

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 37 Issue 10

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, January 9, 2008

Shores elected as Lowell's mayor for third time

by Emma Palova

Jeanne Shores, one of the longest continuously serving members on the Lowell City Council, has been elected mayor for the third time during her tenure. She served as mayor from Jan. 2002 through Dec. 2005,

but lost the highest office to Chuck Myers in the previous term.

In the first organizational meeting of the year Monday, Jim Hodges nominated Shores as mayor with unanimous support from the rest of the council. Hodges

was named mayor pro-tem. New members Hodges, Sharon Ellison and Jeff Altoft were sworn in.

"We have a good team," said Shores, "and we have a lot of work ahead of us. We will push forward."

Shores also appointed

herself to the Chamber of Commerce board, Lowell Light & Power board and the fire board. The council is still seeking nominations for the parks commission.

In related business, Keith Valentine and Judy Straub were appointed to the Lowell Light & Power board for terms ending in 2010 and 2011.

As the council looks ahead to 2008, some of the upcoming projects include resolving issues surround-



Jeanne Shores elected mayor while Jim Hodges takes mayor pro-tem.

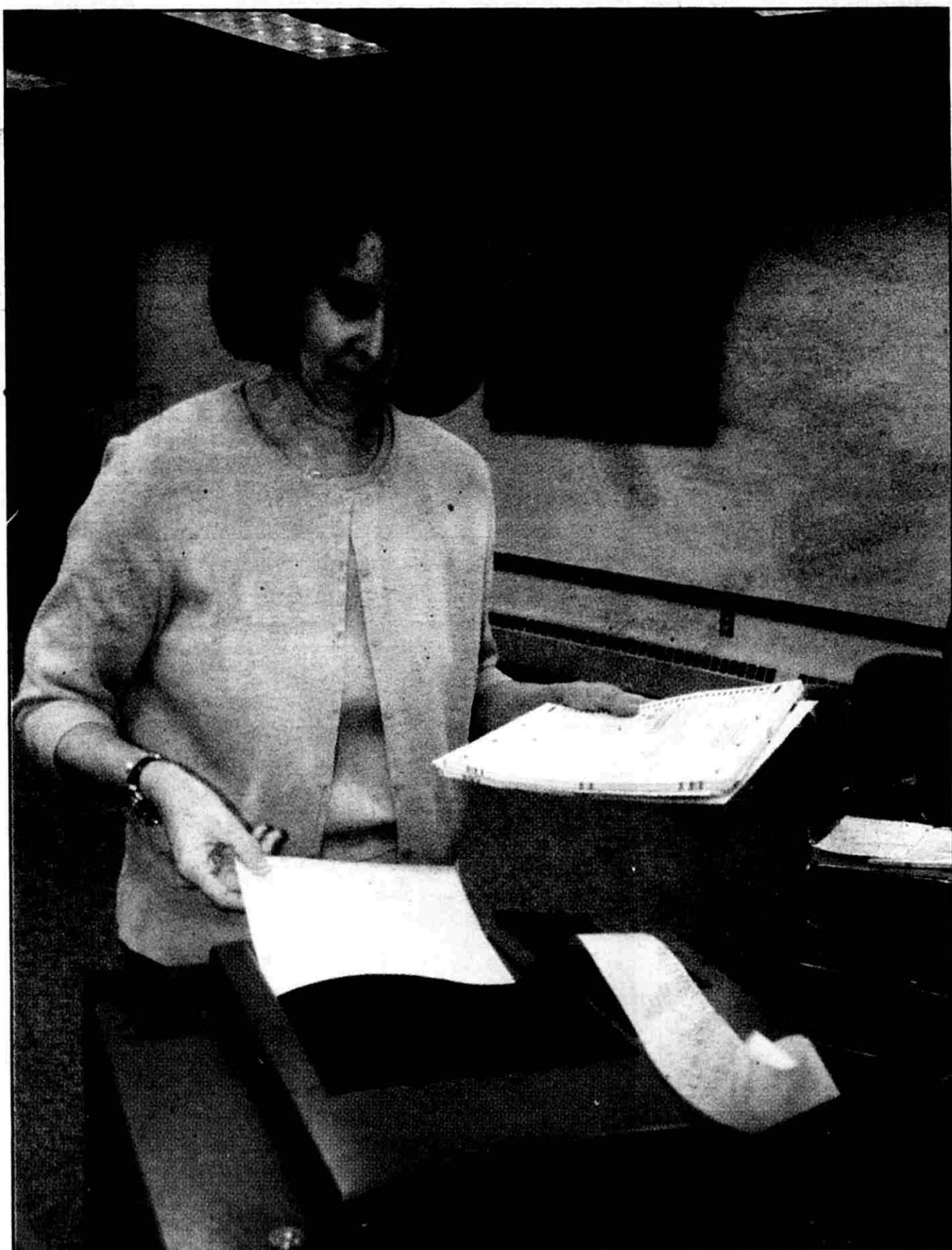


Jeff Altoft, Jim Hodges and Sharon Ellis are pictured taking the oath of office.



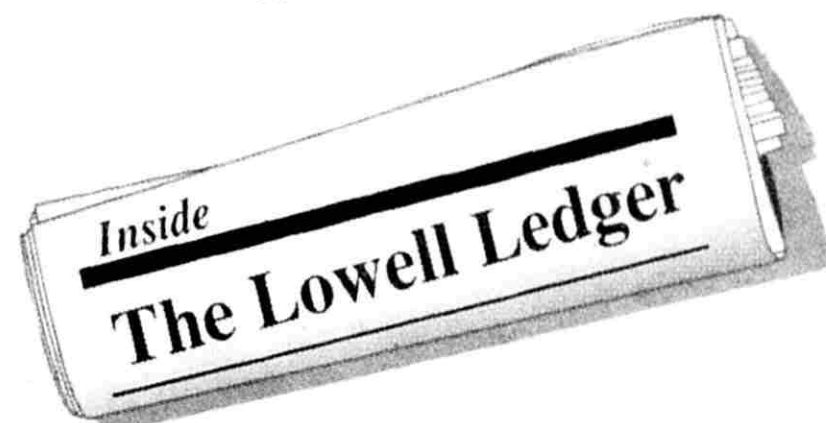
ing the city-owned North Washington property. Some council members would like to put the parcel including the Boy Scout cabin into permanent conservancy to preserve it as a park. Other outstanding issues include balancing the budget for fiscal year 2008/2009 and the construction of sidewalks in the Valley Vista neighborhood funded by the Community Development Block Grant.

The council will continue to meet at 7 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of the month. However, the next meeting, due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, has been traditionally set for the following Tuesday, Jan. 22. A public hearing is set for Jan. 22 to appoint representatives from the city council and Lowell Light and Power board to the Arbor board to provide for better communication on tree issues.



Government offices prepare for Michigan's presidential primary

Pursuant to state law, local governments such as Lowell Township conducted voting machine testing Monday prior to the presidential primary Jan. 15. During the testing, clerk Linda Regan checked if the ballots were being read correctly. After the testing, the machines are sealed up until the election day. New this year, election officers will be checking IDs of voters. In the primary, voters will only be allowed to vote straight Democrat or Republican. City clerk Betty Morlock said she doesn't like that. "I don't expect a big turnout," she said. Due to a squabble within the Democratic Party, candidates Barak Obama and John Edwards will not appear on the Democratic ballot.



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Taking Off Pounds ... Page 3

Working On The Trailways ... Page 8

Farm Preservation III ... Page 9

Red Arrow Sports ... Page 12-14

Obituaries

BRAMBLE
Michael F. Bramble aged 60 of Lowell, formerly of Saranac and Dewitt, slipped quietly away into the arms of Jesus his Savior December 28, 2007. He was born July 13, 1947 in Dearborn, the son of William and Charlotta (Paulson) Bramble. He married Linda Modica September 20, 1968. Michael served in the US Marines and Army Reserve. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Lowell. Michael is survived by his loving wife of 39 years Linda Bramble of Lowell; sons Michael and Lori Bramble of St. John's, Danny and Kari Bramble of East Lansing and Thomas and Shannon Bramble of St. John's; brothers Eugene and Patty Bramble, Jack and Nancy Bramble, Steve and Connie Bramble, Mark

and Maria Bramble and Paul Bramble, all of California; grandchildren Zachary, Mikalya, Timothy, Kyle, Curtis, Casey and Cameron; mother-in-law Anne Wells of Arizona. He is preceded in death by his parents and his father-in-law Harry Hess. Funeral services were held Monday at First Baptist Church in Lowell. In lieu of flowers you may make contributions to First Baptist Church - Building Fund. Online condolences may be made at www.lakefuneralhomes.com.

HOOP
Clifford Hoop, aged 82, of Lowell, formerly of Wyoming, went to be with his Lord, Wednesday, January 2, 2008. He was preceded in death by his wife, Marie Hoop (Waggoner); and his sister, Louise Barrett. Cliff

will be lovingly remembered by his children, Ron (Anna) Hoop, Bob (Karen) Hoop, Linda (Gene) Sturgeon, Jim (Ginger) Hoop; his 12 grandchildren; his 13 great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. Funerals services were held Saturday at Grace Lutheran Church. The family welcomes entries to their Memory Book online at www.cookfuneralservices.com. In honor of Cliff, contributions may be made to the Endowment Fund at Grace Lutheran Church or the American Legion - Neal Fonger Post 179.

MITCHELL (Miclee)
Anthony Mitchell, age 95, passed away Wednesday, January 2, 2008. Tony was a founding member of St. Pius X Catholic Church and had served as a former Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus. He was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Mary (Pellerito) Mitchell; his parents, Ignazio and

Marianna (Viola) Miclee; his sister, Martha (Tony) Palazzolo; and his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, John, Sam, Jim, and Andrew Pellerito, Phillip Pell, Gloria Poll, Ann Lucchese, and Josephine Impellerizzi, Rose Lomonaco. Surviving are his children, Marian (Nick) Noto of Grandville, Rosalie (Ron) Thomet of Lowell, Andrew Mitchell of Wyoming, and Carol (Bob) Hoogterp of Middleville;

16 grandchildren, 41 great-grandchildren, eight great-great-grandchildren, brothers and sister, Frank (Dorothy) Miclee of Wyoming, Virginia (Sam) Stellini of Kentwood, Sam (Mary) Miclee of Wyoming; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Don (Crystal) Poll of Byron Center, Tony (Beth) Pellerito of Tekonsha, MI, Terry Pellerito of Grand Rapids, and Kate Pellerito of Rockford; many nieces

and nephews; and special friend, Margo Dilullo of Florida and Pennsylvania. Mass of Christian Burial was offered Saturday at St. Pius X Catholic Church. Those unable to attend the visitation or funeral Mass may sign the family's Memory Book at www.cookfuneralservices.com. Contributions in memory of Tony may be made to St. Pius X Catholic Church.

Resolve to vote on Jan. 15

by Terri Lynn Land
On Jan. 15, Michigan voters can help determine the next president of the United States and the future direction of our nation.

Every registered voter is urged to take part in our state's presidential primary election, and let his or her voice be heard.

A few things to remember:

- Anyone registered to vote in Michigan may participate. At the polls, you will be required to state in writing which party's ballot you wish to vote - Republican or Democratic. You need not be a registered member of the party to vote and requesting a partisan ballot will not make you a registered member of that party.

- If you choose the Democratic Party's ballot, you will notice that names of some of that party's candidates do not appear.

Four Democratic candidates voluntarily withdrew themselves from Michigan's primary and are not listed. Additionally, some candidates have decided not to run after the withdrawal deadline lapsed. You may vote "Uncommitted" rather than for a listed candidate.

