

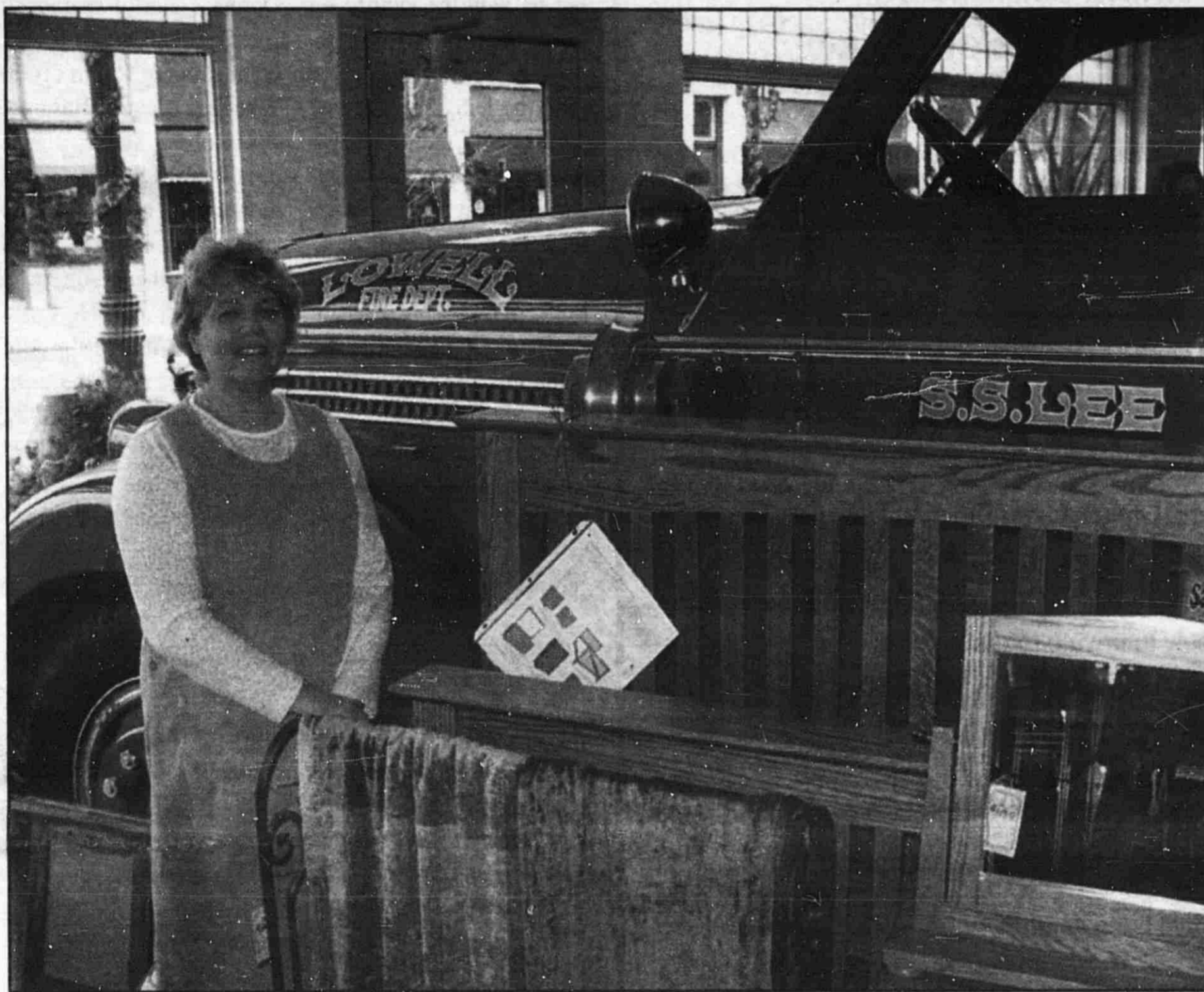
The Lowell Ledger

Volume 31 Issue 9

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, January 5, 2005

Business forced to move; century-old building condemned



By Dan Schneider

A local furniture store was forced into a smaller space after the building it occupied was condemned shortly before Christmas.

Michelle Tava, owner of A Touch of Country oak furniture store, reopened Monday in the McQueen building at the corner of Main and Broadway. Oak furniture was packed around the antique fire engine that has long been on display there.

"I am not out of business, I've just moved," Tava said last Tuesday as she got ready to move more furniture out of the 96 W. Main Street location. "I'm planning on coming back here once it is inspected and it's an approved building again."

The east half of her shop was condemned Dec. 22. Lowell's building inspector later condemned the rest of the space on Dec. 28. The building condemnation came after customers voiced safety concerns over a beam that had fallen through the ceiling.

Before Thanksgiving, Tava said, the building's owner removed part of the support structure above the building. A short time later, on Nov. 22, Tava arrived at work to find a steel beam had crashed through the ceiling. The beam was jacked back in place and shored up with a steel post. The Book-about and Jim's Barber Shop, both located in the westernmost portion of the building, were not affected.

The incident damaged some furniture, but Tava's main concern was with finding a new space during her peak

Building condemned, cont'd., page 10

Touch of Country owner Michelle Tava at her temporary digs in the McQueen building. Her furniture surrounds the antique fire truck normally housed in the building.

Lowell couple to be arraigned on drug charges

By Dan Schneider

A Lowell man and woman await arraignment on charges stemming from a Dec. 16 drug house raid.

On that Thursday just after 9 p.m., the Lowell Police Department

executed a search warrant on a house on Jane Ellen Street in the city of Lowell. Lowell police and assisting officers from the Kent Area Enforcement Team seized a small quantity of crack cocaine. A 41-year-old woman was charged with possession of cocaine and maintaining a drug house.

The amount of cocaine found was not enough to warrant a charge of possession with intent to sell, LPD detective James Hinton said.

Police also found a 34-year-old Lowell man in a closet of the house. He was arrested on charges of cocaine use. Hinton expects

up to three more arrests in the case.

"We're just waiting for lab results," he said.

The cocaine arrests were the first in recent memory for Lowell. Arrests on cocaine-related charges have been made in the past during traffic stops.

"Occasionally we'll stop somebody who will have cocaine paraphernalia with them," Hinton said. "We've never hit a house that I can remember with a search warrant for cocaine."

The cocaine in this case likely came from the Grand Rapids area, he said. But the drug isn't strictly a big-city problem.

"If there's people out there that want the cocaine, there are people who are going to get it to them," Hinton said.

The cocaine was converted into crack—small, white rocks—from powder before it got to Lowell, Hinton explained. "They were more of a street-level supplier here," he added.

Charity raising money for tsunami relief

"Probably everyone out there wants to do something ..."

By Dan Schneider

After a tsunami in the Indian Ocean devastated Southeast Asia on Dec. 26, Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) in Lowell announced plans to help.

The charity will collect money throughout the month of January for the Southern Asia Disaster Relief Fund of the American Red Cross. The First United Methodist Church

of Lowell and the First Congregational Church of Lowell are collection points for the fund, called the Flat River Outreach Ministries Tsunami Relief Fund.

Donations can also be made at any Huntington Bank location. The money raised will help the Red Cross provide emergency supplies such as family size tents and hygiene kits in addition to water and food to the families displaced by the earthquake

and subsequent tsunami. Checks should be made out to the Flat River Outreach Ministries Tsunami Relief Fund.

"Probably everyone out there wants to do something and I can't imagine someone in the United States not wanting to do something," said FROM committee member Ann Dimmick. "It's so important and we have so much."

Dimmick began

organizing the fund drive last Thursday morning. Pastors at local churches spread the word of the donation drive over the weekend.

Funds collected will be transferred to the Red Cross on Jan. 15 and again on Jan. 31, when the collection ends. The Red Cross posts daily updates of its disaster relief efforts online at www.redcross.org.

- Ann Dimmick

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The Lowell Ledger

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Obituaries

CLARK - Douglas R. Clark, aged 45, of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly December 31, 2004. He was preceded in death by his father Pat Clark. He is survived by his children Jill and Todd Crissman; mother Betty Malik of Greenville; brother Timothy Clark of Grand Rapids; sis-



ters Elizabeth (Jerry) Dalstra of Lowell, Mary (George) Marsh of Freeport; nieces and nephew Christopher and Heather Shellenbarger, Elizabeth Clark; special friends Bob and Carol Leyman; also several aunts and uncles. Doug was an avid fisherman and gardener who loved his family and friends and will be greatly missed. Funeral services were held Tuesday at Roth-Gerst Chapel, Rev. Timothy Bateman of Clarksville Bible Church

officiating. Interment Alton Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Doug Clark Memorial Fund.

ERICKSON - Carolyn M. Erickson, aged 63, of Lowell, passed away December 29, 2004. She is survived by her husband Robert; children Matthew of Wyoming, Meghan of Grand Rapids; sister Sandra (Lawrence) Williams of Caledonia;

brother Gregory Schultz of Mt. Pleasant. Carolyn was a faithful servant to the Lord and to St. Mary's Catholic Church, where Mass of Christian Burial was offered Saturday, Rev. George Fekete, Celebrant. Interment St. Mary's Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Right to Life of Michigan, 2340 Porter SE, Wyoming, MI 49509 or St. Mary's Church, 402 Amity, Lowell, MI 49331.

were held Friday at Christ Lutheran Church with Pastor Timothy Brown officiating. Contributions in memory of George may be made to the Parkinson's Association of Western Michigan or Christ Lutheran Church, 2350 44th St. SW, Wyoming, MI 49509.

SLATER - Robert J. Slater, aged 84, of Alto, went to be with his Lord on Monday, December 27, 2004. He was preceded in death by his infant son Richard Michael. He is survived by his wife Marion; daughter Donna (Tom) Basarabski; son David (Brenda) Slater; grandchildren Robin (Tom) Wheeler, Richard Basarabski, Robert Slater; sister-in-law Alice Slater; several nieces and nephews. Bob was a WW II veteran and charter member of American Legion Post 528. He was a former member of the Alto school board and a volunteer firefighter for many years. Memorial services were held Thursday at the Matthyse-Kuiper-DeGraaf Funeral Home (Caledonia) with Rev. Richard Beach officiating. The family suggests memorial contributions be made to the American Legion.

POTTER - Mr. George Dick Potter, aged 75, lost his battle with Parkinson's Disease, but he won the victory for everlasting life, Tuesday, December 28, 2004. He served with the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. He was a 42-year retiree of Michigan Bell and its successors. Surviving are his wife of 47 years Patricia; children Carol Potter of New York, Richard Potter of Clarksville; sister Anna (Lewis) Guernsey of Ionia; special cousins Kent McKay of Lowell, A.E. Potter of Ionia; several nieces and nephews. George will be remembered as a faithful servant of his church as well as for his involvement in such projects as Habitat for Humanity. Funeral services

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

What Is A Sports Legend?

I never really followed team sports or made an idol of a sports figure. For me sports are something that brings you closer to nature. To me a sports legend is someone who did not do it for fame, fortune or to be in the record books. It's about love of the sport and sharing that passion with others.

On December 31, 2004, my friend, Doug Clark, went out on the ice and lost his life. When it came to fishing there was no one who had a greater passion than Doug. He shared his fish and his love of the sport with his friends, family and fellow fishermen. There are hundreds of stories and memories from bait shop owners to total strangers of a man who fished Michigan like no other.

I, like others, will never be able to cast a line on the water without thinking of Doug beside me. His passing is a great loss of legendary Michigan sportsmen.

His friend, Bob Leyman

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Lowell Police discover identity of illegal trapper

By Dan Schneider

A Coral man admitted to setting an illegal trap within the city limits of Lowell. The trap killed a local woman's dog Nov. 10.

Lowell police detective James Hinton obtained the confession Dec. 27 after spending most of that day in Mecosta County working on the case. The man also admitted to setting a total of 148 traps along the banks of the Grand River the morning of Nov. 10. The traps were set along the stretch of the river from Ada to Saranac.

The trap was set on city land in the northeast bank of the confluence of the Flat and Grand rivers. Setting a trap there was in

violation of a city ordinance prohibiting trapping within Lowell city limits. The trap was also not labeled with a tag identifying the owner, a violation of Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) law.

Diane Smith was walking her dog on the city property when it stumbled upon the trap. The trap closed around the Brittany spaniel's neck and suffocated it.

A joint investigation by the Lowell Police Department and DNR conservation officers led to the Mecosta County man. His name will be released if Lowell's city attorney makes a deposition for a warrant for the man's arrest.

The investigation turned up two other traps along the Grand River. These traps had the DNR-required tags, which led officers to the traps' owner. The other traps were set on private property, but without the property owner's permission. Thus, they were illegal traps as well.

The man was a licensed trapper. The DNR came to the conclusion, based on the type and size of the trap and the bait used, that the trap had been set with the intention of catching raccoons.

Enforcement officials used DNR records and inconsistencies in the trapper's story to build a case against him. Among

the inconsistencies was the man's false statement that he had previously sold the recovered traps in a garage sale with the tags on them.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals had offered a \$2,500 reward for information leading to an arrest in the case. But no one will be able to claim it. "None of the tips led to the actual information for the arrest... if there is going to be one made," Hinton explained.

The man who set the traps had another person in the boat with him the morning of Nov. 10. Both were licensed trappers, but the second person apparently had no role in actually setting traps.

Drowning victim remembered for love of fishing



Douglas Clark

An ice fishing accident took the life of a Lowell man last Friday on Byrne Lake in Grattan Township.

Douglas Clark, 45, was ice fishing alone that afternoon when he broke through the ice. The ice was thin from unseasonably warm temperatures that day. He had been fishing since about eight that morning, according to Carol Leyman, a friend of Clark's.

Rescuers arriving at the scene shortly after 2:30 p.m. were unable to attempt a rescue. The Kent County Sheriff's report said an AeroMed doctor had advised resuscitation was impossible because of the length of

time Clark was under water. He was totally submerged when Grattan Township Fire and Rescue arrived on the scene.

The Kent County Search and Recovery Team and Grattan Township Fire and Rescue located and recovered Clark at about 4:15 p.m.

His friends will remember him for his enthusiasm for fishing and his willingness to share the sport he loved with friends and family. Leyman, whose husband, Bob, frequently fished alongside Clark, said Clark enjoyed teaching children to fish.

City looks at three projects for upcoming community development block grants

By J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

Sidewalks along Beech Street and Ridgeview are being considered by the Lowell City Council as one of the proposals for its annual community development block grant program.

