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page 20

elementary olympics



page 7

LHS sports



pages 14 - 15

50 CENTS



Dentist's practice named business of the year

by Emma Palova

So, what is a bad day like at a dentist's office?

Well, for James Reagan it's like a snow day. Nobody shows up. On the other hand a good day is when everybody shows up.

"It goes by faster," he said.

Reagan credits his staff for the Business of the Year recognition from the Chamber of Commerce.

Every day he enjoys coming to work and putting people out of pain. He also expects that same love for work from his staff.

"When you get a business recognition it's a joint effort on the part of the whole staff," he said. "I don't see everybody. We all should celebrate what helps make this office successful."

The office, located in a building right downtown by the town clock, has had a dentist in it since 1935.

For Reagan, whose dad Robert Reagan was a dentist until he retired in 1994, the transition from dental school to work was easy. He worked with dad for 10 years.

"Our biggest conflict was just the radio station we played," laughed Reagan. "We worked well together."

Last year, Reagan celebrated 25 years in business, ironically with a broken arm because he fell off his bike in the driveway.

"Every day is different," he said. "I enjoy coming to work."

Nothing is more rewarding than getting a patient out of pain on a Friday night or a Saturday. Reagan has a clientele of approximately 4,000 to 5,000 patients, some regulars and some who only come once or twice. But, that is a standard for a dental

Business of the year, continued, page 3



Lorri VanHeulen, Gail Thomet, Jean Getzen, Cara Haines, Jim Reagan, Julie Spaans and Sue Hessler.



Snow storm blankets area

Last week's storm dumped 10 more inches of snow on the existing white cover. Area landmarks in Fallasburg Park, including the covered bridge, were embellished by the snow in the icy-like kingdom. Roads and driving became treacherous again, but the ice cover on the area lakes remained strong enough for fishermen to continue to enjoy ice fishing for bluegills.

In the dead of winter, birds appreciate having the feeder full with sunflower seeds.



Group needs authority to manage funds

by Emma Palova

In a series of road blocks, it becomes obvious that the Rails to Trails group needs a fiduciary to manage its funds. The group has \$425,000, held by the Friends of the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail, plus money coming from the railroad leases. The leases will generate \$15,000 to \$20,000 for trail maintenance, also held by the friends.

"I want to see the authority happen," said chairwoman Carolyn Kane from the West Michigan Trails and

Greenways Coalition. "We need an authority or a governmental unit, so we do not have to use someone else."

Discussions have started about forming an interlocal agreement between several units of government. Once formed, the authority could hold the money since there is more money coming pending the Michigan Department of Transportation grant for the

Rails to Trails funding, continued, page 2

LHS plans 'green' prom

submitted by, Samantha Hagerman, LHS student council

Lowell High School has decided to put on a green prom this spring for its junior and senior classes. The students want to promote helping the Earth by using environmentally friendly practices for this year's prom.

The theme for the prom is "Enchanted Forest" and it will be held at the Felt Mansion in Saugatuck. The student council is organizing

a dinner catered by Keiser's to promote local business and they are getting busses to carpool for the drive to Saugatuck.

But the big plan to make prom green, is a plate donation by the community for dinner at the Mansion. These plates will take the place of paper or Styrofoam plates that will just be thrown out.

After the dance, some of the plates will be given to the high school art classes

and made into a mosaic to remember this historic event. The rest will be donated to Flat River Outreach Ministries.

The school is asking anyone with extra plates in their homes to donate them to the high school. The school will be accepting plate donations in the main office of the high school.

For more information, contact Ms. Ellis at sellis@lowellschools.com

Rails to Trails funding, continued

purchase of the Greenville to Lowell piece.

"We will be billing for leases for maintenance," Kane said. "We need somebody to hold the funds."

Much discussion was devoted to hunting on the trail in connection with the Sportsmen's Club landlocked area on Riverside Drive on the Lowell to Ionia piece. However, the club has a shooting range on the south side of the property. They may be granted an easement so the land is not landlocked.

Other areas concerned with hunting on the trail include the Flat River Game Area on the Lowell to Greenville piece.

"We are sensitive to the hunting needs," said DNR representative Annamarie Bauer. "We need to deal with this on corridor basis."

DNR or friends groups may grant easements to prevent landlocking of property. However, the case of DNR granting easements for vehicle crossings of the trail is more restrictive due to potential conflicts.

"We're concerned if they're going to have landlocked property," Bauer said.

However, it is precisely because of a class A lawsuit over easements that is holding up MDOT grant money to the group for the purchase of the Lowell to Greenville piece.

"The enhancement office is waiting for the general attorney's response," said Belding grant writer Julianne Burns.

Burns also questioned why the railroad company has tied an additional purchase

of a 2.8 mile connector by Greenville to the entire deal.

"Time is running out on the grant," she said. "Our concern is Ionia to Lowell and Lowell to Greenville - no connectors. Our leverage is bigger than their leverage. We cannot

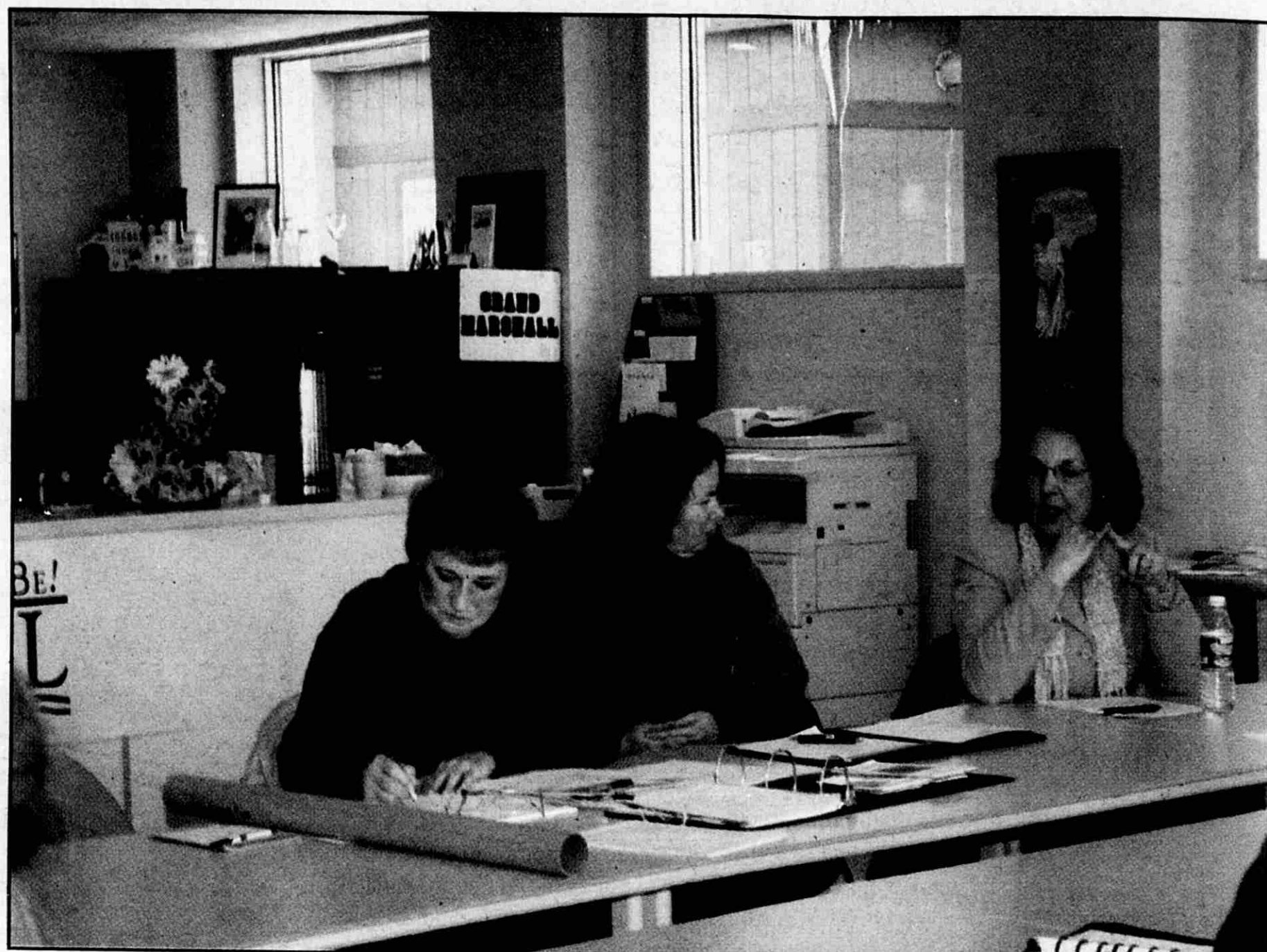
go back and renegotiate the enhancement application. We cannot rewrite the grant it's pending."

Cane said the 2.8 mile connector is not the group's project.

However, Burns also

requested to be reimbursed by the group for the grant writing due to the large volume of work throughout the process and budget concerns for the city of Belding.

The trail group will be present at the Lowell Expo on March 27. The next meeting will be held on March 11 at the Lowell Area Chamber.



Carolyn Kane, Annamarie Bauer and Julianne Burns engage in fierce discussion over the prospect that an MDOT grant may need to be re-written if tied to a 2.8 mile connector in Greenville.

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THE WOLFMAN (R) 5:05, 7:20, 9:35
FROM PARIS WITH LOVE (R) 7:30, 9:45
DEAR JOHN (PG-13) 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
TOOTH FAIRY (PG) 4:45

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Business of the year, continued

office his size, according to Reagan.

His staff too, has grown over the years from an associate of early years, Joe Kirkwood, one hygienist and one receptionist to four receptionists, three hygienists and two assistants. The fact that Reagan comes from the area from a big family has also helped, as well as the influx of young patients moving into Lowell and the townships.

"I either grew up with them or they knew my family," he said.

Reagan has learned a lot from dad, such as chairside manners, which also comes with experience.

Some of the early challenges included the integration of computers into the office and getting used to rubber Playtex gloves. Dentists were not required to wear gloves until the AIDS scare around 1986.

"Now, I can't imagine working without gloves," he said.

But, the integration of computers also meant faster processing of insurance claims, patient charting and record keeping.

"We see a lot more patients because we're faster," said Reagan. "This is not a one man operation."

He attributes his success to good stable staff with

minimum turnover and downtown convenient location.

"I know my patients," he said. "I know their families and extended families."

The recent economy has only had a slight impact on the dental office that less people are moving into the area.

"We've been well established," he said. "After the economic downturn, people will still need to take care of their dental needs. We hope to be here another 25 years."

Reagan's community involvement includes: chair of the Downtown

Development Authority, Arbor board member and First Bank of West Michigan Board of Directors.

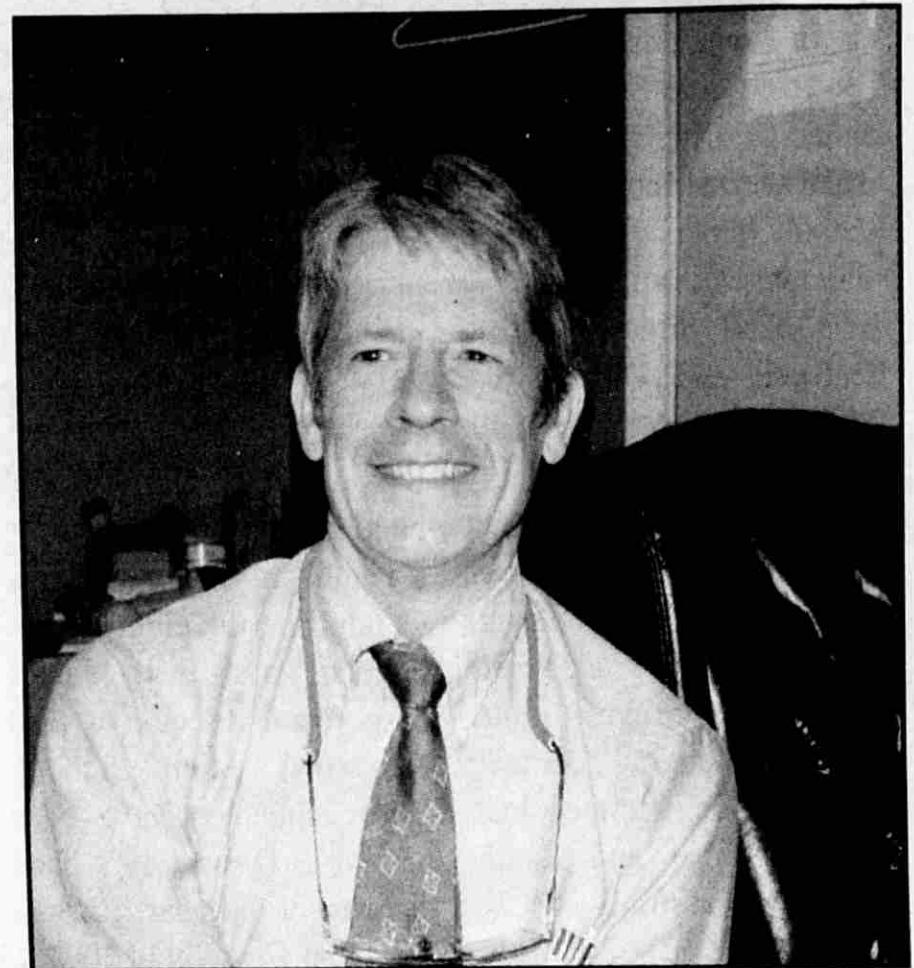
His hobbies and interests are bow deer hunting and golfing.

