

# The Lowell Ledger

Volume 31 Issue 6

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, December 15, 2004

## Riverwater released as deluge threatens damage

"Our computer water system was working but it just wasn't fast enough for that"

-Brian Doyle

By Dan Schneider

An unexpected, large volume of water from upstream swelled Flat River in downtown Lowell, last Friday morning.

The water encroached on Riverwalk Plaza shortly after 10 a.m. It covered about 15 feet of sidewalk at one point, putting the lower deck of the Lowell showboat under three inches of water.

King Milling opened wide the gates of its dam before the water did any damage. The situation was a convenience for the waterfowl residing in the area.

"The ducks seemed to like it, they could just swim right up onto the sidewalk instead of having to climb the wall," Lowell police chief Jim Valentine said.

Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Liz Baker noticed the high water and contacted the Lowell Police Department and King Milling Company. A computer system at King Milling regulates the water flow through the dam.

"Our computer water system was working but

it just wasn't fast enough for that," explained King Milling president Brian Doyle.

The gates had to be opened manually as far as they could go. Doyle said it was the first time in several years that such a volume of water has come down the river.

"We never got a notice at all, and this time of year there's all kinds of junk coming with it," Doyle said.

The increased current picks up debris from the bottom of the river, which can get caught in the dam.

The water was likely released at the Fallasburg Powerhouse dam upstream. The dam's owners could not be reached for comment.

"We got a lot of water, we had a lot below the dam so they must have had a bunch," Doyle said. "Normally ... if they start up a turbine or something, our computer will handle that."

The computer systems for both dams communicate with each other, but that didn't occur properly last Friday. Once King Milling opened its gates, the water receded to normal levels within a half hour.



Ducks near the Showboat can barely tell river from walk as the Flat swells last Friday.

## PETA offers reward after illegal trap kills dog

By Dan Schneider

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) is offering a reward

for information leading to the arrest of the person who set an illegal trap that killed a dog Nov. 10.

Diane Smith was walking her four-year-old Brittany

spaniel on the northeast bank of the confluence of the Flat and Grand rivers on that day. The dog stumbled on a trap that was baited and set to catch raccoons or a similarly-sized animal. The trap killed the dog. The trap was illegal on city grounds, according to the city ordinance, and it was not properly identified, which is a violation of the Department of Natural Resources law.

PETA is offering a \$2,500 reward. Lowell police are following some leads.

"The officers are tracking down the different names that have been called into us," Lowell police chief Jim Valentine said.

In the week's following the dog's death, the story has attracted public attention outside of Lowell.

Reward, cont'd., page 10

## Lowell stores - a hit with Christmas shoppers

By Dan Schneider

Store employees along Main Street are reporting a good holiday shopping season so far, with more shoppers coming in and more people traveling from out of town as Christmas approaches.

"I've gotten a lot more people from up north, from Grand Rapids, Ionia, people from Holland," SandCastle Riverside clerk Heidi Hefner said. "I think just because Lowell is getting more popular, it's helping us."

Melissa Nugent, interior designer at Dream Pieces, said the store is also getting shoppers from out of town, and this has increased over the three years she has been working at the home decor shop.

"We get people from Lansing," said Nugent.

She added that people are attracted to the character of the town and the stores, especially around the holidays.

"The unusualness (appeal to people), the historical buildings, the stores are unusual, they're not the mall," Nugent explained. She said business has picked up for the holidays, but not more than in previous years. "It's about the same," Nugent said.

Hefner said business is good, and people are going about their shopping differently this year.

"This is a lot better than last year," she said. "Everybody was shopping more last minute; now people seem to be planning more." Hefner said shopping kicked in around Thanksgiving. "This year, the week before and after were a lot busier and sales have been up a lot more," Hefner said.

Renee Bowen, owner of the Black and White store, is experiencing her first Christmas sales season.

"Ever since Christmas through Lowell, business has really picked up," she said.

Christmas through Lowell, the annual winter craft tour, took place Nov. 19-21 this year.

Rookies Sports Cards and Comics manager Jack Reedy said the popularity of sports cards ebbs and flows as sports seasons come and go. Collectible card games like Yu-Gi-Oh are growing in popularity, and recent movies based on comics' characters have driven up interest in comic books, he said. But the main thing the Christmas season impacts is the demographics of the store's clientele.

"What the Christmas season does is I get a lot of moms and wives and girlfriends in with lists of things they're not familiar with," Reedy said. The rest of the year "we get a few female customers, but usually it's more of a guy thing with comics and sports cards."

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OBITUARIES

**FISHER** - Norma R. Fisher passed away December 6, 2004. She lost her battle with cancer. She was preceded in death by her parents Louis J. and Henrietta Victor and sister Lois J. Hiemstra. She is survived by her sisters Mildred (Herman) Te Ronde of Lubbock, Texas, Barbara (Paul) Garbow of Alto; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, several cousins, one aunt; special friends Bob and Grace Bowman, their son Dr. Gary Bowman; her former supervisor John Bieszka. Cremation has taken place. Memorial services were held Saturday at Carlisle United Methodist Church, Byron Center, with Pastor Andrew Jackson officiating. Interment Grandville Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Carlisle United Methodist Church.

**SEESE** - Orton Keith Seese, aged 80, of Grand Rapids, passed away on Friday, December 10, 2004. He was preceded in death by his parents Ray and Fannie Seese; sister Vada Kline; son Harry Grochowalski. He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Phyllis; children Robert Seese, Evelyn (William Myers) Seese, Floyd (Dawn) Seese, Reetha (Vic) Kokx, Paul (Ellen) Seese, William (Stacey) Seese, Patricia (Clifford) BeVier; brother Phillip (Lois) Seese; sister Ellen Host; 16 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren. Funeral service will be held Tuesday at Roth-Gerst Chapel, with Dr. Roger La Warre officiating. Interment at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens.

**TALBOT** - Mr. Fredrick B. Talbot, aged 73, of Lowell, passed away November 26, 2004. Surviving are his daughters Pam (Tim) Cuthbertson, Michelle (Larry) Frisbie; seven grandchildren; brother Ken Talbot. Fred will be remembered as the friendly man who walked his dog (Boone) several times a day. Boone now resides with his daughter Michelle. Cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held in his home state of Alabama at a later date.

**Lowell Area Community Fund accepting grant proposals**

The Lowell Area Community Fund (LACF), a fund of Grand Rapids Community Foundation, is accepting grant proposals for its next grant round. All proposals must be submitted no later than Dec. 30 in order to be considered. Interested organizations may contact Kate Luckert, program officer at the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, at 454-1751 or download an application from the Grand Rapids Community Foundation web site at www.grfoundation.org/lowell. Applications are available at Lowell Township Hall, Vergennes Township Hall, Lowell City Offices, Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, the Englehardt Library or any Lowell area school. The LACF, established in 1996, awards grants to tax-exempt, nonprofit, charitable organizations that impact the Lowell area.

**The Lowell Ledger (USPS 453-830)**

Published weekly for \$15 a year in Kent County, \$22 a year outside the county by the Lowell Ledger Publishing Company, 105 N. Broadway St., Lowell, MI 49331

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 E-Mail: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com  
 Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI  
 Published every Wednesday  
 POSTMASTER: Send address change to:  
**The Lowell Ledger**  
 P.O. Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331  
 www.lowellbuyersguide.com

**CITY OF LOWELL**

**PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING OF BOARD OF REVIEW**

The Lowell City Board of Review will meet to correct the various Assessment Rolls for 2004 at City Hall, 301 E. Main St., Lowell, Michigan on:

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2004  
 10:00 - 11:00 A.M.



C. Jeanne Shores, Mayor  
 James Marfia, Assessor

**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.

**Local plumbing company lands deal with city on jetter services**

By J. Lobdell  
 Contributing Writer

Not seeing a need to spend \$27,000 on a new sewer jetter trailer, the Lowell City Council decided to rent a machine from a local plumbing company instead.

At its Monday night meet-

ing, the council rejected Public Works director Dan DesJarden's proposal to purchase a new sewer jetter trailer for the purpose of cleaning sewer lines. Rather, it approved a proposal from Greg Canfield of Canfield Plumbing to rent his machine

for \$375 for the first two hours. This would include Canfield employees running the machine.

DesJarden was seeking to purchase the machine from Doheny Supplies at a cost of \$27,450. The money is available from the sewer fund to make the purchase, he said, adding that the new jetter would have lasted 20 to 25 years, would provide a faster response time and guarantee availability when the city needed it.

DesJarden estimated it would cost \$137 per hour for the city to run its own machine. Canfield was offering

\$150 for the rental of the machine, \$375 for the first two hours if run by Canfield employees. There would be a 50-percent up charge after hours.

Canfield offered the same 15 to 30 minute response time the Public Works Department was seeking since his business is on Main Street and he only lives a few blocks away. He was also willing to put in writing that the city would have first priority and that his company would pull off a job when needed.

While the machine is 10 years old, it is in good working order and can fill the city's needs, Canfield added. He has

had the machine for about six to eight weeks and has used it several times.

Councilman Alan Mathews said he could see DesJarden's concern about relying on a second party for the jetter. The rest of the council felt it should give Canfield a try.

Councilman Charles Myers said it goes back to "the lowest bidder may not always be the best bidder" and that, at times, there might be a local vendor who could do that service.

When looking at the numbers over the past 21 months,

the Department of Public Works has used a jetter-type machine 17 times, of which 50 percent of that time was after hours, DesJarden said. Total cost of those services was just over \$9,000. Considering those numbers and the city's effort with the sewer maintenance program, councilman Jim Pfaller said he didn't see the need to purchase the jetter right now.

The council decided to go with Canfield and rent for six-months, and revisit the issue following the trial period.

**Council puts hold on renewing city assessor contract**

By J. Lobdell  
 Contributing Writer

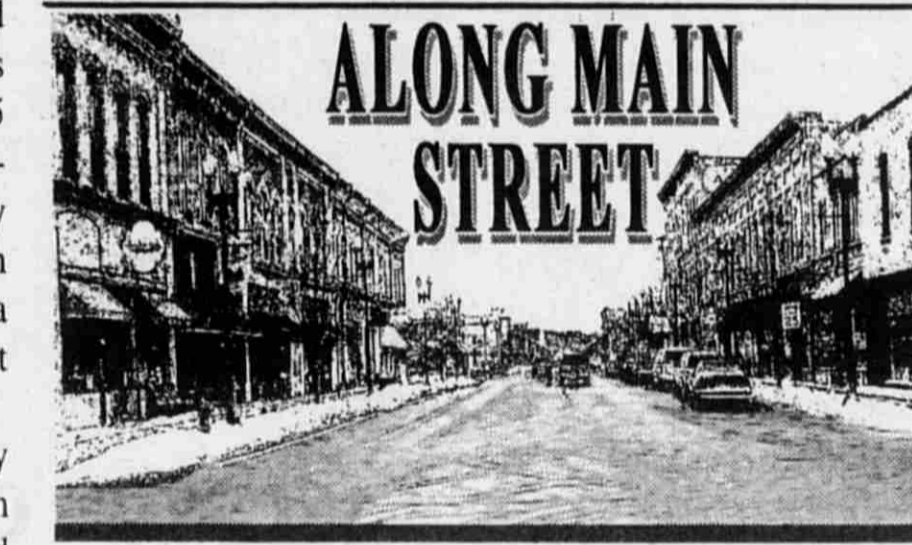
Continuing its quest to make sure the city is receiving the best bang for its buck, the Lowell City Council asked for comparison rates for the position of the city assessor.

