

# The Lowell Ledger

Volume 17, Issue 44

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, September 15, 1993

## Morrow to offer fans a "Sentimental Journey" of Tommy Dorsey's music

By Thad Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

In 1941, the Tommy Dorsey Band outranked every other band, to finish first in one of the most indicative of all popularity polls, Martin Block's "Make Believe Ballroom" contest.

The honor bestowed upon Dorsey may have pleased him less than most might suspect.

Dorsey subscribed to the theory that it was not best to be number one, because once there you have no place to go but down.

**Tommy Dorsey Orchestra,**  
under the direction of  
**Buddy Morrow,**  
Saturday, Sept. 18  
from 6 to 10 p.m.  
at the  
**Lowell Showboat Amphitheatre**



**Buddy Morrow**

room in Oklahoma City on Monday. "He shaped perfectionist ideals in the musicians and singers who worked for him. He was a wonderful leader, but if you couldn't produce he got annoyed."

Morrow described Dorsey as complicated and complex, but a man who was a great trombonist and a wonderful leader.

His ability to lead was matched by his great ability to recognize talented singers and musicians. His ability to recognize talent allowed him to showcase singers such as Jack Leonard, Jo Stafford, the Pied Pipers, Frank Sinatra,

and such musical greats as Nelson Riddle, Bunny Berigan, Pee Wee Erwin and Buddy Rich.

Sinatra blossomed with Dorsey. He often admitted that listening to Tommy helped him develop his phrasing, his breathing, his musical taste and his musical knowledge.

"In addition to Tommy's ability, the singers and musicians were able to recognize his potential to organize and get the most out of what each band member had," Morrow said.

For many fans, no other  
**Dorsey, cont'd., pg. 8**

## 1992 Act could leave Lowell Cable "M-T" of CBS programming

By Thad Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

It's a game of chicken between local television stations and cable television outlets.

If the two entities continue on the same path it will be the viewers who will bear the brunt of the collision.

The game was initiated through the passage of the 1992 Cable Act. The Act states that broadcasters must give permission to be carried on cable systems and have the right to request compensation. Local broadcasters will have until Oct. 6 to reach agreement with cable companies on the issue of "retransmission consent."

Local television programming is produced free of charge for the end-user, the viewer. The battle lines have been drawn-up because cable companies take the local television stations' signal and make it part of its basic cable package. It then charges its customers.

"Channel 3 is West Michigan's number one rated television station. It has a high value. If cable companies, through their basic rate, are charging their subscribers for our signal, then we believe it's only fair that the local television station be compensated by the cable companies," said WWMT station manager Gil Buettner.

The cable companies argue that non-cable subscribers shouldn't have to pay for something that is free to their

neighbors.

Lowell Supervisor Paul Christman said Lowell Cable has never calculated broadcast stations into its basic cable rate.

"What is figured into the \$17.55 basic cable monthly rate are debt reduction, franchise fees, program expenses and on-going operating and maintenance expenses," Christman said.

According to Buettner, WWMT has proposed a three-year deal, 25 cents per subscriber per month in the first year, 50 cents in the second and 75 cents in the third year.

Cable companies say they will not pay local stations for using their signal. Instead, they will just drop the stations from their basic package.

If that holds true, Lowell Cable subscribers would have no CBS affiliate station included in its cable package after Oct. 6. Subscribers would have to revert back to an antenna to pick up the signal.

Buettner said he doesn't believe cable viewers will be willing to give up all the programming shown on WWMT, TV-3.

"If a settlement can't be made, we'll find out what the value of local television is to the viewer," Buettner said.

Cable companies believe the loss in viewer numbers incurred by WWMT will have a big impact financially on its advertising.

Both sides are betting the other side will be hurt more by the impasse. One will be wrong.

"I don't want Channel 3 to fail," Christman said. "If an agreement isn't found, cable companies are liable to have subscriber discontent. Broadcast stations are liable to lose advertising revenue based on lost cable viewers."

Buettner says Channel 3 has had a lot of upset viewers call them.

Christman says Lowell Cable has received some calls saying it shouldn't pay Channel 3 and some which have said it should. "I'd say the total number of calls has been about 30," he said. The Cable supervisor suspects the calls will increase if an agreement is not reached by Oct. 6.

What are the other local broadcast stations doing?

Fox (Channel 17) is in the midst of working out an agreement where Lowell Cable would be allowed to carry channel 17 by also carrying its cable network FX, an entertainment channel.

WOOD TV (NBC) is carrying a "must carry" provision with Lowell Cable. The two have signed a three-year contract.

WZZM TV-13 and Lowell Cable has not yet signed a contract. Christman says Lowell Cable is awaiting an answer.

Christman said NBC and ABC both have cable net-  
**Act, cont'd., pg. 8**

## Grass roots organization hears distress call of education

By Thad Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

The grass roots organizations, S.O.S. (Save Our Students) of Cedar Springs, and Now Is the Time, of Rockford, have combined their efforts to effect school finance reform.

They came up with eight criteria to guide legislators in their decision making.

It is hopeful that the finished financial educational package put together by the legislators will meet the needs of the eight criteria, and that the criteria will not have to be juggled to meet the needs of school financing.

S.O.S. and "Now is the Time" have concentrated their

efforts over the last year on school finance reform.

Governor John Engler has stated that all school finance reform bills will be passed by Dec. 1 of this year.

The grass roots push has gone beyond their own individual districts. They have

shared information and guidelines with other school districts and have encouraged other school districts to be come actively involved over the next 90 days. This time period is being referred to as "Taking Michigan Education into the 21st Century."

In cooperation with S.O.S. and Now is the Time, Lowell's Neighbors Who Care, have joined the effort.

"We've joined because it has gone beyond individual districts. They have made it a state-wide push," said Mary Mayhew, one of four Lowell women who have helped organize a local group of 35 members.

"This is a local school finance reform group that is made up of mostly parents and citizens concerned about the future of education in Michigan," Mayhew said. "That's important to note, because people are tired of the union rhetoric it hears from schools."

The Lowell Neighbors

Who Care group supports the school finance reform effort because the eight criteria meet the basic needs, questions and concerns the community has about education.

The eight criteria are general, but it is hoped they will keep everybody focused on the real issue, the education of children. The criteria are:

1. Making education a top priority in Michigan.
2. Realistic equity.
3. Stability/carmarking of

educational funding.

4. An adequate basic grant per student.

5. Outcome accountability.

6. Opportunities for innovative educational environments.

7. Equal technological opportunities for all students.

8. Maintain local control.

There has been a state-wide rally on the capitol steps planned for Wednesday, Sept.

**Education, cont'd., pg. 8**

**WHO:** "SAVE OUR STUDENTS"  
"NOW IS THE TIME"  
**WHAT:** Rally on the Capitol steps  
**WHY:** To play an active role in taking Michigan education into the 21st Century  
**WHEN:** September 29  
A local rally organizational meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. at the Lowell Middle School cafeteria.

### INSIDE THE LEDGER

Board asked to spend fund equity to get students back to 6 hour day - pg. 28

Financial boost offered to athletes - pg. 19

# OBITUARIES

**DARLING** - Wellman "Bill" Roy Darling Jr., 43, died Thursday, September 9, 1993. Mr. Darling was born January 10, 1950 in Lansing the son of Wellman Sr. and Barbara J. (Newlin) Darling. He lived in Lowell for the past 20 years. He married Sandy Todd February 9, 1979, was employed at Auto Cam in Dutton, was a member of the church bowling league and enjoyed hunting and fishing. Surviving are his wife, Sandy K. Darling; children, Nikki Darling, Brett Darling, Eric

Darling, Josh Darling, Cheryl (Scott) Baird, step-daughter Regina (Damon) Kroskie; granddaughter, Kelsey and grandson, Zackary; parents, Wellman Sr. and Barbara Darling; brothers, Charles and Benjamin Darling; sisters, Barbara Todd and Susan Meyers; 10 nieces and 14 nephews. Funeral services were held Monday at the Rosier Funeral Home, Mapes-Fisher Chapel in Sunfield with Pastor Bob Besemer of the Sebewa Center United Methodist Church officiating. For

those wishing, contributions may be made to the AA Club in memory of Mr. Wellman Roy Darling Jr. Interment was in the West Sebewa Cemetery in Sebewa Twp.

