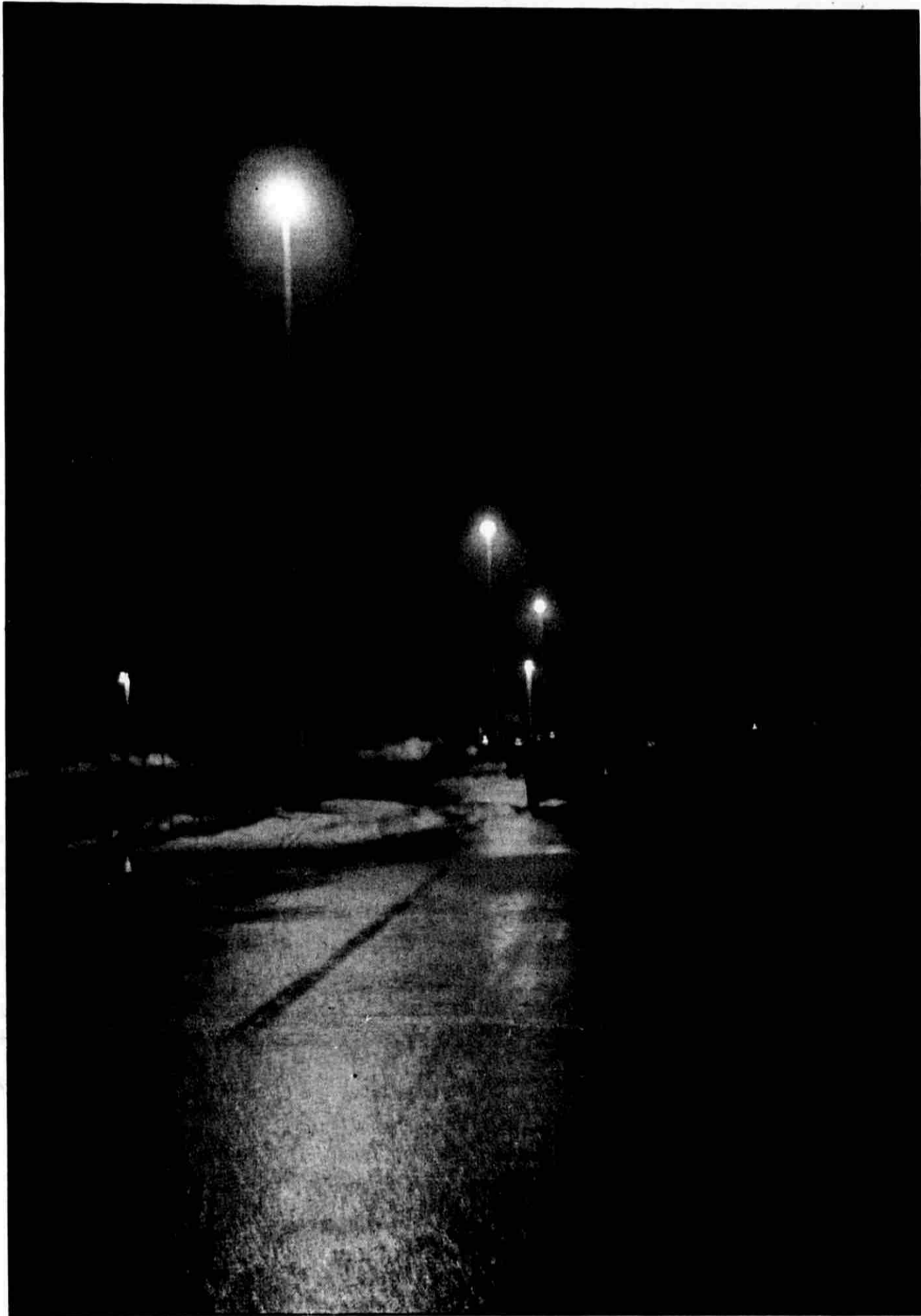


# The Lowell Ledger

Volume 37 Issue 16

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, February 27, 2008



## Officials attempt to shed light on regulations protecting dark skies

by Emma Palova

To protect dark skies, city planning officials shed some light on regulations determining the level of illumination Monday.

The proposed off-street parking lighting ordinance has been developed in sync with Lowell Township regulations over the last few years. It has now been set for a public hearing at the end of March.

"It's an important thing to be looking at this lighting ordinance," said Dennis Sanford.

Lowell Township has developed a lighting ordinance to protect the skies for astronomy fans of the Veen Observatory located in the township. The need to further regulate lighting was also driven by the location of a large gas

station in Lowell Township in close proximity of I-96.

"We're trying to maintain the skies as dark as we can," said Sanford. "We have an active membership of the observatory, and up to 4,000 visitors in summer."

Gerry Persha, of Lowell Township, explained some of the dynamics of the lighting regulations. The ordinance sets forth maximum lumen levels.

"This is Gerry's artwork," said vice-

The levels of illumination have to be adjusted to standards determined by the national Dark Skies Association.

The measures aim to curtail the degradation on the nighttime visual environment by encouraging the correct implementation of exterior lighting.

Currently, in compliance are boxed lights directing the light beam into the ground, such as at the Meijer store.

At their

next meeting, the planning commission will discuss the civil infractions

-Dennis Sanford

*"We're trying to maintain the skies as dark as we can."*

chairman Clark Jahnke.

The illumination coming from lights on parking lots in front of big box stores and gas stations is measured three feet above the soil.

"I bought a light meter to enforce this," said Persha.

ordinance. The ordinance will identify a schedule of fines for each of the Code of Ordinance violations that constitute civil infractions. Currently, civil infractions are handled by the Lowell Police Department.

Box lights direct the light beam toward the ground.

## Local women brave cold on *Girls' Night Out*

by Emma Palova

It was chocolate, champagne and chili at last week's premiere shopping event for girls.

On a cold February evening, the smell of chili at the Hanger fashion store tickled the nose. Owner Kristina Laux with clerk Sam Snyder welcomed the Girls' Night Out gang with hugs.

That same warm atmosphere echoed through all the participating stores.

It was Monbana chocolate, champagne and chardonnay at the Glass House Designs. Kim Davis decided to shop for jewelry, while owner Susan Molnar showed customers whimsical designs.

"Everybody needs a little bit of fun," said Davis. "It's like a mid-winter break."

Yes, it was a, much needed break from winter doldrums. What better way to spend the evening than



Diane LaWarre and Nancy Wood munch at the museum.

browsing through Lowell's unique shops?

Molnar said the fall version of the event draws up to 800 women out.

"It's a big draw," she said. "It started out as a customer appreciation event at Hallmark. The rest of us picked up on it."

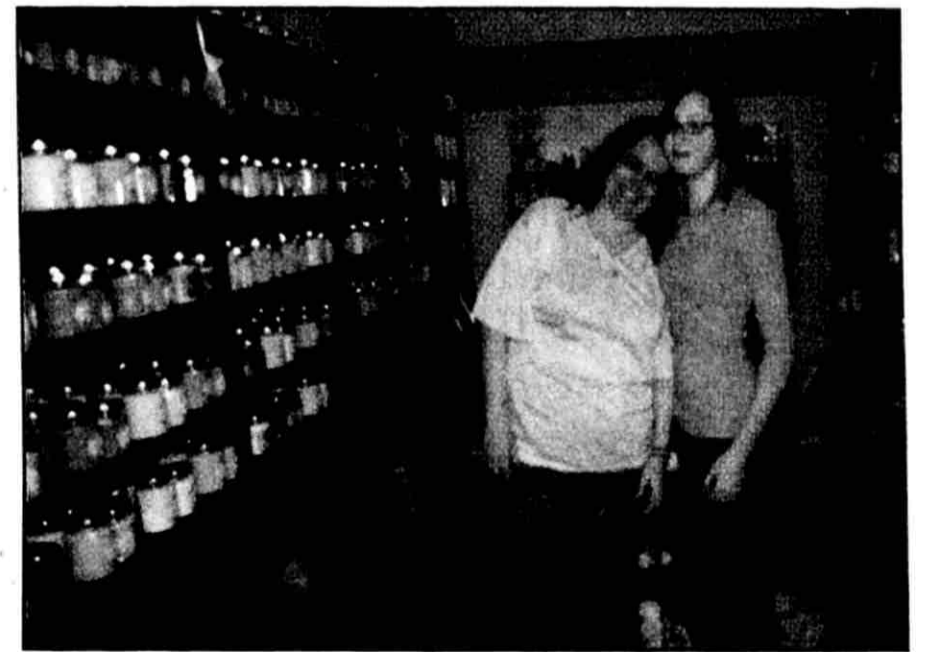
At Hallmark three generations of girls decided to check out the deals. For Sherry Nelson, with

daughter Kate, venturing out was a nice break from staying home.

"I can leave home, get some snacks and good deals," said Nelson while Kate was taking pictures with her toy camera.

Clerks Tiffany Pitkin and Lynn Claous, who always work that night,

*Girls' Night Out, cont'd., pg. 10*



Christine Miller and Lonni Hudson at the Lily Pad.



Kim Davis shopped for jewelry at the Glass House Designs last week.

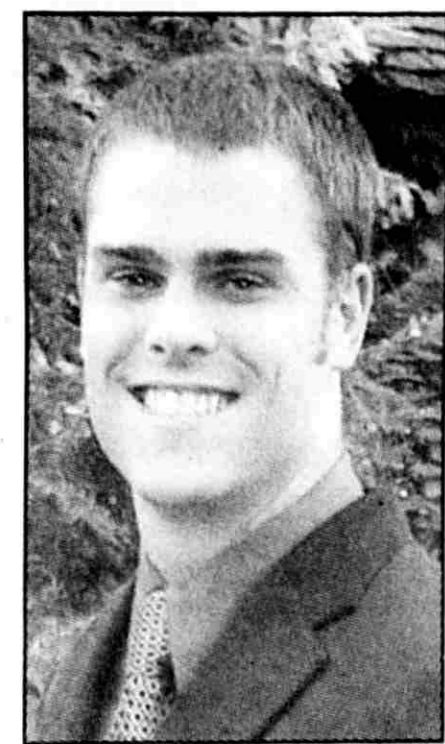
Inside  
**The Lowell Ledger**

Behind  
 The Scenes  
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Signs, Signs ... Page 4



# Obituaries



**BENEDICT**  
Andrew Charles Benedict, aged 21 of Lowell, Highmarked into Heaven on his Skidoo Summit on Feb. 19. He was preceded in death by his great-grandparents, Robert & Pauline Eskes and Maxine Halladay; grandparents, Ronald and Verla Carey. He is survived by his parents, Ray and Ronda Benedict; sister, Jacquelyn; his love and soulmate, Nicole Cooper of Niles; grandparents, Art and Gladys Benedict; many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. Andrew was

blessed to have a second set of parents, Joe and Kim Eckelstafer. Andrew is a 2004 graduate of Lowell High School and was set to graduate from CMU in May with a degree in accounting. He was employed at Rogers Athletic in Clare. Andrew loved sharing his life with Nicole, friends and family. He loved camping trips with the entire family, especially spending time with his little cousins. His favorite vacation was snowmobiling in the mountains. In the summer months he loved playing softball with his sister, Dad and Grandpa. He also enjoyed a good game of beer pong. In his giving spirit, his organs will live on in others through Gift of Life. Funeral services were held Sunday at Ada Bible Church. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Kent County Humane Society, Margo Jonker Stadium Naming Project at CMU, or Kalkaska County Sheriff Snowmobile Rescue Fund.

## 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:

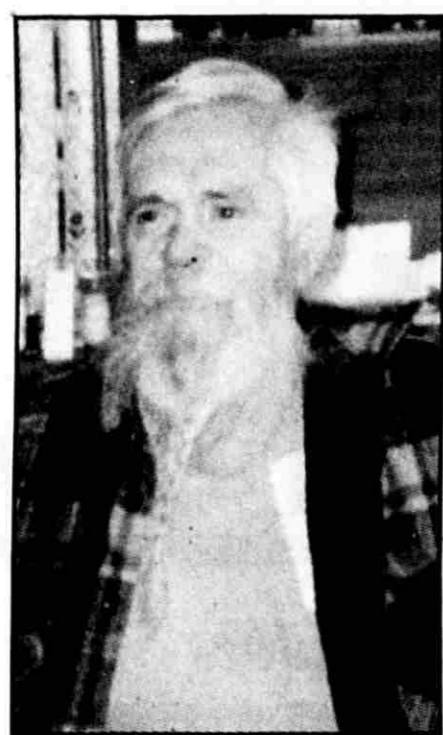
FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2008 10:00 A.M. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2008 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.  
THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2008 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 NOON 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. (EVENING HOURS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY).

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



### BEVIER

Clifford G. BeVier aged 75 of Lowell passed away Sunday, February 24, 2008. He is survived by his wife of 23 years, Patricia; children, Cindy Wiggins, Debra (Bill) Bowden Terrie Carlson, Robert (Annette) BeVier, David BeVier, Millie Fowler; sister, Betty (Bill) Rietcher; brother Jim (Bernie) BeVier; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; many good friends. Cliff retired from Forest Hills Public Schools as the groundskeeper. Then he went on to do more hunting, fishing and he was on the men's bowling league at the Moose Lodge for years. He played pool on the men's pool league for years at the Alto America Legion. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. He was a member of the Lowell Moose Lodge 809 and American Legion 108 for 28 years, also life member of Dad's of Foreign Service Veterans. Funeral services will be 11 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 28 at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, with Pastor Greg Freed of Elmdale Church of the Nazarene, officiating. Visitation will be 2-4 PM and 6-8 PM Wednesday at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Clifford BeVier Family Fund, c/o Roth-Gerst Funeral Home.

### DEWITT

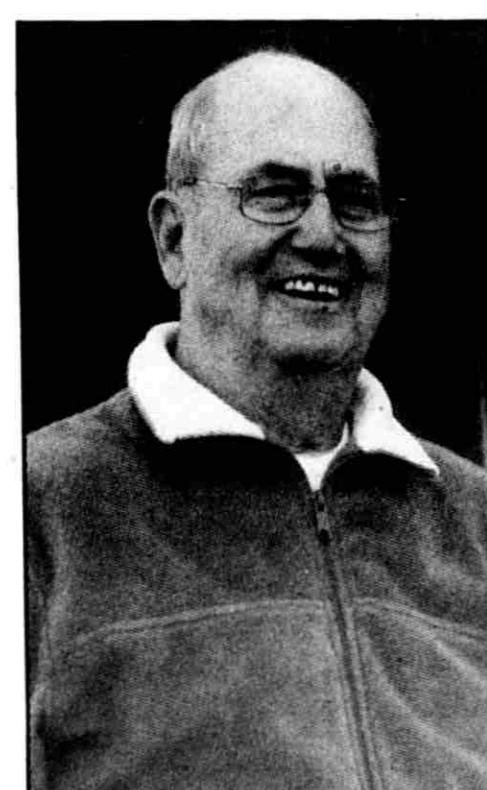
Harold A. (Bud) DeWitt, aged 82 of Saranac, went to be with his Lord Thursday,



### JOHNSON

Treva Bell (Rice) Johnson of Lowell, born February 21, 1925 in Grand Rapids was taken to her heavenly home to be with her Lord and Savior on Saturday, February 16, 2008 after an acute illness while

In Loving Memory of  
"SNOWBALL" ALEXANDER  
6/12/27 - 2/28/07



It's been a long year since you left us. Thoughts and memories of you are with us every day. Continue to watch over us.  
Love always,  
Your family

February 21, 2008. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Geraldine, stepdaughter and son-in-law, Cheryl and Donald Alexander, and his sister, Patricia Sheldon. Surviving are his wife of 29 years, Beverly; his children, Linda and Doug Marker, Terry and Robin DeWitt, Denny DeWitt, Cheryl and Mitch McNeal, Chris Bierlein, Cindy and Dan Bolhuis; step children, Kim and Rick Triplett, Catherine and David Wisner, Chris and Dean Pampanio, Sue and Tim Hendrick. Many grandchildren, great grandchildren, his sisters-in-law, Helen Carpenter and Connie Hagg, a special nephew, Doug Coverston and many other nieces and nephews. Bud loved to golf and had a passion for fishing and tying flies, he also served with the U.S. Army in France during WWII. In keeping with his wishes, cremation has taken place and a Service of Remembrance will be held Tuesday, March 4 at 6 p.m. at Saranac Community Church, 125 Bridge St. with Rev. John Madvig officiating. Relatives and friends may meet his family at the church one hour before the service. For those who wish, memorials may be made to Hospice of Michigan.

in Bradenton, FL. She is survived by Martin, her teenage sweetheart and husband of 66 years; her children, Randy (Ruth) Johnson of Avon, IN; Sharyl Seese of Seward, AK; Pat Lowery-Klingler of Bradenton, FL; Yvonne (Roger) Wolfe of Tavares, FL; Keith (Beth) Johnson of Lowell, Jaclyn Ashla and Mitch McNeal, Chris Bierlein, Cindy and Dan Bolhuis; 35 great-grandchildren; 4 great, great-grandchildren. Also surviving are foster brother, Gus (Donna) Karsten and sister-in-laws Mildred Earl; Kay (Bud) Alicki; Erma Johnson and Betty (Roger) Johnson. Treva was an active and beloved member of the First United Methodist Church (UMC) of Lowell; MI and FL Chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution; the FL Mayflower Society; the Lowell Senior Neighbors; several Historical Societies and the American Legion Auxiliary. She participated in leadership rolls with numerous charity fundraisers. She enjoyed sharing her love of family, genealogy, crafting and traveling. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 19, at 11 a.m. at the First UMC of Lowell. Prior to this service, husband Martin will be relocated to a nursing facility in Bradenton, FL. We sincerely appreciate all the prayers and concern that she received from family members and friends during her recent illness. Memorial contributions may be made to your local Hospice House, the Lowell Senior Neighbors or the First UMC of Lowell.

