



# The Lowell Ledger

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Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

## Pink Arrow project ready to help families with cancer

by Emma Palova

Help is on its way to families impacted by cancer. Thanks to the fundraising efforts of the Lowell High School football team and the entire community last fall, monies are available for disbursement.

The Pink Arrow community project that has raised a total of \$93,000 includes providing resources and support for families in need. Any family

that lives in the Lowell Area School District, whose member is experiencing an active stage of cancer, is eligible.

"We wanted to recreate that feeling of unity and support," said Teresa Beachum, in

ness director, said the community last year really stepped up to help.

"I was speechless; the countless hours that were spent to lay foundation for the project," Sellner said. "It showed the spirit of people touched by the disease."

And now it is time to give back to all those families who have shown support for the project. An electronic application is available at [www.lowellcommunitywellness.org](http://www.lowellcommunitywellness.org); paper applications are available at churches, township halls, chamber of commerce, the city hall and the school administrative

offices. Although the Lowell Community Wellness team will screen the applications, the major criteria is the need for a family facing cancer.

A follow up phone call will determine the type of support needed. This may be meal support in form of a voucher to Keiser's or any other local business that would like to participate, voucher to Rite Aid or for gas to medical treatments.

"Our local businesses that would like to participate should contact the Lowell Community Wellness board," said Beachum.

However, the money cannot be used for any

medical bills or expenses.

"We want to help as many families as we can," said Sellner. "Lowell Community Wellness will give support until the funds are gone."

The main goal, now, is to build on the past success, according to Beachum. That may include raising up to \$500,000 over the next few years in partnership with the main sponsor of the event, Lacks Cancer Center at Saint Mary's Health Care.

"We want to remember that feel good energy that was rippling through the community and that

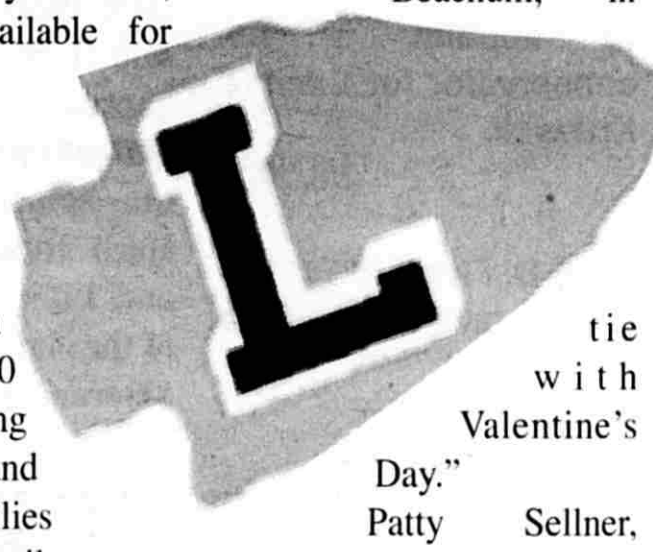
crescendo that night," said Beachum. "No family was untouched."

And the Pink Arrow project committee plans on doing it again this fall during the homecoming game.

"We want to improve our marketing," said Beachum.

Pink Arrow money will also be used in schools for further education that would compliment the science program.

"We want to make a difference with people in our community," said Beachum.



These buildings next to Springgrove Variety may be demolished.

## Buildings on the north side of bridge may be demolished

by Emma Palova

Three buildings located on the north side of the bridge in downtown Lowell may be demolished, if their owners fail to repair them within ninety days.

The city building inspection services IMS notified owners Don and Connie Reedy and Rita Reister that the buildings are unsafe.

"The foundations are deteriorating," said city manager Dave Pasquale. "The buildings were built over the river; they're in poor shape. We have safety concerns."

The city engineers Williams & Works have per-

formed exterior and interior inspections of the buildings.

The inspection has unveiled that piers and the beams supporting the buildings are unsafe. According to the report, many of the piers consist of unmortared concrete block, timber posts and concrete filled 55 gallon drums.

Some areas have no support at all, and some of the support timber beams have rotted.

In the case of the two buildings owned by the Reedys, the east exterior wall leans out from top to bottom. The back rooms have no foundational sup-

port, and the north wall appears to be falling off. Also, the electrical service needs to be upgraded.

In the case of the building owned by Reister, the main floor slopes to the east and the west. The east side front wall at the top leans to the east and the back room has a considerable lean to it in the floor and the back wall.

Reister said she was disappointed by the outcome.

"There were other options we could pursue," she said.

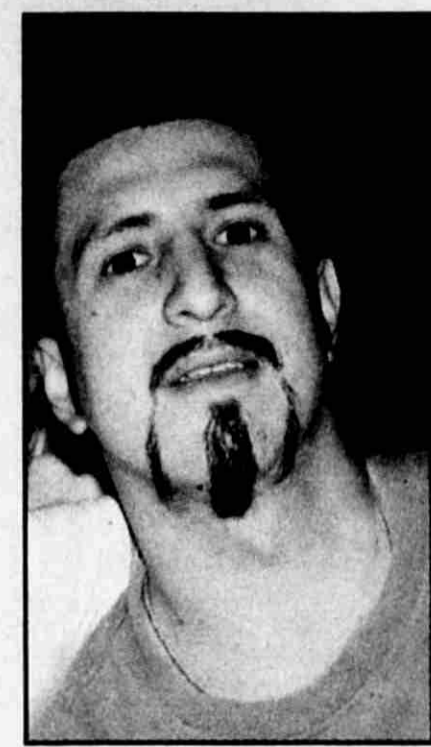
*Demolished, cont'd., pg. 3*

## Walgreens preparing site for Lowell store

Walgreens has broken ground in Lowell Township on the corner of Fulton Street and Bowes Road. The construction is slated for completion by late summer or fall. The store will have a standard 13,650 square-foot size with a drive-thru pharmacy. It will create approximately 30 new jobs, a combination of part time and full time. "The location is good," said Dave Prueter, senior vice president of Agree Realty in Farmington Hills. "We felt there was sufficient potential to support another drug store in the community." The project, which is a part of the Grand Rapids Walgreens stores strategy, has been in the works for close to a year. The project contractors are Sachsi Construction of Birmingham, MI.



# Obituaries



**GONZALES**  
Andrew "Andy" James Gonzales, aged 27, of Lowell, died unexpectedly Wednesday, January 28, 2009. He was preceded in death by his Uncle Gary Bregg. He is survived by his girlfriend, Angie Saylor;

their children, Mason, Kaelissa, Hope and Faith; parents, Donna Gonzales, Bob (Cheryl) Gonzales; sisters, Stephanie (Mark) Altom, Jessica (Elisha) Craft; brother, Tony Gonzales; stepbrother, Miles Hansel; stepsister, Melissa (Matt) Frey; grandparents, Guy (Lois) Bregg; Uncle Tim (Dorothy) Bregg; four nieces and four nephews; friends and neighbors. Andy loved going hunting and fishing, taking his children to the park and spending time with family and friends. Although he was laid to rest Monday, February 2, 2009, he will be missed by all. The family would like to thank everyone for the thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time.

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## BOWNE TOWNSHIP KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 24, 2009

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS  
OF BOWNE TOWNSHIP:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Special Election will be conducted in the Township of Bowne on February 24, 2009 for the purpose of voting on the following proposal:

### Proposal for Bowne Township Fire Department Millage Renewal

This is a proposal to renew the expired Bowne Township Fire Department millage at the rate of 1.7911 mills for 10 years.

The full text of the ballot proposal may be obtained during normal business hours at the Bowne Township Hall, located at 8240 Alden Nash, S.E., Alto, MI 49302.

ALSO TAKE NOTICE that all qualified and registered electors of the township are entitled to vote in the primary election.

ALSO TAKE NOTICE that the polls of said election will be kept opened continuously between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on the day of the election.

This Notice is given by order of the Township Board of the Township of Bowne, Kent County, Michigan.

Sandra L. Kowalczyk  
Bowne Township Clerk



**KERR**

Carole Gean Kerr, age 75, of Lowell, passed away peacefully at home on Friday, February 6, 2009. She was the only child of her deceased parents, Carrol (Chris) and Helen Burch. Surviving are her husband, Sid; their children, Rich (Mary Jo) Kerr, Karen (Dave)

Pedley, Beverly (Craig) VanderStelt; grandchildren, Anthony, Dustin (fiancee, Dena) and Casie Pedley, Zac and Brianna VanderStelt; sister-in-law, Gloria Kerr (deceased brother-in-law, Leonard Kerr); brother-in-law, Gordon (Charlene) Kerr; along with many nieces and nephews. Carole spent her 55 years of married life enjoying her children, grandchildren, flowers, church and community service. Funeral service was held Tuesday at Vergennes United Methodist Church. Interment Bailey Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Burch Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o Huntington Bank or Spectrum Health Hospice.

## Successful coat drive



The VFW Post 8303 in Lowell and the American Legion just successfully

completed their January coat drive for the men and women at the Veterans Home in Grand Rapids. "We want to thank all you folks who donated their coats to the drive," said Herb Rice. There are approximately 600 men and 50 women living at the home. Pictured are Herb Rice, of the VFW and Lillian, the manager of the clothing store at the Veterans Home.

### LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF KENT  
CIRCUIT COURT -  
FAMILY DIVISION

Ronald Krussell  
whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

to appoint a full conservator for Cecil H. Krussell. 2/6/2009

John D. Flynn P27413  
1275 Hawthorne Hills SE  
Ada, MI 49301  
616-897-6632

Tom Davis  
415 Franklin SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49507  
616-247-6317

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on March 19, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at 180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose:

Lorraine VanDyke and

## VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing before the Vergennes Township Planning Commission will be held on **Monday, March 2, 2009 at 7:00 PM, at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI** to consider a special exception use permit as follows:

David Steinbrecher is applying for a special exception use permit to move the Murray Lake Marina (11319 Lally) from the current Lally St location to 3501 and 3475 Alden Nash Ave north of Lally on the west side. Phase 1 will move the boat storage area and phase 2 will move the rest of the marina business after remodeling the existing buildings.

The complete application can be reviewed at the **Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 - Phone: (616) 897-5671 [fax 897-5674]**. Written and oral comments will be received from any interested party until the conclusion of the public hearing. Written comments may be addressed to the Planning Commission Chairman or the Planning Coordinator at the Township Offices. Comments may be emailed to the Planning Commission at: [zoning@vergennestwp.org](mailto:zoning@vergennestwp.org)

Vergennes Township  
Planning Commission

## CASSIE GALE STINCHCOMB

AUGUST 4, 1982 - FEBRUARY 12, 2007



*The future can change as tragically as it did two years ago. However, the memories of life with you will endure forever. I love you my baby.*

Loved and missed by all,  
Father, Mark Stinchcomb

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## Fun with math at Alto Elementary

Alto Family Resource Center held Math Night on January 30. The kids had a great time with the giant checkerboard, Yahtzee®, Jenga®, Rack-O®, and many other math games. One activity gave each letter a different dollar value and you were challenged to make a \$50 word, a \$100 word and the most expensive word you could make. Travis Miller came up with "counterweight" which was the most expensive word made at \$119.

At right, parents, students and teachers take part in Math Night activities.



## College News

Erin Beddows, of Ada, has been named to the Fall 2008 Dean's List in the College of Arts and Sciences at Lewis University.

Northern Michigan University announced the Dean's List for the Fall 2008 semester. The following students qualified with a grade point average of 3.25-3.99: James LaFave, Keith

Sabin, Kelly Shaheen, and Sarah Wisniewski, all of Ada. Meghan Silverman and Thomas Wynsma, both of Alto.

Maranda Ruegsegger, of Lowell, made the Dean's List at Ferris State

University for the Fall 2008 semester. In order to get on the Dean's List a student must have a grade point average of at least 3.5. She is the daughter of Dan and Dawn Ruegsegger, of Lowell, and a 2008 Lowell High School graduate.

## Traffic shift on Main Street

A traffic shift on M-21 at Hudson Street in downtown Lowell will continue through Feb. 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. One lane in each direction will be maintained. Left turns will be restricted at the intersection. This work is for emergency utility repairs and entails utility repairs for ATT fiber and optic lines. For further information please call the Grand Rapids TSC 616-464-1800.

## Demolished, continued ...

Reister said she had interested parties that would fix up the buildings and combine them into one retail space rather than three separate buildings.

"It's a good location for retail; you have the river, the Showboat and the library," she said.

Reister has owned the building for some 25 years. The buildings probably date to early 1900s.

Connie Reedy did not have a response to the issue.

"It has all been said," she said.

### From Page 1

The buildings at one time or another housed various retail and real estate offices.

"Everything else is fine," said Pasquale in regards to the other buildings located on the bridge.

## Narcotics team investigating marijuana growing operations within Kent County

The Kent County Sheriff's Department is reporting that the Kent Area Narcotics Enforcement Team (KANET) has been actively investigating indoor marijuana growing operations in Kent County. Within the last four weeks, five separate growing operations have been identified and dismantled. KANET detectives, with

the assistance of the DEA in Grand Rapids, seized a total of 294 marijuana plants and several pounds of loose marijuana packaged for resale. Seven suspects are facing numerous felony drug charges pending further investigation.

The Kent Area Narcotics Enforcement Team (KANET) is made up of detectives from the

Kent County Sheriff's Department, Walker and Grandville Police Departments.



## THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY LOVE POEM READINGS

Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Lowell Senior Neighbors, 314 S. Hudson St. GOOD Poems (romantic, heartfelt, truly sweet pieces); BAD Poems (sloppy, sleezy, sappy); UGLY Poems (anti-romantic, lost love, pulling at your heart-strings). Open to the public, treats and beverages provided. For more information contact the Lowell Area Arts Council, 897-8545.

### 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

Angel Food Ministries order days at First Baptist Church, 2275 Main St. Friday February 13, from 4 to 6PM and Saturday February 14, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Delivery February 28, 8:00-10:00 a.m. For info call IlaJean 897-6609 or visit [www.angelfoodministries.org](http://www.angelfoodministries.org)

### 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 refreshments 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.

### FAT FRIDAY PRIME RIB ROAST

Friday, Feb. 20, 5:30-8 p.m., St. Patrick Parish Center. Tickets are \$10 per person in advance, \$14 at the door. Reserve by calling the school office, 691-8833; Stacey Nugent, 874-7779 or emailing [staceynuge@msn.com](mailto:staceynuge@msn.com). Proceeds to benefit St. Patrick School.

### GEOCACHE CLASS

Sat., Feb. 21, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. 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](mailto:bhenry@lowellschools.com).

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TUE 12:00, 2:25, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20  
MON WED TH 4:40, 7:00, 9:20  
TAKEN (PG-13)  
TUE 12:55, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30  
MON WED TH 5:10, 7:20, 9:30  
THE UNINVITED (PG-13)  
TUE 12:40, 2:45, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00  
MON WED TH 4:50, 6:50, 9:00  
GRAN TORINO (R)  
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# LHS seeing strong passing rates in core subjects

At the Lowell School Board's regular Monday night meeting, board members approved the bid for video monitoring systems and awarded the contract to Engineered Protection Systems for \$76,723.82. This will allow video monitoring throughout the district. "This is money very well spent toward protecting our students, staff and investments," said Pat Nugent.

Hannah Oberlin, Treasurer for the Student Council, offered an update on student council activities. There will

be a dance at the high school Feb. 28 and the theme is A Night in Paris. The student council recently hosted a dance following the boy's basketball game; the event was well attended and raised a little money. Student Council is working on an alternative spring break, which will be going to Virginia April 5-11; the cost will be \$325 per student.

Superintendent Greg Pratt acknowledged Betty Yeiter during the board meeting and presented her with a certificate and bouquet of flowers. Yeiter has donated

25 acres of land at Alden Nash and Cascade Avenue to the Lowell School District. The site may become a future elementary or middle school. "This property will allow the Board of Education to form a long range plan," said Pratt. "Thank you Betty for your donation," said Dan Brubaker.

Tricia Murphy Alderman, Principal of the High School, presented the board with a high school achievement update. The update specifically gave statistics from Trimester 1. The statistics show that

91 percent of English 9A students passed in the first trimester, English 10A had a 94 percent pass rate, and English 11A saw 99.4 percent of students pass. The statistics throughout all core subjects is much of the same. Math classes had a range of 89.5-92.6 percent of students passing. Science core classes have 95.54-96.5 percent of students passing. Social Studies show 94.1-98.3 percent of students passing. There are several initiatives in place to help students that are not passing. "Our high school

staff and Tricia have really worked hard to provide interventions and pin point the needs of students," said Roger Bearup, Curriculum Director.

Superintendent Greg Pratt and board member Jim Turner traveled to Lansing on Monday to discuss the most recent state aid bill. The bill states that in order for the district to receive full funding for students enrolled in Young Fives in the 2009-2010 school year, they must attend full time. The bill also states that Kindergarten would

be required to move to all day everyday over the next three years. Pratt and Turner pleaded with the Governors office to leave more control with districts. "As far as we can tell, the state aid bill will be presented as is on Thursday. We have to look at implementing all day everyday kindergarten over a three year period at a cost to the district of 1.3 million. We hope to have a recommendation before the board regarding Young Fives and Kindergarten in the upcoming month," said Pratt.

# Stabenow joins the president as he signs law expanding health care coverage for uninsured children across Michigan

Michigan will receive approximately \$203 million in new funds to cover additional children

U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) joined President Obama as he signed the improved Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) into law. As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, Senator Stabenow played a major role in the crafting of the \$31.5 billion bipartisan agreement that renews and expands the successful program. The Children's Health Insurance Program provides health insurance to children of working families who are not eligible for

Medicaid, but are unable to afford private health insurance.

"I am so pleased to have joined with President Obama today to celebrate this victory for millions of children and working families," said Stabenow. "Too many hard-working families have lost their employer-sponsored health insurance and are forced to choose between putting food on the table and providing their children with the health care they need and deserve. Health care needs to be a right, not a

privilege in our country, and this program takes a much needed step to ensure every child has access to quality, affordable health care."

Michigan will receive approximately \$203 million next year in new funds to cover additional eligible children. A report by the Children's Advocacy Initiative at the University of Michigan had estimated that there are over 80,000 uninsured children eligible but not enrolled throughout the state, with this number likely to grow due to

economic conditions. The law also includes provisions authored by Senator Stabenow to promote the use of electronic medical records and develop school-based health centers, which would also help provide Michigan's most vulnerable children with access to the preventative care they need.

According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the agreement will maintain coverage for seven million children currently enrolled in the program. In addition, it will provide quality health coverage to four million more low-income, uninsured American children nationwide. In Michigan, the law will provide the resources needed to help

the successful MICHild and Healthy Kids programs enroll new children becoming eligible due to the economy, as well as children who are eligible but not enrolled in the program. A recent report from the University of Michigan and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan revealed that employer-sponsored health insurance decreased over 10 percent between the years 2000 and 2006.

The law includes a section authored by Senator Stabenow to provide grants to demonstrate the effectiveness of electronic medical records for children. These technologies reduce medical costs by improving efficiency, quality of care and patient safety.

The law also contains a provision based on Senator Stabenow's Healthy Schools Act that recognizes the importance of school-based health centers and authorizes states to reimburse them through Medicaid and CHIP. School-based health centers are a cost-effective way to help children receive important primary care services. Finally, the law also corrects a flaw in how Michigan's Medicaid funding is calculated, meaning that the state will receive additional Medicaid dollars it was entitled to in order to cover low-income seniors, mothers and children.

\*\*\*

*In the beginning there was nothing. God said, 'Let there be light!' And there was light. There was still nothing, but you could see it a whole lot better.*

-- Ellen DeGeneres

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# Viewpoint

## Ask Kathryn

With Kathryn DenHouter Ph.D.



This is the last article in a series of three articles on sleep. The first article was on good sleep hygiene and the benefits of good sleep, the second article explored some of the theories of why we dream. This article, which is the last one, will address sleep disorders as they pertain to psychological health.

Much of this information is taken from the DSM-IV (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders). There are four types of sleep disorders: 1.) Insomnia type - a characteristic complaint of not being able to fall asleep, stay asleep or still feeling tired after a night's sleep, 2.) Hypersomnia is present when there is a complaint of excessively long nocturnal sleep or excessive sleepiness during waking hours, 3.) Parasomnia type which is characterized by abnormal events that occur in sleep or during transitional sleep, and finally, 4.) The mixed type which is used to designate a sleep problem due to a general medical condition characterized by multiple sleep symptoms but no symptom pattern dominates.

Psychologists get the most questions about two Parasomnia type sleep disorders, Night Terrors and Sleep

Walking. The Diagnostic criteria for Night Terrors are: 1.) recurrent episodes of abrupt waking from sleep with a panicky scream usually during the first third of the night's sleep, 2.) intense fear upon arousal. Tachycardia, rapid breathing and sweating, is often present, 3.) unresponsive to comfort, 4.) there is no recollection as to what happened (episodic amnesia), 5.) the episodes cause significant distress, impairment in social, occupational or other areas of functioning. Sleepwalking is repeated episodes of complex motor behavior initiated during sleep, including rising from bed and walking about. The diagnostic criteria for Sleepwalking Disorder include: 1.) repeated episodes of rising from bed and walking about usually occurring during the first third of the night's sleep, 2.) while sleepwalking, the person has a blank, staring face and is unresponsive to the communication of others, 3.) there is amnesia about the previous night's sleepwalking, 4.) although there might be a short period of confusion, there is no impairment of mental activity, and 5.) the sleepwalking causes clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational or other areas of functioning.

Sometimes Night Terrors and Sleep Walking happen infrequently and the child quickly moves into a healthy sleep pattern, but at other times, it can be very disruptive and even injurious to the person. If this is the case, contacting your doctor and/or a counselor is necessary.

I welcome your questions. If you have a question related to mental health, please email it to me at kathryndenhouter@gmail.com

## Outdoors

By Dave Stegehuis



### DON'T FORGET

Deep snow and unusually low temperatures have held an icy grip on wildlife this winter. Even in southern Michigan, some animals are showing signs of stress. For example, deer have been moving into backyards to browse on shrubs, nibbling on roadside cedar trees, and digging around for dropped apples. The deer will find enough food in the area to sustain them through the winter. Remember there is a feeding ban for whitetail deer.

Resident birds and animals are prepared to survive an average winter. The going gets tough when snow is deep and temperatures remain below normal. If these conditions persist well into spring, the results can be devastating for wildlife. Severe weather is the major cause of deer mortality in the Upper Peninsula.

Passing through residential areas, I have noticed that

most backyard birdfeeders are empty. If left on their own, birds will get by with a habitat that has suitable food and cover. The problem arises when people begin feeding birds which in turn draws in greater numbers than the natural habitat can support, and they become dependent on the artificial food source. When that food supply suddenly disappears, the natural habitat may not be able to support the expanded numbers.

If you have empty feeders hanging in your yard, now is the time to fill them up. Even if the birds were getting along before, this extremely cold weather requires them to burn up an excessive number of calories just to keep warm. Additional energy is needed because they must travel farther and work harder to find food.

The birds also appreciate a supply of fresh water. An electrically heated birdbath will keep water available at all times.

Survival is a major concern for birds this time of the year so expect frequent visits by a variety of species to your feeders. The white snowy background and leafless trees make it easy to observe and identify your guests. The comings and goings of birds add a colorful flurry of activity to a drab winter landscape. Don't forget about our feathered friends in their time of need.

## 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 THE LOWELL JOURNAL FEBRUARY 13, 1884

No paper discontinued until arrearages are paid-mind that. A large number of cases of lung disease reported in this vicinity, and a number of cases of mumps.

### 100 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER FEBRUARY 11, 1909

Phin Smith of Hastings, who has conducted the corner shoe store here for the past four years, has leased a store in Hastings and will move his stock there March 15, 1909.

He also states that rather than move his entire stock, he will throw it open to the public and sell any shoe, oxford or rubber at actual wholesale prices, because he says it is easier to move money than goods.

### 75 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER AND ALTO SOLO FEBRUARY 15, 1934

The annual ice harvest has been in full swing this week in this locality. The ice has an average thickness of about 14 inches and is as clear as crystal, due to being free from snow during the freezing period. The Northern Ice Company and the Springbrook Ice Company will put up a grand total of about 40,000 tons.

### 50 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER FEBRUARY 12, 1959

William A. Roth, dairy farmer near Ada, has been selected as the winner of the 1958 Herald Conservation Award in the Northeast Kent Soil Conservation Department.

Mr. Roth became a district cooperator and developed a complete soil and water conservation plan ten years ago.

