

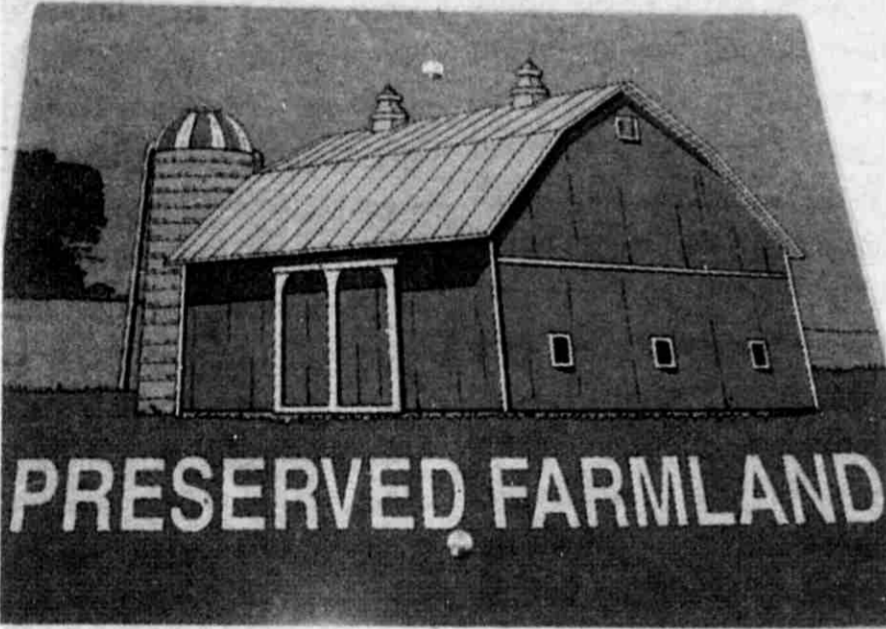
# The Lowell Ledger

Volume 37 Issue 6

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

## For the love of land



by Emma Palova

**Note: Have you noticed the colorful signs with a bright red barn nestled in a green pasture sprinkled around Grattan and Vergennes townships?**

**They designate preserved farmland. Over the next few weeks we will bring you a series of articles with the barn logo about local farmers who have decided to preserve their land for future generations.**

## Farmland preservation provides for quality of life for generations to come

Part 1

After sitting all day behind a computer screen, answering cell and regular phones, constantly processing information, nothing feels better than driving home through serene rolling farm fields.

A covey of turkeys feeds on harvested corn fields, herons nest in the swamps off 2 Mile Road, deer munch on apples in the orchards. Horses graze on pastures off Parnell Road. Cows rest in the meadows surrounding Parnell.

Swans, geese and other fowl are omnipresent in Murray Lake and area ponds

are abundant with fish.

A farmer sitting on a tractor works in the fields. Barns and silos are an integral part of the Vergennes and Grattan townships landscape.

Several local farmers have made sure the land stays that way by using the Kent County Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) voluntary program.

"We think that preserving farmland is part of Kent County's triple bottom line," said Kendra Wills, staff person to the Kent County Ag Preservation Board, "that is environment, economy and quality of life."

The main purpose of the PDR program is to

protect farmland against development, to preserve rural character and scenic attributes of the county, and to maintain the quality of life of the county residents.

The voluntary program compensates the farmer for his or her willingness to accept a permanent deed restriction on their land that limits future development for non-agricultural purposes.

Landowners are compensated for the fair market value of their land, based on the difference between what it could be sold for on the open market with no restrictions and what it can be sold for as farmland.

Once an easement is in

place, the landowner may still sell the land on the open market as farmland. Private property rights remain intact.

This price according to Wills averages between \$4,000 to \$5,000.

"The land cannot be developed in any way," said Wills. "It's a really nice tool. The farmer gets some cash, and has another option to get out of farming without selling."

Even though match state and federal funding is tight, farm preservation is here to stay. With Vergennes designating a section in the master plan for farm

*Farmland, cont'd., pg. 3*

## Rail group targets August for grant application

by Emma Palova

A citizens group working on the conversion of the Flat River railroad line to a trail set Aug. 1 as target date for state grant application. If approved, the funding would become available in 2009.

The proposed trail system would actually include two trails, from Lowell to Ionia and Lowell to Greenville.

In the meantime, the group consisting of several governmental jurisdictions, has to overcome major

hurdles.

First, a purchase agreement with Mid Michigan Railroad must be drafted. Second, the group will have to determine ownership/governance issues.

Last week at a meeting at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, the group discussed the option of having an interlocal agreement to manage the future trail by June 1.

The interlocal agreement could be formed between the major counties

involved and the cities along the two trails. This would include Kent, Ionia and Montcalm counties and the cities of Lowell, Belding, Ionia and Greenville.

This multi-jurisdictional agency would also apply for funding, determine construction and maintenance issues of the entire 40-mile long trail corridor.

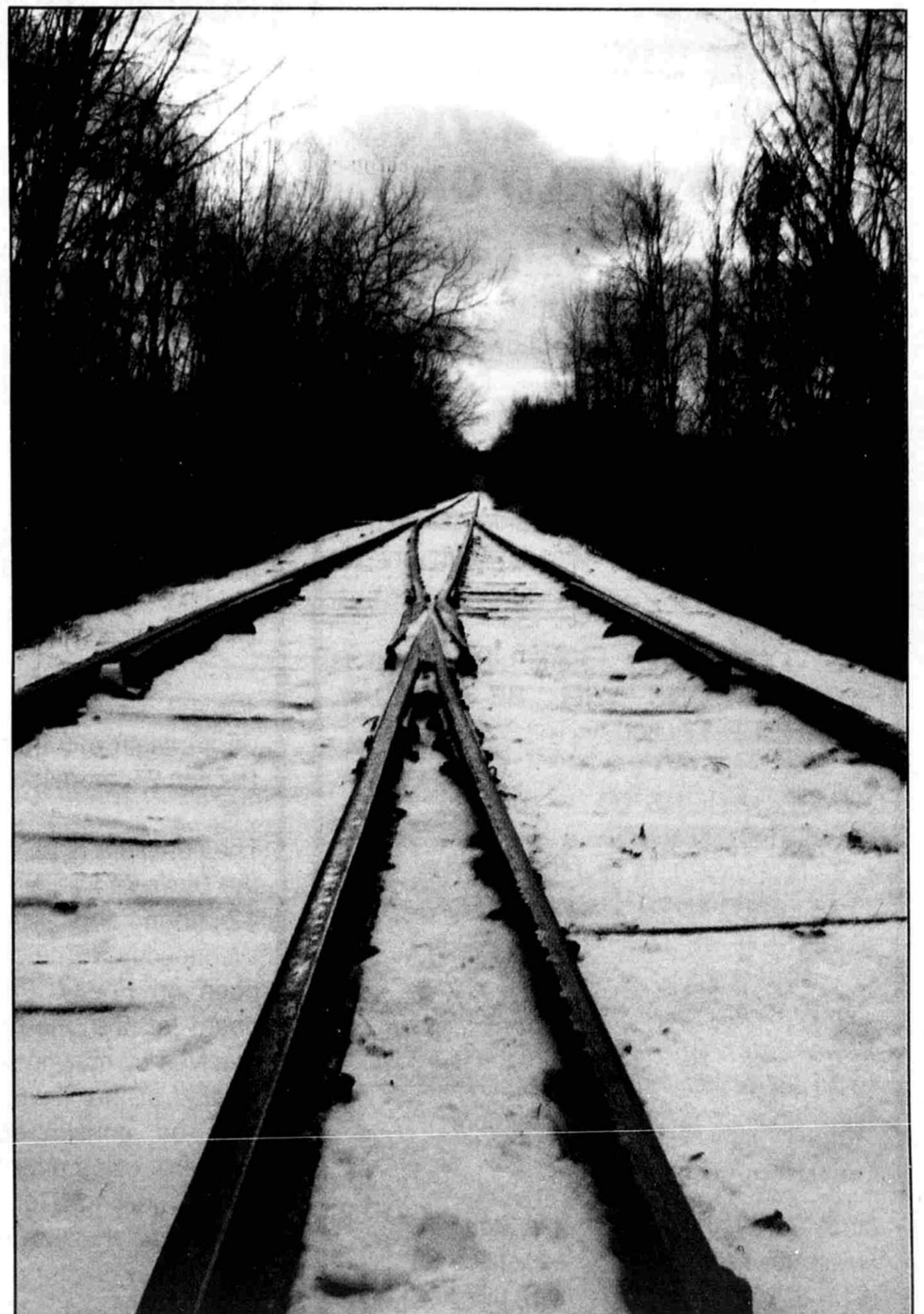
"We have many governmental jurisdictions involved that gives us a lot of options and opportunities," said facilitator Carolyn Kane, "but it is difficult to frame it."

Other trail systems such as the Clinton Ionia Shiawassee and the Lowell Area Recreation Authority are also managed by interlocal agreements.

The group also discussed maintenance issues on the trail mainly mowing and plowing. The Kent Trails are mowed once a month, according to Roger Sabine, director of Kent County Parks and Recreation.

"We're advocates of non-plowing," said Sabine. "Some people want to roller blade in winter. We do blow off leaves in fall."

If an interlocal agreement is formed, then  
*Railroad, cont'd., pg. 3*



Railroad trussels in downtown Lowell. Lowell may become the hub of the two trails.

Inside

The Lowell Ledger

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## Web site used to check plagiarism; board approves new buses

by Shelly MacNaughton  
special to the Ledger

Christine Beachler updated the board on a program used in the high school called Turnitin.com.

This is a web site that LHS subscribes to, which allows students and teachers to scan writing assignments. The website scans the document and reports the percentage of plagiarism within the document.

The school has subscribed to this web site for the past two years and it is used mostly by the English department. This year, at the request of new principal Tricia Murphy-Alderman, teachers have been encouraged to use this site at least once with various writing assignments.

"Teachers have said most of the time they are using this to help kids learn how to cite work properly," said Beachler.

Students are also able to scan the document and check their own plagiarism and correct documents before turning into the teacher. Teachers can pinpoint particular sentences to have students rework in their own words.

The web site is used in over 80 countries with over five billion indexed pages. Papers submitted to this web site are archived to prevent sharing of documents between students, web sites, siblings etc. This website is proving to be a tremendous asset to the staff as well as students.

Principal Murphy-Alderman presented updates to the LHS Student Handbook. The updates include a New Attendance Policy, New Tardy Policy, and revisions to the Student Code of Conduct. These updates were presented to the students and a summary sheet was sent home with students on Friday.

The changes are posted on the website, as well as the Parent Portal on Infinite Campus. Murphy-Alderman will also be mailing a letter of information including these updates later this week.

The Board approved the purchase of four new buses for the 2008-09 school year from Capital City Bus Sales. John Zielinski also

presented the board with a budget amendment in light of the updated information from Lansing.

Roger Bearup offered a curriculum report and noted

that today was the first day of the new credit recovery program at the high school. "We currently have four

teachers working on this program and 25 students participating," said Bearup.

## Planning commission wants corridor along M21 for consistency

by Emma Palova

The Lowell Planning Commission wants to establish a joint corridor with Lowell Township along the main M21 artery for consistency and enforcement.

