

the lowell ledger

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marking
100 years



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bee winners



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arrow
basketball



page 9

meeting
their match



page 10

City continues to mull over trash ordinance

by Emma Palova

In a continued discussion, the city council along with waste haulers and residents mulled over the proposed ordinance that would allow for a single hauler.

The issue has been in the works for more than a year and the council still remained undecided which way to go Monday night. The cost savings to the city are not known since the bids have not gone out yet. On the other hand, the haulers demanded some kind of an ordinance that would make the rules for bidding clear.

"I am for postponing the ordinance, but looking at bids," said mayor Jim Hodges. "I am trying to approach this open mindedly. We are the citizens representatives."

Councilmember Andrew Schrauben said he had no clue about the savings.

"We should at least

attempt to get something out there with or without the ordinance by November," said councilwoman Sharon Ellison. "We need to offer options. The free enterprise option is important. We are the customer."

Perry Beachum led the opposition against the proposal.

"It is against free enterprise," said Beachum. "Where does it start and stop? Is it optional? Will bags be an option?"

Beachum suggested the city should get out of the refuse business.

"The city is trying to combine their services with Lowell Light and Power on one bill. Will there be another bill for refuse haulers?"

Al Mathews of Tip Top gravel said why fix something that isn't broken.

"I have a problem with this," he said, "the wear and

tear on streets is a bunch of baloney. I'd love to see a small business bid on it, if they meet the criteria. Small business is what keeps this state going."

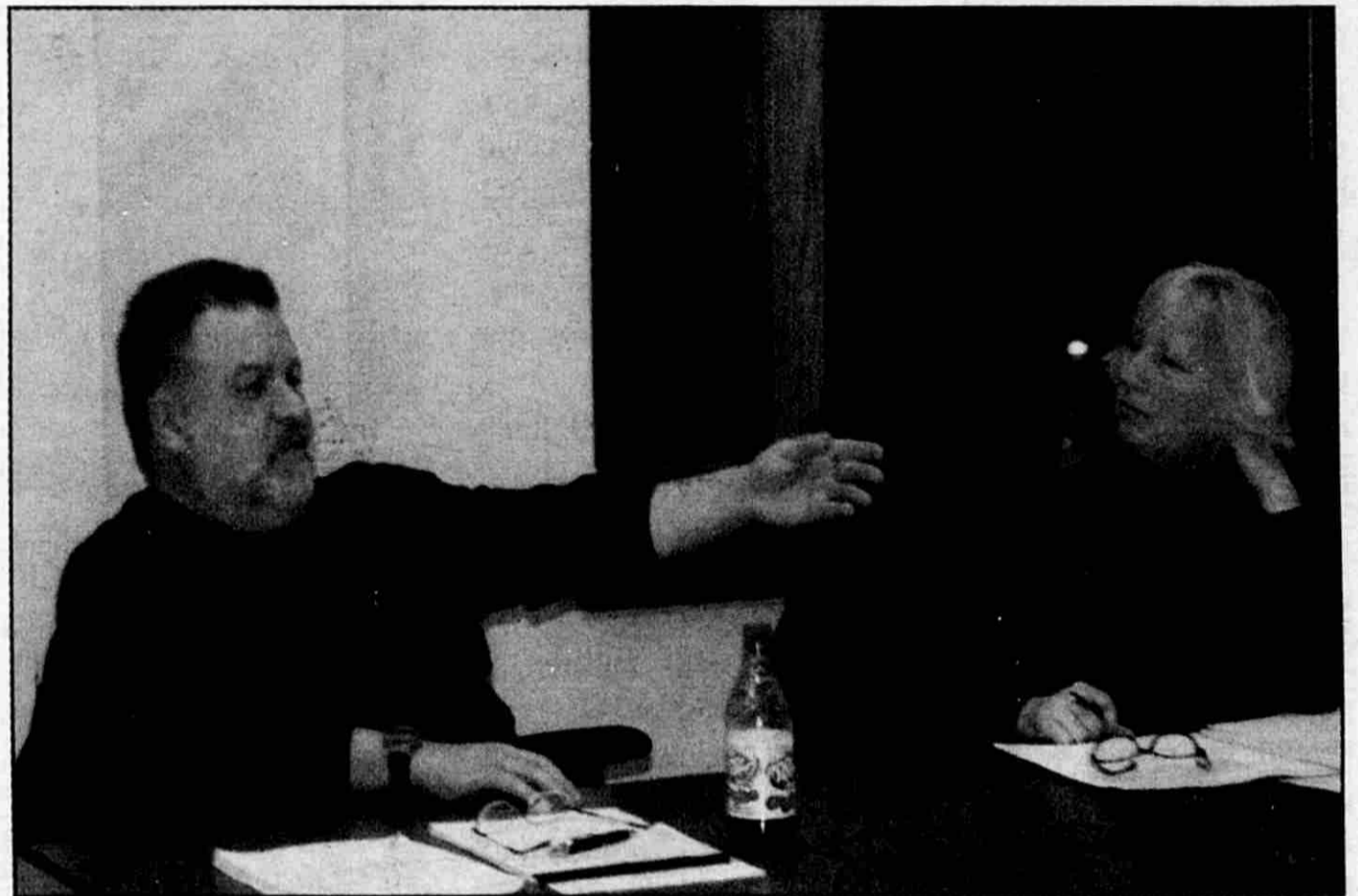
Beachum argued there will be additional

administrative costs for the city doing the billing.

John Van Tholen, of Green Valley, said the haulers need to know the rules of the game in order to bid. "I am reluctant to bid without an ordinance," he said.

Over the years the residents have increasingly picked up the cost of hauling by paying for bags. The city in turn subsidized recycling

Trash ordinance, continued, page 2



Al Mathews and Sharon Ellison discuss the trash issue at Monday's meeting.

Lowell Area Arts Council Jungle Book exhibit explores safaris and tropical forests

by Emma Palova

The colorful 'It's a Jungle Book' show now on exhibit at the Lowell Area Arts Council delves into a wild world of safaris and tropical forests.

From Jan Johnson's dynamic piece 'Lioness' Alert' to the tropical 'Bird of Paradise' by Jennifer

Bird of Paradise by Jennifer McMyler



McMyler and 'Monkey in a Tree' by Connor Bergin, the show combines children's and adult's art.

The exhibit is a take on the Thebes Player's production of Jungle Book scheduled for the end of January and the beginning of February.

"Because we are doing the theater production at the end of the month, we decided to have the same theme in the gallery," said director Lorain Smalligan. "It's a fun show for both youth and adults."

Tied into the show is also an opportunity to become an artist. There will be a drawing table with art supplies.

"Make it, take it and display it," Smalligan encourages everyone to take advantage of the opportunity.

For the less imaginative, National Geographic magazines will provide some guidance.

The show gives an opportunity to the locals to come out and do something in the middle of winter, according to Smalligan.

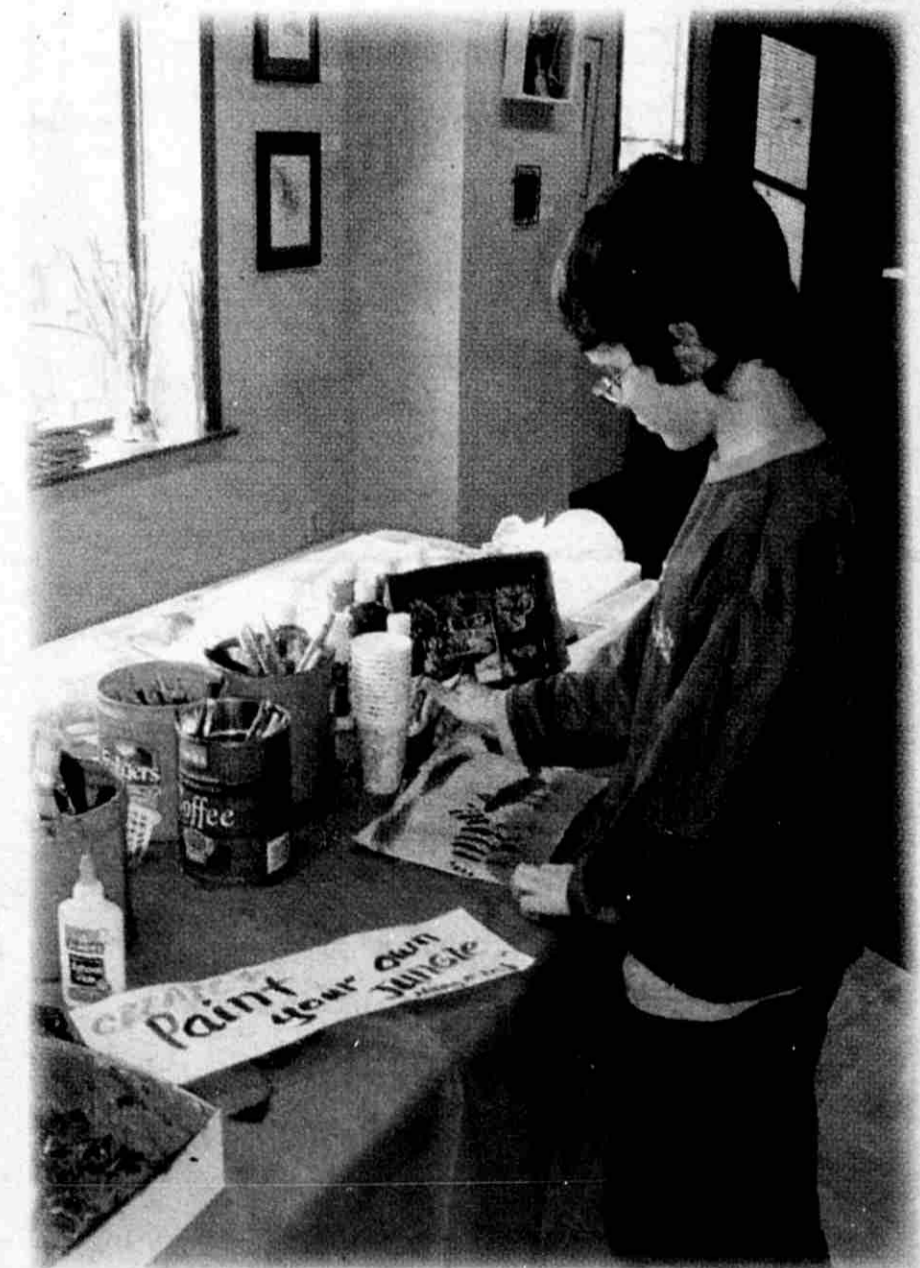
Lioness' Alert by Jan Johnson

People's Choice awards will be offered in several categories.

"Come out and vote for your favorite artwork," said Smalligan.

The show runs through Feb. 6. Public reception is Sunday, Jan. 10.

The arts council is also looking for volunteer docents for the upcoming exhibits, 'It's a Jungle Book,' West Michigan Regional Competition, K-12 Student Arts Exhibition, Clothelins and Memories and My Home Town.



Jeremy Bergin creating at the Make-it-Take-it display. He is a fifth grade student at Cherry Creek Elementary.

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CENTS



St. Pat's students complete D.A.R.E. Program

For more than 10 years, students at St. Patrick School in Parnell have participated in the nationally recognized D.A.R.E. program. In a special ceremony presented by the Kent County Sheriff Department, the 5th grade class graduated from the D.A.R.E. program on January 6.

Led by deputy Thomas McCutcheon, students learned the dangers of abusing both legal and illegal drugs as well as the effects of smoking and drinking. At the graduation ceremony, all students made a pledge to respect their bodies and themselves by avoiding drug abuse.



Deputy Thomas McCutcheon speaks to the St. Patrick School 5th grade class during their D.A.R.E. graduation. Deputy McCutcheon serves as a D.A.R.E. instructor through the Kent County Sheriff's Department.

Trash ordinance, continued

in the amount of \$16,000. But recently there has been a steady decline in the number of bags that has made some haulers drop them completely.

Councilwoman Maryalene LaPonsie questioned whether the council doesn't owe it to the citizens to save them money.

"As a hauler you don't know what to expect. The number of customers keeps dropping and there's no assurance of how many bags you will have," said Van Tholen.

Currently, the city sells bags, while residents pay for the carts. Some haulers questioned whether the city should be involved in the waste hauling business.

However, if the ordinance is passed, all the residents will have to pay for all the services due to billing,

that means recycling and yard waste pick up as well, whether they use it or not.

"I am biased," said Beachum, "you're going to have a lot of angry people up and down Riverside if you make it mandatory for everybody. You're a long way off. The city could spend time on other things."

Mathews said the city could use the \$16,000 that goes toward recycling for something else.

The council will only take comments at the public hearing on Jan. 19, but it will most likely not vote on the issue.

"I am still mulling it over," said Hodges.

Van Tholen said the trash bags are antiquated.

"There is a diminishing number of bags. It's an antiquated system that needs to go away," he said.



along main st.

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.

GILDA'S CLUB PROGRAMS

On Jan. 26 learn about the natural benefits of honey with Kristine Jacobson at 1 p.m. Dr. James Chicester, DC, will offer "The Keys to Understanding Wellness," a discussion about what your body and mind need to get and stay well, at 6-7:30 p.m. To register or for more information go to www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow

WWC WORKSHOPS

The Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center will be hosting two workshops on Fri., Jan. 29. Flying WILD, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., designed with urban educators in mind. Growing up WILD, 12:30 to 4 p.m., is an early childhood education program. Call 987-1002 to register or for more information.

LOVE AND LOGIC CLASSES

Early childhood Love and Logic classes will begin Feb. 2, for four weeks. Free childcare. Hours can be used by childcare providers for licensing. 6:30-7:45 p.m. Sponsored by the TOTS Program of Lowell Area Schools. Call Kathy at 987-2532 to register.

CALL FOR AUDITIONS

Thebes Players community theatre is seeking seven female actors (ages 18-65) and three male actors (ages 20-60) for PLAY ON! Dates of the production are April 16-23. Auditions are on Thurs., Feb. 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m. and Sat., Feb. 20, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Lowell Public Library, 200 N. Monroe. For more information or to borrow a script for review, call or visit the Lowell Area Arts Council, 149 S. Hudson.

