



The Lowell Ledger

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Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Wege Land Committee explores \$6 million facility

A \$6 million YMCA facility could be built off Alden Nash, if the money is raised prior to the start of the project.

Over the last few years, the Wege Land Committee consisting of the townships, city, Lowell Area Schools and the YMCA, has been exploring options for the best use of land located on Alden Nash.

A feasibility study has shown some potential interest for a new Lowell YMCA. The new Lowell YMCA has some merit, but with a number of conditions.

The study revealed community characteristics such as inactive population, average population growth, and high awareness of the YMCA.

According to a statement from the Grand Rapids YMCA, these findings create both opportunities and challenges for a new YMCA.

"The YMCA is committed to building strong kids, strong families and strong communities," said Ron Nelson, president/CEO of YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids.

This year represents the 50th year of programs in the Lowell community.

"We look forward to offering programs and services that meet the needs of the community," he said.

The proposed facility would be approximately 27,000 square feet. The facility could include warm water swimming pool, locker rooms, meeting rooms, multipurpose rooms, administrative offices, and outdoor fields.

Programming would include health and wellness, swimming lessons, youth sports, and starter fitness facilities. The potential cost of this facility would range between \$5.5 million and \$6 million.

The facility would be funded 100 percent through donations and contributions. Consultants did not recommend any debt.

The consultants also recommended doing an operational proforma to determine the total membership revenue the facility would generate versus the operating expenses needed to sustain long term viability of the new facility.

According to the recommendations, the YMCA would need a significant annual operating budget. At the completion of the proforma, a decision will be made whether or not to proceed with a feasibility study that would determine the ability to raise \$5.5 to \$6 million.



It's warm in the shanty and the fish are biting

For John Griffioen, sitting in a shanty on the frozen Stoney Lake last week, it wasn't all that cold. After all, the shanty was toasty warm and the bluegills were biting. Staring intensely into three holes drilled with a Phillips driller into the 12-inch thick ice, Griffioen said, "This is better than watching a soap opera." Well, it was definitely more exciting, because Griffioen never knows what he's going to catch. And how does his wife Sue of 50 years feel about Griffioen's pastime? "She loves it, she loves the bluegills." Griffioen was joined by many others, who have set up their shanties all over the lake reminding everyone that winter can be a fun time even at 20 F.

Proposed ordinance to allow hunting in the city

by Emma Palova

A proposed ordinance may allow hunting in the city with bow and arrow on large parcels. The ordinance amendment came under much fire during the city discussions creating a rift in the council. The effort was spearheaded by mayor pro tem James Pfaller, while council woman Sharon Ellison headed the opposition.

Acting police chief James Hinton presented the proposal Monday night highlighting its key elements.

"My main concern

is public safety," he said. "Minimum acreage and enforceability are crucial."

The minimum acreage to hunt is 10 acres, according to the proposal. There are only three residential parcels of this size, while the rest are commercial or industrial. The property owners of such parcels must give permission to potential hunters.

The ordinance will allow hunting during applicable seasons according to the Department of Natural Resources regulations.

"The permit process will be limited by the season," said Hinton.

Five hunters are allowed to hunt on a property per

season. The potential harvest of this hunt could be up to 25 deer. The setbacks for hunting are 450 feet from any occupied dwelling.

Pfaller said the ordinance was overly restrictive, but could be modified after one year or one hunting season to also potentially allow hunting on adjacent parcels.

"This seems like a compromise," said Ellison, "Let's see how it goes."

Council member Jeff Altoft sided with Pfaller to tweak the ordinance after one year.

Hunting ordinance, cont'd., pg. 3



Sound Off! helps resident connect with a good samaritan

The Ledger
(Almost) Anything Goes
Opinion Forum

by Emma Palova

Good samaritans do exist. At least in Lowell they do. Jenny Holst can testify to that.

She lost \$40 in front of the city hall after paying her water bill last week. She just stuck her wallet in her coat pocket, and it must have fallen out.

Holst retraced her steps and found a floating \$20 and even her wallet. But, without the \$40 it was a tough week to shop for her groceries.

Holst e-mailed the Sound Off.

"I put it in the Ledger," she said. "I see all sorts of stuff when I read it. I thought maybe I'll get lucky."

Then she received a phone call from acting chief James Hinton. A good samaritan left \$40 for Holst at the city hall.

"I just verified if it was a true claim," said Hinton.

For Lowell, it is not unusual, according to Hinton.

"Lowell is a giving community," said Hinton. "Stuff like this happens. It's a nice little gesture. It doesn't surprise me."

Holst was thrilled and grateful after the phone call.

"I am thrilled there's a good samaritan out there," she said.

The good samaritan wishes to remain anonymous.

Obituaries

CULBERTSON
James R. Culbertson, aged 57, of Alto, passed away Thursday, January 29, 2009. Jim was a beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend. He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Kim; daughters, Emily Culbertson and Kayne (Aaron) Culbertson-Deur; granddaughters, Maddie and Evelyn; parents, Richard and Edna Culbertson of Jenison; sister, Gail (Tom) Syrek and niece, Kelsey Syrek; mother-in-law, Winifred Killingbeck; also nieces, nephews and so

many dear friends. Jim was Georgetown Township's First Eagle Scout at age 13 and a graduate of Grandville High School. He was an Air Force medic during Vietnam, a life member of the American Mountain Men and worked for over 30 years at G.M. before his retirement. Graveside services will be held at a later date at Bowne Center Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Bowne Township/Alto Fire Department or Bowne Township Historical Society.

Make it easy to plan your retirement online. Our online Retirement Estimator is rated the best online service in government. You answer a few identifying questions and it will use your earnings record to automatically give you an accurate estimate of your future retirement benefits. You can play around with variables (such as when you'd like to retire and how much you expect to earn in the future) to see different retirement amounts. This should be the first step

Social Security's 2009 resolutions to you

by Vonda VanTil, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

and a regular check point for planning a comfortable retirement.

Make it easier than ever before to apply for retirement benefits online. This year, improvements to our online retirement application make it easier than ever before to apply for retirement benefits. Because the improved application is

streamlined and only shows questions applicable to you, it can take as little as 15 minutes to complete the entire application from start to finish. And in many cases, once you hit the "sign now" button, all you have to do is wait for the payments to begin arriving every month.

In 2009, and for many years to come, Social Security resolves to help you. Learn more about Social Security at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Several wintery events at Wittenbach/Wege Center

Got cabin fever? The only cure is to get out and enjoy nature! Join us for a day of snowshoeing and winter fun. Saturday, Feb. 7 from 1-5 p.m. guides will lead you on a guided snowshoeing hike through the forest. If you're a seasoned pro, come out and hike the trails on your own. Bring your own snowshoes or rent ours for just \$4 per person.

Event Schedule:
1:15 Guided Snowshoe Hike
2:00 How to Make Suet with Karen Johnson
2:30 Story Time with Sue Vanderveen
3:00 Guided Snowshoe Hike
4:00 Guided Snowshoe Hike
They'll also have all sorts of fun activities going on in the center. Karen Johnson will share with you her special suet recipe and show you how to make your own homemade suet to attract birds to your backyard. They'll also have suet feeder kits available for \$5 that you can assemble

(no tools needed) right here and take home with you. Sue Vanderveen from the Englehardt Branch of the Kent District Library will read some wonderful winter stories that are sure to lift your spirits and get you excited about winter. Don't let the winter blues get the best of you. Celebrate all that winter has to offer Saturday, Feb. 7, from 1-5 p.m. at the Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center.

For more information, please contact Meggan Johnson at (616) 987-1002 or mjohnson@lowellschools.com.

Play brings out fairy tale characters

by Emma Palova

In 'Beanie and the Bamboozling Book Machine,' major characters from three fairy tales come alive with the help of a special reading machine.

The task is to put them back where they belong. So, principal Mr. Wright and Beanie Boren join forces with Snow White, Dorothy and Hansel and Gretel to put the good and the bad characters back into the book world.

"I was fortunate that Will Darling came along to round out my Decimals," said Bradford. "Mitchell Todd and Eden Nethercott, both very fine actors, just happened to look so much alike I cast them as Hansel and Gretel."

Bradford has in the past worked with Susan Veenma as the Queen, Diana Roush as Candy the Witch and Martha Hayden as the Wicked Witch of the West. Matt Tawney was seen in 'Barefoot in the Park.' He is a member of the sketch comedy group, Guf Grupe.

Bradford likes that the play joins together characters from several fairy tales; Snow White meets Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz; Hansel and Gretel work together with Professor Librum and his Decimal.

"They all come to our world to help us fight witches from the Bookworld," said Bradford. "I fully expect adults in the audience to have as much fun as the children out of seeing the Wicked Witch of the West meet her demise."

In Bradford's opinion, directing is easy with the right cast. "Together we have to



Alec Juarez as Beanie and Martha Hayden as Wicked Witch of the West. Photo by Ted Bergin

"This play stood out as it has several characters which appeal to anyone from kindergarten to sixth grade," said director Sue Bradford. "We can use both youth and adult actors."

The play also ties in well with local schools' reading month programs. Part of the play is taken into the audience.

"That is always fun," said Bradford. "The pace of

unlike directing, according to Bradford. "It is a wonderful cast who made my job easier by working so well together," said Bradford.

JoAnna Henry was seen in Civic's production 'A Wonderful Life.' Some family members were working together such as Rev. John Madvig and his daughter Sarah, Shelby and Melody Antel.

Hunting ordinance, continued ... From Page 1

"The city isn't a place to hunt, but it's a good compromise," said council woman Maryalene LaPonsie.

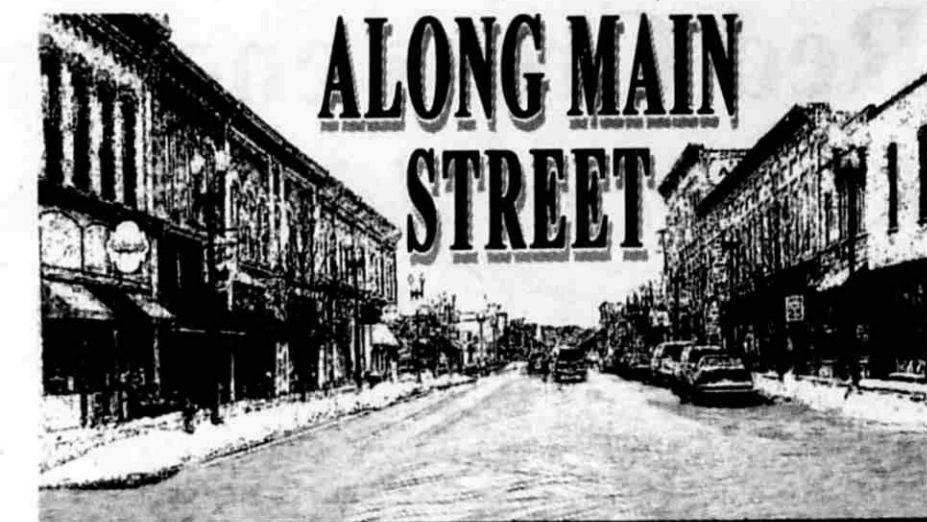
Any violations will be treated as an arrestable offense, according to Hinton.

In other business, the council passed resolutions stating that permitted land uses remain with properties that have aviation easements related to the Lowell City

Airport. The declaration allows the Barrons to develop their property with a commercial use and Fegels for residential development.

The council approved \$8,620 for cable TV tower repairs. This will include relamping of the tower, and removing all unused antennas and cables from the tower. The project will be done by Chrouch Communications and funded from the cable

TV sale proceeds and from the general fund. "It's a dangerous situation," said city manager Dave Pasquale. "We need to have it cleaned up." The compensation board will review the compensation of the members of the Lowell Light and Power board. Currently, the board members are paid \$25 per meeting. Last year, the board met 18 times.



THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY LOVE POEMS

Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Lowell Senior Neighbors, 314 S. Hudson St. This is a contest for writers 18+ years old. Entry deadline is Feb. 6 by 6 p.m. Entries may be hand delivered to: Love Poetry, Lowell Area Arts Council, 149 S. Hudson or mail to: PO Box 53, Lowell, MI 49331, or email to: info@lowellartscouncil.org.

THEBES PLAYERS

Beanie and the Bamboozling Book Machine will be presented at the Lowell High School Performing Arts Center, 11700 Vergennes St. SE on Fri., Feb. 6 and Sat., Feb. 7, Fri., Feb. 13 and Sat., Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. and Sun., Feb. 15 at 2:30 p.m. Advanced tickets are \$6, day of the show \$8. For more information and to purchase tickets call or visit the Lowell Area Arts Council, 149 S. Hudson; 897-8545.

LOWELL WOMEN'S CLUB

Presents a Precious Metals Buying Event on Sat., Feb. 7, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Cash for your coins, jewelry, silver and gold. Two convenient locations: Chimera Design and Collectors' Korner. 10% of sales donated to community support.

ART EXHIBIT

Franciscan Life Process Center, 11650 Downes St., "The Magic of Altered Art," a collection of work by mixed-media artist Meredith Parrish, Feb. 7 - April 5, Main Gallery. Hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Mon. through Fri., or weekends by appointment. For more information, call 897-7842.

