

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 37 Issue 7

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, December 19, 2007



Still time to read your wish list to Santa before Christmas Eve

Just in time for the Christmas season, Santa arrived at the Showboat in Lowell last week to meet with kids in the community. He has seen approximately 400 kids so far this year, and is expected to see around 1,000 in Lowell alone.

For those who visit Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Showboat, hot chocolate and cookies are available. Santa keeps a book next to him of all the wishes given by the good boys and girls.

Last week, Santa visited Fountain View, and is available for private parties.

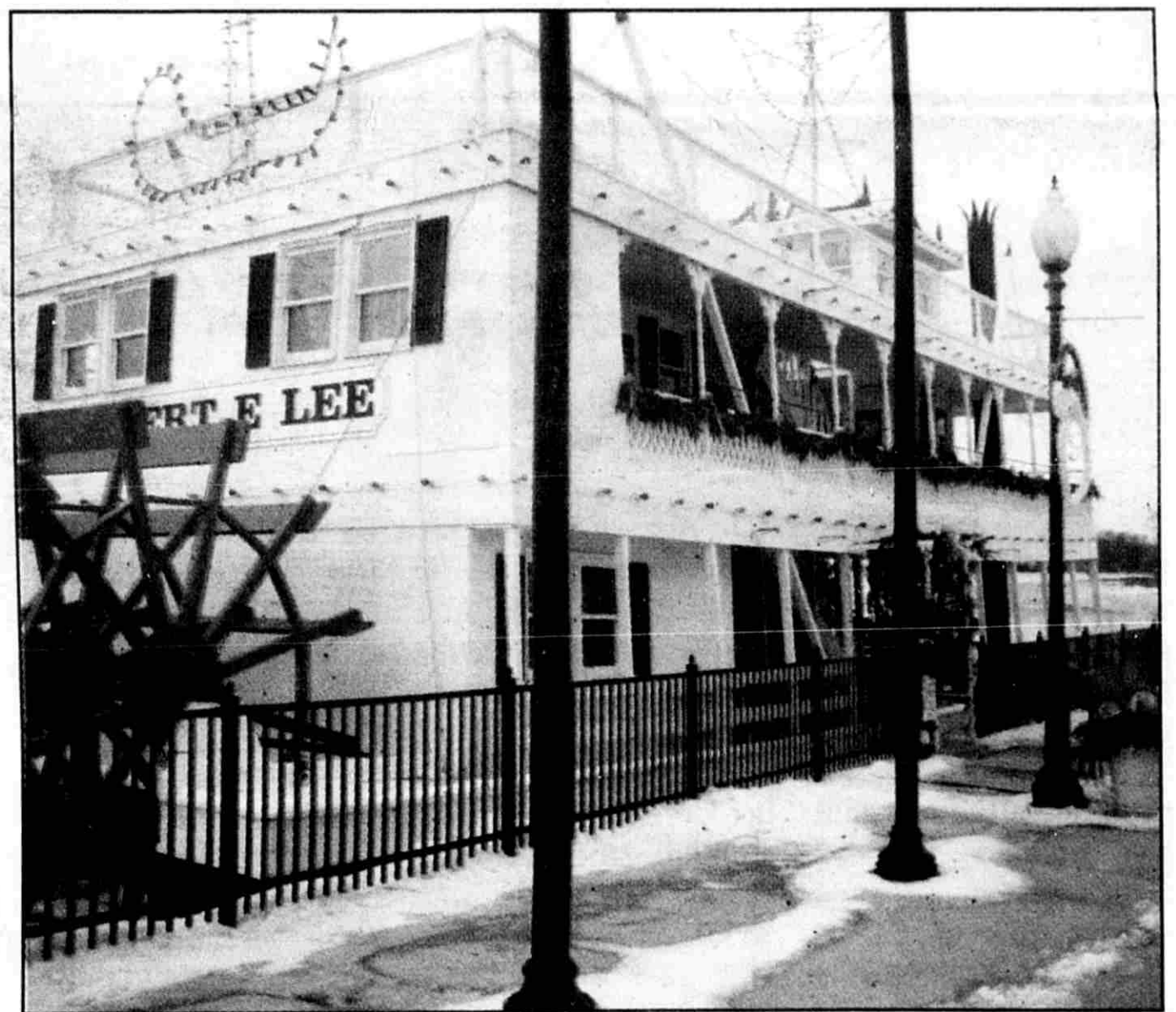
By the time Dec. 26 rolls around, Santa will be back in the North Pole getting ready for the next holiday season.

Santa is only in Lowell for two more nights, so catch him before he leaves! He'll be at the Showboat tonight from 5:30 to 7 p.m. and on Saturday, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Photos are available for free, with Modern Photographics providing the service on Wednesday night and River Valley Credit Union helping out on Saturday.

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce and Lowell Downtown Development Authority have provided the Santa visits for Lowell.

For more information, visit the web site at www.lowellchamber.org or call the Chamber at (616) 897-9161.

Even Chamber of Commerce executive director Liz Baker visited with Santa last week. Below the Showboat is all decked out for the holiday.



Longtime council members bid farewell

by Emma Palova

In an emotionally-charged atmosphere Monday, two longtime council members bid farewell to the public.

Mayor Chuck Myers and mayor pro-tem Al Mathews conducted their last city council meeting. At the end, their wives Jane and Noreen affectionately joined them in the presence of friends for the plaque presentation followed by a reception.

"When you get elected, the whole family gets elected," said fellow council member Jim Pfaller. "It's a family commitment."

Both Myers and Mathews have a long history of community service. Myers had 17 years of service, while Mathews had seven.

"It's been our pleasure serving," said Mathews.

For Myers, it was

also the last time to make appointments to committees and boards. He spoke about the importance of physical things such as the new city

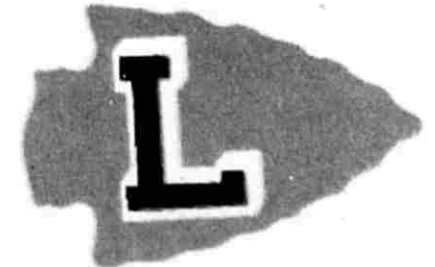
hall, as well as establishing relationships during his tenure.

Council farewell, cont'd., pg. 4



Al Mathews with wife Jane, and mayor Chuck Myers with wife Noreen at the last meeting for the two council members.

Inside
The Lowell Ledger



Winter Sports
PREVIEW
Pages 11-14

Obituaries

FRY
Keith Fry 73 of Lowell died Saturday December 15, 2007 at Metro Health Hospital. Keith was born on May 21, 1934 in White Cloud, the son of Lloyd and Mary Gillette Fry. Keith was a veteran of the Korean War. He had retired from BASF in 1992 serving as the Director of Environmental Affairs. Keith was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Belding. He was married on September 3, 1955 in Grand

Rapids to Mary Brown and she survives along with their children; Jeffrey and Margaret Fry of Columbus, Georgia, Judith A. and Jerry Ruland of Lowell and Kevin M. Fry of Lowell. Keith is also survived by his grandchildren; Renee and Dalton LeBourhis, Adam and Jennifer Hamilton, Brodrick Fry, Joshua Ruland, Daniel Ruland and Nicholas and Shannon Ruland, his great grandchildren; Kayla R. Hamilton, Justin Hamilton and Gracie Bell Fry and several nieces and nephews. Keith was preceded by his parents and two brothers; Homer and Carl. Mass of Christian Burial will be offered 10:30 AM Wednesday at St.

Joseph Catholic Church, Belding with Father Fred Brucker presiding. Private interment will be in St. Mary Cemetery, Miriam. No visitation will take place. Memorial contributions may be given to Priests for Life or the American Diabetes Association. Envelopes will be available at the church. Care and service were entrusted to Johnson-Feuerstein Funeral Home, Belding. Condolences may also be given to the Fry Family at the website of the funeral home; www.jffh.com.

Church of Lowell, 865 Lincoln Lake. Rev Roger LaWarre, officiating. Donations or contributions may be made in Bob's name for the Michigan Division began on Harsen's Island. He focused on creating habitat for wildlife, and he worked at many of the major waterfowl areas in the state, having left his fingerprint on the future direction of wetlands management in Michigan. He retired from the DNR in 2003. Bob also retired from the Navy, having served as a commander in naval intelligence. Bob grew up in an air force family making his home in the United States and abroad. Michigan was his home for the last 35 years. He always greeted his friends with a smile and a warm handshake or hug. Bob died December 15, 2007. He will be deeply missed by his wife, Becky; daughter, Jenny at home; daughter, Michelle and Mark of Boston; son, Joel of Kalamazoo; mother, Dorothy Humphries and mother-in-law, Virginia Jack; siblings, Gail West and Carol Ann Thomas and siblings-n-laws, Doy West, Charles Thomas, Mike and Nancy Huntley, Al and Marylyn Gibbs, and faithful dogs, Trump, Anna, Chip, and Kit. Memorial services will be Wednesday, December 19 at 1:30 p.m. at the First Congregational

WILLIAMS

Stacy Lynn (Johnson) age 37, died Saturday, December 14. She is survived by her husband Major Brian Lee Williams, children Meghan Rose and Caitlin Friend. Parents Stanlee and Lynn Johnson of Lowell. Her twin sister, Tracy (Daniel) Byrne and sister, Erica (Bill) Dunn. In-laws Margaret and Raymond Williams. Brother-in-law, James (Meghan) Williams and sister-in-law, Melony (Michael) Farrar-Drake. Nieces and nephews Gallen, Ciara, and Brigid Byrne, MacKenzie and Broody Dunn, Jonas and Molly Williams. Friends may meet the family Thursday, December 20, 7 to 9 PM at O'Brian Eggebenn Gerst, 3980 Cascade Rd and E. Paris at 1-96. Funeral mass will be celebrated Friday, December 21 at 11:30 AM at St. Patrick's Church, Parnell. Burial will be in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

HUMPHRIES

Robert Humphries, of Lowell, MI. Bob loved his family and life in the great outdoors, where he enjoyed hunting, fishing and anything and everything to do with the natural world. He had a special affinity for horses, taking pride in having trained and wild mustangs. Bob had a passion for shooting sports and coached competitive shooters, including the Lowell High School shooting team. He was a mentor and loved sharing his knowledge with anyone who showed the slightest interest in hunting. Bob loved dogs and had a special fondness for golden retrievers named Trump. He will certainly be remembered for his sense of humor and his deep, hardy

Lowell home searched by police in connection with missing Saranac man

by Emma Palova

The Michigan State Police last week searched a house located at 909 Bowes Rd., home of Rami Idbal Saba, in connection with a missing Saranac man. Later on Thursday Saba was booked into Kent County Jail on fraud charges.



Donald Dietz has not been seen since September.

Although Lowell Police Chief Jim Valentine was present to assist, Valentine said it wasn't his case.

Marvin Dietz, brother of missing Donald Dietz, said he got suspicious when Don didn't show up for a family reunion on Sept. 15 at the Riverside Park.

Even for Don, 66, who was known as "The Bicycle Man" and a loner, this was a little unusual, said Marvin.

According to Marvin his brother was looking to invest money into other markets than CDs and conservative money markets.

"He made phone calls to people and contacted them on the Internet talking about his money," said Marvin.

It remains unknown how much money Don, a former mail room clerk at Amway, really had.



State Police assisted by Lowell PD searched home at 909 Bowes Rd. last Thursday.

The police were first alerted about Don's disappearance in October, shortly after he got his haircut at Paul's Barber Shop in Saranac.

Barber Tucker McPherson said Don did get his haircut in the shop, and was complaining about fearing for his life.

"He came in here about three times a year," said McPherson, "then I saw the missing person ad in the paper at the legion."

Private investigator Vic Weeks of Quick Results Investigation said some mailed material from 909

Bowes Rd. had been found at Don's house next to Sessions Lake.

"He was high-pressured and threatened into investing," said Weeks.

Weeks said he searched the grounds of Don's home with bloodhounds, but found nothing.

Don was known to ride his bicycle all the way to Amway. Don graduated from Lowell High School in 1960. His brother Marvin lives in Lowell.

The State Police were not making any statements about this case.

SANDRA (KINSLEY) GAUW

01/07/49 - 12/23/05

Two years ago we gathered at your bedside unprepared for the loss that we would endure. In a blink of an eye you were taken from us. Now we gather confused and dazed, wondering how to take the broken pieces and hold them together without the glue. We think of you daily and would give anything to have one more chance to tell you that you were loved.



We love you and miss you, Mom & Dad, Terry, Bill, Rick and George

NEED A GIFT?
Keycards are only \$15.00 and are good in Lowell and G.R. Get yours at the Lowell Ledger

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT
STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT
STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 07-184,403-DE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 07-184,389-DE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 07-184,383-DE

Estate of WILLIS MYZEAL HATCH, deceased
Date of birth: 7/29/1915

Estate of JOHN HOWARD KETCHAPAW, deceased
Date of birth: 9/22/1944

Estate of NANCY A. RYAN, deceased
Date of birth: 6/4/1939

TO ALL CREDITORS: WILLIS MYZEAL HATCH, who lived at 5482 Aiden Nash SE, Lowell, Michigan died November 6, 2007.

TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent, JOHN HOWARD KETCHAPAW, who lived at 1948 Coit NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan died 11/15/2007.

TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent, NANCY A. RYAN, who lived at 3536 Hillcroft SW, Wyoming, MI 49548, died 11/21/2007.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to MICHAEL BEHLER and QUENDA STORY, named personal representative, or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 765 5th Ave., Lake Odessa, MI 48849 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to LINDA KETCHAPAW, named personal representative, or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 OTTAWA NW, SUITE 2500, GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to STEVEN J. RYAN, SR., named personal representative, or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa NW, Suite 2500, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

12/12/2007
Mary L. Benedict P45285
4519 Cascade Rd SE Suite 14
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-942-0020

12/11/2007
John D. Flynn - P27413
1275 Hawthorne Hills SE
Ada, MI 49301
616-897-6632

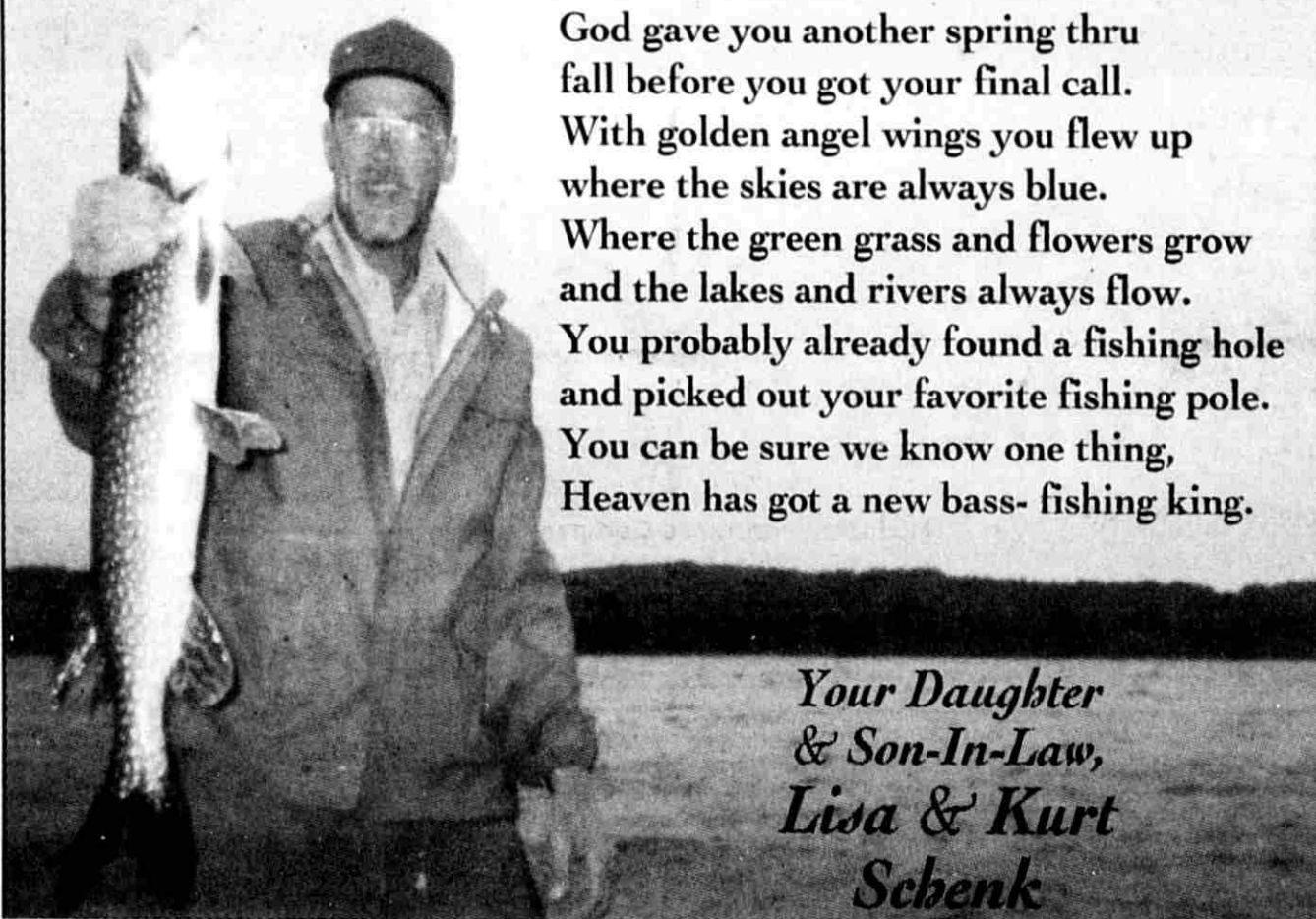
12/12/2007
Justin Michael P34349
4550 Cascade Rd. SE
Suite 102
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-940-9991

Linda Ketchapaw
1948 Coit NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505
616-361-0620

Steven J. Ryan Sr.
88 Carl Drive NE
Ada, MI 49301
616-437-1132

In Memory Of Bill Shockey

9/30/52 - 12/17/06



God gave you another spring thru fall before you got your final call. With golden angel wings you flew up where the skies are always blue. Where the green grass and flowers grow and the lakes and rivers always flow. You probably already found a fishing hole and picked out your favorite fishing pole. You can be sure we know one thing, Heaven has got a new bass-fishing king.

Your Daughter & Son-In-Law,
Lisa & Kurt Schenk

The Lowell Ledger

(USPS 453-830)
Published weekly for \$17 a year in Kent County, \$26 a year outside the county by the Lowell Ledger
105 N. Broadway St., Lowell, MI 49331

J-AD GRAPHICS INC. PUBLISHER
MOLLY BURNINGFIELD, EDITOR
EMMA PALOVA, LEAD REPORTER
TAMMY JANOWIAK, CLASSIFIED/ACCOUNTING
JON JACOBS, ADVERTISING SALES

(616) 897-9261
E-Mail: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com
Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI
Published every Wednesday
POSTMASTER: Send address change to:
The Lowell Ledger
P.O. Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331
www.lowellbuyersguide.com



Our Prices Can't Be Beat!
Call Us for a Price Quote!
Weight & Zip Code Required for a Quote
The Lowell Ledger
105 N. Broadway, 897-9261



Lowell's police chief Jim Valentine.

Wrap Your Family In Security...

When you give your family security, you give them a better future. Universal Life insurance means permanent protection, the foundation of financial security for you and your family. Call today.

Mark Johnson
6095 28th St., Ste. 4
Grand Rapids
940-8181
www.MarkJohnsonAgency.com



Quality THEATERS
www.GQTI.com 616-897-FILM
On M-F, 5 Minutes East of Amway H.Q.

ADA LOWELL 5

All Lounger Seats All Digital Sound

BIG SCREENS

\$3.50 ALL SEATS
EXCEPT ADULT EVENING \$6.50

SHOWTIMES 12/17 - 12/20
No passes Free drink refills & 25c corn refills

MOVIE GIFT CARDS
with Bonus Dollars \$
FREE 20oz DRINK
with \$2.50 purchase of 4oz. bag of hot/cold popcorn
www.gqti.com Call 616-897-9261

1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:20
ENCHANTED (PG)
11:40, 2:05, 4:30, 7:00, 9:25

Still Need to make Plans for New Year's Eve?
At and the Black Cats

December 31st. at 9:00pm
Larkin's Other Place invites You to Rock in 2008 with Lowell's very own:
At and the Black Cats!

For Adults 21 and over & costs: \$15 per person & \$25 per couple and includes:
• At and the Black Cats & a DJ
• Food, Champagne & Dancing
• Noise Makers, Hats and FUN!

For Your Tickets Contact: Deb Apol at Larkin's (616) 897-5977

WEDDING INVITATIONS

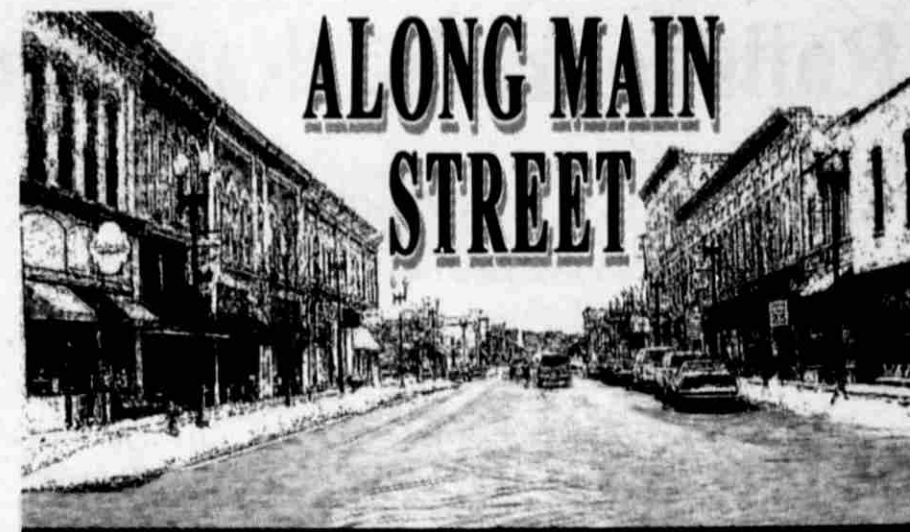
We offer the Carlson Craft line of invitations.
Wide variety & wide range in prices. Stop by to check out one of our books
Invitations back in 7-10 days.

LOWELL LITHO
105 N. Broadway
Phone 897-9261

Would like to welcome back Vince McCambridge as sales consultant.

Vince brings over 38 years of sales experience and is eager to serve Lowell and surrounding areas. He is looking forward to reacquainting himself with previous clients as well as getting to know the new clients.

616-897-9281
930 W. Main Street • Lowell
Open: M, W 9-8; T, Th, F 9-6; Sat 9-3



WINTER FAST PITCH

The Lowell High School softball coaches will be holding a pitching clinic for all girls interested in becoming a softball pitcher. The clinic will be held at Riverside Gym on Wednesdays, Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30 and Feb. 6, 13, 20. Girls in grades 6 and under are asked to report at 5:30 p.m. Girls in 7-8 please report at 6:30. The cost of the clinic is \$30, which includes a t-shirt. Applications can be picked up at Lowell Middle School, Cherry Creek, Alto and Bushnell schools. Please call Bob Rodenhouse at 987-2967 or 245-4596 for more information.