- If you choose the Republican Party's ballot, you will notice the names of all of that party's candidates appear. Some of the candidates have withdrawn since ballots were printed and are still listed. Again, you also have the option of voting "Uncommitted."

- You will need to meet Michigan's voter ID requirement. Michigan's voter ID law is in effect. It was upheld by the Supreme Court last July and requires that voters present photo identification in order to vote. Properly registered voters that do not bring a Michigan driver's license, personal ID card or other acceptable ID document, need only sign an affidavit

stating they do not have ID to obtain a ballot.

- Those qualified to vote by absentee ballot must meet the deadlines. Voters wishing to receive an absentee ballot for the primary by mail must submit absentee ballot applications to the clerk of the township or city in which the voter is registered by 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12. Absentee voters also have until 4 p.m. Monday, Jan. 14, to vote in person in their clerk's office. If emergency circumstances exist, the deadline for absentee voting may be extended up until 4 p.m. on Election Day.

Residents with questions regarding absentee voting, voter ID or other election issues may visit the Michigan Voter Information Center at www.Michigan.gov/vote, or contact their local clerks.

Let's make voting in Michigan's presidential primary an important New Year's resolution we all keep on Jan. 15.

LPD marks increase in alcohol-related offenses

by Emma Palova

Although a high-speed chase down Lincoln Lake last year seemed to have been the only out-of-the-ordinary event for the Lowell Police Department (LPD), police chief Jim Valentine noted an increase in alcohol-related offenses.

According to departmental statistics, alcohol-related offenses and

arrests grew by 100 cases compared to 2006. These included Minor in Possession (MIP), open containers and drunk driving.

"We're concerned about MIP increase," said Valentine, "our officers are aggressive toward underage drinking. We will stay vigilant to prevent tragedies."

On the other hand, there

was a decrease in larcenies and traffic accidents due to increase in traffic tickets. To increase public voluntary compliance with the law, Valentine is an active proponent of officer presence on the streets including their contact with the public.

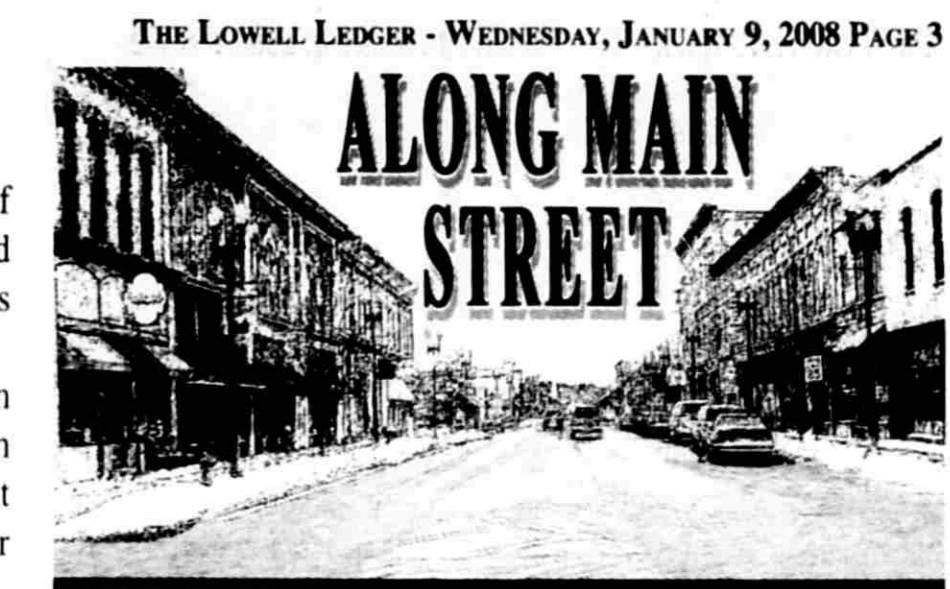
"A simple traffic stop even when no enforcement is taken is a good deterrent

and helps in discovery of crimes in progress," said Valentine. "It has helped us clear a lot of crimes."

Based on information taken during a stop, LPD can assist other law enforcement agencies in solving their cases.

Valentine calls routine traffic stops a handy tool

LPD update, cont'd., pg. 4



CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Bring Christmas trees between Christmas and Jan. 12 for recycling to WWC to prevent landfill deposition. Free will donation requested (suggested \$3-5 per tree). Volunteers needed to help with tree chipping. Place trees at west end of parking lot before 3 p.m. on Jan. 12. Contact Ranger Steve: smueller@lowellschools.com or 987-1002.

ATTENTION LHS ALUMNI

The Lowell Alumni Association will be publishing the Second Edition of the LHS Alumni Directory. It is scheduled for completion in July 2008. If you are an LHS Alumni, and your name was missing from the First Edition, please call Alumni Research customer service at 1-800-299-1230 (toll free) weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., or Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Please help make the directory as complete as possible by calling by Jan. 15. Information will only be available to other graduates and will not be sold or used for any other purpose.

BREAK THE "WINTER BREAK" BOREDOM

Glass House Designs will have open studio all day on Jan. 2, 3, 4, and 5, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Bring the kids, ages 5 and up, in to create great fused glass projects. No appointment or reservation is needed, just stop in and plan to spend 45 min. - 1 hr in the studio. Project prices start at just \$4. Call 987-4527 for details.

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

Sign up at the Nazarene Church, 211 N. Washington St., Fri., Jan. 4, 6-8 p.m. or Sat., Jan. 5, 10 a.m. - 12 noon. Everyone welcome. Any questions call Esther 897-7395.

NEW EXHIBIT

Franciscan Life Process Center, 11650 Downes St., Lowell. Masks: art & illusion, artwork created by artists Roy Brown and Karen P. Cornwell. Jan. 6 - Mar. 2, 9 a.m. - 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information call 897-7842.

LAS ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

The Athletic Boosters will hold their regular business meeting in the high school staff lounge on Monday, Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. Please come and help support our athletes.

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.

2008 LACROSSE PLAYER/PARENT MEETINGS

The Lowell Lacrosse program will be holding parent/player meetings for anyone interested in playing lacrosse. Meeting dates and times are Jan. 10, High School level, Cherry Creek cafeteria, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Jan. 17, middle school level, middle school cafeteria, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

FREE SMOKING CESSATION CLASSES

Starting Tuesday, Jan. 15 at 6 p.m. at Lowell Family Medical Center, 2550 W. Main St. Call 616-975-0123 to register or to www.tobaccofreepartners.org.

CSE:LMS

On Tuesday, Jan. 15, from 6 - 8:30 p.m., put your deduction skills to the test as you sift through evidence to identify the LMS teacher who committed the CRIME. Middle School students and their families can use their math skills to play games that will unravel the clues. Win prizes! Pre-register before Jan. 10 987-2800 to get free pizza. Don't let your teacher get away with...

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 08-184,496-DE

Estate of JOHN BRASKA, deceased

Date of birth: 10/30/1920

TO ALL CREDITORS: JOHN BRASKA, who lived at 3730 Sugarloaf NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49544 died 7/23/2007.

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

1/4/2008

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

Pearl E. Braska
3720 Sugarloaf NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49544
784-0362

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 08-184,489-DE

Estate of HELEN LOUISE HALL, deceased

Date of birth: 11/17/1921

TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent, HELEN LOUISE HALL, who lived at 1131 - 35th Street SW, Wyoming, Michigan, died 12/8/2007.

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

1/3/2008

Craig Avery (P10311)
3875 W. River Drive
PO Box 327
Comstock Park, MI 49321
616-784-5080

Anita R. Hall
3157 Taft SW
Wyoming, MI 49519
616-531-2497

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The Szydowski Family Trust

In Re: Celia Szydowski, DOB 7/18/1902 and Gertrude Szydowski, DOB 12/19/1904

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The

deceased settlors, Celia Szydowski DOD 12/25/2007 and Gertrude Szydowski DOD 4/13/200, lived at 2161 Leonard NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504.

Creditors of the decedents are notified that all claims against the decedents or the trust will be forever barred unless presented to Richard Lawie, Successor Trustee, at 4223 Valleyside Drive NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

January 3, 2008

John D. Mitus, Attorney (P-31244)
410 Bridge Street NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-774-4001

Richard Lawie
Successor Trustee
4223 Valleyside Dr. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525

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The Lowell Ledger

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ALIEN VS. PREDATOR: REQUIEM (R) 12:55, 3:05, 5:15, 7:25, 9:35
NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) 11:05, 1:50, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (R) 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
I AM LEGEND (PG-13) 11:10, 1:40, 4:15, 6:50, 9:25
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:25, 7:35, 9:40

THE FOODMOBILE
MOBILE FOOD PANTRY
THIS MONTH'S SPONSOR: ST. MARY & ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION (mostly produce)
LOWELL FAIRGROUNDS Foreman Building, S. Broadway
SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2008
10:00 TO 11:00 A.M. (or until food is gone)
Distributed by Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc. (FROM)
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Reflections of faith

By George J. Fekete, Pastor, St. Mary Church

Blessed Giles, a friend of St. Francis once stated, "There is no greater grace given to a person under heaven than to live at peace with those amongst whom his life is set." That's a beautiful, wise and simple truth. Whether we live in a conventional family, a nursing home, a college dormitory or apartment, military quarters or a religious community, one of the great graces we can experience is to live peacefully with those who surround us. Regarding family life, who can be more trying than a husband or wife, mother or father, son or daughter? Who has seen us at our worst? Who continually makes demands on us to give up and let go of our time, our finances, our selfishness in running our daily lives? It is no wonder that we need a great grace from God to live peacefully in our families.

A week ago, we celebrated the birthday of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. He was born into and became part of a family. It was the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We need the example of this Holy Family more than ever in our world in which there are so many fears and so much alienation and division.

Someone once referred to the family as a "school of love." St. Paul in his letter to the Colossians (3:12-21) on the practice of the virtues, gives us a detailed outline of what we need to learn if we want to be good students in this most important school. We are to clothe ourselves in kindness, humility and patience.

I'll end the prayer: "Jesus, Mary and Joseph as we begin this New Year, ask the Father to give each of us the grace to live peacefully with every member of our family and strengthen our desire to make our family a 'school of love' in which each person is respected as a child of God."

P.S. If the need is present there is a beautiful Prayer for Healing the Family Tree. It can be found at: http://www.mercyhealing.com/Prayers_files/prayer-for-healing-the-family-tree.html

A fun class just for seniors who want to be more active...

EnhanceFitness

is an exercise program which has been proven to help you feel better, be healthier and have more fun.



