

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 35 Issue 12

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

City searching for balanced decision on radical tree trimming

By Emma Palova

Lowell City Council deemed Lowell Light and Power (LL&P) company's proposal to trim trees radical and aggressive.

The LL&P requested \$3,120 from the city to trim trees on Lincoln Lake, N. Hudson, Howard, Riverside and Spring streets in the city's right-of-way to protect from power outages.

"Radical is the key word here," said council member James Hodges. "I think it's excessive and I don't like it."

According to LL&P manager Tom Richards, the trees have grown close enough to power lines, to maintain proper clearance required by industry standards.

"If we're going to set standards based on gut feelings as opposed to industry standards of what is safe, we can't just ignore it," he said. "I don't want to leave something like a totem pole."

Richards said someone could get electrocuted, if the situation hasn't been taken care of properly.

"I live with my gut feelings, not with industry standards," said Hodges.

The heated discussion between the city council and utility company then turned to the fact that the city and LL&P need a policy for tree replacement.

"The council needs to set a policy for tree replacement," said council member Jim Pfaller. "If the tree is in the right-of-way

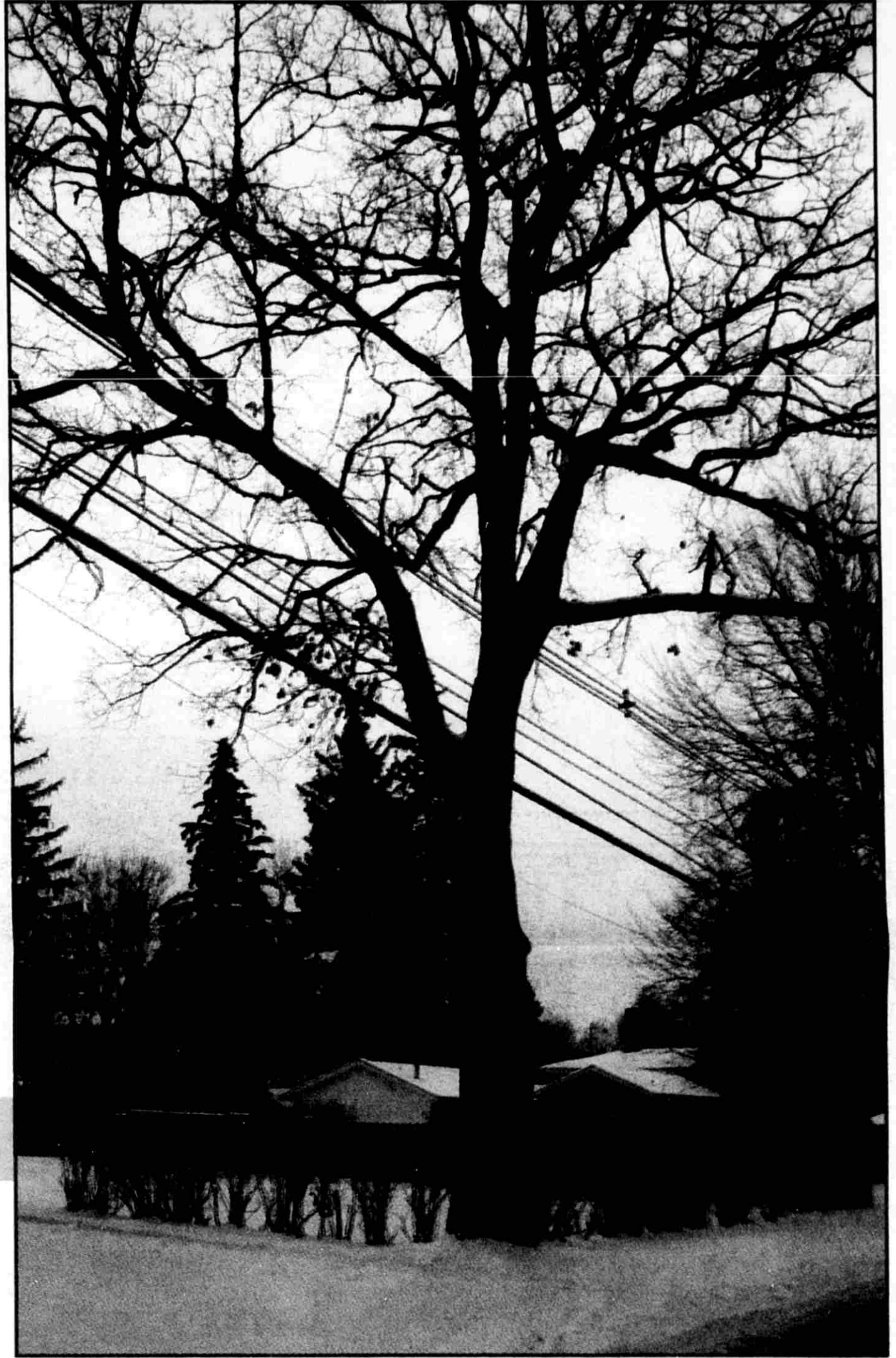
and needs to be replaced, the replacement needs to be in the neighborhood."

Pfaller reiterated to Richards that LL&P has the responsibility for funding the tree removal.

The issue of tree trimming has been controversial in the past and, as such, the council decided to table any decision until the next council meeting. In the meantime, a joint meeting between the city council and the LL&P is scheduled for Jan. 25 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Both entities are looking for input from the community.

"We need to find a balance," said mayor Chuck Myers. "We don't want to micromanage but we need to come up with a balance."



Lowell Light & Power has proposed to trim trees on Lincoln Lake, N. Hudson, Howard, Spring and Riverside streets to prevent power outages.

LL&P audit records spike in revenues & expenditures; city audit shows flat revenues

By Emma Palova

While the city audit showed flat revenues and a low fund balance, the Lowell Light & Power (LL&P) audit recorded a spike in revenues and expenditures due to high energy costs.

According to auditor Steve Thompson of Biggs

Hausserman Thompson & Dickinson PC (BHT&D) of Saranac, all the major city funds had a low fund balance.

The city's general fund had only a fund balance of \$40,000 or 1.5 percent

"You should have at least a one month cushion," said Thompson.

Overall, the city had flat revenues, with a loss in

the sewer fund. On the other hand, increased water rates, which went into effect at the end of the year, produced income.

Liabilities brought down the city's \$21 million in assets to \$12 million.

Thompson recommended the city do a better

Audits, cont'd., pg. 2

Person of the Year nominations sought

By Emma Palova

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce is looking for candidates for the prestigious Person of the Year award.

"The purpose of this award is to recognize a person or persons who have freely donated considerable time to the community, school district, church or humanity," said chamber executive director Liz Baker.

Candidates should be innovative, and they cannot be members of the chamber board or foundation board.

The written nomination must include why the candidate is deserving of this award, along with supporting materials.

Nominations, cont'd., pg. 2

Gillette announces retirement from LAS

By Emma Palova

Connie Gillette, 55, assistant superintendent of finance and personnel at Lowell Area Schools, has notified the school board that she will be retiring at the end of the school year.

Her husband, Kenowa Hills superintendent Jim Gillette is also retiring.

Connie Gillette started working for the Lowell district in 1997, and has wor-

ked to gain the trust of the community in financial management of the district.

"We've come a long way," she said. "I love Lowell, and the people here. It has been a difficult decision."

Gillette plans to travel with her husband and spend time with their grandchildren.

The district, with an operating budget of \$30 million, is in good shape, she said.

Before coming to Lowell, Gillette worked as the business manager for Saugatuck Schools.

The district does not expect to fill Gillette's position with another administrative superintendent position, but rather with a directorship or business manager post.

"Connie has been a great person to work with," said superintendent Greg Pratt. "She has a good reputation in the business world."



Connie Gillette



F.R.O.M. Moves ... Page 3

Timpson Resigns... Page 4

Winter On Main Street ... Page 8

100 Victories... Page 13

Obituaries

HOUSEMAN
Mrs. Jane H. Houseman, aged 87, wife of the late Charles E. Houseman, died January 15, 2007, at The Place in Martinez, Ga., nursing home. She made her home in Lowell for many years after marrying Charles in 1941, then in Mission, Texas, for several years, and in Martinez, Ga., for the last nine years. She was an active member of the Lowell Congregational Church for many years. During the 1970's, Jane worked at the Lowell Ledger and wrote a column called "Jane's Jabber." She was preceded in death by her parents Howard C. and Harriet E. Thurtell. She is survived by her daughter Marylyn S. McLeod (Donald) of Martinez, Ga.; her brother and sister-in-law Howard T. and Ruth E. Thurtell of Lowell; nephews Joel H. Thurtell of Plymouth, MI, Craig M. Thurtell of Cornwall, NY, Stephen C. Thurtell of Montclair, NJ. Her body has been donated to the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta per her request.

Card of Thanks

We wish to thank our family and friends for being so caring during the passing of our beloved husband and father, James A. Serne. Our appreciation is extended to all who sent cards, attended visitation, to Father George Fekete of St. Mary Church for his services and comforting words, the ladies of the parish for the delicious luncheon and Roth-Gerst Funeral Home for their heartfelt care and services. Your thoughtfulness and prayers meant so much in helping us get through a most difficult time in our lives. Jim's faith in God, family dedication, love for flying and his career in the milk hauling business allowed him to touch many lives. We feel so blessed to have been a part of his life. He will be dearly missed.

Wife and best friend, Eleanor Serne
Children, Chris & Mary Jo Bieri
Mark & Carol VanWeelden
Grandchildren, Rochelle, Cody & Austin Bieri

Audits, continued ... From Page 1

Haefner LLC, presented the LL&P and Lowell Cable Television audits. According to Haefner, the cable fund has shown flat revenues, while LL&P had a significant increase both in revenues and expenditures driven by high energy costs, distribution costs and customer service cost. One of the biggest activities for LL&P last year was the Bowes Road project.

Nominations, continued ... From Page 1

"I hope everyone has the opportunity to nominate someone they believe is truly deserving of this award," said Baker. The Person of the Year award was established in 1986, and the chamber has continued the tradition ever since. The last five recipients of the award were: Ray and Barbara Zandstra, 2006; Kraig and Jody Haybarker, 2005; Jim White, 2004; Jim Doyle, 2003; Luanne Kaeb and Judy Straub, 2002.

The 2007 award will be presented at the annual Winter Gathering of the membership on Feb. 22 along with the 4th annual Business Appreciation award at Deer Run Golf Club. Nominations should be submitted in writing to LACC, P.O. Box 224, Lowell, MI 49331, faxed to 897-9101 or e-mailed to info@lowellchamber.org by the Tuesday, Jan. 30 deadline.

Lend A Hand VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

HELP PROMOTE LITERACY
The Kent County Literacy Council has scheduled an information session on Tuesday, Jan. 30, for prospective volunteer tutors. This session

is held at 6:30 p.m. and lasts one hour. At the end of the session, there will be an opportunity to sign up for tutor training. By training people to be tutors, the council can offer one-on-one reading help to adults asking for assistance in reading or English as a Second Language (ESL). You do not need to speak another language to tutor ESL. The information session will be held at the Yankee Clipper Library, 2025 Leonard St. NE, Grand Rapids. Call 459-5151 to register.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 07-182-685-DE
Estate of **AUSTIN HENRY INGERSOLL** deceased
Date of birth: 12/28/1919
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, **AUSTIN HENRY INGERSOLL**, who lived at 1030 Hunt St., Lowell, Michigan, died December 24, 2006.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **JOHN AUSTIN INGERSOLL**, named personal representative, or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 1030 Hunt St., Lowell, MI 49331, and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
January 16, 2007
Mary L. Benedict
P45285
4519 Cascade Rd. SE, Ste. 14

Grand Rapids, MI 49546 616-942-0020
John Austin Ingersoll
1030 Hunt St.
Lowell, MI 49331
STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 07-182-684-DE
Estate of **ROSEMARY LOUISE COUTURIER** deceased
Date of birth: 02/25/1930
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, **ROSEMARY LOUISE COUTURIER**, who lived at 2440 4 Mile Rd. NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan,
died December 25, 2006.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **MICHELLE L. PHILLIPS**, named personal representative, or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 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.
January 16, 2007
Michelle L. Phillips
2383 Midvale NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

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Flat River Outreach is on the move

Submitted by Ann Dimmick

After a building search that has lasted close to four years, Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc. has purchased the former Cumberland Manor and renovations have started. Board members and volunteers have been

busy cleaning, painting, organizing and changing rooms in the west wing of the facility to prepare it for the arrival of their Thrift Shop and Food Pantry. This new location of the Thrift Shop will more than double the volume of merchandise available to shoppers and expand the Food Pantry to allow for client choice shopping. In addition, F.R.O.M. will be opening a furniture store for the first time. The move will take place this Saturday, Jan. 27 beginning at 8 a.m. The current Thrift Shop at 519 E. Main St. will close its doors at 6 p.m. on Friday.

Jan. 26. The new Thrift Shop and Furniture Store at 11535 Fulton St. SE will open for business as soon as possible. Watch for signs and check The Ledger "Along Main Street" for exact time and date. The new Food Pantry opening will also be listed in this section.



"We're hoping to be open on Feb. 1," said Ann Dimmick. Pictured on the ladder are Jan Bailey, left, and Dimmick, inside the future Thrift Shop.

After leaving kids in truck, Sand Lake woman arraigned on charges of child abuse

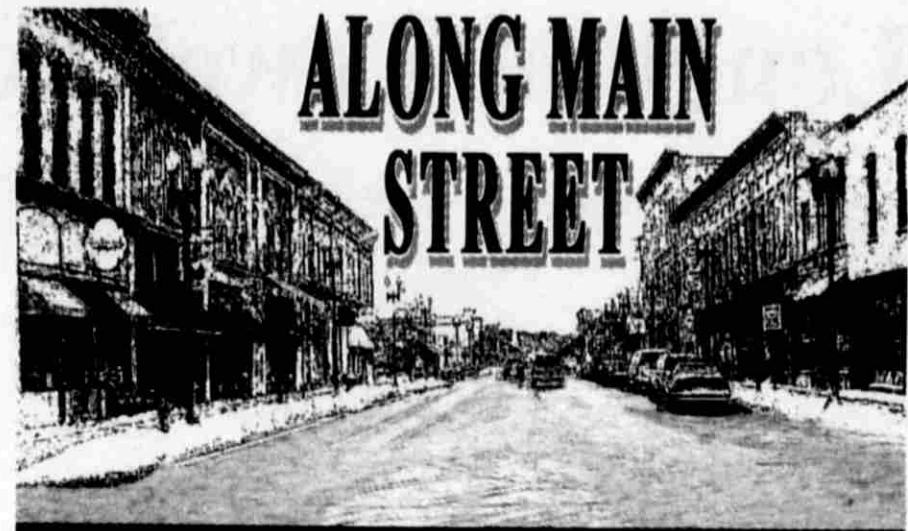
By Emma Palova

A Sand Lake woman was arraigned today (Jan. 24) in 63rd District Court on felony charges of second degree child abuse. The Lowell Police Department (LPD) arrested the 28-year-old woman last week after investigating a complaint of three children left unattended in a parked motor vehicle. According to Sgt. James Hinton of the LPD, the children were left in the running vehicle for more than three hours while the woman was in a shop

across the street. "She was getting a saddle made at the saddle shop," said detective Steve Bukala. The pickup truck, with the children inside, was parked on the north side of East Main near the dam. The six-year-old twin boys and a 22-month-old boy were not injured, according to Bukala. The three children were released to their mother the same day with a follow-up investigation by Children's Protective Services.

