

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 37 Issue 20

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Wednesday, March 26, 2008

Businesses to bunnies: Lowell Expo '08 packed in the entertainment



Rick Triplett played guitar next to the West Michigan Bluegrass Association.

The Lowell Expo, held at Lowell High School Saturday saw many residents and vendors, despite the snowstorm on Friday. Liz Baker at the Chamber of Commerce said there were between 4,500 and 5,000 people in attendance, a bit down from last year's number. "The attendance was down, because of Easter weekend and the Friday snowstorm," Baker said. "The No. 1 thing is that the weather's been so crummy." The Expo is always held on the fourth Saturday in March. "We really missed the morning rush, from about 9-10 [a.m.]."

There were about 160 different businesses, service groups, churches and government agencies for this year's Expo, with quite a few new to the Expo. The Expo, in its 12th year, had a few new displays as well, with the Lowell Light and Power's electric demonstration outside and the Impact Church's Peter Cottontail Trail.



Scott Reed played Guitar Hero at one of the booths.



Travis Gordon, 14, and Zach Gordon, 10, on the Bunny Trail.



An Irish dance troupe was on hand in the afternoon to provide entertainment.



The First Congregational United Church of Christ had face painting.



The Fallsburg Old-fashioned Baseball League, from left to right: John "Baggy pants" Kolb, Jeanne "By the Book" Putney, Jacqueline "Squirrel-Chaser" Putney, Dan "Scenic Route" Stevens.



April McClure, right, of eja Salon and Kristina Laux of The Hanger stand next to their booth.

North Washington property will become a park

by Emma Palova

The much-debated North Washington property will become a park, an integral part of the city park system.

Following a motion by the council, the city planning commission started the process Monday by making an amendment to the master

plan to include the property as a park.

A map amendment for both North Washington property and Stoney Lakeside park will go back in front of the council for approval.

"There is a concern about city selling the property," said city

manager Dave Pasquale. "The amendment offers a measure of protection."

The Boy Scouts will continue to use the cabin, while the park will remain in its natural state and undeveloped.

"The city recognizes the organization involved," said Pasquale. "You can

have a rustic area as a park. It's a recreational use."

By designating the property as a park, the city does not hinder improvement, neither does it require its development.

The 24-acre North Washington property located on the east end of town has been the subject of

a long drawn out controversy between nature groups and the council.

In the fall of last year, the issue became highly political serving as a platform for candidates vying for a seat on the council. Council member Sharon Ellison made the motion to include the property in the city parks during the last city council meeting in the comment portion.

"I agree with the citizens," said Ellison, "it

belongs to the people. The intent is to preserve it. It's time to send a clear message that we are not going to develop it."

It has been Ellison's contention all along, that the east side of town has no parks except for the North Washington property.

"It's a passive park for hiking on that side of town," she said. "Environmentally it's another green space protected."

City tree trimming nears completion

by Emma Palova

This year's tree trimming in several areas of town including Hudson Street is almost complete.

Identified trees on private properties in 25 locations have been removed or trimmed according to the Lowell Light & Power policy.

"This is an ongoing process as long as trees grow into power lines," said director Tom Richards.

Richards doesn't expect any trimmings past April.

If the removed tree is in the city right-of-way, the

utility has a replacement program. For each tree, \$250 is placed into the city tree fund.

"We've taken on higher standards than in the past," Richards said.

In the past, extreme tree trimming in the city's right-of-way has caused controversy.

The utility is now obligated to operate under different regulations due to changes in the industry.

Trees within 10 feet of the power lines have to be trimmed or removed for safety reasons.

"A year ago we needed a policy supported by the Arbor Board to keep customers safe and the power lines reliable," said Richards.

To preserve the health of trees, the utility is not allowed topping, tipping, rounding over, removing branch collars and leaving long stubs.

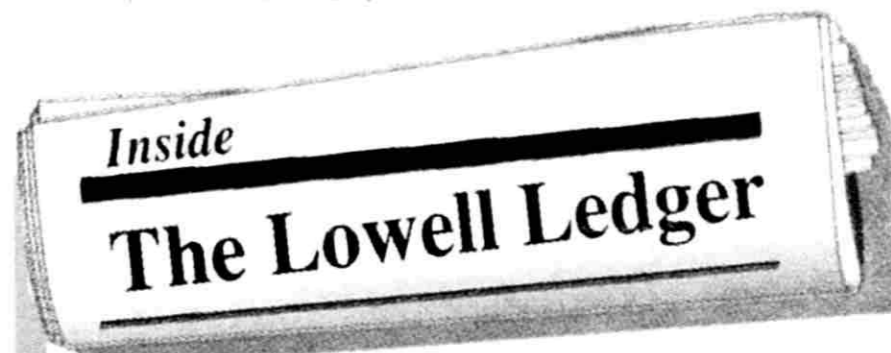
"We have two goals: to keep the tree healthy and to ensure future growth is directed away from the power lines," said Richards.

It cost the utility

\$150,000 to \$200,000 over the last year to trim the overgrown trees. The trees are usually cut at the trunks to preserve the life of the tree and to protect from rapid regrowth.

"There will be less trimming in the future," said Richards. "From this point, trees will be maintained instead of drastic removal."

When a tree is removed from city property or the property of a city resident or business, the utility removes the tree stumps and restores the lawn.



Spring Sports
PREVIEW
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Obituaries

DEN HOUTER

Marie C. DenHouter, aged 92, of Alto, passed peacefully on Palm Sunday, March 16, 2008 and is now rejoicing with her Lord in Heaven. She was preceded in death by her husband, Leonard "Neil" DenHouter; seven brothers and sisters, Julius Post, August Post, Annetta Betten, Lena Stroot, Maxine Oosterhouse, John Post, and Andrew Post. Marie is survived by her son, Harold Holscher; two grandchildren; one great-grandchild; sister, Louise Betten; and many nieces, nephews, and friends. Marie was guided in life by Psalm 121. She will be fondly remembered for her gift of music, her talent in crafts and her skills in playing cards.

and her gracious donations to many charities. The funeral service was held on Thursday at Matthyse-Kuiper-DeGraaf Funeral Home. Interment Oak Grove Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Dutton Christian School.

FAIRCHILD

Lois Irene Fairchild, 87, of Lowell, died Saturday, March 22, 2008 at Spectrum Health Butterworth Campus in Grand Rapids. Lois was born February 15, 1921 in Evert the daughter of John and Gladys Bieri. Lois was a longtime member of Vergennes United Methodist Church. She also volunteered at the Veterans Home in Grand Rapids and on the

American Cancer Society Fund Drive and American Diabetes Association Fund Drive. She also worked on the church missions. She was married on November 22, 1939 in Sylvan to Clyde Fairchild and he survives along with their children, Judith and Dr. Paul Kropf of Traverse City and Ace Fairchild and his fiancée, Sherry Decker of Belding. She is also survived by five grandchildren, nine great grandchildren, one great-great grandchild, sister and brother-in-law, Connie Lea and Ron VanOrder, and her brother and sister-in-law, Stanley and Harriet Bieri, all of Evert. Lois was preceded by her parents and her four brothers, Alex, Beauford, Paul and Philip Bieri. Funeral services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the Vergennes United Methodist Church (North of Lowell) with Pastor Nathaniel Johnson officiating. Interment will follow in Bailey Cemetery. Memorials may be given to the Vergennes United Methodist Church or United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan.

preceded in death by her parents, and is survived by her loving husband of 37 years, Dennis; sister, Mary Hudson; stepmother, Lois Zylstra; and several nieces, nephews and cousins. She was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Alto, where a memorial service was held on Saturday.

HOOVER

Beatrice E. Hoover, aged 82 of Lowell, died Saturday, March 22, 2008. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ernest. She is survived by her children, Sandra (Dale) Snyder and Ernie (Kathy) Hoover; five grandchildren; one great-grandson; several nieces and nephews. Beatrice was a member of Galilee Baptist Church of Saranac. She loved collecting salt and pepper shakers. Funeral services will be Thursday, March 27, 2 p.m. at the O'Brien-Eggebeen-Gerst Chapel, 3980 Cascade Rd. SE, Pastor James Frank of Galilee Baptist Church of Saranac, officiating. Interment Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens. There will be no visitation. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Michigan.

