

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 35 Issue 1

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, November 8, 2006

Survivor of U.S.S. Indianapolis tragedy will share story at Veteran's dinner

By Emma Palova

This year's Veterans Day dinner on Nov. 13 will feature speaker Richard Thelen, a survivor of the U.S.S. Indianapolis CA 35.

"Each year we have a different speaker," said legion commander Fay Johnson of Cascade. "It's an appreciation of veterans."

The main purpose of the dinner is to honor veterans of all wars. Originally, Veterans Day was a celebration of Armistice Day or the end of World War I on Nov. 11, 1918.

Thelen, who lives in Lansing, gives talks about the sunken ship that delivered components of the atomic bomb to the Tinian Island.

"There's not a day that I don't relive part of it,"

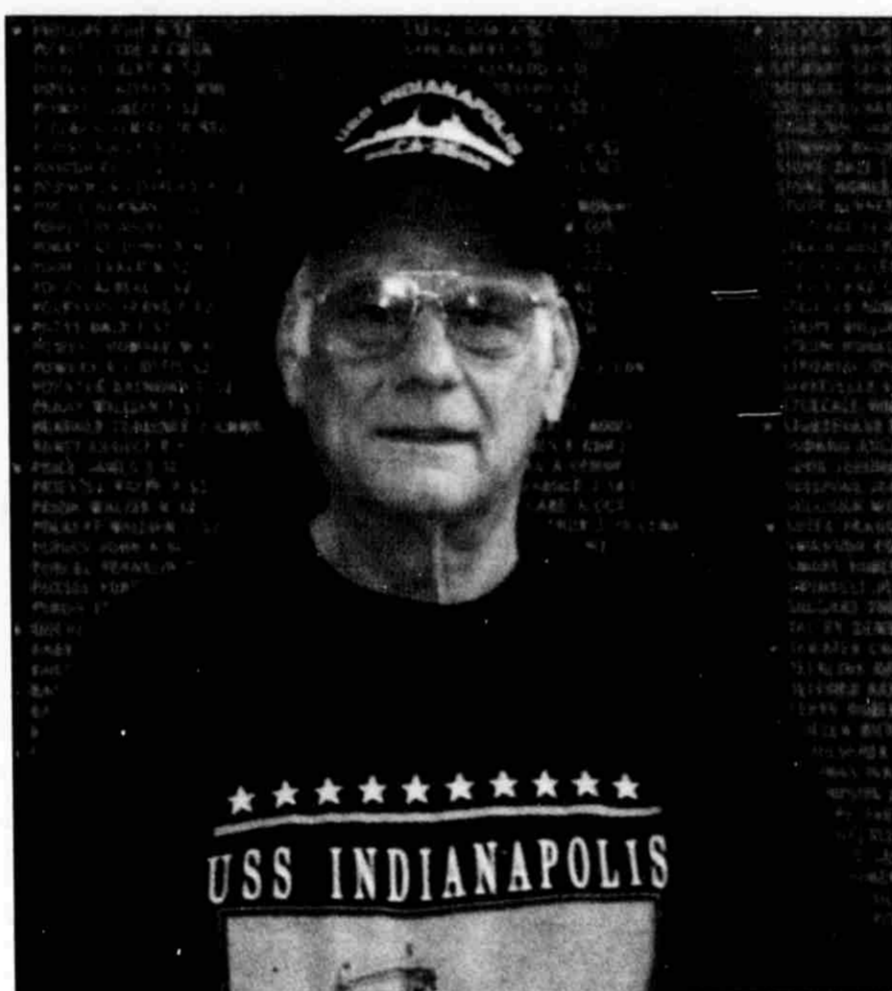
he said. "I go to schools to talk to kids about what happened."

Thelen was sent to the U.S.S. Indianapolis at Mare Island in 1945. The ship sailed from the United States to Pearl Harbor and then headed out to Tinian Island and the Philippines.

"I started sleeping topside because it was too hot below," wrote Thelen in his survivor story. "My sleeping quarters were two levels below the mess hall."

Around midnight on July 30, a torpedo hit the bow of the ship. The second explosion, which blew a hole in the ship bottom, knocked Thelen down. The ship pitched to the starboard side and continued to go down, according to Thelen's memoirs.

Thelen, with 75 other



Richard Thelen, a survivor of the U.S.S. Indianapolis, will speak at the Lowell Veterans facility next Monday.

men, put oil from the ship on their bodies and life jackets because they knew

they would be in the water for a long time.

Thelen's story tells

about the men riding 10-foot swells all night.

Three days later there were still no rescue ships on the horizon. Later, sharks appeared and ate injured men and loners. Thelen's group shrank down to 20.

"I was thirsty and hungry," wrote Thelen, "my thinking was becoming cloudy. I began to dose off more and more."

Four days later, the bobbing men were spotted by Chuck Gwinn on a routine flight. Gwinn began to drop rafts and survivor gear.

"It was difficult to see," wrote Thelen, "my eyes were swollen shut from the sun, salt and oil. A raft appeared 100 yards from us."

Thelen, unable to climb inside, tied himself to the raft to stay afloat.

A seaplane started dropping more survivor gear.

"We were now hopeful, onlysemiconscious, slipping in and out of reality," wrote Thelen.

The next day, after five nights and four days in the water, the U.S.S. Doyle picked up the men with a net and a raft.

"Once on deck, I thought I could walk," wrote Thelen. "I was so weak I nearly fell down. I was given clear liquid, bouillon and water. Later I was told it was 100 percent alcohol."

On Aug. 6, Thelen with 93 other survivors was

transferred to the hospital ship Tranquility. He had to be lifted in a wire basket.

"I have no recollection of being transferred off the Doyle," Thelen wrote.

The survivors were transported on a small plane, the Halladin to San Diego. Thelen remained serving in Detroit.

While still in the water, Thelen and a friend, Robert Terry had promised each other that if only one of them survived, he would visit the other's family. "I didn't go until spring," wrote Thelen. "I put it off all winter. I never did tell the full story."

Every two years a reunion for the survivors, family and friends is held in Indianapolis.

Thelen and other survivors spent 104 hours in their life jackets in the ocean. There were 880 men who lost their lives in the incident; 317 survived. The captain was court-martialed for losing a ship.

Some survivors compiled their stories in a book titled "Only 317 Survived." The book will be available for sale after Thelen's presentation. Proceeds from book sales will go toward a museum in downtown Indianapolis.

The catered dinner for the veterans will begin at 6 p.m. at the Lowell Veterans facility, 3116 S. Alden Nash. The program follows at 7 p.m. It is free and open to anyone interested.

Couple to speak about wartime separation at LHS Performing Arts Center

By Emma Palova

As a nurse in training in a Detroit hospital in 1944, Marian Wisner saved the only letter she received from her husband Allen inside her nurse's bib. She carried it around for days. Although she knew Allen was missing in action from the military,

she had no idea about the details.

The letter was delivered by a representative from the Swiss Red Cross to prevent censorship. All correspondence, according to Allen, was censored.

"I was very lonesome," she said. "It was a hard time not knowing if he was dead

or alive. I was a lot more fortunate than most girls."

Whenever mail was delivered to the hospital, it was a big event. All the girls were waiting for letters.

"Letters were a big part of our life, all the boys were in service," she said. "Mail time was the highlight of the day."

It was from that letter

that Marian found out Allen was a prisoner of war somewhere in Slovakia. He was shot down on his 15th mission on June 26, 1944, approximately 35 miles out of the capital Bratislava. He suffered a compression fracture of the back, and had to be given morphine.

"I didn't want to tell where I was in case the letter was intercepted," he said.

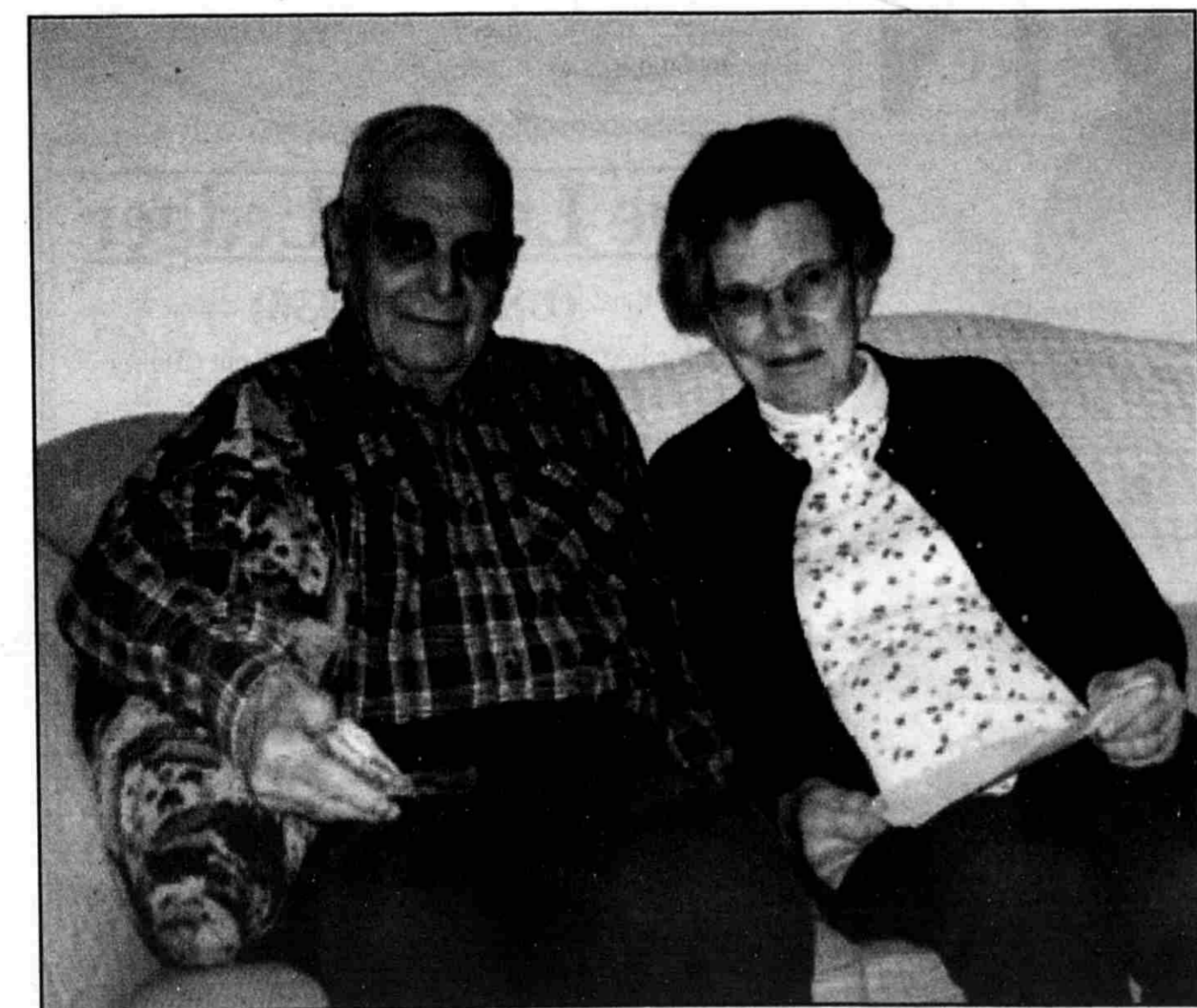
But Allen was lucky. Sister Benecia from South Dakota, who couldn't get out of Europe because of the war, spoke English and helped translate.

"When war broke out, they wouldn't let her back," he said.

Allen didn't tell in his letter how severely he was injured. He had burnt eyelids and no eyelashes, his plane landed on a rooftop.

"He wrote about watching the snow on ground on Christmas Day and how much he missed us," said Marian.

Life for the girls consisted of watching newsreels at the theaters to find out as much as possible about the war in Europe.



Allen and Marian Wisner will be participating in a program at Lowell High School on Nov. 9.

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cont'd., pg. 7

VETERANS DAY
NOVEMBER 11

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The Lowell Ledger

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Obituaries

HOWARD (NELSON) Our loving Mom, Patsy Ann Howard, aged 74, of Saranac, went to be with her Lord on November 5, 2006, in the loving care of her family. She was born in Lansing on March 17, 1932, to Versil and Pearl (Lamb) Reed. Patsy graduated from Saranac High School in 1949, and on March 19, 1949, married Miles Nelson, Jr. in Clarksville. Miles preceded her in death on April 9, 1987. On September 14, 1996, Patsy married Richard D. Howard in Belding. Richard preceded her in death on September 28, 2003. Mom loved her most recent job as a greeter at the Ionia Wal-Mart. She had also been a farmer, and worked at the Attwood Corp. for many years. Patsy loved to bowl, travel and fish. Over the years, she had crocheted afghans as wedding and birth gifts for her kids and grandkids. She liked being in the Red Hat Society, but most of all, she loved her family. She was always there for us. Patsy was a member of the Clarksville Bible Church. She is survived by her children P. Esther (Ron) White of Belding, Suzanne (Bill) Meyers, Debra (Ken) Minnie, Miles (Pam) Nelson, Daniel Nelson, all of Saranac, Kenneth Nelson of Lake Odessa; foster-daughter Laurie (Matt) Schultz of Ionia; step-daughter Charlotte Hill of Battle Creek; 37 grandchildren; 54 great-grandkids; one great-grandchild; brother-in-laws John (Karen) Nelson of Highland, Mitch Conley of Ionia; sister-in-law Ruth

Lawrence of Bellevue; brother-in-law and sister-in-law Russell (Betty) Howard of Marshall; many cousins, nieces and nephews. Patsy was preceded in death by her parents, and sister June Conley. Visitation will be at the Kooops Funeral Chapel in Clarksville on Wednesday, Nov. 8 from 1-3 and 6-8 p.m. The funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday at the Clarksville Bible Church. Burial in Saranac Cemetery. The family suggests that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to Spectrum Health Hospice of Grand Rapids, or the Clarksville Bible Church.

KREBS

George E. Krebs, aged 84, of Alto, passed away at home surrounded by his family on Sunday, October 29, 2006. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Mary Krebs; children Barbara Swanson and Robert Krebs; special daughter Edith (Donald) Mosley; grandchildren Jeff

(Kathy), Matt, Tara (Alex), Todd (Min), Paula and Scott; great-grandchildren Joseph, Melanie, Laila; brothers Harold (Gladys) Krebs, David (Susanne) Krebs; sister Irma Porter; sisters-in-law and brother-in-law Marian Kowalczyk, Joe Kowalczyk, Pat Kowalczyk; many nieces and nephews. The Mass of Christian Burial was offered Thursday at Holy Family Catholic Church, with Fr. David LeBlanc, presiding. Interment in Bowne Center Cemetery. The family suggests memorial contributions be made to the American Legion Post #528 (Alto) or Faith Hospice.

