

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 31 Issue 5

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, December 8, 2004



Strike up the band - Santa's back in Lowell

By Dan Schneider

Lowell's annual Santa Parade celebrated its way through town on Saturday.

Daisy's Floral put together the winning float. It was a toboggan carrying three girls with

daisy-head masks, pulled by small white reindeer. The float also featured wreaths, poinsettias, an elf and a snowman with facial features made from flowers. Artificial snowflakes hung suspended above.

The Lowell Area Historical Museum won

second place for their float and Greenridge Realty took third.

Those in attendance were entertained by both the Lowell high school and middle school marching bands.

Santa's in town, con't'd., pg. 11



Lowell's Santa was the star of the parade. After being pulled along in a wheeled carriage, he met with young fans for pictures on the showboat and also collected letters on Riverwalk Plaza. At right, Lowell High School band ushered Santa to town.

City approves policy on staff use of Internet, email

By J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

Concern that the policy might encourage misuse rather than prevent it, the Lowell City Council made several revisions to

the city's new computer, Internet, and email policies.

The Lowell City Council reviewed the proposed policy presented to it by city staff at its regular Monday night meeting. The policy is designed to give guidelines

for the use of Internet and email that is flowing through city services.

Councilman Jim Pfaller raised a couple of points including concern over it allowing software or hardware to be installed

without specific references to licensing. Pfaller said from his own company's experience, he is aware that a person who puts a software program on a computer that is not licensed to the city could lead to the city being

fined for violating copyright laws. Pfaller suggested city staff review that issue with the city attorney.

In the meantime, it was agreed to add the word "licensing" to the document

so it was clear that when copyright laws and licensing issues apply, the city forbids

City Internet, con't'd., pg. 4

First store opens in new retail center

Dan Schneider

The first business to open in the new Stone Ridge retail development will be a hair salon.

Great Clips opens at 1 p.m. Thursday in one of the seven retail spaces in the new building in Lowell Township. Located across

from Hunan Garden on M-21 and next door to the Goodwill store, the new strip mall is attracting businesses. Curves for Women will relocate there from its current location at 505 W. Main Street with plans to open Dec. 20.

"There's been some very, very strong interest," said Ron DeVries, co-owner

of Gunnink and DeVries Builders, Inc., the company developing the site.

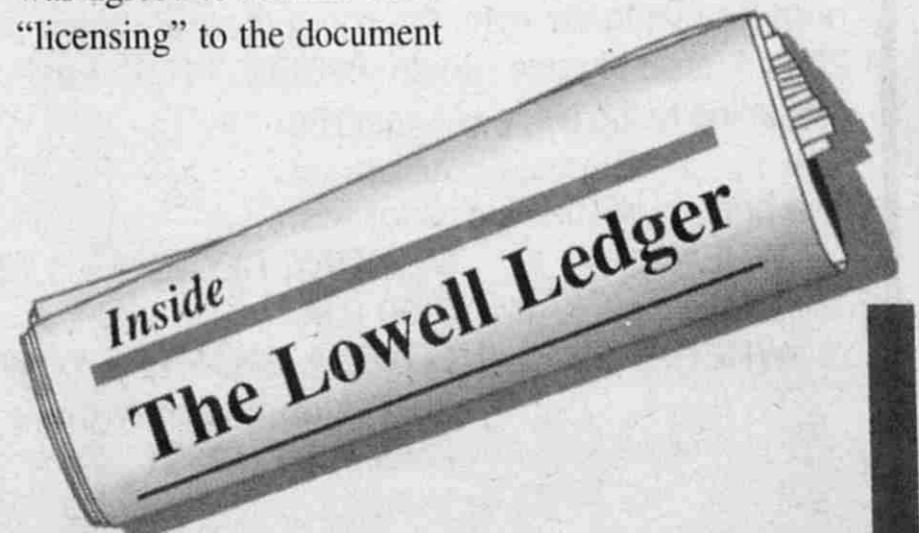
His company also built Stone Ridge Apartments, located behind the retail center. Gunnink and DeVries is developing the acreage behind the apartments as well, though it will not build the actual houses.

"It seemed like there's

a good demand for this sort of real estate development," DeVries said. "There's been a lot of growth on the west side of town, it just seems like the natural area for future growth.

Jerry and Linda Holmes, owners of the Great Clips franchise that is

New retail center, con't'd., pg. 8



Calendar Guys...Page 4

*Longhorns in Lowell
...Page 9*

They're All-State...Page 17

OBITUARIES

BEIMERS - Richard Beimers, aged 84, of Lowell, passed away November 30, 2004. He was preceded in death by his wife Mildred. He is survived by his children Richard Beimers of Ada, Arlene Beimers of Byron Center, Kurt (Deb) Beimers, Janice (Leonard) Mol of Lowell; seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren. Richard served in the Army Medical Corp during WWII. He owned and operated Union 76 gas station in Lowell for many years. He was past post commander of VFW Post 8303 and a member of American Legion Post 0152. Funeral services were held Dec. 3 at the Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, Dr. Michael Conklin officiating. Interment St. Mary Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to VFW Post 8303.

FOX - Mr. Earl Fredrick Fox Jr. aged 58, of Grand Rapids,

Take the course opposite to custom and you will do well.

—Jean-Jacques Rousseau

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider a request from Greg Holwerda to rezone property from R-1, Rural Low Density Residential to Open Space Planned Unit Development (OS-PUD) for the purpose of constructing two family condominiums on a private road. The proposed project would be served by public water and sanitary sewer. This property consists of 31.37 acres and is located on the west side of Cumberland Avenue west of Whispering Hills Drive with permanent parcel numbers 41-20-05-280-003, 002 and 009 and is legally described as follows:

Part of the Southeast one-quarter of the Northeast fractional one-quarter of Section 5, Towns 6 North, Range 9 West, Lowell Township, Kent County, Michigan, described as:

BEGINNING at the East one-quarter corner of said Section 5; thence North 89DEG 58'22" West 833.03 feet; thence North 00DEG 44'50" West 330.00 feet; thence North 89DEG 58'22" West 500.00 feet; thence North 00DEG 44'50" West 993.45 feet along the East line of Eastgate Woods No. 3; thence South 89DEG 57'07" East 918.70 feet along the North line of the Southeast one-quarter of the Northwest fractional one-quarter; thence South 15DEG 54'15" East 345.06 feet along the centerline of Cumberland Drive; thence Southeasterly 320.56 feet along said centerline on a 1000.00 foot radius curve to the left, the chord of which bears South 25DEG 05'15" East 319.19 feet; thence South 34DEG 16'15" East 215.55 feet along said centerline; thence Southeasterly 203.02 feet along said centerline on a 370.00 foot radius curve to the right, the chord of which bears South 18DEG 33'06" East 200.48 feet; thence South 02DEG 49'58" East 334.48 feet along said centerline to the place of beginning.

The hearing will be held as follows:

WHEN: MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2004

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL

2910 Alden Nash Avenue SE

Lowell, MI 49331

The proposed amendment is available for review at the Lowell Charter Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, Michigan, 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday or by calling 897-7600.

Dave Simmonds, Secretary
Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission

passed away on November 30, 2004 at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. He is survived by his son Earl Fox III and his wife Sheandra of Ravenna and their children Samantha and Ashley, his son Thomas Fox of Muskegon, a daughter Victoria Swift of Muskegon; sisters and brothers Arlene E. and Ben Mason of Grand Rapids, Darlene and Dan Sherman of Elizabeth City, NC, Leona and James Doyle of Groveland, FL, Charles and Carmen Fox of Grand Rapids, Robert and Denise Fox of Alto, George Rance of Grand Rapids, David and Maria Rance of Comstock Park; nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his mother Lavica Rance. The service for Earl was Tuesday at the Chapel at Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. Interment in the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Cemetery.

KOERT - Cornelius Koert, aged 92, of Ada, passed away Thursday, November 25, 2004. He was preceded in death by his wife Dorothy Eleanor Koert and son Gary. He is survived by his children Betty Boaz of Ada, Linda Koert of Ada, Cheryl (Kenneth) Fitzsimmons of Alto; grandchildren Allison (Jim) Rapson, Elizabeth (Stephan) Boaz-Carnesi; sister Margaret Ann Dewey of Grand Rapids; seven great-grandchildren. Mr. Koert was the owner of Koert's Creamery in Grand Rapids, Koert's

Dairy of Lowell and K.C. Koert Bulk Milk Hauling Company. Private graveside services were held at Findlay Cemetery with Dr. John Tobian of Christ Community Church, officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to Laurels of Kent, 350 N. Center, Lowell, MI 49331 or the charity of one's choice.

METTERNICK - Ruth Margaret Metternick, loving mother and grandmother, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on November 30, 2004 at the age of 88. She was born in Alto on September 28, 1916 to Alfred and Tekla (Swanson) Carlson. She was preceded in death by her parents; sister Esther Butler; husband Harvey; three sons Ronald, Larry, Jerry Metternick. Surviving are her sister Elsie Hess of Alto; daughter Janet (Bruce) Place of Fowlerville; two daughters-in-law Marilyn (Metternick) Gregory of Stanton, Mary Metternick of Wolcott, CO; 10 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held Dec. 3 at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, Rev. Ronald Tuinstra officiating. Interment Boston Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or to South Boston Bible Church.

PELTON - Mrs. Eileen L. Pelton (nee Rice), aged 86, of Grand Rapids, passed away Friday, December 3, 2004. Surviving are her dear hus-

band of 63 years, Lyle; loving children Tom (Dolly) Pelton of Belmont, Marcia (Jim) Inman of Lowell, John (JoAnne) Pelton of Walker, Jim (Chris) Pelton of Walker, Mary Lou Pelton (Emie Rees) of Grand Rapids; precious grandchildren Shelley (Dave) Brunett, Brent (Angie) Pelton, Karen (Jim) Umlor, Jimmy (Kristi) Inman, Ashleigh Inman, Michael (Lindsay) Pelton, Daniel (Monique) Pelton, Matt, Nick, Brad and Derek Pelton, Riley Rees; great-grandchildren McKenzie and Connor Koval, Justin Delp, Brendan and Trevor Pelton, Zac and Bryce Inman, Benjamin and Alex Pelton; sister-in-law Mildred Cook; special niece Mary Cook and other loving nieces and nephews. Eileen was a member of St. Mary's Church, Grand Rapids. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Tuesday at St. Mary's Church. Interment Resurrection Cemetery. Memorial contributions to the American Diabetes Association will be appreciated.

PRIEST - Melvin A. Priest, aged 63, of Lowell, formerly of Ionia, passed away December 2, 2004 in Lowell. He was born June 3, 1941 in Ionia, the son of Alzie J. and Ruth (Clark) Priest. He married Edith (Jean) Plunkett October 8, 1994. He is survived by his loving wife Jean Priest of Lowell; sons Gordon (Angela) Priest of Saranac, Dorrell (Sue) Priest of Lowell, Robert Van Norrick of Calif.; daughters Roberta Van Norrick of Calif., Melinda (Lee) Moyer of Calif.; sisters Opal Travis, Bob Nummer of Ionia, Ferne Simmons of Ionia, Faye Leiter of Lyons, Wilma Wright of Ionia, Norma (Bob) Triggs of Seattle, Wash.; six grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his infant daughter Karney T. Priest in 1961. Funeral services were held Monday at Lake Funeral Home in Ionia with Mr. Rick Devers officiating. Interment Balcom Cemetery. In lieu of flowers you may make a memorial contribution to Leukemia Foundation or Hospice of Michigan.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

Date of birth: 02-16-22

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 04-178659-DE

The decedent, JULIA D. MEAD, who lived at 1171 68th St. S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan died 09-01-04.

Estate of
JULIA D. MEAD

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to MARY JEAN VAN SICKLE, named personal representative, or proposed 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.

11/24/04

MARY JEAN VAN SICKLE
1241 Edsel S.E.
Kentwood, MI 49508
(616) 532-5845

TOWNSHIP OF GRATTAN PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING OF BOARD OF REVIEW

The Grattan Township Board of Review will meet to correct the various Assessment Rolls for 2004 at the Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Rd., Belding, MI on

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2004
7:00 - 8:00 PM

Frank Force, Supervisor
James Marfia, Assessor

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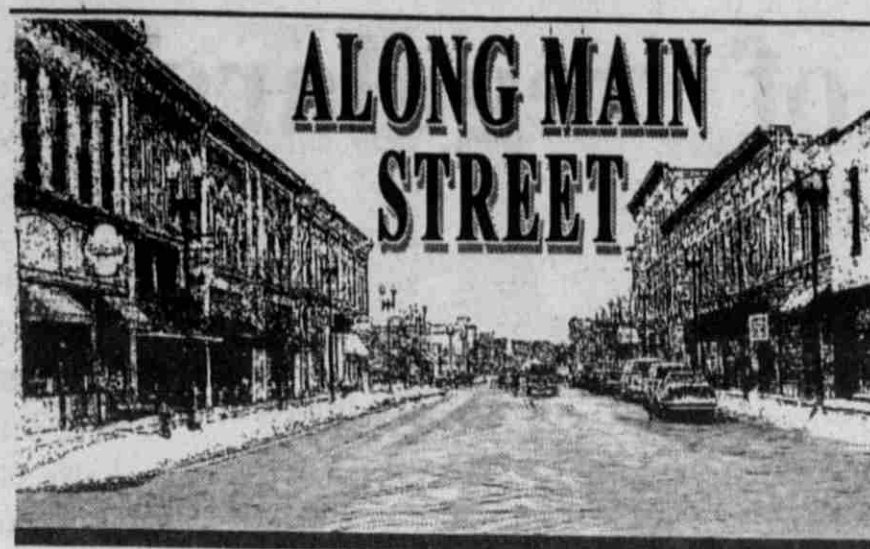
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TOYS FOR TOTS

Now thru Dec. 17, Family, Friends and Neighbors, along with Grattan businesses, area schools and the Grattan fire dept. will be collecting new unwrapped toys for children. Call 691-8848 for locations.

CLASS TRIP DEPOSITS

Senior Class Trip deposits are due. Please turn them in to Lowell High School main office ASAP. See the Senior Parents page in the LHS web page if you have questions.

WOMEN'S CLUB RAFFLE

The Lowell Women's Club will hold a raffle this Wednesday, Dec. 8 for two artworks. Tickets: \$1 or 6 for \$5; available at Lowell Area Arts Council, Dr. James Reagan office, Springgrove Variety. Proceeds benefit girls scholarships and community projects.

LHS SPIRIT STORE

For your shopping convenience, the Spirit Store will be open on Wednesday, Dec. 8 and 15 from 6-8 p.m. Check out the sweatshirts, coats, floor mats and blankets as well as the usual items; located near the east entrance. 987-2982.

THEBES PLAYERS AUDITIONS

The production of "Babe," performed Feb. 10-13 at LPAC, is seeking actors. Auditions are Saturday, Dec. 11 and Sunday, Dec. 12 from 3-5:30 p.m. at Englehardt Library, 200 N. Monroe. Call 897-8545 or visit LAAC, 149 S. Hudson for a script.

TOTS HOLIDAY PARTY

The holiday party for TOTS preschool families will be held Tuesday, Dec. 14 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the gym at Bright Beginnings, 300 High St. \$1 per family. Free family pictures, crafts, treats; older siblings and grandparents are welcome. Call Kathy at 987-2532 for more information.

LHS LACROSSE MEETING

Varsity and JV parent/player meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 15 at Cherry Creek Elementary, rm. 188. Player competition, ball speed for a stick: 6:30-7 p.m.; parent/player meeting: 7-8 p.m.

BLOOD DRIVE

The Lowell Area Fire Dept. is sponsoring a blood drive for the Grand Valley Blood program on Wednesday, Dec. 15 from 2-7 p.m. at Look Memorial Fire Station, 315 S. Hudson.

EDWARD JONES TOYS FOR TOTS

Donate an unwrapped gift to Toys for Tots and drop it off between now and Dec. 17 to Edward Jones Investments, 2050 W. Main St., Suite D. 987-9515.

F.R.O.M. COLLECTING FOR HOLIDAYS

Flat River Outreach Ministries is collecting new, unwrapped toys for Angel Trees and toy barrels through Dec. 17 at Showboat Auto, Springgrove Variety, Rite Aid, Brenda's Hair Designs, City Hall, Huntington Bank, ICNB, Goldworks, Englehardt Library, Dollar General and LA Video.

F.R.O.M. DISTRIBUTION

Flat River Outreach Ministries is making plans for holiday food and toy boxes. Any families who need assistance with food and/or toys should call the food pantry at 897-4189 to sign up.

FOOTBALL T-SHIRTS

The Lowell athletic office will be selling football state championship T-shirts for \$10 while supplies last (7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. daily).

