

# The Lowell Ledger

Volume 37 Issue 14

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

## Former educator named Person of the Year

by Emma Palova

At 84, she still keeps reaching for the stars. Her favorite quote is by Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Hit your wagon to a star."

Person of the Year 2008 Betty Yeiter lives by Emerson's philosophy. Even though she knows she won't be able to reach a star, Yeiter keeps trying.

Sitting in her living room by the fireplace, the passionate former Lowell Area Schools (LAS) educator is ever so humble about the much-coveted recognition.

For Yeiter, the recent announcement by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce hasn't quite sunk in yet.

And maybe it never will.

"I can't believe I deserve it," she said.

For years, Yeiter taught geography, history and civics. Later, she served as a reading administrator working with teachers first through eighth grade, as well as teaching classes.

To this day, she assists at the schools with spelling bees and she has tutored kids who needed help. Most recently, Yeiter donated 25 acres of land on the southwest corner of Alden Nash and Cascade to the LAS for educational purposes.

Yeiter is an avid volunteer at the Gerald R. Ford Museum where she serves as docent and takes people through.

"I really enjoy that immensely," said Yeiter.

History and classical music are her other passions besides education. That is why she likes to travel throughout the world to explore both. When in Moscow, Russia, Yeiter went to see the famous Swan Lake ballet by Tchaikovsky at the Bolshoi Theatre.

But her favorite is the romantic era of Queen Elizabeth and the history of England. Yeiter also plans to visit Israel.

"My word is passion," she said. "I had and I still have a great passion for teaching, and a passion for history and music."

To fulfill her husband Donald's dreams, Yeiter sold off 100 acres of land

Yeiter, cont'd.,  
pg. 4



Betty Yeiter is the Person of the Year 2008.

## Lowell Cable TV fund spending to be determined

by Emma Palova

The governing structure over spending the approximately \$100,000 earned annually by the Lowell Cable TV endowment fund has yet to be determined.

The city council Monday in a workshop setting squabbled who will determine what will get funded from the deep coffers of the \$2.8 million fund.

The money from

the sale of Lowell Cable Television was invested with the Grand Rapids Community Foundation last October.

The spending would start in 2009 after the money has been earned at

a 5 percent interest rate. The advisory committee could consist of the mayor, the planning chair, one council member at large and citizens at large.

"The funds belong to the city," said council

member Jim Pfaller. "I have a problem with somebody else telling us what to do with our money. It's like selling a business, you don't owe anything to your previous customers."

Projects considered for funding may include arts and entertainment, technology and recreation and other non-profits within the city only.

"The money will not be used to balance the city budget," said council member Pfaller. "It will not be a part of the operating budget."

However, the monies could fund dilapidating streets in the city of Lowell.

"You cannot make a project ineligible," said city manager Dave Pasquale. "You could be missing opportunities."

Local streets, according to DPW director Dan DesJarden, are pushing two life cycles or close to 40 years.

"There are no plans of funding for the streets," said DesJarden. "The council should be in control of the money."

The council set a work session for March 10 at 7 p.m. with a presentation from the foundation about potential board structures and bylaws for spending.

## City extends lease agreements on N. Washington

by Emma Palova

Following a heated debate whether the city should be in the rental business, the council extended a couple of lease agreements on North Washington property Monday.

A 60-day extension was given to Boy Scouts to hammer out a final agreement for the use of the cabin located on the property. Dirk Ritzema, representing the scouts, said he wasn't happy with the proposed lease. The proposed agreement suggested the scouts take care of the entire 27-acre parcel with a sliver of land in Vergennes Township. The agreement also carries a \$2 million liability insurance price tag.

New council member Sharon Ellison opposed the proposition and questioned

how could the entire area be preserved into perpetuity. According to city manager Dave Pasquale, the only way to make the area a permanent park would be to incorporate it into the master plan and transfer ownership.

"We should not make the Boy Scouts responsible for the entire 27 acres," said Ellison. "We can have a natural park out there with sponsors."

Currently, the city has no responsibility other than liability for the North Washington property.

"We are not required to make any improvements unless approved much like the national forests," said Pasquale.

The city owns a myriad of parks with different levels of usage. The most heavily-used park is Creekside Park designed for games. Other

parks are more passive, such as Stoney Lake or Richards.

Ritzema said the scouts only use a small portion of the North Washington property.

"The scouts would like to see it as a park," said Ritzema. "We don't use all of it and the \$2 million liability is too much."

Ellison persisted the North Washington area should be declared a park rather than just left out there.

"I hate to just leave it out there," she said. "It has been a sore thing for a long time. It would go a long way in healing the community to declare it a park."

In related business, the council extended a proposed lease agreement with Gary Dietzel who rents the former utility keeper's house at 990

North Washington.

Dietzel has until April 21 to sign a lease for \$500 a month with the city.

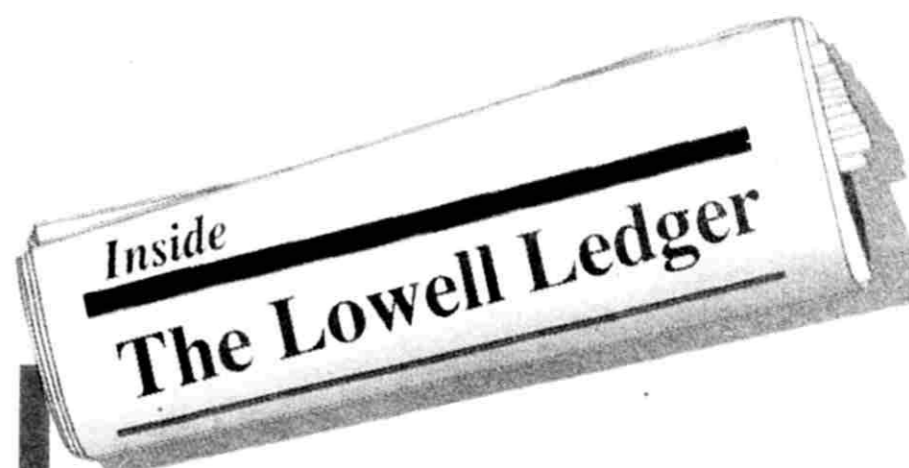
"We don't need to rush with evicting or selling," said council member Jeff Altoft. "We're not going ahead with the park. We own property all over town and we don't do anything. What's the big rush?"

Council member Jim Hodges opposed the city's position on rentals.

"Our first responsibility is to the citizens of Lowell," he said. "We have no business being in rental business."

A lease is expected to be drawn up that will expire by June 30, 2009. Then the house with a buildable lot may be put up for bids.

"This has been dragged on for too long," said council member Jim Pfaller.



Dinner With Friends ... Page 7

Railtrail Plans Moving Along  
... Page 10

Ballroom On Time ... Page 11

# Obituaries

## DEANS

Hilda E. Deans of Lowell went to be with her Lord on Wednesday, February 6, 2008. Hilda, age 93, was born to Levi and Lydia Osier on August 19, 1914 in Norfolk, N.Y. She married Leon O. Deans on July 10, 1934. Hilda was a homemaker and they were foster parents during that time. Mr. Deans preceded her in death in 1977. Also preceding her in death were



six brothers and sisters. She is survived by her son, Dave (Betty) Deans of Lowell; one brother, Earl (Alberta) Osier of Olympia, WA; grandson, Mark (Melissa) Deans of Muskegon; granddaughter, Patsy (Steve) Lawrence of Grand Rapids; five great grandchildren, Kayla, Allison, Travis, Kaitlyn and Ethan; also missing her are dear friends, the Dan and Shirley Biggerstaff family of Ecorse; and many nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held Saturday at the Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, Interment Oakwood Cemetery.

in Saranac. He was a past member of Sheriff Posse and Ionia Moose Lodge. Richard is survived by his loving wife of 26 years, Karin Holmes of Saranac; sons, Richard Holmes Jr. of Grand Rapids and Brian Holmes of Grand Rapids; sisters, Shirley and Wayne Kill of Florida and Linda and Kenneth Brandt of Lake Odessa; grandchildren, Joshua and Ryan. He was preceded in death by two brothers, Robert and William. Funeral services will be held Wednesday, 1 p.m. at Lake Funeral Home in Saranac with Rev. Mark Lipscomb officiating. Interment Saranac Cemetery. The family will receive friends and relatives Wednesday 11 a.m. until time of service at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to American Heart Association. Online condolences may be made at [www.lakefuneralhomes.com](http://www.lakefuneralhomes.com).



## PESTA

Alice L. Pesta, wife of late Thaddeus J. (Ted) Pesta. Beloved mother of Thomas A. (Cynthia) of Bristol, R.I., James E. (Janice) of Livonia, grandmother of three in Bristol, three in Livonia. Great grandmother of 10. Sister of six brothers, four sisters, five deceased. Resident of Detroit 40 years, Lowell 23 years and Livonia. Many nieces and nephews.

## Lend A Hand VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### LITERACY COUNCIL NEEDS VOLUNTEER TUTORS

The Kent County Literacy Council has scheduled an information session on Thursday, Feb. 21 for prospective volunteer tutors. This session is held at 6:30 p.m. and lasts one hour. It allows those interested in becoming volunteer tutors to find out more about the council and its literacy programs. At the end of the session, there will be an opportunity to sign up for tutor training.

The Kent County Literacy Council is a non-profit, United Way agency devoted to reducing illiteracy in our community. Based on 1990 census figures, at least 19,000 adults in Kent County cannot read at a functional level. At least 6,000 adults cannot speak or understand English well. By training people to be tutors, the Council can offer one-on-one reading help to adults asking for assistance in reading or English as a Second Language (ESL). You do not need to speak another language to tutor ESL.

The information session will be held at the Gaines Township Library located at 421 68th Street, SE, Grand Rapids. Please call 459-5151 to register.

## HOLMES

Richard A. Holmes age 60 of Saranac passed away February 8, 2008 in Kalamazoo. He was born July 17, 1947 in Grand Rapids, the son of Randall and Hazel (Stamp) Holmes. Richard married Karin Thomas September 19, 1981

## LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate FILE NO. 08-184,670-DE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate FILE NO. 08-184,628-DE

Estate of JOSEPH A. RACZKOWSKI, deceased Date of birth: 4/20/1920

Estate of EVELYN MEYER, deceased Date of birth: 7/15/1911

TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent, JOSEPH A. RACZKOWSKI, who lived at 3145 Morley NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan, died December 27, 2007.

TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent, EVELYN MEYER, who lived at 1041 SIBLEY NW, GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN died January 23, 2008.

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

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

2/7/2008

2/5/2008

Daniel Blauw (P37283) 1515 Michigan NE Grand Rapids, MI 49503 (616) 336-5098

John D. Mitus (P31244) 410 Bridge Street NW Grand Rapids, MI 49504 616-774-4001

John M. Raczowski 9537 Woodlawn Portage, MI 49002 (616) 459-0255

James H. Meyer 1041 Sibley NW Grand Rapids, MI 49504 616-456-6071

## FAXING

Sending or Receiving \$1 for 1st sheet, 50¢ each additional sheet The Lowell Ledger 105 N. Broadway, Lowell

## Worker dies in accident at Michigan Wire

by Emma Palova

A collapsed coil crushed a local man to death at Michigan Wire Processing's South Water Street plant Friday morning.

Conducting a routine procedure Vince Heinze, 49, climbed inside the metal coil to snip an old protruding band. Instead he snipped a new band that held the coils together, and the entire tube collapsed down on him, according to the Lowell police investigation.

Hi-Lo drivers found Heinze, who was missing for about half an hour, inside the 3,400-pound coil.

"It was an error, an accident where he cut the wrong band and it collapsed on him," said Lowell Police Chief Jim Valentine in a press conference Friday afternoon.

The coil, newly rebanded that morning, had been sitting in the staging area waiting for processing. No employees were in that area except for Heinze, who worked at the plant as a supervisor. He had only worked for the company for eight months.

The company owned by Dean Lonick never had a prior fatality, only occasional accidents of falling off a ladder.

"There will be a lot of concern," said Valentine. "It will have a definite impact on the community."

From the initial investigation, crime was not involved in the accident.

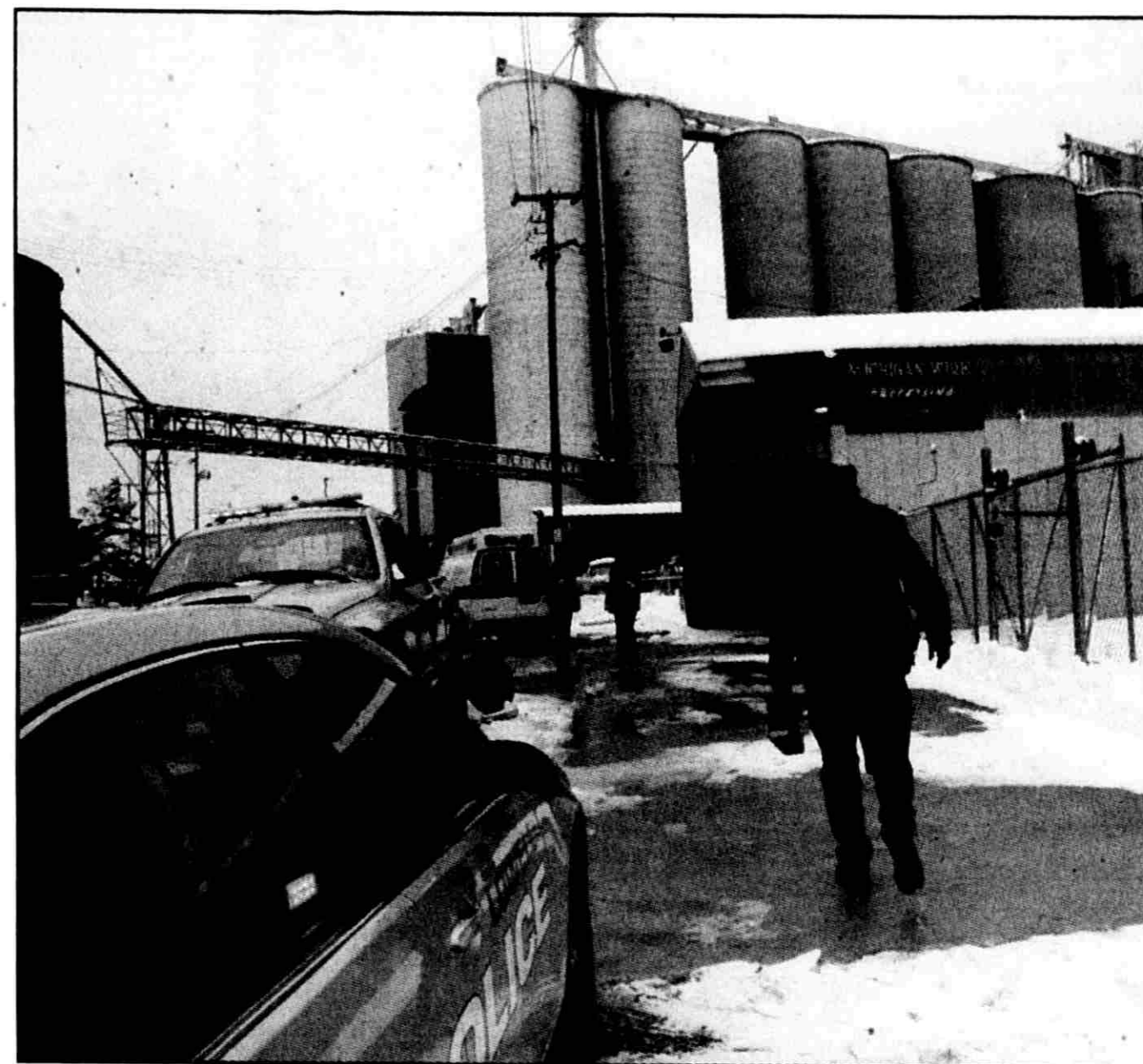
Once unbanded, the coils act like a slinky stretching out from the

compression and tipping over. The impact of the collapse basically crushed Heinze.

The company employs 45 people. The Lowell Fire Department has made

available their Critical Incident Debriefing Team to assist the affected employees. MIOSHA conducted its own investigation.

Last fall, the company's other plant on the corner of Alden Nash and M21 suffered major devastation from a large fire.



Sgt. James Hinton and LFD Debriefing Team in front of Michigan Wire Processing.

## At Your Local Library



### TEEN POETRY CONTEST AT THE KENT DISTRICT LIBRARY

Calling all teen poets - let the words roll! The Kent District Library is hosting its fifth annual poetry contest for teens this spring. Winners will receive a \$50 gift certificate to Schuler Books and Music.

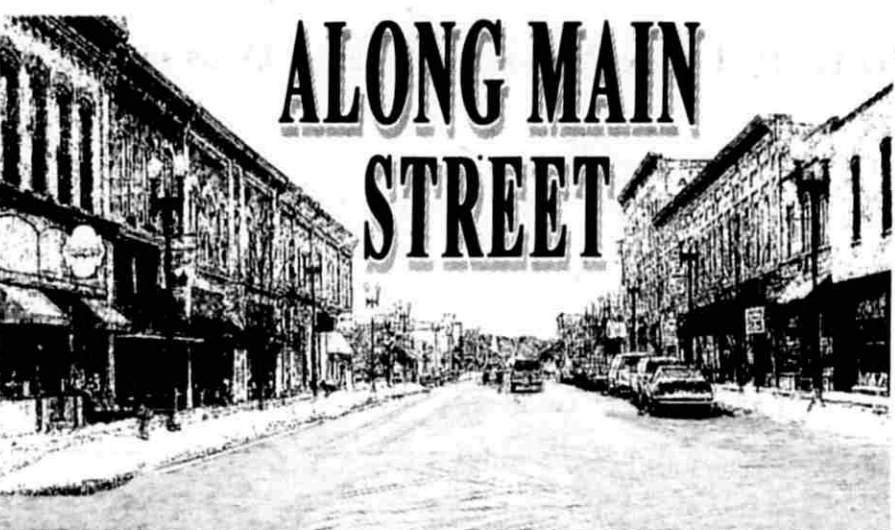
and winning entries will be published online and in a special 2008 poetry booklet. Submissions for the poetry contest will be accepted through the month of April, and winners will be announced in May.