LIEFFERS

John A. Lieffers, aged 66, of Grattan Twp., Belding, passed away Monday, October 30, 2006, at his home. John was born on August 11, 1940, in Coopersville, the son of Arthur and Mary Hornacek Lieffers. John was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church of Parnell

and of United Auto Workers Local No. 730. He retired on Oct. 1, 1999, from the General Motors Grand Rapids Metal Plant after 40 years of service. He was married on Aug. 24, 1963, at St. Mary Catholic Church to Mary Ann Rittersdorf and she survives along with their children Linda and Joe Loughlin, Karen and Keith Cook, Nancy and Rob Richardson, Mary and Steve Triesenberg, John and Tami Lieffers; grandchildren Cody, Kaitlyn, Stephanie, Megan, David and Katie; mother Mary Lieffers; sister Janice Hollenbeck of Ohio. John was preceded by his father. Mass of Christian Burial was offered Thursday at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Parnell, with Father Rock Badgerow presiding. Interment at St. Patrick Cemetery. Memorials may be given to St. Patrick School.

NUMMER

Hazel Anne Nummer (Peckham), aged 85, of Lowell, died suddenly Tuesday, October 31, 2006. She was born March 26, 1921, to Lena and William Peckham of Lowell. She was preceded in death by her parents, son Lester Miller, husband Nelson Nummer, sister Ruth Wester, and brothers William Peckham, Richard Peckham, Frank Peckham, Robert Peckman. She is survived by her sons Wayne (Marianne) Miller of Shelton, WA, William (Lonnie) Miller of North Port, FL, Larry (Pat) Miller and Roger Miller both of Lowell; her daughter Mary (Jerry) Strauss of Lowell; 25 grandchildren; 57 great-grandchildren; 14 great-great-grandchildren; sisters Margie Lowry, Cora Yeiter, Dolores Peckham all of Lowell; brothers Howard (Rowena) Peckham of Comins, MI, Fred Peckham of Zephyrhills, FL, Oscar (Shirley) Peckham of Lowell; sisters-in-law Margaret Peckham of Lowell, Helen Peckham of Grand Rapids; special nieces Joan Venneman, Marilyn McClure; many nieces, nephews and friends. Funeral

service was held Friday at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, Rev. Phil Struckmeyer of Impact a Wesleyan Church, officiating. Entombment Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens. Memorial contributions may be made to: American Heart Association.

RICKNER - BAGBY

Marsha H. Rickner-Bagby passed away Friday, November 3, 2006. Marsha was born in Lowell and was preceded in death by her parents, husband Scott Bagby, sister Janet Huyck, and step-daughter Joan Cleavland. She is survived by sisters Annie May Justice, Rose Mary Beattie, Rebekah Ruffe; step-children Walter Bagby, Gordon Bagby, Marylaine Block; loving family members. Private family services were held to celebrate Marsha's life. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

SEELEY

Louie James, aged 84, of Ada and Croton, left his wife Betty (Gladstone) of 65 years on October 28, 2006, to join his son Gary and brother Dennis. Lou served in the Signal Corp of the Fifth Army Air Force in the Pacific. He was a proud member of the Croton American Legion Post 381 and a life member of VFW Post 830 in Grand Rapids. He was a graduate of South High School, class of 1940, where he played football and baseball earning a scholarship to Western Michigan University in baseball. He was so proud of his children Gregory (Marcia) of Ada, Wendy Thomas of Florida, Lucinda Graves of Colorado. He leaves seven grandchildren Brady, Wesley, Nathan (Tonya), Heather, Ashley, Kellen, Emily; brother Darold (Delores) of Colorado; sister Sharon (Ken) of Alto. Honoring Louie's wishes, he was cremated and there will be no funeral services. A memorial will be held Father's Day 2007 with his family and friends.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate FILE NO. 06-182-350-DE

Estate of EDWARD A. PETERSEN, deceased SSN: 371-30-6576

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, EDWARD A. PETERSEN, who lived at 6840 Chandler Drive NE, Belmont, MI, died September 17, 2006. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to GREGORY

C. PETERSEN, named personal representative, or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court 180 Ottawa Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice. October 26, 2006

Craig Avery P10311 3875 W. River Dr., P.O. Box 327 Comstock Park, MI 49321 616-784-5080

Gregory C. Petersen 9784 Courtland Dr. NE Rockford, MI 49341 616-644-5745

Josh Ford

11/17/80 - 11/7/99

Seven years ago you left this earth. Even though you may not walk with us here, you are still such a huge part of our life.

Every step we take, every joy we go through, every heartache we endure, YOU ARE HERE WITH US In our memories and in our hearts.

We miss you each and every day Josh. Continue to watch over us.

We wait for the day we see you again.

Love Always,

Mom, Greg, Gerrid, Justin, Michele, Andy & Ellery, Grandma & Grandpa and all your family and friends

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The Lowell Ledger

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Lowell Police Dept. to get new radios, video cameras

By Emma Palova

The Lowell Police Department (LPD) will get new radios following the city council's approval Monday of the purchase.

Police chief Jim Valentine requested a waiver of the lowest bid of three bids received. The radios will be purchased from Drew Wireless LLC at a cost of \$3,185. Drew Wireless has been handling the installation of Walker police radios. The city of Lowell has a dispatch agreement with the Walker Police Department. The four cruiser radios currently in use were purchased and installed in 1991 when the LPD switched dispatch from Kent County to Walker.

According to Valentine, the radios have required little maintenance, but because of the age they are becoming more expensive to repair. Currently, one of the four cruiser radios is dropping frequencies from the scan list, so the police department cannot monitor adjacent sheriff department patrol area calls.

By replacing all six radios, the front line vehicles will be equipped with similar radios that are identical in operation and function. According to Valentine, in high stress situations, the officer does not have to take his eyes off the road to look at what knob to operate, change radio channels or volume controls.

"I want to keep them all the same," said Valentine. One main feature of the radio systems is when the unit radio is keyed to transmit, the unit radio number highlights on the dispatcher's screen.

"That is an added officer safety feature," said Valentine.

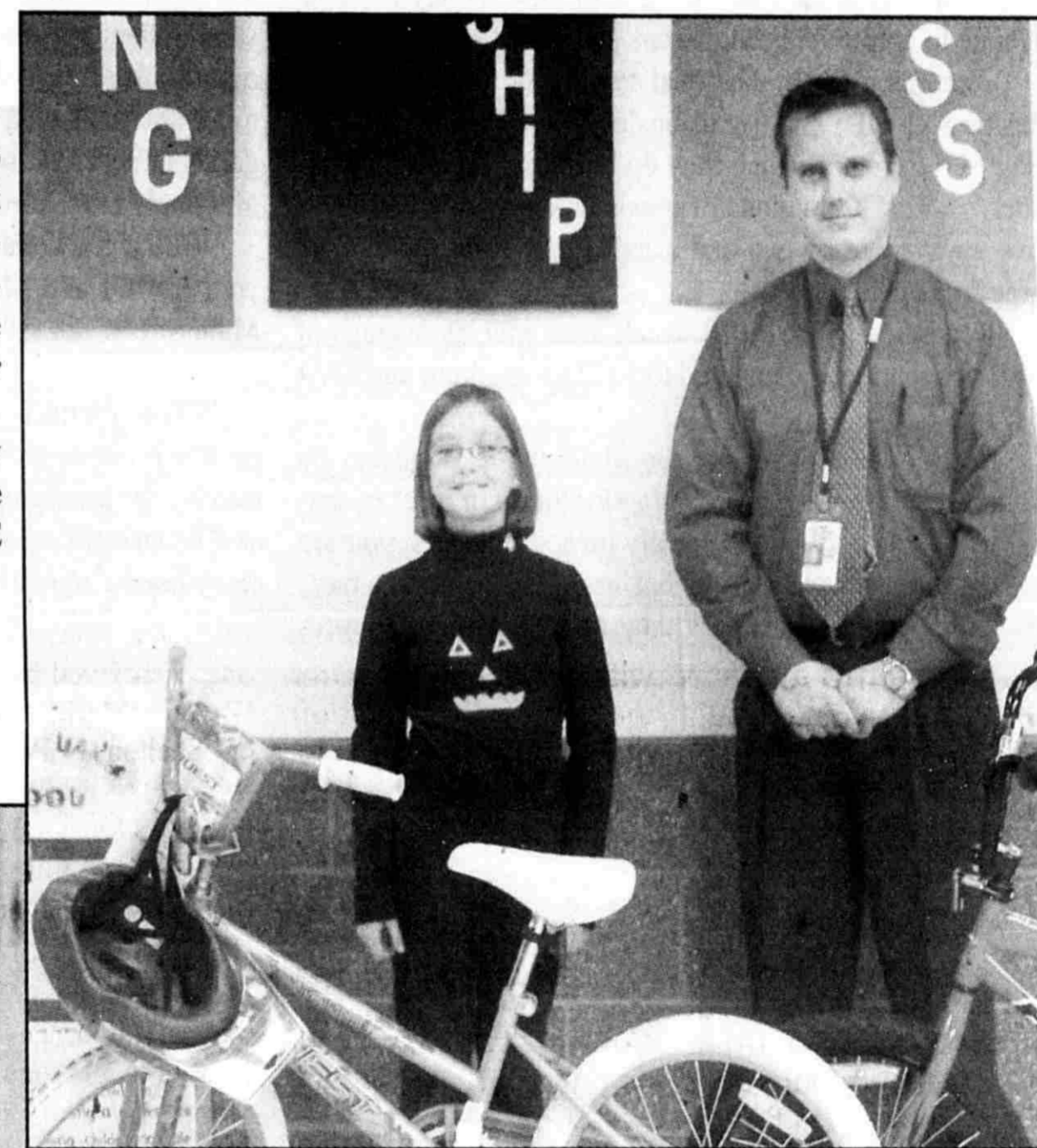
The LPD will also get new digital video cameras funded by a grant from the Highway Safety Planning for \$25,000. The department is responsible for the cost of a desktop computer and hard drive funded from Look Funds for \$1,200. The cameras have the ability to record and capture everything immediately.

"It's another tool for evidence admissible into court," said Valentine.

D.A.R.E. bicycle winners announced

Mackenzie Bush, one of two winners of a DARE bike raffle at Murray Lake Elementary, is pictured at right with Officer Steve Bukala, organizer of the raffle. The other winner was Brenden Cooper pictured below with his bike.

The bikes were donated by Meijer to help Officer Bukala raise money for the fifth grade DARE program.



NEWS
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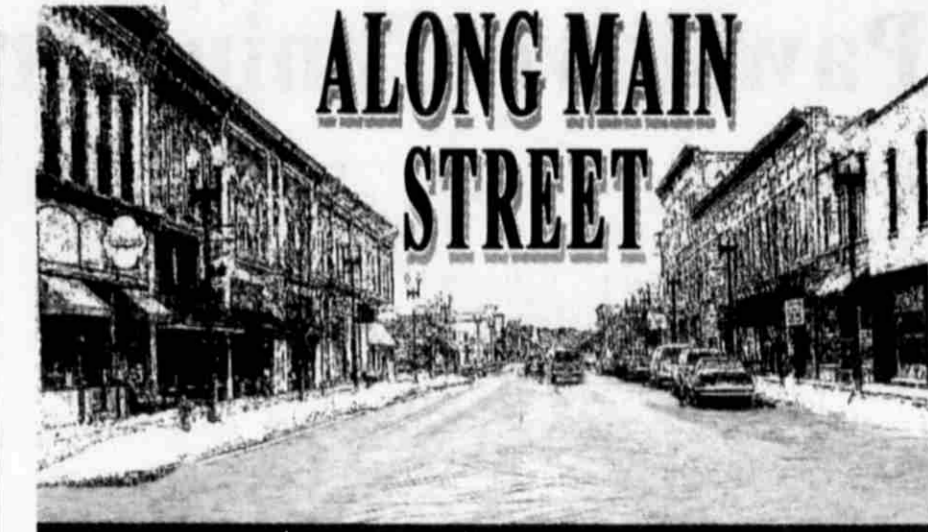
Angel Tree Donations

Family Dentistry of Lowell will be helping Wood TV and the Salvation Army by collecting gifts for underprivileged children throughout the area. Tags will be available at our office as of November 14.

Unwrapped gifts can be dropped off at our location between November 17 and December 16.

For the last six years, we have proudly participated in this worthwhile cause. We sincerely thank everyone that has responded so generously in the past and look forward to another successful year.

Family Dentistry of Lowell
147 N. Center St.
Drs. Ann Wilson, Robert Mull, Jennifer Byrd and Staff



LOWELL VETERANS PROGRAM

The public is invited to Lowell Area Historical Museum's "Lowell Veterans Tell Their Stories: Letters Home - Love & War" this Thursday at 7 p.m. in LHS Performing Arts Center. Allen and Marian Wisner and Collin and Eleanor Williams will speak.

FOOD PANTRY

If you can help, FROM food pantry needs canned or boxed potatoes, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, Hamburger Helper and Tuna Helper.

SLEIGH BELLS AND HOLLY

Meet the artists for "Sleigh Bells and Holly - A gallery of fine art and gifts" at a reception this Thursday from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Lowell Area Arts Council, 149 S. Hudson. Over 20 artists/artisans with their artwork on display beginning Nov. 9 - Dec. 23. Visit www.lowellartscouncil.org for extended gallery hours.

MATH PARENT MEETING

Math Informational Night will be held at Cherry Creek on Thursday, Nov. 16 for parents of kindergarten - 5th grade students attending Bushnell and Cherry Creek elementaries. Registration begins at 6:20; grade level meetings begin at 6:30. Call to register: Bushnell 987-2650; Cherry Creek 987-2700.

CHRISTMAS THROUGH LOWELL

Visit local artisans, crafters and retail establishments Nov. 17, 18 and 19 for a unique shopping experience. Call the chamber at 897-9161 or visit www.christmasthroughlowell.org.

CANNONBURG SCHOOL SKI/SNOWBOARD CLUB

For information contact Laurie Summerfield at 987-2900, LSummerfield@lowell.k12.mi.us or Robin Briggs 897-9904, Rbriggs@lowell.k12.mi.us or pick up at your school office. Nov. 15 deadline for passes for Thanksgiving break.

REMEMBER...

Our deadline is 4 P.M. ON FRIDAY!

Call us if you can't make it until Monday. If we can, we'll help you out! The Lowell Ledger • 105 N. Broadway 616-897-9261

LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS

"SUPERINTENDENT'S NIGHT IN"

Greg Pratt will be in on Monday, November 20 to answer any questions from students, staff members or members of the community and to hear comments and suggestions.

Runciman Administration Bldg. Board Room
300 High St., Lowell
Monday, November 20, 2006
7:00 p.m.

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FLUSHED AWAY (PG)
1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 7:15, 9:15
FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS (R)
1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
CSAW III (R)
12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40
FLICKA (PG)
12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00
COUPON FREE 20oz DRINK
with \$2.50 purchase of 40oz. bag of battery popcorn
at participating locations. See store for details.

Pawsitive Canine Training Center needs special use permit

By Emma Palova

A public hearing will be held for a proposed canine training facility on Lincoln Lake Ave. south of Vergennes Street.

The Vergennes Township ordinance requires a special use permit for the training facility to be located in the commercial/industrial district.

According to materials submitted to the township,

the Pawsitive Canine Training Center will be used for obedience and agility training of dogs as pets.

The 10,000-square foot training area, on 1.5 acres, will be fenced to prevent dogs from running loose; and total traffic will be six cars twice a day. An existing storage building will be remodeled to serve the needs of the facility.