"I am a better hunter than golfer," he said.

Reagan said he would do it all over again.

"I like different patients that we see," he said. "It's nice to get them out of pain. They are forever grateful."

Reagan will be presented with his award at the annual Winter Gathering of the chamber membership on Feb. 18 at the Grand Volute.



Jim Reagan

lend a hand
volunteering opportunities

Pacific Intercultural Exchange (PIE) is looking for caring host families for foreign exchange students for the September 2010 to June 2011 high school year.

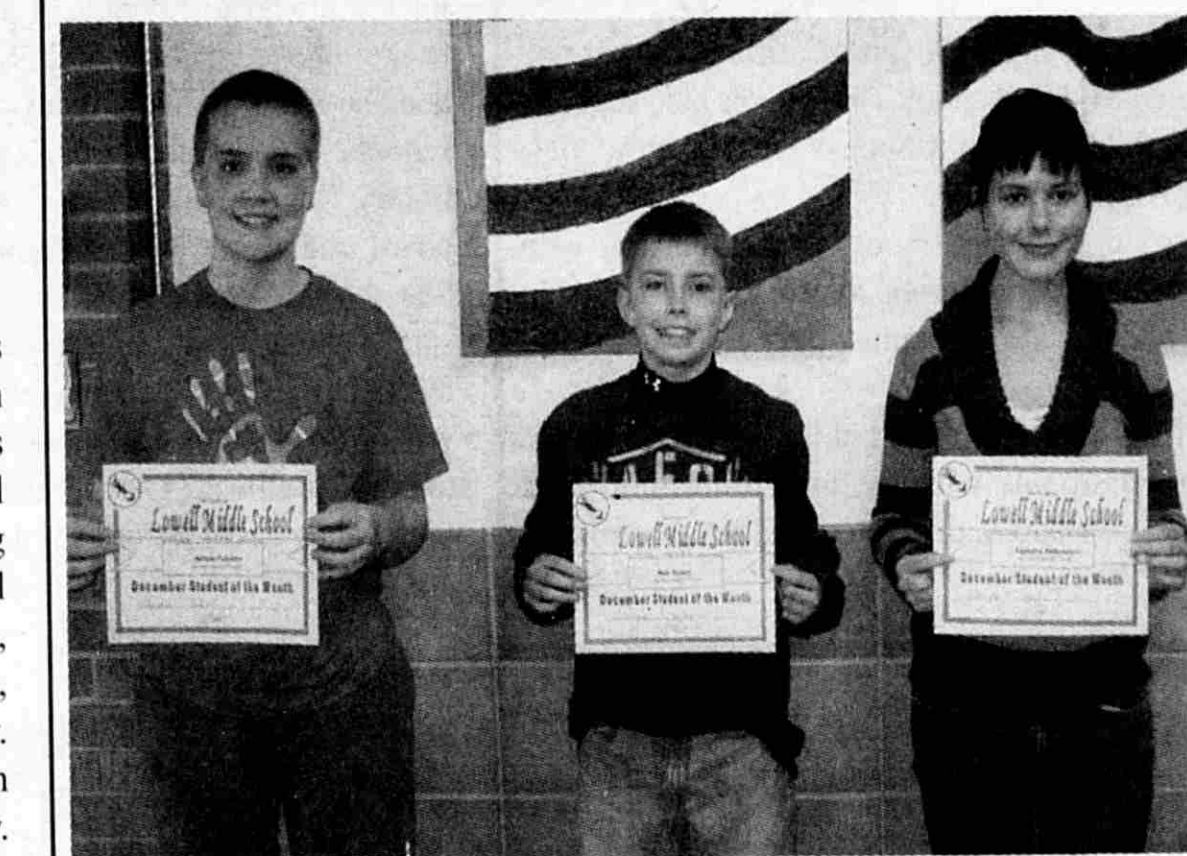
Now is the time to select your student from many who are already waiting for a host family. You will be able to communicate with your student by e-mail, telephone, and mail and get to know each other before their arrival in August. The students are 15 to 18 years of age and will attend the high school in your community.

The students will come from Germany, Venezuela, Hong Kong, Brazil, South Korea, China, Russia, Netherlands, etc. PIE has students from 48 countries available.

The host family is responsible for board, room and guidance. The students have their own medical insurance and spending money. There is no typical host family. Empty nesters, single parents, large families, or retired parents may apply. PIE can help you match a student for your family. There are students that are into sports of all kinds, the arts, music, etc. They all want to learn about our culture and share their own with a host family.

If you are interested in being a host family or have questions please call your regional manager at 616-527-0012 or 1-800-382-7439.

LMS Students of the Month



Pictured, from left to right: Ashton Pallotini, Nate Kyburz and Maddie Falkenster.

Lowell Middle School is proud to announce that Maddie Falkenster, Nate Kyburz and Ashton Pallotini were the December Students of the Month.

Falkenster is an eighth grade student who loves to read and ride horses. Her favorite subject is English and her favorite part about school is all of her friends.

Kyburz is a seventh grade student who is involved in basketball, football, golf and lacrosse. Because he enjoys sports, his favorite class is gym. He really likes his teachers and friends at LMS.

Pallotini is a sixth grade student who enjoys challenging classes like Algebra. When not in school, he likes sports, fishing, hunting and video games. The best part of being at LMS is the fact that classes switch during the day.



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.

CLASS OF 2014 ORIENTATION

Orientation will be held at Lowell High School on Wed., Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. in the Lowell Performing Arts Center. Parents and students are invited to learn about high school policies, requirements, and opportunities. Teachers as well as group/activity leaders will be available for questions.

IRISH SETTLERS WORKSHOP

The Lowell Area Historical Museum will hold an Irish Settlers Workshop for youth on Sat., Feb. 20 at the Wittenbach/Wege Center from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Each student will choose to participate in two of four classes. An Irish lunch will be served. Class size is limited. Call Linda to register, 897-7688.

UKRAINIAN EGG DECORATING

The Lowell Area Historical Museum will have a class on Ukrainian egg decorating for adults taught by Linda Busman on Feb. 27 from 10-2 p.m. Call Linda at the museum to register, 897-7688.

YOUTH FAIR & SCOUTING BREAKFAST

The Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a breakfast in support of the Kent County Youth Fair, Mar. 7, 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at St. Patrick's Parish Center, 4351 Parnell Ave., Ada. Donations requested at the door. Serving from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. includes eggs, pancakes, sausage, ham, hash browns, coffee and juice. Seventy-five percent of donations will go to the youth fair and 25 percent will go to the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts who help serve and clean up. For further information contact Dennis and Diane Brown, 897-7611.

ART & THEATRE CLASSES FOR YOUTH

Lowell Area Arts Council is offering 'Let's Draw' with Sandy Bartlett; 'Create Like An Egyptian' with Mary Pastor; 'The Art of Japanese Braiding' (Kumihimo) with Janet Krueger; 'The A, B, C's of Theatre' for middle school students; and 'Beginning Improvisation for the Theatre' for grades 2-5 with Mary Beth Quillin. Classes will be held in March and April. Call 897-8545 for more information or visit www.lowellartscouncil.org

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In The Service

Air Force Airman 1st Class Robert P. Karasiewicz graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. He is the son of Deb and Joe Karasiewicz of Ada. Karasiewicz is a 2007 graduate of Lowell High School. Army National Guard Pfc. Adam J. Youngs has completed the Warrior Transition course at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla. The course teaches

basic skills necessary for integration into the Army for all prior-service servicemembers to fully prepare them for Advanced Individual training or on to their first assignment. Soldiers undergo much of the same training developed in basic combat training, except it is developed in a program of instruction that lasts five weeks instead of nine. To complete the course, soldiers must complete the Army Physical Fitness test, with a minimum of 60 points in each event, M-16 weapon qualification, tactical foot marches, tactical field and situational training, and the land navigation course. Youngs is a 2002 graduate of Northview High School, Grand Rapids.

college news



Tiffany Taylor Venneman of Lowell graduated from Western Michigan University, summa cum laude, with a bachelor's degree in occupational therapy. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Venneman of Lowell.

Calvin College has announced its fall 2009 Dean's List. To earn a spot on the Dean's List requires a student maintain at least a

3.5 grade point average for the semester and have at least a 3.3 cumulative grade point average.

The following students were recognized: Alexander Boelkins, Alissa Goudswaard, Lukas Leisman, Carla Nelson, Jonathan Rasmussen Nichole Smith, and Jessica Wilbur, all of Ada; Katherine Baker, Jonathon Klanderan, and Rebecca Schmidt, all of Alto; and Elena Brubaker, Chad Drenth, Kelly Malling, and Brook VanEck, all of Lowell.

Northern Michigan University announced that Chelsea Smit and Abigail Debiak, both of Lowell, graduated in December 2009.

Smit graduated cum laude with a BA in political science.

Debiak graduated summa cum laude with a BS in biology/physiology.

health

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

Colorectal cancer: how to detect it early

Colorectal cancer is the third most common type of cancer in the body. Every person has approximately a six percent lifetime risk of developing colorectal cancer. Fortunately it can be treated and in most cases cured, if you catch it early.

Most colorectal cancers begin as a polyp. Polyps start out as a small growth on the colon or rectal wall that can take years to develop into a cancer that grows and spreads. You should see your health care provider if you have any of these warning signs: bleeding from the rectum, blood in your stool or in the toilet after you have a bowel movement, a change in the shape of your stool, cramping pain in your lower stomach, or a feeling of discomfort or urge to have a bowel movement when there is no need to have one. Colorectal cancer is more common in older individuals,

so health care providers usually begin screening people after the age of 50. Those individuals with a family history of colorectal cancer should begin their screening at an earlier age. Screening for colon cancer involves a yearly digital rectal exam and one or more of the following tests: Yearly Fecal Occult Blood Tests (tests stool for blood you can't see), Flexible Sigmoidoscopy every five years (a tiny camera that views the lower half of the colon), Double Contrast Barium Enema every five years (X-rays to detect abnormal spots in the colon), or Colonoscopy every ten years (a tiny camera that views the entire colon).

Talk to your health care provider about your potential risk of developing colorectal cancer and when you should begin testing for it.

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1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI 49357... Morning Worship... 10:00 A.M. Sunday School... 11:20 A.M. Evening Worship... 6:00 P.M.

SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell MI 49357... Pastor Dr. Mike Conklin... 9:45 A.M. Sunday School 10:30 A.M. Fellowship 11:00 A.M. Worship

area churches

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL (United Church of Christ) 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906... Sunday Worship... 10:00 a.m.

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God) 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery... Robert Holmes, Pastor

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936... www.lowellumc.com

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ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Fr. Eugene Okoli 402 Amity St. • 897-9820... www.stmary-lowell.com

St. Patrick students participate in Olympic themed celebration

In honor of the winter Olympics, St. Patrick School students participated in a series of events to "Go for the Gold" as part of Catholic Schools' Week.

The annual weeklong celebration began with a Saturday carnival, Under the Big Top, featuring circus-inspired games, prizes and treats. School and community members alike enjoyed an evening of family fun.

Then teams St. Killian, St. Brendan and St. Brigid competed for bronze, silver and gold shamrock medals. In events such as the egg and spoon short track, dog sledding cross country and the sledding slalom.

On Friday, students were treated to a special demonstration by International World Champion Martial Arts expert, Mariah Moore. The assembly concluded with a medal award ceremony.

Other highlights of the week included the collection of food and items to be donated to the Casa de la Paz charity; a school-wide bingo competition; visits to the Franciscan Life Process Center and Haitian Solidarity projects.

Reflecting on the 2010 theme of Dividends for Life, Karen Ristau, president of the National Catholic Education

Association said, "Catholic schools provide good things for students and families — high expectations and daily experience of faith. In these challenging times, the theme also reminds parents that the dividends of a Catholic school education — students prepared in faith, knowledge, morals and discipline — last a lifetime. There is no better way to invest in a child's future — or the future of our world."

At right, students participate in "dog sledding" and bottom left, Mariah Moore demonstrates for the class.