**KLOOSTERMAN** - Berwyn L. Kloosterman, aged 63, of Lowell, a Veteran of the Korean Conflict, who served in the U.S. Navy, died Sunday, September 12, 1993. He is survived by his wife, Shirley, of 37 years; children, Gail Kloosterman of Lowell, Lois Kloosterman of Phoenix, AZ, Carl Kloosterman of Ada, Mark Kloosterman of Lowell, and Jill Kloosterman of Lowell; two sisters, Kathryn Buttrick of Alto and Reathel Waldron and husband, Austin of Rockford;

several nieces and nephews. Berwyn moved to Lowell from Grand Rapids in 1939 and in 1948 graduated from Lowell High School. He was a member of the V.F.W. Lester J. Sitts Post of Sheridan; and the Lowell Rotary Club. Past memberships include the Lowell Li-

ons Club, Lowell Moose Lodge, Lowell American Legion, the Flat River Snowmobile Club and the West Michigan Oilmen's Club. He worked as a Standard Oil Agent in the Lowell area for approximately 10 years and retired in 1992 as Vice President of Fairchild Oil Company. He worked

most of his life in the Lowell area. Funeral services will be Wednesday (today) at the Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, Lowell. Interment South Boston Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Greater Grand Rapids.

## Youths discover opportunities with law enforcement club

Members of the Lowell Police Department's Law Enforcement Youth Club recently elected officers for 1993-94. They are: President/Captain, Jason Stoutjesdyk; First Vice-President/Lieutenant, Michelle Murphy; Second Vice President/Lieutenant, K.J. Vezino; Secretary/Sergeant, Gerard Despres; Treasurer/Sergeant, Lisa Murphy and Squad Leader Sergeants: Gene Tobin, Dawn Burrows, Kevin Dykstra and Keith Benando.

Membership in the Youth Club is open to young adults, 14 years of age through 21, that might be interested in law enforcement as a career. Meet-

ings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Lowell Police Department. In addition to training sessions, members also take part in several social activities and fund-raisers.

The objectives are: exposure to law enforcement careers and professionals, hands-on experience in the criminal justice system, relating to others sharing the same interest, discovering career opportunities, requirements, education, training and benefits, awareness of law enforcement and citizenship, learning self-discipline and improvement of self-esteem, character building, develop-

ing an appreciation and understanding of law enforcement and having fun by taking part in planned social activities.

Selected members are eligible to ride with a certified officer a few hours per month to gain an insight as to what an officer does when on patrol.

Members are issued a Law Enforcement Youth Club uniform, purchased with monies received through fund-raisers.

If a young adult in the Lowell area is interested in becoming a member of this Youth Club, they should contact Sgt. Allan L. Eckman at the Lowell Police Department, 897-7123.



The officers of Lowell Police Department's Law Enforcement Youth Club are, front, left to right: Sgt. Dawn Burrows, Sgt. Lisa Murphy, Lt. Michelle Murphy and Sgt. Gerard Despres; back, left to right: Lt. K.J. Vezino, Capt. Jason Stoutjesdyk, Sgt. Gene Tobin, Sgt. Kevin Dykstra.



Members of Lowell Police Department's Law Enforcement Youth Club are, front, left to right: Hope Bush, Darren Stone, Mike Farley, Keitha Dickinson, Scott Hays, David Despres; back, left to right: Michael Carigon, Jim Stoutjesdyk, Ron VanderBoon, John McGarry, Albert Annibali, Scott Dykstra.

## Students find treasures in recovery diver's expeditions

By Thad Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

Deb Smith, a member of the treasure recovery dive crew of the Atocha Treasures, couldn't share enough information with most of the 246 eighth-graders during her 30-minute slide presentation Friday.

Smith, in 30 minutes, was able to do what history books can't - she brought to life, in a way that students could relate to, the stark past of sunken

treasures of centuries past. Smith has also been a dive crew member to the Bahamian Wreck of 1628, the 1715 Plate Fleet and the 1800's "Spring of Whittby."

"I've recovered treasures from shipwrecks of the 1600, 1700 and 1800's," Smith said.

In the year 1622, a Spanish galleon bearing 280 souls and the richest treasure ever laden aboard a ship, went down during a fierce Caribbean hurricane.

She was the legendary

Nuestra Senora de Atocha. After centuries of searching, the Atocha was finally discovered off the Florida Keys in 1985. So far it has yielded more than a thousand silver bars weighing up to 90 lbs. each, 200 bars of gold, 3,000 emeralds, over 100,000 pieces of eight, and Spanish Colonial artifacts representing a life lost for centuries.

Over 16 years of intensive search operations were conducted, costing millions of dollars.

Marine Archaeologist James J. Sinclair, along with members of the dive crew, brought the treasure to the Woodland Mall over the weekend. The crew also took presentations to area schools, telling of the incredible story

Siegel Jewelers sponsored the four-day Woodland Mall exhibit display and the visits to area schools.

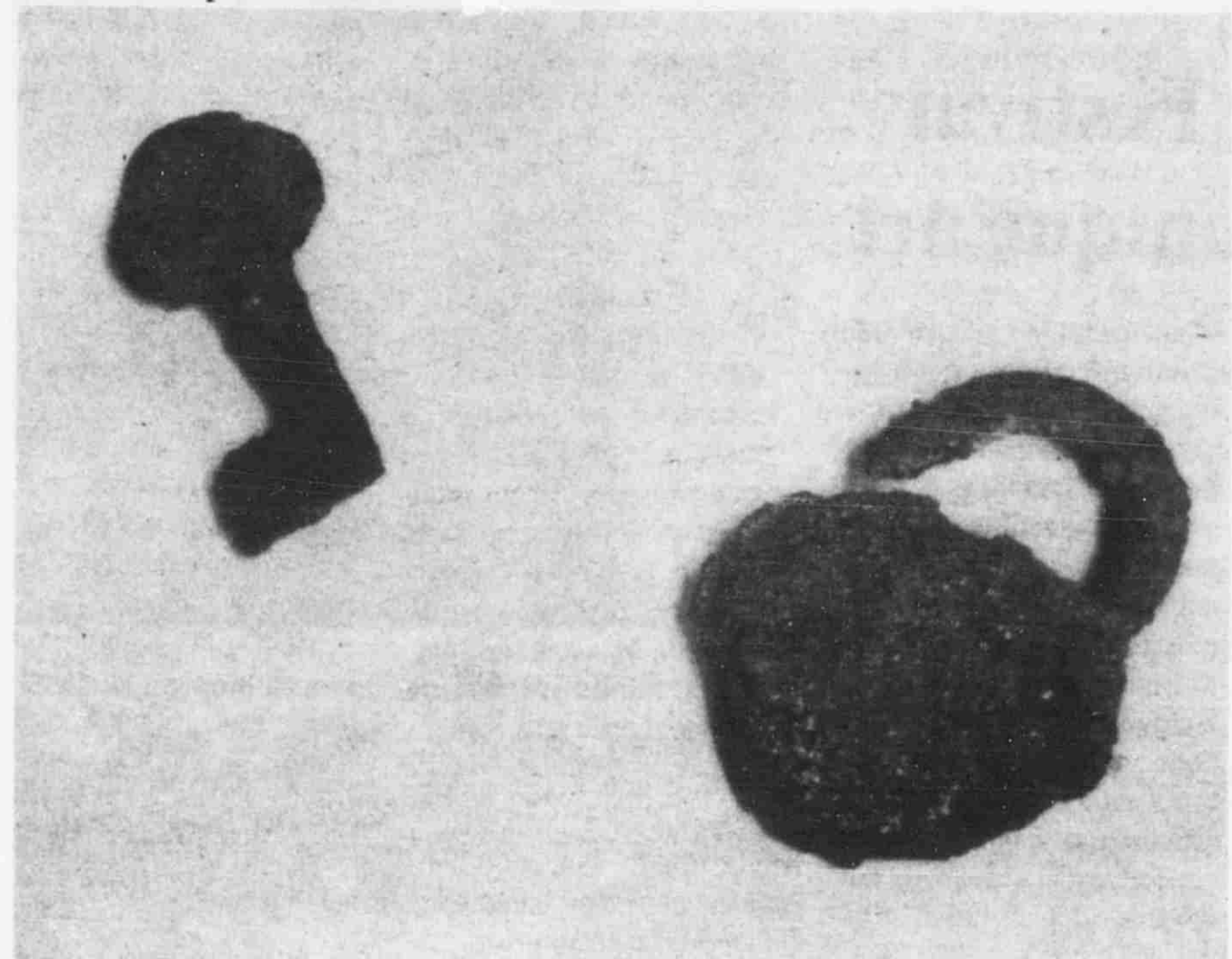
"We are thankful to Siegel Jewelers for giving the students a wonderful opportunity," Lowell Middle School

Principal, Mike Matlosz said. The most expensive item found on the Atocha, was a four-inch length solid gold chain. Strapped to their owners, such chains were used as

Treasures, cont'd., pg. 8



Deb Smith, shared a 30 minute slide show with Lowell Middle School students on her treasure recovery dives.



Students were able to view a sand crusted lock and key.

of the search for Atocha and other treasures.

"I try to cover all the facets of a search for treasures," Smith said.

Students were able to look at several coin pieces and a sand crusted key and lock.

