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Behind The Scenes

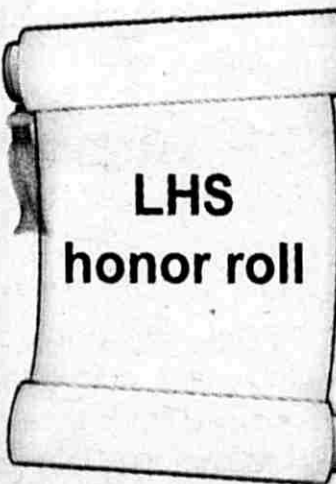


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Lowell Community Expo 2010 attracts thousands

by Emma Palova

If a batch of missing ink pens is a gauge of attendance, then Deb Canfield of Canfield Plumbing & Heating can attest that the 2010 Expo was bigger and better than last year.

"We had 570 ink pens and they're all gone," she said. "We had an excellent turnout."

The Canfield booth had a toilet and a furnace, plus information about new tax credits for furnaces.

"It was definitely bigger than last year," she said. "It was fun to be there."

And Canfield said a lot of the visitors were from different areas, such as Belding and Saranac.

With all the vendor

booth space being sold out, the event attracted a lot of visitors. It was a steady stream of visitors flowing in and out of the Lowell High School last week.

At times, the booths got slammed with so many interested customers that it was impossible to talk to all. Right up front was located the major sponsor of the event, The Lowell Ledger and Lowell Litho.

The chamber booth was further down the hallway, as well as Operation Christmas Child staffed by Judy Folsom and Linda Bramble.

There were also musicians, such as young pianist Derek Mohr, 7, and the ubiquitous Easy Idle.

But, probably the most interesting was the demonstration by the Red Arrow Robotics Club with their robot who plays soccer. The captain of the team Derek Chopp. For more information go to our weekly podcasts at www.thelowellledger.com

The Lowell Area Historical Museum staffed by Ardie Barber had a comprehensive display explaining the museum's special exhibits and rentals of the Victorian room and the garden for dinners.

"You can even have a small wedding here," said Barber.

CaterCat, a division of Grand Volute Ballrooms staffed by Jan Herb, offered delicious pieces of steaks with Grand Volute owner Kent McKay present as well.

Trombly Chiropractic with massage demonstrations looked so relaxing that you wanted to get into the massage chair. Angie Uhen, awakened in her massage chair, said the massage was great. Kate Stokes was one of the masseuses.

Expo story and pictures, continued, page 8



Alto fourth graders get down to business

Alto Elementary fourth graders set up businesses that competed for a profit. Students determined the cost of the capital resources, took out a loan, set the price of their products, set up production and enlisted human resources, advertised, sold product and paid back the loan, and

determined their profit. The purpose was to role-play as entrepreneurs and not to be a fundraiser. Alto students had a choice between chocolate covered pretzels (\$.60), spider cookies (\$.60), or chocolate fudge (\$.65). Products were on sale at school during the lunch hour.



Pictured above, students selling chocolate covered pretzels; and below, two fourth grade students "producing" fudge.

Area trailways announce reaching their fundraising goal

by Emma Palova

The Lowell area trailways had a large presence at the Lowell Community Expo last Saturday. Three booths side by side represented the area trails.

The three distinct trails included the Lowell Area Recreation Authority Trailway (LARA), the rails to trails group and the North Country Trail Association.

Former superintendent Bert Bleke made an announcement, on behalf of the LARA group, at the Expo about reaching its capital fundraising goal. They have raised \$1,092,330 for the building of phase 1 of the trail.

Bleke was one of the original visionaries who saw how a trail would benefit the community.

"Lowell is the place to be, not the next place to be," he said. "What a great gift this trail will be to the people of Lowell. Lowell is a very generous community. You worked hard; you were persistent and you pulled this off without raising taxes, which is critical in this economy."

Betsy Davidson, a co-chair of the fundraising campaign, said it was a community effort that will benefit the Lowell area for generations to come.

"It is so exciting to look back at where we started and realize how far we have come," she said. "All the planning and work has paid off. The Lowell community will have safe connections to schools and the community parks as well as pathways for recreational activities."



Betsy Davidson and Liz Baker make the announcement about raising more than one million for the construction of phase 1.

Trailways, continued, page 2

Baseball team members read to students at Alto Elementary



As part of Alto Elementary's March Is Reading Month activities, coach Justin Miller and members of the Lowell varsity baseball team visited the school and read to various classrooms. This annual reading month tradition is highly anticipated by students and baseball players alike. Alto Elementary students and staff were grateful to Miller and the team for taking the time to share their love of reading with the students. Pictured, Kaleb Ort reads to a kindergarten class.

Trailways, continued

The LARA trail is strategically located to intersect with other local trails. It will serve as a hub to larger regional and national trail systems.

And that was the message at all of the trail booths: to connect communities along the trailways and to bring economic viability to the towns and villages on the trails.

The rails to trails group was represented by Carolyn Kane from the West Michigan Trails and Greenway Coalition and Al Rumbaugh of Grattan Township.

Rumbaugh said once the rail corridor acquisition is complete in June, the group will pursue paving the trail from Lowell to Greenville, approximately 23 miles long. Depending on what the users want, portions of the trail may be used by equestrians.

Local funding for the LARA trail was used to leverage grants from the Michigan Department of Transportation and Michigan Department of Natural Resources. These agencies distribute state and federal funds earmarked for trail construction. Lowell's plan was ranked no. 1 of those submitted in the state for meeting the key funding criteria and was awarded more than \$650,000.

For more of the coverage about Lowell trailways, check our weekly podcasts at www.thelowellledger.com



At Your Local Library

Kent District Library children ages 6 and under with a caregiver. Mondays, April 5 to 26, 2 to 4 p.m.

Captain Underpants Extra Crunchy Library Program - Celebrate our favorite underwear-clad hero, Captain Underpants, and have an extra crunchy good time with games and creative activities. Tuesday, April 6, 3 p.m.

Creative Playtime - Meet your friends for a play date at the library with fun activities that encourage creative play and early literacy. For children ages 6 and under with a caregiver. Friday, April 9, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Bookworms Adult Book Discussion - Join us for a friendly, informal book discussion. Tuesday, April 13, 10 a.m. - *Infidel* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali.

Treadmill Challenge walks off with just under \$3,500



Evie Marron, Rheta Persha, Dee Bonn, and Sharon Crandell

Lowell YMCA's 24-hour Treadmill Challenge garnered 66 walkers/runners, raising \$3,493.57.

"The money raised through this event stays in Lowell and is used to help Lowell families," said YMCA director Staci Chambers.

The treadmill challenge is part of the Lowell YMCA's Strong Kids Campaign. Funds and donations are also received through corporate and individual donations and through a pledge campaign.

This year's Strong Kids Campaign goal is \$35,000.

The Lowell branch is currently at \$24,000.

The 66 participants in the Treadmill Challenge walked/ran 329.97 miles.

"On behalf of the Lowell YMCA we would like to thank the community and each and every person who has given of their time and effort to make this event successful," Chambers said.

Kicking off the challenge on Friday were Rheta Persha, Lowell football coach Noel Dean, Lowell Area Schools chief financial officer John Zielinski, Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce director Liz Baker and Mayor Jim Hodges.

Businesses giving specifically to the treadmill event were the Lowell Granite Company, Lowell Area Schools, Harold Zeigler and Harvest Health.

Strong Kids Campaign donations can be made online at www.ystrongkids.org (designate Lowell as your recipient) or at the Lowell YMCA office.

For more pictures of the Treadmill Challenge continue to page 9

Lowell earns high marks at band and orchestra festivals

Submitted by John Wenger

On Thursday, Feb. 25, the Lowell band and orchestras participated in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) Region 10 festival. The band and orchestra festival is an opportunity for ensembles to perform for a panel of judges. The performances include three pieces rehearsed in advance and two sight-reading pieces for which the ensemble is given only seven minutes to review. Ensembles are rated on a scale of 1 to 5. Those earning an overall superior rating of one are qualified to compete in the state MSBOA festival in late April or early May.

The Lowell High School orchestra and Lowell Middle School eighth-grade orchestra performed for the festival at Caledonia High School. The high school orchestra earned a one and the eighth-grade orchestra earned a two. The following week, the Lowell Middle School seventh-grade orchestra earned a one performing at East Grand Rapids High School.

The band festival was hosted by Lowell High School on Friday, Feb. 26. A total of sixteen middle and high school bands performed bringing hundreds of visitors to our district. The Lowell High School Red, White, and Symphonic bands all earned a one ranking for their performances. Lowell Middle School's seventh-grade band earned a one and eighth-grade band took home a two rating.

Several of the school orchestras, bands and choirs will be performing at the Music Boosters Collage concert March 30 at 7 p.m. at the Lowell Performing Arts Center.

For more information, visit the MSBOA website at <http://msboa.org> and the Red Arrow Orchestra website at redarroworchestra.org

college news

VanSpronsen, Bachelor of Science in Education, all of Lowell.

In recognition of her outstanding academic performance during the 2009 fall semester, Kirstin Anne Johnson was placed on the Dean's List at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit. She is a 2006 graduate of Lowell High School and the daughter of Marcae Manting Johnson.

The following students are December 2009 graduates of Central Michigan University: Samantha Glover, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, of Alto; Jamie Cardani, Bachelor of Science in Education, Tara Ormiston, Bachelor of Science, and Brittany Rebecca DeLiefde and Andrew Gerig, both of Lowell, have been named to the Dean's List for the 2009 fall semester at Bethel College in Mishawaka, Ind. Eligibility for the Dean's List requires a 3.50 GPA with 12 or more semester hours.

the lowell ledger

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BLOOD DRIVE
Michigan Blood will be at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on April 6, 3 to 7 p.m. To schedule a donation time call 1-866-MIBLOOD (642-5663).

BUILD A TROLL
Drop by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce building, 113 Riverwalk Plaza, anytime April 8 and 9 between 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and build a troll to showcase at a Lowell business during the Troll Project. For more information call 897-9161.

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES
Angel Food Ministries sign up at the Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St., Sat., Apr. 10, 10 a.m. - noon. You may also order online using your debit or credit card. Go to www.angelfoodministries.com Any questions, call Esther, 897-7395.

RELAY FOR LIFE
American Cancer Society Relay, for Life team captains meetings will be held Apr. 20 and May 25 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the conference room at the administration bldg., 300 High St. Relay for Life is June 11-12 from 3 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lowell High School. For more information visit www.relayforlife.org/lowellmi or contact Carol Briggs at 897-5501 or cbriggs@lowellschools.com Sign up your team today.

FREE PRESCHOOL
If your family resides within Lowell Area School district, your preschooler may qualify for a free preschool program. If your child turns three- or four-years old on or by Dec. 1, 2010, call our automated number at 987-2699. Leave your information and an early childhood specialist will be in contact with you.

COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN
Parents of children who will be five-years old on or before Dec. 1, 2010, are invited to a parent informational meeting on April 20 at Murray Lake Elementary; April 22 at Bushnell Elementary; and April 15 at Alto Elementary. A kindergarten information packet should be requested prior to the parent meeting. Please call the school in the area which you reside to have an enrollment packet mailed to you.

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.

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CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Lowell City Hall Offices, Police Offices, Light and Power Offices and the Department of Public Works will be closed on Friday, April 2, 2010 in observance of Good Friday.

Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

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REMINDER NOTICE REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR THE SCHOOL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 4, 2010

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT ANY QUALIFIED ELECTOR OF BOWNE TOWNSHIP, LOWELL TOWNSHIP, VERGENNES TOWNSHIP AND THE CITY OF LOWELL, WHO IS NOT ALREADY REGISTERED, MAY REGISTER TO VOTE AT THE CITY OR TOWNSHIP OFFICES, AT ANY SECRETARY OF STATE BRANCH OFFICE, OR OTHER DESIGNATED PLACES FOR THE SCHOOL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2010.

THE LAST DAY FOR RECEIVING REGISTRATIONS WILL BE MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2010.

