

# the lowell ledger

Springport Book Bindery  
127 Railroad St  
Springport MI 49284-9769

R001

wednesday • december • 23 • 2009

vol. 39 issue 11

for over 116 years • today - tomorrow - your lowell area news source

www.thelowellledger.com

*Merry Christmas!*  
- From Everyone  
at  
*The Ledger!*

**food baskets**



page 16

**caring kids**



page 7

**honoring mayor Shores**



page 3

## Soldier receives a heartwarming welcome to Lowell

by Emma Palova

Approximately 300 people from all over West Michigan gave a hearty welcome to Sgt. Shane Scherer at the Gerald Ford International Airport on Monday evening.

"I was absolutely flabbergasted," said organizer Dave Thompson.

And there weren't many dry eyes left as Scherer, in a desert uniform, was greeted by the many area veterans and the color guard.

"It was very emotional," said Thompson. "I am literally blown away."

The next welcome he received on his ride in a limo

through the streets of Lowell was from the businesses, the fire and the police departments.

Although Scherer has never been to Lowell, his fiancé, Jacqueline Bennett, is a 2000 Lowell High School graduate.

Scherer was injured in Northern Afghanistan on May 29, 2009, by a mortar round when the base was attacked by the Taliban only 11 days before Scherer was scheduled to return to the USA.

Scherer was near the blast that left his body covered

Welcome to Lowell, continued, pg. 2



Sgt. Scherer shaking hands at the airport.



National Guardsmen along with local Veterans Jerry Parker, Vickisu Condon, John VanderWilp, Herm Westrate, Mark Lessens and Louie Dudeck were on hand with family and friends to welcome a hero to West Michigan.

Photos submitted by John Bedard

## Schools get a reprieve - how long will it last?

by Thad Kraus

Michigan schools per pupil funding is enrollment driven.

Of all the Michigan school districts, 80 percent of them have declining enrollments.

Since the 2002-03 school year, the Lowell School District has cut \$5.59 million from its budgets.

The forecast calls for state structural budget problems.

The same forecast holds true at the local level with flat and possibly declining enrollment levels along with increasing employee costs (health care and pension costs).

With the state running out of stimulus money and with a deteriorating revenue, how many more shortfalls will it be able to plug?

Half of the school state fund comes from the sales tax. When the economy lags or goes into the tank the school aid fund is adversely affected.

Michigan governor Jennifer Granholm has decided to postpone a \$127 per-student cut in state aid to school districts. This decision comes after already decreasing student aid by \$165 per pupil.

School financing, continued, pg. 4

## Toy shop serves 900 children in the area

The Flat River Outreach Ministries toy shop was abundant with toys this year. Much like the demand, the amount of toys almost doubled. Santa had to fulfill a long list for almost 900 children.

Pictured are volunteers: Diane Kleczynski, Peggy Covert, Ray Wolfe and April Leikert.



50 CENTS



# Welcome to Lowell, continued

with shrapnel, with a severed artery, severe damage to his right hand, and a major brain injury.

Emergency surgery on the skull, known as craniotomy, had to be performed in Afghanistan over the phone with a more experienced doctor to save his life.

"All he could do was open his eyes," said Bennett. "He is doing well now, but he couldn't walk or talk; generally he wasn't expected to live."

So, now Scherer is rebuilding his skills including working on his driver's license.

He received a Purple Heart from the US Army in July.

"It is a reflection of how bad of an injury it was," said Bennett.

The army is currently working on Bennett's honorable medical discharge.

Scherer, who has a bachelor's degree in political science from San Diego State, is planning to get a master's degree in public administration.

The couple, whose wedding has been canceled



The crowd was three or four rows deep by the time Sgt. Scherer arrived.



Family members from Fremont holding the welcome banner.

and rescheduled for June 2010, is very excited about being in Lowell.

"He has only met my mom and dad," said Bennett.

A celebration is planned at the Showboat tonight at 7 p.m. Mayor Jim Hodges will present a Key to the City to Scherer. Santa will also be there to hear Scherer's requests for Christmas and he will receive a special gift basket from the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, the local merchants and any contributing individuals.

"This will be a very short program because of the cold weather," said Thompson, who is a CDR, retired US Navy commander, Post #152, Lowell American Legion.

"We urge everyone to be with us," said Thompson. "This is one of those situations where, especially at Christmas time, Lowell rises to the challenge and makes everyone proud to be residents of this great community."

# Council, family, residents honor former mayor

by Emma Palova

In an emotionally charged atmosphere, the city council, family and residents recognized former mayor Jeanne Shores for her 28 years of service to the city and the community on Monday.

The council acknowledged Shores as mayor emeritus shortly after her resignation due to health reasons. Shores has been battling cancer since June of 2008.

Shores, along with current mayor Jim Hodges, ran the city council meeting, which would have been her last one, since she wasn't seeking re-election. She went through the motions of the agenda with the assistance of Hodges.

Shores also received recognition on behalf of the Kent County Board of Commissioners from chairman Roger Morgan and from state representative Dave Hildenbrand.

She is known for her passion for public service having served on most of the city committees and boards. Shores was an example for women in politics, according to council woman Maryalene LaPonsie.

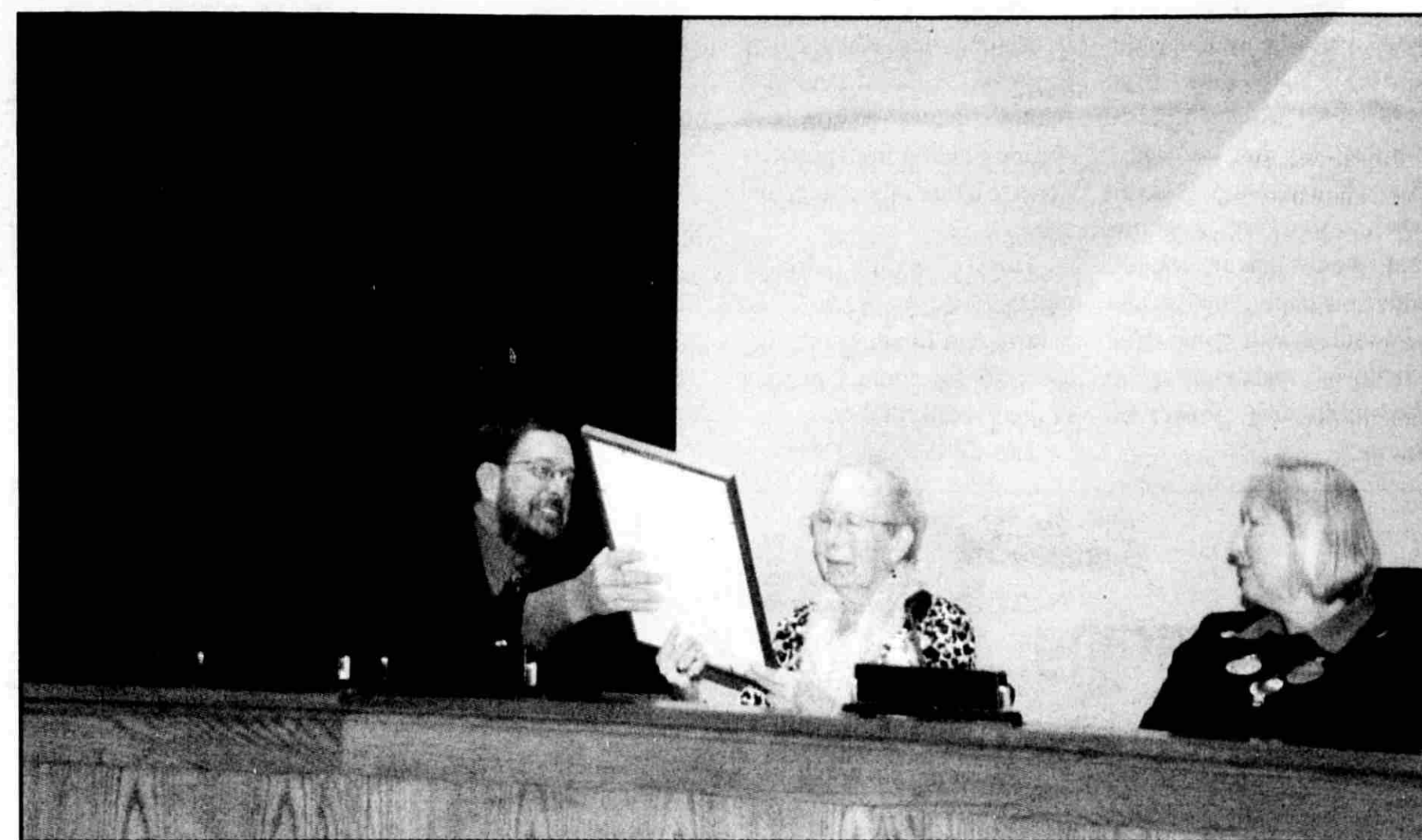
"Thank you for being yourself," said city clerk Betty Morlock.

