

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 34 Issue 1

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Lowell's holiday craft tour ready to roll once again



A banner over downtown Main Street advertises the "Christmas Through Lowell" craft tour, which takes place Nov. 18-20.

By Dan Schneider

A host of houses throughout the Lowell area along with some businesses will be filled with crafts for sale for the ever-popular "Christmas Through Lowell" event.

Now in its 14th year, it is always scheduled for the first weekend of hunting season ... this year, Nov. 18-20.

There are 42 houses and churches and 10 businesses listed. Many of the houses feature items by multiple crafters; and there is a wide variety of unique items ... everything from doilies to furniture.

"Christmas Through Lowell" programs with maps are available at numerous downtown shops and at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, which sponsors the event.

In addition to crafts

for sale, a number of organizations are hosting lunches. The Lowell Women's Club is serving a lunch from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Nov. 18 and 19 at the chamber of commerce, 113 Riverwalk Plaza. The First United Methodist Church Women are holding a lunch Nov. 19 from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the church at 621 E. Main Street. Vergennes United Methodist Church is hosting a lunch from 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Nov. 19; both churches also have crafts for sale. All weekend, "Corner Crafts" at 423 Suffolk is having a bake sale to benefit Flat River Outreach Ministries.

Tour hours of "ChristmasThroughLowell" are 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. Saturday; and 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday.

Remaining seats in showboat amphitheater vandalized

By Dan Schneider

Since 1997, when Loretta Lynn performed the last concert in front of them, the showboat amphitheater has stood in disuse at the north end of Riverwalk Plaza.

Aside from a few fishermen casting lines from the former showboat stage, walkers using the area as a shortcut to Lafayette Street, and Unity High students hanging out there during lunchbreaks, the timeworn showboat amphitheater has been nearly forgotten. That makes deciding what to do with the wooden bleacher seats, which were smashed by vandals, a tough proposition.

Lowell Area Schools owns the property, which is located behind Unity High School.

"We've got to make a decision," said Lowell Area Schools director of transportation and operations Larry Mikulski. "Either we abandon it completely and pull everything out of there or we put some money into it and fix it up again."

The vandalism occurred some time before Oct. 21. The boards were old and

weathered in the first place, and the vandals were able to break about one-third of them. Now, the boards lie

in an angular disarray, with splintered edges propped up by the metal bleacher brackets.

The Lowell police currently have no leads in the case.

"If we had some leads or

suspects, then we would be pursuing that," police chief Jim Valentine said. "We would encourage anybody who does have information on that to call us or silent observer."

But he's not optimistic about finding the people responsible. Since vandalism usually happens at night, in out of the way places, it can be hard to find witnesses.

"Very seldom is it witnessed by neutral parties, so it's only the perpetrator

and their associates that would know about it," Valentine said.

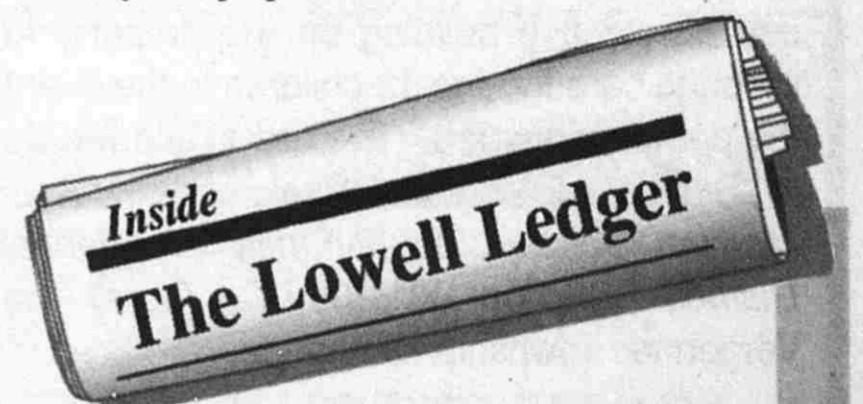
Though the spot is out of the public eye, Valentine said there have not been complaints about illegal activity there in the past.

Some might argue that the vandals did the city a favor. Something will now have to be done about the

Amphitheater damage, cont'd. pg. 4



The wooden benches of the old showboat amphitheater were damaged by vandals.



Remembering Shari Miller...Page 3

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Final Football Game...Page 15

Obituaries

KENT

James Harland Kent, born January 24, 1935, in Grand Rapids, died suddenly at St. Mary's Hospital on Thursday, November 3, 2005. Jim drove truck all his life, then settled in with Superior Transit in the later years.

There he was fortunate enough to find a family-oriented business from which he retired when he was 62. He did not have any hobbies, he only had a love: of family, real and extended. Friends and acquaintances, he talked to every one. Jim is survived by his wife of 16 years, Janice (Boos-Davis) Kent; mother Julia K. Wolf, Byron Center; two brothers Richard (Ila) Horton, Middleville, Edward (Hillie) Horton, Kentwood; foster sister Lyla Spaman, New Mexico; special "little" stepsister Nyla (Robert) Smith, Wayland. Through his siblings he had quite a few nieces and nephews. "Dad" will be missed by his loving children Julie (Thomas) Fick, Lowell, John (Diane) Kent, Newaygo, Mark (Sandy) Kent, Dorri, Jamie Sue (Chad) Boomershine, Allendale, Jami Lea Davis, Howard City, Hugh James Davis II, Howard City, Joel (Tammy) Davis, Kent



MILLER

Shari (Benninghoff) Miller, superintendent of Lowell Area Schools, died on November 6, 2005 in Grand Rapids after a hard fought

battle with breast cancer. Born in 1950 in Hicksville, Ohio, Shari learned about hard work and dedication from a very early age. The daughter of Wayne and Eleanor Benninghoff, Shari worked with her parents and three sisters on their family farm. She applied that diligent work ethic to her academic pursuits, to her career aspirations, and to her relationships with family and friends. Those who knew Shari know she had an insatiable desire for knowledge that was evident in her academic career. After being named valedictorian of Eastside High School in Butler, Indiana, she attended Indiana University at Bloomington, graduating with honors. She received her MA from St. Francis College in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and returned to Indiana University to pursue her doctoral degree. Shari used her vast knowledge to help students, teachers and parents during her distinguished career in education. She taught Spanish and English at Hicksville High School in Ohio and at Snider High School in Fort Wayne. She served two years as president of the Fort Wayne Education Association. After teaching for 25 years, Shari became an assistant principal at Northrop High School in Fort Wayne. She went on to serve as an assistant superintendent in North Newton, Indiana, and then as the deputy superintendent in Lansing. For the past three years, Shari has greatly enjoyed being the superintendent of Lowell Area Schools. Throughout the years, her unwavering commitment to quality education for all has served and will continue to serve as an inspiration to those who worked with her. As a champion of diversity and a warrior against discrimination, Shari devoted her life to bettering

the lives of children. She shared precious time with her own children and husband traveling throughout the Caribbean and relaxing at the lake. Simply being together as a family was blissful. Shari is survived by her husband Ned Miller; daughter Holly (Kyle) Kirby, son Andrew (Lindsay) Miller; grandson Miller Kirby; sisters Elizabeth (Harold) Palmer, Diane (Robert) Gilbert, Susan (Michael) Fyfe; aunt Ruth Darcy. Visitations with the family will be held from 2 - 4 p.m. this Wednesday in the Commons area of the high school Freshman Center and a memorial service at 7 p.m. in the Lowell Performing Arts Center. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions to the Shari Miller Scholarship Fund of Lowell Area Schools or Hospice of Holland Home.



RANDALL

Dorothy Heise Randall, aged 83, died of cancer November 1, 2005 at Heartland Health Care and Hospice. She was preceded in death by her husband Elwin E. Randall. She is survived by two brothers Charles (Joyce) Heise of Hastings, Arlen (Barbara) Heise of Woodland; sister Leona (Dr. Richard) Rasmussen of East Grand Rapids; nieces Diana (Bob) Nelson, Brenda (Jeff) Cross, Rebecca (Jason) Algeo, Lexie and Tory Flynn, Sarah Allaben;

nephews Kenneth (Karen) Heise, Shawn Heise, Kevin Algeo, Randy (Carolynne) Allaben, John Allaben. She was on the Board of Community Concert Ass'n, worked for Grand Rapids Symphony for years, was one of the soprano soloists in Park Congregational Church choir, past president of the Lowell General Federation of Women's Club, Vergennes Cooperative Club, Garden Lore Club of Lowell, VP and secretary of the Maude Faze Guild of Ada Congregational Church. In respect of her wishes cremation has taken place and a private family service will be held with Rev. Gary Burdick of Ada Congregational Church, officiating. Interment in Woodland Park, Woodland, next to her husband of 58 years. She was a great, courageous lady who loved a life of dignity, commitment and service. The family would appreciate any memorial donations to the American Diabetes Association of Grand Rapids, 648 Monroe NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or the American Cancer Society, 400 Ann St. NW, Ste. 202, Grand Rapids, MI 49504.

SMITH

Eleanor B. Smith, aged 79 of Watersmeet, Mich., died on Friday, October 28, 2005 at Eagle River Memorial Hospital in Eagle River. She was born on September 17,

Music benefit for Hospice of Michigan Saturday

A musical celebration. Saturday at Deer Run Golf Club Saturday will benefit Hospice of Michigan. Four bands: The Harry Harris Project, Lucky Dog, Just Because and ThornApple will play a variety of musical styles such as jazz, blues, bluegrass, classic rock, and celtic. The event, from 6 to 11:30 p.m., features door prizes in addition to the live entertainment. Cover charge is \$10 and there is a cash bar. West Michigan employees of the Compuware Corporation are the sponsors. Hospice of Michigan is a nonprofit health care organization providing care for people with terminal illness and their families.