Jay Kilpatrick, of Williams & Works, said the

concern of escaped dogs and traffic are relatively minimal due to proper management.

His report indicates that the canine training facility is compatible with neighboring uses which focus on animal care.

Vergennes Township rezoning allows a canine training facility in the industrial zone. The use is consistent with the township master plan, according to the planners' report.

Based on the site plan, two concerns may require further attention; the plan does not address noise from barking dogs and disposal of animal waste.

The planning commission may consider limiting the hours of operation to ensure noise impacts are limited to daylight hours.

The facility, according to the site plan proposal, will not provide overnight

dog boarding or kennel services.

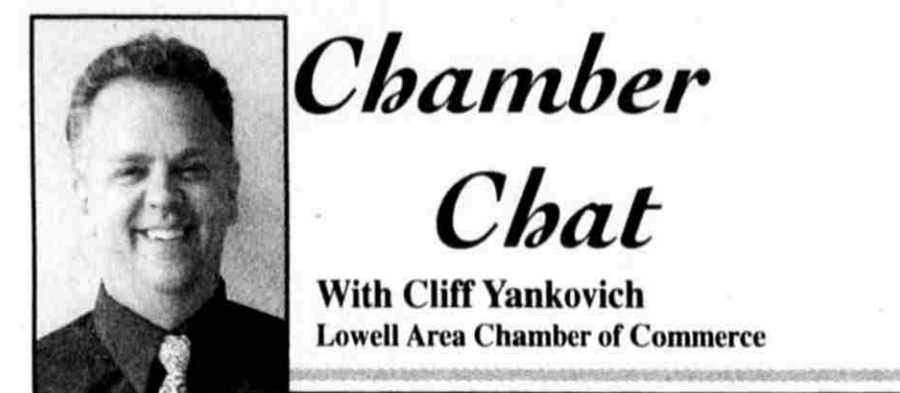
A proposed sign meets ordinance requirements; any lighting, however, must be downcast.

The applicant is seeking a variance on facade requirements of the building, on the crushed surface of the parking lot, and with fencing on the north and south lot lines.

The planning commission may approve the

site plan, subject to the following conditions: limiting the hours of operation, prohibiting overnight boarding, exterior lighting compliance, screening of the parking area, animal waste management, and three variance requests.

A public hearing will be held at the Vergennes Township Hall on Nov. 13 at 7 p.m. You may email comments to zoning@vergennewtp.org



Chamber Chat

With Cliff Yankovich
Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce

With the Mission Statement of the Lowell Chamber of Commerce in mind, we would like to examine the importance of shopping locally. Hopefully we can supply you with the necessary motivation to spend as much of your shopping dollars with locally owned businesses as you can. For the purposes of this article let's define "shopping" to include any spending or investing you do with your hard earned money, whether it be at a retail store or restaurant, or when you need the services of a local professional. Shopping locally is spending locally, okay?

When you shop locally, it sticks around. You do not have to be an economics professor to recognize that Michigan is having a case of the economic stumbles. Michigan needs our help.

In 2003, a study conducted in Maine found that locally

owned businesses spent 44.6 percent of their revenues in the surrounding two counties and another 8.7 percent within the state of Maine. The expenditures were in wages, taxes and buying goods and services from other locally owned businesses.

By contrast, only 14.1 percent of the revenues at the Big Box retailers stayed in the surrounding counties and almost all of that was in payroll. The bulk of their money goes out of state to corporate headquarters and out of state suppliers.

According to the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) (w), small businesses are much more giving to the area in which they do business. When you consider "in kind" donations of goods or services, small firms give an average of two and a half times what medium or large firms give.

According to the NFIB, small firms give an average of \$789 per employee compared to \$172 for medium and \$334 for large firms.

In the "Main Street vs. the Mall" battle, shoppers on Main Street have a lot more going for them. In most instances, when you deal with a locally owned business, you are dealing with the owner of the business. They are not a part-time employee; the business they own and operate repre-

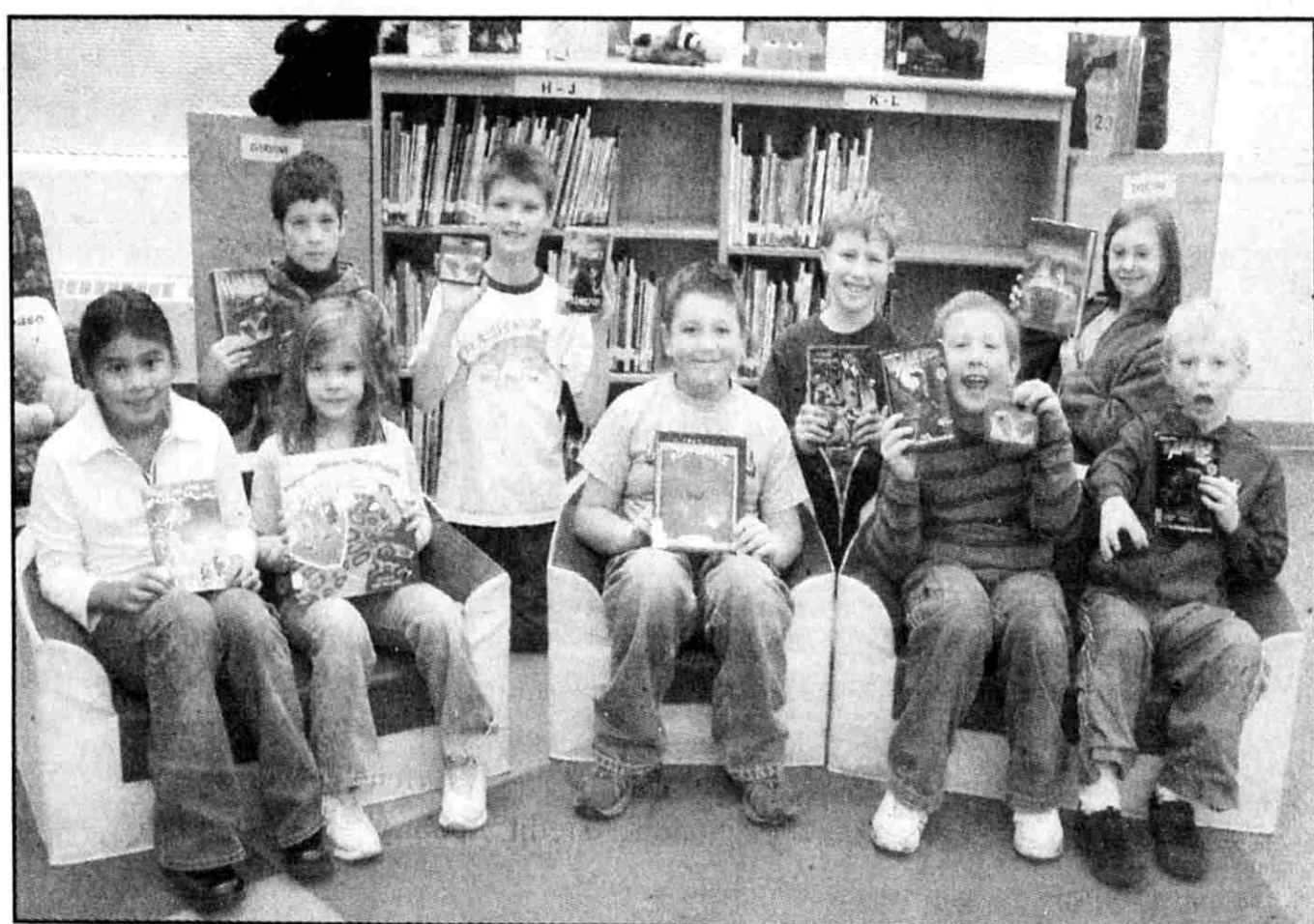
sents their life blood. They will typically offer you service that is head and shoulders above that from a big box, mall, or chain store.

Most times you will find that you get a lot more bang for your buck with a locally owned retailer, restaurateur or service professional. The cost of doing business in a mall is tremendous - many times people do not believe us when we tell them rent in a major mall can run from 10 to 40 thousand dollars per month. (You can pay 3 to 5 thousand per month just to have a kiosk in the mall.) It would be foolish to assume that such expense is not reflected in the price of goods or services, someone has to pay that overhead and it ultimately comes from the checkbook of the consumer.

Dollar for dollar, your money can go much further for you, Lowell and Michigan when it is spent right here on Main Street.

"The objective of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce is to promote the commercial welfare of the Lowell area, making the area a desirable location for capital investment and residences, also to promote the quality of life and harmony among the business and residential communities."

Reading award winners



Every month Murray Lake Elementary students have a chance to earn Accelerated Reader (AR) points. When a student earns 10 AR points his/her name gets put into a drawing. Each month 10 lucky winners are pulled and they receive a \$10 Meijer gift card, which is purchased with Meijer Community Rewards money.

Winners for the month of October are as follows: back row, left to right: Kyle Acker, Marc Vandenberg, Trevor Roest and Santana Boulton; front row: Angie Baerwalde, Kelsie Jurmo, Jared Laux, Riley Hale and Riley Nethercott. Not available for the photo is Mason Sturgeon.

Secretary of State holiday office hours

Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land has announced that all branch offices and the Office of the Great Seal will be closed in observance of Veterans Day and Thanksgiving holidays.

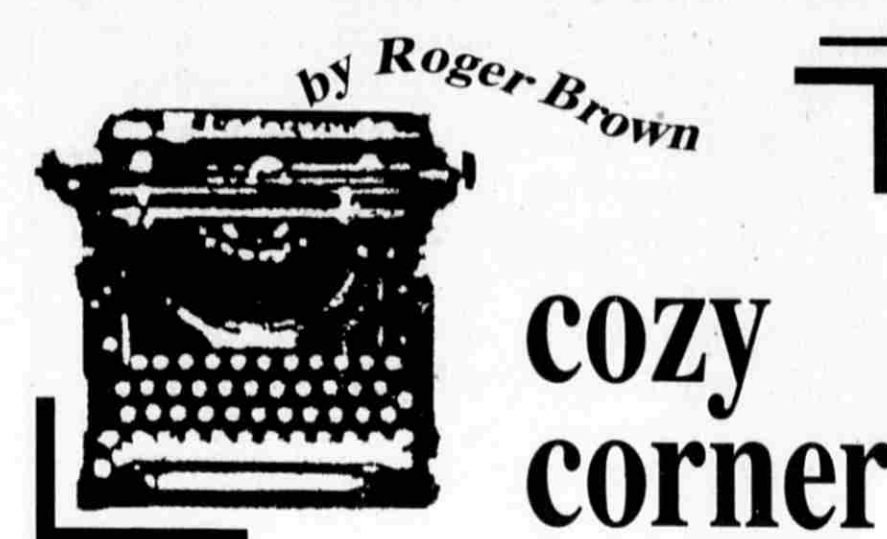
Veterans Day - All offices will be closed on Friday, Nov. 10 and SUPER!Centers will be closed on Saturday, Nov. 11.

Thanksgiving - All offices will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 23, Friday, Nov. 24 and SUPER!Centers will be closed on Saturday, Nov. 25.

Licenses and plates that expire on a day when state offices are closed can be renewed the following day without penalty.

Motorists renewing license plates can "skip the trip" to the branch office and do business by mail or, if eligible, by Internet or touch-tone telephone. License plate tabs will arrive by mail within seven business days. For more information and hours visit www.Michigan.gov/sos.

Viewpoint



My wife and I have been back from China for a few days. We're still battling a little jet lag and the 13-hour time difference. We were out to dinner with neighbors last night. It was a struggle to keep from falling asleep face first into my basket of chicken wings. At 3:30 this morning Mick and I were up making coffee and going through the mail. Poor little guy must think I'm nuts.

I suppose the China trip should be milked for one more column. On the way home, my daughter traveled with us to Shanghai for a two day visit. She lived in Shanghai for over three years, and still has a lot of friends there. The three of us shared a room in the "Shangri-La". Hands down, the nicest hotel this old boy has ever stayed in. We got the corporate rate through my son-in-law's business so it wasn't as pricey as you might think. More than Motel 6, but well shy of a high-class hotel in the States.

Our room was on the 13th floor overlooking the incredibly busy river with traffic ranging from putt-putting sampans to ocean going freighters. On the far bank was the historic "Bund" area. The weather for our stay was spectacular. I could easily have sat in the room all day and soaked in the view.

One of my favorite writers is Peter Egan. He pens a monthly column and feature articles for Cycle World magazine. In a recent column he said something like, "I almost never remember a hotel room, but seldom forget a campsite." When I read that line, I agreed whole-heartedly. As with everything in life, there are exceptions. That

Shanghai hotel room with the river view is definitely going into the memory banks.

Shanghai is something else. It's a huge city. Population estimates of the Shanghai and Pudong metro area range from 25 million and up. It is China's economic center, among other things. It has become very cosmopolitan and sports twice as many skyscrapers as New York City. The Gin Mau (guessing at the spelling) is an 88 story skyscraper gleaming with stainless steel and glass. There is a new building going up nearby that will be the tallest in the world.

The growth is nothing short of phenomenal. My daughter has only been gone two years. During our brief stay she was often somewhat lost because things have changed so much in the short time she has been gone. My first visit to Shanghai was nearly six years ago, and I see a huge difference.

The big draw in Shanghai for my wife and daughter was, as is the case with all women visiting the city, shopping. Shopping, shopping and more shopping.

My lack of enthusiasm for shopping is well documented. With little choice but to tag along, I did, and actually kept myself quite entertained with sightseeing and playing off the harassment of hawkers trying to sell me everything under the sun. They would try to sell me something like a fake Rolex using Pidgin English and Mandarin. I'd smile and talk back to them like they were my barber or something. "How 'bout them Tigers? Great season, heh? Too bad they had to choke in the Series. Oh well, wait 'til next year." They'd look at me as if to say, "What planet is this idiot from?" Finally, they'd give up and harass somebody else. It was fun.

When shopping in China, every exchange is very, very negotiable. I was actually looking for a pair of binoculars. Remember the river view from my room? I found a guy with a selection of bins, flashlights, etc. I picked out a nice looking, full-sized pair and began fidgeting with them. He went into his Chinese/Pidgin sales pitch. I finally asked "How Much?" in my best Chinese. I may have actually called him dog excrement. If I did, he ignored the insult and went straight to negotiation.

Cozy Corner, cont'd., pg. 9

What you may not know about your credit card bill

With Senator Carl Levin

When you get your credit card bill this month, take a good look at the fine print. Are there any charges or fees you don't recognize? Is it difficult to find details on what you're being charged for and why? If so, you are not alone. Credit card companies are making more and more of their money off of hidden and unfair fees, complex interest charges and poor disclosure practices that take advantage of working families.

Millions of Americans use their credit cards every day to purchase essentials like groceries and gas. In fact, Americans used nearly 700 million credit cards last year to purchase more than \$1.8 trillion in goods and services, a 25-fold increase since 1980. Credit cards make it easier to purchase the things we need, but there are also traps that can be difficult to avoid.

