

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 30 Issue 7

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, December 24, 2003

Christmas celebrated with an old-fashioned flare

By Dan Schneider

Christmas festivities took place last weekend in the historic village of Fallasburg. This is the fifth year the Fallasburg Historical Society has hosted traditional Christmas activities.

The covered bridge over the Flat River was decked out with pine boughs, red bows and wreaths, and lit with candle-light lanterns fashioned out of tin cans. Lights of the same construction lined Covered Bridge Road through the village.

The historic houses were decorated with wreaths and pine boughs, and electric candles in the windows. John Coates played traditional Christmas carols on the organ in the schoolhouse. By 6:30 p.m. people were arriving to drink wassail. Wassail is a warm-spiced cider that was very popular around the holidays in the 1800s. Some of the schoolhouse guests sang haltingly along with the carols.

The Fallasburg house was the site of an 1800s-style Christmas dinner. Historical society volunteers dressed in period costume served several tables full of patrons in the three lower-level rooms of the house. One of the patrons, Bill Whorley of Saranac, arrived dressed in period clothes.

Whorley had on suspenders, a navy wool shirt, brown



The Fallasburg covered bridge was decorated with a wreath for the holiday festivities in the historic village of Fallasburg. In addition to the wreath on the outside, there were pine boughs, lighted candles and red bows hung on the inside.

boots up to his knees and a gray neckerchief. Whorley had the clothes because he is a hobbyist involved with what he calls "cowboy shoots". At these events hobbyists shoot antique pistols and other

Christmas, cont'd., pg. 3



At left, John Coates played the organ at the historic schoolhouse in Fallasburg village while visitors drank wassail and ate cookies and soaked up the Christmas atmosphere last Saturday. Above right, Bill Whorley arrived at the traditional Christmas dinner dressed in 1800s garb. Whorley participates in Old West cowboy shoots and recently returned from a successful buffalo-hunting expedition. In the background, Vickey Grievs passes bread and butter to her husband, Greg Grievs.

Grant money to be used for new fire equipment

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell Area Fire Department will purchase new equipment using a federal grant through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The grant is for \$69,030. That amount will cover the cost of modifications to the engine house, six new air packs with masks, and another computer system for the fire engines.

"We're going to put in an exhaust system to remove gas and diesel fumes from the garage when we start the trucks," fire chief, Frank

Martin said.

The system will either consist of hoses that connect to the exhaust pipes of the trucks and channel exhaust out of the building or of exhaust-eating devices similar to the smoke-eaters at some bars. Martin said the hose set-up is the better system and the one he would prefer to use in the engine house. He said he wanted to wait to make sure the grant went through, however, before making a decision about which system to use.

Exhaust-expulsion systems are now required for new

fire stations or fire stations that are significantly remodeled. That requirement was not in place when the fire station on South Hudson was built in 1991.

"If you want a better, healthy work environment for the firefighters, it's good to put them in now if you have the money," Martin said.

Martin said for the Lowell fire station it will probably cost about \$40,000.

More of the grant will be spent on new SCBAs (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus). The new air packs and masks will allow for the phas-

ing out of the older units in the fire department's collection.

"We're slowly getting away from the 20- to 30-year old ones that we have left," Martin said.

The SCBAs on the first-out trucks are only a year old. The department purchased them along with its newest engine. The older units are currently reserved for back-ups.

The new SCBAs have wider face masks for better visibility and lighter, fiberglass air tanks. They also have

New fire equipment, cont'd., pg. 3

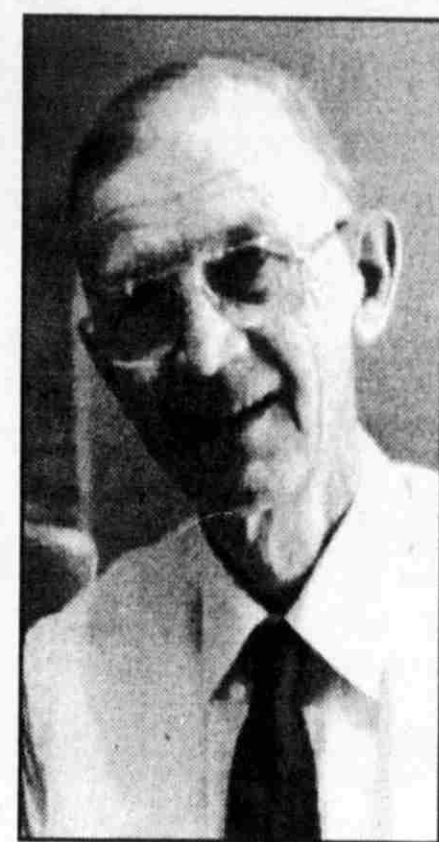
The Ledger
 Year In Review...
 Pages 9-32

Teacher talks back on track...Page 6

OBITUARIES

BULLOCK - Wallace (Walt) L. Bullock, aged 70, of Lowell, passed away December 20, 2003. He was preceded in death by his sister Addie Roggow. He is survived by his wife Carol; children Helen (Sam) Ziegler of Dexter, Connie (Mike) Turnbull of Greenville, Ken (Dawn) Bullock of Grand Rapids; brothers Lester (Sharon) Bullock, Lee (Jan) Bullock; sisters Louise (Morey) Munn, Lois (Nick) Christian; brother-in-law Rich (Ruth) Roggow, all of Grand Rapids; six grandchildren; many nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held Tuesday at Rothgerst Chapel, Pastor Robert Roush of the Friendship Country Chapel, officiating. Memorials may be made to Hospice of Michigan or the Walt Bullock Memorial Fund.

KETTNER - Harold George Kettner, aged 92, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family, on December 19, 2003. He was born in Detroit on July 15, 1911, the eighth child of Bertha Boese and Richard Carl Kettner, both of Germany. He is preceded in death by his wife of 67 years, Greta Alida Kettner. They moved from Detroit to Vergennes Township in 1949. He loved caring for his farm and family. Harold worked at Lear Siegler Corp. as an aviation instrument technician for 25 years, retiring in 1976. He was a member of the Lowell Moose Lodge and a charter member of the Fallasburg Historical Society. He is survived by his two sons Harold Grant (Elizabeth) and Michael Bernard (Diane) Kettner; four grandchildren Mark S. Kettner of Lowell, Lt. Com. Brenden J. Kettner of San Francisco, CA, Sarah E. Lutz of Eureka, MO, and Chad M. Kettner of Grand Rapids; eight great-grandchildren. A private service was held Tuesday with



Harold Kettner

interment in Oakwood Cemetery in Lowell. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Michigan.

KOSBAR - Donald Lorenz Kosbar, aged 75, of Hastings, went to be with his Lord and Savior December 16, 2003. He was born June 1, 1928 in Ionia, the son of Lorenz and Mildred (Craft) Kosbar. He married Donna Englerth August 16, 1957 at Quimby Methodist Church in Hastings, enjoying 56 years of marriage. Don was employed with the Barry County Road Commission for 40 years retiring in

1989 and farmed for 37 years. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Hastings. Don enjoyed fishing, hunting, boating and traveling with his wife. He is survived by his loving wife Donna Kosbar of Hastings; sons Danny and Ruth Kosbar of Hastings, Damon Kosbar of Hastings, David and Terri Kosbar of Grand Ledge, Darwin and Donna Kosbar of Delton, Donald and Kim Kosbar of Lowell, Dean and Renee Kosbar of Hastings; daugh-

ters Deanna and Mark Case of Greenville, Denise and Gregg Miller of Freepport; sisters Betty and Tom Kidder of Hastings, Pauline and Victor Osborn of Caledonia; half brothers Lloyd and Bess Gross of Hastings, Stewart and Diane Gross of Hastings; half sisters Glenda and Dennis Stevens of Hastings, Joyce and Earl Stevens of Hastings; step-brother Gordon Hull of Hastings; step-sisters Genevieve and Howard Allen of Nashville, Mary Ann and

Jim Hummel of Nashville; 21 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, step-fathers Claude Gross and Sidney Hull, half sisters Joann and Rachel, granddaughter Mardan. Funeral services were held at First Baptist Church in Hastings with Rev. Dan Curry and Rev. Ken Garner officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to Don Kosbar Youth Memorial Fund.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE
FILE NO. 03-176,726-DE

Estate of WILLIAM E. VAN BUSKIRK, Deceased

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Including surviving children of Madaline Bailey, deceased, whose names, addresses and whereabouts are unknown.

The decedent, WILLIAM E. VAN BUSKIRK, who lived at 108 Gold N.W., Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49504 died 11/20/03.

An application for informal probate of decedent's will was filed by SUSAN M. POTYRAJ, 410 Bridge St. N.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49504. On 12/10/03 the Kent County Probate Court, 180 Ottawa Ave. N.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49503 informally admitted the will.

SUSAN M. POTYRAJ (P46249)
410 Bridge St. N.W. Grand Rapids, MI 49504 (616) 454-4119

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 03-176,744-DE

Estate of JANICE L. GORMAN, aka JANICE BARTO GORMAN SSN: 369-38-4983

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, WILLIAM E. VAN BUSKIRK, who lived at 108 Gold N.W., Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49504 died 11/20/03.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to SUSAN M. POTYRAJ, named personal representative, or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Ave. N.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

SUSAN M. POTYRAJ (P46249)
410 Bridge St. N.W. Grand Rapids, MI 49504 (616) 454-4119

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 03-176,744-DE

Estate of JANICE L. GORMAN, aka JANICE BARTO GORMAN SSN: 369-38-4983

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, JANICE L. GORMAN, who lived at 3681 Timber Creek Ct., N.W., Comstock Park, Michigan, died 11/28/03.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to GERARD B. BARTO or MARIANNE KALE, named personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Ave. N.W., Ste. 2500, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

SUSAN M. POTYRAJ (P46249)
410 Bridge St. N.W. Grand Rapids, MI 49504 (616) 454-4119

GERARD B. BARTO and MARIANNE KALE
1401 Quarry N.W.

NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP HOLIDAY HOURS

The Vergennes Township offices will be closed December 24th through the 26th, 2003 and again New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. The office will be open December 29. Taxes paid using the drop slot in the office door and received by December 31st at 3:00 pm will be posted in 2003. The staff and officials of Vergennes Township wish everyone in the Lowell Community a peace-filled and joyous Holiday Season.

Plows up and ready for inevitable snow

By Dan Schneider

It takes about eight hours to plow all the snow from the city streets of Lowell. If it snows tonight, public works employees will be out at 4 a.m. pushing the white Christmas snow to the curbsides.

"It's the best time to plow with no traffic," Bill McQueen said. McQueen has been working for the city for five years.

The city owns three dump-bed plow trucks: a 1989 Chevy C-70 and two newer Internationals. One truck plows the east half of town, another the west and the third plows the Valley Vista subdivision.

Public works also uses two pickup trucks to plow city parking lots. The second was brought into plow service this year because of the new lot by the police station.

"We've got two trucks now because we've got so many parking lots that have to be done at the same time," public works director, Dan DesJarden said.

When a snow storm hits, roads running north-south get plowing priority.

"The way this town is set up, if you do the north-south roads during a storm, everybody's only got half a block to go to get to a plowed street," DesJarden said.

A public works employee is on standby at night through the winter. The plowing policy says he can be called into action if the police officer on duty determines plowing before 4 a.m. is necessary for public safety. Police can also call to have roads cleared if the squad cars cannot make it up hills.

Public works is responsible for plowing all streets within the city limits. The only exceptions are M-21, which is the state's responsibility, and Hudson Street, which is a county road.

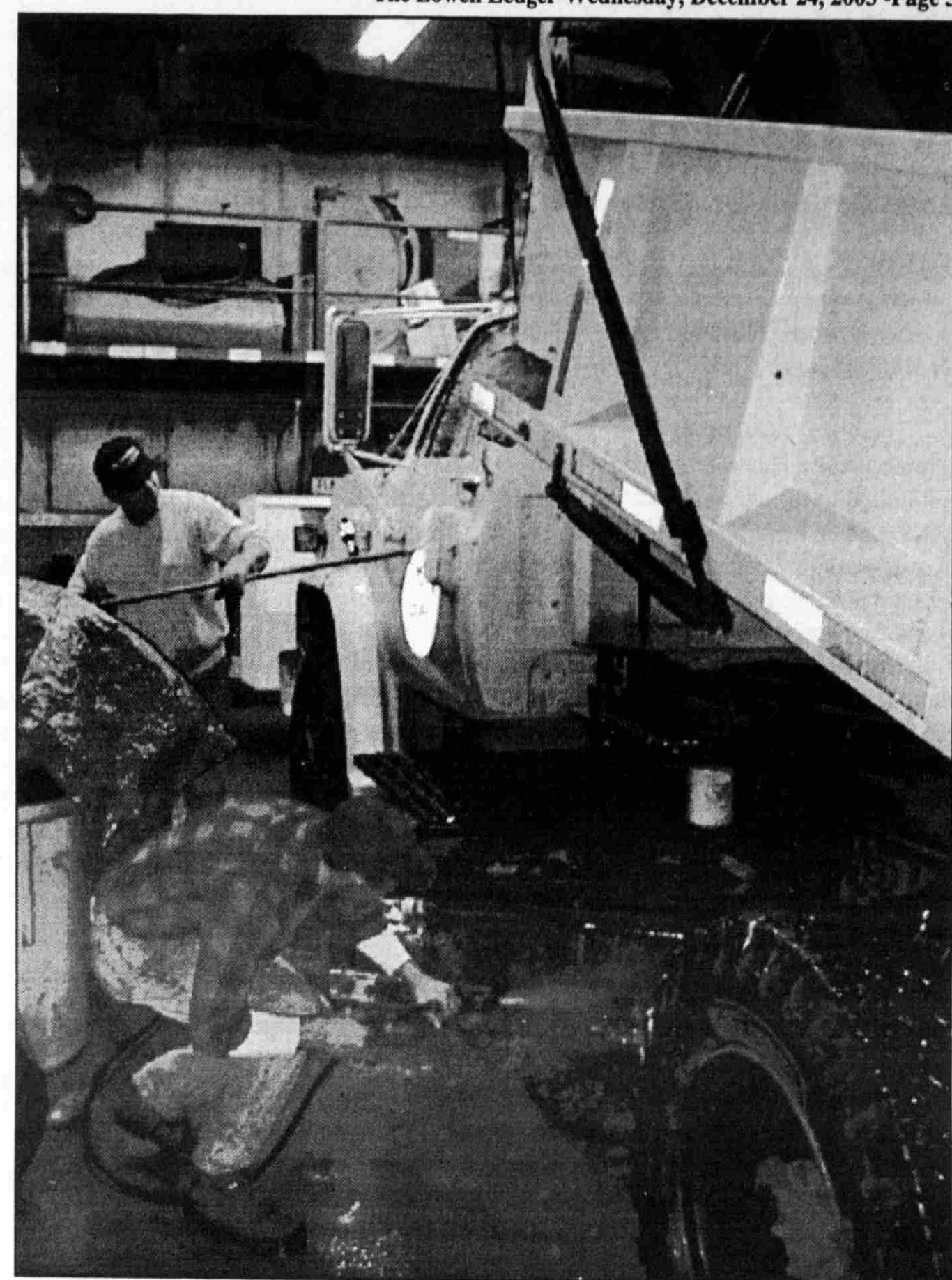
Public works has budgeted for 200 tons of salt this year. The salt is delivered 50 tons at a time as needed due to limited storage space. The city

also buys 200 yards of sand.

Lowell buys its road salt at a bulk rate in cooperation with nearby cities such as Grand Rapids and Wyoming. The salt comes from Verplank's Dock Company, Inc. in Muskegon.

The salt is mined out of a vein that runs south and west of Lake Huron, roughly from Detroit to Cleveland. It is shipped 20,000 tons at a time on the Great Lakes to Muskegon. "They load it on boats, ship it over here; we put it on trucks and send it wherever there's snow," said Ron Matthews, president of Verplank's Dock Company, Inc.

Pictured are Bill McQueen, left, and Ralph Brecken cleaning off a plow truck after a recent snow. The plow drivers clean off the trucks after every plow run to prevent corrosion from snow and salt.



Historic Christmas, continued...From Page 1

weaponry of the Wild West era and, Whorley explained, "You have to look the part." Whorley had recently returned from a successful buffalo hunt out West. He shot a buffalo with a 45-70 Sharp rifle.

"I wanted to do what the old-timers did and shoot a buffalo," Whorley said.

Bif Altoft, of the Backwater Cafe on Riverside Drive, cooked the meal. In order to give the meal a historic flavor, she limited the

menu to recipes using ingredients grown in Michigan; ones 18th-century cooks would have been able to find or grow.

"I tried to just stick with things that they would have had to work with," Altoft said.

This included root vegetables, several cheeses, breads and mushroom pate.

The historic village of Fallasburg is unique in Michigan as a collection of 1800s houses retaining their original structures. Some of the

houses in the village have been added on to over the years, but their 1800s underpinnings remain intact.

John Wesley Fallas moved to the location on the Flat River in 1837 at the age of 25. He moved there from New York state and settled on the spot because he thought it would be a good place to build a flour mill. He built a three-story, water-powered mill on the river in 1840, taking barrels of flour to Grand Rapids to sell.

He built the Fallas house in 1842 after returning from New York. He had gone there to marry Phoebe Brown and persuade others to join him in Michigan.

New fire equipment, continued...From Page 1

to be clipped on separately. The devices start to beep when a firefighter becomes motionless for a length of time. The tone repeats more consistently the longer the firefighter remains motionless.

The grant will also cover the cost of another laptop computer for the fire trucks. The computers in the trucks allow firefighters to quickly access files of pre-plans for

commercial buildings in the area. The plans give information about how the buildings are built, what is in them and potential hazards.

Previously, this information could only be accessed in three large file cabinets at the station.

The department recently purchased two of these computers with money donated by the Flat River Snowmobile Club.

ACT registration deadline

The next national test date for the ACT Assessment is Feb. 7, 2004. College-bound students should register by the Jan. 2 postmark deadline. Late registration postmark deadline is Jan. 16 (an additional fee is required for late registration). Students can register online at www.act.org or they can pick up a registration packet from their high school guidance counselor and register by mail. The website also has sample test questions and a link to a free financial aid calculator.

ACT scores are accepted by virtually all colleges and universities. The test, with a fee of \$26, has four sections: English, reading, math and science.

Students who have already taken the ACT can retest and try for a higher score. Juniors often use their scores to examine academic weaknesses, take courses or tutoring to correct those weaknesses and retest as seniors.

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Last shows on Christmas Eve
will start no later than 5pm.
First shows on Christmas will
start after 5pm.

★ STARTS THURSDAY ★

- ◊ CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN (PG)
- ◊ PETER PAN (PG)
- ◊ SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE (PG-13)
- ◊ LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING (PG-13)
MON/TUE 1:00, 6:05, 9:55
WED 1:00
- ◊ MONA LISA SMILE (PG-13)
MON/TUE 11:00, 1:35, 4:10, 6:45, 9:20
WED 11:00, 1:35, 4:10
- ◊ STUCK ON YOU (PG-13)
MON/TUE 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
WED 11:30, 2:00, 4:30
- ◊ THE LAST SAMURAI (R)
MON/TUE 12:00, 3:15, 6:15, 9:15
WED 12:00, 3:15
- ◊ BAD SANTA (R) RNS TUES
MON/TUE 9:45
- ◊ ELF (PG)
MON/TUE 11:00, 1:15, 3:20, 5:20, 7:45
WED 11:00, 1:15, 3:20

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Bill & Linda Timmers;
Gary & Leigh Stadt;
Chris Clay

I see countless Christmas trees
Around the world below;
With tiny lights, like heaven's stars
Reflecting on the snow.

The sight is so spectacular,
Please wipe away that tear;
For I'm spending Christmas
With Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs
That people hold so dear;
But the sounds of music can't compare
With the Christmas choir up here.

For I have no words to tell you
The joy their voices bring;
For it is beyond description
To hear as angels sing.

I'll ask Him to light your spirit
As I tell Him of your love.
So then pray for one another
As you lift your eyes above.

So please let your hearts be joyful;
And let your spirit sing;
For I'm spending Christmas in heaven
And I'm walking with the King!

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Wishing You A Peaceful & Joyous Holiday Season

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Reflections Of Faith

Father George J. Fekete
St. Mary Church

There's a story called "The Little Prince." The Little Prince is an alien from another planet. One day he finds himself stranded on earth and he's lost and confused. One inhabitant on earth who helps him very much is an animal, a fox. Eventually a deep friendship develops between the two. At one point the Little Prince asks the fox why he wants to set the time so exactly, the fox says, "If I know you're coming at four o'clock, then I'll begin to be happy at three o'clock."

AREA BIRTHS



Lani Kay Fetterhoff

Jason and Holly Fetterhoff are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Lani Kay. She was born on Friday, December 12, 2003 at 6:13 p.m. at Spectrum Health Butterworth Campus. Lani weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz. and measured 19 1/2 inches long.

Proud grandparents are Ken and Elaine Gregersen and Roger and Sandy Fetterhoff, all of Lowell.

Great-grandparents are Joyce Stormzand of Lowell, whose birthday is also Dec. 12, Dick Fetterhoff of Lowell, and Everett and Dottie Gregersen of Grandville.

This Fourth Week of Advent is like that. It begins a period of special anticipation. Christmas is now only one day away. And like the fox, we are already beginning, hopefully, to feel happy as we prepare for the arrival of another "little prince," the Prince of Peace. And I wonder if our hearts aren't already beginning to fill up with joy.

And the joy that fills them is the same joy that filled the heart of St. John the Baptist in last Sunday's Gospel (Luke 1:39-45). It's the joy that made him jump inside his mother's womb when he experienced the approach of Mary. What John experienced and made him jump was a powerful magnetic presence that he could feel with his whole being. Again, I wonder if it wasn't a presence that we have experienced at rare moments in our lives. It was the presence of Jesus Himself.

Besides the joy of anticipation that we are beginning to experience today, we are also encouraged to begin to experience the joy of anticipating Jesus' Second Coming. This is the joy of anticipating that day when in the words of the Book of Revelation, "(God) will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain." (Rev. 21:4). It is the joy of anticipating the day we will discover for ourselves what St. Paul describes so beautifully in this First Letter to the Corinthians, "What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him." (1 Cor. 2:9).

This is what we want to celebrate today. This is what is beginning to fill our hearts with joy. Like John the Baptist in his mother's womb, should we not jump for joy in anticipation of the birth of Jesus, Lord, Savior. God love you.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DEC. 25: Chris Woolfenden, Scott Shindorf, Chris Treglia, Jeni Clouser, Peggy Hayes, Star Daverman.

DEC. 26: Margaret Gasper, Shay Hacker, Stephanie Peel, Butch Landman, Kaitlyn Callihan.

DEC. 27: Helen Triplett, Mark Nyp, Linda Aksamitowski, Jay Clark.

DEC. 28: Lisa Stormzand, C.J. Sokolowski, Matt Francisco.

Happy Holidays

DEC. 29: Amanda Martin, Donna Baker.

DEC. 30: Stacy Thomas, Ben Hodges, Kyle Triplett, Joe Hunt, Stacey Craig, Joshua Gee, Maliree Trierweiler, Matthew Trierweiler.

DEC. 31: Marcie Page, Bill DeHaan, Charles Boerema.

VOWS SPOKEN



Brian and Cindy Peters

Brian Peters and Cindy Kosnik were united in marriage on September 20, 2003 at the First United Methodist Church of Lowell.

Parents of the bride are Leonard and Ruth Kosnik of Lowell. Parents of the groom are Don Peters of Wayland, and Betty Biggs of Mecosta County.

A reception immediately followed the wedding at Duba's of Grand Rapids. The newlyweds celebrated their honeymoon at the Grand Canyon in Arizona.

Viewpoint



cozy corner by Roger Brown

I ducked into a local store one day last week. I was in search of a hard to find gizmo for a whatchamacallit. That sounds pretty vague because it was intended to be. Describing something like this gizmo in print is far too difficult. You have to be, "live and in person" to describe this gizmo and the whatchamacallit it attaches to. Like giving street directions, hand gestures are essential to describing a gizmo.

I was in luck. Don, the owner of the store, was there and able to understand my description. Better still, he had what I was looking for.

Things were quiet at this little store, so Don and I struck up a conversation. We know each other a little bit. During our chat, he mentioned riding his bicycle. I asked if he rode for grins or for exercise. Don is a big guy and about my age. It was a loaded question. Being big and fiftyish means you're probably starting to pay for all that football and construction work from your youth.

Sure enough, Don has a regular regimen on his bicycle to keep a few pounds away, stay limber and be able to buy his pants in a regular store ... not a canvas shop.

When it came to my turn in the discussion, I mentioned that I try to get in a brisk three-mile walk every morning with the dogs. I added that I'm so stiff and sore in the morning I can barely make it to the kitchen to make coffee. After my walk I'm pretty good for the rest of the day.

Don said he used to run regularly, but his knees gave out. So, he reverted to walking for exercise, until his feet gave out. Now he rides his bike.

I asked about his feet. Turns out he has the same problem as me. He has a big body pounding down on a high arch that resulted in heel spurs. The doctors call it plantar something-or-other. The next thing you know, we're comparing notes on our aching feet.

I told Don about the ski boot contraption a doctor sold me. I was supposed to wear it in bed at night to keep the arch stretched. All it did was keep me awake. That was a few hundred bucks down the drain.

Don one-upped me with a story about a podiatrist and his thousands of dollars wrapped up in office visits, X-rays, custom shoe inserts, shots, treatments, etc. He's still riding his bike because it hurts too much to walk.

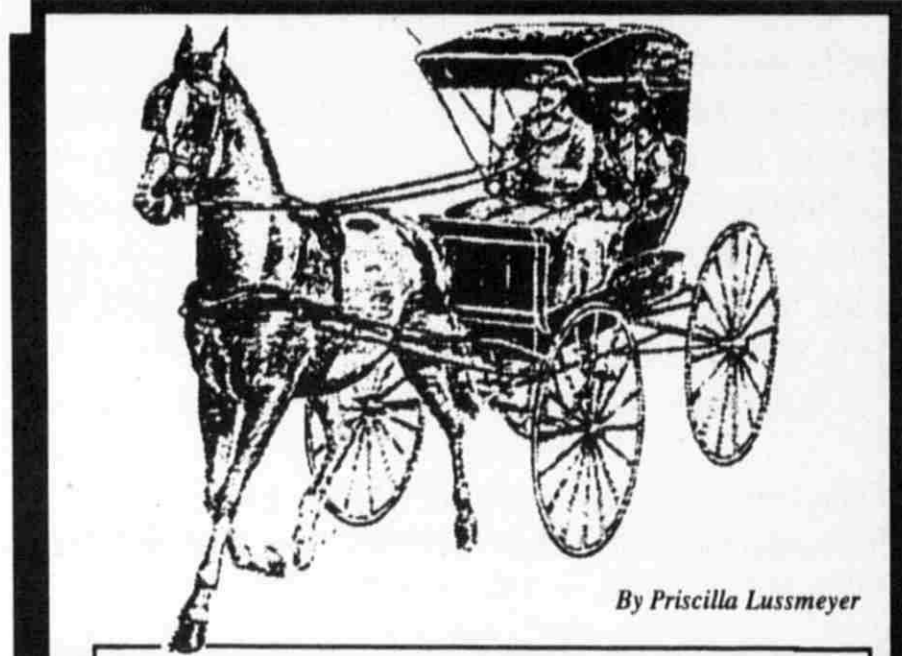
During Don's diatribe about his podiatrist, another customer overheard us and jumped in. Same deal... he was over six feet tall, over two hundred pounds and over fifty years old. We should start a fraternity, "Phi Biga Old Guy."

The new guy in the discussion had done it all, doctors, podiatrists, physical therapists, voodoo, etc. We're all laughing, joking and pulling off our shoes to compare arch support inserts. We were having a high old time. In the old days the topic would have been girls, or sports, or girls. Now it is arch supports. Pretty sad.

Don showed off his high priced custom podiatry specials. I whipped out my current favorites, some Dr. Scholl's brand things I found at the drugstore. The new guy showed off his El Cheapo's from a discount store. "Four bucks, and they work better than anything I've tried," he said. Don and I were very impressed.

We finally got down to taking care of business. The new guy left with his doo-dad purchase and limped to his car. Don and I weren't so impressed with his cheap inserts after watching the guy walk. I paid for my gizmo, and hobbled out the door. And, I'm sure Don continued to gimp around the store, stocking the shelves with more thing-a-ma-jigs.

Merry Christmas everybody!



By Priscilla Lussmeyer

Ledger Entries

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

125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL
DECEMBER 25, 1878

Watch out for counterfeit silver dollars. Miss Mary Owen of Lowell has accepted a position as teacher at Saranac High School.

Prof. Strassburg and Son are teaching a gentleman's class and starting a ladies' class, to be combined later when all know the plain and three-step glides being taught.

Prof. J.B. Steers of Michigan University will deliver his lecture on the Upper Amazon at the South Boston Grange on Monday.

Another undisclosed company has offered to finish construction of the Kalamazoo Lowell and Northern Michigan Railway.

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER
DECEMBER 24, 1903

St. Louis is working on permanent buildings on the 1,240 acres chosen for the Worlds Fair. Main buildings are called "exhibit palaces."

A pile of blankets in front of Ruben & Co. dry goods store is damaged by a carelessly tossed cigar butt; they are having a fire sale.

The Interstate Commerce Commission calls for regulation of railroads to make them safer. "The slaughter of passengers is disgraceful."

Local news: Mrs. E.D. Yeiter of Seeley Corners received over \$100 for her flock of turkeys.

With the first Ledger issue this year on Jan. 1 and the last on Dec. 31, subscribers got 53 issues for their subscription year.

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER
AND THE ALTO SOLO DECEMBER 27, 1928

Ola English, daughter of editor Frank Johnson and his wife Myrtila, dies on Christmas day.

The Santa Claus Girls and the Cheerful Doers distribute gifts to 57 families.

The Sunday Herald recommends the "no speed limit" law in the same issue as the death of Frank Lockard in his "Dream Car" crash at 215 mph.

Prof. Shapley of Harvard Observatory says the center of the universe is located in the constellation Sagittarius. Flu is making the rounds.

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER
DECEMBER 24, 1953

A note in Along Main Street reminds parents that they may be liable to pay for a child's vandalism on public property, up to \$300.

The first 100 kids arriving at the Ledger office Thursday morning will receive a Newell Mfg. Co. Airfire gun.

The projected Agricultural School in the Alto-Clarksville-Freepport area would have an enrollment of about 900 students.

There were 700 children who attended last Saturday's Christmas party at the Strand Theatre.

Winter made its entrance on Dec. 21 with light rain turning to considerable snow and very slippery roads.

25 YEAR THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER
DECEMBER 27, 1978

Bids for relocation of Thornapple River Dr. and the 2400-foot extension of the east runway at Grand Rapids Airport are out. Numerous articles about Christmas preparations include the Plant of the Week: Christmas Pepper.

It's not too soon to sign up for College Week at MSU next June, for a choice of 50 classes and even some dormitory life.

Examination of plants for available hydrocarbons goes on in the wake of fuel scarcity. The new science is called "Botano-Chemicals."

Grand Valley State University starts a half-million-dollar campaign to build a new football-track field on the site of the old one.

TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

A generous lady who prefers to remain anonymous donated her violin to the 6th grade string class at Lowell Middle School last week. She came to the office and offered her violin saying she doesn't use it anymore and had heard that the new string program could make good use of it.