Check out [www.kdl.org](http://www.kdl.org) for rules and entry forms or pick up all the information you need at your local branch library. The poetry contest is for teens in grades 6-12.

**Noreen Myers Attorney**  
25 Years Experience as a Trial Lawyer  
**897-5460**  
307 E. Main Lowell, MI 49331

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evening  
SHOWTIMES 2/11-2/13 No passes  
FOOL'S GOLD (PG-13) 11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:25  
THE EYE (PG-13) 12:35, 2:50, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45  
MEET THE SPARTANS (PG-13) 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00  
UNTRACEABLE (PG-13) 12:25, 2:40, 7:10, 9:20  
RAMBO (R) 4:55  
27 DRESSES (PG-13) 1:50, 9:40  
THE BUCKET LIST (PG-13) 12:10, 2:25, 7:20  
**COUPON FREE 20¢ DRINK**  
with \$5.00 purchase  
of movie ticket of higher price  
at participating theaters only

**Celebrate Your FAMILY** at the Lowell YMCA  
**Strong Kids CAMPAIGN**  
**Saturday, February 23 & March 8 10:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**  
This event is **FREE**, but your generous donation to the Lowell YMCA Strong Kids Campaign is greatly appreciated! Help us help others to enjoy the YMCA and its programs.  
Air Hockey Tournament  
Enjoy the facility!  
Rock Wall Climbing  
Crafts  
Dance, Dance Revolution  
Lowell YMCA • 1335 W. Main St., Lowell, MI 49331 • [www.gymca.org](http://www.gymca.org) • 897-8445  
Putting Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.



**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.

**PIE SALE**  
The Lowell senior class is selling pies through Feb. 19. If you want one see a senior or go by PepTalk.

**THEATRE WORKSHOP & PERFORMANCE**  
"On with the Show" will involve you in all of the preparations of a one-act play with a public performance on April 2. Blocking: Sat., Feb. 23 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Lowell Library. Rehearsals: Wed., March 5 at Cherry Creek Elementary, 6 to 7:30 p.m. March 12, 19, 26 and April 2 at Lowell Middle School, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Public performance: April 2 at 7:30 p.m. at Lowell Middle School. Fee: \$50 (15% discount for LAAC members). Ages 7 - 18. Register through the Lowell Area Arts Council, 897-8545.

**CROP WALK RALLY**  
The Lowell Crop Walk Rallies Thurs., March 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the FROM Building, 11535 E. Fulton St. Recruiters planning to walk and/or collect pledges for this year's Crop Walk can pick up sponsor sheets that evening.

**CITY OF LOWELL**  
**NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF REVIEW**  
The Lowell City Board of Review will meet to receive and review the various Assessment Rolls for 2008 at City Hall on:  
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2008 AT 10:00 A.M.**  
A second meeting, for the purpose of hearing appeals and a continuation thereof will be held at City Hall on:  
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2008 FROM 9:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M., AND 1:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. AND 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M., if necessary**  
Appeals may be made by letter or by appointment using forms available at City Hall. Letters and/or forms must be submitted not later than March 7, 2008. A personal appearance is not required.  
The following ratios and multipliers are expected for Real and Personal Property assessments:  
Commercial Property 50.00% 1.0000  
Industrial Property 50.00% 1.0000  
Residential Property 50.00% 1.0000  
Personal Property 50.00% 1.0000  
C. Jeanne Shores, Mayor  
James Marfia, Assessor

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**The Lowell Ledger**  
105 N. Broadway, Lowell

**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

**MUST SEE!**  
6255 Potters Road Lowell/Saranac Area  
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**The Lowell Ledger**  
(USPS 453-830)  
Published weekly for '17<sup>th</sup> year in Kent County, '26<sup>th</sup> year outside the county by the Lowell Ledger  
105 N. Broadway St., Lowell, MI 49331  
J-AD GRAPHICS INC. PUBLISHER  
MOLLY BENNINGFIELD EDITOR  
EMMA PALOVA LEAD REPORTER  
TAMMY JANOWIAK CLASSIFIED/ACCOUNTING  
JON JACOBS ADVERTISING SALES  
**(616) 897-9261**  
E-Mail: [ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com](mailto:ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com)  
Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI  
Published every Wednesday  
POSTMASTER: Send address change to:  
**The Lowell Ledger**  
P.O. Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331  
[www.lowellbuyersguide.com](http://www.lowellbuyersguide.com)

## Land donation, varsity crew and Principal's Week discussed at school board meeting

by Shelly MacNaughton  
contributing writer

The School board held its regular meeting Monday night. Greg Pratt offered an update on the potential donation of land from Peter Wege. The community, including the City of Lowell, Lowell Township, Vergennes Township and Lowell Schools, has collaborated efforts to evaluate area-wide needs and produce a feasibility analysis for possible uses of the Wege site.

The community was invited to participate in a community meeting that took place Oct. 25. A two-day Charrette was also held Nov. 2-3 allowing community members to look at layouts. The study and community information that

has been gathered has been turned over to Mr. Wege.

"Each municipality now has a new recreation plan which will allow them to apply for grants," said Pratt.

The School Board approved adding crew as a varsity sport. The sport will be non-funded. Crew is a coed spring sport. The club has been operating in Lowell with about 30-35 participants.

Barry Hobla noted that approximately eight schools in the area have clubs. "Crew provides more female opportunities, as well as draws on strengths of our community by utilizing our natural resources," said Hobla.

Lowell Area Schools

will be extending the deadlines for applying for school of choice. The district will begin accepting applications Monday, April 14 until June 6. They also plan to continue accepting applications until the first day of school as long as they have spots available.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm has declared this week, Feb. 10-16, as Principals' Week.

"This is a special week for Principals," Pratt said. "Principals wear many hats, they serve as counselor, coach, parent, teacher, boss to many employees. This is a wonderful time for parents, grandparents, and the district, to thank our principals. Our principals do great work, thank you."

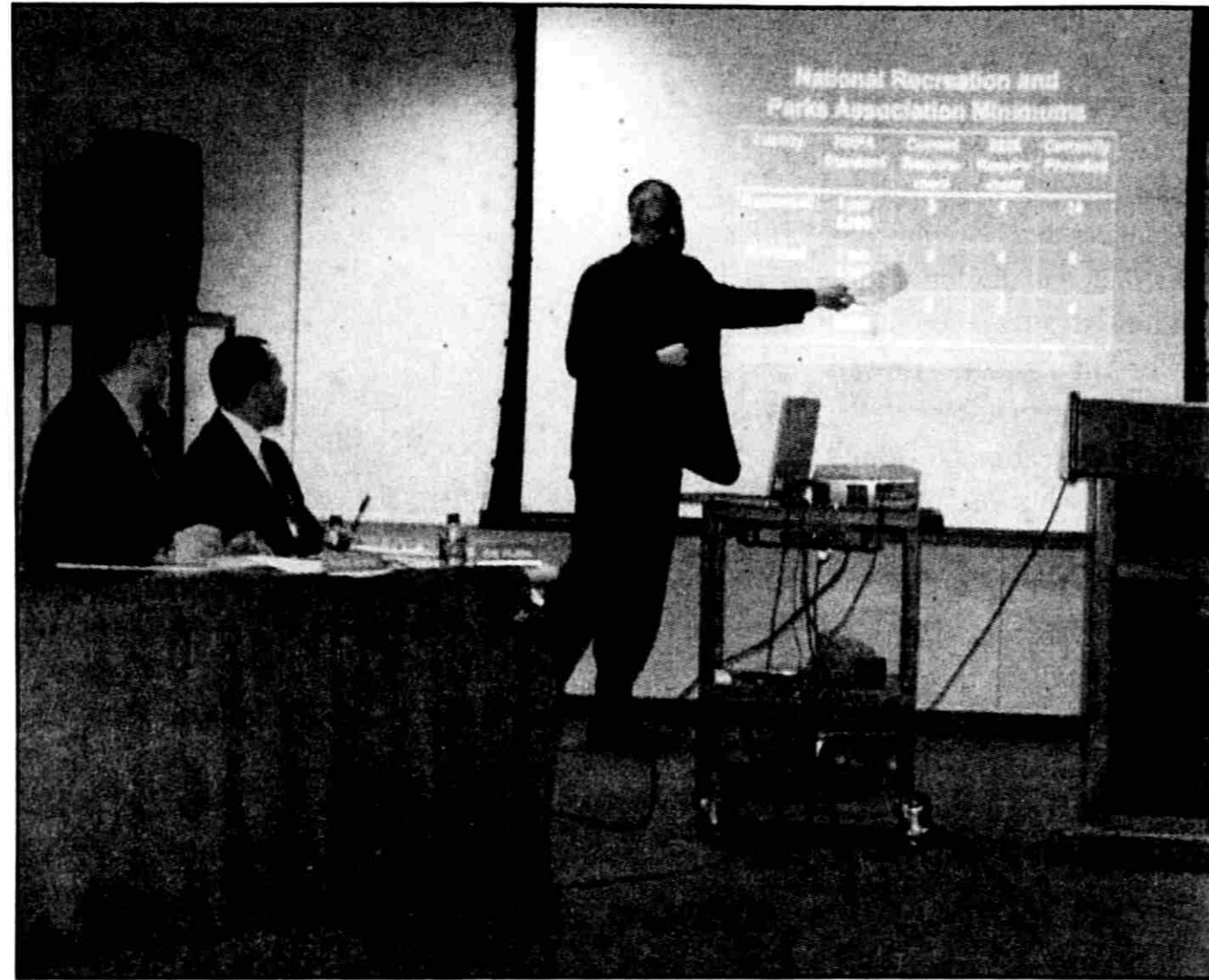
"Thank you very much to our principals, we are really seeing collaborative efforts for our district," said Nancy Hopkins.

Greg Pratt offered a superintendent's report.

"This has been a difficult weather pattern; I would like to thank our bus drivers, and transportation department. We are dedicated to

improving our services, thanks to everyone, hopefully there are warmer days for everyone," said Pratt. Following the

meeting, Mikulski and Pratt discussed their morning plans to check the roads. Lowell has used six snow days and one delay.



Superintendent Greg Pratt at Monday's school board meeting.

### 2008 BOARD OF REVIEW NOTICE LOWELL TOWNSHIP 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE Lowell, MI 49331

#### 2008 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The Lowell Township Board of Review for 2008 will be held at the Lowell Township Hall 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE, on the following dates:

**Tuesday, March 11** at 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon & from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Thursday, March 13** at 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. & from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 4**, at 10 a.m. - Organizational Meeting

To appear at the March Board of Review, call on Tuesday or Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 616-897-7600 to schedule an appointment.

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2008 assessments.

The Board resolution, residents are able to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 13.

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2008 are as follows:

*Agricultural.....	48.17%	1.0384
*Commercial.....	50.77%	0.9848
*Residential.....	54.24%	0.9218
*Industrial.....	48.61%	1.0285
*Personal.....	49.64%	1.0000

#### American with Disabilities (ADA) Notice

The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 2 days notice.

Contact: Supervisor Paula Blumm, 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE 616-897-7600

Board of Review Members:  
Dave Simmonds, Barbara Tremblay & James Foerch, Paula Blumm, Township Supervisor, Secretary of Board of Review.

## Yeiter, continued .... From Page 1

to the Kent County Parks for an equestrian park.

"He loved the farm and nature," she said.

So, Yeiter keeps on pushing, never using any excuses, when trying to reach for a star. In 2006, Yeiter received the Marsha Wilcox Community Service Award.

Chairman of the "Person of the Year" selection committee Jim White said there were a number of strong candidates this year.

"It was a difficult decision, but Betty has never stopped giving of her time and talent to make the community a much better place," he said.

It has been White's contention that more than just one person should be selected. White received Person of the Year award in 2004.

"She is a neat, very classy lady," said White. "She doesn't hesitate to jump in with both feet when she puts her mind to it."

## Outdoors

By  
Dave Stegehuis



### LET'S GET ALONG

Going green is a popular theme these days for government, business, and individuals. It remains to be seen how effective this movement will be. It is certainly worth a try before we pollute and consume ourselves out of a planet to live on. Most of these environmental friendly efforts focus on slowing down the pollution of air, water, and land, as well as, reducing dependency on limited natural resources. As individuals, we are rarely asked to go back and repair damage we may have already caused.

Everyone has to be someplace, so we all occupy space that was once home to some species of wildlife from bears to butterflies. There are ways in which most of us can share this space with some of the creatures we displaced. All wildlife need food, water, and shelter to survive. Depending on where we live, we can provide one or more of these necessities for our wildlife friends.

Outdoors, cont'd., pg. 7

# A CROWN

## IN ONE VISIT ...SIMPLE!

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

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# Viewpoint

## To The Editor

To The Editor,

Kudos to the Lowell DPW in their snow removal efforts! Even though we live on a cul-de-sac, our snow was removed by 8:00 on the morning after the big snowfall last week.

The driver cleared all of the snow and did not leave any snow in any of the four driveways in the circle. This has been a normal pattern for snow removal. Thanks.

The second issue that I want to address is the \$50 wedding stipend. I disagree with the council's decision to cancel this. I think it is a matter of responsibility rather than a matter of the money. Couples should be responsible to pay for a service that they receive. The fee was minimal - I think we paid \$50 to the person who married us 43 years ago. Perhaps it could be a suggested rate, rather than a required rate, recognizing the severity of our economic times. The money could be given to Lowell nonprofit organizations - perhaps the Chamber of Commerce or the Lowell Wellness.

Diane LaWarre

Dear Editor and Constituents of Lowell.

I would like to say I have been voicing my opinions on local matters for nearly a year now and in the same time, I have not been a registered voter. I have felt like many others, that no matter who you vote for, the outcome always seems to be the same. Could that be why a low voter turnout is commonplace? I've been a late bloomer, and in the past, somewhat naive, but what I have experienced in the last year with voicing my opinion along with many others is that expressing your opinion can make a difference, especially in local matters like elections. I know now it takes a combination of both to be truly effective. So now I will become, in the near future, a vocal registered voter.

Sincerely,  
Jim Howard



By Shelly MacNaughton

### 125 YEARS AGO LOWELL JOURNAL FEBRUARY 14, 1883

Mr. S. Bailey, of Vergennes, who has been confined to his home for the past six months, was on the streets for the first time Saturday. Mr. B. has been suffering from blood poison, but thinks he will be able to do a big summer's work.

### 100 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER FEBRUARY 13, 1908

Miss Hayes, accompanied by her high school pupils Florence Hall, Marguerite Kelly, Lloyd Perry, Ernest Terry, Albert Roth and Willie Stinton, attended Macbeth in Grand Rapids Saturday.

### 75 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER AND ALTO SOLO FEBRUARY 16, 1933

Fire which started about 10 o'clock last Sunday morning in the basement of the building on West Main Street owned by J. M. Hutchinson, completely gutted the building and practically ruined the printing plant which has been used for years in publishing the Lowell Journal until that paper suspended publication in July of last year since which time Mr. Hutchinson has conducted a job business.

### 50 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER FEBRUARY 13, 1958

There will be a second open meeting to answer questions on the City vs. Village vote Tuesday, Feb. 18, in the Lowell City Hall starting at 8 pm.

The Vergennes Civil Defense will be reorganized at a meeting of Township residents, on February 17 at the town hall. Volunteers are needed for this vital community organization so this area can be protected in the event of disaster.

### 25 YEARS AGO THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER FEBRUARY 16, 1983

Headline: "Boosters raise another \$15,000"

So far the Boosters have provided \$30,000 to support extracurricular activities in the Lowell School system. School Board President Roger Kropf accepts the Lowell Athletic Boosters check at the Board Meeting Monday night.

The flood of substance abuse problems, which has plagued schools for years, appears to be subsiding at Lowell Area Schools, according to LHS Assistant Principal Dick Korb and Guidance Counselor Barb Pierce.

## In my opinion

Fred Jacobs, vice president,  
J-Ad Graphics Inc.

I'm sure some of our readers ask this question from time to time: Where do you get your information? Why do you write about this or that subject? Why are you putting pressure on certain public officials? What were you thinking when you ran that story? And, boy did you really mess up that story on such and such.

After working in the publishing field for more than forty years, there really aren't any complaints or criticisms I haven't heard before.

Yet, all is said and done, it's rewarding to be a part of many things that go on in the community. The weekly newspaper plays a vital role in business stories, community projects, school events and so much more, helping the community and the area to grow by educating residents about what's going on around the town.

We're not perfect, but we strive to do our best to get as much information to you as quickly as possible, balancing the interests of the community, our readers and our advertisers.

There is a tendency in community journalism to become so involved in what is going on in town that we forget we are reporters first. Getting the news is always our first concern. I'm allowed to express my opinion, which I do, but on the editorial page, not as a news story.

Each week our news department takes time to discuss and debate what's going on in our communities. We discuss the meetings and events we need to cover and what might be the most important issues.

Finding stories each week is important to all of us. We take our newspapering responsibility seriously, providing a service our readers can't find anywhere else.

Small-town news and big-city news are much the same in reporting accidents, deaths, lawsuits, special awards, sporting events, socializing or special services. Small-town newspapers, though, generally run stories on fund-raisers, concerts, local meetings and all kinds of stories from your local schools—all of which large papers often overlook, unless a crime or natural disaster is involved. We try to provide a service to our readers regardless if the event is big news or a bake sale. Our advertisers are the people who make it all possible.

Large or small, in the newspaper industry there is concern. Concern about the level of reading, who's reading, how much and how often. We're concerned not only with ignorance, but with the complacency of non-readers. I'm reminded of a story I heard many years ago about the frog and how he didn't save himself because he didn't realize

what was happening to him. He was thrown in a pot of cold water which was gradually heated up until finally, it reached the boiling point, killing the frog. This is what can happen if you're not keeping up on what's going on around you, taking things for granted until one day you awaken to a changed community. Strong communities exist best when residents stay on top of the issues, reading and participating in the process as it happens, not after it's all over.