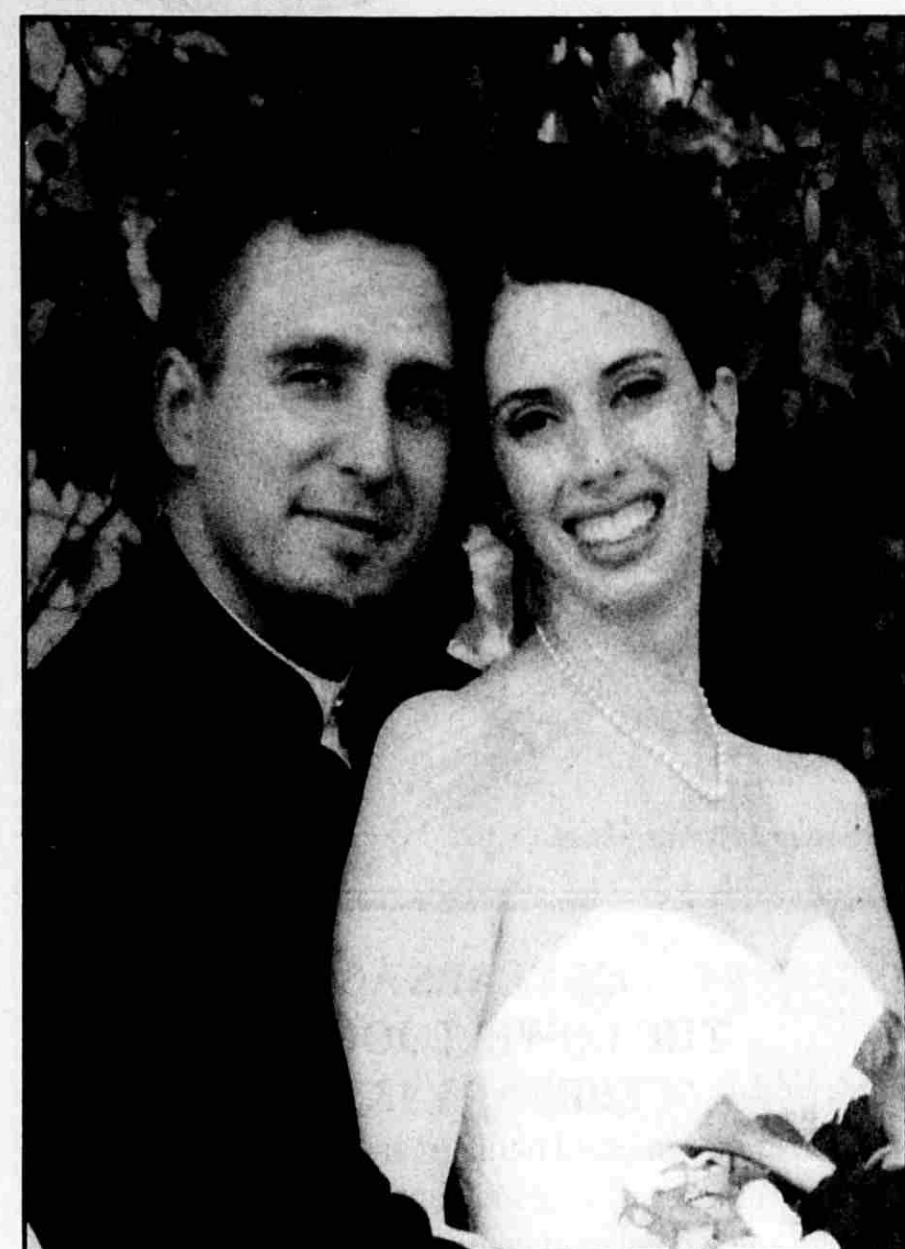
### 25 YEARS AGO THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER FEBRUARY 15, 1984

A report came to us about a Bushnell first grader who lost the valentines he was taking to school for his classmates. The Valentines were safely tucked away inside a green folder, but unfortunately the folder was dropped along the way. Word of the missing valentines was passed through the school, and a student said that they had seen a high schooler pick up a green folder. A request for the missing Valentines was broadcast over the High School public address system, but to no avail. The high school art teacher heard the plea over the P.A. and came to the rescue. One of her morning classes hurriedly went to work and churned out replacement Valentines for the youngster. Thanks to their efforts a broken heart on Valentines Day was averted.

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# Weddings

## Fizer/Rau

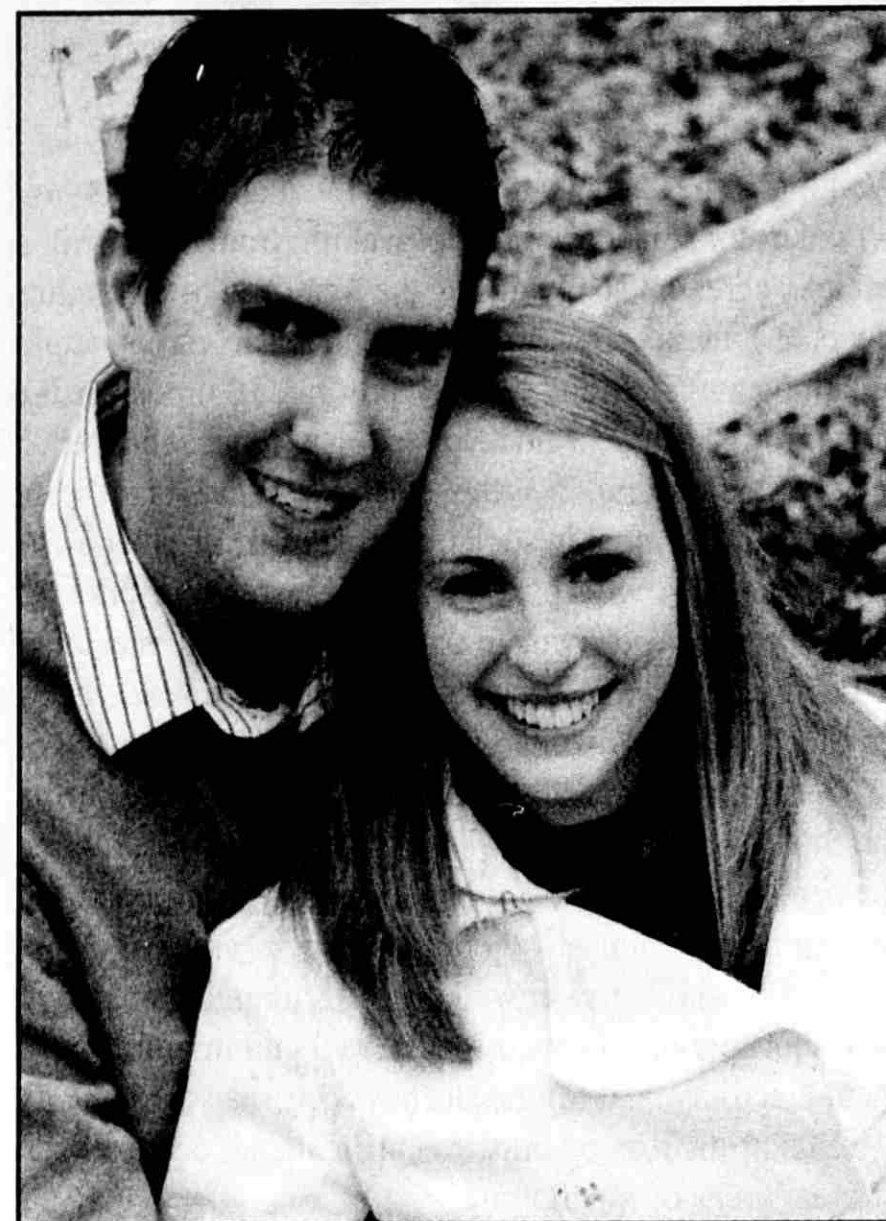


Jason and Kathryn Fizer

The ceremony which united in marriage Gary and Nancy Rau of Bolingbrook, Ill. Jeff and Deb Hill of Fizer was performed on Saturday, Oct. 26 at the Applause Banquet Center in Grand Rapids. The parents

# Engagements

## Jernigan/Hoard



Whitney Jernigan and Tyler Hoard

Whitney Jernigan and Tyler Hoard are planning a May 16, 2009 wedding. Parents of the couple are Michael and Sally Jernigan and Kevin and Sherri Hoard, all of Lowell. The bride graduated from Ferris State University with an elementary education degree. The groom is employed at Spectrum Hospital and will be studying nursing this fall at Ferris State University.

# New Arrivals

## Allen



Jonathan Steven Allen

James and Maria Allen welcome their first child Jonathan Steven, born Jan. 27. He weighed 10 lbs. 10 oz. and measured 22 inches. Proud grandparents are John and Cheryl Allen of Ada and Steve and Mary Anteck of Caledonia. Great grandparents are Jerry and Joyce Brockschmidt and Barbara Allen.

# Business Matters

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



# Cherry Creek Odyssey of the Mind teams

Odyssey of the Mind is a program that fosters creative thinking and problem-solving skills among kindergarten through college level students around the world. Teams work to solve any one of a number of long term problems, from building mechanical devices and balsa wood structures to creating a unique interpretation of a literary classic.

Recently, six Odyssey of the Mind teams from Lowell met at Cherry Creek Elementary to practice a variety of spontaneous problems in preparation for their upcoming Region 13 competition on March 14.



Building a protection device for their egg are kindergarten through second graders: Trevor Rublein, Emily Lothian, John Lothian, Nathan Rublein and Nathan Roest.

# Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold  
Edward Jones  
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## SWEETEN THIS VALENTINE'S DAY WITH FINANCIAL GIFTS

You could give flowers. You could give candy. You could give jewelry, a watch or a gift certificate. They're all fine Valentine's Day presents, and your recipient would appreciate any of them. But this year, why not go beyond the usual gifts and give your valentine something that can sweeten the rest of the year — and beyond? Specifically, why not give a financial gift?

Of course, you can always write out a check, or stick some money in a card. But why not think "outside the box" a little bit? Here are some possibilities to consider:

- Give stocks. You might want to give shares of stock in a company that makes products favored by your loved one. As an alternative to buying stocks, you could give some shares of your own. You'll need to know what you originally paid for the stock (its tax basis), how long you've held it and its fair market value at the date of the gift. The recipient will need this information to determine gains or losses when he or she sells the stock. (You'll also need to determine if you have to pay gift taxes. You can give up to \$13,000 per year, free of gift taxes, to as many people as you want.)
- Give a savings bond. You might think that U.S. government savings bonds were a quaint relic of the past, but they're still around. Your valentine might appreciate a low-risk, government-backed bond that pays a guaranteed rate of interest. Plus, you can buy a Series EE bond for as little as \$50 or as much as \$5,000 (the limit for a calendar year).
- Contribute to an IRA. The IRA contribution limit for 2009 is \$5,000. Investors who are 50 or older can also

Financial Focus, cont'd., pg. 14

# Happy Birthday

- FEBRUARY 11:** Julie Kenney, Judy Goodwin, Terry Nugent.
- FEBRUARY 12:** Peg Stanford, Kurt Roudabush, Travis Bergy.
- FEBRUARY 13:** Deb Heydenburg, Emily Gerard, Jodi Kennedy, Alyssa Ellis-Roach, Thomas Alberts Jr.
- FEBRUARY 14:** Heather Claypool, Carol Leyman, Gerri Ellison, Scott Treglia, Lori Rice.
- FEBRUARY 15:** Jim VanDyke, DeeAnn Merriman, Deanne Newell, Marcus Kline, Adam Confer.
- FEBRUARY 16:** Matthew Schuitema, Tracey Main.
- FEBRUARY 17:** Chris Hodges, Justin Stanford, Stephanie Ellison, Reatha Johnson, Lynda Horsley, Deb Tulecki.

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# HEALTH

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

## TEMPOROMANDIBULAR JOINT (TMJ) PAIN

The TMJ connects the upper and lower jaw bones. This joint allows the jaw to open wide and move back and forth when you chew, talk, or yawn.

There are many causes of TMJ pain. Repeated chewing (ie with gum) and clenching your teeth can cause pain in the joint. Grinding your teeth during sleep also induces pain. Some TMJ problems have no obvious cause.

There are many things you can do to help your pain get better. When you have pain:

- Eat soft foods and stay away from chewy foods.
- Try to use both sides of your mouth to chew.
- Don't chew gum.
- Don't open your mouth wide.
- Don't bite your cheeks or fingernails.
- Lower your stress and worry levels - exercise works well for this.
- Over-the-counter medicines - Tylenol, Motrin may help.

If these measures don't help, consultation with your dentist may help. Perhaps a bite splint to wear during sleep may help.

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# Reflections of faith

Pastor Joe Fremer  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Lowell  
Once again, we are at that stage where, for many of us, winter has lost some of its charm. I look out my window, and it's like looking at a black and white still photograph. I try to remember spring, with its abundance of the greenest green that could ever be, and the supple movements of fresh twigs and young blades of grass

in the breeze. But all I can see is brittle, lifeless stillness, and the occasional twitch of a bare branch in the cold wind. God's Word, the Bible, promises that a new world is being prepared, a world that is even more superior to this world than a West Michigan spring is superior to a West Michigan winter. When Jesus, God's Son, returns on earth's last day, He will usher His people to this new world, that will be our home forever; a home without death, pain, suffering, or evil. The Old Testament and the New Testament offer multiple assurances that this is God's ultimate plan. These assurances have encouraged countless believers in every land and every time, and helped us to weather the sadness and disappointments of this life. I can hang on for another month or two of cold and snow, because I've done it before, and everybody knows that spring

always follows winter. But when we are asked to wait for God's promise of a better world, it's different, because we've never done this before. We have to look to the character of the One making the promises, to find the courage to go out on such a limb. This is why we need to understand what God has done in the past, to prepare us for what He has promised to do about the future. Once we've seen Him divide the Red Sea in order to save His people, we're better able to appreciate what the final exodus might be like. Once we've seen Jesus alive again on Easter morning, the third day after He let His enemies kill Him, we get a clue as to how He can save us from the prospect of our own deaths. A big change is coming, just as surely as spring is coming. Look to the Bible to help you prepare for tomorrow, and to find the patience we need for today.