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

Sign up at the Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St., Fri., Feb. 13, 6-8 p.m. or Sat., Feb. 14 10-noon. Regular box is \$30 and will feed a family of four approximately one week. Everyone welcome. Any questions call Esther, 897-7395.

KICK-OFF RALLY FOR RELAY FOR LIFE

Join other community members as we come together on Tues., Feb. 17 for the kick-off rally for our 4th annual Relay For Life of Lowell event. Enjoy pizza outside the high school Performing Arts Center, beginning at 6 p.m., program at 6:30 p.m. No reservations needed. Mike Lindhout, from the American Cancer Society, will be one of our speakers.

GEOCACHE CLASS

Sat., Feb. 21, Lowell Community Education will be offering a Geocache class here at the Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center, 11715 Vergennes. Chuck Hayden will show you fun and new ways to use your GPS unit for something other than finding directions. To register, contact Beth Henry with Lowell Community Education at 616-987-2510 or bhenry@lowellschools.com.

LACROSSE SIGN-UP

Lowell Lacrosse Middle School Program will be accepting registration forms until Feb. 28. Contact Terry Amidon at lowellmllax@yahoo.com or 987-0142.

FREE TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE

United Way's Kent County Tax Credit Coalition is providing free tax preparation at the F.R.O.M. building located at 11535 E. Fulton St. The service will be offered on Tuesdays, 4 to 8 p.m. by appointment only. To register, or to see if your family is eligible, call 897-8260.

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CITY OF LOWELL
PUBLIC NOTICE
ATTENTION CITY OF LOWELL AND TOWNSHIP WATER CUSTOMERS
Due to major maintenance the City of Lowell's Water Treatment Filtration Plant will not be softening nor fluoridating the water until further notice.
Any questions, please contact the Water Treatment Filtration Plant at 897-5234.

Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BUDGET HEARING NOTICE
Please take notice that there will be a budget hearing on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 followed by a regular meeting of the Lowell Township Board. The hearing will be held at 7:00 PM at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash SE, Lowell. At such time, in accordance with the law, a budget covering proposed expenditures and estimated revenues of the Township shall be submitted for consideration. Copies of the proposed budget are available at the Township Hall during regular office hours.
Linda S. Regan,
Clerk

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TUE 12:30, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30
MON WED TH FRI 10, 7:20, 9:30
THE UNINVITED (PG-13)
TUE 12:40, 2:45, 4:45, 6:50, 9:00
MON WED TH 4:45, 6:50, 9:00
UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS (R)
TUE 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:45
MON WED TH 5:20, 7:30, 9:45
GRAN TORINO (R)
TUE 11:25, 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:50
MON WED TH 4:35, 7:10, 9:50
PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG)
TUE 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:20
MON WED TH 4:50, 7:00, 9:20
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Red Cross encourages safety in the home

Kitchen accidents most common cause of home fires

Home fires are the most common disaster in America, affecting more than 400,000 families, and injuring more than 20,000 people a year according to the U.S. Fire Administration. And if you want to find the number one cause, look in the kitchen. That's why the American Red Cross of Greater Grand Rapids is urging families to learn how to keep the lid on cooking fires.

Cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home fire injuries. And a fire is more likely to

start in the kitchen than any other room in your home. But unlike other natural disaster threats, many home fires can be prevented by taking practical steps to prevent home fires starting in the kitchen.

- Never leave cooking food unattended.
- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you must leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, baking, boiling,

or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind yourself that the stove or oven is on.

- Avoid wearing loose clothing or dangling sleeves while cooking.
- Keep kids away from cooking areas by enforcing a "kid-free zone" of three feet around the stove.
- Keep anything that can catch on fire — pot holders, oven mitts, wooden

utensils, paper or plastic bags, food packaging, and towels or curtains — away from your stove top and oven or any other appliance in the kitchen that generates heat.

- Clean cooking surfaces on a regular basis to prevent grease buildup.
- Consider purchasing a fire extinguisher to keep in your kitchen. Contact your local fire department to take training on the proper use of

extinguishers.

Always check the kitchen before going to bed or leaving the home to make sure all stoves, ovens, and small appliances are turned off.

Smoke alarms save lives. Having a working smoke alarm reduces one's chances of dying in a fire by nearly half.

But if a fire does occur, your local Red Cross will be there. Last year our chapter responded to

hundreds of home fires in our community, assisting 856 people with their emergency needs. Your Red Cross is here to help you prevent and prepare for home fire, and with your continued support, we will be there to help when the tragedy of home fires touch our community. With your help, we can keep the lid on kitchen fires and tame the flame throughout greater Grand Rapids.

Lowell High School Students of the Month for January

In conjunction with the LHS Academic Boosters, Lowell High School is proud to announce that Zachary Halford, 9th grade, and Kelsey Mankel, 9th

grade, are the LHS January Students of the Month. In order to be eligible for this honor a student must be nominated by a department.

All the nomination forms for the month are then reviewed and voted on at the monthly Department Chair Meeting, selecting two students to be honored for the month. Students are selected based on academic achievement, character, and work ethic. There are 1315 students eligible for nomination, so this is quite an accomplishment for Halford and Mankel. The students receive a \$20 movie gift card and a certificate. Halford was nominated

by the Student Service Center, and they write, "Zach has made significant improvements in all of his classes. Zach has turned himself around by improving

grades and attendance." Mankel was nominated by the Freshman Center who wrote, "Kelsey is the type of student that helps everyone enjoy class. She smiles

and helps others as well as maintains herself. She often brings her camera to class to take photos of the labs and e-mails them to her teacher. She goes above and beyond expectations and is always up for a laugh or a hard question."

This program is made possible by the support of the LHS Academic Boosters, who support the high school in many ways. If you are interested in helping support the LHS Academic Boosters you may call Laura Becker at 897-5653.



Kelsey Mankel



Zachary Halford

CONGRATULATIONS
AMY DOYLE (Larabee)
 on your graduation
 from Cooley Law School!
We are so proud of you!
 Love, Mom and Tim
 P.S. Happy 30th Birthday!

LOWELL LITTLE LEAGUE
BASEBALL & SOFTBALL
GET INTO THE GAME!

SIGN UP DATES:
 Saturday: February 7
 9 AM-1 PM
 Wednesday: February 11
 6-8 PM
 Wednesday: February 18
 6-8 PM
 Wednesday: February 25
 6-8 PM
 Saturday: February 28
 9 AM-1 PM

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More charges in the case of missing Saranac man

More charges have been filed in the case of missing Saranac man Donald Dietz.

Dietz has been missing since 2007 when he was last seen at Meijer on M66. Lowell

resident Rami Ikbal Saba and Raogo Ouedraogo were recently charged with trying to kidnap Dietz, assume his identity and illegally obtain more than \$440,000 from his bank accounts. Saba was arrested in December 2007 and charged with attempted bank fraud and aggravated identity theft, and was subsequently released from custody on bond.

We regretfully announce that Monday, February 2nd was our last day of business. □
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Viewpoint



Sharing The Vision
 With Gregory Pratt
 LHS Superintendent

ADVOCATES FOR EDUCATION IN COMPLEX TIMES

Happy New Year! The fresh start of January brings with it School Board Recognition Month in Michigan. We salute the Lowell Board of Education members for their untiring dedication to public education. Each of our Board members plays a crucial role as elected public officials to help to establish and achieve the vision for education and programs offered by the Lowell Area Schools. School Board members contribute countless hours to help lead their district; time spent at Board meetings represents only a small fraction of the time they sacrifice to make public education the best it can be. In addition, they are deeply involved in community activities and spend many hours at extracurricular events. Their love for learning, and concern and caring for students, staff and community, drives a Board member's desire to lead so students can achieve. Too often we neglect to recognize the hard work of our Board of Education members who represent us. If you happen to encounter one of our Board members, please take a moment to tell them "thanks for caring about our children." Our Board of Education members are: Mark Lessens, President; Jim Turner, Vice President; Patrick Nugent, Secretary; Maureen Fleet, Treasurer; Dan Brubaker, Trustee; Peter Haefner, Trustee; and Nancy Hopkins, Trustee.

Our Board of Education members in collaboration with district school administration will face complex issues and make tough decisions in the months ahead. The factors that are likely to affect the 2009/2010 fiscal year budget include initiatives that have not formerly been part of the annual budget process at the state level. As you are probably aware, the state will need to address an 11 percent unemployment rate in 2009/2010 as forecasted by economists statewide. Much of this is due to plummeting motor vehicle sales. The current figures indicate that car and truck sales have reached an all-time low of 10.9 million for 2009 as compared to the more than 16 million sold in 2007. This significant drop in car sales will bring the big three markets' share to an all-time low of 41.3 percent for 2010 as projected.

Last year we saw major revisions to the school aid fund as a result of lower than anticipated property values. Those revisions were fairly accurate due to the state economy, and it is very possible that additional revisions could be made

in the upcoming month. With property values lower than anticipated, collections for local school property taxes levied on non-homestead properties, and reduced estimates for the cost of property tax breaks provided in state authorized renaissance zones, considerable adjustments can be anticipated in 2009/2010 to accommodate for these declines. Cost estimates for 2009/2010 are based upon a negative growth of 1.9 percent in property values. Further, data indicates a decline in the number of students enrolled in the fall, 2008 statewide. In 2008, pupil accounting figures in Michigan revealed a total decline in student population of 32,022 students in 2007. Next fall, the pupil membership count is expected to decrease by another 29,431 students across the state. This estimate is a result of families moving to other states for employment.

The federal government is working to stabilize the economy, and the federal stimulus package that you've heard so much about is expected to be passed in Congress and signed into law by late February or early March. It is projected that the stimulus package will range between \$800 billion to \$1 trillion. The portion of stimulus funds that Michigan could receive is currently unknown, however we do know that most of the funds will be connected to grants such as IDEA and Title grants, and other monies may be earmarked for infrastructure. This means that little money will be available to schools for discretionary dollars.

Also of note, the state budgeting process includes requirements pertaining to all-day everyday kindergarten and young five programming (intent language was included in last year's state aid bill).

Clearly, the variables associated with developing a budget for the 2009/2010 school year are mounting. Please know that the central administration is persistently monitoring the financial picture from this year's budget. We are keeping a keen eye on Lansing as new information becomes available. As we work to develop our financial projections for the 2009/2010 budget, we will engage our staff in conversations as we consider potential budgetary cuts.

I want to assure the entire school community that the important work of our staff and teachers with students is today, and always will be, the number one focus. Our best efforts will be put forth as we seek ways to maintain programs, sustain fiscal responsibility in preparation for the future, all the while striving to improve and deliver a first class education for Lowell students.

It's tough times, and we will be faced with tough decisions. It's important to me that you know that every member of the Lowell school family is valued. I will keep you informed as concrete information becomes available.



Financial Focus
 With Christopher C. Godbold
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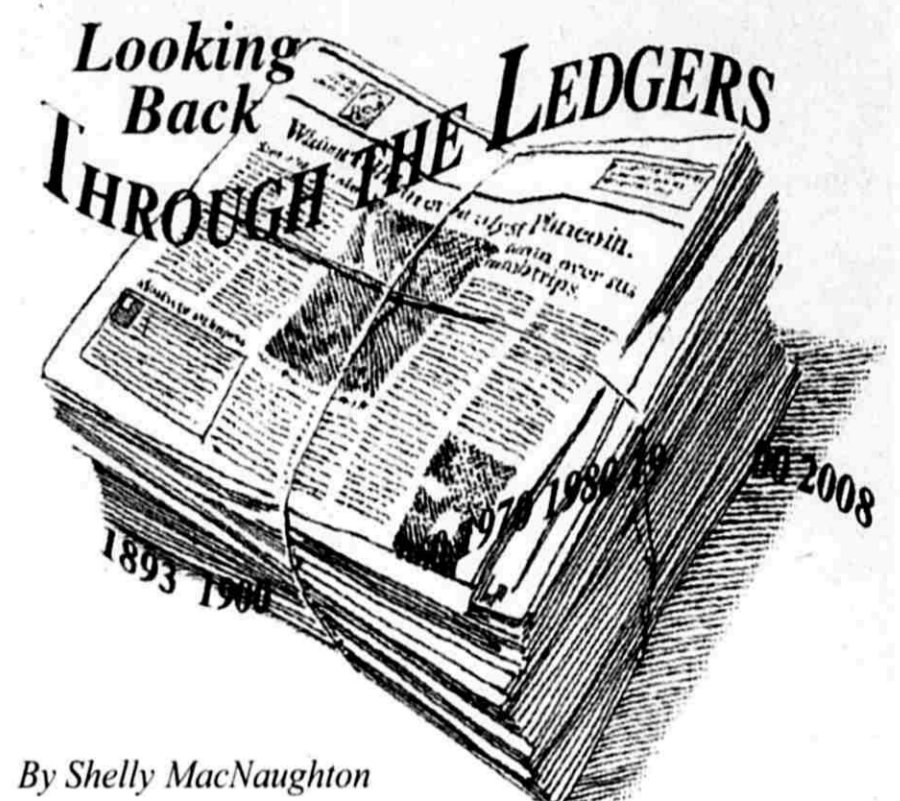
As an investor, you need to look back no farther than last year to understand why it's not a good idea to own only stocks. In fact, many people buy bonds to lessen the impact of volatility on their investment portfolios. Yet, just as stock prices move up and down, bond prices also fluctuate, primarily in response to rising and falling interest rates. These interest rate movements can wreak havoc on your bond portfolio unless you can help yourself climb over them with a "bond ladder."