QUALIFICATIONS TO REGISTER TO VOTE:
CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES
AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE ON OR BEFORE MAY 4, 2010

Sandra Kowalczyk Bowne Township Clerk (616) 868-6846 9am to 12pm	Betty Morlock Lowell City Clerk (616) 897-8457 8am to 5pm	Linda S. Regan Lowell Township Clerk (616) 897-7600 9am to 5pm
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Mari Stone
Vergennes Township
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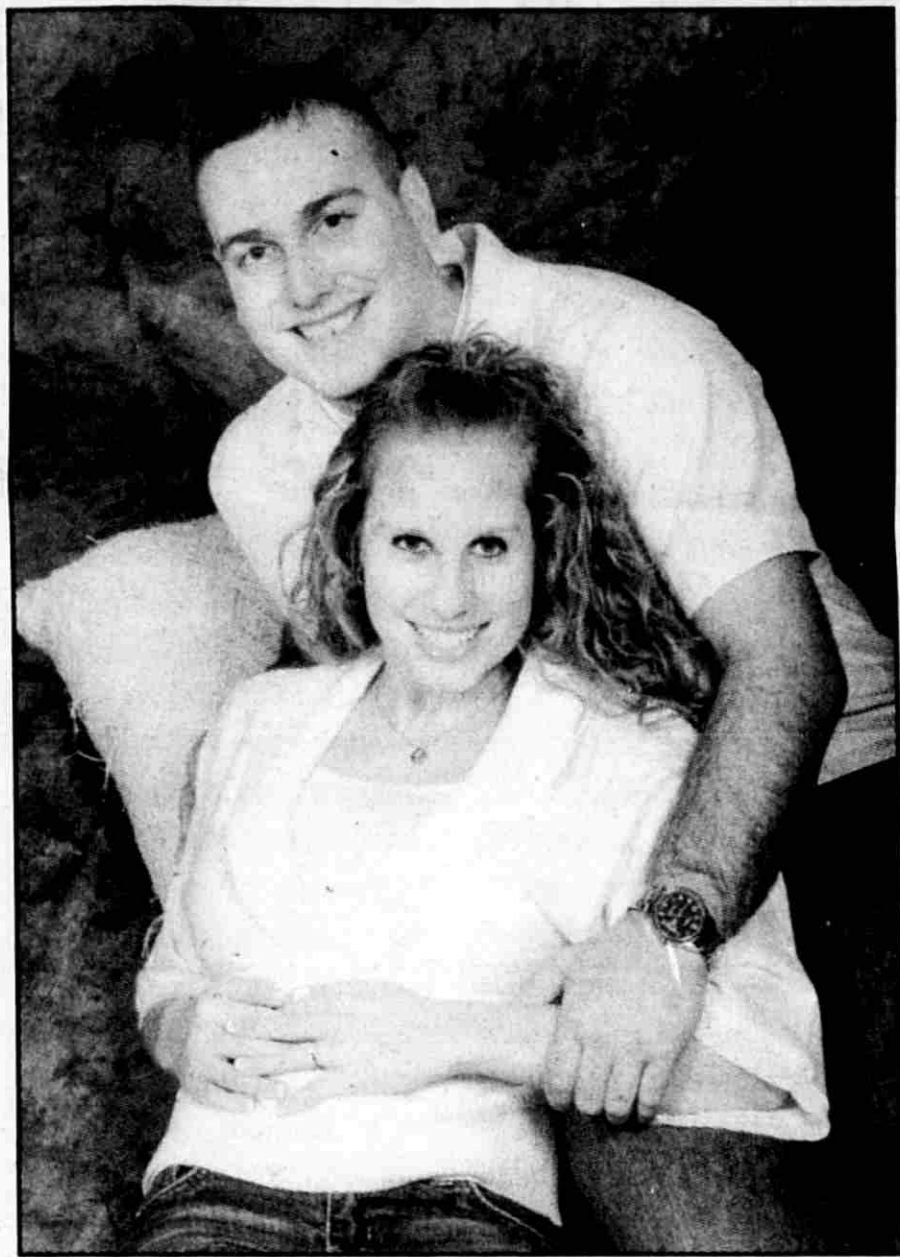
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engagements

Banfill/Corbit

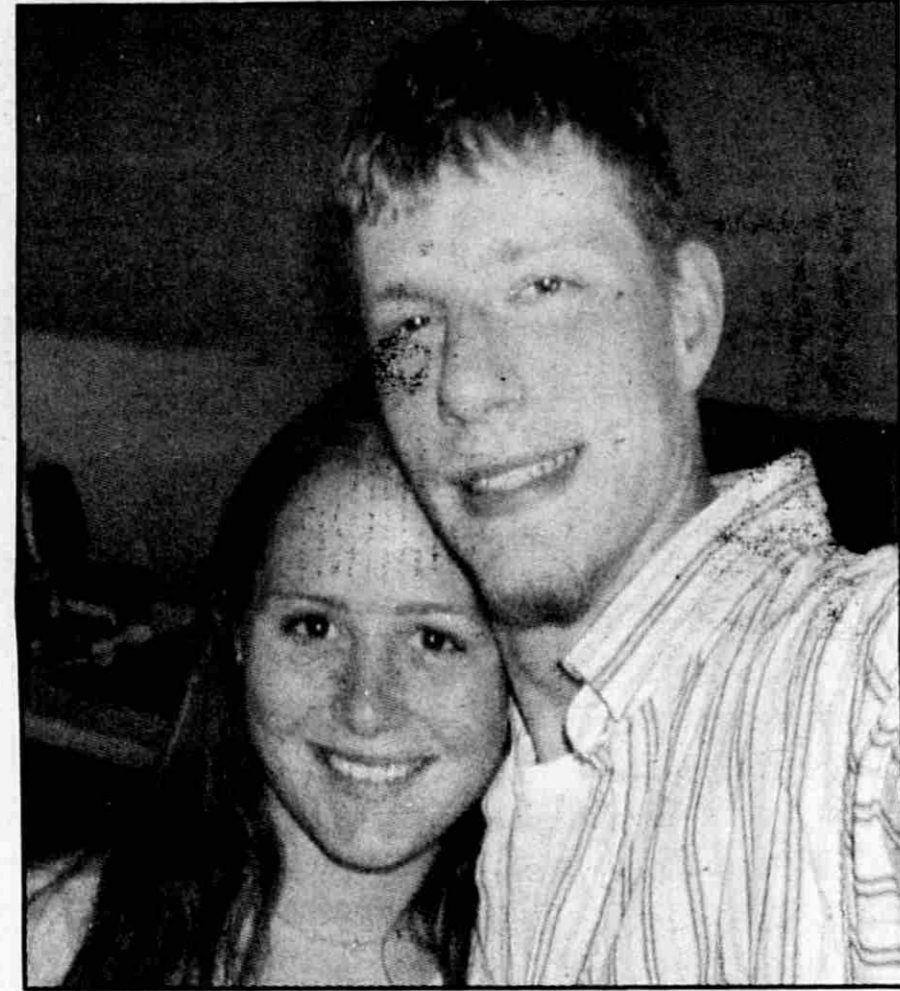
Seaman/Fouphnt



Chris Fouphnt and Kimberly Seama

Wedding vows will be exchanged on July 24, 2010, by Kimberly Seaman and Chris Fouphnt. The bride-to-be is a 2003 graduate of Lowell High School and a 2007 graduate of Ferris State University. She is

the daughter of Randy and Peggy Seaman of Lowell. The future groom is a 2001 graduate of Tri-County High School and a 2008 graduate of Ferris State University. He is the son of Jim and Joni Maile of Newaygo and Rich and Rhonda Fouphnt of Elgin, SC.



Darcie Banfill and Bradley Corbit

The ceremony which will unite in marriage Darcie Marie Banfill and Bradley L. Corbit will be performed on July 9, 2010. The bride-to-be is the daughter of Brian and

Robbie Banfill of Rockford and Roger and Penny Rybicki of Lowell. The groom-elect is the son of Diana and Orley Kranenberg of Elmdale.

The fact that a great many people believe something is no guarantee of its truth.

- W. Somerset Maugham (1874 - 1965)

health

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

Latex allergy

Latex allergy is a reaction you get from contact with latex products. The allergy is usually caused by the natural rubber proteins in latex. Latex comes from tropical rubber trees. It is used to make everyday products and medical equipment, including balloons, bandages, diaphragms, elastic, pacifiers, and rubber gloves.

A mild allergy may cause skin reactions (rashes or hives), runny nose, cough, tight chest, or watery eyes. A bad latex allergy may cause shortness of breath, dizziness, confusion, loss of consciousness, or a rapid or weak pulse. These reactions may be life-threatening.

Anyone can get a latex allergy, but some people are at a higher risk than others. These people include health care workers, patients with

urinary tract problems, and people who have had many surgical procedures. People who work in the rubber industry are also at higher risk. Some food allergies have been linked to latex allergy. You may be allergic to latex if you are allergic to bananas, avocados, chestnuts, kiwis, apples, carrots, celery, papayas, potatoes, tomatoes, or melons.

You should avoid using latex products if you have a latex allergy. If you have a severe latex allergy you should wear a medical alert bracelet. You should also carry an epinephrine pen to use if you have a bad reaction. Use non-latex gloves when possible. If you have to use latex gloves, use the powder-free kind to lower the risk of reaction.



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

Lowell resident wants others to

experience Gilda's Club

I was recently sharing with a group of people in Lowell, how the Gilda's Club program in Lowell is growing and reaching more and more people. The dream coach Dean had, along with all of those involved in The Pink Arrow Project II, was to provide a place where families could gather to support each other through a cancer or grief journey. After four months of hosting this free program, Gilda's Club is reaching that dream.

We'd like to share a story with you about one of the people participating in our program - Janet Fisher. Fisher recently shared her story with us and, with her permission, we're sharing it with you.

Some of you may know Fisher. She has lived all but 10 years of her life in Lowell. She loves the town and says she is even more proud of where she lives now that there is a Gilda's Club right down the road from her house. Fisher wants more Lowell residents, those she knows who have been impacted by cancer and grief, to come for support available just inside the signature Red Door at 314 South Hudson Street.

"All the walls are down. Nobody has to worry about what they're going to share. It's the one place I know I can go in a small town and not be judged. It's that kind of an open acceptance," she says.

Fisher was diagnosed with breast cancer in January 2009 and has been through chemotherapy, radiation, a mastectomy, and is now in physical therapy for both of her arms and shoulders. Throughout her cancer journey, Fisher has also been running her household

almost entirely by herself and raising her 13-year-old son, Bradley. Fisher's husband, a longhaul truckdriver, is only able to come home once or twice per month.

"He wanted to quit his job to be by my side throughout my treatment, but we needed the health insurance. He's a wonderful husband and has been as supportive as he can. We talk 20 times a day."

Fisher also had support throughout her treatment from community members.

Neighbors helped with lawn care and snow removal and church members donated supplies so she could make crafts to donate to Operation Santa Claus, something she said kept her mind healthy throughout 2009. Yet, even with all of the support from family and friends, Fisher says she was still looking for something more: to share her journey with others going through the same thing.

"I wanted to go to the Grand Rapids Clubhouse to join Gilda's Club, but I just didn't feel up to making another trip to Grand Rapids every week. I was already driving back and forth to treatments. There was the cost of gas, plus the wear and tear on my car."

When the Gilda's Club Lowell Clubhouse opened in September 2009, Fisher knew she had to see what was going [on] at the new Clubhouse, although she admits she was a little apprehensive at first.

"I thought it was going to be a lot more discussion about doctors and paranoia. I didn't want to dwell on cancer and get down. I wanted to keep a positive outlook." After just one laughter-filled visit that left her smiling and feeling welcomed and encouraged,

Fisher knew she had finally found the community of

somebody else that really does understand what you're saying. They know how much it hurts. They know how it can interfere with things like just cleaning the house." It's not just the social and emotional support that Fisher looks forward to every week, it's also the education from scheduled lectures and workshops, along with



Janet Fisher

support she was looking for. "It's so nice to have

information from other members who are there

talking about their cancer journeys.

"It helps to know what to ask a doctor. You need more in-depth information after you've gone through the major part of it."

Fisher has noticed a change in her son, Bradley, who attends Gilda's Club with her each week. They enjoy "Supper Together" with other families and then Fisher attends an adult cancer support group while Bradley attends a support group for teens. She sees the value of teenagers getting together, too.

"It gives them someone else to talk to. They have school deadlines, helping out

extra at home and worrying about their family all at the same time. They really need someone else to talk to."

Fisher helps to welcome the new members who join and notices a difference in their attitude after just one or two visits. "After a couple of times, they are just more chipper. It really rubs off on you."

Now, Fisher's goal is to share this message, hoping it reaches others in Lowell impacted by cancer. She wants to see them every Tuesday at the Lowell Clubhouse.

"It's a lot of fun! Come on down with me, you'll enjoy it."

Secretary Land and partners promote April as 'Donate Life Month'

Do you have a heart on your driver's license or state identification card?

If you do, that means you have signed up to be an organ, tissue and eye donor.

If you don't, then Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land and her partners at Gift of Life Michigan, the Michigan Eye-Bank and Hospice of Michigan want to encourage you to get one by adding your name to the Michigan Organ Donor Registry.

April is nationally recognized as "Donate Life Month," and Land and her partners will be promoting organ, tissue and eye donation in Michigan with a news conference, Secretary of State "Buddy Day," Twitter and e-mail messages, public

service announcements and a Shining Star award. A Shining Star is given to acknowledge outstanding efforts to promote organ, tissue and eye donation.

"One organ donor can bring the gift of life to nearly 50 people," Land said. "It's amazing how one simple act can touch so many lives."

To enroll on the state Organ Donor Registry, visit the Department of State Web site at www.Michigan.gov.sos or visit any Secretary of State office.

spring campaign will include a new associate - Hospice of Michigan.

A news conference to celebrate April as Donate Life Month is scheduled for Tuesday, April 6 at the Founders Bank & Trust in Grand Rapids. Information about the critical need for organ donors will be shared along with stories from individuals whose lives have been affected by the miracle of organ donation.

On Wednesday, April 7, Secretary of State offices will host Buddy Day from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. "Buddies" are Gift of Life Michigan, Michigan Eye-Bank, Lions Club and Hospice of Michigan volunteers who promote the importance of organ,

tissue and eye donation. Many are organ and tissue recipients or members of donor families. Buddy Day provides the public with a unique opportunity to meet people involved with organ donation and learn more about becoming a donor.

"We're excited about our plans for Donate Life Month," Land said. "We want to motivate as many people as we can to become organ, tissue and eye donors. Signing up is easy. Show us your heart by becoming an organ donor."

