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# the lowell ledger

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## Shopping in Lowell off to a good start

only  
**23**  
shopping days  
till christmas

**L**  
the final  
game



pages  
8 & 9

**50**  
CENTS



by Emma Palova

Shopping in downtown Lowell on Black Friday was slightly up, but followed an up and down pattern due to a Lowell football game.

It went from busier in the morning, and lighter and then it picked back up again. But overall it was a mixed bag as far as in comparison to last year both in volumes of customers and sales.

"We got off to a good start," Mike Sprenger of Springrove Variety said. "But then everybody went to the game."

Specials included sales throughout the store, toys and Christmas goods. Fleece was a hot sale.

"It was a little better than last year," said Sprenger.

At Cousins' Hallmark, Sue Mooney said business was the same as last year. The store had Hallmark specials.

"We were steady in the morning and picking up in the afternoon," said Mooney.

Christmas ornaments and the Night Before Christmas were the hottest sellers.

At Larkin's, business picked up after the football game.

Further down west on Fulton, salesperson Sharon Miller of Bernard's Ace Hardware said the store was busier last year. There were all sorts of sales, but the shop sold out of the shop vac and DeWalt drill.

At Daisy Floral, now located on Main Street inside the Flat River Antique Mall suites, there was more traffic, mainly walk-in traffic at the old strip mall location.

Shopping in Lowell,  
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Karen Hale and Terri Chopp at Cousins' Hallmark were kept busy during the Thanksgiving holiday shopping weekend.

## Farmers' Market may move to new location in the spring

by Emma Palova

The Farmers' Market may move next spring from the fairgrounds to the parking lot in front of Tractor Supply for better exposure for the vendors.

Chamber director Liz Baker is hoping that the move will reinvent the market. The market has had a diminishing number of vendors.

"It is extremely hard to pinpoint the reason the market has diminished over the past couple of years, but here are some of the reasons we feel it has," she said.

The slowing economy and the bridge project may have been factors.

Also, the timing of the fair may have played its role.

"Fair, due to the fact that we have to close right when the crops are bumper, we have never gained our momentum back after the fair," Baker said.

Fair manager Ron Wenger was also the market master. Baker said it is time for someone to solely

dedicate time to the market. "Ron has too much on his plate," said Baker. "It is time for someone to solely dedicate time to the market. Ron has been a wonderful market master."

But times have changed and Wenger cannot dedicate hours to the market. His primary concern is for the well being of the Kent County Youth Fair and

the management of the fairgrounds.

"I have no regrets," he said. "I have too much to do."

The Lowell Area Farm Market committee decided to give the Tractor Supply parking lot a try due to the high visibility of the area and increased traffic. The

Farmers' market,  
continued, page 4



Farmers' Market will move in front of Tractor Supply next spring.

## Christmas at Fallasburg raises money for historic preservation

by Emma Palova

The Christmas bonfire, 50 feet tall, held after the Christmas dinner at the Fallasburg schoolhouse can be seen all the way from town. It is the highlight of the annual fundraiser, according to president of Fallasburg Historical Society, Ken Tamke. The stack, made from tree trimmings collected from the area, is 15 yards long and 10 yards high.

The Christmas dinner on Dec. 11 is the second largest fundraiser after the July bike tour. Craig Wood is the firemaster who tends to the fire along with some diehards.

"The community gathers around the fire," said Tamke.

And even though the official time for the dinner is from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. fire diehards stay till 11 p.m.

The original dinner started as a pioneer dinner, but because it was catered, the historical society wasn't making any money on it.

"It was something that the pioneers might have had in the 1800s, like venison," said Tamke.

Tamke, whose family owned farm is located just outside of Fallasburg, has a soft spot for the park and historic preservation. He became involved with the fundraiser in 2006 and gave it a new potluck version.

"Everybody contributes," he said. "You know

Christmas at Fallasburg,  
continued, page 7

# Community Thanksgiving dinner a big success

The second annual community Thanksgiving dinner held at the First Congregational Church was a big success, according to pastor Chris Schwab.

The meal was sponsored by Lowell area churches with many volunteers serving food. Approximately 150 people were served.

"There was an environment created on that day which offered hospitality and grace to one and all," he said. "All of the people who came to this time of food fellowship were spiritually, emotionally and physically fed."

And there were

opportunities to meet new people, as well as to connect with familiar faces.

The net profit from this event was approximately \$250, all of which will be given to Flat River Outreach Ministries in order to assist the agency in helping others this holiday season. The amount of money that was collected this year was more than twice the amount that was collected at last year's event.

"This event was accomplished only through the efforts of many volunteers and much generosity. Thanks must be offered to all who contributed or volunteered their time," said Schwab.



Pictured are some of the many volunteers that helped make the community dinner a success.

## Thank you

To everyone who submitted pictures for "Our Town" Calendar. - Thank you!

We are going over the images now and deciding which pictures will be used in the calendar.

Watch for the winners to be announced in our "Year In Review" edition on December 29, 2010.

All those chosen to be in the calendar will receive a calendar and an 11x14 enlargement of their photo.

Thanks again for all the great entries!

the ledger Our Town Photo Contest

## the ledger

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### ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

Sign up at the Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St., Sat., Dec. 4, 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.

### A CUP OF CHRISTMAS TEA AT LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The museum will host "A Cup of Christmas Tea" before the Christmas parade, Dec. 4, 3-5 p.m. Come and sit in the museum's Victorian parlor and dining room, all decorated for Christmas, and partake of a cup of tea.

Christmas open house, Dec. 7, 4-7 p.m. Stop in and see the lovely museum decorated for Christmas.

### TOBACCO FREE FOR GOOD

An informational meeting will be Wed., Dec. 8, 6-8 p.m. at Lowell Family Medical Center. This meeting is designed

for anyone who wants information quitting tobacco. Talk with a tobacco treatment specialist and receive a resource guide that lists local classes, Internet and phone counseling options and low/no cost medications. Call 616-446-7058 with any questions.

### DEADLINE FOR LOWELL COMMUNITY FUND REQUESTS

The deadline to request funds from the Lowell Community Fund is Fri., Dec. 10 at noon. To receive consideration and approval, all requests must be for funds that will aid local organizations in providing help to persons in the Lowell area. The Heart of West Michigan United Way has set the December date aside for those qualified to receive funding for 2011-2013. Request forms are available at Dr. James Reagan's office, 207 W. Main St., or at Huntington Bank, 414 E. Main St.

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the ledger

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# Shopping in Lowell, continued

The main sellers were Christmas ornaments and Thanksgiving table centerpieces.

At Meijer in Lowell, customers went mainly after the door buster deals,

electronics, game systems, toys, iPods and Santa Bucks or custom couponing

depending on the type of purchase.

"We were pleased with

the way customers reacted to our promotions and sales," said Meijer public relations director Frank Guglielmi.

As far as Cyber Monday, people bought 50-inch TVs, netbooks, furniture and laptops.

Thirty percent of online sales are expected between Cyber Monday and Christmas Day.

At Chimera Design, the main promotion is coming up, with 12 Days of Holidays, since Black Friday is not a big deal. The promotion will run from Dec. 11 through Christmas.

Each day, a different item will be featured on the blog and facebook.

"They will be a steal,"

Cliff Yankovich said. "It's a fun way to stimulate shopping."

However, Black Friday is not necessarily a gauge for the rest of the holiday shopping season. Most shoppers keep putting off holiday shopping and online shoppers are gaining momentum. And shoppers, due to economy, are changing habit and patterns, according to consumer reports. They have started buying for themselves using cash and layaways instead of credit cards.

Meijer online promotions through December include free shipping and returns on purchases over \$50.

\*\*\*

My husband gave me a necklace. It's fake. I requested fake. Maybe I'm paranoid, but in this day and age, I don't want something around my neck that's worth more than my head.

- Rita Rudner, comedian

# Students raise over \$2,400 for Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

The Murray Lake student council was touched by former student Anna Organek when she came to speak to the students during the Pink Arrow Project. Her words sparked an interest for many of the student council students to do something to help kids with a blood borne cancer. Organek has battled lymphoma for many years and is currently in remission and attending Lowell Middle School.

Pasta for Pennies is a program that raises money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Michigan. The MLE student council decided to participate in the program. Darrow Goodspeed came to Murray Lake and did a presentation for the student councilmembers about the program and its benefits.