Tax issues may cause developer to scrap building project

By J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

Due to the issue over which municipality will benefit from the taxes of the undeveloped land at the corner of Bowes Road and M-21, a developer may end up scrapping the entire project.

Jim Karp with FSK, the development company looking to place a strip mall and Big Boy on the southwest corner of Bowes Road and M-21, said he is to the point where he doesn't know what direction to take on the project. His property is located in Lowell Town-

ship, however Karp is seeking a curb cut on Bowes Road, which would run through city property. To do this, Karp needs permission from the city, and the city wants to take advantage of Public Act 425 which allows for the sharing of property taxes and provides public services to the site.

Representatives from Lowell Township have made it clear to city officials and the developer that they are not interested in pursuing such a measure to get the property developed. "We put

a lot of money in that road and I am not just willing to give it away without getting something for it," said mayor Jeanne Shores.

She was referring to the reconstruction of Bowes Road which allowed for another ingress/egress to M-21. It cost the city about \$210,000 to reconstruct, something with which the township expressed no interest in helping.

Councilman Jim Hodges remembered from the last time he was on the council how the township was not

willing to help straighten out Bowes and make it a better road. "You make your own bed in this case," Hodges said.

The council felt the developer needed to approach the entire township board and discuss Public Act 425 with the group, indicating that the city council was prepared to meet with the township board to discuss the option.

City manager David Pasquale, at the request of the developer, said he could prepare some preliminary information to show the benefits to the township and that the tax

revenue lost would be very minimal, if any.

Karp said that information would help, but if the township board still refused, he'd be back to square one with his client, Big Boy, needing a guarantee that the ingress/egress would be in place by the first of the year or the company could pull out of the project. "Getting a 425 C...I have a better chance getting to the moon," Karp said.

Another option could be a special assessment on the property to allow for the road.

In that situation, the city would need to get an estimate of improvements for the site and then determine what the assessment should be, Pasquale said. The hope is that this new road would provide a parallel to M-21, creating a "mini-29th Street" to relieve traffic from M-21, Pasquale explained.

Karp said the township is just as excited about having the road. It is just making it a reality with the issue coming down to who will receive the tax benefits.



Wittenbach Grand is helping to exceed customer expectations in the service department as they announce they have a new GM World Class Technician, Paul Wilson.

Wilson is one of only 120 GM service technicians in the northcentral region across the nation who has completed extensive hours of intense training.

To earn his title, Wilson was required to successfully complete all related training, all appropriate GM Master Technician Certification assessments and the accompanying ASE certifications.

Status can be achieved in either the mechanical and/or body areas. To receive mechanical area status, a technician must successfully achieve eight of nine GM Master Technician Certifications (MTC) along with their accompanying ASE certifications. They have a choice of completing either Engine Performance or Diesel Engine Performance along with seven mechanical-related certifications.

To receive body area status, a technician must successfully achieve three GM Master Technician Certifications (MTC) in the body area along with their accompanying ASE Certifications.

To schedule an appointment for service with Wilson at Wittenbach Grand, call 897-9227.

ANGEL TREE DONATIONS

Our office will be helping **Wood TV** & the **Salvation Army** by collecting gifts for underprivileged children.

Angel Tree gift tags will be available after **November 3** for children of all ages. However, due to the shortage of gifts for the older children, we encourage those selections.

Donations should be unwrapped, clearly tagged by gender & age, and dropped off no later than **December 17**.

Family Dentistry of Lowell
147 N. Center Street
897-4835

We thank you for your continued support.

ADA-LOWELL 5

M-21 5 Minutes East of Arroyo H.O.

937-FILM

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MOVIE GUIDE

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CHRISTMAS WITH THE
KRAMKS (PG) 11:00, 1:05,
3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:50
NATIONAL TREASURE (PG)
11:05, 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45
THE SPONGEBOB
SQUAREPANTS MOVIE (PG)
11:15, 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15,
9:15
THE POLAR EXPRESS (G)
12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:40
THE INCREDIBLES (PG)
11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

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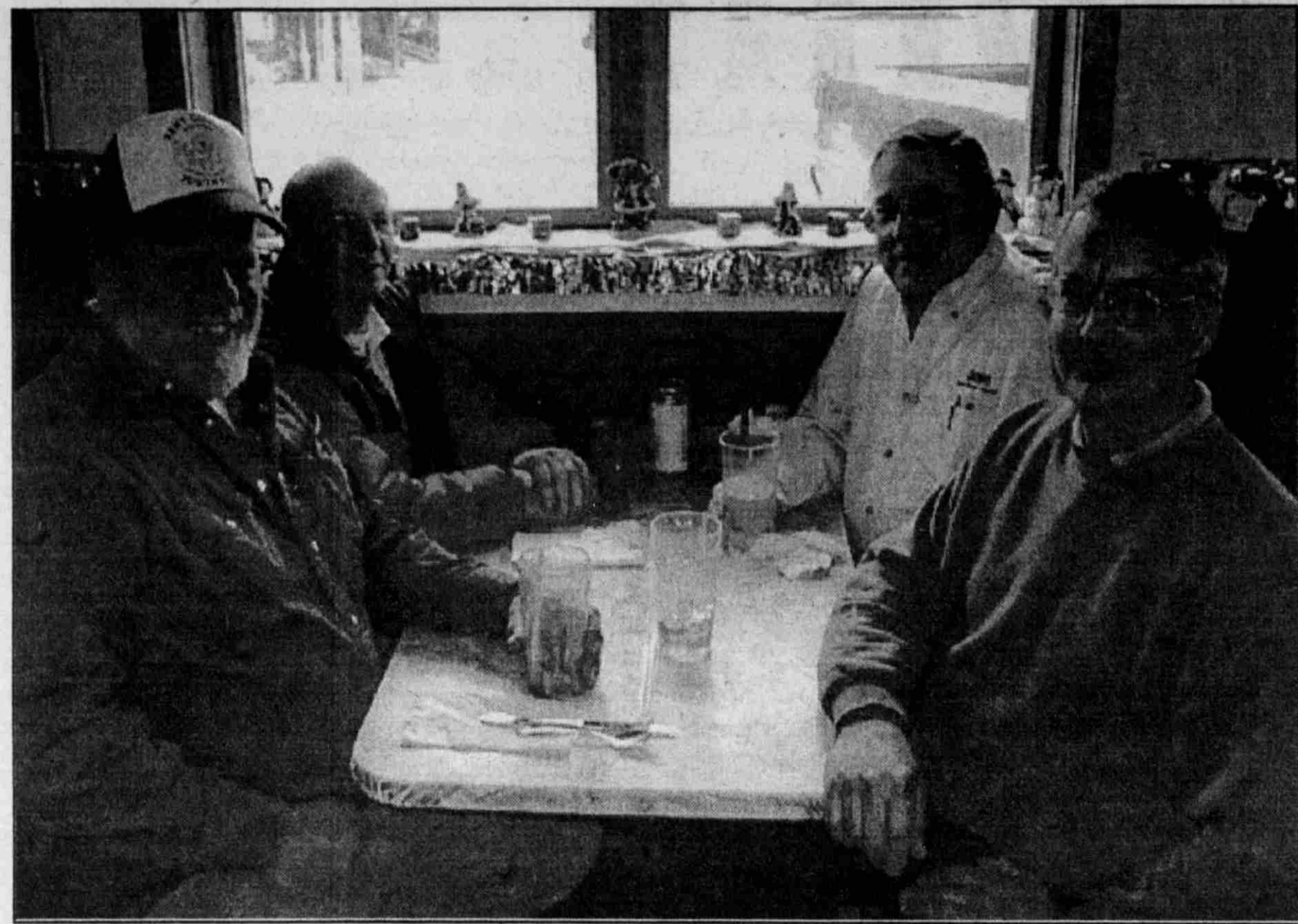
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Backwater Cafe makes calendar of "regulars"



The regulars at the Backwater Cafe on Riverside Drive can now be employed to brighten any household decor every day of the year. That's because the restaurant has assembled pictures of several of its regular customers into a 2005 calendar.

"It's the kind of calendar you can give to your wife and not have to worry about it being Mr. Beefcake because none of these guys are too threatening," said Backwater owner Bif Altoft.

The calendar features local patrons such as Ken Gregersen, dressed as cupid complete with a bow and arrow for February, and Ron Wenger in a Santa Claus hat with a John Deere gator full of presents at the fairgrounds.

The calendars sell for \$15 with all proceeds going to Flat River Outreach Ministries and the Lowell Area Fire Department fire safety smokehouse. They are available at the Backwater Cafe and Jim's Barber Shop, 100 W. Main ... barber Jim Whorley is Mr. January.

Pictured are: Ron "Mr. December" Wenger (from left), Jim "Mr. January" Whorley, Jim "Mr. August" Barnhart and Greg "Mr. June" Van Strien after lunch last Thursday at the Backwater Cafe. The four are among 13 regulars featured in a 2005 calendar (August has two models) to raise money for Flat River Outreach Ministries and the Lowell Area Fire Department fire safety smokehouse.

Council wants assurance that retaining wall will be covered for life

By J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

Not pleased over a retaining wall placed in its right of way, the Lowell City Council is now seeking assurances that money to repair or replace the wall will be available for its lifespan.

Due to grading issues, Sundry, the developers of the Highland Hill project on Grindle, constructed a retaining wall in the right of way along High Street. Representatives from Williams and Works, the city's engineering firm, observed the wall being constructed and notified the city about concerns ... specifically that the wall was being constructed on city property and had no council feedback, or that it was built to city specifications, said Dave Austin, of Williams and Works.

Austin said Sundry was given the option of correcting the wall to bring it up to city standards or coming up with an agreement to cover the repair and maintenance of the wall and High Street for the duration of 10 years. Sundry chose the agreement which city council felt needed to cover the life of the wall.

"I think you stated as best as anyone could - 10 years is not long term," said councilman Jim Pfaller, adding that the condo association should maintain the timber wall as long as it is in place.

Pfaller said he looked at the way the wall was constructed, and if the wall goes, it could mean the loss of the sewer, water and road, most of which would end up on the south side of Main Street.

"They made their own thing and they need to take

care of this," said councilman Alan Mathews, expressing that an ongoing agreement was much more appropriate.

Austin placed emphasis on the fact that the wall, as constructed, was fine and there was no immediate concern about the road collapsing or any issues of the wall failing. With that said, Austin's engineers took a look at the wall and said it was the type of

construction that is normally used in temporary shoring where a developer is going to do some deep excavating.

He explained that if Williams and Works had been asked to design the wall, the company would not have chosen this particular design, but again reiterated that the wall was structurally sound.

Sundry did indicate that Williams and Works that it

had used the retaining wall as a solution to the grading issues in order to keep the project moving. Austin said Sundry officials have plans to design an alternative to the wall, but it will involve seeking easements. It is something the company wants to go back and work on, but also keep the project moving.

If the council were to accept the agreement, the city

would become responsible for the wall with the condo association maintaining a \$30,000 fund for a 10-year period for repairs and maintenance unless an alternative solution, with city approval, could be made. The council sent the proposal back to its attorney to see if the agreement could be made for the life of the wall.

City Internet, continued... From Page 1

the unlawful copying of software or manuals, including screensavers.

Another concern came up with the policy: "limited personal use of the internet will be allowed so long as it does not distract or interfere with timely completion of official

assignments, duties, and/or responsibilities."

Councilmen Charles Myers and Pfaller both felt this opened a door to misuse, rather than discouraged it. "I wouldn't prohibit it, but I wouldn't encourage it either," Pfaller said. The council de-

clined the statement allowing limited personal use should be removed with nothing stated about personal use. The council did acknowledge that at times, employees might get a personal email at work and this would allow them to use common sense when dealing with those occasional emails that might not be business related. "It is no different than

getting a personal phone call," Pfaller said. "When it gets excessive, then Dan, Dave or Jim has to deal with it."

The only other change made to the new policy, which the council approved, was to specify how often emails should be checked, suggesting at least once or twice a day.

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NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS 897-4835

LOWELL AREA COMMUNITY FUND ACCEPTS GRANT PROPOSALS

The Lowell Area Community Fund is accepting grant proposals for its next grant round.

All Proposals Must Be Submitted No Later Than

December 30, 2004 to be considered.

To receive a grant application form call Kate Luckert, program officer at 616-454-1751 or download an application from the GRCF website at:

www.grfoundation.org/lowell

You may also pick up an application at any of the following locations:

- Lowell Township Hall,
- Vergennes Township Hall, City Offices of Lowell,
- Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce,
- the Englehardt Public Library or any Lowell Area School.

The Lowell Area Community Fund, a fund of Grand Rapids Community Foundation, awards grants to tax-exempt, nonprofit charitable organizations that have an impact in the Lowell area. The LACF funds innovative projects or programs that encourage community cooperation.

Viewpoint

TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

My name is Lori Belanger. I am from the Bullock Creek School District in Midland. Our football team had the privilege of making it into the state playoff games at the Pontiac Silverdome for the very first time in our school's history. Our boys played very hard this year and ended the season 13-1. Needless to say, the Bullock Creek community was very excited about attending the game on Saturday, Nov. 27 at 5 p.m.

Over 4,000 Creekers made the trip from Midland to Pontiac to watch our team. Much to our dismay, we were bombarded with Lowell fans coming and going during our entire game. There was actually a man at the bottom of the section that would yell up to a woman at the top telling her how many empty seats there were. She, in turn, would yell out to whomever she could find and tell them to hurry up and get down there and take those seats.

Instead of waiting their turn, numerous Lowell fans swarmed our seating area. Instead of being able to enjoy watching our team, we spent the time getting up and down in our seats to let Lowell fans in. Some BC fans were told to "move down so we can sit together." The area my family was sitting in was completely surrounded by Lowell fans standing on the steps waiting to pounce on our seats. In order to watch the game, we were forced to either twist in our seats or watch the action on the monitors.

The last five minutes of the game were the worst. I was told by numerous people, that, while they were standing and giving applause to our team, Lowell people actually came up and stood between them and their seat. Another family had the coats of the Lowell fans crammed into their seats while they were standing. When asked what the heck they (Lowell fans) were doing, they were told, "Well, we want your seats." It didn't matter to them that we were still using our seats. When the clock finally ran down, we were unable to vacate our seats because Lowell fans were pushing and shoving their way into them. You'd think that Lowell was the "Top Dog" or something the way some of the fans acted. Didn't their mothers ever teach them about courtesy? Obviously, these people did not realize that our tickets were good for both games and we did not have to leave our seats. Yes, I know, their tickets were for both games too, but it would have been common courtesy to sit on the outside and move in after we left.

There were quite a few of us that thought seriously about staying for the next game and doing to Lowell fans what they had done to us. But, we had better things to do back home like welcome our outstanding team back. Plus, we didn't want to bring ourselves down to the rude fans' level.

Now, just to be fair, not all Lowell fans were like this. There were quite a few that stayed up in the concourse area and allowed us "our time at the dome." I would like to say a big thank you to those fans. Even though we lost our game, it was still an honor to be there. Too bad our time was ruined by some very rude people. You know who you are. Come to "The Creek" sometime and we'll show you the meaning of the word "courtesy."

It's always a great day to be a Lancer.

Sincerely,
Lori M. Belanger Midland, Mich.

Dear Editor,

This is just a short note to recognize the Lowell community for contributing to the success of the LHS Junior Class Bake Sale. Many community members and parents supported the student event by making purchases; others made donations. Chuck Myers and the ICNB staff graciously gave space for the event. Its success is just one more example that Lowell is a caring community and a great place to live.

The funds raised will help facilitate student-sponsored events, while the fundraising experience is a service learning opportunity for students to grow as contributing members of the community.

On behalf of the LHS Junior Class, thank you.

Veronica Blough,
a parent sponsor

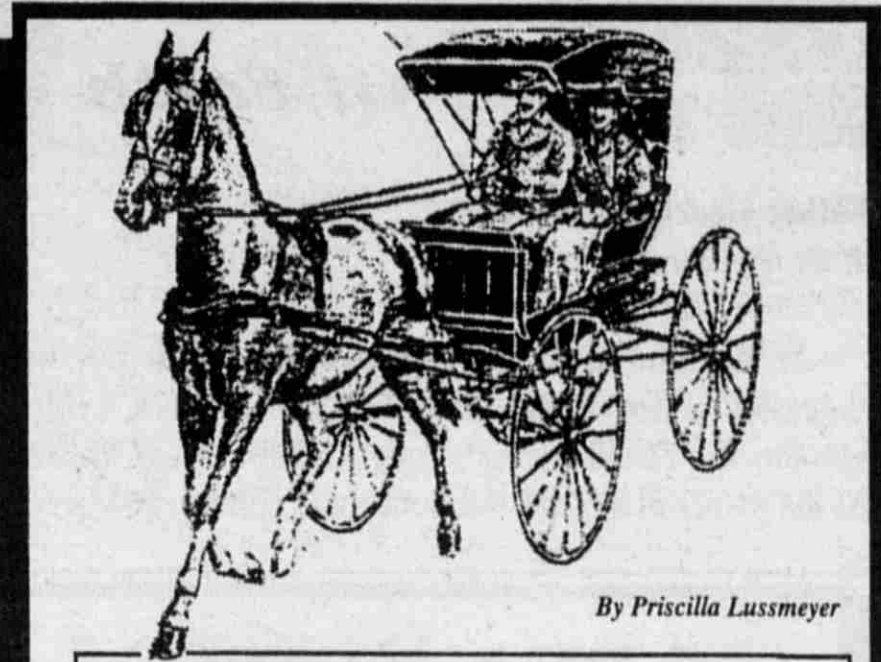
Dear Ledger,

Good Ol-Lowell!