Due to lack of signage enforcement by the township, the commissioners discussed the corridor Monday as a standalone zoning district with its own requirements.

Rodger Garner of Good Chevrolet said car dealers want equal enforcement in the city and the township.

"We enforce it, they don't," he said.

Unlike the township, the city has a mechanism for enforcement which is complaint-based. First a letter goes out to ensure compliance, if that doesn't

work then the police issues a citation.

If the corridor is established, the city and the township would share the same ordinances for signage, setbacks and other zoning issues.

"You would have the same requirements along the corridor, that would be a standalone," said vice-chair Clark Jahnke.

Enforcement of signage would then become a part of a bigger issue along the corridor.

"We want something all-encompassing beyond just the signs," said chair Maryalene LaPonsie.

Jeff Altoft, council member elect, suggested also involving Vergennes Township in the corridor

discussions along Hudson and Lincoln Lake.

"We should send them a formal letter that we are looking at some possibilities where our master plan is going to take us," said commissioner Vance Dimmick, "and that what we want to do is in concert with Vergennes Township."

Commissioner Garland Berry will be taking the issue of future corridors to both townships to their planning commission meetings.

Also in the spirit of cooperation with the townships, the planning commission will reinstate joint meetings targeting March for the first one.

"State law allows joint meetings for a larger area," said manager Dave Pasquale.

According to Pasquale, Fremont has one planning commission for the city and the surrounding townships.

"It's an interesting concept, but there is a lot of turf issues," said Pasquale.

In related business, the planning commission will be implementing the master plan over the next few months starting with changing the text on residential districts. Later, new mixed-use districts and downtown edge districts will be established, as well as rezoning on the west side of town.

"We will designate mixed uses regardless what's there now," said Jahnke, "that's how we want to grow."

# Viewpoint

## To The Editor

Dear Editor,

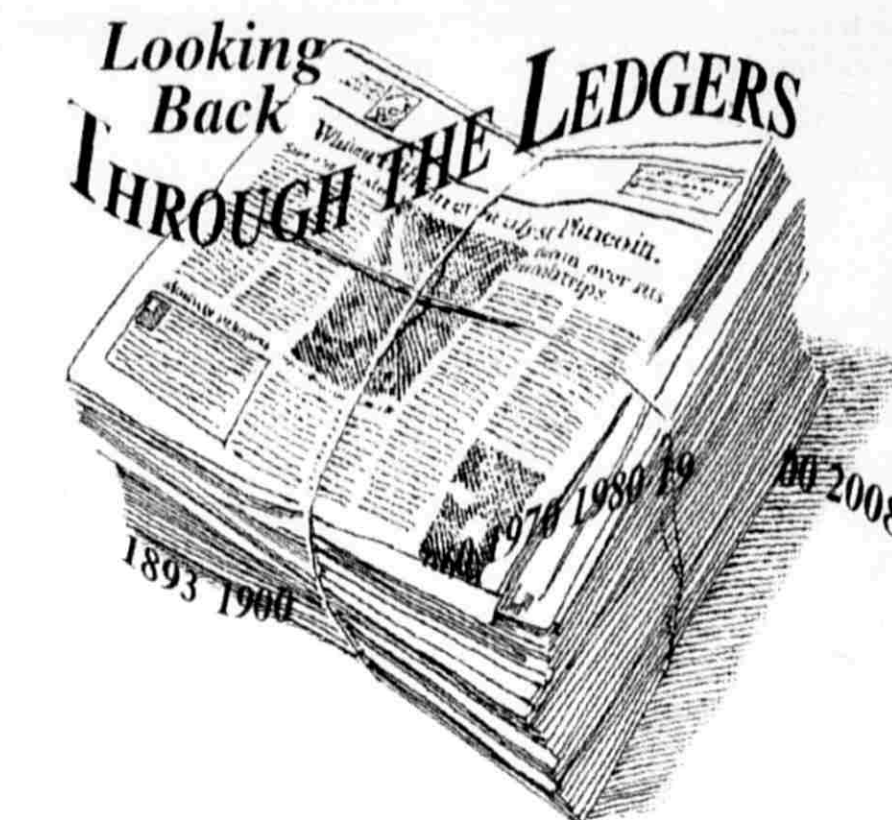
I'm writing to let everyone know what a great time it was to be in the Lowell Christmas parade. "I'm Dreaming of a Redneck Christmas" was fun from the idea stage, right on through to the ride down Main Street.

I'd like to say a special thank you to Lee Houey (he built our porch) and to all of our contributors of redneck stuff.

We were a bit disappointed that the first place float didn't make the Lowell Ledger, but we are proudly displaying pictures at the Backwater Cafe.

We have decided to give our prize money from the float to the Lowell Skate Park. Thanks again to everybody who helped the great turnout for the parade. We're already thinking about next year!

Sincerely,  
Bif and Jeff Altoft  
Backwater Cafe



### 125 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL JOURNAL DECEMBER 13, 1882

Lowell ought to be in the telephone circuit. Why not? The grand opening of Train's hotel Christmas night will be the event of the season it is said.

A stuffed swan in West & Company's drug store, a stuffed swan and owl in Look's drug store and a stuffed club to wallop noisy boys with, are a few of Lowell's attractions just now.

### 100 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER DECEMBER 12, 1907

No entries for this date.

### 75 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER AND ALTO SOLO DECEMBER 8, 1932

Whooping Cough, which appeared to have about died out in the community, has broken out afresh. Three new cases reported Monday.

Interest in aeronautics and in the Lowell airport project are continuing to grow and considerable activity has already been displayed.

### 50 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER DECEMBER 12, 1957

Work has started the latter part of last week by the Lowell Construction Company on the new grade school locker addition which is to be built of brick veneer to match the other building and is to be located on the south side of the gymnasium.

Tax bills for Lowell Township placed in the mails this week by the treasurer, Lylija Johnson, totaled \$151,523.74 which tops all previous records in the amount of taxes assessed in this township.

### 25 YEARS AGO THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER DECEMBER 8, 1982

As of late Tuesday morning, the Lowell Cable TV Service planned on turning on the cable signal to homes that have been completely hooked up to cable service.

The Lowell Athletic Boosters met for nearly three hours Monday evening to plan fundraisers for the upcoming months and to present their first installment of \$15,000 of the pledged \$40,000 to school superintendent Donald Kelly.

## Sheriff's department warns of thin ice danger

With the predicted forecasts of colder weather and potential snowfall over the next few days, thin ice will remain a danger on our inland lakes. Deputy Don Hamilton of the Kent County Sheriff Department Marine Unit wants all the outdoor enthusiasts to be aware of the thickness of ice necessary to sustain certain weights.

As a general guideline 3 inches of ice is required for an adult person. For a few people fishing in the same general area upon a lake you should have 4 inches. Snowmobiles generally require at least 5 inches of ice thickness. Operating a motor vehicle upon the ice is never recommended.

Ice does not have uniform thickness and frequent checks are necessary as you move across the lake. Use of a personal flotation device can add a measure of safety. Don't venture out on the ice without letting family or friends know where you're going to be. Fishing with a companion is always safer. Pull heavy additional equipment behind you to spread out the weight.

Snow will insulate the formation of ice and may not be as thick under a layer of snow. Try to learn more about the lakes that you are going out onto. Many have natural springs or inlets where the ice will not form as quickly as other areas of the lake.

For additional questions call Deputy Hamilton at 632-6223.

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## Taking on Unfair Credit Card Practices

With Senator Carl Levin

Janet Hard is a registered nurse, married, with two children living in the Saginaw area. She has had a Discover credit card for years, has always paid her bills on time, never exceeded the credit limit, and always paid at least the minimum amount due. Over the last twelve months, Ms. Hard spent less than \$100 on purchases and made steady monthly payments of \$200 for a total of \$2,400 in payments on her card. Shockingly, over this same period of time, Ms. Hard's \$2,400 in payments reduced her debt by only \$350. How could \$2,400 result in only a \$350 reduction of Ms.

Hard's credit card debt? In 2006, out of the blue, Discover increased the interest rate on her card from an already high 18 percent up to 24 percent. Discover then retroactively applied this sky-high 24 percent rate to her existing credit card debt of \$8,300, increasing her finance charges and minimum payments. Even though Ms. Hard had not missed a payment to Discover and made all her payments on time for 48 months, she was still penalized.

The Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which I chair, held a hearing this month on credit card companies that hike the interest rates of hard working Americans, like Ms. Hard, who play by the rules.

It is the second in a series of hearings I am holding on unfair credit card practices. In March, we looked at a number of industry practices that seem rigged to keep families mired in debt. These practices include charging interest on payments made on time, imposing excessive and

Levin, cont'd., pg. 7

## Writing to the editor ...

The Lowell Ledger welcomes letters to the editor from readers, but there are a few conditions that must be met before they will be published.

The requirements are:

- All letters must be signed by the writer, with address and phone number provided for verification. All that will be printed is the writer's name and community of residence.
- Letters that contain statements that are libelous will not be published.
- All letters are subject to editing for style, grammar and sense.
- Letters that serve as testimonials for or criticisms of for-profit businesses will not be accepted.
- Letters serving the function of "cards of thanks" will not be accepted unless there is a compelling public interest, which will be determined by the editor.
- Letters that include attacks of a personal nature will not be published or will be edited heavily.
- "Crossfire" letters between the same two people on one issue will be limited to one for each writer.
- In an effort to keep opinions varied, there is a limit of one letter per person per week.
- We prefer letters to be printed legibly or typed, double-spaced. For e-mailed letters, please copy letter as part of the e-mail body and send to [ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com](mailto:ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com).



# Off street light regulation aims to reduce light output

by Emma Palova

A new section of the zoning ordinance will regulate off street lights in various districts. After

months in the works, planning commission vice-chair Clark Jahnke presented a draft Monday in a work session to be formally reviewed in January.

The ultimate goal of the off street lighting regulation is to limit light pollution to keep a dark sky, as well as reduce energy costs.

"We want to reduce what we're putting out along with growth," said Jahnke, "just light what you want lit."

The off street regulations will require the replacement of existing lights to the new requirements at some point,

even though the upfront costs are higher.

"The idea is to eliminate trespassing light to your neighbors," said Jahnke. "It's a common problem with car dealers."

Rodger Garner of Good Chevrolet said the dealership replaced lights last year for \$60,000 with directed lights. Garner questioned his compliance with the new regulations.

The off street lighting would also apply to residential neighborhoods to eliminate 500-watt halogen lights shining into the sky.

"The other idea is to eliminate the glare," said Jahnke.

Flashing lights still remain prohibited with the new lighting regulation.

In related business, the planning commission again revisited the issue of temporary signs. The body struggled with the verbiage of a proposed draft. Finally, the commission established 60 days as a limit for temporary signs for businesses and non-profits, and 21 days for residential

areas. The application fee remains at \$25 for both non-profits and profits.

Some discussion was

devoted to people walking around dressed as flashing signs, like in last week's parade.

## Business Matters

Greenridge Realty announced that Ann Wittenbach received Realtor of the Month in November.

This award recognizes Wittenbach for her outstanding success and achievements.



## Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold  
Edward Jones  
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### INVESTMENTS CAN MAKE GREAT HOLIDAY GIFTS

Now that the holidays are here, you're probably looking around for the right gifts for your loved ones. Of course, as you know, it's not always easy to find gifts that are both meaningful and useful. This year, why not add financial gifts to your shopping list?

