

The Lowell Ledger

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Wednesday, February 20, 2008

Business award recipient Lowell Granite stays on cutting edge

by Emma Palova

Granite monuments embellished with intricate laser-etched scenes from a family's life are a signature staple of one of the oldest businesses in West Michigan.

The Lowell Granite Co. is the recipient of the 2008 Business Appreciation Award from the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. It is the first award for a company doing continuous business for the last 135 years.

"To be recognized was an honor," John Wilterink, one of the owners, said. "Jeff and I were pleased."

The Wilterinks have owned the business on East Main Street since 1960. It can be easily recognized by its distinctive sign and monument stock beside the building.

"We're going to stay with what we do," said Wilterink. "Provide the best service to families, help people out in time of need."

The business distinguishes itself in offering the highest level of

customization and one-on-one consultations. Everything is done in house, from the conceptualization of a fleeting idea to the final product, such as a large sculpted angel sitting on top of a granite tablet.

The granite, quarried from all over the world, is cut up by diamond saws up to 16 feet in diameter into slabs, and polished.

"They ship various shapes and sizes of memorials to us," said Wilterink.

In turn, Lowell Granite does the design preferences using floral, religious and outdoor motifs, as well as symbolism. All the engraving is done either through a sandblasting process or laser etching.

The company has implemented sophisticated computer-aided design systems, as well as laser. Elaborate memorial scenes are created when a digital image is sent from the computer to the laser which will etch any design into the granite.

"We do a lot of custom-

etched plaques and pet memorials," said Wilterink.

On one occasion, the company has done a pet memorial to four generations of springer spaniels.

"The laser gives a whole new area of personalization," said Wilterink. "The details of laser etching is what's phenomenal, the detailed life-like resemblance."

Wilterink said the company likes the creative aspect of meeting families' needs through design.

"I think it's great,

amazing for a business to be around that long," said award chairman Cliff Yankovich of Chimera Design.



John Wilterink, Lowell Granite owner, is the recipient of Business Appreciation Award.

Lunar eclipse tonight

A total eclipse of the moon may be seen this Wednesday if the February sky clears up. The beginning partial phase of the eclipse will start at 8:43 p.m. with the greatest eclipse at 10:26 p.m., according to Space Watch Michigan.

A small bite taken out of the edge of the moon will be noticeable as the moon begins crossing into Earth's shadow. During the next few hours, a darker area will begin to spread across the surface of the moon. By 10 p.m., the moon will be completely immersed in Earth's shadow.

After that, the moon

will slide out the other side of the shadow, with the total portion of the eclipse ending at 10:51 p.m., and partial eclipse ending just after midnight.

During the lunar eclipse the moon's brightness will diminish, and the surrounding stars will become visible for a short time.

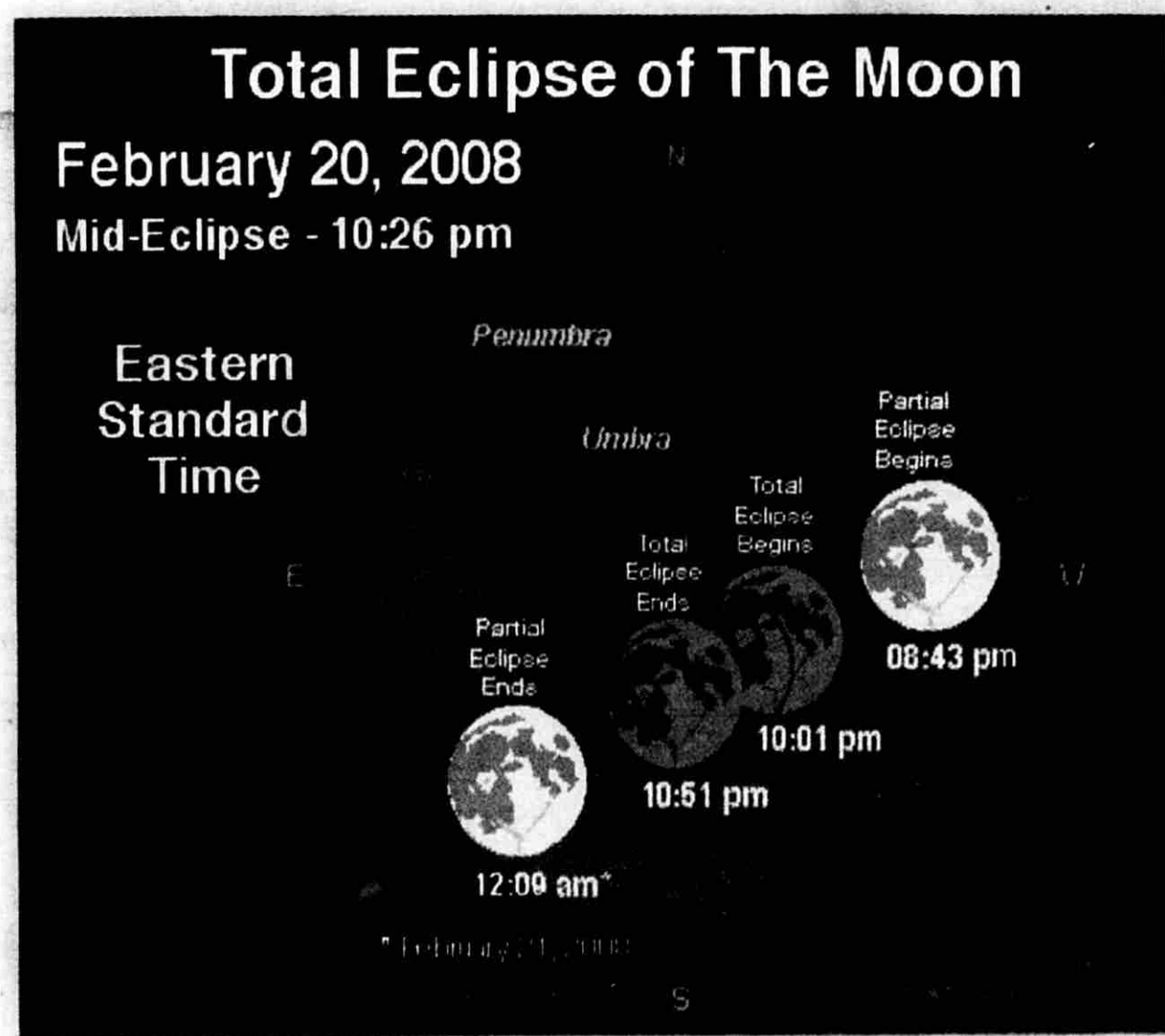
In case of this eclipse, the moon will be near planet Saturn in the Leo

constellation. The last two lunar eclipses weren't timed as well.

The eclipse of March 2007 took place as the moon was rising and a cloud covered it. The eclipse in August of 2007 took place as the moon was setting.

The next eclipse is scheduled for December 2010.

For more astronomy news go to: www.graa.org.



Don't forget - Girls' Night Out this Thursday!

Join us in Historic Lowell for

GIRLS' NIGHT OUT

Thursday, February 21, 2008

5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

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Obituaries

HEINZE

Vince John Heinze, age 49, of Woodland, died unexpectedly on Friday February 8, 2008. He was born on May 27, 1958 in Charlotte, the son of Veralee (Mitchell) Heinze and the late Francis W. "Bub" Heinze. Vince attended Lakewood High School and graduated in 1976.

Vince was a very dedicated employee and hard working supervisor in the auto supporting industry. Recently he worked for Michigan Wire Company in Lowell.

He is survived by his daughters, Amber (Heinze) Rohlman, husband Jeremy, and Ashley Heinze; his mother Veralee (Mitchell) Heinze; two sisters Celeste (Heinze) Saul, husband Izak, and Tammy (Heinze) Lumbert, husband Rodney; two nephews Darrin Durkee and Ty Lumbert; a very special person in his life, Lisa Kaufman; and a special friend who was more like a brother, Jack Altoft; as well as many special family and friends.

Vince enjoyed bowling, fishing, but most of all his love of golf. Vince was one

of those people that always put a smile on your face, especially when he knew you needed it the most. He would make some comment or tell a joke just to get you to laugh. He loved to laugh and keep everyone around him laughing. He lived life to the fullest and would say, "you never knew what tomorrow will bring so let's have some fun today!"

He was a loving father, brother, son and a great friend to all that knew him. As a father, his love for his daughters was one of unconditional love. He was always there to assist when asked, but always with a lot of questions. He was there for them whenever they needed him. From wiping away the tears as a child, to taking care of whatever problems they may have had growing up. The girls looked to their father to help them answer life's unforeseen questions. Even though he's no longer with you, he is always there within you. As a son, he was there to give you a hug and a kiss when his mother asked or when he felt she needed it the most. As a brother, he was there to protect both of his sisters while growing up

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LHS grad in critical condition after snowmobile accident up north

by Molly Benningfield Editor

Andrew Benedict, a 21-year-old from Lowell, was seriously injured in a snowmobile accident Saturday afternoon in Kalkaska County, near Traverse City.

Benedict is listed in

critical condition at Munson Hospital in Traverse City after suffering severe head trauma. His father, Ray Benedict, said he was only injured in his head and was wearing a helmet when the accident occurred.

The accident happened around 4 p.m. Saturday when Benedict was snowmobiling

with other family members. He who was alone on the vehicle, went over a hill and came upon a disabled sled. He swerved to avoid it and the snowmobile flipped, resulting in a strong blow to his helmet.

His father said he is currently off the drug-induced coma that he was

originally put on, and doctors are waiting to see if there's any response.

Benedict was unresponsive at the scene of the accident, but was breathing on his own.

He graduated from Lowell High School and is currently a senior at Central Michigan University.

VFW, American Legion seeking coats for veterans

The Local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the American Legion are holding a "coat drive" for

our veterans in the Veterans Home, located in Grand Rapids. Most people don't realize that the only source

for coats, as well as clothing, are from donations. They do receive donations from a few corporation sources, but most of the donations are from people who care.

The VFW is asking you to look in your closets and check if there might be a coat that you don't use anymore, and is still in good condition. We are seeking large sizes (L, XL, and XXL).

Please join our VFW and Legion members in Lowell in collecting new or used coats.

The following are locations where you can drop off coats: First United Methodist Church of Lowell on E. Main St., Lowell Church of the Nazarene

on N. Washington, First Congregation Church on Lincoln Lake Ave., Impact Church on N. Hudson, First Baptist Church of Lowell on W. Main St., Calvary Christian Reformed Church on W. Main St., Evergreen Missionary Church on Settlewood Dr., St. Mary Catholic Church on Amity St., and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce on Riverwalk Plaza.



WITTENBACH/WEGE CENTER

Author and retired scientist Mo Nielsen to speak about his book Michigan Butterflies and Skippers on Sat., Feb. 23 at 3 p.m.

ON WITH THE SHOW 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 percent discount for LAAC members). Ages 7 - 18. Register through the Lowell Area Arts Council, 897-8545.

NEW EXHIBIT AT FRANCISCAN LIFE PROCESS CENTER

Two new exhibits open starting March 1, 11650 Downes Street. "Windows", a collection of photographs and mixed-media pieces runs through April 28 in the Main Gallery. "A View Through the Lens," a photographic tour of Europe runs through April 27 in the Bonoventure Gallery. Hours: 9 a.m. - 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, call 897-7842 or arts@lifeprocesscenter.org.

BLUEGRASS HOTBANDS FUNDRAISER

March 1 beginning at 7 p.m. at TJ's Bar & Grille. Two bands, big jam session, food. All for \$5.

CROP WALK RALLY

The Lowell Crop Walk Rally 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.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT

Parents of children who will be 5 years old on or before Dec. 1 are encouraged to request or pick up a kindergarten packet full of important information regarding enrollment for 2008-09 school year at any of the following Lowell elementary school buildings: Alto 987-2600; Bushnell 987-2650; Murray Lake 987-2750.

Reyburn Family Benefit Dinner

February 23, 2008 5:00 - 7:00 PM

At the King Building Lowell Fairgrounds

On January 20, 2008 the Larry Reyburn family lost their home to a fire. Larry is the Cedar Springs FFA advisor and the family as been involved in the Kent County Youth Fair for many years. Free will offering at the door.



Come and enjoy a roast beef dinner and support this 4-H family.

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

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider a request from Bill Overbeck for two Special Land Use Permits as follows: 1. to expand an existing vehicle service station for the repair of motor vehicles and; 2. to establish an open air business to sell used motor vehicles and to operate a U-Haul rental business. Both uses would be located on the same property which is zoned C, General Commercial.

LOCATION & ADDRESS: The property is located at 11729 East Fulton Street SE Lowell, Michigan (PP#41-20-04-401-046) being east of Birmingham Drive on the north side of East Fulton Street.

The hearing will be held as follows:

WHEN: MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2008
TIME: 7:00 P.M.

WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
LOWELL, MI 49331

A site plan and other information related to the request is available for review at the Lowell Charter Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, Michigan, 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday or by calling 897-7600.

Tim Clements, Secretary
Lowell Charter Township
Planning Commission

You Always Protect The Ones You Love

The security of life insurance, the smiles of your children, the help of your Farm Bureau Insurance agent. The best things in life are pretty simple. Call today.

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

The Lowell Ledger (USPS 453-830) Published weekly for \$17⁹⁵ a year in Kent County, \$26⁹⁵ a year outside the county by the Lowell Ledger 105 N. Broadway St., Lowell, MI 49331

J-AD GRAPHICS INC. PUBLISHER
MOLLY BENNINGFIELD EDITOR

Young missionary seeks to give medical help, water to Ecuador tribe

by Emma Palova

The chief of the Wadoni tribe living deep in the Amazon jungle somewhere in Ecuador gave the young missionary a nickname. "Non como."

Inspired by movies

and books about the killing of five missionary men in the '50s by jungle warriors, Matt Rosenberger traveled to Ecuador in January. Since then, the remaining warriors have been evangelized by the widows of the missionaries.

"The movies peaked my curiosity," said Rosenberger.

Rosenberger flew into the jungle along with other missionaries to witness the living conditions of the

indigenous people, a tribe of 2,000.

"One of the main concerns was their medical needs," said Rosenberger.

The cost of immediate medical attention is \$250, while a tribesman can make \$365 working for oil companies if he leaves the jungle. However, most Wadonis do not leave their tribe.

"There is almost no economy in the tribal culture," said Rosenberger. "There is no way for them to earn a living."

The main concern for a Wadoni man in the morning is to find food, according to Rosenberger. The men use blow guns to kill monkeys and birds.

As far as medical help goes, Wadoni women treat wounds with natural grasses and plants. A visioning session during Rosenberger's stay determined the tribe mainly needs medical assistance and a water well.

To help make that happen, a fund called "Indigence, Interdependency" has been established. The tribe is also contributing to the fundraising efforts by producing native art for sale in the United States.

"The tribal artists are

assisting with the fund to build their economy," said Rosenberger.

Ninety percent of all the proceeds will go to the medical fund, while 10 percent will go to the tribe people to support their families.

Tribal artists like Omanca Enqueri made hammocks from handmade

ropes, while men made spears and blow guns. The artifacts will be available for purchase on Girls Night Out at L4 on Feb. 21.

The fundraising goal is \$100,000. Rosenberger plans on going back to the jungle in June. He will be giving a presentation at the First Baptist Church of Lowell on Feb. 24 at 6 p.m.

Winter guard teams take first in weekend competition

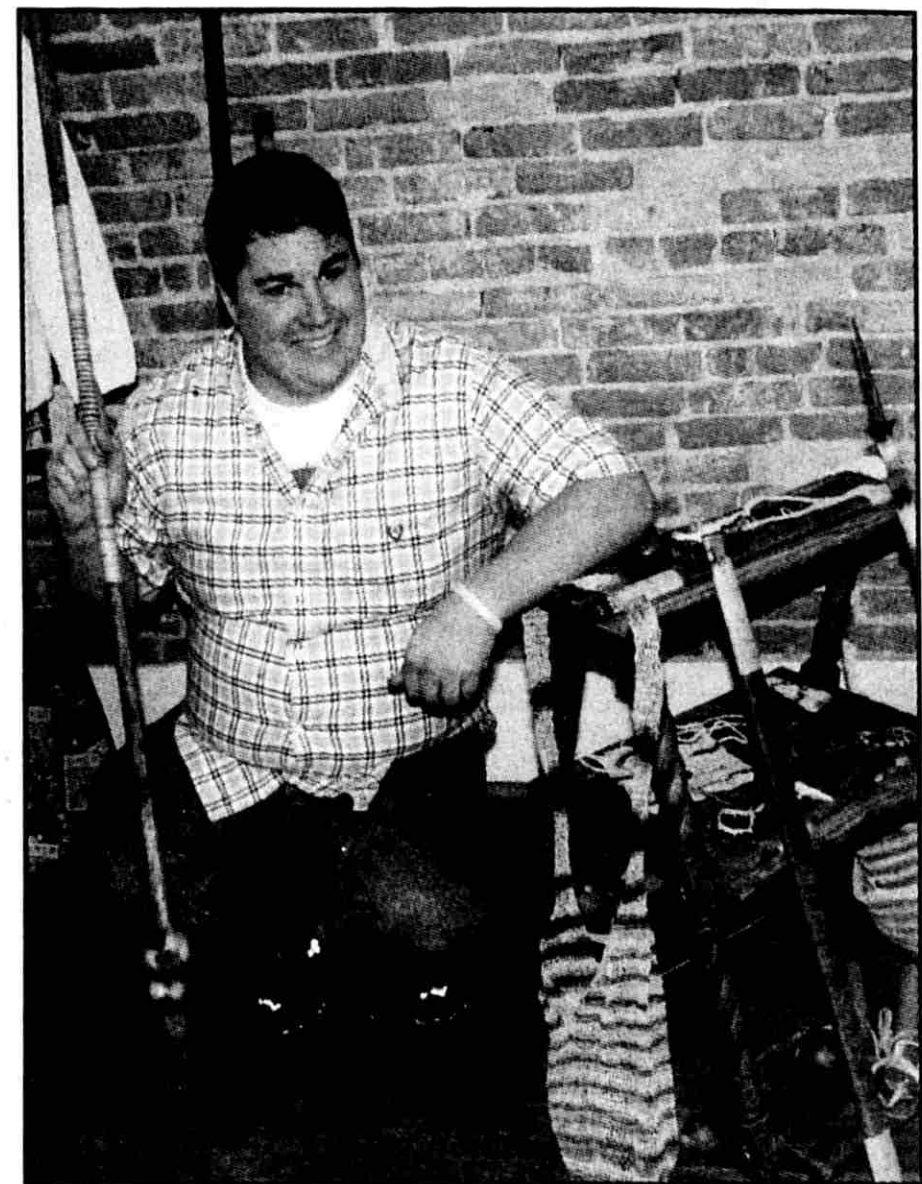
Lowell Middle Home" and Lowell High School's competitive indoor flag line, "Almost winter guard, "Exit 52",



Pictured, left to right: Rachel Phelps (6th grade) and Emily Mundweiler (7th grade) of Almost Home, and Katie Pastor (12th grade) and Gabbie MacDonald (12th grade) of Exit 52, with their first place trophies awarded on Saturday, Feb. 16 at Troy Athens High School.

traveled to Troy Athens High School this past Saturday for a Michigan Color Guard Circuit competition. "Almost Home" earned their second first place finish of the season, with a score of 70.8. They were nearly 13 points ahead of the second place flag line and swept the flag line class, taking first in equipment, ensemble and general effect.

