

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 28, Issue 23

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, April 16, 2003

Township amendment recommendation will limit visitation to 30 days

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
 Lowell Ledger Editor

After 18 months of discussion and deliberation, the Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission determined that having two residents on one lot went against the definition of single family zoning.

The planning commissioners will send a recommendation to the township board proposing an amendment to the RV ordinance which will forbid that any major recreational equipment be parked or stored in any front yard of any property in a residential district for more than 24 hours and then only for the limited purpose of loading and unloading the major recreational vehicle.

With respect to any other location on such a residential lot, no major recreational vehicle shall be parked or stored for more than 14 consecutive days, or a total of 30 days during any calendar year, if being used for living, housekeeping or sleeping quarters.

The issue surfaced when the neighbors of Dave and Lori Rash, of 3305 Bewell, complained that Rash's parents were living on the property in their recreational vehicle and were not paying taxes.

"Their relatives were living on that property for up to six months to a year and not paying taxes," said Jack Boss, of 3210 Bewell. "The ordinance now addresses that and I'm in favor of the amendment."

Cliff Bonn, of 3385 Bewell, felt the proposed new amendment is more lenient than the way the original ordinance was written.

"Now, it allows for 30 days for visitors to stay. The original ordinance said no living," Bonn explained.

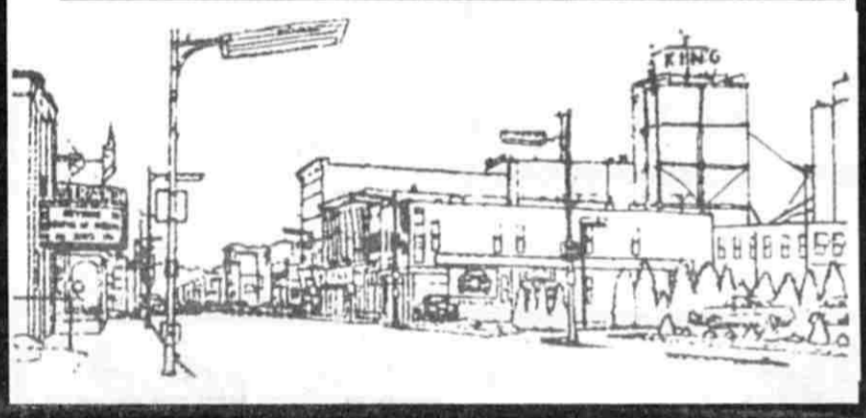
Lori Rash said she and her husband went through the correct channels and got permission from the township.

Which is why in the proposed revision, the phrase "or in any location not approved for such use" was taken out.

John Tomkins, of 3360 Bewell, said he opposed Rashes request of putting the statement back in the ordinance. "It could sway the determination and allows for a grey area," he said.

RV Ordinance, cont'd. pg. 9

Along Main Street



DONATE YOUR USED CELL PHONES

Lowell Rotary Club is still collecting cell phones & charges to be programmed to dial 911 and given to abuse victims & seniors. Drop off sites: Huntington Banks, Lowell YMCA, Fifth-Third Bank, ICNB, Chapman State Farm Ins., Lowell Chamber and Lowell Arts Council.

ATTENTION ALL VARSITY SOFTBALL ALUMNI

There will be a varsity softball alumni reunion on Thursday, May 15 at the varsity field. Between the Lowell/Caledonia games, past players will be introduced. In case of rain, meet at the high school at 6 p.m. Pass the word and join former teammates and coaches for food and drink after the second game. RSVP to brodenhouse@lowellschools.com or call 897-4125 or Amy Stauffer at Amy@funpromotions.com or 498-7689.

ONE STROKE PAINTING CLASSES

The Fallasburg Historical Society will offer a painting class on Thursdays, April 17, 24 and May 1 from 6:30-9 p.m. in the Fallas House Museum. \$15 per class plus materials. To benefit Fallasburg Historical Society. Call Kerry at 897-7161 to sign up.

PRESCHOOLERS EDUCATIONAL SCREENING

Schedule your 3-4 1/2 year old preschooler for an educational screening at Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Center, 300 High St. on Thursday, April 24 and Friday, April 25 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Call Carol at 897-8415 to make an appointment.

TROUT UNLIMITED JUNIOR

The Wittenbach Agriscience Center will have their Trout Unlimited Junior program on Saturday, April 26 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. For more information call 987-1002.

EARLY SETTLER ACTIVITIES WORKSHOP

The Lowell Area Historical Museum and Lowell Area Schools Wittenbach Center are hosting an Early Settler Activities workshop for 8-12 year olds on Sat., April 26 from 9-2 p.m. Cost: \$7/includes Pioneer lunch. To register or for more info., call Judy at 897-7688. Deadline is April 17.

TOTS "ALMOST NEW" SALE

Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Center will have a spring sale on Saturday, April 26 from 9-noon in the gym, 300 High St. Call Kathy at 897-1232 to reserve space. Free to participate!

Main Street, cont'd., pg. 8

Proposed cellular tower would liven up "dead zone"

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
 Lowell Ledger Editor

Cellular phone companies refer to it as the dead zone.

The addition of a 260-foot cellular tower at Three Mile and Lincoln Lake could soon have a multitude of cellular transmissions dancing through the air waves.

Having already received the okay from the Vergennes

Township Planning Commission, Dean Alger will go before the township board on Monday night (April 21) asking for its blessing.

The planning commission's approval came with a couple of contingencies: That the boring test indicate the soil is strong enough for such a use, and that a removal agreement is in place if the tower is abandoned.

The tower will be located on Alger's property, with the bottom 100 feet of the tower and a 37 foot base hidden in the middle of the woods on his property.

"It's a substantial project. It's a huge foundation and it will take a special crew to put in the tower," Alger said. "If approved by the township board, I believe it can be up by June or July."

The cellular tower will be able to serve five-seven cellular companies. Alger says he already has one.

David YomToob, will use the tower to offer area residents Wireless Internet Fast Network.

"This will be a real plus to the community," Alger says.



Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday

Roughly 1,000 colored Easter eggs will glitter the grounds at Creekside Park on Saturday morning for the annual Lowell Moose #809 Easter Egg Hunt.

Egg hunts will be held in four age divisions: one-, two- and three-year olds at 11 a.m.; four-, five- and six- year olds at 11:45 a.m.; with seven-, eight-, and nine- year olds scheduled for 12:30 p.m.