GLAPA

Mrs. Marjean Glapa, age 57, of Alto, went into the arms of the Lord on Thursday, March 20, 2008. She was

RUOSS

Kenneth Ruoss, age 60, of Gowen, went with Jesus to his heavenly home on March 19, 2008. He was born in Grand Rapids on September 19, 1947, the son of Chris and Esther Bielskas Ruoss, and was retired from Bosch Corp. He loved times spent with family and special friends and deer hunting and fishing. He is survived by his wife, Sheryl; and children, Robert (Alissa) Hirkaway of Stanton, and Kim Hirkaway of Greenville; grandchildren, Gabby, Lucas, Hailey and Jeremiah; his sister, Mary (Tony) Demski of Lowell;

and nephews, Alex, Tyler and Kyle; brother, Richard (Linda) Ruoss of Grand Rapids; and niece, Rochelle; his aunts, Mary Doering and Terry Blanchard; and uncle, Rev. Fr. Ed Bielskas; his dear cousins; and Sheryl's family, her mother, Mary DeGraaf of Wyoming; and brother, Kenneth DeGraaf of Florida; and sister, Kimberly (Glenn) Minnaar of Byron Center, and Katie and Jack and many special friends. A memorial service was held on Saturday at the Hurst Funeral Home in Greenville.

SSI recipients need to report changes in living arrangements

by Vonda VanTil, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

Do you get monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments? If you are among the more than 225,000 Americans in Michigan who do, then you should remember that whenever your "living arrangements" change, you must let your local Social Security office know.

Here's why. Your monthly benefit may vary depending on where you live and whether someone else pays for your living expenses. Generally, you can get up to the maximum SSI payment if you live in your own place or you live in someone else's residence, but you pay the full cost of your food and shelter.

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However, your SSI benefit may be reduced if:

- You live somewhere else and you pay only a part of your share of food or housing costs; or
- You live in a house, apartment or trailer but someone else pays for your food, rent or mortgage expenses, and other things like electricity and garbage removal; or
- You're in a nursing home or hospital for the whole month and Medicaid pays for over one-half of your bills.

Your SSI payment is based on your income, not on your expenses. However, the cost of living expenses such as food, clothing or shelter that someone else provides may be considered income to you and could reduce your SSI payment.

Call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 for more information about living arrangements and how they may affect your SSI eligibility or monthly payment amount.

Vonda VanTil is the public affairs specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 50 College SE, Grand Rapids MI 49503 or via email at vonda.vantil@ssa.gov.

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Lowell may be left without the DDA

by Emma Palova

Lowell may be left without a Downtown Development Authority (DDA) in five years.

As the DDA Act sunsets in 2013, the city will face a decision whether to reinstitute the authority or not.

That was one of the issues discussed at a Thursday meeting of the DDA members.

"We would have to ask for permission from the other taxing units," said city manager Dave Pasquale. DDA projects are financed through a tax increment financing authority (TIFA) which captures the assessed value of real and personal property

levied by all the taxing units within the district.

According to Pasquale, counties do not favor local DDAs due to loss of captured revenues.

"The county has the right to say no," said Pasquale.

If the city decides to reinstitute the DDA, its funding would be different without the capture of county money.

However, DDA member Mike Sprenger, owner of Springrove Variety, said he believes the DDA will stay because it has accomplished so much in the past.

The Lowell DDA was established in 1992 through the efforts of the Chamber of Commerce. Its main

purpose was and remains economic development and the improvement of the business environment.

In the '90s, the DDA took out two bonds for downtown improvement. Those bonds will be paid off by 2013.

"We will be debt-free," said Pasquale.

Any remaining monies from the DDA budget would go back into the general fund.

Over the years, major improvements included creating the pedestrian area known as the Riverwalk by the Showboat, as well as the renovation of the city hall and adjoining police station

lobby.

Ongoing streetscape projects include decorative concrete, historical light fixtures and parking lot improvements.

The district is comprised of many public entities including the city hall, U.S. Post Office, Lowell Light & Power, Lowell Department of Public Works and the schools.

Members of the DDA are chairman James Reagan, Brian Doyle, Dean Lonick, Dave Pasquale, Mike Sprenger, Bob Ford, Mike Larkin, David Durkee and Shelley Catlin.

The DDA meets the third Thursday of the month at noon.

Council reviews preliminary budget

by Emma Palova

The city's financial picture may be looking up due to a 3-percent increase in revenues from property taxes.

The city council reviewed the preliminary budget for next year Monday. The main focus as always is on the general fund, according to manager Dave Pasquale's report.

"This is where the single largest share of tax dollars is spent," said Pasquale. "Many of the most visible services are provided for our citizens."

It is the only fund, out of the 10 city funds where tax dollars are not restricted, according to Pasquale.

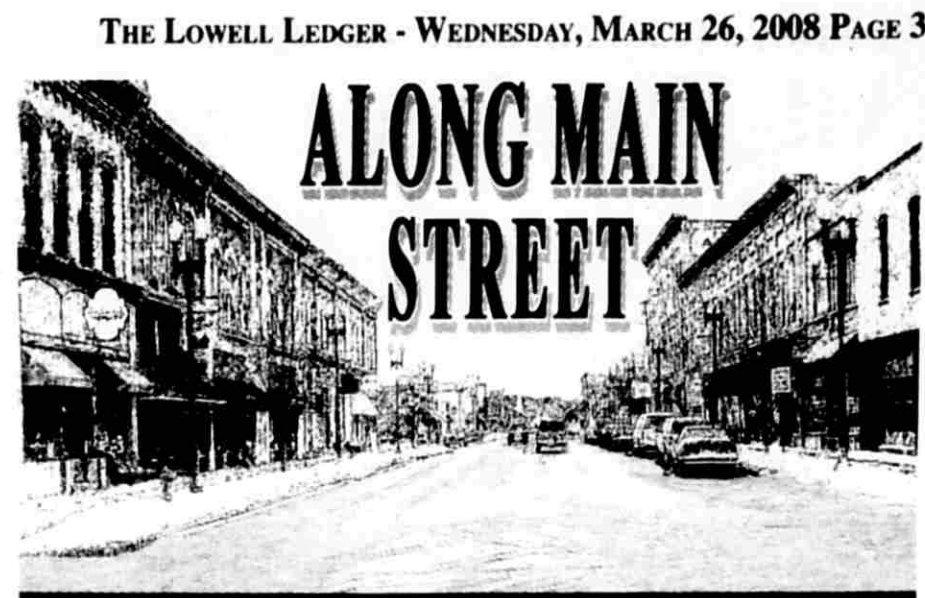
Real and personal property taxes have amounted to \$1.5 million.

The budget provides for a 1.5-percent salary increase for the city employees, as well as a request for allocation from the Downtown Development Authority.

The council explored the option of reducing the city levy by one mill. The reduction would equal \$96,000 less in the general fund.

Alternatives to the levy reduction include not filling the police officer vacancy and eliminating all seasonal parks and cemetery personnel.

Police chief Jim Valentine proposed the reduction in staff saving \$32,000.



ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

Sign up at the Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St. Fri., April 11, 6-8 p.m. or Sat., April 12, 10 a.m. - noon. Everyone welcome. Regular box is \$30 and feeds a family of four approximately a week. Any questions call Esther at 897-7395.

LAS ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB MEETING

The Athletic Boosters will hold their regular business meeting in the high school staff lounge on Mon., April 14 at 7 p.m. Please come and support our athletes.

ATTENTION LHS ALUMNI

The Lowell Alumni Association will be publishing the second edition of the LHS Alumni Directory. If you are a LHS Alumni and your name was missing from the first edition or you now have changes in your information call Alumni Research at 1-800-299-1230 on weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. or Sat. from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. or go to www.lowell.k12.mi.us, click on "Alumni" and "Online Alumni Community." The deadline is April 15. Completion is scheduled for July 2008.

ALTO PARENT MEETING SCHEDULE

Kindergarten parent meeting is Thurs., April 17, sign-up and turn in completed paperwork 6-6:25 p.m., meeting 6:30-7:30 p.m. Parent information meeting during student visitation is Tues., May 13, a.m. only and Wed., May 14, a.m. only. Schedule visit 987-2600.

PRESCHOOL SCREENING FOR PROGRAM PLACEMENT

If you have 3-or 4-year-old that may have a developmental delay (speech, physical or behavioral) and would be eligible for our special education preschool program, or to be considered into the Kent Co. Head Start program or 4-year-old Readiness program call Carol Briggs at 987-2516 to make an appointment for an April screening. Deadline is Fri., April 18.

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The museum is having their spring event "Somewhere in Time Gala," at the new Grand Lux Ballrooms on April 18. This year's program is titled "dinner with the Lincolns." The evening will start at 6 p.m. with a social hour, a gourmet dinner, and raffle. Tickets are \$40. Please call the museum to reserve your ticket, 897-7688.

