

The Lowell Ledger

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Wednesday, January 12, 2005

Lowell LIVE class plans bridge in preserve

By Dan Schneider

This summer a bridge will be built on the Cooper Woodland Preserve.

The bridge is this year's project of the Lowell Leadership Institute for Volunteer Excellence (LIVE). Its construction could start the first weekend in June or sooner.

The bridge, actually more of a boardwalk, will be about 100 feet long. It will allow users of the planned Lowell Area Trailway to cross a stream and some low-lying wet areas in the preserve. Once it is completed, the bridge may stand on its own in the middle of a field for a while.

of Lowell and Vergennes and Lowell townships, is beginning to make a physical needs assessment of the first stage of the trail. This is the final step before fundraising for the trail's construction can begin.

The assessment will determine the technical details of the trail. This includes getting permission from the owners of property the trail will cross, finalizing the trail's routing, and engineering its construction.

"We need to know exactly where the trail is going to go and how much it will cost," said Mari Stone, Vergennes Township's elected official on the LARA board. "That kind of information is essential in securing major grants from the

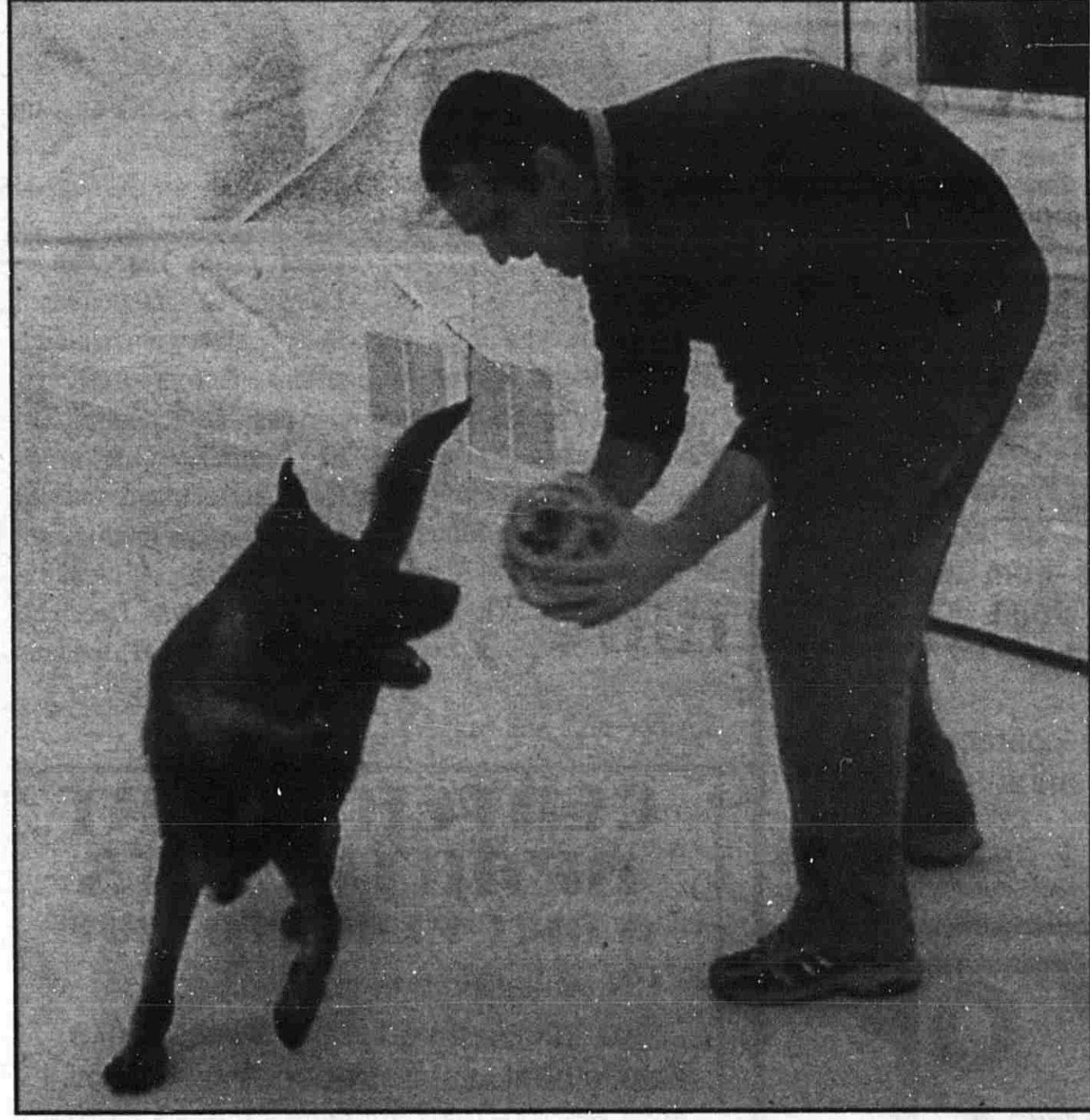
best spot for it and it also fits well with where we want to put the trail," said LARA board secretary Al Halbeisen.

He said LARA hopes to have the physical assessment done by April 1st. That's this year's application deadline for Michigan Department of Natural Resources' trail grants. Though the trail won't be finished by the time the LIVE group starts building its project, LARA is committed to using the bridge.

"This is a sizeable investment from the community," Stone said.

Building a bridge, cont'd., pg. 3

Croatian dog trainer makes Lowell his home



Dog trainer Nino Islamcevic plays with Garo, one of the German shepherds he owns.

By Dan Schneider

Dog trainer Nino Islamcevic has come a long way since arriving in America as a refugee seven years ago.

His new dog training and kennel facility on the western edge of Lowell Township welcomed its first canine visitors in December. It's a pretty comfortable place for a dog to spend some time. The 14 kennels have heated floors and inside and outside spaces.

The building, located behind Islamcevic's house at 9920 36th Street just east of Snow Avenue, also has a

large indoor training and play area for dogs. Islamcevic has been around dogs since he was a child growing up in Zagreb, Croatia. He was a professional dog trainer for 15 years.

"I always had a dog all my life," he said. "Back home I had my own business just like this."

His Lowell Township business is called K-9 Academy International. He has experience training a broad range of dogs.

"My count up to now is I've trained over 1,000 dogs," Islamcevic said. "Poodles, chihuahuas, I've trained everything from chihuahuas to mastiffs."

His own dogs are on the large end of the canine size scale. He has two female German shepherds brought over from Europe, which he uses for breeding. He has sold some of the puppies in the Lowell area. He also owns a male German shepherd and a male Belgian malinois shepherd.

He trains his German shepherds for schutzhund competition. Schutzhund is a canine work-skills competition. Dogs are judged in three skills: obedience, tracking and protection.

"It demands from the dog to be a real athlete," Islamcevic said. "Those

kind of dogs that are really good working dogs."

With their special skills, schutzhund dogs are good candidates to become police dogs. They also are good police-dog breeding stock.

Islamcevic and a few other dog trainers started

a schutzhund club that is now up to 10 members. In 2001, he was captain of the U.S. team that went to the schutzhund world championships in Slovenia.

In 1997, he went to the world championships in Luxemburg with the

Croatian team. Later that year, he and his wife Sabina fled Croatia in the aftermath of a war that tore the country apart.

Dog Trainer, cont'd., pg. 10

City wraps up another busy year of projects

By J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

Sidewalk improvements, the clearing of the Barton house, road improvements and roof work at the Wastewater Treatment Plant—these are just some of the larger projects completed by the city of Lowell this past year.

As tradition, city manager David Pasquale prepared a list of accomplishments from the previous year that he presented to the city council at its first meeting of the new year, which was Jan. 3.

Pasquale said 2004 was another busy year for the city as it wrapped up several major projects and helped put in place a cooperative agreement between the city and Vergennes and Lowell townships on the area's trail system. The Lowell Area Trails Agreement was approved by all three municipalities and establishes a body that will oversee the trail system in three areas. Several people see the cooperative as paving the way to future

cooperatives with the parks and other shared facilities.

For the city of Lowell, a lot was done in road construction. Several major projects were completed including sidewalk improvements along Foreman expanding on to Gee Drive and to the Creekside Park entrance. These improvements and the additional asphalt path through Creekside Park created a new walking route for school students, which the Lowell Area Schools and the Lowell Police Department have been promoting.

In cooperation with developers, the city was able to improve South Center and Clarke streets by providing them with utilities and providing sanitary sewer improvements east of Ottawa Street by Michigan Wire.