The top prize in each age group will be \$25. In attendance to meet and greet the children will be the Easter Bunny and a clown.

Star banners offered in honor of Armed Forces

Created in 1917, Blue Star Service Banners were a common site during WWI and WWII.

Resurrected by the American Legion in 2001, a Blue Star banner is displayed to show that a family member is currently serving in the Armed Forces.

A Gold Star banner is displayed to show that a family member died while serving.

Lowell American Legion Clark-Ellis Post #152 will be giving away banners for families with loved ones serving in the Armed Services.

Past American Legion Commander, Dave Clark said Post 152 has red and white banners with a blue star and red and white banners with a gold star.

Families interested in attaining a banner may call Clark at 897-7104 or may mail the form to Dave Clark at 323 N. Jackson, Lowell, MI 49331.

There is no cost for the banner.

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OBITUARIES

KLINE - Vada E. Kline, aged 88, of Lowell, passed away April 13, 2003. She was preceded in death by her husbands, Leon Vaughn and Herman (Pop) Kline and son, Carl Seese. Mrs. Kline is survived by her brothers Phil (Lois) Seese of Alto, Orton (Phyllis) Seese of Lowell; sister Ellen Host of Mobile, Ala.; grandchildren Richard (Robin) Seese, Judy (Greg)

Allchin, Bernie (Etta) Condon, Deb (Fred) Peasley, Teri Hostler; 11 great grandchildren; four great-great grandchildren; many nieces and nephews. A memorial service will be held Thursday at 1 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Lowell, 621 E. Main. Rev. Gordie Barry officiating. Inurnment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be

made to the American Cancer Society or American Diabetes Association.

STORY - Alexander Scott Story and Ryan Stephen Story, twin sons of Krystina Story and Brian Lambert,

passed away April 9, 2003. They are also survived by their grandparents Scott and Dee Story and Brian and

Carol Lambert of Lowell. Interment Graceland Memorial Park.

Board to review budget and goals

Lowell Board of Education will spring into its April meeting a week later than its normal second Monday-

of the-month time slot. The April meeting, pushed back a week due to spring break, will be held on

the 21st at 7 p.m. The meeting will include a Wittenbach Center recognition, student reports on the

Bushnell school improvement plan and professional development, as well as the community education Spanish class.

Action items on this month's agenda for the board are gifts to the district, Michigan Teacher Day recognition and non-renewal of administrative contract.

Information items that the board will deal with are a construction follow-up and a budget update.

The loan discussion item will concern a board goals review.

The goals are reviewed periodically throughout the year to determine if the anticipated/desired results are being achieved.

There will also be a report to the board on the yearly progress report.

Upcoming board of education meetings include a board workshop on Monday, April 28, in the administration building at 5:30 p.m. and the regular May board meeting on Monday, May 12 at 7 p.m.

Benefit skate for Jodie Mellem

A benefit skate to raise money for Jodie Mellem's cancer treatment will be held on Saturday, May 3 from 4-9 p.m. at the Lazer Skate Play Palace, 12175 Northland Dr., Cedar Springs.

The cost is \$5 per person

to skate and \$4 per person to observe.

The benefit will include a 50/50 raffle, a regular and blind bid auction, cotton candy and a clown.

Ferrand Raymond, Mellem's father, said they are

still taking donations for the auction.

Proceeds from the benefit auction will be used to help with medical expenses.

Persons with items they wish to donate for the auction may contact Raymond at 897-0639.

The Lowell Ledger (USPS 453-830)

Published weekly for \$12⁰⁰ a year in Kent County, \$17⁰⁰ a year outside the county by the Lowell Ledger Publishing Company, 105 N. Broadway St., Lowell, MI 49331
 Roger K. Brown Publisher
 Thad Kraus Editor
 (616) 897-9261
 Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI
 Published every Wednesday
 POSTMASTER: Send address change to:
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April 17: Maundy Thursday	7pm	<i>The Entrepreneurial Shepherd</i>	John 10:16
April 18: Good Friday	1pm, 7pm	<i>The Self-sacrificing Shepherd</i>	John 10:11-18
April 20: Easter Morning	7:30am, 10am	<i>How To Know When We've Won</i>	1 Corinthians 15

8:45-9:30 Easter Continental Breakfast Staffed Nursery provided (10am)

Joe Fremer, Pastor: 897-8307 all facilities barrier-free www.goodshepherdlowell.org The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Lowell FFA : One of Michigan's leading chapters

When the Lowell FFA chapter delegation attended the state convention, they were recognized in the chapter competition with a third place finish. This recognition is through the National Chapter Award program sponsored by the Cargill Company and the National FFA Foundation.

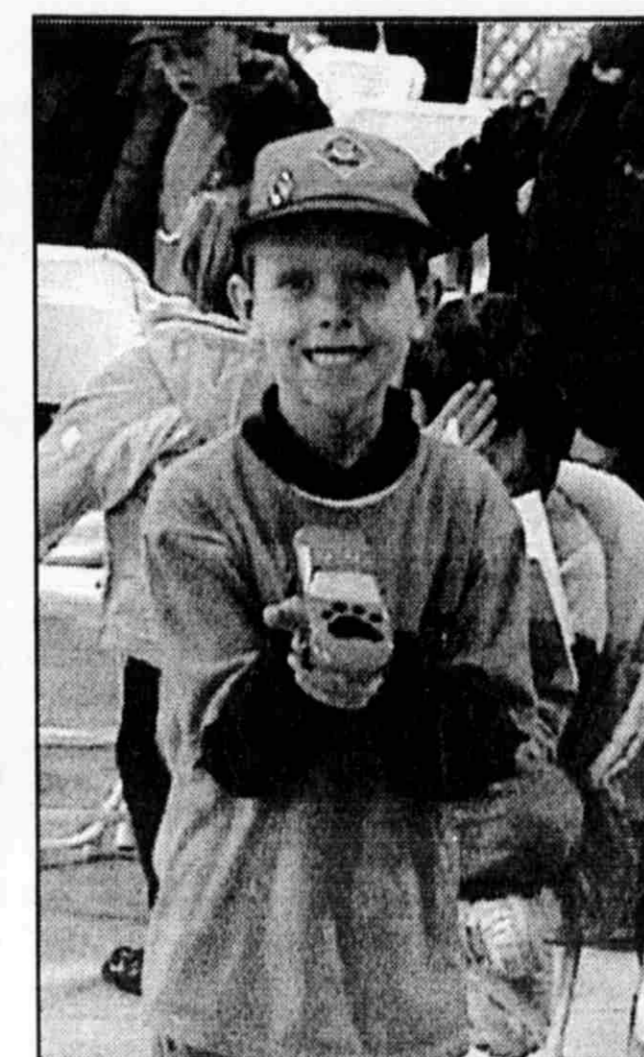
The award is given to chapters who complete a 20-page application on activities that promote member, chapter and community development. The top 10 percent of the chapter applications received by the state association are sent on to the national level for judging. The Lowell FFA is a part of this elite group.

