

# The Lowell Ledger

Volume 34 Issue 27

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

## Voters approve millage renewal/increase and incumbents prevail in May school board election

By Dan Schneider

**B**oth incumbents will keep their seats on the Lowell Area Schools board of education following last Tuesday's school election.

Pat Nugent had the highest vote total with 862.

"I'm happy that I was able to retain my seat and I am looking forward to working on my next four years," Nugent said.

Peter Haefner won the second four-year term, garnering 836 votes.

"I was thrilled to be re-elected by the voters of our community and I want to thank people for their support," Haefner said. "I want them to know they can contact me if they have questions or comments or any input."

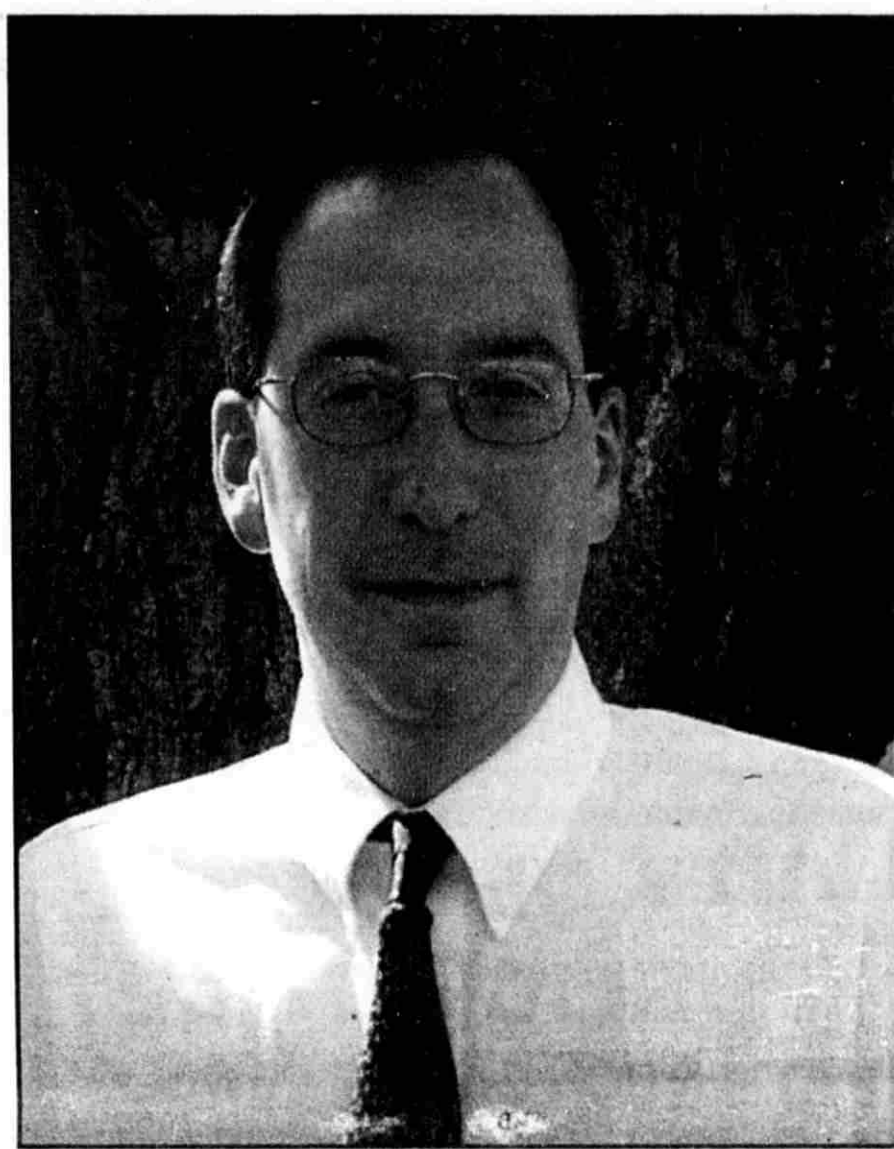
Challenger Todd Smithee received 640 votes.

Poll books show 1,382 voters participated in the election. Vergennes Township had the highest turnout of the 14 precincts involved in the election with 337 voters.

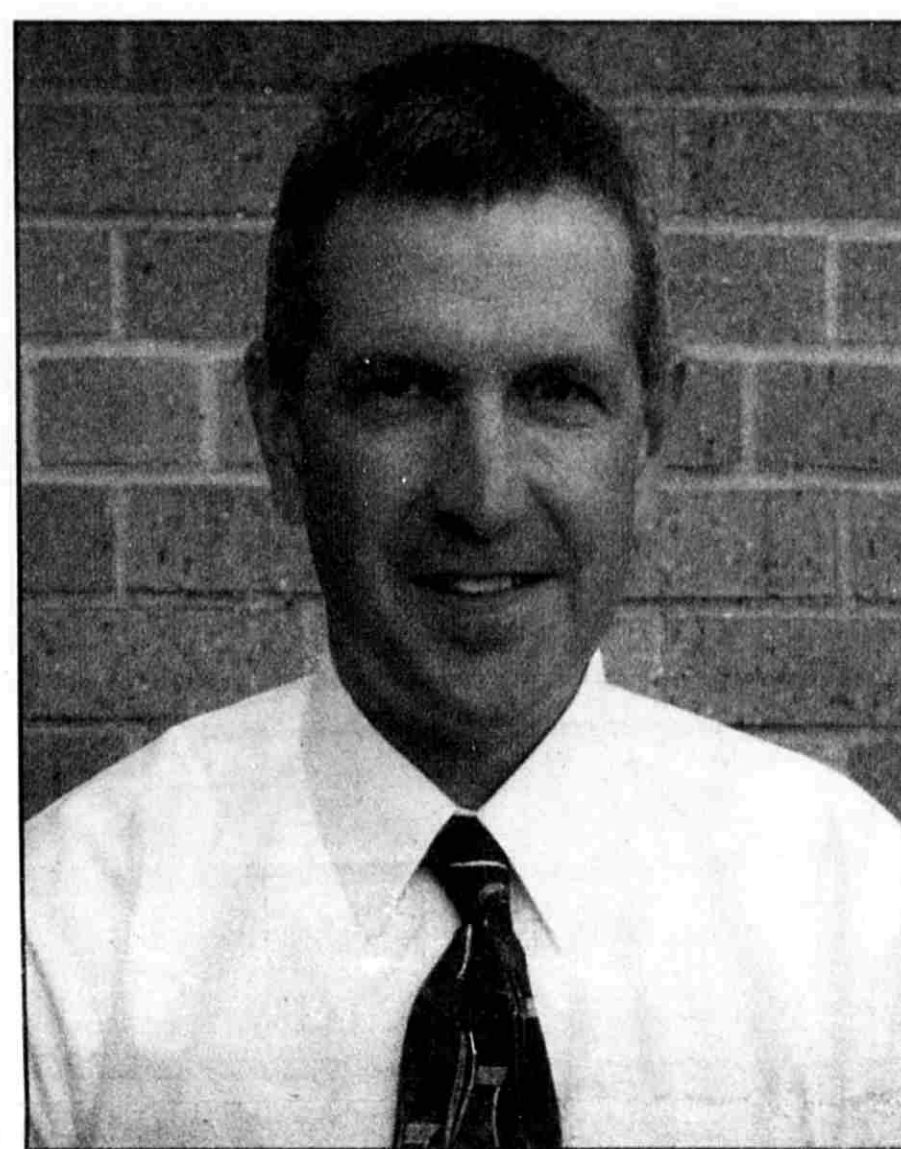
Nugent, the longest-serving member of the school board, with eight years on the board, saw the election results as a vote of confidence in the board and the district.

"I see the election as a sign that voters understand and support the hard decisions that our board has had to make over the last four years," Nugent said. "I think the re-election of the two incumbents and the passage of the two millage proposals is a sign the people support the direction the district is heading."

Both operating millage proposals passed, the first by a wider margin than the second. The first was a proposal to renew the millage on non-homestead property (meaning property other than primary residences, such as businesses and second houses). It received 979 votes in favor and 380 against.



Pat Nugent



Peter Haefner

The second was a proposal to restore the millage rate to the full 18 percent the state uses to calculate the local share of each school district's foundation allowance. The vote was required to recover millage lost due to the Headley Amendment. Proposal 2 passed by an 824-517 margin.

"I think it was just another chance where the community has showed they support the district and our efforts," said Lowell Area Schools assistant superintendent for fi-

nance and personnel Connie Gillette. She also said passing the millage was of vital importance to the district.

"The total dollars that would have been lost if both of those hadn't passed is \$3 million because the state assumes you are collecting that money," Gillette explained. "It would have been devastating for the district not to have that renewed."

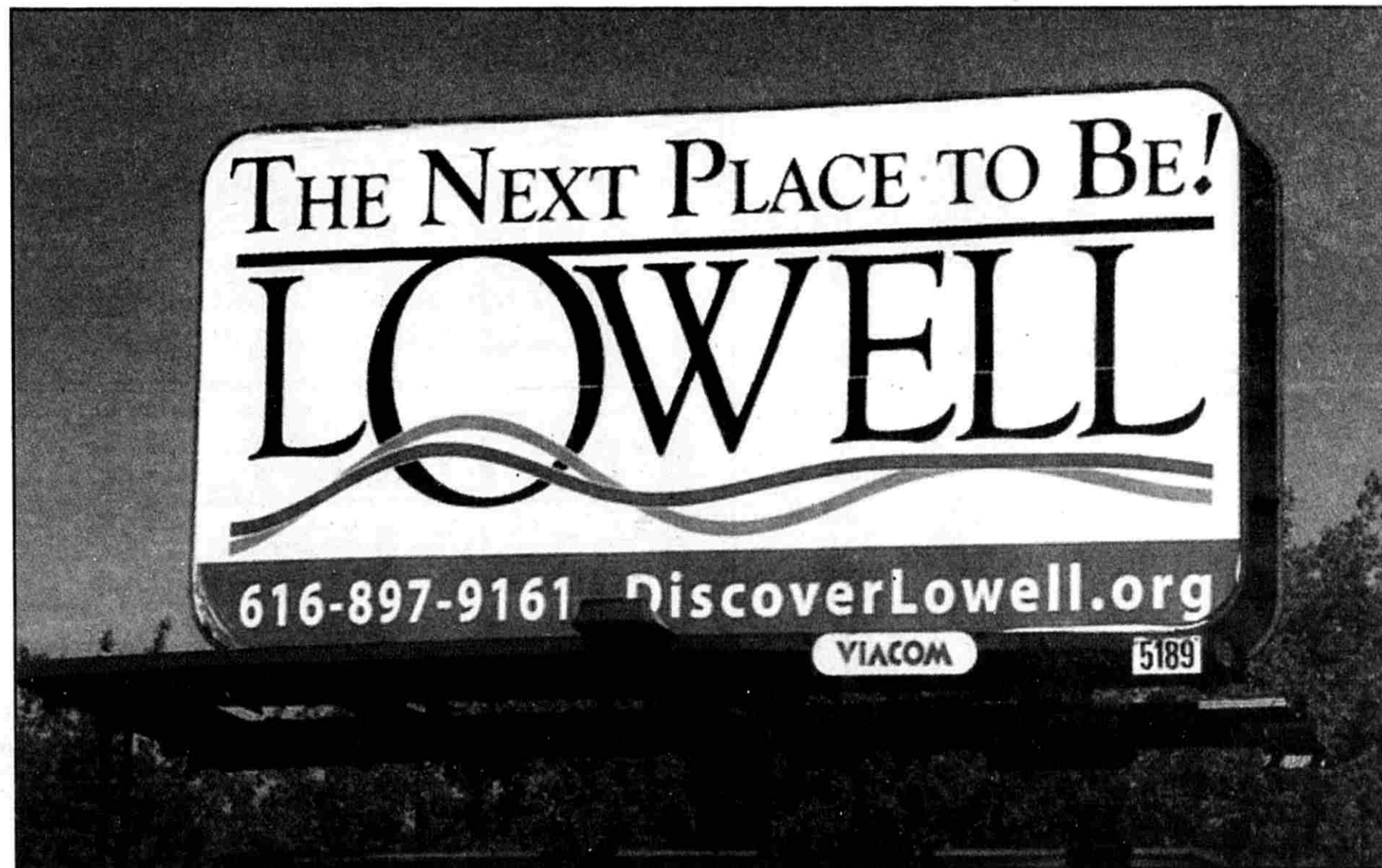
She said confusion caused by the Headley Amendment's requiring a separate ballot question to restore the millage rate to 18 mills may have accounted for the second proposal's narrower margin of passage.

"If we had been able to have just one question on the ballot to renew the 18 mills, it would have been easier," Gillette said.

With the election over, the board will get working on the business at hand, including the transition of a new superintendent.

"The first task for our board will be to work with Greg Pratt and to help him be effective as our new superintendent," Nugent said. "Aside from that, we have to continually be pushing for higher levels of academic achievement and watching our budget."

## Getting the word out about Lowell



This billboard on M-21 east of Ada, one of two, is the first visible step in the Lowell Community-wide Marketing Committee's plan to ingrain Lowell into the minds of people in the wider West Michigan area. It has been up for about two weeks now. The other billboard, located on Interstate 96 about a mile west of exit 52, is larger and has been up for about a month. The billboards' message: "Lowell, The Next Place to Be" is the slogan for the committee's marketing campaign, which is intended to get people thinking about Lowell as a place to live, work, play, visit and shop. In the near future, the committee plans to broaden the message with print and radio advertising and possibly a direct-mail marketing campaign linked to the Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts. Improvements are also forthcoming to the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce's website. The site has a new domain name, also displayed on both of the billboards, associated with the community-wide marketing campaign: [www.discoverlowell.org](http://www.discoverlowell.org).



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# Obituaries

**FISK**  
Mr. Harold Edward Fisk, aged 88, of Marne, passed away Monday, May 1, 2006. Harold served in the U.S. Army during WWII. He retired from Nickel Equipment Co. of Grand Rapids in 1981. Surviving are his wife Helen; children Linda Fisk and Randy House of Rockford, Isabel Fisk of OR, Leon Fisk of Marne; grandchildren Aron, Jesse, Anthony Denniston; brothers Charles (Gerry) Fisk of Grand Rapids, David (Marge) Fisk of Caledonia; sister Ruth Sarniak of Lowell; many nieces and nephews. In accordance with Harold's wishes, cremation has taken place. In lieu of flowers, please make memorial contributions to Fisk of OR, Grand Rapids Home for

Veterans (Alzheimer Unit), 3000 Monroe NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505 or Visiting Nurse Foundation, 1401 Cedar NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

**FRIEDRICH**  
Helen Friedrich, aged 89, died Sunday, April 30, 2006 after a lengthy struggle with Alzheimers. She is in heaven with her Lord and also her husband Carl Friedrich, who preceded her in death. Helen was the loving mother of daughter Joan, Mrs. David Austin of Chicago, and son Kenneth (Judy) Friedrich of Lowell. Helen was a nurse and nurse educator for many years teaching at both Butterworth Hospital School of Nursing and at Grand Rapids Junior College. Helen was an active member of Immanuel Lutheran Church and later at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Hart. Helen is also survived by her four grandchildren

Julie Friedrich, Thomas Friedrich, Glen Martin, Jeffrey Martin; brother-in-law Ralph Friedrich; eight nieces and nephews. The Funeral Service was held May 3 in the Metcalf and Jonkhoff Chapel with the Rev. Richard Miller officiating. Burial in Merriman Cemetery. Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider the Alzheimers Association or the American Cancer Society.

**VOSBURG**  
Alma M. Vosburg, aged 79, of Ada, passed away May 3, 2006. She was preceded in death by her grandson Gregg Sharp. Alma is survived by her husband of 59 years, Ernest Vosburg; children Verle (Jerry) Sharp of Mulliken, Jackie (Gary) Phillips of Saranac, Herman Vosburg, Bert Vosburg both of Ada; sisters-in-law Jean Stiles and Grace Atkinson of

Lowell; four grandchildren Brian (Cammy) Sharp, Mark Phillips, Melanie Johnson, Kelly Phillips; seven great-grandchildren Daniel and Collette Sharp, Charlie Fetterhoff, Nick Phillips, Alyssa and Deanna Johnson. Funeral services were held May 6 at the Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, Rev. Joseph Smith, officiating. Interment Snow Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Mel Trotter Ministries, 225 Commerce S.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

was preceded in death by his parents Robert and Dorothy Williams and brother Wayne Locke. He is survived by his wife of 29 years, Nancy; children Robert Donald-Sanders Williams; one very special grandson Robert Logen Williams; Jennifer Leigh Williams; sister Judith Ann (Charles) Sprick, Candace Jean (Howard) Keith; sisters-in-law Marla Kay Sanders, Laura (Mark) DeGraaf; in-laws Donald and Marge Sanders. He worked at Steelcase, Sysco and Borg Warner in Chicago. Willy grew up and worked on his family's farm in White Cloud. He played baseball and softball throughout his entire life. Working or not, the man was an avid outdoorsman who never missed a single opening day for bow, gun or walleye season. He tended to a garden every year, whether it was planted on time or not; everyone enjoyed the fruits of his labor. Funeral services are pending; please check The Grand Rapids Press for arrangements. Memorial contributions may be made to Fred & Lena Meijer Heart Center.

**WILLIAMS**  
Robert E. Williams, aged 54, of Lowell, passed away May 7, 2006. Robert

## Ceremony planned for Flanagan Farm

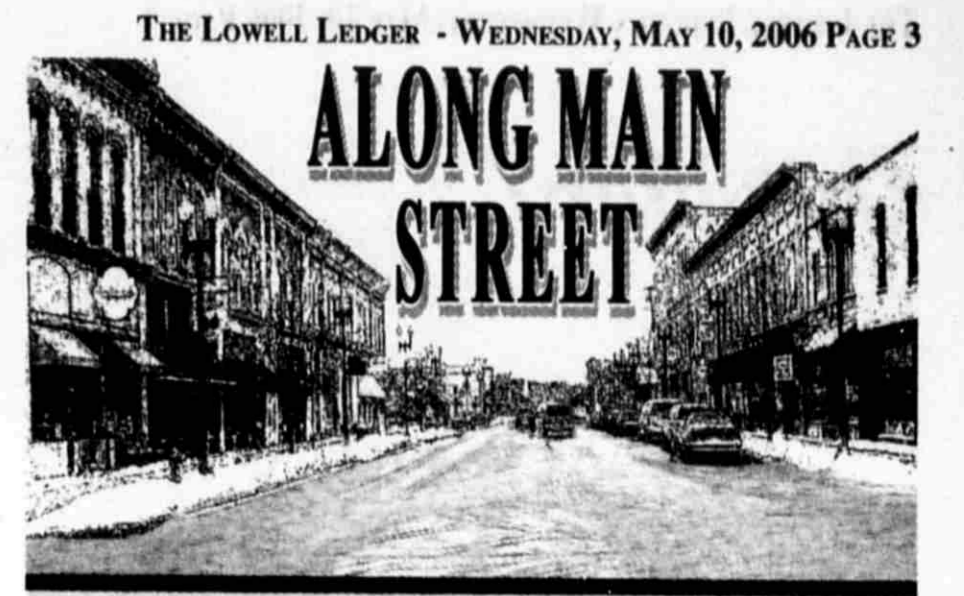
A ceremony will be held May 15 on the Flanagan Farm at 10975 Four Mile Road NE to celebrate its preservation under the Kent County Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program.

The farm, which totals 145 acres, will be permanently preserved from development. A number of speakers will be on hand for the event, which is scheduled for 10 a.m. and lasts about an hour. Speakers include Kent County commissioner Jack Horton, U.S. Congressman Vern Ehlers, Peter Wege of

the Wege Foundation and state senator Bill Hardiman. Refreshments will be served.

This is the second farm in the county to be preserved under the PDR program. With funding from a variety of sources, both public and

private, the program pays farmers the value of their land's development rights in exchange for an easement guaranteeing the land will stay in agricultural use in perpetuity.



### BAG IT UP DONATION DRIVE

Students at each of the Lowell Area Schools are encouraged to bring gently used clothing and household items to their school for donation to Goodwill Industries. The "bag it up" donation drive ends May 12.

### TOTS MARATHON

"Early childhood parenting made fun." Love and logic classes will be held in the TOTS room, 300 High St., Saturday, May 13, 8 a.m.-noon. Registration is required. Call Kathy at 987-2532. Includes workbook and snacks. Scholarships available. No childcare.

### WITTENBACH/WEGE CENTER

National Bird Migration Count Day is Saturday, May 13 from 8 - 10 a.m. Sign up with Ranger Steve 987-1002 or smueller@lowellsschools.com.