After several months of working out the details, the Barton house, located on S. Hudson at the 4-H fairgrounds, was finally removed to the relief and delight of many residents.

Other construction-related work included a

storage building at the Water Treatment Plant and roof work at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Hopefully, this spring, the Englehardt Library staff won't have to drape shelves in plastic since roof repairs which have plagued the facility and the ones that faced the recently completed City Hall/police station building were completed.

The staff is still working out other details regarding the City Hall which include replacing the entrance doors which are not wearing well with the Michigan weather, Pasquale said.

The city was able to get one project off the ground last year by initiating engineering work for the Grindle Drive street improvements. For the past couple of years, especially after Meijer was completed, the city has been looking at ways to improve Grindle which has been a concern due to its deterioration. Staff expects the condition of the road to only get worse as more and more traffic starts to use the street.

Obituaries

AFTON - Walter C. Afton, aged 81, of Greenville, passed away on Monday, January 3, 2005. He was preceded in death by his wife K. Elizabeth. He is survived by his son Dan of Greenville; daughters Katherine and David Fairchild of Comstock Park, Mary and John Waringa of Lowell; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren. Private graveside services will be held at a later date in Idlewild Cemetery, Kent City, with Rev. Steve Young officiating. As Walter had wished no visitation or public service will be held.

COLES - Roger A. Coles, aged 73, of Greenville, passed away unexpectedly January 1, 2005. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Jean; brother James (Dianne) Coles of Detroit; aunt and uncle Maxine and

Henry Johnson of Alto; many nieces and nephews. Memorial service was held Wednesday, January 5 at the Roth-Gerst Chapel, Rev. Dean Bailey of Alto/Bowne Center United Methodist Church officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association.

HAMP - Daryl W. Hamp, aged 80, of Lowell, passed away January 8, 2005 at his residence with his wife Betty of 59 years by his side. He was preceded in death by his parents Walter and Velma Hamp. He is survived by his loving and caring wife Betty (Decker) Hamp; sister Madonna Livingston; children Len (Linda) Hamp, Randy (Mary) Hamp; five grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren. Daryl was a WW II veteran serving

in the Marine Corps, 4th Division. He served in five major invasions with one being Iwojima. He retired after working 58 years with Grand Rapids Die Cast Plating Division and also was a 16-year firefighter with the Wyoming District IV Fire Department. Private funeral services are being planned by the family. Visitation will be Wednesday 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson St. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Michigan, 1260 Ekhart NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

KAUFFMAN - Murray Kauffman, aged 57, of Clarksville, formerly of Alto, passed away suddenly on Friday, January 7, 2005. Murray was born on September 30, 1947 in Hastings to Frank and Marguerite (Allerding) Kauffman. He worked on his parent's farm for many years, and for the past several years had helped friends in the Clarksville area with whatever he could do. Murray loved the outdoors and caring for his animals. He will be greatly

missed by the friends whose lives he touched. Murray is survived by his brother Hillis and Jan Kauffman of Battle Creek; sister-in-law Inez Kauffman of Alto; brother-in-law Bill Smith of Alto; several nephews and other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother Thomas Kauffman; sister Virginia Smith. Funeral service was held January 11 at the Calvary Grace Brethren Church. Burial in Bowne Mennonite Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Calvary Grace Brethren Church Missionary Fund, or the American Diabetes Association.

LYONNAIS - Beatrice E. (Sandgren) Lyonnais, aged 84, of Grand Rapids, passed away Wednesday, January 5, 2005. She is preceded in death by her brother Lewis Sandgren. She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Raymond; children Richard Lyonnais of Lowell, Nancy (Anthony) Gallegas of Aurora, CO; brother Harry (MaryAnn) Sandgren of Jenison; brother-in-law Francis (Mary Grace)

Lyonnais of Big Rapids; sisters-in-law JoAnn Sandgren, Rita (Kenneth) Erickson both of Muskegon, Claire Balanger of Grand Rapids; seven grandchildren; one great-grandson; several nieces and nephews. Services were held January 10 at O'Brien-Eggebeen-Gerst Chapel, Rev. Dr. Gerald Pohly officiating. Internment Graceland Memorial Park. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Michigan, 1260 Ekhart NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or Trinity United Methodist Church, 1100 Lake Dr. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

MULDER - Clarence H. Mulder, aged 95, of Alto, passed away on January 3, 2005. He was preceded in death by his wife Marie and son Clarence Herman Mulder Jr. He is survived by his sons John Mulder of Alto, Frank Mulder of Lowell, Bob and Barb Mulder of Florida, Neal and Bonnie Mulder of Grand Rapids; brother William Mulder of Grand Rapids; 10 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren. Services will be held Friday, Jan. 14 at 11 a.m. at Grand Rapids First Assembly of God, 2100 44th St. SW, Pastor Drew Anthony officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Michigan, 1260 Ekhart St. N.E. Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

PLACE - Marilyn Esma Place passed away December 24, 2004. She was born June 29, 1932. She was preceded in death by her parents Lisle and Esma Clark and a brother Robert Clark. She is survived by her husband Richard; children Steven (Ilse) Place of Kentwood, Lynne (Doug) Richey and Carol (Tim) Barry all of DeWitt; 12 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; sister Dorothy (Loren) Stevens; brother John Clark of Arizona; sister-in-law Iris Clark; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends. A memorial service was held December 29 at Hope United Methodist Church in Lansing.

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Few arrests during holiday drunk-driving enforcement

By Dan Schneider

More enforcement on the road for the two weeks during the holidays did not lead to more alcohol-related arrests than usual. And that's okay with Lowell police Sgt. Steve Junewick, who organized Lowell's drunk-driving enforcement wave.

Using a grant from the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (MOHSP), the Lowell Police Department put two extra officers on the evening shift--9 p.m. to 3 a.m.--from Dec. 20 to Jan. 2. In 88 traffic stops made during that time, which did not include

Christmas day or New Year's day, there were only two arrests for operating a vehicle while intoxicated. One of the arrests resulted in a suspended license. There were four other alcohol-related arrests on charges of minor in possession and open intoxicants.

The numbers weren't higher than any typical weekend. Junewick said part of the reason the wave didn't result in more arrests may have been because it was the first time the department had tried it. But he said the low

numbers also had something to do with the drivers. "They were thinking, if they were drinking, they were going to have someone drive for them," Junewick said. "I think it's a positive sign. I think as a community

we should be very proud of those numbers." Lowell officers worked a total of 60 hours of overtime during the enforcement wave. The MOHSP grant reimbursed the department for the overtime.

Bridge building, continued... From Page 1

This year's LIVE class has formed committees to handle the particulars of building the bridge.

"When you get right into the heart of things, it's actually quite complicated," Davidson said.

A grant committee is working on funding the bridge. A marketing committee put together a logo contest to promote the project. A research committee is working

on land surveys and soil samples at the bridge site.

The bridge itself will be made of treated lumber. It will be 12 feet wide and engineered to support five tons.

"We want to make it enough that a maintenance vehicle could cross," Halbeisen said.

Some of the early stages of bridge construction, such as the installation of support poles, will be done by a contractor. But, like last year's LIVE showboat restoration project, most of the work will be done by volunteers.

"We'll need support in the spring," Davidson said.

Volunteer cooperation is one of the primary skills the LIVE class teaches.

"That's the whole focus of this program - to work together as a team," Davidson said.

The LIVE class has been meeting twice a month since November. One meeting is a class which teaches grant writing and leadership skills; the other meeting works on the group's community project, in this case, the bridge.

This is the fifth class to go through the Lowell LIVE program.



This year's Lowell Leadership Institute for Volunteer Excellence class (front: Susie Reinbold; first row, left to right: Tonia North, Betsy Davidson, Amanda Geiger, and Deb Duiven; middle row: Michael Davidson, Dee McKendrick, Genevieve Verhoeven, Yvonne Harmon and John Mogor; back row: Tom Van Noler, Thomas Pfaffler, Jim Descenzo and Veronica Blough) will build a bridge on the Cooper Woodland Preserve. The bridge will become part of the Lowell Area Trailway.

Name released in drug-house case

Lowell police released the name of Lori Oom following her arraignment on cocaine charges last Wednesday in 63rd District Court in Cascade.

Oom, of 1381 Jane Ellen, will be tried on charges of possession of cocaine, a four-year felony, and maintaining a drug house, a two-year felony. Her preliminary hearing is set for Jan. 18.