To tax or not to tax: a Social Security question

When it comes to Social Security benefits, you may be wondering who must pay taxes on them and who does not. Let's look at the numbers.

If you file a federal tax return as an "individual" and your total income is more than \$25,000, then the answer for you is yes: you'll have to pay federal taxes on your benefits. If you file a joint return and you and your spouse have a total income more than \$32,000, you'll be expected to pay federal taxes as well. If your taxable income is below those thresholds, there is no need to pay taxes on your Social Security benefits.

the total amount of benefits received in the previous year and is used to find out whether any benefits are subject to tax. You will need to submit it when you complete your federal income tax return. You already should have received your SSA-1099 for tax year 2009 in the mail — they were automatically mailed to all beneficiaries by January 31, 2010. If you receive Social Security and have not yet received a Form SSA-1099 for 2009, you can request a replacement online at www.socialsecurity.gov/onlineservices. You can also call Social Security's toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 and ask for a replacement SSA-1099 to be mailed to you. If you've been wondering

whether or not you'll need to pay taxes on your Social Security benefits and what forms you may need, now you know the simple facts.

Vonda VanTil is the public affairs specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 50 College SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or via email at vonda.vantil@ssa.gov

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2010 BOARD OF REVIEW NOTICE City of Lowell 2010 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The City of Lowell Board of Review for 2010 will be held at the Lowell City Hall, 301 E Main St, on the following dates:

- Tuesday, March 2nd, 9:00 a.m. - Organizational Meeting Tuesday, March 9th, 3:00 p.m. -9:00 p.m - Appeal Hearing Thursday, March 11th, 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Appeal Hearing

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2010 assessments.

By City Charter, residents are able to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 5th, 2010.

Table with tentative ratios and estimated multipliers for 2010. Commercial: 49.78%, Residential: 50.44%, Industrial: 53.56%, Personal Property: 50.00%.

American with Disabilities (ADA) Notice The City will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 3 days notice. Contact: Dave Pasquale - City Manager, ph. 616.897.8457

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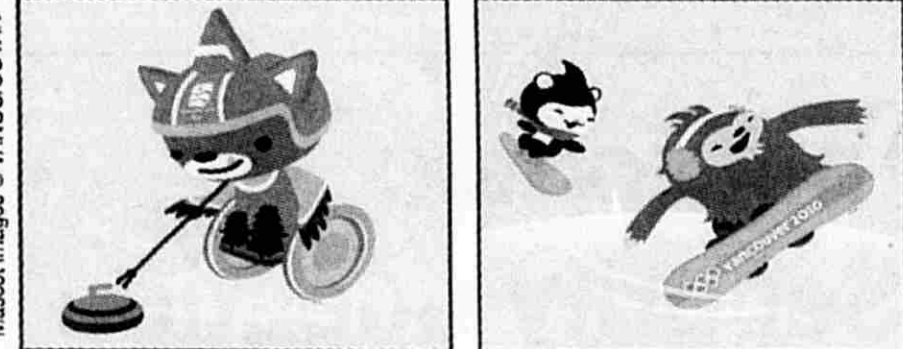
Meet the Mascots of the Winter Olympic Games

The mascots love winter sports! Can you match each mascot to the name of the sport he or she is enjoying? Do the math to check your work.

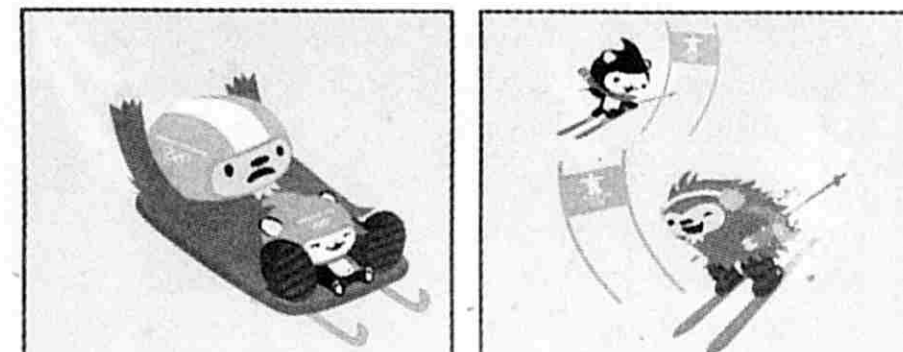
- 31 = Alpine Skiing** **24 = Snowboarding**
19 = Bobsledding **38 = Wheelchair curling**
27 = Curling **18 = Luge**



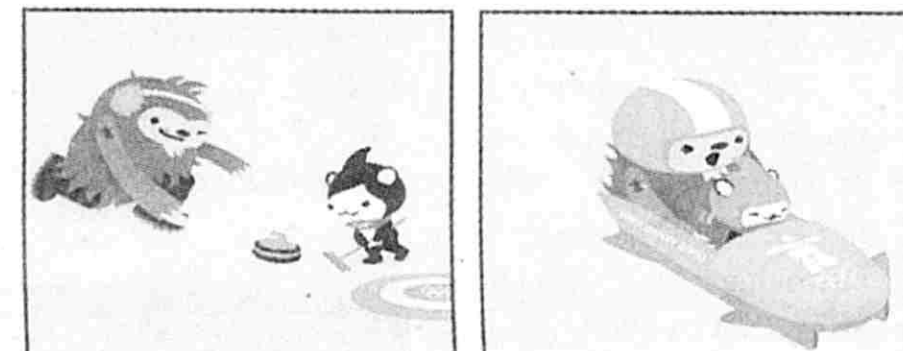
SUMI **QUATCHI** **MIGA**



22 + 16 = **47 - 23 =**



42 - 24 = **58 - 27 =**



18 + 9 = **40 - 21 =**

Sumi is an animal spirit who lives in the _____ of British Columbia. He wears the hat of the orca whale, flies with the _____ of the mighty thunderbird and runs on the strong furry legs of the black bear.

Sumi's name comes from the Salish word "Sumesh," which means "guardian spirit." Sumi _____ the land, water and creatures of his homeland.

Quatchi is a young sasquatch who comes from the forests of Canada. Quatchi is _____, but loves to explore new places and meet new friends.

The sasquatch is an animal legend of the Pacific Coast. He is a reminder of the _____ that still exist in the natural world, and makes us wonder about the possibility of undiscovered creatures in the great Canadian wilderness.

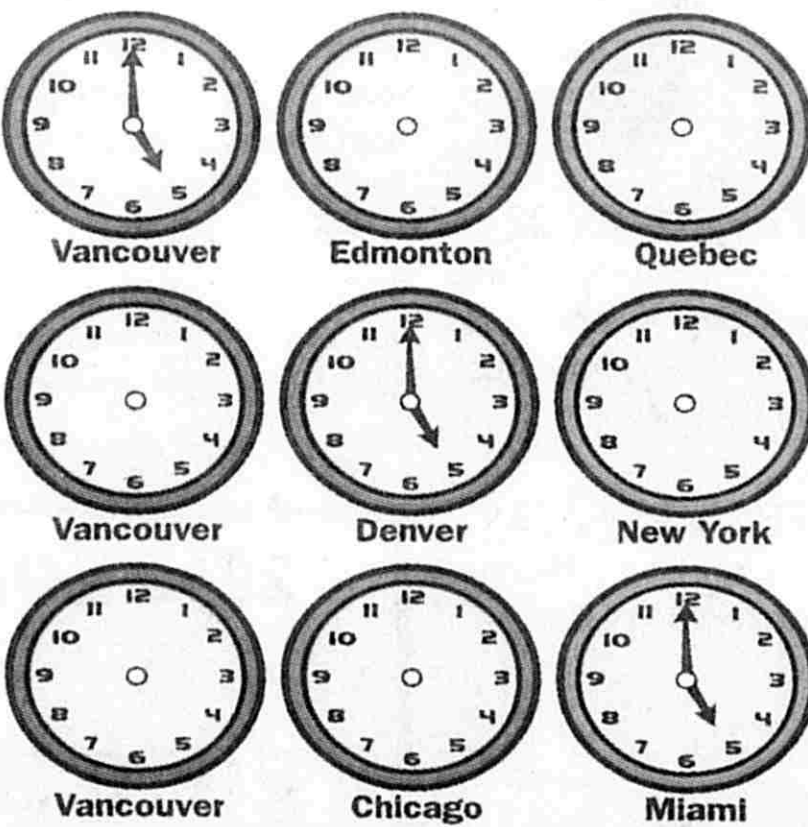
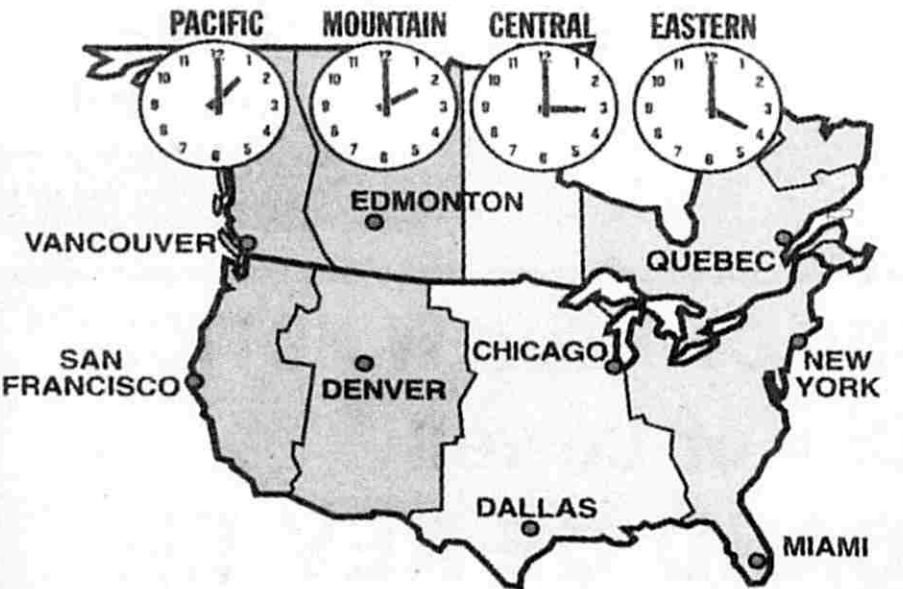
Miga is a young sea _____ . She is part killer whale and part Kermode bear—a rare white bear that only lives in British Columbia. According to Pacific Northwest First Nation legend, orca whales _____ into sea bears when they arrive on land.

MYSTERIES TRANSFORM SHY WINGS BEAR PROTECTS MOUNTAINS

A storm has blown some of the words out of these descriptions. Can you find out where the words belong?

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Use context clues to determine the meaning of words.

Complete the Clocks
 There are different time zones in North America. If it is 8:00 a.m. in Vancouver, it's 11:00 a.m. in New York. Complete the clocks using the map below.



Extra! Extra! Logo Language

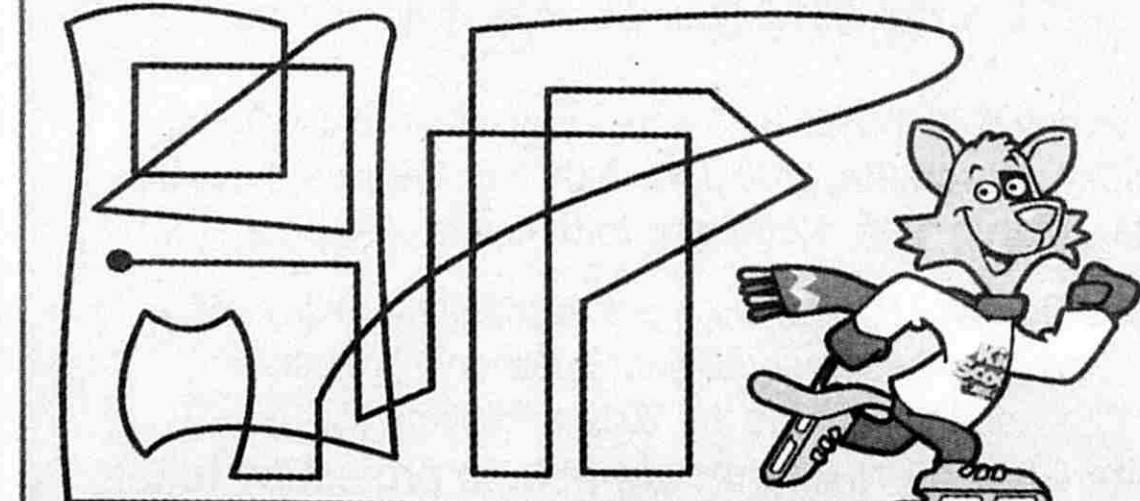
Organizations have logos designed to represent them. Look through today's newspaper to find logos that:

- use words and images
- triggers a good feeling
- you don't recognize
- use only an image or symbol

Standards Link: Language Arts: Understand the use and meaning of symbols in visual media.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Can you follow Woodward's ice skating pattern by tracing it with your pencil? Start at the big dot.