The top five chapters in Michigan gave a 15-minute presentation to a panel of judges at the state level who ranked the chapters first through fifth. Lowell FFA members were recognized with a plaque for third place during a special session of the state convention in March.

The National Chapter Awards are evaluated by a panel of experts at Michigan State University. The chapter also had many individual awards with 21 members earning their state degree, 14

members earning the Outstanding Junior Award, five members earned state proficiency awards, 15 seniors earned academic recognition and two members were finalists in an agriscience competition.

The Lowell FFA was chartered on Dec. 31, 1929. Over the past 74 years, hundreds of young people have developed leadership and agricultural skills through agriscience education. Today, the chapter is 160 members strong between the high school and middle school.



Racing Near the Top

The 2003 Apollo District Pinewood Derby was held in Ionia on Saturday, April 5. Area scouts who placed in their divisions were Alex Herrington (left), Troop 3106 St. Patrick's, third place Webelos Division; and Michael Blake (right), Troop 3188, second place in the Tiger Division.

An evening with "Harry"

"An Evening with Harry Truman" is scheduled for Wednesday, April 23 beginning at 7 p.m. in the Gerald R. Ford Museum auditorium.

The program is free of charge. Truman will be portrayed by nationally recognized Truman authority, Neil M. Johnson, Ph.D. Since his retirement in 1992, Johnson has appeared in several hundred programs as Harry S. Truman. Prior to his retirement he was a public school teacher, defense department historian and, from 1977 until his retirement, an archivist and oral historian at the Harry S. Truman Library in Independence, Mo.

The program is co-sponsored by the Gerald R. Ford Museum, Lowell Area Historical Museum, and the Benjamin Morse Society of the Lowell Middle School.

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NOTICE
VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

Two Special Exception Use Permits will be considered at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Vergennes Township Board on April 21, 2003, at 7:00 pm at the township offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell.

The Murray Lake Association is requesting a Special Use Exception Permit to modify requirements for size and height for proposed signs at three road entrances around the lake. The request to modify is permitted as a Special Exception Use under Section 201.403 E (2., a., b., and c.) Modifications of Sign Requirements, of the Vergennes Township Ordinance.

The Lowell Michigan Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses is requesting a Special Use Exception Permit to modify requirements for height of a proposed sign at the entrance to a new church under construction at 69 Lincoln Lake Ave. NE. The request to modify is permitted as a Special Exception Use under Section 201.403 E (2., a., b., and c.) Modifications of Sign Requirements, of the Vergennes Township Ordinance.

Copies of the applications are available for public inspection at the township offices on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Mari C. Stone
 Vergennes Township Clerk

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



SAW PALMETTO

A few months ago we discussed benign prostatic hypertrophy (BPH), a nearly universal result of aging in men, where the prostate gland gradually enlarges leading to obstructive voiding symptoms. Other symptoms of BPH include urinary frequency, diminished urinary stream, and getting up frequently at night to urinate.

Saw palmetto is an herb that is commonly used to treat the symptoms of BPH. The extract of saw palmetto is taken from the dried fruit of the American dwarf palm tree found along the coastal regions of the Southern United States.

Investigators have reviewed studies that looked at the effectiveness of saw palmetto compared with placebo and other drugs. Saw palmetto has been shown to be more effective than placebo in controlled, randomized studies and has similar

efficacy to the most frequently prescribed medications for BPH. Adverse effects of saw palmetto were mild and comparable to placebo. The most common side effect is gastrointestinal distress which is usually mild and can be minimized by taking the herb with food.

Saw palmetto is believed to be very safe. There was some concern that saw palmetto could mask prostate cancer by lowering PSA levels (a test used to detect early prostate cancer). Recent studies, however, have shown that the herb

did not demonstrate this effect on the PSA level. There are no known drug interactions with saw palmetto.

The usual dose of saw palmetto is 160 mg twice daily and costs between \$6 - \$20 per month, significantly less expensive than prescription drugs.

In summary, saw palmetto is a safe alternative for treating symptoms of BPH. It is as effective as the most commonly prescribed medications for BPH and appears to be better tolerated and less expensive.

TO THE EDITOR

To whom it may concern,

As we know, this past weekend was a memorable weather event in the Hall of Weather Fame, Michigan! Our store was packed with local residents who were trying to overcome the conditions. Most of them were dealing with power outages. In these cases I tried to ask each victim who supplied their

electricity. Every single customer replied, "Consumers Power."

Lowell Light and Power is truly ablessing during these nature outbursts. I'm always amazed at how fast our local utility reacts in times of crisis. I can remember when one of the main transformers caught fire several years ago. As I stood on the post office

steps watching the blaze, I can recall thinking I better buy the biggest generator available. Three hours later while I was attempting to install this monster, the power was restored.

While some of our affluent neighbors tend to look askance at us Lowellites, we once again smiled, flipped the channel (Lowell Cable), checked the microwave popcorn and adjusted the thermostat in our well-lighted warm homes.

Bigger is better? Not in Lowell, thanks to our locally

owned and operated utility, Lowell Light and Power.

The Staff at Bernard's Ace.

To the Editor,

I'd like to express a hearty and well-deserved public thank you to all the people of our Lowell Light and Power and Cable companies. In these days of bad news and worse headlines, we may tend to take much of the good in our lives for granted.

Letters, cont'd., pg. 7

Clements capitalizes on skills in earning state title in prepared public speaking

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

As the FFA advisor at Montague, John Schut watched as one of his students competed against a freshman from Lowell in Greenhand Public Speaking.

He saw in Katie Clements then, what the senior displayed in March at the state convention at Michigan State University.

"Katie displayed excellent speaking and communication skills," Schut said.

With the help of teachers, alumni and her God-given ability, Clements developed into a state FFA champion in prepared public speaking.

It's a feat that has only been accomplished once before by Jamie (Cook) Frain back in 1987.