The charges stem from a Dec. 16 drug raid in which Lowell police seized a small amount of crack cocaine. A Lowell man who has not yet been arraigned was also arrested in the bust. Police expect up to three more arrests in the case.

Mickel receives Legislative award

The Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) chapter 642 has announced that R. George Mickel is the recipient of its 2004 Legislative Appreciation Award.

Mickel, who frequently volunteered at the Lowell Chamber of Commerce for a number of years, received this award for his outstanding commitment to Score's legislative affairs program.

SCORE offers free counseling and mentoring as well as low-cost business start-up and business plan workshops for new and existing small businesses in Kent County.

SYNOPSIS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP BOARD
December 20, 2004 - 7:00 p.m.
Minutes of the November 15, 2004 Regular Meeting were approved. The meeting agenda and a list of invoices were also approved.

Motions approved:

- Motion to send Faber Industrial Site Condominium application to the Planning Commission for review and recommendation
- Motion to grant preliminary approval to Alder Meadows Court Private Road
- Motion to reappoint Scott Jernberg and Mike Mastrovito to three year terms on the Planning Commission
- Motion to appoint Dave Pedley, Jim Herb, and Todd Cooper to the Board of Review for the 2005-07 term
- Motion to reappoint Scott Jernberg and Pete Gustafson to three year terms on the Zoning Board of Appeals
- Motion to approve collection of summer taxes for LAS, KISD, GRCC
- Motion to approve 2005 Kent County Purchase of Development Rights applications from Gay Nauta, John McKay and Steve Koning

Complete minutes are available on the township web site at www.vergennestwp.org, or at the township offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell.

The next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Vergennes Township Board is January 17, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at the Vergennes Township Hall located at the corner of Parnell Road and Bailey Drive.

Mari Stone, Vergennes Township Clerk

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE
ATTENTION CITY OF LOWELL AND TOWNSHIP WATER CUSTOMERS
The City of Lowell Water Treatment Filtration Plant will not be softening nor fluoridating the water from January 12 through February 28, 2005 due to work being done on the clarifier.
Any questions, please contact the Water Treatment Filtration Plant at 897-5234.
Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

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.
Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

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DAN SCHNEIDER.....LEAD REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER
TONI BLOUGH.....COPY EDITOR
TAMMY JANOWIAK.....CLASSIFIED/ACCOUNTING
JAY VEZINO.....ADVERTISING SALES
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Free Workshop Reveals 7 Ways To Slash College Costs
GRAND RAPIDS, MI - A free workshop is being held for the parents of college bound high school students at several local cities: Lowell, Greenville, Grand Rapids, and Spring Lake. The workshop will focus on little known ways of getting money for college, no matter how much income you make, or how good a student you have. The class will include such topics as how to double or triple your eligibility for free grant money, the secret to sending your child to a private or top national school for less than the cost of Junior college, and the single biggest mistake when planning for college.
The upcoming workshop date in your area is:
Tues., January 18th, at Lowell High School in the Choir Room.
The class will begin promptly at 7:00 P.M.
The class is being taught by Daniel Wansten, one of the nation's leading experts on paying for college, and is the published author of "Cash For College - How To Send Your Kids To The College Of Their Dreams And Not Go Broke."
Seating is free, but reservations are needed, call: 1-800-766-7697.

Featured Artist

Amy Stielstra

By Dan Schneider

by Amy Stielstra on display at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. Four "Screaming Ladies" will also be exhibited.

Lambau Field and church windows with doves are several of the artworks



Artist Amy Stielstra with two of the four paintings from her "Screaming Ladies" series.

"I had two done and I thought I had two more to do so now I've got this series," Stielstra said.

They are paintings of women screaming, executed in watercolor on photo paper. This type of painting takes patience, Stielstra said. The photo paper does not readily accept watercolor; it takes a while for each color to soak in.

Colors such as orange and purple are part of the story of each screaming lady, Stielstra said. They convey feeling as much as the facial expressions; emotion is the point of the paintings.

"I wanted to capture emotion and if you look at each one of them, their eyes

are closed but their mouth is open," Stielstra said.

Watercolor on photo paper is one of the artist's experiments with materials. The works on display at the chamber use several different media—a wild, plastic-coated paper called yupu; canvas; textured paint; and paper sculpture.

The church windows with doves, titled "The Flock," falls into the paper sculpture category. It also uses textured paint, the kind used to make textured ceilings in houses, to build a heavy, church-wall feel around the windows. Colored tissue paper makes up the windows. Three-dimensional doves flying in front of the windows reflect

the Christianity that often inspires Stielstra in her art.

"When you are creating art, you feel like a creator and so that has to come through," she said.

The painting of Lambau Field reflects an interest of her husband's akin to a religion (at least in Wisconsin)—the Green Bay Packers. She painted the stadium in 2001, shortly before an expansion project permanently altered its aesthetics.

"I was instructed by my husband that it had to be done," she said. "I tried to capture the tailgating fans, which is just smoked bratwurst and crowds of people."

The painting's frame is made of pieces of the original stadium. A print of it hangs in an office at Lambau Field. The stadium painting will be on display only for Stielstra's reception held Saturday, Jan. 15 from 1 to 5 p.m.

Stielstra has been devoted to art since she was a child. She graduated from Central Michigan University with an art degree in 1986. Since 1993, she has been a self-employed artist and illustrator.

Her paintings will be on display through Feb. 10 at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, 113 Riverwalk Plaza.

Interlochen scholarship opportunities

Top high-school musicians around the country have the opportunity to apply for an Emerson Scholarship Award to the world-famous Interlochen Arts Camp in northern Michigan.

Fifty students throughout the United States will receive a full scholarship for the 2005 Interlochen Arts Camp. The merit-based scholarships (\$5,582) are funded through a grant from St. Louis-based Emerson. It provides full tuition, private lessons, and

room and board for the six-week summer program held June 25 through Aug. 8.

Applicants must be in grades nine through 12 and demonstrate exceptional proficiency on harp, string, wind or percussion instruments. An audition submitted on tape or CD is required with application. Applications must be postmarked by Feb. 15 and winners will be announced by April 15.

Established in 1987, the Emerson Scholars Program gives musicians

an opportunity to hone their talents in an environment that is recognized around the world as the premier training ground for young artists.

"This is one of the most prestigious scholarship offerings at Interlochen," said Interlochen President Jeffrey S. Kimpton. "Thanks to the generosity of Emerson, we can provide some of this nation's top young artists

with an artistic experience unlike any other."

For more information, or to obtain an application, e-mail admissions@interlochen.org, call (231) 276-7472 or write the Emerson Scholars Program, Interlochen Center for the Arts, P.O. Box 199, Interlochen, MI, 49643. Complete information also is available online at www.interlochen.org.

I am always doing that which I can not do, in order that I may learn how to do it. —Pablo Picasso

First school board meeting begins with special recognition

By Dan Schneider

School administration gave recognition to Lowell Area Schools board of education members for their service to the district. Jim Reagan is the longest-serving member on the present board, having been there for 7 1/2 years.

The board then recognized the 2004 undefeated state championship Lowell varsity football team for their accomplishments during the season.

The district's audit report followed. Phil Saurman, representing the district's auditing firm of Hungerford, Aldrin, Nichols and Carter, P.C. reported that the district received an unqualified opinion on its 2003-2004 financial statements. That means the district's financial reports had no issues, idiosyncrasies or problems.

Board secretary Pat Nugent talked briefly about the upcoming school board

election under new state election law. This year, one seat on the board of education is up for election. The election day will be Tuesday, May 3. The last day to register to vote in that election is April 4.

Feb. 8 is the due date for filing petitions for candidacy in the election. Petitions are available at the LAS administration building and at the clerk's office of any municipality within the

district. Completed petitions must now be filed with the county clerk's office, rather than the school district's.

LAS director of transportation and operations Larry Mikulski gave a report on the progress of the Honeywell, Inc. energy efficiency projects still underway at several LAS buildings. The only work that remains to be done is the installation of some light fixtures and a few other details. Mikulski touted the new red, white and black bleachers at the middle school and at Cherry Creek Elementary.

"They look great and they're safe, also," Mikulski said.

He also gave the board an update on the efficiency savings that will pay for both sets of bleachers, as well as a new boiler at the middle school.