Available Mon., Wed., & Fri., 10:15 a.m. at the United Methodist Church 621 E. Main Street, Lowell

COST FOR THIS PROGRAM IS \$1.00 PER CLASS

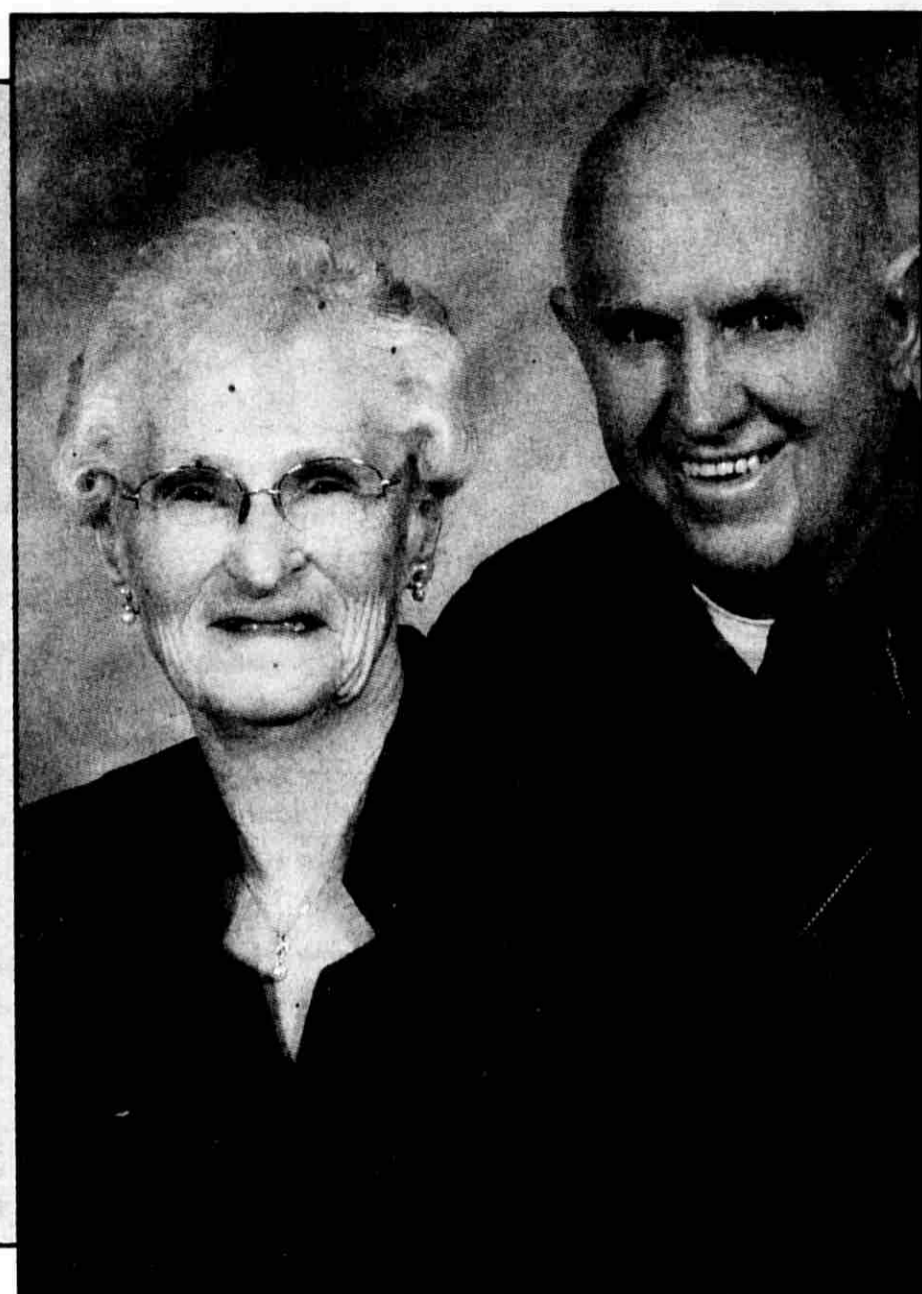
This program is available through funds from the Kent County Senior Millage and is provided by Senior Neighbors.

For more information please contact Julie at 233-0283

McGregors celebrate 60 years of marriage Jan. 14

Donald and Jacquelyn McGregor of Ada will be celebrating 60 years of marriage on Jan. 14, 2008. Their children are: Ron and Donna Edwards, Rich and Pam Capek, Debbie McGregor, Jr. and Sherri Van Dyke, Larry and Kim Fosburg, and Darryl and Amy McGregor. The have 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. A reception in their honor will be held at Third Reformed Church, Grand Rapids.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald McGregor

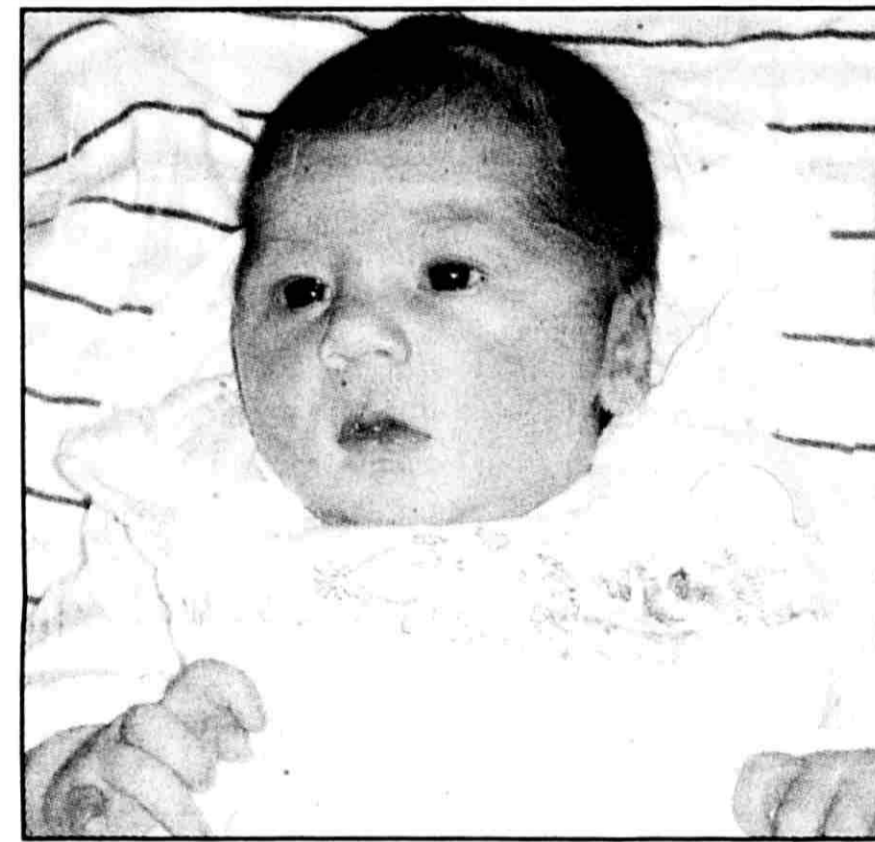


Laughing at our mistakes can lengthen our own life. Laughing at someone else's can shorten it.

- Cullen Hightower

New Arrivals

Boruta



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.

Happy Birthday

- JANUARY 9:** Jordan Potter, Helena Guastavino, Helena Guastavino.
- JANUARY 10:** Mary Jo Vezino, Alvin Brenk I, Jared Felling, Mike Barnes.
- JANUARY 11:** Katie Plutschow, Ian Blodger, Marian Guastavino.
- JANUARY 12:** Judy Ellison, Stuart Sauber, Mike Vezino.
- JANUARY 13:** Jake Sterzick, Stephen Rutherford.
- JANUARY 14:** Angie Nowak, Ryan Burns, Tim Yonker.
- JANUARY 15:** Dennis Burns.

Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold
Edward Jones
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MAKE SOME FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS — AND STICK TO THEM

If you make a New Year's resolution, and you don't follow through on it, what are the consequences? It all depends. If you vow to learn French, but you never get past "Oui, mademoiselle," your life will probably go on pretty much as before (unless, of course, you're now living in France). But if you make some financial resolutions, and you abandon them, you could fall short of your long-term goals — such as a comfortable retirement.

Consequently, you'll want to set reasonable and attainable financial resolutions — and then discipline yourself to achieve them. What sort of resolutions might you make? Consider the following:

- Boost your 401(k) contributions this year — and every year. If your employer offers a 401(k) or similar retirement plan — such as a 403(b) or 457(b) — take full advantage of it. Your earnings have the potential to grow on a tax-deferred basis, and, because you typically make pre-tax contributions, the more you invest, the lower your annual taxable income. Furthermore, you may have a dozen or more investment options within your plan, so you can tailor your choices to reflect your individual risk tolerance, goals and time horizon. If your salary goes up every year, increase your 401(k) contributions at the same time. Since the money will automatically be deducted from your paycheck, you shouldn't find it hard to keep this financial "resolution."

- Contribute the maximum amount to your IRA. Your traditional or Roth IRA can be a key part of your retirement savings. A traditional IRA can potentially grow tax deferred, while a Roth IRA's earnings have the potential to grow tax-free, provided you don't take withdrawals until you reach 59 1/2 and you've had your account at least five years.

Financial, cont'd., pg. 10

College News

James Crosby, son of Chad Crosby and Mary Crosby of Lowell, has been accepted to the University of Northwestern Ohio in Lima, Ohio to begin classes in the August session where he will be majoring in the Diesel Technology program. James attends Lowell High School.



James Crosby

Bikes for Tykes



The Wolf Pack Motorcycle Club held its fifth annual Christmas party in December. Every year they collect bikes and other toys for Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc. This year they collected 30 bikes and eight bags of toys to be distributed to area children. The Wolf Pack would like to thank all of the area businesses that helped make this a successful event.

CATHOLIC HOMECOMING

Catholic Homecoming is an outreach to Catholics, who for whatever reason, no longer practice their faith. The reason one may have for leaving the Church tends to not diminish the yearning to receive the Eucharist. That yearning is the result of the intimate contact with Jesus Christ that one experiences at Holy Communion. This intimate contact with Jesus is the "where the rubber meets the road," so to speak, of being Catholic. Unfortunately, many have encountered human obstacles to this contact with Jesus, obstacles that have damaged their relationship with Christ and His Church. If you are a Catholic who no longer practices the Faith, please consider this invitation to come home to Jesus, to join us again at the table of the Lord. We at Catholic Homecoming would like to be the ears that hear what happened to cause the rift between you and the Church, the heart that listens to your pain. Let our arms be the ones that welcome and embrace you, as the father embraced his prodigal son. Catholic Homecoming is a three week process that begins on Tuesday, January 15th at 7:00 p.m. at Saint Mary Church; 402 Amity; Lowell, MI. For more information please call the Office of Religious Education at 897-7915.

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Registration Open to public
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AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

 ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M. OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey	DAY BIBLE CHAPEL 9305 Centerline, Saranac 897-6332 Worship.....9:45 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M. Nursery & Jr. Church Provided Rev. Frank Lattimore, Pastor "A Nondenominational Ministry With A Blended Word Centered Service!"	CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL Rev. Randy Meyers • 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free	APOSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M. SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M. 119 Lincoln Lake, Lowell CALL FOR FREE HOME BIBLE STUDIES Pastor Robert L. Hubbard Phone: (616) 897-1267 website www.aplighthouse.com
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 Worship.....8:30 & 11:00 a.m. DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Barrier - Free Entrance	CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God) 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Lead Pastor Robert King, Youth Pastor SUNDAYS: 10:00 a.m. - Worship & Evening: LIFE Home Groups & "The Source" Youth WEDNESDAYS: Family Night: (for all ages) 7:00 p.m. "The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m. Loving God... Loving People!	ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Fr. George J. Fekete 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETE WIGANS 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 49, EWTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING	FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL (United Church of Christ) 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906 Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Thursday Faith Alive Worship.....7:00 P.M. Dr. Roger LaWarre.....Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....9:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.1bclowell.org Rev. David O. Sims & Rev. W. Lee Taylor Wayne Hanes, Youth Pastor Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA/CLUB JC.....Wed. 6:15 & 6:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free	SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Thurlan Meredith 9:45 A.M.Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M.Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery & Children Worship Programs Provided A friend...a family...a mission!	LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 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. Meets at 201 N. Washington PASTOR MICHAEL RHODABARGER Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance

CITY OF LOWELL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST OF THE OPTICAL SCAN TABULATING EQUIPMENT FOR THE JANUARY 15, 2008 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that the public accuracy test of the Optical Scan Tabulating Equipment for the January 15, 2008 Presidential Primary Election will be conducted on Thursday, January 10, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. at the Lowell City Hall, Council Chambers, Second Floor, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan.