"Exit 52" also earned first place in their class, and in addition, were promoted to the next competing class. "Exit 52" also swept every caption in AAA earning top scores in equipment, movement, ensemble, and general effect. "Exit 52" will be competing in AA class at their home show on March 1 at LHS. Tentative start time for this competition is 3:30 p.m.



Proceeds from the sale of Wadoni artifacts will go toward the Indigence, Interdependency Fund to offset medical costs and to provide water for the tribe.

Viewpoint

To The Editor

Dear Editor,

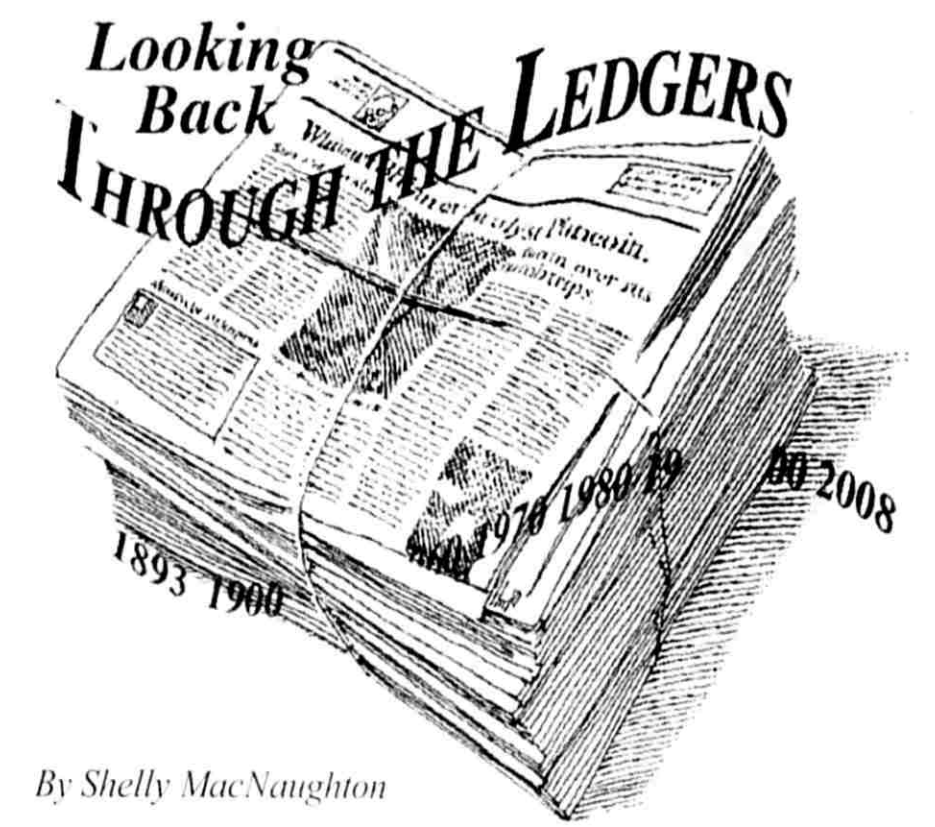
I am a parent volunteer at Alto Elementary and I wanted to remind your readers of a simple, yet effective way they can contribute and make a positive difference for our schools. There are companies like Campbell's, General Mills, Tyson, and Michigan Apples, just to name a few, who donate needed supplies and money to our schools. Speaking as a parent of an elementary student and coordinator for Alto Elementary's program, cutting and saving these UPC codes, box tops, labels and proofs of purchase can make a huge impact collectively. Who knew that a box top worth 10 cents or one- or five-point UPC code could add up to some pretty amazing results?

With our earnings at Alto, we have purchased new soccer balls, basketballs and other fun playground equipment, in addition to learning supplies like Webster's dictionaries and history books for the library. Additionally we have collected over \$1700 through the Box Tops program (this school year alone)!

We all hear about school budget cuts and probably get approached for donations and fundraisers all the time - but this is one way we can contribute without getting out the checkbook. Although let's be clear, I am not discouraging that!

Please contact one of your local Lowell schools to find out how you can save your labels, Box Tops and UPCs and earn cash for your school. For those who already participate, thank you - and for those of you who don't, please do - as we like to say at Alto, 'Altogether' we can make a difference.

Sincere thanks,
Mary Anne White



By Shelly MacNaughton

125 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL JOURNAL FEBRUARY 21, 1883

Fine skating on the river and the lads and lassies are devoting their spare time to that delightful pastime.

Railroad meetings are being held in Hastings and surrounding towns. What are Lowell men doing?

100 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER FEBRUARY 20, 1908

A masquerade dance tomorrow night February 21, in Train's opera house. Dancing all night. Music by Stocking's full orchestra. Supper at 12 o'clock. Tell your friends and come.

75 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER AND ALTO SOLO FEBRUARY 23, 1933

One of the two would-be bandits, who attempted to hold up the Thompson gas station at Cascade early last Saturday morning got a bullet instead of money.

The hold-up men were brothers by the name of Mazzerella, of Grand Rapids, 17 and 18 years of age. The youth were shot by John E. Thompson, proprietor of the filling station, which is located a mile-and-a-half east of Cascade. Thompson had been aroused from sleep and had been waiting for the intruders to break into the place.

50 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER FEBRUARY 20, 1958

A new novel by Dr. Glendon Swarthout, a former Lowell man, will be available at the Lowell Library this month. The book, "They came to Cordura," published by Random House and, simultaneously in the British Empire. Has also been sold to Columbia Pictures Corp. for \$250,000 and will be made into a movie in the near future. Dr. Swarthout graduated from Lowell High School in 1935 and was chosen by his class, "most likely to become famous."

Carl Curtis, brakeman on the C&O Railway, working in Lowell Friday noon, was injured when a freight car about to be moved, failed to couple and the car rolled down grade into the King Milling Co. loading dock.

25 YEARS AGO THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER FEBRUARY 23, 1983

The \$38,000 severance agreement negotiated by the Board of Education with resigning Superintendent Donald Kelly has given Lowell resident Pat Dressel reason to renew her recall drive against Board members Linda Beers, Roger Kropf and Wayne Dowling.

The management of Rivertown Mall will soon open "The Afterdeck," a restaurant specializing in Sea Food. The large windows looking north over the Flat River will provide diners with a pleasant view and lend to the nautical atmosphere.

Sharing The Vision

With Gregory Pratt
LHS Superintendent



Last week was Principal's Recognition Week. I hope many of you had the opportunity or will take the opportunity to say "Hi" to their principal and thank them for their hard work and dedication, not only to their students and staff, but their hard work throughout the district.

The position of "building principal" has changed over the past several years. When we attended school years ago, many of us may recall the principal as the primary building manager who saw students when they were in trouble, addressed parents' concerns, and looked out for the general well-being of students throughout his or her building. That perception was probably not totally accurate on that given day as even years ago much of the work of the principal was unseen and focused on instructional leadership.

More than ever today the principal's role has expanded and encompasses an even wider range of activities. Today's principals can be identified as the instructional leader within the building. This task alone encompasses retrieval of data, analyzing information, and charting the best practices to be used in the classroom. The day-to-day tasks of the building principal have expanded to meet the new responsibility of state and federal mandates and the increasing expectations from our parents and public.

To walk in the shoes of a principal for a day often means to arrive early and leave late. Each day is different and often filled with challenges. The principal's days are continually planned and then continually interrupted by the unexpected happenings of a daily building routine.

Writing to the editor ...

The requirements are:

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

Job Skills
Fair

GRAND LUX

BALLROOMS

Friday, February 22nd • 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday, February 23 • 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

LOCATION:

First Congregational Church of Lowell
865 Lincoln Lake Avenue SE

(1,000 feet south of Grand Lux Ballrooms,
currently under construction)

Lowell
www.grandlux.com



We hire based on
attitude and appearance.

While experience is not necessary for the food server or bartender positions it is a considerable advantage.

Positions available:

- Culinarian (experience required)
- Food Server
- Bartender
- Dish Washer

Requirements for all positions:

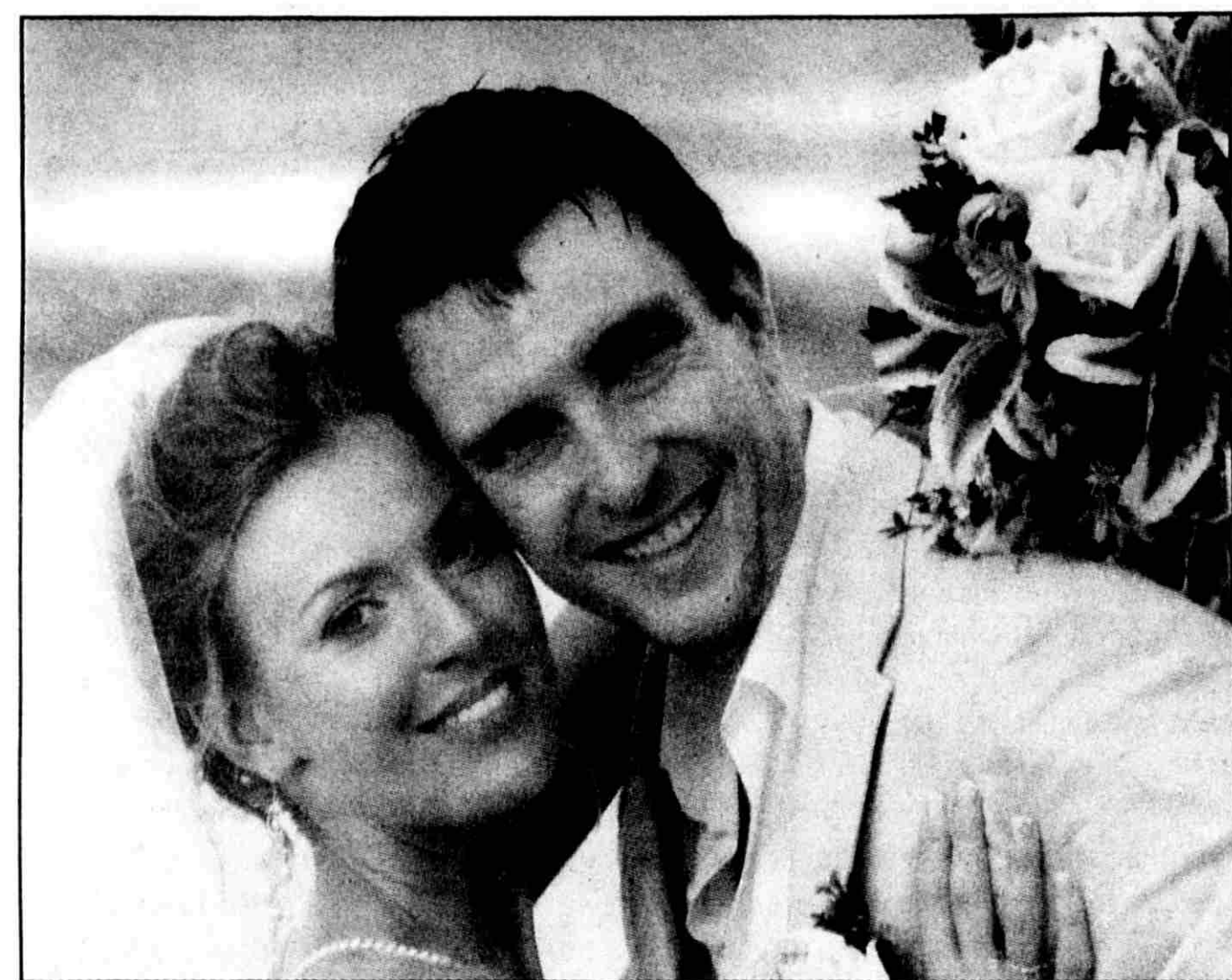
- Ability to lift 35 pounds to shoulder and carry the load 200 feet.
- Ability to read, write, and speak English fluently.
- Dependable transportation.
- No visible tattoos when in complete uniform.
- Ability to attend all job training sessions.
- Available three Saturday evenings each month from 3 p.m. to 1 a.m.

First date of work after training: March 22, 2008

If you are interested in joining a team of employees who will be intent and focused on building Grand Lux Ballrooms into the finest catering business in West Michigan we hope to meet you at our job fair!

Weddings

Telling/Forsyth



Andrea and Adrian Telling

Andrea Forsyth and Adrian Telling exchanged wedding vows on January 12 in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. Parents of the newlyweds are William and Joanne (Myers) Forsyth and Michael and Jane Telling.

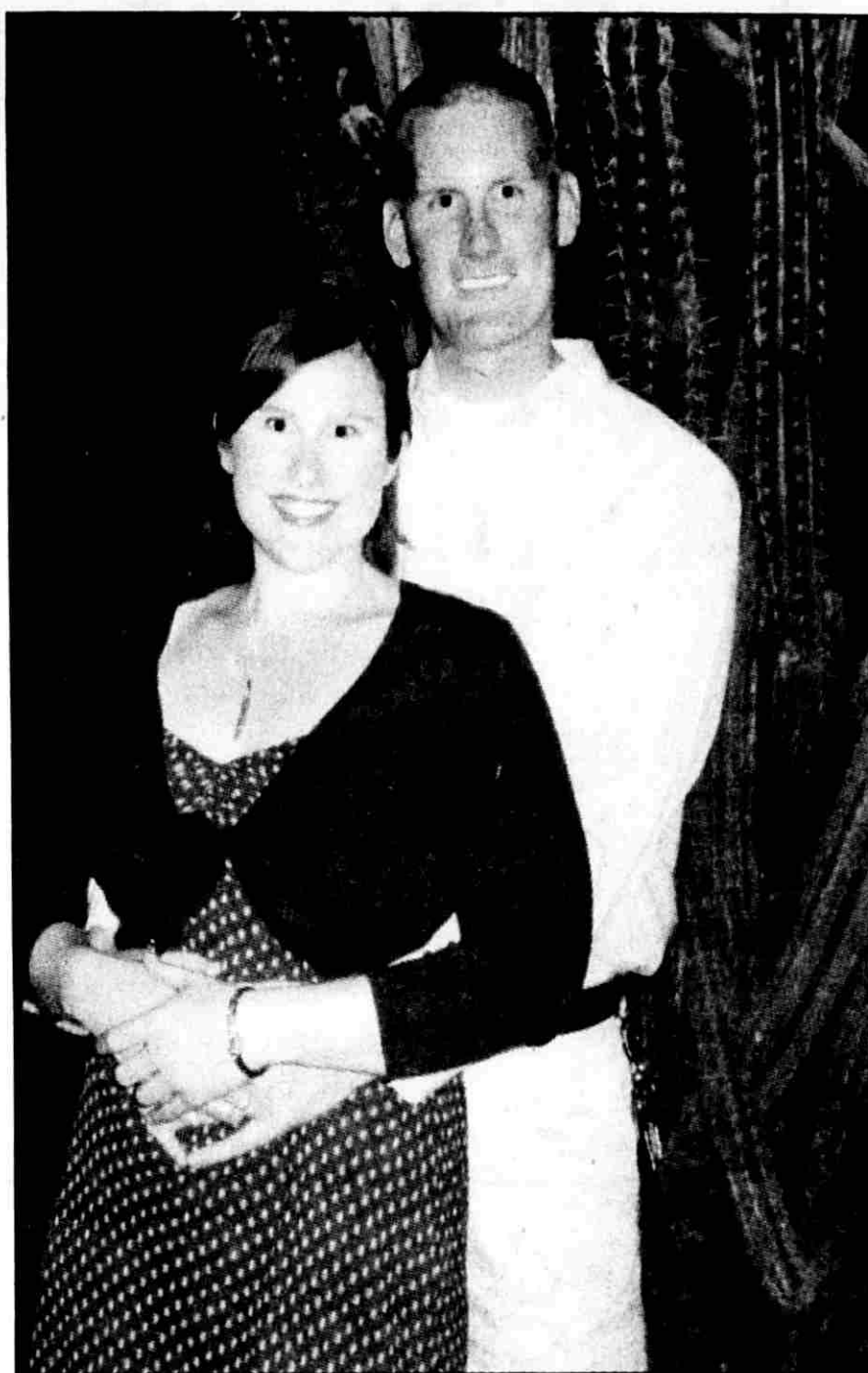
Matron of honor was Jill Kulbok. Bridesmaids were Kerrin Falk, Maggie Knight, Sonia Abrego, and Julia Nikolaevskaya. Best man was Steven

White. Groomsmen were David Forsyth and Paul Hearmon. The couple resides in Chicago, Ill.

Engagements

Gingerich/Poehlman

Bob and Kathy Gingerich of Lowell and Rosemarie and Gerald Poehlman of Madison Heights are pleased to announce the engagement of their children Jennifer Gingerich to Gerald Poehlman. The bride-to-be is a graduate of Lowell High School and received a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Western Michigan University. She is currently a teacher at Cottonwood Elementary in Casa Grande, Arizona. The groom-to-be is a graduate of Madison High School and served in the Army for eight years. He is currently employed by Correction Corp. of America as a senior correctional officer in Eloy, Arizona. The couple will wed June 28, 2008 at St. Robert of Newminster in Ada.



Jennifer Gingerich and Gerald Poehlman

Reflections of faith

by Pastor Joe Fremer, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

The meteorologists are all excited! "Will we reach 100 inches of snowfall this winter? Stay tuned!!" All this talk about surpassing the average snowfall tickles me. Of course we're going to get higher than average sometimes. That's part of what makes an average, well, average! Other times we're going to get less than average. If we fail to reach the average for a whole bunch of years in a row, guess what happens? They move it. A bunch of subpar scores drags down any average.

If we conceive of people as having a "natural" religion, one that arises out of our nature, its symbol would not be a cross, or a star of David, or a crescent moon. It would be a "bell-shaped curve." We are all obsessed with how we are doing (compared with other people). "Good people" are the ones on the right side of the curve. Most of us would characterize ourselves as "not perfect, but maybe a little better than average." Just to the left of middle would be petty thieves, and people who drive while talking on the phone. A little further to the left would be the perfectly able-bodied drivers who use Grandma's van so they can park in the handicapped spot at the grocery store. Way further to the left would be people who bring shotguns to college auditoriums and kill people. We figure as long as there are people worse than we are, we're not really "bad."