What types of financial gifts should you consider giving? Let's look at a few possibilities:

- Contributions to Section 529 plans — If you have a child (or grandchild) that will be headed off to college in a few years, you may want to contribute to a Section 529

college savings plan. Your earnings and withdrawals will be exempt from federal taxes as long as the money goes toward paying college costs. There may be additional tax benefits to those who participate in their own state's plan. Also, you can contribute generous amounts to your savings plan. Plus, you can change beneficiaries; if you've been putting money in a Section 529 plan for your child or grandchild, and he or she decides to forego college, you can transfer the money to another family member.

- Contributions to an IRA — If you know a loved one has an IRA, consider making a contribution. Many people don't fully fund their IRA each year — so any help you can give toward that goal will be important.

- Stocks — Consider giving shares of a company that produces products or services that are used by your intended recipient. If you're going to give away some of your own shares, you'll need to know what you originally paid for the stock, how long you've held it and its fair market value at the date of the gift. Recipients of your gift will need this information to determine gains or losses if they decide to sell the stock. (You'll also need to determine if you have

to pay gift taxes. You can give up to \$12,000 per year, free of gift taxes, to as many people as you want; over your lifetime, you can give up to \$1 million without incurring gift taxes.)

- Savings Bonds — They may sound old-fashioned and stodgy, but U.S. Savings Bonds can still make nice financial gifts, especially for young people who can use the money in the future. Among the most popular savings bonds are Series EE Bonds, which can be purchased in denominations ranging from \$50 (or \$25.00 for Electronic EE Bonds) to \$10,000. Paper EE Bonds are sold at half their face amount and will increase in value until they are cashed in or reach final maturity in 30 years. Electronic EE Bonds are sold at face value and reach maturity immediately.

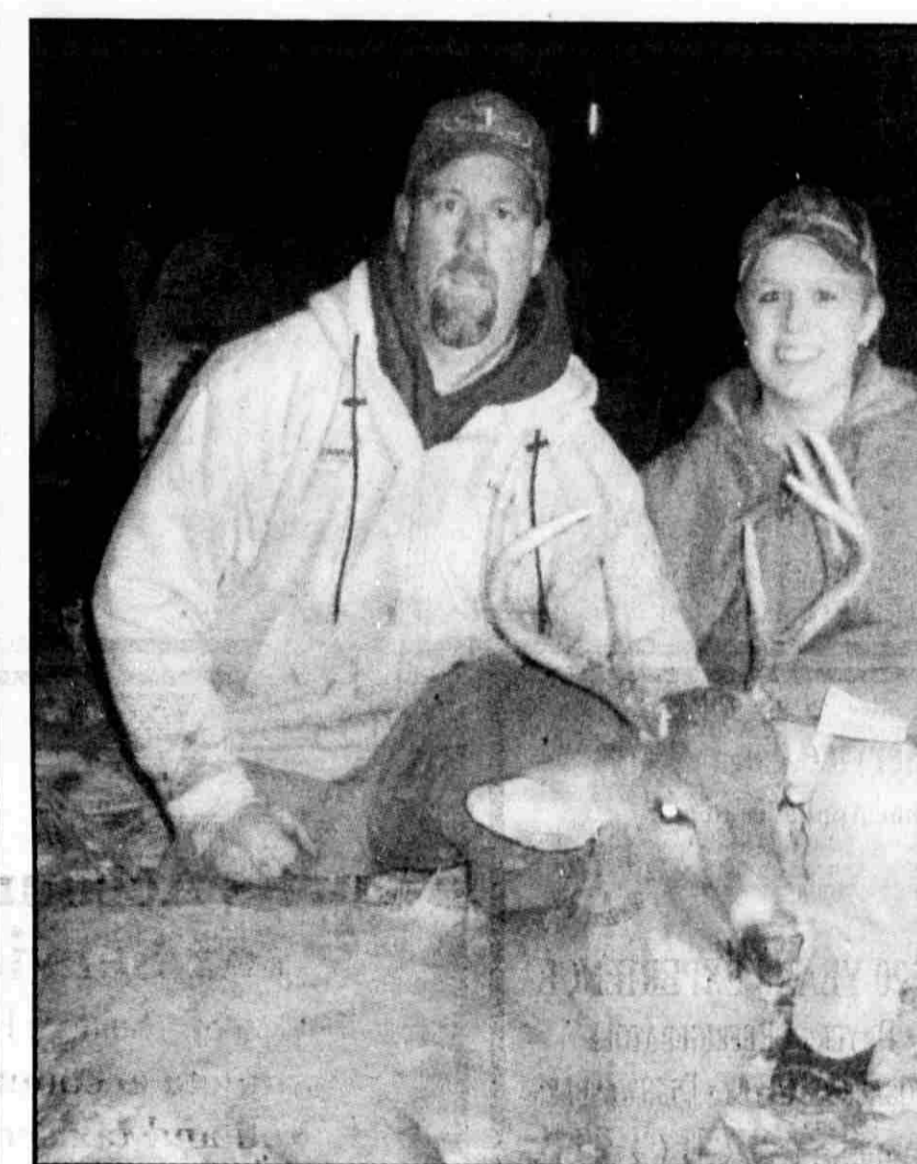
You can learn more about Series EE Bonds and TIPS, or even purchase them directly, from the Treasury Department's web site devoted to savings bonds: [www.savingsbonds.gov](http://www.savingsbonds.gov).

A financial gift may not be traditional, but it can have a big impact on the recipient's life — and it won't be forgotten after the holidays are over.

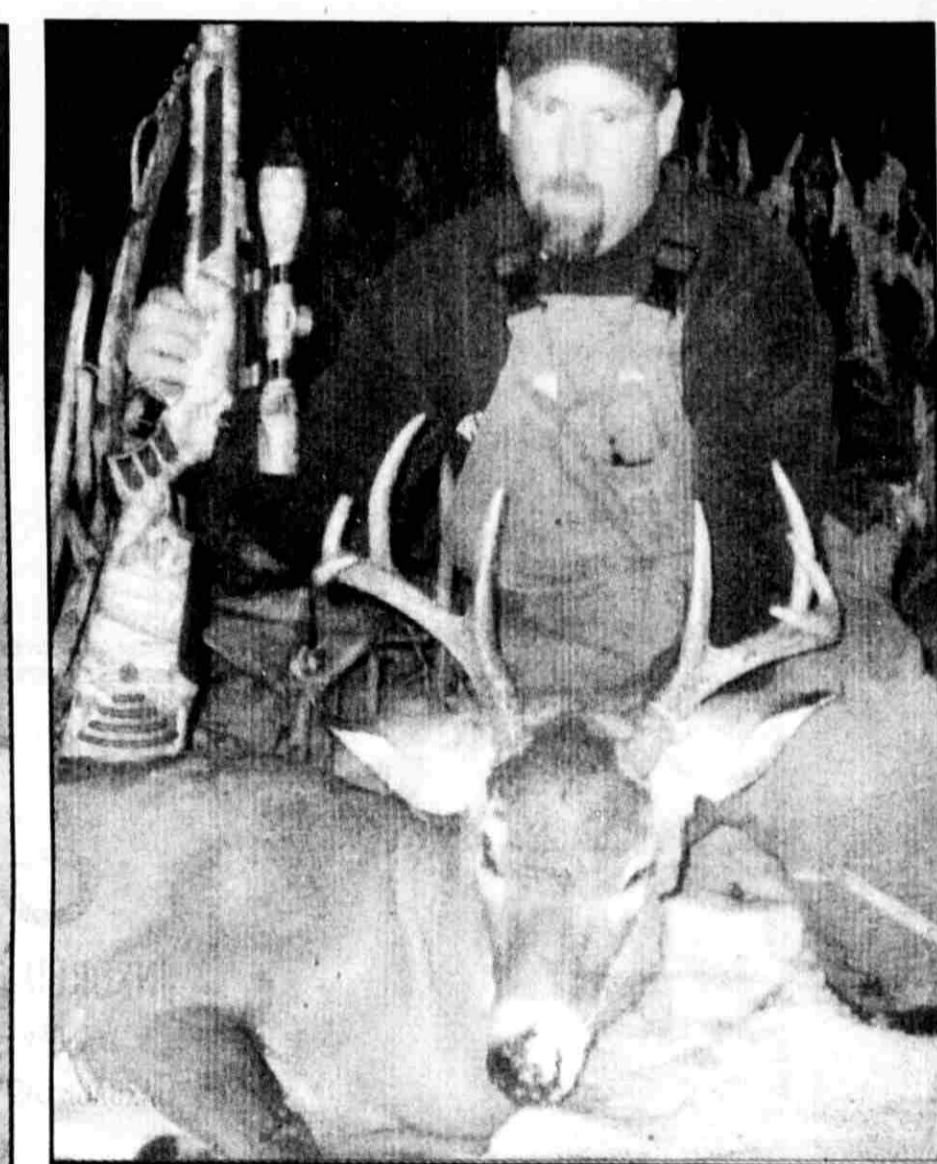
# Last week of deer season proves rewarding for two area hunters



Steven Stark, a 45-year-old man from Lowell, shot a 4-point, 125-pound deer in Alto last week, on an 80-yard shot. Stark lost his right hand last year, causing him to learn how to shoot left-handed.



Kelsey Taylor, 15 and a student at Lowell High School, bagged a last-minute 9-point buck Friday night with her stepfather (shown), Jon Francis, just north of 3 Mile Road. Francis said Kelsey passed up several smaller bucks in hopes of getting a larger one.



Jon Francis shot an 8-point buck Monday night with a muzzle-loader at Thuston Farms.

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## Sound Off

The Ledger "Almost" Anything Goes Column



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Or CALL...897-0787

The Lowell Ledger welcomes all "Sound Off" comments, but would like to remind readers of the nature of the column. "Sound Off" is meant to be a community notice board, a means for comments that can be regarded as helpful, congratulatory, thankful and informational.

We will not print any comments that are offensive or libelous. Direct aims at individuals, political figures and businesses will not be printed. For direct opinions on a subject (including, but not limited to, politics, businesses, city government and Ledger criticisms), please send a letter "To the Editor". All letters must be signed (first and last names). Please check Page 5 of this week's paper for the complete guidelines.

All comments are submitted by the public and do not necessarily represent the views of the Ledger.

The Christmas Parade was fabulous! Thank you to the participants; your efforts to provide us with the holiday sights & sounds of our beloved community are appreciated. Peace & Joy, The Barnes Family.

Kudos to the parents that actually controlled their children during the parade! You all exhibited wonderful parenting skills!

What is energy? Just wondering...

Is it true the School District has a new security director?

Politicians and diapers both need to be changed, and for the same reason.

Just bought my Christmas tree near Flat River Dr. and Vergennes. Beautiful tree, great price!

The Lowell City Airport condemning land for their hobby airport? Sounds like we've got a new bully on the block. To the new City Council—Find better ways to spend our tax dollars.

A great big thank you to Mr. Nugent! He's a great teacher and does so much work for the local FFA chapter. Thanks Mr. Nugent!!!

Kudos to Don Dejong. So meticulously he clears the ice and snow from the library sidewalks, he also takes time assist the elderly to their cars. What a great person we have working for our city.

Special thanks to the rsvp volunteers. They did a great job and froze their keisters off.