Every year at this time, the city is informed by Kent County of how much money it is estimated to receive from the federal program. The county serves as the administrator for the community development block grant (CDBG) program. City manager David Pasquale told the Lowell City Council at its meeting on Monday that

\$51,799.83 is the figure the city will probably receive for the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

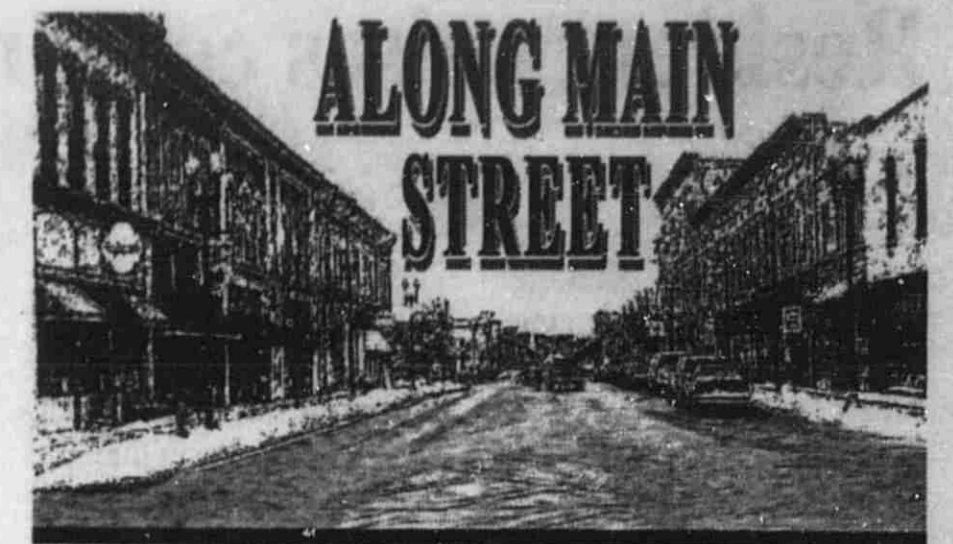
The council set a public hearing on the funds for its next council meeting Jan. 18 at City Hall. Pasquale said he

Block grants, cont', pg. 4

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MOVIE GUIDE
SHOWTIMES 1/03 - 1/06
PG-13
TITLES & TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE
MEET THE FOCKERS
12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55
LEMONY SNICKETS A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
(PG) 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
SPANGLISH (PG-13)
11:05, 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45
BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON (R)
12:05, 2:25, 4:45, 7:05, 9:25
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LAAC ANNUAL MEETING

The Lowell Area Arts Council annual meeting is this Thursday, Jan. 6 at 7 p.m. at 149 S. Hudson. Meet the staff, board of directors and get info. on future programs. Call 897-8545. Refreshments are provided.

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

Lowell High School financial aid night for students planning to attend college next fall, held in LPAC on Thursday, Jan. 6 at 7 p.m. Juniors, seniors and their parents are invited.

FOODMOBILE/ FREE FOOD

The Foodmobile will be at Lowell fairgrounds on S. Broadway, Saturday, Jan. 8 from 10-11 a.m. Bring your own box or bag. Distributed by Flat River Outreach Ministries (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.

FOOTBALL T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

The athletic department has some X-large championship football T-shirts available; some smaller sizes as well. Cost: \$10.

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.

ANNUAL ALUMNI SKATE

There will be an annual alumni skate at Standard Federal Ice Arena, Patterson Ave., on Saturday, Jan. 22 at 4:30 p.m.

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Resident raises concerns about cemetery rules at council meeting

By J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

A resident voiced her concerns that new cemetery rules are too strict for family members—especially those who have lost a child—and came before the council seeking to find a "caring town."

Instead, the council stood by the rules instituted last spring that restrict the amount of items allowed on a cemetery plot.

"Is it there to enjoy and look at or is it there so people can come to visit their loved ones?" said Winifred Almond, whose grandson is buried at Oakwood Cem-

ety, operated by the city of Lowell.

The problem, said mayor Jeanne Shores, is that the city had become too lenient in enforcing the rules, which were far more restricting than the ones adopted by the council. According to city clerk Betty Morlock, the former rules did not allow any items to be placed on or near a gravesite. Residents are now allowed a shepherd's hook or urn.

"So a mother can't put up a bunny rabbit for her child because it might be too hard for a worker to get around it?" Almond asked.

While maintenance was an issue, certain rules had

to be enforced to guarantee the safety of the workers and the people visiting, Shores said, adding that she walked through the cemetery with the sexton before the new rules were adopted and could understand the need for such regulations because of broken glass and teddy bears that had been destroyed by the outside elements.

"To me, I would rather see that person take that teddy bear and donate it to a homeless shelter where someone could really enjoy it," Shores said.

Almond said having a place where family and friends could come and

express their love and appreciation for the person is important and the cemetery provides that outlet. She felt the rules needed to be relaxed, especially for those grieving over the loss of a child.

Morlock said she understands that loss, as her own son is buried at the cemetery and she has placed a shepherd's hook at his gravesite. However, she also has concerns over the safety of those visiting.

"Oftentimes, I would have to hold my grandson's hand because someone had placed arrows in the ground

and what if a child falls on that or is harmed by broken glass?" she said.

Another issue mentioned was robbery. Morlock said she has taken a number of phone calls from residents upset because items have been stolen from the cemetery, which is something the city cannot be responsible for.

The city clerk said the city ran ads concerning rule changes as well as sent letters to all addresses on file. If there was no response, a certified letter was sent; the sexton also made several

phone calls to individuals informing them of the rule changes.

Not all residents were against the rule changes. Jerry Hale, who lives outside the city and was at the meeting, said he, too, visits the grave of his son and was pleased to see the city take measures to clean up the area.

After the meeting, Morlock said the city has received several phone calls on how much nicer the cemetery was looking after the new rules went into effect.

Electronic stability program saves lives

Studies have demonstrated that electronic stability programs are saving lives, in some cases reducing the risk of death by over 65 percent.

The Chrysler Group is committed to providing these features and offers its Electronic Stability Program (ESP), making it available currently on Jeep Grand Cherokee, Dodge Magnum and Chrysler 300 series sedans with plans to make it standard equipment on more than 750,000 SUV's in 2006.

Daryl Kuiper, manager of Vennen Chrysler-Dodge Inc. in Lowell, said, "Our customers in Lowell are always concerned with safety. Adding ESP to all our SUV's is another sign that Chrysler is committed to offering the safest vehicles on the road."

ESP's provide the great-

est benefit in critical driving situations such as turns and are especially valuable when driving on mixed surface conditions such as patchy snow, ice or gravel.

Chrysler Group's ESP is considered an "active" safety technology because it prevents crashes, as opposed to air bags and seat belts which are passive technologies that aim to reduce injuries once a crash has occurred.

ESP enhances Chrysler's use of rear wheel drive and all-wheel drive on models such as the Chrysler 300.

"In normal conditions rear wheel drive handles better than front wheel drive," Kuiper said. "ESP helps eliminate the concerns about rear wheel drive in inclement weather."

For more information, contact Kuiper at 897-9281.

HEALTH



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

HEART FAILURE

Heart failure happens when your heart can't pump enough blood to meet your body's needs and causes poor blood flow. Poor blood flow has a bad effect on many of the body's organ systems, including the brain, lungs and kidneys. In heart failure, the body holds onto salt and water. This causes swelling in the feet, ankles and legs. It can also make it difficult to breathe.

The most common causes of heart failure include the following: coronary artery disease, long-standing high blood pressure, diabetes, heart attack, thyroid problems, heart valve problems, and heavy alcohol use. Less common causes include congenital heart problems and viral infections of the heart.

Your physician will often ask about the symptoms of heart failure. These include chronic fatigue, fluid retention, weight gain, swelling of the feet and ankles, and shortness of breath (at rest, with activity or while sleeping). Your physician may also order an echocardiogram, which is a special picture of the heart that shows how the valves and chamber of the heart are working.

Heart failure is treated with a combination of lifestyle changes, medications and exercise. Lifestyle changes include smoking cessation, a low fat and cholesterol diet, limiting salt in your diet, limiting or avoiding alcohol, and controlling or losing weight. There are many different medications used to treat heart failure. Physicians often use a combination of diuretics (water pills), blood pressure medications, heart medications, and cholesterol-lowering medications. If you don't exercise now, consult your physician before starting. There are many exercise programs designed specifically for people with heart failure.

Heart failure usually gets progressively worse over time. This progression can be slowed, however, by following your physician's advice, making lifestyle changes, and taking medications daily. A healthy lifestyle—avoiding smoking and alcohol, exercising 20 minutes or more a day, eating a healthy diet, and controlling blood pressure and cholesterol—can help you feel better by controlling your symptoms.

Block grants, continued...

met with Department of Public Works director Dan DesJardens about sidewalk projects that could be covered under the grant program.

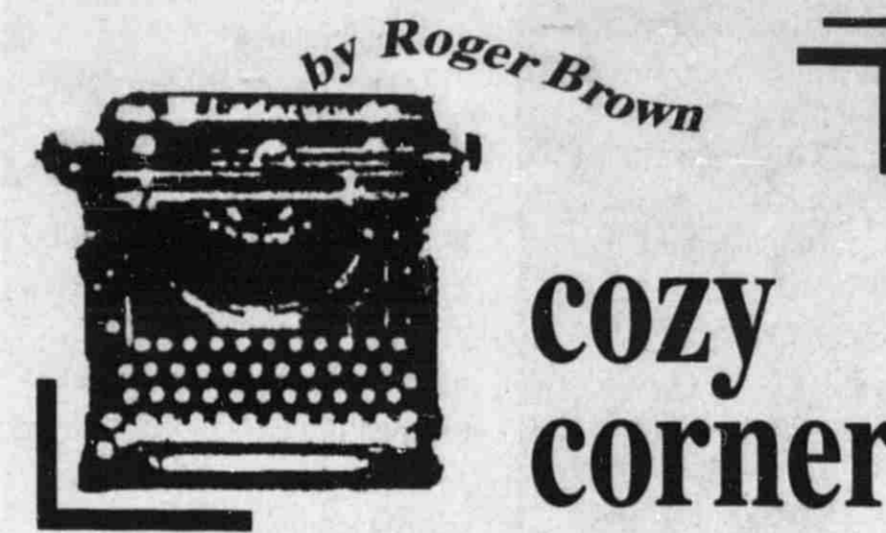
According to CDBG guidelines, the primary objective of the program is "the development of viable urban communities, by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income."

For that reason, the city cannot apply the money to citywide projects, but must direct the funding where it will benefit most of the residents fitting that description, Pasquale explained. Upon reviewing the sidewalk proposals, staff is recommending sidewalk on both sides of Beech Street from Godfrey to Foreman and on Ridgeview from Sibley to West Main Street. Both of these areas would provide sidewalks for school routes and a residential to commercial walkway. The cost for the work has been estimated at \$45,799.83. This would leave the remaining block grant funds for the North Kent Transit program, \$6,000, and a proposed master plan update, \$5,000.

For the past few years, the city and townships have provided funding to the North Kent Transit, a program designed to provide transportation to senior citizens and handicapped riders in the area.

At its December work session, the Lowell Planning Commission began reviewing the possibility of updating the city's master plan, which has not been done since the 1990s.

Viewpoint



It's a new-year, which means new-year resolutions. For me it's the same old thing ... lose weight. Some years I do shed a few pounds, though those same pounds are always back in place for the next new-year resolution. I don't know where they go. Vacation I guess.

This year I toyed with something different as a resolution. I was tempted to give up caffeine ... namely ... coffee. For those who know me, that's a big "Yeah right, and "W" bowls in a Tuesday night league with Michael Moore."

I do drink my share of coffee, though not nearly as much as I used to. When I gave up alcohol 13 years ago, I picked up the nasty habit of smoking cigars and gulping coffee. The cigars have long since become history, but my caffeine dependency lingers on. I don't drink. I don't smoke. I almost never eat red meat. I've even kicked my addiction to gummy bears and an insatiable craving for mass quantities of Ben & Jerry's. What's a little coffee gonna hurt?

How much coffee do I drink? I make a 12-cup pot every morning. In a typical day it's gone before I go to bed. Most of it is consumed in the morning and a couple cups are warmed up at dinner time. That may sound like a lot of coffee/caffeine to many of you, but I've always contended that people can build a tolerance to almost anything. I cite 32 years of marriage and my wife's tolerance of me for all those years. In some company I reverse who's tolerating who, but since she proofs this column for me I'll leave it as written.

So, what prompted this scrutiny of my caffeine consumption? National Geographic's cover story for this month is "Caffeine." Normally I don't read National Geographic, as I'm too distracted by the photos. (The same

holds true for some other magazines.) Curiosity did lead me to read this article.

The piece didn't focus on the long term medical and health ramifications stemming from caffeine intake. I guess that's what I was looking for. In typical National Geographic style they zeroed in on societal use of caffeine around the world ... British afternoon tea, Japanese tea ceremonies and the American morning coffee break. I wanted to know if the stuff is killing me.

The article also got into the monetary killing some people are making on our caffeine dependency. Starbucks plans to open another 1,400 stores this year and some Austrian guy has made a fortune selling a high-powered caffeine drink called Red Bull. He used to travel to China on business and noticed Chinese cab drivers drinking this stuff to stay awake. He bought some to fight off jet lag, liked it, copied the recipe, did some creative marketing and the first thing you know "Old Jeb's a Millionaire!"

Nothing written in the article really scared me into giving up coffee/caffeine as a new-year resolution. One photo in the piece was worth, as they say, a thousand words. The photo showed a big scoop shovel heaped with a yucky gray glob of something that looked like it might have come from a giant's nose. Disgusting is too nice of a word for what was in that shovel. So, what was it? The outline said it was the waxy caffeine laden residue extracted from coffee in the de-caffeination process.

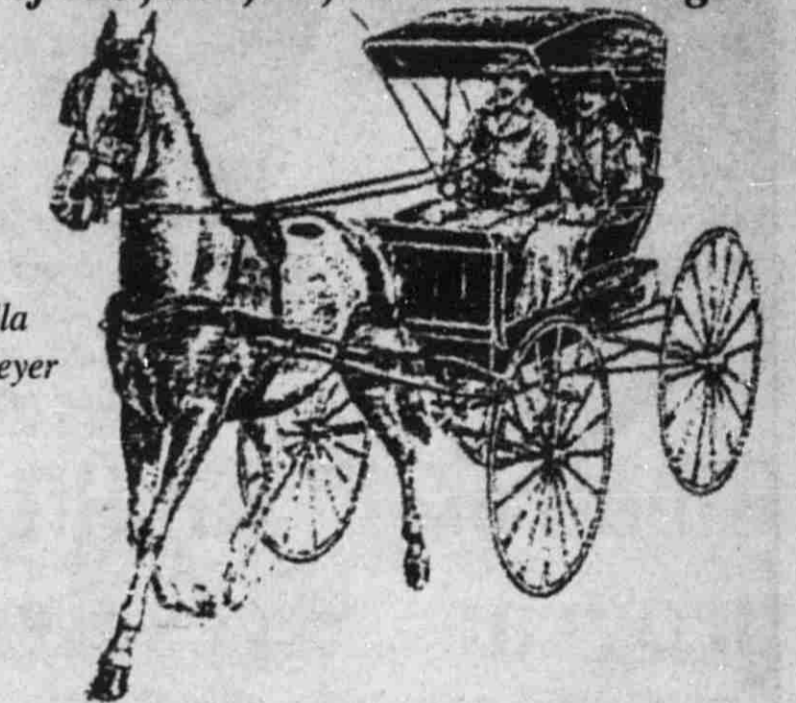
I'll tell you what. You don't need an exhaustive medical study to tell you caffeine ain't good for you. One look at that picture, and you KNOW that stuff shouldn't be in your system! Looking at that picture was like licking an ashtray might give you a clue about tobacco or talking to "Ralph" on the big white phone is an indication booze isn't all that good for you.

It is January 4 as I write this. Have I given up coffee/caffeine? No I haven't. In fact, I am right now working on my third cup. The memory of that photo does still haunt me. As mentioned earlier, I have built up a tolerance for caffeine. I don't get all nervous-and-shaky-talk-fast-like-some-people-do-when-they-drink-too-much coffee!