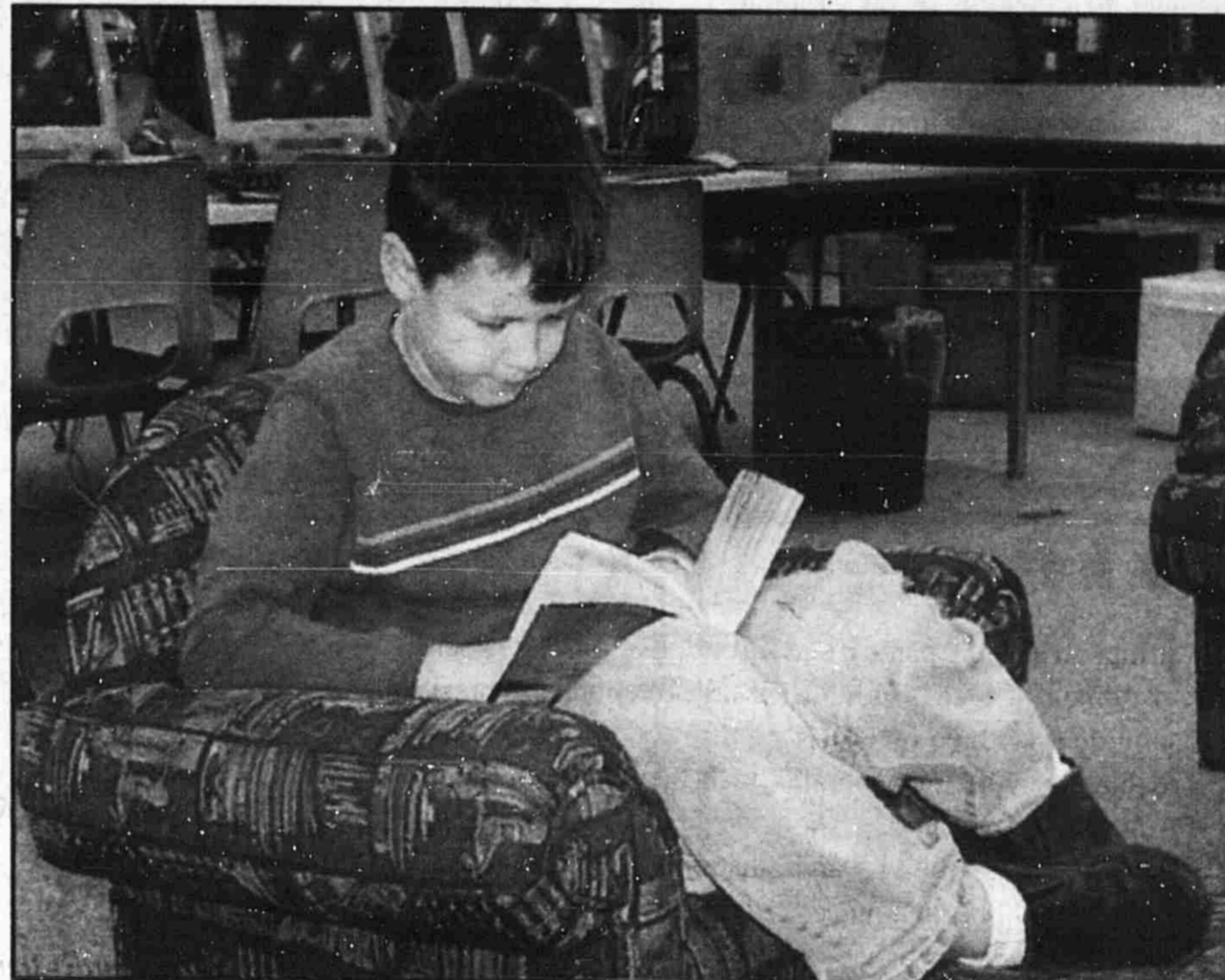
"We've noticed around a 35 percent reduction in the electricity we've used," Mikulski said. "Our water and sewer savings were just about 69 percent, which is huge."

LAS assistant superintendent for finance and personnel Connie Gillette said the amended budget for

the 2004-'05 school year will be presented at next month's board meeting. She also said the state will have another revenue consensus conference this week.

After the conference, she said, "Hopefully we'll have a better idea of where the state stands on its resources for this year and for next year."

Gillette also announced that she and Lowell Education Association president Dorann Truax and her committee have completed work on next year's calendar. It should be published by the end of the month.



The soul should always stand ajar, ready to welcome the ecstatic experience. —Emily Dickinson

Extra hours at the library

At left, Cherry Creek Elementary fourth grade student Philip Janowski reads *Tangerine*, a book by Edward Bloor Monday evening at the Cherry Creek library. The library is open until 6:30 p.m. every Monday. Lowell Area Schools elementary media specialist Christine Beachler said the library is available for reading, accelerated reading tests and checking out books. With the library open to the community in general, she said, it's a good opportunity for preschool children to get a head start on the accelerated reading program or for middle school students to do online research. People without a school library card can set up an account to check out books. Beachler's work hours have been arranged so she is available to keep the library open late Mondays without any extra cost to the district.

TSUNAMI RELIEF SALE

ROOT-LOWELL MANUFACTURING CO. is hosting a sale at its office located at 1000 FOREMAN ROAD IN LOWELL WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2005 through Friday, January 14, 2005 from Noon to 5:00 p.m., CONTINUING Monday, January 17, 2005 through Friday, January 21, 2005 from Noon to 5:00 p.m.

Products and services for sale were donated by: Root-Lowell Manufacturing Co., Litehouse, Attwood, Wittenbach Sales and Service, Ionia County National Bank, Harold Zeigler Ford, Deer Run Golf Club, Curtis Cleaners, Larkin's Restaurant, Cher's Tanning Salon, Hunan Garden, Tractor Supply Company, Pizza Hut, LA Video, Lowell/Ronda Tire, Fry Daddy's, Cousins, Sneaker's, Flat River Grill, Ball Floral, Blue Ribbon Feed, Stock Lumber, Showboat Automotive, NAPA, Keiser's, Bernard's Ace Hardware, Thomet Chevrolet, Faro's Pizza and Ada Lowell 5 Theater.

Prices will be dramatically reduced from 20 to 60% off retail prices. We will take cash, credit cards and personal checks made out to the American Red Cross. All proceeds (100%) will be donated to the American Red Cross, earmarked for support of the Tsunami Relief Fund. Please join us for some great deals on local products and services while supporting those in need from this tragic event.

Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc.

F.R.O.M. appreciates the generous donations received from community members. We could not survive without you!

At this time, we do not have space for large appliances. We also cannot take large pieces of furniture unless arrangements are made ahead of time by calling the Thrift Store at 897-2037.

We sincerely thank you for your cooperation.

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Local beauty expert offers advice on getting back the glow

The holidays are over and all you're left with are bills - and a bad complexion from all that shopping, cleaning and celebrating.

"Seasonal skin problems are common," said Caron Stetler, sales consultant for Jafra Cosmetics of Lowell. "Too little sleep and too many parties can really take a toll on someone's skin."

Dark circles under the eyes and dry skin are just a few of the problems that women face after the calendar turns. The good news is that a New Year's resolution to look better is only a few simple cosmetic tricks away.

The best place to start, according to dermatologists, is by increasing the level of moisture in the skin. Stetler said that Jafra offers an extensive line of moisturizers which fit any skin type.

"If you get particularly dry during the holidays and winter, upgrading to a richer, more emollient moisturizer right away can help restore your skin," said the local sales consultant.

To reduce puffy eyes, Stetler suggested swapping an emollient-based eye cream for a gel-based product. Skip liner and mascara on the lower lid which can draw attention to the puffiness.

Using a bronzer or trying a lighter eye shadow will help enhance your look as well, Stetler said. Applying eye cream at night will help combat dryness. A moisturizing lipstick will help prevent chapped lips.

"The key is there are products out there that can help you turn around the damage that was done during the holidays fairly quickly," Stetler concluded.

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Grattan Township Treasurer is seeking a qualified person to assume the vacant position of Deputy Treasurer part-time for 24 hours per week, Monday through Thursday, office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

An applicant must obtain an application at the Township office to include with their resume and send to: 12050 Old Belding Road N.E., 48809 (attn: Jan) or stop in and fill out an application with your resume at the Township office.

The deadline for applications is 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 20, 2005.

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Due to our printer's schedule we must change our deadline to Fridays at 4 p.m.