I live in a city of 450,000 population and every day there are 3-5 killings by stabbing, or shootings by gang drugs related. I lived in Lowell for the first 24 years of my life and now am 80 years young.

Oh, what joy I get in reading the *Lowell Ledger* that never has any of the gang related unnecessary killings we have. Lowell, you can be very proud to have this record.

Sincerely,
Wayne Kingdom



By Priscilla Lussmeyer

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

125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL
DECEMBER 10, 1879

The Young Ladies' Excelsior will give a fair at Train's Hall Friday.

The A.O.U.W. (university women) will meet first and third Fridays of the month.

The editor urges readers to subscribe to the Scientific American magazine.

The Alton Atoms column says some young folks have organized an Alton Literary Society.

Trappers camping at Muskrat Lake near Grattan have caught many animals.

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER
DECEMBER 8, 1904

W. S. Winegar and friends return from their annual hunt in northern Michigan, with nine deer.

The "Heard About Town" column is largely small ads and who visited whom.

Mrs. Norton was "beaten out of a dollar by a sneaking transfer driver in Grand Rapids" a few days ago.

A grandstand and landing will be built at Ishpeming for the popular sport of skiing.

The Vergennes column congratulates Melville B. McPherson on his recent wedding.

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER
AND THE ALTO SOLO
DECEMBER 12, 1929

Supt. Gummer again assures parents that school activities close at 9 p.m. on school nights, no matter what is heard from the students.

Michigan assures President Hoover that it will promote private and public works to help the economy (the stock market collapsed three weeks ago).

For an auto license, you must get an application from the bank or garage, write in ink, know the make and model of your car, and bring your title, says the local manager.

Bell Labs have transmitted by wire a moving picture in natural color. At present it is the size of a postage stamp. Yes, they call it television.

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER
DECEMBER 9, 1954

Village Council passes a dog ordinance to keep dogs home and hires a dog warden.

"S-D Day" (safe-driving day) on Dec. 15 is sponsored by the state police to try to prevent the average five lives a day lost in traffic accidents in Michigan.

Music, shop and school bus maintenance departments move in the new addition.

The village is given title to the Robert W. Graham building by his heirs. It has been the town library since 1922.

Cascade area schools meet to talk about building a consolidated high school.

25 YEARS
THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER
DECEMBER 6, 1979

The new Lowell/Lowell Township/Vergennes Township Fire District shares the cost of a new fire truck.

Dale Sprik, running for Congress from the Fifth District, files for a recount. Problem: hanging chads in the jurisdictions using punch cards.

An Ada Girl Scout troop will help Senior Neighbors to record older persons' memories as Christmas gifts to their families.

Saturday night's snow and sleet grounded many church-goers Sunday morning.

Jaycees and Lowell merchants will sponsor two free programs for kids on Saturday at the high school, so parents can shop for Christmas.

Letters, Letters, Letters ...

The Lowell Ledger welcomes all "Letters to the Editor" for publication on its "Viewpoint" page. Letters can be typed or written. However, we ask that they do not exceed one written page or one typed, double-spaced page.

"Letters to the Editor" should be sent to the Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, P.O. Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or emailed to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com Letters must be signed and please include a phone number when emailing.

Editing may be necessary for space, clarity and to avoid obscenity, libel or invasion of privacy. The Ledger reserves the right to limit submissions from the same writer to twice a month. The Ledger thanks you in advance for your cooperation.

Reflections Of Faith

Father George J. Fekete
St. Mary Church

At this time of Advent I share with you the following suggested modern day revision of Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*: "The Ebenezer Scrooge of 2004 loves Christmas. As the owner of a mega-discount chain (Ebenezer-Mart), he

can't get enough of it! The Ebenezer-Marts began piping in holiday music on Halloween. The plastic Rudolph's and Frosty's were displayed even before the autumn leaves began to change color. Ebenezer-Mart's head of accounting, Bob Cratchit, has a very different view of Christmas than his boss. Cratchit hates the holidays, Ebenezer-Mart's most frantic time, and will be relieved when Dec. 25 rolls around and the 10 weeks of Christmas mercifully end.

Bob Cratchit hates Christmas?!? You bet he does, because Cratchit can't meet the demands of his children for computers, video games, DVD players, flat screen televisions, and more! And poor Mrs. Cratchit is an absolute wreck trying to make the holidays picture-perfect. So the Cratchits spend money they don't have and go deep into credit card debt. It is the same every year."

Using the scripture readings for the first Sunday of Advent, the article went on to state, "We Bob Cratchits have a choice." It stated that the prophet Isaiah (Is 2:1-5) chal-

lenged the kings of Judah that they need not be victims of circumstances. They can choose, and so can we. St. Matthew (Mt. 24:37-44) tells his people, and each of us, to use this Advent time to prepare themselves (ourselves) for the Lord's coming.

The article continued, "We Bob Cratchits can 'just say no' to the Christmas madness." Isaiah told Judah's kings to allow the Lord to form and instruct them. We are called to use this Advent season of preparation to allow the Lord to form and instruct us. In St. Matthew's Gospel, the Lord tells us how we can make this a grace-filled Advent. He says, "Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day the Lord will come" (Mt 24:42). "To stay awake is to be attentive. Advent calls us to a greater degree of attentiveness in our daily prayer, scripture and spiritual reading about the coming of the Messiah. This attentiveness will open our hearts making them ready for Jesus for whom there will be no room at the inn." God love you.

AREA BIRTHS



Kiyomi Joyce Philipps

Philippis

Stacy and Deborah Philipps are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Kiyomi Joyce. She was born on November 12, 2004 at 1:45 p.m., weighing 8 lbs. 6 oz. and measuring 21 inches.

Proud grandparents are Dennis and Dianne Kennedy of Lowell and Yuko Philipps of Rockford and the late Rick Philipps.

Bibbler

Dale and Kris Bibbler, along with big brother Kyle, are happy to welcome home Kayla Rae. Born on November 23, 2004, she weighed 6 lbs. 15 oz. and measured 18.5 inches.

Proud grandparents are Ray and Kathy Batchelor and Ed and Becky Bibbler, all of Saranac. Great-grandparents are Marie Batchelor of Ionia and Wes and Betty Carroll of Coral.

Classified ads can be paid for with pocket change! Place yours today!



The Lowell Ledger

105 N. Broadway • PO Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331
Ph. 616-897-9261 • Fax 616-897-4809
email address - ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

COLLEGE NEWS

A total of 946 students are on the official list of those who received degrees from Western Michigan University in June at the end of the Summer I session of the 2003-'04 academic year.

From the Lowell area are Aaron M. Hanson, Trevor M. Land and Tamara S. Stauffer.

Another 600 students graduated in August at the end of the Summer II session. Those students include

Carol J. Lautenbach from Alto and Helitha D. Gruizenga from Lowell.

Andrew Oetman, a graduate of Lowell High School, is on the dean's list at Aquinas College. In order to qualify, a full-time student must have a grade point average of 3.5 or above in a minimum of 12 hours or more of graded credit in any semester.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DEC. 9: Allen Metternick, Sara Triplett, Alison Nugent, Ben Nugent, Deb Schuitema.
DEC. 10: Bill Flugler, Evelyn Heim, Barbara Decker.

DEC. 11: Blanche Smith, Dave Rhodes, Amber Waldron, Mike Kline.
DEC. 12: Brad Briggs, Joyce Stormzand, Matt Newhouse, Sally Hacker, Kathryn Zalewski.
DEC. 13: Chrys Thaler.
DEC. 14: Chris Kropf, Bryan Robert Roth.
DEC. 15: Roger Brown, Tammy Baird, Kathryn Duiven, Kristin Ellis, Danielle Brenk, Marea Borg, Kimberly Kline, Karen Latva.

Financial Focus

Edward Jones
Serving Individual Investors Since 1871
With Christopher C. Godbold



CHARITABLE GIFTING PAYS OFF ... FOR EVERYONE

The holidays are just about here. This year, you may be considering making a gift to a charitable organization. Of course, your generosity will be greatly appreciated by the group you're supporting - and it can pay off for you, too.

Two types of tax breaks

When you make a gift to a charitable group, you can get some significant tax benefits. Let's take a look at them:

Immediate tax deduction - You can deduct all or part of your charitable gift from your current income taxes, even if your original cost was only a fraction of today's value. (The size of your deduction depends, in part, on whether you give cash or some other type of financial asset, such as stocks.

Generally speaking, your maximum deduction will be limited to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income. Anything over that amount can be carried over to future years.) You can deduct financial contributions to religious, charitable, scientific, educational and literary institutions, as well as other groups that are incorporated as 501 (c) (3) organizations. Upon making your gift, make sure you get a receipt that lists the name of the organization and the date and amount of your contribution.

Avoidance of capital gains taxes - If you have stocks that have grown significantly in value over the years, you may want to donate them to a charitable group. You will avoid the capital gains taxes you'd have to pay if you sold the stock.

To illustrate the benefit of giving appreciated stocks to a charity, let's look at an example. Suppose you bought stock 10 years ago for \$7,000, and it is now worth \$10,000. If you are in the 28 percent tax bracket, and you give this stock to Charity XYZ, you can deduct \$2,800 from your taxes, and you'll pay no tax on unrealized capital gains. Consequently, your \$10,000 gift will really only "cost" you \$7,200 out of pocket.

Which stocks should you donate?

You may have a variety of appreciated stocks that you

OUTDOORS

By Dave Stegehuis



COOPERATION

Across Michigan and throughout the United States, conservation organizations like the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Ducks Unlimited work to expand and protect habitat for wildlife that call these places home. A number of land conservancy groups with assistance from many citizen volunteers and landowners work with federal, state and local governments to conserve natural resources and save open spaces from residential and commercial construction.

Native plant, animal and bird species, as well as people benefit from this effort. In cases of endangered species like the Piping Plover and Kirtland's Warbler, areas are specifically set aside to provide nesting habitat. Elk have been provided large tracts of remote land with suitable grazing and browsing opportunities. Miles of Great Lakes shoreline, sand dunes, fens, rivers and forests have been set aside and managed for the benefit of wildlife and to protect the environment.

People, of course, are able to experience these special places. In our area, cooperation between landowners, local government, citizen volunteers, nonprofit organizations and business is making it possible to develop an extensive trail system to be enjoyed by local residents as well as visitors.

The conservation process begins when an organization or even one individual citizen recognizes a problem or, in some cases, sees an opportunity. Land may be purchased outright by a group or government agency. Often, an agree-

ment can be reached with private landowners to establish conservation easements that protect the land, but allow the owner to continue to reside there.

Over the past 10 years, the number of conservation projects completed and others in-process have increased dramatically. Rarely is success achieved by the action of one individual or organization. It is when many people work together toward a common goal that we see results. The key ingredients are awareness, cooperation, creativity, generosity and determination. Hopefully, the snowball of environmental concern and action has just started to roll. There is still time to save a lot of neat places and the creatures that live there which will significantly improve the quality of life for us and future generations.

By making gifts to charity, you'll brighten their holiday season - and your tax season. That's a win-win situation.

There's no one "right" answer. But here are a couple of guidelines you might want to consider:

- Seek portfolio balance** - At all times, you need to keep a balanced portfolio that reflects your risk tolerance, your time horizon and your long-term goals. So, before you give away any stocks, make sure that your gift doesn't throw your holdings "out of whack" to the extent that you are either taking on too much risk or reducing your prospects for growth.
- Look for dividends** - If you aren't jeopardizing your portfolio balance, you may want to consider donating appreciated, low-dividend paying stocks and replacing them with stocks that have historically paid, and increased, their dividend payouts. Thanks to recent tax law changes, stock dividends are now taxed at a maximum of 15 percent; previously, these dividends were taxed at your current tax rate. (Keep in mind that stocks are subject to market risks and may not always pay dividends.)

A "win-win" situation

By making gifts to charity, you'll brighten their holiday season - and your tax season. That's a win-win situation.

IN THE SERVICE

Army reservist Sgt. Jason Stoutjesdyk is back home in Lowell after being called up for active duty at Ft. McCoy in Wisconsin. He had served a 15-month deployment in Iraq starting Feb. 3, 2003 and returned April 17

of this year. He volunteered for another, nine-month, deployment but the Army gave him the option of taking an 18-month deployment or returning home for the duration of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He

came home in time to make a surprise appearance at his family's Thanksgiving dinner.

Stoutjesdyk has since returned to his security officer job at Lowell High School. He remains a reservist, but the Army cannot call him into active duty again for the current operation in Iraq.

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

ATTENTION: BIBLE BELIEVERS
If you would like to attend a church where the King James Bible is held up as the perfect, preserved word of God with all the words of God for all English speaking people, then give us a visit at: 901 W. Main, Lowell
Across the street from the Warren Dodge dealership.
897-5284 or 485-4195
10AM Sunday School; 11AM Morning Service; 6PM Evening Service; Wed., 7:30PM Prayer Meeting.

ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Kirby and Harrison
Alto • 616-691-8011
Worship.....9:30 A.M.
Children's Church.....9:30 A.M.
OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS
Pastor Dean Bailey

Contemporary Services
Lowell High School Auditorium
(Nursery & Children's Ministry Provided)
Sunday Mornings.....10 AM
Impact Youth (Sunday's at the Pastor's home) .5 PM
Phone us @ 897-0333 or 437-5093
Call for a free CD Service Sample

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL
Rev. Randy Meyers • 897-7060
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI
Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday School.....11:20 A.M.
Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.
Nursery available at both services
Barrier-Free

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL
621 E. Main Street • 897-5936
Worship Services
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 Settlement • 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 Noonan, Asst. Pastor
Jonathan & Stacy Holmes, Youth Pastors
SUNDAYS:
Worship: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAYS:
Family Night (For All Ages) 7 p.m.
"XL" 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 PM; 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, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL BRENDA BERGMAN 897-7915
SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 43, ENTN 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 Class. 9:00 A.M.
Worship Service.....10:00 A.M.
(Nursery available)
Joseph Fremer, 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 215½ 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

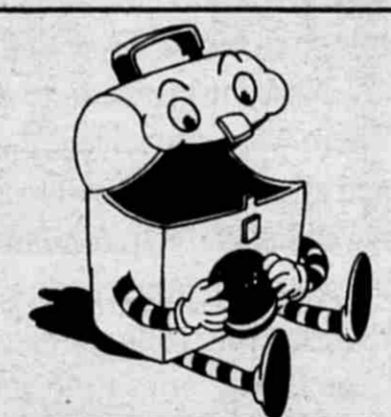
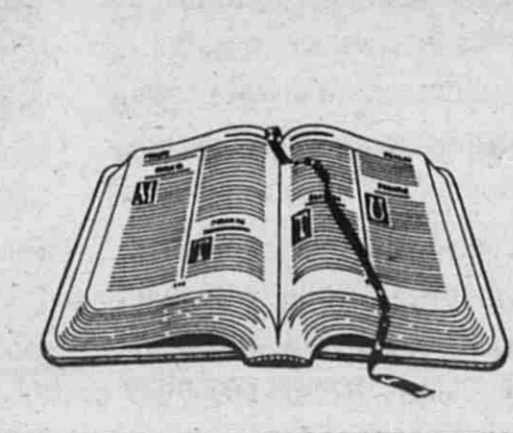
LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
201 N. Washington • 897-8800
Sunday School.....9:45 A.M.
Morning Worship.....10:50 A.M.
Sunday Evening.....6:00 P.M.
Wednesday Family Ministry.....7:00 P.M.
PASTOR KEN ANDERSON
Staffed Nursery Provided
Barrier-Free Entrance

SOUTH BOSTON BIBLE CHURCH (Kyser Road SE at Grand River Ave.)
WE ARE YOUR NEIGHBORS • WE CARE ABOUT YOU
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday School.....11:00 A.M.
Word of Life (for Jr. & Sr. High).....6:30 P.M.
Evening Praise.....7:00 P.M.
Wednesday Kids Klub (ages 2-6).....7:00 P.M.
Olympians (1st - 6th grades)
Prayer and Bible Study
Library, Nursery, College & Children's Services provided - Wheelchair Accessible
Church 897-7823 • Parsonage 897-5464 • sbccbch@juno.com

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL
2275 West Main Street • 897-7168
Internet: http://www.fbcloowell.org
Rev. David O. Sims & Rev. W. Lee Taylor
Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor
Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.
Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M.
AWANA CLUB JC.....Wed. 6:15 & 6:30 P.M.
Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times
Nursery Provided - Barrier Free

ALTON BIBLE CHURCH
Lincoln Lake Ave. at 3 Mile Road
897-5648
Sunday School.....10:00 A.M.
Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M.
Evening Praise.....6:00 P.M.
Wednesday AWANA.....7:00 P.M.
(Sept. - April)
Prayer and Bible Study.....7:00 P.M.
Pastor Ken Ford (Home) 897-6418
YOU ARE WELCOME!