College News

University of Minnesota Duluth has announced that Sarah Hasselquist, of Lowell, has been named to the dean's list for fall semester 2006. She is a junior in the College of Liberal Arts. Kristin Hufstader, of Lowell, has achieved recognition as a member of the dean's list for the 2006 fall semester at Grand Rapids Community College. Benjamin Kaeb, of Lowell, was one of more than 1,600 students to receive degrees at Iowa State University's fall commencement in December 2006. He received a master of science in entomology.



AUDITIONS
Thebes Players auditions for the production of "Humpty Dumpty Is Missing" is Saturday, Jan. 27 at 1 p.m. at the Lowell Area Arts Council. For more information call 897-8545.

MID-WINTER USED BOOK SALE
Friends of Englehardt Library will have a mid-winter used book sale for adults and children this weekend, Friday, Jan. 26, 9:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 27, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. All proceeds go to library programming.

THEBES PLAYERS "THE ODD COUPLE"
Performances for the female version of "The Odd Couple" are Jan. 26 - Feb. 10. Call 897-8545 for tickets or visit lowellartscouncil.org.

STUDENT/T-SHIRT NIGHT
First 100 Lowell or Caledonia students receive a free T-shirt at Saturday's Lowell/Caledonia hockey game vs. Forest Hills Northern at 6 p.m. at Patterson Ice Arena. All Lowell and Caledonia students get into home games free with their ID.

ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR PERSON OF THE YEAR
If you know someone who deserves the honor of Person of the Year, submit in writing your nomination to Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 224, Lowell 49331 or email to info@lowellchamber.org or fax to 897-9101. Deadline is Jan. 30.

VICTORIAN ERA WORKSHOP
Lowell Area Historical Museum and Wittenbach/Wege Center will present "Victorian Era Activities Workshop" for ages 8-13, Feb. 10, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Wittenbach/Wege Center. Cost: \$15, includes lunch. Choose 2 activities: Victorian Valentines & Pressed Flower Bookmarks; Decoupage Treasure Box; Decorative Food Carving & the Victorian Table; Victorian Art - Paint an Impression. Call Linda at 897-7688 to register; deadline: Feb. 2.

GREAT LAKES SHIPWRECKS
The Lowell Area Historical Museum will present "Great Lakes Shipwrecks" with Jed Jaworski and Valerie VanHeest, Feb. 13, 7 p.m. at Lowell Township Hall. Included in the program are slides/video images of newly discovered Michigan shipwrecks. Free admission; public invited; light refreshments. Call Judy at 897-7688.

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CUSTOM THE YARD (PG-13)
1:35, 4:00, 6:45, 9:15

CRIMEVAL (R)
1:15, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30, 9:35

BLACK CHRISTMAS (R) 9:55

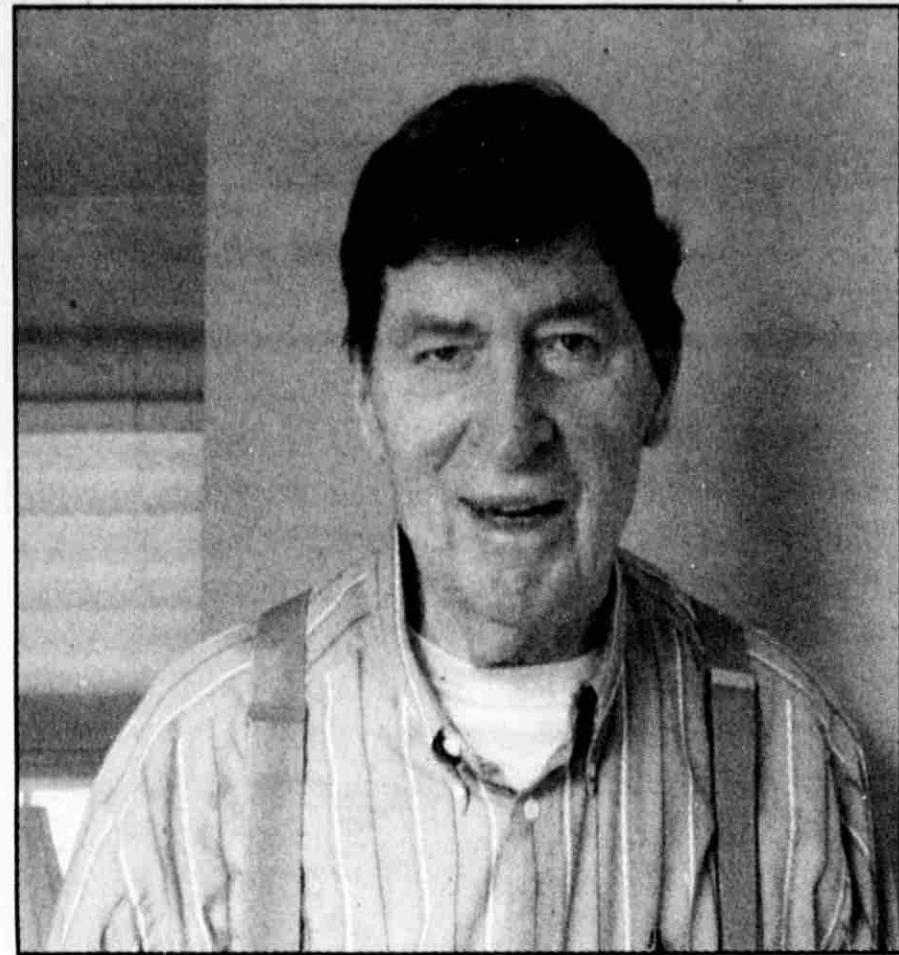
WE ARE MARSHALL (PG)
1:55, 4:35, 7:15

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG)
2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 9:00

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Longtime Lowell Township supervisor resigns

"He leaves a great legacy in the township." - Al Fletcher



By Emma Palova

Lowell Township supervisor John Timpson, 75, recently resigned from his post due to progressive Parkinson's disease.

The township board is expected to fill the vacancy within the next few weeks. The appointed supervisor will run for the seat in the next regular election in 2008.

Timpson, a longtime area resident and former

apple farmer, served the township residents for the last 18 years.

"I will miss the conversations with the people the most," he said during an interview at his home. "We've come a long way."

Parkinson's disease has made it difficult for Timpson to carry on township business.

"He leaves a great legacy in the township," said deputy supervisor Al

Fletcher. "He has done a great job. He will be sadly missed."

Timpson's most outstanding accomplishments include providing water and sewer to Lowell High School in Vergennes Township, and the rest of the township.

"We've done it very successfully," he said.

Timpson was also instrumental in securing the land for the township park on Grand River Dr.

"He has a great love for

land," said his wife, Judy. "John is a people person, an extremely fair sympathetic man. He worked hard to keep farming in the area."

During his supervisorship, the new Township Hall on Alden Nash was built, as well as the water tower on Foreman Road.

The Timpsons had apple farms in the Lowell, Alto and Belding areas prior to starting a trucking business.

Museum report marks 2006 as a milestone year

By Emma Palova

The annual Lowell Area Historical Museum report marked 2006 as a milestone year with increased attendance due to traveling exhibits.

Museum director Judy Straub presented the activity report to the city council last week.

"We have the best small town museum in America, thanks to the physical and financial support from the community," said Straub.

Last year, the total attendance jumped to 19,000, with several exhibits circulating around the community.

It is the goal of the museum to have four

traveling exhibits in the community every year. Currently, the museum is readying another traveling exhibit titled, "The Ghost Towns of Lowell Area."

One of the museum's biggest projects last year was the publication of "Where the Rivers Meet - A Pictorial Journey Through Historic Lowell, Michigan."

There is a controversial photo in the book of a child jumping into the river near the Main Street dam. It originally appeared in the Lowell Ledger in the 1960s. The museum decided to use the photo in the "People, Parades and Events" section of the book because it was part of Lowell's history.

Both the soft and hard cover books went over so well that the museum is preparing for a second order, according to Straub.

On the financial side, the museum has an endowment fund at the Grand Rapids

Community Foundation for perpetuation of the organization.

"My biggest challenge is to work toward corporate sponsorships," said Straub.

She hopes to continue to apply for grants, as well.

Sharing
The Vision
With Gregory Pratt
LHS Superintendent

Educational change is being discussed at all levels of schooling throughout the State of Michigan and across the Nation. It was once thought that the average student could make it into the work force with only a high school education and be able to provide a living wage for their family. In today's economy, the Michigan high school graduate who is fortunate enough to be employed with no post secondary education has a median income of \$28,232. The college graduate holds an enormous income advantage with students

who complete a 4-year degree earning a median income of \$55,036.

The current high school reform is the latest initiative that the State of Michigan is using to increase the number of college graduates. The percentage of students is now 57 percent who enter college and complete a bachelor of science degree within the first six years. The better we can prepare our students for the rigor of college and provide the relevance to maintain interest in their studies, the better our students will perform at the college level.

On the other end of the educational spectrum, the preschool program is becoming even more critical in the area of school readiness. As reform sweeps the high school and expectations become higher for those students, the higher expectations ripple throughout the curriculum and force curricular changes at the early elementary level.

Sharing The Vision, cont'd., pg. 10

Chamber Chat
With Cliff Yankovich
Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce

This month 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 is 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, 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

Chamber Chat, cont'd., pg. 10

A CROWN
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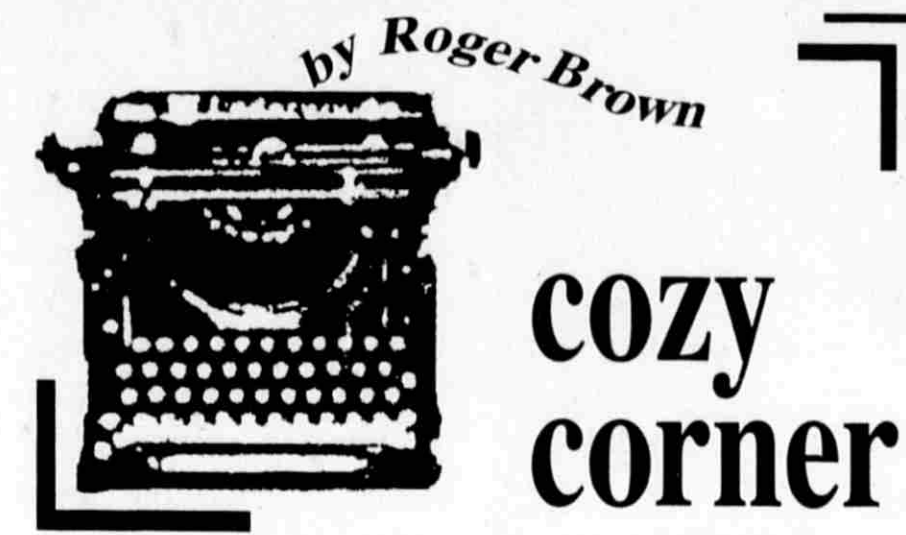
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Viewpoint



I have a little pigeonhole in my desk where I keep stuff that has been sent to me, or that I've stumbled over. By stuff, I mean things I could possibly use as column material, maybe even outright copy. There is also a scrap of paper in my pigeonhole with random column ideas scribbled on it. The only word not scratched out on this scrap of paper is "nicknames." Not much to go on.

The word was jotted down a couple weeks ago when my column was written about a little incident between my dad, "Brownie" and Gerald R. Ford "Jerry." As I wrote the piece, it struck me that I really like the familiarity spawned by the use of nicknames. I made a note of it. OK "Rog," whatcha gonna do with it? For lack of a better column idea, guess I'll just have to run with nicknames.

Let me give you an example. In the small town where I grew up, there were two doctors. One was Milton Slagh, M.D. The other was John Laird, D.O. The first was referred to exclusively as Dr. Slagh. The other was known as "Doc" Laird. My family went to "Doc" Laird with our ailments. It was the difference between Doc and Dr., not the M.D. or D.O. prompting our medical decision.

Good, bad or otherwise, any doctor I've done business with since has been "Doc" to me. Physicians, dentists, specialists, vets ... it doesn't matter, they're all "Doc." I've never once been corrected or noticed a hint of disapproval. Not even a wince. In response, my regular doctor calls me "Browntown" and my dentist usually refers to me as "Brownie." Our vet and I swap fishing stories.

I do have one "Doc" issue to deal with. I still try to schedule with my regular dentist in Lowell, but given my present circumstances, that sometimes doesn't work out. I've found a new dentist where I live. He is also in my Rotary Club. Therein lies the problem. At Rotary meetings he is always referred to as William. Not Bill, Will, Billie or Willie ... it's always William. Having noticed that, I was reluctant to haul off and hit him with "Doc" as he came at me with a dental drill.

I either have to find a new dentist, or get past this William thing and hit him with "Doc." Of course, I'll test this at a Rotary meeting, not while in his dental chair.

There has been a trend away from nicknames over the last ten or twenty years. I think this came about during the "Yuppie" era. Guys with names like Charles, William, Michael, David, Jonathon, etc., insist they be referred to by their full name. Not Chuck, Bill, Mike, Dave or John.

To The Editor

Dear Editor,

I was saddened reading the commentary by Dave Davis of what might become of the city-owned property on North Washington St. if developers are allowed to gain control. I acknowledge none of this is the city council's intention but we've all seen what happens when developers get involved.

After months of discussion with land conservationists, scouts, North Country Trail Association personnel and many others interested in land preservation, I'd like to share my vision for this property.

The city would be fully compensated for the land through land preservation grants. The property would be under the cooperative stewardship of the scouts and NCTA with the designation Gerald R. Ford Natural Area. Historical markers on the National Scenic Trail system would note Indian burial mounds and the historic nature of the house and additional buildings of the original utility company.

This always rubs me the wrong way. In response I do my best to uphold the traditions of my generation by always going with the shortened version of a name. For this, I have received a few wincing and some outright corrections. If I don't get punched in the nose, I figure I got away with it. So far I'm batting a thousand.

I remember fielding a phone call from an attorney with a complaint about our delivery service. I had some advance notice, and knew the call was coming. When the guy got me on the line he stiffly introduced himself as Attorney Robert So-and-So. I shot back with "Hey Bob, what can I do for you?" After a slight chuckle from his end of the line, the conversation immediately became almost cordial. In a few minutes we had the problem solved. End of story. Had I responded in a stilted manner I'm sure the issue could have easily gone a different way.

Like most Americans, I watched a little football last weekend. Sports are rife with great nicknames. Yogi, Babe, Boog, Night Train, The Snake, Wilt the Stilt, Roger the Rocket, Catfish, K-Mart and Tiger are a few that come to mind.

This year's Super Bowl is making history because the first African-American head coaches have made it to the big game. Forget that, the real story is the Chicago Bears coach's nickname. Leading "Da Bears", "Monsters of the Midway", Champions of the "Black and Blue Division" is "Lovie" Smith. Lovie? Gotta be the greatest sports nickname ever!

In sports, a nickname is almost a must. If you don't have one, your peers, fans or the media will give you one. A classic example is Charles Howell III. He is a golfer on the tour, often hanging around on the leader board at big tournaments. The extremely stiff Charles Howell III just doesn't go down well with the wise guys at Sportscenter. They've tagged him with "Chucky Three Sticks." That's right up there with Lovie. Close, but no cigar. I love Lovie!

Southerners seem to be looser with nicknames than I am. Yeah, I know, hard to believe. I know all sorts of grown men that go by Billy, Jimmy, Bobby, Tommy, etc. I'm talkin' gray haired guys like me, going around with names like they're still in the third grade.

A guy in my Rotary Club is a County Commissioner. His name is George, and that's what he goes by. George is a tough one to shorten. A year or so ago I called Houma, LA, about a plane I saw advertised.

During the conversation the seller asked where I lived. When I told him, he said his old high school buddy lived down here and was a county commissioner. He said the guy's name was Bubba Nugent. I told him I knew a George Nugent. He laughed out loud and said, "That's Bubba! Ain't nobody in Houma knows his real name."