Gift of Life Michigan is the state's federally certified, full-service organ recovery organization. The agency acts

Eye-Bank, continued, page 12

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

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Easter Eggs-travaganza SATURDAY, APRIL 3 • 10 AM - 12 PM BIRTH - 5TH GRADE Lowell Nazarene Church 201 N. Washington • 616-897-8800 Easter Egg Hunt

happy birthday! MARCH 31 Katelynn Fonger, Jennifer McCaul, Ben Lobbezoo, Tera Raab, Rudy Smith, Michaela Blough. APRIL 3 Hayleigh Borton, Jamie Barnes, Darwin Lambert. APRIL 4 Troy Pethers, Nick Corbeil. APRIL 5 Doug Klahn. APRIL 6 Brad Yonker, Connie Vaughn, Pearl Peckham, Malley Cahoon, Carol Hovinga, Fran Clouser, Cheryl Foster, Taylor Milstead.

area churches

LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 201 N. Washington Lowell, MI • 897-8800 Pastor Wes Hershberger

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Highway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org

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

ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI

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

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

SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Pastor Dr. Mike Conklin

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LOWELL MOOSE 809 EASTER EGG HUNT! SAT, APRIL 3, 2010 CREEKSIDE PARK \$25.00 TOP PRIZE EACH GROUP

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Joanies Creations First Annual Prom Dress Exchange Have a homecoming, prom or bridesmaid dress & need something new to wear to this year's prom? Bring your dress & exchange it for a new one. Sat., April 10, 2010 4 - 8 p.m. 6851 Alden Nash Ave SE, Alto joaniescreations@yahoo.com

Your Michigan home needs Michigan protection... Thanks for making your home in our community. As Michigan's insurance company, we know Michigan homes and the hazards they face. We also know the kinds of discounts that help you save a lot of money on your home insurance. Call today. Mark Johnson Terry Abel Michigan's Insurance Company FARM BUREAU INSURANCE

Expo story and pictures, continued

And then there were first timers at the event like the Flat River Wood Carvers with Fran Mendez, John Sanchez and Doug Shassberger.

"We're always going to come here from now on," said Shassberger. "It took us a while."

Among other non-profit

organizations at the Expo were the Flat River Outreach Ministries with Marge Rehl and Janet Bailey.

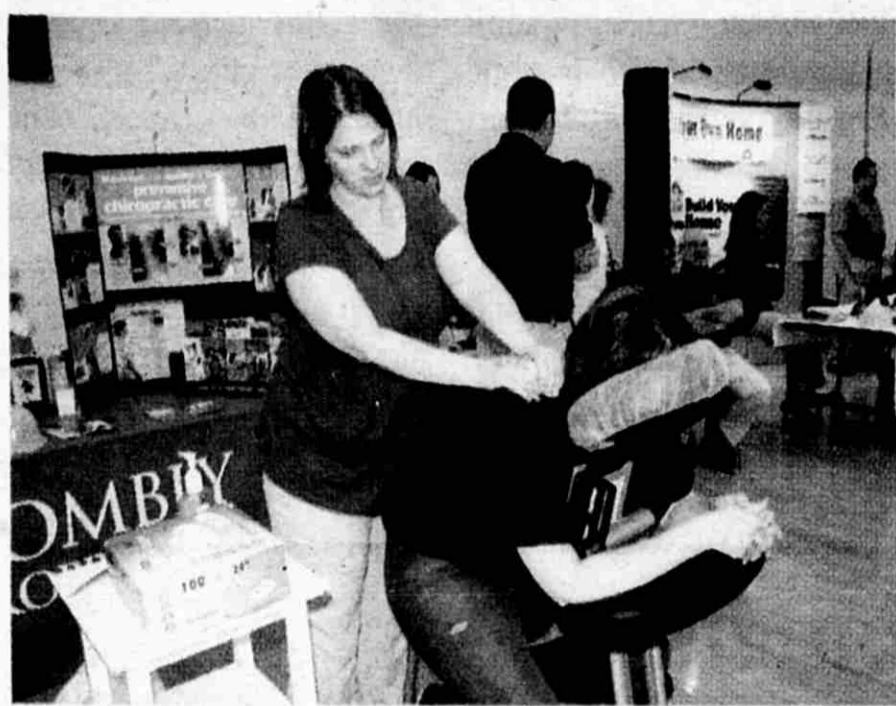
The entertainment stage manned by Al Eckman hosted several announcements. At noon, The Lowell Ledger publisher Jon Jacobs announced

important information about the community-wide Troll Project that will help the area survive the upcoming downtown bridge replacement project.

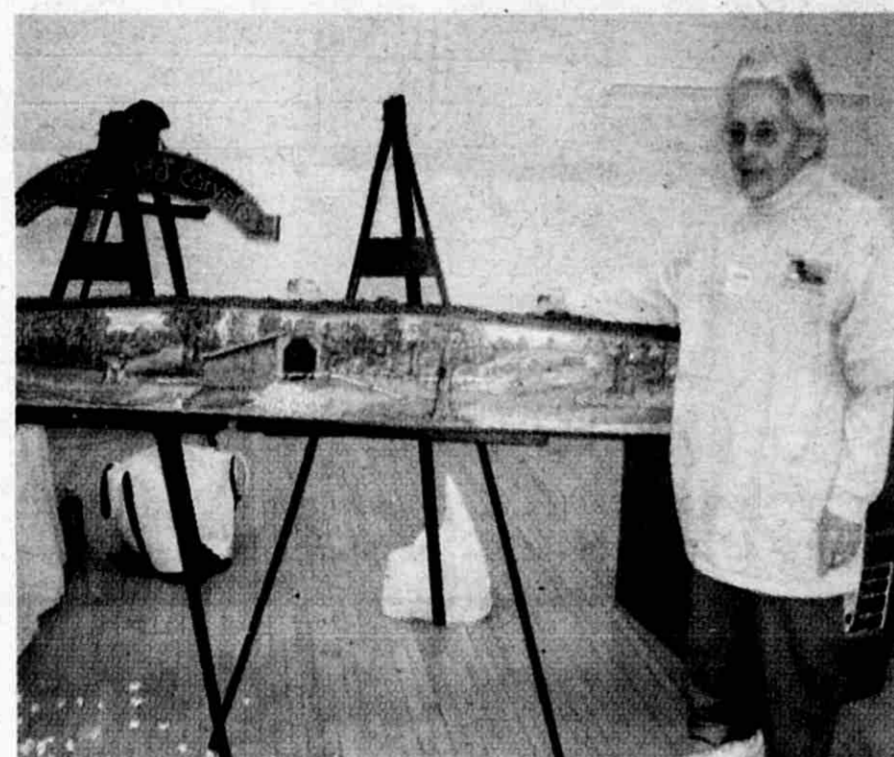
The message was clear: "Keep on shopping downtown."

Many vendors had the yellow construction hats signaling the things to come.

For more information on the Troll Project go to Cliff Yankovich's blog at the chamber website: www.lowellchamber.org



Kate Stokes of Trombly Chiropractic gives a massage to Angie Uhen.



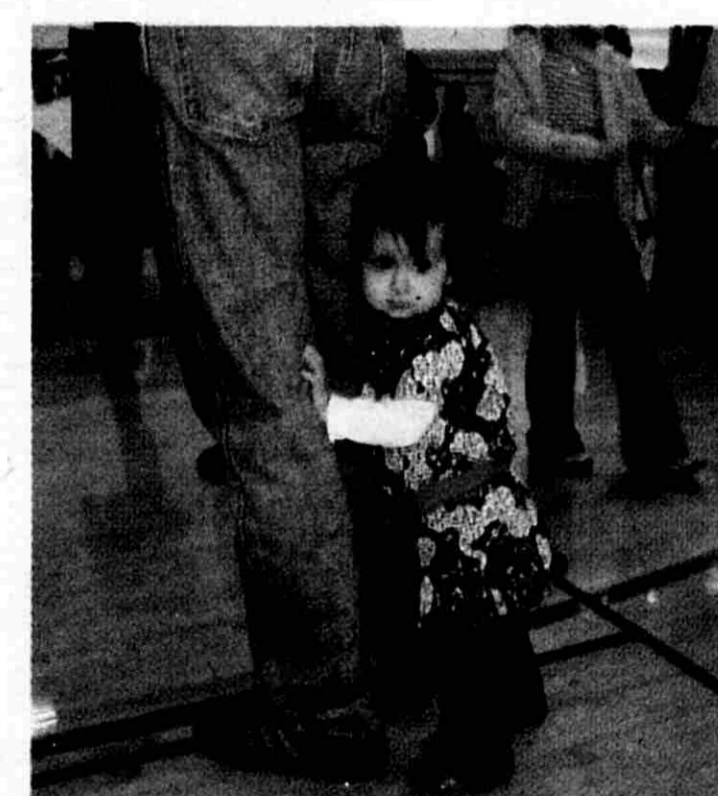
Fran Mendez with the Flat River Wood Carvers.



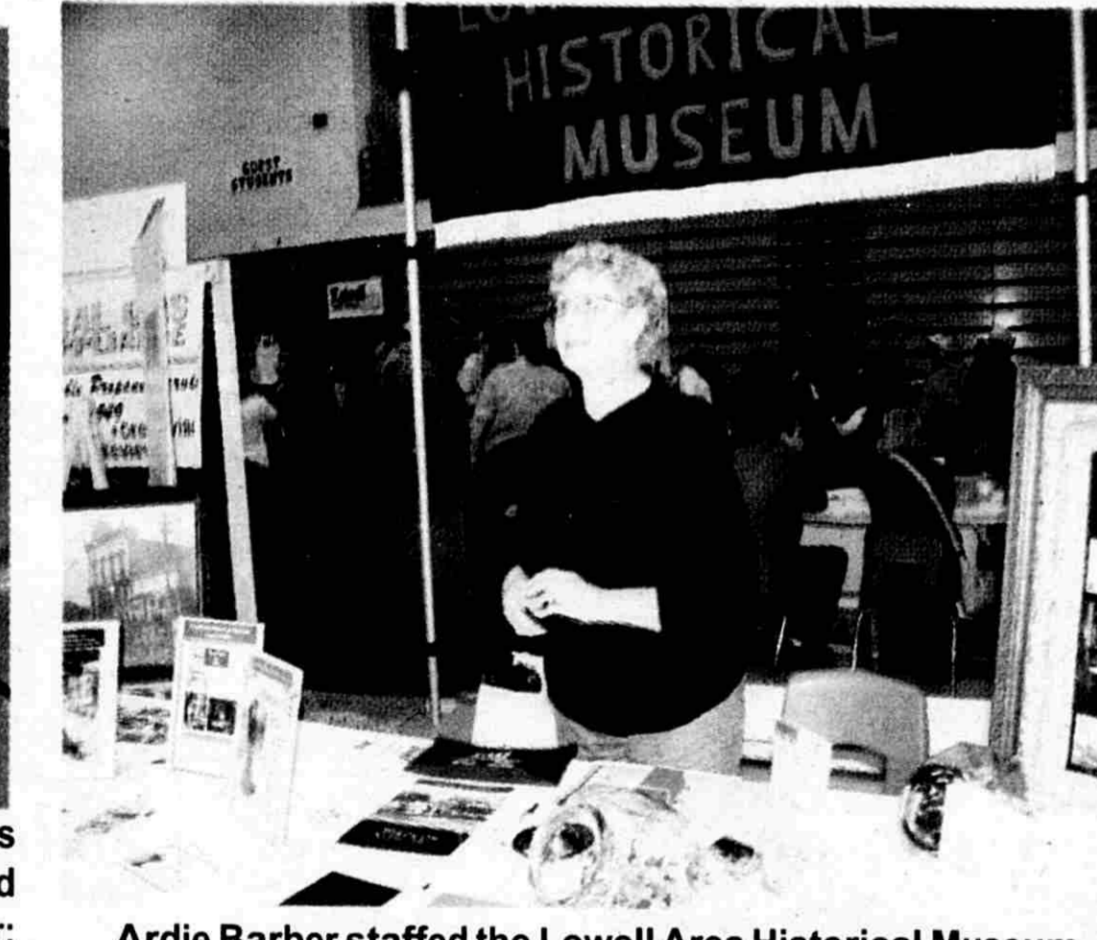
Marge Rehl and Janet Bailey working the Flat River Outreach Ministries booth.



Young pianist Derek Mohr entertains during the Expo.



Nora Goote hangs on to Ludek Pala's pants tightly seemingly lost in this world at the annual Expo as mom calls to her: "You got the wrong daddy."