Recently, a national report on reading was released by the National Endowment for the Arts suggesting a general decline in reading among teenagers and adult Americans. The report, entitled To Read or Not to Read, a Question of National Consequence, said: "Americans, especially younger Americans, read less and read less well. Because they read less well, they have lower levels of academic achievement. With lower levels of reading and writing ability, people don't do as well in the job market. Poor reading skills correlate heavily with lack of employment and fewer opportunities for advancement. And deficient readers are less likely to become active in civic and cultural life, most notably in volunteerism and voting. Whether or not people read, and indeed how much and how often they read, affects their lives in many ways. Regular reading affects the likelihood of an individual's academic and economic success. Reading correlates with almost every measurement of positive personal and social behavior."

In other words "you are as you read." The data demonstrates that reading is an irreplaceable activity in developing productive and active adults as well as healthy communities. To Read or Not to Read is not a concern of bygone days of a print culture, but instead a call to action, not only for parents, teachers, librarians, writers and publishers, but also for politicians, business leaders, economists and social activists. The report went on to say, "If, at the current pace, America continues to lose the habit of regular reading, the nation will suffer substantial economic, social and civic setbacks."

It reminds me of a quotation from a local public official we published a number of years ago: "I wished you wouldn't put so much information in your paper, it makes it hard to govern."

If children can read, write and compute at a reasonable level, they will be able to do just about anything in their lives, allowing them to control their destiny. But if they cannot read and comprehend, they become part of a vulnerable society.

If we are to maintain a strong vital community, it will

In My Opinion,  
cont'd., pg. 8

# Reflections of faith

by Pastor Joe Fremer  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Have you been to 34th & Vine lately? No, don't bother looking it up on a map. It's from a silly song back in the sixties, "Love Potion No. 9." In case you weren't around, I'll recap for you. A young man whose love life is not doing so great seeks help from a gypsy who works out of a shop on 34th & Vine. She fixes him a dose of her Love Potion No. 9. And then, as the song says: "I held my nose, I closed my eyes - I took a drink..." But it affects him strangely. Instead of increasing his

sex appeal, it seems to affect his judgment. "I couldn't tell if it was day or night. I started kissing everything in sight." His inappropriate behavior gets only a short run, though, because fortunately there was a cop on the beat in the neighborhood, who gets him under control. "But when I kissed a cop there on 34th & Vine, he broke my little bottle of Love Potion No. 9."

Sometimes we do something stupid. Sometimes we are misled by a deceiver, but sometimes we come up with it all on our own. And we act out. We hurt ourselves, and we hurt others. We may even think we're having fun, or being cool. We may think we "have it under control."

Welcome to 34th & Vine.

When that is happening, we need somebody to stop us. God puts a lot of people in our lives. A few of them love us. I hope they love us enough to tell us when we are behaving badly. Some of them have a responsibility to step in. Parents were the first in our lives to exercise this responsibility.

Every other form of authority grows out of that parental cop role. Teachers, pastors, law enforcement officers, bar bouncers - I hope they are on the beat, ready to step up and break our little bottle of whatever has got us under its spell. These people are God's servants to curb us when we cross the line.

But there is something more that we need, when we're standing there, with the broken bottle and the sinking feeling that comes with gradually realizing just how big a fool we've been. We need a word from God that comforts us and tells us that He loves us anyway. That's what Jesus is. He is God's invitation to come back home, take a shower, and get some coffee in us. He is the only way we can truly leave the vicinity of 34th & Vine. Maybe you need to know that today. Maybe you need to realize that it's not too late. Go with Jesus. He's waiting patiently. He's got the real thing - it wasn't cooked up in a kitchen sink. But hey - don't forget to thank the cop as you leave!

## College News

Northern Michigan University announced the Dean's List for the Fall 2007 semester.

The following students qualified with a grade point average of 3.25 - 3.99.

Katrina L. Beatson, Kelly B. Shaheen, and Sarah M. Wisniewski, all of Ada. Thomas V. Wynsma of Alto.



## Happy Birthday

### FEBRUARY 13:

Deb Heydenburg, Emily Gerard, Jodi Kennedy, Alyssa Ellis-Roach, Thomas Alberts Jr.

### FEBRUARY 14:

Heather Claypool, Carol Leyman, Gerri Ellison, Scott Treglia, Lori Rice.

### FEBRUARY 15:

Jim VanDyke, DeAnn Merriman, Deanne Newell, Marcus Kline.

### FEBRUARY 16:

Matthew Schuitema, Tracey Main.

### FEBRUARY 17:

Chris Hodges, Justin Stanford, Stephanie Ellison, Reatha Johnson, Lynda Horsley, Deb Tulecki.

### FEBRUARY 18:

Richard Claypool, Courtney Phillips.

### FEBRUARY 19:

Jerrica Foss, Bruce Baird, Betty Newhouse.

## New Arrivals

### Washburn

Bruce and Denise Washburn of Lowell, along with big sister Devin, are happy to announce the birth of their son, Samuel Brennen. He was born September 20, 2007, weighing 6 lbs. 14 oz. and measuring 19 inches.

Proud grandparents are Roger and Kathy Southland of Lowell and Len and Jan Washburn of Ada.



Samuel Brennen Washburn

\*\*\*

*I gotta work out. I keep saying it all the time. I keep saying I gotta start working out. It's been about two months since I've worked out. And I just don't have the time. Which uh..is odd. Because I have the time to go out to dinner. And uh..and watch tv. And get a bone density test. And uh.. try to figure out what my phone number spells in words.*

- Ellen DeGeneres

## Dinner with Friends to be held Feb. 23

Molly Benningfield  
Editor

The Lowell Education Foundation is hosting "Dinner with Friends" again this year, on Feb. 23 at 6:30 p.m.

Five houses will be featured, each with an exciting theme.

House 1 - "Far From the East", hosted by Minnie and Rein Kansman, will feature a variety of foods from different Asian countries, like Thai spring rolls and Indonesian coconut ice cream. The guest list has been filled already.

House 2 - "Victorian Dinner", hosted by Kathryn DenHouter and Karen Corbett, will feature dishes catered by Flat River Grill, including Duchess potatoes and Petit peas and pearl onions, among others. The dinner will be served in the dining room of the Lowell Historical Society.

House 3 - "Traditional Irish", hosted by Martha and Chuck Hayden, will feature Irish dishes like Stobhach Gaelach, a

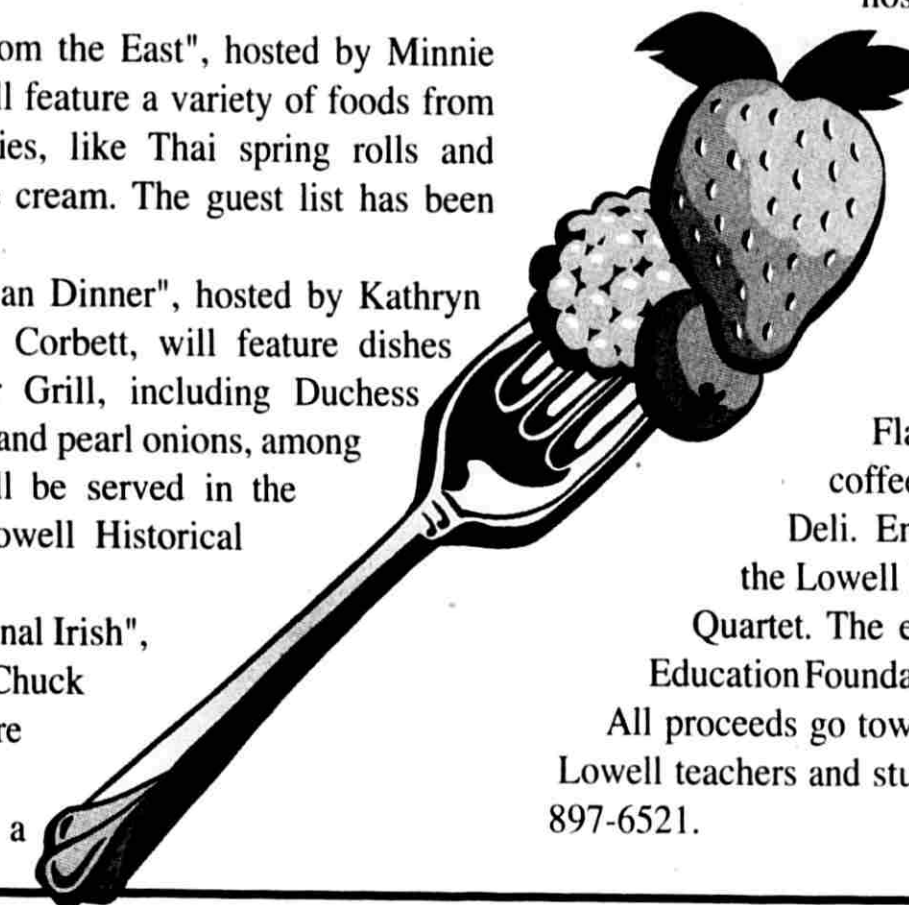
stew, and Champ, a potato dish. The event will be served at the Fallsburg One Room Schoolhouse.

House 4 - "Come in From the Cold", hosted by Melanie Brim, will feature a meal to warm you up, including a nine-layer chicken casserole and honey-kissed acorn squash.

House 5 - "A, B, C's of Dining", hosted by Patty and Frank Brechbiel, will feature foods found in the first three letters of the alphabet, including Cock-a-leekie soup and Bourbon glazed pork tenderloin.

After the dinners, guests will head to Lowell City Hall to sample dessert provided by Flat River Grill, and freshly-brewed coffee from Voyages Coffee Shop and Deli. Entertainment will be provided by the Lowell High School Orchestra and String Quartet. The event is sponsored by the Lowell Education Foundation, and tickets are \$50 per person.

All proceeds go toward funding innovative grants for Lowell teachers and students. For more information, call 897-6521.



## Outdoors, continued

### ... From Page 4 Business Matters

A simple bird feeder on a limb or post will help birds through a long cold winter. Watching the antics of the birds from a window can be entertaining and interesting. Planting shrubs and trees which produce seeds, berries, and nuts can benefit birds and mammals alike.

Freezing temperatures make it difficult for creatures to find fresh water. A birdbath kept filled will meet the need but must be heated in the winter. A pond or water garden is a more natural source of water.

Shrubs, evergreens, and brush piles are only a few ways to establish cover to protect wildlife from the weather and predators. Reducing lawn areas can save maintenance time and leave more space for wildlife.

These are just a sample of measures which can be taken to restore habitat that we altered by our presence. It is important to learn more about providing for wildlife because there is the possibility of doing more harm than good. For example, in Michigan, there are regulations for feeding deer to avoid transmitting disease between animals. Another problem is allowing birds to become dependent on a food supply then suddenly stop feeding and, of course, don't feed the bears. A good source of information is the Michigan Department of Natural Resources at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

For several years before we built on the land where we now live, I would sit quietly and observe the resident wildlife. I believe there is more activity now than before. Maybe we can all get along.

Greenridge Realty announced that Ann Wittenbach received Realtor of the Month in January. This award recognizes Wittenbach for her outstanding success and achievements.



Ann Wittenbach

\*\*\*  
*The trees that are slow to grow bear the best fruit.*

- Motiere

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### Definition

Sciatica is defined as pain that radiates from the lower back into the buttocks and down the back of one or both legs. This can be caused by the irritation of the sciatic nerves, the largest nerves of the body. It usually begins as an acute pain in the lower back and then radiates down the back of either or both legs. There are 5 pairs of nerves that exit the spine in the lower back. These nerves make up what we know as the sciatic nerves. If the vertebrae or bones in the lower back are misaligned or out of place; or the disc between the vertebrae are swollen, bulged or herniated, the result can be pressure on those nearby nerves. This can cause tremendous pain and normal daily activities may become almost impossible.

#### SYMPTOMS:

◆ SENSATION CHANGES ON THE BACK OF THE CALF OR THE SOLE OF THE FOOT

◆ NUMBNESS, TINGLING, BURNING, OR PAIN IN THE THIGH, BACK OF CALF OR THE SOLE OF THE FOOT

◆ WEAKNESS OF THE KNEE OR FOOT

◆ INSTABILITY WHILE WALKING

◆ PAIN WHILE COUGHING OR SNEEZING

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<p><b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 Worship..... 8:30 &amp; 11:00 a.m. DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Barrier - Free Entrance</p>	<p><b>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)</b> 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery John King, Youth Pastor SUNDAYS: 10:00 a.m. - Worship &amp; Evening; LIFE home Groups &amp; "The Source" Youth WEDNESDAYS: Family Night: (for all ages) 7:00 p.m. "The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m. Loving God... Loving People!</p>	<p><b>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Fr. George J. Fekete 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com Weekend Masses: Sat. 5 PM, SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM &amp; 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer &amp; adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETER NIGGAS 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48, EWTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>	<p><b>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> (United Church of Christ) 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906 Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Thursday Faith Alive Worship.....7:00 P.M. Dr. Roger LaWarre.....Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise &amp; Worship</p>
<p><b>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell &amp; Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....9:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p><b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org Rev. David O. Sims &amp; Rev. W. Lee Taylor Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. &amp; 6:00 P.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M. AWANA CLUB J.C. Wed. 6:15 &amp; 6:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided - Barrier Free</p>	<p><b>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Thurlan Meredith 9:45 A.M. ....Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M. ....Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery &amp; Children Worship Programs Provided A friend...a family...a mission!</p>	<p><b>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> Lowell High School Performing Arts Center Greeting &amp; Fellowship.....10:15 A.M. Sunday Morning Worship.....10:40 A.M. Wednesday Discipleship Ministries.....7:00 P.M. Meets at 201 N. Washington PASTOR MICHAEL RHODABARGER Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>

# HEALTH



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



## STREP THROAT

Strep throat is a contagious disease caused by infection with group A streptococcal bacteria, Streptococcus pyogenes. The organisms are transmitted from one infected person to another by sneezing, coughing, and shaking hands. Although strep throat is most common in school-aged children and teens, adults may also get this disease. Symptoms of strep throat include a painful, red sore throat, swollen tonsils, white patches of pus on the tonsils, difficulty, and swollen lymph nodes in the neck. Other symptoms that may be associated with strep include headache, abdominal pain, fever, nausea, muscle pain, and skin rash.

A rapid strep test can be done in the doctor's office. A swab is used to take a sample from the back of the throat, and results only take a few minutes. A throat culture can also be obtained and sent to the lab for further testing.

Treatment of strep throat includes antibiotics to kill the bacteria. Medications like Motrin and Tylenol also help relieve fever and throat pain. If your pain worsens rather than improves, you need to return to the doctor to make sure you are not developing a complication, such as a resistant infection or an abscess.

## In My Opinion, continued ... From Page 5

only happen if our residents are aware of what's going on around them. Our weekly newspapers cover the area around us instead of a world away. While thousands of journalists hover over activities of the larger world, our reporters are concerned with what's happening in the much-smaller

world around us. The larger news organizations deal with the news of strangers. We deal each week with the news of our friends and neighbors, for this is the world in which we publish our newspapers each week.

We, at J-Ad Graphics, are a part of a lost breed of

independent media. Today larger organizations continue to buy up smaller publications and news agencies only to strip the newspapers of their independence and zest for the news. This is happening in communities not far from here and changing the relationship with those communities forever.

We've taken on some tough stories over the years, always in the best interests of our readers. Any opposition to activities locally has invariably been met with cries of "You're out to get us" "Prove your case" or "Why are you always trying to stir something up?" We look at it as part of a "shoot-the-messenger" mentality, yet we continue to report on all issues, understanding the importance of a free and serious press.

To Read or Not to Read, that is the question. As we continue to compile the news each week, we hope our readers' appetites for the news will continue to grow so they can continue their responsibility of being part of the discussion. Read on.

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## Budgeting for Michigan's future

With Senator Carl Levin

Working on a tight budget is a challenge almost all of us face in daily life. College students must budget to cover tuition, families must budget to afford mortgage payments and groceries, and businesses have to budget to make payroll. In the government, elected officials are charged with responsibly budgeting how to spend tax dollars.

The way that the federal government spends money impacts everyone's budget decisions, and spending in a way that meets citizens' needs is especially critical when the economy is struggling.

Earlier this month, President Bush presented his final budget proposal, asking for total government spending of \$3.1 trillion. It is a shocking number. Unfortunately the priorities the President put forward in his budget are out of whack with America's needs.

Michigan has the highest unemployment in the nation, more than one million people without adequate health care, and our state has lost over 240,000 manufacturing jobs during the Bush administration. But the President's budget proposal provides no extension of unemployment benefits and he proposes to drastically cut job training programs.

Instead, this budget offers more of the same: cuts to investments in education that are vital for our state's

economic future; cuts to critical health care funding, including Medicare and Medicaid, that Michigan citizens depend on; and cuts in important education programs.

The President's continuing neglect of the manufacturing sector, even in the face of deep job losses, is particularly disturbing. In fact, the President's budget even proposes shutting down both the Technology Innovation Program (formerly known as the Advanced Technology Program) and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership. These programs help small and mid-sized manufacturers compete by promoting their investment in high-risk, high-reward research that can pay big dividends and create jobs.

Michigan workers and business leaders can tell you that the fight for manufacturing jobs in America should have taken place years ago. What we need is a comprehensive American Manufacturing Initiative to make the federal government an active and aggressive partner with our manufacturers who will fight for jobs the way that governments in other countries do. This plan, which I joined with other Michigan Democrats to propose last year, would fund the manufacturing support programs that the Bush budget slashes, and it would take on the currency manipulation and trade barriers that are hurting our industries and costing Americans their jobs.

The President's budget modestly funds research and development of advanced battery technology and alternative energy sources. Lithium ion batteries, for instance, promise to power plug-in hybrid vehicles. But a much greater commitment needs to be made both in the technology area as well as in a robust commitment on the part of our federal government to bioenergy research that can help grow "green collar" jobs in Michigan.

The Bush budget falls way short in those areas. It also creates mountains of debt that our children and grandchildren will have to pay off. It irresponsibly uses the Social Security Trust Fund as a piggy bank for covering shortfalls. And it allows the alternative minimum tax to sock tens of millions of middle income Americans with higher taxes, and at the same time includes billions of dollars in permanent tax cuts for the wealthiest one percent of Americans.

Although the President has blocked our attempts to change course in Iraq, his administration is planning to spend an estimated \$170 billion on the war there and in Afghanistan in the year ahead. But this budget fails to include that full funding request, which will add even more to our nation's \$9 trillion debt.