I couldn't wait for the next Rotary meeting. So far, they're still calling him George in newspaper articles, but I'm waiting for the day when they pick up on Bubba.

For having only a word, "nicknames" on a piece of paper, I guess I've done a pretty good job of filling this space. Signing off until next week this is Rog, Hulk, Fat Man, Karl, Brownie, Browntown, etc.

The blue storage barn would be shared by the scouts and cemetery staff for much needed storage and would blend in with a new paint job and shrubbery applied by the scouts. The city would acknowledge the years of service by the tenants of the house who then could officially help with security.

The scouts would be working with NCTA and others with reforestation projects, trail improvements, replacing garlic mustard and other invasives with native plants and many other creative projects throughout the property. A rustic park could be created as an Eagle Scout project.

If you would like to help persuade the city to make this a reality, watch for announcements of upcoming planning meetings. The Lowell city manager will have a more comprehensive version of my "Vision." Express your belief in conserving this wonderful natural area with Lowell City Council: <http://ci.lowell.mi.us>. All who are joining in this valuable effort are greatly appreciated.

Peggy Covert

Ledger Entries

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

By Priscilla Lussmyer



125 YEARS
THE WEEKLY JOURNAL
JANUARY 25, 1882

Ice harvesters are busy, gathering in "congealed comfort" for summer.

A donation party for the benefit of Rev. Eaton will be given at Steele's Corners Wednesday evening. All invited.

Correspondents are requested to leave a space between each news item.

Miss Libbie VanWagoner of Lowell has composed a "Lowell Band March." She has also composed several other popular pieces.

100 YEARS
THE LOWELL LEDGER
JANUARY 24, 1907

The Board of Trade has its annual banquet by the Methodist Ladies' Aid Society, with Pres. Look giving the address.

Kingston, Jamaica, is destroyed by an earthquake. Miss Maude Andrews is taking music lessons from Prof. Post in Grand Rapids.

Lloyd Snooks went to Grand Rapids Tuesday.

75 YEARS
THE LOWELL LEDGER
AND THE ALTO SOLO
JANUARY 21, 1931

The History of Lowell book, following last year's Centennial celebration, receives good reviews.

Peter Fineis has trucks delivering Michigan crops to his Fineis fruit ranch in Florida, bringing back grapefruit and oranges.

The Father-Son banquet with speeches and volleyball is followed the next night by the Mother-Daughter banquet with speeches and music at the Methodist Church.

A new projector and sound equipment arrive at the Strand Theatre; a new screen will follow.

50 YEARS
THE LOWELL LEDGER
JANUARY 24, 1957

Orion Thaler's physics class is featured in this week's "Spotlight."

Dollar Days are on for this Friday and Saturday, including a "Chinese auction" at Avery Jewelers.

Six months of the Ledger will set you back \$1.75. The top four students at Lowell High School are Susan Keck, Robert Thaler, Marsha Verspoor and Barbara Court.

25 YEARS
THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER
JANUARY 21, 1981

Council's deadline for bids to build a new Division Street bridge is set for April 21.

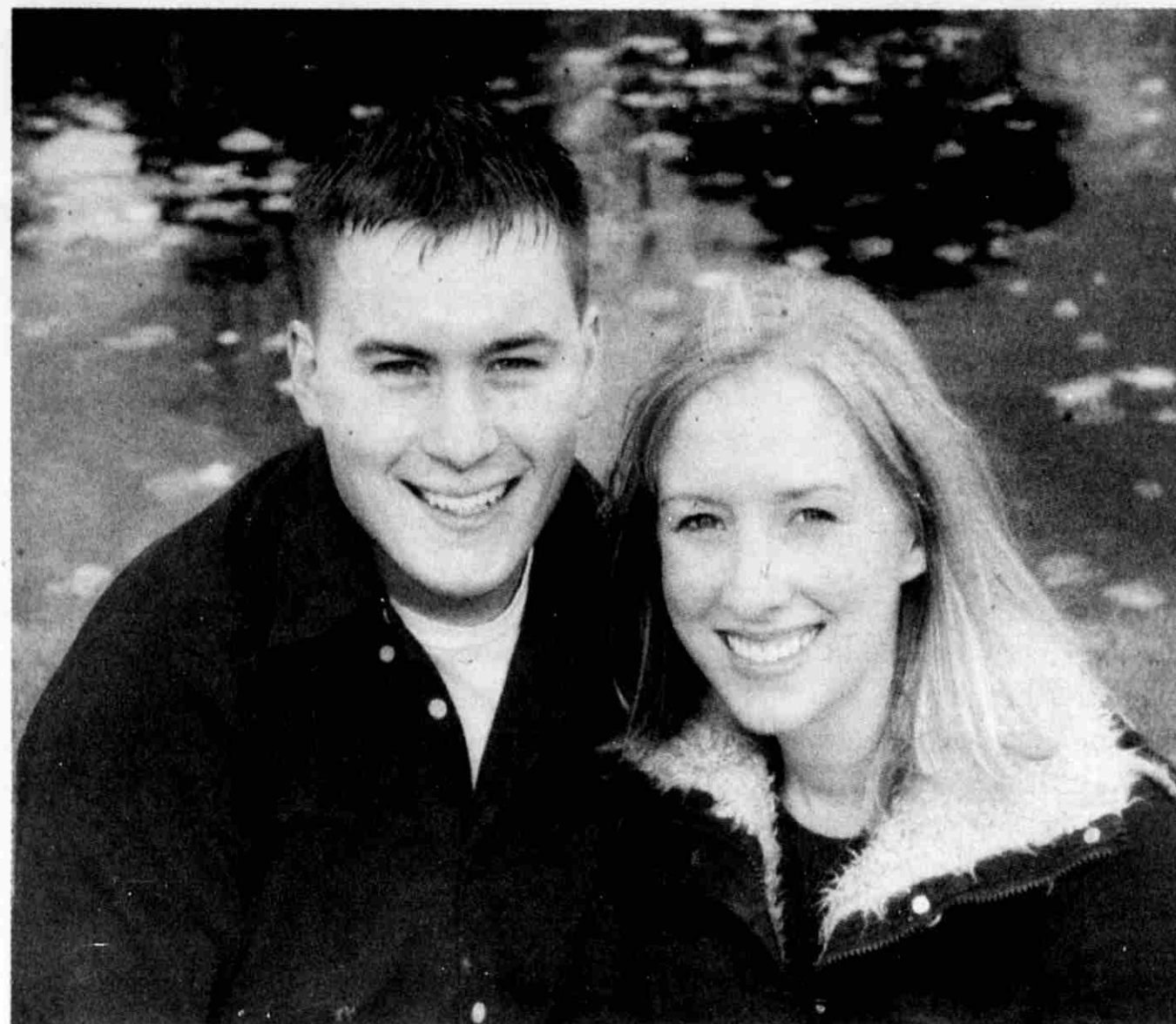
The Ledger loses phone service when its "towering icicle" topples and severs the phone line.

Lowell's Cindy Blough, now at Suttons Bay, is named Interscholastic Track Coach of the Year.

The new LAAC play, "Strange Bedfellows" is in rehearsal.

Engagements

Nadler/Ellison

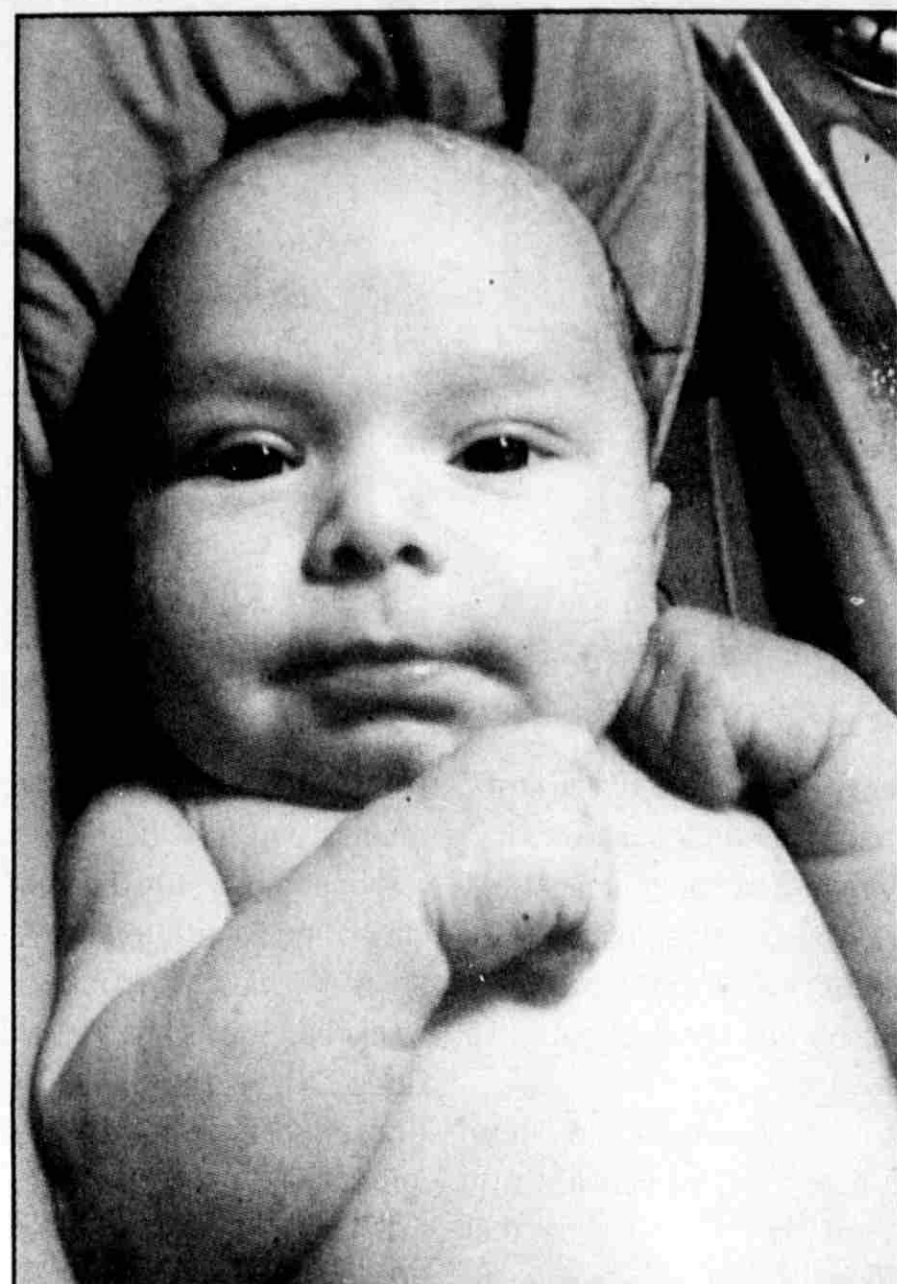


Ryan Ellison and Sara Nadler

A May 12, 2007, wedding is planned by Sara Nadler and Ryan Ellison. The bride-elect is the daughter of Jeff and Terri Nadler, all of Comstock Park. She is a graduate of Comstock Park High School and Grand Rapids Community College. The future groom, of Greenville, is the son of Brian and Michelle Ellison of Lowell, and Dave and Gay London of Saranac. He is a graduate of Saranac High School and Grand Rapids Community College.

New Arrivals

Roth



Ed Roth and Jodi Kennedy would like to announce the birth of their son, Deaken Edward Roth. He was born on November 14, 2006, weighing 7 lbs. 15 oz. and measuring 20 inches.

Welcoming Deaken home are big sisters, McKinsie and Savannah.

Proud grandparents are Ed and Connie Roth, Kathy Jensen, Bill and Roxanne Kennedy and the late Robin Kennedy. Great-grandparents are Ed and Pat Roth and Bill and Alice Eggleston.

Deaken Edward Roth

Ten thousand fools proclaim themselves into obscurity, while one wise man forgets himself into immortality.

- Martin Luther King Jr. (1929 - 1968)

Reflections of faith

Rev. Dean Bailey, pastor
Alto and Bowne Center United Methodist churches

"The God of your ancestors has sent me to you, and they ask me, 'What is his name?' What shall I say to them? God said to Moses, 'I am Who I Am.' Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I Am has sent me to you.'" Exodus 3:13b-14

2007 is here. 2006 is gone. 2008 is 11 months away. Every January many of us take stock of our lives, where we've been, where we're heading. We have regrets about

things we have failed to accomplish. We make resolutions which determine our future, we hope.

The following insight was in a monastery on the kitchen wall: "I was regretting the past and fearing the future. Suddenly God was speaking, 'My name is I Am.' I waited. God continued, 'When you live in the past, with its mistakes and regrets, it is hard. I am not there. My name is not I Was. When you live in the future with its problems and fears, it is hard. I am not there. My name is not I Will Be. When you live in the moment, it is not hard, I am here. My name is I AM.'"

This puzzling name Moses received from God at the burning bush helps us place our lives in perspective, to realize the past is gone forever and the future has not yet arrived. What we have is the NOW. Let us live, really live, in the Now in God, with a focus and intensity that receives the present as a present.

Happy Birthday

- JANUARY 25:** Dave Harding, Molly Doyle, Dean Olin.
- JANUARY 26:** Victor Weeks, Steven Uzarski, Kitty Brenk, Andy Nowak, Alex Dommer.
- JANUARY 27:** Jacqueline Saylor, Britanni Anderson, Dianna Rhodes, Lori Smith, Andrea Dewey, Nancy Roth.
- JANUARY 28:** Ryan White, Cher Mastenbrook, Amy Newhouse, Renee Peters, Bill Wierenga, Robert Kyser (Dr. Bob), Kyle Washburn.
- JANUARY 29:** Brenda Traetz, Kim Call.
- JANUARY 30:** Susan Roudabush, Nicholas Kinsley, Tyler Call, Josh Dietz, Shirley Stevens.
- JANUARY 31:** Rick Fonger, Brian Rasch.

Junior members of Women's Club



Lowell Women's Club selects Lowell High School senior girls each year to be junior club members. They participate in fundraisers and community projects and, in turn, earn scholarship money for college. They participate in the program through May. Pictured are the 2006-07 senior girls, front row, left to right: Genny Kendall, Gwyndd Lammis, Austyn Foster, Tiffany Wittenton; middle row: Jessica Nelson, Stephanie Kempker, Brooke Liu, Mandy Vezino; back row: Lindsay Hoogenboom, Haley Briggs, Stephanie Wade, Haley Getzen, Katie Anderson.

HEALTH

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

RSV BRONCHIOLITIS

As winter approaches, so does the typical season for colds and flu. It is also the season for RSV. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is the most common cause of bronchiolitis and pneumonia in children under one year of age. Bronchiolitis most frequently begins with a fever and profuse runny nose, progressing in days to a cough, and sometimes wheezing. Sometimes, breathing becomes very rapid and difficult. This may require hospitalization. Most children recover in 7-14 days. The majority of hospitalizations occur in infants less than six months of age.

Some things to do if your child has bronchiolitis: use a cool mist vaporizer while your child is sleeping; run hot water in the shower to steam the room and sit there with your child if he/she is coughing hard; use Tylenol to treat the fever.

You should call your doctor if: your child is breathing 40 times a minute or more; a bluish discoloration occurs around your child's lips; you can see the skin retracting between your child's ribs with breathing, or he/she has to sit up to breathe.

RSV bronchiolitis is spread through close contact with saliva or mucus. One should frequently wash their hands, and not allow sharing of cups or utensils to help decrease the spread of this illness. Older children in the home are not usually affected by this illness.