Before we examine what goes into a bond ladder, let's review some bond basics relating to price and interest rates. Suppose, for example, that you buy a \$1,000 bond that pays five percent interest and is scheduled to mature in five years. Each year that you hold your bond, you will receive \$50 in interest; at the end of five years, you'll get your \$1,000 back, provided the issuer doesn't default. However, if you decide to sell your bond before the five year period is up, you could

get more or less than \$1,000 for it. If market interest rates — the rates paid on newly issued bonds — were to drop to four percent, then your higher paying bond is considered more valuable to investors, so you might be able to sell it for, say, \$1,050. Conversely, should market interest rates rise to six percent, nobody will pay you full value for your lower paying bond, so you would have to sell it at a discount, perhaps for \$950.

Because market interest rates constantly rise and fall, the value of your bonds will do likewise. This could be a big problem if you wish to sell bonds before they mature and use the money to buy new bonds. Keep in mind that if bonds are sold prior to maturity, you can lose principal value.

To help reduce the impact of rate swings, you might want to build a bond ladder. To do so, you buy several bonds, with varying maturities — short-term, intermediate-term and long-term. Once you've constructed your ladder, you'll have some advantage in all interest rate environments. When market rates are low, you'll still have your longer-term bonds earning higher interest rates. (Typically, longer-term bonds pay the highest rates.) Plus, only a small portion of your bond portfolio (the maturing short-term bonds) will need to be reinvested at the low rate. And when market interest rates are high, you can reinvest the maturing short-term bonds at the higher rates.



By Shelly MacNaughton

125 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL JOURNAL FEBRUARY 6, 1884

Quite a number of laboring men are out of work in this village at the present time.

"The boys" have been obliged to play editor again this week on account of the continued sickness of the editor.

A cream, popcorn and bread-and-milk social at George Powlison's was held last night. A "big time" was the verdict of those participating.

100 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER FEBRUARY 4, 1909

In a fire that was discovered about 11:30 Tuesday night, Train's Opera house was completely gutted and unroofed. The walls and the hall and stairway leading to the opera house, which was the third story, remained intact. The fire started in the east side of the third floor and the loss by fire to the second floor apartments was confined mostly to Forester's hall and Dentist Smith's office just underneath.

75 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER AND ALTO SOLO FEBRUARY 8, 1934

Much excitement was manifest in Grattan Center last Thursday afternoon when the body of Andrew Skellenger, 56, was discovered by his brother Rostan Skellenger, aged 52, in the bedroom adjoining the garage in which he, Rostan, had been working. The man was dead from a bullet wound to the head.

Rostan said he heard a "thump" in the bedroom and, upon entering the room, found his brother lying on the floor in a pool of blood. He stated "I went in there and said, 'get back into bed,' and I picked up the gun and put it back of the door in my room." Rostan was quoted as saying "I didn't know he was shot. I didn't see any blood. But when he didn't move I touched him and saw he was shot. I shouldn't have touched the gun. I wouldn't have, if I'd known he was shot."

50 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER FEBRUARY 5, 1959

Newell Manufacturing Co. will be one of more than 300 exhibitors displaying their products at the Home Improvement Products Show at the Coliseum in New York City Feb. 4, 5 and 6. Attendance of over 20,000 visitors to the show is anticipated.

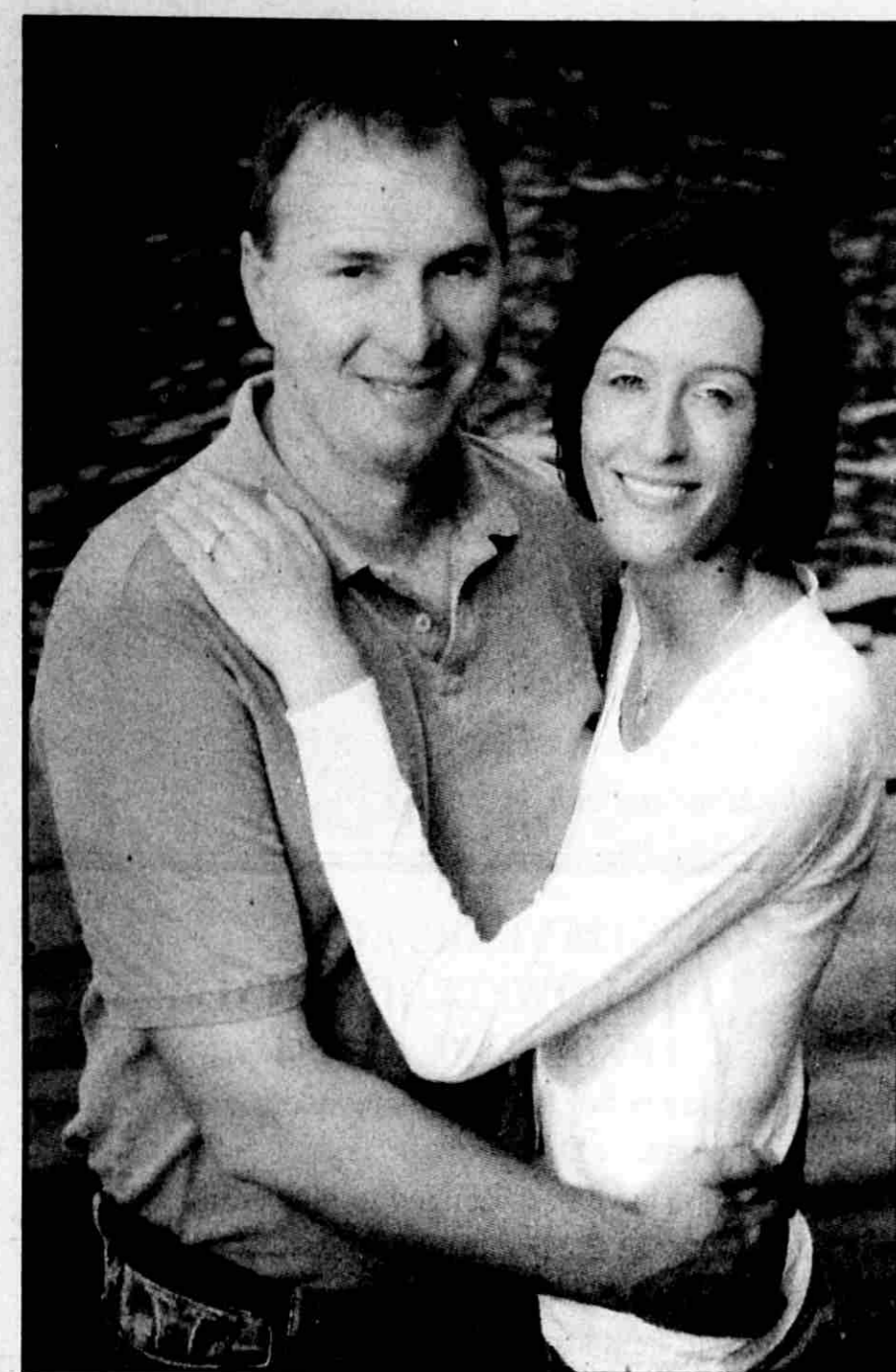
Newell will display its line of combination door hardware, as well as a new, heavy-duty door closer, according to R. W. Hook, president.

25 YEARS AGO THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER FEBRUARY 8, 1984

Representatives of the Lowell Cable TV Department met with the Lowell City Council Monday night to review an audit conducted last year, and to present their plans to remedy the department's current financial woes. The way the city's auditor Virgil Biggs looks at it, the department is losing money, at least on paper.

Engagements

Hoffman/McClure

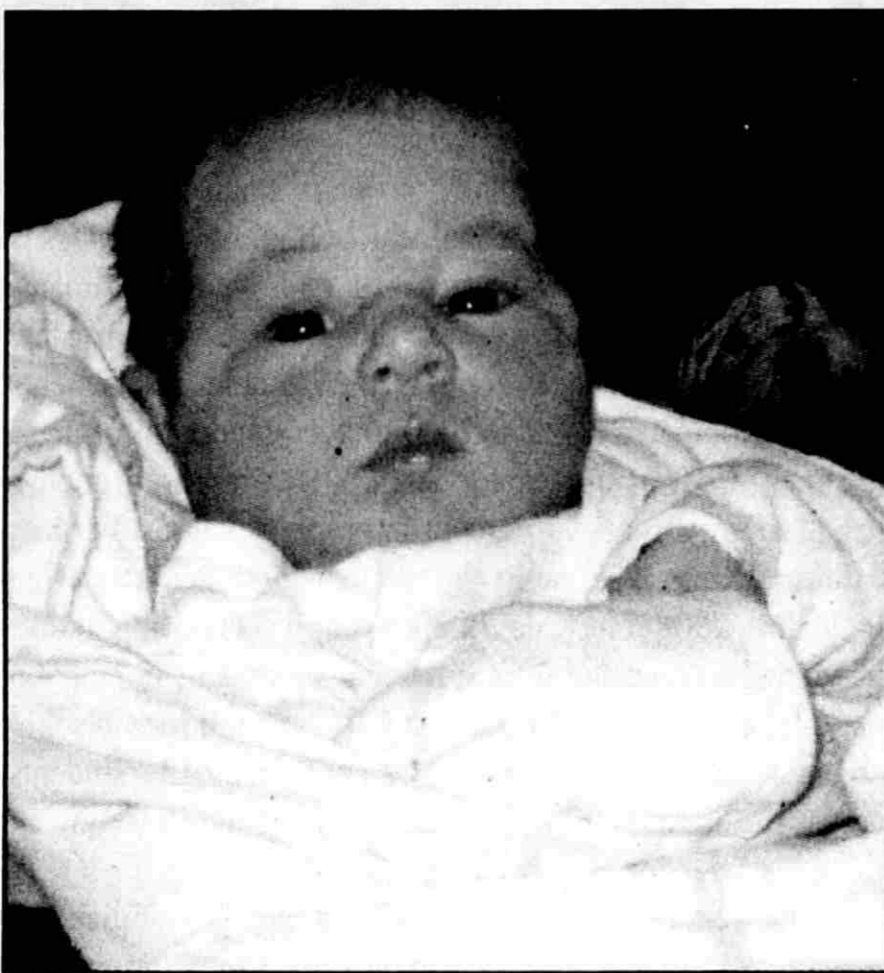


Lynne Hoffman and John McClure

Lynne Ann Hoffman and John William McClure, both of Clarksville, will be on June 12, 2009 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Saranac. The bride is the daughter of Paula Zukowski, of Clarksville, and Cameron Hoffman, of Lowell. She graduated from Michigan State University and is employed with Michigan Ag Services Inc. The groom is the son of Sharlene McClure-Thuston, of Kentucky, and the late William McClure. He attended Grand Rapids Community College and owns McClures Body Shop LLC.

New Arrivals

Conroy



Grandpa and grandma, Brent and Cathy Waldron of Lowell, are proud to announce the birth of Aubry Lynn Conroy. She was born January 30, 2009, weighing 8 lbs. 4 oz. and measuring 21 inches. Proud parents are Crystal and Robert Conroy, of Holland. Also welcoming her home is big brother Andrew.

Ingraham

Andryana Lee Ingraham came into the world on December 27, 2008 at 9:44 a.m. She weighed 6 lbs. 10 oz. and measured 20 inches. Proud parents are Samantha Ingraham and Jon Knight.

Grandparents are Lee and Lisa Ingraham, of Lowell, and Jan Wheeler, of Howard City.

Reflections of faith

by David Sims, Lead Pastor First Baptist Lowell

When I was a boy, my time for a true Yooper rite-of-passage came with a Labor Day weekend ritual that many have enjoyed these 50 years since it began. I'm speaking of the famous five-mile hike with the Governor on the Mackinac Bridge. Perhaps you have experienced that once-a-year stroll over the engineering marvel that spans the Straits of Mackinac. Although in the years since that day I have traversed that awesome arc of steel countless times, in both fair and fearsome weather, that foot trek left an indelible impression and sense of identity and ownership that makes the crossing something special every time.

One of the most exciting and thrilling things I recall about that big adventure was getting to walk on the grating that comprises the two center traffic lanes throughout the central deck of the Mighty Mac. The roadway is actually a large-mesh steel screen that allows the wind to pass through, thus minimizing the windload of the structure that must remain steady in the fiercest of gales that can howl between the two Great Lakes of Huron and Michigan. We always begged Dad to drive over it when we were in the car...we liked the whine of the wheels and the glimpses straight below.

But to walk on the gridway is another thing! It feels like you're walking on air...zero below you but the blue water 200 feet below, making you feel like your next step would surely be a leap into nothingness. Yeah! To realize just how little was between you and nothing is a lesson in both faith and appreciation for creative, expert engineering! Maybe that was the start of my journey that eventually led me to step off the precipice of a bungee-jumping tower to free-fall into space! Or jump out of a plane at 11,000 feet! I still prefer to call it an experience of faith, whereas some seem to insist on phraseology that includes such disparaging concepts as "insanity" and "stupidity!" (Yes, I have to admit that I hadn't given thorough consideration that when a bungee cord stretches, it then tends to contract and unceremoniously retract its attendee quickly upward at a significant rate of speed, and then immediately drop him again, to repeat the process several times before reluctantly relenting of its agitation.)

