

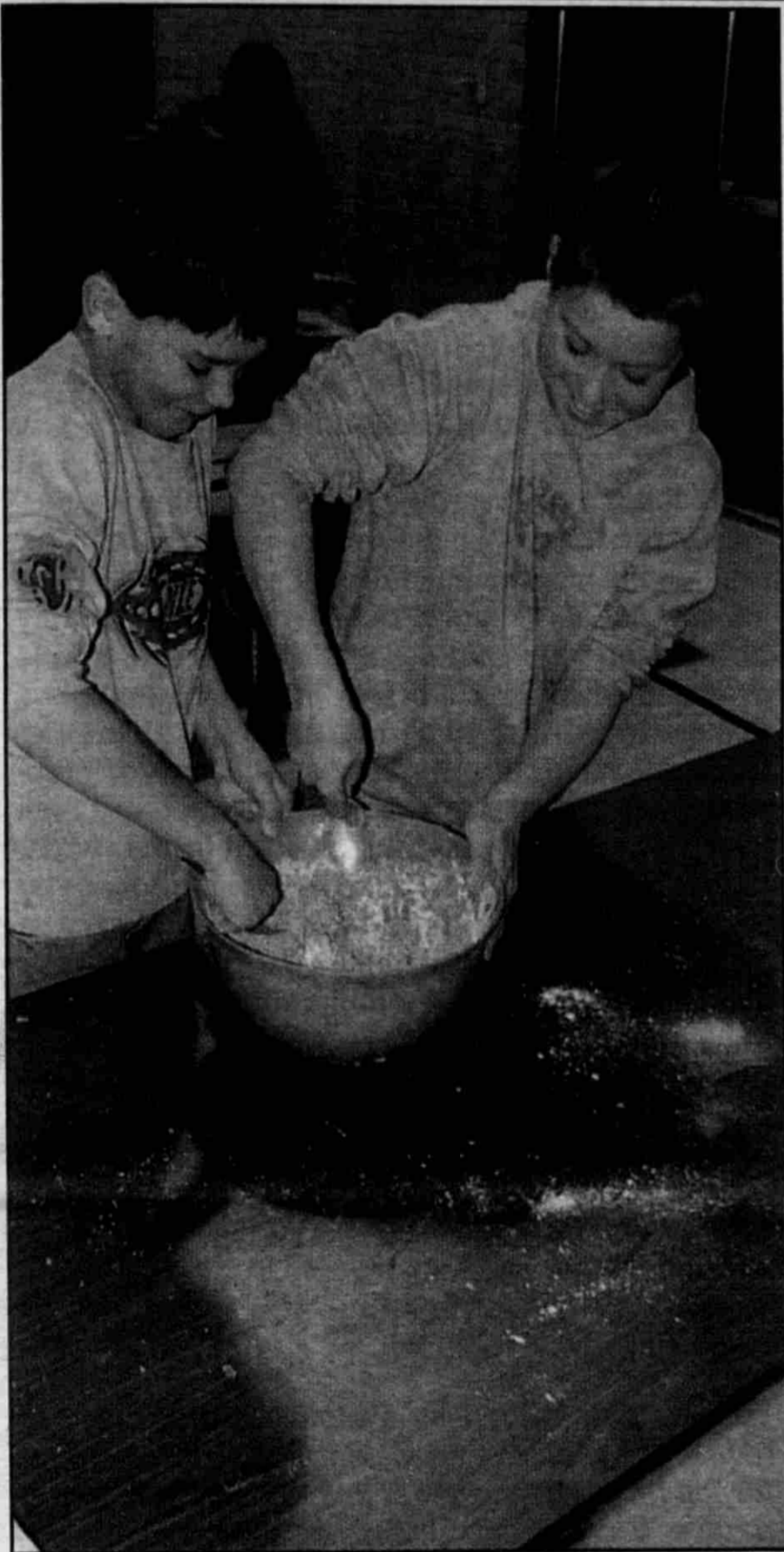
HOAG & SONS' BOOK BINDERY  
SPRINGPORT, MICHIGAN  
49284

# The Lowell Ledger

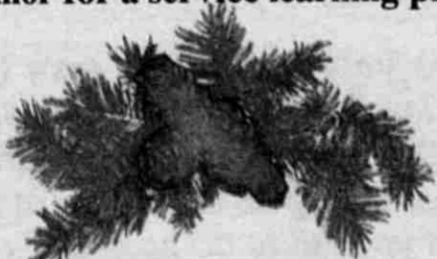
Volume 31 Issue 7

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, December 22, 2004



Cody Ruesink, left, and Jacob Sterzick mix batter for peanut butter balls last Wednesday at Alto Elementary. Fifth graders from the school made thousands of cookies in seven varieties and delivered them to residents at Schneider Manor for a service learning project.



## Lowell woman wins yellow card contest

A local woman got some extra help with her Christmas shopping this year. On Dec. 4, Michelle Wyskochil's name was pulled in "The Secret is Out ... Shop Lowell 2004" punch card drawing. Wyskochil won \$1,200 worth of gift certificates - \$100 from each of the merchants participating in the campaign that distributed yellow punch cards throughout town.

Chimera Design, Cousin's Hallmark, Daisy's Floral, Dream Pieces, Flat River Grill, Larkin's Restaurant, Roll

Away Family Fun Center, SandCastle Riverside, Sneaker's, Springrove Variety, Touch of Country and Voyages Coffee all put their names on 5,000 printed yellow cards in the spring. The cards had 12 small ducks printed along the bottom. These ducks were punched out for each purchase made at any of the participating stores.

Once a card was punched full, the holder was entitled to 10 percent off a purchase at the store and entered into the drawing. Wyskochil filled her card and won.

## Area students enriched by true spirit of the season

By Dan Schneider

Students at the schools around Lowell contributed to a variety of pre-Christmas service projects to benefit the needy.

Second grade students at Murray Lake and Cherry Creek elementaries celebrated the 12 days of Christmas by bringing in items to donate to needy Lowell families through Flat River Outreach Ministries (F.R.O.M.). Starting Nov. 29 with Christmas candy, and ending Dec. 14 with a children's book, the students brought in up to 12 items on successive school days.

The students boarded a school bus and delivered the items themselves for collection at the First United Methodist Church of Lowell. This was done instead of a gift exchange and teacher gifts.

Murray Lake students also filled shoeboxes with things like toothpaste and small toys, which will be sent to children

in Third World countries. The students also collected 20 boxes of food items for F.R.O.M.

At Alto Elementary, the third, fourth and fifth grade student council members organized the collection of nonperishable food items, books and toys for the F.R.O.M. Express. This was a train of cardboard boxes painted black to look like a locomotive, one train car for each grade level. The fourth graders collected the most items.

Overall, the Alto school exceeded its goal, collecting more than 2,004 items. The goods were delivered to F.R.O.M. Wednesday, Dec. 15.

That morning, the fifth grade students at Alto were busy baking. With the help of several parent volunteers, they baked thousands of cookies in seven different varieties for the residents of Schneider Manor. While Christmas caroling last Friday, the students delivered their cookies to the residents.

*Spirit of the season, cont'd., pg. 8*



Gary Goff's second grade class gets ready to load a school bus with bags of donations to help needy families in the Lowell area. The students collected different items for 12 consecutive school days to celebrate the 12 days of Christmas.

Merry Christmas

Inside  
The Lowell Ledger

2004 Year In Review...

Pages 11-28

Snake!...Page 36

MEAP Changes...Page 9





## OBITUARIES

**FIFE** - Alex William Fife, aged 5, of Belding, went to be with Jesus December 16, 2004. He is survived by his loving parents Dr. Tim and Kim Fife; adoring sister Ann Marie; grandparents Bill and Judy Fife; great-grandmother Geraldine Cook of Carson City; great-grandfather Harold Longstreet of Spring Lake; several aunts, uncles and cousins. Alex was preceded in death by his grandparents Mary Jane Eringaard and Jay Westrate. Private services are being held by the family. Memorial contributions may be made to St.

Patrick Catholic Church, 4351 Parnell Ave. N.E., Ada, Mich. 49301.

**HILL** - Josephine T. Hill, of East Lansing, formerly of Lowell, died December 14, 2004 at Liberty Court near DeWitt, Mich. Josephine Todhunter Hill was born in Germantown, PA., on February 4, 1917 to Joseph Todhunter and Nina Fredricka Nutting Hill. She attended Alfred University in Upstate New York, graduated in 1939, worked in New York City, where she married Thomas B. Hill in 1943. They moved to Lowell where her husband set up his medical practice. Jo played the organ for the Lowell Congregational Church for 12 years. In 1963 they moved to East Lansing. She retired in 1980 as a school librarian, enjoying travel and visiting with friends until Alzheimer's stole away her pleasures. She is survived by her husband, Thomas of 61 years; two daughters

Peggy of Grand Rapids, Merry Jo of DeWitt. Memorial services were held Dec. 20 at the Gorsline-Runciman Co. East Chapel, East Lansing, with the Rev. Judy Nielsen officiating. Memorial services will also be held Dec. 30 at 11 a.m. at Lowell Congregational Church, 404 H. Hudson.

**PATTERSON** - R. Lee Patterson, aged 81, of Middleville, formerly of Cascade, went to be with his Lord on Saturday, December 11, 2004, at home surrounded by his loving family. He was predeceased by his son Kyle, parents Minor and Beulah Patterson, two infant brothers. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Hazel "Lucy"; daughter Roxane "Rockie" Patterson of Wayland; son Randall (Ann); granddaughters Lauren and Bethany Patterson, all of Byron Center; sister Zetha Schalk of Alto; brothers and sisters-in-law Ruth Sarver, Russell and Alberta Sarver, Dan and Beverly Sarver, Elizabeth Booth, Ben and Kay Sarver; many nieces and nephews; his faithful little dog Cody. He was a life Elder of Cascade Christian Church and a Purple Heart veteran of WWII, North

Africa and Europe. Funeral services were held Dec. 15 at the Cascade Christian Church Chapel, Dr. Michael Spitters and Rev. Ray Gaylord officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to the Kyle Patterson Camp Scholarship Fund at Cascade Christian Church, 2829 Thornapple River Dr. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.

**PURCELL** - Michael Quentin Purcell lost his battle with cancer while an active duty Army Warrant Officer at Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas. He is survived by his children Elizabeth and Timothy Purcell of Danielsville, PA; wife Seria Purcell and stepson Esteban Campo, El Paso, Texas; mother and step-father Patricia and Richard Sturgis of Lowell; sisters Marci and Tom McCoy of Middleville, Terri and Scott Yates of Lewisville, Texas, Tricia and Shane Pulley of Provo, UT; stepbrother Richard Sturgis of Grand Rapids; nephews and nieces, Joshua and Jaime McCoy, Axel Yates, Grady Pulley, Tyler and Kaitlyn Sturgis. He was buried with full military honors at Fort Bliss National Cemetery on November 18, 2004.

## LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT  
FOR THE  
COUNTY OF KENT  
180 Ottawa Avenue N.W.  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

KATIE RYAN POTTER -  
YOUNGBLOOD,  
4305 Mayaka Court  
Grandville, MI 49418

Plaintiff,  
Hon. NANARUTH H.  
CARPENTER  
No. 04-09226-DM  
SERVICE BY  
PUBLICATION AND  
NOTICE OF ACTION  
vs.

LAWRENCE TOMAS  
YOUNGBLOOD  
Last Known Address:  
71 Second Street  
Saratoga Springs,  
NY 12866

Defendant  
TO THE DEFENDANT,  
LAWRENCE TOMAS  
YOUNGBLOOD:  
YOU ARE BEING SUED by  
Plaintiff in this Court to  
obtain a divorce. You must  
file your answer or take  
other action permitted by  
law in this Court at the  
Court address above on  
or before March 15, 2005.

If you fail to do so, a default judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint filed in this case.

Dated: December 15, 2004  
VANDEN BOSCH &  
AVERY  
3875 West River Drive  
P.O. Box 327  
Comstock Park, MI  
49321  
(616) 784-5080

CRAIG AVERY  
Attorney for Plaintiff

## LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
IN THE 61<sup>ST</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DUTCH SHAMROCK PROPERTIES L.L.C.  
Plaintiff,

HON. PATRICK C. BOWLER

vs.

RENE DIEGO  
and GERALDINE DIEGO  
Case No. 04-SP-152  
Defendant.

CRAIG A. BRUGGINK P.L.C.  
(P29358)  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
The Steeple View Building  
429 Turner, N.W.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504  
(616) 456-5048

ORDER FOR SERVICE OF  
PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

At a session of court held in the courthouse in  
Kent County, Michigan, on 12-6-04

Present: Honorable PATRICK C. BOWLER  
61<sup>st</sup> District Court Judge

Plaintiff filed a verified ex parte motion for service of process in the discretion of the court. After reading the motion the court finds that Plaintiff has shown that service of process cannot reasonably be made on Defendant Rene Diego by the methods provided in MCR 2.105 (A), in that Plaintiff has demonstrated that diligent attempts to locate Defendant and his current address and to serve Defendant by personal delivery and by registered mail have not been successful. The court further finds, pursuant to MCR 2.105 (I), that service of process by publication is the best available method of service of process reasonably calculated to give Defendant actual notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard.

IT IS ORDERED:

1. Plaintiff may serve process on Defendant by publishing the following notice once each week for a period of three consecutive weeks in a newspaper, as defined in MCR 2.106 (F), that is published in the county of Defendant's last known address:

You are being sued by Plaintiff in this court to recover possession after land contract forfeiture, for the property located at 743 Watson SW, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49503 and legally described as:

The South 16 feet of the West 50 feet of Lot 16 and the West 50 feet of Lot 17, Block 12, Converse and Tolford's Addition, as recorded in Liber 3 of Plats, on Page 37, Kent County Records. City of Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan.

You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in this court at the court address, 61st District Court, 180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, on or before 28 days after the last date of publication. If you fail to do so, a default judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint filed in this case. Hearing is 1-4-05 at 8:30 a.m., 8th floor courtroom 8A.

2. A copy of the summons and a copy of this Order for Service by Publication shall be posted in the Kent County Courthouse and at 743 Watson SW, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49503 for three continuous weeks and a proof of posting shall be filed with the court.
3. A copy of the summons and a copy of this Order for Service by Publication shall be sent by registered mail addressed to the defendant at his last known address, 743 Watson S.W., Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49503, before the date of the last publication and the Affidavit of Mailing shall be filed with this court.

Hon. Patrick C. Bowler  
61st District Court Judge

Prepared by:  
CRAIG A. BRUGGINK P.L.C.  
(P29358)  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
429 Turner NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504  
616-456-5048

## Extra patrols hope to deter drinking and driving this holiday season

By Dan Schneider

Lowell police have been out in greater numbers at night since Monday in an effort to curb drunk driving during Christmas and New Year's.

"It's adding coverage during the holidays just to make people more aware of the alcohol that we all seem to consume more of during this time," Lowell police officer Sgt. Stephen Junewick said.

Each night through Dec. 30, the Lowell Police Department will put two extra officers on patrol.

"We'll have extra cars just out looking for drunk drivers and alcohol infractions," Lowell police chief Jim Valentine said.

"Our whole focus is going to be on alcohol enforcement," Junewick said. "You'll see a visible presence by law enforcement."

The message, Junewick said: "Be responsible for yourselves."

That means drink alcohol in moderation, or don't

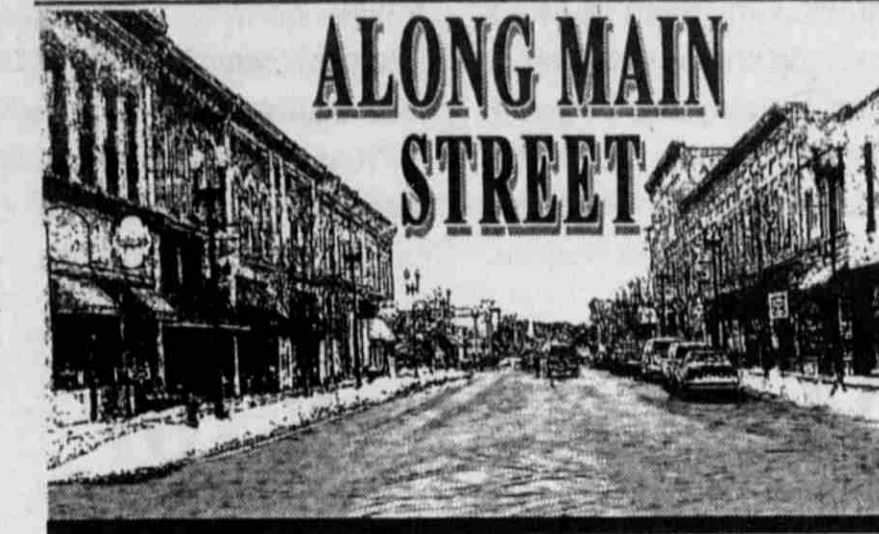
get in a car without a designated driver.

During 2003 in Michigan, there were 442 traffic deaths with alcohol or drugs as a factor. Alcohol or drugs are involved in 34 percent of

all traffic fatalities in the state.

"Too often they drink and they drive and they crash, and nine times out of 10 it's not the driver who gets hurt, it's the innocent people who are just trying to get to where they

want to be," Junewick said. The added patrol officers will be on the road each night in six-hour shifts. A grant from Michigan's Office of Highway Safety Planning is paying for the overtime hours. All of the law enforcement departments in Kent County are participating in the patrol wave. Kent is one of several counties in the state to participate.



### DONATIONS NEEDED

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.

### CHAMBER HOURS

The Lowell Chamber of Commerce will be closed for the holiday from Dec. 24 through Jan. 3.

### WINTER FAST PITCH CLINIC

The LHS softball coaches will hold a Winter Fast Pitch pitching clinic for prospective pitchers at Riverside gym on Thursday, Jan. 6, 13, 20 and 27 and Feb. 3, 10, 17, and 24. Girls in grades 6 and under meet at 6 p.m.; girls in 7th-8th grades meet at 7 p.m. Call if another time is needed. Cost: \$30, includes a T-shirt. Applications are available at Lowell Middle

## Bridge building spurs logo contest

This year's class of the Lowell Leadership Institute for Volunteer Excellence, LIVE5, plans to build a bridge this spring through low-lying, wet areas of the Cooper Woodland Preserve. The bridge, once built, will be emblazoned with the logo. The winning artist will receive a variety of prizes plus free copies of promotional items created using the logo.

LIVE5 also encourages entrants to develop a bridge slogan to go along with their logo.

For entry forms and contest rules, visit the LIVE5 web site at [www.live5bridge.com](http://www.live5bridge.com). The site also has more information on the contest and updates on prizes. Entry forms are also available at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, where entries are due by Jan. 21.

## LHS Financial aid night set for Jan. 6

The Lowell High School counseling staff is sponsoring a financial aid night on Thursday, Jan. 6 at 7 p.m. in the LPAC for students planning to attend college next fall. Juniors, seniors and their parents will be guided through the process of filing for and receiving financial assistance.

JoAnn Litton, assistant director of financial aid at Grand Valley State University, will take students and parents through the process of filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) applying for grants, scholarships and certain low interest loans.

The application is based on both the parents' and students' incomes and must arrive at the processor no later than March 1.

UPS  
SHIPPING  
AVAILABLE  
At the Lowell  
Ledger Office.  
Daily Pickup at 4 p.m.  
105 N. Broadway

School and Cherry Creek, Alto and Bushnell elementaries. Call Bob Rodenhouse at 987-2900 or at 245-4596 for information.

### FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

Lowell High School counseling staff financial aid night for students planning to attend college next fall, held in LPAC on Thursday, Jan. 6 at 7 p.m.

### FOODMOBILE/ FREE FOOD

The Foodmobile will be at Lowell fairgrounds on S. Broadway, Saturday, Jan. 8 from 10-11 a.m. or until produce is gone. Bring your own box or bag. Distributed by Flat River Outreach Ministries. Visit [www.flatriveroutreachministries.org](http://www.flatriveroutreachministries.org).

### CHRISTMAS TREE SHREDDING

The LAS Environmental Club and Wege/Wittenbach Center will have free Christmas tree shredding on Saturday, Jan. 8 from 12-4 p.m. A community luminary walk will take place from 4-6 p.m. Skis/ snowshoes welcome; snowshoes for rent. Donations accepted.

### ACT WORKSHOP

An ACT Preparation Workshop will be held Thursday, Jan. 27 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at LHS. Cost: \$38; registration information should be returned to the SSC. Students will take practice tests, etc. Checks made to Lowell Area Schools. Call 987-2908 with questions. Sponsored by Academic Boosters.

## THE GREAT LAKES BAND



Chris Collins  
Dave Jones  
Rick Seese  
Mitch McMahon  
Charlie Luscombe  
Doug Slocum

## Rockin' for the New Year

Friday, December 31, 2004  
Hors d'oeuvres a la carte  
Doors Open at 8 pm  
Deer Run Golf Course  
13955 Cascade Rd,  
Lowell  
LIMITED SEATING CAPACITY

## CITY OF LOWELL OFFICES HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The following offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, December 23 and 24, 2004 in observance of the Christmas Holiday and Thursday and Friday, December 30 and 31, 2004 in observance of the New Year Holiday.

LOWELL LIGHT AND POWER  
AND  
LOWELL CABLE VISION

The following office will close on Friday, December 24 and Monday, December 27, 2004 in observance of the Christmas Holiday and Friday, December 31, 2004 in observance of the New Year Holiday.

LOWELL CITY HALL OFFICES  
LOWELL POLICE OFFICES  
AND  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Ledger Deadline for all copy is Monday at 5 p.m.

**The Lowell Ledger**  
(USPS 453-830)  
Published weekly for \$15<sup>00</sup> a year in Kent County, \$22<sup>00</sup> a year outside the county by the Lowell Ledger Publishing Company, 105 N. Broadway St., Lowell, MI 49331

ROGER K. BROWN.....PUBLISHER  
JEANNE BOSS.....MANAGING EDITOR  
DAN SCHNEIDER.....LEAD REPORTER  
TONI BLOUGH.....COPY EDITOR  
TAMMY JANOWIAK.....CLASSIFIEDS/ACCOUNTING  
JAY VEZINO.....ADVERTISING SALES

(616) 897-9261  
E-Mail: [ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com](mailto: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](http://www.lowellbuyersguide.com)



# 700 acre county park in the works for Lowell Township

By Dan Schneider

Kent County is in the process of acquiring farmland in Lowell Township that will eventually become a new park.

Once completed, the park will be some 700 acres in size, according to county parks development manager Mark Visocki. The county has already bought farmland for the park. It is located between Segun Ave. and Alden Nash Ave. to the east and west, and 36th Street and Cascade Road to the north and south. The park will fill that entire area with the exception of the northeast and northwest corners which have already undergone residential development.

The county intends to develop the park as a primarily natural area.

"Hopefully, it will be more natural and resource-oriented," Visocki said. "Our prime focus is passive recreation."

That means hiking trails and woodlands rather than ATV or snowmobile trails. The county may build a horse trail or even a baseball diamond at the park. There will

definitely be picnic sites with tables. "Picnicking is one of the best things we do as a county," Visocki said.

The county will work this winter to create a master plan for the park. The earliest start date for phase one of the project would be 2007. But, with the help of Ducks Unlimited, wetlands restoration is already underway on a small portion of the farmland.

The wetland is about 2.5 acres in size and located well off the road. It was a low spot drained of water but never used for farmland. Trees remain standing in the spot.

"It still kind of looked like a wetland, it just didn't have any water in it," said Russ Terry, regional biologist with Ducks Unlimited in Ann Arbor.

A contractor dug up the drain tiles in September. "It restored hydrology to it," Terry said.

It was a fairly simple matter. "The grassland part of the project is going to be more complicated," Terry said.

Next summer, 20 acres surrounding the wetland will

be planted with native Michigan tall grasses. Pheasants Forever is collaborating with Ducks Unlimited on the project.

The first step, however, is to get rid of the weeds currently growing on the land. Ducks Unlimited mowed down the plants twice in October. In the spring, they will alternate between mowing and applying herbicide to remove the non-native vegetation.

## Major work for water treatment plant planned

By J. Lobdell  
Contributing Writer

This spring, Lowell residents can expect their ice tea to be a little cloudy and their glassware to be slightly spotty. This is because the city's water treatment plant will shut down its clarifier to be repaired and replaced.

At its Monday night meeting, at the recommendation of plant supervisor George

Once the weeds are gone, the native grass seeds and wildflowers will be planted. It will take about two years, Terry said, for the native grass stand to mature. When fully grown, the grass will provide a habitat for birds and other animals, as well as create ecological benefits from a water quality standpoint.

"It will work to improve water quality locally and even into the Grand River and Lake

Michigan, eventually," Terry said. "One of the main things about this project is it's one part of a large effort." The project is funded through Ducks Unlimited and a \$1 million federal grant from the North American Wetlands Conservation Council. Ducks Unlimited is using the grant to do work throughout the Grand River Watershed.



## OUTDOORS

By Dave Stegehuis

### WOODLAND WORKOUTS

If you have spent much time watching television news lately, it would be difficult to overlook the attention given to health issues. It is interesting to note the number of illnesses and conditions that can be treated or avoided altogether by maintaining a healthy diet and getting regular exercise.

The holiday season is a particularly challenging time to make good choices about food quantity and quality. You know what you are supposed to do. Good luck.

There are also choices to make about exercise. We know we should be as active as possible allowing for our physical condition. Walking on a treadmill or riding a stationary bike will certainly help us meet exercise objectives. Spending enough time on these devices to achieve results, however, may take more self-discipline and determination than most of us have. Getting outdoors to fulfill our physical activity requirements, where there are unique sounds and smells and continually changing scenery, may be a more rewarding experience.

Cross country skiing and snowshoeing are good winter-time pursuits for getting necessary exercise. When there is no snow on the ground, one can still hike trails or just walk around the neighborhood.

Bird watching and hunting with a gun or camera can also be physically demanding. For example, on a recent elk hunt in the Rocky Mountains—because of peer pressure and an exceptional camp cook—I consumed much larger quantities of food than usual. This went on for several weeks, and I expected to gain a lot of unwanted weight. When I returned home, however, I was astonished to find I had instead lost several pounds. Climbing around mountains in thin air apparently exceeded my normal exercise routine.

Many outdoor activities, though more interesting, are intermittent because of dependence on nature for favorable conditions. Hunting and bird watching, for example, can be seasonal activities depending on the species sought. The solution to this problem is to adopt a number of activities that occur at different times of the year so there is always something to do.

Another advantage of choosing an exercise activity that is personally rewarding, is that the anticipation of having to be physically up to the task provides motivation in the off-season to stay in shape. Try to develop an interest which will draw you outdoors and keep you moving. You may find you will get plenty of exercise and also enjoy the experience. Making good choices about health issues doesn't have to be boring or difficult.

Treatment plant work, cont'd., pg. 9

## ATTENTION DIABETICS!

Do you have Pain, Tingling or Numbness in your Feet?  
Do you Lose your Balance or Fall Frequently?

New treatment for Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy  
Now available at The Laurels of Kent

Anodyne Therapy has been clinically tested on thousands of patients over a 7-year period as an effective treatment for people suffering from the effects of Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy (DPN).

### Benefits of Anodyne Therapy Include:

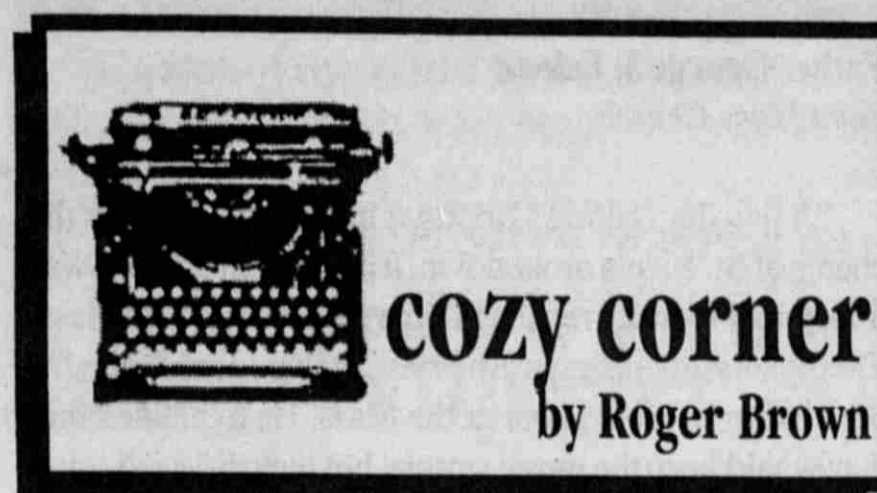
- First therapy to consistently restore sensation in DPN
- Improved balance, reducing the risk for falls
- Reduction in pain and pain medications
- Improved wound healing
- Potential to prevent amputations

Proven, Non-invasive, Drug-free, Safe

Call The Laurels of Kent now and ask for an appointment to see if Anodyne Therapy and our Neuropathy Treatment Program is right for you!

THE  
**LAURELS**  
OF KENT  
A Skilled Nursing Center  
350 N. Center St. • Lowell, MI 49331  
(616) 897-8473

# Viewpoint



My wife and I have been back from our China trip for about ten days. We are just nicely getting over the colds we caught and the jet lag associated with traveling across 13 time zones. Sure, we saw pandas, visited the world's largest Buddha, hiked a bamboo forest and ate lots of real Sichuan food... but the big attraction was two weeks with my grandkids. For those of you with grandkids living within a reasonable distance, I suggest you count your blessings.

My daughter's family now lives in Cheng Du, a city of 11 million, give or take a few hundred thousand. The city is in Sichuan Province, which I'm told means "four rivers." I heard someone say it should be more like 400 rivers, which cut through the mountainous countryside. The area is obviously temperate, as we saw apples, oranges and abundant produce growing everywhere in early December. Think of the Great Smoky Mountains moved to Florida.

The city itself isn't much to write home about. It is big, densely populated, noisy, snarled with traffic and most of all the air quality is extremely poor. Nestled in a valley carved by a couple of big rivers, the conditions are perfect to create an atmosphere trapping vehicle exhaust, coal power plant smoke, industrial emissions and even coal or charcoal home heating and cooking stoves.

My daughter has a friend who lives on the 24th floor of an apartment building. The friend says there are days during which she can't see the ground. Trust me, if you grew up in West Michigan, you wouldn't want to live there. So much for the negative... let's move on to something fun, like Panda Bears.

Sichuan Province is home to most of the world's Giant Pandas. Within a reasonable day's drive you can travel to a Panda reserve and actually see them in the wild. We didn't have time for such an excursion, but did visit the Panda research center near Cheng Du. We saw Pandas segregated by age in various holding areas that were spacious, attractive and well maintained. The Pandas seemed to be very well fed, groomed and happy. I'm not sure why, but I was pleasantly surprised to see them so well cared for.

My daughter says the research center used to offer (for a fee) a photo opportunity with a Panda. Unfortunately, a German tourist was mauled recently and the photo-op has been withdrawn. We did have our pictures taken with a Red Panda. They are critters that look like a very chubby raccoon with a long, ringed tail and red and black fur. Cute, but a poor

substitute for a Giant Panda. Darned German tourists!

Our day hike through a bamboo forest was an adventure. Our driver had never been there. We stopped for directions numerous times, and it was beginning to look like the hiking trail was a hoax. Finally, we simply parked in a remote area with no signage or any indication we might be in the right place. We got out and started hiking. Eventually the trail turned to stone steps, probably hundreds of years old, that went on and on and on. So we went on and on.

The bamboo was several inches in diameter and grew to incredible heights. The gorge we were hiking up was so thick with it we could only see perhaps fifty feet into it. Loggers (for lack of a better word) with big machetes were cutting bamboo and sending the stalks skidding down to the steps. There they were bundled and hauled down to where our car was parked. I'm guessing the locals have been managing and harvesting this forest for untold generations. No clear-cutting here.

After wheezing our way up for well over an hour, we came to the top of a ridge. The view of the valley beyond was stunning. All you could see for miles and miles was well-tended agriculture and a couple of small villages. It was gorgeous.

I told my daughter that a great day hike would be to pack a lunch, climb to the top, eat and then hike down the other side and through the farmland below. According to my plan, you would meet your driver in one of the small villages. Given the trouble our driver had finding the first trailhead, my daughter wasn't sure she could trust him to find us ten miles away on the other side of a mountain. I have a pretty good sense of adventure, but I have to admit that being stranded in the middle of rural China doesn't appeal to me either.

I do have more sightseeing adventures to tell you about and some culinary adventures, as well. We'll save those for next week. I do want to leave you with a Christmas gift idea for your grandkids, if you are fortunate enough to have any between the ages of about four and eight. Get them the DVD box-sets of Pee-Wee's Playhouse. There are nearly 50 episodes that your grandkids... and you... will enjoy over and over. Yes, I'm speaking from experience... Jim, Boog and I watched Pee-Wee every chance we had.

P.S. I hope this is something that is going on all over the country, but if not, here's a head's up. My local Post Office is selling pre-paid phone cards with the suggestion that you send them to wounded soldiers and Marines. The Post Office supplied the following addresses: Medical Family Assistance Center, Walter Reed Medical Center, 6900 Georgia Avenue NW, Washington D.C. 20307-5001 or Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, P.O. Box 556,2901 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20889.

The phone cards are a great idea. If you would rather not fiddle with buying and sending the cards, I'm certain the people at either of these addresses could put a check to good use as well. Merry Christmas!

The tone of the article seriously implies that Lowell Township is not interested in cooperating with the city when nothing could be farther from the truth. Lowell Township has supported, to the tune of over \$50,000 over the last 10 years, a variety of city projects including the Senior Neighbors Center, the Historical Museum, the ambulance service, and helped buy the D.A.R.E. truck for the city police dept. Separately, Lowell Township continually contributes towards purchases of new equipment for the city fire dept. The township has paid \$45,000 towards last year's pumper, and will be paying over \$16,000 on this year's new pumper plus provide 1/3 of the county fund for this new fire truck, about \$60,000. We have cooperative agreements for water and sewer with the city of Lowell. All of this demonstrates a history of township/city cooperation to serve the citizens of our community.

As for the reconstruction of the Bowes Rd. and M-21 intersection, which is entirely within the city limits, Lowell Township provided a one quarter share of the finances - \$64,750 - in 1995. Several thousand dollars more in engineering costs were absorbed by Lowell Township, as well. If I remember correctly, the stated purpose for reconstructing that intersection was to make it safer for school buses to get to the new high school. Two of the corners of that intersection have been developed inside the city since then, and the reconstruction of Bowes Rd. has led to several new residential properties inside the city. The city has already benefited from that reconstruction.

Lowell Township has water and sewer lines to this property; indeed, this property has paid a special assessment to acquire these services. Our zoning ordinances would allow the Big Boy and the other commercial uses that the developer is proposing. Over 12 acres of the property in question are inside Lowell Township. The developer would like to have access to Bowes Rd. through a narrow strip of less than one acre that he owns inside the city. Lowell Township has had the "mini 29th Street" concept for the south side of M-21 commercial district

To the Editor, continued, pg. 30



By Priscilla Lussmeyer

## Ledger Entries

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

### 125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL DECEMBER 24, 1879

"Arthur Morgan is the snow plow conductor on the east side this winter."

The Lowell postoffice will be closed after 1 p.m. on Christmas Day.

George and Frank Hine are home from Michigan University at Ann Arbor.

Brisk wheat sales are going on, thanks to the \$1.25 per bushel offered.

The marshal complains of horses and cattle in the streets.

### 100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER DECEMBER 22, 1904

The Ionia-Grand Rapids Electric Railway has been held up for two months for lack of a Grand Rapids terminal, says the president.

The coupon in this issue starts another voting contest, the winner to receive a \$35 Champion sewing machine by New Home.

The Elmdale train wreck is blamed on careless Pere Marquette employees.