We hope it works like that, but the Bible says God doesn't grade on the curve. His standard is perfection. "Pass-fail." And a passing grade is not 60 percent, nor even 90. To pass his class, you need a grade of 100 percent. And

that's not just in outward actions, either. You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength; in thought, word and deed. Anything less than perfection is failure.

Since that is impossible for us, messed up the way we are now, we get pretty frustrated and angry when we read this. But there is a solution. God loves you. He doesn't want to flunk you to an eternal flaming detention. He is willing to (get this!) switch your name in His gradebook with the name of His star pupil, Jesus (who happens to be His Son). Jesus gets our Ds and Fs and we get His A grades in every subject. (Jesus is in on the deal.)

Not only is He willing to do that, He has already done it! He offers it to you, done deal, for free. Jesus has already taken your failures and paid your penalties. That's the Good News at the heart of Christianity. Now, how does that make you feel about Jesus? How does it make you feel about His Father? And what does that do to our habit of comparing ourselves to others?

Engagements

Brusel/Nauman

Rick and Valarie Brusel of Saranac are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Hannah Marie Brusel to Donald Benjamin Peter Nauman, son of Ron and Jeni Nauman of Saranac.

Hannah is currently working at Brown Corporation in Ionia.

Donald is currently working at Progressive Heating, Cooling and Refrigeration in Lowell.

Donald and Hannah were engaged on March 31, 2007 and are planning a June 14 wedding at the Thornapple Pointe in Grand Rapids.



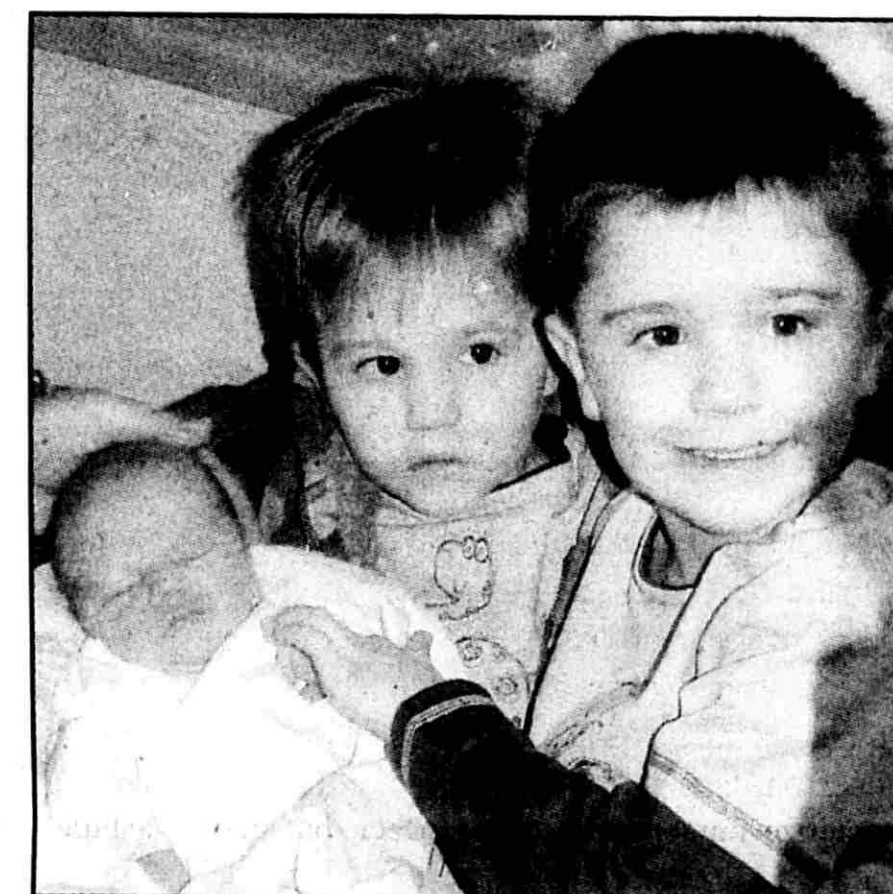
Hannah Brusel and Donald Nauman

Happy Birthday

- FEBRUARY 20:** Mike Rivers, Gary Kemp, Barbara Carpenter, Sara Soyka, Madison Emelander, Nate Sloan.
- FEBRUARY 21:** Betsy Vezino, Ashton VanDerWarf, Kimberly Sterzick, Robin Martin, Treva Johnson, Luke Landman.
- FEBRUARY 22:** Kevin Gerard, Lloyd Powell, Rob Tulecki, Julie Shaffer, Jerry Dale Abel, Krista Foster.
- FEBRUARY 23:** Joe Ellis, Heather Essich, Sharon Miles.
- FEBRUARY 24:** Cliff Mulder, Amy Aksamitowski, Tarah Essich, Lizzy Decker.
- FEBRUARY 25:** Susan Miesal, Mike Nearing.
- FEBRUARY 26:** Jeremy Goff, Barry Vezino, Bob Ford, Nancy Porter, Leslie Rash.

New Arrivals

Wood



Andrew and Jessica Wood are happy to announce the birth of their son, Quinn Andrew. He was born on January 29, 2008, weighing 8 lbs. 8 oz.

Proud big brothers are Logan and Connor.

Also welcoming him home are grandparents, Thomas and Sue Wood and John and Cheryl Allen and great-grandmother, Barbara Allen.

HEALTH

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

EAR INFECTIONS IN CHILDREN

Ear infections often happen in children with a cold or sore throat. These cause the nose or throat to swell and block the tube that drains fluid out of the middle ear. Fluid backs up behind the eardrum, and germs spread to the middle ear. This can cause pain and fever. Anyone can get an ear infection, but children will get them more often than adults. Children who go to daycare, use pacifiers, and are around cigarette smoke are more likely to get an ear infection. Symptoms of an ear infection include fever, earache, pulling or rubbing the ear, decreased appetite, difficulty sleeping, and drainage from the ears. Medications like Tylenol and Motrin can help with fever and pain. Saline nose drops can help with nasal congestion. Many ear infections will get better without antibiotics. If symptoms don't improve after a few days, children should be put on antibiotics. Children six months and younger and children with severe infections should be given antibiotics right away.

To prevent ear infections, try to keep the child away from things he or she is allergic to. Keep your child away from people who smoke. Don't put babies to bed with a bottle. Make sure your child's immunizations are up-to-date.

Insane people are always sure that they are fine. It is only the sane people who are willing to admit that they are crazy.

- Nora Ephron

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider amendments to the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance regarding the review of site plans. These amendments would amend Section 4.81 of the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance. The specific amendments would in part set forth regulations for when a site plan review is required, site plan contents, procedures for review, approval standards, conditions attached to an approval, procedures to amend an approved plan and requirements for expansions of existing uses.




The hearing will be held as follows:

WHEN: MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2008
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
LOWELL, MI 49331

The proposed amendments are available for review at the Lowell Charter Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, Michigan, 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday or by calling 897-7600.

Tim Clements, Secretary
Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

At Your Local Library



BIG KIDS STORYTIME AT ENGLEHARDT

You're never too old to listen to a good story, but if your kids are too big for regular storytime, bring them to Big Kids Storytime at the Englehardt branch of the Kent District Library. On Mondays, March 3 - 17 at 6:30 p.m. relax and have some fun before bedtime. Kids ages six and up are welcome. For more information or to register, please contact the Englehardt library at 647-3920. The Englehardt branch of the Kent District Library is located at 200 N. Monroe St. in Lowell.

Lowell Area Healing Rooms

NOW OPEN
Come In For Prayer & Healing Prayer

Open Saturdays from 11:00 to 2:00
All denominations are welcome.

- Confidential
- No Fees
- Come as you are

We are located in the Flat River Outreach Ministry Building
11355 Fulton East • Lowell, MI
We are members of the International Association of Healing Rooms

GREG VAN STRIEN HEATING AND PLUMBING

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

(616) 897-5569
Visa And Master Card Accepted

Silver Ring Thing!

Where: Lowell High School, Performing Arts Center
When: 02/23/2008 • 5:15 p.m.

Why: Sexual Abstinence, MTV Presentation Style

EVENT DESCRIPTION:
The Silver Ring Thing is the fastest growing teen abstinence program in the United States and is rapidly gaining international recognition for its high-tech presentation style incorporating music, laser lights, humor and most importantly the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Its high-tech show produced in an MTV style format moves the abstinence message out of the school assembly hall and into a "club style" atmosphere that appeals to the 21st century teenager.

On Saturday, February 23, Silver Ring Thing is coming to Lowell High School Performing Arts Center.

Please pre-register online at
www.silverringthingmi.com
to reserve your spot!

Registration begins at 5:15 p.m.
and the show will start at 6:00 p.m.
Bring \$5 for admission and \$15 for a Silver Ring!

College News

The following students have been named to the Dean's List for fall term at Northwood University. To achieve Dean's List recognition, students must earn a 3.25 grade point on a 4.0 scale.

Richard J. Martinus and Sergio B. Uccello, both of Ada.

Sarah M. Niemeyer and Brandon S. Postema, of Alto.

Taylor R. Verdon of Lowell.

The University of Minnesota Duluth has announced that Sarah J. Hasselquist, of Lowell has been named to the Dean's

List for fall semester 2007.

Kirstin Anne Johnson was named to the Fall 2007 Dean's List at the College of Creative Studies in Detroit. Kirstin graduated from Lowell High School in 2006.

Calvin College has announced its fall 2007 Dean's List. To earn a spot on the Dean's List at Calvin requires that a student maintains at least a 3.5 grade point average for the semester and has at least a 3.3 cumulative grade point average.

Of Ada is Ann M. Boggs, Alissa M. Goudswaard,

Stephen J. Hoekwater, Lukas R. Leisman, Joel R. Meredith, Brian S. Pirog, and Jacqueline S. Smith.

Of Alto is Leslie K. Boot, Kristina A. Pflug, Sara K. Post, and Rebecca L. Schmidt.

Of Lowell is Hannah E. Gerig and Kelly N. Malling.



Micah Soyka

The University of Northwestern Ohio is proud to acknowledge its Dean's List for January Session 2008 for students in the College of Technologies. The following full-time students received a grade point average of 3.5 or better: Matt James Burton and Travis Lee Cook, both of Lowell.

Micah Soyka, son of Mark and Vicki Soyka of Lowell, has been accepted to the University of Northwestern Ohio in Lima to begin classes in the August session where he will be majoring in the Automotive Diesel program. Micah attends Lowell High School.

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

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. All submissions are subject to available space.

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY/MARCH

SAT., FEB. 23: 3rd Annual Holistic Health Fair at First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main St., Lowell from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. For a booth or more information please call Pamela Jones at 897-5069.

SAT., MAR. 1: Bluegrass Hotbands Fundraiser at TJ's Sports Bar & Grill, beginning at 7 p.m. \$5.

MON., MAR. 3: Masonic Lodge #355, serving Lowell, Belding and Ionia areas, will hold its regular communication beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the lodge room of the Masonic Temple, 211 E. Main St., Belding. A dinner will precede the meeting, in the dining room, beginning at 6:30 p.m. All Master Masons may attend.

TUES., MAR. 11: Doric Chapter #75, Order of Eastern Star will hold its regular communication in the chapter room of the Masonic Temple, 211 E. Main St., Belding beginning at 7:30 p.m. A dinner will precede the meeting in the dining room beginning at 6:30 p.m. All members of the Order of Eastern Star may attend.

WED., MAR. 12: Hooker Chapter #73 will hold its stated convocation in the lodge room of the Masonic Temple, 211 E. Main St., Belding beginning at 7:30 p.m. Dinner will be served in the dining room beginning at 6:30 p.m. All Royal Arch Masons may attend.

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.

Women for Sobriety, 7-8 p.m. Bowne Center United Methodist Church, 84th & Alden Nash. Call Sue 868-6219; www.womenforsobriety.org.

1ST MON.: Regular communication of Belding-Ionia-Lowell Masonic Lodge #355, 7:30 p.m. 211 E. Main, Belding. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. All Masons may attend.

1ST MON.: V.F.W. Post #8303, 3116 Alden Nash S.E. 7 p.m.

1ST MON.: Lowell Area Juggling Club, Community room, Englehardt Library, 6:30-8:30 p.m. 12/older. 897-9879, www.freewebs.com/lowelljugglingclub.

2ND MON.: Lowell Board of Education, 7 p.m. in Administration Building, 300 High Street.

2ND MON.: Alto American Legion Post 528 Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m.

2ND MON.: Bowne Township Historical Society meets Oct. - March 10 a.m. & April - Sept. 7 p.m. at historic museum, 84th/Alden Nash.

2ND & 4TH MON: Needlers, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Schneider Manor Community Room.

3RD MON.: Women of the Moose meetings held 7:30 p.m.

3RD MON.: Lowell Showboat Garden Club, Fellowship Hall at Church of the Nazarene, N. Washington St. at 7 p.m.

4TH MON.: Clark-Ellis American Legion Post 152, 3100 Alden Nash S.E. at 7:30 p.m.

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.

TUESDAYS

Thornapple River Chapter BNI professional networking group, 7-8:30 a.m., Ada Bible Church, 8899 Cascade Rd., 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.

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

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

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.

TUESDAYS

1ST TUES.: Adults with AD/HD at Calvin College, 7-9 p.m. Call Gary Engle at 897-6325 or 248-2423.

1ST & 3RD TUES.: Lowell Lions Club, 12 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce, 113 Riverwalk Plaza. 897-5449 for information.

2ND TUES.: Diabetic Support, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Schneider Manor Community Rm., 725 Bowes Rd. 897-2760 or 897-9160.

2ND TUES.: Doric chapter #75, Order of Eastern Star 6:30 dinner, 7:30 p.m. regular meeting, 211 E Main, Belding.

2ND TUES.: G.R. Chapter of the American Sewing Guild, Plainfield Senior Center, 5255 Grand River Dr. NE. 6:30 p.m. refreshments/7 program Olga -975-9977/June 231-780-1249.

2ND & 3RD TUES.: Qua-Ke-Zik Sportsman's Club, 8731 West Riverside Dr., 8 p.m. www.qua-ke-zik.org.

2ND & 4TH TUES.: MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers (conception through Kindergarten) 9:15-11:30 a.m. at Impact Church, 1070 N. Hudson. 897-8304, ext 311.

2ND & 4TH TUES.: Knights of Columbus #7719 at St. Mary School at 7:30 p.m.

3RD TUES.: Parents of children w/AD/HD at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 32156 4 Mile NE/E. Beltline at 7 p.m. Call Linda at 874-5662; teen group: call Sarah at 281-6588. No cost.

TUES., WED., THURS.: LAS Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Center, Tots activity room 104, 300 High St. 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. or 10:45 - 11:45 a.m., through the school year. Call Kathy to register or for information, 987-2532.

2ND & 4TH TUES.: Needlers, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Schneider Manor Community Room.

3RD MON.: Women of the Moose meetings held 7:30 p.m.

3RD MON.: Lowell Showboat Garden Club, Fellowship Hall at Church of the Nazarene, N. Washington St. at 7 p.m.

4TH MON.: Clark-Ellis American Legion Post 152, 3100 Alden Nash S.E. at 7:30 p.m.

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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.

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.

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.

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.

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

1ST THURS.: Michigan Hepatitis C Foundation support meetings, 7-8:30 p.m. 250 Cherry, Lacks Cancer Center, Grand Rapids.

1ST & 3RD THURS.: Alto Lions Club meets at United Methodist Church in Alto at 7 p.m.

1ST & 3RD THURS.: Bluegrass Jam inside Kountry Korner of Alto, 6077 Linfield. 868-6371.

2ND & 4TH THURS.: GRW. Michigan Scrabble Club, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Round Robin, bring your board, all levels, walk-ins are welcome. Call Jan 897-5759 for location and more information.

2ND THURS.: N.A.R.F.E., 1:30 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 E. Fulton.

2ND THURS.: Loyal Order of the Moose, men's meeting at 7:30 p.m.

2ND THURS.: Genealogy-Alto Family Tree Club at Alto Library at 2 p.m.

3RD THURS.: Parents Supporting Parents group, Franciscan Life Process Center. Call 897-7842.

3RD THURS.: LaLeche League of Ada, Cascade, Lowell 6:30 p.m. socializing; meeting 7. Support for pregnant/breastfeeding women. Ada 752-8300.

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.

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.

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BUSINESSES SERVICES

West Michigan Regional Competition strikes with magnitude

by Emma Palova

The 22nd West Michigan Regional Competition Show strikes with its magnitude, variety and arts media. From whimsical pastels by Bonnie Osborne and Jim Markle to the large acrylic painting "When They're Gone" by Robert Penning, the artwork shows high level of skill and technique.

"It's a big show," said director Loraine Smalligan. "There's a little bit for everybody. It's always a full show."

The stunning show features 94 marvelous entries, including a crayon nude "Introspective II" by Michael Parrandan, oversized oil painting "Riverside" by George Peebles. The "Filament of Imagination" by Mary Dagley is a veiling on canvas.

Juror Cathy VanVoorhis, an adjunct art instructor at Washtenaw Community

College, says she always takes a long look at each piece to understand what it communicates.

"I consider subject matter, style, skill, strength of design, economy of means, color interaction and presentation," VanVoorhis wrote in her juror's statement. "Even the title can serve as a clue to artist's intention."

When all these factors come together in a purposeful way, the work of art has a wholeness of form, and aesthetic unity, according to VanVoorhis.

"I appreciate the beauty, the humor, mystery, spirit, values or emotions of the artist's vision," says VanVoorhis.

Last week prior to the official opening at the Lowell Area Arts Council, artists like Lisa Wierenga of Alto browsed through the



gallery. She took a quick break from painting a mural to check out the artwork.

"They did a nice job

in getting a variety," said Wierenga. Wierenga entered her "Elk gourd vessel", a hard shell gourd into the competition. She admired

"Dropped Call" acrylic by Beverly Adams.

Artist Rosemary Ellis entered her oil on linen, "Monet's Pond."

"There's a lot of pastels here," said Ellis.

The show runs through March 22.

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Alto artist Lisa Wierenga admires "Dropped Call" acrylic at the West Michigan Regional Competition show.

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CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN LOWELL



Family preserves farmland - hopes to attract ag businesses

by Emma Palova

Better known as the Merriman Corners, prime farmland east of Bancroft and 52nd streets will now be preserved forever.