Michigan citizens have been contending with lost jobs, mortgage foreclosures and tight budgets for too long. Businesses and citizens alike deserve government efforts to be prioritized and responsive to the challenges they are facing day in and day out, and to help get our economy back on track.

Unfortunately, President Bush's budget is built on backwards priorities, funded with borrowed money and offers little hope to stimulate the economy.

Over the next several months, we will go to work in the Senate crafting and passing our own budget. My focus will be on responsible measures, including economic stimulus, extension of unemployment benefits, support for manufacturers, and investments in job training, health care and education, that can help create jobs and grow Michigan's economy.

## Wildlife use different strategies to survive winter

Wild animals endure many hardships in order to survive, but the most challenging of these is winter. Cold temperatures, wind, lack of cover and little food make life during the winter months difficult, but Michigan's wildlife species have adapted different strategies to survive and sometimes make winter almost seem bearable.

To escape winter's bite, many summer resident birds migrate, but this is a costly strategy. It requires a large amount of energy to make the journey. Migratory birds also are more vulnerable to predation during long migratory flights.

Although several species of bats travel south to hibernate, some bats actually travel north. Many of the abandoned mines in the Upper Peninsula provide stable, moist climates for bat hibernation. Millions of bats save themselves a long trip by adapting to these man-made structures. Bats also

are infamous for crawling into heated buildings and hiding, waking up once each month.

Perhaps the most interesting migratory flight is conducted by the Monarch butterfly, which travels to Southern California or highlands in northern Mexico. This is a one-way trip for the adults. After over-wintering, these butterflies will mate and lay eggs, ensuring the return to Michigan is made by the next generation.

Migration, however, is not always a long-distance affair. When deep snows pile up in the Lake Superior watershed, white-tailed deer travel south to wintering yards. These low-lying areas have a dense cover of white cedar. With snow depths and winter winds decreased inside these yards, deer take a sit-and-wait attitude, reducing activity levels and energy demand, while depleting the local food supply and their store of

body fat. If winter is short and mild, most survive; if it is long and cold, many can starve.

Some birds actually find Michigan a pleasant winter oasis. The great gray owl will migrate south into the forests of northern Michigan, and snow buntings which nest on the tundra of northern Canada find the dunes and open crop fields of southern Michigan quite balmy and will spend the winter foraging in these areas.

There are only a few Michigan animals that practice true hibernation. Woodchucks, bats, some mice and ground squirrels are Michigan's true hibernators. In fall, woodchucks gain another 30 percent of their summer weight, line an underground cavity with grass and leaves and plug the entrances before curling up in a ball. The animal's heartbeat drops from 100 to four beats a minute and its body temperature drops

from 98 to about 40 degrees. When they emerge in the spring they will have lost half their fall weight.

A more common strategy is dormancy or torpor. This occurs when an animal enters a state of reduced metabolic activity, sleeps for a long time, wakes up, moves around a bit and goes back to sleep. The duration of sleep and activity often varies dependent on the severity of the weather.

Most mammals feed heavily in the fall putting on a layer of fat that supplements the meager food that is available during the winter. Opossums will den in hollow trees or burrows and may even share their winter quarters with rabbits, skunks, raccoons or woodchucks.

Black bears enter a form of dormancy that is more like lethargy. Females give birth to their cubs during the winter denning period; in true hibernation this would not be possible. In their sleep state both the heart rate and body temperature decline and their digestive activity stops. However, if disturbed, bears can rouse readily, much to the consternation of biologists conducting bear den studies.

Cold-blooded animals, like amphibians and reptiles seek sheltered places. Crayfish chimneys offer safe wintering sites to snakes, frogs or salamanders and often at the same time. Many frogs dive to the bottom of lakes or ponds where they burrow into the mud to wait until spring. Some snakes gather in large numbers,

"ball-up" and hibernate together to stay warm.

Some insects survive by spending the winter as larvae, while others over-winter as adults in large, tightly clustered colonies.

Wildlife, cont'd.,  
pg. 18



### LUNCH MENU

**ELEMENTARY  
MENU**  
Week of Feb. 18, 2008

**MON:** Mid Winter Break.

**TUES:** Cheeseburger on bun (chili & crackers offered at Alto & Murray Lake), oven potatoes, assorted fruit, homebaked cookie, milk.

**WED:** Pepperoni pizza (egg salad sandwich offered at Alto & Murray Lake), steamed broccoli, warm apple slices, milk.

**THURS:** Hotdog on bun (bagel w/yogurt & peanut butter offered at Alto & Murray Lake), mini carrots/dip, fresh orange, milk.

**FRI:** Waffles w/syrup or cereal w/graham crackers & scrambled eggs, fresh fruit, applesauce, milk.

### LEGAL NOTICE

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

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Decedent's Estate  
FILE NO. 08-184,657-DE

Estate of  
**URSULA ASTRAS**  
deceased

Date of birth:  
10/16/1912

**TO ALL CREDITORS:**  
The decedent, **URSULA ASTRAS**, who lived at 1421 WIDDICOMB NW, GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN died January 28, 2008.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented

to **MARY CURRIER**, named personal representative, or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Suite 2500, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

2/5/2008  
**John D. Mitus (P31244)**  
410 Bridge Street NW  
Grand Rapids, MI  
49504  
616-774-4001

**Mary Currier**  
828 Ridge Ct.  
S. San Francisco, CA  
94080

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Thursday.....8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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## Railtrail group inches toward interlocal agreement

by Emma Palova

A tri-county trail commission may oversee the future rail trail system from Lowell to Ionia and Greenville. The Flat River an unprecedented tri-county interlocal agreement between Kent, Montcalm and Ionia counties.



This railroad bridge over the Grand River is one of many structures on the railroad corridor.

"A trail commission with more than one county hasn't been done that often in Michigan," said Nancy Krupiarz.

The trail commission or authority would be a single point of reference for ownership and maintenance issues along the trail.

"We want to make sure the trail is maintained," said Ionia city manager Jason Eppler.

The group plans to apply for DNR trust fund grants for the acquisition of the railroad corridor by the Oct. 1 deadline set by the railroad.

In the meantime, officials from West Michigan Trails and Greenways Coalition will negotiate the purchase agreement with Mid Michigan Railroad.

The group also discussed potential work names for the project as well as the naming rights. In case of a private donation in excess of \$1 million, the name is usually determined by the donor.

Currently, the group is targeting August for an application to the DNR trust fund.

Some monies may become available from the Frey and Meijer foundations.

Also a \$30,000 survey must be conducted while the railroad markers are still in place.

There are approximately 26 municipalities interested in the project including Otisco and Berlin townships.

An educational meeting is being planned to clarify the three separate area trail projects, LARA, Railtrail and NCTA.

Vergennes Township clerk Mari Stone said the trails will eventually all come together.

"All these trails will be interconnected," said Stone.

The next Railtrail meeting has been set for March 6 at 1 p.m.

\*\*\*

*I would feel more optimistic about a bright future for man if he spent less time proving that he can outwit Nature and more time tasting her sweetness and respecting her seniority.*

E. B. White (1899 - 1985)

## Grand Lux Ballrooms on target for March opening

by Emma Palova

With the hand-forged grand staircase firmly in its place inside the 3,500-square-foot foyer, the Grand Lux Ballrooms are now on target for a March opening.

The long-awaited luxurious staircase with intricate railing fabricated by Christopher's Metals of Grand Rapids will become the focal point of the Grand Staircase Ceremony, just one of the many event options.

The staircase descends from the mezzanine where bridal and groom lounges are located into the foyer.

"The honoree will make a grand entrance from the mezzanine into the foyer," said ballroom owner Kent McKay.

McKay, a solo entrepreneur, is ecstatic as the project nears its completion. The former director of banquets for an Arizona resort thought of the grandiose idea of having a structure of this magnitude two years ago based on a market analysis.

"There is a real need for this," he said. "This is not just a banquet facility this is a real ballroom."

Wearing a hard hat, McKay gave a tour of the unique building located on Lincoln Lake.



The long awaited Grand Staircase is now in place inside the Grand Foyer of the Grand Lux Ballrooms.

Apart from the spacious foyer, the state-of-the-art facility boasts two ballrooms. The Kensington and the Chatsworth can each seat up to 300 people in a

round table fashion plus the head tables. Each ballroom has its own smaller staircase placed on an angle so the bride's gown can cascade down the steps.

And McKay has many surprises up his sleeve before the building opens its doors for a private party set for March 22.

For example, each yarn woven into the classy burgundy and gold carpet was hand-picked.

However, the biggest surprise is still cooking.

The public grand opening has been set for March 29 from noon to 4 p.m. Several job fairs will be held to staff the facility. A college job fair on Feb. 19 at DeVos Place and Grand Lux Ballrooms' very own job fair on Feb. 22 and Feb. 23

at the First Congregational Church.

The event coordinator is Mary Emser. McKay will be looking to hire up to 55 employees down the road. Staff will include banquet servers, culinarians, kitchen assistants and bartenders.

The general contractor for the project is Dan Vos Construction.

For more information go to [www.grandluxballrooms.com](http://www.grandluxballrooms.com).

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Feb 15, 6pm-9pm &  
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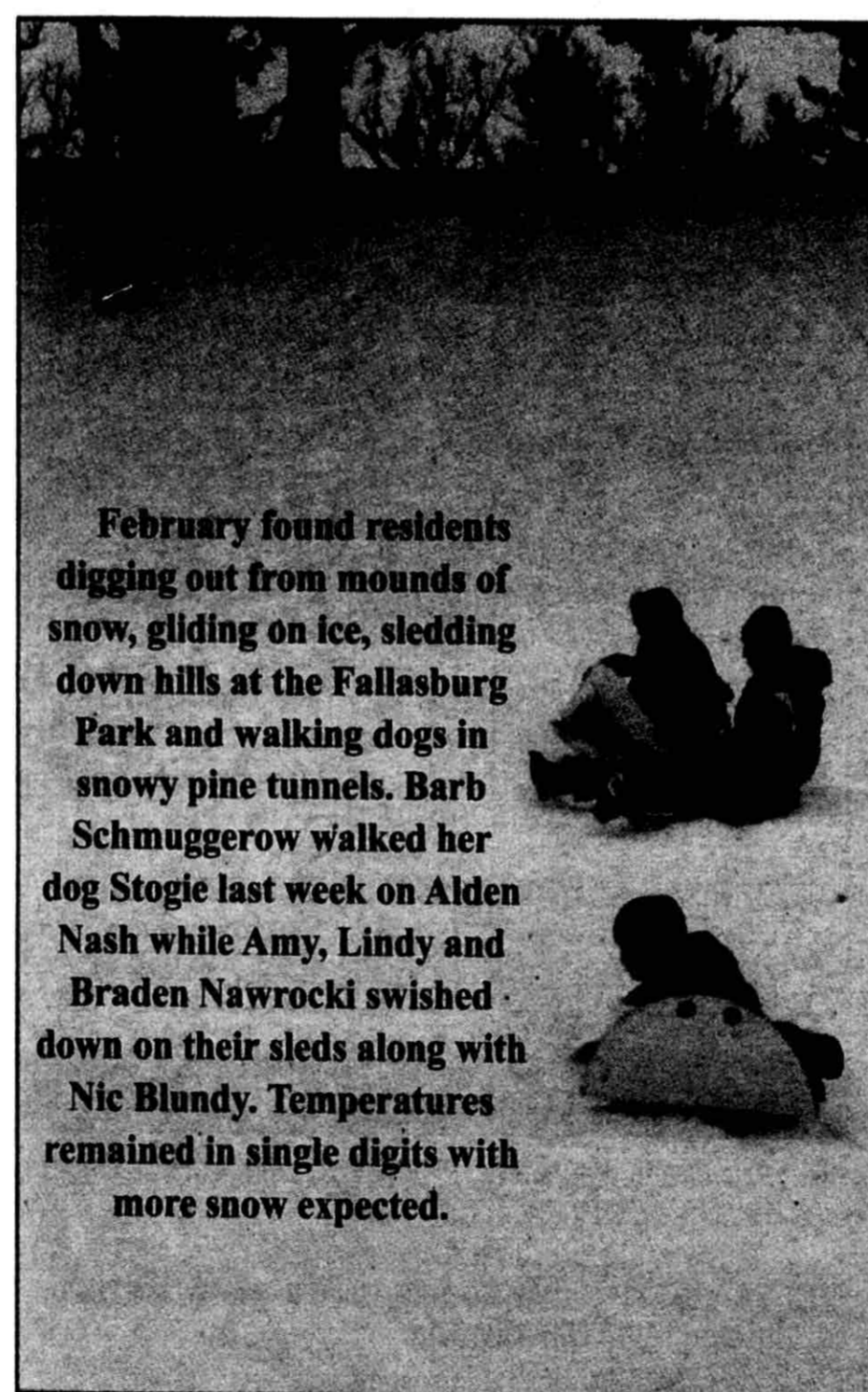
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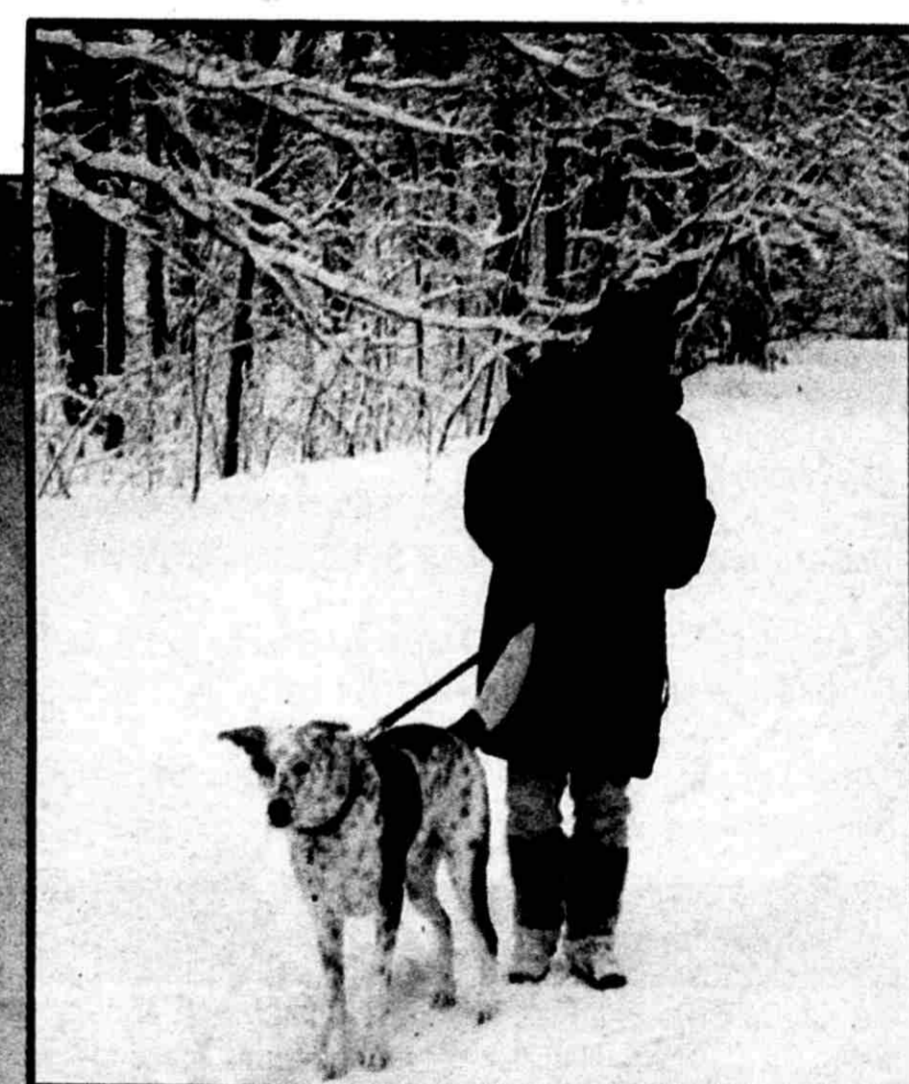
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## Arctic chill - still!



February found residents digging out from mounds of snow, gliding on ice, sledding down hills at the Fallsburg Park and walking dogs in snowy pine tunnels. Barb Schmuenger walked her dog Stogie last week on Alden Nash while Amy, Lindy and Braden Nawrocki swished down on their sleds along with Nic Blundy. Temperatures remained in single digits with more snow expected.



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## Department of State offices to be closed for Presidents Day

Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land reminds residents that all branch offices and the Office of the Great Seal will be closed in observance of Presidents Day on Monday, Feb. 18.

The Department of State mails notices to motorists 45 days before their driver's

license or license plates expire to give them ample time to renew. Licenses and plates that expire on a day when state offices are closed, such as a holiday or weekend, can be renewed the following day without penalty.

Motorists renewing license plates can "skip the trip" to the branch office and do business by mail, or if eligible, by Internet or touch-tone telephone. Easy-to-follow instructions can be found with the renewal notice. License plate tabs

will arrive by mail within seven business days.

With the exception of holidays, branch offices are open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Smaller branch offices may close

for the lunch hour. On Wednesdays most offices are open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., with those in city centers open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. PLUS offices and SUPER!Centers are open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays.

SUPER!Centers also provide Saturday hours from 9 a.m. to noon.

For more information visit the department Web site at [www.Michigan.gov/sos](http://www.Michigan.gov/sos).



### Financial Focus

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

#### THIS VALENTINE'S DAY, GIVE A PRESENT WITH A FUTURE

Any Valentine's Day gift is thoughtful. Still, many presents have fairly short shelf lives — flowers fade, chocolates get eaten and those little candy hearts that say

*Got an Announcement to make?*

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

\* Anniversary announcements cannot contain an invitation to a celebration

"Be Mine" get stale. This year, why not give your special valentine a gift that keeps on giving for years to come?

Specifically, consider making a financial gift. Here are a few possibilities:

- Give stocks. You might want to give shares of stock in a company that makes products favored by your loved one. As an alternative to buying stocks, you could give your own shares. You'll need to know what you originally paid for the stock (its tax basis), how long you've held it and its fair market value at the date of the gift. The recipient will need this information to determine gains or losses when he or she sells the stock. (You'll also need to determine if you have to pay gift taxes. You can give up to \$12,000 per year, free of gift taxes, to as many people as you want.)