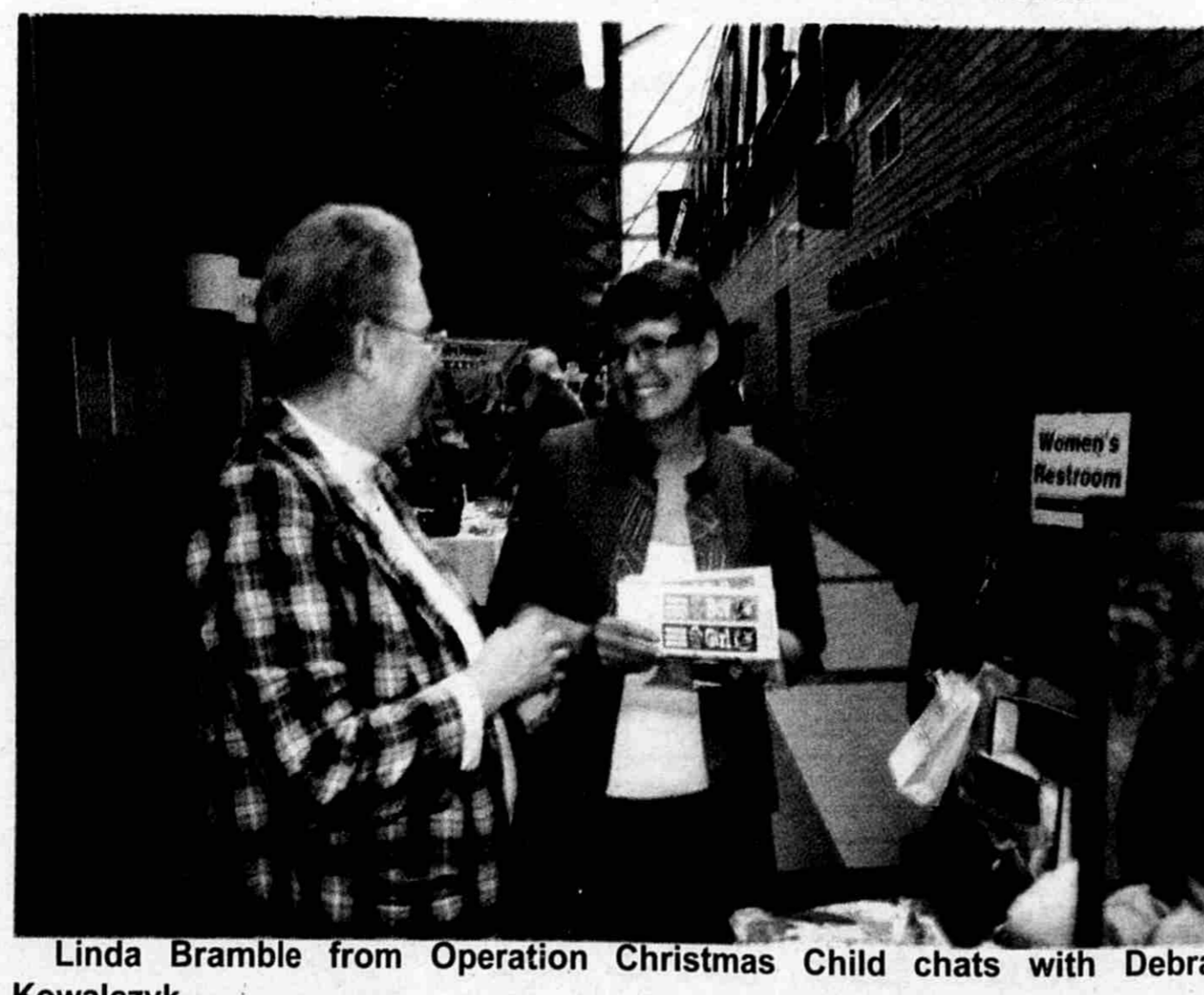
Ardie Barber staffed the Lowell Area Historical Museum booth.

We want to be your Other Family Doctor.

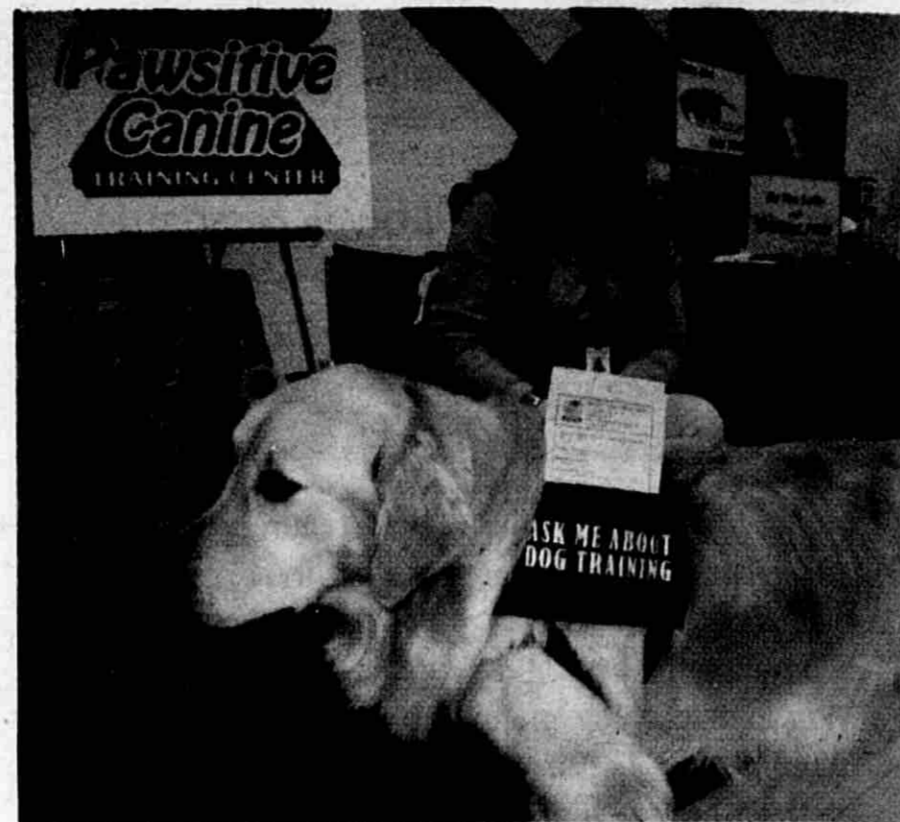
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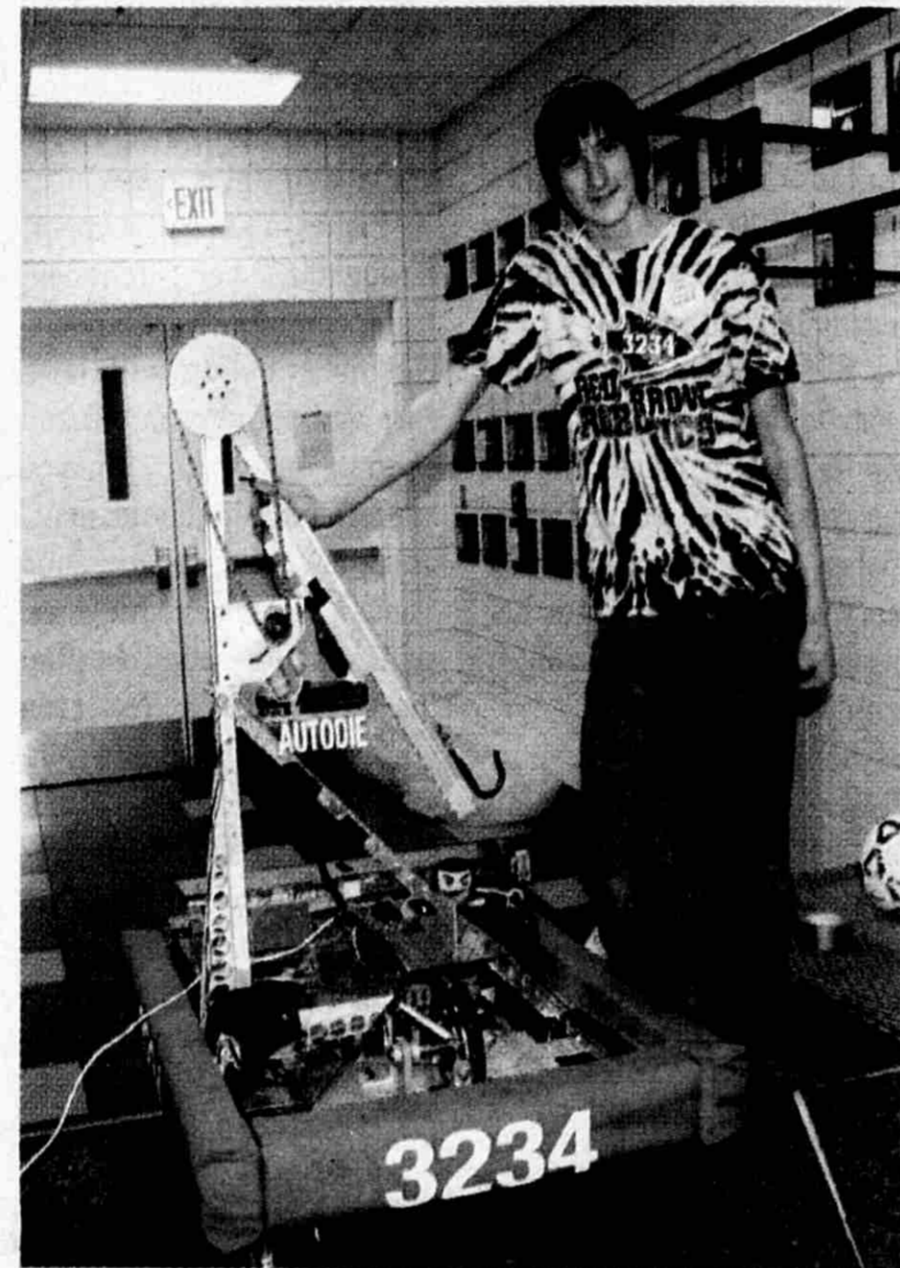
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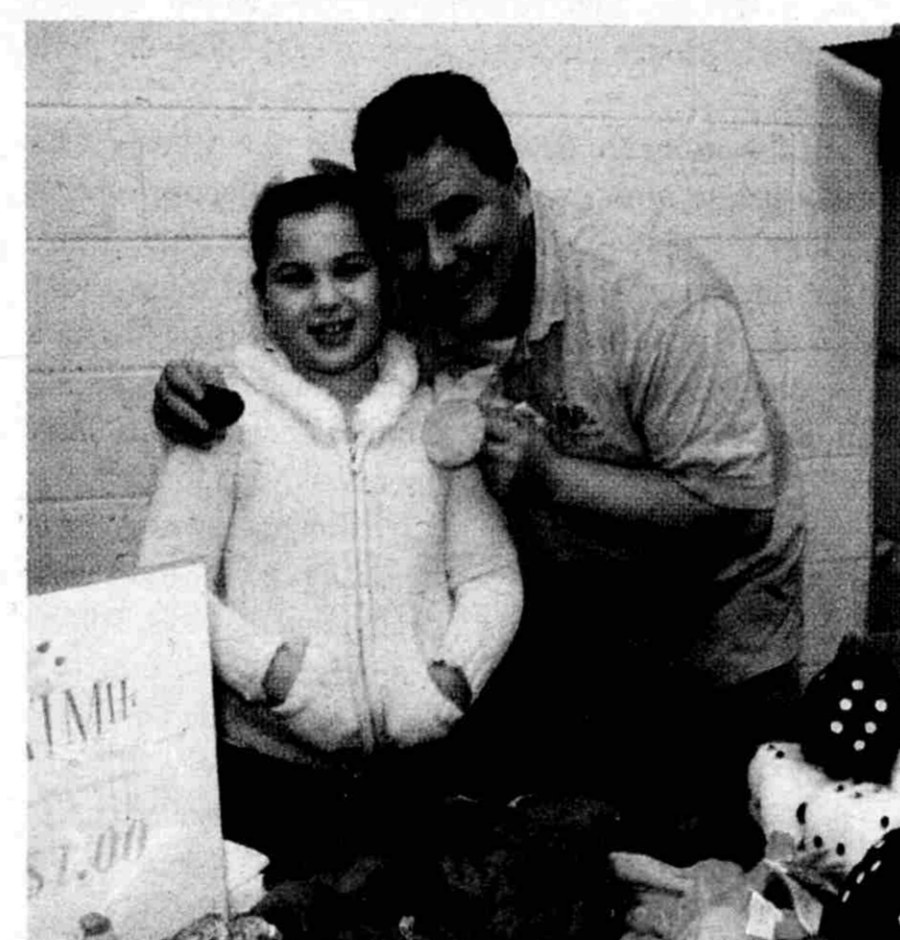
Linda Bramble from Operation Christmas Child chats with Debra Kowalczyk.



Golden retriever Justin with Pawsitive Canine.