Treasures, cont'd., pg. 8

## FMB State Savings Bank "Employee of the Month"



MARY PHILLIPS

The September 1993 FMB State Savings Bank "Employee of the Month" is Mary Phillips. Mary has been a bank employee for 8 years and works as a mortgage processor.

She and her husband Dale are both life long residents of Lowell and have two children, Ryan, 10, and Courtney, 8. Her hobbies are reading, sports and shuttling children to activities. She is a graduate of Aquinas College, and a member of St. Mary's Church and the school board.

When asked about her job at the bank, she replies, "The bank has been very flexible with me so that I can work around my children and their school activities. I have always appreciated this. I enjoy the work and the people I work with are always pleasant and willing to help each other. I really enjoy working at the bank."

Congratulations Mary Phillips, September Employee of the Month.

**FMB** LOWELL & ROCKFORD  
State Savings Bank

LOWELL 414 East Main Street 897-4153  
WESTOWN 1425 West Main Street  
ROCKFORD 68835 Belding Rd., N.E. 874-8330

## GRATTAN TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF REVIEW OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO BIG PINE ISLAND LAKE

TAKE NOTICE that a special assessment roll has been prepared and is available for public examination at the Grattan Township Hall during normal business hours. Said special assessment roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing the cost of the following described improvements to the property benefited therefrom:

<b>BIG PINE ISLAND LAKE AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL (1994 THROUGH 1996)</b>	
<b>IMPROVEMENT</b>	<b>COST</b>
Aquatic Plant Control	\$25,000 Per Year for 3 Years

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the lake board will meet at the Grattan Historical Society, at 11677 Old Belding Road, in Grattan, Michigan, at 7:30 p.m., local time, on Wednesday, the 15th day of September, 1993, for the purpose of reviewing said special assessment roll and hearing any objections thereto. Appearance and protest of the special assessment at the hearing is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. An owner of or a party with interest in property to be assessed or his/her agent may appear in person to protest the special assessment or may protest the special assessment by letter filed with the lake board at or prior to the time of the hearing, in which case appearance in person is not required. Written objections may be filed with the lake board at the office of Grattan Township or mailed to the lake board in care of Chuck Palazzolo at the Grattan Township Hall, 11676 Old Belding Road, Belding, Michigan 48809, prior to the time of the hearing. If the special assessment is protested as provided above, the owner or any party having an interest in the real property may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the Michigan Tax Tribunal or other court of competent jurisdiction within 30 days after the confirmation of the special assessment roll.

Big Pine Island Lake Improvement Board  
Kent County, Michigan

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## VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE

The Vergennes Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, September 22, 1993 at 7:00 p.m. at the Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, for the purpose of receiving public comment on the following:

A request from Richard C. Cooper to rezone a 97 acre parcel in the SW 1/4 of Section 34, at or about 1000 Alden Nash S.E., from the existing zoning of R-1 (Low Density Residential) to R-2 (Medium Density Single Family Residential).

The subject parcel is more fully described as:  
The North 1600 feet of the SW 1/4 of Section 34, T7N, R9W, Vergennes Township, Kent County, Michigan; approximately 97.34 acres.

The current R-1 zoning of this parcel has a minimum lot size of 1 acre with a minimum lot width of 165 feet. The request for rezoning to R-2, if granted, would permit a minimum lot size of 17,000 square feet with a minimum lot width of 100 feet.

The rezoning request and the Township Zoning Map can be reviewed at the Vergennes Township Hall during the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Written comments on the requested rezoning will also be considered if received by the Township Clerk prior to 7:00 p.m. on September 22, 1993.

Gil Wise  
Chairman



**OPEN SUNDAY**  
Noon 'til 8  
DINING & TAKE-OUT

**COUPON**

**\$1 OFF**  
On The Purchase  
of Any Dinner

Coupon Good at Golden Dragon  
Expires 9-19-93

**COUPON**

**GOLDEN DRAGON RESTAURANT**  
11650 W. Fulton, Michigan



# On Line

with Lowell School Superintendent  
**Fritz Esch**

## THE HEADLEE AFTERMATH

The number of telephone calls and conversations about the opening days of the 1993-1994 school following the Headlee defeat must have created a new record for complaints from residents and parents. The best we can do is to listen and answer questions with the most up-to-date information available.

Local parents, taxpayers and students are not to be blamed for the problems we are facing this year nor any of the problems we faced in previous years. Local taxpayers have overwhelmingly supported this school district for a number of years which has allowed us to improve the school system and student programs as much as we have. The problem really rests in the State laws governing educational institutions and the ability of State government to adequately finance what the

laws require.

Each year we have had to make significant cuts and alterations in student programs and services due to lack of adequate funds. Where previous years program cuts have affected a minimum number of parents or students, the cuts this year are painfully obvious.

Why we have a five hour day seems to be one of the most frequently asked questions. When State finances are as tight as they are, local school districts can only plan a program based on "know revenues." It was obvious that the state aid package would net us a zero increase this year and that voters would have to approve a 2.5 mill Headlee override for the school district to maintain any reasonable program compared to last year. With the failure of the Headlee and the lack of needed increases in the state aid act for the third year in a row, the only place left to make cuts equal to \$1.7 million was in teachers, support staff and school service such as transportation. What we have today is a school program based upon "know revenues" which will result in a projected fund balance next June 30 of approximately \$700,000 to get the 1994-1995 school year started.

Given the fact that the district will not be receiving approximately \$4,000,000 next summer from property taxes, one can clearly see the problem facing us a year from now. There aren't many businesses that could survive from year to year with this revenue picture.

The delayed start of the school day is another frequently

asked question. Since the district is obligated to abide by mutually agreed upon contract language, the delayed start of the school day is simply a contractual issue left over from twelve years ago when the district was on a five hour student day schedule. The language clearly states that staff conference/planning period will be the first 55 minute period of the day. During the normal six hour day, the staff planning time is dispersed throughout the day when additional staff are able to teach more subject areas. With the Headlee failure, 25 teachers were not recalled, resulting in fewer academic classes available for students and the five hour day schedule.

How to reduce \$1.7 million dollars from this year's budget was a very difficult task. There is no single "program," such as athletics, transportation, custodial, maintenance, or administration which could be totally eliminated to make up the known deficit. About 85 percent of the district's entire budget is directly related to the our business purpose: hiring teachers to teach students.

While the problems seem particularly bothersome this year, the bigger question is where will we be a year from now. While we are all hopeful the State Legislature will bail us out before next June, the question of dollars to open school next year will be totally in their hands and under their control. The projected fund balance from this year may cover the bills through July 1994, but its up for speculation as to what 520 Michigan school districts will do until the first State Aid check arrives in October, as it has for the past two years, and contain only one-tenth of the annual State funding commitment.



## Capitol Commentary

By: Dick Posthumus

### REINVENT YES. HOW ABOUT CUTTING MORE FAT?

Last week Vice President Al Gore came out with his own plan to "reinvent government." In his report, he highlighted all types of government waste and inefficiencies. During his press conference, he and President Clinton stood in front of forklifts full of all kinds of useless government forms and regulations.

By attacking government waste and inefficiencies, Mr. Gore is on the right track but the real question is: For how long

will he remain on track? Will any of his ideas actually be implemented.

This report has bi-partisan support throughout the country. Most Americans chuckled at all of the silly rules and regulations that the federal government requires that Mr. Gore would like to end. One example the Vice President has used is the regulation requiring all government glass ashtrays to be made to a specification that says that when the trays are broken, they must break into 32 pieces.

But what is not funny is that overregulation strangles incentives to create new jobs. We would like to see the truckloads of regulations done away with. We want to see the number of bureaucrats reduced. We want to see new jobs created all over the country.

We've also seen this before. During the Reagan Administration, Peter Grace released his commission's report on how to trim 200 billion dollars in wasteful programs. The Grace Commission plan was, like Vice President Gore's, presented with much fanfare, but ran into a brick wall on Capitol Hill.

The Vice President's plan does not go nearly as far as the Grace Commission. His plan is much less ambitious. Instead of cutting government, he seeks to reinvent it to make it better. The Vice President has an understanding of the mood of the country, that we are getting fed up with more and more

government, but instead of addressing the root cause of the problem, more government spending, he tackles some lesser forms of waste.

Hopefully, this is just a start for Mr. Gore.

I hope that the Congress enacts much of his reforms and then goes on to substantially cut the budget. I hope that next year when the President and Congress try to tackle the problem, they do it by making real spending cuts first, not by raising taxes such as was done earlier this summer. Then, taxes went up by \$255 billion over five years while spending went down by only \$119 billion.

In Michigan over the past three years, we have cut spending and reduced taxes. This has led to our state's best growth rate in two decades. Taxes have continued to go down and job creation has gone up. In fact, 11.2 percent of all new jobs created in the nation since August of 1991 have been created in Michigan. This has made Michigan the leader in new jobs created, with an increase of 7.6 percent from August of 1991 to May of this year, versus a growth rate of only 2.4 percent nationally.

