

The Lowell Ledger

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Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, January 30, 2008



Icy Fun

The deep freeze of the past few weeks has made the skating rink at Richards Park a huge success. Logan, Skylar and Kelly Flat, along with MacKenzie North, skated last Sunday at the rink just prior to a major thaw. The rink has a new permanent concrete slab. In spite of the warm weather on Monday a cold snap mid-week should firm up the ice for more skating fun.

Photo by Emma Palova

Timpson nears resolution with Lowell Township

by Emma Palova

The move of freight from Timpson Orchards Inc. on Segwun Road to the freeway has proven crucial on a long road to compromise between the trucking operation and Lowell Township.

A year-long controversy over increased traffic and noise from Timpson Transport located in an agricultural residential zone is now expected to be resolved by April.

Timpson has withdrawn a request for conditional rezoning to light industrial

for their operation located on Segwun Road.

"I didn't like the conditional rezoning," said supervisor Paula Blumm, "it would put light industrial into residential area."

Instead, the company has applied for two special-use permits to be in compliance with the township ordinances.

The first special use permit is for motor freight warehousing at the property on the corner of Cascade and Alden Nash roads behind J&H Oil.

In an effort to reach a compromise with the township, Timpson moved its freight from the Segwun property in Ag2 zone closer to the freeway last July.

According to secretary treasurer Colleen Timpson, only trucks scheduled for maintenance park at the Segwun location.

"We did it on our own," she said. "It made an astounding difference."

The move of the freight out of the agricultural residential zone resolved most of the noise and traffic complaints coming from the residents.

"It's a win-win for everybody," said Timpson.

"It will get resolved, we

will be able to stay here."

The second special use permit is for specialized

collection and storage of agricultural products not

Timpson, con't., pg. 4



Timpson Transport has moved its freight to property located on the corner of Cascade and Alden Nash roads.

Audits show increase in city revenues

by Emma Palova

The city general fund showed an excess of \$400,000 revenues in an audit report presented Monday by Steve Thompson of BHT&D accountants.

However, the fund balance remained low at \$35,000 or 1.5 percent of expenditures much like last year.

The sewer and water enterprising funds showed substantial increases in revenues due to a hike in rates which has been in effect for a full year.

"This is a clean opinion with no exceptions," said Thompson. "It's the best kind of report you can get."

Financial highlights of the previous year included the reconstruction of Gee Drive, the construction of the ambulance building and the sale of Lowell Cable TV.

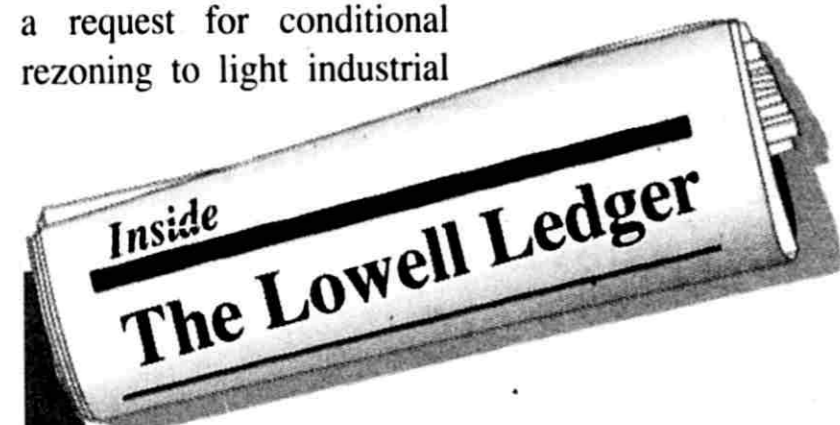
Fund balances in the local and major street funds are zero.

A separate audit by Pete Haefner of Vredeveid Haefner highlighted the performance of Lowell Light & Power, another enterprising fund. For the last two years prior to the sale, the fund has been operating in the deficit.

Currently, the city council is in the process of establishing an advisory board for the Lowell Cable TV Endowment fund (LCTV).

A special work session will be held on Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. at the city hall to discuss LCTV organization and types of projects for funding. The city-owned North Washington property will also be discussed.

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Obituaries



BLOCHER

Lois Kaye Blocher, aged 59, of Clarksville, passed away late Tuesday evening, January 22, 2008 at Tendercare of Hastings. Lois was born in Hastings on February 20, 1948 to Clair and Clarabelle (Hooper) Kauffman. She graduated from Lowell High School in 1966, and continued her education at the Bronson School of Nursing where she graduated as a Registered Nurse in 1970. Lois worked as a nurse at Pennock Hospital for 10 years. She was united in marriage to Wayne Blocher in 1982, and together they owned and operated a hunting and fishing camp in northern Ontario, Canada. Lois is survived by her



ONAN

Josephine R. (Willard) Onan aged 93 of Lowell passed away Monday, January 21, 2008. She is survived by her husband of ten years, Jason Onan; son, Mike (Linda

Willard of Lowell; also seven step-children; sister, Marie (Robert) Steward of Lowell; many grand and great, great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held Friday at the Roth-Gerst Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to: Lowell Senior Neighbors, 314 S. Hudson St., Lowell, MI 49331 and/or Schneider Manor, 725 Bowes Rd, Lowell, MI 49331.

RICHARDSON

Ethel (Richardson) Pierson aged 95 of Lowell passed away Friday, January 25, 2008. She was preceded in death by her husband, Everett Richardson; her daughter, Doris Gyroey; and her great grandson, Jason. She is survived by her children, Donald (Rachel) Richardson, Paul (Cherrie) Richardson, Jerry (Marna) Richardson and John (Nancy) Richardson; 13 grandchildren; 12 great grandchildren; 4 great-great grandchildren. Funeral services were held Monday at the Roth-Gerst Funeral Home. Interment Township of Campbell Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to American Cancer Society, 400 Ann St. NW, GR, MI 49504.

Peta warns against leaving pets outside in freezing temperatures

Every year, PETA receives complaints about dogs who are left outside in the cold. Although they are equipped with fur coats, dogs and other animals can still suffer from frostbite, exposure, and dehydration when water sources freeze. Cold weather spells extra hardship for "backyard" dogs, who often go without adequate food, water, shelter, or medical care.

Here are a few tips to protect your animal companions:

- Keep animals inside, particularly puppies and kittens, elderly animals, small animals, and dogs with short hair, including pointers, beagles, pit bulls, Rottweilers, and Dobermans. Short-haired animals will also benefit from a warm sweater or coat on walks.

- Don't allow your cat or dog to roam freely outdoors. During winter, cats sometimes climb under the hoods of cars to be near warm engines and are badly injured or killed when the car is started. (To help

prevent this, bang loudly on the hood of your car before starting the engine.) Animals can also become disoriented when there is snow or ice on the ground. More animals are lost during the winter than during any other season.

- Increase animals' food rations during winter because they are burning more calories to keep warm. Also, be sure that animals are free of internal parasites, which can rob them of vital nutrients.

- Keep an eye out for strays. Take unidentified animals inside until you can find their guardians or get them to an animal shelter. If strays are skittish or otherwise unapproachable, provide food and water and call your local humane society for assistance in trapping them and getting them indoors.

- Wipe off your dogs' or cats' legs, feet, and

stomachs after they come in from the snow. Salt and other chemicals can make your animals sick if they ingest them while cleaning themselves.

- When you see dogs left outdoors, provide them with proper shelter. Doghouses should be made of wood (because metal is a poor insulator) and positioned in a sunny location during cold weather. Raise the house off the ground several inches, and put a flap over the door to keep out cold drafts. Use straw for bedding—rugs and blankets can get wet and freeze.

PETA has also sent its cold-weather public service announcement featuring the song "I Wanna Be Free," donated by country music legend Loretta Lynn, to TV stations in the area.

For more information, visit HelpingAnimals.com.

Lend A Hand

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



HISTORICAL MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Lowell Area Historical Museum will conduct a training session on Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m. for anyone interested in becoming a volunteer for the museum. We have many of special events, to office and clerical support, to a museum greeter or tour guide, we have a spot for you. If you are interested in becoming more actively involved with the museum, please give us a call at 897-7688 to register for the training session.

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Mark Johnson

The Lowell Ledger

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Thank You

We want to express our sincere thanks for all the cards, visits, calls, words of encouragement and tributes, food, prayers, memorials, and masses said for my husband, father, and grandfather, Stewart Thomet during his illness and passing. His family, friends, former employees and customers all meant so much to him. A special thank you to Dr's Paul Gauthier, James Lang, Matthew Sevensma, Michael Zakem, the staff at the Cancer and Hematology Center of Western Michigan and Hospice of Michigan for the wonderful care. To the Barber-shop Harmony Society, Inc., and Marion Price for their beautiful music tribute. Rev. Dean Bailey for his comforting words and to the Alto, Bowne Center United Methodist Churches, Alto Elementary School, and friends for their lovely luncheon. To Roth-Gerst and the pall bearers for their comforting assistance. A very special thank you to special friend, Keith Feldman for his part in Stew's "Final Harvest." Stew met his fate as he lived, never complaining. *God saw me getting weary and a cure was not to be, so he wrapped his arms around me and whispered, "Come to Me".* God gives us comfort in the form of loving friends. May his peace be with all of you.

Sincerely, Pat Thomet
Dave & Debbie Galbreath and Family
Steve & Ruth and Family

FAXING

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The Lowell Ledger
105 N. Broadway, Lowell

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

Conditional Re-Zoning Approval

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Conditional Re-zoning request was approved and an amendment to the Vergennes Township Zoning Map was adopted at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Vergennes Township Board held on **Monday, January 21, 2008 at 7:00 PM, at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI.**

Hidden Acre Development Co. Inc. had offered a conditional rezoning from R-1 to R-2 for approximately 3 acres of property adjacent to the north side of the Alden Nash West housing development off Alden Nash Ave. north of Foreman. The site is specifically the rear property area of 681 Alden Nash just south of the high school's east driveway. A Public Hearing was held at the January Planning Commission meeting, at which a recommendation to approve the conditional rezoning was made. A private road in Alden Nash West will be extended to serve 5 new lots within this additional property which will meet all development restrictions of the Alden Nash West housing development.

The complete site plan and zoning map amendment can be reviewed at the Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 - Phone: (616) 897-5671 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 am to 3 pm.

Mari Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk

Voyages to host weekend Halo Tournament

by Molly Benningfield
Editor

Voyages Coffee Shop will host a tournament featuring the popular video game, Halo, during the weekend of Feb. 15. The two-day event will take place Friday, Feb. 15 from 6 - 9 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 16 from 3:30 - 10 p.m.

Sterling Massey, the owner of the cafe, said "first and foremost, what we noticed is there weren't a lot of places for kids to go. We were trying to think of ways to involve younger people in activities."

Joint committee to address corridor

by Emma Palova

A joint committee will address signage and lighting regulations along the M21 corridor in the city and Lowell Township.

Spurred by a build-up of issues over a long period of time, each governmental unit has been dealing with different sets of zoning ordinances regulating commercial growth.

Now, in an effort to create consistency along M21, the city and the township may start planning together. The city planning commission formed a sub-committee Monday night to spearhead joint meetings.

"We want to get something contiguous or have an appearance of contiguous planning together," said vice-chairman Clark Jahnke.

Regulations of signage, setbacks and lighting for the corridor may appear as a separate section in the city zoning ordinance, if different from the existing rules.

"First we have to figure out what to do with the corridor," said chair Maryalene LaPonsie.

The planning commission has set a public

Massey said hosting the tournament is a "natural fit" for the coffee shop. The tournament will not only be a fun activity for those involved, but also serves as "video games for a cause", because Voyages will be collecting two nonperishable food items to donate to Flat River Outreach Ministries, to go along with the \$17.50 sign-up fee.

The tournament will work as double elimination, with two 10-minute matches. Massey said the combined high score will move on to the next round. The

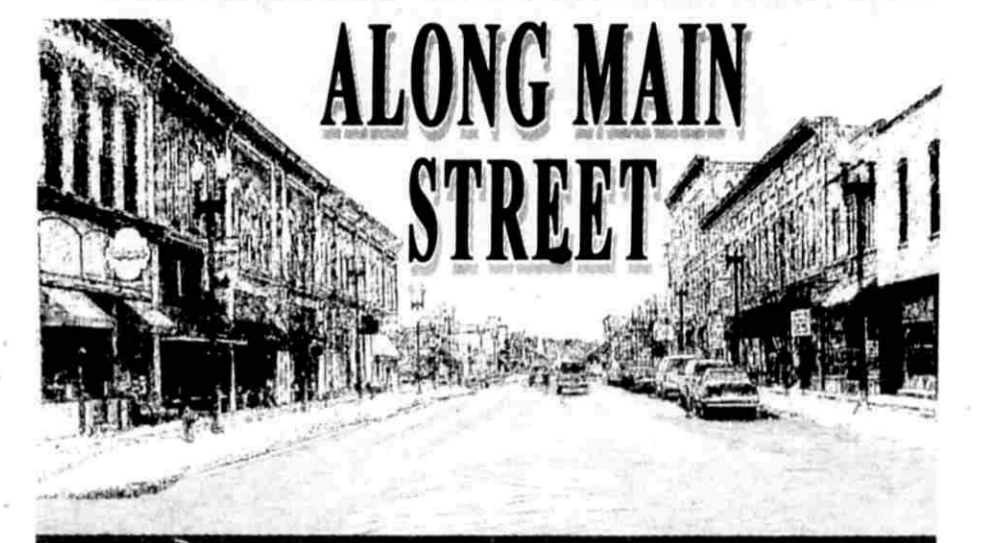
winner of the tournament can receive up to \$250, depending on the number of participants. There will be free hot dogs and pop, as well as tournament t-shirts. The champion will receive a special edition "champion t-shirt", with all shirts provided by Pep Talk.

To add to the event, Massey will also line up local bands to play "half-time shows". There will be five monitors around the shop, which have been donated by Sam's Club.

If this tournament is successful, he said he'd like

to add more programs like this in the future. Possible tournaments could include video games like Guitar Hero and Dance Dance Revolution (DDR), as well as card games like Euchre and poker.

To sign up for the Halo tournament, you can pick up a registration form at Voyages, open from 6:30 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday - Thursday, and 6:30 - 9 p.m. on Friday. To receive a t-shirt, register by Feb. 9, and all participants must register by Feb. 11 to play.



JUNIOR LIFESAVERS BLOOD DRIVE

Through the Michigan Community Blood Center's Junior Lifesavers Program, Murray Lake Elementary students are organizing a blood drive and recruiting blood donors. The blood drive will be held in the Murray Lake Elementary gym on Thurs., Jan. 31 from 2 - 8 p.m. Walk-ins are accepted or call 987-2750 to schedule an appointment.

MOON OVER BUFFALO

A Thebes Players Production at the Lowell Performing Arts Center on Feb. 1 and Feb. 2 at 7:30 p.m. Advance general admission \$10, LAAC members, seniors or students \$8. For information contact LAAC, 149 S. Hudson, 897-8545.

LAS ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

The Athletic Boosters will hold their regular business meeting in the high school staff lounge on Mon., Feb. 4 at 7 p.m.

ALTO SPAGHETTI DINNER & SILENT AUCTION

Dinner and auction will be held Friday, Feb. 8, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at Alto Elementary School. Adult meal \$5, 5th grade student and under \$3, 3 yrs. and under free.

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY

We want you to join the Lowell Area Arts Council, 149 S. Hudson St., for an evening of open mic poetry on Thurs., Feb. 7 at 7 p.m.

COME JOIN THE FUN

Kick-Off Rally for '08 Relay for Life of Lowell on Tues., Feb. 12 on the concourse outside of the high school Performing Arts Center, starting at 6 p.m. with a pizza party and at 6:30 p.m. learn how American Cancer Society is helping persons fight this disease and hear from local survivors. For more information contact Carol Briggs at 897-5501. Everyone welcomed. This year's 24-hour event will be held June 27 and 28.

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

Sign up at the Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St., Fri., Feb. 15 from 6 - 8 p.m. or Sat., Feb. 16 from 10 a.m. - 12 noon. Regular box is \$30. Everyone welcome. Any questions call Esther at 897-7395.

TIME MANAGEMENT CLASS

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce will offer a class on time management and organization on Feb. 15 from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$25 for chamber members and \$50 for nonmembers. RSVP by Feb. 12.

F.R.O.M.

The FROM Food Pantry is presently in need of canned fruit, crackers, juices, and hot and cold cereals. Please help if you are able.

CLASS OF 2008

Anyone interested in donating door prizes/money for the "Class of 2008", please contact Theresa Mundt at 897-4209.

FREE PRESCHOOL

Lowell Head Start now enrolling. Eligibility: children ages 3 or 4 on or before Dec. 1 and income-based. Call 897-7920.

CALL FOR ENTRY

The Lowell Area Arts Council is accepting applications for the 40th Annual Fallasburg Fall Festival. The deadline for submission of CDs is April 1. Contact LAAC, 149 S. Hudson, 897-8545.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

BID PROPOSAL

Sealed bids, in triplicate, for Lowell Area Schools Middle School Renovations, will be received at Lowell Area Schools Administration Building, 300 High Street, Lowell, Michigan on Thursday, February 14, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

All proposals received (mailed and delivered) will be opened and read publicly shortly after 2:00 p.m. local time in Lowell Area Schools Administration Building Board Conference Room 300 High Street, Lowell, MI.

Bids may be mailed to Lowell Area Schools, 300 High Street, Lowell, Michigan 49331. Mailed bids must be received prior to the bid due time and date stated above. **FAXED BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

SITE INSPECTION

A construction pre-bid meeting will be held at Lowell Middle School, 750 Foreman Road, Lowell, MI on Thursday, January 31, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. local time. All bidders are encouraged to attend.

BID DOCUMENTS

The Bidding Documents may be obtained at Owen-Ames-Kimball Co., 300 Ionia N.W., Grand Rapids, MI. A deposit of \$100.00 is required. The deposit will be refunded if documents are returned within 60 days after bid opening. A non-refundable charge of \$20.00 will be required for mailing documents.

BIDDER QUALIFICATIONS

- Bidder submitting a Bid for this Project shall have qualifications as follows:
- Shall be a reputable, recognized organization, with at least five (5) years successful experience on work of this type and scope of this project.
 - Shall have a license where required by public authorities having jurisdiction.
 - Shall have ample financial resources for work of this magnitude.

BID SECURITY - PERFORMANCE BONDS

Each bid shall be accompanied by good and sufficient bid security or bid bond in an amount not less than 5% of the Bid amount and shall secure the Owner from loss or damage by reason of the withdrawal of the Bid by a Bidder or by failure of the successful Bidder to enter into a Contract with the Owner if his Bid is accepted by the Owner.