"Katie has a strong work ethic and dedication. Whatever she starts she completes fully," says Lowell FFA co-advisor, Dan Young. "She just blew people away at the state convention."

Clements says she is proud of taking first at the state convention in prepared public speaking, but is also equally proud of being elected the FFA chapter president.

When asked about her work ethic and dedication, Clements responded that she

is passionate about the things she loves, which include the FFA, helping others reach their goals and learning new things.

As an employee at a health food store for the past two years, Clements has heard conflicting reports about milk.

This spawned her decision to have milk be the subject of her state convention speech.

"I used to drink milk sometimes, but it was really never a part of my daily routine," Clements said.

After researching information for the speech,

Clements admits knowing more about milk has led her to drink a little more.

Clements will deliver her milk speech at the national convention later this year.

The senior hopes to stay involved with the FFA following her high school years. "I'm not sure what role, but I'd like to work with others on leadership," Clements said. "Mr. (Pete) Siler got me hooked on the FFA and the opportunities it provides for leadership and meeting new people."

Schut is sure Clements' future will be great... whatever she decides.



Katie Clements' first in prepared public speaking at the state convention enables her to compete at the national convention later this year.

DI team 4th at state in video adventures

The Lowell High School Destination Imagination team attended the state competition over the weekend at Central Michigan University.

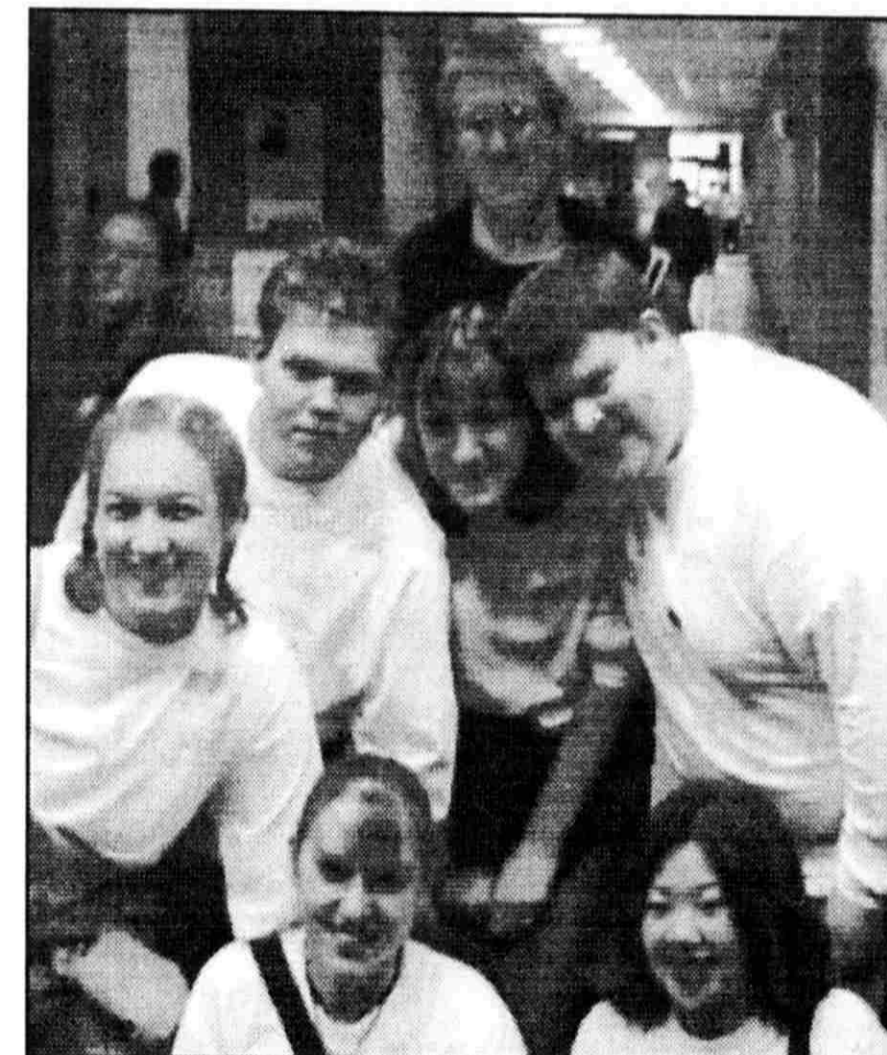
The team took fourth

place in the state in their chosen problem, Video Adventures. Four of the five graduating seniors have been together since freshman year and include Katie McAlpine,

Tony Pedley, Mark Hyzer and Amanda Oracz. The fifth senior, Kelsay Myers joined the team two years ago.

Last year, Andy Hewitt (sophomore) was added to the mix and this year's newest member is Kristen McAlpine.

The team began working on this year's problem back in September. They took second place at Regionals and then redesigned their set and script to prepare for the higher level expectations of state.



Pictured bottom to top: Katie McAlpine, Kelsay Myers, Amanda Oracz, Tony Pedley, Kristen McAlpine, Mark Hyzer and Andy Hewitt.

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BOWNE TOWNSHIP

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS HEARING
THURSDAY, APRIL 17 2003
7:30 P.M.

Request from Martin Canfield-8000 Freeport Avenue, Clarksville, MI., PP #41-24-13-200-007 - Variance of Article 5 Section 5.05 Height, Area and Dimension Regulations.

MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE BOWNE TOWNSHIP HISTORIC HALL
8240 ALDEN NASH AVE SE
ALTO MI 49302
(616) 868-6846

Gloria King
ZBA Chairperson

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold the first of two required meetings for the year on

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2003

at 7:00 p.m. at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash, S.E.

On the agenda is any and all business which may be brought before this Board according to the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance.

Linda S. Regan, Clerk
Lowell Charter Township

TO THE EDITOR

We all experienced downed trees, power outages, etc., during the past ice storm. While many were still without power, those of us with Lowell Light & Power were quickly back to normal, thanks to their diligent efforts. I've experienced this several times in my recent years back in this community and am always so grateful to have their services.