Needless to say, when I read about March 28, 2007 on the Native American Hualapai Tribe's calendar, I was very interested, indeed! I was ready to plan a trip. Grand Canyon, here I come! They announced that their new Skywalk — a giant, 30-million-dollar steel-and-glass walkway — would open to the public. The Skywalk juts out 70 feet from the canyon rim, allowing tourists to go for a stroll with nothing

Reflections, cont'd., pg. 7

College News

Albion College has named several local students to the Dean's List for the fall 2008 semester.

Students named to the Dean's List must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or above at the completion

of the semester. This GPA must be based on at least three units in graded courses and a minimum of four units completed.

Culver Redd is a sophomore majoring in physics and minoring in computer

science. He is the son of James and Marsha Redd of Lowell and a graduate of Lowell High School.

Timothy Wernet is a first-year at Albion college, with a concentration in the Gerstacker Liberal Arts Program in Professional Management. He is the son of Timothy and Suzanne

Wernet of Rockford and a graduate of Lowell High School.

Benedictine College has recognized those students who have distinguished themselves academically

College News, cont'd., pg. 11

Happy Birthday

FEBRUARY 4:
Jo Hill, Kelsey Scheider, Alan Lally.

FEBRUARY 5:
Ann Mulder, Kenneth Gregersen Sr., Colleen Myers, Mandy Schneider, Mike Conklin.

FEBRUARY 6:
Donna Oesch, Reed Stormzand, Norm Johnson, Angie Blough.

FEBRUARY 7:
Margaret Peckham, Gordie Barry, Peggy Covert.

FEBRUARY 8:
Laurie Chambers, Maya Newhouse, Steve Estes, Karis Dilly.

FEBRUARY 9:
Tom Covell, Alan Ryder, Inga Weeks, Noah Newhouse, Allee Brenk, "AJ" Alvin Davis Brenk II, Adrian Sterzick, Brady Foster, Dave VanKeulen, Charlotte Drake.

FEBRUARY 10:
Richard Korb, Eric Kimble.

Financial Focus, continued ... From Page 5

You can further diversify your ladder by choosing different types of bonds or even certificates of deposit (CDs), for the different "rungs." This diversification can't guarantee a profit or protect against a loss, but it may help you reduce the negative effects of a downturn that primarily hits one type of bond.

Here's one more po-

int to keep in mind: Try to avoid building your ladder with bonds that provide little or no call protection. When market interest rates fall, bond issuers will often "call" bonds — that is, they will redeem the bonds before they mature — so they can issue new ones at the lower rates. You can help reduce the call risk in your bond ladder by purchasing

bonds with call protection, which cannot be called before a certain date.

Ladders, by definition, can help you surmount obstacles. And the same is true with bond ladders. If you want to invest in bonds, and help reduce the impact of interest rate movements, consider building your ladder soon.

Reflections, continued ... From Page 6

below — except for four inches of glass. Wow!

Regardless that some feel it is a defacement to the Grand Canyon rim, just think about walking over four-fifths of a mile of air under you. Not for the faint of heart! So you've been to the St. Louis Gateway arch? A mere 630 feet. You've ridden up to the top of the Sears tower...just 1450 feet. The world's tallest building in Taipei is "only" 1671 feet high. This glass semi-circle promises to be a kind of walk of "faith" for sure.

The journey with

Christ is to be the ultimate adventure-walk of faith. It is a walk that believes in the invisible, endeavors the impossible, learns the inconceivable, conquers the invincible, transforms the unchangeable, rescues the unreachable, engages the unapproachable, and accomplishes the incredible. This is the heart of the Resurrection-Story of Christ...and the New-Life power infused into His followers.

The Living Lord called all His disciples to step out on "air" so to speak, and believe fully that He would

carry them all the way. He asks no less of us today. He IS alive. He is greater than anything our minds can imagine. He seeks those that trust Him enough to let Him be obvious in and through them. In receiving Jesus, you join the Faith-Striding, Trust-Trekking, Wonder-Walking God-getters, soul-savers, people-helpers, Kingdom-builders, hope-givers, and life-changers of time and eternity. Don't miss this now-or-never opportunity!

HEALTH

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



PATELLOFEMORAL PAIN SYNDROME

Patellofemoral pain syndrome (PFPS) is pain at the front of the knee. It may happen when the kneecap (or patella) moves differently than usual.

If you have PFPS you may feel pain behind or underneath your kneecap. The pain may be in the knee or both. It may get worse if you run, go up or down inclines (ie. stairs, hills), or sit with your knee bent for a long time (like in a theater or when driving a car).

Treatment for PFPS depends on the patient and degree of pain involved. Usually, putting ice on your knee, changing your activities, and following a physical therapy program works best. This type of program may include exercises to make muscles stronger and more flexible. Taping the knee or using shoe insoles can be helpful for some people. It may take weeks or months of treatment for the pain to go away. Most people with PFPS do not need surgery.

PFPS may recur after being gone for a period of time. Talk to your doctor about what may have caused the recurrence. Keep your knee strong and flexible. Replace your running shoes regularly (every 300 to 500 miles of use) so they don't get worn out.

WEDDING INVITATIONS



We offer the Carlson Craft line of invitations.

Wide variety & wide range in prices. Stop by to check out one of our books. Invitations back in 7-10 days.

LOWELL LITHO
105 N. Broadway
Phone 897-9261

HAPPY 80th BIRTHDAY

February 6
HELEN SCHAEFER
111

If you would like to send the snowbird a card her address is:
8050 140th Circle SE
Lot 7A
Ingls, FL 34449
WE LOVE YOU!

Bill, Jodi, Pat, Toni, Ricky, Brandi & Jackson, Jordan, Jami, Ryan, Joey, Brady, Jasen & Amiya

Lowell Womens' Club

Presents a Precious Metals Buying Event

Saturday, February 7th, 10 AM - 4 PM

Cash for Your:







Silver & Gold



Two Convenient Locations:
* Chimera Design
* Collectors' Korner

Chimera Design & Collectors' Korner will donate 10% of sales to community support

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

 <p>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M.</p> <p>OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p>DAY BIBLE CHAPEL 9305 Centerline, Saranac 897-6332</p> <p>Worship.....9:45 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M.</p> <p>Nursery & Jr. Church Provided Rev. Frank Lattimore, Pastor "A Nondenominational Ministry With A Blended Word Centered Service!"</p>	<p>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL Rev. Randy Meyers • 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI</p> <p>Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.</p> <p>Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p>	 <p>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God) 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Lead Pastor John King, Youth Pastor</p> <p>SUNDAYS: 10:00 a.m. - Worship & Evening: LIFE home Groups & "The Source" Youth</p> <p>WEDNESDAYS: Family Night: (for all ages) 7:00 p.m. "The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m. Loving God... Loving People!</p>
<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 www.lowellumc.com</p> <p>WORSHIP..... 8:30 & 10:15 a.m.</p> <p>Rev. Rick Blunt Barrier-free entrance</p>	 <p>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God) 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Lead Pastor John King, Youth Pastor</p> <p>SUNDAYS: 10:00 a.m. - Worship & Evening: LIFE home Groups & "The Source" Youth</p> <p>WEDNESDAYS: Family Night: (for all ages) 7:00 p.m. "The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m. Loving God... Loving People!</p>	<p>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Fr. Eugene Okoli 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com</p> <p>Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETE WIGANS 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48, EWTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>	<p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL (United Church of Christ) 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906</p> <p>Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Thursday Faith Alive Worship.....7:00 P.M.</p> <p>Rev. Terry Tessari.....Interim Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director Barrier-free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship</p>
<p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org</p> <p>Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....9:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbcloowell.org Rev. David O. Sims & Rev. W. Lee Taylor</p> <p>Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA/EXCITE - TEENS, Wed. 6:15 & 6:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free</p>	<p>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Vance Dimmick Jr.</p> <p>9:45 A.M.Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M.Sunday School</p> <p>897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery & Children Worship Programs Provided</p> <p>A friend...a family...a mission!</p>	 <p>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Fr. Eugene Okoli 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com</p> <p>Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETE WIGANS 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48, EWTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>

LOOK AT ME NOW!!!
Congratulations to Harold Ball and Chauncy Ingle who successfully met their therapeutic goals and returned home! Both Harold and Chauncy chose the Laurels of Kent to be their "Close To Home Rehab Provider" when they were unsafe to return home from the hospital. Harold and Chauncy are happy to be returning home, but will miss the relationships that they have made at The Laurels of Kent. Both stated that if needed they would return to The Laurels of Kent for sub-acute rehabilitation and will recommend us to others!

Congratulations Harold and Chauncy!!!!

THE LAURELS OF KENT
A Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

350 N. Center St., Lowell, MI 49331
(616) 897-8473
www.laurelsokent.com

A Better Place ... The Place of Choice

Fountain View of Lowell understands the importance of staff longevity.

We recognize its importance in fostering trust and confidence in knowing your loved one is receiving care from dedicated, experienced people. The committed staff at Fountain View of Lowell is ready to partner with you when assisted living or specialized memory care needs arise.

At Fountain View of Lowell you'll find us focusing on the whole person, from nutrition to spiritual well-being. Each resident has a care plan designed specifically for their needs to preserve dignity and encourage independence while enjoying around-the-clock companionship and care in a strong family Christian atmosphere.



7 Years



11 Years



11 Years



11 Years



12 Years



30 Years



10 Years



Peace of mind is the most important for my sister and me. Mom is 95 years young and has been residing at Fountain View of Lowell for 2 years. Mom loves attention and the staff really does care for her as well as all the residents. Knowing her physical, mental and spiritual needs are met we have that peace of mind. Thank you Fountain View.

- Shirley Baxter and Janice Sauber



"When we walked into Fountain View of Lowell we just felt that this was the best place for my mom. Everyone is very special. At Fountain View they not only take care of your loved one Fountain View also give families so much support. We feel like Fountain View of Lowell and everyone are part of one big family. Thank God we have Fountain View of Lowell."

- Kay Barnes



A couple of months after Mom's surgery, she was ready for more independence, but not quite ready to do everything on her own. I'm so glad she thought of Fountain View. I had no clue we had such a wonderful resource here in Lowell! The facility is beautiful, the staff is outstanding, and the other residents are delightful. Fountain View has been the perfect solution for us. Mom has the independence she enjoys and we have peace of mind!

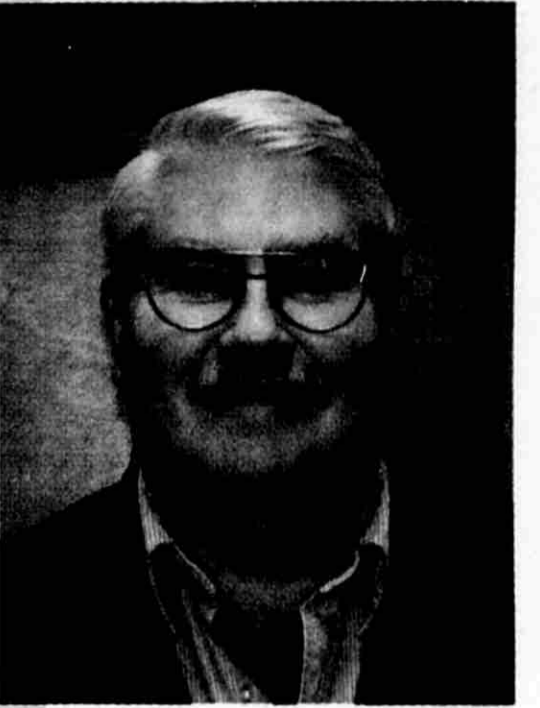
- Carla Stone

Call for your personalized tour and discover the Fountain View difference ... (616) 897-8413
11535 E. Fulton • Lowell, MI 49331 • www.leisure-living.com



- KIRK COLLINS

Position: Owner/president of Showboat Automotive
Residence: Lowell
Education: Lowell High School, two years at Grand Rapids Junior College
Experience: Computers, paperwork, sales calls, management
Family: Wife Ann, daughters Samantha, Kathryn and son James
Hobbies: Time at work



Showboat Automotive owner likes to make people happy

by Emma Palova

One day back in the seventies, Kirk Collins came to Showboat Automotive to purchase parts. And he never left.

Today, many years later, Collins enjoys the same things about the business as he did when he started. And that is making the customers happy.

Unlike most other businesses, when people

come to an automotive supply store, they're not happy campers. Their cars are broken, and they know they will have to spend money, a lot of money.

"It's like being a problem solver," he said. "Most people are not happy when they come here. I like when you get somebody parts, and they're happy."

Collins started out in parts delivery in 1976, and

bought the shop in October of 2000, when previous owner Hugh Cosgrove retired.

In the beginning, there were many challenges of running a business. Number one was that the main supplier went out of business, and Collins had to look for another one. Now, he purchases parts from Autowares, as an Auto Value parts store.

Has he ever thought about quitting? Collins joked, "Every day."