Shores said she misses the most, the people she had served and worked with.

"It was nice and sometimes frustrating," she said.

In other business, the council approved the collection of summer taxes for the Kent Intermediate School District. The city collects the taxes at no fee, but keeps the interest earned during the bank deposit before distributing the monies.

The council also approved a three-year extension of the lease agreement with the Rotary Club of Lowell for the second floor of the city hall for meeting space.



Mayor emeritus Jeanne Shores with current mayor Jim Hodges and council woman Sharon Ellison.

Based on the recommendation of the city manager Dave Pasquale, the 2009-2010 funds will be allocated for Sibley Street road and sidewalk improvements. The 2010-2011 funds will be allocated to North Kent Transit for senior citizens. The remaining funds may be allocated to the North West Streetside improvement or milling and repaving of South Pleasant and South West streets.

The council approved the change order to the northeast reservoir tank cleaning and drain line improvements raising the project cost by \$6,000.

Meetings in 2010 will always be held on the first and third Mondays of the month with the exception of holidays. In case of holidays, the meetings will be held the following Tuesday.

The Rotary pays \$75 and is responsible for extraordinary or unusual maintenance.

A public hearing has been set for Jan. 4 for the allocation of the federal community block development grant for 2010 and 2011.

The council approved the collection of summer taxes for the Kent Intermediate School District. The city collects the taxes at no fee, but keeps the interest earned during the bank deposit before distributing the monies.

The council also approved a three-year extension of the lease agreement with the Rotary Club of Lowell for the second floor of the city hall for meeting space.

# Chamber seeking Person of the Year nominations

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce is requesting nominations for Person of the Year. This special award is given out at the annual Winter Gathering of the membership held on Feb. 18. The nominations are given to the selection committee and the Person of the Year is chosen. The selection committee is comprised of the last five years of recipients of the award.

The following guidelines are used in determining the winner:

- Over time, the candidate has freely donated considerable time to the community, school district, church, or humanity. This is over and above the demands of their regular profession.
- The community is a better place to live because of the efforts of the candidate.

The candidate positively promotes the community in both word and action.

The candidate possesses new and innovative ideas that benefit the community.

The candidate cannot be a Chamber Board/ Foundation Board member at the time of nomination.

The annual Winter Gathering will be held at Grand Volute Ballrooms. If you would like to nominate someone who is deserving of this honor, submit in writing your detailed nomination to LACC, PO Box 224, Lowell, MI 49331 or e-mail to info@lowellchamber.org or fax to 897-9101. The deadline for nominations is Jan. 16, 2010.

the lowell ledger

(USPS 453-830)

Published weekly for \$22<sup>00</sup> a year for zip codes beginning with 493 or 495 \$32<sup>00</sup> a year any other zip code.

JON JACOBS ..... PUBLISHER  
EMMA PALOVA ..... LEAD REPORTER  
THAD KRAUS ..... SPORTS/SALES  
TAMMY JANOWIAK ..... CLASSIFIED/ACCOUNTING  
JON JACOBS ..... ADVERTISING SALES

(616) 897-9261

E-Mail: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI

Published every Wednesday

POSTMASTER: Send address change to:  
The Lowell Ledger  
P.O. Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331  
www.lowellbuyersguide.com

along main st.

### ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

Looking for a last minute gift that can be enjoyed all year? Get an Entertainment book (available until Dec. 24) at Huntington Bank, Lowell Area Arts Council, Brenda's Hair Design, or call Marj at 897-8107. The Lowell Women's Club profits benefit scholarships and other local nonprofit groups.

### HOLIDAY CRAFT WORKSHOP

Gilda's Club, Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson St. on Tues., Dec. 29, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Come to make and take home a fun holiday craft. To register call 897-8600 or 1-800-326-1419 or visit www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow

### LHS FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

Joann Litton, Financial Aid Officer from Grand Valley, will provide information about filing the Free Application

for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), on Thurs., Jan. 7, 7-8 p.m. at the Lowell Performing Arts Center. This is an important meeting for all college bound seniors and their parents.

### ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

Sign up at the Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St., on Sat., Jan. 9, 10 a.m. to noon. You may also order online using your debit or credit card. Go to www.angelfoodministries.com. Any questions, call Esther, 897-7395.

### CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Looking for an environmentally friendly way to dispose of your Christmas tree? Bring it out to the Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center on or before Sun., Jan. 10, to be shredded and used for mulch around the Center. Please remove ALL decorations before discarding. Trees will not be accepted after Jan. 10. If you have questions, please call 987-1002.

Feel free to send your event information to the Ledger for Along Main St. All submission requests for Along Main St. are subject to space limitations and The Ledger makes no assurances that they will appear in print. To ensure that an event notification will appear in the Ledger, it is best to place a paid advertisement. All efforts will be made to place suitable items in the Along Main St. column but they are printed at the discretion of the publisher. For profit events, church services, yard sales and the like, will not appear in this column.

Discount  
RATES  
without discount  
SERVICE.



It's no accident more people trust State Farm to insure their cars. Call today.

Deborah A Wilks, Agent  
2950 W Main Street  
Lowell, MI 49331  
Bus: 616-897-9237  
deborah.wilks.pvumq@statefarm.com

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR STATE FARM IS THERE.<sup>SM</sup>

Providing Insurance and Financial Services

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company (Not in NJ), Bloomington, IL  
FD49324 12/09

Rudd's  
SEPTIC SERVICE

- Septic Tanks Cleaned •
  - Home Sale Evaluations •
  - 3 Months Free Additives •
- 1 Year Supply Of Custom Bio Bacteria  
OR \$15 Off Septic Pumping.  
(VALUE \$39.95) EXPIRES 12/31/09

897-8560

Flippo Roofing & Home Care Services

For all your home care needs Insured

Shawn Flippo  
162 S. West St.  
Lowell, MI 49331

616-477-1566  
flippo@sprint.blackberry.net

WINDOWS/SIDING  
DOORS/INSULATION/GUTTERS  
SAVE 50% OFF  
HEATING/COOLING BILLS  
GUARANTEED!!!

SAVE 10% OFF WITH THIS COUPON

897-7300 allweathersealing.com

319 E. Main Lowell

All-Weather Seal

Not good when other offer. Good on initial presentation.

FAXING

Sending or Receiving

\$1 for 1st sheet, 50c each additional sheet

The Lowell Ledger

105 N. Broadway, Lowell

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

Twice as Nice!

Thank you for rating Auto-Owners Insurance "Highest in Customer Satisfaction with the Auto Insurance Claims Experience, Two Years in a Row"

We are independent agents proudly representing Auto-Owners Insurance.

MILL CREEK INSURANCE  
Saranac, MI  
616-642-9433  
Auto-Owners Insurance

# CITY OF LOWELL

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE NOTICE

Lowell City Hall, Department of Public Works, Police Office and Light and Power office will be closed on Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25, 2009 for the Christmas Holidays and Friday, January 1, 2010 for New Year's Day.

Those who participate in the City of Lowell's refuse program with the orange bags will have their refuse picked up on their regularly scheduled day of Thursday for both the Christmas week and New Years week.

Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk

### LEGAL NOTICE

All claims against the Estate of VINCENT RICHARD PEIFFER, who died October 14, 2009, must be filed with the undersigned within the time prescribed by law after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims filed.

Dated at Grand Rapids, MI  
December 16, 2009

Diane M. DeVries  
470 Crahen NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525

# The Full Plate Diet

Slim Down. Look Great. Be Healthy!

Call Linda @ 676-1667 or Marian @ 897-0581

10300 Vergennes  
Corner of Parnell & Vergennes

Starting SUNDAY, January 3  
a six-week program  
Sunday's - 4:00 - 6:00 PM  
Thursday's - 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Sponsored by Riverside Fellowship of Seventh-day Adventists

Cost: \$60\* per person Check out www.fullplatediet.org \*Attend all sessions, get a \$30 refund

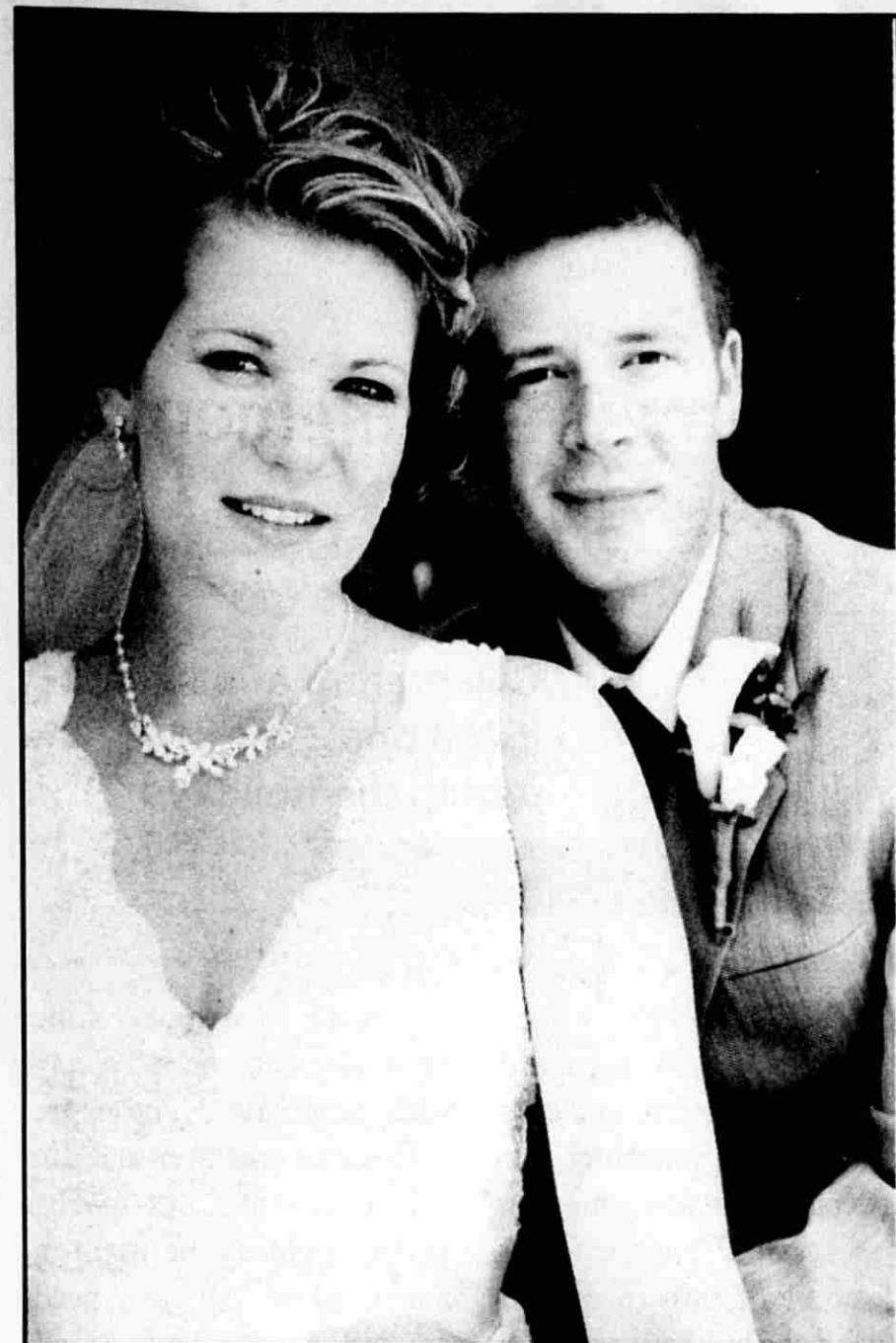
Cost includes:  
The Full Plate Diet Book  
Log book  
Pedometer  
Cook-N-Eat Food & Recipes  
Body Composition 1x per week  
Exercise Around the World

Come and enjoy a new way of eating and hands-on cooking!



weddings

Miller/Wojciakowski



Lisa and Joshua Miller

The marriage of Lisa Ashley Wojciakowski and Joshua Lee Miller was celebrated on May 2, 2009

Hall for rent with kitchen SEATS 150 Located at the fairgrounds Call 897-6050

In The Service

Army Spec. Matthew A. Remets has returned to the U.S. after being deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The servicemember is regularly assigned to the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry, Fort Wright, Fairbanks, Alaska.

Operation Iraqi Freedom is the official name given to military operations involving members of the U.S. armed forces and coalition forces participating in efforts to free and secure Iraq. Mission objectives focus on force protection, peacekeeping, stabilization, security and counter-insurgency operations as the Iraqi transitional governing bodies assume full sovereign powers to govern the peoples of Iraq. Members from all branches of the U.S. military and multinational forces are also assisting in rebuilding Iraq's economic and governmental infrastructure, and training and preparing Iraqi military and security forces to assume full authority and responsibility in defending and preserving Iraq's sovereignty and independence as a democracy.

He has completed his 10-day leave and is currently working as a recruiter's assistant in Grand Rapids and will return to Camp Pendleton on Dec. 29 where he will complete four weeks of military combat training.

His military occupation specialty will take him to Fort Leonard Wood, MO, where he will train as an engineering equipment mechanic.

Geldersma is a 2009 graduate of Lowell High School.



Augustus J. Geldersma

Private First Class Augustus J. Geldersma, of Lowell, graduated from the United States Marine Corp Recruit Depot, San Diego, on November 20, 2009.

Geldersma successfully completed 13 weeks of intensive basic training at MCRD San Diego as one of 61 recruits who made Honor Platoon in Kilo Company, 3230.

happy birthday!

DECEMBER 23

Norma Stevens, Marie Doyle.

DECEMBER 27

Mark Nyp, Linda Aksamitowski, Jay Clark.

DECEMBER 24

Jeffrey Pfaller.

DECEMBER 28

Lisa Stormzand, C.J. Sokolowski, Matt Francisco, Randy L. Smith.

DECEMBER 25

Scott Shindorf, Chris Woolfenden, Chris Treglia, Jeni Clouser, Peggy Hayes, Star Daverman.

DECEMBER 29

Amanda Martin, Donna Baker, Lauren Malone.

DECEMBER 26

Margaret Gasper, Shay Hacker, Stephanie Peel, Butch Landman, Kaitlyn Callihan.

health



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

Influenza

As we approach the heart of the influenza season, we've already experienced one round of the H1N1 flu and anticipate the arrival of the seasonal flu.

The flu is caused by a virus. The peak season in our area is from November through March. About 10-20 percent of people are infected every flu season. Most people will recover from the flu within a week or so, but elderly people, infants, children and patients with chronic diseases are more likely to develop complications that can lead to hospitalization and may become life threatening.

The seasonal flu is responsible for more than 200,000 hospitalizations and more than 35,000 deaths yearly. Seasonal flu is a respiratory infection different from a cold or the "stomach flu." Patients with the flu usually have a fever for a couple of days, headache, muscle aches, fatigue and upper respiratory symptoms

like a stuffy nose, cough, sore throat and sneezing.