Girl Scouts reach out to soldiers



Lowell Girl Scout Troop 1822 collected items such as toiletries, snacks and games for the soldiers in Iraq during the month of December. The items were shipped out the first week in January. Pictured, left to right, are: Kristin Patrick (co-leader), Briahna Casarez, Kennedy McCready, Taflora Lee, Rachel Sova, Ashley Colon (assistant); in front is Tessa Stanton. Not available for photo are Vanessa Schramm, Ashley Putney and Sarah Chappel.

Charity sees the need not the cause.

- German Proverb

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LUNCH MENU

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ELEMENTARY MENU

Week of Jan. 29, 2007

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

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

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

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

FRI: Macaroni & cheese w/cinnamon roll (hot dog on bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), broccoli, assorted fruit, 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 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 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M. OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p>DAY BIBLE CHAPEL 9305 Centerline, Saranac 897-6332 Worship.....9:45 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M. 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 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 SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M. SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M. 119 Lincoln Lake, Lowell 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 Worship Services.....8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. DR. MICHAEL T. KONKIN, 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 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 Robert W. Holmes, Senior Pastor Dave Noonon, Asst. Pastor John King, Youth Pastor 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. Fekale 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmarys-lowell.com Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM, SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETER WISNIE 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 Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Thursday Faith Alive Worship.....7:00 P.M. Dr. Roger LaWarre.....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 Sunday School.....9:00 A.M. Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org Rev. David O. Sims & Rev. W. Lee Taylor Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA/CLUB J.C. Wed. 6:15 & 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 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 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. PASTOR STACIA RHODABARGER Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>	<p>DAVERAMSEY.COM/FPJ</p>

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MINNIE MARILYN KLINK'S 80TH BIRTHDAY!

February 3, 2007 • 2-6 P.M.

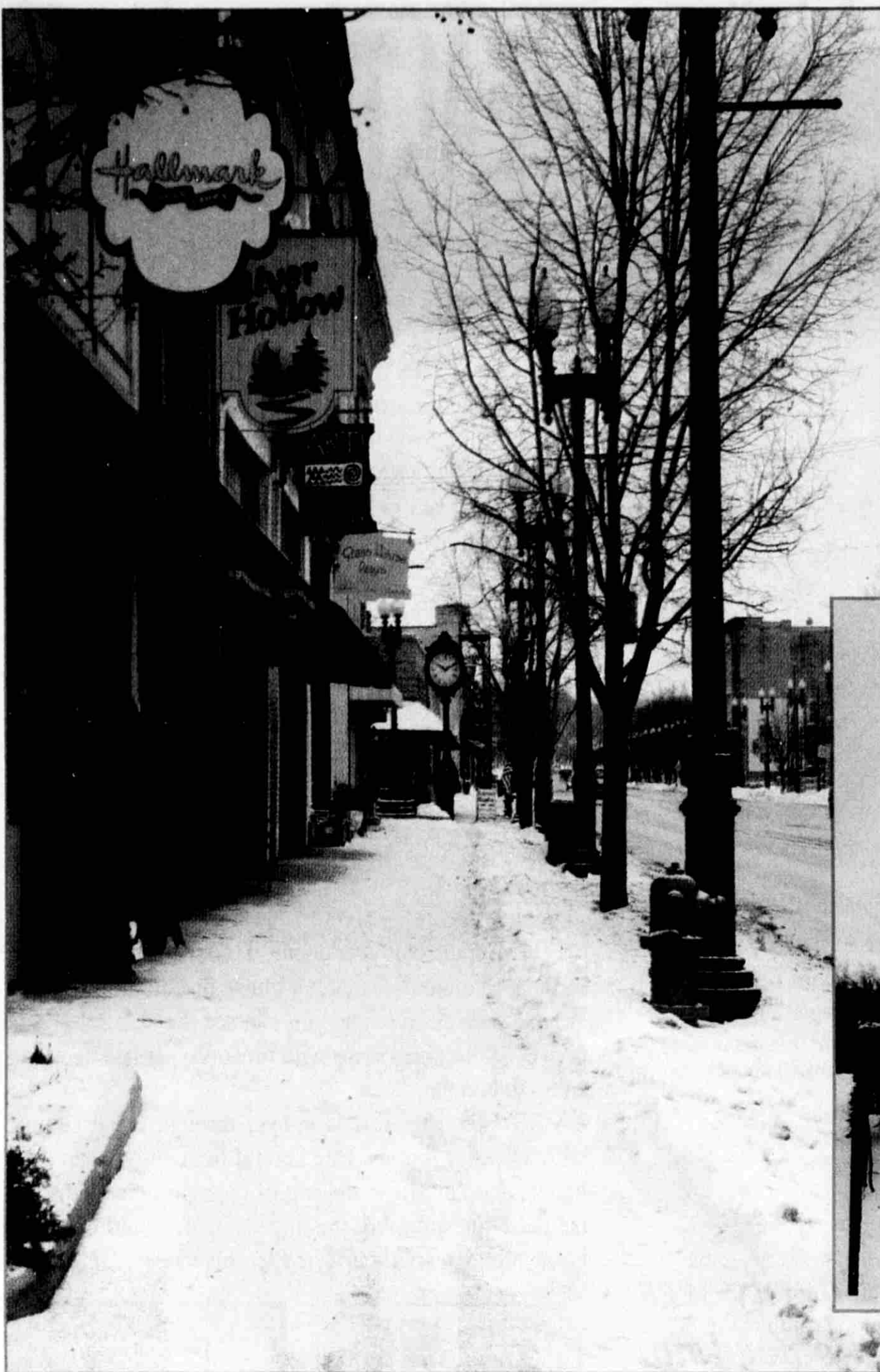
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Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University

A 13-week program taught by Dave Ramsey via video that teaches families to communicate about money and equips them to beat debt and build wealth God's way.

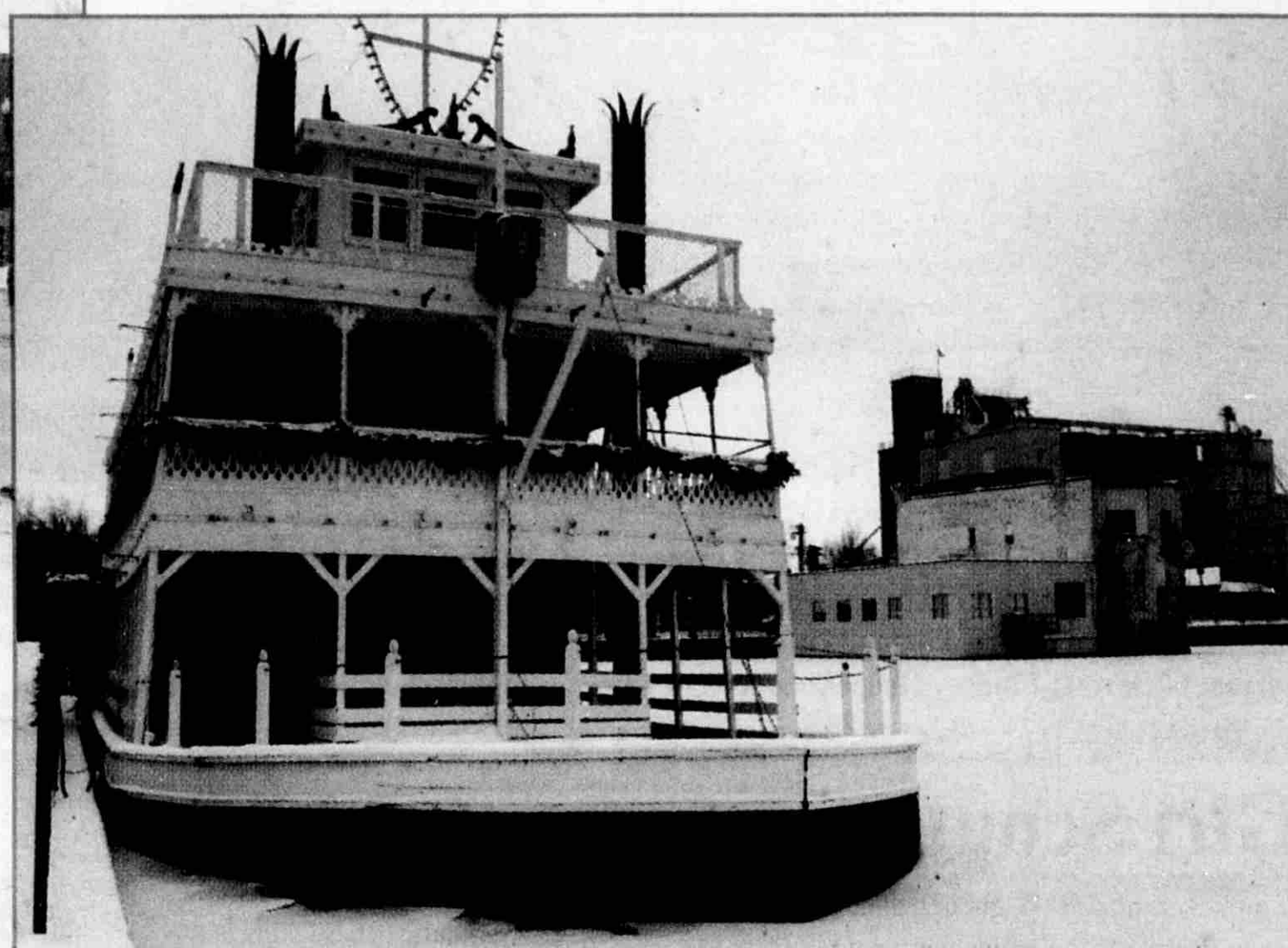
Orientation: January 23
Classes start: January 30 and run through April 24.
Time: 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Location: 10411 Bailey Dr. • Lowell, MI • Fellowship Space
For more information contact Terry Amidon at 634-1804 or 987-0142
Childcare provided



Winter returns

Icy sidewalks in town created hazardous walking conditions last week. The city is responsible for maintaining two miles of sidewalk, while residents are required to clear their own sidewalks within 24 hours of snowfall. Failing to comply with the city ordinance carries a misdemeanor charge of up to 90 days in jail. Non-complying citizens may be fined \$50 plus the cost of snow removal. Department of Public Works trucks were salting and clearing the streets following freezing temperatures and recent snowfall. "The weather's fairly normal, once it finally got here," said DPW director Dan DesJarden.

Below, with its hopeful heart on top, the Showboat sits iced in waiting for the warmer days ahead.



Outdoors

By Dave Stegehuis



TAKE A PEEK

Michigan has long been recognized as a popular destination for those seeking outdoor recreation. People come from all over the country to camp, ski, fish and hunt. One outdoor experience which is often taken for granted or overlooked is observing wildlife in their natural habitat. Few of us specifically travel around seeking out the diverse plant and animal life found in our state.

I have visited a lot of Michigan backcountry over the years, but doing so has been incidental to the pursuit of fish and game or following cross-country ski trails. My effort to locate special places has been guided by county maps and rumors. Not all of the excursions were successful. After hiking with two small children around the Keweenaw Peninsula for a day, we never did find the "Estivant Pine." We easily found the Yellow Dog Falls years ago, but our failed attempt last summer led to stumbling around in alder thickets in the Huron Mountains without a compass or G.P.S. which I foolishly left on the parked ATV.

There is a more organized way to take in the wonder of Michigan's natural resources. Viewing wildlife can be a stand-alone activity to share with friends and family against a backdrop of lakes, streams, swamps, hardwood forests, mountains and waterfalls. There is a book titled "Michigan

Wildlife Viewing Guide." This publication details the location and natural features of 121 viewing sites from Isle Royale to Detroit and lists 75 others. An index lists wildlife species and the sites which will provide an opportunity to see the creatures in their natural habitat. The book also contains tips for the proper and safe observation of wildlife. Information on obtaining a guide can be found on line at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

Brown signs with a binocular logo identify designated wildlife viewing sites in Michigan and across the country. Look for the universal logo as you travel.

It is important to experience nature firsthand to truly appreciate the value of our natural resources. We will be better stewards of our outdoor heritage if we have a personal stake in the conservation of these resources. Take a peek and see if you have missed anything.

and its assets. You and other donors then fund the trust with securities and other assets. The trustee collects these gifts and invests the money according to the rules of the trust, which will also determine the trust's beneficiary - the recipient of the trust's proceeds.

Different trusts have different objectives. When you design your estate plans, you may well need more than one trust. Here are some of the most widely used ones:

- Revocable Living Trust - A revocable living trust can help you leave assets to your heirs without going through the costly, time-consuming - and public - probate process. When you set up a revocable living trust, you can control your assets during your lifetime and determine how they will eventually be distributed to your heirs. You could, for example, have money distributed to your children or grandchildren in installments, over a period of years. Plus, a properly established revocable living trust will carry out your wishes if you become incapacitated.
- Bypass Trust - If you're married, you can leave an

unlimited amount of assets to your spouse, free of estate taxes and without using up any of your estate tax credit. But if your spouse then dies with an estate worth more than the federal estate tax exemption- \$2 million in 2007 - his or her estate would be subject to the estate tax. Unfortunately, your original estate tax credit was unused and, in effect, wasted. Basically, a Bypass Trust allows both spouses' estate tax exemptions to be preserved, to the benefit of the surviving spouse and, ultimately, the children.

- Special Needs Trust - If you have a family member with a disability, you might want to think about a Special Needs Trust. People with mental or physical disabilities can hold an unlimited amount of assets in a Special Needs Trust (sometimes called a Supplemental Needs Trust) without having the assets count against eligibility for certain governmental benefits, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicaid, vocational rehabilitation and subsidized housing.
- QTIP Trust - If you're married for a second time, but want to make sure your children from your first marriage are protected, you may want to think about a QTIP (Qualified Terminable Interest Property) Trust. A QTIP trust enables you, as grantor, to provide for your surviving spouse and also maintain control of how the trust's assets are distributed once he or she also dies.

Of course, trusts are complex instruments so you should work with an attorney, in addition to a tax adviser to make sure you are using the right type of trust and then consider a financial professional for funding it with the appropriate vehicles. By using trusts wisely, you can leave a legacy that benefits everyone.

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Financial Focus



With Christopher C. Godbold
Edward Jones
Serving Individuals Investors Since 1871

DO YOU NEED TO ESTABLISH A TRUST?

During your working years, if you save money diligently and make wise investment choices, you have a good chance of enjoying a comfortable retirement. But will you be taking proper care of your family after you're gone? The only way to answer that question is to do proper estate planning - and trusts can be a key element of your estate plan.

How do trusts work? As the grantor of a trust, you set up the rules and appoint a trustee, who manages the trust

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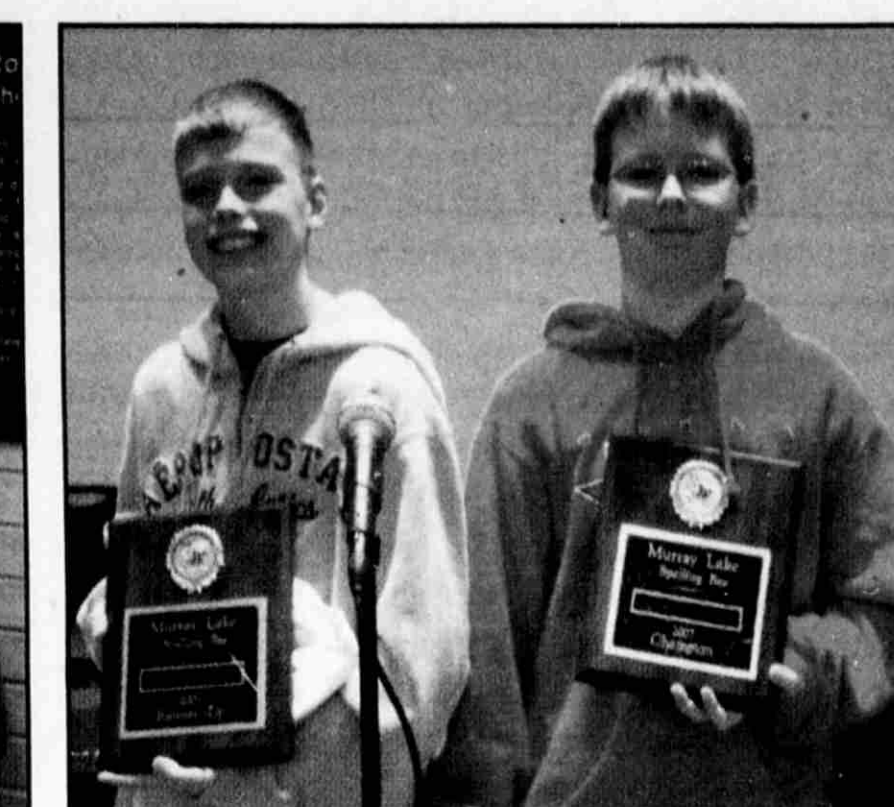
Top spellers announced at area elementary schools



The Cherry Creek Elementary fifth grade spelling bee was held on Jan. 12 with 25 top spellers participating. Facing stiff competition, Paige Hale emerged as the winner in the 16th round, becoming this year's top speller. Brandon Strzyzewski was the runner-up. Both students are in Cindy Young's class. Pictured, left to right, are: Paige Hale, Cindy Young and Brandon Strzyzewski.