SUMMER CONCERTS

The Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts is seeking the best musicians and groups to perform in the summer of 2008. The ten-week Thursday night concert series begins June 19, 2008 and is located on Riverwalk Plaza on an outdoor covered stage in front of the Lowell Showboat. To be considered all applications must be received by Feb. 1, 2008. Complete packets include your CD demo, a brief bio, contact information (name, e-mail, and phone number) and a photo. Please mail to the Lowell Area Arts Council, PO Box 53, Lowell, MI 49331. For more information call 897-8545 or e-mail info@lowellartscouncil.org.

DONATIONS NEEDED

Yarn and knitting needles size 7/8 for service learning project at LMS. Projects to benefit area veterans. Drop off donations to Lowell Middle School, c/o Lisa Camfferman.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOK

Looking for a last minute gift that can be enjoyed all year? Get an Entertainment Book (available till Dec 24th) at Huntington Bank, Lowell Area Arts Council, Brenda's Hair Design, Salon 206 or call Marj at 897-8107. The Lowell Women's Club profits benefit scholarships and other local non-profit groups.

For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.

- Nelson Mandela (1918 -)

Rails to trails, skate park discussed Vergennes Township board meeting

by Shelly MacNaughton
Special to the Ledger

The Vergennes Township Board held its regular meeting Monday night. The Board discussed several ongoing initiatives with the City and Township of Lowell. An agreement regarding Fire and Rescue Service was discussed;

however, the board decided to table this until they receive further information from the Fire Advisory Board. The Vergennes Recreation Plan Draft was discussed and the Board will host a public meeting at the Jan. 21 Board Meeting.

Vergennes Township intends to send a Letter of Support regarding the Rail to Trail proposed to run from Greenville to Ionia through Lowell. Several concerned residents attended the meeting to discuss the township's support. Citizens are concerned about snowmobiles and motorized vehicles on the trails that run through their property. Vergennes Township will amend its

letter of support to include wording that says they do not support motorized vehicles or snowmobiles.

Several appointments took place at the meeting. Peter Gustafson and Scott Jernberg were reappointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Vern Nauta resigned from his term on the Planning Commission and will be replaced by Al Baird. "I've really enjoyed working in this position, we've got a great planning commission," said Nauta. Mike Mastrovito and Scott Jernberg were also reappointed to the Planning Commission.

Our Love Skate Park Committee vice president Ellen Mork presented to

the board and requested support from Vergennes Township. The Committee is seeking \$105,000 in funds to build the skate park at Stony Lakeside Park. "Skaters have nowhere to go in Lowell," said Mork. The project costs include \$30,000 for a concrete base, and \$85,000 for equipment. The committee plans to purchase equipment from American Ramp Company, the equipment does include a 20-year guarantee. "Professionally-designed skate parks have low injury rates," said Mork. Vergennes Township will discuss the donation request during their budget planning next month.

Alto kids collect for F.R.O.M.



Students at Alto filled two vehicles with canned food, boxed food, toys, personal care items, and various other items they collected for Flat River Outreach Ministries. This drive, sponsored by Alto Student Council, is an annual event that Alto families overwhelmingly respond to and always give generously. Lowell Area Schools December Character Trait is caring and Alto students and families know how to demonstrate what a caring group they are. Pictured are members of Alto's Student Council standing beside two loads of goods for FROM.

Council farewell, continued ... From Page 1

"The library building gave a new dimension to my life," he said.

It was the controversy of the past year over the city-

owned North Washington property that fueled public dissent over the council's inability to take action. That led to a new slate of candidates running for city council seats in the November general election, who will replace Mathews and Myers in January.

"It was a time to make tough decisions," said city manager Dave Pasquale, "I appreciate their commitment to the community."

Myers appointed Judy Straub and Keith Valentine to the Lowell Light and Power board.

NOTICE

BOWNE TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2007
7:30 P.M.

There will be a meeting of the Bowne Township Zoning Board of Appeals on Thursday, December 20, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the Bowne Township office located at 8240 Alden Nash S.E., P.O. Box 35, Alto, MI 49302-0035 to hear the following variance requests.

Michael Groot - requesting a variance to place an accessory structure in the front yard Section 3.02D, Section 17 SW 1/4, Parcel #4-24-17-300-014.

Joe & Colleen Paiz - requesting a variance on lot width requirement in the AG. District, Section 24, parcel #41-24-24-100-024.

The complete application can be reviewed at the Bowne Township office from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday & Thursday and 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon on Friday. Public comments will be heard at the meeting. Written comments received by mail, in person or in the mail slot located at the Township office entrance will also be considered if received at the Township office prior to 5:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Comments may also be e-mailed to clerk@bownetwp.cc.

Sandra L. Kowalczyk
Bowne Township Clerk

Viewpoint

To The Editor

To The Editor,

A new year is at our door step and along with it several new additions to our city council. These newcomers will be challenged in adapting to a bureaucracy. I'm hoping these newcomers instead of adapting to a bureaucracy, they will challenge it. I can see a new year and a council that will present themselves as not just the deciders but the servants to the constituents of Lowell presenting their ideas that affect the whole community for approval. An article in the Dec. 12 Lowell Ledger said 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, that's how we want to grow." I see that statement as a I, Me statement implementing their ideas and not necessarily the community's. I see a Master Plan is nothing more than the substance within it and is controlled generally by a few over many. I believe before anything in a master plan is implemented it should be presented to the constituents for their approval. I believe the difference between a city and a small community is that a city is controlled by a bureaucracy and a small community controls its bureaucracy.

Jim Howard



125 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL JOURNAL DECEMBER 20, 1882

Smallpox has just about subsided in Grand Rapids and everybody was feeling happy again, when along came the Alvin Joslin Comedy Company and stayed overnight.

Under prohibition saloons were found in many of the smaller towns in Michigan where none exist now. The \$300 tax means practical prohibition in those towns while theoretical prohibition meant free whiskey.

100 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER DECEMBER 19, 1907

No entries.

75 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER AND ALTO SOLO DECEMBER 15, 1932

Fire on the Charles Compton farm in Keene Township last Saturday morning about 10 o'clock destroyed the fine large barn, three horses, 19 head of cattle, about 25 tons of alfalfa hay, 20 bushels of oats and other grains.

Henry Ford's favorite fiddler, Jep Bisbee, and his band will play for dances to be held at the White Barn Tavern, two miles west of Cascade on M-114 on Christmas Eve Dec. 24 and New Year's Eve Dec. 31. Mr. Bisbee is in his 90th year, but it is said that he makes his old fiddle respond as in the days of yore. Melvin Kilmer, proprietor of the White Barn Tavern, is to be congratulated upon his progressiveness in securing Mr. Bisbee for these two important holiday events.

50 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER DECEMBER 19, 1957

U.S. 16 southeast of Lowell will be a scene of great activity this coming year when 11 miles of new four-lane divided highway, plus seven grade separations on the relocation of US 16 west of Portland in Ionia County will be under construction.

Police Chief Frank Stephens was passing the Kroger store about 9:00 Monday night and saw what appeared to be smoke coming out the rear of the store. He alerted the fire department and when they investigated, it was found to be only steam escaping from the air conditioner.

25 YEARS AGO THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER DECEMBER 15, 1982

A loud "Crash" reverberated through the middle school cafeteria Sunday afternoon as an audience of pleased adults and children finished a song which was part of the play "Junk" presented by the Underground Railway Puppets and Actors as the last program in the Lowell Area Arts Council's fine arts series.

Paul's Showboat Restaurant is planning to furnish a Christmas dinner to a number of needy area children and their parents...a total of 44 people.

Outdoors

By
Dave Stegehuis



G.P.S.

Every year during the holiday season there seems to be several gift items which appear at the top of the popularity list. One of the more frequently advertised items is the portable Global Positioning System (G.P.S.) receiver. The G.P.S. unit must receive signals from at least three of over 20 available satellites orbiting the earth. No matter where the user is located on the globe, there are always enough satellites in view to determine a position.

Very basic G.P.S. receivers will give latitude and longitude readings, ground speed, and elevation, as well as lay down an electronic trail on the display when on the move. Specific locations, called waypoints, are stored in the memory and recalled at another time so the traveler can find the distance and bearing to that location.

As with all electronic gadgets, G.P.S. units are continuously being upgraded with new features. Most come with base maps of highways and roads. Others have expanded memory which allows the downloading of marine charts, topographic maps, satellite photos, city and highway infor-

mation like fuel and accommodations, and all of this can be viewed on a color display. How about satellite radio, weather radar, audible turn-by-turn directions, and two-way radio communication which simultaneously locates your caller?

A hand-held G.P.S. receiver is helpful and reassuring when hiking in the backcountry and following unmarked trails or navigating cross-country. Finding a deer stand before daylight, a harbor entrance in the fog, or relocating a favorite fishing hole is much easier with a G.P.S. receiver. The automobile dash-mounted units are used for navigating highways and city streets using pre-loaded mapping. Driving unfamiliar highways or busy city streets is more convenient and less stressful when you know where to turn well before you get there.

A magnetic compass and map have served well in the past for navigating unfamiliar territory. The compass continues to be a useful tool and is recommended as a backup when using a G.P.S. receiver. Electronic devices can fail and batteries go dead.

There is a multitude of electronic gadgets on the market and I have no idea what most of them do, but I will have a G.P.S. receiver when I go out on big water, travel unmarked roads or trails, hike in deep woods, climb around on trackless mountains, or just go fishing. I will still take my compass along, because the needle always points to magnetic north and there are no batteries to fail. Some things never change.

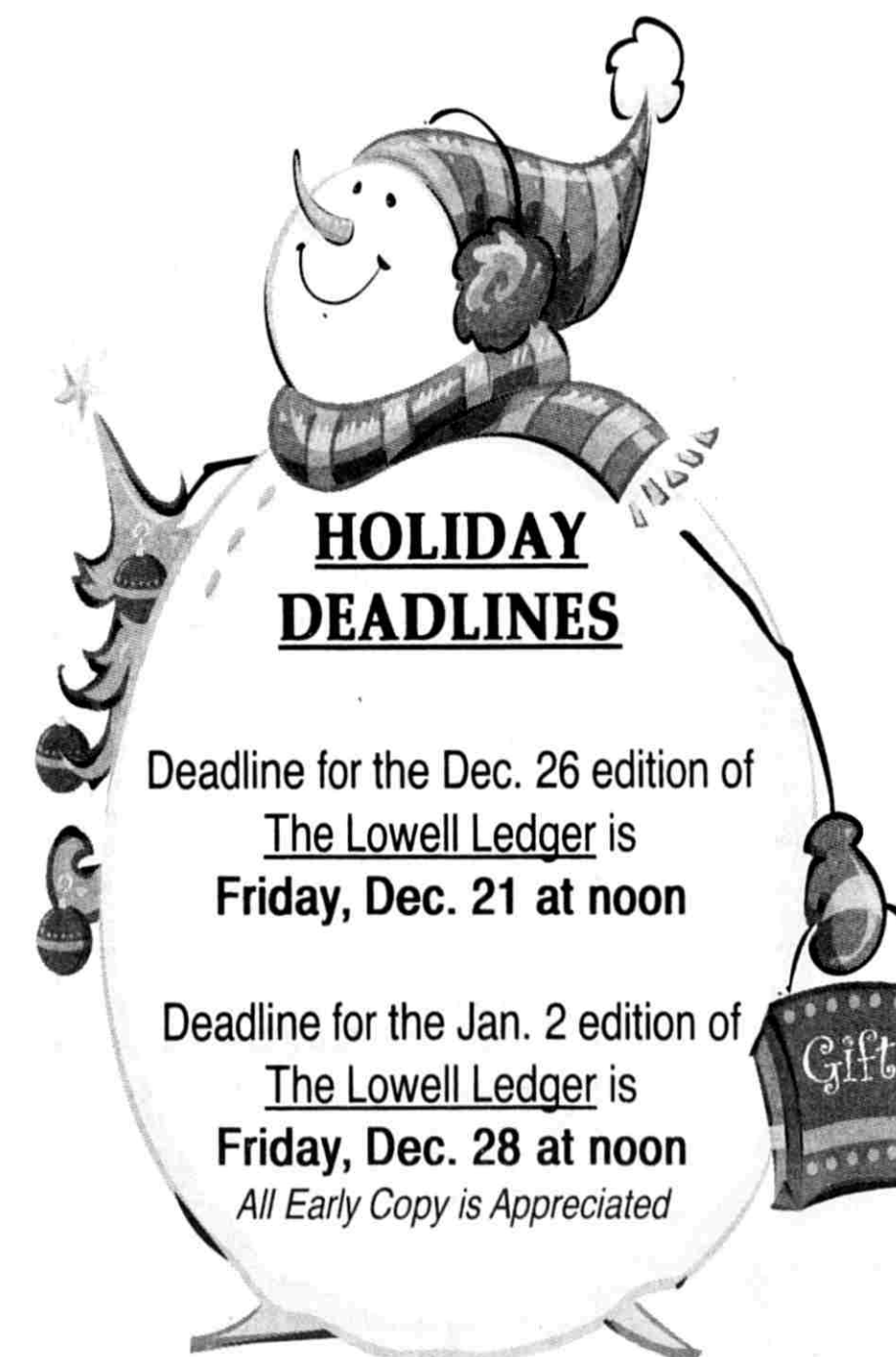
Writing to the editor ...

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.



Deadline for the Dec. 26 edition of
The Lowell Ledger is
Friday, Dec. 21 at noon

Deadline for the Jan. 2 edition of
The Lowell Ledger is
Friday, Dec. 28 at noon
All Early Copy is Appreciated

NEW
to the
Buyers Guide
and
Lowell Ledger -
Thank you ads
for your
business

All of us express our thanks and deepest appreciation for your patronage in our store. We hope that you have a safe and prosperous New Year.



RIDGEVIEW CREDIT UNION

1234 Anywhere Street • St. Clair

555-0000



Thank you ads will be running:
December 30th edition of Buyers Guide
January 2nd edition of Lowell Ledger

Call today to schedule a time for your thank you photos.

Buyers Guide **The Lowell Ledger**
Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

(616) 897-9261 or (616) 897-9555

Reflections of faith

by Dean Bailey, Pastor
Alto and Bowne Center United Methodist Churches

What Lent is to Easter, Advent is to Christmas. Lent prepares us spiritually for the celebration of Christ's birth.

A huge part of our preparation is repentance that realistic self-assessment which results in a change in us for the good, a change that directs us toward God, toward the Christ of Christmas. We become like shepherds and wise men - seekers - seekers for that divine love which fills our emptiness, forgives our sins and restores our hope.

Repentance changes life: our priorities, our commitments, our personal relationships, our attitudes toward others. It enhances our self-esteem, intensifies our passion for justice and peace, and increases our spontaneous acts of compassion.

Advent repentance allows us the possibility of entering Christmas with a deep and sustaining joy - the joy that the babe of Bethlehem is God's love for hurting persons and a hurting world.

My religion consists of a humble admiration of the illimitable superior spirit who reveals himself in the slight details we are able to perceive with our frail and feeble mind.

- Albert Einstein (1879 - 1955)

DAY BIBLE CHAPEL Welcomes Everyone this Christmas Season!

Dec. 19 • Christmas Program • 6:30 p.m.
Dec. 20 • Senior Christmas Lunch • Noon
Dec. 21 • "Longest Night Service" • 7-9 p.m.
Dec. 24 • Christmas Eve Service • 7-8 p.m.

Located at 9305 Centerline, Saranac
Call 897-6332 for information

Sunday Services 9:45 a.m.
Coffee Time, Sunday School 11 a.m.



Weddings

Mulder/Aspinall



Ella and Lou Mulder

Lou Mulder and Ella Aspinall were united in marriage November 9, 2007 at Deer Run. Pastor Greg Freed performed the ceremony. Pastor Randy Meyers offered prayer.

The wedding party consisted of Harold Carigon Jr., Lou Paap, and Ella Thompson.

"Longest Night Service", December 21

Christmas can bring back a flood of memories. Come light a candle, quietly meditate, pray or just remember. Your burden, loss, or struggle belongs to God. Come as you are. Stay for a few minutes or the entire service, 7-9 p.m. No questions asked.

Day Bible Chapel
9305 Centerline
North on Pinckney from M-21 between Lowell and Saranac.
Watch for signs. Phone 897-6332.

Happy Birthday

- DECEMBER 19:**
Lori Moore, Carol Chamberlain.
- DECEMBER 20:**
Ed Mohr, William Henry Burt, Jackie Spencer, Rob Lombardo.
- DECEMBER 21:**
Al Smith, Brooke Page, Zachary Ty Kocki.
- DECEMBER 22:**
Jason Seeley.
- DECEMBER 23:**
Norma Stevens, Marie Doyle.
- DECEMBER 24:**
Jeffrey Pfaller.
- DECEMBER 25:**
Scott Shindorf, Chris Woolfenden, Chris Treglia, Jeni Clouser, Peggy Hayes, Star Daverman.

In The Service

Navy Seaman Frank P. Schmidt, son of Linda N. Howard of Lowell, and Frank L. Schmidt of Custer, S. D., and Navy Seaman Colton R. Surratt, son of Evangeline S. Surratt and Buck E. Surratt of Lowell, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

During the eight-week program, Schmidt completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness.

The capstone event of boot camp is "Battle Stations". This exercise gives recruits the skills and confidence they need to succeed in the fleet. "Battle Stations" is designed to galvanize the basic warrior attributes of sacrifice, dedication, teamwork and endurance in each recruit through the practical application of basic Navy skills and the core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. Its distinctly "Navy" flavor was designed to take into account what it means to be a Sailor.

Schmidt is a 1995 graduate of Airport Senior High School of Carleton, Mich. Surratt is a 2007 graduate of NorthPointe Christian High School of Grand Rapids, Mich.

Murray Lake Elementary's staff member of the month

Murray Lake first grade teacher, Nancy Breuker, was named Staff Member of the Month for November. Breuker and her husband Burt, who teaches science at Lowell Middle School, have three children: Olivia (18), Grant (14), and Anneke (7).

Breuker graduated from Aquinas College and has taught for almost 19 years in first through fifth grade classrooms. She is currently in her fourth year at Murray Lake as a first grade teacher.

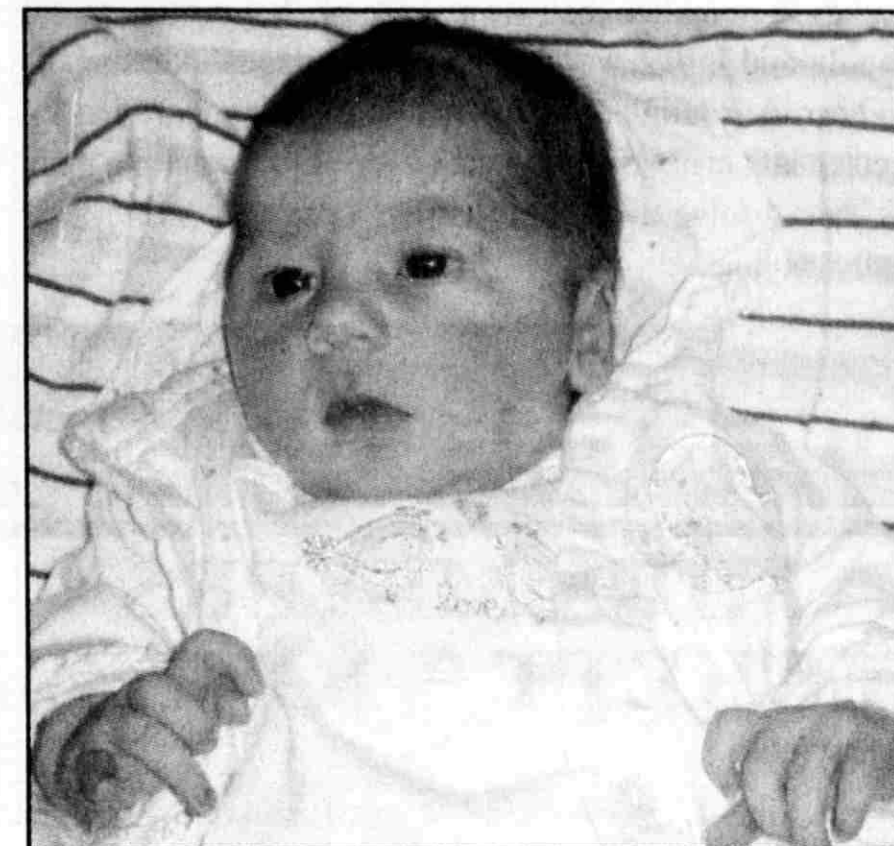
Colleague, Karla Leadership chairperson, said "Seeing the miracle of reading unfold in first grade is one of the most rewarding parts of my job. Making a difference in these young lives makes all the time and energy that teaching requires well worth it."

Breuker, who is also Murray Lake's Building

In her free time, Breuker enjoys waterskiing, traveling, reading, painting, and sewing. She can also often be seen riding around on her moped to and from Murray Lake.

New Arrivals

Boruto



Ava Lynn Boruta

Joe and Becky Boruta are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Ava Lynn. She was born November 1, 2007, weighing 7 lbs. 11 oz. and measuring 20 1/2 inches.

Proud grandparents are Terry and Nancy Raymor and Mike and Mary Boruta. Great-grandparents are Roger and Norma Raymor and Jean Boruta.



First grade teacher Nancy Breuker sharing a read aloud story with her students.

HEALTH

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



MENINGITIS

The last article concerned bacterial and viral meningitis. In this article we'll discuss Menacta, a vaccination against meningitis. A vaccination against H. influenza and S. pneumoniae is given to infants, which helps to prevent these types of bacterial meningitis.

Menactra can prevent 4 types of meningitis. This targets the bacteria N. meningitidis, two of the three most common types in the United States (serotypes A, C, Y, and W-135). This does not protect all types of the disease, but encompasses the most likely types to be contracted in the US. Current recommendations suggest giving this vaccination to all high school aged children. It is also recommended for anyone who does not have a spleen.

Got an Announcement to make?

Wedding, Engagement and Anniversary Announcements* are Free in the Ledger. Birth Announcements without a photo are free; with a photo are \$5.

* Anniversary announcements cannot contain an invitation to a celebration

Faith Bible Church of Alto would like to say

THANK YOU to the 2007 DONORS
Our 2nd Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction would not be a success without you being there.