The best defense against the flu is to get a seasonal flu shot. Unfortunately, this year there has been a delay in shipments of the seasonal flu shot due to the production of the H1N1 shot, but most physicians and clinics should have an adequate supply at this time. You cannot get the flu from the vaccine. Side effects of the flu shot are usually limited to soreness at the site of injection, possible fever and mild muscle aches.

Antibiotics are not useful in treating influenza because it is caused by a virus. Antiviral medication can be used if prescribed within 48 hours of onset of symptoms, but they will only shorten the duration of illness by a day or so. Taking over-the-counter medications like Tylenol, ibuprofen or naproxyn will help alleviate fever and other symptoms of the flu.

Advertisement for Greg Van Strien Heating and Plumbing, including services like heating, air conditioning, and plumbing.

"Free" credit reports aren't so free



Sen. Carl Levin

In these tough times, a good credit record is essential for consumers seeking a loan, a better credit card, a new apartment, sometimes even a job. Federal law gives consumers the right to check their credit reports for free once a year so they can review and fix any problems, but scams promising "free" credit reports that often turn out to be expensive are making a mockery of that federal right.

You probably have seen ads for Web sites promising to help you obtain your credit score at no cost. In some ads you'll hear catchy jingles; others use endorsements from well-known media figures. But none of these ads will prominently mention that your "free" credit report may not be so free.

Thousands of consumers have been trapped in this scheme. Just one company, FreeCreditReport.com, has been the subject of 10,000 complaints to the Better

Business Bureau over the last three years. In 2007, two University of Utah researchers analyzed 58 sales pitches for credit reports or scores; 41 of those advertised "free" access to reports or scores that actually required purchase of a product or service.

Especially troublesome is the fact that many consumers think they are getting the truly free credit report they are actually entitled to once a year under federal law. Federal regulators are taking steps to end these abuses, and they're using the provisions of Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009. This legislation includes a section I authored that requires clear and honest disclosure of just what these "free" credit report marketers are selling.

The rule would require advertisements to disclose that they are not advertising the free, no-strings attached annual credit report

mandated by federal law. Web sites for these services would have to make the same disclosure, and provide a clear, easily readable link to the government-sponsored site providing truly free reports. And the rule would improve that government-sponsored Web site, AnnualCreditReport.com, restricting commercial advertisements and eliminating complicated and confusing "terms and conditions" requirements of the three commercial credit bureaus from which consumers have the right to obtain their free annual report.

Companies that profit from these deceptive offers, that is, those that offer credit reports linked to the purchase of a service or product, are fighting the FTC rule, so its fate is still up in the air. But I am hopeful consumers will prevail. In the meantime, keep in mind:

You are entitled to one free, no-obligation credit report each year from each of the three commercial credit reporting bureaus: Experian, TransUnion and Equifax. You can get those reports online at AnnualCreditReport.com, by phone at 1-877-322-8228, or by mailing the request form to Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281. You can get a copy of the form at www.ftc.gov or from many consumer

protection organizations. Remember that your free annual credit reports do not include a credit score - But you will have to pay for them.

If you're looking into a commercial credit-report service, make sure you read the fine print closely. Make sure that before you give a commercial service your

credit card number, you're absolutely sure what you might be charged for. You can learn more about credit reports, credit cards and other credit issues on the Federal Trade Commission's Web site at ftc.gov/credit.

Caring kids at Cherry Creek Elementary



Cherry Creek students participated in a food drive for Flat River Outreach Ministries. Over 1100 food items were collected, enough to fill two pickup truck loads. Students also collected over 200 toys.

Pictured are second graders who won the championship trophy for collecting the most items of any grade level - nearly 300. The food and toy drive was part of the school's focus on the character trait of Caring.

Advertisement for Candlelight Communion Services, featuring 3 distinctively different services: Festive Traditional, Contemporary Blend, and Quiet Intimate.

Advertisement for Family Dentistry of Lowell, featuring Dr. Jennifer Byrd and services like general dentistry and orthodontics.

area churches

First Congregational (United Church of Christ) 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906

Alto United Methodist Church Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21

Christian Life Center (Assembly of God) 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery

First Baptist Church of Lowell 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168

Calvary Christian Reformed Church of Lowell Rev. Randy Meyers • 897-7060

First United Methodist Church of Lowell 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936

St. Mary's Catholic Church Fr. Eugene Okoli 402 Amity St. • 897-9820

Snow United Methodist Church 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Pastor Dr. Mike Conklin

# Snap Fitness offers cutting edge fitness program

by Emma Palova

Snap Fitness offers a cutting edge fitness program complete with an online personal trainer and a 24-hour a day workout gym.

The state-of-the-art center, located right next to the Ada Lowell 5 Theatre, is divided into cardio theater, muscle strengthening and free weight lifting sections.

"The product we provide has good value that the residents will appreciate," said owner Ryan Lothian.

Any program starts with an equipment orientation on CYBEX, top of the line equipment. The total body arch trainer works all the basic muscle groups including chest, back, quads, hamstrings, biceps, triceps, calves and abs.

Every member has a personal web page for a personal wellness assessment that evaluates good or bad things in health routine and suggests changes or improvements. It also puts together a customized personal wellness plan and helps outline goals.

Members can build their own workouts online with the help of 3-D animated figures. The online trainer, based on goals, suggests the type of exercises that can be downloaded on a smart phone and members bring their own customized workout to the club.

Each member gets a key card that provides entrance into any location nationwide open 24 hours a day. There are 17 Snap Fitness clubs in West Michigan. Each center is staffed with a manager

four to eight hours a day and a personal trainer is available. Kerry Foley is the trainer at the Lowell location with Devon McQueen as the manager.

The club is basically for anyone, whether training for marathons, body building, losing weight or staying fit.

"We've had members who lost 100 pounds, people training for body building competitions," said Lothian, "or just people who want to be fit."

Any program starts with a correct warm up and ends with a proper cool down. The actual workout consists of cardio and muscle strength training. Strength training helps tighten and tone, and build muscle, the body's primary calorie burner.

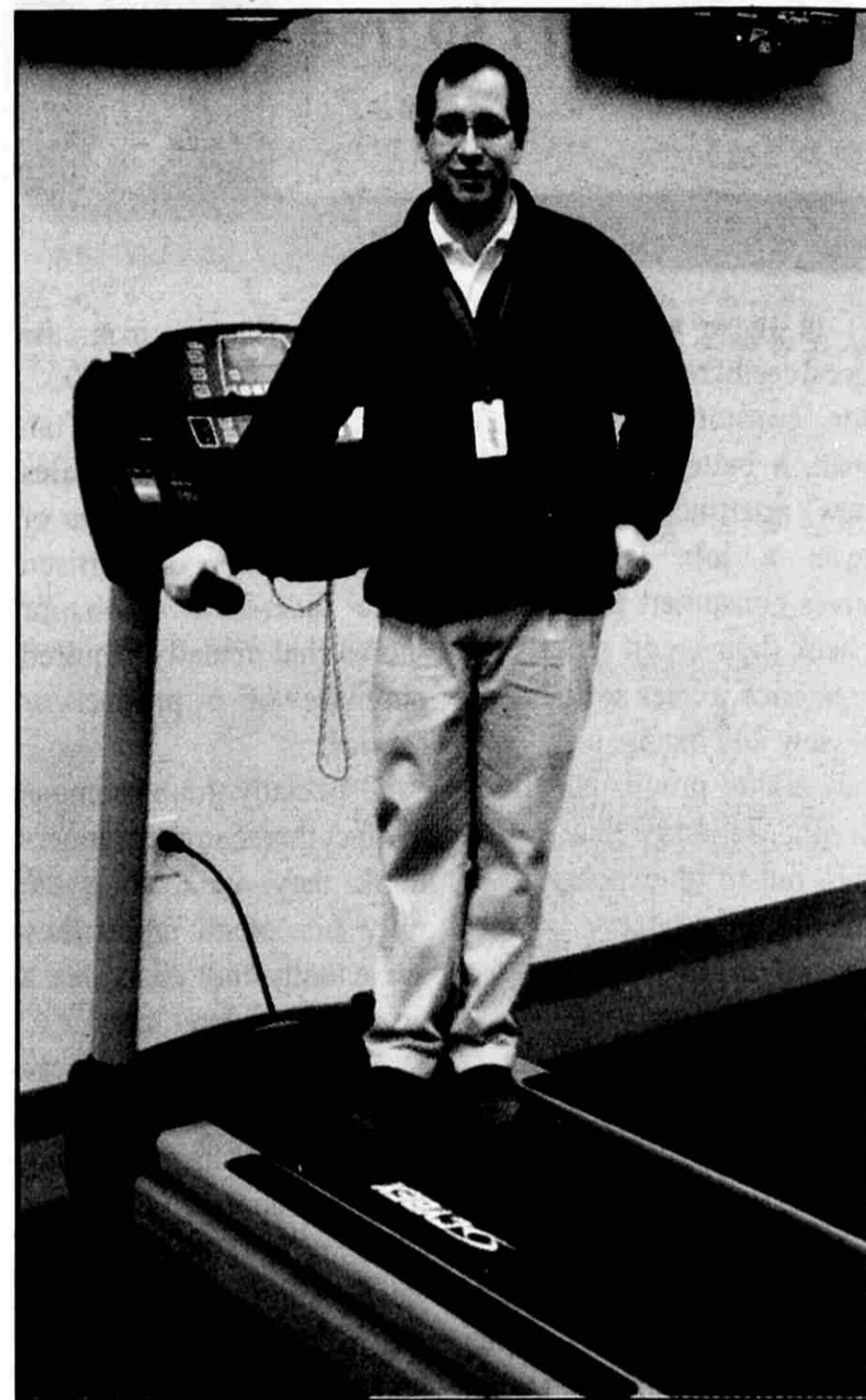
The entire gym is approximately 2,000 square feet with a free dumbbell area.