### TOTS BABY SHOWER

Lowell area expectant moms are invited to a baby shower May 16, 7-8 p.m. at Bright Beginnings, 300 High St. Call Kathy at 987-2532 to register. Games, gifts, prizes, parenting materials.

### VICTORIAN MOTHER-DAUGHTER TEA

The Lowell Area Historical Museum will host "Lace & Frills - A Victorian Mother-Daughter Tea" on Sunday, May 21 at 2 p.m. in the Victorian Rooms and Gardens of the Lowell Area Historical Museum. Cost: \$20 per adult; \$10 per child (12 and under). Reservations are required. Call the museum at 897-7688 to reserve your place.

### BLUEGRASS MAYFEST

West Michigan Bluegrass Music Assoc. Mayfest is being held at Lowell Fairgrounds May 19-21. Special guests: The Chapmans; also Thunder Floor Cloggers, camping and more.

### HISTORICAL MUSEUM PRESENTS

"Lowell's Forgotten Pioneer - Morgan Lyon" by James Lowery, May 17 at 7 p.m. at Lowell Township Hall. Learn about this prominent pioneer who rose from nothing and accomplished much for the community. Lowery is a descendent of Lyon.

### FIFTH GRADE COOKOUT FUNDRAISER

A 5th grade cookout fundraiser will be held Friday, May 19, 5:30 - 7 p.m. at Murray Lake Elementary to help support their end of the year trip to Greenfield Village. Cost: \$5 for a hot dog, bag of chips, salads, dessert and drink.

### SOFTBALL TRYOUTS

Lowell Xtreme girls 12U fast pitch softball tryouts will be May 20 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Lowell High School. Rain date: May 21, 2-5 p.m.

### 100 MILES IN 100 DAYS

The Lowell Community Wellness "Community Walking Challenge" will start May 29 so form your team now. Cost: \$10/ person; portion of proceeds donated to FROM. Register at Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, Lowell Senior Neighbors and Lowell YMCA. Runs through Sept. 5.

### ART EXHIBIT

Huntington National Bank, 414 E. Main will showcase a dozen local artists' watercolor and mixed media paintings through June 7 during business hours.

### PARADE ENTRIES NEEDED

Sign up for the July 8 parade during the Riverwalk Festival. Theme: "Celebrating Lowell-175 Years of History." Call Liz at the chamber 897-9161 for information.

### ALPHA WOMEN'S CENTER NOW OPEN

The center, 2251 W. Main St., is open Monday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Tuesday 6-9 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Diapers, formula and clothing available. Call 987-9533 for an appointment or stop in.

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## CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lowell City Council will conduct a public hearing at their regularly scheduled meeting of Monday, May 15, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. at the City Council Chamber, Lowell City Hall, Second Floor, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan for the purpose of receiving comments from the public on the following:

- An Ordinance amendment to Section 20.08, C-2 Central Business District, to allow wall signs facing vacant space of Chapter 20 of the Zoning Ordinance of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowell.

The Lowell City Council will also conduct public hearings at their regularly scheduled meetings on Monday, May 15 and June 5, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of receiving comments from the public on the following:

- City Operating Budget for 2006-2007. The document outlines proposed revenues and expenditures for the coming fiscal year. The General Fund has a total of \$2,445,063 in proposed expenditures. After the hearings, the Council will consider adoption.

Copies of the proposed Ordinances and the proposed 2006-2007 Budget are available for public inspection starting May 15, 2006 during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday) at City Hall and at the Englehardt Public Library during scheduled hours Monday through Saturday.

Interested persons may submit comments to Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street prior to the meeting or appear in person.

Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk  
616-897-8457

## CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

ATTENTION CITY OF LOWELL WATER CUSTOMERS

The Department of Public Works will conduct a hydrant-flushing program of the complete water system. Flushing will begin on Monday, May 15 through Friday, June 2, 2006.



**KADEN MICHAEL KRYGER**

August 15, 1994  
May 10, 2005

Missing you everyday...  
When we asked God for a child,  
He blessed us with you, Kaden.  
You added such great joy to our family.  
Your cleverness in creating scientific concoctions and inventions were inspiring.  
You loved taking electronics apart, biking, tag football, climbing trees, swimming, playing at the beach, camping, swinging, writing stories, and making art masterpieces.  
Your quest for knowledge began so young and never waned.  
We miss your Gazillion Dollar Smile, contagious laughter and thought provoking talks.  
No one that knew you will ever be the same... we are all better people because of you.

We love you deeply.  
Dad, Mom, Cassidy, Collin, Claire and Ramsey  
Granny & Papa Adamy, Grandma Kryger  
Aunts, Uncles, Cousins and Friends

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Published weekly for \$17<sup>99</sup> a year in Kent County, \$26<sup>99</sup> a year outside the county by the Lowell Ledger Publishing Company, 105 N. Broadway St., Lowell, MI 49331

ROGER K. BROWN... PUBLISHER  
JEANNE BOSS... MANAGING EDITOR  
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(616) 897-9261  
E-Mail: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com  
Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI  
Published every Wednesday  
POSTMASTER: Send address change to:  
**The Lowell Ledger**  
P.O. Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331  
www.lowellbuyersguide.com

## Police caution car owners after rash of break-ins

By Dan Schneider

Lowell police are advising car owners to take precautions after a series of car break-ins.

Between April 15 and May 2, 12 larcenies from motor vehicles were reported to police. The incidents all occurred on the west side of town. Police are counting on residents to be vigilant to help find the culprits.

"If people see someone acting suspiciously in the evening hours, walking around, checking vehicles, they need to call us immediately," said Lowell police detective Steve Bukala.

All the cars that were broken into were unlocked at the time, he added. Some people believe it is better to leave car doors unlocked, thinking it will prevent

thieves from breaking their windows to gain access. Bukala said this logic is flawed, particularly in these cases when what is being stolen is not of great value.

"These are opportunity crimes because they are taking CDs, money, radios, loose change, cigarettes; they don't want to be drawing attention to themselves," Bukala said.

He said car owners should lock their doors and not leave valuable items in their vehicles.

Anyone with information that may help solve these crimes should contact the Lowell Police Department at 897-7123 or Silent Observer at 774-2345.

## Saranac man sentenced to probation in Lowell Little League embezzlement case

Former Lowell Little League president Ed Parks was sentenced last Friday in 63rd District Court.

Parks pled no contest on Feb. 27 to misdemeanor charges of embezzlement from the Lowell Little League for over \$200 but less than \$1,000. He was ordered to pay \$2,215 restitution

to the Little League and to perform 120 hours of community service. He was given 12 months probation; 11 months of a 12-month jail were suspended (to be served only if he violates parole). He will serve the other 30 days on a tether.

With \$1,370 in fines, court costs and fees added

to the restitution, Parks will have to pay a total of \$3,585.

The sentencing brings to an end a case that lasted more than a year and a half. A warrant was issued for Parks' arrest last July after a year-long investigation by the Lowell Police Department. Parks turned himself in to

the Kent County Sheriff's Department last Sept. 7.

The Lowell Little League asked for Parks' resignation, and for resignations from other board members serving under him, last December. They have since restructured the board.

## Business Matters

Greenridge Realty announced that **Lisa Brown** received Realtor of the Month in April.

This award recognizes Brown for her outstanding success and achievements.

\*\*\*

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Lisa Brown

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ORV (PG)  
12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40  
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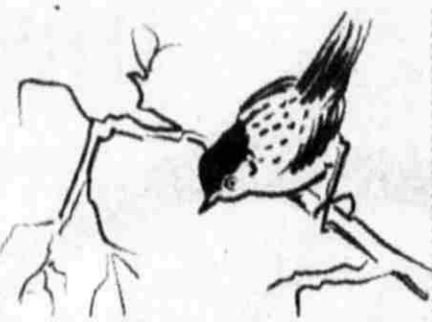
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# Outdoors

By Dave Stegehuis



## TRAILWAYS

A few years ago I wrote about the White Pine Trail between Belmont and Rockford. That trail still provides healthy recreation for area residents and visitors. I don't use the trail regularly because of the long distance from home.

Now, through the determined work of the Lowell Area Recreation Authority and citizen volunteers, a master plan has been drafted for the establishment of a trail system in the Lowell community. The Recreation Authority board

is made up of representatives from Lowell and Vergennes townships, the city of Lowell, as well as city and township residents. Most quality projects in our community have been successfully implemented by similar grass roots efforts.

Everyday I am reminded of how much need there is for a place where one can get outside to walk, run or bike. Because of the fragmentation of land ownership, days spent wandering through the countryside around here are gone. Walking or biking on the roadside has become hazardous as traffic volume continues to increase and drivers seem to be more aggressive and distracted. This is probably one reason why more people are not getting out. Even though the population of this area has increased dramatically in the last 35 years, I meet very few people when walking along roads which were gravel not that long ago.

On a recent trip to southern California, we spent much of our time in areas of high-density housing and high volume traffic. We were still able to enjoy walking safely to

shopping and recreation destinations by way of easy access walkways through professionally landscaped open areas specifically set aside in original development plans.

A trail system for walking, running, biking and cross-country skiing in our area, in addition to the existing North Country Trail which passes through Lowell, would provide an excellent opportunity for much needed exercise and enjoyment of our natural surroundings. The proposed trail which would connect schools, parks, natural areas and businesses will require funding for construction and maintenance, and spans public as well as private property. It will therefore be necessary for local municipalities and area residents to cooperate and provide assistance to make it all happen.

The proposed trail project would add even more to the quality of life we enjoy in this community. Keep an eye open for opportunities to help to make this project a reality. You can find out more about it at [www.lowellareatrailway.org](http://www.lowellareatrailway.org).

# Ask Kathryn

With Kathryn DenHouter Ph.D.



Today we will discuss another question(s) that I received: "Is selective mutism intentional? Is it an act of defiance?"

First, let me summarize a definition of selective mutism. This disorder is found in fewer than one percent for those who seek help from a mental health worker. Selective

mutism is a complicated childhood anxiety disorder which has as its symptoms an inability to speak in specific social situations. However, these individuals most often have an ability to speak very well when they feel comfortable in a social situation.

The majority of the children who have been diagnosed with selective mutism are genetically predisposed to anxiety. Research has shown that some children are born with an inhibited personality type. The area of the brain that receives and processes stimuli for potential danger is the amygdala. In anxious individuals, the amygdala seems to overreact and send out signals of danger when, in fact, the individual is not in danger.

Risk factors for selective mutism include the biological and genetic factor, the child being raised in a bilingual

environment, and sometimes a stressful environment. There is no evidence that selective mutism is related to abuse, neglect or trauma. In response to the question, "Is selective mutism intentional or an act of defiance, it is not an intentional response. It is not an act of defiance. Based on the brain behavior relationship, it is an anxious response to the environment. The amygdala overreacts to danger signals. It is a maladaptive response to the environment, but with the appropriate behavioral plan and reinforcements, selective mutism can be changed to more adaptive behavior.

Be sure to e-mail me at [kathryndenhouer@yahoo.com](mailto:kathryndenhouer@yahoo.com) if you would like an answer to a mental health question.

# HEALTH

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



## BODY PIERCING

Earlobe piercing is the most common type of body piercing. Other sites that have become more common areas for piercing include the ear cartilage, eyebrow, nose, tongue, lip, belly button, nipples and genitals.

Infections such as HIV and hepatitis can be spread by piercing. Other complications may include bleeding, swelling, scarring and reactions to the jewelry. Tooth chipping and gum damage can occur with tongue and lip piercings.

A high ear piercing is when the cartilage along the edge of the ear is pierced. This is more dangerous than an earlobe piercing. There is an increased risk of infection, and these infections are harder to treat than earlobe infections. An infection of the ear cartilage can deform the ear.

If your piercing is infected, the area may be red and swollen. It might hurt to touch your piercing, and there may be yellowish, foul-smelling fluid coming from the hole. If you have a fever or any of the above symptoms, you need to see a doctor.



# All That "Meats" The Eye

With Senator Carl Levin

As consumers, many of us have adopted various practices for recognizing quality. Whether it's the proverbial kicking the tires on a used car, inspecting the stitching on a new piece of clothing or checking to see if the ground beef at the supermarket is still red, our instincts tell us to check for quality in our purchases. Many times we use the time-honored tradition of relying on our senses - hearing, sight, taste, touch and smell - to alert us to any potential problems.

These highly unscientific, yet dutiful approaches may leave consumers feeling safer, but when it comes to the freshness of meat, our nose is not the best detector. And now, because of new practices allowed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, neither are our eyes.

Because the age of a meat seems synonymous with its safety, consumers generally believe redder meats to be fresh. But when any red meat is exposed to air, a natural reaction takes place on the surface of the meat, and over time the color changes from red to brown. However, red meat often begins to turn brown before its expiration date.

Levin, cont'd., pg. 8

REMEMBER OUR DEADLINE IS FRIDAY AT 4 P.M. Lowell Ledger 105 N. Broadway

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May 12th  
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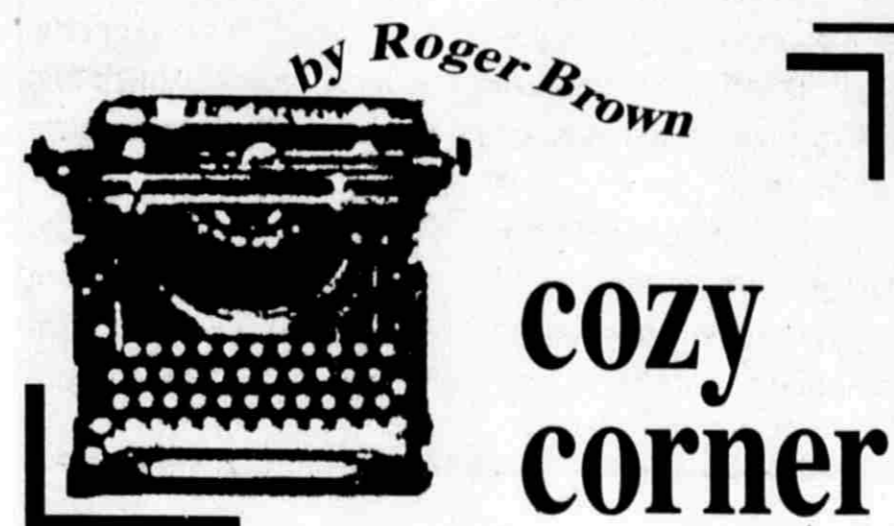
**Jonesy Band**  
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# Viewpoint



My fishing boat was severely damaged last fall when Hurricane Wilma paid us a visit. We got it back about a month ago, but only after I became very pro-active about the repairs being done. After about six months of haggling with the boat yard, insurance company, parts suppliers and the manufacturer, we finally got it back in the water.

We did meet a self-imposed deadline of having it available for visitors we had staying with us. Isn't it funny how these things always manage to take exactly all of the time made available? There is no reason why this work couldn't have been completed months ago. No reason other than I wasn't the squeakiest wheel until recently.

All that aside, we did have the boat ready and we did do some fishing while our guests were here. We had nice weather and had some luck as well.

I should first explain that we had overlapping guests. A niece and a friend of hers were here. We also had old friends of ours stay with us for about a week. The old crowd did most of the fishing, but the niece did go out with us one day.

We caught fish every trip. One exceptional catch was a 52-pound Wahoo that measured over 60 inches in length. My old friend was the angler and was understandably proud of this very nice fish. I got a picture of him holding it ... big smile, fisherman's stubble beard, old shirt and goofy hat.

My niece had the rod when we landed a decent Dolphin. (That's a Mahi Mahi, not "Flipper".) The fish was in the 20-pound range. It was big enough to put up a good fight but still small enough to be great table fare. Nice fish, but certainly nothing exceptional. I got a picture of Amy holding her fish ... twenty-five, blonde, very attractive, bikini clad, tanned, etc.

Just for giggles, I sent both photos in to a weekly fishing newspaper we have down here and to a glossy monthly magazine called Florida Sportsman. I included some information with each photo.

It was a bit of a test. A really nice fish held up for a photo by an older, grizzled, fisherman-looking kinda guy vs. a really great looking girl holding an average fish. Which photo will get published?

Now if I were a gambling man, you know where I'd put my money. When the next issue of the weekly fishing newspaper came out, there was my friend holding his big Wahoo on page eleven. Amy was nowhere in sight. You could have knocked me over with a feather. Good thing I couldn't find anyone to take my bet.

Ahhh, but Florida Sportsman did come through for me. We received an e-mail recently that congratulated us on our photo making the cover of the website photo gallery for the publication. No such luck with the big Wahoo and my grizzled friend.

My wife was answering e-mail and mentioned in a reply to a neighbor the website photo of our niece. He is an older guy like me, but still red-blooded and appreciative of attractive young women in bikinis. I'm not sure if there is a politically correct term for "dirty-old-man" so we'll stick with red-blooded.

The neighbor e-mailed right back with, "That's a really nice fish!" If there were an award for the perfectly understated, tongue-in-cheek response, "That's a really nice fish!" would certainly take the prize.

# To The Editor

Dear Editor,

I need to apologize to the many volunteers from the high school teams and from the area that had gone to Creekside Kingdom the past weekend. I was not told the volunteers were meeting to repair and stain the structure. Had I known, I would have been there with you. If the parks commission was responsible for this as well, I need to apologize to you also. I'm only as good as the information I have at the time. I'm ready to take my lumps now.

Sincerely,  
Steven Bukala

Dear Editor,

The Garlic Mustard pulls on Wednesday, April 19 and Saturday, April 29 were a huge success. We had a great turnout with representatives from several church youth groups, the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts as well as other individuals concerned about the environment. We also had donations of gloves, refreshments, etc., from individuals in the community as well as the city providing bags and disposal for us. We cleared a new number of areas around the Boy Scout cabin and the trail through the woods at Stoney Lakeside Park. We saw the results of last year's pull as many wildflowers are returning to an area that had been badly infested. With these pulls, many areas get cleared and those involved continue the process around their own homes. It will be an ongoing process but with all of us working at it we will help Lowell's woods, parks and trails to remain beautiful and enjoyable with native flowers and plants.

Peggy Covert

Dear Editor,

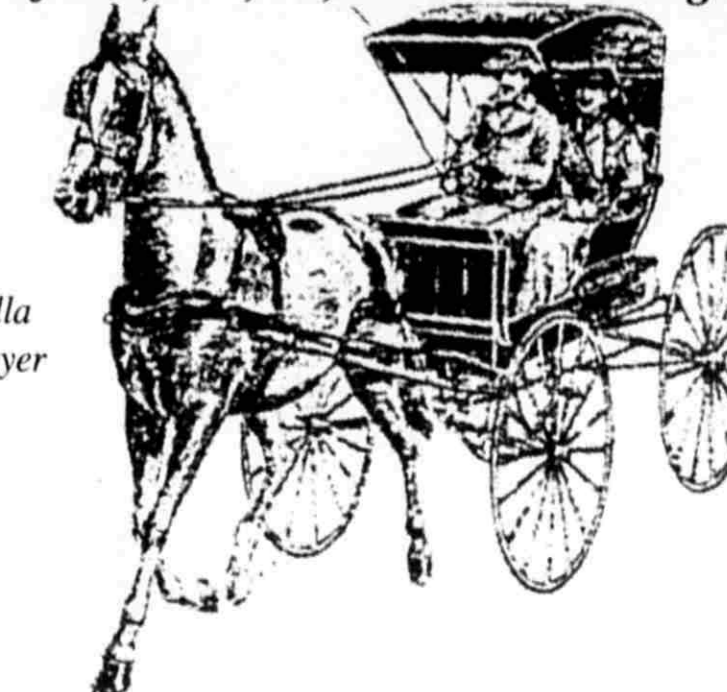
While having returned to the Lowell area for the Easter holidays to visit family and friends, I had an opportunity to once again read the Lowell Ledger, the issue of Wednesday, April 12.

Sincerely, Phil Pachulski  
Charlevoix

# Ledger Entries

of 125, 100, 75, 50 & 25 Years Ago

By Priscilla Lussmyer



## 125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL MAY 11, 1881

(From Grattan Gatherings, a correspondent column)  
"The death of Miss C. H. is daily expected; complications of lung and other diseases."  
"H. Lessiter has sold four head of fat cattle to W. H. Service of Greenville for 3 1/2, 4 1/2, and 5 cents live weight, according to quality."

"The teacher and several of her pupils at Grattan-Oakfield School have the measles."

"Mrs. Blackwell and Miss Brown--went through town soliciting aid for Mrs. Blackwell's family. If their statement is true it is a genuine case of distress."