At Monday night's city council meeting, city manager David Pasquale made a request to renew a two-year contract with current city assessor Jim Marfia. Noting that Marfia's contract expires at the end of the year, Pasquale proposed a one-percent increase per year for Marfia, which would raise his salary to \$32,100 for 2005 and \$32,425 for 2006. Everything else in the contract would re-

main the same. This included reimbursements for business travel at the IRS rate of 37.5 cents a mile and regular business hours on Wednesday and Thursday, although Pasquale added that Marfia is usually in the city a lot more than that.

Even with the extra city hours, councilman Jim Pfaller said the wage would make Marfia one of the city's highest paid employees. He suggested getting a comparison to others serving in that capacity in the same size municipality before approving the contract.

Assessor contract, cont'd., pg. 4



**LHS SPIRIT STORE**  
 The Spirit Store will be open this Wednesday, Dec. 15 from 6-8 p.m. Check out the sweatshirts, coats, floor mats and blankets, etc.; located near the east entrance. 987-2982.

**LHS LACROSSE MEETING**  
 Varsity and JV parent/player meeting this 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 this Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2-7 p.m. at Look Memorial Fire Station.

**LHS CHOIR CONCERT**  
 A concert involving the Lowell High School ladies ensemble at 7 p.m. and the high school choir at 7:30 p.m. will be held Thursday, Dec. 16 in the Lowell Performing Arts Center.

**EDWARD JONES TOYS FOR TOTS**  
 Donate an unwrapped gift to Toys for Tots and drop it off by Dec. 17 to Edward Jones Investments, 2050 W. Main St., Suite D. 987-9515.

**High school choir will perform Thursday**

The Lowell High School choir will perform Thursday starting at 7 p.m. in the Lowell Performing Arts Center. The program begins with songs performed by the Ladies' Ensemble, followed by the choir at 7:30 p.m. Both choirs will also do a number together. The program will offer Christmas music, a Russian sleigh song and college-level

choral music including the Latin "Sanctus." "We're trying out some things with a double choir so it's a lot more difficult than some things we've tried to tackle in the past," said choir president David Sefton.

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**BLADE: TRINITY (R)**  
 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:10, 9:25

**CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS (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 POLAR EXPRESS (G)** 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30

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**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, Springrove Variety, Rite Aid, Brenda's Hair Designs, City Hall, Huntington Bank, ICNB, Goldworks, Englehardt Library, Dollar General and LA Video.

**LHS BASKETBALL REUNION**  
 The 1964-'65 Red Arrow basketball reunion will be held during the boys varsity basketball game at Lowell High School on Tuesday, Dec. 21 at halftime of the 7:15 p.m. game. Coach Kempker and players will be recognized.

**F.R.O.M. DISTRIBUTION**  
 Any families needing assistance with food or toys should call the Flat River Outreach Ministries at 897-4189.

**DONATIONS NEEDED FOR HOMELESS MINISTRIES**  
 Inbody Group Real Estate/True Vine Tree Care are collecting women's care products, shampoo, soap, hats, scarves and gloves through Dec. 22 at Apex Financial, Huntington Bank and Hooper Printing for Degage Homeless Ministries. 292-2185 or 619-7888.

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## Planning Commission rolls back moratorium on business signs

By J. Lobdell  
Contributing Writer

For the past several months, businesses on the Westside of Lowell have enjoyed a moratorium on sign enforcement. That will come to an end on Jan. 1.

The Lowell Planning Commission decided to lift the moratorium during a special

work session held Monday night. The hope is that this move will facilitate communication between the Westside businesses and the city in how signage should be regulated in the area.

For the past few months, commission member Deb Hinton has been working on the project. Several business

owners had signed a petition at the end of the summer, asking for relief from the sign ordinance. At that time, representatives from local car dealerships indicated that displaying signs, balloons and flags helped to attract customers and brought more people into the city.

Among the concerns was

the fact that a business is only allowed to have balloons, pendants and similar items used for advertising or marketing for one 21-day period per year. Often, car dealerships display these items more than once annually, and a few commission members noted this has become a standard marketing tool.

Hinton said she personally doesn't have an issue with the balloons and checked with the Lowell police department to determine if any accidents have been caused because of this. She was told none so far.

"I would rather see the balloons than an empty car dealership," Hinton said, adding that she was concerned that if the city over-regulates, it will cause these businesses to move outside of the city limits.

Most of the commission members didn't have an issue

with the balloons specifically, but were more concerned with the flashing lights from the cars on display that could pose potential traffic hazards. City staff was going to check with the Michigan Department of Transportation to see if it had any regulations against such activities. The city does not, since flashing lights on cars does not fall under the city sign ordinance, according to Doug Hopkins, the city building inspector for Imperial Municipal Services.

Hinton explained other than receiving ordinances from other cities about signage, she has not had much input from the Westside business district.

Commission chair Clark Jahnke was concerned that there hasn't been as much positive response from the businesses owners since they initiated the review of the ordinance. The moratorium was put in place while the city was reviewing the ordinance. Since nothing was taking place, the commission decided to again have Hopkins send out violation notices. With this, it is hoped the merchants will be more amenable in helping with the process of reviewing the ordinance and meeting with the city on their needs.

## Hildenbrand completes leadership program

Dave Hildenbrand (R-Lowell), Michigan's newly-elected state representative in the 86th District, recently completed Michigan State University's three-day Legislative Leadership Program (LLP).

Along with 27 of his new colleagues, Hildenbrand took part in MSU's rigorous December primer on policy issues. Scholars from Michigan universities and other research experts provided issue overviews and policy alternatives for the new cadre of elected officials. The program's content is driven by input from former LLP participants, as well as legislative staff members, scholars and other policy leaders.

Hildenbrand and fellow policymakers will have opportunities to attend MSU seminars and public forums, and receive printed policy briefs throughout their terms in office. The non-partisan program is jointly operated by Michigan State University's Institute for Public Policy and Social Research and MSU Extension. Since its 1994 inception, nearly 230 of Michigan's state representatives and senators have participated in the program.



Dave Hildenbrand

\*\*\*  
There are nettles everywhere, but smooth, green grasses are more common still; the blue of heaven is larger than the cloud.

—E.B. Browning

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## Assessor contract, continued... From Page 3

"I thought this was under our review of contracts," said councilman Charles Myers. The city began to review city contracts earlier this year, just completing a review of the city attorney contract. "I thought this was supposed to be placed out for bids and I am rather disappointed that it wasn't."

Pasquale explained, "I was looking at it like an employee such as the police chief or public works director." Since the city is not looking

for a new assessor, Pasquale said he did not seek out competitive bids.

The position is slightly different from regular contract service work, he added. The city does set aside social security and federal taxes for the assessor position which, by charter, is appointed by the city manager.

Marfia has been in the position since 1988. "He has been with the city for a number of years and he really knows Lowell," said mayor

Jeanne Shores, adding she has worked with Marfia on the board of review.

Myers said he didn't feel comfortable approving the contract until he had something to compare it to, which was echoed by councilman Alan Mathews. The council tabled the motion to renew the contract until its next meeting at which time Pasquale will present information on assessor costs from similar size cities.

### CORRECTION

In the *Ledger* last week, the article "Lone Star State impressed by Lowell area longhorns" said Julio's Thunder measured 17 and 7/8 inches of total horn. It should have said 78 inches of total horn.

Show Us Your Smile!

NOVEMBER SMILES OF THE MONTH

November "No Cavities" Club Members

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Jared Lezah	Sydney VanOverbeek	Shelby Young
Emilyn Dec	Kelsey Wold	Jasmine Peters
Amanda Waltz	Andrew Perry	Adam Jones
Aleesha DenBraven	Macaela Perry	Kate Pniewski
Colin VanderWarf	Frederick Griffith	Elizabeth Pniewski
Allysen Dubisky	Margaret Griffith	Robby Dubisky

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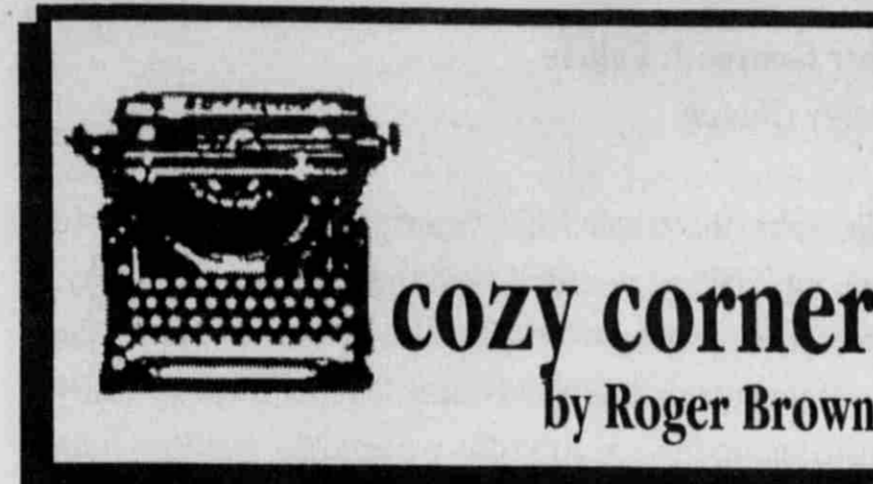
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# Viewpoint



cozy corner

by Roger Brown

This column was AWOL the last two weeks because the wife and I squeezed in a China trip to celebrate the holidays early with my daughter's family. Of course, the operative word there is family. Imbedded in that word is grandkids. Jim and Boog are the only reason I'd travel halfway around the world to take in an elementary school Christmas play and eat cookies covered with green sugar.

My daughter's family has been in China for well over three years now. My son-in-law's job has now taken them from a highly desirable assignment in cosmopolitan Shanghai to a more Spartan posting in Chengdu. My son-in-law describes the move as similar to moving from New York City to Des Moines ... geographically and culturally.