FREE SMOKING CESSATION CLASSES

Start Sat., Jan. 16 from 9-11 a.m. at Lowell Family Medical Center, 2550 W. Main St. To register call 616-975-0123 or go to www.tobaccofreepartners.org

RULERS OF THE SKY

Melinda Robinette of John Ball Zoo will be giving an up close view of Raptors on Jan. 21, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at The Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center. For more information, or to register, call Beth Henry at 987-2510.

MID-WINTER USED BOOK SALE

The Friends of Englehardt Library will sponsor a book sale for adults and children, Fri., Jan. 22, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sat., Jan. 23, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. On Mon., Jan. 25 from 12 noon to 5 p.m. we will hold our 'Bag of Books' sale. Purchase a bag for \$4. All proceeds go to library programming.

ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A FIFTH GRADER?

Lowell Middle School will be holding a Family Math Night for middle school students and their families on Mon., Jan. 25 from 6-8:30 p.m. Preregister by calling 987-2800.

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- George Orwell (1903 - 1950)

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IT'S COMPLICATED (R) 4:45, 7:25, 9:55
SHERLOCK HOLMES (PG-13) 4:10, 7:00, 9:45
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL (PG) 4:20, 6:50, 8:55
AVATAR (PG-13) 5:10, 9:00

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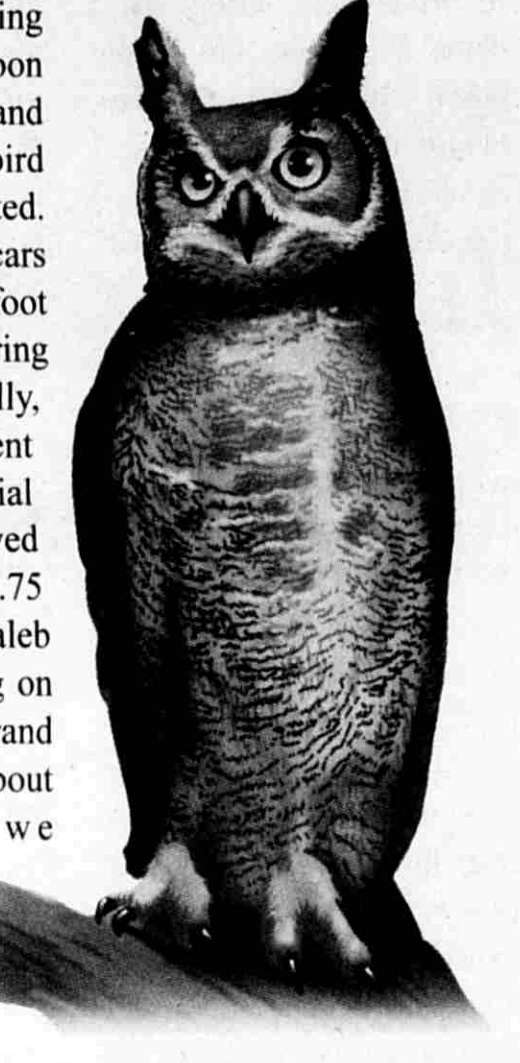
Annual bird count held at Wittenbach/Wege Center

submitted by Steve Mueller
The Grand Rapids Audubon Club sponsored the annual Christmas Bird Count on January 2. The Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center (WWC) co-hosted the bird count and provided our base station.

Forty-nine participants observed 60 species of birds on count day with one additional Great Horned owl sighted during count week. Total individuals on count day were 8595. Two unexpected and rewarding species sightings were Red Crossbills and Winter wrens.

An unusual find was a lone Common Redpoll. Where there is one, many are the rule. Red-shouldered hawks were found again wintering in the area. This is becoming more common. A Red-headed woodpecker was seen again this year. They are less frequently seen globally at any time of the year and are always a treasure to find. The next bird count will be January 1, 2011.

The 49 participants observed in 17 morning parties and 13 afternoon parties starting at 8 a.m. and ending at 5 p.m. Two bird feeder observers participated. We totaled 92 hours with cars traveling 790 miles. On foot we spent 14.5 hours covering 17.5 miles. Additionally, eight hours were spent feeder watching. A special addition that we enjoyed was a 5.25 hour and 5.75 mile kayak effort by Caleb Putnam and Alison Vilag on the Thornapple and Grand rivers. It has been about a decade since we had on-water observers. A total of 813.25 miles accounted for walking, driving,



Affordable loans available through USDA, Rural Development

Would you like to purchase a home in Kent County but don't think you can afford it? You may now be able to do just that thanks to a home loan program being offered through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rural Development.

income requirements and has an acceptable credit history. Loan specialists are available to counsel applicants on credit issues.

This program is available to anyone who meets the income requirements, owns his or her home and has an acceptable credit history. The maximum income for a repair loan in Kent County ranges from \$22,100.00 for a single person to \$39,100.00 for a household of seven.

Rural Development Loans offer affordable monthly payments with interest tailored to your income. This program is available for rural areas with a population of 20,000 or less.

The maximum income to receive a Rural Development loan in Kent County ranges from \$35,350.00 for a single household to \$62,600.00 for a household of seven.

For more information, please contact Rural Development at (616) 942-4111 Ext. 6 or toll-free at (888) 771-6993 (TDD: (517) 337-6795).

Weekend snowmobile accident claims two lives

William Hatchett, 39, of Lowell, and Kristin Stowic, 19, of Sparta, died in a snowmobile accident last Sunday. They both sustained a blunt force trauma when the snowmobile struck a tree and they were ejected off the snowmobile. Alcohol was a contributing factor.

The program also provides home repair loans to eligible homeowners at an annual interest rate of one percent. The loans can be used to improve or modernize your home, make it decent, safe and sanitary and/or remove health and safety hazards.

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Belding man dies a week after crash

Jeffrey Wittung, 36, of Belding, died of injuries sustained in a Jan. 6 accident on Lincoln Lake. Wittung was involved in a collision with a pickup truck driven by Robby Smith, 18, of Lowell. Smith lost control of the vehicle and crossed the centerline into the southbound lane and crashed into Wittung's vehicle. Both drivers sustained serious injuries as a result of the accident. The subjects were transported to Butterworth Hospital by Rockford ambulance. Alcohol was not a factor. Smith remains in fair condition. The accident is under investigation.

FLAT RIVER WASTE

As you may be aware, the City of Lowell has proposed switching to a single waste hauler within the next year. The City Council is holding a second public hearing regarding this important issue on January 19, 2010. As the bill currently stands, if passed, smaller companies such as ours would not be able to bid due to financial restrictions and the new requirements the City will be requiring, i.e., mandatory carts and recycling containers. If they do this we would lose about 25% of our current customers and many potential customers. We strongly believe this limits Free Enterprise and prohibits your freedom of choice regarding the provider you would choose for this service.

We ask that you voice your opinion at City Hall on January 19, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. or by writing Mayor Jim Hodges, 301 E. Main St., Lowell MI 49331. Thank you for your support.

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- Kelly and Mike

CITY OF LOWELL RESIDENTS ONLY

RECYCLING PICKUP SCHEDULE CHANGE

The City of Lowell recycling pickup program schedule is the first and third Thursday of each month. Please sort, separate and clean your recyclables (plastics, glass, paper, etc.). If you have more than what will fit in your tub, please place the items next to the tub in a paper or clear plastic bag. The pickup dates are listed below:

RECYCLING PICKUP SCHEDULE

January - 7th and 21st
February - 4th and 18th
March - 4th and 18th
April - 1st and 15th
May - 6th and 20th
June - 3rd and 17th
July - 1st and 15th
August - 5th and 19th
September - 2nd and 16th
October - 7th and 21st
November - 4th and 18th
December - 2nd and 16th

PLEASE NOTE if a holiday falls during the week, Thursday pickup will be Friday.

If you have any questions, please contact City Hall (897-8457).

Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

January is School Board Appreciation Month

by Shelly MacNaughton
The Lowell Area School Board held its regular meeting Monday night. January is School Board Appreciation Month and superintendent Greg Pratt made a presentation to the board. "It is my privilege on behalf of the community, I have a certificate for each of the board members, a token of our appreciation," said Pratt.

"It is very rewarding to be on this board, we do it with a lot of honor," said Mark Lessens, President of the Board of Education.

Jim White updated the board on district energy savings. Jim has been working with this ongoing program for six years now and the focus is reducing energy consumption in Lowell Area Schools. "If we can reduce bills for energy we can help use the savings on educations and curriculum. After six years we have saved a little over three million dollars," said White. Eighty schools in the state participate in this same energy consumption program

and Lowell has been ranked number one in the state for five consecutive years. "Our superintendent's goal is to be number one in the nation. Currently over 1,000 clients around the nation participate and Lowell is ranked fifth place in the nation," said White. White also spoke about the wind turbine on the roof of the high school and his desire for a potential course in renewable energy. "Saving energy is not just about saving money, saving energy is the right thing to do. Our principals and staff model good energy ethics. Kudos," said White.

Superintendent Pratt also presented a slide show on the Race to the Top initiative. "We did vote to become a part of this Race to the Top program. This was a frustrating process and new laws were set into place in December that we will be required to follow and it seems our choice was to vote and say we will participate and perhaps get some additional funding or do nothing and have to follow the new laws and not get any

additional funding," said Pat Nugent, board member. The school board also approved a voluntary retirement incentive plan for eligible Lowell Education Association teachers. Approximately 24 staff will be offered this early retirement option; submission deadline is March 5 and effective date of retirement would be June 30. "This is not something we are taking lightly, every indication is that next year is going to be worse than this year. It's a very real possibility that

college news

Joshua Brubaker and Andrea Converse, both of Lowell, were named to the Hope College Dean's List for the first semester of the 2009-10 school year. To be

named to the Dean's List a student must have a minimum 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Good teaching is one-fourth preparation and three-fourths theater.

- Gail Godwin

health



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

Celiac Disease

Celiac disease is a disorder of the digestive system. Individuals with celiac disease have a sensitivity to gluten, a protein in wheat. A little less than 1 in 100 people in the U.S. have celiac disease.

In patients with celiac disease, exposure to food containing gluten leads to production of autoantibodies that damage the lining of the small intestine. The small intestine is where nutrients are absorbed from the foods we eat. Gluten exposure causes malabsorption of these nutrients resulting in malnutrition and weight loss.

There is a genetic component to celiac disease as almost all patients will have a particular gene and the risk of celiac disease increases if you have a first degree relative with celiac disease. Symptoms of celiac disease may include chronic

diarrhea, abdominal bloating or pain, constipation, weight loss and foul smelling stools. These symptoms are more common in children. Adults with celiac disease may have unexplained fatigue, anemia, thinning of the bones, depression and general malaise. The diagnosis of celiac disease is made by performing blood tests and small intestinal biopsies. Patients that have celiac disease must avoid foods containing even small amounts of gluten for the rest of their lives. By following their diet, these patients can expect to lead a normal healthy life. It is important to read product labels carefully because gluten is a common additive. Many restaurants offer gluten-free selections and most grocery stores will have sections devoted to gluten-free foods.

viewpoint

to the editor

Dear Editor and Citizens of Lowell,

I know that it is often a thankless job sitting on the city council with many difficult decisions to be made, but I am opposed to the change in the refuse amendment that the city council is looking to adopt.

Each citizen needs to look at the proposed amendment. You can find it on the Lowell website. The City wants to limit the residential refuse haulers to an exclusive contract. I'm all about free enterprise. Mr. Altoft states in a letter to the editor that this amendment is not against free enterprise. I would argue that it is.

The definition from the dictionary is "an economic and political doctrine holding that a capitalist economy can regulate itself in a freely competitive market through the relationship of supply and demand with a minimum of governmental intervention and control." Telling me who I can do business with is more than minimal. I pay for my refuse pickup and not the City.

The City says they could possibly save the citizens

money if they bid the services out to one company. They also have said that no company will put together a bid without this ordinance so they have to have the ordinance first. If a company won't put together a quote without the ordinance, I would question the integrity of the company.

Mr. Altoft states that it would save on the infrastructure of the city and that several area cities have gone to one refuse hauler with no complaints. Has it reduced their street budgets?

I know it has been said from several council members that bags, as an option, need to be a part of the amendment, but the current proposed amendment on the website states that each resident would have to have a residential refuse container. Nowhere in the amendment does it state that bags will be available. Those that have only a bag a week will be paying more, those with a lot of trash will probably pay less. In section 11.29 (e), (vi) it states that an owner or occupant of a residential unit may elect

not to receive services of the system and avoid incurring charges and fees for any period of time of at least one month or longer provided that the residential unit premises shall not be occupied during such period. Nowhere in the ordinance does it state that the refuse service is optional to the citizens of Lowell. This basically means that ALL residents will have to use this exclusive service. Maybe you take your trash to work or dispose of it in some other means. Sorry, you are now going to have a bill from the City. There is also a \$5 charge for each request to opt out of payment, while you're on an extended vacation.

You should also read section 11.29 (e). The City will set the rates and collect from each residential unit. If not paid on time the City will charge an administration fee and if delinquent for six months the city tax assessor will enter a lien on the next tax roll. When the City talks about being on a tight budget, why does it want to get into the refuse business unless there is an economical reason that benefits the City. It certainly isn't going to benefit all the citizens, maybe a few. Mr. Altoft states that the cost of recycling is coming out of the general fund. I recycle

but not all residents do. Why should those that don't recycle pay for those that do through tax dollars?

The City is trying to do combined billing of services to save money for the citizens of Lowell, is running into difficulty making this happen and now the City wants to add another bill for refuse. What's that going to cost?

On January 19, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. the city council is planning to vote on this amendment. I urge the citizens of Lowell to contact ALL your city council members to give your view on this amendment and to attend this meeting in the council chambers.

