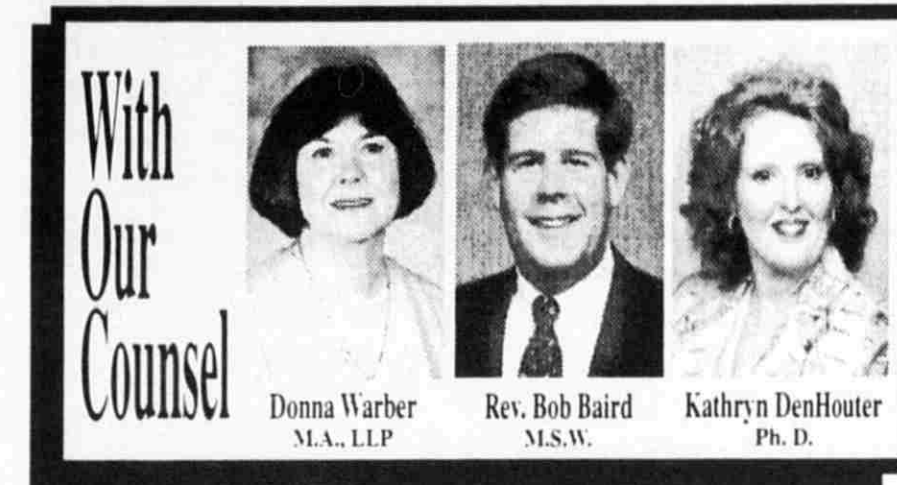
hemoglobin test, gives a three-month average of your blood sugar levels. This test should be performed every three- to six months, and should be kept below 7 percent.

B stands for blood pressure. Having high blood pressure overworks your heart. All diabetics and non-diabetics should be screened regularly for high blood pressure. However, diabetics must keep their blood pressures below 130/80, which is lower than required for non-diabetics who must stay below 140/90.

C stands for cholesterol. "Bad" cholesterol, or low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol, can build up and clog your arteries. Diabetics should have their cholesterol checked yearly, and keep their LDL below 100. Once again, this value is lower than the level required for non-diabetics, who must stay below 130.

S stands for smoking. This is an obvious one. All smokers are at increased risk of heart disease, but if you're diabetic, that risk is more than doubled.

If you have questions about managing your diabetes and reducing your risk of heart disease, see your healthcare provider.



With Our Counsel

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY TRADITIONS

With holiday time approaching, thoughts of family traditions come to mind. Holidays seem to lend themselves to traditions but other simple traditions can be implemented throughout the year to foster cohesiveness within the family.

For centuries, family traditions have helped to tie lives together. Frequently family traditions have their origin in cultural or religious beliefs. Traditions or rituals are customs and beliefs that have been handed down through families. Family traditions reflect the beliefs and personalities of the family. They help us to enjoy time spent together now and elicit powerful memories to share in the future. Memories can call back warm feelings of security when we have been surrounded by a loving family.

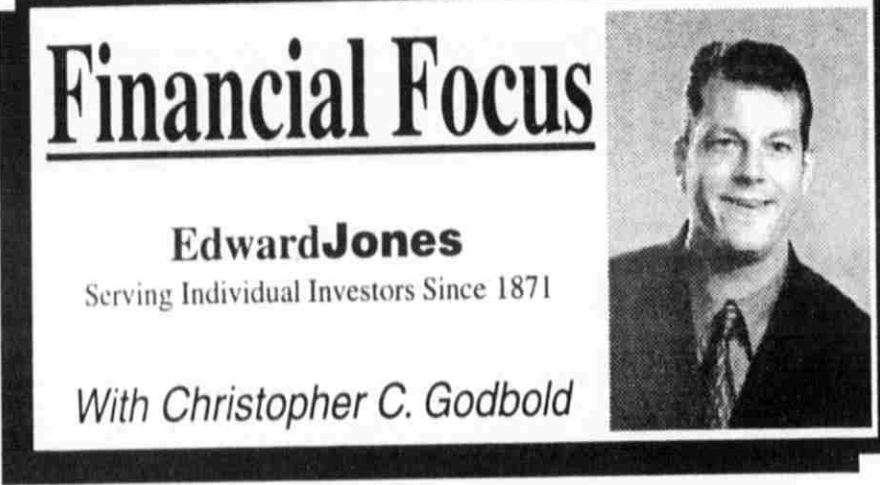
Family traditions give children a sense of identity as well as a sense of belonging. This contributes to the child's feeling of being worthwhile. In today's busy world, traditions can be simple in nature and incorporated into daily activities. Active participation by children in preparing for or contributing ideas for traditions creates a sense of pride for children. Children are not only comforted but also look forward to predictable activities if they are fun.

While old family traditions are important to carry on, it is also important to develop rituals that are compatible with today's lifestyles. Traditions or rituals should consist of repeated enjoyable activities. When traditions are tailored to the needs and lifestyle of each family, they can provide comfort and security for family members. They do not need to involve a big time commitment. Ten minutes of reading to your child before bedtime or 15 minutes of playing a game or ball after

dinner can be very gratifying to both parent and child. Developing simple traditions can create a lifetime of memories and closeness. This type of relationship can help to promote more open communication and understanding in difficult times. The closeness fostered with small traditions helps to create resiliency within the family and to endure stressful events.

In creating family rituals it is important to develop activities that are easy to carry out. A family tradition can be as simple as having the same food to eat on a certain day of the week. This day could be designated as family day. Each child in the family could take turns planning with the parent a simple meal or a favorite dessert, along with choosing an activity, a game to play or a movie to view. Traditions can be as simple as allowing the birthday child to pick the menu for dinner each year or tying colorful ribbons on a tree to announce the big day to the neighborhood. If the activity is enjoyable, the children will look forward to it. Special traditions can be created for and tailored to each family member for their birthday. It is the repetition which makes children look forward to these special days.

Traditions can be created to celebrate special events, birthdays, anniversaries and holidays. Traditions can be created to celebrate achievements of family members. Employ both young and old to create and implement traditions for your family.



Financial Focus

Edward Jones
Serving Individual Investors Since 1871

With Christopher C. Godbold

UNDERSTANDING FUND CLASSES: NOT ALWAYS AS EASY AS A, B, C

Before you buy a mutual fund, you'll want to do some research. What is the fund's investment philosophy? Who manages it? How diversified are its holdings? Then, after you've done your homework, you'll have to use it for the right class.

Specifically, you may need to choose which type - or class - of mutual fund shares you want to buy. The most common classes are A, B, and C. Which is right for you?

Class A shares - When you buy Class A shares, you pay an upfront sales charge, taken out of your initial investment. These sales charges (or loads) usually range from 3 percent to 6 percent. So, for example, if you pay \$10,000 for a mutual fund that has a 5 percent load, \$500 of your money will go for the sales charge, with \$9,500 used to buy shares. Class A shares also may impose a 12b-1 fee to cover marketing and distribution expenses. These 12b-1 fees are fairly low - about 0.25 percent annually. Class A shares traditionally have the lowest ongoing expenses of any class.

Class B shares - If you purchase Class B shares, you don't pay a sales charge right away. Instead, you'll pay a "back-end load" when you sell your shares. Typically, this back-end load decreases over time; for most Class B shares, the load disappears after about six or seven years. Class B shares often charge a higher 12b-1 fee - as much as one percent per year. However Class B shares often convert to Class A shares over time, so you would then start paying the lower 12b-1 fee.

Class C shares - Generally, Class C shares do not charge either front-end or back-end loads if held for more than one year. But if you buy Class C shares, you may pay a one percent 12b-1 fee for as long as you own the fund. Class C shares may not convert to Class A shares, so these continually high 12b-1 fees can make Class C shares quite expensive, if you plan on holding them for many years.

Which of these share classes is right for you? The answer depends somewhat on your situation. If you plan to hold a mutual fund for many years, then you might be best served by purchasing Class A shares.

How about Class B shares? After all, the vanishing sales load can be an attractive feature - if you are absolutely sure that you will hold your fund long enough to benefit from it. If you sell your shares early, you will have to deal with the back-end charge. Plus, not all Class B shares convert to Class A, so you could be stuck with high 12b-1 fees, as well.

As for Class C shares, we've already mentioned a potential drawback - the inability to convert to Class A shares with lower 12b-1 fees. Still, if you think you may only invest in a particular mutual fund for a few years, you might benefit from Class C's lack of front-end or back-end sales charges. Be careful, though - some Class C shares do carry these charges.

Clearly, you need to be sure of what your share class options are before you invest in a mutual fund. If you are investing in stock mutual funds, they are subject to market risks, including the potential loss of principal invested.

Ask your investment rep which mutual funds are right for you, carefully read the prospectus, it should provide complete information, including fees, about any fund. But you also must focus on how a fund can fit into a diversified portfolio, based on your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. If a fund isn't right for you, it's not a bargain - no matter what it costs.

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 OTHER SUN: Single adults meet 4 - 5:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church of Lowell. Social time/lt. Bible study. Mark 897-8642/Tammy 897-0872.

EVERY MON.: LHS Fellowship of Christian Athletes & Friends, 7-8:30 p.m. in members' homes. 676-1355.

THIRD MON. OF EACH MONTH: Fallsburg Historical Society monthly board meetings at Chamber office or Fallsburg at 7 p.m. All invited. Call 897-7161 for info. or location.

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

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

THIRD MON. OF THE MONTH: Lowell Showboat Garden Club, 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall of Nazarene Church. Call Dave, 897-2533.