Dear lady, your instrument was in perfect condition

needing only new strings and a bow, has a very lovely and bright tone and arrived just in time to fill a need. One of our students has outgrown her 3/4 size violin and is already using yours until she and her family are able to purchase one of her own. It will be passed along from student to student or used as a demonstration instrument by the teacher and be a treasured part of our program for the future—our very first school-owned violin. What a generous gift! Christmas came early to Lowell Strings!

Lowell Middle School 6th grade string class;
Marti DeYoung, teacher;
Linda Warren, principal;
Shari Miller, school superintendent

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

GESTATIONAL DIABETES (DIABETES OF PREGNANCY)

Gestational diabetes is a kind of diabetes some women may get with pregnancy. If a woman gets gestational diabetes, her body cannot use glucose (blood sugar) the way it is supposed to; therefore too much sugar stays in the blood. If you have gestational diabetes, you might be able to control your blood sugar levels with exercise and a healthy diet - in worse cases, insulin shots are needed to keep the sugar levels in the normal range.

A healthy diet can help protect you and your baby from gestational diabetes. For most pregnant women, a normal diet consists of 2200 to 2500 calories per day. If you are overweight before you get pregnant, you will need fewer calories than other women. It is very important to pay attention to what you eat, and when you eat it.

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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. DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Nursery & child care available at both services Barrier - Free Entrance	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. Prayer and Praise - Wed., 7:00 P.M. Rev. Rick Ferguson - 987-6475 ALL ARE WELCOME! (Barrier-Free)	CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God) 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Senior Pastor Dave Noonon, Asst. Pastor Stacy Holmes, College & Twenties Brian Baber, Youth Pastor 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.	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: 10-10:30 AM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OPEN TO ADULTS - CALL BRENDA SERONG 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48, EFTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING
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. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremmer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible	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 Pastor Robert L. Hubbard Phone: (616) 897-1267 website www.aplighthouse.com	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. PASTOR TIM DESHAH Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance	BIBLE BELIEVERS CHURCH 901 W. Main St. • 616-485-4195 (Across from Vennan Dealership) Sunday School.....10:00 A.M. AM Service.....11:00 A.M. PM Service.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday Prayer Meeting.....7:30 P.M. Solid teaching and preaching where the Bible is the final authority.
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Contract talks back on schedule for LAS teachers & support staff

By Dan Schneider

Mediation resumed last Wednesday in the contract dispute between the Lowell Area Schools district and teachers and support staff. Talks had been delayed since Oct. 20 while the district waited for the state legislature to make its budget decisions regarding school funding.

Talk at the mediation session focused on contract-lan-

guage issues. "We cleaned up a lot of the language issues," LEA president, Dorianne Truax said last Thursday. "I feel really good about the bargaining we did last night."

LAS assistant superintendent for finance and personnel, Connie Gillette called the mediation "uneventful."

"We reached a couple of tentative agreements on some minor language issues," Gillette said. She described

the tenor of the mediation as "cordial, not confrontational at all."

Progress on the language issues included an agreement on two-days notice for personal leave, and tentative agreements regarding substitute teacher pay rates, funds available for class reimbursement, and language involving layoffs and recall.

The state funding issues remained unresolved by the

tenor of the mediation. Therefore, the discussion was unable to address the major issues that stand in the way of settling the contract. The district needs a clear idea of the state funding picture to inform its proposals regarding salary and health insurance payments.

"Our offer is based upon what we had at the beginning of the year and depending on what happens at the state level,

that could change significantly," Gillette said.

For the first time in the course of contract negotiations, a member of the LAS board of education attended the mediation. Board of education secretary, Pat Nugent volunteered to attend the session.

Nugent said the board trusts Gillette and its lawyer, Don Bonato, to make deci-

sions in the negotiations but wanted a more personal view of the proceedings.

"We were a little concerned about what the situation was like so we decided it was time to have one of us attend," he said.

The mediations are set to resume a more regular schedule. There are two sessions scheduled for January on the 7th and 14th.

having the freedom to make mistakes. He wishes that parents and teachers would admit making mistakes to students and would talk about the nature of making mistakes to them. According to Dr. Brooks, it is important for children to know that most individuals have fear in regard to making mistakes. Fear interferes with emotional development and decreases our desire to try new activities. We can dialogue with children by asking such questions as "Should we insult and make fun of people when they make mistakes?" It is quite likely that most children will respond "no" to this question. An open discussion of their fears can teach children that mistakes are a normal part of learning.

Children who have a strong sense of self-esteem seem to understand that mistakes are experiences to learn from rather than to be defeated by. If children do not view mistakes as events to be learned from, they often feel helpless. The feeling of helplessness can lead to becoming the class clown, being a bully, or to self-destructive behavior.

Self-esteem originates from feeling valued. Initially feeling valued comes from outside of ourselves but after being successful in different situations and being affirmed by others,

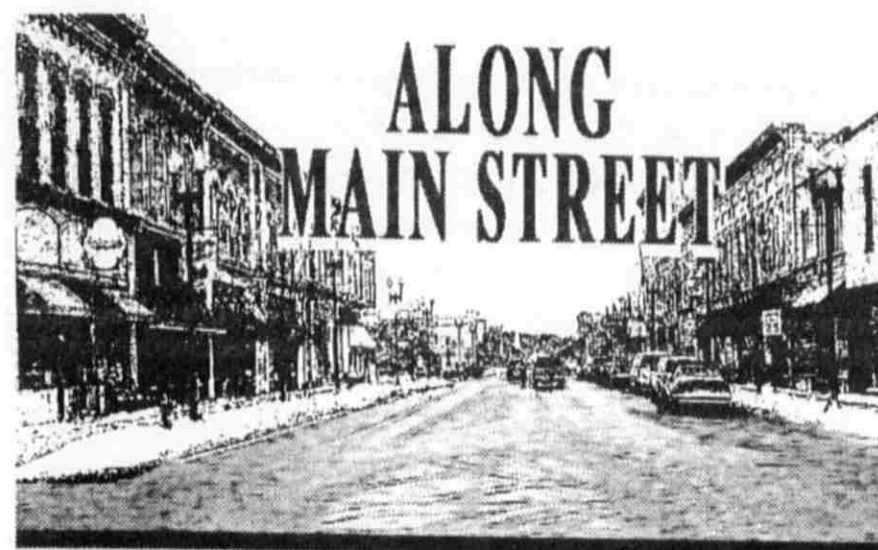
self-esteem will become internalized. Many children and adolescents feel they are not competent. Dr. Brooks says, "I believe every child in the world has at least one small island of competency, one area which can serve as a source of pride." Finding that island of competency and offering ways for children to contribute can help them build self-esteem. The feeling that one is making a contribution is very powerful. A child's life can be dramatically changed if adults can help the child see their own talents and use the child's strengths as a way to overcome weaker areas.

Dr. Brooks' third strategy suggests giving choices to children. He points out that anything can be a choice or a decision. If children are given choices, they are usually more willing to try harder. Real choices appropriate to children's ages permit them to experiment, make mistakes, and learn in nonthreatening situations.

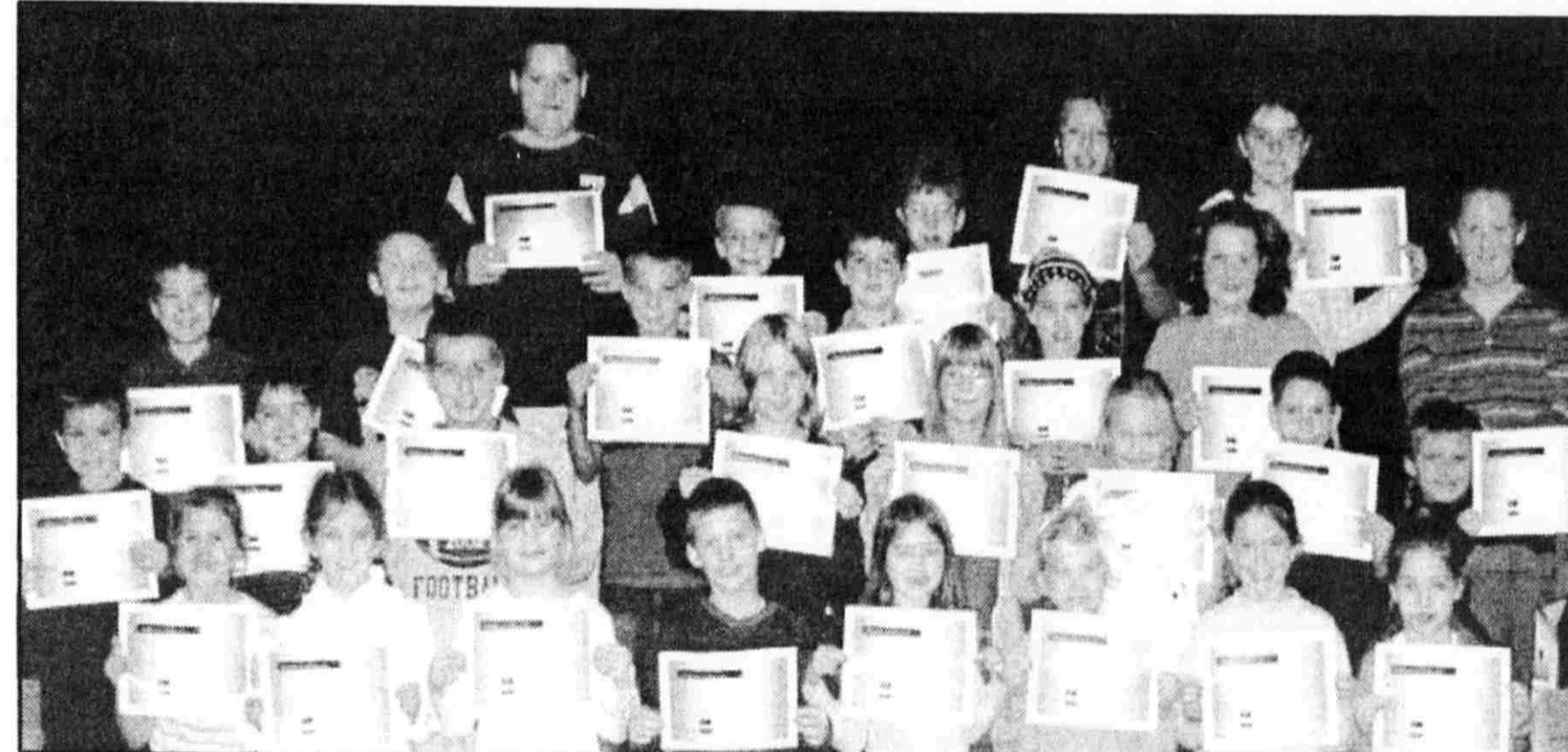
If the child feels capable in certain situations and is successful, then the child is willing to try more new activities. Each success leads to stronger self-confidence and higher self-esteem.

Personally I'm always ready to learn, although I do not always like being taught.

-Winston Churchill

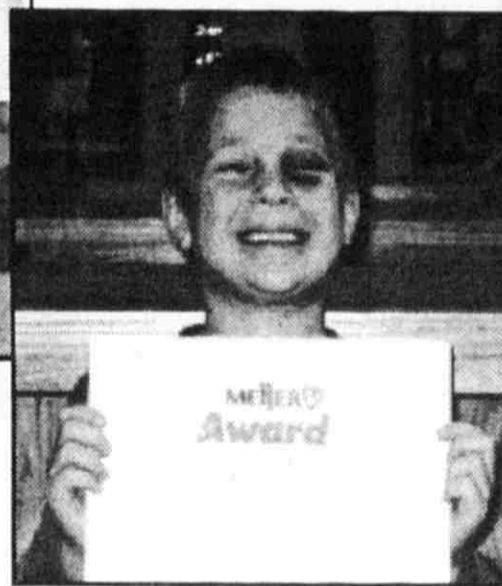


Character in Action awards



Pictured are Cherry Creek's Character in Action award recipients: front row: Michelle Griffioen, Mary Thieling, Lauren Blanchard, Kelvin Anderson, Makela Chapman, Shelby Antel, Delaine Ferguson and Erin Duma; second row: Jack Dues, Derek Bitterman, Grant Noskey, Nora Edwards, Licia Feuerstein, Jessica Alberts, Conner Acker and Danny Cowden; third row: Shawn Dulin, Chase Treglia, Tyler Collins, Kyle Rogers, Tory Abel, Jocelyn Fongers and Bravot Morris; back row: Griffen Brenk, Adam Hubert, Ryan VanHeulen, Krysta Jankowski and Hailey Duram. Missing from picture: Sam Whaley and Valdete Selimi.

Pictured at right is Ryan Den Braven who was awarded this month's Meijer Dignity and Respect Award.



Ryan Den Braven

The Lowell Ledger-Wednesday, December 24, 2003 - Page 7 CHRISTMAS TREE SHREDDING

The Wittenbach Center will offer a community event on Saturday, Jan. 3. Christmas tree shredding from 12-4 p.m. (pick up available in city/Eastgate, 897-1355); also a luminary walk from 4-6 p.m. (snowshoes available for rent). Live music by Lowell String Ensemble.

FAST PITCH CLINIC

The LHS softball coaches will hold a fast pitch clinic at Riverside gym for girls interested in becoming a softball pitcher. Grades 6 and under at 6 p.m.; grades 7-8, 7 p.m. Dates: Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29 & Feb. 5, 12, 19 and 26. Cost: \$30, includes T-shirt. Pick up applications at Lowell Middle School, Cherry Creek, Alto and Bushnell elementaries. Call Bob Rodenhouse at 897-4125 (school) or 245-4596.

MURRAY LAKE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

All community members are invited to an open house for the new Murray Lake Elementary School (corner of Alden Nash NE & Lally) on Saturday, Jan. 17 from 1-3 p.m. Hosts include some of the future Murray Lake teachers and Family Links (Parent Club) members.

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McDonald's helps skiers "Discover" Michigan

McDonald's restaurants and 20 ski areas throughout the state are partnering to offer a program. "Discover Michigan Skiing" that provides customers an opportunity to ski and snowboard at discounted prices.

Customers can now pick up a Discover Michigan Skiing Value Voucher at participating McDonald's, including Lowell, which can be redeemed for affordable "learn-to-ski" or "learn-to-snowboard" packages. The costs for downhill or cross-country ski packages are \$30 (adults) and \$20 (children ages seven to 14); snowboard packages

are \$40 (ages 10 and older). The vouchers, good from Jan. 5 - Jan. 31, list the ski areas offering the program. Participants choose the place they wish to visit and then call to pre-register.

The program is designed to give beginners a proper introduction to skiing, said Mickey MacWilliams, executive director of the Michigan Snowsports Industries Association, which represents the ski industry in a number of programs, including Discover Michigan Skiing.

Participating ski areas include: Boyne Mountain in Boyne Falls, Caberfae Peaks

in Cadillac, Cannonsburg, Mt. Holiday in Traverse City, Nubs Nob in Harbor Springs,

Pando Winter Sports Park in Rockford and Shanty Creek in Bellaire, to name a few.

For more information go to www.goskimichigan.com



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401(K) LOANS CAN BE COSTLY TO YOUR FUTURE

If you work for a company that offers a 401(k), consider yourself fortunate. A 401(k) offers tax-deferred earnings growth, the ability to make pre-tax contributions and a variety of investment choices. Your 401(k) may also offer a loan feature—but you may want to think twice before using it.

At first glance, a 401(k) loan may sound appealing. After all, you're only borrowing from yourself, and you can make repayments gradually. Furthermore, the rate on most 401(k) loans is quite competitive. And you can usually borrow up to \$50,000 or half the balance of your account, whichever is smaller. You typically have five years to repay your loan; if you've taken the money out to purchase a home, however, you may have up to 30 years.

So given these inducements to taking out a 401(k) loan, you might be tempted to call up your employee benefits office if you're in need of cash. On the other hand, there are some major disadvantages to borrowing from your 401(k). Let's look at them:

• *You'll use "after-tax" dollars to repay loan* - Your 401(k) contributions are typically made with pre-tax dollars, resulting in a lower taxable income for you. But when you repay a 401(k) loan, you're using after-tax dollars, so you get no tax break. Also, those dollars will be taxed again when you eventually withdraw them for retirement. Consequently, you'll pay taxes two times on the money you use to pay back your loan - and this double taxation can greatly inflate the cost of borrowing from your 401(k).

• *You must pay the loan back quickly upon leaving job* - When you take out a 401(k) loan, you may plan on staying in your job for a long time. But things can change. You may find another career opportunity you want to pursue, or you may face a layoff. If you leave your job voluntarily or involuntarily, you'll need to repay your 401(k) loan completely, usually within 60 days. If you can't, the balance will be considered a

taxable distribution—and you may even have to pay a 10 percent penalty on it.

• *You'll slow progress toward your retirement goals* - Possibly the most important reason to avoid taking out a 401(k) loan is that such a loan can reduce the funds you'll eventually have for retirement; the money you borrow does not have the opportunity to grow. While it's true that you will eventually pay the loan back, you will have taken some money out of the market—possibly out of a bull market. Even worse, you could find it prohibitively expensive to both pay back your loan and add new dollars to your 401(k), causing you to

temporarily cut back, or eliminate, your contributions.

Clearly, you've got some real issues to consider before borrowing from your 401(k). In fact, you may want to consider some alternatives. You can probably find a low-rate home equity loan, and your interest payments may be tax-deductible. (Keep in mind, though, that you are using your house as collateral.)

In any case, think long and hard before tapping into your 401(k). This plan was created for one reason—to help you save for retirement. That's a worthy goal to preserve.



Flat River Snowmobile Club check to help with restoration

Bradley Potter, treasurer of the Flat River Snowmobile Club, hands a check to Judy Straub, director of the Lowell Area Historical Museum. The snowmobile club donated \$1,000 to the museum for the purchase of a gaming table.

The table will go in the Victorian parlor once restoration of the east half of the Graham house is complete. Work has been underway since August to restore the space to create two rooms for changing exhibits in addition to a period-accurate dining room and parlor.

In the 1870s, when the Graham house was built, houses typically had gaming tables in their parlors on which card games, chess and checkers were played. The snowmobile club, being a recreational club, felt this would be an appropriate item to sponsor for the museum. The museum has not yet found such a table to purchase.

The Flat River Snowmobile Club is going out of business due to lack of membership. Since it is a nonprofit organization, the club is donating its assets to charitable causes in the area.

Show Us Your Smile!

DECEMBER SMILE OF THE MONTH:

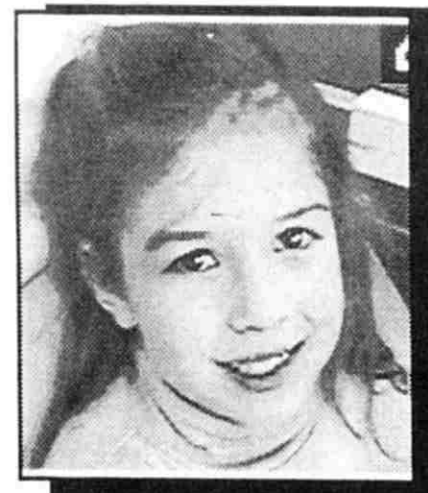
NAME:.....Jasmine Peters

AGE:.....5 years old

BIRTHDAY.....12/8/98

HOBBIES.....Playing with her dolls, singing and coloring

She receives a prize for his great checkup.



December "No Cavities" Club Members

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Jeremy Bergin | Kelsey Mankel | Sara Schuitema |
| Nicole Hough | Amanda Waltz | Jasmine Peters |
| Jeffrey Waltz | Kaleigh Vankeulen | Trenton Zambrano |
| Kyle Mankel | Brooke Sitzer | Allison Roth |
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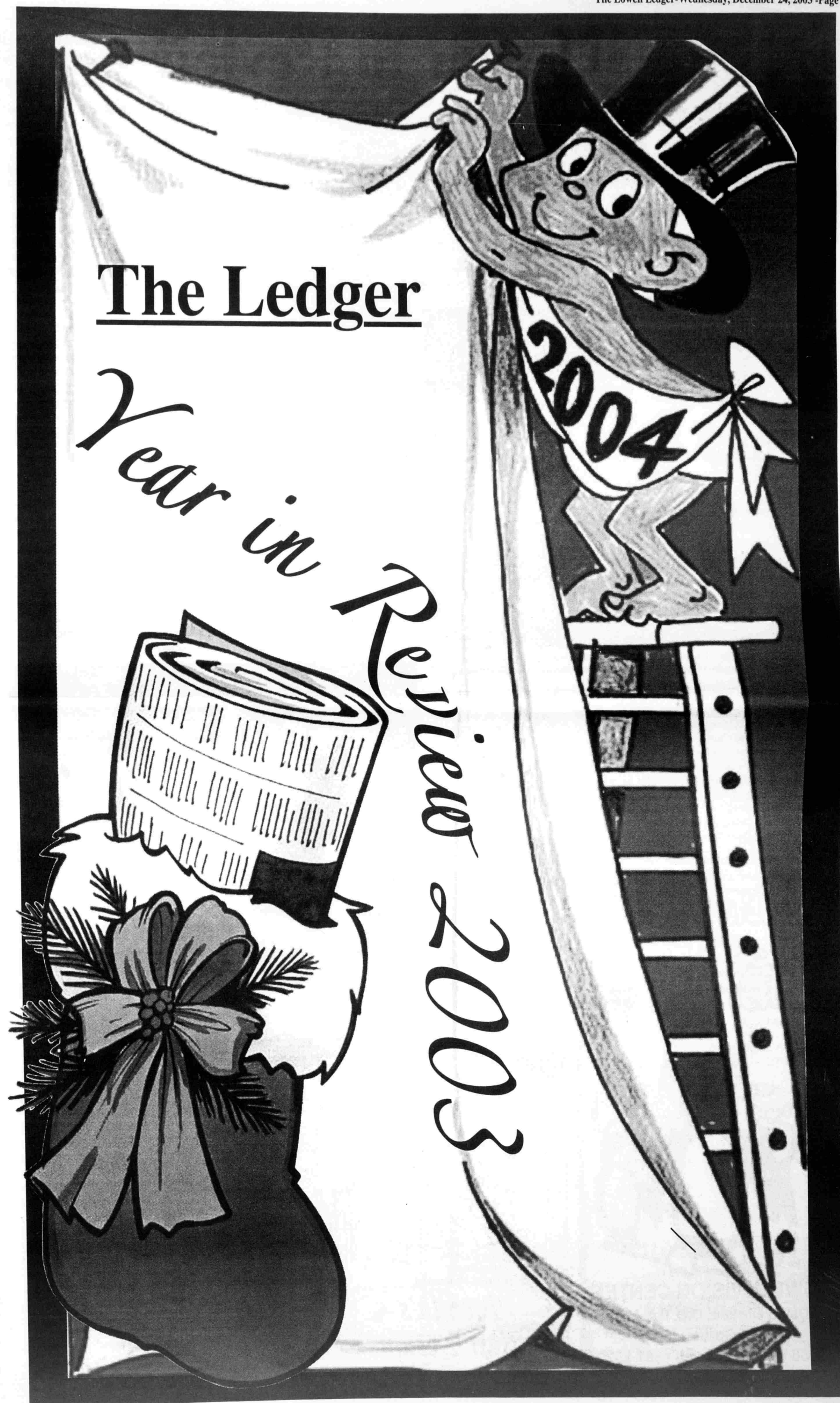
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• 2003 Year in Review •

JANUARY 1, 2003

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

"Our five-point mission focuses on enhancing and being an asset to the community," explained Greg Gilmore, chief executive and president of Gilmore Enterprises. "We try to do things

ompsen, vice chairman for fundraising.

Vergennes Township will begin the new year tackling changes to its home based business ordinance.

The changes will be discussed at the Vergennes Township Planning Commission.

The proposed changes will require a zoning compli-

early December. Lowell Middle School and Cherry Creek Elementary students will recognize Mork as a district kitchen and playground employee.

JANUARY 15, 2003

Authorities are close to making arrests of subjects involved in the rash of breaking and entering cases which have occurred within the past sev-

the many Americans who have preceded him.

Two weeks ago, Stoutjesdyk, a U.S. Army specialist in motor transportation, was placed on high alert.

The Lowell High School security officer is familiar with the routine. He has seen 18 fellow soldiers from his unit get reassigned.

"They have been sent to Africa, Germany and Iraq and a number of other places," Stoutjesdyk said.

A call would mean Stoutjesdyk would be away for nine months to two years.

As a motor transportation specialist, his job would be to transport fuel and ammunition.

With increasing numbers, now more than ever before, school improvement and staff development at Lowell's Unity High School are imperative.

Currently there are 75 students enrolled during the day and 20 night class residents.

Half of the Unity High School graduates (25) last year went on to college, according to Marleen Heemstra.

The director, along with Tonya Sandborn, science/life

skills instructor and Darla Palmer, language arts teacher, present the school improvement and professional development plans to the board of education.

JANUARY 22, 2003

Gov. Jennifer Granholm's cuts in school funding stand to cost the Lowell School District \$261,000.

That will likely stand unless legislators respond with an alternative plan within 30 days that the governor will sign.

In December, Lowell assistant superintendent to finance and personnel, Connie Gillette presented a budget which reflected deficit spending in the amount of \$314,000.

Lowell currently harnesses a \$3.4 million fund balance. The amount is mitigated when one learns it cost \$2.2-\$2.5 million a month to run the district.

Of that fund balance total, \$300,000 is reserved for the new buildings and \$150,000 for curriculum.

Lowell Middle School eighth-graders may not spend

a R-I-C-H-R 20 minutes during their school day than when in their morning contact period.

Through the guidance of Lynn Rocca, eighth-graders are participating in an activity called "Contact Olympics."

The charge is to help students make a connection between the language of the community character traits and the behaviors.

Greg Gilmore, chief executive and president of Gilmore Enterprises, talked to everyone who took part in the three-night pre-opening Flat River Grill fundraiser.

The Lowell Area Education Foundation can't say enough about Gilmore's generosity and support of its educational endeavors.

The event raised \$5,150 toward the foundation's goal in providing funds and resources for enhanced programs and innovative learning.

The mid-week event allowed 150 patrons to get a sneak-peek and taste of the menu offered by the Flat River Grill.



Troy Gillan as the gentleman caller, Jim and Lara Vanderheiden as the daughter, Laura, make up half the cast of the Thebes Players' production of "The Glass Menagerie" by Tennessee Williams.

for organizations throughout the community but really look for things pertaining to children and education."

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

ance permit instead of a special use permit.

Janine Mork is the newest smiling face at Vergennes Township Hall.

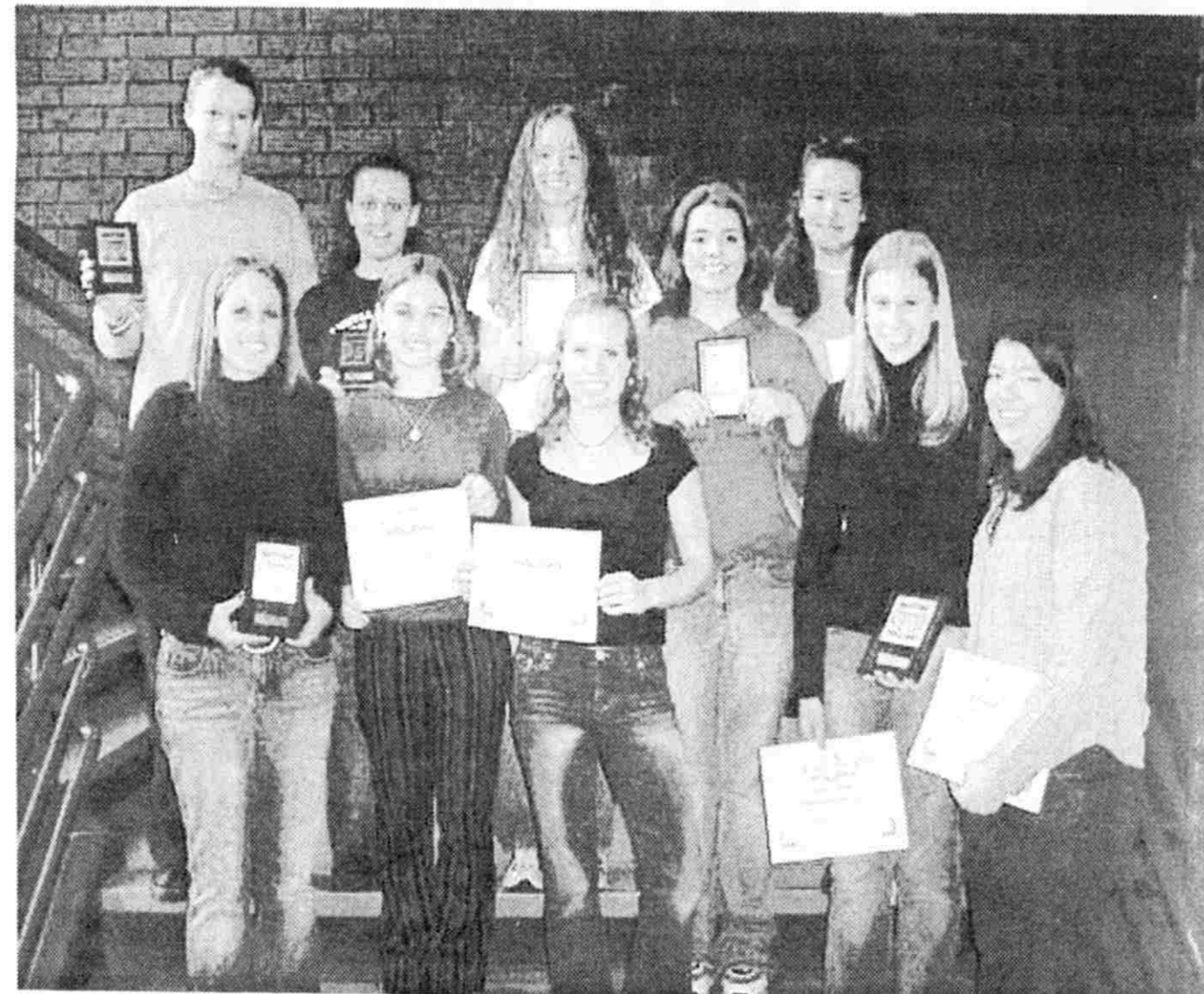
Mork began her role as the township receptionist in

eral months.

There have been seven such crimes in both the residential and business areas from Alto to Greenville.

Lowell Area Police Department investigator, James Hinton, working in cooperation with the Kent County Sheriff's Department, Ionia County Sheriff's Department and the Michigan State Police post in Ionia, said police believe all seven cases involve the same multiple subjects.

It's a call Jason Stoutjesdyk would prefer not to get, but it's a call he will answer with the pride, strength and love for his country like



Lowell High School business students took home awards from the Business Professionals of America Regional Workplace Skills Assessment competition.

Merry Christmas!

Sarah Cyrocki
Mr. Jacobus
Cherry Creek Elementary

Ben Berlin
Mrs. Vezino
St. Patrick School

LOWELL VISION CENTER
David Durkee, O.D. F.A.A.O.
Heidi Gordon, O.D.
2186 W. Main, Lowell • 897-2020

Kylee Carlson
Mrs. Young
Cherry Creek Elementary

Brenda's Hair Design
1002 W. Main, Lowell
Ph. 897-7131

Kallie Holzhueter
Mrs. Young
Cherry Creek Elementary

Providing students with a clear idea and vision of the career they want to pursue is the task of Lowell's "School to Career" program.