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City Clerk

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Weather break brings the dogs out

Dog owners gathered at the recently-opened Lowell Animal Hospital Dog Park to let their dogs have fun and socialize in warmer temperatures Saturday. "It's been a huge success," said Jim Carey, one of the driving forces behind the park, that has been in the works for the last two years. More than 20 dogs with their owners worked on agility skills.

That man is the richest whose pleasures are the cheapest.

- Henry David Thoreau (1817 - 1862)

Trail group considers tri-county agreement to govern rail corridor

by Emma Palova

A tri-county interlocal agreement between Kent, Ionia and Montcalm counties may become the governing structure for the future 40-mile long Flat River Railroad corridor.

A large citizens group

working on the conversion of the railroad bed into a trail Thursday formed a committee to hammer out the governing authority between 16 involved municipalities. The future system consists of two trails, one from Lowell to Greenville running along the Flat River, the other from Lowell

to Ionia running along the Grand River.

Major communities along the two lines include Belding on the northeast trail, and Saranac on the southeast trail.

"Belding is very interested in this," said newly-appointed committee member Julianne Burns, "it

goes through our downtown and connects everything along the river."

Following a long discussion, an interlocal agreement between the three counties appeared to be the best option in spite of the fact it has not happened in Michigan.

"We can look at other agreements," said Kent County Parks director Roger Sabine, "but the more cooks in the kitchen, the harder it is.

"If we all agree to work together, it will happen. An interlocal agreement is the best example of cooperation between governments."

However, ultimately,

any type of an agreement will have to come back to the individual units of government for approval, according to Sabine.

The benefits of an interlocal agreement between governing units along the two trails include non-competition for grants, one master plan, consistent rules and signage and a bigger perspective as a regional trail with first class image.

"We need to build a structure to keep the momentum going," said chairperson Carolyn Kane.

Once defined, the authority will become the grant applicant on behalf

of the entire group. The group is expected to file a grant application for the acquisition of the \$3 million corridor by Aug. 1.

In the meantime, the corridor will be railbanked as a transportation corridor into perpetuity, since Mid-Michigan railroad has filed for abandonment.

"We need to protect that corridor," said Dave Heybor of the West Michigan Trails & Greenways Coalition.

Rail banking would also allow the trail to be converted back into a railroad if needed.

Although a purchase agreement has not been developed yet with the railroad, Meijer Foundation has committed to funding of the \$100,000 downpayment.

Other costs coming up include a baseline environmental assessment, title search and a survey.

The next meeting will be held on Feb. 7 at 1 p.m. at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.

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Grattan farmer preserves land to continue farming cycle



by Emma Palova

With a mile of frontage on Murray Lake and 4 Mile roads in Grattan Township, retired farmer Lloyd Flanagan could have raked in a nice chunk of cash if he had parceled off the family farm for development.

Having a health condition since 20, Lloyd Flanagan could have also used the cash. After all, his uncle Irwin Flanagan had sold large parcels of land for development south of Lally Road.

Instead Lloyd Flanagan embarked on a long journey to preserving the farm forever through the Kent County farmland preservation program.

He found out about the program from preservation pioneer Tim Howard. Not being able to drive since 1993, he did most of the administrative work over the phone.

He got help from Kendra Wills, staff assistant to the preservation program and Dennis Heffron, Grattan Township official.

"I didn't even know where to start," said Lloyd Flanagan. "I made 100-some phone calls. I just couldn't see selling it."

Moreover son Dave has been farming the land since he graduated from Lowell High School in 1985. Dave believes there are places for housing in the township, and that farmland should be left alone.

Dave worked with his dad to get the farm into the preservation program. That meant also entering a conservation program to protect the waterways from erosion.

Buffers of sod had to be created between the

agricultural land and the waterways. Dave grows grain for ethanol fuel, which comes back as distillers grain to be fed back to the livestock.

"It's an entire cycle," Dave said, "it's the future trend for farming so we are less dependent on oil."

Indeed dad Flanagan has been approached several times to sell off some land. He never gave in, and the process cemented his belief that farmland preservation should have been done many years ago.

"I encourage everyone to preserve farmland," said Lloyd Flanagan, "farms and acres are getting gobbled up for development and commercial."

Lloyd Flanagan too believes, that there is already enough development in Grattan and Vergennes townships.

"Uncle's farm has been developed, and they built a new school," said Lloyd Flanagan.

As a former farmer dependent on equipment, Lloyd Flanagan says schools located all in one complex with a bus garage have to be more energy efficient.

"My folks would have been proud to see the farm preserved all in one piece,"

said Lloyd Flanagan. Lloyd and wife Kathleen with son Dave continue to live on the farm.

"I never regretted it," said Lloyd Flanagan, "I'd

do it all over again." Interest in farmland preservation seems to be growing as more and more farmers enter the program. Flanagan's farm was the first one preserved

in Grattan Township, and the second one in Kent County.

"People are getting more knowledgeable about it," said Lloyd Flanagan.



Lloyd Flanagan preserved 145 acres of farmland in 2006.

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Definition

An injury to the soft tissues of the neck that occurs from a sudden jerking or "whipping" of the head. This type of motion strains the muscles and the ligaments of the neck beyond their normal range of motion. Whiplash often occurs when a vehicle stops suddenly in a car crash or is struck from behind. Either of these two actions causes things in the vehicle to be thrown forward - including passengers. A seat belt will keep a person's body from being thrown forward, but the head may snap forward, then backward, causing a whiplash injury in the neck. In addition to car accidents, whiplash can also be caused from a fall or as a result of a sports injury.

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NOTICE

Lowell Area Recreation Authority
Trailway 2008 Meeting Schedule

The Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA) meets monthly to discuss progress and make decisions on its community Trailway project. All meetings are open to the public, and are held at 6:00 pm. Locations given are subject to change. For current information, call Mari Stone at 897-5671 x2, or for a calendar of these and other events please visit the trails web site at www.lowellareatrailway.org.

THE LOWELL AREA RECREATION AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2008 ARE SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS:


January 9	Lowell Township Offices
February 13	Lowell City Offices
March 12	Vergennes Township Offices
April 9	Lowell Township Offices
May 14	Lowell City Offices
June 11	Vergennes Township Offices
July 9	Lowell Township Offices
August 13	Lowell City Offices
September 10	Vergennes Township Offices
October 8	Lowell Township Offices
November 12	Lowell City Offices
December 10	Vergennes Township Offices

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Financial Focus, continued ... From Page 7

Unfortunately, many people don't fully fund their IRAs each year because they're intimidated by the contribution limits (\$5,000 per year, or \$6,000 if you're over 50). But there's no need to fund your IRA all at once; you can do it incrementally. Why not write out a check to your IRA each time you get paid, or, better yet, have the money automatically sent from your checking account? Again, it will be easier to keep this resolution if you don't have to work at it.

- Build an emergency fund. This resolution may take a bit more effort, but it's worth it. If you can put away six to 12 months' worth of living expenses in a liquid account, and only use the money for emergencies — car repairs, unexpected doctors' bills, etc. — you may be able to avoid dipping into your investments to pay for these costs. And the less you tap into your investments, the better.

- Cut your debts. Here's another resolution that sounds simple, but can be difficult to achieve. Yet, every dollar that doesn't have to go for a debt payment can be invested for your future. In 2008, look for ways to cut your costs, and strive to live within your means.

- See a professional. If you've never worked with a financial advisor, make 2008 the year to start. A qualified financial advisor can objectively evaluate your situation and suggest appropriate financial strategies for helping you achieve your long-term objectives.

If you can follow all these resolutions in 2008, you can help position yourself for financial success — for many New Years to come.

Many forms of Government have been tried, and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time.

- Sir Winston Churchill (1874 - 1965)

Why I am not voting, continued ... From Page 5

in both primaries. (With the exception of the mechanical, lever-action machines with which the selection of one primary automatically disabled access to the other. The use of punch cards and paper ballots permitted inadvertent error. Ballots with such errors were not counted.) The major advantage for the parties was the elimination of "cross-over voting."

Current election law casts firmly the upcoming presidential primary as a truly closed primary, but with gaping holes where voter privacy is concerned. Ballots and forms have been redesigned to reflect the new environment. (See sample ballots in this issue.)

One anecdote told to this writer recounted a voter's experience more than 50 years ago when she requested a Democratic primary ballot. The election worker's response was, "I've never heard of a (name) asking for a Democratic ballot before!"

In another instance, an elected public official would like to vote in the other party's primary. When it was suggested to him that this might not be a good idea should he choose to run for reelection to his office, he is now mulling his options. It is possible that his choice will become a matter of record available to his opponent in either a primary within his own party or in the general election.

His choice could become public knowledge in a number of ways. If challengers, who are allowed to watch the electoral process and inspect poll books are present, they could record the choices of individuals who are of interest to them. This could easily happen in the precinct setting. Beyond an individual challenger's ethical sense at the polls or later on the campaign trail, there is no safeguard to a voter's privacy.

Although political parties are generally protective—nearly to the point of paranoia—about their lists of supporters, lists can be distributed to candidates. The compiling of lists has always been a significant expense for candidates, and the availability of voter preference lists by electoral units broken down into street addresses and available from the party is a godsend to candidates. (The writer speaks from personal experience; she ran in a party primary for a nomination for a state house district in 1994.) The provision of such lists also enables the parties to avoid a significant cost of doing business and allows the money saved to be directed to more advertising over the airwaves, the Internet, and through direct mail.

Another aspect of the controversy over the lists that will be derived from the presidential primary election and their availability to the parties is the cost of the election. Many voters are left wondering what the legislature was thinking of when it approved spending public tax dollars for the benefit of the two political parties.

Consider the voter who usually uses an absentee ballot; those voters are put on the permanent absentee voter list, which means they automatically receive an application for an absentee ballot. (Filling out the application and returning it to the clerk means they will then receive an absentee ballot.) Clerks were required to send those voters a letter indicating that for the Jan. 15 election, the voter had to indicate on the

civilians living or working overseas also fall under the same exception.)

To complicate matters further, some jurisdictions have also scheduled local ballot issues. Forty-three of the state's eighty-three counties have at least one local issue pending. After all, why should the local municipality pay for an election when it can piggyback onto an already scheduled election paid for by the state? (Those interested in election arcana should go to the Secretary of State's site and click on elections in Michigan.)

In areas with local issues, voters have to ask for those ballots as well. So the absentee voter now has two ballots to contend with. Voters in Assyria, Baltimore and Johnston townships will receive a second ballot for the recall election in Barry County's seventh county commission district where incumbent Jeff Van Nortwick is being challenged.

Having considered all of the issues discussed above, the voter now has an absentee ballot in hand or is standing in the voting booth. What to do next?

If the voter has selected the Republican ballot, things are pretty simple. Just vote for his or her presidential candidate while remembering that Sam Brownback and Tom Tancredo have withdrawn even though their names are still on the ballot. So it is pretty simple—choose one of the seven remaining candidates. Or if there is some dark horse out there known only to the voter, vote "uncommitted," and the party will be delighted to find somebody for you.

If the voter wants to vote in the Democratic presidential primary, things are not so simple. Voters have been asking this writer, "What do I do if my candidate is not on the ballot?"