You, like me, have probably never heard of Chengdu. It is located in the southwest province of Sichuan, which you may recognize from a Chinese restaurant menu as being synonymous with spicy food. More on that later ... perhaps in a follow-up column.

Sichuan Province is somewhat mountainous, alive with rivers and streams, very agricultural and, in a word ... beautiful. There are bamboo forests, orchards of apples and oranges, tea bushes terracing the hillsides and every type of grain and produce being grown in the low areas. It's a very fertile region, and that's good, because nestled in one of its valleys is the sleepy little city of Chengdu ... population about 11 million. That's a lot of mouths to feed.

As mentioned earlier, I'm saving some of my impressions of Sichuan for a future column or two.

My daughter's family lives in downtown Chengdu. They rent a four-story townhouse. If nothing else, all those stairs are great exercise. Their home in Shanghai was much larger, so I spent the first week of our visit playing the role of an oriental Bob Vila's Evil Twin. The goal was to create storage space for the contents of all the boxes they were living out of.

When the kids were in school, I was back and forth between their version of a Home Depot called Oriental Home

and up and down the stairs of the townhouse. Shelving was built from scratch or assembled from kits. It was installed in closets, under stairs and along the walls of the very small garage. By the end of the week, all the boxes were empty, things were organized, and I had about six invitations from friends of my daughter to come visit their similarly disorganized apartments. Could be a whole new career for me, with foreign travel as a bonus. "Shelf-Boy, Inc."

When you're living in the midst of 11 million people, you have to get used to some rather unpleasant facts. There is a lot of pushing and shoving, traffic is heavy, air quality is horrific and it's always noisy. That's for starters.

My grandkids call me Grandpa Ted. They don't even know my real name. The nickname came from my daughter. She thinks my tendency toward a hermit's lifestyle is akin to the "Uni-Bomber" Ted Kazinski living in his plywood box out in the wilderness. Needless to say, Grandpa Ted doesn't think much of city life.

Every morning we walked Jim and Boog to school. The English speaking school has a total of about 30 kids from preschool through sixth grade. The big excitement was the upcoming Christmas play, complete with costumed Santa, Mrs. Claus, reindeer, elves and an abominable snowman. Every night we rehearsed lines with Jim and Boog. It was a pretty big deal. A very big deal if you are a six or seven year old like my grandkids.

I realize this column has been all over the map, but I am getting to my initial point. Trust me.

As luck would have it, we left the day of the big Christmas play. Our travel arrangements were made well before the play date was set. We did get to take in a dress rehearsal the night before.

As soon as we arrived home, we called my daughter to let her know we had made it but, more importantly, to inquire about the play. The play was standing room only. My granddaughter Jim had a big part and performed very well. My grandson Boog even remembered all his lines. And, the Marines showed up! Huh???

The parents of one of my granddaughter's classmates work at the U.S. Consulate. Someone had the awareness, and spirit of the season, to invite the six Marine Corps consulate guards to the Christmas play. Posted far from home during the holiday season, they jumped at the chance to take in some Americana in the form of little kids putting on a corny play. Of course, they also got to slurp hot chocolate and eat homemade Christmas cookies.

Imagine those big, burly Marines perched on little elementary school chairs, halfway around the world, to watch Rudolph save Christmas yet again. That's my "feel good" story for the holiday season.

There are a lot of folks, military and otherwise, who won't get home for the holidays. If you have a friend, neighbor or relative posted out of the country, here's a gentle reminder. Any little thing you can do ... a package, card, e-mail or phone call is appreciated more than you can imagine. Just picture those Marines at a kid's Christmas play, and you'll know what I'm talkin' about.

P.S. We all huddled around my son-in-law's computer on a Sunday morning (13 time zones away) to listen to a live audio stream as the Lowell Red Arrows won a football state championship! Congratulations team, coaches, parents and supporters of every description from some of your most faraway fans!

## 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 1215, Lowell, MI 49331 or emailed to: [ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com](mailto: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.

## TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Last year, on Mother's Day, my grandmother, Al White, passed away. This is the most devastating thing that I have ever had to endure in my 30 years of life. I'm sure, anyone can understand how horrible this must be. The only way to express how much you love and miss a loved one is at the cemetery site. So, I went to my grandmother's grave and installed a very pretty plaque with an emotional poem on it. It expressed exactly how I feel without her.

You can imagine my extreme disappointment when I recently went to visit with her, to find the maintenance person tore it out of the ground. I was very upset, and went right to City Hall to talk with the person that deals with cemetery issues.

I was then informed that the city has the right to change the rules, however and whenever they see fit. While it wasn't a rule when I put in the plaque, apparently that has now changed. So, I proceeded to ask what the rules entailed as far as placing things at grave sites. I was told the new rules about what could be placed and where. I then went directly back to the cemetery and, to my dismay, I found that while these rules apparently apply to some, they do not apply to all. And things that were put in before the rules changed weren't ripped from the ground, as mine was.

I am sympathetic to all who have lost a loved one, young or old. But, I'm horrified to see that the city personnel find some lives were worth more and can be celebrated more than others. Needless to say, I'm told the city of Lowell will "look into" the reason my plaque was ripped from the ground, after having been there since September 2003.

The people of Lowell are very caring, and proud of their community. I think they deserve to know some of the injustices that happen within the offices that run this city. As a footnote, I still haven't gotten my plaque back.

Sincerely, Dawn White



By Priscilla Lussmeyer

## Ledger Entries

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

125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL  
DECEMBER 17, 1879

It's time to renew your subscription before January 1. People want Bridge and Main streets to be paved. James W. Hine is appointed again as Lowell's postmaster for the next four years, by the (U.S.) president and Senate. Manistee had a rainstorm last week that burst sewers and drains all over town. Mark Twain is 44 years old.

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER  
DECEMBER 15, 1904

The telephone number in Willard Hunter's ad is "Citizens' phone 70-5 rings."

The editor complains that Train's opera house is freezing cold.

New "Automobile boats" used for racing are affecting design of all power boats.

It was 12 below zero Monday morning. "When you have freight at the depot, call J.D. Kelley & Sons."

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER  
AND THE ALTO SOLO  
DECEMBER 19, 1929

A blue mark on your Ledger the first of the month means you haven't paid your subscription.

Future college curricula will contain less Latin and ancient history and more modern history and current events. Most high school students are ignorant of current events.

Grand Rapids city manager George Welch promises that every able-bodied man in need of work will be given work by the city and access to reduced-cost supplies.

Chevrolet Co. has no old age limit, as long as the worker does his work. Some companies consider 40 the top limit.

Icy streets and sidewalks prompt wearing "creepers" which are hard on floors.

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER  
DECEMBER 16, 1954

A cardboard box on the porch will help with the quantities of holiday mail, says the post office.

A foundation for the new diesels to be installed at the power plant is in process.

Another aging Main Street lamp post bites the dust in an otherwise minor car accident.

The no-parking 2-6 a.m. rule will be enforced. Snow removal season is here.

Justice of the Peace Howard Rittenger reports 26 violations in October and only 13 in November.

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER  
DECEMBER 13, 1979

New Year's Eve will be on Sunday, so bars can serve only beer and wine.

Roger Odell becomes Vergennes Township supervisor, 120 years after his great-great-grandfather, Orlando Odell, had the position.

The Lowell landfill will close for the winter as of January 1.

The new video recorders cost \$1,000 and tapes go for \$50 each.

The Rosie Drive-In special this week is a quarter-pound hot dog for 85 cents.

The Refloat the Showboat magic show benefit draws slim crowds, due to sub-zero weather.

# Softball team donates dollars to F.R.O.M.



Jody Haybarker, director of Flat River Outreach Ministries (from left), accepts a check from Andrea Dewey and Jean Kimberlin, seniors on the Lowell varsity softball team. This is the third straight year the softball team has donated \$200 to the local charity organization. The donations come from the money raised by the softball team's newspaper recycling truck. "We'd like to thank the community for its continued

## IN THE SERVICE

Navy Airman Apprentice **Jennifer Lynema**, daughter of Brenda and David Lynema of Alto, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

During the eight-week program, Lynema completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, shipboard/aircraft safety, and physical fitness. The capstone event of boot camp is "Battle Stations." This exercise is designed to galvanize the basic warrior attributes of sacrifice, dedication, teamwork and endurance in each recruit through the practical application of basic Navy skills and the core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment.

# Reflections Of Faith

**Father George J. Fekete**  
*St. Mary Church*

St. John the Baptist has been pointing out Jesus to people for 2,000 years and is pointing Him out to us today. He does it not only by words, but also by his life, and by the virtues that put spiritual backbone in his life. If we are really going to turn to Jesus as John did, we need the qualities John had. Let's look at those qualities, first, through the eyes of Jesus. In St. Matthew's Gospel 1:2-22, to the people, Jesus is saying of John the Baptist, "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind?" Well, John was no reed, he never swayed or bent. He was more like a mighty oak tree. He was a man who loved God and a man of firmness and commitment. He was a man of discipline. You and I live in a world full of human reeds, but human reeds can't be faithful Christians. To be faithful to Christ, we have to be disciplined like John the Baptist.

John was disciplined and fearlessly honest. Before being imprisoned, he had prepared the way for Christ, baptized Him and pointed out that Jesus was the one who was to take away the sins of the world. Remember, too, he had told Herod that it was not lawful for him to have Herodias, the wife of his brother, Philip, for which John was put in prison.

Humility was also part of John's spiritual backbone. He said of Jesus, "One mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals" (Luke 3:16). "He must increase, I must decrease." We, too, need that kind of humility in order to imitate John in following Jesus.

We will please Jesus when He comes on Christmas Day if we use the rest of his Advent Season to copy John's discipline, honesty and humility. This will also bring us a long way toward preparing us for Christ's Second Coming as well.

God love you.

# Home schooling - a popular option in the Lowell area

By Dan Schneider

Two faith-based cooperative education groups in Lowell demonstrate the popularity of home schooling in the area.

The older of the two is LINK (Lowell Interactive Network for Kids). It's a group of almost 60 Christian, home-schooled kids from 32 families. LINK meets monthly to go on field trips to historic sites and civic buildings and the like. Parents who are members of LINK can also participate in Thursday co-op classes at Alton Bible Church on Lincoln Lake Ave.

"It's a co-op, which means everybody has to help teach and help run it," LINK director Lori Riley said.

Parents teach each other's children in subjects of their own expertise. These range from chemistry to small engine repair. One of

the older students teaches chess to younger students. Outside teachers are sometimes hired to teach classes like art, sign language and drama.