"At least once a year we want students to think about what they want to do for a career," said School to Career director, Carla Stone.

The program assists students with questions such as what career they are best suited for, what they need to do to be successful, and what courses they need to take.

JANUARY 29, 2003

Cont'd. next page . . .

Year-In-Review, continued...

Increases in licensing fees have forced Lowell Cable Television to raise its rates. LCT general manager, Tom Richards presented the city council with an increase in rates for both basic and digital, along with a new underground installation fee.

The Board of Cable Television recommended, and the council unanimously approved, increasing the basic rate, which includes 49 channels, from \$26.80 to \$28.30 per month. Digital Cable rates for entry level would go from \$12.95 to \$14.25 per month. After notification, the increases would be effective in March.

The increases are a direct result of increases in the licensing fees for basic cable which has gone up \$1.44 per subscriber, Richards said.

The costs of a proposed underground project came in simply too high for the city budget, with the Lowell City Council asking how much it would be for further studies.

Dave Austin, of Williams and Works, presented the city council with a study in the area of Faith, Carol Lynne and Jane Ellen drives in the Valley Vista subdivision concerning the possibility of a proposed underground drain to help the residents with water in their basements.

The cheapest way to do nothing at a cost of nothing ... to the most expensive - \$186,000 to install an underground drain that ran from Jane Ellen Drive to Carol Lynne Drive, connecting to an existing underground drain behind Roberta Jayne Drive.

It was always the intention of the Lowell Airport Board to eventually replace the sign marking the entrance to the airport.

During the first snowfall earlier this year, when the roads were slippery, it appears someone attempted to enter the airport via Lincoln Lake. From the track marks, it looks as though the driver made too wide a turn and in the process brought down the sign. The driver has never been located.

With that in mind, the board decided now was the time to look at a new sign for the entrance, something similar to that of the city signs.

Liz Baker, executive director of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, calls it an important piece to the Lowell marketing puzzle. Baker and the chamber's merchants committee will use a collective advertising campaign to further promote Lowell businesses.

Some of the advertising vehicles the merchants committee will use include local newspapers, WTRV, WFG

and a monthly half page ad in Ionia's daily newspaper.

Lowell Charter Township's board delayed voting on disbursement of its Community Development Block Grant funds until February.

The township has \$13,685.44 available in funds for the 2002/03 fiscal year after \$15,000 has been set aside for the township hall handicap accessibility project.

Remaining funds will be used toward North Kent Transit Service and Rockford Ambulance.

Beginning in February, Lowell Rotary Club will embark on a "Donate a Phone" fundraising campaign.

Over a 90-day time period, Rotary will collect used cell phones lying idle in Lowell's closets and drawers in need of reprogramming, refurbishing or recycling.

The Donate a Phone Raising program is a new approach to fundraising. It was developed by the CITA Wireless Foundation and ReCellular Inc., the philanthropic organization for the country's wireless industry.

FEBRUARY 5, 2003

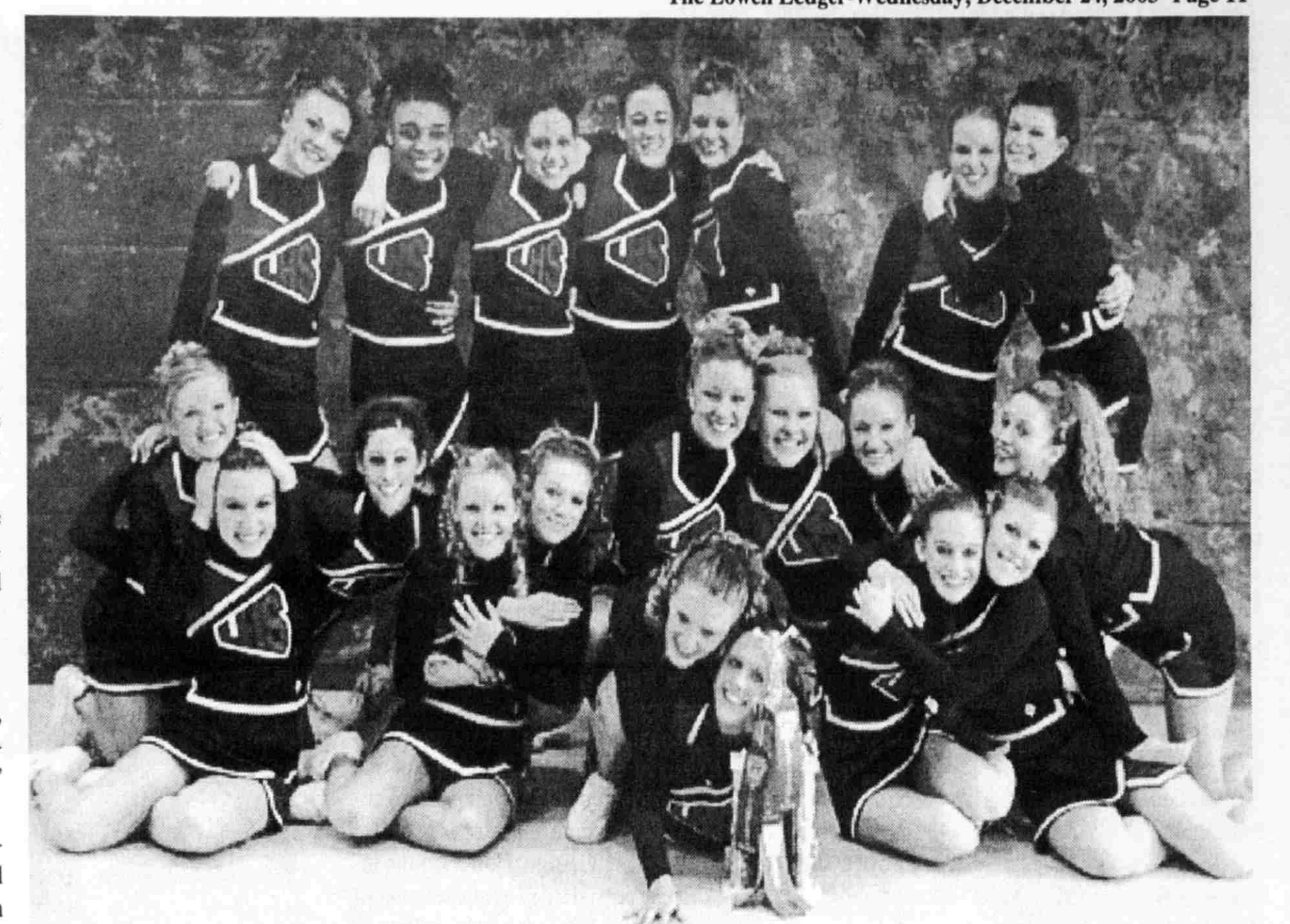
Ken Friedrich, 11337 52nd St., presented a preliminary site plan for a PUD to the Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission.

The plan calls for a total of 11 sites, a private road with two cul-de-sacs and open space.

Friedrich wants to develop the property as a residential PUD to allow for two-acre building sites.

Feb. 14 is the date districts around the state expect to receive a broken arrow for Valentine's Day symbolizing funding shortcomings in Lansing.

In anticipation of forthcoming cuts in education, the Legislation Branch of Michigan Association of People Transportation has begun putting into place proposed programs to raise private dollars



The Lowell girls varsity sideline cheer team won first place in the first ever sideline cheer competition at Lowell High School.

so that the transportation of 900,000 children across the state is not unduly affected.

The Lowell Police Department, working in conjunction with the Kent County Sheriff's Department and the Ionia County Sheriff's Department, has charged four individuals with numerous break-ins, larcenies, and a stolen auto.

An estimated \$30,000 in stolen property has been accounted for and/or recovered.

The crimes occurred in several locations throughout Kent and Ionia counties.

Arrested and released on felony charges of breaking and entering (counts) and released on bond were Jerry Joe Farr, 19, of Lowell; Ronald Alan Farr Jr., 19, of Lowell; Lane Edward Vickers, 21, of Lowell; and Jeffrey Douglas Kooiman, 18, of Alto.

One's social, emotional, spiritual and physical wellness are essential aspects in bringing quality to one's family life.

According to Lowell's Melissa Athmann, MA, LLPC, and Beverly Anderson, MSW, the focus of 4 Health Wellness Center, at 77 Bridge St. in Saranac, is to help individuals and families grow.

Between Anderson and Athmann, the two provided similar family type services at the Franciscan Life Process Center for 15 years.

With little fanfare, Clark Jahnke took over the reins of the Lowell City Planning Commission.

Jahnke was elected by the commission as the new chair after former chairman, James Hall made an announcement in November that he would not be seeking re-election but would remain on as a commissioner.

Lowell City Council gives its permission for the Lowell Little League to install six chain link dugouts for the east three fields at Creekside Park.

FEBRUARY 12, 2003

A wholesale lumber op-

eration on the corner of Alden Nash and 60th St. will require rezoning AG-1 property to commercial/industrial which does not conform to the Master Plan and could be considered spot zoning.

An alternative for the Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission would be to consider a use allowed by Special Use Permit in AG-1 — "Specialized Collection and Storage Facilities for agricultural products not grown on premises."

Her arguments were compelling and change will probably occur, just not in the form of a variance.

Candice Fleszar-Smith went before the Zoning Board of Appeals anticipating ask-

ing for a variance so she and her husband, Chris could erect a four-and-a-half foot high front yard fence at 417 Howard.

Under Section 4.07 B, fences in the required front yard are limited to three feet in height.

Smith's request for a recommendation from the planning commission for a variance fell through when the commissioners recommended against granting the variance.

Talk of moving and rebuilding the First Congregational Church of Lowell has occurred on three occasions in its rich history.

In the early 1930's the church's congregation

Cont'd next page . . .

Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer

Keiser's
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Kendall Hewitt
Mrs. Schneider
Alto Elementary

Christmas Joy to the World

Emily Jelsma
Mrs. Young
Cherry Creek Elementary

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Year-In-Review, continued...

squelched initial talks by one vote.

Roughly 70 years later (2002), the church parishioners have voted to pursue a new beginning.

The proposed \$3.5 million church and facility would provide a family center, educational rooms, day care, outreach programs and an expanded youth ministry in a park-like setting on 19.2 acres on the west side of Lincoln Lake Road south of the airport.

Jan McLeod floated around the idea of starting her own business for a year.

On Feb. 3, she did something about it as she opened the doors to Lowell's newest business, BalloonAttics at 220 W. Main St., located in the same building as D&L Tax Service.

Keith Boeve, Lowell High School Life Skills instructor, just shakes his head and smiles when discussing the immediate impact the partnership with the Franciscan Life Process Center is having on his special needs students.

The nine-week program that Boeve's 14 students have embarked on is being funded (\$500) through the Lowell Area Education Foundation.

This program helps the

students develop relationships - that one connection which keeps them motivated to do better in school.

The pride of Lowell football signed on the dotted line to play four years with the pride of West Michigan football.

Lowell fans, make that West Michigan high school football fans, received good news last Thursday when Mark Catlin signed to play football with Grand Valley State University.

The sensational Red Arrow QB who led Lowell to its first ever football state championship (Division II) will stay close to home to play at the next level.

FEBRUARY 19, 2003

A Lowell man went wild with excitement upon scratching off a Michigan Lottery "Casino Wild" instant ticket to reveal a \$100,000 top prize. "I scratched off the ticket and knew right away I had a winner," said the lucky man. "I screamed and yelled with excitement!"

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

He plans to use part of his winnings to buy a new car and new clothes.

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

Lowell students showcased their skills brilliantly with 12 students placing in the top seven in 13 different assessments and qualifying to compete at the State BPA Competition.

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

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

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

Harold Englehardt's Lowell Area Community Fund grant of \$150,000 (\$50,000 per year for three years) to the Lowell YMCA will offer safe, structured year-



Tyler Cornett plays an international form of hopscotch at the sixth annual "Read Across America" night.

round activities that provide teens with the tools and experience to become productive members of the community through teen leadership training, service learning, character development, and health education programs.

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

Kris Gallagher's desire to feel that her presence has made a difference has been a driving force behind the Ada resident's 17 years of volunteerism.

Cont'd next page...

Year-In-Review, continued...

teer service in the Lowell School District.

Gallagher, for her many years of service, will be presented with the Region IX Michigan Association for Middle School Education Parent of the Year award.

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

For the Lowell School District, it meant a cut of \$260,000 in the 2002-03 budget. That's in addition to an amended budget which indicated the district was already carrying a \$314,000 deficit.

That figure will likely change, based on early retirement, utilities, gas prices and the weather.

"The goal will be to do everything we possibly can not to lay off staff," said Connie Gillette, Lowell assistant superintendent to finance and personnel.

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

FEBRUARY 26, 2003

Jordan Moore never planned on playing football.

An eighth-grade football zizza party changed Moore's way of thinking.

Changes in attitude will result in a full tuition scholarship for Moore to play football at Ferris State University starting in the fall.

The trip to the 17th annual West Michigan Regional Competition enabled viewers to observe a high level of technical, creative, conceptual and aesthetic visual excellence.

Lowell Area Arts Council's annual competition opened on Feb. 16.

There were 60 pieces of art chosen for the show from the 280 submitted.

Lakewood's run at a state wrestling title in each of the previous three years was halted by Lowell.

Wednesday night at the Division II wrestling regional in Ionia, the Vikings defeated the Red Arrows by the slimmest of margins. The two teams battled to a 28-28 tie with the Vikings winning the match on second criterion (matches won 8-6).

Lowell Area Arts Council executive director, Lorain Smalligan accepts a check for \$3000 from Meijer for the LAAC's butterfly public art program with Lowell's elementary school children from Alto and Bushnell elementaries.

With the closing and/or downsizing of Family Fare, Newell Manufacturing and



Second graders at Cherry Creek Elementary learn about life in the 1800s through a "Grandma's Kitchen" presentation by the Lowell Area Historical Museum.

Attwood Corp. all within the last year, the city of Lowell was in need of some upbeat economic news.

City officials learned that an offer to purchase 65,000 square feet (original section) of the Newell building was accepted by investors.

The purchase offer was tendered by PURforms, a custom molder of polyurethanes, currently located at 835 Hall St. in Grand Rapids.

The Kent County Sheriff Department arrested three suspects in connection with an incident on I-96 in which a brick was thrown into the windshield of a moving vehicle.

Two adult suspects from the Alto area were lodged in the Kent County Correctional Facility.

One juvenile suspect was lodged at the Kent County Juvenile Detention Center.

Vicki (Roth) Comdure was the winner of the Lowell Area Historical Museum's Rotary Recognition Contest.

Comdure was able to correctly identify 25 of the 30 Rotarians pictured.

She will receive a dinner-for-two gift certificate to the Flat River Grill for her effort.

In an effort to help promote the use of such devices as backwater valves and drain floats, the city will be giving some residents drain floats as a preventive measure in sewer backups.

Public Works director, Dan DesJarden said he wanted \$500 to purchase drain floats to be given to residents identified as having a sewer backup due to a city or related problem. His plan was to give one to each resident who has been identified with the problem since 1997, a total of 32 homes.

While many Lowell residents were struggling to get home safely Feb. 11, the Lowell Public Works Department was fighting the elements in an effort to repair a serious sewer line break.

After a call in the 400 block of Howard about a sewer backup, public works em-

ployees began to check the system and discovered some problems; however, it wasn't until the employees tried to clear the line that the even bigger problem was discovered.

After calling in a crew to televise the line, the employees discovered that it was a pipeline break with rocks and dirt holding the road up, and if left unattended would have caused a cave-in large enough to "sink a small car."

Hoping to encourage new housing developments, the Lowell City Council unanimously agrees to reduce the size of the lots in suburban residential.

The proposal came after a lot of study by the Lowell Planning Commission, much of it done by former planning commissioner, John VanderWilp, examining lot size requirements of the city's suburban residential with those of surrounding communities. VanderWilp discovered that even compared with the townships, the city's lot sizes were larger. The change would decrease the size from 35,000 square feet to 23,000 square feet, still allowing for about half an acre of property.

MARCH 5, 2003

Lowell Rotary's fourth bi-annual auction will benefit three area organizations - Lowell YMCA, Lowell Area Arts Council and Lowell Area Historical Museum.

Two years ago, the auction raised money to help benefit Habitat for Humanity.

The difficult economic times facing school districts, while not unchartered, are troubled.

Talks of a \$2-\$3 million cut in the school's budget for the 2003-'04 year will challenge the district's way of doing business.

"We won't begin to identify possible cuts for next year until after the May revenue consensus hearing," Superintendent Shari Miller said. "In March we will get an indication of what the hearing may

hold when Gov. Granholm comes forth with her budget."

Carisa Sayer didn't know whether to break out a big smile or cry following her best high school career performance on the balance beam Saturday at the O-K Rainbow Conference meet in Holland.

Her 8.75 score was not only a personal best for the senior but it qualified her for the state gymnastics meet for the very first time in her career.



Holly Plattner, pictured here with her coach, Michele DeHaan, won her second straight state gymnastics title in the vault as a senior.

Not so fast, noted Lowell police chief and assistant city manager, Jim Valentine at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting. There is movement/growth taking place in Lowell.

Valentine points to Meijer coming to town and their recent announcement that PURforms will close its building in Grand Rapids and move its business into Lowell.

Cont'd next page...

Peace on Earth

Summer Moore
Mrs. Schneider
Alto Elementary

Have a Great Holiday

KayLee Westerhuis
Mrs. Schneider
Alto Elementary

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Jeffrey Waltz
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Year-In-Review,
continued...

Cherry Creek Elementary hosted its sixth annual Read Across America. The celebration was in recognition of National Reading Month (March).

Students and parents were given the opportunity to learn about Louis Braille: discovered and played the different variations of hopscotch from around the world; learned to read a new language; had an opportunity to trade an old book for a new book; and learned how to do the Pledge of Allegiance in sign language.

Increasing ridership drove the Lowell City Council to amend its contract with North Kent Transit Service.

This year's contract called for the city to pay a \$7,500 subsidy to handle senior and handicapped ridership.

At the end of December, halfway through North Kent's fiscal year, the city has used \$4,880 of its \$7,500, leading Tom Tilma of the Kent County Development Department to recommend that the city increase its subsidy to \$10,000 to handle the increased cost.

MARCH 12, 2003

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

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

This year, cum laude will require a grade point average of 3.0. Next year that will be



LHS put on the classic musical "Grease" for its spring production.

bumped up to 3.5 or higher.

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

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

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

Marcia McEvoy, a licensed psychologist, hosted an in-service day (Violence Prevention in Schools: How to Prevent Student Bullying, Mean Teasing, Intimidation

and Harassment) at Lowell High School for district administrators and teachers.

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

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

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

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

Six Lowell wrestlers placed at the Division II individual state meet at the Palace in Auburn Hills over the weekend.

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

Joe Mendez (112) and Brandon Kinney (119) won second consecutive state titles, while Bobby Gingerich (152) won his first state title.

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

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

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

amount of money.

Police had all three suspects in custody within 90 minutes of the bank robbery.

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

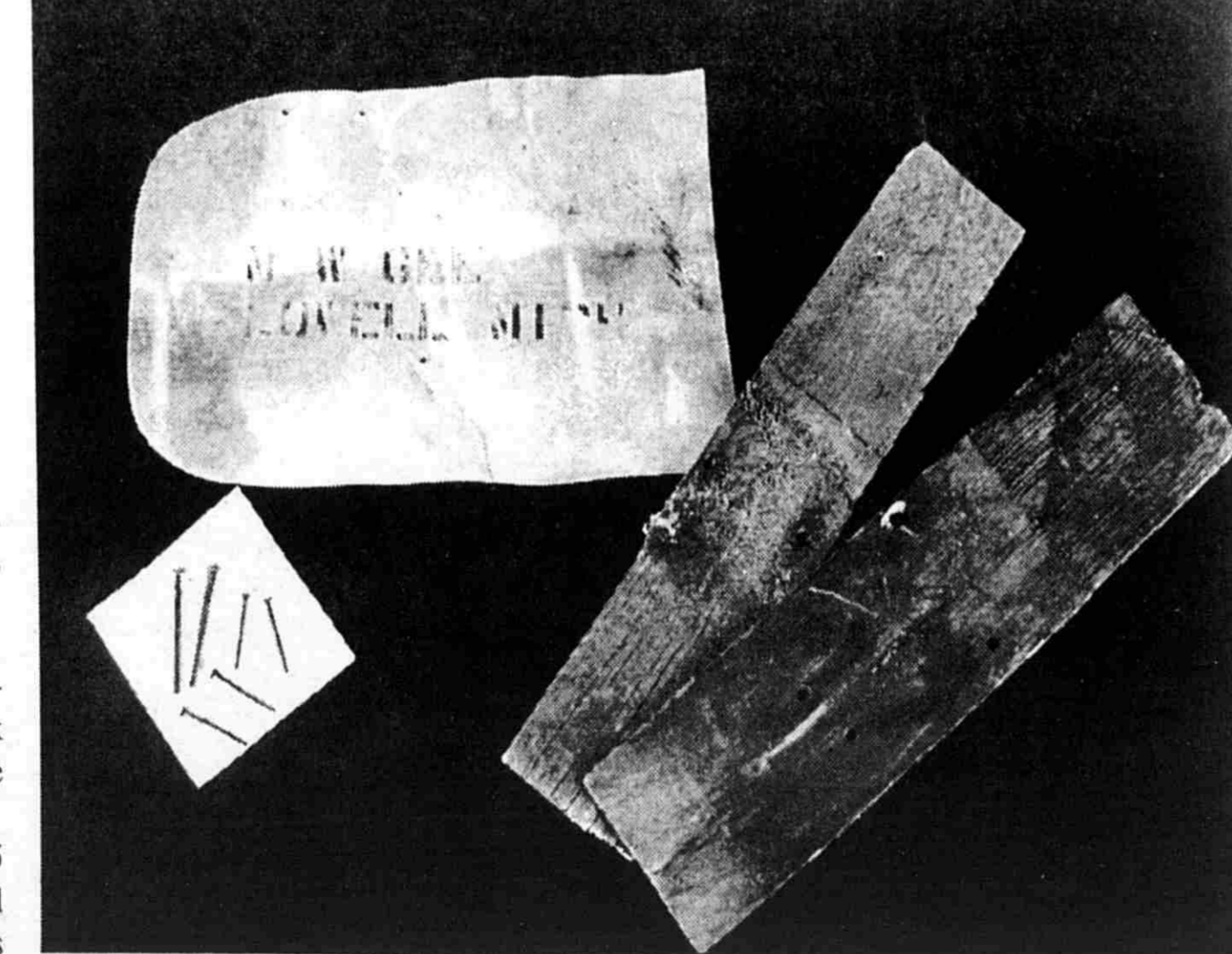
The two other suspects (two Lowell High School students - one male and one female) in the bank robbery were arrested in the nearby Meijer parking lot and later released, but neither has been officially charged in the case.

Lowell's Brett McMahon has been playing basketball since the first grade; he didn't, however, enter his first free-throw shooting contest until the seventh-grade.

During his performance in the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship at Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart, McMahon netted 23 of 25 foul shots to advance into a five-shot playoff in which he sank five-of-five shots to win the championship.

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

The idea was to teach students where the early settlers came from and what they did when they got here.



Square-headed nails, wood shingles and metal removed from the roof of the Lowell Area Historical Museum during its re-roofing.

MARCH 19, 2003

Lisa Johnson, an eighth grade student at Lowell Middle School, is named a local winner in the 34th annual America & Me Essay Contest.

Lowell's Brett McMahon has been playing basketball since the first grade; he didn't, however, enter his first free-throw shooting contest until the seventh-grade.

During his performance in the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship at Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart, McMahon netted 23 of 25 foul shots to advance into a five-shot playoff in which he sank five-of-five shots to win the championship.

Last year St. Mary's Pregnancy Center dispersed \$1,600 more in materials than it took in. That's a difficult way for a nonprofit organization to serve a community.

The news that the third class of Lowell Area Cham-

ber of Commerce's Leadership Institute was making the pregnancy center the beneficiary of its community project was most welcomed.

The center helps needy mothers and families from the Lowell, Ionia, Saranac, Ada, Alto and Clarksville areas.

Eric Moulton calls it the most challenging thing he's undertaken in high school.

Lowell Model U.N. director, Steve Kampfschulte says the hard work of Moulton and his partner, Cori Drenth matched the challenge presented by the International Court of Justice competition as they took first in the case of North Korea vs. the United States on the topic of "The Doctrine of Pre-Emptive Strike."

Soda shops, hot rods, poodle skirts and leather jackets define the '50s era and are an integral backdrop to Jim Jacob's and Warren Casey's stage adaptation of "Grease."

The 1978 hit movie is the choice for Lowell High School's 2002-03 spring musical which opens on March 20.

Under the direction of Tod Nyson, the 40-member cast is challenged on stage by song and high energy dance routines.

Cuts in a handful of areas have been identified, enabling the Lowell School District to trim roughly \$262,000 from its 2002-03 budget before June.

The reduction in spending will include eliminating one of the two co-associate principal positions at Cherry Creek Elementary.

Tom and Ellen Fisher, of 730 Hillside Court, incurred substantial damage to their home in a Saturday evening fire.

Lowell fire chief, Frank Martin said it appeared to have started in the ceiling of the basement, but the cause of the

Cont'd next page ...

Year-In-Review,
continued...

blaze remained under investigation.

Lost in the fire was the family dog.

Plans for a Lowell trail system are unveiled to the public for the first time at the Lowell City Council meeting.

Perry Beachum, a member of the Lowell Recreation Authority, presents the study results for a trail system that would be usable for non-motorized activities.

The first trail would start at the Wittenbach Center, go through the Lowell Area High School, then down to Cooper's Woods over to Cherry Creek and end at Creekside Park.

Sundry representative Les Cole personally drops off packets to the Lowell City Hall that contain the final plans for a planned unit development at 751 Grindle.

The development is better known as the Highland Hills project. The property was rezoned residential R-1, tied to the PUD last year.

Cole said he first sent in his company's ideas for developing the Leeman property and the Phillips property, located just north, only a few days after the Sept. 11 tragedy. The city has it on record that the first discussions on the project at a public meeting took place in December 2001.

The Lowell Planning Commission is expected to remove the item from the table and reopen the public hearing to accept letters and other comments.

MARCH 26, 2003

The tired and leaky roof on the Lowell Area Historical Museum posed a threat to the chronic artifacts being preserved inside.

With the cooperative financial venture of the city of Lowell, Lowell Charter Township, the Look Memorial Committee and the Harold Englehardt Lowell Area Community Fund, the Historic District Commission garnered

the \$69,000 needed to contract architect, Winter-Troutwine Associates and contractor, Grand River Builders. This undertaking has re-established the look of the standing seam metal roof and widow's walk which was originally installed between 1914 and 1931.



Fallen trees after an early April ice storm



Breaking ground for the new Murray Lake Elementary

sponsored optometrist and their team can treat in one day.

The eyes of two-year-old John-Luc, his sister Olivia and brother Alex light up when they hear the door open.

It's that time of day when dad usually comes through the door.

Karen Richmond and her children said goodbye to their husband and father, Ben Richmond on Feb. 20 as he left for Camp Pendleton (California) to join the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

From there, the Marine reservist left for Kuwait where he serves in the command element with the combat engineers.

If you look at the rack containing just a few mesh backpacks, a person might question if that is all the Kent District Library - Englehardt branch acquired with its \$4,300 from the Lowell Area Community Fund.

The answer is no. The library actually got 50 discovery packs. "It's just rare to see more than a few in the library," explained branch manager, Jane Aronson.

It's a sign of how popular the library has become since moving into its new home at 200 N. Monroe, five years ago. Its circulation has gone from a small- to medium-sized branch, and the staff is now up

to six.

Jason Plite, son of Lowell's Thomas Plite, is one of six people killed in a U.S. Air Force helicopter crash during a mercy mission to help two injured Afghan children on March 23.

An exceptional painting titled "Cool Water" by Keith W. Avery, formerly of Lowell, is on display at Woolaroc Museum, located southwest of Bartlesville, Okla.

Avery was born in Michigan in 1921 where his father was a photographer during the Depression. In high school he earned a scholarship to the

Chicago Professional School of Art but could not afford to attend until later, after earning money breaking horses and guiding guests at a resort.

Discussion between two neighbors has led a third to become the newest Lowell Planning Commission member.

In February, Sherry Grimm was sworn in as a member of the group. She replaces Elizabeth "B.J." Thompson who resigned last year.

The city of Lowell may see the construction of a new

building on Main Street - a new building that will house a proposed video store.

Movie Gallery, via Chicago Diversified Foods, asked to construct a 4,013-square-foot building at 1975 W. Main, next to the current Taco Bell which is owned by Chicago Diversified Foods.

The retail space, which will use the same curb cut as Taco Bell, would rent movies, DVDs, and video games along with selling candy and popcorn. The concept is similar to that of the national video chain, Blockbuster Video.

It was a rocky beginning for developers of a proposed planned unit development (PUD) with issues such as drainage, traffic and permits being raised over a second development.

In the end, Sundry got the approval it was seeking for its final site plan from the Lowell Planning Commission. The plan now moves to the city council for its approval.

Lowell Lodge #90 Free and Accepted Masons presented a check to the Lowell YMCA for \$1,500 as part of its \$5,000 commitment over five years to YMCA youth programs.

The third and final phase

Cont'd next page ...

Christmas in Lowell

Brianna Heikkila
Mrs. Young
Cherry Creek Elementary

Puppy Love

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Mrs. Young
Cherry Creek Elementary

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Keeana Klein
Mr. Bredin
Cherry Creek Elementary

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Year-In-Review, continued...

which will extend the Grand River Drive bike path from Bewell to Division St. is scheduled to start in mid-June.

Phase III will cost \$1.1 million and is scheduled to be completed by Oct. 1. Federal participation for the \$700,000 bike path extension project will be \$350,000.

While a big part of the "Lowell Guy" wanted to stay, Lowell city councilmember, Dan Brubaker informed the city council Monday night that he would resign from his position effective April 21.

His decision came on the heels of accepting a position as a supreme court commissioner which will end his 11-year tenure with Mika, Meyers, Beckett & Jones, PLC.

It is just one more step in the right direction for Lowell Cable Television.

Lowell's City Council, at the recommendation of the Lowell Light & Power Board, adopted a resolution which allows for the consolidation of interdepartmental loans from the department of LL&P to the Cable Television Department.