But, in reality he likes what he does, day in day out. It's hard work, just like in any other business.

"I like doing it," he said. "We're the only locally owned and operated parts store. I am the only guy born and raised in Lowell who operates a parts store."

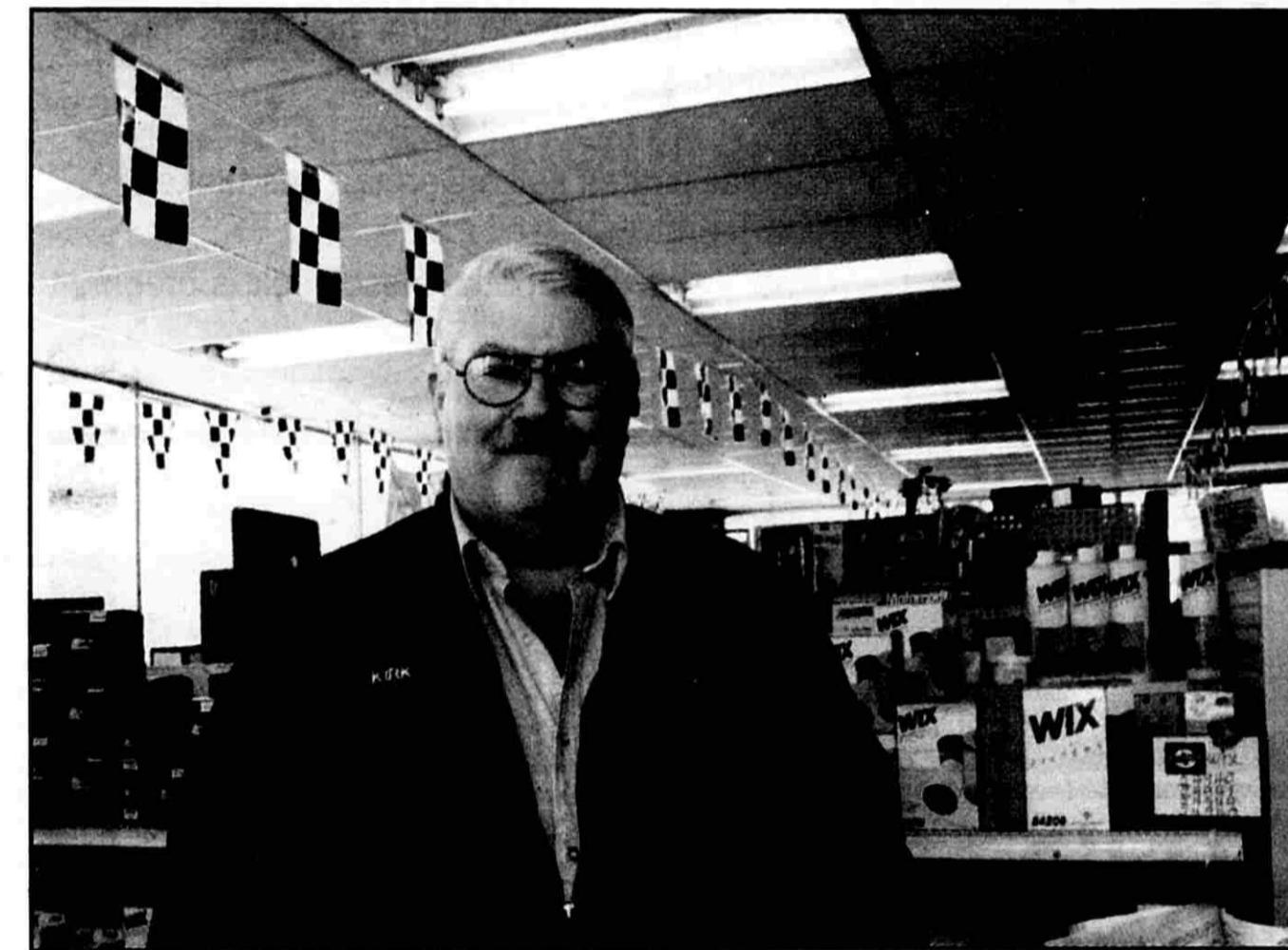
His goals include increasing sales and keeping the customer satisfied.

"I work hard at it," he said. "I advertise locally, and I do a lot with the schools."

Collins wants to be known among his employees as generous and easy going, while with his fellow business owners, he is known as knowledgeable.

The competitive advantage in these hard economic times is definitely personal customer service. Collins, and the crew, know most of the customers who come in the door.

"We just know our customers," he said.



Californian cherishes memories of Lowell

by Emma Palova

At 83, Norma Carroll still cherishes fond memories of Lowell, where she grew up in a house on Washington Street. She used to pick up coal from the tracks when coal trains passed and play with sister Lorraine.

When Lowell got too small for Carroll, she went to Grand Rapids to work for a CBS affiliate, WJEF radio station as a traffic manager in 1952.

"I was responsible for everything that went on air," she said. "It was like the guts of the operation."

But, then Carroll got tired of the snow and ice. She put an ad in a trade magazine seeking employment. She received six responses, including one from Texas.

"I didn't want to live in the panhandle, and Florida was too muggy," she said.

"I wanted to meet young people."

So she left for California and worked as an administrative assistant for a CBS executive, later she did public relations work for TV shows. Carroll also worked for Bing Crosby Productions, Gary Crosby's summer show, which used friends as guests, i.e. Frank Sinatra, Rosemary Clooney and others.

Carroll always got all her jobs through her friends and networking except for once when she applied with a job agency.

She married Bob Carroll, a writer of the 'I love Lucy' show. When she had daughter Chris, Carroll stayed home to raise her. Together they visited Lowell in 1978 en route to college in Connecticut.

"Mom brought me



Christina Carroll with her mother Norma Carroll.

through Lowell only once, but it filled in her years of stories with colors, smells and Michigan air of a beautiful fall day," Christina said.

Mom was even named

"Potato Queen" at some county festival.

"Mom told me of the Lowell Show Boat, and I

Ledger subscriber, cont'd., pg. 11

DRAFT SYNOPSIS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2009

Motion to approve the agenda as submitted.

Motion to approve the Regular Minutes of the January 20, 2009 meeting as corrected and the accounts payable were approved.

Motion to approve the resolution to prepay installment purchase agreement related to the acquisition of a dump truck and to approve an inter-fund loan to finance such acquisition.

Motion to approve the resolutions clarifying permitted uses of property after acquisition of aviation easements related to the Lowell City Airport.

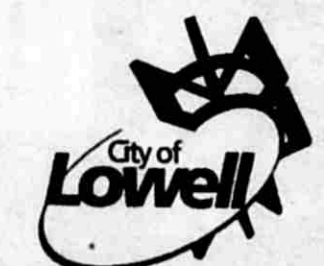
Motion to approve the Cable TV tower repairs and remove all unused antennas and cables from the tower as well as removing microwave dishes and lines from the building top and disposing of such totaling \$8,620 allocated from the remaining Cable TV sales proceeds and Unallocated account in the General Fund.

By consensus, the City Council appointed Andrew Schrauben to the Planning Commission.

Motion to go into closed session at 8:16 p.m.

Motion to adjourn at 9:38 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, February 17, 2009.

Complete minutes will be available after approved on February 17, 2009 on the City's web page at www.ci.lowell.mi.us or at City Hall.



Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk



A FEW NOTABLE EVENTS FROM JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 4 • 2009

- Superbowl 43 is now history. The Pittsburgh Steelers beat the Arizona Cardinals 27-23 creating a new record of six Super Bowl wins. Bruce Springsteen and the E-Street Band performed at halftime. Santonio Holmes was named MVP.
- Punxsutawney Phil, the shadow savvy groundhog in Pennsylvania, has once again predicted six more weeks of winter by seeing his shadow.
- A U. S. soldier based in Georgia, on his first skydiving jump, lands safely after his instructor dies while strapped to the soldier's back. The nonmilitary jump was a gift from his girlfriend.

- Spike Lee plants James Brown biopic starring Wesley Snipes.
- Colin Montgomerie named next Ryder Cup captain for Europe.
- Blagojevich is tossed out as governor of Illinois with a vote of 59-0.
- Alaska volcano appears ready to blow.
- The Michigan Senate votes to repeal the business tax surcharge.
- An American U.N. worker has been kidnapped in Pakistan as he traveled to work. Gunmen shot and killed his driver.
- Zimbabwe's cholera epidemic has risen to 63,000 cases according to the World Health Organization. It has killed 3,229.
- Mount Asama erupts and showers Tokyo with ash. No injuries. The volcano has been active for thousands of years; the last eruption was September 2004.
- In New Delhi the Dalai Lama is hospitalized with "mild discomfort" in his arms and told to rest.
- Maple Leaf Foods' said on Monday it has reached a tentative \$25 million settlement in a series of class-action lawsuits related to an outbreak of listeriosis food poisoning that killed at least 20 people last year in Canada.
- A protester throws a shoe at China's Prime Minister Wen Jiabao during a speech in England at Cambridge University.
- Moammar Gadhaf of Libya is elected as leader of the African Union.
- Michael Phelps is pictured smoking pot. Now his endorsement contracts are in jeopardy.
- Worst snowstorm in 18 years in England has closed schools as well as Heathrow Airport effectively shutting down London for a time.
- Iraq denies Blackwater an operating license.
- Exxon posts a record \$45.2 billion profit.
- European car makers may not all weather this economy.
- Russia and China blame capitalists for economic crisis.
- Putin promising to turn his back on the confrontations of the past.
- Somali pirates seize German gas tanker.
- The Views' Elisabeth Hasselbeck is pregnant again.

You Always Protect The Ones You Love

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'Cable lady' retires after 26 years of work

by Emma Palova

She was known as the 'Cable Lady.'

For 26 years, Christine Simmons has done a little bit of everything at the Lowell Light and Power. She started working for the cable TV

company and most recently ended up as accounting and administrative assistant doing accounts payable, receivables and billing.

Now, Simmons is retiring and ready to do as she puts it, "the domestic stuff" that

no working woman has time for.

But, she will miss the close relationships with people, both co-workers and customers. Although, nothing beats going first to the Bahamas, with daughter

Kristina Simmons. "I will miss the people I work with," she said. "They're all great."

As far as the domestic stuff, Simmons will knit, crochet, bake, garden and

watch her three year old granddaughter Brenna in Lowell," she said. "The customers are great."

Ledger subscriber, continued ... From Page 9

could nearly hear the music when we were near where it was," she said.

Today, even though Carroll doesn't know any people in Lowell anymore, she still likes to stay in touch. She's been a subscriber to the Lowell Ledger for the last 30 years. Before that, she got snippets from her now deceased sister Lorraine.

"I like to keep tabs on the growth of the city," she said.

Carroll was in the same class with former Lowell Ledger columnist Priscilla Lussmeyer. She misses the original column for its depth.



Mary Sawka, Amanda Geiger, Christine Simmons, Gail McQueen and Kathy Kalm pose Friday with retiring Simmons.



Norma Carroll has fond memories of Lowell.

College News, continued ... From Page 7

during the last semester. Nathanael Taylor of Lowell, was recently named to the Dean's List for the fall semester, which ended December 15, 2008.

Full-time students with a minimum of 12 credit hours and a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.9 are named to the Dean's List. Of the 1,352 students on campus for 2008-2009 academic year, 366 made the Dean's List and only 64 made the President's List.

Abbot Kastanek, of Lowell, has been named to the Dean's List for the 2008 fall semester at Grand Rapids Community College. He earned a place among the top ten percent of over 15,000 students enrolled at the College.

Nathaniel Clements, a Hope College junior from Lowell, is studying off-campus at Waseda University in Japan during the 2009 spring semester.

Clements is the son of David and Susan Clements of Lowell. He is a 2006 graduate of Lowell High School.

Western Michigan University has named Lisa M. Brown and Courtney L. Engel, both of Lowell, to the Dean's List for the fall 2008 semester.

To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must have earned at least a 3.5 grade point average (on a scale of 4.0 being all A's) in at least 12 hours of graded class work.

Michigan State University's List for the 2008 fall semester includes students from Lowell: Mary Calvi, Mallory Hines, Stephen Kansman, Drew Kyllonen, Paula Lawrence, Paul Mundt, Michael Nichols, Morgan Olin, Justin Quist, Jonathan Riddle, Jennifer Thomas, Stephani Thompson, and Sara Williamson. Students from Alto included: Megan Cargill, David Lucas, Amy Nelsen, Robert Reed, John Ricketts, Kaycee VanDyke, and Shawn Videan.

The Dean's List honors all full-time undergraduates in the university who earn a 3.50 or better GPA for the given semester and for which grades have been recorded under the numerical grading system.

Michigan Technological University has released the Dean's List for the fall 2008 semester, recognizing students who achieve grade point averages of 3.5 or higher. Those earning straight A averages of 4.0 are indicated by asterisks.

Among the honorees are the following from Ada: Melissa A. Hawks, Freshman, Civil Engineering.

Lowell: Laura G Crimmins*, Senior, Geological Engineering and Anthony J Freeburg, Freshman, Computer Engineering.