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL
(United Church of Christ)
404 North Hudson • 897-5906
Worship and Church School.....10:00 A.M.
Dr. Roger LaWarre.....Pastor
Megan MacNaughton.....Music Director
Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided
Come Join Us For Praise & Worship



LUNCH MENU

Elementary Menu
Week of Dec. 13, 2004

MON: Mini corn dogs or chicken taco, pears, corn, milk.

TUES: Chicken nuggets or three meat sub, peaches, green beans, milk.

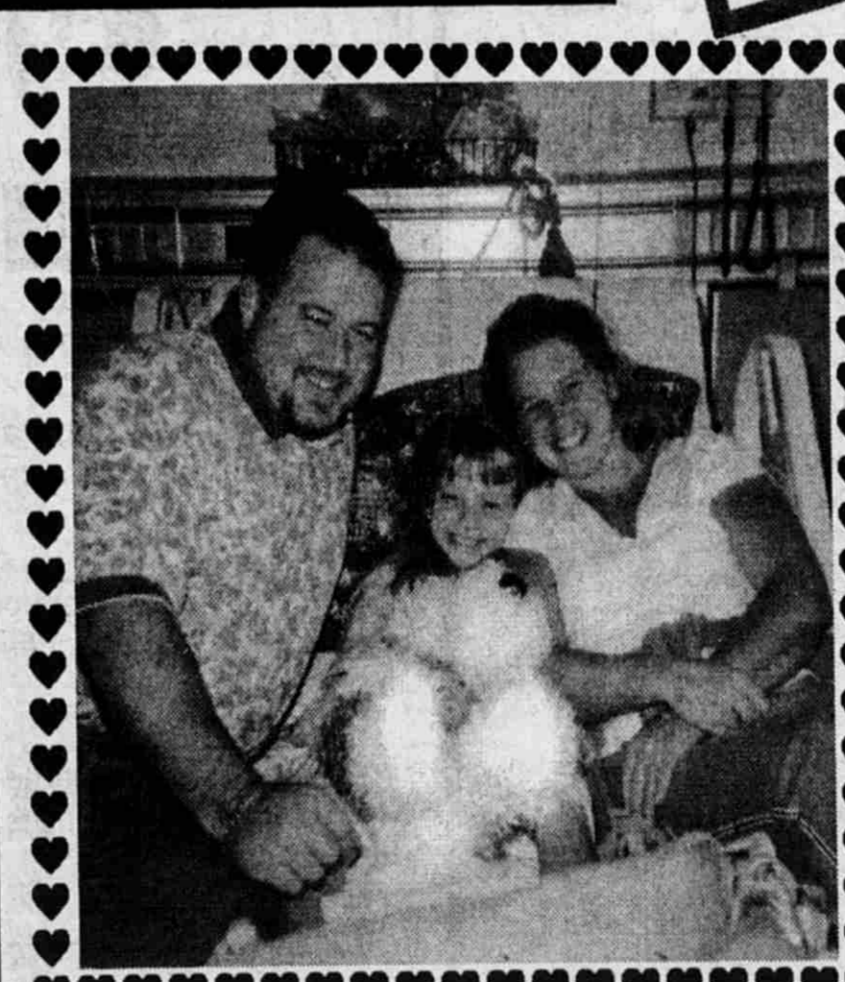
WED: Beef taco or barbecued rib sandwich, oranges, fresh vegetables, milk.

THURS: Chicken hip dipers or baked ham, mashed potatoes, warm cinnamon apples, milk.

FRI: Cheese pizza or turkey bacon sub sandwich, mixed fruit, tater tots, milk.

Pop Can Drive

DATE: 12/11/04
TIME: 9:00 to Noon



Cherry Creek
Elementary
Parking Lot

12675 Foreman,
Lowell

For Anna
Organeck

Please donate your recyclable cans to help the Organeck family with unpaid medical expenses, supplies, etc. Their daughter, Anna, was diagnosed with cancer. All donations, small or large, will be greatly appreciated. For more information call: Sonnie Sullivan 897-1294 or 318-1374, Wendy Hobbs 897-7977 or 293-2696



Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc.

The volunteers at the
F.R.O.M. THRIFT STORE
thank you for being
loyal shoppers during 2004.

You Have Helped Many Families
In This Area With Needed Food
And Emergency Services

We Wish You And Your Family A Blessed
And Happy Holiday Season And
Hope You Will Continue To Shop
For Great Bargains With Us!

- Christmas Items/Decorations
- Warm Coats • Footwear
- Clothing For The Entire Family
- Housewares/Collectibles
- Weekly Specials

WED., THURS., FRI.: NOON - 6:00 P.M.
SATURDAY: 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
CORNER MAIN & JACKSON STREETS - LOWELL

www.flatriveroutreachministries.org

New retail center, continued... From Page 1

opening Thursday, also saw opportunity in Lowell.

"We chose the Lowell area just from being familiar with it for years," said Jerry Holmes, who used to work at Altacor in Ada.

"There are several salons in Lowell, but there are no walk-in, no-appointment salons that specialize in just haircuts," Linda Holmes said.

Linda Holmes listed con-

venience among Great Clips' virtues. The Lowell location will be open seven days a week and no appointment is necessary. Weekdays, the salon is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The location will also help its convenience, she said.

"It's not in a high traffic area where it's hard to get in and out," Linda Holmes said.

"It's easy in, and easy out."

This is the third franchise

the couple has opened in West Michigan. They have one in Kentwood and one on Northland Drive in Grand Rapids.

Great Clips, Inc. is a huge national company with more than 2,100 salons operating in the U.S. and Canada. The salon has a basic approach, specializing in haircuts but also offering perms for men, women and children.

"All of our stylists go through advanced training and we have highly-trained, experienced stylists," Linda Holmes explained.

She also said the salon stresses value. Haircuts at

Great Clips are \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors and children.

Its grand opening is this Saturday with hours from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"We anticipate a lot of

excitement around the opening," Jerry Holmes said.

In addition to special deals on haircuts, Great Clips will have refreshments and a mascot on hand for the grand opening.



The new Stone Ridge retail development on the west end of town.

Visit Our Website lowellbuyersguide.com

Place your classified ads online at:

classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com

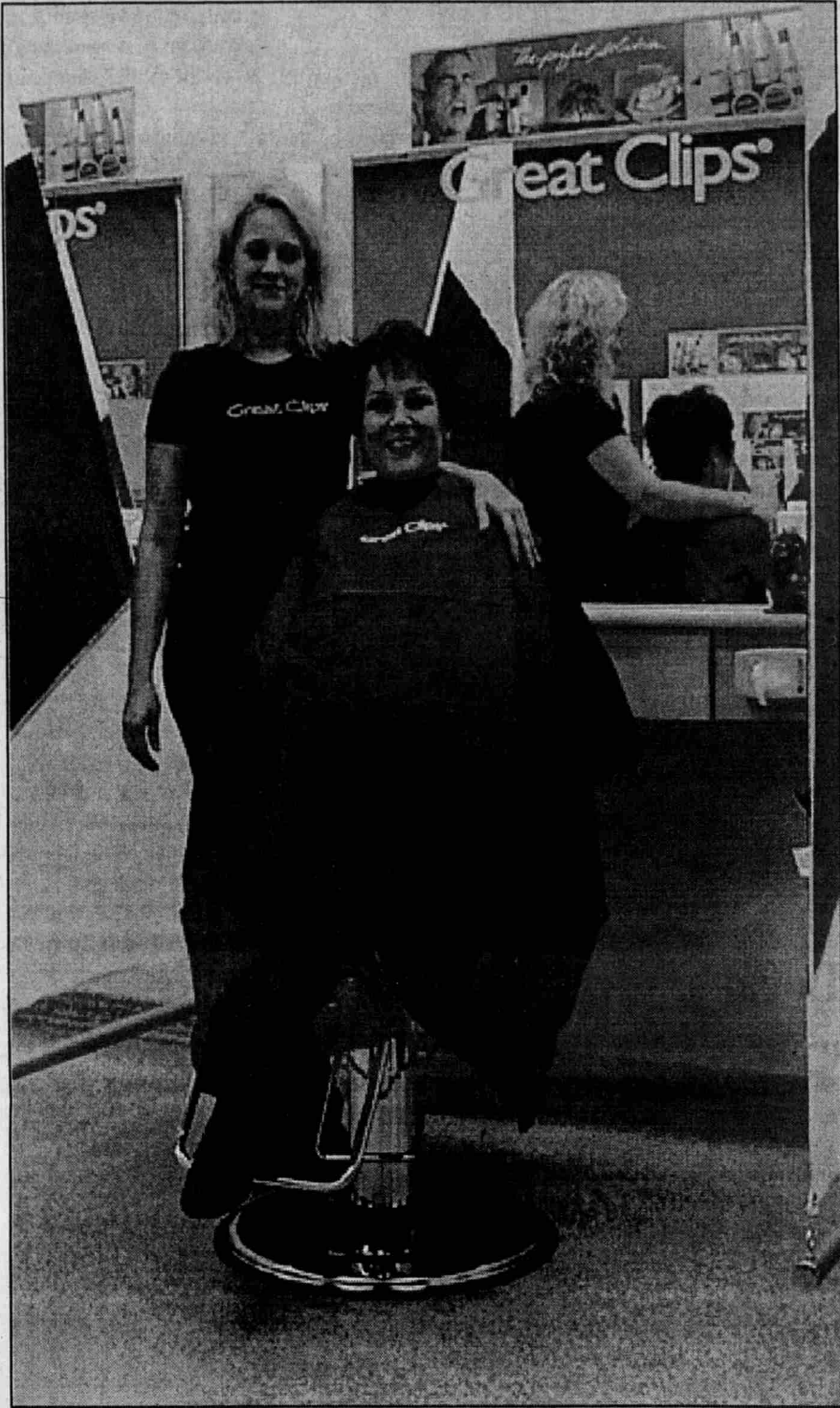
Be sure to include your name, address & phone number, along with which paper (Buyers Guide, Lowell Ledger or both) & what weeks to run your ad! Include everything in the body of the letter, not as an attachment.
DEADLINE THURSDAY @ 5 p.m.!

Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger Display Ads:

displayads@lowellbuyersguide.com

All instructions & copy should be included in the body of the letter, (not as an attachment).
DEADLINE THURSDAY @ 5 p.m.!

If you have further questions on emailing copy, please call our office, 897-9555.



Crystal Hagar, left, manager of the new Great Clips in Lowell, with co-owner Linda Holmes.

PACK & SHIP POSTAL CENTER

Beautiful Holiday Gift Baskets
Filled with our Specialty Gifts!

OPEN LATE FOR
UPS/FEDEX
HOLIDAY SHIPPING
Mon - Fri till 9:00pm
Sat till 8:00pm

Holiday Wrapping Paper
Headquarters!!

1410-B West Main Street * Lowell, MI 49331
Ph: (616) 897-9701
Located Between McDonalds & Curtis Cleaners

Lone Star State impressed by Lowell area longhorns

By Dan Schneider

A bunch of longhorns stood camped around the feed troughs on Tom Smith's farm last Tuesday, their hooves churning up soil muddied by recent snow.

Though generally associated with the Lone Star state, the animals do just fine in this climate. There's even longhorn farms further north in Canada.

"You take a cow up from south Texas, they'll take a year to adjust to growing hair," Smith said. "I've got calves out there that have been born in a snowbank and they do just fine."

In fact, two longhorns from the Lowell area took top honors recently at the Texas Longhorn Breeders Association of America Hom Showcase in Fort Worth, Texas.

One of Smith's bulls, three-year-old Julio's Thunder, won class champion for total horn. Thunder competed in Division 2, Class B, for longhorns born Nov. 1, 2001 to March 24, 2002. The next longhorn with more to-

tal horn, in a different division, was a year and a half older.

"Total horn" is the measurement along the entire length of the top of the horn, as opposed to tip to tip. On Nov. 18, Julio's Thunder measured 17 and 7/8 inches of total horn. It was the second straight year one of Smith's longhorns won a total horn championship.

Dave Hovingh raises longhorns on his Sundown Ranch on the corner of 92nd and Wingeier in Bowne Township. His year-and-a-half-old bull, Fantom Chex, won the tip-to-tip championship at the same Texas event. His bull was competing in Division 1, Class B. He also took down a heifer that won third place and a cow that took fourth in their respective divisions. Female longhorns grow horns just like the bulls and steers.

Hovingh bought Fantom Chex in Oklahoma. The bull was born April 1, 2003. Smith bought Julio's Thunder in Corpus Christi, Texas, when the bull was two weeks old.

Local students on first-ever all star Rodeo Team

Leaders of the National High School Rodeo Association (NHSRA) recently appointed Chelsie and Luke Smith, of Rockford, to the Wrangler High School All Star Rodeo Team, the first ever corporate-sponsored youth rodeo team.

A position on the rodeo

team is based on leadership qualities, academic eligibility and athletic achievements.

The mission of the NHSRA is to help today's young people become responsible, dedicated adults through the sport of rodeo.

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—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

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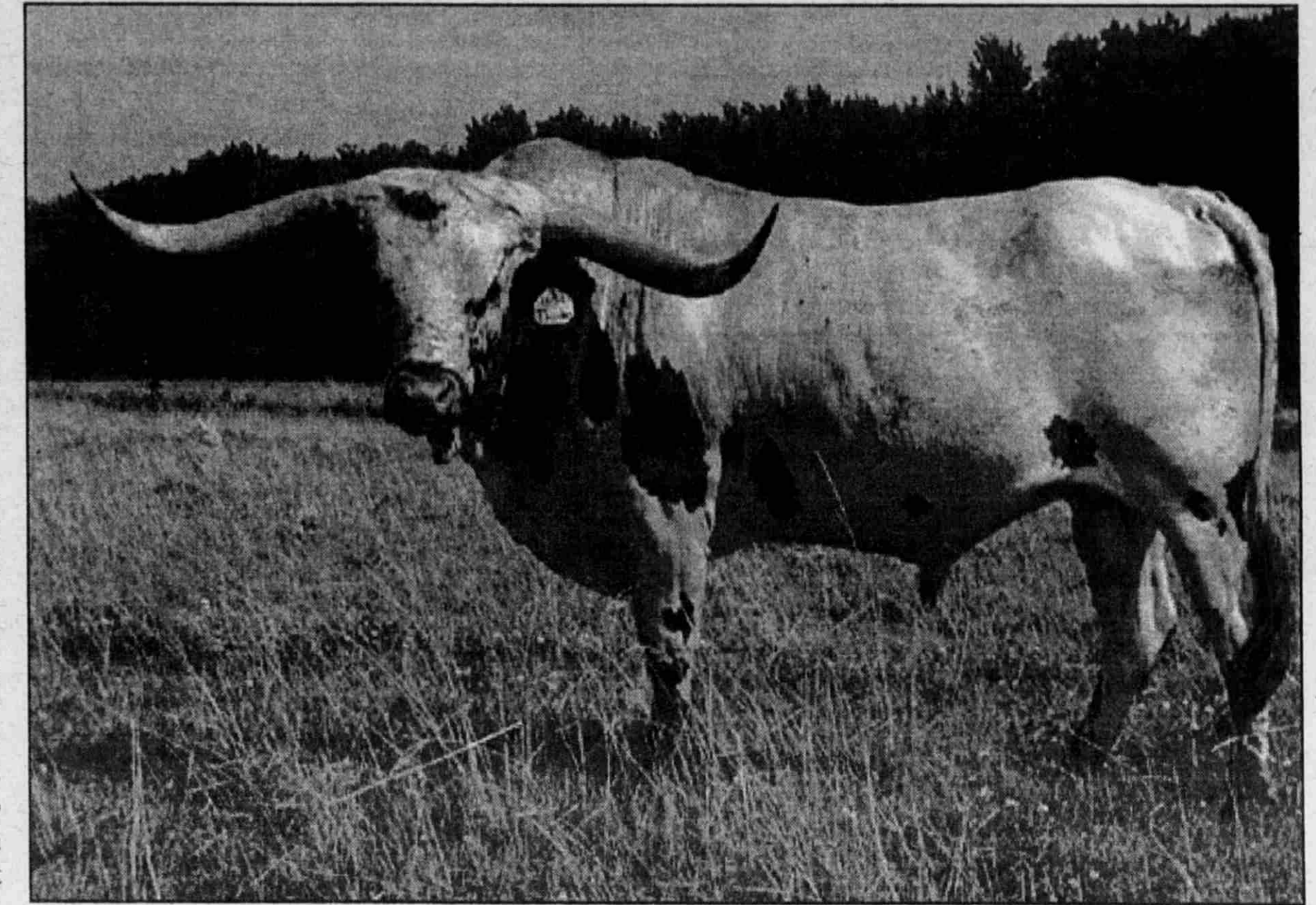
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616/262-0424



Tom Smith's longhorn bull "Julio's Thunder" outstanding in his field.