### SOULES

Ronald P. Soules aged 50 of Lowell passed away unexpectedly Sunday, Feb. 24, 2008. He was preceded in death by his mother, Gladys McLeod and best friend, "Sassy". He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 25 years, Christi; son, Eric; daughter, Erin; father, Dean McLeod; one brother, Chris (Terri) Soules; two sisters, Kerri (Russell)

## The Lowell Ledger

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Sharon and Amy (Scott) Luna; loving in-laws and extended family members. Memorial service will be 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27 at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson St. Lowell; with Pastor Jill Forton of Cascade Christian Church officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Ronald P. Soules Family, c/o Roth-Gerst Funeral Home.

### ZIMMERMAN

Sharon (Wingeier) Zimmerman aged 58 of Nashville, Tenn. formerly from Alto, passed away February 18, 2008. She was preceded in death by her parents, David and Bertha Wingeier. She is survived by her husband of 37 years, Terry; five children, Bryan, Doug (Sara), Suzanne, Bradley and Kristin; four grandchildren; Nicholas, Samuel, Benjamin, and Annemarie; brothers, Stanford (Elaine) Wingeier, Larry (Carol) Wingeier and Bruce (Tammi) Wingeier all of Alto. She graduated from Lowell Senior High School in 1968 and went on to graduate from Illinois State University in 1973. Terry and Sharon were married in June of 1970. Later they moved to Brazil, South America in 1998 to be involved in missionary work with Project Amazon and were there until December of 2005, then moved back to the states to Nashville Tenn. Sharon had been ill for three years before her death. Funeral services were held Friday at the Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, Interment Bowne Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to: Project Amazon, P.O. 3253, Peoria, Illinois 61612.

## Annual Crop Walk slated for May 4

Come rain or shine, many area residents are gearing up to join in the 14th annual Lowell Crop Walk on Sunday, May 4 at 1:30 p.m. The 6.2-mile (10-kilometer) walk will begin and end at the Flat River Outreach Ministries building, 11535 Fulton St. East, Lowell. A shorter 3.1-mile walk is also offered.

Organized locally, the Lowell Crop Walk has set a goal of 150 walkers and hopes to raise \$20,000 to help stop hunger here in our community and around the world, through self-help development initiatives. A portion of the funds raised

in Lowell will go to the food pantry at F.R.O.M. and to Lowell Senior Neighbors.

Last year, 125 walkers raised more than \$15,000.

This year, Lowell and towns nationwide are joining together in interfaith community crop walks around the theme, "Walking Together". Many crop walkers will be wearing "Walking Together" t-shirts, proclaiming their solidarity with the millions of neighbors around the world who have to walk to live, as well as with the millions served by local food pantries, food banks,

and meal sites here in the U.S. These local ministries share in the funds raised by crop walks.

Africa is one part of the world where crop walks are making a big difference, in helping people grow food for their families, providing clean water to villages, working to assure that schools are zones of safety and learning, in the struggle against the AIDS pandemic and in countless other ways. And this year, Africa presents special challenges, with the uprooting of millions in the Darfur region of Sudan by government-

sanctioned violence, and the severe drought-induced food shortage plaguing Niger and other parts of the Sahel region. Crop walks are also making a big difference in communities recovering from Hurricane Katrina, enabling Church World Service to have emergency responders trained and equipped to assist relief and long-term recover efforts along the Gulf Coast.

For more information about the Lowell Crop Walk, contact First United Methodist Church of Lowell at (616) 897-5936.

## Friends and family join to help victims of house fire



On Saturday, the Kent County Youth Fair sponsored a benefit dinner for the Reyburn family who lost their home to fire on Jan. 19. Hundreds of people showed up for some great food, conversation and to help a family in need. Several thousand dollars were raised. Pictured with Debra and Larry Reyburn are some of the many friends and family who volunteered to help with the fundraising event.

Photo submitted by Bruce Dall

## Man dies of injuries from snowmobile accident

Andrew Benedict, 21, from Lowell, died Tuesday night after being injured in a snowmobile accident in Kalkaska County, near Traverse City.

Benedict was taken to Munson Hospital in Traverse City following the accident on Saturday. His father said he suffered severe head trauma, but was wearing a helmet when the accident

occurred. He was taken off a drug-induced coma early in the week.

Benedict was a senior at Central Michigan University and a 2004 graduate of Lowell High School. Funeral services took place Sunday at Ada Bible Church.

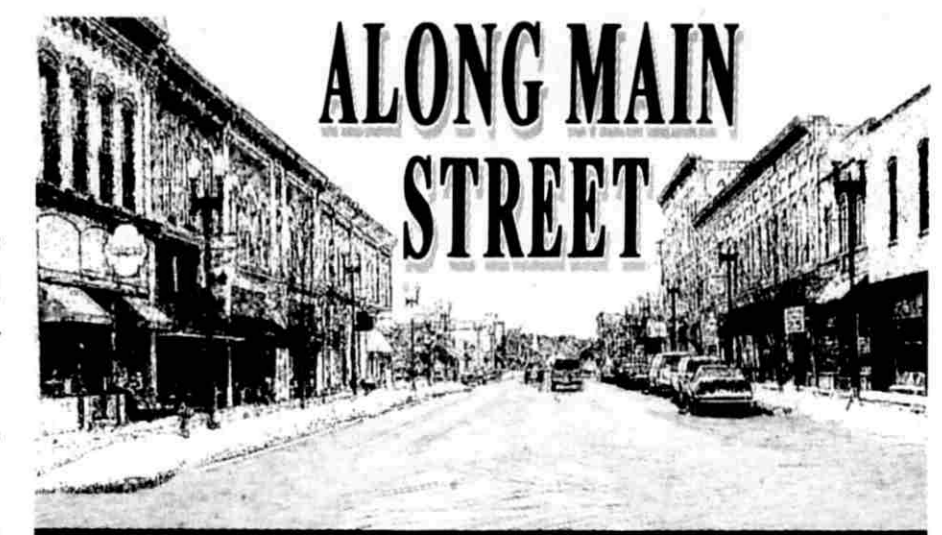
Compassion is the basis of all morality.

- Arthur Schopenhauer (1788 - 1860)

**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
**Mariah Moore**  
on your two gold and one silver medal at Nationals for karate!  
- Larry & Rose

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SHOWTIMES 2/28 - 2/29 No passes  
VANTAGE POINT (PG-13) 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00  
WELCOME HOME ROSCOE JENKINS (PG-13) 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50  
THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES (PG) 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:20  
JUMPER (PG-13) 11:10, 1:15, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30, 9:35  
FOOL'S GOLD (PG-13) 11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:25  
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## ALONG MAIN STREET

### LHS FRESHMAN PARENT MEETING

Meeting to provide valuable information regarding the overnight field trip that all freshmen will be attending this spring. Wed., Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. in the Lowell Performing Arts Center, 987-2950.

### NEW EXHIBITS AT 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.

### LAS ATHLETIC CLUB MEETING

Their regular business meeting will be held Mon., March 3 at 7 p.m. in the high school staff lounge.

### 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.

### LOWELL WOMEN'S CLUB GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Lowell Women's Club will be requiring grant applications this year. Grant request information is available on our website at www.lowellwomensclub.org. Applications are due by March 15. For further information contact Becky Reagan at 897-9656.

### TOBACCO FREE FOR GOOD

Open house/class reunion on Tuesday, March 18, 6-8 p.m. at Lowell Family Medical Center, 2550 W. Main St. This event is open to anyone who attended a TFFG class during 2007 or 2008. Please RSVP at 616-446-7058.

### STORY OF EMMA COLE

The Lowell Area Historical Museum and the Friends of the Library will bring to you the Secret Gardens - The Story of Emma Cole. This program will be at the Lowell Township Hall, March 18 at 7 p.m.

### 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.

### F.R.O.M. FOOD PANTRY

The pantry is presently in need of canned fruits, juices, cereal, green beans and corn. Please help if you are able.

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



# Temporary signs to hang around a bit longer

by Emma Palova  
Temporary signs announcing sales in commercial districts will now be allowed for up to 60 days following the city's planning commission recommendation.

commission spent more than a year mulling the issue. In the past temporary signs were allowed to be displayed for only 21 days. According to city officials, the enforcement of the ordinance was a nightmare. "We need to take care of business now," said vice-chairman Clark Jahnke. "We recommend this to the city council for approval."

Building inspector Doug Hopkins said the enforcement along with a log system should now be easier. "I don't see any problems with it," he said. However, opposing the decision was Lowell Township representative Dennis Sanford. "I am not in favor of 60 days," he said. "You

could have signs around 66 percent of the year." Roger Gardner of Good Chevrolet, who spearheaded the issue, said he has to be able to compete with other dealerships located in the township. Officials feared all along the town would look tacky if too many haphazard signs were allowed.

"If the town starts looking tacky we will revisit this," chair Maryalene LaPonsie said. "I want something with Lowell Township that will mesh." Gardner defended his cause with an anecdote. "I've explained this before," he said. "When my mother saw balloons at a

dealership, she said: They must be having a sale." Gardner also explained that if he goes overboard with sales signs, it will negatively impact his business. "I need to operate in this community," he said. "This is a fair compromise."

## Outdoors

By Dave Stegehuis

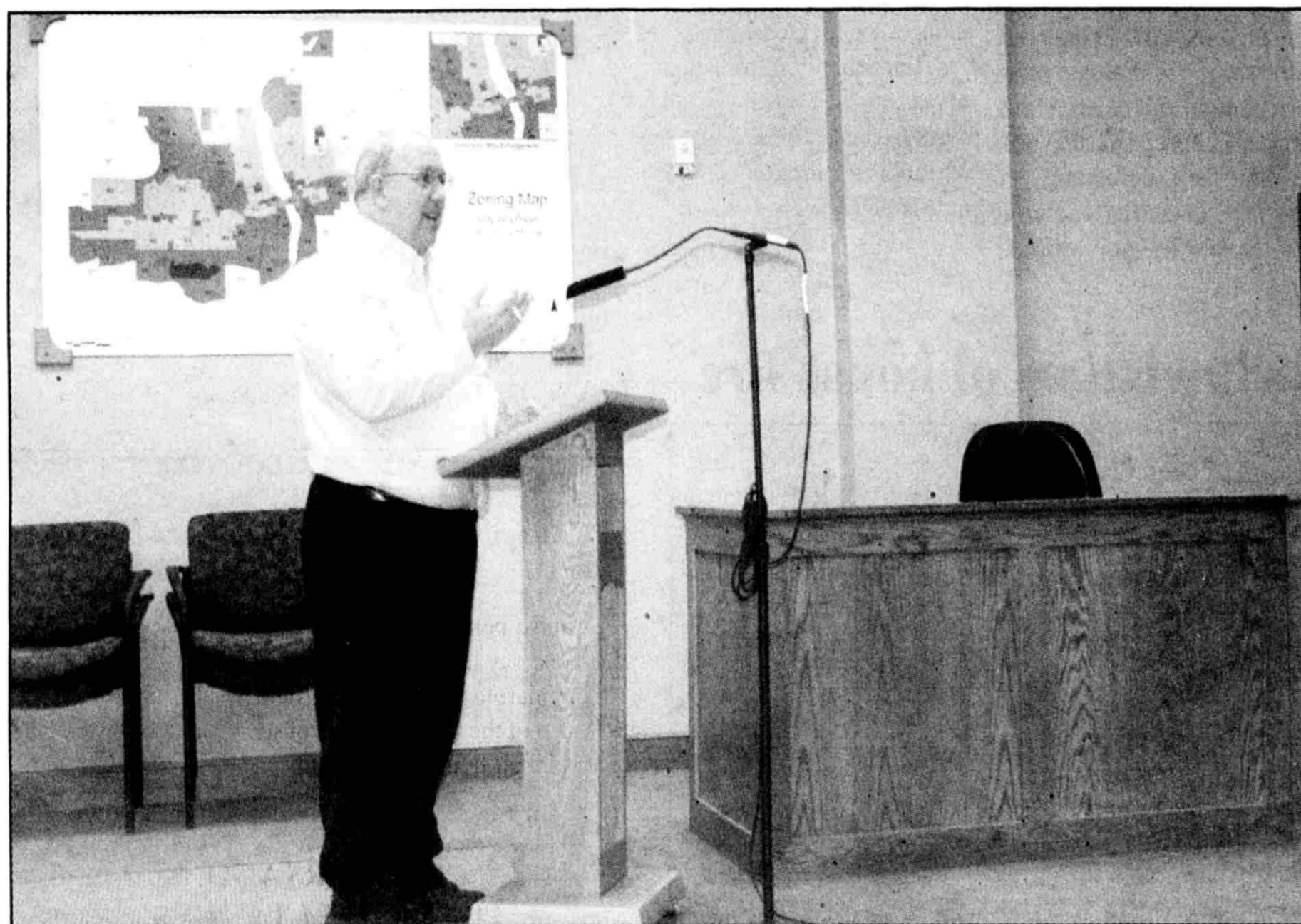


### GO FISH

Hunting and fishing have always been part of Michigan's cultural identity. If one does not hunt or fish, he or she probably knows someone who does. It could be a relative, friend, or co-worker. There are 721,000 hunters and 1 million anglers in Michigan. These folks have a significant impact on Michigan's economy. During what would appear to be dark economic times in Michigan, there is a bright light shining on businesses and industries related to hunting and fishing. A recent report by the Congressional Sportsman's Foundation revealed the importance of hunting and fishing to the economy of Michigan and the nation.

In 2007, Michigan's 1.37 million hunters and anglers along with 350,000 nonresident sportsmen spent \$3.4 billion (That's billion with a "b") on hunting and fishing. This spending supported 46,000 jobs and produced \$1.7 billion in earning for state residents. An average of \$9.4 million per day was funneled into the state's economy. The

Outdoors, cont'd., pg. 12



Rodger Gardner addresses the planning commission

## Cherry Creek celebrates reading and writing

Gary Bower visited Cherry Creek elementary recently and provided a visual tour of how to collect ideas from everyday occurrences and then create a story. This Michigan author from Traverse City invited all Cherry Creek students to turn off the TV and get involved with seeing and thinking as a source for exciting ideas for their personal writing. Mr. Bower's visit provided the kick-off to our school's Building Bridges: One School + One Book = One Community activity and was funded from a school to career grant. As children left his presentation, they were seen gathering paper and pencil while busily authoring their own masterpieces. Please join the Cherry Creek families as we celebrate the culmination of this event on Thursday, March 27 from 6:30-8 p.m.



### 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

What's Your Sport?

Keep Caught Up On All The Action In The Lowell Ledger

## RESERVE YOUR SEAT

*The Latest on Osteoporosis/Fractures And What You Can Do About It*

**Orthopedic Surgeon**  
**Dr. Randy F.R. Lovell III,**  
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**CALL to reserve a seat • (616) 897-8473**

# Viewpoint

## To The Editor

Dear Editor,

As a parent of a Lowell Middle School student who plays a larger band instrument, I drive my son (and that instrument) to school every morning.

I have watched the line of cars doing the same all year with some frustration, just as I imagine other parents and the security personnel do. Obviously it is every parent's personal decision whether to drive their child to school or have him/her ride a bus. (I was fortunate - our older child played flute and that fit nicely on a bus!) However, the middle school parking lot at 7:30 a.m. is one of the scariest places I have ever driven - at one time we lived in major east coast cities, so traffic is not particularly intimidating for me! The snarl of vehicles trying to cross high school traffic to get to the middle school from the west or northwest is the first obstacle marking what is to come.

Crossing Alden Nash or making a left turn from it onto Foreman as kids and parents fly down the road is an intense event made all the more challenging by our winter's icy roads this year. Every morning I wish the Lowell Police Dept. was directing traffic at the Foreman/Alden Nash intersection, but then I think between ice, darkness and speeders flying over the hill from the south, that would probably be a rather deadly occupation! Accomplishing the feat of crossing that intersection would seem to be enough, but more issues lie ahead as you get closer to the middle school. Cars approaching from every direction and cars leaving, not just from the final end of the line, but pulling out of line after children have jumped out to hurry off as the line hasn't been able to move quickly and kids are likely to be late to class. As I have watched the cars ahead of me, I see them pull up, directly across from a set of school doors, to the very closest possible position, even if that means leaving a space of four-car lengths with no vehicles ahead of them, when letting passengers out. If we were discussing handicapped children, I might understand that, but we are not. These are relatively lively kids (even that early in the a.m. - not bad for teens or nearly teens!), most of which have perhaps a backpack and maybe a small purse to carry. I do not see parents pulling even three-car lengths past a door so that perhaps six or eight cars could unload at the same time, then wait for the cars ahead to pull around and leave in a somewhat organized manner. No, we pull right up to the closest position to the door, perhaps say a few pleasant things to send our child on for a good morning and then pull across the lot in whatever direction we choose, sometimes not bothering to notice there are others doing similar things - amazing there aren't more accidents. I have asked the security guard why he does not request people pull forward so more kids can be unloaded more efficiently, and apparently last year he had a father become furious with him re: such a request, getting out of his car and threatening him physically as well as using abusive language.

The security guard would greatly prefer to limit interaction with parents! I have asked the school why there aren't signs that say "Pull Up to Here Before Unloading" and have been told they were "on order". That was months ago. Perhaps they have been ordered,

but wouldn't this be a neat wood shop project for either the middle school or high school kids? The schools all require community service projects from the students - isn't the goal to help them feel ownership of their communities and grow into responsible contributing community members?