## 100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER MAY 10, 1906

A description of the recent San Francisco earthquake says it has no relation to the recent eruption of Mount Vesuvius in Italy.

A following listing of 23 natural disasters since AD 79 includes six volcanic eruptions, 17 earthquakes.

President Theodore Roosevelt lays the cornerstone for the new House of Representatives Office Building.

Miss Evelyn B. Longman of Chicago (a woman!) is chosen to sculpt the bronze doors at Annapolis Naval Academy.

## 75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO MAY 7, 1931

Door-to-door salesmen are everywhere, sometimes three a day; ask for their Lowell-issued license and don't buy on the first visit.

Lowell captures the Rockford relays, winning three and placing in two.

William Boyce, brought up in Lowell, is named as a pioneer in developing the telephone industry.

The Strand Theatre features Douglas Fairbanks in "Reaching for the Moon."

## 50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER MAY 10, 1956

The Village Council sets an \$84,500 budget and raises the tax to 8 mills based on state equalized value rather than present assessments. One item: salaries, \$7500.

The new Post Office Dept. colors: red, white and blue mail boxes and uniform trim.

Justice of the Peace Howard Rittenger reports 49 cases in April (15 speeding) and income of \$740 in fines and costs.

Lowell Boy Scouts, with Scoutmaster Gould Rivette, take first place in the annual 40-mile Grand Valley Canoe Race down the Flat River.

## 25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER MAY 6, 1981

Bob Ellis becomes the third Grand Valley blood donor to reach the ten-gallon mark.

Serious coupon-clippers cut their grocery bills up to 25 percent. Problem: the fistful of coupons to sort through as one goes through the store.

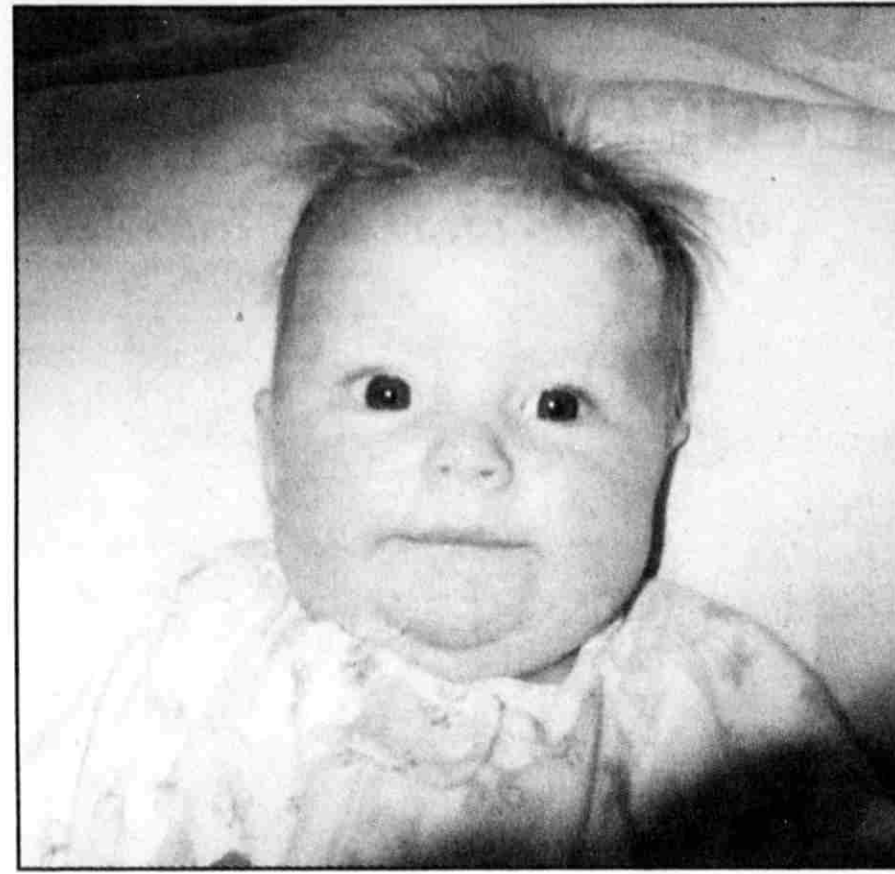
Gus Macker officials offer a \$10 prize for a logo to be used on official tournament items.

Kelly Dickerson breaks her own record in shot put and the state record in discus, 134'4".



# New Arrivals

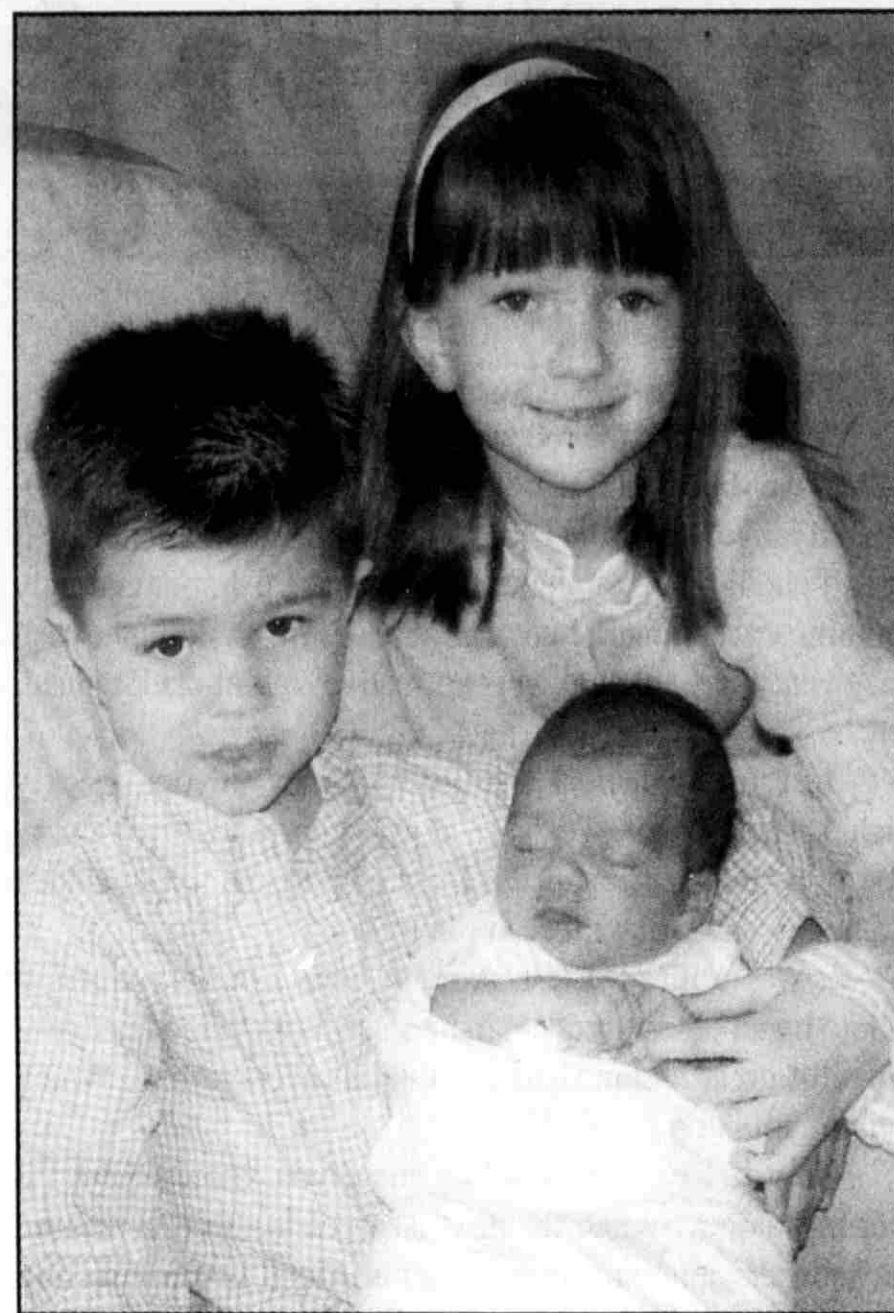
## Valentine



McKenna Abigail Valentine

Keith and Sara Valentine and Barbara Mercer of Charlotte, NC, and Jim and Chery Valentine of Lowell. Great-grandparents are born February 14, 2006, in Midland, Texas. Proud grandparents are Maury and Linda Thornton of Midland, Texas, John

## Godbold

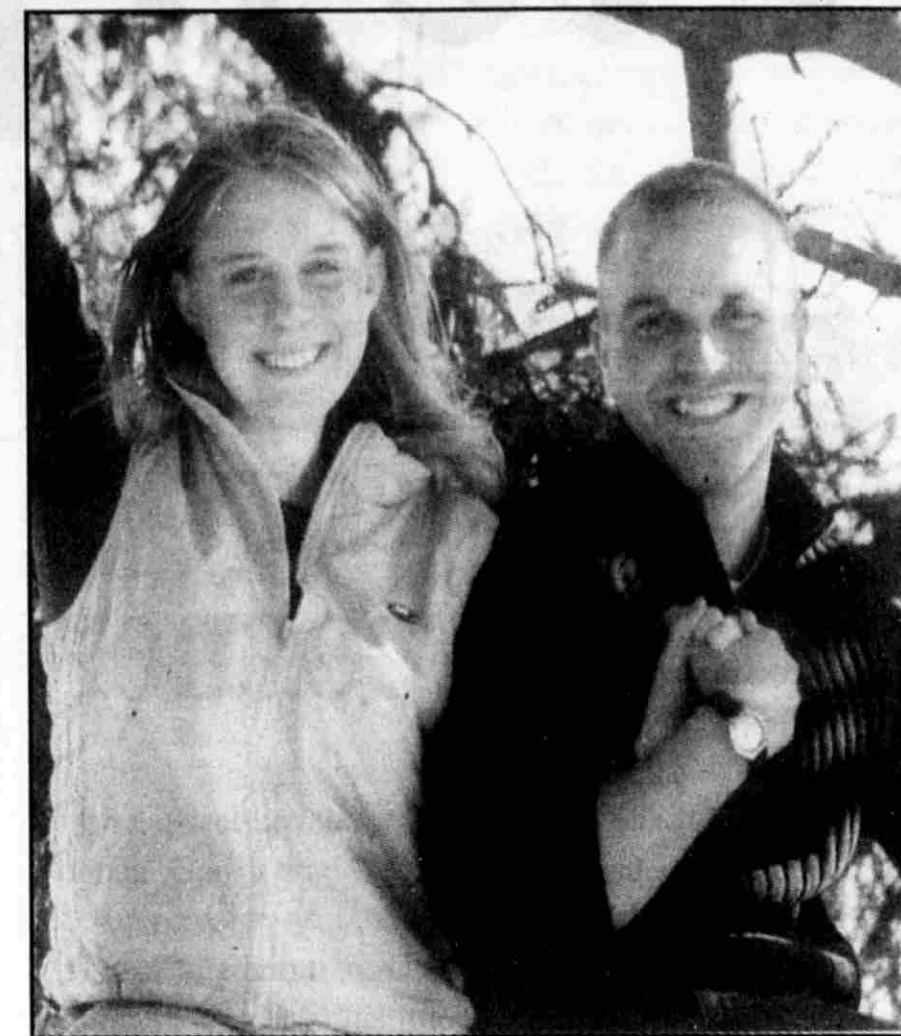


Mason, Haley and Weston William Godbold

Haley and Mason Godbold are proud to announce the arrival of their little brother, Weston William. He was born April 10, 2006, weighing 6 lbs. 14 oz. and measuring 19 1/2 inches. Proud parents are Chris and Tracy Godbold of Lowell. Grandparents are Paul and DiAnn Godbold of Reed City and Art and Karen Homrich of Caledonia.

# Engagements

## Lamba/Mathews



Julie Lamba and Jason Mathews

The marriage of Julie Ann Lamba and Jason Alan Mathews will be celebrated on July 21, 2006. The bride-to-be is the daughter of Marvin and Alta Lamba of Grand Rapids. She is a 2004 graduate of Grand Rapids West Catholic and currently attends Grand Rapids Community College. She is employed at River Valley Credit Union in Ada. The future groom is the son of Al and Jayne Mathews of Lowell. He is a 2004 graduate of Lowell High School and is also attending Grand Rapids Community College. He is employed at his family's business - Tip Top Gravel Co. in Ada.

# College News

**Katherine E. Blough** graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in Communications from Hope College on May 7, 2006. She is employed by Varnum Consulting LLC in Grand Rapids as project coordinator.

Blough, a 2002 graduate of Lowell High School, is the daughter of Mike and Toni Blough of Lowell.

**Jeff McPherson**, a sophomore at Michigan State University, was one of 200 students recognized at the university's banquet for Athletes with Academic Excellence on April 10. McPherson, a 2004 graduate of Lowell High School, plays football and is a business major.

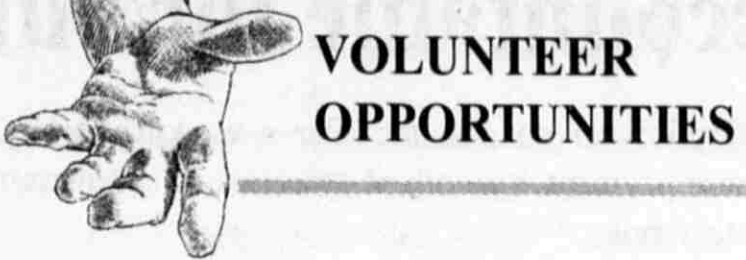
**Whitney Brogger**, of Lowell, graduated from Trinity International University in Deerfield, Ill., with a bachelor of arts degree in mathematics/secondary education, Magna Cum Laude on May 13, 2006.



Katherine E. Blough

University in Deerfield, Ill., with a bachelor of arts degree in mathematics/secondary education, Magna Cum Laude on May 13, 2006.

# Lend A Hand



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### AARP MICHIGAN AND AMERICAN RED CROSS PARTNER IN BLOOD DRIVE

The annual AARP Day of Service in Michigan has been transformed into a three-day blood donation event: "A Day of Service, A New Chance at Life" for 2006. Both AARP Michigan and the American Red Cross are encouraging all eligible AARP members (110 lbs. or more and in good health), along with their families and friends to visit a donation site in their area to give blood on May 11, 12 or 13. Call 1-800-GIVE LIFE (1-800-448-5433) or visit [www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org) to find a nearby site or more information.

### HELP PROMOTE LITERACY

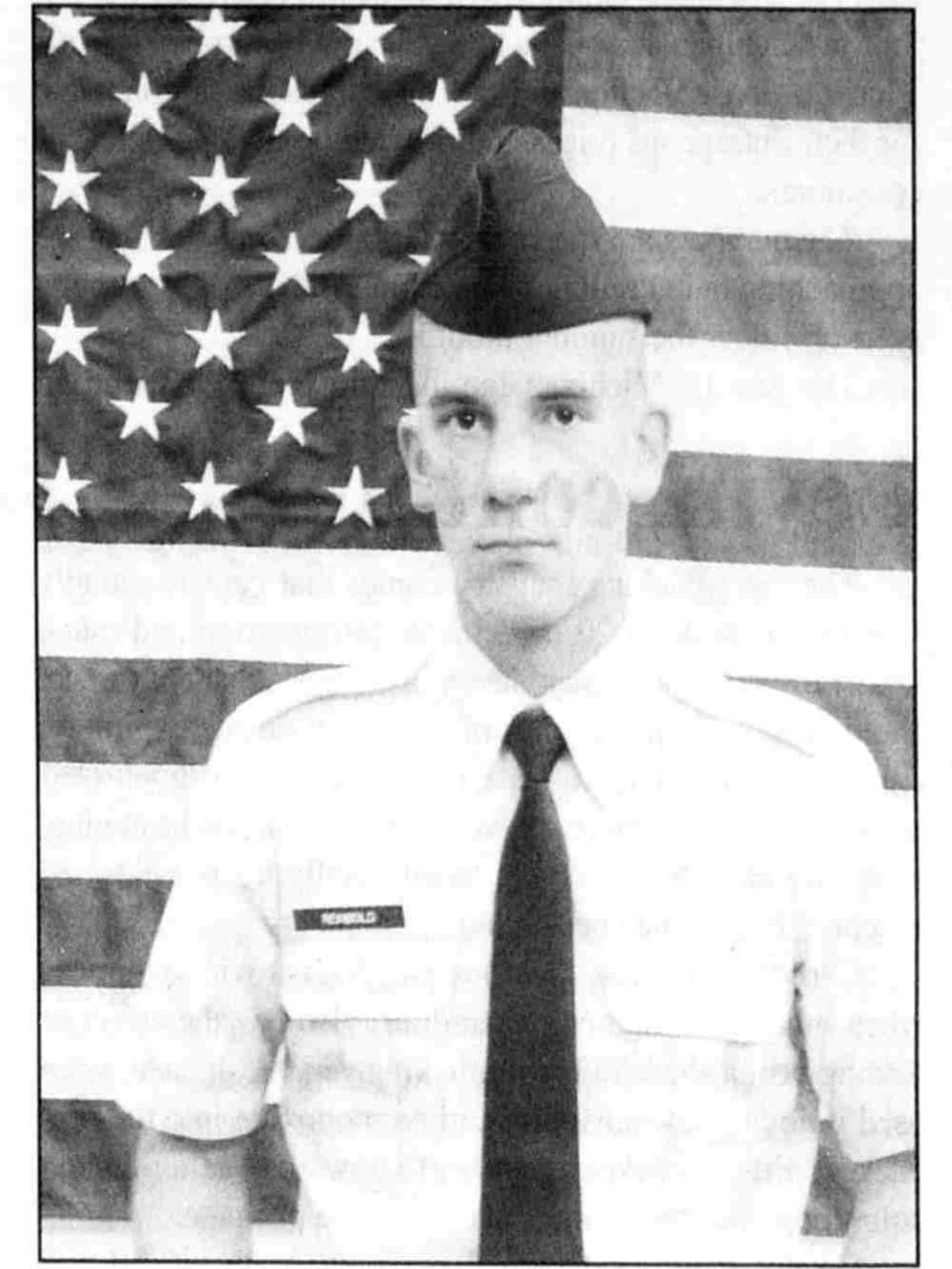
The Kent County Literacy Council has scheduled an information session on Tuesday, May 16 for prospective volunteer tutors. This session is held at 6:30 p.m. and lasts one hour. At the end of the session, there will be an opportunity to sign up for tutor training.

By training people to be tutors, the council can offer

one-on-one reading help to adults asking for assistance in reading or English as a Second Language (ESL). You do not need to speak another language to tutor ESL.

The information session will be held at the Yankee Clipper Library, 2025 Leonard St. NE, Grand Rapids. Call 459-5151 to register.

# In The Service



Airman Caleb T. Reinbold

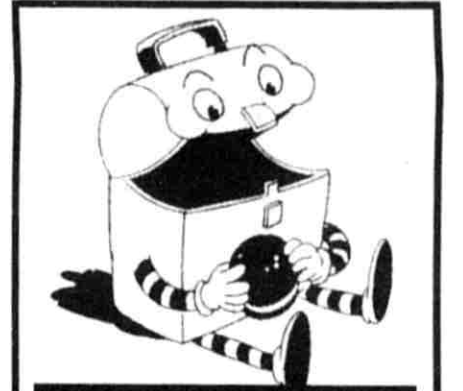
AirForce Airman Caleb T. Reinbold has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, Reinbold studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an

associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Reinbold, a 2005 graduate of Lowell High School, is the son of Dennis and Suzanne Reinbold of Lowell.



## LUNCH MENU

ELEMENTARY MENU  
Week of May 15, 2006

**MON:** Chicken nuggets (cheesy ravioli also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), oven baked beans, assorted fruit, crackers or pretzel, milk.

**TUES:** Hot dog on bun (BBQ rib on bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), oven baked beans, assorted fruit, milk. (May Birthdays)

**WED:** French toast w/ syrup, sausage, fresh fruit, 100% fruit juice, milk.

**THURS:** Soft taco w/ meat, cheese & lettuce (stacked ham & cheese on bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), green beans, assorted fruit, chocolate chip bar, milk.

**FRI:** Pizza bagel (sloppy jo on wheat bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), Mexican corn, orange wedges, milk.

# Reflections of faith

Jason Holdridge, worship/teaching pastor  
Impact Church

Thank you! A little less talk, a lot more action ... Matthew, Mark, Luke, John. ACTION.

You didn't think we got to where we are simply because people prayed, did you? Not on your life. The early church didn't just pray for God to move ... They did.