"Michigan News": A Marinette woman is said to have thrown some bad eggs in the stove. They exploded, blowing the stove lids off.

Supt. J.F. Thomas of Lowell will speak at the Kent County Teachers Association meeting in Grand Rapids. Subject: Curriculum above the eighth grade."

### 75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO DECEMBER 26, 1929

The worst blizzard since 1917 struck last Wednesday; Main Street is cleared by Saturday, mostly by hand shoveling, and Gov. Green puts every able-bodied man to work clearing country roads.

Monday brought more snow, 26 inches this month, and Grand Rapids considers using railroad "gondola" cars to haul it away.

Parks department workers are cutting firewood on city lands to give to the needy.

Snow removal holes in Grand Rapids bridges are jammed full of ice, water has nowhere to go. Someone suggests steam removal.

County snowplows stored in the city are cleaning streets on their way out to county roads, a big help to the city.

### 50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER DECEMBER 23, 1954

Bill Kerekes delivers his annual message (and remittance) to the Ledger in person.

Along Main Street item: the 10 commonest names in America are Smith, Johnson, Brown, Williams, Miller, Jones, Davis, Anderson, Williams and Taylor.

The Garden Lore Club has a new and better record player at its creche on the Foreman Hatchery lawn at the west entrance to Lowell.

Postmaster George Hale announces this year (as usual) is another record-breaker.

Rep. Gerald R. Ford Jr. writes in his weekly column about the 11 U.S. airmen held captive by the Chinese in Korea.

### 25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER DECEMBER 20, 1979

Lowell's Quiz Bowl team will meet Grand Rapids Catholic in the semifinals tomorrow on Channel 35.

Dog warden John Erickson gets help to transfer a stray malemute mother and eight new pups from a preempted dog house on Carol Lynne to Kent County animal shelter.

Adelbert Odell retires from the Vergennes Township board; Allan Baird takes over.

ACTION, the federal agency for volunteer service, calls for more VISTA volunteers to work in poverty-related projects.

## Life Insurance...

### As permanent as your love

Your love for your kids is permanent, so protect them with permanent life insurance. It gives you peace of mind, lifelong protection, and cash values you can borrow against. Call today.

MARK JOHNSON

6095-28th Street Ste. 4  
Grand Rapids, MI  
49546-940-9181



Making Your Future More Predictable  
**FARM BUREAU INSURANCE**  
FARM BUREAU MUTUAL • FARM BUREAU LIFE • FARM BUREAU GENERAL  
www.farmbureauinsurance-mi.com

## MANPOWER • MANPOWER

### MANPOWER IS RECRUITING FOR:

Part-time workers, open to any shift and possible weekend work in:  
**PACKAGING FILLER/PACKERS ASSEMBLY**

Lifting up to 20 lbs., open to possible overtime. \$8.00 to \$9.00 /hr.

**CALL MANPOWER TODAY!**  
**616-897-0050**

MANPOWER • MANPOWER

MANPOWER • MANPOWER • MANPOWER • MANPOWER



## ENGAGEMENTS

### Bommarito/Barle



Ryan Barle and Bridget Bommarito

Announcing their plans for a May 21, 2005 wedding are Bridget Bommarito and Ryan Barle, both of Coldwater.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Mary and Alexander Bommarito of Freeland. She graduated from Freeland High School and

### Basney/Ramsey



Claire Basney and Clayton Ramsey

Claire Vera Basney and Clayton James Ramsey, both of Henderson, N.C., will exchange marriage vows on June 4, 2005 at Versailles, KY.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Ruth Basney of Lowell and the late Lionel Basney. She is a graduate of Grand Rapids Christian High School, Calvin College and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is a children's librarian at Leslie

## Reflections Of Faith

Father George J. Fekete  
Saint Mary Church

"A few days before Christmas in 1818 the organ in the church of St. Nicola broke down. It became clear that it was impossible to make repairs in time for the midnight Mass. The organist asked the parish priest, Father Josef Mohr, for permission to use a guitar at the Mass. He explained that they would keep the music simple, but they did need some form of accompaniment.

Father Mohr agreed and mentioned that he had been working on a Christmas poem, one which his people could understand, for they were without much education as were the shepherds who were invited to the crib in Bethlehem. The priest handed him a piece of paper on which he had written a text which came to only 26 words in German. There was no title to the brief poem.

The organist went to work. Shortly before Christmas Franz Gruber had completed his melody. At midnight Mass in the church of St. Nicola in an Austrian village in the year 1818, people for the first time sang "Silent Night."

The carol needed no title. It had captured the spirit—the feeling—of Christmas. It was simple, humble, actually a lullaby to the Son of God. From Oberndorf, Austria, it spread throughout the world and this Christmas will be sung in almost every language of the world by people of the Christian faith.

A German carol became universal because a Jewish baby, the eternal Son of God, was born in Bethlehem as our Savior." —from *Sunday Preaching* by Charles E. Miller, C.M.

May God bless you all and a special blessing to those parents who, this Advent Season, endeavored to prepare themselves and their families, to celebrate the birth of Jesus, Son of God, Savior!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DEC. 23: Norma Stevens, Marie Doyle.

DEC. 24: Jeffrey Pfaller.

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

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

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

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

DEC. 29: Amanda Martin, Donna Baker.

## HEALTH

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



### CARING FOR YOUR BABY'S TEETH

On average, a baby's teeth begin to appear at six months of age. When teeth are about to appear, they can cause pain, fussiness and drooling. Cold teething rings,

cold, wet washcloths and infant's Tylenol or Motrin are the best things to use for teething pain. Teething gels can also help, but their effect is short acting and can be harmful if overused. Contrary to popular belief, teething does not cause a fever. A fever is always associated with an illness, and should be evaluated by your healthcare provider.

Cavities are holes in teeth that can cause pain and infections. Cavities occur when bacteria in the mouth use sugar to make acid. This acid eats away at the teeth. Cavities are the most common disease in children.

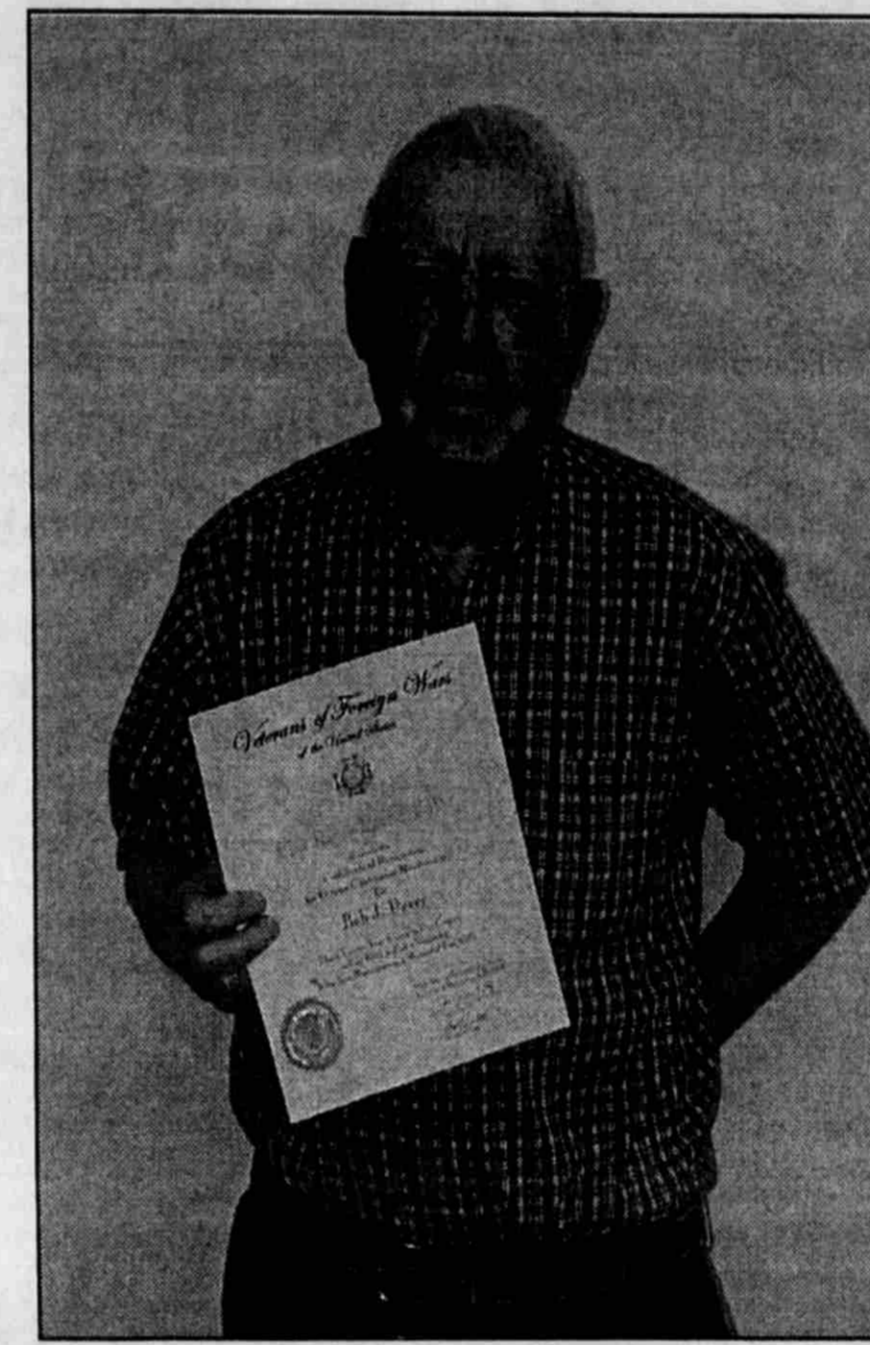
Good tooth care can prevent cavities in your child. Good tooth care begins with brushing your child's teeth twice a day, starting when the first tooth appears. A non

fluoride containing tooth gel should be used until the child is 18-24 months old. At that point, the child can use fluoride toothpaste, but not more than 1/2 the size of a pea at a time. It is also important to start visiting the dentist twice a year, beginning at age two. Limiting sugary foods (like cookies and candy) and limiting sugary drinks (like fruit juice, kool-aid, and soda) can decrease your child's risk of cavities.

Inappropriate or overuse of bottles can increase your child's risk of cavities. Bottles should be replaced with sippy cups by 12 months of age. Bottles and sippy cups should never be left in the crib with a child.

Fluoride is important for the proper development of your child's teeth. Ideally, all water your child drinks should be fluorinated. City water should contain adequate fluoride, but well water may not. If you have a well, it's important to know the fluoride content of the water. If it is less than 0.6 parts per million, you should start your child on a fluoride supplement from your healthcare provider or dentist.

## Perry/Wingeier honored by VFW



Bob Perry, above, and Samuel "Babe" Wingeier. Wingeier is pictured before he went into the service.

The Lowell Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8303 awarded two certificates on Sept. 26. The first was to Samuel "Babe" Wingeier for 55 years of membership. The second was to Bob Perry for 45 years. Perry picked up both certificates at a VFW meeting earlier this month. Tuesday morning, Perry delivered the 55-year certificate to

Wingeier, who was unable to attend the last VFW meeting.

## Wishing You A Peaceful & Joyous Holiday Season

We thank you for your patronage throughout the year and your loyalty to our hometown business.

Dale & Nancy Triplett & Staff



**REGAL INSURANCE AGENCY**  
835 W. Main St. • Lowell, MI 49331  
**897-9259**

## AREA BIRTHS



### Mierendorf

Evan and Aron Mierendorf would like to announce the birth of their sister Zoey Ruthann, born November 1, 2004. She weighed 8 lbs. 3 oz. and measured 19 1/2 inches.

Parents are Dan and Darci Mierendorf. Grandparents are Jerry and Ruth Ann (Ford) Nelson of Belmont and Joe and Dian Mierendorf of Rockford.



From Everyone at  
The Lowell Ledger

## 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 Vermont Dodge dealership.  
897-6284 or 485-4195  
10AM Sunday School; 11AM Morning Service; 6PM Evening Service; Wed., 7:30PM Prayer Meeting.

**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

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)  
Highway 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

**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

### 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

**EVERGREEN MISSIONARY CHURCH**  
10651 Settlewood • Ph. 897-7185

Sunday School.....9:45 A.M.  
Morning Worship.....11 A.M.  
Evening Service.....6:00 P.M.

Prayer and Praise - Wed., 7:00 P.M.  
Rev. Rick Ferguson - 987-6475  
ALL ARE WELCOME!  
(Barrier-Free)

**APOSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH**  
SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M.  
SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES 6:00 P.M.  
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M.  
At 215 1/2 W. Main, Lowell  
(entrance in rear of building)  
CALL FOR FREE HOME BIBLE STUDIES

Pastor Robert L. Hubbard  
Phone: (616) 897-1267  
website: [www.aplighthouse.com](http://www.aplighthouse.com)

**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!

### 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

**CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)**  
3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery  
Robert W. Holmes, Senior Pastor  
Dave Noonon, 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 BRENDI BEHRENG 897-7915  
SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 49, ENTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING

**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

**"Lowell Mission" of the Evangelical Apostolic Church of North America**  
Located at 404 North Hudson  
(First Congregational Church Facility)

Christ Centered Sunday Worship.....4:00 PM  
Bishop Alex McCullough.....Clergy In Charge  
Reverend Deacon Mark O. Fleet, Clergy In Assistance  
Stacy, Ben, and Alex Fleet.....Musicians  
Parsonage.....(616) 897-2587  
Corporate Web Page.....<http://www.eacna.org>  
May the Lord fill you and bless you this day!

### 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

**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 a \$6 High).....6:30 P.M.  
Evening Praise.....7:00 P.M.  
Wednesday Kids Klub (ages 2-5).....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 • sbccb@juno.com

**NEED COPIES?**

Black & White  
15¢ per copy or  
10¢ per copy  
if more than 10 of same page

We have a NEW  
Color Copier!  
Color Copies  
8 1/2 x 11 size paper  
95¢ each  
discounts for 10 or more of same page

11x17 size paper  
\$1.25 each  
discounts for 10 or more of same page

Lowell Ledger  
105 N. Broadway,  
897-9855

## LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS BOARD BRIEFS

### Regular Meeting of December 13, 2004

**STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT** - Justin Quist, Student Council President and Student Representative to the Board, reported that the students are conducting a food drive and have collected over 1,000 items. The students are also involved in a clothing drive and with the "Adopt-a-family for Christmas Program" which includes 14 families. The next musical student production will be "Footloose."

**PERSONNEL UPDATE** - Connie Gillette introduced her new administrative assistant, Sean Smart.

**STUDENT RECOGNITION** - The Board recognized Coach Dee Crowley and the Girls Varsity Basketball Team and congratulated them for winning the district title.

**REPORT - High School Strategies Class Demonstration** - High school students Eris Walker and Lindsey Kremer presented their personal goals through a PowerPoint demonstration titled "Possible Selves."

### ACTION ITEMS -

- Accepted the following gifts:
  - Kate Democour donation of computer equipment and office chair valued at \$500 to be used by the Wittenbach Center.
  - Yvette O'Strander donation of books valued at \$25 to be used by the Curiosity Corner/Bright Beginnings program.
  - Alto Lions Club donation of \$500 to be used for a book budget at the Alto Elementary School library.
  - Sandi White donation of computer printer valued at \$90 to be used by Bushnell Elementary School.
  - Bev Toomey donation of books valued at \$30 to be used by the TOTS Program.
  - Doug Dowling donation of entryway mats valued at \$200 to be used by Cherry Creek Elementary School.
  - Stephen Carlson donation of little tykes car and seasonal posters valued at \$35 to be used by the TOTS Program.
  - Altior donation of computer equipment valued at \$4,650 to be used by the Lowell Area Schools Technology Department.
- CONSENT ITEMS** - Approved/adopted were:

Minutes for: November 4, 2004 Special Meeting, November 8, 2004 Public Hearing, November 8, 2004 Regular Meeting and Closed Session, November 18, 2004 Special Meeting and Closed Sessions, November 22, 2004 Workshop

The following payment of bills for November 2004:

GENERAL FUND.....\$1,221,200.34  
SCHOOL SERVICES FUND  
A. Food Service Fund.....\$77,707.52  
B. Athletic Fund.....\$ 39,903.10  
1990 DEBT FUND.....\$465.94  
2000 DEBT FUND.....\$ 159.33  
2004 CONSTRUCTION FUND.....\$31,444.32  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND.....\$ 3,005.00  
TRUST AND AGENCY FUND.....\$43,196.33

• Amended Board Policy #9720 "Parent/Guardian Involvement"

**FACILITY UPDATE** - Larry Mikulski reported that the Honeywell energy conservation projects are 80% complete. Due to these projects, the district is already realizing savings for water, sewer and electric.

**BUDGET UPDATE** - Connie Gillette reported that it is still unclear whether there will be a foundation allowance cut this school year even after last week's Revenue Consensus Conference. Kent County school officials just received bad news from recent legislative action. Kent Intermediate School District recently took over the employment of itinerants (school psychologists, speech pathologists, occupational therapist positions) in order to offer huge cost savings to the school districts. Now this recent legislation has made the project null and void. There is a press conference at Kent ISD scheduled to address the impact of this action.

**CURRICULUM REPORT** - Mark Kasmer reported on the high school MEAP scores and showed a comparison of the 2003 to 2004 scores for Ed Yes! Report card grades for the buildings are as follows: Alto - A, Bushnell - B, Cherry Creek - B, Middle School - B, High School - B, and Unity - C.

**AUDIT REPORT** - The auditor was delayed at another school district so the Board postponed the report for the January meeting.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** - Shari Miller stated that she was extremely disappointed in the recent legislation which prohibits the ISD to employ itinerant staff. This action takes away the \$300,000 anticipated cost savings to the district. Other ISD's are able to operate this type of an arrangement. There will be a press conference tomorrow to address the legislative action. Shari has been meeting with Unity students and has heard that their schooling at Unity is a very positive experience and students have high hopes of graduating. The district continues to work on reading at the elementary and secondary levels and the research is revealing that comprehension at the secondary level is lacking. A systemic plan will be put into place to meet this deficit. Shari thanked the teachers of the arts who have been putting on great holiday music programs. She asked people to count their blessings this Holiday Season.

**CLOSED SESSION** - The Board met in closed session to discuss negotiations and a legal opinion.

**ADDITION TO THE AGENDA** - The Board reconvened to open session and amended the Board agenda to include action item, "Administrator Contract."

**ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACT** - The Board approved the 2004-05 building administrators' and directors' contracts.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

Board Meeting  
Monday, January 10, 2005  
Runciman Administration Building - Board Room - 7:00 p.m.

Board Workshop  
Monday, January 24, 2005 - 5:30 p.m.  
Runciman Administration Building - Board Room

Please visit our web page at <http://www.lowell.k12.mi.us>

We Value:  
Responsibility • Respect • Caring • Trustworthiness  
• Fairness • Citizenship



# The Spirit of the season, continued ...From Page 1

A service learning grant funded the project, which the fifth graders chose over a Christmas party. In addition to learning character lessons, the students applied math knowledge to measuring ingredients; reading to deciphering recipes; and science to studying the effects of heat on marshmallows, chocolate and other ingredients. They also applied art and writing to making Christmas greeting cards, not to mention using their musical ability to sing songs.

Lowell High School recently completed a food drive and a clothing drive, both benefiting F.R.O.M. Tim Dimmick's seminar class brought in the most non-perishable food items; Nick Blough's was second. Both classes received a pizza party. The top three classes combined brought in over 1,000 food items.

The high school also adopted 14 needy families in the Lowell area. They collected money, and purchased toys and some necessities for them. LAS Outreach, for instance, collected money for about a month and a half to buy food and Meijer gift certificates for a family of four. "A lot of it was just member support," said club spokesperson Adam Ingraham.

Students at St. Patrick's Catholic School in Parnell collected coats, hats, mittens

and other winter clothing for "Sitty's Wish," which distributes it to needy children in the Grand Rapids Public Schools (GRPS). Kathryn Kampfschulte, who started the program four years ago at the GRPS facilities services building, gave the program its name. It comes from the Arabic word for grandmother.

"My goal every year is that by the time kids leave for winter break, kids who need hats and coats and boots and mittens have them," Kampfschulte said.

St. Patrick's contributed to that goal, collecting about 75 jackets and coats and "at least as many mittens and hats," principal Sue Deugaw said.

St. Patrick's participated in the program for the second year in a row this year. Rockford's Crestwood Elementary also collects clothing for Sitty's Wish, and Comstock Park's Stoney Creek school puts up a mitten tree for the cause. Kampfschulte also accepts donations of gently used winter clothes and money from the general public. She uses monetary donations to shop for winter clothing at thrift stores.

"I am pretty particular," she said. "I would not give a child something I would not give my own grandchild."

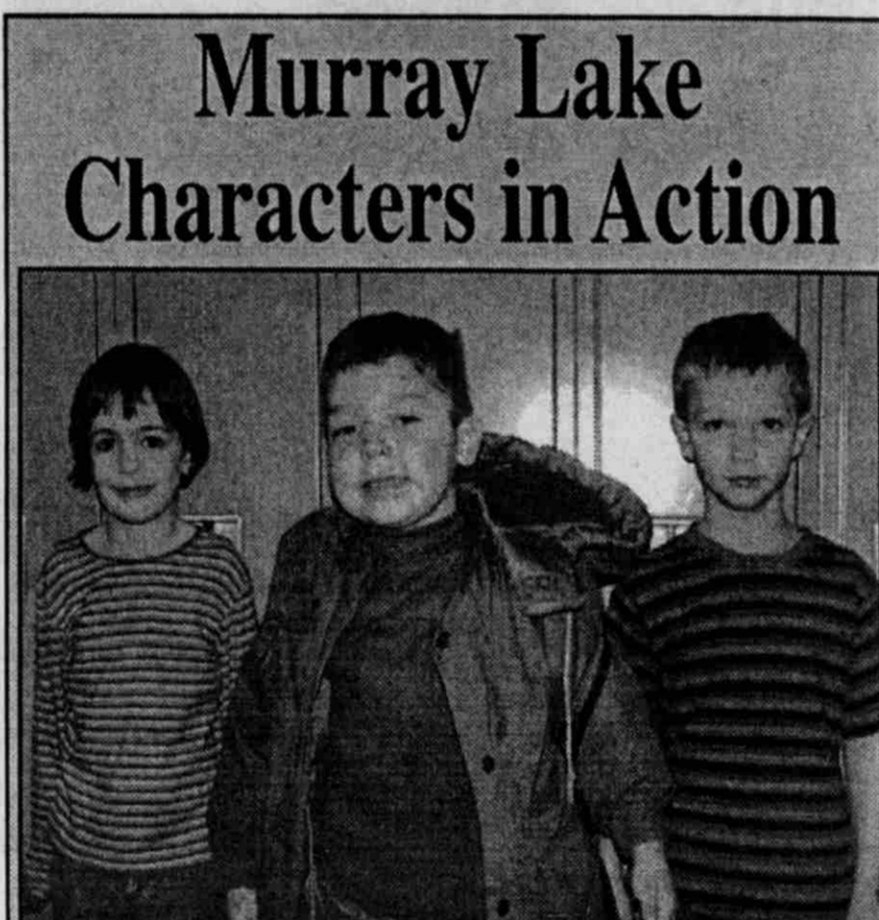
For those interested in donating to Sitty's Wish, Kampfschulte can be reached at 819-3010.



Members of Alto Elementary's student council (third, fourth and fifth graders) organized the collection of non-perishable food items and toys to benefit needy families through Flat River Outreach Ministries. All five grade levels at the elementary school contributed, filling to overflowing the cardboard boxes painted to resemble a steam freight train.



Gail Vidro, from left, Amanda Cell and Martha Hayden are pictured with a box of toys collected at Bushnell Elementary for needy kids in the Lowell area. For the past 10 years, the Lowell Education Association and the Lowell Educational Support Personnel Association have sponsored a toy collection throughout Lowell Area Schools. Teachers, bus drivers, administrators and other school staff contribute. This year's toys will go to Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc. for distribution around Lowell.



Pictured are three of the award winners, left to right: Madison Stephens, Samuel Mason and Alex Trollman.

The following students were also nominated by their teacher at Murray Lake Elementary for displaying the character traits in their actions on a daily basis: Brittany Applegate, Danny Kruse, Morgan Wittenbach, Hayden Hoffman, Jessica Sheveland, Leah Brogger, Sarah Sheldon, Fallon Fox, Kayleigh Lambert, Sophie Kohtz, McKinsie Rice, Jayme Peterson, Joe Sweet, Sawyer Buck, Bailey VanAmburgh, Logan Wilcox, Samantha Petrovich, Kayla Kole, Jordan Harding, Nickolas Higgins, Caitlyn Serne, Gabe Steed, Eric Gable, Katie Haefner, Nathan Whittum and Taylor Furtaw.

# Lowell's scores slip in some areas, but above state average on MEAP

By Dan Schneider

Lowell High School stayed ahead of the state average in all testing areas on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program tests taken in the spring by the current senior class. The results of the spring test were presented at the Dec. 13 school board meeting.

Lowell High School scored 65 on the math test, down five points from 2003. The state average stayed level at 51.

Lowell fell from 73 to 70

on the science test, but gained three points relative to the state average. The state dropped six points to 51.

Lowell stayed level on social studies while the state dropped three points. Both Lowell's and the state average have hovered in the 30s since the test started in 2000.

"I think this is really an indication of kids who don't try, because there's no Merit attached to it and it's a big test," said Mark Kasmer, Lowell Area Schools assistant superintendent for curriculum

and instruction.

The state awards Merit scholarships for achievement in the other testing areas.

"Our indicators at school show that the kids are better prepared than is shown on the test (in social studies)," Kasmer said.

Lowell dropped relative to the state this year in both reading and writing. In 2003, it was 13 points ahead of the state in reading at 84. This year, Lowell dropped and the state gained leaving Lowell ahead 78-76. The same hap-

pened in writing, with Lowell falling from 71 to 54 while the state dropped from 49 to 48.

"The most disturbing thing, I think, is the writing area," Kasmer said. "That's continued to drop over the past few years and that needs to be a priority of ours. This district is usually double digits above the state."

The next step for the district is what Kasmer calls "mining the data": looking at individual test results to find groups that struggled with certain material. The district can

then develop ways to target improvements.

"We take this very seriously because it's a reflection of our work," Kasmer said. "You have a dedicated group of people who are hard working and I think we're definitely going to continue to show improvement."

He said it is important to look at the scores over a period of several years.

At the board meeting, Kasmer also presented "Ed Yes" report card grades and federal No Child Left Behind Act results for Lowell High School and Unity High School.

Based on test results for the class of 2004, Lowell High School achieved a Michigan Ed Yes grade of B and Unity High School made a C grade.

With the high school results added to the elementary and middle school test results (the middle school and all the elementary made B grades except for Alto which made an A grade on the Ed Yes Report Card), the district as a whole made adequate yearly progress (AYP).

AYP is part of the federal No Child Left Behind Act. It

compiles state testing results and looks at school buildings and whole districts. Buildings and districts must exceed a yearly benchmark and improve on their own perfor-

mance from one year to the next. To meet AYP, the district/building as a whole must show the necessary improvement in math and literacy, have at least a 95 percent test participation rate, have a graduation rate of better than 80 percent and an attendance of 85 percent or better.

The AYP calculation also defines four subgroups: economically disadvantaged, special education, limited English proficient, and racial and ethnic groups. For a district to meet AYP, the students in the four subgroups must all meet the standards, as well.

Lowell High School made AYP this year. The district as a whole also made AYP. Unity High School missed the AYP mark.

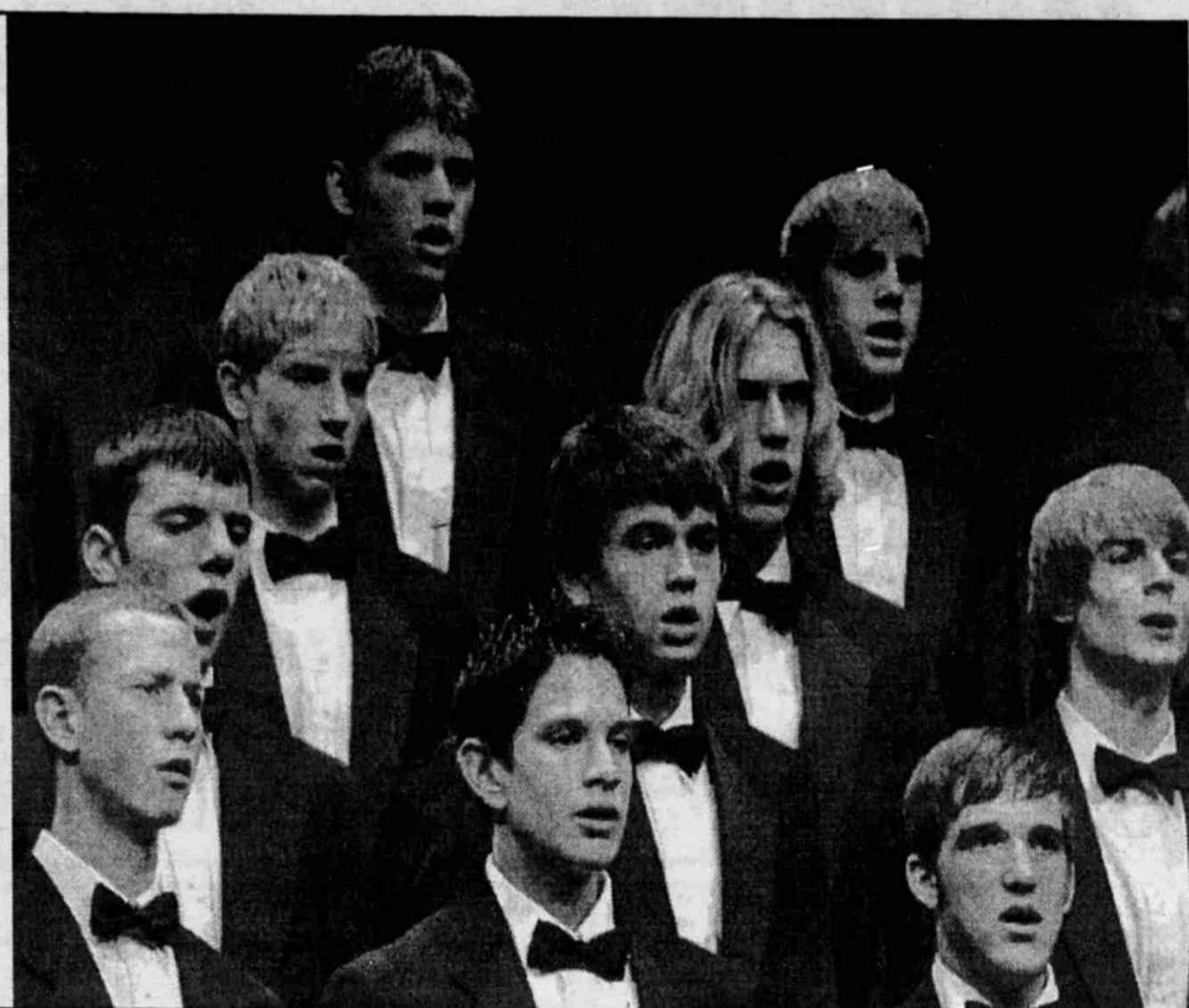
It takes 30 students to make up a subgroup, and Unity's testing class did not have that many students. For schools as small as Unity, the calculations used to determine AYP accumulates data from multiple years of testing until the right-sized sample is reached. Kasmer said 95 of the high schools that did not make AYP were small schools.

"I'd say 90 percent of those are alternative schools," Kasmer said.

The Unity students were included in the calculation of the overall district AYP.

## Songs of the season

The Lowell High School choir gave a performance at the Lowell Performing Arts Center last Thursday evening. The program included choral works ranging from a Russian sleigh song to the Latin "Sanctus." Both the Ladies' Ensemble and the full choir performed.



## Lowell grad accepted as member of GR Bar Association

Kyla Kuzmin, a top 10 graduate of Lowell High School, was accepted as a member of the Grand Rapids Bar Association in November 2004.

Kuzmin graduated from Grand Valley State University in 2001 and was awarded Outstanding Student of the Year in the Legal Studies program. In May 2004, she

graduated from the Juris Doctor program at Georgetown Law School in Washington, D.C. Kuzmin is currently employed at Hettinger and Hettinger in Kalamazoo.

She is married to Nicholas Kuzmin, also a graduate of Lowell High School. Her parents are Rosemary and Greg Dean of Lowell.

## Getzen to serve as state police commander

Michigan State Police Director Colonel Tadarial J. Getzen has announced that Captain Barry Getzen has been promoted to major and commander of Region 1 covering six State Police districts,

the Motor Carrier Division and the Special Investigations Division in Lansing.

Getzen will cover outside Michigan and be responsible for coordinating and delivering effective and efficient police services in criminal investigations and traffic enforcement within his region.

Prior to his promotion, Getzen served as the Sixth District commander with responsibilities for eight State Police posts covering 13 counties in Western Michigan.

Getzen currently resides in Lowell with his wife Jean and their two children.

**SUBSCRIBE TO THE LEDGER**  
**\$15/year in Kent County**  
**\$22.50/year outside Kent County**  
*A subscription makes a great gift!*  
**Ph. 897-9261**  
*Credit Card Required for a phone order*

**PEBBLE BEACH APARTMENTS**  
 1102 - 1116 Bowes Rd. • Lowell, MI 49331  
 Call Penny (616) 897-6880

**\$995<sup>00</sup>**  
**MOVE IN SPECIAL**  
*13 Month Lease*  
 Includes: Security Deposit, Cleaning Fee (Non Refundable), 1st Month's Rent

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

From all of us at  
**Floors By Design, Inc.**

**WATCH FOR OUR GRAND OPENING IN JANUARY 2005**

*Natural Stone Carpets, ceramic tile, wood flooring, solid surface counter tops, radiant heating, electric floor warming and much more.*

1301 Bowes Rd., Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-4124  
 Licensed and Insured  
 Visit us at [www.fbdstone.com](http://www.fbdstone.com)  
 Member of the Lowell Chamber of Commerce

## Treatment plant, cont'd...

From Page 4

"They will be getting water similar to what you would get from Saranac, Ionia and Melding," Regan explained, adding that the water is still good quality without being treated and an added bonus is that it contains no iron.

Dixon Engineering was contracted in June to oversee the bidding project and the work. Dixon will be on hand for three hours each work day for inspections.

The approved bid came about \$13,000 shy of the estimated cost of \$80,000; however Regan did caution that there could be additional costs once the work starts because of the steel being 30 years old and in a very aggressive environment.

**“A CROWN IN ONE VISIT ...SIMPLE!”**

*"If I had known it would be this easy, I wouldn't have put off getting a crown for so long. One visit and it was done. The crown fits and looks great. I have my smile back...simple!"*

**Family Dentistry of Lowell**  
 - ANN WILSON, D.D.S. -

Tel. 897-4835 • 147 North Center Street • Lowell

**NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS 897-4835**

**We want to be your Other Family Doctor.**

**ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LOWELL**

- Sick or Injured Animals Seen Same Day
- Evenings & Saturday Hours Available
- Early Drop-off & House Calls
- 24-Hour Emergency Service
- Science Diet Pet Foods
- Boarding & Grooming

Call 897-8484  
 11610 East Fabus Street • Lowell, Michigan

**Wittenbach Center**  
 11715 Vergennes • 987-1002

**CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING PROGRAM**

Bring your Christmas Tree to the Wittenbach Center to be shredded into mulch for Nature Trails between Dec. 26th & Jan. 8th.