Maybe I've developed a tolerance for that sludge in my system as well!!! Byenow!!! Gotta go!!! Get more coffee!!! Can you say denial????

Ledger Entries

of 125, 100, 75, 50 & 25 Years Ago



By Priscilla Lussmeyer

125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL JANUARY 7, 1880

"There are over 450 convicts in the Ionia asylum for the depraved."

Every school department will probably be crowded this term.

Charles Quick is in Grand Rapids studying at Swensburg's Business College.

The highest water level in years was registered yesterday morning, but started down soon after.

Trains are taking a more northern route via Greenville to avoid washed-out railroad bridges.

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER JANUARY 5, 1905

The Lowell High School Class of 1904 has a reunion with only three members of the 23 absent.

A. S. Stannard loans the Ledger an 1863 map of Kent County which includes lists of local businesses. A.J. Houk is still in business.

Clarence Collar is a student at Albion College

A three-day blizzard, the worst in years, paralyzes northern Michigan.

The sewer on Broadway Street is not working so there's a problem with standing water.

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO JANUARY 2, 1930

Ralph Kiste, Moseley section foreman for the Pere Marquette RR, receives \$25 for having the best inspection in the Port Huron-Grand Rapids division.

"Uncle Marcus' Cozy Corner" gives a different slant on the new talkies movies; he hates them.

Students must have two years of college to qualify for the government flying school.

"The Lowell City Bank and the Lowell State Bank are giving some beautiful calendars to their patrons."

"Prideful printing promptly printed, properly priced, promptly promoted—The Ledger office."

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER JANUARY 6, 1955

The construction at Lowell Light and Power will necessitate turning off electric power from 2-5 a.m. Sunday.

The fire siren blows a fuse, so Frank Stephens rings the old City Hall fire bell and phones firemen. The fire hydrant is out of order, so tank trucks take over. The fire was put out.

Council buys a new Chevrolet garbage truck for just over \$7,000. It will take over refuse collection Feb. 1.

Village hostess Glad Bergin visited 45 newcomer families in 1954.

Two dogs kill 80 turkeys on a farm in Cascade Township.

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER JANUARY 4, 1980

Feb. 1 is the deadline to submit a design for the sculpture to be built by LAAC in Richards Park.

The IRS has a new toll-free hotline, but neglected to include it in their press release.

This Christmas has been notable for the lack of snow. The ground is bare.

Michigan has more than \$100 million this winter to help low-income people with heating bills.

The ice hockey team wins four out of four during the holidays.

To The Editor

Dear Editor,

I respect Steve Bukala's opinions as he expressed them in his letter last week. However, he is misinformed on the issue, and, like Steve, I decided that I'd rather put the facts before the public and let people decide for themselves.

I also believe in continuing education. I am graduating from a three-year, 70 credit course in professional Township Governance this month. I am also a level 1 property tax assessor, certified by the Michigan Department of Treasury. I am Lowell Township's appointed Deputy Treasurer. I am familiar with PA 425, which provides for a negotiated annexation of land. See <http://www.michigan.gov/legislat>, click on Public Acts, key in 425, 1984. Every statement and figure in this and my first letter are backed by documents that are in the public record.

Steve is correct that several communities have used PA 425 of 1984 to mutual benefit. It is commonly used when services like water and sewer are not available to a property through the governing municipality, but are available from a neighboring municipality. That does not apply in this case, however. This property has sewer, water, fire, fire protection and police protection (Kent County Sheriff), and public road maintenance through the Kent County Road Commission. Lowell Township has water and sewer service already available on this property from the lines running down M-21. If the city were to try to serve the property in question, the city would have to expand their line across Bowes Road from Main Street, perhaps across M-21.

Go look at the map at the wastewater plant. Why in the world would the city want to do this, at their taxpayers' expense, when water and sewer is already on the property? Why would the city want to pay for a new road, when it is accepted practice that a developer pays for roads inside his development? If the developer does not want to maintain a private road, then he can turn it over to the county and it will be a public county road, like the new roads west of Meijer and inside the Whispering Hills subdivision.

Of course the city does not receive additional revenue from people who do not live in the city, even though non-residents come into the city regularly. I drive into Lowell City almost every day to shop or to visit, or maybe just pass through on the State highway. I also sometimes go to Ionia, Rockford, Kentwood, and even Grand Rapids. None of those cities have suggested that I help pay their bills.

It seems that the property tax millage rates are confusing, so I will try to clarify. All of us in the Greater Lowell community pay the same annual (summer plus winter) millage rates of about 25.5 mills for the schools, county operations (including the Road Commission), state education tax, and library. Non-homestead properties pay about an additional 17.5 mills for school operations. In addition, each municipality also collects taxes to operate the local government and government services.

Lowell Township levies 0.828 mills to operate township government. Lowell City, according to their website, levies 15.83 mills to run city government. There is no reason for a 425 agreement, because this property does not lack for any municipal services. The developer's concern is to get the property developed as soon as possible and sell it. Of course, the city would like to increase its revenue. But I see no reason for the township to hand over control of a key commercial property that the township has gone to a lot of trouble and expense to get ready for development. I see no reason for the township to collude with the city and a soon-to-be-gone developer to have some future business owners paying higher taxes than necessary. We all pay more than enough taxes already.

Sincerely yours,
Paula Blumm
Lowell Charter Township resident

PS: Interested citizens like us, Steve, keep government on its toes. I intend to watch this situation with great interest, and see that my elected officials do the job they have been elected to do. Let's continue our conversation over a cup of coffee, and leave them to it.

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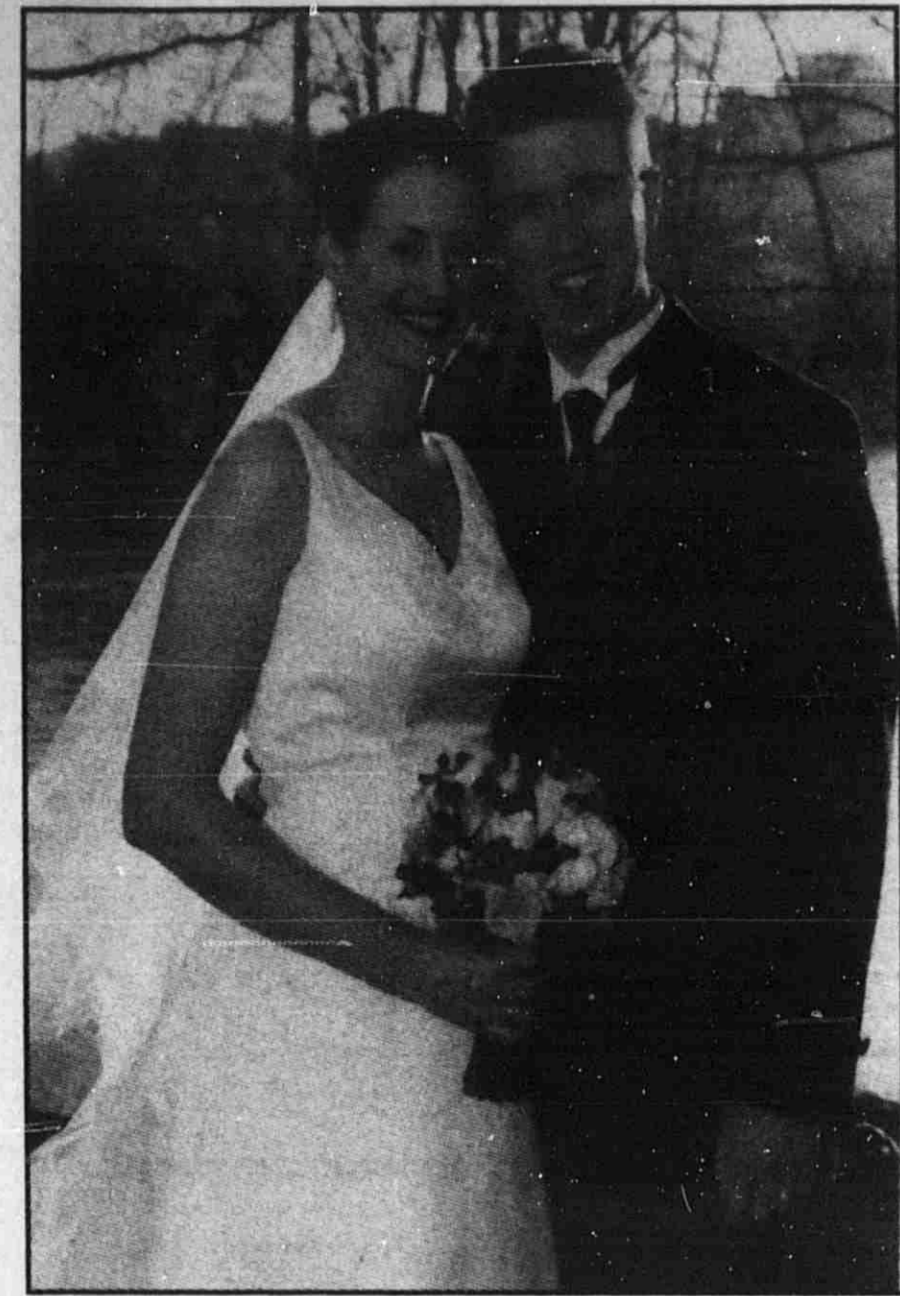
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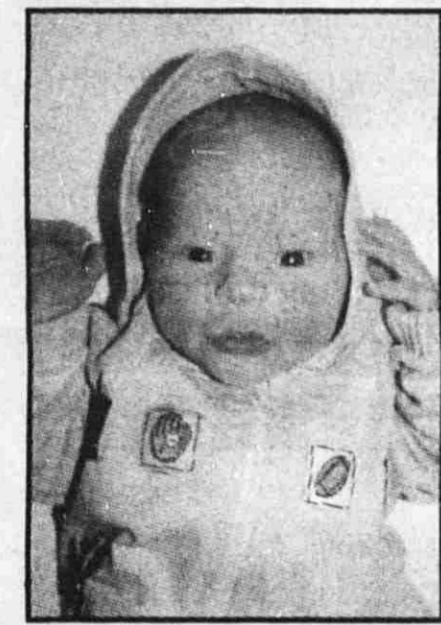
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Weddings



Mr. and Mrs. Zak Sowle

New Arrivals



David Timothy Smith

Mike and Tammy Smith are happy to announce the birth of their son, David Timothy. He was born December 4, 2004 weighing 7 lbs. 2 oz. and measuring 19 1/2 inches.

Welcoming him home is his big brother, Mikey. Proud grandma is Peggy Pfaff and the late Carl Pfaff, and Granny and Grandpa Smith.

Sowle Borders

The November 6, 2004 wedding of Elizabeth Mary Borders and Zak Hunter Sowle took place at the St. Mary Student Parish in Ann Arbor with Fr. Dan Reim, S.J. officiating.

Parents of the couple are Stephen and Ann Borders of Ypsilanti and W. James and Ann Sowle of Lowell.

Maid of honor was Kara Mallery. Bridesmaids were Joanna Borders and Rachel Borders; flower girl was Katherine Burns.

Pike Sowle served as best man. Groomsmen were Jonathon Gritter and Casey Kret.

Following a Caribbean cruise, the couple now reside in Cleveland, Ohio.

Engagements



Vinson Videan and Amy Pullen

Pullen/Videan

Amy Pullen and Vinson Videan, both of Lowell, will exchange marriage vows on April 6, 2005 at Breeze's Resort, Jamaica.

The future bride is the daughter of Patrick and Charlotte Pullen of Ada. A graduate of Lowell High School and the University of Phoenix, she is a mortgage broker with Apex in Lowell.

The groom-elect is the son of Dennis and Jacqueline Videan of Alto. He is a graduate of Lowell High School and Michigan State University and is currently employed at Altico.

Reflections of faith

Dean Bailey, pastor

Alto/Bowne Center United Methodist churches

Convicted of newness, Paul wrote to the Corinthians: "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation, everything old has passed away; all, everything has become new! All this is from God ..." (2 Corinthians 5:4-17-18a).

Newness springs from the heart of God, as does forgiving the wrong of which the poet speaks. Forgiveness - being forgiven or being forgiving - has its source in God and is the threshold of newness.

So let us be immersed in the waters of forgiveness so that we can recall the right and go forth with true purpose to the task of a new year - a year alight with newness whose source is God.

Happy Birthday

JAN. 6: Don Green, Mary Ellen Miller, Bob Kinsley, Bobbi Jo Young, Terri Stuckey, Norann DeLoof.

JAN. 7: Lois Seese, Helga Wester, Bob Leyman, Karen Cummings.

JAN. 9: Jordan Potter, Helena Guastavino.

JAN. 10: Mary Jo Vezino, Alvin D. Brenk I, Jared Felling, Mike Barnes.

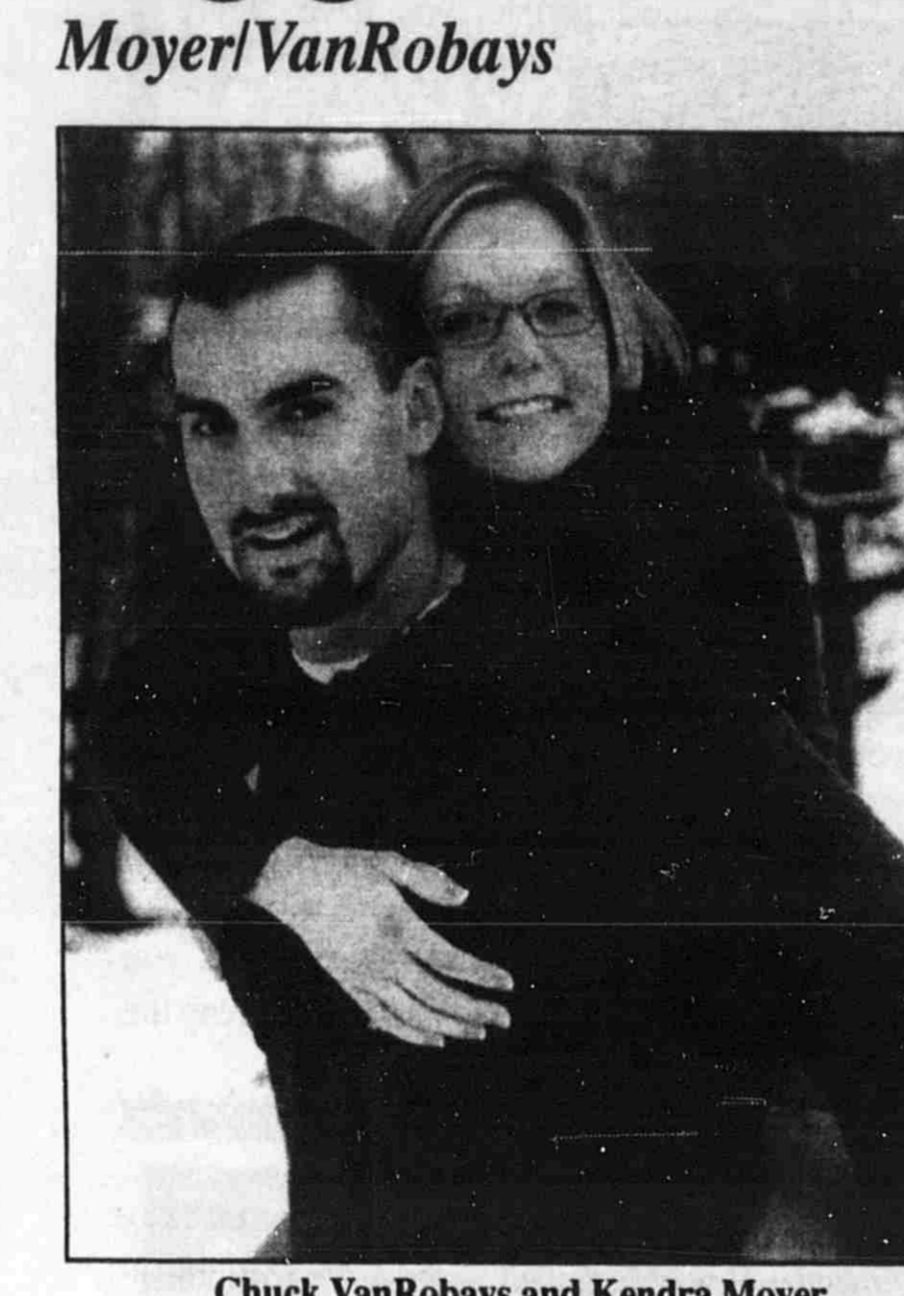
JANUARY 11: Katie Plutschow, Ian Blodger, Marian Guastavino.