Lothian, who is a project manager for Autocam in Grand Rapids, decided to open up the franchise because he has always envisioned having a business.

"I come from an entrepreneurial family," he said. "We've been looking at different franchises, this is a great concept."

There are no contracts required. The cost is \$34.95 per month, while the enrollment is \$49 with discounts at national and local retailers. A prepay program for six months provides the seventh month free, or for 12 months - gives three months for free, for 18 months - gives six months free.

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



Ryan Lothian has opened up Snap Fitness, a franchise in Lowell.

## Learning about weather



Wood TV's Terri DeBoer visited Nancy Russell's class last Friday. DeBoer was visiting Russell's class because her students were painting bowls that they are donating to God's Kitchen as part of a service learning project. DeBoer's coverage will air on Monday's eightWest, an entertainment/news program that airs on Wood TV.



**THANK YOU**  
The Alto Lions Club Would Like To Thank The Following Businesses & Individuals For Their Donations To The 2009 Children's Christmas Party

- |                                  |                               |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Alto Automotive                  | Heidi's Farm Stand            |
| Alto Fire Department             | Ice Cream Caboose             |
| Alto Friends of the Library      | Mark Johnson/Farm Bureau Ins. |
| Alto Library Gas                 | Kentwood Sales Corp.          |
| Alto Marathon                    | Lowell Area Schools           |
| Alto Meat Processing             | Meijer - Cascade              |
| Alto PTO                         | Plains L.P. Gas Marketing     |
| American Legion                  | Richardson Machine            |
| American Legion Auxiliary        | Skyline Electric              |
| Mary Benedict, Attny.            | Stedfast Construction         |
| Tim Bergy                        | Swiss Lane Farms              |
| Blough Lumber Sales Inc.         | Pat Thomet                    |
| Circle Pine Ranch/Gil VanWeelden | (in memory of Stewart Thomet) |
| Cogent Civil Engineering         | United Bank - Clarksville     |
| Deter Home Remodeling            | Vanderziel Machines           |
| Dougherty Electric               | Chris Wenger                  |
| Durkee Lumber                    | Weeland Farms                 |
| Good Chevrolet/Buick             | Zook Farm Equipment           |
| Lila Lee Grummet                 |                               |
| (in memory of Bob Grummet)       | <b>Alto Area Lions Club</b>   |

# Red Arrow SPORTS

## Lowell caves to the weight in loss to Mishawaka

by Thad Kraus

Lowell returned from its wrestling match against Mishawaka (IN) Friday night having identified the standard as to where it needs to be come mid February.

The Cavemen, Indiana's top ranked high school wrestling team, left nothing to the imagination as to why, in their 41-17 demolition of the Red Arrows.

"My initial impression is that it is a better wrestling squad than what we faced last year," said Lowell wrestling coach Dave Dean. "It's not enjoyable going through something like this, but it's all about how you use the information."

Lowell, up in its weight classes at the weigh-in an hour prior to the match, paid the piper.

"You just can't do that against a team like this," Dean said.

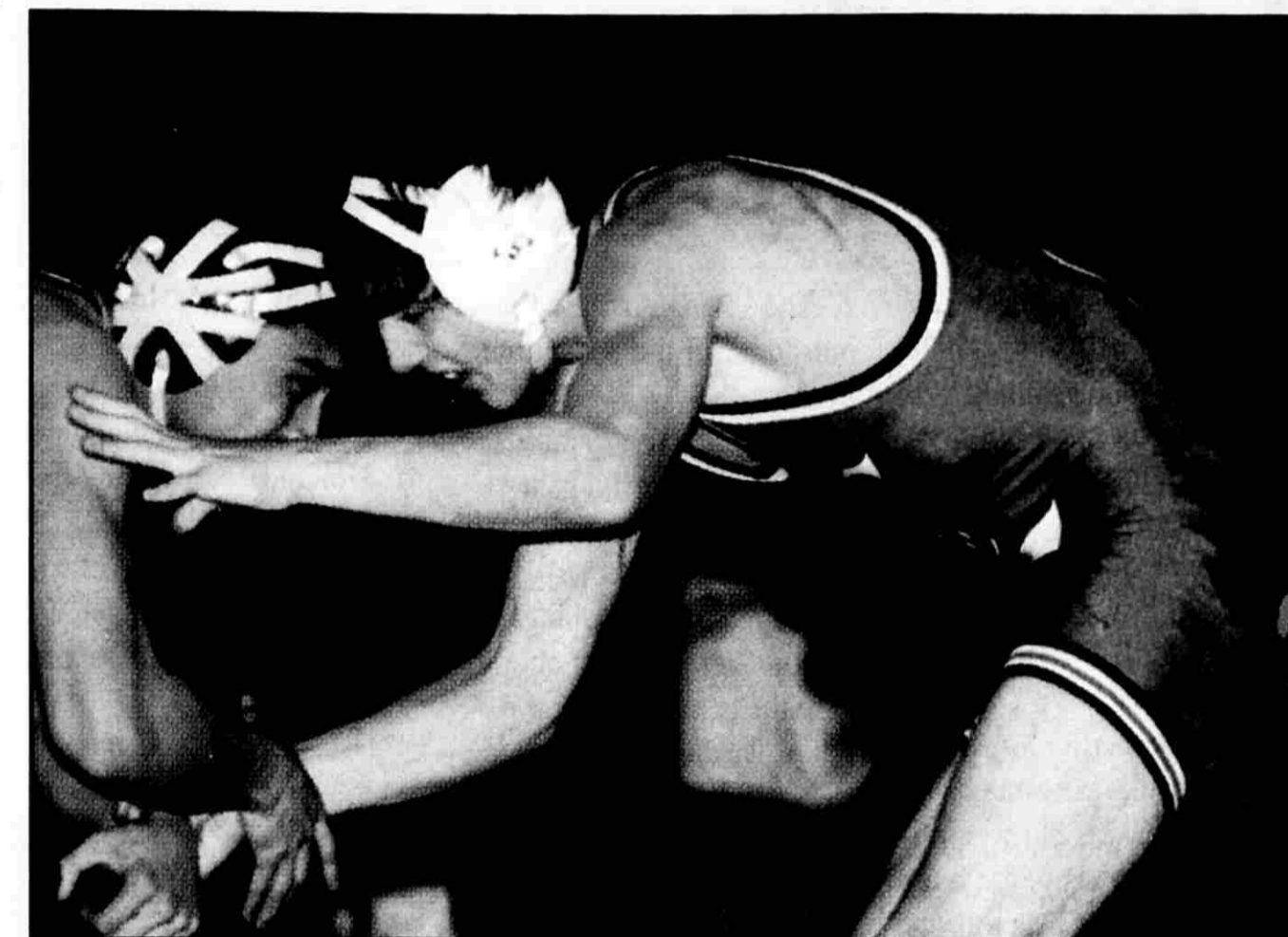
Mishawaka, coming off a huge 37-21 win over its Northern Indiana conference foe, Penn, the night before, gave the look of anything but tired.