Eliminating waste and inefficiencies is a good start, but it is only the tip of an ever-growing iceberg. Washington will have to tighten its belt with real budget cuts, just like we have done in Michigan.



Book Review by:  
Joan Wittenbach

As I leafed through the pages of the book, *Mirette On The High Wire* by author/artist, Emily Arnold McCully, it was no surprise that this book was given the Caldecott Award for its illustrations.

Just a quick trip to Paris, France and an introduction to Madame Gateau's boarding house, where traveling players, that perform in theatres and music halls, often chose to stay for some period of time, is the setting of the story. Almost immediately Mirette, the daughter of the proprietor, comes on the scene, working and listening to all the stories that guests tell around the dinner table.

One evening a stranger rents a room---only to rest. But the next day Mirette finds him in the courtyard---walking on air! Watching him walk across a wire, she can hardly keep her own feet on the ground---they seem to tingle with excitement. She continues to watch day after day, until she asks him to show her how to do it. Mr. Bellini refuses, but Mirette keeps on

watching as he practices, until one day she tries the feat herself. After many attempts and falling often, she shows Mr. Bellini what she can do. He agrees to instruct her, always warning, "Never let your eyes stray...Think only of the wire, and of crossing to the end."

Later in the story, Mirette learns of Bellini's fear that has robbed him of his love for walking the wire. Her attempt to help him restore his confidence in front of an audience once again is the most rewarding and courageous part of the book. The illustrations on that particular page are so laden with emotion that I heard myself whispering, Yes, Mirette, yes! I clapped my hands in delight as I read: "...they were thinking only of the wire, and of crossing to the end." It is an unforgettable story.

This book is available at local bookstores and at the Lowell Library.

*The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce* Presents...  
An Evening Of Dancing & Entertainment Under The Stars To The Big Band Sounds of...  
**TOMMY DORSEY ORCHESTRA**  
Under The Direction of Buddy Morrow  
SATURDAY, SEPT. 18 FROM 6 TO 10 PM  
at the Lowell Showboat Amphitheater  
General Admission \$5.00  
All proceeds will benefit the Lowell Chamber of Commerce & The Lowell Showboat  
The evening will include the announcement of the Chamber's 8th Annual "Person of the Year"  
Tickets Will Be Available At:  
Ticket Master - Flat River Antique Mall - Pitalers' - FMB State Savings or The Chamber Office  
Concessions will also be available.

## Davenport College

Fall Term Starts September 27

Add A Little Class To Your Night Life!!  
Classes At  
**Lowell Senior High School**

SCHEDULE			
Introduction to Algebra	Monday,	September 27	6:00 - 9:25 p.m.
Small Business Management	Tuesday,	September 28	6:00 - 9:25 p.m.
Principles of Accounting II	Wednesday,	September 29	6:00 - 9:25 p.m.
Interpersonal Communications	Thursday,	September 30	6:00 - 9:25 p.m.

To Register\* Please Call 451-3511 or 1-800-632-9569

\*To save \$100 ask about our off-campus Adult Grant Program

## Health With Drs. Paul Gauthier, Jim Lang & Joyce deJong

### EMPHYSEMA

Emphysema is a chronic lung disease resulting from long term destruction of lung tissue. It is a slowly progressive

disease that takes several years to develop. Destruction of lung tissue causes loss of elasticity in the lungs and poor exchange of respiratory gases. Emphysema is directly related to cigarette smoking. Over a period of several years the tiny air sacs in the lung become damaged. They no longer expand and contract easily allowing oxygen in and carbon dioxide out. This leads to trapping of carbon dioxide in the lungs. As damage to the lungs continue, the heart is forced to work harder to pump oxygen to the vital organs.

Symptoms of emphysema are usually easily detected and include shortness of breath with minimal exertion, chronic cough, fatigue and frequent respiratory infections. A chronic cough often occurs in people who smoke and this is one of the early warning signs of emphysema.

The diagnosis of emphysema is usually made by listening to the chest with a stethoscope, obtaining a chest x-ray and performing a pulmonary function test. These tests are usually

performed in your doctors' office. Early diagnosis of emphysema is important so that irritants such as smoking can be removed to prevent further lung damage.

Emphysema can be treated but not cured. The earlier you quit smoking the less long term damage you do to your lungs. Medication is often prescribed to improve ventilation. Bronchodilators relax and open constricted bronchial airways. This type of medication is usually taken on a continual basis. Antibiotics will usually be prescribed early in the course of an upper respiratory infection to prevent further compromise of lung functions. In severe cases, home oxygen therapy is useful.

Although there is no cure for emphysema, appropriate treatment will help people with emphysema live more comfortably and productive lives.

## TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

The August 25th edition of the Grand Rapids Press quotes your Superintendent, Francis Esch as saying, "I just feel badly that the kids have to take the blow for adults that can't resolve their problems."

If your district is like many others in Michigan, the taxpayers have resolved the problem and provided the monies necessary to educate their children. Unreasonable increases in wage compensation packages over the past ten years have caused many school districts to shortchange the "kids."

The dollars and fringe benefits awarded in contracts have been two, three, and four times the rate of inflation. Only "Headlee Waivers" have permitted this continued reck-

less spending. Now the day of reckoning is here. Who is responsible for "Johnny and Mary" not getting the education the taxpayers have paid for?

It would be helpful if your financial officer prepared a chart for the past decade reflecting inflation (4.3%) and the total cost of wage compensation packages (dollars and fringe benefits) over the same period.

Taxpayers in the private sector during this same period have been faced with just a cost of living increase, no increase, benefit concessions or job loss during the past decade.

People know the rates they pay for sales tax, state and federal income taxes. We also have a truth in lending

law but the people are sure in the dark about the true rate of increases for school personnel. Fringe benefits are never added and sometimes they are more than the dollars in the paycheck

Your board could provide a great service to the taxpayer if this information was provided in advance of a public hearing on proposed contracts and ballot proposals.

Dear Editor,  
As a member of the senior class this year at LHS, I am writing to inform the community of my feelings toward the defeat of the Headlee because of it's defeat, the students have become the victims of the layoffs, cutbacks and schedule changes

Once I received my schedule, I was appalled to see that I had been given two classes that I had already taken and passed. I am not the only student to receive a class schedule like this. Some students even received schedules without classes that they needed to graduate.

As I walked the halls on the first day of school, I expected to see the usual welcoming back between students and staff members. What I found was a line of students halfway down the hallway from the Student Service Center attempting to request a change in their schedules. Instead of waiting in line, I decided to wait until later in the day when students would be switching classes or going to lunch. I was rather surprised to see that there was a constant line all day, even after school.

By the end of the second day of school. Over 300 requests had been made to change their schedules. What I don't think the SSC staff realizes is that the majority of the requests have been put in because the student didn't like

the teachers or the class. Shouldn't they honor the requests for those who have legitimate reasons. Why should the students who have already passed a class have to sit through the class again if they won't receive credit for it?

I have attended Lowell Area Schools since kindergarten, along with my older sister and both of my parents graduates of Lowell High School. My family has always been supportive in any school activity that my sister and I have been involved in, and they are proud that we support our school with pride. I have been supportive through athletics, academics, and various organizations that have all made me proud to be a student at LHS in the past.

As of Friday morning, Sept. 3, there was still nothing done about my schedule, as well as the students with the same problem. All week I had been shuffled around with no attempt of cooperation from the counselors. On Thursday I came home from school in tears due to frustration. As I once again told my parents about my situation, they finally decided to take matters into their own hands. Late Friday morning my parents walked in to the SSC and my schedule was changed immediately. Why should it require a parents appearance to have these staff members cooperate with the students who need the schedule changes?

I watched a large amount of students have their schedules changed before me, but they were changed because they didn't want the class. I believe these changes should be made in order of importance, not by who wants what. As the end of the first week arrived, some 250 students still sat awaiting a schedule change.

Letters, cont'd., pg. 10

FOR THE COMMUNITY • BY THE COMMUNITY

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## Letters, continued

At the beginning of my last year at LHS, I have become torn between my support for the school and my frustrations with the defeat of the Headlee. It has obviously left staff members in a bind, and the students take their frustrations out on them and vice-versa. Some staff members say that they are doing the best that they can, but for those of us who are sitting through a class for a second time or need specific credits to graduate, what they are doing isn't enough. I feel I am speaking for a large percentage of the student body, especially the senior class, when I say that those of us who need the changes should have been taken care of in the first two days of school.

As students we realize that we have to adjust to the many changes occurring in our

many seniors school spirit. Being the smallest class, many would think we would be intimidated by other classes at pep assemblies and athletic events. We are, however, very proud to be from LHS. We show it at all events, especially pep assemblies, as the only time we have ever lost was in our freshmen year.