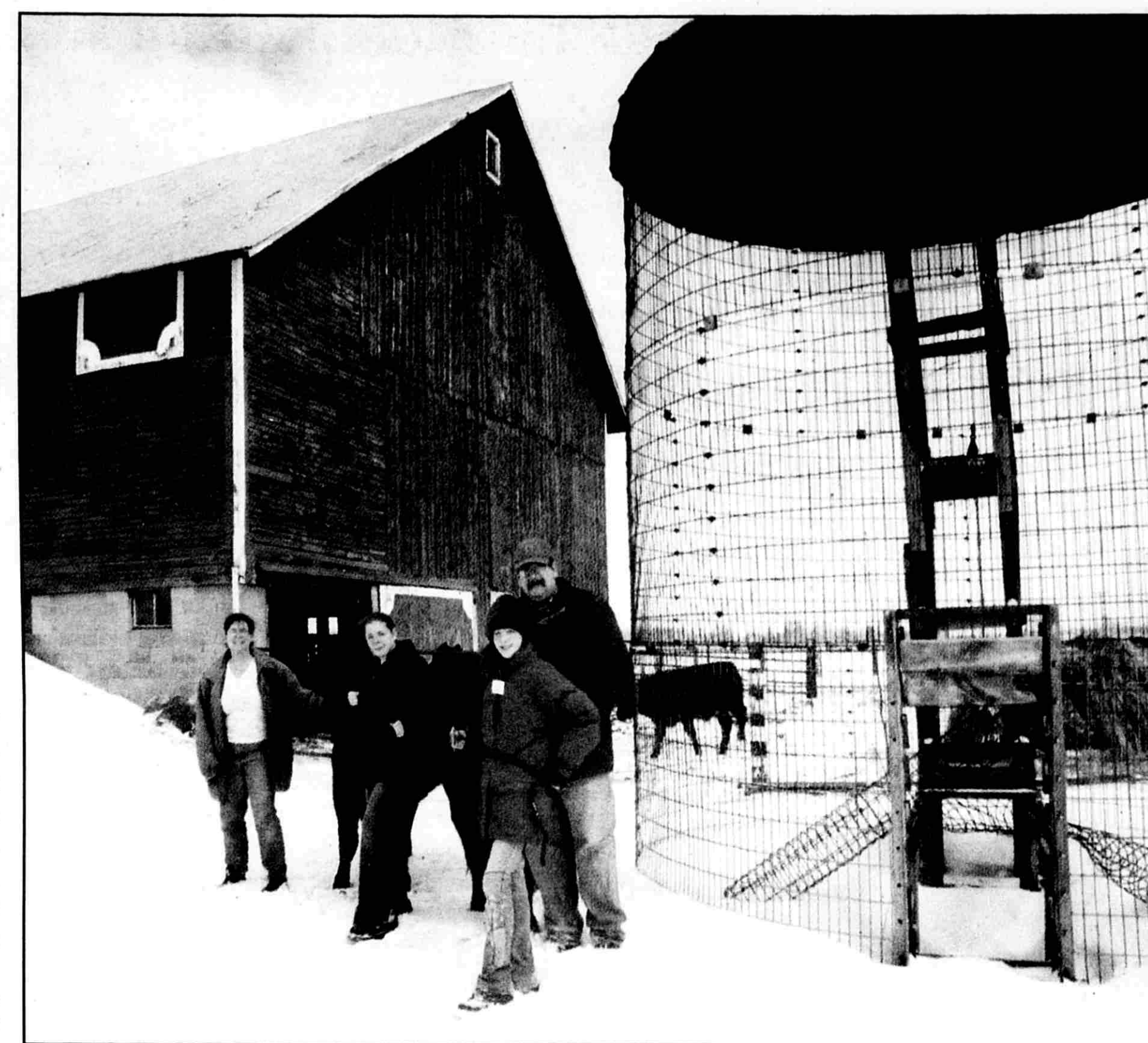
Sitting at the dining table, Joseph Merriman tells the story of his quest to preserve a major part of the family-registered black angus farm in Lowell Township.

The farm has been in the family since 1868, and to this day, members of the Merriman family live clustered around the four corners. Merriman, the father of daughters Kendra and DeeAnne, believes the best place to raise a family is on a farm.

Having just recently closed on the sale of a 67-acre preservation easement to Kent County, Merriman awaits the rest of his money. That is the federal portion of the funding pot for the Kent County Preservation Program.

"I am hoping a couple of things will come out of this," said Merriman.

As the owner of the first preserved farm in Lowell Township, Merriman hopes to inspire others to do the same thing, and to attract agricultural-related businesses to the adjacent Alden Nash corridor south of the I-96 expressway.



The Merriman family with steers on the beef angus farm in Lowell Township. Pictured are Joseph and Susan with daughters Kendra and DeeAnne.

"If they can get others to participate in the program, it will be valuable," said Merriman. "But if they leave me as an island...The county has to do a better job of managing the program."

In spite of the many road blocks on the way to the preservation easement,

Farm, cont'd., pg. 20

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Red Arrow SPORTS

IT'S PLAYOFF TIME:
The wrestling team will head to Regionals tonight at Sparta.
Individual Regionals are at Cedar Springs on Saturday.

Wrestling team wins Districts, sends individuals to Regionals

by Molly Benningfield
Editor

Red Arrow wrestling can add another District title to its crowded trophy room, as they beat out local schools Forest Hills Northern and Forest Hills Eastern last week.

Wednesday featured the team district finals and Lowell wrestled twice in a row, beating FHN 60-14 and then FHE 65-3 in the finals.

Lowell 65, FHE 3

Zach Jeffries defeated Trey Corey at 103; Matt Griffioen defeated Nick

VanOosten at 112; Tyler Jack defeated Colin Sullivan at 119; Jake Fillingham pinned Scott Powl in 5:42 at 125; Ryan Dean defeated Tim Dault at 130; Dan Fleet defeated Rance Carpenter at 135; Cody Toomey pinned Andy Smith in 1:43 at 140; Jackson Morse pinned Adam Shatsky in 2:32 at 145; Justin Boss pinned Ryan Dugan in 4:45 at 152; Ryan Olep defeated Casey Gefsner at 160; Nate Vaught defeated Zac Harmon at 171; Zachary White was defeated by Santino Hernandez at 189; Thomas Fleet pinned Matt Sugiyama in 5:06 at 215; and Connor Kruse won at 275 by default.

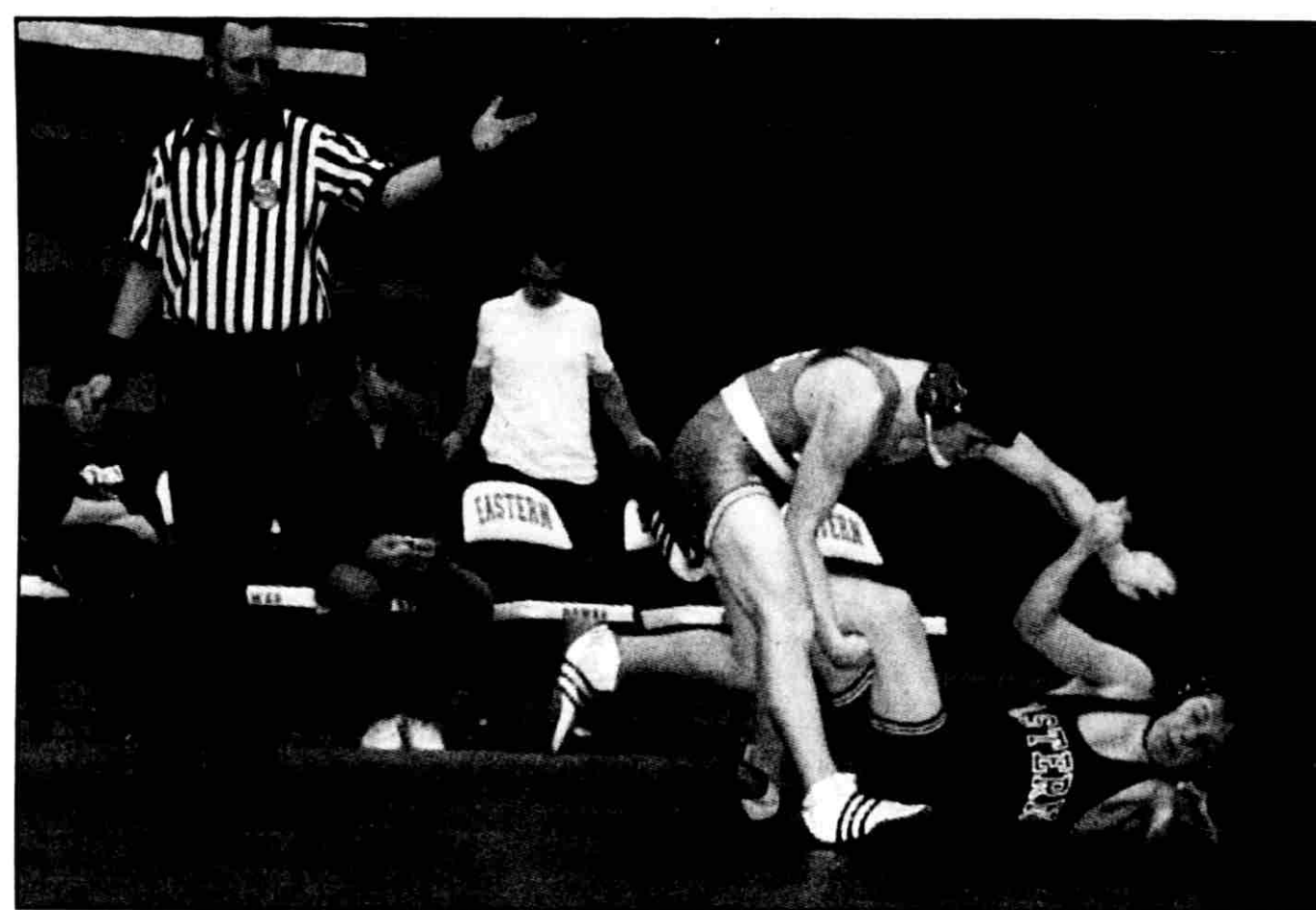
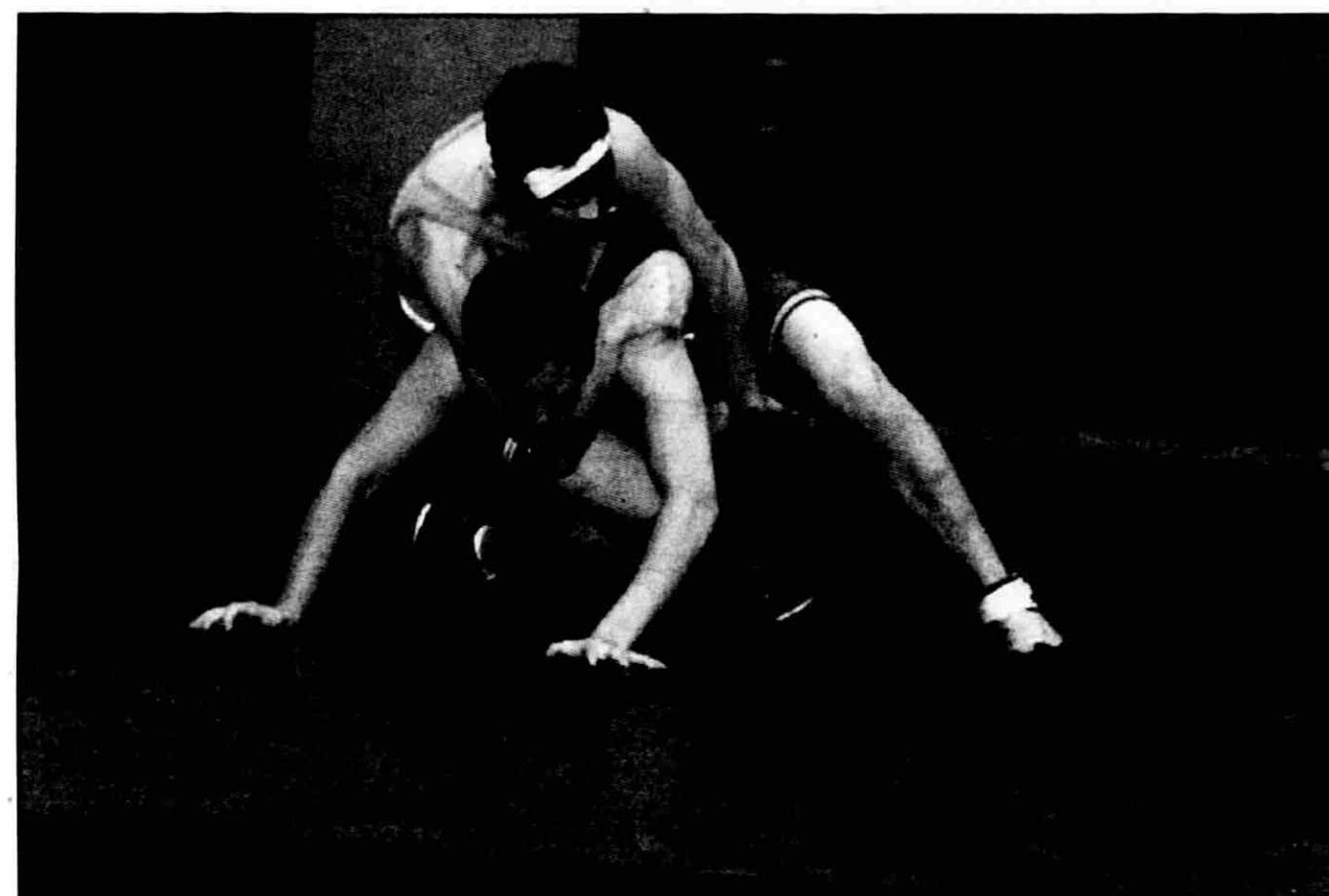
Individual Districts

At the individual Districts at Sparta on Saturday, two wrestlers from Lowell won their weight class. Those champions were: Jackson Morse at 140, who defeated Scott Vodry from Cedar Springs 17-2 and Justin Boss at 152, who defeated Ben Brodie of Greenville.

Runners-up were Ryan Dean at 125, who was

defeated by Matt Hoodhood from Forest Hills Northern and Tim Gingerich at 145, who was defeated by Jordan Miller of Greenville.

In the consolation matches, Jake Fillingham was defeated by Tyler Emery of Cedar Springs at 125; Zach Baum pinned Jake Burns of Northview in 2:19 at 130; Ryan Olep was defeated by Nick Modak of Spring Lake at 160; Nate Vaught pinned Zach Kueser of FHN in 4:11 at 171; and Thomas Fleet was defeated by Ike Hansen of Greenville at 215.



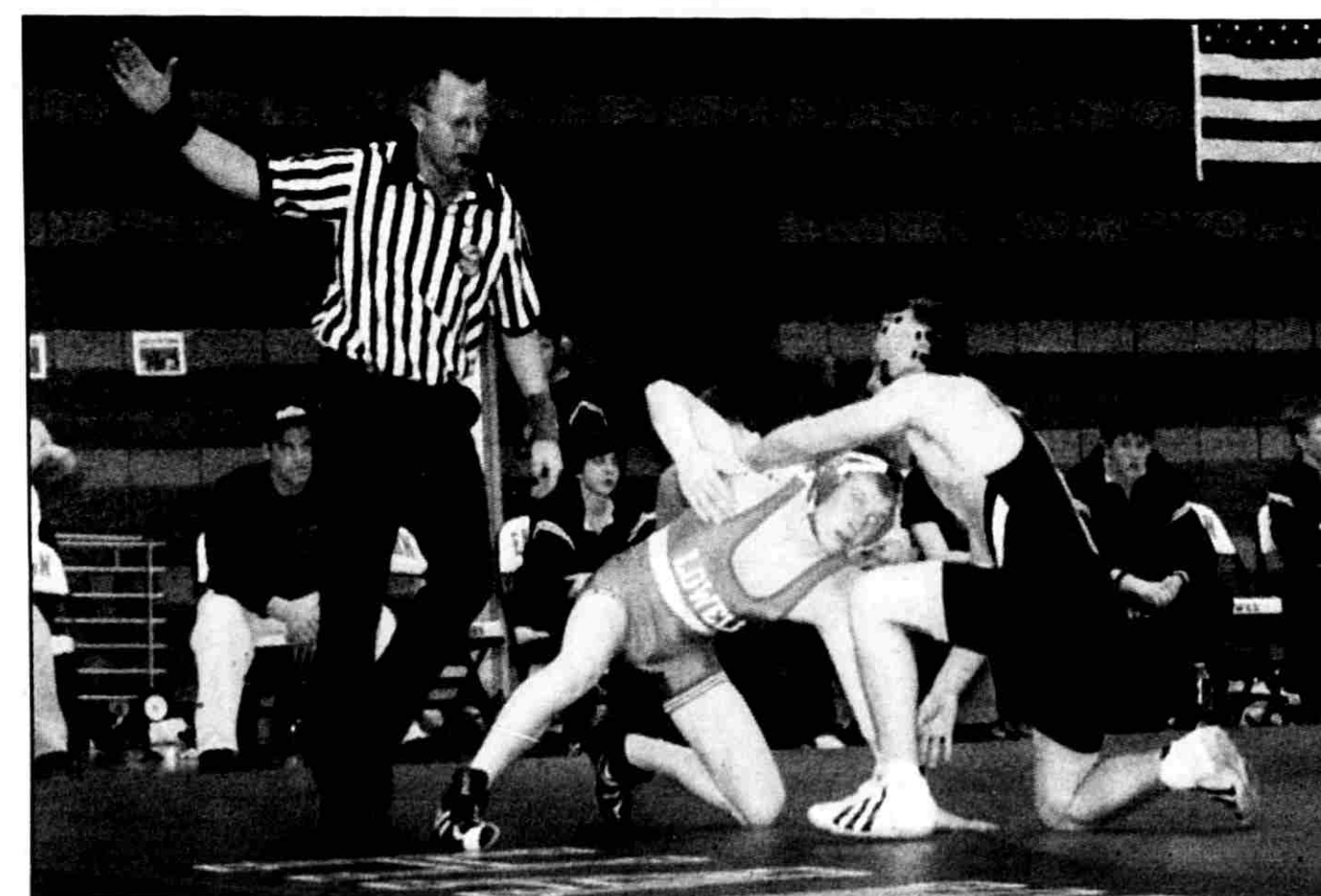
(Top left): Justin Boss won at 152 Wednesday night.

(Top right): Jake Fillingham takes down his opponent to win.

(Above): Jackson Morse pinned his opponent at 145 pounds.

(Top): Dan Fleet won at 135 pounds Wednesday.

(Right): Ryan Dean won at 152 pounds Wednesday night.



BOWNE TOWNSHIP NOTICE BOARD OF REVIEW

THE BOARD OF REVIEW OF BOWNE TOWNSHIP WILL MEET AT THE HISTORIC TOWNSHIP HALL - 8240 ALDEN NASH SE., ALTO ON:

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2008 10:00 A.M.
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2008
9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2008
9:00 A.M. - 12:00 NOON
6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
(EVENING HOURS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY).

FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING THE TAX ROLL AND HEARING ALL CLAIMS, YOU MAY APPEAL YOUR ASSESSED VALUATION ONE OF (2) WAYS: BY LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE BOWNE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR AND RECEIVED BY HIM PRIOR TO MARCH 7, 2007. OR BY APPEARING IN PERSON ON ONE OF THE DATES THE BOARD OF REVIEW MEETS.