MURRAY LAKE PARENT MEETING SCHEDULE

Kindergarten parent meeting is Tues., April 22, sign-up and turn in completed paperwork 6:15-6:25 p.m., meeting 6:30-7:30 p.m. Parent information meeting during student visitation is Tues., May 6, a.m. only and Wed., May 14, a.m. only. To schedule visit 987-2750.

BUSHNELL PARENT MEETING SCHEDULE

Kindergarten parent meeting is Thurs., April 24, sign-up and turn in completed paperwork 6-6:25 p.m., meeting 6:30-7:30 p.m. Parent information meeting during student visitation is Wed., May 7, a.m. only and Thurs., May 8, a.m. only. Schedule visit 987-2650.

LOOKING FOR RELAY FOR LIFE TEAMS

Fundraising is starting during the months of March-June. The third Annual 24-hr. Relay for Life of Lowell will take place from noon to noon, Fri., June 27 - Sat., June 28. Teams are now forming, so consider forming a team. For more information please call event co-chair, Carol Briggs at 897-5501.

VINTAGE BASEBALL

Local vintage baseball team seeks players for 2008 season. Games are modified slow pitch, played by 1860 rules. Males and females eligible to play. Some travel, dues required. For more information call (616) 635-7992 or e-mail Fallasburgcubsbb@yahoo.com.

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LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing to consider a request from Jason Ghareeb of Riverside Motorsports for a Special Land Use Permit to establish a small engine repair business in the Light Industrial Zoning District.

LOCATION & ADDRESS: The property is located at 13565-C Grand River Drive SE Lowell, Michigan which is the northwest corner of Grand River Drive and Division Street.

The hearing will be held as follows:

WHEN: MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2008
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
LOWELL, MI 49331

A site plan and other information related to the request is available for review at the Lowell Charter Township Offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, MI 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday or by calling 897-7600.

Tim Clements, Secretary
Lowell Charter Township
Planning Commission

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CITY OF LOWELL ALLIED WASTE SERVICES YARD WASTE PICKUP SCHEDULE FOR SPRING AND SUMMER 2008

The City of Lowell's Spring and Summer yard waste program is scheduled for the first and third Thursday of each month, unless there is a holiday in that week and the pickup day will be Friday. Your yard waste pickup will be the same day as your refuse/recycling pickup. The dates are listed below:

Yard Waste Pickup Schedule

- April 3rd and 17th
- May 1st and 15th
- June 5th and 19th
- July 3rd and 17th
- August 7th and 21st
- *September 5th and 18th

*PLEASE NOTE THIS DATE IS A FRIDAY PICKUP DUE TO HOLIDAY DURING THE WEEK.

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



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(G) 12:10, 2:20, 4:30, 6:50, 9:00
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\$8 All tickets at the door
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Lowell High School 11700 Vergennes Rd. Lowell, MI
For show information call 616-987-2956

All-Weather Seal business to offer energy efficient windows

by Emma Palova

It's all about quality and energy efficiency at All-Weather Seal, a new business located between Flat River Cottage and

Canfield Heating & Plumbing. Owner Scott McDowell moved his business from Grand Rapids to Lowell to offer a full-service package

to customers approximately three weeks ago. "It's a great community," said McDowell. "We are excited to be in Lowell. We like downtown Lowell."

McDowell expects the business, established in 1981, to further grow with more employees and a greater service area in West

Michigan. The business has other locations in Flint, Bay City, Lansing and Brighton. "We take care of the people," said McDowell.

And All-Weather Seal does not use subcontractors, according to sales representative Matt Smith.

Whatever the project may be, whether exterior or interior, window replacements, sidings or doors, the crew takes care of it from the very beginning until the end.

It starts with a free estimate and a consultation followed by installation of oak or birch hardwood specialty windows or other products.

And what makes this business stand apart from competition?

"It's the quality of product, our people and service," said McDowell.

McDowell employs 10 people, and in five to 10 years he expects to have a bigger crew yet.

"Our installation crews are second to none," he said.

The business takes pride

in innovative products, all energy efficient endorsed by the National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC). The products reduce fuel consumption by 40 percent with an average rating of 0.19.

"There's no other choice than energy efficient products," said McDowell. "It's a must, not an if."

McDowell plans to redo the building that sat empty on the east side of town.

"We're looking forward to becoming a part of the community," said Smith.

McDowell said he believes that Lowell is the next place to be. He is also confident about success in spite of the economy due to the fact the business focuses mostly on replacements and remodels.

"It's going to be a good year," he said.

For more information go to www.allweatherseal.com. Call for a free estimate at 897-7300. The business is located at 319 E. Main Street.



Scott McDowell with staff members Cindy Kelsey and Matt Smith.

Voter registration deadline nears for May 6 election

Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land reminds residents that Monday, April 7 is the last day to register to

vote for the May 6 election. "Many of these elections directly impact your local community, whether it's

your local government or your area school district," said Land, the state's chief election officer. "If you are

not yet registered to vote in Michigan, I encourage you to do so as soon as possible."

To register, applicants must be at least 18 years old by Election Day and be U.S. citizens. Applicants must also be residents of Michigan and of the city or township in which they wish to register.

Voters may register in person or by mail. The mail-in form is on the Department of State Web site at www.Michigan.gov/sos. First-time voters who register by mail must vote in person in their first election, unless they hand-deliver the applicant to their local clerk, are 60 years old or older, are disabled, or are overseas.

To check their registration status, residents may visit the Michigan

Voter Information Center at www.Michigan.gov/vote. Residents can find information on voting by absentee ballot, Michigan's voter identification requirement, using voting equipment and contacting their local clerk. They will also find a map to their local polling place.

Voters are again reminded of the identification requirement. They will be asked to present acceptable photo ID at the polls, such as a Michigan driver's license or identification card.

Voters who don't have a Michigan driver's license or identification card can show the following current forms of photo ID:

- Driver's license or personal identification card issued by another state
- Federal or state

government-issued photo identification

- U.S. passport
- Military identification card with photo
- Student identification with photo from a high school or an accredited institution of higher education, such as a college or university
- Tribal identification card with photo.

Anyone who does not have an acceptable form of photo ID or is not carrying one can still vote. They will sign a brief form stating that they're not in possession of a photo ID. Their ballots will be included with all others and counted on Election Day.

Additional information is available on the Department of State Web site at www.Michigan.gov/sos.

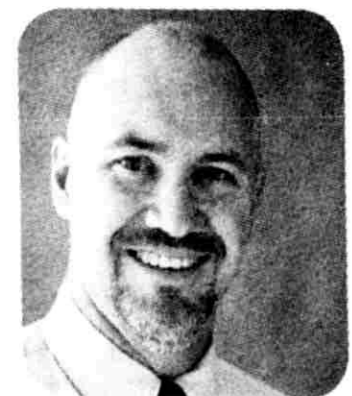


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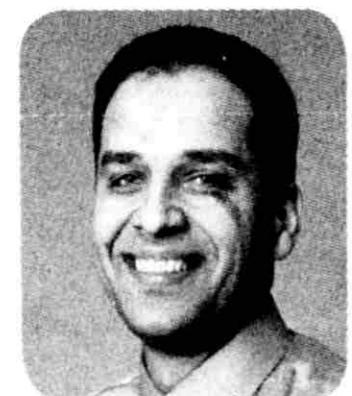
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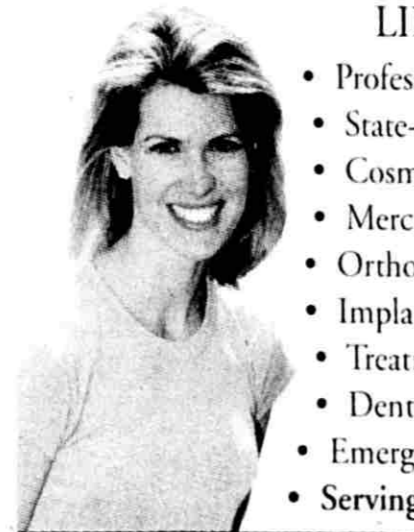
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Viewpoint

To The Editor

To The Editor,

I attended a city council workshop meeting on March 10 which discussed the Lowell Cable TV Fund regarding organization and projects. I noted that there was a very small turnout. You would think that the community would, in lean times, be concerned about how the proceeds would be spent deciphering the city's needs from its wants.