This presentation motivated the students to promote the event. The councilmembers did a short speech to each classroom to get them excited about the program. "When Anna spoke to us, it made us think

about all the kids who are sick with cancer. We wanted to do something to help these kids and we decided to participate in Pasta for Pennies," commented MLE student council president, Jake Nugent.

The students also distributed collection boxes and posters to help classrooms monitor their progress. Following the two week program, the students counted up over 300 pounds of coins. The donations added up to over \$2,400. "We felt very proud of our accomplishment. We never thought we could raise that much money. It feels good to be able to help other kids who are suffering," said MLE vice president of student council, Bryan Ashenbremer.

Classrooms that raised over \$100 will be given a pennant to hang in their classroom. Kori Grooter's/Julie Fuss' class will receive an Olive Garden (corporate sponsor of Pasta for Pennies) pasta lunch later in December.



Murray Lake Elementary student councilmembers adding up their profits.

# Family shocked by young woman's sudden death

by Emma Palova

The whole family was shocked by the unexpected death of Sheila Walling, 22. She had been babysitting for Bryony and Dominic Lowe, teachers at East Kentwood, since September. She was also a part-time waitress at Keiser's Kitchen in Lowell.

A cleaning lady found Walling on the kitchen floor last Tuesday. The autopsy results are expected within four to six weeks.

Her best friend Malley Cahoon said she was a loving person who always thought of everybody else first. Cahoon went to school with Walling since

kindergarten. Both were 2006 graduates of Lowell High School.

"She was sweet and wholehearted," said Cahoon. "Everybody was devastated."

Owner Trudy Cahoon of Keiser's Kitchen said Walling was reliable and healthy.

"It was a shock for the entire family," she said.

"It's totally impossible to process."

She volunteered as a Big Sister and she was a Red Arrow fan. Her father called her "My Big Girl" and "She-She" by her friends. She was also going to college.

Funeral services were held Monday at Ada Bible Church.

## Hall for rent with kitchen

SEATS 150 Located at the fairgrounds www.kcfcg.org Call 897-6050

## LOWELL AREA COMMUNITY FUND ACCEPTS GRANT PROPOSALS

All proposals must be submitted online no later than DECEMBER 17, 2010, to be considered. Visit www.grfoundation.org/lowell to submit your application.

The Lowell Area Community Fund, a fund of Grand Rapids Community Foundation, awards grants to tax-exempt, nonprofit charitable organizations that have an impact in the Lowell area. The LACF funds innovative projects or programs that encourage community cooperation.

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## Farmers' market, continued

vendors will have a black top area to work on, which is easier for people with challenges to access. "It's also easier for people to leave the market, they can simply take the back way out," Baker said. The market wasn't making money, but the committee and the Downtown Development Authority wanted it to be self-sustaining. This year no DDA monies were requested from the authority. In the past, vendors paid \$10 for a daily and \$150 for a seasonal. These rates are subject to change. The market will begin in June this year and run through the end of September if we get the go ahead from the planning commission at the public hearing January 24, 2011.

## Baby Boomers: apply online for Medicare

This January marks a historic moment: our Nation's first baby boomers are turning 65. For many baby boomers, it is time to hit the computer. Even if you have decided to wait until after you are age 65 to apply for retirement benefits, most people should start getting Medicare coverage at age 65. If you would like to begin your Medicare coverage when you first become eligible, it's important that you apply within three months of reaching age 65. Don't worry about the time and effort it will take to apply for Medicare — it's fast and easy! You can do it online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/medicareonly](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/medicareonly) in as little as 10 minutes. Why apply online for Medicare? Because it's fast, easy, and secure. You don't need an appointment and you can avoid waiting in traffic or in line. As long as you have ten minutes to spare, you have time to complete and submit your online Medicare application. People who started receiving Social Security retirement or disability benefits before age 65 do not need to apply; they will be automatically enrolled in Medicare. To learn more about Medicare benefits, visit [www.Medicare.gov](http://www.Medicare.gov). To learn more about Medicare and the online application, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/)

medicareonly. While you're there, take a look at the Patty Duke Show reunion video as they talk about turkey, pie, and Medicare online. Happy birthday to all the baby boomers turning 65 in 2011! *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 [vantil@ssa.gov](mailto:vantil@ssa.gov)*

Deans of MeadoWood Farm & Gardens. The Farmers' Market committee consists of Ron Wenger, Kent County Youth Fair; Liz Baker, Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce; Dave and Betty Deans, MeadoWood Farm & Gardens; Duane Rasch, Rasch Farms; and Gary Blough, Heidi's Farm Market. The future of the market will depend on the community of Lowell. In order for the market to survive it will need its support. "Last year the market was not supported well," said Baker. The new market masters will be Dave and Betty



### At Your Local Library

**Pokemon! Yu-gi-oh! Bakugan!**  
Calling all experienced players to join our gaming group to play, trade and meet with other fans of these popular games. Wednesdays, December 15, January 19 and February 16 at 6:30 p.m.

**Bookworms Adult Book Discussion**  
Friendly, informal book discussion for adults. Tuesdays, December 14 at 10 a.m. - *Splitting Wood* by Tom Rademacher (The author will lead this discussion.)  
Kent District Library programs at Englehardt Branch, 200 N. Monroe St. For additional information call 616-784-2007.

# viewpoint

## outdoors

tradition **Dave Stegehuis**

Each season brings with it a number of traditional activities and celebrations. Fall seems to have more than its share of happenings. Booming bass drums and blaring brass horns draw fans to athletic fields in towns and cities across the state when football rivals face off on cool Friday evenings and sunny Saturday afternoons. Travelers from near and far tour the colorful Michigan countryside, stopping now and then at roadside stands to stock up on fresh picked produce and sip apple cider. Families gather at Thanksgiving time to celebrate the harvest and give thanks for blessings received. Fall traditions invite participation in additional activities which are in some way related to the main event. For example, band and football practice take more time and effort than the game itself. Fans look forward to tailgate parties and armchair quarterbacking. The season of harvest is also when hunters go afield to pursue wild game. Hunting whitetail deer has been part of the cultural fabric of Michigan for over a hundred years. Deer hunting requires much preparation and a number of other tasks which most hunters look forward to as much as the hunt itself. Clothing and gear must be located or purchased. Firearms must be inspected and sighted-in. A trip to deer camp involves more preparation and planning. Hunting with others always provides the opportunity for telling and re-telling stories. Hours alone in the woods allow the hunter to observe nature up-close and join in on what's happening out there. Processing a deer is also an important part of the hunt for many hunters. Field dressing and moving an animal over rough terrain is hard work, but seems much easier if it is your deer. At our house, skinning, cutting, and packaging deer is as much a tradition as carving a pumpkin or hanging Christmas lights. If you would like to share venison with someone in need who would appreciate some low fat high protein meat, consider donating it to Sportsmen Against Hunger. The meat must be processed by a designate facility which can be located at [www.sportsmenagainsthunger.org](http://www.sportsmenagainsthunger.org). Donating will make the hunting tradition in Michigan even more special.

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## Letters To The Editor:

The Lowell Ledger welcomes your Letters to the Editor. Letters are required to bear the author's signature, phone number and address (for verification purposes only, not for publication). Letters will be published at the discretion of the publisher. All letters are subject to editing for length and grammar. Thank you letters, advertising or personal attacks will not be printed. Letters may be submitted via email to: [ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com](mailto:ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com) ("to the Editor" in subject line) or dropped off or mailed to: The Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, MI 49331. Also, our website, [www.lowellbuyersguide.com](http://www.lowellbuyersguide.com) has a link to submit emails on the left side of the page.