The Class of 1994 will be the last class to graduate from this school and we want to make it memorable, not only for us, but the other classes too. By not receiving the education that we deserve, we may not become much of a remembered class at all. Our futures were put in to someone else's hands and, as a result, not only our futures have been threatened, but the world's future as well.

I feel for the teachers who were handed pink slips this summer, but I also feel for my fellow classmates. We are the real victims of this tragedy, as our futures are the ones at stake. If these schedule changes are not made, as well as other problems re-

solved that will affect each student's future, we may have serious problems. As students, we are the future, and without change and cooperation from the remaining staff, we can all kiss our future good-bye.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Allchin  
Senior Class Vice President  
To the Editor,

I would like to address the person, who at the school board meeting on Sept. 13, stated that teachers work six hours a day. In the same breath she said she was going to fifth-grade camp as a nurse. Let me take this opportunity to say thank you to the fifth-grade teachers who will not be working six hours a day for the next four days with my daughter and her classmates, but twenty-four hours a day.

I would also like to say thank you to the teachers who have spent extra hours through the years, so that my daughter became a better reader. Thanks also to the teachers who have been class sponsors, those who have built Homecoming floats, chapter-

ed dances, taken students to Toronto on Art Club trips, to Washington D.C. on Close Up trips and even to France and Spain on International Club trips. Don't forget teachers, you only work six hours a day.

I'd also like to extend a big thank you to the teachers who come in early for committee meetings like the Renaissance Committee, the school scheduling committee, not to mention the school improvement committees in each building. Thanks to the teachers who come in an hour early to meet with parents about a problem their son or daughter might be having.

Teachers begin their career with a minimum of four years of college and soon are required to obtain more education to keep their jobs. Many teachers have six or even eight years of college behind them. Teachers spend untold hours getting lesson plans ready, correcting papers, writing tests and the list goes on and on. All this is done outside the six hour day that teachers sup-

posedly work.

I know there are "bad apples" in all occupations and teachers are no exception. However, I would say that the majority of the teachers here in Lowell give of themselves tirelessly.

I'm sick of the teacher bashing that is going on. As the old saying goes, "Don't judge a man until you have walked a mile in his shoes." When most adults look back at the people who have helped shape their lives, I think most would agree that a teacher falls someplace close to the top of the list.

Before August 24, I could not have written this letter to go in the paper because it would have sounded self-serving. You see, I am one of the 25 teachers who got laid-off. Now, as a parent of two daughters in the Lowell system, I want to again say "Thank you and Hats off!" to each of the teachers. You do a terrific job and don't believe otherwise.

Marsha LaHaye

## Township Board requests apology following questionable ad

By Marc Popielek  
Contributing Writer

In this time of pushy salesman the Lowell Township board was shocked and appalled at an ad that ran in last week's Lowell's Buyers Guide questioning the spending of Lowell tax dollars.

The ad was run by Gordon Lyons, a sales represen-

tative of the Municipal and Industrial Equipment Company. The ad was in regards to the new water tower that is needed for the new High School. Municipal and Industrial sells a water tank known as Aqua Store, which claims to be more economical than the tank the township has chosen to build.

Township Supervisor

John Timpson found the ad in bad taste, not only because it unfairly questioned the spending of tax dollars, but also because it didn't reveal the total cost of the Aqua Store system.

"The ad left out two very important details. First it didn't show the cost of installing a pump which would be needed, nor did it show the

cost of running the pump everyday over a specific period of time," said Timpson.

According to Timpson, the Aqua Store tank would be impractical for this type of use, because if the pump went down there would be no way to get water to the High School if needed.

Lyons was present at the board's workshop meeting to

explain the purpose of the ad and to apologize for any misconception, but board members were not satisfied with his explanation.

"I put the ad in to make people and board members aware that there is another option to the tank, I didn't mean to insult this board in any way," said Lyons.

Board member Alyn Fletcher felt a better apology would be to run a full page ad apologizing for the insulting ad.

"It is one thing to apologize to this board, but many citizens won't hear this, so the only right thing to do would be to apologize to the township with an ad," said Fletcher.

An ad apologizing for any misunderstanding was placed in this week's Buyers Guide by the owner Al Lettinga.

According to Timpson, the board didn't consider the system because it was not recommended by their engineering firm, Moore and Bruggink.

"The engineers studied our needs and they felt this system was not viable for us, so I'm going to go with their recommendation," he said.

\*\*\*  
Abstinence and quiet cure many diseases.  
—Hippocrates

# The Lowell Ledger's

## TV LISTING MAGAZINE


- Features Complete Listings of Lowell Cable TV Channels On A Daily Basis.
- Complete & Easy To Use
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Channel	Station	City
3	MTV	Music
4	NASH	
7	WSYM	Lansing
8	WOTV	Grand Rapids
10	WXMI	G. Rapids
11	WGVU	Grand Rapids
12	WKAR	East Lansing
13	WZZM	Grand Rapids
14	HBO	Premium
17	TBS	Atlanta
19	MAX	Premium
21	DISN	Premium
23	USA	
24	FAM	Family
25	WGN	Chicago
26	ESPN	Sports
27	CNN	News
28	CNNHEAD	
29	NICK	
30	A&E	
31	PASS	Troy
32	WWMT	Kalamazoo
33	WUHQ	Battle Creek
34	WILX	Lansing
35	WLNS	Lansing
36	DISC	
37	TNT	Atlanta




## LISTINGS FOR FRI., SEPT. 17 THRU THURS., SEPT. 23

"The 45th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards" airs Sunday on ABC with host Angela Lansbury. Cable powerhouse HBO, with 55 nominations (the same number as ABC), expects to grab statuettes this year for movies including "Barbarians at the Gate" and series "Dream On" and "The Larry Sanders Show."



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**We hope to see you then!**

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GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**In Case Of An Emergency Please Contact:**

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(B-226966) 10 ACRES ROLLING LAND - The view is forever, new 2000 sq. ft. home, 3+ bedrooms, 2+ baths, great room, central air, walkout basement has potential for bedrooms & bath, super for horses, formal dining room, 2 1/2 car garage. Call Dick Bryan, 676-1261 or 897-8278.

(B-217022) ROLLING & WATER - 7 lots to choose from, acres from 2 to 6, some with creek frontage, rolling land, only 30 minutes to Grand Rapids. Call Dick Bryan, 676-1261 or 897-8278.

(B-215847) COUNTRY ACREAGE - 2 lots, 1.07 acres, close to I-96 exit, newer mobile homes are allowed. Call Dick Bryan, 676-1261 or 897-8278.

(B-217152) LOWELL AREA 5.12+ ACRES - Dry, wooded, perked and surveyed, lots of wildlife, price to sell, take a drive by. Call George Tatu, MBA, 676-1261 or 676-2841.

(B-228084) BEAUTIFUL 60 ACRES IN ADA TOWNSHIP - Forest Hills School, zoned R-3 & R-4, Many ways land could be used. PRICE REDUCED!! Call Geoffrey Davis, 676-1261 or 874-8998.

(B-219854) FRONTAGE ON 2 ROADS - 133 acres of land, 20 acres woods, creek runs through land. Call Dick Bryan, 676-1261 or 897-8278.

(B-222531) STUNNING CONTEMPORARY - Professionally designed by architect owner, 5320 total sq. ft., situated on a hilltop with spectacular view, fantastic open design with magnificent placement of windows, balconies & decks, 2.4 wooded acres, 30x40 pole building. Call Bill Jasinski, 676-1261 or 459-7149.

(B-227511) NOW TH IS IS RELAXATION! - Set on over an acre with an in-ground pool, professionally landscaped yard and large hot tub off the screened porch, this is like a dream. 3 bedroom ranch with new kitchen with 2 built-in ovens and all new cupboards, new designer half bath off the kitchen and a family room with fireplace. Call Geoff Davis, 676-1261 or 874-8998.

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FRIDAY

Sep. 17

Table of TV listings for Friday, Sep 17, including Morning, Afternoon, and Evening blocks with program titles and times.

Table of TV listings for Saturday, Sep 18, including Morning, Afternoon, and Evening blocks with program titles and times.

Table of TV listings for Saturday, Sep 18, continuing from the previous page with program titles and times.

Table of TV listings for Saturday, Sep 18, continuing from the previous page with program titles and times.

Business Directory section containing advertisements for Speerstra Agency, Thomet Chevrolet Buick Geo, Dan's Oil Doctor, Denny Hawk Towing, Lowell Litho, and Sam's Service Center.

Professional Sound Systems advertisement for Jay Vezino, featuring services like mobile DJ, sound equipment, and contact information.