Could a low turnout be because the meeting wasn't properly brought to the attention of the public??? The only way I knew of the meeting and its agenda was in reading the minutes of a previous council meeting. Will the council have open community meetings in the making of decisions on how the proceeds from the Lowell Cable TV Endowment Fund will be utilized? What I interpreted from the meeting was that the council seemed to be headed as the soul decider. Is this Endowment Fund going to resemble the sale of Lowell Cable TV where everything was finalized before the community knew what was going on? Will the constituents of Lowell again be deprived of there say? I believe two wrongs do not make a right. I also believe the council needs to join the community through communication in making decisions.

Sincerely, Jim Howard

To The Ledger,

Folks, it is time to circle the wagons! We are under attack by the conglomerate oil monopolies of the world. We must defend ourselves. Not more than ten major oil conglomerates of the world, seven being based right here in the United States, control over 90 percent of all supply and admitted availability worldwide.

They own and operate the wild heads and oil fields. They pump, transport, store, refine and distribute. They deliver, market and manipulate availability and subsequent pricing. As with all huge corporations, profitability is their only concern. Even after having hidden every possible cost they could, and taken every possible legal loophole and write-off available, they have been forced to admit tremendous and unrealistic profits. Imagine what it would have been had they not been forced to admit to the overall.

Here is what they fall back upon: they have quite cleverly insured oil be placed upon the commodities market. In doing so, the very true fact is, without assuming any responsibility, they blame the stock market. Supply and demand is absurd. They directly control the supply. They insure a shortage by the storage of huge amounts, releasing what they wish and when they wish to the market. Price-fixing extraordinaire! Monopolies? You bet. Illegal? Absolutely. Policed? Hell

Outdoors

By
Dave Stegehuis



SIGNS OF THE SEASON

We are all eagerly looking for signs that let us know spring is really here. The calendar would seem to be the first place to look, but it is too unreliable in Michigan. We have had major snowstorms in April. Spring is more about a feeling or attitude than an astronomical phenomenon.

Playing a round of golf on fast greens on a warm Saturday morning marks the beginning of a new season for the avid golfer. Rumbling down the highway and feeling the power of the engine through the handlebars of a Harley does it for others.

As a youngster, my benchmark for spring was fishing for Brook trout in Cedar Creek on opening day with my dad and brother. In middle age, steelhead making their way from Lake Michigan to spawn in tributaries of the Grand were a sure sign of spring as I cast to the dark shapes drifting back and forth across sunlit gravel runs. These days, the gobble of the tom turkey draws me to the fields and woods when frosty mornings give way to warm sunny days. Pursuing the Eastern wild turkey has become the harbinger of spring for myself and 100,000 other hunters.

The reintroduction of the Eastern wild turkey to

southern Michigan in the 1950s came as a total surprise to me. I was apprehensively making my way through the shadows in an unfamiliar woods before daylight when suddenly right under my feet the earth opened up and a huge creature exploded from under a snow-laden Jack pine. To a kid in a dark strange place, the experience was like a scene from a horror film. I thought my heart was going to jump out of my chest, before I realized I had encountered my first wild turkey.

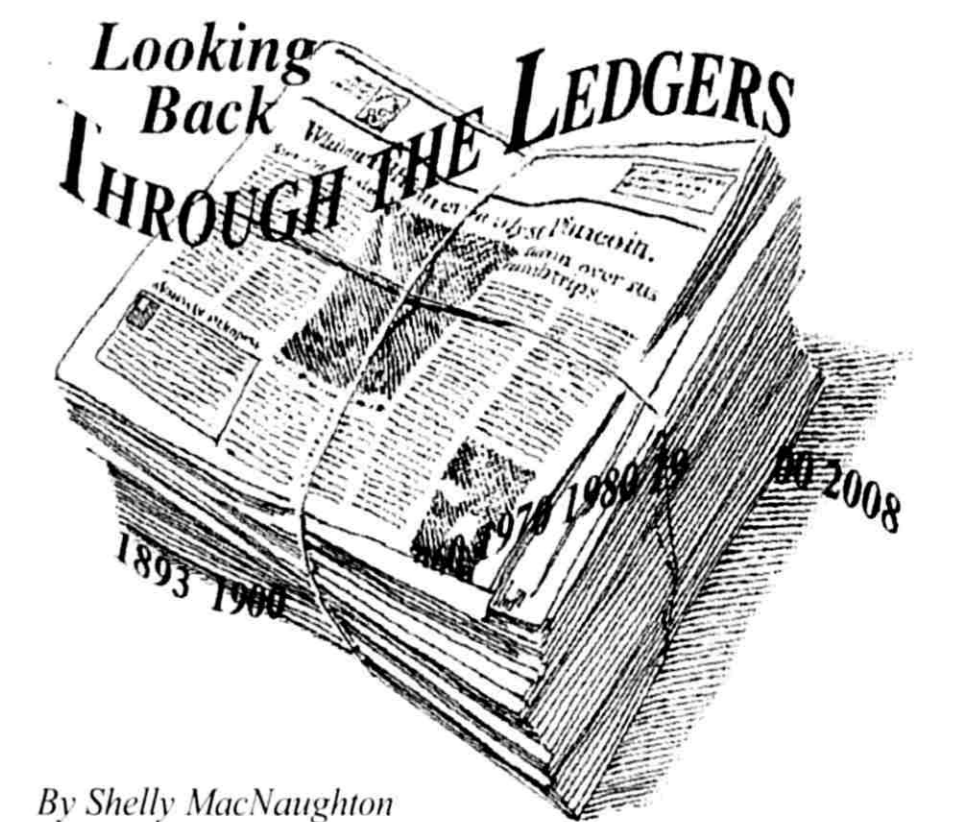
In the late '60s, I drew a turkey tag, drove 100 miles, and spent two days with a friend looking for turkeys. We never saw or heard a bird. In the '80s, birds were trapped and then distributed around the state. Every year since, the turkey population has increased at an amazing rate. You don't have to drive 100 miles to find a turkey today. If you live in Michigan near open fields or woods, just look out your kitchen window.

Because turkeys are a common sight around the state, that doesn't mean they are easy to hunt, it just means they are easier to find. Consistently getting within shotgun range of an old tom requires the same skill and patience needed to bag big game animals and is just as exciting. One doesn't have to fly in a 50-year-old floatplane to subarctic tundra or drive a truck over ice-covered mountain passes to experience an unforgettable hunt. If you can handle a shotgun and ride a bicycle, adventure is waiting just up the road.

Sitting in the sunlight against a big old oak tree surrounded by the sights and smells of new growth and listening to the booming gobble of a strutting tom turkey is a sure sign that spring is here.

no. What do they do with the excess which they do not place upon the commodities exchange? Store and release it through their own retail outlets. After all, they did not create the shortage and they did not determine pricing. But the truly sad scenario is that they are not collectively in prison, at least not yet, for they most assuredly are criminals with criminal intent. We have collectively been scalped long enough. Circle the wagons. Grab your muskets and hang on to your hair!

Jack Friesner



By Shelly MacNaughton

125 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL JOURNAL MARCH 28, 1883

Whooping cough reported in town
Lots of fine weather but locals as scarce as hens' teeth. Mr. C. Burnett of this village has been dangerously sick with lung fever for some time and is reported doing well at present.

Messrs. Horner & Davis, from New York are in the village for the purpose of buying horses to ship to the East. Their headquarters are at Edgar Morse's stable.

100 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER MARCH 26, 1908

On Saturday night, a horse was taken from Lowell and put into Chas Cramton's shed. The thieves then went on to Mr. Weldon's and got their breakfast Sunday morning.

75 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER AND ALTO SOLO MARCH 30, 1933

When voters go to the polls next Monday they will be given three separate ballots as follows: One ballot will contain the four state tickets—Republicans, Democratic, Socialist and Prohibition. Another ballot will contain the township tickets. A third ballot will contain the 18th Amendment proposition.

50 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER MARCH 27, 1958

Ice fishermen heard encouraging news this week from Paul H. Eschmeyer, assistant director of the Institute for Fisheries Research at the University of Michigan. According to Eschmeyer, a current research project shows that the winter catch from at least one Michigan Lake is far superior to the harvest during the longer summer season.

25 YEARS AGO THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER MARCH 30, 1983

After months of sometimes tense negotiations, the Lowell Education Association and the Lowell Board of Education Wednesday ratified a three-year contract agreement, which gives teachers the retroactive pay increase, which they had demanded earlier in negotiations.