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

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

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

EVERY THIRD TUES.: Beginning January '04, the Saranac Scappers, new scrapbooking/journaling group will meet at 4 Health Wellness Center, Saranac, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Lt. refreshments served. Call Bev or Melissa at 642-6466.

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

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

1ST & 3RD TUES.: Diabetic Support group meets at 9:30 a.m. at Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd.

2ND & 4TH TUES.: MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers ...because mothering mat-

ters. 9:15-11:30 a.m. at Impact, a Wesleyan Church, 1070 N. Hudson. Call 897-8304 for details.

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

EVERY WED.: "Peppers" 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, 7:30 p.m. at King Memorial Youth Center at Fairgrounds. 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. 897-7842.

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

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

EVERY 3RD THURS.: VFW #8303 Ladies Auxiliary, 3116 Alden Nash S.E. at 3 p.m.

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. 897-8545.

LOWELL SERENITY CLUB MEETINGS: (AA) Mon., Wed., Thurs: 12-1 & 8-9 p.m.; Tues./Fri: 12-1, 4:30-5:30 & 8-9 p.m.; Sat./Sun.: 10-11 a.m. & 8-9 p.m.; (NA) Mon./Thurs., 6-7:30 p.m. 101 W. Main. 897-8565.

WED., NOV. 12: Snow United Methodist Church at 3189 Snow Ave. will serve a turkey & dressing dinner starting at 5:30 p.m. Adults \$8; ages 5-12 \$2.

THURS., NOV. 13: Sneak preview and artists reception from 6-8 p.m. at LAAC for "Sleigh Bells and Holly: A Gallery of Fine Art and Gifts." Holiday shopping thru Dec. 23.

THURS., NOV. 13: Dental Screening, Lowell Senior Center, 314 S. Hudson 9 a.m. - noon & 1-5 p.m.

THURS., NOV. 13: Lowell Area Fire Dept. blood drive from 2-7 p.m. at Look Memorial Fire Station at 315 S. Hudson.

WED., DEC. 10: Lowell Area Fire Dept. blood drive from 2-7 p.m. at Look Memorial Fire Station at 315 S. Hudson.

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NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

Vergennes Township is seeking applications for the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. Applications should be received by Friday, November 28, 2003, and will be considered at the December 15, 2003 meeting of the Vergennes Township Board.

Application forms may be obtained at the township offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell, MI 49331, or on the township web site at www.vergennestwp.org under forms. The office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am to 3pm. If you wish to receive an application through the mail, kindly send a stamped self-addressed envelope to PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331-0208, and a form and job description will be sent. For further information, call 897-5671 during office hours.

Mari Stone, Clerk

School Menus

Week of 11/17/03

ELEMENTARY

MON.: Lunchables, carrot sticks, apple juice, sunflower seeds.

TUES.: Chili, crackers, French fries, sliced peaches.

WED.: Hot turkey sandwich, mashed potatoes, fruit cocktail.

THURS.: Fish sticks, dinner roll, green beans, mandarin oranges.

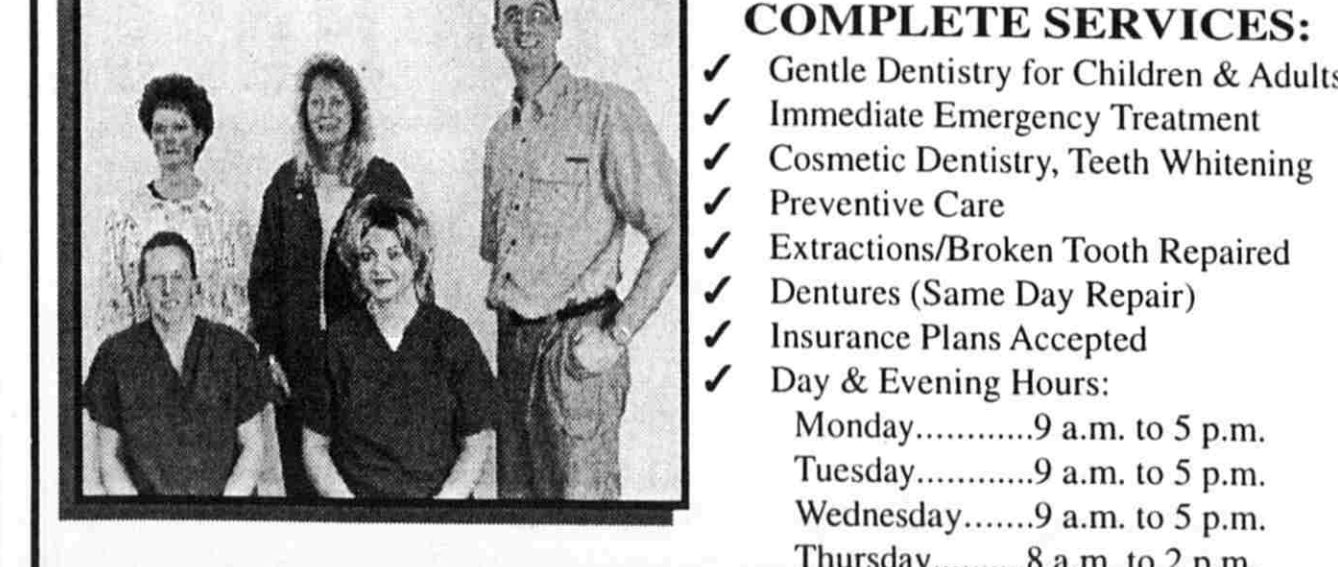
FRI.: Pizza, mixed veggies, applesauce, pudding cup.

2nd choice for the week: Chicken patty on bun

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

COMPLETE FAMILY DENTAL CARE

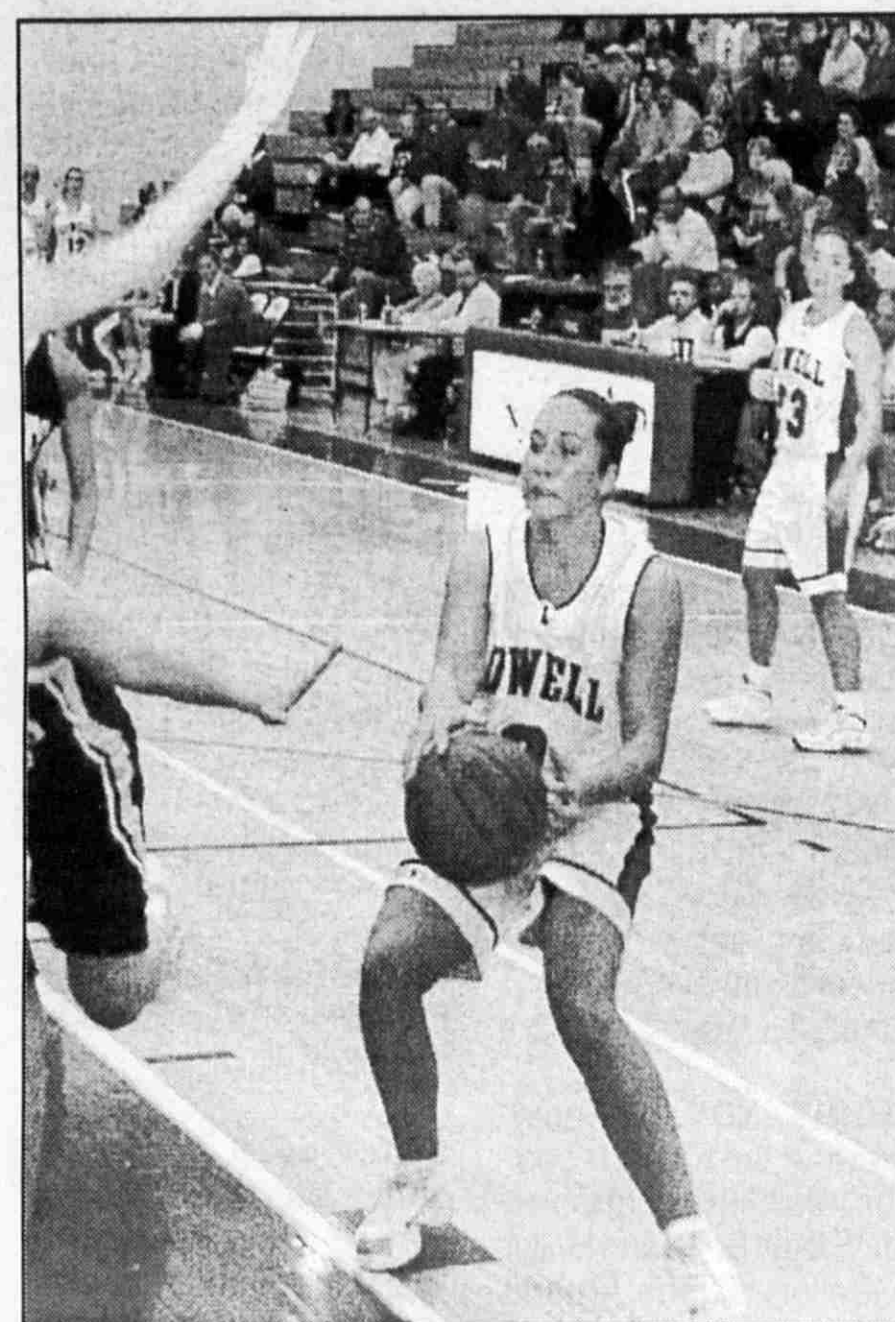
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Judd T. Carroll, D.M.D.
103 East Main • Lowell, Michigan
(616) 897-7595

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 - ✓ Immediate Emergency Treatment
 - ✓ Cosmetic Dentistry, Teeth Whitening
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- Monday.....9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tuesday.....9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Wednesday.....9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday.....8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Conference champs have higher goals in their sights



Devon Collins finds herself in among the big girls as she works to get a shot off.