- Contribute to an IRA. The IRA contribution limit for 2008 is \$5,000. Investors who are age 50 and older can also make a "catch-up" contribution of an additional \$1,000. So if your valentine hasn't fully funded his or her IRA for this year, you can help. (You can't contribute directly to another's IRA, but you can give cash gifts to be used for the purpose of funding an IRA.) Because of their tax advantages, IRAs are great retirement savings vehicles. Traditional IRAs have the potential to grow tax-deferred; Roth IRAs potentially grow tax-free, provided the investor has had the account for at least five years and is 59 1/2 or older.

- Make a charitable gift in your valentine's name. Your loved one, like most people, probably supports a variety of social and charitable organizations. By making

a donation to one of these groups in your valentine's name, you can add special meaning to this Valentine's Day. At the same time, you'll be giving yourself a little valentine, because you may be able to claim a tax deduction for your charitable gift.

- Review your estate plans. It doesn't sound all that romantic — but if your sweetheart is also your spouse, you'll certainly be looking out for his or her best interests when you review your estate plans. If you were to die without a will, for example, you would cause considerable anguish to your survivors. And in many cases a simple will isn't enough — you may need to establish a living trust or other estate-planning tool. You'll also want to go through your financial assets — including your IRA, 401(k), annuities and life insurance contracts — to make sure your beneficiary designations are still accurate. Beneficiary designations supersede whatever instructions maybe in your will, so it's essential that you update your beneficiaries whenever your family situation changes. It's not uncommon for assets to go to the wrong beneficiaries (e.g., former spouses) or to bypass children born after the beneficiary designation was made.

By making any of these gifts, you'll show your loved one that you really care — and the results of your generosity will be felt long after Valentine's Day is over.

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors are not estate planners and cannot offer tax or legal advice. You should consult with a competent tax specialist or attorney for professional advice on your specific situation.

Notices in the "Coming Events" are free to any nonprofit organization in the Lowell, Ada, Alto & Saranac areas. Keep notices brief; may submit by mail, phone - 897-9261, fax - 897-4809 or email - [ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com](mailto:ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com). All submissions are subject to available space.

## COMING EVENTS

### MONDAYS

Living Sober Group, New AA Group, 7:30 p.m. at 119 Lincoln Lake (behind Fireplace Plus).

Women's over 30 drop-in basketball, 7-9:30 p.m. at Cherry Creek Elementary. Call Dave (YMCA) 897-8445. Fee \$3.

Boy Scout Troop 102, 11 & up or completing 5th grade, meets 7-8:30 p.m. at Scout Cabin, end of N. Washington St. Call Tim Vanderwulp at 897-4302 for more info.

**MON., TUES., THURS.:** Alpha Women's Center, 2251 W. Main. Call 987-9533 for appt./open Mon. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tu. 6-9 p.m.; Th. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Diapers, formula and clothing.

**EVERY MON.:** Women for Sobriety, 7-8 p.m. Bowne Center United Methodist Church, 84th & Alden Nash. Call Sue 868-6219; [www.womenforsobriety.org](http://www.womenforsobriety.org).

### TUESDAYS

Thornapple River Chapter BNI professional networking group, 7-8:30 a.m., Ada Bible Church, 8899 Cascade Rd., [www.ThornappleRiverBNI.com](http://www.ThornappleRiverBNI.com) or call Cheryl 868-7551.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly Tops MI#372 at Key Heights Mobile Home Park Community Bldg. Weigh-ins are at 5:45 p.m.

Cub Scout Pack 3188 at 1st United Methodist Church 621 E. Main St. 6:30 p.m. Call Bruce Doll, cubmaster at 304-0082.

Flat River Woodcarvers meet at LAAC from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Women's Community Bible Study. Free nursery/preschool story hour/craft time 9:45-11:15 a.m./women only at 7:15 p.m. Calvary Christian Reformed Church. 897-7060 or 897-7555.

**TUES.:** AA meeting, Back to Basics, closed, at 865 Lincoln Lake 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking.

**EVERY TUES.:** Thornapple River Chapter BNI professional networking group, 7-8:30 a.m. Ada Bible Church, 8899 Cascade Rd. Cheryl 868-7551.

### WEDNESDAYS

Living Sober Group, New AA Group, 7:30 p.m. at 119 Lincoln Lake (behind Fireplace Plus).

Rotary meets at noon at City Hall, 301 E. Main, 2nd floor.

**ALANON:** Lowell First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main St. (Use west entrance off Jackson St.), 8 p.m. 897-5936.

Tri-town Conservation Club trap & skeet league, 5616 Dunn Rd. 6-10 p.m. Larry 754-7104.

### THURSDAYS

Weight Watchers at Lowell Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St. 5:30 p.m. Register 1/2 hr. before the meeting. For info. 1-800-651-6000.

Saranac Area Musicians and Singers practice at Saranac High School Band Rm. Choir: 6-7 p.m./band: 7-8. Kathy Maatman, 897-5981.

Pottery classes at Franciscan Life Process Center, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Call 897-7842.

St. Mary's Pregnancy Crisis Center, 402 Amity St., non-denominational help for pregnant women/adolescents, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; Mondays: 5:30-7:30 p.m. 897-9393.

**EVERY THURS.:** Alpha Women's Center, 2251 W. Main. 987-9533, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Diapers, formula, clothing. Or by appointment.

### FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY

Living Sober Group, New AA Group, 7:30 p.m. at 119 Lincoln Lake (behind Fireplace Plus).

**1ST & 3RD FRI.:** Teen MOPS support group for pregnant teens/teen moms, 9:15-11:30 a.m. at Impact Church, 1070 N. Hudson. 897-8304.

**LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM:** Tues., Sat. and Sun. 1-4 p.m.; Thurs., 1-8 p.m. Families: \$10; individuals \$3; 5-17 \$1.50; members are free. Call 897-7688.

**ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY.:** Mon. - Wed., 12-8 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri.: 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat.: 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 200 N. Monroe. Call 647-3920.

**ALTO LIBRARY:** Mon. & Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.; Tues. & Wed. 12-8 p.m.; Thurs. 1-5 p.m. 647-3820.

**LOWELL AREA ARTS COUNCIL:** Tues. - Fri.: 12-6 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m. Monday a.m. by appt. 149 S. Hudson. Call 897-8545 or [www.lowellartscouncil.org](http://www.lowellartscouncil.org).

**LOWELL SERENITY CLUB MEETINGS:** (AA) Mon., Wed., Thurs 12-1 & 8-9 p.m.; Tues./Fri.: 12-1, 4:30-5:30 & 8-9 p.m.; Sat./Sun.: 10-11 a.m. & 8-9 p.m.; (NA) Mon./Thurs., 6-7:30 p.m. 101 W. Main. 897-8565.

**FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES THRIFT SHOP** Wed. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 11535 Fulton St. E. Call 897-8567. Pantry 897-8260.

### FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY

**FRI.:** Arts/Crafts volunteers, Franciscan Life Process Center, 9:30-12:30 p.m. Call Pat at 897-7842.

**2ND SAT.:** Ada Historical Society, 10:30 a.m. at Averill Historical Museum, 7144 Headley, Ada.

**2ND SAT.:** Lowell Amateur Radio Club, held at 11535 E. Fulton, Flat River Outreach Ministries. 9 a.m. social time; 10 a.m. meeting. LARC sponsors 145.27 MHz area radio repeater system.

**FRI., SAT. & SUN.:** Averill Historical Museum of Ada, located at 7144 Headley. Hours are 1-4 p.m. or by appointment. Call 676-9346.

**SUN.:** Tri-town Conservation Club trap & skeet league, 5616 Dunn Rd. 12-5 p.m. Call Larry at 754-7104. Public welcome.

## Sweetheart Swirl Court announced at high school

The Sweetheart Swirl Court was announced at halftime of Friday's boys' basketball game against Northview. King was Kyle Ingebreton and Queen was Jeanette Griner.

Other senior court members were Breanna Bueche, Devin DeCator,

Rebecca Happie, Katie McElroy, Ashley Nawrocki, Eric Bouwhuis, Kenney Hayes, Eric Holmgren, Otto McNaughton and Jacob Nawrocki.

Junior Prince was Tim Hettinga and Princess was Richelle Kimble.

Other junior court

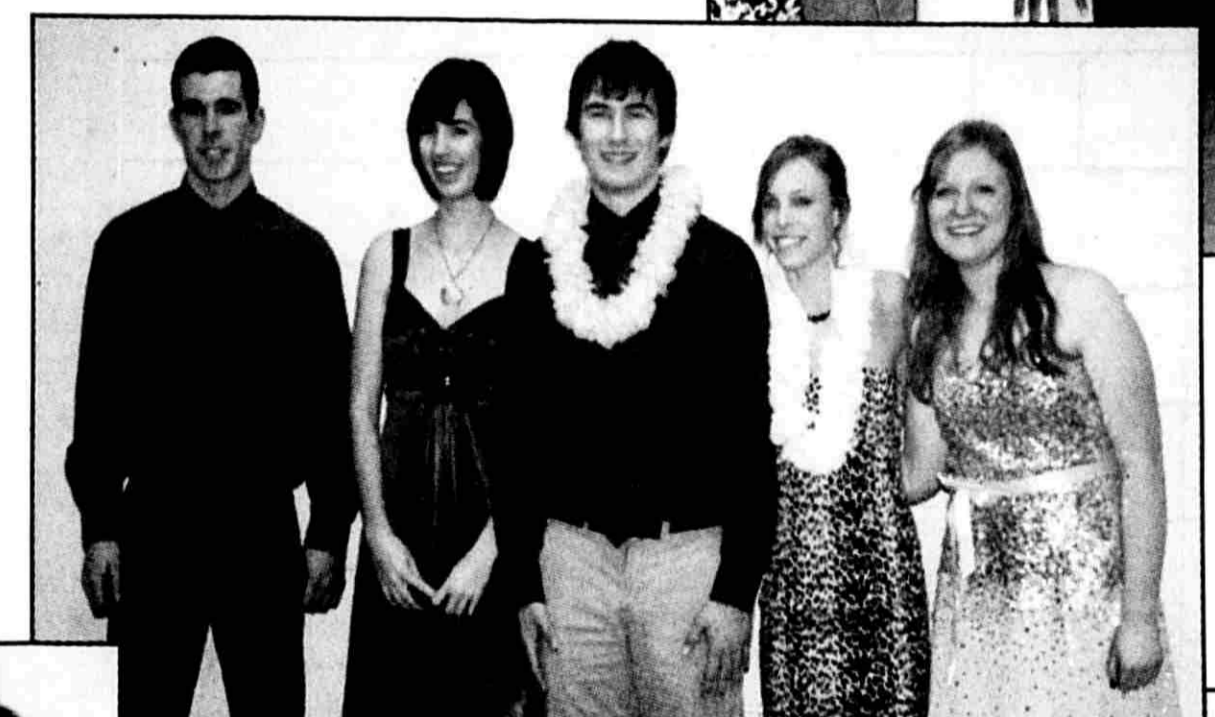
members were Laura Blanton, Rachel Folkersma, Zach Denault and Kirk Geldersma.

Sophomore Prince was Sean Briggs and Princess was Kelsey Teft.

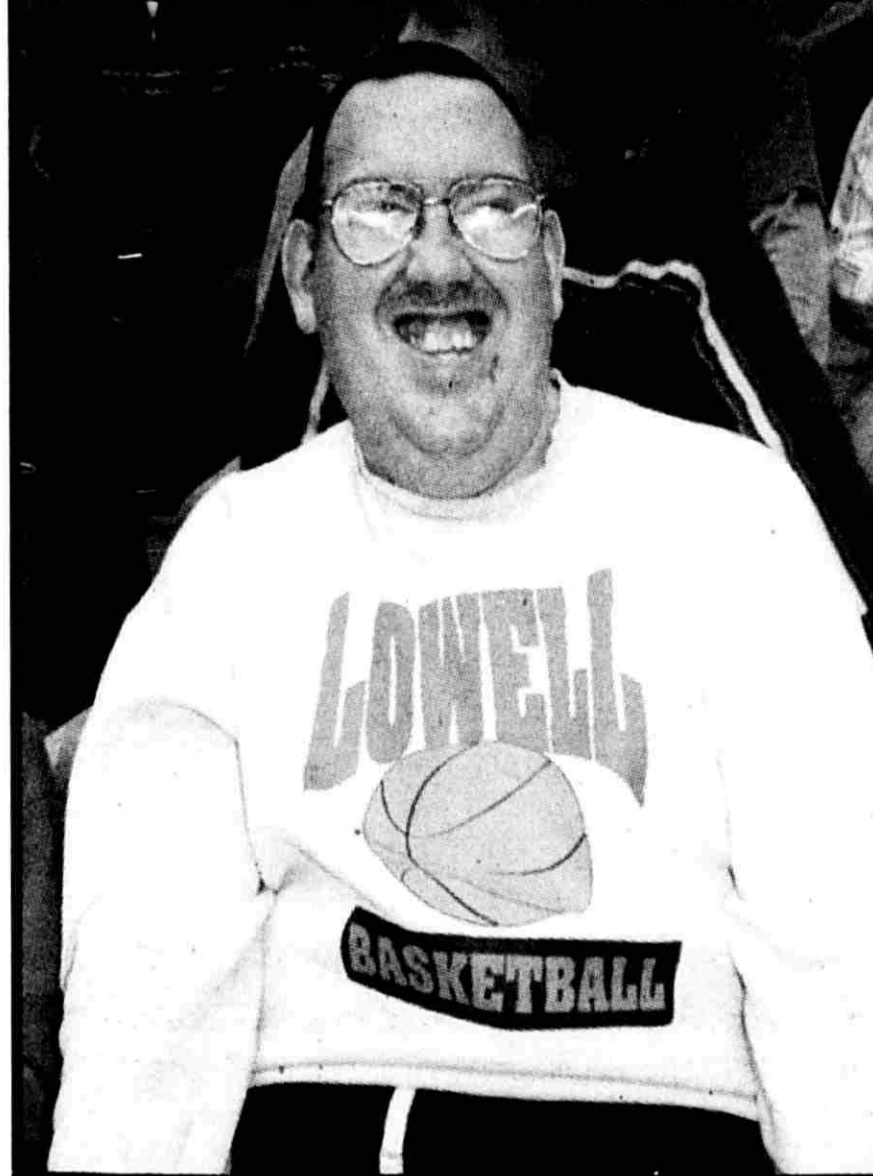
Other sophomore court members were Kristin Bouwhuis, Kelly Stevens,

Matt Griffioen and Jack Weeber.

Freshman Prince was Blake Hayes and Princess was Kallie Holzhueter. Other freshmen court members were Miah Jackson, Brynlee Pomper, Dan Fleet and Connor Swift.



## FAN-DEMONIUM



Clockwise (from top left): The senior court, the junior court, Queen Jeanette Griner and King Kyle Ingebreton, the freshmen court and the sophomore court.

**Denny Ryder is this week's Fan of the Week. He was found at the boys' basketball game on Friday night in a packed gym.**

## LHS and Academic Boosters announce January 2008 students of the month

In conjunction with the LHS Academic Boosters, Lowell High School is proud to announce that Kenny Hayes, 12th grade, and Troy Petersen, 9th grade, are the LHS January Students of the Month. In order to be eligible for this honor, a student must be nominated by a teacher. All the nomination forms for the month are then reviewed and voted on at the monthly department chair meeting, selecting two students to be honored for the month. Students are selected based on academic achievement, character, and work ethic. There are

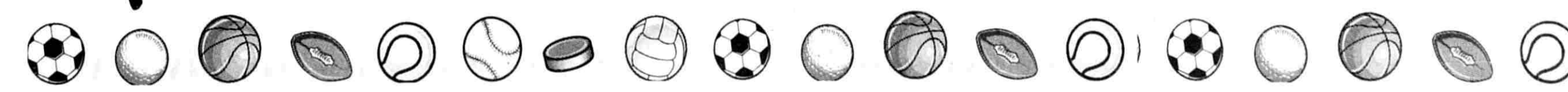
1350 students eligible for nomination, so this is quite an accomplishment for Kenny and Troy. The students receive a key card to the local businesses and a certificate.

Kenny was nominated by Mrs. Heather DeJonge who wrote, "Kenny is an exceptional student in AP Biology, he maintains consistent high marks and displays intuitive knowledge for the topics discussed. Kenny is a premier example of Lowell's character traits he shows great enthusiasm for whatever endeavor he attempts." Troy was

nominated by Mr. Jamie Christians, and he wrote, "Troy quietly goes about performing his personal best every day. He has high standards for himself, and he independently produces work of the highest quality. Throughout these challenges Troy maintains a polite and pleasant disposition." This program is made possible by the support of the LHS Academic Boosters, who support the high school in many ways. If you are interested in helping support the LHS Academic Boosters you may call Laura Becker at 897-5653.

What's Your Sport?

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



# Red Arrow SPORTS

“ALL IN ALL, IT WAS A GREAT NIGHT AND I KNOW OUR KIDS REALLY APPRECIATED THE FAN SUPPORT. AND I THINK OUR FANS REALLY APPRECIATED OUR KIDS' EFFORT – JUST THE WAY IT SHOULD BE.”

- Coach Jeff McDonald

## Boys' basketball wins in packed house

by Molly Benningfield  
Editor

Lowell played to a full house Friday night against Northview, and did not disappoint. The Arrows won 66-49 to improve their record to 6-4 in the OK-White.

Brett McMahon jumped the team with two of his four threes right off the bat. The Arrows were up 23-7 at one point, before Northview chopped their lead. Lowell went into halftime leading by five points, 33-28.

During the second half, Coach Jeff McDonald said his team stepped it up. “We came out and really played a solid second half,” McDonald said. “[Northview] cut the lead

to three, but we put together a nice run and went into the fourth quarter up by 15.”

McDonald said his team played smartly during those two quarters. “We handled the beginning and end of the third and fourth quarter much better in terms of clock management and shot selection.”

Overall, McDonald said he was pleased with the results. “We put together a pretty good game. We got a lot of good minutes out of a lot of our young men.”

McMahon led the Arrows with 21 points, while Eric Saenz took in 16. Michael Schumm added 12 points.

The Arrows were successful from behind the line and under the hoop.