Lowell Area Schools loses superintendent

District's schools closed Wednesday in honor of Shari Miller

By Dan Schneider

Lowell Area Schools lost its committed leader over the weekend.

Superintendent Shari Miller lost her battle with breast cancer at about 1 p.m. Sunday. She was 55 years old.

When the district hired her as superintendent, school board president Nancy Hopkins said, "The goal of the district was, in very general terms, to take a good district and make it a great district."

Miller came to Lowell in October of 2002 with a resume packed with educational experience. She had been a high school teacher in Ohio and in Indiana. She was an assistant principal at Northrop High School in Fort Wayne and an assistant superintendent in North Newton, Ind. She came to Lowell after serving as the deputy superintendent for Lansing Schools.

In only three years, she was able to make an impact, Hopkins said. This included helping introduce new teaching methods, and pushing forward the goals for student performance.

"We are much, much farther along in these things than when she came to the district," Hopkins said. "The sad thing is not knowing how far she could have taken us."

"She is remembered for being a catalyst for the district and having a passion for learning and for students."

"She brought new energy, new ideas, and new tools," Hopkins said "She was able to bring people along with that ... and say 'this is something we can do together and that will benefit our kids' and it was contagious."

Curriculum development was one



Shari Miller

"The sad thing is not knowing how far she could have taken us."

-Nancy Hopkins, LAS board of education president

of her top priorities, and assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction Mark Kasmer said she kept the district on the cutting edge of educational ideas.

Miller was "always pushing us beyond what's currently going on and looking ahead to what kids will need in the future," Kasmer said. "She has done a lot for this district in helping the district move forward in providing new opportunities for kids."

He also remembers her own love of gaining knowledge.

"She was an avid reader and continually looked for new ideas that would help support kids," Kasmer said.

And her commitment was beyond the call of duty. "She spent an inordinate amount of time on this job, day or night," Kasmer said. "She did a lot for this district, both up front and behind the scenes."

Another priority of Miller's was diversity education. Something she wanted every student to graduate from the district with was a respect for diversity. She was recognized for her efforts among her peers, serving as chair of the Kent Intermediate

Superintendents Association Diversity Committee until her death.

Technology was another area where Miller pushed the district forward. She had another role in addition to being superintendent; she was also the district's director of technology. She established two teams to improve the technology infrastructure and its use in the district. One team worked with hardware and software, another team developed instructional methods using technology. Miller was also instrumental in developing the district's technology curriculum.

Computers are now much more pervasive throughout the district. There are new projectors in classrooms in Lowell which allow teachers to utilize the new, digital teaching tools that come with many modern text books.

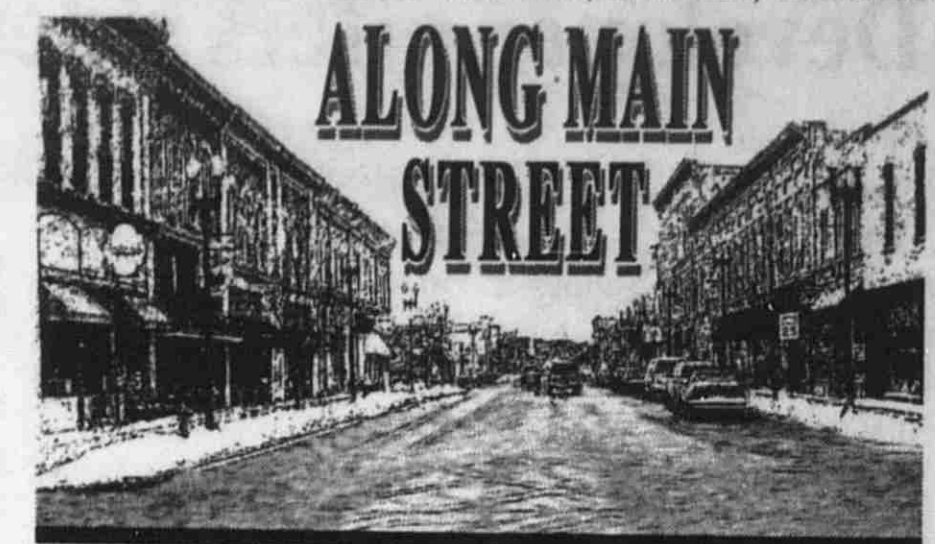
Miller made it a priority to be close to the action in the district, making frequent classroom visits to listen to and encourage students.

"She always came to events, whether they were musical or athletic," Lowell High School principal Scott Vashaw said.

She was also close to the teachers.

"She loved coming to the high school and talking to teachers here because she came from a secondary experience," Vashaw said. "She wasn't micro-managing, she was just doing a great job of supporting us."

All Wednesday's classes were canceled in honor of Miller. A community celebration of her life is scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Lowell Performing Arts Center at the high school. A visitation with Miller's family will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. in the commons area of the high school Freshman Center.



LAAC RECEPTION

The LAAC exhibit "Sleigh Bells and Holly: A Gallery of Fine Art and Gifts" will start with a reception this Thursday, Nov. 10 from 6-8 p.m. for all artists involved. It runs through Dec. 23 at 149 S. Hudson St.

VETERANS SPEAK AT LPAC

The Lowell Area Historical Museum will present "Lowell veterans tell their stories: WWII - Battle of the Bulge" this Thursday, Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. in the LHS Performing Arts Center. T/3 Glenn Marks, Bill Johnson and Col. George (Bill) Sefton are panelists.

REUNION PLANNING MEETING

The LHS Class of 1976 will have a 30-year reunion planning meeting at Larkin's on Nov. 10 at 8 p.m. Please attend or call Jim Reagan at 897-9656 if you would like to help.

DONATIONS ARE NEEDED

The F.R.O.M. Food Pantry is in need of boxed potatoes, soda crackers, soup, stewed tomatoes, canned fruit and toilet tissue.

FOODMOBILE

Anyone living in the Greater Lowell area is welcome to stop at the Foodmobile for free food this Saturday, Nov. 12 from 10-11 a.m. Bring your own box or bag. The food (mostly produce) is at the Lowell Fairgrounds, Foreman Building.

HOSPICE BENEFIT

West Michigan Employees of Compuware Corporation will sponsor a Musical Celebration to benefit Hospice of MI on Saturday, Nov. 12 at Deer Run Golf Club, 6-11:30 p.m. \$10 admission at door/cash bar. Live entertainment/door prizes! Contact: Kim Triplett at compuware.com or rcinder@hom.org.

CHRISTMAS THROUGH LOWELL

Pick up your flyer at local merchants for the 14th annual arts/crafts event Nov. 18, 19 and 20. Call the chamber at 897-9161 or visit www.lowellchamber.org.

ART OF THE VIOLIN 2005

LHS Performing Arts Theatre will present the Art of the Violin 2005 on Friday, Dec. 9. Silent auction: 6:45 p.m.; concert 7:30 p.m. Fundraiser concert to support Lowell schools orchestra program.

CALL FOR AUDITIONS

The LAAC Thebes Players are seeking actors for dinner theatre productions in April of "On Golden Pond." Auditions are Feb. 21 and 22, 6-9 p.m. at Englehardt Library, 200 N. Monroe St. Call 897-8545 for more info. or to borrow a script.

NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

A Public Hearing for a proposed Special Exception Use Permit will be held at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Vergennes Township Board on November 17, 2005, at 7:00 pm at the township offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell.

Heather Strejc, of 1170 Grindle Drive, Lowell, MI, is requesting a Special Use Permit to run a group child care facility, the home and property located at that same address in the Southwest quarter of Section 36 of Vergennes Township. Ms. Strejc plans to use an existing building on the property in which to care for 7 to 12 children in the event the permit is granted. The use is allowed as a Special Exception Use under "R-2" Medium Density Single-Family Residential District, Section 201.306, C., 2., of the Vergennes Township Ordinance.

Copies of the applications are available for public inspection at the township offices on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Public comment will be heard at the meeting. Written comments received by mail, in person or in the mail slot located at the office entrance will also be considered if received at the township office prior to 7:00 pm on November 17, 2005.

Mari C. Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2005

at 7:00 p.m. at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash, SE.

Judy and Lewis Pitsch have made application for a variance from 4.1.2 Table of General Bulk Regulations of the Lowell Township Zoning Ordinance to allow for a lot with road frontage on Bewell Avenue of 57.45 feet where 165 feet are required for Permanent Parcel No. 41-20-09-401-009.

Linda S. Regan, Clerk
Lowell Charter Township

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Developer offers sidewalk across street in exchange for waiver

By J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

In hopes of getting a sidewalk waiver, a local developer offered to put sidewalk on the west side of North Jefferson, across from his property.

Kevin Kat, of Holwerda Builders, picked up on a suggestion from councilman Jim Pfaller that the council might consider a sidewalk waiver for the company's project if the company would be willing to put the same amount of sidewalk on the opposite side of the street.

The waiver would otherwise be denied which was re-enforced with a 3-2 vote at Monday night's council meeting. It was the second attempt of Kat's to get the waiver for his property at 885, 875 and 855 N. Jefferson. The first try was at a council meeting two weeks ago which ended in a deadlock of 2-2 since mayor pro tem Charles Myers was absent.

Myers at Monday night's meeting said he couldn't favor the waiver because it wasn't known whether sidewalk would be extended on that side of the street or not.

"I don't feel we should jeopardize public safety by predicting the future," Myers said. Part of Kat's argument was that there is no sidewalk on one side of the property and the sidewalk ends on the other side just after the adjoining property. There is also concern about the new sidewalk not matching the existing one which, because of the grade, is higher than the proposed sidewalk. After talking to landscapers, Kat said, it became clear that a seven-foot retaining wall might not prevent the sidewalk from washing out.