Lowell's 34-30 win over Northview Thursday night signified the Red Arrows' third conference title in four years.

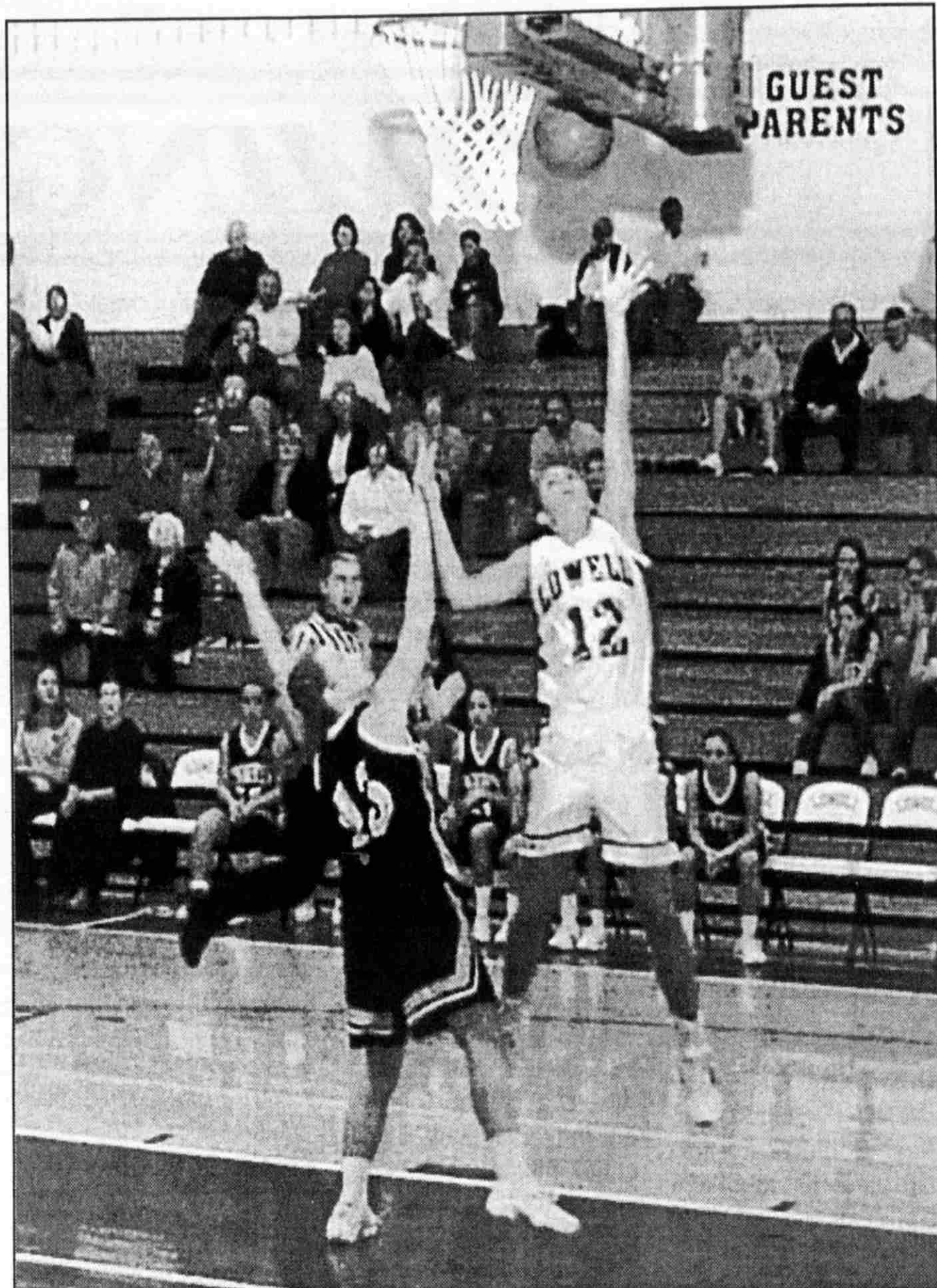
Surely, cause for celebration ... unless your expectations are loftier than that.

"It was a good feeling clinching the league title," said Lowell girls basketball coach, Dee Crowley. "There was no celebration. The girls want an undefeated league championship season."

If the Red Arrows are successful against Unity Christian this week, they will have accomplished that feat for the second time in three years.

"This group of girls is younger than the other squad. They have had to work harder because things have not come as easy," Crowley explained. Lowell's win over Northview also represented the Red Arrows' 15th straight win since its 1-2 start.

"The girls had played so well over the summer and then to start the season the way we



Amy Oberlin works inside for an easy bucket. Lowell defeated both Northview and Greenville this week to run its record to 16-2 overall and 13-0 in the O-K White.

did, not having the same success, raised questions," Crowley admitted.

Ironically, it was her club's play in the second half of its loss to Byron Center which may have turned Lowell's season around.

"This was a young team based on experience. Many of them had not experienced the intensity and speed of the play at this level," Crowley said.

Crowley says games against Unity Christian and South Christian slated for this week will get her club ready for district play which begins on Nov. 17.

"These games will get us to the level where we need to be for the district," Crowley said. "We'd been playing well, but I thought our level of play took a step back against Northview and Greenville." Lowell followed its four-point win over the Wildcats with a 47-23 thumping of the Yellowjackets.

Amy Oberlin led all scorers with 17 points. Vallen VanZyll threw in eight and Devon Collins added seven for Lowell.

"I was able to rest some players who have been sick and rest my starters in the fourth quarter," Crowley said. "It wasn't a pretty game; we didn't shoot well but we won by 24."

In its win over Northview, Lowell had a chance to put the game away but netted just three-of-10 shots from the foul line in the fourth quarter.

Oberlin tallied a team-high eight points while Brook VanEck and VanZyll netted six points apiece, and Keni Gallert and Collins each added five.

Behold the turtle. He makes progress only when he sticks his neck out.
—James Bryant Conant

Strong first half as Lowell secures district championship

For the third time in four years, Lowell earned itself a district football championship.

For a second straight year, the Red Arrows had to get past East Lansing to accomplish that feat.

Last year, the Red Arrows defeated the Trojans in the opening round 17-14. Friday night, at East Lansing, it was Lowell advancing to the regional championship game with a 29-15 win.

The victory improves Lowell's record to 10-1 and with it, the task of hosting Hudsonville on Friday. It will mark the second straight year the two clubs will meet in the regional title tilt.

"I don't want to think about that right now," said an emotionally spent Lowell coach, Noel Dean. "The boys beat a very good, well coached

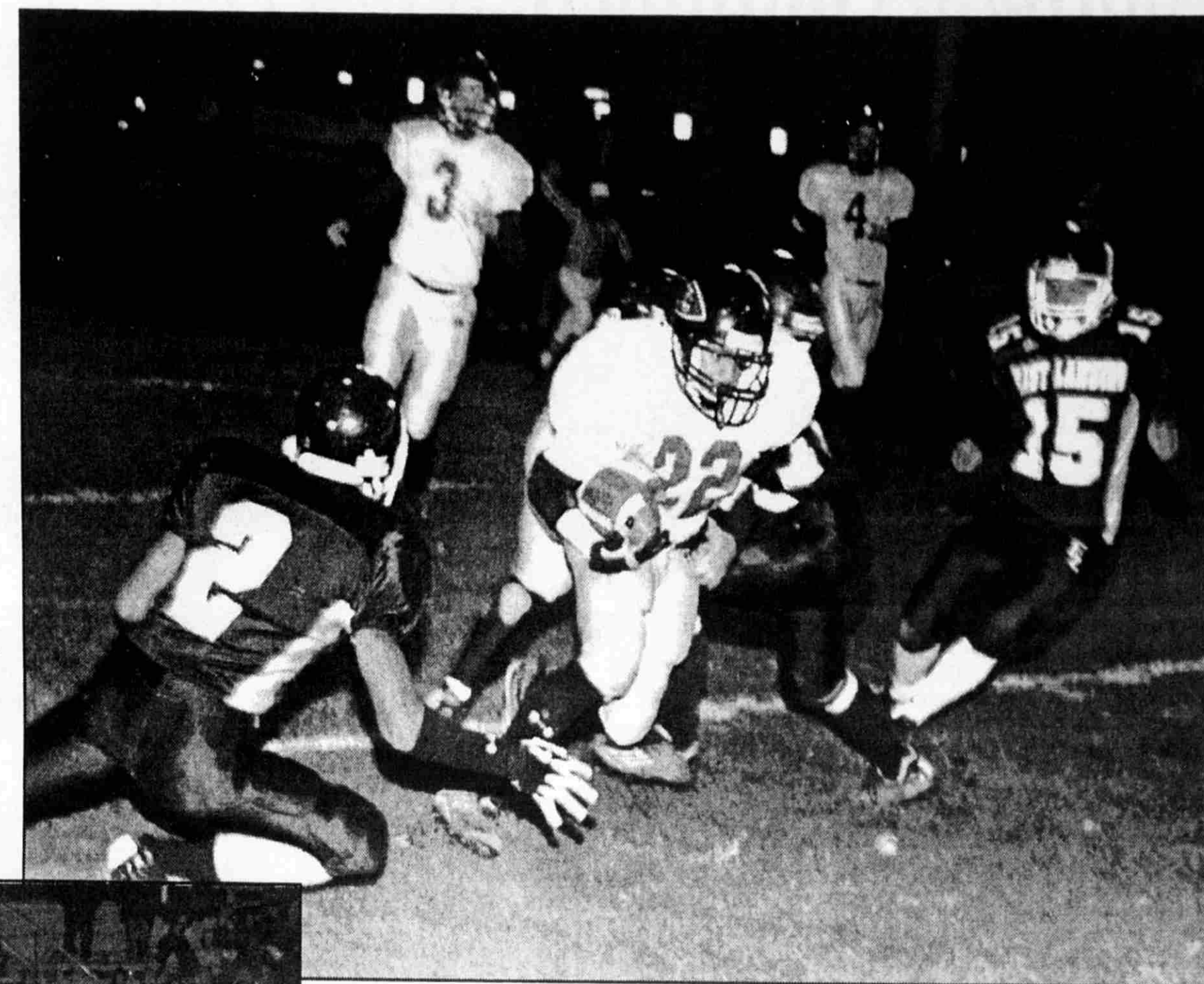
football team tonight. I have great respect and admiration for the job coach Jeff Smith does with this program."