"I knew who he was out of and the potential he had," Smith said.

Both of Thunder's granddams (grandmothers) had impressively long horns.

Smith's family went out of the dairy business in 1991. He raised some beef steers before starting to raise longhorns in 1995.

"Basically, I wanted my boy to be raised with cows," he said. "Give him something to do after school."

At 10 years old, his son is "just getting old enough to be able to help."

Smith started out with five calves, bought from Saranac, Ada, Charlotte and two from Ohio. His herd is now up to about 60 animals. His goal is to build up a herd of 100 animals with good bloodlines. In his words, he's "just trying to get to the 100 quality cows that are all outstanding."

Hovingh has about 40 longhorns in his herd. Both raise the animals for pedigree, selling them to breeders. Hovingh has a web site, longhorncompanies.com. Smith also sells some for rodeo ropers. Both sell longhorns that don't make the pedigree cut for beef.

"Anything that we feel is not going to be saleable to a registered breeder we feed out for beef, we sell halves and quarters," Hovingh said.

Raising longhorns is a side-business for the two. Smith runs a lawn maintenance and snow plowing business. Hovingh owns a company in Georgetown that pours concrete for house foundations.

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Fallasburg Historical Society hosts Christmas dinner

By Dan Schneider

Pickled vegetables are on the menu for the second annual historic Christmas dinner in Fallasburg.

"They did a lot of pickling in those days," said Fallasburg Historical Society director Kerry Schubach.

The menu offers the kind of foods people would have eaten around here during Christmas time in the 1860s. That includes wild rice in the game hens.

"Wild rice was really prevalent in this area," Schubach said.

Game hens and and roast beef constitute the main course with side dishes of fried parsnips, maple pecan sweet potatoes and cranberry apple chutney. Desert will be apple dumplings and whipped cream.

The historical society

and cook, Bif Altoft, owner of the Backwater Cafe, did historical research on food for the menu. That included looking for recipes in turn-of-the-19th-century cookbooks.

True to the history of the Fallasburg area, the recipes use maple sugar for sweetener.

"From the northeast through Michigan, the Indians made the maple syrup and the sugar, and they used the sugar as their sweetening agent and of course the settlers picked it up, too," Schubach said. "Maple sugar was the way things were sweetened around here."

John Wesley Fallas and his brother Silas founded the village of Fallasburg in the 1830s. The dinner is being held in the house he built in 1842 upon returning from New York with a wife.

The house is located at 13893 Covered Bridge Road. Dinner is being served at 6:30 p.m., Dec. 18. If demand is sufficient, the society will also host a dinner on Dec. 11 to accommodate more guests.

Providing entertainment during dinner will be the string group Hawks and Owls, playing music representative of the period. The rest of the historical village of Fallasburg will be decorated for the evening—luminaries along Covered Bridge Road, garlands and wreaths on the bridge. Wassail and cookies will be served at the one-room schoolhouse while Christmas carols are played.

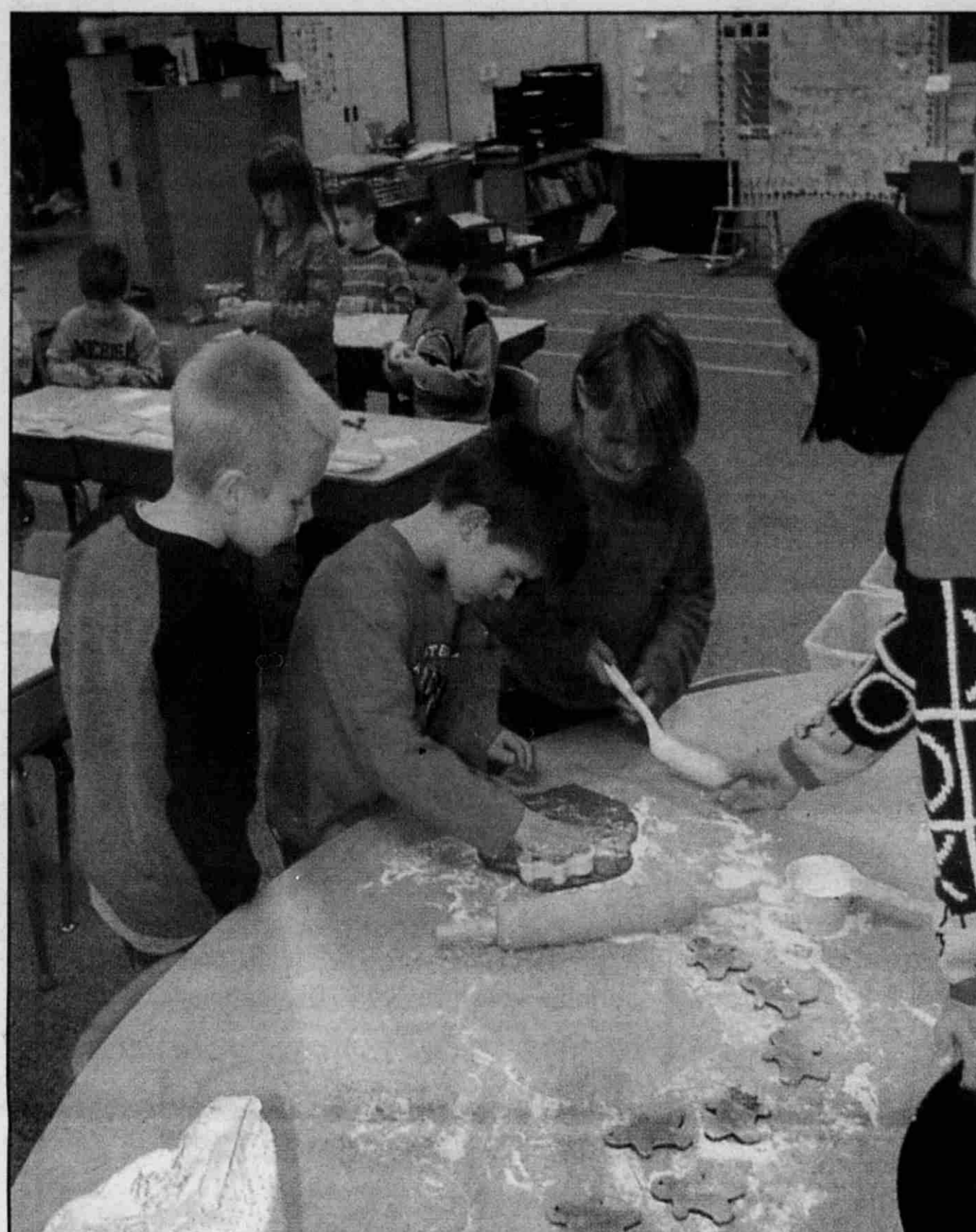
"We're trying to create a feeling of peace and harmony and an old-fashioned Christmas," Schubach said.

Martha Hayden's first

grade class at Bushnell Elementary will decorate the Christmas tree at the school house as they have for the past several years. The school house is open to the public for free the evening of Dec. 18. Dinner at the Fallas House costs \$35 per person and reservations are required. Proceeds benefit the historical preservation efforts of the Fallasburg Historical Society, but the main point of the dinner is to recreate an 1860s experience.

"It's part of creating activity that brings people to the village and increases people's awareness of the village," Schubach said.

To make dinner reservations, call the Fallasburg Historical Society at 897-7161.



Cookin' in the classroom

Justin Lambert, from left, Aaron Jakubiak and Paige Brooks cut salt-dough gingerbread man ornaments for the Christmas tree at the one-room schoolhouse in the historic village of Fallasburg. Martha Hayden's class decorates the tree at the schoolhouse every year before it is opened for holiday wassail and cookies. The schoolhouse will be open Saturday, Dec. 18 at 6 p.m.

Santa's in town, continued...From Page 1

Fire trucks, classic cars, a person in a bowling pin costume and various other floats were also part of the parade. It stretched from the Lowell Fairgrounds past City Hall on Main Street.

The weather might have been cold enough for some in the parade audience, but the competitors in the Flat River Freeze ice sculpture competition wouldn't have minded if it stayed below freezing (the temperature was pushing 40 Saturday morning). So water dripped from the sculptures, and the sculptors had to abandon complex ideas in favor of simpler ones.

"With the weather today,

I didn't want to risk a lot of fuses," said Jacob Tracy, who carved a kangaroo out of ice with a chainsaw and other tools.

Ice sculptors start with 375-pound blocks of ice that are four by two by one foot. In order to create some shapes, like the neck on Greg Smith's giraffe, they melt the ends of pieces and freeze them together. This is called fusing. Because of the above-freezing temperatures, some entrants used dry ice to fuse.

The People's Choice award winner, Brian Gottschalk, had more complex ideas but ended up carving a rattlesnake.

"I was going to do a

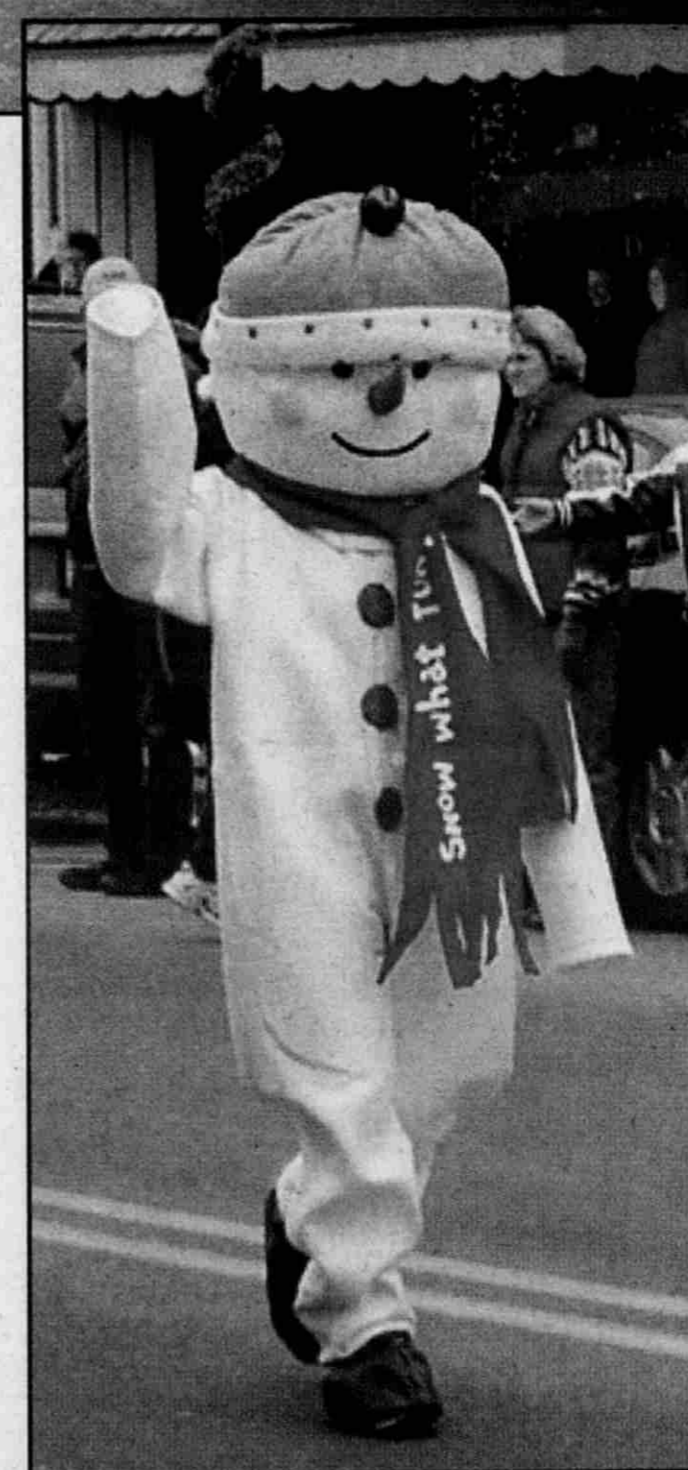
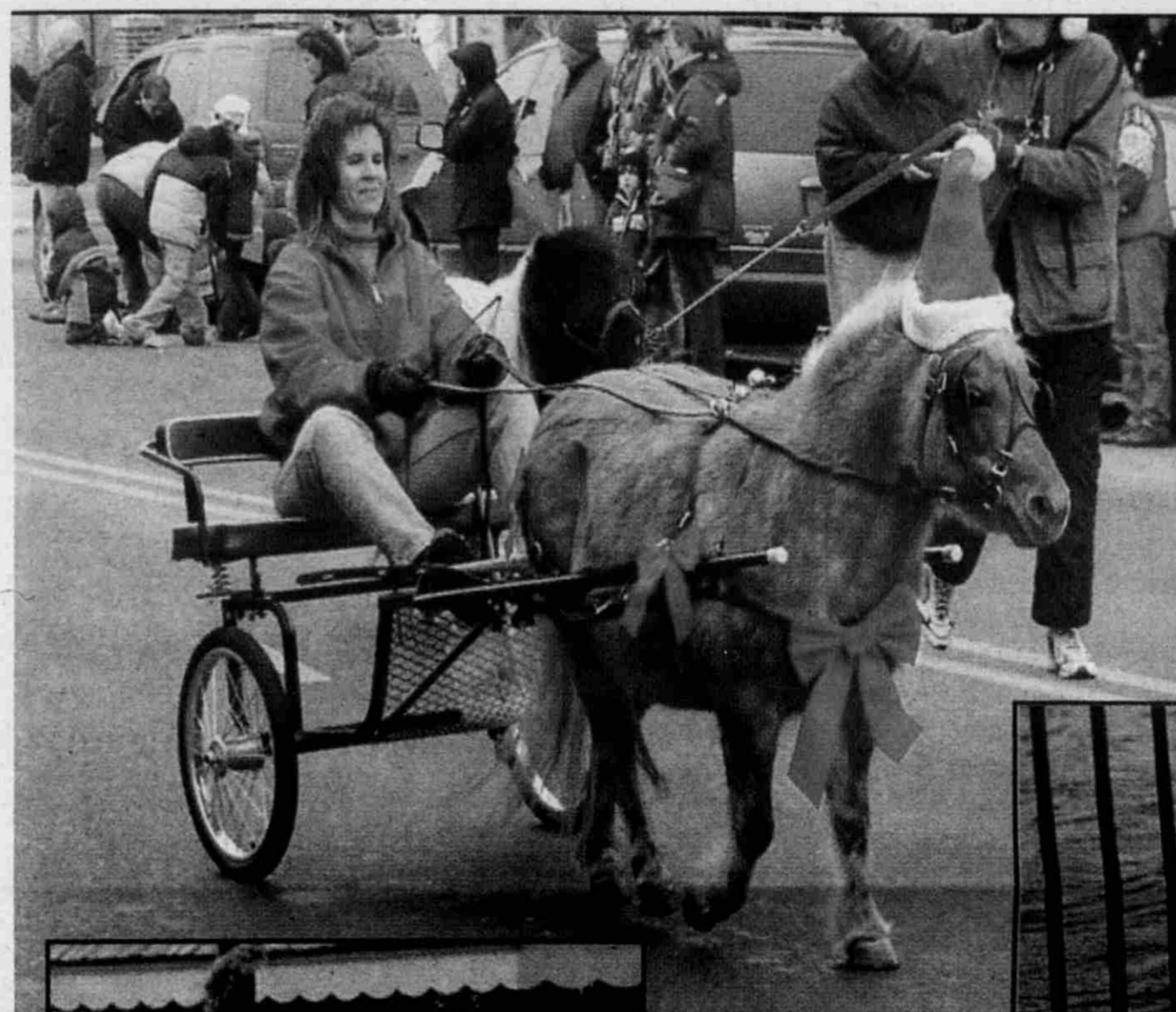
toadstool instead, but I didn't have time," he said.