“We shot free throws well (15-18) and rebounded well,” McDonald said.

The team is now working on returning to their original style of defense, which McDonald calls ‘nasty, with an attitude.’

“We are trying to get back to playing a little ‘nasty’ on defense,” McDonald said. “With an attitude, like we were earlier in the year. And I thought we showed a little nastiness defensively in the second half.”

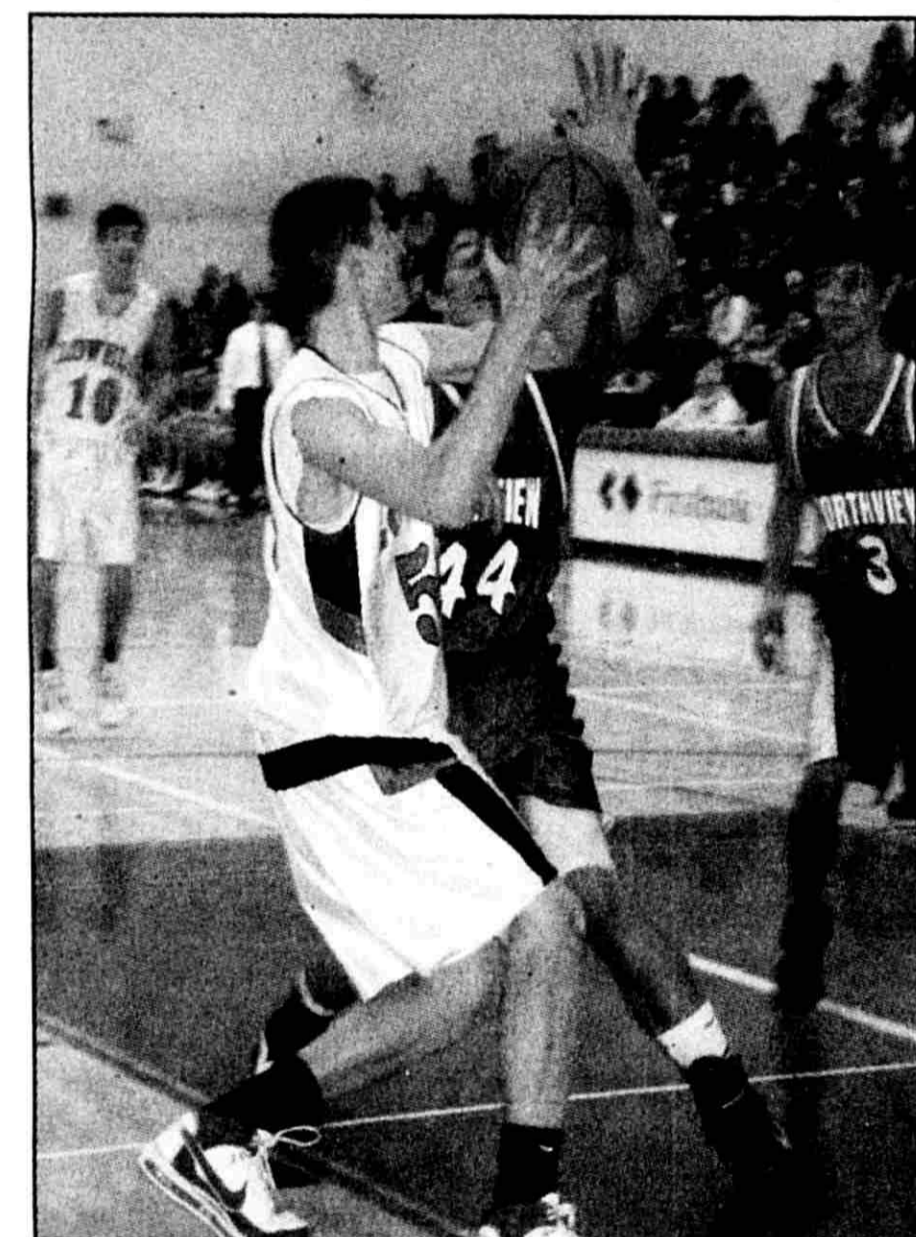
Nasty or not, the team is quite the crowd pleaser. “All in all, it was a great night and I know our kids really appreciated the fan support,” McDonald said. “And I think our fans really appreciated our kids' effort – just the way it should be.”



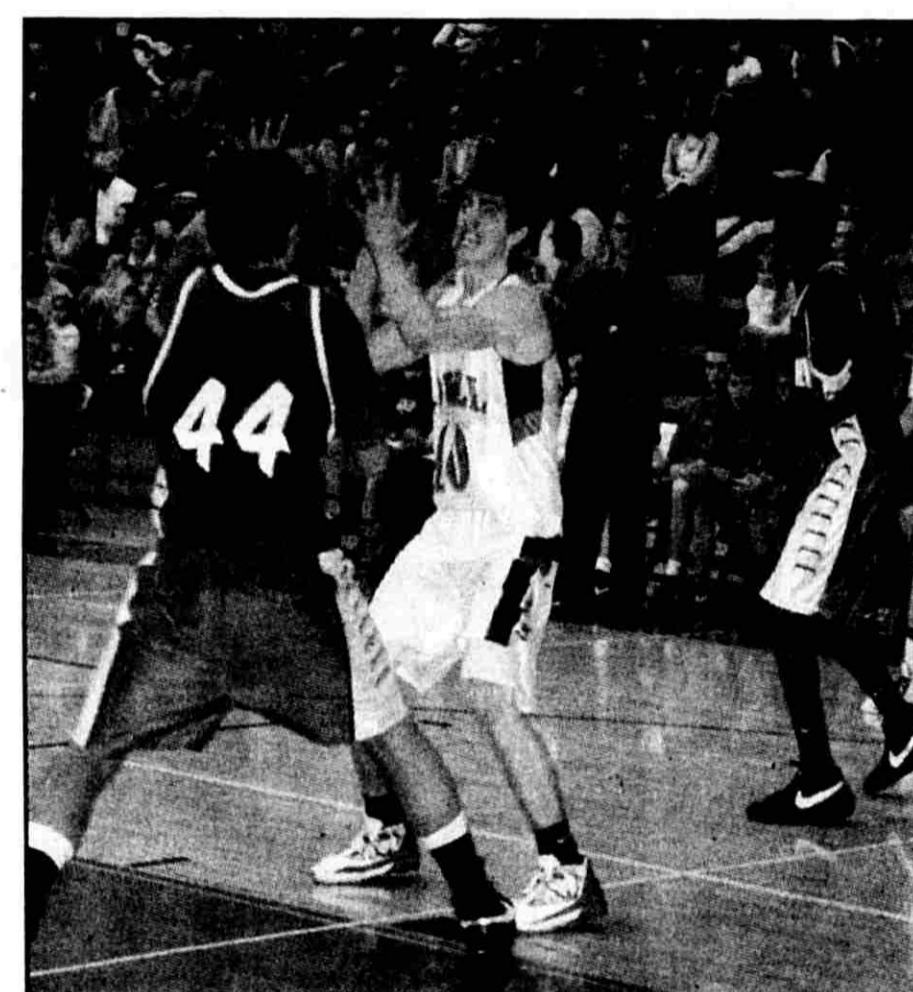
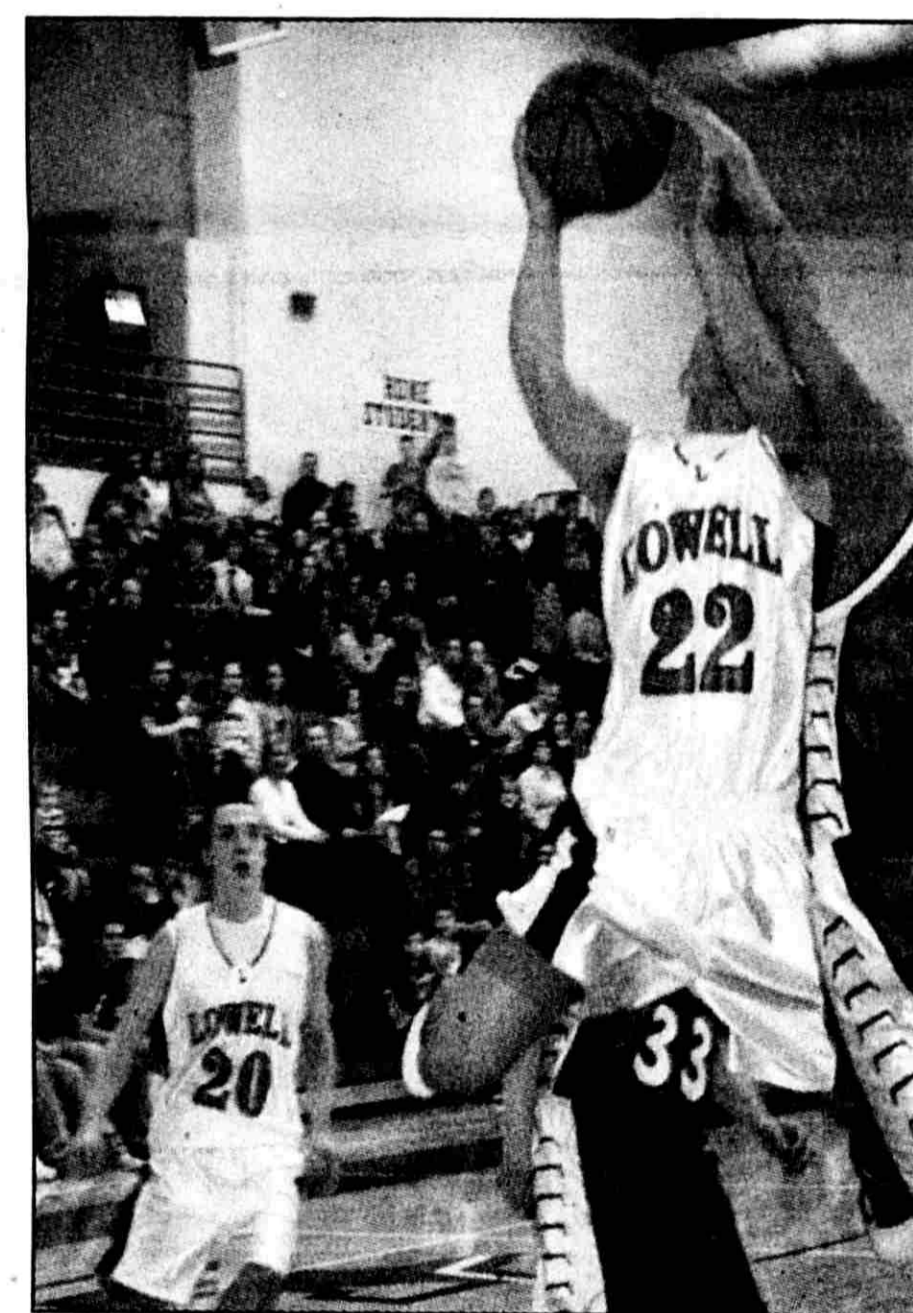
(Top): Eric Saenz (44) sinks a free throw in the second quarter to boost the Arrows to a 16-point lead. (Photo by Adam Topp)



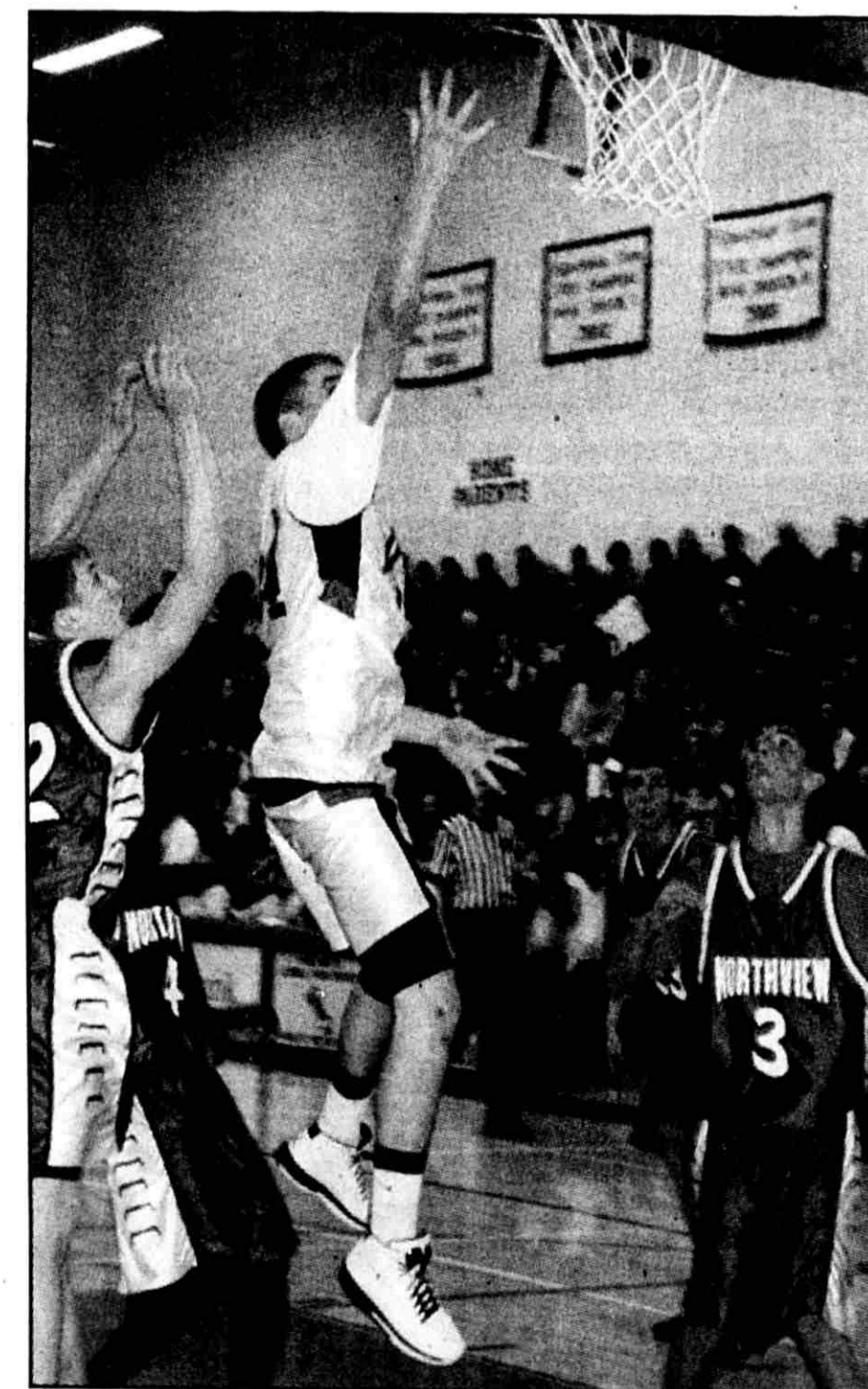
(Below): Matt Kurtz (22) goes for a layup.



Spencer Sellner (50) fights off tough D.



Brett McMahon (10) had a team high 21 points Friday night.



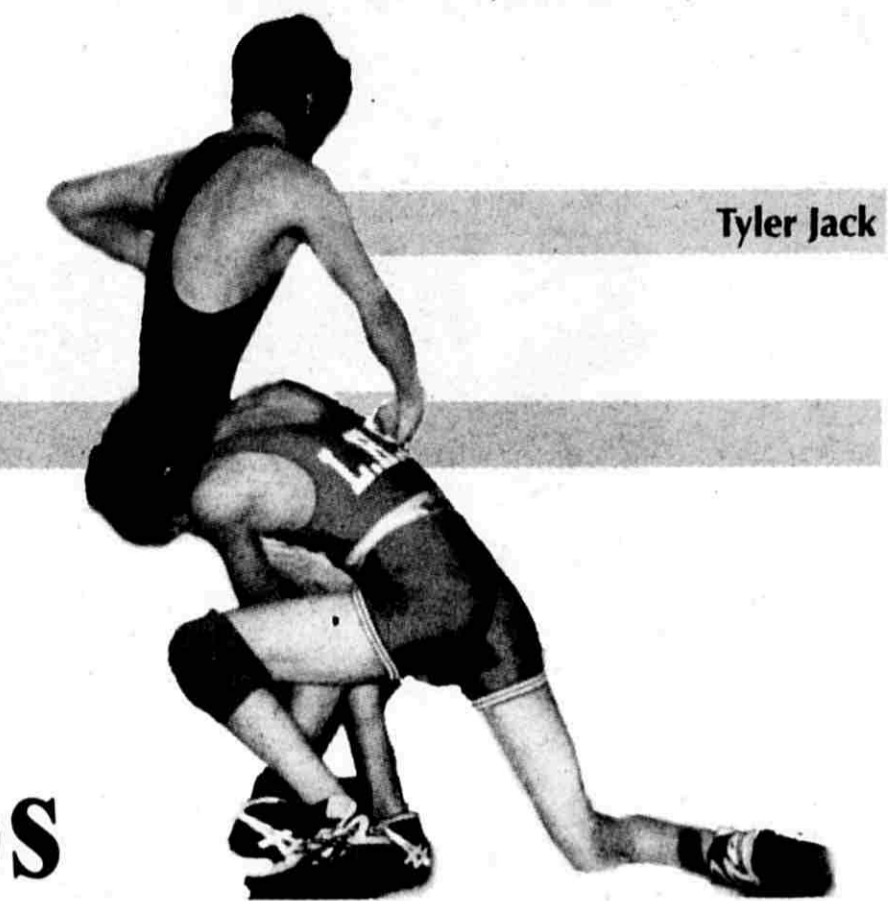
Michael Schumm (24) takes the ball to the net.

**NEXT GAME**  
Thursday, Feb. 14  
Lowell High School  
vs. Kenowa Hills

**OK-WHITE STANDINGS**  
League/Overall

EGR 7-3 / 9-7  
FHC 7-3 / 9-8  
LOWELL 6-4 / 9-7  
CALEDONIA 6-4 / 7-8  
NORTHVIEW 6-5 / 8-8  
KENOWA 2-8 / 5-12  
GREENVILLE 2-9 / 5-12

# Red Arrow SPORTS



Tyler Jack

## Arrows finish second in OK-White, have four champs

by Molly Benningfield  
Editor

The wrestling team finished second overall in the OK-White at the league tournament Saturday afternoon at Kenowa Hills.