THE TENTATIVE REAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AND ASSESSMENT MULTIPLIER REQUIRED BY PA 165 OF 1971 ARE:

Agricultural Ratio	49.64	Multiplier	1.0072
Commercial Ratio	47.26	Multiplier	1.0579
Industrial Ratio	51.40	Multiplier	.9727
Residential Ratio	50.26	Multiplier	.9948

DENNIS MCKELVEY-ASSESSOR
CHRISTIAN WENGER-SUPERVISOR
BOWNE TOWNSHIP

Red Arrow SPORTS



Sara Tarchala

Richelle Kimble receives All-Conference nod, Kelsey Teft gets honorable mention

by Molly Benningfield
Editor

Richelle Kimble, a junior of the Lowell gymnastics team, was named All-Conference during Saturday's meet in Kenowa Hills, while Kelsey Teft was honorable mention, even after missing part of the season to an injury.

Andrea Coffey placed on floor exercise with a score of 8.55, while Teft and Kimble placed on vault. The team scored 129.50

overall, to place fourth in the conference.

The team also competed in aquad meet on Wednesday, competing against Kenowa Hills, Forest Hills and Mona Shores (making up for games canceled from weather conditions). The Arrows defeated Kenowa and Forest Hills, but fell to a tough Mona Shores team. The team scored 132.20 overall.

Coach Skye Fisher said the team is "doing

fantastic, and expect big things from them March 1 at Regionals."

Kimble, Teft, Coffey, and Sara Tarchala all qualified for Regionals, along with the team qualifying.

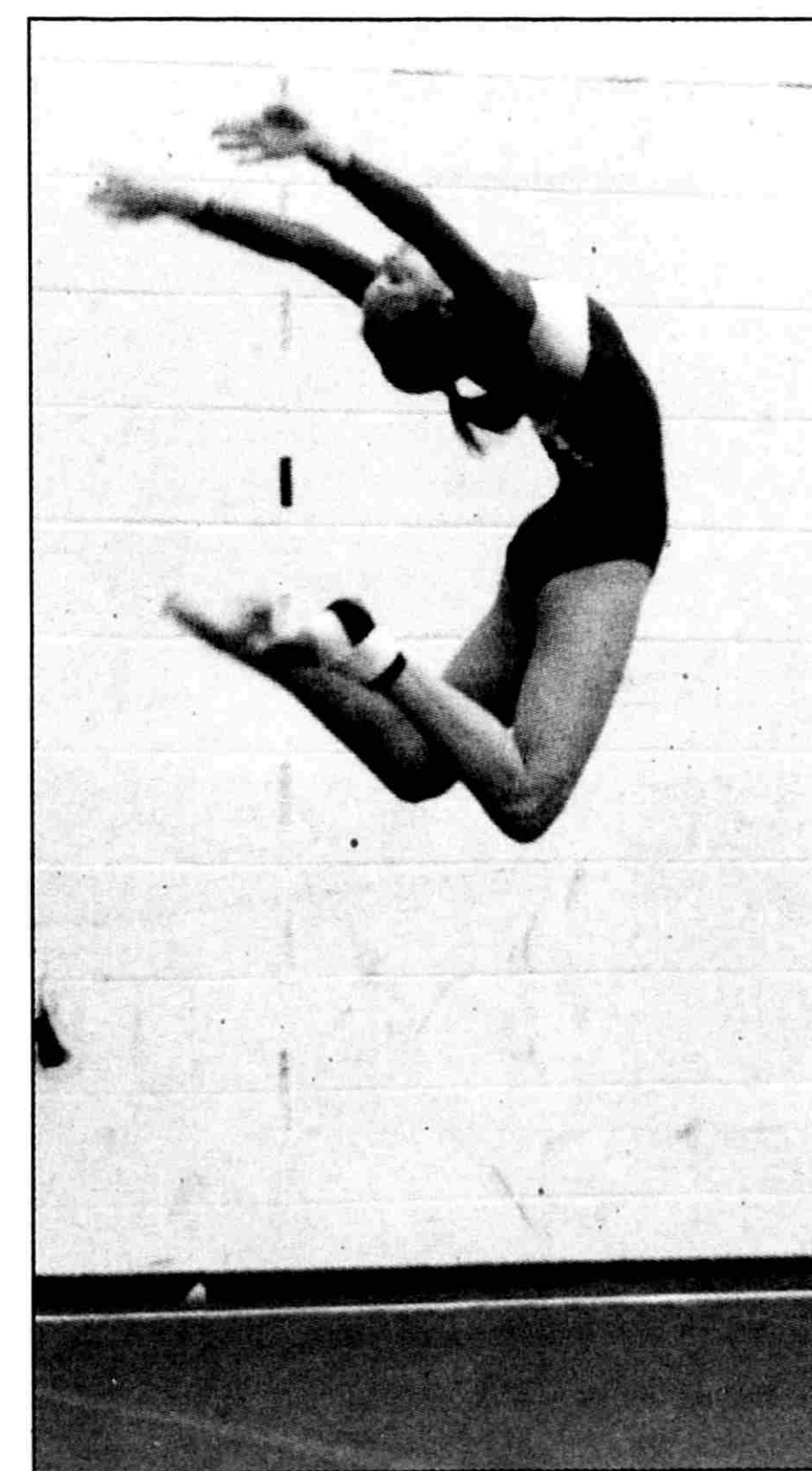
"It will be a very exciting day, and I am in hopes to see some of them go to State, as they have a very good chance of placing in the Top 8 in some of the events," Fisher said.



I AM IN HOPES TO SEE SOME OF THEM GO TO STATE, AS THEY HAVE A VERY GOOD CHANCE OF PLACING IN THE TOP 8 IN SOME OF THE EVENTS.

(Top left): Andrea Coffey on the floor at Wednesday's match.

(Top right): Kelsey Teft scored well on the floor.



Richelle Kimble at Wednesday's match competing in the floor exercise.

Girls' bowling takes first in conference, boys take second

Lowell was a strong force yet again in the conference, this time taking a first- and second-place trophy in the OK-White conference meet Saturday afternoon.

The girls' team wowed the crowd with an overall score of 3021, and winning the conference. Kenowa Hills came in second with 3006 points, while Caledonia had 2991.

The boys' team also did well, taking second overall to a tough Northview team. The Arrows finished with 2771 points, while the Wildcats had 2895.

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Red Arrow SPORTS

“WE OVERCAME A LOT OF LITTLE ADVERSITIES, A LOT OF STUFF TO GET HERE.”

- Coach Jeff McDonald

Red Arrow basketball gets sweet victory

by Molly Benningfield
Editor

Thursday night's conference match-up against Kenowa Hills could've fallen to the wayside, with much of the team fighting off sickness, but the Arrows pulled it together for a 9-point win.

The 59-50 win last week was important for the Arrows, as they sit within reach of East Grand Rapids and Forest Hills Central, with a one-game difference against the two.

Coach Jeff McDonald said he was relieved that the team pulled it off.

"I'm glad we found a way to win," he said.

"We overcame a lot of little adversities, a lot of stuff to get here."

The Arrows were solid in the first half, leading the Knights 26-18. But Kenowa Hills rallied to get within striking distance. "Once we got a lead, we just kept trying to keep it," McDonald said.

With one minute on the clock, the Arrows were up by 10, and as the buzzer went, the Knights made a last-minute three-pointer to narrow the lead. However, it wasn't enough.

Matt Kurtz was the point leader for the Arrows, taking in 14, while Michael Schumm and Eric Saenz each added 11. Bob Wernet and Tim Hettinga also chipped in 9 apiece.

The Arrows will take on Zeeland West at home Thursday night for the OK-Green crossover, before playoff action starts.

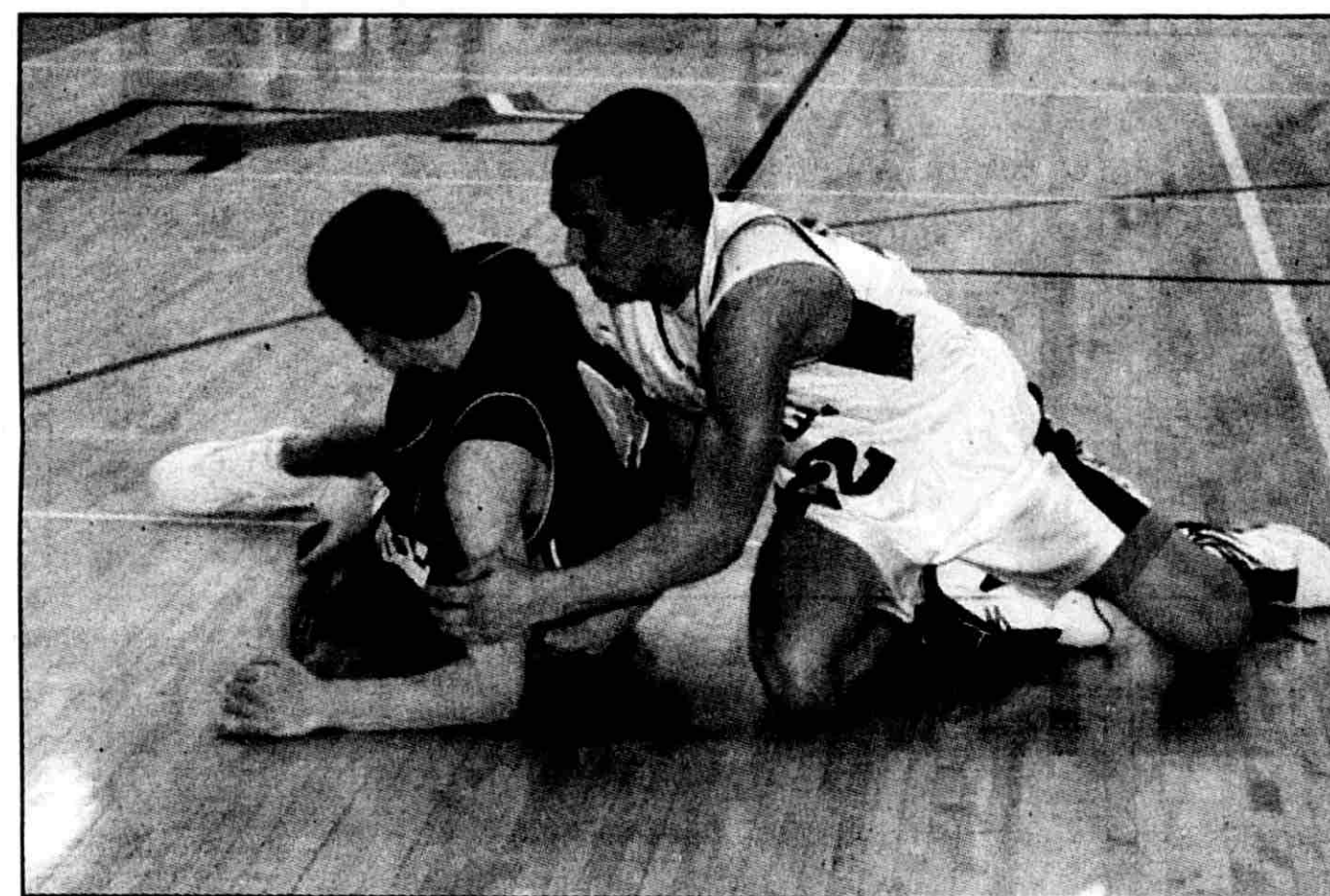
(Top left): Eric Saenz (44) shows good form.

(Left): Jesse VandenBosch (12) stares down his opponent.

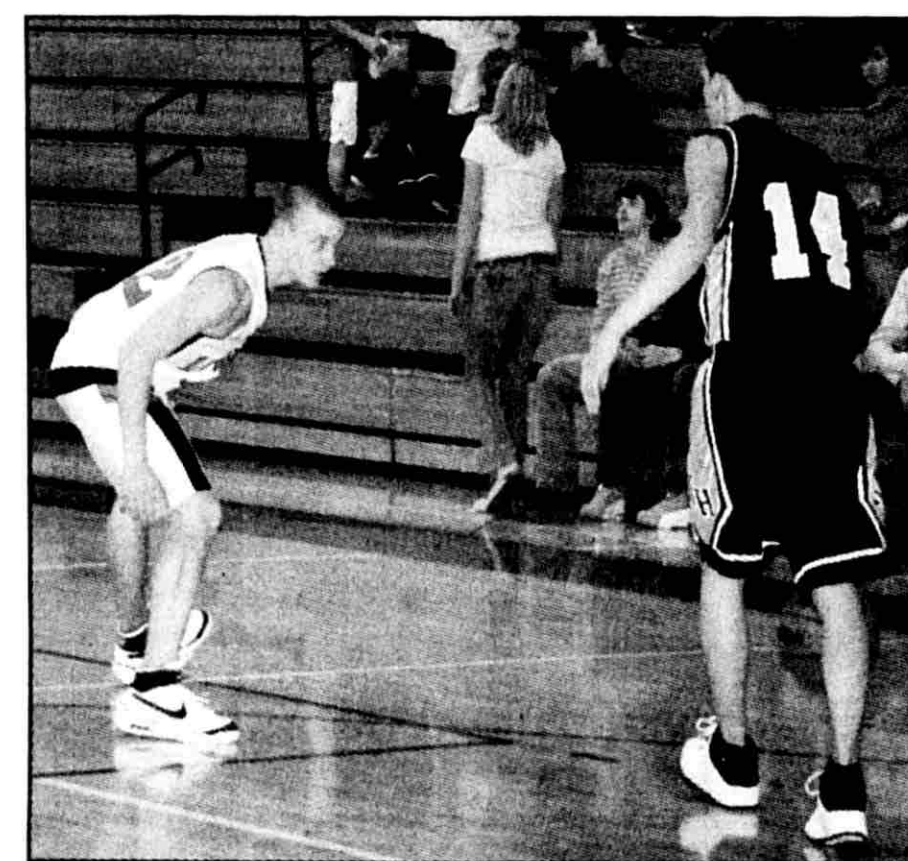
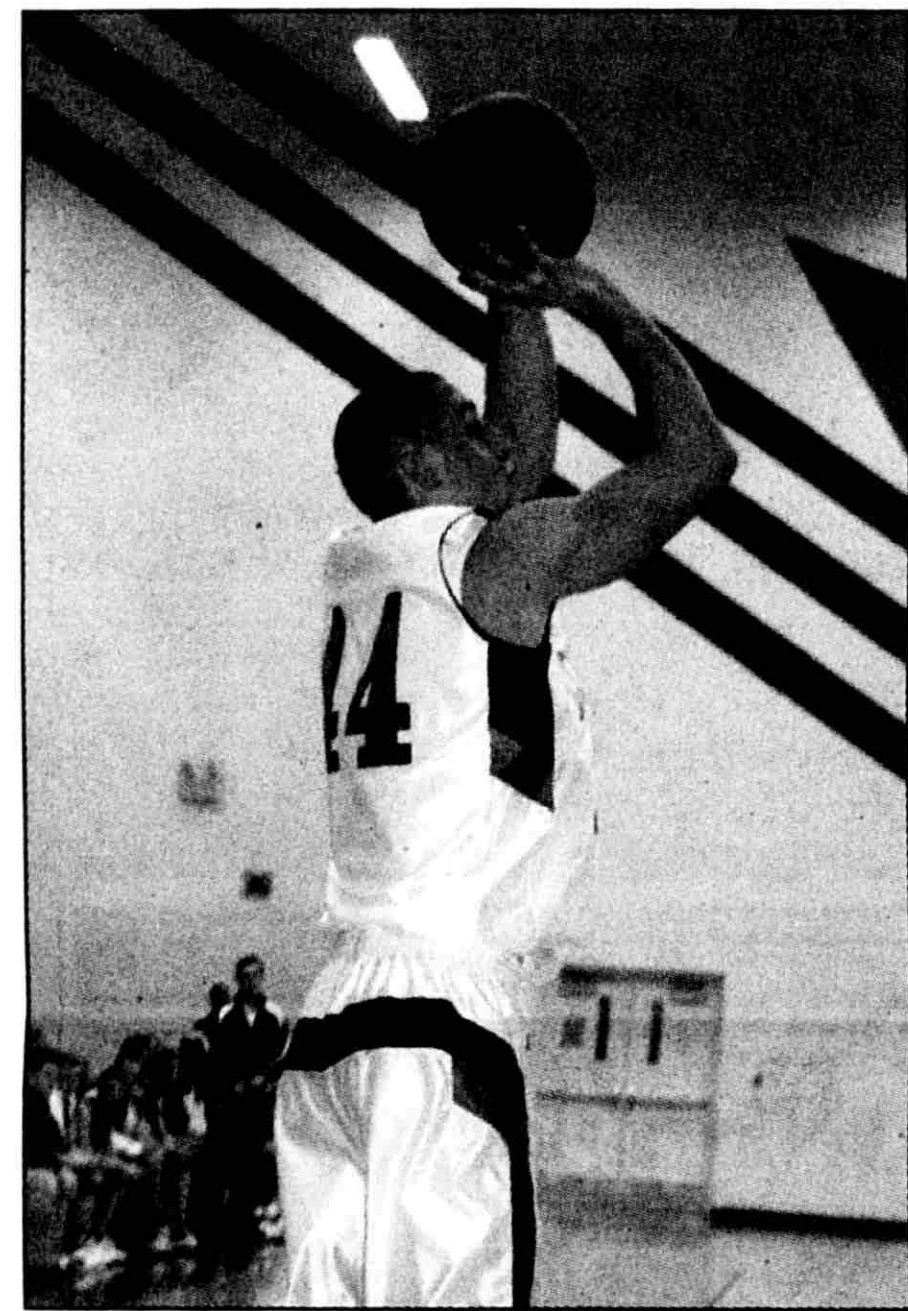
(Bottom left): Bob Wernet (54) takes the ball to the net.