Christ the King is a Catholic home school group that meets Fridays at St. Mary's Church in Lowell. There are 45 families and about 100 students involved. It broke away from LINK seven years ago.

"It was so full that there wasn't room in the church," said Christ the King participant Stacy Langlois.

Langlois, who homeschooled three of her children, said the cooperative home-school group allows kids access to a broader range of subjects, like art and higher math.

"A lot of the stuff is really things that you can't do at home, like I have no talent in art," she said.

It's also a social outlet for the students.

"It gives them a chance to get together and have a fun day with their friends," said Langlois.

One of the arguments against home schooling is the idea that it restricts social development. Christ the King School director Rhonda Fitzpatrick said the cooperative group offers students a broader age range and more diversity to interact.

"It's a whole microcosm of the world," Fitzpatrick said.

Fitzpatrick said most parents who home school around Lowell have other reasons than fears for the quality of the public school system.

"The schools are good here," Fitzpatrick said. One of the reasons she home schools is to allow her daughter to develop her personal philosophy indepen-

dently. Through their classmates at school, she explained, children are often exposed too early to ideas they are not mature enough to handle.

"My feeling personally is ... I think it's important to keep kids home at least through middle school," she said. "It's a way to give them a solid base and know who they are."

Part of why Langlois and Fitzpatrick home school is because they want Catholic faith to be part of the curriculum. This can't happen in public schools, they maintain.

"I think that's the biggest thing," Langlois said. "They just don't allow it any more."

Riley also wanted faith to be part of her children's

education, but her original reasons for home schooling had to do more with her family's circumstances.

"We got into it just because when we started, we lived in a very bad neighborhood," Riley said. She didn't want her kids walking to school or waiting for the bus. She and her husband have moved around a lot, also, and she said home schooling was the best way to offer her children consistent education.

Langlois said home schooling allows her to cover more ground.

"If you have a class and some of the kids are behind, you have to wait for the rest of the class to catch up," she said.

"They do get personal-

ized schooling," Fitzpatrick said. "You can tailor the curriculum to their interests and needs."

There is little regulation of home schooling in the state of Michigan. Langlois and Fitzpatrick both use a curriculum created by a Virginia company that collects and grades tests and papers. However, they are not required to do so.

LINK and Christ the King School are not the only home-school groups in this area. There are bands, and basketball and football teams of home school students in Kent County. There are home school centers in Grandville and Rockford, with waiting lists, that offer classes for home school children.

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## COLLEGE NEWS

Lauren Vashaw, a 2003 graduate of Lowell High School, is a guard for the Denison University women's basketball team. The sophomore has started all five games this year for the Big Red and is second on the team with 11 assists. The team is 4-1 overall with a 2-0 conference record.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- DEC. 16: Timmy Buechler.
- DEC. 17: Bill Ellison, Jerry Scott.
- DEC. 18: Danielle Anchors, Hillary Graves, Cliff Walling.
- DEC. 19: Lori Moore, Carol Chamberlain.
- DEC. 20: Ed Mohr, William Henry Burt, Jackie Spencer, Rob Lombardo.
- DEC. 21: Al Smith, Brooke Page, Zachary Tykocki.
- DEC. 22: Jason Seeley.



## Local Scouts visit TV-13

Cub Scouts Pack 3106 from St. Patrick's visited George Lessens, meteorologist for TV-13, Wednesday, Dec. 8. Each of the scouts donated a toy to the station's Toys for Tots program. Many of the scouts collected pop cans to raise money for the toys.

The history of science is not a mere record of isolated discoveries; it is a narrative of the expansive force of the human intellect on one side, and the compression arising from the traditional faith and human interest on the other.  
—John Draper

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## Sharing The Vision

NANCY HOPKINS  
Board of Education President



There is an important element shared among successful boards of education that allow them to maintain their ability to act responsibly, effectively and efficiently even if issues take an unpleasant turn. With this common conviction, boards can pursue their work in a positive way, acting honestly, directly and with good will.

Most important to the success of a school board is the recognition that election to this public office is an expression of trust by voters. With their election, board members are trusted to make the right decisions about curriculum, discipline, teachers and other staff. They are trusted with the care and maintenance of the buildings and student safety. They are trusted with making careful and prudent financial decisions. They are trusted with your children's learning and growing.

Trust does not come without effort and public trust can be fragile. Members of the Lowell board recognize both and are committed to building and maintaining your trust. You can expect that Lowell board members will be prepared for meetings and carry out responsibilities with a positive attitude. Board members will behave in a professional manner. Your board will continue to operate in a cohesive fashion, moving deliberately toward expressed goals. It will follow policies and procedures that allow it to act in a thoughtful and predictable manner.

The Lowell board of education values the trust of our community. With your trust we can move forward with the business of education in each of our schools, following our strategic vision and focusing on achievement for every student. Without it, we cannot accomplish our mission of a quality educational experience for every child.

## December Students of the Month



Pictured, left to right, are: Matt Flanagan, Katie Callihan, Anthony Johnson and Katie Baker.

Students of the Month for December were recently announced by Lowell High School.

The Math Department selected **Anthony Wayne Johnson**. The senior is the son of Leslie and Mike

Johnson of Lowell. His extracurricular activities include golf and National Honor Society. He is also employed at McDonald's. Johnson plans to attend Grand Valley State University next year to pursue a major in accounting.

His teacher nominator said he has done an excellent job of preparing each day for class. He shows a great understanding of calculus and is quick to assist his classmates.

The Science Department has chosen **Katie Baker**. She is a senior and the daughter of Jim and Deb Stoutjesdyk of Lowell and Craig Baker of Grand Rapids. Her extracurricular activities include captain of the volleyball team, SADD and drum major for the marching band. She plans to attend college next year and would like to major in accounting. Her teacher nominator said she is a very hard worker, a leader and a positive influence in class.

The Foreign Language Department has selected **Katie Callihan**. The senior is the daughter of Lloyd and

Barb Callihan of Lowell. Extracurricular activities include fall and winter cheerleading, softball and vice president of International Club. Callihan intends to enroll at Grand Rapids Community College next year. Her teacher nominator said her dedication to learning French over the past four years is admirable. She has worked toward this goal with determination and success.

The Social Studies Department is honoring **Matt Flanagan**. A senior, he is the son of Mark Flanagan and Valerie and Victor Tidd. Flanagan plans to take college classes and work next year. His teacher nominator said he has shown an astounding work ethic, enthusiasm and leadership in AP Government.

I have learned this strange thing about travel: one may return to a place, and quite unexpectedly, meet oneself still lingering there from the last time.  
—Helen Bevington

## Staff Member of the Month

**Patti Harreld** was nominated by fellow staff members to be November's Murray Lake Staff Member of the Month.

Those who nominated the media center assistant said, "Patti is awesome. She goes out of her way to help us get books and other things we need. We are very lucky to have her."

Harreld has worked for Lowell Schools for just over five years. She said, "I love being in the media center at Murray Lake. I feel like I have found my niche!"

Harreld and her husband Larry moved to Lowell six years ago from the east side of the state. They have three sons.



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- **Tax-deferred earnings**—When you invest in a "tax qualified" retirement plan, you'll pay no taxes on your earnings until you start taking withdrawals.
- **Pretax contributions**—You generally put pretax dollars into your retirement plan, so your contributions may lower your adjusted gross income.
- **Variety of investment options**—You can fund your retirement plan with an array of investments: stocks, bonds, government securities and more.

## HEALTH

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



### CROUP

Croup is a viral respiratory tract infection that typically affects young children between the ages of one and five. The infection causes the trachea (windpipe) to swell. It causes a fever, hoarseness and a barking (seal-like) cough. It may also cause a crowing noise (called stridor) when the child breathes through the narrowed windpipe. Symptoms tend to be worse at night.

Children with croup should get plenty of rest and liquids. Over the counter children's cough medicine and Children's Tylenol can be used to treat the symptoms. Antibiotics are not effective against croup.

If a child develops a mild attack of stridor, having them breathe either moist air or cold air can improve their symptoms. This can be accomplished by the following ways: (1) Run a hot shower with the bathroom door closed; have the child sit in the bathroom with supervision and breathe the steamy air. Or, (2) Take your child outside into the cold air. If your child's breathing does not improve with the above treatments, or if they develop difficulty swallowing, call your doctor immediately.

Most children with mild croup will get better with treatment at home within a week, but some may need treatment in the hospital. If you suspect your child has croup, you should monitor his/her symptoms closely and have them evaluated by their doctor.

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Now, let's look at some common small-business retirement plans:

**If You Have No Employees**

If your business has no employees except your spouse, you may want to choose from among these plans:

**SEP IRA** - With a SEP IRA, you can contribute up to 25 percent of your compensation into the plan, up to a maximum of \$41,000.

**Owner - only 401(k)** - If you have an "owner-only 401(k)," you can put in up to 25 percent of your compensation plus \$14,000 (in 2005). If you're 50 or older, you can add an additional \$4,000 in "catch-up" contributions. (However, you can't contribute more than \$41,000 per year if you're under age 50, or \$44,000 annually if you're 50 or older). Owner-only 401(k) plans also can permit larger contributions if your spouse works for the business.

**Owner-only Defined Benefit** - This plan may be appropriate for you if you earn more than \$100,000 annually from your business, you are over age 40, you can commit to contribute for at least three years, and you desire much larger contributions than are possible with the SEP-IRA or the owner-only 401(k).

**If You Have Employees**

If you have employees, you may want to consider one of these plans:

**SIMPLE IRA** - A SIMPLE IRA is easy to set up and

inexpensive to administer. In 2005, you and each of your employees can contribute up to \$10,000 to a SIMPLE IRA (or \$12,500 if age 50 or over). Your business is generally required to match both your and your employees' contributions, dollar for dollar, up to three percent of their salary, unless you decide to put in two percent of each eligible employee's compensation.

**Safe Harbor 401(k)** - A Safe Harbor 401(k) offers the features of a traditional 401(k), but the amount you can defer from your salary is not limited to whether your employees contribute. You, as the business owner, benefit because you can contribute up to the annual maximum (\$14,000 in 2005 or \$18,000 if you're 50 or older), regardless of how much your employees contribute.

**Safe Harbor 401(k) with Age-enhanced Profit Sharing** - Your business can make additional profit-sharing contributions to a Safe Harbor 401(k) plan. If you are older than most of your employees, you can structure your plan so that the contributions going to your account, and to those of your key employees, are much higher than the percentage going to most employees.

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Before choosing a retirement plan for your business, meet with your tax adviser and investment representative. Take the time to choose the plan that fits your individual needs.