Thank you,
Perry Beachum
Lowell

Dear Editor,

The recent debate over an exclusive franchise for one waste hauler in the community of Lowell is now in the forefront. It stated in The Lowell Ledger that some members of the city council requested more time and more options. I give a thumbs-up to those members of the new 2010 city council. What I conceived from reading an article in the Jan. 6, Lowell To The Editor, cont'd., page 14

outdoors

Hide and seek

Dave Stegehuis

A high-tech game called geocaching has been around for about seven-years. Geocaching is similar to the old hide and seek game, except one does not have to guess at the location of the hidden treasure. A handheld global positioning satellite receiver (GPS) is used to navigate to the hidden location. Once at the location, one must then search for a container which contains a log for the finder to sign with a game name chosen by the finder or group. There may also be tradable trinkets or other items in the cache. There are many versions of the game which might involve multiple sites, clues, and puzzles. The number of variations in game format out there has been limited only by the inventor's imagination.

There are a lot of fun and interesting activities to draw people outside. This is

particularly true in Michigan because of our four distinct seasons. Each season provides unique conditions which set the stage for a diversity of outdoor pursuits. Cross-country skiing is done in winter, but you will have to wait until spring to hunt mushrooms. Geocaching, however, can be played any time of the year, in any kind of weather.

During the recent holiday, we were eager to try out a new GPS and get outside to enjoy the fresh snowfall, so our family, including grandchildren and their dog, set out to find a geocache. Our adventure took us through the woods, over the hills, and along a creek to a place I probably would have otherwise never been. The promise of hidden treasure kept us on the hunt under challenging conditions. We

Outdoors, cont'd., page 14

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By Shelly MacNaughton

125 Years Ago - The Lowell Journal
Entry is missing

100 Years Ago
The Lowell Ledger
January 13, 1910

Our beloved and venerable old citizen, Rev. A. N. Hudson, aged 95 years, died yesterday morning at the home of J. B. Hawk on the south side. Prior to last October, when Mr. Hudson fell and broke his hip, he had enjoyed good health and continued his walks to the village. Since the accident, though his bones had knitted, his health had since declined.

A biographical sketch of the deceased will appear in these columns next week.

75 Years Ago
The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo
January 17, 1935

Paul Kellogg was in Chicago on business the first of the week. Paul came home smiling, having learned that the price of cider vinegar had advanced five cents per gallon.

The town is being canvassed for signatures favoring the Townsend old age pension plan.

50 Years Ago
The Lowell Ledger
January 14, 1960

The move was completed this week to have all Lowell area school children attend school in Lowell. The completion of the \$160,000 addition to the Runciman Elementary building allows students attending outside schools to be moved here. The schools at Riverview, Boynton and McCabe will not be used. Some teachers from these schools will now teach here beginning on Friday.

25 Years Ago
The Grand Valley Ledger
January 16, 1985

If city officials instigate a tree maintenance program proposed by the T. J. Miller Co., of Molina, Michigan, 62 trees in city right of ways will get the ax. After an expression of interest by the Look Memorial committee, Edward Gross, an employee of the T. J. Miller Co., conducted a maintenance survey of the city's 352 street trees and 250 cemetery trees. "Considering the amount of trees that Lowell is responsible for, along with the age and present condition of said trees, a perpetual maintenance program is a MUST," Gross wrote.



In This Together...
Learn. Share. Laugh.

Starting out the new year living with a serious illness or grief

Lowell Program

By I. Ann Arkeno - President, CEO of Gilda's Club

January is here and for many it's a time for New Year's resolutions. The most common resolutions include things such as eating healthier and losing weight, exercising more or tackling financial problems. For someone on a serious health journey or who has recently experienced a death of a family member or friend, starting a brand new year can feel overwhelming. The thought of adding resolutions to the mix may cause more stress, seem overwhelming or even impossible at this point.

Regardless of your situation, at Gilda's Club we honor the feelings of anxiety, sadness, grief and loss as real. And, even so, the new year can be a wonderful time to take small steps toward positive change, even while you are living with cancer, grief or another serious illness. A new year can truly bring a refreshing sense of new beginnings. Here are a few ideas and suggestions we have gathered from various sources to inspire you on your journey at the start of 2010.

- **Set "intentions" or "mini" goals instead of resolutions.** Resolutions tend to be broken quickly, so instead consider setting an "intention" or a "mini" goal. The words "intention" and "mini" feel more doable.
- **Keep it simple, start small.** Rather than trying to exercise three times a week, start at making a "mini" goal of walking once per week for 20 minutes. Congratulate yourself when you do it... and, as you are able, increase as you go. Be gentle with yourself along the way. Change takes time. If you do it in small, simple steps, you will be more likely to meet your goals.
- **Break it down.** If an entire year seems too overwhelming, break it down into chunks of two or three months at a time. Look at just getting through the next day or the next week and reward

Gilda's Club, cont'd., page 14

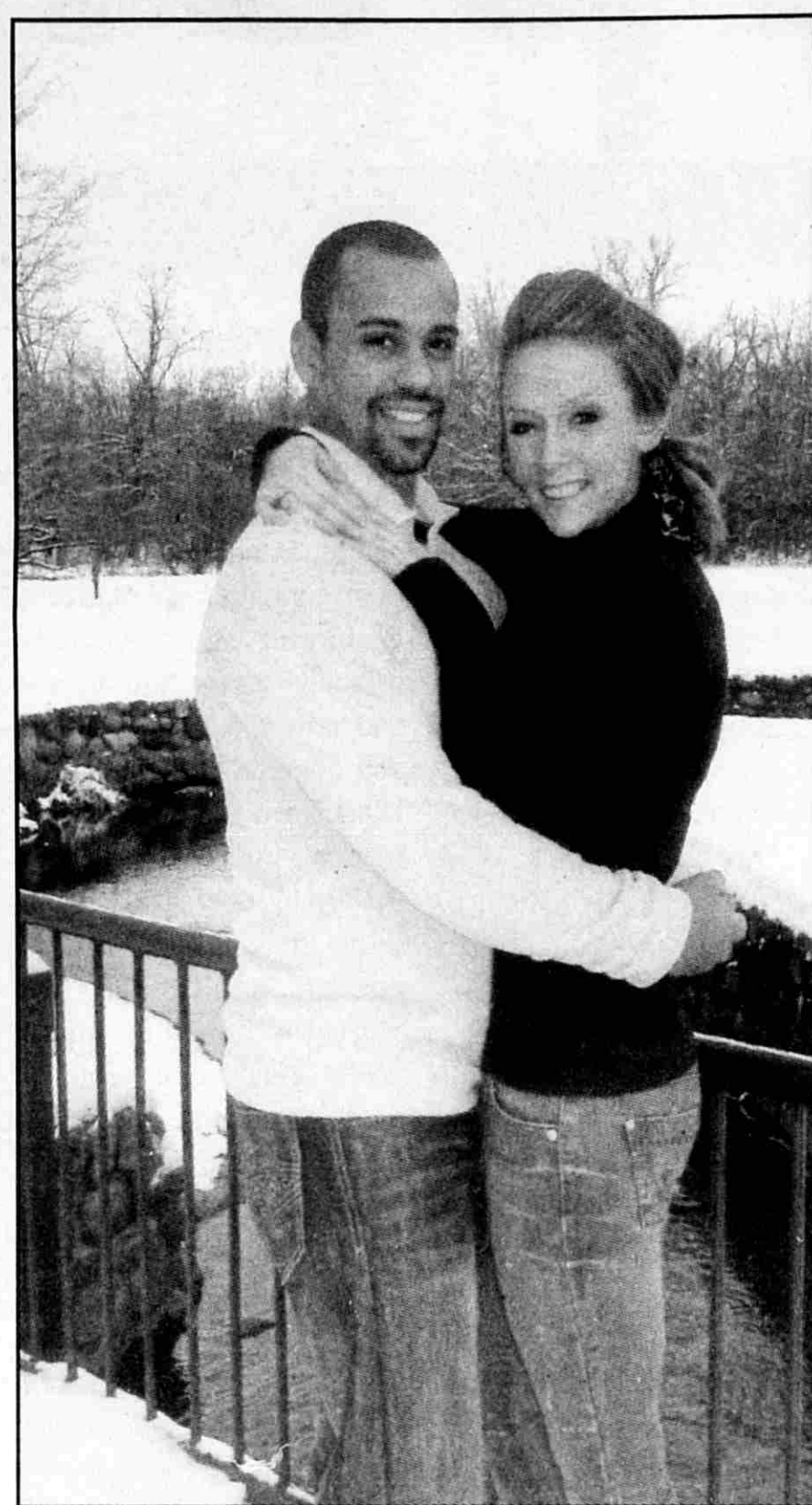
Couple celebrates seventieth anniversary



Harold and Luella Kransi, of Lowell, formerly of Traverse City, will be celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary on January 16, 2010 with family members. Their children are Harold (Sandy) Kransi, Port Orange, FL; Roger (Debby) Kransi, Flora, IL; Karen (Dan) Donahue, Ada; and Kaye (Owen) Wright, Decatur, AL. The couple has 10 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Lowell Area Schools - New Little Explorers Preschool Class BEGINNING FOR 3'S JANUARY 15
 Fridays 9:30-11:30 • \$40 per month Jan. - May
 Must be 3 by March 1, 2010.
 Teacher and speech pathologist on staff.
 Class size: 10 children. Family member must volunteer twice during the 18 sessions.
Call Kathy at 987-2532 for more information.

Phillips/Holliman



Jeremy Holliman and Jamie Phillips

Wedding vows will be exchanged in May 2010 by Jamie Phillips and Jeremy Holliman, both of Lowell. The couple are the children of Scott and Linda Phillips, of Lowell, Gregg and Laura Hovey, of Lowell, and Dean and Barb Holliman, of

Lansing. The bride-to-be is a graduate of Lowell High School and attended Kent Career Tech. Her fiancé is also a Lowell High School graduate and will be joining the United States Marine Corps in February.

Gospelmen to perform at First Baptist Church



Do you like good southern gospel music and good four-part harmonies? New sounds or the old classic quartet music. The Gospelmen can do it all. The Gospelmen are from Genesee, approximately 10 miles northeast of Flint. The Gospelmen also work full time jobs through the week and then travel on the weekends. The members of the group are: Tim Herbert, tenor; Scott Davis, lead; Gregg Martin, baritone and manager; R.W. Hammond, bass; and Todd Brewer, sound engineer. The Gospelmen have had the pleasure of sharing the stage with some of gospel music's very finest: Brian Free & Assurance, Dottie Rambo, Janet Paschal, Ivan Parker, The Martins, Legacy Five, The Hoppers & Greater Vision and many more. The Gospelmen will perform on Jan. 17 at 9:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church of Lowell. The public is invited.

happy birthday!

- JANUARY 13** Jake Sterzick, Stephen Rutherford.
- JANUARY 14** Angie Nowak, Ryan Burns, Tim Yonker.
- JANUARY 15** Dennis Burns.
- JANUARY 16** Alex Stuckey.
- JANUARY 17** Kevin Rasch, Joe Potter.
- JANUARY 18** Margie Potter Sullivan, Shelby Weston.
- JANUARY 19** Tim Stencil, Susan Cook, Tim Schuitema, Trevor Mooney, Mark Ries.

area churches

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
 (United Church of Christ)
 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906
 www.OurBigChurch.org
 Sunday Worship.....10:00 a.m.
 Church School.....10:15-11:15 a.m.
 Thursday Faith Alive
 Casual Worship.....6:30 P.M.
 Barrier-free.....Nursery Provided
 No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 Kirby and Harrison
 Alto • 616-691-8011
 Worship.....9:30 A.M.
 Children's Church.....9:30 A.M.
 OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS
 Pastor Dean Bailey

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)
 Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21
 www.goodshepherdlowell.org
 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
 Worship Service.....10:00 A.M.
 (Nursery available)
 Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307
 All facilities are wheelchair accessible

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)
 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery
 Robert Holmes, Pastor
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WEDNESDAYS:
 Family Night (for all ages): 7:00 p.m.
 "The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m.
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 Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org
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 Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M.
 AWANA/EXCITE • TEENS, Wed. 6:15 & 6:30 P.M.
 Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times
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CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL
 Rev. Randy Meyers • 897-7060
 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI
 Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
 Sunday School.....11:20 A.M.
 Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.
 Nursery available at both services
 Barrier-Free

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL
 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936
 www.lowellumc.com
 WORSHIP.....8:30 & 10:30 a.m.
 SUNDAY SCHOOL.....9:30 a.m.
 Rev. Rick Blunt
 Barrier-free entrance

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
 Fr. Eugene Okoli
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 www.stmary-lowell.com
 Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 P.M.; SUN. 9:30 A.M.
 Weekday Masses: 7:45 A.M.
 Holy Day Masses: 9 A.M. & 7 P.M.
 Saturday confessions: 4-4:45 P.M.
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 10:30 A.M. Fellowship
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Local woman celebrates 100th birthday

by Emma Palova

Marie Rickert was born on January 12, 1910 and on her 100th birthday got a thin molasses cake. She's had the recipe since she turned 16.

Many decades later, her family gathered at the Emerald Meadows to wish her the best and to bring her a good homemade meal.

"My family is very important to me," she said.

Rickert went to one-room country schools because her dad moved around working on different farms. They attended the German Methodist Church where she was baptized.

Some of her earliest memories are from this church, such as the Christmas tree with real candles clipped to it.

"It seemed odd to me when I looked at that," she said.

And then there was a figure that nodded its head whenever a coin was put in.

"It was a privilege to do that," she said.

They quite often took the train to visit grandparents in Lowell. Rickert remembers the first cars. Her brothers worked at a garage and sometimes drove the cars home.

"I was very interested in cars," she said.

In the 30s, there was no electricity, so Rickert remembers using kerosene lamps and a kerosene range.

She married, in 1928, Glenn Rickert eloping from a traditional ceremony which was normal back in the days.

"I can't imagine if my daughters did that," she said. Together they built a modular house that came in sections, from Bay City, by train.

With Glenn, they got their first car, a Pontiac, in 1930. At that time, you still had to get ice for the ice box and get enough groceries for weeks.