If you would like your tree picked up within the city limits or Eastgate, please mark your tree with a pick up tag available at the Wittenbach Center, Buyers Guide or L&A Rent-All

*This event is sponsored this year by:*  
**The Buyers Guide & L&A Rent-All**

**COMMUNITY EVENT**  
 Sat., Jan. 8  
 Noon - 4 p.m. Christmas Tree Shredding  
*Shredder donated by L&A Rent-All*

**4-6 p.m. Luminary Walk & Bonfire**  
 Snowshoes available for rent.





**Tie a MADD Ribbon on a visible part of your car to show others your support TO STOP Drunk Driving and your commitment to DRIVE SOBER!**

**MADD of KENT COUNTY**  
146 MONROE CENTER N.W.  
**456-MADD**

**MADD Mission**  
"To stop drunk driving, support the victims of this violent crime and prevent underage drinking."



# PUT THE BRAKES ON DRUNK DRIVING

**PICK UP YOUR RED RIBBON AT ANY OF THESE BUSINESSES**

<p><b>VOYAGES</b> COFFEE SHOP 307-B E. Main 897-4337</p>	<p><b>STOCK</b> Building Supply 925 W. Main Lowell 897-9291</p>	<p><b>RONDA</b> A Great Place to Re-tire LOWELL 746 W. MAIN 897-6200</p>	<p><b>COLDWELL BANKER</b> HOPPOUGH &amp; ASSOCIATES 200 West Main St. Lowell, MI 897-0500</p>	<p><b>DOCTORS CHIROPRACTIC</b> 11827 E. FULTON 897-4999</p>
<p><b>ICNB</b> Hometown Banking www.icnb.com 2601 W. Main 897-6171</p>	<p><b>HAROLD ZEIGLER FORD LOWELL</b> 11979 E. Fulton, Lowell, MI 897-8431</p>	<p><b>Keiser's</b> "A Family Tradition Since 1945" 724 E. MAIN LOWELL 897-8455</p>	<p><b>CAR CITY</b> 2399 West Main St. Lowell, MI 897-8100</p>	<p><b>Arctic, Inc.</b> HEATING &amp; AIR CONDITIONING 1301 Bowes Rd., Lowell, MI 49331 897-4123 www.heatingcoolingonline.com Licensed &amp; Insured</p>
<p><b>LOWELL POLICE DEPARTMENT</b> 111 N. Monroe 897-7123</p>	<p><b>ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LOWELL</b> 11610 E. Fulton 897-8484</p>	<p><b>JAMES E. REAGAN, D.D.S.</b> 207 West Main 897-7179</p>	<p><b>Lowell Lanes</b> 11550 E. Fulton, Lowell, MI 897-8443</p>	<p><b>Wittenbach GMC</b> 749 West Main 897-9227</p>
<p><b>Thomet</b> CHEVROLET • BUICK 1250 W. Main Lowell 897-9294</p>	<p><b>GERST FUNERAL HOMES</b> Advanced Funeral Planning Specialists ROTH-GERST 305 N. Hudson, Lowell 897-7101 O'BRIEN-EGGEBEEN-GERST 3980 Cascade Rd., S.E., Grand Rapids 949-7350</p>	<p><b>REGAL INSURANCE</b> 897-9259  835 W. MAIN Dale &amp; Nancy Triplett Agents</p>	<p><b>Howboat</b> AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY, INC.  1450 W. Main, Lowell, MI (616) 897-9231</p>	<p><b>STATE FARM INSURANCE</b> Roger Chapman 217 West Main 897-9237</p>
<p><b>Bernard's ACE Hardware</b> 1601 W. Main 897-9490</p>	<p> Little Caesars 505 W. Main 897-0043</p>	<p> Salon, Inc. 204 W. Main 897-1700</p>	<p><b>LOWELL LITHO</b> <b>Lowell Ledger Buyers Guide</b> "Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893" "Your Guide To Better Buying Since 1954" 105 N. Broadway 897-9261</p>	

# 2004 Year in Review

## JANUARY 7

**Goals for the city in 2004**  
Dave Pasquale, City Manager

"The most important thing is to have a balanced budget. Our goal is to provide a better level of services while maintaining our same millage level. The problem is we're being challenged with less revenue sharing (from the state).

Jim Valentine, Police Chief

"The main thing would be just trying to maintain our department operations with the current funding constraints."

...One of the things Valentine hopes the police department will offer in 2004 is a second series of citizens police academy classes.

done pretty well for the economic times," Shores said. "In the last year we've had a lot of successes and a lot of challenges but I think we faced the challenges with dignity and fairness. I think we did okay."

Liz Baker, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director

"Our merchant group is a committee inside the chamber and I think the goals for them would be to continue to improve communication between the city and business. Our marketing is the 'Secret is Out' campaign. We'll be continuing that but we're also looking for other ways (of marketing) and to expand that..."

"As far as business in Lowell, our goal is always going to be 'how can we make Lowell a destination,'" Baker explained. "And not only that but how can we encourage our local community to shop and buy in Lowell."

Lorain Smalligan  
Executive Director  
Lowell Area Arts Council

"We always want to have more participation in our events. Probably our goal is to improve our tools for getting the word out about events." Smalligan said it is important to communicate to the public the nature of events, including why they are interesting and who was involved in their creation.

While the federal government hasn't set its budget yet, it is estimated the city of Lowell will be receiving around \$49,199 in community development.



In its first meeting of the new year, the Lowell City Council elected Jeanne Shores to her second term as mayor of Lowell.

Jeanne Shores, Mayor  
"I would like to bring some industry into town. I would like to see something in the Attwood building, something permanent."  
...I feel that Lowell has

opment block grant money.

In an ongoing series The Lowell Ledger plans to document the history of buildings not prominent to the public eye, examine some of the factors that have shaped the look of the city and surrounding area, and document the aesthetic properties of the city at various times during its history....

A new account will allow donors to contribute toward the development of the Lowell Community Trailway.

The Lowell Area Recreation Authority, a volunteer group working to create the trail, has set up an account for tax-deductible donations. The city of Lowell is administering the temporary account, which will allow the LARA to take in donations while it seeks to become a nonprofit organization.

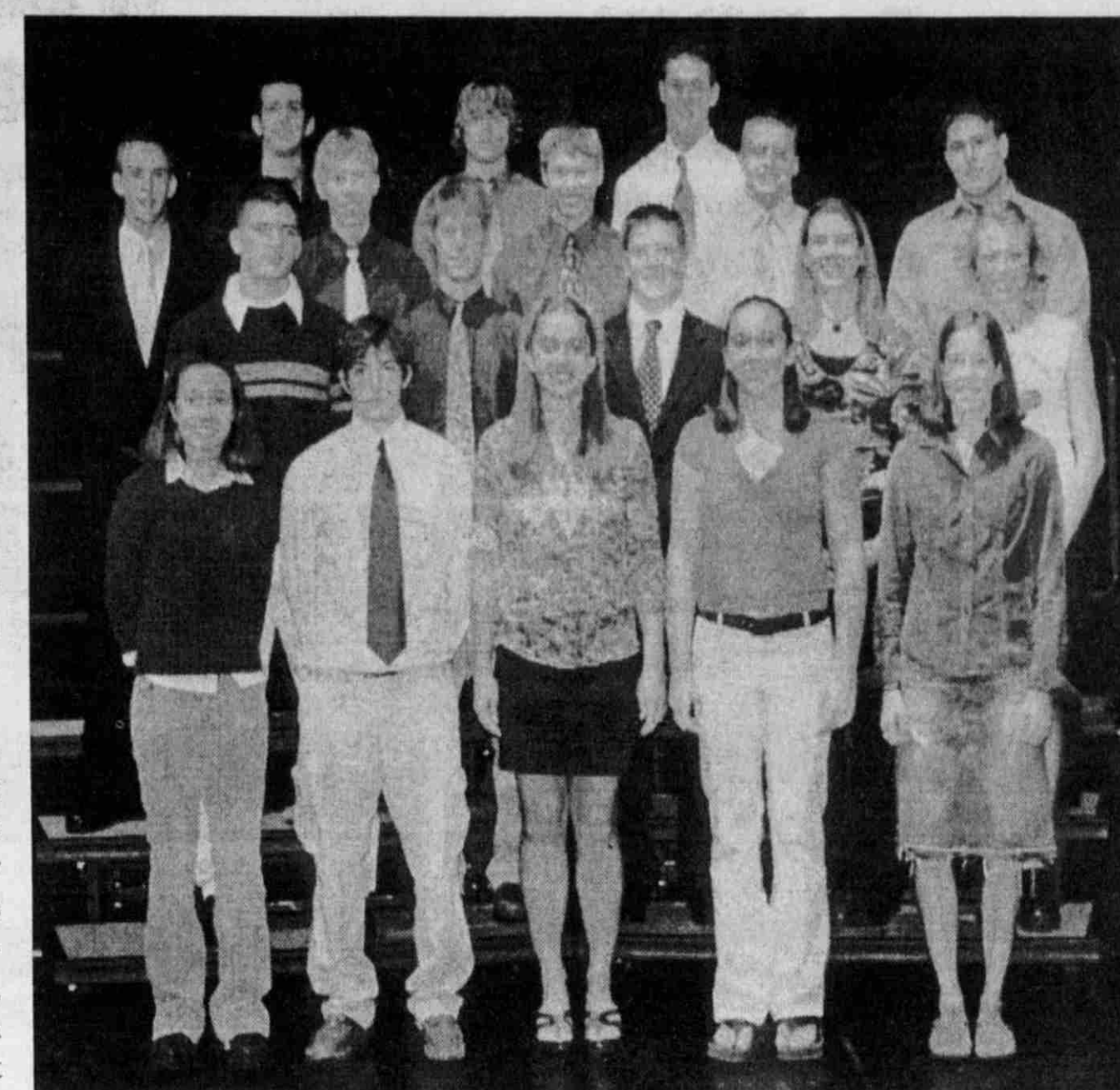
The Lowell American Legion donated \$30,000 to the Lowell Area Historical Museum. The donation will be put toward an exhibit about Lowell war veterans and toward the restoration of the west portion of the Graham building.

Christmas tree recycling at the Wittenbach Center on Vergennes last Saturday prevented more than 100 trees from going to landfills.

"This is more than we've ever had," Tammy DeBar said... Jay Vezino and Ron Soules drove around and picked up trees for recycling. The resulting woodchips will be enough to spread over the half-mile interpretive trail at the Wittenbach Center.

**JANUARY 14**  
Last June the Flat River Snowmobile Club decided to shut down after being in existence for 21 years.

At its meeting Monday, the Lowell Area Schools Board of Education approved



Fall all-conference athletes 2003

Pictured, 1st row, from left to right: Mandy Gunberg (girls tennis), Matt D'Agostino (boys soccer), Kendra Gallert (girls basketball), Devon Collins (girls basketball), Abbie Debiak (girls cross country); 2nd row: Frank Mulder (football), Luke Tomczak (boys golf), Shane Stokes (boys soccer), Amy Oberlin (girls basketball), Sarah Swab (girls cross country); 3rd row: Matt Scheider (boys golf), Scott Riddle (boys cross country), Steve Ellison (boys cross country), Jeff McPherson (football), Ed Zigmont (football); 4th row: Sam Oberlin (boys soccer) Josh Anderson (boys soccer), Mike Koster (football).

an amended budget for the 2003-2004 school year. The amended budget shows excess expenditures of \$794,570.

Lowell Middle Schoolers Meghan Majestic and Gabby Trembley have organized a charity drive to benefit area humane societies.

Furniture was moved, a building reopened, a park named, and a wellhead protection program instituted... 2003 was a busy year for the city of Lowell.

City manager, David Pasquale gave his final report of the city's activities at the first meeting of 2004 on Jan. 5. Pasquale said the city had accomplished quite a bit during the year. "The biggest one is the one we are all sitting in right now," Pasquale said.

At the Jan. 12 board of education meeting, superintendent Shari Miller presented

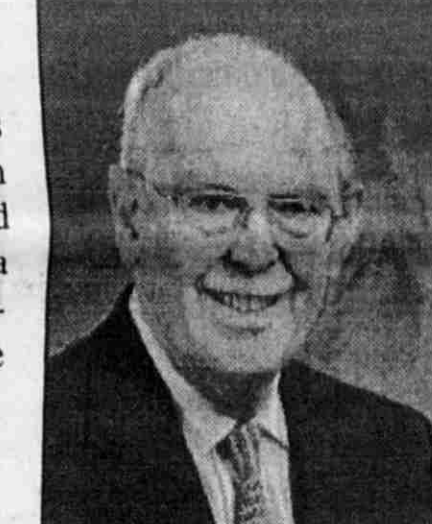
"And by that, I mean the City Hall/police station, which was completed on time and on budget." The City Hall opened in the summer followed by a Masonic ceremony for the cornerstone, conducted during the annual Riverwalk Festival.

## JANUARY 21

In a speech given at the annual joint meeting of the Lowell Rotary Club and the Lowell Women's Club last Wednesday, Secretary of State Terry Lynn Land talked about some new ideas her office is putting into effect.

"If you feel like you don't get good service or they're not doing what they're supposed to do, let us know," Land said.

At the Jan. 12 board of education meeting, superintendent Shari Miller presented



In a speech given Jan. 14 at the Lowell Performing Arts Center, M. Peter McPherson gave an update on U.S. efforts to rebuild the economy in Iraq.

Iraq has been given the "building blocks" of a renewed economy, McPherson said, and is at several advantages for economic development compared to developing countries. Before the country can take lasting steps toward financial growth and a strong job market, however, it must achieve security and political stability.

her goals for the school district for the next few years.

These "strategic change priorities" include improving performance on state assessments, developing the district's own assessment program, and improving communication and accountability with parents and the school board.

In the early morning of Dec. 30, 2003, Rachel Penninga lost her life in a car accident. Those who knew her remember her for her undying spirit.

"She always believed in us," said Katie Clements, a friend of Penninga's through-

Cont'd. next page...

**MARK'S RESTAURANT**  
301 W. MAIN  
Steak, Seafood, Mexican & More  
897-5977

Helen Jacobs, 11 Mrs. Vezino St. Patrick/Parnell

**Celebrating Kwanzaa is coming**

Joshua Lloyd Mr. Bredin Cherry Creek Elementary

Gloria Rivera Mr. MacDonald Alto Elementary

**L.A. TRIM**  
897-6546



**Year-In-Review, continued...**

out high school. "She was one of those people who taught you you could be a better person."

A fire last Thursday evening destroyed the Lowell High School softball team's

of last year's police activity submitted to the city council. The figure above includes arrests for multiple charges, such as an individual arrested for drunk driving and also charged with carrying open intoxicants.

Warrant arrests frequently occur during traffic stops. A

subject may be pulled over for speeding and found to have a warrant from another jurisdiction.

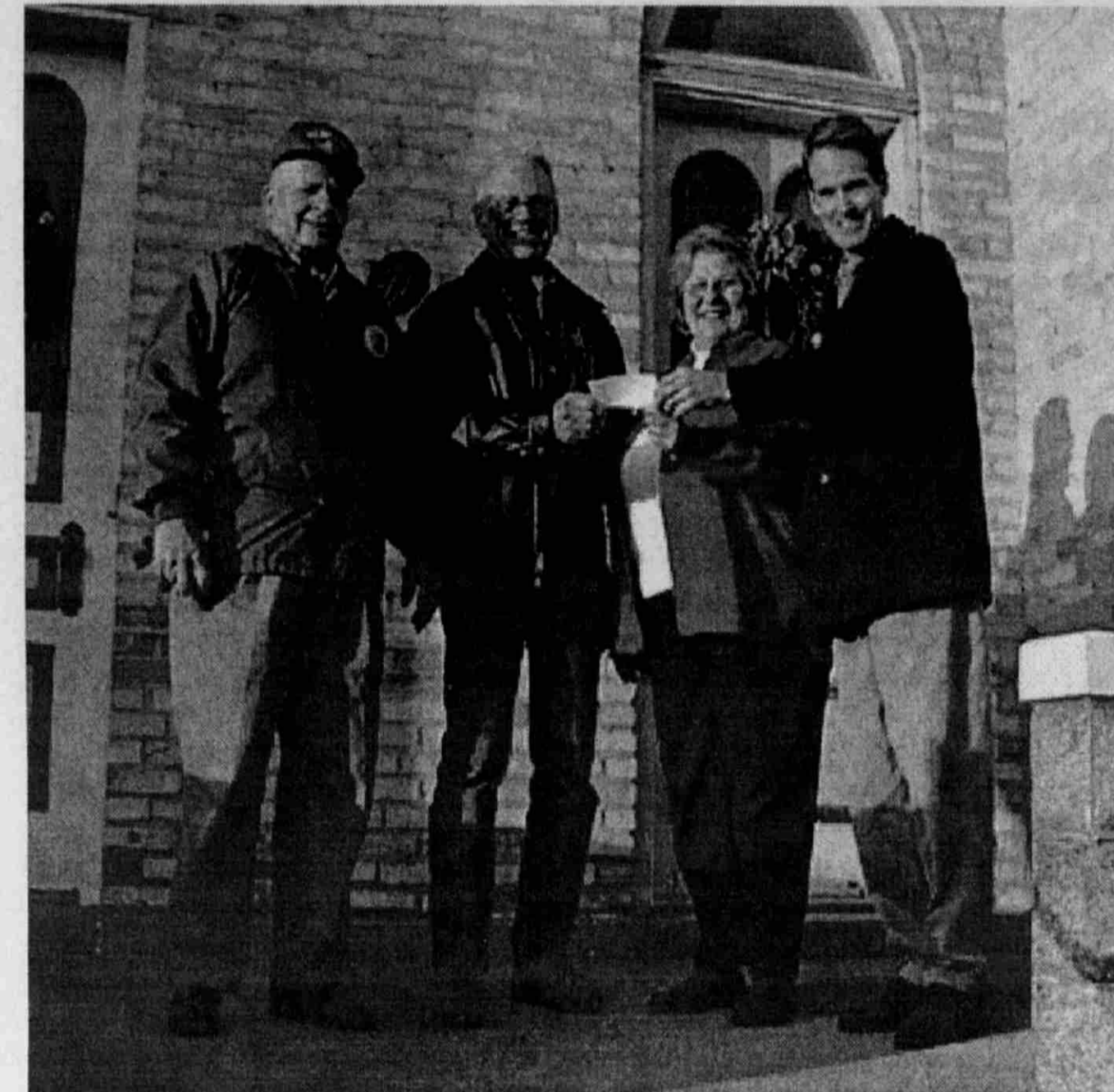
Lowell police logged 2,978 total complaints for 2003.

The North Kent Transit Service will get an increase,

sidewalks get the go-ahead, and the Rockford Ambulance gets its money toward vehicle locators. That is what the Lowell City Council decided to allocate its 2004-2005 Community Development Block Grant funds on.

In 1994, the city of Lowell and Wendell Christoff entered into a five-year agreement for a 15-foot pathway on the east side of Litehouse, Inc., property to allow school children a safe route to the elementary and middle school buildings.

Oeey Goey Greetings is on sound financial ground following the holiday season. The business, staffed by Deb Greenhoe's cognitively-impaired pre-vocational class at Lowell Middle School, manufactures and sells bouquets out of the classroom. They have sold quite well.



Richard Bieri, left, and Fay Johnson, representing the Lowell American Legion, presented a check to Judy Straub and Jim Doyle of the Lowell Area Historical Museum. The \$30,000 donation was used toward the restoration of the museum building and the creation of an exhibit about Lowell war veterans. Jan. 21

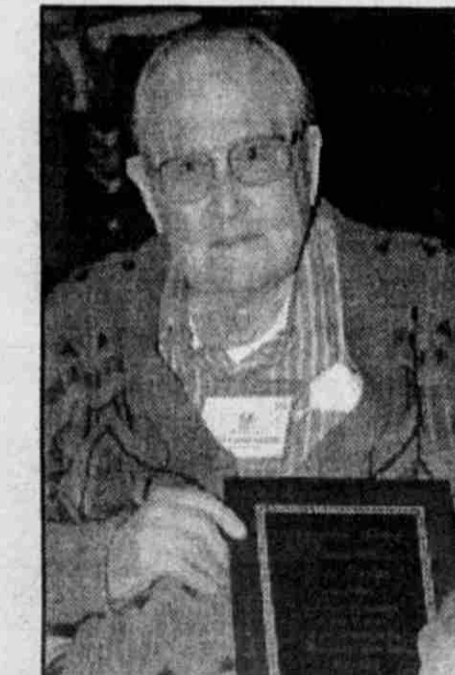
paper-drive trailer in the parking lot of Curtis Cleaners on West Main Street.

The trailer has been a fixture in the Lowell community for the past several years. The paper drive raised money for the softball program. Also, over the last two years the team has given \$400 to the food pantry at Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc.

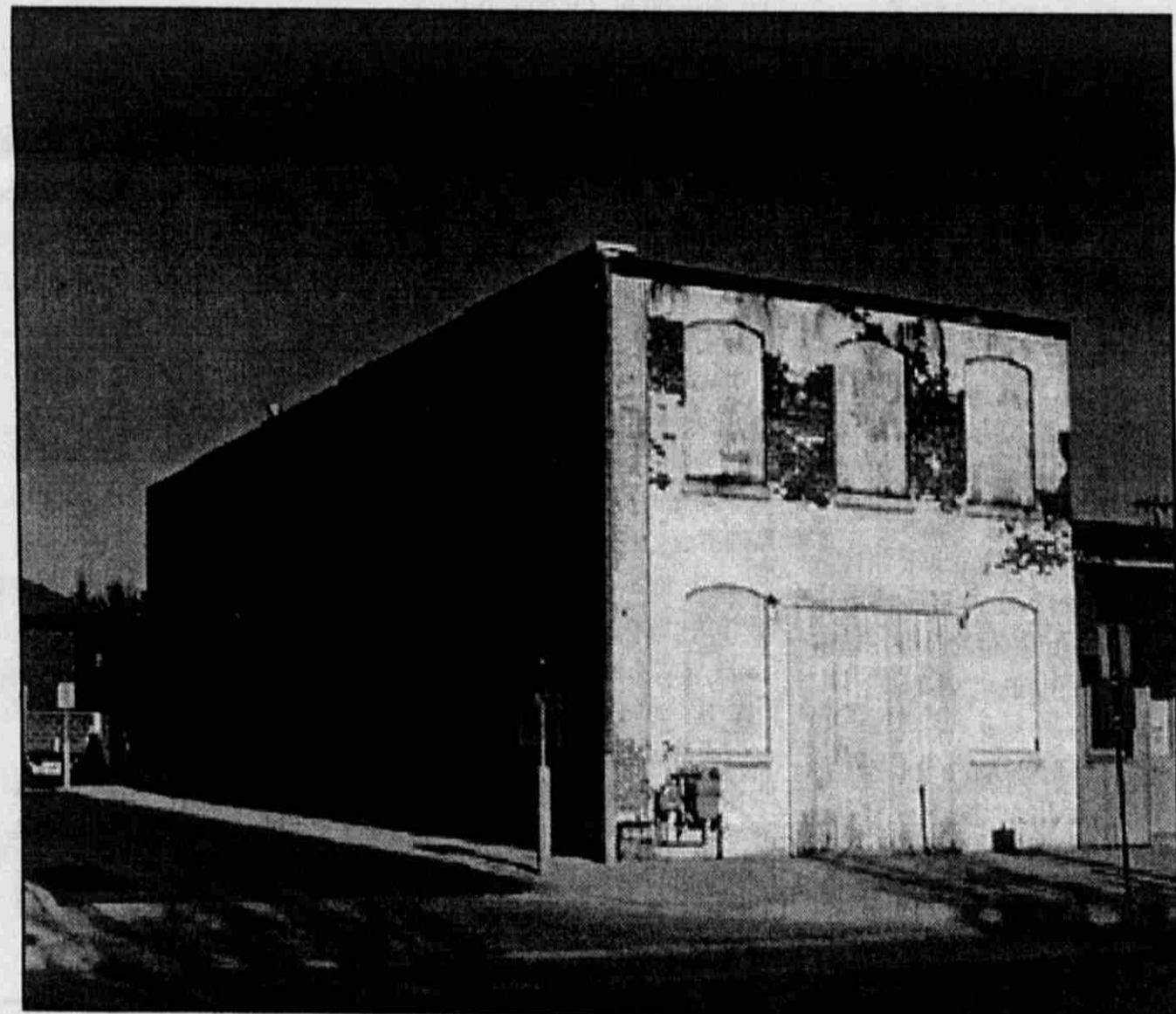
**JANUARY 28**

Work crews began construction last Monday on the Tractor Supply Company store. The store will fill part of the space at 2153 W. Main left vacant when the Family Fare grocery store closed in September of 2002.

The Lowell Police Department made 400 arrests in 2003, according to a summary



E.L. Phelps holds the award he received Jan. 9, recognizing 70 years of service to the Kent County Youth Fair. The 85 year old showed a jersey calf at the first 4-H Fair when he was 14. Since then, he has served in various instrumental roles in the fair's history, including fair president.



317 East Main Street was the first building profiled in *The Ledger's* series on the history of the aesthetic environment in Lowell.

Pauline Harrington  
Mr. Bredin  
Cherry Creek Elementary

Santa's doggy helpers

Salon, Inc. 204 W. Main • 897-1700



Charles Doyle receives citation from NARFE chapter president, Sam Densmore. Jan. 7

Her name may be familiar to some voters since she ran for the Lowell City Council in the last election. Jerri Teelander has taken a seat on a city board - the planning commission to be specific.

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce presented two awards recognizing good citizenship at its annual meeting of the membership last Thursday at the Deer Run Golf Course.

The first went to an individual, George Mickel, for his countless hours of volunteer service to the Lowell community.

The other award went to a business, Litehouse, Inc. The award recognized the company's role as an important employer in the community, its community investment, and its volunteer service to the Lowell community.

**FEBRUARY 4**  
The Englehardt Library in Lowell is the site of the Democratic presidential caucus for the city of Lowell, and the townships of Lowell, Vergennes, Bowne, Grattan and Caledonia.

Seven candidates remain in the running for the Democratic nomination....Retired General Wesley Clark, former Vermont governor Howard Dean, U.S. Senator John Edwards, U.S. Senator John Kerry, U.S. Representative Dennis Kucinich, U.S. Senator Joe Lieberman and the reverend Al Sharpton.

Tom Beggs of North Washington Street in Lowell got a perfect hand in cribbage.

**FEBRUARY 11**  
A vehicle sliding off the road at the corner of Sayles and Marble in Keene Town-

Cont'd., next page...

**HOLIDAY PRESS**

E. BUNNY ARRESTED

FREAK WITH REDNOSE!

CHRISTMAS COPIES

Jeffrey Onan  
Mrs. Pupil  
Cherry Creek Elementary

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

**Cont'd. from last page...**

ship two weeks ago renewed safety concerns among par-

Brown to issue advice for protecting mail.

Brown said outgoing collection mail, such as bill payments, is safer if dropped in postal boxes.

**FEBRUARY 18**

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce Merchant Group has printed some yellow cards which are now available at various shops and eat-

The drop box in front of the Lowell post office was broken into last Wednesday night.

A postal employee discovered the break-in and mail theft early Thursday morning. So far, there are no suspects in the investigation

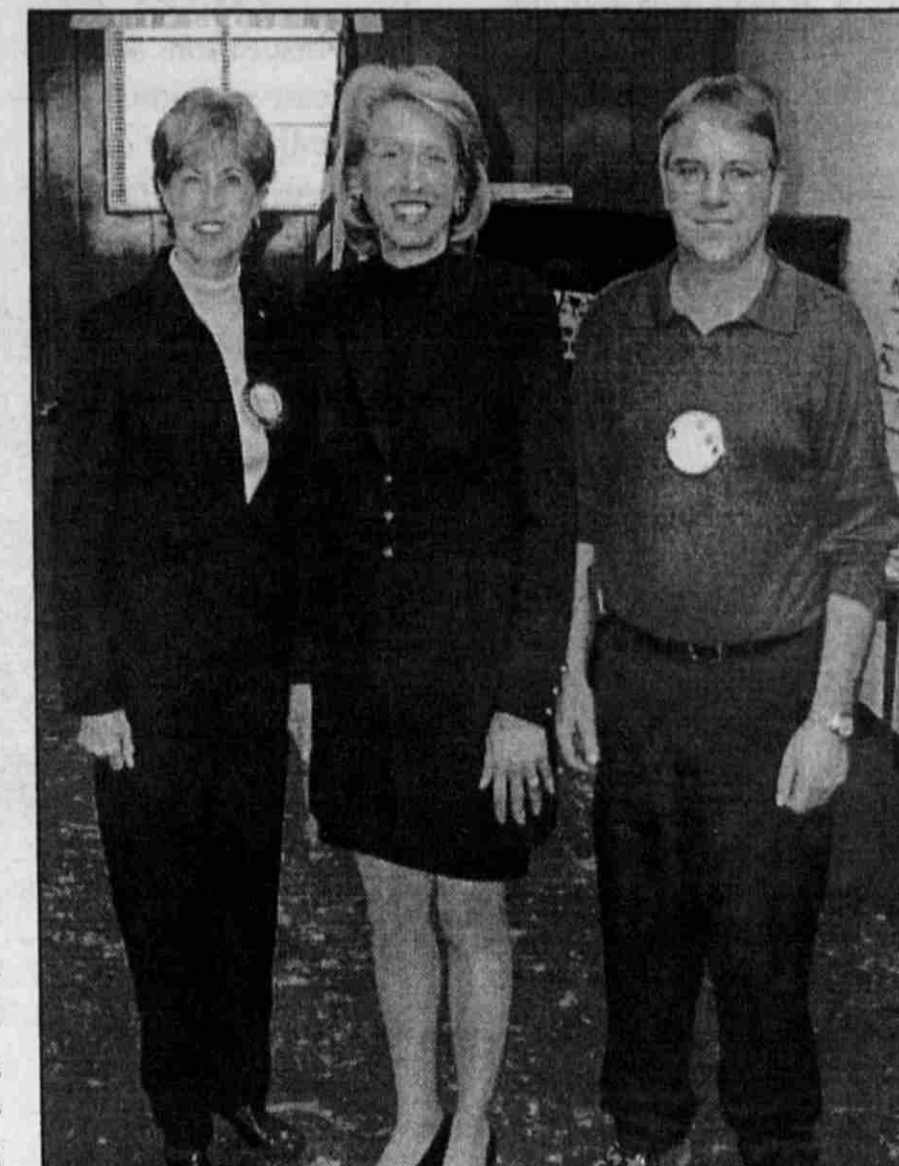
A \$50,000 grant from the Lowell Area Community Fund (LACF) will help the Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board get started preserving farmland. The county will preserve the land through its new Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program. The grant funds will be used to preserve land in Lowell and Vergennes townships.

LTJG Joel S. Uzarski, a 1996 Lowell High School graduate, will be deploying with the USS McFaul (DDG-74) this month. LTJG Uzarski has served as the Training and Readiness officer aboard the Norfolk, Virginia-based naval destroyer since May 2003. This will be his second deployment to the Arabian Gulf Region (Iraq/Iran/Saudi Arabia) in the last two years.

**FEBRUARY 25**

U.S. postal inspectors arrested Matthew Crouthamel, 24, last Friday in Mount Pleasant in connection with the recent string of mid-Michigan postal drop box break-ins.

... Cancellation of the last round of contract negotiations prevented further progress to... has existed between the metro Grand Rapids YMCA board and the Lowell YMCA's board of managers. The prob-



Judy Harrison, left, and Pete Odland, both of the Rotary Club with Secretary of State Terry Lynn Land.

ward a resolution for teachers and support staff in the Lowell Area Schools, but union representatives are optimistic about the potential for a settlement.

"We're hopeful to see an agreement being reached," said Vicki Fredline, president of the Lowell Education Support Personnel Association.

Since last October, a rift

lem started when YMCA administrators in Grand Rapids fired Will Welsh, then executive director of the Lowell branch, without prior communication with the Lowell board...

...Once the new associate director is hired, his or her first task will be to work with the community to establish goals for the Lowell YMCA.

Cont'd. next page...

Kelsey Mankel  
Mr. Jacobus  
Murray Lake Elementary

**LOWELL MEDICAL SPECIALISTS**  
Mark Evenhouse MD • John Mogor MD  
Joan Miedema MD  
1150 N. Hudson, Lowell • 897-8436

Adam DeVries  
Mr. Bredin  
Cherry Creek Elementary

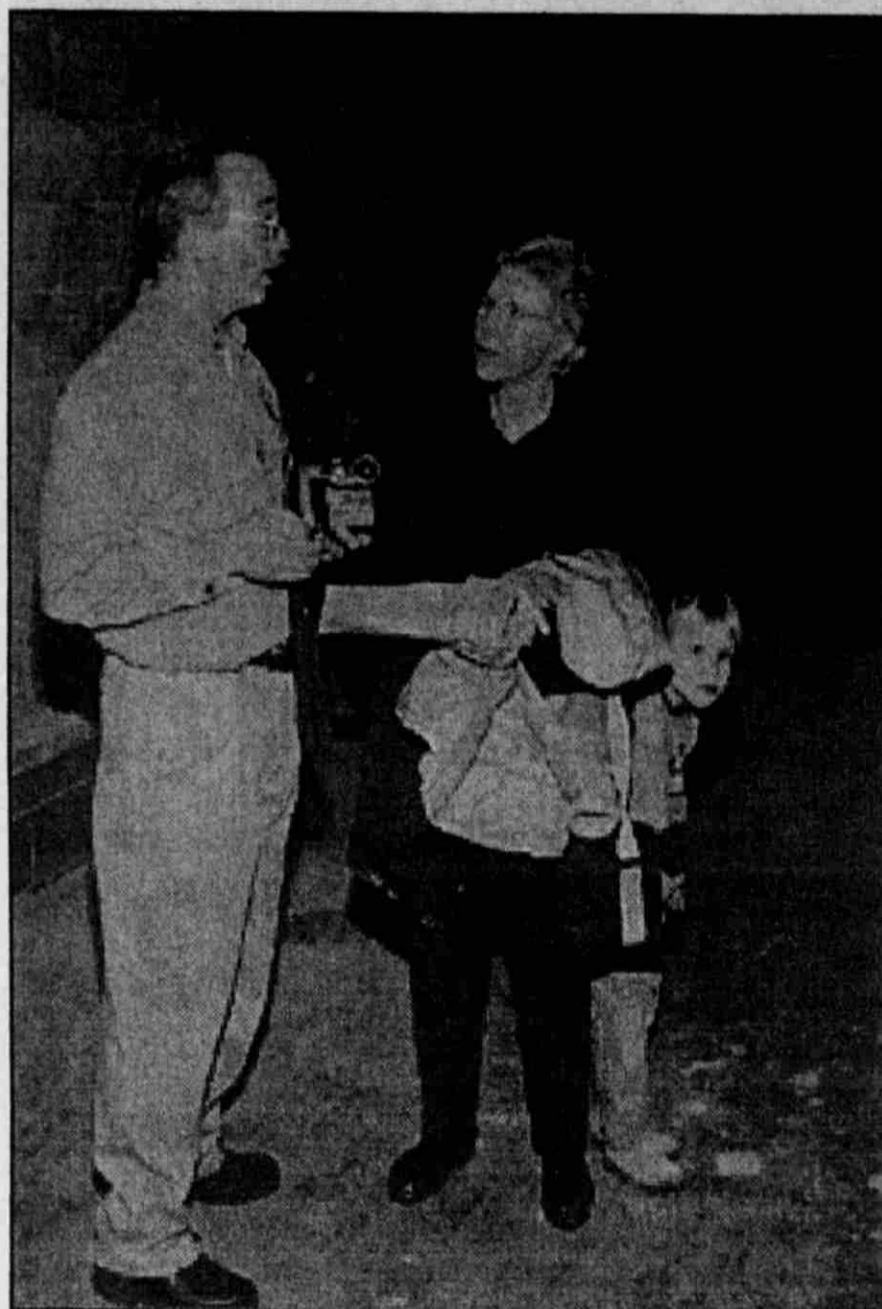
**LOWELL TOWNSHIP HALL**  
2910 Alden Nash South  
897-7600



Cont'd. from last page...