# 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.</p> <p><b>OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS</b> Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p><b>DAY BIBLE CHAPEL</b> 9305 Centerline, Saranac 897-6332</p> <p>Worship.....9:45 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M.</p> <p>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</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><b>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Fr. Eugene Okoli 402 Armitz 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 &amp; 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer &amp; adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETER WIGGINS 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 49, EWTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>	<p><b>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> (United Church of Christ) 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906</p> <p>Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Thursday Faith Alive Worship.....7:00 P.M. Rev. Terry Tessari.....Interim Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director Barrier-free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise &amp; Worship</p>
<p><b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 www.lowellumc.com</p> <p>WORSHIP.....8:30 &amp; 10:15 a.m.</p> <p>Rev. Rick Blunt 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</p> <p><b>SUNDAYS:</b> 10:00 a.m. - Worship &amp; Evening; LIFE home Groups &amp; "The Source" Youth</p> <p><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. Eugene Okoli 402 Armitz 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 &amp; 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer &amp; adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETER WIGGINS 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 49, EWTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>	<p><b>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> (United Church of Christ) 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906</p> <p>Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Thursday Faith Alive Worship.....7:00 P.M. Rev. Terry Tessari.....Interim 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</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><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</p> <p>Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. &amp; 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA/EXCITE - TEENS, Wed. 6:15 &amp; 6:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free</p>	<p><b>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Vance Dimmick Jr.</p> <p>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>		

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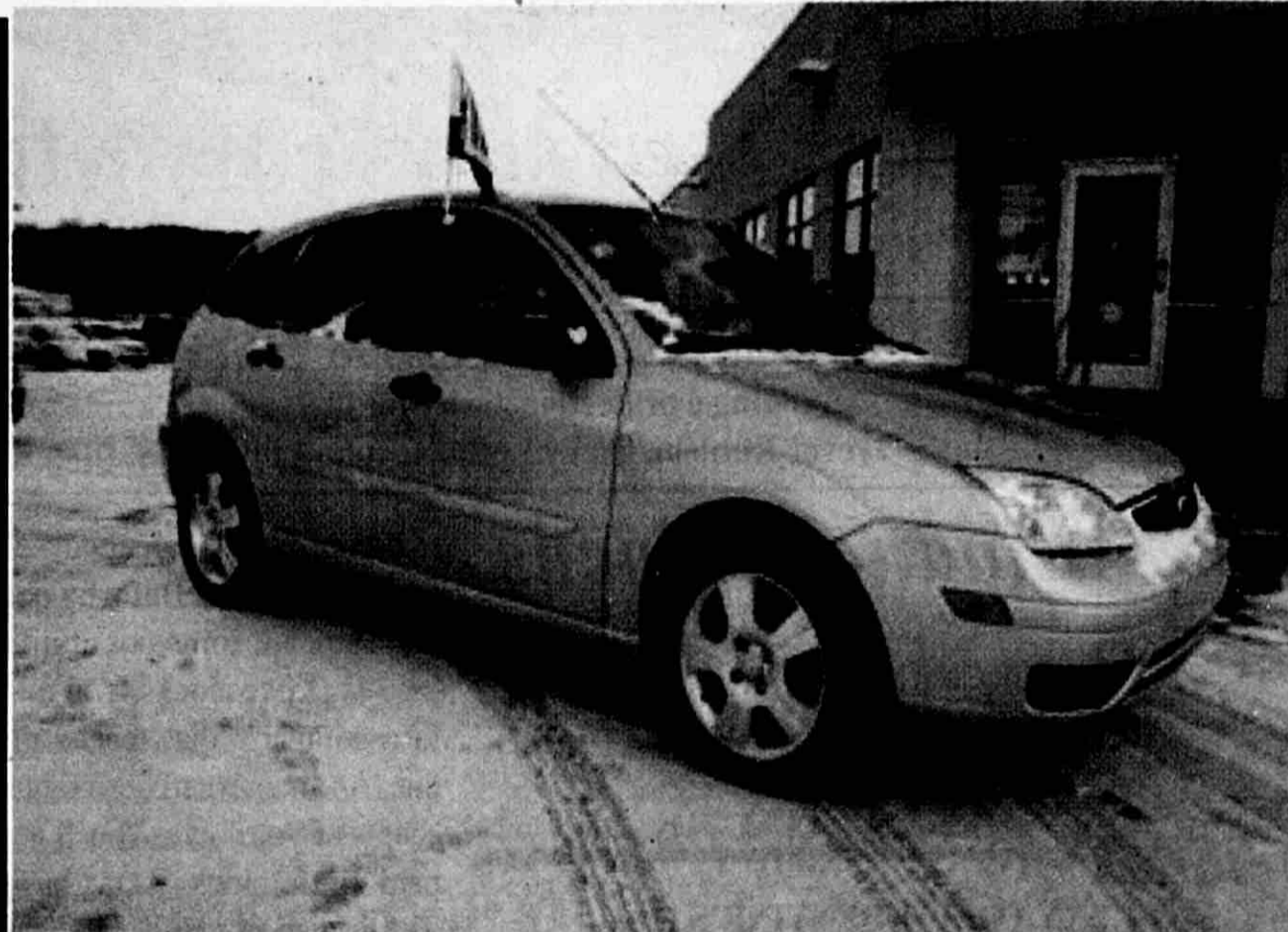
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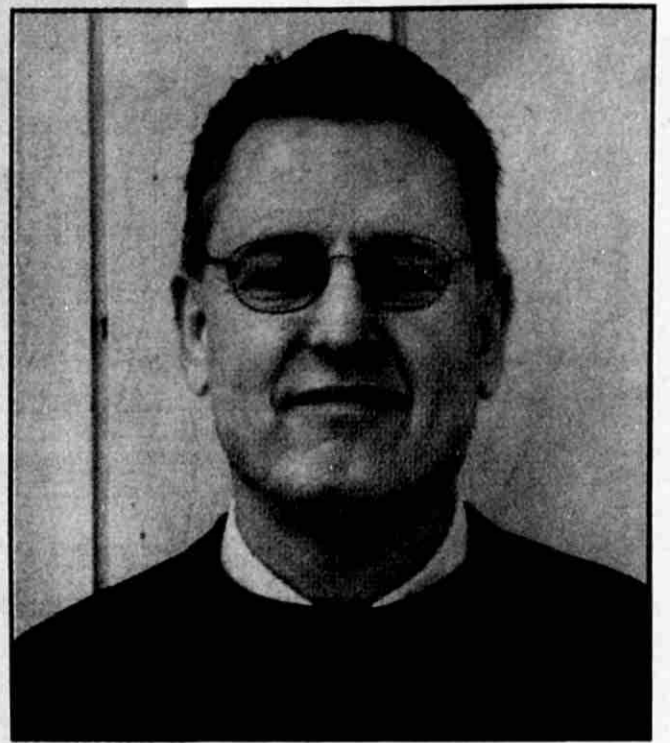
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\* See dealer for details



- SCOTT CARPENTER

Position: Co-owner of Blue Ribbon Feed  
Residence: Lowell  
Education: Lakewood High School, Grand Rapids Junior College, feed schools in Lansing  
Experience: 26 years managing feed shop  
Family: Wife, Barbara, children: Alex, Amy and Craig  
Hobbies: Hunting, golf



## Blue Ribbon Feed stays competitive by manufacturing own feed

By Emma Palova

Surrounded by rescue cats, Scott Carpenter, sitting on a corn feed bag, comfortably talks about the business he started 26 years ago.

Blue Ribbon Feed, one of the oldest businesses in town, thrives on using locally grown produce to mix their own feed. Their famous wild bird seed mix contains nothing but the best, that is corn, black oil sunflowers, millet, milo, wheat and soybean oil.

"We use all natural ingredients," said Carpenter. "We buy locally grown corn, oats, and mix the feed ourselves. We are considered a feed manufacturer."

So, the hottest seller in wintertime are 50-pound bags of wild bird seed for \$9.95.

"We can custom mix anything for anybody," said Carpenter.

In the family business with wife, Barbara and children Alex, Amy and Craig, it's all hard work most of the year. Even though there are busier times such as in the spring with 'Chick Days' and selling 4-H feeds and horse feeds for the fair.

"It's hard work, heavy lifting and dusty conditions," said Carpenter.

But, he wouldn't change it for anything else, and that is mainly because a long time ago, a banker told the Carpenters they would never make it.

"I am in it to spite him," laughed Carpenter. "I want to keep the doors open. I am here all the time, but my wife is the backbone of this business. She keeps the place going."

Being this long in the same line of business, makes Carpenter keep on going, otherwise he would be selling feed for somebody else. On any given day, kids come in and like to see the rescue cats. You can find Carpenter working at the shop all the time.

"I think being a manufacturer gives us an edge," he said.

Recent technology upgrades at the shop include cash registers, before

everything was hand written. Computer programs help figure out prices of different feeds.

"The business is more competitive now than it was before," he said. "We used to be the only ones in the area."

In the spring, Blue Ribbon Feed sells bulk garden seeds, bedding plants, grass seeds, food plot seeds, fertilizer and lime.

To get ready for the spring, Carpenter starts packaging bulk garden seeds in February. He buys them in 50-pound bags and breaks them into small packages.

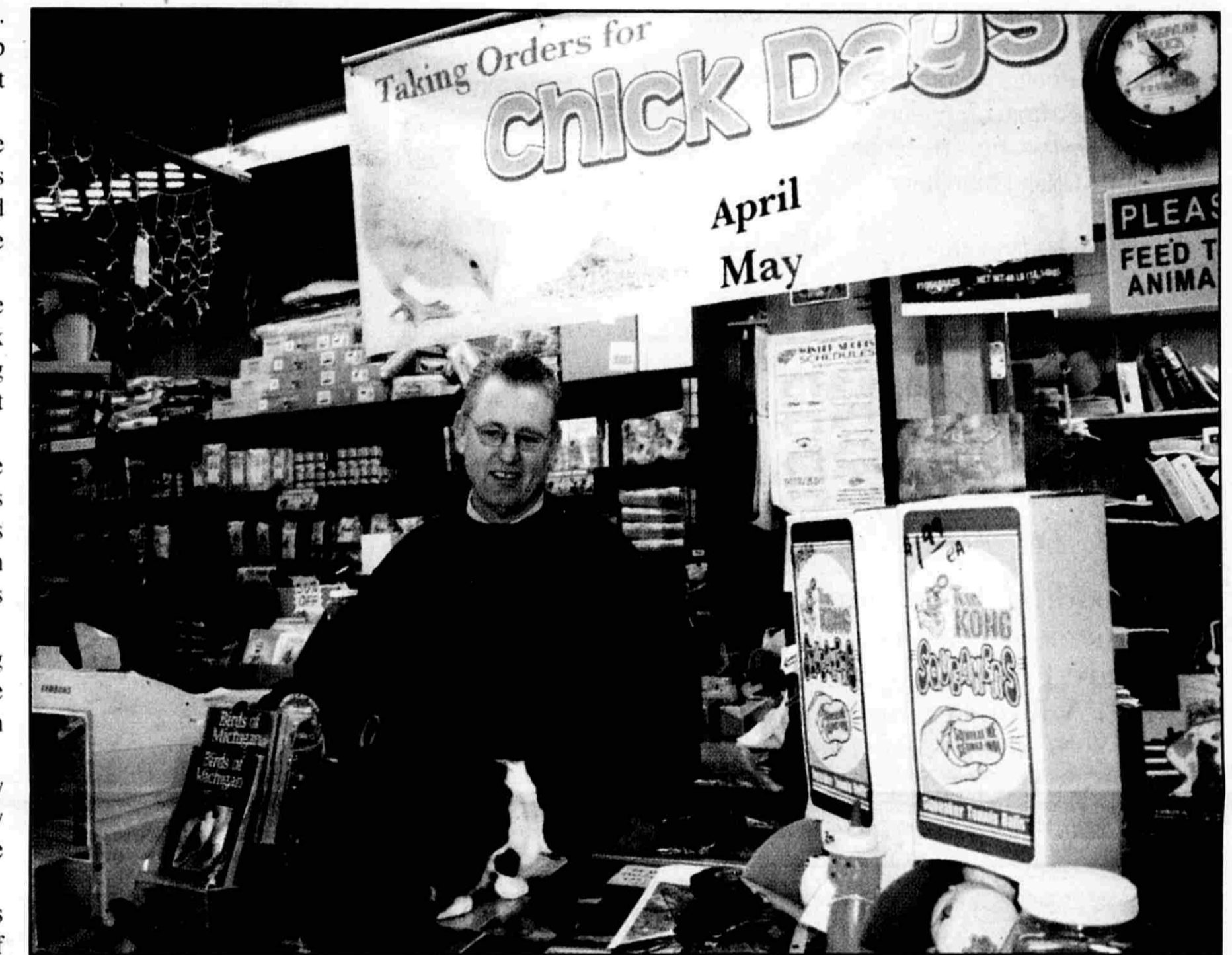
The recession is nothing new to the Carpenters, since they started the business in the recession of the 1980s.

"We never got into any excesses," he said. "We stay lean and competitive, we keep costs at minimum."

Carpenter says he owes his success to being a part of the community.

"We try to support the community," he said. "We know 90 percent of people who walk through the door. We know their first names. When they have a problem with their chickens, just come on in here. We have chickens ourselves."

This year 'Chick Days' are scheduled for April 15 and May 20, and then there are specialty days for 4-H. Carpenter has served in the rotary for nine years. He was



Scott Carpenter behind the counter at Blue Ribbon Feed.

a freestyle wrestling coach for 14 years and soccer and basketball coach through YMCA.

Carpenter's plans include fixing up the buildings with the help of a tax abatement from the city. He bought the mill in 1974 and three years ago, Carpenter bought the corner showroom, former Michael's Farm Market.

\*\*\*

*Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans.*

- John Lennon (1940 - 1980)

### LOWELL SHOWBOAT GARDEN CLUB

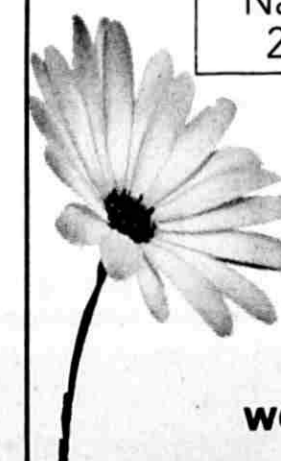
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A FEW NOTABLE EVENTS FROM FEBRUARY 5 - FEBRUARY 11 • 2009

- U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is hospitalized with a pancreatic tumor.
- President Obama takes his first flight on Air Force One. He also visits Indiana and Florida to generate support for his stimulus plan.
- Michael Phelps is dropped by Kellogg's and suspended from competing for three months by U.S.A. Swimming, because a photo surfaced of him smoking marijuana.
- Westminster Dog show held in New York.