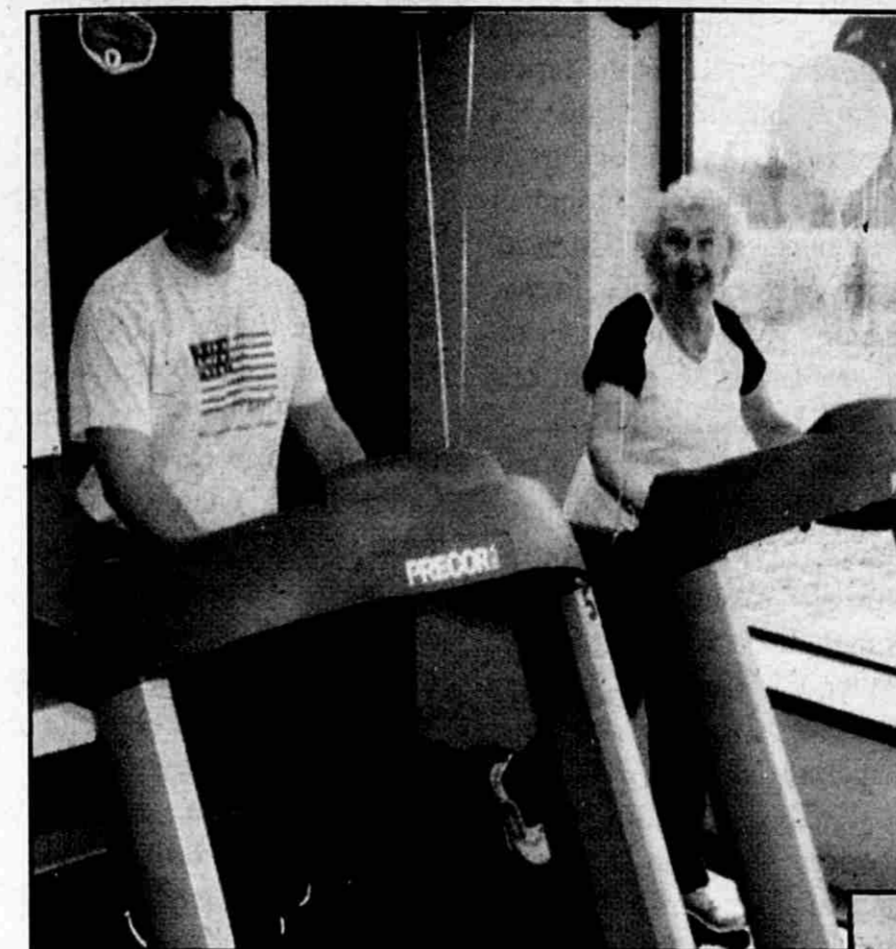


Derek Chopp is the team captain for Red Arrow Robotics high school team.



Jay and Tara Martinez at the AIM booth.

Treadmill Challenge raises funds for Lowell families



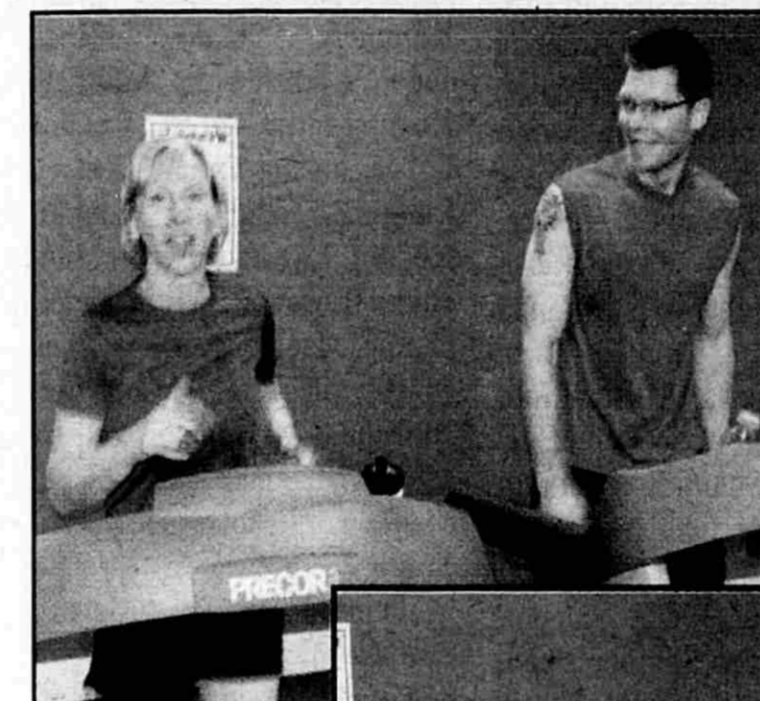
John Zielinski and Rheta Persha



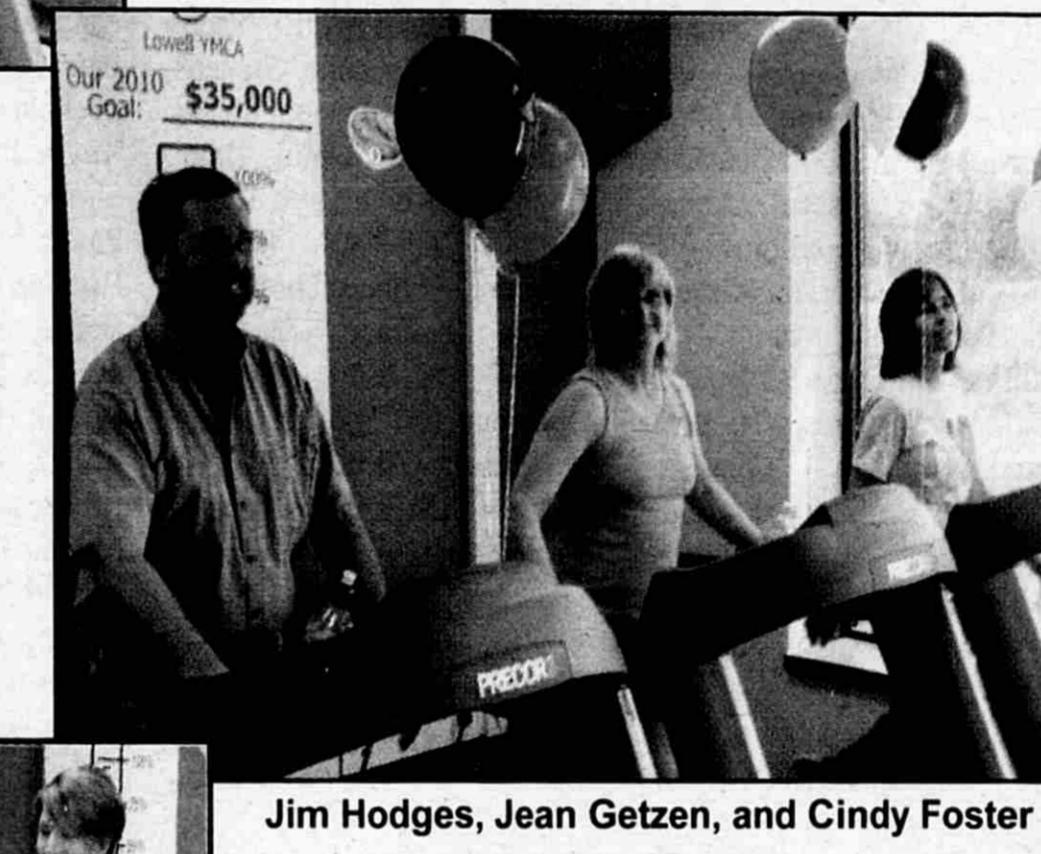
Sue Scoles and Hannah Draigh



Heather Hayes



Wendy Jeffrey and Andy Retberg



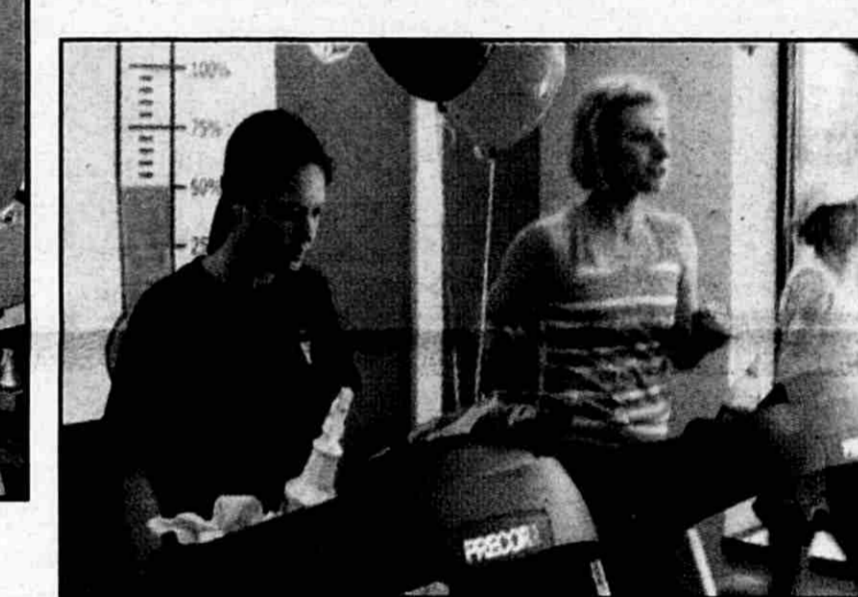
Jim Hodges, Jean Getzen, and Cindy Foster



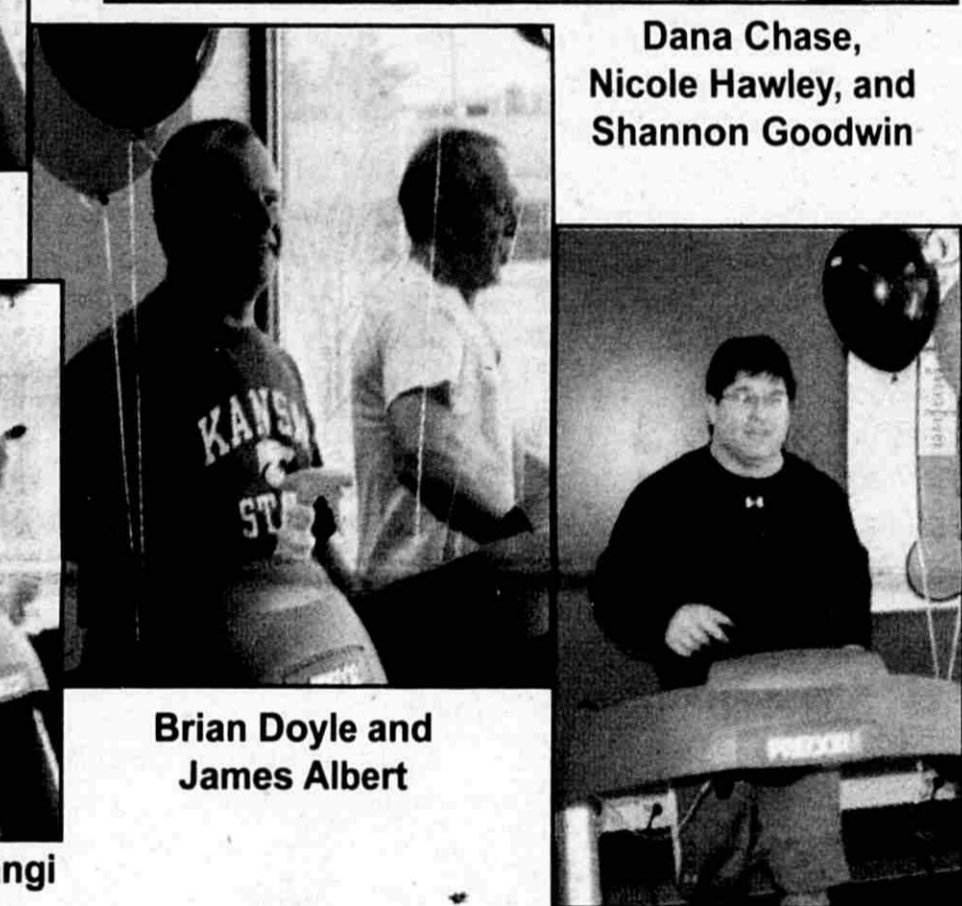
Dana Chase, Nicole Hawley, and Shannon Goodwin



Jonathan and Lynn Draigh



Terese Phillips, Stacy Pniewski, and Beth Ciangi



Brian Doyle and James Albert

Noel Dean

Red Arrow SPORTS

Arrows net second-place finish at Fruitport

by Thad Kraus

Potential, good court movement, hard work and a spring chill were all part of the thumbnail snapshot Lowell girls' tennis coach Bonnie Wall walked away with Saturday at the Fruitport Invitational.

The Red Arrow netters finished second in a six-team field. Fruitport took top honors with 34 points. Lowell was four back at 30.

"It provided a little bit of a measuring stick for us,"

Wall said. "I saw some good hustle, good movement and our doubles teams did a good job poaching."

What Wall did not view was the play of Kelsey Mankel who missed the tourney due to a band commitment.

In singles play, the Red Arrows' top player, Kelly Trapp, netted top honors with a 6-4, 6-3 win in the championship match against Fruitport.

June Ramsay, third singles, placed third.

Taylor Mankel (second singles) and Morgan Rogalke (fourth singles) did not place as they lost tough first matches.

Kelsey Wittenbach and Caitlin Baker, playing first doubles, won a tourney championship with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Whitehall.

Lowell's third doubles team of Brynlee Pomper and Zoe Beloncis, playing

second doubles, won two of their three matches.

Molly Willemstein and Katy Mork, playing third doubles, also won two of three matches.

Lowell's fourth doubles team, Jessica Lewis and Abby Rogalke, earned top honors with a 6-3, 6-2 win against Whitehall.

The Red Arrows play league foe Greenville on April 14.

Overtime bounce lifts Lowell past Maroons

by Thad Kraus

A Jim Collins' goal 90 seconds into overtime lifted Lowell's lacrosse team to an exciting season-opening 8-7 win over Holland Christian.

Collins' goal became necessary after Holland Christian rallied from a 6-3 third-quarter deficit to tie Lowell at 7-7.

"I was happy with our offense and I thought our

defense played well in limiting the number of goals Holland was able to score," said Lowell lacrosse coach Eric Bredin.

Collins' winning goal was uncorked from the top of the box. The long outside bounce shot beat the goalie.

"It wasn't the shot we were hoping to get, but it went in," Bredin explained.

The Red Arrows were able to offset Holland Christian's ball control style with its transition.