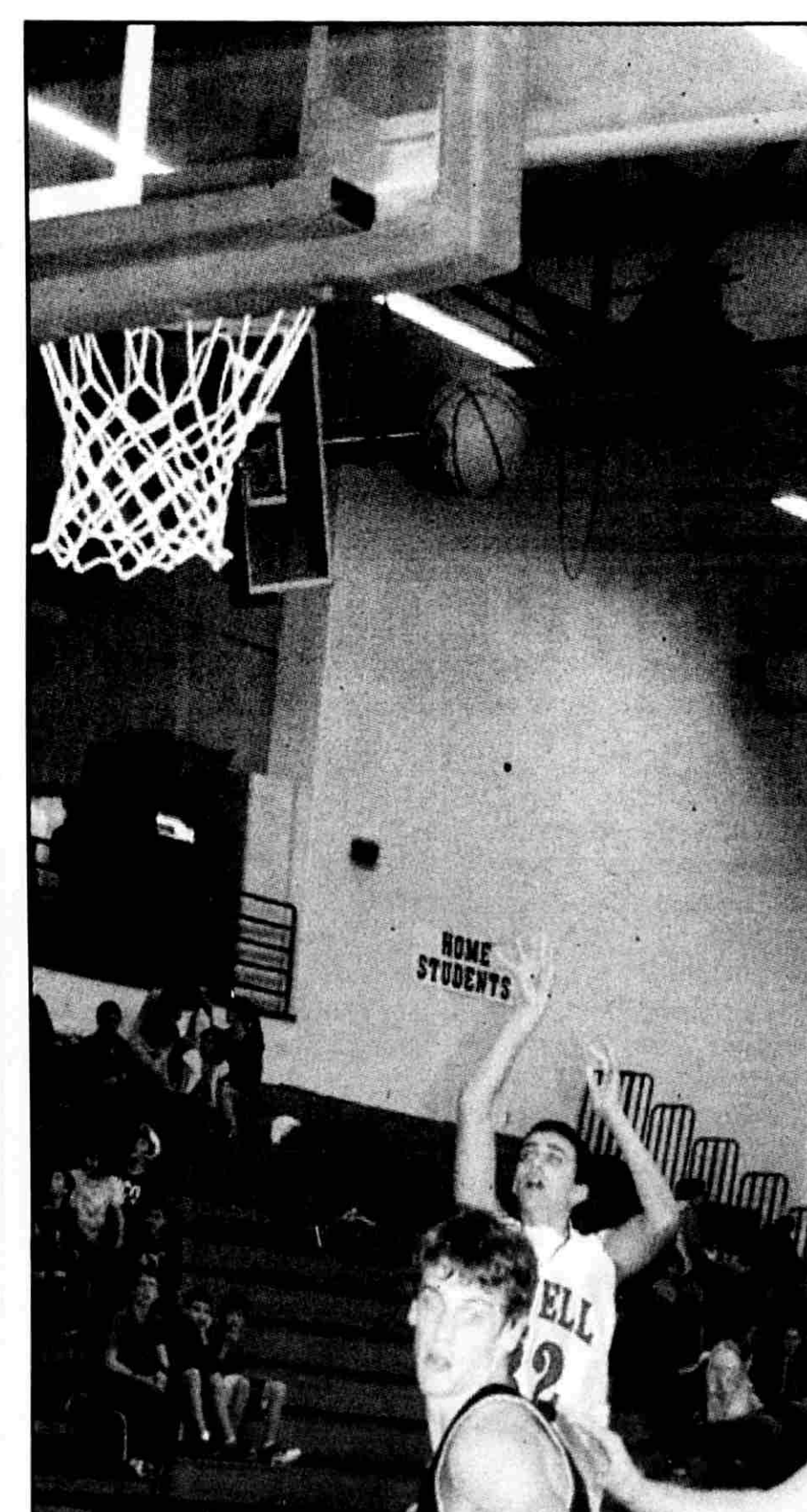
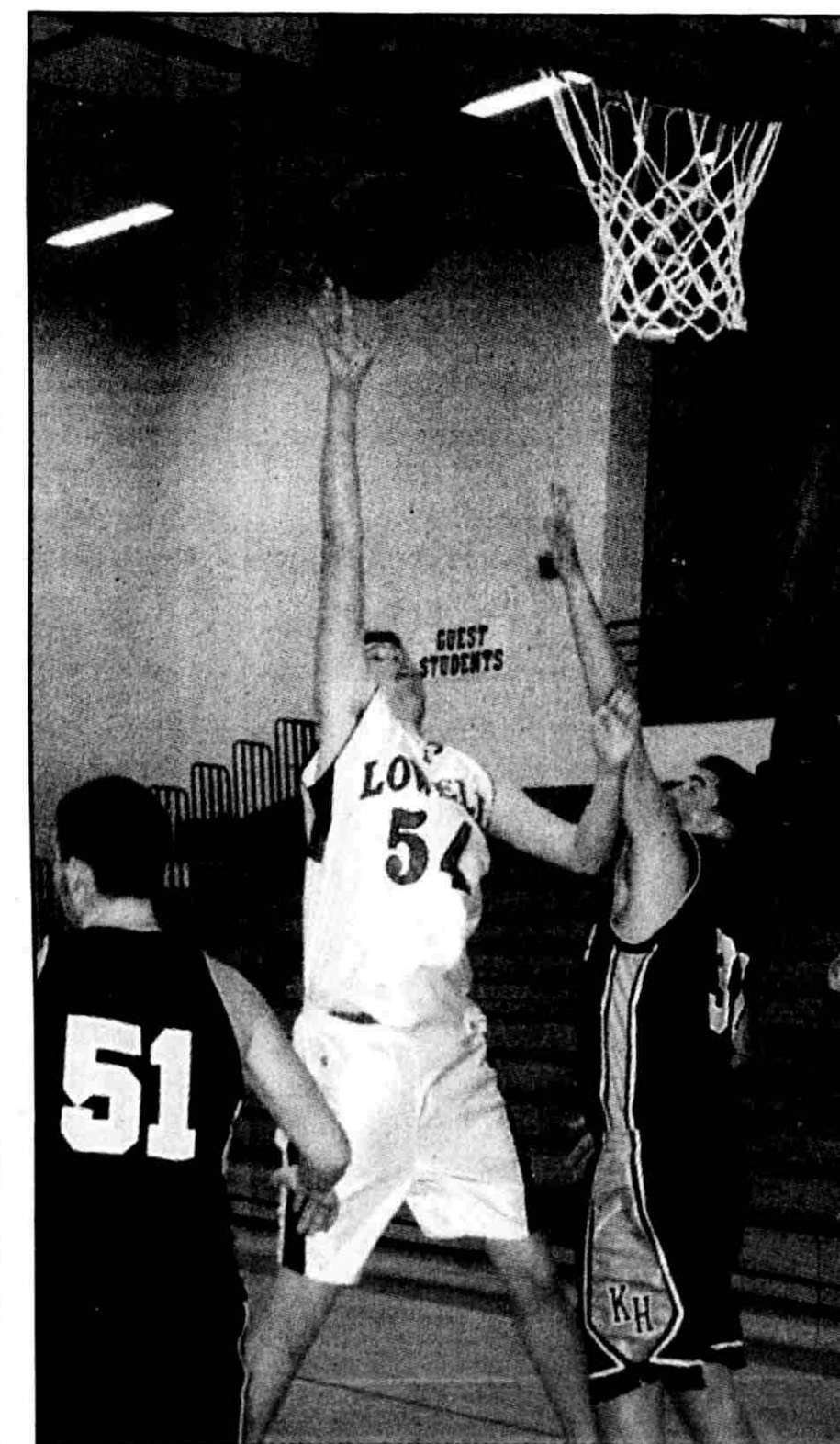
(Top): Tim Hettinga (20) throws the ball in Thursday night.



(Top): Matt Kurtz (22) fights for the ball against a KH opponent.



(Bottom right): Mitchell Malling (32) gets a shot.



Red Arrow SPORTS

WATCH FOR:
Lowell/Caledonia will face off against Tier 3 foe West Ottawa tonight for the league title.

Red Arrow hockey has impressive weekend

The Lowell/Caledonia hockey team won two games in two nights on the road last week, with wins against a strong South Christian team on Thursday and a huge shutout on Friday against Wayland.

The Arrows won 3-1 against South Christian, in a relatively evenly-matched game.

The game was quiet until the second period, when L/C scored two and South Christian took in one.

Tim Kelly secured the Arrow win with an empty net goal in the third period.

Against Wayland the next night, Lowell went crazy, scoring 10 goals in just two periods to force the mercy rule into action and end the game early.

Scoring for the Arrows were Bo Adams, Jordan Steger with three, Justin Story with three, Jon Kuzava, Brent Steele and Ken Hayes. Assisting on those goals were Steger,

Justin Bowyer, Hayes, Billy Watson, Kuzava, Adams, Joel Morgan, Story and Drake Chittenden.

L/C took 31 shots on goal, compared to Wayland's 12. Goaltender Chris Bilski stopped all 12 shots.

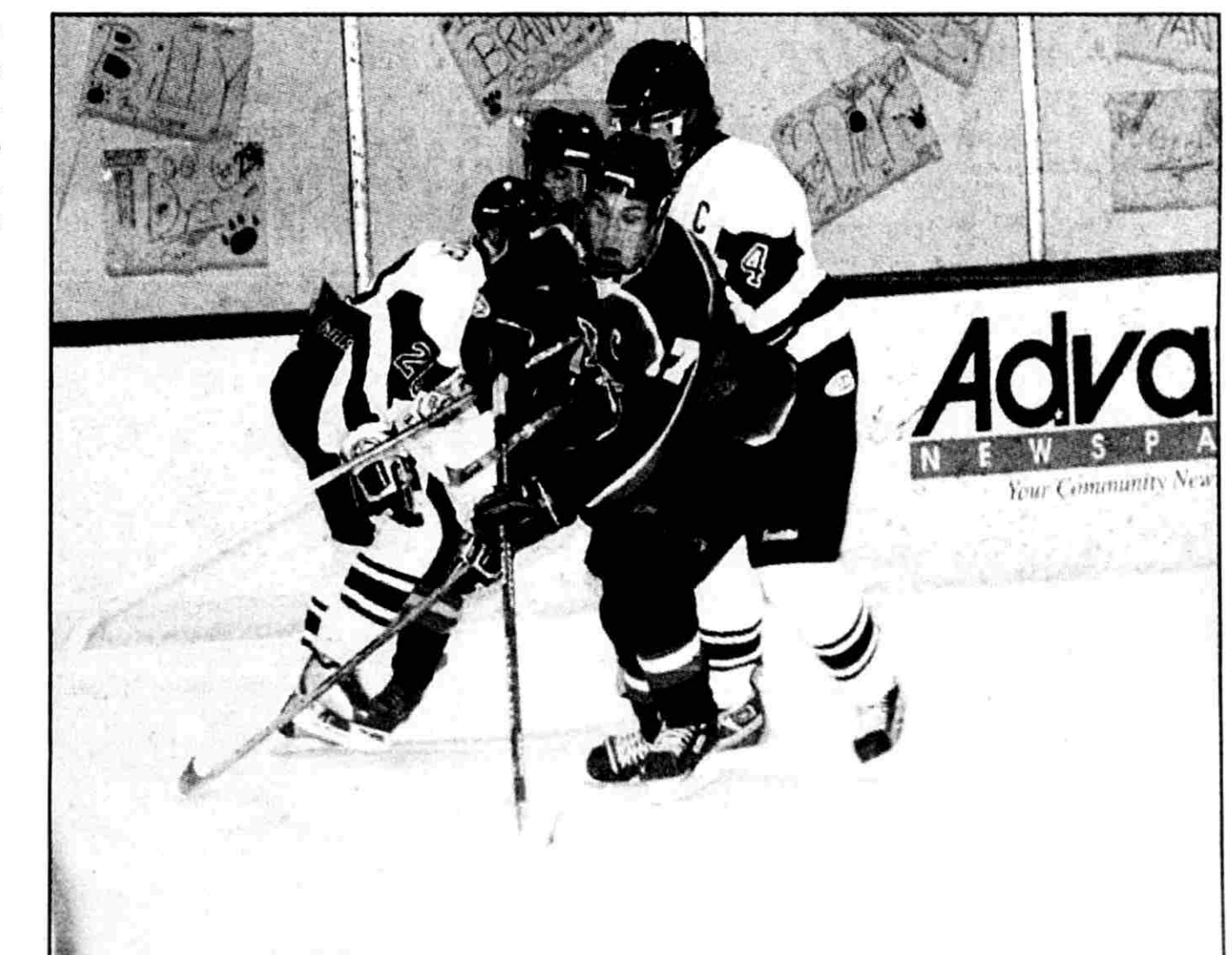
The Arrows will take on West Ottawa tonight in what will be a highly-contested match-up. If Lowell wins, they will win the Tier 3 title outright. If West Ottawa wins, the two teams will share the title.



(Top): Brent Steele (5) and Jon Kuzava (15) at the Wayland game. (Left): Bo Adams (21) gets one past the net against Wayland. (All photos by Dan Goggins)



(Top): Daniel Wilcox (6) faces tough Wayland opponents.



(Top): Justin Story (17) tries to break free from Wayland defenders.



Sciatica 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

TREATMENT

Chiropractic care works on correcting misaligned or fixated vertebrae and can remove the pressure placed on the sciatic nerve, reducing pain and improving flexibility and function. To see if chiropractic may be able to help you call either of our offices today for a complimentary consultation.

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(616) 897-8284

Caledonia Chiropractic
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Eric & Tanya Seif D.C.
9090 S. Rodgers Ct.
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Red Arrow SPORTS

Cheer team takes fourth at Lakewood, gears up for Conference

by Molly Benningfield
Editor

The Lowell cheer team took fourth place in the varsity Division I category at Lakewood High School Saturday afternoon.

Lowell finished behind strong Thornapple-Kellogg team, who took first, and

Charlotte and Hastings. Rounding out the six teams were Wayland in fifth place and East Lansing in sixth.

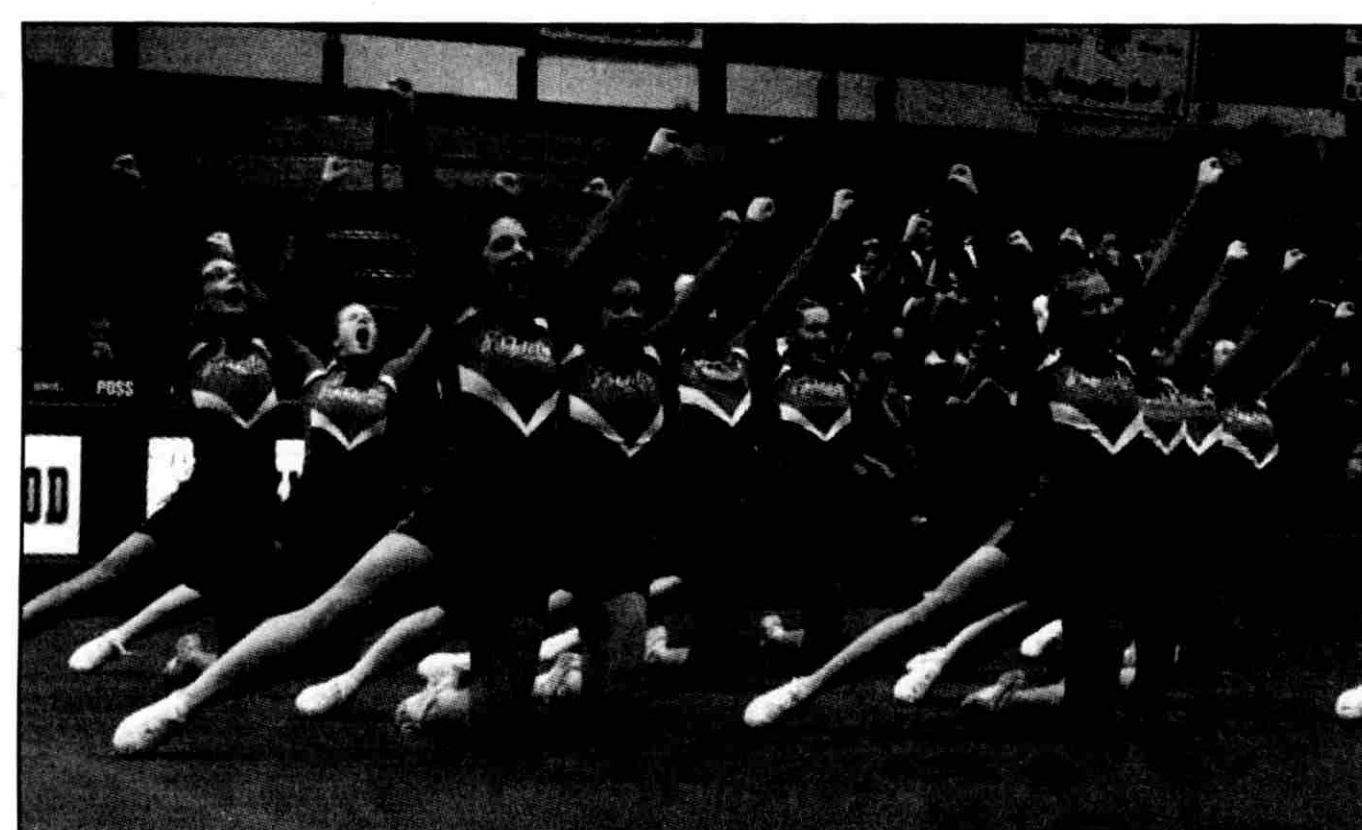
Lowell came out of Round 1 tied for third place, but struggled to keep up in the second round.