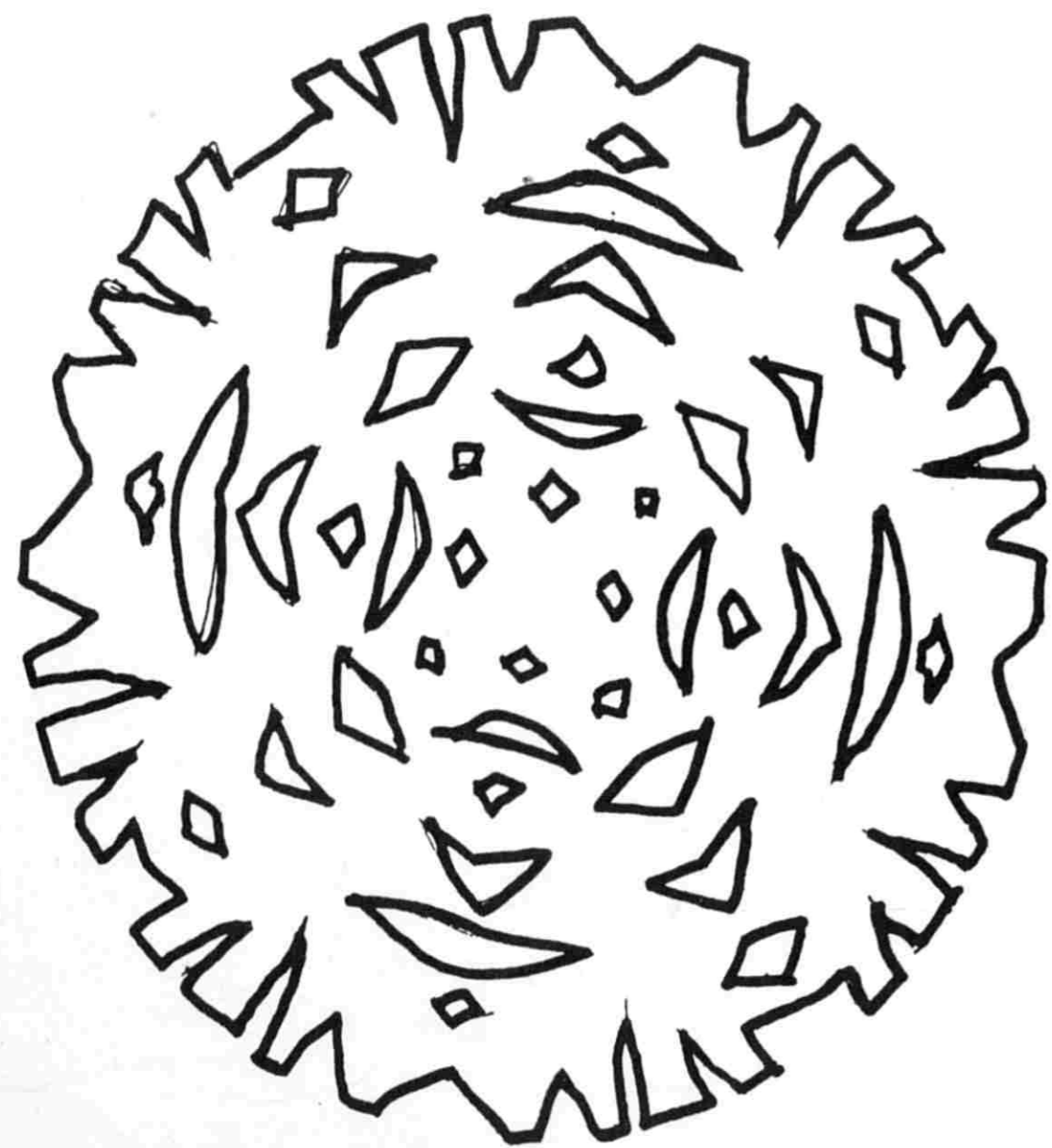
The 12th annual Lowell Moose Easter egg hunt at Creekside Park

A lifelong Lowell tradition will soon be wrapped in a new 56,000 square foot edifice at the corner of Alden Nash and Lally.

The community of Lowell broke ground for the Murray Lake Elementary School Monday afternoon.

Eventually the 400 student capacity building will house kindergarten through fourth grade.

Frosty's First Baby Picture



Daniel Fleet Mr. Fillman Cherry Creek Elementary



ICNB 897-6171 Hometown Banking

APRIL 9, 2003

Rate changes related to Oakwood Cemetery to help subsidize costs were approved by the Lowell City Council in an effort to prevent the city from digging into its general fund.

There are 12,000 spaces at Oakwood Cemetery. Currently 5,644 have been used for burials and 5,697 have

been sold. That only leaves 1,121 spaces left throughout the cemetery.

As a means to protect the city's drinking water supply, a Wellhead Protection program is being implemented.

This involves delineating the protection area, as well as a contaminant inventory, management, contingency plan for new wells, public participation and a public education program.

Lowell City Council approves the hiring of Williams & Works for the design and survey services on the Foreman Road sidewalk project.

His father is in an undisclosed location somewhere in the Middle East.

For two-year-old Daniel Staup, however, the star on his bedroom ceiling is a glowing reminder of "Daddy."

Matt Staup, a member of Battle Creek's 110th Squadron with the Air National Guard, gave his son a star before he left on Feb. 28.

He gave Daniel a star and took a star with him. Every time they see the star, while Matt is gone, they will think of one another.

The second-grade classes at Cherry Creek Elementary put on a spring music program titled "Whether the Weather." Among the 10 songs performed were "Song For a Rainy Day," "Rockin' Robin" and a rendition of a thunderstorm.

Major damage in a few spots rather than extensive damage all over kept a week-

end ice storm from creating a whole lot more havoc for Lowell Light & Power customers than it did.

The inconvenience incurred by approximately 500 Lowell Light & Power (LL&P) customers and 600 Lowell Cable Television customers, however, was still substantial.

Mullins had all nine LL&P servicemen working on Saturday; four crew members from Eaton Rapids also joined the effort.

April 16, 2003

Cellular phone companies refer to it as the dead zone.

The addition of a 260-foot cellular tower at Three Mile and Lincoln Lake could soon have a multitude of cellular transmissions dancing through the air waves.

Having already received the okay from the Vergennes Township Planning Commission, Dean Alger will go before the township board asking for his blessing.

The tower will be located on Alger's property.

As the FFA advisor at Montague, John Schut watched as one of his students competed against a freshman from Lowell in Greenhand Public Speaking.

He saw in Katie Clements then what the senior displayed in March at the state convention at Michigan State University.

With the help of teachers, alumni and her God-given ability, Clements developed into a state FFA champion in prepared public speaking.

After 18 months of discussion and deliberation, the Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission determined that having two residents on one lot went against the definition of single family zoning.

The issue surfaced when the neighbors of Dave and Lori Rash, 3305 Bewell, complained that Rash's parents were living on the property in their recreational vehicle and were not paying taxes.

APRIL 23, 2003

Cherry Creek Elementary fifth-grader, Dylan Olin was one of over 100 Michigan fourth- through eighth-graders who competed in the 15th annual Michigan Geographic Bee at Central Michigan University.

The Cherry Creek Elementary geography bee winner was one of just two fifth-graders to compete at the state meet.

Olin correctly answered six of eight questions presented to him.

Pursuing an engineering degree at a four-year university, whether it's civil, structural or architectural, requires a lot of math.

Unless, of course, a student has been there and done that before he/she has arrived on campus.

That will be the case when Lowell junior, Tim Vezino enrolls at the University of Michigan in the fall of 2004.

Vezino decided to take part in the Student Mathematics League competition.

He (47.5 points) finished second behind Peter Holtrop's 55 points. Amber Lass was third with 40.5 points.

Two West Michigan communication organizations recognized former Lowell superintendent, Bert Bleke for his communications excellence in his approach.

Interchange, the Association of West Michigan Communication Professionals, honored Bleke as its Communicator of the Year at its year-end banquet held in the Prince Conference Center at Calvin College on Wednesday.

Kristen Cole Greinke, 22, of Newaygo, pled guilty to one count of bank robbery in federal court last week.

Greinke was the only one of three suspects formally charged in the robbery at Ionia County National Bank back on March 5.

Greinke's sentencing will be July 14 at 1 p.m. in the Grand Rapids Federal Court House. Judge Robert Holmes Ball will preside.

APRIL 30, 2003

A little over a year after the Lowell Wesleyan Church closed its doors due to declining attendance, the West Michigan District of Wesleyan Church announced that it will be reopened.

IMPACT: A Wesleyan Church will open in the fall at 1069 Lincoln Lake Rd. under

Cont'd from last page...

the leadership of Pastor Phillip Struckmeyer.

The Butterfly Project brought kindergarten, first-, second-, third-, and fifth-grade students from Lowell Area Schools the opportunity to work with 16 artists from Lowell and the Greater Grand Rapids area in designing and creating larger than life butterfly sculptures.

A total of 32 butterfly sculptures were created.

On Saturday, May 3, at a celebratory event, all 32 butterflies will be showcased and sold at a public silent auction at Lowell High School.

The Operation Enduring Freedom Bike Ride from Grand Rapids to Lansing thun-

A Lowell High School student remains in critical condition at Spectrum Health Butterworth Hospital following an accident late Saturday morning on Alden Nash/M-50 in Alto.

Christopher Michael Raimer, 17, and friend and fellow track teammate Benjamin Lemke were returning home from a track meet in Caledonia when the accident occurred.

Raimer was transported to Spectrum Health Butterworth by Life Ambulance, and Lemke, suffering life threatening injuries was taken via Aero Med to Butterworth.

MAY 7, 2003

As a young boy with a new box of 100 coloring crayons in his hands, David Davis

Each fifth grade class was challenged to read 250 hours of at-home reading. Those meeting the goal of 250 hours would receive an ice cream party. The twist was that for every hour of reading the students did in their bathtubs would count for two hours.

The class of Paul Jacobus topped all the classes with 1,122 hours of reading.

Lowell High School senior, Bryan Posthumus is elected to serve as the Region V State Vice President for the Michigan FFA Association. Posthumus will officially begin his office term on July 1 along with 11 other officers from the state.

Bluegrass is one of the few music genres that originated in the United States.

Today the acoustical music continues to impact and influence some of the biggest country music talents - Vince Gill, Alison Krauss, the Dixie Chix and Ricky Skaggs.

Lowell Fairgrounds will serve as the new host site for the West Michigan Bluegrass Music Association (WMBMA) festival in May and September.

During the weekend of May 16-18, Lowell Fairgrounds will be filled with the sounds of bluegrass music as the MayFest 2003 Bluegrass Music Festival arrives.



Workers put the final touches, including these clock faces, on the new city hall and fire station in early June.

recognized 18 individuals for Spirit of Community Celebration Friday.

The 18 additional leaves bring the total number of dedi-

Sally Gunberg made the difficult decision in the early 80's to not work outside her home as a teacher.

That, however, is a misnomer. The Lowell School District parent has been schooling people on the art of devoting personal time to making Lowell Area Schools and the community better ever since.

Which is why Gunberg was honored with the Marsha Wilcox Community Service Award Friday at the Spirit of Community Celebration.

As a lifelong history enthusiast, Jim Doyle was able to see through the facades which were hiding the history of the town in which he grew up and works.

Working toward progress and improvement is part of what defines Doyle.

Doyle was honored as the Person of the Year Friday night at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce's Spirit of Community Celebration for freely donating his time to the community and making it a better place to live.

Each year, teachers, staff members and volunteers work together to improve the Lowell School System

This year, Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation's Tribute Tree



Memorial Day, 2003

dered through downtown Lowell Saturday around noon. There were two miles worth of bikes riding in support of U.S. Troops, President George W. Bush and in memory of Michigan troops (a total of seven) including Jason Plite.

It has always been about service to one's community, education and the arts.

Instead of a big sit-down dinner prior to the awards presentation in the Lowell Performing Arts Center, Spirit of Community evening will begin with the "Essence of Lowell" - a social hour highlighting area restaurants and food specialists in the Lowell High School cafeteria.

couldn't control his excitement as he walked home from school with his father.

His formative childhood years were enhanced by the tools to create art and by people who instilled in him the urge to create.

The Lowell Area Arts Council honored Davis with the Arty Award at the Spirit of Community Celebration on Friday for his many years of service and volunteerism.

The month of March was National Reading Month. Cherry Creek fifth grade teachers decided to challenge their students to read a little extra during March. The challenge included a bit of a twist.

Cont'd next page...

Merry Christmas advertisement for Lowell Township Hall, featuring a drawing of a winter scene and contact information for Craig Huber, Mr. MacDonald, Alto Elementary.

Year-In-Review, continued...

bring the total number of dedications to 57, totaling over \$43,000.

One might say that Al Mathews' newest position persuaded him from moving. In truth, it wasn't Mathews' appointment to fill the Lowell City Council seat vacated by Dan Brubaker that changed his family's mind about moving, but rather the current cost of houses. Mathews, who resigned from his seat on the planning commission at last night's meeting, will officially start his new job after he is sworn in.

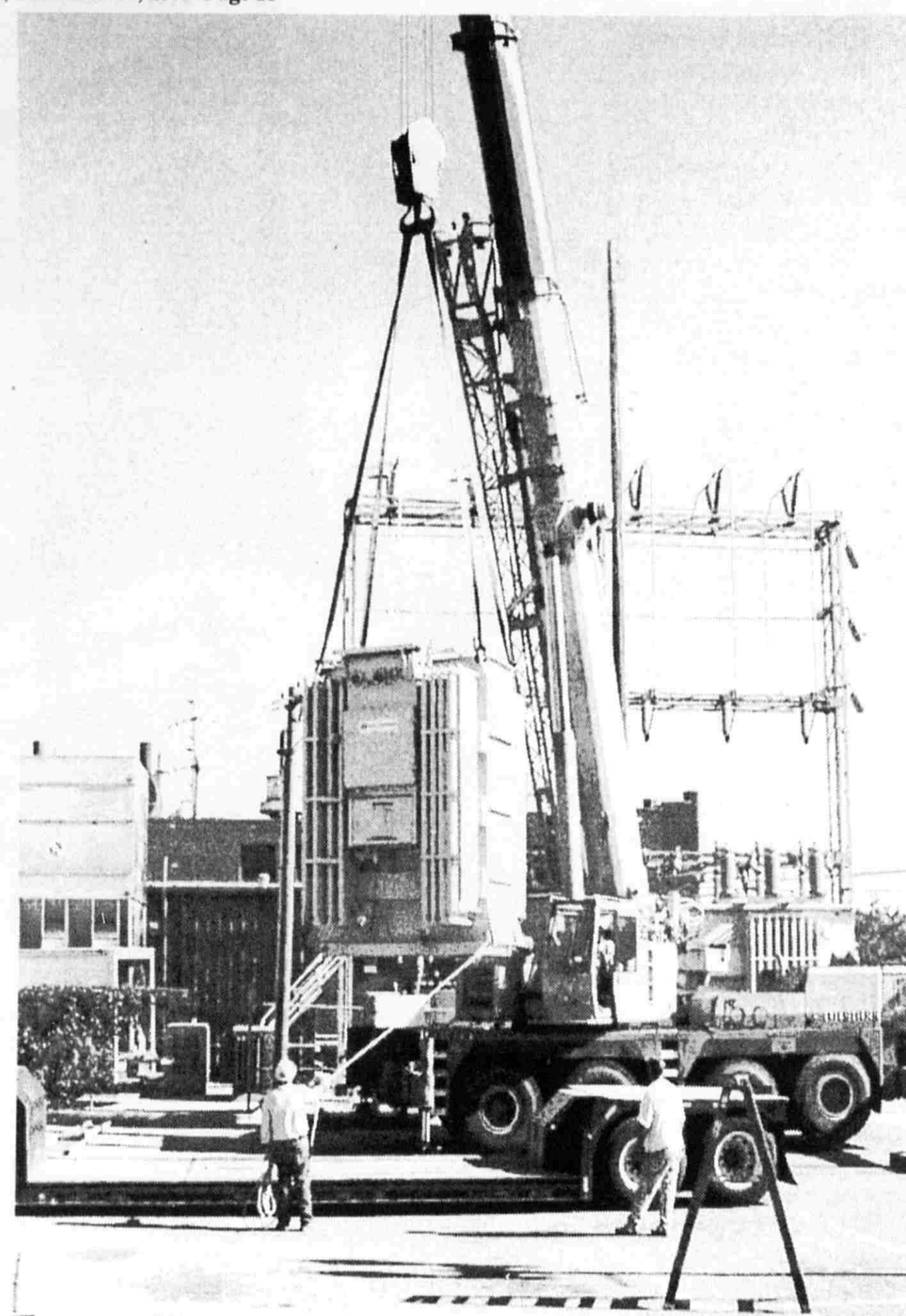
The Lowell Baptist Church, the Wesleyan Church, and vacant property located near the YMCA are all possible sites for a proposed farmers' market.

The biggest hurdle to the project, however, might be getting the current city ordinance to conform to allow any of these sites to host such a venture. After reviewing the list, they noted that none of them would meet the current ordinance requirements.

Missy Harrison's vision was to start a crew team in Lowell.

Through the determination and commitment of Harrison, the nine girls which make up Lowell's first-ever crew team, and the outpouring of support from other area programs, Lowell is competing at the Novice 8 level.

Camouflaged partially by pine tree branches, Franciscan



Workers from Ohio Transform re-installed a power transformer at Lowell Light and Power in early July. The unit had been gone for rebuilding since February.

Life Process Center's sign at the corner of Alden Nash and Downes was not readily detected.

That changed when a new entrance sign was placed at the corner.

The sign, designed by Sister Maura Behrenfeld, will help visitors more easily identify the location.

Minor property damage

was the result of a plane crash Tuesday night (April 29) at the Lowell City Airport, 730 Lincoln Lake.

Pilot Timothy Schmidt (Lowell) was training student, Richard Calvin Pease (Howard City) on no-flap landings.

Pease, upon approach, did not cut power off soon enough. The plane, a 63 Cessna 172D, traveled westbound down the runway approximately 1500 feet, ran out of runway and crossed over Lincoln Lake Ave. before striking a bush and a stop sign, according to the Kent County Sheriff's Department.

MAY 14, 2003

Lowell school officials announce that the local district, along with 12 other members of the Kent Intermediate School District, are looking at an alternative option of delivering safe, caring and efficient transportation for special education students through a collaborative effort.

The plan calls for the KISD to provide special education transportation and to employ local district drivers.

Lowell assistant superintendent for finance and personnel, Connie Gillette likened it to the contract made with Chartwells Management in 1999 to provide day to day management and supervision for its food service program.

The Lowell Rotary Club made a check presentation in the amount of \$5,800 to

tary International toward the fight to eradicate polio. The total represents \$100 for each member (58).

Retro D.A.R.E.'s new national spokesperson, Retro Bill stopped in Lowell to share with elementary students and the Lowell Rotary the importance of teaching children safety, nonviolence, self-esteem and humor. His uplifting message for all ages has been endorsed by D.A.R.E., numerous law enforcement agencies and the International Children's Film Festival.

State Representative James Koetje painted the bleak revenue picture for the city of Lowell and many other communities as well.

City manager, David Pasquale said the city has seen its state revenue sharing go down quite a bit over the years. At one time the city received more than \$500,000; it had since dropped to about \$440,000.

The move came when, at its first meeting in May, the city council reacted negatively to the amount of money being spent on the council chambers, to be located on the second floor of City Hall. Councilman Jim Pfaller raised the concern of whether the council was being a good steward of the city's money by spending almost \$26,000 on a sound system for the room. City manager David

Pasquale explained the sound system is needed due to the size of the room. With that, city staff sat down with Central Interconnect to consider a system for the room.

Looking to manage its meetings better, the Lowell City Council decides to put a time limit on the length citizens can speak during public comment time.

The council unanimously votes to accept new "rules of procedure" policy which places a five-minute limit per person during a public hearing or public comment time. A person representing a group would be allowed up to 10 minutes.

After 17 years as an LP, Susan Stewart decided to pursue a degree as a nurse practitioner. This is a person who is like a doctor and can take care of a number of cases that don't involve surgery.

But in 1999, that dream all but vanished when Stewart was in a whitewater rafting accident that left her paralyzed.

Fast forward to about six

negotiate with the city on sewer costs for which they feel they are bearing the brunt.

City attorney, Dick Wendt said that what the developers were paying did not cover the entire costs of the district, which was well over \$100,000. He also pointed out that \$2,000 was not that much for sewer.

City manager, David Pasquale presents a proposal on how to finance upgrades for Sibley and Grindle streets.

Lowell Middle School seventh-grader Gabrielle Tremblay earned a second in creative writing in fiction fantasy genre at the Calvin College Middle School Writing Workshop.

Tremblay was one of 450 students, representing 45 schools, to compete.

He's been called the piper of positive choices.

His presentation to students is of self-empowerment and personal responsibility.

Michael Chatman began speaking to students in 1990 about choosing to overcome



Robert Stemmons of Coeur D' Alene, Idaho, a professional whistler, whistled professionally for residents at Cumberland Manor on July 2 of this year.

months later ... as her husband is turning into a school for a program, the couple is hit with Stewart sustaining a closed head injury. Her dreams of becoming a nurse practitioner lie in the ditch beside the road of that accident.

In April, Stewart, with her new assistant, Sable, a PAWS dog, rolled down the aisle to receive her bachelor's degree in nursing and went down in the GVSU history books as the first person with a disability to do just that.

MAY 21, 2003

The city is looking at about \$750,000 worth of road projects, with a possible bond to help facilitate city road improvements.

Sundry officials were back at City Hall hoping to

their fears and raise their standards, developing a positive attitude and a sense of humor. He shared his message with Lowell Middle School students.

His fifth year as head of the Lowell varsity baseball program will be his last.

Tim Antel announces his resignation from the post effective at the end of the 2003 baseball season.

Natalie Kent qualifies for the Division 1 state meet in four events at Houseman Field in Grand Rapids on Saturday, June 7.

Kent led in the 100 hurdles from start to finish in winning a regional championship in the hurdle event, stopping the clock at 15.27.

Lowell qualified for the state meet in eight events.

Cont'd next page ...

Year-In-Review, continued...

It gave rhythm. It gave love. Over the weekend, through the efforts of the Bluegrass Festival Association, it gave the Lowell Fairgrounds the many harmonies of bluegrass.

Like most bluegrass festivals, while the headliners are playing on the main stage, there are multiple groups of jammers harmonizing in the parking lot.

When Chartwells was hired four years ago to manage Lowell Area Schools food service program, one of its first concerns was to address a healthy fund balance.

It inherited a fund balance of over \$200,000.

Today, the food service fund balance stands at roughly \$66,000.

Its schedule reflects music styles which have drawn the larger crowds over the past two years, while still maintaining a diverse group of musical offerings.

The start of the third annual Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts is three weeks away.

This year will blend jazz, blues, folk, Celtic and big band over a stretch of 10 weeks.

The June 12 opener will feature the 126th Army Band and the Blue Water Ramblers (folk music).

MAY 28, 2003

Matt Foster knew he was going to college - he just needed time to kick around which institution of knowledge he would attend in the fall.

His choice is Central Michigan University where he will study business.

The kicker is, if Foster can win a kicking spot on the Chippewa football team this summer, he can earn a full-ride scholarship for his final three years.

In 1995, through the visionary action of area citizens, the Lowell Area School Education Foundation, a 501(c)3 charitable organization was established. Through materials, donations and volunteers, grants to children and teachers provide innovative learning for Lowell area students. The foundation is governed by community volunteers.

Over 200 Cherry Creek Elementary fifth-graders showcased their functional inventions at the ninth annual Invention Convention.

"The Cherry Creek gymnasium was filled from wall to wall as students explained and demonstrated their inventions to family, friends and interested onlookers.

At his brother's Eagle project, Eric Cooper spoke to Fallsburg Park manager Doug Wilber. From that conversation he gleaned an idea for his future Eagle Scout project.

After several months of planning, Cooper and fellow scouts of Troop 102 put in four new horseshoe pits at Fallsburg Park.



The Lowell City Council met for the first time in its new digs August 18. The renovation of the city hall building and police station had been completed earlier in the summer.

Memorial Day gave cause for area residents to pause and remember the lives lost in war, and honor those who fought for freedom and lived.

"It is important that we remember this day. It is important that we remember war is not glorious," said former Navy Honor and First United Methodist Church minister, Gordie Barry, who was also this year's guest speaker at the 139th Day of Remembrance.

For the third time in four years Lowell's YMCA Invest In Youth campaign met or exceeded its goal.

This year's goal, with a sagging economy, was lofty by any standards, but the campaign, through its leadership of chairman, Rick Seese, Y executive director, Will Welsh and teams' campaign chairperson, Jean Getzen raised \$51,800 in pledges, exceeding their goal of \$50,000 by a little less than \$2,000.

Bob Rice told his freshman students four years ago that some day they may all graduate together. Sunday, Rice and the Class of 2003 did just that. The students received their diplomas and Rice directed the LHS band for one final time as he brought to an end his 30 years of service as the school's band director.

Ideally, Mayor Exchange Day is an opportunity for cities in Michigan to see the different businesses and ways in which other cities serve and enhance the lives of their residents.

Lowell and Otsego took turns hosting one another's city officials. Lowell hosted Otsego on Thursday, May 15 and then visited Otsego on Tuesday, May 20.

Lowell has been a continuous participant in Mayor Exchange Day since 1985.

JUNE 4, 2003

As time winds down on the completion of the City Hall/new police station project, clocks were put in/hung up in the tower.

The clocks purchased from Electric Time Company Inc., were shipped in from Medfield, Mass. They were installed by Nugent Builders.

For 294 Lowell High School graduates, a signature

have them. Clark Galloway, of Vennen Chrysler-Dodge, had requested that his business be granted a special variance to permanently install streamers at its location, 930 W. Main St. Under the city's ordinance, streamers are only allowed for 21 days.

Because of the cost in getting streamers and putting them up, Galloway said he was seeking a variance for the car dealership.

River Valley Credit Union is the former Amway Credit Union which recently expanded its coverage area to include Kent and Ionia counties. At its Monday night planning commission meeting, the credit union brought forth plans to construct a 3,640-square-foot facility adjacent to the Lowell Family Medical Center at 2550 W. Main St.

The Lowell City Planning Commission may be reviewing the city's policy on grass length not only because it looks unsightly, but because it could be a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

If the grass is not cut, the city does cut it and sends the property owner a bill, she explained.

Twelve inches is the maximum height requirement before the city will take action.

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Advertisement for LARKIN'S FAMILY DINING. Includes a drawing of a girl and a boy, and text: "Maggie Lancaster Mr. Jacobus Cherry Creek Elementary please send all the Iraqi and American Soldiers home for Christmas". Address: 301 W. Main Lowell, MI 697-5977. Phone: 897-5977.

Advertisement for METRIC MANUFACTURING CO. Features a drawing of a snowman and text: "Let it Snow". Contact: Dayna Crumback Mr. Hawkins Alto Elementary. Address: 1001 Foreman Lowell 897-5959.

Year-In-Review, continued...

JUNE 11, 2003

WIFnet was founded in September of 2001 and the wireless internet connection service was launched in 2003.

The service provided by company founder, David Yomtoob does not require a phone modem or cable hookup. It is established through a signal from a Lowell-based tower.

Through a coordinated effort with Regal Financial and Speerstra Insurance, Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce will award two scholarships to seniors of the 2004 graduating class.

The Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation recently awarded a grant to Robert Garcia, a science teacher at Lowell High School.

The grant, valued at \$466.99, was used to purchase a Hewlett-Packard Photosmart printer, DataStudio software, and two USB links.

The Flat River Grill has certainly become a popular place. So popular that concerns were raised at the May Lowell Planning Commission meeting about people cross-



LAS dignitaries cut the ribbon for the new freshman wing at Lowell High school in mid August. The new wing opened Aug. 25.

ing Main Street to get to the restaurant.

City manager, David Pasquale said the biggest obstacle for the city is that M-21, which is Main Street, is a state road overseen by the Michigan Department of Transportation. For that reason, MDOT has the final say in any improvements or changes made to the road.

WoHeLo, the highest award that can be received in Camp Fire USA, was bestowed on Lowell's Christina Getz, Bobby Gingerich and Katie Clements.

WoHeLo is a self-planned, individualized program of personal development and advocacy through which leadership, teaching, service and speaking-out skills are demonstrated.

She has been that soothing, sensitive voice with a caring ear who's always kept a light on and a door open for kids.

The 2003-04 school year will seem a lot less comforting by the absence of Barb Pierce.

The Student Service Center counselor announced after spring break that her 30th year would be her final year at Lowell High School.

Through the planning and creation of a 25th anniversary for the Lowell Area Arts Council, an idea was spawned for the creation of an event which will serve as an annual fundraiser.

Art Attack, however, this year, will be a celebration of the Lowell Area Arts Council's 25th year of pro-

viding arts experiences for the Greater Lowell community.

Catapults, historically, were used in warfare. The science behind them, however, makes the simple compound instrument an important model in Rebecca Lecuru's freshman physical science class.

"The class is studying the motion and forces behind simple compound machines," Lecuru said.

Lecuru was able to purchase other types of machines through the funds of a teacher innovative grant from the Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation.

As a member of the '85 Challenger, astronaut, Tony England was a most welcomed and fitting guest at Cherry Creek Elementary's Aerospace and Technology Day.

It was an opportunity to explore and enjoy nature while capturing their discoveries through the eye of their cameras.

A photography hike was part of the National Trails Day activities in Lowell, centering around the North Country Trail which runs through Lowell.

The buzz of activity heard in Vergennes Township last week was not horns building nests in the corners and cracks of residents' decks and garages.

Instead, it was the work of a volunteer workforce of nearly 400 skilled and unskilled laborers constructing a new Kingdom Hall at 69 Lincoln Lake Ave., north of Lowell's city limits.

The Lowell congregation of Jehovah Witnesses within the last year sold their former meeting place on Alden Nash Ave. to the local VFW Post 8303.

As long as school districts have fund balances, there will be differences as to when and how those monies should be spent.

Facing over \$1 million in cuts... some would argue that now would be a good time to dig into the fund balance.

Gillette advocates using the fund balance to help cover the district's costs during the months of July, August and September.

Why is that a problem? The district does not receive a state aid check in September. Because of that, there are not enough funds to get through those three months.

Lowell Planning Commission will revisit a motion which would have the city paying \$300 for a seminar in which attendees would learn to read site plans.

In May, the planning commission approved a motion made by commissioner, Sherry Grimm in which the city would pay Fishbeck Th-

ompson, Carr & Huber \$300 to hold the program.

After further review, Lowell city manager, Dave Pasquale and city attorney, Richard Wendt will recommend that the planning commission rescind the motion made by Grimm.

Her impulsive decisions oftentimes get Natasha Versluys in trouble.

This time it got her a coffee shop.

Versluys's decision to open Voyages Coffee Shop, 307 B E. Main, came while waiting to be seated for dinner at a local restaurant.

The name, Voyages materialized because it fits in with Versluys's desire to create a travel theme for the coffee shop.

The idea of opening up a jewelry store isn't one that came to Michelle Brigstock overnight.

Actually, the notion of a jewelry store came to her five years ago.

The jewelry store owner, who was born and raised in Lowell, moved to Hastings six years ago. She has worked in the jewelry business for the past 22 years.

Goldworks By Michelle opened in Lowell on May 1.

Like three year olds, the Flat River Outreach Ministries (F.R.O.M.) Thrift Store

Cont'd next page ...



Joe Underwood of Grand Ledge brought his 1959 Mercury Monterey to the first ever professional vehicle show at Wolf Doggies on West Main Street. The car also goes by the name "The Bone Collector."

Year-In-Review, continued...

has gone from those early, wobbly steps to its present condition - one of offering fine quality merchandise to the public.

The Thrift Store constantly keeps its racks full of clothing, housewares and decorator items. As a result of donations from the community, between \$3-\$4,000 in sales is generated each month.

This money is used to fund the food pantry and emergency services.

Standard Oil Annuity Club members gathered at Schneider Manor for a luncheon Friday.

Between the seven members in attendance, the annuitants averaged 29 years of service as a Standard Oil Agent.

They traveled from as far away as Otsego to share stories and camaraderie with Lowell's Sam "Babe" Wingeier.

Born and raised in Lowell, the 96-year-old Wingeier worked at Standard Oil 21 years before retiring in 1967.

Just for the fun of it, Fowler's Sharon Becker made a first-time trip to Lowell for the ninth annual Cherry Creek Classic 5K race.

She left with a trophy and a \$50 first place as the top female runner in the field.