"I thought our match against Penn got us ready for tonight," said Mishawaka coach Darrick Snyder. "I thought we wrestled okay against Penn, but not like tonight. Our guys wrestled the best they have all year."

Lowell won just four of the 14 matches, with two coming right out of the gate.

Jackson Morse, 171, opened the match with a 19-4 major decision against Richard Morin.

Gabe Dean, 189, followed with a 4-1 decision over



Gabe Morse earned a 7-5 decision at 135 pounds.

the end of the year," Snyder explained.

The Red Arrows grew from its 35-19 loss to Mishawaka last year to win the Division 2 state championship.

**Results:**

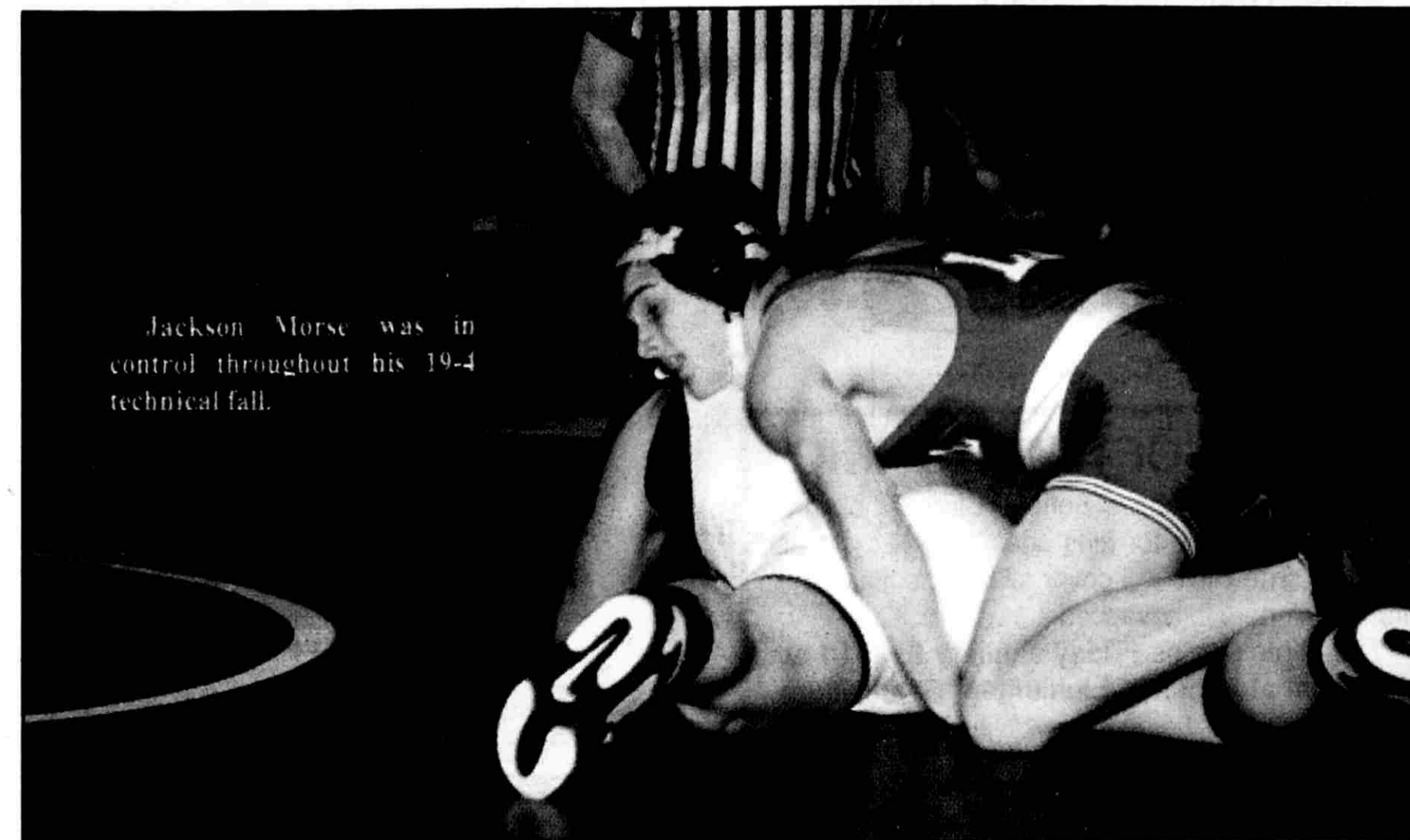
103: Grant Martsolf (M) beat Martin Brubaker by fall 5:17; 112: Paul Beck (M) beat Ethan Sutton by fall :50; 119: Layten Binion (M) beat Zack Jeffries 9-3; 125: Taylor Whistler (M) beat Calvin Meyer by fall 3:28; 130: Nick Schrader (M) beat Matt Griffioen 16-7; 135: Gabe Morse (L) beat Matt Guerra 7-5; 140: Anthony Eddy (M) beat Jake Fillingham 4-0; 145: Jake Gould (L) beat Darius Marshall by fall 3:19; 152: Ryan Stahl (M) beat Andrew Morse 5-0; 160: Alex White (M) beat Dan Fleet 10-6; 171: Jackson Morse (L) beat Richard Morin 19-4; 189: Gabe Dean (L) beat Danny Abu 4-1; 215: Christian Lentz (M) beat Ryan Olep 9-1; 285: Travis Thomas (M) beat Jake Lynema 3-0.



Jake Lynema battled valiantly in a 3-0 loss at heavyweight.



Gabe Dean battled for six minutes in recording a 4-1 decision.



Jackson Morse was in control throughout his 19-4 technical fall.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### CITY OF LOWELL, MICHIGAN

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CITY OF LOWELL'S PROPOSED USE OF 2009-2010 AND 2010-2011 KENT COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

A public hearing will be conducted by the Lowell City council on January 4, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, Lowell City Hall, Second Floor, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan.

Public comments will be received during the hearing, orally or in writing, regarding the City of Lowell's proposed use of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant Funds for the following projects:

**2009-2010 CDBG funding:**

- Sibley Street road and sidewalk improvements between Valley Vista Drive and North Center Street **\$25,073.40**

**2010-2011 CDBG funding:**

- North West Street sidewalk improvements **\$25,186.00**
- or
- Milling and repaving of S. Pleasant and S. West Streets
- North Kent Transit assistance to senior citizens and Handicapped riders **\$6,000.00**  
**\$31,186.00**

The County of Kent has informed the City that \$25,073.40 remains unallocated in the current 2009-2010 year for Federal Community Development Block Grant funds. Further, \$31,186 will be allocated for projects in the 2010-2011 year starting July 1, 2010. The primary objective of the federal CDBG Entitlement Program it's the development of viable urban communities, by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income. Activities using CDBG funds must meet one of the following National Objectives: benefiting low and moderate income persons; addressing slums or blight; or, meeting a particularly urgent community development need.

Interested persons may submit comments to Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street, prior to the meeting or appear in person.



Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

# LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

### PLANNING COMMISSION

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to amend the Township Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendment would require setbacks and yards for a development project to be measured from any future public road recommended in the Township Master Plan. The proposed amendment would require the location of the future road right of way to be determined by the Planning Commission with final approval by the Township Board.