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

If you could be in any Olympic sport, which would it be? See this week's poll at: www.kidscoop.com/kids

Double Double Word Search

MASCOT'S SASQUATCH PACIFIC GUARDIAN CURLING ZONE DESIGN LOGOS GRAPHIC ALPINE SPORT PROUD BEAR ORCA

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N | G | E | N | I | P | L | A | H | A |
| A | A | L | O | G | O | S | C | C | C |
| I | S | B | O | T | Z | T | R | P | I |
| D | O | P | R | D | A | O | A | R | H |
| R | U | T | O | U | E | C | N | A | P |
| A | H | O | Q | R | I | S | E | E | A |
| U | G | S | R | F | T | A | I | B | R |
| G | A | A | I | P | M | M | E | G | G |
| S | S | C | U | R | L | I | N | G | N |

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Sports Symbols
 Sports teams often use names and mascots to give personalities to their teams. Look through today's sports section and make a list of characteristics you think a team wants to convey with its name.
 Standards Link: Language Arts: Understand the use and meaning of symbols in visual media.

What happens when a snowman gets angry?

ANSWER: He has a total melt down.

Kid Scoop Together: Mystery Spot

The 2014 Winter Olympic Games will be held in Russia.

To find out where in Russia, use the words below to fill in the blanks. In each word, one letter is circled. Write that letter in the circle that matches the number of each sentence.

COUNTRIES HAS FIRST IN WORK

- 80 _____ will participate in the 2010 Winter Games.
- 40 countries will participate _____ the 2010 Paralympic Games.
- About 25,000 volunteers will _____ at the Games.
- The _____ Winter Olympic Games were held in Chamonix, France in 1924.
- Nobody _____ won more medals at the Winter Games than cross-country skier Bjorn Daelhlie of Norway, with 12.

4 3 1 5 2

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Use context clues to locate information.

Kid Scoop-doku

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

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| N | A | | L |
| E | | L | |
| A | L | P | I |
| I | L | | |
| P | N | | I |
| L | | A | I |

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **MASCOT**

The noun **mascot** means an animal, person or thing that is considered to bring luck.

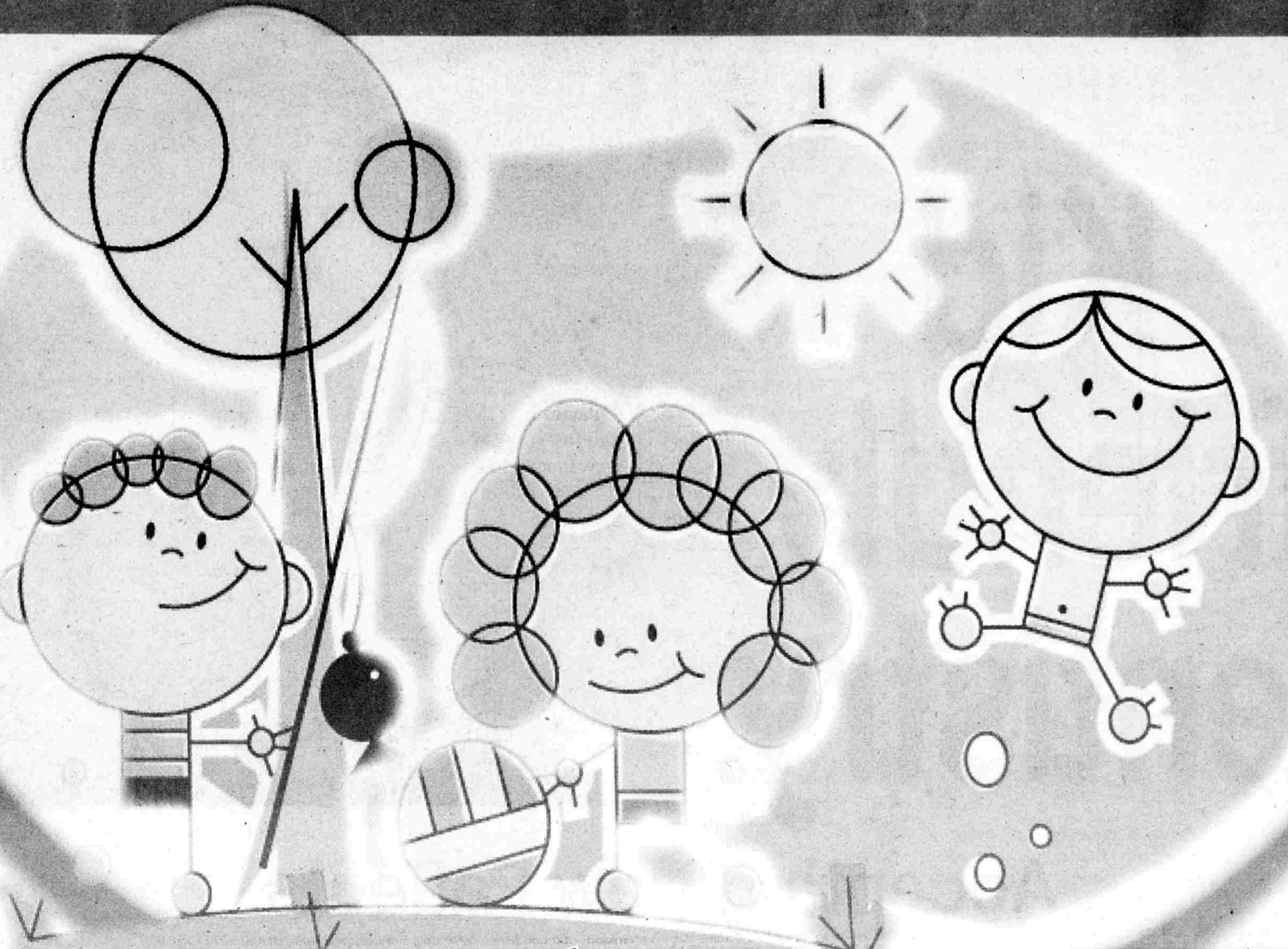
Quatchi is one of the mascots for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games.

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

Write On! Olympic Spirit

Some people talk about the "Spirit of the Olympics." What do you think that means?

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Making the choice for childcare

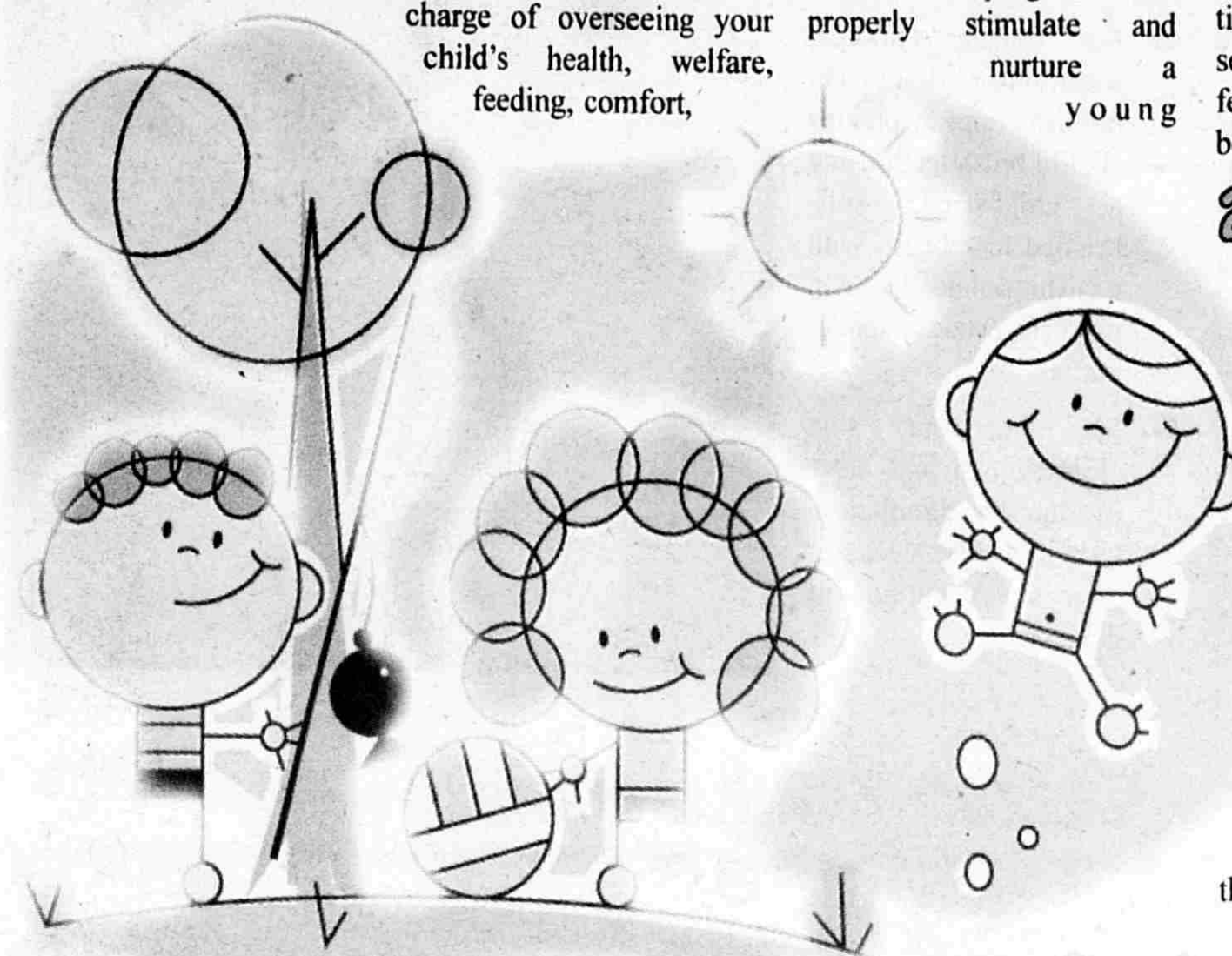
If this economy is helping to solidify anything, it could very well be reinforcing the need for two working adults in a household to help make ends meet. If those adults are parents to young children, the time may come when they must consider childcare options.

Schools and centers may offer care from birth through kindergarten age. Early morning and evening hours are common, ensuring care can be provided at a convenience to parents who have to work.

Because the center and its personnel will be in charge of overseeing your child's health, welfare, feeding, comfort,

\$4,388 to \$14,647 a year (\$366 to \$1,221 monthly). You will have to do your research to find a place that fits your budget and other requirements.

According to the National Association for the Education of Young Children, children enrolled in programs that properly stimulate and nurture a young



1. Start early. Some schools and centers are in very high demand, especially those with an established, solid reputation. Many prestigious schools have waiting lists. For new parents, look for care well in advance of the deadline to return to work. This way you have ample time to visit and consider several centers and won't feel rushed into a decision because of a time crunch.

2. Place calls to centers in your area. A lot can be determined by how promptly and in what manner your call is answered. Ask to speak to the school administrator to learn a little more about the center's programs and policies. Find out about setting up tour appointments. Visit only the centers that made a strong first impression.

3. Ask for recommendations

from friends and family. Parents who have children enrolled in certain programs may be able to point you in the right direction or tell you, from their experience, what places to avoid.

4. Visit your narrowed-down list without your child. Without the distraction of your child, you can properly take in the school/center's environment. Consider these questions:

- Does the place smell and look clean?
- Are the rooms well-lit?
- Do the teachers or caregivers seem friendly and in control?
- Is the center licensed?
- Are the bathrooms sanitary?
- Are the ratios of children to staff agreeable?
- Do the children seem content and relaxed?
- Does the care correlate with your values?
- Is the center safe? What is done to safeguard your child?
- Are the toys cleaned regularly?
- What are the attendance policies on sick children?

5. Visit your top choices with your child, if he or she is old enough to provide input. Witness your child's reaction to the surroundings and view how staff interacts with him or her. See if you can have a "test day" to see how things go. Anticipate that it may take a few weeks for your child to seem comfortable in the new surroundings and cope with separation issues.

6. Show up at the center at a time when parents are dropping off or picking up their children. Ask the parents what they think of the school and any concerns. This will provide a more unbiased assessment than asking the school for a referral list.

7. Meet with the teacher or staff member who will be caring for your child. Talk specifically about your wants and fears and develop a relationship with this person for the best childcare possible.

Many employees offer maternity leave or family medical leave for up to 12 weeks. After the 3 months are up, parents will have to decide how to accommodate their childcare needs. Options include hiring a private nanny, who may or may not be live-in; asking a relative or friend for help; or looking into a childcare center.