Not surprisingly, this increased use of credit cards has put many families in debt. The Federal Reserve estimates that the average American household owed about \$5,100 in credit card debt in 2004. I often hear from constituents that they are having a hard time figuring out their credit card bill and climbing out of that debt.

With that in mind, I asked the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the investigative arm of Congress, to look into the billing practices of credit card companies. The GAO report helped to shine a light on several abusive or confusing practices that are hurting Americans' efforts to pay off debt and ought to be stopped as a matter of simple fairness.

First, the practice of so-called "double-cycle" billing is particularly galling. With double-cycle billing, practiced

by a third of the credit card issuers studied by the GAO, consumers are charged interest on debt that has already been repaid. As an example, imagine a cardholder who begins a billing cycle with a zero balance, charges \$500 on his or her credit card and makes an on-time payment of \$450. Under double-cycle billing, he or she would be charged interest on the full \$500, rather than on only the \$50 that is still owed. This is a dishonest way to make a few bucks at the expense of a responsible and unwitting consumer.

Second, the GAO found that the account information provided to consumers is often inadequate or confusing. Current fee disclosures are difficult to understand and poorly organized, with much of the important information buried deep in the fine print, and it is often unclear when or under what circumstances late fees or penalty interest will be charged.

Third, some fees are plain unfair. For instance, some card issuers charge a fee of \$5 to \$15 to make an on-time payment by telephone without any mention of this fee in the account materials. This means that some families are being charged \$15 to pay their bill over the phone before the due date. It is inexcusable to charge families a fee to pay their bill on time.

Finally, penalty interest rates and fees are higher now than they ever have been. In 2005, the average fee was \$34 for a late payment and \$31 for going over a credit limit. Both fees have more than doubled from \$13 in 1995. In addition, interest rates for those who pay late or exceed their credit limit can reach over 30 percent. These are hefty penalties that can take a real bite out of the family budget and hinder a good faith effort to pay off debt.

It is outrageous for credit card companies to use hidden fees, penalty interest charges and unfair practices to exploit consumers. American families simply cannot afford to hire a lawyer to decipher their credit card statements, and they shouldn't have to. If credit card companies do not take the initiative to clean up their act, I will introduce legislation to ban these abuses.

Ledger Entries

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



By Priscilla Lussmyer

125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL NOVEMBER 8, 1881

A bill for the admission of Dakota to the United States is expected to fail, because Congress is mostly Democrats, Dakota Republican.

Three inches of snow fell the night of Nov. 3; gone the next day.

A column details how to care for someone with diphtheria without getting it.

F.O. Taft at the Lowell depot wants stove bolts and barrel heads.

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER NOVEMBER 8, 1906

Al Biggs was run over by his runaway team and wagon, but no bones broken.

Lowell Canning Co. filled 30 railroad cars with 123,000 gallons of canned apples this fall.

Judging by appearances, the boys at Alto had a good time on Halloween.

"Cut this out and take it to M.N. Henry's drug store and get a free sample of Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets."

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO NOVEMBER 5, 1931

All business places on Main Street are occupied but one, and that has been leased.

Wesley Johnson of Morse Lake brought a bouquet of violets to the Ledger office Tuesday.

The new Navy dirigible Akron carries 207 persons in a flight, a record for any type of aircraft.

Lowell State Bank joins the Hoover-inspired National Credit Corporation (to stabilize the Depression economy).

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER NOVEMBER 8, 1956

The new Kroger store at West Main and Vergennes will open next Tuesday at 9 a.m.

Bob Carigon is named state Individual Class B cross country champion runner at the state meet in Ypsilanti.

Eisenhower wins by a landslide vote for president, and G. Mennen Williams gets his sixth term as governor.

The new auto models appear bigger, faster, prominent tail fins.

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER NOVEMBER 5, 1981

A lively school board meeting has concerns about the new Lowell Area School Association, funding of sports and other money matters.

A very tight vote re-elects city council incumbents Dean Collins, Jack Fonger and Phil Schneider.

The LHS Class of '33 holds its first reunion since graduation 48 years ago; 23 of 40 grads show up.

The eruption of Washington's Mt. St. Helens last year has not affected earth's weather, as has been suggested.

Weddings

McCusker/DeVries



Mr. and Mrs. Donald McCusker

Jane DeVries became the bride of Donald F. McCusker on October 7, 2006, at Calvary Christian Reformed Church. Giving the bride away was her son John. Maid of honor was Ruth DeVries. Flower girls were Lillian DeVries and Hannah DeVries. Best man was Dick DeVries. Ushers were Carl and Bill DeVries and Gene McCusker. The couple reside in Saranac and will winter in Tucson, Arizona.

Reflections of faith

Rev. Randy Meyers
Calvary Christian Reformed Church

"When peace like a river attendeth my soul, when sorrows like sea billows roll." Lowell is a city of two rivers. We know what peaceful rivers are. We know the calming effect they have on our soul. Watching the ripples. Hearing the babbling brooks.

While we may not know "sea billows" as well, we know sorrow. We think of a family member who has died. We remember a friend or significant member of the community who we miss. We think about futures that will either never be or will be substantially different than we dreamed. The songwriter knew sorrow and in the middle of his sadness he

50 years of marriage celebrated

A golden wedding anniversary will be observed Friday, November 10, by Arnith and Lavina (Cisler) Stahl of Freeport.

The occasion will be celebrated Nov. 12 with family and friends.

The Stahl's children are Gordy and Sally Stahl, the late Bryan Stahl, Larry and Lynne Kuzmin and Jeff and Brenda Oesch. They have 14 grandchildren.

At right, Lavina and Arnith Stahl in 1956 and now



Happy Birthday

- | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| NOV. 9:
Angie Briggs, Roxanne Goff, Danielle Bundy, Katie Mendez, Carol Sue McGregor, Tom Mohr, Daryll Gildner. | NOV. 10:
Ann Bellah, Sarah Mogor, | NOV. 11:
Tyler Dewey, Gary Daverman.
Mike Roudabush, Tom Roudabush, Dan Wingeier Jr., Rachel Burns, Zachary Ligman, Justin Warren, N. Stephen Kelley. | NOV. 12:
Harry Erickson, Deborah Malloy, Al Olszewski. | NOV. 13:
Brian Gerard, Dan Schneider. | NOV. 14:
David Durkee, Doris Rhines. | NOV. 15:
Beth Stouffer, Emily Myers, Gina Gildner, Doug Decker, Alyssa Rash, Dave Hildenbrand. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

penned these words. The words that follow have comforted generations: "Whatever my lot you have taught me to say it is well, it is well with my soul."

How could he say that? How could he ask us to sing that? The reason is precisely because he never mistook material comfort for theological comfort. They are two different concepts: the one is comfortable and the other is assurance. And contrary to a once popular song, "You can have one without the other." You can be perfectly comfortable in your slippers and robe, reading the Ledger, sipping coffee and still not have assurance about the meaning of life. On the other hand, you can be completely miserable and be quite confident that all is well in your life.

I had the latter experience once. Over fourteen years ago I hiked a portion of the Appalachian Trail with two college buddies. They were "mile hounds" always wanting to hike farther and I was a "vista viewer" always wanting to sit awhile longer. Because of our competing philosophies there was much conflict. That and life in the woods is not always

as romantic as it appears in National Geographic. Many days I was miserable.

When I returned home, well wishers asked if I ever sang songs with lyrics like "for purple mountain majesties ...". Sadly my reply was, "Never once!" Instead, like the rhythm of a song in step with my marching, I sang to myself, "It is well with my soul." After 1100 miles I had almost convinced myself that this was true. After the hike I returned home and visited family and friends; two different groups, in two different locations, and both on Sunday. With both groups I attended church and at both churches we "happened" to sing the familiar song "Peace like a River."

Some may say this was just a coincidence since at any given church in America on any given Sunday that song is bound to be sung. Yet, for me, it was the still small voice of my heavenly father assuring me that his son Jesus loved me despite my discomfort. And that is more comforting to me than any material has been or ever will be. May the prince of peace pour into you such assurance.

High honors for Appletree Learning Center

Kira VanGorp, 2, and Brenden Brandt, 18 months, swing in the snowflakes at the Appletree Christian Learning Center in Lowell. Appletree Christian Learning Center has been voted the Best of Grand Rapids for the second year in a row by the Best of Grand Rapids Magazine. The Lowell center opened in May.

"My daughter really seems to like Appletree and we've noticed a big improvement in how much they seem to be learning," said parent Heather Gray. "We also like the staff's interaction with children."

Center director Janelle Bronson said she was honored by the award. "Our desire is to provide the best quality Christian care for your children," she said.

Dawn and John Tetzlaff are the owners of two centers, in Lowell and Caledonia.



Lend A Hand VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

FOOD ITEMS NEEDED

God's Kitchen in Grand Rapids is in need of fresh and frozen turkeys or hams to help feed the hungry this holiday season. If you would be interested in donating food, it can be dropped off at 303 S. Division Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The organization is issuing the call for donations because the coolers are currently low on meat products and the group anticipates greater needs as the holidays grow closer. Other items that can be used include canned fruit and vegetables and other non-perishable food.

For more information call Peggy at 356-6290 or peggyh@cssgr.org.

Separation, continued ... From Page 1

"We followed the newspapers," Marian said. "It was all about war. All the young men were gone."

Marian recalls the eerie feeling when the lights went out during brownouts on her way home from second shift. The two met on a blind date in 1938 and got married on Feb. 14, 1944. Allen enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, and was sworn as an aviation cadet in 1942. He was sent out to war on May 1, 1944, and came back on July 10, 1945.

The couple was invited to the opening of the Slovak Embassy in Washington, D.C. in 2001. They went on

College News

Angie Miller, a freshman at Adrian College, will serve as a spotlight operator for the upcoming musical, "Sweet Charity." The fall musical is being performed in Dawson Auditorium by The Adrian College Theatre Department Nov. 2 through 4.

Miller is a 2006 graduate of Lowell High School.

Christian Koning, a senior at Lowell High School, has been accepted

to the University of Northwestern Ohio in Lima, Ohio. He will begin classes in the August session with a major in the Automotive

High Performance program. Koning is the son of Steve Koning and Cindy Koning of Lowell.

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LUNCH MENU

ELEMENTARY MENU
Week of Nov. 13, 2006

MON: Hotdog on bun (3 meat sub also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), fresh mini carrots & dip, assorted fruit, milk.

TUES: Chicken patty on bun (BBQ rib on bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), coleslaw, green beans/applesauce, milk.

WED: Cheeseburger on bun (stacked ham & cheese on bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), oven baked beans, fruit sherbet cup, milk.

THURS: Chicken nuggets (cheesy ravioli also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), potatoes, fruited gelatin salad, milk.

FRI: Pepperoni pizza (stacked turkey/cheese on bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), seasoned corn, fresh fruit, graham crackers, milk.

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p>ATTENTION: BIBLE BELIEVERS If you would like to attend a church where the King James Bible is held up as the perfect, preserved word of God with all the words of God for all English speaking people, then give us a visit at 901 W. Main, Lowell</p> <p>897-6284 or 485-4195 10am Sunday School, 11am Morning Service, 6pm Evening Service, Wed., 7:30pm Prayer Meeting.</p>	<p>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011</p> <p>Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M.</p> <p>OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p>DAY BIBLE CHAPEL 9305 Centerline, Saranac 897-6332</p> <p>Worship.....9:45 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M.</p> <p>Nursery & Jr. Church Provided Rev. Frank Lattimore, Pastor "A Nondenominational Ministry With A Blended Word Centered Service!"</p>	<p>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL</p> <p>Rev. Randy Meyers - 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p>	<p>APOSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH</p> <p>SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M. SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M. 119 Lincoln Lake, Lowell</p> <p>CALL FOR FREE HOME BIBLE STUDIES Pastor Robert L. Hubbard Phone: (616) 897-1267 website www.aplighthouse.com</p>
<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936</p> <p>Worship Services.....8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.</p> <p>DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Nursery & child care available at both services Barrier - Free Entrance</p>	<p>ALTON BIBLE CHURCH Lincoln Lake Ave. at 3 Mile Road 897-5648</p> <p>Sunday School.....10:00 A.M. Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M. Evening Praise.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday AWANA.....7:00 P.M. (Sept. - April) Prayer and Bible Study.....7:00 P.M. Pastor Ken Ford (Home) 897-6418 YOU ARE WELCOME!</p>	<p>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God) 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery</p> <p>Robert W. Holmes, Senior Pastor Dave Noonon, Asst. Pastor John King, Youth Pastor</p> <p>SUNDAYS: Worship: 10:00 a.m. - LIFE Home Groups & "XL" Youth Sunday evenings WEDNESDAYS: Family Night (For All Ages): 7:00 p.m. "XL" Youth: 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Fr. George J. Fekete 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com</p> <p>Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETER HIGGINS 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48, ENTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>	<p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL (United Church of Christ) 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906</p> <p>Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Thursday Faith Alive Worship.....7:00 P.M. Dr. Roger LaVarre.....Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship</p>
<p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org</p> <p>Sunday School.....9:00 A.M. Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremmer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbcloowell.org Rev. David O. Sims & Rev. W. Lee Taylor Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor</p> <p>Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA CLUB J.C. Wed. 6:15 & 6:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free</p>	<p>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Thurlan Meredith</p> <p>9:45 A.M.Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M.Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery & Children Worship Programs Provided A friend...a family...a mission!</p>	<p>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 201 N. Washington • 897-8800</p> <p>Sunday School.....9:30 A.M. Morning Worship.....10:40 A.M. Sunday Evening.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday Family Ministry.....7:00 P.M.</p> <p>PASTOR MICHAEL RHODABARGER Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>	

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Cozy Corner, continued ... From Page 5

"You say how muchee!" he said. "No, you say how muchee," I said. This went back and forth until he reluctantly went first and punched up 650 Yuan on his calculator. I walked. He chased me with the calculator. "You say! You say!" he said. I punched up 100 Yuan. He came back with 450. I came up to 110. He came down to say, 350. I walked. This went on for quite awhile. I walked several times, always with him chasing me down with the calculator and a new number.

Finally, we settled at 120 Yuan ... \$15.00 U.S. Sure, they are cheap, pirated imitations, but until the things fall apart, they actually work pretty well. Back in the room I could read the port of origin on the stems of passing freighters and almost tell what was being served at my favorite restaurant in the world ... "M on the Bund". "M" is an open-air restaurant atop one of the historic bank buildings on the Shanghai side of the river, directly across from the hotel. My only request for the Shanghai visit was having lunch there both days.

Speaking of food, we had dinner one evening with a couple who were my daughter's friends and neighbors when she lived in Shanghai. They took us to a nice restaurant in the clock tower of a historic building that was the old Shanghai

Museum. Our host had just received his annual bonus that day, and insisted on picking up the tab. Bonus indeed!!!

Angie's friend is a partner with a large investment firm. He worked in Hong Kong for six years, then in Shanghai for the last fifteen. He is British, but speaks excellent Chinese and entertained us with stories of their early years in Shanghai. Fifteen years may not seem like much to us, but as an example, the huge city that is Pudong, on the opposite side of the river from Shanghai, literally did not exist fifteen years ago. Now it's a sea of skyscrapers. The last fifteen years has been an exciting ride for them. It was fun listening, and the food was good too!