Thank you,
Peggy Covert

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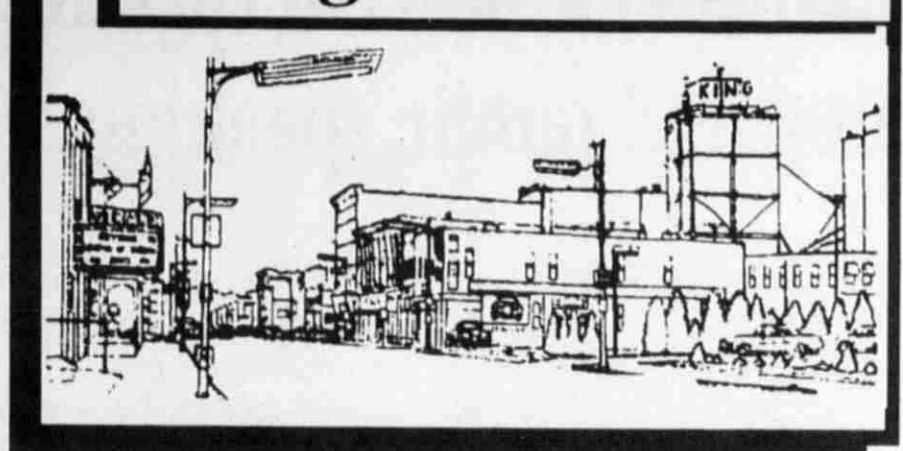
PUBLIC NOTICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Lowell Light and Power and Lowell Cable TV offices will be closed Friday, April 18, 2003 in observance of Good Friday.

The City of Lowell's Department of Public Works will be closed at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, April 18, 2003 in observance of Good Friday.

The Lowell City Hall and Police Department offices will close at 12:00 noon on Friday, April 18, 2003 in observance of Good Friday.

Along Main Street



BLOOD DRIVE COMING SOON!!!

The Lowell Area Fire Dept. is sponsoring a blood drive for the Grand Valley Blood-program on Wednesday, April 30 from 2-7 p.m. at the Look Memorial Fire Station located at 315 S. Hudson St.

PLAN NOW FOR THE CROP WALK

The 9th annual Lowell Area Crop Walk will be Sunday, May 4 at 1:30 p.m. starting at the First United Methodist Church. If you need walking papers or would like to sponsor someone, call 897-5936. There are two routes: a 6 mile or 2 mile walk. Help raise money to support relief for worldwide hunger.

TRI-RIVER HISTORICAL MUSEUM NETWORK

Some of West Michigan's finest museums will be open for a "Spring into the Past" tour on May 3 and 4 from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Donation of \$10 for adults; \$5 for children (under 18) to all museums on the tour: Averill Historical Museum of Ada, Bowne Township Historical Museum, Boston-Saranac Historical Museum, Fallasburg Historical Village & School House, Ionia Historical Society- Blanchard House and Lowell Area Historical Museum.

Art work complete with personal treasures

Kendra Postma has tried unsuccessfully for years to get one of her paintings in the West Michigan Regional Arts Competition at the Lowell Area Arts Center.

"They just won't let my work in," Postma says in a wry tone. "Maybe I need to become a member of the Lowell Area Arts Council."

That won't be necessary. As a member of the Rivertown Artists Guild, Postma's work is represented in the guild's "Found Treasures" exhibit now on display through April 30 at the LAAC.

The exhibition invites artists to take something basic and make it beautiful. "Found Treasures" could mean many things to different people. A treasure could be a highly prized possession or something of great value.

For artists, a found treasure is anything one finds that makes their work or art complete.

"It is the element that transforms the paint, paper, glass, clay and metal into a work of art," said Rivertown artist, Dixie Olin.

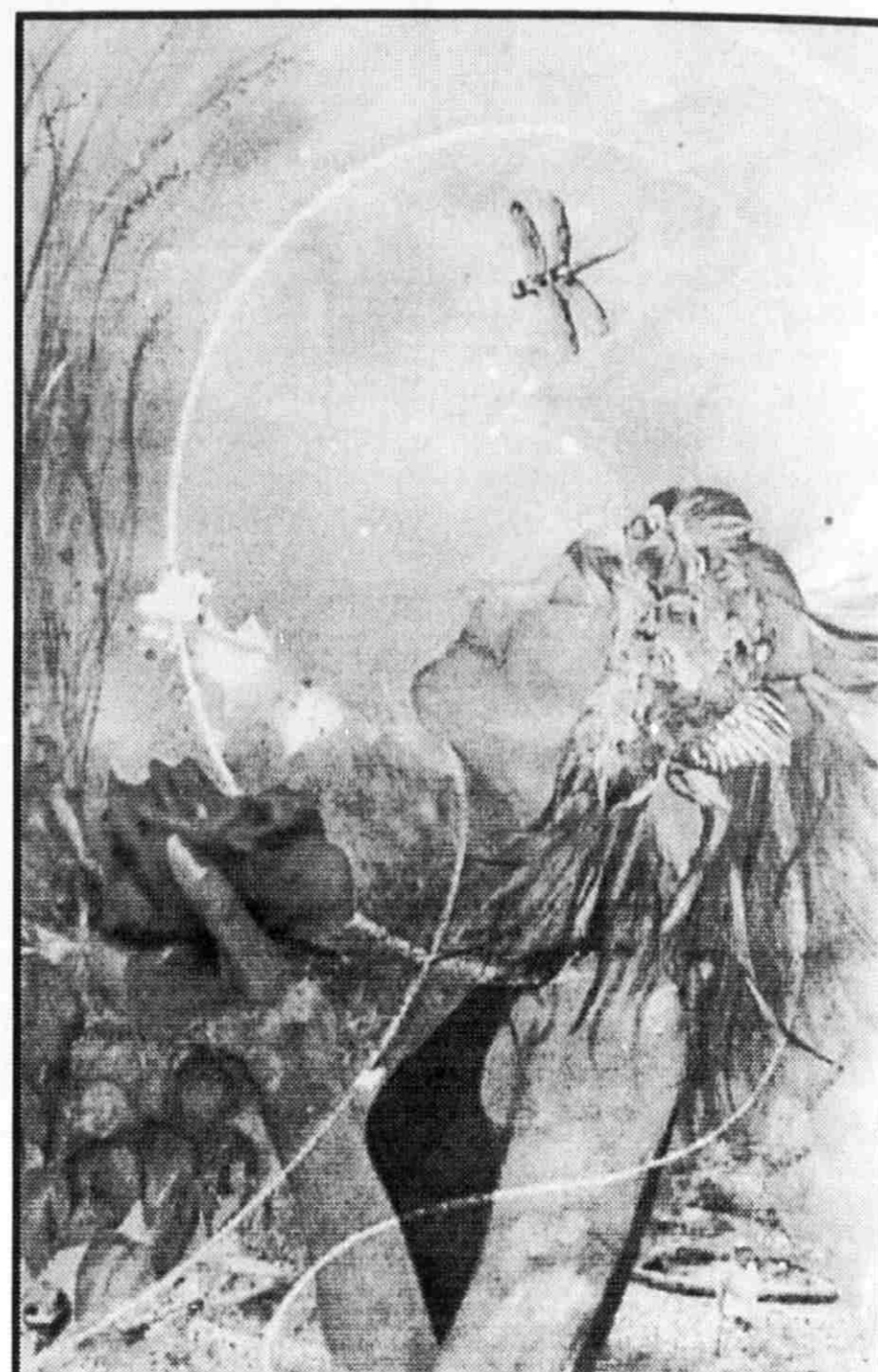
For Postma, her treasure has always been framed by nature. "I've always been a nature person. That's where many of my ideas come from," she says.