Travis Clement, of Byron Center, earned his third consecutive top finish as he raced home in a time of 16:39.

TOTS on Track for School and Lowell Community Education will expand the district's early childhood program beginning in September with a program for three- and four-year olds.

Curiosity Corner will include time to play and make new friends, early literacy activities, math games, arts and crafts, science explorations and gym time for active play.

TOTS on Track for School was awarded a \$78,312 grant from the community fund, with \$10,000 used as matching funds for the parents-as-teachers' component.

Sibley Street, Grindle Drive and Jackson Street are a little closer to getting some much needed road improvements.

The Lowell City Council unanimously agrees to publish an intent to sell transportation bonds for the purpose of improving Sibley St. between Center St. and Valley Vista Dr., Grindle Dr. between Jackson St. and Hillside Ct., and Center St. south of Bowes Rd. The bond would not exceed \$600,000.

Litehouse Inc. is considered one of the shining moments during the past year,

according to Lowell City Manager David Pasquale.

It is because the company has decided to move forward with a \$1.7 million bonding project—with bonds issued by the city and approved by the council at the Monday night meeting—to increase its facility by 34,490 square feet.

It was the hope of Sundry representatives that they would be able to bring preparation on its site located on the east side of the city by July 7.

But the details that need to be ironed out for the project to move ahead may delay that start time.

City Manager David said the developer couldn't start until the city got a Planned Unit Development ordinance in place on the project. The earliest that could happen is July 7.

JUNE 25, 2003

The \$1 million cuts announced by the school district earlier this month included the elimination of half-day Friday kindergarten.

It was replaced with specified full-day Fridays - leaving some parents with child care issues.

Lowell Area Schools TOTS and Community Education are offering Kinder Corner, a Friday learning and fun enrichment program.

It will provide parents with a morning and afternoon program on the Friday their child will not be attending kindergarten.

The 9th annual Riverwalk Festival will have plenty of additions and a couple of very important changes.

Gone is the singular Labor Day weekend Saturday where the Festival has resided for the past eight years - it has been replaced by two days of events in July (11-12).

The other change: the fire-



The Red Arrow football squad won its season opener against the Grandville Bulldogs, 26-25 in a dramatic come-from-behind victory.

works underwritten by Laurels of Kent will be on the evening of Saturday, July 12 rather than Friday, July 4.

Through 37 years of owning and operating Reitsma Electric, Ron Reitsma has experienced a lot of ups and downs.

Recently he upped and moved from his long-standing location at 8765 28th St. SE in Ada to a new location at 956 O.E. Bieri Dr.

The reason for a recall is political rather than judicial.

There is, however, a contingent of Grattan Township residents who believe that will change come July 15 when a special recall election is held of Grattan Township's clerk and two trustees.

Grattan Township will incur a recall election fee of

between \$6,000-\$8,000.

The officials being recalled are Lana Green, clerk; and Dennis Heffron and Paul Knoerl, trustees.

The one common reason stated for the recall of the three Grattan Township officials is that they've supported excessive spending of township funds, especially for attorney fees.

Dinner hour during Kent County Youth Fair week is peak time for patrons and food vendors.

So when burned up wire took out power for two-and-a-half hours, one can imagine there were a few upset and hungry people, least of which was Kent County Youth Fair board president, Ron Wenger.

That problem which occurred a couple of years ago will likely be remedied following the announcement that the Kent County Youth Agricultural Association was awarded a grant from the Harold Englehardt Lowell Area Community Fund in the amount of \$28,300 to improve

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Advertisement for Lowell Medical Specialists featuring a cartoon of SpongeBob SquarePants. Text includes: Kate Scudder, Mr. Bredin, Cherry Creek Elementary, and a list of doctors: Mark Evenhouse MD, John Mogor MD, Joan Miedema MD, Joel Vanderiet MD. Address: 1150 N. Hudson, Lowell • 897-8436.

Advertisement for Vergennes Township featuring a photo of a man presenting a plaque to another man. Text includes: Alexandria Myers, Mr. Bredin, Cherry Creek Elementary, and contact information: 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell, Ph. 897-5671.

Advertisement for Merry Christmas featuring a cartoon of a reindeer and gingerbread men. Text includes: Merry Christmas and contact information for Vergennes Township: 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell, Ph. 897-5671.

Year-In-Review,
continued...

power and safety at the multi-use fairgrounds.

Ashley Renee Woern, aged 10 months, of Lowell, drowned in a bathtub while being cared for at a licensed day care facility.

Police and rescue workers were called to 3101 Kissing Rock Lane on a drowning incident last Thursday, June 19 at approximately 3 p.m.

Anthony Ingersoll and Gene Bandlow (Graveyard Haulers), of Grand Rapids, brought their first professional vehicle invitational show and swap meet to Lowell Saturday. The event held at Wolf Doggies, 800 W. Main St., showcased hearses, ambulances and limos. "There's no gore, filth, blood or guts it's just a fun show with unique vehicles for people to view," said Ingersoll. Seth Taylor brought his 1957 Cadillac Superior Coach. He bought the hearse in 1968 and had it converted to a camper in 1969. Joe Underwood, of Grand Ledge, displayed his 1959 Mercury Monterey--alias "The Bone Collector."

"You can't beat free," said Lowell Planning commissioner, Garland Berry, and the commission agreed.

At its Monday night meeting, the planning commission



The Apple Blossom Bluegrass Band performed at Fallfest 2003 at the Kent County 4-H Fairgrounds Sept. 21. It was the first time the West Michigan Bluegrass Music Association held its Fallfest in Lowell. The bluegrass association held its Mayfest at the same venue in May.

rescinded its May motion to accept a proposal from Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr, and Huber, Inc., for a \$300 planning commission seminar and instead go with a free offer from Williams and Works.

The May motion was questioned when a conflict of interest concern was raised.

Lowell's Junior Arrow gymnasts hold their first floor

performance Thursday, June 12 at Lowell High School. "The performances were treated like high school meets," said Lowell High School gymnastics coach, Michele DeHaan. "The Junior Arrows program is to help prepare the younger gymnasts for the high school gymnastics team."

The season for bargain

A church, school and community at-large, 10 years later, are saddened by news of their departure because of who they are.

Barry, who held his last service at the Lowell First United Methodist Church on Sunday, June 22, holds his first service in Stevensville on Sunday, July 13.

Shawn and Michelle Ford, wanted to remove the dilapidated cottage from the property located on Fallsburg Park Dr. inside the historic Fallsburg Village and build a new two-story house on the lot.

By a vote of 3-2, the Vergennes Township Zoning Board of Appeals denied a Pat and Sue Ford (parents/owners of the property) variance request.

A standard size lot, setting a precedent and a deduction to the historical district were reasons used by the ZBA to deny their request.

Ohio Transformer re-installed the transformer it rebuilt after removing it from the Lowell Light & Power plant back in late February and early March.

The cost for its work is a little over \$100,000. That is roughly the same price LL&P paid, back in 1996, for the 20-year-old transformer after an explosion/fire destroyed one.

A toaster oven ignited a Monday morning house fire at 804 Riverside Drive.

Lowell and Ada fire departments were called to the home of Sandy Elmer around 10 a.m. following a call from Elmer's neighbor, Dale Latva.

Lowell fire chief, Frank Martin said the fact that the house was all closed up kept the fire from spreading. "There was more smoke and heat damage than actual structural damage," he explained.

The sacrifices of the men and women in the military will be the focus of attention on Friday, July 18 when the U.S. Postal Service and VFW Post 8303 unveil the Purple Heart definitive postage stamp during a ceremony at the new VFW Post location, 3100 Alden Nash.

Lowell Postmaster Gil Brown will unveil the stamp in recognition of the men and women whose sacrifice has allowed Americans to live in freedom

What's your name? How old are you?

Those questions were followed moments later by, "Congratulations Mrs. Janes, you're the mother of a bouncing baby boy."

Sarah Janes gave birth to Gavin Janes on June 25th at 11:05 p.m. just 10 minute af-

Cont'd next page...

with the Keyhole World Championship in the 14-18 year-old division.

They came in all shapes and sizes - from a '32 Packard to a '62 Chevy Suburban - for the first ever Riverwalk Cruise-In held Saturday in the former Family Fare parking lot.

"There was a complete spectrum of vehicles here today," said car show coordinator, Brian Meade. "We're pleased with the numbers and hopefully we'll be able to do it again next year."

There is almost 100 years that separate the brick which was used to build City Hall in 1909 and the brick that was used for its renovation and new police station.

Yet, the old and the new blend together like almost one...as did members of the old guard and those who currently serve the city, for Saturday's cornerstone laying ceremony and open house which followed.

The cornerstone laying ceremony was conducted by the Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Michigan and the Lowell Lodge of No. 90 F. & A.M.

Justin Bogdanik loved to fish... whether in a lake in the Upper Peninsula, a charter on

Cont'd next page...

Year-In-Review,
continued...

ter her water broke. Nathan Janes, father, watched as his wife delivered their second son in the family driveway with the assistance of ambulance personnel.

The city of Lowell's wastewater treatment plant as managed by Earth Tech was the winner of the Michigan Water Environment Association's Health & Safety Municipal award.

The Lowell YMCA, a branch of the YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids, is one of 450 YMCAs nationwide selected to receive a \$5,000 JC Penney Afterschool grant, enabling the Lowell YMCA to provide caring, mentoring staff for a Teen Center that serves youth and teens from Lowell and the surrounding area.

As the organization charged with securing and preserving Lowell's history, it was appropriate that the Lowell Area Historical Museum would head up the gathering of informational items to be placed in the cornerstone of the City Hall/new police station.

The items were sealed in the case on Monday, July 7. They will be placed in a cavity near the entrance of the newly renovated City Hall at the July 12 cornerstone ceremony.

The 3rd annual Lowell Community Health Fair will showcase health resources available in the community for residents.

Area health-related organizations and health care providers will be on hand to display their services, give examples, and provide information.

The fair's charge is to promote the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of Lowell.

As participants in the Kent County Citizen Planner program, Lowell's Mark Fleet and Steve Platt volunteered with the Vergennes Township Open Space Committee to



After waiting since World War II for the chance, Margaret Koning, 80, flew in a Stearman biplane during the Lowell Airport Fly-in and Pancake Breakfast during the Fallsburg Fall Festival this year. The airplane is owned and piloted by Ledger publisher Roger Brown.

complete community service hours for certification from Michigan State University Extension.

Like the environment, the visual art exhibition, "Healing Our Environment" may be viewed from more than one location.

Through a collaborative effort, both the Lowell Area Arts Center and the Franciscan Life Process Center are displaying works from the "Healing Our Environment" exhibit.

The focus of this exhibition is on earth-keeping rather than a gloom-and-doom commentary.

YMCA childcare scholarship funds are limited while the growing number of kids using the program continues to grow.

The Lowell YMCA childcare program provides for 180 kids in a year and that is expected to climb.

It is estimated that 1.2 bil-

lion people drink contaminated water every day.

Most of those directly affected are children five and younger.

A Michigan Rotary water filter foundation is going to try to change that.

Bob Hildreth is spearheading the civic project and through his coordination with Rotary International is able to break through the political and social barriers.

Its mission was to improve personal gardens and to do nice things for the city of Lowell.

That was 54 years ago, and other than the faces, the focus of Lowell's Showboat Garden Club hasn't changed.

The Garden Club has hung pots of geraniums, petunias and assorted annuals on the Showboat and filled its window boxes and white planters along the Riverwalk.

Summer school is often looked at as a time for remediation.

And it is. Increasingly,

Shay Lyon
Mr. Keglovitz
Cherry Creek Elementary

Lowell Family Medical Center

Paul R. Gauthier, D.O.
James C. Lang, D.O.
John G. Meier, D.O.
Wayne Christenson, D.O.
Larissa Hollander, P.A.-C.
Julie Drake, P.A.-C.

2550 West Main, Lowell • 616-252-5600

Let the fire burn bright on Christmas night!

Mariah Moore
Mr. MacDonald
Alto Elementary

LOWELL LIGHT & POWER

127 N. Broadway
Phone 897-8402

JULY 2, 2003

They may not be considered a lot on the agenda for site plan reviews, but the Lowell Planning Commission is staying busy with ordinance revisions on such issues as fences, paved driveways, and stormwater run-off.

In July, the commission will put to bed ordinance revisions on dwelling floor areas to help better define what the city expects in residential construction, a result of the number of variance requests on square-footage allowed in residential homes.

Mika Meyers Beckett & Jones' new Lowell office at 307-A E. Main St. opened on March 5.

The law firm will rotate seven attorneys, specializing in personal injury, criminal, bankruptcy, tax, business, employment and estate planning.

Gordie Barry and his wife, Susan said "yes" to Lowell in February of 1993, because it sounded perfect for who they were.

JULY 9, 2003

The sacrifices of the men and women in the military will be the focus of attention on Friday, July 18 when the U.S. Postal Service and VFW Post 8303 unveil the Purple Heart definitive postage stamp during a ceremony at the new VFW Post location, 3100 Alden Nash.

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JULY 16, 2003

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Cont'd next page...

Thomas Houlihan
Mrs. Young
Cherry Creek Elementary

Bryan Grudzinskas
Mr. Fillman
Cherry Creek Elementary

Animal Hospital & Pet Complex of Lowell

11610 E. Fulton, Lowell
897-8484

Year-In-Review, continued...

Lake Michigan, or in a stream in West Michigan.

Sadly, the 18-year-old was fishing of sorts - searching to find his way in life when he was brutally assaulted on June 26. Complications from the assault eventually took his life weeks later (July 9).

JULY 23, 2003

Reducing energy consumption while maintaining comfort levels - sound like a good plan?

That is exactly what Energy Education, Inc. does for school districts throughout 44 states by focusing on eliminating non value-added energy consumption.

The Lowell Area School District recently signed a four-year contract with Energy Education, Inc.

It takes a while for a church and its new leader to work together in harmony.

The process is accelerated, however, when the personalities are similar.

Michael T. Conklin, new pastor at Lowell First United Methodist Church, began that transition on Sunday, July 6.

Conklin replaces Gordie Barry.

The 2002-03 Lowell girls



Pat Allchin took first place in the second annual Larkin's Chili Madness Chili Cook-off with her "Picasso Supreme" chili.

softball season was one for the record books.

Lowell finished the season with a record of 25-10, a .714 winning percentage... the best in 14 years.

"Records were broken time after time after time," said Lowell softball coach, Bob Rodenhouse. "Great plays, great hitting and great pitching made for a very successful and special season."

A happy and content Grattan Township clerk, Lana Green returned to work Wednesday following Tuesday's (July 15) recall election.

Green along with township trustees Dennis Heffron and Paul Knoerl survived efforts to have them removed from their seats by the Grattan Citizens for Responsible Government.

Agreement on the salaries of the top three Lowell school administrators has been reached by the Lowell Board of Education.

The salary and benefits of Lowell superintendent Shari Miller, assistant superintendent for finance and personnel Connie Gillette, and assistant superintendent for instruction, Jim White will remain frozen for the 2003-04 school year with the intent of moving into the Health Alliance Insurance when that becomes available.

This decision was made on the heels of Lowell slashing \$1 million from its school budget.

Light wasn't needed to unveil the activity taking place on M-21's west corridor.

A lighting ordinance, however, is needed to control and shield the amount of light.

Lowell Charter Township planning commissioner, Dennis Sanford and a group of four other lighting ordinance committee members

JULY 30, 2003

For the second time this year, Lowell Cable subscribers will see an increase in their cable rates.

The Lowell City Council unanimously approves a recommendation by the Lowell Cable Board to raise cable rates \$1.30 from \$28.30 to \$29.60 per month.

The increase, according to Lowell Cable general manager, Tom Richards, is to cover the increase cost to carry the networks on the company's basic service.

For participants of the Kent County Youth Fair, their time spent is a time for learning and growing up... therefore making the theme, "Youth Under Construction" a most fitting one for the 69th annual Kent County Youth Fair.

Fair board president, Ron Wenger and countless volunteers have been erecting 22 new pig pens, 20 goat pens, six sheep pens, adding 50 feet of new still exhibit booths, and two tents for the housing of 42 additional horse stalls.

Vergennes Township's proposed wireless communication amendment proposal,

been an ordinance until now.

While Grattan's ordinance covers a number of lakes in the township, Vergennes was written specifically for Murray Lake.

Vergennes' ordinance will regulate the number and placement of docks and the docking, mooring and launching of watercraft.

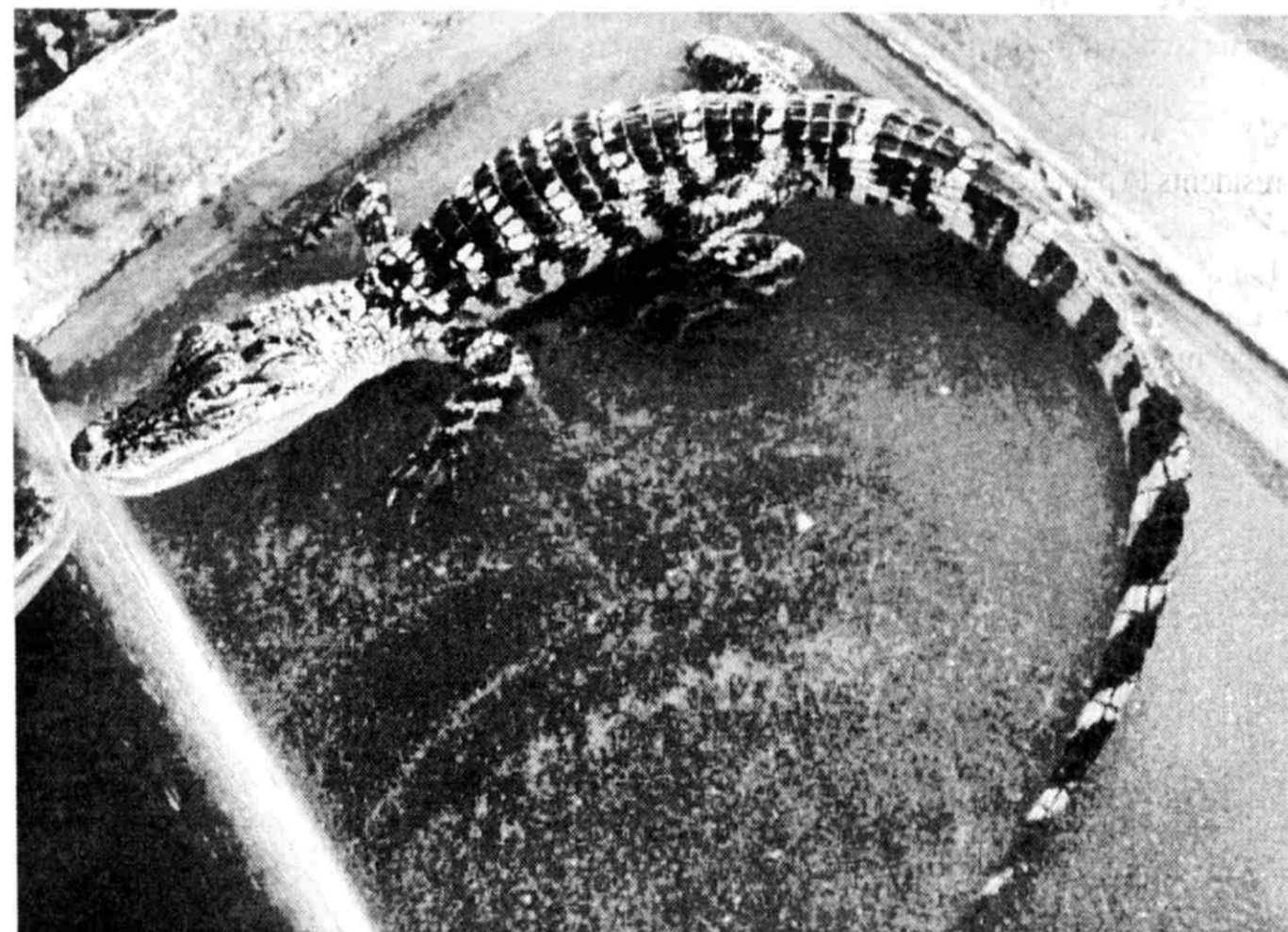
His life's motto has always been "Do what you can with what you have, where you are."

By anyone's standards, Rev. Glenn Marks has lived that and then some...

Now, after 53 active years as a pastor and leader of the Missionary Church, Rev. Marks and Norma will stop, take time to visit grandchildren in South Carolina, Minnesota and Indiana, and reflect on what they describe as an exciting, meaningful and rewarding life.

A Lowell Township fire destroys the home and belongings of Steve Hopkins and his three sons.

The fire, at 10706 Cascaded, was called in by a passerby at approximately 2:45 p.m. No one was home at the time.



Dante the alligator arrived at the Wittenbach Center in late September. He'll stay fairly small.

presented their lighting ordinance proposal to the Lowell Township Board.

The final inspection list is 12 items long. The problem with the list is Lowell Charter Township is being asked to pay for extra work needed to make the corrections at Grand River Riverside Park.

"I have a problem paying our engineer for this extra work when the work should have been done in the first place," said Lowell Charter Township treasurer, Jean Huver.

Township supervisor, John Timpson said he would be meeting with the park project engineer later this week to discuss the board's position.

by being more inclusive, remains open and prepared for what the future may bring.

By renaming the cell tower ordinance a wireless communication facility, Vergennes Township clerk, Mari Stone believes the township is more inclusive of the different type of technology facilities which may arise.

David Yomtoob, of 13980 Rolling Creek, inquired to make sure the definition allowed for an internet antennas.

The Vergennes Township/Murray Lake Dock and Boat Ordinance is intended to mirror that of the ordinance which now governs the majority of lake properties.

While Grattan Township's dock ordinance has been in place for a while, a small southern portion of Murray Lake lies in Vergennes Township where there has not

Meijer has scheduled a shopping bag full of changes beginning with its fall back-to-school campaign.

The express line transformation includes a handful of changes. A new logo in 2005, A new slogan: We get high marks for low prices"; A new look: New exterior look and logo; New line: More name brands, including Dockers and Levi Jeans; New emphasis: Fashion, electronics, healthy living and home accessories.

This announcement comes nearly a month after a less ballyhooed adjustment in the store's paper bag size.

Alan Roush hoped to get a preliminary go ahead to have a classic car dealership at 415 W. Main Street, but the Low-

Cont'd next page...

Year-In-Review, continued...

ell Planning Commission was less than enthusiastic.

Commissioners said they felt that the lot was simply too small for what Roush proposed.

To Stephanie Heaton and her partners it is the ideal location: the quaint little house at 1132 E. Main Street with the river running behind it.

It is the perfect place for their new business, a flower shop, to be located.

The only problem they face is that the property is currently zoned suburban residential, which doesn't allow for the type of retail they want.

Several of the commissioners said they were not in favor of spot zoning for one location, but would be willing to look at rezoning the property at 1132 E. Main Street along with everything up to the city's east property line, where the river crosses. This would include the Moose Lodge and two vacant properties.

It would seem to most people that there really aren't a lot of issues when it comes to putting up a fence, except for maybe the type and height.

However Maralene LaPonsie has learned in a couple of months that creating a fence ordinance allowing residents to put a fence in their front yard isn't that easy.

LaPonsie is one of two Lowell city residents to join the nine-member Planning Commission. The other is Garland Berry, who was involved with the traffic issue on Foreman and Hudson streets.

The Lowell Planning Commission was expecting to hear about a new proposal for Grindle Court, the Sundry project located on the Phillips property.

What they got was a no show.

Sundry's neo-traditional development got shot down



By making the varsity football team this year, Patrick Doyle became part of a family football tradition more than 100 years old. Doyle is shown in the picture at right. His great-great-grandfather (third from left, middle row), Arthur White, played for Lowell High School in 1900.



The 2003 homecoming court was (back row, l-r): Josh Abdo, Jeff McPherson, Tom Eldridge, Patrick Doyle (King), Ben Lemke and Alan Nugent; (front, l-r): Leslie Koehn, Julie Halbeisen, Ashley Claypool, Stephanie Blanchard (Queen), Kati Capps and Jamie Zoodsma.

by the Lowell City Council when in a 3-2 vote the council decided not to approve the ordinance governing the planned united development.

AUGUST 6, 2003

From construction sites and burial dirt piles to their own BMX track.

That's quite a jump, and the result of a committee of 15 area youth (BMX bikers and jumpers) who organized to research and draw up plans for a track located between Stoney Lakeside Park and the Lowell Water Treatment Plant.

The committee, made up of mainly middle school kids and a few freshmen, then approached the Parks and Recreation Board for funds (\$2,000) to cover the cost of equipment to build the track.

Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce's (LACC) Scarecrow Building Clinic and the Lowell Merchants Harvest Sales and Open House were the start for Lowell's Harvest Celebration.

Kent County Youth Fair

then mixed in a Harvest Arts & Craft Show.

Last year the makings of an annual Chili Madness Chili Cook-off was stirred in by Larkin's Restaurant as well as a Free Admission Day at the Lowell Area Historical Museum (LAHM).

A few more activities have been harvested for Oct. 11: a Historic Home Tour offered by the LAHM and the chamber's Flat River Antique Fair.

There was plenty of inspiration to go around at poet laureate Linda Neme Foster's creative writing workshops.

Foster guided participants through a writing experience which asked them to assume the voice or object of the artwork and write a persona poem.

His subjects are medieval characters; his talent is years beyond his age.

Lowell art enthusiasts have an opportunity to view Coleton Webber's work during the Medieval Gallery exhibit at the Lowell Area Cham-

ber of Commerce through Sept. 9.

Tim Haan was one of three Wyoming Park instructors to direct the sixth-through 12th-grade band program.

Last year, there were 95 high school students in Wyoming Park's band.

As the new leader of Lowell's band program, Haan has the daunting task of overseeing a 250-member high school band.

No one sits higher in the martial art of Wu Shu than China's Master Wu Bin.

China's most renowned martial artist and three of China's world champions visited Kent County last week to train Young Champions of America the art of Wu Shu.

Lowell's Susan Hoag, a student of martial arts for 10 years, has been studying Wu Shu for five months.

It took two-and-a-half years, 44 meetings, a threat of a lawsuit and a councilman's change in position, but none of that mattered to the developer following the Lowell City Council's 3-1 vote to approve the planned unit development ordinance for the Highland Hills project.

tant principal - is the desire to make that first year of high school the best experience it can be for each and every student.

Pallo attended Northwestern Michigan College before transferring to Central Michigan University where she earned a bachelor's degree in education. Pallo then received her master's degree from Eastern Michigan University.

Gigi Peal knows one of the quickest ways to build a successful volleyball program is to win.

Two key characteristics of a winning program, though, are consistency and continuity... neither of which have ever called Lowell their home.

Lowell's new varsity volleyball coach may be the most consistent thing going in the Red Arrow volleyball program and she's only been coaching volleyball at Lowell for four years.

It is a problem created by the city's reconstruction of North Division last year.

During the street's reconstruction last year, the grade of the roadway was raised approximately two feet.

While a retaining wall was installed along the front of the property, a similar structure has been requested by Thomas and Sheryl Laird (220 N. Division) for the driveway.

Following a discussion the council meeting, an agreement was reached whereby the city will pay 90 percent of the cost, not to exceed \$3,500.

AUGUST 13, 2003

Education has been a wonderful experience at each stop for Amy Pallo.

At the heart of Pallo's being - the new Lowell High School freshman center assis-

Of the total high school student population last year at Lowell, nearly half participated in an athletic activity.

LHS athletic director,

Barry Hobria has spends a good portion of the summer figuring out how he will run a 22 sport program with \$35,000 fewer dollars in his budget.

Some of those revenue losses will be recouped through a 25 percent hike in the school's activity fee.

The National FFA Organization announced that Kirk Johnson, of Lowell, was selected as a finalist for the National FFA Proficiency Award in Equine Science - Entrepreneurship.

Cont'd next page...

Advertisement for L&A Rent-All. Features a drawing of a house with windows and a sign that says 'Happy New Year'. Text includes: 'Allison Oesch Mr. Hawkins Alto Elementary', 'L&A Rent-All Home - Contractor - Business - Party', 'Serving the Lowell area for over 10 years.', '2401 W. Main, Lowell Ph. 897-8451'.

Advertisement for James Reagan, D.D.S. Features a drawing of a snowman and a lit candle. Text includes: 'Hannah Vanderhorst Mrs. Young Cherry Creek Elementary', 'James Reagan, D.D.S. 207 W. Main, Lowell Ph. 897-7179'.

Year-In-Review,
continued...

Johnson is one of only four people chosen to compete for this award at the national finals held in October during the FFA national convention in Louisville, Ky.

Dery Physical Therapy Services, PC filled a void and a need when it arrived in Lowell a couple of years ago.

Two years later, it now has a need to occupy more space.

That need will be satisfied with its scheduled relocation to 901 W. Main in September from its current address at 1004-A W. Main St.

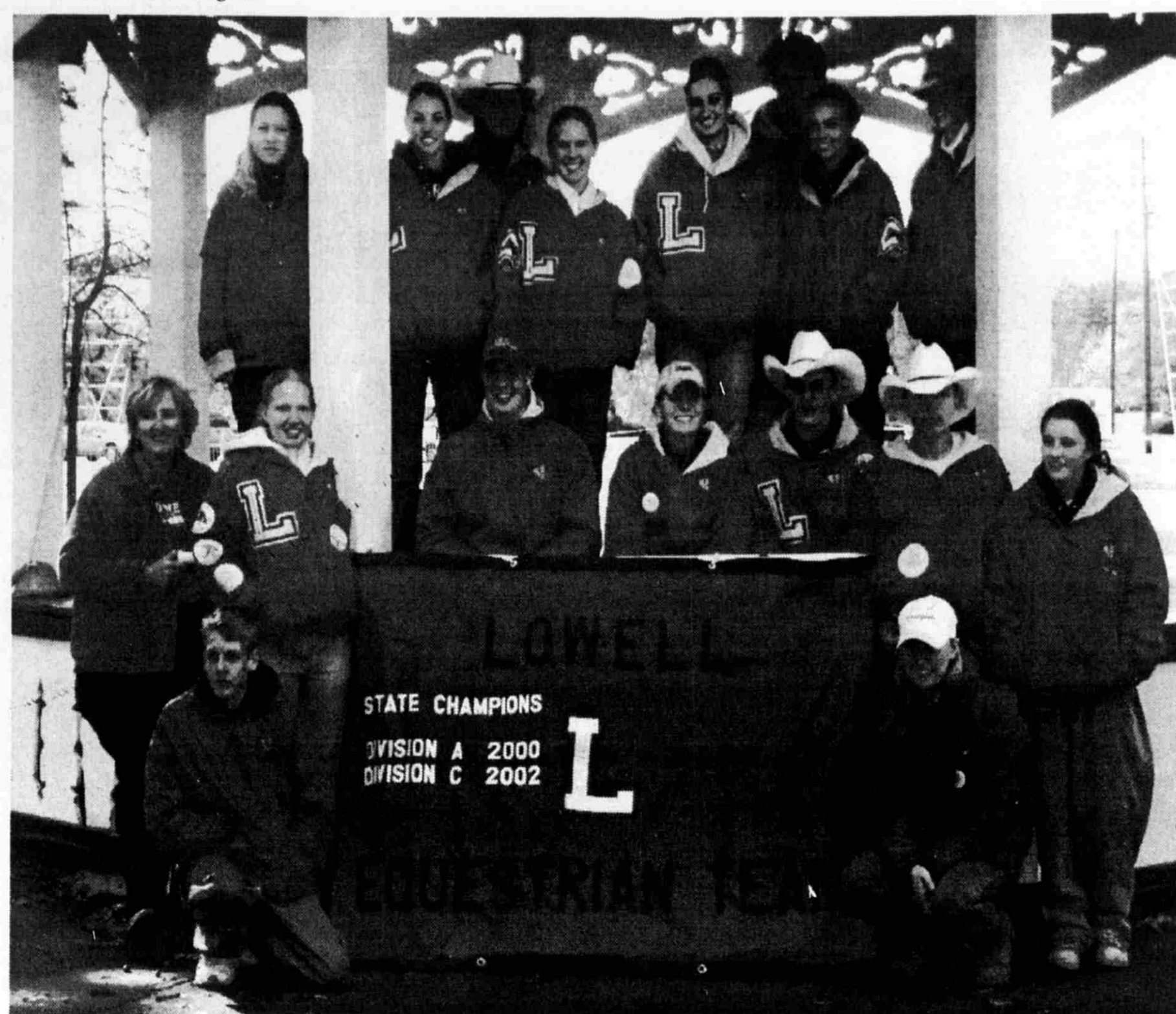
The eyes of a youth's brightly lit face could be viewed from many locations at the 69th annual Kent County Youth Fair.