Back at the hotel, in the evening hours the elevators have hostesses posted. Somebody in the hotel's Human Resources scoured China to find extra tall, extra beautiful young women for these positions.

These elevator girls are dressed in a typical Chinese gown that you see in old movies ... silk, floor length, buttons up one side of the bodice and a sexy slit from the hem, up along one leg, all the way to the hip. Their gowns were all black and immaculately tailored. Each girl wore a matching black pillbox hat. They were gorgeous. They were elegant.

Their only job appeared to be a big smile as you approach the elevator, then they push the "up" button and graciously motion you inside when the doors open. I fell in love every time I boarded Mr. Otis' invention.

You may remember a column from about six weeks ago in which I described an elevator I built for Tito. Tito is our twelve-year old arthritic Lab who can't negotiate stairs any longer. Try as I might to sell the idea, my wife wouldn't let me check into hiring a tall Chinese elevator girl for Tito's homemade elevator.

That's it for China. We're home in the good old U.S.A. and glad of it. Travel is great, but there really is no place like home.

P.S. Hats off to the Red Arrow football team on yet another fantastic season. We listened to that tough Muskegon loss via LHS Radio on our computer. My daughter said she and her husband also listened in Chengdu, China. With the 13-hour time difference, game time for them was 2:00 Sunday morning. Talk about devoted fans. Again, congratulations to all the players, coaches, parents and supporters of the Red Arrow varsity football team.

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BUSINESSES SERVICES



Salsa at LMS

Lowell Middle School students celebrated Hispanic heritage month with food, dance, pinatas, sports and a power point presentation in Sara Guile's Spanish class last week.

Unusual albino squirrel spotted in the trees around Lowell



By Emma Palova

Joe Baker, a Department of Public Works employee, last week took a picture of an albino squirrel in the Greater Lowell area. While other DPW employees have never seen an albino, this was Baker's second one in 20 years.

Any albino species, which is a genetic disorder, is extremely rare, according to Jayme Holt, animal technician at the Blandford Nature Center in Walker.

A true albino has pink eyes, while a partial albino doesn't. Holt said a white deer, a complete

albino, was spotted in the Upper Peninsula. The hunters did not shoot it. Holt said she has seen an albino skunk and an albino American robin.

The lack of pigment makes albinos vulnerable and prey to other animals.

"They're more at risk and they are more sensitive to light," she said. "The variation in genetics doesn't play in their favor. It makes them stand out instead of blend in. They don't live as long."

Center volunteer Teresa Buist said she has never seen an albino in her entire lifetime.

"And I've been around," she said.

Steve Mueller, director of the Wittenbach Agri-Science Center, said albinos are not common, although they can be occasionally spotted.

"They're exposed more to predators," said Mueller, "and they have other genetic problems. Their eyes don't have pigmentation, so they're sensitive to light."

According to Lawrence Wit, Ph.D., professor at the Department of Biological Sciences at Auburn University, a person who is a complete albino has milky-white skin, white hair and pink eyes. The eyes are pink because the blood in the vessels of the iris shows through the transparent parts. Albinism occurs about one in every 20,000 births.

In many partial albino plants, only the flowers have no pigment. But some lack chlorophyll and the leaves are also white.

Christmas Through Lowell to feature more than 200 artists & crafters

By Emma Palova

It's a Christmas shopping extravaganza. The 15th annual Christmas Through Lowell will feature local crafters and businesses just in time for holiday shopping.

"We have a good variety of crafters," said event chairperson Barbara Schmalz. "We usually get a good turnout."

New this year are Hilltop Hideaway rustic decor in Alto, Cabin Comfort natural soaps, Cardis Creations woodworking, Sophisticated Salvage vintage accents, As Time Goes By teddy bears, Hatch Hollow Creations floral, Patti's Candles and My Potting Shed.

The event, first established in 1991 by Jody and Kraig Haybarker, started out with seven homes on the tour.

Now organized by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, it features 45 homes and businesses. More than 200 artists and crafters will be showcasing their gifts the weekend of Nov. 17-19.

"The main purpose is for crafters to sell and display their wares," said Schmalz.

Homemade soups and pies by Lowell Women's Club will be available at the chamber of commerce on Riverwalk Plaza.

Also on the tour is the Lowell Area Arts Council's "Sleigh Bells & Holly" exhibit. Featuring more than 20 artists and artisans, many of them have been volunteers and members of the arts council. A reception for the artists will be held Nov. 9 at 149 S. Hudson and the exhibit will continue through the holiday season until Dec. 23.

The F.R.O.M. Thrift Shop will be selling gently used clothing for the entire family, housewares and appliances. Money raised is used to provide food and emergency services.



Amanda Trimble of You Crack Me Up will be showcasing her mosaic art and historic calendars during the Christmas Through Lowell tour Nov. 17-19. Trimble will also be selling Christmas sweatshirts.

According to Schmalz, people travel to the Christmas tour from far and near.

At Over the River and Through the Woods, several crafters will gather at the end of the country lane to offer a variety of gifts and seasonal items; there will even be something for four-legged friends.

The First United Methodist Church will have its annual holiday craft show throughout the day, and serve a lunch of soup, sandwiches and desserts from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

"We're looking for continued interest and support of the event," said Schmalz.

A tour guide and map pamphlet for the three-day event is available at the Lowell Ledger office.

For more information call 897-0942 or go to www.christmassthroughlowell.org

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City Looks Salons
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 Welcome Aimee Cardinal LaForce to our City Looks Staff!
 Receive \$2 off a haircut or \$5 off a chemical with Aimee through November.
 11901 E. Fulton (inside Meijer)
Phone 897-2122

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC HEARING

The Lowell City Planning Commission-Citizen Advisory Committee will conduct public hearings on Monday, November 27, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lowell City Hall Council Chambers, Second Floor, 301 East Main Street, Lowell for the purpose of receiving comments from the public on the following:

To consider a Special Use Permit request from Shannon Parnofello, as owner of Hearthstone Design Studio, wishes to establish an apartment in the top floor of 218 East Main Street. Since the property is zoned Central Business District (C-2), a Special User Permit is required.

An Ordinance Amendment Section 8.04 of Chapter 8, "R-3 Residential District" of Appendix A - Zoning Ordinance of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowell.

Copies of the proposed Ordinance are available for public inspection during normal business hours at City Hall and the Englehardt Public Library.

Interested persons may submit written comments to City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan 49331 prior to the meeting or appear in person.



Betty R. Morlock
 City Clerk

8th Annual Taste of Vegetarian
 Simple & Delicious Samples of Healthy Vegetarian Entrees, Soups, Breads & Desserts
 Free Recipes Door Prizes
 Cost: Donation BRING A FRIEND!
 To register in advance or questions, please call and leave a message at 676-0408. Walk-ins welcome!
Cherry Creek Elem. School Cafeteria
 12675 Foreman, Between Alden Nash & N. Hudson in Lowell
SUNDAY, November 12
4:00 - 6:00 PM
 Sponsored by Riverside Fellowship of Seventh-day Adventists

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Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold
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WATCH OUT FOR TERRIFYING INVESTMENT MOVES

With Halloween now behind us, you may have seen a lot of ghouls, ghosts and gravestones in your neighborhood - but in reality, they were probably of less importance than the evening's main draw: candy. However, in real life, if you're going to enjoy life's treats - such as a comfortable retirement - you'll need to escape some of the "tricks" - such as scary investment moves.

Here are a few of these fright-inducing behaviors you'll want to avoid:

- Jumping out of the market during difficult times - By almost any measure, 2006 has been a rough year. We've seen (really) high gas prices, turmoil in the Middle East and nuclear posturing from North Korea. Given all these gloomy scenarios, you might think that now is not a good time to invest, and that you'd be better off heading to the investment "sidelines." But you'd be wrong. As bad as this year seems, we've had plenty of other rocky periods in our history - and smart, patient investors rode out those times, stayed in the market, and, in most cases, ended up doing quite well. As an investor, never forget that the financial markets are resilient and capable of absorbing all types of bad news without

capsizing. And even if the market does slump, you'll want to stay invested, because when it does recover, as it always has, the biggest gains tend to come early in the rally.

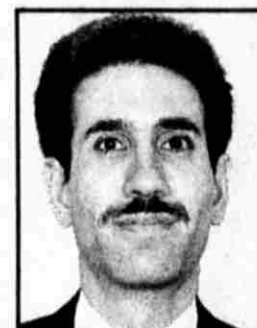
- Failing to take full advantage of 401(k) - If you have a 401(k) plan at work, consider yourself fortunate: Your plan offers tax-deferred earnings growth and the ability to make pre-tax contributions. Yet, about 30 percent of eligible employees don't even participate in their 401(k) plan, according to Hewitt Associates, a consulting firm. Of those who do take part in their plan, Hewitt reports that almost 41 percent of their 401(k) holdings were in company stock - much too high a figure. If you have access to a 401(k) plan, contribute as much as you can afford, and spread your dollars around among the available investment options.

- Not "maxing out" on IRA - Both the traditional and Roth IRAs offer tax advantages, and can be funded with money placed in virtually any type of investment: stocks,

bonds, government securities, etc. Yet, many people don't "max out" on their IRA. Try to fully fund your IRA as early in the year as possible, to give your money more time to grow. But if you can't do that, at least put away enough each month so that you are taking full advantage of this excellent retirement savings vehicle.

- Chasing after "hot" stock tips - You can get hot stock tips anywhere: television, the Internet, magazines, your neighbor - the list is almost endless. The trouble with a hot tip is that by the time you invest in the stock, it may already be cooling off - if it ever truly was hot. Furthermore, a hot tip may not be of much value if the stock is not suitable for your individual needs.

If you can avoid these and other scary investment moves, you can make progress toward your long-term goals - and that's not a frightful prospect at all.



Legal Ease

With Jonathan David

DEAR JONATHAN: Our attorney wants us to engage in estate tax planning to minimize our federal estate tax exposure at death. I keep

on hearing that Congress is going to be making changes to this area of the law and the estate tax may even be replaced. Wouldn't it be wise to wait until Congress makes those changes so that we are not wasting our time and money doing something now that may not be necessary later?

JONATHAN SAYS: I understand your hesitancy to engage in this process now if there is a chance that your estate tax problem might disappear if the estate tax is eventually repealed. The problem with this approach, however, is that no one has a crystal ball and as such, no one can advise you as to when those changes, if any, will be enacted. It could happen this year, next year, three years from now, or never - although, some type of revision to the current law will most likely take place. Consequently, by not doing anything now, you are taking a chance that nothing is going to happen to you or your spouse before any changes are enacted. I don't know your circumstances or what your estate tax exposure currently is, but it seems to me that the prudent thing for

you to do is engage in estate tax planning now to take advantage of the current law. If, in fact, the law currently in effect is revised, your attorney can advise you at that time as to what type of changes or amendments to your documents you should make to take advantage of and to fall in line with the new law.

Regardless of your estate tax issues, it would be a good idea to engage in estate planning if you haven't already done so. Estate tax planning is only one aspect of estate planning, and if you don't currently have in place documents such as last will and testaments, financial durable power of attorneys, patient advocate designations, living wills and living trusts, then you should discuss with your attorney how estate planning might benefit you now. All of the documents listed above play an important role in the overall estate planning process of which estate tax planning is a part.

DEAR JONATHAN: My husband died recently without leaving a last will and testament. Each of us had been married before and my husband had children from his first marriage; I had no children from my first marriage. My husband and I did not have any children together. Since I have never particularly gotten along with my step-children, I sense a

fight coming on regarding my husband's estate. As my husband's surviving spouse, what rights do I have?

JONATHAN SAYS:

In Michigan, the surviving spouse of a deceased spouse who did not leave a last will and testament has the following rights:

- The right to receive the first \$100,000 of the decedent's estate, plus one half of the balance.

- The surviving spouse is also entitled to a homestead allowance of \$18,000, a family allowance of \$22,000 and an exempt property allowance of \$12,000 in 2006.

In addition to the above rights, if you have been named as a beneficiary on any contractual investment, i.e., life insurance, annuity, IRA, 401k, etc., then you would be entitled to those proceeds. Further, if you are a joint owner of any assets with your husband, i.e., your home, bank accounts, CDs, brokerage accounts, etc., then by virtue of that ownership, you would own those assets outright upon your husband's death.

The information contained in this column is not to be construed as legal advice or legal representation and should not be relied upon as such. If legal advice or legal representation is desired, please consult with an attorney.

ATTENTION DEER HUNTERS

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Buyers Guide

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BOYS YOUTH BASKETBALL PROGRAMS

Welcome to another exciting year of Lowell Youth Basketball!

The Future Red Arrow instructional basketball program began in 2001-2002 with approximately sixty 5th and 6th-grade boys participating. By 2005-06 the program expanded to consist of approximately 210 boys in grades K-6.

This year we have exciting changes to the program!

Read below for the different opportunities available to your child.

1. **FUTURE RED ARROW** instructional basketball program for K-6th grade boys. Each Saturday will consist of approximately 45 minutes of fundamental stations followed by a 32-minute instructional game complete with scoreboards, officials, time outs, etc.

More information can be accessed on the website at www.lowellbasketball.com

2. **ARROW HEAT** travel teams for 3rd-8th grade boys The Arrow Heat travel-team concept is intended for Lowell area boys in grades 3-8 who display an advanced skill level in the fundamentals of the game.

Arrow Heat teams will travel to different locations such as The Courthouse, Hoop City or other schools to compete. Athletes will be evaluated and selected based on the two tryout dates shown in the information below.

More information can be accessed on the website at www.lowellbasketball.com

ARROW HEAT TRYOUT INFORMATION*

WHAT: Arrow Heat travel-team try outs
WHEN: Sunday, November 12th and Sunday, November 19th. Athletes are encouraged to attend both dates. Notice we have moved this to Sunday to avoid any potential playoff football game conflicts!

WHERE: Lowell High School Main Gymnasium
TIMES:
3rd Grade 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm
4th Grade 3:30 pm - 4:45 pm
5th Grade 5:00 pm - 6:15 pm
6th Grade 6:30 pm - 7:45 pm

COST: Tryouts are free. (Cost to be determined if you make the team.)

QUESTIONS?

Contact Phil Beachler at
pbeachler@lowellschools.com
or by phone at 897-1323

*7th and 8th grade Arrow Heat travel-teams will be formed after the middle school season.

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COMING EVENTS

Notices in the "Coming Events" are free to any nonprofit organization in the Lowell, Ada, Alto & Saranac areas. Keep notices brief; may submit by mail, phone - 897-9261, fax -897-4809 or email - ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com. All submissions are subject to available space.

NOVEMBER

WED., NOV. 8: Snow United Methodist Church, 3189 Snow Ave. turkey/dressing dinner starting 5:30 p.m. Adults: \$8; 6-12, \$2; under 6 free. Take-outs available.

THURS., NOV. 9: LAHM presents local veterans stories at LPAC, 7 p.m. Public welcome. 897-7688.

THURS., NOV. 9: Euchre/Cribbage 1 p.m. Lowell Senior Neighbors.

SUN., NOV. 12: 8th annual Taste of Vegetarian, 4-6 p.m. at Cherry Creek Elementary. Free event for community.