Rickert had a big garden, so she canned a lot of vegetables. Still, to this day, she believes in home grown natural food. They also sold eggs and chickens and at one point had cows and pigs on the farm.

"I liked growing my own food and canning," she said.

Daughters Marilyn and Shirley were active in 4-H, while mom was an officer on the board of Cutler School.

She was also a member of Keene Grange.

Rickert is proud that her mother Elise Althaus came from Switzerland on a big boat in 1890. With dad Edward Clemenz, they spoke German at home, but later switched to English because of the kids.

In 1987, the Rickerts sold the family farm to Brian and Wendy Cahoon and bought a house on Lincoln Lake. After Glenn died in 1991, Rickert



Marie Rickert with daughter Marilyn Cahoon.

lived at Schneider Manor for 18 years.

Last year, she moved to Emerald Meadows in Grand Rapids. She likes sports, mainly football, and she is a Tigers' fan. Rickert has seven grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren.

She has the longest membership at the First

United Methodist Church, since 1928. The family still owns a doll Rickert got from a neighbor as a child.

"We all played with the doll," said daughter Marilyn Cahoon.

Her worst memories come from a time when she was separated from her daughters. She spent

13 months at the Sunshine Sanatorium with shadows suspected to be tuberculosis. But, she will never forget having her babies.

"You know you're having them," she laughed.

Rickert had her daughters at the Luz Maternity Home in Lowell. As a family they would watch the Showboat

and listen to the chorus sing "Here comes the Showboat." She remembers the endmen as well.

Every Wednesday, Rickert gets The Lowell Ledger.

"It's like getting letters from home," she said. "It's the first thing I read."

OSA encourages snowbirds to claim state as permanent home

The Office of Services to the Aging is reminding older adults who go south or somewhere warmer for the winter (often known as snowbirds) to claim Michigan as their permanent home by following certain procedures that are part of the 2010 national census.

If snowbirds fail to claim Michigan as their permanent home, they will be counted

as citizens of the other state, which could result in Michigan losing millions of federal dollars.

For each Michigan snowbird who is not counted as a state resident, Michigan will lose a per capita census-adjusted allocation of more than \$1,000 a year for each of the next ten years, or more than \$10,000 per person. This will reduce funding

for federal programs that directly affect Michigan older adults and individuals with disabilities including services such as home delivered meals, health care, senior employment, transportation, legal assistance and elder abuse.

It is estimated that about 200,000 Michigan residents were counted as

living elsewhere in the 2000 Census. Even though our state has experienced a mild decline in population growth since then, Michigan actually will show a substantial increase in population growth if all snowbirds are counted correctly in the 2010 Census.

In February and March, snowbirds will receive their

2010 U.S. Census forms at their temporary residences in the south, and they will be asked to complete and return the forms. To avoid being counted as residents of another state, snowbirds must enter zero on the census form as the number of people living there and then leave the rest of the form blank.

It also is recommended that

they write "Usual Residence Elsewhere" so that the Census Bureau will know the reason for entering a zero.

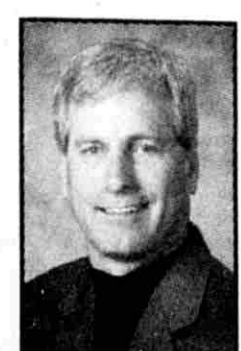
For more information, call the Office of Services to the Aging in Lansing at (517) 373-8230 or visit the Web site at www.michigan.gov/miseniors

There will be 127,000 births and 85,000 deaths in Michigan this year...

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Students excel at Lowell Middle School's Geography Bee

Twenty of Lowell Middle School's most geographically inclined students gathered in the school's Library/Media Center last Friday to show off their chops in the school's annual Geography Bee.

The event was set up nearly identical to the more popular National Spelling Bee with students being asked to answer questions about local, national and global geography with the fate of their standing in the competition hanging in the balance on each question.

After seven exhaustive rounds of questioning, where the students displayed a wide gamut of emotions, only two competitors, eighth grader Austin Gittins and sixth grader Zeth Dean, remained.

For the final round, Gittins and Dean were asked to write down the answers to identical sets of three questions. The questions for the final round were considerably more difficult than those asked during the elimination rounds, and Gittins needed to answer only one question correctly to be named the school's 2010 Geography Bee champion.

Gittins victory was only more impressive given his lack of preparation for the Bee.

"Honestly, I didn't even realize this was going on today," Gittins said. "I'm real happy I won though, and I think I'm going to study more for the next level."

Dean, although disappointed in defeat, was happy with his performance.

"It would have been nice to win, but I'm only in sixth grade, so maybe next year," Dean said.

The next level Gittins spoke of is a statewide competition in Lansing that Gittins must take a test to qualify for. Even to participate in the Lowell Bee, Gittins, Dean and the other participants had to finish among the top in the school in a test to move on to the Bee. Jim Hubbard, a social studies teacher in his 38th year at Lowell Middle School, organized the Bee and said the students' scores were so high this year that only students who scored a 29 or 30 out of 30 were allowed to compete.

"It's really remarkable how bright these students are," Hubbard said. "We've

never nearly [had] such a high standard before. I hope it's encouraging to the students who were able to participate."

Don VanderMuelen, principal of LMS, asked the questions to the students during the Bee. He said that ever since he has been at Lowell, the program has been going on at LMS; it has been a heavily emphasized part of the curriculum.

"I think it's a really neat idea," VanderMuelen said. "I think it gets the students much more interested in the material than they otherwise might be. All the social studies teachers encourage their students to take part in the Geography Bee and try their hardest and the students' effort, as I think you could tell today, is certainly encouraging."

VanderMuelen also said he was highly impressed by the intelligence of the students.

"There were certainly a lot of questions I didn't know the answer to," VanderMuelen said.

Going forward, Hubbard said he expects Gittins to represent his school well in

pursuit of the state Geography Bee champion.

"I've had Austin in class and he is a very bright

student," Gittins said. "You saw what he did today and that was just all off the top of his head. I'm sure he'll try

his best and I'll be here to provide any assistance that he might need."



From left to right: Jim Hubbard, Austin Gittins, Zeth Dean and principal Dan VanderMuelen.

Alto Elementary bee winner



Alto's Principal Fleenor his son Geoffrey on his win.

Geoffrey Fleenor was the winner of Alto Elementary's National Geographic Geography Bee. Fleenor emerged victorious over nine other fourth and fifth grade finalists. The runner-up was Roman Rozell. For the next round, Fleenor will take a 70 question multiple choice test that will be mailed to the National Geographic Society. The top 100 scorers on that test will be invited to the state Geography Bee. The top ten finalists: Geoffrey Fleenor, Jacob Bishop, Roman Rozell, Chad Peterson, Samantha Celori, Annelise Kolp, Ashton Charron, Dax Cilley, Alex Rozell and Alex Powell.

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Play by the rules, but be ferocious.
- Phil Knight, founder of Nike

Lowell Area Schools

Curiosity Corner Preschool Registration for the 2010/2011 School Year

Registration for current students, siblings of former students, or active TOTS Families begins on January 11, 2010

Open registration for the community begins January 18, 2010

Registration Sessions begin at 9:30 a.m. TOTS Family Resource Center

Curiosity Corner Preschool • Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Center
 300 High Street, Lowell, MI 49331 • Phone: 987-2532

Red Arrow SPORTS

Teft finds her balance in strong beam performance

by Thad Kraus

Deft execution on the balance beam raised Lowell's Kelsey Teft to the top of the class in Division 2 at the Rockford gymnastics invitational on Saturday.

The senior connected an aerial cartwheel to a back handspring in posting an invitational best 9.3.

"Kelsey had a great beam day. She added a new trick to her routine making it more difficult and she stuck it," said Lowell gymnastics coach Michele DeHaan.

In addition, for not falling from the beam, Teft was also named the team's "beam queen."

"It's an incentive for sticking your routine, for not falling off the beam," DeHaan said.

Teft placed eighth overall in Division 2 with a 34.75.

Freshman Morgan McVey incurred just one fall, scoring a 7.7.

"Without the fall she scores in the mid 8s," DeHaan said. "It is good to show the girls afterwards, when you add back in the points they lost for falls, what they could have scored."

On the uneven bars Lowell executed some great tricks, but will now need to work on the flow and keeping everything moving and connected, according to DeHaan. Abby Rogalke, a freshman, recorded a flyaway dismount.

"She has a lot of potential for when she connects everything," DeHaan said. Vonda Kyes and Lauren

Trasky opened a few eyes with their performances in the floor exercise.

"I was pleased with how well Vonda Kyes and Lauren Trasky did," DeHaan said. Teft turned in a consistent routine; while Rogalke and McVey both had back tucks in their routines which helped them climb to the 8.0 mark, and earned them both

their first regional qualifying scores on floor.

A lack of difficulty kept Lowell's scores low in the vault exercise.

"We need to work on more difficult vaults by adding some twisting to get our scores higher," DeHaan said.

The Red Arrows scored 121.675, placing them 13th

Lowell Results:

Vault

Abby Rogalke 7.95
 Morgan McVey 8.0
 Sarah Piell 8.05
 Kelsey Teft 8.55

Bars

Cassie Miles 5.1
 Abby Rogalke 6.25
 Sarah Piell 6.625
 Kelsey Teft 7.85

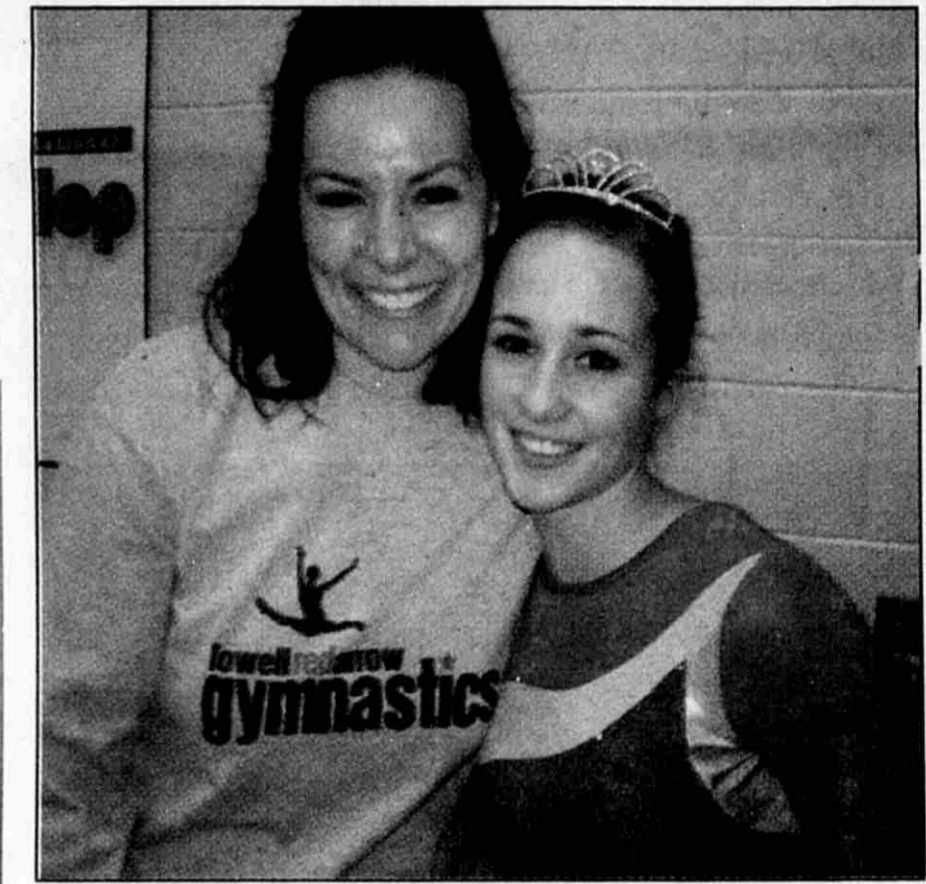
Beam

Abby Rogalke 6.8
 Cassie Miles 7.5
 Morgan McVey 7.7
 Kelsey Teft 9.3 (1st place overall in Div. 2).

Floor

Vonda Kyes 6.9
 Abby Rogalke 8.0
 Morgan McVey 8.05
 Kelsey Teft 9.05 (10th place overall in Div. 2).

in a field of 17. "It was a good first meet. A lot of young girls competed so we had a lot of nerves come into play. That will subside as we progress in our season," DeHaan explained.



Lowell gymnastics coach presented Kelsey Teft with a crown celebrating her "fall-less" beam routine.

Lowell Red Arrows earns first win against Lakewood

by Thad Kraus

In musical terms, Lowell basketball coach Jeff MacDonald described his club's first win of the year as more Metallica than Beethoven.

Either way, anyway, it was a rocking good result as the Red Arrows defeated Lakewood, 75-59.

"It wasn't finesse and beauty, but we'll take it. It was a feel good win and a feel good night," MacDonald said.

What it was is physical. If you didn't like a little bit of a bump or pounding, grab a seat on the bench.

"The officials let us play," MacDonald said. "I'm just happy for the players. They deserved the victory tonight."

In victory, the Red Arrows led from the opening tip to the final buzzer.

Lowell led 14-7 after one period of play and 31-19 at half-time.

Both clubs netted 19 third-quarter points. Lowell outscored Lakewood 25-21 over the final 12 minutes of play.

It was also a night where Lowell's scorers put some points on the board.

Isaac Tawney led all scorers with 24 points while Elliott Drain and Derek Cornish netted 17 and 16 points respectively.

Lowell, not a team that wants a high number of possessions, battled between patience and aggression to the rim.

"When you're being pressured, once you beat the pressure you have to get the ball to the rim," MacDonald explained. "We were able to make enough baskets tonight to keep the lead."

MacDonald thought his club allowed way too many second-chance opportunities for the visiting Vikings.

"Part of that is Lakewood was taking long shots, creating long rebounds, however, we have to do a better job of going out and getting some of those," MacDonald explained.

Nathan Bryans led Lakewood in scoring with 14 points.