Her watercolor/collage which can be viewed at the LAAC is called "Fragrance." It is a self-portrait of Postma taking in the fragrance of a rose in her garden.

"I've been involved with watercolors for 13 years and it's just within the last year I started working in collage," Postma explains.

The Grand Rapids resident learned of the guild through watercolor classes she took with Loretta Sailor.

The artwork was created by the active members of the Rivertown Artists Guild.



"Fragrance" - Kendra Postma

Generic packages to troops temporarily suspended

The American Red Cross of West Central Michigan (per a request by the U.S. Military) is temporarily suspending generic packages and letters being sent to the service persons program due to an overwhelming response by the public.

"We are still accepting packages sent by families with loved ones over in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan," said director of communications for the West Central Michigan American Red Cross, Kelly Campbell.

Faye Mary Nicholson, Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services assistant director, adds, "What we are hearing is that the public, being so generous, has responded so well to the program that currently there is a backlog of items waiting to be sent to the troops."

It is expected that the program will resume once the backlog of packages and letters has been delivered. Campbell believes that will be at least a month.

Lowell Forensics team finishes third at Christian tourney

The Lowell High School Forensics team scored big in the first tournament of the season, winning the third place sweepstakes trophy from a field of 32 schools at the Grand Rapids Christian High Eagle Tournament in March. Competitors came from as far away as Cadillac, Kalamazoo and Midland to participate in

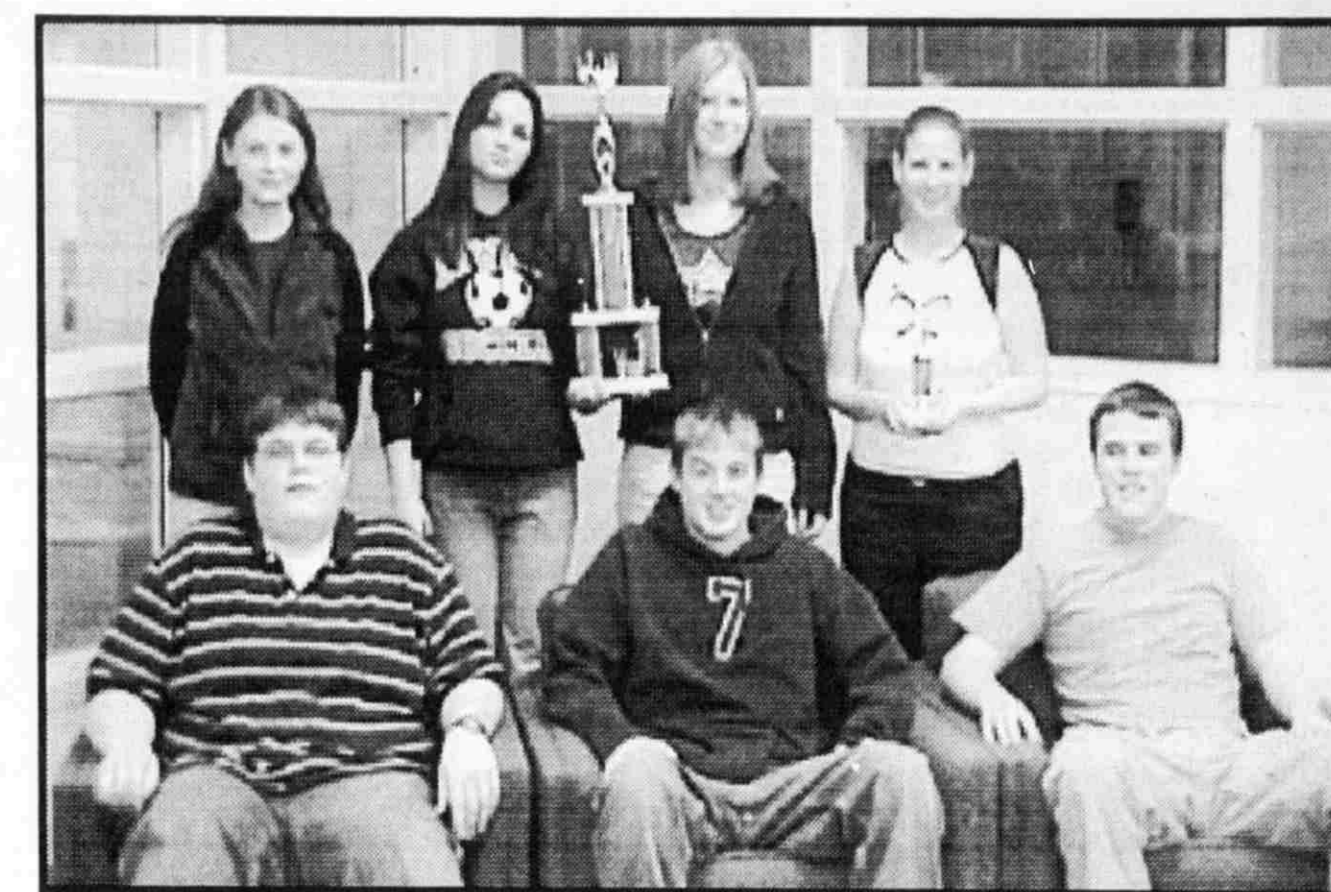
one of Michigan's toughest tournaments.

The multiple reading of "The Guys" took third place in its category. The selection is about an NYCFD captain who lost most of his company in the Sept. 11 terrorist attack against the World Trade Center. The captain is overwhelmed when he has to give the eulogies for his men. He

is helped by Joan, a professional writer. The team included Christie Getz, Chris Corlette, Matt Hansen, Shannon Alger, Jacob Kadwell and Keegan Geldersma.