The answer, according to the Voter Guide on the Jan. 15, 2008, Michigan Democratic Presidential Primary, supplied by the Michigan Democratic Party headquarters, is to vote "uncommitted."

The citizen who wants to vote for Joe Biden, John Edwards, Barack Obama, or Bill Richardson, has to vote uncommitted because a write-in vote is not permitted in this primary. Why? Because state law requires that a write-in candidate must have filed an announcement of his or her availability by 4 p.m. on the Friday preceding the election; in this case, by 4 p.m. on Jan. 10. Such a filing would immediately expose the candidate to the penalty provisions of the national party's rules and would defeat the candidate's purpose in withdrawing from the official ballot.

A voter who decides to vote uncommitted is really casting a ballot in the wilderness and hoping for the best. A vote for "uncommitted" is a vote to send delegates to the Democratic National Convention who are not committed or pledged to any candidate. Those delegates can vote for any candidate they choose at the convention.

The method for choosing delegates to the national convention is contained in part in a document entitled How You Can Help Pick the 2008 Democratic Candidate for President. It is a three-step process. Step one is the primary: To earn delegates to the national convention, candidates and uncommitted must get at least 15 percent of the vote in the January primary. Step two is the selection of 83 delegates and 15 alternates who will be elected in the 15 Congressional District Conventions based on the results of the primary. Step three amalgamates the results of the primary and the district conventions and adds in the super-delegates (the governor, U.S. Senators and Representatives, Democratic National Committee members from Michigan and two others and that make up the state's 156 delegates to the national convention.

The real kicker is how the uncommitted delegates will be chosen, who they will be, and what groups they will actually represent. The only requirement is they must be members of the state Democratic party. However, since these people usually are political activists beyond exercising their right to vote in elections, one may be sure that they are committed in some sense.

The Michigan Democratic Party has a commitment to affirmative action goals and has ratios for minority delegates and alternates. For example, African Americans are entitled to 37 delegates and five alternates, and Arab Americans receive six delegates and one alternate. Hispanics get six delegates and one alternate, while gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons have six delegates and one alternate. The list goes on to include people with disabilities (eight delegates, one alternate), Asian/Pacific Americans (three delegates, no alternate), Native Americans (two delegates, no alternate); and young people, ages 18 to 35, who receive 19 delegates and three alternates.

In the end, what does the Michigan presidential primary mean?

Zilch. The notion that an early Michigan primary would force the candidates to pay attention to Michigan's problems is ludicrous. It is especially ridiculous when one considers that of the candidates, the only major Democrat on the ballot is Hillary Clinton, and her most credible opponent, Barack Obama, has chosen to withdraw from the ballot.

And here is where the uncommitted delegates may very well matter significantly. Do the majority of these free delegates go to Clinton or to Obama?

Who is electable? That is the question that has the political junkies slaving.

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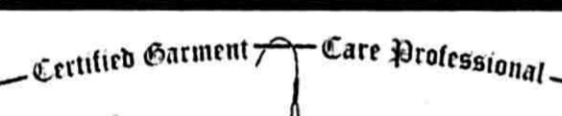
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BOWNE TOWNSHIP CITY OF LOWELL TOWNSHIP VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE

ABSENTEE VOTER INFORMATION

The City and Township Clerks will be available at the following locations on Saturday, January 12, 2008 for any registered voter who would like to apply for or return an absentee voters ballot for the January 15, 2008 Presidential Primary Election.

Sandra Kowalczyk Bowne Township 10am - 2pm 8240 Alden Nash Alto, MI 49302 (616) 868-6846	Betty Morlock City of Lowell 8am - 2pm 301 East Main Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-8457
Linda S. Regan Lowell Charter Township 10am - 2pm 2910 Alden Nash SE Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-7600	Mari Stone Vergennes Township 10am - 2pm 10381 Bailey Dr Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-5671

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE

All meetings are held at the Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Dr., at 7:00 pm. For further information, phone 897-5671, or for a list of these dates visit the township web site at www.vergennestwp.org.

THE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2008 ARE SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS:

January 21	July 21
February 18	August 18
March 17	September 15
April 21	October 20
May 19	November 17
June 16	December 15

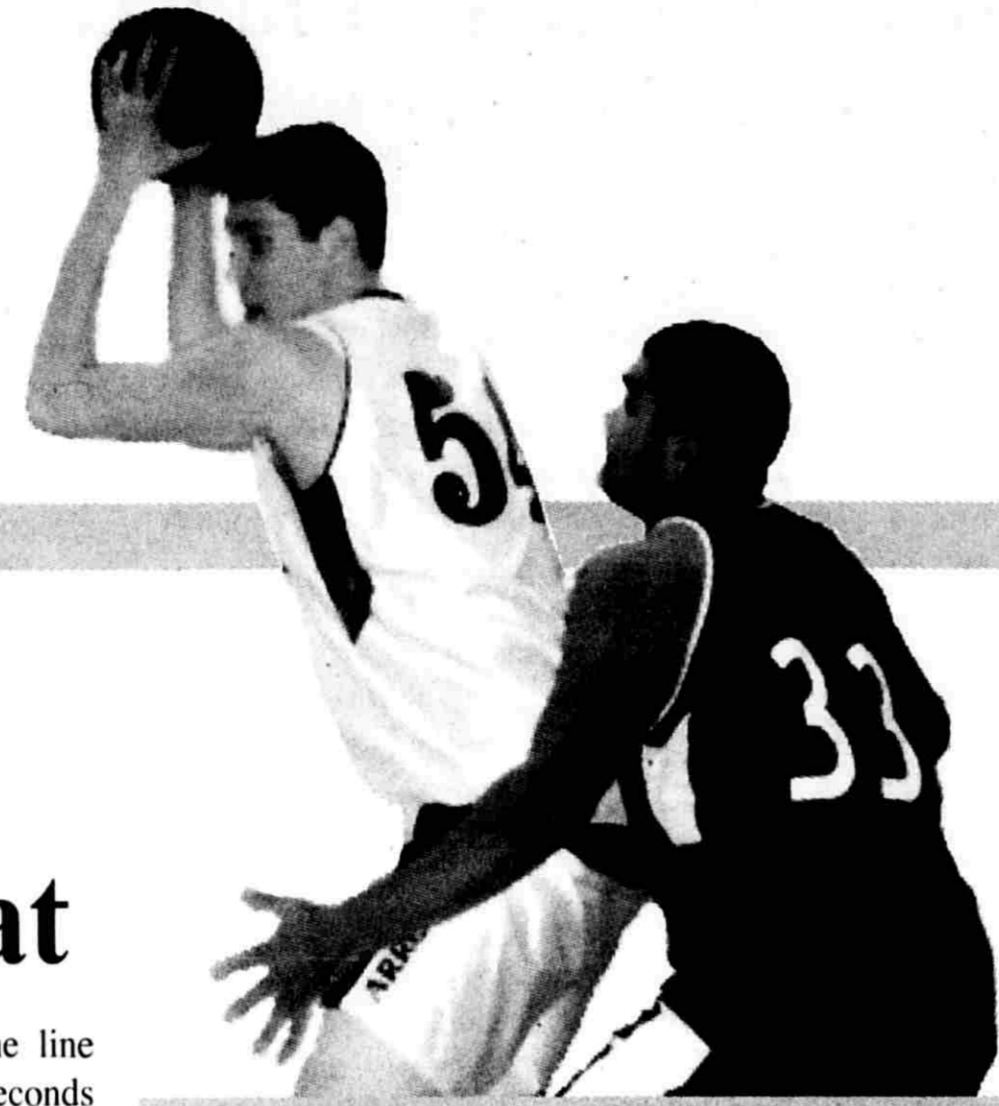
THE PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS FOR 2008 ARE SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS:

January 7	July 7
February 4	August - July 28
March 3	September 8
April - March 31	October 6
May - April 28	November - October 27
June 2	December 1

The Zoning Board of Appeals meet as required or requested.

BUSINESSES SERVICES

Red Arrow SPORTS



BOB WERNET

Boys' basketball continues to keep fans on the edge of their seat

by Molly Benningfield
Editor

Red Arrow fans might be in need of a manicure soon, after the boys' basketball team lost another nail biter to Forest Hills Central Thursday night at home.

The Arrows have yet to lose to a team by more than four points, but have lost

four close games, including one in overtime, in their six-game set. The two wins were also exciting, with a one-point thriller against Greenville and a huge game against Lakewood.

Thursday night's game was no different. Although the Arrows never led, they also kept close for most of the game. The Rangers were up by three at the half,

and finished with a 46-43 victory.

Coach Jeff McDonald said FHC was one of the best in the league, and with a few dazzling plays - including a one-armed rebound to basket in the fourth quarter - he was right.

At the end of the game, Michael Schumm made two free throws to push the Arrows within one point,

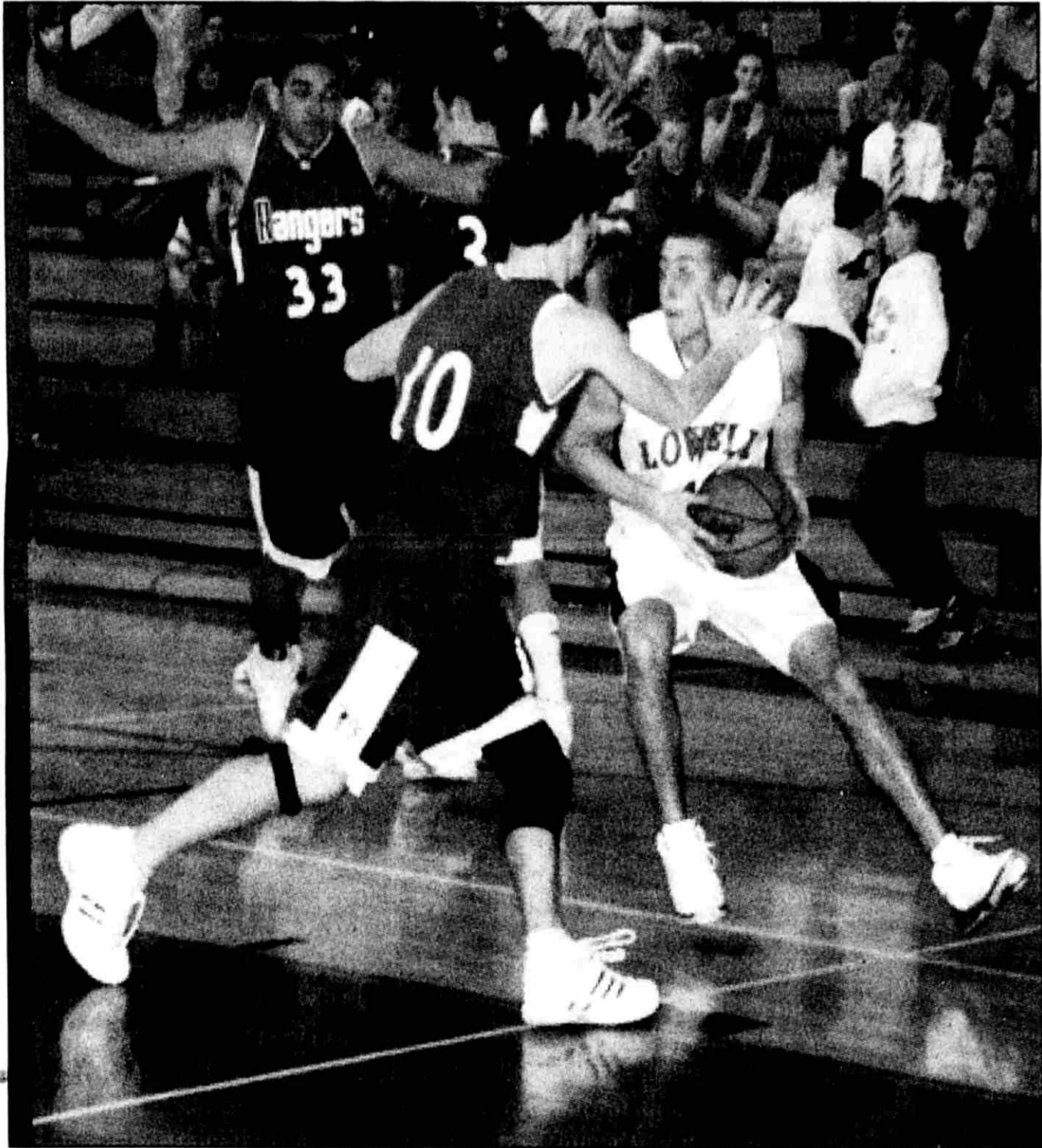
but FHC went to the line with less than 10 seconds in regulation and secured their victory. The Arrows just couldn't get the ball to the right person to force overtime.