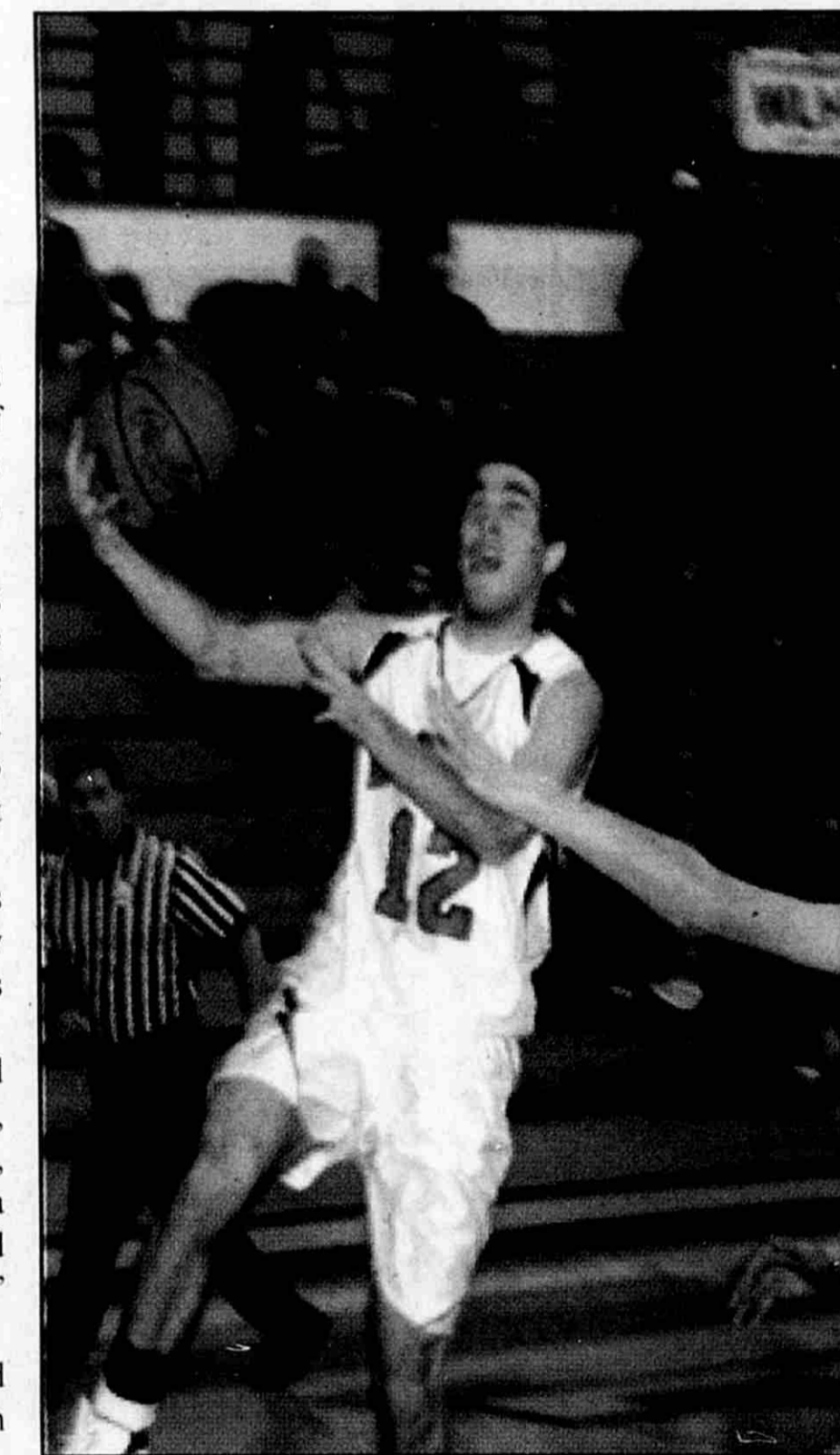
"This was our first game after the break, however, it is one we expected to win," Lakewood coach Vitor Imbuzeiro explained. "I was really happy with our fourth-quarter effort."

Creston 55
Lowell 49

Lowell's post-holiday play continued to improve in the Red Arrows' 55-49 loss to the Polar Bears.

"The boys are playing in sync a little better," said Lowell basketball coach Jeff MacDonald.

While Lowell can feel



Derek Cornish floats in the air on his way toward the bucket.

good about that, there's still disappointment in not getting the victory.

The Red Arrows were outscored 14-7 in the opening eight minutes. Lowell diced the deficit to one at half-time, 23-22. The two clubs traded buckets in the third quarter with Creston leading 36-35 heading into the final stanza.

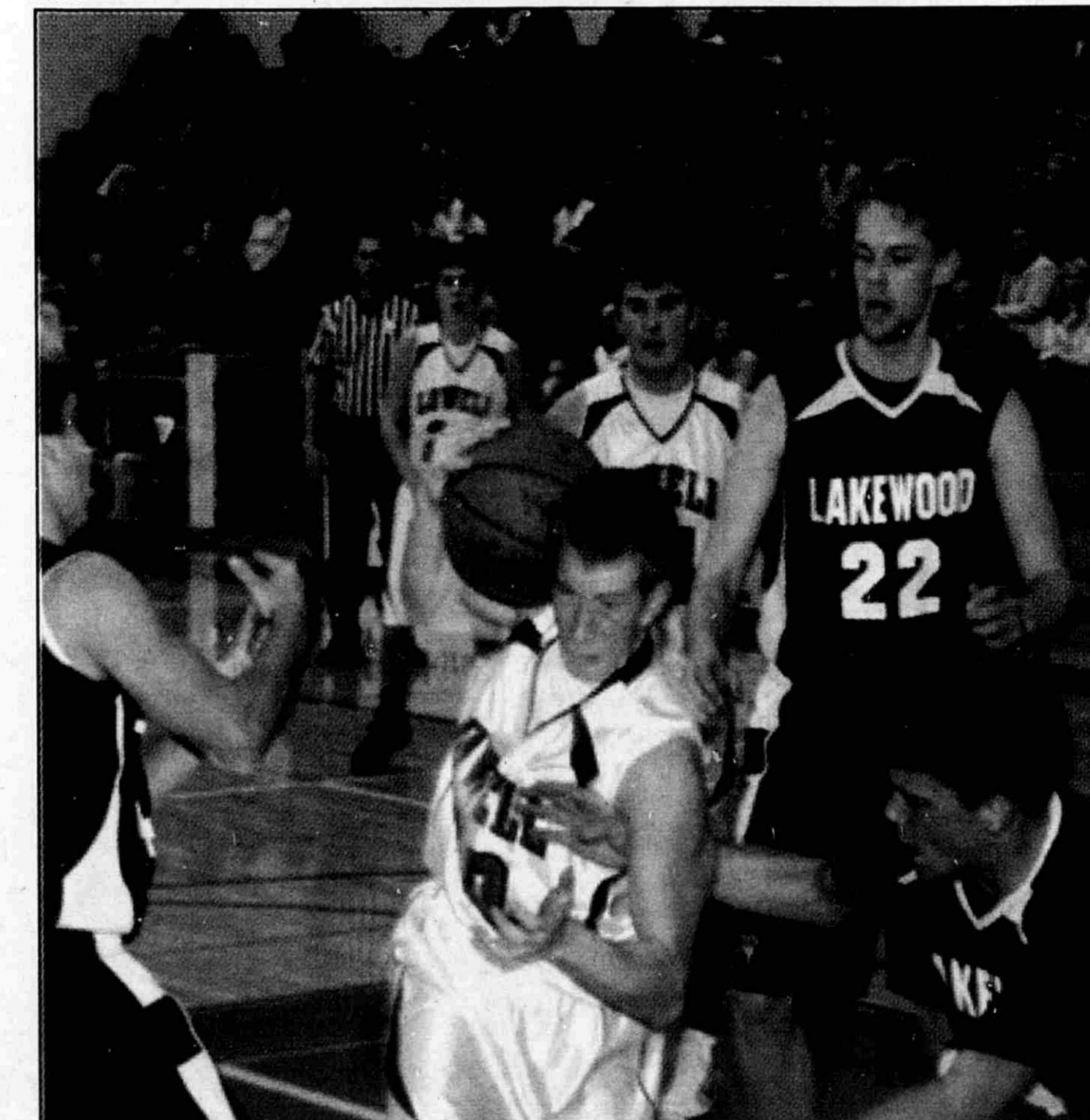
Lowell took an early 37-36 fourth-quarter lead where the two teams were never separated by more than two possessions.

"The key play down the stretch was they stripped us of the ball with about two minutes to play when we were down three and got a bucket at the other end," MacDonald said.

Jacob Meyer led all Lowell scorers with 15 points. He was 7-of-7 from the foul line.

Derek Cornish chipped in with 14 and Isaac Tawney contributed with 10.

Lowell hosts Grand Rapids Christian on Friday.



Jon Hanson battles for possession in Lowell's win over Lakewood.

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Red Arrow SPORTS

Little separates Lowell in victory from Greenville

by Thad Kraus

Lowell and Greenville knew that Wednesday's dual match would be the only time this year the two O-K White wrestling powers would meet.

So all the Red Arrows and Yellowjackets did was engage in an epic and memorable battle which was decided on an eighth criteria

decision over Eric Hansen. Lowell led 28-25 going into the night's final match between Jake Gould (140) and Collin Fuller.

The Yellowjacket recorded a 6-5 decision to tie the score at 28-28.

The night's most emotional and controversial match came at 171 pounds between Jackson Morse and

tallied a takedown and a near fall to post a dramatic 8-7 victory.

The controversy came as to whether time had expired before the referee had counted off for the near fall.

Dean believed that time was out and the match was still being refereed.

"I felt that the time was out and the scorekeeper felt time was not out," Dean explained. "I had to go out on the mat and tell the ref the match was over. I'm sure nobody meant any ill will."

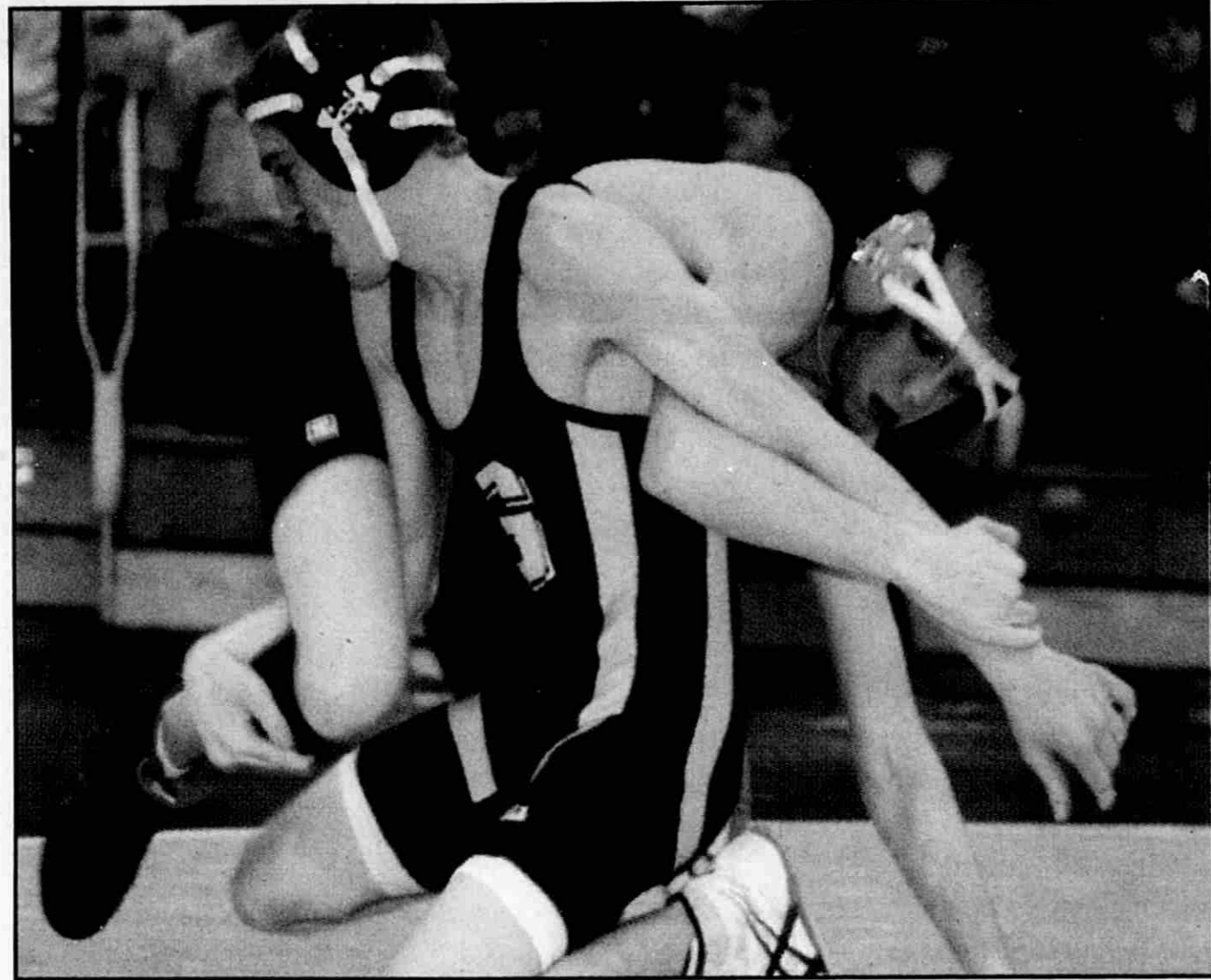
In regards to the controversy, Johnson said he was sure no one had a better seat as to what happened than the ref.

"Let's not forget, the Bonner kid is having a pretty good year," Johnson said.

Dean didn't. "Bonner looks like he's in better shape and is stronger this year and tonight he stayed in better position."

Lowell won five of the first seven matches.

Andrew Morse (145) and Gabe Dean (189) posted pins while Dan Fleet (152), Ryan Olep (215) and Connor



Zack Jeffries applies the pressure during his match at 112 pounds.