The book of Acts could have been the book of dreams, ideas or prayers, but we wouldn't be here talking about this stuff today, now, would we? Nope, they didn't stop with last words and best wishes ... They acted so that we could read Acts, not the book of Sermons.

"Dear children, let us not only love with words or with tongue, but with actions and with truth."

Have you noticed that Jesus didn't go around telling people that he would be praying for them? That's funny since that appears to be the most common expression among church-goers. "I'll be praying for you."

I wonder if Jesus saw that expression as a crutch for those who didn't want to inconvenience themselves with action. Believe me when I say that Jesus, of all people, knew the power of prayer. So I'm not downplaying intercession.

But it is thought-provoking to wonder why Jesus didn't utter that phrase as he ministered, isn't it? The only time I remember Jesus saying he prayed for someone was when he told Peter, "I have prayed for you."

But never do we see Jesus and his disciples leaving a scene waving to the crowd and saying, "You'll be in our prayers." They did something about the need. They moved toward the mess. They entered into the ugly. They acted.

Words leave people wanting. Tongues, though golden, tarnish with time. Moving mouths don't replace moving people. They never have, they never will. The call to action has never seen a more desperate hour.

# Happy Birthday

- MAY 11:**  
Carol Briggs, Joel Uzarski, David Kaczanowski.
- MAY 12:**  
Michele Lindhout-Barber, Jessica Covell, Carrie Kiczanski, Ian Duiven, Ryan Timmers, Christine Vickers.
- MAY 13:**  
Melanie Ligman, Jean Daverman.
- MAY 14:**  
Winnifred Snieder, Kathy Thomas.
- MAY 15:**  
Maxine Gasper.
- MAY 16:**  
Richie Ford, Kristi Ford, Ryan Phillips, Angela Dixon, Janet Boerema, Ruby Christiansen.
- MAY 17:**  
Maurice Hannah, Andy Dibble, Shawn Witherell.

# Lowell senior earns Burger King scholarship

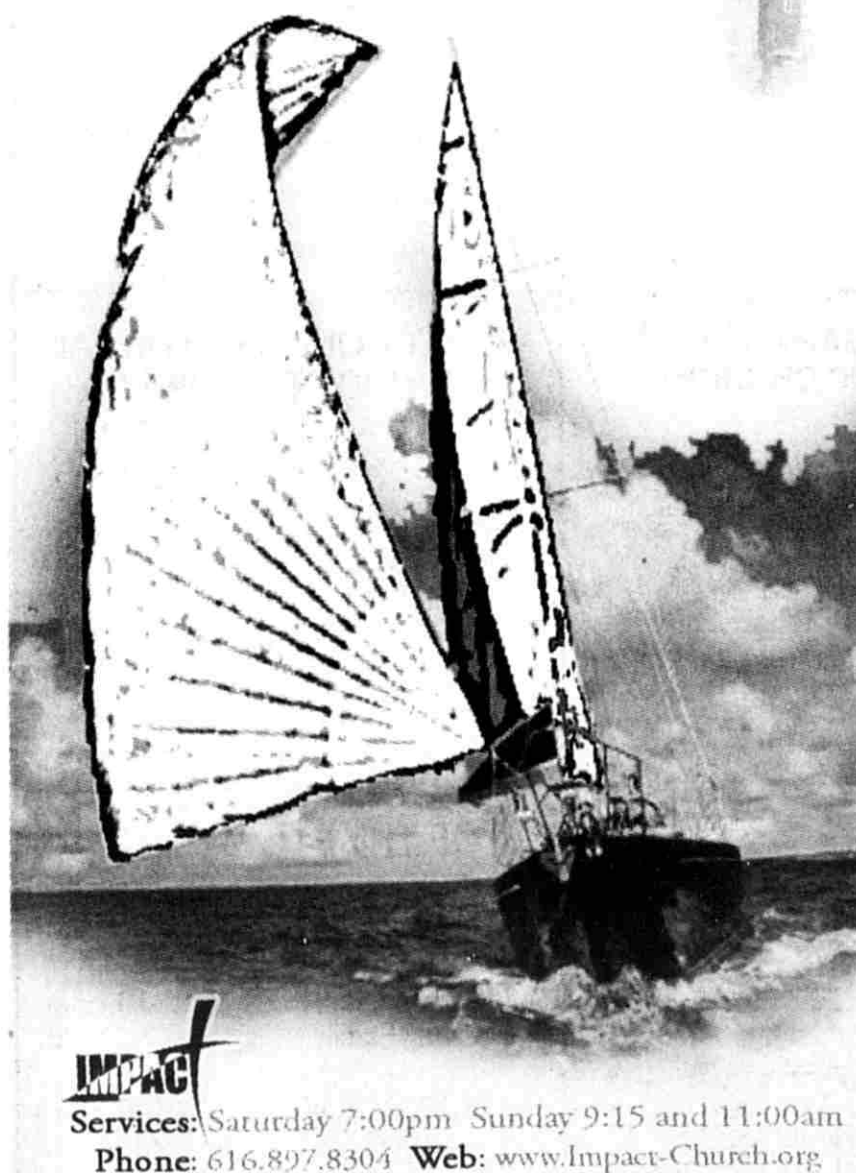
Customers of Burger King restaurants, operated by Quality Dining, Inc., have the opportunity to purchase a graduation cap logo for \$1. All proceeds from the logo sale support continuing education scholarships for high school seniors in Michigan and Indiana.

\*\*\*

*Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence.*

- Robert Frost

# WIND CHASERS



Services: Saturday 7:00pm Sunday 9:15 and 11:00am  
Phone: 616.897.8304 Web: [www.Impact-Church.org](http://www.Impact-Church.org)

# AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p><b>ATTENTION: BIBLE BELIEVERS</b> If you would like to attend a church where the King James Bible is held up as the perfect, preserved word of God with all the words of God for all English speaking people, then give us a visit at: 901 W. Main, Lowell 897-6284 or 485-4195 10AM Sunday School; 11AM Morning Service; 6PM Evening Service; Wed., 7:30PM Prayer Meeting.</p>	<p><b>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M. <b>OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS</b> Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p><b>DAY BIBLE CHAPEL</b> 9305 Centerline, Saranac 897-6332 Worship.....9:45 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M. Nursery &amp; Jr. Church Provided Rev. Frank Lattimore, Pastor "A Nondenominational Ministry With A Blended Word Centered Service!"</p>	<p><b>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> Rev. Randy Meyers • 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p>	<p><b>APOSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH</b> SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M. SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M. 119 Lincoln Lake, Lowell CALL FOR FREE HOME BIBLE STUDIES Pastor Robert L. Hubbard Phone: (616) 897-1267 website <a href="http://www.aplighthouse.com">www.aplighthouse.com</a></p>
<p><b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 Worship Services.....8:30 &amp; 11:00 a.m. Sunday School.....9:45 - 10:45 a.m. Kids Club Wednesdays After school to.....5:30 p.m. DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Nursery &amp; child care available at both services Barrier - Free Entrance</p>	<p><b>ALTON BIBLE CHURCH</b> Lincoln Lake Ave. at 3 Mile Road 897-5648 Sunday School.....10:00 A.M. Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M. Evening Praise.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday AWANA.....7:00 P.M. (Sept. - April) Prayer and Bible Study.....7:00 P.M. Pastor Ken Ford (Home) 897-6418 YOU ARE WELCOME!</p>	<p><b>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)</b> 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Senior Pastor Dave Noonon, Asst. Pastor Jonathan &amp; Stacy Holmes, Youth Pastors <b>SUNDAYS:</b> Worship: 10:00 a.m. - LIFE Home Groups &amp; "XL" Youth Sunday evenings <b>WEDNESDAYS:</b> Family Night (For All Ages): 7 p.m. "XL" Youth: 7 p.m.</p>	<p><b>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Fr. George J. Faketa 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 <a href="http://www.stmary-lowell.com">www.stmary-lowell.com</a> Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM &amp; 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer &amp; adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL BRENDA BERG 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48, EWTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>	<p><b>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> (United Church of Christ) 404 North Hudson • 897-5906 Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Dr. Roger LaWarre.....Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise &amp; Worship</p>
<p><b>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell &amp; Saranac on M-27 <a href="http://www.goodshepherdlowell.org">www.goodshepherdlowell.org</a> Sunday School &amp; Adult Bible Study. 9 A.M. Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p><b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: <a href="http://www.fbclowell.org">http://www.fbclowell.org</a> Rev. David O. Sims &amp; Rev. W. Lee Taylor Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. &amp; 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA CLUB JC.....Wed. 6:15 &amp; 6:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free</p>	<p><b>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Thurian Meredith 9:45 A.M. ....Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M. ....Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery &amp; Children Worship Programs Provided A friend...a family...a mission!</p>		<p><b>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> 201 N. Washington • 897-8800 Sunday School.....9:30 A.M. Morning Worship.....10:40 A.M. Sunday Evening.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday Family Ministry.....7:00 P.M. PASTOR MICHAEL RHODABARGER Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>

# Show Us Your Smile!

## APRIL SMILES OF THE MONTH:

### "No Cavities" Club Members

- |                 |                   |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Nick Price      | Jo Hannah Pagel   | Brooklyn Garnaat  |
| Maggie Price    | Mitchell Strawser | Rebecca Weaver    |
| Abby Carey      | Madisen Schram    | Jennifer Richmond |
| Robby Schneider | Elijah Boulton    | Meredith Lane     |
| Hunter Winchell | Brandon Garnaat   | Anthony Alderink  |
| Alex Damm       |                   | Hannah Davernay   |

**FAMILY DENTISTRY**  
**Ann Wilson, D.D.S.**  
New Patients Welcome!  
147 N. Center St. • Lowell, MI 49331  
**897-4835**



# Holding oil companies accountable for out of control gas prices

By U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow

Oil companies continue to post record profits on the backs of Michigan families. High gas prices are killing our jobs in Michigan and take a huge bite out of family budgets. I have proposed action to hold oil companies accountable for their outrageous prices and provide immediate relief for consumers.

The numbers are staggering: Gas prices in Michigan are approaching or exceeding \$3 a gallon. And it's only going to get worse over the summer months.

The fact is, Michigan families are going to spend an

extra \$500 this year on gasoline. For a working family, that's a house payment, a month of groceries, or a semester of college textbooks.

High energy costs have a negative impact on Michigan's economy. Higher fuel costs lead to increased costs for our manufacturers, putting jobs at risk. According to General Motors executives, every \$1 increase in the price of a barrel of oil adds \$4 million to GM's logistics costs.

Gas prices have a negative effect on tourism and recreation — a driving force in Michigan's economy. Families are planning shorter trips, or canceling vacations altogether.

As we dig deeper into our pockets to keep up with gas

prices, the oil companies are making record-breaking profits. ExxonMobil recently reported an annual profit of \$36 billion — the largest profit ever recorded for any company in U.S. corporate history.

Meanwhile, Exxon CEO Lee Raymond draws a salary of \$69.7 million. That breaks down to nearly \$110,000 every day. He makes more in one day than most people in Michigan make in a year! And to add insult to injury, when Raymond announced his retirement, Exxon gave him a \$400 million retirement package — one of the most generous in history.

This situation is outrageous, and we need to take immediate action, both to provide short-term relief, and to develop long-term solutions.

I have introduced the Oil Company Accountability Act to close current tax loopholes that give the oil companies \$5 billion in new tax breaks. My bill would put that money right back into the pockets of consumers, through a one-time, immediate \$500 tax rebate for families. If Congress acts fast and passes my legislation, Americans could receive these checks by Labor Day.

But short-term solutions aren't enough. We need to look down the road and reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil. The best way to do this for Michigan the country, is through the development of homegrown renewable fuels, such as soy-based biodiesel and ethanol made with corn and sugar beet byproducts.

The biofuels industry can create good jobs in Michigan, bring fuel prices down, protect the environment, and help local farmers create new markets. Our state will have five ethanol plants up and running by the end of the year. And last September, Biodiesel Industries announced that it will be building a three million gallon-per-year biodiesel production facility near Detroit.

If we act boldly and quickly, we can buy our fuel from middle America instead of the Middle East.

In the meantime, let's hold the oil companies accountable and give some relief to people paying the bill.

## Levin, continued ... From Page 4

The meat packing industry argues that beef is actually safe for upwards of 20 days under refrigeration and much longer if it is frozen. The industry also argues that consumers should rely not on the color of meat, but on the expiration date on the package. To lessen the chances that good beef will be taken off of store shelves due to its natural browning, scientists have found a way to artificially keep meats red indefinitely in sealed packaging.

Carbon monoxide, the same gas that is toxic to humans when inhaled in high concentrations, also has the effect of turning beef a shade of red mimicking very fresh meat when used in lower doses. Mixing carbon monoxide into the pre-packed, airtight packaging of beef allows it to retain its red color long after the expiration date on the package.

Groups have conducted experiments with treated and untreated packages of beef and compared the two as they aged under refrigeration. Weeks later, after the expiration date had passed, the grocer's meat began to turn brown, while the case-ready carbon monoxide meat was still rosy pink. Even though the beef looked fresh, it was in fact contaminated with E. coli bacterium and salmonella.

The Food and Drug Administration has had long-standing rules against color alteration of meats but in a seeming contradiction, has allowed carbon monoxide treated packaging to move forward. My colleague Sen. Debbie Stabenow and I have worked together closely on this issue and asked the Food and Drug Administration for an explanation of this change.

In their response, the FDA said they do not believe that carbon monoxide makes meats any less safe. The FDA

claims that adding carbon monoxide to the packaging meets their standard of "generally recognized as safe," and because carbon monoxide is not a food additive, no further FDA approval is required.

There are currently no requirements for the meat packing industry to label which meats have been packed in carbon monoxide and which have not. As a result, it is especially important for consumers to look for the expiration date printed on all meat package labels and not just at the color of the beef.

Even if the meat is purchased before the expiration date, consumers still need to be aware that beef packaged in carbon monoxide can spoil at home yet still look just fine. If consumers judge the freshness of beef only by its red color without checking the expiration date on the package, they run the risk of making a serious and potentially fatal mistake. You can't judge a book by its cover, and you can't judge beef by its color.

I believe that pre-packaged beef treated with carbon monoxide should be clearly labeled so that consumers know what they are buying. I will continue to work with the Food and Drug Administration on this matter.

## Motorcycle endorsement is your license to safer riding

With the start of State Terri Lynn Land is asking motorcyclists to make sure they are properly licensed before riding.

All motorcycle riders must take a knowledge test and successfully complete a motorcycle safety class or pass a skills test with a third-party examiner before a motorcycle endorsement is issued. The endorsement is designated as "CY" on a driver's license. A motorcycle safety course is required for 16- and 17-year olds and for adults who fail the rider skills test twice.

Motorcycling is gaining in popularity, especially among women. In 2000, there were approximately 442,000 licensed motorcyclists, with women making up about 36,000 of the total. Over the last six years, the number of licensed motorcyclists increased to more than 496,000, with the number of women riders rising by 12,000.

As more people enjoy motorcycling, Land noted that a concerted effort is needed among traffic safety advocates, the motor public and government to help lower crash rates.

The Legislature has increased the program's base funding this year and has also supported Land's request for an additional appropriation of \$200,000.

About \$155,000 of that \$200,000 will be used to provide training opportunities for 1,200 more students this year. The remainder is being put toward the purchase of nearly 100 motorcycles, which will be used at public training sites across Michigan.

The Department of State's Michigan Motorcycle Safety Program expects to graduate more than 10,000 motorcyclists from the nearly 50 training sites across Michigan this year.

Secretary of State branch offices will call attention to the important message of motorcycle safety by displaying a "Share the Road" poster and placing a new motorcycle rider brochure, "CY - Get your motorcycle endorsement and stay safe," in their brochure racks.



In The Ledger

### DESTINATION restoration

Pamper Mom this Mother's Day at Impact with some royal treatment, great giveaways, and a relevant service with the opportunity to reach

DESTINATION restoration

SATURDAY | Royal Treatment 6:00pm  
Service 7:00pm

SUNDAY | Services 9:15 & 11:00am  
Royal Treatment following each service

# Lowell schools on board for new state requirements

By Dan Schneider

Lowell Area Schools has itself on good footing to meet upcoming Michigan Merit Standards for high schools.

That's the message Lowell High School principal Scott Vashaw had for the board of education at Monday's meeting. The new state graduation requirements, approved by Gov. Jennifer Granholm April 20, will place higher demands on high schools in

terms of what they need to teach students.

For instance, they require not only that high schools teach four years of mathematics, but that those four years start with Algebra 1.

"I think we are positioned pretty well compared to our colleagues," Vashaw said, adding that some districts may need to increase staff in order to offer the required array of classes.

Lowell, he said, already has a rigorous academic

program that meets or nearly meets the new requirements in most subjects. One area where the school will have to add courses is in social studies, where world history and geography is now a state-required course.

Vashaw said the school has offered that course in the past, but dropped it since it was tested through the Michigan Educational Assessment Program. He said its reintroduction will be a welcome addition

to the high school course offerings.

"I think anyone will agree that in this day and age, our understanding of other countries and cultures is essential," Vashaw said.

The new requirements will go into effect for this year's seventh grade class and below. Other new requirements include two years of world languages and online learning experiences to familiarize students with distance learning,

which is how much career-advancement learning is accomplished these days.

Vashaw also mentioned that Lowell High School was mentioned on the Newsweek web site among the top five percent of high schools in the country. It was part of their May 8 issue which ranked top high schools based on their Advanced Placement testing.

While talking about what he called the rigorous and relevant coursework going on in Lowell Area Schools, Vashaw referenced two earlier presentations. One was a presentation on the Lowell FFA which, with 130 members, is one of the largest in Michigan; the other, a presentation on service learning in the district. The FFA sent two teams to compete at the national convention last fall in Louisville, Ky.

Fourth grade teacher Karen VanCleve was at the meeting to present her class's math-related service-learning project. The students used math (particularly measurement and geometry) in creating blankets for pregnant dogs at Vicky's Pet Connection in Ada.

LHS senior class president Nikita Miles gave a brief presentation on the progress of the memorial deck project.

The observation deck to be constructed at the northeast end of the school will serve as a memorial for the many Lowell High School students who have died before their time. Miles said that while the project has gotten off to a somewhat slow start, fundraising continues, building materials have been delivered, and construction will begin soon.

The board unanimously adopted a district wellness policy. The federally-required policy states that the district will do such things as encourage nutritious eating and offer opportunities for physical activity that demonstrate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

LAS assistant superintendent for finance and personnel Connie Gillette said all signs point to the district having a balance budget on June 30, when its financial books close on the 2005-2006 school year.

"Given the information that we have right now, we believe we will end the year in the black," Gillette said in her brief budget update.

## Murray Lake staff member of the month



Murray Lake staff member of the month for April is Nancy Brenk.

Now the head cook in the food service department at Murray Lake, Brenk has worked in Lowell's food service department for seven years, coming to Murray Lake just this year.

Staff members who nominated Brenk commented on her positive attitude, her positive rapport with students, and her willingness to go above and beyond. She donated many hours of her own time to a spaghetti dinner fundraiser

for fifth grade camp, and for Murray Lake's Family Festival.

Brenk and her husband

Pat have three children who attend Lowell schools.

"I'm happy to be part of

Murray Lake. Our school is full of great kids and positive attitudes," said Brenk.



Mark Johnson

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF PRIVATE FOUNDATION NOTICE

The annual report of the Lowell Area Housing, Inc. Foundation for the year ended December 31, 2004 is available for inspection at its principal office, 725 Bowes Road, Lowell, Michigan during regular business hours by any citizen who requests within 180 days after date of this notice.