## financial focus

**Take steps to help "immunize" your portfolio**

Now that winter is almost here, you probably see "Flu Shots Available" signs at many of your local pharmacies. Whether or not you decide to get a flu shot depends on your individual situation, of course, but you may benefit from the idea of immunization in other areas of your life — such as your investments. Specifically, you may want to help "immunize" your portfolio, as much as possible, against some of the volatility we've seen in the financial markets over the past couple of years. How can you do this? Here are a few suggestions:

- **Diversify, diversify, diversify.** If you were to only own stocks, your portfolio would, at times, see some big gains — but at other times, you'd take some big hits. If you just owned bonds, you'd probably see fewer fluctuations than if you just owned stocks — but you'd almost certainly never get the gains you need to help achieve your goals. If you kept all your money in cash instruments, you'd protect your principal, but you'd eventually lose ground to inflation. In short, you can't succeed as an investor by putting all your money in one type of asset. You need to spread your resources among stocks, bonds, and cash investments. And even within each of these categories, you need to diversify. For example, try to own a mixture of growth stocks and income-producing stocks; short-term and long-term bonds; and a variety of cash instruments. While diversification, by itself, can't guarantee profits or protect against loss, it can give you opportunities for potential success and help shield you from severe downturns that, at any given time, primarily affect just one asset class.

- **Maintain adequate cash reserves.** Having sufficient cash in your portfolio can help you combat volatility in at least two ways. First, since cash essentially doesn't fluctuate in price — though it may lose value over time, relative to inflation — its very presence can help stabilize your portfolio. And second, if you have enough cash in your investment mix, you may be less likely to dip into your long-term investments to pay for short-term needs, such as a major car repair, a new furnace and so on — and the less you disrupt your investments, the more progress you can make toward your goals.

- **It's not possible to fully shield your investments from volatility all the time.** But by taking the steps described above, and by maintaining a long-term perspective, you can strengthen your portfolio's resistance, and improve your own responses, to the effects of price fluctuations. And that's a healthy way to invest.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.



Christopher C. Godbold

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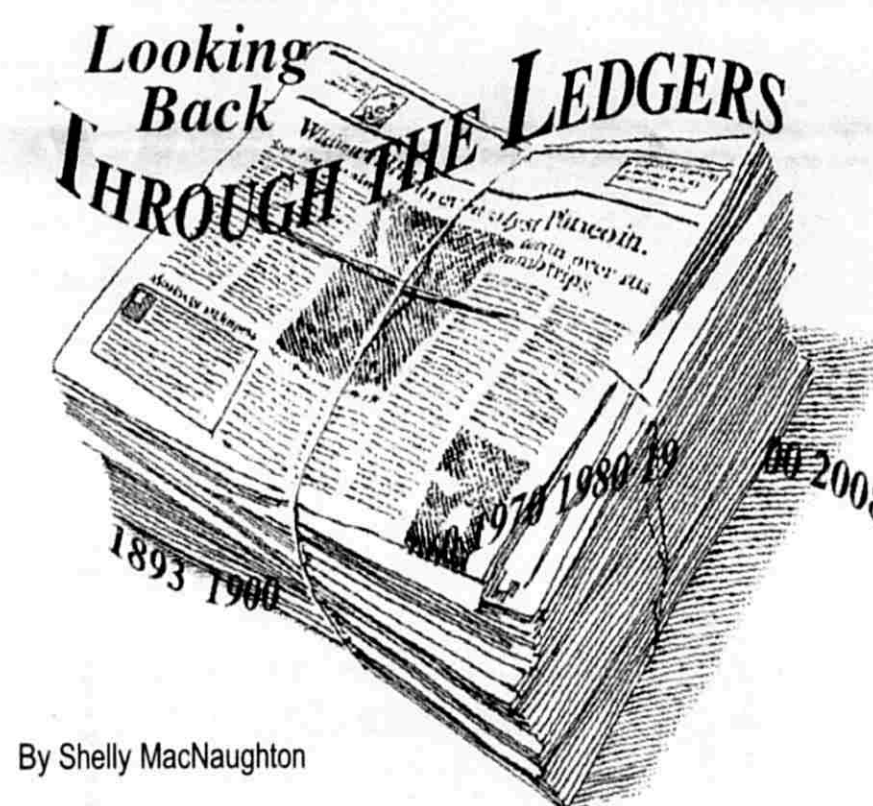
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By Shelly MacNaughton

**125 Years Ago**  
**The Lowell Journal**  
**December 4, 1885**  
A new switchboard and other improvements are seen at the central telephone office. The Rochester lamp beats all other lamps. Call at the store of H.B. Church and see it shine. Little Minnie Wright, about 9-years-old, daughter of F.C. Wright of this town, is said to be a very brilliant musical genius. She plays the organ beautifully and reads difficult music readily.

**100 Years Ago**  
**The Lowell Ledger**  
**December 1, 1910**  
Chauncey H. Freeman and Miss LaVanch E. Wright, both well-known young people of Vergennes, were married last Wednesday at noon at the parsonage of Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church, Grand Rapids, Rev. Russell H. Bready officiating. Mr. and Mrs. Freeman will make their home in Lowell where Mr. Freeman has a position in the Specialty Company.

**75 Years Ago**  
**The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo**  
**November 28, 1935**  
From Main St. bridge last Friday morning, we saw

the first ice of the season on Flat River. It was a thin skin yet at times it creaked and roared like great guns. The mercury was 14 degrees below freezing, which means that it stood 18 degrees above zero. Rudolph VanDyke will not be a candidate for postmaster at Lowell. Mr. VanDyke's name frequently has been mentioned as a likely candidate, but he informs The Ledger that he positively is not an aspirant for the place.

**50 Years Ago**  
**The Lowell Ledger**  
**December 1, 1960**  
Tax bills are going out this week to property owners in the five surrounding townships and the City of Lowell for a total billing of \$771,233. This includes all school taxes, county operating taxes, county voting building tax, airport tax, special education tax and township operating and in some case special township voted taxes for fire protection. In Lowell city, Mrs. Esther Fahrni said tax bills would be in the mail by next Monday. This is the first year the city has collected the school and county taxes; the tax rate in Lowell city is \$45.20 per thousand of assessed valuation.

**25 Years Ago**  
**The Grand Valley Ledger**  
**December 4, 1985**  
It appears likely that the City of Lowell is preparing to adopt some sort of a snow removal ordinance. There has been pressure from various sources over the years to institute an ordinance that would require homeowners and merchants to keep their sidewalks clear of snow. Mayor James Maatman is a strong proponent of such an ordinance. Would you like to be paid for hanging up those Christmas lights? Surely you wouldn't mind winning some cold cash for searching for those extension cords or balancing from your step ladder, would you? Well here's your chance. The Lowell Chamber of Commerce along with Lowell Light and Power is sponsoring a Christmas lighting and decorating contest for Lowell homeowners on the 11, 12, and 13 of December.

## college news

University officials have announced that the following local students received Academic Honors for the semester that ended in August 2010 at Ferris State University and Kendall College of Art and Design.

To be eligible for Academic Honors, undergraduate students must have accumulated at least a 3.5 GPA in no fewer than 12 credit hours of coursework at the 100 level or higher during the given semester, while part-time students must have accumulated at least 12 credit hours of graded coursework at the 100 level or higher with a 3.5 semester GPA and a 3.3 cumulative GPA.

Spencer Flory, Angelo Franchi, Debra Howell, Pearce Liversedge, Graham Otten, and Nancy Wright, all of Ada.

Jackson Botsford, Lauren Clements, Allen Devoll, Kristie Kurth, John Wilder, Kristine Huberts, Brian Schultz, and April Beresford, all of Alto.

Amanda Ezinga, Karen Hysell, Abbot Kastanek, Thomas Pfaller,

Maranda Ruegsegger, Blake Spoelman, Megan Willemstein, Lee Wirick, Lisa Drust, and Karol Burnham, all of Lowell.

The following students were among 733 who completed the requirements for certificates, associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees at Ferris State University, Kendall College of Art and Design, and the College of Professional and Technological Studies during the semester that ended in August 2010.

James Biesbrock, of Ada, graduated with a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Prod. Design Engineering Tech.

Allen Devoll, of Alto, graduated with an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) in Manufacturing Tooling Tech. and a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Manufacturing Engineering Tech.

Mark Keely, of Lowell, graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Business (BB) in Business Administration.

Chris Chambers, Christine Gillies, Amanda Sterzick, Richard Kline.

Tennille Bryant, Autumn French, Casey French.

## In The Service

Air Force Airman Kyle D. Reed 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.

Reed earned distinction as an honor graduate.

He is the son of Bill and Tammy Reed of Alto.

Reed graduated in 2010 from Caledonia High School.

## health

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



### eczema

Eczema is a condition of the skin which causes dryness and itching. It is a long lasting condition which is also associated with asthma and other allergies.