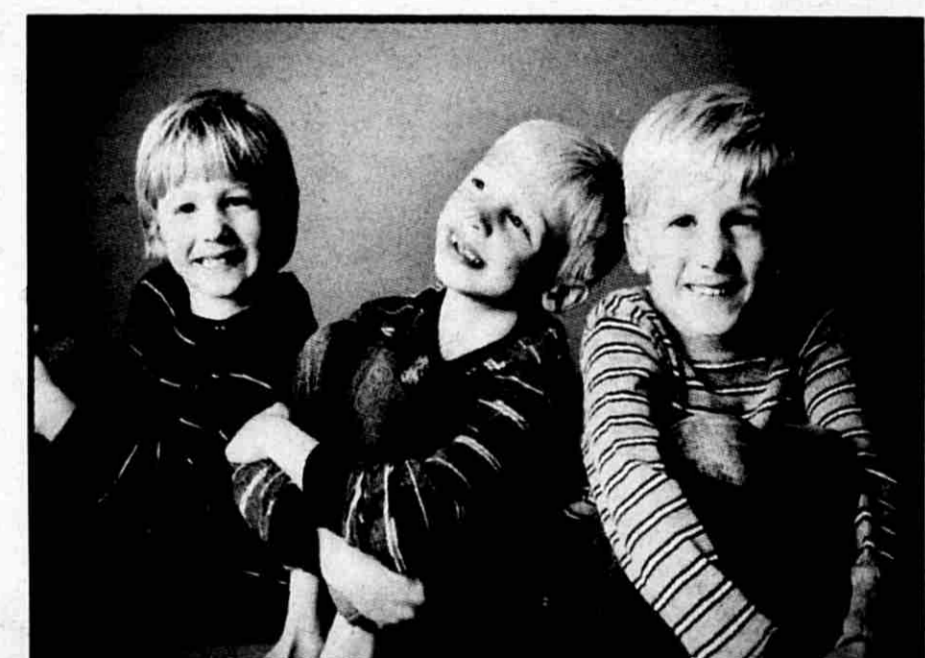
"We had a number of transition goals. Seven of our eight goals were assisted and that shows the quality of an offense," Bredin said.

Lowell led 5-1 in the second quarter before a non-releasable penalty enabled

Holland Christian to net two goals before the half, cutting the deficit to 5-3.

The Maroons followed up two late first-half goals by scoring two goals in the final 1:13 of regulation to tie the game at 7-7.

Alec Downing led all Lowell scorers with three goals and two assists. Colin Morgan netted two goals.



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Lowell High School second trimester honor roll

Second trimester term GPA must be a 3.000 or higher to qualify & is based on final grades

9TH GRADE

Aaron Anderson, Sabrina Antcliff, Timothy Antel, Micah Babcock, Shelby Baird, Alanna Bancroft, McKensie Barnes, Justin Barrett, Amy Bartkus, Perry Bencker, Jorie Bennett-Walsweer, Paige Berends, Rebekah Betts, Cody Bieri, Corryn Bieri, Derek Bitterman, Kevin Blanchard, Kyle Bowers, Skylar Bowne, Kaeleb Brown, Haley Buck, Hannah Burt, Thomas Butler, Brigitte Casalina, Dean Chittenden, Molly Clarke, Paige Coble, Jacob Collins, Scott Collins, Daniel Cowden, Zachary Crawford, Sarah Crosby, Jacey Cullross, Nicole Cummings, Zachary Dawson, Emilyn Dec, Molly Denison, Daryann DeRaad, Heather Dimmick, Kennedy Dodde, Jack Dues, Joshua Elliott, Abigail Ellis, Delaine Ferguson, Licia Feuerstein, Andrew Finch, Collin Finkhouse, Kristin Fisher, Abigail Flentje, Michelle Foote, Jonathan Fox, Christopher Fuller, Joseph Gauck, Joshua Gee, Zachary Gibas, Gabrielle Gibbs, Gabriel Gorman, Zachary Graves, Madison Hacker, Bailey Haefner, Anthony Hanson, Madonna Hause, Evan Hedlund, Alexander Heffron, Lukas Henderson, James Herb, Emily Hessler, Joshua Hewitt, Cory Heykoop, Brianna Higgins, Marissa Hills, Alexandra Hinton, Nicholas Hoff, Paul Hommowun, Bryce Hrusovsky, Ashley Huber, Jennifer Huffman, Christian Huisman, Zachary Huver, Jordan Johnson, Kaitlyn Johnson, Maranda Johnson, Katelyn Kaczanowski, Christianne Kargl, Annette Kehoe, Jacob Khodl, Sean Khodl, Kolby Kloosterman, Sophie Kohtz,

Trac LaChapelle, Haley Ladd, Kayleigh Lambert, Ian Larson, Austin Lemke, Maxin Ligan, Jordan Lillie, Brendan Lobbezo, Bailey Loughlin, Dakotah Lytle, Matthew Majinska, Kelli Malcolm, Kimberly Malcolm, Jason Malling, Johnathon Mark, Tobias Marks, Chad Martin, Shannon Massey, Nicholas McCormick, Keaton McGregor, Alexander McIntire, Breana McKendrick, Morgan McVey, Emily Milstead, Sarah Misak, Ryan Durkee, Jordan Ervin-Mooney, Aaron Morris, Foster Nethercott, Samantha Newell, Mattie Newman, Alexis Noonon, Doug Nordman, Grant Noskey, Danielle Ordway, Brennan Page, Audrey Pearson, Emily Peterson, Logan Phoenix, Nicole Platz, Andrew Potter, Hunter Race, Audrey Rasch, Louis Raymond, Alexis Rife, Joshua Rocco, Abigail Rogalke, Rebecca Roth, Tyler Roth, Mark Russo, Leah Schlosser, John Schramm, Emily Schreur, Justin Scott, Trentin Sheppard, Nichole Slupe, Julie Smith, Brianna Steiner, Raechel Stougaard, Kyle Stubbins, Ethan Sutton, Brittany Tasma, Ryan Timmers, Madeleine Tlapak, Lavean, Alexander Tobin, Emma Tompkins, Taylor Vanderhorst, Scott VanOosten, Erin Wade, Brad Walling, Lauren Hedlund, Alexander Heffron, Lukas Henderson, James Herb, Emily Hessler, Joshua Hewitt, Cory Heykoop, Brianna Higgins, Marissa Hills, Alexandra Hinton, Nicholas Hoff, Paul Hommowun, Bryce Hrusovsky, Ashley Huber, Jennifer Huffman, Christian Huisman, Zachary Huver, Jordan Johnson, Kaitlyn Johnson, Maranda Johnson, Katelyn Kaczanowski, Christianne Kargl, Annette Kehoe, Jacob Khodl, Sean Khodl, Kolby Kloosterman, Sophie Kohtz,

10TH GRADE

Chloe Aalsburg, Joshua Addington, Brandi Aikens, Lindsay Anderson, William Ahmann, Danielle Bagin, Jeffrey Baker, Gerrit Baumhauer, Kendra Belile, Zoe Beloncis, Analyse Bencker, Luke Bigham, Sydney Bishop, Gregory Blanton, Michaela

Blough, Alec Bobko, Leigha Boogaard, Grant Breuker, Martin Brubaker, Dillon Buck, Casie Burr, Javier Carrascal De La Pisa, Justin Castro, Micah Chapin, Caitlin Clover, Robert Coffey, James Collins, Drew Corson, Lindsey Crawford, Gabriel Dean, Mathilde Delorme, Quincee Denault, Aleesha DenBraven, Kaylyn DeWaard, Karis Dilly, Nora Donahue, Caroline DosSantos, Elizabeth Downing, Jordan Drake, Laura Droog, Shawn Dulin, Ryan Durkee, Jordan Ervin-Wakefield, Caitlin Fitzpatrick, Santiago Focinos Mantecon, Collin Foehr, Dianna Foster, Alexandra Fotis, Hannah Fowler, Mackenzie Fox, Amber Geldersma, Melody Gerig, Daniel Geurkink, Nicholas Gibson, Andrea Gilbert, Travis Gordon, Bailey Groendyke, Morgan Groom, Matthew Haan, Aaron Hall, Pauline Harrington, Benjamin Hart, Austin Hause, Nicholas Hawks, Kyle Hendrick, Zachary Hofman, Matthew Hoogenboom, Lee Hovey, Ashlyn Hussey, Helen Jacobs, Kylie Jean, Hannah Johnson, Adam Jones, Lukas Kampf, Michaela Kehoe, Young Hwa Kim, Stephanie Kline, Hanna Kole, Samantha Kooiman, Julia Kopp, Lauren Kurtz, Matthew Kyllonen, Alan Lally, Meredith Lane, Andrew Light, Alexander Ligan, Sage Maliepaard, Kelsey Mankel, Kyra Marks, Christin Marsalese, Amber Martin, Taylor Martin, Dominique Martinez, Drew Mayhew, Wesley McDannold, Braden McGillicuddy, Hannah McLane, Kendra Merriman, Jorge Mexicano, Allison Meyers, Torie Milks, Derek Mixon, Sarah Mogor, Bravot Morris, Taryn Morris, Andrew Morse, Gabriel Morse, Arielle Nausieda, Ian Newhouse, Jonathan Niemann, Alexis Noffke, Alicia Noffke, Kristina Noonon, John North, Jordan

11TH GRADE

Kelsey Aiken, Corinne Alberts, Bailey Allen, Aubrey Ardis, Gerrid Ball, Katherine Bartholomew, Jonathan Bassin, Robert Becker, Blake Bergy, Jennifer Betts, Joel Bieri, Corey Bilski, Tyler Bitterman, Daniel Blake, Sarah Bocksey, Griffin Brenk, Treasure Bristol, Amber Brown, Caitlin Brown, Kelsey Brown, Michael Brown, Parker Buck, Chase Bueche, Whitney Bunn, Noah Burt, Jill Callihan, Bradley Canfield, Benjamin Carlson, Mia Carvajal, Rebecca Chamberlain, Derek Chopp, Emily Churches, Cameron Clark, Brianna Clarke, Chelsea Comdure, Alexandria Cowden, Timothy Creighton, Nicholas Crook, Dayna Crumback, Brooke Curtis, Sarah Cyrocki, Alexis DeLeon, Jone Destine, Jonathan Dixon, Marie Dollar, Olivia Doty, Molly Doyle, Elliott Drain, Kaitlin Drury, Andrew Drust, Connor Duiven, Emma Duvernay, Devyn Earls, Taryn Endres, Heather Ferris, Aaron Fetzer, Ellen Fitzpatrick, Taylor Flanagan, Daniel Fleet, Braydon Foley, Maxwell Forton, Lee Franklin, Marcus Fron, Hannah Geelhoed, Nicholas Getz, Melissa Grasman, Kimberly Green, Justin Hall, Jennifer Hartley, Blake Hayes, Andrea Herrera, Kendall Hewitt, Martin Hewitt, Kallie Holzhueter, Claire Hopkins, Thomas Houlihan, Matthew Houston, Craig Huber, Adam Hubert, Jalen Humphreys, Erik Ingebretson, Miah Jackson, Krysta Jankowski, Zackry Jeffries, Emily Jelsma, Jillian Johnson, Shannon Johnston, Marina Jones, Harley Kaminski, Jessica Kansman, Alyssa Kargl, Evan Kohtz, Morgan Kornoele, Sarah Kramer, Kristyn Krey, Noelle Kyes, Maggie Lancaster, Justin Lehman, Jessica Lewis, Jasmine Lillie, Rebecca Lorentz, Bryleigh Loughlin,

Nurmikko, Jeffrey Onan, Renn Osborne, Hope Oudbier, Carissa Paiz, Karlie Paulin, Jelena Petricevic, Joseph Potter, Caleb Pratt, Tyler Putney, Halley Reed, Miranda Regenold, Judith Reuter, Kiran Riley, Emma Roderick, Alec Roerig, Kyle Rogers, Shannon Rose, Tara Rowley, Anna Rozema, Alejandro Ruiz Medina, Carlos Ruiz Moliner, Cory Russell, Cassandra Rybicki, Juliana Sanchez, Hannah Schlenker, Michael Schwarz, Eli Scoby, Joseph Senneker, Madeline Simmons, Tanner Slotsema, Connor Smith, Jenna Smith, Kelsey Smith, Kendall Solon, Melissa Southwell, Jacob Stehley, Stephanie Stevens, Shelby Strah, Joseph Sweet, Haley Talcott, Yanni Tapia, Hannah Tawney, Skye Thebo, Anton Tholen, Shanice Thomas, Felicia Thompson, Jordan Timmer, Madeline Tome, Chase Treglia, Catherine Tremblay, Anne Vanderson, Allyson VanTil, William Veltung, Amanda Vietzke, Alexandra Wabeke, Mackenzie Whaley, Rachel White, Jake Will, Amanda Willson, Kelsey Wittenbach, Jeremy Wodarek, Kelsey Wold, Kasey Woodhead, Hunter Zuk.