Too many fire engines but it was a great parade. It was fun. Good job.

# Fashionista Flair owner goes on business trip to Italy

by Emma Palova  
 Just in time for Guys Nite Out, Fashionista Flair is now stocked with genuine goods directly from Italy. Owner Sara Harmon traveled to Italy in November to do research, and bring back goods, as well as ideas. "I went to shop and for gelato," she said. "I did some research in Florence at the new market." The redesigned store now carries Calendario 2008 Vacanze Romane, glass candies, glass necklaces based on a Venice design, lovely masks, silk scarves and much more.

Fascinated by Florence with its Renaissance atmosphere and late shoe designer Salvatore Ferragamo, Harmon visited the Ferragamo Shoe Museum. Ferragamo, who couldn't get rubber because of the boycott against Mussolini, designed the wedge shoe with a cork base. Ferragamo made shoes for Hollywood stars. "He made shoes that don't hurt feet," said Harmon, "that museum

made me cry tears of joy." And since she couldn't buy a Ferragamo shoe, Harmon bought a notebook as a souvenir from the museum for very special writing. She also fell in love with Botticelli's "Birth of Venus" and Michelangelo's "David."

After all her recent travels, Harmon believes that everyone should learn at least the basics of a second language. That is why she will be offering Italian and French classes in January right inside her charming store by the river. Right now, she is also offering sewing classes.

# Lowell area non-profit organizations Christmas wish lists

by Shelly MacNaughton special to the Ledger

Many of us are in the midst of holiday shopping, planning holiday gatherings, and enjoying the excitement that this season brings.

This time of year also brings an attention to those in need. Often people with a desire to help, either financially or physically, find themselves unsure of where to reach out. In an effort to help the people of Lowell understand the needs of our community, the Buyers Guide has asked local organizations to provide a Christmas Wish List.

Several organizations were asked to provide contact information, the mission of their organization and their top five wishes this Christmas Season. This list is not complete, and the Buyers Guide will expand it in the future. For those agencies wishing to be included on the list, please contact the Buyers Guide with a request.

This list is intended to help the community know where help is needed. If you are planning to open

your hearts to the needs of our community, please find below a list of area non-profit organizations, their mission and current needs.

Small storage building for lawn mowers

**Franciscan Life Process Center**  
 11650 Downes St.  
 Lowell, MI 49331-9489  
 Sister Colleen Ann Nagle, FSE  
 Phone: (616) 897-7842

**Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc.**  
 11535 Fulton St. E  
 Lowell, MI 49331  
**Food Pantry:**  
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We are committed to providing emergency financial and food assistance to those in their times of hardship. We are dedicated to serving and enhancing the quality of life in our community in a discreet and loving manner. Our vision is to continue touching the lives of others as Christ has touched ours. In this we can make a difference.

**Wish List:**  
 Fresh meat for food pantry freezers  
 New refrigerator for food pantry  
 Commercial glass double doors for thrift shop entrance  
 Riding lawn mower for grounds

appreciation and importance of the arts in the schools and communities we serve and to provide expression and enjoyment of the arts to all segments of these communities.

To promote a relationship with God that brings dignity and hope to the sacred process of all life through programs that assist, educate, enrich and inform.

**Wish List:**  
 Snow Shovels (a couple)  
 Two-way "walkie-talkies" (one set)

**Lowell Area Arts Council**  
 149 S. Hudson, PO Box 53  
 Lowell, MI 49331  
 Phone: (616) 897-8545  
 E-mail:  
 info@lowellartscouncil.org  
 Web site:  
 www.lowellartscouncil.org

The Lowell Area Arts Council will integrate the arts in daily life for all citizens in the Lowell area.

Statement of purpose: To encourage the understanding,

**Wish List:**  
 Gift Card to a hardware or paint store for supplies to paint the Arts Council gallery walls  
 Carpet for the Arts Council gallery and offices

Vacuum cleaner for the Arts Council gallery and offices

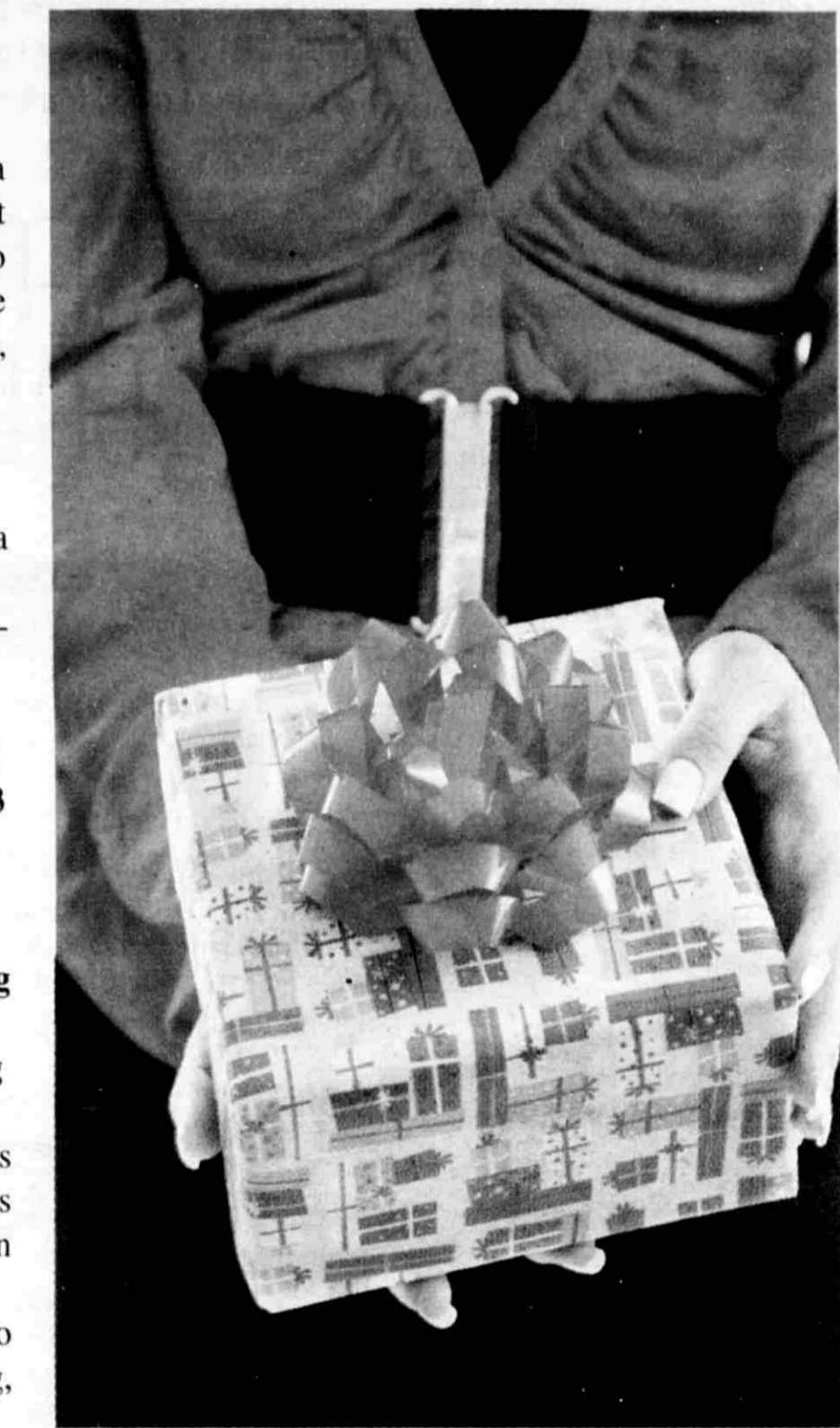
Gift Card to a lumber store for wood to rebuild the Entertainment Stage for the Fallsburg Fall Festival

Donation toward the purchase of office software upgrade

**Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce**  
 113 Riverwalk Plaza  
 PO Box 224  
 Lowell, MI 49331  
 Phone: (616) 897-9161  
 Fax: (616) 897-9101  
 Email:  
 info@lowellchamber.org  
 Web site:  
 www.discoverlowell.org

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.

Wish lists, cont'd., pg. 18



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**\$27,976**  
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<p><b>2007 Pontiac G6 GT</b>                  4 door, 6 cyl., air, cruise, tilt, CD, leather, power seats, windows &amp; locks, one owner, 28,000 miles, alloy wheels, bal. of warranty, includes 5 yr/100K Drive-Line Warranty. Reduced!  <b>\$14,880 or \$230 mo.</b></p>	<p><b>2006 Pontiac Grand Prix</b>                  6 cyl., 3800 engine, air, cruise, tilt, CD, power windows, &amp; locks, red, alloy wheels, GM certified (as low as 4.9% interest available)  <b>\$12,880 or \$197 mo.</b></p>	<p><b>2006 Pontiac Grand Prix</b>                  6 cyl., 3800 engine, air, cruise, tilt, CD, leather, power seats, windows, &amp; locks, alloy wheels, GM certified, low interest available, includes 5 yr/10K warranty  <b>\$13,500 or \$208 mo.</b></p>	<p><b>2005 Chevrolet Cobalt LS</b>                  2 door, air, cruise, tilt, CD, power windows &amp; locks, alloy wheels, great buy!  <b>ONLY... \$10,950 or \$165 mo.</b></p>
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<p><b>2006 Ford Expedition Limited</b>                  Sunroof, leather, 22" wheels, plus factory alloy wheels, DVD, heated seats, illuminated running boards, power 3rd seat. Was \$32,995                  Now... <b>\$28,500</b></p>	<p><b>2005 Pontiac Grand Prix</b>                  Sedan, auto, 6 cyl., 3800 engine, full power, 45,000 miles, black, alloy wheels, CD, very clean                  GREAT PRICE!                  Now... <b>\$11,550 or \$175 mo.</b></p>	<p><b>2004 Chevrolet Silverado 2500</b>                  Crew cab, 4x4, Duramax diesel, full power, alloy wheels, low package, 65,000 miles.                  Was \$30,995                  Now... <b>\$28,500</b></p>	<p><b>2005 Chevrolet Impala LS</b>                  6 cyl., 3800 engine, air, cruise, tilt, power sunroof, CD, heated leather, power seats, windows &amp; locks, alloy wheels, fully loaded, includes warranty, new tires                  Now... <b>\$11,500 or \$176 mo.</b></p>
--	---	--	--