McDonald said that the close games haven't had too much of a negative effect on his team. "Regardless, you can't let it - we challenge our guys to hang in there, but this is nothing compared to some things in life they'll face."

Brett McMahon led the team with 13 points, while Schumm added 10.

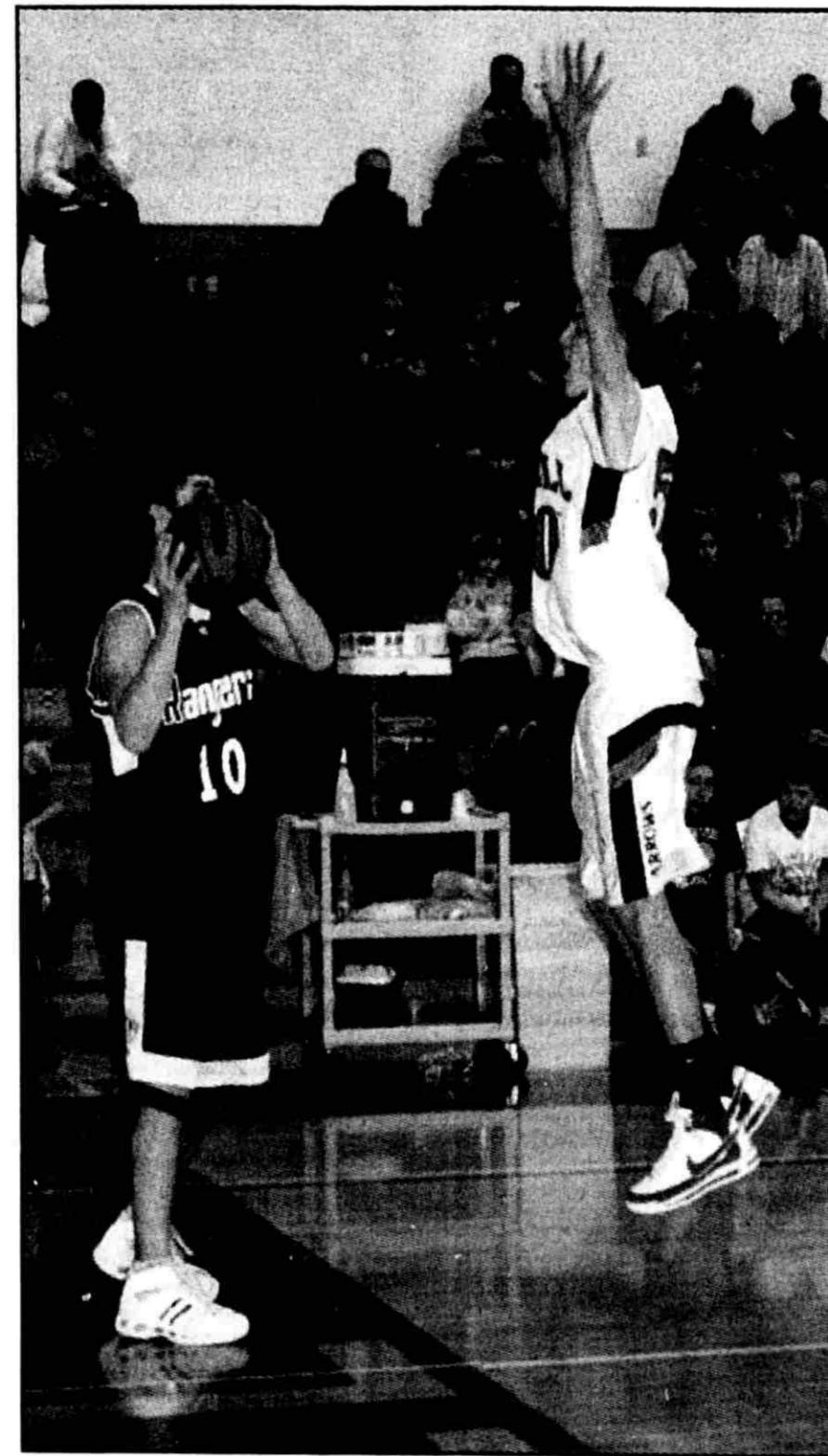
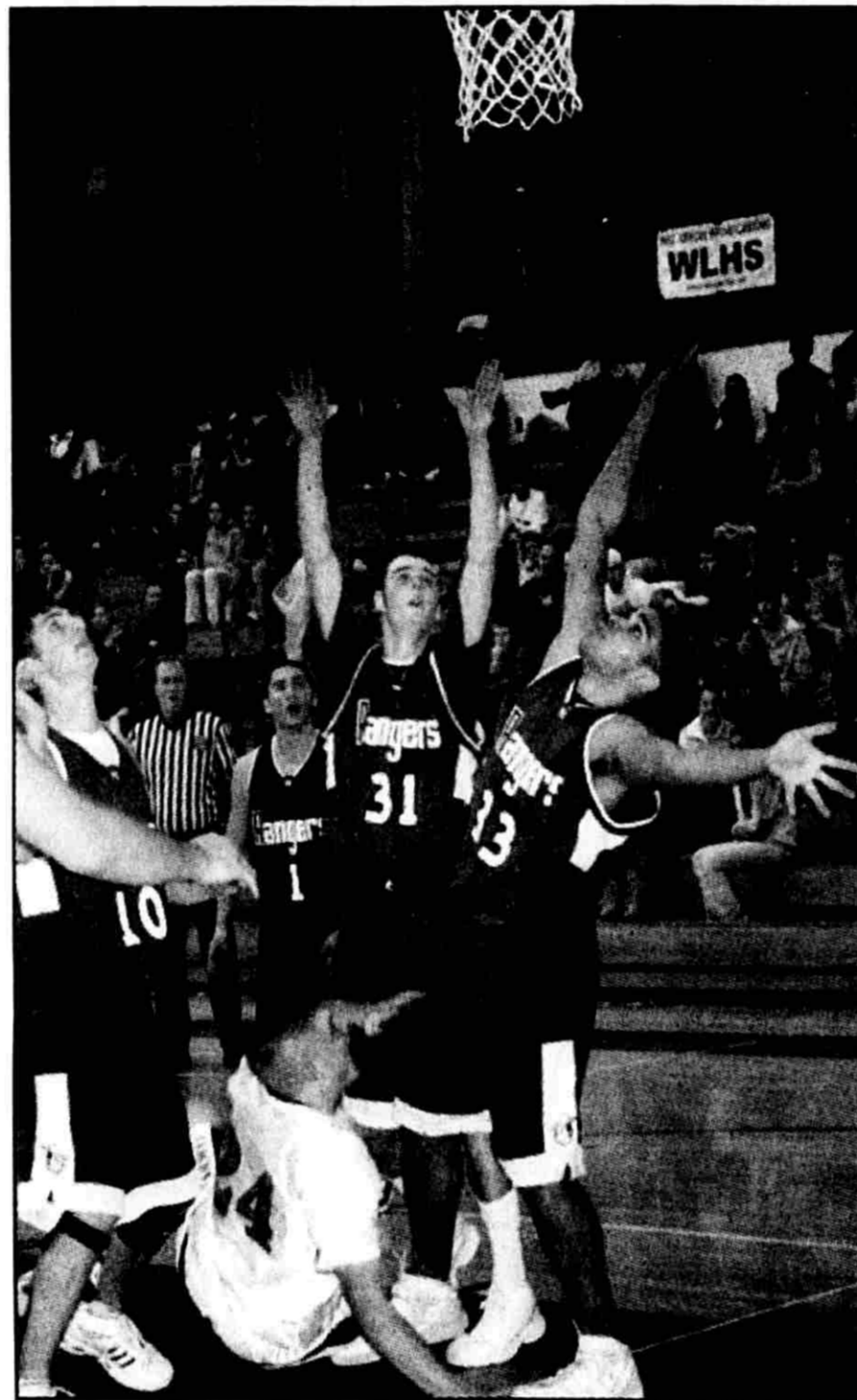
Matt Kurtz and Eric Saenz each had 9 points.

The Arrows will face off at Kenowa Hills this Friday at 7:30 p.m. Their next home game is Thursday, Jan. 17 against East Grand Rapids at 7 p.m.



(Left): Eric Saenz (44) looks for an open teammate during Thursday night's game against FHC.

(Top right): Michael Schumm (24) fights off four FHC defenders as he goes for a layup.



Spencer Sellner (50) attempts to block a FHC player in the fourth quarter.

Red Arrow SPORTS

"I WOULD LIKE TO THINK WE ARE A PRETTY EXCITING TEAM TO WATCH, BUT I THINK AS THE SEASON PROGRESSES, WE'LL BE EVEN MORE FUN TO WATCH."
-Coach Jeff McDonald

Red Arrows get tough loss against Thornapple-Kellogg

by Sean Garner
special to the Ledger

Lowell basketball coach Jeff McDonald said he has an entirely different team than last year, and the Red Arrows' performance on the court so far supports that statement.

The Red Arrows suffered a devastating 58-59 loss to Middleville two

weeks ago after the Trojans came back from a three-point deficit on the strength of a four-point play (three-pointer + foul shot) with under five seconds to play.

The loss dropped Lowell to 2-3, but McDonald said his team is more athletic and has been competitive against a tough early slate.

The Red Arrows' early three losses include

Friday's heartbreaker against Middleville, an overtime contest against Caledonia, and a four-point game against Cedar Springs, a team widely regarded as one of the best in the area. The Red Arrows also have a solid win over traditional power Lakewood.

Against Middleville, Lowell trailed by 15 points in the second quarter, but displayed resiliency that impressed their coach.

"In the second quarter we dug ourselves a hole," McDonald said. "I was really proud of our guys for

turning it around. We caught a tough break there on that four-point play, but even with that being said, we didn't hang our heads. We got the ball back and we got all the way to the rim and missed a lay-up at the end that would have won it for us."

The Trojans possessed a distinct size advantage over the Red Arrows with some of the post players from Middleville standing literally head and shoulders above their Lowell counterparts. Despite the size discrepancy, each team

ended the game with 21 rebounds. McDonald said one of the keys to the game was for his team to not be intimidated.

"There's no question about it, they were a big basketball team," McDonald said.

"We never just want to back away and settle for outside shots against big people. I think you have to take the basketball to big people. I think we settled a little bit too much for outside shots at the beginning. We just needed a better balance of attacking the rim. Even though they had several blocked shots, we need to let them know that we are still going to attack the rim."