Taylor Mankel, Briana Manszewski, Rebekah Martin, Brady Maughan, Katherine Maycroft, Conor McCarrey, Nicholas McKay, Mitchell McKenna, Monica McRae, Paige McVey, Jessica Mertz, Ashley Metternick, Jacob Meyer, Lucas Miles, Britney Milton, Kelsi Mitchell, Shelby Mitchell, Megan Montgomery, Mariah Moore, Summer Moore, Taylor Moore, Forrest Morris, Amanda Mott, Sarah Mundwiler, Colin Murray, Skyler Nauta, Kyleigh Newman, Jonathon Nichols, Benjamin Nickson, Kimberly Noall, Rachael Nora, Emily Oberlin, Allison Oesch, Katelyn Oudhoff, Brandy Parrish, Thomas Pastor, Eleni Peckham, Troy Petersen, Kaylie Petroelje, Neil Phillips, Shelby Pieroni, Amanda Pitsch, William Plummer, Brynlee Pomper, Jacob Porter, Benjamin Proefke, Matthew Proefke, Courtney Race, Megan Racine, Paige Rash, Kailee Richards, Brianna Richardson, Jenna Ries, Morgan Rogalke, Allison Roth, Julie Russo, Wade Schlosser, Courtney Schmidt, William Schmidt, Kristen Schramm, Caleb Schultz, Anna Scudder, Kate Scudder, Torrey Slocum, Shelby Snyder, Samuel Steed, Conner Swift, Olivia Taber, Madison Tawney, Kelsey Taylor, Danielle Thomas, Cort Thompson, Katherine Tompkins, Nicholas Toomey, Joshua Tozer, Kelly Trapp, Lauren Trasky, Krystal Troyer, Hannah Vanderhorst, Mackenzie VanDerWarf, Courtney VanNoord, Samantha Visscher, Crystal Vosburg, Erica Walendzik, Tyler Wallner, Kelsey Ward, Brianna Warren, Jordan Warren, Brandy Washburn, Katherine Weaver, Daniel Wernet, Alex Westdorp, Eliot Westdorp, Molly Willemstein, Jared Williams, Ethan Willison, Rachel Wold, Samantha Woody, Molly Wright, Kelly Wyckoff, Allison Young, Samuel Young, Scott Zalis, Christine Zvirzdinis.

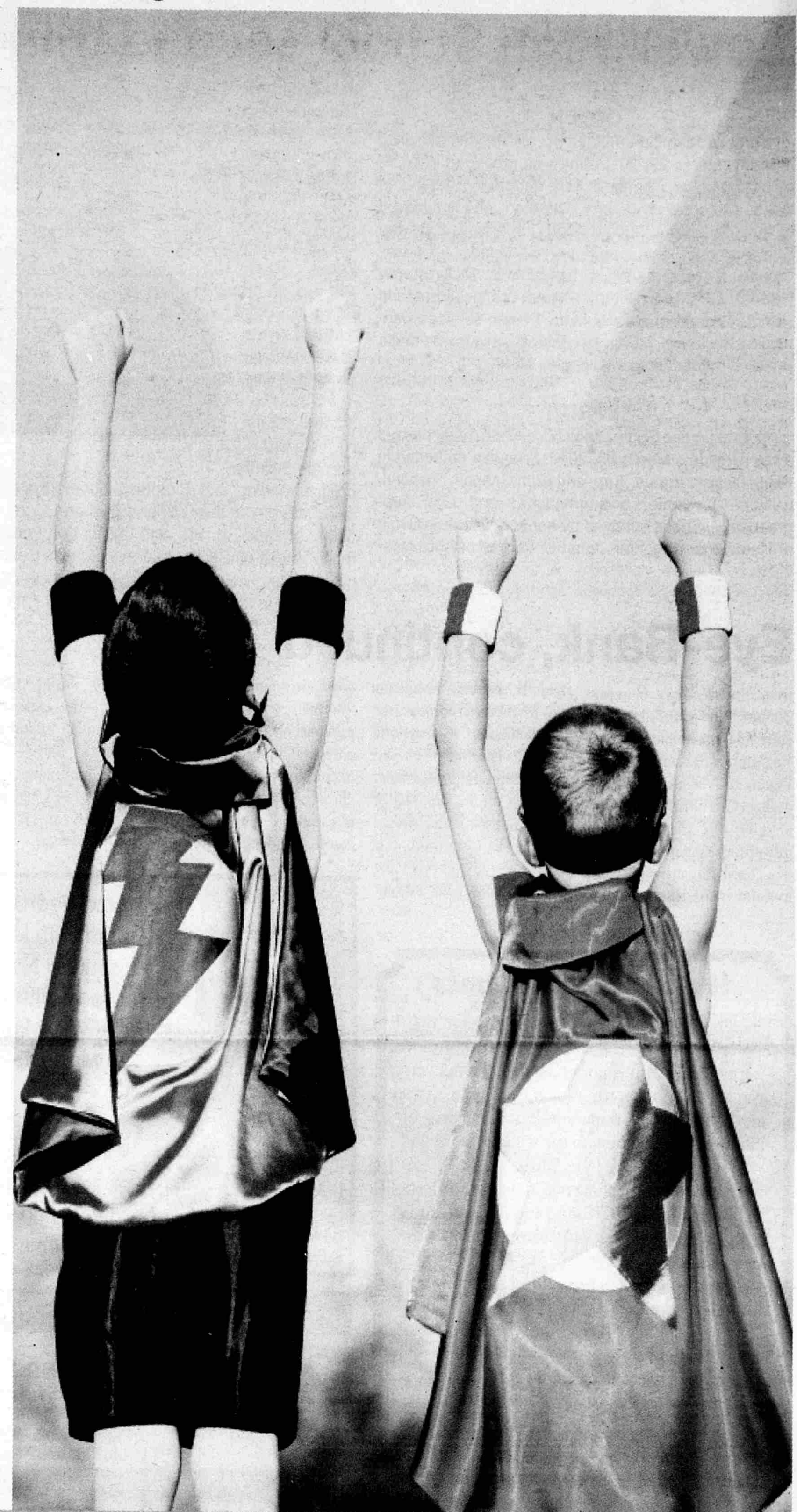
12TH GRADE

Cody Acker, Anastacia Adams, Jillian Alexander, Andrew Amidon, Kacy Anderson, Brittany Anthony, Nicole Bagin, Caitlin Baker, Nathan Baker, Alexander Barr, Conor Barr, Nicholas Bauer, Jacob Bennett, Kari Bergy, Christopher Bewell, Samantha Billock, Paula Blough, Kaitlyn Bocksey, Mark Bodus, Anthony Bogardus, John Bogardus, Seth Boogaard, Dakota Both, Kristin Bouwhuis, Samantha Braman, Sean Briggs, Samantha Brock, Madelyn Brower, Sarah Buist, Deanna Bunn, Alexander Calvi, Danielle Carigon, Valentyna Chemysh, Devon Chopp, Alyssa Churches, Malorie Coble, Samuel Collins, Brent Cone, Trenton Cooke, Derek Cornish, Joshua Corteville, Annalisa Crain, Christian Crist, Christian Crook, Robert Crosby, Kait Cummings, Chelsea Davidson, Megan DeFouw, Hailey DeGrote, Katie DeKraker, Marc Destine, Kara DeVries, Annelise Dlouhy, Molly Doering, Lauren Dood, Alec Downing, Linsey Dykhouse, Christopher

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MARCH 24 - MARCH 30

- History is made as the health reform bill is signed into law on Tuesday, March 23, 2010.
- President Barack Obama pays a surprise visit to troops in Afghanistan.
- Two female suicide bombers kill at least 37 people in a Moscow subway.
- After beating Tennessee, the Michigan State Spartans will make their sixth final four appearance in 12 years. The rest of the final four: the Blue Devils from Duke University, the Butler University Bulldogs and the Mountaineers of West Virginia University.
- Another group killing for their deity - A Christian militia group calling itself "Hutaree" (Christian warrior) has had several members in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana detained on criminal charges. The nine members arrested apparently planned to "levy war" on the U.S. by killing law enforcement officials and then attending their funerals where larger groups of law enforcement would assemble that they could then bomb.
- In the no-news to anyone department - Ricky Martin has "come out" as a "fortunate homosexual man" on his official website.

Someone had to say it!



Thad Kraus

How about them Spartans! Not only have they found a way to win again in March, but this year it seems they have benefited from some outside help. Ohio U. defeats the third seeded Hoyas from Georgetown; Northern Iowa beats top seed Kansas; and Tennessee upends second seed Ohio State. The fifth-seeded Spartans have made it to the final four playing just one team seeded higher than them. Call it lucky, but luck always seems to be on the side of teams who win. Of the 33 entries in The Ledger Bracket Brigade, one participant has Butler (west region) and Michigan State (midwest region) making it through all the way to the final four. Congratulations Tony Dommer. Unfortunately, he whiffed in the east and south regions. There were 29 participants who shot an air ball with their final four selections in the midwest and west regions. I am at 55 going into the weekend. I am one of seven entries who have West Virginia in the championship game, however, my bracket is the only one which has West Virginia winning the

whole thing. If that is what transpires I will be stepping on many of your backs as I climb up the ladder. Then again, if the Mountaineers lose I could fall even further. Being on one of the lower rungs, it is sure to be a short fall.

Here is the list of scores through the elite eight:

- Mason 75
- Mary Jo 73
- Tyler 72
- Chris V. 71
- Tony 69
- Daniel D. 68
- Tim 67
- Cheri 64
- Kyle 64
- Andy 63
- Cats 61
- Marilyn 60
- Cristina 59
- Josh 59
- Craig 58
- Mark 58
- Terry 58
- Jeff 58
- Bill 57
- Alex 57
- Derek 57
- Landon 57
- Don 56
- Shawn 56
- Jack 56
- THAD 55
- Dan 55
- Logan 54
- Dirk 53
- Chris V. 51
- Chris G. 47
- Kevin 41



Sound Off!
The Ledger's

"Almost" anything goes column!

last week's Sound Off poll result:

Which of these 20th Century innovations has had the biggest influence on our lives?

- Interstate Highway System.....25%
- Television.....12%
- Internet.....63%

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

THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION ...

Health Care -

- Glad it's finally passed and we can move on
- Hope the Republicans can repeal it
- Still don't feel like I have enough information
- I'm writing Sound Off!

The sun is amazing!

I was brought up to trust the police and that they are here to help us. So why do they write things down that you didn't say? To make you look bad?

Yes! Finally the health care bill is passed!

Troll adoptions have been all the rage. New homes for every size, shape and age. So look high and look low. At local businesses you know, And one you may find, we will wage!

We would like to send a special "Thank You" to the super nice couple that purchased Girl Scout cookies at our cookie booth outside of Walgreens on Sunday. When you returned later with the hot cocoa for us we were so surprised and thrilled! We appreciate your support so much.

- Girl Scout Cadette Troop 2158

When submitting your opinion to Sound Off!, we ask you to follow a few guidelines. Sound Off! is meant to be a way for you to compliment or vent your feelings with civility. A healthy way to get something off your chest or spread a little kindness.

We welcome your comments, with or without signatures, but signing your name to your comment does increase the odds of seeing it in print. Threatening or deliberately cruel comments will not be accepted and, of course, no advertising a product or service please. So basically, submit anything - but not everything will make it to print.

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.

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CITY OF LOWELL RESIDENTS ONLY

YARD WASTE PICKUP SCHEDULE FOR SPRING AND SUMMER 2010

The City of Lowell's Spring and Summer yard waste program is scheduled for the second and fourth Thursday of each month through September unless there is a holiday in that week and then the pickup day will be Friday. Yard waste bags are \$20.00 for a bundle of ten (10).

YARD WASTE PICKUP SCHEDULE

- April 8th and 22nd
- May 13th and 27th
- June 10th and 24th
- July 9th* and 22nd
- August 12th and 26th
- September 10th* and 23rd

***PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES ARE A FRIDAY PICKUP DUE TO A HOLIDAY DURING THE WEEK.**

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

Kid Scoop

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

The Big Read, a project of the National Endowment for the Arts, invites entire communities to read the same book at the same time! This year, many groups are reading:

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain

Whoops! Tom's friends whitewashed over some of the words. Find where each word belongs.

FIGHT TROUBLE BORING FIGURES QUALITIES

Tom is full of fun, adventure and imagination. Sometimes these _____ are useful and sometimes they get him in _____.

One day, he plays hooky from school and gets his clothes dirty in a _____. As punishment, Tom has to whitewash a fence. Tom soon _____ out how to trick his friends into whitewashing the fence for him by making the _____ job seem like a lot of fun!

Tom and Becky

In the book, Tom falls for the new girl in town, Becky Thatcher. He talks her into getting "engaged" to him. At first she likes the idea and agrees. But, then something happens to change her mind.

Replace the missing vowels to find out why Becky ended her "engagement" to Tom.

T _ m _ h _ s _ b _ _ n
" _ n g _ g _ d " t _ _ n _ t h _ r
g _ r _ l _ n _ m _ d Amy.

Unscramble the letters to discover what Tom gave Becky as an engagement gift.

D _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
K O B O R R O N B

School Scramble

Schoolmaster Dobbins challenged Tom to spell every state in the union. What was Tom's answer?

To find out, write the letter of the alphabet that comes before each letter below.

F W F S Z T U B U F
J O U I F
V O J P O

Design a pirate flag for Tom Sawyer.

Playing Pirate

Tom and his friend Huck and Joe run away to an island to become pirates. They stay away so long that the townspeople think they have drowned in the river. Imagine the surprise and joy when the boys show up at their own funerals!

Standards Link: Visual Arts: Know how subject matter, symbols and ideas are used to communicate meaning.