So he started on what ended up being the snake.

"It would have been a dragon if it had wings, but the wings broke," he said.

Contest winner Sarah Koop created a hummingbird hovering over a flower. Its thin beak, suspended in the air, defied the warm temperature. Andrea Stahl of Lowell took second place with her sculpture of a monster truck. Jason Offenbacher's dolphin sculpture took third place.

All of the ice sculptors were culinary arts students and members of the ice carving team at Grand Rapids Community College.



Clockwise: Jacqui Boluyt makes her way down Main Street in a carriage pulled by a small horse; Greg Smith uses a chisel to put finishing touches on a giraffe sculpture; Sarah Koop's hummingbird and flower took first place in the Flat River Freeze ice sculpture competition; The Lowell Middle School band plays "Jolly Old Saint Nicholas" near the front of the parade; and a snowman extends Christmas greetings to the crowd.

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COMING EVENTS

Notices in the "Coming Events" are free to any nonprofit organization in the Lowell, Ada, Alto & Saranac areas. Keep notices brief; may submit by mail, but will accept notices by phone at 897-9261.

SUN.: Tri-town Conservation Club trap & skeet league, 5616 Dunn Rd. 12-5 p.m. Call Larry at 754-7104. Public welcome.

SUN.: V.F.W. Post 8303 Bingo. Doors open: 11 a.m.; 1st game: 1 p.m. at Lowell Veterans Center, 3116 Alden Nash S.E. Every Sunday except holidays.

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

MON.: Women's over 30 drop-in basketball, 7-9:30 p.m. at Cherry Creek Elementary. Call Dave (YMCA) 897-8445. Fee \$3.

MON.: Boy Scout Troop 102, 11 & up or completing 5th grade, meets 7-8:30 p.m. at Scout Cabin, end of N. Washington St. Call Tim Vanderwulp at 897-4302 for more info.

MON.: Lowell Board of Education meets 7 p.m. in Administration Building, 300 High Street.

1ST MON.: V.F.W. Post #8303, 3116 Alden Nash S.E. at 7 p.m.

2ND MON.: Bowne Township Historical Society meets 7:30 at historic museum, 84th/Alden Nash.

3RD MON.: Fallasburg Historical Society board meetings at chamber of commerce or Fallasburg, 7 p.m. All invited. Call 897-7161 for info. or location.

3RD MON.: Women of the Moose meeting at 7:30 p.m.

3RD MON.: Peripheral Neuropathy support group, 7 p.m. *Next meeting Feb. 21* at Schneider Manor Community Rm., 725 Bowes. Dorothy 897-9794.

3RD MON.: Lowell Showboat Garden Club meets at 7 p.m. at Lowell Church of the Nazarene in the Fellowship Hall.

4TH MON.: Clark-Ellis American Legion Post 152, 3100 Alden Nash S.E. at 7:30 p.m.

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

TUES.: Cub Scout Pack 3188 at 1st United Methodist Church, 6:30 p.m. Cubmaster Bruce Doll, 897-9782 / email: bruce@imagesofvision.com.

TUES.: Flat River Woodcarvers meet at LAAC from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

TUES.: Women's Community Bible Study. Free nursery and preschool story hour/craft time 9:45-11:15 a.m./women only at 7:15 p.m. Calvary Christian Reformed Church. Call 897-7060 or 897-7555.

1ST TUES.: Grattan Historical Society at O'Brien Room of Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Rd. Public invited.

1ST TUES.: Diabetic Support group, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Schneider Manor Community Rm., 725 Bowes Rd. 897-2760 or 897-9160.

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

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

2ND TUES.: Lowell Masonic Lodge meeting, 7:30 p.m., Masonic Center, 119 Lincoln Lake.

2ND TUES.: G.R. Chapter of the American Sewing Guild, Plainfield Senior Center, 5255 Grand River Dr. NE, 6:30 social; 7 p.m. meeting/program. Call Sandy 285-0621 or June 231-780-1249 for more information.

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.

2ND & 4TH TUES.: Saranac Needlers, needleart/quilting bee, 5-8:30 p.m., 4 Health Wellness Center, Bridge St., Saranac. All are welcome. Contact Bev or Melissa, 642-6466. Light dinner is provided.

2ND & 4TH TUES.: Knights of Columbus #7719 meets at St. Mary School at 7:30 p.m.

3RD TUES.: Saranac Scrapppers, scrapbooking/journaling group meets at 4 Health Wellness Center, Bridge St., Saranac, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Light refreshments are served. Bev or Melissa, 642-6466.

3RD TUES.: Parents of children w/AD/HD at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 32156 4 Mile NE/ E. Bellline) at 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. Call 897-8694.

WED.: Rotary meets at noon, Lowell Masonic Temple, 119 Lincoln Lake.

WED.: 8 p.m. ALANON upstairs at 1st Congregational Church, 404 N. Hudson St.

WED.: Tri-town Conservation Club trap & skeet league, 5616 Dunn Rd. 6-10 p.m. Larry 754-7104.

2ND WED.: Kent County Youth Fair Board meeting, 7:30 p.m., King Memorial Youth Center, 4-H Fairgrounds. Call 897-6050.

2ND WED.: Lowell Women's Club, noon in Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd.

2ND WED.: Support group for Peripheral Neuropathy, 4 p.m., St. Paul's Anglican Catholic Church, Grand Rapids. Dorothy 897-9794.

THURS.: Weight Watchers at Lowell Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St. 5:30 p.m. Register 1/2 hr. before the meeting. For info. 1-800-651-6000.

THURS.: Saranac Area Musicians and Singers practice at Saranac High School Band Rm. Choir: 6-7 p.m./band: 7-8. Kathy Maatman, 897-5981.

THURS.: Pottery classes at Franciscan Life Process Center, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. 897-7842.

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

1ST THURS.: Michigan Hepatitis C Foundation support meetings, 7-8:30 p.m. Spectrum Health Kent Community Campus, 750 Fuller NE.

1ST THURS.: 4-H drama club meeting, Lowell Middle School choir room. Call 897-1502 after 5 p.m.

1ST & 3RD THURS.: Alto Lions Club meets at Annalaine's on S. Alden Nash Ave. at 7 p.m.

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

2ND THURS.: Loyal Order of the Moose, men's meeting at 7:30 p.m.

2ND THURS.: Genealogy- Alto Family Tree Club at Alto Library, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

3RD THURS.: 4 Health Wellness Center in Saranac. Parent Support Group 7-8:30 p.m. Call 642-6466 for information.

3RD THURS.: Rubber stamping at Christian Life

Center 6-9 p.m. Create scrapbooks, share supplies. Call Dawn at 862-8841.

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

3RD THURS.: Parents Supporting Parents group, Franciscan Life Process Center. Call 897-7842.

3RD THURS.: Royal Arch Masons, 7:30 p.m., Lowell Masonic Center, 119 Lincoln Lake. Dinner: 6:30.

3RD THURS.: LaLeche League of Ada, Cascade, Lowell 6:30 p.m. socializing; meeting 7. Support for pregnant/breastfeeding women, Ada 752-8300.

FRI.: Arts/Crafts volunteers at Franciscan Life Process Center, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Call Pat or Judy at 897-7842 to meet new friends, share your talent.

2ND SAT.: Ada Historical Society, 10:30 a.m. at Averill Historical Museum, 7144 Headley, Ada.

2ND 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.

FRI., SAT. AND SUN.: Averill Historical Museum of Ada, 7144 Headley, 1-4 p.m. or by appointment. Call 676-9346.

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM: Tues., Sat. & Sun. 1-4; Thurs., 1-8. Families: \$10; individuals \$3; 5-17 \$1.50; members free. 897-7688.

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

ALTO LIBRARY HOURS: Mon. & Sat. 9:30 - 1:30 p.m.; Tues. & Wed. 12-8 p.m.; Thurs. 1-5 p.m.

LOWELL AREA ARTS COUNCIL: Tues.-Fri.: 12-5 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m. Monday / a.m. by appt. 149 S. Hudson. 897-8545 or www.lowellartscouncil.org.

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., 6:30-7:30 p.m. 101 W. Main. 897-8565.

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.

NOW-DEC. 17: F.R.O.M will collect new unwrapped toys and gifts for the Angel Trees and toy barrels at local businesses (see Along Main St.)

WED., DEC. 8 & 15: LHS Spirit Store open 6-8 p.m. for shopping. 987-2982.

TUES., DEC. 14: TOTS holiday party from 6:30 - 7:30 at Bright Beginnings, 300 High St. \$1. Call Kathy at 987-2532 with questions.

WED., DEC. 15: LHS Lacrosse player/parent meeting at Cherry Creek Elementary, Rm. 188, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

FRI.: Arts/Crafts volunteers at Franciscan Life Process Center, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Call Pat or Judy at 897-7842 to meet new friends, share your talent.

2ND SAT.: Ada Historical Society, 10:30 a.m. at Averill Historical Museum, 7144 Headley, Ada.

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FRI., SAT. AND SUN.: Averill Historical Museum of Ada, 7144 Headley, 1-4 p.m. or by appointment. Call 676-9346.

LOWELL SENIOR NEIGHBORS CALENDAR 897-5949

MON.: 9:00 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall.

TUES.: 9:00 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall; 12:45 p.m. Bible Study.

THURS., DEC. 9: 12:15 p.m. Dance Westside Complex.

FRI., DEC. 10: 10 a.m. Community Senior Neighbors Lunch at Grandville; 10 a.m. Out & About.

MON., DEC. 13: Noon Potato Bar; 12:45 p.m. Meijer Gardens Christmas Trees.

TUES., DEC. 14: 11:15 a.m. St. Cecilia's Brown Bag Lunch.

WED., DEC. 15: 4:15 p.m. Dinner at Fire Mountain.

THURS., DEC. 16: 12:45 p.m. Shop Sam's Club.

FRI., DEC. 17: 10 a.m. Out & About; 1 p.m. Tour

THURS.: 9:00 a.m. Walk/Shop at Malls; 9:30 a.m. Crafts; 1:00 p.m. Euchre.

FRI.: 9:00 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall.

MON., DEC. 20: 12:45 p.m. Travelogue; 4:30 Dinner at Keiser's/Tour Christmas Lights.

TUES., DEC. 21: 12 p.m. Christmas Party.

WED., DEC. 22: 8:30 a.m. Traveling Breakfast at Cracker Barrel; 12:45 p.m. Shop Meijer.


THURS., DEC. 23 & 24: Closed for Christmas Holiday.

MON., DEC. 27: Noon, Soup and Sandwich.

TUES., DEC. 28: 12:45 p.m. Shackleton Legendary Antarctic Exhibit.

WED., DEC. 29: 12 p.m. Pizza and Salad.

FRI., DEC. 31: New Year's Eve. Center Is Closed.



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HEALTH

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



When bones thin, they become more fragile and tend to fracture easily. It mainly affects older men and women, but can strike at any age. One out of every two women and one in eight men over 50 will have an osteoporosis-related fracture in their lifetime. When osteoporosis becomes severe, these fractures tend to occur with minimal stress or injury. These fractures tend to occur in the spine, which leads to loss of height, chronic pain, and a "stooped forward" posture. They may also occur at the hip with minor trauma. This can lead to decreased mobility, which can be detrimental to seniors. The good news is that osteoporosis can be prevented and treated in most cases.

OSTEOPOROSIS

Osteoporosis is a disease that causes loss of bone mass.

Factors you cannot change that put you at risk for

osteoporosis include: age, gender, ethnicity, and family history. Risk factors you can change include: poor diet, poor calcium and vitamin D intake, inactivity, smoking and certain medication usage.

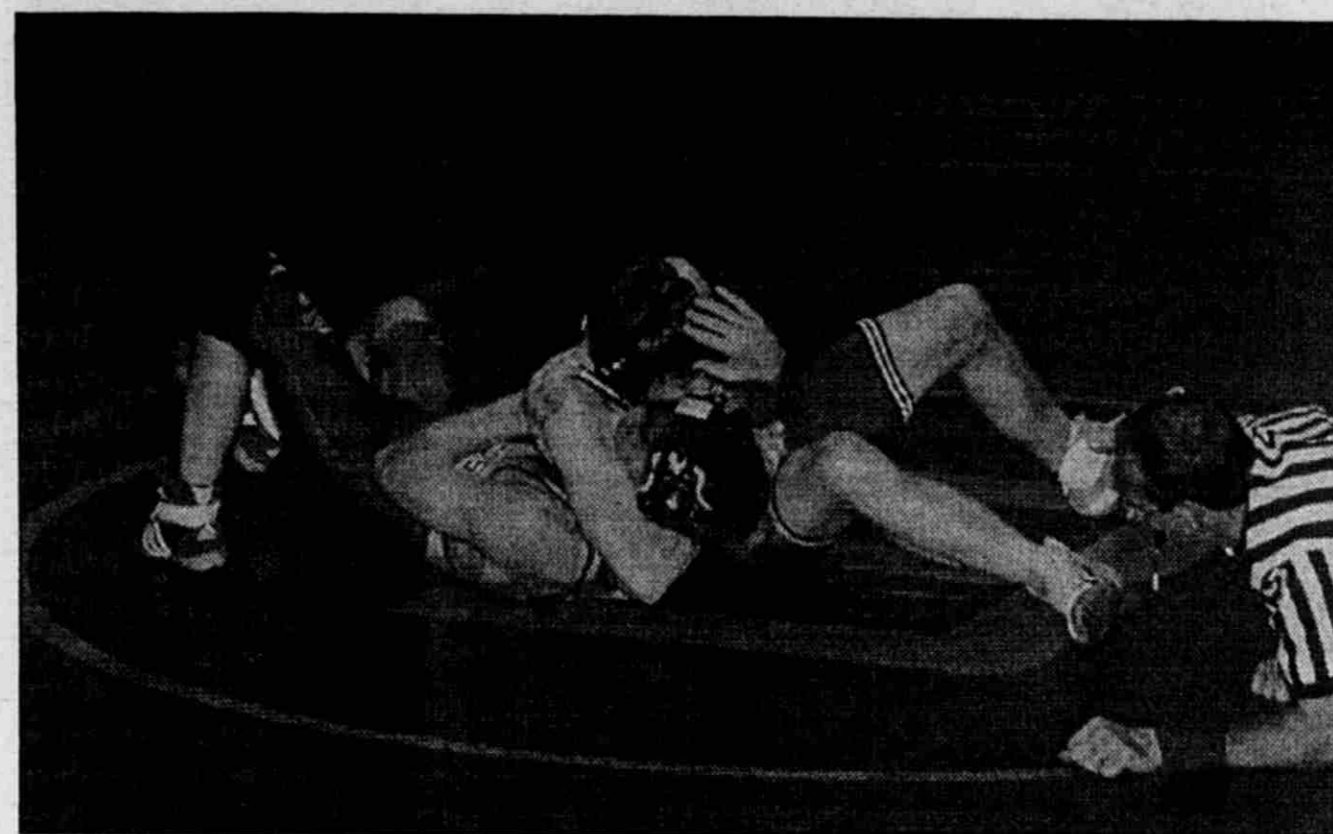
Prevention of osteoporosis should begin at an early age and continue throughout your lifetime. All postmenopausal women, and at-risk men, should have a bone densitometry (or DEXA scan) performed, in order to determine their bone quality. If you presently have osteoporosis, make sure you are being treated with one of the newer medications, in addition to modifying your risk factors. Talk to your health care provider about developing your own strategy to prevent and/or treat osteoporosis.

Wrestlers split matches at Belding, win first tournament

By Dan Schneider



Lowell's Jason Nearing with the advantage over his Comstock Park opponent. Nearing was caught by surprise later in the match and ended up pinned. He rebounded against Belding, however, quickly pinning his opponent.



Lowell's Ryan Karasiewicz works to pin his Comstock Park opponent last Thursday.

The first match of the season is perennially a learning experience for the Red Arrows. Last Thursday's match against Comstock Park at Belding was no exception.

"Just a typical December start for us," said Lowell coach Dave Strejc, after the Panthers defeated Lowell 48-30. "A lot of work to do, but a typical December start."

Comstock Park scored pins in the last three weights of the match: 160, 171 and 189.

"We couldn't get around the pin, we couldn't get off our backs," Strejc said. "That can't happen, that comes back to basics and heart and focus and desire."

Lowell beat Belding 60-21 in a flurry of pins. Winning by pin were Ray Seese (103), Corey Fitzpatrick (112), Rob Karasiewicz (125), Joe Mendez (135), Ryan Karasiewicz (152), John Fleet (160), Jason Nearing (171),

Matt Francisco (189) and Ken Walsh (215).