There were 23 fifth grade students who participated in this year's Alto Elementary spelling bee. Danielle Starkey was the winner; her twin sister, Michelle Starkey was the runner-up. The two sisters will advance to the regional spelling bee in February held at Cedar Springs. Pictured are MaryAnn Schramm, Danielle Starkey and Michelle Starkey.



Murray Lake Elementary fifth grade students participated in a spelling bee recently. The runner-up was Ryan Lubbers (left) and the champion was Ben Peterson. Peterson won the bee by correctly spelling "portfolio" in the championship round. Both students will advance to the regional competition at Westside Christian School in February.



**The USS
Gerald Ford**
With Senator Carl Levin

Shortly before he passed away, former President Gerald Ford wrote to a friend, "In my life, I have received countless honors, but none was greater than the opportunity to wear the uniform of lieutenant commander of the United States Navy." This month, the Navy bestowed on him another great honor: it will name the first of a future class of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers the USS Gerald Ford.

That step was made possible by a provision included in last year's National Defense Authorization Act by my Republican colleague, Sen. John Warner of Virginia. I was pleased to co-sponsor Sen. Warner's amendment because of the special pride this honor brought to President Ford's heart, and because it rings so true as a memorial to him.

Ford had a strong association with the Navy for many years, serving on active duty for four years and in the inactive reserves for 17 more; serving on the House of Representatives subcommittee that funded the Navy and other military branches; and then serving as Commander in Chief of all the armed forces.

That lifetime of service began in 1941, shortly after Gerald Ford returned from law school to Grand Rapids to open his law practice. In December of that year, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, and he enlisted in the Navy within the week.

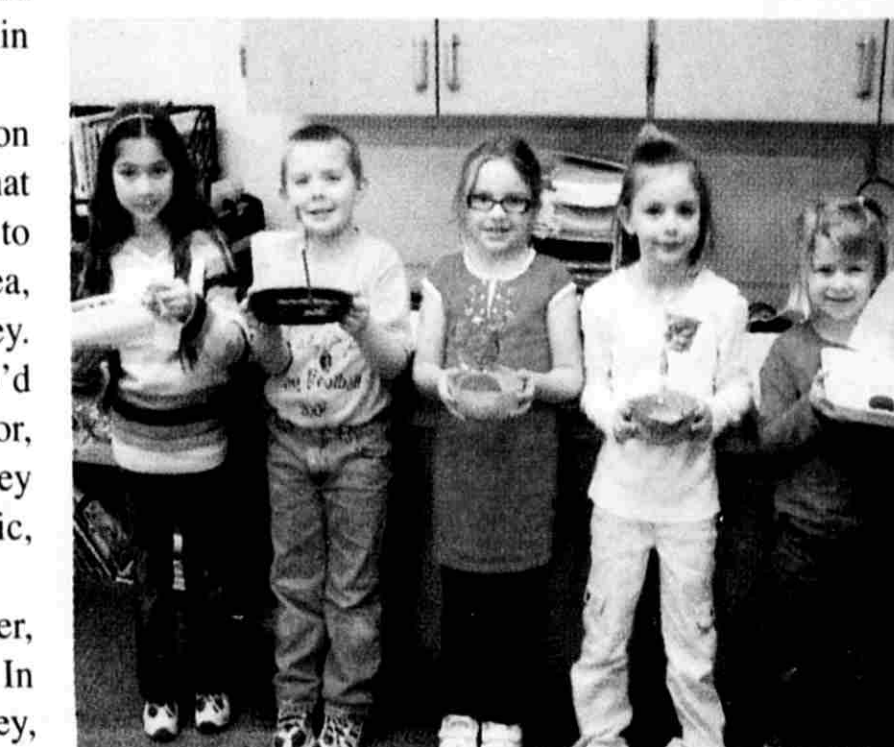
At first, Gerald Ford served in the physical education branch, and this gifted athlete coached all nine sports that were offered. He soon grew restless, though, and needed to join the fight. Ford asked to be transferred to service at sea, and was assigned to a light aircraft carrier, the USS Monterey. He would later write that there he saw "as much action as I'd ever hoped to see." With Ford serving as assistant navigator, athletic officer and anti-aircraft battery officer, the Monterey fought in many of the major operations of the South Pacific, earning 10 battle stars during his service.

Perhaps Lieutenant Ford's finest hour at sea, however, was a battle not with the enemy, but with the elements. In December 1944, a massive typhoon slammed the Monterey, with waves topping 70 feet. Chaos reigned as the planes on board caught fire, and several broke free from their cables. Many of the sailors were incapacitated; Admiral Halsey ordered the Monterey abandoned; and flames threatened to consume the carrier. But then - 30 years before President Ford would right our ship of state - Lieutenant Ford helped save the Monterey and its men.

At great personal risk, Jerry Ford led a team down to the hangar deck to battle the fire. With gas tanks exploding

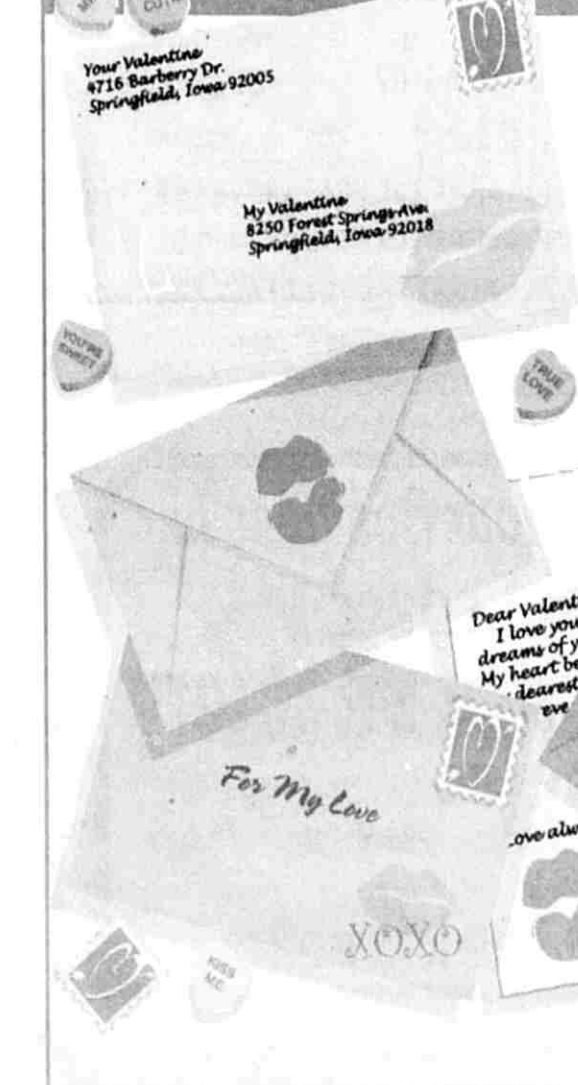
Levin, cont'd., pg. 16

Junior boat builders



First grade students in Marilyn Hughes' class at Alto Elementary constructed boats from different recycle materials as part of their science unit on water works. They learned how water exists on earth in three stages and how water interacts with different materials. Designing and building a boat was the culminating activity of the unit. Pictured, left to right, are: Amber Brown, Jacob Gutowski, Holly Sullivan, Hailey Hoevenaar and Erin Smithee proudly showing their boats.

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Sharing The Vision, continued ... From Page 4

School readiness is now the expectation as parents bring their students to enter kindergarten. The Michigan preschool program has nearly 45 percent of all students receiving preschool education in public or private programs. Many educators see this area growing in the near future and expect that the program may become a more regular occurrence for students.

At Lowell Area Schools we currently have 96 students in preschool who will be better prepared for a successful educational experience. Child brain development undergoes tremendous development from birth to age five. Programs to support this growth in the 3rd and 4th year of life are becoming supported today more than they have ever been. Education will continue to support and develop higher standards for the early childhood years.

As the landscape of education changes in the coming years, Lowell Area Schools will continue to develop the needed programs to meet the ever changing demands on our students. We are developing long-term strategic goals throughout the upcoming months and will keep the trends of education in our focus. (The statistics used were taken from Education Week).

Your comments about this matter or any issue would be greatly appreciated. Send to Superintendent Gregory Pratt, Lowell Area Schools, 300 High St., Lowell, MI 49331 or gpratt@lowellschools.com (check out our Web page at

www.lowellschools.com or make comments to the Board of Education at boardofed@lowellschools.com)

Chamber Chat, continued ... From Page 4

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

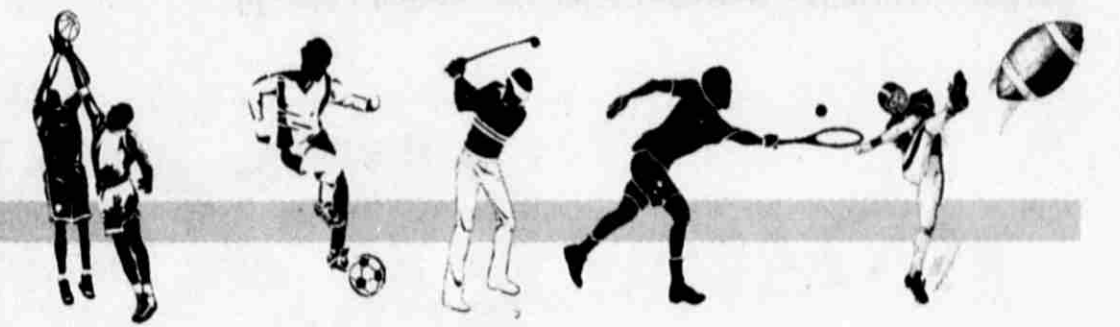
Most times you will find that you get a lot more bang for your buck with a locally owned retailer, restaurateur or service professional. The cost of doing business in a mall is tremendous - many times people do not believe us when we tell them rent in a major mall can run from 10 to 40 thousand

dollars per month. (You can pay 3 to 5 thousand dollars per month just to have a kiosk in the malls.) 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 residence, also to promote the quality of life and harmony among the business and residential communities."

RED ARROW SPORTS



Lowell still determined after 54-35 drop to Kenowa Hills

By Sean Garner
Contributing Writer

At 2-8 and in the midst of his team's second four-game losing streak of the season, Lowell varsity basketball coach Jeff McDonald still expects to beat the state's top-ranked team.

After a disappointing 54-35 loss to Kenowa Hills Friday, the Red Arrows find themselves virtually eliminated from contention for the OK-White crown at 1-5 in league play. Down only two at halftime, Lowell decided to alter its normally methodic game plan.

"The momentum just absolutely turned over," McDonald said. "We played into their hands by turning up the RPM's a little bit, and it wasn't a good idea."

The Knights were led by Luke Palmer and A.J. Schmidt with 19 and 16 points respectively, while

Kory Stevens led the Arrows in scoring with 12 points. Both Schmidt and Palmer left large impressions on McDonald.

"That Schmidt kid is very, very, very good with the basketball in his hands," McDonald said. "Luke Palmer just has so much savvy for a sophomore. He'll take you inside, post up and finish. He'll step outside and hit a shot."

Though some of the team's goals, like winning a conference championship, have all but passed, the team remains upbeat. McDonald looks to put the first half of the season in the back of his team's minds.

"We're going to draw a line in the sand, look at the second half of our season and go from there," McDonald said. "There are three seasons, first half, second half and postseason. We're just going to have

to take it from here and establish some new goals."

The Arrows have a great opportunity to start the second half of the season even better than they started the first half when they handed Cedar Springs their

only loss to date. Lowell will travel to East Grand Rapids Friday to face the undefeated No. 1 team in the area and Class B.

"Here's the thing; we're 2-8, and we expect to win next week," McDonald said.

"I know it sounds funny, but we're going over there as if we're going to upset that team. That's our mindset. I know I sound like a fool but so be it."

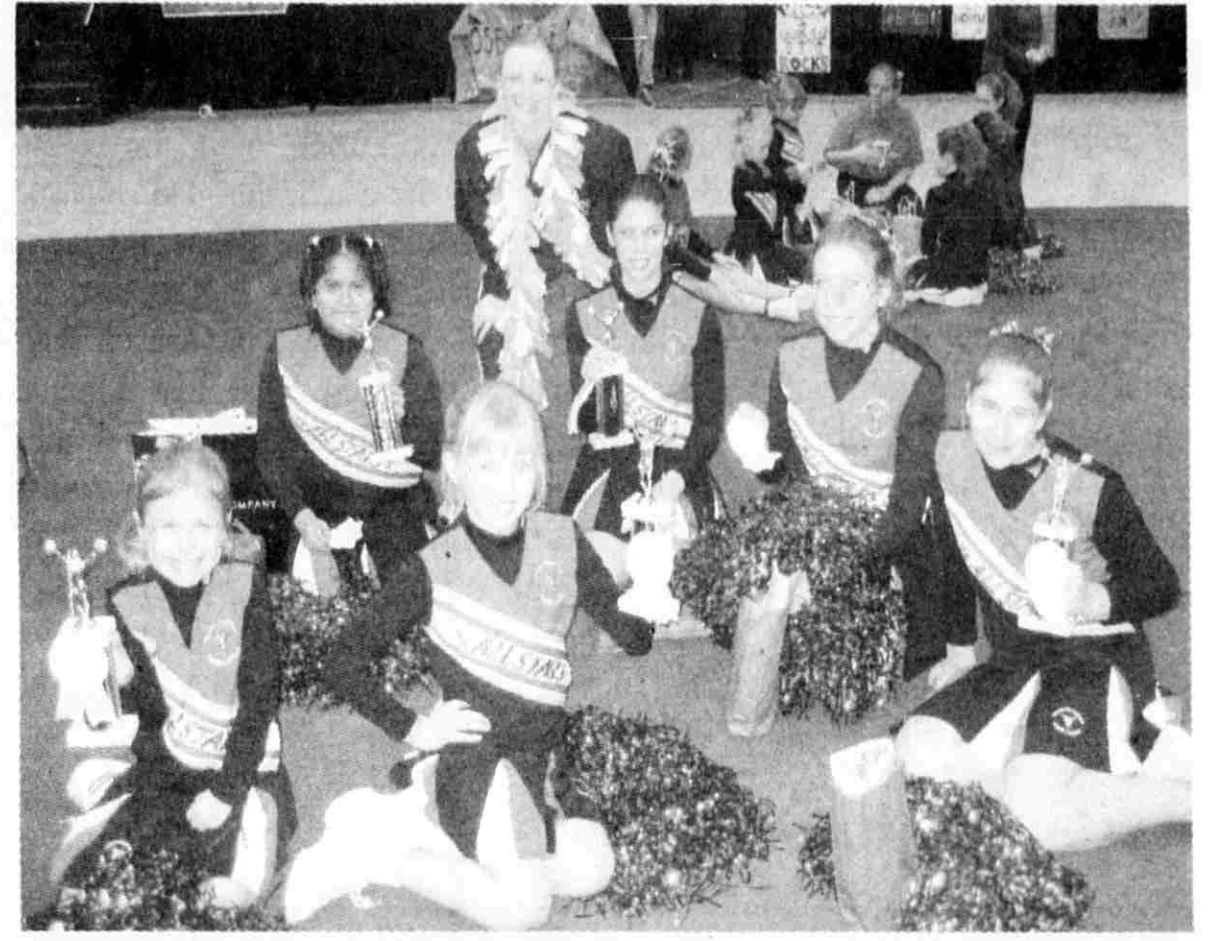
another chance to avenge a loss the following Tuesday, when they host the Greenville Yellow Jackets; they beat the Arrows by six the last time the two played on Dec. 15.