MON., NOV. 13: Veterans of Clark Ellis Post 152 American Legion annual dinner, 6 p.m. at Lowell Veterans Hall. Call 897-8258 to reserve. Public invited to hear Richard Thelen, survivor of USS Indianapolis at 7 p.m.

MONDAYS

Lowell High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes & Friends, 7:30 p.m. at Gallagher's. Call 676-1355.

Women's over 30 drop-in basketball, 7-9:30 p.m. at Cherry Creek Elementary. Call Dave (YMCA) 897-8445. Fee \$3.

Boy Scout Troop 102, 11 & up or completing 5th grade, meets 7-8:30 p.m. at Scout Cabin, end of N. Washington St. Call Tim Vanderwulp at 897-4302 for more info.

1ST MON.: Regular communication of the Belding-Ionia-Lowell Masonic Lodge #355 at 7:30 p.m. in lodge room, 211 E. Main, Belding. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. All Masons may attend.

1ST MON.: V.F.W. Post #8303, 3116 Alden Nash S.E. 7 p.m.

2ND MON.: Lowell Board of Education meets at 7 p.m. in Administration Building, 300 High Street.

2ND MON.: Bowne Township Historical Society meets 7:30 at historic museum, 84th/Alden Nash.

3RD MON.: Women of the Moose meetings held 7:30 p.m.

3RD MON.: Peripheral Neuropathy support group, 7 p.m. at Schneider Manor Community Room. Will resume Sept 18.

3RD MON.: Lowell Showboat Garden Club, Fellowship Hall at Church of the Nazarene, N. Washington St. at 7 p.m.

4TH MON.: Clark-Ellis American Legion Post 152, 3100 Alden Nash S.E. at 7:30 p.m.

EVERY OTHER MON.: Lowell Area Juggling Club, in Community room, Englehardt Library, 6:30-8, 12 or older. Call 897-9879.

MON., TUES., THURS.: Alpha Women's Center, 2251 W. Main. Call 987-9533 for appt./open Mon. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tu. 6-9 p.m., Th. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Diapers, formula and clothing.

EVERY MON.: Women of Grace study series, St. Mary Church, 402 Amity, 7:30 - 9 p.m. Cheryl 868-6204.

EVERY MON.: Women for Sobriety, 7-8 p.m. Bowne Center United Methodist Church, 84th & Alden Nash. Call Sue 868-6219; www.womenforsobriety.org.

TUESDAYS

Take Off Pounds Sensibly Tops M#372 at Key Heights Mobile Home Park Community Bldg. Weigh-ins are at 5:45 p.m.

Cub Scout Pack 3188 at 1st United Methodist Church 621 E. Main St. 6:30 p.m. Call Bruce Doll, cubmaster at 304-0082.

Weight Watchers, Alto United Methodist Church, Kirby & Harrison, 5:30 p.m. Reg. 1/2 hr. before meeting. 800-651-6000.

Flat River Woodcarvers meet at LAAC from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Women's Community Bible Study. Free nursery/preschool story hour/craft time 9:45 - 11:15 a.m./women only at 7:15 p.m. Calvary Christian Reformed Church. 897-7060 or 897-7555.

1ST TUES.: Grattan Historical Society at O'Brien Room of Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Rd. Public invited.

2ND TUES.: Diabetic Support group, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Schneider Manor Community Rm., 725 Bowes Rd. 897-2760 or 897-9160.

1ST TUES.: Adults with AD/HD at Calvin College, 7-9 p.m. Call Gary Engle at 897-6325 or 248-2423.

TUES., NOV. 14: Sam's Joint at 4:30 p.m. Lowell Senior Neighbors.

THURS., NOV. 16: Bushnell/Cherry Creek Math Parent meeting at Cherry Creek Elem. 6:20 p.m. registration; 6:30 grade level meeting begins. Call Bushnell 987-2650/Cherry Creek 987-2700 to register.

NOV. 17-19: Christmas Through Lowell. Call chamber 897-9161 for info.; maps, pamphlets at Lowell Ledger.

SAT., NOV. 18: Good News Community, "Big Event" at Deer Run Golf, 6 p.m.-12 a.m. \$27/ person. 363-0270.

MON., NOV. 20: Lowell Music Booster meeting in LMS band room at 7 p.m.

TUESDAYS

1ST & 3RD TUES.: Lowell Lions Club, 12 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce, 113 Riverwalk Plaza. 897-5449 for information.

2ND TUES.: G.R. Chapter of the American Sewing Guild, Plainfield Senior Center, 5255 Grand River Dr. NE. 6:30 p.m. refreshments/7 program Olga -975-9977/June 231-780-1249.

2ND TUES.: Doric chapter #75, Order of Eastern Star 6:30 dinner, 7:30 p.m. regular meeting. 211 E. Main, Belding.

2ND & 3RD TUES.: Qua-Ke-Zik Sportsman's Club, 8731 West Riverside Dr., 8 p.m. www.qua-ke-zik.org.

2ND & 4TH TUES.: MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers meets at Impact Church, 1069 Lincoln Lake, 9:15 - 11:30. 897-8304.

2ND & 4TH TUES.: Knights of Columbus #7719 at St. Mary School at 7:30 p.m.

3RD TUES.: Parents of children w/AD/HD at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 32156 4 Mile NE/E. Beltline) at 7 p.m. Call Linda at 874-5662; teen group: call Sarah at 281-6588. No cost.

TUES./THURS.: Back to Basics Closed AA meetings at 1st Congregational Church, 404 N. Hudson. 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking.

EVERY TUES.: Women of Grace study series, St. Mary Church, 402 Amity St., 9:15 - 10:45 a.m. Beth 897-5771.

WEDNESDAYS

Rotary meets at noon at City Hall, 301 E. Main, 2nd floor.

8 p.m. ALANON upstairs at new 1st Congregational Church, 865 Lincoln Lake S.E. enter north parking lot, side door.

Tri-town Conservation Club trap & skeet league, 5616 Dunn Rd. 6-10 p.m. Larry 754-7104.

1ST WED.: GR/W. Mich. Scrabble Club at Schuler's Bookstore, 28th St. 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. walk-ins welcome. Jan 897-5759.

2ND WED.: Lowell Area Trailway, 6 p.m. alternate locations. Call Mari Stone 897-5671 or www.lowellareatrailway.org.

2ND WED.: Kent County Youth Fair Board meets 7:30 p.m., King Memorial Youth Center, 4-H Fairgrounds. Call 897-6050.

2ND WED.: Royal Arch Masons, Hooker Chapter #73, 7:30 p.m. in Belding Masonic Temple, 211 E. Main; dinner at 6:30 p.m.

2ND WED.: Lowell Women's Club, 11:45 a.m. in Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd.

2ND WED.: Support group for Peripheral Neuropathy, 4 p.m., St. Paul's Anglican Catholic Church, GR. Dorothy 897-9794.

3RD WED.: GR/W. Mich. Scrabble Club at Schuler's Bookstore, 28th SE 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. walk-ins. Jan 897-5759.

3RD WED.: Alzheimer's Assoc. of West Mich. support group at Fountain View of Lowell, 11535 E. Fulton, 1 p.m. 897-8413.

THURSDAYS

Weight Watchers at Lowell Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St. 5:30 p.m. Register 1/2 hr. before the meeting. For info. 1-800-651-6000.

Saranac Area Musicians and Singers practice at Saranac High School Band Rm. Choir: 6-7 p.m./band: 7-8. Kathy Maatman, 897-5981.

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM: Tues., Sat. and Sun. 1-4 p.m.; Thurs., 1-8 p.m. Families: \$10; individuals \$3; 5-17 \$1.50; members are free. Call 897-7688.

ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY: Mon. - Wed., 12 - 8 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri. 9:30 - 5 p.m.; Sat.: 9:30-1:30 p.m. 200 N. Monroe. Call 647-3920.

ALTO LIBRARY: Mon. & Sat. 9:30 - 1:30 p.m.; Tues. & Wed. 12-8 p.m.; Thurs. 1-5 p.m. 647-3820.

LOWELL AREA ARTS COUNCIL: Tues. - Fri.: 12 - 5 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m. Monday/a.m. by appt. 149 S. Hudson. Call 897-8545 or www.lowellartsCouncil.org.

LOWELL SERENITY CLUB MEETINGS: (AA) Mon., Wed., Thurs: 12-1 & 8-9 p.m.; Tues./Fri.: 12-1, 4:30-5:30 & 8-9 p.m.; Sat./Sun.: 10-11 a.m. & 8-9 p.m.; (NA) Mon./Thurs., 6-7:30 p.m. 101 W. Main. 897-8565.

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES THRIFT SHOP Wed. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. 519 E. Main St. Call 897-2037.

THURSDAYS

Pottery classes at Franciscan Life Process Center, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Call 897-7842.

St. Mary's Pregnancy Crisis Center, 402 Amity St., non-denominational help for pregnant women/adolescents, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; Mondays: 5:30-7:30 p.m. 897-9393.

EVERY THURS.: Alcoholics for Christ. - 12 step Recovery Group for alcoholics, drug addicts & family members. 7 p.m. at Impact Church House, North Hudson St. Call Paul at 527-7796 for information. Family members may call Erin at 527-7796.

EVERY THURS.: Alpha Women's Center, 2251 W. Main. 987-9533, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Diapers, formula, clothing.

1ST THURS.: Michigan Hepatitis C Foundation support meetings, 7-8:30 p.m. 250 Cherry, Lacks Cancer Center, Grand Rapids.

1ST THURS.: 4-H drama club meeting, Lowell Middle School choir room. Call 897-1502 after 5 p.m.

1ST & 3RD THURS.: Alto Lions Club meets at Monterey Grill at 7 p.m.

1ST & 3RD THURS.: Bluegrass Jam inside Kountry Korner of Alto, 6077 Linfield. 868-6371.

2ND & 4TH THURS.: GR/W. Michigan Scrabble Club, 10 - 2 p.m. Round Robin, bring your board, all levels, walk-ins are welcome. Call Jan 897-5759 for location and more information.

2ND THURS.: N.A.R.F.E., 1:30 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 E. Fulton.

2ND THURS.: Loyal Order of the Moose, men's meeting at 7:30 p.m.

2ND THURS.: Genealogy-Alto Family Tree Club at Alto Library 6:30 - 8 p.m.

3RD THURS.: VFW #8303 Ladies Auxiliary, 3116 Alden Nash S.E. at 3 p.m.

3RD THURS.: Parents Supporting Parents group, Franciscan Life Process Center. Call 897-7842.

3RD THURS.: LaLeche League of Ada, Cascade, Lowell 6:30 p.m. socializing; meeting 7. Support for pregnant/breastfeeding women, Ada 752-8300.

FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY

2ND & 4TH FRI.: Teen MOPS support group for pregnant teens/teen moms, 9:15-11:30 a.m. at Impact Church, 1070 N. Hudson. 897-8304.

FRI.: Arts/Crafts volunteers, Franciscan Life Process Center, 9:30-12:30 p.m. Call Pat at 897-7842.

2ND SAT.: Ada Historical Society, 10:30 a.m. at Averill Historical Museum, 7144 Headley, Ada.

2ND SAT.: Lowell Amateur Radio Club, held at Lowell Airport, 730 Lincoln Lake NE. 9 a.m. social time; 10 a.m. meeting. LARC sponsors 145.27 MHz area radio repeater system.

FRI., SAT. & SUN.: Averill Historical Museum of Ada, located at 7144 Headley. Hours are 1-4 p.m. or by appointment. Call 676-9346.

SUN.: Tri-town Conservation Club trap & skeet league, 5616 Dunn Rd. 12-5 p.m. Call Larry at 754-7104. Public welcome.

RED ARROW SPORTS

Lowell football season ends battling Muskegon's Big Reds

By Sean Garner

The most highly anticipated high school football game of the year could hardly have done anything more to live up to the hype.

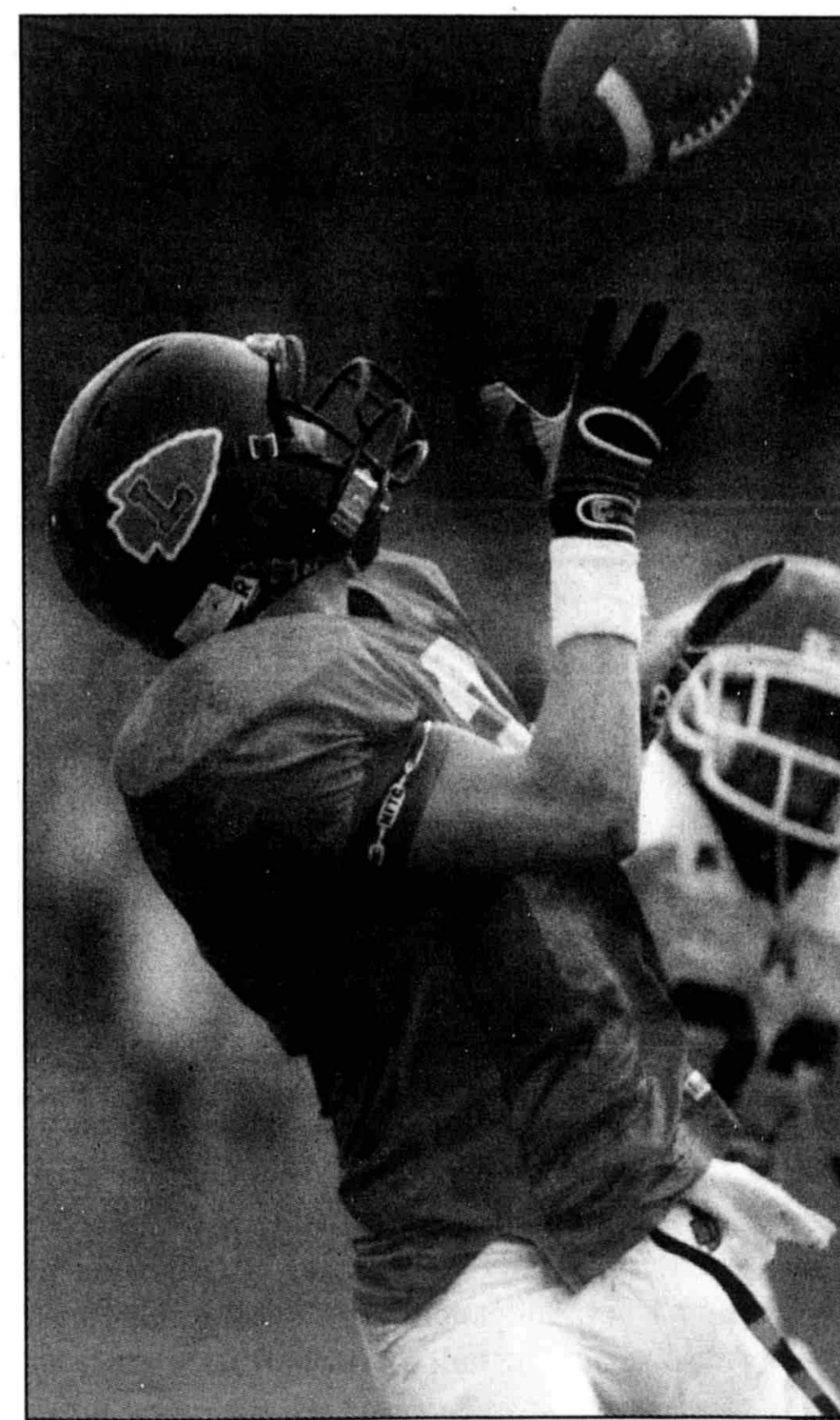
With a shot at the MHSAA Division II state championship on the line, the Muskegon Big Reds, undefeated and ranked #2 in the state, headed eastward to take on #3 Lowell in front of a capacity crowd at Bob Perry Stadium for Saturday's district championship. After four quarters of football, Muskegon emerged victorious in a 45-35 shootout.