JANUARY 12: Judy Ellison, Stuart Sauber, Mike Vezino.

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<p>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</p> <p><small>Across the street from the Werner Dodge dealership. 897-6284 or 485-4195 10AM Sunday School; 11AM Morning Service; 6PM Evening Service; Wed., 7:30PM Prayer Meeting.</small></p>	<p>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH <i>Kirby and Harrison</i> Alto • 616-691-9011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M.</p> <p>OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p> St. Anthony's Community Church 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</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936</p> <p>Worship Services 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m.</p> <p>DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Nursery & child care available at both services Barrier - Free Entrance</p>	<p>EVERGREEN MISSIONARY CHURCH 10501 Settlemore • Ph. 897-7185 Sunday School.....9:45 A.M. Morning Worship.....11 A.M. Evening Service.....6:00 P.M.</p> <p>Prayer and Praise - Wed., 7:00 P.M. Rev. Rick Ferguson - 987-6475 ALL ARE WELCOME! (Barrier-Free)</p>	<p>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God) 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Senior Pastor Dave Noonan, Asst. Pastor 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.</p>	<p>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Fr. George J. Fekete 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmarys-lowell.com Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL BRENDA BEGON 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48, ENTRY FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>
<p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluestwater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org Sunday School & Adult Bible Class. 9:00 A.M. Worship Service.....10:00 A.M.</p> <p>(Nursery available) Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p>APOSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M. SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M. At 215 1/2 W. Main, Lowell (entrance in rear of building) CALL FOR FREE HOME BIBLE STUDIES Pastor Robert L. Hubbard Phone: (616) 897-1267 website www.apfllighthouse.com</p>	<p>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 201 N. Washington • 897-8800 Sunday School.....9:45 A.M. Morning Worship.....10:50 A.M. Sunday Evening.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday Family Ministry.....7:00 P.M.</p> <p>PASTOR KEN ANDERSON Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>	<p>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 J. & St. 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 897-7623 • Parsonage 897-5464 • sbccbh@juno.com</p>
<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbclowell.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 J.C.Wed. 6:15 & 8:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free</p>	<p>ALTON BIBLE CHURCH Lincoln Lake Ave. at 3 Mile Road 897-5648 Sunday School.....10:00 A.M. Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M. Evening Praise.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday AWANA.....7:00 P.M. (Sept. - April) Prayer and Bible Study.....7:00 P.M. Pastor Ken Ford (Home) 897-6418 YOU ARE WELCOME!</p>	<p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL (United Church of Christ) 404 North Hudson • 897-5906</p> <p>Worship and Church School.....10:00 A.M. Dr. Roger LaWare.....Pastor Megan MacNaughton.....Music Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship</p>	<p>"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!</p>

Engagements



Chuck VanRobays and Kendra Moyer

Kevin and Kathy Moyer of Saranac would like to announce the engagement of their daughter Kendra to Chuck VanRobays.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Saranac High School. She is currently attending Wayne State University working towards her master's degree in speech pathology.

The future groom, the son of Carmy VanRobays of Rochester, Michigan, and the late Charles VanRobays, is a graduate of Rochester Adams High School. He is employed as a personal trainer at Power House Gym and is the head varsity baseball coach at Rochester Adams High School. He also teaches baseball lessons at Jason Thompson's Baseball School.

A June 24, 2005 wedding is planned.

Updated procedures for driver's licenses

Adults who apply for their first driver's license or personal identification card are now required to provide documentation showing that they reside in Michigan, said Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land.

The updated Department of State procedure offers a new line of defense against identity fraud. State and federal authorities requested the policy change to help prevent individuals from falsely obtaining state licenses and ID cards.

State law has long required driver's license and personal identification card applicants to be Michigan residents. The new documentation process merely ensures that applicants are complying with that mandate.

As of Dec. 13, all applicants for an original Michigan driver's license or personal ID card who are 18 or older must provide documentation of residency. This does not apply to document renewals, or to residents under 18 because of the sufficient documentation requirements of Michigan's Graduated Driver Licensing program.

In addition to meeting all other requirements, applicants must now provide at least one document with their name and Michigan residence address. Post office boxes cannot be used in lieu of a residence address. Examples of acceptable documents include utility bills, bank statements, insurance policies, valid student IDs from a Michigan school, paychecks or stubs, lease agreements and government documents. Cell phone bills are not acceptable.

Michigan currently requires applicants to provide at least three documents to prove identity. These standards are consistent with those in other states.

More information on this policy is available on www.Michigan.gov/sos.

"Friends" meeting

Friends of the Englehardt Library will hold a meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 18 at 10 a.m. for all members and prospective members. It is open to adults, and participation level is at one's discretion.

FREE TREES

Ten free flowering trees will be given to each person who joins the National Arbor Day Foundation during January 2005.

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting between Feb. 1 and May 31 with enclosed planting instructions. The trees include two White Flowering Dogwoods, two Flowering Crabapples, two Washington Hawthorns, two American Redbuds and two Golden Rain trees. They are six to 12 inches and are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced.

To become a member of the foundation and to receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to Ten Free Flowering Trees, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410 by Jan. 31 or go online to arborday.org.

Members will also receive a subscription to the bimonthly publication, Arbor Day and The Tree Book with information about tree planting and care.

The Lowell Ledger

YOUR SOURCE for Red Arrow SPORTS!

In The Service

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Matthew Hedges and more than 2,100 Marines and Sailors assigned to the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) recently joined the 15,000 service member sweep of Fallujah, and has since committed to ensuring the security and stability in Kandari and Nasar Wa Salam.

Members of Hedges' unit have conducted more than 120 patrols, 13 platoon reinforced raids and a company reinforced search of Kandari. They insured that the 1st Marine Division did not have to worry about their rear supply routes and communications during the fight in Fallujah.

MEU's are built around a reinforced infantry battalion, a combat service support element, a reinforced helicopter squadron and a command element. With its complement of fully integrated air and ground forces, Hedges' unit is ready to conduct real-world operations including amphibious, helicopter and boat raids, tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel, noncombatant evacuation operations and humanitarian assistance operations.

Hedges is the son of Janet Vander Laan of Wayland and Roger Hedges of Alto.

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Financial Focus

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TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIGHER RETIREMENT PLAN LIMITS

How can you build resources for a comfortable retirement? One of the very best moves you can make is to contribute the maximum to your 401(k) and IRA. And here's some good news: That maximum has been increased for 2005—so you've now got an even better chance to accelerate your retirement savings.

Higher contributions can add up

In 2005, you can put in up to \$14,000 to your 401(k), up from \$13,000 in 2004. And, if you're 50 or over, you can add up to \$4,000 in "catch-up" contributions. (These same limits apply to 457(b) plans, for state or local government employees, and to 403(b) plans, for

employees of schools, religious organizations or other nonprofit groups.)

You can also put up to \$4,000 in your traditional or Roth IRA, up from \$3,000 in 2004. If you're 50 or over, you can add another \$500.

At first glance, you might not think these increases are such a big deal. But over time, they can really add up. Suppose, for example, that an investor put in the maximum of \$14,000 every year to his or her 401(k), 457(b) or 403(b) plan, and you earned a hypothetical seven percent rate of return. After 25 years, that account would have accumulated about \$68,000 more than it would have if the investor had only put in the old maximum of \$13,000 per year, and earned the same seven percent. And if he or she contributed the new maximum of \$4,000 every year to an IRA, again earning the same hypothetical seven percent rate of return, he or she would end up, after 25 years, with about \$67,000 more than if the previous maximum of \$3,000 per year (earning seven percent) was invested.

Furthermore, the above figures don't take into account future increases in contribution limits or "catch-up" contributions.

(Keep in mind that you will have to pay taxes on

your 401(k), 457(b), 403(b) and traditional IRA when you start taking withdrawals. A Roth IRA, however, grows tax-free, provided you meet certain conditions.)

Can you afford to "max out"?

If you're like most people, you have plenty of demands on your income, so you may not think you can afford to "max out" on your 401(k) and IRA.

That may, in fact, be the case - but do whatever you can. Whenever you get a raise, consider increasing your 401(k) contribution. You may also be able to set aside more money for your 401(k) if you can find a way to cut down on some of your daily expenditures.

As for your IRA, try to put in a fixed amount each month, rather than scramble to make the entire contribution at one time. You'd probably find it quite hard to come up with \$4,000 at one time, but if you spread it out over 15 months (you have until April 15 of one year to make IRA contributions for the preceding year), you only have to find about \$266 a month.

Reach for the limit

By hitting the contribution limit on your 401(k) and IRA, you can help yourself achieve a retirement lifestyle without limits. So put away as much as you can today - and give yourself the opportunity to reap the rewards tomorrow.

Sharing The Vision

SHARI MILLER
Lowell Schools Superintendent



Take the Challenge! One of the best gifts that you can give yourself and your children is your good health. I have been in the position of having to tell my children that I had breast cancer. It is my hope that you do not find yourself having to share with your children a critical health issue.

One way to stay in good health is to maintain an

appropriate weight. Research has shown that obesity leads to greater health problems and earlier death rates. I regret the many years that I was overweight (obese) and the potential damage that did to my health. Now is the time to stand up, admit if we have a weight problem, and begin the path to better health through sensible weight loss. A positive, team-based approach is available now, so we can begin to take off that weight.

The community of Lowell will be participating in a weight loss challenge. Teams of four adults will weigh together on a large scale. No individual's weight will be known.

The goal is for our community to lose 2005 pounds from the week of January 11 to March 19. Weigh-ins will be conducted at the Lowell YMCA. I encourage you to get a team and begin the weight loss challenge. This project is sponsored by Lowell Area Community

Wellness in partnership with the Lowell Area Schools, the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, the Lowell YMCA and Kent Butchers' Supply. If you have questions, please contact Patty Sellner at 340-7781.

On the academic side, our secondary students are concluding their first semester's work. If you have middle or high school students, please talk with them and encourage their attention to end of semester projects and exams. Best wishes to all of you for a happy and healthy 2005.

Your comments about this matter or any issue would be greatly appreciated. Send to Superintendent Shari Miller, Lowell Area Schools, 300 High St., Lowell, MI 49331 or smiller@lowellschools.com (check out our Web page at www.lowellschools.com or make comments to the Board of Education at boardofed@lowellschools.com).

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Variety of subjects on display at Huntington Galleria

By Dan Schneider

The paintings currently on the walls of the Huntington Galleria reflect a variety of artistic interests of the Alto painter who created them.

Subjects include flowers, ballerinas, an oriental woman and a decorative cabbage.

Vicky Graham grew up in Alaska, Mich., and started painting at age 16. At 19, she began working for her aunt at the Grand Ledge Chair Company. She painted chairs there, adding one color at a time to designs as the several chairs swung around, fastened to a wagon wheel.

She took that experience to a job at the John Widdicomb Furniture Company in Grand Rapids where she painted flowers, stripes and oriental designs on wooden chairs. She spent about 20 years working there.

Graham's paintings in the show are mostly watercolors. She's been using the medium for about four years.

"I've always liked them, just looking at them," Graham said. "And every time I'd walk up and say, 'Wow, I like that' and it'd be a watercolor."

After painting chairs

for so long, her watercolor style at first was intricate and precise. She has since loosened her style a bit, helped by classes from Lowell's David Davis.

Davis once told her to step away from a painting of a flower vase she was working on, then attack it with some bigger brushes and wilder ideas. She now

counts it among her favorite paintings.

"I kind of like the one that he made me walk away from," she said.

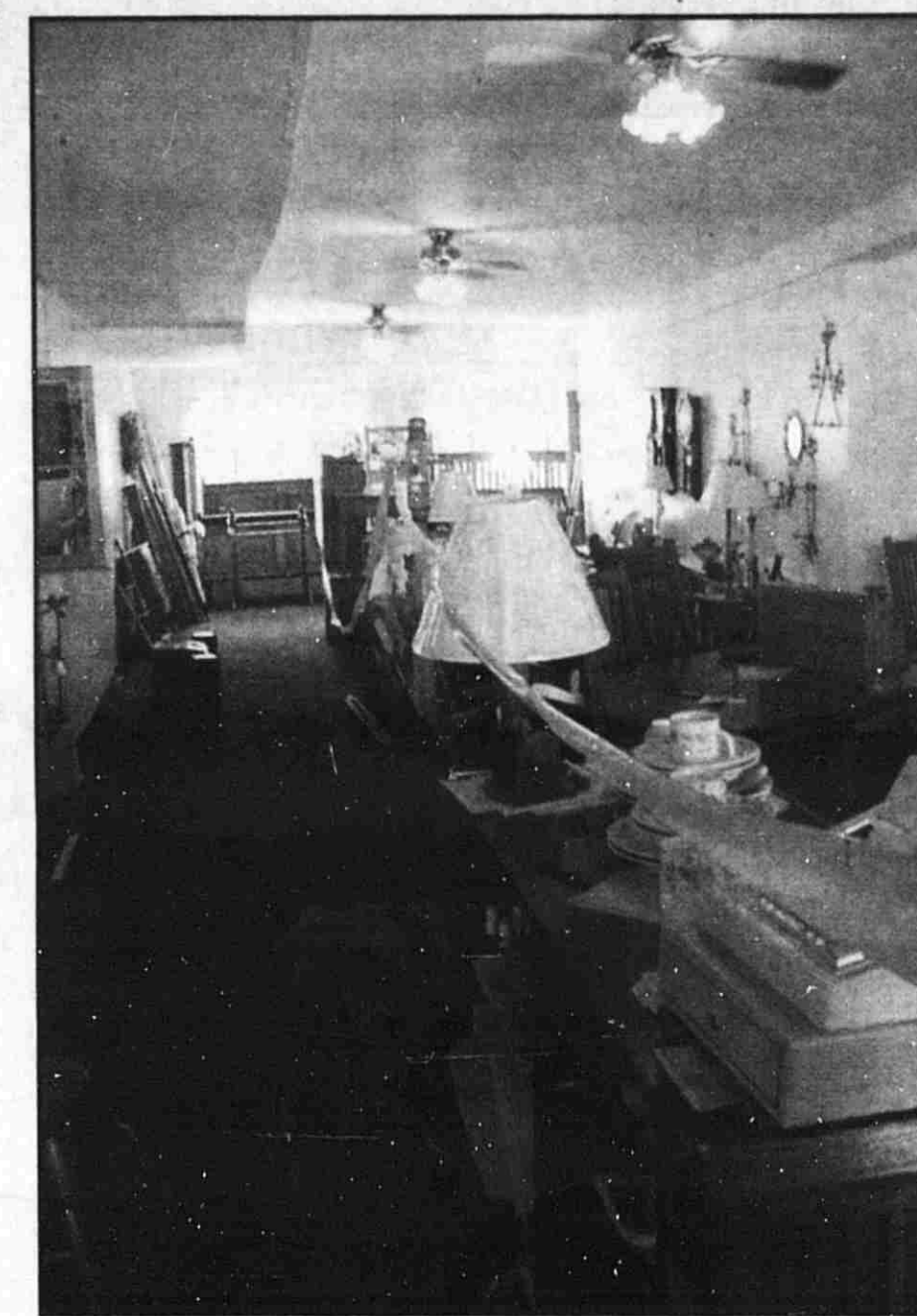
Graham is also inspired by old barns, old cars and other things from the past.