In the poetry reading competition, Katelyn Zuiderveen reached the semi-final round with her interpretation of two poems about the school shootings at Columbine High School. A student who was a victim of the tragedy describes her terror in the choir room that fateful day.

Forensics involves competitive public speaking and the oral interpretation of literature. "Some of the top competitors in the state were present at this tournament," said coach, Jane Gillespie. "Our team should be proud of their accomplishment."



Students pictured are, top row, left to right: Katelyn Zuiderveen, Keegan Geldersma, Shannon Alger and Christie Getz; bottom row are: Jacob Kadwell, Chris Corlette and Matt Hansen.

RV Ordinance, cont'd... From Page 1

Rashes were not the only residents in attendance Monday night who felt if something is allowed by the township, it should then be allowed by right.

Jay Hobbs, of 12149 36th St., said he felt the township was practicing spot enforcement and pitting neighbor against neighbor was not a good idea.

The Lowell Charter Township Board will get its chance to weigh in on the proposed revision to the RV ordinance on Monday (April 21).

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Young, tenacious Red Arrows enter season with drive and focus

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

A new tactical approach, new concepts and a new coach will all take some adjustments, but a young talented Lowell girls soccer team is expected to persevere and flourish.

"This is one of the first girls' teams that reflects the progress of our LASSO program," said Lowell first-year coach, Paul Legge. "And it's apparent in their play. There

have been big strides in this varsity program."

Legge, in his first girls' coaching position, has been impressed by their drive and focus.

"They want to do well. They want to be successful," Legge explained.

At the core of that determination is senior sweeper, Becky Bosserd. Legge calls her the nuts and bolts of this year's squad.

"Becky's skilled, athletic,

fast, hard-nosed and just wonderful to watch," Legge said.

Other seniors who will have a role in any Lowell success are outside backs, Kelsey Capps and Kayla Rittenburg.

Complementing Bosserd's play are sophomore forwards, Abbie Debiak and Jessica Visser; sophomore midfielders, Emily Gerard and Amy Oberlin; and sophomore outside back, Amanda Rau.

Lowell's starting lineup has seven underclassmen.

"Because of our youth we're going to win some games that maybe we shouldn't and lose some games that maybe we shouldn't," Legge explained.

A key element in the mix will be the play of freshman goalie, Chelsea Smit. "Chelsea is hard-nosed and comes off the line well," Legge said.

Erin Beddows, midfielder, is another freshman expected to leave her imprint.

Legge labels the two-time defending state champion, East Grand Rapids as the team to beat.

"East has a very good program and Forest Hills Central was also a highly ranked team last year," Legge said. "We have talent but it is young."

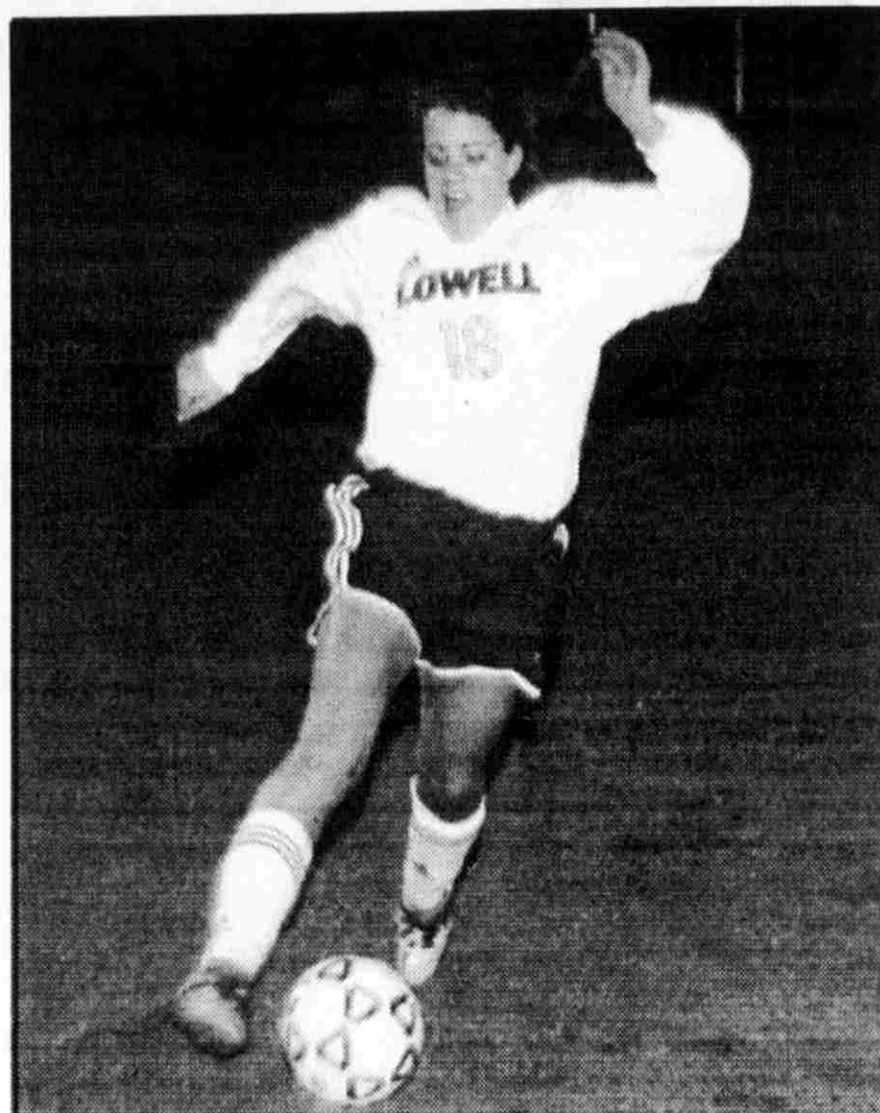
The Red Arrows opened their season with wins in two of their first three games.

The victories came against West Catholic (9-0) and Hastings (6-1). Lowell's loss came to Jenison 3-1.