2007 GMC Canyon Ext. Cab, full power, CD, only one owner... <b>\$14,995</b>	2003 Chevrolet Trailblazer Ext. 3rd seat, leather, sunroof, Bose, low miles... <b>Only \$14,950</b>	2002 Chevrolet Malibu LS 6 cyl., buckets, low miles, wheels spoiler, full power, like new... <b>\$7,250</b>	2001 Chevrolet Tracker LT 4x4, One owner, automatic, air, 4 door, wheels, like new, 33,000 miles... <b>\$9,500</b>
2004 Expedition Eddie Bauer, 4x4, leather, loaded, only 56,000 miles... <b>\$18,550</b>	2002 VW Beetle, Sunroof, leather, alloy wheels, CD, low miles... <b>\$10,950</b>	2001 GMC Sierra Ext. Cab LT 4x4, Heated leather, chrome wheels, 5.31, low pkg., 66,000 miles... <b>\$16,750</b>	2000 GMC Sierra Reg. Cab 5.3L V8, 4x4, Z71 pkg., 17" wheels, 97,000 miles... <b>Only \$11,750</b>
2004 Pontiac Vibe, Sedan, alloy wheels, sunroof, power windows, locks, 40,000 miles... <b>\$12,500</b>	2002 Chevrolet Silverado LS Ext. Cab, 4x4, V8, CD, power pkg., Tonneau, reduced!... <b>\$15,500</b>	2001 GMC Sierra Ext. Cab LT 4x4, Heated leather, chrome wheels, 5.31, low pkg., 66,000 miles... <b>\$16,750</b>	1995 Pontiac Grand Prix SE, 2 door, V6, auto., air, alloy wheels, sharp!... <b>Only \$3,500</b>
2004 GMC Envoy XL, SLT, 4x4, heated leather, 3rd seat, loaded, chrome wheels, only 38,000 miles... <b>\$17,950</b>	2002 Jeep Wrangler, hard top, leather, new tires, alloys, 4.0 6 cyl., auto., air... <b>Only \$14,550</b>	2000 GMC Sierra Reg. Cab 5.3L V8, 4x4, Z71 pkg., 17" wheels, 97,000 miles... <b>Only \$11,750</b>	1995 Chevrolet Monte Carlo, 6 cyl., full power, alloy wheels, CD... <b>Only \$2,650</b>
2004 Buick Regal LS 3800, V6, leather, alloy wheels, only 52,000 miles, very clean, reduced!... <b>\$11,900</b>	2002 GMC Envoy SLT 4WD, CD full power, alloy wheels, 92,000 miles... <b>Only \$9,950</b>	LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR, STATE FARM IS THERE. Providing Insurance and Financial Services	

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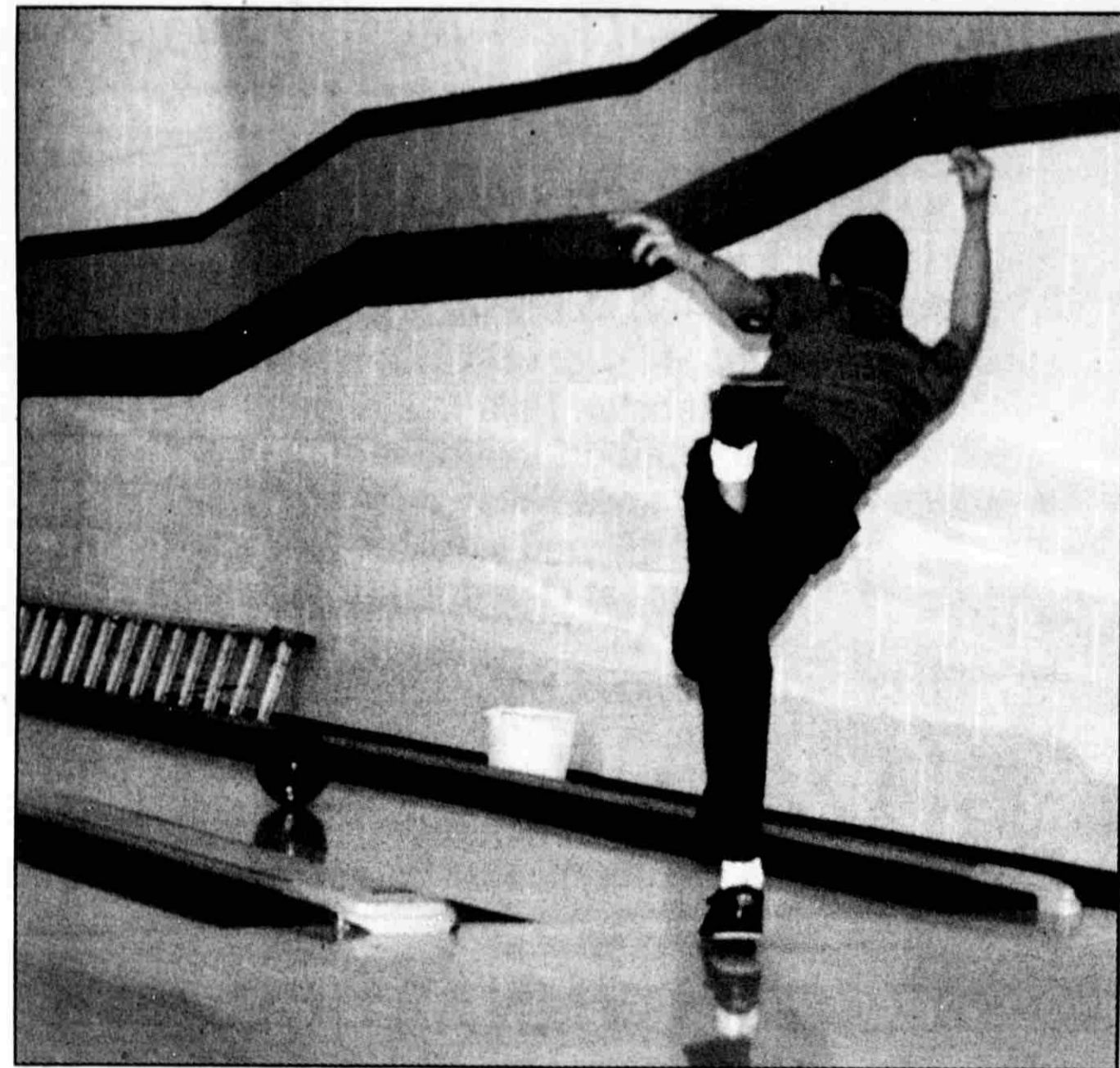
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# RED ARROW SPORTS



Red Arrow junior Jeremy Drake of the boys' team at Wednesday's game.

## Red Arrow bowling teams extend winning streak

By Molly Benningfield  
Editor

The boys' and girls' bowling teams have started their season off strong, with big wins against conference foes Northview and a strong showing at the Lowell Tournament over the weekend.

The boys' team beat Northview 883-771 on Wednesday, with a high score coming from Trevor Washburn, who scored 205.

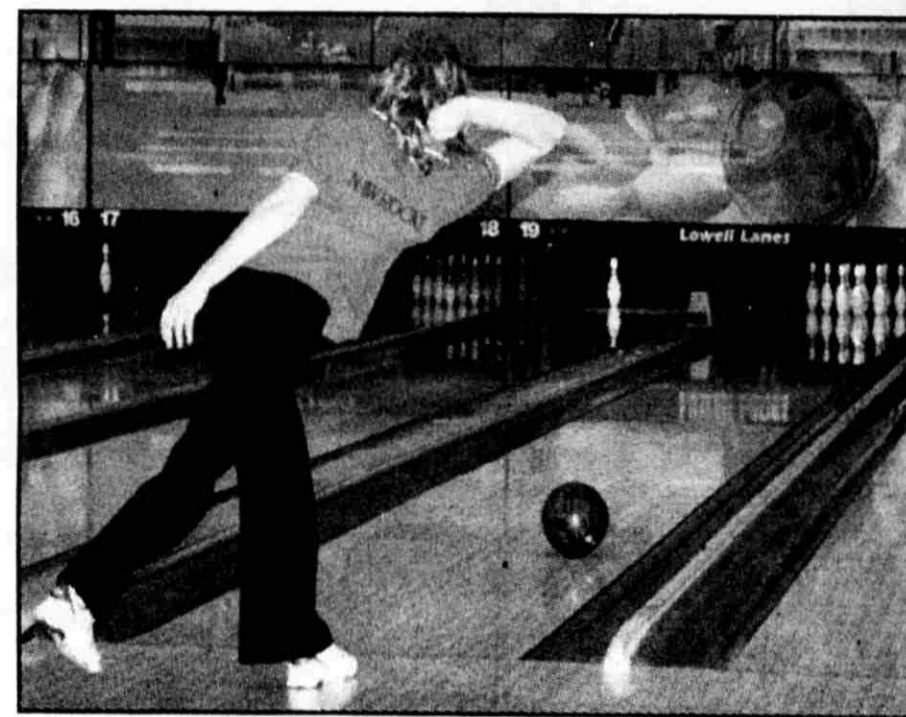
The girls' team also beat Northview, scoring 766 points against the Wildcats' 607. Liberty Clark had the high score for the Arrows,

bowling a 184 after scoring a turkey in her last frame.

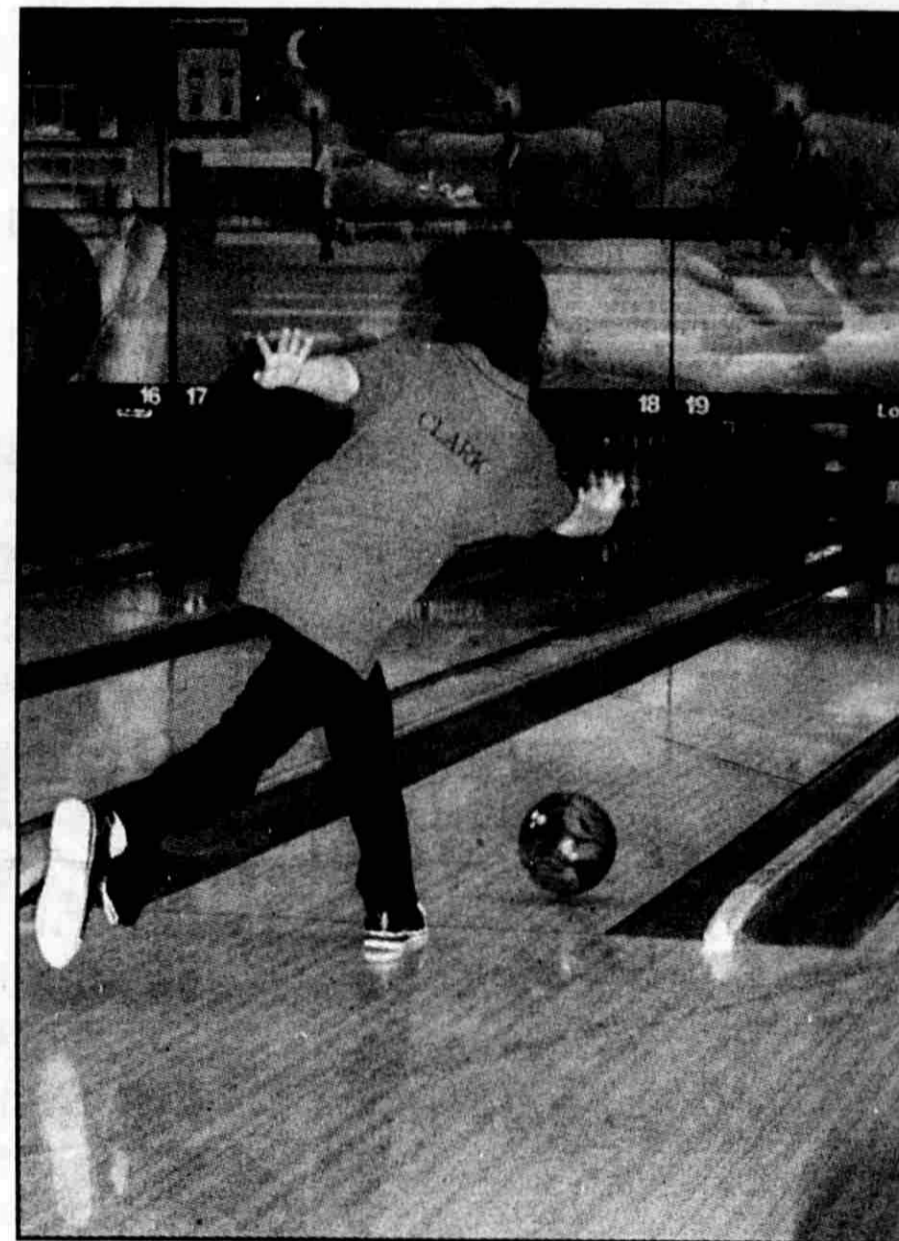
At the Lowell Tournament on Saturday morning, the girls' team defeated Portland 341-300. They beat Kenowa Hills and Northview earlier, and earned a top seed with a 3,870 pin count. Ashley Nawrocki had a high series of 566.