Kruse all tallied decisions. Olep's was a major decision.

Other than the Morse match, Lowell's only other loss came at 160 pounds with Jake Stehley losing to Jordan Thomas 17-5.

One of Lowell's two wins over the final seven matches

came from senior Matt Griffioen (125). He defeated Devon Lehman 7-5.

Dean was pleased with what he saw from Griffioen and from Gould (even in defeat).

"Those kids have great potential and are beginning to believe in themselves a little bit," Dean said. "I see a lot of good things happening with those guys."

For Greenville it was just their second loss of the season. The other came against Richmond (who also defeated Lowell).

"For the most part I thought things went our way tonight. It would have been nice to win. Lowell has a great team, however, this is just one rung on the ladder to the top for both of us," Johnson concluded.

Weight Class Results:

145 lbs
Andrew Morse (L) def. Josh Juarez, Pin, 2:53.

152 lbs
Dan Fleet (L) def. Kody Wall, Decision, 6-3.

160 lbs
Jordan Thomas def. Jake Stehley (L), Major Decision, 17-5.

171 lbs
Adam Bonner def. Jackson Morse (L), Decision, 8-7.

189 lbs
Gabe Dean (L) def. Chris Johnson, Pin, 4:38.

215 lbs
Ryan Olep (L) def. Roman Androde, Major Decision, 11-3.

HWT
Connor Kruse (L) def. Juan Borje, Decision, 10-3.

103 lbs
Peter Cook def. Martin Brubaker (L), Pin, 1:53.

112 lbs
Ryan Hansen def. Zack Jeffries (L), Decision, 11-5.

119 lbs
Luke Gilmore def. Kalvin Meyer (L), Decision, 18-12.

125 lbs
Matt Griffioen (L) def. Devon Lehman, Decision, 7-5.

130 lbs
Ty Kesselring def. Jake Fillingham (L), Pin, 2:58.

135 lbs
Gabe Morse (L) def. Eric Hansen, Decision, 7-3.

140 lbs
Collin Fuller def. Jake Gould (L), Decision, 6-5.

New Lothrop Invitational
Lowell wrestlers claimed top honors at the New Lothrop Invitational over the weekend.

The Red Arrows placed 13 of their 14 wrestlers including four firsts and two second-place finishes.

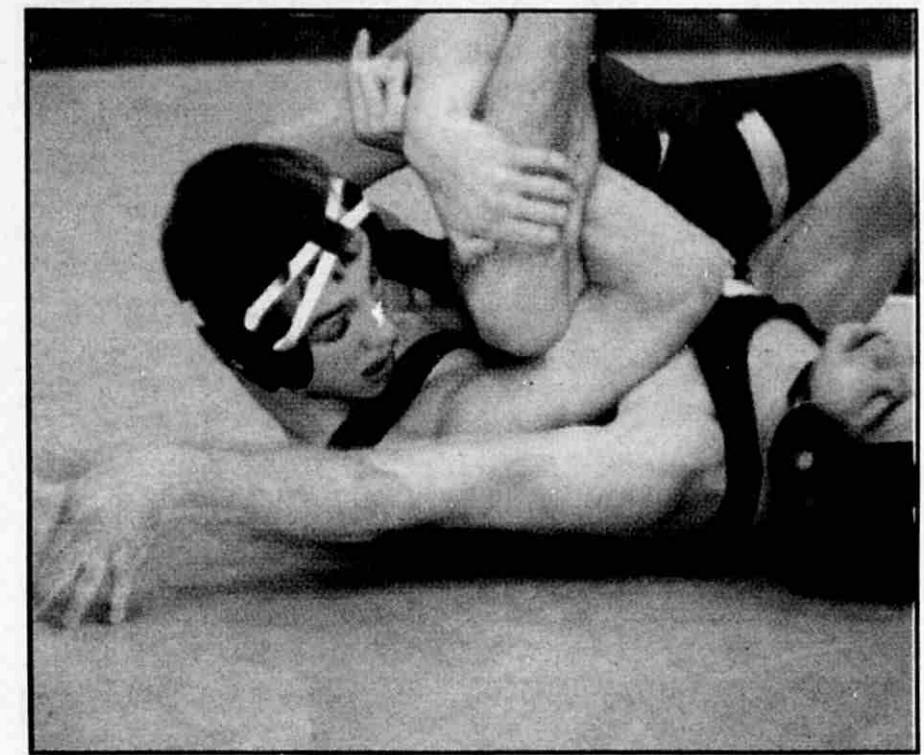
"Across the board I was proud of our performance," said Lowell wrestling coach Dave Dean.

Earning firsts in their weight classes were Andrew Morse (145), Dan Fleet (152), Jackson Morse (160) and Ryan Olep (189).

Gabe Morse wrestling at 135 pounds and Gabe Dean at 215 were runners-up in their respective weight classes.

Lowell finished with 243.5 points easily outdistancing their nearest competitor, Corunna at 177.5.

The New Lothrop invitational had seven ranked teams competing in the field.



Andrew Morse with a second-period pin in the opening match.

tie break, giving Lowell a 29-28 win.

"This is a deep, traditional rivalry between two wrestling schools," said Lowell wrestling coach Dave Dean. "I'm glad to have it and I'm glad we're still in the same league. This is good for the sport of wrestling."

Because Lowell was bumped up into Division I this year, the two schools will not see one another in the post season.

Last year, Lowell defeated Greenville in a Division 2 regional final.

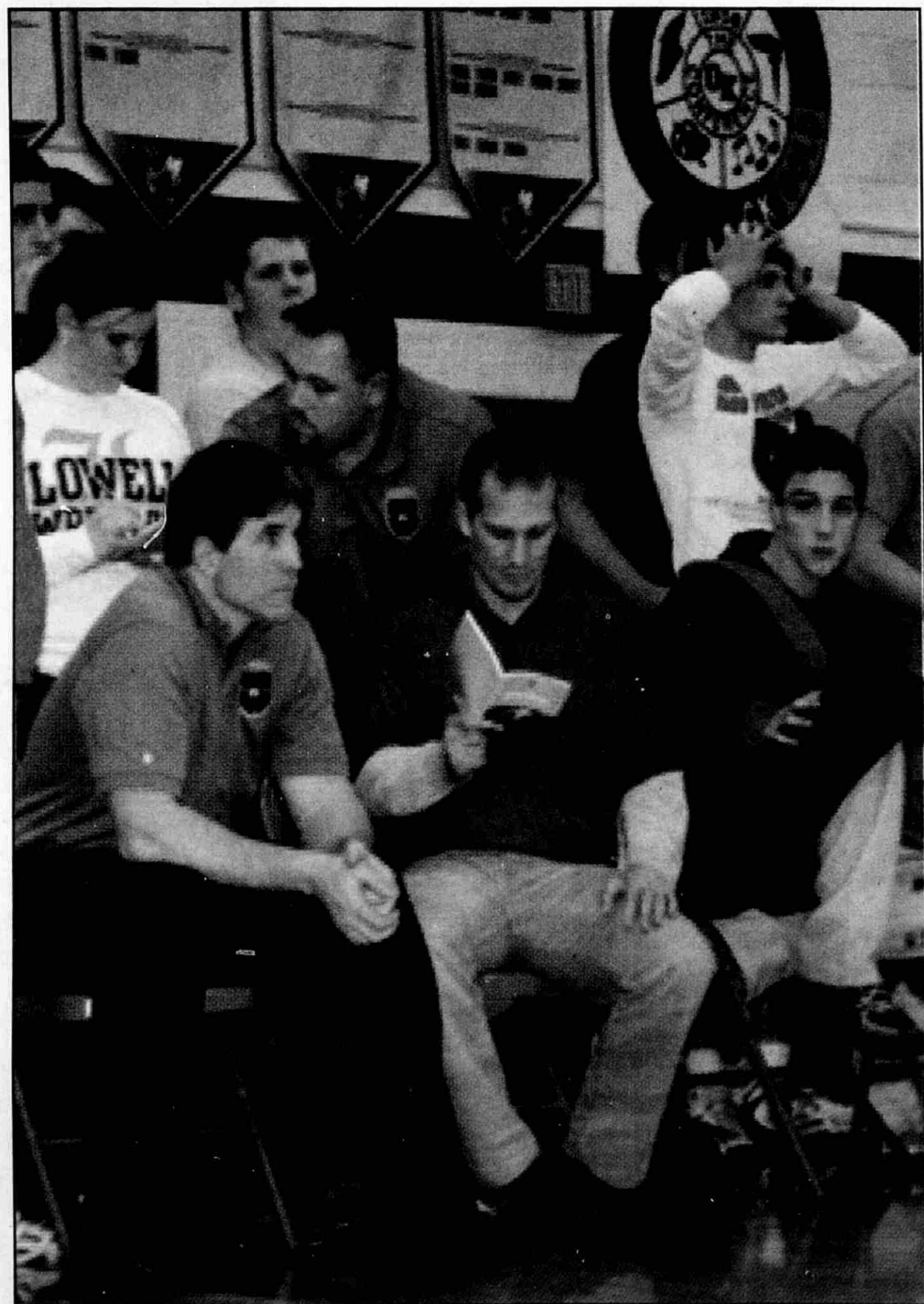
"The league dual match this year is a bigger deal. The stakes are a little different," Greenville coach Paul Johnson explained. "Because we won't see each other again, to win this match means a little more."

The eighth criteria used to determine the winner of the dual was the greater number of first points scored. Lowell edged Greenville in this criteria 8-6.

"You come to expect that with those guys," Dean said. "They have a heck of a team and a heck of a program."

Greenville fell behind 22-7 early in the match before battling back to tie the score at 25-25 when Tyler Kesselring (130 pounds) pinned Lowell's Jake Fillingham at 2:58 of the second period.

Gabe Morse (135) gave Lowell a short-lived lead when he earned a 7-5



Justin Cichocki, Lowell assistant wrestling coach, checks the rule book for tie break criteria during the latter moments of the final match against Greenville.

Red Arrow SPORTS

Lowell rolls past Creston, 61-36

by Thad Kraus

The good news for the Lowell girls' basketball team is they're 5-2.

The bad news for their upcoming opponents, the Red Arrows have yet to play their best basketball.

"I'm pleased with our record, not pleased yet with our play," said Red Arrow

coach Danielle Gallert, thrashing her team's 61-36 thrashing of Creston.

Lowell used its press to run out to a big, early lead against the Polar Bears.

The Red Arrows led 13-5 after the opening eight minutes and 34-11 at half-time.

"We ran our press well

and scored a lot of points off of it, but we also turned the ball over a lot," Gallert explained.

Following a three-week layoff, Gallert expected her club to play with more enthusiasm and excitement.

"Instead, we were just blah," she said.

Lowell was led in scoring

by Katie Tompkins with 17 points. Stephanie Stevens contributed with 14 and Bryleigh Loughlin added 13 points.

"I thought we got better with our ball movement as the game progressed and did a better job of getting the ball inside easily," Gallert concluded.

Someone had to say it!



Thad Kraus

The college football bowl season is finally over. Imagine that!

Remember once upon a time you had the four major bowls, actually five with the Cotton Bowl, all on New Year's Day?

What a feast! That's not even talking about the food mom cooked - pork chops, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, applesauce, and if memory serves me well, fresh baked apple pie for dessert. Oh My!

All the bowl games on one day. That's when you had to decide how much of each game you wanted to watch. It was kind of like eating - how much sauerkraut and pork could one's belly take?

Now, you get to watch the Rose Bowl on this day, then one must wait a day or two to watch the next bowl game and two more days to watch the next one and so forth. Finally, after way too many days, you get to the bowl game that decides a mythical championship.

If you're like me, you dream of a day when we get back to the way it was. Give me back my New Year's Day celebration.

Mom still cooks sauerkraut and pork on New Year's Day, why can't we still have our bowl games?

We all know why. Money and network television has ruined it.

So, did you sit down and actually watch a full bowl game this year? I didn't. I'm trying to remember the last

time I did. Did you even care by the time it got to Texas and Alabama?

All of this leads to what did keep your interest - The Lowell Ledger Bowl Pick Bonanza.