Dated: February 7, 2005

Phillip H. Schneider, Jr.  
President

**If you're a city resident or someone who cares, it's time to let the deciders know how you feel about the North Washington property. Call 897-8457. City Council meeting is May 15, 7:30 p.m. Petitions available at: North Country Trails, Springrove Variety, Blue Ribbon Feed and others. Please and thank you.**

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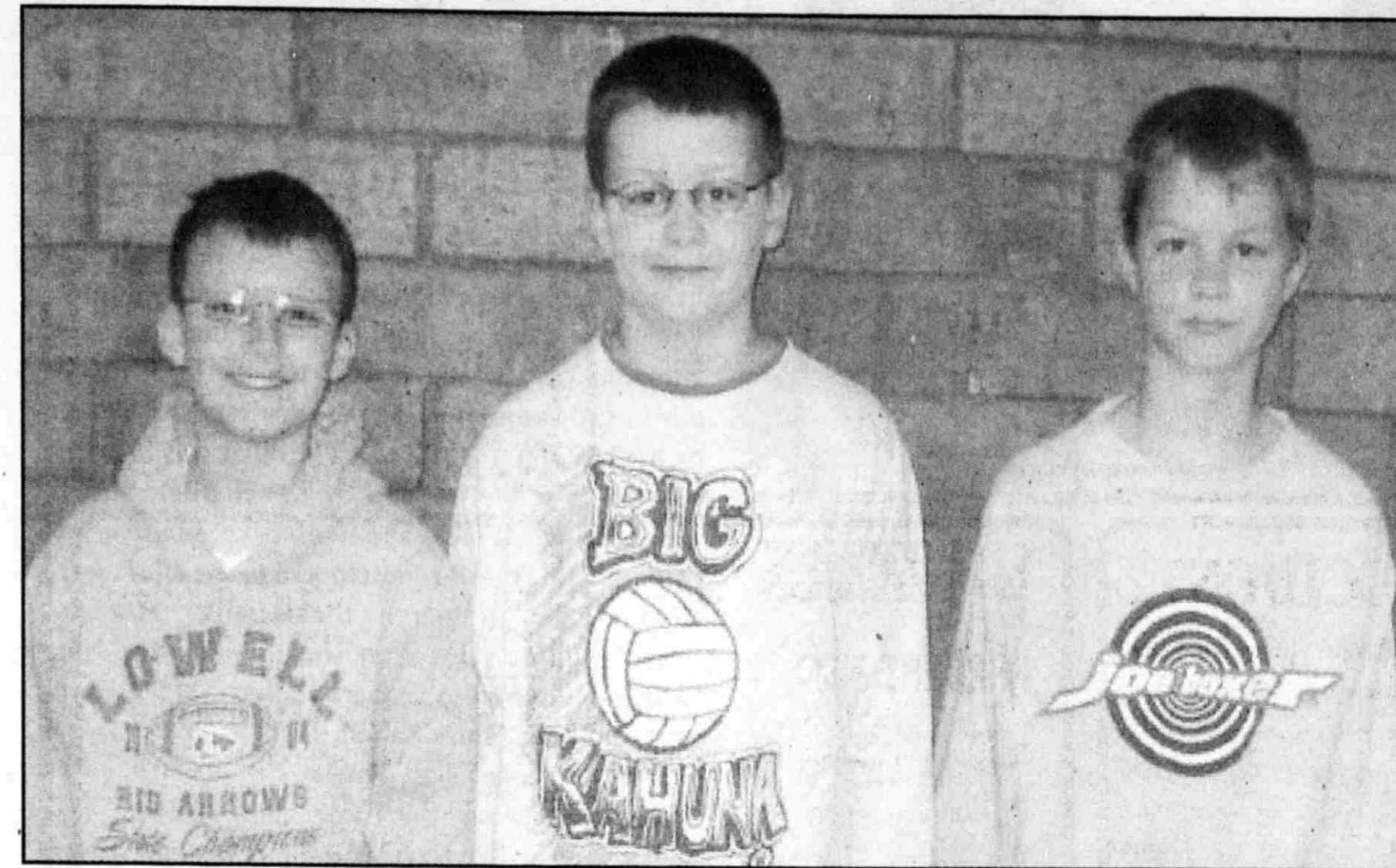
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## Cherry Creek chess tournament winners



Pictured, left to right, are: Danny Cowden, Philip Janowski and Collin Finkhouse.

Winners of the annual Cherry Creek chess tournament were Danny Cowden with first place; and Collin Finkhouse and Philip Janowski, tying for second place. Their names will be added to the plaques in the school's front hall.

Jake Collins, Janowski and Josh Zalis also participated in the first Thornapple Kellogg chess tournament and won ribbons reflecting their participation. The event included students from all over West Michigan.

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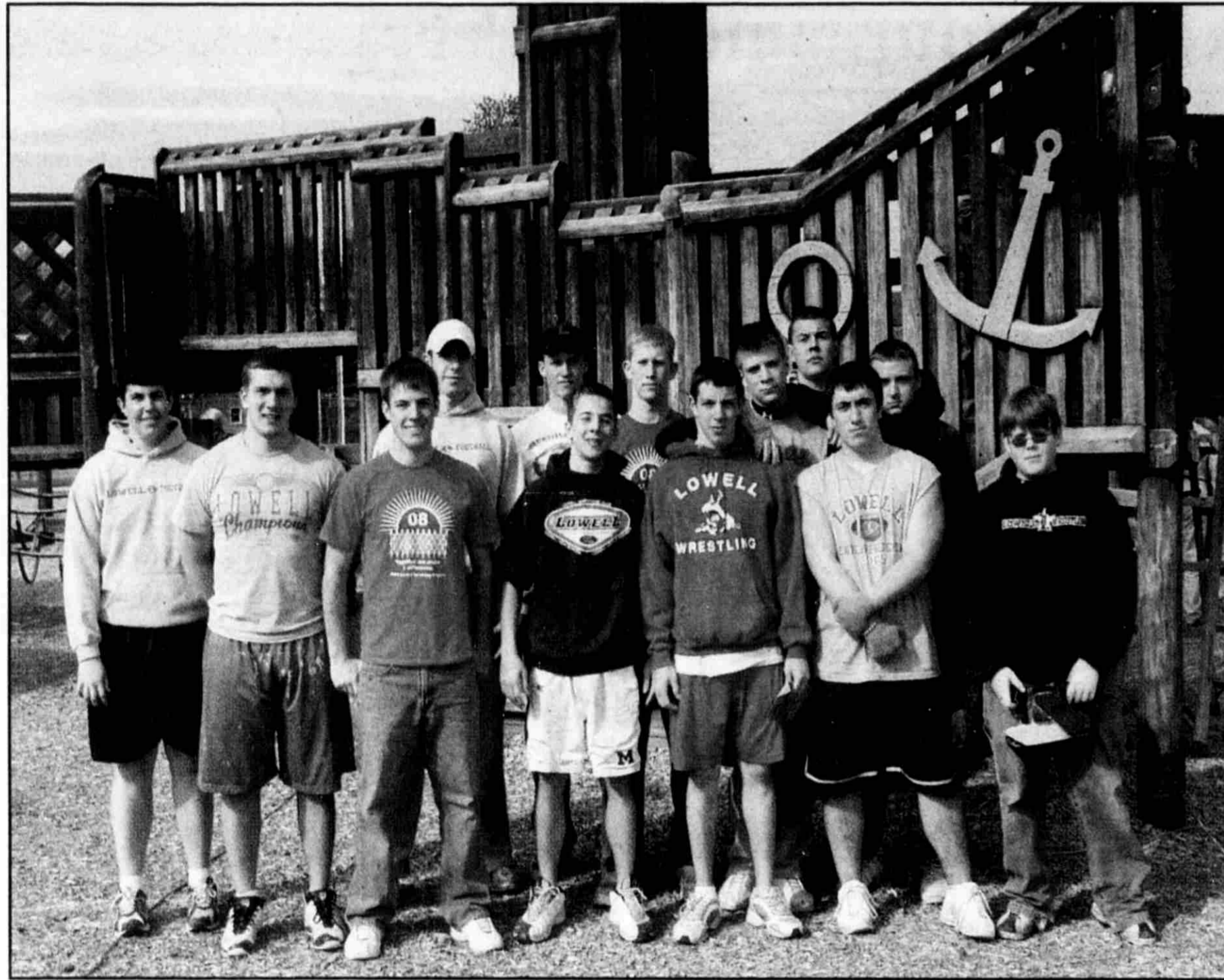
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## LIVE help from LHS football team at Creekside Kingdom

Members of the Lowell High School football team helped this year's Lowell Institute for Volunteer Excellence (LIVE) sand and seal the Creekside Kingdom play structure at Creekside Park. It was one of two community service projects undertaken by the LIVE class this year. The other was to create a LIVE class for students at Lowell High School, which will teach them about effective volunteering. Football players who contributed to the effort were Keith Nichol, Kameron Blake, Mike McElroy, Brad Nordman, Alex Fleet, Justin VanAcker, Nate Vaught, Kyle Nichol, Robert LaBoch, Mark Ford, Josh Faulkner, Agim Selimi, Drew Culross, Justin Murray and coach Nate Fowler.

Volunteers from the LIVE class of 2006 were Nancy Stroosnyder, Carol Hamilton, Regina Grover, Ginny Jesburg, Randy Jesburg, Tina Cadwallader and Matt Garrison.

## Women's Club shares the wealth

Lowell Women's Club treasurer Kathy Horsch, third from left, distributed checks Monday to Lowell Area Historical Museum director Judy Straub, Lowell Branch YMCA associate executive director Stacy Messersmith, Flat River Outreach Ministries volunteer Marge Rehl, St. Mary Pregnancy Center volunteer Madeline Pfaller and Lowell fire chief Frank Martin. Every year, the Women's Club makes donations to community organizations. This year, the club distributed \$3,100 among Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc., St. Mary Pregnancy Center, Lowell YMCA, Lowell Area Historical Museum and Lowell Area Fire Department.



## Art council gallery brimming with youthful creations

By Dan Schneider

This time of year things are pretty colorful at the Lowell Area Arts Council gallery.

That's because every year since 1981, the gallery at 149 S. Hudson has displayed student artwork from Lowell Area Schools' art classes. All four of the district's elementarys, Lowell Middle School, Lowell High School and St. Patrick's Catholic School in Parnell are involved.

Often times, the arts council tries to leave space, maybe a foot or two, between its artworks to allow viewers to appreciate each piece individually. With this show, there

is only an inch or so in between pieces, due to the number represented.

Starting with kindergarten color theory collages, every grade level is represented, progressing through advanced ceramics. Many of the ceramic pieces have a special significance; they are part of a service learning project, a fundraiser for three Lowell families with elementary school-age children battling cancer.

Several ceramic works, which are hanging on a portable wall in the middle of the gallery, will be sold in a silent auction lasting the duration of the exhibit. The auction will raise money for elementary-



Colorful art on display at the Lowell Area Arts Council by students of all ages.

age cancer patients, Jordan Basinger, Nic Falsetta and Anna Organek. Students designed the pieces to hang on walls, with certain rooms in mind.

"We wanted to try something different and we decided to run it through

our ceramics classes and make wall pieces," said high school art teacher Susan Langford.

Students Leara Glinzak, Nicole Videan and Ashley Spicer organized the project with high school service

learning coordinator Carla Stone.

The exhibit opened last Friday. Silent auction bids may be made using cards available at the gallery. Winning bidders will be

announced at the show's May 24 closing reception, which is open to the public and lasts from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday, 12-5 p.m. and Saturday, 1-4 p.m.



These ceramic pieces are among those for sale by silent auction during the Lowell Area Schools' student art exhibition at the Lowell Area Arts Council. Funds raised will benefit three elementary students with cancer.

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# COMING EVENTS

## MAY

**WED., MAY 10:** Snow United Methodist Church dinner, 4:30 p.m. Lowell Senior Neighbors.

**THURS., MAY 11:** Lunch at Applebee's, shop McCords & Dollar Store. Lowell Senior Neighbors.

**SAT., MAY 13:** Bird Migration Count Day at Wittenbach/Wege Center, 8-10 a.m. Ranger Steve 987-1002.

**SAT., MAY 13:** Saranac Legion Ladies Auxiliary Garage Sale, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Downtown Saranac.

**MON., MAY 15:** Master Mason Degree in lodge room of Masonic Temple, 211 E. Main St., Belding. 1st section: 5 p.m.; dinner at 6 p.m.; 2nd section 7 p.m.

**TUES., MAY 16:** Baby shower for Lowell area expectant moms, Bright Beginnings, 300 High St. TOTS. 7-8 p.m.

### MONDAYS

Lowell High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes & Friends, 7-8:30 p.m. at Gallagher's. Call 676-1355.

Women's over 30 drop-in basketball, 7-9:30 p.m. at Cherry Creek Elementary. Call Dave (YMCA) 897-8445. Fee \$3.

Boy Scout Troop 102, 11 & up or completing 5th grade, meets 7-8:30 p.m. at Scout Cabin, end of N. Washington St. Call Tim Vanderwulp at 897-4302 for more info.

**1ST MON.:** Regular communication of the Belding-Ionia-Lowell Masonic Lodge #355 at 7:30 p.m. in lodge room, 211 E. Main, Belding. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. All Masons may attend.

**1ST MON.:** V.F.W. Post #8303 meets at 3116 Alden Nash S.E. at 7 p.m.

**2ND MON.:** Lowell Board of Education meets 7 p.m. in Administration Building, 300 High Street. (Note: except in April due to spring break which is the 3rd Monday).

**2ND MON.:** Bowne Township Historical Society meets 7:30 at historic museum, 84th/Alden Nash.

**3RD MON.:** Fallsburg Historical Society board meetings at chamber office or Fallsburg, 7 p.m. All invited. Call 897-7161 for info. or location.

**3RD MON.:** Women of the Moose meetings are held at 7:30 p.m.

**3RD MON.:** Peripheral Neuropathy support group, 7 p.m. at Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd. Call Dorothy 897-9794.

**3RD MON.:** Lowell Showboat Garden Club meetings are held in the Fellowship Hall at the Church of the Nazarene, N. Washington St., at 7 p.m.

**4TH MON.:** Clark-Ellis American Legion Post 152, 3100 Alden Nash S.E. at 7:30 p.m.

**EVERY OTHER MON.:** The Lowell Area Juggling Club meets in the Community room at Englehardt Library, 6:30 - 8 p.m. Anyone 12 or older who can juggle 3 balls is welcome. No dues. Call 897-9879.

### TUESDAYS

Take Off Pounds Sensibly Tops M1#372 meets at Key Heights Mobile Home Park Community Bldg. Weigh-ins are at 5:45 p.m.

Cub Scout Pack 3188 meets at 1st United Methodist Church (as long as there is school), 6:30 p.m. 1st-5th grade boys. Contact Clarence Whittum at 897-8194 after 11 a.m.

Weight Watchers at Alto United Methodist Church, corner of Kirby & Harrison meets at 5:30 p.m. Register 1/2 hour before meeting. 800-651-6000.

Flat River Woodcarvers meet at LAAC from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Women's Community Bible Study. Free nursery and preschool story hour/craft time 9:45 - 11:15 a.m./women only at 7:15 p.m. Calvary Christian Reformed Church. Call 897-7060 or 897-7555. Active September thru April only.

**1ST TUES.:** Grattan Historical Society at O'Brien Room of Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Rd. Public invited.

**2ND TUES.:** Diabetic Support group, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Schneider Manor Community Rm., 725 Bowes Rd. 897-2760 or 897-9160.

Kathy at 987-2532 to register for free event.

**WED., MAY 17:** Museum program at Lowell Twp. Hall: Lowell's Forgotten Pioneer - Morgan Lyon. 7 p.m.

**FRI., MAY 19:** 5th grade cookout fundraiser to support end of year trip to Greenfield Village, held at Murray Lake Elementary. 5:30-7 p.m. Cost: \$5.

**FRI., MAY 19-21:** W. Mich. Bluegrass Music Mayfest at Lowell fairgrounds. Special guests: The Chapmans.

**SUN., MAY 21:** Mother/Daughter tea at Lowell museum, 2 p.m. \$20 adults; \$10 for 12/under. Call 897-7688 to reserve your spot.

**WED., JUNE 7:** LMS sports physicals in locker rooms, 6:30 p.m. Cost: \$10, cash only. Call 987-2800 with ?'s.

### TUESDAYS

**1ST TUES.:** Adults with AD/HD at Calvin College, 7-9 p.m. Call Gary Engle at 897-6325 or 248-2423.

**1ST & 3RD TUES.:** Lowell Lions Club, 12 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce, 113 Riverwalk Plaza. Call 897-5449 for information.

**2ND TUES.:** G.R. Chapter of the American Sewing Guild, Plainfield Senior Center, 5255 Grand River Dr. NE. 6:30 p.m. refreshments/ 7 p.m. program Olga 616-975-9977/June 231-780-1249 info.

**2ND & 3RD TUES.:** Qua-Ke-Zik Sportsman's Club, 11400 Foreman Rd., 8 p.m. www.qua-ke-zik.org. New members welcome.

**2ND & 4TH TUES.:** MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers... because mothering matters. 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Impact Church, 1070 N. Hudson. Call 897-8304.

**2ND & 4TH TUES.:** Saranac Needlers, needleart/quilting bee, 5-8:30 p.m., 4 Health Wellness Center, Bridge St., Saranac. All are welcome. Contact Bev or Melissa, 642-6466. Light dinner is provided.

**2ND & 4TH TUES.:** Knights of Columbus #7719 at St. Mary School at 7:30 p.m.

**3RD TUES.:** Parents of children w/AD/HD at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 32156 4 Mile NE/E. Beltline) at 7 p.m. Call Linda at 874-5662; teen group: call Sarah at 281-6588.

### WEDNESDAYS

Rotary meets at noon at City Hall, 301 E. Main, 2nd floor.

8 p.m. ALANON upstairs at 1st Congregational Church, 404 N. Hudson St.

Tri-town Conservation Club trap & skeet league, 5616 Dunn Rd. 6-10 p.m. Larry 754-7104.

**1ST WED.:** GR/W. Michigan Scrabble Club at Schuler's Bookstore, 28th St. anytime between 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. Round Robin, bring your board, walk-ins welcome. Jan 897-5759.

**2ND WED.:** Kent County Youth Fair Board meeting, 7:30 p.m., King Memorial Youth Center, 4-H Fairgrounds. Call 897-6050.

**2ND WED.:** Royal Arch Masons, Hooker Chapter #73 meets at 7:30 p.m. in Belding Masonic Temple, 211 E. Main; dinner at 6:30 p.m. All Royal Arch Masons are welcome.

**2ND WED.:** Lowell Women's Club, noon in Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd.

**2ND WED.:** Support group for Peripheral Neuropathy, 4 p.m., St. Paul's Anglican Catholic Church, Grand Rapids. Dorothy 897-9794.

**3RD WED.:** GR/W. Michigan Scrabble Club at Schuler's Bookstore, 28th SE anytime bet. 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. Round Robin, bring your board, all levels, walk-ins. Jan 897-5759.

### THURSDAYS

Weight Watchers at Lowell Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St. 5:30 p.m. Register 1/2 hr. before the meeting. For info. 1-800-651-6000.

Saranac Area Musicians and Singers practice at Saranac High School Band Rm. Choir: 6-7 p.m./band: 7-8. Kathy Maatman, 897-5981.

**LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM:** Tues., Sat. and Sun. 1-4 p.m.; Thurs., 1-8 p.m. Families: \$10; individuals \$3; 5-17 \$1.50; members are free. Call 897-7688.

**ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY HOURS:** Mon.- Wed., 12-8 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri.: 9:30-5 p.m.; Sat.: 9:30-1:30 p.m. 200 N. Monroe. Call 647-3920.

**ALTO LIBRARY HOURS:** Mon. & Sat. 9:30-1:30 p.m.; Tues. & Wed. 12-8 p.m.; Thurs. 1-5 p.m. 647-3820.

**LOWELL AREA ARTS COUNCIL:** Tues.- Fri.: 12-5 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m. Monday/a.m. by appt. 149 S. Hudson. Call 897-8545 or www.lowellartsCouncil.org.

**LOWELL SERENITY CLUB MEETINGS:** (AA) Mon., Wed., Thurs. 12-1 & 8-9 p.m.; Tues./Fri.: 12-1, 4:30-5:30 & 8-9 p.m.; Sat./Sun.: 10-11 a.m. & 8-9 p.m.; (NA) Mon./Thurs., 6-7:30 p.m. 101 W. Main. 897-8565.

**FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES THRIFT SHOP HOURS:** Wed.- Fri. 12-6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. 519 E. Main St. Call 897-2037.

### THURSDAYS

Pottery classes at Franciscan Life Process Center, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Call 897-7842.

St. Mary's Pregnancy Crisis Center, 402 Amity St., non-denominational help for pregnant women/adolescents, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; Mondays: 5:30-8 p.m. 897-9393.

**EVERY THURS.:** Alcoholics for Christ. - 12 step Recovery Group for alcoholics, drug addicts & family members. 7 p.m. at Impact Church House, H. Hudson. Call Paul at 527-7796 for info. Family members call Erin at 527-7796.

**1ST THURS.:** Michigan Hepatitis C Foundation support meetings, 7-8:30 p.m. 250 Cherry, Lacks Cancer Center, Grand Rapids.

**1ST THURS.:** 4-H drama club meeting, Lowell Middle School choir room. Call 897-1502 after 5 p.m.

**1ST & 3RD THURS.:** Alto Lions Club meets at Monterey Grill at 7 p.m.

**1ST & 3RD THURS.:** Bluegrass Jam inside Kountry Korner of Alto, 6077 Linfield. 868-6371.

**2ND & 4TH THURS.:** GR/W. Michigan Scrabble Club, 10-2 p.m. Round Robin, bring your board, all levels, walk-ins welcome. Call Jan 897-5759 for location and information.