The grade has already reduced the number of houses proposed on the site from three to two. The developer was looking to eliminate the sidewalk in an effort to keep the cost on the houses down, Kat explained. Council members noted that the sidewalk ordinance was in place before Holwerda decided to develop the property and that the developer was aware of the grading problems as well. As for putting sidewalk on the west side of the street instead, both Myers and councilman Jim Hodges were lukewarm to the idea. Hodges said by placing sidewalk on the back of the property, owners would have to go around the block to maintain and keep the sidewalk cleared. As a property owner who is required to do that, Myers said he is not certain residents would be pleased to be burdened with such a task. The council decided to let staff review the matter and present it to the council at its next meeting Nov. 21.

City council gives wireless company 30 days to pay up

J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

Lowell City Council will give a local wireless company 30 days to settle its debt with the city and establish a new lease agreement ... otherwise the city will have its equipment removed for its tower. At its Monday night meeting, councilman Al Mathews made the motion to give David Yomtoob, owner of Airwave, the deadline to pay off the \$9,000 owed to the city in back rent on the tower. Several weeks ago Yomtoob came before the

city council trying to get a new lease agreement for a company that wishes to take over his services. After several letters, the council decided it was time for the matter to be resolved. "Somebody is collecting money from the vendors and we're not getting anything for it," said councilman Jim Pfaller. Mathews requested the 30-day timeframe to give Yomtoob's customers an opportunity to make other arrangements. Chief of police Jim

Valentine emphasized that this is simply a matter of someone not paying their bills. The city did look into rental fees, and Lowell Light and Power general manager Tom Richards said from his unsentimental research that those fees are usually around \$200 to \$500 a month with the medium being about \$350. For shorter towers, the fee is sometimes calculated by foot, but that is for items attached to water towers and similar height structures, he said. Yomtoob had said rental fees are usually based on a per foot basis. Yomtoob has 30 days from Monday night's council meeting to resolve the debt.

City chooses firm for water/wastewater treatment study

Contract awarded to Ann Arbor firm

J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

Despite a glowing recommendation from Lowell Light and Power general manager Tom Richards for a different company, the city council opted to go with city manager Dave Pasquale's endorsement of an Ann Arbor firm to perform a cost

study on the city's water and wastewater rates. The council selected Tetra Tech, which submitted a cost of \$12,500, to prepare the study. Richards recommended Utility Financial Solutions at \$19,000. Although Tetra Tech was not the lowest bidder (ACT Finance from Mason had a bid of \$12,000), Pasquale

felt after presenting the options to the city auditor, that Tetra Tech offered a lot more in its proposal for only a few extra dollars. The company will perform a study that will review the city's water and wastewater rates and help the city set up a solid methodology in establishing those rates.

Amphitheater damage, continued...From Page 1

bleachers, which were in bad shape to begin with and overgrown with weeds. But it may be a while before anything gets done. "The damage is very expensive and now, because it isn't used very much ... is the city or the school going to put money into that?" Mikulski asked. The city has looked at ways to improve the amphitheater in the past. "We had spent some time looking at various alternatives of what we could do," city manager Dave Pasquale said. A few years ago, architects were hired to

design plans for the space. They depicted tent-like roofs over the amphitheater, aesthetically similar to the Rapid bus terminal in downtown Grand Rapids. The structure was never built. The Lowell public, Pasquale said, put a higher priority on making improvements closer to Main Street. "It just seems that people are more interested in the Riverwalk area and to have events there and to have the Showboat there," he said. Another idea was to convert the space into some kind of park. Plans included

picnic tables and a waterfall cascading down the hill at the north end, with a fountain visible from King Street. The city removed some old chain link fencing from the spot, painted a concrete retaining wall green, and removed some posts from along the riverbank, but that was as far as the modifications progressed. Now that vandalism has rendered the stands an eyesore, albeit a fairly innocuous one, it will likely inspire new discussion about what to do with the amphitheater. Mikulski said both the city and school district will be involved in those discussions.

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CHICKEN LITTLE (G)
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OSAW 2 (R)
1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
OLEGEND OF ZORRO (PG)
11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50
DOOM (R) 7:30, 9:40
WALLACE AND GROMIT (G)
11:15, 1:20, 3:25, 5:30
HISTORY OF VIOLENCE (R)
1:20, 3:25, 5:30, 7:35, 9:40

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Viewpoint

To The Editor

Dear Editor,

Our community has just suffered the loss of a tremendous individual. Shari Miller, superintendent of Lowell Public Schools, passed away Sunday, Nov. 6, 2005. Mrs. Miller's years as a superintendent were a contribution to our school district, and to the lives and futures of our community's children. Her enthusiasm and passion for education were admirable. She unified our community through her leadership and commitment to education, and proved that in the face of differences it is possible for people to work together to create a community.

The strength and courage she displayed in her fight against cancer is an inspiration to the rest of us who stand for the betterment of our neighborhoods and the world. As former President Ronald Reagan once said, "The great leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things; he is the one who gets the people to do the greatest things." To her family and friends, our hearts go out to you as you mourn the loss of Shari Miller, and know that her legacy remains as one of hope and inspiration to the lives of those she touched.

Sincerely,
Rep. Dave Hildenbrand

Ledger Entries

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

By Priscilla Lussmyer



125 YEARS, THE WEEKLY JOURNAL
NOVEMBER 10, 1880

"Saturday was a raw, wintry, snowy, slushy, dismal day."

The editor notes that the row of wooden buildings along Main Street is an invitation for fire. Great caution and watchfulness are required. A few street lamps on Main and Bridge streets would be nice. The marshal offers 25¢ a head for local boys to round up cattle wandering the streets and drive them to his enclosure.

A case of diphtheria has been reported in Segwun. Grattan has the illness in three families, and one death.

100 YEARS, THE LOWELL LEDGER
NOVEMBER 9, 1905

Less than six months after the big fire of April 11, the new Negonce Block is open for business.

Fred Arthur's buggy catches on a post when his horse panics and jumps into the river at the temporary narrow board span of the Main St. bridge. Fred is safe and the horse swims out. "It is now possible to pass from one end of the village to the other without walking in the mud."

Jesse Frost of Grattan has an ear of corn with 1,264 kernels, but Chris Klumpp has one with 1,437 kernels.

75 YEARS, THE LOWELL LEDGER
AND THE ALTO SOLO
NOVEMBER 6, 1930

A U of M geology professor announces that two whale skeletons have been unearthed near Alpena and Ann Arbor, 20 to 30 thousand years old.

Some farmers have barred all hunting on their land because of cut fences and gates left open.

This summer's drought was the worst since 1901. Armistice Day Nov. 11 will include speeches at the high school, free movies at the Strand Theatre and a free supper for veterans at City Hall.

50 YEARS, THE LOWELL LEDGER
NOVEMBER 10, 1955

Village Council circulates petitions for extending sewer/water services to the entire village.

Council complains to the State Highway Department for leaving intersections unfinished during Main Street repaving this summer. The cross country team takes fifth place in the state meet.

Now that M-21 has been widened, Garden Lore Club authorizes the state to remove the "gates to Lowell" stone structures.

Hunters are heading north for the opening of deer season Nov. 15, even though it opens on the same date down here now.

25 YEARS, THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER
NOVEMBER 5, 1980

Dan Vos Construction of Ada is reconstructing the Ada Covered Bridge, destroyed by fire last year. Consumers Power offers rewards for identifying those who shoot out insulators on poles.

Teacher Jerry Biernacki interprets the new high school library mural to the board; it was designed by Joe Kinnebrew and painted by students and staff this summer.

The Ben Franklin store will have a "Going Out of Business" sale until the first of the year.



A resting place for our heroes: Great Lakes National Cemetery

With Senator Carl Levin

Last month, the Great Lakes National Cemetery was dedicated in Holly, Michigan, the 122nd such cemetery in the country. The first national veterans' cemeteries were created in 1862, during the darkest hours of the Civil War, through legislation signed by President Abraham Lincoln. Through the years, the national cemetery system has been America's way of saying a final "thank you" to those who have served in uniform. The site in Holly now takes its place among them as a sacred American shrine.

The Great Lakes National Cemetery is the second national veterans' cemetery in Michigan, joining the Fort Custer National Cemetery in Augusta, which opened in 1943. These two facilities are, in many ways, a recognition of Michigan's contributions to our national defense. During World War II, southeast Michigan was known for its indispensable role in the American "Arsenal of Democracy." But Michigan not only produced the materials to fight the war; we also sent many of our brave men and women to help win the war.

Michigan is now home to nearly one million veterans, including almost 480,000 veterans living within 75 miles of the new site in Holly. These proud men and women are veterans of World War II, the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam

Outdoors

By Dave Stegehuis



SORTING IT OUT

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) holds title to 4.5 million acres of state owned land in Michigan. The department's stated objective is to manage these lands to conserve, protect and provide public use and enjoyment of the natural resource, recreational, ecological, cultural and historical values of these lands for present and future generations of Michigan citizens and visitors to the state.

To this end, the DNR is reviewing state owned land

to determine if the property helps to fulfill its mission. The process is to identify and retain parcels that meet predetermined requirements. The holdings that don't make the cut will be transferred to local governments, conservation organizations, exchanged, or sold to the public. Sale proceeds will be used to help pay for the acquisition of parcels that do have value within existing boundaries or are adjacent to other state owned land.

The review process involves evaluating a different group of 10 counties every six months. After the initial review by DNR wildlife, fisheries, forest, and recreation specialists, a recommendation is made and the public will then have an opportunity to comment at public meetings or on line. After that, the DNR Review Committee will make a recommendation to the Natural Resources Commission and the DNR Director. The Director will make the final decision

Outdoors, cont'd., pg. 7

Letters... We love to hear from you!