- It turns out the California woman who gave birth to eight infants is already the mother of six fatherless children. All 14 children were conceived through artificial insemination by the same donor and the mother reports she used the same physician each time.
- Massive fires in Australia have killed over 170 people and destroyed hundreds of homes. It is believed that several of the fires were deliberately set and the arsonist when apprehended, will be charged with murder.
- American Eagle Outfitters Inc is suing Citigroup Global Markets Inc. for fraud.
- 19-year-old, R&B singer Chris Brown faces assault charges stemming from an incident involving his girlfriend singer Rihanna.
- Suicide car bomber kills four American soldiers in Iraq. The deadliest single attack against U.S. forces in nine months.
- Nissan to eliminate 20,000 jobs worldwide.
- In China a fire engulfs a 40-story luxury hotel in Beijing.
- Bernie Madoff's client list is made public in a massive 162 page document.
- A 38-year-old Italian woman who was at the center of a right-to-die case in Italy has died. She had been in a vegetative state for 17 years.
- Lindsey Vonn of U.S. won the women's downhill for her second gold medal at the World Championship.
- NFL Pro Bowl in Hawaii is won by the NFC - 27-21.
- Alex Rodriguez admits to using performance-enhancing drugs.
- When it rains, it pours. Many Kentucky residents who have been without power since a huge ice storm, have been receiving food packets. Some of those packets have been recalled because they contained recalled peanut butter products.
- France becomes the first country to put a limit on payouts to bankers.
- Usher rushed to his 37-year-old wife's side after it was learned she was suffering severe complications from cosmetic surgery.
- Division 1 basketball coach Pat Summit, of Tennessee, becomes the first coach to win 1,000 career games.
- A giant fossil of a snake was found in Colombia. The snake would have measured 42 to 45 feet and weighed more than 2,500 pounds.
- Iran's president Ahmadinejad says the world is "entering an era of dialogue." "The Iranian nation is ready for talks with the U.S. but in a fair atmosphere with mutual respect."
- The Senate passes its version of the economic stimulus bill (\$838 billion).

Got an Announcement to make?

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

\* Anniversary announcements cannot contain an invitation to a celebration

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# Red Arrow SPORTS

## Rangers rock Red Arrows, 48-31

by Thad Kraus

Forest Hills Central's girls basketball team has fed off its defensive intensity.

The Ranger's second half defensive intensity ate up Lowell in a 58-41 non-conference win.

It was the first ever girl-boy basketball doubleheader at Lowell High School. It was also a sign of things to come next year.

"Throughout the season we've been a second half team," said Ranger head coach Roxanne Gallert. "The girls tend to turn things on in the second half. Tonight you could see that our defensive intensity changed both in our full and half court."

The first half headline was Lowell's defense and the Red Arrow's ability to make some shots.

"The first half we played well. The girls made some shots and I think our defense aggravated Forest Hills a little bit," said Lowell

girls' basketball coach Dani Gallert.

The Rangers took out their aggravation on Lowell over the final 16 minutes.

Trailing 23-19, FHC outscored Lowell 16-0 in the opening five minutes of the second half to take a commanding 35-23 advantage.

"It looked like the girls laid down. They got scared," said Dani Gallert. "They didn't see anything out there they haven't seen in practice."

FHC finished the third quarter outscoring Lowell 18-4. It then outgunned the Red Arrows in the fourth quarter 21-14.

"This second half thing is a mental block and something we have to fix before the tournament," Roxanne Gallert said.

Lowell (7-8, 4-3) returned to its winning ways against Greenville thanks in large part to a strong third-quarter offensive effort.

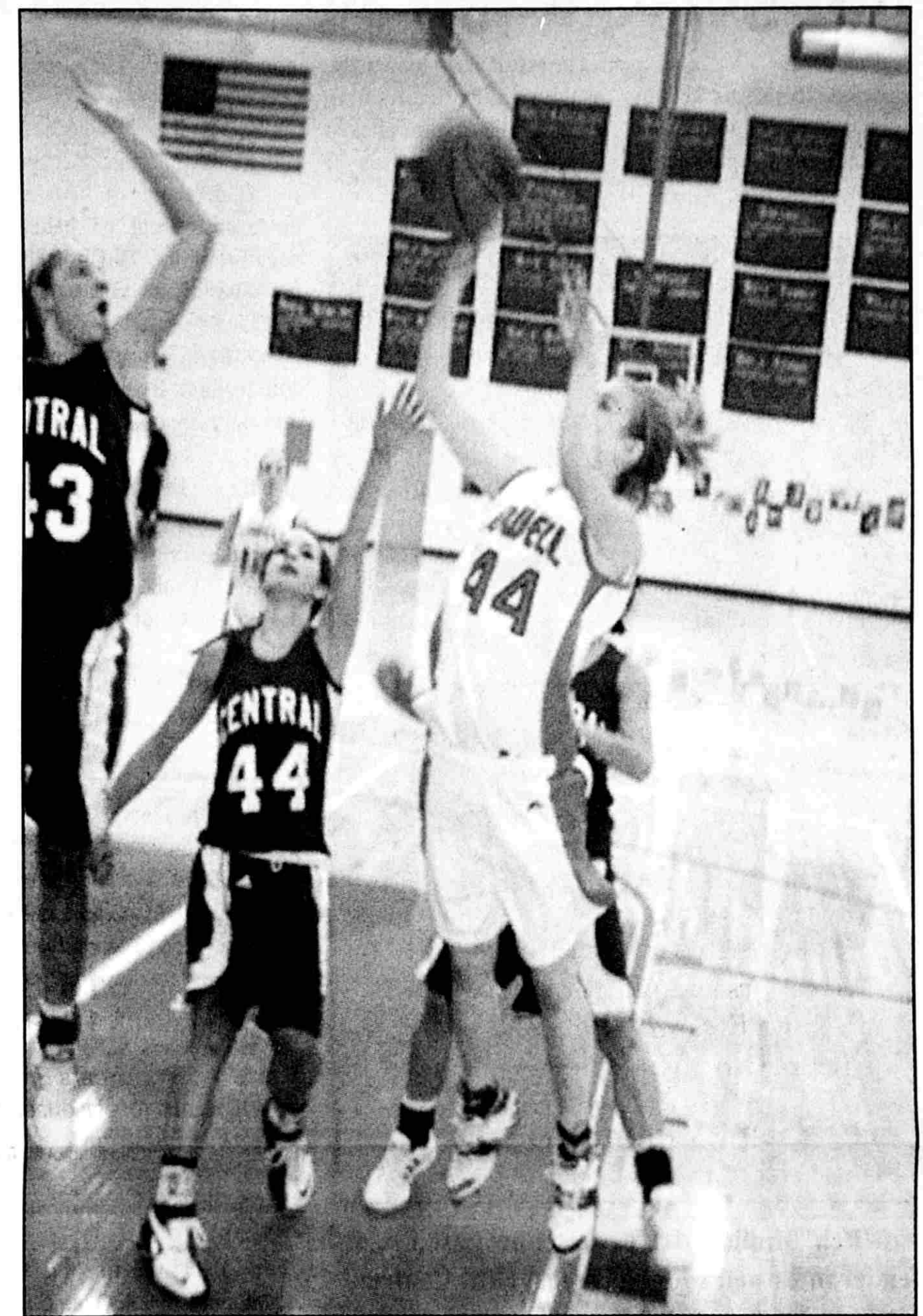
"We made some adjustments to what Greenville was doing defensively," said Lowell girls' basketball coach Dani Gallert. "We had a little more energy in the second half and played more of our game."

The Red Arrows trailed 16-14 at half-time. Lowell rallied for a 15-5 advantage in the third stanza to take a 29-21 lead into the final eight minutes of play.

Despite a good offensive effort in the third quarter Gallert said her squad struggled with scoring throughout the game.

"We're taking good shots in the paint but we're just not making them," Gallert explained.

Lowell lost the rebounding battle 24-17 while committing three more turnovers (17-14) than Greenville.



Breyleigh Loughlin pulls up for a short jump shot in first-half action against Forest Hills Central.

## Season-high score propels gymnasts into conference meet

By Thad Kraus

The eyes had it Saturday at the St. John's Gymnastics Invitational.

Actually, the eyes of the judges were all over Lowell's sweep in the floor exercise. Kelsey Teft recorded a 9.675, less than a point (.075) from Holly Plattner's 2003 school-record mark of 9.75.

Richelle Kimble 9.5 tumbled her way to a 9.5 and placed second followed by Andrea Coffey's third-place score of 9.25.

"All three routines were really clean. Kelsey's routine was clean and included a back flip with a full twist. Andrea earned some bonus points with some new tricks," Lowell gymnastics coach Skye Fisher explained. "It was just a real good day for us in the floor exercise."

The floor scores helped anchor a second place finish at St. John's.

The Red Arrows tallied 132.445 points placing second to Holt. It was Lowell's highest team point total of the season.

Kimble took all-around honors while Teft was

second and Coffey finished 10th.

"Richelle was solid on everything. Everything came together for her today," Fisher said.

Lowell's individual scores on the balance beam had Kelsey Teft, third, 8.95; Andrea Coffey, sixth, 8.75; Richelle Kimble, seventh, 8.725; and Cassie Miles scored a 7.0.

Teft claimed top honors on the vault with an 8.75. Kimble was second at 8.65 and Coffey and Sara Piell finishing at 7.95 and 7.7 respectively.

On the uneven bars Kimble was third with a mark of 8.65.

Teft came off the bars with a 7.9 while Coffey tallied a 6.75. Lowell's fourth score was handed in by Piell (5.7).

Mona Shores 133.125 Lowell 131.025

Lowell's solid performances were not unique to the St. John's Invitational.

The Red Arrows narrowly missed knocking off Mona Shores, falling 2.1 points short of the Sailors.

"It was a close meet. The girls gave a really good effort," Lowell gymnastics coach Skye Fisher said. "If we clean up a few of our routines and added a couple new tricks the girls may be able to fly by Mona Shores at conference."

Fisher is hopeful that the week of strong performances will be a springboard to good things at the conference meet (at Lowell) on Friday.

**Vault**  
Kelsey Teft 8.95  
Richelle Kimble 8.95  
Andrea Coffey 8.15  
Sarah Piell 8.0

**Uneven Bars**  
Richelle Kimble 8.425  
Kelsey Teft 8.1  
Andrea Coffey 6.85  
Sarah Piell 6.325

**Balance Beam**  
Kelsey Teft 9.2  
Richelle Kimble 9.175  
Andrea Coffey 7.9  
Cassie Miles 7.65

**Floor**  
Kelsey Teft 8.97  
Richelle Kimble 8.75  
Andrea Coffey 8.65  
Sarah Piell 7.0



**OKAY -**  
Someone Has To Say It ...

by Thad Kraus

I would consider myself a casual observer of the NBA. Or least casual during the regular season. I pay a little more attention during the playoffs.

I never sit down and watch an entire game. It's more like I'll spend 10 or 15 minutes or I will catch the final minutes of a close game.

I tuned into the final few minutes of the Lakers-Celtics game the other night.

It reminded what bothers me most about the NBA. The REFEREEING!

Without a doubt, NBA referees have more of an impact on a game's outcome than in any other professional sport.

Calls are often based on who you are (team and player) as opposed to what really took place.

LeBron James is a freak. I mean that in the best sense. However, he can take three-four steps on the way to the hoop without dribbling and nothing is called - after all he's LeBron James.

A player off the bench or a lesser known player is whistled for a foul just for thinking he can drive to the bucket.

Every four years there is talk and outrage at the Olympics about the judging/scoring in figure skating and gymnastics. Yes, it is bad... but from my vantage point, though, it is no worse than what I see on a regular basis in the NBA.

Neither should be acceptable. For me, it calls into question the legitimacy of the sport.

Okay, cont'd., pg. 14

### LUNCH MENU

**ELEMENTARY MENU**  
Week of  
Feb. 16, 2009

**MON:** President's Day. Mid-winter break.

**TUES:** Hot dog on bun (3 meat sub also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), fresh mini carrots, assorted fruit, milk.

**WED:** Rotini & Italian meatsauce w/dinner roll (stacked ham/cheese/bun also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), pineapple, milk.

**THURS:** Sausage pizza (BBQ ribbette on bun also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), antipasto salad, banana, milk.

**FRI:** Baked chicken nuggets (turkey & cheese on bun also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), steamed rice, oriental vegetables, assorted fruit, fortune cookie, milk.