The No. 1 ranked boys' team was upset by Caledonia in the semifinals of the tournament.

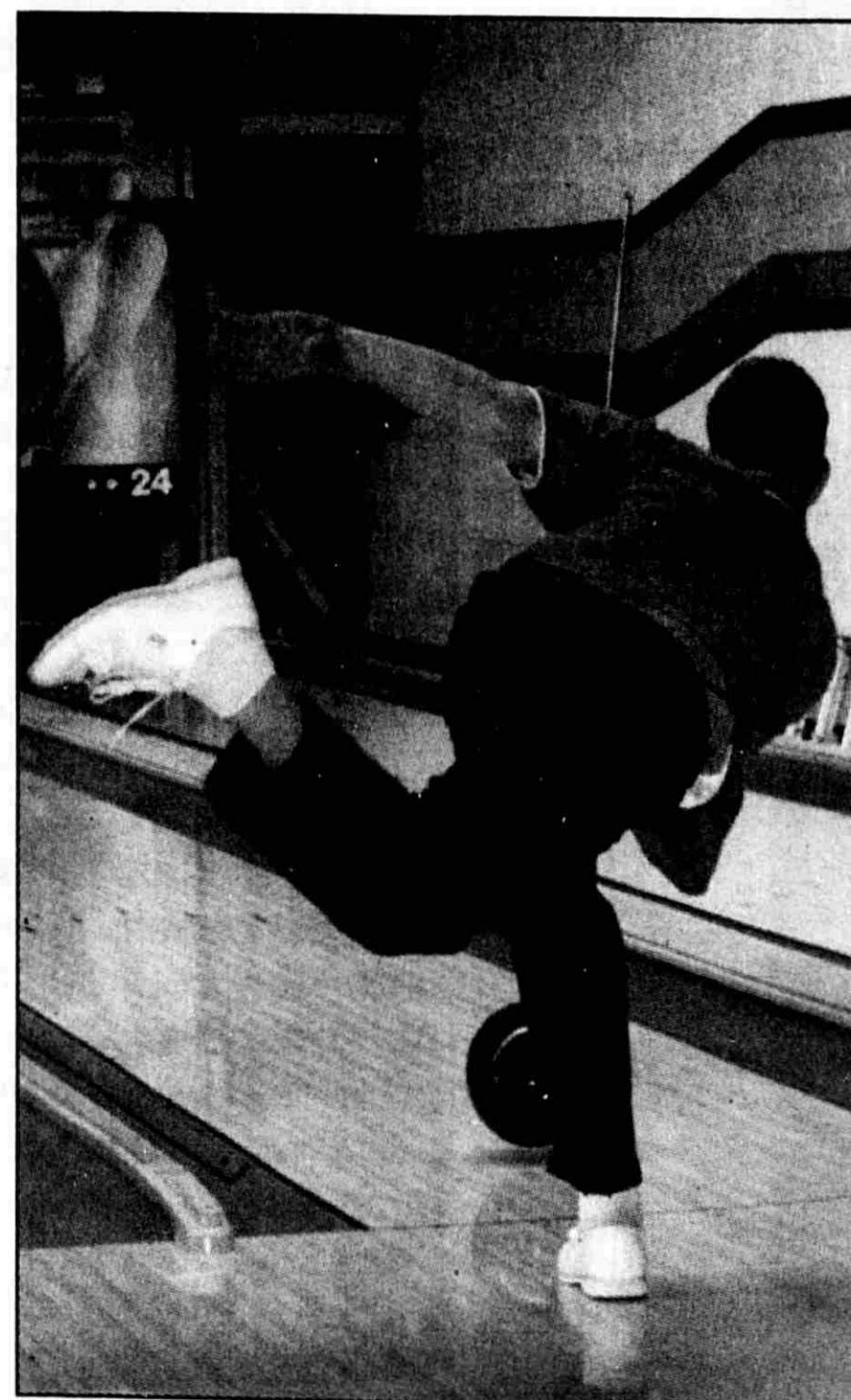
The Arrows will face Forest Hills Central at Eastbrook Lanes this afternoon at 4 p.m. Their next home match is Jan. 9 versus Kenowa Hills at 3:30 p.m.



Ashley Nawrocki at Wednesday's game.



Red Arrow bowler Liberty Clark of the girls' team at Wednesday's game.



Lowell senior Brandon Jahnke of the boys' team at Wednesday's game.

## VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS ADOPTION

### ORDINANCE No. 2007-3

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Vergennes Township Board has adopted Ordinance 2007-3, an ordinance to amend the zoning ordinance as summarized below. The amendments were adopted at a regular meeting of the Township Board on Monday, November 19, 2007 at 7:00 pm at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Dr, Lowell, MI.

Amend Chapter 9 Amendments and Supplements to add a new section 201.902 Conditional Rezoning Agreements. This section is pursuant to Michigan Public Act No. 577 of 2004, effective January 4, 2005. The section allows an applicant, by voluntary written action, to offer conditions and restrictions in a rezoning application. The ordinance includes sections on purpose, application procedures, standards for approval, agreement expiration, extensions and rezone reversion, coordination and performance bonds for improvements, recording conditions, amendment of conditions process and violation procedures.

The complete text of the ordinance amendment can be reviewed at the Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 - Phone: (616) 897-5671 [fax 897-5674]. This ordinance takes effect 8 days after publication.

Mari Stone  
Vergennes Township Clerk

### These children achieved DENTAL HYGIENE EXCELLENCE For The Month of November 2007 DR. J.E. REAGAN

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- Austin Bieri
- Cody Bieri
- Sara Rose Conklin
- Kason Cook
- Elijah Gire
- Michelle Griffioen
- Nathan Griffioen
- John Gutowski
- Jacob Holmes
- Madison Holmes
- Justin Lambert
- Francis LaPenna
- Joseph LaPenna
- Vincent LaPenna
- Isabell Lillie
- Jordan Lillie
- Rachel McVey
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- Nathan Parcher
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- Megan Racine
- Benjamin Rienks III
- Mary Rienks
- Gregory Ritz
- Logan Stiles

# RED ARROW SPORTS



## Lowell wrestling loses tough match to Greenville, bounces back at Warren Woods

By Molly Benningfield  
Editor

Wednesday's wrestling match against Greenville started with a quick one-two-three punch by the Red Arrows, but ended in a head-scratching 45-15 loss in Lowell's first night of conference competition.

The Arrows were on fire at the beginning of the match, with Dan Fleet opening the night with a win against Steven Kurtz at 140 pounds.

Jackson Morse kept the pace at 145 pounds, pinning Darrek Ladermann in 2:41.

Tim Gingerich would be the last Arrow to score consecutively for the Arrows, winning at 152 pounds.

An emotional match at 160 pounds pitted Lowell's Justin Boss against Greenville's Tyler Fuller, who pinned Boss at 5:33. The momentum the Arrows had built was gone, and the Yellow Jackets thrived on the turnaround.

Greenville won nine of the next 10 games, with Lowell's only other win coming from Nate Vaught at 188.

The loss proved to be an eye-opener for the Arrows, who followed their loss Wednesday with a good showing at the Warren Woods Duals in Warren.

Coach Dave Dean said the team was 4 and 1 on the day, taking second place to a strong Goodrich team.

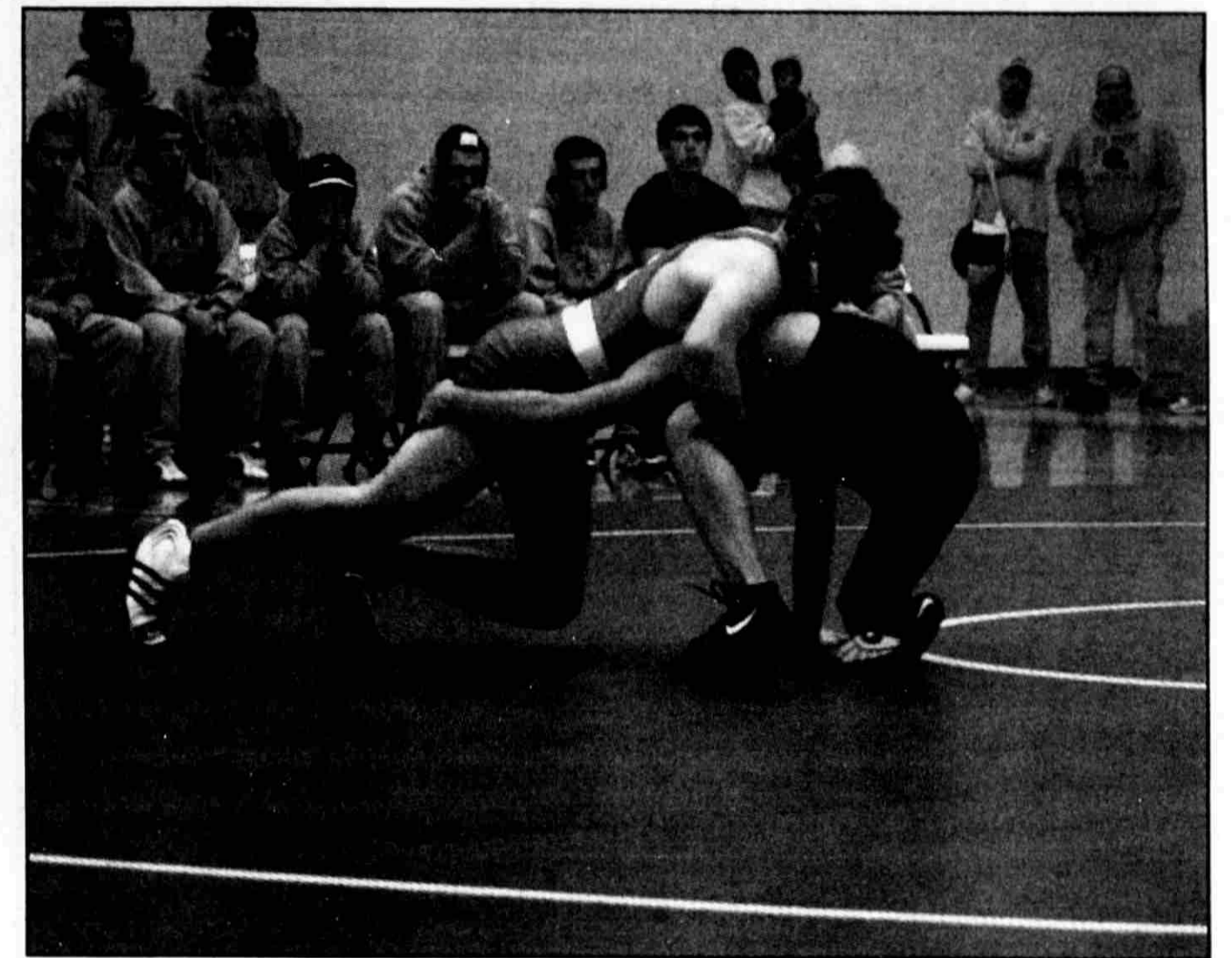
Individual wrestlers triumphed for the Arrows at Warren.