The option many people choose is to sign their child up in a childcare

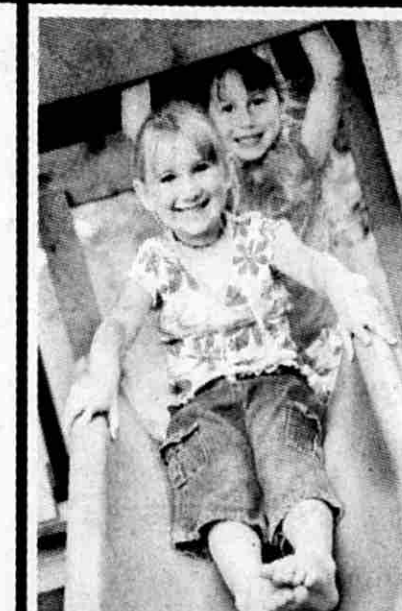
and perhaps even the child's education, it is very important to choose a place you feel you can trust. Additionally, childcare is a large financial investment. On average, care costs for babies and toddlers in the United States equal \$8,150 per year, per child (\$679 a month), according to data from the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (NACCRRRA). Depending upon region, the range is anywhere from

child's mind will be more adequately prepared by the time they start school. So apart from the convenience factor of a childcare center, parents can rest assured they're also laying the building blocks for a strong career as a student.

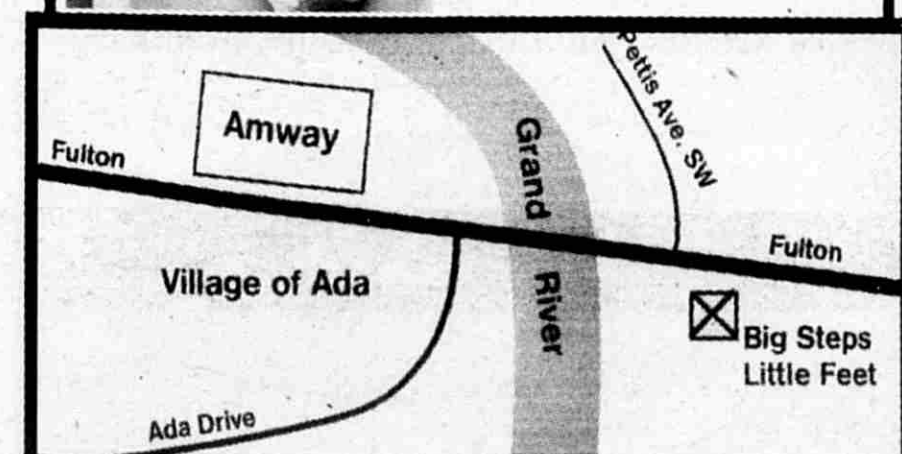
For those investigating childcare centers and preschools, consider these tips before making your decision.

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Helping kids make oral care fun all year

Children's oral care is something many parents are concerned about year-round, but there are also several times during the year when oral care is especially important. For example, Halloween, the winter holidays, Valentine's Day and Easter are all large candy-eating times in the year, making it essential to take the time now to teach children the importance of maintaining good oral health.

"Tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood

disease, so it's important to teach children effective tooth brushing habits, especially around the holidays, when children are typically consuming more sweets than usual," says dentist and mom Dr. Jennifer Salzer.

Oral care isn't usually a top priority for children and teeth cleaning may even be considered a chore to kids, which is why it is so important for parents to get involved and teach children the importance of proper oral care early on in their

children's lives. To make oral care more fun for children, Dr. Salzer offers some of her best tips:

- Parents should brush their teeth with their child to set a good example. It also helps children to learn by watching and imitating their parent.
- Sing your child's favorite song, like "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star," or play a song from their

favorite singer for the two minutes while they are brushing their teeth.

- Give your child a toothbrush that is designed to appeal to a toddler who is learning to brush and whose baby teeth are growing in.
- For younger children, when their first teeth begin to appear, parents should brush teeth using a child-sized, soft-bristled toothbrush with a cushioned head to help protect babies' tender gums.

- It's important that children two and older use fluoridated toothpaste to help prevent decay as their teeth continue to develop.



Easter dental visits

Trying to get kids to go to the dentist can yield results that range from silent anxiety and fear to major crying jags and temper tantrums.

The Chicago Dental Society offers the following tips for parents to make dentist trips easier on little ones: start dental visits early; don't make it such a "big deal;" entertain while you wait; and relax.

Your child can pick up on your anxieties. Remember, this is an important part of your child's health.

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A SUMMER OF FUN AND LEARNING!

Preschool adds to the pressures of potty training

Summer is crunch time for millions of parents whose toddlers must be potty-trained before they can be admitted to preschool programs in the fall. In the U.S., there are about 20 million parents with children under the age of 4, and more than 4 million of those children are enrolled in nursery or kindergarten programs where children are not permitted to move up to preschool until they are potty-trained.

Combine that with the fact that, according to the Children's Hospital Guide to Your Child's Health and Development, 40 percent of 3-year-olds still use diapers, and the rush is on. But how can you tell whether a child is ready? Here are 5 signs provided by Teri Crane, best selling author of Potty Train Your Child in Just One Day: Proven Secrets of the Potty Pro.

- He's/She's interested in trying to do things "by him or herself."
- He/She understands the meanings of using the potty and no more diapers and can discuss the subject.
- His/Her diaper is staying dry for longer.
- He/She frequently wakes up with a dry diaper.

He/She stops playing to squat for a bowel movement

When you've determined that a child is ready for potty training, you can do it in a single day. Crane, who has developed the "One-Day Potty-Training Party" and taught the method to parents in her Potty-Training Boot Camp, offers these party guidelines:

STEP ONE: Give your child a new doll (preferably one that "wets"), and have a two-person party (just you and your child) that entails playing games, reading books, and "potty training" the doll.

STEP TWO: Shift the focus to potty-training your child. Reward your child for his or her success.

STEP THREE: To celebrate your child's success, the party expands to include his or her other parent, siblings, grandparents and other close relatives, all of whom offer their congratulations.

All Kent County health department locations offering H1N1 vaccination

So you think you don't need the H1N1 vaccination. Isn't the "swine flu" over? Not so, says Cathy Raevsky, Administrative Health Officer for the Kent County Health Department (KCHD).

"While the worst of the flu season could be over," said Raevsky, "we don't know what we'll see this winter or spring. Another wave of illness is feasible and a flu shot is the best way to protect people from the flu. I encourage anyone who wants a vaccination to make an appointment with their

doctor, a pharmacy, or the Kent County Health Department."

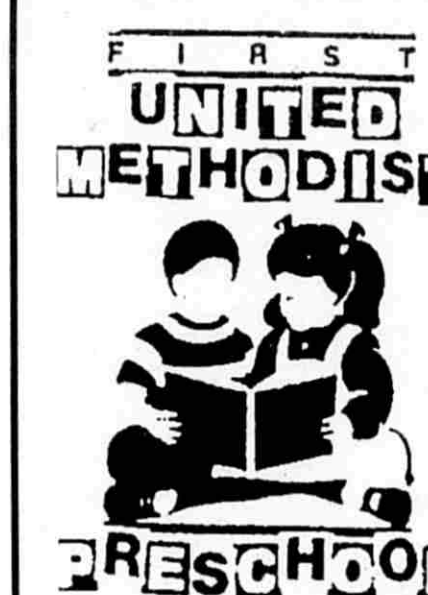
KCHD is now offering novel H1N1 flu shots by appointment at all six of its clinic locations. Clinics are in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and multiple Grand Rapids locations. Appointment times for each location vary, but appointments can be made by calling 2-1-1 (459-2255 if not using a land line) or by visiting www.stickttotheflu.com.

There is no up-front cost for vaccination, but those with insurance cards should bring them to the

appointment and KCHD can bill your insurance if the vaccination is covered. To those who are not covered, the vaccination is being offered free of charge.

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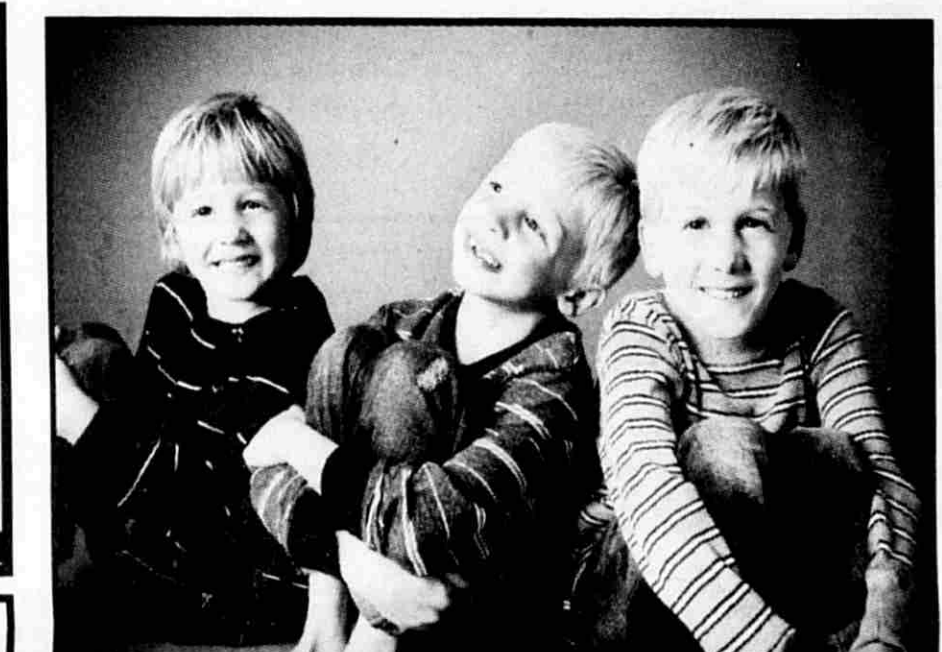
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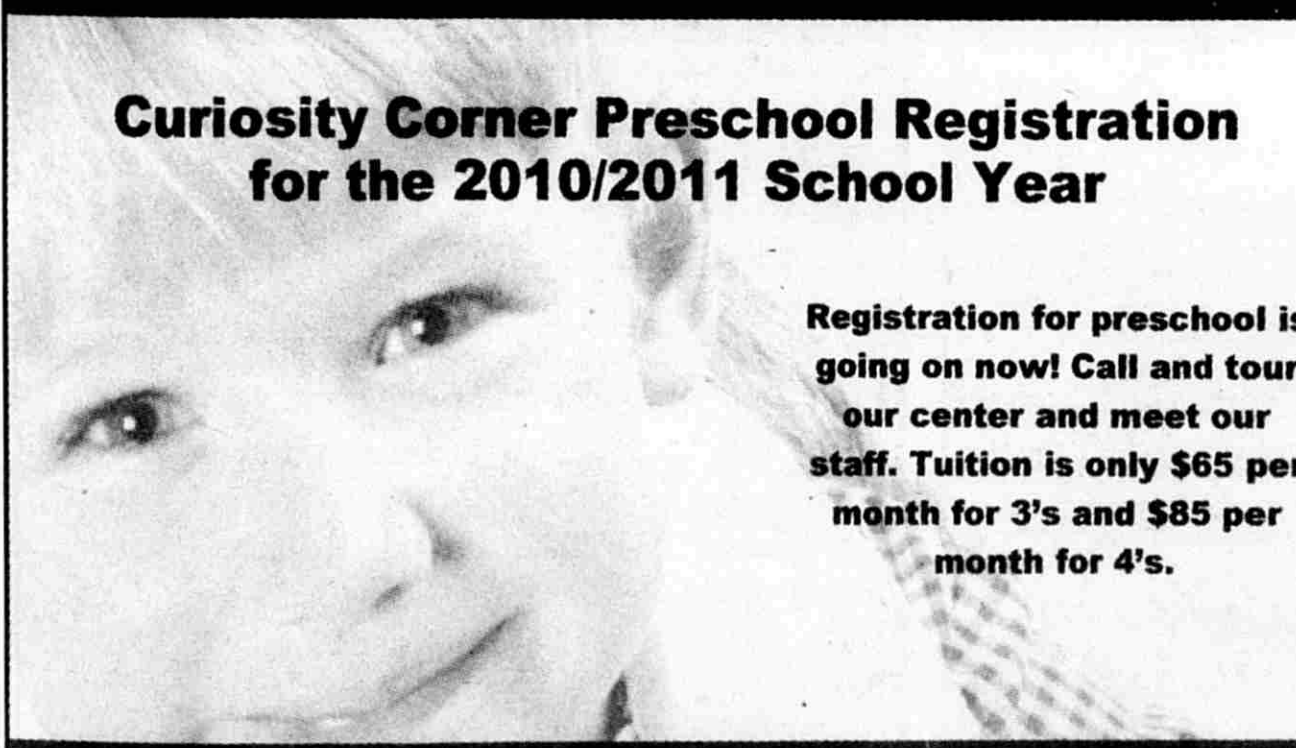
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Lowell Area Schools

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Red Arrow SPORTS

Eleven Lowell wrestlers advance to Division I regional

by Thad Kraus
 Lowell's wrestling team did not make any big impression blasting through its team district field. A few unsuspecting eyes, though, may have been averted when 11 Red Arrows advanced out of the district on Saturday and into the 2010 Division I individual regional.