The successful Bidder will be required to secure Performance Labor and Material bonds for all contracts exceeding \$50,000, from a surety company having a rating of A- or better, for the full amount of the Contract.

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THE BUCKET LIST (PG-13) 12:10, 2:40, 5:05, 7:20, 9:35
THE PIRATES WHO DONT DO ANYTHING: A VEGEITABLES MOVIE (G) 11:00, 12:55, 2:55, 4:55
CLOVERFIELD (PG-13) 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
27 DRESSES (PG-13) 11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:20
MAD MONEY (PG-13) 7:10, 9:40

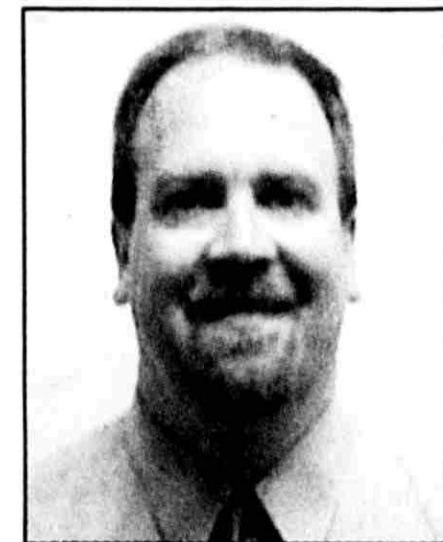
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January marks school board member recognition

January is school board member recognition month, so in honor of the seven residents who serve on the board, here is information on each member, provided by the Lowell Area Schools web site, www.lowellschools.com.

Mark Lessens, President

Mark Lessens was elected to the Board of Education in June 1999. His third term expires in June



Mark Lessens

2011. He is a choir member at St. Mary Church. Lessens was elected president of the Board of Education for the 2007-08 school year. Lessens earned an Associates in Science degree from Grand Rapids Community College and a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Michigan Technological University. Mark is a structural engineer. Mark and his wife Carolyn have four children: Sarah, Melissa, Amanda, and Tyler.

Jim Turner, Vice President

Jim Turner was elected to the Board of Education in May 2005. His first term expires in June 2009. His community involvement includes volunteering at the Gerald R. Ford Job



Jim Turner

water treatment. Turner is a retired waste water treatment operator from the City of Grand Rapids. He and his wife Pat have two children: Melissa Casalina and Kerrie VerWys.

Pat Nugent, Secretary

Pat Nugent was elected to the Board of Education in June 1998. His third term expires in June 2010. He serves as Chairman of the St. Patrick Church History Committee, member of the St. Patrick Cemetery



Maureen Fleet

a double major in business and accounting and has attended GRCC, Central Michigan University and Aquinas College. Maureen serves as Board treasurer on the Board of Education. Maureen is a CPA and works as an accountant for Cedar Springs Public Schools. Maureen and her husband Richard "Scott" have four



Pat Nugent

Committee, and has held the position of president of the Grattan Township Historical Society. Nugent earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in history education from Michigan State University. He also has a Masters of Education degree in Secondary Education from Grand Valley State University. Nugent has been serving as secretary of the Board of Education since 1999. He also serves as the Board representative to the Lowell Education Foundation. Nugent teaches at West Catholic High School.

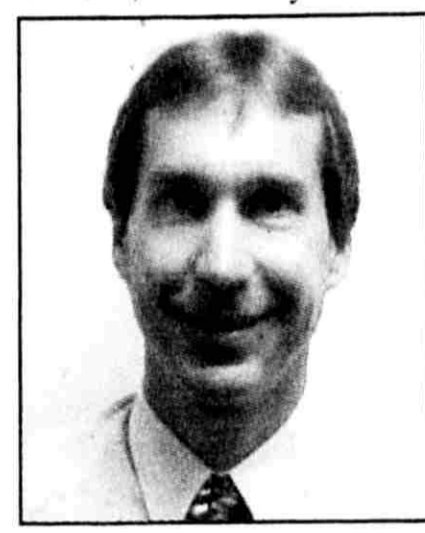
Maureen Fleet, Treasurer

Maureen Fleet was elected to the Board of Education in June 2004. Her first term expires in June 2008. She also serves on the Wittenbach-Wege Advisory Board. Fleet has

children: Kate, Megan, John, and Thomas. She spends her off time fishing on Lake Michigan (Ludington) and attending her children's many extracurricular activities, including band, football and wrestling.

Dan Brubaker, Trustee

Dan Brubaker was elected to the Board of Education in June 2004. His first term expires in June 2008. He is a past board member of the Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation, the Flat River Outreach Ministries, Lowell YMCA, Lowell City Council,



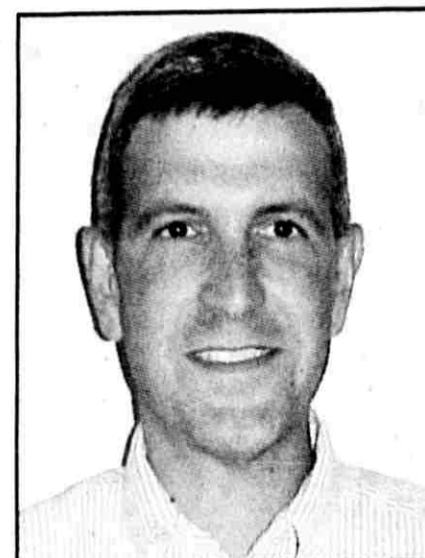
Dan Brubaker

and the Lowell Planning Commission. Brubaker earned his bachelors degree from Albion College and his law degree from the University of Michigan Law School. He serves as a trustee on the Board of Education. Brubaker is a Michigan Supreme Court Commissioner. He and his wife Tamara have four children: Alex, Joshua, Elena, and Martin. All his children have gone through the Lowell school system.

Peter Haefner, Trustee

Peter Haefner was elected to the Board of Education in 2002 and 2006.

His second term expires in June 2010. His community involvement includes treasurer on the Lowell Area Historical Museum Board, past president on the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce Board, and currently is a special review committee member of the Government Finance Officers Association. Haefner earned his Bachelor



Peter Haefner

of Business degree in accounting from Saginaw Valley State University. Peter serves as trustee on the Board of Education. Peter is a CPA and is a partner with Vredeveld Haefner, LLC. Peter also is an adjunct instructor at Hope College for their governmental and nonprofit accounting course.

Peter and his wife Catherine have three children: Bailey, Katie, and Emily.

Nancy Hopkins, Trustee

Nancy Hopkins was elected to the Board of Education in June 1999. Her third term began in June 2007. She has served on various school committees and on St. Robert Church committees. Hopkins earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Aquinas College. She is a public relations and



Nancy Hopkins

communications consultant. She and her husband Mark have three children: Andrew, Jordan, and Claire.

Timpson, continued ... From Page 1

grown on the premises at the Segwun location.

The cold storage building that is currently on the property is considered a legal non-conforming use, since it was built before the regulating ordinance.

The special use permit will allow for maintenance and office support of the trucking and sand mine operation.

Cold storage is an allowed use in Ag2 zone, according to Blumm.

"They've had a special use permit for the sand mine for several years," said Blumm.

Blumm is confident that both parties are approaching a resolution to bring Timpson Transport in conformance with the township ordinances without impacting the business.

A public hearing on special use request will be held on Feb. 11 at 7 p.m.

Viewpoint

To The Editor

Dear Editor,

What is going on with the Lowell Skate Park? That is a question that I am often asked. For those people who have no idea what I am talking about, I'd like to share. There is a group of young people in the community that have been meeting on a weekly basis to work toward the goal of getting a skate park in Lowell. The meetings are very professional with agendas and minutes. Do we need a skate park? You can drive past the soccer fields, tennis courts, softball fields, etc. and you may not see a single person using the fields. But I guarantee you look, day or night, rain or shine; you can bet you will see someone skateboarding. We are definitely in need of a safe place for these kids to enjoy their sport and their passion. The parks and recreation committee has set a designated spot for the park at Stoney Lakeside park, next to the dog park. This group of kids has been doing car washes, pop can drives, and holding concerts to try and raise money. They have a long way to go. We did receive a 3-to-1 match grant from the Lowell Community fund. One thing that they did that I am so proud of is put together a very professional presentation and invited over 200 local businesses. They all showed up on there day off from school at 6 a.m. and provided a nice breakfast. To our disappointment, we had four (yes four out of over 200) attendees. This was quite a disappointment to these kids. They were very discouraged, but are not going to give up. On another note, we want to thank those who have supported the skate park. The Backwater Café donated their prize money from the parade to the committee. These kids deserve a place to skate. This is their passion. If there is anything that you can do to help or if you have ideas for these kids, please contact us. You can also visit our booth at the Lowell Expo in March.

Thanks,
Missy Beckhorn, Adult leader-
Our Love Skate Park Committee

To the Editor,

When was the last time you went to any performance, movie or concert and couldn't stop laughing? Well it happened to me right here in Lowell. I have never had the opportunity to go to a performance starring the Thebes Players. I can tell you right now - I will never miss another one! Moon Over Buffalo is fantastic! Wake Up Lowell - the hot bed of artful delirium - support your artists who have obviously worked their b---- off in this performance. Hurry, you have only one weekend left! Friday and Saturday at the Lowell High School. I think you can call the Lowell Arts Council for dates and times, etc.

Left laughing in Lowell!
Diane King

Dear Editor:

I wish to correct a couple of misstatements that were contained in last week's Ledger. You carried a wonderful story about the tireless work that Rotary International has done to eradicate polio from the face of the earth. In all, Rotary International has spent over \$600,000,000 in Rotary funds in a ten-year program to provide polio shots and oral serum for upwards of a billion children around the world. This massive effort has eliminated polio in all but four countries where political and/or religious differences have caused temporary

roadblocks, but even in those places, agreements are being reached and the target date for the final eradication of this dread disease is expected in 2010. What an incredible milestone that will be to know that little children will no longer face the threat of polio ever again, anywhere! The article misquoted me, saying "In India, for example, nearly millions of kids a day are eradicated." It should have read that millions of children a day were vaccinated against polio by Rotary International teams! Believe me, NOT a single child was eradicated in this worldwide battle against polio. Further, the article went on to say that "Rotary as a whole is looking to be eradicated by 2010." As the President of the Lowell Rotary Club, and as part of 1.2 million Rotary International members worldwide, I can assure you with a confident smile that Rotary will be here long after 2010 BUT, we do anticipate that the program to eradicate polio by vaccinating every child in the world against polio WILL be completed by 2010. We really appreciated the Ledger's article about the Rotary Polio Program but simply wanted to clarify those two points in the story.

Thank you,
Dave Thompson, President,
Lowell Rotary Club

Dear Editor,

In reference to the article in the Jan. 23 issue titled, "DNR partnership with local groomers keeps trail smooth for snowmobilers" written by Steve DeBrabander from the DNR. This was an informative piece, but I would like to clarify four points in the article. 1) "The trail grooming program in Michigan is completed through the issuance of grants funded through the DNR and carried out by locally-based snowmobile organizations." 2) "This year, the clubs and other recipients will receive more than \$7 million from the DNR to keep Michigan's Snowmobile trails in tiptop shape." 3) "Not many snowmobilers are aware that the DNR pays for the equipment that the clubs use to groom the trails." 4) "Last year the State handed over \$7.3 million to trail grooming groups and another \$1.1 million in law enforcement grants." This is a big program and a huge budget, what Mr. DeBrabander left out of the piece is that all this funding did not come from the DNR or tax revenue from the general public. All this funding is derived from fees paid by snowmobilers themselves except the small amount generated by the gas tax. The snowmobile program is entirely self-funded. The snowmobile funds are give to the DNR to administer the program for us. Another fact he left out is that the DNR takes 28 percent or \$2.1 million right off the top just to administer the program for us. The DNR is part of the program, but is not a funding source. By the way, most administration fees are typically in the 7-8 percent range. The snowmobile program funds pay for trail development, maintenance, all signs, bridges over highways and streams, tunnels under expressways, leases for trails over private land and liability insurance also. This year, we bought eight new groomers that cost, depending on equipment needed, from \$142,000 to \$165,000 each, plus drags to smooth the trail costing from \$8,000 to \$10,000 each. Snowmobilers and the businesses that rely on the industry do not have the DNR to thank for our world-class trail network. We pay for the necessary equipment and provisions, and more importantly, volunteers physically groom the trail and do the groundwork. Without their tremendous contributions, our trail system as we know it would not exist, and consequently, neither would the economic stimulus generated by the by the Snowmobile which by the way is a \$1-billion gift to the State of Michigan. It's important to set the record straight for the future of snowmobiling in Michigan.

Bradley Potter



By Shelly MacNaughton

125 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL JOURNAL JANUARY 31, 1883

Mr. E. W. Wilson has opened a flour and feed store on West Water street.

Almost daily, loads of shingle can be seen coming to town from the north woods.

Mercury scored from 17 to 28 degrees below zero here on Friday morning last. A number of frozen ears and noses reported.

Grand Rapids has telephonic connection with 115 towns and is said to have 425 telephones, an increase of 150 in the last year.

100 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER JANUARY 30, 1908

Headline: "Board of Trade Banquet A Rouser"
Annual Event a record breaker. Thirty-two new members. F. T. King President.

75 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER AND ALTO SOLO FEBRUARY 2, 1933

Headline: "Sleeping Driver Sends His Truck in Wagon's Rear"

Should anyone doubt that Ed Koteskey of S. Boston bears a charmed life let him take a look at the farmer's wagon which was completely demolished, (only one wheel left intact) when run into by a truck belonging to the Central Cortage Co. of Detroit near the home of Reuben Lee on US-16 last Friday afternoon. Mr. Koteskey, who is a World War Veteran, says this is the closest call he ever had.

50 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER JANUARY 30, 1958

Martha Stiff, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cary P. Stiff of Ada, has been selected to be Lowell's exchange student abroad next summer. She was chosen by a committee consisting of several Lowell High School teachers and last year's exchange student, Joan Bishop.

Reuben Monroe Wilcox will be celebrating his 95th birthday today with his relatives and friends in Lowell. Mr. Wilcox was born in Jensonville, New York, in 1863. His father was a blacksmith and his mother died when he was very young. He can remember the time when his father fought in the Civil War. Mr. Wilcox was a young boy then.

25 YEARS AGO THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER FEBRUARY 2, 1983

Headline: "Board decides against 1983 Lowell Showboat"

Members of the Lowell Showboat, Board of Directors announced their decision not to produce their annual riverboat show this July and instead pursue other methods to relieve their financial indebtedness.

A CROWN

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CITY OF LOWELL

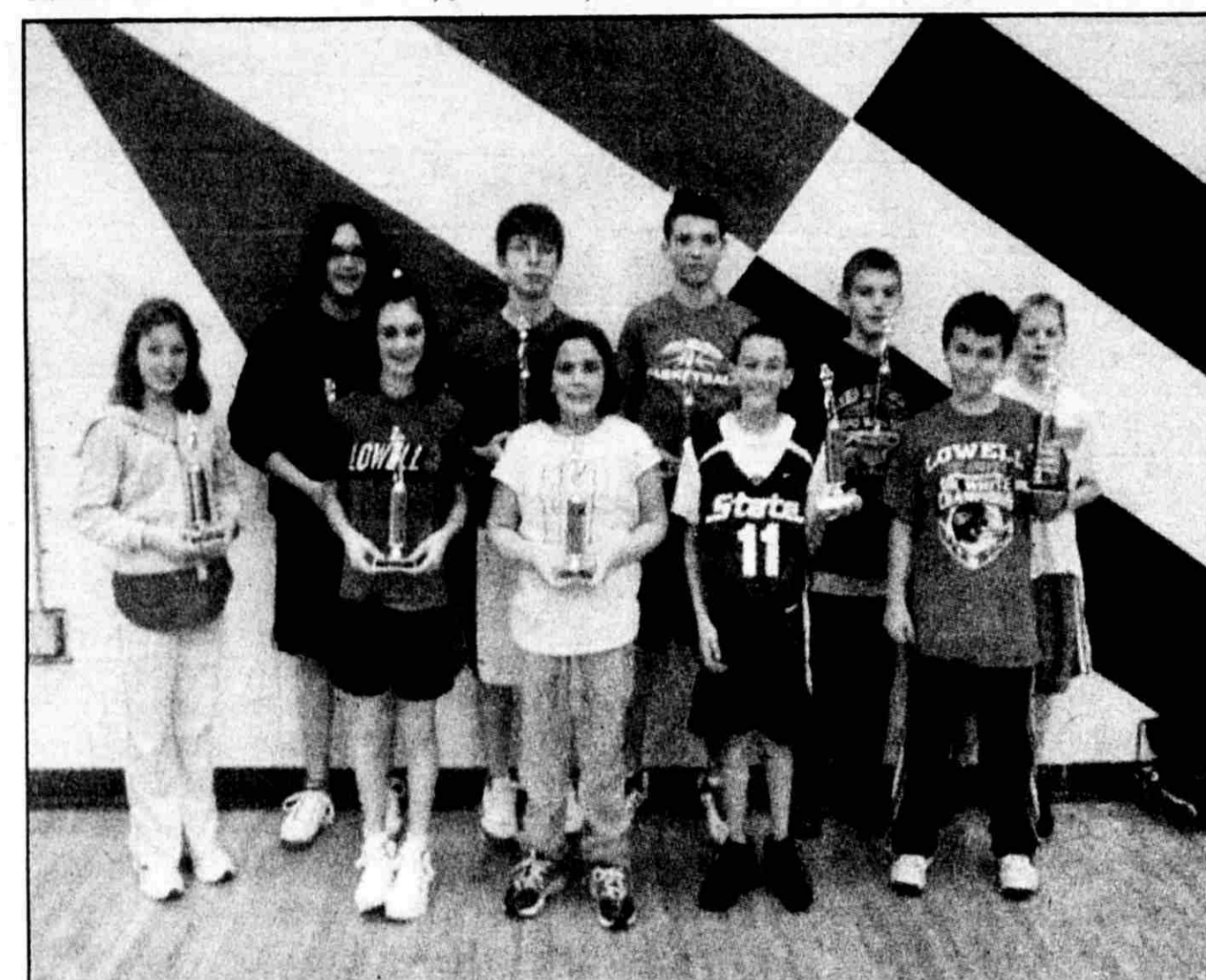
PUBLIC NOTICE SNOW REMOVAL

Whenever any snow or ice has fallen or accumulated, it must be cleared within twenty-four (24) hours. Property owners/occupants are required to clear ice and snow from their sidewalk. If no sidewalk exists, the owner/occupant must clear a path if their property is adjacent to a sidewalk.

NOTICE TO SNOW PLOW OPERATORS

It is against the law to plow snow, ice or slush onto or across any roadway or highway.

Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk



Freethrow Champs

Pictured are the winners of this year's Lowell Knights of Columbus Council's Freethrow Championship.

Winners from this local tournament will move on to the district level on Feb. 2 in Pewamo. (First row, L-R): Kortney Beachler, Abi Cummings, Matthew Beachler, Trevor Shurlow. (Second row, L-R): Catherine Stump, Kelli Malcom, Ian Newhouse, Jordan Drake, Tyler Peterson.

In The Service



Scott Cooper

Air Force Airman 1st Class Scott C. Cooper has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the airman stud-

ied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

He is the son of Mary and Steve Cooper of Ada.

Cooper graduated in 2003 from Lowell High School and received an associate degree in 2005 from Grand Rapids Community College.

on Saturday, Jan. 19 at the Public Museum Grand Rapids, is Ha Jin's A Free Life. Pick up a copy and join the discussion on Tuesday, Feb. 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the Alto branch of Kent District Library.

For more information, please contact the Alto branch of KDL at 647-3820. This branch is located at 6071 Linfield Ave. in Alto.

Business Matters



Lisa Brown

Greenridge Realty announced that Lisa Brown received Realtor of the Year for 2007, for the Lowell office. This award recognizes Brown for her outstanding success and achievements.

At Your Local Library



BOOK DISCUSSION AT ALTO BRANCH

Join others for a Kent County is reading, friendly, informal discussion of the book everyone in



By Father George J. Fekete
St. Mary Church

On January 22, 1973, the United States Supreme Court, with the Roe v. Wade case, legalized abortion in our nation. I was a 7 to 2 vote. Justice Byron White, who was one of the dissenting judges, wrote that the Supreme Court "values the convenience of the pregnant mother more than the continued existence and development of the life or potential life that she carries." Maybe Justice White's opinion can be paraphrased, "Our culture values convenience and pleasure more than life itself."

In the Scriptures we read, "Thus says the Lord your redeemer, who formed you from the womb: I am the Lord, who made all things" (Isaiah 44:24). This takes us back to

the earlier words of Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you" (Jeremiah 1:5). The Supreme Court did not define when human life begins. Fortunately, the words of Isaiah and Jeremiah, "from the womb" and "in the womb," respectively, speak very loudly and clearly for us. Human life begins at the moment of conception. God is the author of life and He is involved in the conception of every human being. So, human life is sacred because, from its beginning it involves the creative action of God, who is its sole end. Since God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end, no one can under any circumstance claim for himself/herself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being.

There is a quote which is etched into the high ceiling of one of the state's capitol building. The quote states "Whatever is morally wrong is not politically correct." Abortion is morally wrong.

As Gianna Jessen, an abortion survivor states, "Our country is shedding the blood of the innocent. America is killing its future. We must honor the right to life." God love you.



Revenue Estimating

With Rep. Dave Hildenbrand

Just prior to the regularly scheduled Revenue Estimating Conference in Lansing, the state Legislature was informed that Michigan has a \$353 million surplus from the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2007. As a member of the Michigan House of Representatives, I was shocked and astonished by this news. Through our budget debates, we rely on accurate information from state officials on predicted revenue and we base our decisions on that data. After a grueling budget battle in September of 2007, which included a tax increase of \$1.4 billion, a

threat by the governor to shutdown state government and outright panic over an alarming budget deficit, how is it possible that the administration "discovered" a significant surplus from the 2007 fiscal year?

Accusations from state Legislators, business leaders and the general public surfaced. Was this poor management by state officials in leadership and shouldn't those people responsible for the misinformation be held accountable? Were the Governor and others intentionally withholding information to mislead

the Legislature and help justify their cry for a huge tax increase on Michigan businesses and residents? The answers to these questions have been slow in coming and the public should be outraged.

As state legislators, one of our constitutional responsibilities is to balance the state budget each year. I take that responsibility very seriously and owe it to the Michigan residents that I represent to spend their tax dollars responsibly and efficiently. It is difficult to do that when information is intentionally withheld, despite my attempts to ask the appropriate people the proper questions. Without knowing the answers as to why we were not made aware of this surplus to prevent it from happening again, it is still our duty to make decisions on how to budget this "newly-found" surplus.

We have already prioritized state spending, debated the budget, compromised, negotiated and settled on an end product. The budget is balanced, in place, being executed and moving forward. So what should we do with the surplus? Of course the ideas are far and wide in Lansing. To me there are two easy solutions: 1) return it to the taxpayers or 2) put it away in a secured rainy day fund for future budget challenges.

Unfortunately Democratic leadership in Lansing already has their sights set to spend it. Michigan is still not out of the economic crisis, and recklessly spending this money is irresponsible. Republicans and Democrats alike can agree that this is the taxpayer's money, so let's all be good stewards of our tax dollars and return the surplus or save it for a future budget crisis.

HEALTH

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



CROUP

Croup is a viral respiratory tract infection that typically affects young children between the ages of 1 and 5. The infection causes the trachea (windpipe) to swell. It causes a fever, hoarseness and a barking (seal-like) cough. It may also cause a crowing noise (called stridor) when the child breathes through the narrowed windpipe. Symptoms tend to be worse at night.

Children with croup should get plenty of rest and liquids. Over the counter children's cough medicine and Children's Tylenol can be used to treat the symptoms. Antibiotics are not effective against croup.

If a child develops a mild attack of stridor, having them breath either moist air or cold air can improve their symptoms. This can be accomplished by the following ways: (1) Run a hot shower with the bathroom door closed. Have the child sit in the bathroom with supervision and breath the steamy air. Or, (2) Take your child outside into the cold air. If your child's breathing does not improve with the above treatments, or if they develop difficulty swallowing, call your doctor immediately.

Most children with mild croup will get better with treatment at home within a week. But some may need treatment in the hospital. If you suspect your child has croup you should monitor their symptoms closely and have them evaluated by their doctor.

College News

Heather Harrigan, of Ada, has been named to the College of Arts and Sciences' Dean's List for the first semester of the 2007-08 academic year.

Erin Lowetz, of Lowell, was named to the Fall 2007 UDM Dean's List. UDM Dean's List honors are awarded to students who

have a grade point average of 3.25 or above in a minimum of six hours or more of graded credit in any semester.

More than 1,300 students were placed on the fall 2007 Dean's List at Michigan Technological University, earning grade point averages of 3.5 or higher.

Dr. Les Cook, vice president for student affairs, reports that 285 students (indicated by asterisks) earned straight A averages of 4.0, with 1,066 attaining GPAs from 3.50 to 3.99.

Among the honorees are the following from the local area: David J. Steffler, Senior Computer Engineering and Duane A. Stephenson, Senior Business Admin-

istration, both of Alto.

Joshua G. Abdo, Senior Electrical Engineering; Laura G. Crimmins*, Junior Geological Engineering and Colin J. Moore* Senior Computer Engineering, all of Lowell.

Happy Birthday

JANUARY 30:

Susan Roudabush, Nicholas Kinsley, Tyler Call, Josh Dietz, Shirley Stevens.

JANUARY 31:

Rick Fonger, Brian Rasch.

FEBRUARY 1:

Lila Grummet, Chris Vezino, Ryan Teelander, Sommer Mercer, J. Johnson, Ivan Blough, Monica Burt.

FEBRUARY 2:

Marie Wade.

FEBRUARY 4:

Jo Hill, Kelsey Scheider, Alan Lally.

FEBRUARY 5:

Ann Mulder, Kenneth Gregersen Sr., Colleen Myers, Mandy

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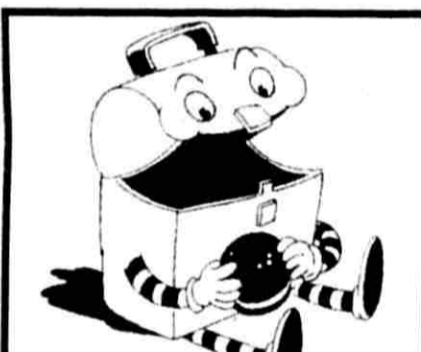
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 - Tuesday.....9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - Wednesday.....9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - Thursday.....8 a.m. to 2 p.m.



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LUNCH MENU

ELEMENTARY MENU
Week of Feb. 4, 2008

MON: Pizza dippers w/ sauce (3 meat sub offered at Alto & Murray Lake), fresh tossed salad, assorted fruit, milk.

TUES: Rotini & Italian meatsauce w/dinner roll (stack ham/cheese/bun offered at Alto & Murray Lake), Mini carrots/dip, pineapple, milk.

WED: French toast sticks/syrup or cereal/ graham crackers & scrambled eggs, applesauce, fruit juice, milk.

THURS: Tony's sausage pizza (chili w/ crackers offered at Alto & Murray Lake), broccoli, warm baked apples, milk.

FRI: Grilled cheese sandwich (sloppy jo on wheat bun offered at Alto & Murray Lake), corn, assorted fruit, homemade peanut butter bar, milk.

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NOTICE OF ADOPTION AND SUMMARY OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 23-52 AND 23-53 OF ARTICLE IV, "CITY ARBOR BOARD," OF CHAPTER 23, "VEGETATION," OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LOWELL




The Lowell City Council adopted Ordinance No. 08-01 amending Sections 23-52 and 23-53 of Article IV, "City Arbor Board," of Chapter 23, "Vegetation," of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowell on January 22, 2008. Ordinance No. 08-01 provides that two of the five members of the City Arbor Board shall be a currently serving City Councilperson and current member of the City Board of Light and Power and their terms shall begin with the date of their appointment and end when they are no longer serving as a City Councilperson or member of the City Board of Light and Power, respectively.

Ordinance No. 08-01 is effective ten days after this publication.



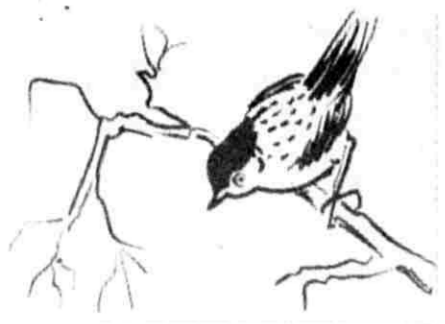
Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

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 Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p>	<p>APOSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M. SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M. 119 Lincoln Lake, Lowell CALL FOR FREE HOME BIBLE STUDIES</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. DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Barrier - Free Entrance</p>	 <p>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God) 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery 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.stmarys-lowell.com</p> <p>Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 P.M.; SUN. 9:30 A.M. Weekday Masses: 7:45 A.M. Holy Day Masses: 9 A.M. & 7 P.M. Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM REGULAR EDUCATION CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETER WIGANS 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 49, ENTRY FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>	<p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL (United Church of Christ) 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906</p> <p>Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Thursday Faith Alive Worship.....7:00 P.M. Dr. Roger LaWare.....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 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org Rev. David O. Sims & Rev. W. Lee Taylor Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor</p> <p>Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 8:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA CLUB, J.C.Wed. 6:15 & 8:30 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. Thurian Meredith</p> <p>9:45 A.M.Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M.Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588</p> <p>Nursery & Children Worship Programs Provided A friend...a family...a mission!</p>	 <p>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.</p> <p>Meets at 201 N. Washington PASTOR MICHAEL RHODABARGER Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>

Outdoors

By Dave Stegehuis



SAY YA TO DA U.P.

Land use issues are often the hot topic during meetings of local governmental units. The demand for commercial and residential space competes with concerns about environmental protection and quality of life. The debates usually revolve around a relatively small parcel of land. A similar scenario has developed in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan but on a much larger scale. At stake is the future of over 8 million acres of forests.

It began in the 1800s when logging companies bought up large tracks of land for the purpose of harvesting timber to be used for the construction of rapidly growing cities to the south. Both Upper and Lower Michigan were stripped of primal forests in a remarkably short time. The land then had little value and was bought by companies that manufactured wood products such as paper. The state also reclaimed vast acreage for non-payment of taxes. Reforestation efforts eventually brought the forests back to productivity as well as providing excellent habitat for wildlife.

The companies owning the land harvested the trees using sustainable forest methods to make their own products. To reduce costs, the property was enrolled as Commercial Forest (CF) which lowered property taxes in return for allowing public access for hunting and fishing. The CF land, together with state and federal property, allowed public access to the majority of land in the U.P.

Logging and related industries formed a broad economic base which provided employment for large numbers of residents. The forests, streams, lakes, and natural vistas drew people from urban areas seeking solitude and recreation. Insulated from large population centers by distance and three Great Lakes, the peninsula retained a culture inherited from immigrants who came to work in the forests and mines. Even today, the U.P. manifests a unique ambience including a dialect noticeable in the speech of most longtime residents.

Recently, however, large tracks of land have been sold. The new owners tend to be businesses which use the forests as a source of raw material to be sold to manufacturers as well as marketing land to developers and individuals. The incentive to sell property increases when market conditions compromise the profitability of forest products.

Maintaining sustainable forests which will provide jobs for residents and attract visitors to the region are necessary for economic growth and preserving the character and culture that is the U.P. The state, local government, a number of high profile conservation groups, and businesses are working together to find ways to satisfy the need for a viable economy

while preserving natural areas and allowing access by the public.

It is easy to take for granted the privilege of freely roaming millions of acres of unspoiled backcountry, fishing miles of pristine streams, and taking your pick of hundreds of lakes to enjoy. But, unless we are vigilant and work hard to protect our special places while there is still time, our grandchildren may have to go online to see what they missed.

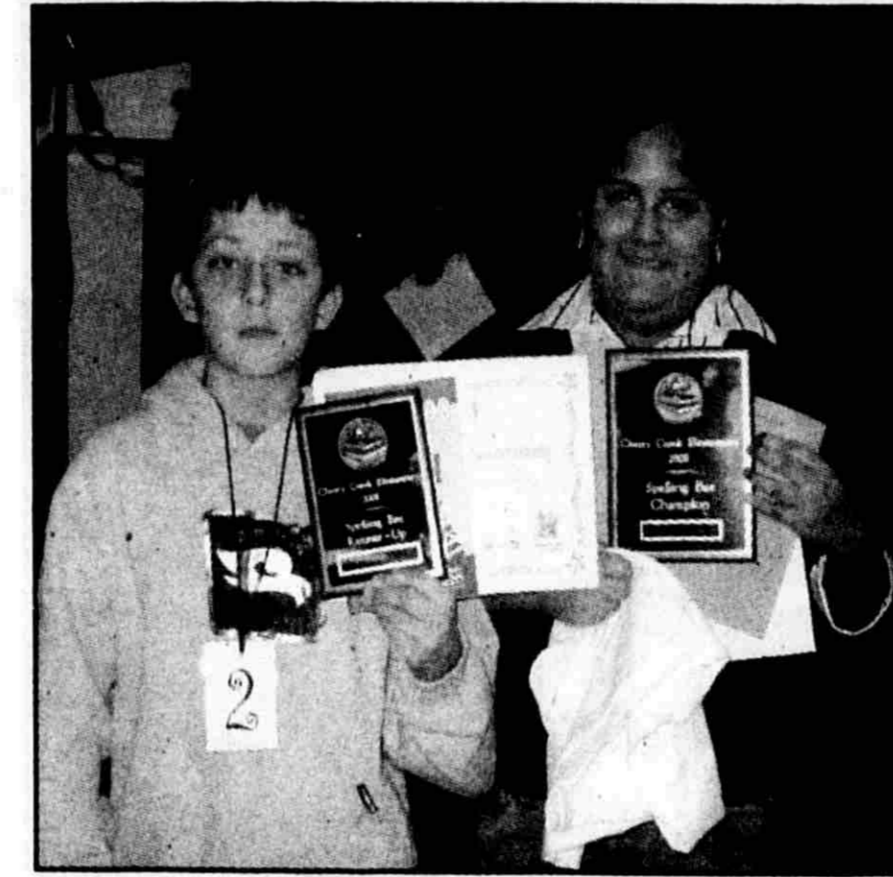
Corridor, continued

... From Page 3

signage between the city and Lowell Township. In related business, the planning commission has set Feb. 25 to further review the off-street parking lighting section of the zoning ordinance. The purpose of the lighting ordinance is to

limit light pollution and to retain rural character of the area. On the issue of implementation of the master plan, the planning commission discussed future land use categories.

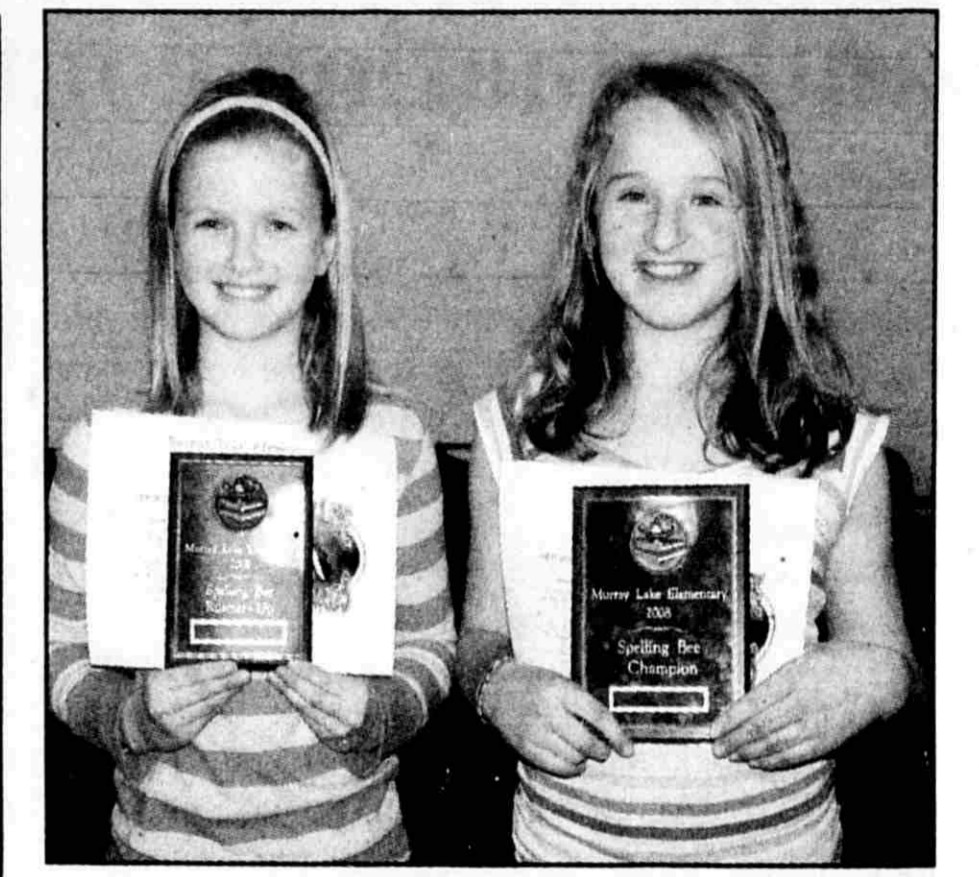
Lowell elementary schools announce spelling bee winners



Twenty-five top spellers at Cherry Creek Elementary School competed in this year's fifth-grade spelling bee on Jan. 18. Facing stiff competition, Natalia Tejada emerged as the winner to become this year's top speller. Dylan Hamilton was the runner-up. Both students are in Mrs. Young's class.