The lesson he would like his wrestlers to take from the opening-match loss: the importance of hitting the mat with intensity. With that in mind, there's one other thing the Arrows will need to do to have a successful season: work.

"I know our kids can outwork anyone in the state," Strejc said. "We know right where we are, we know the path. There's no secret, there's no formula, it all comes down to good old-fashioned hard work from here until March."

Lowell returned seven starting wrestlers from last year's state championship team. They were Ray Seese, Rob Karasiewicz, Joe Mendez, Ryan Karasiewicz, and Jason Nearing. Matt Francisco and John Fleet, who wrestled last Thursday, also had varsity experience last year.

Lowell is also waiting for

its football players to hit the mat. Strejc will give those wrestlers the time they need to recover from the long football season. Then Michigan High School Athletic Association rules require them to practice seven times—two weeks—before they can compete in wrestling.

"You can't go from that kind of a meatgrinder into a different kind of meatgrinder," Strejc said. While the Red Arrows were losing to Comstock Park and beating Belding, Greenville was showing they will be a force to contend with in the OK White. They dominated Belding, 55-9, and Comstock Park, 48-18, in the other two matches of the Belding quad.

Lowell will face Greenville on Feb. 3.

Saturday, the Red Arrows claimed first place at the Notre Dame Tournament. They face Unity Christian at home Thursday at 7 p.m.

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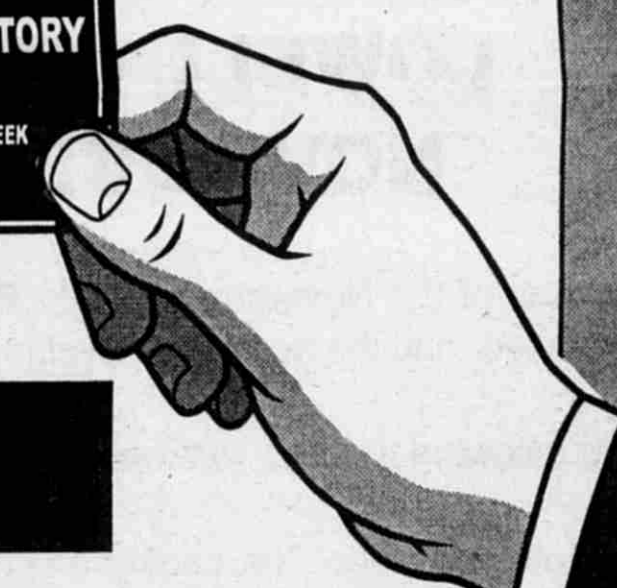
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Brock Graham (from left), Ryan Esbaugh and Tim Droese, captains of the 2004 Division 3 state champion Red Arrow football team, present the championship trophy to Lowell High School principal Scott Vashaw last Thursday in the main gym of the high school.

Football champs bring trophy back home

The 2004 Division 3 state champion Red Arrow football team presented its trophy to the school and the community last Thursday at Lowell High School.

Coach Noel Dean opened the presentation by instructing the marching band—which he would soon call “the world’s greatest marching band”—to play the school fight song while the football team entered and took their seats in the main gym at Lowell High School. Dean thanked some of the people who were part of

the team’s undefeated season. He started with the LHS students, thanking them for their cheering at games; also the players’ parents, for allowing and encouraging them to play.

Dean recognized the accomplishments of other LHS fall sports teams—the boys soccer team for their conference championship, the girls basketball team for their undefeated regular season and district championship, the boys cross country team for making it to the state meet. Then the coach turned

the microphone over to two sports journalists who had covered the team all year. Bret Bakita, sports announcer for WBBL AM and Jane Bos, prep sports editor for *The Grand Rapids Press*, congratulated the Red Arrows and talked about their accomplishments during the season.

Team captains Brock Graham, Ryan Esbaugh and Tim Droese presented the trophy to school principal Scott Vashaw.

Red Arrow Hockey ready for league opener

By Dan Schneider

After a long bus trip last Friday night, the Lowell-Caledonia hockey team lost 7-4 against Gladwin. But on the weekend road trip, the Red Arrows started playing the kind of team hockey that coach Mike Ballard is looking for.

Cory Kelly and Ted McCoy scored two of Lowell-Caledonia’s goals at Gladwin. Tim Kelly and Jay Ryan, both defensemen, scored the others. Early in the game, the Arrows picked up two quick penalties to give the Flying G’s a five on three powerplay advantage. They capitalized, scoring a goal.

“That put us behind and it cost us some momentum,” Ballard said. “Once we did

respond, every time Gladwin had an answer for us.”

Gladwin had a similar age and experience structure to Lowell, with players from all four grade levels. According to Ballard, they were “not a very big team, but they were very fast and very good with their decisions on making passes.”

The next day, after a team breakfast, the players shot some pool and rolled a few games at a bowling alley in Bay City.

“The main emphasis of the trip was to allow the kids time together away from home,” Ballard said.

At a team meeting in the afternoon, the coach talked about the expectations for the team. His primary advice was to get more aggressive and control the game.

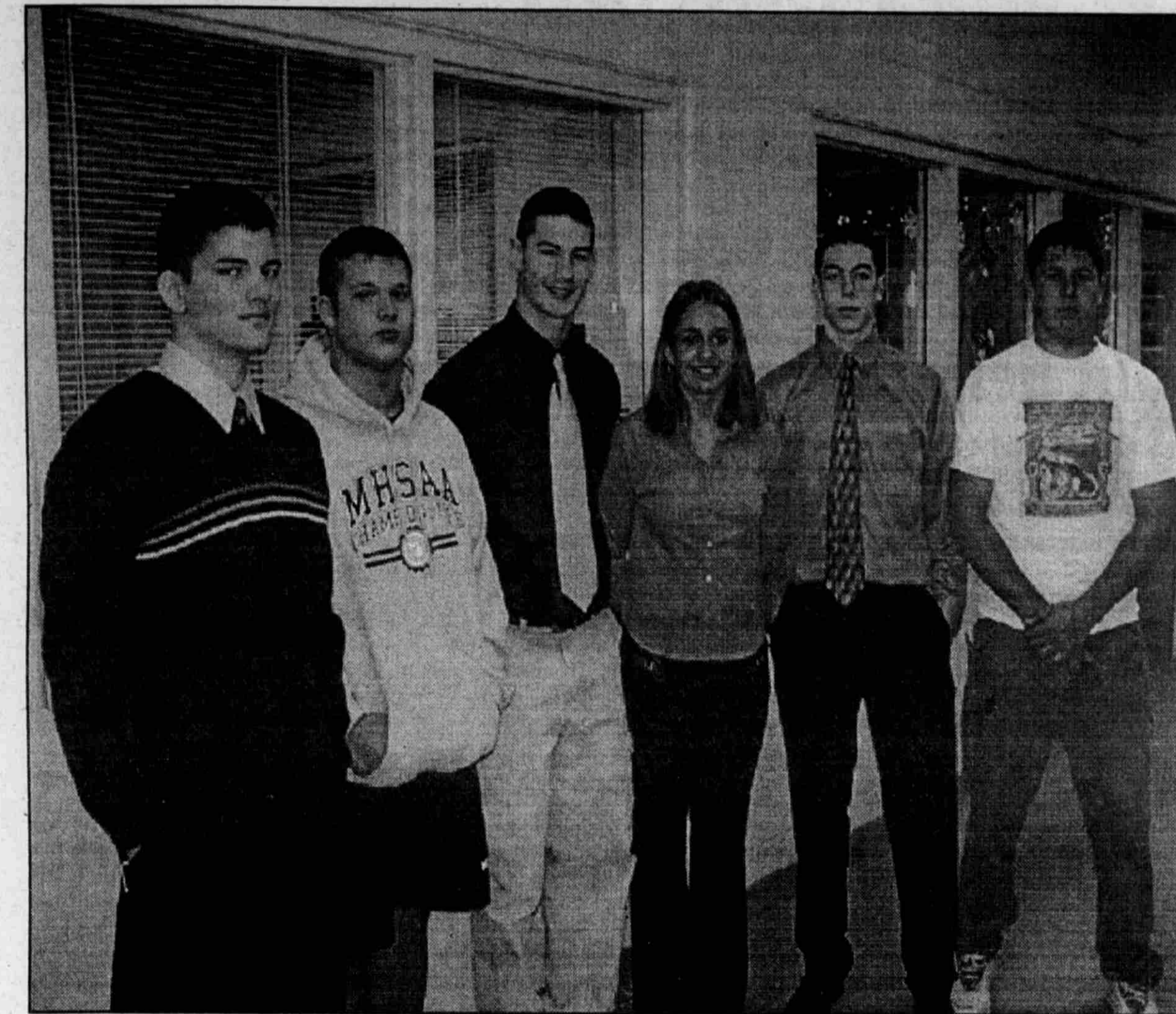
They did this against Bay City that night, holding a 1-0 lead until the third period on a goal by Ted McCoy. But Bay City got a breakaway goal and scored in a scramble near the Lowell-Caledonia goal in the third to win 2-1.

“We carried the play for the game and outshot them but unfortunately we made a few mistakes,” Ballard said.

But the players were starting to function as a team. “And that’s the most important thing going into our league opener Wednesday,” Ballard said.

Lowell-Caledonia will take on West Ottawa Wednesday at 8 p.m. at the Edge ice arena in Holland.

Five Lowell players earn All-State honors



Pictured, from left to right, are Frank Mulder (special mention all-state football), Ryan Esbaugh (all-state football), Mike Koster (all-state football), Kendra Gallert (all-state girls basketball), Keith Nichol (all-state football), Ed Zigmont (all-state football).

Gallert first team point guard Crowley girls basketball coach of the year

By Dan Schneider

This year’s Lowell girls varsity basketball team had an undefeated regular season, won conference and district championships, and was widely regarded as one of the powerhouse teams in West Michigan girls basketball.

It took good players and a good coach to achieve those feats. The Associated Press recognized that Lowell had both, naming point guard Kendra Gallert to the Class A all-state team and coach Dee Crowley Class A girls basketball Coach of the Year.

“I was quite surprised by it because there are a lot of good coaches in the state,” Crowley said. “It was exciting.”

She had more to say about her player, Gallert.

“I thought that was a very deserving award for her,”

Crowley said. “She brought our team a true point guard. She’s someone who doesn’t turn the ball over and can run the team.”

This year, Gallert had 95 assists and only 39 turnovers. In her four years as a varsity starter, she set the school record for career assists with 255. This shattered the previous record of 205. She also set a school record for three pointers in a season with 60. Gallert averaged 13.1 points per game this season, but just as important was her role on defense.

“Defensively, many times we’d put her on the other team’s best player,” Crowley said. “She always defended them really well, kept them under their averages and so she has done everything we needed for our program.”

Four football players make first team

Detroit Lions name Dean coach of the year

By Dan Schneider

Four Lowell High School athletes won Associated Press all-state honors for this year’s state championship season. The Detroit Lions chose Lowell football coach Noel Dean as their high school football Coach of the Year.

“It’s a great honor, I’m flattered. Our kids played really well this year and I’m sure it comes from that,” Dean said.

The all-staters were part of the talented team that rolled over opponents all season long, culminating in a 38-17 state championship win over St. Johns.

The all-state players were quarterback Keith Nichol, running back Ryan Esbaugh, wide

receiver Mike Koster, and lineman Ed Zigmont. Frank Mulder received special mention as a defensive back.

Dean called Nichol a “tremendous player for such a young player. There’s not a lot of sophomores who make first team all state, especially in class A football.”

Dean talked about the ability of Nichol, Esbaugh and Koster to wreak havoc on opposing defenses. In his three years on varsity, Koster set the state record for career receiving yardage. Dean said it was helpful to the offense to have an athlete who could catch that many balls.

“It certainly opens up a lot of other avenues,” he said. “I’m sure Mike benefited from

Ryan and Ryan benefited from Mike, and Keith benefited from those two and on top of that, they played behind a great offensive line.”

Esbaugh worked on both sides of the ball. “He moved the ball pretty good and he played defense full time so we’re glad to have him,” Dean said.

Defensive end Zigmont was a key part of the dominating Red Arrow defensive line. “One of the strongest players I’ve ever had, an immovable force,” Dean said.

Mulder was also a big part of the Lowell defensive effort.

“He was kind of an electrifying player,” Dean said. “When he was on, big things

happened.” Put together a lot of big things accomplished by the Red Arrows this year, and it adds up to an undefeated year and a state championship. Plus a lot of excitement along the way.



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SYNOPSIS

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 15, 2004

Minutes of the November 1, 2004 Regular Meeting were approved as corrected and the accounts payable were approved.

The following motions were approved:

- Motion to adopt the zoning amendment by providing vehicle repair facilities including body shops in the Industrial District right and by special land use permit in the General Business and Light Industrial Districts.
- Motion to approve the Lowell Area Trail Agreement as proposed.
- Motion to appoint Jim Pfaller as City elected official representative to the Lowell Area Recreation Authority.
- Motion to appoint Perry Beachum to the Lowell Area Recreation Authority as a City non-elected member.
- Motion to approve the policy regarding removal of trees within the public street right-of-way.
- Motion to approve the quote of \$2,000 with Vennen Chrysler (John Muha) to install equipment in the new patrol cars.
- Motion to approve the lease agreement to the end of the fiscal year with a buyout for the Police Department copier from Adams-Remco at \$118.71 per month. Further, staff should negotiate a purchase price for the next fiscal year.

Motion to adjourn at 8:29 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, December 6, 2004.

Complete minutes are available at Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan.

Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk
City of Lowell

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My best friend passed away unexpectedly today. Everyday he has greeted me at the door to start his busy day of guarding the deck and waiting for the mailman who always had a treat.

Lying in the same spot for hours was exhausting but he never complained. Fill his bowl full of food and he was good.

On the weekend we would occasionally discuss the week over a beer together. I’ll also miss him hogging the bed, begging for treats (food), our road trips together and the water. I will miss everything about Captain till the day I die. Thank you Captain for all of your unconditional friendship.

God Bless!
Your Best Friend,
Rick Sauber

Want to tell us how you feel? Did someone do the RIGHT thing for a change? Get a Pevee To Get off Your Chest? **Sound Off**

The Ledger (Almost) Anything Goes Opinion Forum

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Winter storm tips could help in emergency

With winter just around the corner, it doesn't hurt to be prepared for the season by following these safety tips.

- At home:**
- Keep handy a battery-powered flashlight, radio, extra food (canned or dried food is best) and bottled water.
 - Make sure there are extra blankets and heavy clothes available.
 - Be aware of potential fire and carbon monoxide hazards if you plan to use an emergency heating source such as a fireplace, wood stove or space heater.
- In a vehicle:**
- Have a shovel, blankets, windshield scraper, container of sand, battery booster cables, tow chain or rope, flashlight, battery-operated radio, first-aid kit and high energy snacks (e.g. nuts, raisins).
- Outside:**
- Avoid overexertion, such as shoveling heavy snow, pushing a car, or walking in deep snow. Sweating could lead to chill and hypothermia.

Thanks so much to the kind neighbors who let us use their parking spot when we couldn't make it up our driveway on that snowy Wednesday before Thanksgiving. You saved us!

A man is usually more careful of his money than he is of his principles. - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Spending thousands to curtain the football

field so a few less fortunates couldn't enjoy it too, although they help support our athletic teams all year! Shame on you! Loosen up!

I would just like to say how nice the new Metro Health Plaza is. Everyone there is incredibly friendly and the care I receive is top notch.

The houses that are lit up in town look great. Hopefully more people will have the spirit!

- Wear loose-fitting lightweight warm clothing in layers. Wear wool hat and mittens.
- Keep your clothes dry. Change wet socks and clothing quickly to prevent loss of body heat.