- Symptoms include:**
- Red to brownish-gray colored patches
  - Itching, which may be severe, especially at night
  - Small, raised bumps, which may leak fluid and crust over when scratched
  - Thickened, cracked or scaly skin
  - Raw, sensitive skin from scratching

- Other things can worsen eczema, such as:**
- Long, hot baths or showers
  - Dry skin
  - Stress
  - Sweating
  - Rapid changes in temperature
  - Low humidity
  - Solvents, cleaners, soaps or detergents
  - Wool or man-made fabrics or clothing
  - Dust or sand
  - Cigarette smoke
  - Certain foods, such as eggs, milk, fish, soy or wheat

Treatment focuses on reducing inflammation and itching.

- Medications can include:**
- Corticosteroid creams or ointments
  - Oral antihistamines
  - Oral corticosteroids
  - Immunomodulators

- Self-care measures include:**
- Apply an anti-itch cream or calamine lotion to the affected area
  - Try to identify and avoid triggers that worsen the inflammation
  - Avoid scratching whenever possible
  - Apply cool, wet compresses
  - Take a warm bath. Sprinkle the bath water with baking soda, uncooked oatmeal or colloidal oatmeal
  - Choose mild soaps without dyes or perfumes
  - Moisturize your skin
  - Wear cool, smooth-textured cotton clothing

Prior to seeing your doctor, try the above home care remedies. If your skin appears infected, seek care sooner.

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## happy birthday!

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- DECEMBER 2**  
Chelsey Treglia, Kari Bergy, Karly Batt, Olivia Starkweather.
- DECEMBER 3**  
Chris Chambers, Christine Gillies, Amanda Sterzick, Richard Kline.
- DECEMBER 4**  
Tennille Bryant, Autumn French, Casey French.
- DECEMBER 5**  
Christopher Vickers.
- DECEMBER 6**  
Katie Blough, Kristopher Vezino, Phil Seese, Maria Blough, Christopher DeBold, Marc Wernet.
- DECEMBER 7**  
Jennifer Berry.

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## Christmas at Fallasburg, continued

good country cooking. We've had every casserole you can think of and fried chicken."

Last year, 80 people attended the fundraiser. It raises approximately \$600 to \$800. The annual bike tour raises \$3,000.

But, Tamke said the historical society is finally moving ahead with projects after working through financial challenges.

"I believe in historic preservation," he said. "I have a soft place for Fallasburg and the covered bridge. We're solvent now. Our membership has grown. We're getting things done. It's very satisfying."

The society has repaired and painted roofs, one termite work and they are getting ready to renovate the Tower Farm.

The society asks for a \$10 donation for the Christmas dinner.



The annual Christmas dinner is held at the one room schoolhouse in Fallasburg Historical village. Below is a picture from last year at the schoolhouse.



\*\*\*  
There's nothing sadder in this world than to awake Christmas morning and not be a child."  
- Erma Bombeck (1927-1996), American author and humorist.

Will the Internet kill your community paper? Did instant coffee kill coffee?

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**the lowell ledger**

## Use credit wisely when shopping for the holidays

With the holiday season upon us, shoppers across the nation are gearing up for another season of swiping their credit cards. And if statistics are any indication, more people could be swiping those credit cards this season than ever before.

According to the United States Census Bureau, the number of credit cardholders in the U.S. is growing. In 2000, there were 159 million credit cardholders in the U.S., a figure that had risen to 173 million by 2006 and was expected to grow to 181 million by the end of 2010.

With so many cardholders across the country, it's no wonder during the holiday season so many swipes are seen. While it can be tempting to put it all on plastic when holiday shopping, it can also be dangerous -- leading to nearly unmanageable debt that can result in serious consequences down the road. To manage credit wisely this holiday season, consider the following tips.

\* Avoid shopping sprees. Shopping sprees are especially common during the holiday season, when parents are tempted to go overboard and get their kids more gifts than they can afford. While most parents

Use credit wisely, continued, page 14

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# Red Arrow SPORTS

## Second-half turnovers turn Red Arrows' title dreams upside down

by Thad Kraus

Four second-half possessions that resulted in four consecutive turnovers erased an 11-point lead and with it washed away any chance of a second straight Division 2 state title for the Lowell football team on Friday at Ford Field in Detroit, as Lowell lost the title game to Farmington Hills Harrison 38-28.

"You can't play a team like Farmington Hills Harrison and expect to get away with that kind of stuff," said Lowell coach Noel Dean. "Four straight series of turnovers. I don't think we used our punt

team today - that was a well-rested crew. But that has plagued us all year. We have been kind of an under experienced team that has played above itself toward the end of the year. Then we got into the finals and played a great team and made a go of it for a while."

A Red Arrow scoring drive of 64 yards to open the third quarter gave Lowell a 21-10 advantage and its faithful hope that a second straight championship was more than possible. Lowell looked the part and was playing like a team that could upend the number one

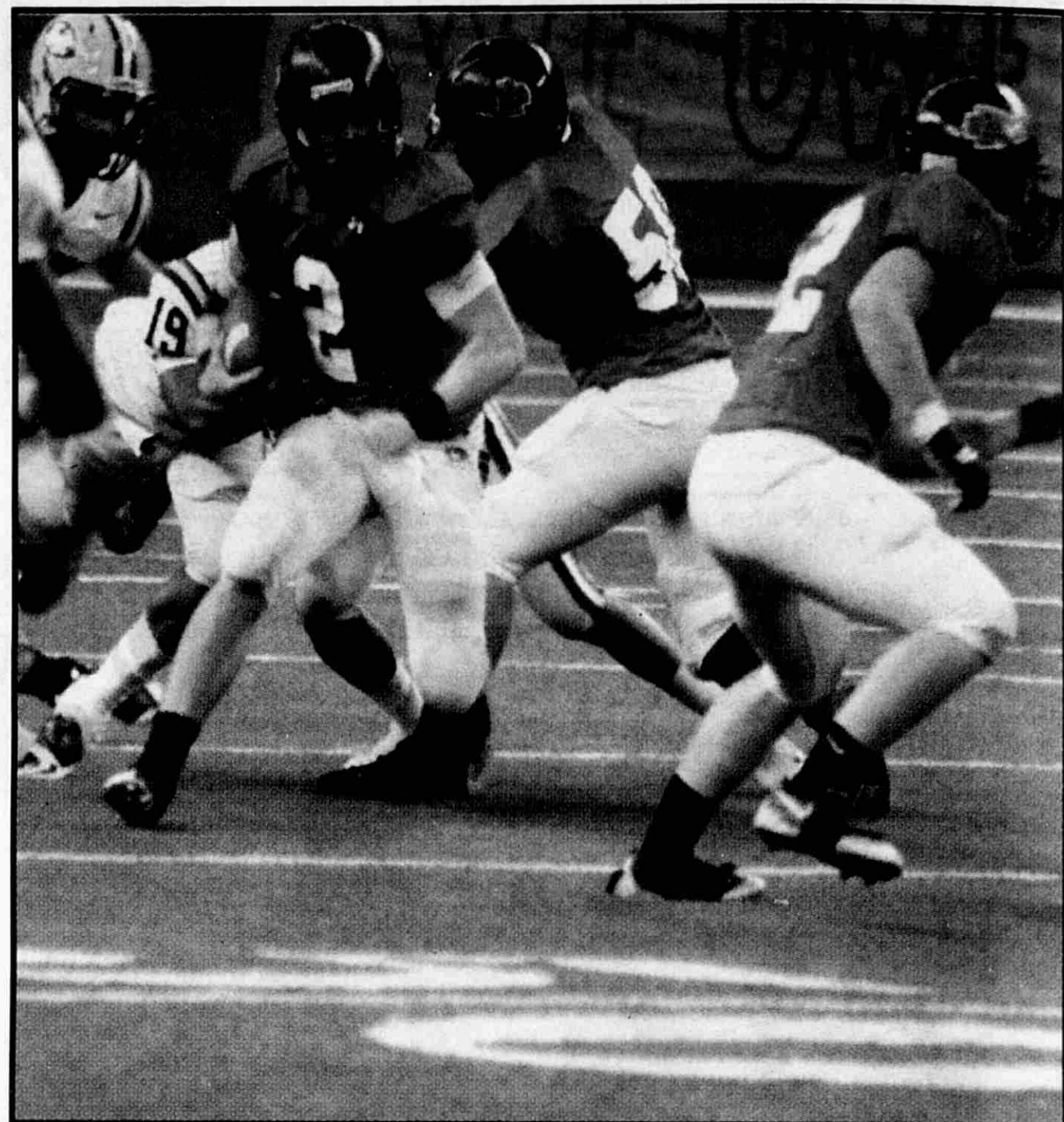
ranked Hawks. On this day though, Lowell's biggest enemy proved to be itself.