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 If you're looking for country living on 2.3 acres, this is it. Stick built energy efficient. The lower level warm and dry could be a nice family room with 2nd bath already done. Hardwood floors in bedrooms and freshly painted. \$134,900

418 ELM, Lowell
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Dog trainer, continued... From Page 1

"Everything was in ruins, basically, except the capital city," Islamcevic said. "Some big cities were flattened by the ground, basically within the west side of the country." Like his countrymen, Islamcevic saw the war firsthand. "It was all over the place, something you can't avoid," he said. "There were concentration camps going on, people getting slaughtered and put in mass graves with bulldozers. It's hard to believe. That kind of thing hasn't happened since World War II." When the Islamcevic left, the country was struggling to put an end to the war, finally with U.S. help. "Basically, me and my

wife came with a couple of suitcases and about a thousand deutch marks, which then was about \$500, in our pockets," Islamcevic said. They arrived in Michigan as refugees, establishing themselves with the help of Catholic Human Development. The organization gave them food stamps, paid a few months rent, and helped them find jobs. Islamcevic worked for three years as an assistance dog trainer for Paws With a Cause.

Islamcevic began K-9 Academy International shortly after leaving Paws With a Cause. The Islamcevic's rented apartments and houses around the Grand Rapids area. Two years ago, they moved to Lowell.

"After a couple years I was looking to get a house someplace where I can do my dog business better," Islamcevic said. "And then I finally found this house here in Lowell."

Construction started on the new training and kennel facility in the spring of 2004. The building is constructed with handles low on the doors and an ADA-approved bathroom. "That's very important to me from working with handicapped people in the past and planning to continue to do so," Islamcevic said.

He hopes to expand his business into training assistance dogs in the future, though he acknowledges that might be a few years from now. More immediate tasks include finishing the

basic grooming room and excavation work on the parking lot; a second outdoor play area will be added in the spring. The dogs already have one outdoor play area in addition to the indoor space. "And then we have six acres of land available for nature walks," Islamcevic said. "Eventually, as my business grows, my plan is to fence in all this property ... so the dogs can really have a nice run."

At his facility, he offers group and individual dog training and boarding-training, where dogs stay in the kennel while undergoing more extensive training. Islamcevic's specialty is in dog behavior training. He will also train dogs in the owners' homes.

Another service offered at the facility is dog day-care. "It's been a very popular type of business for the last 10 years because people are busy," Islamcevic said. "You can drop your dog off even half a day and they can play with other dogs and socialize."

Islamcevic's own dogs are certified in narcotics detection. He hopes to be able to provide that service to schools and private individuals in the future.

The kennels at the new facility were filled over the holidays. Islamcevic will offer his first group class Saturday, Jan. 29.

More information about Islamcevic and his business is available at www.k9academyinternational.com.

January Students-of-the Month

The first Students of the Month for the year 2005 have been chosen at Lowell High School for their academic excellence and ability to work hard.

Jeanette Griner, a freshman, is being honored by the Physical Education department. She is the daughter of Onnie and Juanita Griner. Her extracurricular activities include Student Council and Diversity Council. She is also an active member of her church. Griner's teacher nominator said she is a hard

College News

Matthew Scheider, a first-year student at Albion College, has been accepted into the Carl A. Gerstacker Liberal Arts Institute for Professional Management. Students are chosen

worker and always tries to do her best.

Jakub Pala, a senior, was chosen by the English department. The son of Ludek and Emma Pala of Lowell, he is active in SADD and International Club. In addition, he is employed at Red Lobster. Pala plans to attend the University of Michigan or Western Michigan University in the fall to study International business. His teacher nominator said Pala leads by quiet example and lives up

to his academic potential.

Kevin Gillman, a senior, is being honored by the Math department. He is the son of Dave and Barb Gillman of Lowell. His extracurricular activities include National Honor Society, Rotary Club, basketball and captain of the soccer team. He is also active in his church youth group. Gillman will be attending college in the fall, but is undecided as to where. His teacher nominator said he is being honored for his overall excellent performance.



Students of the Month for January, pictured left to right, are: Jeanette Griner, Jakub Pala and Kevin Gillman.

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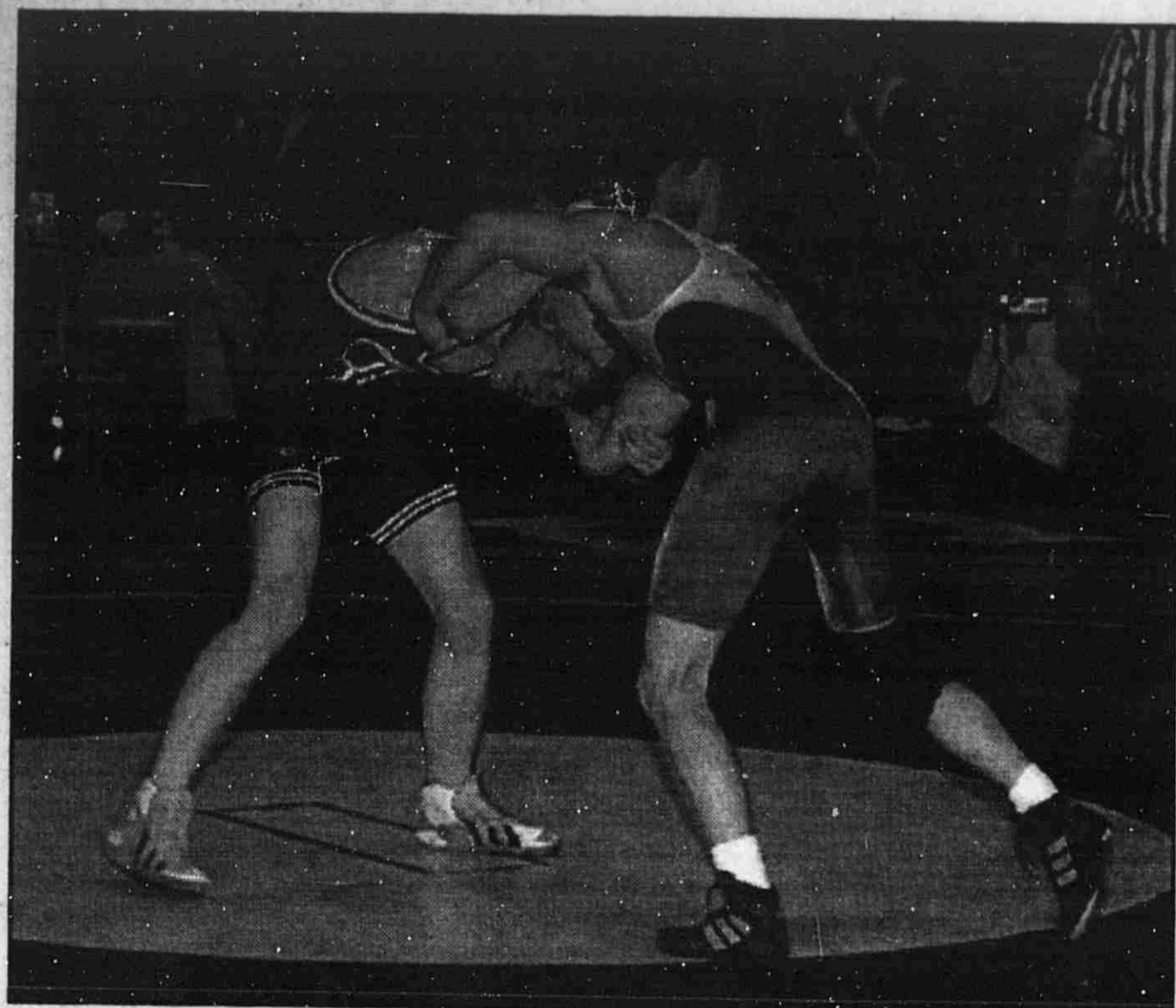
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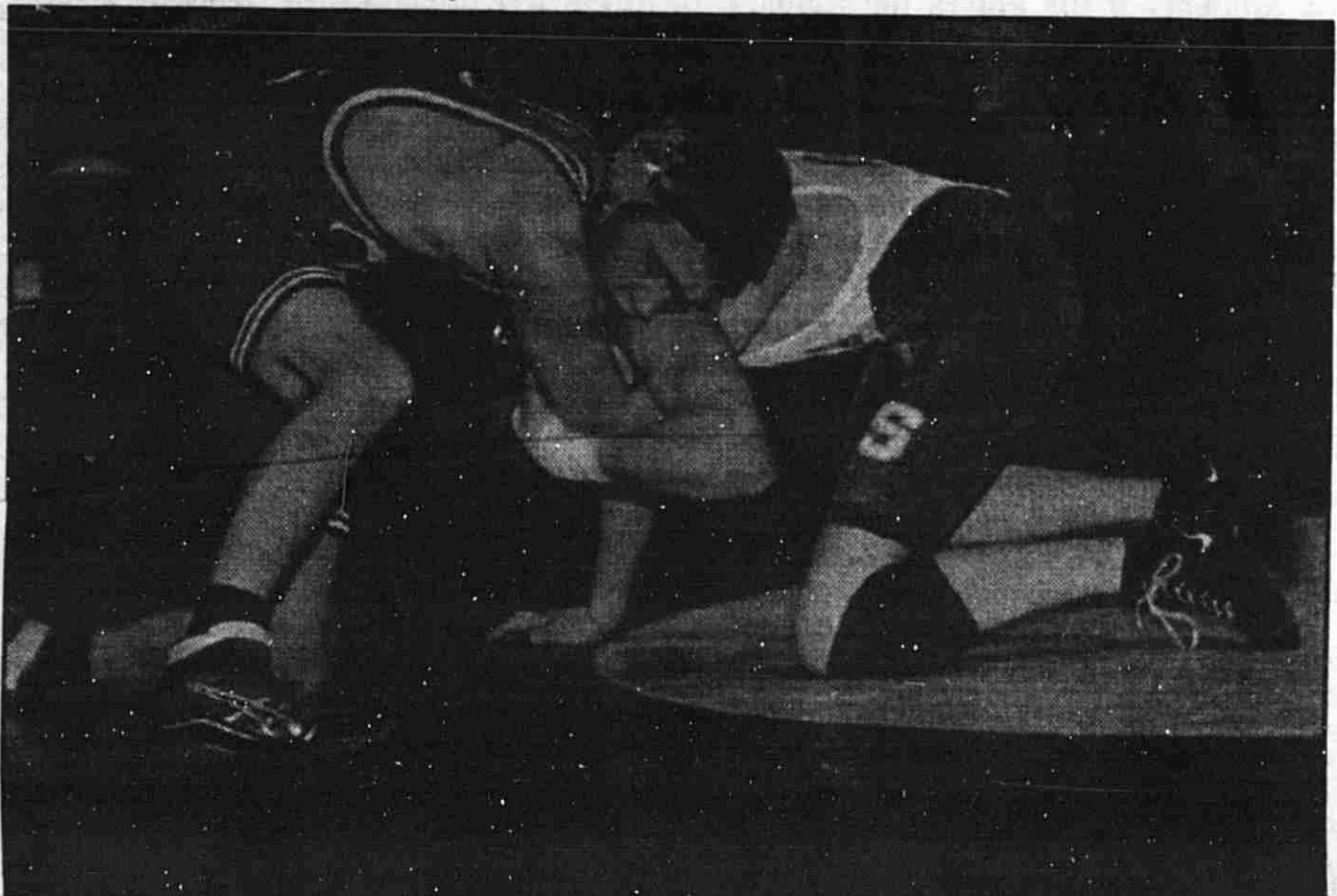
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Lowell's Ryan Karasiewicz attempts a takedown against Sparta's Sam Sokolowski. Sokolowski won the match by decision.