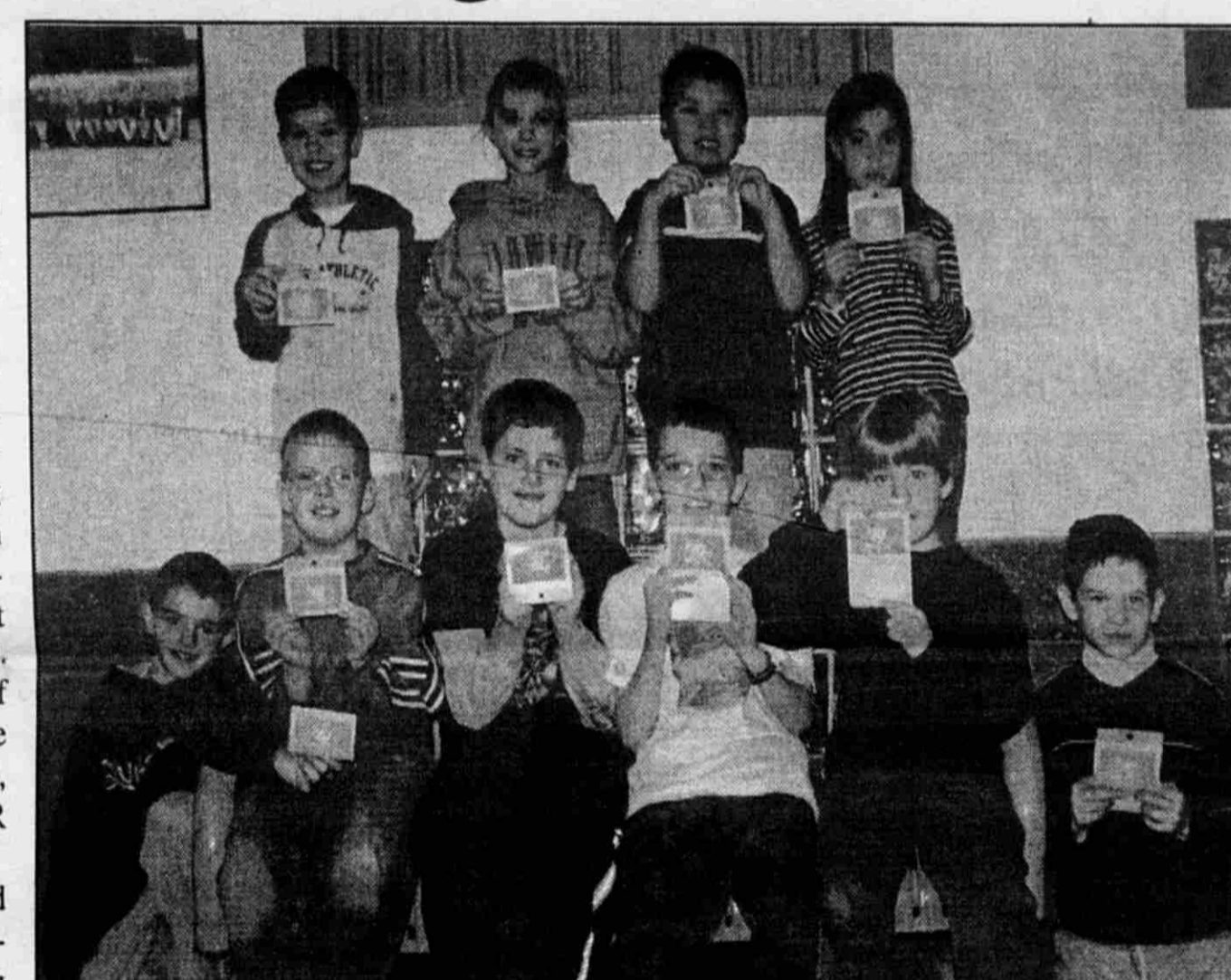
## Gift cards for good readers

Murray Lake Elementary has started a new motivational program called the Accelerated Reader (AR) program. Its goal is to get kids to read more at home by choosing books that are at each child's reading level.

The books are color coded in the media center and in classrooms. Each color represents a different reading level and each book is given a point value. Upon completion of a book, the student takes a computerized AR test. If they pass, they earn all of that book's points. Each time a student earns 10 AR points, he/she is able to fill out an AR reading slip.

The student's name, read during morning announcements, goes into the "drawing box." Certificates are also given to students each time they achieve 50 points.

Monthly winners receive a Meijer \$10 gift card. "The program is working out really well. Our students have earned over 3000 AR points. We have a responsibility to get kids turned on to reading. There is so much research showing that kids who read at home perform better in the classroom in all academic areas," said Murray Lake principal Brent Noskey.



Pictured, front row, left to right, are: Brett Hindley, Ben Peterson, Matt Majinska, Sean Khod, Kevin Blanchard and Kyle Acker; back row: Ryan Walters, Molly Denison, Zachary Vanderstelt and Alayna Nowak.

### Part-Time Employees Needed

Litehouse, Inc. (food manufacturing company) is seeking several part-time team members to perform any or all of these duties as needed: Local driver, custodial, clerical, light industrial and building/grounds maintenance. Must be willing to work as needed and in any of these functions during the day. Must be able to pass criminal background, drug and alcohol check. Valid Michigan driver license and clean MVR. Some loading and unloading of up to 50 pounds may be required. Previous related experience preferred.

If you are interested in this position and your qualifications match, please forward your resume with salary history to:

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Litehouse, Inc.  
1400 Foreman Road  
Lowell, Michigan 49331

Or apply on line at [www.lighthousefoods.com](http://www.lighthousefoods.com)  
No phone calls will be accepted:



## Lions Club honors Reagan

Bob Reagan (third from left), two-year director and twice past president of the Lowell Lions Club, was awarded the Melvin Jones Fellowship last Tuesday by Dr. Gary Anderson, district governor for Lions Clubs International. The fellowship, named for the founder of Lions Clubs International, recognizes Lions Club members for their commitment to the humanitarian objectives of the Lions Club International Foundation. It is the highest form of recognition conferred by the foundation. Anderson also gave Reagan a chevron for 50 years of membership in the Lions Club. Reagan is the only charter member still active in the Lowell Lions. Other members pictured are, from left to right: Kurt Hieshetter, David Durkee, Dennis Anchors, Steve Doyle and Jim Doyle.

### Holiday Trivia

The holidays are steeped in many traditions. Some people kiss beneath mistletoe, others light candles in honor of the rewards of faith, and others believe in the fruits of the harvest. But have you ever heard about spiders and the holidays being related? According to Ukrainian folklore, there once was a poor woman who could not afford Christmas decorations for her family. One Christmas morning, she awoke to find her children's tree trimmed with spider webs. When the morning sun shone on them, the webs turned silver and gold.

Today, an artificial spider and web often adorn a Ukrainian Christmas tree. The spider and web are seen as a symbol of holiday luck.

## Reward, continued... From Page 1

"I think it's kind of a shocking demise that that dog met, and when dog owners and dog lovers read about what this woman went through, they're very sympathetic," Valentine said.

The maximum penalty for trapping on city property is 90 days in jail and a \$100 fine, though it is unlikely the trapper would receive the maximum sentence if it is a first offense.

"Without a doubt, this person's intent was not to trap domestic animals," Valentine said. "It's minimal consequences as far as responsibility but at least they can help the owner come to some closure on this."

People with information about the trapping incident should contact the Lowell Police Department at 897-7123.

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## Intramural program starts at Murray Lake Elementary

Mike Fillman and Paul Jacobus, Murray Lake fifth grade teachers, have been playing or coaching hockey and basketball for more than 50 years combined. Wanting to share their experience with students at Murray Lake, they decided to start a basketball and floor hockey intramural program.

"We both love the sport and have spent many years coaching both hockey and basketball. This gives us the opportunity to share our knowledge about the game with the kids, and have a lot of fun while doing it," said Fillman.

Jacobus, who was Lowell's varsity hockey coach for three years, added, "This is good for kids, but also for parents.

Many parents are very busy, and do not have time to get their kids to practice in the evenings. Having our intramural program right after school allows many kids to be involved who otherwise could not."

Fifth grade parent Beth Hovey comments, "This is such a wonderful program. It has done wonders for my son's self-esteem. It allows kids to participate in sports in a 'low stress' environment. Jacobus and Fillman are great!"

Over 35 fourth and fifth grade Murray Lake students participate each Tuesday and Thursday in the gym after school. After the students warm up, Fillman and Jacobus spend time teaching

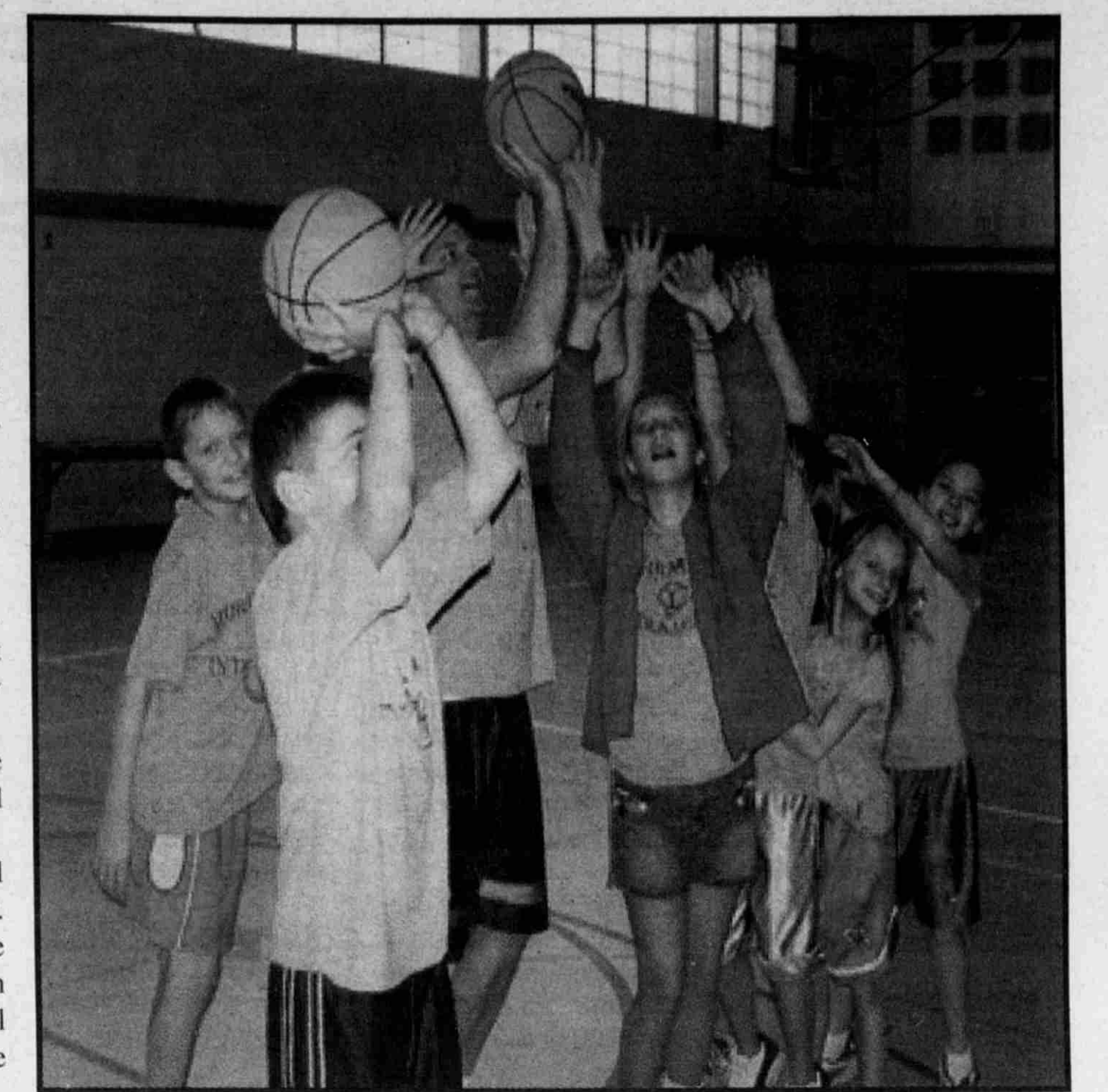
skills through specific drills. Following drill work, the students play games against each other. Each student is given a Murray Lake intramural T-shirt to wear during intramurals.