Matt Kurtz led the Red Arrows with 20 points, while Tim Hettinga added 19. Hettinga's outside shooting helped lead Lowell out of its 15-point hole.

"We are a team that is going to shoot the ball from outside the arc more,"

McDonald said. "With that being said, there are going to be nights when we shoot ourselves back into ball games, and there may be nights when we shoot ourselves out of games. In this particular case we kind of shot ourselves out of the game in the first half and shot ourselves back in it in the second half."

Lowell has "completely different personnel" this season according to McDonald. He says the key difference is this team's athleticism and ability to run the court, which provides a stark contrast to last year's team which preferred a plodding, methodical approach.

"It's a different identity," McDonald claims. "We are going to be an up-and-down team. I would like to think we are a pretty exciting team to watch, but I think as the season progresses, we'll be even more fun to watch."

The Benning-Fielder

by Molly Benningfield
Sports editor



Let the winter sports season begin

After a good few months of covering high school football each week, and wringing my hands for the Spartans on Saturdays, I'm about ready to move onto cold weather sports. It's just that time when my mind wanders a bit and I'm ready for change.

For the most part, I have moved on. Lowell offers a great selection of sports right now - in one week I can cover basketball, both boys and girls, wrestling, hockey and bowling. Pretty soon, I'll start covering gymnastics and cheerleading to round out the winter season. I've settled in nicely to my undying love for MSU basketball (when they aren't playing on the Big Ten Network), and have caught a few Pistons games if I'm home early enough.

But football is still around... It's true - I have enjoyed the bowl games and seeing some stellar performances in the NFL moments.

I guess I'll have to wait a bit longer to fully enjoy my winter sports, at least until the Super Bowl rumblings have subsided.

Lowell gymnastics takes 11th at Rockford

The Lowell gymnastics team took 11th place of 15 teams at the Rockford Flip Flop Invitational Saturday afternoon.

The Arrows ended the meet with a score of 119.125, while Forest Hills Blue won with 138.600. Karen Verbrugge of the Forest Hills Blue team led the meet in vault, balance beam and floor exercise, as well as winning the All-Around, with a score of 37.800.

Chelsea DeKuiper of Ludington had a high score for the meet on uneven bars with a 9.7.

The Arrows will compete next Wednesday, again at Rockford.

SYNOPSIS REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2007

Minutes of the November 19, 2007 meeting were approved as written and the accounts payable were approved.

The following actions were taken:

The Council was updated on Grindle Drive drainage issue.

Motion to deny the rezoning request for the 600 South block of E. Main Street and 700 E. Main from R-3 (Multiple Family Residential) to C-3 (General Business) as recommended from the Planning Commission.

Initial review of the 2008-2009 allocations of an estimated \$42,829.23 in Kent County Community Development Block Grant funds.

Motion to adjourn at 7:49 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, December 17, 2007.

Complete minutes are available on the City's web page at www.ci.lowell.mi.us or at the Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street



Betty R. Morlock,
City Clerk

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Red Arrow SPORTS

L/C STUCK STRONG TO THE GAME PLAN TO FINALLY SOLVE THE MANISTEE NET MINDER.
-Coach Mike Ballard

Wrestling team takes 2nd in tough New Lothrop tournament

The varsity wrestlers are on their way to another standout season, with this weekend's strong showing at a tough New Lothrop tournament, taking second of 16 teams. The Arrows ended the day with 171 points, only trailing Hesperia who won with 233 points.

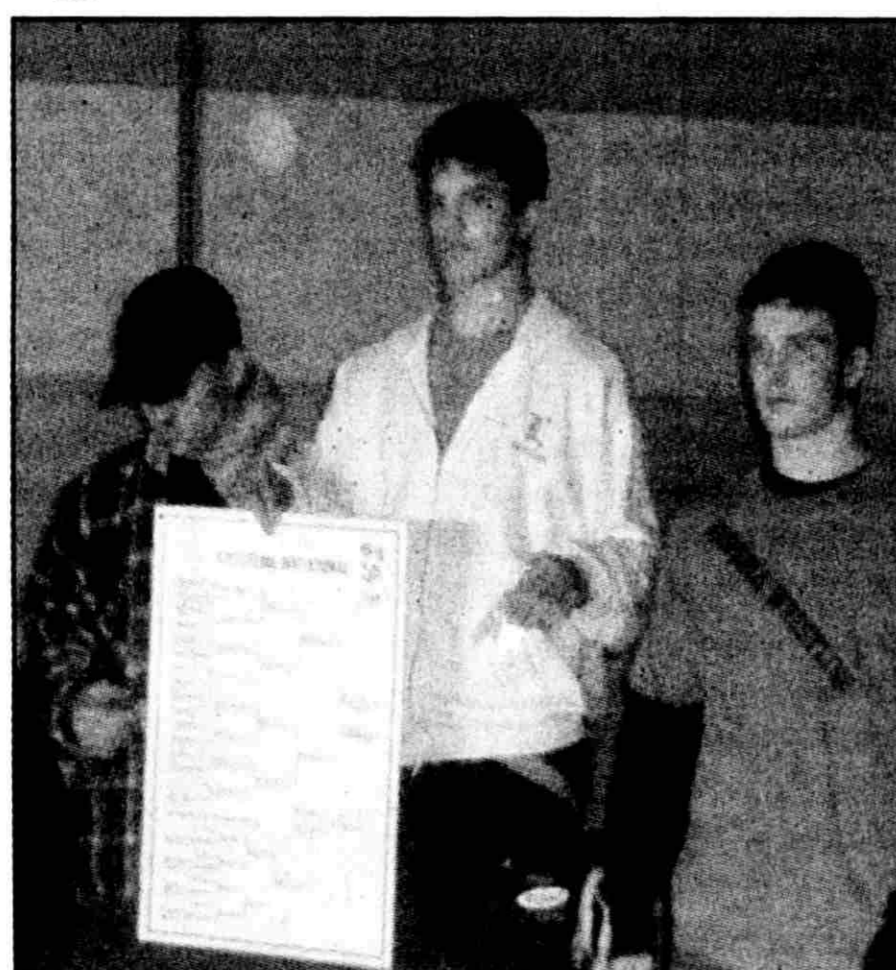
Lowell saw two of its wrestlers as champions, with sophomores Jackson Morse and Ryan Olep. Zach Baum and Tim Gingerich both took second place, and a slew of wrestlers finished well in the meet.

The Arrows defeated a number of state qualifying and top-notch teams, including New Lothrop,

Durand, Montrose, Corunna, Addison, and Caro, to name a few.

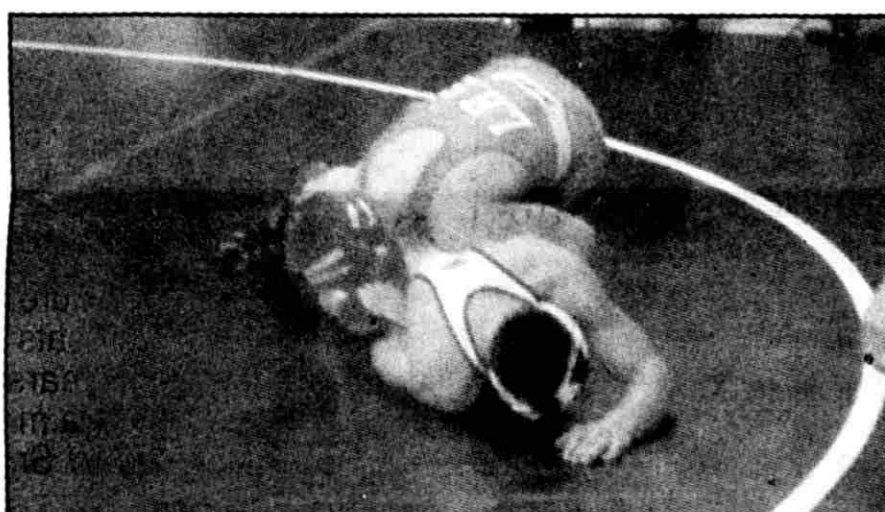
Fans will have a chance to see the team compete twice this weekend at home, going against Forest Hills Central on Friday at 5:30 p.m., which was originally slated for tonight.

Lowell will then host the Gary Rivers Memorial Invitational all day Saturday, hosting a number of good teams, including Allendale, Belding, Big Rapids, Byron Center, Carson City, Coldwater, Erie-Mason, Fremont, Gull Lake, Hastings, Hudsonville, Lake Shore, Lansing Sexton, Martin and Whitehall.



(Top): Jackson Morse was one of Lowell's champions at the New Lothrop Tournament.

(Left): Ryan Dean took 4th place at New Lothrop.



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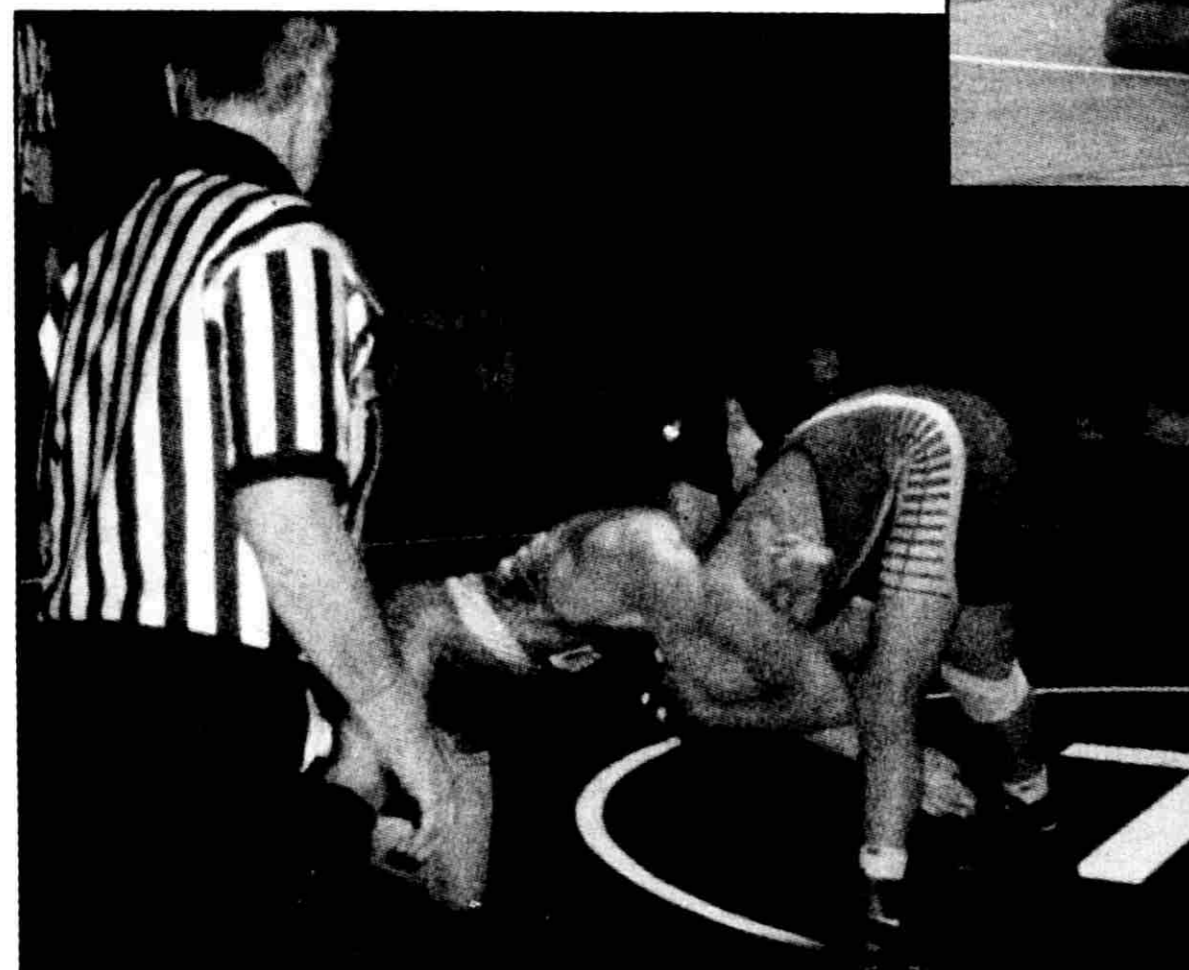
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Photos from the New Lothrop Tournament contributed by Rob Stehley.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
UPDATE TO RECREATION PLAN
VERGENNES TOWNSHIP,
KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

The Vergennes Township Board will hold a public hearing on a proposed update to the Recreation Plan on Monday, January 21, 2008 at 7:00 PM. The purpose of the hearing is to accept public comments on the update. A copy of the Recreation Plan is available for public inspection at the Township Hall during regular business hours.