**2ND THURS.:** N.A.R.F.E., 1:30 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 E. Fulton.

**2ND THURS.:** Loyal Order of the Moose, men's meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**2ND THURS.:** Genealogy-Alto Family Tree Club at Alto Library 6:30 - 8 p.m.

**3RD THURS.:** Rubber stamping at Christian Life Center 6-9 p.m. Call Dawn 862-8841.

**3RD THURS.:** VFW #8303 Ladies Auxiliary, 3116 Alden Nash S.E. at 3 p.m.

**3RD THURS.:** Parents Supporting Parents group, Franciscan Life Process Center. Call 897-7842.

**3RD THURS.:** LaLeche League of Ada, Cascade, Lowell 6:30 p.m. socializing; meeting 7. Support for pregnant/breastfeeding women, Ada 752-8300.

### FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY

**1ST & 3RD FRI.:** Teen MOPS support group for pregnant teens and teen moms, 9:15 - 11:30 a.m. at Impact Church, 1070 N. Hudson. 897-8304.

**FRI.:** Arts/Crafts volunteers, Franciscan Life Process Center, 9:30-12:30 p.m. Pat or Judy at 897-7842.

**2ND SAT.:** Ada Historical Society, 10:30 a.m. at Averill Historical Museum, 7144 Headley, Ada.

**2ND SAT.:** Lowell Amateur Radio Club, held at Lowell Airport, 730 Lincoln Lake NE. 9 a.m. social time; 10 a.m. meeting. LARC sponsors 145.27 MHz area radio repeater system.

**FRI., SAT. & SUN.:** Averill Historical Museum of Ada, located at 7144 Headley. Hours are 1-4 p.m. or by appointment. Call 676-9346.

**SUN.:** Tri-town Conservation Club trap & skeet league, 5616 Dunn Rd. 12-5 p.m. Call Larry at 754-7104. Public welcome.



## Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold  
Edward Jones  
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### DON'T "OVERSTUFF" RETIREMENT PLAN WITH COMPANY STOCK

Nearly a century ago, George Santayana, philosopher and poet, wrote: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Sadly, this statement may be proving prophetic when it comes to the amount of company stock that people put into their retirement plans.

Here's one key event in the recent past that people seem not to remember: Enron employees who participated in their

401(k) plan had invested about 58 percent of their 401(k) assets in Enron stock when it lost almost all its value during 2001. But have things changed much since then? Consider this: In plans that allow company stock as an investment option, 46 percent of participants hold more than 20 percent of their account balance in their company stock, and one-sixth hold more than 80 percent of their account in employer stock, according to a study by the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College.

You may like your company, but like all stocks, it is going to rise and fall in value. By putting too much company stock in your 401(k) portfolio, you might be taking on too much risk.

#### Finding the Right Amount

How much of your 401(k) portfolio should consist of company stock? Many financial experts recommend investing no more than 10 percent of 401(k) plan assets into company stock, but this figure is just a guideline. When

determining how much company stock to put in your 401(k), ask yourself a couple of questions:

- How far away am I from retirement? If you are starting out in your career, you might feel justified in having a larger share of company stock in your 401(k) than if you were planning on retiring in a few years. The more time you have, the better your chances of overcoming the short-term downturns that will affect your company stock. But if you are nearing retirement, and you may soon need to start taking distributions from your 401(k), you might not want to be overweighted with company stock.

- What is the prognosis for my company? This can be a tough question to answer. If you look back just a few years, most people would probably say that some of the big, well-known companies that are struggling today would always be strong, solid and profitable. And several years from now, perhaps these firms will again be on solid ground - but right now, the picture is not pretty for them. So, as you decide on how much company stock to keep in your 401(k), keep your eyes and ears open on what might be happening in your company and in the industry to which it belongs.

#### Take the Match

It can be risky to pack your 401(k) with a high percentage of company stock - but if it's offered for free, consider taking it. If your employer offers shares of company stock as a 401(k) matching contribution, put in as much as necessary to earn the match. But after you've received it, see if you can trade in the company shares for other investments within your 401(k).

#### Diversification is Key

Company stock can have a place in your 401(k) or other retirement plan. But you've also got to leave plenty of room for the other investment accounts inside your 401(k), including accounts that contain stocks, bonds and other securities. In short, diversify your 401(k) today - you'll be glad you did when tomorrow arrives.

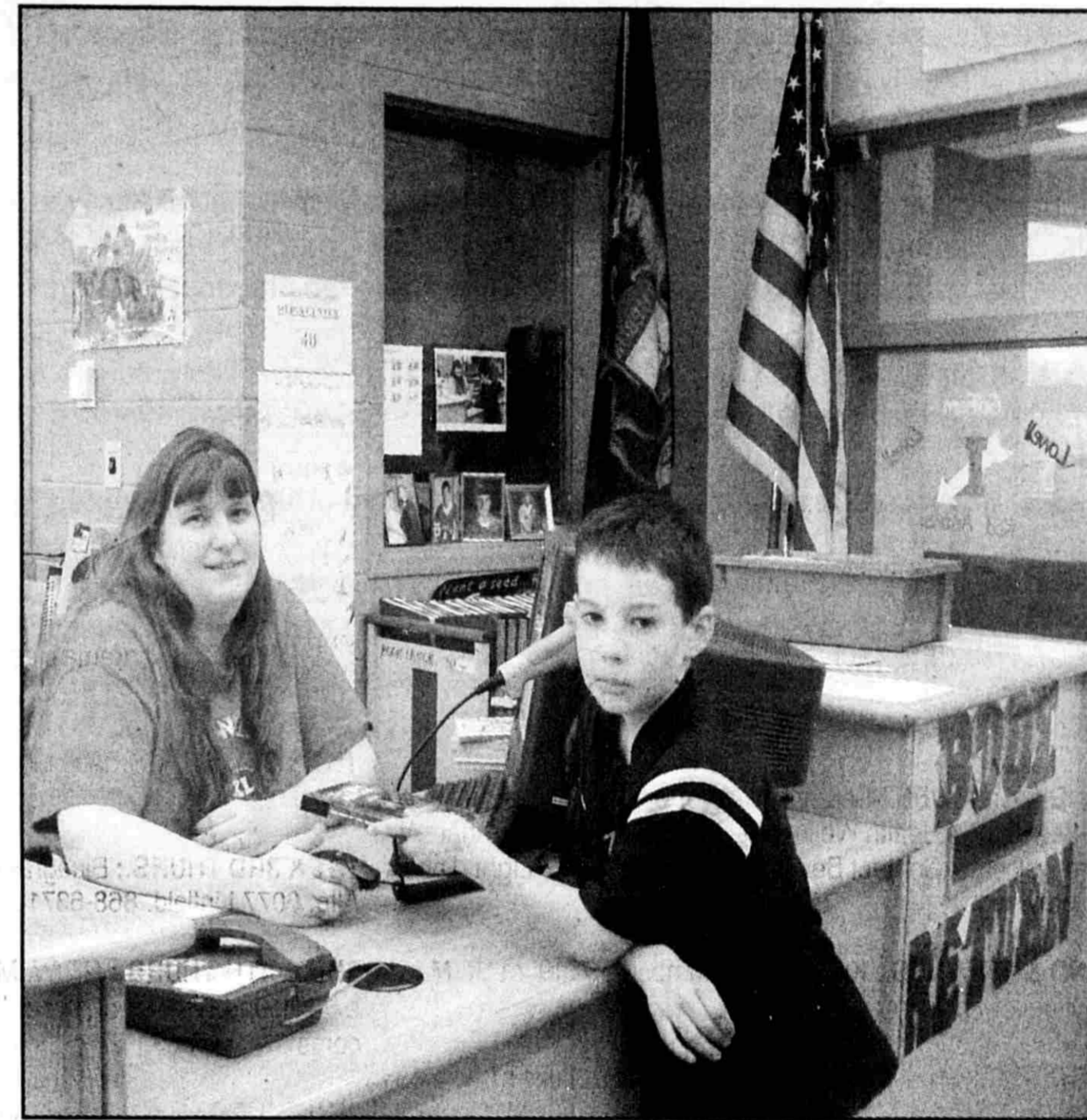
## Volunteer of the month at Murray Lake

Staff members from Murray Lake Elementary named Kris Endres as Volunteer of the Month for March. She has spent countless hours helping in Murray Lake's Media Center.

"I started volunteering in September 2002 and found I really enjoyed working with the kids, especially in the library. I have been hooked ever since."

Endres has also been very active in Family Links. Principal Brent Noskey said, "What? Kris isn't an employee? Seriously, it seems like Kris is here every day helping. She does a phenomenal job in our media center. I know Patti Harrel, our media center paraeducator, appreciates Kris's help tremendously."

Kris and her husband Craig have lived in the Lowell area for several years. They have two children who attend Lowell Schools.



Kris Endres helps Murray Lake third grade student, Tony Polise as he checks out a library book.

## College News

The fall semester dean's list for the 2005-06 academic year has been announced at Western Michigan University. To be eligible, students must have earned at least a 3.5 grade point average on a scale of 4.0 being all A's in at least 12 hours of graded class work.

From the Lowell area are: **Alyssa Coffey, Joshua Fisher, Michael Forward, Bryan Nowak, Tim Nowak, Brian Pfaller and Andrew Vogel.**

From the Alto area

are: **Laurissa Austin, Sophia D'Agostino, Kady Dingman, Tollen Ebbens, Christian Gorgas and Arturo Ziraldo.** From the Ada area are: **Colby Craig, Charles Gauthier, Molly Gauthier, Casey Riddle, Kristin Smit and Kurt Telman.**

## THANK YOU

The City of Lowell would like to thank the Lowell Institute for Volunteer Excellence (L.I.V.E.) Class of 2006 and the Lowell High School Football Players who volunteered their time on Saturday, April 29th to sand and seal the Creekside Kingdom structure.

We would also like to thank L & A Rental and Bernard's Ace Hardware for the use of their electric sanders.

Also thanks to L.I.V.E. for providing lunch for all the workers.

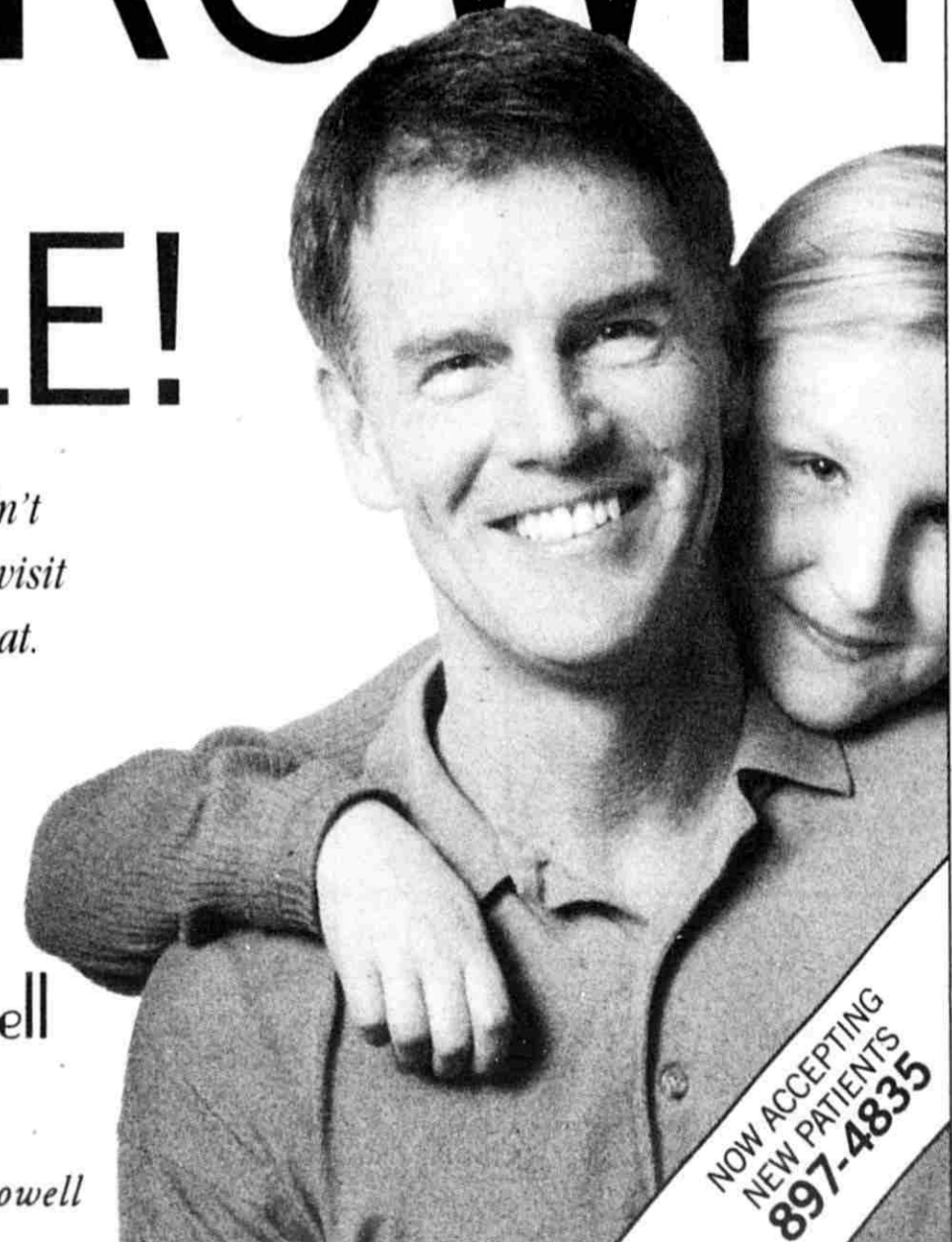


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## ANNUAL REPORT OF PRIVATE FOUNDATION NOTICE

The annual report of the Lowell Area Housing, Inc. Foundation for the year ended December 31, 2005 is available for inspection at its principal office, 725 Bowes Road, Lowell, Michigan during regular business hours by any citizen who requests within 180 days after date of this notice.

Dated: May 5, 2006

Phillip H. Schneider, Jr.  
President



# 2005 Water Quality Report for City of Lowell and Lowell Charter Township

This report covers the drinking water quality for The City of Lowell and Lowell Township Water for the calendar year 2005. This information is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided to you in 2005. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards.

Your water comes from 4 groundwater wells, each over 87 feet in depth, drawing from the Grand River watershed. They are located at 1596 Bowes Road in Lowell behind the water plant. The State performed an assessment of our source water in 2003 to determine the susceptibility or the relative potential of contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tiered scale from "very-low" to very-high" based primarily on geologic sensitivity, water chemistry and contaminant sources. The susceptibility of our source is moderate. (See Table 1.) We have no significant sources of contamination. We are making efforts to protect our sources by developing a wellhead protection program. A copy of the full Source Water Assessment can be obtained by contacting George Regan at the Lowell Water Treatment Plant, 1596 Bowes Rd., Lowell, MI 49331 or call at 616-897-5234.

- Contaminants and their presence in water:** Drinking Water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).
- Vulnerability of sub-populations:** Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune systems disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).
- Sources of drinking water:** The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. Our water comes from wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.
- Contaminants that may be present in source water include:
  - Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
  - Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
  - Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses.
  - Radioactive contaminants**, which are naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
  - Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

### Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2005 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 - December 31, 2005. The State allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. All of the data is representative of the water quality, but some are more than one year old.

### Terms and abbreviations used below:

- Water Supplier: Define only the terms you use in the table below. Delete any you don't use.
- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- N/A:** Not applicable **ND:** not detectable at testing limit **ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter **pCi/l:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).
- Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Regulated Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range	Sample Date	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.9		6/21/05	No	Run off from fertilizer use and erosion of natural resources
Total Trihalomethanes (ppm)	0.080	0.080	0.004		6/28/05	No	Organic and chlorination by-products
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.1		6/21/05	No	Erosion of natural deposits. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Radioactive Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range	Sample Date	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Alpha emitters (pCi/l)	15	0	<3		10/31/00	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Ra226/228 (pCi/L)	5	None	<1		5/13/03	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Unregulated Contaminant***	Single Sample Test	Range	Sample Date	Typical Special Monitoring and Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	21		6/21/05	Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminant Subject to AL	Action Level	90% of Samples <This Level	Range	Sample Date	Number of Samples Above AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	15	2	NA	6/23/04	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppb)	1300	38	NA	6/23/04	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

\*\* Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.

Microbial Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Number Detected	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Coliform Bacteria	1 positive monthly sample (5% of monthly samples positive)	0	0	No	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform and E. coli	Routine and repeat sample total coliform positive, and one is also fecal or E. coli positive	0	0	No	Human and animal fecal waste

**Table 1**  
Distribution System Regulated Contaminant Source Water Assessment

Sample point	Test Result	Analyte Name	Tested	Limit MCL	Rpt Limit
Plant Tap	0.0040 mg/l	Max Potential Trihalomethanes	6/28/05	0.08 mg/l	0.0004 mg/l
Sample Hydrant	0.0200 mg/l	Max Potential Trihalomethanes	7/07/05	0.08 mg/l	0.0004 mg/l

### CHLORINE RESIDUALS:

"Maximum residual disinfectant level, or MRDL, means the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants."

"Maximum residual disinfectant level goal, or MRDLG, means the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants."

"RAA is the running annual average".

Chlorine (ppm)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bacteriological sample site #1	.523	.410	.503	.435	.565	.416	.418	.526	.453	.505	.470	.625
Bacteriological sample site #2	.242	.023	.032	.025	.125	.056	.023	.054	.185	.143	.192	.253
Bacteriological sample site #3	.463	.355	.402	.363	.540	.462	.440	.510	.353	.423	.444	.488
Monthly average of samples	.399	.249	.283	.274	.410	.306	.285	.363	.330	.285	.361	.324
RAA computed quarterly	___	___	.310	___	___	.330	___	___	.326	___	___	.323
RAA 2004 quarterly	___	___	___	___	___	.401	___	___	.349	___	___	.456
RAA 2005	___	___	.379	___	___	.361	___	___	.356	___	___	.322

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which provide the same protection for public health.

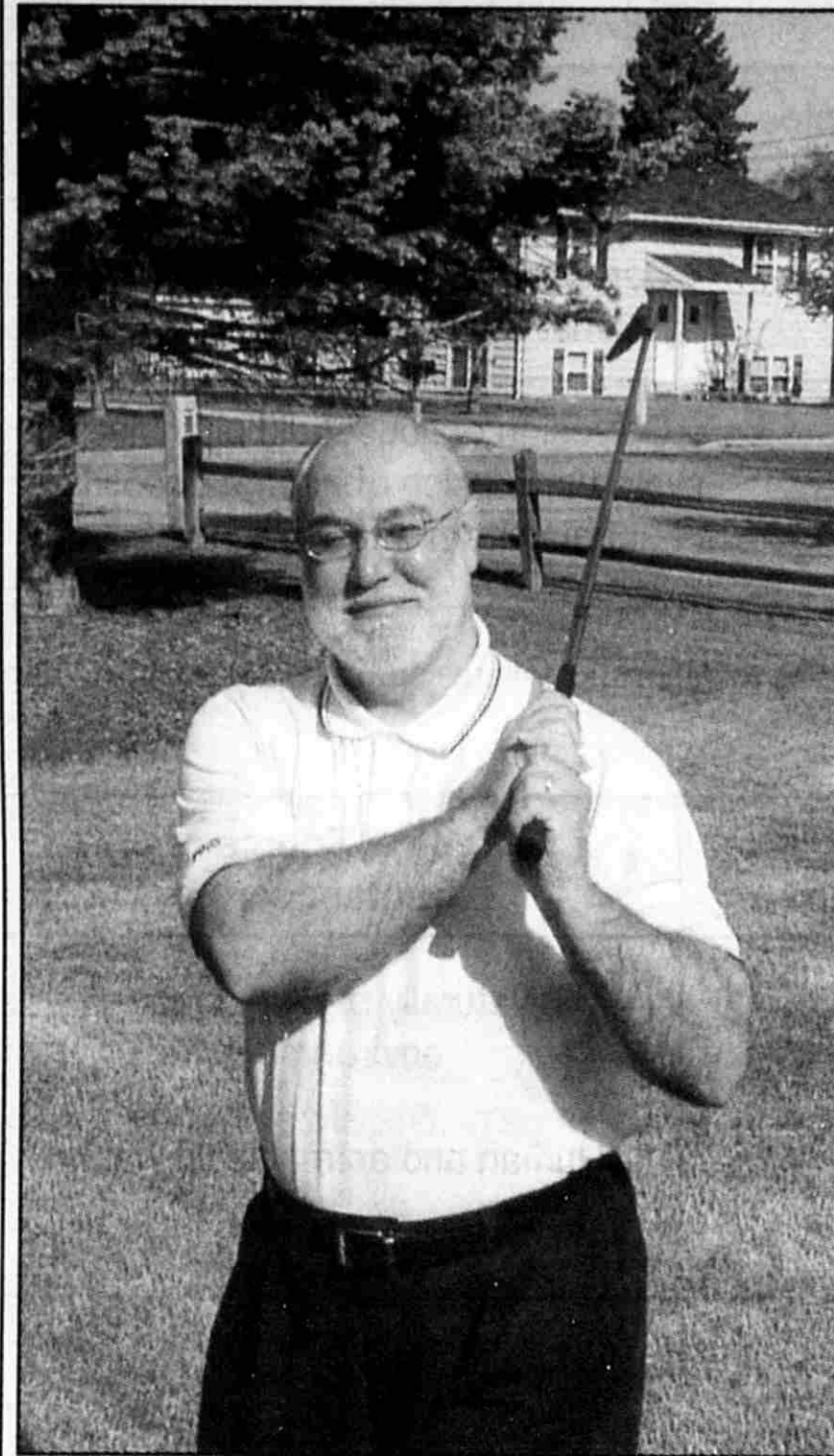
**Monitoring and Reporting Requirements:** The State and EPA require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. **We met all monitoring and reporting requirements for 2005.**

We will update this report annually and will keep you informed of any problems that may occur throughout the year, as they happen. Copies are available at Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main, Lowell, Michigan and at Lowell Township Offices, 2910 Alden Nash S.E., Lowell, Michigan. This report will not be sent to you.