Five Lowell wrestlers came home as district champions: one as runner-up; four finished third; and one took fourth.

"I'm really pleased considering the difficult district we were in," said Lowell wrestling coach Dave Dean. "We expect to take steps in the right direction at this time of year. That's why you do the preparation work."

Winning district championships in their weight class were Gabe Morse (135), Andrew Morse (145), Jackson Morse (160), Gabe Dean (189) and Connor Kruse (HWT).

Ryan Olep (171) lost his championship match at 171 pounds.

Winning their matches in the consolation round were Matt Griffioen (125), Jake Fillingham (130), Jake Gould (140) and Dan Fleet (152).

Zack Jeffries (112) lost his consolation match and finished fourth.

"Gabe Morse, Matt Griffioen and Zack Jeffries, I thought, all had really good days," Dean explained.

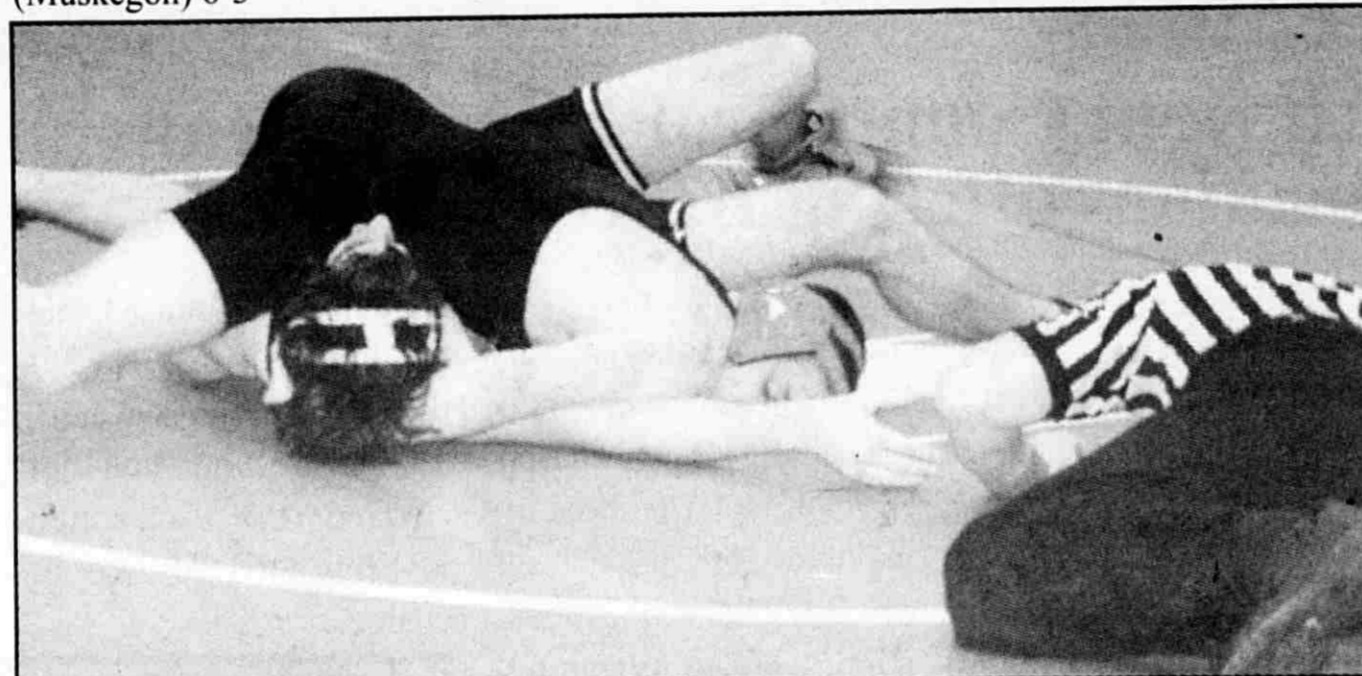
Lowell will advance to the individual regional meet on Saturday in Saginaw (Feb. 20) at Saginaw Heritage High School.

"This is the toughest district I have ever been part of as a competitor or as a coach. The kids are starting to peak and I don't think we cannot be peaking and come to this tournament and place 11," Dean said.

Division I regional results:
Championship Round
 135 - Gabe Morse dec. Tanner Zych (Caledonia) 7-4
 145 - Andrew Morse dec. Nick Bohn (East Kentwood) 3-0
 160 - Jackson Morse dec. Jake Johnson (Rockford) 7-2

171 - Jake Dorulla (Rockford) dec. Ryan Olep 5-2
 189 - Gabe Dean dec. Caleb Rivera (Grandville) 6-5
 HWT - Connor Kruse dec. Willie Coulter-Hill (Muskegon) 6-3

Consolation Round
 112 - Anwar Munye (East Kentwood) p. Zack Jeffries 4:02
 125 - Matt Griffioen dec. Marcos Diaz (Hudsonville) 5-4
 130 - Jake Fillingham dec. Evan Zych (Caledonia) 9-6
 140 - Jake Gould p. Kyle Pawloski (Mona Shores) 3:20
 152 - Dan Fleet dec. Zach VanEss (Hudsonville) 8-2



Lowell's Calvin Meyer records a pin in Lowell's district championship win over Caledonia.

Competitive cheer team puts forth a strong effort at conference meet

by Thad Kraus
 Lowell's competitive cheer team handed in one of its top performances of the year in Saturday's conference meet at Muskegon Reeths-Puffer.

"I'm very pleased with the effort; it was our second highest team total of the year," said Lowell competitive cheer coach Kari Dawson. "The girls put together an inspired effort and will look to add a few more elements for the district in Owosso (Saturday)."

Lowell finished with 683.672 points, placing it fifth overall.

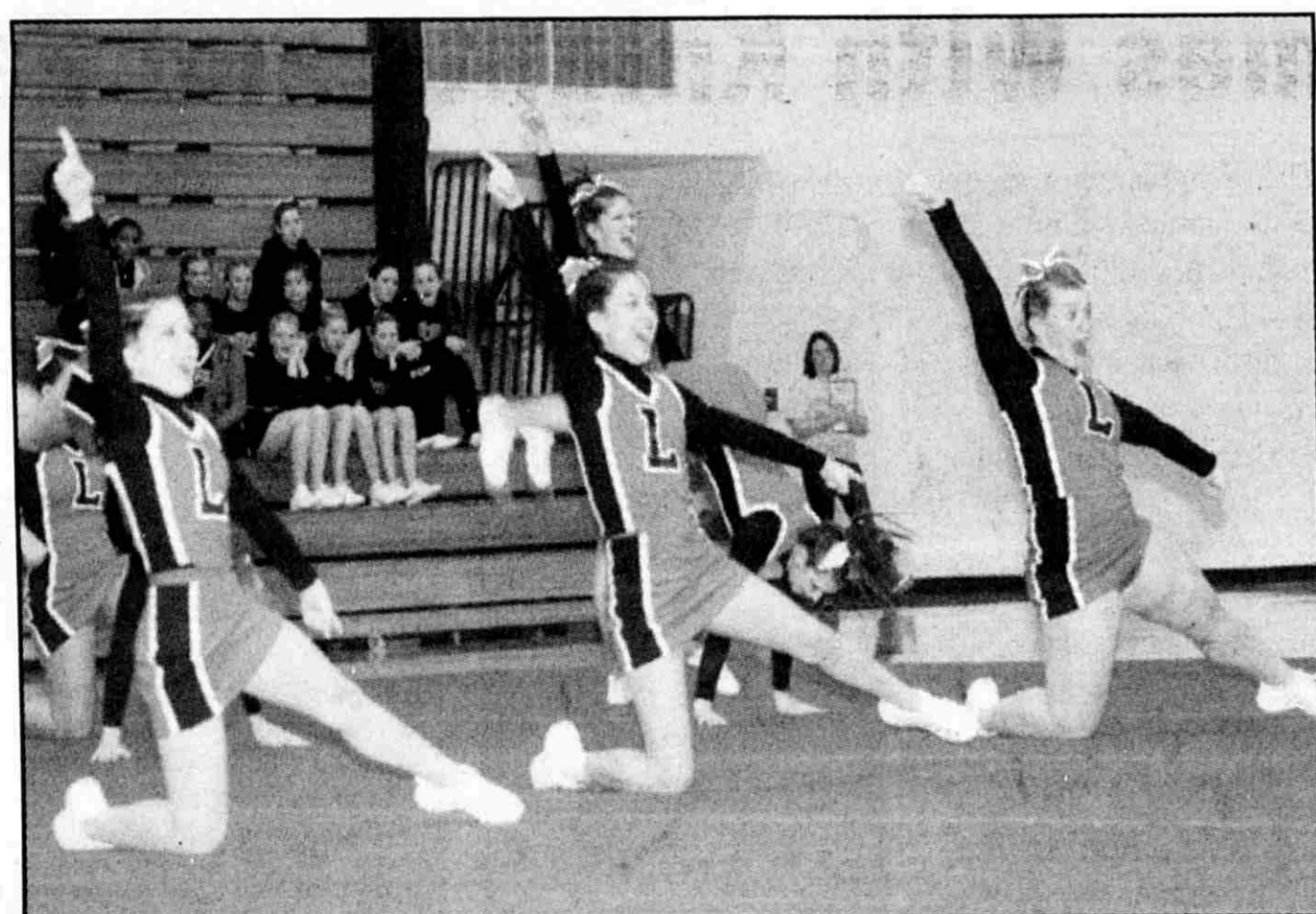
The Red Arrows strung together strong scores in all three rounds.

Lowell tallied its highest second-round score (198.47) of the year.

"All of our jumps and walkovers all came together," Dawson explained.

Lowell preceded that with a strong 207.2 in round one.

"Our jump and voice scores continue to climb," Dawson said.



Jump and voice are strong elements of Lowell's routine.

The Red Arrows fielded 13 competitors in round three, delivering them bonus points for the skills performed by the additional team member. The result was a score of 278, the second highest round-three score of the year.

Lowell hosted the final regular season meet on Wednesday. The Red Arrows finished fifth.

Kenowa Hills, conference champion, won the event with 751.5 points. The Knights were followed by Grand Rapids Christian 742.4; Mona Shores 713.7; Reeths-Puffer 692.2; Lowell 655.9 and Northview 639.3.

The Red Arrows started strong with a 204.7 score in round one for its strong jump and voice execution.



Lowell's competitive cheer team performs during round one.

Senior gymnasts honored at final home meet

by Thad Kraus
 Mona Shores marked Lowell's final conference meet of the year and with it a triumphant and bittersweet "thank you" to all of its seniors for all their time and hard work over the many years.

"It's emotional, it is that point when the girls realize all the practice hours and hard work that they have put in for so many years, all the bumps and bruises, tears and triumph, has now come to an end," Lowell gymnastics coach Michele DeHaan explained.

The coach and the Red Arrow program said goodbye to seniors Emma Bencker, Cassie Miles, Kelsey Teft and Sarah Piell.

All four seniors did so with a strong final performance.

Bencker recorded her strongest beam routine of the year. Piell delivered one of her strongest floor routines while Miles and Teft had a good night on the uneven bars and vault respectively.

Lowell finished with a team score of 121.175 well in back of the Sailors' 134.125.

"Sarah had an outstanding floor routine. It's nice when a senior has a strong routine and has fun too," DeHaan said. "Emma also had one of her highest scores of the year on the beam. Her jumps have improved so much."

Lowell tallied four scores of eight or more on the vault. Teft scored an 8.75 while Piell finished with an 8.35, Jorie Bennett recorded an 8.2 and Abby Rogalke and Vonda Kyes tallied marks of 8.0.

Freshman Morgan McVey continued to impress as she posted her third straight beam routine without a fall and her third score of above eight.

Vonda Kyes also stuck her first beam routine.

Lauren Trasky landed her first fly away dismount on the uneven bars.

"Her hard work is paying off," DeHaan said.

Lowell now looks ahead to the conference meet on Saturday at Rockford. The meet starts at 12:30 pm.

Vault
 Kelsey Teft 8.750
 Sarah Piell 8.350
 Jorie Bennett 8.200
 Abby Rogalke 8.000
 Vonda Kyes 8.000

Uneven Bars
 Morgan McVey 8.400
 Abby Rogalke 7.500
 Cassie Miles 7.500
 Lauren Trasky 7.100

Beam
 Lauren Trasky 7.400
 Sarah Piell 7.400
 Abby Rogalke 6.200
 Morgan McVey 6.000

Floor
 Morgan McVey 8.075
 Sarah Piell 7.675
 Abby Rogalke 7.500
 Vonda Kyes 7.125.