- A.N.A. Sports
- Alabama Fan Club
- Alan Jackson
- Alto Automotive
- Alto Marathon
- Alto Meat Processing
- André Agassi Foundation
- Bavarian Inn
- Berlin Raceway
- Bone Fish Grill
- Bronner's
- CHRISTmas Wonderland
- Brookside Inn
- Buckmaster
- Build-A-Bear Workshop
- Caledonia Football
- Celebrity Merchandise
- Chris & Mary Wenger
- Clear Channel
- Cookies By Design
- Cracker Barrel
- Daniel Negreanu
- Deer Run Golf Course
- Detroit Lions
- Detroit Red Wings
- Detroit Tigers
- Dick's Sporting Goods
- Dole Food Co., Inc.
- Dougherty Electric
- Dougherty E-Marketing
- Dow Diamond
- Dr. Richard Choryan
- Ehlers for Congress
- Fat Head
- Frankenthuth
- Paddlewheel Tours
- From the Heart Yoga Center
- Full Blast
- G.B. Russo & Son
- Genesee County Parks & Recreation
- Gerald R. Ford Museum
- Go Duster
- Grand Rapids Carvers
- Grand Rapids Children's Museum
- Grand Rapids Civic Theatre
- Grand Rapids Griffins
- Grand Rapids Rampage
- Green Bay Packers
- Gymboree
- Heidi Christine's
- Hormel Foods
- Isreal's Design for Living
- Jeff Hammond
- Jennifer Harmon
- Jim Shockey
- John Ball Zoo Society
- Kenny Wallace Fan Club
- Lowell Football
- Lucky Buck
- Mackinac Island Carriage Tours & Wings of Mackinac
- Martina McBride Fan Club
- Matt Dougherty
- McClure's Body Shop
- McReynolds Inc.
- Meguar's
- Meyer Music
- Middle Villa Inn Bowling Alley
- Modern Photographics
- Nelis' Dutch Village
- Nemco Motor Sports
- Original Butterfly House & Insect World
- Pet Supply Plus
- Photography By Jody
- Pittsburgh Steelers
- Preusser Jewelers
- Reverend & Mrs. Gary Dougherty
- Richard Petty Museum
- Robert Bacon
- Sam's Club
- Self Chiropractic
- Sheldon Cleaners
- Shepler's Mackinac Island Ferry
- Siegel Jewelers
- Signature Outdoor Concepts
- Skyline Electric
- Spartan Stores
- Star Line Mackinac Island Ferry
- Steve & Katie Barnhart
- TCBY
- The Dolly Wood Foundation
- The Meadows Golf Course
- The Shack
- Thunder Falls Water Park
- Tim & Marcia Dougherty
- Weeland Farms
- White Caps
- Woodland Sports Center Crew
- Wrangler
- YMCA
- Zook Farm Equipment

Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion

A time for families to gather in celebration of the Savior's birth.

7:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.:

"Ursula and the Nighthawk"

a service of carols, candles and stories of hope.

11:15 : "Prisoners of Hope"

A quiet service of candlelight and communion as we welcome the coming again of Christ into our lives.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

621 E. Main Street
Lowell, MI 49331

www.lowellumc.com

All Are Welcome!



AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M.</p> <p>OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p>DAY BIBLE CHAPEL 9305 Centerline, Saranac 897-6332</p> <p>Worship.....9:45 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M.</p> <p>Nursery & Jr. Church Provided Rev. Frank Lattimore, Pastor "A Nondenominational Ministry With A Blended Word Centered Service!"</p>	<p>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL</p> <p>Rev. Randy Meyers - 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI</p> <p>Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.</p> <p>Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p>	<p>APOSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH</p> <p>SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M. SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M. 119 Lincoln Lake, Lowell</p> <p>CALL FOR FREE HOME BIBLE STUDIES</p> <p>Pastor Robert L. Hubbard Phone: (616) 897-1267 website www.aplighthouse.com</p>
<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</p> <p>621 E. Main Street • 897-5936</p> <p>Worship..... 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Barrier - Free Entrance</p>	<p>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)</p> <p>3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery</p> <p>Robert W. Holmes, Lead Pastor John King, Youth Pastor</p> <p>SUNDAYS: 10:00 a.m. - Worship & Evening; LIFE home Groups & "The Source" Youth</p> <p>WEDNESDAYS: Family Night: (for all ages) 7:00 p.m. "The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m. Loving God... Loving People!</p>	<p>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Fr. George J. Fekete 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com</p> <p>Weekday Masses: SAT. 5 PM, SUN. 9:30 AM Holy Day Masses: 7:45 AM Saturday confessions: 10:10-10:30 AM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETER WISNIO 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48, EWIN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>	<p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL (United Church of Christ)</p> <p>865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906</p> <p>Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Thursday Faith Alive Worship.....7:00 P.M.</p> <p>Dr. Roger LaWarr.....Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director</p> <p>Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship</p>
<p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org</p> <p>Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....9:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</p> <p>2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbcloowell.org Rev. David O. Sims & Rev. W. Lee Taylor</p> <p>Worship Services: 9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour: 11:00 A.M. AWANA/CLUB J.C. Wed. 6:15 & 6:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided - Barrier Free</p>	<p>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Thurlan Meredith</p> <p>9:45 A.M.Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M.Sunday School</p> <p>897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery & Children Worship Programs Provided</p> <p>A friend...a family...a mission!</p>	<p>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</p> <p>Lowell High School Performing Arts Center Greeting & Fellowship.....10:15 A.M. Sunday Morning Worship.....10:40 A.M. Wednesday Discipleship Ministries.....7:00 P.M.</p> <p>Meets at 201 N. Washington PASTOR MICHAEL RHODABARGER Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>



Sharing The Vision

With Gregory Pratt
LHS Superintendent

It is truly a busy time of year. We often spend many hours preparing for the holidays, the big meal with the family, the gifts, attending special concerts, and extra time with friends and family. But it is also a time of season to spend a moment reflecting on the year and the events that bring you to the end of another calendar year.

This year I seem to spend more time thinking about my two young boys, Garrett and Grant. Garrett is 8 and Grant is 6. The time that we spend together is precious to me. The two young boys are at an age of high curiosity, high energy, and high motivation. They are typical kids and enjoy the outdoors, sports, and general horse-play. What amazes me is what I am learning from having the privilege of raising these two young people.

A lesson that I learned early on is patience. Their

day is not spent hurrying and fretting about getting things done. I had to slow down and patiently meet them where they are at in their ability to learn the routine of getting ready every morning. Simple tasks such as learning to walk, tying shoes, getting dressed and then as they grow older helping them to not forget items for school does take patience. Lots of patience.

They also taught me the valuable lesson to slow down as an adult and to recognize the simple pleasures of this life that occur on a daily basis which gives us joy. Garrett and Grant are living in the moment and enjoying their day. As I sit and watch them read to me, I witness their growing ability to sound out words and to understand the books that they read. I see by the expression on their faces as the story comes to life in their minds. As they struggle with new words and sound them out and finally master them, they have such a sense of accomplishment. Their self worth continues to increase as they learn new lessons and as they realize their own sense of "belonging" in our family and in the world. One of my biggest pleasures is to hear their laughter as the two of them goof around together, and in another moment I even enjoy watching them as they resolve a conflict that has occurred during their daily routine.

As our family grew from my wife, Elizabeth, and me to the addition of Garrett and then eventually Grant I had to learn how to manage my time and how to organize. As most parents, we had to learn to juggle the routine of the day as we get the two boys to school, to after school activities, to home routine, and eventually get them to bed before we start the day all over again tomorrow.

Lessons such as patience, ability to "enjoy the moment", and time management and organization are just a few of the many lessons. As I reflect on my children, I often wonder who is the teacher and who is the student in our home. They truly have taught me much in their short time upon this earth and I look forward to the many lessons they will teach me in the future. Through all the lessons, both easy and hard, I have found that the greatest experience is taking time together and learning together.

I wish everyone a happy holiday season in hopes that you will have time to focus on your family and take time to reflect on not only what impact that you have made in your children or grandchildren's lives but also the impact that they have had upon you.

Vergennes residents with condemned easements complain of lack of communication



Residents Dale Fegel and Paul Barron opposed the condemnation of air easements Monday.

by Emma Palova

Two Vergennes Township residents complained of lack of communication regarding the condemnation of air easements Monday.

The city recently condemned the air easements of property owners Paul Barron and Dale Fegel for the purposes of trimming trees and a potential airport upgrade to a general utility.

Barron and Fegel stated they were never opposed to tree trimming due to safety issues. However, their property investment is impacted by the condemnation, according to Barron. If the condemnation is finalized, and the case is in litigation in circuit court, no development is allowed under the easement.

"You have a communication breakdown," said Barron. "I've done due diligence, I wasn't sitting like a lame duck. I wasn't playing

hardball. You purchase things as an investment - we're all on the same ship."

Jeanne Shores questioned why didn't Barron come to meetings sooner, since the deal with the airport easements has been going on for two years.

"We're here to answer questions," said Shores.

According to both residents, neither has been invited to any city council discussion pertaining to the airport, except for a meeting at the airport last year. And the issue took a quick downside from negotiations in May to a July condemnation.

"We're not condemning your property," said Fegel. "you're after our rights. I had no objection to safety, but the reason for condemnation is expansion."

Possible expansion of the airport rather than tree trimming due to safety

has been at the heart of controversy all along. Other arguments include taking people's rights away for a hobby airport. Recently, the School of Missionary Aviation announced its move to Ionia next year. Ninety percent of flights out of the airport were student pilots.

"My concern is once the airport is upgraded to a general utility," said Fegel. "I won't be able to develop. I am waiting for common sense to prevail."

Fegel said the easement would apply over his entire property, which puts restrictions on his property.

"You're taking property rights for what use in the future?" said Fegel.

In related business, the council approved the lowest bidder Midwest Tree Service of Belding to trim trees at the airport for \$48,000.

TO ADVERTISE IN THE LEDGER BUSINESS DIRECTORY Call 897-9261

**MIKA MEYERS
BECKETT & JONES PLC**
ATTORNEYS

John T. Sperla
Mark A. Kehoe
Ross A. Leisman

Benjamin A. Zainea
Heidi A. Lyon
Matthew E. Fink
Neil P. Jansen

307-A E. Main Street
Lowell, Michigan 49331
(616) 897-3111 www.mmbjlaw.com

Rich's Service Co.
In-Home Appliance Repair

INSURED • 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE
WASHERS • DRYERS • REFRIGERATORS
GARBAGE DISPOSALS • STOVES • DISHWASHERS

209 E. Main St. RICH CURTIS
Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-5686

Curtis Accounting & Tax Services

209 E. Main St. - Suite A, Lowell, MI
Complete accounting,
payroll and tax services
(616) 897-4120 • (616) 262-4873

**YOUR BUSINESS
COULD BE HERE!
SAVE \$\$\$\$
ADVERTISING IN
THIS SPACE!!!
Call 897-9555**

Certified Garment Care Professional

**CURTIS
CLEANERS • LAUNDRY**

FREE PICKUP & DELIVERY
Lowell • Ada • Cascade • Ionia

2007 AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

DECEMBER SPECIAL

**20% OFF
5 ITEMS OR MORE
DRYCLEANING ONLY
\$1 CAR WASH**

(616) 897-9809 • 1410 W. Main • Lowell

**PEBBLE BEACH
APARTMENTS**

- ✓ 1 & 2 BEDROOMS
- ✓ GAS AND WATER INCLUDED
- ✓ CARPORT INCLUDED
- ✓ LAKEFRONT
- ✓ 24-Hr. MAINTENANCE
- ✓ A GREAT PLACE FOR SENIORS

AFFORDABLE, QUIET, SAFE & CLEAN
1112 Bowes Rd., Lowell, MI
www.pebblebeachapts.com • 616-897-6880

**KIRK COLLINS
Owner**

**Showboat
AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY, INC.**

1450 W. Main St., Lowell, MI
(616) 897-9231
HOURS: MON - FRI 8-7; SAT 8-5:30; SUN 9-3

**Good
CHEVROLET BUICK**

**GREAT DEALS
FROM GOOD PEOPLE!
897-9294**

goodautomotive.com

**Flat River
Fireplace & Stove, LLC**
Sales • Service • Installation

Licensed and insured
Over 8 years of experience and excellent service
Gas, wood, corn, pellet, and
alternative fuels/heating sources
HARMAN AUTHORIZED SERVICE

Joseph Vandenberg
Owner/Installer
925 N. Monroe • Lowell, MI
(616) 723-6237
www.flatriverfire.com

FRY DADDY'S
608 West Main Street
Lowell, MI 49331
FISH, CHICKEN & SHRIMP
897-FISH
Check Out Our
Daily Specials
OPEN TUESDAY - SATURDAY
Call For Daily Specials!

**Wags
PET GROOMING, LLC**

dogs & cats
by appointment only
616-745-1256
616-897-9771
618 LAFAYETTE, LOWELL, MI 49331
Just 2 blocks north of Main St. Lowell
Discounts for referrals & for standing appointments
Diane Smith - Certified Groomer & Proprietor
Leah Lessard - Certified Groomer

**BILL WHEELER
Certified Public
Accountant**

W.J. WHEELER MICHIGAN
103 Riverside Dr.
Lowell, Michigan
49331
616-897-7711

Financial Focus

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

WILL "SUBPRIME" LOAN CRUNCH AFFECT YOU?

If you've even casually followed the news over the past several months, you've probably heard about "subprime loans." But the issue can be confusing, and if you're like most people, you really just want a couple of questions answered: How might these subprime loans affect the economy? And will I need to adjust my investment strategy?

To begin with, let's define subprime loans. Generally speaking, a subprime loan is a mortgage made to a borrower who might not otherwise qualify for a loan. Subprime lenders typically charged these borrowers higher interest rates, but some subprimes were adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs), which meant they carried a lower rate for the first few years of the loan. Many subprime borrowers took out ARMs, hoping their credit would improve enough for them to qualify for a better rate before the mortgage rate was adjusted upward. When this didn't happen, they were hit with higher payments and many faced foreclosure. Because many of these mortgages had been resold and then packaged into other financial vehicles, the bad loans hurt these investments.

Ultimately, the subprime loan problem might jolt at least two sectors of the financial markets: housing and financial services. So, housing - related investments, such as real estate companies, and financial services firms, such as mortgage lenders, might experience some rough roads. Also, the subprime situation could lead to a potential slow down in overall consumer spending. Why? Because if lending standards tighten, people may find it more difficult to tap home equity loans and lines of credit. And if consumer spending does slow, it could affect corporate profits, a key driver of stock prices.

As an individual investor, what moves, if any, should you make to prepare yourself for any potential subprime "aftershocks"?

To begin with, don't get so caught up in a possible subprime-fueled downturn that you overlook the many positive factors about the current investment outlook. Although the real estate industry is slumping, the rest of the economy remains relatively strong. Furthermore, inflation and inter-

est rates remain low and stable, and corporate profits still exceed expectations.

And no matter what happens in the investment world, you can hardly go wrong by following these tried-and-true techniques:

- Look for quality. Quality investments, such as the stocks of strong, established companies, historically tend to fall less than other investments in down markets, and they have frequently led the way in the recoveries that follow. (Keep in mind, though, that past performance isn't an indication of future results.)

- Choose an appropriate mix of investments. Build a portfolio containing a variety of investments that are suitable for your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. While diversification, by itself, can't guarantee a profit or protect

against a loss in declining markets, it can help reduce the effects of market volatility.

- Hold investments for the long term. By following a "buy-and-hold" investment strategy, you can reduce your commission costs and avoid some of the other problems that can result from frequent buying and selling. Once you buy an investment, consider holding it until either your needs change or the investment itself has evolved in an unexpected way.

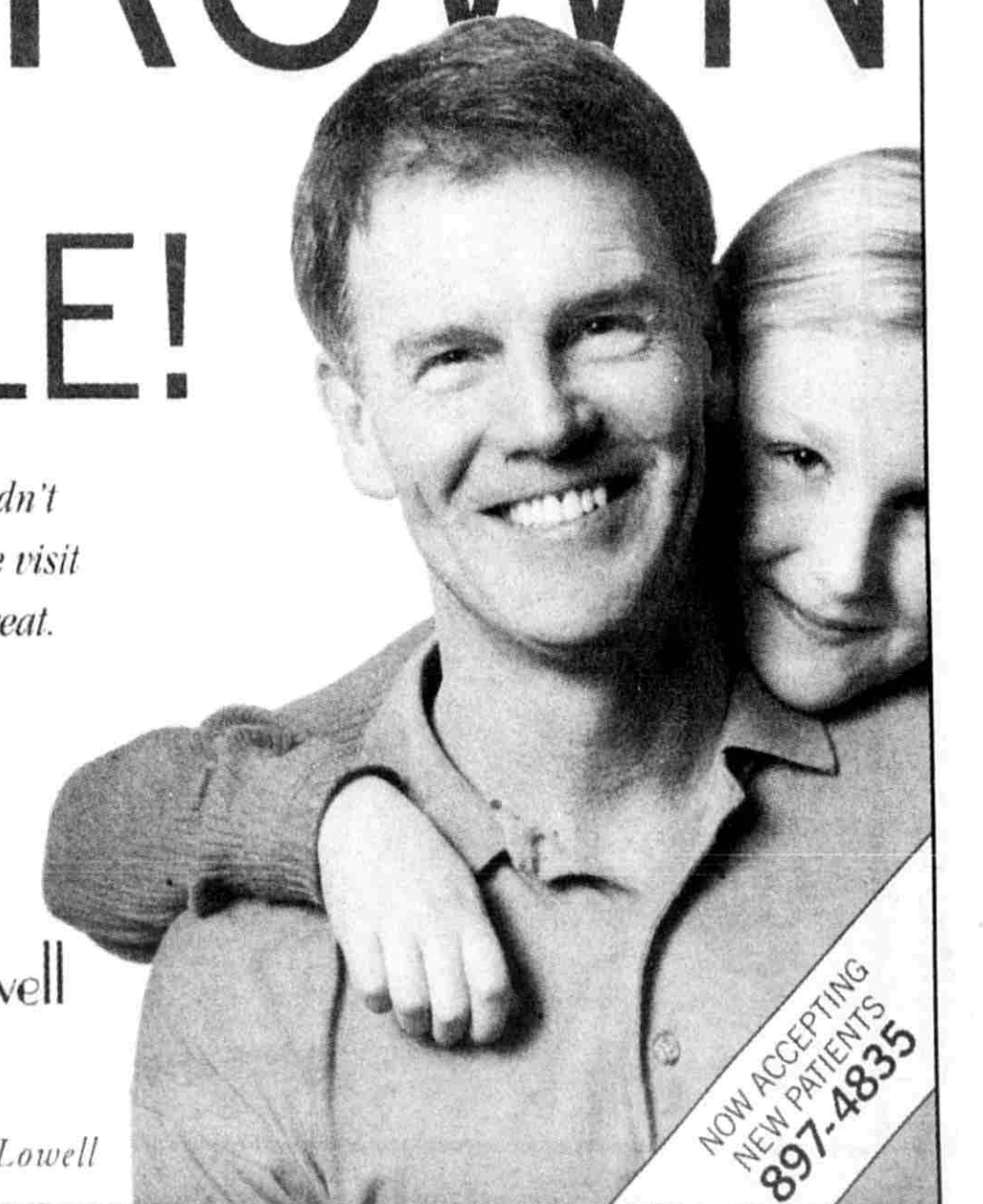
By looking beyond the possible turmoil and sticking with good investment habits, you may well escape some of the problems caused by the subprime fallout - while you stay on track toward your long-term investment goals.

**A CROWN
IN ONE VISIT
...SIMPLE!**

"If I had known it would be this easy, I wouldn't have put off getting a crown for so long. One visit and it was done. The crown fits and looks great. I have my smile back...simple!"

Family Dentistry of Lowell
- ANN WILSON, D.D.S. -

Tel. 897-4835 • 147 North Center Street • Lowell

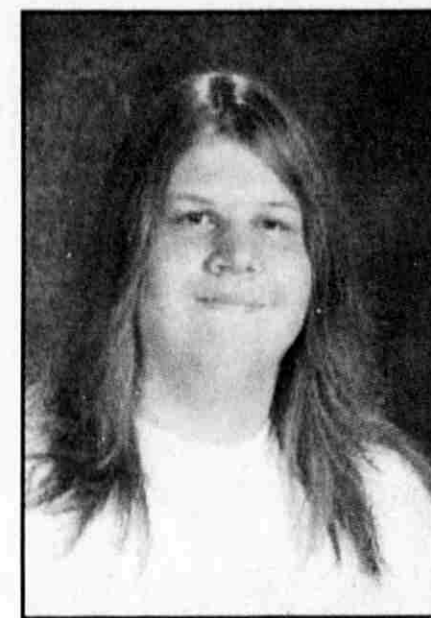


NOW ACCEPTING
NEW PATIENTS
897-4835

BUSINESSES SERVICES

Lowell High School students of the month

Lowell High School and the LHS Academic Boosters are proud to announce the December 2007 students of the Month. In conjunction with the LHS Academic Boosters, Lowell High School is proud to announce that Summer Moore, 9th grade, and Abe VanderLaan, 11th grade, are the LHS December



Abe VanderLaan

All the nomination forms for the month are then reviewed and voted on at the monthly Department Chair Meeting, selecting two students to be honored for the month. Students are selected based on academic achievement, character, and work ethic. There

are 1350 students eligible for nomination, so this is quite an accomplishment for Summer and Abe. The students receive a key card to the local businesses and a certificate.

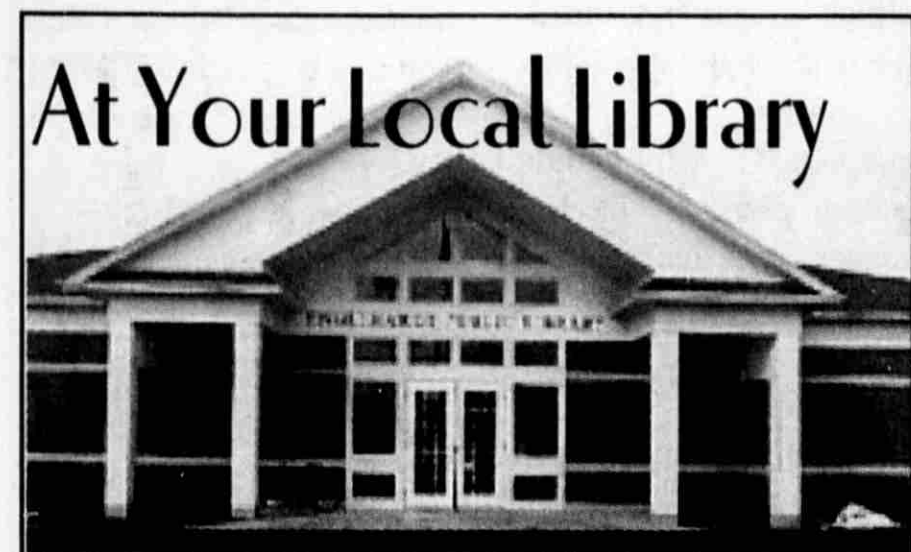
Summer was nominated by Mr. James Christians who writes, "Summer is highly motivated to achieve her personal best every day, and she consistently pushes herself and those around her to do the same. Other students preach high expectations but Summer, humbly and cooperatively participates actively in sports, student council, and



Summer Moore

int. algebra classmates, was mainstreamed into regular-paced geometry. Even though Abe received "just" a C in geometry, he reacted as if he had just received an A. "Mr. Michaud, this is the first math class I really understand and I like it!"

This program is made possible by the support of the LHS Academic Boosters, who support the high school in many ways. If you are interested in helping support the LHS Academic Boosters, call Laura Becker at 897-5653.



At Your Local Library

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSIONS AT THE KENT DISTRICT LIBRARY

Join other readers at the following days in January. Registration is required at some branches. For more information, call your local KDL branch or visit us online at www.kdl.org.



WINTER CONDITIONING Ages 10 and Under

Girls 10 & Under at Unity High School
7 to 9:00 p.m.
Tuesday nights starting Jan. 8th thru March 2008

Tryouts for Lowell Xtreme 10 & under travel team will take place the last 2 weeks of winter conditioning.

Open to anyone from beginners to advanced skill level.

Registration will be taken on the first night. \$30.00 registration fee includes insurance, T-shirt & pizza party.

"Lowell Xtreme Girls Softball Club is an organized softball club giving players softball experience on a competitive level. Xtreme enriches their lives by building strong friendship, self confidence and character. The club stresses sportsmanship, honesty, commitment and strives toward perfection as a team."

Contact Leann Paiz at 868-2065 or James Hinton at 897-6816 with any questions

AAA estimates 2 million Michigan residents have holiday travel plans

An estimated 2 million Michigan residents - about the same number as last year - will travel 50 miles or more from home during the upcoming Christmas holiday, according to AAA's latest travel survey.