Might it not be cheaper as well? No, they might not be the most professional-looking signs, but I sure see a lot of unprofessional-looking garage sale signs in warmer weather that seem to do the job of communicating quite well. I understand from school staff that last year, a student was actually hit in a parking lot under similar "hurried and harried parent" circumstances at Cherry Creek - by the student's own parent's car! The schools do all post and include info in newsletters re: drop off and pick up policies, but posting this does not mean parents are reading it - obviously. Not a single one of us parents is so important that we should be allowed to jeopardize any student's - or any person's (teacher, staff and volunteer parking lot at middle school) - safety. Sorry guys, but we drivers simply aren't that important.

We all live in a faster paced world - I accept that. However, I also accept that we have a responsibility to safety. That includes all the kids and people in our community, not just those who live with us. We often shake our heads at how disrespectful youth has become, but how often do we look at our own behavior and reflect on our part in showing them the "me first" or "me only" attitude? I am hoping if only a few parents in our community read this and just think when dropping off kids at schools, they will set an example to start being considerate of others and all-around safer drivers in all the school parking lots - before there is another incident of a child or adult getting hit by a car there.

We don't need to spend money on fancy signs, lanes dividers, etc., for this to happen, but we do need to take responsibility for our own actions and consider "everyone's need". We would all get through the line a lot faster this way in the long run if eight cars unloaded at a time rather than two or three. If that means a son or daughter has to walk an extra 20 feet, it might actually be beneficial to their health anyway!

Michelle Kendall

Dear Editor,

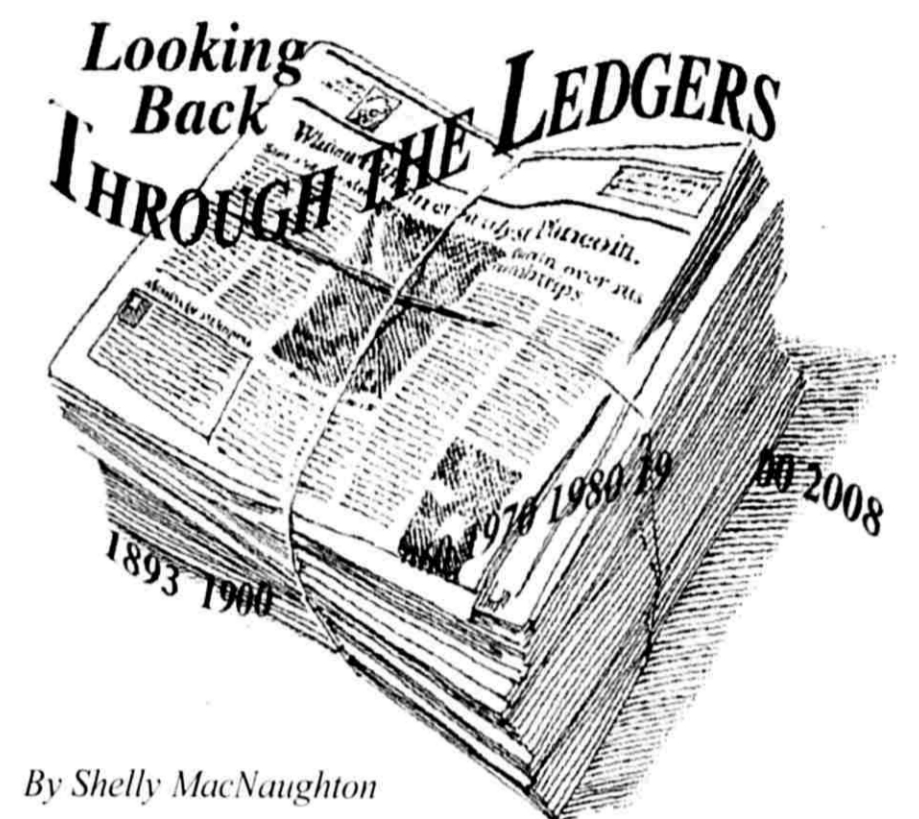
I recently observed a work session of the Lowell city council where part of the council's agenda was a discussion on establishing a fund board for the proceeds from the now-defunct Lowell Cable TV and how the proceeds will be spent. A Feb. 13 edition of the Lowell Ledger described a squabble over who will determine what will get funded from the deep coffers of the \$2.8 million fund. In addition to that description, I myself saw a work session where one person practically dominated the discussion. Maybe if we hold both thoughts, we would be closer in a total description of what happened. Maybe our council will right itself and come to the conclusion that the constituents of Lowell would and should lead the way through public work sessions where the constituents of Lowell will have the ultimate say in who is on the board and how the proceeds will be spent.

Sincerely,  
Jim Howard

## 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.



By Shelly MacNaughton

### 125 YEARS AGO LOWELL JOURNAL FEBRUARY 28, 1883

A horse belonging to A. Rowland of this place fell on the ice one day this week, and was killed.

The marble fever is raging among the small boys; as sure a sign of the near approach of spring, as though the wild geese were all flying to the north.

### 100 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER FEBRUARY 27, 1908

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Weeks, a two-story house near Murray's Lake, burned to the ground Tuesday morning. The house was insured for \$400 and the household goods for \$200. The family escaped without injury and saved the greater portion of their furniture.

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

Headline: Founder of the Lowell Ledger is laid to rest  
Frank M. Johnson, founder of the Lowell Ledger in 1893, and its publisher for 37 years until purchased by the present publisher in June, 1930, died at his home "Sevenoaks," North Monroe Ave., at 10:20 p.m. on Friday, February 26, 1933, at the age of 72 years. In recognition of Mr. Johnson's 37 years of service to this community the business places of Lowell were closed during the funeral services. Interment was in the family lot in Oakwood.

### 50 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER FEBRUARY 27, 1958

Due to overcrowded conditions in the first grade, an additional room was opened Friday to reduce the size of the classes. Since the beginning of the year, several first grade pupils have been added bringing the total to 92. Two of the classes will remain in the same rooms and the third will meet in the Intermediate building where the old kindergarten was.

### 25 YEARS AGO THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER MARCH 2, 1983

Headline: Former Lowell Mayor dies. Funeral services were held Saturday for Peter Speerstra, a prominent Lowell businessman and former mayor of Lowell. Speerstra is perhaps best known to Lowell residents for his business enterprises in the area. He operated the Plymouth Dodge dealership. Speerstra also owned the Speerstra Insurance Agency, which he operated concurrently with the auto dealership.



# Weddings

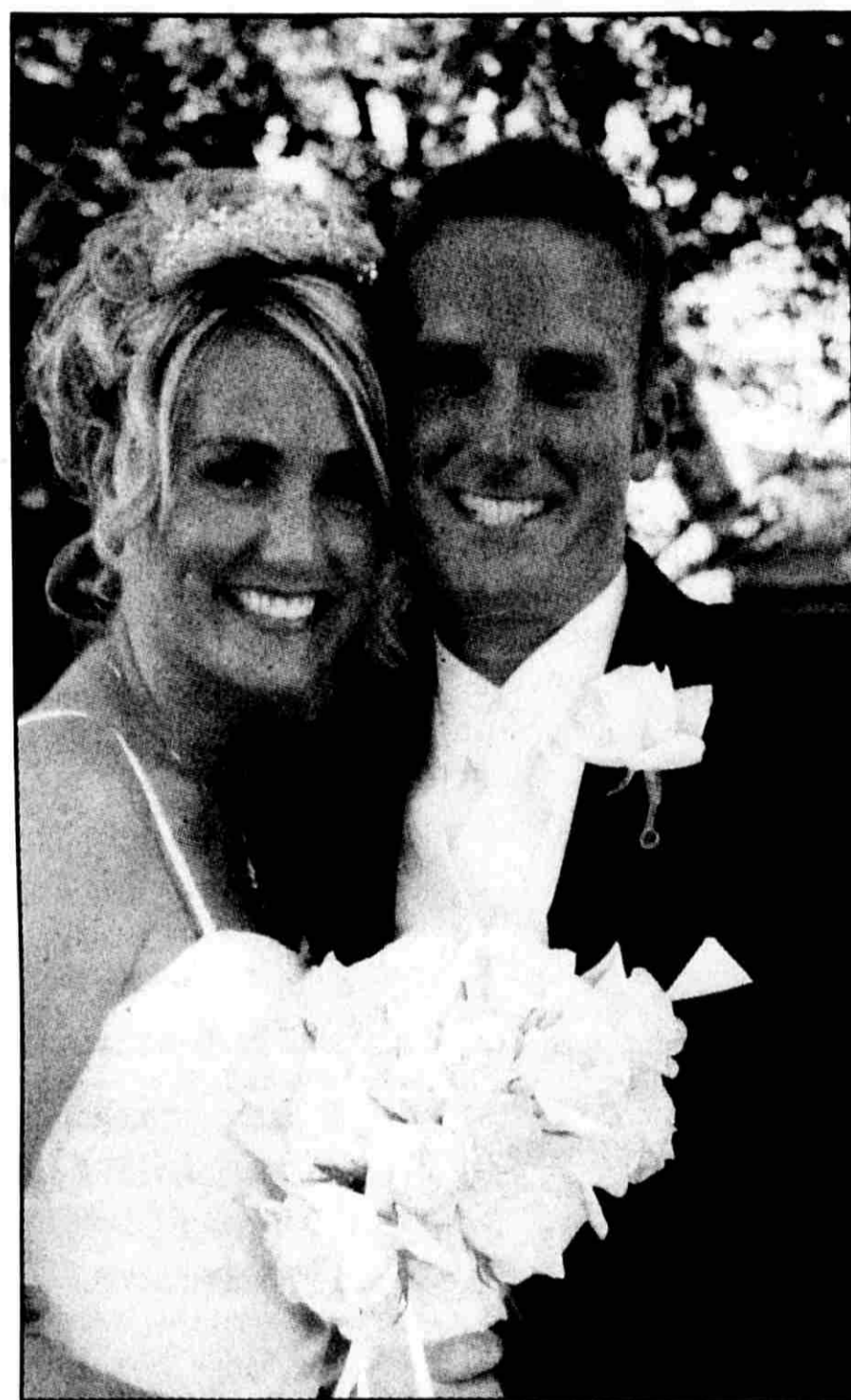
## VanDuinen/Blough

Amy VanDuinen and Nicholas Blough exchanged wedding vows on July 7, 2007 at Rockford United Methodist Church. Parents of the couple are Phillip and Patricia VanDuinen and Michael and Toni Blough, all of Lowell.

Matrons of honor were Katy Mundy and Jamie Wiley, sisters of the bride. Bridesmaids were Katie Blough, Laura Payne and Lori Warwick. Flower girl was Lauren Wiley.

Best man was Richard Tousley, friend of the groom. Groomsmen were Shaun Precious, Cory London, Mark Wiley and Denny Briggs. Ushers were Jon Ballem and Jay Blair. Ring bearer was Jason Wiley.

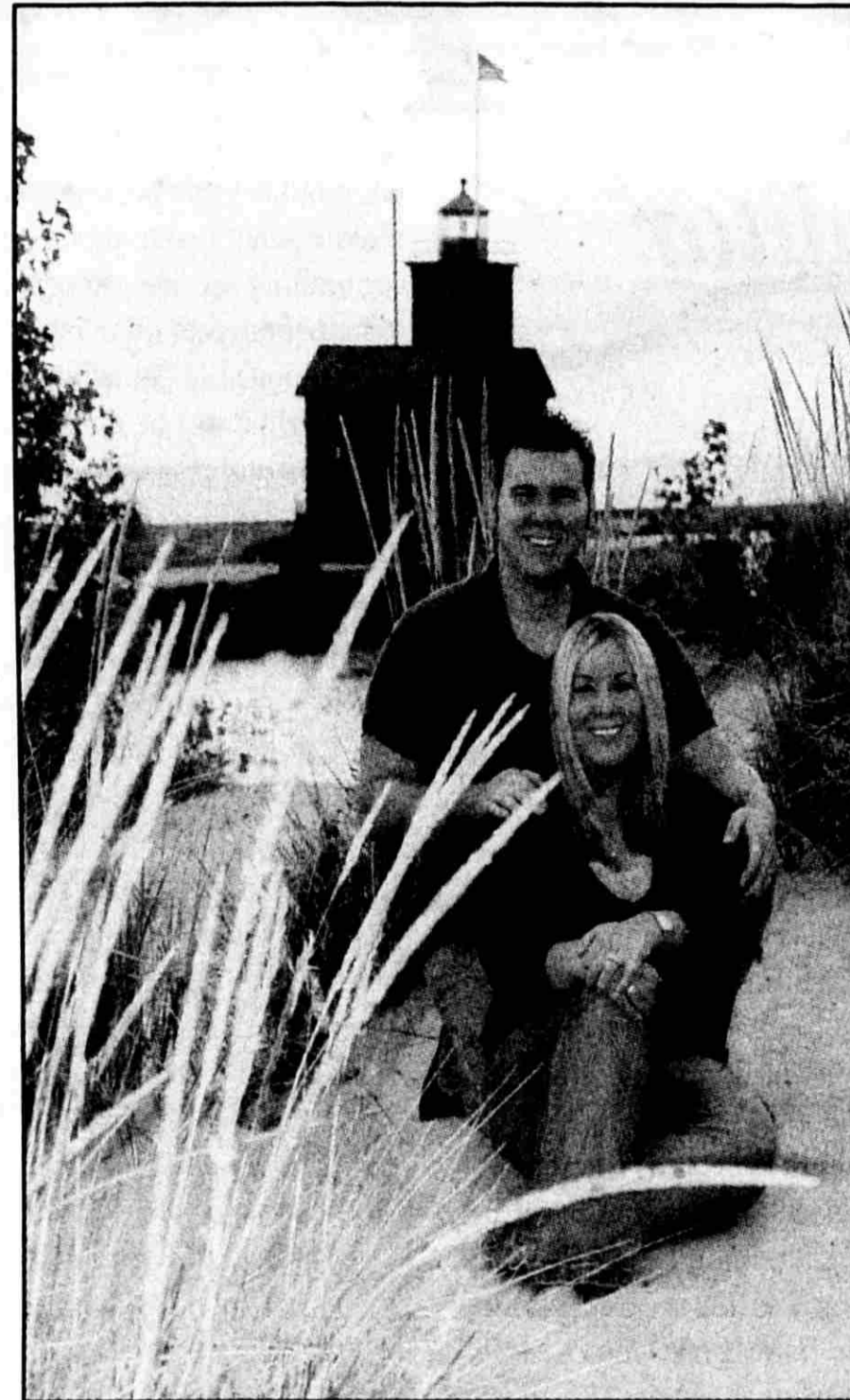
The couple resides in Lowell.



Amy and Nicholas Blough

# Engagements

## Timpson/Roberson



Katie Timpson and Bill Roberson III

John and Colleen Timpson of Lowell, and Bill and Chris Roberson of Hudsonville, are pleased to announce the engagement of their children Katie Timpson and Bill Roberson III.

The bride-to-be is a 2003 graduate of Lowell High School and is employed at Timpson Transport, Inc. as the safety director. The groom-to-be is a 2002 graduate of Grandville High School and is employed as a packing engineer at Roskam Baking in Kentwood.

The couple became engaged February 10, 2007 and will be wed on August 16, 2008 at Bay Point Inn on Gun Lake. The couple has recently purchased a home in Grandville.



In The Ledger

# Ask Kathryn

With Kathryn DenHouter Ph.D.



The stress in our life can create such havoc that we need to develop good coping skills to survive life from day to day. Last month we talked about how stress can take a toll on our physical health. This month we will discuss how stress can take a toll on our emotional health. This is a timely topic because the month of March is fast approaching and this is the busiest month of my year. Some of the stress factors that affect people's emotional health especially at this time are:

1. Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD),
2. The economy,
3. The school stresses (i.e. Getting into college? what will I get for grades? Will I pass? etc.)
4. Financial concerns and tax deadlines.

Emotional health is sustained when we deal with stress effectively. Stress accumulates, and no matter how strong you are emotionally, if the stress is high enough you will "blow." Having to deal with "over-the-top" stress can lead

to emotional outbursts, shutting down and/or retreating behaviors and at times, physical violence. To effectively manage stress, it is imperative that you de-stress on a regular basis. This means that you have regular intervals of relaxation, meditation, breathing techniques, walking and/or a regular exercise routine. To function in our world today, these strategies to de-stress are no longer optional activities, but absolutely essential! I am so encouraged by the emphasis that local governments are putting on the need for walking trails and for parks. The research is so clear that we need these spaces to heal, to de-stress, and get back to a state of calm.

Some helpful tips for Seasonal Affective Disorder would be to get the full-spectrum lightbulbs, and to exercise regularly. The unpredictability of the economy and financial concerns can create unusual stress, especially for families. Getting help when you need it can make the problems more manageable, and often planning can decrease the stress because it breaks down what seems to be overwhelming. School challenges, which for many is a constant daily grind, is helped by planning and physical exercise. One of the best strategies (there is much research to support this) is the value of prayer and connecting with our creator. Emotional health is so important for one's well-being that creating strategies that keep you healthy is worth the effort.

# HEALTH

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



## SHINGLES VACCINE

Shingles is caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox. Once you have had chicken pox, the virus can stay in your nervous system for many years. The virus can then reactivate and give you shingles. Age and problems with the immune system may increase your chances of developing shingles. Shingles is a rash that is usually on one side of the body. The rash begins as a cluster of small red spots that often blister. The rash can be quite painful.