The loss ends the Red Arrows' season with a 10-1 record. Despite having to play such a highly-touted team three rounds before the state championship at Ford Field, Lowell head coach Noel Dean did not leave the field feeling bitter. "That's life," Dean said. "There is no such thing as fair or unfair. It's life. It's football. There are a lot of other things in life that would be worse than playing Muskegon in the second Round."

Senior quarterback Keith Nichol accounted for two Lowell touchdowns with a 5-yard run, a 37-yard pass to Mike McElroy, and did his part in a successful "hook and ladder", in which Nichol completed a 20-yard pass to Kory Stevens. He tossed the ball laterally to Torsten Boss, who ran the remaining 48 yards for the touchdown.

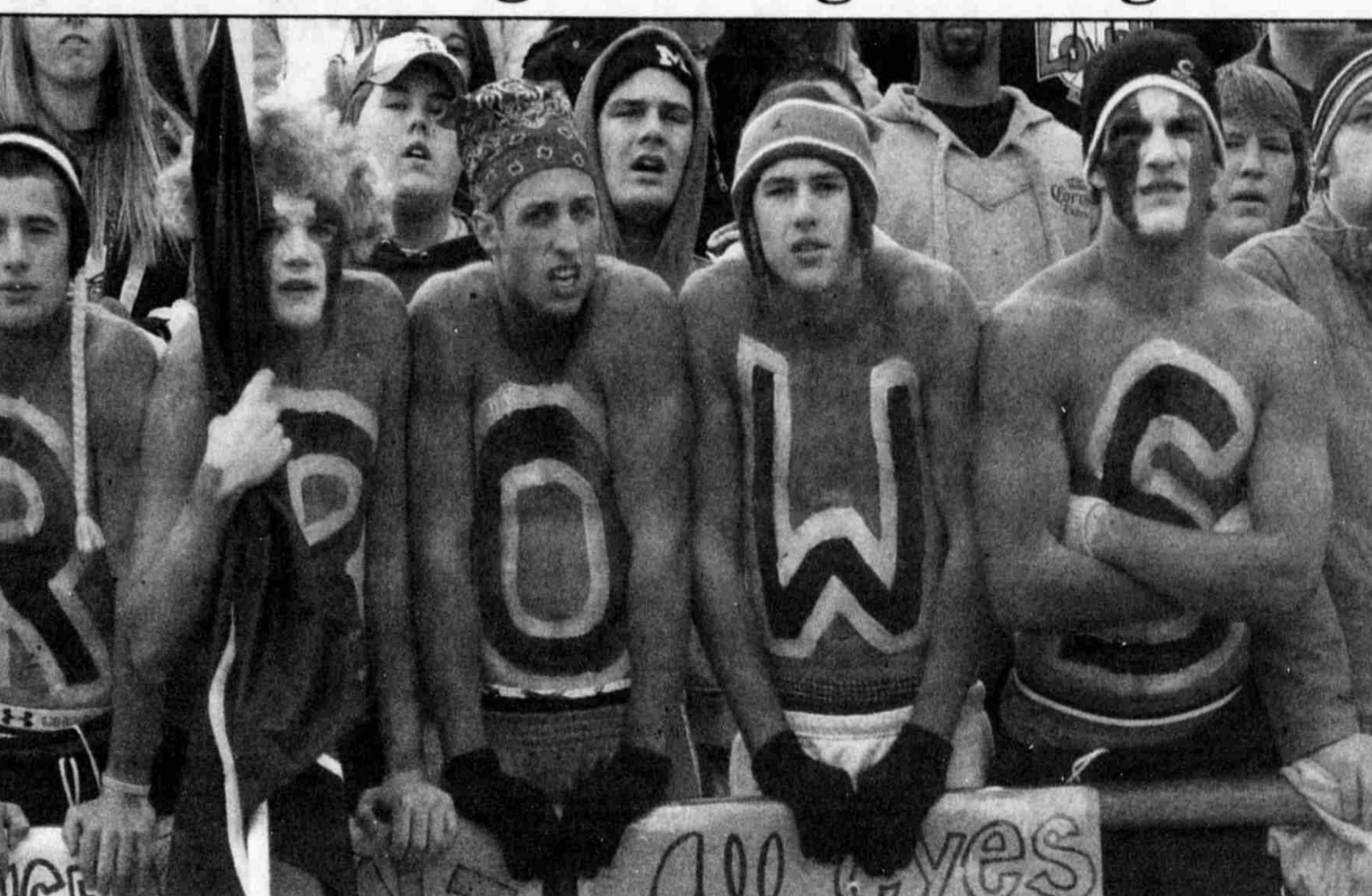
The Red Arrows got off to a strong start in the second half, at one point leading 35-26 after a one-yard Kameron Blake touchdown run. That would be the last time Lowell would score, however, as Muskegon ran off 19 unanswered points behind two fourth-quarter touchdown runs of 69 and 11 yards by tailback Ashton Leggett.

Leggett finished the day with 142 yards on 23 carries while the Big Reds



Mike McElroy of Lowell hauls in a touchdown pass from Keith Nichol early in the third quarter against Muskegon. The Red Arrows, in front of 11,000 fans Saturday, were defeated 45-35 by the Big Reds to end the season 10-1 overall.

Photo submitted by Joe Provonche



Lowell Red Arrow fans look on during the final minutes of Saturday's football game against the Muskegon Big Reds.

Photo submitted by Joe Provonche

Muskegon went ahead 14-0 early in the second quarter on a touchdown run from R.J. Daniels and Ronald Johnson. However, Lowell responded strongly with 21 points in the second quarter to take a 21-20 lead at halftime.

Senior quarterback Keith Nichol accounted for two Lowell touchdowns with a 5-yard run, a 37-yard

pass to Mike McElroy, and did his part in a successful "hook and ladder", in which Nichol completed a 20-yard pass to Kory Stevens. He tossed the ball laterally to Torsten Boss, who ran the remaining 48 yards for the touchdown.

Leggett finished the day with 142 yards on 23 carries while the Big Reds

garnered 362 total yards on the ground. Muskegon coach Tony Annese had high praise for his 5'11", 225-pound senior back after the game. "If he's not a Division I football player waiting to happen, then I don't know who is," Annese said. "He is a kid who has great balance and great vision. The last two touchdowns we had, he really did a lot on his own."

Annese was thrilled to walk out with a victory, in spite of the game's dramatic momentum shifts. "The only times that I felt 'yes-way' were when we were ahead 14-0 and then at the very end of the game," Annese said. "The other times, I felt 'no way', because there was so much to overcome in this game. (Lowell) was up and down the field so fast, it was more like a track meet than a

football game. That is one of the finest football teams that I've ever coached against. They might be the best team in the state." Nichol did not have his finest day in terms of completion percentage, completing only 12 of 35 passing, but he did make the most of his opportunities, throwing for 308 yards with three touchdowns. He also ran for 67 yards and a score. Nichol's favorite target was usual #1 receiver, Mike McElroy, who finished with six receptions for 122 yards and 2 touchdowns despite being covered much of the day by Ronald Johnson, the second best cornerback in the country, according to college recruiting website Rivals.com.

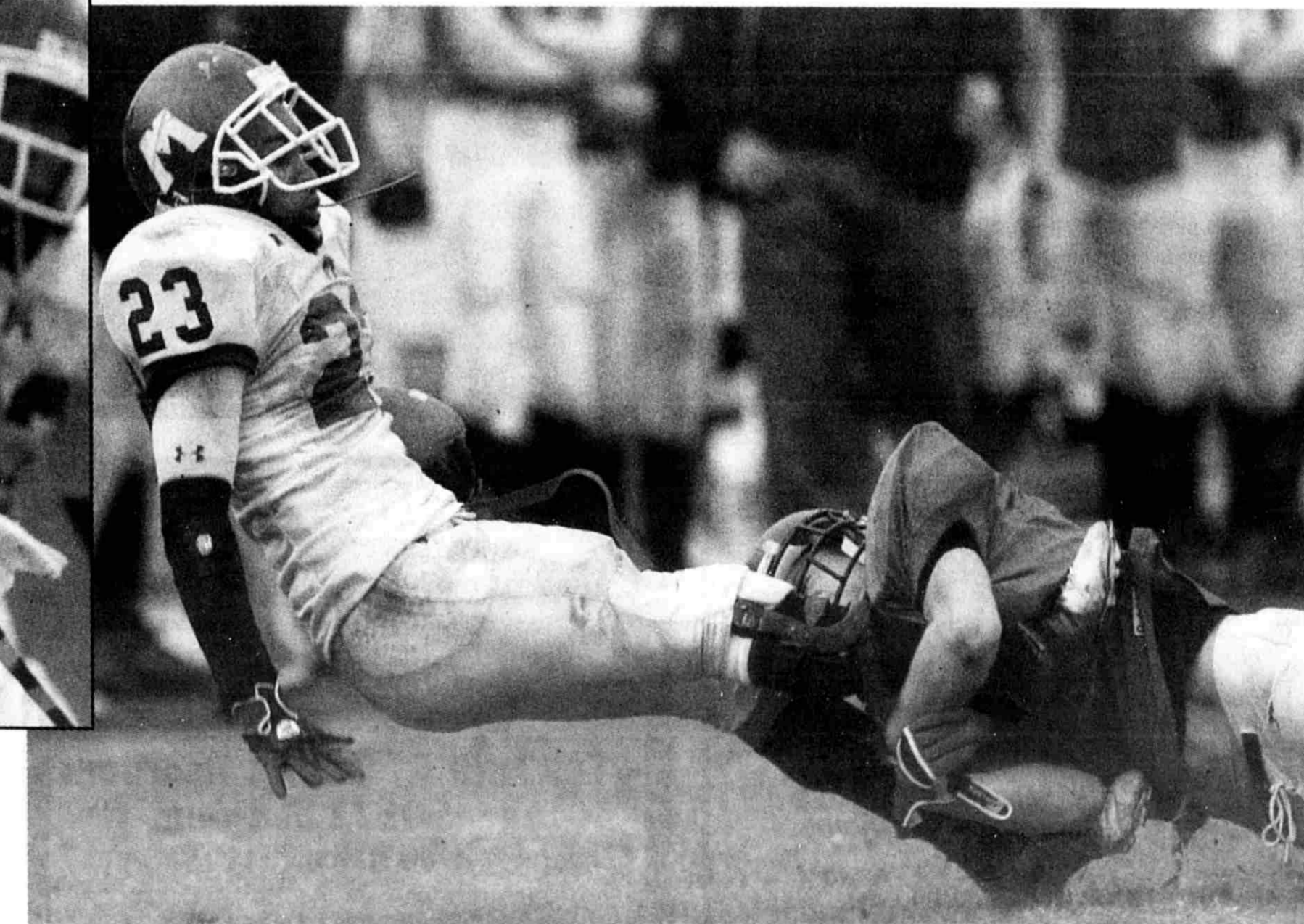
"Mike was running tremendous routes and my line was giving me time, and

when that happens I think Mike can compete with the best of them," Nichol said. "That team had a lot of the best of them. We came out and did our best. I don't feel ashamed at all."

Nevertheless, the Michigan State-bound blue-chipper's high school career has come to a close. Over the course of Nichol's three years as the starting quarterback for the Red Arrows, Nichol has compiled a record of 33-3, leading Lowell to an undefeated state championship as a sophomore.

"I wouldn't go anywhere else or trade any other moment or be part of any other school right now," Nichol said. "Being with Coach Dean, one of the best football coaches I have ever talked to, is an honor."

Big game, cont'd., pg. 20



Torsten Boss, right, of the Lowell Red Arrows holds on tight, bringing down Ronald Johnson of the Muskegon Big Reds.

Photo submitted by Joe Provonche

RED ARROW SPORTS



Lowell soccer yields honors for junior player Abdo



Though the Lowell boys soccer season finished earlier than usual, some of head coach Paul Legge's players will walk away with some hardware, despite a 6-14 record in a "rebuilding year," according to Legge.

Senior Chris Barlow and junior Nick Abdo walked away with the majority of honors this season after being named to All-District, All-Conference and honorable mentions for All-State honors.

Adam Bowers was named honorable mention for All-Conference, and joined Abdo and Barlow as well as Drew Kyllonen and Andrew Gerig as All-District selections.

Junior Nick Abdo was honored as All-District, All-Conference and All-State (honorable mention) selections.

LHS alum play college ball



Lowell High School alumni Matt D'Agostino, Shane Stokes, Sam Oberlin and Ben Hanson are teammates on the Cornerstone University soccer team. Brothers Josh and Kory Anderson, also Lowell graduates, play soccer for Indiana Tech. During the fall soccer season, the two teams, with a total of six LHS graduates, played against each other.

Pictured, left to right, are: Matt D'Agostino, Shane Stokes, Josh Anderson, Sam Oberlin, Kory Anderson and Ben Hanson.

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RED ARROW SPORTS



Girls' hoops clinch fourth straight title

By Justin Swan

Though slight, it was easy to notice the sigh of relief painted across the face of Lowell girls basketball coach Dee Crowley following last week's 45-35 victory over the Northview Wildcats.

"Four in a row," she said referring to another O-K White title. "That's awesome."

The victory gave the Lowell Red Arrows their fourth consecutive conference title, and was a well deserved moment of reflection for coach Crowley, following a highly anticipated rematch with the Wildcats, who the Red Arrows defeated at home earlier this year.

"We wanted to continue to be aggressive," Crowley said in regards to Lowell's 18-2 scoring run against the Wildcats to finish the first half. "In the second quarter we made some really good decisions and got a few stops defensively, so that was a big advantage for us."

The advantage was a 31-16 halftime lead in front of a packed Northview crowd who showed a lot of team spirit. The third quarter offered some scoring chances for the Wildcats, who would close the lead to 11 points.

"We always say that the first three minutes of the second half are the most

important. I looked at the clock with a minute left in the third quarter and they hadn't made a big run at us, so we withstood that quarter and that was critical," said Crowley.

Northview would open the third quarter with a three-pointer from sophomore guard Kanisha Applewhite sparking a 12-6 run in the opening minutes of the second half. But the biggest hurdle truly fell upon Lowell senior Kelsey Crowley, who was given the task of guarding Northview's star player Maddie Burnett.

"I knew it was going to be a tough job to cover her because she's so quick and has such a quick release on her shot," Kelsey Crowley said. "You have to honor both aspects of her game."