**The hearing will be held as follows:**

**WHEN: MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2010**  
**TIME: 7:00 P.M.**  
**WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL**  
**2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE**  
**LOWELL, MI 49331**

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

Tim Clements, Secretary  
Lowell Charter Township  
Planning Commission

# Red Arrow SPORTS

## Lowell drops league opener to Greenville 61-43

by Thad Kraus

Lowell generated some tenacity in its play along with some scoring opportunities.

"Our effort and toughness was better tonight. We played with more of an edge," said Lowell boys' basketball coach Jeff McDonald, following his club's 61-43 loss to Greenville.

While the percentage of shots made was not where it needs to be, many of the shots created came on penetration.

"We're missing shots that we need to have drop," McDonald said.

Jon Hanson was the leading scorer for the Red Arrows with 11 points while Elliott Drain scored 10.

Lowell trailed 18-13 after one quarter of play and 34-21 at half-time.

The Red Arrows were outscored in the second half 27-22.

"We expected them to be physical and to play hard," Greenville boys' basketball coach Mark Haist said. "But we played a good solid game and our defense was able to keep the game up tempo."

Ian Drobish and Brendan McNeal led Yellowjacket scorers with 16 points.

"Defensively, we have some things we need to shore up and fix," McDonald said. "The two weeks over Christmas break will be key to working on our conditioning, timing and execution."

Another area McDonald hopes his club can improve on is rebounding.

"It's positioning, having numbers crashing the boards

and boxing out," McDonald explained.

Lowell (0-3, 0-1) lost a 68-38 nonconference game to Holland earlier in the week.

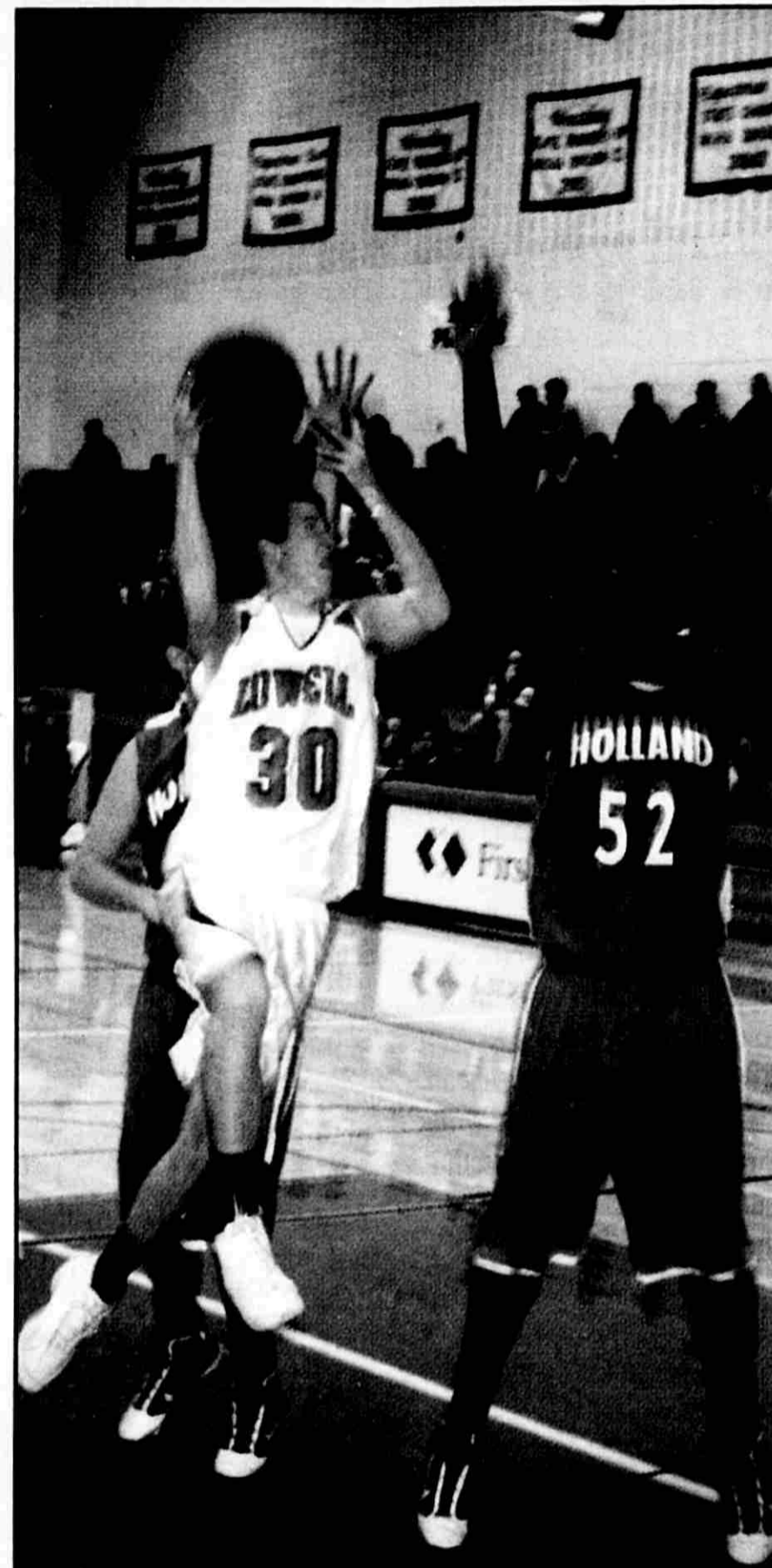
"That's a good basketball team that we don't match up with real well," McDonald said.

The Lowell coach said

for his club to maintain competitiveness, it will need to stay out of high possession games.

"We need to keep the possessions in the 50s," McDonald explained.

Lowell's next game will be at home against Lakewood on Jan. 5.



Jon Hanson drives to the rim in first-half action against Holland.



Elliott Drain rises above defenders for an offensive rebound and a bucket against the Dutch.

### VERGENNES TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC NOTICE

There will be a meeting of the Vergennes Township Zoning Board of Appeals on Monday, January 11, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Vergennes Township offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr., PO Box 208, Lowell, to hear the following business:

Applicant Frank Southwell is requesting a lot area variance from section 201.304 (E) to split an existing parcel into 2 parcels of which one parcel will be less than the required lot area of 3 acres (2.5). The parcel is located at 1794 Fallasburg Park Dr., which is on a private road off Ike Rd. along the Flat River in the NE 1/4 of section 13.

The members may review any other business that may come before them as permitted by the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act and Vergennes Township Zoning Ordinance.

Property owners and residents within 300 feet of the application property will receive this notice by mail.

The complete application can be reviewed at the Vergennes Township Hall from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Public comment will be heard at the meeting. Written comments received by mail, in person or in the mail slot located at the office entrance will also be considered if received at the Township office prior to 7:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Comments may also be emailed to: zoning@vergennewtp.org

Vergennes Township ZBA

### HOLIDAY HOURS weeks of Dec. 21 & Dec. 28

Mon., Dec. 21 thru Wed., Dec. 23  
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Thurs., Dec. 24 & Fri., Dec. 25  
Closed

Mon., Dec. 28 thru Wed., Dec. 30  
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Thurs., Dec. 31 & Fri., Jan. 1  
Closed

#### EARLY DEADLINES

Dec. 27th Buyers Guide - noon on Wed., Dec. 23  
Dec. 30th Lowell Ledger - noon on Mon., Dec. 28  
Jan. 3rd Buyers Guide - noon on Wed., Dec. 30  
Jan. 6th Lowell Ledger - noon on Mon., Jan. 4

105 N. Broadway, Lowell  
897-9261 • 897-9555

the lowell ledger

The buyers guide "The People Paper"

# Red Arrow SPORTS

## Inside play enables Lowell to post first league win

by Thad Kraus

Lowell did not close out well on Greenville's perimeter shooters, however, it did find a way to close out the game over the final 90 seconds in securing a 45-43 O-K White win.

The win improved Lowell's mark to 4-2 overall and moved its league record to 1-0.

The Red Arrow win was anchored by the inside play of Bryleigh Loughlin and Katie Tompkins.