HEALTH

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



WHOOPING COUGH (PERTUSSIS)

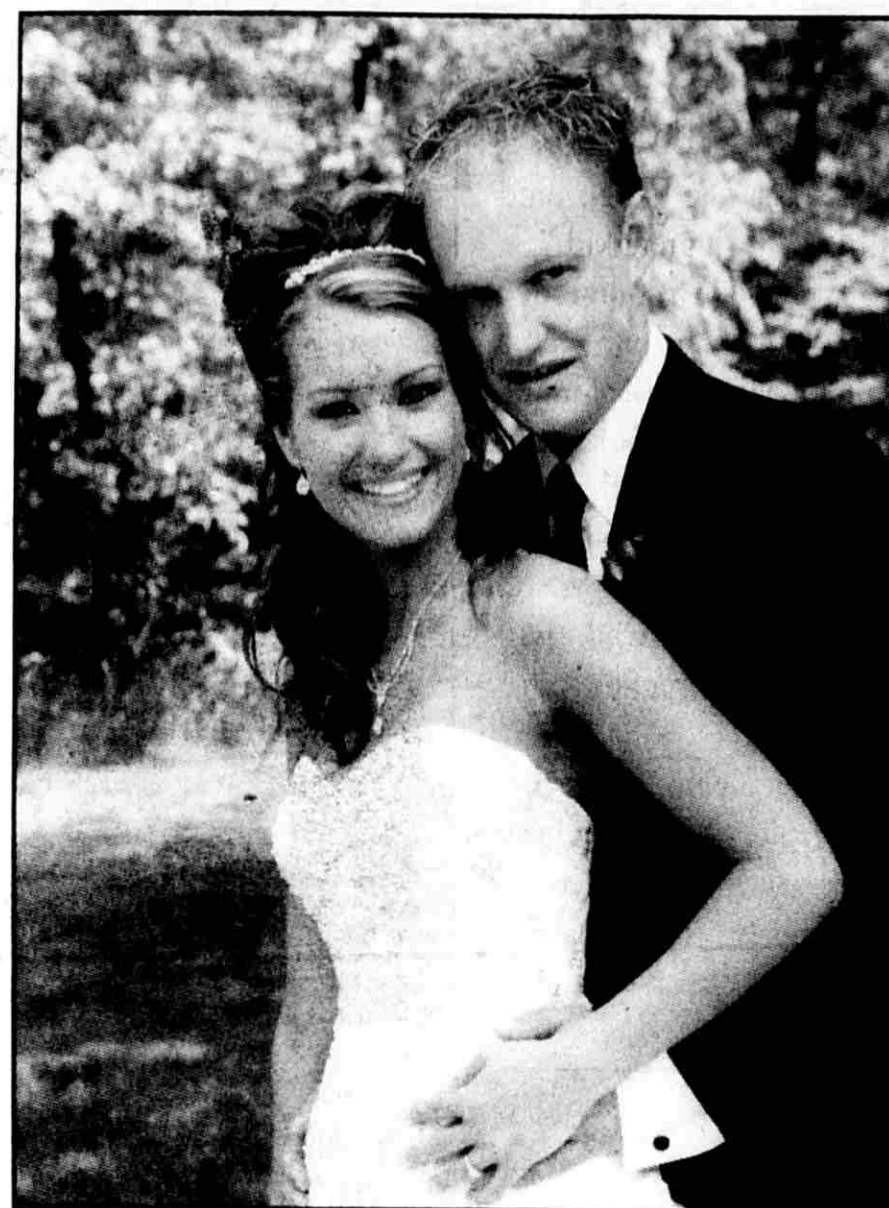
Even though we have been immunizing against whooping cough for decades, we have seen a resurgence in the last several years. Whooping cough is caused by a germ, and can make you cough for several minutes at a time. After you cough, you may make a "whooping" sound when you breathe in. It is contagious and is usually spread by droplet infection in the air.

People of all ages can get whooping cough, even if they have been immunized against it. You should see your doctor if you think you have whooping cough or if you've been around someone who might have it. Your doctor will ask you what your cough sounds like and what happens after your cough. You may need special tests to confirm you have it.

Fortunately, there are medicines available to take to treat whooping cough. These medicines are also effective in preventing transmission to other people. Some of these medicines can cause stomach upset, vomiting, or diarrhea. So let your doctor know if you can't tolerate the treatment. People with whooping cough should stay home until they have taken the medicine for five days to reduce the risk of transmission.

Weddings

Woods/Claypool

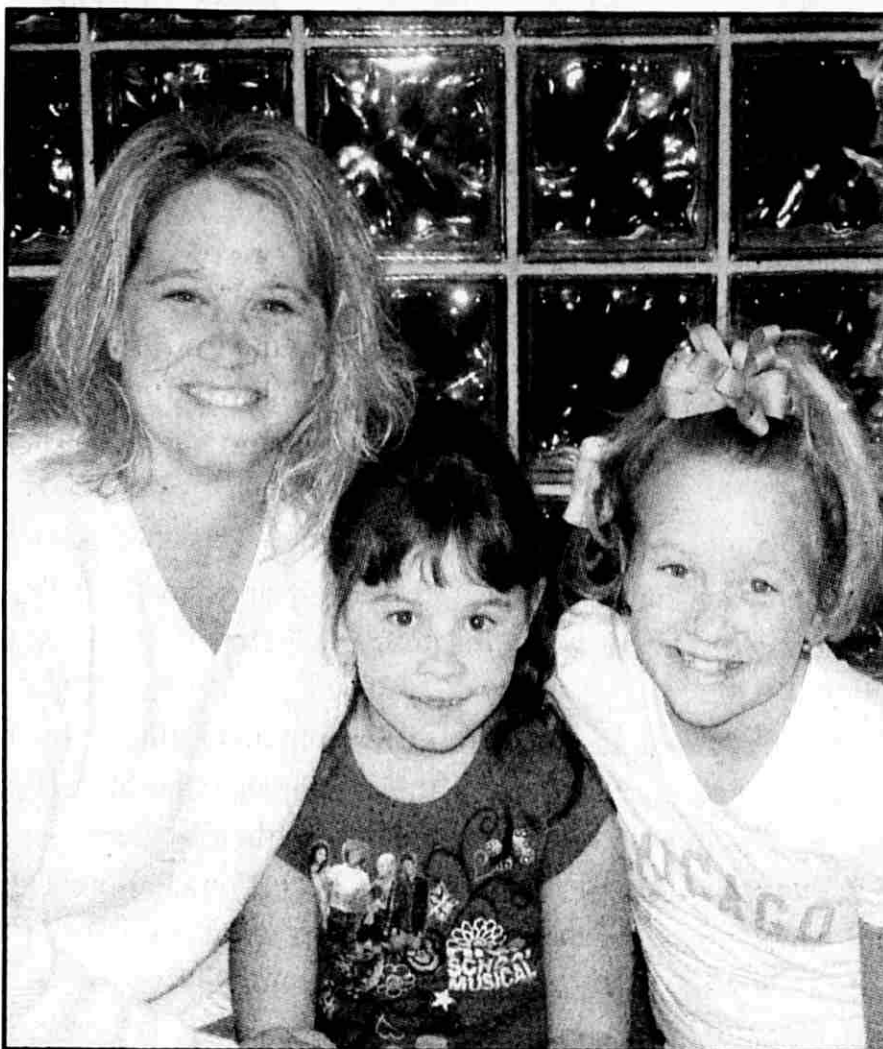


Ashley and Daniel Woods

Ashley Claypool and Daniel Woods exchanged wedding vows on May 19, 2007. Parents of the newlyweds are Sherry Claypool and Rick Claypool and David and Jean Woods. Maid of Honor was Amanda Claypool. Bridesmaids were Heather

Essich, Heather McQueen, Rebekah Woods, and Ericka Claypool. Best man was Craig Woodcraft. Groomsmen were Alan Hasso, Tim Sherwood, Grant Dagget, and Jonathan Woods. The couple reside in

Volunteer of the month



Murray Lake Elementary's volunteer of the month, Heather Organek is pictured with her daughters Emma and Anna. Organek was nominated by several Murray Lake staff members for the many hours of time she donates to the school. "I enjoy volunteering at Murray Lake, because I enjoy being with all of the students. I love the school, and most of all I like to be close to my girls," she said.

New Arrivals

Rainwater



Dan and Rhonda Kropf become grandparents. Danial and Andrea (Kropf) Rainwater originally from Alaska, now Oregon. Great grandparents are Bob and Jan Kropf and Ron and Katie Aldrink, both of Lowell, and Mr. and Mrs. Rainwater of Alaska.

Got an Announcement to make?

Wedding, Engagement and Anniversary Announcements* are Free in the Ledger. Birth Announcements without a photo are \$5.