The Lowell Ledger - welcomes all "Letters to the Editor" for publication on its "Viewpoint" page. Letters can be typed or written. However, we ask that they not exceed 250 words and not be strictly thank you's. "Letters to the Editor" should be sent to the Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, P.O. Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or emailed to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com. Letters must be signed and please include a phone number. Editing may be necessary for space, clarity and to avoid obscenity, libel or invasion of privacy. The Lowell Ledger thanks you in advance for your cooperation.

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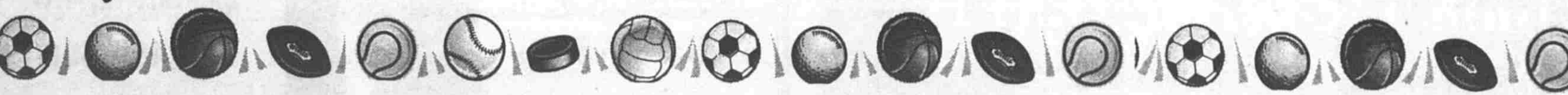
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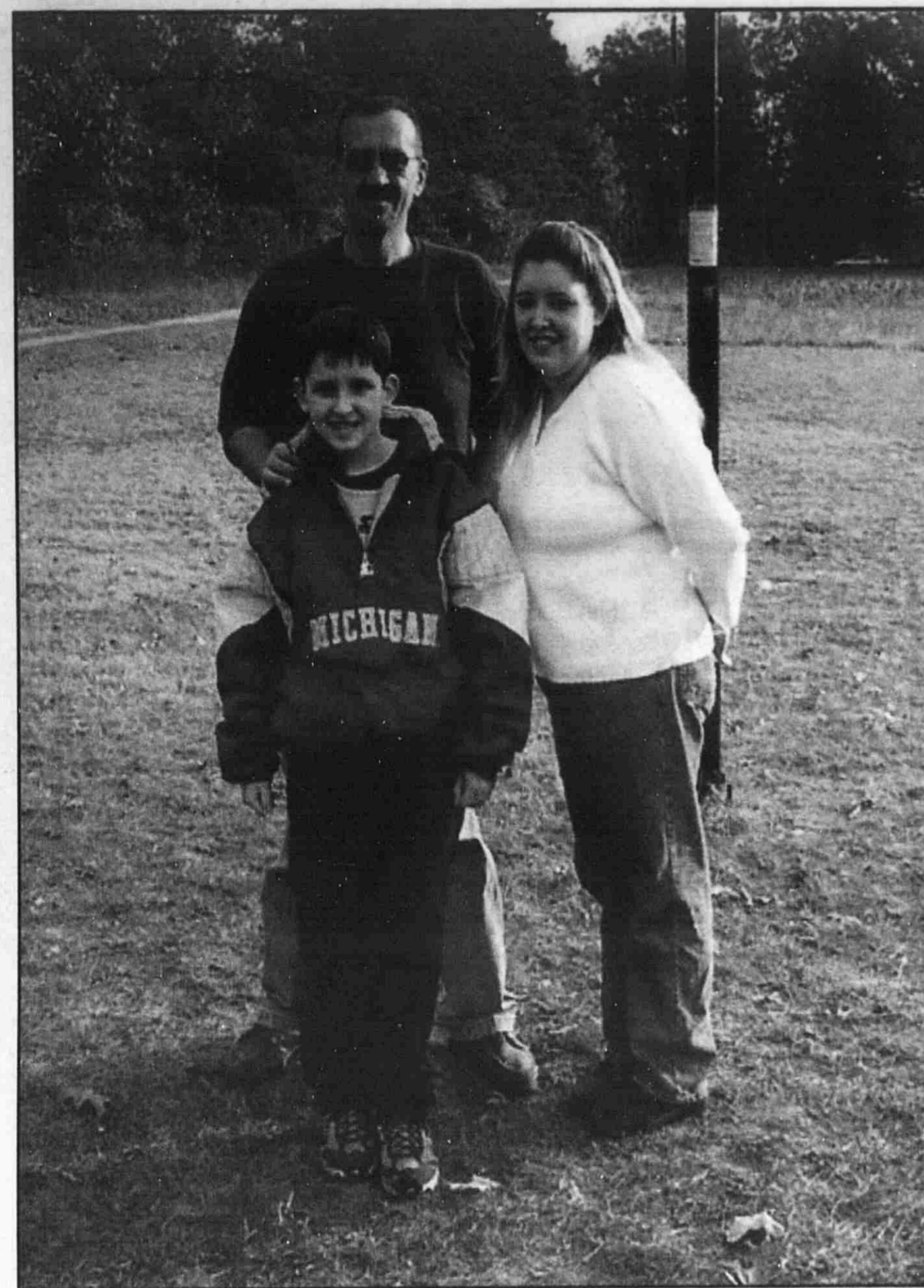
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Spaghetti dinner fundraiser to benefit young cancer patient

By Dan Schneider

By the time he was six years old, Nicklas Falsetta was an avid ice skater. And he loved to play football, too.

So it was hard for him to find out he could no longer hit the gridiron, and hockey was another sport he couldn't play. This is because, as a six year old, Falsetta was diagnosed with brain cancer. He underwent chemotherapy treatments for 16 months and had brain surgery.

He is now eight years old and a student at Cherry Creek Elementary. The cancer was declared to be in remission in July, and he is

At left: Tom, Lisa and Nicklas Falsetta. A spaghetti dinner is being held to benefit Nicklas, an eight-year-old cancer survivor still struggling with a variety of medical conditions.

off chemotherapy treatment. But the effects of the cancer and the treatments continue to have an impact on his life.

"Before he got sick, he was already ice skating, he was already playing football," his mother, Lisa Falsetta said. "He's five feet (tall) at eight, so sports are a big deal."

Falsetta experiences blackouts and lives with an impulse disorder and mood disorder. Because of the effects of the chemotherapy, he must wear leg braces. He can't play contact sports.

"He can stand around and throw a football, but he can't play with other kids because he can't be tackled," Lisa Falsetta said. "So he has to find other sports."

He is learning how to play golf.

"He likes croquet," Lisa Falsetta said. "He just didn't realize that until recently."

An avid sports fan, he likes NASCAR and the Redwings; also country music. This summer, he went to see his favorite musician, Tim McGraw.

He can't receive treatments for his blackouts and disorders at hospitals in Grand Rapids. So he travels to Ann Arbor once a month, and may have to go more often in the future. The treatments cost between \$250 and \$300 each, and are not covered by the Falsettas' insurance.

That is why a fundraising spaghetti dinner is being held for Nicklas Friday, Nov. 18 at the Ionia Knights of Columbus Hall from 4-8 p.m. There will be a 50-50 raffle and silent auction. All proceeds benefit Nicklas. The Ionia Knights of Columbus Hall is located at 115 South Steele Street in Ionia.

New business aims to keep Lowell's pets looking pretty, punky

By Dan Schneider

A place where pets can go from dirty to dapper now exists on Lafayette Street in Lowell.

Wags Pet Grooming opened for business two weeks ago in Diane Smith's home at 618 N. Lafayette. The shop caters to dogs and cats. It's a project that's been on Smith's mind for years.

"I had thought about it for a long time and finally when I was retired it was like, 'okay, time to start,'" Smith said.

She retired from Grand Rapids Public Schools as a teacher and guidance counselor in June of 2004. In January 2005, she and her daughter Leah started taking classes at the Paragon School of Pet Grooming in

Jenison. They graduated in June.

Leah Smith will join her mother at the shop in mid-December after completing college at Grand Valley State University.

There is a lot involved in pet grooming school, Smith said. There are tools to learn and ways to cut each breed, as well as standard looks for each breed as determined by the American Kennel Club. But the majority of time at the school is spent learning how to help pets feel comfortable with the whole process.

"It was much more involved than I thought it was going to be," Smith said.

Her shop is located in a room of her house with an

entrance from the driveway. It's a fairly simple room with a haircutting table, a bathtub on a raised platform, and cupboards and racks with implements and pet bath products.

Smith can order a variety of products, such as oatmeal shampoos for dogs with sensitive skin. The standard pet wash involves a three-part regimen of different soaps.

For pet owners who would like their poodle to look like Joey Ramone, Leah Smith specializes in punk pooch styling.

The shop is open by appointment from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., which is also the best time to make appointments. The number is 745-1258.



Diane Smith, with her dog Libby Lou, is the owner of Wags Pet Grooming. The shop opened two weeks ago in her house on Lafayette Street.