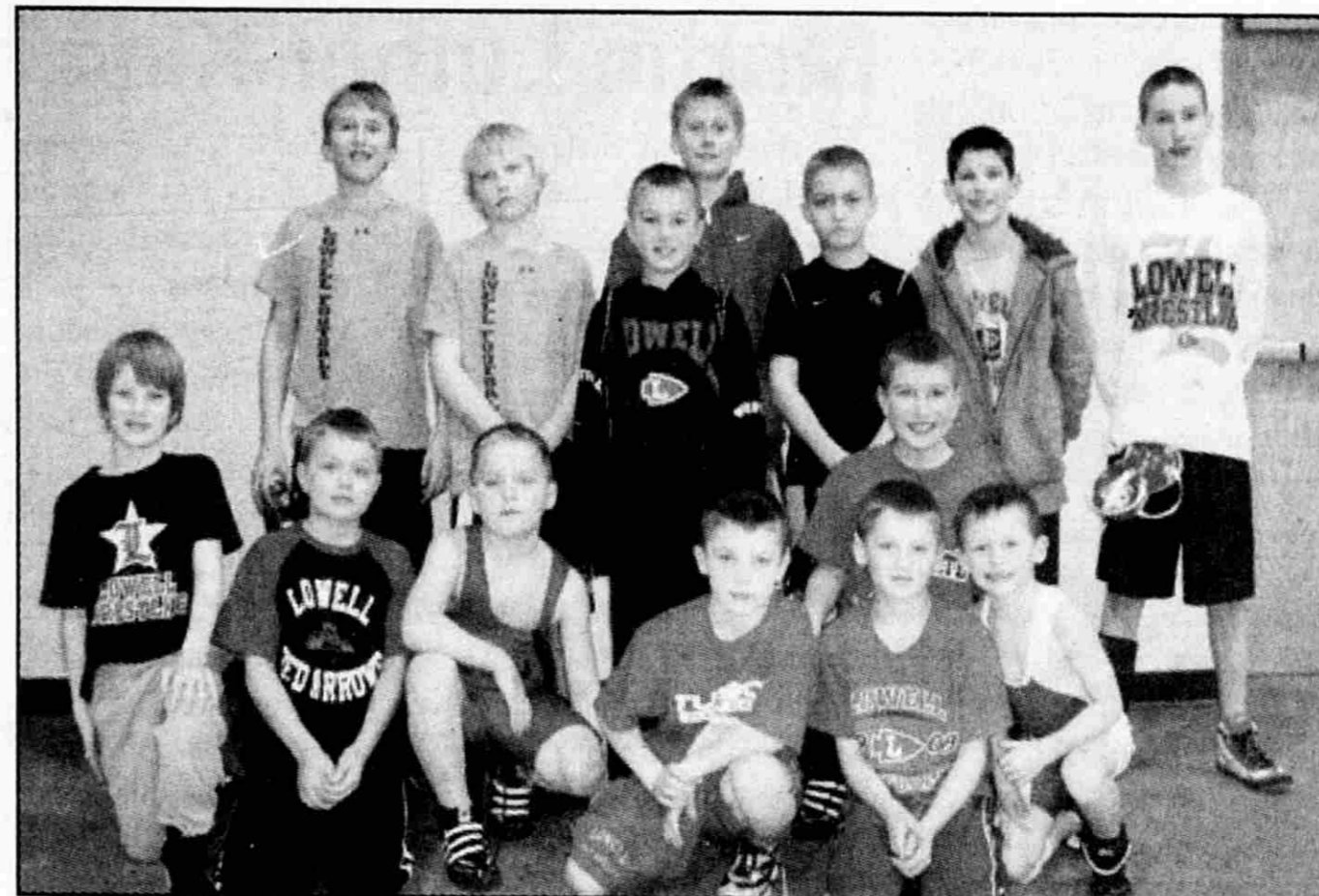
I picked 20 of 34 games correctly. Just a "Thad" better than last year. While it was good enough to defeat most of the field, there was one person who stood alone after game 34 was completed. That person was Dale Dawson. He chose 21 of 34 games correctly.

For that, he wins a \$50 gift card from Larkin's.

Congratulations to Dale and a big thank-you to all who participated and to Mike Larkin (Larkin's) for providing the prize.

Youth wrestlers place first

Lowell youth wrestling teams placed first at the Springport Duals on Sunday, Jan. 10. Lowell went undefeated to win the first place plaque and medals beating Springport, Ionia, Bronson, Byron Center and Dansville. Their next duals will be held at Lowell High School on Friday, Jan. 22.



Top right: Lowell team red, back row: Garret Taylor, Danny Kruse, Sage Serbenta, Logan Blough, Garret Pratt, Zeth Dean, Doak Dean, Jacob Hough, Avery Mutschler, and Ramsey Mutchler.



Bottom right: Lowell team white, back row: Trevor VanDyke, Austin Engle, David Kruse, Eli Boulton, Keagan Yuhas, Nate Stephens, Mark Raush, and Logan Vandermulen; **front row:** Lane Ryan, Matt Stephens, Jon-Luc Richmond, Riley Taylor, Zach Ward, Logan Ryan, and Carter Blough.

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appreciate your help! Let's all try to HELP EACH OTHER survive the winter.



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obituaries

HATCHETT

William "Bill" Robert Hatchett, Jr., age 39, of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly Sunday, January 10, 2010. He is survived by his loving wife of 5 years, Katie. He was preceded in death by his father, William Robert Hatchett, Sr. He is also survived by his mother, Rose Hatchett; father and mother-in-law, Denny and Linda Hawk; sisters, Jani (Matt) Cooke and Amy (Jon) Rotche; sister-in-law, Kirsten (Matt) Lahti; brother-in-law and friend, Dusty (Marianne) Hawk; nieces and nephews, Payton, Dethan, Quinn, Eli, Keenan, Lincoln, Sienna and Piper. Funeral services will be Thursday at 1 p.m. at the Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, Rev. Dean Bailey of Alto-Bowne Center United Methodist Church officiating. Visitation will be Wednesday, 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to Bill's wife.



Changes make it easier to qualify for extra help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan costs

Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security, and Chubby Checker, Grammy Award winner and rock and roll legend, launched a new campaign to inform millions of Americans about a new "twist" in the law that makes it easier to qualify for extra help with Medicare prescription drug costs. The extra help program currently provides assistance to more than nine million senior and disabled Americans -- saving them an average of almost \$4,000 a year on their Medicare prescription drug plan costs. To apply for extra help, there is an easy-to-use online application available at www.socialsecurity.gov. "The changes in the Medicare law that take effect January 1, 2010 will allow hundreds of thousands of Americans who are struggling to pay their prescription drug costs to get extra help during these tough economic times,"

said Commissioner Astrue. "I am thrilled that Chubby Checker has volunteered to help us spread this important message through a new television, radio, and Internet spot as well as pamphlets and posters." "Listen up, America! For 50 years, people of all ages and backgrounds have danced the Twist," Chubby Checker said. "Now it's important everyone learn about this new twist in the law. Check it out at www.socialsecurity.gov." To qualify for extra help, people must meet certain resource and income limits. The new Medicare law eases those requirements in two ways. First, it eliminates the cash value of life insurance from counting as a resource. Second, it eliminates the assistance people receive from others to pay for household expenses, such as food, rent, mortgage or utilities, from counting as income. There also is another important "twist" in the law. The application for extra help can now start the application process for Medicare Savings Programs -- state programs that provide help with other Medicare costs. These programs help pay Medicare Part B (medical insurance) premiums, if any, and Part A and B deductibles and co-payments. To learn more about the extra help program and to view the new TV spot featuring Chubby Checker, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/extrahelp

State offices close for Martin Luther King holiday

Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land reminds residents that all branch offices and the Office of the Great Seal will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, Jan. 18. The Department of State mails notices to motorists 45 days before their driver's license or license plates expire to give them ample time to renew. Licenses and plates that expire on a day when state offices are closed, such as a holiday or weekend, can be renewed the following day without penalty. Motorists renewing license plates can "skip the trip" to the branch office and do business by mail, or if eligible, by Internet or touch-tone telephone. Easy to follow instructions can be found with the renewal notice. License plate tabs will arrive by mail within seven business days. License plate tabs can also be renewed at Self-Service Stations, many of which are available 24/7. Visit the Branch Office Locator at www.Michigan.gov/sos to find a Self-Service Station near you. With the exception of holidays, branch offices are open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Smaller branch offices may close for the lunch hour. On Wednesdays most offices are open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., with those in city centers open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. PLUS offices and SUPER!Centers are open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays. SUPER!Centers also provide Saturday hours from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information visit the department Web site at www.Michigan.gov/sos.

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classifieds

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AIR BED - Selecta comfort firmness for each of you. Dual chambers. Digital remote. Never used. \$795. Call 616-882-4767 or 616-293-6160.

CEMETERY LOTS FOR SALE - two, Bailey Cemetery, Vergennes Twp, corner of Bailey & Parnell. Call 616-608-4148.

BLACK UGGS - New never worn, size 8, \$90. Call 897-3029.

KEYCARDS MAKE GREAT GIFTS! - Help support the LHS Academic Boosters & save money at the places you shop in Lowell and in Grand Rapids. Cards are \$15. Stop by & get your card today, Lowell Ledger 105 N. Broadway. Cash or check only please.

PRICELESS STORAGE - Indoor/outdoor. New Units on Alden Nash, 1 mile South of I96. Call for specials 558-2900.

FREE AD! - Place & pay for an ad in the Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger for 3 weeks & receive the 4th week FREE! You must mention the special in order to receive this offer. Valid only with new ads, and must be paid for when ad is placed. Call 897-9555, fax 897-4809 or email to: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com, Lowell, Ph. 897-9261.

HELP US DELIVER THE PAPER... please DIG OUT around your newspaper tube, mailbox, steps, walkways & porches! Let's all try to HELP EACH OTHER survive the Winter.

MATTRESSES - Large selection of name brand mattresses starting at \$79. All sizes. Never used. Call 616-882-4767 or 616-293-6160.

FIREWOOD - Dry & split mixed hardwood, \$130 a cord or delivered for \$140. Call 616-821-9036.

INSULATION - All types available, including blown-in. Durkee Lumber, Alto. 868-6026.

misc.

GARY'S COUNTRY MEATS - Your marinated steaks melt in your mouth. Thanks, Joice Smith.

lost

LOST - Male cat Hudson/Elizabeth, gray/white tiger, white belly & paws. Needs monthly meds. Let him out, he will come home. 821-3203.

STILL MISSING - A long-haired ALL black male cat named Blackie. Has bright yellow eyes. 2 years old. Last seen 10/28/09 on Ryan Ridge & Alden Nash SE in Lowell Twp. ANY INFO, please call 897-8385. REWARD.

in memoriam

TO NORMA MAY November 26, 1938 - January 19, 2009.

Often in our thoughts, you remain Creeping in, bringing life anew to our memories Filling us again with both smiles and tears Spinning around, like a dance in the rain We are at peace, knowing you no longer travel in pain Yet the tear still come, tears for ourselves For the loneliness, the sadness, the missing of you It was through you that I truly learned to dance in the rain.

From her children, grandchildren & great-grandchildren

wanted

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LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT presented to SUSAN KOVALAK, named personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate Estate of ELMER NEMEC, Date of birth: 8/12/1927.

File No. 10-187-890-DE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, ELMER NEMEC, who lived at 2161 Leonard Street NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan died 11/6/2009.

TO ALL CREDITORS: 1/5/2010

R. John Stephan P71686 3875 W. River Dr. PO Box 327 Comstock Park, MI 49321 616-784-5080

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless Susan Kovalak 5658 North Division Avenue Comstock Park, MI 49321 616-784-3787

LUNCH MENU ELEMENTARY MENU Week of Jan. 18, 2010

MON: Footlong on bun (hamburger on bun also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), corn, assorted fruit, milk.

TUES: Chicken patty on bun (bagel w/yoogurt & peanut butter also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), oven potatoes, orange smiles, milk.

WED: French toast sticks w/syrup & scrambled eggs, fresh fruit, fruit juice, milk.

THURS: Tony's pizza (chili w/crackers also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), broccoli, warm baked apples, milk.

FRI: Chicken drumstick w/ dinner roll (ham & cheese wrap also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), mashed potatoes w/ gravy, fresh fruit, milk.

To The Editor, continued

Ledger's Viewpoint was that the town is overrun by waste haulers and going to one waste hauler would improve the condition of our streets. I do admit that our roads are in bad shape, but that's because the roads are twice the age of replacement, not because we have more than one waste hauler. Jefferson St., where truck traffic is constantly going to and from manufacturing, isn't any worse off than most of our other streets. I don't believe this is about roads. It's about an exclusive franchise for one waste hauler and the possibility of losing your freedom of choice. Your freedom to choose your own waste hauler. Your freedom to choose the size cart you need. Your freedom to use bags only, without paying for a cart. All that could be lost if it goes to a single hauler exclusive franchise. Hopefully all this will be clarified in the up and coming Jan. 19 council meeting. Whatever comes out of the Jan. 23 meeting, no decision should be made until the bids are discussed in another public hearing.

Sincerely,
Jim Howard
Lowell

Dear Editor,

In a recent Ledger article entitled Moratorium Placed on Growing/Dispensing of Medical Marijuana, several

references were made to the Lowell Area Historical Museum, one stating that in 2009 the Museum lost \$13,000. This would lead the reader to assume the Museum's expenses exceeded its revenues by \$13,000. By inference, the reader can only further assume that the Museum must be mismanaged or poorly run. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Lowell Area Historical Museum is fiscally sound, well managed and fully engaged in the Lowell community. The Museum did lose out on a \$13,000 grant request to the State of Michigan's Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs as did most arts and cultural organizations throughout our state. The Museum reacted responsibly to these lost grant funds by not carrying out programming that these grants would have funded, i.e., we cut our costs.

The Museum has seen continued growth over the past 10 years and especially more recently. In 2009 our volunteers logged over 3700 hours. Museum admissions, attendance at programs for children and adults, use of historical research archives as well as artifacts donated to the Museum, have all increased in recent years. Lowell area citizens are making use of their Museum and we believe they are proud that their cultural

heritage is being displayed and preserved for current and future generations. And finally, no, the Museum is not contemplating either growing or dispensing medical marijuana.

Sincerely,
James Doyle,
Board President,
Lowell Museum

Dear Editor,

Last week's issue of The Lowell Ledger had an article that referred to the Lowell Area Historical Museum's annual report that I gave at the Lowell City Council meeting. I believe clarification is needed and so I would like to recap the report.

I had reported that the Museum had a very good year in 2009. That we estimated over 22,000 people came to our Museum, programs, workshops, or visited our traveling exhibits. The Museum recorded over 3,700 volunteer hours from 47 volunteers. We presently have three traveling exhibits touring our community. Our participation in community events was strong in 2009 and will remain strong in 2010. Unfortunately a grant request for \$13,000 we made to the State's Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs was denied due to State cutbacks. All Arts and Cultural organizations across our State have experienced a similar

fate. However, we remained fiscally sound due to our membership and fundraising. We will need to stay focused and fiscally cautious because the economic picture may not improve enough to receive State funding in the near future. The Museum remains grateful for the grants that we received in 2009 and would like to thank the following: Lowell Area Community Fund, Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation, Historic District Commission, Look Fund, Lowell Community Fund and the Lowell Women's Club. The grants, millage we receive from the people of Lowell and the tax allocations from Lowell and Vergennes townships help fund the Lowell Area Historical Museum.

My final clarification, the Museum is open on the first Thursday of every month to the residents of Lowell, from 1 p.m. until 8 p.m. This is in appreciation for the revenues we receive from the people in the City of Lowell.

I hope that this clears up any questions in the article about my report. The Museum is always happy to answer any questions and please feel free to contact us at any time at history@lowellmuseum.org or visit our website: www.lowellmuseum.org

Pat Allchin,
Museum Director

To vote on the current poll question go to: thelowelledger.com



616-897-0787

Sound Off!