A worker was hospitalized last Wednesday after falling through a hole in the roof of the addition atop King Milling's main flour mill. Eric Sanderson, 23, of

Middleville, sustained substantial injuries after falling nearly 20 feet and landing on equipment.... An Inspection Service news release said postal customers will be notified as soon as possible if law enforcement was able to recover



Jim White explains the attendance area for the new Murray Lake Elementary School to Sandy Lambert at the open house. Hiding behind Lambert is Darby Fuller, Lambert's five-year-old granddaughter who will attend kindergarten there in the fall. More than 500 people attended the open house to check out the new school, still under construction. Thirty-five people signed up to be volunteers through Murray Lake Family Links. The building is ahead of schedule with most of the work now being done indoors.

any of their mail. "What mail they have, the case agents are still going through," Cheryl Smith said. Greenville was the largest obstacle standing between Lowell wrestling and the district championship last Wednesday at Lowell High School. Despite coming out with more intensity than they showed in the conference dual meet against the Arrows ... and despite the fact that Lowell was missing three contributing wrestlers, the Yellow Jackets fell to Lowell 36-27 in the first round of the District tournament.

**MARCH 3**

The Kent Intermediate School District special education millage proposal passed county-wide last Tuesday.

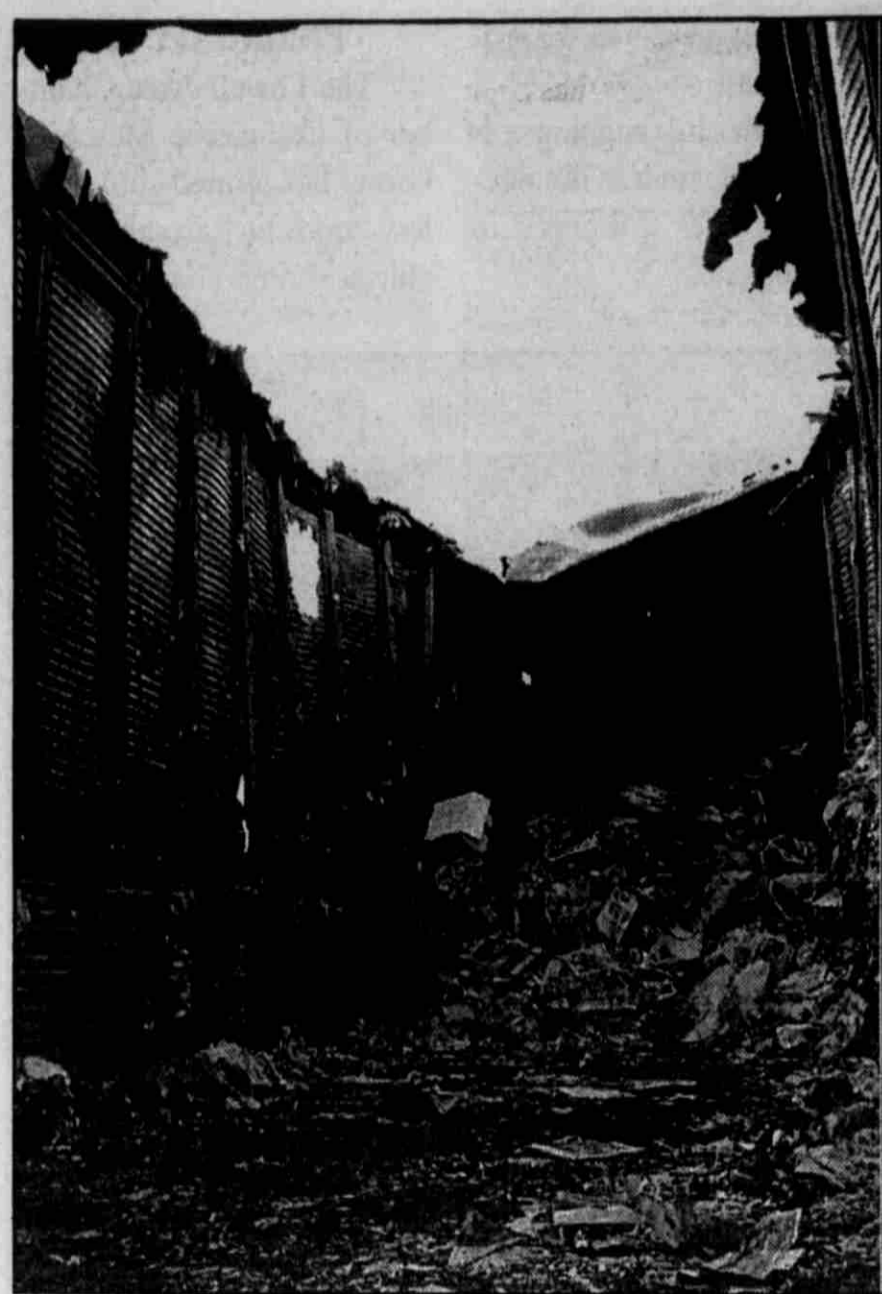
The property tax increase will go into effect in the 2004-2005 school year.

Throughout the Kent Intermediate School District, 30,842 people voted in favor of the proposal while 21,014 voted against it. The millage had the most support in Grand Rapids, East Grand Rapids, Rockford and Forest Hills. Rural areas, including Lowell, Sparta, Caledonia and Kent City, voted against the measure.

The new Fifth Third banking center at 11915 E. Fulton Street will have its grand opening celebration Wednesday at 3 p.m.

**MARCH 10**

It was a hard road to the



The Lowell High School softball team's paper-drive trailer after it was destroyed by fire.

Division II state wrestling championship last weekend at the Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek. But the Red Arrows overcame all opposition to take the state championship trophy back to Lowell.

Lowell area voters will have one of their own as a ballot option in this August's Republican primary. After eight years on the staffs of Lansing legislators, David Hildenbrand is running for the State House of Representatives.

The Lowell High School crew team is growing. The 25-member club team, coached by Missy Harrison and Marc Fryling, started conditioning three weeks ago. Their first regatta is scheduled for Saturday, April 17 at Riverside Park in Grand Rapids.

**MARCH 17**

This year's Lowell Community Expo, March 27th at Lowell High School, will be

the largest in the eight-year history of the event.

The Expo is a once-a-year opportunity to find out what's going on around Lowell. Exhibitors include representatives of Lowell's businesses and industry, as well as its faith community and non-profit organizations.

Several students in Lowell's FFA chapter won recognition in the state finals last week at the Michigan FFA convention.

U.S. Representative Vernon Ehlers toured Lowell High School and spoke in front of two classes last Friday. The purpose of the first address was to inform students about the history of the federal legislative process.

The Hoppough and Associates Coldwell Banker real estate office on Main Street has been open since early February. It's the second branch for owner Cathy Hoppough.

**MARCH 24**

Coast Guard Lt. Brenden Kettner, a 1985 Lowell graduate, and a branch chief for the Marine Safety Office San Francisco Sea Marshals, was honored by the Department of Homeland Security March 1 as a local Bay Area hero for his solid leadership, flawless integrity, personal sacrifice, and dedication to the

Cont'd. next page...

Peace on Earth

GOOD!!!

Dianna Foster  
Jeff Baker  
Zoë Bto Beloncis  
Nick Lane  
Shonnan Rose  
Lindsey Crawford  
Josh Belliel  
Ellis Burns  
Brenton Fisher  
Heather Colon  
All of the kids in Mrs. Young's class

Fruit Cakes  
Oh no, it's fruit cake!  
What's two desert bill?

CHRISTMAS

To be continued...

William Volting II  
Mrs. Pupil  
Cherry Creek Elementary

Dianna Foster  
Mrs. Young  
Cherry Creek Elementary

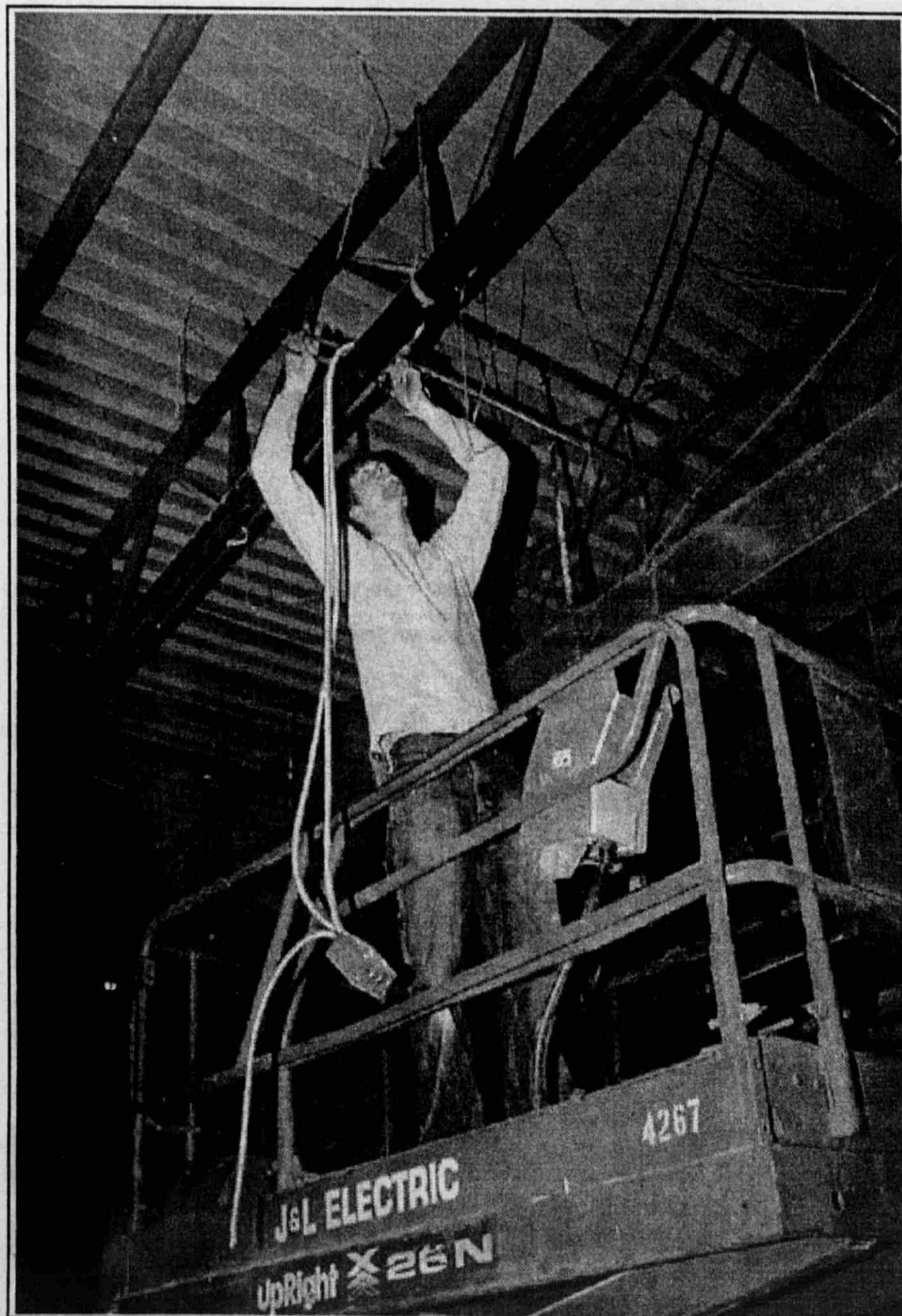
**City of Lowell**  
301 E. Main  
Ph. 897-8457

Stephanie Kline  
Mr. Bredin  
Cherry Creek

**Happy Holidays!!**

Christmas is for... FUN

**Lowell Granite Co.**  
306 E. Main, Lowell  
Ph. 897-7191



Mike Hamilton, an electrician with J&L Electric of Battle Creek, is shown removing wiring from the former Family Fare grocery, and getting the space ready for Tractor Supply Company.

Cont'd. from last page...



Manager Greg Alan, owner James Fegel, April Howe and manager Melissa Atwood with a fresh half-pepperoni pizza in the kitchen at B.C. Pizza. The restaurant is now open for business at 1335 W. Main St.

Coast Guard and his shipmates and community.

The Horse Association of the Kent County Youth Fair will build a new horse barn at the Lowell fairgrounds.

It will be called the Guikema Memorial Barn, named for Marilyn Guikema. The leader of a 4-H horse club died in a car accident two years ago.

A new business has moved into the space once occupied by the Lowell State Savings Bank. It's an interior design studio called Hearstone.

Hearstone Design Studio, a new business, has been open since the beginning of the month with Shannon

Parnofello, owner, and Mary Ann Haggerty, designer.

Lowell Auto Body is not closing. The building is for sale to help the company make a transition into a new type of business.

The body shop is taking steps to increase its focus on the production of hearse and other coach-built service cars.

The Vergennes Township Open Space Citizen Committee held its annual educational forum last Wednesday at the Wittenbach Center. Four speakers offered insight on land use options to preserve

rural and natural spaces in the township. The township has also published a pamphlet about open space tools available for the township's landowners.

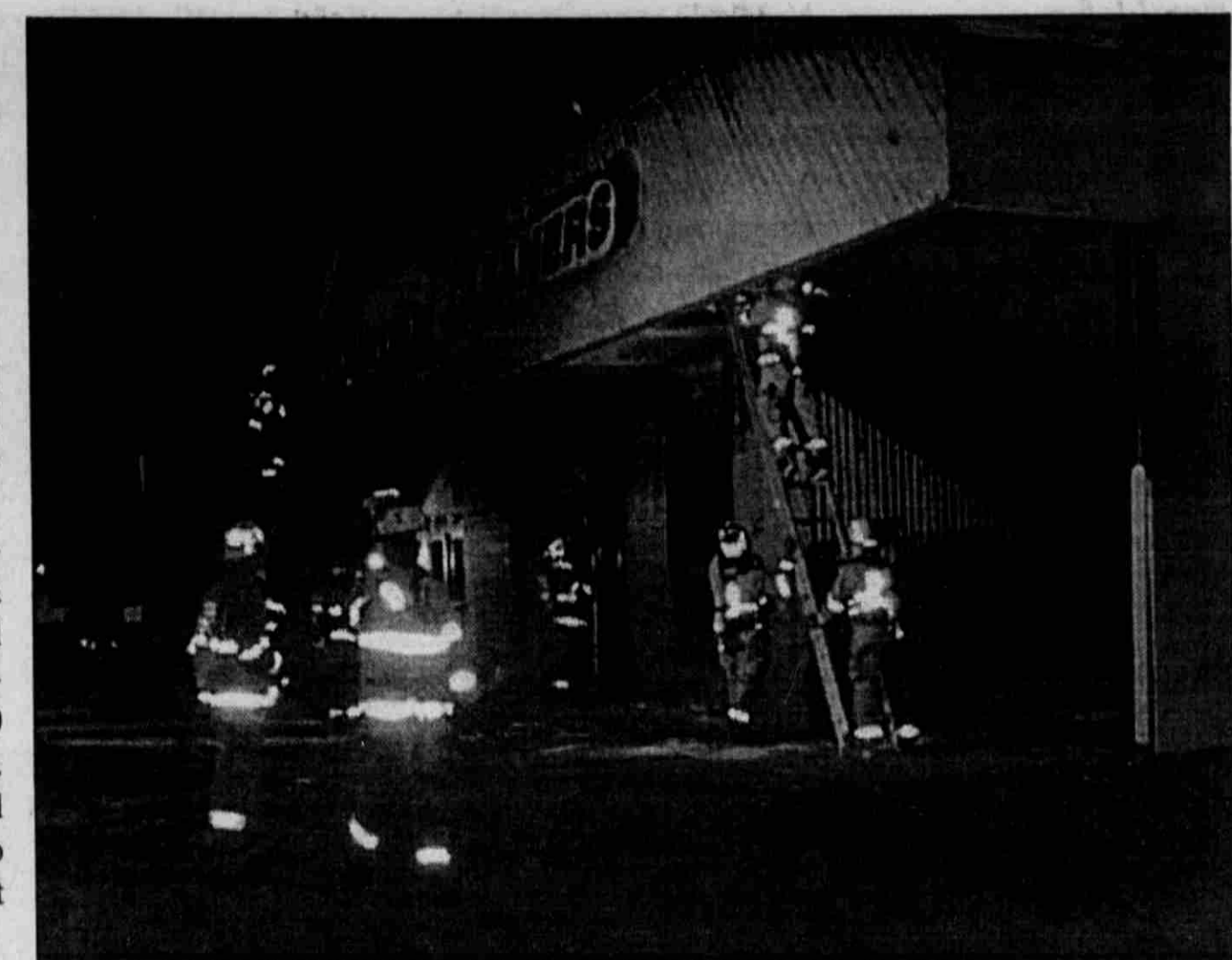
**MARCH 31**

Last Saturday's Lowell Community Expo at Lowell High School was generally regarded as a success.

Liz Baker, executive director of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce and Expo committee member, estimated more than 2,000 people attended the event. Most exhibitors surveyed said the biggest benefit of the Expo was the exposure it brought them.

The Lowell YMCA now has a new associate director.

Andy Retberg will begin his second tenure in Lowell on April 5. He spent two and a half years at the Lowell YMCA as the community development director. That started in the spring of 2000 and included helping get the wellness and teen centers started.



A fire last Wednesday night destroyed the dry-cleaning portion of Curtis Cleaners, a long-established business in Lowell. The fire burned through the wood paneling in the dry-cleaning half of the building. It burned hot enough to contort the steel roof trusses. ... Responding to the fire were 17 firefighters from Lowell and 13 from the Ada Fire Department. There were five pumper trucks at the scene but only one was used, primarily to pump foam onto the fire. "It's just bricks and mortar," Bucky Curtis said. "No one got hurt and that's what really counts." April 7

The Lowell City Council approved a bid at its Monday night meeting, from Snyder Asphalt, Inc. of Saranac, to put in an eight-foot-wide path.

Amanada Grochowalski knows she would like to go into a field involving hospital work after an 18-week internship program through the Lowell Area High School.

Grochowalski was one of 12 graduating high school students who participated in the school's first career internship program.

Dylan Olin, a sixth grade student at Lowell Middle School, is one of 100 fourth-grade students who will participate in the Michigan finals of the 2004 National Geographic Bee at Central Michigan University on April 2. He is the son of Dean and Suzanne Olin of Lowell.

**APRIL 7**

The North Country Trail Association (NCTA) and Lowell Charter Township are negotiating the purchase of a stretch of abandoned railway line running south of town.

The section starts just south of the Grand River at Oberley Drive. It extends south, past Pratt Lake, all the way to Elmdale in the northeast corner of Bowne Township.

**APRIL 14**

A semi-truck burned last

Friday morning in the front driveway of Root Lowell Manufacturing on Foreman St.

The rig, still moving on the road, reportedly caught fire at approximately 5:30 a.m. The driver who was delivering a trailer load of plastic sprayer components to Root Lowell was not injured in the incident.

**APRIL 21**

The Lowell Area Schools Board of Education approved walk zones within city limits, Monday.

With walk zones in place next school year, students living in the Valley Vista subdivision and in houses between Bushnell Elementary and N. Hudson Street will walk to school. High school students living in those areas will walk to the middle school and catch a bus from there. Valley Vista students will use a paved trail through Creekside Park to get to school.

King Doyle, 82, recently retired from the board of directors of Michigan Millers Insurance. He had served in

The LACC presented George Mickel with an appreciation award for his volunteer service to the chamber and the Lowell community. Liz Baker, executive director of the chamber, is pictured with Mickel.

The Lowell Area Schools Board of Education declared an impasse last Friday in contract negotiations related to its middle school planning time.

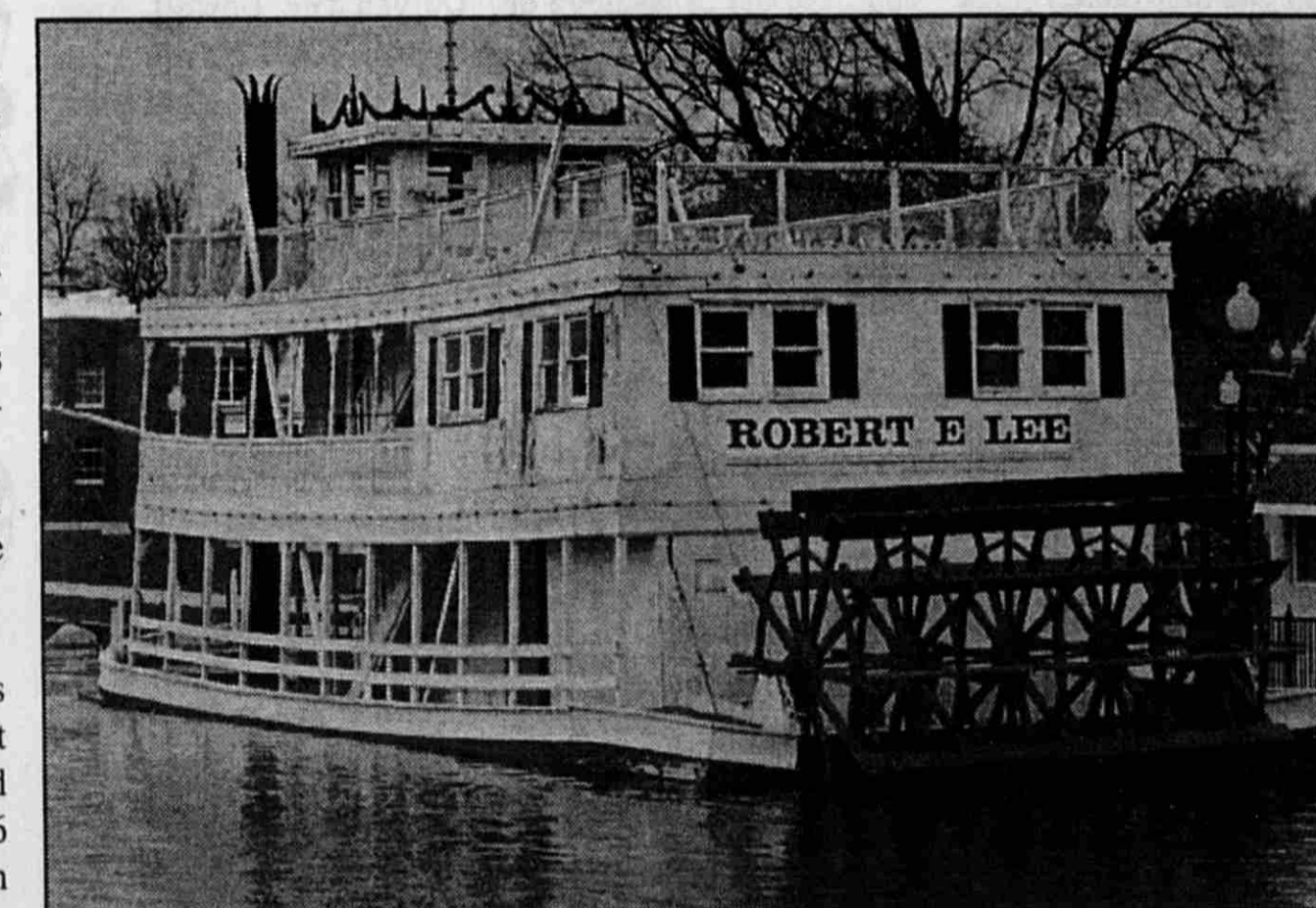
Responding to a fire call Saturday, March 20, the Lowell police and fire departments uncovered a methamphetamine lab.

The fire occurred at 1511 Deborah in the Lowell One apartment complex.

Jack Ogle has resigned as the varsity boys golf coach at Lowell High School. He held the position since the 1986 season, twice having been named regional coach of the year, most recently in 2003.

Lowell Area school students will have two new pathways to take to school this fall.

This will extend from Carol Lynne Drive through Creekside Park to the current



The "Robert E. Lee," is shown with its sagging rear quarter. This year's class of the Lowell Leadership Institute for Volunteer Excellence is organizing volunteers to restore the Showboat. April 14

walkway which runs through the east side of Litehouse, Inc. to Foreman Rd.

A semi-truck burned last

Cont'd. next page...



Cont'd from last page...

that capacity for 43 years, the third member of Lowell's King Milling Company to do so. He followed his father, William C. Doyle, and King

After 11 years of organizing the annual Christmas Through Lowell crafts tour, Jody Haybarker will pass the event on to the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. "It's an excellent fit for the chamber because of the



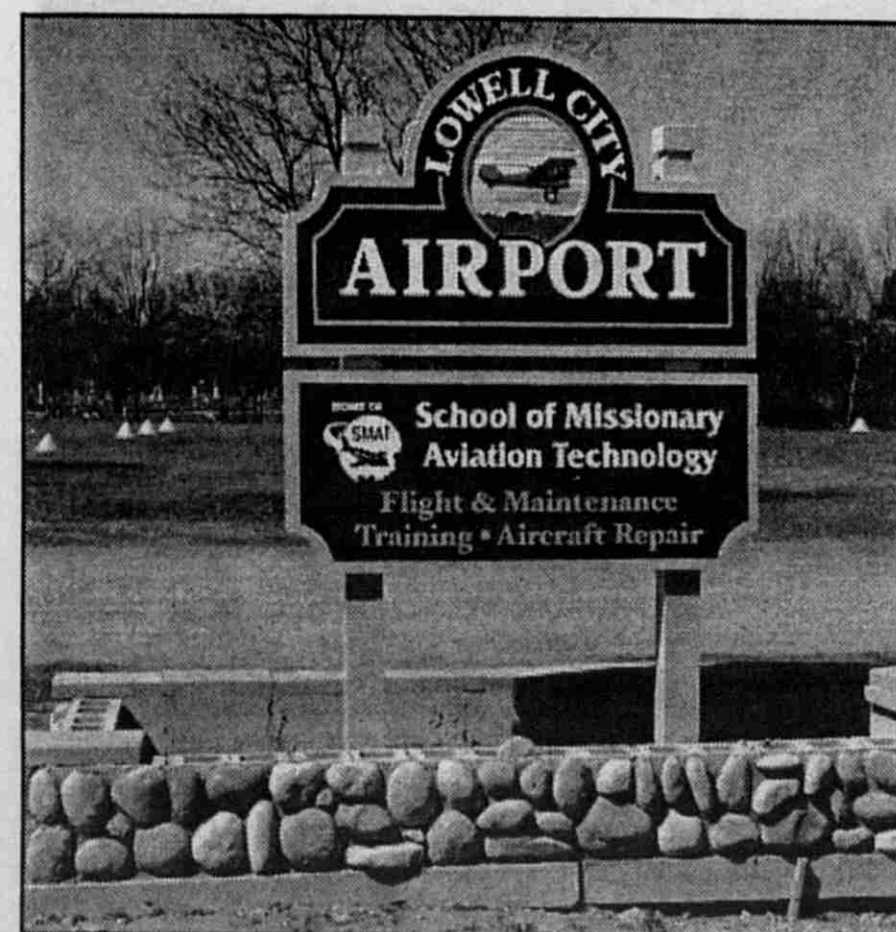
Nancy Roth received 50 flowers in recognition of her birthday of that many years. Fifty men, most of them friends but a few relative strangers, delivered the flowers to Roth while she worked at her window in the Lowell post office.

Milling founder Frank T. King, after whom he was named.

Lorain Smalligan has had her eye on the space next to the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce for some time.

With the Lowell City Council's blessing, the LAAC, Lowell Chamber of Commerce, and the city will now begin looking at a communitywide facilities study that will include examining that site and discussing the facility needs of not only the arts council, chamber and city, but the Kent County Youth Fairgrounds and possibly the Lowell Area Historical Museum.

APRIL 28 The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has revoked Fuller Septic Service's licenses and site authorizations. The revocation will take effect May 28. By that time Stonybrook Sanitation will take over the septic cleaning operation.

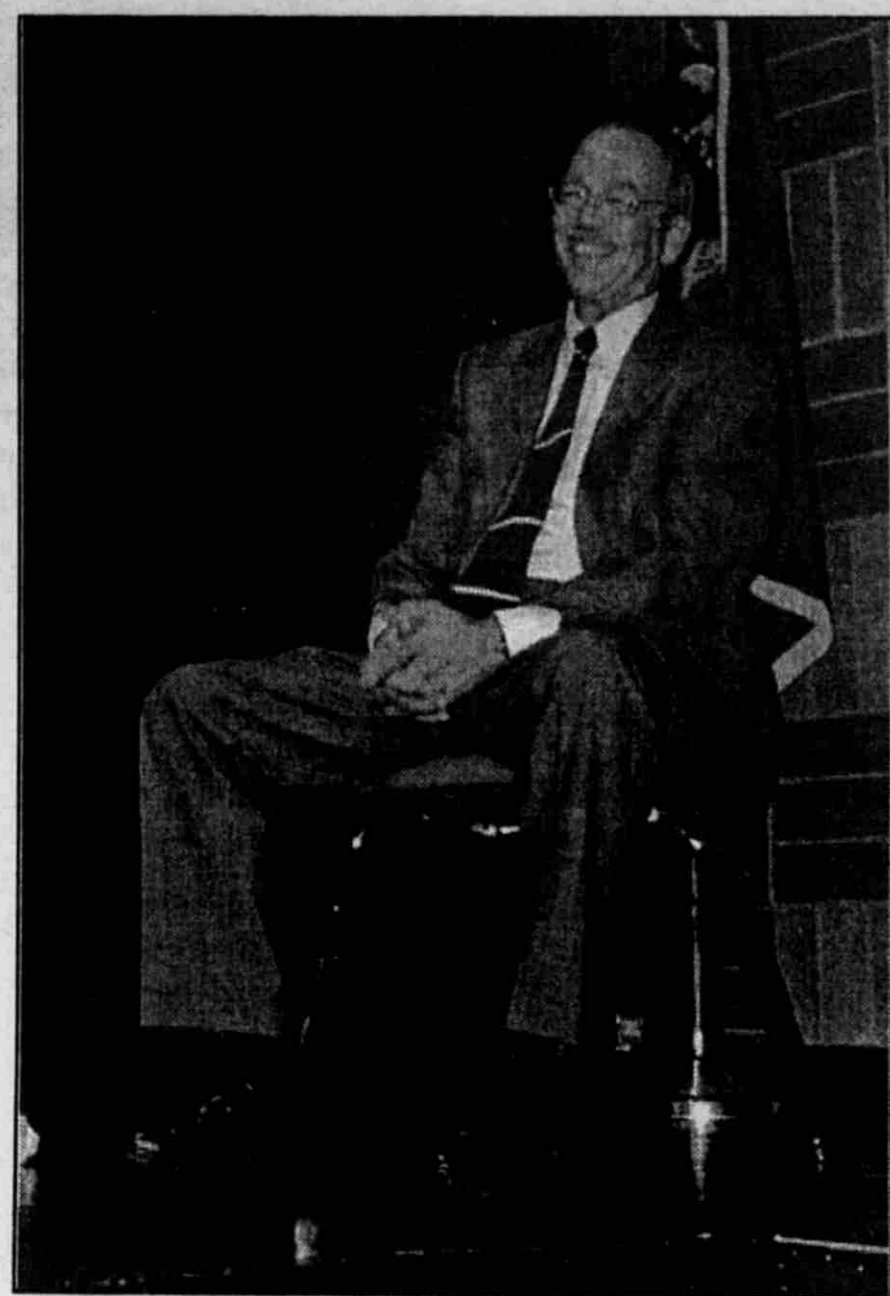


A new sign has been put up at Lowell City Airport. The previous sign stood on the site for 20 years.

Four Lowell Middle School students were suspended last Thursday after administrators learned of their plan to set off a series of explosions in the school building.

The students only went as far as bringing a container of gasoline to the school and hiding it in a locker before losing interest in the plan.

MAY 5 Vergennes Township will hold two study sessions to inform Lowell area residents



Jim White, LACC person of the year. May 5

about development progress along Alden Nash.

The sessions have two goals: 1) to inform the public about residential development options; and 2) to seek ideas and opinions on how those options could best be used in property development likely to occur along Alden Nash.

Members of the Lowell community gathered at the high school Friday evening to celebrate the volunteer spirit that keeps Lowell vibrant.

Jim White was honored with the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce Person of the Year award. The Lowell Area Arts Council's Arty Award recipient was Debra Duiven. The Lowell Area Schools board of education recognized Pete Gustafson with the Marsha Wilcox Community Service award. The Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation dedicated 14 new brass leaves on its Tribute Tree.

The Lowell Area Schools Board of Education handed down varying punishments to the four students involved in an apparent plot to cause an explosion at Lowell Middle School. Three were expelled following a school board hearing lasting more than five hours, Monday.

The paddle wheel of the Lowell Showboat was removed for refurbishing. Progress continues on the volunteer effort to restore the

showboat, led by the Lowell Leadership Institute for Volunteer Excellence.

Mr. Donald Earl "Mac" MacNaughton, aged 89, passed away on Sunday, May 2, 2004, surrounded by his loving children. Mac worked as a printer for the Lowell Ledger for 38 years. A longtime Lowell resident, he lived the last four years of his life in Greenville, Mich.

Rick Davis and the Low-

ell City Council both share in the frustration of the leaking roof on the newly renovated City Hall/police station facility. Davis's company, Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr, and Huber, the general contractor for the project, has spent the past nine months chasing the leak. Davis said his company started to look at the walls and believe they may have found the culprit behind it all: a door to the roof that was hung to swing in versus swing out as originally designed.

Tom Richards, general manager for Lowell Light and Power and Cable TV, presented their 2004-2005 budgets at the city council's last meeting in April. The council reviewed the budgets and unanimously approved them.

MAY 12 The Alto Elementary Library bookshelves have been replaced! The Alto Lions Club and the Alto Elementary PTO shared expenses for material to build some replacements.

James Reams is the headline act for this weekend's West Michigan Bluegrass Music Association's Mayfest.

Garlic mustard, that invasive plant, is out-competing native flora at an alarming rate. It can be seen extensively along roadsides and at the periphery of yards.

Now that the school district will definitely have walk zones in the city for next school year, a Safety Committee has formed to make the process of walking to school as hazardless as possible. The committee envisions a cooperative effort that would bring the community together as well as help students find their way to school safely.

This year marked the 10th anniversary of the CROP walk in Lowell. Nearly 200 people participated in the event.

According to Lowell Area Schools administrators, it will take \$1.3 million in cuts to balance the budget for next school year.

Residents in the city of Lowell could pay a dollar a bag for garbage and yard waste pick-up. This was proposed for the 2004-2005 city budget by the Lowell City Council.

The Englehardt Library is a busy place to be. If you don't believe it, just ask Kent District Library branch manager Jane Aronson.

In her report to the Lowell City Council last week, Aronson told the council that the library had 80,631 visitors in 2003. KDL is seeking a renewal of its .88 mill, which expires this year.

Cont'd. next page...

Happy Holidays!

Aleesha DenBraven  
Mr. Bredin  
Cherry Creek Elementary

I am a Puppyplease  
dont tell

Jonathan Jacobs  
Mrs. Pupel  
Cherry Creek Elementary

METRIC MANUFACTURING CO.

1001 Foreman  
Lowell  
897-5959

Cont'd. from last page...

MAY 19

The heavy rains that have been falling for the past weeks have kept planting equipment off local farm fields. It could be just an inconvenience to farmers if the weather stays dry this week. But more rain could have an impact on this season's crop yields.

Wayland city manager Deb Nier, Lowell mayor Jeanne Shores, Lowell city manager Dave Pasquale and Wayland mayor Burrell Stein toured the clarifier room at the Lowell water treatment plant. Lowell hosted representatives from the city of Wayland last Thursday for mayor exchange day. The water treatment plant was one of the stops on the tour.

The Lowell Lions Club charter dates back to 1954, which means this Thursday's Charter Night will be the 50th anniversary of the club. The event took place at Deer Run Golf Course.