Lowell, well aware of East Lansing's lofty playoff tradition, was not intimidated as the Red Arrows tarnished tradition with a 268-yard "Arrow-ial" passing attack which led to a 22-0 halftime lead.

"That first half was sweet, but then we tried to give it away in the second half," Dean said. "After East Lansing fought back, our kids rebounded. They did a phenomenal job. I am very proud of them."

Lowell's opening four possessions of the second half resulted in two turnovers and two series of four downs and out.

The result was a team down and out in the first half, very much back in the contest



Lowell's Jeremy Holliman finds a seam in the Trojan defense. Lowell won the district title game 29-15.



Jean Pitts avoids a Red Arrow rush as he races from the pocket.

after Jean Pitts connected with Bradley Jones on a 23-yard touchdown pass with 8:12 remaining in the game. A two-point conversion narrowed the gap to 22-15.

"I'm pleased with the way our boys came back in the second half, but we expected more and didn't get it," said East Lansing coach, Jeff Smith. "There were many who didn't expect us to get here, but once we did, we expected more."

Lowell, like good football teams are accustomed to

doing, answered the Trojan challenge, as it drove 65 yards in six plays with Ryan Esbaugh scoring a six-yard run, extending the Red Arrow lead to 29-15.

"This is the second year in, that Lowell has taken it to us," Smith said. "That's a good football team."

In actuality, Lowell did more to give the game away in the second half than it did to win it.

"The turnovers (5) were not a good thing. We tried to give the thing away with all of

those fumbles," Dean explained. East Lansing, however, was unable to take away Lowell's aerial attack in the first half, and that proved to be the difference.

Quarterback Ryan Dykhouse got Lowell on the board midway through the opening quarter when he found all-state receiver Mike Koster on a 23-yard touchdown pass.

Football, cont'd., pg. 16

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP Public Hearing

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2003

at 7:00 p.m. at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash, SE.

Whispering Hills Associates has made application for a variance from Section 4.1.2 of the Table of General Bulk Regulations to allow for 30 foot front yard setbacks where 40 feet is required for lots 44 - 48 of the Whispering Hills Development located on Barnsley Road. They are also requesting a variance for a side yard setback on Lot 48 to be reduced to 5 feet where 10 feet is required.

Written comments should be received by Tuesday, November 18, 2003 and can be mailed to: Lowell Charter Township, Attn: Zoning Board of Appeals, 2910 Alden Nash SE, Lowell, MI 49331.

Linda S. Regan, Clerk

Keiser's
Deer Hunters' Special
Open 5 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 15

STEAK & EGGS SPECIAL
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MOVIE GUIDE
FREE
FALL MATINEES EVERYONE
SATURDAY & SUNDAY 10:15 AM
November 8 & 9
SINBAD: LEGEND OF THE SEVEN SEAS (PG)
November 15 & 16
KANAGAROO JACK (PG)

MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
SHOWTIMES 11/10 - 11/13
M-20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50
O-ELF (PG) 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
O-BROTHER BEAR (PG) 1:05, 3:00, 4:55, 6:50, 9:00
RADIO (PG) 12:10, 2:20, 4:30, 7:20, 9:40
THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE (R) 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10

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Angel Tree Donations

During the upcoming holiday season, Family Dentistry of Lowell will be helping Wood TV and the Salvation Army be collecting gifts for underprivileged children throughout the area. Tags will be available after November 3rd. We sincerely thank everyone that has responded to this wonderful cause in the previous years. We look forward to another successful year. Unwrapped presents can be dropped off until December 18, 2002. at:

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147 N. Center St.
Ann Wilson D. D. S.

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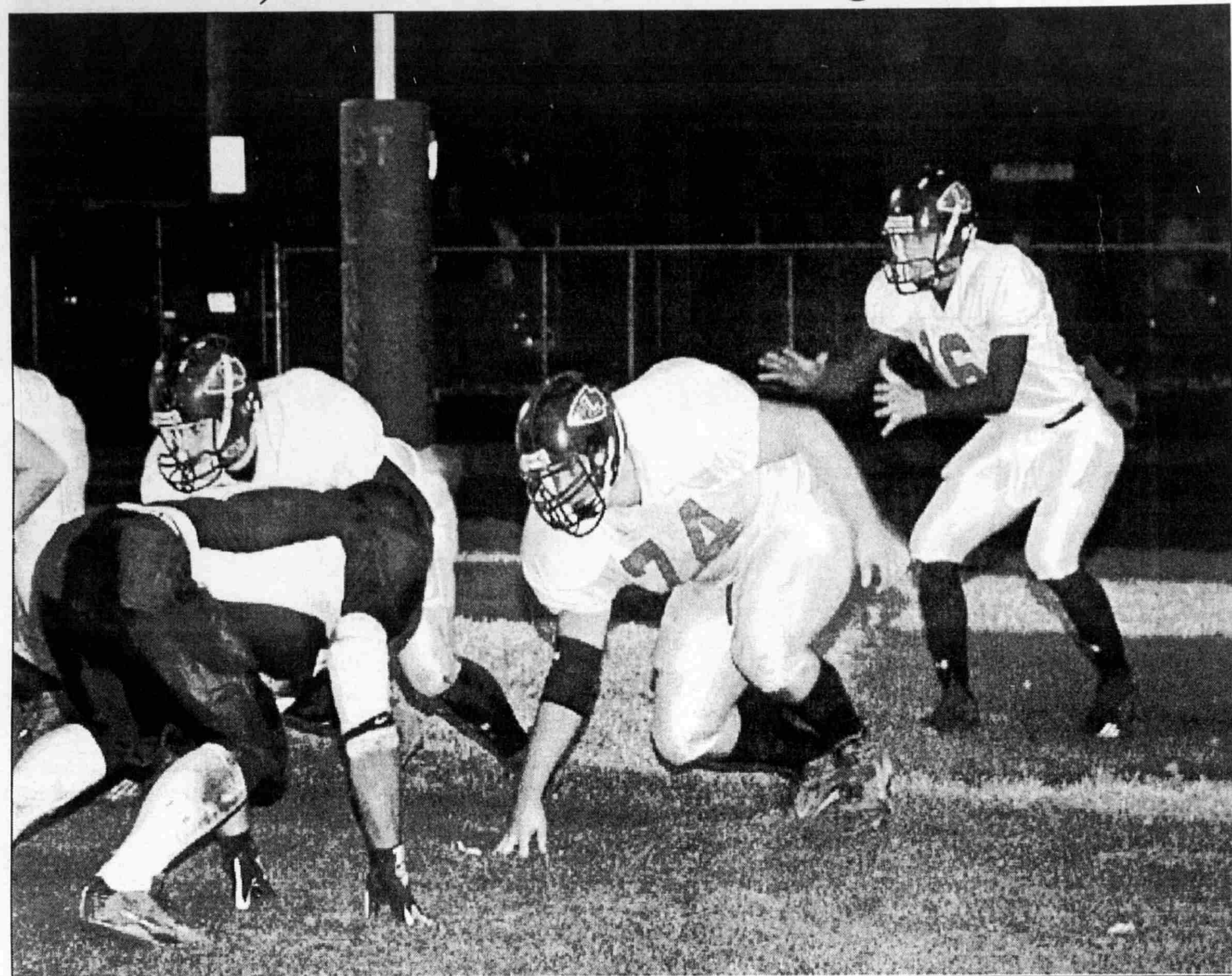
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Call Bryant to the rescue
\$1,050.00 Rebate

Football, continued...From Page 15



Lowell quarterback Ryan Dykhouse takes the snap from the confines of his own end zone.

Koster finished the game with seven catches for 172 yards.

The Red Arrows' second touchdown came in the early minutes of the second quarter on a 13-yard run by Esbaugh. The extra point was missed and Lowell led 13-0.

On its next possession, Lowell marched 97 yards in seven plays. A 65-yard scoring strike from Dykhouse to Andrew Min capped the drive, giving Lowell a 19-0 advantage.

The first-half scoring was completed when Matt D'Agostino booted a 27-yard field goal in the waning seconds of the second quarter.

The Trojans' first score of the game came midway through the third quarter on a three-yard scoring burst from Anthony Canady.

Lowell will host Hudsonville Friday at 7:30 p.m. The Eagles defeated Muskegon, the number one ranked team in Division II, 33-21 to advance to the regional championship for a second straight year.

Future shooters enjoy fall clinic

The third annual "Fall Shooting and Offensive Moves Clinics" were recently held at Lowell High School.

On Saturday, Oct. 25, 45 seventh- and eighth-grade boys were in attendance; the following Saturday, 41 third, fourth, and fifth graders participated.