As they went into Round 3, the Arrows were

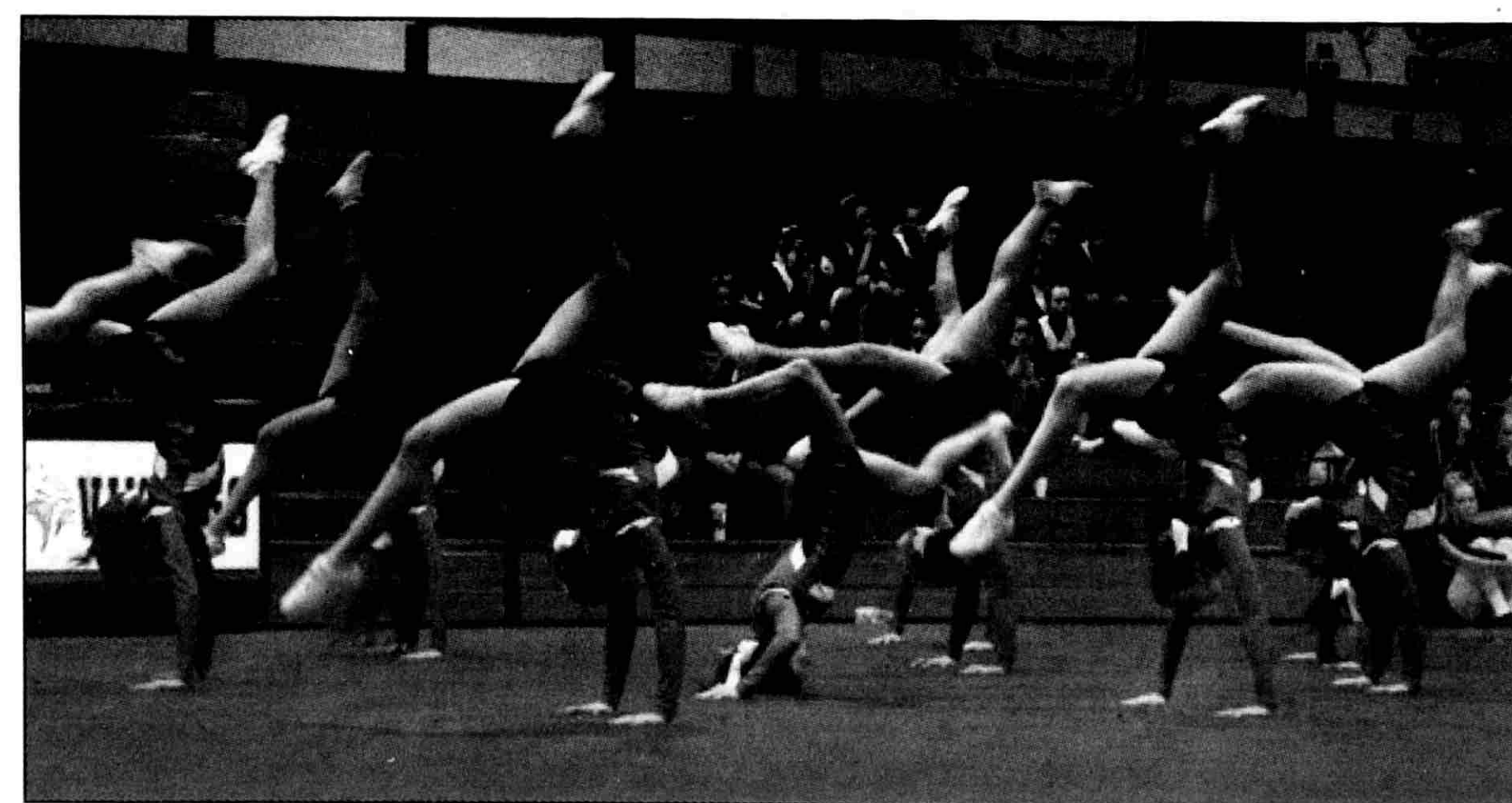
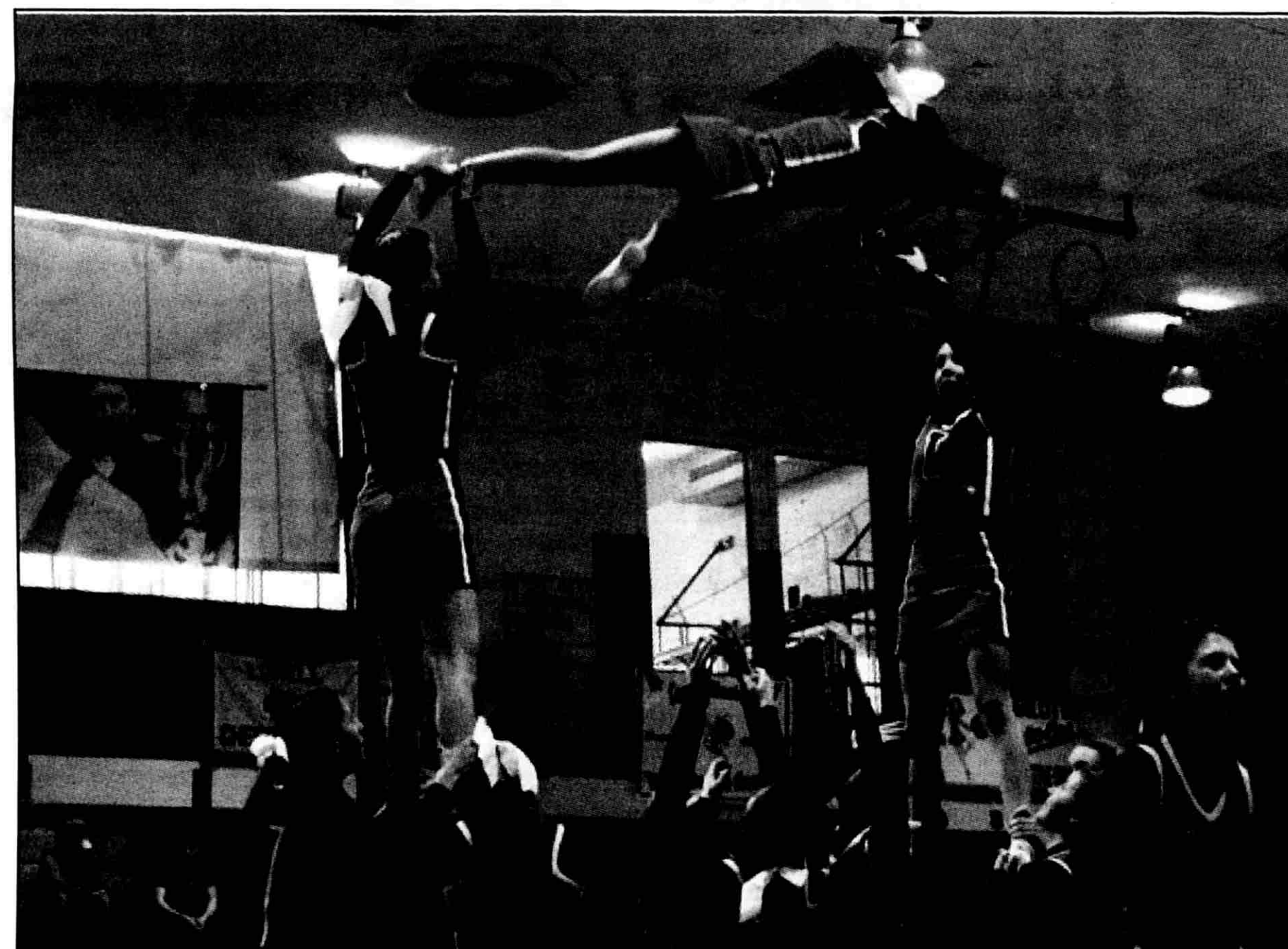
in fifth place, but pulled off a solid Round 3 to bump up their score.

The conference meet will take place at Lowell High School this Saturday, at 3 p.m.

(Below): The varsity team competes in Round 2 at Lakewood's competition Saturday afternoon.



The varsity team took fourth place in the tournament, behind Thornapple-Kellogg, Charlotte and Hastings.



Red Arrow SPORTS

“WE KNOW WHAT WE HAVE TO DO TO BE ABLE TO WIN AND I HAVE NO DOUBT WE ARE CAPABLE OF TAKING THIS DISTRICT.”

- Coach Danielle Gallert

Girls' basketball falls in OK-Green crossover

by Molly Benningfield
Editor

It was a slow first half for the girls' basketball team Friday night, and what counted in the end was the fourth quarter. Lowell led Holland Christian in the first three quarters by a couple points each time, but lost as Holland posted 16 points to Lowell's 6 in the last quarter.

Coach Danielle Gallert said she wants to see the team start putting together a full game.

"I was happy with our efforts but I'm still not pleased with the fact that we cannot put together four quarters of Lowell

basketball," Gallert said. "We did better coming out in the third quarter but it seemed that what we used to let happen in the third happened in the fourth."

Gallert said that's been the main focus of the team throughout the last half of the season, and something they're "trying to improve on for tournaments."

"I think we all know that to succeed in tournaments, we can't have any games where we have mental lapses," Gallert said.

The first half looked slow on offense for both teams, as Lowell went into the locker room with 12 points - half of which

came from Hannah Oberlin. The third quarter proved important to the Arrows' offense, but they fell behind one quarter later.

"In the fourth quarter specifically we have some crucial turnovers that turned the game around," Gallert said. "We need to learn to take care of the ball. It's important for the girls to know when we are forcing something vs. getting good shots."

Gallert, however, doesn't blame the team. "I'll take credit for this loss because I don't think I had the girls prepared to play Holland Christian. They were a good team and I just didn't do my homework good enough."

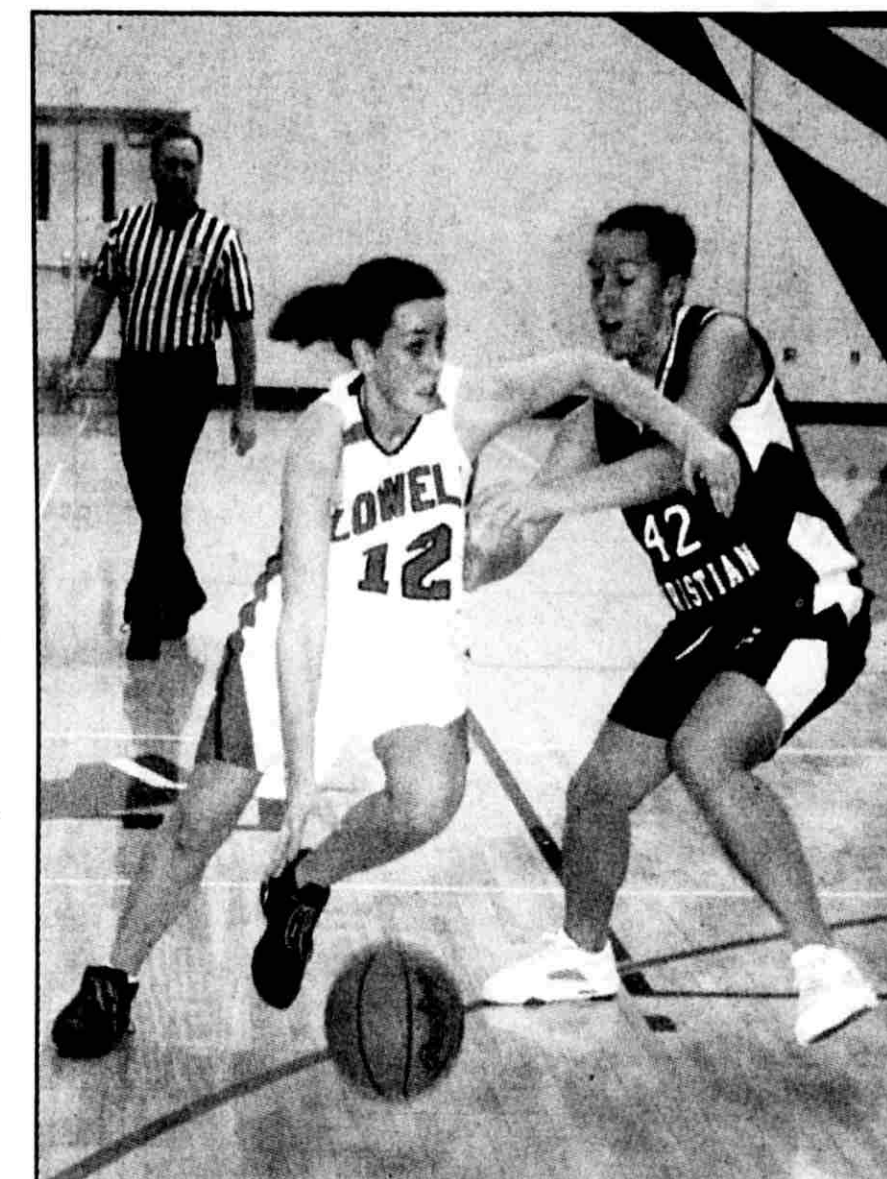
Oberlin led her team in points Friday night, with 11,

while Chelsea Harrison took in 8.

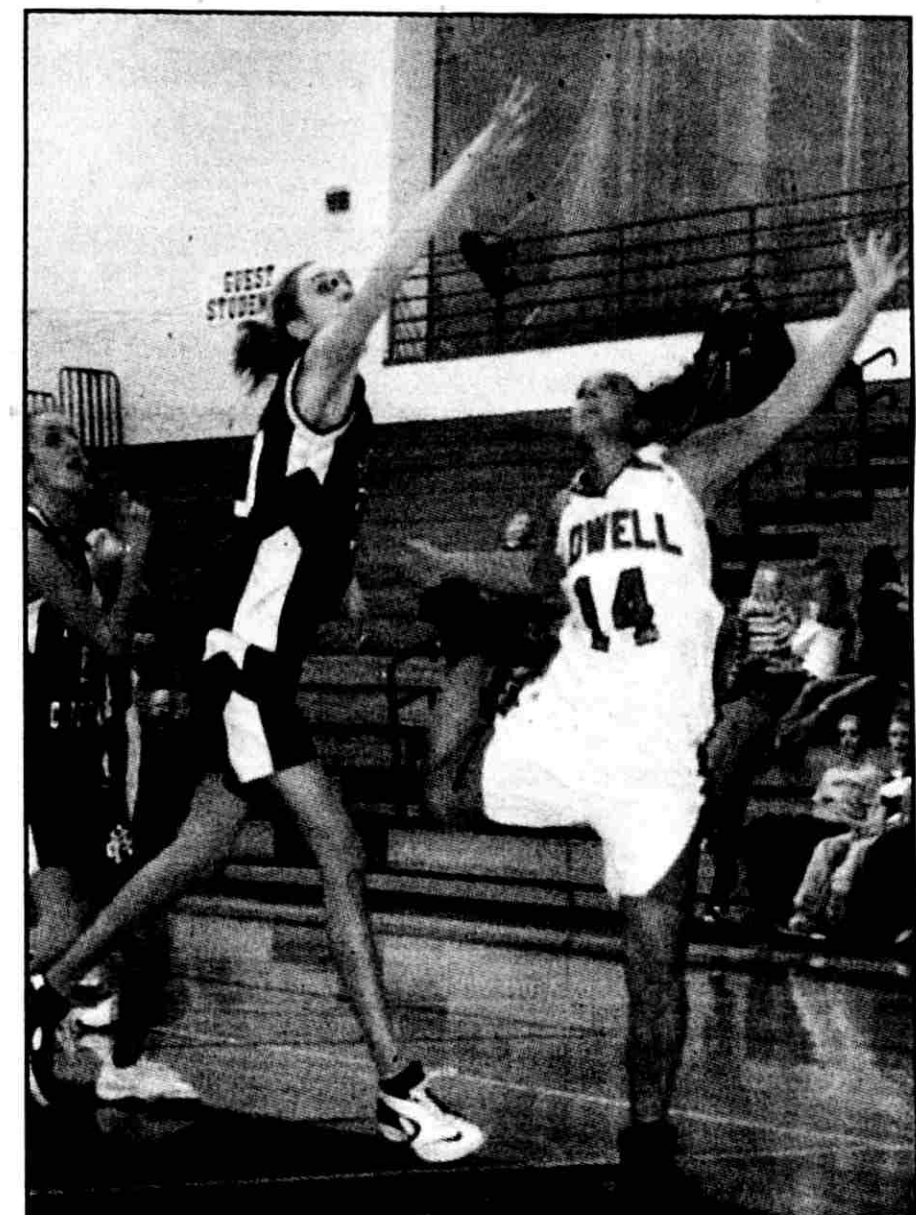
Next up for the team is the tournament action. "We're looking ahead to the tournaments now and we are very excited," Gallert said. "We know what we have to do to be able to win and I have no doubt we are capable of taking this district."

The team will compete in Rockford tonight at 7:30 p.m. and again on Friday with a win.

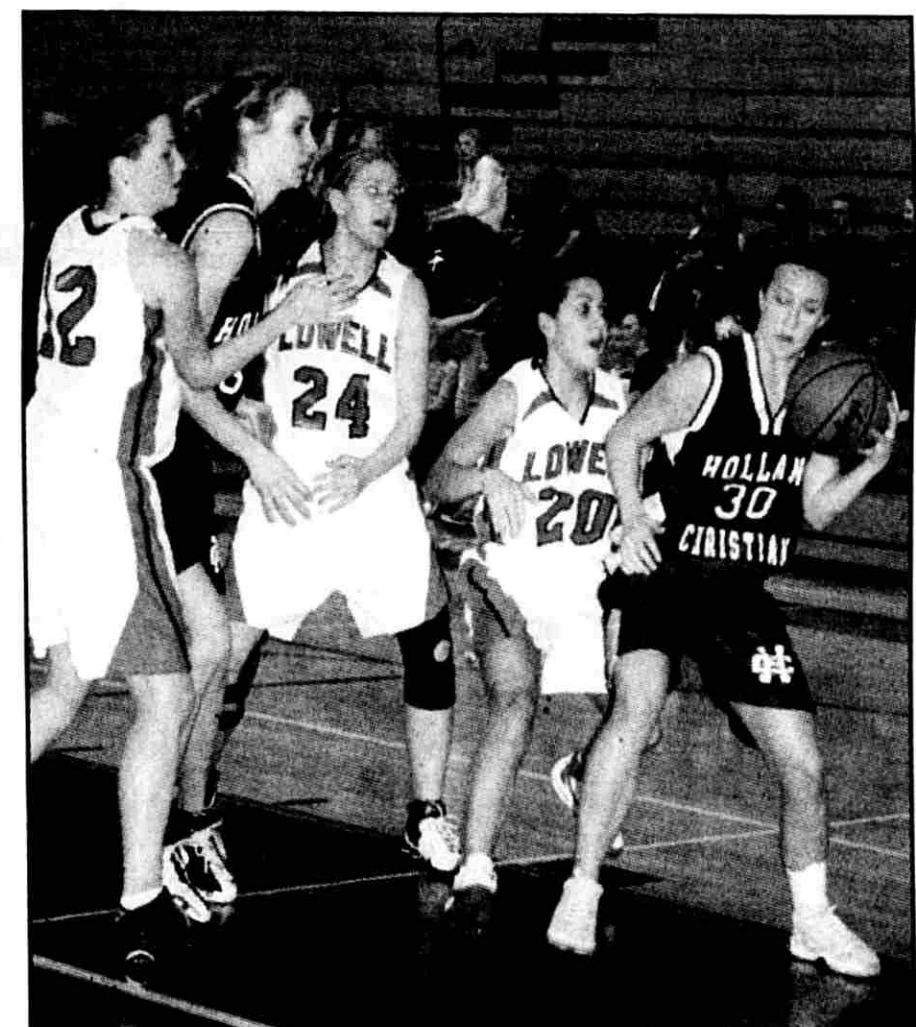
NEXT GAME
Wednesday, Feb. 20
7:30 p.m.
@ Rockford



Hannah Oberlin (12) takes the ball to the net.



Chelsea Harrison (14) reaches high for a basket.



Hannah Oberlin (12), Keri Fosburg (24) and Logan DeClercq (20) show tough D.

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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.

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Sound Off!

Question of the Week

The North Washington property - Should it be left as is, put into permanent preservation as a park, developed or a combination of both - developed and made into a park?

Sound Off

The Ledger
"Almost"
Anything
Goes Column



many crosses on road-sides for teens in Lowell.

It would be nice for Lowell Area Schools to publish what a main road means. It means one thing one week and another the next. **CONFUSING!!**

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Or CALL...897-0787

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

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

Why is it that smoking is banned in grocery stores where everything is packaged but smoking is allowed in eating establishments???

Knowledge should be free. Scientology is a scam.

Do not drive off without paying for gas! Did you know that the area gas stations make their employees either pay for your gas or they write the employee up!

Let's keep the fire hydrants cleared out, most in Lowell are covered with snow. (you may need it someday) Those that have been shoveling them out, kudos to you.

Congratulations to Betty Yeiter on her recent award..Person of the Year. She well deserved it! P.S. Betty was my 3rd grade teacher!! - Marilyn Nickless

I want to thank whoever plowed my side walk thank you very much.