"We took advantage of our size and were able to get in the paint and score," said Lowell coach Danielle Gallert.

Both Loughlin and Tompkins tallied a team-high 12 points.

"We could not get around Lowell's post play and they were able to make easy passes and get to the basket," said Greenville coach Jeremy Hyler.

The Red Arrows built leads of nine and 10 points

but were never able to put Greenville away.

"Greenville (0-4, 0-1) fought hard and did a nice job. They battled us hard all night long," said Gallert.

The Red Arrows' defense forced 27 Yellowjacket turnovers.

"With that many turnovers, you're going to have a hard time winning games," Hyler said.

Lowell led 15-11 after one stanza, but trailed 26-24 at half-time.

Lowell regained the lead in the third quarter, outscoring the Yellowjackets 10-4 to take a 34-30 lead into the final eight minutes of play.

"Our size was the difference. The girls did good pushing the ball inside," Gallert said.

MacKenzy Nichols led Greenville in scoring with 12 points.

The Lowell girls' play at Creston next, on Friday, Jan. 8.

### Someone had to say it!



Thad Kraus

In a sad, odd sort of way I found it troubling that NFL commissioner Roger Goodell requested a moment of silence for Cincinnati receiver Chris Henry.

Goodell, since taking the commissioner position, has held a no tolerance position on player violence and crime off the football field.

Henry was no stranger to either.

Henry had multiple arrests during a five-year

NFL career. All of which were among the factors prompting the league to toughen its personal conduct policy.

Moments prior to his death, he was beating on the back window of a moving truck his girlfriend was driving before falling off.

I know most of his teammates and the Bengal organization have come out and said he was turning his life around.

However, had the fall from the truck not taken Henry's life, the result would have been another arrest on his record.

Then what would Goodell have done?

That's the conundrum with suggesting all stadiums hold a moment of silence. It flew in the face of what Goodell has represented.

From where I'm sitting the commissioner can't have it both ways.

I failed to reveal my list of college football bowl winners last week.

Here they are: Fresno State Rutgers Southern Mississippi

Oregon State Utah Nevada Ohio University Pittsburgh USC Clemson Georgia UCLA Miami Bowling Green Nebraska Air Force Oklahoma Missouri Iowa State Virginia Tech Northwestern LSU West Virginia Oregon Cincinnati South Florida Oklahoma State Connecticut Arkansas Texas Tech Boise State Georgia Tech Central Michigan Alabama

Finally, here's hoping all of you have a MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS!

### college news

Nicole Hensch and Adam Konyndyk, both of Ada, have been named to the Dean's List for the 2009-10 fall quarter at DePaul University. To receive

Dean's List commendation, full-time students must earn a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or above on a four-point scale.

Finally, here's hoping all of you have a MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS!

I bought some batteries, but they weren't included.

- Steven Wright (1955 -)

LOW COST SPAY & NEUTER

For feral, barn and cat colonies, and for dogs and cats of low income families. AS LOW AS \$10 Call 897-8865 www.spayneuterepress.com

UPS WE SHIP UPS!

Our Prices Can't Be Beat! Call Us for a Price Quote! Weight & Zip Code Required for a Quote

The Lowell Ledger 105 N. Broadway, 897-9261



As 2009 comes to a close, the Lowell Lacrosse Organization would like to thank the following contributors for their generous donations and support during this year!

Thank you all for making this year such a great success for Lowell Lacrosse!

- 1st Congregational Church of Lowell
- B.C. Pizza
- Blue Ribbon Feed
- City Looks Hair Salon
- Dawn Tuinstra/Centennial Securities
- EMS Life
- Garage of Lowell
- Global Force, Inc./Randy Bassin
- KB Contracting Services
- Athletes Connection
- Lowell Ledger

- Mary Buckius, Realtor/Keller Williams
- Modern Photography
- NAPA Auto Parts
- Renewal Skin Spa
- Showboat Automotive
- Skyline Electric, Inc.
- Subway
- Three Brothers Pizza
- Arrowhead Golf Course
- Benedict Drywall
- Canfield Plumbing & Heating
- Clean-n-Dry Carpet Care
- Dogs-R-Us

- Flat River Grill
- Gary's Country Meats
- Hauschild Builders
- Keiser's Kitchen
- Larkin's Restaurant
- Mary Benedict, Attorney
- MC Sports
- Mynt Fusion
- Pep Talk
- Scott Pullen/Allstate
- Simple Pleasures
- Straight Up Construction
- The Hanger
- Tip Top Gravel Company

Our heartfelt thanks to all the parents and friends of Lowell Lacrosse for volunteering their time and donations.

PRINTING

- CATALOGS
- FLIERS/COUPONS
- BROCHURES
- POST CARDS
- BUSINESS CARDS
- ENVELOPES
- LETTERHEAD
- BOOKLETS
- PROGRAMS
- POSTERS
- AND MUCH MORE!

From black & white to full color we'll give your printed materials IMP CT!

COMPLETE DESIGN STAFF

LOWELL LITHO

buyers guide

897-9555  
105 N. Broadway Lowell



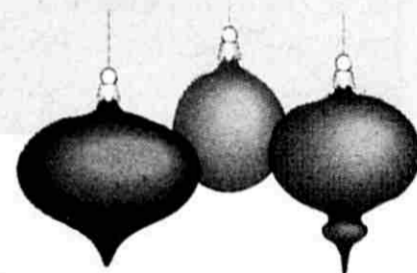




# FROM helps out with food baskets for Christmas



The Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) gave out food baskets for 410 families during the big Christmas giveaway last week. Each basket contained turkey or ham, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, jello, pie filling, pie crust mix, muffin or bread mix, applesauce, macaroni and cheese, canned vegetables and fruits for a complete holiday dinner. Pictured are: Carole Sanocki, Dawn Broene and Barbara Boland; also helping out were Carol Devito and John Stencil.



## Lowell Middle School Students of the Month



Pictured, left to right: Madison Kaminski, Grace Quiggle and Josh Bearup.

Lowell Middle School is proud to announce Josh Bearup, Grace Quiggle and Madison Kaminski as the November Students of the Month.

Bearup is an eighth grade student who likes algebra because of the hard work and challenge it demands. He enjoys sports – particularly basketball, football and baseball. Bearup really appreciates the education he is getting at Lowell schools.

Quiggle is a seventh grade student whose favorite subject is social studies because she likes learning about the past. Her hobbies include softball, volleyball and riding horses.

Kaminski is a sixth grade student who likes being in the middle school orchestra. She is an animal lover who enjoys just being with her friends and all the people at LMS.

# Join FREE during our GRAND OPENING!



New gym. New routine. New you. **And that's just the beginning.**

- Nearby and open 24/7
- No contracts, no risk - pay monthly
- FREE fitness assessment (\$100 value)
- Personal trainers for faster results
- Starting at less than \$1 a day

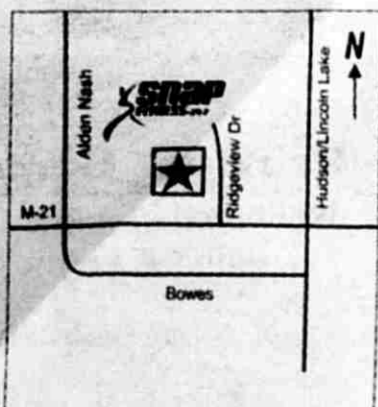
### Save money, switch to SNAP!

Stop paying for facilities, perks and programs you don't use! Enjoy the same training equipment and workout experience here—for a lot less!

Join today! Stop by, call or visit us at [snapfitness.com](http://snapfitness.com)

# FREE WEEK OR FREE ENROLLMENT

Hurry offer valid for first 50 new members when you join by January 31, 2010



**Lowell**  
2173 West Main St.  
616-987-4000  
Next to the Ada-Lowell 5  
[www.snapfitness.com/lowellmi](http://www.snapfitness.com/lowellmi)



Limit one per household. No cash value. Access card fee and some restrictions may apply. Valid only for local residents on first visit at participating clubs. © 2009 Snap Fitness, Inc.