Young Champions place third in state

The Young Champions/Cheer America State fall cheerleading competition was held Saturday, Jan. 20 at the Delta Plex in Grand Rapids. Lowell's Level III girls (ages 9+) placed third out of 18 teams in the state of Michigan. They have earned points for a bid at the National Competition in Madison, Wisconsin this summer.

A sign-up for the next session will be held Feb. 6 at 6 p.m. at Cherry Creek Elementary or call (616) 538-2888 for more information. Ages 4-18 may participate.

Back row, left to right, are: Natalia Tejada, coach Mandy Vezino, Gloria Rivera and Mackenzie Fox; front row: Autumn Chrisman, Alexis Corner and Brianna Thomet.



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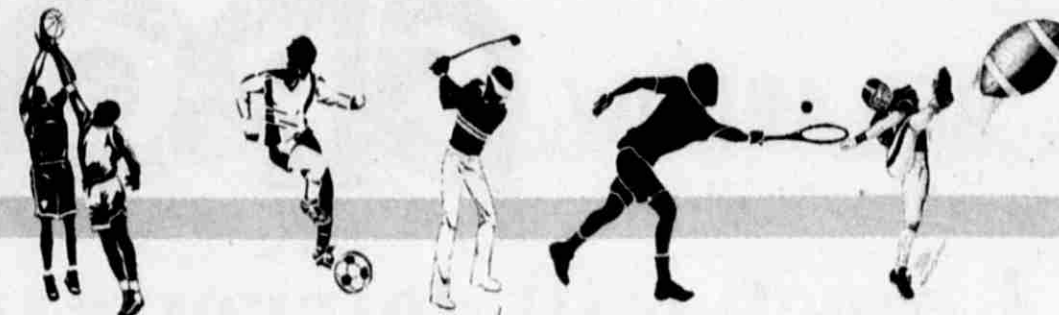
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RED ARROW SPORTS



Lowell gymnasts chalk up best score of the season

By Jane Lally

Though short of winning, the Lowell High School gymnastics team compiled its best all-around score this season competing against Portage at home Monday night. The Red Arrow girls were narrowly defeated 136.05-132.05 by a combined team from Portage Northern and Central high schools. It was the first time this season that the girls scored above 120-point range, according to head coach Skye Fisher.

"This is their first time in the 130s," said Fisher. "All scores are improving... our strong points were floor and beam."

Richelle Kimble turned in a personal best score of 8.85 on the beam, and

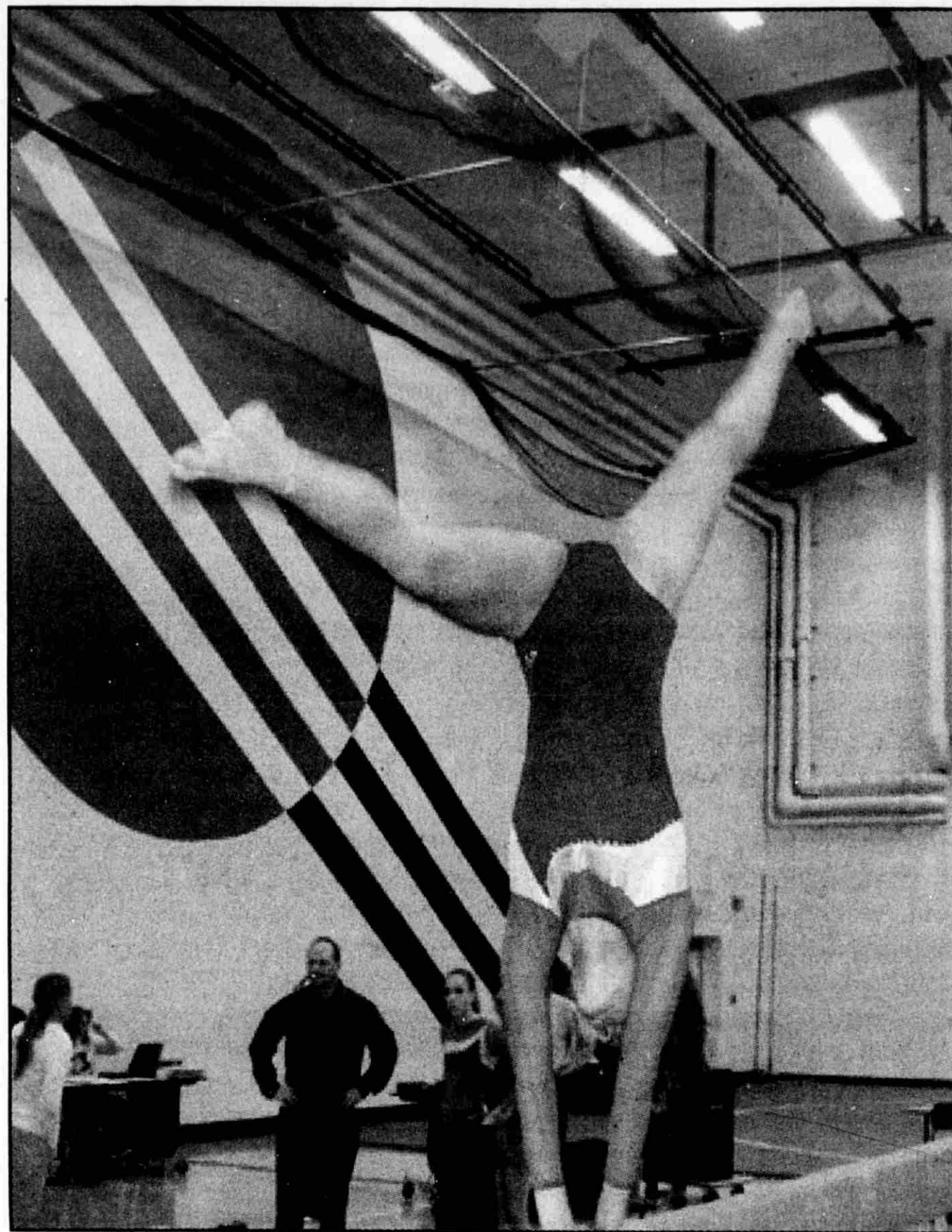
Kelsey Teft earned an 8.8 in the floor exercise. Kimble finished third in the all-around and Teft received a fourth. Kimble also scored 8.25 on the uneven bars, 8.7 on floor and 8.3 on vault. Teft scored 8.5 on vault, 8.75 on beam and 7.55 on bars.

Fisher also noted a strong performance from Andrea Coffey on the beam and floor. "She scored some points for us," said Fisher. Coffey scored 8.75 on the floor and 8.15 on the beam.

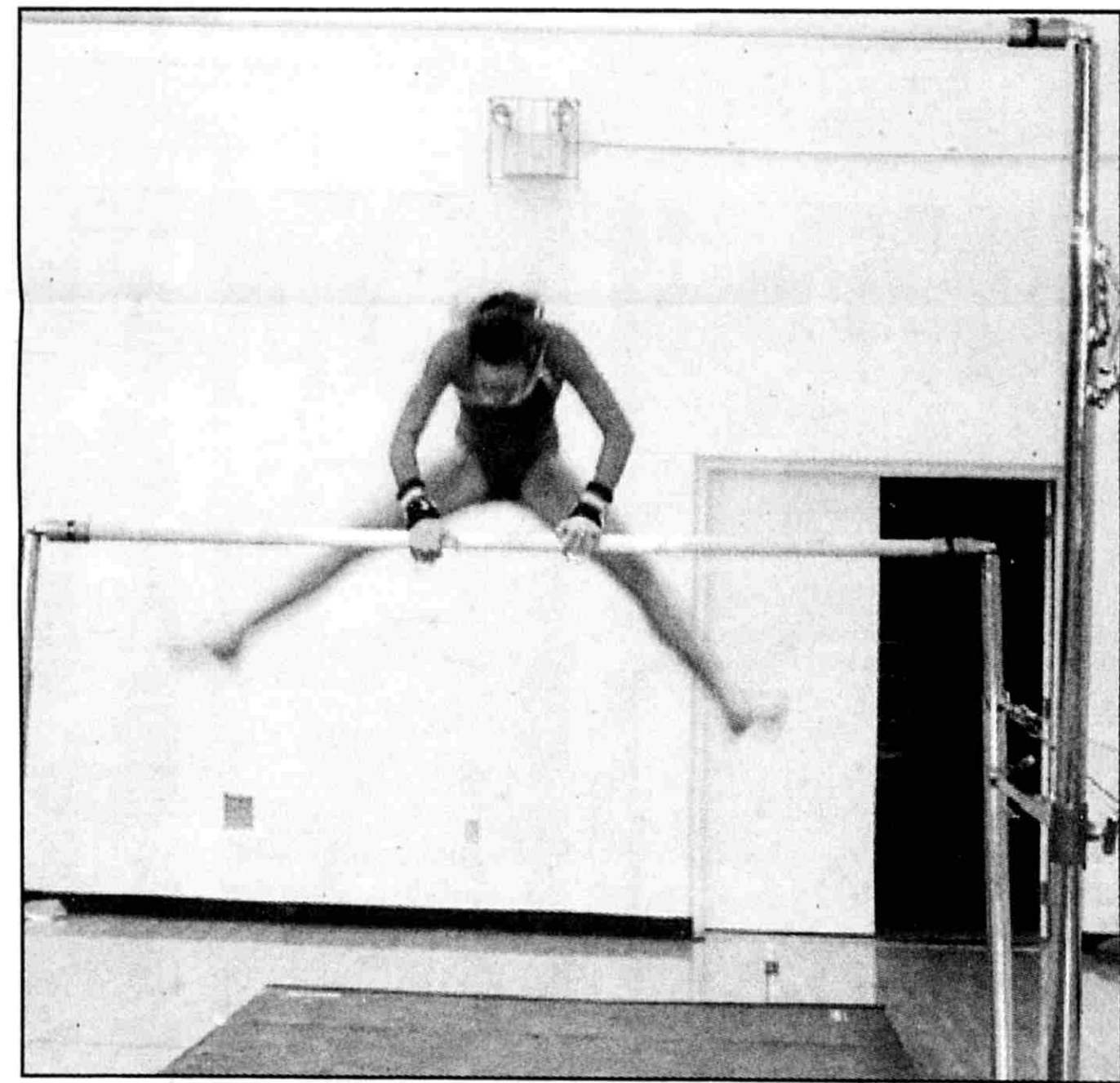
Monday's margin wasn't the smallest yet. Fisher said the girls lost to Kenowa Hills earlier this season by just 1.3 points. The non-conference loss Monday brought the girls' dual meet record to 2-3 for the season.

The team will compete Saturday in the Kenowa Hills Invitational. "We're hoping to bring some medals home," said Fisher, noting that the team has finished in the middle of the pack in invitational so far this season with several individual medals.

The Red Arrow girls will travel to Rockford on Jan. 31 and to the St. Johns Invitational on Feb. 3. The last home meet of the season will be Feb. 12 against Ludington. Lowell will travel to Forest Hills Northern twice in February - on Feb. 14 for a dual meet and on Feb. 17 for the conference meet; they will meet Ludington on the road Feb. 21.



Lowell High School freshman Kelsey Teft performs her balance beam routine at a gymnastics meet against Portage Northern and Central high schools. Teft scored a personal best of 8.75.

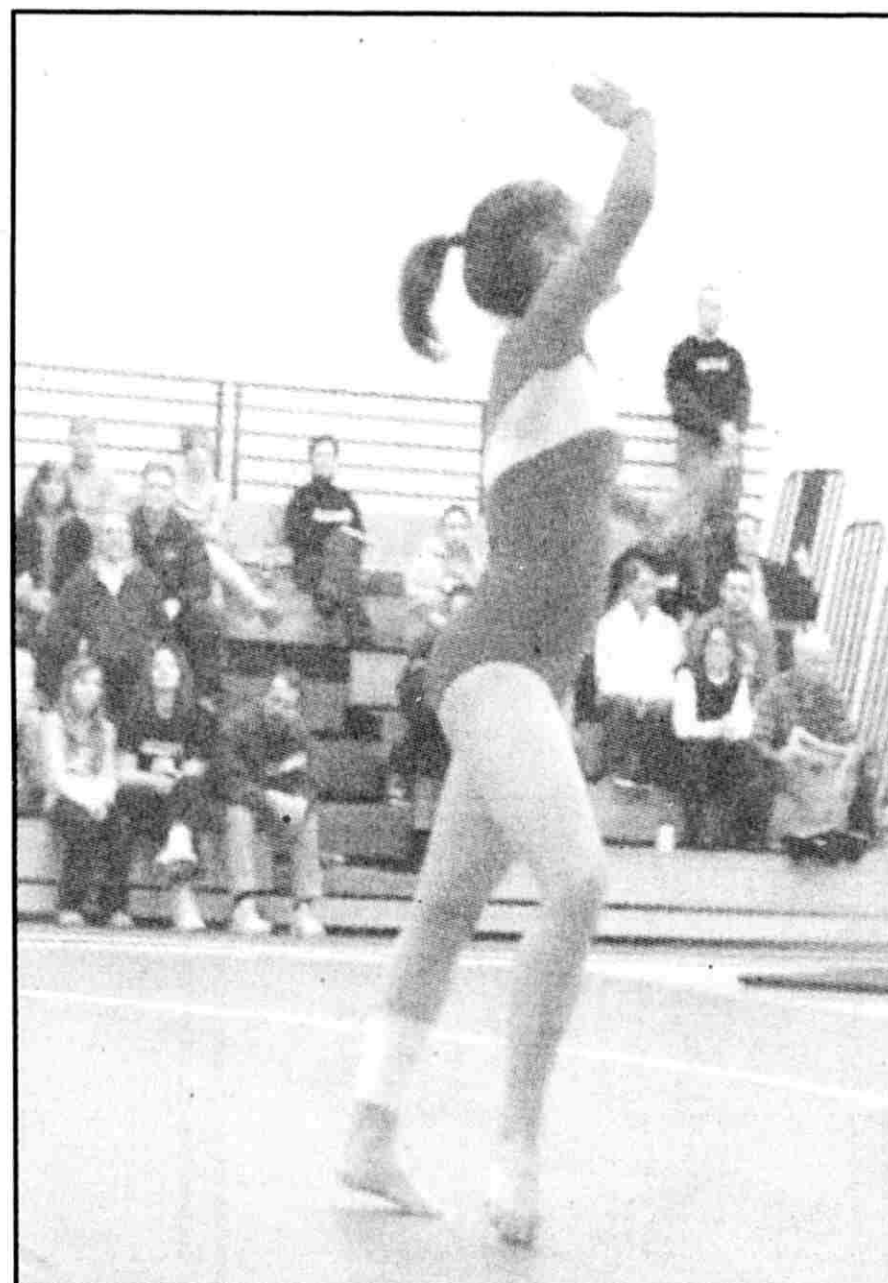


Lowell High School's Richelle Kimble performs her uneven bar routine in a dual meet with Portage Northern and Central high schools. Kimble turned in Lowell's highest individual score on the bars with an 8.25.