The Ledger's "Almost" anything goes column!

The Ledger reserves the right to choose what is printed, and reminds the public that views expressed in Sound Off!, unless otherwise stated, are not the opinions of The Ledger staff or its publishers.

I miss the coffee shop in Lowell. It was especially nice for those of us that cannot get any other affordable Internet at their house.

I live on Lincoln Lake in the 900 block. I would like to say thank you to the person who took care of the snow on our front sidewalks on the morning of January 8.

last week's poll result: Sound Off!

What electronic item would it be hard to live without?

Blackberry.....	27%
iPod.....	9%
GPS.....	0%
T.V.....	55%
I hate technology.....	9%

Gilda's Club, continued

yourself for small victories. Take care of yourself today. Deal with tomorrow as it comes.

• Try something new. Whether you're interested in new recipes for healthier cooking, yoga or tai chi, watercolors or woodcarving, consider joining a new class. Set an intention to try something new once a month. Carve out what you really want to do in a day planner or wall calendar. Set aside a specific block of time, just like you would schedule a doctor's appointment. Then keep it.

• Seek a second opinion. Talk to a trusted friend or seek out a counselor. Having an outside opinion can help us with our "blind spots" - things we can't see ourselves. If you're not getting the help you need on your health journey, seek a second opinion. It's important to take action.

• Ask an expert. Perhaps you have legal, mortgage or tax questions that seem to cause additional stress on your current journey. Gilda's Club has five professionals coming in the month of

January to our Grand Rapids Clubhouse for a special "Ask the Professional" series. Visit www.gildasclubgr.org for dates, times and details.

• Ask for help. You may need a ride during snowy weather, help preparing meals or assistance with your weekly grocery shopping. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Consider joining a group to help support you while you are on your health or grief journey.

• Join a Support Group. Contact Gilda's Club at 800-326-1419 for more information about our cancer and grief support groups. Doing it "alone" or "on my own" is not always the best path to health. Being with

others who understand really does help.

• Spend time with supportive family and friends. Plan a special meal, outing or regular get-togethers. Spending time with others who truly care about you is a gift to both of you. And, it doesn't have to mean spending money. Consider free activities like taking a walk in the park, window shopping or volunteering.

• Give the gift of time or treasure. This year you may wish to volunteer at a favorite charity or organization. Doing, even a little bit for others, is enormously good for our souls. Visit www.gildasclubgr.org to discover more about

current volunteering needs at Gilda's Club or to find another established charity to support.

This year, take time to honor those you know who may be living with cancer or grief and let them know that the free support program at Gilda's Club is available for them. Gilda's Club is in Lowell at 314 South Hudson Street thanks to a special partnership with The Pink Arrow Project II, Lowell Community Wellness and the Lowell Senior Neighbors. You may also contact us by calling 616-897-8600 or 1-800-326-1419, or visiting www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow for more information.

Outdoors, continued

all got plenty of exercise and fresh air climbing steep hills in the snow. We returned home wet and cold, and really enjoyed a hot drink around the woodstove.

There are close to a million active sites around the world, so geocaching can be played almost anywhere. There are

plenty of internet sites which provide information about cache locations, suggested equipment, and advice for beginners.

You don't need a license to go geocaching and there are no seasons. Cache locations are often rated as to the degree of difficulty

finding the cache, as well as the difficulty encountered navigating the terrain, so you can choose a level you find comfortable. If lack of motivation has kept you inside and dormant, geocaching may be the activity to lead you to new outdoor adventures.



January 6 - January 12

- "Balloon Boy" dad starts serving his jail sentence this week. He now denies that it was a hoax.
- NBC pulls the plug on the Jay Leno show in prime time and returns it to late-night.
- President Obama is planning new fees on banks to recoup bailout costs.
- USC head football coach Pete Carroll resigns and takes head football coaching job with Seattle Seahawks.
- Vatican City - Pope Benedict XVI denounced the failure of world leaders to agree to a new climate change treaty in Copenhagen last month saying that world peace depends on safeguarding God's creation.
- Sarah Palin signs a multi-year deal with Fox News saying, "It's wonderful to be part of a place that so values fair and balanced news."
- Homerun hitter Mark McGuire finally admits to steroid use.
- Miep Gies, the woman who harbored Anne Frank and saved her diary, dies at 100.

Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

For puzzle answers, games, opinion polls and much more go to: www.thelowelledger.com AND CLICK ON KIDS SCOOP BUTTON

Kid Scoop Together: Funny Filler
Have a friend give you each type of word to fill in the blanks. Then read the story aloud!

America added a 51st state. It was named after me and was called _____ NAME OF STATE
The American Flag had to be redesigned, but instead of a star, there was a _____
_____ ADJECTIVE _____ sewn on to represent my state.

I chose the rare _____ ADJECTIVE _____ as the official state flower. This flower blooms only in the shade of large _____ PLURAL NOUN _____ in leap years.

In my state, people _____ VERB _____ to work in _____ PLURAL NOUN _____ instead of cars. Our state is the largest exporter of _____ ADJECTIVE _____ PLURAL NOUN _____ in the world.

Tourists _____ VERB _____ here from all over the world to see our amazing _____ PLURAL NOUN _____. And they enjoy our many fine restaurants, which serve _____ ADJECTIVE _____ dinners every _____ NOUN _____ Saturday evening.

Standards Link: Grammar: Use nouns, adjectives and verbs correctly in writing and speaking.

Kid Scoop-doku
Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word VIEWS in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

V	I	V	S
S			
	I	V	
S		V	
E			W

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS
This week's word: **ACHIEVEMENT**
The noun achievement means something that a person completes, usually worth celebrating.

My teacher said that my 100% score on the math test was a grand achievement.

Try to use the word achievement in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

Write On! State of the Children

Pretend you are the president. What would you say about the "State of Children" at this time in history?

The State of the Union
Your teachers give you report cards to show how you are doing in school. Each year, the president of the United States offers his version of a report card. It is called the **State of the Union** address.

The State of the Union address is a time for the president to discuss the country's progress over the past year. It is also a time to look forward and talk about what the president would like to see happen in the coming year.

The State of the Union address usually covers a variety of topics, such as the economy and jobs, national defense, as well as special challenges that the country is facing. The president shares his views, and then later, politicians and citizens discuss whether they think the president's ideas are sound or not.

Your Education

Which subject is your best? Which one is the most challenging?

Ethan struggles with math. Help him match each problem with its solution.

17 + 6 + 2 9 + 8 - 4
8 + 7 + 4 20
13 24 - 7 + 3
25 19

Your Energy

Your body's energy comes from the food you eat. Do you eat at least five servings of fruits and vegetables every day? Do you eat too many sugary snacks?

Here's a list of the things Ted ate. Each food is worth a number of points. Replace two items on each day with foods from the Healthy Foods List and make each day worth no more than 40 points. You must include five or more servings of fruits and vegetables.

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
OATMEAL 2	DONUT 7	PANCAKES 7
APPLE 4	CRACKERS 6	APPLE 4
PB&J 5	BERRIES 4	CELERY 4
BANANA 4	PEAR 4	BANANA 4
CHIPS 7	CHEESE 2	CANDY BAR 7
CHICKEN 2	STEAK 2	FISH 2
RICE 3	CORN 4	FRIES 7
PEAS 4	CHIPS 7	PEAS 4
ICE CREAM 7	PUDDING 7	PIE 7
TOTAL: 40	TOTAL: 40	TOTAL: 40

HEALTHY FOODS LIST

BANANA 4	ORANGE 4
CARROT 4	PINEAPPLE 4
CELERY 4	APPLE 4
GRAPES 4	CHERRIES 4
GRANOLA 4	STRAWBERRY 4
LETTUCE 4	BELL PEPPER 4
CUCUMBER 4	RADISH 4
PEAR 4	PEAS 4
PEACH 4	ASPARAGUS 4
MELON 4	NUTS 4

Standards Link: Health: Know the nutritional value of different foods.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Amelia was eating too much junk. She didn't get enough sleep or exercise. And she was having trouble concentrating in school. She made some changes and now is doing much better. How many differences can you spot in the BEFORE and AFTER picture?



Standards Link: Investigation: Find similarities and differences.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

H	S	S	E	R	G	O	R	P	H
C	E	X	E	R	C	I	S	E	E
E	V	I	F	Y	R	E	Y	A	
E	S	N	E	F	E	D	M	L	
P	P	A	K	P	O	O	R	T	
S	R	N	O	I	N	U	T	O	H
C	U	R	J	O	B	S	A	C	Y
J	T	R	C	S	T	A	T	E	D
S	N	E	Z	I	T	I	C	R	S

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

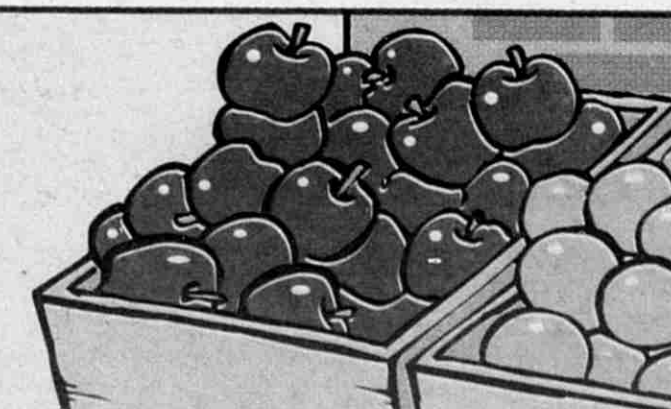
FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

Fact and Opinion
Read about the president's State of the Union address in your newspaper or its website. Did the president use more facts or more opinions? Discuss your findings with a family member.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Identify fact and opinion in expository text.

Why do fruit trees cry so much?

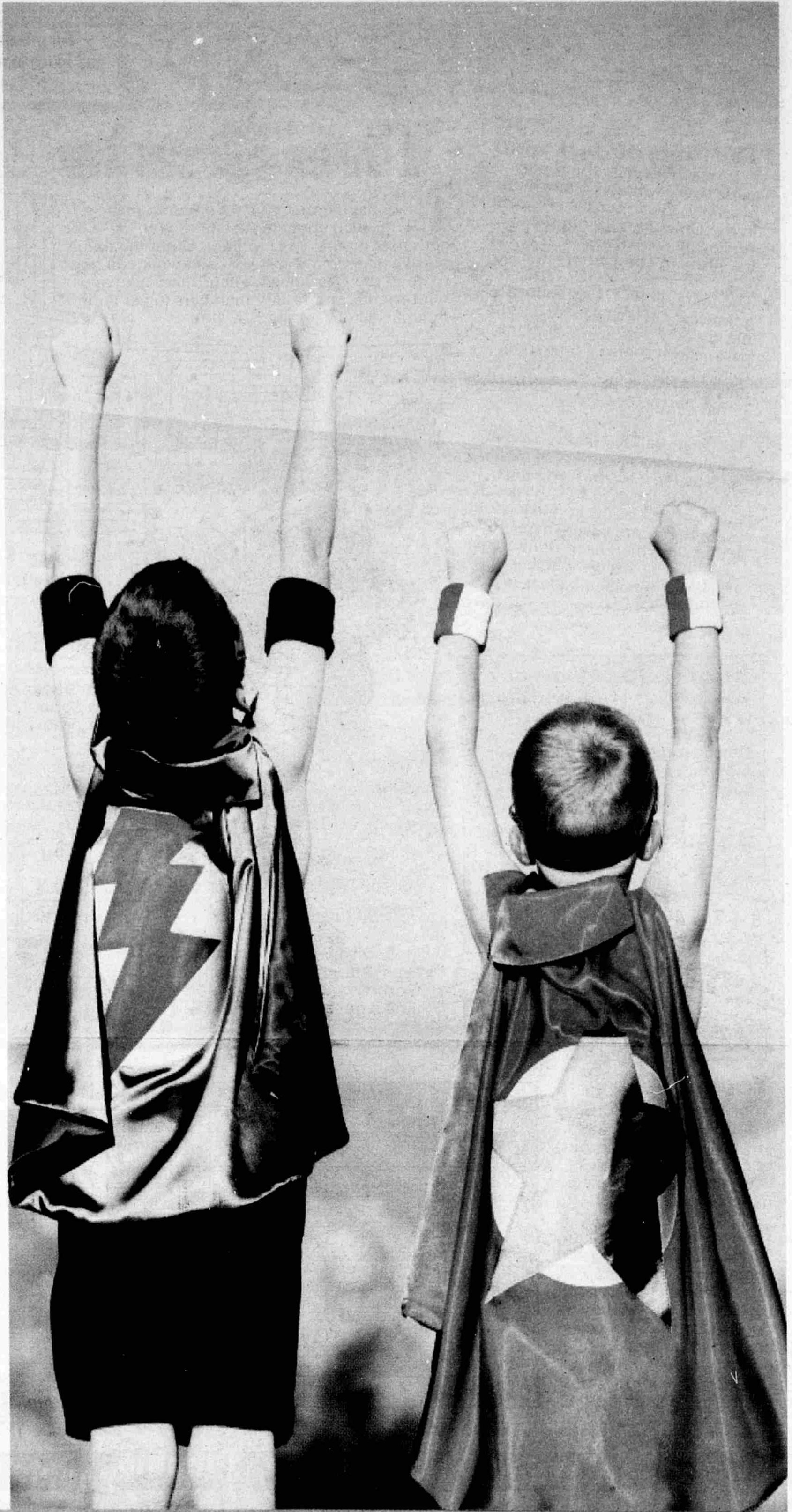
ANSWER: Because people are always picking on them.



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Auto-Owners Insurance's ranks highest among automobile insurance providers in the J.D. Power and Associates 2009 Auto Claims Study. Study based on full responses from auto insurance customers who filed a claim from July 1, 2008 to July 31, 2009. Excludes those with claims only for glass windshield, theft, stolen, roadside assistance or health injury claims. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of consumers surveyed July to August 2009. Your experience may vary. Visit jdpower.com.