"I just tried to stay in front of her and keep her in front of me, but everyone has to know where she is on the floor. We basically played team defense against her."

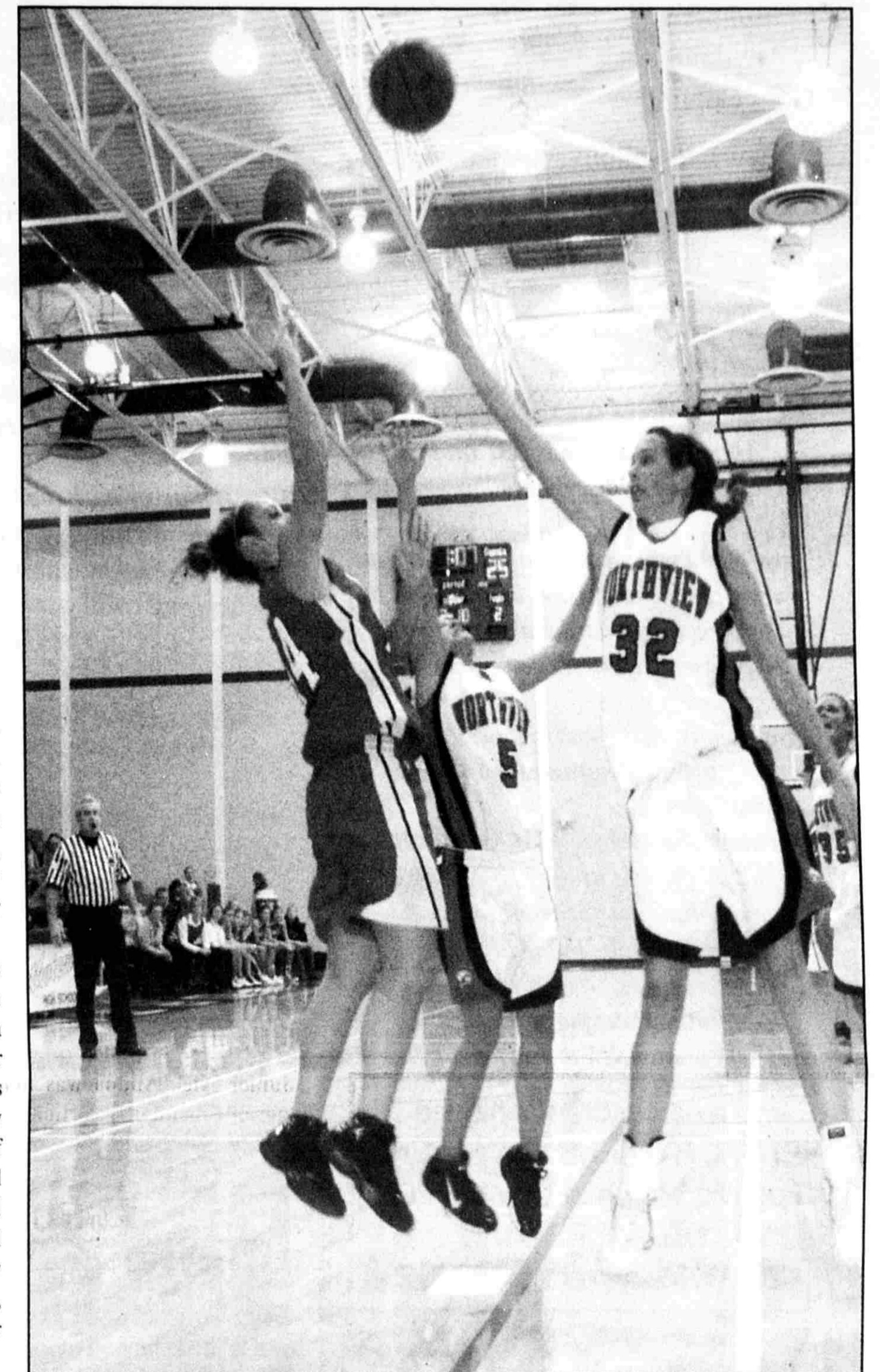
"We really didn't do anything special to defend her one-on-one other than on the drive," said coach Crowley. "We wanted to have someone else there once she got to the lane to make it a tough shot. Kelsey had to do as much as she could on the outside and wait for that help coming in on the drive."

And while securing the conference title certainly merits a smile from Crowley, she and the girls admit the celebration will be short-lived in preparation for this week's Kenowa Hills match-up, and beyond.

"We really want to win regionals," said senior Brittany Lyman. "I'm pretty sure we'll win districts. I'm not going to guarantee that because we're just taking it one game at a time."

The girls will have to extend their 14-game winning streak, which dates back to Sept. 12 when they gave up a fourth-quarter lead to East Grand Rapids, in order to extend their season as tournaments approach. And if efforts like those found in Thursday's rematch against the Wildcats are to serve as any indication on how focused this team is, the girls' winning ways may prove extremely difficult for their opponents.

The Lady Arrows basketball team has won their last 14 games by a margin of 16 points per game. Prior to Tuesday's game at Kenowa Hills they have an overall record of 15-3, and a 10-1 record in the O-K White. Lowell advanced to the Regional final last year where they lost to Grandville. In 2002, Crowley's team went as far as the State quarter finals.



Junior Chelsea Harrison floats a shot over Northview's Anne Sutton.



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Brief, "Sound Off" comments are always welcome but will be, at times, edited for content and length. All comments are submitted by the public and do not necessarily represent the views of the Ledger. Feel free to sign your comment. For more lengthy views please consider a letter "To The Editor".

Affirmative action is just another form of discrimination.

It's really sad when a student takes someone's purse from school, (says baby girl on it) keep cash, gift card and movie card just please give the ID and purse back!

Congratulations to the entire Lowell JV Football team on a great season!

Thank you Mike & Lois Meppelink and all the rest of the LYFL Board and volunteers for another fun & successful Youth Football Season!

Congratulations parents! Another year of very polite trick or treaters of all ages.

These children achieved DENTAL HYGIENE EXCELLENCE For The Month of October 2006 DR. J.E. REAGAN
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- Brittany Essich
- Hanna Fallstrom
- Levi Fallstrom
- Brady Fox
- Mackenzie Fox
- Danielle Fron
- Marcus Fron
- Chelsea Griffioen
- Emily Griffioen
- Michelle Griffioen
- Nathan Griffioen
- Kierian Heffron
- Jacob Holmes
- Madison Holmes
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Call 1-800-823-5220 or visit the web site at www.threewishes2.com for more information.

Senior citizens beware. Be sure you update your prescription drug plan before the end of the year. Last years plan may not be as good for this year.

What happened to all the Clown Parade photos that were promised to be in the Ledger? The City only turns 175 once.

Whatever happened to customer service? I could not finish my shopping because it was more important for the store to close off 6 aisles and clean the floor. I miss Family Fare.

Red Arrows-Great Season- You guys are always #1 with Lowell.

It's getting cold, pet owners PLEASE remember to give them PROPER food, water, and shelter. You're human, so be HUMANE.

-Chris V.T

Mrs. Guile- Thanks so much for helping us plan the Hispanic Heritage assembly. We had such a wonderful time, and learned so much.

-8th Grade Honors Spanish Class

There are too many speeders in Key Heights. It's unsafe for kids who live there to play and ride their bikes. Slow Down before you hurt a kid.

I really enjoyed looking at all of the "saved" seats at Saturday's football game while my dad and I had to stand for 1 1/2 hours before the game even started.

Thanks for a great season boys!!! Lowell has the finest athletes around.

Oh I can't wait for Christmas Through Lowell!

The kickoff of the shopping season.

Lowell doesn't have "hanging chads" but we do have "timing misfeeds"! The City Clerk should be present when polls open. At 7:10AM there was "an emergency" -- what a way to start Election Day!

Get the lead out: the Boy Scout property was a shooting range for many years. Is the land now lead-free?

I still think the cops are afraid of the truck drivers and kids and they pick on the old people.

To the people who stole my bowl full of trick or treat candy... I hope you get diarrhea.

The Ledger

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FOR SALE - (4) Tires, size 185/65R14, on Chrysler rims, \$125; 1 1/4" receiver hitch, fits mini van & others, \$95. Call 897-6374 or 340-8226.

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FOR RENT - Lowell duplex, 2 bedroom, \$600/month, no smoking or pets. Call Joice Smith 616-293-0980.

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LOWELL - \$500 moves you in, 1 bdrm, 1.5 bath - 2 bdrm, 2 bath, washer/dryer hook-ups, air, garage, cathedral ceilings. \$650-675/month. Stoneridge Apts 1-866-443-3098. **www.wmpmonline.com.**

FOR RENT - 3 possible 4 bedroom house on 3 acres in the country. Paved road close to expressway. \$800 deposit & \$750 per month. Call Trave at 616-292-0695.

FOR RENT - Lowell Veterans Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.

FOR RENT - 1 br, 1 ba upper apt. A/C & trash pickup. \$450/mo. plus utilities. \$300 deposit. No smoking, no pets. 897-4829.

DUPLEX FOR RENT - in Lowell. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, large yard, garage, washer & dryer included. \$650/mo. Lease, deposit. Call 292-4948.

FOR RENT - Lowell duplex, 2 bedroom, \$600/month, no smoking or pets. Call Joice Smith 616-293-0980.

AVAILABLE JAN. 1ST. - Upstairs 1 bedroom apt. in Lowell, \$650 includes utilities. Call 897-7176.

LOWELL/SARANAC - Large 4 bedroom home for rent. Call 616-862-6714.

FOR RENT - 1 & 2 bedroom trailers in Lowell, \$400-\$420 per mo. plus 1 mo. rent deposit. No dogs please. Call 813-8041 or 616-754-0276.

ALTO - COUNTRY LIVING - very spacious, THREE bedroom apartment, 2 bathrooms, new carpet; beautiful LAKE and WOODS; cats ok, no dogs; \$650 plus utilities, 616-891-1840.

HELP WANTED

BRAND AUDITORS - Get paid for evaluating customer service in Ionia. Must have email. Visit **second-to-none.com** to complete a free application.

RESIDENT AIDE/CNA - Need flexible, experienced person to assist residents in an elegant retirement community 24-40 hours per week. Call 616-957-9767 Mon.-Fri. 10am - 5pm for more information.

PRODUCTION EMPLOYEE - Steel Processing company is seeking individuals with good work ethic, able to read micrometer, work in multiple departments in an industrial setting. Excellent health insurance, dental, 401(k). Apply in person at: **Michigan Wire Processing Co., 2487 W. Main St., Lowell, MI 49331.**

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS BEEN DENIED? - Employer or state stopping your benefits? For information, help protesting & possible Free representation, call 1-800-305-2899.

TRAP COLLECTOR LOOKING FOR - Antique traps from mouse to bear traps. Also vintage BB guns. 616-644-9300.

I BUY ESTATES FOR CASH! - Buying antiques, collections, stuff, etc. 616-550-0521.

WANTED - Motorcycles. Cash paid for road bikes, running or not. Call 446-8352.

WANTED - **TRAP COLLECTOR** - Antiquing traps from mouse to bear traps. Also vintage BB guns. 616-644-9300.

WANTED - **MOTORCYCLES.** Cash paid for road bikes, running or not. Call 446-8352.

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RESIDENTIAL CLEANING - Experienced, reliable, Christian will clean your Lowell/Ada home. Call 897-0748.

D.M. MOORE FINE HARDWOOD FLOOR REFINISHING & INSTALLATIONS - Over 25 years experience. Highest quality guaranteed. See **www.dmmore.com** or call 616-802-0120 for unsurpassed 2006 Fall Specials.

DIVORCE BY AGREEMENT - Save \$\$\$! Non-attorney. Free quote & brochure. David, 616-248-5045 ext. 51 or 888-381-6863 ext. 51 (24 hours).

KELLY'S CLEANING - home or business, references, thorough cleaning, reasonable rates. Call 691-7141.

TREE WORK & LOT CLEARING - Brush removal, chipper service & storm work. Insured. Landscaping & much more. Call Chris 293-9681 for a free estimate.

C & S DRYWALL - Over 20 years experience. Complete drywall service, licensed & insured; free estimates. Call 868-6140.

NEED YOUR PET FIXED? - Call C-SNIP, 616-455-8220, a nonprofit, reduced fee spay & neuter clinic.

WINDOW WASHING & GUTTER CLEANING - reasonable rates. Call Randy at R & R Enterprises, 693-2932.

HAVE COMPUTER PROBLEMS? - Call Ryan 897-7770.

HANDYMAN SERVICES - Repairs, painting, drywall, carpet cleaning, power washing & more. Experienced & reliable. Insured & bonded. Call 897-4010.

BUSINESS CARDS - For as little as \$26 for 250. (white card stock, black ink). We can also print cards in 4 color. Before you order your cards from somewhere else - check our rates! Call Lowell Litho, 897-9261.

DOES YOUR CHRYSLER, PLYMOUTH, DODGE CAR, TRUCK OR VAN NEED REPAIR? - Don't make a mistake & take it anywhere else - give Geo-Tech a try! Contact George at Geo-Tech Transmission & Repair. Call 897-0743.

SHIP UPS AT THE LEDGER OFFICE - Daily pickup at 3 p.m. We cannot accept hazardous materials or firearms. Compare our prices! Call for a price quote! We will need weight, zip code & dimensions for a price quote over the phone. 105 N. Broadway. 897-9261.

PLUMBER - Experienced. Residential Service or New Construction. Reasonable rates. Call 897-2575.

ZOOLAND DAYCARE - Full-time & part-time openings for 1st & 2nd shifts. All ages and special needs children accepted. Call for more information or to schedule an interview, 897-8386 or 308-0195.

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ALTERATIONS - Experienced professional men's, women's, leather coats, all fabrics, zippers replaced, wedding & prom dresses altered. Call Helen 897-6071.

BOB FORD - Formerly of Hahn Hardware, is doing all kinds of service work. Call 299-3198.

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WE ARE HERE - to serve your housing needs. Rent to Own starting at \$498. Call today, Valley Vista 1-877-634-6700. New hours 10-7 Tues.-Fri. & Sat. 10-5. **www.HometownAmerica.com**

Big game, continued ... From Page 15

Nichol will be headed to Michigan State in January so that he can participate in spring practice and maybe see some of the MSU men's basketball team, coached by Tom Izzo, who was one of the more than 11,000 in attendance. Izzo has

been to many high school venues across the country on recruiting visits but was particularly taken with the environment at Bob Perry stadium.

"I'll be honest. This is one of the greatest high school venues I've been at

as far as watching a sporting event," Izzo said. "With the stadium and the hill and everything, I think this is a very neat place. This is what high school football is all about, and I'm glad I'm here to watch it."

Despite the final

outcome, Dean was pleased with his team's performance.

"Our kids certainly did a nice job today and I am very proud of them and what they have done for the community," Dean said.

It was the final game

for a senior class that has lost only one regular season game in the past two years. A few also played on the team that earned an undefeated state championship in 2004. Dean admits it is difficult to watch them move on.

"They're special kids,"

Dean said. "Every year you get attached to the kids because you've known them since they were little rugrats. I've been here eleven years now, they grow up, you watch them grow and they move on. It's tough."

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