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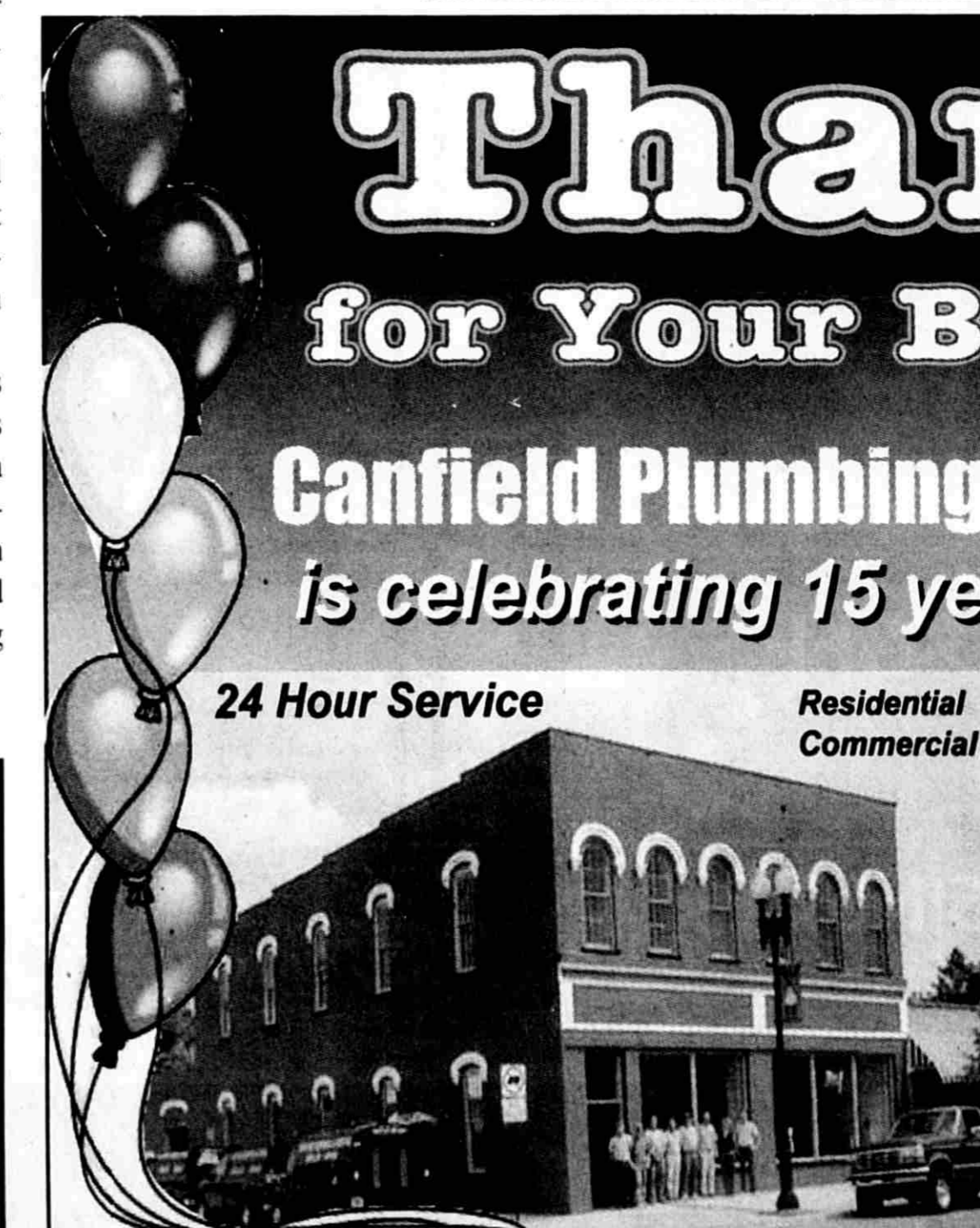
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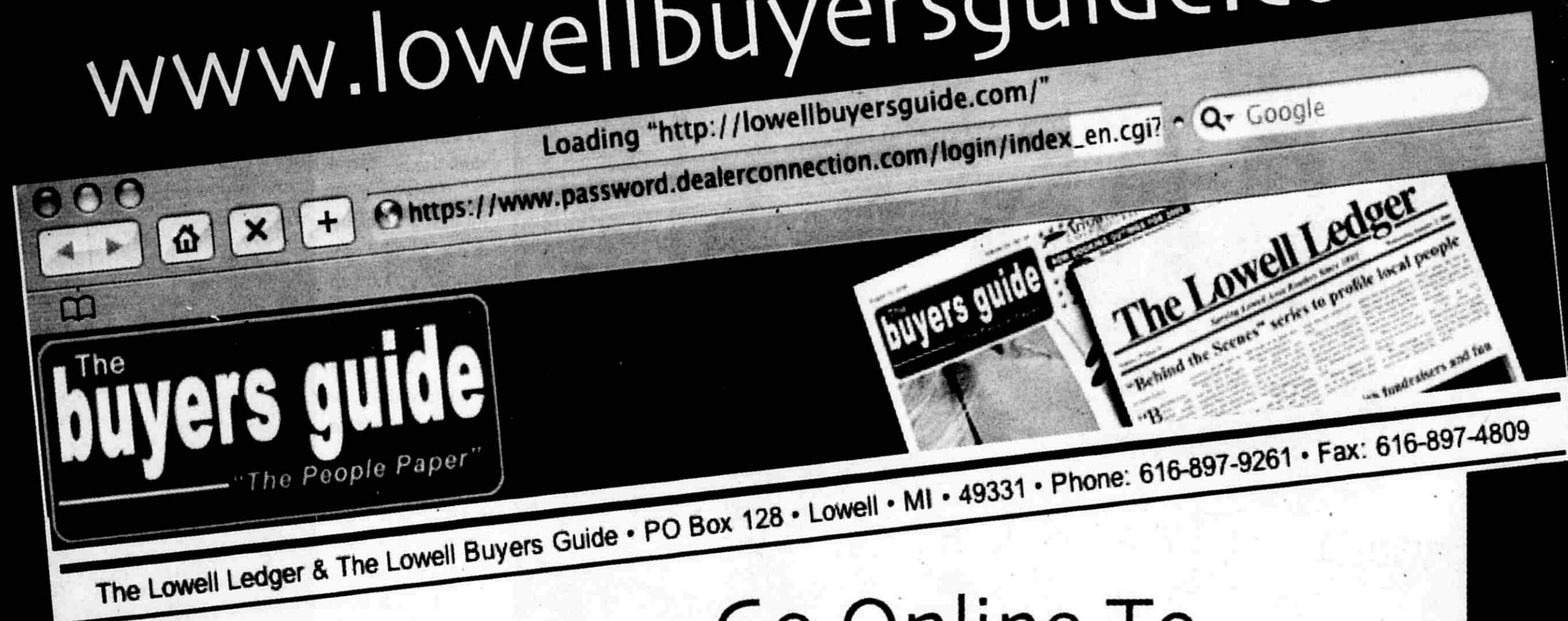
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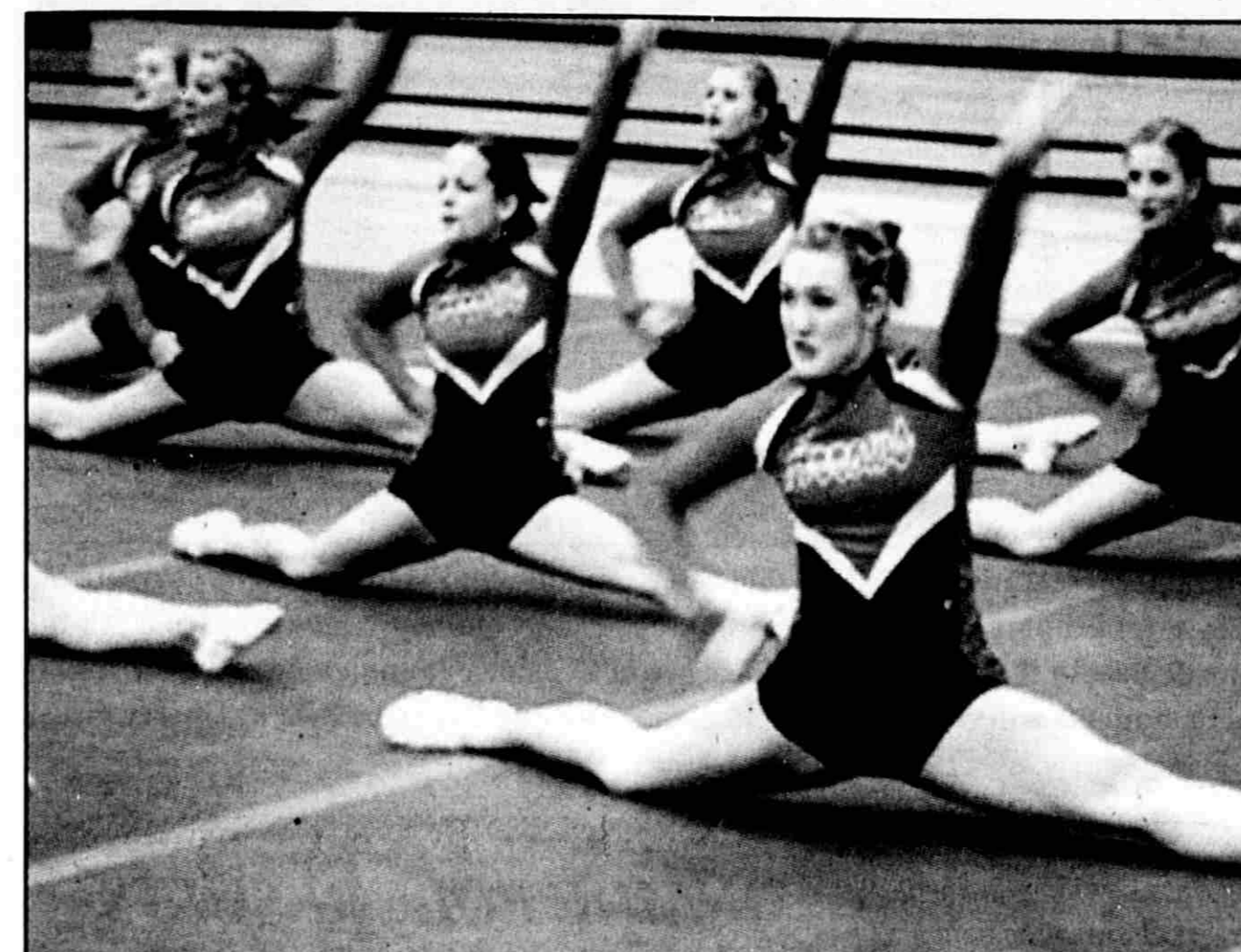
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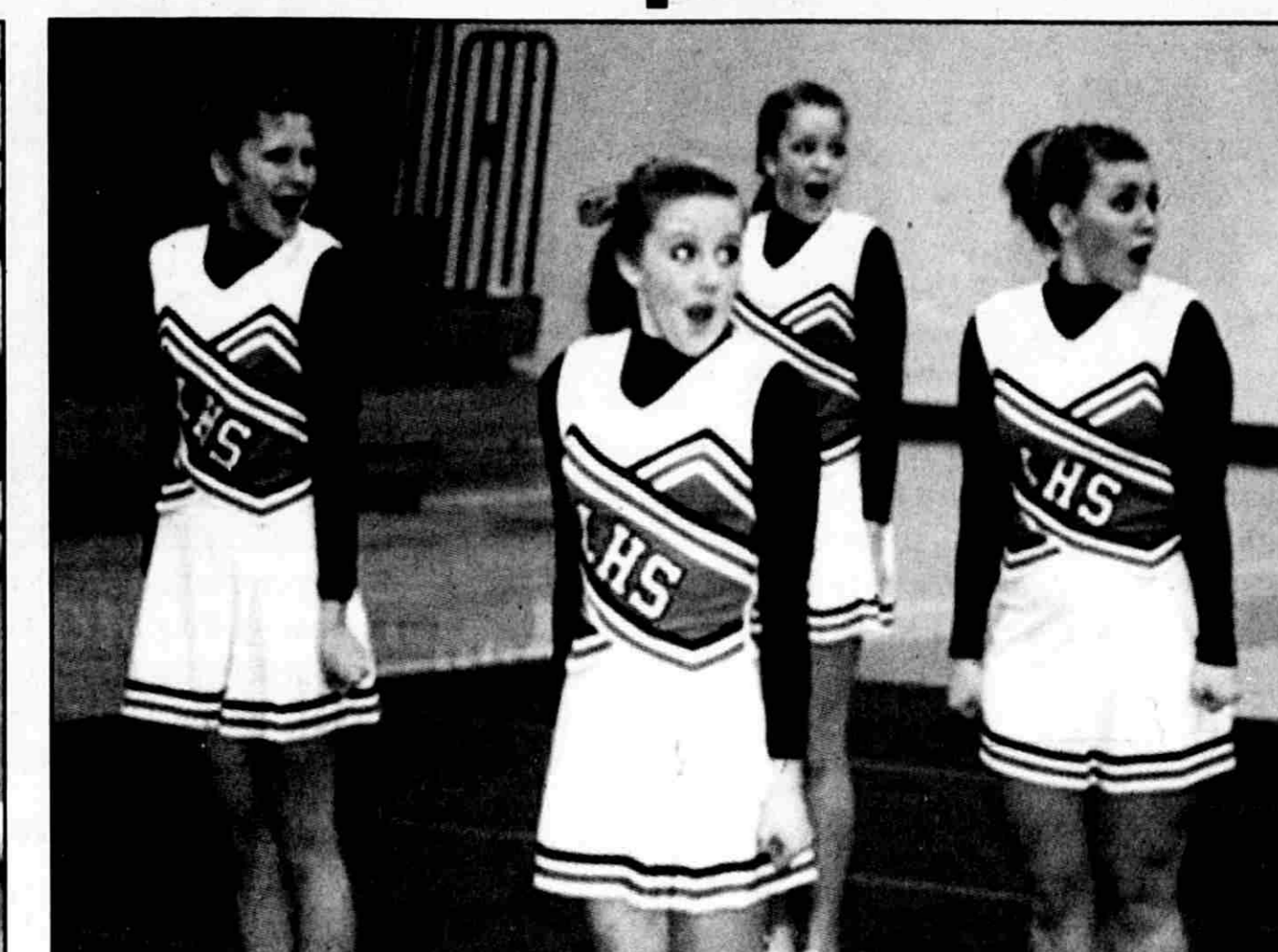
Red Arrow
SPORTS