Lowell's Ray Seese works on Dustin Canterbury. Seese won the 112 match by pin.

Wrestling falls to Sparta

By Dan Schneider

Lowell took a hard loss last Thursday to a Sparta wrestling team that looks like the dominant force in the OK White this year. It was a 50-24 score.

The host Spartans started by pinning Pat Schneider 3:12 into the 135 pound match.

Bumped up to 140 for the match, Lowell's Joe Mendez wrestled Tyler Plew to a technical fall in 5:24.

At 145, Ryan Karasiewicz came out strong but in the end fell to Sam Sokolowski in an 8-0 major decision.

John Fleet gained back some ground for Lowell, winning a 12-4 major decision against Eric Wright. Sparta had a 10-9 advantage after that match.

Then things took a bad turn for the Red Arrows as Sparta racked up three pins and a major decision. Jason Brew pinned Alex Fleet in 3:46 at 160. Kyle Vanderhyde won a major decision against Brock Graham, 12-4, in the 171 match. Sparta's Zach Ridgeway pinned Matt Francisco in 1:03 at 189. Jordan Morse pinned Lowell's Joe Woodhead in 2:44 at 215.

The score was now 32-9. Dominic Doyle won an impressive heavyweight match by fall. He pinned Sparta's Ted Breen in 2:33. Then Sparta's Ryan Curtis

pinned Joe Sadlak in 3:47 at 103.

Ray Seese was bumped up to 112 for the match. He pinned Dustin Canterbury with just 25 seconds left in the match. It was the second meeting between the two in as many years and the second victory for Seese.

"He's finally coming into his own," Lowell assistant coach Wayne Fuller said. "Last year it was 10 seconds left in the match before he got him. Tonight he just tore him up."

Rob Karasiewicz won a tough 119 match for Lowell. He decisioned Cody Stamann, 5-3. At 125, Matt Armock pinned Lowell's Mike Thomas in :43. Sparta's Mark Armock pinned Justin Boss in 1:50 at 130.

"I thought we wrestled well," Sparta co-head coach Ron Helmboldt said.

But the lineups also contributed to the result that was the opposite of both of last year's meetings.

"They lost a lot of outstanding wrestlers off that team from last year and we didn't," Helmboldt said.

Four of Lowell's wrestlers were up from the junior varsity ranks.

"They pinned every one of our junior varsity kids that we put up to—that's 24 points," Fuller said. "This isn't close

to the lineup they'll see next time."

Fuller expects the two to meet again in the conference tournament and in the regional final, like last year when Lowell stopped Sparta's try at the state finals.

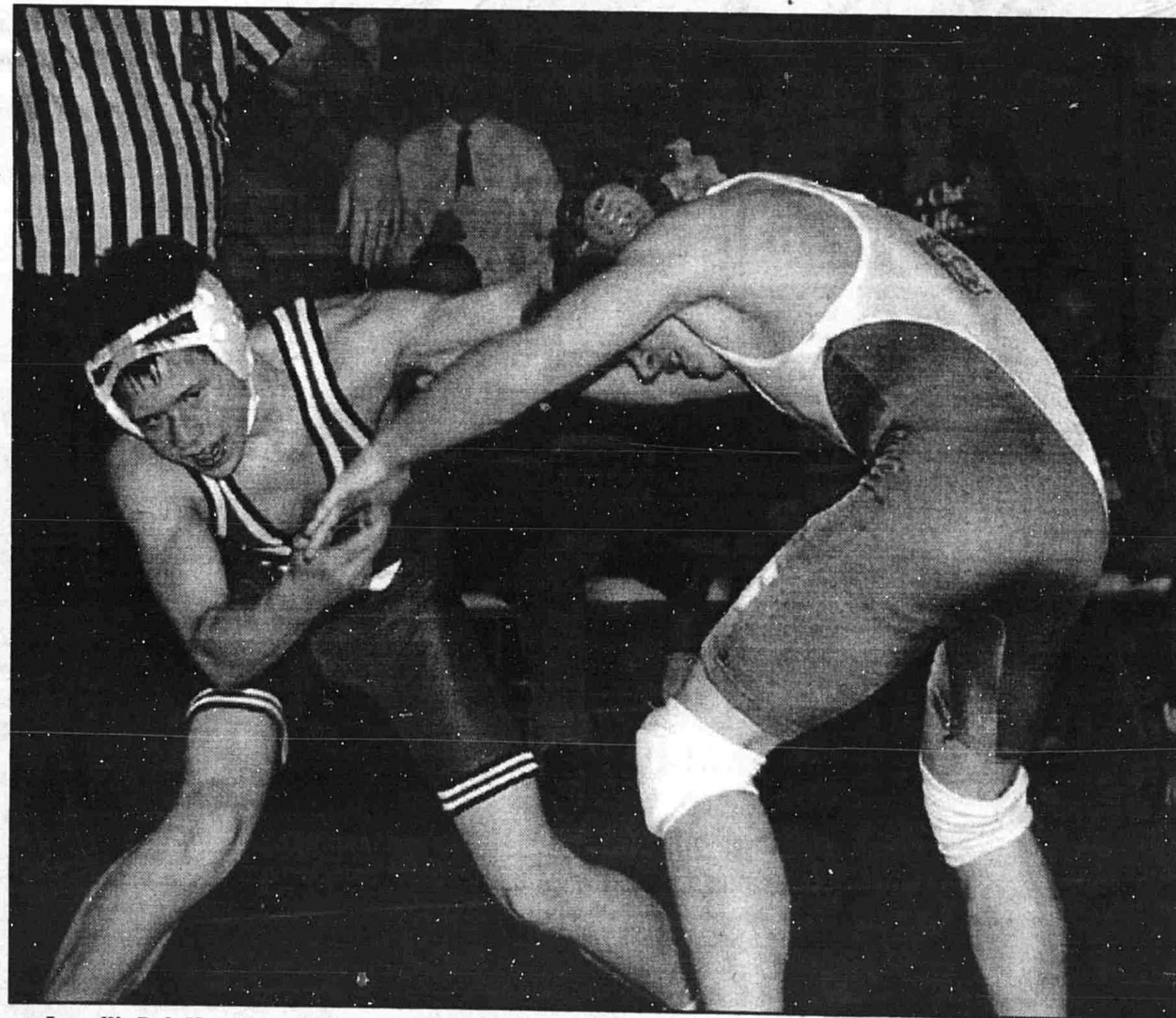
"We'll definitely be ready for regionals and definitely be ready for conference," Fuller said.