Most travelers will take a car, truck or van to their final destinations this year (90 percent), while fewer will go by air (10 percent). High gas prices will hit the holiday pocketbook a little harder than last year.

"Whether driving or flying, travelers face steep increases in their travel budgets this season," said Claire Lockley, vice president of Travel for The Auto Club Group (ACG). "Gasoline prices remain at unprecedented levels for this time of year, with prices of \$3

a gallon or more a common sight across much of the country. Airfares averaging 16 percent more than last Christmas mean that bargains may be harder to find for those who are flying to their final destination."

Other survey findings:
• The largest share of Christmas travelers nationwide will leave on Friday, Dec. 21, spending an average of 5.8 nights away from home.

• The average price for an airline ticket is up 16 percent for travel during the week of Christmas and 9 percent during New Year's.

• Hotel rates for AAA-Rated Three Diamond hotels climbed 4 and 9 percent respectively compared with Christmas and New Year's a year ago.

Michigan motorists can expect to pay 76 cents more for a gallon of gas this year (\$2.985 as of December 14), compared with last year at this time.

• The official 102-hour Christmas holiday period begins at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 21 and runs to 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 25.

During last year's 78-hour Christmas holiday period, there were three traffic fatalities reported by the Michigan State Police. Of the three fatal crashes, none involved alcohol. Restraints were not used by one of the three victims who had them available.

Michigan's safety belt law requires that the driver and all front seat passengers be buckled, children under the age of four must be in a child safety seat, preferably in the back seat, and children up to age 16 must be restrained no matter where they're riding.

AAA Michigan urges motorists to allow extra time, buckle safety belts, get plenty of sleep and avoid alcohol during the upcoming holiday travel period.

GREG VAN STRIEN HEATING AND PLUMBING

HEATING SERVICE & INSTALLATION
AIR CONDITIONING SERVICE & INSTALLATION
PLUMBING SERVICE & INSTALLATION
WARM AIR/RADIANT HEAT
OIL BURNER SERVICE

(616) 897-5569

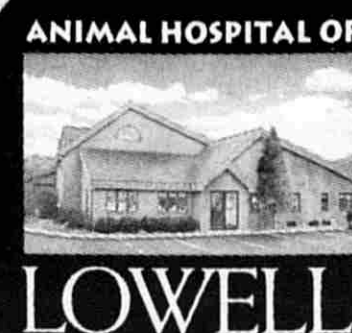
Visa And Master Card Accepted

We want to be your Other Family Doctor.

- Sick or Injured Animals Seen Same Day
- Evenings & Saturday Hours Available
- Early Drop-offs & House Calls
- 24-Hour Emergency Service
- Science Diet Pet Foods
- Boarding & Grooming



Call 897-8484
11610 East Fossil Street • Lowell, Michigan



winter sports preview

Boys' basketball looks to get the ball rolling

"You're going to fall in love with this team." So says Coach Jeff McDonald of his boys' basketball team, which McDonald said is a nice balance. He said his team will blend experience with athleticism to make for an exciting season.

McDonald said the goal is always to win the next game, but to play with pride and passion - "that should be the ultimate goal." However, Lowell basketball hasn't seen a District championship

since 1984 or a League title since 1978, and he'd like to change that.

"Forest Hills Central without a doubt is head and shoulders above everyone," McDonald said in response to the top teams in the league.

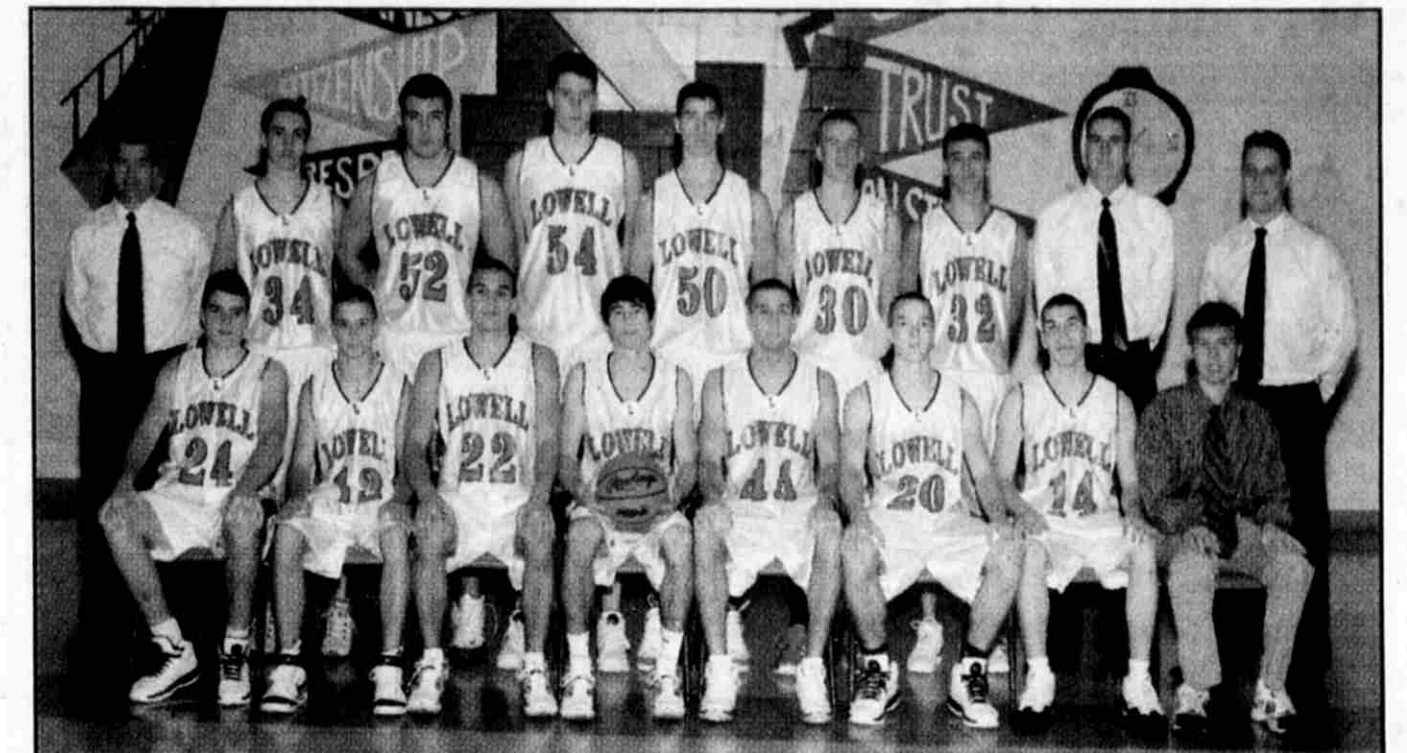
But the team won't only be squaring off against the regular teams. McDonald likes to schedule games against strong teams like Creston and Grand Rapids Central to give the boys an edge.

Spencer Sellner and Bob Wernet. The Arrows will be rounded out by six juniors, which McDonald said is a nice balance.

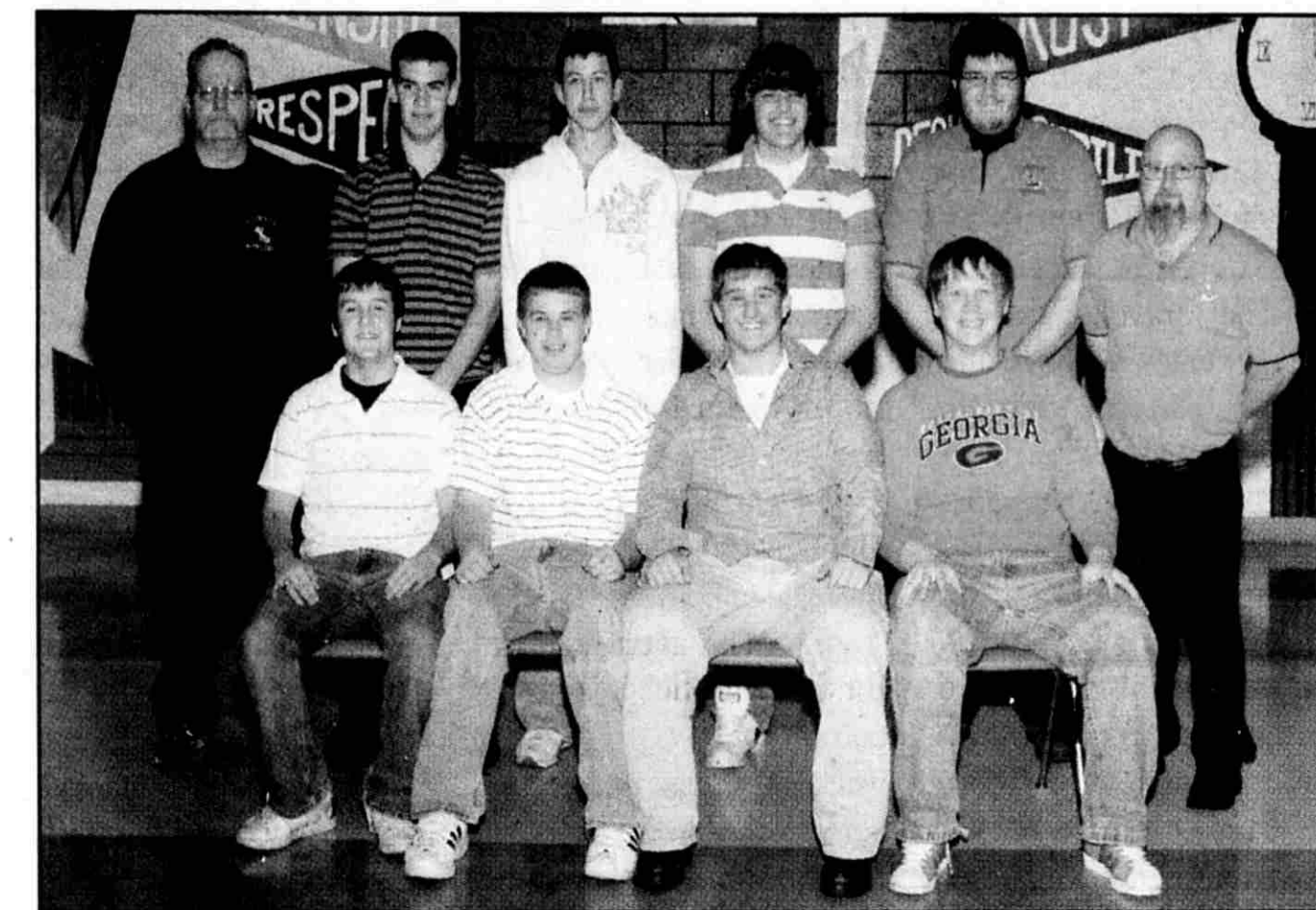
He said his team will blend experience with athleticism to make for an exciting season.

McDonald said the goal is always to win the next game, but to play with pride and passion - "that should be the ultimate goal." However, Lowell basketball hasn't seen a District championship

since 1984 or a League title since 1978, and he'd like to change that.



The 2007-08 boys' basketball team (first row, L-R) Mike Schumm, Jesse VandenBosch, Matt Kurtz, Brett McMahon, Eric Saenz, Tim Hettinga, Lance Fargo and manager Jeff Kropf. (Second row, L-R) Coach Jeff McDonald, Troy Heffron, Josh Faulkner, Bob Wernet, Spencer Sellner, Danny Lane, Mitchell Malling, Coach Dan Anibal and Coach Jordan Beel.



The 2007-08 boys' bowling team (first row, L-R) Eric Bouwhuis, Brandon Jahnke, Tom Alberts and Trevor Washburn. (Second row, L-R) Coach David Adriane, Jacob Nawrocki, Jeremy Drake, Brian Hook, Brandon Everitt and Coach Rocky Eickhoff. Missing from the photo are Alex Westdorp, Eliot Westdorp and Brandon Blough.



The 2007-08 girls' bowling team (first row, L-R) Nicole Videan, Sarah Mosher, Katy May, Melanie Onan and Ashley Nawrocki. (Second row, L-R) Coach David Adriane, Chelsea Treglia, Kristin Bouwhuis, Sam Geldersma, Liberty Clark and Coach Rocky Eickhoff.

Girls' bowling looks for a repeat OK-White title

The girls' bowling team has started its 2007-08 season strong, with a win against conference foe Northview and a first place at the Lowell Tournament. Coach Rocky Eickhoff said his team record was 14-1 last year, and the team hopes to keep its strong pace.

Top returnees from the OK-White champion team are Liberty Clark, a junior

captain with the top average in the OK-White last year; Ashley Nawrocki, a three-year senior captain on the team who was No. 2 in the White; Nicole Videan, a senior; Kristin Bouwhuis, a sophomore; and Sara Mosher, a senior.

The key addition to the team is freshman Sammi Geldersma, who Eickhoff said "is going to help the

team out - a good strong bowler."

Eickhoff is optimistic about his team's chances in the league and state, saying that the team "should be on the hunt for the OK title again." Their goal is to do well at Regional and State.

Key games for the team will be on Jan. 9 against Kenowa Hills and Jan. 16 against Caledonia.

Boys' bowling starts season strong

The boys' bowling team returns a strong group of bowlers to its team, including Brandon Jahnke, a senior; Tommy Alberts, a junior; and Trevor Washburn, a junior. Dave Adriane, the boys' coach, said newcomers Jeremy Drake and Eric Bouwhuis will also help the

team. With three bowlers graduating from last year's 12-1-1 team, including two starters, the season will rest on its experienced bowlers' shoulders.

The Arrows have already beaten a strong Northview team, won the Zeeland Tournament, and

took second at its own tournament.

Their goal is to make it to State as a team - individual bowlers like Jahnke and Alberts, who made it to the Finals last year, should have another good run this year, as well as a Regional win for the entire team.

PEP TALK
207 E. Main • Lowell
897-7200

BERNARD'S
ACE HARDWARE
1601 W. Main St. • Lowell
897-9490

RONDA TIRE
834 W. Main St.
MON.- FRI. 8:00 - 5:30; SAT. 8-NOON
897-6200

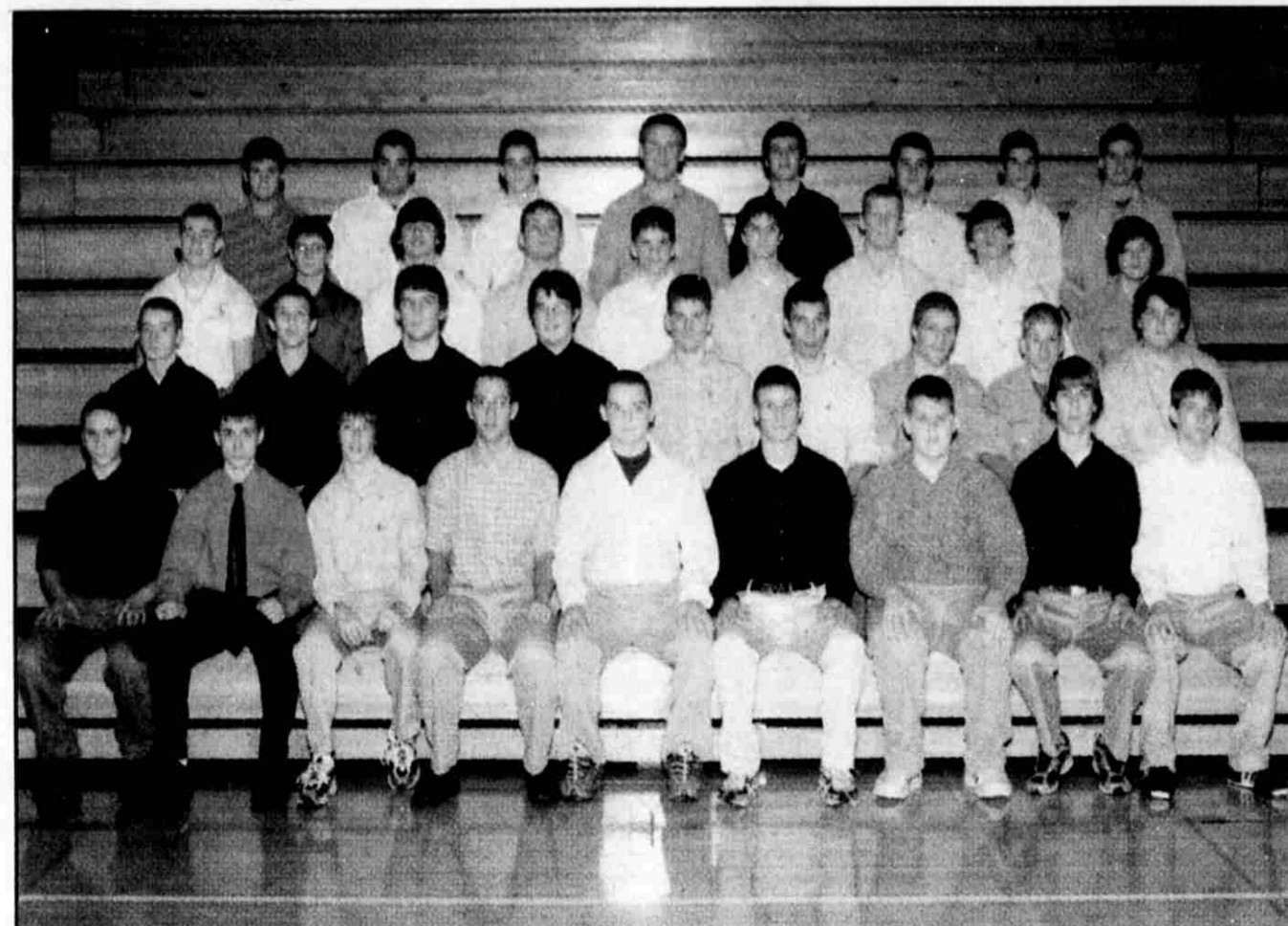
THE LOWELL
LEDGER
105 N. Broadway
897-9261

AUTOZONE
OF LOWELL
2300 W. Main St.
897-8454

LOWELL AREA CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE
113 Riverwalk Plaza
897-9161

winter sports preview

Wrestling team returns six state qualifiers



The 2007-08 wrestling team (first row, L-R) Will Schmidt, Jacob Gould, Zack Jeffries, Matt Majestic, Sam Young, Tim Gingerich, Jacob Murray, Erik Ingebretson and Derek DeWaard. (Second row, L-R) Josh Depew, Zach Baum, John Bogardus, Nick McKay, Tyler Mitchell, Cody Toomey, Rocky Pabon, Ryan Dean and Jake Lyhema. (Third row, L-R) Austin Graham, Matt Griffioen, Nick Crook, Thomas Fleet, Dan Fleet, Jackson Morse, Nate Vaught, Tyler Jack and Ethan Ryoer. (Fourth row, L-R) Ryan Olep, Zach White, Wade Schlosser, Connor Kruse, Dylan Olin, Chase Bueche, Jake Fillingham and Justin Boss.

The wrestling team has proved its strength early in the 2007 season, but has also proved the impulsive nature of high school sports, most poignantly in the loss to a feisty Greenville team.

However, a huge win against Detroit Catholic Central, in which the Arrows came from behind to win by two, and a good show at the Warren Duals and in St. Rita have started the season off on a good foot.

The team is formed with strong threads, showcasing a runner-up trophy in the Division 2 State Finals last

year and six State qualifiers returning to the team.

Head coach Dave Dean and his staff (including RJ Boudro, Dustin Cichocki, Josh Cooper, Matt Dood, Jim Fleet, Mike Gannon, Dean Olin, Kyle Slocum, Ben Vaught and Tom White) have been coaching together for three seasons.

The team will be helped out by captains Nate Vaught, Zach Baum, Justin Boss and Tim Gingerich, as well as Jackson Morse, Ryan Olep and Tyler Jack.

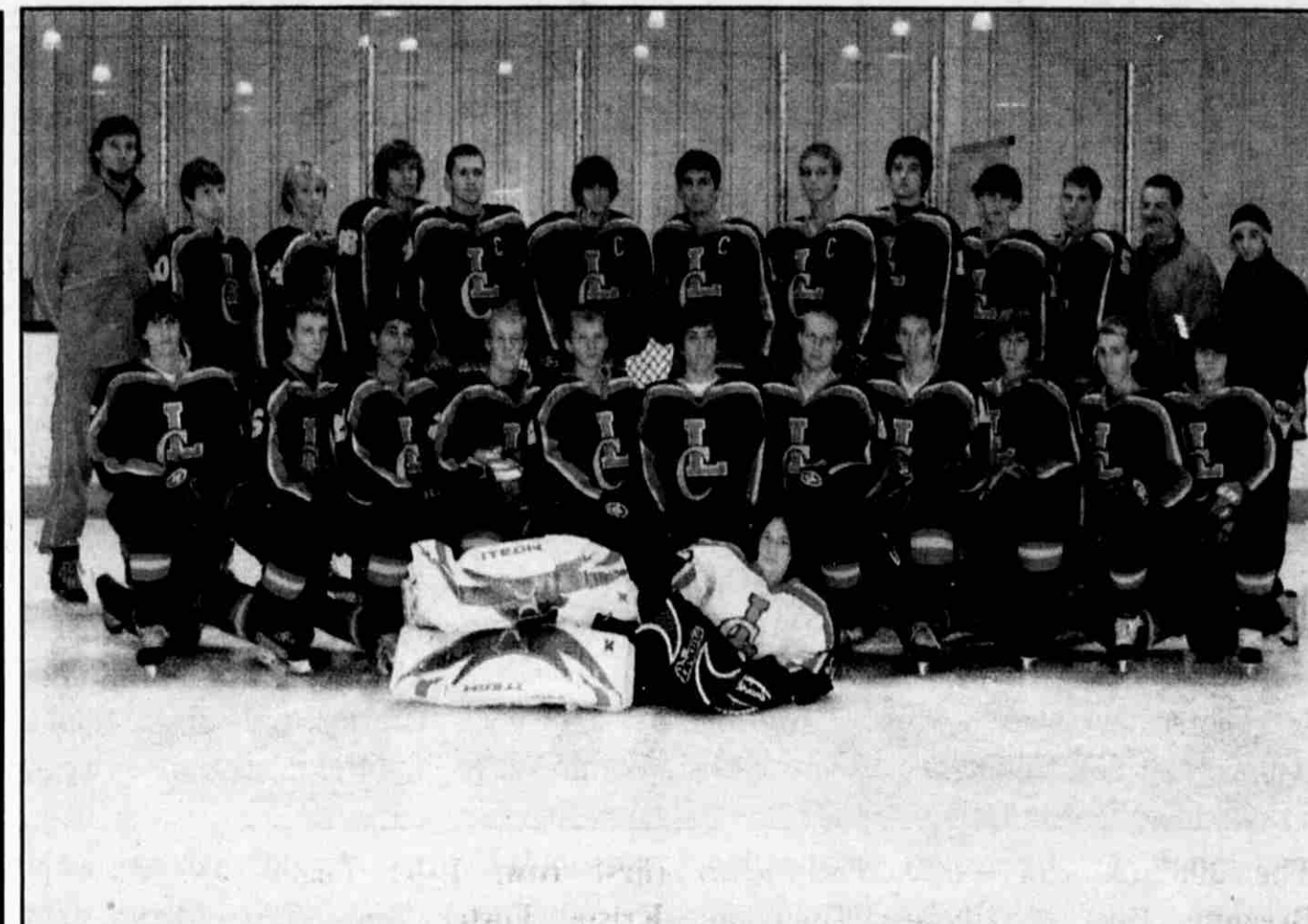
Dean said the team will have to make a few

adjustments, since six starters graduated from last year's team. Although the team is a bit young and inexperienced, the goal for the season is to win a State championship.