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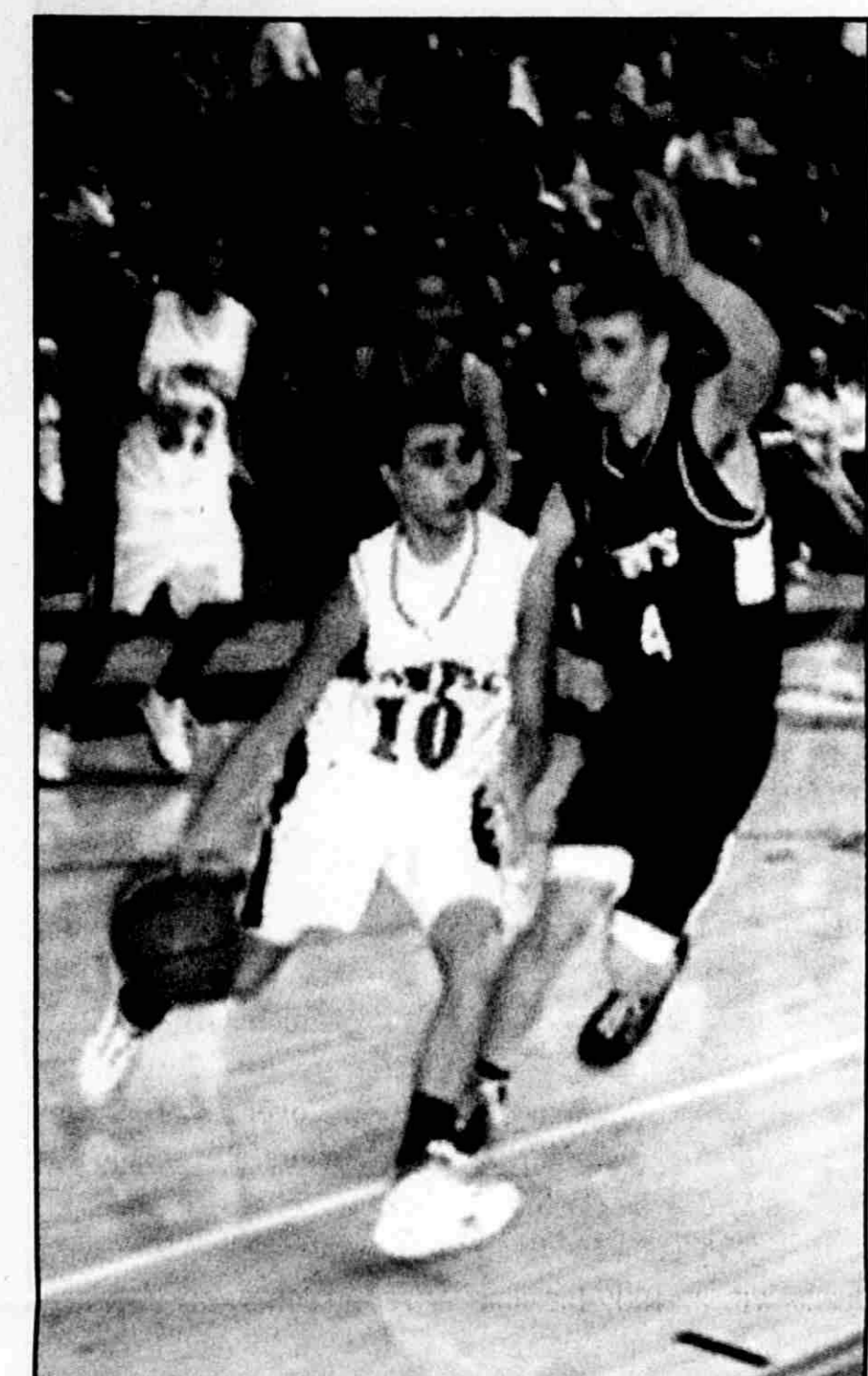
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# Red Arrow SPORTS

## Rangers rough-up Lowell, 69-42

by Thad Kraus

Lowell boys basketball was forced to play at a pace it is not physically capable of playing.



Mitch Malling drives baseline past his defender in Lowell's loss to Forest Hills Central.

The result was a long night, as the visiting Rangers from Forest Hills Central clicked on all cylinders in a 69-42 nonconference win over Lowell.

"We got whooped tonight. We must accept it. Understand it. Make no excuses and be better because of it," said Lowell boys basketball coach Jeff McDonald.

The Red Arrows stayed with the high-flying Rangers through the opening eight minutes as it trailed by just three (17-14) after one quarter.

A dominating 18-3 second quarter by the Rangers took all guessing out of the outcome.

"That was one of our better bell-to-bell performances tonight," said Forest Hills Central boys basketball coach Ken George. "This was our fourth straight road game and we have guys who are sick, but they came out and executed and played hard. I am most proud of that."

McDonald pointed to Central as the type of team Lowell needs to play and compete against to grow and go to the next level.

Northview 49  
Lowell 43  
The inability to finish closed out Lowell's chances

of victory in a six-point loss to Northview Friday night.

"We had nine runs at the rim and couldn't finish," said Lowell boys basketball coach Jeff McDonald. "When you miss numerous shots in the paint it zaps your energy a little bit."

The Red Arrows tallied a season-low 13 first-half points against the Wildcats.

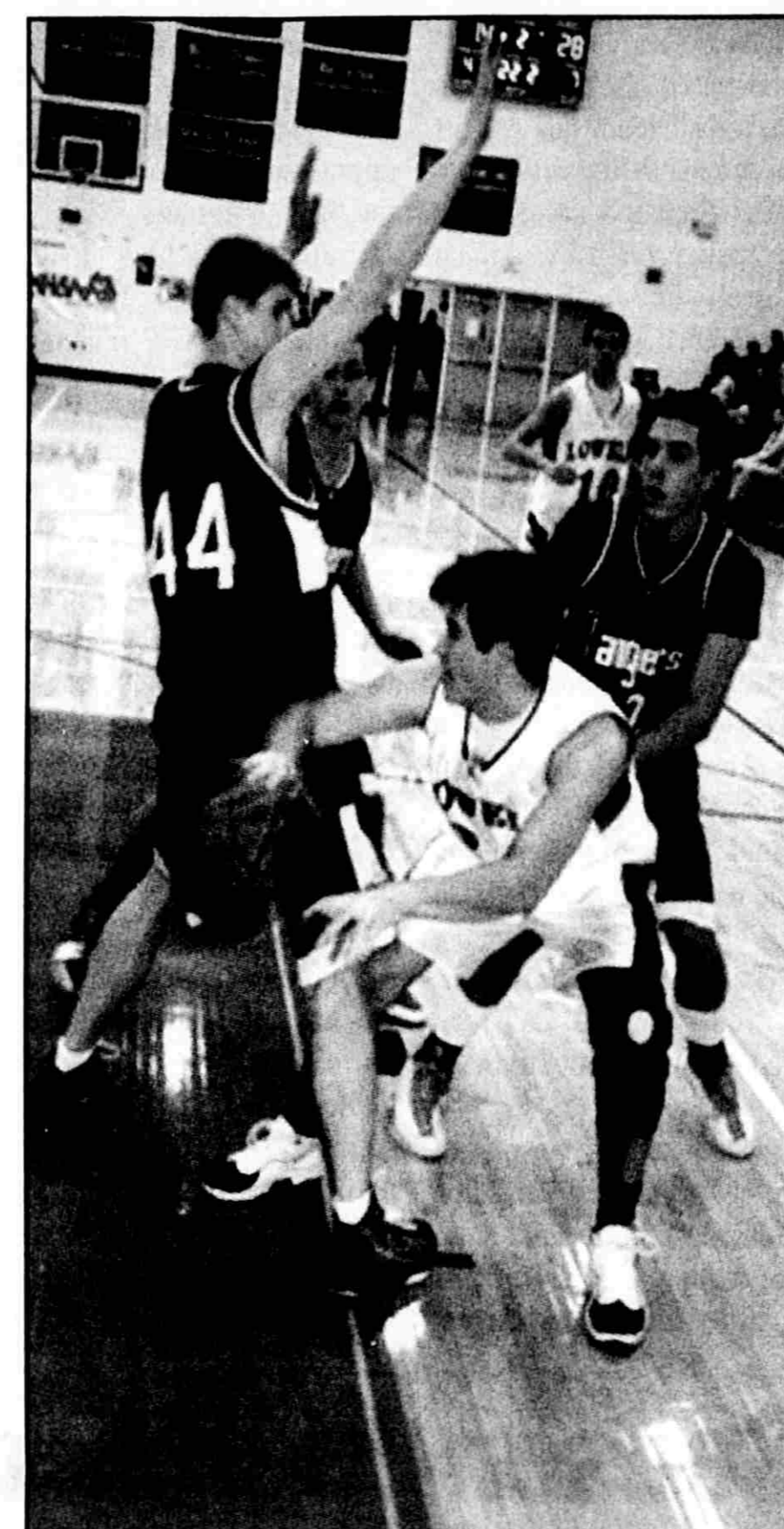
Northview led 20-13 at half-time.

The Red Arrows battled to within three in the third, closing the deficit to 28-25 to start the final stanza.

"The bottom line is that we're still struggling offensively," McDonald explained. "A win right now would do a lot of things for us."

Leading Lowell in scoring was Danny Lane with 11 points. Isaac Tawney netted 10 while Tim Hettinga and Kevin Luyk contributed with eight and six points respectively.

Northview was led at the offensive end by freshmen Darren Kapustka, 17 points; Kevin Rich, 10 points.



Zach Noskey looks for a teammate against pressure.

## Cheer team finds success in round three

by Thad Kraus

A fifth-place finish was not the improvement Lowell's competitive cheer team had in mind.

On a night when the Red Arrow girls recorded their highest third-round total of the year (276.400), breaking into the top three would seem likely.

While the young program took a step forward with its execution in round three, it fell back with its motion timing and herkie jumps in rounds one and two.

"It's encouraging to know the girls were right there minus a few mistakes in rounds one and two," said Lowell competitive cheer coach Kari Dawson. "A judge came up to me afterwards and said we have the material, the girls just have to perform it. Do what's choreographed."

The Lowell coach said her squad will spend time tweaking their performance and clean up the mistakes before their conference meet on Wednesday (Feb. 11) at Northview.

"The girls know how close they were," Dawson explained.

Lowell while finishing fifth, was just 11.24 points from a top three finish.

The Red Arrows finished with a score of 662.224. Kenowa Hills won the meet recording a score of 742.8184. Grand Rapids Christian was second at 741.5112 and Reeths-Puffer claimed third with a mark of 673.4840. Mona Shores was fourth at 662.8440 and Northview finished sixth with a mark of 546.6608.

"Our round three overall execution was very good," Dawson explained.

The Red Arrow girls garnered stunt execution bonus points for their round three performance.

Lowell's junior varsity competitive cheer team placed third in its competition, finishing behind Kenowa Hills (541.5448) and Reeths-Puffer (533.5948). Lowell's team total was 513.1480. Northview was fourth at 428.430.

# Red Arrow SPORTS

## Greenville captures first of three in battle of mat titans

by Thad Kraus

It was as close as their number one and two rankings would indicate.

Greenville's 31-28 dual win over Lowell before 1,800 fans at Lowell High School was the first of three meetings between the two schools over the next three weeks.

It's also likely the best these two schools have to offer lies ahead.

"It was a great match that could have gone either way," said Greenville wrestling coach Paul Johnson. "Luck was on our side tonight."

The coach of the number one ranked Yellow Jackets, and defending Division II state champion, knows that this wonderful wrestling drama between two of the state's best is not over. "We still have the conference meet as well as

the team regional," Johnson explained. "But this really ought to be a state finals match in three weeks."

While Lowell wrestling coach Dave Dean would love that, he wasn't ready to make that leap.

"There are other pretty good wrestling teams that we have seen this year, like Lakeshore and Oxford," Dean said. "Greenville, however, is the top dog."

Division II's best battled back from an early 17-4 deficit to take their first lead at 28-24 following Tyler Keserling's 26-11 technical fall against Red Arrow Tyler Jack.