The Alto Elementary fifth-grade spelling bee was held on Thursday, Jan. 24, with 18 fifth graders participating in this event. Spelling her way to the top was Adrienne Rife. The runner up was Maria Blough. This year's bee went several rounds and was exciting up to the very end. Both girls will go to the Regional Bee in February. Pictured L-R: Maria Blough, runner up and Adrienne Rife, winner.



Pictured are Murray Lake's spelling bee fifth-grade champion, Hannah Lambert (right), and runner-up, Laurel Bronkella. Hannah spelled "gorgeous" to win the competition. Both fifth graders will move on to the regional competition held on Feb. 26.

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*Hide not your talents, they for use were made.
What's a sun-dial in the shade?*

- Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)

Middle school geography bee results



The Lowell Middle School geography bee was held on Jan. 25 in the middle school media center. Congratulations go to seventh grader Hunter Stahl who was runner-up, and geography bee finalist, sixth grader, Caleb Flentje. Flentje will be taking an exam to see if he will become eligible for the state level geography bee. Pictured from left to right, Caleb Flentje, Hunter Stahl and principal Linda Warren.

LMS spelling bee winners

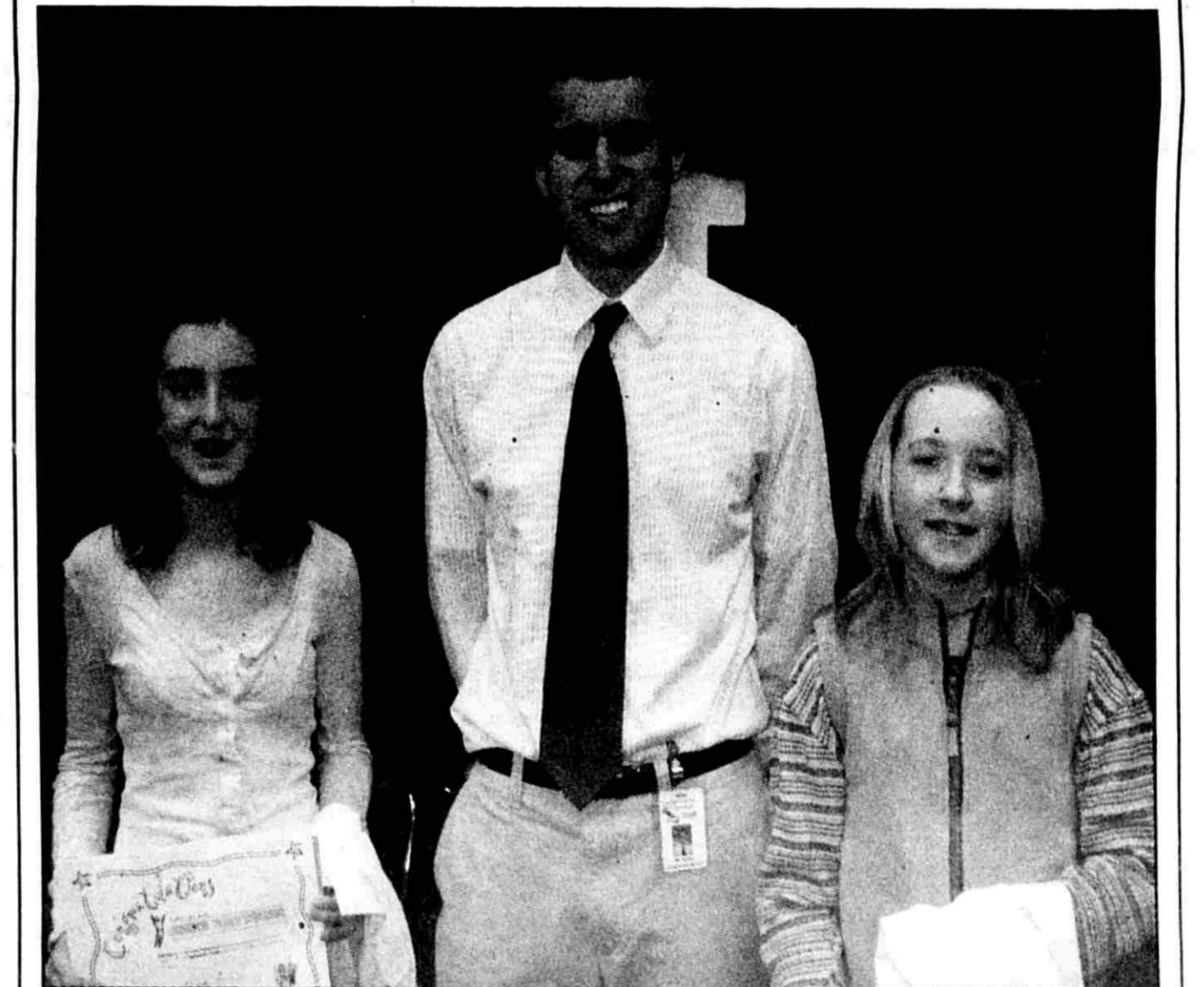
The 2008 Lowell Middle School spelling bee winner is Paige Hale and Kyra Marks is runner-up.

Hale and Marks first competed with their grade levels in a preliminary spelling bee, and then

competed with the top five spellers in each grade level at the final contest, which was held at the LMS Media Center on Jan. 25. Paige

survived 21 rounds of tough competition to be declared the winner.

Paige is the daughter of Gerald and Kim Hale. Kyra is the daughter of Scott and Lori Marks. Both girls will compete in the regional spelling bee on Tuesday, February 26th.



Picture from left to right, Kyra Marks, Nate Fowler, assistant principal, and Paige Hale.

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**ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF
LOWELL**

Moon Over Buffalo combines slapstick, innuendo and situation comedy to create entertaining theatre

by Emma Palova

A colorful set resembling backstage, a touring company with fading stars and a bit of slapstick make up the ingredients of the hilarious "Moon over Buffalo" comedy.

The comedy, directed by Sue Bradford, tells the story of traveling actors George and Charlotte Hay performing in a repertory theatre in Buffalo in the early '50s.

Ken Parrish, who has returned to the Thebes Players stage, is absolutely delightful as George. He delivers a highly physical performance in a mock fencing match with Charlotte, in a fight with the weatherman Howard, and finally in a stunt fall into the orchestra pit.

"And that is where you belong," snaps at him the nearly deaf mother-in-law Ethel in the second act.

Charlotte, played by Sue Veenema, dreams of Hollywood. So, when a phone call comes from famous director Frank Capra, the play goes wild. Capra wants to see one of George's plays to replace his two injured stars in his current film.

However, George's company is in no shape to perform, due to a twisted set of circumstances. Charlotte breaks up with George because of his affair with Eileen. George drowns his misery in a bottle of Jack Daniels.

To further complicate issues, Charlotte mistakes future son-in-law weatherman Howard for director Capra, and gives him the red carpet treatment.

"I admire your work," she praises the weatherman.

Weatherman Howard, who on the other hand admires the couple's acting career, is confused.

"I do this at six o'clock every day," he responds sheepishly.

Played by Casey Berg, Howard later delivers a hopping act dressed as General Patton.

The play culminates when the company decides to go ahead with the matinee performance thinking Capra is in the audience. George

comes on stage late dressed as Cyrano de Bergerac, while the rest of the company is performing "Private Lives."

Other parts include the couple's daughter Rosalind played by Jennifer Reyers, fiancé Paul played by Rob Freund, lawyer Richard played by Matt Tawney, Elly Stevens as Ethel and Andrea Wressell as Eileen.

Moon over Buffalo is now playing at the Lowell Performing Arts Center, Feb. 1 & Feb. 2 at 7:30 p.m., and Feb. 3 at 2:30 p.m.



Clockwise from top: Sue Veenema shakes it up, the cast of Moon over Buffalo takes a bow and Ken Parrish (Cyrano de Bergerac) on bended knee.



Farming, a lifestyle for retired couple



by Emma Palova

For Vern and Gay Nauta, farming was more than just a family business. It was a lifestyle that lasted 42 years on the dairy and cash crop farm in Vergennes Township.

With prime farmland on the Parnell Corridor, the Nautas had ample opportunities to sell off the land. As a matter of fact they did sell off a portion of the farm to be able to retire after years of hard work.

"I want people to realize that most farmers are not able to save large sums of money for retirement while farming," said Gay. "A part of our land was sold to enable us to accomplish our goal."

However, as good stewards of the land and agriculture, years ago they learned about the farmland preservation program.

"We became interested in setting a portion of our farm aside," said Gay.

The Nautas applied to the program approximately five years ago, and since they've met the criteria, they have been accepted. But, now they're waiting for funding.

"Our thought has always been, 'what better way to preserve the land for the future?'" said Gay.

And although, the couple will most likely not be living near the preserved

land in the future, the land will remain open.

"We want our grandchildren, great-grandchildren and those generations that follow to be able to visit open, productive farmland," said Gay.

For Vern, a trustee on the Vergennes Township board and former planning commissioner, preserving the land was a natural thing to do.

"Yes, I would encourage other farmers to do it," said Vern. "The country needs to be self-sufficient. Our children have encouraged us."

It is Vern's philosophy, once farmland is gone, it's gone forever. So, in the near future, approximately 80 acres of preserved prime farmland will become part of the preserved Parnell Corridor.

"We have never been, nor ever will be, interested in preserving our land for any other reason than to maintain rural atmosphere in the township that we love," said Gay. "We don't think we should be called farmland preservation elitists."

To be eligible for state funding, Vergennes Township has recently updated the master plan to include an area for farmland preservation.

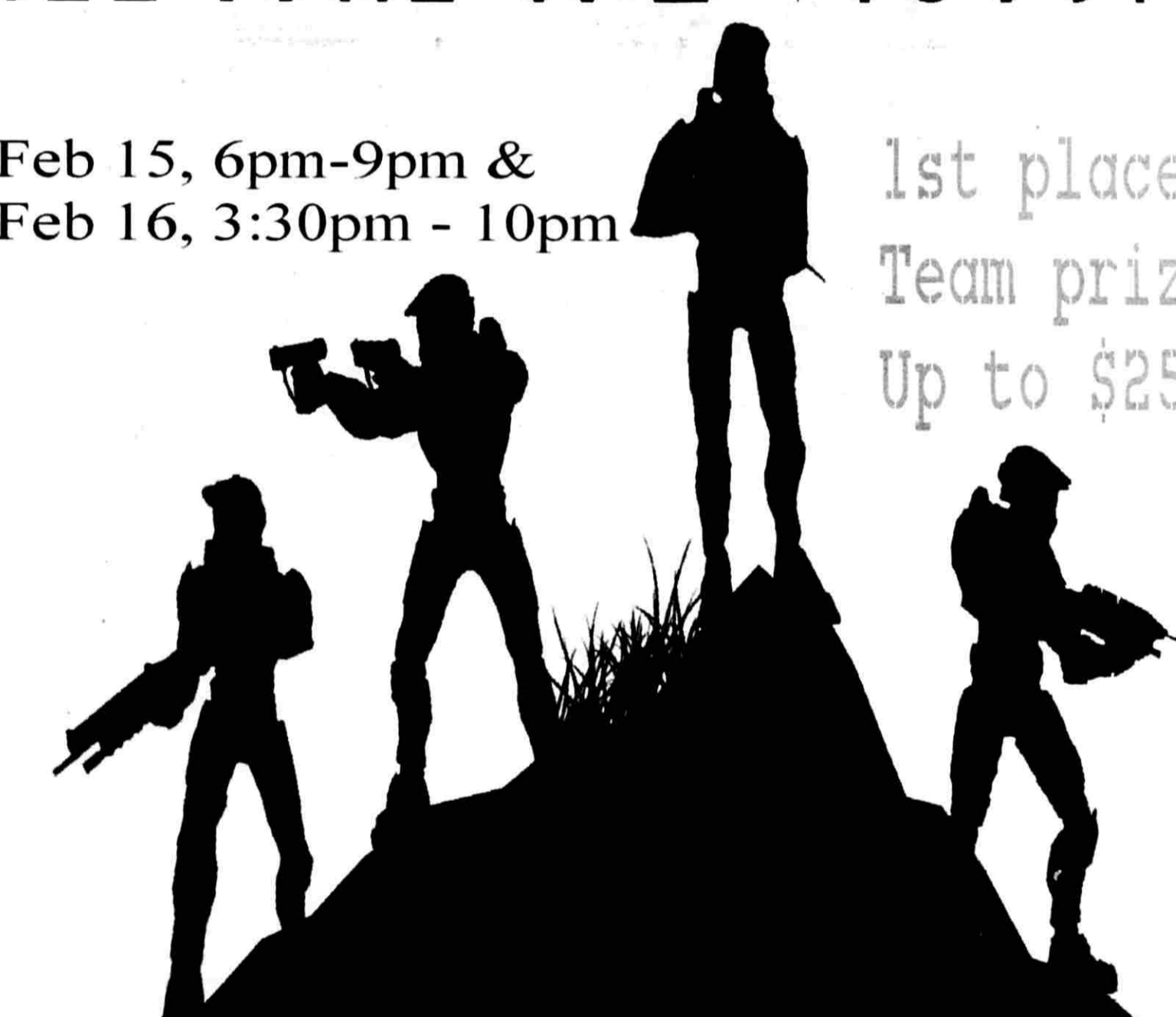


The Vern Nauta farm will join a block of preserved farmland along the Parnell Corridor.

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TOURNAMENT

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Audits, continued ...

From Page 1

In related business, the city council will hold "Coffee with the Council" informal discussion forums with the citizens on the first Saturday of every month at the chamber from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

"It's a good start," said council member Sharon Ellison. "It's an extension of our hand."

Chamber director Liz Baker said the sessions will give an opportunity to the community to discuss issues on a neutral ground.

"I am pleased the council is taking this initiative," said Baker.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LOWELL COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN

WHISPERING HILLS STREET LIGHTING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

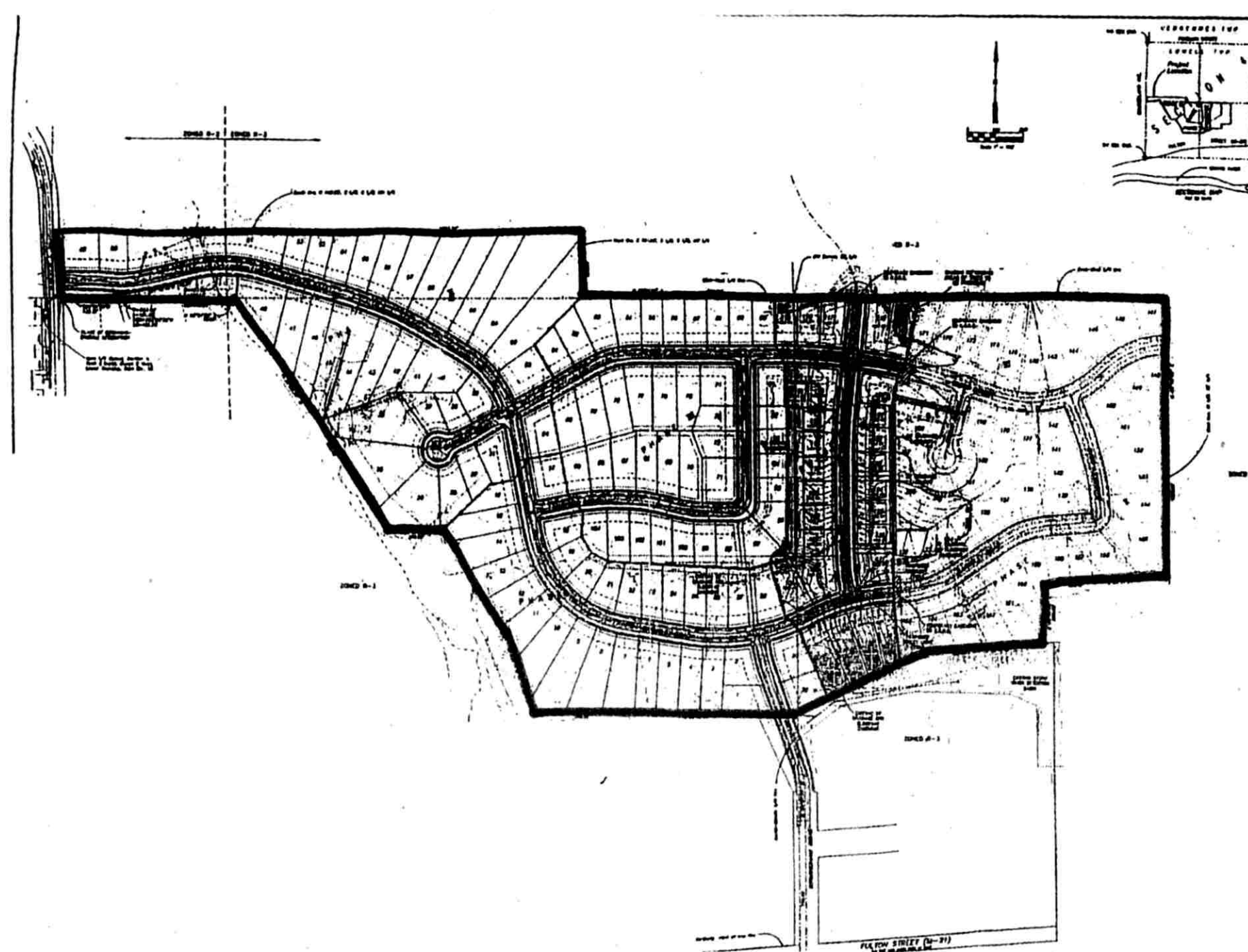
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Lowell, Kent County, Michigan, having determined to make certain public improvements consisting of the installation, improvement and maintenance of street lights (the "Improvements"), within the Whispering Hills Street Lighting Special Assessment District (the "District"), in accordance with Act 188 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1954, as amended. The Township Board has resolved its intent to make the Improvements in the Township. The Township Board has tentatively determined that the cost of the operation and maintenance of the Improvements shall be specially assessed against each of the following described lots and parcels of land which are benefitted by the Improvements and which together comprise the District:

WHISPERING HILLS STREET LIGHTING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

Lots and Parcels Numbered:

41-20-04-174-001	41-20-04-326-001	41-20-04-327-018	41-20-04-330-003	41-20-04-331-009	41-20-04-332-012
41-20-04-174-002	41-20-04-326-002	41-20-04-327-019	41-20-04-330-004	41-20-04-331-010	41-20-04-332-013
41-20-04-174-003	41-20-04-327-001	41-20-04-327-020	41-20-04-330-009	41-20-04-331-011	41-20-04-332-014
41-20-04-174-004	41-20-04-327-002	41-20-04-327-021	41-20-04-330-010	41-20-04-331-012	41-20-04-349-001
41-20-04-174-005	41-20-04-327-003	41-20-04-327-022	41-20-04-330-011	41-20-04-331-013	41-20-04-376-001
41-20-04-174-006	41-20-04-327-004	41-20-04-327-023	41-20-04-330-012	41-20-04-331-014	41-20-04-376-002
41-20-04-174-007	41-20-04-327-005	41-20-04-327-024	41-20-04-330-013	41-20-04-331-015	41-20-04-376-003
41-20-04-174-008	41-20-04-327-006	41-20-04-328-002	41-20-04-330-014	41-20-04-331-016	41-20-04-376-004
41-20-04-174-009	41-20-04-327-007	41-20-04-328-003	41-20-04-330-015	41-20-04-332-001	41-20-04-376-005
41-20-04-174-010	41-20-04-327-008	41-20-04-329-001	41-20-04-330-016	41-20-04-332-002	41-20-04-376-006
41-20-04-174-011	41-20-04-327-009	41-20-04-329-002	41-20-04-330-017	41-20-04-332-003	41-20-04-376-007
41-20-04-174-012	41-20-04-327-010	41-20-04-329-003	41-20-04-331-001	41-20-04-332-004	41-20-04-376-008
41-20-04-174-013	41-20-04-327-011	41-20-04-329-004	41-20-04-331-002	41-20-04-332-005	41-20-04-376-009
41-20-04-175-001	41-20-04-327-012	41-20-04-329-005	41-20-04-331-003	41-20-04-332-006	41-20-04-376-010
41-20-05-284-013	41-20-04-327-013	41-20-04-329-006	41-20-04-331-004	41-20-04-332-007	41-20-04-378-010
41-20-05-284-014	41-20-04-327-014	41-20-04-329-007	41-20-04-331-005	41-20-04-332-008	41-20-04-401-031
41-20-05-284-024	41-20-04-327-015	41-20-04-329-008	41-20-04-331-006	41-20-04-332-009	41-20-04-401-041
41-20-05-284-025	41-20-04-327-016	41-20-04-329-009	41-20-04-331-007	41-20-04-332-010	41-20-04-451-001
41-20-05-284-026	41-20-04-327-017	41-20-04-329-010	41-20-04-331-008	41-20-04-332-011	41-20-04-451-002

MAP OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT



Boundary of Whispering Hills Street Lighting Special Assessment District (includes all lots within all plats and phases of Whispering Hills subdivision)

TAKE NOTICE that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Lowell will hold a public hearing on February 19, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., at the Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash Ave., S.E., within the Township, to hear and consider any objections to the proposed Improvements, and all other matters relating to said Improvements and the District.

Preliminary plans and estimates of cost for the Improvements are on file with the Township Clerk for public examination.

Annual redeterminations of cost may be made without further notice to record owners or parties in interest in the property in the district, but if at any time an actual incremental cost increase exceeds the annual estimate of such increase by ten percent or more, an assessment reflecting such increase shall not be made until an additional public hearing is held, after the giving of public notice to the owners of property to be assessed in the district.

Property shall not be added to the proposed special assessment district and the original estimate of cost shall not be increased by more than 10% without further notice and public hearing.

This Notice was authorized by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Lowell.

Dated: January 21, 2008

Linda S. Regan, Clerk
Charter Township of Lowell

Red Arrow SPORTS



Jordan Steger

L/C beats West Ottawa, keeps lead in Tier 3 with 5-0 record

by Molly Benningfield
Editor

Lowell/Caledonia 5,
West Ottawa 2

In case anyone had their doubts about Lowell/Caledonia hockey this season, the team squashed all bad thoughts Friday night with a big win against league team West Ottawa, 5-2.

The Arrows will stay at the top of Tier 3 for another week as the only undefeated team in the league, with five wins. West Ottawa trails L/C with a 4-1 record.

"It's very pleasing that the kids stepped up and took their own destiny for the league title," head coach Mike Ballard said of Friday's win.

He said his team got into a "hitting contest" during the first period, but found

their stride in the second and third.

"In the second [period], we settled down and played our style of hockey," Ballard said. "There were specific things to do and the team executed them well. In the third, we had a lead and went to four lines instead of three, and we could control the pace of the game well."

West Ottawa took an early lead in the first period, but L/C answered back with goals by Brent Steele and Jordan Steger.

In the second period, L/C scored twice more, on shots from Steger and Drake Chittenden, and shut out the Panthers.

The third period saw a total team play, with Ken Hayes slapping one in, with assists by Justin Story and

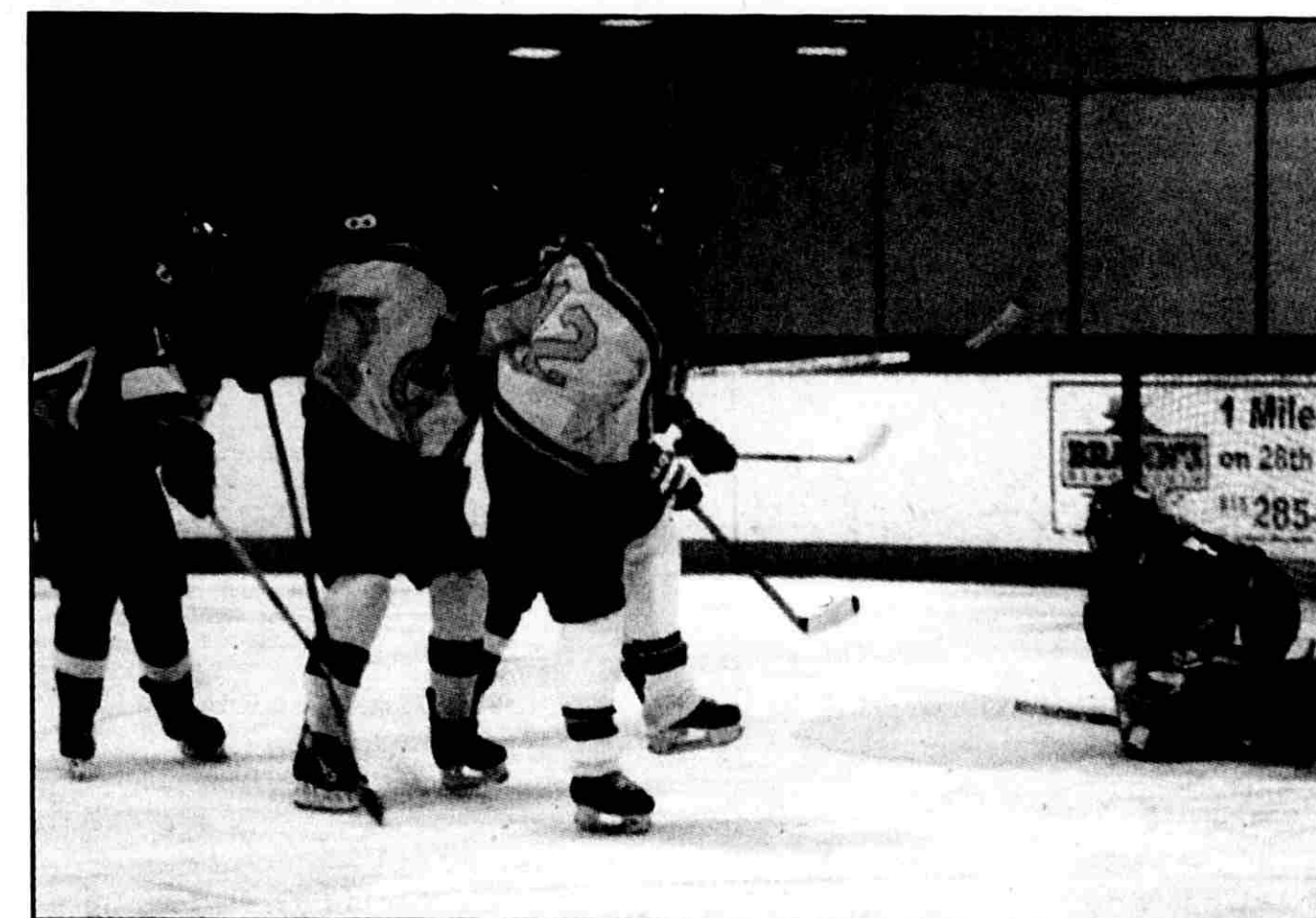
Chittenden. West Ottawa would score once more late in the period.

Goaltender Corey Phillips was stopped 26 of 28 shots at net.

Lowell/Caledonia 4,
West Catholic 0

The Arrows kept their winning streak with a shutout against West Catholic, 4-0. Ballard said the team out shot the Falcons 37-7. Steger, Kolin Morgan, Kyle Baker and Drake Chittenden all had goals, while goalie Chris Bilski stopped all seven of West Catholics shots at net.

The team will travel to Kalamazoo this weekend for a two-day tournament. Their next home match is Friday, Feb. 8 against Grand Haven at 5:30 p.m.



(Top): Ken Hayes (12) gets a goal with the help of Justin Story and Drake Chittenden.



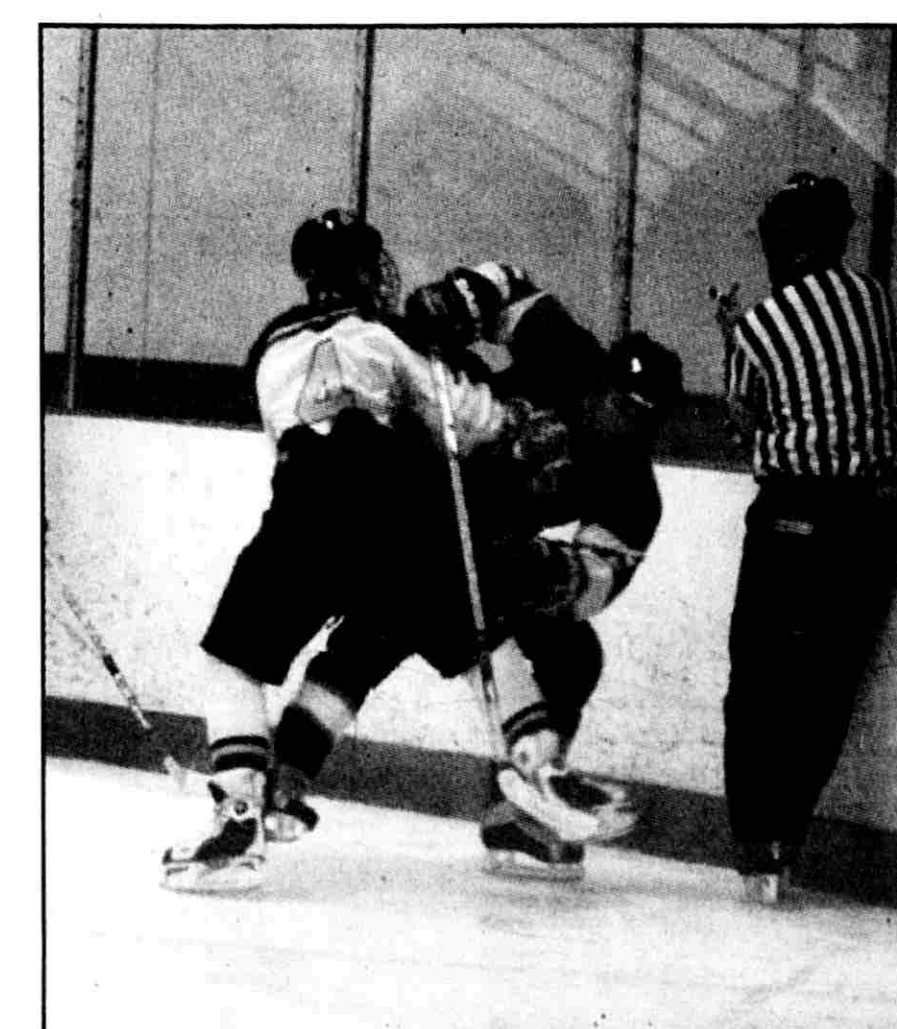
(Top): Justin Story brings the puck down the ice.



(Top): Nolan Blair (8) fights for the puck.
(Bottom): Kolin Morgan (4) goes against a West Ottawa opponent.



(Right): Bo Adams (21) looks to turn to the net.



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Red Arrow SPORTS

“WE’VE MADE, SO FAR THIS SEASON, A LOT OF PROGRESS AS A TEAM. YOU SEE IT IN THE PRACTICE ROOM FIRST, AND THEN ON THE MATS.”

- Coach Dave Dean

Red Arrow wrestling gets another conference win

by Molly Benningfield
Editor

The Lowell wrestling team has continued their winning ways in the OK-White conference, as they defeated Kenowa Hills 63-9 last Wednesday.

Coach Dave Dean said he was happy with the win, but can find areas to improve upon.

“I was pleased with their performance tonight,” Dean said. “But I saw plenty of things to work on.”

He said the team has made great strides this season. “We’ve made, so far this season, a lot of progress as a team. You see it in the practice room first, and then on the mats.”

He also said he was very happy to see many of his wrestlers stepping up their performances.

“Guys are coming in more prepared and have more intensity,” Dean said. “A lot of guys have really improved.”

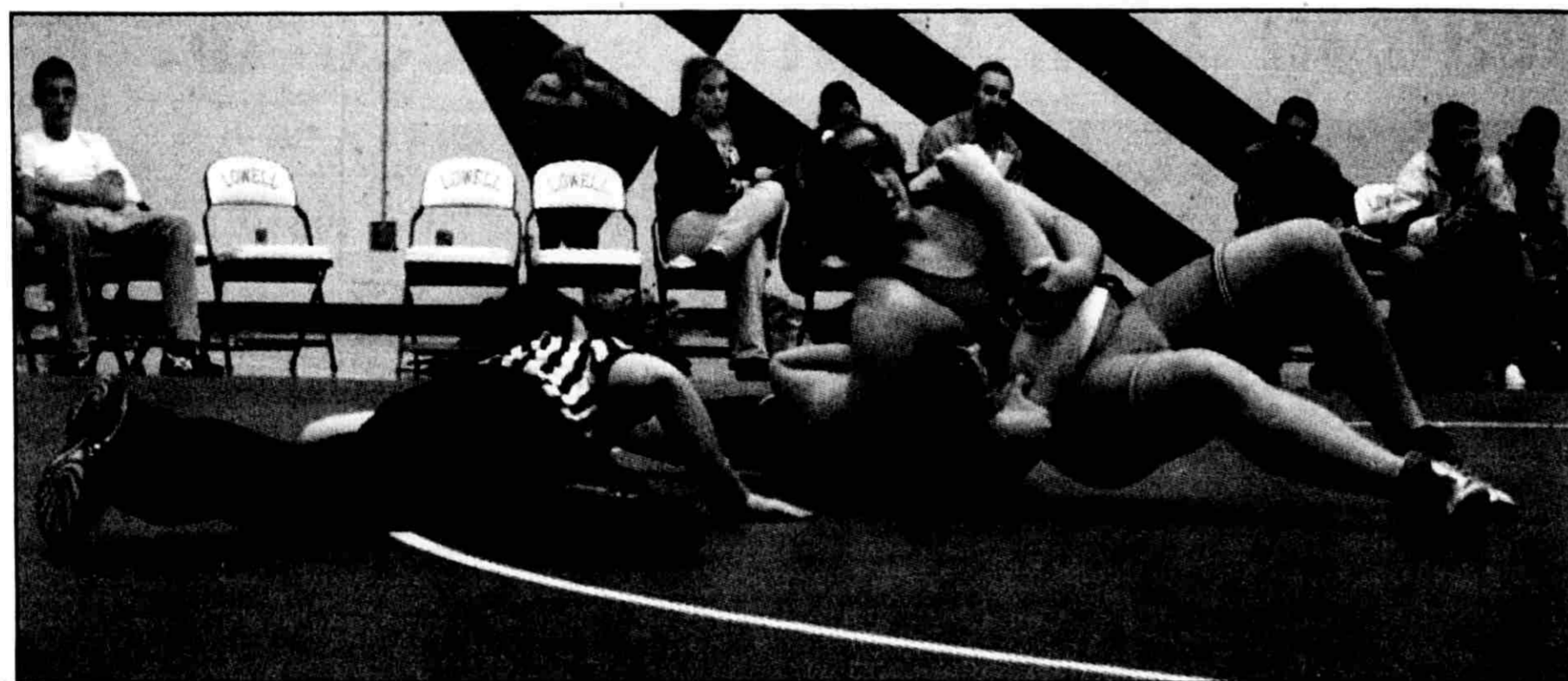
One of those good performances came from senior Zach Baum, who celebrated his 101st victory. The team decided to celebrate with cake, and chose 101 victories so they could honor him at home. Anyway, said Dean, it fits

his personality better - “he has a really dry sense of humor.”

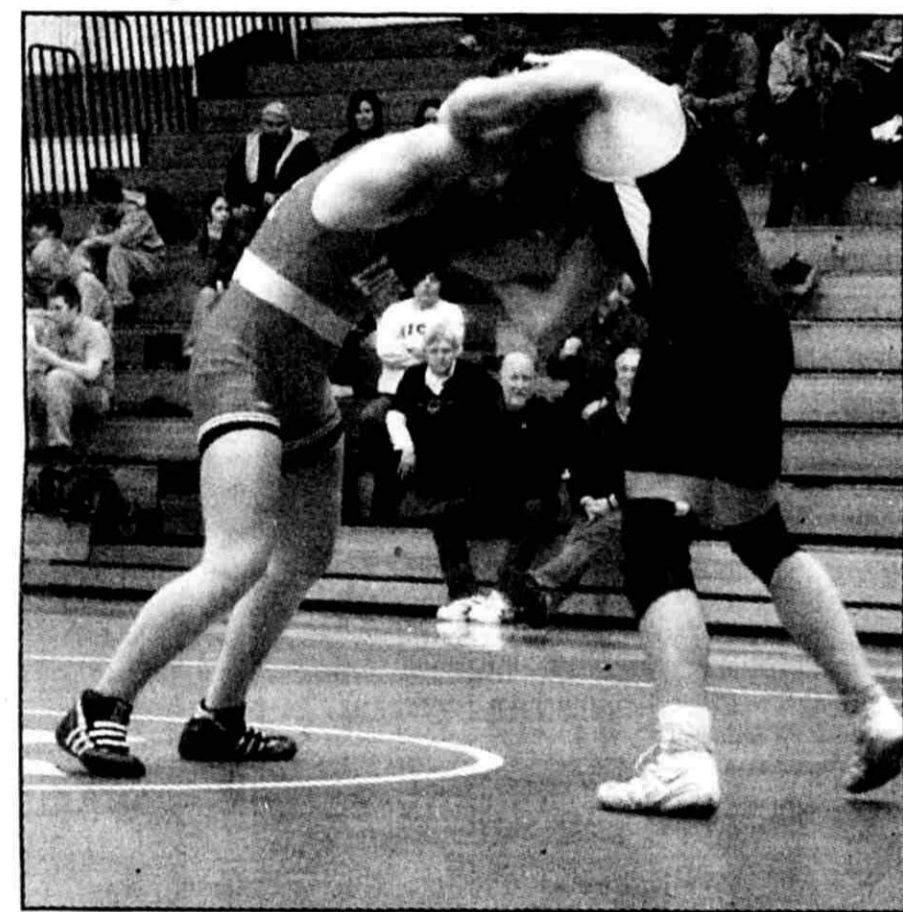
Against Kenowa Hills, Lowell saw a lot of good performances come from solid wrestlers. Jackson Morse, a sophomore with a big future, pinned a two-time State qualifier, while Tim Gingerich and Justin Boss both had big wins against some of their better wrestlers, assistant coach Dustin Cichocki said.