Dean said Greenville is the top team in the league, while FHC could prove tough.

The Arrows are looking forward to a variety of good matches, including the Forest Hills Dual, the Northview Dual, the Goodrich Dual, the Lakeshore Dual Tournament, the Davison Dual and the St. Eds Dual in Cleveland.

Hockey team looks to improve record with full lineup



The 2007-08 Lowell-Caledonia hockey team (first row) Corey Phillips. (Second row, L-R) Daniel Wilcox, Jon Kuzava, Bo Adams, David O'Hagan, Kolin Morgan, Billy Watson, Joel Morgan, Justin Quiggle, Jonathan Woods, Mike Przybysz and Nolan Blair. (Third row, L-R) Assistant coach Chris Green, Kevin Vandenberg, Justin Bowyer, Drake Chittenden, Andrew Kuhn, Tim Kelly, Justin Story, Jordan Steger, Kyle Baker, Ken Hayes, Brent Steele, head coach Mike Ballard and goalie coach Dino Danimato. Missing from photo: assistant coach Dave Malone.

The Lowell-Caledonia hockey team was missing two key players during the first six games of the season, and looks to capitalize on a full lineup. With a completely whole team for the first time on Saturday and a 6-4 win, it's easy to see that the hockey team that plays as a full team wins as a full team.

The Arrows went 10-14-2 last season, and look to improve their record. "We're aiming to raise our win total from last year and to win the OK-Tier 3 Conference division and challenge for

a regional championship," said head coach Mike Ballard, who is in his sixth year with the team.

So far, the team is 2-5, with wins coming against Bay City Thunder in the Thanksgiving tournament and Muskegon Catholic Central.

Some of the top players returning are Justin Story, a senior forward from Lowell; Jordan Steger, a senior forward from Caledonia and Tim Kelly, a senior defenseman from Caledonia. Key additions to the team are Drake Chittenden, a

senior forward from Lowell; Bo Adams, a senior forward from Lowell and Jon Kuzava, a senior forward from Caledonia.

Ballard said the Arrows are very strong in offensive depth, and look to improve on their defensive zone coverage.

Key games to look out for are West Ottawa on Jan. 25 at Patterson Arena (8 p.m.) and Feb. 20 at West Ottawa for the last game of the season.

winter sports preview

Girls' basketball team fights against young exterior



The 2007-08 girls' basketball team (first row, L-R) Logan DeClercq, Breanna Bueche, Chelsea Harrison, Krista Foster and Sara Messing. (Second row, L-R) Coach Danielle Gallert, Hannah Oberlin, Sarah Fetzer, Keri Fosburg, Mary VanderLaan and Kara Rasch.

It's been an up-and-down season for the girls' basketball team, and it's only December. The team is young and looking to keep the pace after a 21-5 record last year and key losses to graduating seniors.

The Arrows return Chelsea Harrison, a senior who will be key in Lowell victories, as well as juniors Hannah Oberlin and Kara Rash, who have proved their strength.

... strong holds for our overall scores.

Some of the top gymnasts Fisher is returning are junior Richelle Kimble, an all-conference State qualifier, who she said is "very strong all around - she had a major injury this summer, but has had a remarkable recovery and should be very strong."

The Arrows placed 7th at Regionals and 4th at Conference, and look to improve their standings. Fisher predicts that she'll see most of her gymnasts to Regionals, if not the whole team. "My goal for the team is to see them put up some large bar scores, even though this will be our weak area."

Overall the team's weakest area is bars, as Fisher noted, with most of the top performers graduating. But Lowell's strength has "always been on floor and beam," Fisher said. "This seems to be our

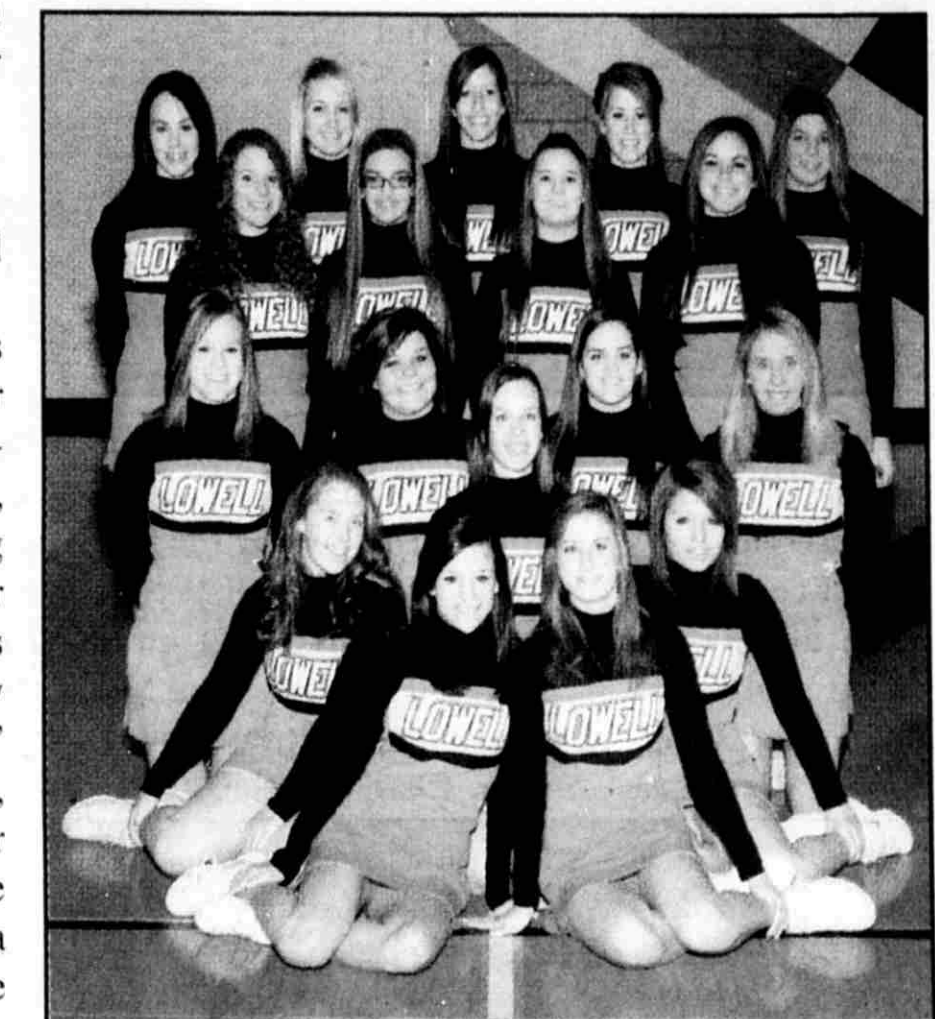
A huge win against conference rivals and basketball stronghold Forest Hills Central last week saw the Arrows dominating on all sides of the ball, as well as a last-minute thriller against Caledonia showed that the team hasn't missed a beat.

But tough losses against Byron Center in overtime this week and Rockford

show that it's still early in the season and the Arrows have some work to do.

"We're not as strong as last year, and we're not picked to win, but I think we can do it," said head coach Danielle Gallert.

What the Arrows might lack in experience, "they have in speed, and are stronger in the guard area."

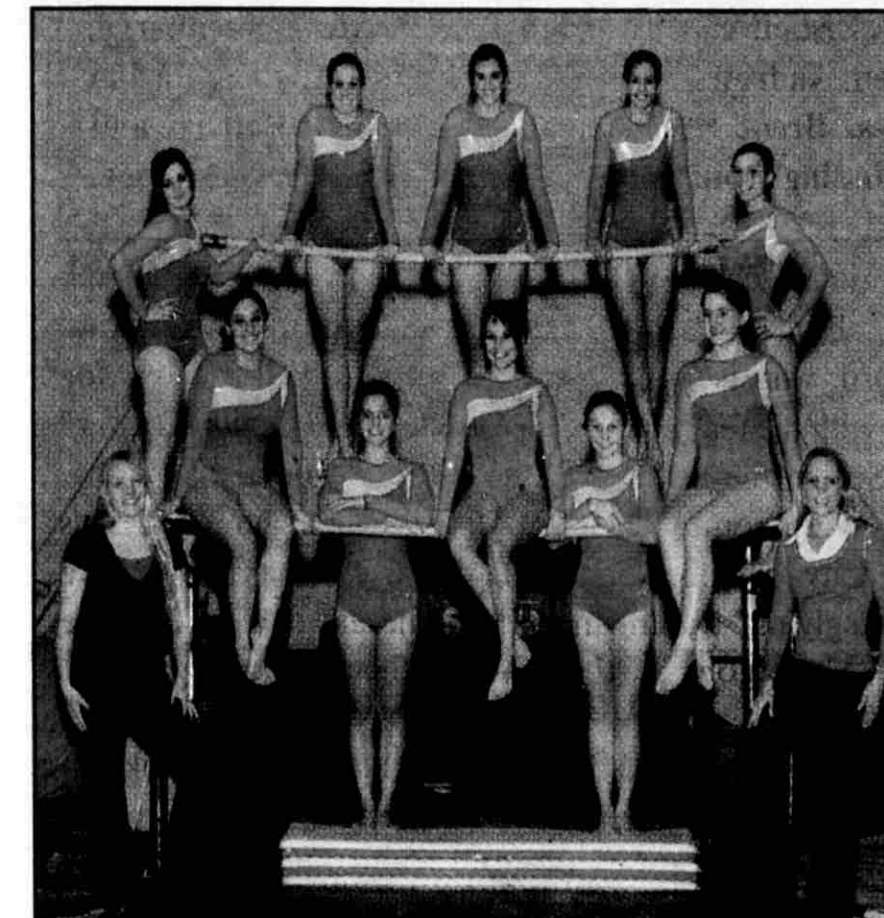


The 2007-08 cheer team (first row, L-R) Theresa Buist and Sarah Baughman. (Second row, L-R) Erin Fleet, Kylee Karas and Becky Chamberlain. (Third row, L-R) Laura Walsh, Tara Deran, Hannah Fleet and MacKenzie Conley. (Fourth row, L-R) Cassidy Venneman, Jillian Griffin, Brittany Holst and Alex Herb. (Fifth row, L-R) Alex Cooley, Christen Baerwalde, Sydney Burrows, Molly Fizer and Rachel Copeyon.

Competitive cheer team starts in January

The competitive cheer season doesn't start until the end of January, but the team is preparing for a strong season. The season begins on Jan. 22 at Caledonia, and the team will face a variety of good teams at their own Lowell Invitational on Saturday, Feb. 2 at 1 p.m.

Gymnastics team works toward inspirational season



The 2007-08 gymnastics team

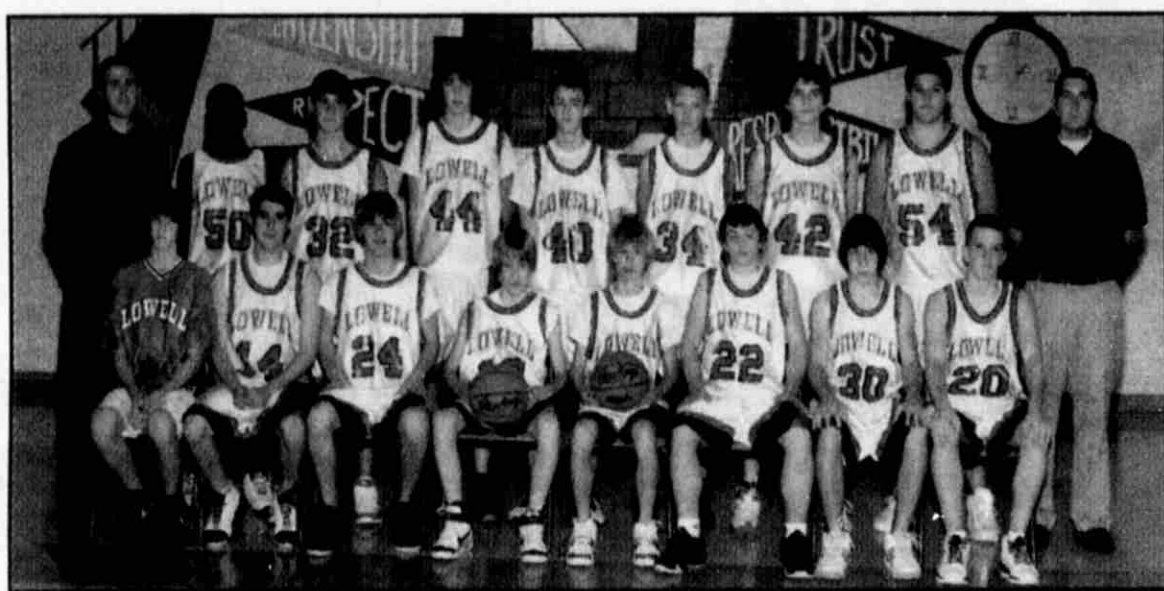
Asked about the outlook for this season's gymnastics team, coach Skye Fisher said she thinks the season will be "inspirational".

The Arrows placed 7th at Regionals and 4th at Conference, and look to improve their standings. Fisher predicts that she'll see most of her gymnasts to Regionals, if not the whole team. "My goal for the team is to see them put up some large bar scores, even though this will be our weak area."

Overall the team's weakest area is bars, as Fisher noted, with most of the top performers graduating. But Lowell's strength has "always been on floor and beam," Fisher said. "This seems to be our

<p>GOOD CHEVROLET • BUICK 1250 W. Main • Lowell 897-9294</p>	<p>BEACHUM FLOORING 924 Riverside Drive 897-7768</p>	<p>GRAND CHRYSLER JEEP DODGE 930 West Main Street 897-9281</p>
<p>HUNGRY HOWIES 96 E. Main 987-9001</p>	<p>HAROLD ZEIGLER FORD LOWELL 11979 East Fulton 897-8431</p>	<p>ZOOK FARM EQUIPMENT 7980 Pratt Lake Road • Alto 868-6195</p>
<p>NAPA AUTO PARTS 2240 W. Main • Lowell 897-9234</p>	<p>FIRSTBANK 2601 W. Main 897-6171 firstbankwestmi.com</p>	<p>LOWELL FAMILY MEDICAL CENTER Paul R. Gauthier, D.O. • James C. Lang, D.O. John G. Meier, D.O. • Wayne A. Christenson, D.O. Tracy L. Lixie, D.O. • Julie M. Drake, PA-C 2550 W. Main 252-5600</p>

<p>EJA SALON 204 W. Main 897-1700</p>	<p>ARCTIC, INC. 897-4123</p>	<p>JAMES REAGAN, DDS 207 W. Main 897-7179</p>
<p>KING MILLING CO. 115 S. Broadway 897-9264</p>	<p>B.C. PIZZA 1335 W. Main 897-9776</p>	<p>SHOWBOAT AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY INC. 1450 W. Main 897-9231</p>
<p>LOWELL LITHO 105 N. Broadway 897-9261</p>	<p>LOWELL GRANITE COMPANY 306 E. Main 897-7191</p>	<p>LOWELL MEDICAL SPECIALISTS P.C. Mark Evenhouse M.D. • John Mogor M.D. 1150 N. Hudson 897-8436</p>



The freshmen boys' basketball team (first row, L-R) Alex Nurinikko, William Plummer, Sam Steed, Reece Posthumus, Tyler Wallner, Connor McCarrey, Jacob Meyer and Adam Borrello. (Second row, L-R) Coach Jed Merideth, Jone Destine, Braydon Foley, Dan Wernet, Matt Houston, Noah Burt, Elliott Drain, Griffin Brenk and Coach Sean Pullen.



The freshmen girls' basketball team (first row, L-R) Jasmine Lillie, Emily Jelsma, Coach Dave VanKeulen, Brooke Curtis and Kait Drudy. (Second row, L-R) Courtney Schmidt, Megan Montgomery, Sam Visscher, Emily Oberlin and Courtney VanNoord.



The JV hockey team, in alphabetical order: Jacob Anderson, Gerrid Ball, Joel Bieri, Chris Bilski, Tyler Bitterman, Nick Clay, Craig Coolman, Connor Donker, Adam Hubert, Logan McGregor, Nathan Propst, Blake Rittersdorf, Kyle Stanford, Jordan Swift, Dan Tome, Eric VanSledright and Shane Videan.

J
V
&
F
R
E
S
H
M
E
N



The JV boys' basketball team (first row, L-R) Jon Hanson, Isaac Tawney, Josh Spratt, Kyle Fitzpatrick, Adrian McElveen, Keegan Hanrahan and Marc Raymond Destine. (Second row, L-R) Coach Scott Pullen, Patrick Hogan, Dylan McElveen, Zach Noskey, Derek Cornish, Kevin Luyk and Austin Tackmann.



The JV girls' basketball team (first row, L-R) Kallie Holzhueter, Katie Tompkins, Megan Rogers, Shelby Herb, Hannah Geelhoed and Taylor Flanagan. (Second row, L-R) Sam Braman, Tracy Jones, Bryleigh Loughlin, Kelly Stevens, Melissa Shepard, Amanda Sturzik and Coach Kim Stevens.



The JV cheer team (first row, L-R) Courtney Race, Anna Scudder and Kait Cummings. (Second row, L-R) Emily Skinner, Andrea Herrera, Halley DeGrote, Ericka Claypool and Maggie Lancaster. (Third row, L-R) Kaitlin Nichol, Lindsey Stehley, Montana Berg, Dayna Crumback, Kate Scudder and Paige Rash. (Fourth row, L-R) Coach Sheila Walling and Coach Shirley Jackson.

**WITTENBACH
GRAND
PONTIAC • GMC**
749 W. Main • Lowell
897-9227

**BLUE RIBBON
FEED**
Corner of Main & Hudson
Lowell
897-5921

**CAR CITY
LOWELL**
2399 W. Main
897-8100

CITY OF LOWELL
301 E. Main
897-8457

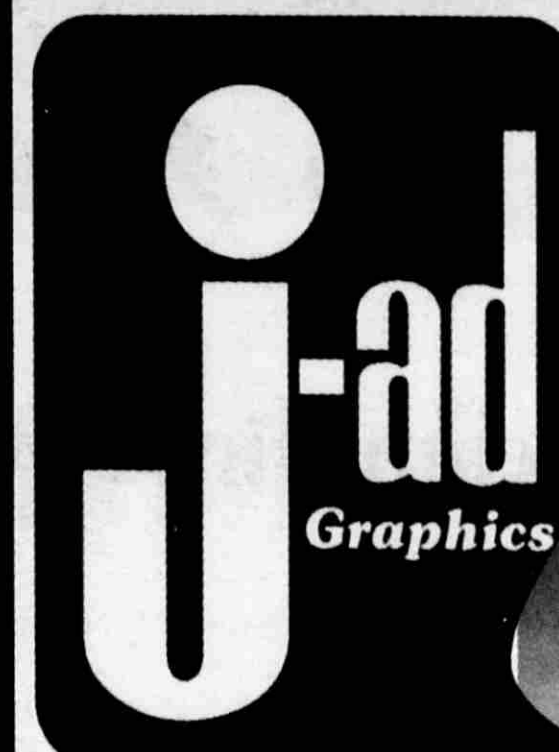
CURTIS CLEANERS
1410 W. Main
897-9809

**THREE BROTHERS
PIZZA & SUBS**
1004 W. Main • Lowell
987-4430

**CANFIELD
PLUMBING & HEATING**
411 E. Main • Lowell
897-0887

**GARAGE
OF LOWELL**
2400 W. Main
897-9269

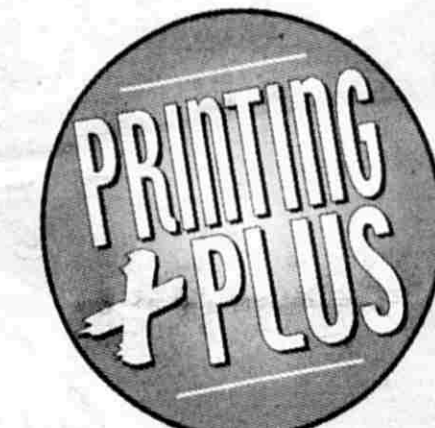
**BERGER
MOTOR SALES**
Buick • Cadillac • Chevy
GMC • Pontiac
3669 S. State Rd. • Ionia
527-4800



**HAVE A PRINTING NEED?
WE HAVE A
COLOR SOLUTION!**

Whether your printing needs are complex color brochures or simple black & white forms, let J-Ad Graphics design, print and deliver quality printed materials you'll be proud of. Complete design, printing, bindery and shipping facilities in-house to handle all of your printing and shipping needs no matter how large or small. Call us today!

269.945.9554



**MAKE US
YOUR PRINTING SPECIALISTS**

- CATALOGS / CATALOG SHEETS
- FLYERS / COUPONS
- BROCHURES
- POSTCARDS
- BUSINESS CARDS
- ENVELOPES / LETTERHEAD
- BOOKLETS / PROGRAMS
- POSTERS
- PRESENTATION FOLDERS
- ... AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

From Single Color to Full Color ... we'll give your printed materials

IMPACT!



- **DO IT YOURSELF** - Edit your digital prints with on-line cropping, red-eye reduction, enlargements, several output sizes & more.
- **YEAR ROUND GREETING CARDS** - Choose for all occasions from a great selection.
- **PHOTO CALENDARS** - Choose one that's right for you from our assortment.
- **PHOTO PROCESSING** - 35mm, digital, (1-hour, same day or next day), prints and CDs!
- **CUSTOM RUBBER STAMPS** - Self-inking, made to order, check out prices!
- **BUSINESS CARDS** - 1/Color to 4/Color!
- **COLOR OR BLACK & WHITE COPIES**

Check out all of our Special Services: Color copies, folding and laminating, collating, black & white copies, customized banners, posters, plastic biding and more!

Pack & Ship®

Pack & Ship is a leading provider of packing, shipping and other related services in the area. We are experts in the field - we specialize in the packing and shipping of bulky and fragile items, and we utilize current technologies in our profession. Pack & Ship is an authorized outlet of the major shipping firms and we deliver both domestically and internationally.

- Publishers of ...
- HASTINGS REMINDER
 - HASTINGS BANNER
 - SUN & NEWS
 - LAKEWOOD NEWS
 - MAPLE VALLEY NEWS
 - MARSHALL COMMUNITY ADVISOR
 - MARSHALL CHRONICLE
 - BATTLE CREEK SHOPPER
 - LOWELL LEDGER
 - LOWELL BUYERS GUIDE

Barry County's Most Complete Printing Facility

4 LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU

- 1351 North M-43 Highway (just north of city limits) Hastings, MI 49058-0188 **269-945-5078**
- 144 S. Cochran (right on Charlotte's Main Street) Charlotte, MI 48813 **517-543-4041**
- 514 S. Kalamazoo Ave. (corner of Industrial Drive) Marshall, MI **269-727-0091**
- Lowell Litho 105 N. Broadway Lowell, MI **616-897-9261**

SERVICING KALAMAZOO, GRAND RAPIDS, BATTLE CREEK, LANSING AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS DAILY
Pick-Up and Delivery • Mailing Service • Complete Bindery • Web and Sheet Fed Offset Printing

RED ARROW SPORTS



Chelsea Harrison (14) drives past an opponent.

Girls' Basketball team wins two, lose one in OT

by Molly Benningfield
Editor

In a busy week for the girls' basketball team, the Arrows pulled off two huge wins and lost one in overtime.