It's a good news/bad news story coming from the Lowell Cable Company. The bad news is that cable rates will increase by \$2. The good news is that even with the rate increase, the cable is still about \$10 less than its major competitors.



Ladies at the Lowell Senior Neighbors Center spend one Thursday morning each month cutting out the box tops for education and labels from Campbell's soup and Spartan canned foods collected at Cherry Creek Elementary. Pictured are near (from left): Ann McQueen, Fern Lamb and Arlene Franshe; far (from left): Eva Cain, Alice Baut and Pauline LaDue.

Ron Potter can see the need for a pub that is open a little later at night than what current Lowell establishments are. That reason and the fact that his old liquor license is up for sale encouraged the former Main Street pub owner to open a new place, Century Post Pub, at 203 E. Main St.

MAY 26 The new Murray Lake Elementary School is scheduled to be completed on June 30. The community was invited

to tour the school on Saturday, May 22 during an afternoon open house.

Lowell Area Schools administrators and building principals responded to the public by answering questions last Tuesday evening at Cherry Creek Elementary. The Alto PTO and Family Links at Cherry Creek, Bushnell and Murray Lake put on the program.

A line of classic Buicks was parked in downtown

Lowell last Friday. The Buick Club of West Michigan stopped in Lowell during a cruise to Lansing.



LTJG Uzarski with his wife of 4 years, Heather, will be deploying with the USS McPaul.

The Lowell FFA chapter recently broke its own record set in 2002 for the highest number of American FFA degrees submitted in one year. This year, 17 Lowell members will be recognized with the American FFA Degree which is the highest level of membership with the National FFA Organization. The previous record of 12 recipients in 2002 was set by Lowell.

Citing it as a good idea, the Lowell Planning Commission opted to drop the stormwater ordinance proposed by the Kent County Drain Commission.

After reviewing the current excavating conditions along Boves Road, the Lowell Planning Commission determined that the project didn't fall under the city's guidelines for mining. A city council member said the work Dykema Excavators was doing along Boves Road, which was moving soil from one side of the road to the other, appeared to be mining. Concerns were also raised that no silt fencing had been put in place



Cliff Yankovich, owner of Chimera Design, shown with new merchant punch cards.

to help with soil erosion and keep the lake clean.

April showers appear to have come in May which, in

with taking care of their lawns and there is a city ordinance on grass height.

JUNE 2 Lowell's Memorial Day observances were not spared from the seemingly incessant rainfall of the past two weeks. But this was not enough to keep people from honoring and remembering those who died serving our country. Despite intermittent showers and a generally gray sky Monday morning, there was a good turnout of people at the annual Memorial Day parade.

Monday night will be the last time Lowell city residents will have a chance to comment on the city's 2004-2005 budget which will include an increase in trash and yard waste bags to residents. That increase, which is proposed to go up to a dollar on each, would help offset costs for the city's recycling program.

turn, has encouraged the grass to grow. The problem is that



Dan Barney is framed by a hole in the wing of his steel sculpture, "Dragonfly." Some of the artist's steel works are on display along the Riverwalk. May 19

there has been so much rain, many Lowell residents are having a hard time keeping up

Cont'd. next page...



Cont'd. from last page . . .

The United States Navy awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal to seaman Justin R. Doyle. The award was given on April 14 in recognition of Doyle's professional achievement while serving in first division aboard the USS Russell.

Lowell now has another place to buy art. This time it's photography. Especially photography of animals and nature, though also of light-houses and a few old cars. It's called Crooked Tree Gallery and Gifts and it has been open nearly two weeks.

The election scheduled for Monday, June 14 will decide two open positions on the Lowell Area Schools board of education. Four candidates are running for a spot on the board. Seeking re-election is Kate Democoeur, who is finishing her first term on the school board. The other candidates are Dan Brubaker, Maureen Fleet and Melanie Searfoss. Mark Blanding is leaving his seat on the board.

Thunder, lightning, rain, Pioneers and Crusaders all failed to stop the Red Arrows girls soccer team from claiming Lowell's first ever conference soccer championship. The Arrows beat East Grand Rapids in an overtime shootout in a game interrupted



The 2003-2004 Lowell wrestling squad with the team district championship trophy. It was the ninth straight district championship for Lowell.

leaves on its Tribute Tree.

The Lowell Showboat sat perpendicular to the bank of the Flat River near the Englehardt Public Library. The paddle wheel was removed for refurbishing. Progress continues on the volunteer effort to restore the showboat, led by the Lowell Leadership Institute for Volunteer Excellence.

**JUNE 9**  
Crowds of friends, family and well-wishers of the Lowell High School class of 2004 were in attendance as almost 300 students graduated at Sunday's 126th commencement exercises held at Red Arrow Stadium.

The Lowell Education



The Grand River in Lowell rose higher than it has been since 1976 when it reached 17.26 feet. The Grand crested in May at 16.3 feet (1.3 feet above flood stage). June 2

by rain delay. They then beat Unity Christian to win the conference tournament and tie with East for the conference championship, honored with the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce Person of the Year award. The Lowell Area Arts Council's Arty Award recipient was Debra Duiven. The Lowell Area Schools board of education recognized Pete Gustafson with the Marsha Wilcox Community Service award. The Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation dedicated 14 new brass

Finishing work is all that remains in the restoration of the east half of the Lowell Area Historical Museum to its 19th-century state.

"It's on schedule but it's right at crunch time," Ivan Blough said. Blough has been leading the volunteer work groups since last August.

A grand opening is slated for Sept. 18. The first display in the changing exhibits space will be about the history of Lowell's military service.

Foundation hosted the 1st annual all alumni gathering at Lowell High School on Saturday, May 29. Nearly 200 alumni and guests were greeted by locally owned historic vehicles at the school's entrance.

It's Art Attack 2 this Saturday at the Lowell Area Arts Council. The event was started last year to celebrate the arts council's 25th anniversary. Art Attack 2 will include an art auction beginning at 7

bage, wastewater, and water services.

From the shores of Lake Superior to the banks of the mighty Pecos River, people are going to hear about Lowell.

That's because Lowell is placing two ads on A.J. Wilson's syndicated country western radio "Super Oldies Show."

An "Honors Reception" was held on Saturday, May 22 at 10:30 a.m. for Unity High School graduates. Marlene Heemstra, principal, gave the welcome and introduction.

The saying goes something like this... Michigan has four seasons: fall, winter, spring and construction. Or at least that is what it might feel like in the city of Lowell this summer as two major street projects get underway.

Rotary Club for the construction of a Habitat for Humanity house. The money came from the team's paper drive truck at Lowell High School.

**JUNE 16**  
Mayor Jeanne Shores summed up the city's 2004-2005 budget best saying the city "didn't have to raise taxes." In tough economic times, when many cities are forced to make drastic cuts to its budget to make it balance, the city of Lowell faces only a few fee increases in its gar-

p.m. Several local artists such as Gary Eldridge and David Davis have donated artwork.

Nick Myaard, a student at Lowell Middle School, is the first recipient of the Benjamin Morse Middle School Academic Scholarship. The scholarship was established this year through the Lowell Area Historical Museum. The society disbanded this year, and \$1,000 of its remaining funds were used to set up the scholarship.

The Lowell High School softball team donated \$200 to

It's like clockwork. Every so many years, you simply just have to paint. The same holds true for the Lowell Water Treatment Plant. It's been about 14 years since the last time the plant's clarifier was painted and, according to water treatment plant superintendent George Regan, the clarifier is in need of being painted. Total cost could range from \$50,000 to \$80,000.

Cont'd. next page . . .

Merry Cold Christmas

Kendra Belile  
Ms. Melle  
Cherry Creek Elementary

Merry Snowflakes

James Reagan, D.D.S  
207 W. Main, Lowell  
Ph. 897-7179

Cont'd. from last page . . .

Gas prices at Lowell filling stations spiked higher than the record state average. Prices went as high as \$2.08 per gallon of regular. May 12

Saturday will be the first day of the Restoring the Circle Through the Buffalo Pow Wow at the Lowell Fairgrounds. It's a celebration of American Indian culture and heritage.

This will be the sixth year the group has put on the Buffalo Pow Wow but the first time Lowell has hosted the event.

Six Lowell Area Schools staff members are retiring this year after many years with the district.

The Barton home was the only house left near the Kent County Youth Fairgrounds. The potential for expanding the grounds following the

city's purchase of the property was met with enthusiasm. That enthusiasm was parlayed, however, when the parcel, about an acre in size, became entangled in some family legal work that took almost 10 months to work out. City manager Dave Pasquale offered the news everyone was waiting for: "As of May 24, we own the house."

Monday's meeting revealed further evidence of the toll the contract struggle is taking on the school system.

Two teachers announced their resignations over the contentious atmosphere created by the contract negotiations. They were Agri-Science

Kaylee Strzyzewski  
Ms. Reed  
Cherry Creek Elementary

LOWELL LIGHT & POWER  
127 N. Broadway  
Phone 897-8402

teacher and FFA advisor John Schut, who will take a job at Caledonia schools in the fall, and special education teacher Lynn Rocca.

The rain cleared last Saturday morning, giving way to excellent running weather for the Cherry Creek Classic 5K race. It was the 10th year of the event.

Steve Peabody, of Belding, won the men's division and the overall race with a time of 18:29.2. Judith Larson, of Grand Rapids, won the women's division with a time of 20:17.2.

Lowell Area Schools voters cast their ballots Monday in favor of Dan Brubaker and Maureen Fleet for school board.

Brubaker won the most votes in the election with 770 or 42 percent. Fleet took 588 votes or 32 percent.

**JUNE 23**

At its last meeting, the Lowell Area Schools board of education narrowly defeated a proposal to declare an impasse in contract negotiations on the topic of health insurance benefits.

This could forestall another attempt to declare an impasse.

The Grand Valley American Indian Lodge brought its sixth annual Restoring the Circle through the Buffalo Pow Wow to the Lowell Fairgrounds over the weekend.

Lowell's water treatment plant will install a closed-circuit television surveillance system to monitor the exterior of the building. But the new security measures come too late to help the investigation of vandalism that took place two weeks ago.

On the night of June 9, vandals graffitied the back wall and door of the building, smashed floodlights, and punctured a 30-gallon barrel of fluoride. Lowell police have obtained a confession from one of the suspects involved, but are gathering evidence on other suspects.

When completed, the Lowell Area Trailway will be paved and open to non-motorized traffic—that's walkers, runners, rollerbladers, bicycles, skateboards and unicycles.

The first segment of trail construction will likely run from the Wittenbach Agri-Science Center to Lowell Middle School. It would connect the center with the high school, the Cooper Woodland Preserve, Creekside Park and Cherry Creek Elementary on the way to the middle school.

Over 80 fifth graders from Cherry Creek Elementary participated in this year's double elimination chess tournament. Top three chess winners: Aaron Wenger took home the championship tro-

phy; Chelsae Prill finished second; and Shay Lyon came in third.

Katie Serne, a junior at Lowell High School, has been elected to serve as the Region V FFA treasurer. Her term of office began on June 5 with 11 other officers from throughout the region.

The ongoing road construction on Foreman Street and Gee Drive will progress in three segments.

Work includes water main replacement from Hudson to Beech Street on Foreman. Once the pipe is in place, the

ing Sunday school age," pastor Joe Fremer said. "We felt it was time to emphasize Christian education more."

**JULY 7**

Despite an awkward maiden voyage, the current showboat has graced the Lowell Riverfront for 25 years. It's now painted bright white again, thanks to an extensive volunteer project this spring and early summer.

This weekend's Riverwalk Festival will kick off with a birthday celebration for the showboat.

Aboard the Robert E. Lee, the Lowell Area Historical Museum has installed a photographic history of the showboat from 1932.

After more than 100 years and a number of floods, the Barton house fell to a demolition crew last Tuesday. The Barton family lived in the house for 64 years.

By establishing a well-head protection area (WHPA), the city of Lowell has taken the first steps in a program to protect the city water supply. The WHPA is based on the water table concept.

Lowell's Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is expanding to accommodate more classroom space.

"We really need it now because we've got a lot of kids who are going to be reach-

"I felt like it was good

progress," she said of the bar-gaining.

The ongoing road construction on Foreman Street and Gee Drive will progress in three segments.

Work includes water main replacement from Hudson to Beech Street on Foreman. Once the pipe is in place, the

ing Sunday school age," pastor Joe Fremer said. "We felt it was time to emphasize Christian education more."

Nan Nickson has been around the country a bit and her paintings reflect that. Some of Nickson's paintings are on display now at the Huntington Galleria.

**JULY 7**

Despite an awkward maiden voyage, the current showboat has graced the Lowell Riverfront for 25 years. It's now painted bright white again, thanks to an extensive volunteer project this spring and early summer.

This weekend's Riverwalk Festival will kick off with a birthday celebration for the showboat.

Aboard the Robert E. Lee, the Lowell Area Historical Museum has installed a photographic history of the showboat from 1932.

After more than 100 years and a number of floods, the Barton house fell to a demolition crew last Tuesday. The Barton family lived in the house for 64 years.

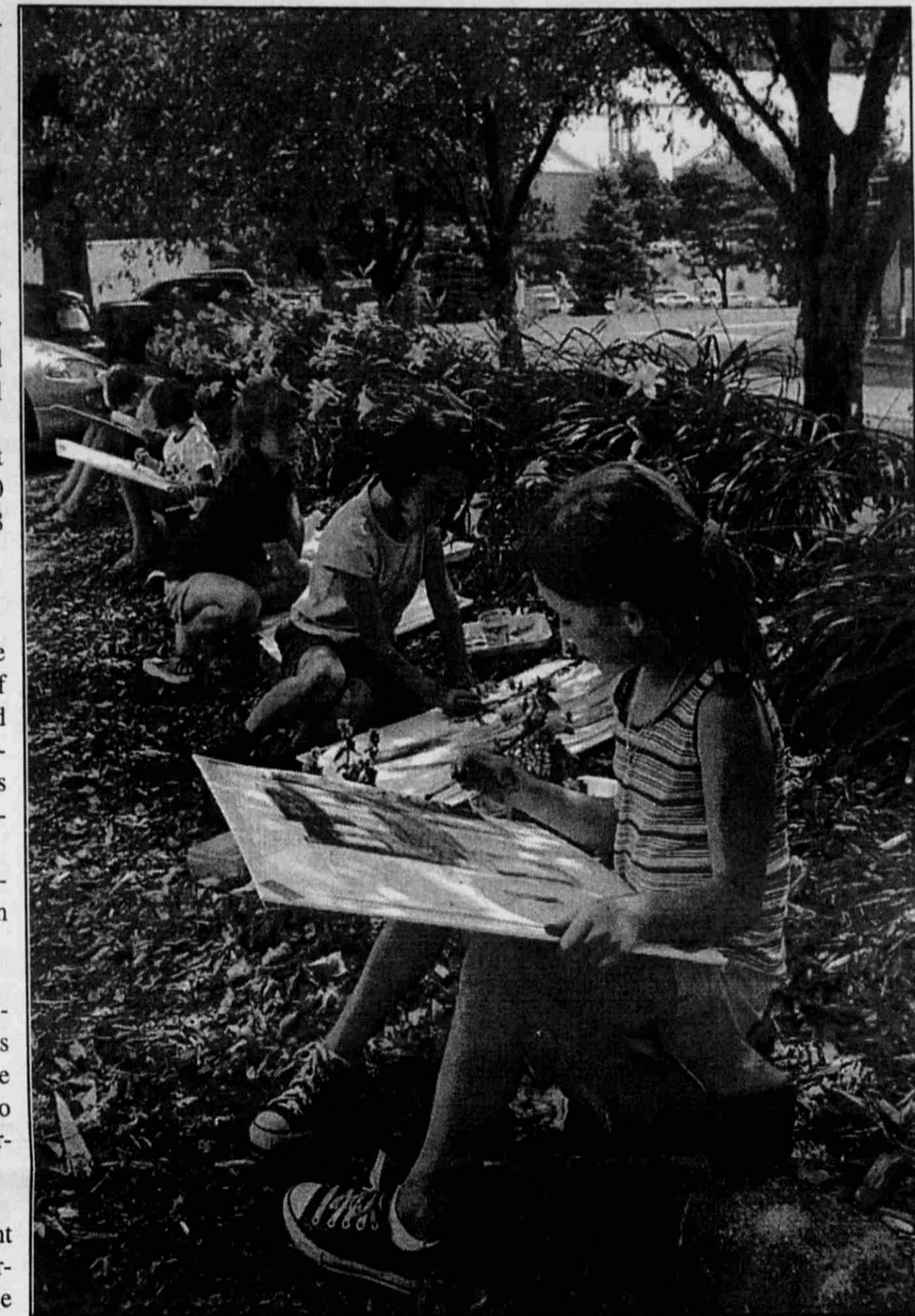
By establishing a well-head protection area (WHPA), the city of Lowell has taken the first steps in a program to protect the city water supply. The WHPA is based on the water table concept.

Lowell's Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is expanding to accommodate more classroom space.

"We really need it now because we've got a lot of kids who are going to be reach-

"I felt like it was good

Cont'd. next page . . .



Lauren Weidenfeller, 8 (front to back); Cassidy Kryger, 7; Katie Lane, 7; Alyssa Darby, 8; and Nikolaus Sanders, 10 paint Lowell scenes as viewed from the Flat River Antique Mall parking lot last Thursday. It was the fourth and final day of the Lowell Area Arts Council's summer fine arts camp. July 21



Cont'd. from last page...

"Basically, don't dump anything on the ground that you don't want in your drinking water," hydrogeologist Peter Kaczor said.

There will be a polo exhibition Sunday, July 18, at the Flat River Fields consisting of two matches. It is a benefit for the Michigan Intercollegiate Polo Club, now in its second year at the University of Michigan.

**JULY 14**

Street signs can disappear for a number of reasons: They get hit ... Mother Nature is a bit too strong ... or, in the case

Ball Club a thorough drubbing last Saturday at Fallas Field. The score after nine innings was 10 runs to one in favor of the Cubs.

In just one year's time, new business starts have outpaced business closings in the city of Lowell. And the result is fewer vacant retail spaces and buildings.

Since last July, 22 new businesses have opened in Lowell while 12 businesses have either closed or left town.

The big happening in downtown Lowell last Friday and Saturday was the annual Riverwalk Festival.

The main event that night was the celebration of the

township's commercial zone that fits requirements laid out in the adult entertainment ordinance adopted at Monday's meeting of the Lowell Charter Township board.

Finding a place to do skateboard tricks in Lowell can be tough. So skateboarders are heard pounding the Main Street sidewalks and Riverwalk Plaza, one of the better places to skate in Lowell.

Skater Jeff McMullin said, "It is the only place to go. The picnic tables and stage make it good for jumps." Steven Bluman, age 14, basically agrees with McMullin, adding that the picnic tables are good, and people don't yell at you there. The people "yelling" are not usually police officers, but downtown business owners who are not pleased to see skateboarders on their property.

**Private second class Clifford Heiman** completed one station unit training with the 1st and 40th Field Artillery at Fort Sill, Okla. last Thursday. The 2002 Lowell High School graduate will report for duty July 25 at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Cowpoke Supply, the first business in several years to open in Alto, is a tack store looking especially to serve youth riders.

Since her home was built about 150 years ago, it has always been at 905 High St. and as far as Lynn Dawson is concerned, she wants it to stay that way.

Dawson was one of three public speakers who voiced their opposition to changing the name of High Street, east of James Street, to Highland Hill Drive.

**JULY 21**

The Lowell Police Department plans to step up enforcement of city noise laws related to car stereo systems.

"We're getting complaints from the residents of the city about the loud stereos," officer Steve Bukala said.

Contract negotiations for Lowell Area Schools teachers and support staff continued last Wednesday with both sides considering new proposals. The session lasted from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"It's the longest session we've had," Lowell Education Association president Dorann Truax said. "It was a positive session, I thought, and productive."

Any entrepreneur wishing to build an adult entertainment establishment in Lowell Charter Township will have to build it on the corner of M-21 and Boves Road. The southwest quadrant of that intersection is the only site in

With the opening of another dining/bar establishment on Main Street, the question was again raised about the addition of crosswalks to increase pedestrian safety.

The Downtown Development Authority looked at the idea, but to meet the Michigan Department of Transportation's requirements, a number of parking spaces on the north side of Main Street would have to be eliminated.

Just in case any of the Planning Commissioners—or the general public—might want to know, the retention wall put up on High Street was not part of the approved plan for a new development on that street.

Sundry Development has installed a retention wall on High Street earlier this month, in part, according to Planning Commissioner Chair Clarke Janhke, to save a tree the property owner did not want removed.

**AUGUST 4**

Oakwood Cemetery fell victim to vandalism during the dark hours of Saturday night.

The vandals knocked over 25 of the older headstones in the areas known as the "Old Part" and the "First Addition."

Lowell students' scores on last year's Michigan Education Assessment Program

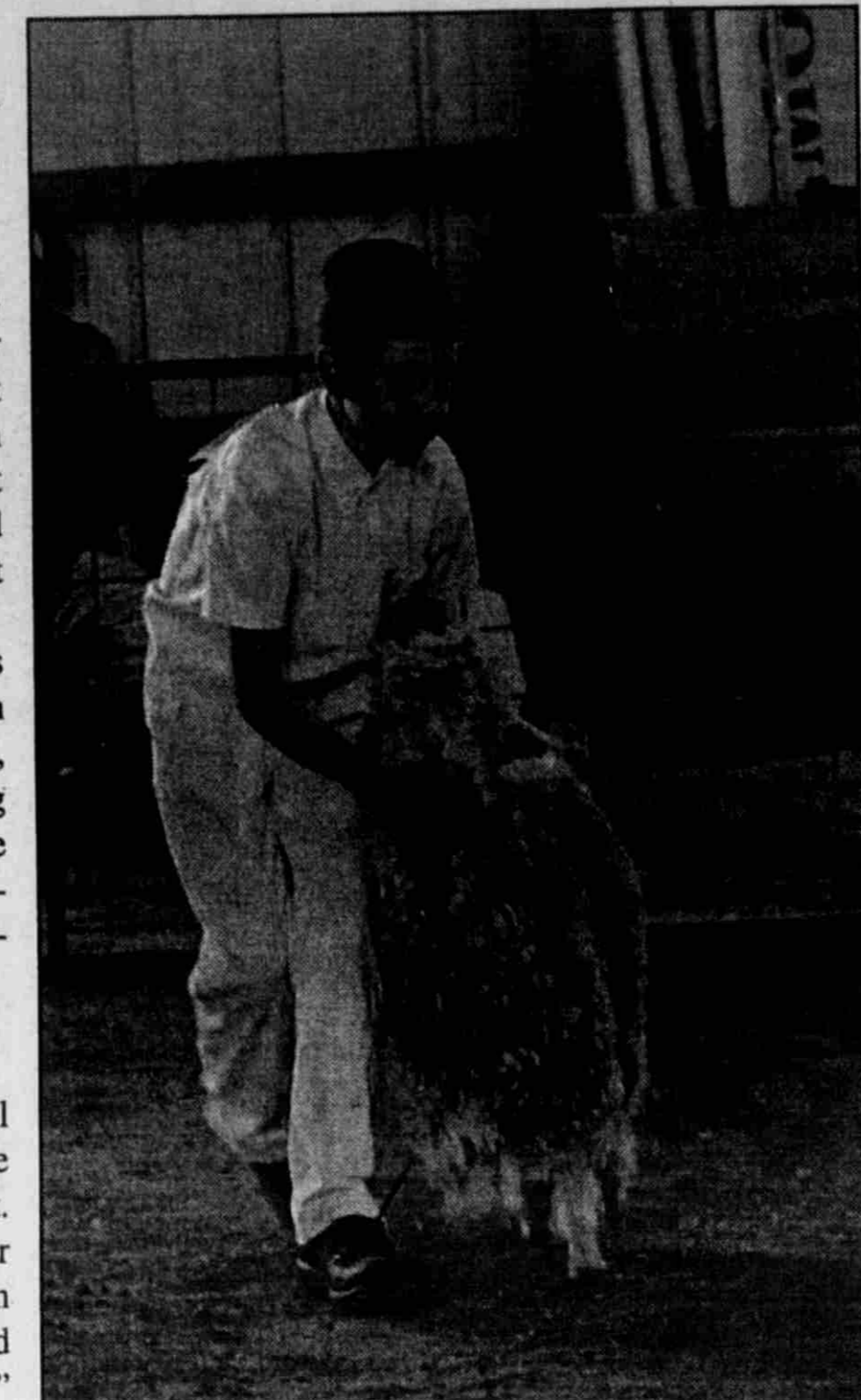
(MEAP) tests, despite some falls compared to last year, continued to stay above state averages.

The 70th annual Kent County Youth Fair begins this Saturday at the Lowell fairgrounds.

Steven Childs, a 2005 se-

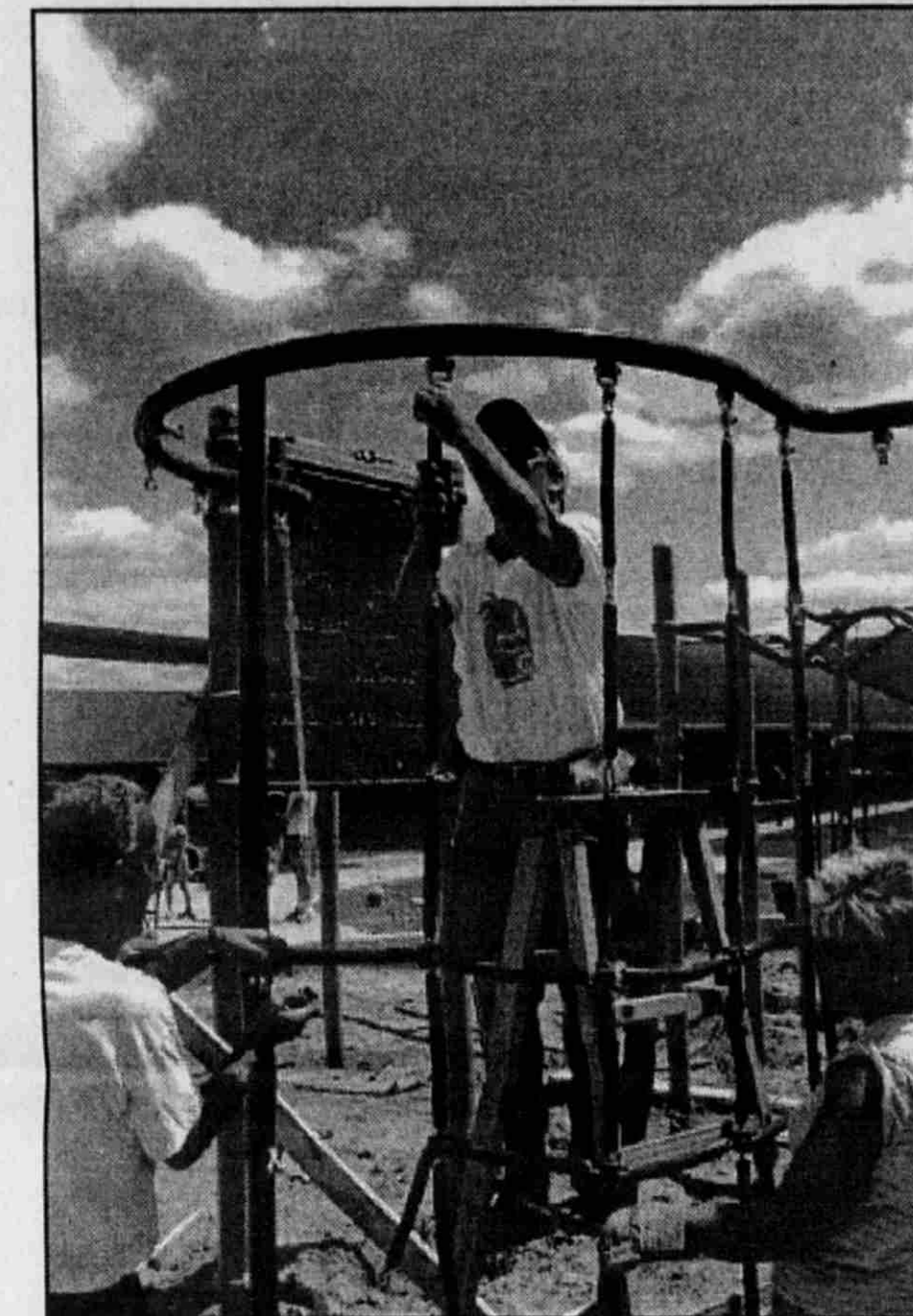
nior at Lowell High School, recently enlisted in the Marine Corps' Delayed Entry Program. The DEP allows high school seniors to enlist and defer going to recruit training until after graduation from high school.

Childs enlisted for five years and is scheduled to report for recruit training in San



Christopher Vickers, 10, shows his Angora goat during the 2004 Kent County Youth Fair. Aug. 11

Cont'd. next page...



Shayne Bunn and Deb Rogalke assemble equipment on the playground at the new Murray Lake Elementary last Friday. It was day two of a community building bee to install the new equipment. July 28

of High Street, people simply just take them.

Sundry Development hopes to curb the sign-taking ventures on High Street by seeking to have the name of the street changed to Highland Hill.

Vintage cars lined the fairgrounds last Saturday before rumbling through Main Street in celebration of Lowell's Riverwalk Festival.

Dale Dawson was one of the show's organizers. His shop, L.A. Trim, does a lot of work for hot rodders. He said the show was in honor of last year's chairman, Brian Mead, who died this spring.

The line workers for Lowell Light and Power went through a refresher course in emergency rescue techniques last Friday morning at the "pole yard" at the north end of Washington Street.

They used a 160-pound dummy to practice pole top rescue and bucket-to-bucket rescue.

The Fallasburg Cubs gave the Royal Oak Wahoo Base

Lowell Showboat's 25th birthday on the Riverwalk Plaza.

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer!

Meghan Loser  
Mr. Fillman  
Murray Lake Elementary

Justin Castro  
Mr. Fillman  
Murray Lake Elementary

**VERGENNES TOWNSHIP**  
10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell  
Ph. 897-5671

Cont'd. from last page...



The Ledger was able to obtain this exclusive photograph of an escaped emu. The fugitive, flightless bird, was captured Thursday, Aug. 12, just inside the Lowell city limits.

Diego, Calif., in June of 2005. He is the son of Brad and Kim Barber of Lowell.

**Marine Corps Cpl. Joshua J. Van Alstine**, son of Peggy and Mark Johnson of Alto, and more than 2,200 marines and sailors assigned to the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit recently deployed to Iraq.

Van Alstine's unit is an expeditionary intervention force with the ability to organize for combat operations in virtually any environment.

This time of year, wheat trucks waiting to unload at King Milling Company are usually lined up all the way back to the Grand River through the fairgrounds.

This year, however, it's rare to see four or more trucks in line because of high vomitoxin levels in Michigan's wheat harvest.

"It's probably the worst we've ever had in our memories as far as volume," said King Milling president Brian

Doyle. "Every mill from here on down to Kentucky has the same problem."

Vomitoxin is a byproduct of fusarium head blight, commonly known as scab. It is a fungal disease that hit wheat crops especially hard this year.

A new store is opening this week in downtown Lowell and it sells black and white things ... from charcoal grills and dinner plates to modernistic floor lamps and bath products, all in black and white or shades of gray.

HO! HO! HO!

Make A Great Christmas!

Zoe Beloncis  
Mrs. Young  
Cherry Creek Elementary

Rebekah Conklin  
Ms. Reed  
Cherry Creek Elementary

**ICNB** 897-6171  
Hometown Banking

MEMBER FDIC

Some of Dan Rook's photographs from this past year are currently on display at Huntingdon Galleria, located at 414 E. Main Street. They are color photographs taken digitally; three are from around Lowell.

**AUGUST 11**

The Kent County Youth Fair, this week, has been around for 70 years. For all of those years, it has kept its central focus on 4-H youth.

"We are one of the few truly youth fairs left in Michigan," fair president Ron Wenger said.

Chris Wenger reclaimed the office of Bowne Township supervisor with 482 votes. Tammi Wingeier overcame incumbent treasurer Sally Johnson in a close race. Wingeier had 416 votes to Johnson's 411. Sandra Kowalczyk held onto her clerk office, defeating Jeff Miller. Kim Culbertson won a trustee seat. David Fuss succeeded in a re-election bids for township trustee.

In Lowell Charter Township, John Timpson kept his supervisor's seat. Leslie Stougaard ran unopposed to become the new Lowell Township treasurer. Linda Regan will serve another four years as township clerk. Carlton Blough won re-election to trustee along with Richard Huver. Leonard Den Houter and Clifford Bonn won the other two trustee seats.

There are no new officers in Vergennes Township. Trustee Vern Nauta was re-elected with 578 votes and Allan Baird with 504. Tim Wittenbach, Mari Stone, and Jean Hoffman ran unopposed to win the offices of supervisor, clerk and treasurer, respectively.

The Kent County millage proposal to fund construction and operation of a new wildlife park fared the same in the Lowell area as it did county-wide.

Throughout Kent County, 54.8 percent of the voters prevailed in rejecting the millage while 45.2 percent supported it.

Voters in the Lowell area joined the rest of Kent County in approving the Kent District Library's millage renewal request.

Lowell resident Dave Hildenbrand won the Republican nomination for the 86th district house of representatives seat last Tuesday.

The first opportunity to contribute volunteer work toward the Lowell Area Trailway will be Saturday, Aug. 21 at the Cooper Woodland Preserve.

The woodland is one of the natural attractions along the eventual route of the Lowell Area Trailway.

The primary subject at the beginning of Monday's school board meeting was student safety in the school walk zones within the city limits established for this fall.

On Aug. 26, at the "Meet the Teacher" nights at Bushnell and Cherry Creek elementary, a representative of the transportation department will be available to answer questions.

Lowell resident Kristin Howarth and her fiancé, Ryan Vohs, have reached the top five in a wedding story competition.

**AUGUST 18**

Lowell police made an arrest last Monday on marijuana charges. It was the third time this year the Lowell Police Department has obtained a search warrant for a marijuana-related crime.

Last week's Kent County Youth Fair at the Lowell fairgrounds was considered a success despite poor weather halfway through the week.

The livestock auction set a record for the fair, grossing just over \$400,000. This bested last year's figure by about \$60,000.

The new Goodwill store in Lowell celebrated its grand opening Saturday.

Located at 11625 Fulton Street in Lowell Township, the store visually is a departure from the typical Goodwill. It is bright and colorful inside, with prominent signs marking different areas: men's, women's, children's clothing.

The first business before the Vergennes Township board Monday night dealt with industry policy in the global market.

Patrick Quinlan, owner of Precise Engineering on Lincoln Lake Avenue, and Ray De Winkle, vice president of The Right Place, Inc., presented information to the board regarding a new state law offering renaissance recovery zones for tool and die companies.

Pursuit of energy efficiency drives, and finances, were several improvements to Lowell Area Schools buildings this year.

Upgrades include new lighting in all school buildings, temperature-control improvements to most buildings, water-conservation measures, and centralized energy management systems. The work is scheduled for completion in February. Financing for the \$2.2 million project will come from the cost savings the improved energy efficiency creates.

Lowell resident Dave Hildenbrand won the Republican nomination for the 86th district house of representatives seat last Tuesday.

The first opportunity to contribute volunteer work toward the Lowell Area Trailway will be Saturday, Aug. 21 at the Cooper Woodland Preserve.

The woodland is one of the natural attractions along the eventual route of the Lowell Area Trailway.

day night to seek a special land use permit for a body shop on his property. Cosgrove said of four inquiries about the site, two have been from people interested in running a body shop.

Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc. (FROM) came before the Lowell Planning Commission Monday night to discuss a possible move to the current Masonic Lodge facility at 112 Lincoln Lake. The lodge, according to FROM chairman and First Congregational Church pastor Roger La Warre, appears to be merging with the Belding lodge. This means the Lincoln Lake site would be available.