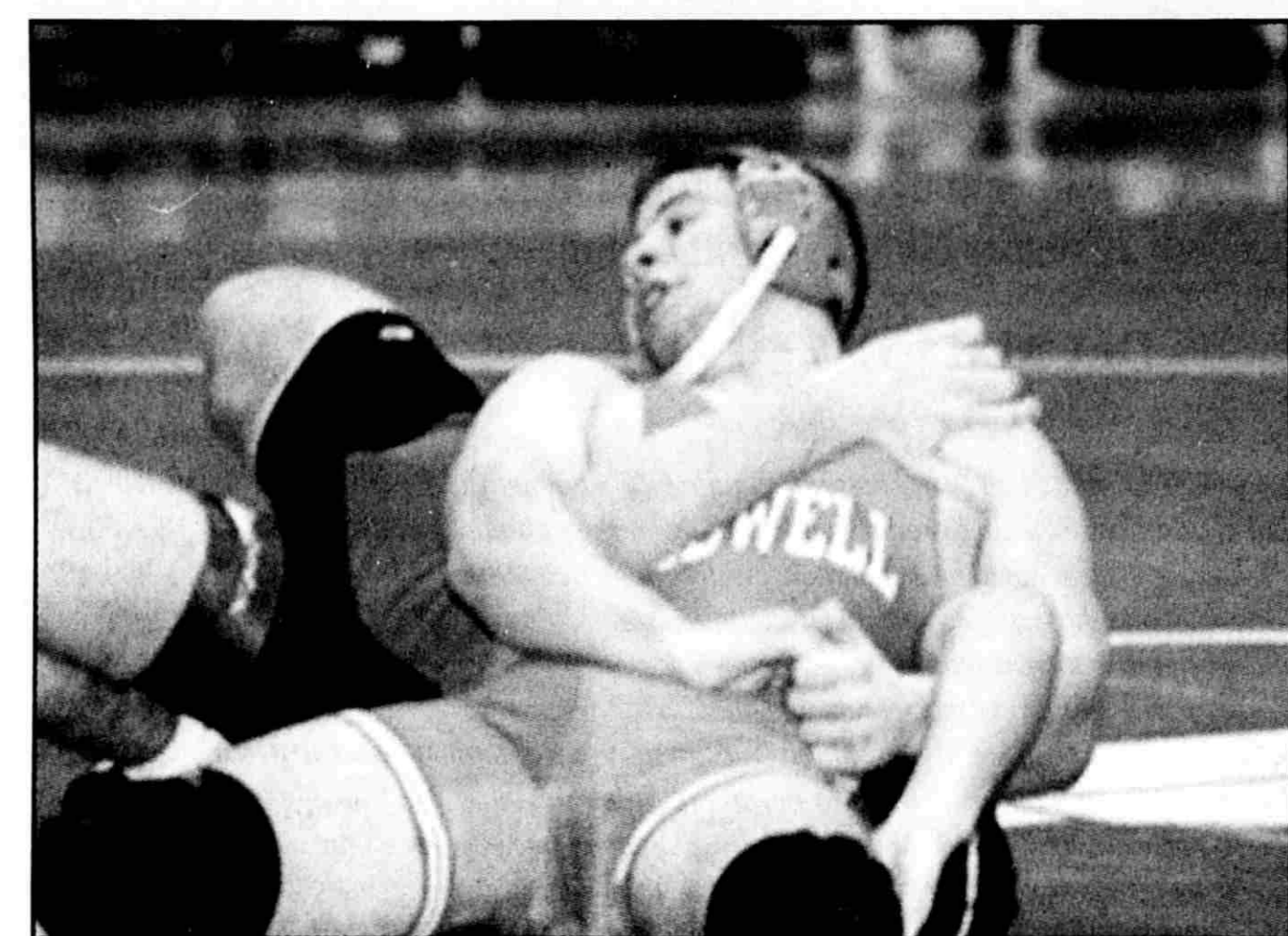
"We had some kids who stepped up and some who struggled. It was a real roller coaster of a match," Dean said. "Good teams put you in a roller coaster. You feel

a little ahead and then you feel a little behind based on what things are happening out there."

Greenville tied a bow on its victory when Nicholas Bogue got a late, third-period, match-tying takedown and then followed that up with a takedown in overtime to defeat Lowell's Gabe Morse (125) 6-4 and give the Yellow Jackets an insurmountable 31-24 advantage with one match to go.

The significance of that match was magnified when Lowell's Dan Fleet (130) followed with a 12-4 major decision over Greenville's Eric Hansen.

"That 125-pound match was really close. I tell you what, that Morse clan (Andrew, Jackson and Gabe) is something else.



Tim Gingerich (160) scored multiple points with the fireman hold in a 20-5 technical fall.

Those are three phenomenal wrestlers," Johnson said. "Dave (Dean) must love that."

What Dean really liked was the continued progress he's seeing in wrestlers with no names improving so much.

"Ryan Dean beat a two-time state qualifier a week ago. Tonight he beat a good wrestler," Dean said. He's blossoming. Dan Fleet continues to wrestle tough. Connor Kruse is more technical and getting better."

Ryan Dean (140) decided Collin Fuller 7-5; Dan Fleet (130) major decided Eric Hansen 12-4; Kruse (HWT) decided Ike Hansen 5-3.

"The unknown tonight was whether the boys are in this, now we know we were," Dean explained.

Can enough progress be

made in three weeks to overcome the defending state champion?

"Yes! I've seen guys step up in a matter of days." Lowell jumped out to a 17-4 advantage with Andrew Morse's 12-3 win over Steve Kurtz at 135 pounds; Ryan Deans win at 140; Jackson Morse's technical fall (20-5) against Adam Bonner at 152; and Tim Gingerich's (160) 20-5 technical fall over Cody Wall.

Greenville's only win in the opening five weight classes came at 145 where Jordan Thomas major decided Rocky Pabon 11-3.

The two clubs split the next four weight classes.

Greenville's Tyler Fuller (171) won by default (stalling) against Lowell's Gabe Dean.

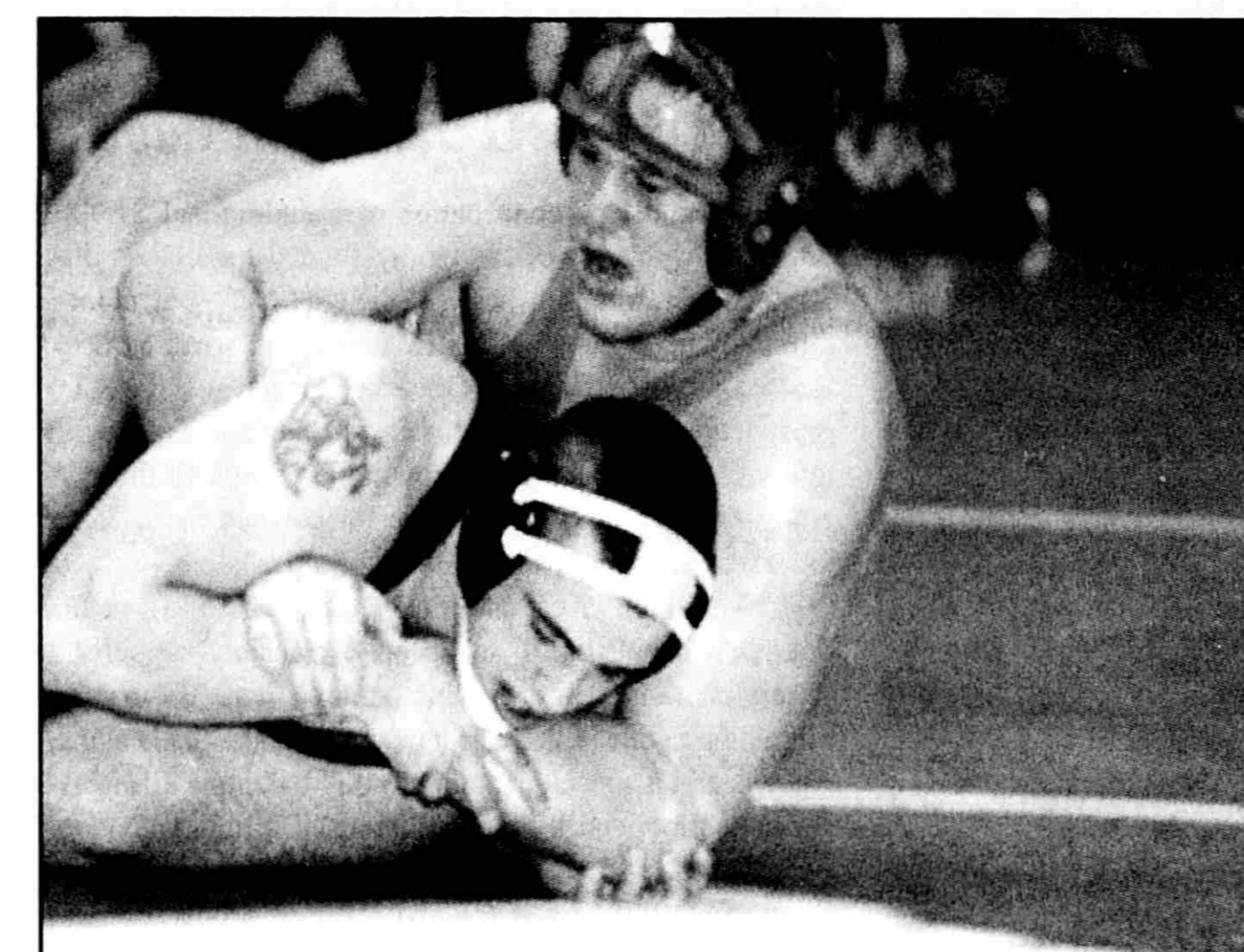
Ryan Olep (189) answered back for Lowell with a 15-

3 major decision against Yellow Jacket Chris Johnson.

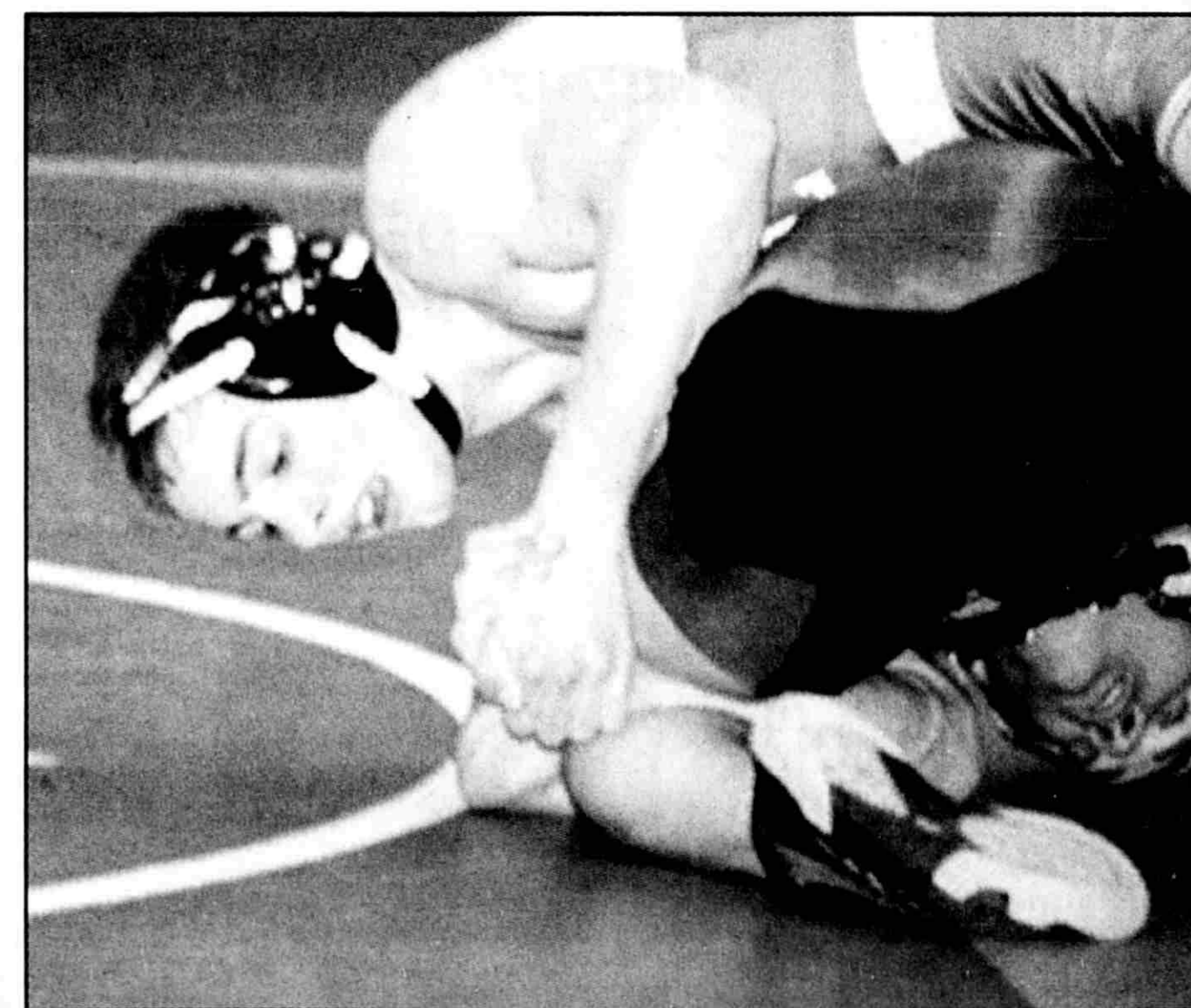
Greenville's Justin Drobish recorded a 12-2 major decision over Lowell's Tom Fleet before Kruse's win at heavyweight.

Trailing by 10 with five matches to wrestle, Greenville went to work. Yellow Jacket Lukas Gilmore (103) major decided Aaron Nowak 21-8 and teammate Ryan Hansen (112) followed with a 19-2 technical fall against Zach Jeffries, propelling Greenville to within one at 24-23.

"It was close. I thought there were possibilities all along the way. Some of the things that were possible came true," Dean said. "But not enough of them."



Lowell's Connor Kruse wore down his counterpart in a 5-3 decision at heavyweight.



Jackson Morse (152) dominated in his 20-5 technical fall.

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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).

All comments are submitted by the public and do not necessarily represent the views of the Ledger.

You are doing a great job reporting on the local retailers in town.  
- Jean Savage

I have had two-week recycling for years. If I have extra recycling I put it in a clear plastic bag, paper bag or a small garbage can - they're cheap at dollar stores. I have had no problem with pickup. Come on. You can store it easily if it's clean. Everybody has to be flexible and give a little.

Taco Bell marquee currently says "Your troubles don't matter eat a platter" They might as well say, come emotionally eat with us. This supports the theory that the fast food industry encourages bad habits and overeating.  
-DeAnn Donnelly

If Al Gore wants to save the planet why aren't they recycling pop bottles in Washington D.C.?