Lowell 35, Caledonia 33

On Tuesday night, Lowell defeated Caledonia 35-33 when Chelsea Harrison buried two free throws with less than a minute left. Harrison led the Arrow scoring with 14 points, while Kara Rasch threw in 9 points. Stephanie Packer had 7 points for the Scots.

Lowell 49, FHC 44

At Thursday's game, coach Danielle Gallert said her team "really played a full game." The Arrows were

strong on all sides of the ball during the four quarters, and began to pull away from a strong Forest Hills Central team in the second quarter.

The game was especially poignant for Gallert, who was coaching against her sister (the head coach of FHC) for the first time as a head coach.

"It's interesting - I was a little more relaxed than I thought I would be," Gallert said.

The Arrows would win 49-44. Harrison was again the top scorer, with 23 points, while Hannah Oberlin had 12 points, and Rasch added 10.

Byron Center 49, Lowell 42

The Arrows weren't as lucky against Byron Center, losing a heartbreaker in overtime, 42-49.

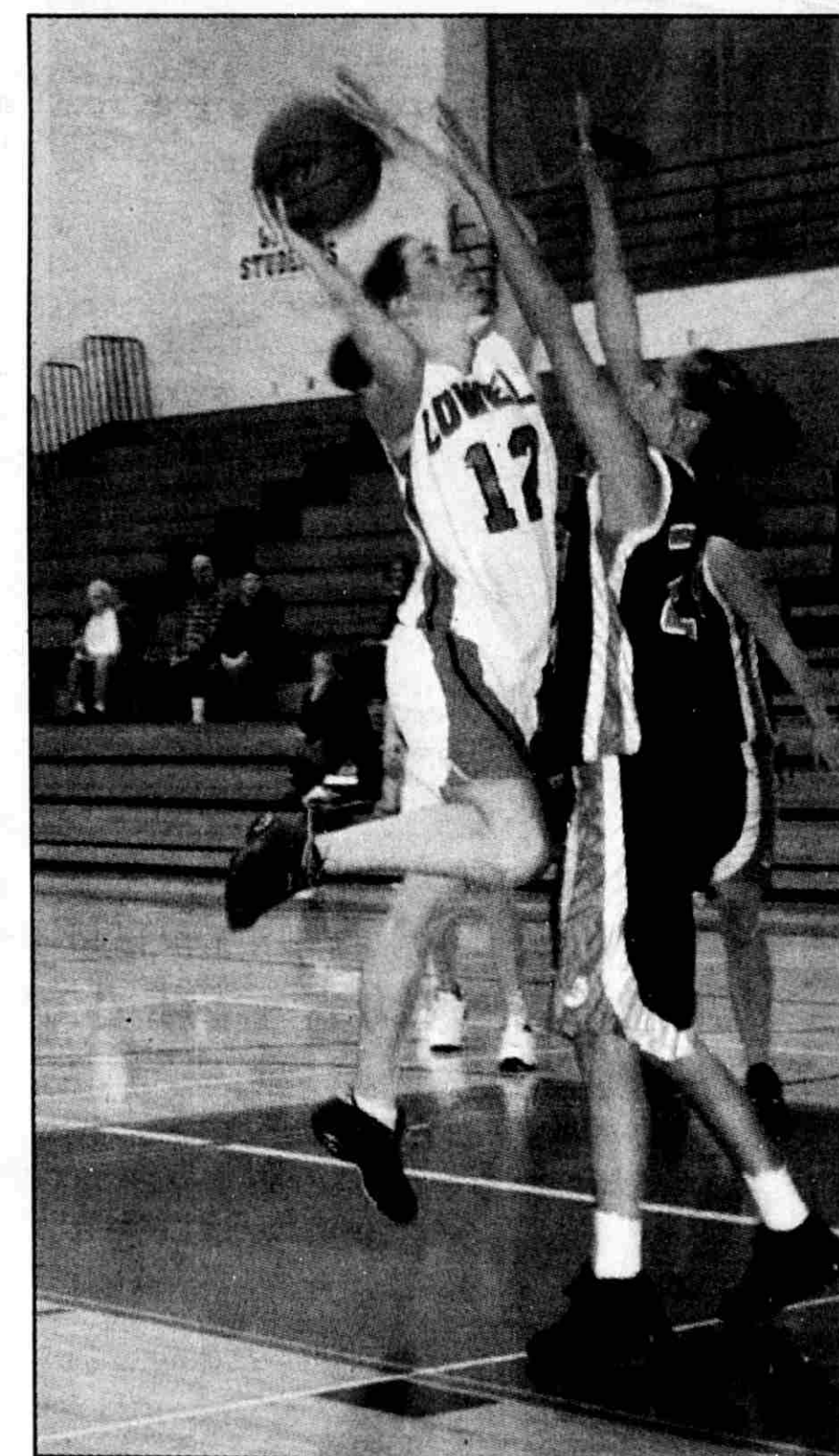
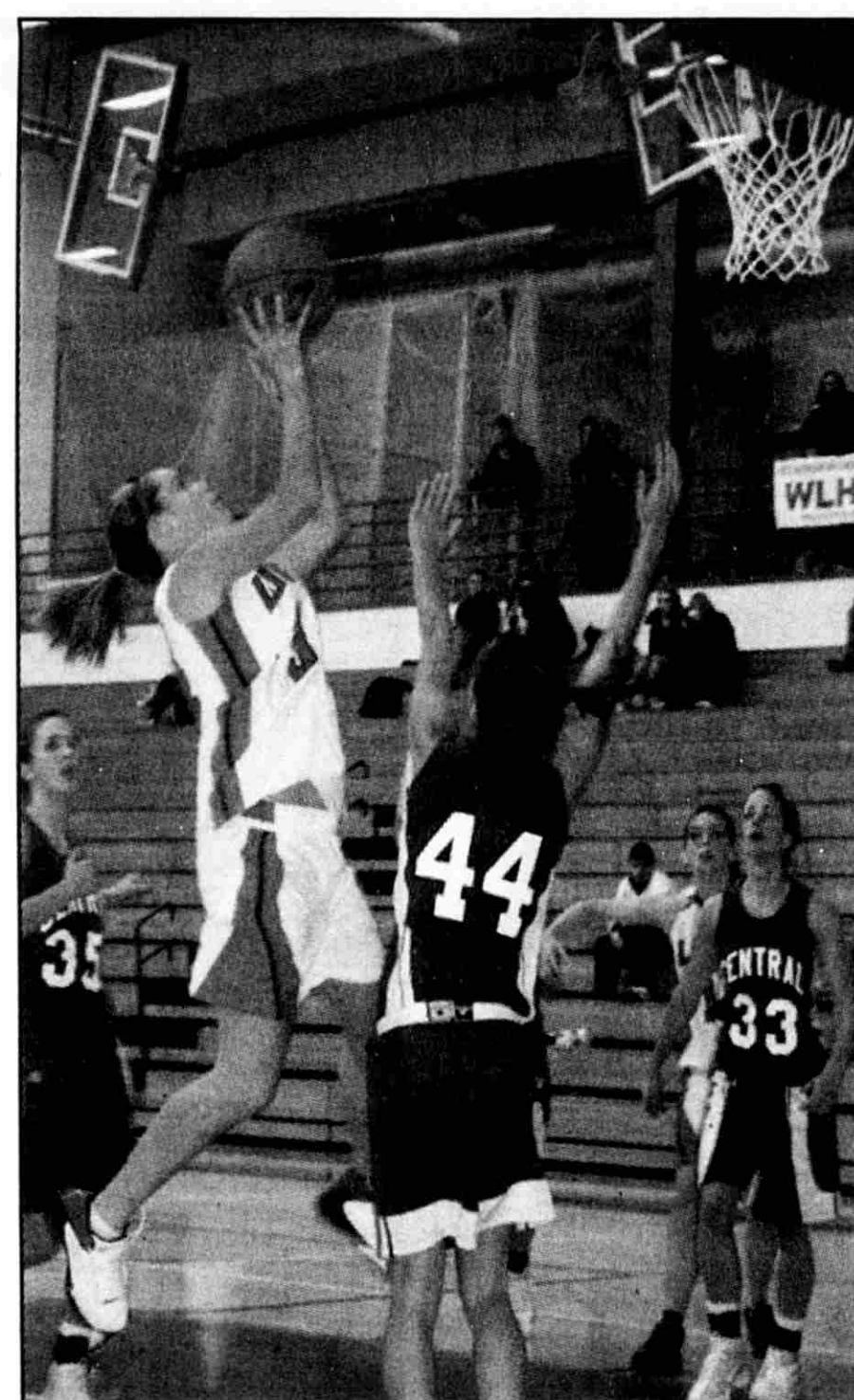
It seemed as if the Arrows played back three or four points during the first half, but caught up after halftime. Harrison made a huge 3-pointer to tie the game at 39 with one minute on the clock. With two missed free throws from Byron Center, the game would be forced into OT.

After the Arrows took an early lead in overtime, the Bulldogs pulled ahead and Lowell couldn't keep up.

Harrison had 21 points and Oberlin posted 12.

(Lower left): Kara Rasch (34) goes up for a basket.

(Lower right): Hannah Oberlin (12) takes the ball to the net.



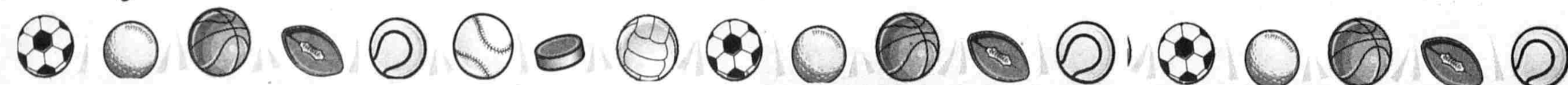
Bowling teams do well at Kenowa Hills tournament

The boys' bowling team won three matches at Kenowa Hills Saturday, while the girls' team won two. The teams also played at Forest Hills Central, but scores weren't available.

The Arrows will take a break until Saturday, Jan. 5, when they travel to the Fruitport Invitational.

What's Your Sport?

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



RED ARROW SPORTS



Boys' basketball pulls off one-point thriller against Greenville

by Molly Benningfield
Editor

Lowell pulled off a thrilling win over Greenville Thursday night, ending 55-54 to get their first win of the season.

Down by 9 at the half, it looked as if the Arrows wouldn't be able to overcome their deficit, but they came out of the locker room hungry and pulled off a series of exciting plays in the third quarter to bring the game within one point.

"We were a no show on

defense [in the first half]," coach Jeff MacDonald said. "But I've been really proud of the way we played defense [in the second]."

Tim Hettinga tied the game at 50, and after a few times at the free throw line for both teams, the fourth quarter came down to only a few seconds. Matt Kurtz scored with six seconds left, and a Lowell victory seemed eminent, but with a foul on a Greenville player, it would take Zach Boehm's missed free throw to propel the Arrows to victory.



Brett McMahon (10) sets up a play for his team against Greenville.

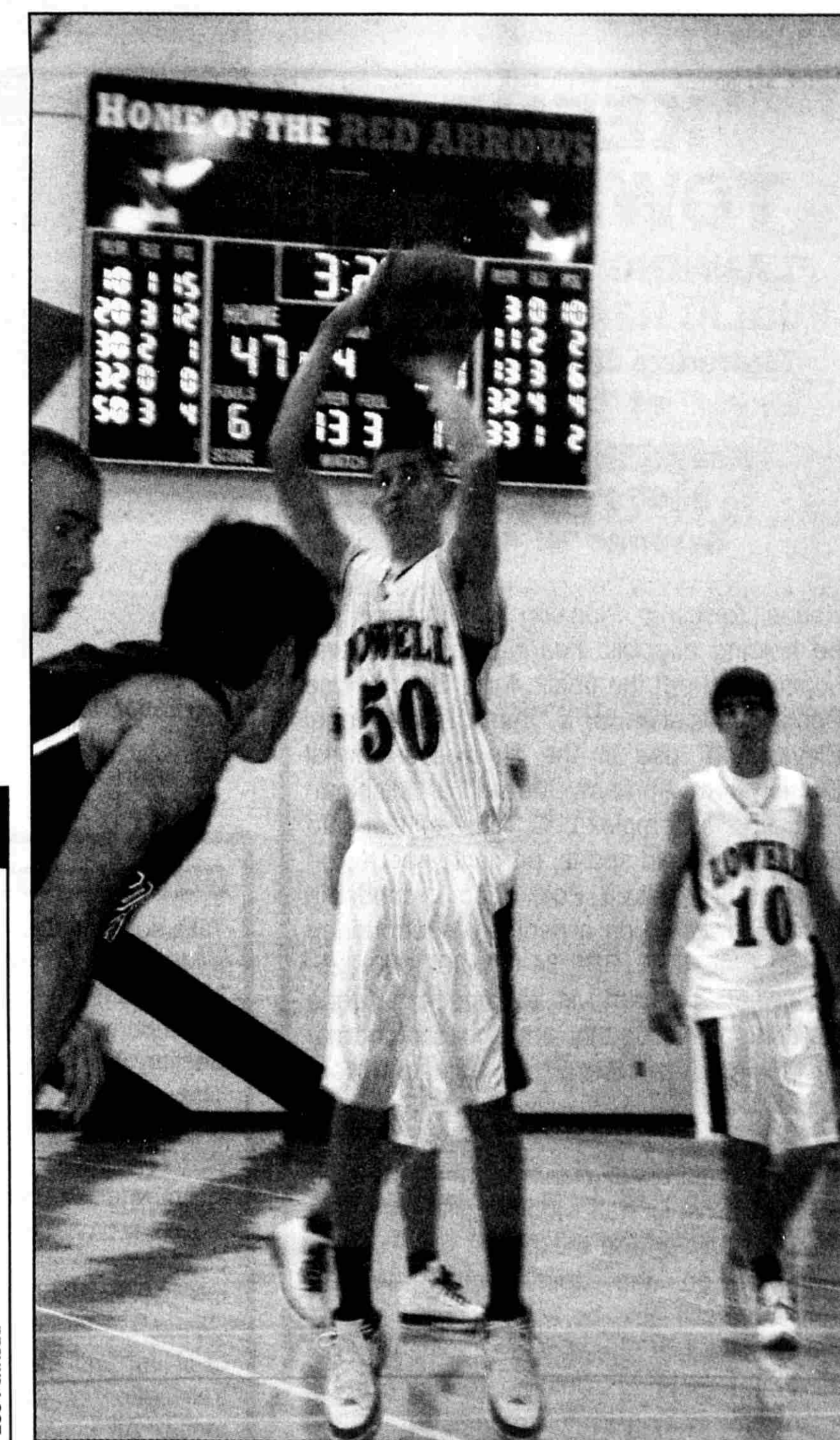


"The final score was beautiful," MacDonald said.

Hettinga led the Arrows, with 20 points, while Brett McMahon had 16 and Matt Kurtz had 10. Greenville's top scorer was Boehm with 11 points.

The Arrows play at Caledonia on Friday night at 7:30 p.m. Their next home game is Friday, Dec. 28 against Thornapple-Kellogg.

Josh Faulkner (52) goes for a rebound against a Greenville opponent.



Spencer Sellner shoots from the line on Thursday night.

A TRUSTED TRADITION OF AFFORDABLE, PERSONALIZED, AND COMFORTABLE CARE

LIFETIME DENTAL EXCELLENCE

- Professionally Trained, Caring, and Courteous Staff
- State-of-the-Art Procedures, Instruments, and Techniques
- Cosmetic Care: Porcelain Veneers, Bonding, and Whitening
- Mercury-Free Dentistry • Filtered Water Lines
- Orthodontic Care (Braces) • Wisdom Teeth Extraction
- Implants • TMJ (Jaw Pain Therapy)
- Treatment of Periodontal Disease (Latest Non-Surgical Techniques Available)
- Dentures • Partial • Root Canals • Crowns and Bridges
- Emergencies Accepted • Convenient Payment Plans
- Serving the Area Since 1981



GILLAN DENTAL EXCELLENCE

TODD GILLAN, DDS, PC
2186 MAIN STREET • LOWELL
LOCATED ACROSS FROM ARBYS

WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO CALL

(616) 897-8491

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN LOWELL

copyright © 2004 chrisred

RED ARROW SPORTS

Wrestling team beats Sparta, takes second in Chicago

by Molly Benningfield Editor

The varsity wrestling team beat Sparta 69-9 Thursday night. Coach Dave Dean said the team "wrestled really well - we forfeited one and lost a match. I'm really pleased."

Dean had Rocky Pabon wrestle at 160, up two weight classes, and Pabon lost in a close match. "I put Rocky in a tough situation," Dean said. "The whole team wrestled well. We gained half a step, but we've got a ways to go."

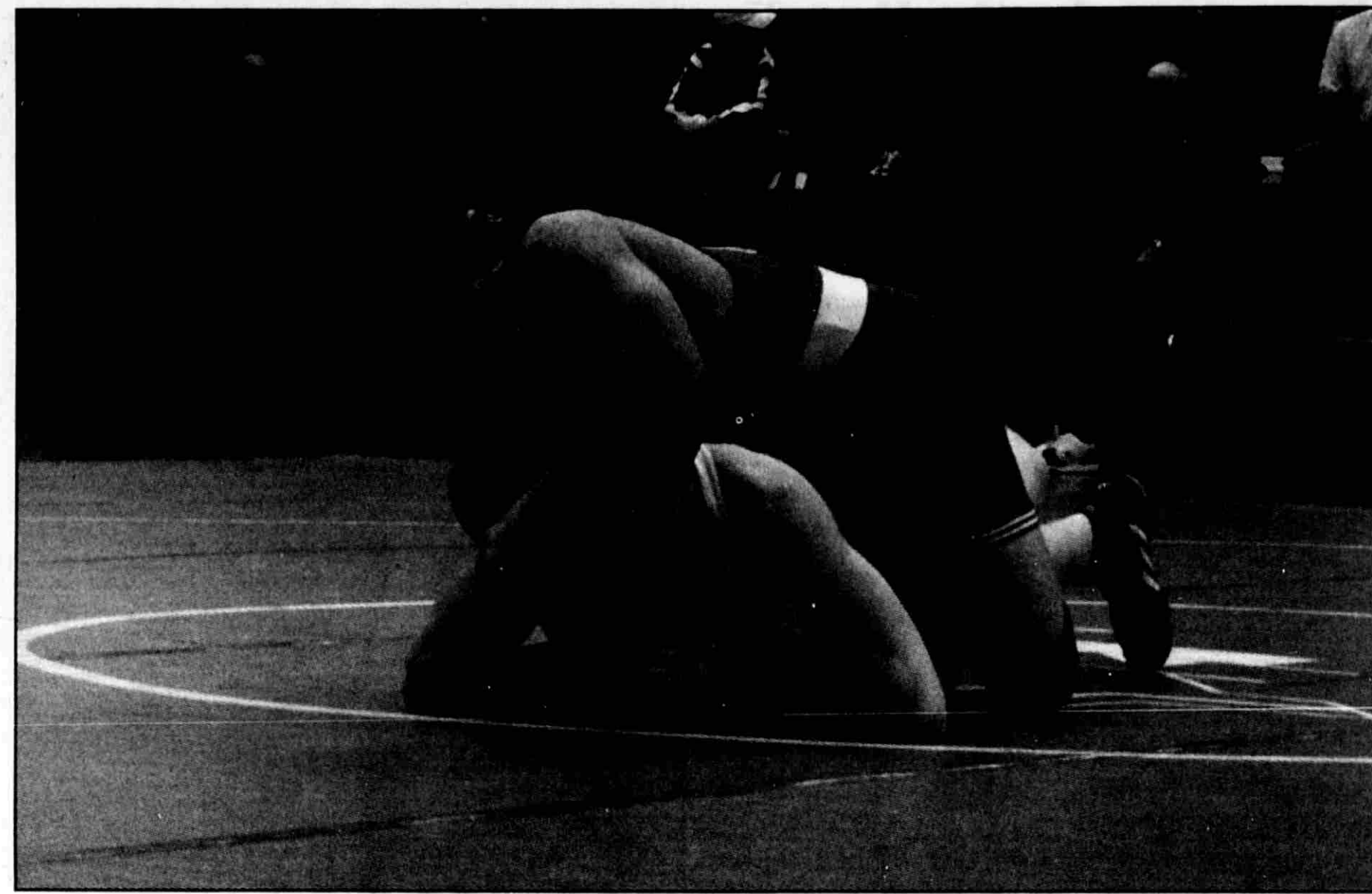
The Arrows traveled to Chicago over the weekend to compete at St. Rita's, winning two and losing one. Lowell defeated St.

Patrick's 39-29 and Argo 49-10, before falling to St. Rita's 39-19, who are ranked No. 22 in the nation in wrestling.

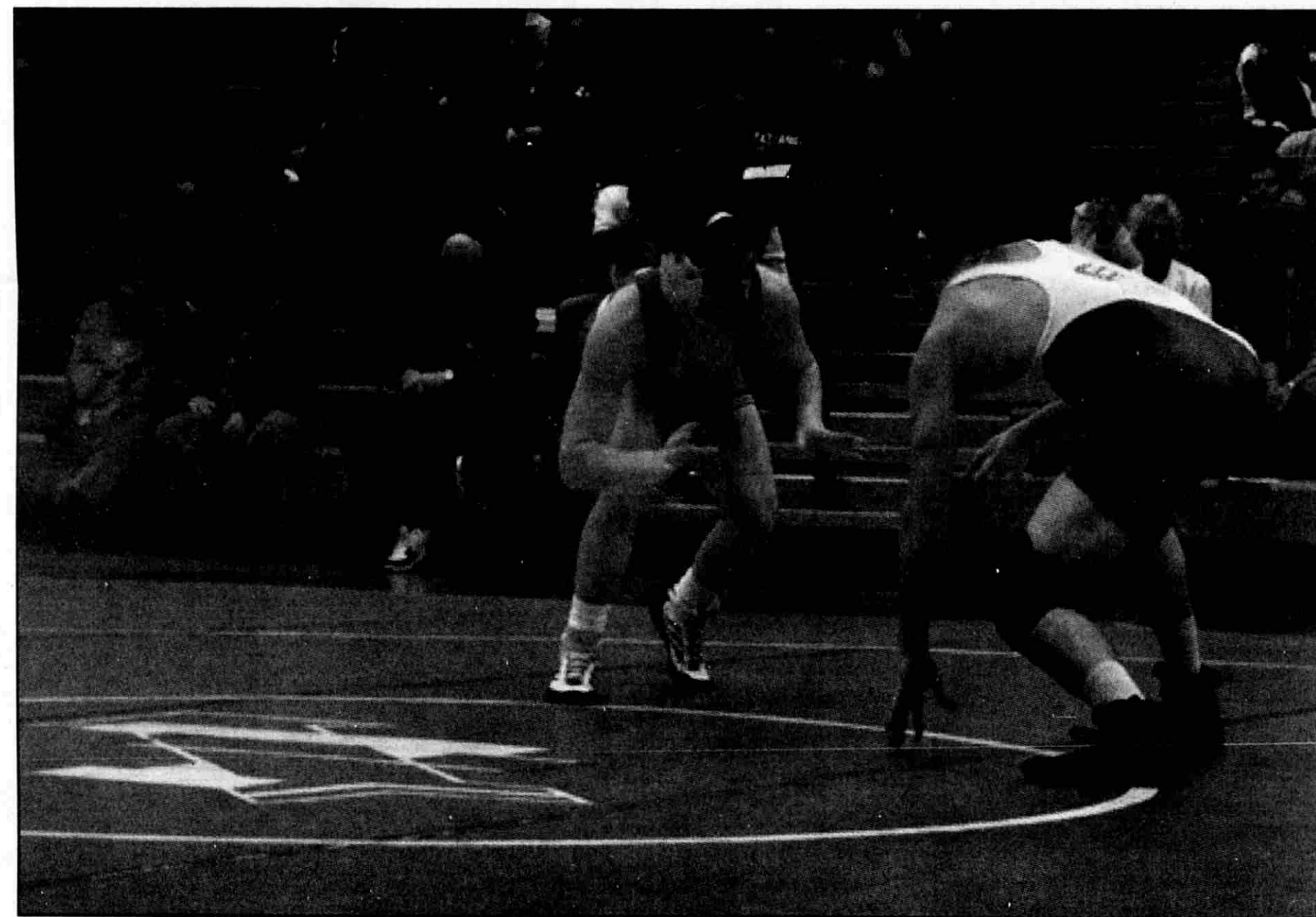
The JV team has also been doing well, winning at the Petoskey Tournament, and naming Cody Turner, a sophomore in lower weights, and Austin Graham, a sophomore in upper weights, to MVP.