The program was directed by Lowell varsity basketball coach, Jeff McDonald and members of the high school and middle school coaching staff; numerous high school players assisted.

"We began the morning working exclusively on the proper shooting form. We began with the proper footwork, stance, and hand and elbow placement. We then emphasized finishing with the proper follow through and shooting with proper arc," said McDonald.

The day ended by working on scoring moves, v-cuts and screening.

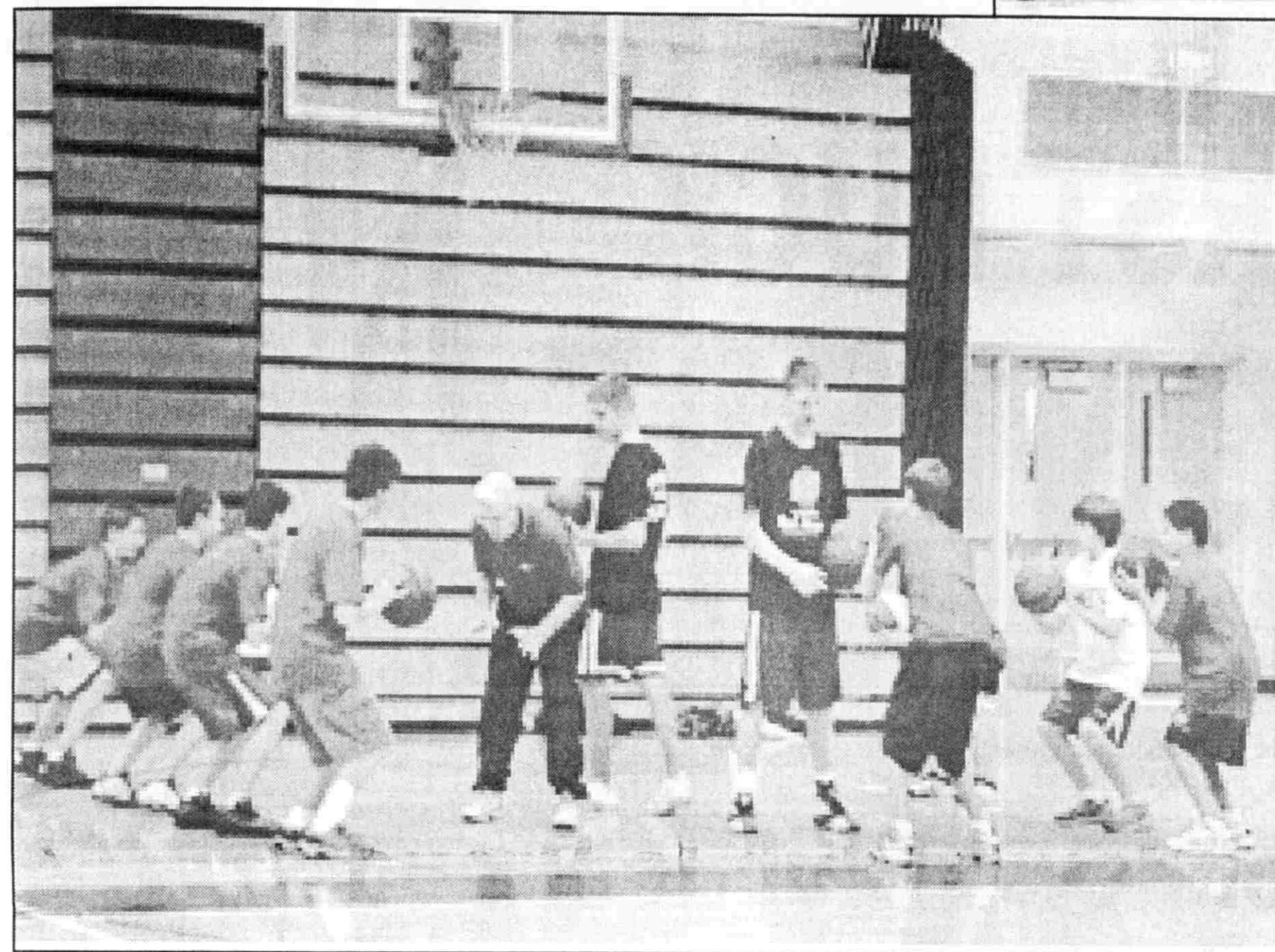
Each registered camper received a T-shirt that allows them free entrance to all 10 varsity home games.

McDonald added, "This was a great way for our kids to get jump-started into their winter programs. I can't tell you how exciting it is to look out there and see 45 young boys jumpstopping, v-cutting, and taking pride in the way they shoot the ball on a Saturday morning. What a thrill."

All boys in fourth-, fifth- or sixth grades interested in Red Arrow winter basketball may contact coach McDonald at the high school.



From left to right, are: Josh Drake, Eric Saenz, Justin Corwin, Trevor Hoard and Brett McMahon working on their "Good form 3." Ryan Lane is helping demonstrate.



Pictured, left to right, are: coach Keith Boeve, Ryan Lane and Travis Hippey teaching kids to get into "triple threat" position.

Get Cut Off In Traffic?
Got a Pet Peeve To Get off Your Chest?
Government spending too much?
Curfew not late enough for you?

Sound Off

The Ledger (Almost) Anything Goes Opinion Forum

The Ledger reserves the right to edit and/or reject submissions if vulgar or slanderous.

Halloween night we had the most polite children trick or treating at our home. Lowell area parents must be doing something right!

With all the road work being done why isn't anything being done about Gee Dr.? It would be better if it was a dirt road. Then it could be graded.

Maybe its fine time that kids discipline their parents for the way they ACT!!!!

Teachers are holding to a socialist ideal. I had higher expectations of our superb educators. Thanks for this venue - a parent

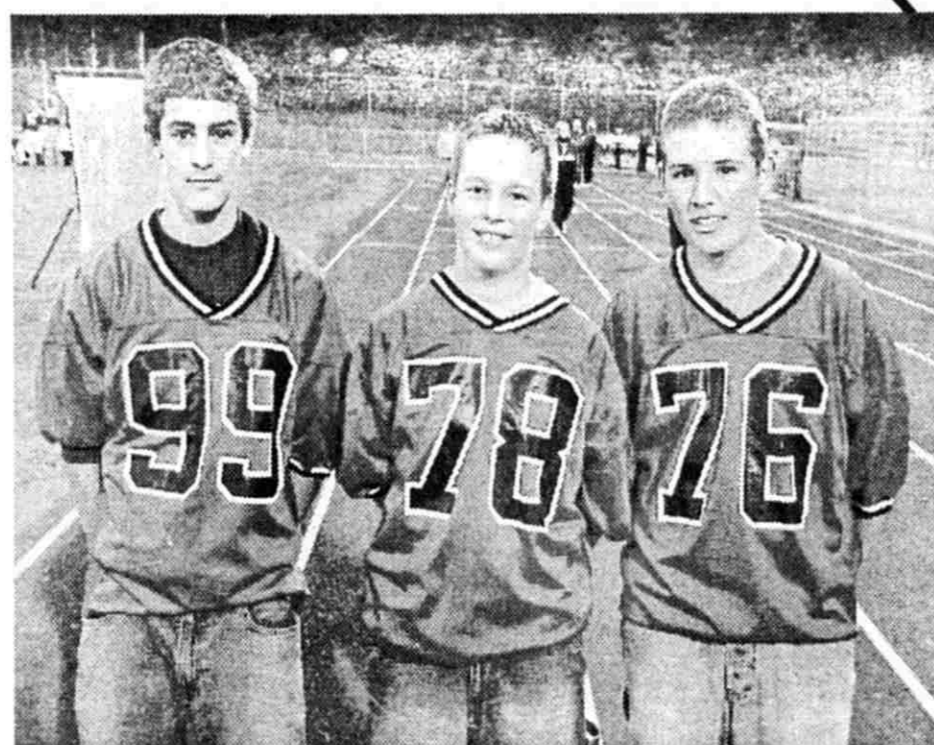
About the manholes. They have nothing to do with where your vehicle travels. They have to go over the sewer line and water main. They typically go down the center - they have to have them there to access the lines for repairs.

About the handicapped comment - When I get out of the car, you can not see that I have a deteriorating spine and a bad heart.

The Touchdown Club Is Proud To Salute The Lowell Red Arrow Football Team For Their "Work, Ethic, Effort & Attitude" - The Things We Control

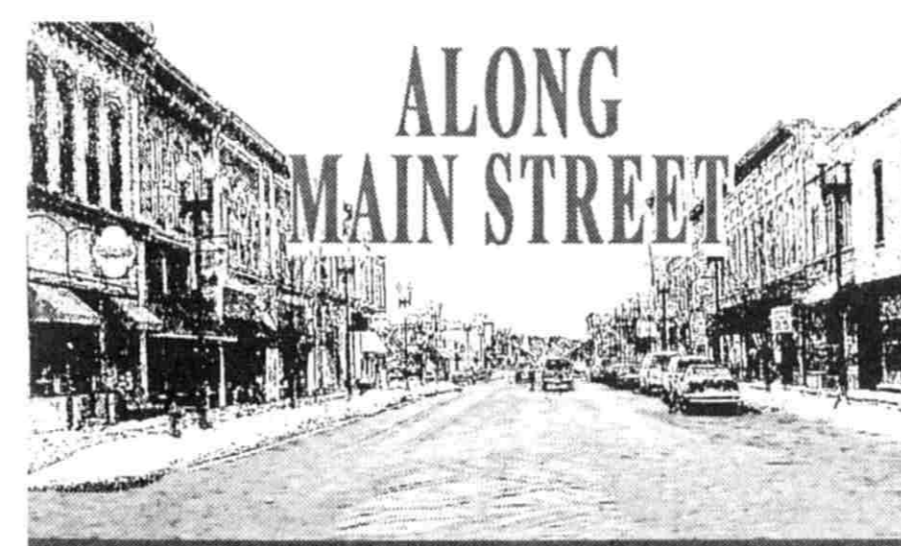
2003 Touchdown Club

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Lowell Football 78er PLAYERS OF THE WEEK
Left to right: Conrad Ruffilo, Jesse Droog and Nick Boelens.