# Lowell equestrians topple Hudsonville & Rockford

Since 1974, the Michigan Interscholastic Horsemanship Association has become one of the fastest growing high school club sports. About 160 teams make up the 13 districts involving over 1,100 riders state-wide. This year District V has the second largest enrollment in the state with 104 riders from 15 teams. Much of its population is ac-

credited to the team concept. High school students pay \$30 each per season to compete on their own mounts. The money is used to hire professional judges, pay arena and insurance fees and to purchase patches, bars and trophies. All coaches volunteer their time to instruct riders and organize the meets and interested parents and friends run the meets

Therefore, there is no cost to the schools represented. There are 17 events representing four styles of riding: saddle seat, hunt seat, western and contesting. With a few exceptions, each team member may enter six events, but no school may have more than four entrants in a single event. Points are awarded on a basis of six points for first, on down through one point for sixth. Scores are kept by team performances rather than individual, with all team placings being totaled for the team score for that meet.

The number of riders on a team represents if it's an A, B or C team. A teams have 11 or more riders and may fill all 64 slots; B teams have six to 10 riders and may fill 42 of the 64 slots; C teams have five or less riders and may fill 24 slots. A 10 or five rider team has the option of declaring itself an A or B team respectively, if they wish to fill more slots. Lowell's 10 members used this option to declare themselves an A team this year.

Two meets were held simultaneously last Saturday in Cedar Springs. In Ring I, the B competition had Byron Center besting Rockford JV 31-22. The C team victor was Belding with 72 points followed by Zeeland 54, Calvin Christian 47, Forest Hills Central 37, Hopkins 17 and East Kentwood 5. In Ring II B competition was dominated by Cedar Springs 69, Holland Christian 40, Caledonia 39 and Forest Hills Northern 22. The A division was a see-saw battle ending with Lowell slid-

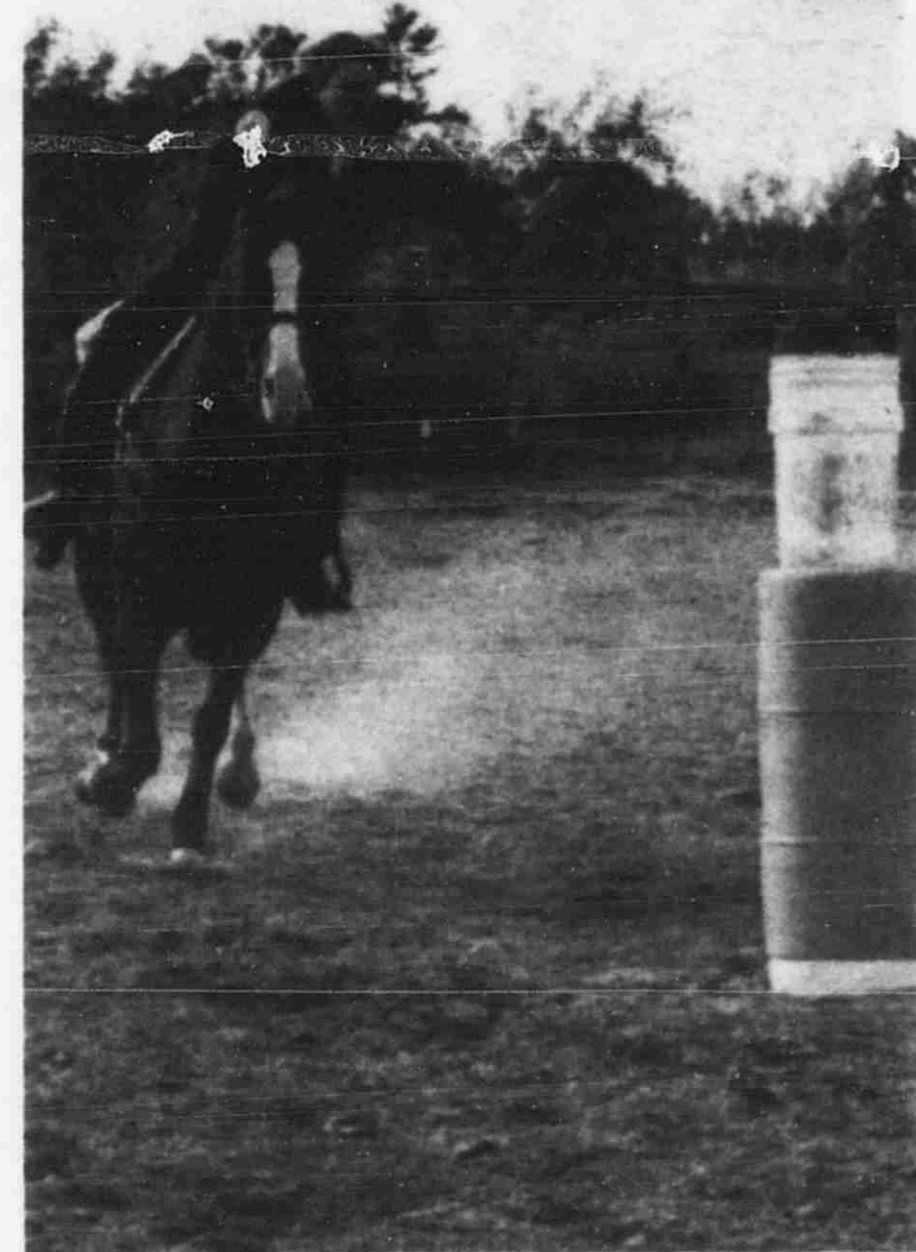
ing by Hudsonville 77-63. Rockford followed with 47 points. Lowell was scoreless in Western fitting and showing, but came back in saddle seat with Lindsey Brogger, fourth; Brandy Wingeier, fifth and Jamie McCaul, sixth. Heather Pelon won the hunt seat fitting and showing and Kelly Dykstra received honorable mention.

Brogger led the Lowell team in the saddle seat riding classes with a second in equitation, second in pattern and first in bareback. Wingeier's saddle seat pattern earned her an honorable mention.

In the hunt seat riding competition, Pelon scored two firsts in equitation and bareback. Jill and Kelly Dykstra were fifth and sixth respectively in bareback.

Western riding classes had Brogger receiving an honorable mention in equitation. Kelly Dykstra took a third in bareback with teammates Brogger and Pelon finishing fifth and sixth. Michelle Dykstra's reining performance received a second and Jill Dykstra took a fourth. In trail Kelly Dykstra received an honorable mention.

Contesting classes rounded out the meet with Jamie McCaul winning the flag race. Michelle Dykstra then earned a first in the cloverleaf race and a second in speed and action. Michelle Dykstra and Jamie McCaul then teamed up in the two person relay to finish fifth. If you wish to see an equestrian meet, come to the fairgrounds in Lowell this



Jamie McCaul picks up the flag and deposits it on the other side of the arena without breaking stride.

Saturday. Each meet runs from 8 a.m. to its completion in the late afternoon. More volunteer help is appreciated. Admission is free.