Zostavax is a vaccine that is used in adults 60 years of age and older to prevent shingles. It contains a weakened chicken pox virus. It works by helping your immune system protect you from developing shingles. If you do get shingles even though you have been vaccinated, the vaccine may prevent the nerve pain from developing.

Zostavax is given as a single dose by injection under the skin. Most common side effects include redness, pain, itching, swelling, warmth, or bruising where the shot was given, and headache. Children should not be given Zostavax, and it should not be given to prevent chicken pox. If you are over the age of 60, talk to your healthcare provider about receiving the shingles vaccination.

\*\*\*

*A wise man should consider that health is the greatest of human blessings, and learn how by his own thought to derive benefit from his illnesses.*

- Hippocrates (460 BC - 377 BC)

## And baby makes five



Five generations are pictured welcoming newborns Wyatt Baker and Seth Dumer.

Pictured above, the baby's mother, Randi Millering of Lowell; great-grandmother, Janet Allison; baby Wyatt Baker, born

September 22, 2007; great great-grandmother, Ella Aspinall-Mulder and grandmother, Brenda Allison-Brown.

Above right, new mother, Lauren VanderMark



of Lowell; grandmother, Angela Allison; baby Seth Dumer, born September 16, 2007; great-great-grandmother, Ella Aspinall-Mulder and great-grandmother, Janet Allison.

**Do You Have An Announcement To Make?**  
 Wedding, Engagement, Anniversary and Birth Announcements are FREE\* in the Ledger.

\* Birth Announcements with a picture are \$5.  
 \* Anniversary may not contain an invitation to a celebration.

## Happy Birthday

**FEBRUARY 27:**  
 Joshua Soyka, Justin Soyka.

**FEBRUARY 28:**  
 Mark V. Ritzema, Connie Roth, Scott Denton, Claesa Guastavino, Skylar Brown, Sarah Hoag.

**MARCH 1:**  
 Barak Brown, Jill Callihan, Laura Christiansen.

**MARCH 2:**  
 Mary Vezino, Roger MacNaughton, Anna Kline, Martin Johnson, Lisa Schoen.

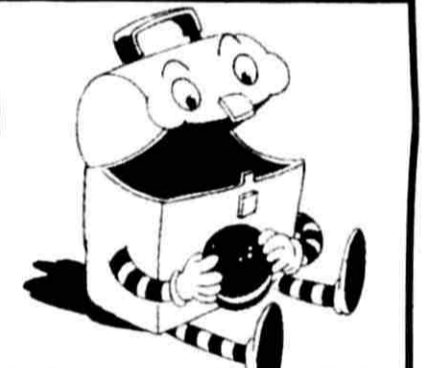
**MARCH 3:**  
 Sarah Newell.

**MARCH 4:**  
 Scott Vashaw, Bryce Tulppo, Patrick N. Johnson, Art Warning, Jared Brzezniak.

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## LUNCH MENU

**ELEMENTARY MENU**  
 Week of March 3, 2008

**MON:** Dr. Seuss' Birthday. Green eggs (scrambled) & ham w/ 1/2 English muffin (tuna salad on wheat bread offered at Alto & Murray Lake), oven potatoes, assorted fruit, milk.




**TUES:** Baked chicken Fryz's (strips), (ham & cheese sub w/lettuce offered at Alto & Murray Lake), fresh fruit/apple juice, animal crackers, milk.

**WED:** Cheese pizza (stacked turkey & cheese on bun offered at Alto & Murray Lake), seasoned corn, fresh fruit, graham crackers, milk.

**THURS:** Hot dog on bun (3 meat sub offered at Alto & Murray Lake), oven French fries, fruited gelatin salad, milk.

**FRI:** Professional Development Day - No School.

# AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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## Decorating Easter eggs - spring can't be far behind

Instructor Linda Busman shows a group of students how to dye eggs with black etched motifs at the Wittenbach Wege Center Saturday. Pictured from left to right are: Justin Mills, Jake Tjapkes and Sarah VaderKol.

In many Eastern European countries and in Russia, the custom of dying eggs for Easter renders artistic creations on the blown egg shell. These intricately designed eggs can be displayed forever. The craft is passed from generation to generation.

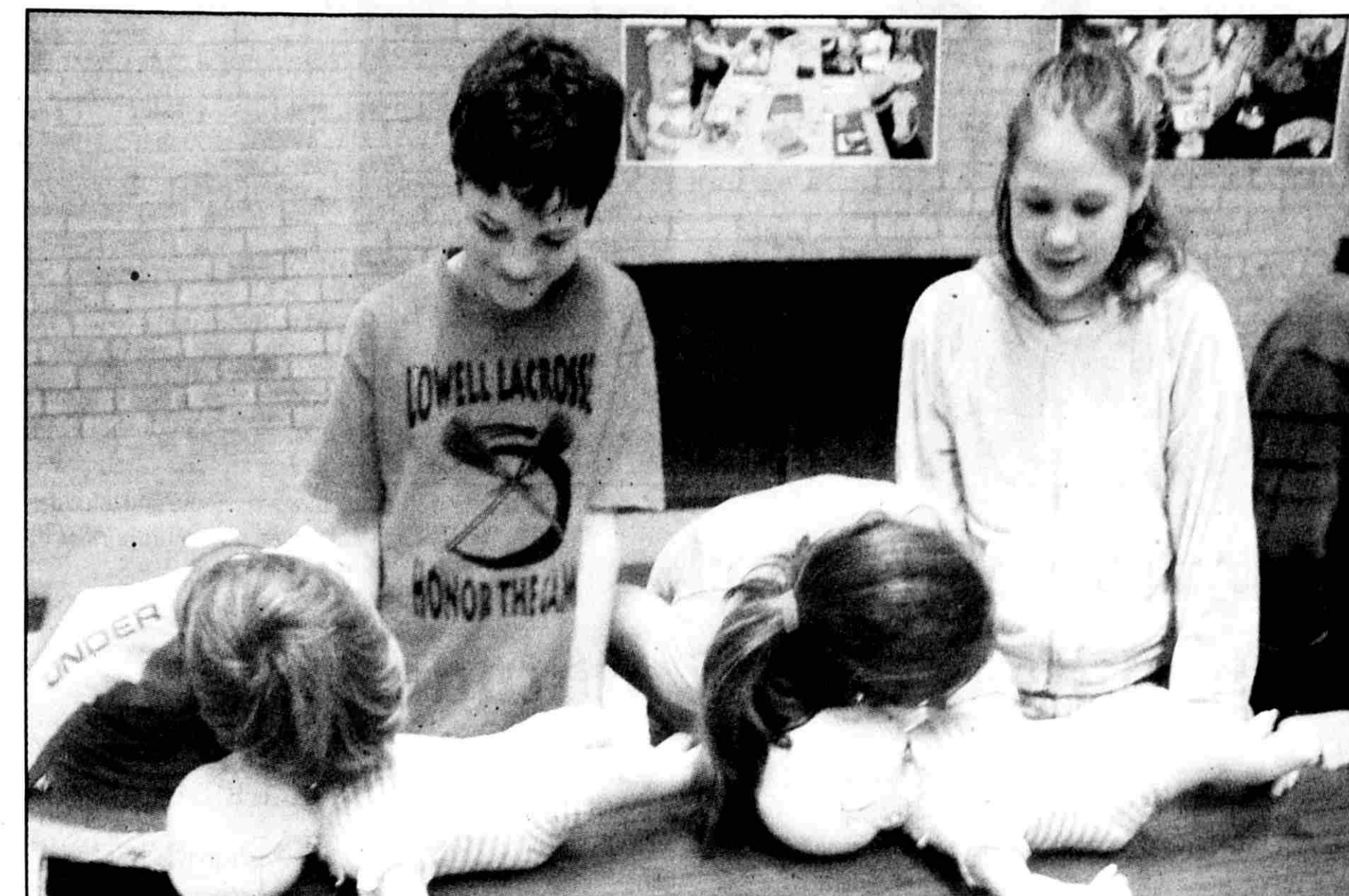
## Alto Elementary gets "Heart Smart"

In lieu of Valentine's Day parties, Alto 4th and 5th graders spent the day learning ways to be and stay healthy. Patty Sellner, Community Wellness Coordinator demonstrated CPR techniques; high school students from Justin Miller's health classes gave presentations on adverse effects of smoking, making healthy food choices and many other areas of healthy living.

Sue Beute, a former Lowell math teacher brought pentominos to exercise and keep our brains healthy. A nutritionist from the Kent County Health Department talked about nutrition and healthy foods. For physical activity, a yoga instructor and a cardio-salsa dance instructor from the YMCA came out to teach the students.

Mr. Peterson from Spectrum Health taught students about how the heart works. Students snacked on fresh fruits dipped in chocolate, which in moderation can be beneficial.

The day wrapped up with a visit from TV personality Maranda who brought along members of Priority Health's Cycling Team. They talked about being healthy through exercise.



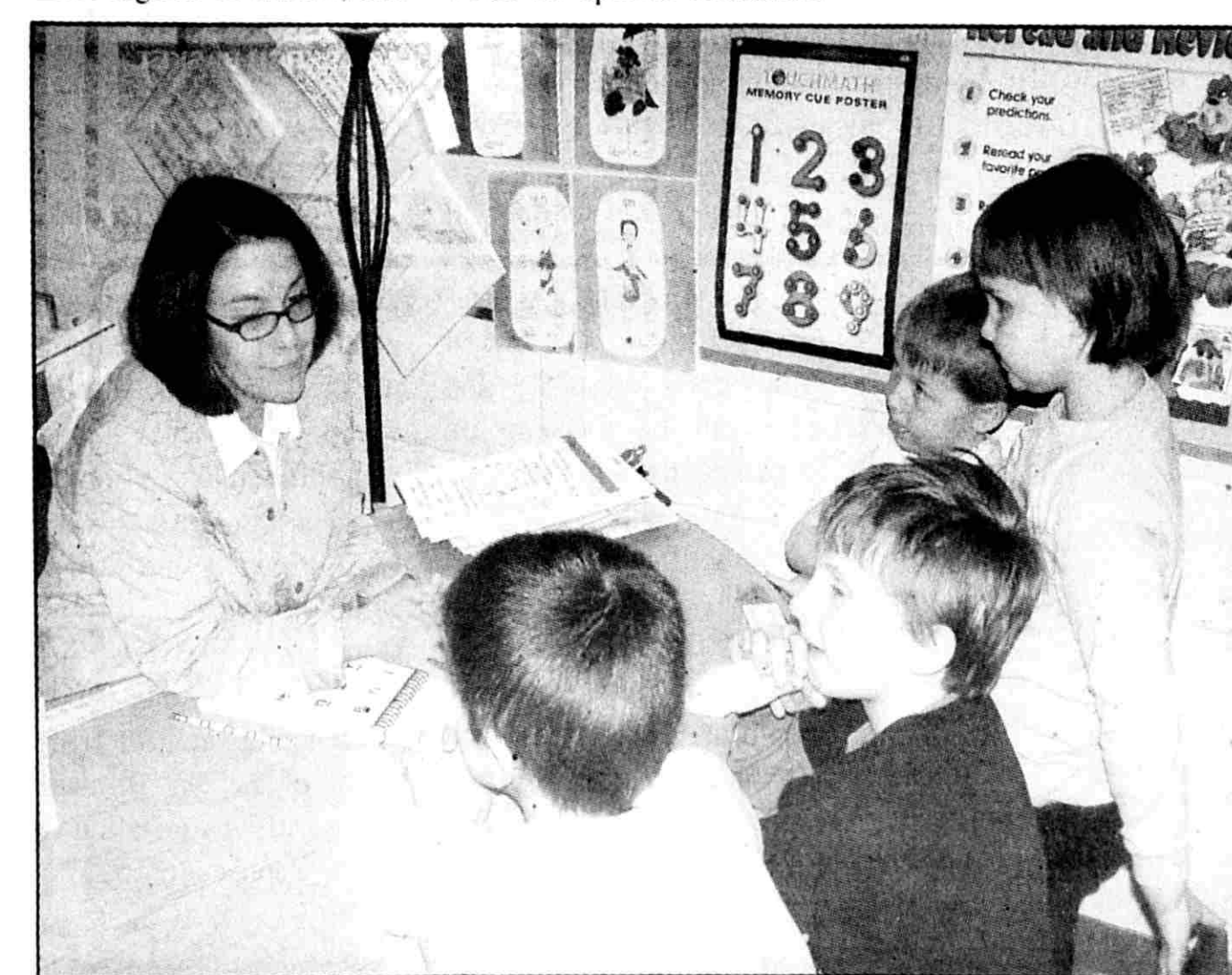
## McCormick named Staff Member of the Month

Nancy McCormick was named Murray Lake Elementary's staff member of the month for January. McCormick is a Tier 3 reading teacher at Murray Lake. She has been married to her husband Rob, a counselor at Lowell High School, for 35 years. The McCormicks have two children. Their daughter Molly will be moving to Los Angeles in March, and

of early intervention. Whenever I need help, she is always there!" fellow teacher Sue Wilterink said. "Nancy is so knowledgeable, helpful and easy to work with," said first grade teacher Denise Washburn.

McCormick commented, "I am passionate about working with young kids and in preventing the need for special education. I love working at Murray Lake. It is a privilege to work in such a quality environment created by quality people from the top down. Everyone works together supporting each other to provide the best education for our kids, including our committed parents who spend time at home and at school volunteering."

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Nancy McCormick with some of her students.

their son Ryan lives in Seal Beach, Calif.

McCormick lived in California for seven years before moving to Grand Rapids with her parents. She attended Forest Hills High School. She received a Bachelor's degree from Arizona State in 1974 and a Master's degree in Learning Disabilities in 1985. She has taught in four different school districts. She has spent her last 20 years teaching at Lowell.

Several Murray Lake staff members nominated McCormick, who currently teaches "at-risk" students at Murray Lake. "She always puts kids first. She really understands the notion

## Volunteer of the Month

Jill Pytlak was named Murray Lake Elementary's "Volunteer of the Month" for January. Pytlak, husband Jim and children Jacquelyn and Julia reside in Lowell. Jacquelyn is a third grader at Murray Lake and Julia is a kindergartner.

Pytlak can often be seen volunteering her time at Murray Lake. "Jill helps support my students in math every Thursday afternoon. She has also assisted me with preparing projects, lamination and recently started assisting my student with AR testing. She does a great job," commented kindergarten teacher Karla Byrne.

"I enjoy helping out at Murray Lake. I like being a part of my children's lives. I enjoy being involved with their friends, and teachers."



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- SUSAN MOONEY



## Mooney treats work with "Life is Good" attitude

by Emma Palova  
With a smile on her face, Susan Mooney wraps up a blue t-shirt from the "Life is Good" clothing line at Cousins' Hallmark store for a customer.

It is that personalized caring service, that makes the store different from the competition where you can search in vain through the aisles for a clerk to help you.

"We're a smaller store," she said. "We're more selective on the products we carry."

Having a great boss like owner Karen Hale also

helps to come back to work every morning.

"I like the people and I have a terrific boss," said Mooney. "It's a welcoming store."

Mooney likes the variety of the products along with all the innovations to stay on top of things, from Mary Jane crocks to the Willow Tree Collection.

Five or six years ago, the store didn't have the River Hollow annex with lodge furniture and antiques. Today, it is an important diversification.

Later, music entered the business with emotions and expressions on paper. The cards went musical, and plush went musical.

Now, it's musical buttons playing "Wild Thing." A big recent success was the "Red" line by Bono of U2 with proceeds from sales going to Africa to eliminate AIDS.

How does Mooney handle projects every day?

"I take the bull by the horns and do what needs to be done," she said.

A friendly smile and a sense of humor always helps to get through the day, more so in difficult economic times.

"The business has slowed down, but we participate in all the town activities," said Mooney, "we're still going strong."

Mooney loves talking to people and helping them with their shopping needs.

"I've always wanted to work here, and I pursued it," she said.

**Position:** Sales Associate for Cousins' Hallmark  
**Residence:** Lowell  
**Education:** East Grand Rapids High School  
**Experience:** 13 years at Cousins'  
**Family:** Husband, Brian, daughters Erin and Cara  
**Hobbies:** Sewing, refinishing furniture, gardening, reading



Susan Mooney enjoys waiting on customers and the atmosphere at Cousin's Hallmark

## Girls' Night Out, continued ... From Page 1

could only wish they could shop the event at least once.

"It would be fun to do it at least once," said Claus. "It's a nice thing for the ladies to do."

The Lowell Area Historical Museum was a cool starting location for Diane LaWarre and Nancy Wood.

"We decided to hit the museum first," said

LaWarre. "We're members and it's fun."

The museum's Victorian parlor offered snacks and appetizers such as wood-fired flatbreads by Flat River Grill.

It wasn't just soy candles at the Lily Pad, the shop also had special oils and a brand-new assistant. Lonni Hudson was working that night for the first time.

"It's fun, meeting all the new people," she said.

Fashionista Flair was well-stocked and stocked with products from all over the world.

"Our February Girls' Night Out did not get the attendance that October did," said chamber director Liz Baker. "Considering the winter we have experienced this year, we had a good turnout. The merchants will continue to be creative with sales and customer events in the future."

## Lend A Hand VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS AT LOWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring program of Grand Rapids is looking for community members to volunteer at the Lowell Middle School.

The program was tested at the middle school with good results, and now will be focusing on increasing the numbers.

Community members are asked to volunteer for as little as one hour per week. To be a Big Brother or Big Sister, you must commit to mentoring for at least one year in the area. Men are especially needed to be Big Brothers.

Most mentors have said

they get as much from their "sibling" as the child gets from them.

For these students, one hour a week might make all the difference. The program is hoping that a positive change made in the middle school could mean a positive influence for the rest of the student's life.