Red Arrow SPORTS

Red Arrows hang on for two-point win over Knights

by Thad Kraus
 Nothing has come easy for the Lowell boys' basketball team.

Wins nor defeats.

A nonconference road win at Kenowa Hills appeared as though it might come easy with Lowell winning 37-24 and just eight minutes to play.

Over the final quarter an apparent win began to take the shape of a possible agonizing defeat. The Red Arrows have experienced a few of those this year.

The Knights rallied to net 26 fourth-quarter points before time ran out and the Red Arrows escaped unbroken with a 52-50 win.

"There were a number of moments where we played great," Lowell boys' basketball coach Jeff

McDonald said. "Then things got a little ugly toward the end. The boys hung in there and found a way to win. It was ugly, but it's a win and we will take it."

Elliott Drain and Jacob Meyer led all Red Arrow scorers with 11 points each. Derek Cornish and Isaac Tawney contributed with nine and eight respectively.

Lowell led 16-11 after one quarter of play and outscored Kenowa Hills 8-5 in the second stanza to take a 24-16 half-time lead. The Red Arrows held a 13-8 scoring advantage in the third quarter before the Knights roared back on a 26-15 fourth-quarter surge.

Stephen Thompson led Kenowa Hills with 16 points.

G.R. Christian 71 Lowell 44

A pace not conducive to Lowell success enabled the Eagles, the top team in the O-K White, to run away and hide in a 27-point victory.

"We cannot play at that pace," McDonald said. "Tonight the boys didn't show the discipline to play at our pace. The game turned into a track meet and 'got away from us.'"

The Red Arrows fell behind early trailing 12-2 less than three minutes into the game. However, the Red Arrows finished the quarter on an 8-3 run closing the gap to five at 15-10.

The Eagles picked up the pace in the second quarter, tallying 22 points to take a 37-27 halftime lead.

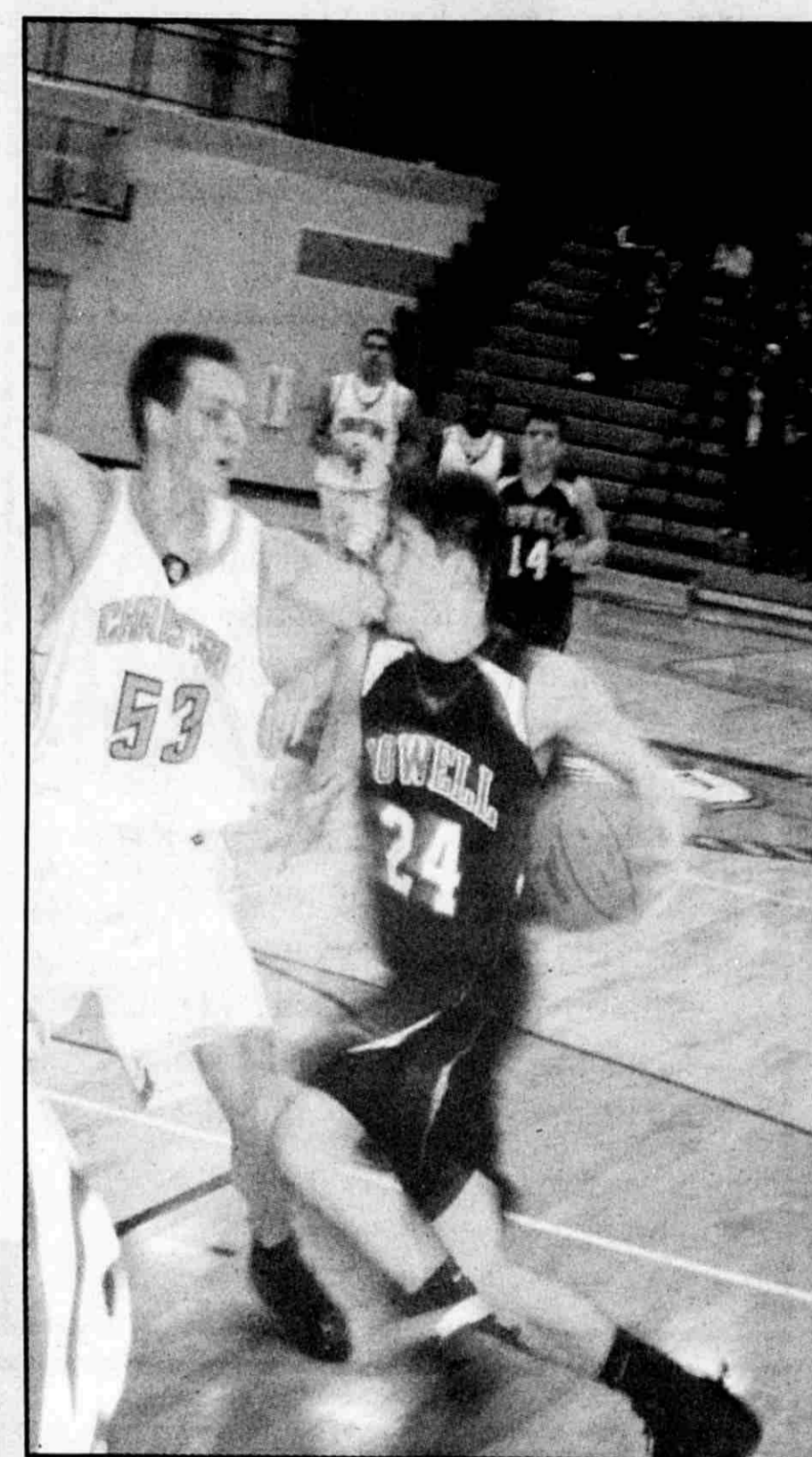
"We had eight or nine possessions where we played the way we had to, but then we played five possessions that killed us," McDonald said.

The third quarter was all Grand Rapids Christian as the Eagles netted 22 points and built a 59-36 lead.

"They are the quickest team we've played. Christian has size, speed and shooters. They were at the rim the whole night," McDonald said.

Javin Hardley led the Eagles with 19 points. Isaac Tawney led Lowell with 11 and Derek Cornish added 10.

Isaac Tawney led all Lowell scorers with 11 points in Friday's loss to the Eagles.



Lowell splits games with Knights and Eagles

by Thad Kraus
 Lowell girls' basketball team saw a 10-point half-time lead evaporate during a third-quarter offensive lull, before righting the ship and earning a 34-28 victory against Kenowa Hills.

"It was a physical game," said Lowell basketball coach Danielle Gallert. "The girls played with more confidence and fight tonight."

The Red Arrows jumped out to a 12-5 first-quarter lead. They enlarged the advantage to 10, outscoring the Knights 10-7 in the second quarter.

Leading 22-12 to start the third stanza, Lowell's offense slowed to a crawl while Kenowa Hills' accelerated.

The Knights enjoyed their best quarter output of the night, tallying 13 points to Lowell's four and cutting the deficit to one at 26-25 to start the final eight minutes.

The Red Arrow defense limited the Knights to just three points in the final stanza while netting eight of their own in securing the win.

Katie Tompkins led all scorers with 14 points and Stephanie Stevens added six.

Rachel Palmer led the

Knights with nine points.

G.R. Christian 50 Lowell 28

The Eagles, after a heartbreaking double-overtime loss to Forest Hills Central, wasted little time in getting back to their winning ways.

They did so with defense. "Our offense struggled a little tonight, but defensively you have to be happy when you hold a club to just seven first-half points," said Grand

Rapids Christian girls' basketball coach Charlette Muller.

Lowell was held scoreless over the opening eight minutes and trailed 11-0 after one quarter of play.

The Red Arrows were outscored 11-7 in quarter number two and trailed 18-7 at half-time.

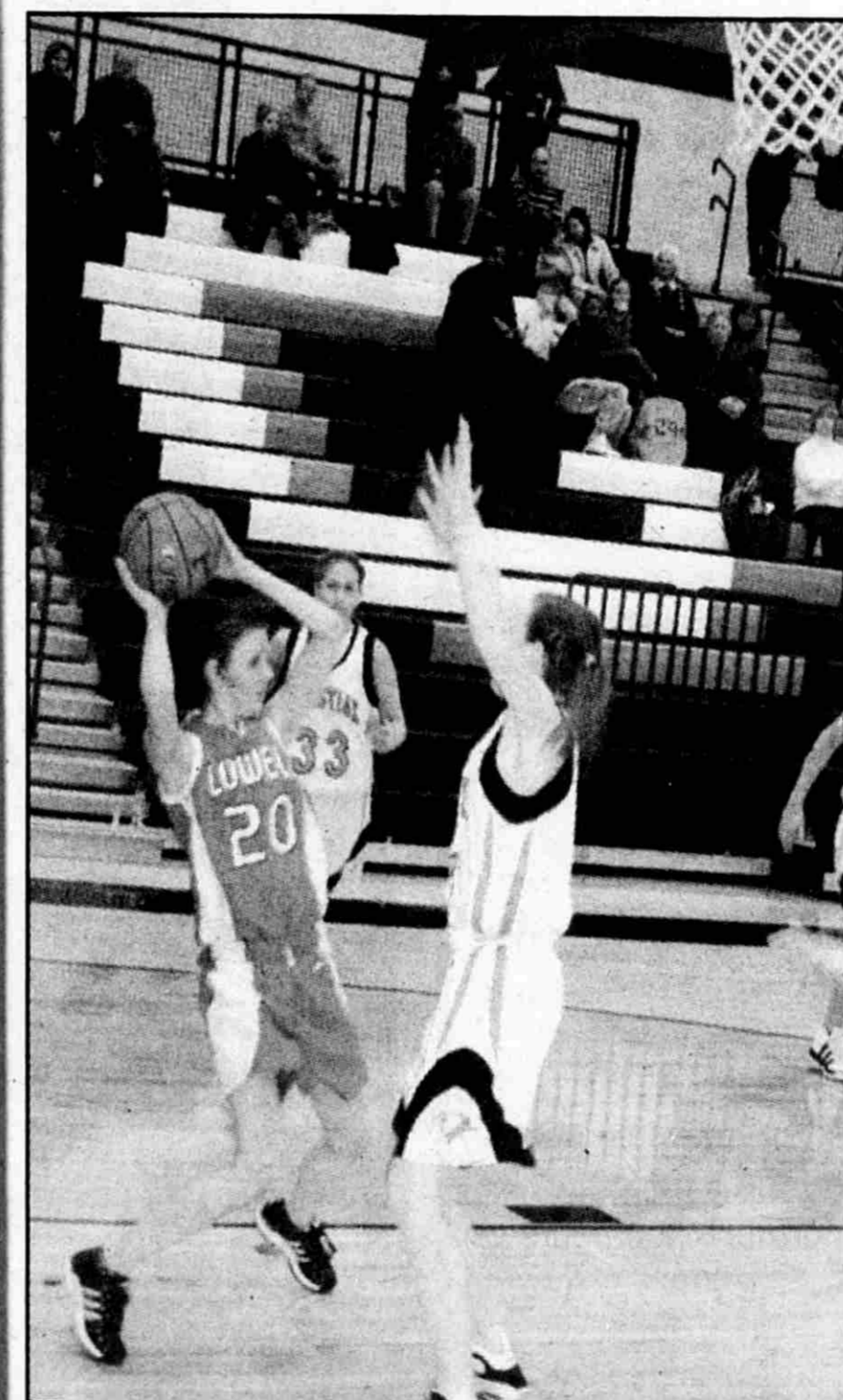
"Christian has a tough program. They were more aggressive to the bucket

tonight," Lowell coach Danielle Gallert said. "Defensively, I thought we did a lot of reaching with our hands."

Lowell was outscored 28-21 in the second half.

Bethany Bates and Britt Bruinsma led the Eagles with 10 points each.

Megan Montgomery and Stephanie Stevens led Lowell with six points apiece.



Stephanie Stevens looks for a cutting Red Arrow during second-half action against Grand Rapids Christian.

Someone had to say it!



Thad Kraus

I have always had a great admiration and appreciation for those who start from ground level, from scratch and are able to build something.

I have witnessed this occasionally in my 20-plus years of covering high school sports.

Within the last couple of weeks a Lowell coach was honored with her induction into the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Hall of Fame for virtually building a team, a program from nothing and making it a force. A respected one at that.

You know by now I'm talking about Lowell's tennis coach Bonnie Wall.

In this day and age of school of choice and high school athletes bouncing from one program to another, cultivating cries of recruiting; it is refreshing to witness a program built from nothing with all of its players from within the community.

I was here when Wall first started her Lowell tenure and started a summer program. That initial year brought 75 players. The program now hosts up to and over 170 players every summer.

This doesn't include the many adults Wall has spurred on to play the game recreationally each summer.