Lost! Tom and Becky go on a picnic to McDougal's Cave with their classmates. Tom and Becky get lost in the cave. They run out of food and candles and, if that is not bad enough, they run into a murderer who is using the cave as a hideout.

Can you escape from the cave?

Find the Fun

Tom likes to have a good time. You can have fun with today's newspaper. Simply look at the headlines in the newspaper and see how many you can change to mean just the opposite.

Standards Link: Reading: Use reading skills and strategies to understand informational texts.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Tom witnesses a horrible crime one night in a graveyard. Read *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* to find out what he saw.

Find each tombstone's twin.

Standards Link: Investigation: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

Find more about The Big Read and color in some Tom Sawyer pictures. Go to www.kidscoop.com/kids

Double Double Word Search

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

ADVENTURES THATCHER ENGAGED WHITEWASH HOOKY PIRATE ESCAPE CRIME WITNESSES CAVE BECKY TOM DOBBINS UNION SKIP

S E S S E N T I W H
E R E A E M I R C S
S E R U T N E V D A
C Y N O D H E S O W
A K M G C T C K B E
P O T T A H A I B T
E O A R I G V P I I
S H I Y K C E B N H
T P N O I N U D S W

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Adventure Time

Find an article in the newspaper about a person you think is adventurous. Read the article and then make a timeline showing the order of events in the article.

Standards Link: Reading: Sequence main ideas to summarize.

Why is it so hard to talk to a pirate?

ANSWER: Because they love to arrrrrrrr!

Kid Scoop Together: TRY THIS AT HOME

Quotables

With your learning buddy, look through today's newspaper to find an article in which someone was interviewed. Look for quotes from the people interviewed. What question do you think the reporter asked to get that response?

Headline of Article: _____

Quote #1 from article: _____

Question you think the reporter asked to get the answer quoted above: _____

Quote #2 from article: _____

Question you think the reporter asked to get the answer quoted above: _____

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Summarize and paraphrase information in texts; ask questions to demonstrate understanding.

Kid Scoop-doku™

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

T	W	A	I	N
			A	T
A		I		
	N			
N				I

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **ENCOURAGE**

The verb **encourage** means to give support or advice to a person to do something.

My teacher likes to encourage us to keep our backpacks organized.

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

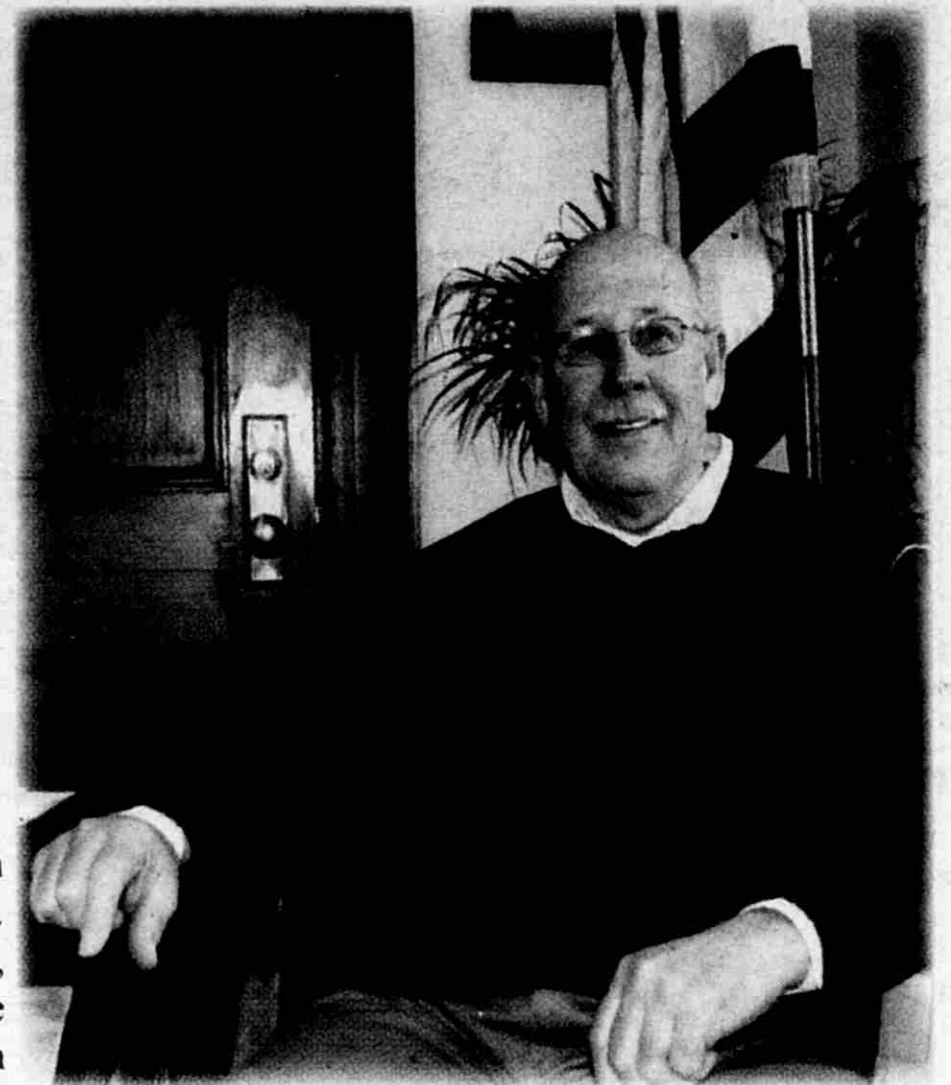
Write On! Reading Rocks

I love to read because... Explain why you like to read and what you enjoy reading.

Gil Brown

Behind The Scenes

Position: Postmaster
Residence: Lake Odessa
Education: Bachelor of Science from Michigan Technical University, master's degree in management from Aquinas College
Experience: Postmaster since 2001 in Lowell; management in Grand Rapids post office since 1981
Family: Wife Shirley, children: Richard, Erin, and Sam
Hobbies: Fishing, Harley bike riding, and gardening
Service: 1969-1971 Vietnam and Cambodia infantry; 2005 rotary president; 2006 member of Veterans of Foreign Wars



Lowell postmaster retires after 29 years of service

by Emma Palova

Lowell postmaster Gil Brown, 61, will retire at the end of March. Brown started working in the postal service as a city carrier in Grand Rapids in the early 1980s. He worked himself up to a management position overseeing 40 carriers and a

window operation. Since Brown resides in Lake Odessa, he transferred to Lowell to be in a smaller town. The early challenges of the job were mainly the management of the mail flow due to high volume. However, the window

operation hasn't changed. The big change over the years has been ebay and Internet. People are buying more and more online and shipping more. "It has grown tremendously," he said. And today, the challenges mean the decrease in volume

of letter and flat mail which means declining revenues. In order to handle new tasks, the postal service has made the routes bigger and gotten rid of an auxiliary route that was absorbed. Brown manages 24 employees including part-time.

"It's been a good job," Brown said. "People of Lowell are wonderful. They come here and visit."

Brown said he will miss the interaction with the people.

His short term goals always included making the budget on a daily basis and making sure the window was fully staffed, as well as getting the mail delivered.

The long term goal for Brown has always been becoming a postmaster and he has accomplished his goal through diligence, perseverance, a work ethic learned from his parents, and discipline, which he had learned in the army.

Brown has been viewed by his peers and employees as a professional and a friend.

And what sets the postal service apart from the competition?

"We deliver to every mailbox in the county six days a week," Brown said.

But, he does envision a change to a five-day delivery with the letter volume continuing to drop.

"Computers and machines sort all the mail that used to be hand sorted," he said.

The conversion to machinery sorting started in the 1970s. To find new revenues, the postal service will do passports as well as sell greeting cards.

To thrive in these economic times, Brown said the postal service will continue to reduce work hours, eliminate positions throughout the country and downsize the workforce.

"The computers will do most of the work and the people will get eliminated," he said.

A good day at the post office is when everybody shows up. And a bad day means, who's going to sort and deliver?

"Sometimes it's me, the clerk, the custodian or the combination of all of us," he said. "It's gotta get done. We've never had a day that we didn't deliver all the mail. It has to be delivered every day."

And even on a stormy wintry day out in the country, the carriers go out and deliver.

"They go out in bad storms," he said.

As far as retirement plans, Brown wants to volunteer in national parks out west.



Who benefits from those public notices?

You do.

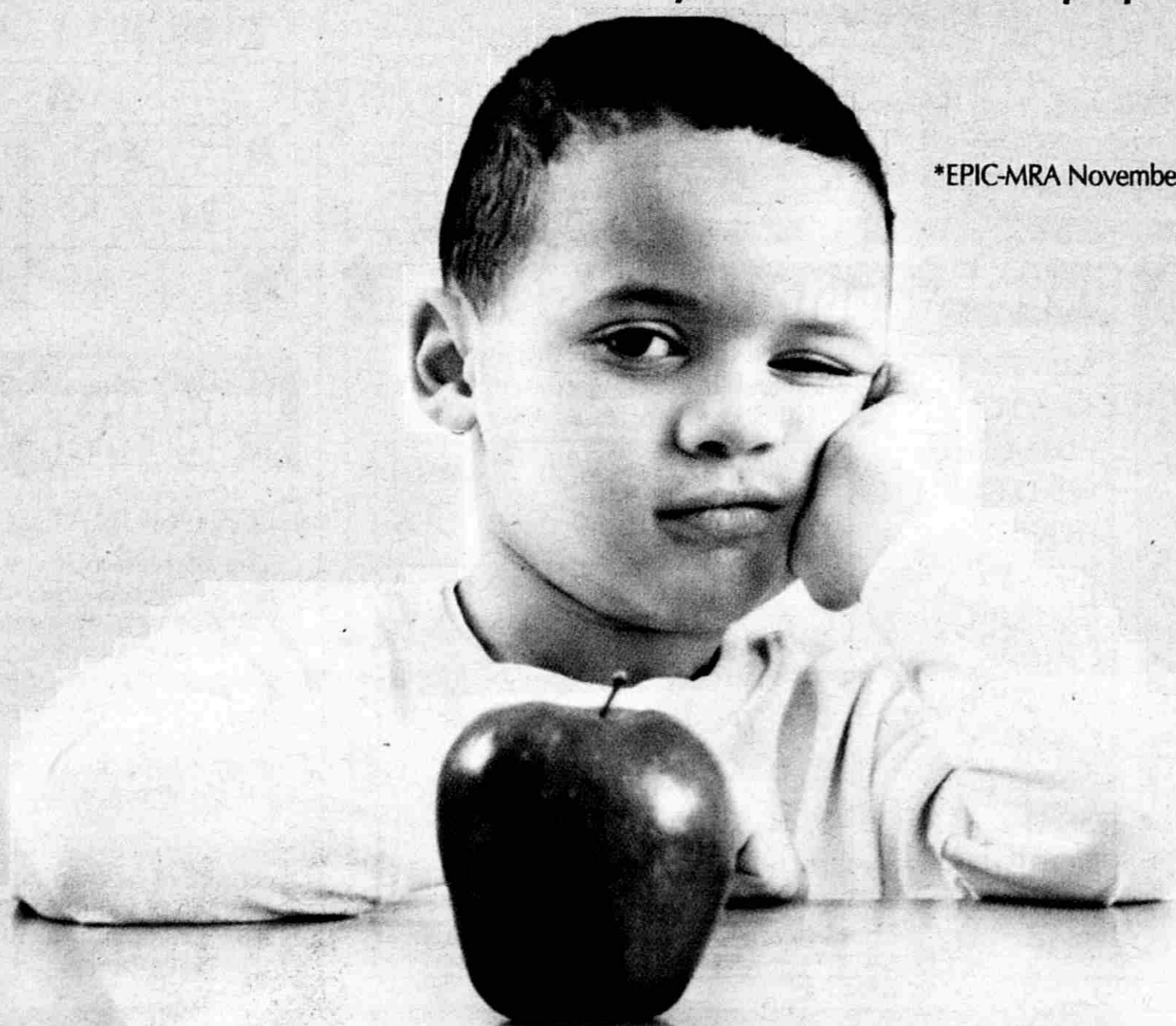
Hardly a week passes without some small notice being printed in this newspaper. These legal advertisements affect you, your family and friends.

They show how your government is being run, how much money is being spent and where. Through this newspaper, they keep you in touch with your government

That's the whole idea.

More than two-thirds of active Michigan voters think legal notices should continue to be placed in your local newspaper.*

*EPIC-MRA November 2007



the lowell ledger

This newspaper supports your right to know.

Direct Care Workers - We are a non-profit Christian organization that empowers people with disabilities or disadvantages to achieve their highest level of independence. Are you a caring individual seeking a job where you can make a difference in others' lives? We are seeking people with a positive attitude, patience and compassion for others to join our team. We have on-call, part-time and full-time positions available on all shifts. We are also consistently looking for candidates to fill on-call positions. We utilize on-call staff to fill open shifts, this is a great way to work your way into a part-time or full-time position. Requirements include: HS Diploma/GED required, valid driver's license with acceptable driving record required, demonstrated written and verbal communication skills, ability to pass physical/drug screen, lift 50 pounds, and pass criminal background check. Starting pay is \$10.00 per hour. Paid training is provided!

Interested candidates can apply online at www.hopenetwork.org or in person at:

Hope Network Career Center
 775 36th Street
 Grand Rapids, MI 49509

H/V/M/F, EOE, Affiliate of Hope Network