Lowell placed fourth as a team at the Clinton Invitational Saturday. Ten Red Arrows finished in the top four in their weight class. Joe Mendez won the 135-pound championship and most valuable player honors. Ryan Karasiewicz won the 145-pound championship.

Lowell's junior varsity wrestlers went to the Godwin Invitational Saturday. Ken Baily won a championship at heavyweight in the individual tournament. Dan Baird was the 160-pound champ. Eric Dean won a championship at 152. They all wrestled with a lot of heart, junior varsity coach Jim Fleet said.

"A couple were on their back and didn't quit and ended up winning the match," Fleet said.

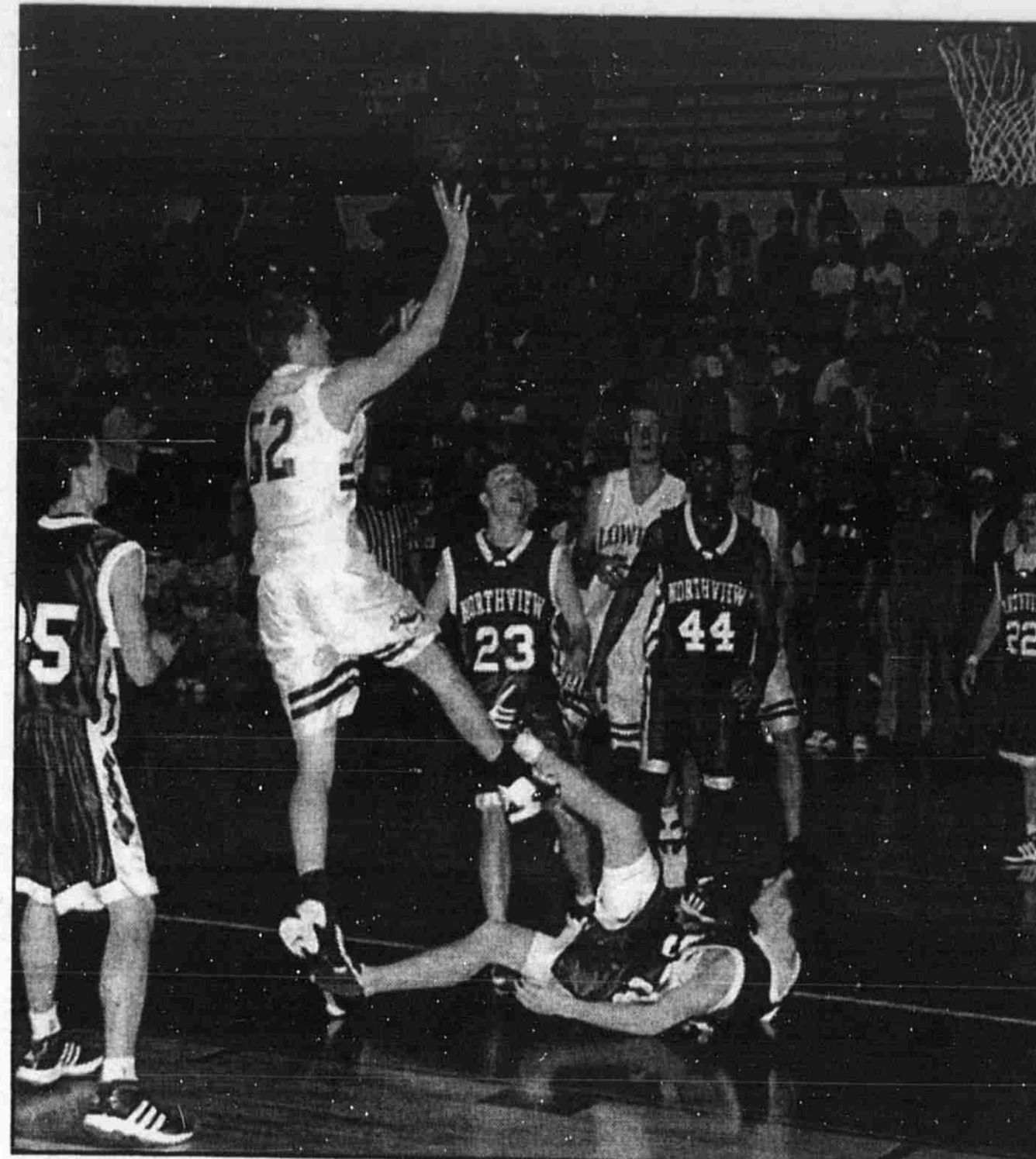
Lowell's next conference match is Thursday at East Grand Rapids. The Arrows host the Gary Rivers Tournament on Saturday.



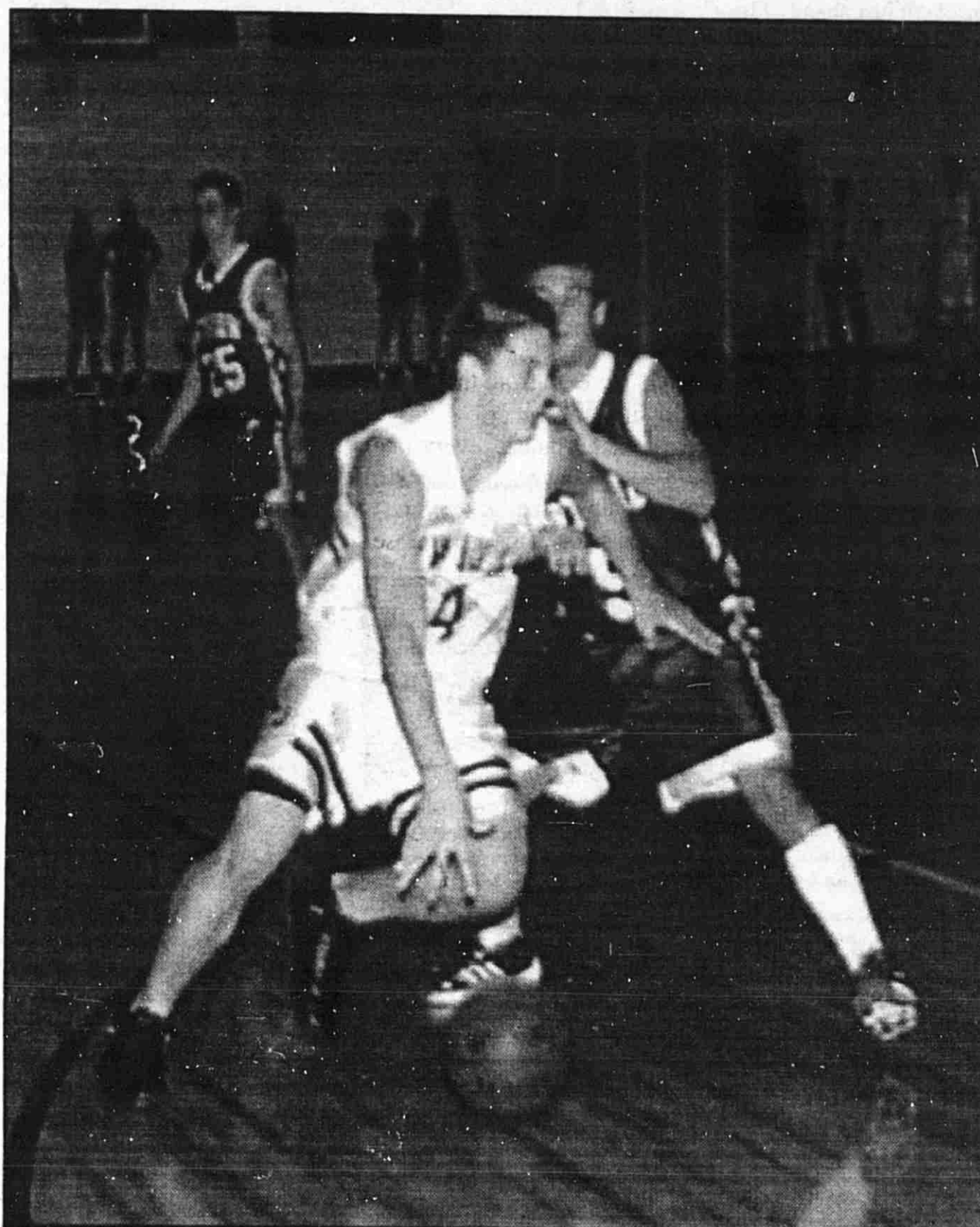
Lowell's Rob Karasiewicz tries a takedown against Cody Stamann. Karasiewicz won the match by decision.