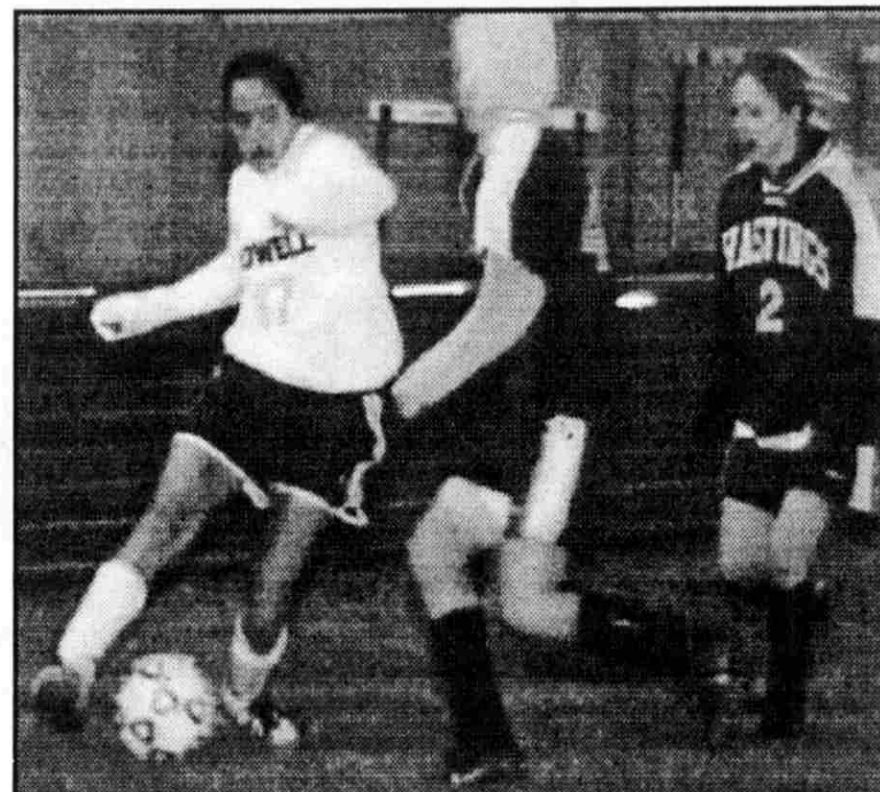
Netting goals against the Saxons were Visser and Debiak - two apiece; Oberlin and Gerard each scored a goal.

"Our opening game against Jenison was a little shaky but the girls' play against West Catholic and Hastings was crisp. They executed, and moved well off the ball," Legge said.

Lowell's youth will get tested when it faces the Pioneers following spring break.



Raquel Pereira



Katie McAlpine maneuvers around a Hastings' defender.

Attention All Coaches, Proud Parents, Athletes & Others Who Wish To Submit Photos In The Ledger...

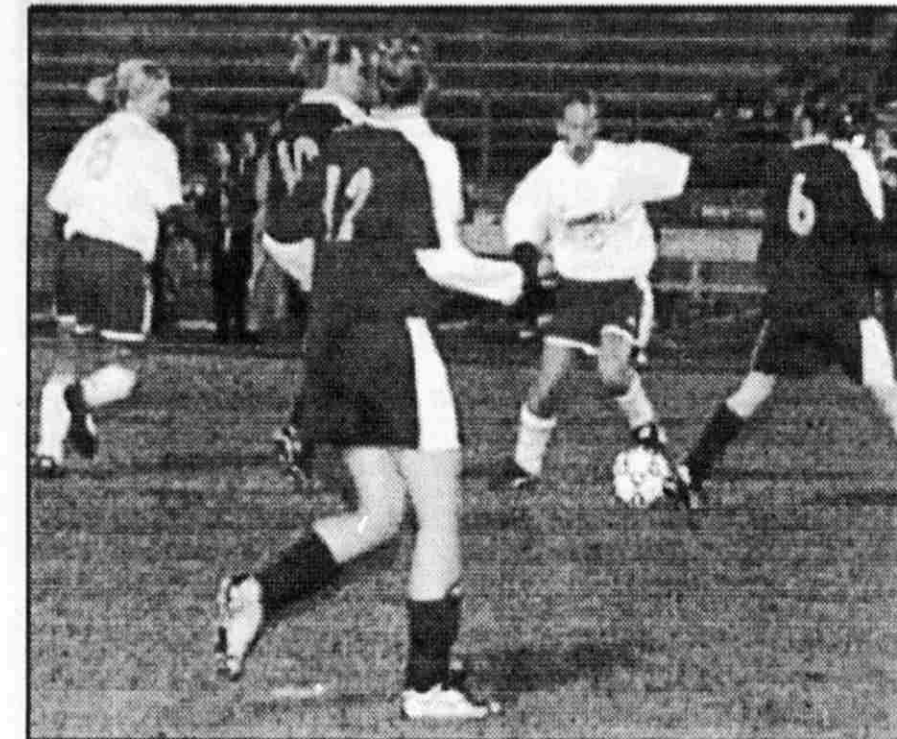


It is important that the subject's face not be shaded in order to print your photo clearly in the paper.

All group pictures should be taken WITHOUT caps, visors, etc.

Photos will no longer be accepted if faces are too dark.

Tennis, cont'd pg. 14



Lowell blasted Hastings 6-1 in a nonconference game.

Youth making a difference in future of Lowell boys tennis

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

For Bonnie Wall, tennis is a game for a lifetime.

The addition of young players, who have grown up playing the game, into the boys tennis program is viewed as a difference maker.

"When you're teaching the game to freshmen for the first time, it's really tough," Wall said.

Enter freshmen Brett Hobrla and Kyle Wittenbach whose tennis history includes tennis lessons and youth summer camps.

Both will make an impact on a vastly improved Lowell tennis team.

Wittenbach has been penciled in at number three singles and Hobrla will team with senior David Maylone at number one doubles.

"Kyle played when he was younger, but just decided in January to come out for the team. He's picked things up quickly," Wall said. "Kyle is a tenacious player, with strong strokes and is able to adjust."

Hobrla also possesses fine ground strokes. Wall says he is a perfect match for Maylone, a seasoned athlete with a strong mental toughness.

The program's siron horse is senior Shaun Koning. Lowell's number one singles player started playing as a freshman and has spent timeless hours on improving his game.

"Shaun is a real good example for the younger players. He has worked hard to elevate his game and to develop his strokes," Wall said.

Holding down the second singles position will be Chris Gallagher. Wall is also impressed by his tremendous improvement.

"Chris is a real good athlete and competitor. He put in a lot of time over the summer on his tennis game," Wall said.

Playing fourth singles will be Jacob Kenworthy. "Jacob competes. He's showing more consistency and has an excellent serve," Wall said.

The remaining doubles teams consist of Dustin Pedley and Brendon Harden at second doubles, Justin Quist and

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