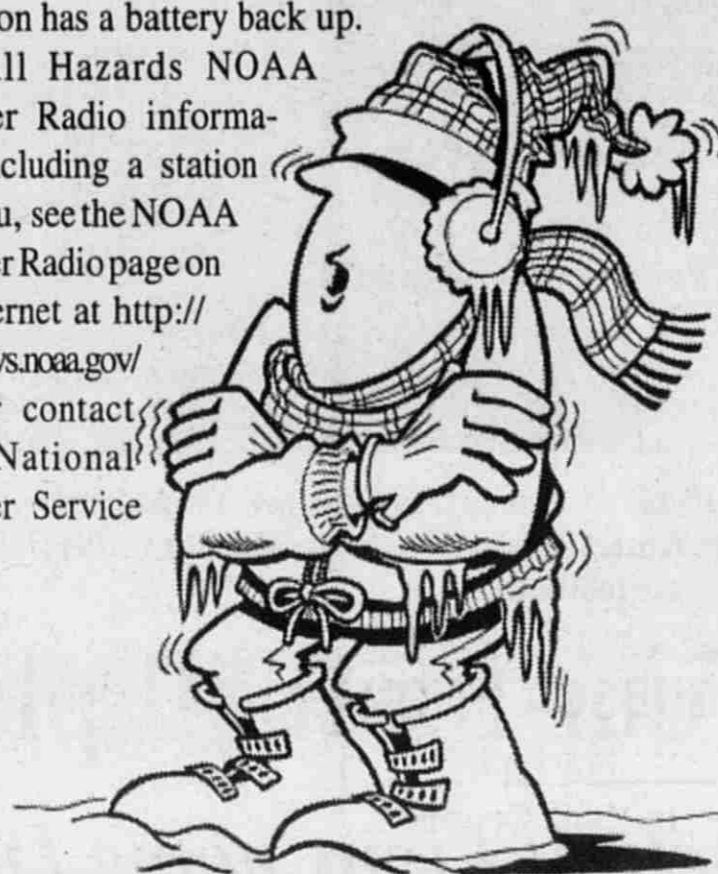
DURING A WINTER STORM

- At home:**
- To save heat, close off unneeded rooms, cover windows at night and stuff towels or rags in cracks under doors.
 - Maintain adequate food and water intake. Food provides the body with energy for producing its own heat.
- If stranded in a vehicle:**
- Attach a cloth to your antenna to attract attention and then remain in the vehicle.
 - Run the motor about 10 minutes each hour for heat. However, open the window slightly for fresh air and make sure that the exhaust pipe isn't blocked.
 - Get attention by turning on the dome light and emergency flashers when running the engine.
 - Exercise by moving arms, legs, fingers and toes to keep blood circulating and to keep warm.
- If stranded outside:**
- Try to stay dry and cover all exposed parts of the body.
 - Prepare a windbreak or snow cave for protection from the wind.
 - Build a fire for heat and to attract attention.

Do not eat snow. It will lower your body temperature. Melt it first.

ANYTIME
Listen for All-Hazards NOAA Weather Radio or local radio, television and cable stations for the latest updates on hazardous winter weather.

- To ensure a continuous flow of weather information, make sure the NOAA Weather Radio, or another radio or television has a battery back up.
- For All Hazards NOAA Weather Radio information, including a station near you, see the NOAA Weather Radio page on the Internet at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr> or contact your National Weather Service office.



SYNOPSIS BOWNE TOWNSHIP

Regular Board Meeting
November 15, 2004 - 7:30 p.m.

- Motions approved.
- Minutes approved for October meeting. List of Invoices approved.
 - Motion to award snowplowing bid of \$1500 to Endless Lawn Service for the 2004-05 winter season.
 - Motion to approve ad for Lowell City Directory.
 - Motion to approve payment for trenching work at sewer lagoons.
 - Motion to approve investment policy with Ionia County National Bank.
 - Motion to approve new township officials training through MTA on December 17th.

Complete copies of the minutes are available at the township office, 8240 Alden Nash SE., PO Box 35, Alto, MI 49302 or on the website www.bownetwp.cc.

Sandra L. Kowalczyk, Clerk
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1999 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX GT - 4 dr, red, 3800, loaded, CD, heads up display, new tires, heated leather, 72,000 miles, \$7,800. Call 897-1597 or 450-7910.

CHRISTMAS GIFT CERTIFICATES - Weekend get-away, \$130/\$160. Waterfront cottages completely furnished including boats. Winter activities. Gift certificates good any season. 897-5062.

HOUSE - w/great curb appeal. 11461 Foreman. Newly updated, wonderful living space & kitchen on 1.5 acres, close to school. Call Mark 784-9090 days, 897-2587 eves.

A MEMORY FOAM BED - NASA developed memory foam. Brand name, never used. \$500. Call 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160.

1999 JEEP CHEROKEE - 4 dr., 4x4, light blue, hwy miles. \$4,800. Call 897-1597 or 450-7910.

FURNITURE - Bedroom & dining room, headboards, canopy beds, living room. Large selection. Wholesale prices. Call 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160.

FLORIDA TICKETS - Round trip for 2. Detroit to St. Pete. April 19-28, \$289. Call 868-6660.

10" HITACHI DUEL - Bevel compound-miter saw. Like new \$150 or best offer. 813-3360.

LOST

LOST KITE - light blue nylon fabric, fish decals, with colorful streamer tail. Call 897-5894

LOST - Palm Pilot at Lowell Lanes on 12/04. Extremely valuable to owner. Call 691-8454 or 281-3687.

FOR RENT

FOR RENT - 1 & 2 bedroom trailers \$1,000 - \$1,050 to move in. No dogs please. \$400 - \$420 per mo. plus 1/2 mo. rent deposit. Call 813-8041 or 616-754-0276. 897-8875.

HALL FOR RENT - with kitchen, seats 150. Call 897-6050.

FOR RENT - Country home, between Ada & Lowell, 1 bedroom, basement, garage. Rent \$600/month w/ \$600 deposit required. Includes: heat, electric, lawn care & trash removal. References required. 676-9988.

FOR RENT - 2 bedroom, bath & a half, livingroom, dining room, utility room. Call 897-7104.

HOUSE FOR RENT - Lowell in town. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, single story home, completely remodeled, shed. \$650 per mo. + deposit. Cell 292-7649.

1 BEDROOM APARTMENT AVAILABLE IN LOWELL - Jan. 1. Newly remodeled, and spacious; secluded w/ beautiful scenery. \$525 mo. includes utilities except gas. Call 893-0307.

FOR RENT - \$400 moves you in! 1 & 2 bedroom apartments in Lowell. One stall garage, w/d hook-ups & convenient location. Starting at \$625 month. Call today 363-5430 or visit us on the web at www.wmpmonline.com.

SALES

CARRIAGE HOUSE SALE - Fri. 2-7, Sat. 12-5, Sun. by chance now - Dec. 12. Unique Christmas gifts and decorations. Sleds in wreaths, ice skates, small painted furniture, primitives, antiques and more. 520 N. Monroe. 897-7808.

PRESCHOOL - Second Semester begins January 3, 2005. Enrollment now underway for M-T-W-Th, 1-4 p.m. The Franciscan Life Process Center, 11650 Downes, Lowell, offers school readiness and integrated learning skills of art, music and science for 3 to 5 year old children. Scholarships available. Call FLPC at 897-7842.

NEW YEAR'S TEENAGE BABYSITTERS AVAILABLE - Includes dinner & breakfast. Overnight optional. Call 616-293-6902 or 616-893-7723.

A Subscription to the Ledger would make a great last minute gift! In county is only \$15 for a year! Call us today! 897-9261

WANTED

WANTED JUNK CARS - for scrap. Call Todd 616-887-9256.

FREE

FREE - Kittens. 6 mos. old. Brother & sister. Both must go to same home. Both declawed & boy fixed. Loving, with kids & dogs. Our son is allergic. 897-4570.

HELP WANTED

INTERIM DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - Part-time position with growing UCC church. Duties to include providing music for Sunday morning worship service, rehearsals with and accompaniment for church choir, and other musical needs for the church. To request job description call 897-5906 or email bstevens@hassk12.org. Send resume and cover letter to: First Congregational Church, Attn: Personnel, 404 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331 or to email address.

PERSONALS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY - Mac Venneman 12/3, Ryan Fisk, 12/3 & Earl King 12/4. If you see our special birthday boys be sure to say Happy Birthday. Love, your friends & family.

EXTRA! EXTRA!

READ ALL ABOUT IT IN THE LEDGER CLASSIFIEDS! Place Your Ad Today! Prices start at \$1 for 15 words!
Ph. 897-9261
Fax 897-4809

SERVICES

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

IF YOU HAVE TRASH - Call ALL TRASH. All trash LLC. 15 yd. rolloff dumpsters. 616-887-8870.

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

SHIP UPS AT THE LEDGER OFFICE - Daily pickup. Small box packaging available. Open until 7 p.m. on Mon., Wed. & Thurs. until Dec. 23. Be sure to ship early! 105 N. Broadway. Call for a price quote!

HORSE BOARDING - 6 miles north of Lowell. Excellent facility, excellent care. Contact: Wendy at 616-794-3793 or 616-481-2490.

UHEN CONSTRUCTION SNOWPLOWING - Snow removal, driveways, roofs, etc. 299-1249.

LISA'S DAYCARE - Has full-time positions available. Kids welcome for Murray Lake School. Great country setting with indoor & outdoor play areas. Planned daily activities & occasional field trips. Call Lisa at 897-3065 for an interview.

DOES YOUR CHRYSLER, PLYMOUTH, DODGE CAR, TRUCK OR VAN NEED REPAIR? - Don't make a mistake & take it anywhere else - give Geo-Tech a try! Contact George at Geo-Tech Transmission & Repair, 897-0743.

SERVICES

RAY'S SMALL ENGINE REPAIR - Lawn mowers, riders, weedwackers & snow blowers. Pickup & delivery available. Call 485-5835.

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

HORSE BOARDING - 6 miles north of Lowell. Excellent facility, excellent care. Contact: Wendy at 616-794-3793 or 616-481-2490.

SNOWPLOWING - Tired of shoveling that driveway? We have great hourly or seasonal rates available. Long, short, straight or curvy driveways. We do them all. Call Homrich Mobile Washing & Snowplowing at 897-0269 for your free quote.

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

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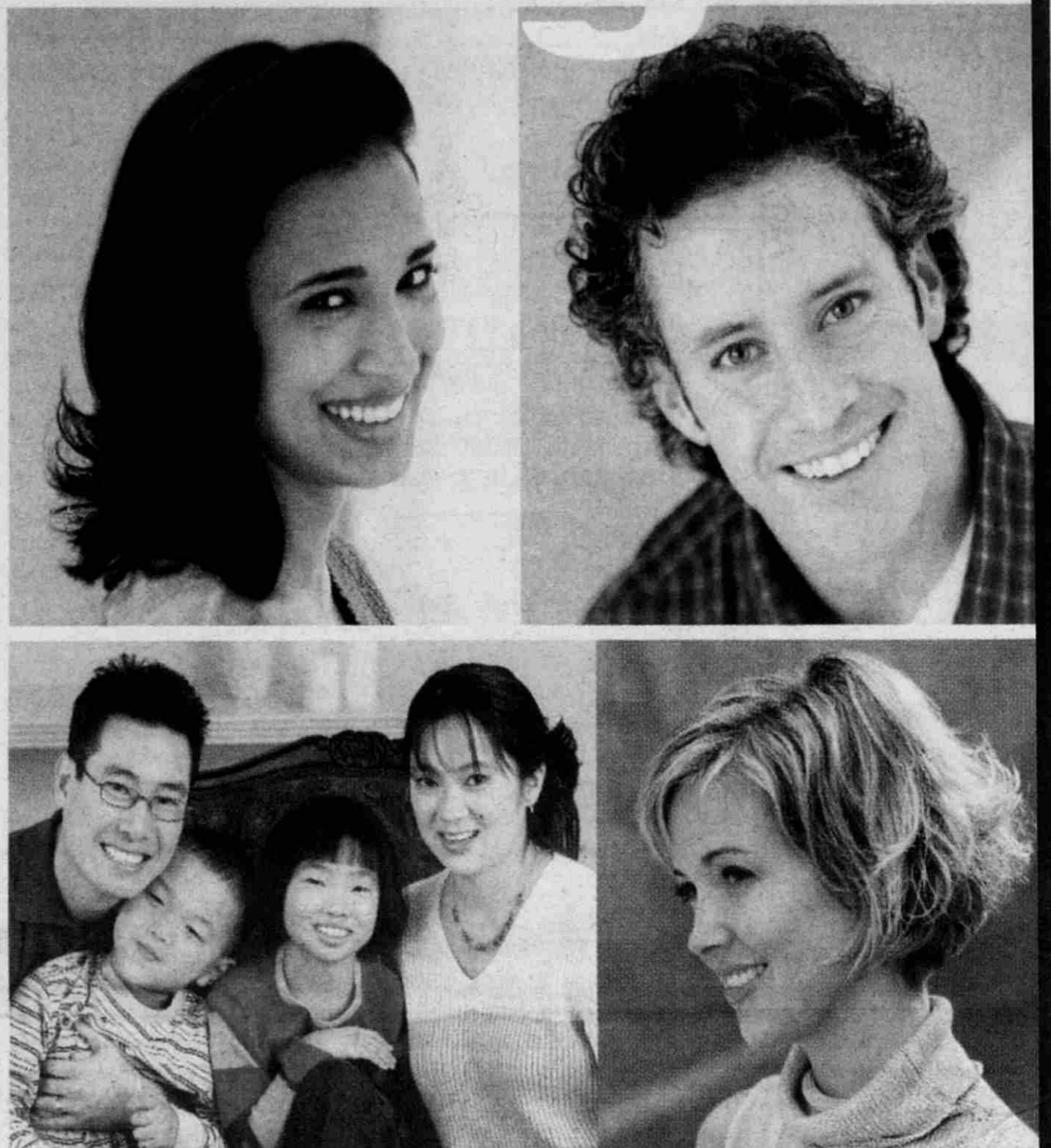
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Grand Opening



Here's an offer you can't refuse.

OPENING FRIDAY, DEC. 10

Stone Ridge Center

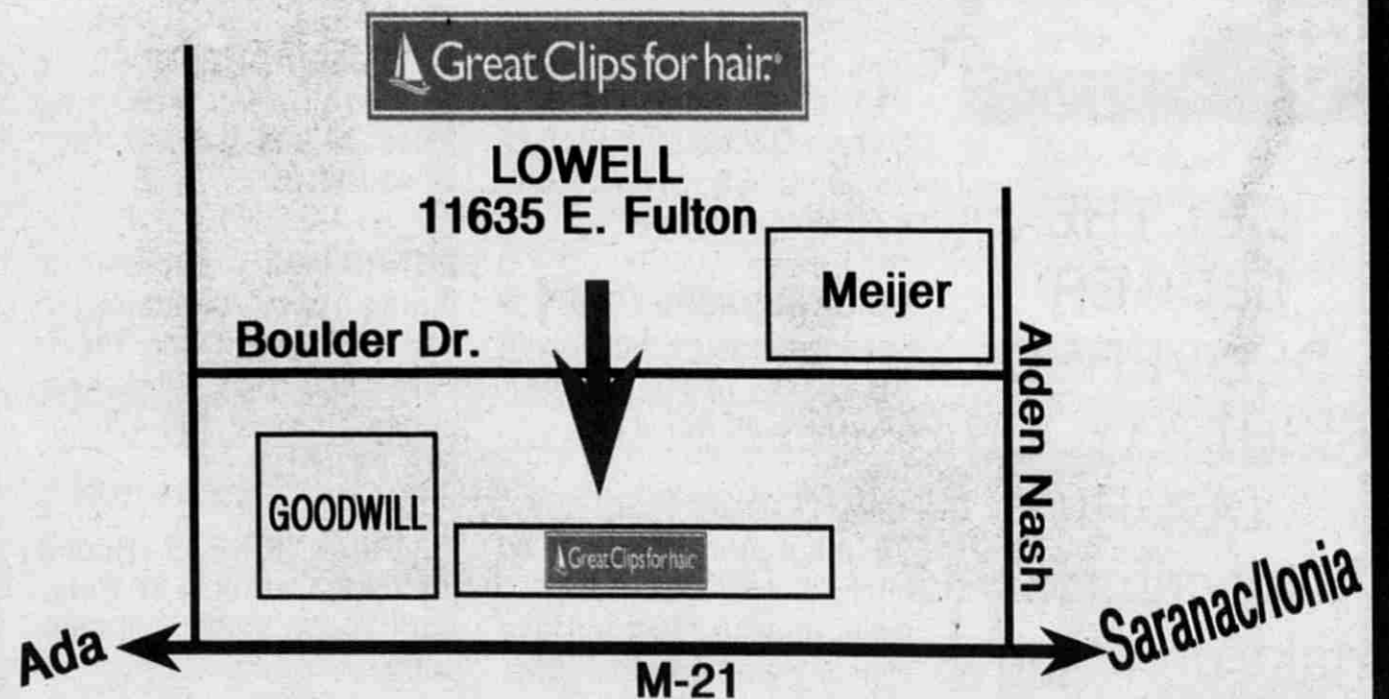
11635 Fulton St. - Lowell

Hours: Mon-Fri 9-9, Sat 9-6, Sun 12-5

616-897-9520

No appointments necessary.

Great Haircuts. Every Time. Every Where



HAIRCUT SPECIAL HAIRCUT SPECIAL

\$2.99

Reg. \$10 adults, \$8 kids & seniors

Not valid with other offers.
Limit one coupon per customer.
Good at Lowell location only
OFFER EXPIRES 1-21-05



\$2.99

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