Trying to find out your tax bill? Want to see how much taxes are on a parcel of land? With the internet, it's now one swift push of the button to get those answers.

The city of Lowell recently joined the worldwide web with its own web page, www.ci.lowell.mi.us. While items are still being added to the city's site, the newest feature is tax information, a page that offers assessing and tax information for all parcels in the city of Lowell.

**SEPTEMBER 1**

First Baptist Church of Lowell will celebrate its 150th anniversary beginning Sunday, Sept. 12. First Baptist Church has progressed from a structure on the corner of Jackson and Main streets in 1854 to its current location at 2275 W. Main St. where it has been since 1967.

Marine Corps Cpl. Joshua J. Van Alstine and more than 2,000 Marines and Sailors assigned to the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit recently began the process of ensuring security and stability in the central Iraqi province of Northern Babil.

Van Alstine is the son of Peggy and Mark Johnson of Alto.

The Lowell High School Class of '44 held their 60th reunion on Aug. 20, 2004 at Schneider Manor in Lowell with 19 in attendance.

"Alligators." That is what Department of Public Works director Dan DesJarden said jokingly at a recent Lowell Planning Commission meeting when asked what the city was doing with the sewers. In truth, the city is completing the third phase in its recording and maintenance program for the sewer lines.

It was the first day of school ever at Murray Lake Elementary.

"This is a neat day because it is the first day for anyone at Murray Lake," principal Brent Noskey said to the students during the first-ever

Cont'd. next page...



Cont'd from last page...

morning announcements at the elementary school.

This is the first time Noskey has been an elementary principal. He was assistant principal at Cherry Creek Elementary last year and a teacher in the district before that.

This year's Alto Fall Festival attendees can enjoy two types of historical re-enactment: an early-American armed conflict and the king of rock and roll. The festival happens Saturday, Sept. 11. New this year for the 24th anniversary of the festival, Elvis tribute artist Steve Hunt will perform "Elvis: The Memories of Elvis Show."

**SEPTEMBER 8**  
Over 300 bicyclists pedaled through Lowell last Thursday morning.

This year, for the first time, Lowell was part of the longest, most exclusive route in the 34th annual Dick Allen Lansing to Mackinaw Bicycle Tour (DALMAC). The tour takes 1,600 cyclists, by way of four routes, from the MSU Pavilion in East Lansing to Mackinaw City and across the Mackinaw Bridge.

The "Quad-Century" route—the route that includes Lowell—is 405 miles long and takes four days to complete.

Deb and Joe Karasiewicz had frequently thought about adopting a child, another sibling for their three children. But it was only recently, when

Butterworth Hospital, Stevens and his wife Sherrie began to play Santa and his helper and passed out toys that they had purchased.

The Toy Run is in memory of Tony, the Stevens' son, with all toys collected donated to local hospitals.

"We started at Fallasburg Park with 75 motorcycles," Stevens said of the first year. "Every year, it's grown."

The event has grown enough to attract about 700 to 1,000 bikes riding all sorts of bikes from Harley Davidsons to BMWs.

Getting rid of hazardous waste is a lot easier than many people may think—and it doesn't mean having to wait until May for the city's annual hazardous waste pick-up day. Public Works Director

The Lowell Athletic Boosters are taking a gamble on a new event in hopes of raising money for team uniforms.

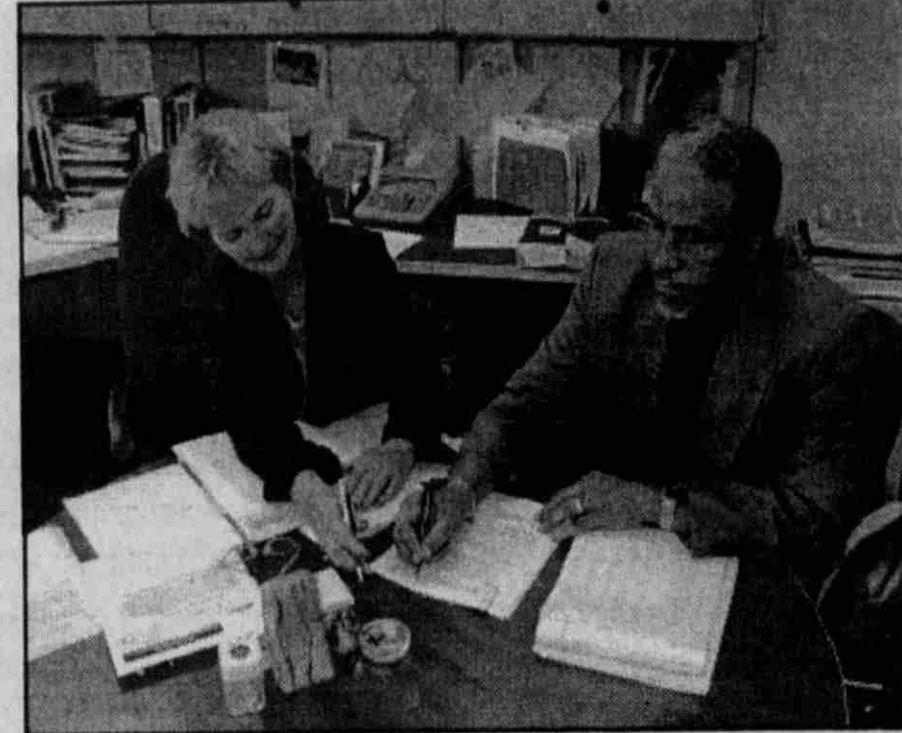
At the Lowell City Council meeting on Sept. 7, the Boosters met to discuss the granting of a charitable gaming license for the purpose of hosting a Las Vegas night at Larkin's.

"It shows government can work," said Lowell city business owner and Lowell Township president Simon Rosenbaum after the city council unanimously approved a recommendation to allow the selling of AirSoft guns.

Per the request of a resident, the Lowell City Council will have an outside source review findings on a tree before making a decision on whether it should be removed.

At the Sept. 7 council meeting, Public Works director Dan DesJarden reported that he had Poortenga Tree Service do a structural stem assessment on a tree located in the city right of way in front of Ivan Blough's home on N. Jefferson St.

The Wittenbach Agriscience and Environmental Center celebrates its fourth anniversary this Friday with a cookout, trail run and various educational opportunities.



LAS assistant superintendent for finance and personnel Connie Gillette and Michigan Education Association Uniserve director Willie Suber examine and approve items in the tentative contract agreement reached last week between LAS and union bargaining teams. Sept. 15

The center will dedicate a lilac tree to June Wittenbach at 5:30 p.m.

A new exhibition at the Lowell Area Arts Council opens Sunday with the intent of energizing community theater in the Lowell area and beyond.

"The Art of the Theatre," features props, sets and costumes from community theater productions in the area. The idea of the show is to help promote community theaters in this area of Michigan," said arts council executive director Lorain Smalligan.

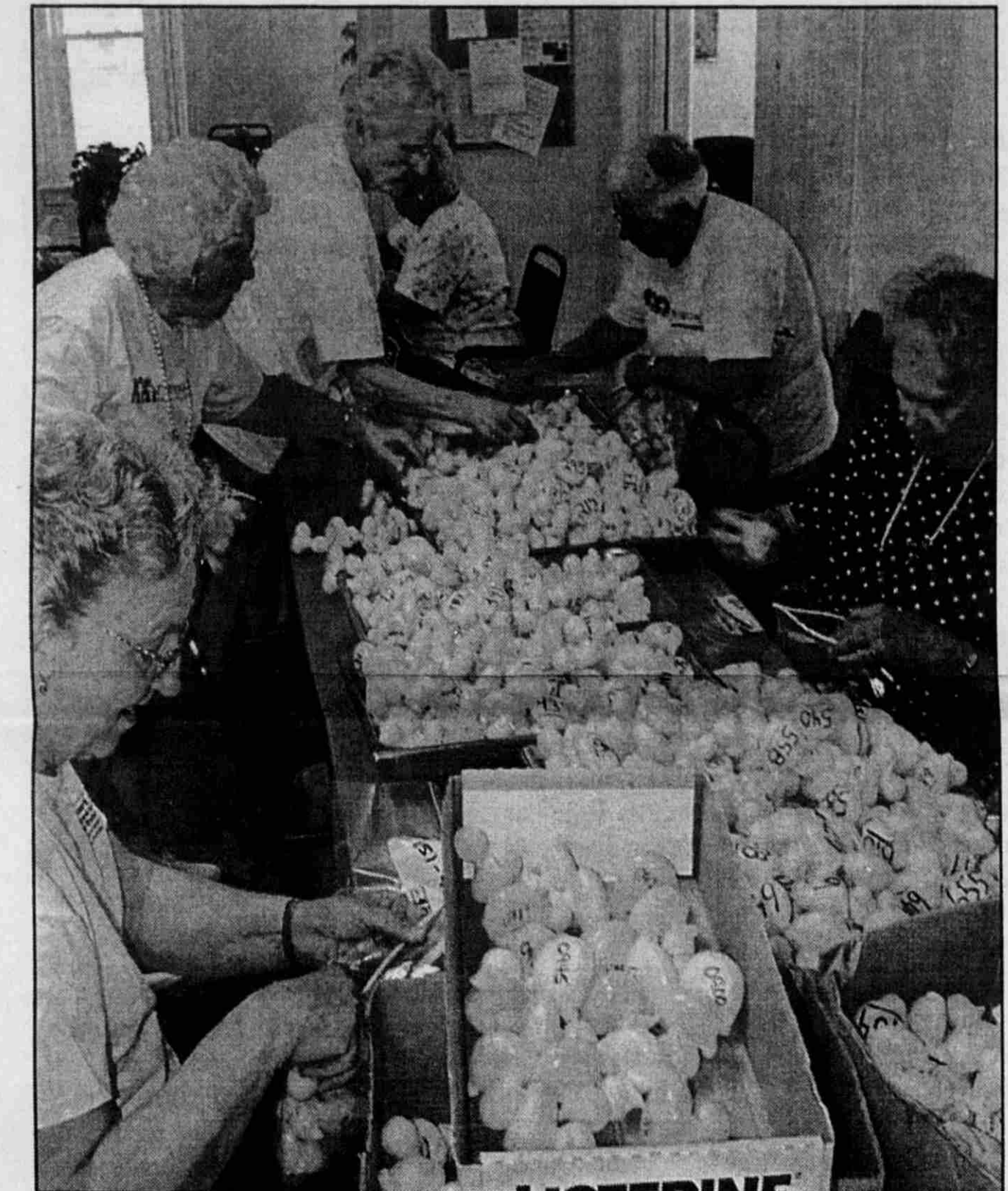
**SEPTEMBER 22**  
For the past month, three hurricanes have battered the state of Florida.

Charley hit the state in mid-August, then Francis struck in early September. Ivan grazed the state last week, causing extensive damage in Florida's panhandle region.

That's where the crew from True-Vine Tree Care is headed. The destination: Pensacola; their goal: to clean up limbs and damaged trees Ivan left behind.

Window placards are in the homes of families participating in the Michigan Community Childwatch Program throughout Lowell. So far, 31 households have completed the training necessary to participate in the program.

Cont'd. next page...



May Stanard (from left), Pauline LaDue, Joyce Van Dyke, Joyce Van Asperen, Arlene Fansher and Caroline Dadd are shown with a substantial pile of yellow, plastic ducks last Thursday at Lowell Senior Neighbors. The ducks will be reused next year in the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce duck race. Sept. 8

To the relief of many who drive it, the Foreman Road/Gee Drive project is completed.

But before anyone gets too comfortable with the road being open, Department of Public Works director Dan DesJarden offered a little reminder at the recent Lowell Planning Commission meeting. "The railroad has until November 2005 to complete its portion of the road."

they received a picture of a severely handicapped child from central Asia, that they felt it was time to act. "We are strong in our faith so we feel like the Lord is telling us to bring her here," Deb Karasiewicz said.

While parents and students were adjusting to walk zones last week, Lowell Area Schools was adjusting to new bus routes.

"I think they (the walk zones) are working just fine but I think on our side, we're having a little trouble with the buses," said Larry Mikulski, Lowell Area Schools director of transportation and operations.

David Stevens knows what it is like having a young child in the hospital. In 1990, his son Tony died at three and half from a brain tumor. As to way to say thanks and give cheer to children at

Dan DesJarden said at a recent city council meeting that he has been getting some inquiries about what to do with hazardous waste.

Riders headed west on Main Street the 34th annual DALMAC bicycle tour from Lansing to Mackinaw City. This is the first year a DALMAC route has included the towns of Lowell and Saranac.

**SEPTEMBER 15**  
Bargaining teams announced Friday that a tentative contract agreement has been reached for Lowell Area Schools teachers and support staff.

"We have a meeting of the minds, I think we're there, we just have a few details to iron out yet," said Connie Gillette, Lowell Area Schools assistant superintendent for finance and personnel.

Michaela Kehoe  
Mr. Jacobus  
Murray Lake Elementary

**SNEAKERS**

211 E. Main, Lowell  
897-6746

Merry Christmas

Alannah McBryde  
Mrs. Pupel  
Cherry Creek Elementary

**Keiser's**  
700 E. Main • Phone 897-8455

Cont'd. from last page...

People come from far and wide to attend the Lowell Area Arts Council's Fallasburg Fall Festival. For Ruth Paskewicz, the trip is longer than for most.

For the last 15 years, Paskewicz has helped Mary Kingsbury with her art booth. It was easy to do this for the

weeks, the Lowell City Council has been grappling with whether a tree at 623 N. Jefferson should be removed.

After Bartlett Tree Service completed a visual and structural test, the council decided to have those results reviewed by the MSU Extension Services. "Based upon the large amount of rotted tissue, evidenced by the gaping wounds along the trunk, this

**SEPTEMBER 29**  
Contracts for Lowell Area Schools teachers and support

port won't have to worry about getting jostled around. At its Monday night meeting, the Lowell City Council, in a 3-0 vote, decided to approve a recommendation from the airport board to improve the condition of the entrance drive off of Lincoln Lake.

**SEPTEMBER 29**  
Contracts for Lowell Area Schools teachers and support



New Lowell Area Schools staff members pictured, front row, left to right: are Cherry Creek special education teacher Amber Weber and reading teacher Sue Gordon; Murray Lake reading teacher Jackie Krygier; middle school part-time string instrument teacher Wendy Tenney; Alto Elementary fourth grade teacher Rachel Millhisler; Bushnell kindergarten teacher Mary Price; and district speech pathologist Jackie Confer. Back row, left to right, are middle school sixth grade science teacher Jason Lake; high school social studies teacher Nick Blough; health teacher Justin Miller; and agri-science teacher Kevin Nugent; middle school TechPlus and literature teacher Mary Blanchard.

first five years or so, when she and her husband, Mike, lived on Bailey Ave. in Vergennes Township.

The question of a tree being removed has led to a written policy on dealing with such issues. For the past several

tree is a public hazard," wrote Rebecca Finneran, extension horticulture educator, in a report to the city dated Sept. 15.

Those driving on the road leading into the Lowell Air-

staff passed ratification votes by both unions, Monday. Later in the day, the LAS board of education approved the settlement with two unanimous votes.

For both sides, the approval ends more than a year of often tense contract nego-

Lowell Education Association (LEA) president Dorann Truax said many teachers were just glad to have it over with.

"I don't know if it was relief, maybe resignation is a better word," Truax said. "They were resigned to the best offer we could get and looking ahead to better days. It was moving on."

A man suspected of an assault last Friday night in Lowell apparently has committed suicide. Authorities found the body of Dennis Eckman, 35, Saturday morning in a barn on his relative's property in Saranac. Tim Stroosnyder had identified Eckman in a photo line-up as the man who attacked him in the parking lot of Fry Daddy's restaurant on W. Main St. The Ionia County Sheriff's Department determined at the scene that Eckman's death was suicide.

**OCTOBER 6**  
The Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation is now accepting reservations for its popular "Dinner With Friends."

This is the third year of the event, which is a fundraiser for the foundation. Last

Police are still following leads in four break-ins this year at Michael's Farm Market on Hudson and West Main.

The break-ins were reported Feb. 29, June 2, Sept. 12 and Sept. 21. Each one occurred in the middle of the previous nights and were forced entry through a door. Money was stolen in the first three break-ins. Nothing was taken in the fourth break-in as the money could not be found.

Favorable weather Sunday contributed to a Fallasburg Fall Festival that was generally viewed a success.

**OCTOBER 6**  
The Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation is now accepting reservations for its popular "Dinner With Friends."

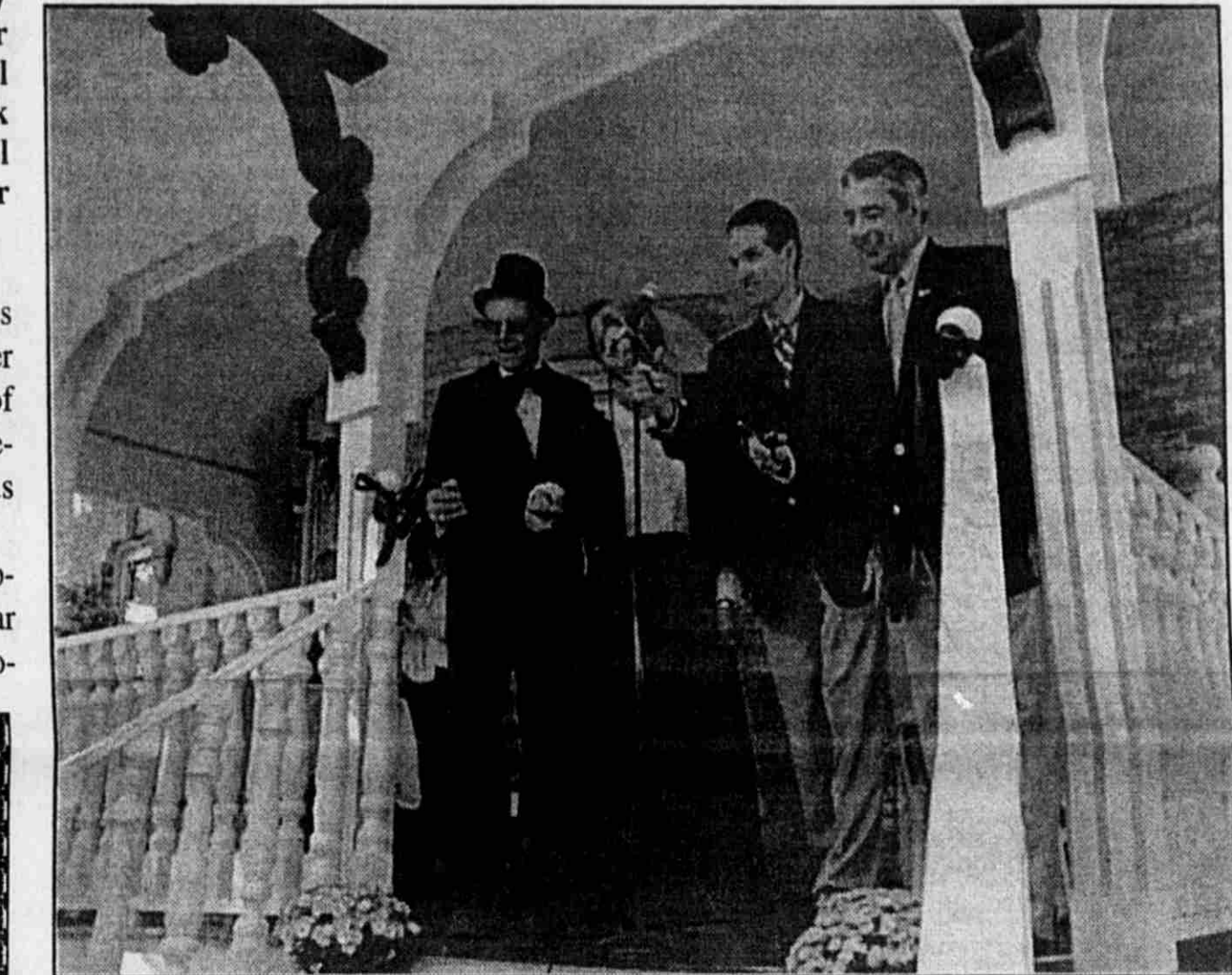
This is the third year of the event, which is a fundraiser for the foundation. Last

year's dinner raised \$3,500 for the Education Foundation which uses the money to provide grants for individual teachers and students to promote innovative curriculum projects not covered by the district.

The Harvest Celebration and Festival of Scarecrows will take place in Lowell this Saturday.

Seventy crafts booths open at the Harvest Arts and Crafts Show in the Foreman Building at the Kent County Youth Fairgrounds. Saturday also includes sales and open houses at various downtown businesses all day.

Cherry Creek Elementary hopes to reduce traffic jams of parents driving their kids to school for at least one day this month. Friday, Oct. 8, is International Walk to School Day and they are joining more than 100 schools statewide in



Contractor Ivan Blough, Lowell Area Historical Museum director Judy Straub, LAHM president Jim Doyle and Lowell mayor pro tem Chuck Myers cut the ribbon for the grand opening of the Lowell Area Historical Museum's east wing renovation last Saturday. Festivities included music by the 126th Army Brass Quartet and tours of the museum given by volunteers in period clothing. Sept. 22

promoting that students arrive on foot.

Precise Engineering in Lowell could be among the first to take advantage of recent state legislation intended to help Michigan tool and die shops compete in a global market.

The Michigan Tool and Die Recovery Zone Act eliminates taxes on qualifying tool and die companies. The intent is to help the struggling industry recover from jobs being lost overseas.

A lot has changed in Lowell since the houses featured in this year's second annual historic home tour were built. This year's tour features nine houses, most built in the 19th century.

It's homecoming week in Lowell. Things get started Wednesday night with the Powderpuff football game. Last year's junior team, which tied the senior team 16-16, will take on this year's juniors as seniors.

Cont'd. next page...

Kaitlyn Shannon  
Ms. Reed  
Cherry Creek Elementary

Melissa Southwell  
Ms. Melle  
Cherry Creek Elementary

**THOMET**  
CHEVROLET BUICK

1250 W. Main, Lowell  
897-9294

AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Alexis Foster  
Mrs. Pupel  
Cherry Creek Elementary

**WITTENBACH GMC**  
**Grand!**

REAL PEOPLE...  
REAL DIFFERENCE

749 W. Main St., Lowell  
Ph. 897-9227 • 800-936-0040

Happy New Year

Jacob Litchfield  
Mr. Hawkins  
Alto Elementary

**Lowell Cable**  
127 N. Broadway  
Phone 897-8405

Lowell Cable Television



Cont'd. from last page . . .

11 schools selected statewide to be part of a Governor's Council pilot program called Safe Routes to School.



Pete Odland is pictured outside his Whites Bridge Tooling shop where machine work was done to help build this mobile hunting blind. It's a golf cart designed to transport disabled hunters into the woods. Sept. 22

Army Spec. Heather L. Sterzick has been named soldier of the quarter.

Sterzick, an air traffic controller, is assigned to Fort Huachuca, Sierra Vista, Ariz.

She is the daughter of John and Helen Sterzick of Lowell and a 2001 graduate of Lowell High School.

Police chief Jim Valentine has answered it by stating in a memo to the Lowell City Council that the city will observe Halloween on its regularly scheduled time, Oct. 31, despite the date falling on Sunday.

OCTOBER 13

On Nov. 2, in addition to deciding the president of the United States, and federal and state legislators, voters going to the polls will be choosing a candidate for a lower-profile public office: county commissioner.

Republican candidate Jack Horton, 49, is finishing his third term as fifth district county commissioner.

Democratic candidate Komejan, 46, a district five resident for 10 years, ran for a commission seat in 2002.

Students, teachers and parents took part in a walk to school last Friday at Cherry Creek Elementary.

Cherry Creek was one of

A win for the home team Friday night added excitement to Lowell High School homecoming week.

Despite rain showers that silenced the marching bands, the parade still made its way west along Main Street before the game. The junior float, constructed on the board game theme "Life" took top honors. The class had also won homecoming float-building contests as sophomores and freshmen.

Jim and Evie Marron of Lowell Area Arts Council's Thebes Players were given recognition Friday night for being awarded the Community Theater Association of Michigan's Volunteer Service Award.

OCTOBER 20

The number of available work hours has eroded for Lowell Area Schools bus drivers over the past few years. Last year, there were 13



Ryan Olsen, 3, of Gowen, applies paint to paper at the Fallsburg Fall Festival children's area. Sept. 29

process, the event exposed Lowellians to several varieties of mouth-scorching fare.

Taking first in the judging was Craig Williams' "Dragon Spit" chili. "Missing Jack's" chili team took second place in the judging and won People's Choice for the second year in a row.

drivers working more than 30 hours a week. This year, only eight drivers were able to get that many hours. In order to qualify for fully-paid health insurance in the district, a driver must work 30 or more hours per week.

Candidates for 86th district state house of representa-

tives presented three viewpoints on issues affecting the state of Michigan in a debate last Tuesday night at City Hall.

The Lowell Ledger sponsored the debate, which featured Republican candidate Dave Hildenbrand, Democratic candidate James Turner and Libertarian candidate Bill Gelineau. All three are residents of the Lowell area.

An Ada man was arrested Sunday morning on charges stemming from the theft of a vehicle on M-21 near Cumberland Avenue in Lowell Township.

The suspect, Scott D. Hall, 30, was walking home shortly before 5 a.m. after partying in Lowell when he came across a Chevy four-door parked and running on the side of the road. He hopped in and began driving home but was soon stopped by Kent County Sheriff's Deputies. The car's original driver had called 911 on his cell phone from a nearby field where he was looking for a deer he hit earlier.

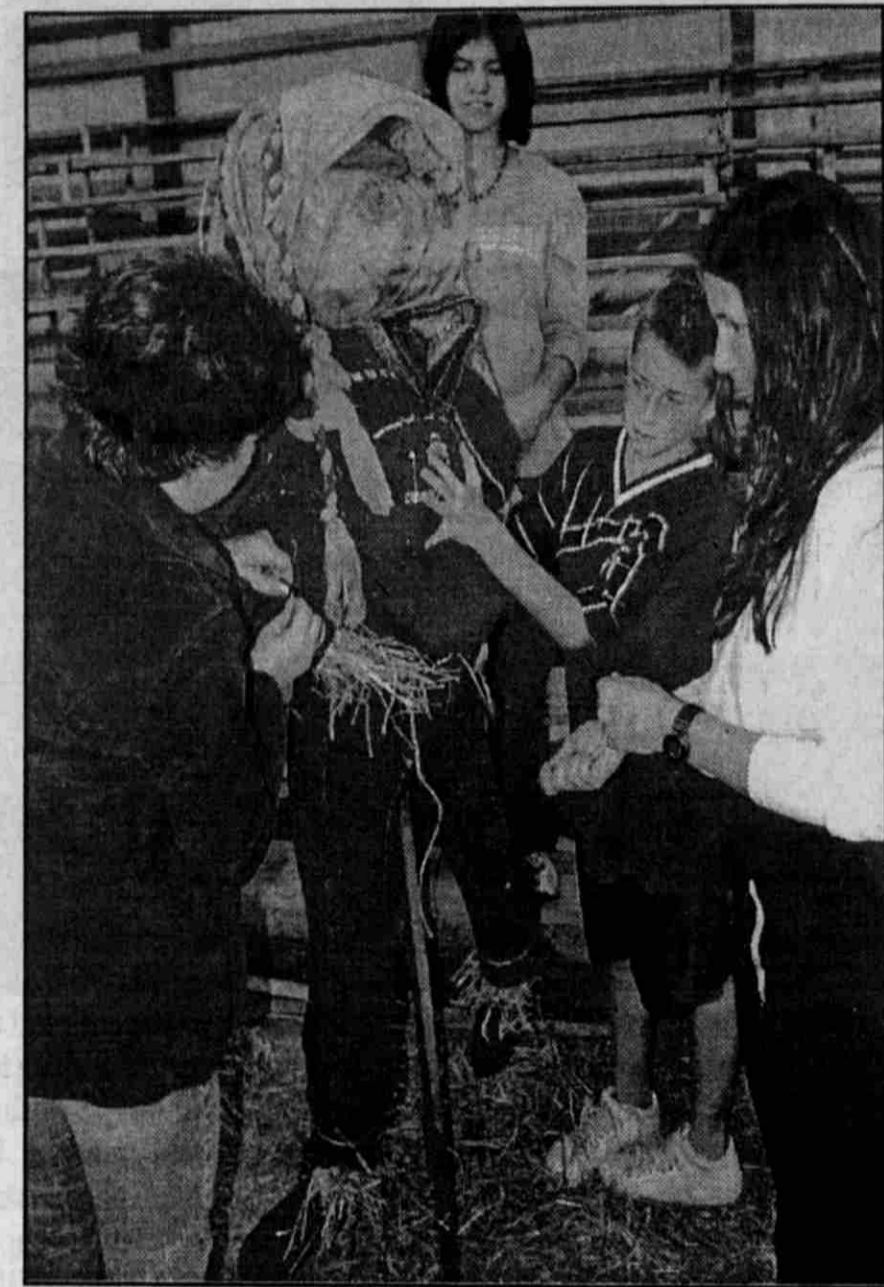
Vergennes Township now has an ordinance regulating applications for beer and wine licenses, preparing it in case such an application should occur.

"It basically lets everybody understand what's going to be required," said township supervisor Tim Wittenbach.

It was the hope of the city's engineering firm that the roof warranty for the Englehardt Library would still be honored so the city didn't have to pay for repairs.

city was going to have to dole out the \$5,000 to fix the leaky roof.

Navy Seaman James H. Haisma recently completed U.S. Navy basic training and



Scarecrow makers Collette Wheelock, Ashlee Wheelock, Zack Wheelock and Shelly Phelps put the finishing touches on a scarecrow at the Lowell fairgrounds. Oct. 13

was meritoriously promoted to his current rank at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

Cont'd. next page . . .



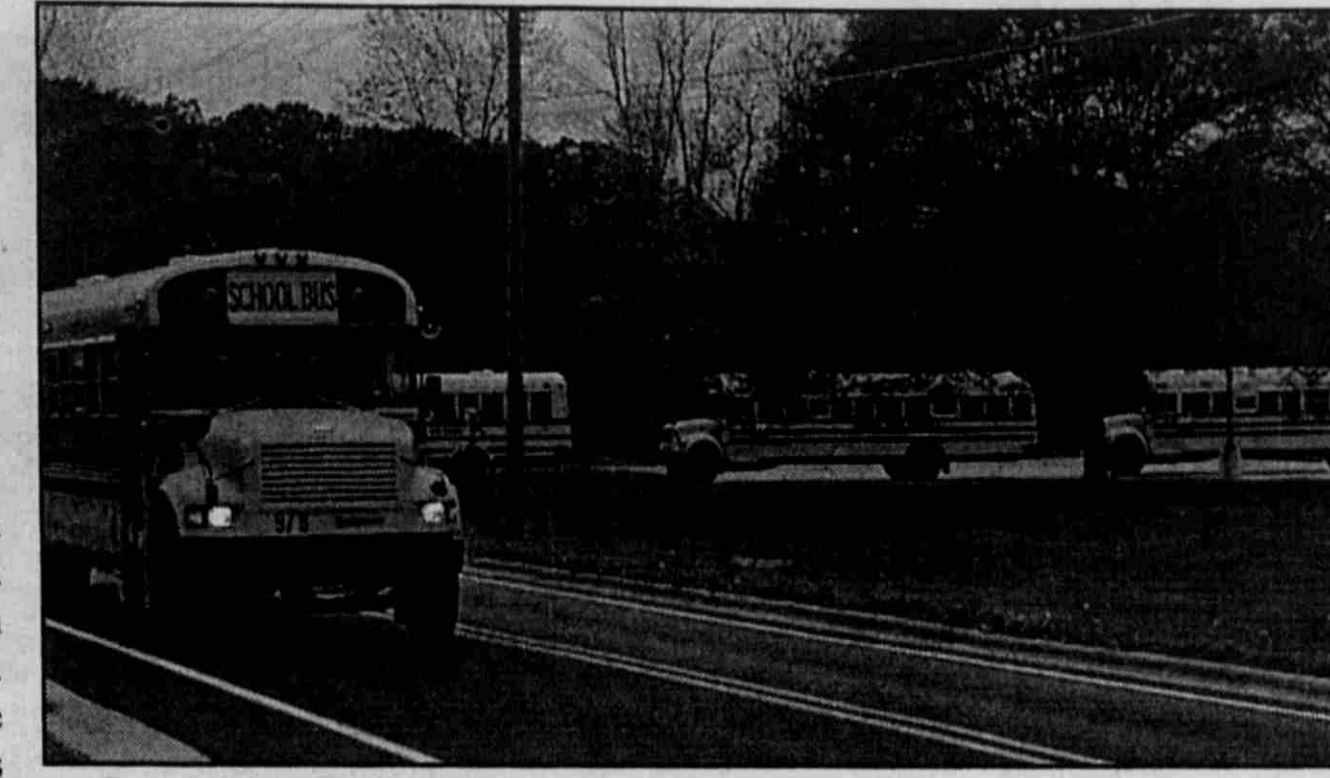
Merry Christmas and a happy New Year! Bailey Groendyke Mr. MacDonald Alto Elementary. BILL WHEELER Certified Public Accountant 103 Riverside Dr., Lowell 897-7711

MERRY CHRISTMAS! Kelsey Smith Mr. Stevens Cherry Creek Elementary. Canfield Plumbing & Heating 403 N. Washington • Lowell • 897-0887

Cont'd from last page . . .

Haisma, a 2004 graduate of Caledonia High School, is the son of Kimberly and James Haisma of Alto.

Army reservist Sgt. Jason Stoutjesdyk has been called up for active duty with the 180th Transportation Company out of Muskegon. At this time, it looks like he will be mobilized stateside as of Nov. 7 for a month before being deployed to Iraq. The deployment will last between



Buses leave Cherry Creek Elementary Monday afternoon. Various factors have caused fewer hours to be available for Lowell bus drivers over the past few years. Oct. 20



The 2004 Lowell High School homecoming court, pictured, back row, left to right, are: David Sefton, Kevin Eggebeen, Steve Ellison, Anthony Bronkella and Joe Mull; front row are: Chelsea Karas, Sabra Kinsley, Emily Gerard, Nicole Gibbs and Elise Wisnieski.

nine and 15 months. Stoutjesdyk, a student supervisor at Cherry Creek Elementary, returned April 17 after serving more than a year in Iraq. He has been in the Army reserve for four years. His parents are Jim and Deb Stoutjesdyk of Lowell and Patrick and Susan Lewis, also of Lowell.

When the teams take the field Saturday for baseball's World Series, it will seem absurd that America's national pastime once excluded players on the basis of race.

But until 1946, major league baseball was exclusively a white man's world. And even after Jackie Robinson first took the field, it was several years before black players were able to play a prominent role in major league baseball.

There will be 12 straight hours of music going on again this year at the Franciscan Life Process Center (FLPC). The

ordinance, Josh Langdon, of 401 Hunt St., asked that the council consider allowing corner lots to have two signs. He recommended that lots be allowed to have more than one sign provided they were at least 150 feet apart, thus preventing a bunch of signs on one lot.

Looking for the direction that will mean less variances and allow for maximizing its property, members of the Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc. approached the Lowell Planning Commission Monday night to see if its property could be rezoned to Central Business District.

Lowell Area Schools has organized its teaching and administrative staff into three teams in an attempt to get all the district's buildings working toward the same goals.

"You want to make sure there is continuity throughout the system, it fits together, and that there's common focus for school improvement," said Mark Kasmer, Lowell Area Schools assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction.

Marine Corps Cpl. Joshua J. Van Alstine, and the Marines and Sailors of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) and Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) recently captured four suspected anti-Iraqi militants in Northern Babil province.