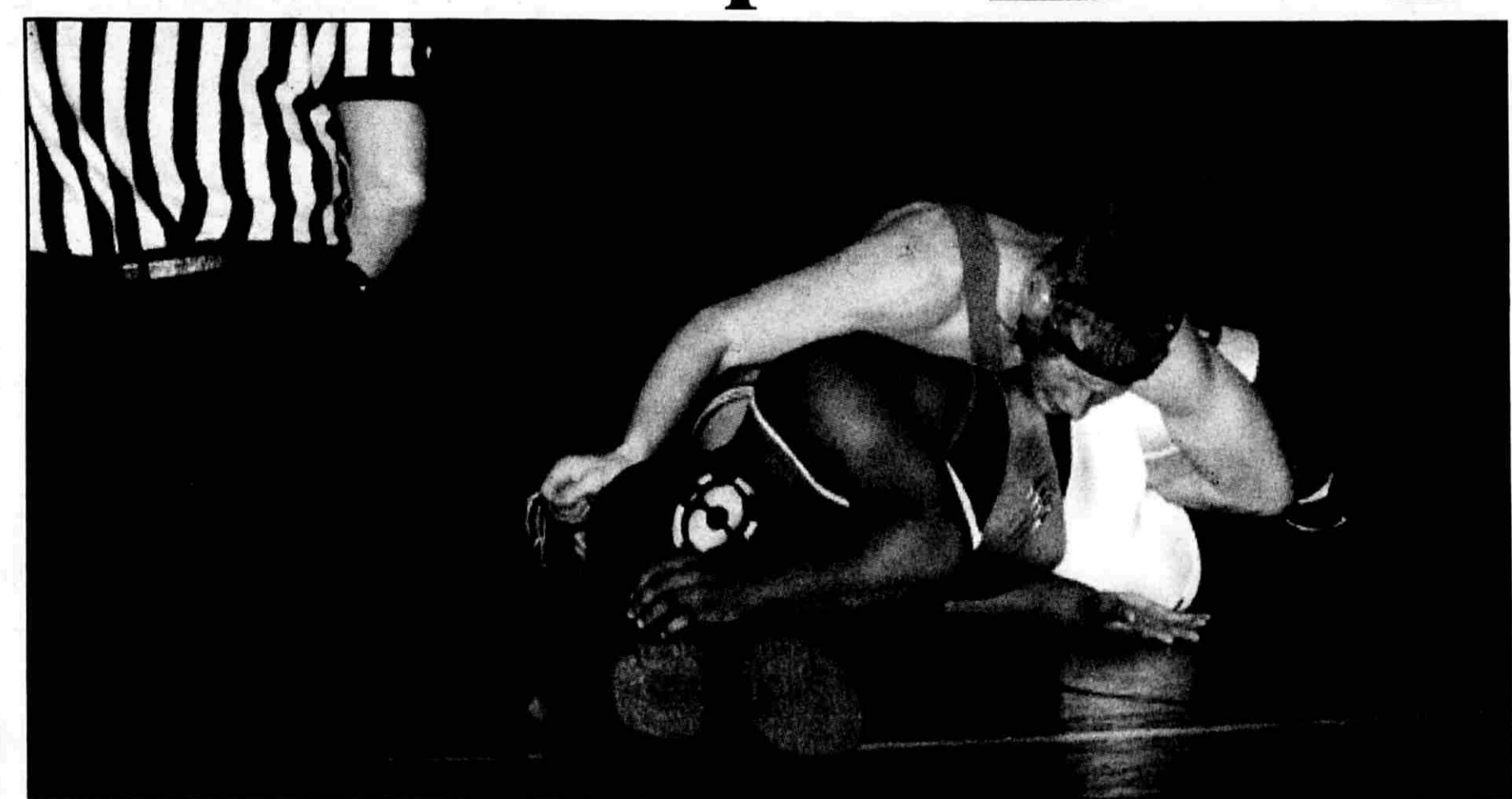
The team totaled 219.5, behind Greenville's 266 points and ahead of Northview's 136.5 points.

Lowell had four wrestlers become Conference champs: junior Ryan Dean at 125, sophomore Jackson Morse

at 140, senior Justin Boss at 152 and sophomore Ryan Olep at 160.

Five Arrows took second in their weight class: freshman Zach Jeffries at 103, sophomore Matt Griffioen at 112, freshman Dan Fleet at 130, senior Zach Baum at 135 and senior Nate Vaught at 171.

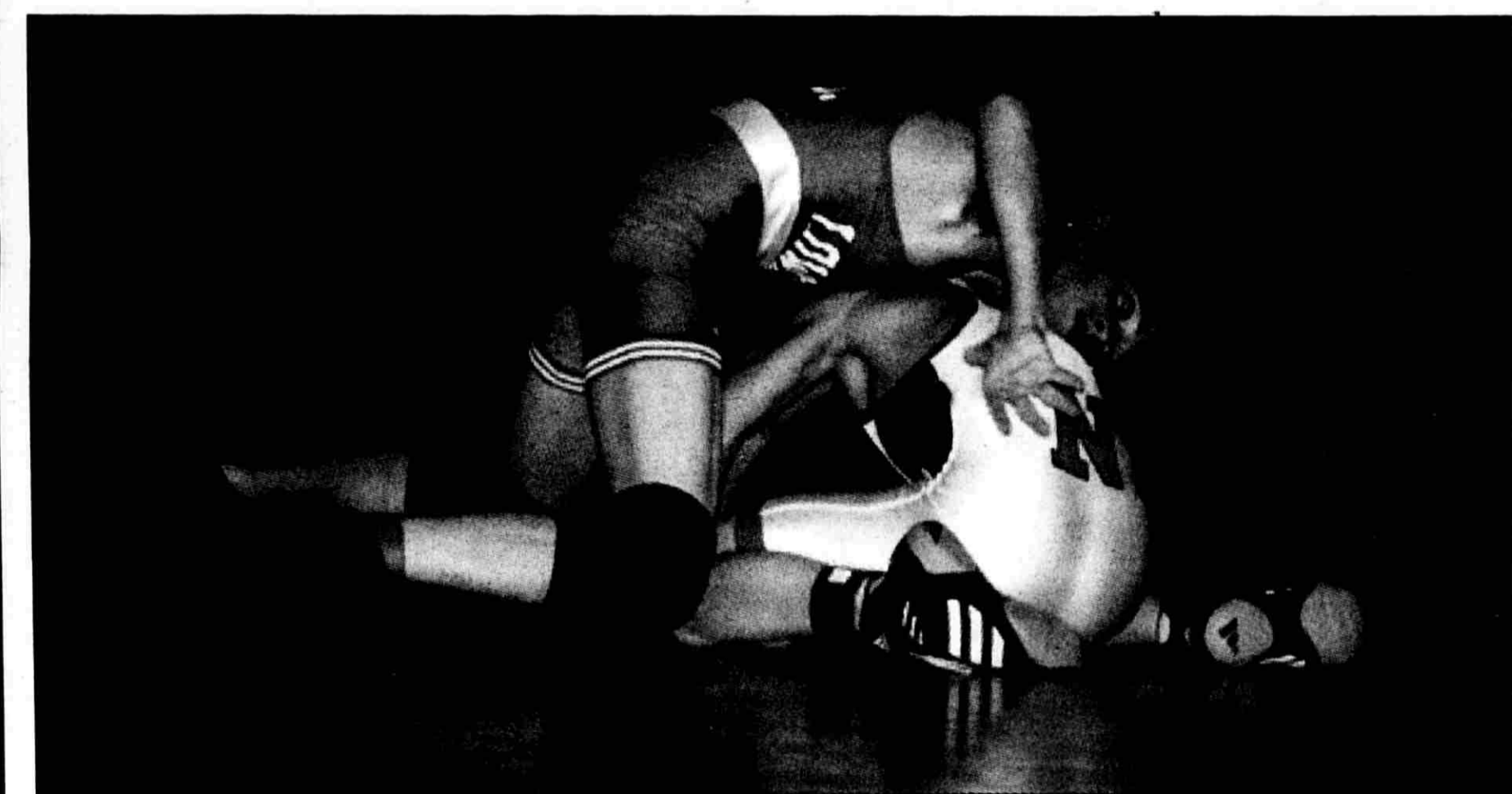
The Arrows begin their march to the finals, in District competition tonight at Forest Hills Eastern, starting at 5:30 p.m.



(Top): Nate Vaught was a runner up at 171 at the OK-White conference championship.



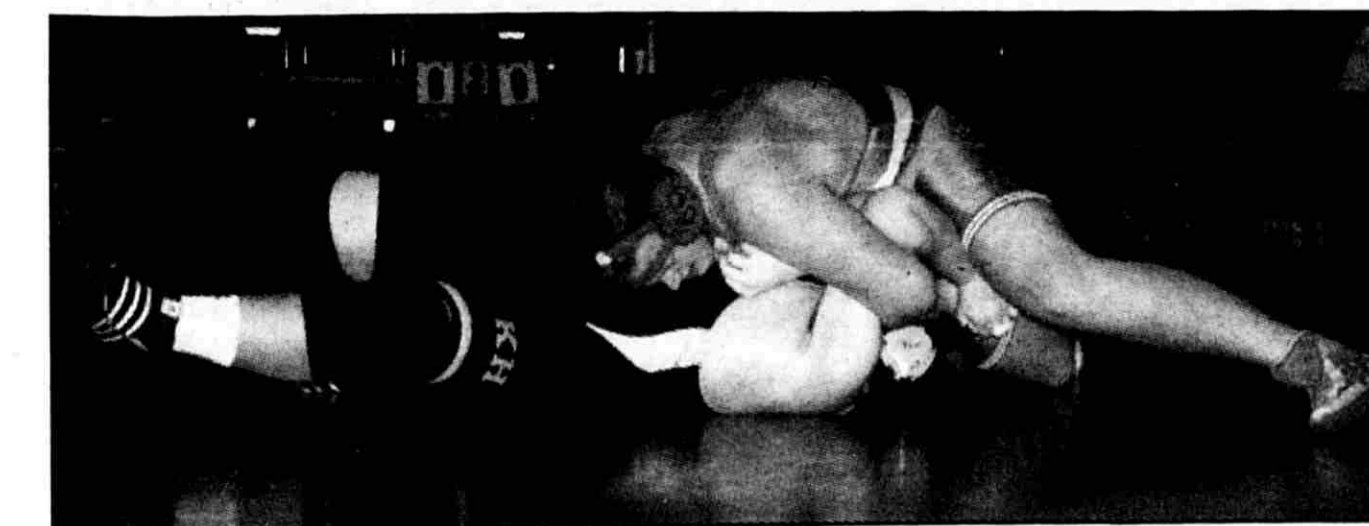
(Top): Justin Boss was an OK-White champion at 152 pounds Saturday.



(Top): Zach Jeffries was a runner up at 103 at the OK-White conference championship.



(Top): Ryan Olep was an OK-White champion at 160 pounds Saturday.



(Top): Connor Kruse wrestles at 275 during the league championship.

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The Lakewood Area Choral Society, now in its 23rd year, is seeking a pianist to immediately assume the accompanying responsibilities for this 100-voice adult choir. The choral society season runs from January through October with rehearsals twice a month on Monday nights. Previous choral accompanying experience is necessary. Salary is negotiable and commensurate with experience and education. Contact Dr. Robert C. Oster, artistic director and conductor, for more information: 269-945-9081. Send resume to Dr. Oster at 523 Lakeside Drive, Hastings, MI, 49058 or by e-mail at [jwoster@yahoo.com](mailto:jwoster@yahoo.com).

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**NEXT GAME**  
Thursday, Feb. 14  
Lowell High School  
vs. Kenowa Hills

**OK-WHITE STANDINGS**  
League/Overall

EGR 7-3 / 9-7  
FHC 7-3 / 9-8  
LOWELL 6-4 / 9-7  
CALEDONIA 6-4 / 7-8  
NORTHVIEW 6-5 / 8-8  
KENOWA 2-8 / 5-12  
GREENVILLE 2-9 / 5-12



# Red Arrow SPORTS

“THE GIRLS WERE CONFIDENT THE ENTIRE GAME. THEY HAD A LOT OF ENERGY AND IT SHOWED ON THE COURT. I WAS HAPPY WITH THE WAY THEY CAME OUT.”

- Coach Danielle Gallert

## Girls' basketball pulls off another league win

by Molly Benningfield  
Editor

A combination of smothering defense and good work around the perimeter catapulted the Arrows to another OK-White win against Kenowa Hills Thursday night, 49-35.

The Arrows improved their league record to 8-3, just behind Northview and Forest Hills Central (who were handed their only loss by Lowell).

Coach Danielle Gallert said she was pleased overall. “The girls were confident the entire game. They had a lot of energy and it showed on

the court. I was happy with the way they came out.”

However, she wants to work on finishing the game with the same intensity the begin with.

“I am still not pleased with our third quarter performance because it's crucial in changing the momentum of a game and we tend to struggle the most there,” Gallert said. “We were able to gain the momentum back however so the end result was good.”

Gallert also said their opponent kept their team in line.

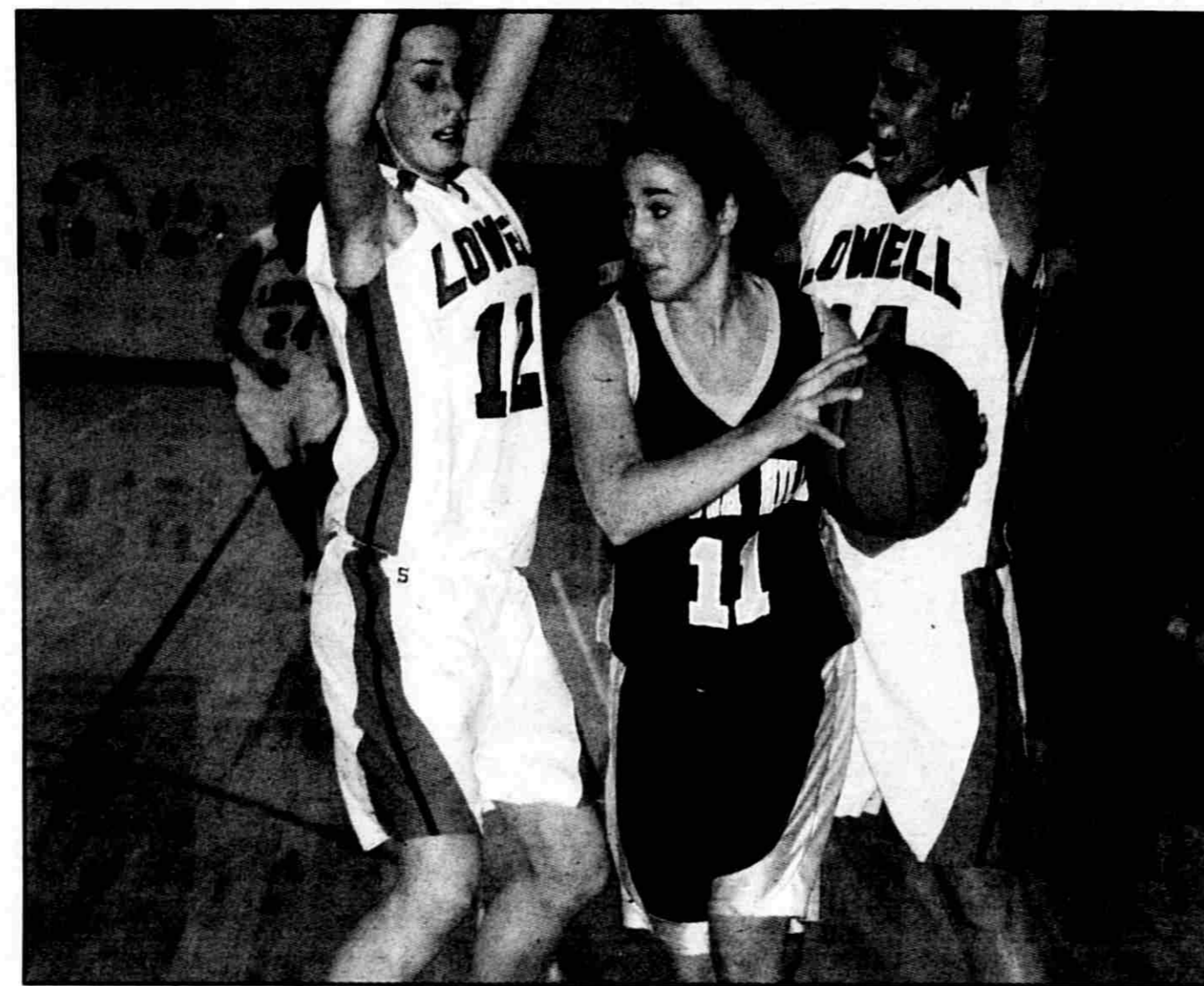
“Kenowa Hills is never a team to give in and

I think once we are ahead we tend to get a little lazy,” Gallert said. “Hopefully before tournaments we are able to change that around and keep the intensity and aggressiveness throughout the entire 32 minutes.”

She said the team worked hard on defense in practice last week because of their opponent's tough play in previous games.

“We had talked about how everyone is [using tough defense] to us and we are not able to play with that same defensive intensity,” Gallert said. “So one of the things I was focused on in practice was making sure we were playing close defense.”

Chelsea Harrison hit two huge threes in the first quarter, and ended the night with 19 points, with four from behind the arc. The Arrows saw a number of players on the scoreboard, including Kara Rasch with 7 points, Krista Foster and Keri Fosburg with 6, Hannah Oberlin and Mary



Hannah Oberlin (12) and Chelsea Harrison (14) play tough defense.

VanderLaan with 4 and Logan DeClercq with a 3-pointer. Gallert said it was “a great effort by everyone.”

### OK-WHITE STANDINGS

League/Overall

FHC	9-1 / 15-2
NORTHVIEW	9-2 / 12-6
LOWELL	8-3 / 10-8
GREENVILLE	7-5 / 9-9
EGR	2-7 / 5-11
CALEDONIA	2-8 / 5-12
KENOWA	0-11 / 2-16

### NEXT GAME

Friday, Feb. 15  
Lowell High School  
OK-Green crossover



Krista Foster (31) shoots one of her two threes Thursday night.