Her 14 paintings will be on display through Jan. 31.



Alto artist Vicky Graham with one of the paintings featured in her show this month at the Huntington Galleria, 414 E. Main St.

Building condemned, continued...From Page 1



Touch of Country's crowded conditions following the damage to the ceiling caused by falling beam.

holiday business season. The McQueen building is owned by the King Milling Company.

"(King Milling president) Brian Doyle was very, very kind to allow me to temporarily set up my business here," Tava said. "I want to stay on Main Street. That's where I started and that's where I want to stay."

A Touch of Country celebrated 10 years of business last year.

Tava said she would rather rent the McQueen building and deal with its space constraints than move to a non-downtown location. She said although she now has less display space, product availability will not suffer. She has much of her inventory in storage.

Built around 1890, the condemned building was used as an auto repair and gas station from 1920 to 1940. The roof was supported from above by a steel framework, eliminating the need for vertical support beams inside.

Tava leased the building from Economy Leasing, Inc. in Lansing. Economy Leasing has owned the building since 2001, when they bought it from Tava's husband, Thomas Tava. Representatives of Economy Leasing could not be contacted to determine the cost of the damage, when or if the roof would be repaired, or why part of the support structure was removed in the first place.

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

PUBLIC NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF A SPECIAL USE APPLICATION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on:

Monday, January 10, 2005

at 7:00 P.M. at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash S.E.

At this hearing, the property owned by Mark Velting, located at 12000 Cascade Road, PP# 41-20-28-200-007, will be considered for a special use permit for a gas station.

The special use permit application and the Lowell Township Zoning Ordinance are available for public inspection at the Township Hall during regular office hours. Please call 897-7600 for further information.

Linda S. Regan
Lowell Township Clerk

Sisters' retrospective on exhibit at Lowell Area Arts Council

By Dan Schneider

Jan Johnson and her younger sister Cara Croninger grew up on the Croninger dairy farm in Caledonia Township.

The farm was about five miles west of Lowell and located between Campau and Buck lakes. Growing up on the farm was a creative spark for both artists, who have a show opening Wednesday at the Lowell Area Arts Council. But the spark took the two in very different directions.

"What this show will be is kind of parallel stories of our two careers, my sister's and mine," Johnson said. "She went to the big city and I stayed in Lowell."

For Johnson, farm life inspired a love of animals. After completing a degree at Kendall College of Art and Design, she spent a winter term at Ringling School of Art, then in Sarasota, Fla. There she drew and painted circus animals.

"That's primarily what I wanted to do ... is animal drawing," Johnson said. "I always did drawing from the time I was a little kid, and living on the farm there's lots of animals."

She returned to Lowell, married Phillip Johnson whom she had met at Kendall. She painted watercolors and taught classes at the Lowell YMCA when it was first starting up. The local artist later worked as an illustrator for Fidler Publishing Company and

Amway publications.

For Croninger, the farm's appeal was in its natural setting and the implements of the farming trade. Both found their way into her jewelry designs which have become internationally renowned. She now works out of her home studio in Brooklyn, New York, but she hasn't forgotten farm life.

"It's definitely a force in my life, in everything," Croninger said. "And I'm influenced by natural shapes as well and I don't know if that would be so much if I had just been brought up in the city."

Tool shapes also find their way into her work.

"That has a lot to do with growing up on the farm with the plows and the shovels and the rakes," she explained.

Croninger makes jewelry out of plastic-polyester and acrylic resins. Her designs have been featured in fashion magazines like *Elle* and *Vogue*.

Johnson, a watercolorist, has selected about 50 paintings for the show.

"A lot of them are big," she said. "Getting them to fit is going to be the challenge."

With the exception of one, all of her paintings are watercolors. They cover more than 50 years of her creative activity, most of which took place in Lowell.

Since she painted outdoors a lot, the history of Lowell is evident. One shows a delivery truck behind the Lowell Beer Store—the buildings are rusty looking in the 1960s Lowell summer sun.

Preferring watercolor painting, Johnson says, "I like the transparency and the way it flows, and the surprises you get with it."

She paints with a painter named Harry Hefner. His influence is evident in some of her paintings—large white spaces used to anchor the compositions.

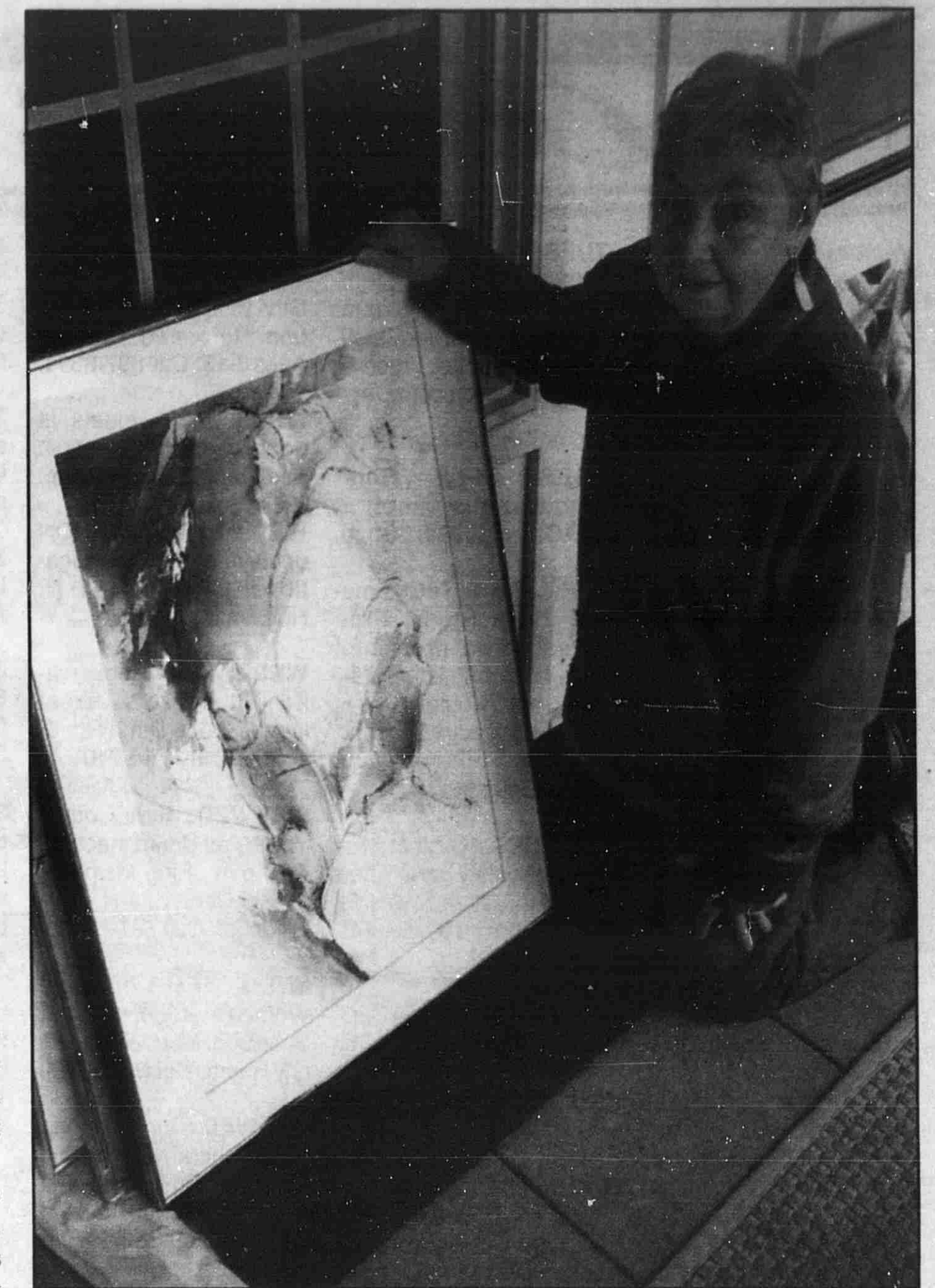
It was about 15 years ago when Johnson made a transition in her art from very realistic to abstract watercolors.

"The way I start those is start four or five at once ... start with color compositions and maybe not know what the subject is going to be," she explained. "A lot of the animal paintings happened that way."

Johnson has shown at summer outdoor art shows throughout the state. For a few years she also worked part time laying out the *Lowell Ledger*.

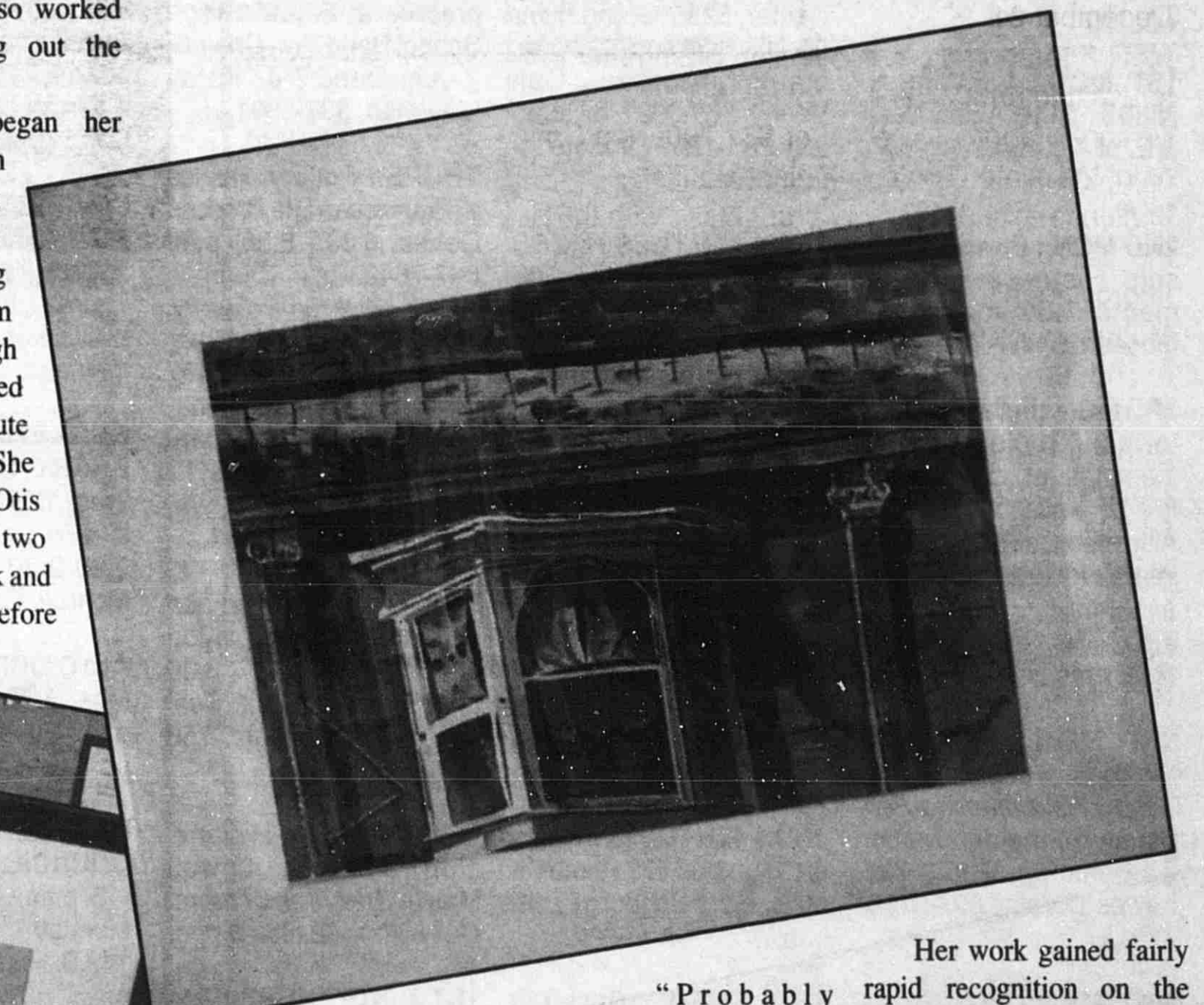
Croninger began her career with an interest in painting and sculpture.

Following graduation from Lowell High School, she studied at the Art Institute of Chicago. She married actor Otis Young and the two lived in New York and Los Angeles before



Watercolorist Jan Johnson with an abstract painting of rabbits. Her artwork is currently featured at the Lowell Area Arts Council with her sister, Cara Croninger, a jewelry artist living in New York.

Below, a window on a Lowell building in a 1960s painting by Johnson.



separating after 10 years. As a single mom, she had to change her artistic priorities.

"I was interested in painting and sculpture, but I didn't immediately find a way to do that for a living," Croninger said.

So she started making leather accessories and soon after, plastic jewelry. She could do both in a small space at home.