Jackson Morse, who was a runner-up at State finals last year, defeated Goodrich's Mark Weber at 140 pounds. Weber was ranked No. 1 in the nation at his weight, Dean said.

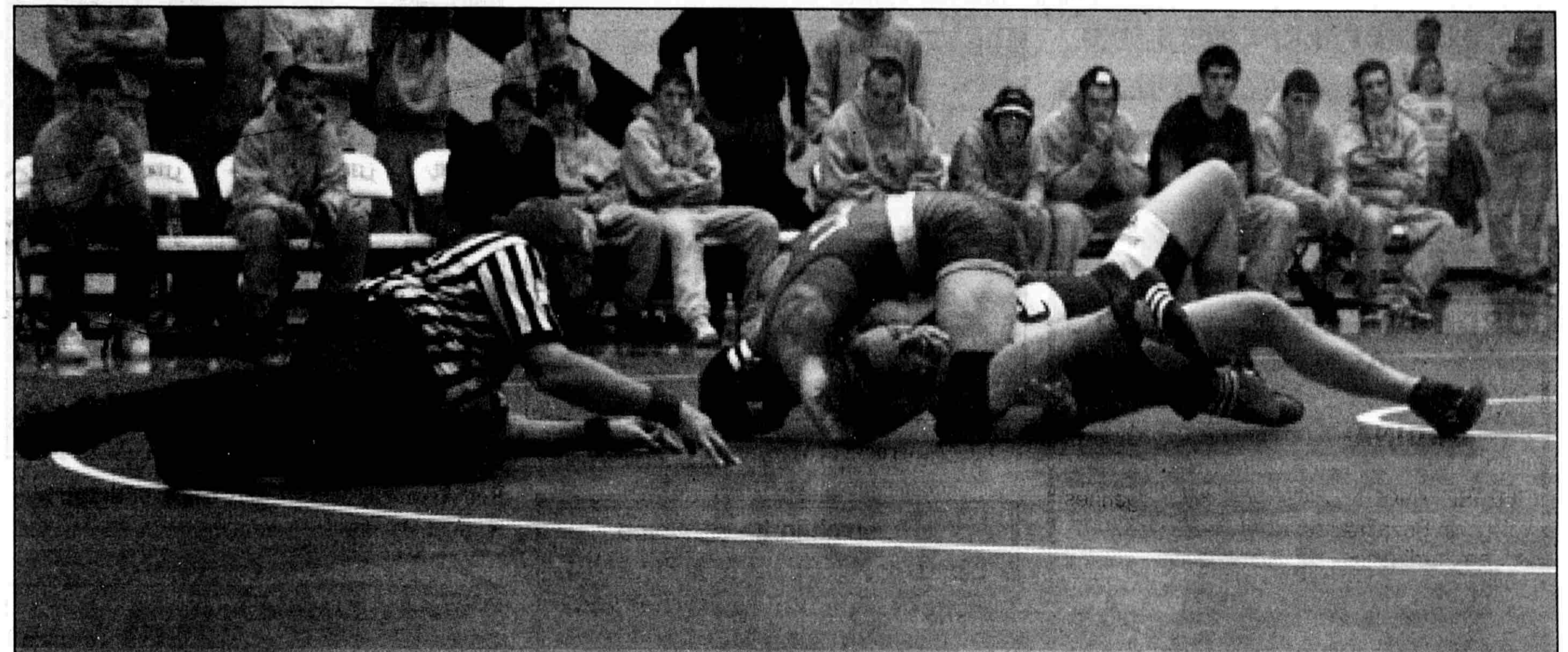
Ryan Olep (171 pounds) also had a good day, being named outstanding wrestler of the entire tournament.

The loss against a strong Greenville team and triumphs in Warren early in the season will help provide depth for the young team.

Lowell will face off in a home match at Cherry Creeky Elementary's gym against Sparta Thursday night at 7 p.m.

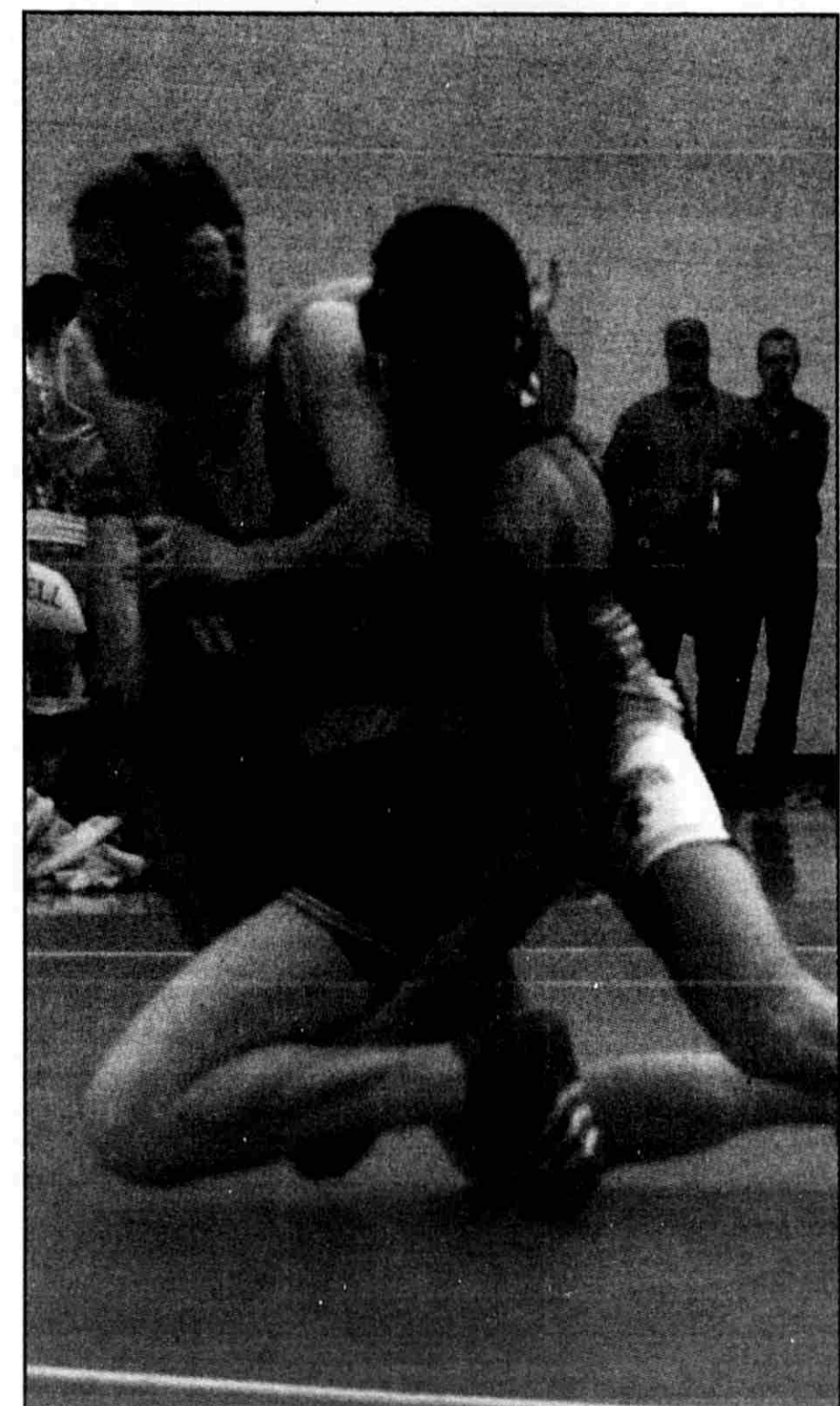


Jackson Morse beat Greenville's Darrek Ladermann at 145 pounds.



Nate Vaught won at 188 against Greenville's Justin Drobish.

Tim Gingerich beat Greenville's Benjamin Brodie at 152 pounds.



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# RED ARROW SPORTS

## Boys' basketball loses first game in close match at Cedar Springs

By Molly Benningfield  
Editor

The boys' basketball team lost in a tight match against a strong Cedar Springs varsity Friday night, 52-56. Coach Jeff McDonald said his team "played their hearts out."

The team got off to a relatively good start, McDonald said, and had the lead for part of the first half, but kept playing catch up for the rest of the game.

"We played back four points for some of the game," McDonald said.

The Arrows were also only 6-13 in free throw

percentage, while the Red Hawks were 13-14 from the line.

Senior Matt Kurtz had a big game for the Arrows, posting 26 points. Brett McMahon had 9 points, while Spencer Sellner had 8 points and 7 rebounds.

The team plays Thursday night against Greenville in their first conference match-up and first home game, at 7:30 p.m.

Prior to the game, the new scoreboard in the Lowell high school gym will be dedicated in the name of Rex Collins.