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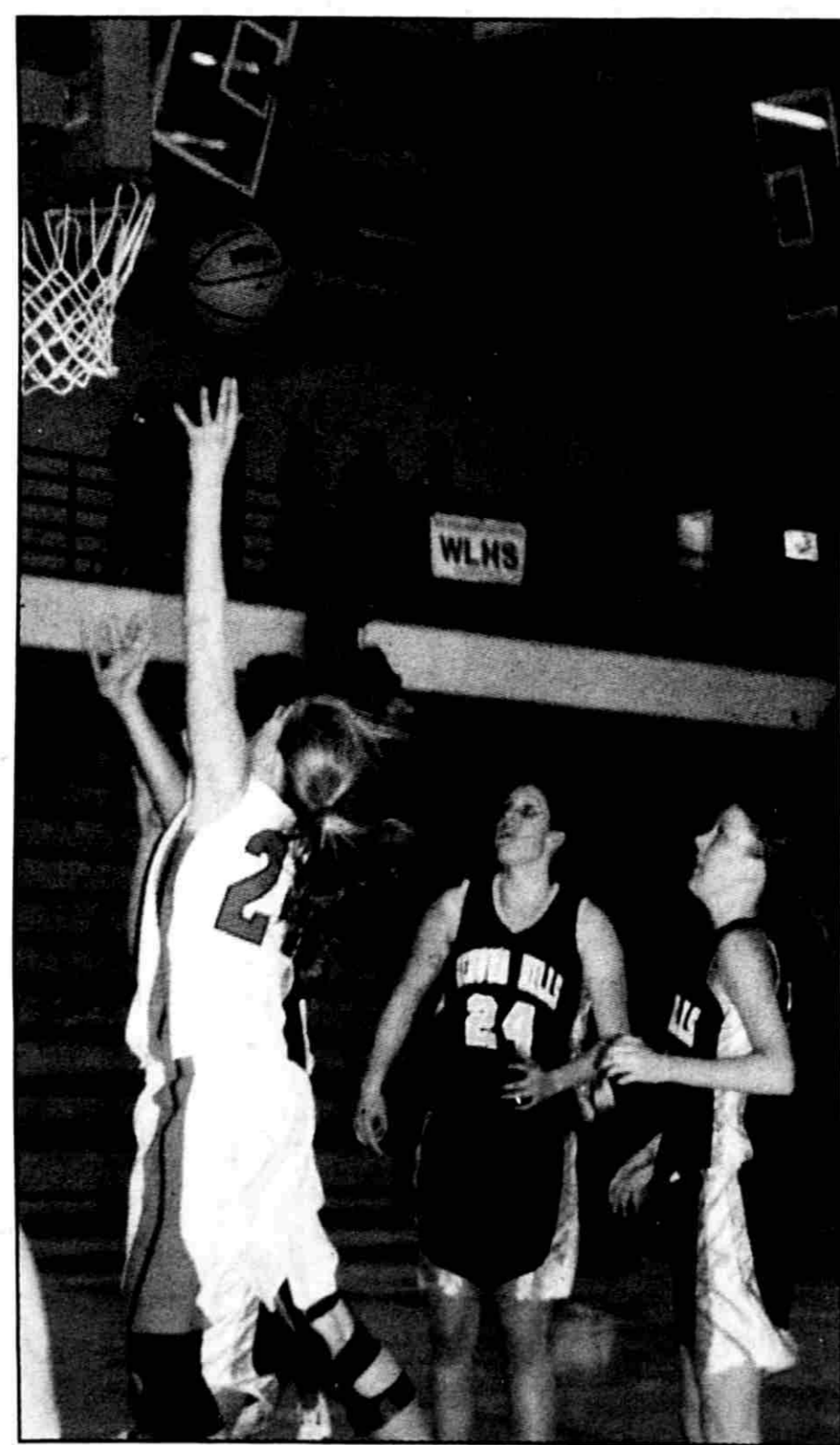
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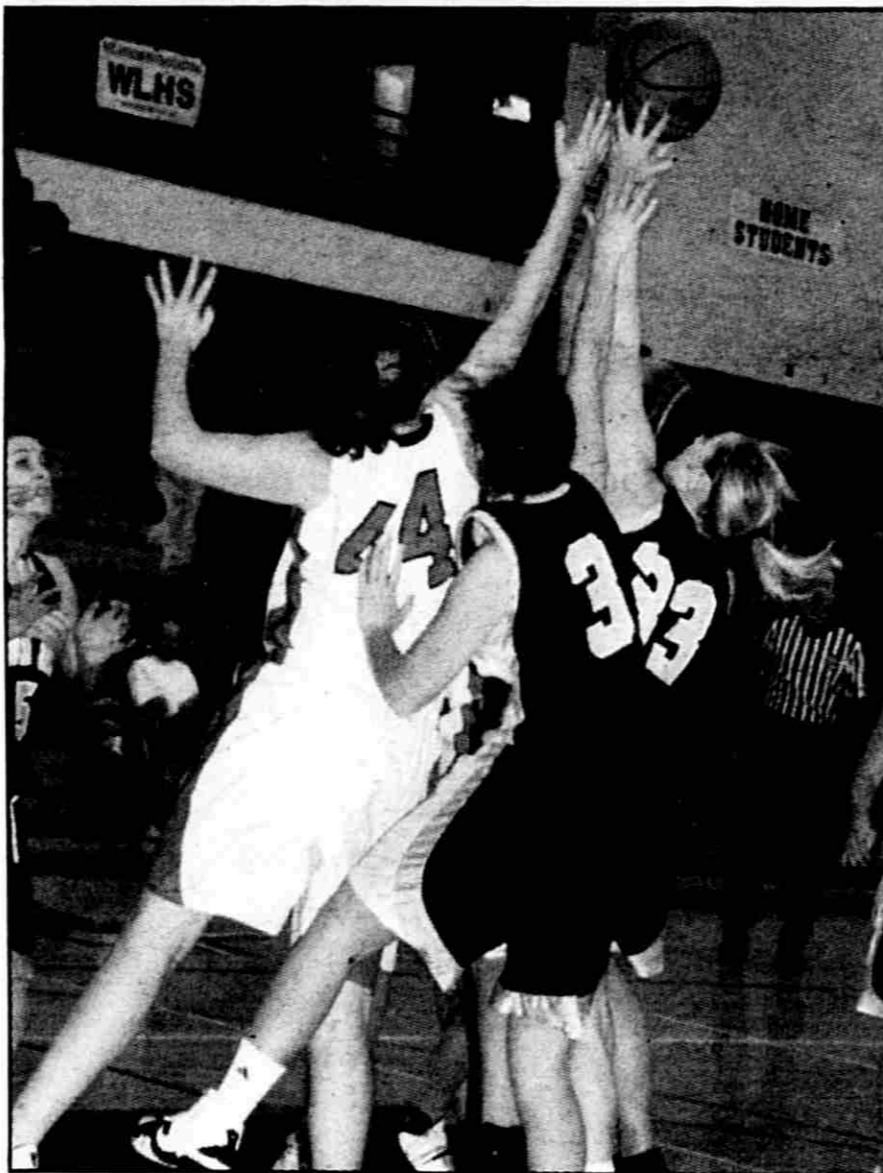
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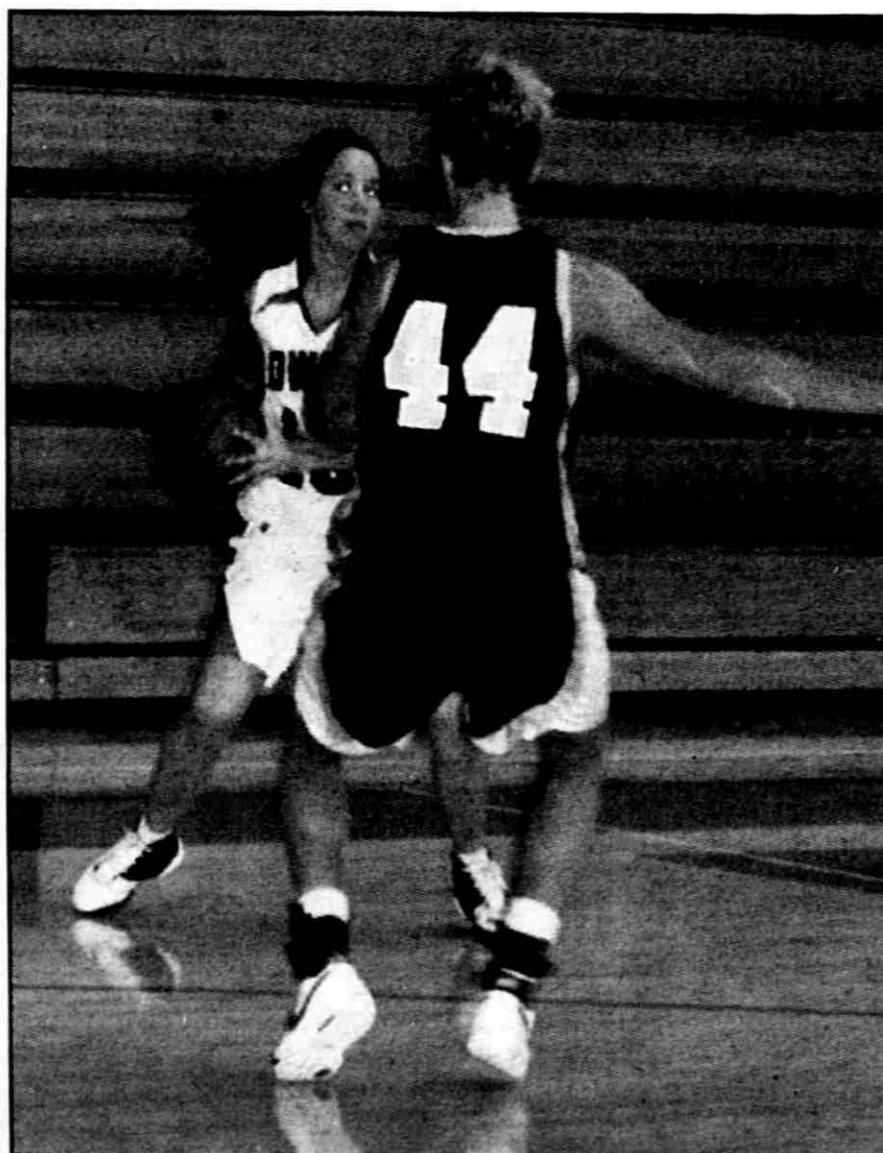
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Keri Fosburg (24) takes in a layup Thursday against Kenowa.



Sarah Fetzer (44) reaches high for a rebound against three defenders.



Breanna Bueche (10) looks for an open teammate Thursday night.

# Red Arrow SPORTS

## L/C hockey handed first loss at home since Christmas

by Molly Benningfield  
Editor

The Lowell/Caledonia hockey team was defeated by a tough Tier 2 team, Grand Haven, Friday night, 3-4 to receive their first loss at home since the Christmas Tourney.

The Arrows were on a huge winning streak after their full team returned, only losing to area powerhouse Hudsonville on foreign territory and Auburn Hills in

the finals of the Kalamazoo Tournament two weeks ago.

Grand Haven had a three-goal lead in the first period, and L/C fought back with three straight goals, only to see the Buccaneers shoot a goal late in the third period.

The Arrows take on South Christian Thursday night at Kentwood Ice Arena and Wayland Friday night at Southside Ice Center.



(Top): Kyle Baker (13) tries to get one past the goalie while Joel Morgan (9) fights off defenders.



Bo Adams (21) looks to break from a defender.



Drake Chittenden (16) makes a leap in front of the net at Friday's game against Grand Haven.



## LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS VARSITY WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE

This Page Brought to You By The Lowell Ledger

### BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

\* Indicates a home game at LHS Main Gym  
Games begin at 7:30 p.m. unless indicated

2/14 Kenowa Hills\*  
2/19 at East Grand Rapids  
2/21 Crossover w/green\*

### GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

\* Indicates a home game at LHS Main Gym  
Games begin at 7 p.m. unless indicated

2/15 Green Crossover\*

### VARSITY BOWLING

\* Indicates a home game at Lowell Lanes  
Games begin at 3:30 p.m. unless indicated

2/16 time TBA Conference at Caledonia

### VARSITY GYMNASTICS

\* Indicates a home meet at LHS Auxiliary Gym  
Meets begin at 7 p.m. unless indicated

2/13 Forest Hills Northern\*  
2/16 time TBA - Conference at Kenowa Hills

### VARSITY ICE HOCKEY

\* Indicates a home game at Patterson Ice Arena

2/15 - 9 p.m. at Wayland  
2/20 - 8 p.m. at West Ottawa

## Wildlife, continued ... From Page 9

Other insects have the ability to produce glycol in their blood, which acts as an anti-freeze. They then enter a state of suspended animation.

But most animals can't migrate or sleep through winter, so, to help them adapt, most mammals increase the length of guard hairs and the amount of underfur to increase the insulating value of their coats. The winter hairs of the white-tailed deer are hollow providing an extra layer of insulating air. Aquatic mammals, such as otter and mink, grow thick layers of insulating fat and have specialized glands that produce a water proofing oil they comb into their fur. Beavers, in addition to using their water resistant

oil, store fat in their tails and cache food under the water.

The adaptations of some animals help them move around more easily during winter. The large feet of snowshoe hare and lynx help them stay on top of the snow, and ruffed grouse grow fringes on the edges of their toes that act like snowshoes. Staying on top reduces the amount of energy needed to move around.

Ruffed grouse also practice snow-roosting. When the snow gets deep, grouse burrow, or more dramatically plunge into snow from flight. Once down inside, the grouse creates a cave. The bird's body heat is trapped inside; making the cave a cozy

place to stay. If snow cover is lacking, grouse will roost in thick conifers to stay warm.

Ducks, geese and swans have feathers and oil glands that keep water away from the skin. The blood vessels in their feet are so close together that warm arterial blood flowing from the body heats the cold blood in veins of their feet. Song birds adjust their internal temperature to reduce heat loss. They also fluff their feathers to increase the air space for insulation and they shiver to create body heat.

Predators like bobcats, fox and coyote are active all winter, often increasing their range to secure food. Their hearing allows them to detect small rodents moving

underneath the snow. Wolves do not seem to find winter a significant hardship, but, in deep winter, they may linger closer to a deer yard, where they can hunt young or weakened deer.

Moose in Michigan's Upper Peninsula are designed for winter. Their long legs allow them to move easily through deep snow and their thick coats of hollow-shafted hair and dense hide keep them warm, even at 40-below zero.

Whether they migrate, hibernate or tough it out by enduring a meager existence, Michigan's wildlife has developed some fascinating adaptations to survive almost anything Old Man Winter can dish out.

# 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.

Hey chick in the 4-Runner: If you have shoes and a coat on, your baby needs to as well.

I'd like to thank the lady who helped me out last week at Dollar General for paying for my canned food. It indeed was a good deed. Thanks again. - J.B.

The road crews are doing a great job on these hilly, winding country roads! You are very much appreciated!

Thank you to all the donors for the YMCA Strong Kids Campaign, you help make a difference in Lowell. Yes, all the money stays in Lowell.

It's good to see that some businesses are doing well in Lowell. Keep up the good work, you are the back bone of our community.

I said a prayer for the fatal accident victim on Friday.

Thank you trash pick-up for leaving my can half in the street. The plow pulverized it! \$15.00 for a new can that I could pay for the electric increase.

If your gears are grinding, you should get them lubricated.

Parents do you realize your children are on MySpace etc. while at the library? It's a library not a babysitter or a teen hangout! I say the library needs to block these pages!

People who mock George W. Bush only do so because they are unintelligent and they are looking for someone to make a scapegoat out of.

Our Lowell Light and Power rates are really very reasonable. This hike in comparison to the alternative is minor. Keep up the good work.

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**CUTE HOME FOR SALE** - or rent with option to buy. No banks, easy to qualify. 3 bedroom, attached garage, Clarksville, \$700 per month 616-540-0451.

**FOR SALE - New beginner student trumpet**, nickel/silver plated, Bb trumpet with a hard shell case, \$400. 450-5621.

**FOR SALE - Empyre outdoor hot water wood furnace**, like new. Stainless steel, 250,000 BTU. New \$6,700, asking \$4,000 obo. 868-6091. Still in use, 4 years old.

**FOR SALE - 2002 Jeep Liberty Sport**, 4x4, 74,000 miles, \$6,500. Call 616-299-7277.

**TIRE SPECIAL** - Buy 4 tires & receive FREE tire rotation for life of tires! For a limited time also receive FREE front-end alignment w/ purchase of 4 tires. Grand Chrysler, 930 W. Main St., Lowell, 897-9281.

**VALENTINE'S SPECIAL** - Must see new 0.77 ct. Emerald, 8 diamonds, 14k yellow gold ring, size 7. Estimated retail value \$1,619, will sell for \$600. 450-5621.

**NEW PLACE, NO SPACE!** - Total gym w/accessories, \$250; solid pine queen bed w/mattresses, \$275; sewing machine w/motorized cabinet, \$150. All items obo. 616-894-4682.

**GO MELINDA!** - She does it again! 6 houses sold in 6 weeks & still negotiating! If you are thinking about making a move in the next 6 months, do yourself a favor & call Melinda Robison! She will be sure to take really good care of you! Call Melinda at 616-648-0151 or visit [www.GoMelinda.com](http://www.GoMelinda.com) Five Star Real Estate, 791-1500.

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With sincere appreciation, I want to thank the Party Planners, **Toni Knapp, Marcae Johnson and Bonnie Brunsink**, for my Surprise 70th Birthday held at the Crown Plaza Grand Rapids. Thank you to my family and friends for sharing a special evening with me and making my 70th Birthday an evening to remember.  
Sincerely,  
Phyllis Shaler

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**IN LOVING MEMORY OF RUTH ANN (DUNCAN) KING**  
In anticipating of your birth, a bed sheet was prepared to hang on the line alerting your father at work of your coming arrival. We were married for nearly forty years together. Then you parted this life for eternal life with Jesus. We thank God for giving her to us for as long as He did. Happy Valentine's Day.  
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granddaughter Taylor;  
sister Clara

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