"Intramurals is awesome! It is really fun," said Quincee Denault.

"Mr. Jacobus and Mr. Fillman teach us a lot about the game, but make it really fun," shared Luke Stevens.

"Playing three on three is the best part," added Michaela Kehoe.

The program will continue through January. The teachers will evaluate the program and their own time, and decide if they will run a second session in late winter/early spring.



Mr. Fillman challenges fourth grader, Grant Noskey to a shoot out. Alex Ligman, Nicole Wilcox, Shelby Baird, and Alisha Noffke cheer them on.

## School board hears mixed budget news at Monday's meeting

By Dan Schneider

At Monday's meeting, the Lowell Area Schools board of education heard good news and bad news about the school's budget picture.

The good news is that after the last state revenue

conference, lawmakers decided not to allow cuts to the School Aid Fund for the current school year. The bad news is, as the state struggles with a large budget deficit, they may choose to cut the funding after the January revenue

conference. So the state budget picture remains unclear, according to LAS assistant superintendent for finance and personnel Connie Gillette.

The state also passed a piece of legislation that would cost Lowell Area

Schools about \$260,000. Gov. Jennifer Granholm has not yet signed the bill, which would prevent the district, and 19 others in Kent County, from hiring itinerant staff through Kent Intermediate School District (KISD). Intermediate school

districts get an extra 28 percent reimbursement from the state for special education staffers, speech therapists, social workers and other itinerant staff.

Formerly, with employees solely of LAS, the staff stayed at Lowell

School budget, cont'd., page 14

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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 Athletics & 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.:** Fallsburg Historical Society board meetings at chamber office or Fallsburg, 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 M#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 Scrappers, 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. Beltline) 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 & 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. lowell artscouncil.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., 6-7:30 p.m. 101 W. Main. 897-8565.

**FLAT RIVER OUT-REACH 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. 15:** LHS Spirit Store open 6-8 p.m. for shopping. 987-2982.

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

**WED., DEC. 15:** Lowell Area Fire Dept. blood drive for Grand Valley Blood program, 2-7 p.m. at Look Memorial Fire Station, 315 S. Hudson.

**THURS./FRI., DEC. 16 & 17:** Food and gifts may be dropped off at First United

Methodist Church, 9:30-4:30 for F.R.O.M. Distributed to families on Sat., Dec. 18.

**NOW THRU DEC. 17:** Family, Friends & Neighbors of Grattan, will be collecting new unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots. For drop off locations call 691-8848.

**SAT., DEC. 18:** Saranac Area Musicians and Singers present "Christmas by Candlelight" at 7 p.m. in the Saranac Auditorium. Tickets: \$5 adults; \$3 seniors and children 5-12.

**TUES., DEC. 21:** Lowell Red Arrows basketball reunion (1964-'65) at halftime of boys basketball game at Lowell High School. Game starts at 7:15 p.m.

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# School budget, continued...From Page 11

"We had to provide to the ISD all of the contract information," Gillette said. "KISD had hired additional staff to make the transition.

"It's unfortunate that we did all that work and it won't result in any extra revenue." Kent will be the hardest hit of the three intermediate school districts.

"These are significant amounts the districts have planned into their budgets," explained Shari Miller, Lowell superintendent.

Miller said it is unfair that other districts in the state started making similar itiner-

ant staff arrangements earlier and will not be affected by the legislation.

Some good news is that the project with Honeywell, Inc., to buy new amenities for Lowell school buildings using energy savings, appears to be working. Efficiency improvements to plumbing, heating and lighting in Low-

ell school buildings, though only 80 percent complete, appear to be generating the cost savings necessary to pay for the upgrades. At Cherry Creek Elementary, the district saved \$1,913 on its October electricity bills, \$439 on water and sewer, and \$362 on gas.

The savings goes to re-

pay loans used to purchase the new lighting and plumbing fixtures and, importantly, to replace a broken boiler at the middle school.

"It looks like we made the right decision by buying those things," said LAS head of operations Larry Mikulski. "Now it's proving that it's going to make that (the savings) happen."



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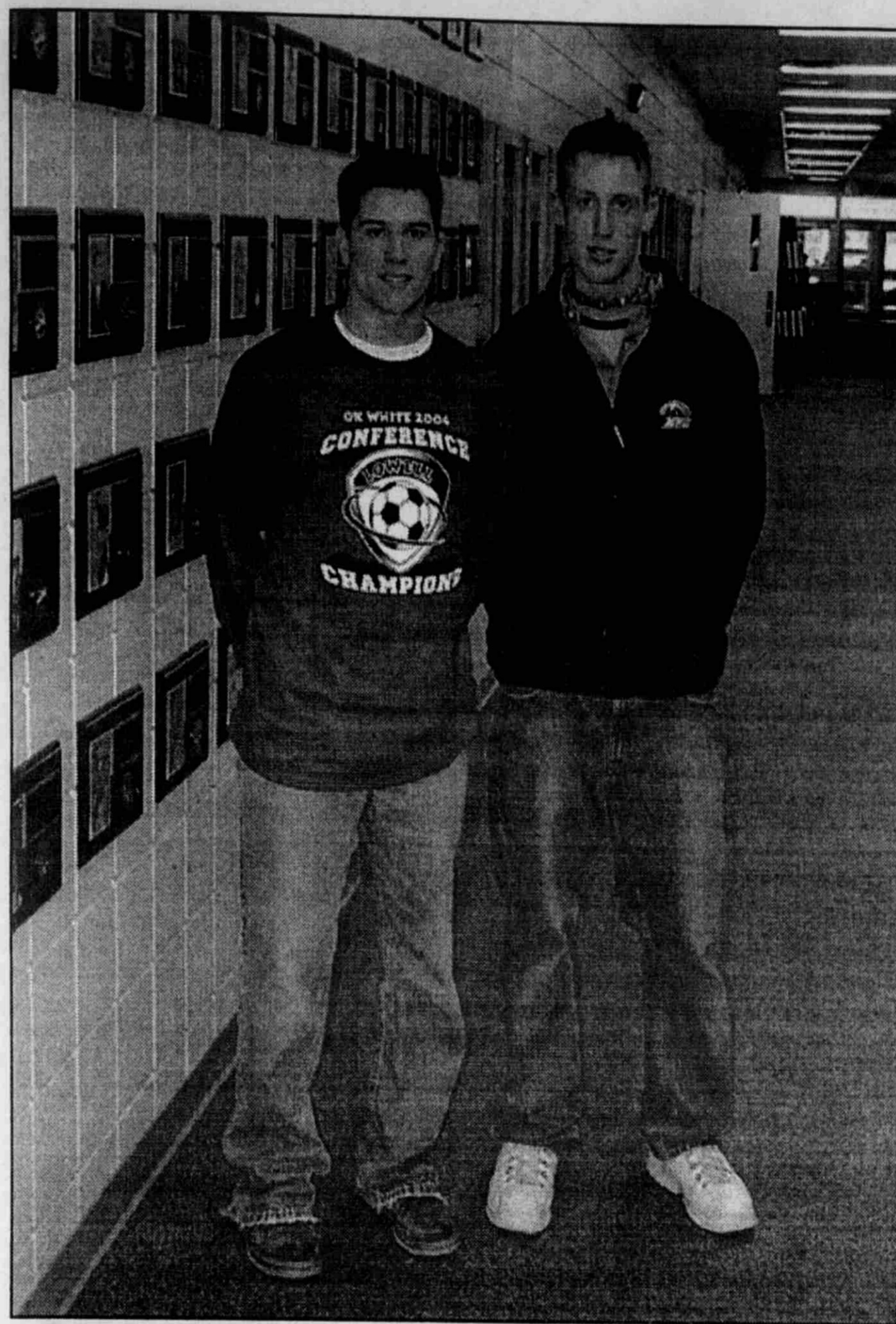
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# Boys soccer claims two first team all-state spots

By Dan Schneider



In last week's Ledger, there were two stories about all-state athletes. There are two additional players who earned that honor this year playing on the varsity soccer team.

"This is the first time we've had two first-team all-staters in a season," said Lowell varsity soccer coach Paul Legge.

The only other Division 2 team to pull off that feat this year was state champion Forest Hills Central.

Mike Bushell was named the top goalie in Division 2 this year and Shane Stokes also made first-team all-state.

Pictured at left, Shane Stokes (left) and Mike Bushell were named first team all-state in Division 2 soccer this year.

"I think it's easy to argue that he's one of the top two or three goalies in the state at the high school level," Legge said. "He allowed 18 goals in 23 games which is the fewest goals allowed by an LHS goalie."

The senior has verbally committed to go to school and play soccer at Western Michigan University.

This year he had a leadership role on the Lowell defense.

"Mike stepped up, did a great job taking charge of four junior defenders" Legge said.

And he was able to direct play with his throws.