The Arrows take on the Fighting Scots tonight at Caledonia, at 7:15 p.m.

The Lowell Super Duals will be on Friday, Dec. 28 starting at 9 a.m.



Ryan Olep, at 171 pounds, defeats Jeremy Bradley of Sparta.



Rocky Pabon, at 160, lost a close match to Sparta Thursday night.

KEENE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
Thursday January 3, 2008 at 7:00 PM
 Keene Township Hall
 8505 Potters Rd
 Saranac MI 48881

Keene Township Planning Commission will be holding a public hearing and accepting comments from the public for a Special Use Permit Application for a "Public Recreational Playground" use in the Rural Residential District from Abraham Shearer of Michigan Field Sports Complex LLC. The request is to permit team field sports, primarily soccer, on the former Kentree Polo Club grounds in Keene Township on a peninsula surrounded by the Flat River, PP# 34-070-007-000-025-00. The property is located in Keene Township, Ionia County, and accessed from a private road off Ike St in adjacent Kent County.

The application is available for review posted on the Township Hall window. All interested persons may attend the public hearing and comment on the application. Written comments will also be considered if mailed and received at the Keene Township Hall prior to the meeting. Comments may also be emailed to: zoningadmin@msn.com.

Planning Commission of Keene Township

GENERAL NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Take notice that C.T.'s Scrapbook Central, LLC, a Michigan LLC, whose address is 2135 B W. Main Street, Lowell, Michigan, 49331 ("Company"), has been dissolved pursuant to Section 801(a) of 1993 PA 23, as amended. This notice is being published pursuant to Section 807 of 1993 PA 23, as amended. Creditors of the Company are notified that a claim against the Company will be barred unless a proceeding to enforce such claim is commenced within six months of the date of this notice. Claims should include the name of claimant, address, telephone number, amount of claim, and identification and description of transaction of facts out of which the claim arose. All claims should be sent to: 2754 Pinckney Road, Saranac, MI 48881.

Tara Eversman, Member
 Charlene Yeiter, Member

GO, TEAM GO!

Support Your Red Arrow Teams!

Proud to be Michigan's Insurance Company

 Terry Abel

We're dedicated to serving only Michigan communities. Nobody cares as much about protecting you, your family and your state as we do. Life, home, auto, farm, business, retirement, and more. Call today.

6740 Cascade Rd.
 SE - Suite 4
 Grand Rapids
 616-940-7039
 www.TerryAbelAgency.com

 Michigan's Insurance Company
 Making Your Future More Predictable
FARM BUREAU INSURANCE
 FARM BUREAU MUTUAL - FARM BUREAU LIFE - FARM BUREAU GENERAL

RED ARROW SPORTS

Hockey team splits weekend games

by Molly Benningfield Editor

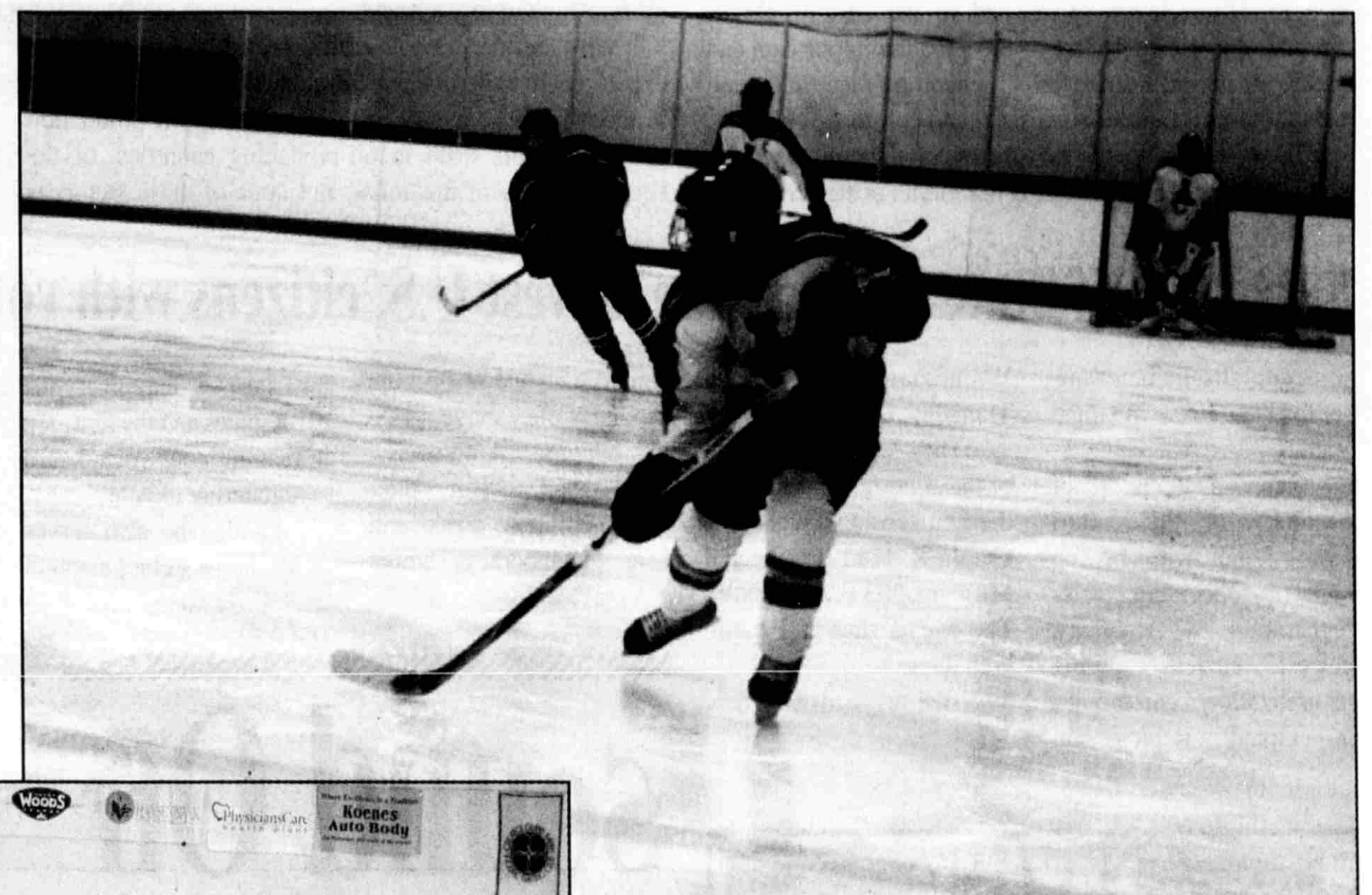
The Lowell-Caledonia hockey team lost a tough match Friday night to a strong Forest Hills Central team, 7-1. Jordan Steger scored the lone L-C goal.

The team, back to full strength with a complete lineup, defeated Muskegon Catholic Central 6-4

Saturday afternoon.

Coach Mike Ballard said junior goalie Corey Phillips "played his best game this year, stopping 29 of 33 [shots]." MCC outshot L-C 33 to 26, but the Arrows pulled off the victory, scoring five of their six goals on the power play.

Steger had one goal and three assists, Drake Chittenden had two goals



(Top): A Lowell-Caledonia player takes the puck down the ice Friday night.

(Left): Youth night was held on Friday at Patterson.



and Justin Story had two assists.

The team will play this Friday vs. Wayland at 8 p.m., and Saturday vs. Northview at 3 p.m., both at Patterson Arena.

The game Friday night was host to the area youth hockey players, who got to go on the ice between the 2nd and 3rd periods and hang out with Griff, the mascot from the Grand Rapids Griffins hockey team.

Classifieds
20 words
for only
\$5

Call the
Buyers Guide
(616) 897-9555

105 N. Broadway
 Lowell, MI 49331

LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS BOARD BRIEFS

Lowell Area Schools Board of Education Regular Meeting of December 10, 2007

REPORTS

TurnItIn.Com - Christine Beachler, Director of Library Media Services demonstrated how Turnitin's software program at the high school can let students and staff learn if the written work has been plagiarized. Teachers are then able to help students rewrite their papers so the report is submitted in their own words. Students and teachers have found it to be a good resource for teaching research and writing skills.

High School Student Handbook - Tricia Murphy, High School Principal, shared changes that have been made to the student handbook. With the change to trimester, students will be allowed seven (7) absences in each class period during a trimester. A new tardy policy has been put into place to reward students for arriving to class on time using a scale to help with class grades. Other changes can be viewed on the website at <http://www.lowellschools.com>.

ACTION ITEMS -

The Board accepted the following gifts:

- Lowell Litho donation of paper valued at \$430 to be used by the TOTS Program.
- Altiorc donation of 30 computers valued at \$4560 to be used by the Tech Department.

Approved the contracts for the technology staff and independent personnel for the 2007-2008 school year

Approved the amendment to the 2007-2008 general fund budget Awarded the bus bid for 4 buses from Capital City Bus Sales for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$300,480

CONSENT ITEMS - Approved/adopted were:

- Minutes for the November 12, 2007 Board Meeting and the November 26, 2007 Board Workshop and Closed Session
- The following payment of bills for November 2007:
 GENERAL FUND.....\$1,270,184.41
 SCHOOL SERVICES FUND
 A. Food Service Fund.....\$94,193.24
 B. Athletic Fund.....\$3,589.06
 TRUST AND AGENCY FUND.....\$53,379.96
 SCHOLARSHIP FUND.....\$1,863.37
 1990 Debt Fund.....\$770.96
 2000 Debt Fund.....\$75.71
 2004 Debt Fund.....\$ 2,076.27
 2005 Debt Fund.....\$103.26
 2004 Construction Fund.....\$55,959.55
- Overnight student trip for students to travel to Costa Rica from approximately June 16-June 24, 2008.

CURRICULUM UPDATE - Roger Bearup reported that elementary teachers met to put the finishing touches on their "writing portfolio". The theory of action that goes with this is that it will provide students with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to become independent thinkers and writers and will increase student achievement by 10%. The committee will develop how this 10% will be measured. The middle school is using the Collins Writing Folder to organize writing and are using this across content area. The Change Leadership Group met last week to discuss Student Academic Goal number four which is "All students will develop a career plan that includes exposures and experiences to current career information." Nova Net, a computer program available at the high school that helps with credit recovery for students, began on Monday with 4 teachers and 25 students participating.

DISCUSSION - The Board discussed a new Board policy #5175 entitled "Criminal History & Background Checks", new Board policy #7215 entitled "Performance-Enhancing Substances", and an amendment to Board policy #8440 "Early Graduation". These policies will be brought back for a second reading at the January meeting for board adoption/amendment.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Greg Pratt reported that sale of bonds will take place prior to the Holidays and he thanked Larry Mikulski and John Zielinski for their hard work in the planning process. The bonds will allow the district to upgrade infrastructure and technology along with some building renovations. He thanked the high school staff for their hard work with implementing the new requirements for the Michigan Merit Curriculum. He thanked staff and parents for their support of all the extra activities during the holiday season and helping students prepare for exams and keeping the education of children as a top priority.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Regular Board Meeting - Monday, January 14, 2008 - 7:00 p.m.
 Runciman Administration Building - Board Room
 300 High St., Lowell, MI

Board Workshop - Monday, January 28, 2008 - 6:00 p.m.
 Runciman Administration Building - Board Room
 300 High St., Lowell, MI

Please visit our web page at <http://www.lowellschools.com/>

We Value:
 Responsibility - Respect - Caring
 Trustworthiness - Fairness - Citizenship



Combating sky-high oil prices

With Senator Carl Levin

With gasoline, diesel fuel and home heating oil near record high prices, Michigan families are feeling the squeeze. High energy prices add to the cost of almost everything in our daily lives—the gasoline in our cars and trucks, air travel, heating bills, generating electricity, and manufacturing countless industrial and consumer products. To try to get to the bottom of why these prices are skyrocketing, I chaired a hearing this month of the Permanent

Subcommittee on Investigations, into sky-high oil prices caused in part by excessive speculation in the oil markets. It is one in a series of hearings and reports my subcommittee has produced to investigate inflated gasoline, natural gas and crude oil prices that are hurting millions of Americans and American businesses.

Almost a year ago, on Jan. 18, 2007, the price of crude oil—the oil that is pumped from the ground and can be used to produce everything from gasoline to rubber to plastic—was \$50 a barrel. A few weeks ago, the price reached an all-time high of \$99 a barrel, nearly twice as much.

Why did the price of crude oil nearly double? Some experts try to explain the increase by pointing to instability in the Middle East, bad weather affecting oil production platforms, civil strife in oil-producing countries, or the declining value of the dollar. But none of those factors is

new. Instability in the Middle East has existed for years. There is always bad weather somewhere, and civil strife has long affected oil-producing countries. The dollar rises and falls. None of these factors explains the sudden doubling of oil prices in the last twelve months.

What is new is an explosion of speculative trades in the oil market. Increasing numbers of buyers and sellers, who do not produce or use oil, have entered the energy markets to make a profit by buying and selling contracts for the future delivery of oil. The oil is not intended to be delivered. Over the past few years, the number of speculative trades has nearly tripled, going from 15 percent to over 40 percent of all energy trades on the New York Mercantile Exchange, one of the primary oil trading markets.

Levin, cont'd., pg. 24

Secretary of State will provide newest U.S. citizens with voter registration opportunity

Naturalization events set for Dec. 19-20 in Grand Rapids

Representatives of Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land will be on hand to encourage voter registration by America's newest citizens during naturalization ceremonies in Grand Rapids on

Wednesday, Dec. 19 and Thursday, Dec. 20.

The newest members of the American family take their citizenship oaths at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, 303 Pearl St. N.W. The events start at 10 a.m. both days.

"We're proud of our new

countrymen and respect the sacrifices they have made to become Americans," Land said. "But their responsibilities don't end here. Democracy works

the best when everyone participates and the first step in making your voice heard is registering to vote."

Land, who also serves as Michigan's chief election

officer, will have a voter registration table on site for the convenience of the newly sworn citizens.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Bureau, part of the Department of Homeland Security, is conducting the ceremony.

SENDING OR RECEIVING
 \$1 for 1st sheet, 50¢ each additional sheet
The Lowell Ledger
 105 N. Broadway, Lowell

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing before the Vergennes Township Planning Commission will be held on Monday, January 7, 2008 at 7:00 PM, at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI to consider the following proposed conditional rezoning application:

The application is from Hidden Acres Development Co. Inc. to offer a conditional rezoning from R-1 to R-2. The property is adjacent on the north side of the Alden Nash West housing development off Alden Nash Ave. north of Foreman, will be about 3 acres, rear property area of 681 Alden Nash and just south of the high school's east driveway. The private road will be extended to serve 5 new lots within this additional property and will meet all development restrictions of the Alden Nash West housing development.

The complete application can be reviewed at the Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 - Phone: (616) 897-5671 [fax 897-5674]. Written and oral comments will be received until the conclusion of the public hearing. Written comments may be addressed to the Planning Commission Chairman or the Planning Coordinator at the Township Offices. Comments may be emailed to the Planning Commission at: zoning@vergennewtp.org.

Vergennes Township Planning Commission

Sound Off

The Ledger "Almost" Anything Goes Column



www.lowellbuyersguide.com
 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.

"Farm Preservationists" are elitists in the country who want to make sure no one else can build a home near theirs, but don't want to buy the land themselves.

GOING TO THE DENTIST DOESN'T HAVE TO HURT ANYMORE!

COMPLETE FAMILY DENTAL CARE
 Accepting New Patients



"Gentle & Painless Dentistry Is Our Goal"

COMPLETE SERVICES:

- ✓ Gentle Dentistry for Children & Adults
- ✓ Immediate Emergency Treatment
- ✓ Cosmetic Dentistry, Teeth Whitening
- ✓ Preventive Care
- ✓ Extractions/Broken Tooth Repaired
- ✓ Dentures (Same Day Repair)
- ✓ Insurance Plans Accepted
- ✓ Day & Evening Hours:
 - Monday.....9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - Tuesday.....9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - Wednesday.....9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - Thursday.....8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Judd T. Carroll, D.M.D.
 103 East Main • Lowell, Michigan
 (616) 897-7595



WE SHIP UPS!

Our Prices Can't Be Beat!
 Call Us for a Price Quote!
 Weight & Zip Code Required for a Quote

The Lowell Ledger
 105 N. Broadway, 897-9261

CLASSIFIEDS

small ads **BIG** deals

FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR RENT HELP WANTED EVENTS SERVICES

LITEHOUSE DRESSING GIFT PACKS-are available at the following locations: Fifth Third, Bernards Ace Hardware, Cousins Hallmark, Springrove, Huntington Bank, Firstbank, Voyages, & Lowell Area Arts Council, or from any Rotarian. \$12.50 per pack.

BED - A new king pillowtop mattress set, in plastic, warranty. Can deliver, \$180. Also full size, only \$95. Call 949-2683.

'97 CHEVY TAHOE LT - 4WD, V8, automatic transmission, well maintained, 142,000 miles, ready for winter, \$4,800 obo. 897-9444.

FOR SALE OR LEASE - 1,400 sq. ft. condo. 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, whirlpool bathtub, great room w/fireplace, attached garage, covered patio, all appliances included. Call Michael at 676-9961. Open house, Saturdays 1 to 4 p.m., 186 S. Valley Vista.

SEVEN DAY, SIX NIGHT - Disney area stay. 2 adult Disney tickets. Paid \$750, sacrifice \$249, good for one year. 616-305-0121.

BEDROOM SET - 7 pc. Cherry bedroom set, includes sleigh bed! Brand new. Must sell. \$500. Can deliver. 616-949-6525.

HD TV'S - factory refurbished. Sony, Toshiba, RCA, Samsung, etc. 42"-51" big screen, \$450 up; DLP's 43"-61", \$650 up; plasmas, 42"-50", \$800 up. 616-622-2418.

7 1/2 FT MEYERS HYDRO-TURN PLOW - with plow lites & mount for up to "95" Ford F150. Excellent shape. \$650. Call 691-7759 or 885-8191.

MEMORY FOAM MATTRESS - Relieves back pain! Temperpedic queen, \$1,899; Theratouch queen "same thing", \$899. Is the name worth that much? Brand new. Also twin, full & kings. Try them at RCD Wholesale, G.R. 682-4767 or 293-6160.

KEY CARDS AVAILABLE AT THE LEDGER OFFICE! THEY MAKE GREAT GIFTS! - Help support the LHS Academic Boosters & save a bunch of money too! Key Cards are good at various places in Lowell & GR! \$15, cash only. 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

LAKEFRONT ALL SPORT - Caledonia, 3 bedroom, 3 bath, \$349,000 remodeled or drastically reduced "as is". lakeliving@charter.net 616-891-1840.

(2) POLICE CARS FOR SALE - to highest bidder. 2001 Chevy Impala 128,750 miles, min. bid \$1,500; 2003 Chevy Impala 106,370 miles, min. bid, \$1,800. Submit POLICE CAR BID to City of Lowell, 301 East Main St., Lowell, MI 49331. Bid opening Thurs., Jan. 3, 2008 at 2 p.m.

FOR SALE-partial memory foam King Koil mattress, queen, 16" pillowtop, used 3 months. Paid \$600, sacrifice \$400 obo. 897-7232.

PARTING OUT-1985 GMC 4X4 with snow plow. Call 616-987-9525.

ARE YOU STILL LOOKING FOR THAT CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR THAT HARD TO BUY FOR PERSON?? - Crooked Creek Woodworking, who builds locally made white cedar furniture has adirondack chairs on sale for Christmas for \$80!!! Other furniture items available by custom order. Call 269-948-7921 for more information.

LOWELL - Great family home with 5 bed. on 4 acres. Horse barn and fenced pasture. State game area across the street. \$239,900. Country Hills Realty 897-1061, Joice, 293-0980.

POTTERY BARN CHANGING TABLE - classic style, honey wood color, \$125. email mlynfox@comcast.net for photos or call 616-292-6049 for info.

BED - Queen pillowtop mattress set. Brand new, in plastic, warranty, \$100. Can deliver. Call 616-318-6998.

CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR THE HUNTER OF YOUR LIFE - Hand-crafted by Bob Kropf, 3 oak gun cabinets, 10-gun, priced from \$200-\$450; also corner TV cabinet for 21 inch. 897-9755.

MATTRESSES - All new. All sizes starting at \$49. Large selection. Low overhead = lower prices. Shop & compare before you buy! R.C.D. Wholesale, G.R. 682-4767 or 293-6160.

Wii BY NINTENDO - unopened box with full manufacturers warranty, equipment, and sports game. Can play all previous Nintendo games, online multi player games, and other downloaded games. \$375 cash only. 897-8020.

HELP WANTED
 RN/LPN - Interested in one-on-one care? Looking for a relaxed working environment? Give home care a try! We have full & part-time opportunities available in the Lowell & Greenville area for evening & overnight shifts! We offer flexible scheduling & competitive wages. Call Community Care Givers at 616-531-9973 & ask for Jamie.

DEER RUN GOLF COURSE - accepting server applications on Monday & Tuesday between 9 a.m. & 2 p.m. Must be 18 years old or older. Call 897-8481 and ask for Tony.

NEED HOLIDAY CASH? Buying estates, antiques, jewelry, and many other "Americana" items for cash! Call today! 616-550-0521.

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

FOR RENT - Available Jan. 1. Nice 2 bedroom home in great Lowell neighborhood, \$750 per month plus deposit. Pets OK on approval. Call 897-2033, leave message.

FOR RENT - Nice large 2 bedroom trailer on private land in the country between Belding and Lowell. Refrigerator, stove & washer & dryer hookup. Call 616-794-1109.

ALTO - 3 bedroom apartment, \$500 deposit, \$650 a month. 1,100 sq. ft., newly renovated. Must see. 616-868-6411.

FOR RENT - Newly remodeled and insulated 2 bedroom, 1 bath ranch. 3 miles from Murray Lake and elementary school. Laundry and garage. Call 897-9798.

FOR RENT - Downtown Belding apartment, upstairs 3 bedroom, refrigerator & stove. Call 616-794-1109.

SENIORS!! - Rent could be as low as \$70 per month! 1 bedroom HUD subsidized apartments for rent! Rent based on income for those who qualify! BEAUTIFUL 6 acre country setting! Pets welcome! Conveniently located 20 minutes East of Grand Rapids. Call today to join our small waiting list. Equal Housing Opportunity. 616-693-2271, hearing impaired dial 711.