Mari Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk

L/C hockey team wins another on the road

The Arrows continued their winning surge against Manistee this weekend, with a 5-2 victory.

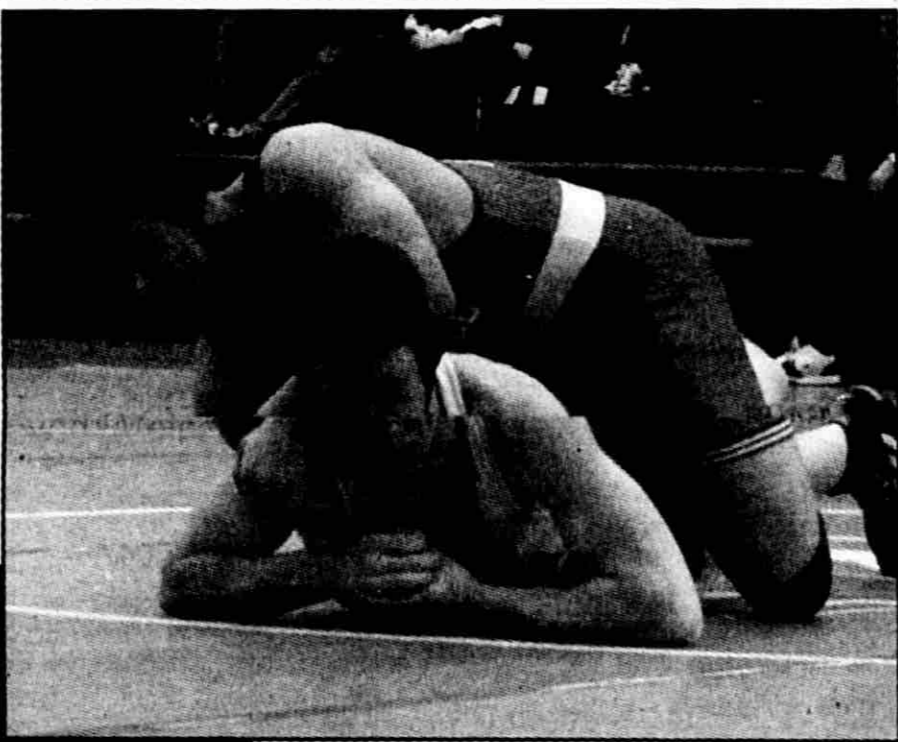
Coach Mike Ballard said the team came back at the end of the game to win.

"After falling behind in the first and second period, L/C came back to a tie at the end of Period 2 and stuck strong to the game plan to finally solve the Manistee net minder."

He said the team out shot Manistee 39 to 18. The Arrows were led by Lowell senior Bo Adams' three-goal game, two of which were on the power play unit.

Ballard said his team is "playing hard and has a tough match Wednesday night at Muskegon Catholic Central."

The team will return to league play Friday at 8 p.m. at Griff's Ice House against Northview.



(Top): Ryan Olep (shown at the Sparta meet) was one of two Lowell champions at New Lothrop.

(Left): Zach Baum took 2nd at the tournament.



Girls basketball wins big against Kenowa Hills

The girls basketball team split a pair of games this past week, defeating Kenowa Hills 46-36 last Friday, but falling short to Grand Rapids Christian Monday night, 38-45.

Chelsea Harrison led the Arrows again on offense, scoring 23 points against Kenowa. Hannah Oberlin grabbed 10 rebounds.

Harrison's 15 points led the Arrows against the Eagles, but wasn't enough to propel the team to a win. Logan DeClercq added 8 points.

The Arrows will play East Grand Rapids this Thursday at home, with the varsity starting at 7 p.m.

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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 - Very small 2 bedroom house outside Lowell, large 2 stall garage, no laundry, \$550/month. References & deposit. 897-7130.

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

DUPLEX FOR RENT - 9 year old ranch on 2 acres in the country, 1 1/2 miles from I-96 (Clarksville exit), 1,000 sq. ft., all appliances, 2 bedrooms, living, dining, kitchen, bath, laundry, central air, attached garage w/remote. No smoking in duplex, \$700 month plus utilities. Call Dave (616) 292-1933.

FOR RENT - Mobile homes, 2 bedroom, \$400. 1st and last month deposit. No pets. Campau Lake 868-6950.

1 BEDROOM DUPLEX FOR RENT - Country setting, 1 mile outside Lowell, \$500/month. Call 616-450-5300.

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4H TACK SALE - for Ionia County. New & used equipment, clothing & supplies, Mar. 15, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Saranac High School. Open to public, \$1 door charge. Booth rental call 616-868-6042 or email crclrlctn@aol.com.

LOST FOUND

LOST BLACK LAB - Female, near Tia Trail & Flat River Ave. \$100 reward. Please call 897-8762.

FOUND - Chainsaw near Valley Vista & Main. Call to identify 897-9446 evenings.

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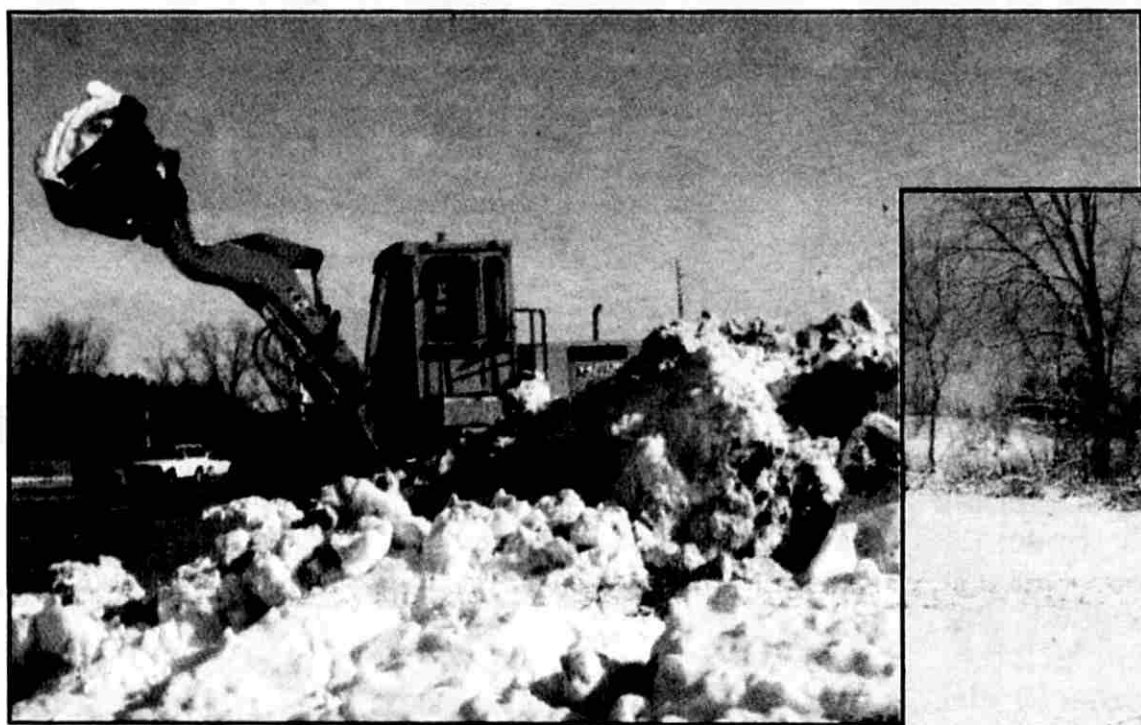
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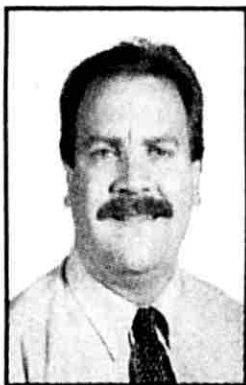
A January thaw



A storm on New Year's Day dumped an additional six to eight inches of snow in Lowell. Department of Public Works crews and Olin Excavating worked hard to clear the roads and parking lots. For ice fishermen like Jeff Scalici the weather was paradise as the sun peaked out and warmed up Stoney Lake. Scalici, who lives nearby, fished for bluegills, although the ice started to melt. "It's a little soggy," he said. Scalici estimated the ice to be 3.5 inches thick.



After single digit temperatures last week, a few days of warm weather caused the meltdown of ice and snow at Stoney Lakeside Park, where just a few days ago ice fishermen were enjoying scouting ice for their catch of the day. However, according to recent weather forecasts that will not last too long. The yo-yo like weather that brought rain and fog, along with occasional peaks of sunshine, will be followed by freezing temperatures.



Sharing The Vision

With Mark Lessens
Board of Education President

Welcome back students and staff! We begin the new year with great expectations and plans to continue the high levels of teaching and learning throughout the school district. Last month I wrote about how Lowell Area Schools has avoided spending millions of dollars for utilities by becoming more educated about our systems and buildings.

To further enhance our ability to reduce our spending on utilities, we have also entered into a performance contract with Honeywell Corporation. The mission of this partnership is "Creating an Improved Learning Environment with Financial Stability." The goals of the partnership include:

- Reducing current operating costs
- Upgrade/enhance facilities
- Fund improvements through savings/cost avoidances from the existing budget
- Provide a better learning environment.

The partnership began two years ago, and so far we have realized a cumulative cost avoidance of over \$160,000! At the same time, we have replaced nearly all of the lighting fixtures in the halls, classrooms and gyms with more efficient ones, while providing higher levels of light. We have replaced our boiler system at the middle school, and adjusted all of our boilers to run at peak efficiency. We have added or updated many of our control systems so that we can heat or cool our buildings based on their usage throughout the day, night and weekends. We have also added weather stripping around doors, windows and other building envelope penetrations so that we do not waste conditioned air. We have also reduced our water consumption by installing more efficient bathroom fixtures.

Part of the program also resulted in new bleachers at the middle school and Cherry Creek Elementary. Although these are not energy-related improvements, the safety and ease of use of the old bleachers required that new bleachers be installed.

We plan to continue our partnerships with Honeywell and Energy Education, Inc., and look for ways to avoid paying more than we need to for utilities. By doing this, additional money can be budgeted for items that improve teaching and learning throughout the district. If you have any suggestions or ideas on how we can save additional money while enhancing teaching and learning, please contact your school building administrator or someone at the central office. Thank you for supporting Lowell Area Schools - Happy New Year!

Comments may be made to the Board of Education at boardofed@lowellschools.com.



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