We invite public participation in decisions that affect drinking water quality. Lowell City Council meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:30pm in the Council Chambers at Lowell City Hall, 301 E. Main, Lowell, MI. Lowell Township meetings are held at 7:00pm on the first and third Mondays of each month at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash S.E., Lowell, MI. For more information about your water, or the contents of this report, contact George Regan at 897-5234. For more information about safe drinking water, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at [www.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/).



## A hole-in-one for local golfer



Local insurance salesman Dale Triplett hit a hole-in-one last Thursday on the ninth hole of the Iron Horse Golf Club at Double R Ranch in Smyrna.

From the green tee, he used a six iron to hit the ball 153 yards into the hole. Triplett was golfing with his wife when he hit the shot around 7:30 p.m.

Dick Biggs was the last Lowellian to get a hole-in-one on that hole about two years ago.

## LASSO teams participate in spring tournament

Lowell Area Select Soccer Organization (LASSO) competed in the Alliance FC Spring Invite 2006 on April 21-23. The tournament, held at the Kentree Polo Grounds in Lowell, included the following five LASSO teams: U9 boys/girls, coach Kory Anderson; U10 boys White, coach Jeff Sweet; U11 girls, coach Mickie Montgomery; U13 girls, coach Mark Hopkins; and U14 boys, coach Sam Oberlin.

The U10 boys White team finished first in their division in pool play. Their record was 2-2 overall for the tournament. Sweet said, "This was a good experience for my U10 team. I have only two players with select soccer experience, the other seven are first-year players. This tournament provided

a chance for them to play the game on the field. They have been working hard all winter and to play and win two games in their first tournament is a confidence boost."



U10 boys White team, front row, left to right: Ryan Stevens, AJ Elbing, Andrew Potter, Anthony Pollock; middle row: Jacob Sweet, Max Dean, Luke DeBoer, Danny Bieri, Jay Clark; back row: coach Kenny Bieri, coach Jeff Sweet.



The U14 boys front row, left to right: Brian Gerard, Josh Corteville, Jordan Babler, Michael Underwood, Kyle Fitzpatrick, Jack Weber, Logan McGregor and Tommy Rordiguez; back row: Stephen Hauschild, Evan Wilterink, Alec Downing, Jimmy McCormick, coach Sam Oberlin, Andy Johnson, Doug Eck, Abe McIntire and Sean DenBraven.

\*\*\*

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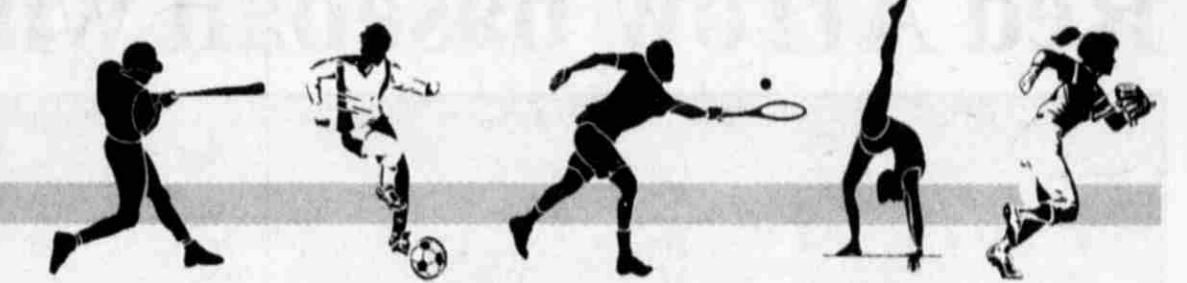
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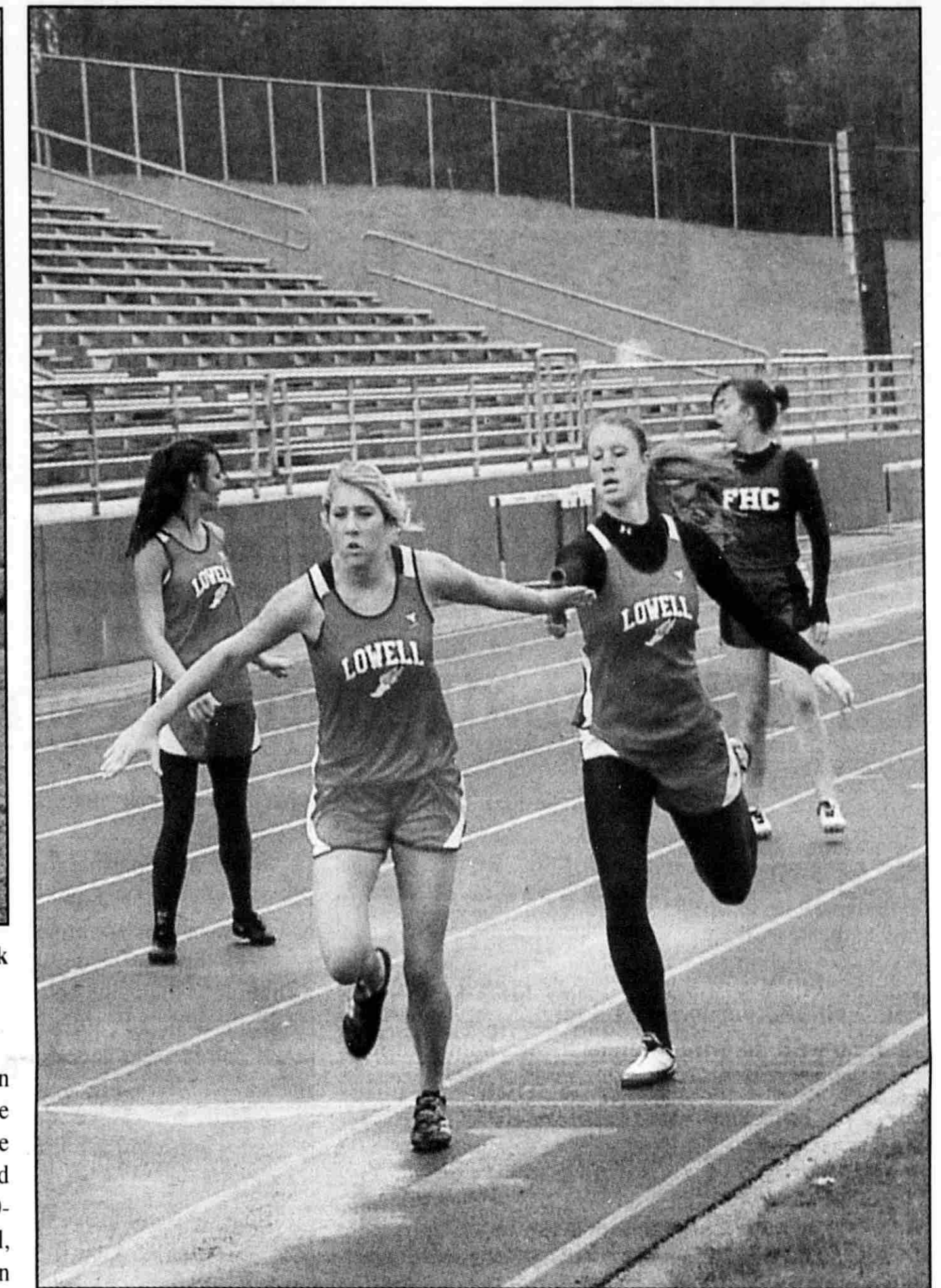
# RED ARROW SPORTS



## Lowell track teams defeat Forest Hills Central Host girls finish seventh, boys ninth at Kathy Talus Memorial Relays



Lowell's Ben Hanson competes in the long jump event during last Tuesday's track meet against Forest Hills Central.



Lowell's Malley Cahoon hands off to Meggy Fitzpatrick in the 800-meter relay at last Tuesday's track meet.

By Dan Schneider

Both Lowell track teams were victorious over Forest Hills Central last Tuesday at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium.

The girls' team won by a 96-41 score. It was a closer meet for the boys, who won 74-63.

The Lowell girls swept the top four places in three events. Amy VanEns cleared 5' to win the high jump event for Lowell, followed by Mary Calvi (4'-10"), Meaghan Gallup (4'-10") and Marie Lazar (4'-2"). Meggy Fitzpatrick led a Lowell sweep of the 100-meter dash with a time of 13:29. She was followed by Malley Cahoon (13:89), Calvi (13:90) and Brittney Kaminski (14:08).

The Arrows also swept the 400 meters with Paige Senters finishing first in 1:05.53, Morgan Olin placing second in 1:07.3, Austyn Foster placing third in 1:08.3 and Stacey Janeschek coming in fourth in 1:10.7.

Lowell's 800-meter relay team of Fitzpatrick, Cahoon, Olin and VanEns with victors in that event with a time of 1:54.6. Cahoon, Fitzpatrick, Carlee Nickodemski and Calvi won the 400-meter relay with a time of 54.03. Janeschek, Olin, Senters and Foster won the 1600-meter relay in 4:31.3.

Jasmine Holliman placed first in the shot put with a throw of 30'-1/2". Olin jumped 15'-1/2" to place first in the long jump. Alyssa Buikema took first in pole vault, clearing 9'-6". Richelle Kimble won the 110-meter high hurdles in 17.50 seconds. Fitzpatrick won the 200-meter dash in 27.59.

The Lowell boys placed someone in the top three in every event besides the relays. In most of those, they placed two in the top three.

Eric Dean came in first in the pole vault, clearing 12'. Joe Woodhead took first in shot put with a 43'-1 1/2" throw. Dominic Doyle threw

the discus 121' to take first in that event. Tom Doll won the 100-meter dash (11.36), the 200-meter dash (23.85) and anchored the winning 800-meter relay team of Doll, Micah Tawney, Ben Hanson and Justin VanAcker. Andy Mark won the 1600-meter run for Lowell in 4:45, 15 seconds ahead of the nearest competitor. Regan Doyle won the 300-meter hurdles in 45:16. Mark won the 3200-meter run with a time of 10:49.

The girls' team finished the OK White regular season with a win over Northview, 99-38. The boys' team lost at Northview, by a score of 83-53.

Rapids Christian won the meet with a score of 98.

The boys' team finished ninth out of 11 teams at Saturday's meet; they scored 12 points. Forest Hills

Northern won the meet with a score of 105.

The Arrows host the OK White conference meet Thursday and Friday at Red Arrow Stadium.

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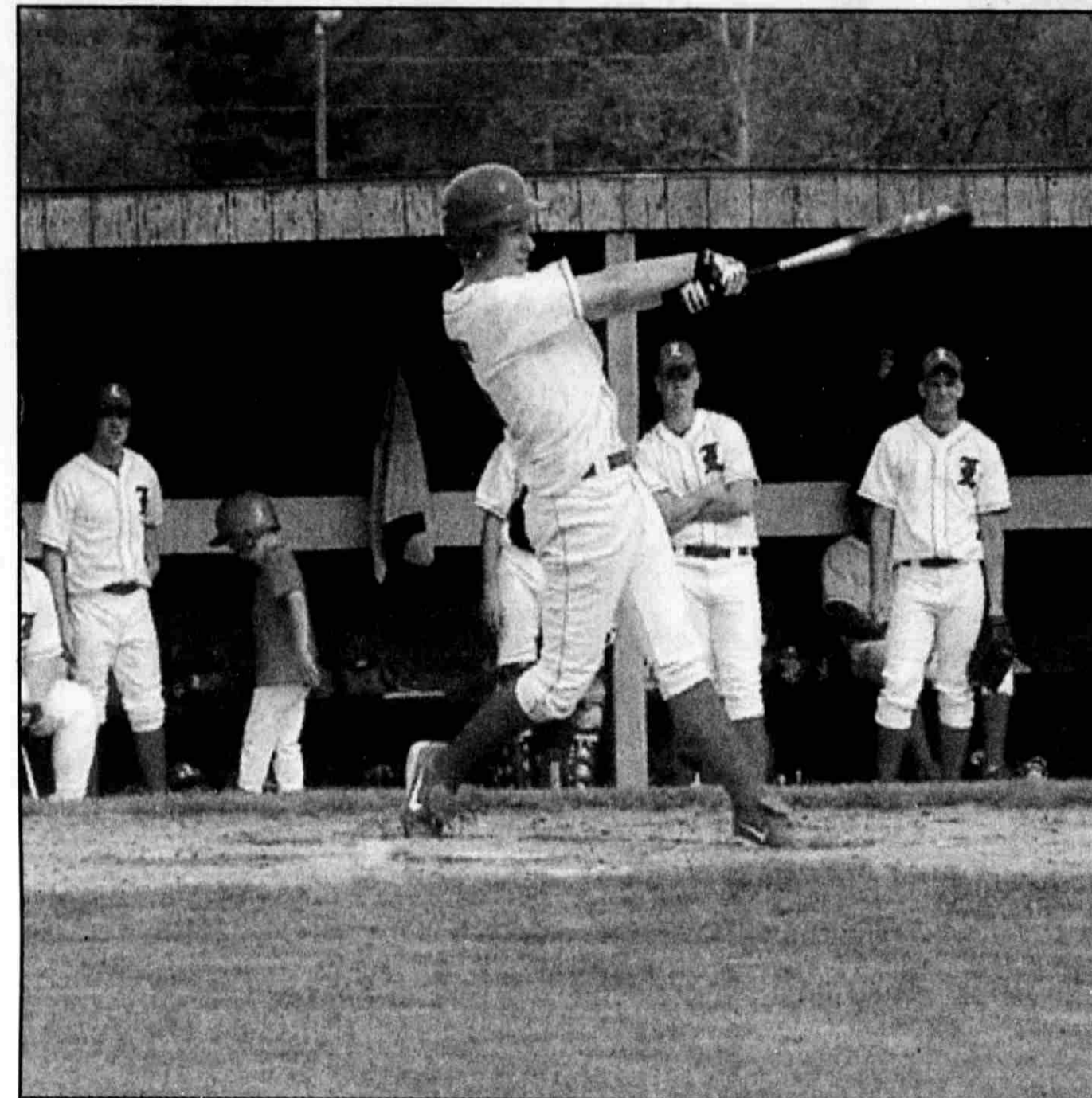
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# Red Arrow baseball wins close one against Greenville



Jay Ryan swings the bat during last Wednesday's game against Greenville.

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell baseball team picked up its first OK White conference win last Wednesday with a 2-0 win over Greenville.

Lead-off batters getting on base helped the Arrows score both their runs against the Yellowjackets. Lowell scored in the first inning when lead-off batter Torsten Boss singled, stole second and ran to third on a ground-out. He scored on a wild pitch.

The Arrows scored again in the fourth inning. Jay Ryan led off with a single. Trevor Wernet came in as a courtesy runner. With some good base running, he stretched a long single by Jordan Ickes into a run.

"He got a good turn at third base," said Lowell coach Justin Miller.

Ryan pitched seven strong innings for Lowell,

striking out four and walking none.

"It was good for Jay Ryan because he got the loss last Friday, then got right back on the mound and pitched the complete game," Miller said. "The kids played great defense behind him."

Defense was key for the victory in a game where it was pretty passive at the plate.

"Both pitchers threw strikes, guys hit the ball but it was right to people," Miller said.

And it was good for Lowell to be able to hold on to a slim lead for the win.

"It shows character," Miller said. "Those are always the ones that you want to be on the winning side of."

Last Monday, Lowell fell 7-2 to East Grand Rapids.

Lowell scored a run

in the second inning when Ethan Drain hit a single, advanced to second on a pass ball, to third on a balk and scored on another pass ball. Boss led off the third inning with a base hit, got to second on a balk, to third on a Josh Gilliard sacrifice bunt and scored on a Ryan single.

Lowell lost both games in last Thursday's doubleheader against Forest Hills Central. The first game was a close one, with the Rangers winning 4-3. Forest Hills Central won game two by a score of 10-5.

The game against Forest Hills Eastern was rained out last Tuesday.

Lowell hosted Cedar Springs for a doubleheader on Monday. Their next game is Wednesday at Kenowa Hills, and they play a doubleheader at Northview Friday.

# Lowell softball continues undefeated OK White season

By Dan Schneider

In a doubleheader against Forest Hills Central last Thursday, the Lowell softball team continued its unbeaten streak in the OK White.

The Red Arrows won game one, 5-0, and game two, 10-0.

The conference win streak hit five last Wednesday with a 5-0 win over Greenville. The Arrows went on the board in the third inning when Ashley Nawrocki hit a triple, one of three Lowell triples in the game, and scored on a wild pitch. Becky Plummer's triple later in the third inning drove in Katie McElroy to

give the Red Arrows a 2-0 lead.

The score stayed that way until the bottom of the fifth, when McElroy hit a home run, scoring Kelly Malling who had walked to base. Brittany Bueche doubled later in the inning, advanced to third on a deep fly ball, then came home on a ground ball.

"That was great base running on her part," said Lowell coach Bob Rodenhouse.

Plummer had 14 strikeouts, no walks and allowed only one hit in the game.

The Arrows were at East Grand Rapids last Monday

where they beat the Pioneers 8-0.