That would include coming off a ride, receiving a ribbon for an exhibit, successfully showing an animal, consuming that warm, tasty elephant ear, or this year for the first time, a ride in a helicopter.

Steve Pianowski, Phoenix Precision Air, LLC, and his companion, Libby Crisp were at the fair with his Bell jet, Ranger 206 B-2 helicopter providing five-minute rides over the fairgrounds and surrounding area.

With three-fourths approval of its conference school boards, the OK Conference is now officially organized and regulated for the start of the new year... a year in which expansion and realignment will commence.

Gone are the questions... When should we build? Where should we build?



The Lowell High School Equestrian team won its third state title in October. The team was, in front, left to right: Christian Koning, Michelle Wolf; middle, left to right: Gail Parker-coach, Jess Hamp, Travis Craig, Lauren VanEns, Steve Koning, Jay Seely, Liz Foster; back row, left to right: Cara Wilcox, Kim VandenBerg, Jessica Bouman, Ashley Waldron, Kelly Foote, Jerry Parker, Collette Benmark and Carolyn Johnson.

They have been replaced with high expectations and a focus on individual learning.

The new \$3.2 million freshman center at Lowell High School was built with all of that in mind... that no student is lost between the cracks and that they all receive the greatest opportunity to learn all the skills necessary to achieve.

The celebratory ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Monday (Aug. 11).

The number of participants and the value of the program continue to escalate at

Lowell High School.

For the 2002-03 school year, 266 Lowell High School students participated in Advanced Placement courses with an A.P. course test taken for college credit 188 of those times.

This year, 379 are scheduled to enroll in an Advanced Placement course. That number is up 113 from the 2002-03 total of 266.

The program allows students to engage in a college level curriculum delivered from their home school. If a student scores high on a year-end exam in May, she/he may earn a college credit.

AUGUST 20, 2003

New books will be part of a "Backpack" package that will also offer hands-on print and manipulatives promoting early childhood literacy for Lowell's TOTS program.

The 60 new backpacks and four storage hanging trees will be funded through a \$2,500 donation by the Cherry Creek Classic 5K Run/Walk.

Cherry Creek Classic has made community contributions totaling \$24,000 over its nine-year tenure.

The biggest fair in its 69-year history yielded the largest grossing livestock auction.

Kent County Youth Fair's livestock auction sold 580 units (cattle, pig, lamb, rabbits, chicken) raising a record-setting \$346,000; it eclipsed last year's mark (\$337,000) by nine thousand.

A Lowell man was arraigned Monday in the 63rd District Court on one charge of failing to stop at an accident with serious injury.

Chad Wesley Foster, 22, of Lowell is being held at the Kent County Jail on a \$10,000 bond.

He and a friend (21 years old) were apparently racing when an accident involving two motorcycles occurred.

It's a year behind schedule, but the expansion of the share-a-ride parking lot south of Lowell near the expressway is complete.

In all, there are now 116 parking spaces.

The total cost for the improvement was \$111,000. All state and federal funds are being used to fund the project.

After some discussion about the lowness of the bid, the Lowell City Council awarded a sidewalk construction project to Cascade Cement Contracting, Inc.

It was the lowest of three bids, coming in at \$41,490 for the project that involves construction and reconstruction of sidewalk.

The project includes the west side of North Hudson Street from the north city limits to Main Street, Foreman Road (south side) from North Hudson to Lincoln Lake and the north side from Lincoln Lake to near the railroad tracks, and Hunt Street (north side) just west of North Hudson. The city did receive Federal Community Block Grant funds for the project which totaled \$50,701.78.

Two councilmembers wanted more information on which city roads may need to have construction work while two others sought more information about those who had bid to be engineers for the proposed construction work.

Lowell city staff presented four bids for engineering work that would be needed for four road projects: Sibley Street from Center to Valley Vista; Grindle Dr. from Jackson Street heading east and north to Grindle Court; Center Street; and Foreman Road.

City staff recommended that the engineering work be awarded to Williams & Works, which has done several such projects for the city. However, Williams & Works was not the lowest bid. Williams' bid was \$145,644, which was about \$11,500 above the lowest bid presented by Wilcox Professionals.

It could be a hot time in the town of Lowell on Oct. 11... not just because it's Harvest Fest, but Larkin's will be hosting its second annual Chili Cook-Off.

Mike Larkin, owner of the restaurant, came before the Lowell City Council seeking to block off Broadway Street, which is one way going south, to host the event.

The event was small, last year, but it did raise a couple hundred dollars for Flat River

Year-In-Review,
continued...

Outreach Ministries.

As a neighbor of Stoney Lakeside Park, councilman Jim Pfaller can attest to the problems the geese have created in the park.

"It's a disaster," Pfaller said at Monday night's council meeting where he again brought up the subject of whether the city should persuade a limited goose hunt to help control the population.

He did receive general support, with one resident stating at the end of the meeting he runs a business which works with non-lethal guns that could be the answer.

Public Works director, Dan DesJarden said the city did cut away a triangle to help Mother Nature move the geese droppings further from the area's swimming section. Even with doing that, the swimming section has been closed five times.

AUGUST 27, 2003

To the extent that trees are cleared to remove any danger of becoming entwined with energized power lines is not, in many cases, left to the decision of landowners.

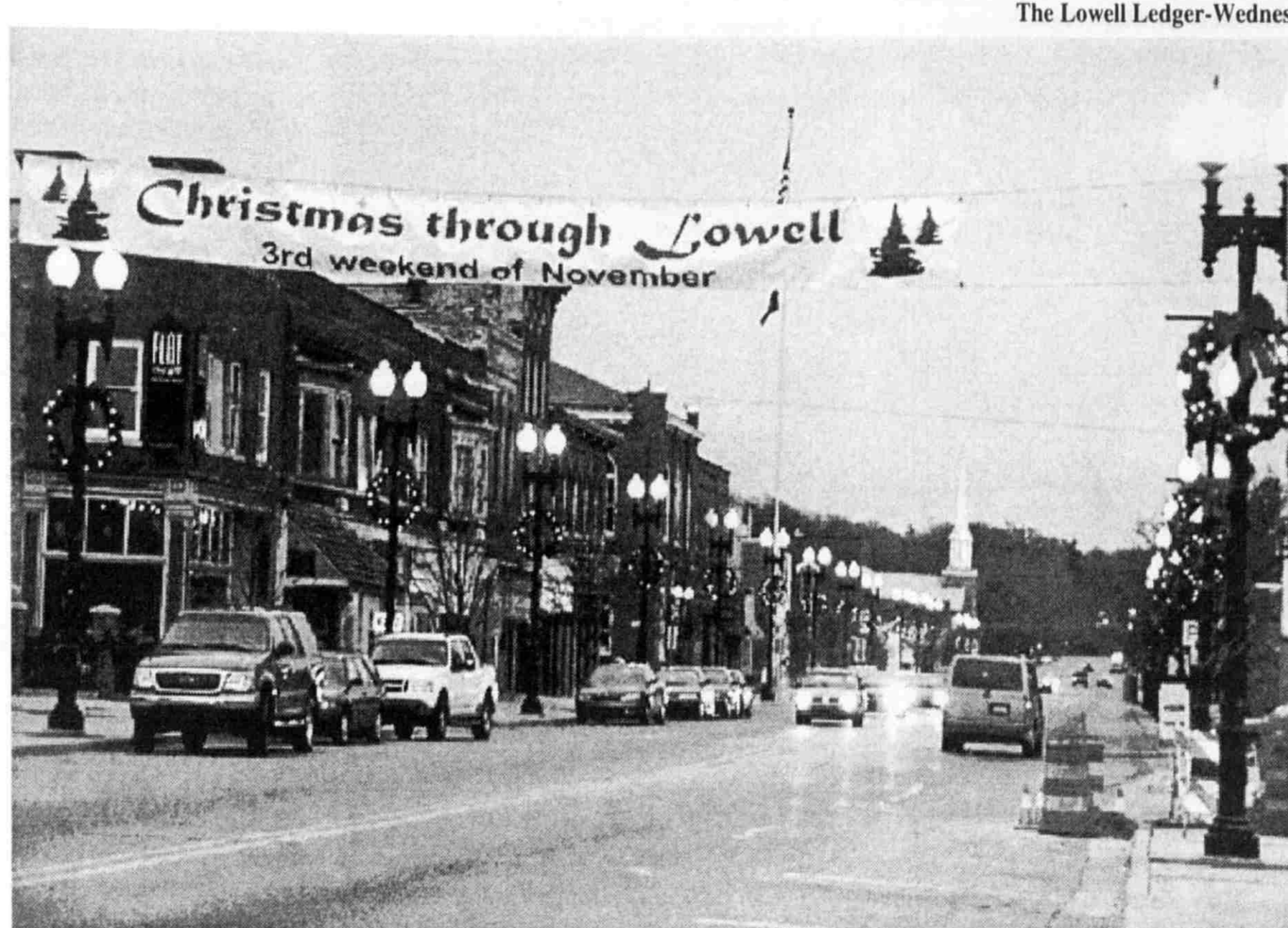
"The idea is to trim the trees to minimize or eliminate any possible danger," said Lowell Light and Power general manager, Tom Richards.

Residents at the 900 block of Riverside Drive did not question the need to trim trees, but question if last week's trimming went a little too far.

Figuratively speaking, they set the table in the morning and clear it off at night.

Lowell bus drivers are the district's first and last contact with most of the school children.

Their work and job "well done is acknowledged at the 10th annual Lowell Bus Drivers' Breakfast held by Dave and Jan Thompson.



This year saw the largest Christmas Through Lowell in terms of vendors. Six businesses and 36 homes sold items by more than 125 artisans and crafters.

Since opening in early 1998, St. Mary's Pregnancy Center has delivered the goods to 481 clients.

It was the center's work and need that drew the attention of Cherry Creek Classic organizers, Thad Kraus and Terry VanderWarf.

The race coordinators presented Collar with a check for \$1,000 on Thursday. The funds will be used to purchase supplies (e.g., food, milk formula and diapers).

The Franciscan Life Process Center knows about helping others during the time of their life.

For the first time this year, Farm Fest will have honorary co-chairmen: Peter Wege of The Wege Foundation and Frederik Meijer of The Meijer Foundation.

Wege was a major beneficiary who donated the land on which the Franciscan Life Process Center was built.

Farm Fest raises an average of \$40,000 to supply the center's scholarship fund.

A Lowell resident makes it clear that the fight over how the Sundry property should be developed is not over.

Simon Rosenbaum, Jr. said he is not opposed to the development of the land, just against how Sundry wants to develop it.

If Rosenbaum and the Concerned Nature Lovers of Lowell can get enough signatures on a petition, a referendum could be brought before the city on whether the project should continue.

According to Rosenbaum, the group needs about 15 percent of the registered voters to sign the petition, roughly 398 signatures.

Residents didn't like the idea and the Lowell Planning Commission agreed not to rezone property along the river.

The original rezoning request came from a group planning to put a flower shop in at 1132 E. Main Street. Before another regular planning commission meeting, the owners of the flower shop

withdrew their petition.

Clark Jahnke, planning commission chair, felt that a rezoning should not be determined by one particular property and that the public hearing should continue to see what would happen.

The result was a resounding "no" from those living near and on the property.

The Lowell Planning Commission unanimously voted down the rezoning request with all the properties remaining suburban residential.

The Lowell Planning Commission agreed to revisit the concept of an antique car dealership on Main Street... as long as it didn't involve an open air business special use permit.

Last month, Alan Roush approached the planning commission about an antique car dealership at 415 W. Main Street. The commission shot down the idea because the property, 66 feet by 132 feet, was too small for an open air special use permit.

Commission member, Jim Hall said if some formal plans could be presented showing a carriage house type showroom that could house a few cars, he might be able to be convinced. Jahnke took one step further and asked if the commission would be willing to consider the project as long as no vehicles were sold outside and that an open air special use permit would not be needed.

The general consensus of the commission was "yes" on the matter.

SEPTEMBER 9, 2003

No, you won't be able to count your bathrooms, closet or hallways as living space.

That is, according to the revisions to the city's ordinance that redefines what can be counted as dwelling floor area (DFA) and what cannot.

Planning commission chair, Clark Jahnke told the

Lowell City Council discovered how much it cost (about \$1,000).

Public Works director, Dan DesJarden said removing the feet took about 21 hours for city staff to remove most of the paint plus an additional five hours.

One city staff member cleaning the feet off suggested next year using something that was a little easier to remove... like chalk.

To thank the Lowell city residents for passing a millage to cover its operational costs, the Lowell Area Historical Museum will offer a free admission day once a month.

City residents will be able to visit the museum for free on the first Thursday of every month starting in October.

One was built in the 1880s. One was built in the 1930s. One was a group home. And one has a resident ghost.

These are the tidbits of information visitors will discover at the first Lowell Historic Home Tour set to run during the Harvest Celebration Oct. 11.

Hosted by the Lowell Area Historical Museum, the tour will showcase eight historic homes in the Lowell area.

The tickets for the tour are \$10, with proceeds going toward the museum's operational fund.

One of the greatest highlights for Ivan Blough this year was being invited to showcase his home in the first Lowell Historical Homes Tour.

His greatest horror came on Aug. 26 when, upon re-

That was fine until the

Cont'd next page...

Peace ON Earth

W.J. WHEELER
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

Molly Willemstein
Mrs. Young
Cherry Creek Elementary

BILL WHEELER
Certified Public Accountant
103 Riverside Dr., Lowell • 897-7711

Audrey Blodger
Mr. Fillman
Cherry Creek Elementary

Showboat
AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY, INC.
"Personal Service Since 1973"
1450 W. Main, Lowell
Ph. 897-9231

Auto Value
PARTS STORE

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Members of the Lowell YMCA's Youth and Government City Council learned about city government by adopting various government roles. They held their first meeting in City Hall Tuesday, Nov. 28. Participants included (from left to right) council members Lauren Ferguson and Elana Brubaker, city clerk Alex Cooley, mayor Josh Brubaker, and council member Cory Grzyb.

Let's Go

Ashley Metternick
Mr. MacDonald
Alto Elementary

Ice Skating

Lowell Cable
127 N. Broadway
Phone 897-8405

Lowell Cable Television

Year-In-Review, continued...

turning from a vacation, he discovered that two trees in his front yard had been chopped down to sawdust, hedges had been damaged, sidewalk and driveway broken, and 21 dents put in his lawn.

He turned to the city to repair the damage before the Oct. 11 Lowell Historical Homes Tour.

Blough said he received a call from West Michigan Tree Service but believes it is the city's responsibility to take care of this problem.

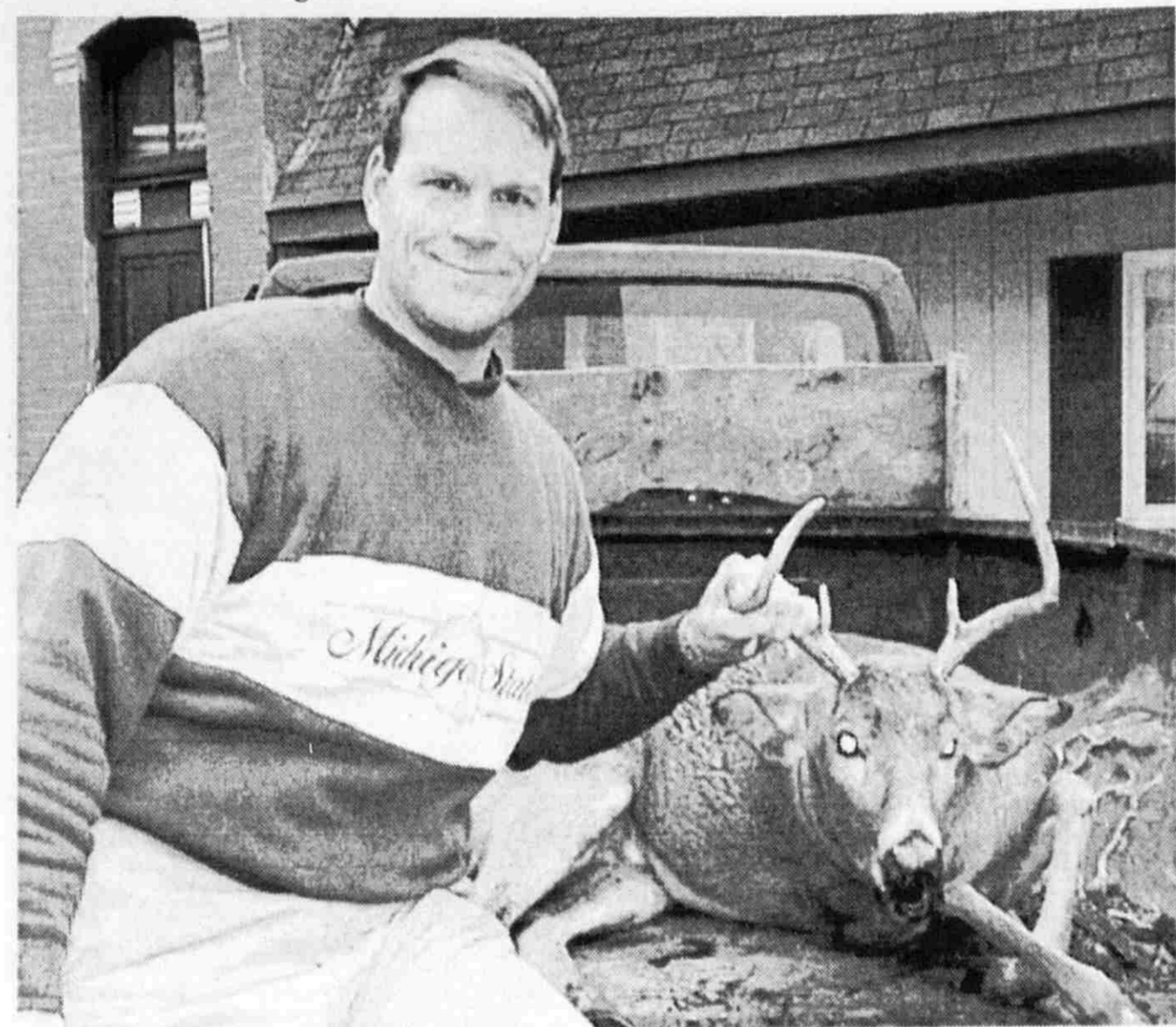
Blough added he wasn't expecting payment that night - just a guarantee that the city would cover the repair expenses.

Santa Dave Stevens and his wife/elf, Sherri were at the head of a long line of over 1,100 motorcycles that descended on the Kent County 4-H Fairgrounds for the 9th annual Toy Run. Dave and Sherri's three-and-a-half year-old son, Tony had passed away from cancer late in November.

When you slice up a pie, it doesn't really matter how you do it - there is only so much pie available no matter how many people you have to feed.

The Lowell City Council is faced with that same situation as it tries to slice up the pie of money to cover what seems to be an ever increasing number of road repairs.

"We do not have enough money to take care of all of our streets," said city manager, David Pasquale, "unless you bring in a new source of revenue."



Mike Pniewski bagged this five-point buck at 7:35 a.m. on opening day to win the Ledger's first buck contest.

The city does get money from major and local street funds; and several roads will be funded through the Federal Grant and Major Streets Fund.

A Police Citizens Academy program will be offered by the Lowell Police Department for five weeks beginning Sept. 23.

The main objective is to make the public aware of their local police department - not to train one in becoming a police officer.

SEPTEMBER 24, 2003

Good news is rare these days among schools facing freezes in state aid grants and other increasing costs. So when Lowell Area Schools found out it had been underpaid by the state for Unity High School students, it was good news to end on the 2002-2003 budget.

But the news got even better when Connie Gillette, assistant superintendent of finance and personnel, informed the district of a check received for adjusted taxable

value from 1995-2002, which meant that the budget ended very close to zero.

The economic future doesn't appear to get any better for the following year.



Charlie Alexander shovels snow outside Springgrove Variety on Main Street. The area received its first significant snowfall Monday, Nov. 24.

Gillette said she has been told to prepare for the economic problems to continue in 2004-2005 and that districts will once again have to look at their budgets.

It all started over 100 years ago when Arthur White played on Lowell's first football team - what probably started a family tradition that would continue to the present day. His great-great-grandson Patrick Doyle now plays on the Red Arrow varsity football team. There were six members over five generations who have taken the field for Lowell.

Arthur White, great-great-grandfather started the family tradition; Patrick Doyle, great-great-grandson continues it.

The Lowell Equestrian team finished its season with two district championships and one reserve district championship. Lowell will be sending its B and C teams to the

MIHA State Finals Oct. 23-26 in Detroit.

OCTOBER 1, 2003

This past weekend was the Fallasburg Fall Festival. It was the 35th anniversary of the art fair at Fallasburg Park. Jochen Ditterich was at the first festival 35 years ago. Ditterich is a weaver, a trade he took up instead of starving when he moved from his native Germany to Varkaa, Finland in 1957.

Since she was a young girl, Margaret Koning has loved airplanes.

Since high school, she has flown in many aircraft - her husband was a flight instructor in the U.S. Navy - but never in a Boeing Stearman, the airplane in which her husband logged the most hours in the Navy.

"I was courted by air," she said. She was nursing in a Catholic hospital near the naval base in Ottumwa, Iowa. Stanley Koning, while making cross-country training flights, would circle the hospital before landing at the base.

After the Konings married, Stanley Koning promised to one day take her up in a Stearman but in his whole life he never got the chance. He died of bone cancer in May of 1996.

On Sunday, at the Lowell Airport Fly-in, the Kentwood resident finally got her ride in a Stearman flown by The Ledger publisher, Roger Brown.

Brown's Stearman, built in 1941 for the Army, was one of 10,000 Boeing's built to be the primary trainers for the Army and Navy during the WWII era. Of those, 1,000 to 1,500 are still flying.

Cont'd next page...

Year-In-Review, continued...

"I loved it," she yelled from the front seat. "I'm glad I didn't have to wait until next year."

The house to the north of the Roth-Gerst Funeral Home on N. Hudson Street was torn down Monday.

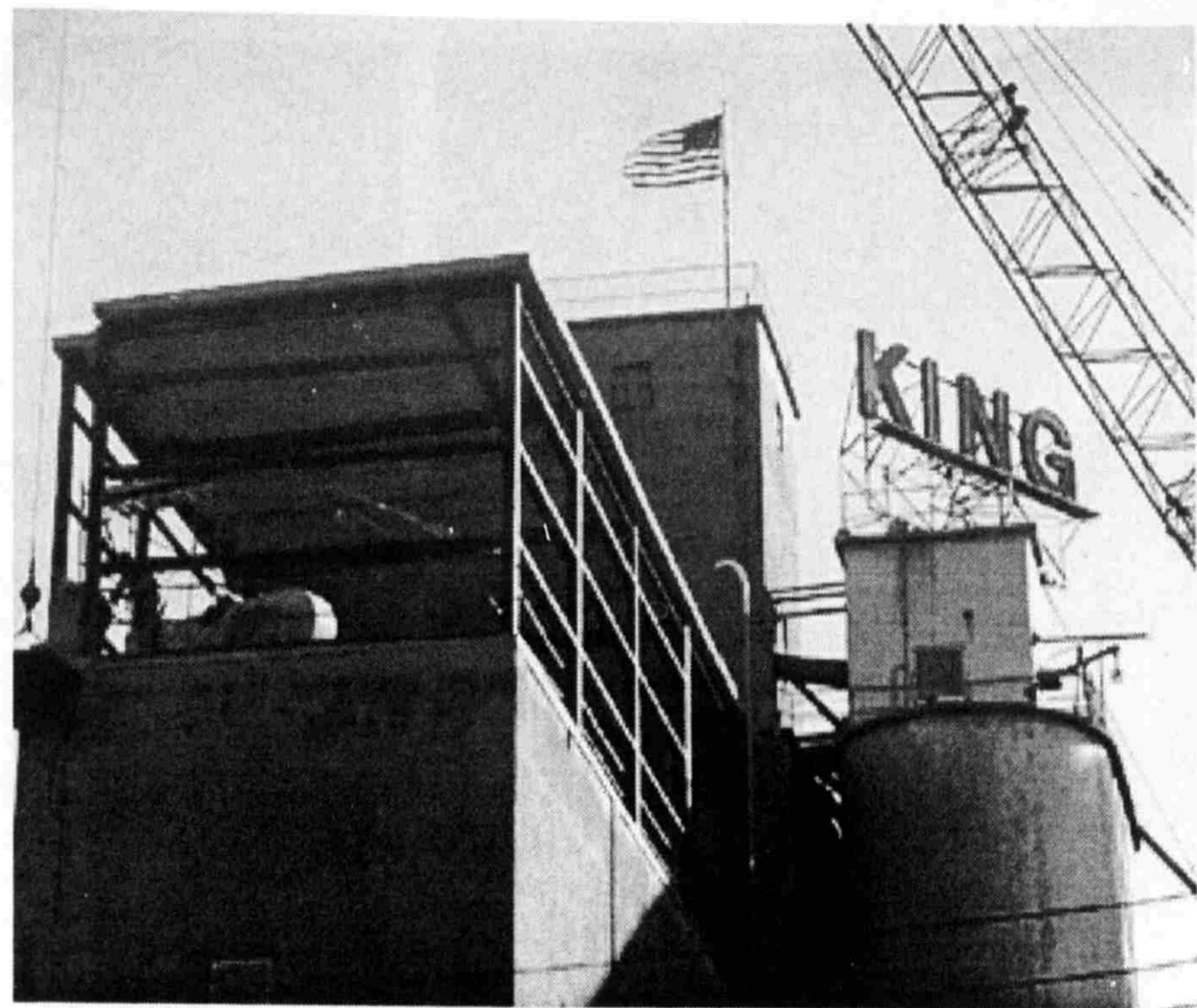
"It was an old house and it needed a lot of restoration," said David Gerst, the owner. Gerst will replace the house with a lawn and plantings to beautify the funeral home's grounds.

In one of its shortest meetings ever, the Lowell City Council unanimously voted to have its citizens make the final decision on whether an ordinance for a planned unit development should be repealed.

Last month, a petition against the Sundry project, Highland Hill, located at 751 Grindle Ave., was presented to the council. William Bowie, attorney for the developers, raised several questions about the legality of the petitions including whether the circulators were present when people signed.

After three weeks of review, Lowell city clerk, Betty Morlock certified that 431 signatures were obtained, exceeding the required amount of 15 percent of the city voters or 400 signatures.

According to the ordinance, city attorney Richard



King Milling built an addition on top of its main flourmill to accommodate new equipment. The addition will increase King Milling's production capacity for white flour by 50 percent.

Wendt said the city could hold the referendum election at the next election or have a special election.

The council decided to go with a Dec. 9 election date; Dec. 16 as a back-up date.

Morlock will have to submit an application to the state for final approval on the election date.

After the meeting, Bowie felt the city didn't give either side a chance to discuss the issue.

In the end, Sundry owner Kevin Rude said the city is boxing not only the company into a corner but also "one of the oldest citizens in the city of Lowell, Mr. Leeman, the party who is selling the property."

OCTOBER 15, 2003

The smell of spices and tomatoes and something cooking wafted at least a block around Main and Broadway streets Saturday. People were cooking chili - 24 pots worth. It was the second annual Larkin's Chili Madness Chili Cook-off.

The judges found a chili called "Pat's Picasso Supreme" to be the best chili at the cook-off. Pat Allchin represented the Lowell Area Arts Council.

Second place went to "Missing Jack's." Rocky Ashlock cooked the chili, which also won the People's

Choice award. Scott Nagy, representing Phoenix Design and Build LLC, won third place with his "Hungarian Heartburn" chili.

Volunteer George Mickel is back at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce this week following a car wreck with a semi truck.

The accident occurred last Friday on a rain-soaked stretch of M-21 near Ada.

"The car was totaled," Mickel said. "At least I got out of it alive, that's the only thing that matters to me."

Mickel's face is familiar around Lowell, he devotes countless volunteer hours to the chamber and other organizations in town.

OCTOBER 29, 2003

The Lowell High School Equestrian team earned a third State championship over the weekend. Lowell, with 206 points, won the B division, defeating 18 other teams from around the state.

Lowell also fielded a C team which earned 8th place at the State finals.

Michael Nosko, a developer, hopes to put 25 condominium units on the corner of Valley Vista and Bowes Road. The city ordinance, however, may force him to reduce the number.

Discovering the parcel would be about 2.2 acres, city manager, David Pasquale said Nosko would only be allowed to put 22 units on the property because the city code allows for 10 units per acre on an R-3 residential site. Nosko said the 25-unit was to help keep the cost affordable.

A public hearing on the rezoning was set for Nov. 24 at City Hall.

OCTOBER 22, 2003

This year's city council election will see the largest field of candidates in eight years.