The program is aided by D.A. Blodgett, the Lowell Middle School and Lowell Community Wellness.

For more information or to sign up, contact Tracy Straw of the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization in Grand Rapids at (616) 774-4616.

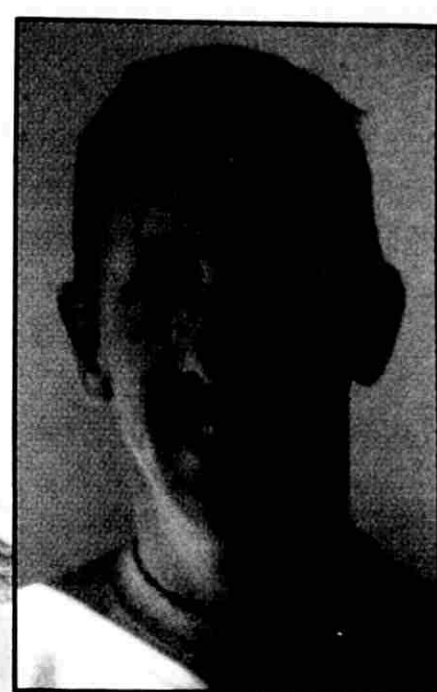
**BOWNE TOWNSHIP**  
Bowne Township is now accepting Bids for the 2008 Lawn Maintenance Season  
Specifications are available at the Township Office.  
8240 Alden Nash SE.,  
PO Box 35, Alto, MI 49302 or telephone 616 868-6846  
Wednesday, Thursday 9-5 or Friday morning 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

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- GREG CANFIELD



## Canfield Plumbing & Heating team gets job done

by Emma Palova

With an associate's degree in computer programming and accounting, Greg Canfield didn't want to sit trapped inside a building after a desk.

After a few short office stints, Canfield turned to plumbing and heating to get away from the screen and numbers.

And although, he really didn't want to go into business for himself, Canfield opened his own shop in 1994, first on South Washington Street.

"It is rewarding," he said. "No one can fire you or lay you off. But most people don't see the long hours and the time away from family."

**Position:** Owner of Canfield Plumbing & Heating  
**Residence:** Lowell  
**Education:** Associate's degree in computer programming and accounting from GRCC  
**Experience:** Plumbing for 30 years  
**Family:** Wife Deb, children Lindsay, Brian and Leslie, Brad, Katie.  
**Hobbies:** Old cars, water skiing, boating, fixing old buildings and spending time with grandchildren

As appealing as it may seem, Canfield explained some of the challenges of being his own boss.

"It's always a challenge to find work at a reasonable cost," he said. "You always have hidden costs and expenses."

In the plumbing and heating business, unforeseen things just pop up during the day.

"We are a large enough shop that we can respond to people's emergencies," Canfield said. "But we're small enough to be efficient and cost-effective."

So, how does the Canfield team with blue trucks all over the town get things done?

"We're efficient, reliable and responsive," he said. "We have enough employees to get out there and get it done."

Recently, due to the diminishing housing market, Canfield's business shifted from mostly new construction to service and repair.

In the construction boom of the '90s and early millennium years, 95 percent of the business was new residential work. Now, only 10 percent is in new construction.

On the other hand, Canfield has developed other good accounts with the city of Lowell, the schools and Schneider Manor.

To stay on top of competition, Canfield offers 100 percent satisfaction guarantee, lifetime workman-

ship warranty and bill adjustment.

"I look at it from the customer's side as well as from the business side," he said.

Canfield expects the same level of performance from his employees that he delivers.

"I perform at A-level," he said. "I am difficult to work for, because I am fussy. We have to survive as a company by being productive and efficient."

In turn, the team of 10 employees earns good money with excellent benefits.

"You have to produce at a good level to earn those wages and benefits," he said. "We're fair and we do the right thing."

The business has implemented new specialized equipment such as a drain camera, jetting machines and combustion analyzers.

"We're flexible," he said. "We respond immediately."

The business service area is approximately 25 miles.

In his free time, Canfield likes to fix up houses. He fixed an old building, an eyesore on the corner of east Main Street and North Washington.

The showy red building is now home to the plumbing and heating business.

Canfield serves on the historic district commission, the construction board of appeals and the Lowell Light & Power Board.

Greg Canfield inside the remodeled building.

...  
My future starts when I wake up every morning... Every day I find something creative to do with my life.

- Miles Davis (1926 - 1991)

## At Your Local Library



**ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION AT KENT DISTRICT LIBRARY BRANCHES**  
Join other readers at one of Kent District Library's 18 branches to discuss the books everyone is talking about. All these selections are sure to evoke thoughtful and interesting ideas and discussion. Adult book discussions will be held on the following days:  
April 12 and May 17 at 10 a.m. at the Alto branch. Title TBA.  
Tuesdays at 10 a.m., March 11, *Sunflower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See, April 8, *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen, and May 13, *Nineteen Minutes* by Jodi Piccolt.  
Saturdays, March 22.

**LEDGER SUBSCRIPTIONS**  
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**BOWNE TOWNSHIP SYNOPSIS**  
February 18, 2008  
Motions approved:  
Minutes of the January board meeting. List of all invoices.  
Schedule of Public Hearing for amended/re-stated DDA Plan.  
Copies of entire minutes available on the website bownetwp.cc.  
Sandra L. Kowalczyk  
Bowne Township Clerk

**CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE SNOW REMOVAL**  
Whenever any snow or ice has fallen or accumulated, it must be cleared within twenty-four (24) hours. Property owners/occupants are required to clear ice and snow from their sidewalk. If no sidewalk exists, the owner/occupant must clear a path if their property is adjacent to a sidewalk.  
**NOTICE TO SNOW PLOW OPERATORS**  
It is against the law to plow snow, ice or slush onto or across any roadway or highway.  
Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk





# Outdoors, continued ... From Page 4

report also gave similar information on other states and the entire country. The report titled "Hunting and Fishing: Bright Stars of the American Economy - A force as big as all outdoors" can be found online at www.nssf.org.

One in six people in our state fish or hunt. Because these folks practice their sport in scattered locations, and many times in remote areas or on waterways, they go unnoticed by the general public. For example, who would guess that fishermen as a group spend more on bait than skiers do on all that fancy gear?

What's the point? Well, by doing what we can to maintain and expand fishing and hunting opportunities, more citizens will be able to participate. We can accomplish this by at least supporting or directly participating in conservation

programs. This could involve hands-on volunteer work, club projects, buying hunting and fishing licenses, or just being aware of conservation issues and voting.

Better yet, find time to hunt and fish if you don't already. Not only will your dollars help spur the economy, but federal excise taxes on guns, ammunition, archery equipment, rods, and reels go directly to state wildlife programs for habitat acquisition and improvement. Michigan's wildlife is enjoyed by all residents and attracts out-of-state visitors to Michigan as well. You get a lot for bang for your buck.

**FAXING**  
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 105 N. Broadway, Lowell

## BOWNE TOWNSHIP

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED AMENDED AND RESTATED Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan for the Bowne Township Downtown Development Authority

Public notice is hereby given that the Bowne Township Board will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 17, 2008, at 7:30 p.m., in the historic Township Hall, located at 8240 Alden Nash Avenue, Alto, Michigan, to hear public comments regarding the proposed Amended and Restated Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan for the Bowne Township Downtown Development Authority. The proposed Amended and Restated Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan updates the Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan adopted in 1987, adds projects to the Plan, and extends the term of the Tax Increment Financing Plan to 2036.

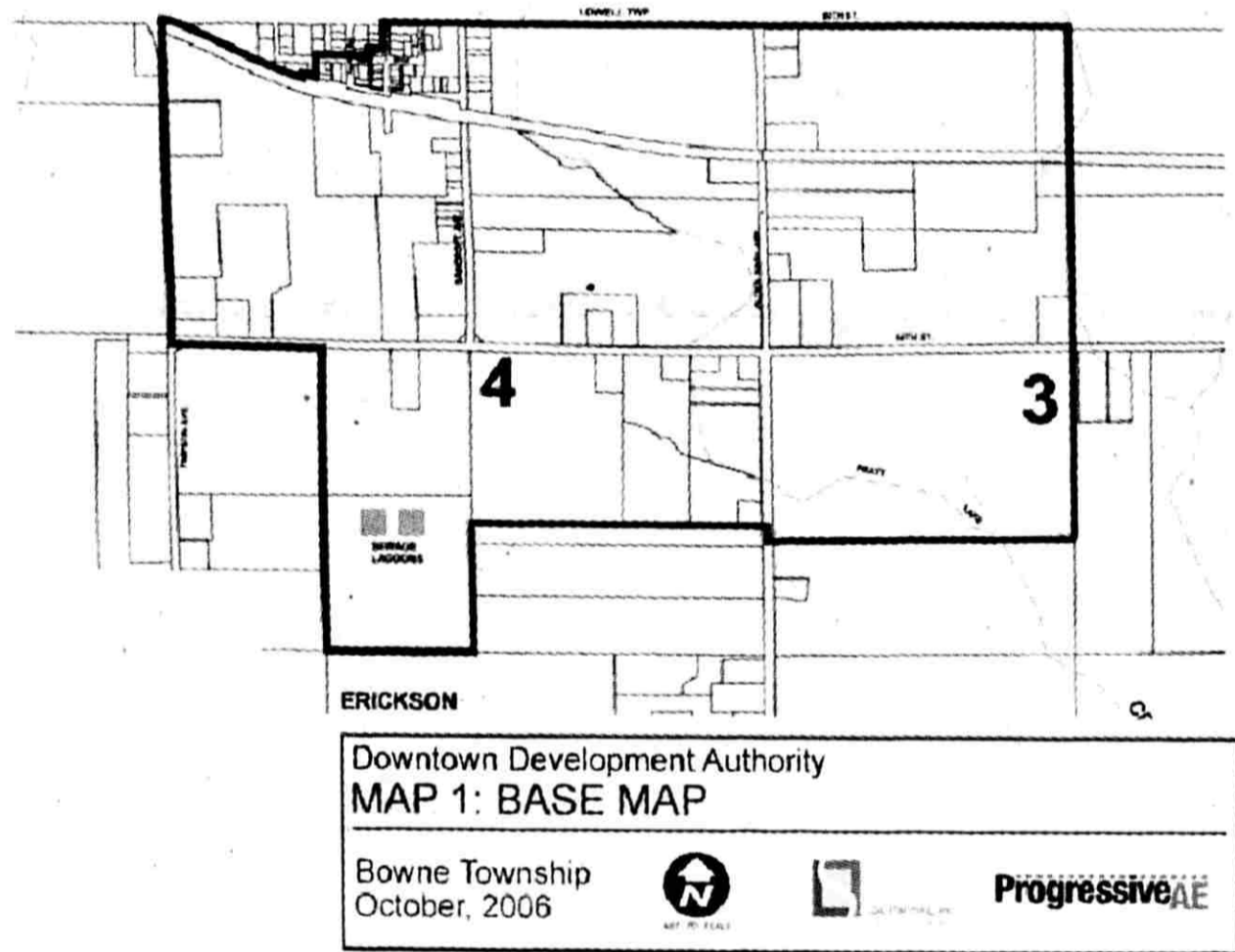
The Development Area of the proposed Amended and Restated Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan is described as follows:

List of Parcels. The Development Area of the Bowne Township Downtown Development Authority in the proposed Amended and Restated Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan is the same as the Development Area under the 1987 Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan and consists of the following parcels:

41-24-03-100-002	41-24-04-130-007	41-24-04-176-025
41-24-03-100-008	41-24-04-130-008	41-24-04-176-028
41-24-03-100-010	41-24-04-130-010	41-24-04-176-029
41-24-03-100-011	41-24-04-130-011	41-24-04-176-030
41-24-03-100-013	41-24-01-130-014	41-24-04-176-032
41-24-03-100-015	41-24-04-130-015	41-24-04-176-033
41-24-03-100-016	41-24-01-131-001	41-24-04-200-001
41-24-03-100-018	41-24-04-131-002	41-24-04-200-002
41-24-03-100-021	41-24-04-131-006	41-24-04-200-003
41-24-03-100-022	41-24-04-131-009	41-24-04-200-004
41-24-03-100-023	41-24-04-131-010	41-24-04-200-005
41-24-03-100-024	41-24-04-131-012	41-24-04-200-006
41-24-03-100-025	41-24-04-131-014	41-24-04-200-007
41-24-03-100-026	41-24-04-131-022	41-24-04-200-008
41-24-03-100-027	41-24-04-131-025	41-24-04-200-009
41-24-03-300-001	41-24-04-131-026	41-24-04-200-010
41-24-03-501-001	41-24-04-131-027	41-24-04-200-011
41-24-04-103-007	41-24-04-131-029	41-24-04-200-013
41-24-04-127-008	41-24-04-131-030	41-24-04-200-016
41-24-04-127-009	41-24-04-131-031	41-24-04-200-017
41-24-04-128-001	41-24-04-131-032	41-24-04-200-021
41-24-04-128-004	41-24-04-134-006	41-24-04-200-022
41-24-04-128-010	41-24-04-135-003	41-24-04-200-030
41-24-04-128-011	41-24-04-135-004	41-24-04-300-007
41-24-04-128-012	41-24-04-135-006	41-24-04-300-009
41-24-04-128-113	41-24-04-135-007	41-24-04-300-010
41-24-04-128-014	41-24-04-135-008	41-24-04-400-003
41-24-04-129-002	41-24-04-176-007	41-24-04-400-005
41-24-04-129-005	41-24-04-176-008	41-24-04-400-017
41-24-04-129-006	41-24-04-176-009	41-24-04-400-018
41-24-04-129-007	41-24-04-176-010	41-24-04-400-021
41-24-04-129-008	41-24-04-176-017	41-24-04-400-028
41-24-04-130-001	41-24-04-176-018	41-24-04-400-029
41-24-04-130-002	41-24-04-176-020	41-24-04-400-031
41-24-04-130-004	41-24-04-176-024	41-24-04-400-032

41-24-04-400-033	41-24-04-404-012	41-24-04-404-026
41-24-04-400-034	41-24-04-404-013	41-24-04-404-027
41-24-04-401-001	41-24-04-404-014	41-24-04-404-028
41-24-04-404-001	41-24-04-404-015	41-24-04-404-029
41-24-04-404-002	41-24-04-404-016	41-24-04-404-030
41-24-04-404-003	41-24-04-404-017	41-24-04-404-031
41-24-04-404-004	41-24-04-404-018	41-24-04-404-032
41-24-04-404-005	41-24-04-404-019	41-24-04-404-033
41-24-04-404-006	41-24-04-404-020	41-24-04-404-034
41-24-04-404-007	41-24-04-404-021	41-24-04-404-035
41-24-04-404-008	41-24-04-404-022	41-24-04-404-036
41-24-04-404-009	41-24-04-404-023	41-24-04-404-037
41-24-04-404-010	41-24-04-404-024	41-24-04-425-001
41-24-04-404-011	41-24-04-404-025	

Map. The following map describes the Development Area of the proposed Amended and Restated Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan in relation to highways, streets, streams, and otherwise:



All aspects of the proposed Amended and Restated Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan will be open for discussion at the public hearing. At the time set for hearing, the Township Board shall provide an opportunity for all interested persons to be heard and shall receive and consider communications in writing with reference to the proposed Amended and Restated Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan. Written comments will be received until the close of the public hearing and may be addressed to the Township Clerk, P. O. Box 35, Alto, Michigan 49302. The hearing shall provide the fullest opportunity for expression of opinion, for argument on the merits, and for introduction of documentary evidence pertaining to the proposed Amended and Restated Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan.

The proposed Amended and Restated Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan (and maps, plats, and a description of the Development Plan, including the method for relocating families and individuals, if any, who may be displaced from the Development Area) are available for public inspection at the Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash, Alto, Michigan, on Wednesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and on Fridays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. The proposed Amended and Restated Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan provides that minimal displacement of families or individuals from the Development Area is anticipated as a direct result of the Downtown Development Authority's activities.

February 18, 2008  
 Sandra L. Kowalczyk, Clerk  
 Bowne Township



## Financial Focus

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### TAKE STEPS TO PREVENT IDENTITY THEFT

Identity theft is big business. In fact, each year billions of dollars — that's billions, with a "b" — are lost to identity theft, according to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). This cumulative figure may not mean that much to you, but if you are victimized, it can be upsetting and expensive. That's why you'll want to defend yourself against identity theft — and the best time to take action is before it happens to you.

What can you do to protect yourself? Here are a few suggestions:

- Secure your Social Security number. Identity thieves eagerly seek Social Security numbers — so don't give out yours to anyone who asks for it. In fact, as a general rule, be reluctant to give it out at all. Always ask whomever you're dealing with if he or she will accept another form of identification, or at the very least, will take just the last four digits of your number. And never carry your Social Security card with you.
- Shred credit card offers and bank statements. If you're not going to apply for the credit cards offered to you, shred the offers. Identity thieves have been known to rifle through garbage and take advantage of credit card offers. At the same time, shred your bank and brokerage statements — and any other statements containing personal or financial information.
- Study your credit card and checking account statements. Question any credit card charge or checking account activity you don't recognize as your own.
- Don't give out your credit card number unless you're initiating a purchase. Most of us do at least some shopping online. As long as you're dealing with a reputable merchant who uses a secure site — i.e., one that has "https" in the Web

## Character award winners



Pictured are the Character Award Winners for the month of January from Cherry Creek Elementary. One student from each classroom was selected for modeling the character trait of "Trustworthiness".

(First row, L-R): Jamie-Lynn Urban, Joseph Hancock, Peyton Jankowski, Emma Stockreef, Madeleine Haines, McKenna Creighton, and Sarah Dec.