Van Alstine's unit also provided assistance from the MEU's Force Reconnaissance platoon to Iraqi Special Weapons and Tactics members as well as Iraqi national guards-

paperback at the beginning of this month. In the time since its publication in November of 2003, the book has had extensive national readership.

Enslaved by Ducks is a personal narrative about Tarte's moving to an old farmhouse west of Lowell and rapidly accumulating pets at the urging of his wife.

Work will continue this Saturday to remove brush piles and construct hiking trails in the Cooper Woodland Preserve. Work includes chipping loose brush in the eastern portion of the woodland and placing timbers to define the trail, spreading woodchips along a trail in the northern part of the woodland, and chipping loose brush along an easement to establish an access trail from Foreman Road.

NOVEMBER 3

The first step has been taken toward the annexation of 177 acres of land to the city of Lowell.

On Oct. 13 the state boundary commission certified a petition by DuRay Development, LLC to annex the parcel at the corner of Alden Nash and Vergennes Ave. It is across Alden Nash from Lowell High School.

The boundary commission must review and make a recommendation on the application. This process takes up to nine months and includes a local public hearing.

For Halloween, Leara Glinzak, Tanya Baker, Heather Spratt, Mallory Hines, Heather Jousma, Casie Pedley and Kim Kline, all ninth and tenth grade students, met with



Carolyn Jane Blough (from left), Vaughn and Margie Morrison, Sharon Vosovic, Liz Baker, Minnie Kansman, Betty Morlock, and John and Paula Blumm enjoy a meal and good company at the "Dinner with Friends" event hosted in the Victorian dining room of the Lowell Area Historical Museum. Oct. 27

center is holding its fourth annual Music Therapy Marathon Friday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

OCTOBER 27 Deciding one sign was enough per lot, the Lowell Planning Commission unanimously recommended its revised ordinance for signs in residential districts at its Monday night meeting. After a general review of

men, to help capture a former Baath Party leader and apprehend two men suspected of firing on Marines.

Van Alstine is the son of Peggy and Mark Johnson of Alto.

Lowell author Bob Tarte is five chapters into his second book.

His first one, Enslaved by Ducks is in its third hardcover printing and was released in

NOVEMBER 10 Though the Lowell area votes didn't help President George W. Bush win the state of Michigan in last Tuesday's

Cont'd. next page . . .

I'm Melting! MERRY CHRISTMAS DURKEE LUMBER Alto, Michigan • 868-6026 Hours: Mon. - Fri., 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Sat. 8 a.m. - noon

PEACE ON EARTH!!! Merry Christmas!!! Shannon Rose Mrs. Young Cherry Creek Elementary. Showboat AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY, INC. "Personal Service Since 1973" 1450 W. Main, Lowell Ph. 897-9231



Cont'd from last page...

election, Republican candidates for more local offices

**Air Force Airman Britni K. Childs** has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Childs, a 2002 graduate

Two girls were struck by a dump truck while crossing West Main Street last Thursday afternoon. Around 4:30 p.m., a group of seven girls was crossing from the Lowell YMCA

**NOVEMBER 24**  
Now that the Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA) exists, cooperation with another local trail group, the Lowell Area Trailway will help to build its goal. The national headquarters for the North Country Trail Association (NCTA) has been located in historic downtown Lowell for four years. The group has been building and maintaining the North Country National Scenic Trail a lot longer than that, since 1980. The NCTA plans to share knowledge gained from that experience with the fledgling LARA.

When the First Congregational Church of Lowell completes the construction of its new church, it will have more sanctuary space as well as space for new community programs.

The church has 260 members at last count and is still growing, according to pastor Roger La Warre. The first phase of the new building will

Bushnell, Cherry Creek and Murray Lake elementaries and Lowell Middle School. A girl scout neighborhood is a larger, cooperative group of several individual troops.

A hunting trap placed illegally on the northeast bank of the confluence of the Flat and Grand rivers caused the death of a Lowell woman's dog two weeks ago.

On the afternoon of Wednesday, Nov. 10, Diane Smith was walking her dog, a four-year-old Brittany spaniel, on city property. The dog stumbled upon a trap placed to catch small mammals.

**DECEMBER 1**  
The Alto United Methodist Church has purchased property to construct a new church building.

The church congregation will raise money to fund the project as it goes, said pastor Dean Bailey. The first step was the acquisition of the property. Next, money will be raised through fundraisers like a recent baked potato supper and through donations from the congregation before construction begins.

One of two girls injured in the Nov. 11 pedestrian accident involving a dump truck was home from the hospital in time for Thanksgiving. "She's doing very well," said Heather Eikey, mother of 11-year-old Madeline Simmons.

The other girl, Jessica Reedy, 13, is also reportedly home from the hospital. Her family couldn't be reached for this article.

Police are still looking for leads in three home break-ins that occurred in the city of Lowell from mid-October to



Sean Adriane was into the Ledger office with his deer to claim the "First Buck" prize. Nov. 17

mid-November. The first break-in was reported to police Saturday, Oct. 16, the second on Oct. 30 and the third, Nov. 10. All took place on the northeast side. There is a large number of break-ins for one month in Lowell.

By the end of the first half, it was clear that the Red Arrows were facing their greatest challenge of the season.

By the end of the game, it was clear that there was no challenge this team couldn't rise up to.

Lowell beat St. Johns 38-17 in the Division 3 state football championship game at the Pontiac Silverdome, Saturday. It was their second state football title in three years, but it didn't come without a fight.

This year's Lowell High School fall play is an adaptation of William Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. The play is set in New Orleans, with bright-colored sets and Bourbon Street.

The new Habitat for Humanity house being built on Bowes Road in Lowell has

Cont'd. next page...

Cont'd. from last page...

sprung up from a concrete-slab foundation in a short amount of time.

A large work crew started building the house Nov. 20.

lasburg Historical Society director Kerry Schubach.

The menu offers the kind of foods people would have eaten around here during Christmas time in the 1860s.

Army reservist Sgt. Jason Stoutjesdyk is back home in

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.

The calendar features local patrons such as Ken Gregersen, dressed as cupid

ceived special mention as a defensive back.

Kendra Gallert received all-state girls basketball honors.

In Division 2 soccer, Mike Bushell (top goalie) and Shane Stokes, first team all state were honored.

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.

**DECEMBER 15**  
An unexpected, large volume of water from upstream swelled Flat River in downtown Lowell, last Friday morning.

"Our computer water system was working but it just wasn't fast enough for that," explained King Milling president Brian Doyle.



All-state soccer players Shane Stokes, left, and Mike Bushell.

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.

chase a new sewer jetting 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.

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

Store employees along Main Street are reporting a good holiday shopping season so far, with more shoppers coming in and more



The staff at Ionia County National Bank dressed up as pirates and maidens, and also batman. Pictured, front row, left to right, are: James Summers, Linda Stewart, MaryBeth Rosekrans, Dave Lane and Barb Williams. On the pirate ship are Denise Amidon and Marilyn McDougall. The pirate ship was returned to the Lowell High School marching band in time for Friday's halftime performance. Nov. 3

did well in the precincts around here.

Voters in Lowell, Vergennes and Bowne townships and the city of Lowell cast more than twice as many votes for Bush as for Democratic presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry.

LAS is nine months into a four-year energy efficiency contract with Energy Education, Inc. The program works to lower energy usage at the buildings by getting staff into habits like turning off lights in unoccupied rooms. Greater pains are also being taken to shut down heating systems on the weekends and during other times when students aren't in school.

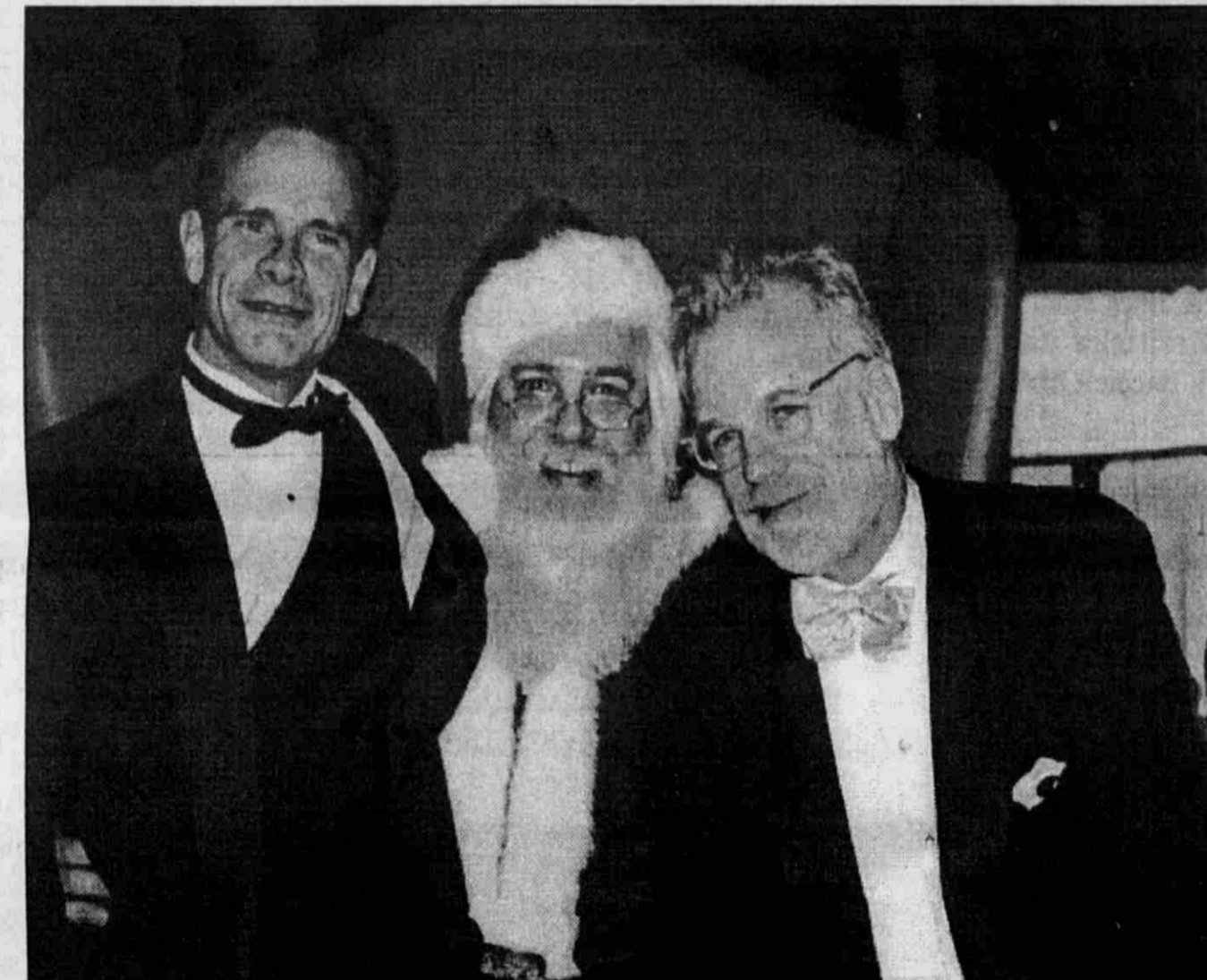
The Lowell Police Department is investigating the theft of a lockbox from a Lowell home and three car break-ins.

The lock box theft was reported after midnight Friday, Oct. 29. According to Lowell police chief Jim Valentine, the homeowners were not at home and had left their doors open.

This is the 13th year of the annual craft tour, Christmas Through Lowell.

This year the event is bigger again. There are 52 stops on the tour—seven businesses and 45 homes where people can buy mostly holiday-related crafts. The event takes place the first weekend of gun deer season.

**NOVEMBER 17**  
A fire destroyed Joe Manszewski's storage barn on Oberley Drive in Lowell Township Monday morning. Manszewski's son was taken to Spectrum Health Blodgett Campus in Grand Rapids for treatment of burns. He burned both his hands while trying to recover items from the burning building. Lowell fire chief Frank Martin said.



Lowell's own Santa Claus, famed of Santa parades and with a real beard, was tapped to do the honors at the North Pole of the gala premiere for "The Polar Express" at De Vos Place in Grand Rapids last Friday. He is pictured with "Polar Express" author, Grand Rapids' native Chris Van Allsburg, right, and actor Peter Scolari, who does voice talent in the animated film. Nov. 10

of Prosser High School, Wash., is the daughter of Brian Childs of Lowell and Lisa Cochran of Richland, Wash.

The sport of cross country is about going the distance. And the 2004 Lowell boys cross country team made this year's season last as long as possible.

The Red Arrows traveled to the Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Saturday, to compete in the cross country state finals.

**NOVEMBER 17**  
A fire destroyed Joe Manszewski's storage barn on Oberley Drive in Lowell Township Monday morning.

Manszewski's son was taken to Spectrum Health Blodgett Campus in Grand Rapids for treatment of burns. He burned both his hands while trying to recover items from the burning building. Lowell fire chief Frank Martin said.

parking lot to McDonalds. The eastbound dump truck hit 13-year-old Jessica Reedy and 11-year-old Madeline Simmons, both of Lowell, who were the last of the group.

With programs filling the space at its present location at 149 S. Hudson, the Lowell Area Arts Council will spend this winter figuring out how best to move some of its activities to a space in the heart of the city.

The space is a garage on Riverwalk Plaza, just north of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. Currently, the chamber uses half of the city-owned building for storage; the department of public works uses the other half for a sign shop.

Firefighters watch hot spots at a fire that destroyed a storage building in Lowell Township Monday morning.

include a sanctuary that seats 266, but also a 3,630 square-foot family center, classrooms and office space. The new church is being built on Lincoln Lake Ave., north of the church's current location.

The swing set along Riverwalk Plaza will be gone by the end of the year and replaced with a mosaic art wall.

Located between Englehardt Library and Unity High School, the playground equipment did not meet modern safety standards and is beyond repair, according to Lowell Area Schools transportation and operations director Larry Mikulski.

For three months, the girl scouts in Lowell and Alto have been part of their own local "neighborhood."

The Flat River Neighborhood formed in late August. It includes girl scouts from Alto,

**REGAL INSURANCE AGENCY**  
Auto-Owners Insurance  
Life Home Car Business  
The No Problem People®  
Dale & Nancy Triplett  
835 W. Main, Lowell  
Phone 897-9259

Santa's Family  
Eli's Family  
Snowman's Family

Kasey Woodhead  
Ms. Reed  
Cherry Creek Elementary



The 2004 Division 3 state champion Lowell Red Arrows. Dec. 1

**DECEMBER 8**  
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.

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

"They did a lot of pickling in those days," said Fal-

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.

The regulars at the Backwater Cafe on Riverside Drive can now be employed to

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.

Eight 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.

The all-state football players were quarterback Keith Nichol, running back Ryan Esbaugh, wide receiver Mike Koster, and lineman Ed Zigmont. Frank Mulder re-

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

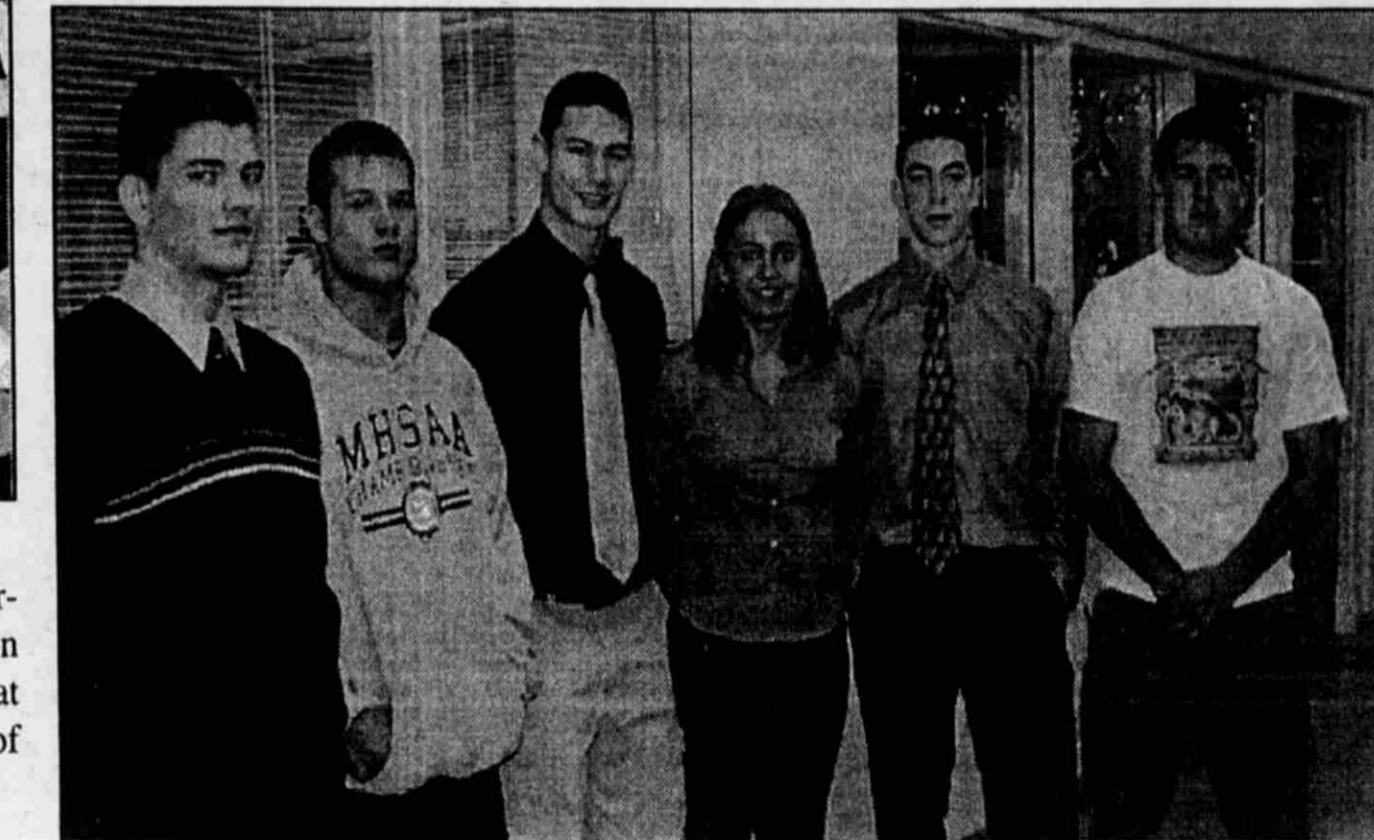
A Christmas Wish \* \* \* A Christmas Wish \* \* \* A Christmas Wish \* \* \*

Merry Christmas

ASHLYN HUSSEY  
MR. MACDONALD  
ALTO ELEMENTARY

**HAROLD ZEIGLER FORD**

11979 E. FULTON, LOWELL  
1-888-854-6400



All-state athletes, from left to right: Frank Mulder, Ryan Esbaugh, Mike Koster, Kendra Gallert, Keith Nichol and Ed Zigmont.

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.

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

At its Monday night meeting, the council rejected Public Works director Dan DesJarden's proposal to pur-

people traveling from out of town as Christmas approaches.

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.



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. Dec. 1



Cont'd from last page...

Want to tell us how you feel? Got a pet peeve? To Get Off Your Chest?

Did someone do the RIGHT thing for a change!

# Sound Off

The Ledger (Almost) Anything Goes Opinion Forum

897-0787 or www.lowellbuyersguide.com

And how can we forget Sound Off? This was the first full year of the column and most readers get into the spirit. At times it gets a little heated (we like to think we're helping let off a little steam), frequently callers are grateful for a kind gesture and a lot of them just make you chuckle. Here's a small sampling of some of our favorites:

To the two women who sat behind me in the Lowell theater on Thursday at 12:00. With only eight seats taken, why did you have to sit there and talk, talk, talk all the time? Rude.

Am I the only one, or are you, too, tired of Roger Brown examining the lint in his navel?

You are the only person tired of Roger's stories. Keep writing, Roger. Thanks for the stories and the flights - look forward to them every week.

Where is the Sound Off? I haven't seen it in the Ledger for two weeks! Let's get it back in line.

So our roof leaks primarily when it rains on City Hall.

This is to the brown car that passed me on the left Monday morning. I'm sorry and thank you for teaching me the error of my ways.

I don't understand why parents would care enough to come to their child's event but then wear thong underwear visible for all to see.

To the person who made the thong comment: You must be a lady; no man would complain about seeing a thong. Since you must be a lady, what are you doing looking at other ladies back sides?

We need a good KFC in this place.

Forget KFC, bring on Popeyes!

We don't need a KFC we need a Kentucky Fried Chicken.

To all the KFC chicken wackos - why not invest in a KFC franchise here in Lowell, then you can eat all the fried chicken you want! We're sick of hearing about it in the Sound Off!!

Dog owners...pick up the poop. I'm tired of getting blamed for your poop!

I just want to put in that my boyfriend knows directions. Do you?

What is my "boyfriend knows directions" all about?

I don't get it. To the jerk in the green explorer, TURN DOWN your stereo. Everyone in the city doesn't need to hear it...

This is the jerk in the Explorer. I don't appreciate you putting #@#\* in your paper so I guarantee it's going to be louder. Thank you.

You people who are too chicken \*#\*# to call in to Sound Off but won't put your name at the bottom really piss me off! - Anonymous

What if the Hokey Pokey IS what it's all about?

Why are there so many ads in the Buyers Guide?

Why do the fire trucks go so fast down Main St.?

If my house is on fire, I would hope the fire department would travel fast down Main Street.

I don't have firsthand knowledge, but to the person who asked why the fire department drives so fast down Main Street, I have an answer. Maybe it is because they are going to a fire?

Need to exercise more and lose weight? Try putting your shopping cart away at the grocery store.

The Chicken MARSALA was wonderful! Save the MARSHMALLOWS for campfire!

Feed your dogs on Monday night so they don't get in the garbage on Tuesday.

If at first you don't succeed - skydiving is not the sport for you.

Roger, your article was great as always this week. Putting dog drops in your eyes is nothing compared to mistaking Ben-Gay for Preparation H - Not good. (Ha Ha) Never lived that down.



# Merry Christmas!

From Everyone at The Ledger!

Leanne Day  
Toni Jimmy Jay

... 'Tis the Season to..... get and give....

Just Keep Growing Till Christmas Day.

Emma Roderick, Mr. MacDonald, Alto Elementary

Wesley McDannold, Mrs. Pupel, Cherry Creek Elementary

Jack the Pumpkin King

Lenora Edwards, Ms. Melle, Cherry Creek Elementary

Nora Donahue, 10 Mrs. Vezino, St. Patrick/Parnell

Tyler Collins, Mr. Stevens, Cherry Creek Elementary

# The Lowell Ledger

105 N. Broadway, Lowell  
Phone 897-9261 • Fax 897-4809

# 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.

**3RDMON.:** Fallsburg Historical Society board meetings at chamber of 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 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 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. Cubmaster Bruce Doll, 897-9782; email: bruce@imagesofvision.com.

**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., 6-7:30 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.

**MON., JAN. 3:** Lowell Athletic Boosters regular meeting at 7 p.m. in high school staff lounge.

**THURS., JAN. 6:** Financial Aid Night at LPAC at 7 p.m. for juniors, seniors and their parents to go over FAFSA.

**THURS., JAN. 6:** LAS softball winter fast pitch clinic begins for two months. Cost: \$30. Call Bob Rodenhous at 987-2900 or 245-4596.

**SAT., JAN. 8:** LAS Environmental Club & Wege/

Wittenbach Center free Christmas tree shredding, 12-4 p.m.; luminary walk, snowshoes available for rent, 4-6 p.m. Donations accepted.

**SAT. JAN. 8:** Foodmobile, free produce from 10-11 a.m. at Lowell fairgrounds, S. Broadway. Bring own bag or box. Distributed by F.R.O.M.

**THURS., JAN. 27:** ACT Preparation Workshop at Lowell High School, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Cost: \$38. Call 987-2908 with questions.

Call 897-9261 to Subscribe to the Ledger

220 General FOR SALE 225 General

THE CLASSIFIEDS THAT CLICK

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!

www.lowellbuyersguide.com

You Can Now Email Your Classified To Us!

classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com

Be sure to include your name, address, phone number & when you'd like your ad to appear.

**LOWELL SENIOR NEIGHBORS CALENDAR**

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

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.:** 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.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**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.



## To the Editor, continued...From Page 5

in our Master Plan for years. The purpose of this roadway is to make the traffic movement safer by allowing for access to Bowes Rd. that has a traffic signal at M-21. This rear access road can be a private road, and as such would be paid for by the developer of this property. The only reason for a PA 425 agreement, which is a negotiated annexation of land, is so the city can collect city taxes - somewhere around 16 mills - on the entire development. The township charges less than one mill. The city proposes to collect their higher taxes and then return to the township something - probably the less than one mill we would have collected on the property inside the township.

The city is the roadblock here for the developer. It is refusing to allow the developer to put in a driveway - on

property he owns - to connect to Bowes Rd. unless the city can collect taxes on the entire 13+ acre development. The only development on that strip of city controlled property that shows on the preliminary site plan is part of a parking lot and the driveway. The applicant developer did not even apply for approval on this project until Dec. 6, and the project has not yet been formally reviewed by the township planning commission.

I suggest that the city allow the developer access to his property off Bowes Rd., and collect their taxes based on what is on that piece of property. Did the city require the bank or the medical center to pay for access to Bowes Rd.? Should the township collect 25 percent of the taxes on those properties

because we paid 25 percent of the costs of reconstructing the intersection?

Ensuring the public health, safety, and welfare is the purpose of government, and collecting taxes to pay for these purposes is how government gets things done. However, allowing access to Bowes Rd. is a matter of public safety, not taxes, and I would encourage the city to allow this connection without imposing an additional tax burden on the developer.

Paula Blumm,  
Lowell Charter Township resident

## City council approves contract for city assessor

J. Lobbell  
Contributing Writer

After receiving a comparison report on wages, the Lowell City Council unanimously approved a two-year contract with its current city assessor.

The matter was tabled at the Dec. 6 council meeting,

indicating it needed further information on salaries of assessors in similar size cities. Staff contacted 10 cities in the West Michigan area including Cedar Springs, East Grand Rapids, Hastings, Hudsonville, Ionia, Fremont,

Rockford, DeWitt, Belding, and Allegan.

City manager David Pasquale said staff asked about salary, whether the position was full or part time, what benefits the position offered, if there was additional staff,

and if it was contractual or at will. Salaries ranged from \$15,000 for part time (one day in the office) to \$61,193 for full time.

Pasquale said this showed that the Lowell assessor's salary was in line with what was

reflected. "It is my belief that the salary is quite fair," Pasquale said.

The wage for the assessor, a position held by Jim Marfia, would include a one percent increase per year with a salary of \$32,100 for 2005 and \$32,425 for 2006. The city would also compensate up to 37.5 cents per mile for business travel. Marfia has office hours two days a week in the city, usually from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday and Pasquale noted he has been available in the city more than that as well.

"After seeing the comparison in our packet, I feel a lot more comfortable this week than I did two weeks ago," said councilman Jim Pfaller, who moved that the council approve the assessor's agreement. The council did so with only mayor Jeanne Shores being absent. Councilman Charles Myers said this was what the council was after, a comparison to help determine the appropriate cost. Marfia splits his part-time work between the city of Lowell and Grattan Township.

## Property rezoning leads planning commission to review master plan

By J. Lobbell  
Contributing Writer

A piece of property at 112 Lincoln Lake Ave. has led to a discussion of updating the city's master plan.

After a lengthy discussion about rezoning the property where the Masonic Lodge currently sits, the Lowell Planning Commission decided it was time for the city to take a look at its master plan and better focus on the entire area of Hudson Street to the railroad tracks. The last time the city revised its master plan was in 1995 and the state recommends doing so every five years, said planner Deb Steenhagen, of Langworthy, Strader, LeBlanc & Associates.

The issue came up when Flat River Outreach Ministries (F.R.O.M.) approached the planning commission in October about rezoning the Lincoln Lake property from public facilities and residential to central business district. The commission turned down the request partially due to the recommendation of Steenhagen, who stated the move would create two downtown business districts which could be difficult for the city to maintain. Also, the zoning could create several nonconforming uses in the area.

Steenhagen recommended the property be rezoned to C1 commercial with the commission considering

variances for any other needs for the site. The planner said at the Dec. 13 planning commission work session that this zoning would also be a buffer to the residential property nearby. F.R.O.M. officials were not as pleased with that zoning since it did not allow for offsite parking and other building and height restrictions.

Because of the rezoning concern, commission chair Clark Jahnke felt it was time for the commission to look at the entire Hudson Street corridor (to the railroad tracks from Main Street) and consider what the vision of the city would be there. He mentioned there were a number of different types of zoning and

several parcels that have had trouble being developed because of zoning issues.

Steenhagen said if the commission felt the majority of the master plan was still accurate and current, it could look at creating a specific sub plan for the area it is reviewing. City manager David Pasquale said cost for work on the plan could be covered with block grant monies.

As for the Lincoln Lake property, Masonic Lodge representatives said they have decided to seek the C1 commercial zoning for the site regardless of whether Flat River Outreach Ministries does or doesn't. It is the hope of the group that by rezoning the site,

Rezoning, cont'd., pg. 34

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

**ADVERTISE**  
IN THE  
LEDGER BUSINESS DIRECTORY  
As Low as **\$750** PER WEEK  
Call 897-9261

**AT YOUR SERVICE**  
**Thomet**  
Chevrolet BUICK  
SERVICE HOURS: M, T, TH & FR • 8-5; WED • 8-8  
Phone 897-9284

**KIRK COLLINS**  
Owner  
**Snowboat**  
AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY, INC.  
Auto Value  
1450 W. Main St., Lowell, MI  
(616) 897-9231  
HOURS: MON - FRI 8-7; SAT 8-5:30; SUN 9-3

Buy life insurance and save on your home and car.  
When you buy your life insurance from us through Auto-Owners Insurance, you'll receive special discounts on your home, mobile home or car insurance. We'll save you money. As an independent Auto-Owners agent, we take great interest in you - as well as your home and car. We are specialists in insuring people and the things they own.

**STOP SUFFERING!**  
We Successfully Treat:  
 Whiplash  
 Neck Pain  
 All Headaches  
 Auto Injuries  
 Back Pain  
 Numb Hands/Arms  
 Sports Injuries  
 Work Injuries  
See a Specialist and See Results!  
**897-4999**  
**DOCTORS CHIROPRACTIC**  
Dr. Anthony Trombly

**CURTIS**  
CLEANERS • LAUNDRY  
Open 7 Days • 897-9809 • 1410 W. Main  
Same Day Service Monday - Friday  
**DECEMBER SPECIAL**

**BILL WHEELER**  
Certified Public Accountant  
W.J. WHEELER MICHIGAN  
103 Riverside Dr.  
Lowell, Michigan 49331  
**616-897-7711**

**REGAL INSURANCE AGENCY**  
835 W. Main St.  
Lowell, MI 49331  
**897-9259**  
(800)804-3322  
Dale Triplett

**20% OFF**  
**SUITS & DRESSES**  
SANTA SUITS FREE  
Bring in 6 shirts pay for 5  
EXTRA LARGE WASHERS & DRYERS  
SPECIAL CYCLES FOR RUGS BLANKETS  
ALWAYS ATTENDED & CLEAN

**Merry Christmas 2004**

**Rich's Service Co.**  
In-Home Appliance Repair  
INSURED • 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE  
WASHERS • DRYERS • REFRIGERATORS  
GARBAGE DISPOSALS • STOVES  
209 E. Main St. RICH CURTIS  
Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-5686

**PREVIEW PROPERTIES.COM**  
CALL **JERRY HALE**  
**897-0229**  
or 1-800-515-7763  
JERRY IS A FULL-TIME PROFESSIONAL WHO WILL SERVE ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS.

**JB HARRISON INSURANCE AGENCY**  
COMPETITIVE AUTO RATES  
Since 1885 Hastings Mutual Insurance Company  
Hastings, Michigan www.hastingsmutual.com  
Daniel Ulrich Judy Harrison  
**6661 Alden Nash, Alto 868-0050**

**RE/MAX SunQuest**  
**Peter Smith, Realtor**  
Call For Immediate, Professional, Committed Service  
(616) 949-6980 Ext. 27 • (800) 800-3915 Ext. 27  
(616) 460-6634 Cell  
www.realtybypetersmith.com  
www.petersmith.com

Kool Chevrolet would like to welcome **KIM FOSTER** to its sales staff.  
Kim has over 24 years of sales experience and has been a member of the Lowell community for 10 years.