Turnovers hold Lowell back in last two basketball games

By Dan Schneider



Lowell's Mike McElroy shoots the ball as a Northview defender hits the floor. McElroy made the shot and no foul was called on the play.



Lowell's Brad Shea drives against Northview in last Wednesday's game. He made the shot a second or two later.

An impressive fourth-quarter comeback was not enough to get a win at Greenville for Lowell basketball last Friday.

Down 36-26 after the third quarter, the Red Arrows built back up to a 47-45 lead with two minutes left in the game.

"We were down by 12 with about 4:30 left to play and we came back and took the lead," Lowell coach Jeff McDonald said.

But two untimely turnovers near the end of the game led to a Greenville basket and free throws that made the final score 50-47. Turnovers have been a problem throughout the season so far for the Arrows.

"We're really struggling with turning the ball over," McDonald said, going on to outline the three things the team needs to work on this season: "Number one, we're

turning the ball. Number two, we're having trouble penetrating any kind of defense. And number three, we're not going to the free-throw line enough."

Lowell had only nine trips to the line against Greenville and only seven in last Tuesday's home game against Northview.

Against Greenville, McDonald said, "We made a valiant comeback, we just need to play with a sense of urgency at the beginning." Lowell will be without starting player Shane Stokes for several games. He hit two 3-pointers before shattering his nose by running into a bleacher railing in the first quarter of Friday's game.

Mike Koster led Lowell scoring with 16 points against Greenville. He also had nine rebounds. Josh Hetta had 14 points.

The Arrows had a tough

home loss last Tuesday against Northview, the Wildcats prevailing 64-47.

Northview was up 11-9 at the end of the first quarter. The Wildcats started the second on an 8-0 run before Hetta put an end to it with a three-pointer.

Lowell matched Northview shot for shot during most of the rest of the second quarter. Both teams' number 44 exchanged baskets on one occasion—Northview's Derek Brooks making a slick twisting shot from inside, then Lowell's Brad Shea getting the ball out of a fast break for a light-touch shot from the low-right. But the Arrows didn't make up much ground against Northview, heading to the halftime locker-room down 24-18.

Lowell played from be-

Basketball, cont'd., page 14

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE CITY OF LOWELL, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CITY OF LOWELL'S PROPOSED USE OF 2005-2006 KENT COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

A public hearing will be conducted by the Lowell City Council on **TUESDAY, January 18, 2005 at 7:30 p.m.** at the City Council Chambers, Lowell City Hall, Second Floor, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan.

Public comments will be received during the hearing, orally or in writing, regarding the City of Lowell's proposed use of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant Funds for the following projects:

- Beech from Godfrey to Foreman both sides sidewalk
- Ridgeview from Sibley to West Main Street both sides sidewalk CDBG \$45,799.83
- North Kent Transit assistance for senior citizens and handicapped riders CDBG \$6,000.00
- Master Plan Update CDBG \$5,000.00

The County of Kent has allocated approximately \$51,799.83 of its 2005-2006 federal entitlement Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to the City of Lowell. The primary objective of the federal CDBG Entitlement 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." Activities using CDBG funds must meet one of the following National Objectives: benefiting low and moderate income persons; addressing slums or blight; or, meeting a particularly urgent community development need.

Interested persons may submit comments to Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street prior to the meeting or appear in person.



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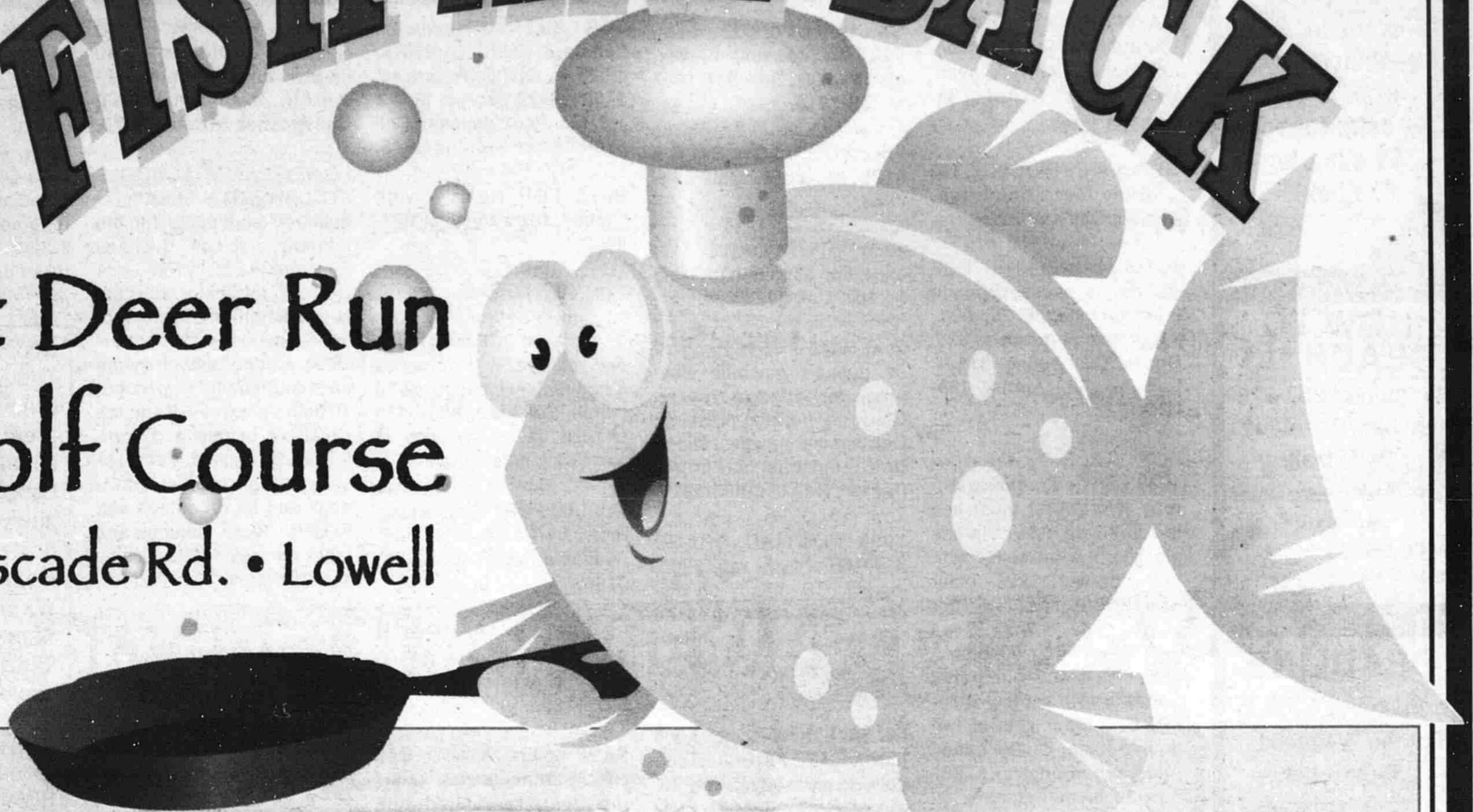
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