* Anniversary announcements cannot contain an invitation to a celebration

Happy Birthday

- MARCH 26:** Margaret Hoats, Carol Maynard.
- MARCH 27:** Joel Roudabush, Kelly Geldersma.
- MARCH 28:** Amie Thaler, Aaron Kastanek, Beck Butler.
- MARCH 29:** John Ellison, Sandra VanWeelden, Judith Schafer Eiseman, Laura Rasch, Carl Rasch, Robin Burns, Casey Yonker, Brianna Homrich, Priscilla Nearing.
- MARCH 30:** Deb Maxim, Erin Wade, Delores Ellison, Laurinda Horsley, Patrick Drake.
- MARCH 31:** Katelynn Fonger, Jennifer McCaul, Ben Lobbezoo, Tera Raab, Rudy Smith, Michaela Blough.
- APRIL 1:** Christopher Vollink, Denny McClure, Kurt Wernet, Blanch Mullen.

SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW

Baseball looks to get conference ring

Lowell hasn't seen a conference championship in 35 years, so one of the goals the varsity team set out to achieve was to win the OK-White this season. But beyond that, coach Justin Miller said he is keeping the priority on the one aspect of what can get them their goal.

"The main focus is on the team aspect, instead of the individual," Miller said, even though the sport is known for its vast amounts of statistics and emphasis on each player's performance.

He pointed out that the team is tight and has the potential to go far because of their focus. "We have a strong junior class helping out the seniors, who have great leadership."

The Arrows were 20-12 last season, and both JV and freshmen teams also had 20 wins under their belts.

A few players looking to get back in action are Torsten Boss, a junior shortstop and pitcher who was All-State last year; Pete Scudder, who was honorable mention All-District; Zach Stephens, a

pitcher for the team; and Will Bryan, "a great kid."

The goal of a conference championship is one that's within reach, Miller said. "The [OK-] White's kind of wide open, we're all pretty good." East Grand Rapids and Forest Hills Central are two teams who will prove tough opponents for Lowell.

Miller, who is in his fourth year of coaching varsity baseball in Lowell, and his team will take on Wyoming Park next Tuesday, April 1.



The varsity baseball team (first row, L-R): Mitchell Malling, Nick Boelens, Torsten Boss, Pete Scudder, Jesse VandenBosch, Ryan Dean and Ethan Drain. (Second row, L-R): Coach Justin Miller, Jason Nugent, Tim Hettinga, Zach Stephens, Taylor Sprague, Josh Drake, Nick Trusky, Will Bryan and Coach Dustin Gless.

Soccer team brings experience and returning starters for the spring



The varsity soccer team (first row, L-R): Sarah Baughman, Lauren Ferguson, Paige Smith, Kelly Stevens, Logan DeClercq and Chelsea Harrison. (Second row, L-R): Coach Paul Legge, Heather Jousma, Sara Nagy, Claire Hopkins, Katie Kruse, Erin Brechbill, Elena Brubaker and Natalie Hewitt. (Third row, L-R): Hannah Oberlin, Katie Krolewicz, Courtney Schmidt, Cat Howard, Alissa Moore, Sara Messing and Sarah Fetzer.

The girls' soccer team, who went 9-9 last season, will return nine starters and "bring back a ton of experience," head coach Paul Legge said.

Legge, who is in his seventh season as the varsity girls' head coach, said he is optimistic about what the season will bring.

"We have good veteran leadership returning and should be able to weather tough moments on the field and be successful."

Some of those players returning are Cat Howard, a senior goalkeeper who was named All-Conference and 3rd team All-State last year; Chelsea Harrison, a senior forward who was All-

Conference and a two-time 2nd team All-State player; and Logan DeClercq, a junior midfielder, who was All-Conference.

He is also excited to introduce a few new players to the lineup, including Courtney Schmidt, a freshman defender; Erin Brechbiel, a midfielder; and Elena Brubaker, a midfielder.

"Communication will be a major obstacle for us this season," Legge said. "We have a good number of new additions and it will be a great challenge to mesh the many players from a season ago with the new core of players."

The Arrows should do

well this season with its depth and new talent. "Things look good for us this season with many returning starters and strength in the goal and midfield positions," Legge said. "In addition, we should have a good amount of team depth this season, which will allow us to use the bench and keep fresh players on the field. We should be very competitive this season."

The Arrows are looking forward to one of their top matches of the year - Forest Hills Central, who is the defending Conference and State champions.

Lowell will play its first home game Monday, March 31 against Mona Shores, starting at 6:45 p.m.

All photos courtesy of Douglas Photography of Rockford.

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M.</p> <p>OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p>DAY BIBLE CHAPEL 9305 Centerline, Saranac 897-6332</p> <p>Worship.....9:45 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M.</p> <p>Nursery & Jr. Church Provided Rev. Frank Lattimore, Pastor "A Nondenominational Ministry With A Blended Word Centered Service!"</p>	<p>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL 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>APOSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH 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</p> <p>Pastor Robert L. Hubbard Phone: (616) 897-1267 website www.aplighthouse.com</p>
<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</p> <p>621 E. Main Street • 897-5936</p> <p>Worship.....8:30 & 11:00 a.m. DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Barrier - Free Entrance</p>	<p>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God) 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Lead Pastor John King, Youth Pastor SUNDAYS: 10:00 a.m. - Worship & Evening; LIFE home Groups & "The Source" Youth WEDNESDAYS: Family Night: (for all ages) 7:00 p.m. "The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m. Loving God... Loving People!</p>	<p>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Fr. George J. Fekete 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETE WIGANS 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 49, ENTWIN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>	<p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL (United Church of Christ) 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906</p> <p>Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Thursday Faith Alive Worship.....7:00 P.M. Dr. Roger LaWarre.....Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship</p>
<p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org</p> <p>Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....9:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org Rev. David O. Sims & Rev. W. Lee Taylor Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hours.....11:00 A.M. AWANA CLUB, J.C. Wed. 6:15 & 6:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided - Barrier Free</p>	<p>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Thurian Meredith</p> <p>9:45 A.M.Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M.Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery & Children Worship Programs Provided A friend...a family...a mission!</p>	<p>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</p> <p>Greeting & Fellowship.....10:15 A.M. Sunday Morning Worship.....10:40 A.M. Wednesday Discipleship Ministries.....7:00 P.M.</p> <p>Meets at 201 N. Washington PASTOR MICHAEL RHODABARGER Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>