Over the following 11 minutes of football, Lowell was guilty of a fumble, an interception, a fumbled kickoff return and a second interception, turning its lead into a 38-21 deficit.

It's the first interception that will be the one that will stick in the craw of Lowell fans.

After holding the Hawks to three plays and a punt on its first possession of the second half, Lowell's

Title dreams, continued next page



Gabe Dean rushed for 100 yards and threw for 111 in Lowell's 38-28 loss to Farmington Hills Harrison.



Lowell High School's marching band performed the National Anthem prior to the start of the Division 2 championship football game.

Below the Arrows make their way onto the field prior to Friday's game.



The Red Arrow cheerleaders were standing tall and proudly during first-half action.



Lowell cheerleaders were dancing and having a good time at halftime of Friday's game.

# Red Arrow SPORTS

## Title dreams, continued

Gabe Dean, on a second and 14 from its own 28, had his pass picked off by Lamar Marshall. It appeared to just about everybody at Ford

Field, with the exception of the back judge, that the ball bounced off the turf before going into the arms of Marshall.

"The first interception... I'm not really sure, I have to go back and look at the film before I have any comment on it," said Lowell coach

Noel Dean. "I was surprised by the call. It caught me off-guard. The ball was on the ground, bouncing around. It

escalated from there. The kid had his back to the official, but I have to go back and watch it because I have to be careful with what I say right now because I want to be polite. I know how that stuff happens in real time, but it would have been nice to maintain one of those possessions."

Farmington Hills Harrison turned the controversial turnover into a six-play, 45-yard touchdown drive, cutting its deficit to five at 21-16.

"Turnovers were the big part of the game," explained Farmington Hills Harrison coach John Herrington. "Once we got the turnovers, we had to capitalize on them. We knew if they got the ball back, they would be able to run it, run it and run it. Once we got the lead, it changed the game a little bit."

As to Herrington's view of the controversial interception, "It wasn't controversial." "Lamar got the pick," he explained with the slightest of smiles.

Lowell started its third possession of the second half on its own 45. Two plays in, the Hawks recovered a Red Arrow fumble at midfield. From there it took Harrison seven plays to march 50 yards with quarterback Tommy Vento busting in from the one-yard line, giving the Hawks a 24-21 advantage.

Lowell then fumbled away the ensuing kickoff. Harrison turned that mistake into a three-play, 51-yard touchdown drive, extending its lead to 31-21.

On its first possession of the fourth quarter, Lowell was intercepted by Hawks' Derek Head at the Lowell 42. Five plays later Austin Hunter dashed in from 11 yards out, building a 38-21 lead for Farmington Hills.

Lowell answered with an eight-play, 70-yard scoring drive. Gabe Dean connected with Blake Lyman on a 27-yard touchdown pass-and-catch.

The Red Arrows played a mistake free first half which enabled them to build a 14-10 half-time advantage.

Harrison took the opening kickoff 59 yards with Tommy Vento connecting with Aaron Burbridge on a 26-yard touchdown pass.

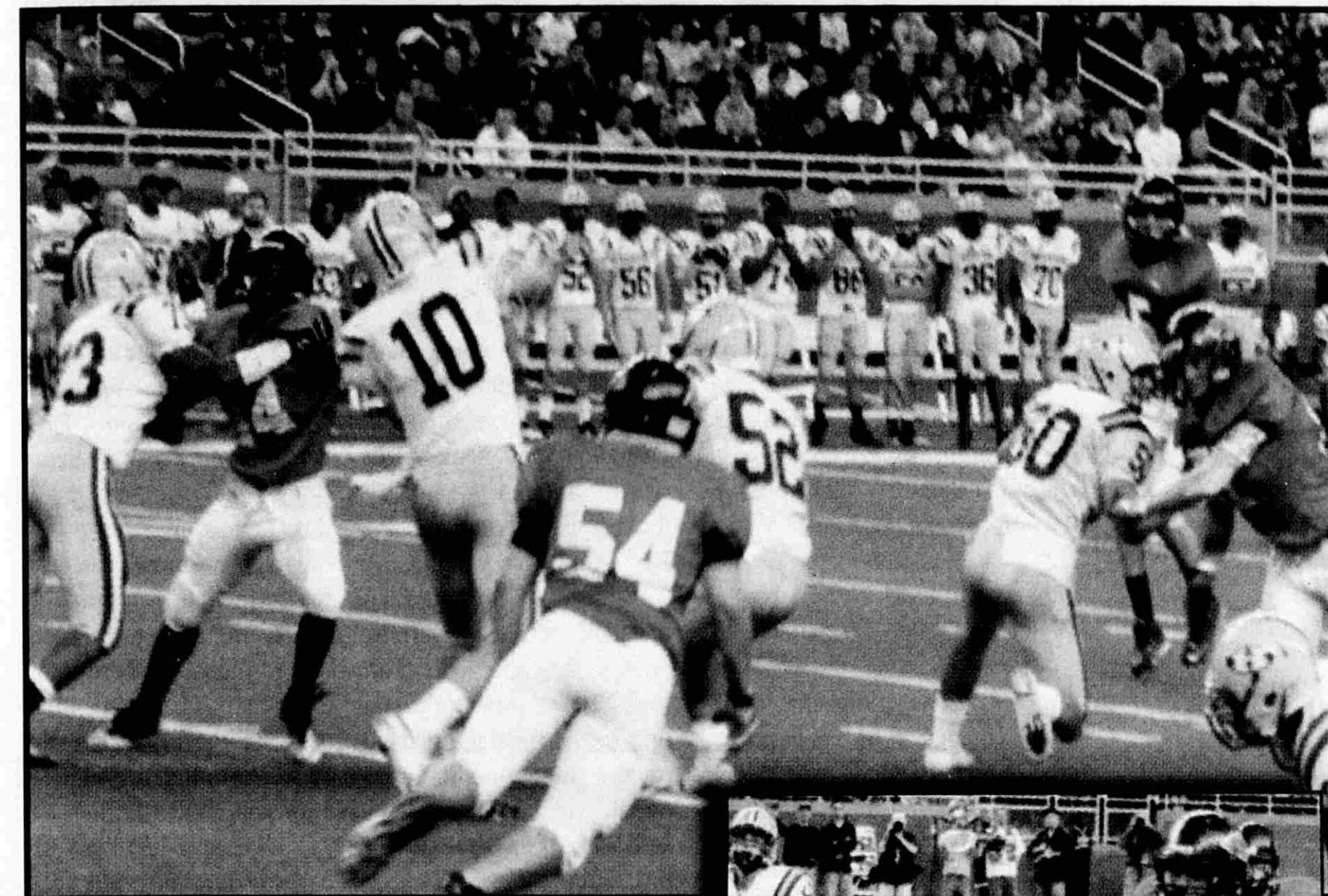
Lowell tied the game early in the second quarter on a three-yard run by Dean.

The Red Arrows then took the lead on a 14-play, 80-yard march with Dean bursting through from the three to give Lowell a 14-10 lead.