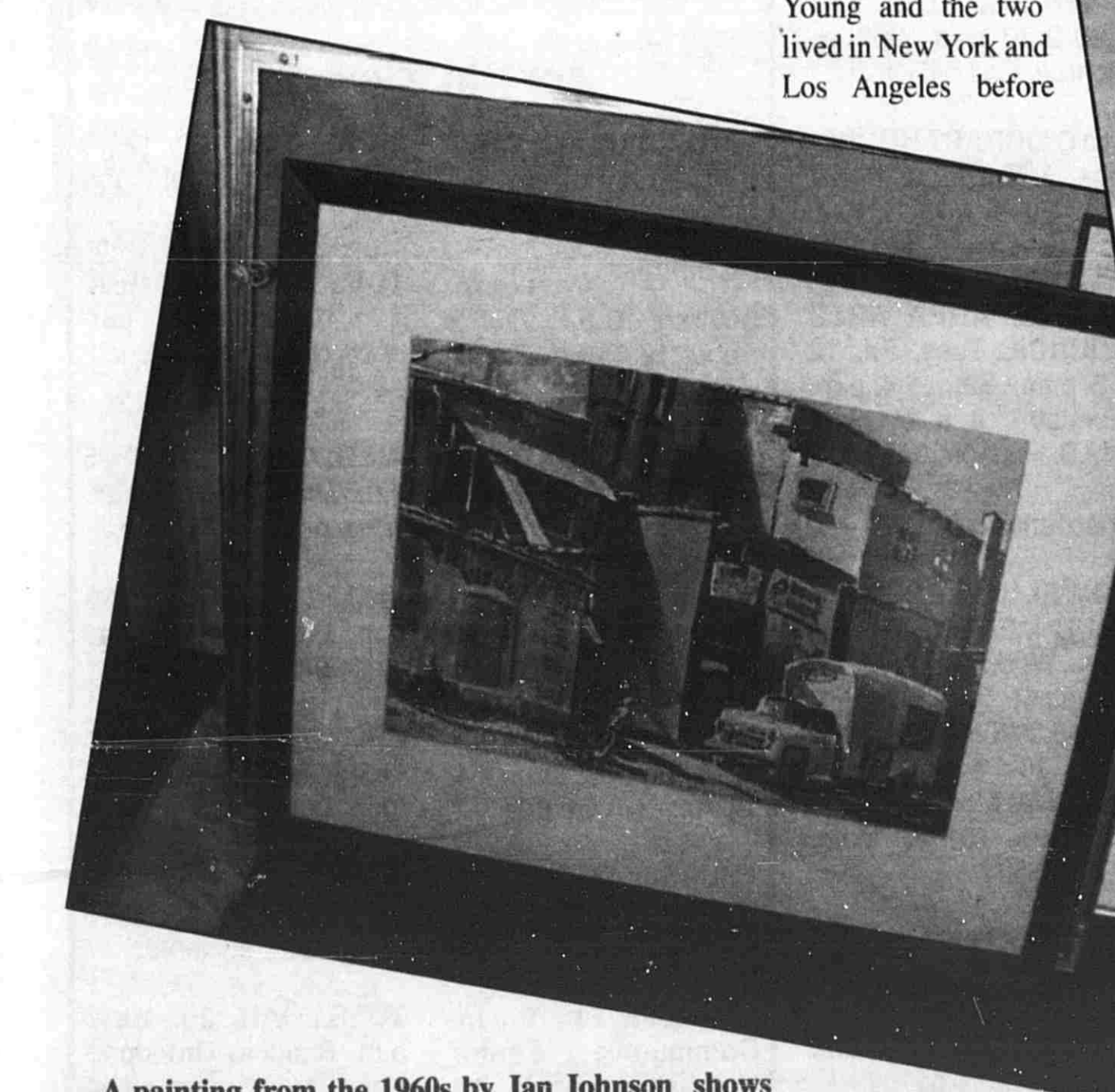
"Probably about a year after I started making objects to wear, I started with the plastics," she said. "I thought it would be easier if I started doing plastics to do multiples ... that didn't turn out to be the case."

The plastic pieces still required individual carving work. She learned to work with the plastic mostly on her own.

"I've never known anyone working with plastic jewelry," Croninger said.

Her work gained fairly rapid recognition on the wrists and necks of models in fashion spreads. Her first museum show was in 1973 at the Boston Museum of Contemporary Art along with works by Pablo Picasso and Alexander Calder.

The Lowell Area Arts Council exhibit is called "The Croninger Sisters Show Their Stuff." It runs through Feb. 5. Both artists will be at an artists' reception Sunday from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.



A painting from the 1960s by Jan Johnson shows what the back of the Lowell Beer Store used to look like.

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SYNOPSIS REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL DECEMBER 20, 2004

Minutes of the December 6, 2004 meeting were approved as written and the accounts payable were approved.

The following motions were approved:

- Motion to approve the assessor's employment agreement expiring December 31, 2006.
- Motion to approve the collection of summer property taxes for 2005 for Kent Intermediate School District.
- Motion to approve the bid of \$67,700 from Dave Cole Decorators to paint the Water Treatment Plant clarifier.
- Motion to accept Change Order No. 1 with the developer paying all of the \$2,100.00 for the conduits for the Center and Clarke Street Improvements.
- Motion to accept Change Order No. 2 in the amount of \$17,314.50 noting the developers will be responsible for 75 to 80 percent of the cost, but not holding to an exact figure for the Center and Clarke Street Improvements.
- Motion to accept Change Order No. 3 which results in a net gain of \$4,441.31 for the Center and Clarke Street Improvements.
- Motion to enter into a rental/purchase agreement with Digital Office Machines for a Ricoh copier.
- Motion to approve the meeting dates for 2005 including a meeting to be held on Monday, April 4, 2005 for the City Council as follows:

JANUARY	3	JULY	5 (TUESDAY)
	18 (TUESDAY)		18
FEBRUARY	7	AUGUST	1
	22 (TUESDAY)		15
MARCH	7	SEPTEMBER	6 (TUESDAY)
	21		19
APRIL	4	OCTOBER	3
	18		17
MAY	2	NOVEMBER	7
	16		21
JUNE	6	DECEMBER	5
	20		19

Motion to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, January 3, 2005.

Complete minutes are available at Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331.



Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk
City of Lowell

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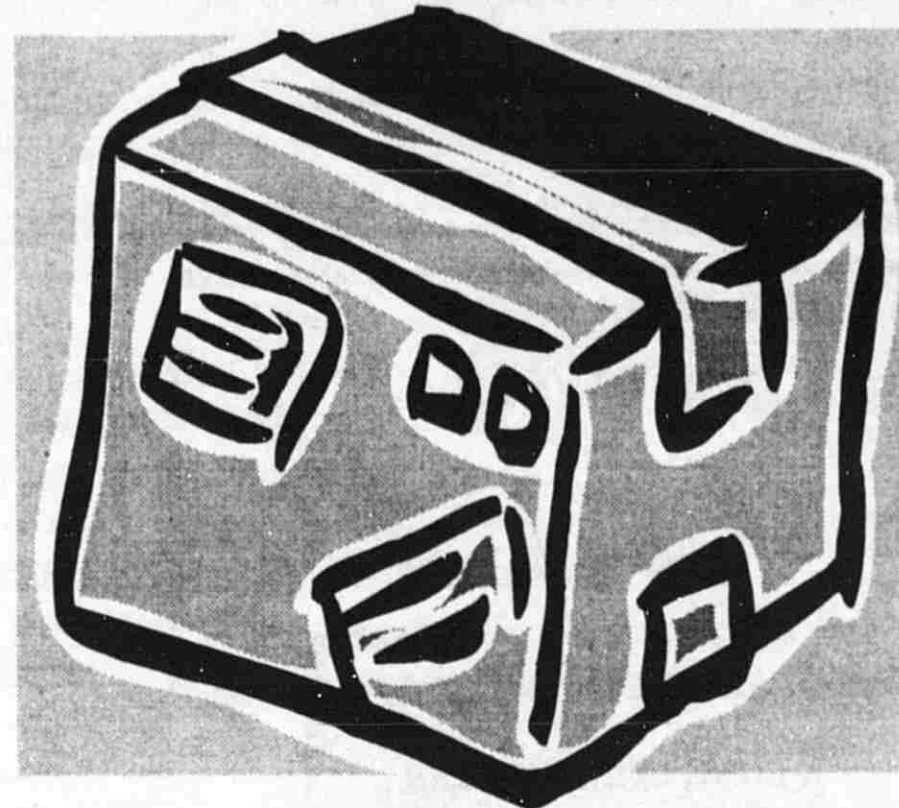
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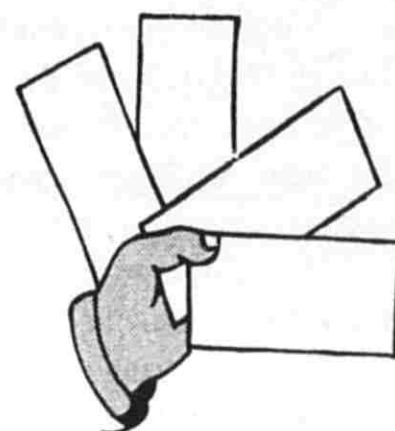
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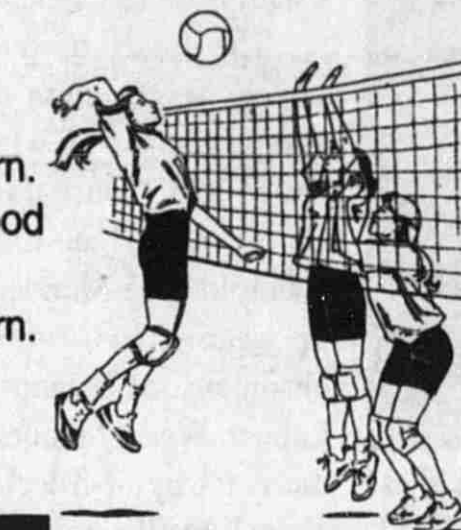
LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS VARSITY WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE

This Page Brought to You By The Lowell Ledger

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

* Indicates a home game at LHS Main Gym
All games begin at 7:30 p.m. unless indicated

12/21 at 8:30 a.m.	Portage Northern Tourn.	1/27	Northview
12/28 at 8:30 a.m.	WMVOA at E. Kentwood	1/29 at 8:30 p.m.	West Ottawa Invitational
1/6	Sparta*	1/31 at 5 p.m.	TK/FHE/IONIA
1/8 at 9 a.m.	Ferris State Univ. Tourn.	2/3	Greenville*
1/13	East Grand Rapids*	2/5 at 8:30 a.m.	Northwood Tournament
1/15 TBA	Zeeland Invitational	2/10	Unity Christian
1/20	Kenowa Hills	2/14 at 6 p.m.	Zeeland*
		2/19 TBA	Conference*



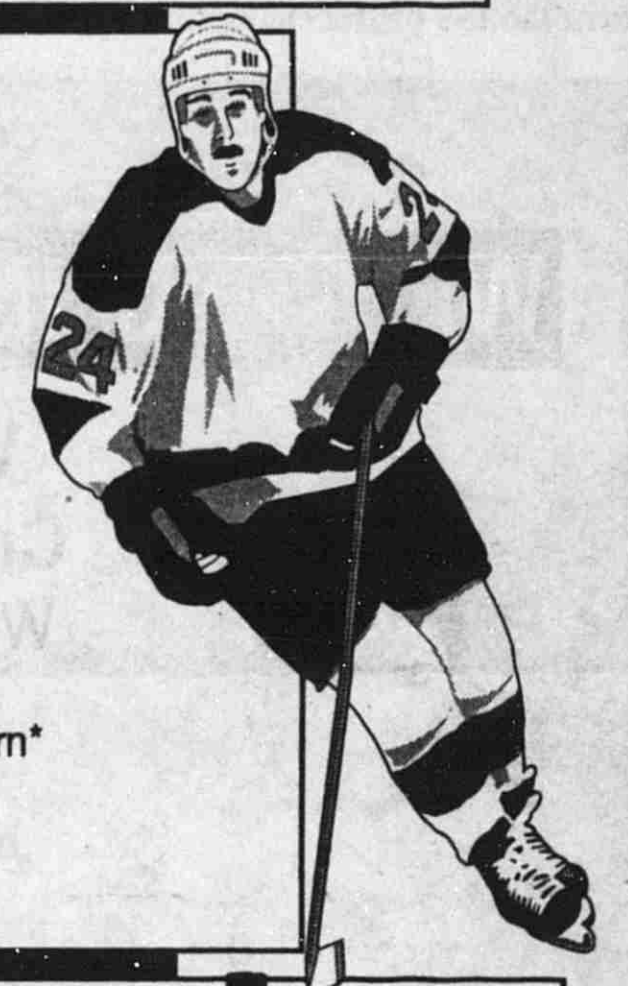
VARSITY ICE HOCKEY

* Indicates a home game @ Standard Federal Ice Center



12/27 at 5 p.m.	Wayland
12/28 TBA	Wayland Invitational
1/5 at 8 p.m.	Grand Haven
1/7 at 7 p.m.	Flint Carman Ainsworth*

1/8 at 9 p.m.	Hudsonville*
1/13 at 8 p.m.	Union
1/15 at 9 p.m.	Wayland*
1/21 at 9 p.m.	South Christian
1/28 at 9 p.m.	West Ottawa*
1/29 at 7 p.m.	Forest Hills Central
2/4 at 9 p.m.	South Christian*
2/11 at 8 p.m.	Hudsonville
2/12 at 9 p.m.	Catholic Central*
2/18 at 9 p.m.	Grand Haven*
2/19 at 9 p.m.	Forest Hills Northern*
2/26 at 9 p.m.	Northview



BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

* Indicates a home game at LHS Main Gym
All games begin at 7:30 p.m.



12/21	Kenowa Hills*
1/4	Northview*
1/7	Greenville
1/11	Thornapple Kellogg
1/14	Unity Christian*
1/18	St. Johns*
1/21	Cedar Springs
1/25	Forest Hills Eastern*



2/4	Kenowa Hills
2/11	Northview
2/15	Greenville*
2/18	Unity Christian
2/22	Cedar Springs*
2/25	Crossover (Gold)

VARSITY WRESTLING

* Indicates a home game at LHS Gym
Matches begin at 7 p.m. unless indicated

12/30 at 9:30 a.m.	Goodrich Tournament
1/6	Sparta
1/8 at 8 a.m.	Clinton Invitational
1/13	East Grand Rapids
1/15 at 9 a.m.	Gary Rivers Tournament*
1/20	Kenowa Hills*
1/27	Northview*
2/3	Greenville
2/5 at 9:30 a.m.	Goodrich Tournament
2/9 TBA	Crossover (Gold)
2/12	Conference at Northview
2/16 or 17 TBA	Team Districts*
2/19 TBA	Individual Districts*
2/23 TBA	Team Regionals*
2/26 TBA	Individual Regionals
3/4 & 3/5 TBA	Team State Finals
3/10, 11, 12 TBA	Individual State Finals