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First Baptist's "Trunk and Treat" declared successful

Over 400 children attended "Trunk and Treat" at First Baptist Church on Halloween night. They watched puppets, ate popcorn and cotton candy,

and trick or treated at many decorated trunks between 5:30 and 8 p.m. (Members decorate the trunk of their vehicle, provide a game to play and hand out candy

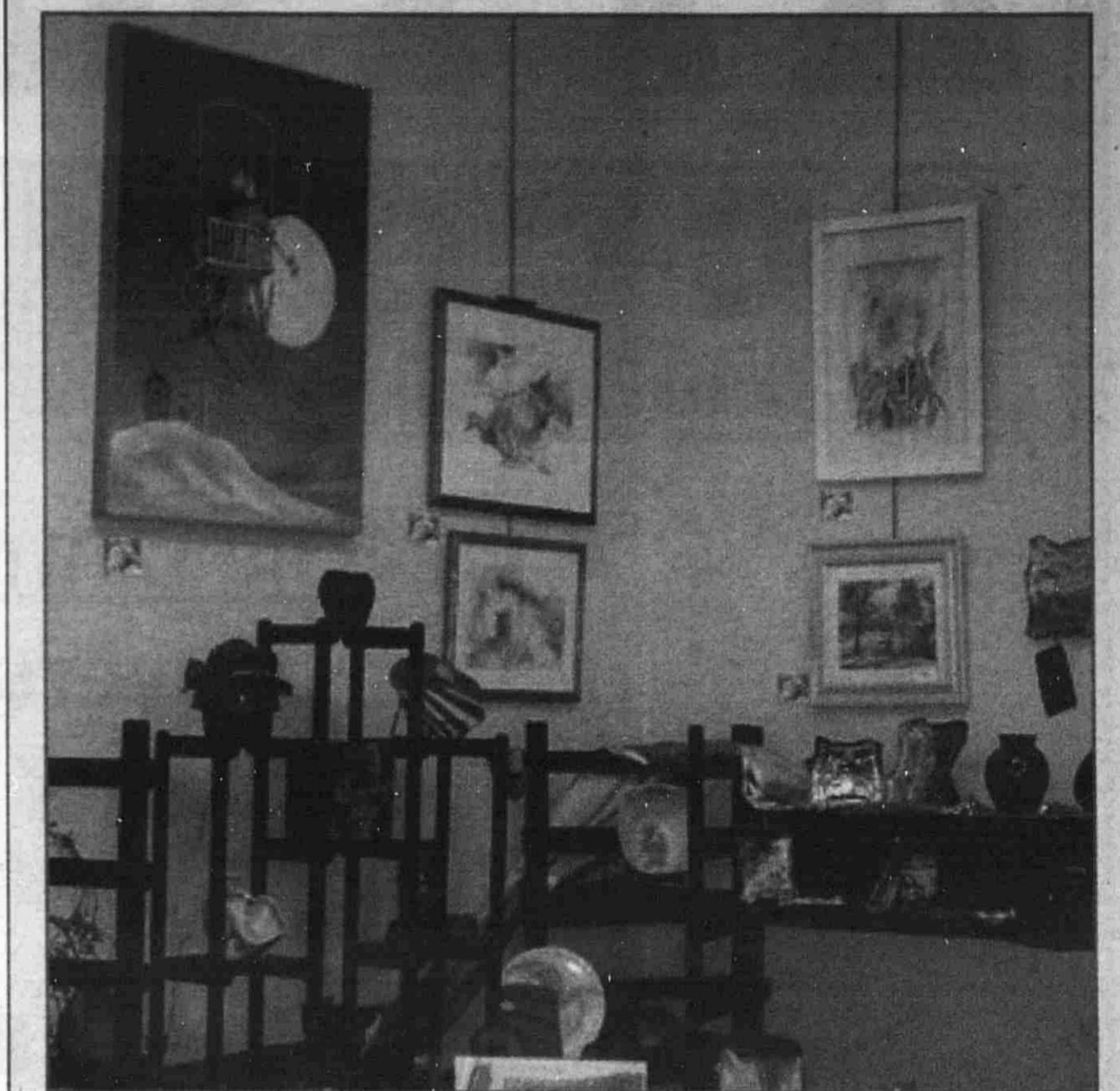
... providing a well-lit safe place for children.)

With over 600 people participating, the second annual event was a huge success.



David Mersman manned the "Awana Color Wheel" at the First Baptist Church of Lowell's "Trunk and Treat" Halloween event.

"Sleigh Bells and Holly" at Lowell Area Arts Council



The Lowell Area Arts Council has decked its halls for "Sleigh Bells and Holly," its annual holiday fine art and gift gallery sale. More than 30 artists and artisans have created the work currently for sale at 149 S. Hudson Street. Items include pottery, paintings, art cards, beeswax candles, photography, wood boxes and carvings, handmade natural soaps, sculpture blown glass, ornaments, jewelry and several other creations. Many of the artists are from the Lowell area and all of them have been active volunteers and members of the arts council. An artists' reception is being held Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m.

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Large deer population, low corn stalks could make for successful hunting season

By Dan Schneider

Hunters in Lowell are gearing up for another gun deer season. The season opens Tuesday in Michigan. Over the last three years, more than half of the state's total deer harvest has come from the southern part of the state. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources expects that trend to continue this year. Deer populations in Kent County, for example, are similar to last year.

"Kent County, taken as a whole, as a deer management unit, numbers are stable," DNR wildlife biologist Nick Kalejs said. "We're talking, as a county average, (numbers of) deer in the low 30s per square mile."

Kent, Ionia and Barry counties are among the 16 counties where the Michigan Department of Natural

Resources will allow late firearm deer hunting for antlerless deer on private land. These counties have deer populations above DNR management goals. The late firearm deer season lasts from Dec. 19 to Jan. 1.

Kalejs said more corn has been harvested than in most years by this time, which means deer will have less cover to hide in.

"That might create some more opportunities," Kalejs said.

Forests where deer can find acorns to eat may attract a lot of deer.

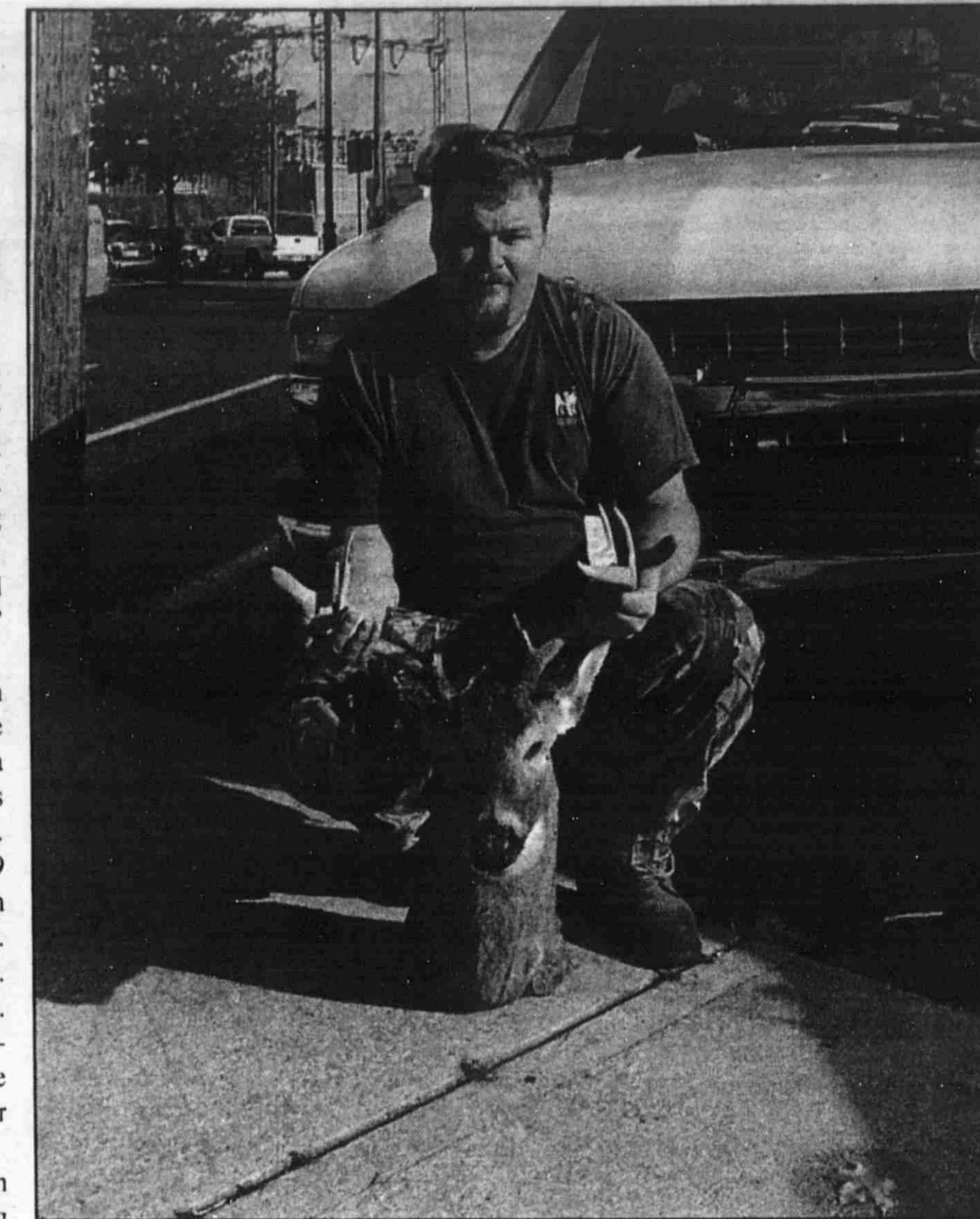
"Acorn production seems to be above average in many areas," Kalejs said.

The DNR uses cooperator patches to encourage hunters to bring their deer to check stations, where DNR biologists gather information such as sex, age and antler development. The

information helps the DNR manage Michigan's deer herd. This year's patch is a blue vertical oval showing a hind view of a deer standing in snow with "Successful Hunter," "Deer 2005" and "Management Cooperator" written on it.

The deer check station closest to Lowell is in the Flat River State Game Area in Belding. Its address is 6640 Long Lake Road. Hours of operation are 8-9 a.m. and 3-4 p.m. through Nov. 14; 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Nov. 15-21; 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Nov. 22-30 (except closed Nov. 24-27); and 8-9 a.m. and 3-4 p.m. Dec. 1-January. The station is closed all other holidays and weekends.

More information on this year's deer hunting season can be found online at www.michigan.gov/dnr.



Harrison Copeland got this eight-point buck with a bow at about 4:30 p.m. last Monday, hunting on land near Rockford. The bow deer season started Oct. 1 and goes until Nov. 14, the day before the firearm deer season starts. Bow deer season will resume Dec. 1 until Jan. 1.