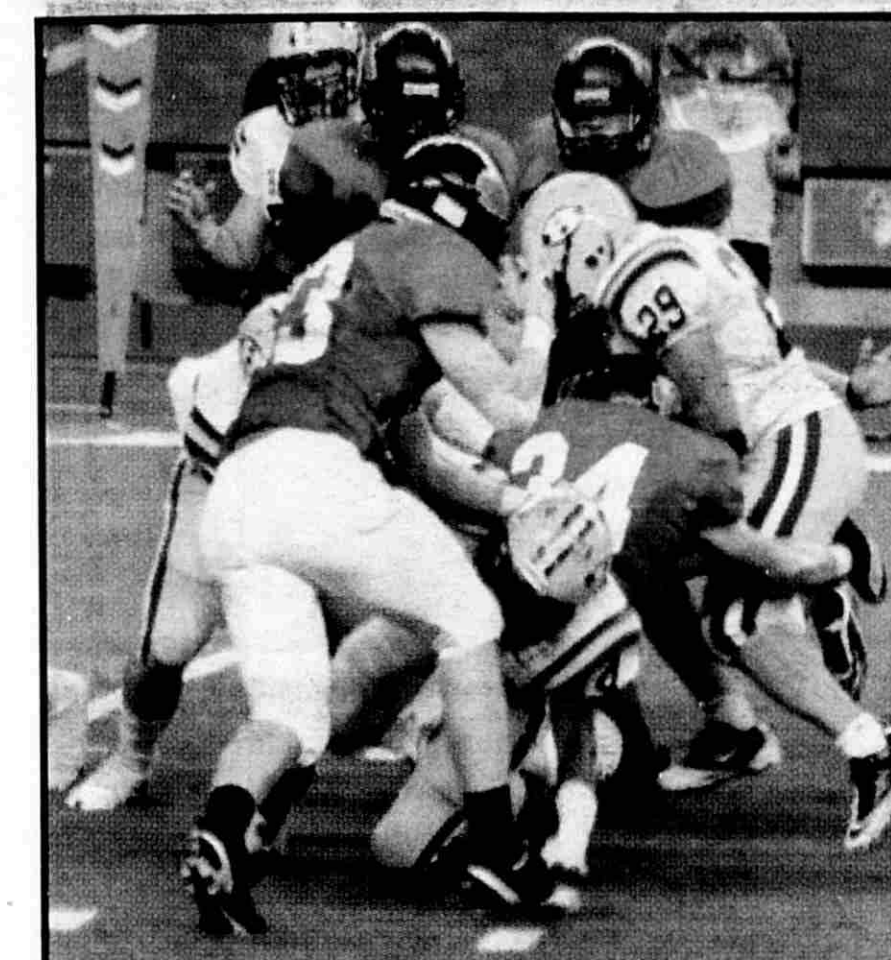
Lowell rushed for 246 yards and passed for 111.

"Noel put together a great game plan. Their fullback ran hard against us and their quarterback (Dean) is just a tremendous player. He has a wrestler's body and doesn't go down easily," Herrington said. "Preparing for Lowell in a short week is difficult because they throw a lot of formations at you, making it tough to adjust."

The Hawks ran for 111 and passed for 310 yards.



Lowell's defense pressures Hawk quarterback Jake Vento.

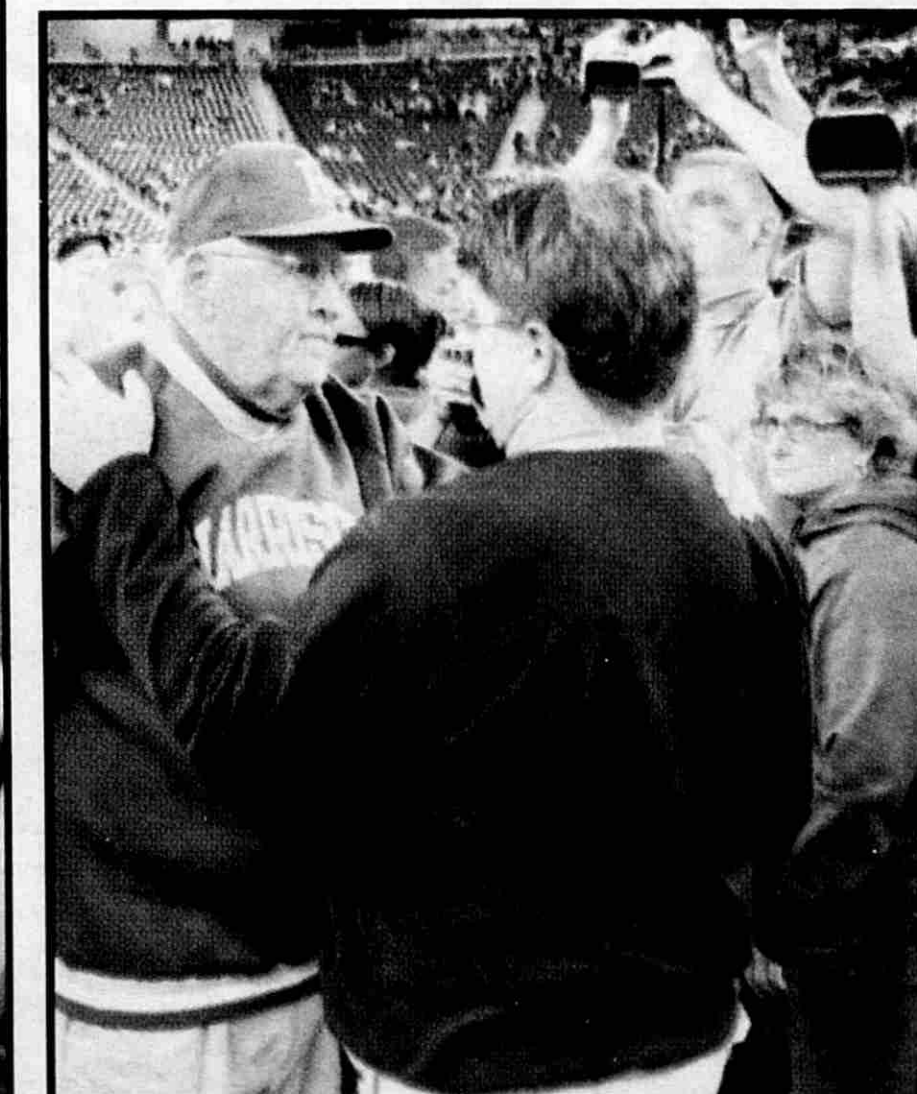


Leighton Watson led all rushers with a game-leading 146 yards on the ground.

Lowell's defensive front, left, held the Hawk rushing attack to 111 yards.



Red Arrow players hold up the runner-up trophy to Red Arrow fans.



Football coach Noel Dean congratulates Hawk head coach John Herrington moments after Farmington Hills Harrison claimed victory.





# 'Tis the season for holiday safety

- Remain alert to suspicious activity

With an increase of travelers and shoppers during the holiday season, citizens are reminded to be alert and report any activity that seems suspicious or out of the ordinary to law enforcement officials. Citizens play a significant role in preventing crimes, acts of violence and terrorism by paying close attention to their environment.

"To ensure everyone stays safe this holiday season, it is important for citizens to remain vigilant and aware of their surroundings, as these simple measures can help prevent violence from occurring," stated Col. Eddie L. Washington, Jr., director of the Michigan State Police and State Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. "If an individual witnesses something that seems suspicious or out of place, they should immediately notify law enforcement."

Remaining vigilant can be as simple as paying more attention to where you are

and knowing how you would react if something happened. While entering buildings and moving around the facility, remember where you are located, what floor you are on and where the nearest emergency exit is, including stairwells.

Citizens should be on the look out for several indicators of suspicious activity, including:

- An unattended object or one that appears out of place, especially in crowded or public areas.
- Individuals exhibiting strange or abnormal behavior.
- A strong odor coming from a building or vehicle.

Someone entering or exiting blocked or unauthorized areas.

- Individuals who quickly leave when seen or approached.
- Someone tampering or interfering with surveillance cameras.
- An overloaded vehicle or one that seems out of place.
- Someone taking photos, videos or drawings of high-profile or highly populated buildings or structures.
- Exposed wiring or other abnormalities.

When reporting suspicious activity to law enforcement, citizens are reminded to include as much

information as possible such as the description and number of people involved, including gender, age and a physical description, what the individual(s) was doing, location, date and time.

While there is no current threat to Michigan, the U.S. government's national threat level remains elevated so citizens are reminded to stay vigilant, take notice of their surroundings and report suspicious items or activities to law enforcement authorities immediately.

Additional information about indicators of suspicious activity can be found at [www.michigan.gov/emhsd](http://www.michigan.gov/emhsd)

## Use credit wisely, continued

can relate to that, going overboard won't do the family or the kids any good come January when the bills are due. What's more, most adults who remember the holidays don't recall what they received as gifts, but do recall how those holidays were spent with family and friends. So the lasting memory won't necessarily be what's under the tree but who was sitting around it.