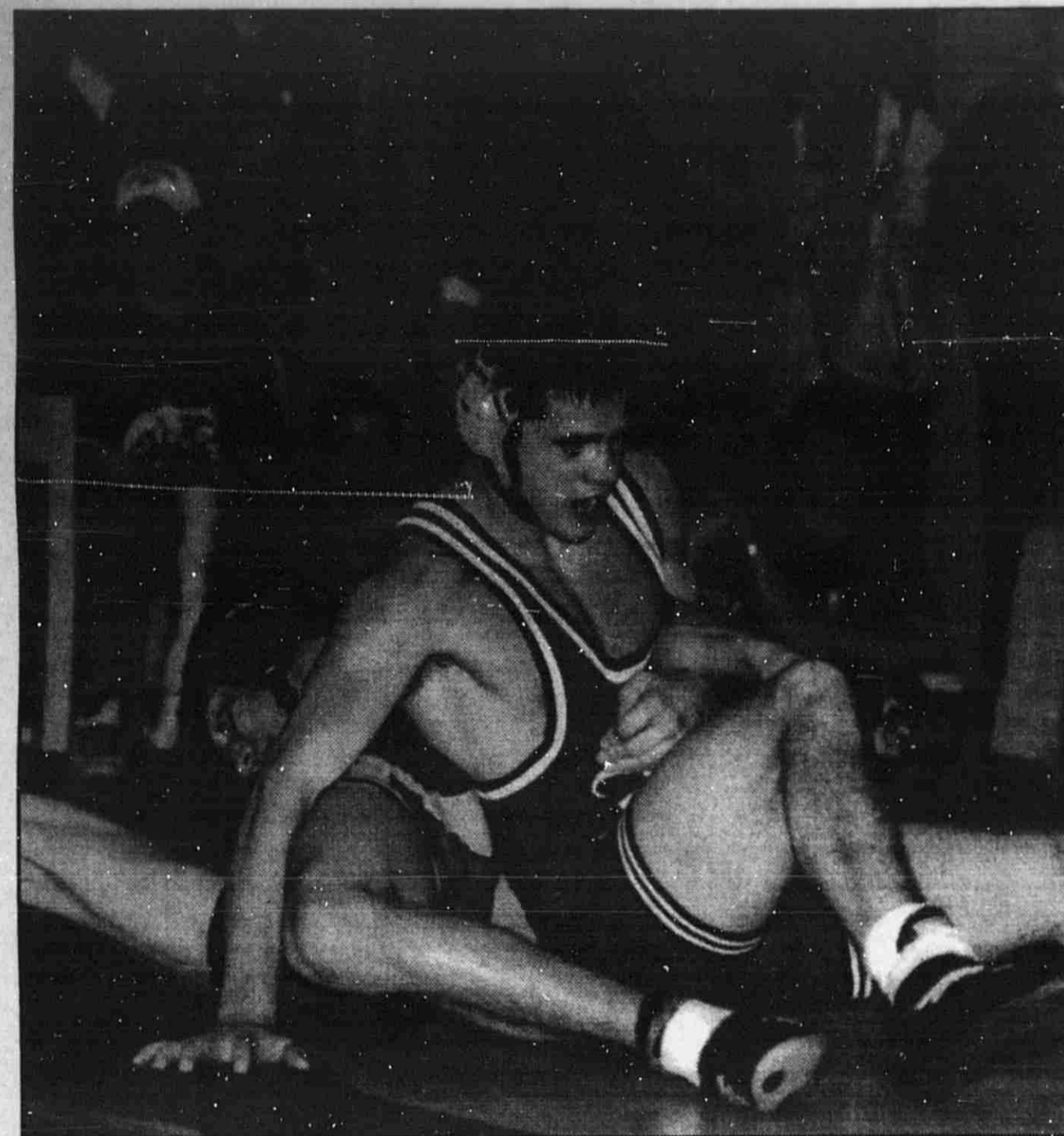
VARSITY GYMNASTICS

* Indicates a home game in the LHS Aux. Gym
Games begin at 7 p.m. unless indicated

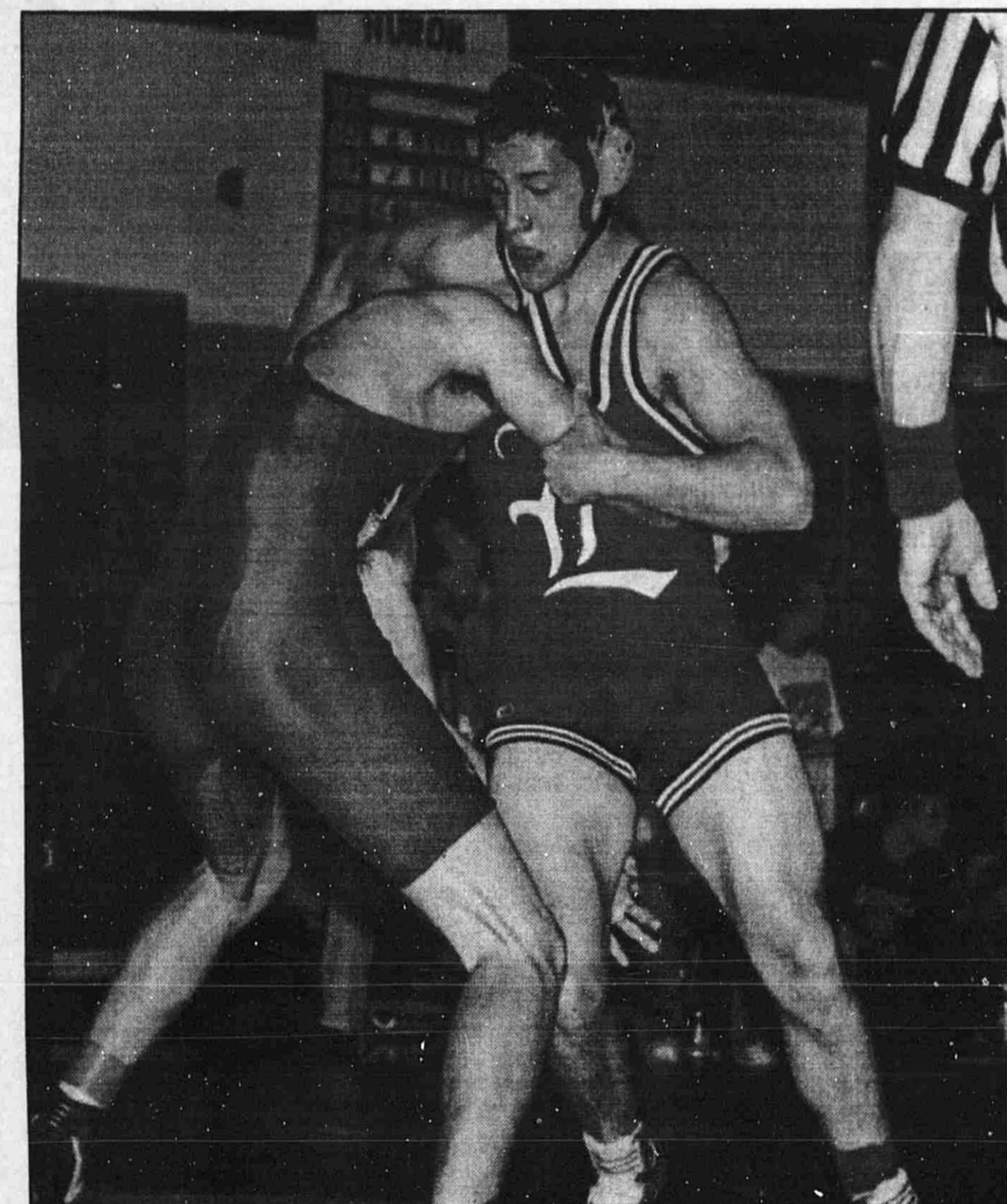
1/5	East Kentwood*
1/8 at 10 a.m.	Rockford Invitational
1/12	Forest Hills*
1/15 at 10 a.m.	Holland Invitational
1/19	East Grand Rapids*
1/22 at 9 a.m.	Mona Shores Invitational
1/24	Rockford
1/29 at 10 a.m.	Kenowa Hills Invitational
2/2	Holland*
2/7	Kenowa Hills*
2/16	Mona Shores
2/19 TBA	Conference @ Mona Shores



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Three-time state champ Joe Mendez reversed Justin Chrzanowski of Lapeer West to earn the 135-pound championship. Mendez won a 4-3 decision over Chrzanowski.



Alex Fleet counters a move by Kevin Rowe of Dundee in the quarterfinals. Fleet came back from a 10-1 deficit only to lose to Rowe 14-12.

Lowell wrestles to ninth place at Goodrich Tournament

Mendez wins 135-pound championship

By Dan Schneider

Lowell traveled to the Goodrich Tournament of Champions last Thursday.

The finals of the 135-pound weight class were a good example of why it is called the "tournament of champions." Three-time state champion Joe Mendez went up against two-time state champ Justin Chrzanowski of Lapeer West. Mendez won the match by a 4-3 decision to claim Lowell's only championship of the day. Mendez scored the winning points on a reversal.

"There's five state cham-

pionships between those two guys," said Lowell assistant coach Wayne Fuller. "The competition was real good, it was like a preview of the state tournament."

Mendez was later voted "outstanding wrestler of the day" for the tournament.

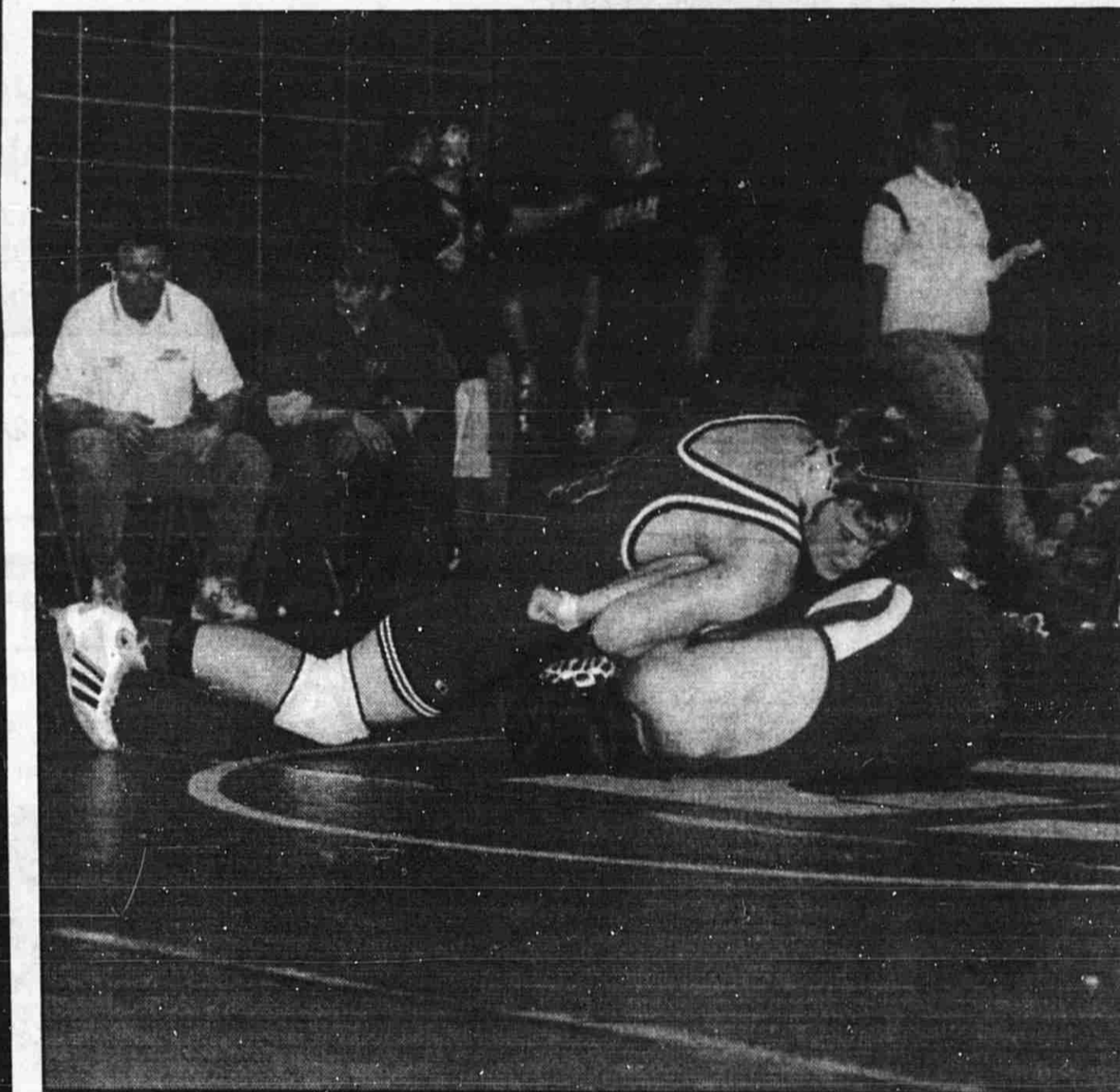
Brock Graham was the next-highest finisher for Lowell. He took third place at 189. Ryan Karasiewicz took fourth place at 145. Alex Fleet came back from a 10-1 deficit in the quarterfinal only to lose 14-12 to Kevin Rowe of Dundee. He finished the day in seventh place at 171.

Rob Karasiewicz finished seventh at 119; John Fleet, seventh, at 152; and Dominic Doyle, seventh, at heavy-weight.

Lowell was wrestling with a 12-man team, two short of a full squad. Their team score of 93 put them in 9th place out of 17 teams in the tournament. Fuller said 16 of the teams finished in the top eight of various divisions last year.

Adrian took first place as a team in the tournament. The Maples finished ahead of sec-

Wrestling, cont'd., page 17



Lowell's Brock Graham pushes New Boston Huron's Tristan Burnette to the mat pinning him. Graham went into the finals to take third place in the 189-pound weight class.

Photos submitted by Val Fleet.

Hockey wins one at Wayland

Third-period adjustments give Lowell-Caledonia first win of the season

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell-Caledonia hockey team scored three goals in the third period of their Dec. 27 game against Wayland to come from be-

hind and get their first win of the season, 5-3. It was the first game of the Wayland Invitational tournament and it counted as a league game.

The Wildcats were first to score. Ted McCoy coun-

tered with a goal on an assist from Cory Kelly in the first period.

Wayland scored two goals in the first two-and-a-half minutes of the second period to go up 3-1. Lowell-Caledonia freshman Justin Story closed the gap with a goal assisted by Will Holland with about five minutes left of second period play.

Lowell-Caledonia coach Mike Ballard made adjustments before the final period, playing the stronger two lines instead of three. It immediately helped as Kyle Austin scored 51 seconds into the period on an assist from Story. A goal by Brad Anderson on a Kelly assist followed five minutes later. McCoy scored an open-net goal with 11 seconds left in the game; Jay Ryan had the assist.

"We pretty much dominated the third period," Ballard said. "That was a good comeback to get a solid win,

and get us back in the win column."

Lowell-Caledonia outshot the Wildcats 26-19 with Cory Kowalski making 16 saves.

In a game a week ago Tuesday in the Wayland Invitational final, Warren-Sterling United came away beating Lowell-Caledonia with a 4-2 victory. They scored twice before McCoy countered on a Kelly assist in the second period. Warren-Sterling went up 3-1 with less than a minute left.

Joel Schayle scored six minutes into the third to make it 3-2 but Warren-Sterling shot in another goal to seal the win.

Lowell-Caledonia outshot Warren-Sterling 28-21.

"We actually carried the play," Ballard said. "Unfortunately, the puck hit the goal post five times, which could have changed the outcome."

Volleyball places second at WMVOA tourney

Arrows host Sparta Thursday

The Red Arrow varsity volleyball team advanced to the Division 3 final of the West Michigan Volleyball Officials Association (WMVOA) tournament last Tuesday at East Kentwood.

Lowell fell there to Cedar Springs, the Redhawks winning 26-24, 25-19. It was the second time the two OK White teams have met this season. When Lowell trav-

eled to Cedar Springs for the conference opener Dec. 15, the Red Arrows were victorious.

Lowell fell to Rockford, Zealand and Hamilton in Pool A of the tournament before starting bracket play in division 3.

Thursday is Lowell's first home volleyball game of the season. The Red Arrows host Sparta at 7:30 p.m.

Wrestling, continued...From page 16

ond-place Dundee and third-place Lapeer West.

Lowell will likely get its toughest challenge of the conference season Thursday, when the Red Arrows travel to Sparta. Lowell will be taking a full team.

"It's going to be a barn-burner," Fuller said. "I think they're overlooking us but we've got a few surprises for them."

Lowell head coach Dave Strejc was not with the team last Thursday at Goodrich. It was their first competition since he made the announcement that this would be his last season coaching. Strejc did not comment about when he will return this season. He coached the Red Arrows to Division 2 state championships in 2003 and 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

Dated: December 15, 2004

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.