Heart health important for safe deer hunting experience

It's that time of the year again - getting up at the crack of dawn in the cold on Nov. 15, the first day of firearm deer season in Michigan, to hunt down that big buck. But, every year, the media reports of the first day of the hunt include the first stories of hunters suffering heart attacks while in the woods. If you're not prepared or haven't had a physical or haven't exercised much in

the year since the last hunt, you may be putting yourself at a risk of a heart attack.

"Hunters rarely consider that their sport is actually an athletic event and that the excitement and exertion take a toll on their bodies," said Bill Buck, Community Liaison Project coordinator for Spectrum Health HeartReach and a volunteer for the American Heart Association. "Hunters should

start training and conditioning months before they 'perform,' but most don't and their heart and circulatory system sometimes suffers the consequences."

Hunters who have not been to their doctor in the year since the last hunt should take this opportunity to get a checkup.

"People should take a look at their major risk factors for heart disease regularly," said Buck. "Ask your doctor to check your blood pressure and your cholesterol

levels, and make sure that strenuous exercise is recommended." Smoking is another major risk factor for heart attack and heart disease.

Other tips that are recommended include avoiding eating a heavy breakfast before heading out into the woods and not to hunt alone. Also bring a cell phone along with you so you can reach emergency services if they are needed, and have friends or family know where you are and when you are scheduled to return.

Studies show that being physically fit lowers heart disease risk even in people who have other risk factors like high blood pressure and high blood cholesterol. To help anyone start a physical fitness program, the American Heart Association has a program called "Just Move" available at americanheart.org.

Warning signs of a heart attack are an uncomfortable pressure, fullness, squeezing or pain in the center of the chest that lasts more

than a few minutes or goes away and comes back again. Also, the pain spreads to the shoulders, neck and arms and is often accompanied by lightheadedness, sweating, nausea and shortness of breath. Stroke is also a concern while hunting, and its warning signs include a sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, and a sudden dizziness and loss of coordination. Both are medical emergencies and 911 needs to be accessed immediately.

Look out for mountain lions

The Michigan Wildlife Conservancy is urging Michigan's gun deer hunters to report sightings of cougars (mountain lions) again this fall. For the last seven years, the nonprofit organization, based near Lansing, has conducted research on the big predators, which were once thought to have vanished from the state by the early 1900s. Field work by the Wildlife Conservancy has detected cougars in widely-separated areas of

both the Upper and Lower Peninsulas.

"We suspect that on Nov. 15 more cougars are seen in Michigan than on any other date," said R. Charles McLavy, president of the Conservancy. "Deer hunter reports have helped identify cougar home ranges in years past, so we are again asking the state's 750,000 gun hunters for help in obtaining information about

Mountain Lions, cont'd., pg. 18

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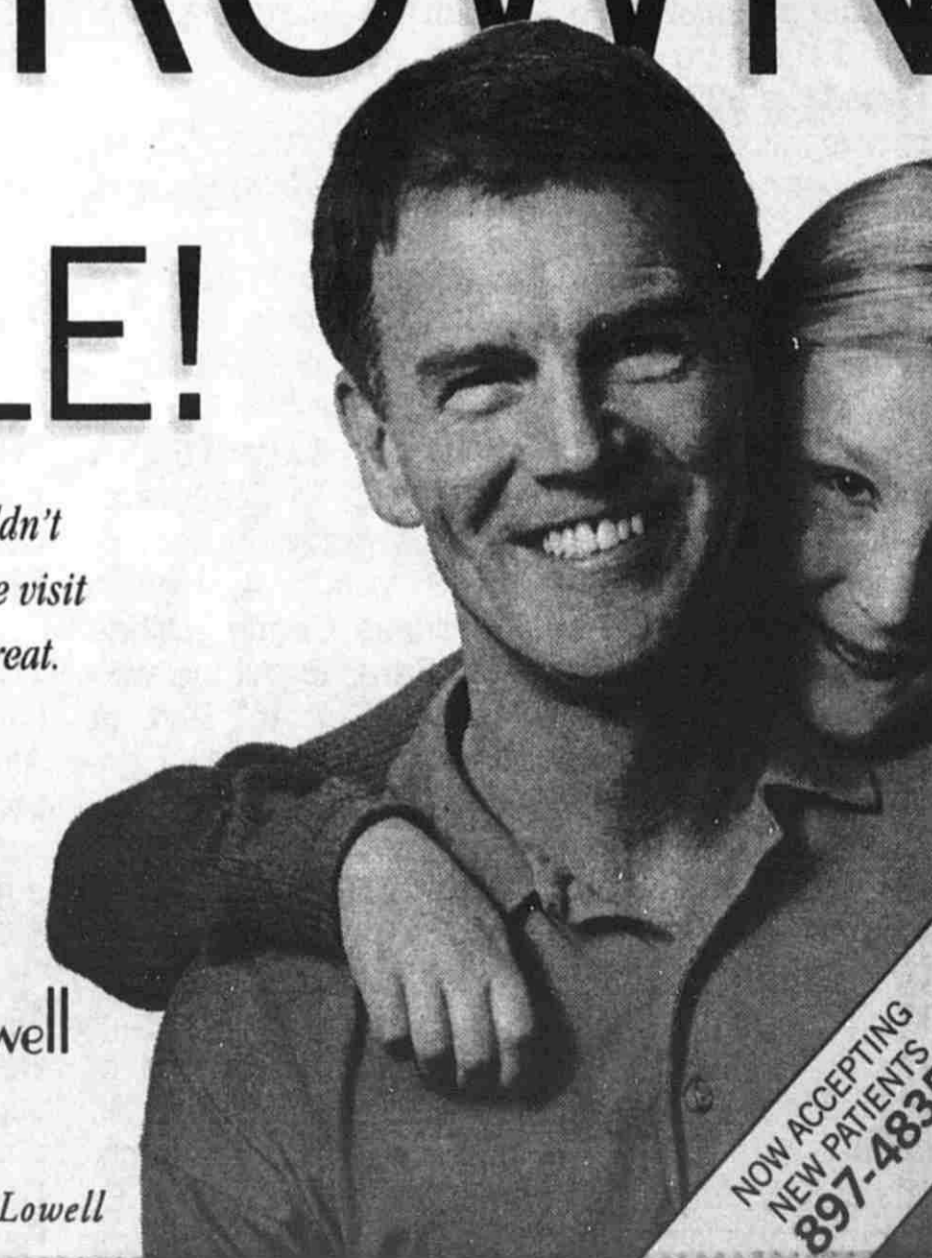
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Lowell basketball beats Huskies, picks up first loss at FHC

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell girls basketball team added another mark in the win column last Tuesday with a 59-36 dismantling of Forest Hills Northern.

Lowell got off to a fast start when Brittany Bueche hit nothing but net on the

Arrows' first possession. A steal on an inbounds pass immediately set up another scoring opportunity. Lowell was up 17-7 after the first quarter and pretty much ran the show the entire game.

They stole the ball frequently in the second quarter. This, combined

with efficiently feeding the ball inside, enabled Lowell to extend the lead to 30-18 by halftime.

"I thought that was one of our better games, putting everything together again," Lowell coach Dee Crowley said. "We had a lot of people scoring and looking to score. We played good team defense."

Bueche led the Arrows in scoring with 15 points. She hit four 3-pointers on the night. Brook VanEck scored 11. Chelsea Harrison and Kelsey Crowley each scored eight.

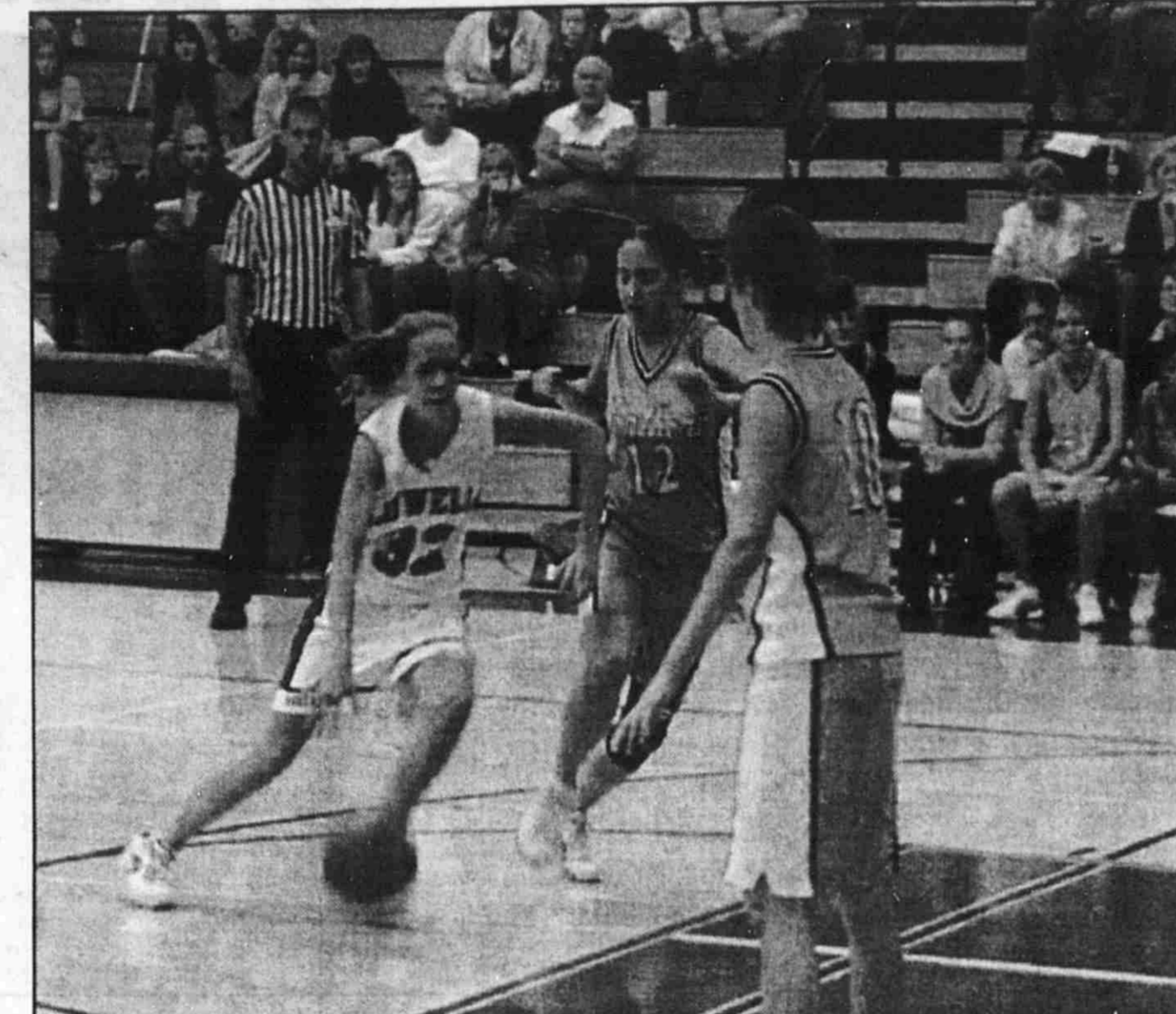
Crowley and Amanda Geelhoed each had five rebounds to lead the team. The pair combined for seven offensive rebounds in the game. Nicole Shepard led Lowell in assists with three.