(Second row, L-R): Thomas Davis, Olivia Starkweather, Ryne Clark, Madisen Schram, and Bailey Inda.

(Third row, L-R): Angela Casalina, Dakota Bileth, Katie Holzhueter, David Rose, Hannah Draigh, and Marilla Marks.

## NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP 2008 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The Vergennes Township Board of Review for 2008 will be held at Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Dr, on the following dates:

**Monday, March 10**  
 at 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. & from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 12**  
 at 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon & from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
 (Board of Review Organizational Meeting Tuesday, March 4, at 7 a.m.)

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

You may appeal an assessed valuation one of two ways:

To appear at the Board of Review, call 897-5671 on Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to schedule an appointment to appear in person.

By Board resolution, residents are also able to protest by letter, provided the protest letter is received prior to March 12, and is addressed to:

Vergennes Township Assessor  
 P.O. Box 208  
 Lowell, MI 49331-0208

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

*Agricultural.....	48.19%	1.0380
*Commercial.....	49.05%	1.0200
*Residential.....	51.52%	0.9620
*Industrial.....	49.64%	1.0080
*Personal Prop.....	50.00%	1.0000

### Americans 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 Tim Wittenbach, 10381 Bailey Dr. 616-897-5671

Board of Review Members: Jim Herb, Ken Ford & Dan Faulkner  
 Tim Wittenbach, Township Supervisor, Secretary of Board of Review.

## 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.



# Red Arrow SPORTS

“WE’VE GOT THE BEST TEAM WE’VE EVER HAD. IF WE DO THINGS RIGHT, WE HAVE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO WIN AGAINST ROCKFORD.”

- Coach Mike Ballard

## L-C hockey gets 19 goals, gives up two in two-game sweep

by Molly Benningfield  
Editor

It’s been an opponent-crushing sort of week for the Lowell-Caledonia hockey team, as they took out Tier 3 team West Ottawa last Wednesday 9-2 and Grand Rapids Central-Creston 10-0 Monday night.

Lowell/Cal 9,  
West Ottawa 2

The Arrows defeated a sluggish West Ottawa team 9-2 last week to secure the Tier 3 championship. West Ottawa was in second place in the league and could’ve shared the title with a win. Lowell won their first meeting 5-2.

“We went into the West Ottawa game thinking it would be the same,” coach Mike Ballard said. “[West Ottawa] had to play a wide-open game, which they weren’t used to.”

The win automatically bumps the ever-improving

Arrow team into Tier 2, according to league rules. The last-place finisher in Tier 2, Grand Haven, will be moved to Tier 3.

Jordan Steger had four goals, Jon Kuzava had two, and Brent Steele, Justin Story and Billy Watson all took down one. Goaltender Corey Phillips made 9-11 saves.

Lowell/Cal 10,  
GR Central-Creston 0

The game didn’t even go into the third period, after Lowell-Caledonia outscored Grand Rapids Central-Creston 10-0 and invoked the mercy rule.

Ballard said the game was a “good opportunity to get the third and fourth line in, it was fun for the guys who didn’t get as much ice time.”

Ballard said the Regional match-ups among L-C, Rockford, GR Central-Creston and Ottawa Hills-

Union, has been the same for four years, with the Arrows always going against Rockford in the second round.

He said the goal for the team was to “stay disciplined and be respectful to the other team, which they did a good job of.”

Leading the Arrows in goals scored was Joel Morgan, who had three, while Watson, Kevin VanDenberge, Story, Michael Pryzbyz, Kolin Morgan, Drake Chittenden and Bo Adams all had one.

Ballard also mentioned Nolan Blair, who had one assist, as the most improved player on the team.

The game, which was the first round of a three-game regional, set the stage for the match-up Wednesday night against Rockford, who defeated Ottawa Hills/Grand Rapids Union.

The Arrows have one day of practice before they take on Rockford, who have prevented L-C from moving past Regionals in the past. “We have to get in the mental state to play Rockford,” Ballard said.

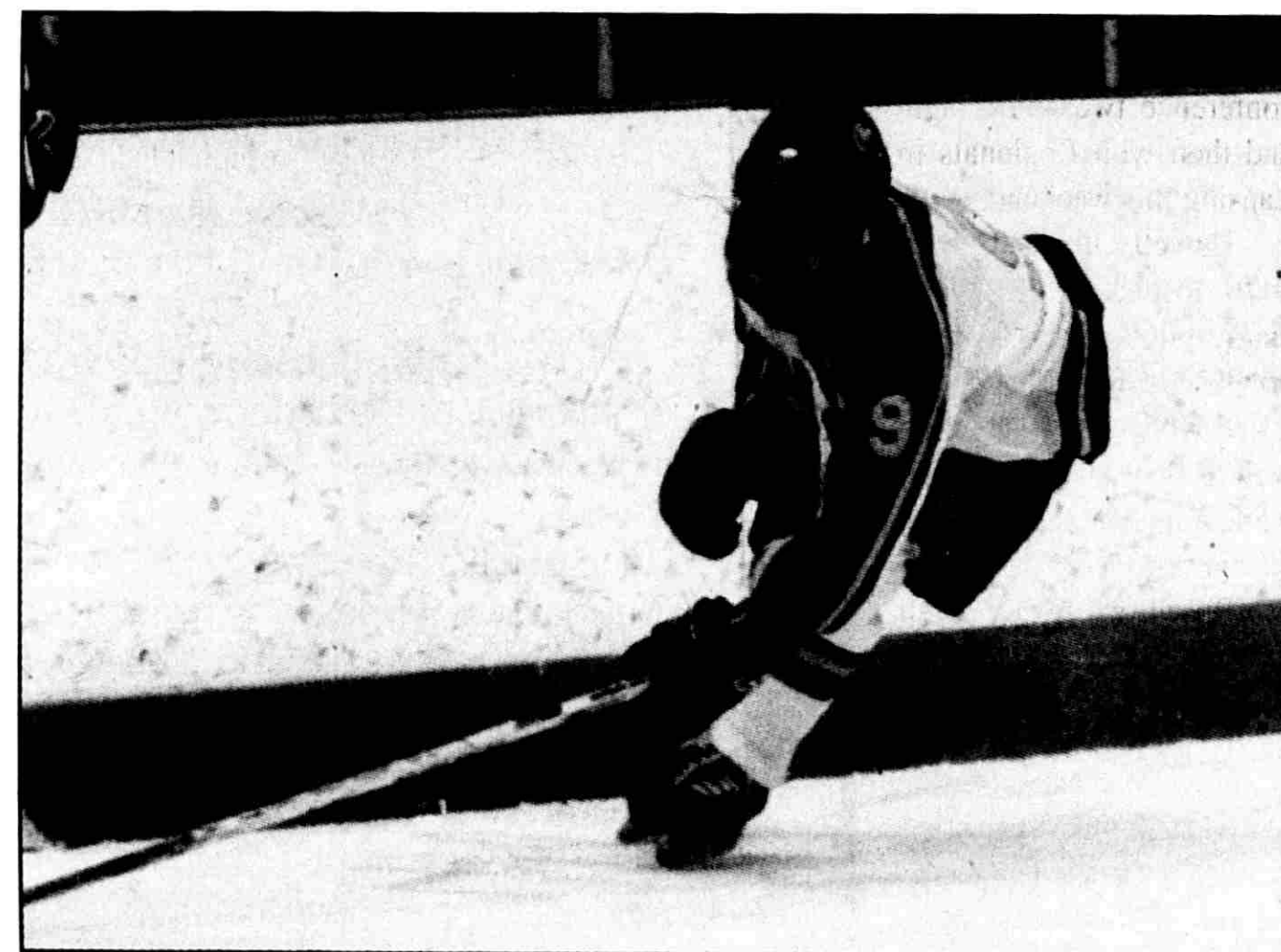
He said they’ll work on fore check, backchecking and a 1-2-2 line. “We need to be smart on how we play so that everyone knows their role.”

Although Rockford has proven tough in the past,

Ballard is optimistic. “We’ve got the best team we’ve ever had. If we do things right, we have a good opportunity to win against Rockford.”



Jordan Steger (7) had four goals against West Ottawa last week.



Joel Morgan (9) had three goals against Grand Rapids Central-Creston Monday night in the first round of regional tournament.

# Red Arrow SPORTS

“THE COMEBACK EPITOMIZES WHAT KIND OF TEAM WE ARE. WHAT A GREAT WAY FOR OUR SENIORS TO FINISH THEIR LAST GAME.”

- Coach Jeff McDonald

## Fourth quarter play is dominant in wins for Arrows

by Molly Benningfield  
Editor

The Red Arrows played two very different games last week, but in the end, found ways to win both, as they improved their record with wins against East Grand Rapids and Zeeland West.

Lowell 45,

East Grand Rapids 41  
Lowell (8-4, 11-7) defeated East Grand

**NEXT GAME**  
Wednesday, Feb. 27  
@ 5:30 p.m.  
GR - Northview  
vs. Rockford

Rapids (8-4, 10-8) 45-41 Tuesday night to put them in second place overall in the conference, sharing the silver with their opponents. Forest Hills Central was the top team in the OK-White.

The Arrows did not hit a single field goal in the fourth quarter, but were 16-22 from the free throw line (and 22-35 for the game). It was a different kind of win for the team, as they haven’t had to rely on free throws to finish a game in a long time.

It’s one of the things Coach Jeff McDonald has been preaching since the

beginning of the season. In fact, he guaranteed it would be one of their improvements.

“I feel like we have to handle the last minute of quarters more efficiently and that can be worth six to eight points a game,” McDonald said of the 44-52 loss against Caledonia on Jan. 31. “We will improve in that area. I guarantee it.”

While the Arrows were 63 percent from behind the line, the Pioneers hit only 30 percent.

Matt Kurtz and Michael Schumm led the way with

13 points each, while Brett McMahon had 7.

Lowell 54,  
Zeeland West 46

If the Arrows were the team who could only hit free throws in the fourth Tuesday night, then they were definitely the comeback kids late in the game Thursday night.

Lowell defeated the OK-Green team Zeeland West 54-46 in a fourth-quarter surge to boost their confidence before tournament action.

McDonald said the team “struggled to score in the first quarter, but we defended well and rebounded great to keep us in it.” Zeeland was a 12-7 team, who had six kids at 6’4” or taller, he said.

But the Arrows let the gap widen going into halftime and part of the third quarter.

“Tim Hettinga’s 3-

pointer at the buzzer at the end of the 3rd quarter really gave us a boost and some momentum going into the 4th,” McDonald said. “We were down by as many as 13 in the 3rd quarter.”

The Arrows, however, pulled together to score 24 points in the final quarter for “an amazing comeback,” McDonald said. “The comeback epitomizes what kind of team we are. What a great way for our seniors to finish their last game.”

This basketball team is one to pull out upsets and play some great basketball, and McDonald said the team knew it wasn’t over.

“Our kids know that no matter the score, we are never out of the game. We believe in ourselves and we are relentless in the 4th quarter when we’re behind.”

McDonald pointed out some of Thursday night’s

good performances. “Our ‘bigs’ [post players Bob Wernet and Spencer Sellner] really played great. They defended the post well and made some great finishes at the rim. That was a huge boost for our team.”

Kurtz led all scorers with 18 points, while McMahon finished with 11 and Hettinga took in 8.

The Arrows are now preparing for tonight’s first round District match-up against Rockford.

“We have a huge challenge ahead of us as we prepare for Rockford,” McDonald said. “They have a dominant post presence (fourth-year starter Mitch Briggs) and some great guard play. They are the standard by which we measure ourselves. So to go there and get a victory would be special.”

Lowell hasn’t won a district title since 1984.

“THEY [ROCKFORD] ARE THE STANDARD BY WHICH WE MEASURE OURSELVES. SO TO GO THERE AND GET A VICTORY WOULD BE SPECIAL.”

## Girls’ bowling wins Regional, sends three to State

The girls’ bowling team is still in the mix, as they won the OK-White conference two weeks ago, and then won Regionals in Lansing this weekend.

Lowell finished with 3376, to defeat a 15-strong team pool that featured bowlers from around the state. Holt took second in their Regionals with 3308, while Grand Ledge was a distant third with 3185.

Bowling for Lowell this weekend were Ashley Nawrocki, Liberty Clark, Nicole Videan, Kristin Bouwhuis, Sarah Mosher and Sammi Geldersma.

The Arrows will also send three bowlers to State - Liberty Clark, who took

third place at the individual tournament Saturday; Ashley Nawrocki, who took 8th and Nicole Videan, who took 9th.

Coach Rocky Eickhoff said the team bowled well on Friday. “There were a lot of good teams bowling against us. It was nice to win. The girls worked hard all year to get there, so it’s great to see them win it.”

The girls’ team will head to Muskegon for competition on Friday, Feb. 29 and Saturday, March 1.

The boys’ team finished fifth overall in their Regional in Lansing on Friday, with a score of 3827, behind Portage Central (4162), Howell (4063), Lansing

Everett (3996) and Holt (3846).

Brandon Jahnke is the lone Lowell boys’ bowler to head to individuals, who finished second overall in the individual tournament Saturday. Jahnke was also the top scorer on Friday during the team tournaments, with a three-game total of 680.

**LOOK FOR**  
State finals  
Friday, Feb. 29  
Saturday, March 1  
Muskegon



(L-R): Coach Rocky Eickhoff, Sarah Mosher, Kristin Bouwhuis, Nicole Videan, Sam Geldersma, Ashley Nawrocki and Liberty Clark of the girls’ bowling team won their region this weekend.



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**NEXT GAME**  
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vs. Rockford

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## Girls’ basketball ends 2007-08 season with loss at Northview

Lowell ended its season Wednesday night in the first round of tournament play, as the Arrows fell to Rockford 38-49.

Rockford would go on to win the District championship.

Although the two teams were tied at 24 at halftime, the Rams created a 25-point surge that Lowell couldn’t match.

Chelsea Harrison had 11 points for the Arrows, while Kara Rasch took in 9 and Krista Foster had 7.




(L-R): Ashley Nawrocki, Nicole Videan, Brandon Jahnke and Liberty Clark are the four Lowell bowlers who will compete at individual State finals this weekend.

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# Red Arrow SPORTS

## Jackson Morse is the lone wrestler headed to State

by Molly Benningfield  
Editor

It was an emotional week for the wrestling team, as they saw Regional competition get the better of them.

The Arrows lost a tough match-up against Greenville 39-21 in the Regional championship Wednesday after defeating Spring Lake 52-12. Greenville, who earlier that night beat Northview 54-6, was too tough for Lowell, as they were earlier in the season.

Getting wins for Lowell against Greenville were Jake Fillingham at 119, Tim

Gingerich at 145, Justin Boss at 152 and Ryan Olep at 160.

Jackson Morse will be headed to State individual finals by himself next week, as he was the only Arrow to get a championship win at the individual Regionals Saturday.

Morse, a sophomore at 145 pounds, was a State runner-up last year, and will continue his quest for a medal in Auburn Hills March 6-8. Morse pinned Jory Kurkjian of Rogers in the final round Saturday.

Lowell had three runners-up, with Zach

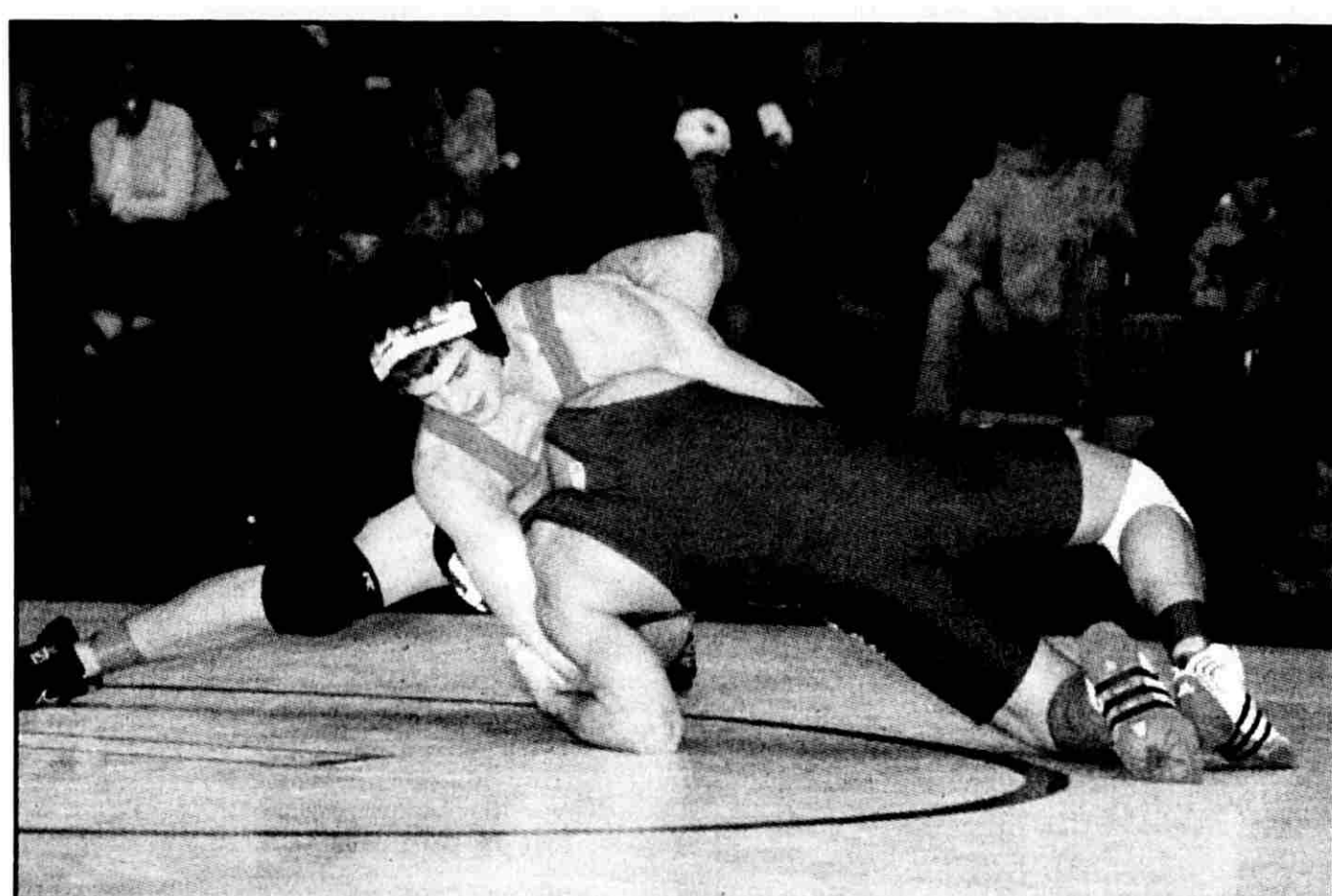
Baum falling to Alec Wilcox of Hastings at 130; Tim Gingerich at 145, who fell to Greenville's Jordan Miller, and Justin Boss, who was narrowly defeated in overtime to Cody Smith of Plainwell.