Progress achieved



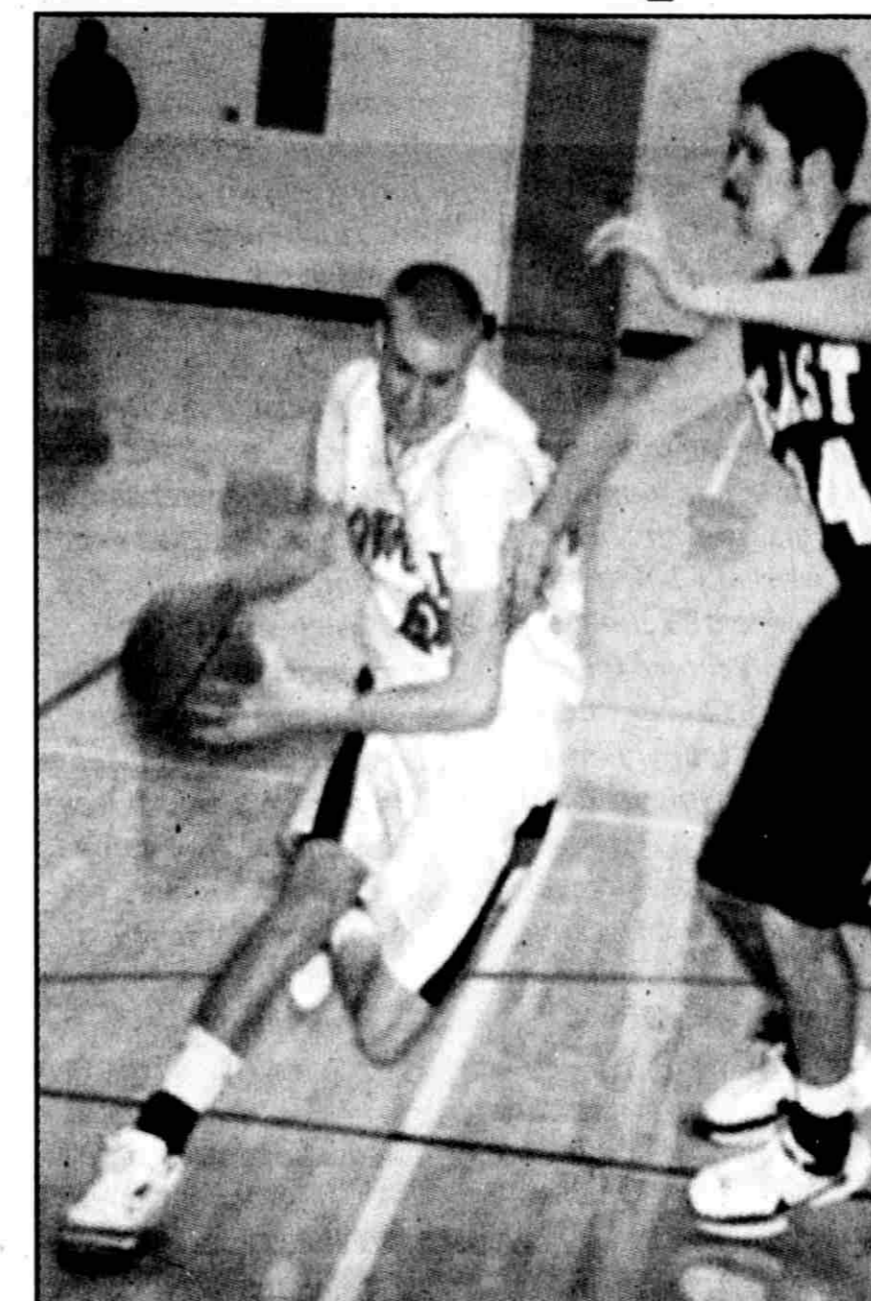
Lowell's girls varsity competitive cheerleading team placed fourth at its home conference meet. The Red Arrows finished with 695.7660 points, finishing behind Reeths Puffer, Grand Rapids Christian and Kenowa Hills. Lowell tallied 213.1 points in round one, 196.166 in round two and 286.5 in round three.

JV cheer place third



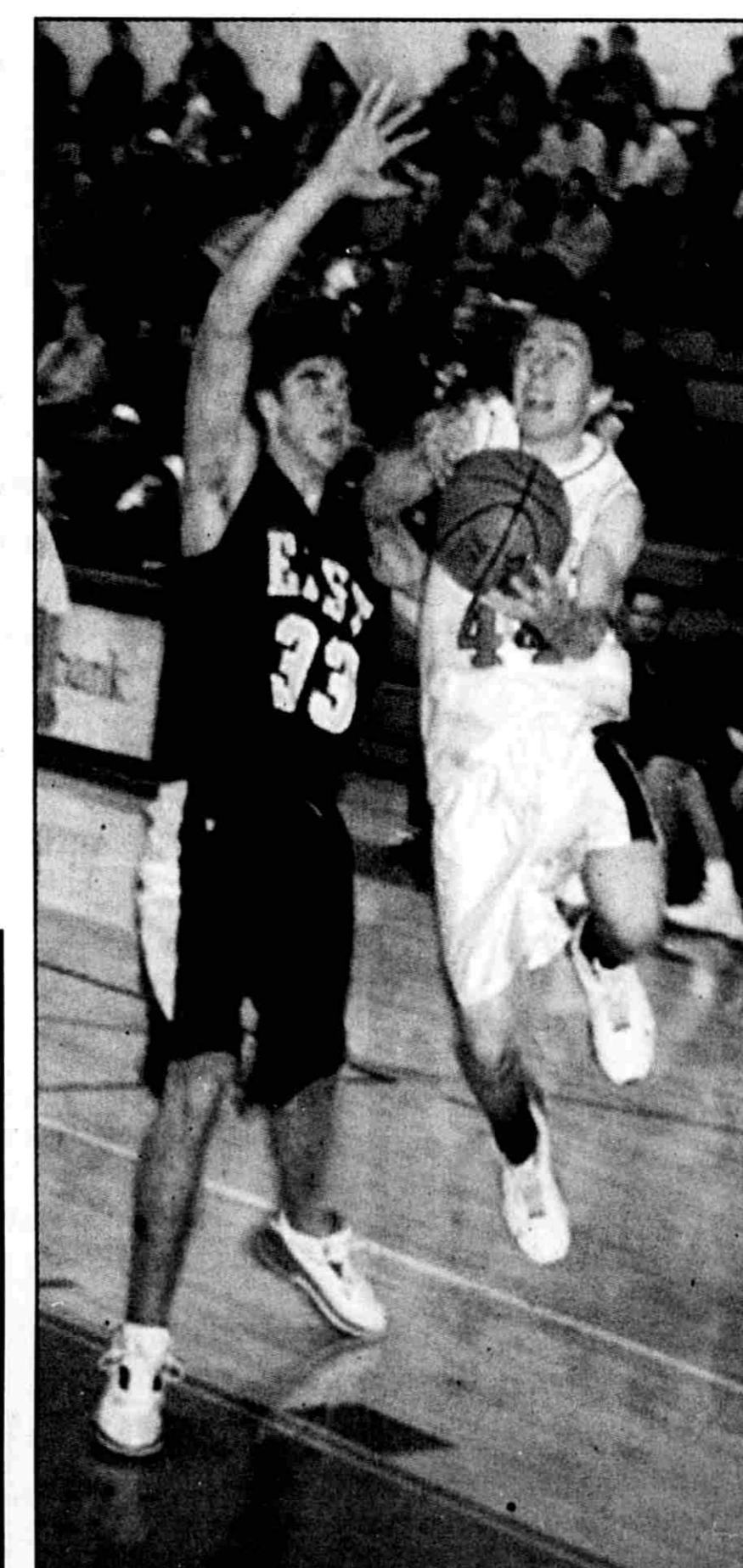
The Red Arrow junior varsity competitive cheer squad finished third with 580.556 points. Lowell finished behind Reeths Puffer and Kenowa Hills. Lowell scored 193.4 points in round one, 161.756 in round two and 225.4 in round three.

Pioneers upend Red Arrows



Danny Lane (above) and his Red Arrow teammates fell short in the final minutes in their 60-53 loss to East Grand Rapids. Tim Hettinga led all Lowell scorers with 15 points. Derek Cornish netted 11.

Below, Jacob Meyer drives to the hoop in first-half action against league rival East Grand Rapids. The Pioneers netted 5-of-6 foul shots in the final minute as it held off a late Lowell charge. Earlier in the week, Lowell defeated Forest Hills Eastern 67-63. Tim Hettinga led all scorers with 25 points. Derek Cornish contributed with 15 and Danny Lane added 12.



Due to computer problems, complete coverage of Lowell High School sports will appear this weekend in the Buyers Guide.

- Thank you in advance for your understanding

GO, TEAM, GO!

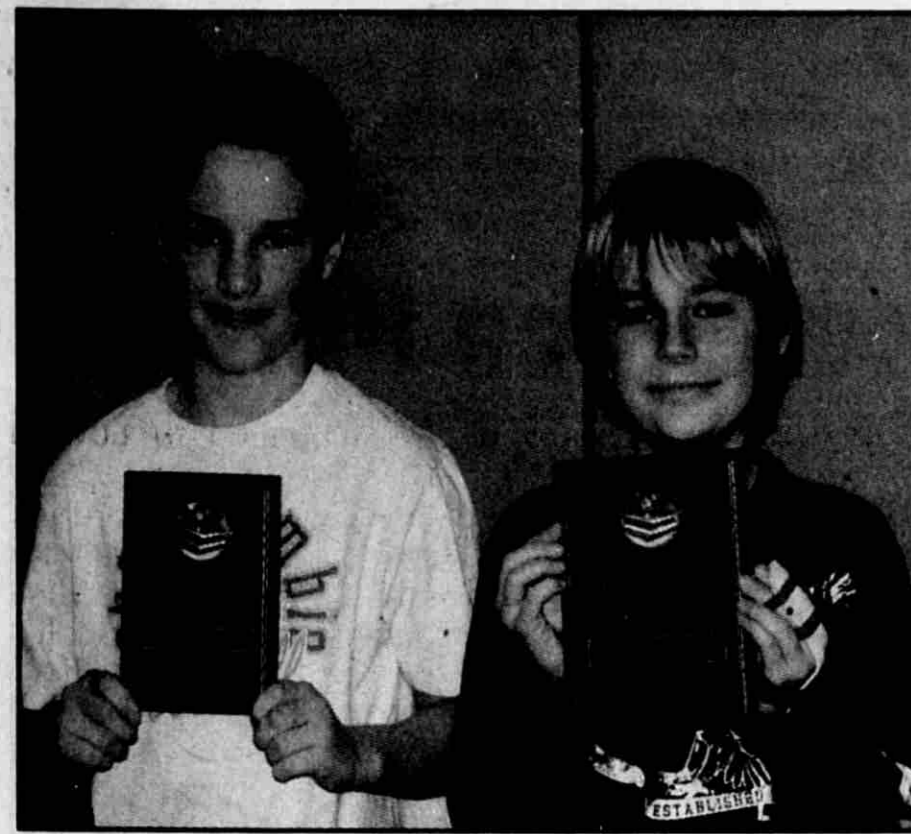
Support Your Red Arrow Teams!

Lowell girls split a pair



The Red Arrow girls' basketball team split a pair of league games. Lowell defeated Greenville 43-26 behind a team-high 10 points from Logan DeClercq and Katie Tompkins. Kara Rasch contributed with eight points. On Friday, Lowell fell short against Northview. The Wildcats prevailed 39-33.

More spelling bee winners



Ryan Hessler (right) is the 2009 Alto Spelling Bee Champion. Hessler spelled his way to the top, competing with 24 other 5th graders. Runner up was Sawyer Olesko (left). Hessler will move on to the Regional Spelling Bee in late February in Cedar Springs.