Thomas Fleet and Connor Kruse also had key wins late in the night.

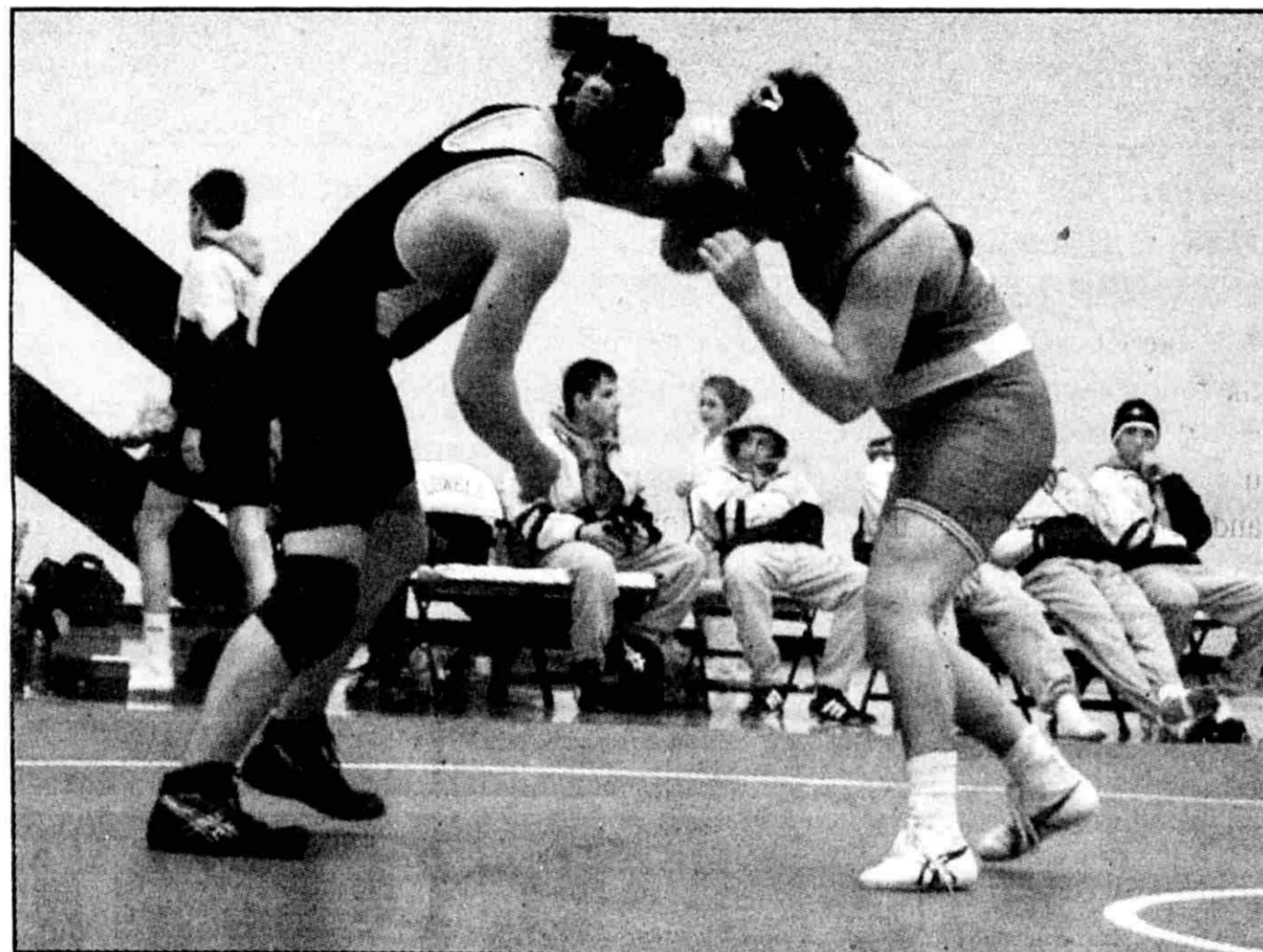
The Arrows will travel to East Grand Rapids for a dual tonight, and will see



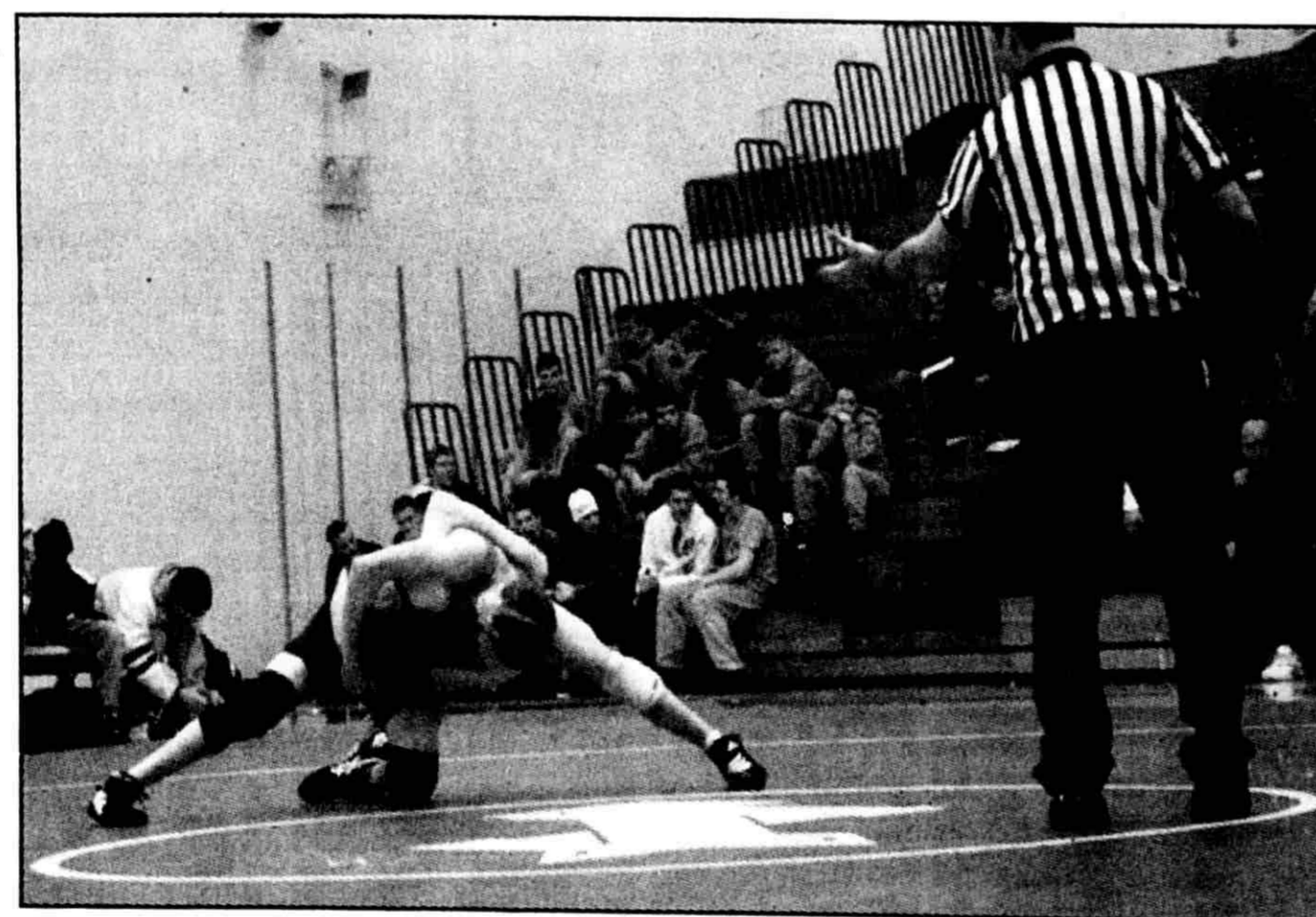
Connor Kruse won an important match against Kenowa Hills.



Austin Graham lost a close match.



Thomas Fleet won a key match.



Matt Griffioen won at 112 pounds against his Kenowa Hills opponent Wednesday night.

THANK YOU
Thanks to Catherine Haefner for pulling me out of a ditch on Parnell Monday morning.
- EP

CORRECTION:

The article, “Rotary continues fight against polio” in the Jan. 23 issue of the Lowell Ledger, incorrectly stated that “In India, for example, nearly millions of kids are eradicated a day” and should have read “vaccinated”. Also, “Rotary as a whole is looking to be eradicated by 2010” was meant to state, “Rotary as a whole is looking for these countries to be eradicated by 2010.”

Red Arrow SPORTS

“WE WEREN’T FOCUSED. YOU’D THINK IF YOU PUT ON A LOWELL JERSEY, YOU’D BE EXCITED.”

- Coach Jeff McDonald

Arrow basketball notches two more wins

by Molly Benningfield
Editor

It wasn’t the prettiest of games, but it was still a win. The boys’ basketball team got a win in non-league play against Grand Rapids team Creston, 64-53 Monday night.

Head coach Jeff McDonald said his team was lagging.

“There was not much energy today,” McDonald said. “We weren’t focused. You’d think if you put on a Lowell jersey, you’d be excited.”

The team led at halftime 22-17, and managed to outscore Creston in both of the following quarters.

Both teams managed to use the entire gym that night and get the crowd in on the

action, making dives into the bleachers on more than one occasion.

McDonald said he likes to schedule “different styles of teams so we can get ready for Districts.” Creston, he said, is a “quick and athletic team”, a style similar to their next opponent, Caledonia.

“They drive the ball well,” McDonald said of the Scots. “If we can’t get going for Caledonia, then I don’t know what we can do.”

Although the Arrows saw slow play this week, they are tied for first in the OK-White, McDonald said.

He was happy with the win against Creston because it’s “nice to protect home turf.”

Michael Schumm had 17 points for the Arrows and

led all scorers for the night. Matt Kurtz took in 14 points, while Eric Saenz had 10.

McDonald said he wants his team to “start taking care of the basketball better, value possessions, rebound better and make free throws” in preparation for Caledonia. Sounds like a tall order for a basketball team, but for the Arrows, they can make it happen.

The Arrows played twice last week in conference match-ups, losing a tough game against Forest Hills Northern and winning against Greenville.

Lowell 54, FHN 62

The Arrows buried three after three to gain a lead against Forest Hills Northern in the first quarter, but were worn out by the Huskies and

lost 54-62 Friday night.

Although they tightened the deficit to just three points in the fourth quarter, Lowell couldn’t put all the pieces together.

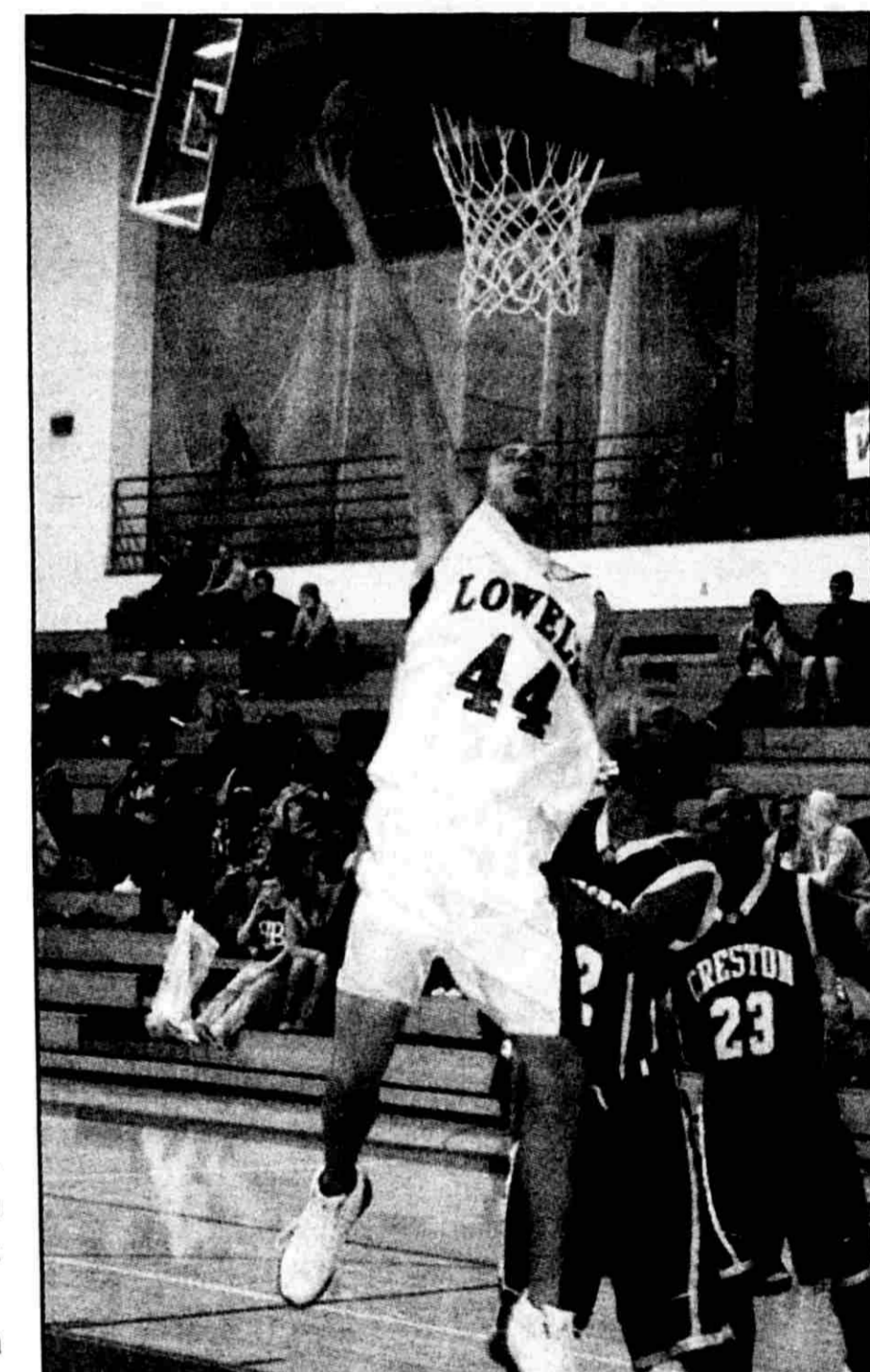
Schumm was again a leader in scores, taking in 21 points.