CITY OF LOWELL
301 E. Main
897-8457

CURTIS CLEANERS
1410 W. Main
897-9809

TIMPSON TRANSPORT, INC.
3175 Segwun Ave SE • Lowell
897-9032

CANFIELD PLUMBING & HEATING
411 E. Main • Lowell
897-0887

STATE FARM INS.
Deborah A. Wilks, Agent
2050 W. Main • Lowell
897-9237

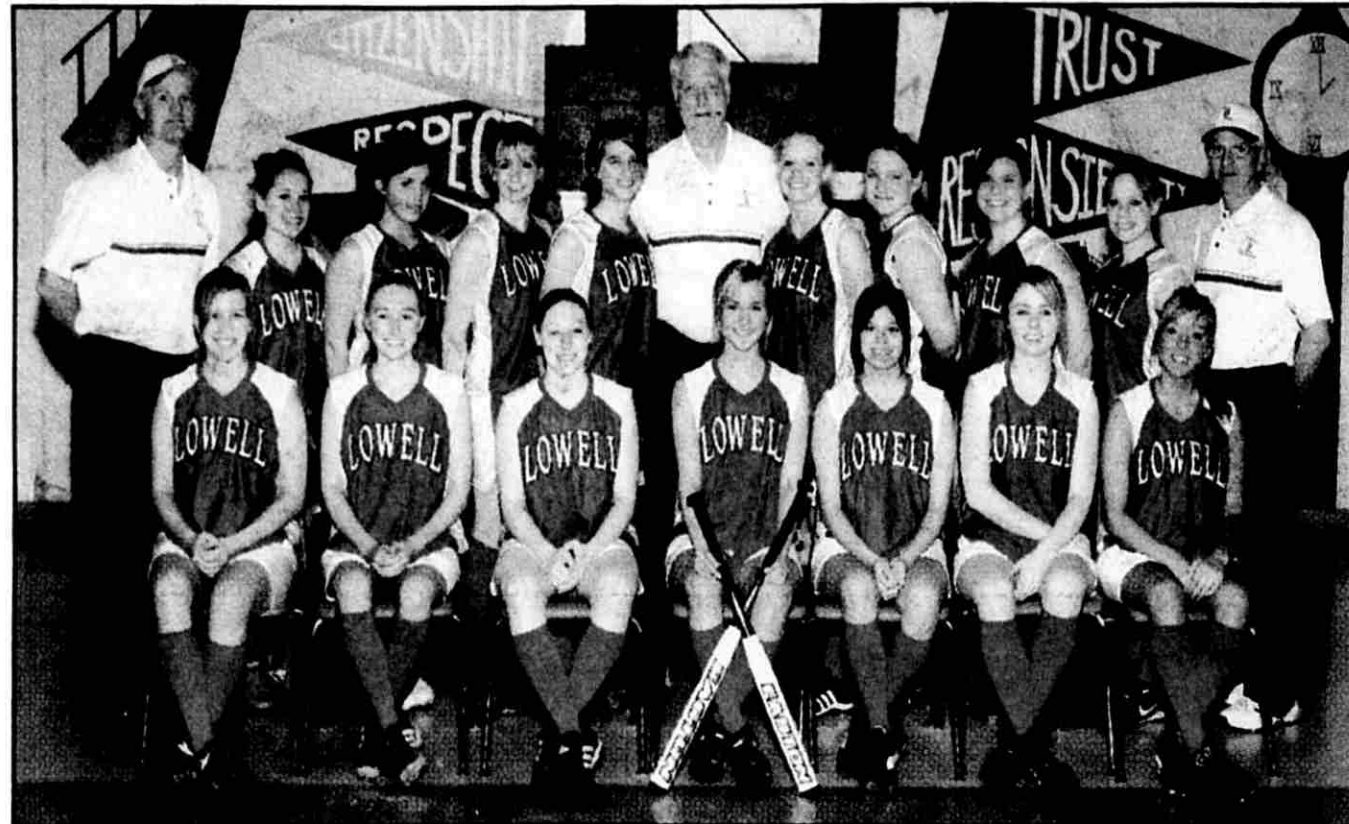
CAR CITY LOWELL
2399 W. Main
897-8100

HAROLD ZEIGLER FORD LOWELL
11979 East Fulton
897-8431

LOWELL FAMILY MEDICAL CENTER
Paul R. Gauthier, D.O. • James C. Lang, D.O.
John G. Meier, D.O. • Wayne A. Christenson, D.O.
Tracy L. Lixie, D.O. • Julie M. Drake, PA-C
2550 W. Main
252-5600

THE LOWELL LEDGER
105 N. Broadway
897-9261

— SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW —



Softball has eight returning seniors

The varsity softball team will return eight seniors this year and looks to improve on their good season last spring, and record of 27-9. The Arrows also won the Lakewood Tournament last year.

Bob Rodenhouse, who has been the head coach for 26 years, said the outlook for this season "looks good."

Some of the top returners are Katie McElroy, a senior who can do it all - pitcher, catcher and shortstop; Ashley Nawrocki, a senior who can catch and play in the outfield; and Monica Vigil on second base.

Rodenhouse will also introduce a few key additions, Lauren Dood, a sophomore, and Beth

Wycoff, a junior.

The top teams in the OK-White this year will be Northview and Caledonia, who will prove tough for the Arrows.

The team will play Wyoming Park on Tuesday, April 1, and will start their home match after Spring Break, on Thursday, April 17 against Ionia.

The varsity softball team (first row, L-R): Linnea Churches, Beth Wycoff, Jessica Meyer, Ellie Timpson, Monica Vigil, Kristin Nagy and Cassie DeCator. (Second row, L-R): Coach Bill McElroy, Andrea Coffey, Bailey Allen, Ashley Nawrocki, Jourdan Westdorp, Coach Bob Rodenhouse, Katie McElroy, Tricia Thuston, Lauren Dood, Samantha Mundt and Coach Terry Wieland.

Girls' tennis looking to qualify for state



The varsity tennis team (first row, L-R): Leara Glinzak, Ellen Mork, Lauren Heemstra, Kelly Trapp, Melissa Zuiderveen and Megan Willemstein. (Second row, L-R): Coach Bonnie Wall, Katrina Schollaart, Caitlin Baker, Tanya Baker, Taylor Mankel, Taylor Moore, Patty Lawrence and Coach Roger Wall.

The girls' tennis team had a strong dual record of 7-3 last season, taking 1st at the Ionia Tournament, 3rd in Regionals and 4th in Conference finals, but failing to make the cut for State finals.

Coach Bonnie Wall said the team is looking

to "improve our league standing from No. 4 last season and qualify for State - we barely missed with a 3rd at Regionals last year."

The Arrows are strong in the singles field, but will try to improve at the bottom of their doubles line-up.

Top athletes returning

are Melissa Zuiderveen, a senior at No. 2 singles; Tanya Baker, a senior at No. 3 or 4 singles; Lauren Heemstra at No. 3 or 4 singles; and doubles players Megan Willemstein, Leara Glinzak, Katrina Schollaart, Caitlin Baker, Patty Lawrence, and Ellen Mork.

Lacrosse team has first home match on April 3



The varsity lacrosse team (first row, L-R): Nolan Blair, Abram McIntire, Joel Morgan, Roman Tapia, Cole Posthumus, Joe Johnson, Nate McCall and Jonathan Woods. (Second row, L-R): Ryan Verdan, Max Wright, Rob Hanks, Travis Bergy, Eric Meyers, Trevor Hoard, Nick Lachniet, Drake Chittenden and Chris Cunningham. (Third row, L-R): James Dyer, Eric Petersen, Jim Nordman, Matt Brearley, Bobby Nichols, Timmy Kalman, Al Vera, Jeffrey Johnsen and Nic Brown.

Wall will also add two key players: Kelly Trapp, a freshman at No. 1 singles, and Taylor Mankel, a freshman at doubles.

The top teams in the league are EGR, FHC and Northview, and will prove to be the key matches for the season.

"A lot will depend on how our doubles perform. Our singles have held us up for the last several years and will do their part."

— SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW —

Girls' track team is strong in the field, looks to improve in long distance

The girls' track team, who tied for second in the conference last year and sent three athletes to the state level, is looking to improve in their track events to make a more well-rounded team.

Coach Robin Briggs said, "It's a little early yet to make some firm prediction, but [we] are looking forward to a season as good if not better than last. We have nearly 50 girls with two-thirds of them being sophomores and freshmen."

The team tied with Forest Hills Central for second place in the OK-White and were fifth at the regional meet last year. The three athletes who went to State were Richelle Kimble,

a junior pole vaulter; Megan Majestic, a senior in the 400-meter run; and Amy VanEns, a senior in the high jump.

Briggs said she had a number of good athletes returning to her team, including the three who went to state. Those also returning are: Paige Senters, a senior on the 400-meter mile relay and the 800-meter relay; sophomores Kelsey Teft and Jillian O'Haire on pole vault; and Taylor Marchido, a sophomore in the 800-meter and mile.

She also has a freshman class that "looks like it will be very strong", with Kallie Holzuetor and Kendall Hewitt showing "some great potential in the 800-meter."

Also new to the team will be a throwing coach, Nate Allen - "he has been a great addition to the staff."

The team is looking for a change in their long distance, which has previously been one of their weaker areas. "We have a bunch of girls that are committed to training hard," Briggs said.

The Arrows will face still competition in their conference this year, even with powerhouse team Forest Hills Northern in a different league. Key matches to look out for will be the opener against Caledonia on April 17 and the Kathy Talus Memorial Invitational on May 3.



The girls' track team (first row, L-R): Richelle Kimble, Megg Fitzpatrick, Paige Senters, Jasmine Holliman, Megan Majestic, Jane McNaughton and Amy VanEns. (Second row, L-R): Molly Doyle, Madison Tawney, Kelsey Teft, Chelsea Comdure, Marin Tawney, Kailey Hemingsen, Mary Richardson, Brittney Kaminski, Ashley Whittington and Mary Matlock. (Third row, L-R): Jessica Wehby, Kelsey Brown, Haleigh Timmers, Carli Lewls, Taylor Marchido, Heather Wieberdink, Jillian O'Haire, Nicole Everitt, Chelsea VanderPols, Mary Kate Walsh, Katie Jousma and Caitlin Brown. (Fourth row, L-R): Coach Sarah Ellis, Coach Nate Allen, Lauren Trasky, Kallie Holzuetor, Jessica Lewis, Emily Jelsma, Kimmy Noall, Allison Oesch, Miah Jackson, Kendall Hewitt, Eleni Peckham, Tory Schlatter, Kailey Feuerstein, Coach Annalise Venhuizen and Coach Robin Briggs.