"He throws the ball 70 yards on a dime, incredibly accurate," Legge said. "I don't think I've ever seen anyone who can throw the ball as far as this guy can

throw the ball." Stokes had 21 goals and 12 assists this season. It's the third time the four-year starter has been named for all-state honors, but his first time on first team. He has 60 goals and 56 assists in his high school career.

"Shane could do almost anything you needed to, to win games," Legge said. "He had an unbelievable knack for showing up and scoring important goals in a game ... game-winning goals."

Stokes will likely go to Cornerstone University and play soccer with former Lowell teammate, Sam Oberlin.

Kevin Gillman received special mention all-state. All three players receiving honors were team captains this year.

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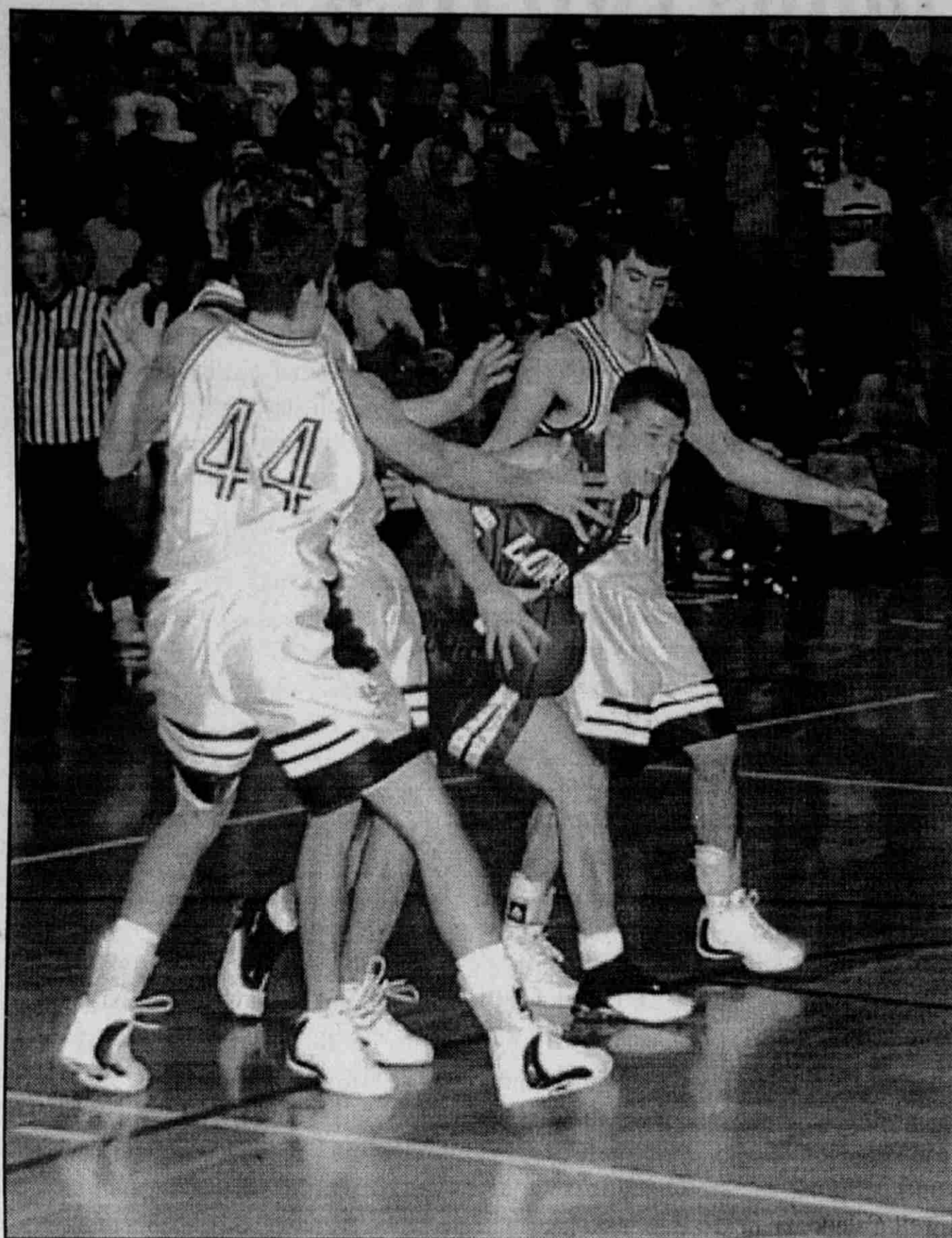
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# Rough start for boys basketball



Lowell's Kyler Krieg tries to go through three Lakewood defenders. He was called for traveling on the play.

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell varsity boys basketball team lost a close game in their home opener last Friday against Forest Hills Central.

The score was 57-53. "We played really hard and we played really unselfish," Lowell coach Jeff McDonald said. "I was happy with our effort but now we have to start taking care of the ball a little better."

Both teams turned the ball over 19 times. Lowell had a hard time with rebounds against three Rangers who were six-foot-seven or taller. Forest Hills Central got 40 rebounds to Lowell's 28.

Red Arrow Justin Hettinga had a stellar offensive performance, scoring 27 points and hitting 6 three-pointers. Ryan Lane scored seven points for Lowell and

Brad Shea scored six.

The Red Arrows suffered a crushing defeat in their first game of the year last Tuesday at Lakewood. Lowell controlled the first half, scoring frequently on fast breaks and getting the ball inside. The Arrows were up 29-26 going into half-time.

"I really didn't tell them much about X's and O's (at halftime)," Lakewood coach Mark Farrell said. "I told them more about intensity on defense and how we can't allow penetration."

It worked. Lakewood came out of the locker room with fire and vengeance, starting the half on a 21-0 run. Shane Stokes finally ended it with a three-pointer.

While Lowell was struggling to make shots, Lakewood was penetrating to the hoop. The Vikings kept their lead and built on it. In the

fourth quarter, Lowell was doing the things that would have gotten them back in a closer game. They played an intense full-court press, forcing turnovers and stealing the ball. It was a physical game for all 32 minutes.

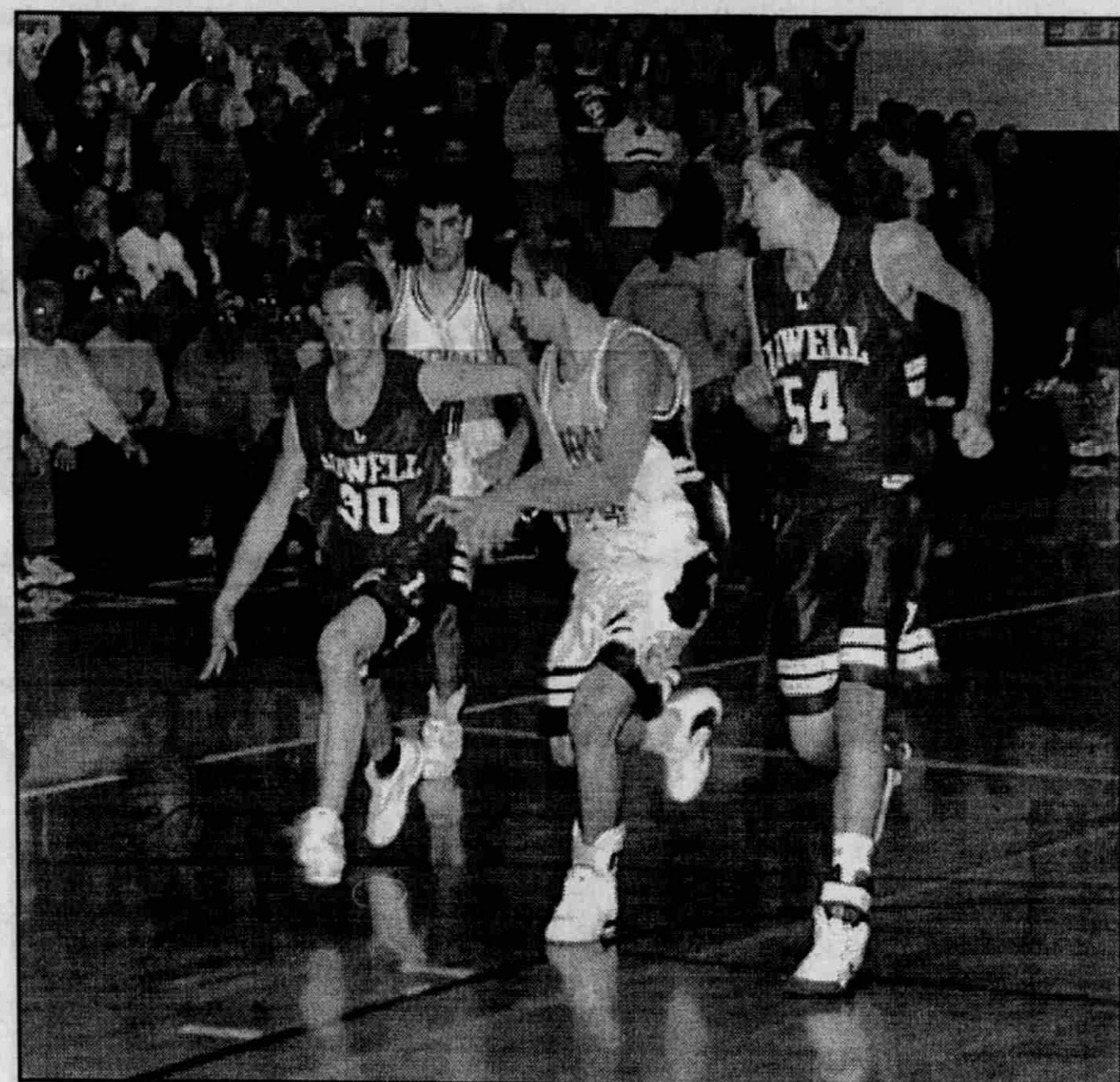
"Our kids played their butts off, I thought," said McDonald.

But at the final buzzer, Lakewood was up 83-55. McDonald took the loss heavy on his shoulders.

"I expected the kids to do some things on two days of practice as a team that I shouldn't have expected them to do, and that's a coaching mistake and that's my fault," he said.

As they exhibited in the first half of the Lakewood game, this year's Lowell team suffers from no lack of

Basketball, cont'd., pg. 17



Lowell's Ben Hanson drives past Lakewood's Corey Thelen in the first quarter of last Tuesday's away game.

# L-C hockey still working on defense

Importance of team play apparent after some tough early-season matchups

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell-Caledonia hockey team is still looking for their first win this year after losing a 4-2 decision in their league opener at West Ottawa and a 9-1 result against Farmington Unified, a Detroit-area team that was ranked seventh in the state in the pre-season polls.