Gymnasts place 4th at invitational

Lowell gymnastics team did very well Saturday at the Mona Shores Invitational. Andrea Coffey received her first medal of the year on the floor exercise with an 8.8.

Richelle Kimble received a medal in each event and an all around medal of fourth place. She was given a 9.15 and a third place for floor.



Andrea Coffey performing at the meet against Kenowa Hills. The Arrows lost by a close 1.3 points. Coffey was Lowell's top performer at the Kenowa Hills meet on floor with an 8.55; she tied for first place in that meet with Neena Zwier from Kenowa.

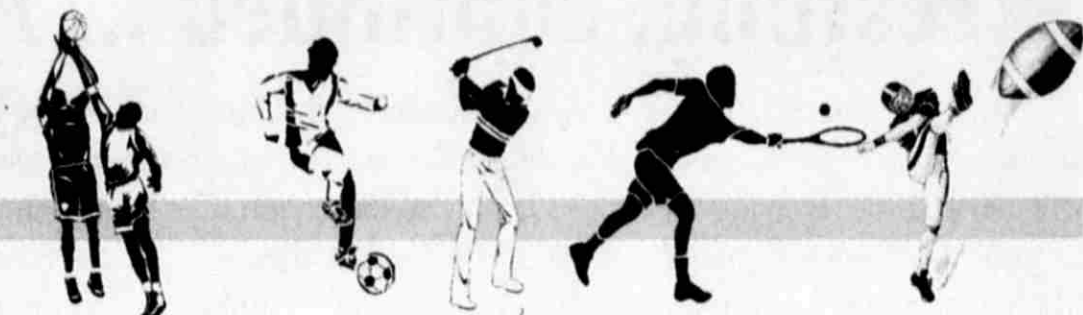
I like a teacher who gives you something to take home to think about besides homework.
- Lily Tomlin

What's Your Sport?

Keep Caught Up On All The Lowell High School's Sports Action In
The Lowell Ledger



RED ARROW SPORTS



Hockey team hangs in there against some tough teams

By Sean Garner
Contributing Writer

The Lowell/Caledonia hockey team started strong but is now in the midst of a three-game losing streak in which they have been outscored 16-3.

A 5-2 loss to Brandon, a team near Flint, put Lowell/Caledonia at 7-6-2 on the season, and his team's recent dry spell has head coach Mike Ballard eager to find out what kind of resiliency his team has.

"We're hitting the tougher part of our schedule

right now," Ballard said. "They're hanging in there, but it's that time of the season when you've got to watch the mental energy level. There is one point in the season when one team might go on a downturn of energy."

While content with his team's physical energy, Ballard believes his team could improve its focus.

"We're well conditioned, they skated with Brandon the whole game," Ballard said. "Sometimes, we just have mental lapses. When that happens, we tend

to stand around and watch to wait and see what is going to happen rather than being the aggressor and forcing the action."

In their game against Brandon, Lowell/Caledonia struck first with a goal in the first period before Brandon rallied with four consecutive goals. The teams traded a pair of late goals.

Ballard was impressed with the Hawks and does not feel his team played poorly despite the lopsided outcome.

"They were the regional champions from that side

of the state last year, so they're a good squad," he said. "Today, the biggest difference was their speed. Our defense, for the most part, played a real good game but a couple times they caught us with our feet still."

The week before their game against Brandon, the team played a pair of games in Kalamazoo, losing to Portage Northern, 6-1 and Mattawan, 5-0.

"They were very good teams," Ballard said. "We were pretty competitive talent-wise. We were skating

well with them, we just had some goaltending issues."

Ballard was reassuring, however, that the goaltending of Cory Phillips was not a problem in their loss to Brandon.

"I thought Cory Phillips played great tonight. He kept us in the game," Ballard said. "We were missing a couple forwards tonight so we had to move a lot of guys around. What made the difference was just that they were able to capitalize on

a few more breaks than we were able to."

Lowell/Caledonia's slate does not provide much of a reprieve over the next couple of weeks. This Saturday, they host another co-op team from Forest Hills, featuring players from both Northern and Eastern, which currently stands 13-2. The Arrows follow that game up with an appearance in the Kalamazoo Blades tournament the next weekend.

Two Red Arrow wrestlers celebrate 100 victories

By Sean Garner
Contributing Writer

With their 100th victories, Alex Fleet and Ray Seese have placed themselves in an elite category and both still have more to accomplish.

Each wrestler reached his 100th victory at Lowell's own Gary Rivers Invitational on Jan. 13. Both Fleet and Seese will now be immortalized at the end of the season as their names will be enshrined in Lowell's wrestling room along with every previous Red Arrow 100 win wrestler.

Seese, a senior who has wrestled everywhere from 125 to 135 pounds this season, reached the century in most dramatic fashion. In the last match of the championship meet against Lakeshore, Seese secured the title with a pin. Reaching 100 was especially

gratifying for Seese since he missed most of last season with a broken leg.

"I wasn't sure I'd get there," Seese said. "I missed pretty much all of the regular season last year; that made it feel that much better getting it this year."

Head coach Dave Dean has high praise for Seese, not only for his perseverance, but for his team-first attitude.

"Ray came back and wrestled with us at the end of last year as we were trying to make a run at the state meet and he was not ready," Dean said. "He did what he had to do to help the team out. Had he not had that setback, he'd be working on 150 wins this year."

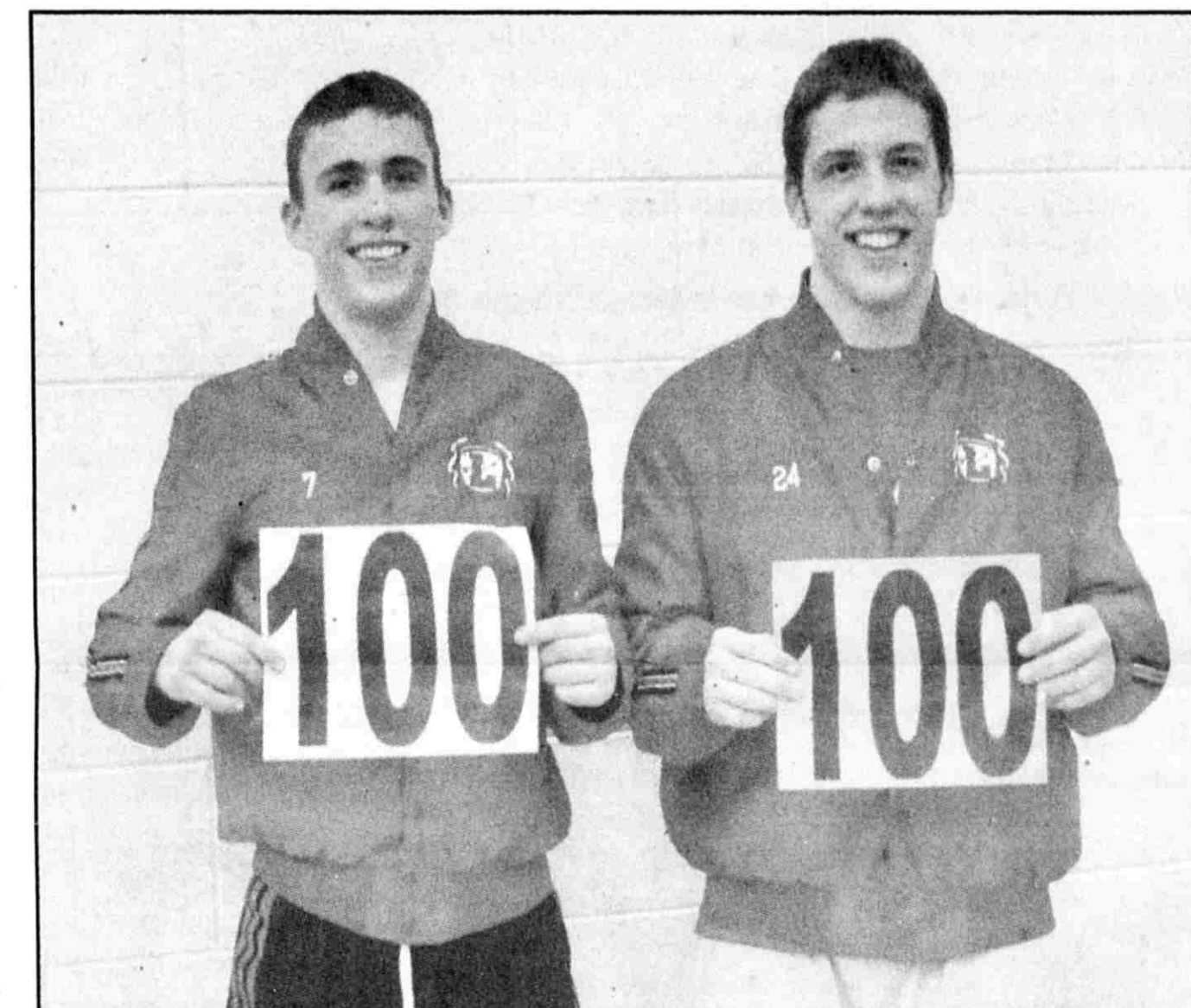
Seese has been on varsity since his freshman year when he started at 103 pounds for an Arrow team that won the Division II State Championship.

"It was good to be 103 as a freshman. It was a pretty easy weight class and I didn't have a lot of experience," the humble Seese said.

Fleet, a senior 189 pounder, has been a mainstay in the varsity line-up since his sophomore year after wrestling a handful of varsity matches as a freshman.

After qualifying for regionals as a sophomore and finishing with a record of 34-13 at 160 pounds, Fleet placed fourth at 189 pounds at last year's individual state finals. For Fleet, the brother of former state runner-up Ben Fleet, the milestone 100th victory is a result of both his enormous athletic talent and years of dedication to the sport of wrestling.

"It's always been a goal of mine," Fleet said. "I've always just taken it one day at a time, one match at a time."



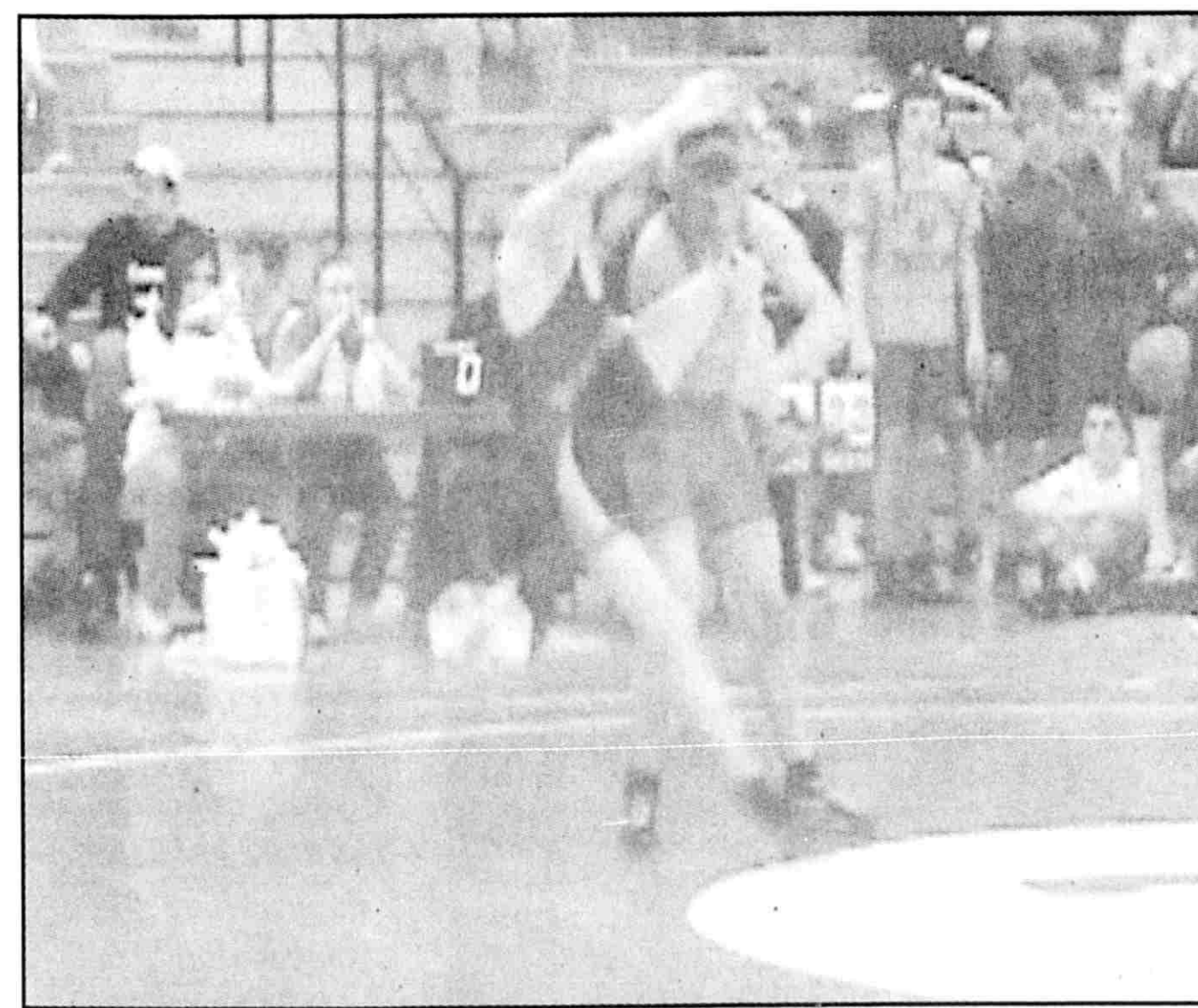
Ray Seese and Alex Fleet display their victory numbers.

In Thursday night's match against Forest Hills Central, Fleet faced the Rangers' top wrestler, Neil Delaney, and defeated him in a 3-1 overtime thriller.