## L.E.A. donates \$3,602 toward K-12 student scholarships

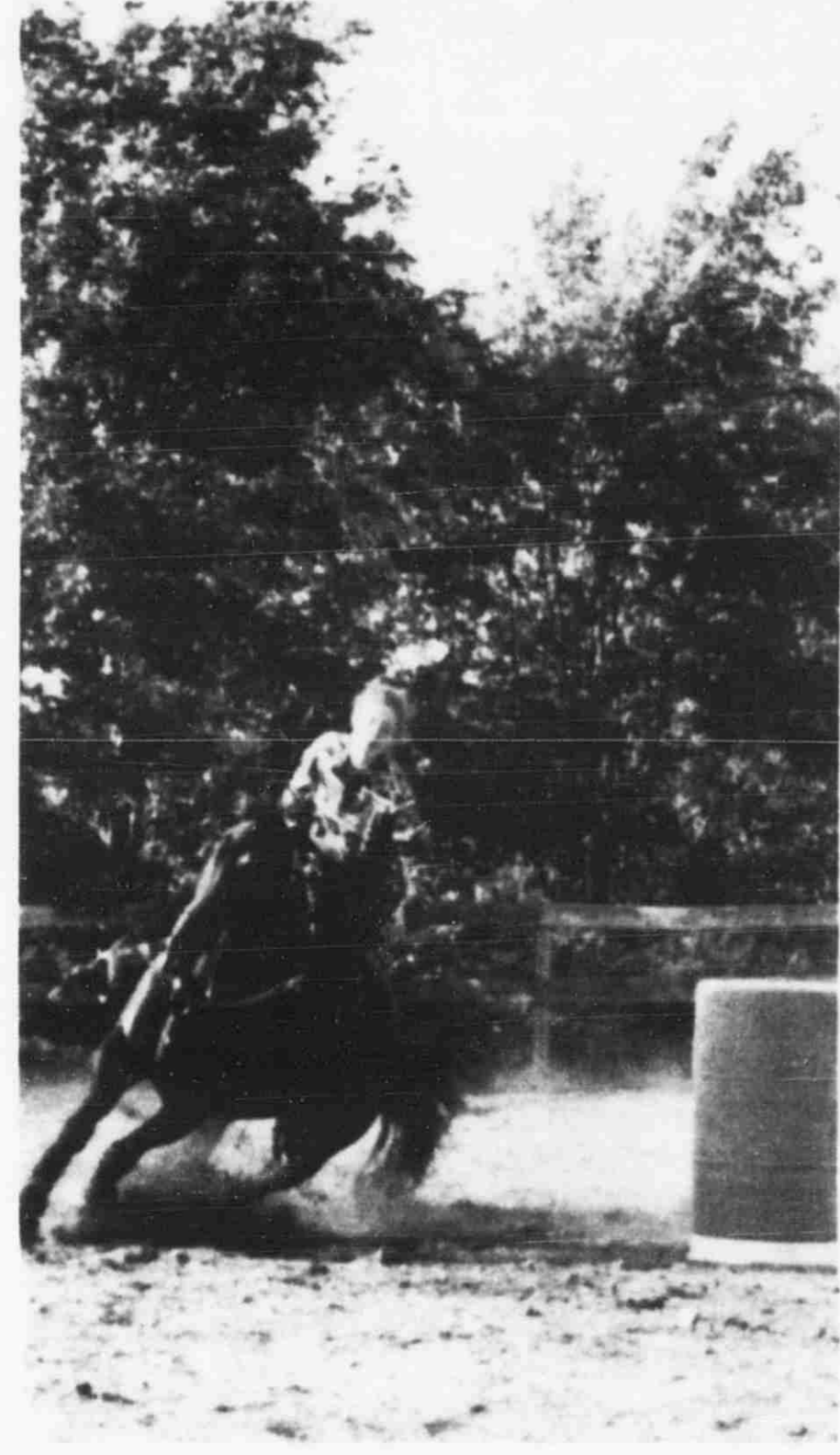
The Lowell Education Association and support staff, comprised of teachers and paraprofessionals, through a unique program, donated \$3,602.54 during the 1992-93 school year. These monies were raised through a payroll deduction program. This program is the only one of its kind in Kent County at this time.

The money is given to students from kindergarten to 12th-grade who want to use the funds to further their educational achievement. Last spring, scholarships were awarded to 25 elementary students, two middle school students and three high school students in grades nine to eleven, five high school graduating seniors and four renewals to those in college.

This year the L.E.A. has opened this opportunity to all school employees and hopes to double the money available for the students.

The teachers and support staff would like to congratulate all the deserving scholarship recipients.

Elementary winners are, from Bushnell: Linsey Thomson, Zoo School; Virginia Bultema, LAAC; Elizabeth Schreur, LAAC; Becky Yeo, Rising Star Camp; Jennifer Meyers, Zoo School; Andrea Ward, GRASP; Kenzie Dykeman, Lowell Summer School; Susan Hoag, Computer Camp; Vanessa



Michelle Dykstra and Sacred Man show winning form in the Cloverleaf race.

# Red Arrow boy harriers gain confidence against Northview; Deeb finishes first for Lowell girls

By Thad Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

Lowell's Tom Harper labeled it as a much needed conference-opening win against Northview, 19-42.

After facing two tough non-conference opponents in Caledonia and Unity Christian in the season-opener, a confidence building win is just what Harper had in mind.

"It was a good first race of the year at Johnson Park," Harper said. "Runners don't get good times right away at Johnson Park, they have to work for it."

Work, the Red Arrows did. Lowell placed seven of its runners in the top 10.

Matt Inman was the meet medalist, recording a time of 18:53. Teammate John Wojciakowski was second at 18:54.

"Matt and John will go back and forth all year. They will provide one another a good bit of competition," Harper said. I hope by season's end they will both be under 18 minutes.

Racing home in third was

Northview's Joe Verplank in a time of 19:35.

The four and five spots were filled by Lowell's Paul Pelon and Rich Langridge.

Pelon stopped the clock in 19:57 and Langridge was three seconds back at 20:00.

"Paul's our captain, he must be a solid three for us," Harper explained.

Covering the terrain in 20:03 was Northview's Scott Lemmon. He placed sixth.

Spots seven, eight, and nine were filled by Red Arrows, Casey Harper (20:43), Mike Rottier (20:44) and Ben Knudstrup (20:54).

"These three must push one another in each race," Harper said. "Ideally, I would like to see them shave a minute off their time by year's end."

Chris Fisher, Northview, was 10th, finishing in a time of 21:27. Lowell's Scott Douglass was 11th at 21:56.

Completing Northview's top five were Gage Fisher (22:18) and Dave Verplank (22:35).

Lowell exchange student Tomek Zaprzala and Sean

Saldivar completed the Johnson Park course in times of 27:29 and 28:06 respectively.

The Red Arrow girls' cross country harriers will run under of guise of "Team Minus 1" this year or until at least a fifth runner can be found.

However, that didn't stop the four young Red Arrows from getting the job done in its race against Northview at Johnson Park. They placed in four of the top seven spots.

Sophomore Melissa Deeb led the charge with top honors, stopping the clock at 24:16.

Northview's Julie Kimball

and Courtney Hartmann were second and third respectively with times of 24:19 and 24:49.

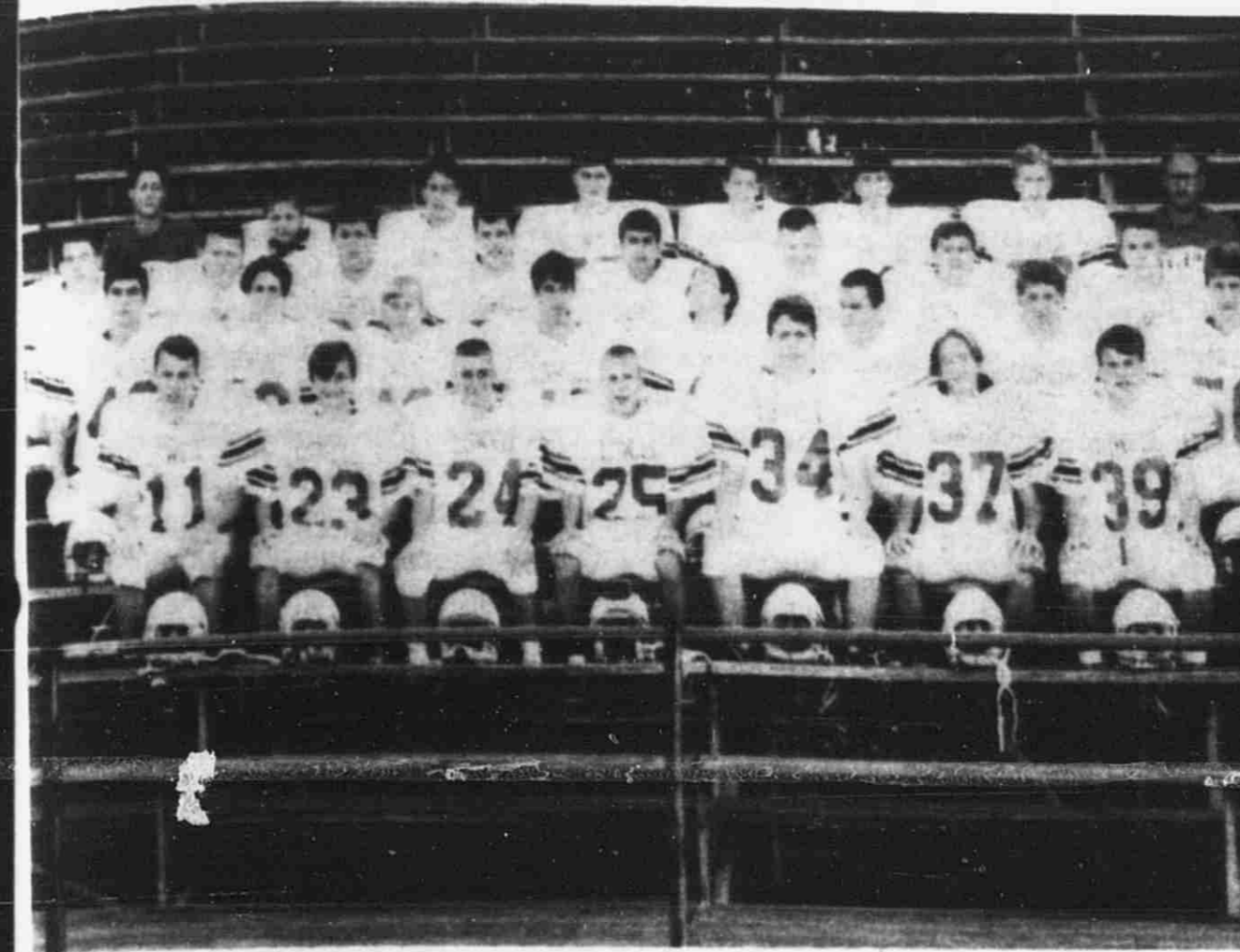
"Melissa is our leader and she did a good job of that today," Harper said.