With guest judge Michigan State Representative Dave Hildenbrand presiding, St. Patrick students competed in the annual Spelling Bee on Jan. 23. After primary competitions within each classroom, representatives from 5th-8th grades participated in the schoolwide bee. In the end, 7th grader Jack Brooks came out on top. Peter Firlik, also in 7th grade, was the runner-up. Both students will compete in the Regional Spelling Bee to be held at Cherry Creek Elementary School in Lowell on Feb. 24.

Sound Off

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We will not print any comments that are offensive or libelous. Direct aims at individuals, political figures and businesses will not be printed. For direct opinions on a subject (including, but not limited to, politics, businesses, city government and Ledger criticisms), please send a letter "To the Editor". All letters must be signed (first and last names).

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ONLINE POLL RESULTS

Would you allow a chip to be implanted in your arm that the government could scan and read your medical records?

SURE? 4%
NO WAY? 96%

Valley Vista subdivision is a walk to school zone. Please keep your sidewalks clear and shoveled. It is dangerous for our children to walk in the street.

I am Sam Long the super fan with the 123 game streak. Well if anyone is wondering, my streak will continue and also since I am a super fan I would like to be able to sit in the front row. Thanks from super fan, Sam Long

Is anyone else having trouble fitting two weeks of recycling into one tub? Could we find a better way to cut costs? Now instead of being "green" we are throwing our extra recycling in the trash! Wasn't Lowell trying to become greener at one point, calling ourselves "tree city"? Are we really helping the environment? I think this was a bad choice for savings in this town. Put the new park renovation on hold for awhile instead!

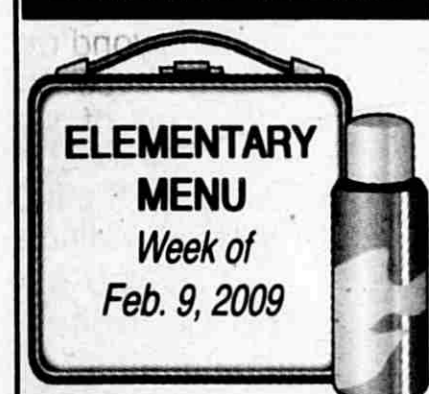
Thank you, thank you to the school bus driver Jeni for getting my car out of the snow-filled driveway and getting the mail. You are great!

In reference to the Dec. 17 comment, Lowell did have a recycling center some years ago; I worked to get funding for an attractive enclosure in the supermarket parking lot, and the containers for glass, cans, etc., all labeled. After a few weeks it was dismantled. Too many people used it as free garbage disposal, and policing it constantly was beyond our capabilities.

-P.C. Lussmyer

To the good samaritan, THANK YOU! My family appreciates your donation of the money we lost. It's nice to know there are kind people in our town.

LUNCH MENU



MON: Bosco sticks w/ pizza dipping sauce (tuna salad sandwich also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), green beans, assorted fruit, milk.

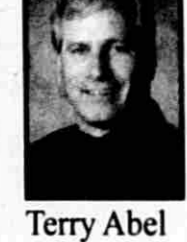
TUES: Pepperoni pizza (quesadilla w/salsa also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), antipasto salad, pears, milk.

WED: Pancakes w/syrup or cereal w/graham crackers & scrambled eggs, fresh fruit, warm apple slices, milk.

THURS: Chicken patty on bun (sloppy joe on bun also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), peas, pineapple, milk.

FRI: Cheeseburger on bun (salisbury steak w/roll also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), oven potatoes, red gelatin w/whipped topping, milk.

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BOWNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHEDULED MEETINGS - thru April meeting at the museum at 10 a.m.

ALTO AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY - meets the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Alto American Legion Post.

PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUP - Every Thursday from 9-10:30 a.m. at St. Patrick School. Stories, songs, crafts, games & a snack. Open to all. Come with your children ages 0-5 for a little adult interaction while your children make new friends. 691-8833.

DIABETIC SUPPORT GROUP - Tues., 7 p.m. at Elmdale Church, located just 3.3 miles E. of M-50 on 64th St. Phone 868-7690 & leave a message if interested or if you would like to meet at another time or location.

KEEP IT SIMPLE ADDICTIONS SUPPORT GROUP - Socialization & peer support for recovering addicts. Meets every Thursday at 7 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, Raya building. Contact Charlene, 897-7636 or Carrie, 897-7303 for more info.

MOVIE/FAMILY NIGHT - Tues., Feb. 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the Saranac Public Library. Showing Madagascar 2. Free movie & popcorn.

ZOO LAND DAYCARE HAS OPENINGS - on 1st & 2nd shifts. Call 897-8386 or 308-0195.

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QUARTER BINGO - 2nd Thurs. of each month, 1-5 p.m. 2 cards for a quarter. 50% payback w/100% payback hourly specials. Open to the public. The Moose Rec Hall, 1320 E. Main St. Sponsored by W.O.T.M. Chapter #1388.

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EVERY SUNDAY - Tri-Town Conservation Club breakfast. 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. \$6 for adults, \$4 for children. 5615 Dunn Road, Grattan.

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MICHIGAN SNAKES ALIVE - Sat., Feb. 21, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Parish Life Center, 402 Amity Road, Lowell. Jim & Carol McGrath will be providing a live program of the 10 species of Michigan Snakes. Free will offering will be taken (suggested \$3 per person) Call Jim O'Connor with questions, 897-9136.

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EVENTS

LOWELL LITTLE LEAGUE SIGNUPS - Sat., Feb. 7, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Wed., Feb. 11, 18 & 25, 6-8 p.m. & Sat., Feb. 28, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, 113 Riverwalk Plaza. Cost \$75 without fundraiser or \$50 with fundraiser. Signup online also available: www.eteamz.com/LowellLittleLeague.

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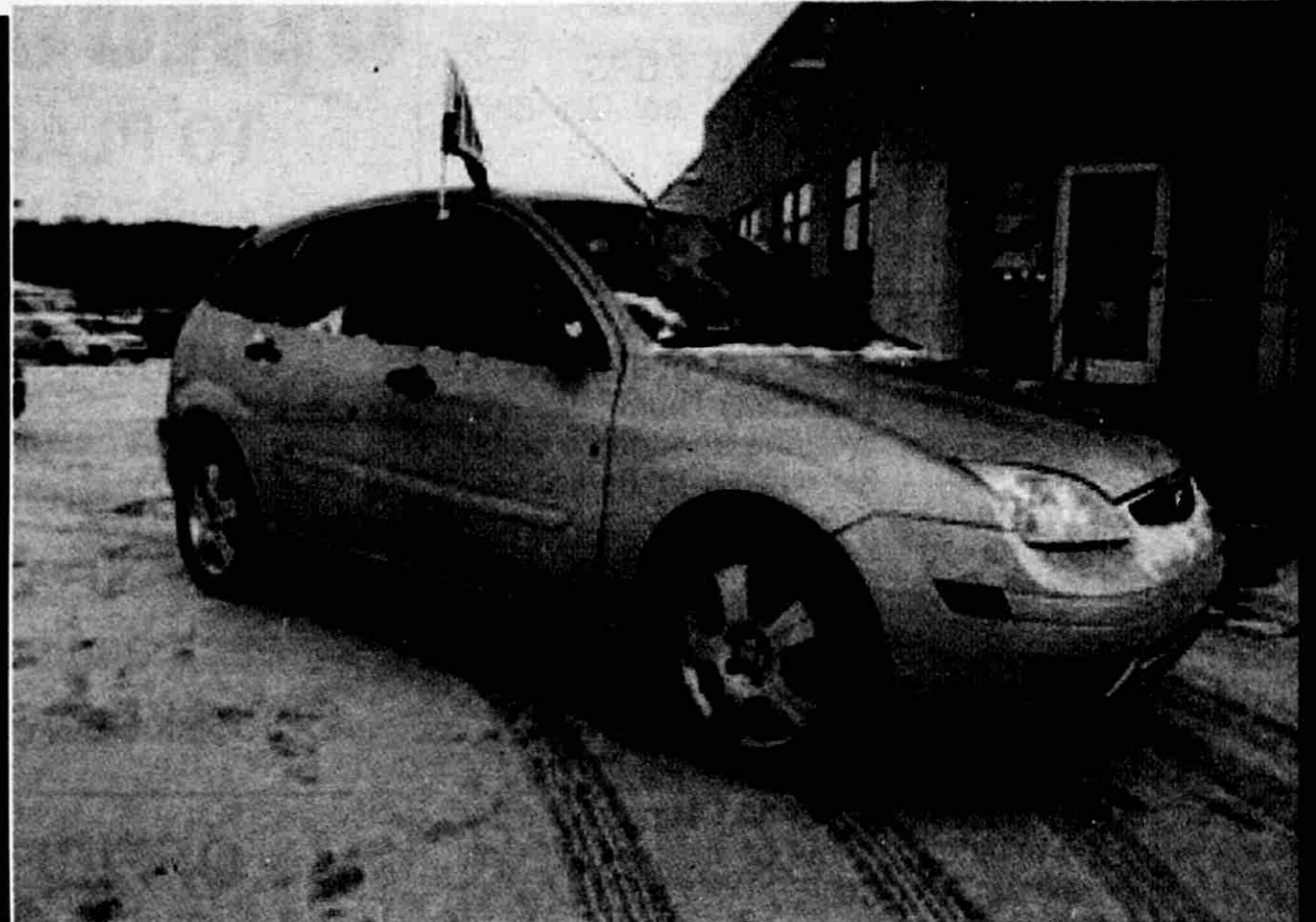
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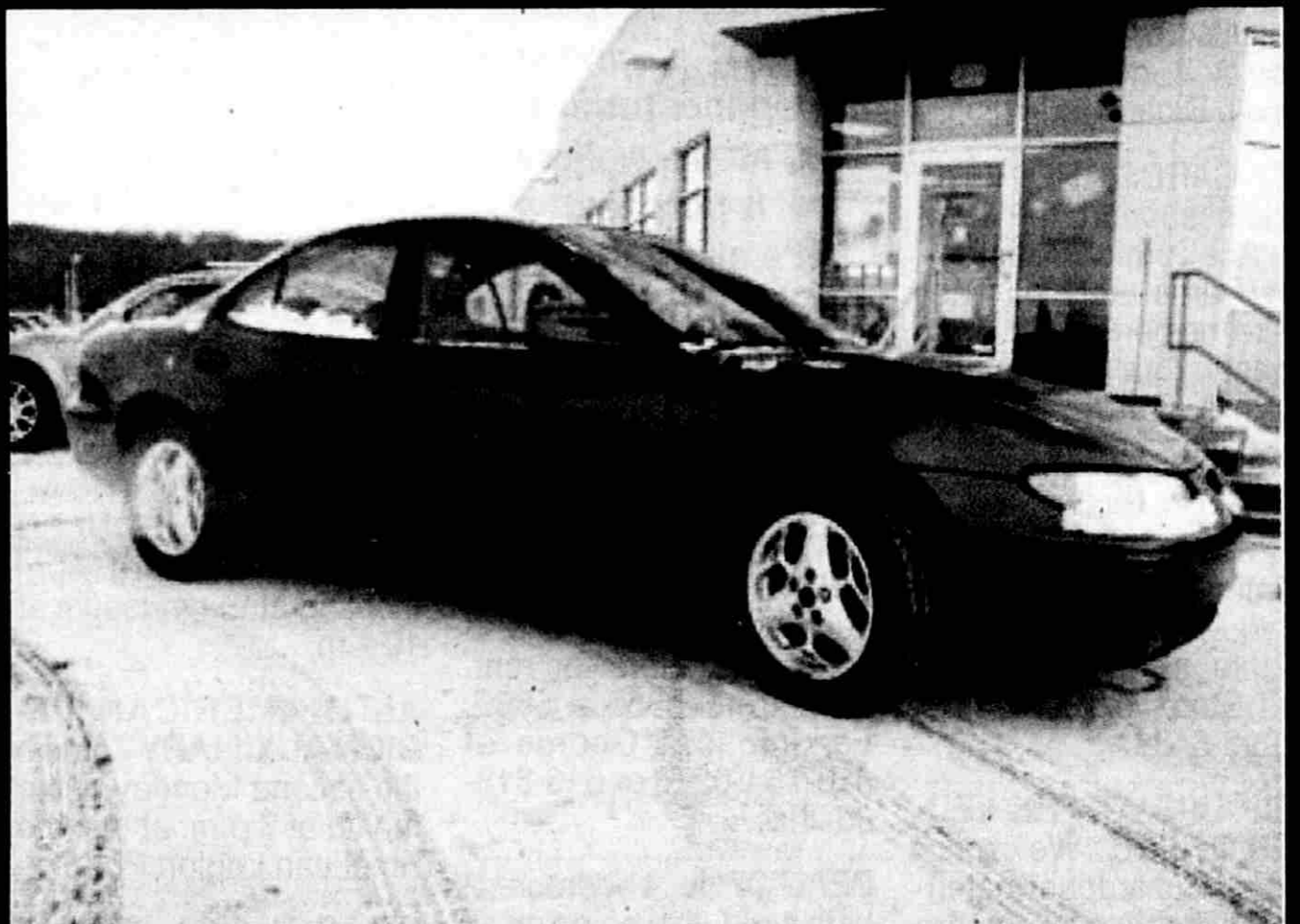
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