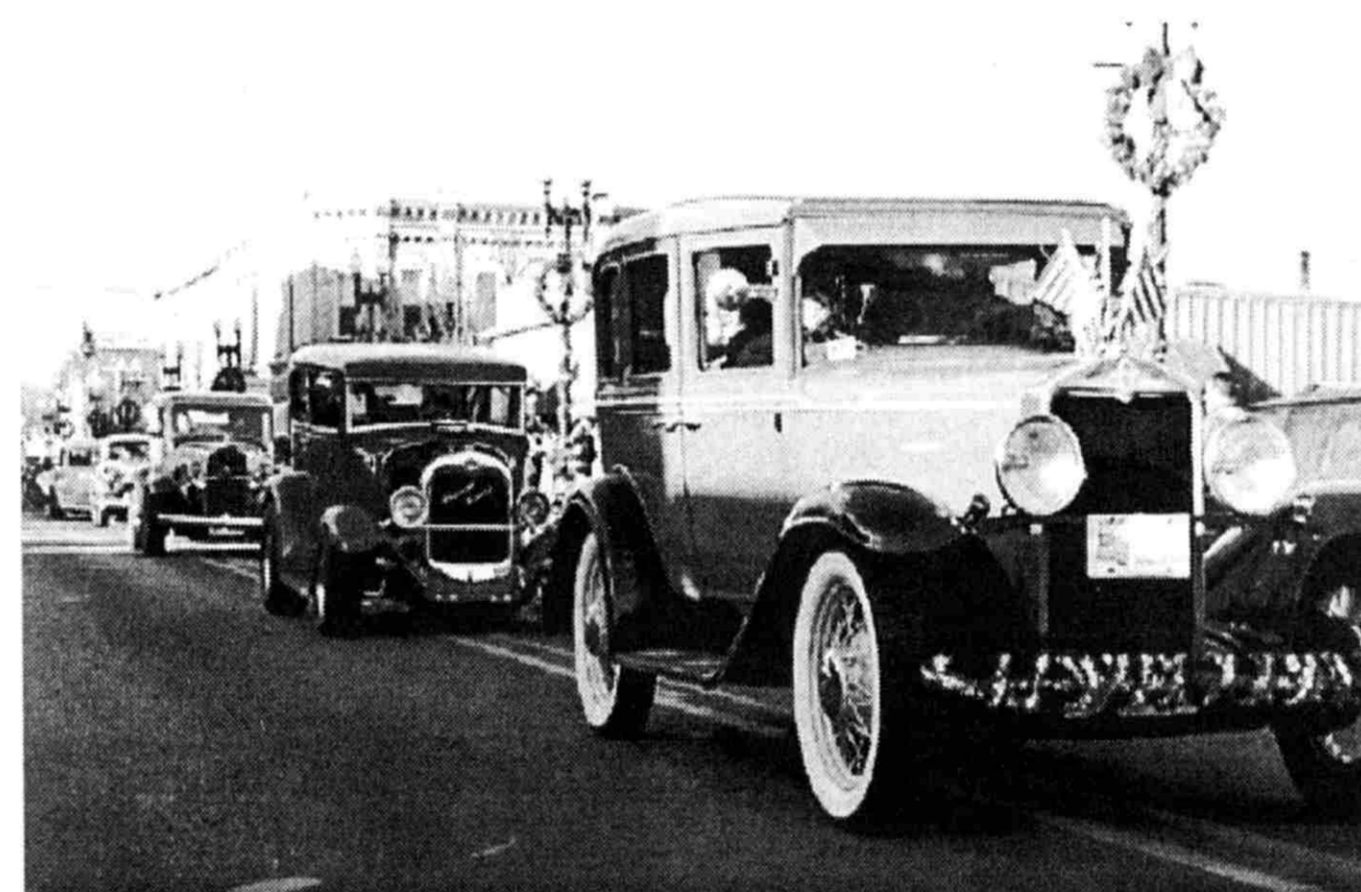
This year's city council elects will face challenges ranging from budget constraints to managing growth within Lowell's limited four-square-mile city limits.

The two highest vote-getters will receive four-year terms. The third-highest will

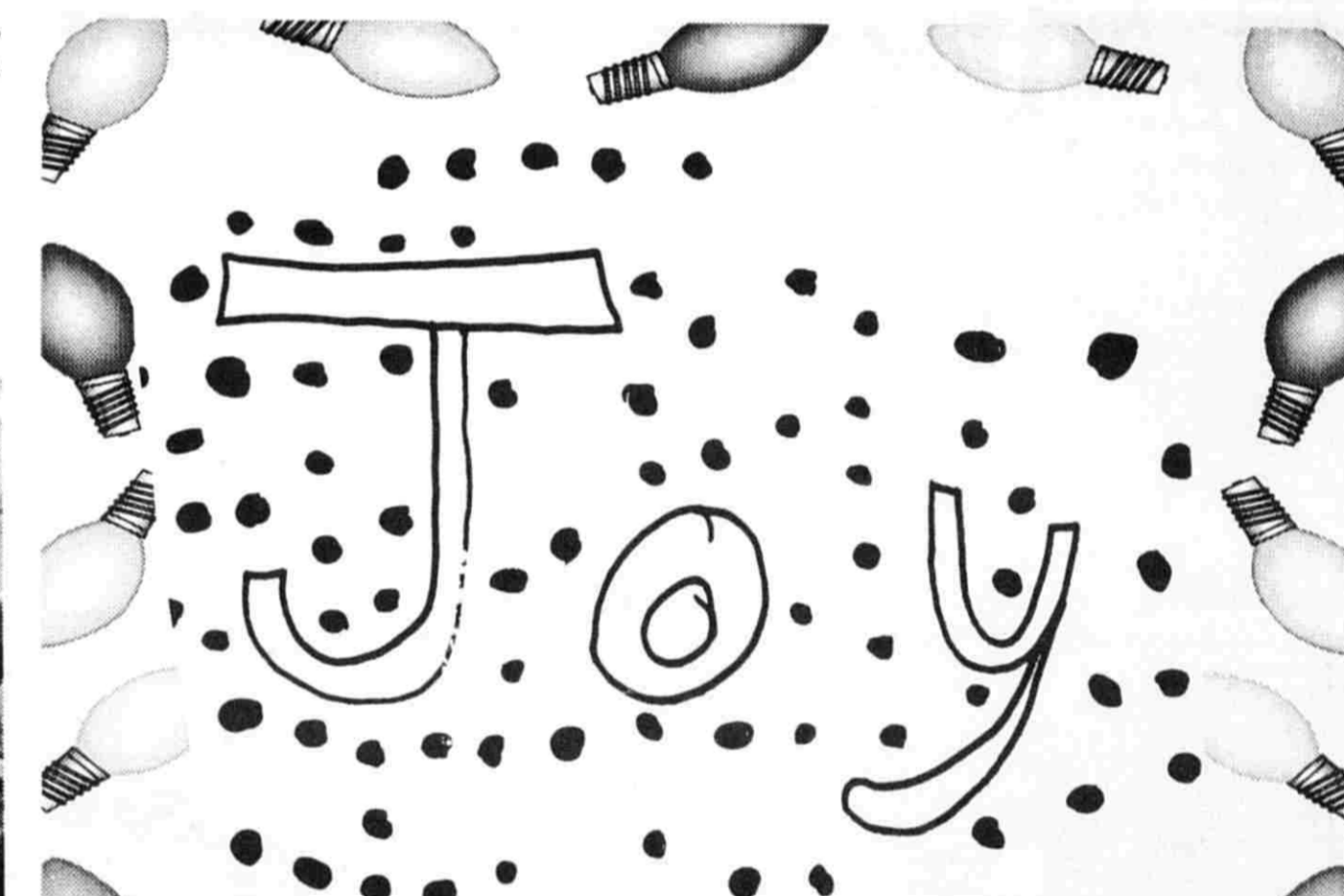
NOVEMBER 5, 2003

A cooperative effort between multiple area law enforcement agencies culminated in a high-speed chase and the arrest of two men last Thursday.

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Classic cars rumble down Main Street during the "Small World Christmas" parade Dec. 6.

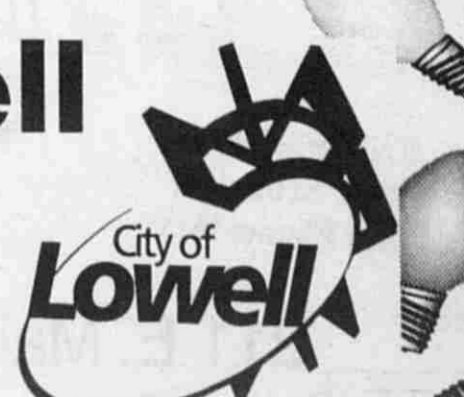


Brandon VandenHout Mrs. Young Cherry Creek Elementary

Sarah Kramer Mrs. Vezino St. Patrick School

City of Lowell

301 E. Main Ph. 897-8457



Merry Christmas! Kimberly Green Mr. Keglovitz Cherry Creek Elementary L.A. TRIM 897-6546

Happy Holidays From outer space! Jacob Weeks Mr. Bredin Cherry Creek Elementary Lowell Granite Co. 306 E. Main, Lowell Ph. 897-7191

Shannon Johnston Mr. Bredin Cherry Creek Elementary Speerstra Agency Auto-Owners Insurance Life Home Car Business The No Problem People Dale & Nancy Triplett 835 W. Main, Lowell • 897-9259

Peace on Earth Asher Maliepaard Mrs. Schneider Alto Elementary ej's Salon, Inc. 204 W. Main • 897-1700

Year-In-Review, continued...

Police focused their investigation on Bruce Wireman, 24, of Greenville, and John Lilly, 25, of Ionia County, after receiving a tip that they were involved in break-ins in the area.

Wireman and Lilly had ties to the Lowell area and are linked to break-ins here, elsewhere in Kent County, in Greenville and in Ionia County. Additional charges are being sought.

The Lowell Moose Lodge, the Lowell YMCA and the Vennen Chrysler dealership were all broken into in the week before the arrests.

The city will continue to help fund a busing service for seniors and handicapped persons.

The North Kent Transit Service, which is run through Hope Network, sought to finalize its 2002-2003 budget, which ended at \$10,176, and to establish its 2003-2004 budget, proposed at \$4,000.

Pasquale said the city has not used general funds in subsidizing the North Kent Transit program, only block grant monies, and as he understood it, as long as the city continues to receive community development block grant money, the city will continue to help



The sixth-grade string ensemble at the Bushnell Elementary auditorium where they played their first concert Friday, Dec. 5. The string ensemble is the first step in building a school orchestra program in Lowell Area Schools. Pictured, front row, left to right, are: Jessica Ryder, Cassie Balfour, Phillip Getzen, Rachel Rowley, Cassie Miles and Sarah Buist; back row are: music teacher Marti DeYoung, Parker Liu, Kyle Mayhew and Moriah Rowley.

fund it. The program came to Lowell in 1999.

Both Lowell and Vergennes townships contribute. Lowell Township had 201 riders for the 2002-2003 year; Vergennes Township had 175 riders.

For the city's retirees, it's a small increase each year to help with inflation, but it sparked a little debate over whether that two-percent in-

crease was too much. The increase is dictated by the Municipal Employees Retirement System of Michigan, said Lowell police chief, Jim Valentine. It is either approved or it's zero. Councilman, Mike Blough said the issue is getting the best people for the city of Lowell and one way is through a valid retirement program. He felt the two-percent increase was fair.

The Lowell Education Foundation will present its

second annual Dinner With Friends fundraiser this Saturday. Eight homes in the Lowell area promise wonderful food and hospitality.

The program will end at the City Hall where a talented jazz ensemble will perform. For \$50 per person, it's a wonderful way to help the LEF raise funds for Lowell student programs.

NOVEMBER 12, 2003

This weekend will be the twelfth and largest Christmas Through Lowell with more than 125 crafters in 36 homes and six businesses throughout the three-day event.

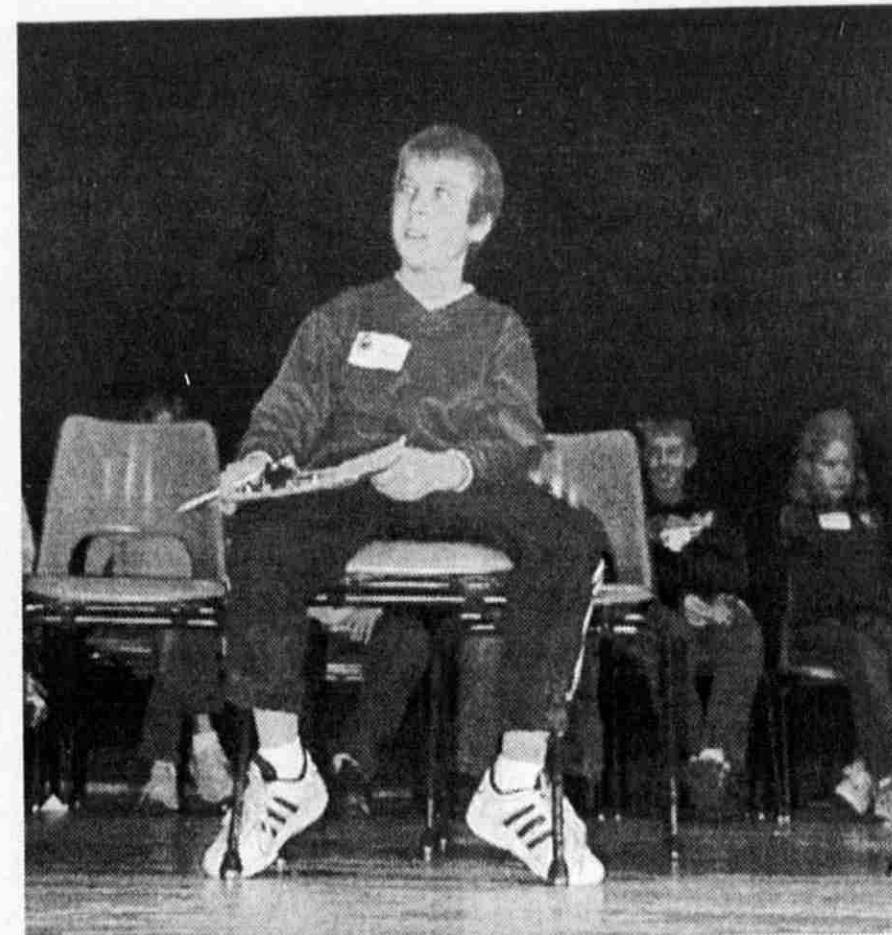
"This is the biggest one yet - the most we've ever had," said organizer Jody Haybarker. "So hopefully we'll have record crowds."

Last year, Christmas Through Lowell attracted at least 1,500 people.

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 next scheduled me-



Jonathan Nichols was the winner of the fifth-grade National Geographic geography bee at Cherry Creek Elementary. He won by correctly answering the question, "The Yukon River flows across Alaska before emptying into what sea?" The answer, of course, is the Bering Sea.

diation 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.

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

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.

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.

Teachers at Monday's meeting stressed that they have no interest in striking, and have expressed none.

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

The incident occurred in front of the Admiral Station. Preliminary reports indicate that the girl darted out into the street, failing to see a west-bound car.

As of Monday morning, the girl was listed in fair condition at Spectrum Health Butterworth Campus.

The driver, 48, of Muskegon, was driving a 1999 Cadillac DeVille.

"It's a dangerous spot to cross mid-block," Lowell police chief, Jim Valentine said.

NOVEMBER 26, 2003

Rick and Sarah Nelson opened their mortgage business three months ago on Main Street in Lowell. The idea was and continues to be putting a local face on mortgages and loan financing.

A lot of mortgage businesses are isolated from their clients, Rick Nelson said.

Nelson and his wife have each worked in the mortgage and loan business for more than five years, mostly in Grand Rapids.

Thornton Wilder's *The Skin of Our Teeth* is the Lowell High School all-school play to be presented Dec. 4, 5 and 6 at the Lowell Performing Arts Center.

The Skin of Our Teeth, throughout its history, been considered a monumental and monumentally confusing play. Wilder himself, while writing it, called it the most

Cont'd next page...

Year-In-Review, continued...

ambitious play he had attempted. It is a very ambitious play for a group of high school actors to take on.

DECEMBER 3, 2003

On Thursday, May 25, 1944, under the headline "Sgt. Wm. Kollar, Reported Missing, Eludes the Enemy For 30 Days and Nights," The Ledger reported on Staff Sgt. William Kollar.

The report told that Kollar was back in Lowell again "with the home folks" after having his B-24 bomber shot down and hiking miles through the Balkans.

"His experiences and those of the other members of his bomber crew," the story continued, "make a graphic story as thrilling as any that have yet come out of the war."

Kollar began writing a manuscript of the story after it became de-classified in the 1960s. He later approached Nikos Ligidakis, an author in the state where Kollar now resides, Arizona. Ligidakis did some research of his own and built Kollar's manuscript into a book. Its title is *The Last Mission* and it has been available for about a year now.

A copy will be available at the Englehardt Public Library.

As the first wellness director for the Lowell community, Jessica Johnston is currently familiarizing herself



By early December, the exterior brickwork was complete at the new Murray Lake Elementary. There will be an open house at the new school building Sat., Jan. 17 from 1 to 3 p.m.

with the area's health needs.

Johnston has an office at Cherry Creek Elementary and at 207 Jackson Street. Her office phone number is 340-7781 or she can be reached by e-mail at jjohnston@lowell.schools.com.

King Milling is building an addition on top of their main flour mill. Once completed, it will allow the company to increase white flour capacity by 50 percent.

"We're hoping to get a seven-day down period to make a cut-over and do that around Memorial Day," said Brian Doyle.

A nearly completed residence in the Main Street Condominiums building will be shown during an open house this Saturday. The condo is the first of four in the building that was formerly part of the Flat River Antique Mall. Craig Architects Inc. of Grand Rapids is designing the condominiums.

project would not be in accordance with Michigan law.

Sundry contends that not approving the project would have a major impact on the city in terms of taxes to the city and school, lost revenue to local businesses, and would impede the individual property rights.

On Nov. 21, Kent County Circuit Court Judge Dennis B. Leiber decided in favor of Sundry that the Dec. 9 election on the PUD ordinance for the developers' Highland Hill

property. She got a stay of execution for the tree, but no guarantees that it won't have to come down.

This meant that Johnston's tree is saved from the ax until that meeting. "This should have been resolved and taken care of many years before it came to this," Tom Richards, Lowell general manager of LL&P said.

For the past 10 years, the city of Lowell, like many Kent County municipalities, has relied on the county to produce and mail its tax bills. Due to the need to upgrade, the county has decided to get out of the tax administration business.

With this move, the city of Lowell needed to purchase new software to process tax bills and delinquent taxes.

The first year includes free software support. After that, the support is around \$600 a year, coming from the city's data processing fund.

The county plans to be out of the tax administration business by March 1, 2004.

DECEMBER 10, 2003

The annual Santa Parade and related festivities happened this weekend in downtown Lowell.

The theme of the parade was "Small World Christmas." For their interpretation of this theme, Alto Girl Scouts took first place honors. Dressed as international flags, the girls collected more than 80 toys for Flat River Out-



Firefighters battle the blaze that on Monday, Dec. 15 destroyed the home of Dave and Diane Himebaugh.

Advertisement for Sneakers featuring a drawing of shoes and the text: Happy Hanukkah!! Erik Ingebretson Mrs. Schneider Alto Elementary 211 E. Main, Lowell 897-6746

Advertisement for Durkee Lumber featuring a drawing of a snowman and the text: Let It Snow! Joshua Depew Mr. Hawkins Alto Elementary DURKEE LUMBER Alto, Michigan • 868-6026 Hours: Mon. - Fri., 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Sat. 8 a.m. - noon



Santa makes his way down Main Street during the "Small World Christmas" parade Dec. 6. At the reins is Brian Doyle.

Year-In-Review, continued....

reach Ministries, Inc.

Second place went to the Lowell Area Historical Museum's float. The Kent County Youth Fair, whose float featured livestock, took third place honors.

This year there were 70 entries in the parade.

...

Sixth graders from Lowell Middle School performed string music for first graders at Bushnell Elementary last Friday.

This year, sixth graders have been able to take orchestra class during the school day.

This is the start of what Lowell Area Schools hopes will eventually become an orchestra program.

...

Mediation between the Lowell Area Schools board of education and teachers' union will take place Dec. 17 after months of delay.

On Nov. 6, Gov. Jennifer Granholm announced a \$196 cut to the state's per pupil allowance. The governor and legislatures have been working since then to come up with a better plan...

During the public com-

ment session at the school board meeting Monday, teachers and parents expressed their desire to get the contract settled quickly... negotiations were causing bad feelings in the community and were an unnecessary distraction to the educators.

At Monday's school board meeting, both public comment and commentary from board members expressed urgency and hope that the next mediation will result in a settlement.

...

Those heading to the polls yesterday to vote on a referendum measure were greeted by a notice stating that the polls were closed.

The Michigan Court of Appeals faxed a notice over to the city stating the court intended not to intervene on Circuit Court Judge Dennis B. Leiber's decision to suspend the referendum election that was set for yesterday, Dec. 9. "[Sundry] can proceed with the project," said city manager, David Pasquale, indicating that the Michigan Court of Appeals' decision cleared the way for the project to go ahead.

Sundry will be required to follow the PUD ordinance put in place at the Aug. 4 meeting.

DECEMBER 17, 2003

Firefighters from the Lowell Area Fire Department and the Ada Township Fire Department responded to a fire at 178 S. Pleasant St. Monday morning.

No one was home when the fire broke out.

It took the two departments three hours to fully extinguish the blaze. Lowell fire chief, Frank Martin said the house was old and had no fire barriers. This allowed the fire to gain intensity and spread quickly.

The house belonged to Dave Himebaugh.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

...

For the past two weeks, Mark Kasmer has been working full time as Lowell Area Schools' assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. He said he is comfortable with the job so far.

As assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, it is Kasmer's job to make sure LAS teaches everything it needs to and with the proper books and materials. He replaces Jim White, who recently retired from that capacity though he remains

involved in the schools in other roles.

"You have a very committed staff and a hard-working staff, and you also have a good community family structure, good family involvement," he said.

...

Last Thursday seven people representing Lowell businesses and its arts community attended a conference in Lansing seeking ideas related to making Lowell a cooler city.

The conference, titled "Creating Cool: linking culture, community and the economy," was the ninth annual meeting of the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs. The idea of the conference was to get people talking about ways the business types and the creative types can work together to improve cities...

"... One thing I really noticed working here," Lowell Area Arts Council director, Lorain Smaligan said. "Working here, there is almost like this underground of artists in this community that are slowly coming out of the woodwork..."

Liz Baker, executive director of the Lowell Area

Chamber of Commerce, sent surveys out to local businesses following the recent "Small World Christmas" parade and events. She said most businesses downtown reported an increase in business that day.

...

Fifth graders at Cherry Creek Elementary shipped out 170 holiday care packages to service men and women in Iraq. The name of the project was "Project Hero."

One student in Mrs. Pupel's second grade class took it upon herself to collect more than \$200 from family and friends. She personally brought in 47 boxes for the troops.

Sheryl Cadwallader, an employee at Root-Lowell, first brought the "Project Hero" idea to fifth-grade teacher, Mary Beth Reed. Root-Lowell donated the first \$100 of the nearly \$500 in shipping costs to send the packages.

...

For the past several months, the Lowell Area Historical Museum has been undertaking the restoration of the second half of the house it occupies.

Now, it is stepping up efforts in phase two of its fund drive. The current fund drive,

to finance the expansion of the museum, has been ongoing since the museum opened in the fall of 2001. The museum still needs to raise about \$130,000 in order to reach its goal of \$231,000.

The new part of the museum, which will occupy the east half of the first floor, will include two rooms for exhibits. In addition, the formal dining room will be restored as closely as possible to its original condition as will the front parlor. Plans also include a small gift shop...

Robert William Graham, built the brick house at 325 W. Main St. in 1873. The house is Victorian in design...

Robert Graham's in-laws, Joseph and Julia Post, lived in the east side of the house. The Posts had moved to Lowell from Connecticut (Graham was born in Lancashire, England).

The various uses the building has been used over the years have made restoration more difficult. This is especially true of the modifications made to the space to convert it to a YMCA.

In removing the modifications, Ivan Blough and several others who have worked on the house have learned a lot about how houses were constructed in the 1870s.

Varsity wrestling topples Sparta; JV triumphs at Belding tournament

By Dan Schneider

The varsity wrestling squad won its match last Thursday against an injury-weakened Sparta.

The teams split the victories at seven each. Lowell won the match 39-29 by pinning its opponents.

Sparta took the first match at 160 with Kyle VanderHyde winning a 13-5 major decision over Lowell's Jason Nearing.

Lowell's Ryan Dykhous countered by pinning Glenn Graham in the first round at 171.

"What set us apart from them was the pins," Lowell varsity coach, Dave Strejc said.

Also winning by pin for Lowell were Ray Seese (103), Mike Thomas (112), David Kropf (125), Joe Mendez

(130) and James DeLiefde (145).

"Trevor Foss wrestled a great match at heavyweight," Strejc said.

Foss won an intense heavyweight match with a 7-6 decision.

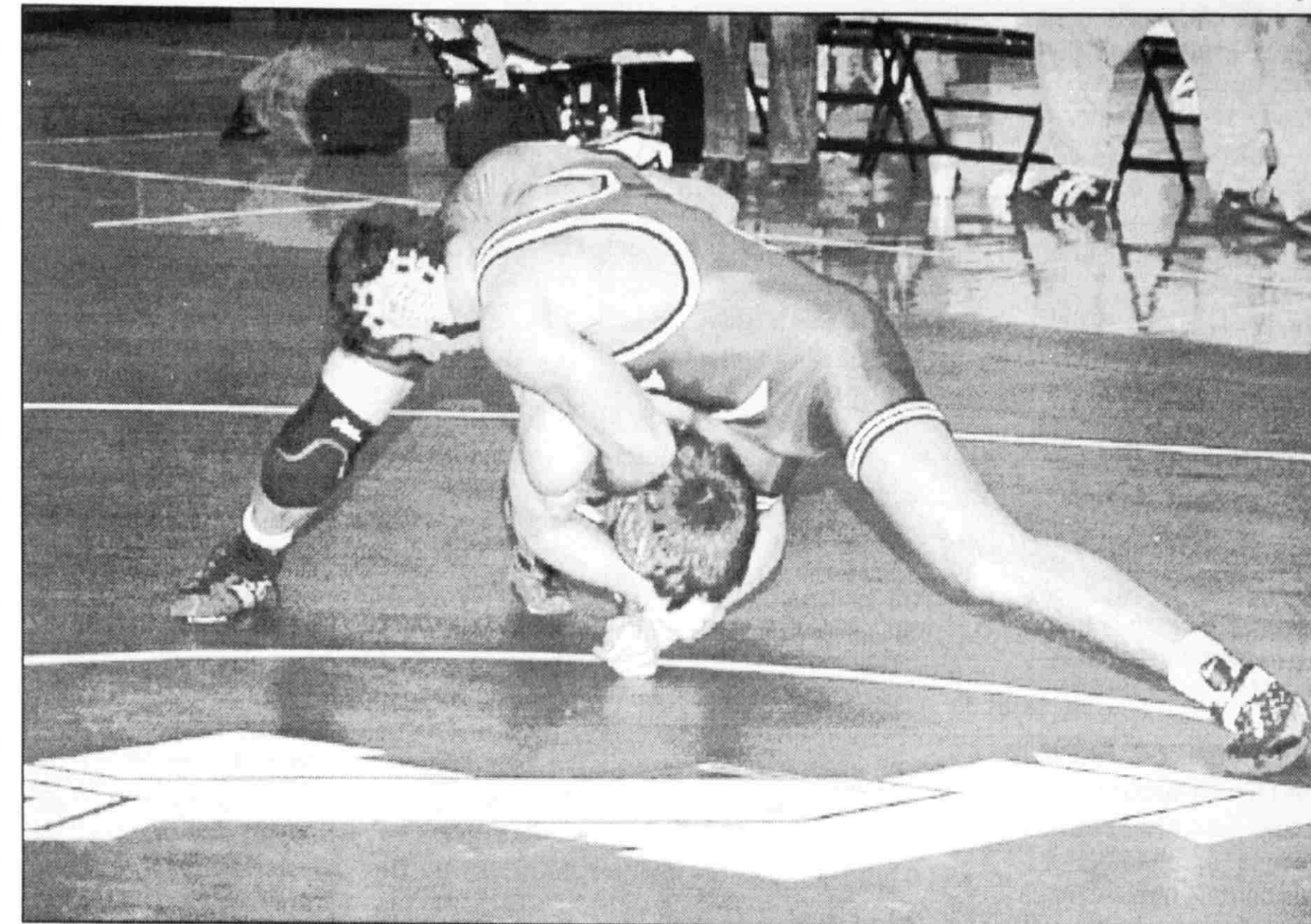
The Spartans came to the match minus three starters.

"We lost two matches we should have won," Sparta head coach, Ron Helmboldt said. "25 and 12 and that was the match, that was it."

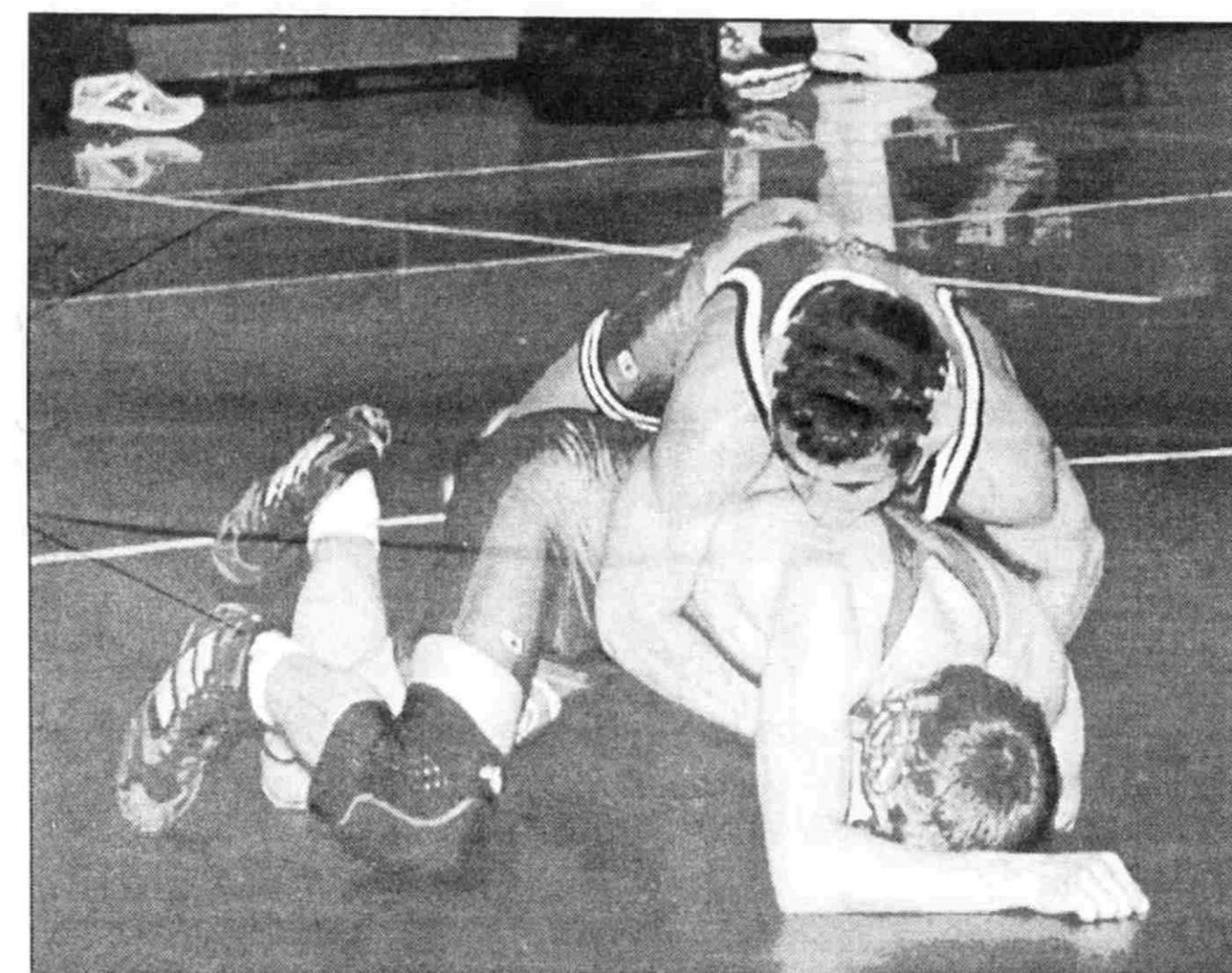
"I think in all honesty we won the battle of the walking wounded," Strejc said.

The junior varsity wrestling team traveled to and won the Belding tournament last Saturday.

The next wrestling action for the varsity team will be Saturday at the Grandville tournament.