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

CRAIG AVERY Attorney for Plaintiff

PUBLIC NOTICE

Date: January 5, 2005 Permit No. MI0020311 Lowell WWTP

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality proposes to reissue a discharge permit to: the City of Lowell, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan 49331 for the City of Lowell WWTP located at 300 Bowes Road, Lowell, Michigan 49331. The applicant treats sanitary, commercial, and industrial wastewater for the City of Lowell and portions of Lowell Township and Vergennes Township. The applicant discharges treated wastewater to the Flat River in the NW 1/4, NE 1/4, Section 11, Town 6 N, Range 9 W, Kent County.

The draft permit includes the following modifications to the previously issued permit: The final effluent limitation for Total Mercury has been changed to 10 ng/l, which is the Level Currently Achievable based on a multiple discharger variance from the water quality-based effluent limit of 1.3 ng/l, pursuant to Rule 323.1103(9) of the Michigan Water Quality Standards.

Comments or objections to the draft permit received by February 7, 2005, will be considered in the final decision to issue the permit. Persons desiring information regarding the draft permit, procedures for commenting, or requesting a hearing, should contact: Diane Carlson, P.E., Permits Section, Water Bureau, Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 30273, Lansing, Michigan 48909, telephone: 517-335-4118, e-mail: carlsond@michigan.gov.

Copies of the public notice, fact sheet, and draft permit may be obtained via the Internet (<http://www.michigan.gov/deq>) and on the left side of the screen click on Water, Surface Water, and NPDES Permits; then click on "Permits on Public Notice" which is under the Permits banner) or at the Water Division Grand Rapids District Office located at Unit 10, 350 Ottawa N.W., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503-2341, telephone: 616-356-0500.

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VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE

2005 Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at the Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Dr., at 7:00 pm. For further information, phone 897-5671, or for a calendar of these and other events visit the township web site at www.vergenneswp.org.

THE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2005 ARE SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS:

January 17	July 18
February 21	August 15
March 21	September 19
April 18	October 17
May 16	November 21
June 20	December 19

THE PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS FOR 2005 ARE SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS:

January 3	July 11
February 7	August 1
March 7	September 12
April 11	October 3
May 9	November 7
June 6	December 5

The Zoning Board of Appeals meets as required or requested.

The Annual Meeting of the Electors will be held on Saturday, March 26, 2005, at 1:00 p.m.

Marl Stone, Vergennes Township Clerk

ONE POSITION OPEN FOR LOWELL SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

There is one four-year Board of Education position to be filled at the regular school election which will be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2005. This position is for a four-year term ending June 30, 2009.

An individual is eligible for election as a school board member if the individual is a citizen of the United States and is a qualified and registered elector of the school district the individual seeks to represent by the filing deadline. Individuals interested in running for a board seat must first file nominating petitions (or a \$100 non-refundable fee in lieu of petitions) and an affidavit of identity. Petitions and affidavits can be obtained from all Kent County city and townships clerks or the election official at the school district.

The petitions must contain at least 40 signatures of registered school electors of the district and must be circulated within each municipality of the school district, not district wide. It is recommended that a reasonable number of signatures over the minimum be obtained to protect against invalid signatures.

Petition circulators need not be a registered school elector, and ELECTORS CAN SIGN AS MANY PETITIONS AS THERE ARE PERSONS TO BE ELECTED.

The deadline for filing is 4 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, on Tuesday, February 8, 2005.

Petitions are filed at the office of the Kent County Clerk (not at the school district).

If you are interested in running, please note the following dates:

Tuesday, February 8, 2005 - 4:00 p.m. last day for filing Nominating Petitions and Affidavits of Identity * at the Kent County Clerk's office;
Friday, February 11, 2005 - 4:00 p.m. last day for a candidate to withdraw from ballot
Tuesday, May 3, 2005 - Regular School Election

For more information contact Kay Jones at 987-2501.

Sound Off

The Ledger
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www.lowellbuyersguide.com
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897-0787



How many hair cutting places do we need in a small town? I'm sticking with the small guys who have been here forever!

Need exercise? Feeling tired & oh so lazy? Then put your cart away in the Meijer parking lot! Those of us who find the stamina to unload our carts AND put them away are sick of the dents in our cars!

Thank you Toni & Pat Schaefer for all the help in selling my home. You two did GREAT! - Peg

LMS Student Council sponsored a food drive for FROM, collected money and gifts for Adopt-a-Family, and are working on "Freedom" for local servicemen. Where was their mention in the Ledger?

Why were there still Angel Tree gifts left? Were they given away?

Cloggers awarded dance certificates

The Old Time American Clogging and Southern Appalachian Square Dance School offers clogging at the Runciman building through Lowell's community education programs. Those receiving certificates of achievement on Nov. 8 were Delaney Droog and Laura Droog of Clarksville, Gloria Meadors of Grand Rapids and Christine Brusseau of Ada. The class is taught by the Thunder Floor Cloggers of Lake Odessa. New beginner classes will begin in January. For more information email tlcloggers@voyager.net or check www.thunderfloorcloggers.com. Ask for Lynda or Bob Warner.

January national blood donor month

Since January 1970, blood banks across the U.S. have recognized the first month of every year as National Volunteer Donor Month. Locally, Michigan Community Blood Centers is joining with America's Blood Centers to stress the importance of blood donation and to honor the many volunteer blood donors in our community.

Across the U.S., as in this area, volunteer blood donors contribute nearly all the blood used for patient care in the United States. Blood banks everywhere face growing needs for blood and urgently need to recruit more people to give it.

Each day, patients in American hospitals receive approximately 38,000 units of blood. Besides being used to treat accident victims and surgical patients, blood is often needed to help people receiving treatment for many kinds of diseases including leukemia and other types of cancer.

Any healthy person 17 or older who weighs 110 pounds or more may be eligible to give blood every 56 days. To find out more about donating blood, visit Michigan Community Blood Centers on line at www.miblood.org. or call 1-866-MIBLOOD.

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE CHRISTMAS TREE PICK UP

City of Lowell residents using the City's yellow trash bag program (Waste Management) should place their Christmas trees (with a yellow bag tied to the tree) out for pick up with their garbage on the regularly scheduled pick up day. If there are any questions, please contact City Hall at 897-8457.

City of Lowell residents using carts from Sunset Waste Services should have their Christmas trees out with their garbage on Monday and there will be a \$2.00 charge from Sunset. If there are any questions, please contact Sunset Waste Services at 1-800-882-9565.

NOTE: If you want your tree recycled into mulch for the Nature Trails, please contact the Wittenbach Center at 987-1002 for information.



Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

CLASSIFIEDS

<p>PRICES 15 words for \$1.00 each additional word is 10¢ \$1 extra for bold \$1 extra for a box</p>	<p>FOR SALE BEDS - Namebrand mattress sets, twin, \$80; full \$80; queen \$95, King \$150. Call 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160.</p>	<p>FOR SALE FLOOR SAFE OUT OF A BANK - Approx. 3-1/2' X 3-1/2' X 3-1/2' (on wheels), \$200 firm. Call 897-0473 or 899-2830.</p>	<p>FOR RENT FOR RENT - 1 & 2 bedroom trailers \$1,000 - \$1,050 to move in. No dogs please. \$400 - \$420 per mo. plus 1 1/2 mo. rent deposit. Call 813-8041 or 616-754-0276.</p>	<p>HELP WANTED COUNTER CLERK NEEDED - Part time evenings & Saturday. Apply in person at 591 Ada Dr. or 6555 28th St. SE</p>	<p>SERVICES RAY'S SMALL ENGINE REPAIR - Lawn mowers, riders, weedwackers & snow blowers. Pickup & delivery available. Call 485-5835.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>FURNITURE - Bedroom & dining room, headboards, canopy beds, living room. Large selection. Wholesale prices. Call 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160.</p>	<p>GENERAL ELECTRIC WASHER/DRYER SET - 5 years old, runs great, large capacity, guaranteed. \$75 each. Dennis Distributing, 989-224-4822.</p>	<p>HALL FOR RENT - with kitchen, seats 150. Call 897-6050.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>PLUMBER - Experienced. Residential, Service or New Construction. Reasonable rates. Call 897-2575.</p>
<p>DEADLINE Monday at 5 p.m. For the Wednesday Publication</p>	<p>FOR SALE - Beautiful 1930's art deco cedar wardrobe w/drawers, must see to appreciate, \$395; vintage glass front doors china cabinet w/drawer, \$225; older open front shelved (not glass) pine corner china cabinet w/bottom cupboard, \$65; nice blond wood end/occasional table, \$10; FREE: 3 older sets of two double-hung, double paned Andersen windows, 57x67 outside measurements, w/ screens, great condition for age - nice for cabin; also 3 screen door windows, 897-6947 eves, or leave msg.</p>	<p>FOR SALE - Gameboy Advance SP, comes with 6 games and accessories, \$50. Call 897-7785.</p>	<p>FOR RENT - \$400 moves you in! 1 & 2 bedroom apartments in Lowell. One stall garage, w/d hook-ups & convenient location. Starting at \$625 month. Call today 363-5430 or visit us on the web at www.wmpmonline.com.</p>	<p>HELP WANTED - General labor, full time, factory, good pay and benefits. Apply in person to HR Department. Michigan Wire Processing, 2487 W. Main, Lowell, MI 49331.</p>	<p>CENTURY POST PUB - will have KENO by Friday, January 7.</p>
<p>SUBSCRIPTION RATES In Kent County \$15 - 1 year \$29 - 2 years Outside Kent County \$22.50 - 1 yr. \$38.00 - 2 yrs.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>A MEMORY FOAM BED - NASA developed memory foam. Brand name, never used. \$500. Call 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160.</p>	<p>LOWELL 2 BEDROOM APARTMENT - for rent. \$450 a month plus utilities. Call 897-1160.</p>	<p>CHARGE NURSE POSITIONS - The Laurels of Kent has current openings for RN & LPN charge nurses. We offer a competitive wage (RN's to \$22/hr. & LPN's to \$19/hr.) & benefit package, as well as a professional & structured environment with well established procedures. Contact Terrie Kerschen, RN, DON, or Carol Creger, RN, SDC at The Laurels of Kent, 350 N. Center St., Lowell, MI 49331. Phone number 897-8473, fax number 897-0081 or email to wtorrey@laurelhealth.com.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>OFFICE HOURS Mon. - Thurs. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Fri. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Sat. & Sun.</p>	<p>1999 JEEP CHEROKEE - 4 dr., 4x4, light blue, hwy miles. \$4,800. Call 897-1597 or 450-7910.</p>	<p>CHOCOLATE LAB PUPPIES - AKC/OFA male and female, blockhead, excellent hunting stock, dewclaws, 1st shots, \$450 - \$500. Ready January 10. Call 682-0562.</p>	<p>HOUSE FOR RENT - in Clarksville. 2 story, 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath. Available Jan. 5. \$875/month. Call 897-3120.</p>	<p>IN MEMORIAM IN MEMORIAM January 3, 1995 JOHNSON, Stewart (Chip) Not a day goes by that you are not remembered. We will always remember your humor and goodness. Rest in peace, Chip. Love, Your Family</p>	<p>JOHN DEBIAK HORSESHOEING & HOOF TRIMMING - Serving the Greater Kent/Ionia County area with 15 years of professional, full-time experience. Call 897-4290.</p>
<p>GET THE LEDGER DELIVERED RIGHT TO YOUR DOOR! Subscriptions make great birthday 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.</p>	<p>MATTRESS/BOX SPRINGS - Brand new, \$49/set. Twin, full, queen, delivery available. Dennis Distributing, 989-224-4822</p>	<p>FOR SALE - 6 year old registered quarter horse. \$500 obo. Call 897-7785.</p>	<p>ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT FOR RENT - semi-furnished, all utilities and cable included. \$140/week. Call 897-6318.</p>	<p>IN MEMORIAM Not a day goes by that you are not remembered. We will always remember your humor and goodness. Rest in peace, Chip. Love, Your Family</p>	<p>PAYROLL & BOOKKEEPING SERVICE - By certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-0686.</p>
<p>ALMOST NEW - Futon bunk bed/couch, twin bed on top, double bed on bottom, folds into couch includes all mattresses, \$150. Call 897-4986.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>BRAND NEW - Vent free LP fireplace includes unfinished oak facade and oak mantle unopened LP log still in box. \$500 takes all. 897-4986.</p>	<p>FOR RENT - 2 bedroom home in great Lowell neighborhood. Appliances, completely remodeled, large yard, pets okay on approval, \$750 month plus utilities & deposit. 897-2033 or 318-9294.</p>	<p>SERVICES WEDDING INVITATIONS Available at Lowell Litho 105 N. Broadway. Stop by & check out a Carlson Craft book! 4 books to choose from. Wide variety of invitations & prices. Usually back within 7-10 business days after ordering. Phone 897-9261</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>FOUND FOUND - Gray with white markings. Indoor cat, long haired very friendly. Call 987-9177</p>	<p>10 GAS STOVE/REFRIGERATOR SETS - Excellent working condition. Guaranteed. White, \$125/set til</p>	<p>2000 TOYOTA CAMRY LE - excellent condition. Asking \$7,100. Call 897-6986.</p>	<p>FOR LEASE - Half or Full, 23 year old Arab mare. 14.2hh, very well behaved. Sound. English, western, trails. Joan at 676-9131 or 551-9615.</p>	<p>NEED EXTRA CASH? - Buying cars, trucks, vans. Any condition, running or not, free removal. Also towing & heavy hauling. Call 642-6807 or 292-2870.</p>	<p>ALTERATIONS - Experienced professional, men's, women's, leather coats, all fabrics, zippers replaced, wedding & prom dresses altered. Call Helen 897-6071.</p>

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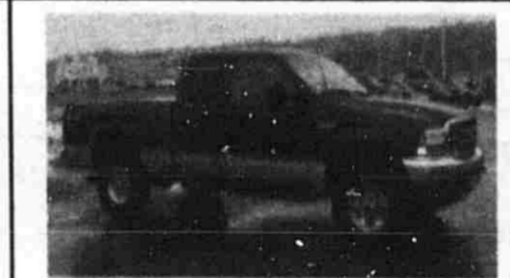
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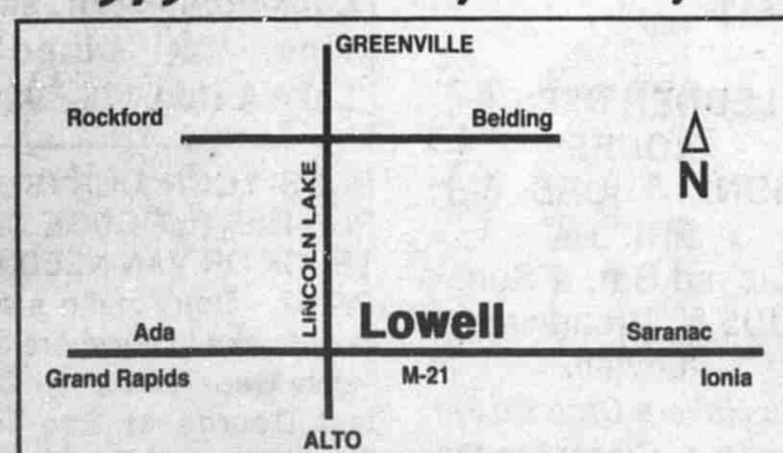


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