Lowell 62,

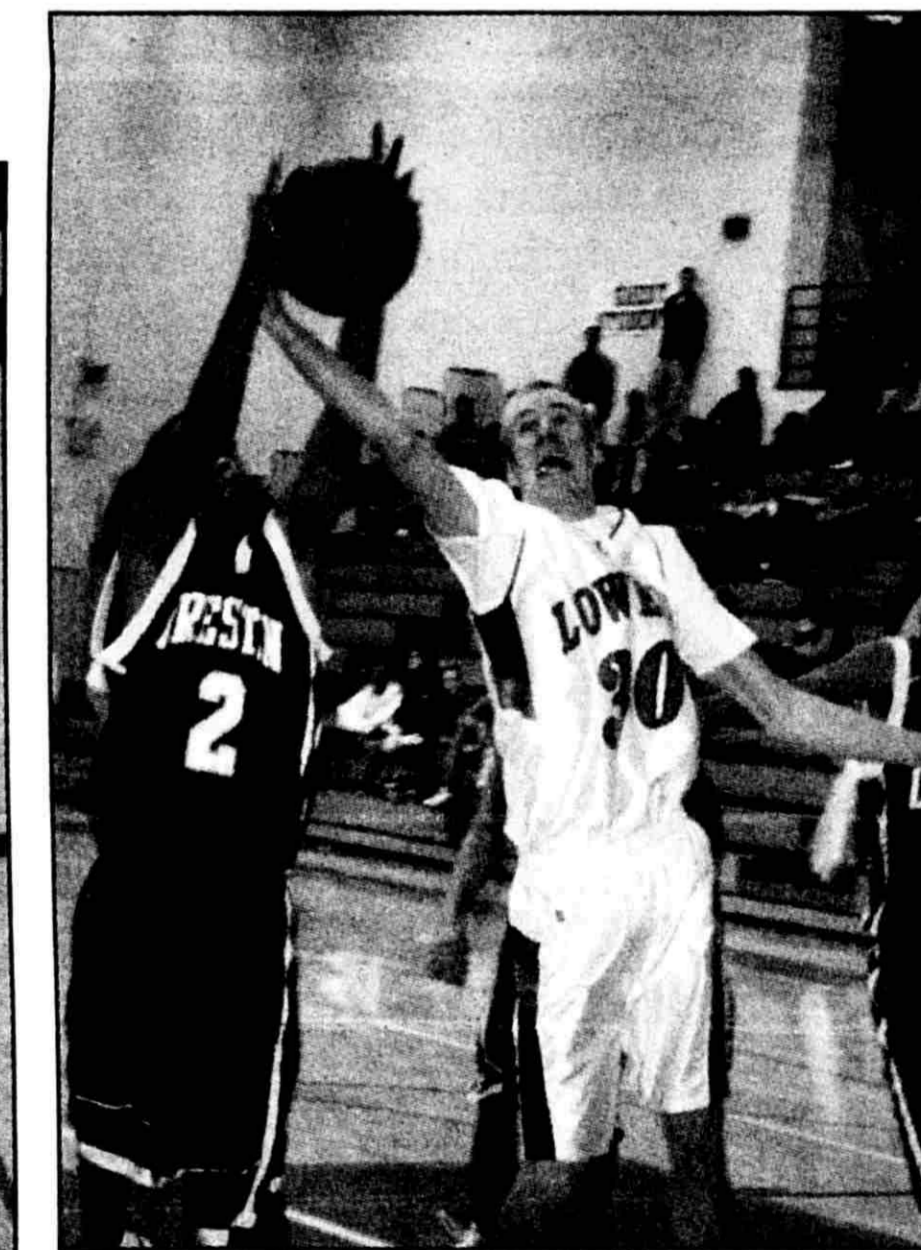
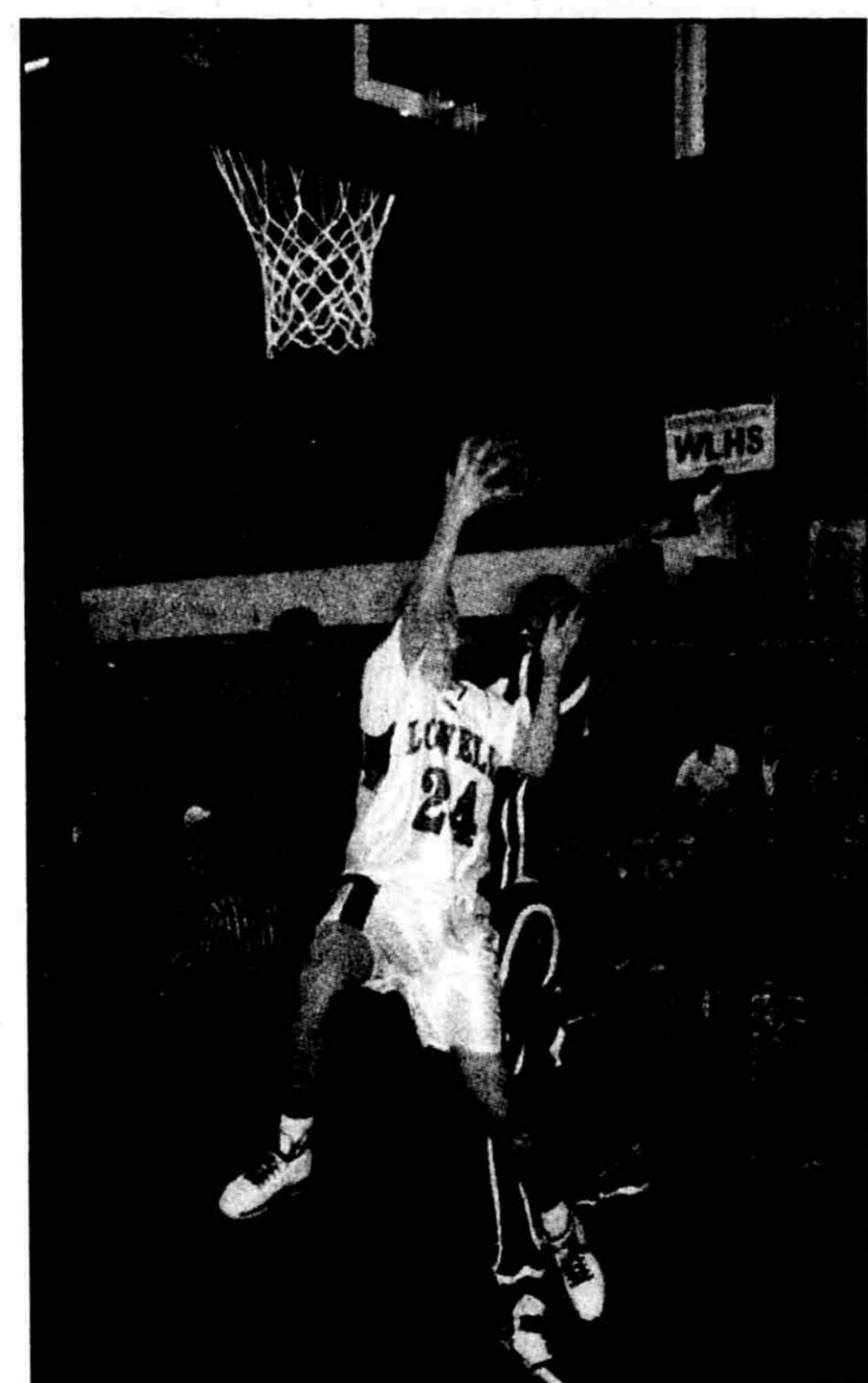
Greenville 47

The Arrows improved their standings in the OK-White with a win against the Yellow Jackets on Tuesday night last week. Kurtz and Schumm led Lowell with 15 points each, while Saenz had 10.

The Arrows take on Caledonia at home Thursday night in what should be an exciting conference match-up.



Eric Saenz (44) takes the ball to the hoop.



(Top): Daniel Lane (30) makes a grab for a ball.

(Far Left): Michael Schumm (24) goes up for a basket.

(Left): Matt Kurtz (22) faces tough D.

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Red Arrow SPORTS



Jeremy Drake

Gymnasts place well in invitationals

The Lowell gymnastics team has come out in full force against area opponents.

On Saturday at the Kenowa Hills Invitational, Richelle Kimble received three medals, taking 8th place in vault, 9th in floor and 7th on the bars. The team scored 126.550, and got 8th place out of 14 teams.

Last Wednesday, the team traveled to East Kentwood and beat the Talons by nearly 55 points, with a score of 124.15 against EK's 70.425.

At the Mona Shores meet on Jan. 19, the team took 5th with a score of 122.450. Kimble medaled at 8th place with a score of 8.55 on vault.

At the Rockford and Lowell meet on Jan. 16, the Arrows came close to dethroning their tough opponent, with a score of 127.80 to 132.50. The Arrows were well-rounded in with their medals, placing first or second in all apparatuses.

Kimble took 1st place on the beam with an 8.9 and 2nd place on the bars with an 8.25, while Andrea Coffey took first on the floor with 8.65 and Sara Tarchala got 2nd on the vault with 8.4.

At the Cadillac Invitational, the team scored 126.95 and got 4th place. Kelsey Teft received an all-around medal, along with beam, floor and vault medals. Kimble received a bar medal, while Coffey took home a floor medal.

Bowling teams beat FHC, do well at Union Invitational

by Molly Benningfield
Editor

The boys' and girls' bowling teams both grabbed big conference wins last week against Forest Hills Central. The boys' team shut out the Rangers, with a 30-0 score, while the girls' team dominated with a 29-1 score.

Eric Bouwhuis was the highest single game score for the Arrows, with a 231, while Jeremy Drake had 204. Brandon Jahnke had 379 for two games.

The boys' team won game 1 1007-763 and game 2 816-568.

Ashley Nawrocki was the top scorer for the girls' team, taking in 370 for two games. Liberty Clark had a 369, while Nicole Videan had 343.

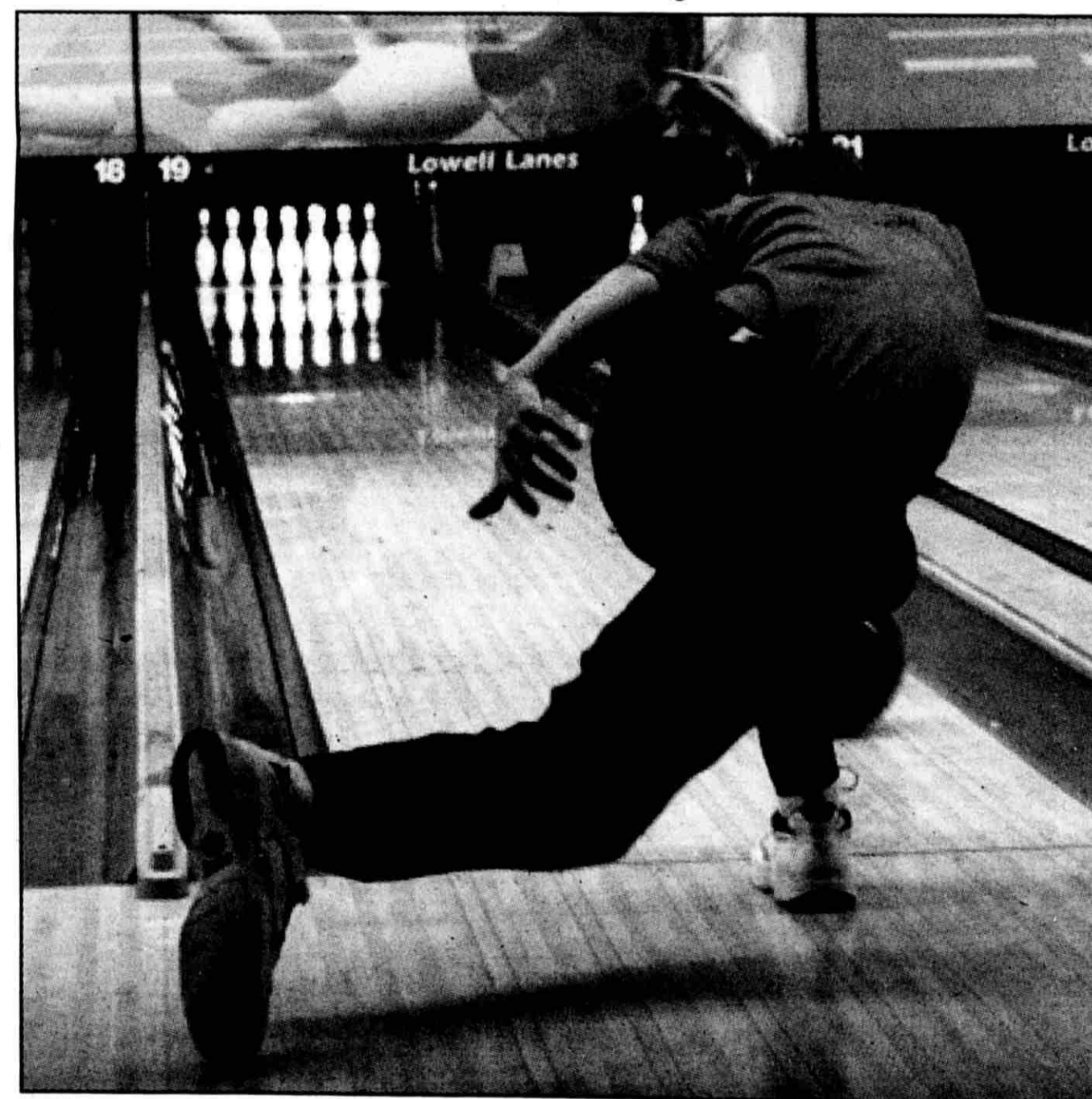
The girls' team won game 1 853-673 and game 2 782-574. Coach Rocky Eickhoff said his girls' team has been doing well all season. "It's been pretty close to 29-1 all season - the girls are bowling good, we're starting to tune up."

Saturday's Union Invitational saw the boys' team at a No. 1 seed with a total of 4205, while the girls

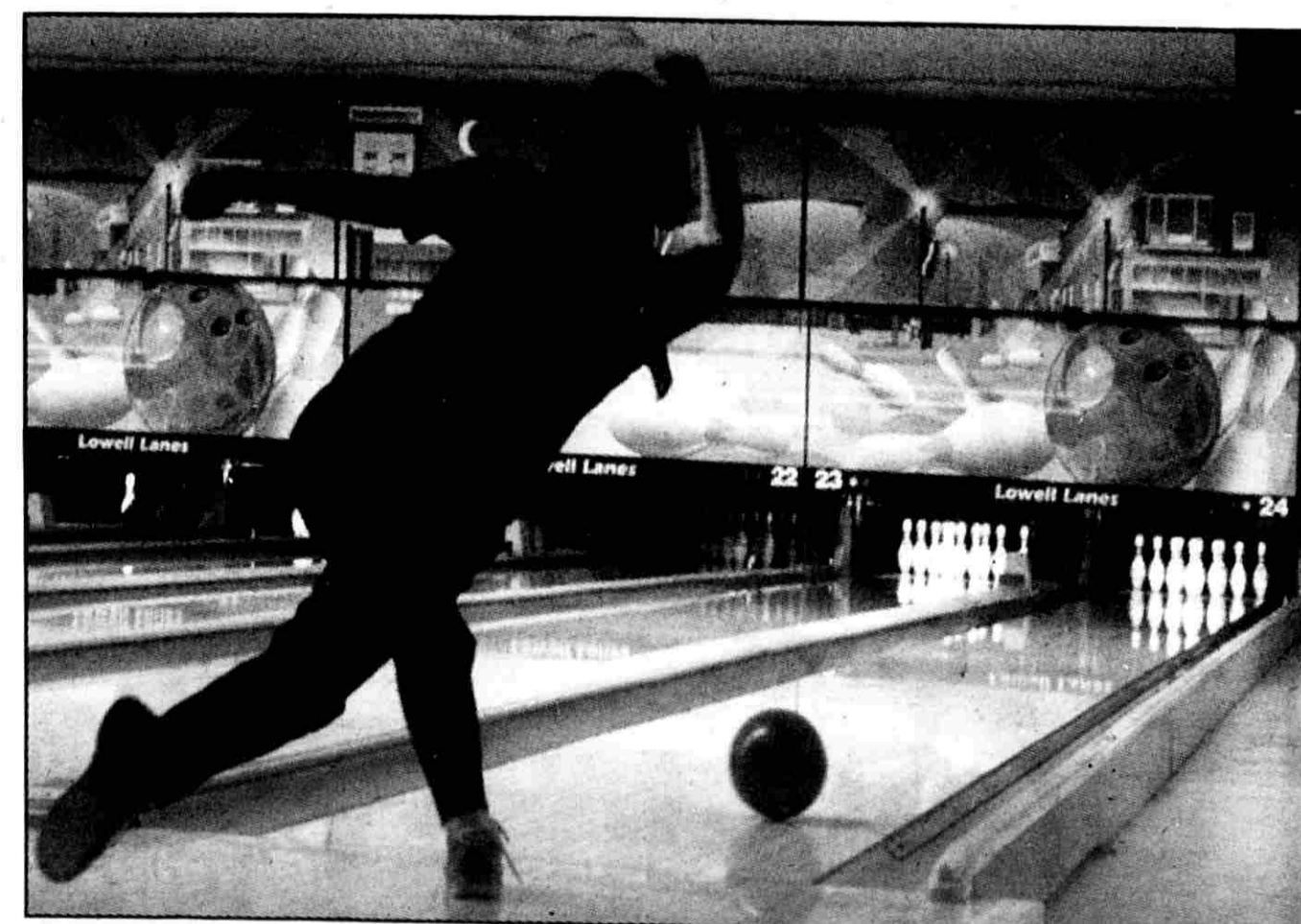
were No. 3 with 3360 on Saturday.

The boys' team finished third after beating Kelloggsville in the first round and falling to Union in the second. The girls' team finished second after beating Caledonia 370-283 in the first round, No. 1 seed Alma 341-278 and then falling to Hudsonville 343-311 in the finals.

The teams will bowl Wednesday at Kenowa Hills and Saturday at Reeths-Puffer.



Jacob Nawrocki bowls on Wednesday.



Liberty Clark bowls on Wednesday.

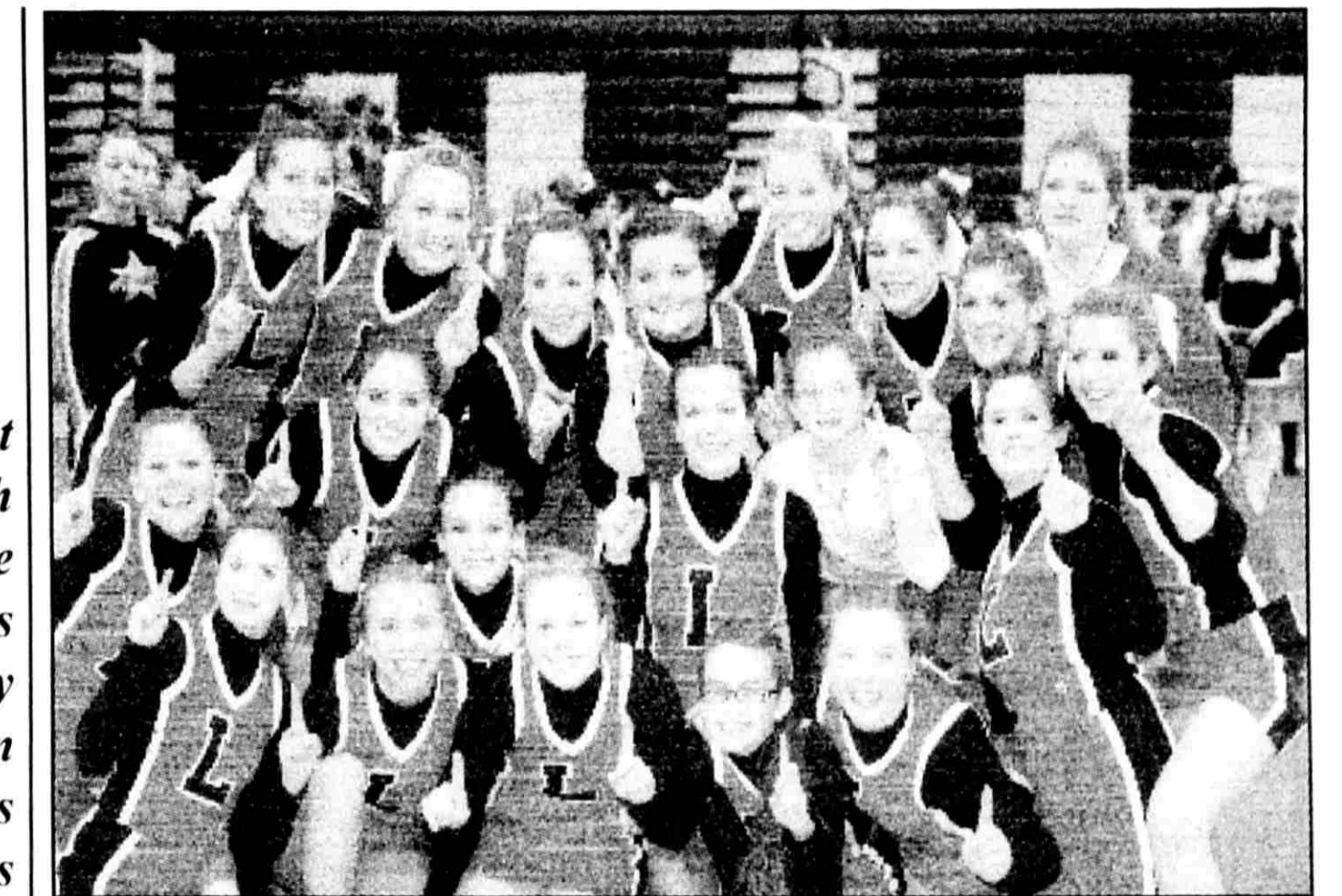
Red Arrow SPORTS

“THIS FIRST PLACE WAS A REAL GROWING TIME FOR OUR PROGRAM. OUR VARSITY HAS REBUILT THIS YEAR.”