In the second and third periods of the game against West Ottawa, Lowell-Caledonia showed they have the ability necessary to go up against one of the toughest teams in OK tier three.

"The last two periods we played the best team hockey we played all year," Lowell-Caledonia coach Mike Ballard said.

In the second period, Lowell-Caledonia controlled the puck and put repeated pressure on the Panther goal. They held West Ottawa scoreless and scored

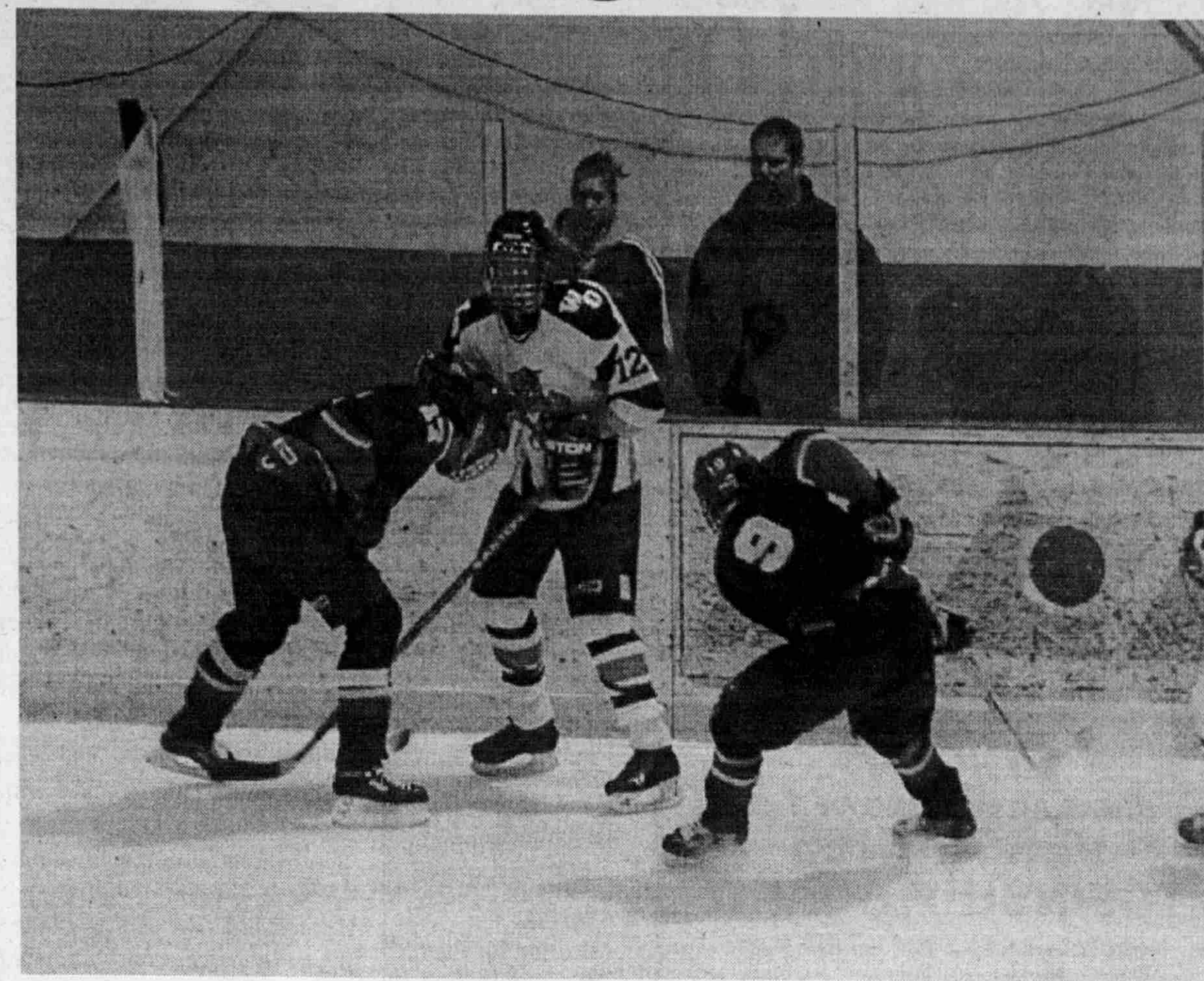
a goal of their own on a short shot by freshman forward Justin Story.

The problem was by that time they were playing out of a 3-1 hole. In the first period, Lowell-Caledonia had a hard time responding to West Ottawa's talented puck-handlers.

"In the beginning of the first period we had two problems—our goalie wasn't coming out on the shooter and giving them too many angles, and we weren't playing the body," Ballard said.

A timeout was called, adjustments made, and Lowell-Caledonia executed well the remainder of the game. They allowed one goal in the game's final minutes. The final score was 4-2, West Ottawa with their captain, Chad Bradbury, either scoring or assisting on all of their goals.

The trip to Farmington was about finding a challenge. "The reason I scheduled the game is so we could see what the upper-level com-



Lowell-Caledonia's Justin Story (#17) and Joel Schayle (#9) work for the puck against West Ottawa's Kraig Noble.

petition is like," Ballard said. "Despite losing the way we did, I was very pleased with our team's performance."

Lowell-Caledonia held Farmington-Unifed to one goal in the first period. Despite the high score, Lowell-Caledonia goalie Cory Kowalski had an 83 percent save percentage against the hot-shooting Farmington team. The experience gained in the game was mainly defensive.

"It gave us the chance to concentrate on team defense up and down the ice," Ballard said. "If we can translate that to good team defense against the competition over here, we should be back on track

for this season." Lowell-Caledonia is playing this year with new uniforms displaying both an L and a C on the front of the jerseys. Both schools now have their identities apparent on the ice, whereas last year they played under the Red Arrow mascot.

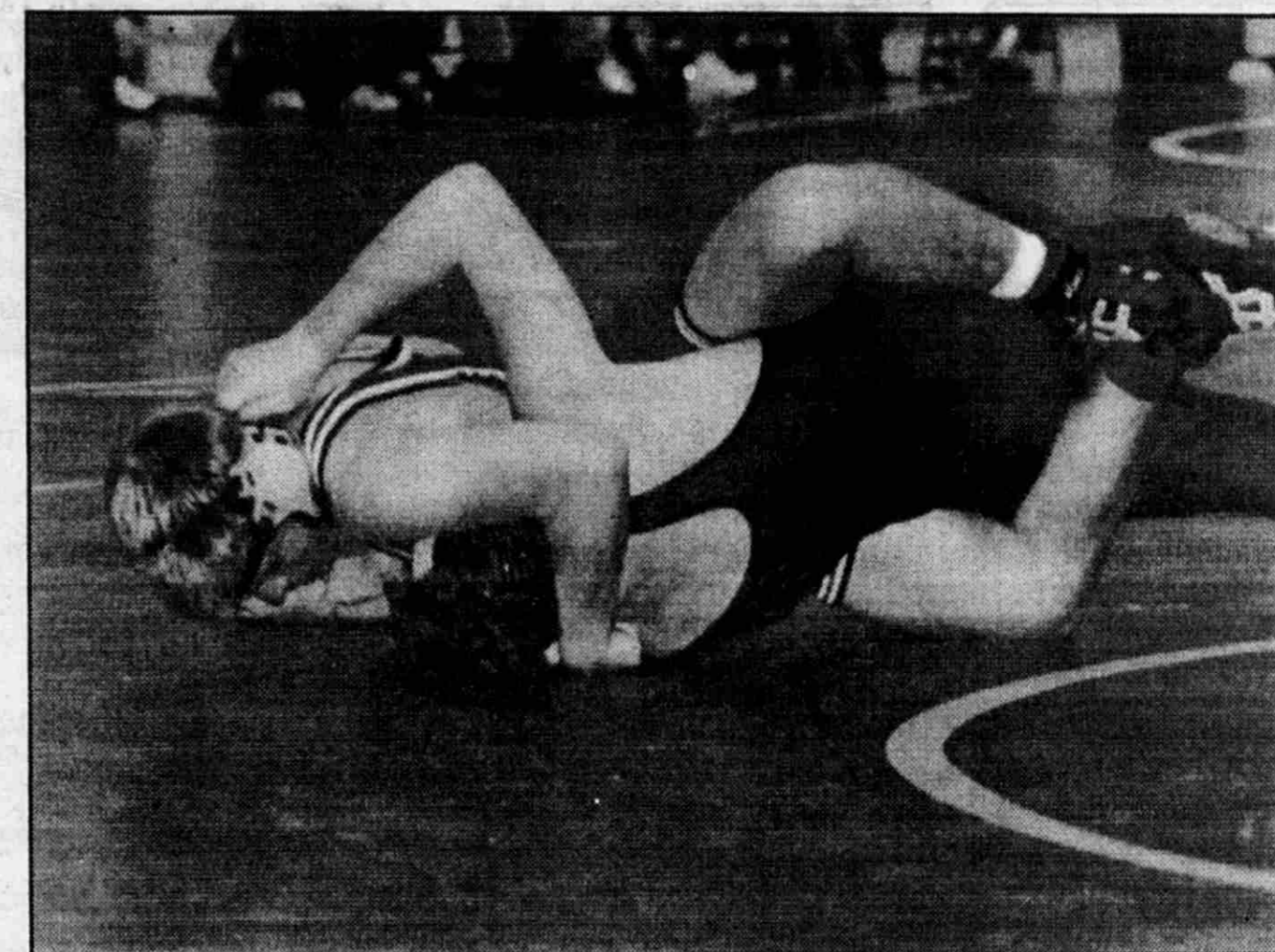
Lowell-Caledonia has a home game Friday against Grand Rapids Christian. It starts at 9 p.m. at Standard Federal Ice Arena on Patterson Avenue.

# Wrestlers destroy Unity

In their OK White opener last Thursday at home, the Lowell wrestling team stomped the Unity Christian Crusaders 72-6.

Last Saturday at the individual tournament at Howell, five Lowell wrestlers took top-10 places. The seniors on the team were busy taking the ACTs and did not wrestle.

Ray Seese (103) took third place; Dominic Doyle came in fourth at heavyweight; Jason Nearing (171) took fifth; Rob Karasiewicz (125) came in sixth; and Chris Roeloffs (145) took sixth.



Ken Walsh won this 215-pound match against Eaton Rapids by pin, Saturday.

## Basketball, continued... From page 16

talent and athleticism. A week before their first basketball game, four players were still on the football field.

"We are going to be a nice team in the future, it's just going to take a little longer than I thought," McDonald said.

Lowell opened OK White conference play Tuesday at Sparta. The Red Arrows take on East Grand Rapids away Friday at 7:30 p.m.

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