Lowell's Matt Kilmartin breaks away from Sparta's Sam Sokolowski in the 135 match last week versus Sparta. Sokolowski won the match by scoring a takedown in overtime.



At left, Lowell's David Kropf works to roll over Sparta's Rob Yahrmarkt in the 125 match against Sparta last Thursday. Kropf won by pin in the second round of the match.

Santa's Greeting

Kaitlin Drudy
Mr. Fillman
Cherry Creek Elementary

Megan Montgomery
Mrs. Melle
Cherry Creek Elementary

Taryn Endres
Mrs. Vezino
St. Patrick School

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Student Financial Aid night, Jan. 8

The Lowell High School counseling staff is sponsoring a financial aid night for students planning to attend college next fall. Juniors, seniors and their parents will be guided through the process of filing for and receiving financial assistance.

JoAnn Litton, assistant director of financial aid at

Grand Valley State University, will simplify the sometimes confusing process of filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) applying for grants, scholarships and certain low interest loans.

The FAFSA is the cornerstone upon which all financial

aid is granted. This application is based upon both parent and student incomes and must arrive at the processor by March 1.

Plan to attend this informative meeting Thursday, Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. in the Lowell Performing Arts Center at the high school.

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COMING EVENTS

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

EVERY OTHER SUN: Single adults meet 4-5:30 p.m. 1st United Methodist Church, Lowell. Social time/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: Fallasburg Historical Society board meetings at chamber or Fallasburg, 7 p.m. All invited. 897-7161 for info.

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 meeting at Historical Museum, 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.

FOURTH MON. OF EACH MONTH: Clark-Ellis American Legion Post 152, 3100 Alden Nash S.E. at 7:30.

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

EVERY 1ST MON.: V.F.W. Post #8303, 3116 Alden Nash S.E. at 7 p.m.

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

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

2ND & 4TH TUES.: MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers... because mothering matters. 9:15-11:30 a.m. at Impact, a Wesleyan Church, 1070 N. Hudson. Call 897-8304 for details.

SECOND TUES.: G.R. Chapter of the American Caravan children's program, 7 p.m., 5-12 years. Call 897-8800 with ???'s.

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

TUES.: Flat River Woodcarvers, LAAC, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

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

SECOND & FOURTH TUES.: Saranac Needlers, needleart/quilting bee meets 5-8:30 p.m. at 4 Health Wellness Center in Saranac. For all or part time; all invited. Contact Bev or Melissa, 642-6466 for info. Lt. dinner provided.

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

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.: Saranac Scappers, scrapbooking/journaling group meets at 4 Health Wellness Center, Saranac, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Lt. refreshments served. Bev or Melissa, 642-6466.

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

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

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

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

EVERY WED.: "Peppers" at Franciscan Life Process Center: 1-3:30 p.m. \$10/wk. Call Pat at 897-7842 for transportation.

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., King Memorial Youth Center at Fairgrounds. 897-6050.

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

EVERY FOURTH WED.: Elderly volunteers needed for Intergenerational program w/school children in activities. 9:45-10:45 a.m. or 12:45-1:45 p.m. Sister Colleen F.S.E. 897-7842.

EVERY SECOND WED.: Support group for Peripheral Neuropathy, 4 p.m. at St. Paul's Anglican Catholic Church, Grand Rapids. Dorothy 897-9794. Jan. 14: guest speaker Sharon Vermuelen, reflexologist.

THURS.: Weight Watchers, Lowell Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington, 5:30. Register 1/2 hr. before meeting. 800-651-6000.

EVERY SECOND THURS.: Loyal Order of the Moose, men's general meeting at 7:30 p.m. -? All members in good standing may attend.

THURS.: Saranac Area Musicians and Singers at Saranac H.S. Band Room. Choir: 6-7 p.m./band: 7-8. Kathy Maatman 897-5981.

EVERY THURS.: Pottery classes, Franciscan Life Process Center, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Call 897-7842

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

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

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

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

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.

EVERY THIRD THURS.: Parents Supporting Parents group at Franciscan Life Process Center. Call 897-7842.

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

EVERY THIRD THURS.: LaLeche League of Ada, Cascade, Lowell 6:30 p.m. socializing; meeting 7 p.m. Support for pregnant & breastfeeding women/nursing children welcome. Ada church. 752-8300.

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

SECOND SATURDAY: Ada Historical Society at 10:30 a.m., Averill Historical Museum, 7144 Headley, Ada.

SECOND SAT.: Lowell Amateur Radio Club, Lowell Airport, 730 Lincoln Lake NE. 9 a.m. social time; 10 a.m. meeting. LARC sponsors 145.27 MHz area radio repeater system.

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

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

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

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

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

SAT., JAN. 3: Christmas tree shredding at Wittenbach Center from 12-4 p.m.; drop off, or for pickup in the city or Eastgate area, call Jay 897-1355; 4-6 p.m. luminary walk (snowshoes to rent); live music by Lowell String Ensemble. Questions: call 987-1002.

SAT., JAN. 3: Lowell alumni hockey game, 7-8:30 p.m. at Standard Federal Ice Center on Patterson Ave. in G.R.

SUN., JAN. 4: Tri-town Conservation Club trap & skeet league, 5616 Dunn Rd., 12-5 p.m.; Wednesdays 6-10 p.m. Call Larry 754-7104 for info. Public welcome.

MON., JAN. 5: Athletic Boosters meeting at 7 p.m. in high school staff lounge.

SAT., JAN. 17: Murray Lake Elementary School open house, 1-3 p.m. for all community members. See the progress, visit with future teachers and meet Family Links members.

JULY 14 - 22, '04: Summer Irish Holiday, \$1,999 per person; deposit \$300. Call Mary Condon (897-7092) for info. or to sign up. Lowell Senior Neighbors Travel.

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The following offices will be closed Wednesday, December 31st, 2003 and Thursday, January 1, 2004 in observance of the New Year Holiday.

LOWELL LIGHT AND POWER AND LOWELL CABLE VISION

The following offices will close on Thursday, January 1st, 2004 in observance of the New Year Holiday.

LOWELL CITY HALL OFFICES, LOWELL POLICE OFFICES AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

LOWELL SENIOR NEIGHBORS CALENDAR 897-5949

MON.: 8:30 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall. **THURS.:** 9 a.m. Walk/Shop at Malls; 9:30 Crafts; 1 p.m. Euchre.

SPECIAL EVENTS

WED., DEC. 24: Center Closed. **MON., DEC. 29:** 12:45 p.m. Treasured Memories. **THURS., DEC. 25:** Merry Christmas! Center Closed. **TUES., DEC. 30:** 4:30 p.m. Dinner at Deer Run. **FRI., DEC. 26:** 12:00 p.m. Birthday/Anniversary Party; 12:45 p.m. Bingo. **WED., DEC. 31:** 8:30 a.m. Traveling Breakfast; 12:30 p.m. Dessert, Music, White Elephant Exchange.

Red Arrows drop conference opener in Cedar Springs; successful at home

By Dan Schneider

The Cedar Springs Redhawks beat the Lowell Red Arrows in a conference basketball game characterized by offense. The Redhawks won by a score of 70 to 62.

"Offensively, 70, that's what we like to get," Cedar Springs coach, Dave Schlump said. "It was a little bit sloppy, it was still early in the year. We just feel like we need to play better defense."

Lowell had a 4-2 lead after the first few baskets of the game. Then Cedar Springs took control, though the Arrows kept it close throughout the first quarter.

The Redhawks led by 20 through most of the third quarter. Sam Oberlin and Shane Stokes opened the fourth quarter with three-point shots for Lowell.

Both teams put in their second string in the final quarter. Lowell got the better end of that arrangement, ending the game on a 9-0 run that cut the Redhawk lead to eight.

"Our second string came in and played their butts off and they should be commended for that," Lowell coach, Jeff McDonald said. "I think the biggest thing (to come out of this game) is we got some young kids some game experience."

Jimmy Booth had 26 points in the game for Cedar Springs. Tyler Wolfe put in 25. Oberlin had 18 points on the night for Lowell.

The news was better for the Arrows against Sparta last Friday.

"We connected and we shot the basketball real well in the first quarter which pro-

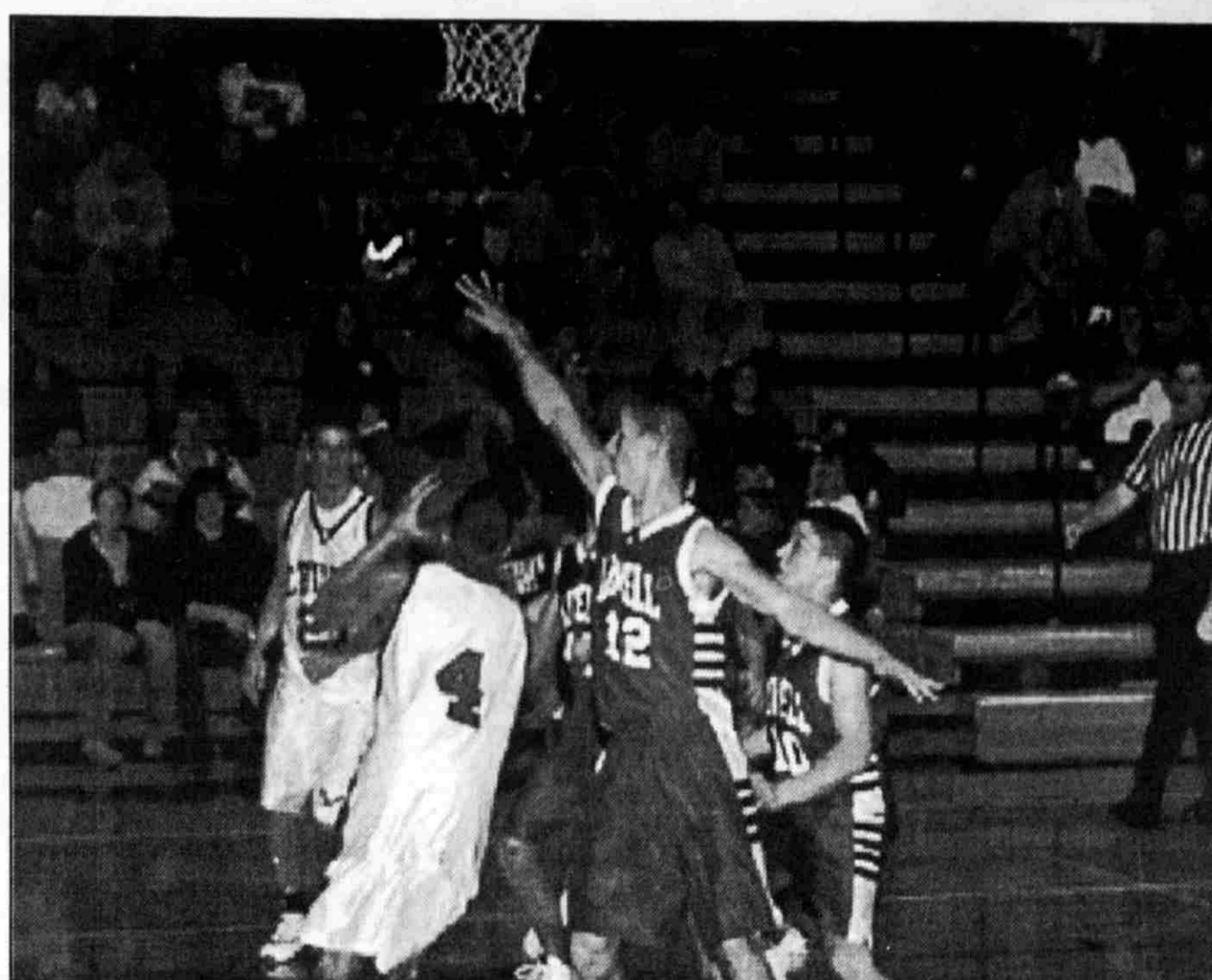
elled us to some good momentum," McDonald said.

Lowell kept that momentum through the rest of the game, defeating the Spartans 71-41 in front of a home crowd. McDonald said the game was better evidence of the Red Arrows' defensive ability than the loss to the Redhawks.

"Defensively we felt like we took a step backwards in the Cedar Springs game," McDonald said. "Three out of four games we've done a nice job on defense."

Oberlin put up 19 points for the Arrows Friday night. Kyle Rozema had his best offensive game of the season, with 14 points.

The Arrows have an even record for the season to this point. They are 1-1 in conference and 2-2 overall.



Lowell's Mike Koster attempts to block a shot by Cedar Springs' Jimmy Booth. Booth was a problem for the Red Arrows, scoring 26 points in the Redhawk victory.

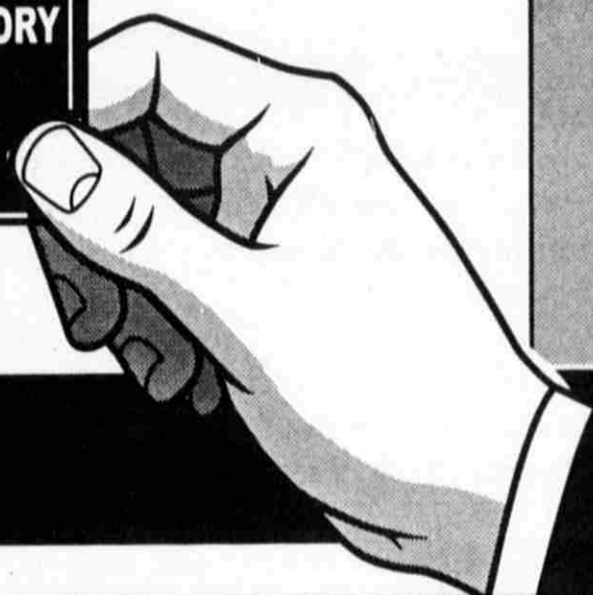
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CITY OF LOWELL KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION NO. 11-03 RESOLUTION APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO FOURTH AMENDED ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF MICHIGAN PUBLIC POWER AGENCY

At a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Lowell, County of Kent, held at 7:30 o'clock p.m. local time in the City of Lowell, pursuant to notice duly given.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Blough, Mathews, Myers, Pfaller and Mayor Shores.
ABSENT: Councilmembers none.

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Mayor Shores, supported by Councilmember Mathews:

WHEREAS, this body has heretofore adopted resolutions approving the Articles of Incorporation of the Michigan Public Power Agency (the "Agency"), the First Amended Articles of Incorporated of the Agency, the Second Amended Articles of Incorporation of the Agency, the Third Amended Articles of Incorporation of the Agency, and the Fourth Amended Articles of Incorporation of the Agency which resolutions provide for the membership of this City in the Agency; and **WHEREAS**, the City of Wyandotte has adopted a resolution electing to become a member of the Agency; and **WHEREAS**, it is necessary to amend the Fourth Amended Articles of Incorporation of the Agency (the "Articles") in order to provide for the membership of the City of Wyandotte in the Agency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. The City of Lowell hereby consents to the participation of the City of Wyandotte as a member in the Michigan Public Power Agency.
2. The City of Lowell hereby approves the following amendments to the Fourth Amended Articles of Incorporation of Michigan Public Power Agency.

- (a) The title of the Articles is hereby amended to read as follows: "Fifth Amended Articles of Incorporation of Michigan Public Power Agency."
- (b) Section 2 under Article II of the Articles is amended to add the City of Wyandotte and delete certain members who have since withdrawn, and will now provide as follows:

Section 2. The members of this Agency are the Cities of Bay City, Charlevoix, Grand Haven, Harbor Springs, Hart, Holland, Lansing, Lowell, Petoskey, Portland, Traverse City, Wyandotte and Zeeland, and the Village of Chelsea, all municipal corporations of the State of Michigan operating municipal electric utility systems as of the effective date of Act 448.

(c) **Section 1** under Article VI is amended to insert the following to the end of the Section: The News Herald, in and for the City of Wyandotte.

(d) The clarifying amendments contained in the Fifth Amended Articles of Incorporation of Michigan Public Power Agency submitted to the City of Lowell and attached to this resolution are hereby adopted.

3. This resolution shall be printed once in the Lowell Ledger, a newspaper generally circulating in the area of the City of Lowell. The amendments approved by this resolution shall become effective and in full force and effect

immediately upon the publication of this resolution and the filing of this resolution in accordance with the applicable provision of Act 448 of the Michigan Public Acts of 1976.
YEAS: Councilmembers Blough, Mathews, Myers, Pfaller and Mayor Shores.
NAYS: Councilmembers none.
ABSENT: Councilmembers none.
ABSTAINED: Councilmembers none.
RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

FIFTH AMENDED ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF MICHIGAN PUBLIC POWER AGENCY
These Articles of Incorporation of the Michigan Public Power Agency are adopted by the incorporating municipalities for the purpose of creating a joint power agency under the provisions of Act 448 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1976 ("Act 448").

ARTICLE I
The name of this corporation is Michigan Public Power Agency.

ARTICLE II
Section 1. The incorporating municipalities creating the Michigan Public Power Agency (the "Agency") were the Cities of Bay City, Charlevoix, Crosswell, Grand Haven, Harbor Springs, Hart, Holland, Lowell, Petoskey, Portland, St. Louis, South Haven, Traverse City and Zeeland, and the Village of Chelsea, all municipal corporations of the State of Michigan operating municipal electric utility systems as of the effective date of Act 448 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1976, as the same may be amended from time to time ("Act 448").
Section 2. The members of the Agency are the cities of Bay City, Charlevoix, Grand Haven, Harbor Springs, Hart, Holland, Lansing, Lowell, Petoskey, Portland, Traverse City, Wyandotte and Zeeland, and the Village of Chelsea, all municipal corporations of the State of Michigan operating municipal electric utility systems as of the effective date of Act 448.

ARTICLE III
This Agency is incorporated for the purpose of undertaking the planning, financing, development, acquisition, construction, reconstruction, improvement, enlargement, betterment, operation, or maintenance of a project or projects to supply electric power and energy for the present or future needs of the members of the Agency or supplemental method of obtaining the benefit and assuming the responsibilities of ownership in a project and to do all other acts and things and enjoy all further powers and purposes provided by Act 448.

ARTICLE IV POWERS AND DUTIES:
Section 1. The Agency shall be a public body politic and corporate with power to sue and be sued in any court of the State of Michigan.
Section 2. The Agency shall have the powers and duties enumerated in Act 448, together with all such other powers not inconsistent therewith as may be necessary for and convenient with other corporations, firms or individuals, whether situated within or without the State of Michigan, to the extent permitted by Act 448.
Section 3. For the purpose of accomplishing the objects of its incorporation, the Agency may acquire property by purchase, construction, lease, gift, devise or condemnation, and for the purpose of condemnation it may proceed under the provisions of Act No. 149 of the Public Acts of 1911 of Michigan, as now or hereafter amended, or any other appropriate statute.
Section 4. As a condition of membership in the

Agency each municipality shall pay a membership fee of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000), which shall not be refundable.
Section 5. For the purpose of defraying the project costs of a project as defined in Act 448, the Agency may issue revenue bonds in accordance with and subject to the provisions of Act No. 448.
Section 6. All property owned by the Agency shall be exempt from taxation by the State or any taxing unit therein.
Section 7. The term of this corporation and the Agency shall be perpetual, or until terminated in accordance with law and these Articles of Incorporation.

ARTICLE V GOVERNING BODY, OFFICERS:

Section 1. The Agency shall be governed by a board of commissioners appointed by the respective governing bodies of the municipalities which are members of the Agency. The governing body of each member municipality shall, by resolution, appoint one (1) commissioner who, at the discretion of the governing body, may be an officer or an employee of the municipality. Each commissioner shall serve at the pleasure of the governing body by which he or she was appointed.

Section 2. The board of commissioners of the Agency shall annually elect one (1) of the commissioners as chairperson, another commissioner as vice-chairperson, and another person or persons, who may or may not be a commissioner, as treasurer, secretary, and if desired, assistant secretary. The office of treasurer may be held by the secretary or assistant secretary. The board of commissioners may appoint additional officers as it deems necessary. The secretary or assistant secretary of the Agency shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Agency, and the secretary shall be the custodian of all records, books, documents, and papers filed with the Agency, the minutes or journal of the Agency, and its official seal.

Section 3. The board of commissioners shall adopt and may amend by-laws and rules of procedure providing regular meetings of the board of commissioners, duties of the officers and methods of voting on various matters. Adoption and amendment of by-laws shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the members of the board of commissioners. A final vote shall not be taken on proposed by-laws or amendment until they have been referred to the governing bodies of the member municipalities for one month.

Section 4. The commissioners shall adopt a corporate seal and employ a general manager, full time or part time, as required by Act 448.
Section 5. The books and records of the Agency and board of commissioners, officers and agents thereof, shall be open to inspection and audit by the incorporating municipalities at all reasonable times. The Agency shall submit an annual report to the incorporating members.

ARTICLE VI INCORPORATION:

Section 1. The Clerk of each incorporating municipality shall cause a copy of these Articles of Incorporation or any amendment thereto to be published once in a newspaper of general circulation within the municipality which shall be: The Bay City Times, in and for Bay City. The Charlevoix Courier, in and for the City of Charlevoix. The Chelsea Standard, in and for the Village of Chelsea. The Grand Haven Tribune, in and for the City of Grand Haven. The Oceana Herald Journal, in and for the City of Hart.

continued next page



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Tough week for Red Arrow hockey both home and away

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell-Caledonia hockey team had a rough weekend on the ice, losing at home against the Kalamazoo Blades and on the road against the DeWitt Panthers.

The Red Arrows played a better game against the Blades than they had in their first

meeting. In the Arrows' first game of the season this year, the Blades won 9-0.

Last Friday the score was 7-4, Blades.

"Obviously we didn't win the game but it was a much improved effort over the first game," Lowell-Caledonia coach, Mike Ballard said.

Kalamazoo was up 3-1 going into the third period. Goalie David Maylone faced 60 shots in the game.

"If it wasn't for David, his goaltending, the team would be in a different situation," Ballard said.

Ted McCoy had another hat trick in the game. Ballard

said the Blades played a tough, physical game which left the Arrows in bad shape to take on the Panthers.

"We had a power outage against DeWitt," Ballard said.

DeWitt won that game 6-0, outshooting Lowell-Caledonia 34-14.

"The Friday night game against Kalamazoo was a very physical, very emotional game and it really showed on Saturday that we had exhausted a lot of our ability," Ballard said.

With the losses, Lowell-Caledonia's record stands at 6-3-1.

"That's still the best start we've had since the program restarted," Ballard said.

The team will next face the Northview Wildcats at home. That game will take place Saturday, Jan. 3.

Knights donate to Lowell Area Schools



Pam Thomas, director of special education for Lowell Area Schools, accepts a check from Richard Horsch. Horsch represented the Knights of Columbus, Council #7719.

The check for \$804.68 came from this year's Knights of Columbus annual M.R. campaign. The Knights collected the contributions over Palm Sunday weekend at Huntington Bank and Ionia County National Bank branches as well as at Crystal Flash.

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

Sound Off

The Ledger (Almost) Anything Goes Opinion Forum

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

To "Sound Off" call 897-0787 or visit our website at lowellbuyersguide.com

Next Week...

SOUND OFF ABOUT THE HOLIDAYS! THE BEST THING ABOUT THEM - THE NOT-SO-GREAT THINGS There's your topic...Let's hear it!

Hey city of Lowell: Great Parade!

Two suggestions: Clean the curbs and post "no parking" signs on Main St. so we can enjoy it from both sides of the road.

The Holland Sentinel, in and for the City of Holland.

The Lansing State Journal, in and for the City of Lansing.

The Lowell Ledger, in and for the City of Lowell.

The Petoskey News Review, in and for the City of Petoskey and the City of Harbor Springs.

The Independent Review and Observer, in and for the City of Portland.

The Traverse City Record Eagle, in and for Traverse City.

The News Herald, in and for the City of Wyandotte.

The Zeeland Record, in and for the City of Zeeland.

Section 2. The Clerks of each municipality shall file a printed copy of the Articles of Incorporation with the county clerk of the county or counties in which that municipality is located and shall forward proof of filing and publication to the secretary of the Agency which shall file a copy with the secretary of state as required by Act 448.

ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS: NEW MEMBERS: DISSOLUTION:

Section 1. Amendments may be made to these Articles of Incorporation and new members admitted to the Agency as provided in Act 448.

Section 2. When the board of commissioners of the Agency and the governing bodies of its member municipalities shall by resolution

determine that the purposes for which the Agency was formed have been substantially fulfilled and that bonds issued and other obligations incurred by the Agency have been fully paid or satisfied, the board of commissioners and governing bodies may declare the Agency to be dissolved. On the effective date of the resolutions dissolving the Agency, the title to the funds and other properties owned by the Agency at the time of dissolution shall vest in the member municipalities of the Agency as provided in the by-laws of the Agency, and in accordance with Section 11 of Act 448.

ARTICLE VIII

These Articles of Incorporation shall become effective and be in full force and effect on their publication and filing as required by Act 448.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the incorporating municipalities have adopted and authorized to be executed these Articles of Incorporation on their behalf by their authorized officers.

The 17th day of November, 2003.

By: C. Jeanne Shores, Mayor Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk

The foregoing Articles of Incorporation were adopted by the City Council of the City of Lowell, County of Kent, Michigan, at a meeting duly held on the 17th day of November, 2003.

C. Jeanne Shores, Mayor Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk

The foregoing amendments to the Fourth Amended Articles of Incorporation of the Michigan Public Power Agency were adopted by the City Council of the City of Lowell, Kent County, Michigan, at a meeting duly held on the 17th day of November, 2003.

By: C. Jeanne Shores, Mayor Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk

Dated: November 17, 2003

STATE OF MICHIGAN))SS. COUNTY OF KENT)

I, the undersigned, duly qualified and acting Clerk of the City of Lowell, Kent County, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing as a true and complete copy of the resolution adopted by the City Council of said City at a regular meeting held on the 17th day of November, 2003, the original of which is on file in my office. Public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, including in the case of a special or rescheduled meeting, notice by publication or posting at least eighteen (18) hours prior to the time set for said meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my official signature this 17th day of November, 2003.

Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk

FOR SALE

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.

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

HOME FOR SALE IN FOREMAN FARMS - 4 bedroom, 3 bath, inground heated pool. Immediate possession. (616)291-4180 or (616)897-9108.

FOR SALE - Vacuum cleaners, \$25 & up. Kirby's, \$85; Rainbow, \$350. Bags, belts & service on all makes & models. Lowell, 897-0044.

2000 CHEVY EXT. CARGO VAN - 3/4 ton, burgundy, 43,000 miles, AC, cassette, \$10,500. Call 897-1597 or 450-7910.

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

2003 TOYOTA CAMRY XLE - 4000 miles, 6cyl., power everything, sun roof, heated seats, leather interior, paint seal, dealer rust proof, 7-year extended warranty, \$25,000 obo. Must sell due to death in family, 897-1500.

RUGER MODEL 10/22 22 CAL. RIFLE FOR SALE - swivel mounts, excellent condition, extra clip, \$130. Call 868-0145.

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.

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.

FOR SALE - 1986 GMC full size pickup 4X4, 35k; 1967 Cutlass convertible, red with new black top. Both great. Call 897-7222.

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

HOME FOR SALE - 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, full basement w/family room & toy room, hardwood floors, 2 garages: (1) 24x36 1 1/2 story, 1 single. Call 897-0776 or 443-1518.

COMPUTER - Power Mac G3 desktop, 266 mhz, CD rom, 15" monitor. Runs Macintosh software, great for students or seniors. \$165 obo. 676-2525.

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.

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.

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

2000 CONCORDE - 3.2 engine, silver, black leather, 40,000 miles, loaded! \$10,500. Call 897-1597 or 450-7910.

BROWNING CITORI - White Lightning 20 ga, over and under, 2 3/4 - 3", \$1,050. (616)642-9215.

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

8 STRING INSTRUMENTS FOR SALE - Mandolins, violins, guitars. Call 897-4239.

COMPUTERS FOR SALE - \$150.00 each. Call 897-9418.

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

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

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

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

'90 CAVALIER - 120,000 miles with great interior, good body and runs rough, good tires and battery, \$350. Call 897-3039.

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

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

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

LOWELL - This home has been lovingly remodeled. Beautiful new kitchen. Newer flooring, windows, electric, and furnace. 4 bedrooms. New vinyl siding. \$144,900. Sandra Keiser 616-293-3882 Century 21 Pearson-Cook 616-954-0990. PLEISKEIS-A

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.

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By Fax: 616-897-4809

By Email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com

DEADLINE MONDAYS AT 5 PM

During the Holiday Season our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible.



From the Lowell Ledger Staff

HOLIDAY HOURS & DEADLINES

HOURS Wed., Dec. 24 8 a.m. - noon Thurs., Dec. 25 closed Fri., Dec. 26 8 a.m. - noon

Wed., Dec. 31 8 a.m. - noon Thurs., Jan. 1 closed Fri., Jan. 2 8 a.m. - noon

DEADLINES For Dec. 29 issue of Buyers Guide - Wed., Dec. 24 at noon

For Jan. 5 issue of Buyers Guide - Wed., Dec. 31 at noon

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 or mail to: Sound Off, PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331

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.

HOUSE FOR RENT - In country, 2 bedrooms. Call 897-8367 after 6 p.m.

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

LEDGER OFFICE HOURS:

MON. - THURS. 8-5 FRI. 8-4 SAT. & SUN. CLOSED We Have a Drop Box/Mail Slot in the Door Closest to the Post Office

WEDDING INVITATIONS

Available at Lowell Litho 105 N. Broadway, Lowell Stop by & Check out a book!

HELP WANTED

HOLIDAY BONUSES! EXPANDING - Local company looking for men and women to fill 27 full time permanent positions. No experience necessary; we train. Must start immediately. \$1,600 per month. Phone 245-7400.

VOLUNTEER OFFICE ASSISTANCE NEEDED - North Country Trail Association is currently seeking volunteers to help out in the office with data entry, mailings, and miscellaneous office tasks. We would like someone who will commit to two days per month on a scheduled basis. Our office hours are 8:30am - 5:00pm Monday-Friday. Please call us at 897-5987 or stop in at 229 E. Main St.

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM In Memory of Mike Bergy who passed away two years ago, December 26, 2001. The Broken Chain

We knew little that morning

That God was going to call your name.

In life we loved you dearly,

In death we do the same. It broke our hearts to lose you,

You did not go alone, For part of us went with you

The day God called you home.

You left us peaceful memories,

Your love is still our guide;

And though we cannot see you,

You are always at our side.

Our family chain is broken,

And nothing seems the same.

But as God calls us one by one,

The chain will link again.

Our love always, Susan, Travis & Blake

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of Glenn Rickert who passed away 12 years ago on December 23, 1991.

Loved & missed by his wife, Marie; children Marilyn & Larry Cahoon; Shirley Weeks; grandchildren & great-grandchildren

SERVICES

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LOSE 15-30 POUNDS BEFORE CHRISTMAS - Accomplish your New Year's resolution ahead of time. Eat your favorite foods, Natural - no drugs, Doctor recommended, permanent weight loss. Call now! Terry Andree, 1-800-567-3178.

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

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

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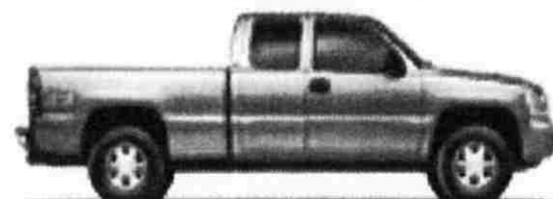
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