Defensively, Lowell held the OK White's leading scorer, Emily Rosenzweig, to 10 points in the game. Lowell had seven steals and forced 16 turnovers in the game.

Last Thursday, Forest Hills Central caught the Red Arrows on their heels, posting a 55-46 upset win.

"Basically, we didn't come ready to play," Crowley said of Lowell's first loss this season.

The Rangers led 15-10 after one quarter and never



Lowell's Kelsey Crowley drives the lane against Huskies' defenders.

relinquished the lead. They were up by 11 at halftime. Lowell trimmed the lead to six during the third quarter, but couldn't close that deficit in the fourth.

The Arrows were only seven of 35 shooting in the second half, and hit only 10 of 25 from the free throw line.

Bueche led Lowell with 18 points and hit four from downtown for the second straight game. VanEck added 11 points and led Lowell in rebounds with

seven. Crowley and Shepard each had three assists.

Crowley said it is up to the players to determine how the team will react to the first loss of the season.

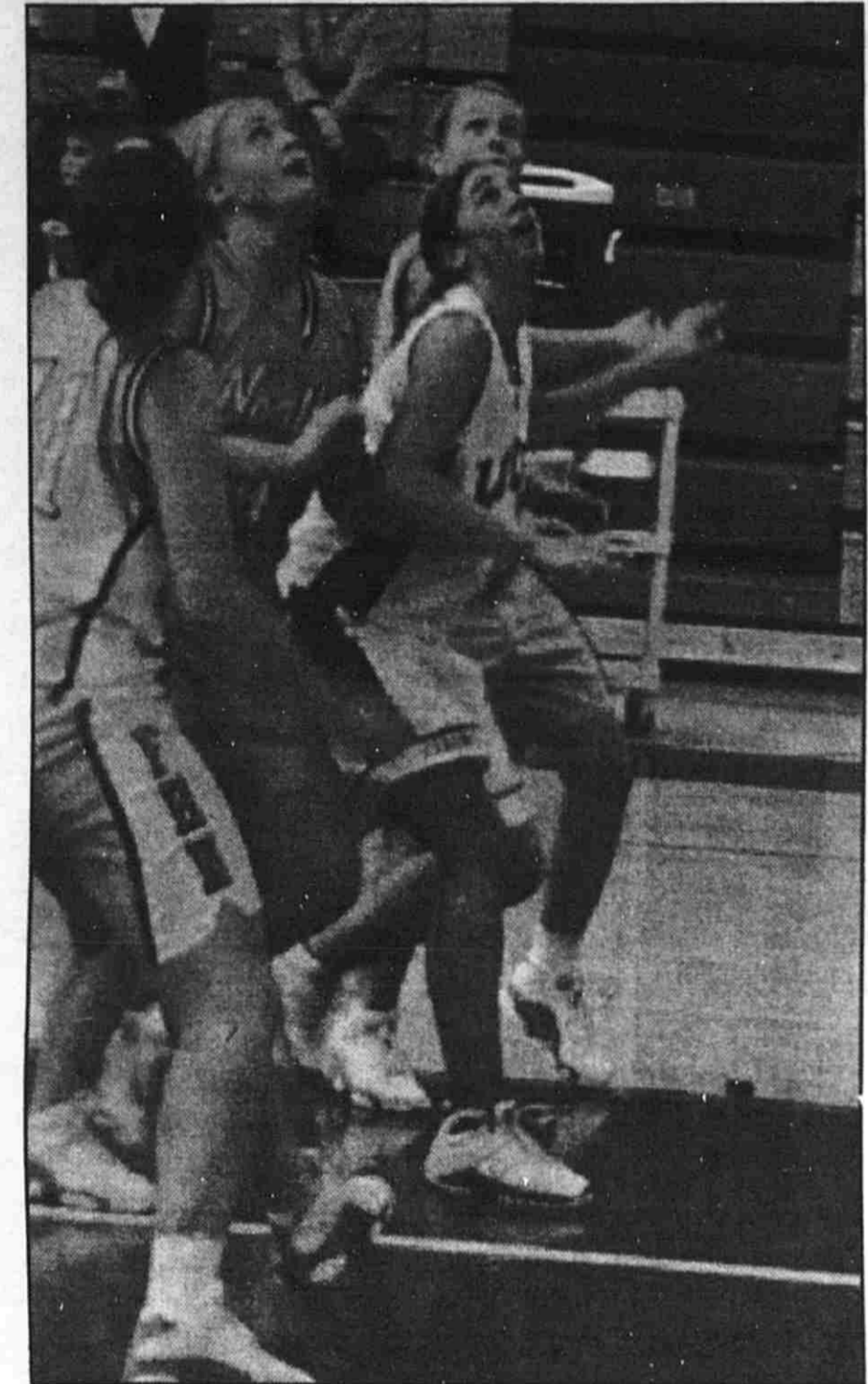
"We can take it as a challenge or they can let it completely take away their confidence," Crowley said.

The loss will not impact Lowell's standing in the OK White. The Arrows locked up the conference championship a few games ago.

Lowell hosted Northview Tuesday for the

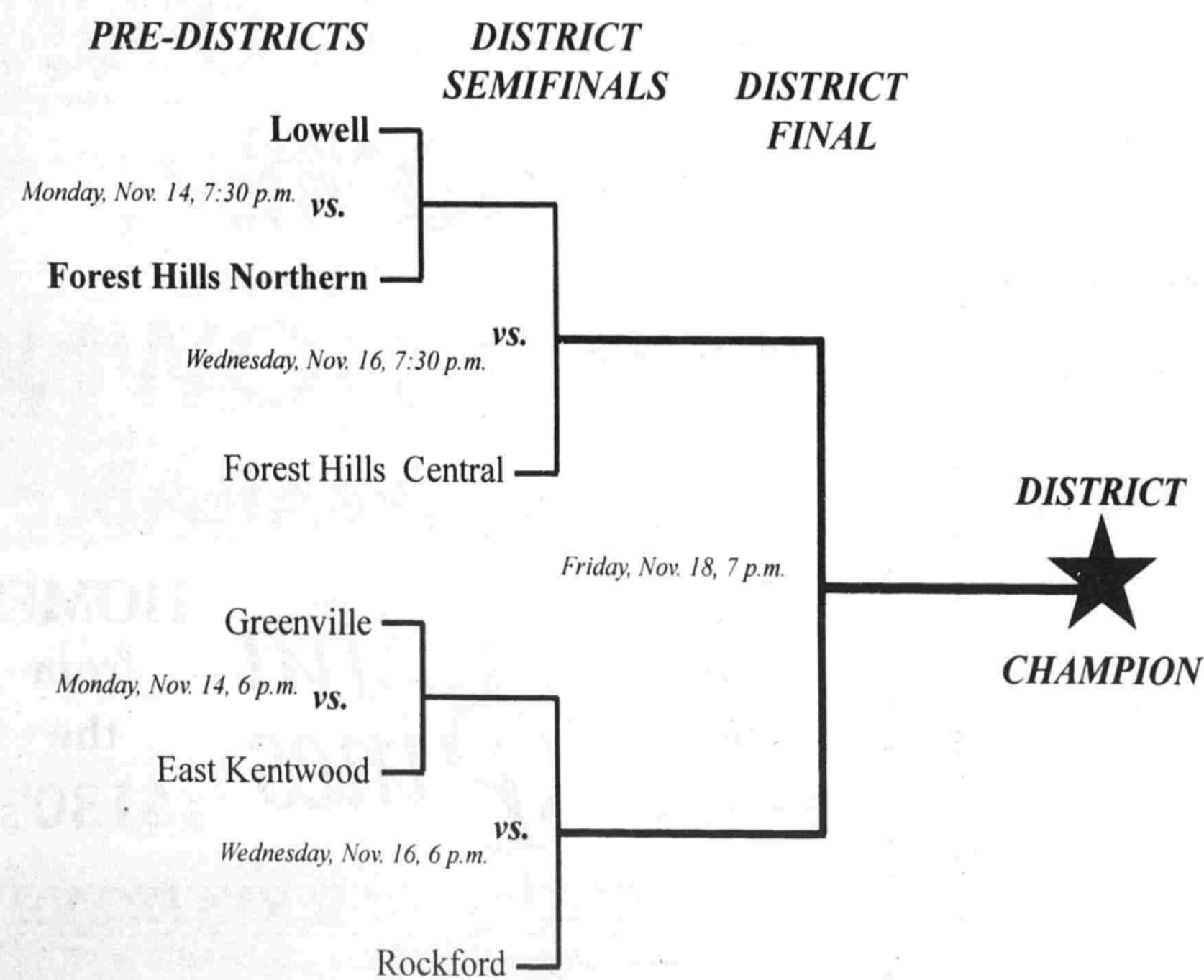
final game of the conference season. The Red Arrows host a crossover game with OK Green champions Unity Christian Thursday. In an effort to pack the stands, all Lowell High School students with valid student identification will get free admission to Thursday's game. Elementary students get in free when accompanied by a paying adult.