ALTO - 2 bedroom apartment, \$500/deposit, \$550/month. Must see. 616-868-6411.

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

2 BEDROOM, 1 BATH - \$499/mo; 3 bedroom, 2 bath, \$649/mo. Call today while supplies last, 897-8427.

AXIOS INCORPORATED IS LOOKING - for people who want long-term employment. Earn \$8-\$9 an hour. You must have 6 months of verifiable INDUSTRIAL WORK history in the past 12 months. We are looking for General Labor, Shipping and Receiving, Press Operators and Mig Welders. These positions are full time, hiring for 1st and 2nd shifts, positions are in the Saranac, Lowell, Ionia and the Greenville area. Please apply at Axios Incorporated, 2031 South State Street, Ionia 48846 or fax a copy of your resume to 616-522-9023. NO appointment needed. Apply 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mon. - Fri.

CARD OF THANKS

The family of Dorothy (Long) Story would like to thank everyone for the prayers, words of encouragement and the many acts of love that you provided to her during her lifetime. These acts of kindness have carried over to us since her passing, with the many cards, flowers and memorials given in memory of Mom. A special thank you to Dr. Michael Conklin and the members of the First United Methodist Church of Lowell for the beautiful service and the luncheon. Thank you also to Mark Gerst and his staff at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home for helping us in our time of need. Your love and compassion will never be forgotten.

Connie Bos
 Marnie Hayden
 Patty Story

COPY SERVICE, FAX SERVICE, LAMINATING, UPS SHIPPING & MORE!
AVAILABLE AT THE LOWELL LEDGER. HOURS
 M-Th. 8-5 p.m.
 Fri. 8-4 p.m.
 Closed Sat. & Sun.
 Ph. 897-9261

LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS COMMUNITY EDUCATION - will be moving to Central Office beginning Monday, January 7. The new phone number will be 616-987-2510. Office hours will be from 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. There will be a drop box located near the front desk of our offices if you wish to sign-up or make payments during non-office hours. If you have any questions, please contact Roger Bearup at 987-2524.

GUYS - you can be a HERO for the Holidays. Get your Christmas shopping done in Lowell Sat., Dec. 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Maximize your brownie points with your sweet-heart, enjoy special prices and register to win the Beef 'n Beer Basket. Guys Day Out is just for you.

SERVICES

JOHN DEBIAK - certified farrier. Horseshoeing & hoof trimming with twenty years of professional, full-time experience. Call 897-4290.

GALLERY & CUSTOM FRAMING - Fire and water Art! 219 W. Main in Lowell. Open Wed. - Sun. 1-6 p.m. Have your GRADUATION & WEDDING photos framed by the "Framing Artist." ART, artist created GIFTS, art CLASSES & MORE. www.fire-and-water-art.com or 890-1879.

WINDOW WASHING - gutter cleaning and air duct cleaning. Reasonable rates. Call Randy @ R&R Enterprises, 616-581-8561.

PAYROLL & BOOKKEEPING SERVICE - by certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-6351.

HORSE BOARDING - Inside/outside. For info call Peggy 897-5807 or 616-915-4200.

HANDY REPAIR SERVICE - Bob Ford formally of Hahn Hardware is now doing all kinds of service work at your home or business. Free estimates. Call 299-3198.

R & R YARD CLEANUP - Outdoor clean up; also firewood for sale, \$125 cord. Snowplowing. Tree service. 897-9176, 322-7560.

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

JOHN SCHLOOP BUILD-ER - New homes, additions & remodeling. Call 897-1335.

WATSON'S HANDY-MAN SERVICES - Decks, doors, drywall & misc. repairs. Basement remodels. Small jobs welcome. 10% off thru Dec. 897-6906.

CHILD CARE - licensed home is looking for new friends to join our daycare family. Located near Foreman & Cumberland intersection. Please call 897-5068 for more information.

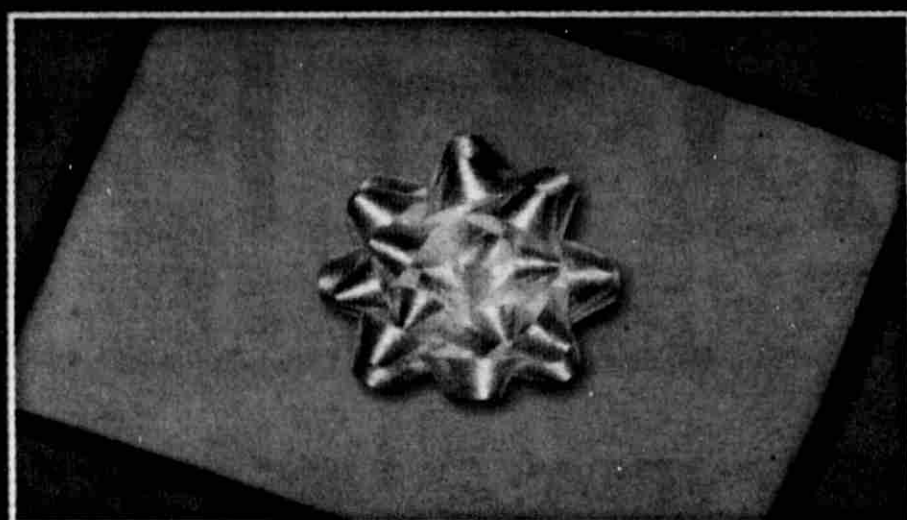
PAINTING - Exp. painter for 25 years, fast, neat & clean professional. From drywall hanging to finish paint, 1 room to whole house. 231-652-1881.

BUSINESS TRIP, FAMILY EMERGENCY, VACATION? Keep your pets safe, happy and home. "Out-A-Towners" pet sitting 616-889-9053.

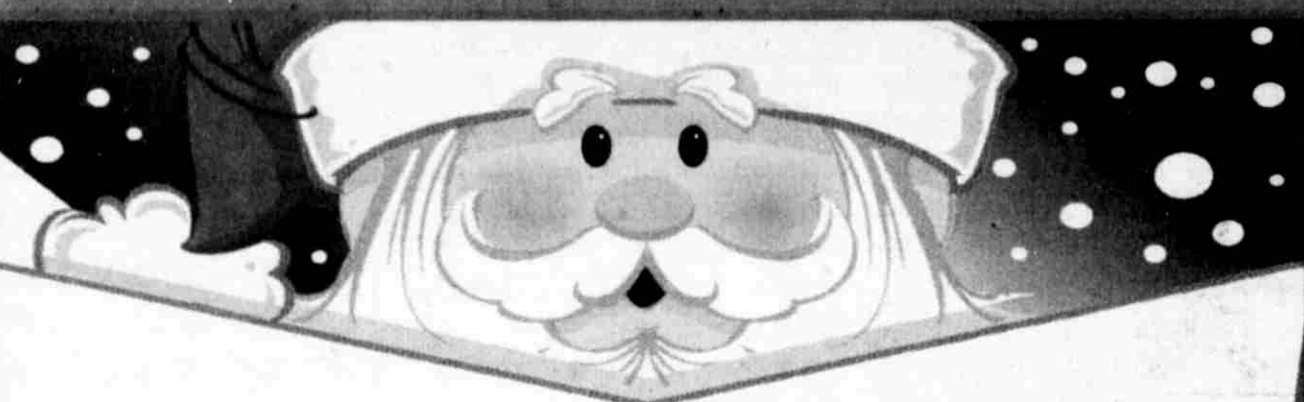
GUITAR LESSONS - Matt Cosgrove MM, FSU in guitar performance, accepting students of all ages. www.cgstudio.us. 350-6000.

PLUMBER - Licensed, 17 years Experienced. Residential, Service or New Construction. Reasonable Rates. No emergency or after hours fee. Call Platinum Plumbing, 897-2575.

There is no time more fitting to say
THANK YOU
 and to wish you a Happy Holiday Season and a New Year of health, happiness and prosperity
The Lowell Ledger



HOLIDAY GIFT SHOPPER'S GUIDE



GIVE HIM WHAT HE REALLY WANTS FOR CHRISTMAS!

<p>229⁹⁹ MS 180B 14" CHAINSAW</p> <p><small>Equipped with electronic ignition, STIHL Quickstop® inertia chain brake and anti-vibration system, the MS 180 C-B starts fast and is comfortable to use. STIHL's exclusive Quick Chain Adjuster (B) is standard.</small></p>	<p>299⁹⁵ MS 250 Chain Saw</p> <p><small>This model has an excellent power-to-weight ratio. Standard features include a side-access chain tensioner for easy chain adjustment.</small></p>	<p>374⁹⁵ Rancher Chain Saw 18"</p> <p><small>With more power where you need it, air injection and Quick-release air filter, the easy to start 455 Rancher is an ideal saw for homeowners who require a high-powered, heavy-duty and responsive workmate for all cutting conditions.</small></p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

A New Chainsaw!

Bernard's ACE Hardware

1601 W. Main • Lowell • 616-897-9490



25% OFF NAPA TOOLS

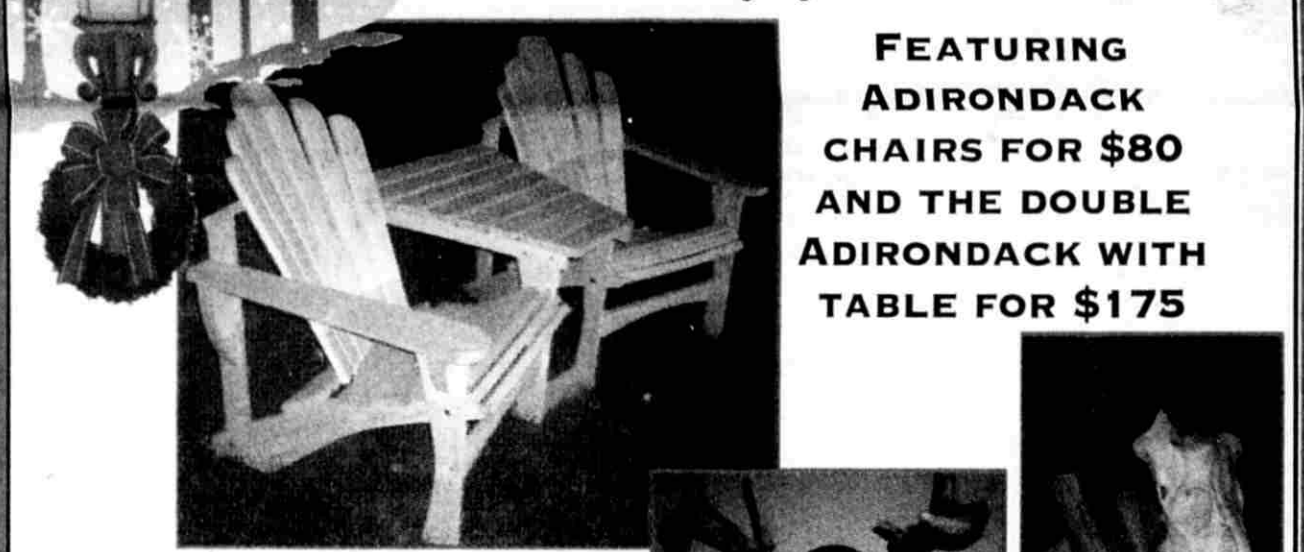
Get The Good Stuff.

NAPA AUTO PARTS
2240 W. Main
Lowell
(616) 897-9234

*Excludes sale items. See store for details. Expires 1-31-08

WHITE CEDAR FURNITURE

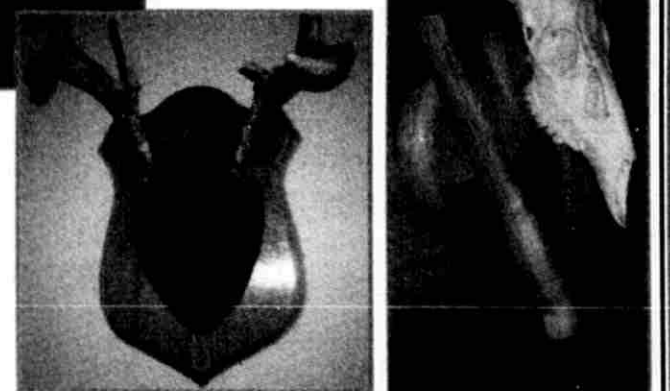
Great Gift for Christmas!



FEATURING
ADIRONDACK
CHAIRS FOR \$80
AND THE DOUBLE
ADIRONDACK WITH
TABLE FOR \$175



DAVE YONKER
HASTINGS, MICHIGAN
269.948.7921



DEER ANTLER
MOUNTS AND EUROPEAN
STYLES AVAILABLE.

Happy Holidays

Stop in to see what's new in our accessory showroom. We have diesel performance equipment, Licensed Logo car mats, hitch covers, license plates and other great last minute Christmas gift ideas!

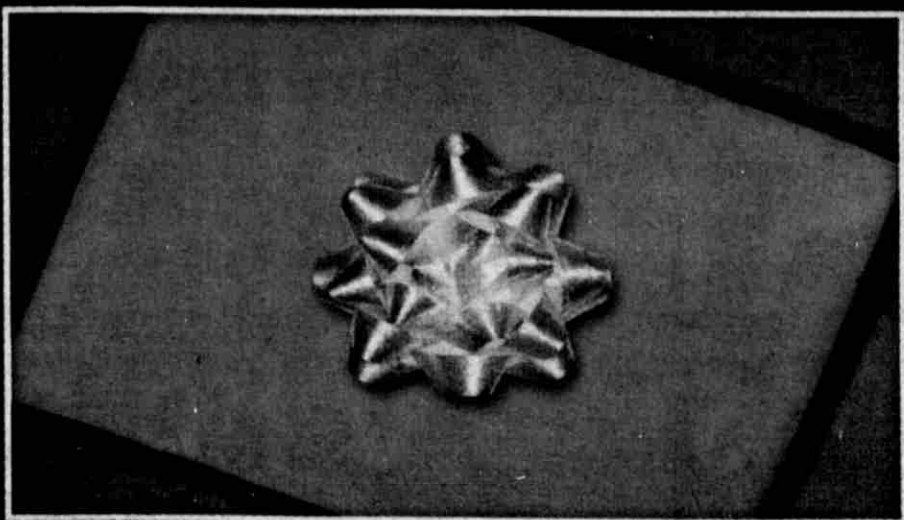
Stop in now through December 29, 2007 and receive 20% off any accessory purchase with this ad.*

Hamblin Body Shop and Accessories

442 S. Steele St. • Ionia, MI 48846

(616) 527-4830

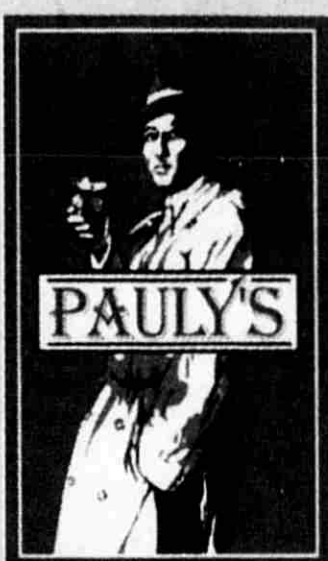
* Not valid with any other offer. Some restrictions may apply.



HOLIDAY GIFT SHOPPER'S GUIDE

THE TOAST OF THE PARTY

See us for all your holiday needs! Including our famous custom gift baskets!



11250 East Fulton Ave.
Lowell, MI 49331
(616) 897-2669



GUYS - You can be a HERO for the Holidays!

GUYS DAY OUT IN DOWNTOWN LOWELL

Get your Christmas shopping done in Lowell
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22 FROM 10 TO 3.

Maximize your brownie points with your sweetheart, enjoy special prices and register to win the Beef'n Beer Basket.

Guys Day Out is just for you!!!

PARTICIPATING MERCHANTS:

- Chimera Design - 208 E. Main St.
- Collector's Korner - 218 W. Main St.
- Cousin's Hallmark/River Hollow - 223 W. Main St.
- Fashionista Flair Accessories - 117 W. Main St.
- Fireplaces Plus - 423 W. Main St.
- L4 - 216 E. Main St.
- Modern Photographics - 104 W. Main St.
- Pep Talk - 207 E. Main St.
- Rookies Sportcards Plus - 106 W. Main St.
- Springrove Variety - 123 West Main St.
- The Backyard Boutique - 219 E. Main St.
- The Hanger - 209 W. Main St.
- The Lily Pad Candle Shoppe - 220 W. Main St.
- Voyages Coffee Shop - 307B E. Main St.



A BEAUTIFUL HOLIDAY

TREAT A SPECIAL PERSON TO A DAY OF BEAUTY

Gift Certificate Special

BUY A \$50 GIFT CERTIFICATE & RECEIVE AN EXTRA \$5!

BUY A \$100 GIFT CERTIFICATE & RECEIVE AN EXTRA \$10!
(OFFER VALID THRU DECEMBER 2007)

Salon, Inc. 204 W. Main - Lowell 897-1700

Three Brothers Pizza

1004 West Main St. • Lowell

616-987-4430

NIGHTLY SPECIAL

Two 16" up to three items each, no half items - \$23.00

We accept Visa • MC • Discover - Tax incl. on all prices

	SMALL 12"	MEDIUM 14"	LARGE 16"	EX. LRG. 18"
Cheese	\$7.00	\$8.60	\$10.00	\$11.60
1 Item	\$8.10	\$9.70	\$11.35	\$12.85
2 Item	\$9.10	\$10.90	\$12.40	\$14.10
3 Item	\$10.10	\$11.90	\$13.55	\$15.35
4 Item	\$11.10	\$13.00	\$14.70	\$16.60
5 Item	\$12.10	\$14.10	\$15.85	\$17.60
Deluxe	\$12.40	\$14.85	\$16.75	\$18.20

SPECIALTY PIZZA

MEAT LOVERS	12"	14"	16"	18"	DELUXE
Barbecue Chicken Pizza	\$11.00	\$12.00	\$14.00	\$16.00	

PIZZA • SUBS • SALADS • APPETIZERS • ITALIAN & MEXICAN DINNERS
MON-THURS 11-10:00; FRI 11-11:30; SAT 12-11:30; SUN 3-10:00

High Quality Ingredient - Stone-Baked Pizza!
threebrospizza.com • GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE



Great Gift Idea!

A subscription to The Lowell Ledger is the perfect gift for an out-of-town student, snowbird or favorite neighbor!

We also send a Christmas card announcing your gift subscription. Just let us know how you would like the card signed.

Call 897-9261



\$20⁰⁰ OFF ANY CAR STARTER THRU DECEMBER

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

11390 E. FULTON LOWELL 897-8411

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Delivering Our Best Wishes!

Wishing you and yours a happy holiday season filled with love and plenty of Christmas spirit. We feel so blessed to be a part of this caring community. Thank you for your business and friendship. We look forward to seeing you again in the new year!

Auto Values
Showboat
AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY, INC.
1450 W. Main Street • Lowell, MI 49331
(616) 897-9231 • (800) 798-9973
Mon-Fri 8:00-7:00; Sat 8:00-5:30 • Sun 9:00-3:00

Community Wellness Center again challenges Lowell to "Take it Off"

by Molly Benningfield
Editor

The Lowell Community Wellness Center will host its fourth annual weightloss challenge, "Take it Off"

starting Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2008 and running through March 18, 2008.

The event will be held at a new location, Good Chevrolet-Buick at 1250 W. Main St. in Lowell. The

community of Lowell will once again compete against Greenville, working as a team to lose 2007 pounds.

Patty Sellner, director of the Wellness Center, said it's a good way to lose

weight at the beginning of the year because it involves teamwork.

"It makes people accountable because they are on a team - it forms comraderie," Sellner said.

"People are so motivated." Teams of four will compete for a prize, with the winning team losing the most weight combined. All of the Lowell teams will also be combined to compete against all the teams in Greenville. Last year, Lowell lost 1339 pounds as a community, and beat Greenville in average weight lost per person.

Teammates will be weighed using an Olympic-sized scale so full teams can be weighed together. The scale will be located at Good Chevrolet-Buick's showroom, and participants can get weighed from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

"Some would come in and get weighed, and then go walking as a team," Sellner said.

Registration is \$20 per person. In past years, part of the proceeds went to Flat River Outreach Ministries. The event has raised \$2500 in three years for FROM.

Sellner said there are a variety of different types

of teams, including families, business teams, school and church teams.

Scott Carpenter, of Blue Ribbon Feed, participated in the event last year after his doctor (Dr. Mogar) formed a team. "I said, 'I'd sure like to do it,'" Carpenter said.

He also said it was very motivating to have teammates counting on him. "When you have four people, you really feel obligated," Carpenter said. "I just kept on doing it."

Carpenter liked the event for the sense of community that it brought.

"It sure got everyone in the community talking," Carpenter said. "You want to get the paper each week to see the numbers [of everyone's weight loss]."

For those wishing to participate, but aren't part of a team, Sellner said she can help get people on a team. The event is for adults only. For more information, visit www.lowellcommunitywellness.org.




Pictured above are Kurt Hieshetter, a Board of Directors representative and Patty Sellner, director of the Lowell Community Wellness Center.

Noreen K. Myers
Attorney at Law

<u>Auto Accidents</u>	<u>Sexual Harrasment</u>
<u>Personal Injuries</u>	<u>Workers</u>
<u>Work Related</u>	<u>Compensation</u>
<u>Injuries</u>	<u>Social Security</u>
	<u>Disability</u>

25 Years Experience as a Trial Lawyer
Free Interview - No Fee Unless You Recover
Evening Appointments Available

Downtown Lowell
(Next to Lowell City Hall)



307 East Main
Lowell, MI
897-5460

Levin, continued ... From Page 22

By buying and selling oil contracts in record amounts, speculators have created additional demand for oil contracts beyond the actual needs of companies and consumers. Supply and inventories have remained relatively consistent, but the

result is higher oil prices for American families.

We need to act now to combat excessive speculation in U.S. energy markets. One step is for Congress to enact the Close the Enron Loophole Act, a bill I introduced earlier this year and which

passed in the Senate this month that will put a "cop on the beat" in unregulated energy markets, strengthen energy market oversight, and stop excessive speculation. A second step is for oil experts at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to recognize the importance of market speculation in setting prices and develop better tools to deal with it.

We have also determined that the U.S. government is contributing to high prices with its own purchases of oil. The DOE is charged with maintaining the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, an emergency supply of crude oil. Because of a law that I sponsored, the DOE is required to fill the Reserve economically, so that taxpayer dollars are not wasted purchasing oil at inflated prices. Adding to the Reserve right now, even though it is already nearly full, not only forces taxpayers to pay top dollar for oil, but also reduces market supplies and further boosts prices. To help control the outrageous price of oil, the DOE should stop putting \$99 per barrel oil into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Oil is too expensive to ignore market speculation that is lining the pockets of oil traders at the expense of working families. Sky-high oil prices strike another blow to our already weak economy, and it is past time to clamp down on trading abuses.

"Where The Rivers Meet"
A Pictorial Journey through Historic Lowell, Michigan

- Unique Christmas Gift for that someone special or history buff
- 280 historic pictures
- Great for previous residents of Lowell
- \$24.95 - soft cover; \$39.95 hard cover
- Can be purchased at the Museum
- We also have other unique gift items.

Lowell Area Historical Museum
Open Tues. 1-4 pm; Thurs. 1-8 pm; Sat. & Sun. 1-4 pm

Due to Christmas the Dec. 26 edition of the Lowell Ledger will be delivered on Dec. 27.
Happy Holidays