Recycling is now a joke. It was not fun carrying out three weeks worth. I'm sure the company picking up isn't happy either it must take them twice as long. We need to be doing more to help the environment not make it worse.

Don't make excuses for your dog's bad behavior. A dog can only be as smart as it's owner. Think about this the next time you yell at your dog.

Isn't it great to live in a community where people return lost

money. Thanks to everyone who is so honest and has such integrity in this community.

I believe if it's going to be two or three weeks between recycling we should all be issued a second recycling bin.

I wonder when the city of Lowell is going to make residents buy an ORV sticker for our vehicles. Our roads are falling apart and they have no money to fix them. How much are the stickers going to cost us?

## ONLINE POLL RESULTS

What do you want for Valentine's Day?

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THE CURRENT QUESTION IS ...

Should school districts drug test teachers?

## Student Day at Kentwood Ice Arena

The Lowell Caledonia High School students with program will be holding a special Student Day event at its Feb. 21 game against Muskegon Reeths-Puffer at the Kentwood Ice Arena. All Lowell and Caledonia High School students with an ID will receive free admission, free pizza, free pop, free desserts, and a free chuck-a-puck. There will also be door prizes and entertainment.

## Okay, cont'd. ... From Page 11

Will it change? Probably not! Does it continue to drive away my interest in the sport? You bet!

Did you, along with me, question why time was not taken to review Arizona's final play (attempted pass) to determine if it was a pass attempt or throw.

On a similar play earlier in the game, the referees did. Why not on the last play of game? What was the hurry?

The call on the field very well could have been the right one. To not take time and review it, allows room for questions -- questions on the sport's biggest stage. Questions that could have been avoided.

If you missed it, the Lowell/Greenville wrestling match was one of this winter season's best West Michigan high school athletic spectacles.

The emotion, the intensity, the nerve endings all could be felt and if you looked around - seen!

Over 1,800 wrestling fans packed Lowell High School's gymnasium. They weren't disappointed.

The good news for those who missed it, the two teams will meet again in the regional final at Greenville in a few weeks. From this desk, it is a must see!

## Financial Focus, continued ... From Page 7

make a "catch-up" contribution of an additional \$1,000. So, if your valentine hasn't fully funded his or her IRA for this year, you can help. While you can't put money directly into someone else's IRA, you can write a check for that purpose. Because of their tax advantages, IRAs are great retirement-savings vehicles, so they are well worth funding. (Traditional IRAs grow tax-deferred; Roth IRAs grow tax-free, provided the investor has had the account for at least five years and is 59-1/2 or older.)

Make a charitable gift in your valentine's name. Your loved one, like many people, probably supports a variety of social and charitable organizations. By making a donation to one of these groups in your valentine's name, you can add a special meaning to this Valentine's Day. At the same time, you'll be giving yourself a little valentine, because you may be able to claim a tax deduction for your charitable gift. In fact, if you give an asset, such as a stock, which has appreciated in value, you'll get an extra tax break because you won't be responsible for capital gains when the charity eventually sells the stock.

By making any of these gifts, you'll show your valentine that you truly care about the most important part of his or her life -- the future.

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**AMERICAN LEGION CLARK-ELLIS POST 152** - meets the fourth Monday at 3100 Alden Nash S.E. at 7:30 p.m.

**LOWELL LIONS CLUB** - meets every first and third Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Look Memorial Fire Station, S. Hudson.

**A.D.D./A.D.H.D ISSUES GROUP** - meets every third Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 32156 4-Mile N.E. (at E. Beltline). Call Linda at 874-5662.

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**WOMEN FOR SOBRIETY** - meets every Monday, 7-8 p.m. at Bowne Center United Methodist Church, fellowship hall, 12051 84th St., corner of Alden Nash. Call Sue at 868-6219 or www.womenforsobriety.org.

**QUA-KE-ZIK SPORTSMAN'S CLUB** - meets second and third Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at 8731 West Riverside Dr. Go to www.quakezik.org for information. New members welcome.

**LOWELL LIONS CLUB** - meets every first and third Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Look Memorial Fire Station, S. Hudson.

**A.D.D./A.D.H.D ISSUES GROUP** - meets every third Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 32156 4-Mile N.E. (at E. Beltline). Call Linda at 874-5662.

**WOMEN'S COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY** - every Tuesday. Free nursery/preschool story hour/crafts, 9:45-11:15 a.m. & women only at 7:15 p.m. Calvary CRC across from Burger King. 897-7060 or 897-7555. Sept. - April.

**BOY SCOUT TROOP 102** - every Monday, 7-8:30 p.m. during school year in Scout Cabin at the end of N. Washington St. Ages 11 and up or completing 5th grade. Call Tim Vanderwulp at 897-4302.

**LOWELL AREA JUGGLING CLUB** - first Monday of the month at Englehardt Library Community Rm. 6:30-8:30 p.m. 12/older. 897-9879. www.freewebs.com/lowelljugglingclub.

**CUB SCOUT PACK 3188** - meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main.

**HELP IS ON THE WAY** - Residential cleaning. Many years experience. Call for in-home quote. Stephanie 616-835-3392.

**LAMINATING SERVICE AVAILABLE** - Next day service. Drop off & pieces will be available by 9 a.m. the next day. Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

**HANDY REPAIR SERVICE** - All kinds of service work: locks rekeyed, deadbolts installed, plumbing, electrical, screen & window repair. Call Bob Ford, 299-3198.

## EVENTS SERVICES

**ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS** - coming to Lowell! Daytime & evening classes starting up in February. Zumba is a fun Latin-inspired dance/fitness class anyone can do. It's fun, it's different, it's easy, it's effective, it's exercise in disguise! Call or email me for more information about Zumba & for current class schedules. Ditch the routine, join the Party! Cheryl, 897-0697 or prattb123@sbcglobal.net.

**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

**HOT TUB SERVICE** - Every make & model, covers, supplies, maintenance. Call the HotwaterDr. 616-874-3385 or contact hotwaterdr.com.

**ART GALLERY and CUSTOM FRAMING - Fire and Water Art! 219 W. Main St., Lowell. Open Wednesday thru Sunday. 890-1879.**

**EQUINE FACILITY FOR LEASE** - Great opportunity for self employment for experienced equine career person. Fully equipped. Some existing boarders. Located between Ada & Lowell. Owner retiring. Serious inquiries can reply to lynnecarol32@gmail.com or 897-2954.

**TELEMARKETER** - hourly plus commission, apply at 319 E. Main St., Lowell, MI 49331. Mon.-Fri., 9-5 p.m.

**DELIVERY DRIVER - CDL-A drivers needed.** Looking for dependable customer service oriented person w/CDL-B, CDL-A license. Good working environment. 616-717-0903.

**ALTO DAYCARE** - has 2 openings first shift, infant thru school age, full time or part time. CPR and First Aid trained, fenced back yard, weekly art activities. Can email handbook upon request. FIA approved. Call 868-0752.

**BUSINESS CARDS** - For as little as \$28 for 250. (white card, black ink). Before you order your cards from somewhere else - check our rates! Call Lowell Litho, 897-9261.

**GO MELINDA!** - She does it again! 2 houses SOLD in just 5 weeks, 3 more pending third party approval and still negotiating! If you are thinking about making a move in the next 6 months do yourself a favor and call Melinda Robison! She will be sure to take really good care of you! Call Melinda at 616-648-0151 or visit www.GoMelinda.com Five Star Real Estate 791-1500.

**ENTERTAINMENT CENTERS** - Kitchens, baths, custom cabinetry at prebuilt prices. Personal Choice Cabinetry, 897-1130.

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

**SPAY/NEUTER** - \$20 for dogs & \$10 cats owned by low income families. Call 897-8865 to setup an appointment.

**WEDDING INVITATIONS** Available at Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway. Stop by & check out one of our books for the weekend. Wide variety of invitations & prices. Ph. 897-9261

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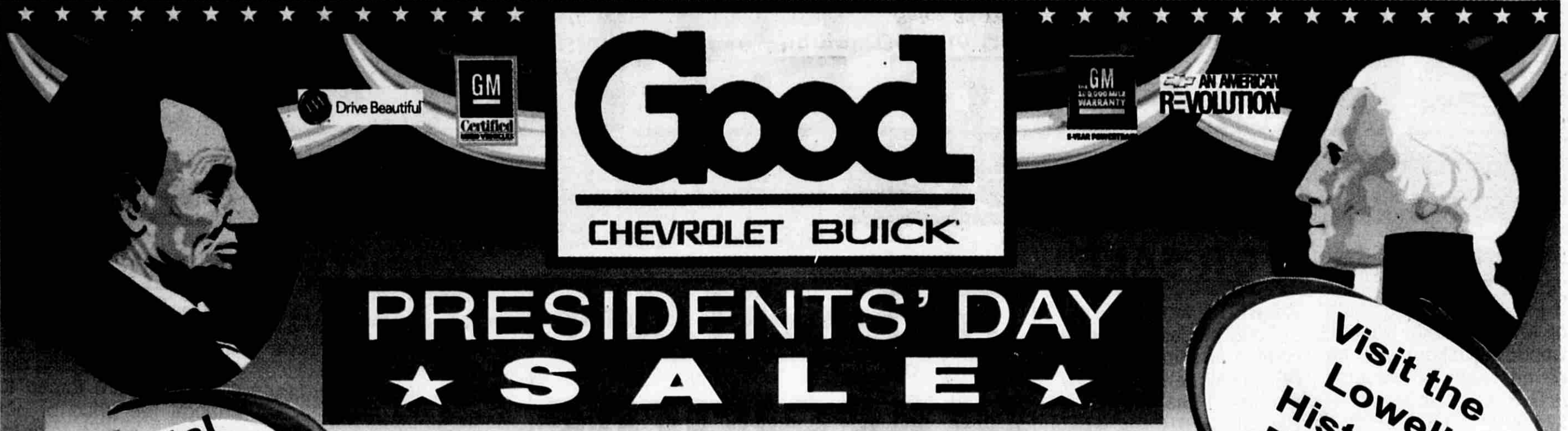
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# PRESIDENTS' DAY SALE

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## PRESIDENTS' DAY USED VEHICLE SPECIALS

Stk. #	Model	Miles	Price	Stk. #	Model	Miles	Price
UP933	2008 Nissan Sentra	32,696	\$11,995	IP956	2006 Chevy Equinox AWD LT	31,178	\$13,575
UP904	2008 Mazda 3	29,707	\$12,975	IP893	2006 Buick Lacrosse CXL	17,163	\$13,995
UP878	2008 Chevy Cobalt LT	22,789	\$12,995	IP958	2006 Chevy Trailblazer LT	47,147	\$14,475
IP977	2008 Dodge Grand Caravan	38,226	\$13,475	IP921	2006 Buick Lacrosse CXL	31,181	\$14,975
UP879	2008 Chevy HHR LT	25,378	\$13,995	IP911	2006 Chevy Trailblazer XL	45,840	\$14,995
UP947	2008 Toyota Prius	35,150	\$17,995	IP914	2006 GMC Envoy XL	30,850	\$17,475
T052A	2008 Chevy Tahoe	25,356	\$29,995	IP899	2006 Buick Lucerne CXL	36,187	\$17,495
IP954	2007 Chevy Impala LT	49,227	\$10,475	IP896	2006 Buick Lucerne CX	12,519	\$17,995
IP955	2007 Chevy Impala LT	32,147	\$11,975	IP969	2006 Chevy C/K	46,831	\$19,995
IP961	2007 Chevy Impala LT	30,640	\$12,475	IP962	2006 Chevy C/K	50,655	\$20,475
IP968	2007 Chevy Impala LT	16,831	\$13,495	B015A	2005 Buick Terraza	53,202	\$8,975
IP974	2007 Chevy Trailblazer	76,105	\$13,995	IP883	2005 Chevy Impala LS	45,055	\$10,995
UP905	2007 Volkswagen Jetta	43,122	\$14,475	IP975	2005 Chevy Trailblazer	44,808	\$12,995
IP926	2007 Chevy Impala LT	20,946	\$14,975	IP929	2005 Buick Park Avenue	43,298	\$13,995
IP967	2007 Chevy Impala LT	27,476	\$14,995	IP950	2005 Chevy Colorado	49,579	\$14,995
IP970	2007 Buick Rendezvous	22,230	\$15,975	IP959	2005 Chevy C/K	58,973	\$17,975
IP964	2007 Chevy Trailblazer	27,595	\$16,995	IP972	2004 Chevy Trailblazer	58,893	\$9,995
UP903	2007 Cadillac DTS	37,064	\$18,995	IP927	2003 Buick LeSabre Custom	85,872	\$7,995
IP973	2007 Chevy C/K	38,386	\$20,995	P946A	2002 Volvo S-80	112,948	\$5,995
IP976	2007 Suburban	45,532	\$26,995	IP943	2001 Chevy Lumina	63,261	\$6,995
IP971	2006 Chevy Uplander	39,883	\$9,995	P925A	1997 GMC Sierra	80,645	\$5,995
IP885	2006 Pontiac G6	23,455	\$11,995				
IP897	2006 Pontiac Grand Prix	28,363	\$11,995				
IP930	2006 Chevy Impala LS	20,042	\$11,995				
IP900	2006 Buick Lacrosse CX	31,824	\$12,995				
IP941	2006 Buick Lacrosse CXL	28,050	\$13,975				

\*plus tax, title & state fees.

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