L Come See Us On The Web: www.lowellfootball.com



ALONG MAIN STREET
Nineteen artists and artisans from the Greater Lowell community will present a wide variety of fine art and gifts for your holiday shopping at the Lowell Area Arts Council Gallery (149 S. Hudson) from Nov. 13 - Dec. 23. A sneak preview and artists reception will be held Thursday, Nov. 13 from 6-8 p.m.

SLEIGH BELLS & HOLLY
During Christmas Through Lowell, the Lowell Women's Club will be serving lunch on Friday, Nov. 14 at the chamber of commerce beginning at 11 a.m. All are welcome.

WOMEN'S CLUB LUNCHEON
The Lowell/Hudsonville football playoff game will be this Friday at 7:30 p.m. Gates open at 6 p.m.; tickets cost \$5. Buy tickets early at athletic office from 7:30 - 3:00 p.m. No reserved seating; no passes accepted.

TICKETS FOR PLAYOFF GAME
The Lowell/Hudsonville football playoff game will be this Friday at 7:30 p.m. Gates open at 6 p.m.; tickets cost \$5. Buy tickets early at athletic office from 7:30 - 3:00 p.m. No reserved seating; no passes accepted.

BLOOD DRIVE
Lowell High School is having a blood drive on Friday, Nov. 14 from 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in the auxiliary gym. The public is welcome to donate blood.

HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW
The First United Methodist Church (621 E. Main St.) will have its annual Holiday Craft Show on Saturday, Nov. 15 from 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. / Luncheon served from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Holiday shopping at a quality craft show.

KDL BRANCHES CLOSE FOR HOLIDAY
The 18 branches of Kent District Library and the KDL Service Center will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 27 for Thanksgiving. All branches will open again on Friday, Nov. 28 and resume regular open hours.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST/PROGRAM AT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
The women of the Congregational Church invite all women to join for a light breakfast Saturday, Nov. 15 at 9:30 a.m. to hear how "Smart Women Finish Rich." 45 minutes to improve your values and goals. Daycare provided by calling Jan at 897-5906.

CHRISTMAS WREATH FUND DRIVE
Help support the Fallsburg Historical Society and Lowell citizens by donating a minimum \$18 to the society. Donate by Nov. 19 and receive a Christmas wreath as a thank you. Wreaths are available Dec. 6. Call Kerry at 897-7161 to donate or for info.

BLOOD DRIVE
Lowell Area Fire Dept. is sponsoring a blood drive for the Grand Valley Blood program on Wednesday, Dec. 10 from 2-7 p.m. at Look Memorial Fire Station, 315 S. Hudson.

The Lowell Ledger NOW AVAILABLE AT:

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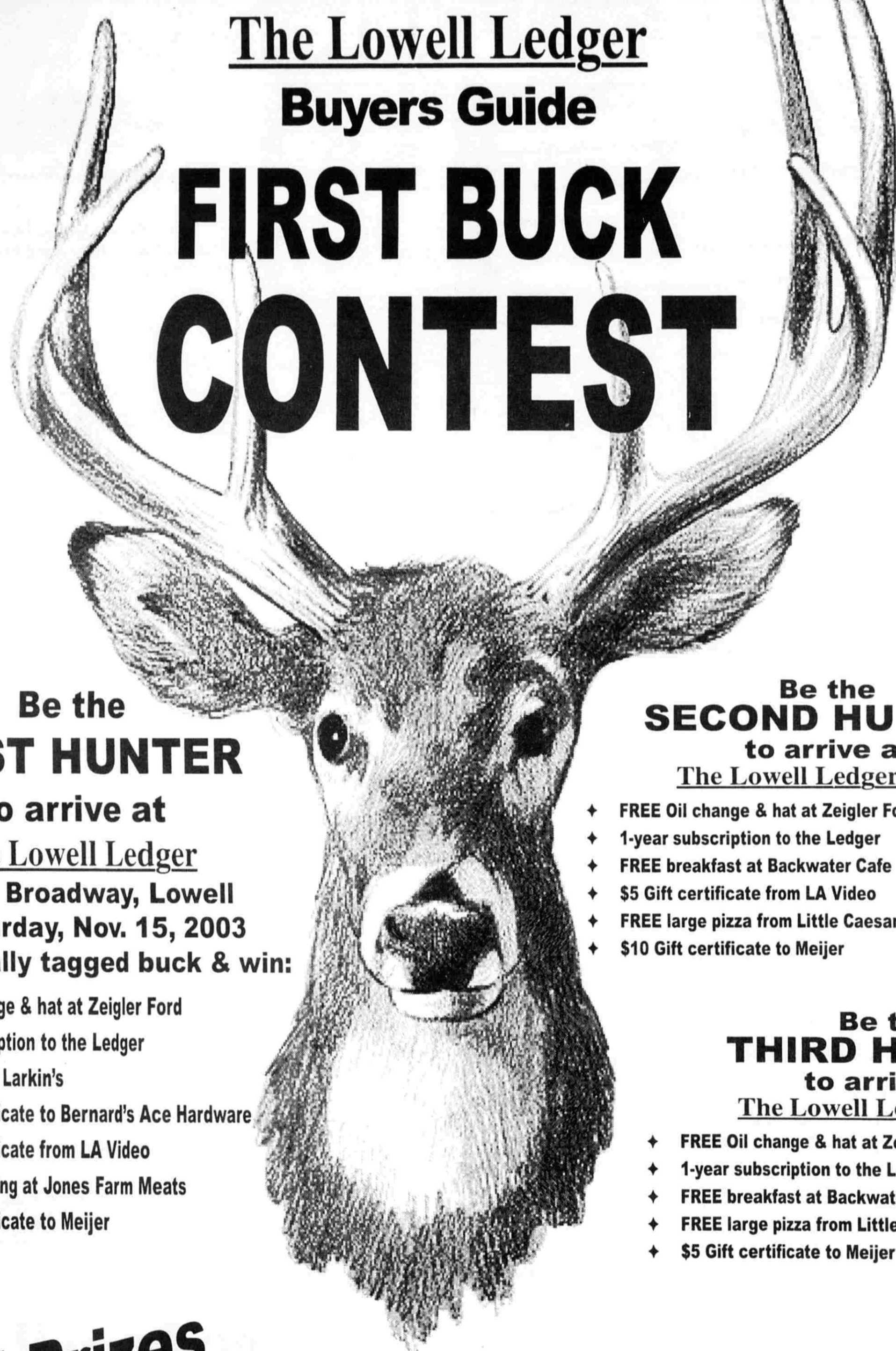
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ATTENTION DEER HUNTERS

The Lowell Ledger
Buyers Guide

FIRST BUCK CONTEST



Be the
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- ♦ 2-year subscription to the Ledger
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- ♦ \$10 Gift certificate from LA Video
- ♦ FREE processing at Jones Farm Meats
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All Prizes
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SECOND HUNTER
to arrive at
The Lowell Ledger & win:

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- ♦ 1-year subscription to the Ledger
- ♦ FREE breakfast at Backwater Cafe
- ♦ \$5 Gift certificate from LA Video
- ♦ FREE large pizza from Little Caesars
- ♦ \$10 Gift certificate to Meijer

Be the
THIRD HUNTER
to arrive at
The Lowell Ledger & win:

- ♦ FREE Oil change & hat at Zeigler Ford
- ♦ 1-year subscription to the Ledger
- ♦ FREE breakfast at Backwater Cafe
- ♦ FREE large pizza from Little Caesars
- ♦ \$5 Gift certificate to Meijer

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BED - Air chamber or memory foam. Brand new. Still in original plastic. Cost \$1400; sell \$600. Call 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160.

BERBER CARPET - Beautiful oatmeal color, 40 sq. yards. Bought, never used, still in plastic. Cost \$600, sell \$195/best. 517-719-0451.

WOOD FOR SALE - Ready to burn \$120 delivered and stacked. Call 262-3771.

AMISH QUEEN LOG BED - w/pillowtop mattress set. Bought, never used. Still in plastic. Sell \$125. 989-227-2986.

FOR SALE - 1 year new electric dryer and gently used Maytag washer \$150 obo. 897-4990.

MATTRESS SETS - Brand names, all new. No recycles or foam rejects. Pillowtop & plush air chamber & memory foam, twins & fulls, \$95; queens, \$115; kings, \$195 & up. 682-4767 or 293-6160. Can deliver.

PILLOWTOP MATTRESS SET - New in plastic, queen \$135; king \$185. 517-719-8062.

HOME FOR SALE - No Banks Needed/ Seller Financing. 305 High St. Lowell. 2 bdrm, large lot, appliances stay, \$87,000. 616-281-0800.

CHERRY SLEIGH BED - Queen w/pillowtop mattress set. Bought, never used, sell \$175. 517-626-7089.

1973 MG MIDGET - silver w/black stripe, fun car, \$2,200 obo. Call 897-9435.

APPLIANCES - Maytag, Whirlpool, GE, washers, dryers, refrigerators, over 100 in stock from \$59. Dennis Distributing 989-224-4822.