Not surprisingly, Wall, who has been coaching for 27 years, still plays the game at a competitive level.

Congratulations tennis coach Bonnie Wall!

A quick shout out for Wednesday night's regional wrestling match which will likely pair two of the states top four teams (Lowell and Rockford) in the final.

If you haven't seen a wrestling match, this would be a great way to introduce yourself to the sport. Even if you know nothing about wrestling, I guarantee you will be entertained.

Finally, Edwardsburg has also advanced to the team regional in Division 3. Go Eddies!

Noteworthy

SPORTS NEWS

The Lowell Ledger
 897-9261
 thelowellledger.com

obituaries

KELLY

Joan M. Kelly, age 78, of Gowen, passed away Monday, February 8, 2010. She was preceded in death by her husband of 56 years, John E. Kelly and granddaughter, Tracey Kelly. She is survived by her children, Mark Kelly of Waterford, Jeff (Debra) Kelly of Belding, Sandy (Dave) Warren of Ann Arbor and Kathleen (John) VanderBoon of Plainwell; sister, Patricia Suttorp; brother, James (Gerry) Stellard; grandchildren,

Alexandria, Jacob, Daniel, John and James Kelly, Erin Kara, and Scotty Bowers, Jessie, Leah, Megan, Audrey and Nate VanderBoon; great-granddaughters, Taylor and Julia Kelly; also many nieces and nephews. Mass of Christian Burial was offered February 11 at St. Margaret Catholic Church with Fr. Philip Salmonowicz presiding. Interment St. Margaret Cemetery.

THOMPSON

Elizabeth (B.J.) J. Thompson, age 87, of Lowell, passed away Sunday, February 14, 2010. She was preceded in death by her grandson, Allen Marshall Horder; sisters, Ruth Jones and Margaret McMahon. She is survived by her children, Richard (Mary) Horder of Alanta, GA, Robin (Al) Koop of Holland, Tracy (Ed) Loughlin of Lowell; grandchildren, Kimberly (Shawn) Craig, Alexis Horder, Michael (Jill) Koop, Bryleigh and Bailey Loughlin; three great-grandchildren and one expected great-grandchild; many very close nieces, nephews and friends. B.J.

graduated from Northwestern University. She was a member of the Lowell Women's Club, former member of the planning commission in Lowell and a retired teacher from Lowell Public Schools. B.J. was an avid crossword puzzle solver, golfer and cribbage player. She had a wonderful sense of humor. She loved to travel and enjoyed all the unique trips with her family. Funeral service will be Friday, February 19 at 11 a.m. at Roth-Gerst Funeral Chapel, 305 N Hudson with Rev. Dean Bailey of Alto-Bowne United Methodist Church officiating. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Thursday. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Lowell Women's Club, Lowell Area Arts Council or Gilda's Club of Lowell.



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IN MEMORY OF NEDRA BRISTOL

We knew that morning that God was going to call her name. In life we loved her dearly, in death we do the same. It broke our hearts to lose her, she did not go alone; for part of us went with her the day God called her home. And though we cannot see her, she is always by our side. Our family chain is broken and nothing seems the same, but as God calls us, one by one, the chain will link again.

Loved and missed by
 Your Children,
 Family and Friends

2010 BOARD OF REVIEW NOTICE LOWELL TOWNSHIP

2910 Alden Nash Ave SE
 Lowell, Mi. 49331

2010 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The Lowell Township Board of Review for 2010 will be held at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE, on the following dates:

Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. - Organizational Meeting

Monday, March 8, 2010 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon
 & 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 11, 2010 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 & 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

To appear at the March Board of Review, call on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 616-897-7600, to Schedule an Appointment.

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2010 assessments.

By Board resolution, residents are able to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 11.

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2010 are as follows:

| | | |
|--------------------|--------|--------|
| *Agricultural..... | 50.49% | 0.9902 |
| *Commercial..... | 51.41% | 0.9725 |
| *Residential..... | 56.19% | 0.8898 |
| *Industrial..... | 53.34% | 0.9373 |
| *Personal..... | 50.00% | 1.0000 |

American With Disabilities (ADA) Notice

The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities

at the Board of Review meetings upon 2 days notice.

Contact: Supervisor Jerry Hale, 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE
 616-897-7600

Board of Review Members:

Dave Simmonds, Barbara Tremblay & James Foerch,
 Jerry Hale, Township Supervisor, Secretary of Board of Review.

the ledger OFFICE HOURS

P.O. Box 128
 Lowell, MI 49331
 897-9261

Monday - Thursday:
 8 am - 5 pm
 Friday: 8 am - 2 pm
 Closed Sat. & Sun.

thelowellledger.com

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 regarding fences and clear vision areas. The proposed fence amendments would establish location and height requirements for fences as well as construction, type of fence materials and maintenance requirements. The clear vision amendments would restrict the height of structures and plantings within 15 feet of an intersection as measured from the right of way lines.

The hearing will be held as follows:

WHEN: MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2010
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
 2910 ALDEN NASH AVE. SE
 LOWELL, MI 49331

The proposed amendments are 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

Print

- CATALOGS
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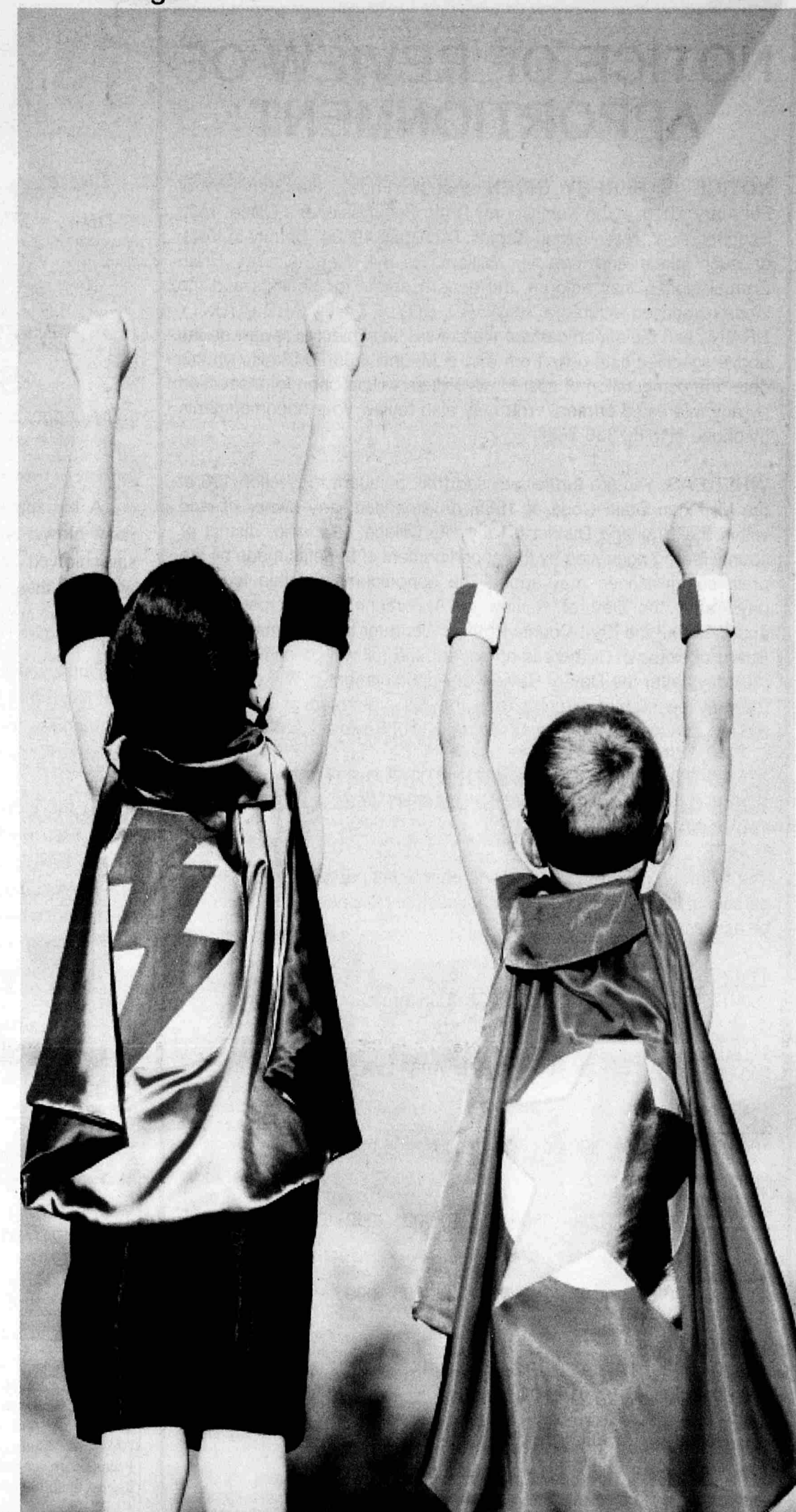
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Dave Emmette

Position: Agency producer for AIC Ada Insurance Center
Age: 36
Residence: Vergennes Township
Education: Bachelor's degree in political science, bachelor's degree in international studies, minor in German
Experience: Three years in political arena: legislative aide and political consultant for Senate majority; 2005 insurance
Family: Wife Cheryl
Hobbies: Fishing, hunting, scuba diving, politics, languages and culture

complex insurance industry were many, mainly learning the trade and the products and moving from Ypsilanti to Lowell.

He maintains a 'to do list' every day and a management system to keep everything organized. Emmette said he gets energy from other people.



Dave Emmette is a lifelong learner and loves working with the public.

AIC insurance agent loves working with public

by Emma Palova

Switching from a salaried job to being a commissioned insurance agent wasn't exactly easy. Dave Emmette had political experience and two bachelor degrees in political science and international studies, and a stint in Vienna, Austria on his resume prior to coming to Lowell in 2005.

"For the first six months, I thought what did I get

myself into?" he said.

But, his wife Cheryl was a pillar of support.

So, Emmette started building up clientele, one client at a time.

Since then, Emmette, a Yooper, fluent in German, with an Irish and Italian background, has become a fixture in the community. He is known as a jovial agent, friend and neighbor involved in the community

from chamber board to founding the grassroots organization East Kent County Republicans.

"I wanted to stay in the service industry," he said. "People need insurance."

Emmette got a realtor's and insurance license in 2005 and started with Farmer's Insurance. Last year he switched to an independent insurance company, AIC, representing several different

companies.

"We can write everything from autos to airplanes," he said.

Emmette likes the smaller independent agency whose owner, Mark Vickery, is more in sync with his values. There is only a staff of six between the offices in Ada and Lowell.

"It's more of a family atmosphere," he said.

The challenges of a

scratch, building up the clientele in five years," he said, "learning the different types of billing. There's a lot to learn."

But, Emmette is a firm believer of lifelong learning. Currently, after earning an LUTCF professional designation, he is determined to get CIC (certified insurance counselor) designation.

"I love working directly with people and being able to help people," he said.

Emmette sets for himself long-term goals and then works them backwards, these include financial and educational goals.

"I want to maintain and develop the image of doing the right thing the first time," he said. "I want us to be an agency of integrity. We're about building relationships, not just a transaction but to provide a piece of mind."

Emmette is proud that the agency covers everything and fills every gap.

"We want to make it a good experience, to educate clients and understand the coverages," he said.

"We consider ourselves insurance professionals and risk managers," he said. "It's not what we do, but how we do it. We're the highest technology agency out there."

The agency also stays on top of innovations to be the most efficient and effective. Emmette breaks big projects into smaller pieces to not waste time.

In a bad economy, he stays focused on his goals and bringing value to the customer and to the industry.

"I have a passion for helping others, doing the right thing," he said, being the best in what I do."

And there are a lot of choices in the insurance industry, so being better and different is essential.

Emmette's long-term goals include business growth and attaining the professional designation of certified risk manager. The agency offers comprehensive annual reviews and competitive prices.

"I am very flexible," said Emmette.

Lowell High School Presents

WILLY WONKA
BY ROALD DAHL

Fri, March 5 7:00pm
 Sat, March 6 7:00pm
 Sun, March 7 3:00pm
 Fri, March 12 7:00pm
 Sat. March 13 2:00pm
 Sat. March 13 7:00pm

\$5 Students / Seniors \$7 Adults
 \$8 All Tickets at the Door

Lower Level Seats Reserved, Upper Level is General Admission.
 All tickets on sale in the LHS Main Office
 General Admission also available at Pep Talk.
 Tickets on sale starting February 18

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FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRY SITE FOR FREE TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE

United Way's Kent County Tax Credit Coalition is providing free tax preparation and the FROM Building, located at 11535 Fulton Street East, Lowell, is one of the sites offering this service.

This service is being offered on **Tuesdays from 4 to 8 p.m.** and is available by appointment only. To register, or to see if your family is eligible, please call 897-8260.