How nice some people get their roads cleared by 8 a.m. Our road is plowed usually after 5pm. But, they are doing a great job!

Thank you to the man driving to Battle Creek daily and his winter driving tips. Maybe, some of these teens will listen. Too

Congratulations to the writer of "In My Opinion". A meaningful and well-written article with substance. Should write more often. - JH

What chance does Lowell have when the good people do nothing. Contact your councilmember and city manager today!

I would like to thank publicly the two ladies & gentleman who helped push my stuck car off an icy corner in Eastgate last Wednesday. Such kindness is so appreciated!

A big thank you to everyone who donates to Flat River Ministries Food Pantry. It is greatly appreciated.

Honest officer, I haven't been drinking. I've been just trying to dodge some potholes.



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Saturday: February 23 9 AM-1 PM
Wednesday: February 27 6-8 PM
Wednesday: March 5 6-8 PM
Saturday: March 8 9 AM-1 PM

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LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS BOARD BRIEFS

Lowell Area Schools Board of Education Regular Meeting of February 11, 2008

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA - The Board approved the addition of an agenda item to go into closed session to discuss a personnel matter following the Board Communications segment on the agenda.

PRINCIPAL WEEK RECOGNITION - School Board Vice-President Jim Turner read a proclamation from Governor Jennifer Granholm in honor of our principals in recognition of February 10-16, 2008 as Principals' Week.

REPORTS

Wege Land Update

Greg Pratt presented a report on the community recreational needs assessment which has been presented to Peter Wege for a potential land donation to the community of Lowell.

ACTION ITEMS

The Board accepted the following gifts:

- Martha Hayden donation of science videos valued at \$360 to be used by Cherry Creek Elementary.
- Robert Garcia donation of vinyl music albums valued at \$208 to be used by the WLHS Radio Club.

Approved the addition of Crew as a varsity sport as a non-funded sport.

CONSENT ITEMS - Approved/adopted were:

- January 14, 2008 Regular Board Meeting, the January 26, 2008 Board Retreat, the January 28, 2008 Special Meeting, and the January 28, 2008 Board Workshop

The following payment of bills for January 2008:
GENERAL FUND.....\$1,164,825.43
SCHOOL SERVICES FUND

A. Food Service Fund.....	\$65,874.60
B. Athletic Fund.....	\$ 5,884.39
TRUST AND AGENCY FUND	\$34,114.83
1990 Debt Fund.....	\$3,781.46
2000 Debt Fund.....	\$1,351.94
2004 Construction Fund.....	\$19,675.29
2007 Construction Fund.....	\$190,243.31

- Schools of Choice Resolution for the 2008-09 school year
- Personal Property Taxes Stricken

BUDGET UPDATE - John Zielinski reported that the 2004 bonds have been spent and the account is now closed. The 2007 bond projects are moving forward with construction to begin in the upcoming months. The Governor has shared her proposal for next year's state budget, and John will report more information as the budget goes through the next steps. The district is looking at refunding the 1997 bonds which will save the district about \$215,000 over a three year period. An RFP (request for proposal) has been posted to the website for copier replacement.

CURRICULUM UPDATE - Roger Bearup reported that he will share MEAP results next month as results have not been released. Wednesday night there will be a science night for elementary parents to experience first hand the Battle Creek Science kits and the learning

experiences received from this curriculum. The district's Change Leadership group continues to meet and to develop ways to move teachers from isolation to collaboration. The group is working on a collaborative model.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Greg Pratt thanked all the principals for their dedication to the students and parents and for their work ethic in arriving early and leaving late. The winter weather has been a challenge and he thanked the bus drivers, and maintenance and custodial crew in dealing with the snow and ice, and he stated that the district is looking at ways to improve the service in these trying weather conditions.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Board Workshop - Monday, February 25, 2008 - 6:00 p.m.
 Runciman Administration Building - Board Room
 300 High St., Lowell, MI

Regular Board Meeting -
 Monday, March 10, 2008 - 7:00 p.m.
 Runciman Administration Building - Board Room
 300 High St., Lowell, MI

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

MAYTAG WASHER & AMANA GAS DRYER - Both white, both approx. 15 years old. Look great & run great. \$300 for the pair. Call 949-7807.

1998 BUICK LESABRE FOR SALE - Under 60,000 miles, V6, air, new tires, 1 owner, very good condition. \$4,500 firm. Call 269-948-8507.

CHIHUAHUAS - Wonderful colors, but this pair must stay together, \$500 for both, 269-671-5348.

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FOR SALE - Pellet stove, works, needs encouragement, \$300 obo. Call 676-4126.

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

AIR BEDS - Selecta comfort firmness for each of you. Dual chambers. Digital remote, never used. Perfect for couples with different firmness needs. Queen \$795, king \$995. Air Bed Store, G.R., 682-4767 or 293-6160.

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

SEASONED FIREWOOD - mixed hardwood, \$170 a cord delivered. 893-5774.

HARLEY DAVIDSON - 2002 FatBoy, many extras, must sell, \$12,900. Call 868-9915.

FOR SALE - Bristol Springs race tickets, 6 cup, 6 bush, 6 pole. Great seats on front stretch. Paid \$952 reduced to \$650. Call 642-9123.

FOR SALE - 1997 Polaris Indy 500, 2,500 miles, great shape, \$1,400 obo. 616-642-9923.

2005 18 FOOT R&R ENCLOSED - aluminum snowmobile trailer. 3 place, black & chrome, drive on drive off. Dual stainless steel wheels. Asking \$5,550 or best. Call Mark at 897-8305 or cell at 616-299-0987.

BORDER COLLIES - \$50 to \$100; Boston Terriers, \$300; Jack Russell/Border Collie litter; Jack Russell, \$50 to \$225. 269-671-5348 or 269-623-8597.

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

FOR SALE - 1994 Ford F150 4x4 automatic with 140K miles. 4.9L 6 cylinder. Runs great, full bed liner. Good basic truck for \$1,800. Call 616-642-0625.

GREAT GIFT! - A picture pen! Will hold a 2 1/2" x 1 3/4" photo around the barrel of the pen! Only \$5.99 + tax. Perfect for Mother's Day or Father's Day! Available at the Buyers Guide office, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

FOR SALE - GE electric stove, \$50. Works great. Kenmore gas dryer, works great, \$50. Call 616-550-7933.

4 BEDROOM HOME - sitting on over 3 1/2 acres with a barn! Just \$94,900! Call Melinda Robison at 616-648-0151 or visit www.GoMelinda.com Five Star Real Estate 791-1500.

UPS SHIPPING AT THE LOWELL LEDGER! Call for a price quote! 897-9261

When calling please have zip code, weight & dimensions of box

CARD OF THANKS

THANK YOU to all that helped me move my goats, donkeys and equipment to the Michigan Wildlife Center.
 John Erickson

THANK YOU

The family of Josephine Willard-Onan. We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, flowers, and memorials to Lowell Senior Neighbors, Schneider Manor, Flat River Outreach Ministries. A special thank you to Lowell Rescue team Sandy Onan and Kathy Onan.

Sincerely,
 Mike & Linda Willard & family
 Jason Onan & family

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

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

CLARKSVILLE DUPLEX - 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer/dryer hookup, central air & 2 car attached garage. \$800 + utilities & security deposit. Call 616-374-5381.

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

FOR RENT - Lowell, 2 bedroom duplex, \$600 per month. Call 293-0980.

ROOM FOR RENT - New house, nice Ada area, smoke-free home, utilities paid, off street parking. Call 262-7567.

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

ROOMMATE WANTED - Alto area, convenient to I-96 & colleges. Upper level 1+ bedroom, shared bath & lower level. \$350 per month includes utilities. Immediate availability. Must have 1st months rent & references. Call 616-891-7800 for appointment/information.

WANTED

WANTED - Cash paid for motorcycles, running or not. Road bikes only. Call Bonz 616-446-8352.

WANTING TO BUY TV ANTENNA - Call 897-7145.

DEALERS WANTED - Antique & collectible sales. March 8 & 9, Sparta Civic Center. Call Jan at 616-678-5158 or 616-887-7986.

SALES

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

EXECUTIVE PARTNERS NEEDED - travel industry - huge demand. Work part-time/evenings. Earn up to \$40,000 first year. Call Keith Bart 616-292-1660.

DELIVERY DRIVER - CDL-A drivers needed. Looking for dependable customer service oriented person w/chauffeurs CDL-B, CDL-A license. Good working environment. Also hiring nights/weekends. 616-732-9954.

HELP WANTED - Ionia-based outlet hiring for several positions including customer service, general help, team leaders, & training managers. Rapid advancement, progressive pay, monthly bonuses, paid vacations & flexible hours. Over \$400/wk to start. No experience necessary. Full time & part time positions available immediately. Company will train for all positions. Call for interview 616-522-9804 Mon. - Thurs. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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

EVENTS

UNLIMITED SKATE & BOWL - Fri., Feb. 22, 7 to 10 p.m. at Roll Away Family Fun Center. \$8. Everyone welcomed. To help sponsor 8th grade trip.

AL HEATON BENEFIT - A benefit for Al Heaton will be held on Sat., Feb. 23 from 1 - 7 p.m. at Maccabee Hall in Smyrna. Food, silent auction, 50/50 and more. Proceeds are to help Al & his family with expenses incurred with Al's diagnosis of Leukemia. If there are questions or to give donations for the silent auction, please call Doug Anderson at Ridgeview Golf Club 616-794-0946 or by email ridgeviewgc@auiis.net. If unable to attend, donations may be made at FirstBank West Michigan, 105 S. Pearl St., Belding, MI 48809, to the Al & Shirley Heaton Benefit Account.

GUITAR LESSONS - All styles of American music on acoustic or electric, \$15 per half hour lesson. Call Mike at 616-635-0668.

SELL YOUR GOLD TO CHIMERA DESIGN - Old rings, broken jewelry, dental gold, single earrings, etc. We will pay you or you can take a store credit towards new jewelry, jewelry repair, or custom design. Chimera Design, 208 E. Main in Lowell. 616-897-9480.

ZO LAND DAYCARE HAS OPENINGS - on 1st, 2nd & 3rd shifts. Call 897-8386 or 308-0195.

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

IN MEMORIAM

IN LOVING MEMORY of our Mom, Grandmother and Great-Grandmother Ruth Lucas, who passed away February 25, 2007. Everyday in some small way memories of you come our way. In our hearts you will always stay. Loved and remembered everyday. We miss you so much.
 Lovingly remembered by your family,
 Bob & Joane Bailey & family
 Geri Conner & family
 Dick & Nancy Rice & family

GALLERY and CUSTOM FRAMING - Fire and Water Art! 219W. Main St., Lowell 890-1879. OPEN Wed. - Sun. 1-6 p.m. and Friday 1-7 p.m. NEW ART created by OUR 25 leading local artists! ART CLASSES! www.fire-and-water-art.com

WHY VANDERKLOK BUILDERS? - Owner Bill VanderKlok is on site making sure your home is done right! Call, start enjoying your new home's improvements. 897-7145.

ALTO DAYCARE - has 2 full time openings, infant - school age, fenced in back yard, food program. CPR trained. Call 868-0752.

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

YOUR MAN FRIDAY - Use my time to do what you want to do, so you can use your time to do what you want to do. 897-6173 for more information.

DUCK DUCK GOOS DAYCARE HAS OPENINGS! - Licensed, loving, learning enriched environment that is fun for your little person. Structured activities include art, music, stories, early math & science experiences & early language & literacy development. Call 897-9444.

GUITAR LESSONS - All styles of American music on acoustic or electric, \$15 per half hour lesson. Call Mike at 616-635-0668.

SEAMLESS GUTTER - Bleam Eavestrouthing. Free estimates, 50 colors, leaf guards. Since 1959. Choose the experience! (616) 765-3333 or 1-877-945-RAIN. www.bleameaves.com

DICK REURINK BARN SERVICE - Painting, roof coatings, new metal siding & roofing. Middleville, 269-795-7730.

RISNER ROOFING - serving you since 1961. Licensed & insured. Free estimates. Snow & ice removal. Call Steve, 868-6015 or Terry, 897-7968.

COPIES COPIES COPIES - Color & black & white copiers! Excellent quality! Stop by our office, Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway.

JUST ANNOUNCED! - Hastings Country Club - new rates for '08. Single membership, \$800 (reg. \$1,300); family membership, \$1,300 (reg. \$1,975). No initiation fee (\$300 savings). Hastings Country Club, 1550 N. Broadway, Hastings. 269-945-2756.

NEED A DUMPSTER - Want great service? 10, 15, 20 & 30 yards. Same day delivery. Best prices. Call Greg 616-915-0506.

UPHOLSTERY - Furniture, RV cushions, boat seats, dinette chairs, 50 years exp. Low prices, 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. Richard Kuyt Sr. 531-3309.

SMALL ENGINE REPAIR - Lawn mowers, ATV's, dirt bikes, snowmobiles & more. Pickup & delivery available. Give us a call, we do it all! Riverside Motorsports, 897-7348.

PLUMBER - Licensed, 17 yrs. experience. Residential service or new construction, reasonable rates. No emergency or after hours fee. Call Platinum Plumbing, 897-2575.

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

HELP US DELIVER THE PAPER... please DIG OUT around your newspaper tube, mailbox, steps, walkways & porches!

The U.S. Mail carriers and the folks who deliver your Buyers Guide would appreciate your help! Let's all try to HELP EACH OTHER survive the Winter.

SEAMLESS GUTTER - Bleam Eavestrouthing. Free estimates, 50 colors, leaf guards. Since 1959. Choose the experience! (616) 765-3333 or 1-877-945-RAIN. www.bleameaves.com

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- R/T PKG. • FULL LOADED
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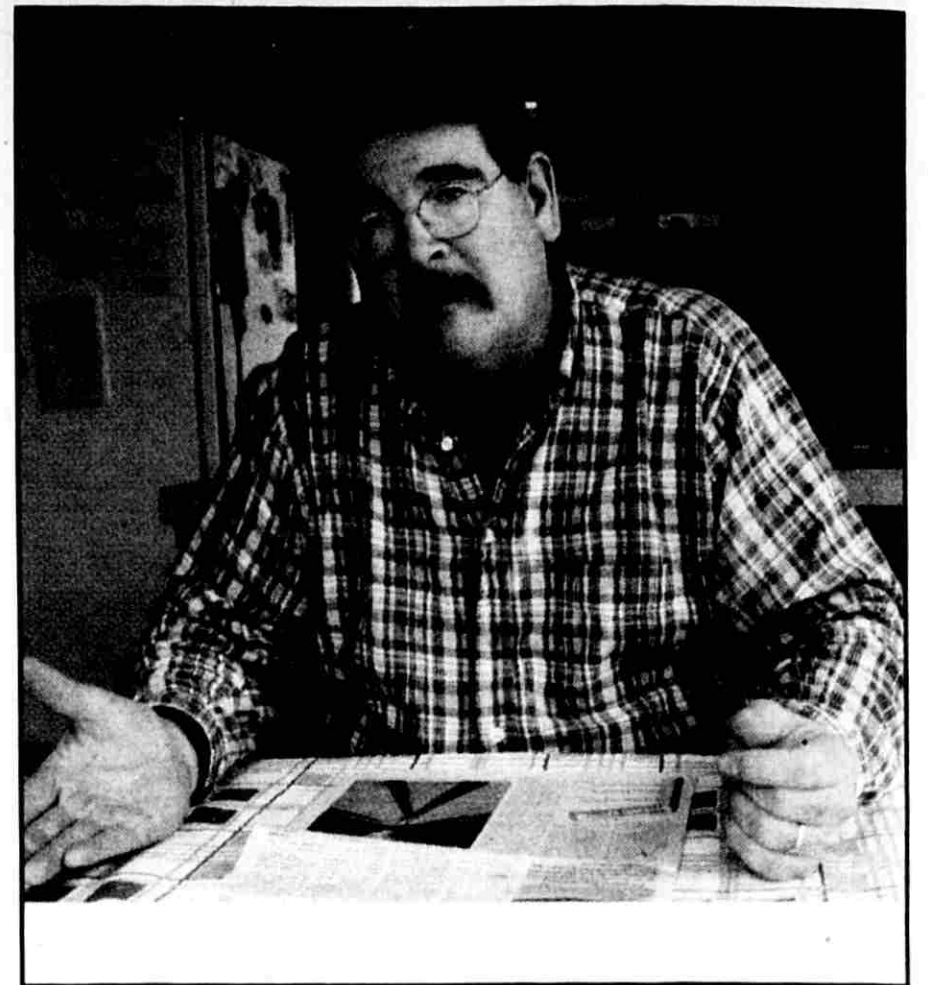


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Farmland preservation, continued ... From Page 11



Joseph Merriman talks about his disson to preserve his farm.

Merriman never backed out. However, he believes others may not have his patience.

"There are two reasons I didn't walk away," he said. "I needed the money and I believed in the program."

Merriman first learned about the preservation program at a seminar at the Lowell Township Hall in 2003. His goal was to get the land preserved rather than developed. It wasn't easy.

Although the program was offering an average of \$4,000 to \$5,000 per acre to farmers in other townships, Merriman was offered approximately half of that.

The reason was the difference in zoning in Lowell Township. Lowell Township has two agricultural zones, the more restrictive prime farmland zone Ag1 and Ag 2.

The Merriman farm was located in the strict Ag1 zone with little latitude for land splits. Merriman decided to have the land rezoned to Ag2. Following the rezoning, Merriman had to start the entire application process over.

Even then, he was still offered less money for the land deemed twice as valuable according to other appraisals.

"My intention was to get the appraisal accepted at the county level," he said. "I owed it to myself and to my neighbors."

His own out-of-pocket expenses included the cost of a survey amounting to \$6,000. Merriman also had to go down on the final appraisal of \$284,000 by \$50,000. However, the \$50,000 was tax deductible, and it was considered a contribution on the farmer's part toward the program.

But, the county at the closing time did not have that much money, and Merriman faced the choice

of either getting less or waiting until the program raised more money.

"It angered me that I had a value of \$284,000 and they were unable to pay," he said. "It could be a good program, but it has its growing pains."

Talk about growing up.

Although daughter Kendra plans to be a veterinarian, on the side she wants to farm just like her dad.

"I think farm preservation is a really good idea," said Kendra.

Along with DeeAnn, both sisters have reaped various 4-H trophies with their steers. Mom Susan is not only proud of her daughters, but is thankful for the opportunity to have the farmland preserved.

"It is essential that a small farmer is still around," she said. "I have seen farmland go to business and for development. Once it goes, it's gone forever."

So what's next for this pioneer of farmland preservation in Lowell Township, who works full time as a police dispatcher for the Wyoming and Grandville police department?

Well, Merriman plans to put into preservation another 14 acres of adjacent farmland along the Alden Nash corridor to spur agricultural-related business in the area.

"I will not spend any more money on this," he said. "It will be fair."