FOR SALE - 1987 F150 4X4, 6 cyl., 4spd. \$1,500 obo. 897-9088.

RAMADA INN BUY-OUT - Clean, sanitized mattress sets, w/frames. Most sizes, 20 sets. \$49 up. Dennis Distributing 989-224-4822.

15 IN. BIG HORN BLACK SYNTHETIC SADDLE - semi-quarter bar w/some silver in saddle w/leather stirrups, excellent condition, \$300 obo; 10x10 dog kennel, 6 ft. tall w/heavy chain link, 1 year old, paid \$260, asking \$175. Call 868-6834.

BEDROOM SET - Complete bed, dresser, mirror, chest, night stand and brand new mattress. Never used. Full \$600; queen \$650. Call 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160.

MATTRESS/BOX SPRING SALE - \$49/set. Queen, full or twin, factory new, delivery available. Dennis Distributing 989-224-4822.

HARDWOOD FOR SALE - cut, split, delivered \$110 per cord; stacking available. Call 897-6527.

HEPA FILTER - Bagless, upright vacuum sale. 20 vacuums to sell, \$10 & up. Dennis Distributing 989-224-4822.

FOR SALE

PROPERTY FOR SALE - 2.2 acre lots for sale. M-21 to Hayes Rd., Muir, North 1/4 mile. Lots are on West Side of road. Look for signs. For more information call eves 269-367-4900. Phil Bishop.

HOUSE FOR SALE - Sharp 3 bedroom home, 1 1/2 baths, oak kitchen cabinets with some kitchen appliances included, finished basement with pellet burner, private backyard with deck and patio, \$122,900. 281 Jane Ellen Dr. 897-8120.

FOR SALE BY OWNER - 3 bedroom, 2 full bath, 1985 mobile home in Key Heights. Stove, fridge, large deck included. Immediate possession, \$5,500 obo. 897-2505 or 890-2927.

'97 CHEVY VAN - White, 1/2 ton, 350 engine. \$5,200. Call 897-1597 or 450-7910.

SEALY, STEARNS & FOSTER, SERTA MATTRESS SALE - Queen & king sizes only. New, freight damaged, \$99 each piece until gone. (12 sets). Dennis Distributing 989-224-4822.

AIR BED - Selecta comfort, firmness for each of you. Dual chambers, wireless remote, never used. Cost \$1400, sell \$600. Call 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160.

2000 CHEVY EXT. CARGO VAN - 3/4 ton, burgundy, 43,000 miles, AC, cassette, \$11,300. Call 897-1597 or 450-7910.

CARPET - 75 rolls in stock. Brand new. Plushes, berbers, remnants, \$49/up. Dennis Distributing 989-224-4822.

FOR SALE - Brush hog wood splitter, hydraulic, 3 pt.; Howe scale platform; wood for sale, any amount; propane gas space heater. Phone 691-8974 ask for George.

2002 JEEP WRANGLER X - excellent condition, air, cruise, CD player, \$12,900. Call Russ eves 897-1482 or days 888-267-7114.

'96 DODGE 2500 4X4 - V10, reg. cab, 96,000 miles, new trans. w/warranty, new brakes & tires. 9' front plow & 8' rear plow. \$9,500 obo. Call 676-3522 or 893-6948.

FIRST \$1,000 DOWN GETS - 3 or 4 BR/2 bath house, master suite, immediate occupancy with guaranteed financing. Appliances included. Country setting. Call 1-800-615-1224.

'99 JEEP CHEROKEE - 4 x 4, classic black, 4 dr., auto, 23,000 miles, \$9,200. Call 897-1597 or 450-7910.

FURNITURE - Bedroom sets, dining/kitchen sets, leather living room, canopy beds, & more extras from Parade of Home displays. Call 616-682-4767 or 293-6160.

LONELY HOME - Country setting, \$500 moves you into this gorgeous 3 BR/2 bath home, appliances included. Must sell by Nov. 28. Call 1-800-615-1224.

FOR SALE - Gamo pellet rifle, fiber optic sights, like new \$65. Call 897-1723 after 4pm.

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By Fax: 616-897-4809

By Email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com

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each additional word 10¢
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The Lowell Ledger

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'95 DODGE CARAVAN SE - loaded, everything worksss. All serviced a beauty \$2,400. 361-1603 No Sundays.

FURNACE - Gas, Bryant 90% H.E., 60,000 BTU. Used 6 winters, excellent condition, \$500. Some duct work free with furnace. 616-1119.

BUSINESS FOR SALE - Land Contract available. Kountry Korners Party Store, 7122 Grand River Ave. For added income or personal use there is a one bedroom apartment & a 3 stall commercial garage. For more information call Bonnie at 616-642-3474.

FOR SALE - 1995 Buick LeSabre. Runs and looks great! \$3,000 obo. Call 897-9051 or 862-8179.

WINDOWS - Anderson white high performance low E sun units. New still in boxes. 2 #CW145 (w 2' 4" 7/8" x h 4' 5" 3/8") casement right & left. 1 # P3555 (w 3' 5" 3/8" x h 5' 5" 3/8") rough openings. Half off original price obo also have used white vinyl clad picture window (w 36 3/8 x h 48 3/8); double hung w/grills (42 1/4 x 48 5/8) & a single hung 36 x 60. Phone 676-1119.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!
www.lowellbuyersguide.com

FREE

KITTENS TO CARING HOMES - 6 weeks old, gray and white, 1 black & white. Call 897-6917.

EVENTS

SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - at 3189 Snow Ave SE will serve a family style Turkey & Dressing dinner on Wed., Nov. 12 starting at 5:30 p.m. Adults \$8, ages 5-12, \$2.

HELP WANTED

LEAD TEACHERS, TEACHER AIDES - substitutes & cook needed. Looking for fun-loving, self-motivated individuals to join our child care team! Infant thru school-age care. Apply in person at Lowell YMCA Child Development Center, 404 N. Hudson, Lowell 897-4371.

HAIRSTYLISTS - Talented, motivated, experienced hairstylists wanted to join our team. Full/part-time. Apply at Brenda's Hair Designs today, 897-7131.

DELIVERY DRIVER - CDL-B drivers needed. Looking for dependable customer service oriented person w/ chauffers CDL-B, CDL-A license. Good working environment. Also hiring nights/weekends. 616-248-7729.

EXPANDING - Local company looking for men and women to fill 27 full time permanent positions. No experience necessary; we train. Must start immediately. \$400 per week. Phone 245-7400.

LEDGER OFFICE HOURS:
Mon - Thurs. 8-5
Fri. 8-4
Closed Sat. & Sun.
105 N. Broadway, Lowell
Phone 897-9261
Fax 897-4809

WANTED

WANTED - Cash paid for old junk motorcycles & Japanese sports cars. Call Rich, 616-446-8352.

DAYCARE PROVIDER WANTED - Mature, responsible person needed in my home. Late afternoon, early evening, M-F Excellent pay. Call 897-4938.

FOR RENT

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

1 & 2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS - Small pets welcome. 897-0099.

FOR RENT - small two bedroom house near high school with easy access to GR. Call 897-8785.

HOUSE FOR RENT IN LOWELL - 2 BR, 1 bath, 1 1/2 stall garage. \$700/month. 897-6767 after 3:30.

FOR RENT - Sharp 3 bedroom, 2 bath home in nice neighborhood. Finished basement & 2 stall garage. \$950/month. 897-8934, leave message.

INSIDE STORAGE - Boats, RV's and Autos. Call 897-6050.

ADA HOUSE FOR RENT - 8761 Bailey Dr, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, on 1 1/2 acres. Laundry hook-up, deck off kitchen, 15x20 storage shed, 24x28 garage, no pets. \$900/per mo. + deposit & utilities. 616-437-6614.

SALES

GARAGE SALE - Friday Nov. 14 & Sat., 15, 8 to 5. Help me I'm up to my eyeballs in tools. Antique tools, electric tools, hand tools, 4 tool boxes full, coins, arrow heads, military stuff, guns, jack knives, hunting knives. 210 Marsac, Lowell.

CRAFT SALE - Meandering Creek Farm Wildlife Refuge is doing a fund raiser craft sale on Nov. 14, 15 & 16 at 12494 Vergennes. The money will go towards feeding the animals through the winter.

CARD OF THANKS

LAMINATING AVAILABLE AT THE LEDGER OFFICE!
Next Day Service.
105 N. Broadway, Lowell

MY THANKFULNESS reaches toward the out pouring of wonderful care, prayers, visits, cards, calls, flowers and other inspirations that brought me home one more time to finish my work better.
Sally Martin

THANK YOU

It's been a while since you came out to my home to scrape, caulk, prime and paint my home. Nevertheless the gratitude continues. My heartfelt thanks to so many people who gave of their precious time to do this project. Your kindness still overflows me.
Blessings to all of you,
Donna Simpson

CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRY ONE TODAY!
CALL 897-9261 or Fax 897-4809, DEADLINE MON. AT 5. Website: www.lowellbuyersguide.com

SERVICES

CARE GIVER - for seniors, in home meal preparation, light cleaning etc. References (616)794-7470 leave message.

COMPUTER PROBLEMS? - College student with lots of computer experience will help. No problem too big or small. Call 897-8519.

RELIABLE SNOWPLOWING - is looking for snow removal jobs. Excellent work at very reasonable prices. Call Bruce 262-9114.

THINKING ABOUT REMODELING? - Adding an addition or fixing that old roof? We also do siding, windows, kitchens & baths, ceramic tile, pole barns, decks, concrete, waterfalls & much more. Call the experts - JLS Contracting, Inc. Licensed & Insured. One call does it all. Call Gary 299-6989.