- Coach Kari Dawson

What Do You Think?

The Superbowl this year will feature two teams from the East Coast, the New York Giants and the New England Patriots. Both teams have tackled tough opponents, and will go into the game on Sunday with different approaches; Eli Manning of the Giants is known for his quiet demeanor and famously-athletic family (dad Archie and brother Peyton have both been quarterbacks in the NFL), while Tom Brady is almost known as much for his great QB skills as he is in his dating life. Almost. The two teams face off this Sunday in Phoenix.



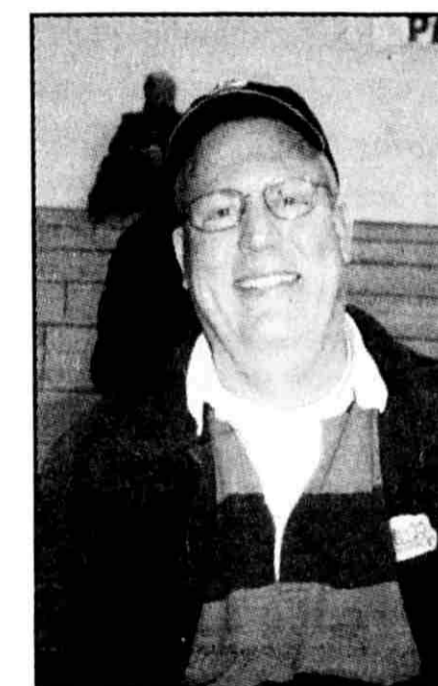
(First row, L-R): Sara Baughman, MacKenzie Conley, Teresa Buist, Laura Walsh, Jillian Griffin and Erin Fleet. (Second row, L-R): Cassidy Venneman, Hannah Fleet, Kylee Karas, Kylee Dawson, Brittany Holst and Becky Chamberlain. (Third row, L-R): Sydney Burrows, Kristen Bearwalde, Alex Cooley, Tara Beran, Chelsea Bishop, Alex Herb, Rachael Copeyon and Coach Kari Dawson.

Cheer team gets first 1st place in three years

The varsity cheer team placed first at the Hastings Invitational, with a score of 625.808. The team beat five other teams to take the championship.

Coach Kari Dawson said, "This first place was a real growing time for our program. Our varsity has rebuilt this year."

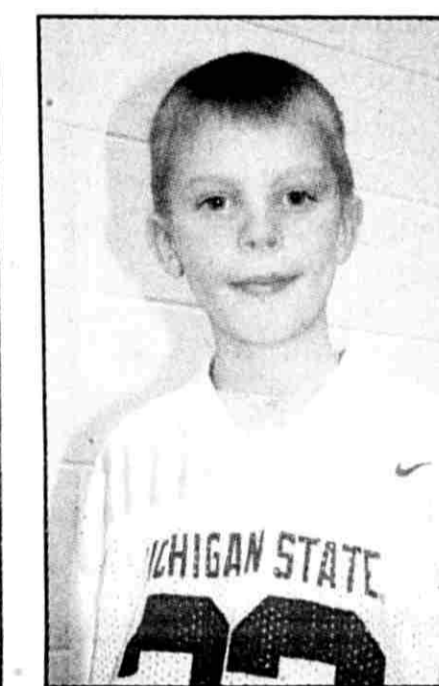
She said the team was in fifth place after Round 1, and turned it around the second round to get up to second place. In the third round, Dawson said, "The girls performed an awesome Round 3, our best of the season." They improved their Round 3 score by 20 points on Saturday. "This was a very positive day for Lowell cheer."



New England - I like Brady. I think he's a good quarterback.
- Mark Sellner



The Patriots - Tom Brady has my heart.
- Chelsea Babler



The Patriots - I like their helmet.
- Andy Russell



The Patriots - it's cool to see a perfect season.
- Cat Howard



The Patriots - I like cheering for the favorites.
- Keith Katt



Ryan Schaefer (far left) favored the Patriots, while his friends, J.P. North, Tim Antell and Jacob Merklinger all were rooting for the Giants.

Girls' b-ball continues to dominate in OK-White play

It was a close game against another basketball powerhouse, but the Red Arrows prevailed and pulled off the win. Lowell beat Caledonia 40-35 last Thursday to keep them hanging around the upper echelon of the tough OK-White conference.

Chelsea Harrison led the Arrows with 15 points (three of those coming from behind the arc), as well as 7 rebounds, while Hannah Oberlin and Kara Rasch each added 7.

The Arrows will go up against another conference team, Northview, on Friday night and will return home for a match-up against East Kentwood on Monday.

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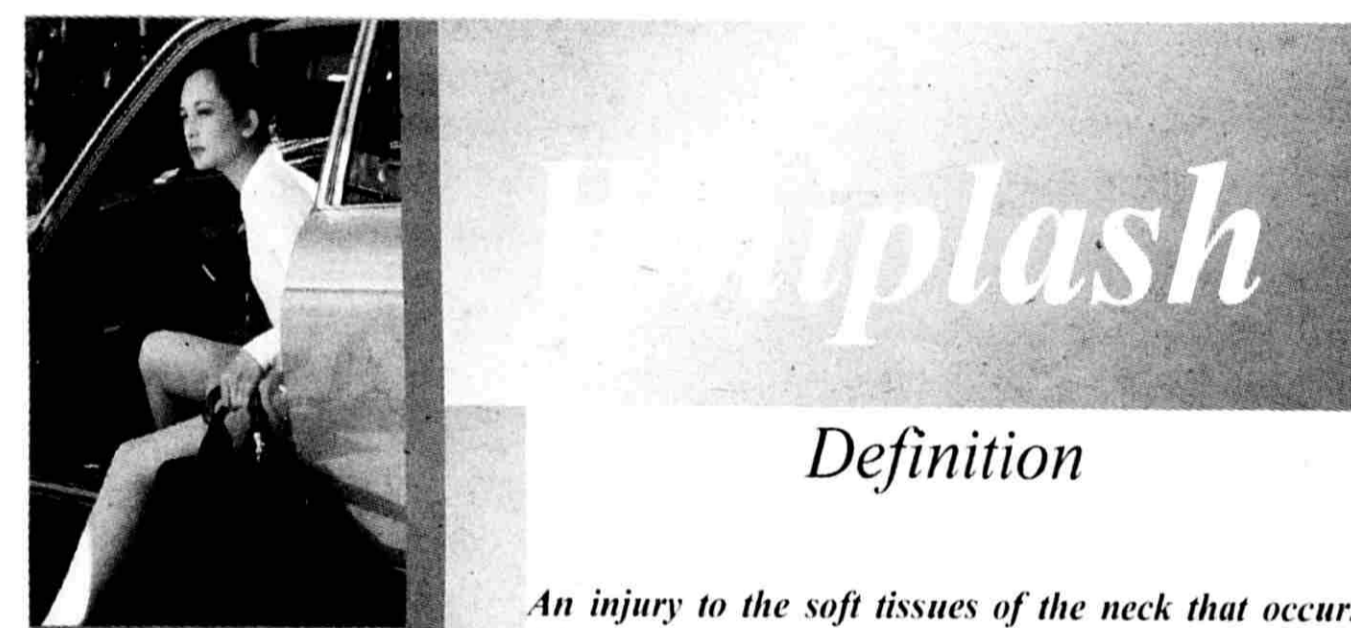
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Whiplash Definition

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.

TREATMENT

Chiropractic care works on correcting complications and relieving pain associated with whiplash injuries. To see if chiropractic may be able to help you call (616) 897-8284 today for a complimentary consultation.

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**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LOWELL
COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN**

**CUMBERLAND RIDGE
STREET LIGHTING
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

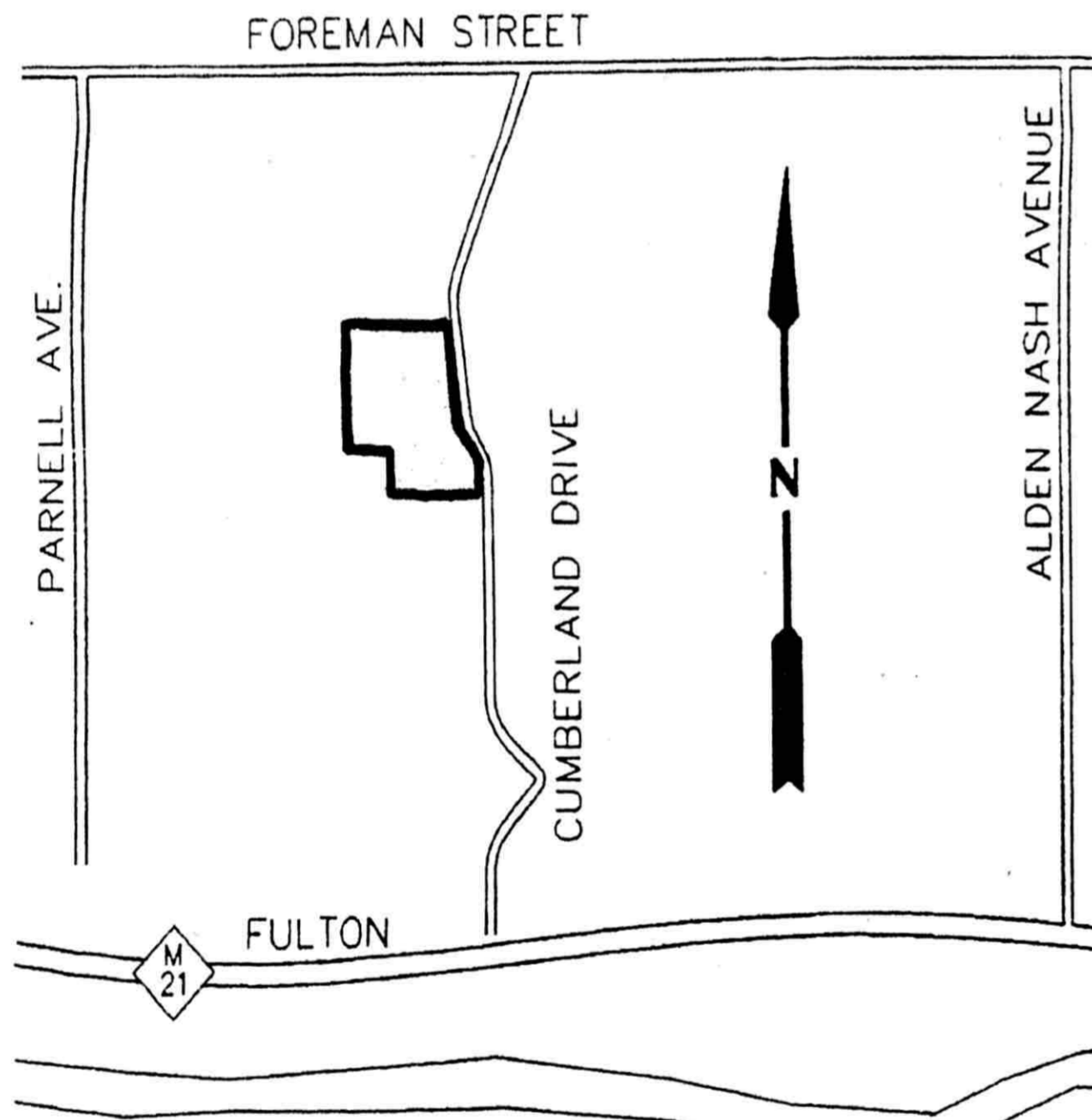
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Lowell, Kent County, Michigan, having determined to make certain public improvements consisting of the installation, improvement and maintenance of street lights (the "Improvements"), within the Cumberland Ridge Street Lighting Special Assessment District (the "District"), in accordance with Act 188 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1954, as amended. The Township Board has resolved its intent to make the Improvements in the Township. The Township Board has tentatively determined that the cost of the operation and maintenance of the Improvements shall be specially assessed against each of the following described lots and parcels of land which are benefitted by the Improvements and which together comprise the District:

**CUMBERLAND RIDGE STREET LIGHTING
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT**

Units and Parcels Numbered:

41-20-05-284-001	41-20-05-284-009	41-20-05-284-020	41-20-05-284-031
41-20-05-276-001	41-20-05-284-010	41-20-05-284-021	41-20-05-284-032
41-20-05-284-002	41-20-05-284-011	41-20-05-284-022	41-20-05-284-033
41-20-05-284-003	41-20-05-284-012	41-20-05-284-023	41-20-05-284-034
41-20-05-284-004	41-20-05-284-015	41-20-05-284-027	41-20-05-284-035
41-20-05-284-005	41-20-05-284-016	41-20-05-284-028	41-20-05-284-036
41-20-05-284-006	41-20-05-284-017	41-20-05-284-029	41-20-05-284-037
41-20-05-284-007	41-20-05-284-018	41-20-05-284-030	
41-20-05-284-008	41-20-05-284-019		

MAP OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT



□ Boundary of Cumberland Ridge Street Lighting Special Assessment District (includes all units and real property located within all phases of the Cumberland Ridge Site Condominium)

TAKE NOTICE that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Lowell will hold a public hearing on February 19, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., at the Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash Ave., S.E., within the Township, to hear and consider any objections to the proposed Improvements, and all other matters relating to said Improvements and the District.

Preliminary plans and estimates of cost for the Improvements are on file with the Township Clerk for public examination.

Annual redeterminations of cost may be made without further notice to record owners or parties in interest in the property in the district, but if at any time an actual incremental cost increase exceeds the annual estimate of such increase by ten percent or more, an assessment reflecting such increase shall not be made until an additional public hearing is held, after the giving of public notice to the owners of property to be assessed in the district.

Property shall not be added to the proposed special assessment district and the original estimate of cost shall not be increased by more than 10% without further notice and public hearing.

This Notice was authorized by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Lowell.

Dated: January 21, 2008

Linda S. Regan, Clerk

Charter Township of Lowell

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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 293-5188.

NEWSPAPERENDROLLS AVAILABLE AT THE BUYERS GUIDE OFFICE - Many uses! Stop by & grab one today! 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

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

1998 PONTIAC GRAND AM - \$2,995; 1995 Pontiac Sunfire, \$2,299; 1994 Pontiac Grand Prix, \$2,450; 1994 Ford Taurus, \$1,699; 1996 Olds Cutlass Supreme LS, \$2,499; 1996 Olds 88 LS, \$1,995; 1995 Chrysler Concord, \$2,495; 1998 Ford Windstar Limited, \$4,500; 2002 Chevy Venture van, Warner Brothers Edition, \$5,895. Call Dave 616-889-6057.

MEMORY FOAM MATTRESS - Relieves back pain! Temperpedic queen, \$1,899; Theratouch queen "something", \$899. Is the name worth that much? Brand new. Also twin, full & kings. Try them at RCD Wholesale, G.R. 682-4767 or 293-5188.

ROLL TICKETS AVAILABLE AT LOWELL LITHO - Single & double rolls, variety of colors. Single roll, \$5 ea. + tax & double rolls \$7.50 + tax ea. Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, Ph. 897-9261.

ROPER ELECTRIC DRYER - 7 mos. old, \$175. Call 517-449-3292.

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

LAND FOR SALE - 3 acres 1/4 mile from Murray Lake. Cleared & perked, \$42,000. Call 616-318-4808.

GOOD QUALITY HORSE HAY - 1st & 3rd. cutting, 897-6363.

HERITAGE HILL - Grand Rapids, 3 unit, \$115,900 556 Pleasant SE. Call 616-734-9129.

NEW LISTING - Lowell Township ranch with many newer updates like carpet, roof, furnace & more! This lovely 3 bedroom home sits on over 1/2 an acre with a 2 stall garage! Just \$119,900! Call Melinda Robinson at 616-648-0151 or visit www.GoMelinda.com, Five Star Real Estate, 791-1500.

USED TIRES - 100's to choose from, like new, reasonable prices. 292-7649.

KOUNTRY KORNERS PARTY STORE IN SARANAC - now has live bait for your fishing needs. Corner of Grand River Ave. & Morrison Lake Road. Also featuring daily lunch specials M-F. Tues. is \$1 Tacos. 616-642-3474.

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.

MURRAY LAKE HOME FOR RENT - Lakefront, one bedroom, one bath and walk out basement, \$625 per month. Available February 1, no pets please. Call 616-897-8848.

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.

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.

HOT RENTAL SPECIAL - 2 bedroom \$499, 3 bedroom \$649 with swimming pool & playground. Pets welcomed. 616-897-8427.

FOR RENT - 2 bedroom home located in the country, 5 min. from downtown Lowell. Available Feb. 1. Call 616-987-9423.

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

Sound Off

The Ledger
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Goes Column



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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.

Howard - My wife and myself have really enjoyed your letters. Keep 'em coming. Don't worry about the nay sayers.

Why the Lowell Ledger featuring Saranac Butcher Phil Jones, when we have Gary and Aaron Laux who have a great butcher shop based right here in downtown Lowell. Keep it up Aaron and Gary!

(Editor's note: The Ledger determines who will be featured based on nominations from our readers.)

Meijer pharmacy did an excellent job with the wrestlers. However, to many of the wrestlers this was a personal and private matter. Not for all of Lowell to know.

I enjoy Jim Howard's letters. I don't always agree but he gives me something to think about. Wish more people cared so much.

God forbid anyone should be well paid. Much less the G.R.C.C. faculty.

- Terry Teclander

For Jim Howard, G.M. Ross and others - Don't let someone shame you into not expressing your opinions. This is what keeps the local paper interesting.

I heard there was a Sasquatch seen on Riverside Dr. Saturday night.

I know where my \$600 refund will go...in my gas tank. Too bad Mr. Bush couldn't get his oil buddies to lower the prices and in turn their profits.

I dream of spring and the life it will bring. Birds will sing, wedding bells ring, woods will echo the wild thing. Spring will come don't you fear, it's already a month into the year!

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CARD OF THANKS

CARD OF THANKS
The family of Marjorie van Overbeek would like to thank all our friends and neighbors for their thoughts, prayers, cards, food, support and daycare. A special thanks to Rev. Steigenga, LaGrave Ave CRC family and Suzann Weeks. Thank you to the members and spouses of the Lowell Area Fire Department, the volunteers who provided the luncheon and to Roth-Gerst for all the help and support through this difficult time. The family would also like to thank Visiting Nurses and Hospice for the care and concern they gave to all of us.

Dick van Overbeek; Joanne; Elaine & Randy; Pauline; Carol; Rick & Chris; Ron & Melissa; Micki

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