\* Avoid juggling credit cards. According to a 2010 survey from the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, the average credit cardholder has 3.5 credit cards. And in many cases, cardholders feel the most successful means to using credit during the holidays is to evenly distribute debt over each of their cards as

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opposed to putting it all on one card. However, this isn't really a solution as much as it is a way to mask the problem of accruing too much credit card debt during the holidays. Just because debt is piling up in shorter stacks on three cards instead of one large stack on one card doesn't mean it's not a problem. If a credit card must be used, use the one with the lowest interest rate at the time of purchase.

\* Always know the card's limit. As mentioned above, many people have more than one credit card. But not all cards have the same credit limit, which can be confusing for holders of multiple cards. To avoid going over the limit, which can result in penalties and a negative mark on your credit report, view your most recent statement before using a given card. As a result of the recession, many credit card companies began lowering lines of credit and, in some instances, even closing accounts with poor histories. Check the most recent statement to learn the

card limit and to determine the available balance, which is listed on the statement as well.

\* Determine if the card offers "return protection." When a credit card offers "return protection," that means the card issuer, and not the retailer, will take back items in new condition up until 90 days after the original purchase. This is done to protect buyers when the retailer will no longer accept returns. The original receipt, the item itself and the name and location of the merchant from whom the item was purchased is all that is typically required. In general, the dollar limit for return protection is \$300 per item. Those who often need return protection the most are early shoppers who buy gifts for loved ones in advance of the typical holiday shopping season. Many retailers only offer full cash refunds for 30 days, so early shoppers should call their credit card companies to determine their eligibility for return protection.



## NOVEMBER 24 - NOVEMBER 30

- Top U.S. officials blast WikiLeaks for releasing thousands of secret documents. The website says it has 251,288 diplomatic cables sent between 1966 and 2010.
- Lelsie Nelson of 'Naked Gun' and 'Airplane' fame dies at the age of 84.
- Seoul, South Korea - President Lee Myung-bak warns Monday that North Korea will face severe consequences if it launches another military attack across its southern borders.
- European Union finance ministers on Sunday agree on an 85 billion euro (in U.S. dollars \$113 billion) bailout package for Ireland.
- Paris - A retired French electrician and his wife come forward with 271 undocumented, never-before-seen works of Pablo Picasso estimated to be worth at least \$80 million dollars, according to an administrator of the artist's estate.



616-897-0787

Netflix wants to change to "instant streaming." Everyone I know experiences problems with this. Constant stopping and retrieving - why pay to be frustrated? Little kids complain, too!

We at Key Heights would like to thank Lowell Township Supervisor Jerry Hale for all of his effort to have the sidewalk finished between the city and our community. We realize this took hours of work to organize, oversee and obtain the funding. Jerry has made sure that we now have a safe route to walk to access all that beautiful Lowell has to offer. Bless you Jerry and everyone else involved in this project.

Goodbye and thank you to the crew at Allied Waste. Your courteous service has been much appreciated.

- Don Silvis

Congratulations to the Lowell Light & Power staff for their quick work in securing five electric vehicle recharging stations for the Lowell area. This is one more way of increasing the positive impression guests have of our city.

# Grandpa's Christmas Adventure 2010

Once again, Dave Thompson offers his Christmas story. The Lowell Ledger will publish the continuing story "wrapping" it up on Dec. 29.

by Dave Thompson

It had been a wonderful fall in Lowell and the colors were outstanding. But we were past Thanksgiving



and Grandpa was still wondering when that first really big snowstorm would finally arrive. While Grandpa was snoozing during the news a couple of nights ago, George Lessens, our crack meteorologist at TV-13, had said we had all better "look out!" He was hinting at the possibility that we were due to get hammered with a big storm sometime in the next couple of days. Weatherman George is a local boy, you know, and has always provided us with the weather in Lowell since he was a kid. And, he never got it wrong. Some of the coffee

drinkers up at Keiser's Kitchen called him old "Bull's-eye George" for his phenomenal forecasting accuracy.

Actually, the first confirmed report of any snowstorm conditions came to Grandpa from Edgar the Eagle (you remember old Edgar from last year's story) who had planned to fly down to the Kalamazoo River in Saugatuck to visit relatives over Christmas. However, he ran into some real difficulty just south of town near the expressway when his wings began to ice-

up! He knew immediately it would be the smart thing to do to turn around and come back to his home a couple of miles north of Lowell and wait out the storm. His planned trip could wait. Grandma stood in her kitchen with the telephone nestled tightly between her ear and her shoulder as she talked to her daughter in Denver while multi-tasking at her stove. "Do you have any snow yet?" her daughter, Jenny, had asked her.

"Well, it began to snow yesterday morning. Not just a little bit, mind you. I mean, it snowed much of

the day," she was saying as she wiped her hands on her apron. She had just taken an apple pie from the oven, one of those big delicious pies that were made by Lowell's wrestling team and some of the mothers. "Betty Morlock, the City Clerk and a huge wrestling fan, cornered me at City Hall a few weeks back," Grandma went on, "and we ended up buying six pies from her. Oh, no, we couldn't use all six pies ourselves, mercy no! We sent four of them over to the Flat River Outreach Ministries for their food pantry and the Christmas Food Drive. It seemed like a nice thing to do with Christmas and all coming on and with so many families struggling to make ends meet in our area," she said.

Later, despite the threatening weather, she was off to Gary's Meat Market to pick up some last minute items. As she gathered up the packages Gary had just wrapped for her, she wished him and his family a Merry Christmas and ventured out into the growing blizzard. He told her to be careful on her way home. "Don't worry," she called back to him as she left his store, "I'll get home okay!"

Outside the market it was snowing even harder and traffic was definitely beginning to thin out. Across the street Cliff Yankovich, the owner of Chimera Design Limited (that's our fancy jewelry

store downtown), waved to her as he leaned on his shovel trying to catch his breath while he watched helplessly as the snow continued to accumulate. As Grandpa passed the Flat River Grill, she was greeted by Chris West who was carrying her welcome and menu board back inside. As Chris closed her door, she waved to Grandpa as she hung the "closed" sign in the window. Grandma figured maybe she was closing up early so that her help could get home before the streets and roads became impassable. As she turned the corner, passing under the Riverwalk arch, a gust of cold arctic wind hit her head on. The snowy ice crystals, driven by a strong north wind, whipped down the ice covered river stinging her forehead. The snow was now beginning to stick to her clothing, her hair and even on her eyebrows. Grandma wondered aloud if the roads were going to be slick on the way home, as she heard a couple of snowplows off somewhere in the distance plowing the streets or perhaps a parking lot.

"Oh, dear!" she exclaimed to herself when she saw her car. It appeared to have at least four or five inches already accumulated on both the trunk and hood and on the windows. "It will take as long to brush off the snow as it will to get home," she mumbled to herself as she

picked up the windshield scraper that had lain unused in her backseat for about six weeks, waiting for this day.

Driving home turned out to be a nightmare and the roads, although already once plowed, were indeed, slippery and the windshield wipers were having trouble handling the volume of snow that just kept coming. Just that fast, nothing could be seen out of the completely snowed in rear window. Grandma fishtailed her way home and Grandpa was waiting for her in the garage to help with her packages. "Well, there, my dear," he joked, "looks like you were almost a casualty of this storm. You have little water droplets all over your hair and clothes from the snow that must have melted in your warm car," he said as he gently brushed some of the melt from her hair and coat. "It's comforting to have you home, Grandma."

Meanwhile, out on the expressway things were not nearly so comfortable. In fact, traffic was no longer moving. Cars were turned every which way; some of them had even slid into the median or off on the shoulders. Fortunately no one seemed to be hurt and no cars had collided, but nobody was venturing out of their warm cars either. In one spot there were three flatbed semis painted in a strange camouflage

and two of them had slid into the median. Four or five soldiers in uniform were standing along the side of the road looking at their trucks, wondering how they were going to get them back on the highway. Unlike many of the travelers in the cars, the soldiers seemed to be dressed for the weather, snug in their heavy white and light tan camouflaged parkas and fur lined hoods, and warm as they began to take the large green tarps off a couple of the vehicles on the flatbeds.