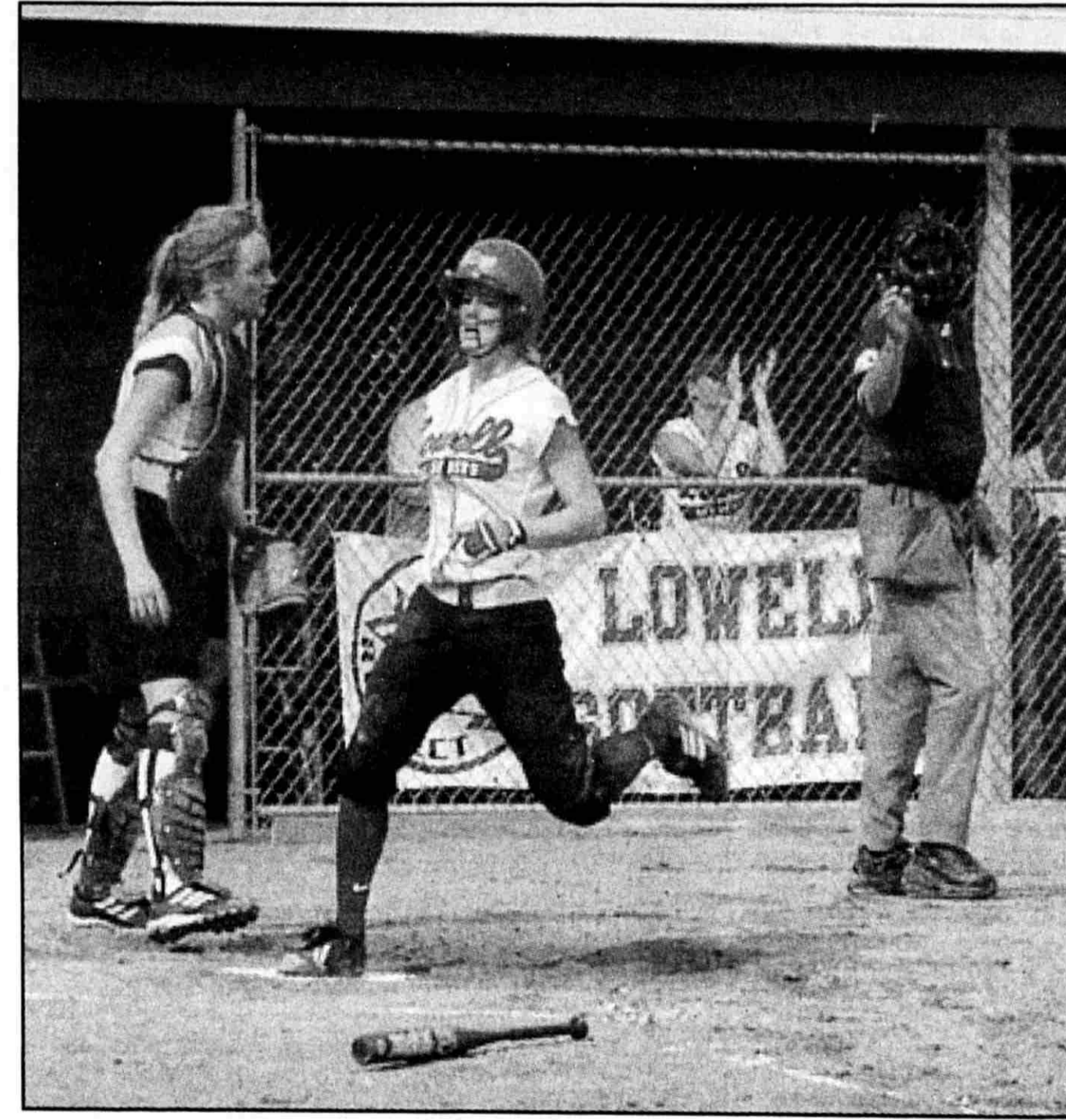
It was a good game for Plummer. East Grand Rapids had one runner on base from a Lowell fielding error. It was the only thing that kept Plummer from a perfect game. She struck out 10, allowed no hits and walked no one. She also went four-for-four batting: a triple and three singles.

Bueche had a triple and a single in the game for Lowell.

"We had a couple of nice defensive plays to keep that no-hitter intact,"

Softball, cont'd., pg. 21

Lowell's Ashley Nawrocki crossed home plate on a wild pitch in the third inning of last Wednesday's game against Greenville.



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**CITY OF LOWELL**

**UPCOMING STREET CLOSING NOTICE**

Gee Drive (from Creekside Park to approximately 1/2 mile west) will be closed to through traffic from May 8 until June 23 for street improvements. Traffic will be limited to local access only. Through traffic will be detoured to Foreman Road and Alden Nash. Creekside Park will be accessible from Foreman.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience.

The City of Lowell

# Girls golf falls a few shots short against Northview

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell girls golf team was just a few shots behind Northview in last Thursday's match at Thousand Oaks Golf Club.

The Red Arrows shot a team score of 206 while

the Wildcats shot a slightly lower 201. Stefanie Stuewe shot a 43 for Lowell, Crystal Dietz and Sarah Eickhoff each shot a 53 and Kim Kline's score was a 57.

At the Russ Johnson Invitational Tournament,

held at Gracewil Golf Club on Friday, Lowell finished 12th out of 20 teams with a score of 401 for 18 holes.

"That was our best team score of the year for 18 holes, so that was good," said Lowell coach Becky

Lecuru.

Stuewe led the Red Arrows and placed fifth overall with a score of 79. Sydney Stuewe shot a 103 for Lowell, Dietz was close behind with a 104 and Rachel Plotner shot a 115.

Grand Rapids Christian placed first in the tournament with a team score of 328.

Lowell played a make-up game Tuesday against Forest Hills Northern. That matchup was rained out last Tuesday.

Lowell's next match is Wednesday, when they travel to Lakewood; they host Ionia at Deer Run Golf Club on Thursday. The OK White conference match will be held next Monday at Silver Lake Country Club.

# Tennis finds tough competition in two away matches

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell boys tennis team faced some tough competition last week at Forest Hills Northern and Northpoint Christian.

The Arrows played competitive tennis both matches. Lowell coach

Bonnie Wall said, but each resulted in a 6-2 loss.

At Forest Hills Northern last Wednesday, Travis Trapp and Brett McMahon accounted for the two Lowell wins. Trapp defeated Tim Davis 6-4, 7-6(4) to win second singles.

Lowell hosted Cedar Springs for a doubleheader on Monday. Their next game is Wednesday at Kenowa Hills, and they play a doubleheader at Northview Friday.

"It was a very good win for Travis," Wall said.

McMahon defeated Kenny Gildersleeve 7-6(1), 4-6, 6-3 in fourth singles.

At Northpoint Christian, it was Trapp and Brett Hoblra picking up wins for Lowell. Trapp defeated

Andrew DeVlieger 7-6(4), 6-4 in second singles. He is 17-1 so far this year. In third singles, Hoblra was down 5-2 in the second set against Paul Hageman, but came back to win 6-3, 7-5.

"That really shows determination and character,

coming back like that," Wall said.

Lowell hosted Forest Hills Central, Monday. Their next match is Wednesday at Northview. The conference tournament is Saturday at Forest Hills Northern.

The junior varsity boys

tennis team has been having a strong year under coaches Mark Kenworthy and Pam Cook. At the end of last week, they had only one loss on the year, to Forest Hills Northern. Wall said it has been the "best season ever by far for a J.V. team."

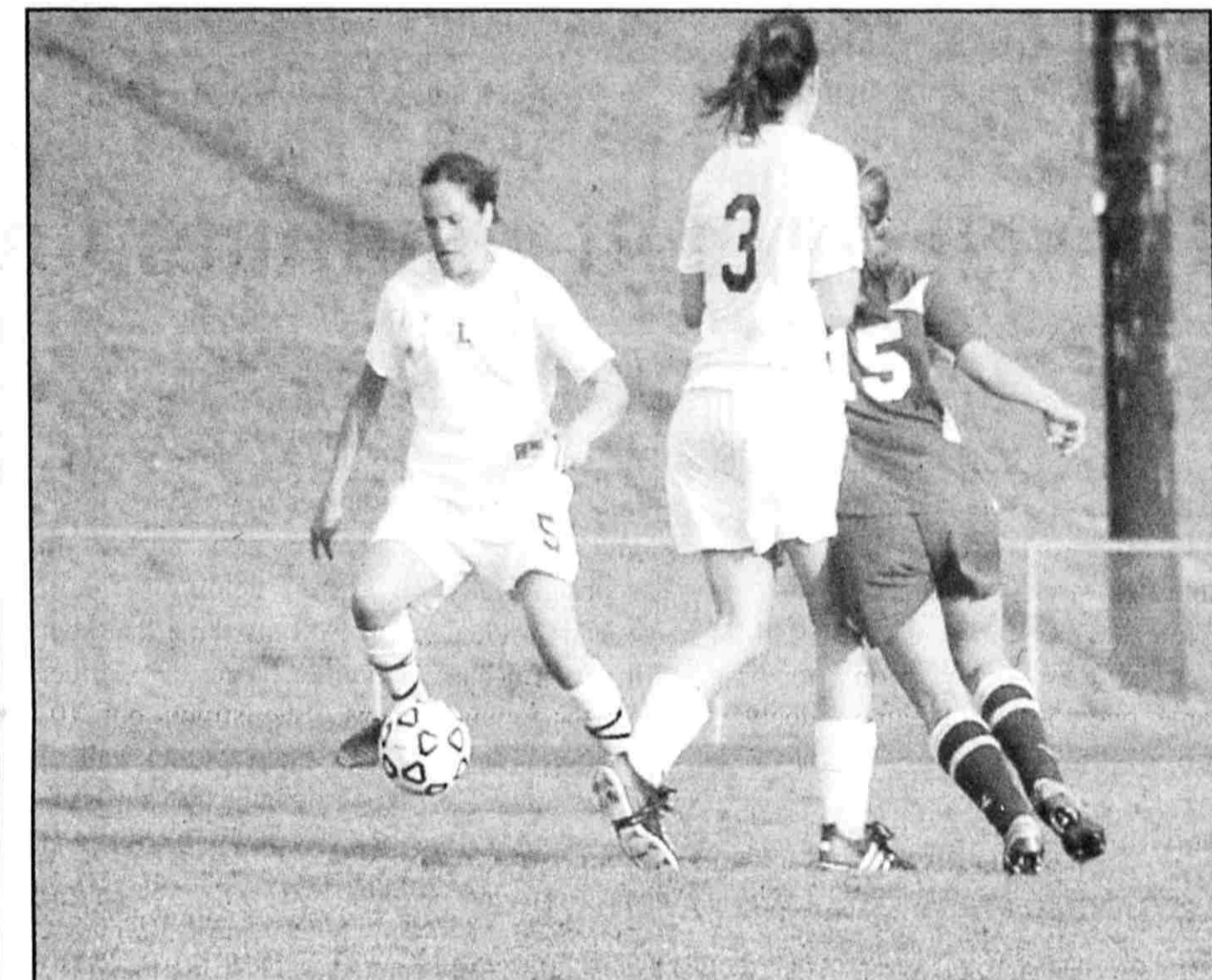
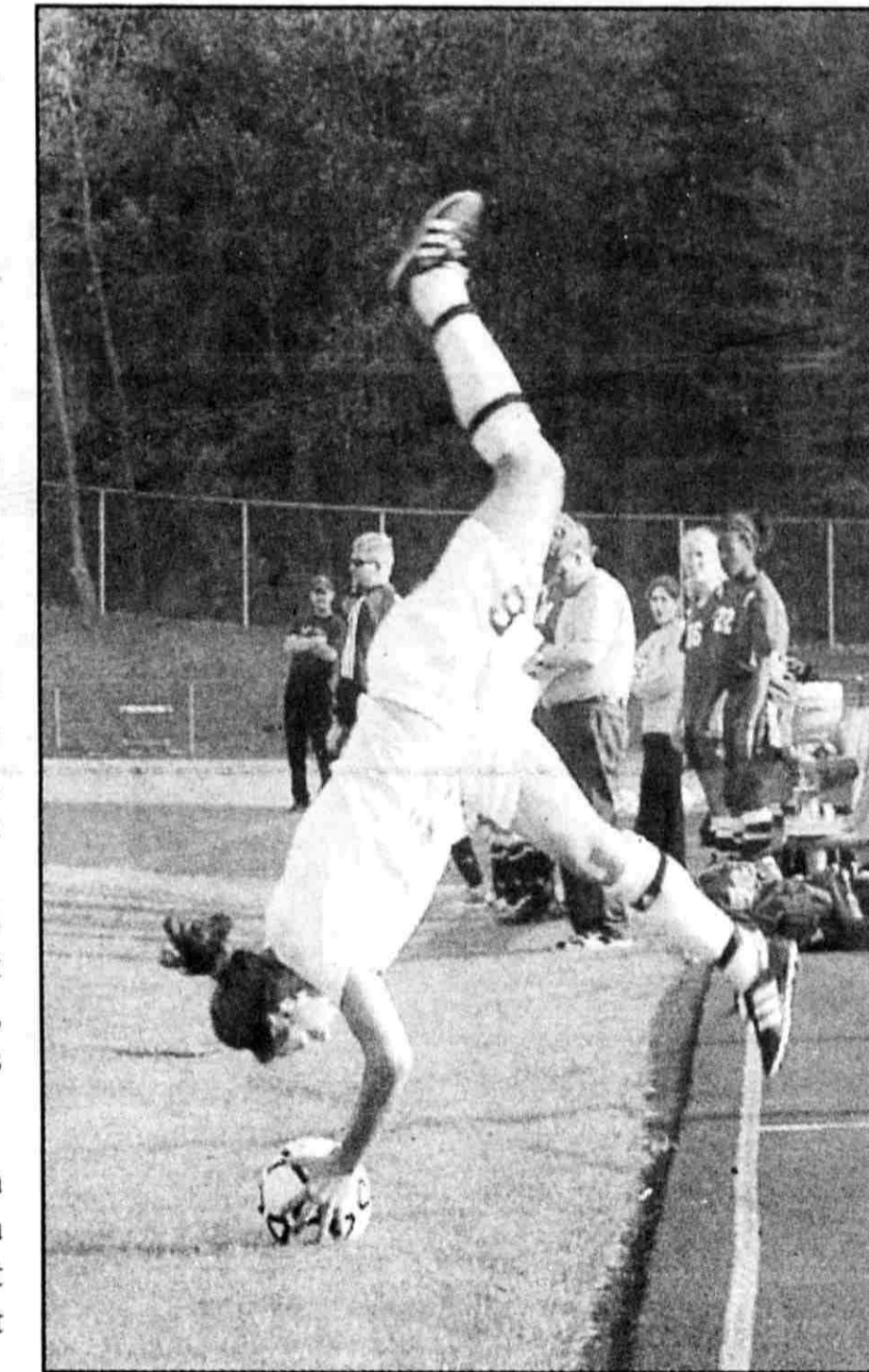
# Lowell girls soccer wins two, loses to Forest Hills Northern

The Red Arrows started last week's soccer action with a 6-0 shut-out win over Greenville. They followed it up with a 2-1 win in a tightly-contested game against Muskegon Reeths Puffer. The Rockets went on the board first, scoring a goal early in the first period. Lowell answered to make it 1-1 at halftime and scored a goal in the second for the win.

The Arrows found themselves at the opposite end of the same score, 2-1, Monday in a loss at Forest Hills Northern.

Their next match is Wednesday versus Forest Hills Central. Friday, Lowell plays at Forest Hills Eastern.

Lowell's Rebecca Underwood executes a flip throw-in during last Wednesday's game against Muskegon Reeths Puffer.



Lowell's Erin Beddows moves the ball upfield in last week's game against Muskegon Reeths Puffer.

# Softball, continued ... From Page 20

# Red Arrow lacrosse scores

The Lowell lacrosse team lost last Tuesday's game against Holland Christian by a score of 11-6.

The Arrows fell 11-3 in

a rematch at Grand Haven last Thursday; then were victorious, beating Portage Northern 7-6, Saturday. Lowell hosted Holland

Tuesday. Their next game is Friday at home against Okemos. They travel to East Kentwood Saturday.

Rodenhouse said. "Bueche had a nice catch at shortstop and Chelsea Wolbers had a nice catch at left field, took a hit away."

Last Tuesday's home game, when the Arrows were scheduled to take on

Forest Hills Eastern, was rained out.

Lowell hosted Cedar Springs for a doubleheader, Monday. The Arrows' next game is Wednesday at Kenowa Hills and they travel to Northview for a

doubleheader against the Wildcats, Friday.

**The LHS Freshman Class sends a BIG THANKS**  
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A special day is set aside each year in communities throughout the nation to recognize the contributions made by all public school employees to our society.

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School Family Day is sponsored by Lowell Education Association and the Michigan Education Association.

**MEA**  
Michigan Education Association

**Celebrating School Family Day 2006**  
Tuesday, May 9



The Buyers Guide

# Garage Sale GUIDE



<p><b>SUBDIVISION SALE</b> Deerhaven Park, located at the crossroads Conklin Rd./Ware Rd. Fri. &amp; Sat., May 12th &amp; 13th, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.</p>	<p><b>BARN SALE</b> at fairgrounds during Bluegrass Festival, Fri. 5/19 &amp; Sat. 5/20, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free parking.</p>
<p><b>HUGE SALE</b> Bakers rack, round table, computer desk, double stroller, baby items, children's clothing 20c, kitchen &amp; misc. items. 11816 Cascade Rd. May 11 - 13.</p>	<p><b>MULTI-FAMILY SALE</b> 7 station weight bench, 10 ft. alum. Jon boat, baby items, kids' toys, clothes infant-adult, small fridge &amp; much more. Corner of Lincoln Lake &amp; Mercer, Lowell (in town), May 12 &amp; 13, 9-?</p>
<p><b>6 FAMILY GARAGE SALE</b> May 11, 12, 13 - 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Furniture, big screen TV, exercise equipment, sectional couch, baby/children toys &amp; clothes, strollers, kitchen table &amp; chairs, microwaves, dishwasher, china cabinet, toddler beds, bikes, Rescue Heroes, many, many more items. Directions: North from Lowell on Lincoln Lake Ave. 8 1/2 miles, between 5 and 6 Mile roads on west side; or 2 miles south of M-44.</p>	
<p><b>3-FAMILY GARAGE SALE</b> 6900 Morse Lake, Alto. Just S. of 68th St. Thurs. &amp; Fri., May 18 &amp; 19, 8-5 p.m. Sat. till noon. Antique player piano w/matching bench, bicycles, household items &amp; lots of misc.</p>	<p><b>SALE</b> 13265 Vergennes Sat., May 13th, 9-? Recliner, area rug, lamps, brass knobs, light fixtures, new panel closet doors (still in boxes), set of dishes, lots of home decor.</p>
<p><b>5-FAMILY MOVING SALE</b> Furniture, clothes, kids' clothes, toys, household items. May 12 &amp; 13, 9-5 p.m. 12934 Vergennes.</p>	<p><b>GARAGE SALE</b> Thurs., Fri., Sat., May 11, 12, 13 from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. at 9762 Centerline off M-21 between Lowell &amp; Saranac. Clothes - boys 7-8, girls - 6, toys, double bed, Cub Cadet garden tractor &amp; snowblower, 1x4 used oak boards, 130 new cement blocks, 4x4 - 4' landscape timbers, hardware items, hand tools, books, etc.</p>
<p><b>PORCH SALE</b> Sat., May 13, 8-5 p.m. Mower, picket fence, baby items, clothes, porch pillars, kitchen items. Everything must go. 307 N. Jefferson.</p>	<p><b>LARGE SALE</b> May 11, 12, &amp; 13 at 4830 Lincoln Lake Ave., red brick ranch between 5 &amp; 6 Mile roads.</p>
<p><b>BARN SALE</b> Thurs., Fri., &amp; Sat., 9-5 p.m. Horse tack, tools, household items, Nascar collections, clay pots, garden items. 1745 McCabe.</p>	<p><b>CALEDONIA</b> Kettle Lake Elementary yard sale, May 13, 8 am - 4 pm. Over 300 families donating. Sale inside school gym on Garbow Dr., off Whitneyville Rd. Last hour of sale, fill a bag for \$2.</p>
<p><b>MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE</b> Wood traintable set, Little Tikes art desk, tons of toys &amp; books! Girls sz. 5-6x, boys sz. 3-5, baby items, golf clubs. 8602 Keiser (near 67th &amp; Whitneyville) Fri., May 12 &amp; Sat., May 13 from 9 a.m. - ?</p>	<p><b>3-FAMILY GARAGE SALE</b> 8156 Timpson (near 84th), May 12 &amp; 13, 9-5. Bikes, kids &amp; women's clothes, stereo equip., Kelly backpack, dog crate &amp; more!</p>
<p><b>GARAGE SALE</b> Sat., May 13, 8 am - 2 pm, 760 Godfrey. Older Sears table saw, tools, treadmill, wet-dry vac.</p>	<p><b>SARANAC LEGION LADIES AUXILIARY GARAGE SALE</b> Sat., May 13, 8 to 6 p.m. Downtown Saranac.</p>

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Another increase on stamps? Now to 42¢? The service is not worth another raise! I know if I really want something important to get where it has to go - I send through UPS!

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Why do we see so many requests for a 'grocery store' in Lowell? Does the name Meijer mean anything?

If nothing sticks to Teflon, how do they make it stick to the pan?

Two more pizza joints? Can a town like Lowell support six pizza places?

Protesters at fallen soldiers' funerals? Why torment their families?

Now that it's Garage Sale Time, Please take down your signs when the sale is over.  
- Joe Public

Most canine diseases are passed on through air or acquired through contact with fecal waste. Do you still want a dog park? No thanks!

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We raised over \$800 at the garage sale in Eastgate to support the Epilepsy Foundation thanks to all who supported it.

I love that Sound Off (& not a simple little section) is full of political arguments! Sound off is the reason I buy the Ledger! Keep the political arguments coming!!!

Keep up the good work Sound Off. I love it, love it, love it!

I found a way to beat the high cost of gas! I'm taking a job in town. Something to think about.

Why doesn't Meijer have u-scan at both ends of the store? And why do they only have 10 lanes open at a time while the lines are backed up into the clothes? I stood in line for 20 minutes to buy a \$2 item.

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