**Kool Chevrolet**  
3779 Platfield St • Grand Rapids • MI 49531  
Web: www.koolchev.com  
**KIM FOSTER**  
New & Used Sales  
(616) 365-7181  
(866) 275-5665  
Chevrolet Malibu 2004

**ADVERTISE**  
Inside The Lowell Ledger  
**AN AD THIS SIZE ONLY**  
**\$1500 PER WEEK**

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

**ADVERTISE**  
IN THE  
LEDGER BUSINESS DIRECTORY  
As Low as **\$750** PER WEEK  
Call 897-9261

**Noon Tire**  
STEVE NOON  
11930 E. Fulton (M-21)  
Lowell, MI 49331  
Dealing in Most Brands  
(616) 897-5925

**Durkee Lumber, Inc.**  
Lumber and Building Materials  
**868-6026**  
6071 Depot St.  
Alto, MI

**24 Hour Towing & Road Service**  
Flat Bed Service  
Jump Starts  
Lock Outs  
Tire Changes  
**Lincoln Lake Auto's**  
Cell #446-5909

**bryant**  
Heating & Cooling Systems Since 1904  
**Arctic, Inc.**  
HEATING • AIR CONDITIONING  
1301 Bowes Rd., Lowell, MI 49331  
**897-4123**  
www.heatingcoolingonline.com  
Licensed & Insured

**MIKA MEYERS BECKETT & JONES PLC**  
ATTORNEYS  
John T. Sperla  
Mark A. Kehoe  
Ross A. Leisman  
Benjamin A. Zainea  
Heidi A. Lyon  
Daniel J. Parmeter, Jr.  
307-A E. Main Street  
Lowell, Michigan 49331  
(616) 897-3111 www.mmbjlaw.com

**AUTO INJURY? WHIPLASH? Do You Need PAIN RELIEF?**  
Free 1/2 Hour MASSAGE!  
• Doctor Supervised • Certified Therapist  
• Relieves Tight Muscles • Speeds Healing  
**897-4999**  
**DOCTORS CHIROPRACTIC**  
Dr. Steve Brown

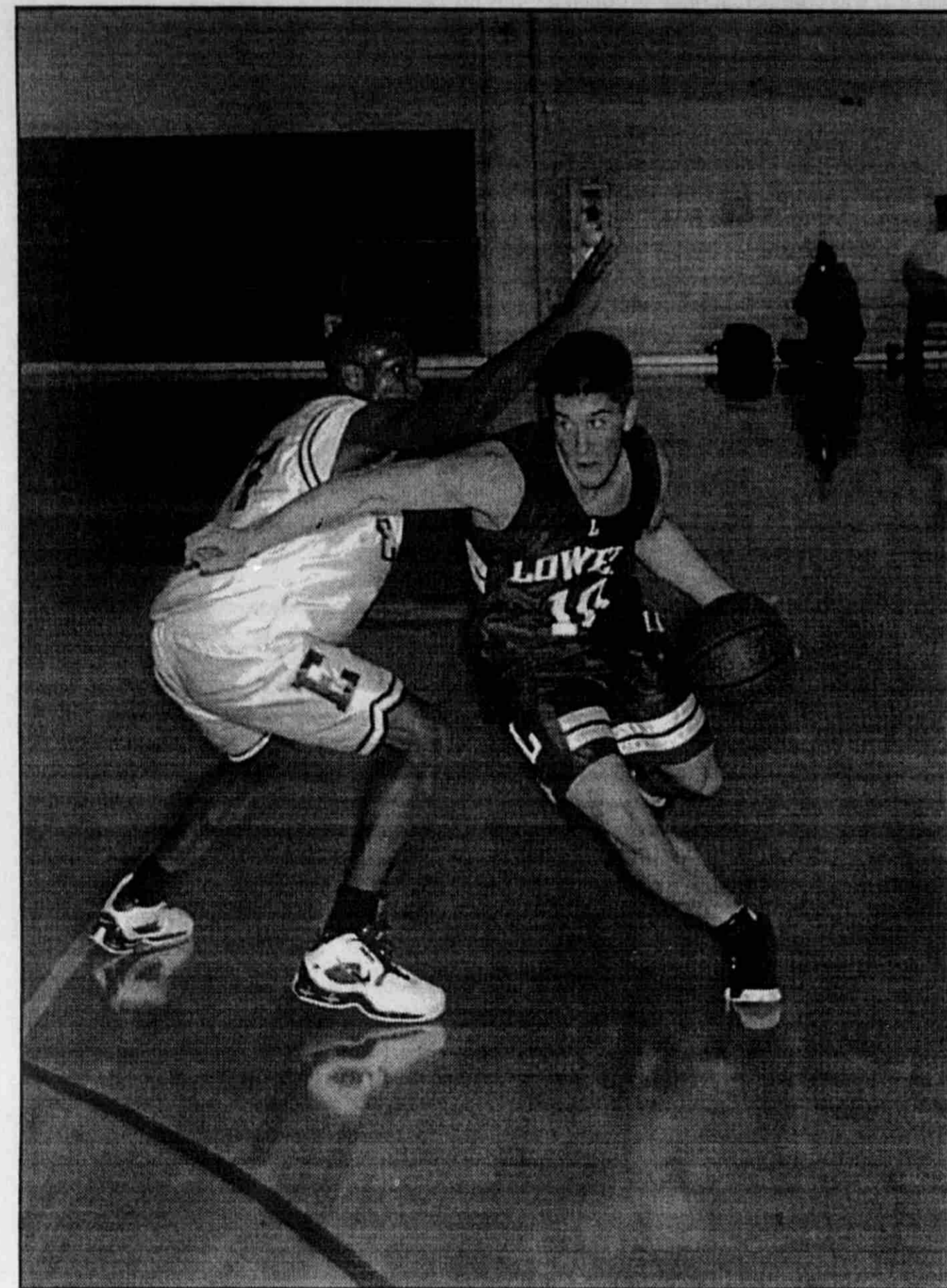
**BASIC COMMUNICATIONS, INC.**  
**HERBERT PETT**  
Telecommunications Consultant  
Phone 616-897-2045  
NexTel 616-262-6102  
Fax 616-647-4001  
Email: hpett@basiccom.com

**Curtis Accounting & Tax Services**  
209 E. Main St. - Suite A, Lowell, MI  
Complete accounting, payroll and tax services  
(616) 897-4120 • (616) 262-4873

**CUMBERLAND Retirement Village**  
A Leisure Living Managed Community  
www.leisure-living.com  
11535 E. Fulton • Lowell, MI 49331  
(616) 897-8413 • Fax 616-897-7839  
e-mail: cmbld@leisure-living.com



# Lowell basketball splits first conference games



Lowell's Shane Stokes drives the ball past East Grand Rapids' Kevin Grady in last Friday's away game.

## Red Arrows stomp Sparta, lose close decision against East Grand Rapids in two away games

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell boys basketball team fell just short of a victory last Friday at East Grand Rapids.

Josh Hettinga hit a three-pointer to tie the game with :33 left on the clock. But East scored last and won 59-57.

Lowell started out on a 9-0 run, but East's second string proved a tougher prospect than its starters.

"The turning point of that game was in the first quarter because the second string came in and showed the first string how they were supposed to play," East Grand Rapids coach Ed Crisman said. "They deserve all the credit."

Lowell was up 15-8 after the first quarter and 27-21 at the half. But East battled back to take a one-point lead by the end of the third quarter. The lead went back and forth through the final eight

minutes of play.

"We did enough today to make a heck of a game" Lowell coach Jeff McDonald said. "I'm proud of the way we handled ourselves. The only thing bad about the game was the final score."

The Red Arrows claimed their first win of the season in the conference opener at Sparta, 75-57.

It was a game with a close first half and a high-scoring fourth quarter. Lowell was up 35-30 going into the locker room at halftime. The Arrows scored 26 points to the Spartans' 17 in the fourth.

Mike Koster led the way for Lowell with 17 points and eight rebounds in the game. Kevin Gillman had 14 points that included 4 three-pointers. Ryan Lane and Shane Stokes each had nine points and Brad Shea had eight.

Lowell overcame the turnover problems that

plagued them in losses to Lakewood and Forest Hills Central this season. The Arrows turned the ball over only 10 times while forcing the Spartans into 22 turnovers. Lowell was narrowly outrebounded, however, 44-40.

McDonald sees the team starting to gel now that the players have had some practice time together. But he expects to see continued improvement.

"I think it takes three weeks to get basketball legs, go from football to basketball," McDonald said. "We're certainly playing hard, we've just got to continue to improve."

The Red Arrows were 1-3 after the loss at East.

Lowell had its first conference home game Tuesday night. They'll get another chance at East Grand Rapids when they host the Pioneers Feb. 1.

# Pins lift Lowell wrestlers over Redhawks

## Arrows record three straight falls at lower weights

By Dan Schneider

Host Lowell won by fall in the majority of its matches last Thursday to defeat Cedar Springs, 53-24.

It included three consecutive pins, all in less than a minute, at the lower weights. Ray Seese (103) pinned Wes Dahl in :31. Corey Fitzpatrick (112) pinned Kyle Gezon in :49 and Rob Karasiewicz (119) pinned Travis Healey in :55.

Lowell's first pin of the night was at Heavyweight, however. And it came down to the wire. Dominic Doyle held on for 36 seconds for the first-round bell while Cedar Springs' Joel Gorski tried to press his shoulder to the mat. He went on to take the point advantage and then pinned Gorski with 19 seconds left in the match.

Lowell's Joe Mendez, wrestling 135, pinned Justin

Reeuwurmsma in 1:42. Chris Roelofs (145) pinned Cedar Springs' Corey Kelly in :40. At 152, Ryan Karasiewicz pinned Cedar Springs' Steve Norvell in 3:25.

The conference dual started at 160, where Cedar Springs' Aaron Kieda won a 9-3 decision over John Fleet. Jason Nearing won by forfeit to put Lowell up 6-3. Then, at 189, Francisco technical-falled Josh Armstrong in 5:35 to put Lowell up 11-3.

The Red Arrows held on to the lead for the rest of the match.

Cedar Springs won by pin at 215, Ryan Case over Steve Childs in 2:48; 125, Micah Carter over Mike Thomas in 2:44; and 130, Nolan Davis over Justin Boss in 1:04.

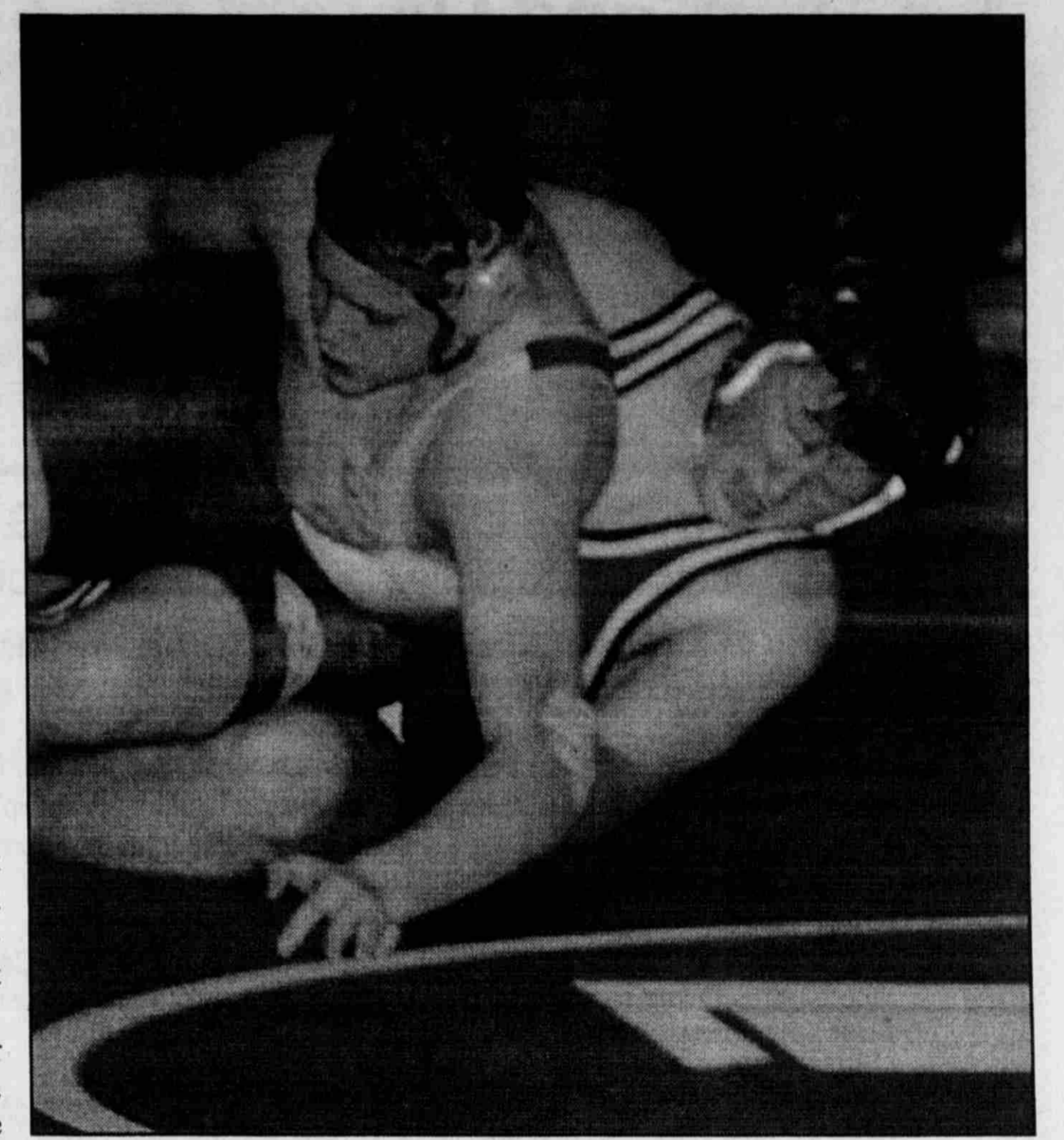
At 140, Cedar Springs' Steve Odren defeated Chris Jones 13-8.

"I'm not satisfied with the way we wrestled but obviously they beat us plain and simple," Cedar Springs coach Josh Cooper said. "It's good for them to learn what it takes in practice. I think a lot of them think you can go half-speed in practice and then turn it on in the match, and against a team like Lowell you can't do that."

The match "looked good" to Lowell assistant coach Wayne Fuller. "A young team took a step."

Lowell wrestles next Thursday at the Goodrich Tournament. Their next conference dual will be Jan. 6 at Sparta.

"That's going to be our first big test," Fuller said. "The winner between those two is going to be conference champs."



Lowell's Matt Francisco technical-falled Josh Armstrong in 5:35 in the 189-pound match last Thursday.

## Volleyball, continued...From page 32

The Red Arrows were successful in their conference opener at Cedar Springs last Wednesday, defeating the Redhawks three games to one (25-15, 25-23, 19-25, 25-18).

Lowell's Samantha Mol had 16 kills. Kristin Johnson and Taylor Verdon both had three aces for Lowell. Verdon had 33 assists in the match.

The Arrows took fifth place in their season-opener, a tournament Dec. 11 at Creston in Grand Rapids. They lost to eventual tournament champion Spring Lake in the quarterfinals after finishing second in pool play.

Peal had counted Creston

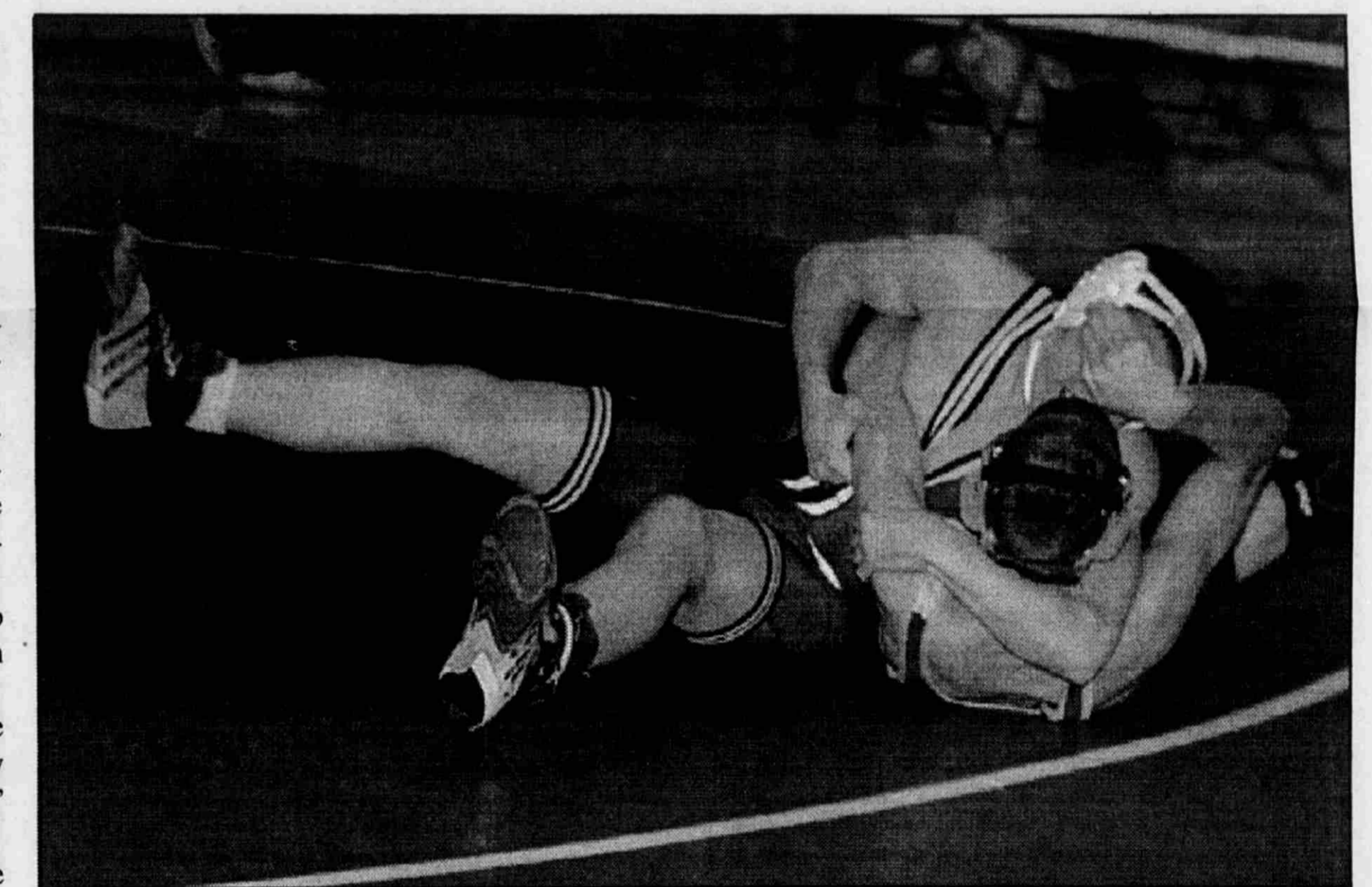
as one of the easier tournaments on this year's schedule.

"We really missed an opportunity there because it really was a tournament where we should have been competitive," she said.

Still, it was a chance to work out some of the bugs in the system.

"They managed to do the hard things good but they made the easy things hard," Peal said.

Lowell's next challenge will be Dec. 28 at the West Michigan Volleyball Officials Association Tournament. Their next conference match is Jan. 6 hosting Sparta.



Lowell's Rob Karasiewicz pinned his opponent in :55 in the 119-pound match against Cedar Springs. The Red Arrows won by pin in seven of 12 matches to beat the Redhawks 53-24.

## Buy the New Iraq Currency

Participate in the rebound of one of the world's wealthiest countries.

Iraq's elections are coming up on Jan. 30 - a major step in the rebuilding process.

Why Buy the New Iraqi Dinars?

◆ Iraq has the World's largest natural gas reserve and is the 2nd largest oil producer.

◆ Dinar value is tied to oil production and economic recovery, both are happening fast.

◆ The Kuwait currency devalued by the same margin in the 90's has completely recovered.

◆ If post-war Kuwait is any example, they might be right. A Kuwaiti dinar was valued at about a dime after the war. Each now brings in \$3.40...If it (Iraq Dinar) jumps to a few cents, they (investors) can start paying off mortgages. Stars and Stripes, 10/15/04.

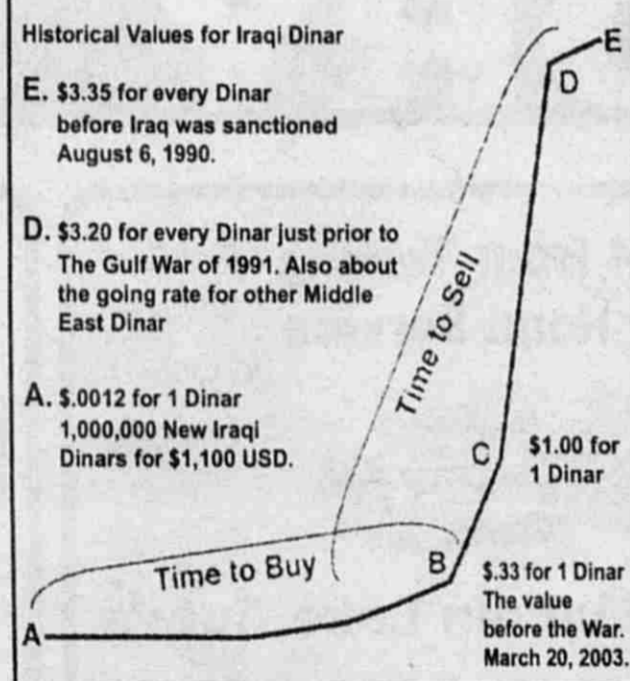
◆ The new Iraqi Government and the U.S. Treasury are working together to re-instate a strong decentralized banking system in Iraq.

◆ International trade has increased the wages to Iraq's 25 million people who have a pent-up demand for goods and services.

◆ Iraq has vast areas of fertile land and the most precious commodity of all in the Middle East, water. Iraq's agriculture sector may once again be.

The Breadbasket of the Middle East.

Iraqi Dinar Returning to its Former Strength  
What Would It Look Like?



In the 1990's, when Iraq was a leader in its region, 1 Iraqi Dinar was exchanged for an outstanding \$3.35 USD (US Dollar). At that exchange rate the new 25,000 Dinar Note would have been worth \$83,750.00! Purchasing a New Iraqi 25,000 Dinar Note today at \$33 could turn into a profitable amount in the future. If the value of 1 Dinar returns to just \$1.00 there would be a payoff of \$25,000 on a 25,000 Dinar Note. The greatest opportunity is in buying the dinar while it is still very low. As the economy and government of Iraq recover so should the Iraqi Dinar. This is a great opportunity to participate in the recovery of one of the world's wealthiest and most resourceful countries. Imagine buying a million dinars today for \$1,100 and having it return to its former strength in record time to be worth an amazing \$3,350,000.00!

For questions or to schedule an appointment call Gene at (616) 293-9262 • 3807 60th St., Caledonia

# New volleyball rules come into play this season

Lowell wins first conference match with rally scoring and let serves allowed

By Dan Schneider

Two invitationals and a conference match into the

season, the Lowell varsity volleyball team is getting used to changes in the game that take effect this year.

Sidout scoring is out this season. Rally scoring is in. Under the new system, teams must win three out of five games up to 25 to win a match. In rally scoring, it is not necessary to win the serve in order to score points. A point is scored every time the ball is served, regardless of who is serving it. This faster-paced style of play has been the norm for some time at some invitationals and tournaments and also in college level volleyball.

Another rule change this year is let serves are playable. A let serve is a serve that hits the net but still makes it over.

Lowell has four returning starters this year but lost some key players.

"I'm looking for younger kids and first-time varsity players to step up into those spots," coach Gigi Peal said.

There are two freshmen and a sophomore on the varsity team this year.

Volleyball, cont'd., page 33

**Woods BUILDERS**

**OPEN SUNDAY 3-5 pm**

**9327 Clear Meadow**  
**\$196,025 1640 sq ft**

- 3 Bed, 2.5 Bath
- Daylight basement
- Master suite
- Spacious lot
- Large Kitchen, pantry

**9318 Clear Meadow**  
**\$199,550 1640 sq ft**

- 3 Bed, 2.5 Bath
- Many upgrades
- 1st floor laundry
- Open floor plan
- Great location!

**Location:** Clear Meadow Estates; 52nd St, 1 mi east of Whitneyville Rd., Lowell Schools

**For more information contact:**  
**616/262-0424**

## SHIP UPS

Bring your packages in & we'll ship them out for you!

The Lowell Ledger  
105 N. Broadway  
897-9261

A TRUSTED TRADITION OF AFFORDABLE, PERSONALIZED, AND COMFORTABLE CARE

**LIFETIME DENTAL EXCELLENCE**

- Professionally Trained, Caring, and Courteous Staff
- State-of-the-Art Procedures, Instruments, and Techniques
- Cosmetic Care: Porcelain Veneers, Bonding, and Whitening
- Mercury-Free Dentistry • Filtered Water Lines
- Orthodontic Care (Braces) • Wisdom Teeth Extraction
- Implants • TMJ (Jaw Pain Therapy)
- Treatment of Periodontal Disease (Latest Non-Surgical Techniques Available)
- Dentures • Partials • Root Canals • Crowns and Bridges
- Emergencies Accepted • Convenient Payment Plans
- Serving the Area Since 1981

**TODD GILLAN, DDS, PC**

2186 MAIN STREET • LOWELL  
LOCATED ACROSS FROM ARBYS

WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO CALL  
**(616) 897-8491**

**GILLAN DENTAL EXCELLENCE**

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN LOWELL

*A Christmas Wish* \* \* \* \* \* *A Christmas Wish*

**Arctic Inc.**  
HEATING/AIR CONDITIONING

1301 Bowes Rd.,  
Lowell • 616-897-4123

**NATE** **bryant** Factory Authorized Dealer

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our loyal customers

**WE ARE EXPANDING!!!!**

Coming January 2005 on display in our showroom  
Continues hot water heaters  
BRYANT Evolution furnace and AC system  
Radiant floor heat  
Fireplaces

Visit our website at [www.heatingcoolingonline.com](http://www.heatingcoolingonline.com)  
Member of the Lowell Chamber of Commerce

*A Christmas Wish* \* \* \* \* \* *A Christmas Wish*





897-0787 or www.lowellbuyersguide.com

Thank you Alto Lions Club for the fantastic Christmas party at Alto Elem. The kids LOVED it!

Thank you to the person(s) who anonymously helped out a family of three on Dec 10th. Words cannot express how grateful we are. What a blessing! Thank you and God bless you.

Saturday the 11th an ice carver from the Flat River Freeze Competition was doing a giraffe when he cut through his hand with a chainsaw in Holland. Ouch!

We need a nice, clean sit down restaurant. If we can't have an Applebee's or Bennigan's - I'll settle for a Big Boy! Some of us aren't impressed w/the long standing restaurants in town!

What happened to putting this city plumbing work up for bid? As always, it is not what you know, but who you know. This is especially true for Lowell.

Thank you Lowell, we appreciate your local business. You are the best! We welcome anyone from out of town. Why shop anywhere else! - Happy Holidays from the members of the Lowell Chamber of Commerce.

Haven't lived in Lowell for a long time but I get the Ledger. I have to believe Doc Gauthier has gone gray by now. Hey Doc, how 'bout a new picture?

It sure would be nice to see more news about our township instead of sports and the city of Lowell. Don't forget we live here too.

Yes, yes, yes! Connecting Alden Nash between Vergennes and Bailey. That would be such a help!

Lowell has everything and I love it. But where were all the Christmas tree stands? Only one place to buy a tree this year.

With Lowell expanding, you can buy almost everything in town. Support your Lowell merchants.

Lowell is honored to have the "real Santa" visiting on the Lowell Showboat! Santa, you're the best!

Lowell has the best Santa ever!!!

A big thanks to the guys and ladies at the Garage of Lowell for rescuing my snake from my dashboard! Mr. Cracker Basket Sassy Pants and I are grateful for such a wonderful bunch of people! - Raychel Swift

What a beautiful live nativity down in Bowne Twp. Everyone should take a drive next year.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### BOWNE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

#### PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 3.24 REGARDING PRIVATE ROADS

Public notice is hereby given that the Bowne Township Planning Commission will hold a hearing on Thursday, January 13, 2005 at 7:30 p.m., in the historic Township Hall, located at 8240 Alden Nash Avenue, Alto, Michigan, to hear public comments regarding a proposed amendment to Section 3.24 of the Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendment:

- 1) amends Section 3.24.A. to add a standard requiring the Planning Commission to consider whether the private road will result in fewer individual driveway access points onto the adjacent public road.
- 2) amends Section 3.24.B. to allow a site plan to be prepared by a registered landscape architect and to provide that the Planning Commission shall review a private road request in accordance with Chapter 18 of the Zoning Ordinance on site plan review.
- 3) amends Section 3.24.D. to provide that:
  - a) the requirements of Section 3.24.D. apply to private roads serving six or fewer parcels.
  - b) the building setbacks are measured from the private road easement line.
  - c) private roads shall have a minimum cleared width of at least 28 feet.
  - d) culverts must be placed at all natural drainage courses or waterways.
  - e) private roads must have a sand and gravel base conforming to Road Commission standards for gravel roads.
  - f) private roads must have a driving surface width of at least 22 feet with shoulders of a minimum of 2 feet composed of compacted gravel.
  - g) corner lots located at the intersection of a private road and public road must be accessed from the private road.
- 4) amends Section 3.24.E. to provide that:
  - a) The requirements of Section 3.24.E. (including paving requirements) apply to the entire length of a private road (including all segments) when there are seven or more lots utilizing any portion of the private road for access to a public road.
  - b) Section 3.24.E. (including paving requirements) apply to private roads serving seven or more parcels.
  - c) the building setbacks are measured from the private road easement line.
  - d) private roads shall have a minimum cleared width of at least 28 feet.
  - e) culverts shall be determined using the Road Commission storm water runoff formula subject to the approval of the Township Engineer.
  - f) No private road or road system shall have more than 10 parcels.
  - g) Corner lots located at the intersection of a private road and a public road must be increased from the private road.
- 5) amends Section 3.24.F. to provide that the Ordinance applies to existing private roads when a private road serving less than seven parcels is subsequently intended to serve seven or more parcels.

Interested parties may be heard at the public hearing. Written comments will be received until the close of the public hearing. The proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance may be examined at the Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash, Alto, Michigan, on Wednesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and on Fridays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

December 22, 2004  
Sandra L. Kowalczyk, Clerk  
Bowne Township

## Rezoning, continued ...

### From Page 31

it will become more marketable, said Masonic Lodge representative Mike Rosey. The Lowell Masonic Lodge has combined with the Belding Masonic Lodge, and activities take place in Belding. The Lowell facility is not being utilized, but members hope the site can be sold to an organization that will use it for the community, which makes Flat River Outreach Ministries a perfect match. Rosey said the group has had several interested parties but the current public facilities zoning has discouraged many.

Under that zoning, the property could be utilized by a church organization, another fraternity group similar to the Masonic Lodge, or by the school or government. The lodge is planning to request the rezoning at its next meeting on Jan. 24.

### SYNOPSIS REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL DECEMBER 6, 2004

Minutes of the November 15, 2004 meeting were approved as corrected and the accounts payable were approved.

The following motions were approved:

- Motion to table the Assessor Employment Agreement until the December 20, 2004 meeting at which time staff can provide backup and comparables of salaries from similar cities.
- Motion to approve the Computer, Internet and E-Mail policy as amended.
- Motion to employ Canfield Plumbing and Heating as a source for handling sewer backups in the rental of their jetter equipment for a period of six months.

Motion to adjourn at 9:08 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, December 20, 2004.

Complete minutes are available at Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331.

Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk  
City of Lowell

# CLASSIFIEDS

#### PRICES

15 words for \$1.00 each additional word is 10¢ \$1 extra for bold \$1 extra for a box

#### HOW TO REACH US

By Phone: 897-9261  
By Fax: 897-4809  
By E-Mail: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com  
By Mail: PO Box 128 Lowell, MI 49331

#### DEADLINE

Monday at 5 p.m.  
For the Wednesday Publication

#### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

In Kent County \$15 - 1 year \$29 - 2 years  
Outside Kent County \$22.50 - 1 yr. \$38.00 - 2 yrs.

#### OFFICE HOURS

Mon. - Thurs. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Fri. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Sat. & Sun.

#### GET THE LEDGER DELIVERED RIGHT TO YOUR DOOR!

Subscriptions make great gifts for that person who has everything! Subscriptions in county are only \$15! Call Our Office at 897-9261 Or Stop by 105 N. Broadway Credit Card Required For a Phone-in order.

#### FOR SALE

**BEDS** - Namebrand mattress sets, twin, \$80; full \$80; queen \$95, King \$150. Call 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160.

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

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

**CHOCOLATE LAB PUPPIES** - AKC/OFA male and female, blockhead, excellent hunting stock, dewclaws, 1st shots, \$450 - \$500. Ready January 10, 2005. Call 682-0562.

**AIR BED** - Selecta comfort firmness for each of you. Dual chambers. Remote control. Warranty. Never used. Cost \$1,400, sell \$750. 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160.

**SNOW TIRES** - 4 Michelin Arctic Alpines, 225/60/16. Used one season only, \$200. Call 676-3539.

**MATTRESS/BOX SPRINGS** - Brand new, \$49/set. Twin, full, queen, delivery available. Dennis Distributing, 989-224-4822.

**FOR SALE** - 1996 Chevrolet Beretta, V6, auto., 99,000 miles, new tires, great shape. \$2,220 obo. Maytag oven, almond, \$75 obo. Call 897-9088.

**RAMADA INN FURNITURE** - 25 rooms, excellent condition, night stands, \$5; desk, \$10; chest of drawers, \$25. Dennis Distributing, 315 N. Lansing, St. Johns, 989-224-4822.

**SNOWMOBILE TRAILER** - 2 place, great condition, \$375 obo. Call Pierre 616-560-1664.

**10 GAS STOVE/REFRIGERATOR SETS** - Excellent working condition. Guaranteed. White, \$125/set till gone. Dennis Distributing, 315 N. Lansing, St. Johns, 989-224-4822.

**1997 TRUCK F150** - Low miles, mint condition, air, power locks, cassette, running boards, Tonneau cover, cruise, \$6995.00. Mike 897-5676.

**SOFA, LOVESEAT** - Beige, cushioned arms, floor ruffle (1 month old). Bought, did not use. Cost \$1,100, sell \$495/best. 517-719-8062.

**AMISH BEDROOM SET** - 7 pieces plus queen pillowtop mattress; new, never used. Cost \$1,400, sell \$250. Call 517-719-8062.

#### FOR SALE

**GENERAL ELECTRIC WASHER/DRYER SET** - 5 years old, runs great, large capacity, guaranteed. \$75 each. Dennis Distributing, 989-224-4822.

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

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

**PAPASAN CHAIR** - New pad, \$55.00. Call 897-3091.

**FOR SALE** - 2.36 acres with mobile home on private drive, between Lowell and Saranac. \$58,000 or make offer. Land contract possible. Call 897-6933.

**FOR SALE** - '88 Volkswagen Golf. Runs great, \$650 obo. Call 868-6174.

**RANCH HOME FOR SALE BY OWNER** - 3 bedrooms/2 bathrooms, fireplace in great room, beautiful oak floors, new windows, 10 closets, 2-1/2 stall garage. Only \$149K! Call 897-8875.

**GREAT CHRISTMAS PRESENT** - 4 month old Pomeranian pup, \$350 obo. Call 897-0639.

**FOR SALE** - John Deere snowblower att's will fit 110-112, 200, 210-216 L & G tractors. Also have John Deere snowblower for GT and LX tractors. Call 897-8355.

**FOR SALE** - 2002 Town & Country mini van, 43,000 miles, factory warranty, \$15,500 obo. For more information call 897-1180.

**FIREWOOD FOR SALE** - \$120 per cord. Call 691-7888.

**HAY FOR SALE** - Call 897-6487.

**HOME & 7 ACRES ON MANISTEE RIVER** - near Mesick, 20 miles S. of Traverse City. \$329,000. Land contract. Call 231-885-1812.

**PORTABLE ICE FISHING SHELTER** - Frabill, 2 man, quick set-up, like new, asking \$250. Call 897-4889 or leave message.

#### 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.

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

**ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT FOR RENT** - semi-furnished, all utilities and cable included. \$140/week. Call 897-6318.

**SAVE OVER \$500** - in December with our \$299 move-in special. Ionia's Oak Hill Apartments offers a country setting, secured entrance, and more! Heat included. 1 bedroom, ground floor apartments only. Call 616-527-8900. EHO.

**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.wpmonline.com.

**FOR RENT** - In Saranac/ Lowell area, country home with garage. No pets. Phone Nancy 691-7388.

**MOBILE HOME FOR RENT** - Lowell/Saranac remodeled 2 bedroom, 1 bath, deck, shed, in country, \$600 mo. + dep. Call 292-7649.

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

**FOR RENT** - Very nice newer 2 bedroom, 2 bath mobile home with central air, washer & dryer, 2 miles from Lowell. \$550 a month plus deposit. No pets. Call 897-6933 or 616-862-8179.

**ONE TO TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT FOR RENT** - in Lowell. \$550 per month plus security deposit. Utilities included. No pets please. Call to set up appointment at 517-852-9038.

#### CARD OF THANKS

The family of Beverly J. Cox would like to thank the Lowell Police, Lowell E-Unit team that responded so quickly to our emergency and doing all they could. We would also like to thank all the friendships and words of kindness toward our family by many people in the loss of our wife, mom and grandmother. Thank you, Erwin Cox & Family

#### THERE ARE ANGELS AMONG US

Ours are Teresa, Perry, Nola & Dick. We are grateful. Dave & Jan

#### HELP WANTED

**COUNTER CLERK NEEDED** - Part time evenings & Saturday. Apply in person at 591 Ada Dr., or 6555 28th St. SE

**HOME HEALTH AIDE NEEDED** - part-time, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. full time 4 p.m. - 12 a.m. in downtown Lowell. Call Amanda 616-447-8070.

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

**NEED HOME FOR POCO** - eight year old black lab. House trained, kept indoors. 676-0256.

**LOST** - Man's pinky ring, gold w/diamond chip on side. Reward. 897-7532.

**SOUND OFF PHONE LINE** 897-0787

#### IN MEMORIAM

In memory of Mike Bergy who passed away three years ago - December 26, 2001. The world may change from year to year, our lives from day to day. But the thoughts and memories we have of you will never fade away. Love, Susan, Travis & Blake

**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!

**NEED HOLIDAY CLEANING?** - Anytime cleaning? Call Tonya. I am reliable, cheap, fast and good! References available. Most houses complete in 2 hours for \$25 & \$10 per hour thereafter! 897-9638!

#### ALTERATIONS - Experienced professional, men's, women's, leather coats, all fabrics, zippers replaced, wedding & prom dresses altered. Call Helen 897-6071.

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

#### 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.**

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

#### 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.

**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.