Then it's off to the playoffs. Districts start Monday with Lowell playing Forest Hills Northern at Northern at 7:30 p.m.



Lowell's Brook VanEck works to get position for a rebound.

GIRLS BASKETBALL 2005 CLASS A DISTRICT 7 TOURNAMENT NOVEMBER 14-18 AT FOREST HILLS NORTHERN



District champion advances to regional at Caledonia, Nov. 21-23

GO RED ARROWS!

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider amending Sections 6.6.2 through 6.7.4 of the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance which pertains to the Township Zoning Board of Appeals. The proposed amendments provide specific standards for the review of variance requests, prohibit the Board from granting use variances and prohibit the Board from hearing appeals pertaining to special land uses and planned unit developments.

The hearing will be held as follows:

WHEN: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2005
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
LOWELL, MI 49331

The proposed amendments are available for review at the Lowell Charter Township Offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, MI 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or by calling 897-7600.

Dave Simmonds, Secretary
Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission

Lowell High School FFA competes at national convention

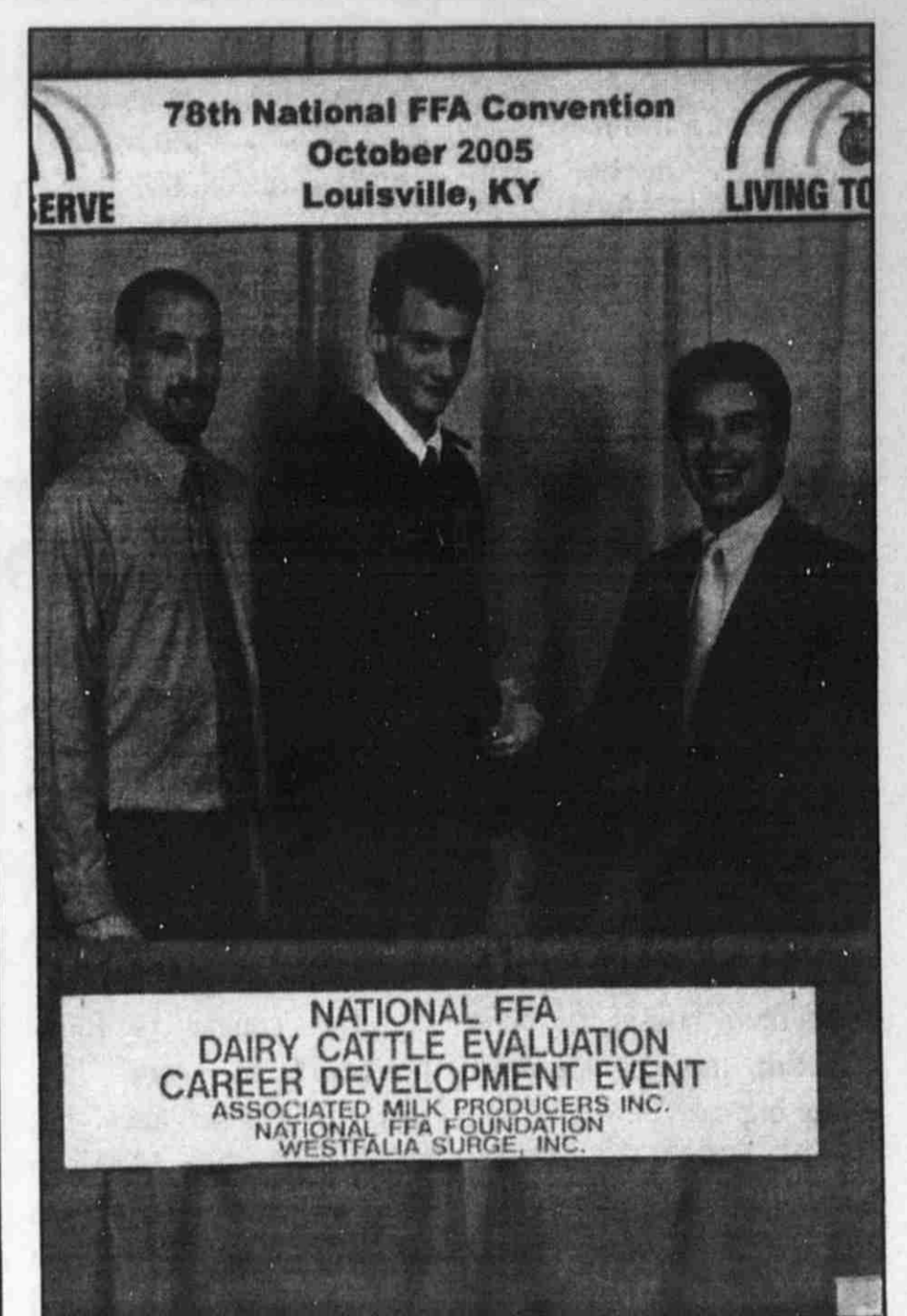
A total of 15 students from the Lowell FFA attended the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, Oct. 26-29.

Grady Drown earned a gold award by placing 11th in the National Dairy Handler's event. In this contest, students are judged based on how well they can handle a dairy animal and present it for judging. Drown is the first student from Lowell to earn this award.

In the Agricultural Issues contest, the Lowell team advanced to the semifinal round and earned

a Silver Award. Members included Kelly Foote, Katie Serne, Marie Wade, Stephanie Wade, Katie Ward, Shelly Wernet and Michelle Wolf. The team prepared a presentation based on the possible annexation of the land at Vergennes and Alden Nash.

In addition to competing in national contests, listening to motivational speakers and attending the agricultural career show, students toured the Louisville Slugger factory and visited the Kentucky Derby Museum at Churchill Downs.



Above: Grady Drown, center, is pictured with Lowell FFA advisor Kevin Nugent, left, and Donn DeVelder, Associated Milk Producers, Inc. Drown earned a gold award in the Dairy Handler's event.

At left: Team members in the Agricultural Issues contest, left to right, are: Lowell FFA advisor Kevin Nugent, Katie Serne, Shelly Wernet, Kelly Foote, Michelle Wolf, Stephanie Wade, Katie Ward, Marie Wade, and Bruce Bye, Elanco Animal Health.

Identity theft telemarketing schemes return

Despite the federal do-not-call laws, dishonest telemarketers continue to create scams to trick you into giving them your valuable personal information. Con artists call consumers in the Western Michigan area with tricks like these:

- Jury Duty:** The scammer calls claiming to work for the local court and says you've failed to report for jury duty. He tells you that a warrant has been issued for your arrest. You are astonished at this call and rightly claim you never received any jury duty notification. The con
- Artist:** artist then asks you for confidential information. In reality, court workers never call you to ask for Social Security numbers and other private information. In fact, most courts follow up via mail and rarely, if ever, call prospective jurors.
- Internet:** Your information is on the Internet: The scammer calls to alert you. Their company has discovered that personal information of yours has somehow appeared on the Internet.
- Check:** They tell you their company can remove your information but you must give them your checking

account or credit card numbers to be sure they have the correct information. Sometimes they just claim to be your bank or the government. This scam is often directed at senior citizens.

The reasons they give you don't matter. Never give out your Social Security number, credit card numbers or personal confidential information when you receive a phone call. Ken Vander Meeden, president of the Better Business Bureau of Western Michigan, said "ID theft scammers are getting more creative in seeking key information from unsuspecting locals. I hate to say this but it is almost

to the point of not trusting anyone who ever calls over the phone and asks for sensitive information. Ask them to mail the materials, then check it out with your local BBB or other information agency like the FTC.gov web site." Contact the BBB at www.westernmichigan.bbb.org or call 1-800-684-3222.

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SUNDAY, November 13
4:00 - 6:00 PM
Sponsored by Riverside Fellowship of Seventh-day Adventists

LUNCH MENU

ELEMENTARY MENU
Week of Nov. 14, 2005

MON: Hamburger on bun (Alto & Murray Lake - stacked ham/cheese on bun also offered), oven French fries, assorted fruit, chocolate pudding, milk.

TUES: Chicken patty on bun (Alto & Murray Lake - dino pasta w/franks also offered), steamed green beans, assorted fruit, soft pretzel, milk.

WED: Corn dog (Alto & Murray Lake - grilled cheese sandwich also offered), tomato soup, assorted fruit, pretzel rod, milk.

THURS: Pepperoni pizza (Alto & Murray Lake - Fish patty on bun also offered), fresh vegetables/dip, assorted fruit, milk.

FRI: Mozzarella cheese sticks w/pizza sauce (Alto & Murray Lake - hamburger on bun also offered), fresh tossed salad, assorted fruit, milk.

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