FIREPLACE SALES, SERVICE & INSTALLATION - Licensed & Insured. Gas or Wood. Call M.E.O. Fireplaces Ltd. 897-7851.

JOHN DEBIAK HORSESHOEING & HOOF TRIMMING - Serving the Greater Kent/Lonia County area with 15 years of professional, full-time experience. Call 897-4290.

TOWING - Servicing Lowell & surrounding areas. Flat bed & wrecker, Tire changes, Jump starts, Lock outs, 24 Hr. service. Call Lincoln Lake Autos 446-5909.

HANDYMAN JOBS WANTED - Specializes in small engine repair, welding & fabricating wood projects. Can fix or build most anything. Call 897-6932 after 4 p.m.

LAMINATING AVAILABLE AT THE LEDGER OFFICE!
Next Day Service.
105 N. Broadway, Lowell

PLUMBER - Experienced. Residential, Service or New Construction. Reasonable rates. Call 897-2575.

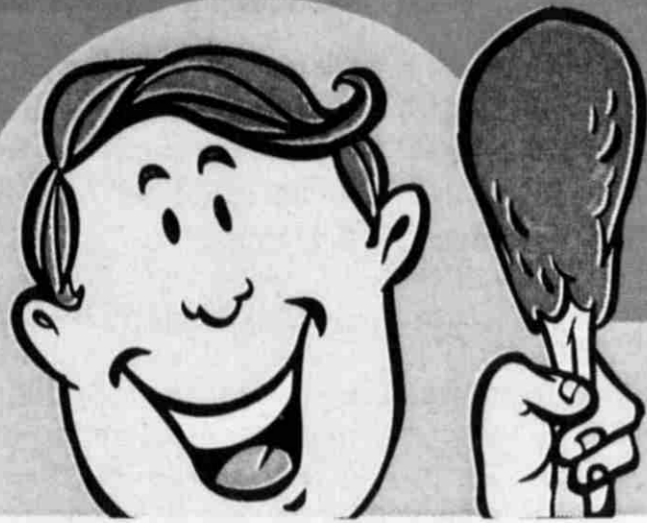
SNOW REMOVAL - Driveways, roofs, etc. Call Uhen Construction, 299-1249 or 897-5369.

PAYROLL & BOOKKEEPING SERVICE - By certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-0686.

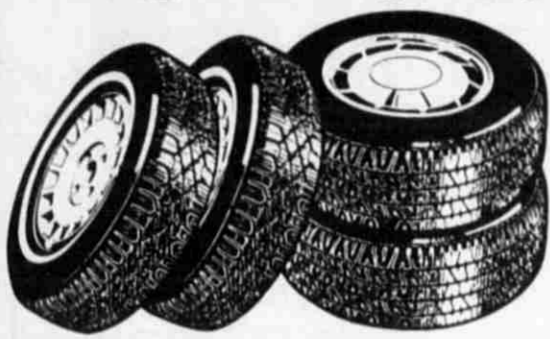
VOICE YOUR OPINION! Call the Ledger Sound Off Line & voice your beef!
897-0787

No need to leave your name, keep it brief (30 words or less). We will publish your views in our new column **SOUND OFF**

The Ledger reserves the right to edit or refuse items due to vulgarity or slander. A Sound Off Link can also be found on our website: www.lowellbuyersguide.com



GOBBLE UP A GOOD DEAL!



KELLY TIRES®

A GOOD DEAL ON A GREAT TIRE®

at
Lowell Tire Center

KELLY TIRES

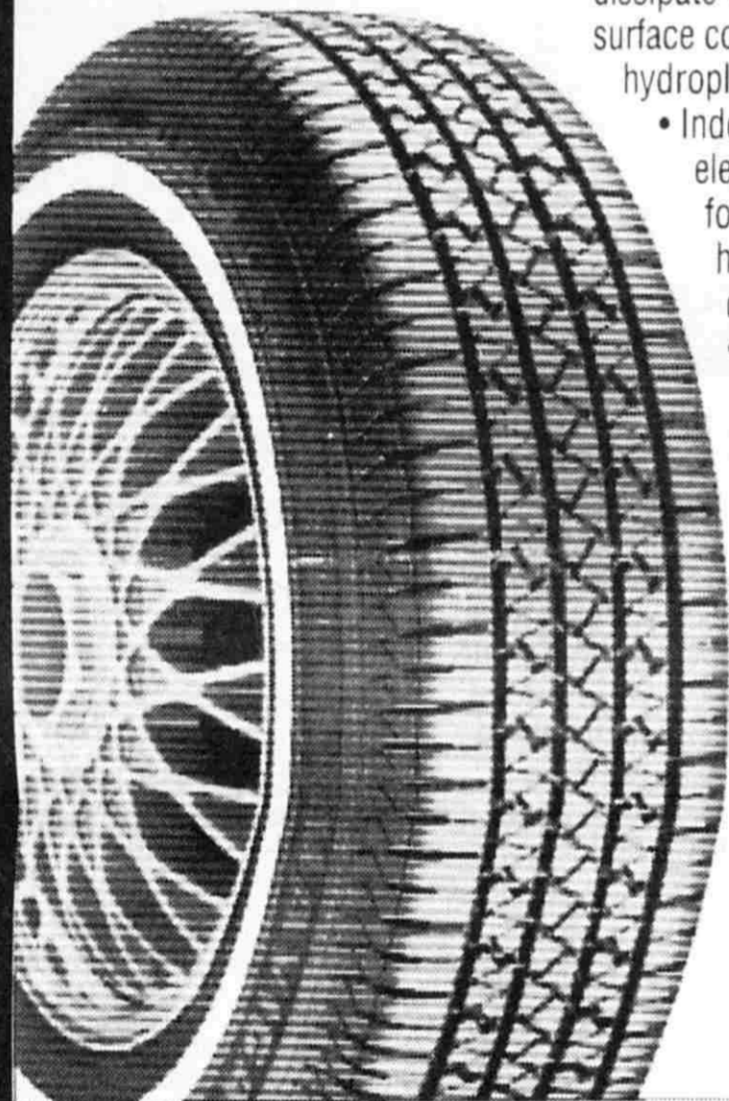
NAVIGATOR GOLD PREMIUM ALL-SEASON STEEL-BELTED RADIAL

\$56⁷⁵
P185/80R13 90S

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

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

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

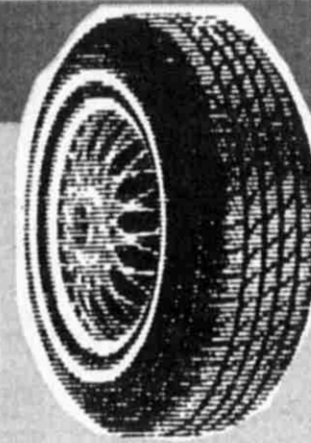


KELLY TIRES

EXPLORER

ALL SEASON STEEL BELTED RADIAL

\$34²⁵



P165/80R13

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

KELLY TIRES

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

\$68⁹⁴ P205

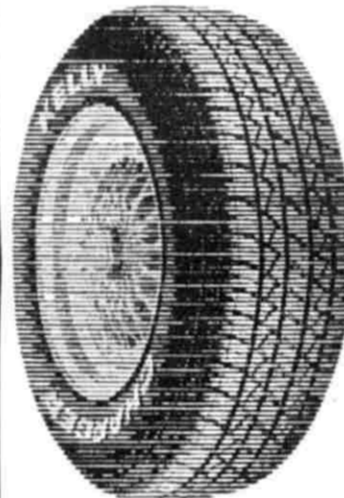


P215.....	\$72.64
P225.....	\$76.39
P235.....	\$80.02
P26515....	\$83.75
LT215.....	\$96.83
P22516....	\$77.20
P24516....	\$79.16
LT23515....	\$97.76
P22516....	\$71.80
LT22516....	\$99.72

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

KELLY TIRES

CHARGER SR 60 SERIES PERFORMANCE STEEL-BELTED RADIAL



\$61¹⁷
P205/60R13 86S

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

RAISED WHITE LETTERS

P215/60R14 91S.....	\$63.40
P225/60R14 94S.....	\$66.63
P235/60R14 96S.....	\$70.27
P245/60R14 98S.....	\$75.84
P235/60R15 98S.....	\$79.48
P245/60R15 100S.....	\$83.76
P255/60R15 102S.....	\$86.67
P275/60R15 107S.....	\$96.11
BLACKWALL	
P185/60R14 82S.....	\$62.39
P195/60R14 85S.....	\$63.59
P195/60R15 87S.....	\$66.81
P205/60R15 90S.....	\$68.08
P215/60R15 93S.....	\$72.67
P225/60R15 95S.....	\$64.68
P215/60R16 94S.....	\$82.29
P225/60R16 97S.....	\$85.18

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

TRANSMISSION

FLUSH SERVICE

Special

\$69⁹⁵

OFFER EXPIRES 11-30-03

SERVICE SPECIAL

FUEL INTAKE SERVICE

Special **\$89⁹⁵**

OFFER EXPIRES 11-30-03

SERVICE SPECIAL

LUBE, OIL & FILTER

SAVE \$21⁰⁰

Featuring Quality NAPA Products

* Includes up to five quarts of NAPA oil and NAPA SILVERLIN E® oil filter. Present this coupon at our NAPA AutoCare Center. Expires 11-30-03.

SERVICE SPECIAL

COOLING SYSTEM FLUSH

Complete With Antifreeze

Special

\$69⁹⁵

OFFER EXPIRES 11-30-03

YOUR COMPLETE AUTO SERVICE CENTER

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

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