Back at Grandpa's, Edgar had glided down to a branch close to where Grandpa was filling some of his feeders out along the river. "Well, Grandpa, we seem to have a real mess on our hands," Edgar observed as he tried to shake the rest of the snow and ice from his wings. "There must be at least a hundred cars or more out on the expressway that can't move with at least two or three hundred people stuck inside them. I understand that old "Whatshisname" Lessens is now saying that we might get as much as 36 to 40 inches of snow before it's over." The record for one storm, someone said, was about 34 inches back in the 1930s, so this really was a huge storm that was bearing down on Lowell. How will Lowell manage to get through Christmas with all of this snow?

To be continued ...

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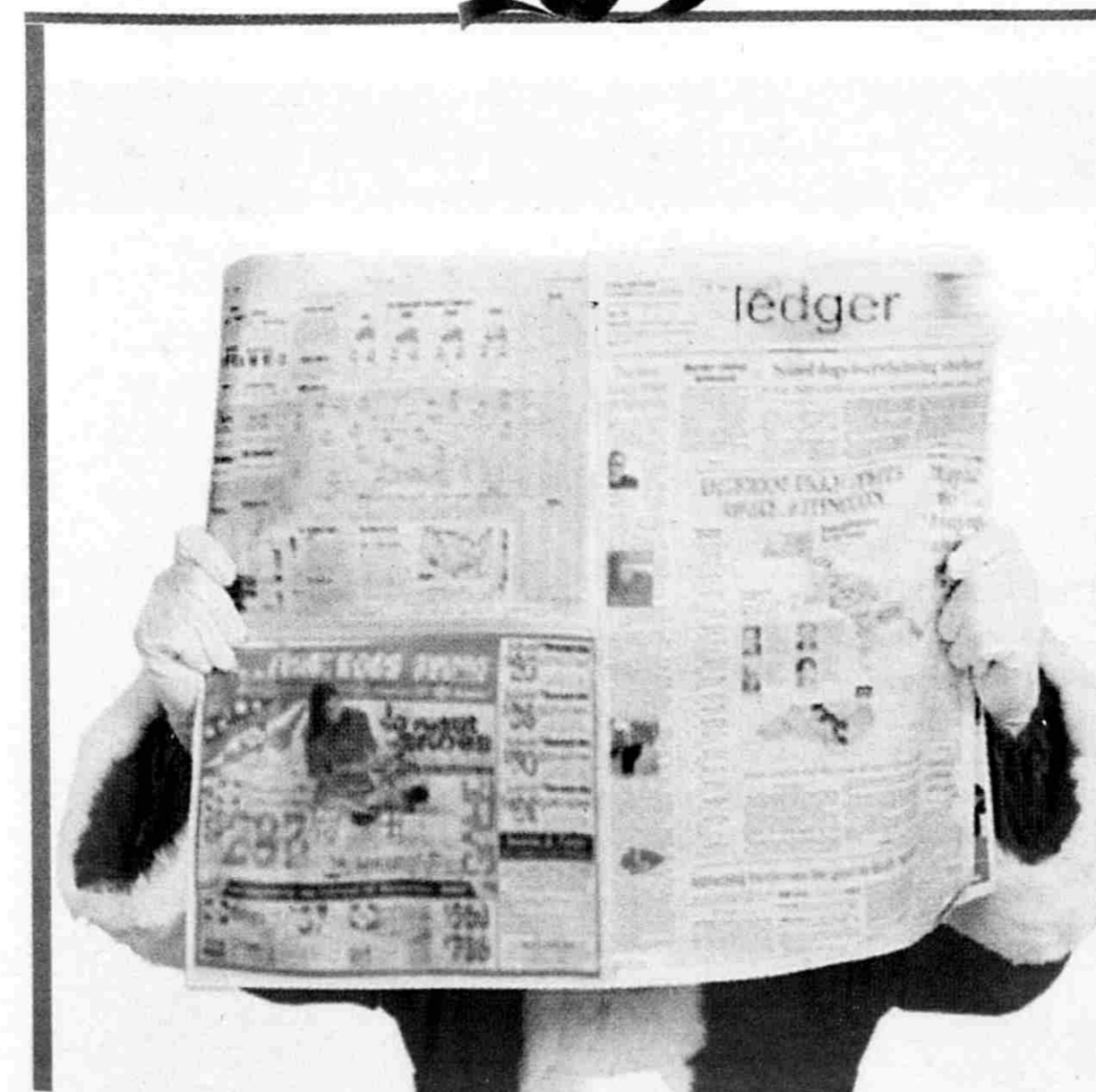
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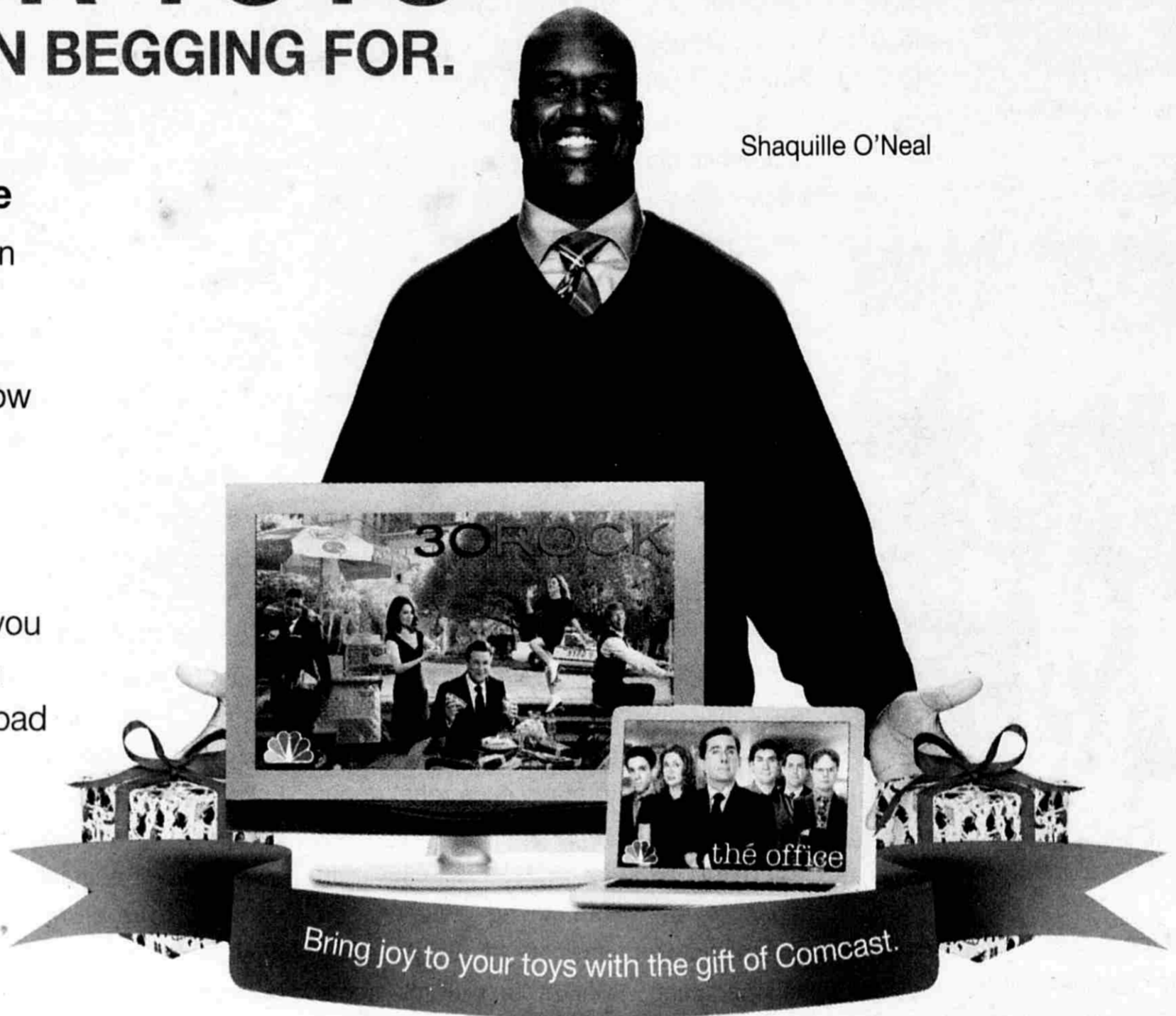
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