In the consolation round, Lowell saw two wins, with Ryan Olep at 160 defeating Tyler Fuller of Greenville and Nate Vaught at 171 defeating Tim Burnham of Plainwell.

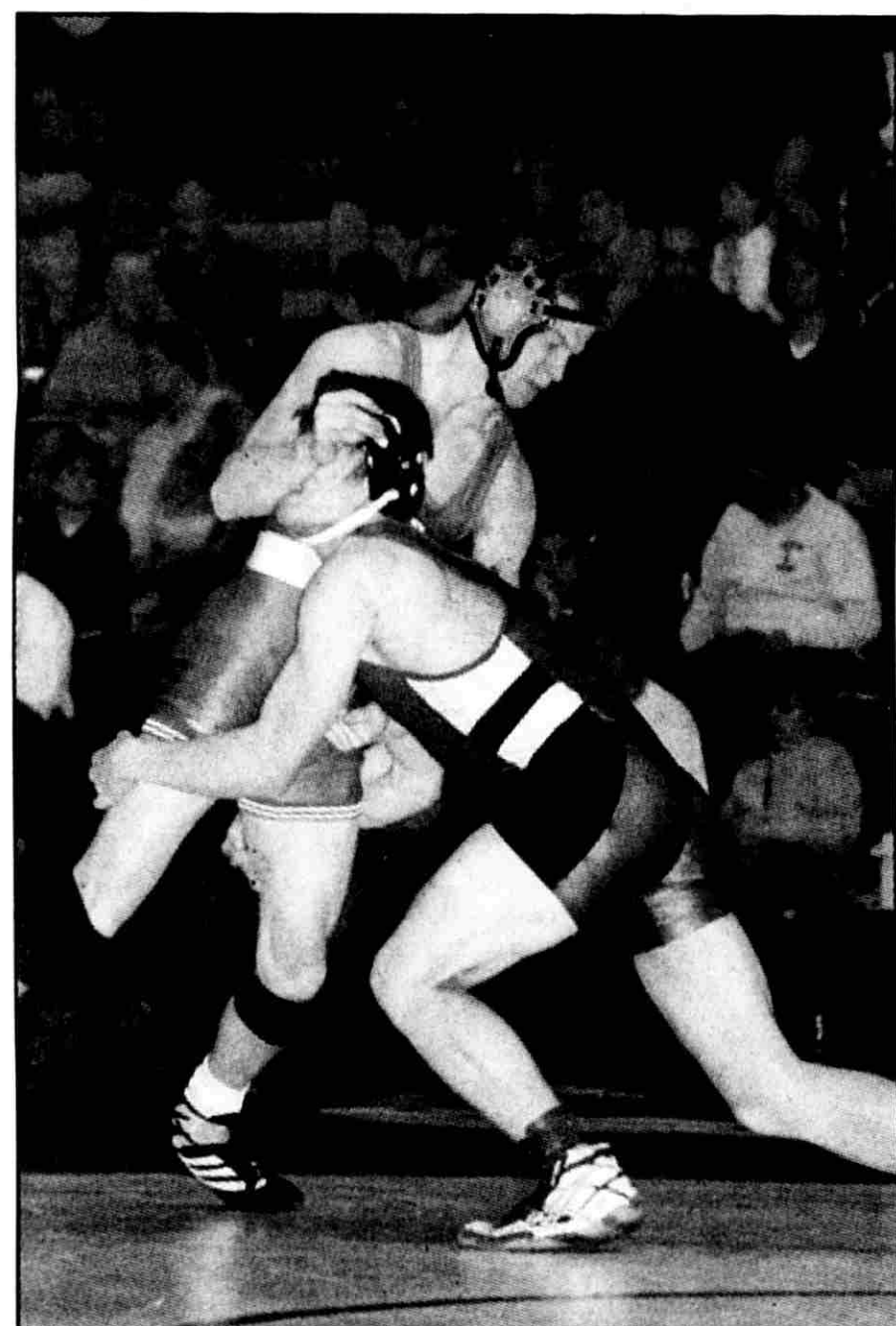
The Arrows end their season with tough losses last week, but came out more than even, with big wins and improved wrestlers.



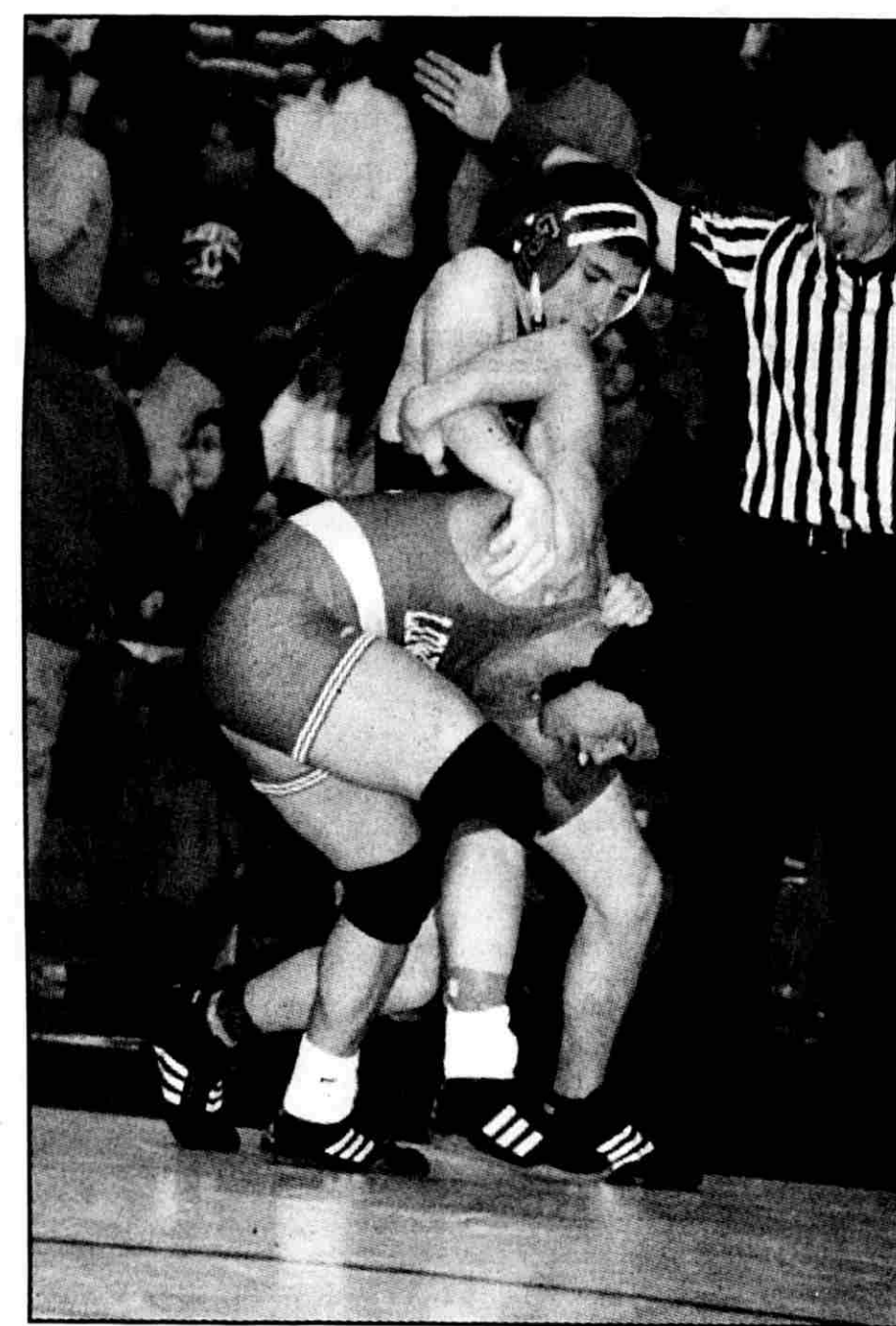
Nate Vaught



Jackson Morse turns Rogers' Jory Kurkjian towards his back in the second period of their 140-pound championship match Saturday.

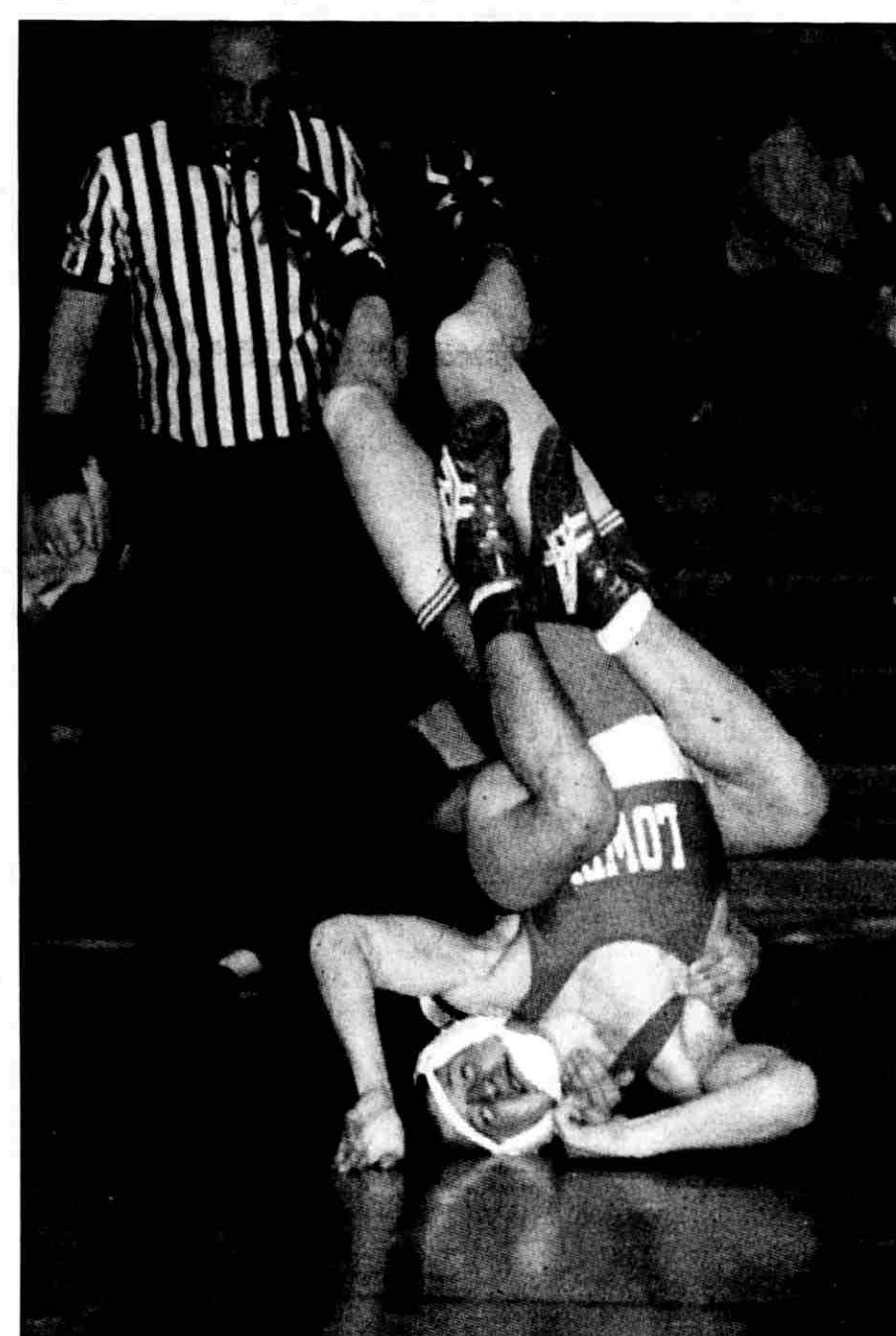


Justin Boss fights off a shot by Plainwell's Cody Smith during the first period of their 152-pound championship match.

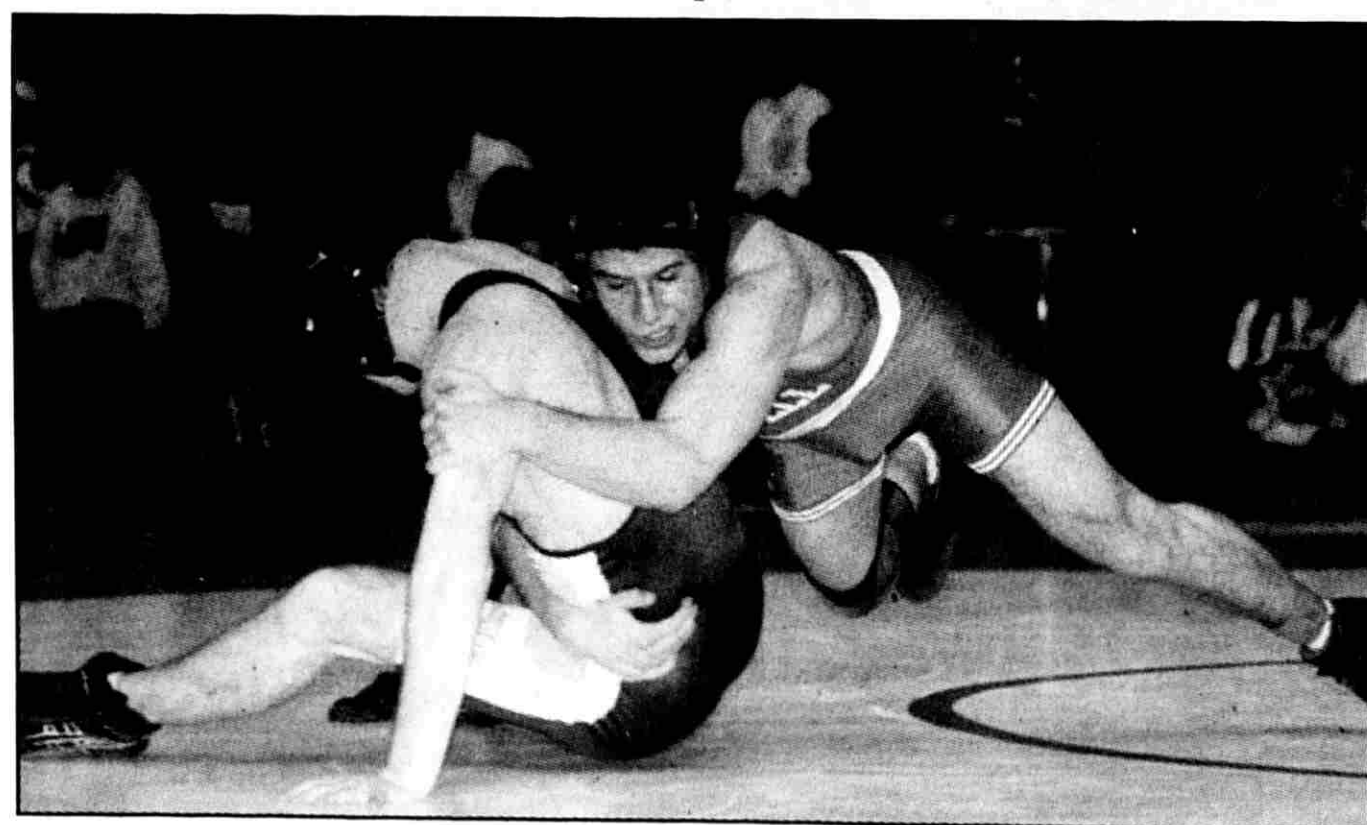


(All photos by Brett Bremer)

(Top left): Ryan Olep fights to free himself from the grasp of Spring Lake's Nick Modak in the first period of their 160-pound consolation semifinal contest.



(Top right): Ryan Dean is turned on his head by Plainwell's Jaylyn Bohl during the third period of their 125-pound consolation semifinal match.