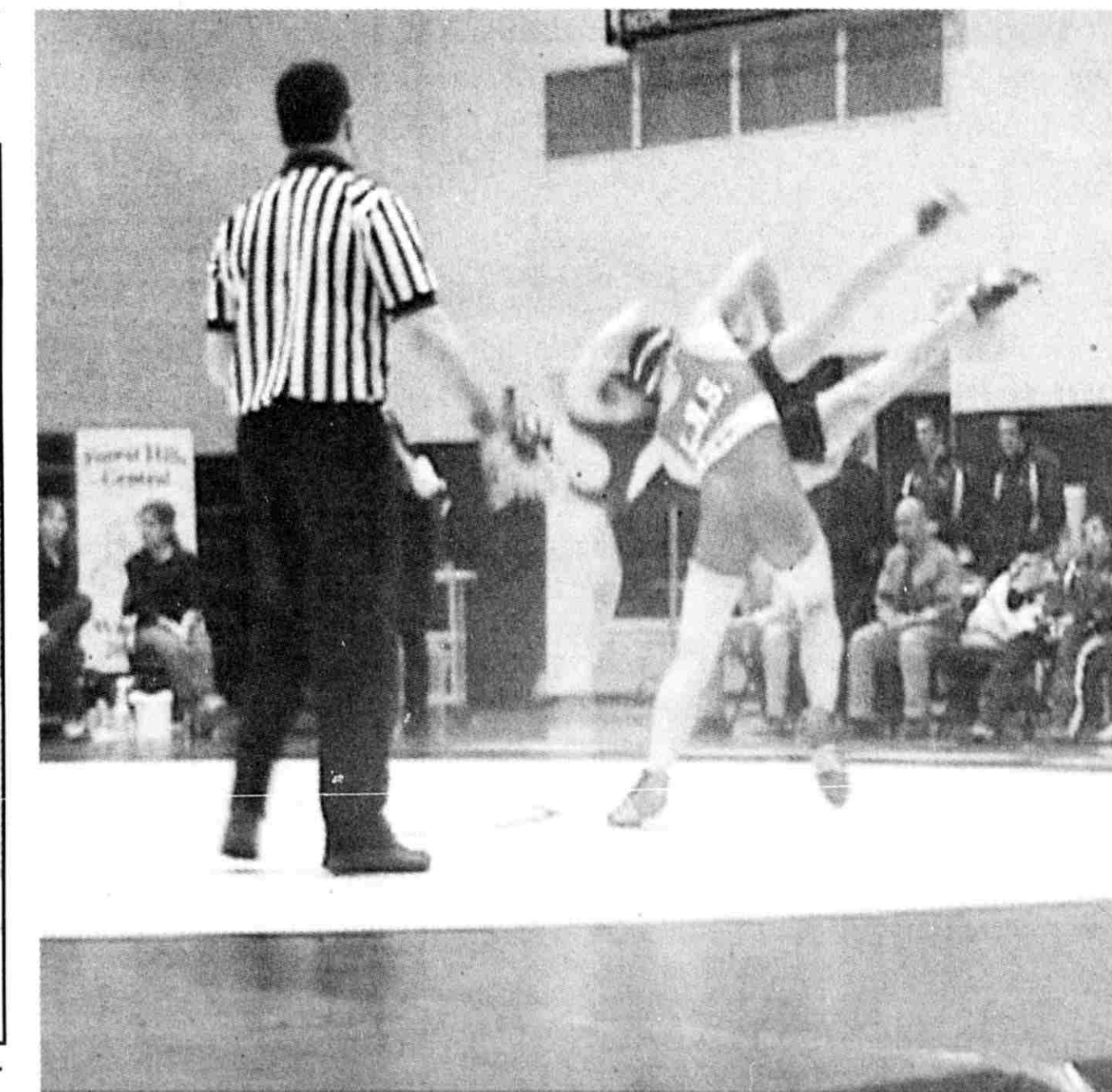
"Alex has met a lot of the top competition that you'll run into this year," Dean said. "He's been doing a real nice job. He'll have to face a lot of the type of

guys he's already faced this year at the state meet. So it's a good challenge."

Wrestling, cont'd., pg. 14



At the Forest Hills Central meet, Cody Toomey takes down an opponent.



Rob Karasiewicz demonstrates his skill against FHC.

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Wrestling, continued ... From Page 13

Dean has been impressed with both wrestlers since arriving at Lowell last season from Michigan State University where he was an assistant head coach. Dean, a former high school state champion and Big Ten champion at the University of Minnesota, knows firsthand what an accomplishment reaching 100 wins is.

"It's a real indication of the kind of success they've had," Dean said. "With the level of competition we generally face, they're beating some good kids to get those 100 wins. Lowell has a long history of wrestling and they're joining a pretty

exclusive list of guys." With their benchmark victories behind them, both Fleet and Seese have refocused their sights on new goals.

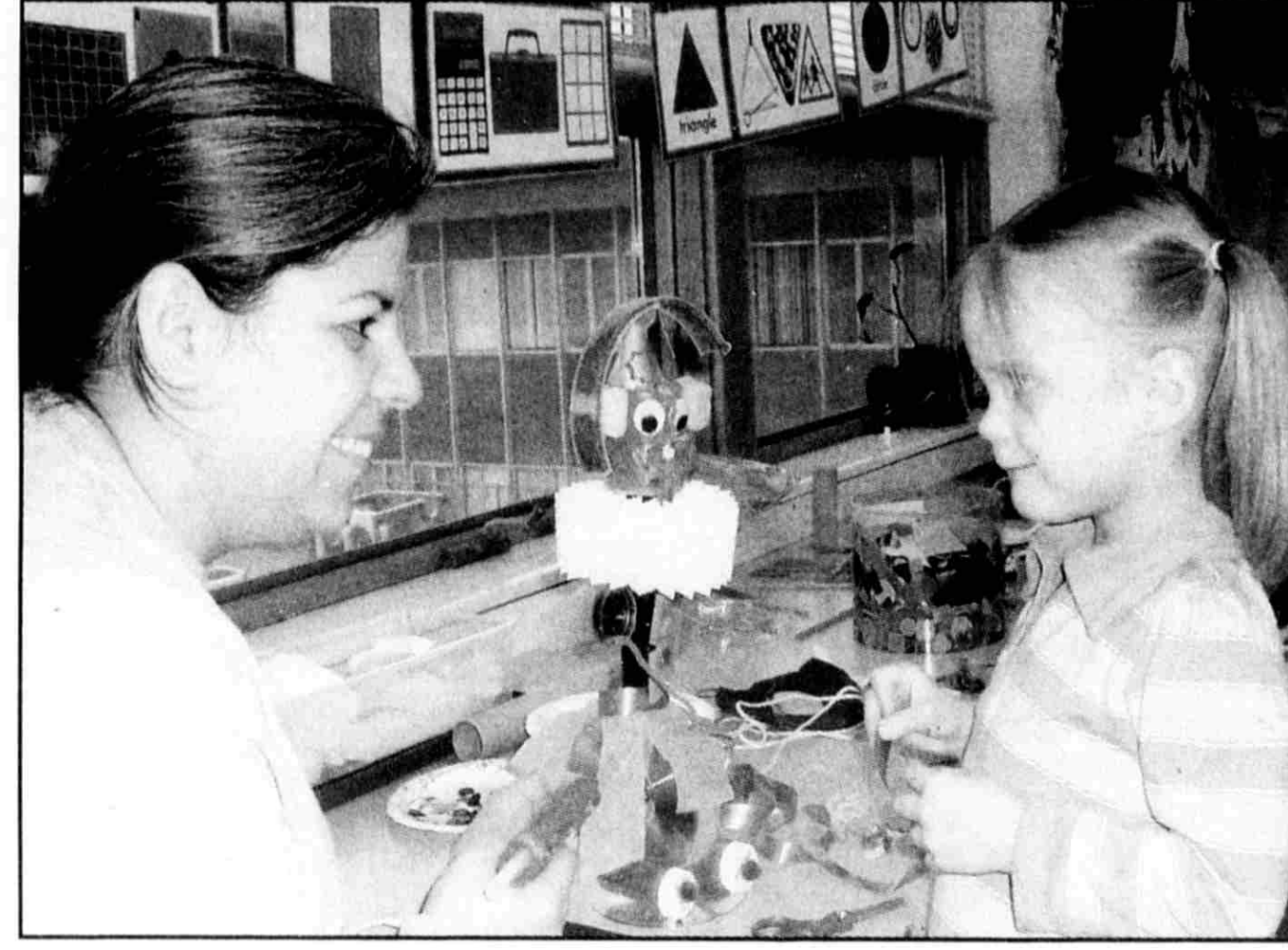
"My main goal is to place at state," Seese said. "I'm not worried about wins anymore."

Fleet, on the other hand, has set his sights on winning the individual state championship.

Both young men, however, are adamant in their team-first philosophy. When asked if they had their choice between an individual state title or a team state title, both wrestlers replied simultaneously, without hesitation, "team."

"Winning it all freshman year was amazing," Fleet said. "All the seniors on the team remember how great that was and we want to go back and do it again." Unusually, this senior class could end up with four 100 win wrestlers. Rob Karasiewicz, a 135 pounder, picked up his 100th win last year, and heavyweight Dominic Doyle is likely to pass the milestone later this year.

Neither Fleet nor Seese see 100 wins as a plateau. Rather, this accomplishment is an interesting stop on their trip to the summit.



Clown month for preschoolers

January is circus month at the United Methodist Preschool in Lowell. Throughout the year, children in the Tuesday/Thursday 3-year-old morning class collected junk and then invited parents to come and assist them with glue guns to make unique clown junk sculptures. Pictured, left, is Colleen Fitzpatrick helping Julia Carlson with her clown.

I have only one superstition. I touch all the bases when I hit a home run.

 - Babe Ruth (1895 - 1948)

Sound Off

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College News

Christina Getz has been named to the Albion College dean's list for the fall 2006 semester. The senior is majoring in psychology, with a concentration in the Gerald R. Ford Institute for Public Policy and Service. Getz, a 2003 graduate of Lowell High School, is the daughter of Jonathan Getz and Robin Getz of Lowell.

To be named to the dean's list, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or above at the completion of the semester.

Calvin College has announced its fall 2006 dean's list. To earn a spot, a student must maintain at least a 3.5 grade point average for the semester and have at least a 3.3 cumulative grade point average.

From Lowell are: Kristin Befus, Kelly Malling, Matthew Scheider, Brook VanEck and Jess Vriesema.

From Alto are: Leslie Boot, Amanda Hoeksema, Sara Krips and Rochelle Veenstra.

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."

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Ever notice even fewer people put carts in the corral when it is raining? I don't know who you are but I know you are not sugar and won't melt in the rain! Put your carts where they belong.

I think Lowell/Caledonia hockey should have more credit. Hockey is truly a tough sport and they all try their hardest to achieve victory. So good job you guys.

I like this Sound Off page but people need to be more respectful to others and I posted something two weeks ago and yet it still hasn't gotten in here. Don't you care about what I have to say?

Gas is significantly cheaper north, south, east and west of Lowell. Anybody want to man-up and explain that to me? Is this gas price fixing in the Lowell area?

Will Lowell be the "next place to be" if the trees are cut down and there are developments where green spaces should be? Let's preserve our small town character.

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FOR SALE - 1994 Olds Bravada 4.3L, V6, power windows, power locks, CD player, remote starter, all wheel drive, leather seats, 188,000 miles. Call 450-8384.

FOR SALE - 1995 Ford Taurus. Runs good, A/C, CD player, tilt, keyless entry & electric seats. Asking \$1,475. 897-9068.

1998 JEEP CHEROKEE - 4x4, 4 door, Limited, red, new tires, loaded, \$5,500. Call 897-1597 or 745-2161.

BERBER CARPET - Beautiful beige color, 12x30 (40 sq. yards). New, never used. Cost \$500, sell \$150. Call 517-204-0600.

CAPE COD - LOWELL - 3 bedroom 1 1/2 bath remodeled with new windows, new furnace and central air, 2 1/2 stall garage and full basement. Includes an 800 sq. ft. 1 bedroom apartment with separate entrance. \$169,900. Help-U-Sell Real Estate, 616-780-7774.

FOR SALE - 1300 misc. ceramic floor & wall tiles. Make offer. Call for details, Rockford, 616-874-1053.

HOUSE FOR SALE BY OWNER - \$123,000. 3 bdr, 1 bath, finished basement, 2 1/2 stall garage. New carpet, tile and paint throughout. Fenced backyard. 1254 Jane Ellen Drive, Lowell. Call 897-0172 for appt.

FOR SALE - Land contract, easy terms. Cute 3 bedroom, 1 bath home in Lowell, close to schools. Call 560-0405 or 560-0751.

AIR BED - Selecta comfort firmness for each of you. Dual chambers with remote & warranty. 50% less than the mall. All new. Queen \$795, king \$995 and up. G.R. 616-682-4767 or 293-5188.

FOR SALE - '89 Bronco II, has new parts. Asking \$1000. Call 616-244-2088 or 616-633-3066.

QUEEN PILLOWTOP MATTRESS - New in plastic. Cost \$800, sell \$150. Call 616-835-5737.

FOR SALE - 55 gal. steel drums thoroughly cleaned. Uses: traffic control, storage, trash burning, collecting rain water or small rocks, bongo drums. Call 897-8684, Carl.

CLOSE OUT - on display bath vanities, includes tops and faucets. Durkee Lumber, Alto, 868-6026.

HOUSE FOR SALE BY OWNER - \$123,000. 3 bdr, 1 bath, finished basement, 2 1/2 stall garage. New carpet, tile and paint throughout. Fenced backyard. 1254 Jane Ellen Drive, Lowell. Call 897-0172 for appt.

WOOD STOVE PELLETS - premium grade 40 lb. bags, \$5.29 ea. Delivery available. Call 616-676-2121.

LOWELL - \$69,900? Yes, \$69,900! Very cute, well maintained home w/new roof, furnace & cosmetics. Double lot! Why rent? Pat 581-7580, patschaefel.com, Five Star Real Estate, 616-977-7790.

CLEARANCE SALE - 50-75% off. Cousin's & River Hollow, downtown Lowell, 897-5000 or 897-0273.

FOR SALE - Due to illness. 1995 Gulf Stream Ultra 102, 69,000 miles. Excellent condition. Call 897-2914 after 4 p.m. and weekends.

FOR RENT - 2 bedroom mobile home with 2 stall garage on 1/2 acre. Quiet country setting, 10 minutes from Lowell. No pets. \$550/month plus deposit. Call 987-9374 after 5 p.m.

FOR RENT - Lowell, 1 br 1 ba upper. A/C, storage & trash pickup. \$400/mo & utilities + deposit. No pets, no smoking. 897-4829.

HALL FOR RENT - with kitchen, seats 150. Call 897-6050.

CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRY ONE TODAY! 20 Words for \$2, each additional word is 10c. Call 897-9261

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LOWELL BEER STORE - Special of the week. Coors Lt. 18 pack and Miller Lt. 18 pack bottles are a nickel over cost. Sale starts Sat., Jan. 20. While supplies last.

ESTATE ITEMS - antiques, collectibles & lots of used furniture & housewares. Open every Thurs., Fri., & Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Peddler's Market, 420 N. Lafayette, Greenville. 616-225-2664.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEMS - free installation, low monthly monitoring fee. Call now for a free consultation 893-5644.

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CITY OF LOWELL RESIDENTS & BUSINESSES - Please remember to keep your sidewalks cleared! The kids on their way to school, your customers, the postal & newspaper carriers & the walkers/joggers in town all appreciate your effort.

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 I BUY ESTATES ANTIQUES - collections & other "stuff" Call 616-550-0521 for appointment for me to take a look.
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Levin, continued ... From Page 9

around them and thick smoke choking the air, they evacuated the stricken men and then extinguished the fire. The fight lasted for hours, but the Monterey and almost all of her sailors survived. The teamwork that Jerry Ford learned playing football at the University of Michigan was surely put to the test that day. And the "we're all in this together" feeling of community, instilled in him by his Grand Rapids upbringing, just as surely contributed to his leadership on the Monterey.

After the war, Gerald Ford returned to practice law in Grand Rapids but soon felt a new call to service. When he ran for Congress, his naval record was clearly an asset, but

more important than how that service helped him was how it had changed him. Ford's naval service had inspired in him a transformation similar to that of Michigan's great Sen. Arthur Vandenberg, another son of Grand Rapids who had evolved from an isolationist to an internationalist.

With Vandenberg's support, Ford ran an underdog primary campaign against the incumbent. Ford's upset victory was a reflection of how highly voters thought of him personally and also how much had changed in American politics.

The people of Michigan's Fifth District recognized that Gerald Ford was the right man for the times. Years later the rest

of America would reach that same judgment. The Watergate scandal slammed our nation like a political typhoon, and thank goodness Gerald Ford was there to lead us with the same steady courage he had displayed on the Monterey.

As Commander in Chief, President Ford resolved, in his words, "to make our Navy as it has been, as it will be, and as it must be - the best Navy in the whole world." By building this new class of aircraft carriers and naming the first in his honor, we are helping to keep that pledge and helping defend the nation that Jerry Ford loved so much.

A Better Place...

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