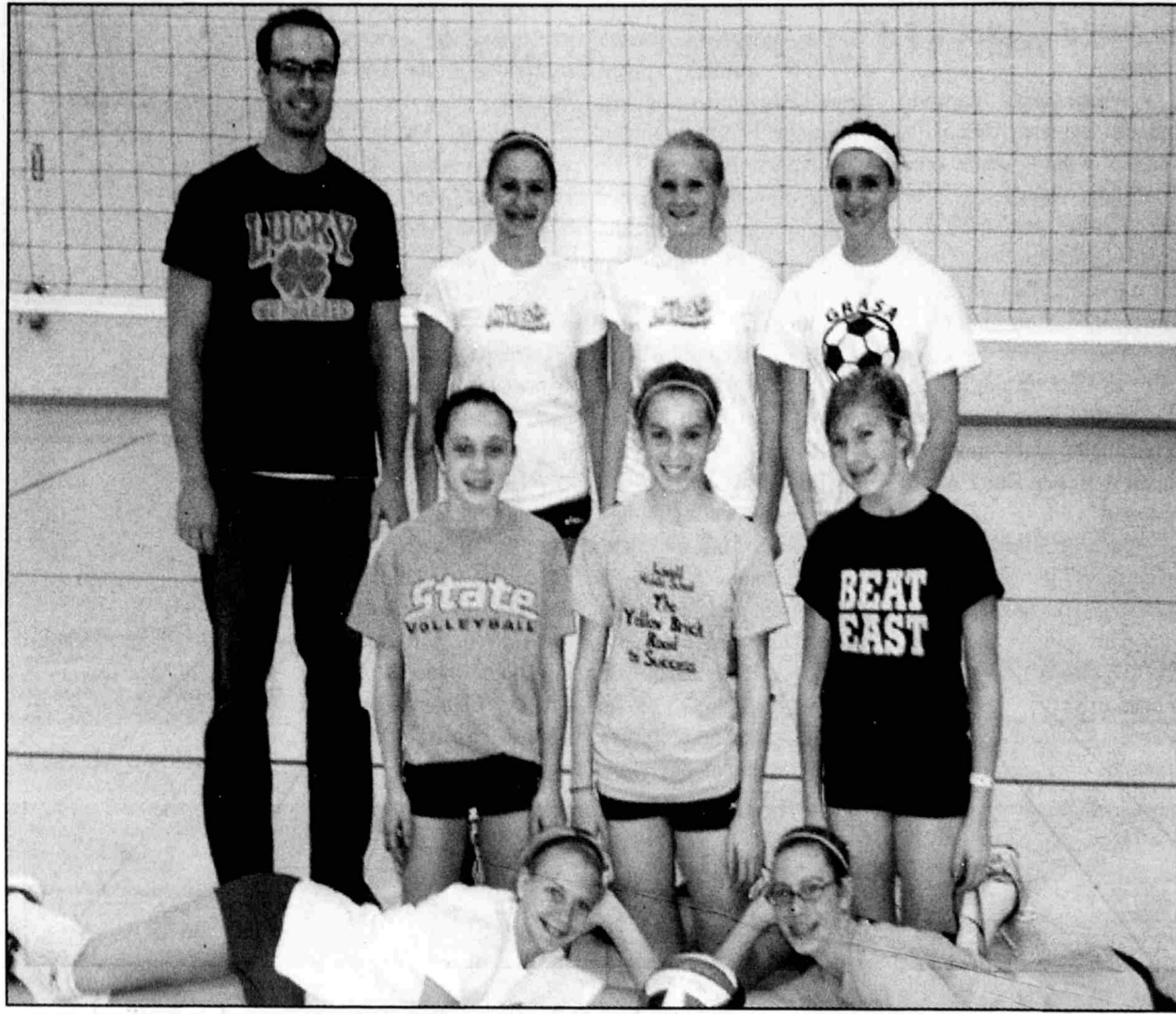
## Hockey team loses two against Lansing-area teams

The Lowell-Caledonia hockey team lost two games last week, falling to Dewitt 2-5 on Wednesday and Grand Ledge 5-9 on Friday.

Mike Ballard said the team is missing two key players during their first six games and will have a full lineup this Saturday.

The team plays twice at home this week, with matches against Forest Hills Central on Friday at 5:30 p.m. and SL/MCC on Saturday at 3 p.m. Friday night's game is Youth Night and will feature Griff from the Grand Rapids Griffins team.

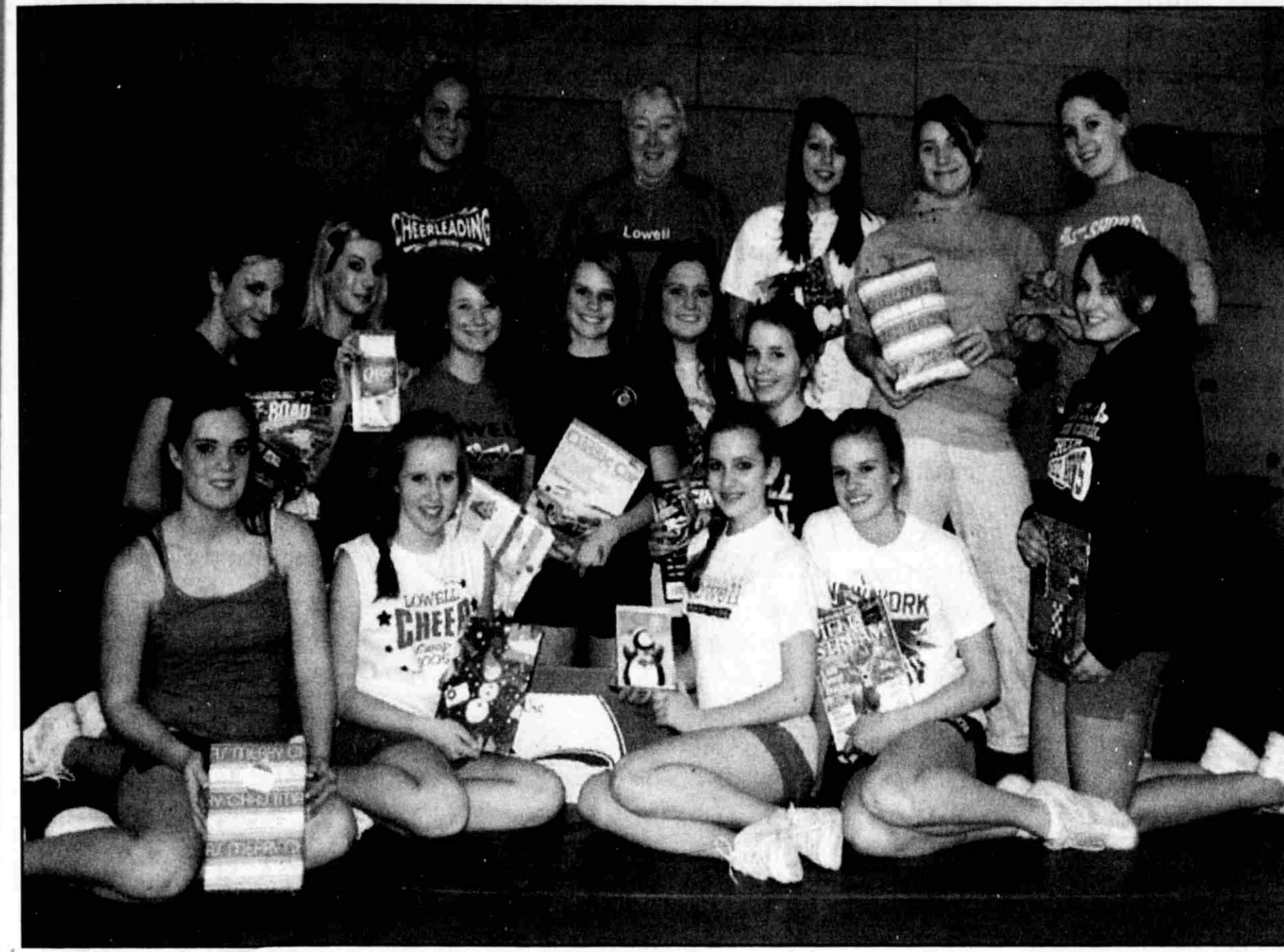
## Lowell club team wins Grand Rapids Volleyball League



The Lowell Black volleyball team took first place in the Grand Rapids Middle School Volleyball League last week. The team is comprised of girls from Lowell Middle School, St. Patrick's, and Ada Christian. The Lowell Blue team tied for third place in the league. Pictured are members of the championship team: (first row, L-R) Jordan Timmer and Hannah Tawney; (second row, L-R) Arielle Nausieda, Jessie Montgomery, and Caitlin Fitzpatrick; (third row, L-R) Coach Ed Nausieda, Amanda Jakubiak, Anna Rozema, and Stephanie Stevens.

# RED ARROW SPORTS

## JV cheer team to send holiday gifts to military dad from Lowell



The JV cheer team will send presents to Lt. Col. Dean DeGrote. Pictured are (first row, L-R) Hailey DeGrote (Dean's daughter), Courtney Race, Ericka Claypool and Anna Scudder; (second row, L-R) Ally Young, Montana Bergy, Maggie Lancaster, Kate Scudder, Lindsey Stehly, Dayna Crumback and Kaitlin Nichol; (third row, L-R) Coach Sheila Walling, Coach Shirley Jackson, Andrea Herrera, Paige Rash and Kait Cummings.

By Molly Benningfield  
Editor

A bit of holiday cheer will arrive for Lowell man Dean DeGrote, who is serving in the U.S. military at Camp Liberty in Iraq as a lieutenant colonel.

The JV cheer team from Lowell High School will send a box stocked with presents ranging from magazines and Goldfish crackers to calling cards and extra razor blades for shaving.

Hailey DeGrote, who is Dean's daughter and is on the team, said her coach, Shirley Jackson, had the idea.

Jackson said she started seeing stories during the fall season about people who can adopt a platoon or a soldier and thought, "why not help somebody we knew?"

The team has been collecting the various items and will send the box this week, with all the presents inside wrapped by the cheerleaders.

They will also include a long-sleeved shirt with "Cheer Dad" written across the back, that will match those made for the team this season, by Pep Talk.

The shirts will also feature a "Support Our Troops" ribbon on the front, in honor of Hailey's dad. Coach Sheila Walling said the girls usually wear the shirts on the days of competitions over their uniforms.

DeGrote left for Iraq in September this year and will be there for about a year, Hailey said.

He trained in Wisconsin over the summer. Also in the

DeGrote family are wife, Deb and son, Anthony, 24.

## The Benning-Fielder

by Molly Benningfield  
Sports editor

Vick is now just another fallen star in the NFL



Michael Vick, the fallen star of the Atlanta Falcons, was recently sentenced to 23 months behind bars for his role in a federal dogfighting case. Some are praising the judge for not giving in to his star power. Others say he was a bit harsh.

But most are saying he is finally paying the price for a drawn-out case that has caused a lot of controversy. Vick had many opportunities to show officials that he really did feel sorry. But instead, he had a myriad of drug problems, resulting in a flunked drug test and a failed lie-detector test to top it off.

Vick filed a guilty plea in August, and many reports are saying that if he would've cooperated better, he could've been seeing only 12-18 months in jail. A year versus two? Apparently Vick thought his fame could get him a little leniency.

Vick accepted responsibility as he should have. But the judge also said Vick's "false denials" was what pushed him over the edge. When Vick tried to make an apology to the judge, he was interrupted. The judge told him to instead "apologize to the million of kids who idolize [him]."

Outside the courtroom, Vick's lawyer said it almost perfectly, "never has someone fallen so hard, so fast and so far." But I can think of a few more who've been knocked off their pedestals.

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# Donor board all set at dog park

On Sunday, several individuals braved the cold to install a donors recognition board at the Animal Hospital of Lowell dog park at Stoney Lakeside Park. The board was built as

a project in working towards the level of Eagle Scout for local Boy Scout Jacob Theisen.

Committee member Jeff Eckstrom said "We are very impressed with

the workmanship that went into this. It's just one more thing that helps to make our dog park a little nicer. Our committee is very appreciative. Comments from dog owners using the park during the installation were very positive."

\*\*\*

*We are alone, absolutely alone on this chance planet: and, amid all the forms of life that surround us, not one, excepting the dog, has made an alliance with us.*

- Maurice Maeterlinck (1862 - 1949)

Pictured by the new donor recognition board are: Jacob Theisen, LDP committee member Jeff Eckstrom, Keffer Riley, Nick Warren, Josh Theisen, Jerry Change, LDP Committee member Dr. David Sova and on the ladder, Tim Theisen.



## LOWELL AREA COMMUNITY FUND ACCEPTS GRANT PROPOSALS

All Proposals Must Be Submitted Online No Later Than December 21, 2007 to be considered. Visit [www.grfoundation.org/lowell](http://www.grfoundation.org/lowell) to submit your application.

The Lowell Area Community Fund, a fund of Grand Rapids Community Foundation, awards grants to tax-exempt, nonprofit charitable organizations that have an impact in the Lowell area. The LACF funds innovative projects or programs that encourage community cooperation.

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