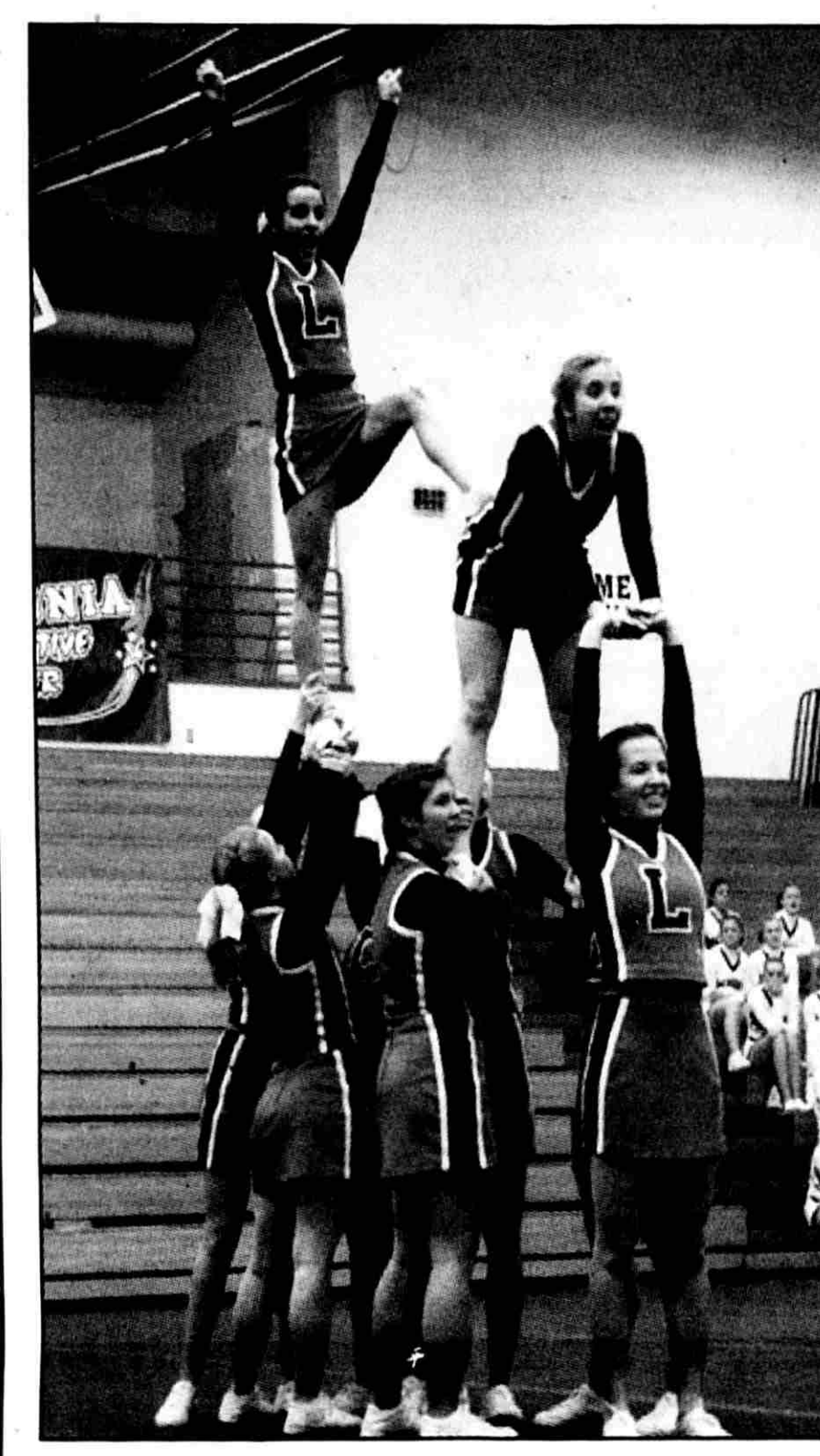
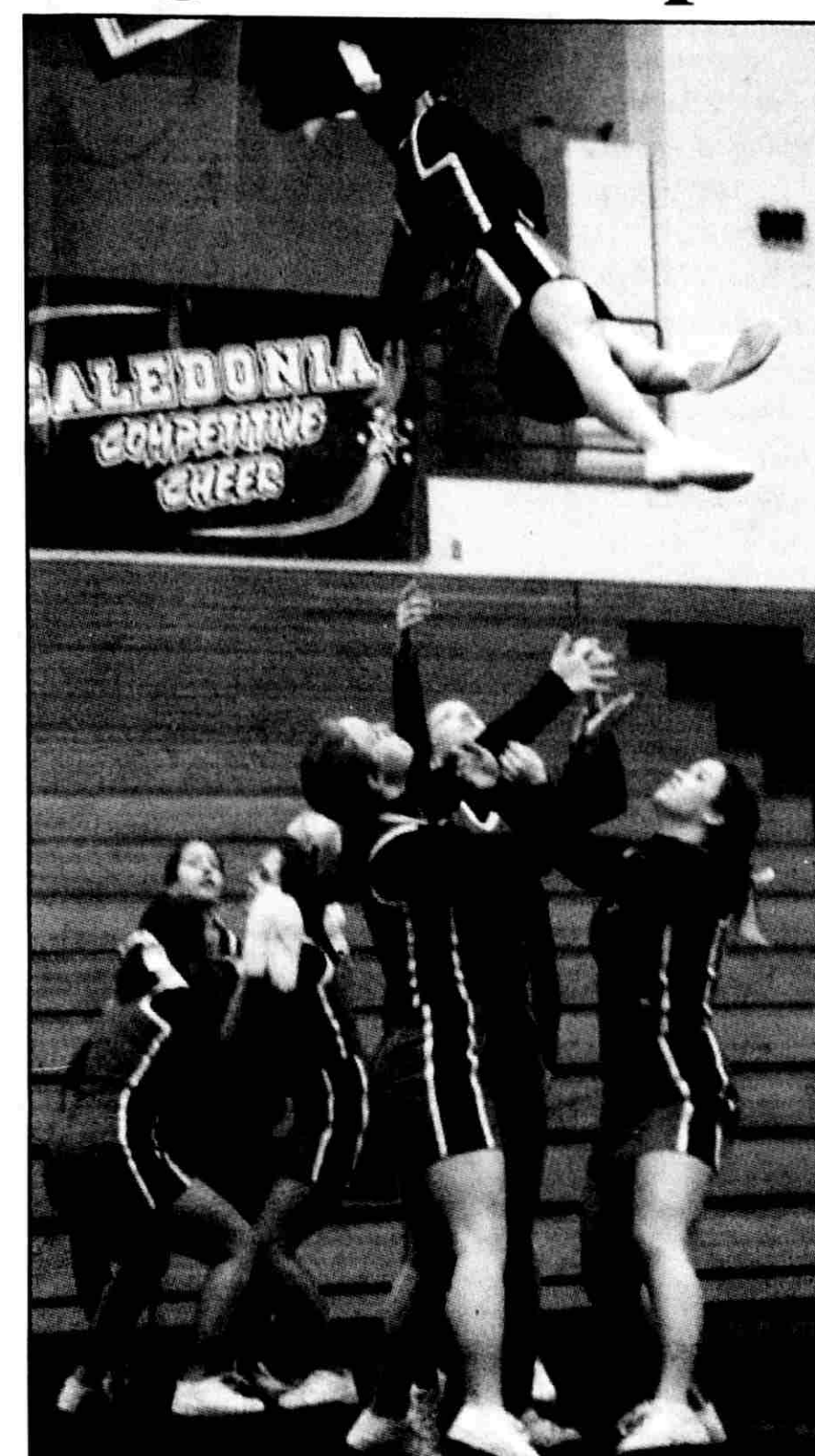
Tim Gingerich (right) fights to stay behind Greenville's Jordan Miller during the third period of their 145-pound championship match.

# Red Arrow SPORTS

## Cheer team prepares for Regional competition this weekend



The varsity cheer team

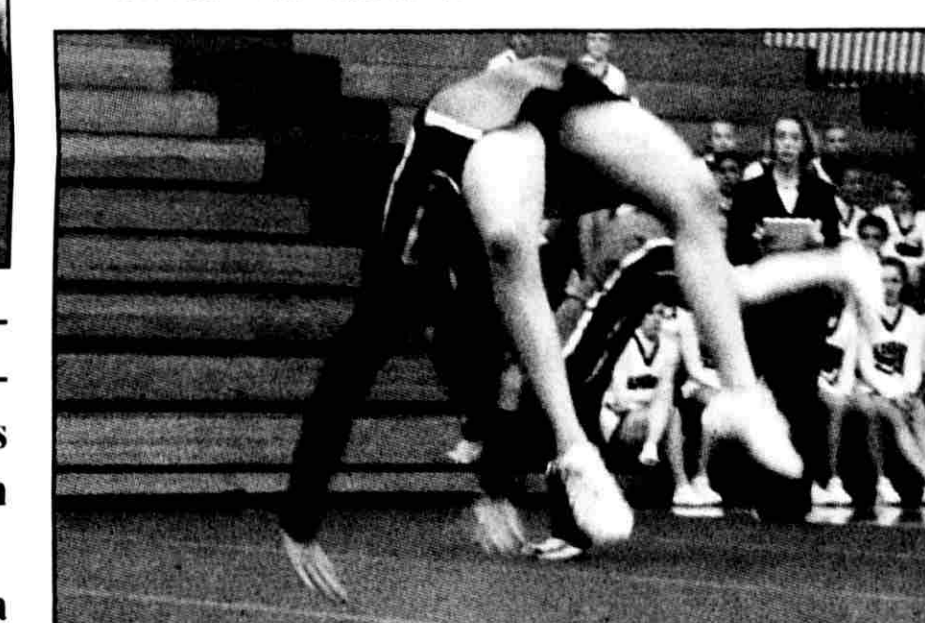


The cheer team finished fifth in the OK-White conference on Saturday, with tough performances given by league champions Kenowa Hills and runners-up, Forest Hills.

The Arrows finished with 646,004 points. Kenowa led with 741,450, while Caledonia took third with 692,956 and Northview was in fourth with 662,74.

Lowell will travel to

Kenowa Hills Saturday morning for regional competition, starting at 10 a.m. The team will compete against Byron Center, Caledonia, Cedar Springs, Coopersville, Fruitport, GR Christian, Kenowa Hills, Northview, Ottawa Hills, GR Union, Holland Christian, Marquette, Thornapple-Kellogg, Reeths-Puffer, Sparta, Rogers and Zeeland East.



## Future Arrow basketball



(Top): Pictured are members of the 4th grade Future Arrow basketball team, after their game on Saturday.



(Top): Pictured are members of the 3rd grade Future Arrow basketball teams, after their game on Saturday.

(Upper right): Mackenzie Conley in an arabesque liberty grabs on for support from Theresa Buist.

(Top left): Theresa Buist whips out a 360 cradle during Round 3.

(Top right): The final stunt during Saturday's conference meet.

(Right): Mackenzie Conley does a back handspring at the beginning of Round 3 on Saturday.

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# Sound Off

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The Lowell Ledger welcomes all "Sound Off" comments, but would like to remind readers of the nature of the column. "Sound Off" is meant to be a community notice board, a means for comments that can be regarded as helpful, congratulatory, thankful and informational. We will not print any comments that are offensive or libelous. Direct aims at individuals, political figures and businesses will not be printed. For direct opinions on a subject (including, but not limited to, politics, business, 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.

You would think that the North Washington property would be preserved by now. What's the delay? No more lame excuses please.

We love to fish along the river frontage of the North Washington property. Also it is great for sledding and hiking too. Any housing in there would permanently ruin it.

The N. Washington property is near and dear to so many and is now being discussed. We must pay attention and not grow complacent this time. Watch the city council, not what they say, but what they do.

Why is it when the snow covers the parking lines, people seem to forget how to park? Leave the Washington street property alone and

don't make any decisions at this time. It has been this way for at least 50 years and I don't think there is any need to make any changes.

I fully support preservation of the unique natural values of this property, and encourage the City to consider a conservation easement for the property that would provide permanent protection.

Please preserve this unique property on Washington St. for the benefit of everyone.

A conservation easement is a wonderful vehicle to accomplish this legacy to our children.

Great season R.A.W.!! (Red Arrow wrestling) Thanks coach Dean and the other coaches.

I think it is important to permanently preserve the N. Washington property as a park.

The Lowell Council needs to come together and realize what a mistake it would be if they do not permanently preserve the North Washington/ Boy Scout property as a park.

As a Boy Scout, I think it would be awful if houses were built on this land. I like to go sliding there too.

My family enjoys hiking on the Boy Scout property and

climbing "Pike's Peak." I hope the city does the right thing and preserves this land.

It would be another short-sighted action and forever regretted if the Lowell City Council develops any part of the North Washington land.

The N. Washington property is very special and should be permanently preserved for all of us to enjoy.

It is my opinion that the N. Washington property and the Boy Scout property should be preserved permanently - no development.

The Lowell City Council should not be allowed to sell off the N. Washington property. It should be preserved as is permanently.

Please do not sell off and develop any of the Boy Scout property.

Complete preservation of the N. Washington property is the only forward-looking option.

Where are all the school stories in the Ledger?

It would be nice to see Lowell get it's own recycling center. Such a long drive to 52nd Street or Rockford to try to be green.

The N. Washington property should be fully preserved according to last November's vote, not by this poll.

The N. Washington property serves the community light years ahead of any miniscule taxes it would generate from development. Save it all as park land!

Two council members were tossed over the N. Washington property issue, and now the folks at the Ledger are still trying to see how we feel? 100% preserve!

I would love to build my dream home along river frontage. Good gravy - those scouts can pitch their tents and campfires just about anywhere.

Preserve all of the Boy Scout property.

The council can't be trusted long term on this issue. Remember the cut trees and cable company?

If the city council is honest with us about not developing the Scout Property it should all become park land without delay!

This (NW property) gem has far too much value to the community than to be parceling it out to a self-centered developer. If developed, shame on all involved.

My friends and I love to hike and sled on the Boy Scout property. It's really an easy getaway from a crowded neighborhood. A natural park would really be nice.

Preserving the North Washington property as a park will serve the common good far more than developing it as private property. Look at it as an investment for our grandkids.

What more of a legitimate survey does the city council need to persuade them on this issue than last fall's election results?(The ultimate survey) A family-oriented natural park would be consistent.

The Boy Scout property should all be saved as a natural recreation area. This city is already wall-to-wall houses. Take care of the people we already have and focus on their quality of life.

The delay on preserving the Washington property is a hope for political apathy to occur and make way for development. Was not the clear message received last November? Recall!

It's very, very sad to hear about Andrew Benedict. The class of 2004 has lost too many. Make each day count!

The voters said preserve it - preserve it!

We'd like to thank the officer for being so helpful at the Shell. - Pat and Denny

The property should be left as is.

I completely support the idea of lasting preservation for the N. Washington property.

I completely support the idea of lasting and permanent preservation for the N. Washington property.

All of the N. Washington property should be designated as a park. If Lowell is the "next place to be" we should have the foresight to preserve it.

Preserve all of the Boy Scout property. The city owns nothing else like it.



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**James W. Weir**, October 7, 1899 - March 20, 1973;  
**Carl Kropf**, September 13, 1909 - January 18, 1993.

Those we love remain with us; for love itself lives on, and cherished memories never fade, because a loved one's gone. Those we love will never be apart, for as long as there is memory, they'll live on in our hearts. Lovingly, your family

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### EVENTS

**TEXAS HOLD 'EM TOURNAMENT** - Fri., Feb. 29. Registration between 7 & 7:30 p.m. at the Lowell Moose Lodge. \$40 tournament. Black Jack tables & 50/50 raffles also. Call Pat at 581-7580 with any questions. All proceeds to benefit Arrow Dynamics Traveling Baseball Team.

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**THANK YOU** The family of Alfred Roth would like to thank everyone for their prayers, kind words, cards, flowers and memorials to the First United Methodist Church.

A special thank you to the Lowell Rescue Team, Lowell Ambulance, Metro Hospital Emergency Staff, the caring staff at Roth-Gerst, Pastor Dr. Michael Conklin, Mr. Bill Zinke, the United Methodist Women's Group and the Kent County Honor Guard.

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**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.

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

**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.

## SYNOPSIS REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2008

Minutes of the January 22, 2008 meeting were approved as corrected and the accounts payable were approved.

The following actions were taken:

Motion to appoint Councilmember Pfaller to serve as Chair to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Motion to approve the resolution for the Parks Agreement with Lowell Little League as presented.

Motion to waive the fee for performing a marriage ceremony.

Motion to approve the bid for replacement of carpet and tile in the Fire Station Conference room and kitchen from Beachum Flooring, including the non stick tile, for \$2,571.21 which the City will be responsible for 1/3 of the cost.

Motion to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. The next regular scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, February 19, 2008.

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



Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk

## 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.

### 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.

<p><b>SYMPTOMS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ SENSATION CHANGES ON THE BACK OF THE CALF OR THE SOLE OF THE FOOT</li> <li>◆ NUMBNESS, TINGLING, BURNING, OR PAIN IN THE THIGH, BACK OF CALF OR THE SOLE OF THE FOOT</li> <li>◆ WEAKNESS OF THE KNEE OR FOOT</li> <li>◆ INSTABILITY WHILE WALKING</li> <li>◆ PAIN WHILE COUGHING OR SNEEZING</li> </ul>	<p><b>Lowell Chiropractic</b> (616) 897-8284 Aaron J. Buys D.C. 2531 W. Main St. Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-8284</p> <p><b>Caledonia Chiropractic</b> (616) 891-8153 Eric &amp; Tanya Seif D.C. 9090 S. Rodgers Ct. Caledonia, MI 49316 (616) 891-8153</p>
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- Monthly Alzheimer's Support Group
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- Trained Staff 24 Hours a Day
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- Beautiful Landscaped Grounds, Walkways and Courtyard
- Hair Salon
- Scheduled Activities
- Library



### Fountain View Mission Statement

*It is the purpose of Fountain View to honor God by providing high quality senior lifestyle services that promote the value and dignity of every person.*

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