Deeb is joined by three freshmen, Annie Oesch, Diana Fick, and Ann Townsend.

Oesch was fourth at 25:06 and Fick finished sixth in a time of 26:46. Splitting in between the two Lowell runners was Wildcat Young Lambert. She came home in 26:23.

Townsend placed eighth for Lowell in a time of 27:22. Lowell runs against Wyoming Park on Wednesday, Sept. 15.

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## Lowell Freshman Football

Members of the freshman football team are, first row, left to right: Aaron Brander, Joe Hobbach, Bryan Danilowicz, Andy Smith, Jeremy James, Brett Bittrick, Jack Livingston; second row, left to right: Jeff Catlin, Brent Tichelaar, Jody Schneider, Rich Briseno, Dave DenBoer, Jason Deible, Troy Ballard, Steve Morlock; third row, left to right: Mike Minier, Mark Fox, Ryan Roth, Todd Potts, Pat Johnson, Todd Johnson, Dave Ward, Rich Bennett; fourth row, left to right: coach Matt Kemp, Matt Rosenberger, Mike Curtis, Nathan Lietzke, Kevin Brown, Ryan Malone, Brian Willmarth and coach Dave Eichberg.



## Red Arrow JV Soccer

Members of the Junior Varsity soccer team are, front row, left to right: Josh Bryant, Ben Kohler, Brandon Hamilton, Josh Speerstra, Ryan Teelander and Terry Williamson; second row, left to right: Dan Spicer, Brad Simkins, Ryan O'Dell, Chris Petrovich, Andrea Bryant and Brett Plattner; back row, left to right: Mark Schutte, Paul Estes, Nick Staal, Chris Wilcox, Matt Carstens and Coach Dan McAllister.



## Lowell JV Football

Members of the junior varsity football team are, first row, left to right: Billy Kennedy, Steve Bosserd, Luke Merigan, Blaine Haywood, Andy DeWitt, Aron Kennedy; second row, left to right: Nate Jannenga, Jason Ruge, Chris Goggins, Ryan Graham, Dave Miller, Joel Uzarski; third row, left to right: Brad Jones, Jeremy Bobo, Tim Yaw, Mike Johnson, Joe Seitz, Kenny Lester; fourth row, left to right: A.J. Huver, Ben Boggs, Brian Wierenga, T.J. Gage, Chris Serne, coach Jim Fleet. Not pictured, coach Craig Allen.



## Red Arrow JV Basketball

Members of the junior varsity basketball team are, from left to right, first row: Heather Young, Andrea Bishop, Annemarie Biernacki and Cara Thaler; second row, left to right: Cindy Cook, Karen Dykstra, Shelly Cook, Melissa Anderson, Katie Rooker, Jerry Borg and coach Wayne Townsend.



## Lowell Freshman Basketball

Members of the freshman basketball team are first row, left to right, Nicole Fortin, Shelly Staal, Nicole Linkfield, Jenn Hall and Corrine Arnett; second row, Jennifer Walker, Shannon Laux, Emily Dunn, Heidi Noskey, Courtney Kissinger, Missy Luyk, Lisa Murphy, Sara Jannenga and coach Rob Smith.



## Red Arrow JV Cheerleaders

Juniors varsity cheerleaders are, front center, left to right: Lyndsay Glenn, Ashley Pullen, Jeni Hale, Tracy Loughlin, Deanna Anchors, Beth Wilcox, Shelley Schmidt and Shannon Vos; top, Lisa Anes and Skye Fisher.







# Parents ask Board to adopt a goal for a six hour day

By Thad Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

After 2-1/2 hours of discussion, frustration and irritation, a question that remained unanswered Monday night. How does the Lowell School District weave together, into a cohesive unit, the stark contrast between the emotionally strong argument to do whatever it takes now to reinstate a six-hour day, as opposed to fiscal responsibility and accountability?

Maureen Pawloski, in an emotionally charged address to the Lowell Board of Educa-

tion, asked if it was willing to adopt a goal for a six-hour day.

Board President Ray Quada said the Board was willing to work toward the goal of returning to a six-hour day.

Lowell Superintendent Fritz Esch added that it is a value judgement - spend equity fund now or hang on to it and hope the State comes through and does something different.

The District's contingency fund stands at roughly \$1.2 million. The crowd, made up of mostly band booster sup-

porters, was in favor of spending the equity fund now. "The people out here tonight want the Board to spend the money now," Pawloski said. "Whether there is \$800,000 or \$200,000 in the equity fund, there will still be problems next year."

Gary Kemp, Lowell Assistant Superintendent and keeper of the financial books, said the school is too close to a deficit budget to spend more money. He also pointed to a possible benefit that not spending the equity fund now would provide in '94. "Having a fund equity might tempt a lending

institution to let us borrow money to help get us to October."

The normal \$4-\$5 million that schools collect each July and August to start the school year will be missing next year. Those monies were eliminated with the passing of Senate Bill I.

"While you (Board) sit on the money, the education of our children is decreased," Pawloski said. "We haven't been listened to or heard before. Just listen to us, that's why we elected you."

Even if the Board decided to spend the monies in the

contingency fund, it would not be enough to reinstate all of the \$1.7 million in cuts.

Chris VanAntwerp, a board member for nearly 12 years and an advocate of the arts, questioned just how many people understood how much the arts and public education has been under attack by the state. "You think I like the fact that the arts have been decimated in this district?"

The Monday night gathering did receive support from Board member Norm Byrne. "I know from a business standpoint, when times are tough you spend the fund equity and then borrow next year," he said. "Spending the fund equity won't bring back the total six-hour day. In two weeks we will know what we have."

Kemp said the school first looked at making \$1.7 million in cuts. Instead, it decided to make \$1.4 million in cuts and spend \$300,000 of the fund equity. Now that the state aid bill is out, Kemp says the new totals show that only \$150,000 will have to be taken from the fund equity. Over the last two

years Lowell has spent \$200-\$300,000 from its fund equity. Kemp said the fund equity should be at a minimum of one months operation. It currently stands at \$1.2 million (does not reflect the reduction of \$150,000). It costs Lowell \$1.2-\$1.5 million to operate the school each month.

"Things are not going to get better easily," Quada said.

"We have a problem and changes need to be made. It is not a problem of the Board of Education, administrators, parents, legislatures, or the Governor. It is our problem as a community and state."

The Board President said he clearly understands what the five-hour day is doing to students, but added that until the system is straightened out, it is the students who will get hurt.

Jeff Brower suggested that maybe trust is needed at this time. "The State has to do something. Next year it will have millions of students coming to school. It will be up to the State to come up with a more creative solution."

## Hazardous waste program schedules final pick up dates

By Marc Popiolek  
Contributing Writer

With the end of summer comes the annual cleaning of the house. For Lowell residents looking to dispose of their hazardous waste material, Kent County is offering a monthly collection through September and October.

According to Kent County officials, items commonly picked up are old pesticides, garden chemicals, bug sprays, paint thinner, cleaning solvents, drain cleaners, anti-freeze, liquid mercury, motor vehicle and household batteries.

The county designates certain dates and places where a resident can drop off mate-

rials or have someone come and pick up materials. The two dates left for this year are, Sept. 30 in Rockford and Oct. 30 in the N.W. section of Grand Rapids.

The program coordinators would encourage citizens to call the county office and explain exactly what will be picked up, how many containers and what the containers will hold. This is important for the officials to know before they can schedule a pick up.

Residents wishing more information on what waste can be picked up or where exactly the pick up sites are located may contact program officials at 774-3695.

## Wet roads contribute to two car accident on Alden Nash

By Marc Popiolek  
Contributing Writer

Wet roads and excessive speed was the cause of a two car accident on Alden Nash at the I-96 off ramp.

A south bound Chevrolet Caprice driven by Ada resident Joanne Seif, 62, swerved into the north bound lane and struck a Dodge Caravan driven by Alto Resident, Susan Wisniewski, 35.

According to Kent County Sheriffs officer Ron Crystal, Seif misjudged the speed of

the traffic in front of her or the fact that someone was turning onto I-96. When she realized what was happening in front of her she hit her brakes hard causing the car to spin into the other lane striking the van.

Neither driver was seriously injured, although Wisniewski was taken from the scene by an ambulance for precautionary measures.

Seif was given a ticket for speed violation, driving too fast for road conditions and not having the car under control.



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