The boys' track team (first row, L-R): Kason Cook, Del Rockwell, Adrian McElveen, Justin Stallings, Zach Robinson and Alex Finch. (Second row, L-R): Coach Russ Stevens, Coach Nate Allen, Tom Mark, Josh Corteville, Cody Rockwell, Nick McKay and Robert Becker. (Third row, L-R): Justin VanAcker, Austin Tackmann, Dylan McElveen, Spencer Sellner, Brandon Hrusousky, Sage Fox and Coach Clay VanderWarf.



The crew team (first row, L-R): Coach Nicki Freed, Matthew Crain, Kelsey Ward, Lauren Hanson, Jessica Mankel, Samantha Hagerman, Mattie Kropf and Andrew Brim. (Second row, L-R): Coach Peter Chittenden, Bailee Emelander, Steve Trieweller, Ashley Metternick, Brittney Milton, Sara Cadwalader, Aaron Johnson, Seamus Donahue and Coach Keith Gillhespy. (Third row, L-R): Chelsea Dyer, Nick Drake, Annalisa Crain, Jillian Lane, Cheyenne Brown, Brandy Washburn and Jordan Warren.

<p>BLUE RIBBON FEED Corner of Main & Hudson Lowell 897-5921</p>	<p>ARCTIC, INC. 897-4123</p>	<p>JAMES REAGAN, DDS 207 W. Main 897-7179</p>
<p>KING MILLING CO. 115 S. Broadway 897-9264</p>	<p>B.C. PIZZA 1335 W. Main 897-9776</p>	<p>SHOWBOAT AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY INC. 1450 W. Main 897-9231</p>
<p>JB HARRISON INS. For All Your Insurance Needs 6661 Alden Nash, Alto 868-0050</p>	<p>LOWELL GRANITE COMPANY 306 E. Main 897-7191</p>	<p>LOWELL MEDICAL SPECIALISTS P.C. Mark Evenhouse M.D. • John Mogor M.D. 1150 N. Hudson 897-8436</p>

<p>LITTLE CAESARS PIZZA 505 W. Main St. • Lowell 897-0043</p>	<p>BERNARD'S ACE HARDWARE 1601 W. Main St. • Lowell 897-9490</p>	<p>RONDA TIRE 834 W. Main St. MON.- FRI. 8:00 - 5:30; SAT. 8-NOON 897-6200</p>
<p>ZOOK FARM EQUIPMENT 7980 Pratt Lake Road • Alto 868-6195</p>	<p>AUTOZONE OF LOWELL 2300 W. Main St. 897-8454</p>	<p>GREAT CLIPS HAIR SALON 11635 Fulton (by Goodwill) 897-9520 M - F 9-9; SAT. 9-6 & SUN 10-5</p>
<p>FARM BUREAU INS. Mark Johnson 6095 28th St., Suite 4 GRAND RAPIDS 940-8181</p>	<p>GOOD CHEVROLET • BUICK 1250 W. Main • Lowell 897-9294</p>	<p>BEACHUM FLOORING 924 Riverside Drive 897-7768</p>

SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW

The JV baseball team (first row, L-R): Pat Martin, Kaleb Ort, Nick McQueen, Conor Barr, Joshua Phelps and Nick Bauer.



(Second row, L-R): Coach Jason Knapp, Shane Ryan, Stephen Gillhespy, Jake Gould, Keegan Hanrahan, Christian Crist and Coach John Pike. (Not pictured is Morgan Mikese.)

The freshmen baseball team (first row, L-R): Kohl Clouser, William Plummer, Sam Steed, Alex Westdorp, Spencer Hunter and Matthew Walker.



(Second row, L-R): Tyler Mitchell, Matt Houston, Justin Lehman, Hunter Nelson, Eliot Westdorp, Jacob Meyer and Elliott Drain.

The JV tennis team (first row, L-R): Nicole Baker, Morgan Rogalke, Marie Dollar, Niki Bailey, Rachel Walendzik, June Ramsay and Morian Rowley.



(Second row, L-R): Anna-Maria Woroniecka, Heather Walendzik, Stephanie Kramer, Rebekka G. Alvern, Becca Happie, Cheyenne Brown, Katie Hoseth, Liz Schlosser and Brynlee Pomper. (Third row, L-R): Coach Pamela Cook, Brittany Litchfield, DeeDee Hewitt, Melissa Hawks, Molly Willemstein, Brittany Clark, Kathryn Collins and Coach Sue Beute.

The JV softball team (first row, L-R): Kyleigh Newman, Shelby Roberts, Lauren Smit, Alyssa Poland, Hannah Ritzema, Kacy Anderson and Kelly Wyckoff.



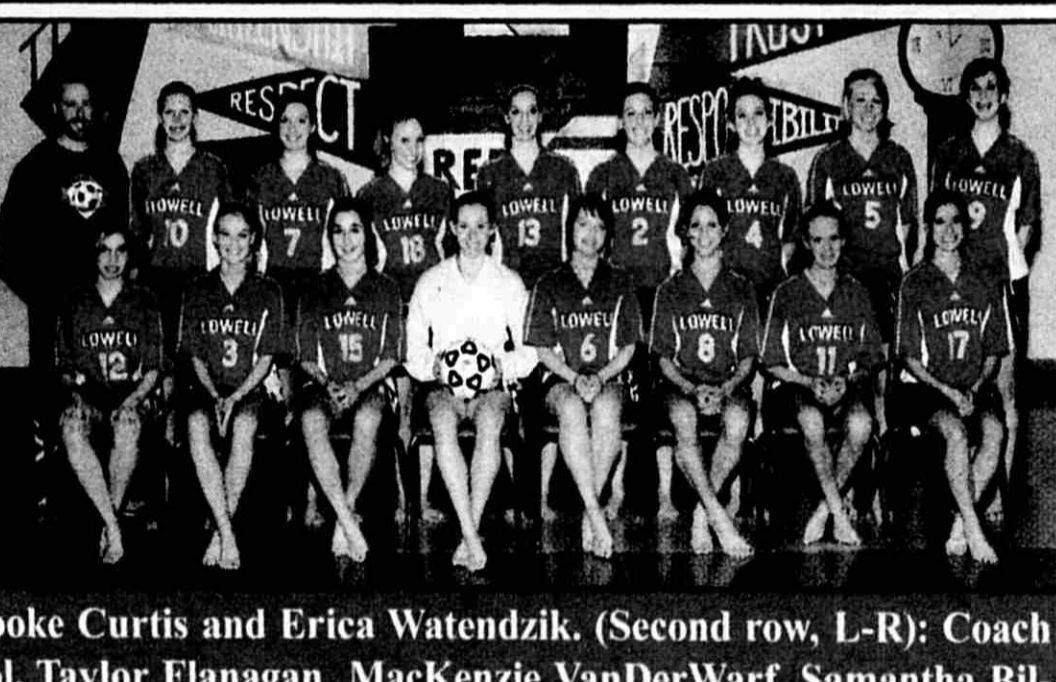
(Second row, L-R): Coach Steve Nelson, Sam Braman, Sarah Weaver, Elissa Lorentz, Leigha Frisbie, Alyshia Peterson and Rachel Wold.

The freshmen softball team (first row, L-R): Tori Hundley, Brianna Richardson, Katie Weaver, Rebecca Lorentz, Krystal Troyer and Lexi Myers.



(Second row, L-R): Emma Duvernay, KayLee Westerhuis, Kate Scudder, Jill Callihan, Anna Scudder and Coach Kim Griffith. (Not pictured are Kristen Schramm, Hannah Vanderhorst and Shelby Snyder.)

The JV soccer team (first row, L-R): Shelby Herb, Amanda Mott, Alyssa Kargl, Sarah Kramer, Cassie Miles, Kendall Hewitt, Brooke Curtis and Erica Watendzik.



(Second row, L-R): Coach Mike Lincoln, Taylor Flanagan, MacKenzie VanDerWarf, Samantha Billock, Megan Montgomery, Taryn Endres, Sam Gibbs, Paige McVey and Emily Oberlin.

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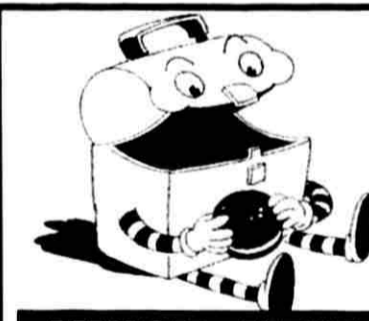
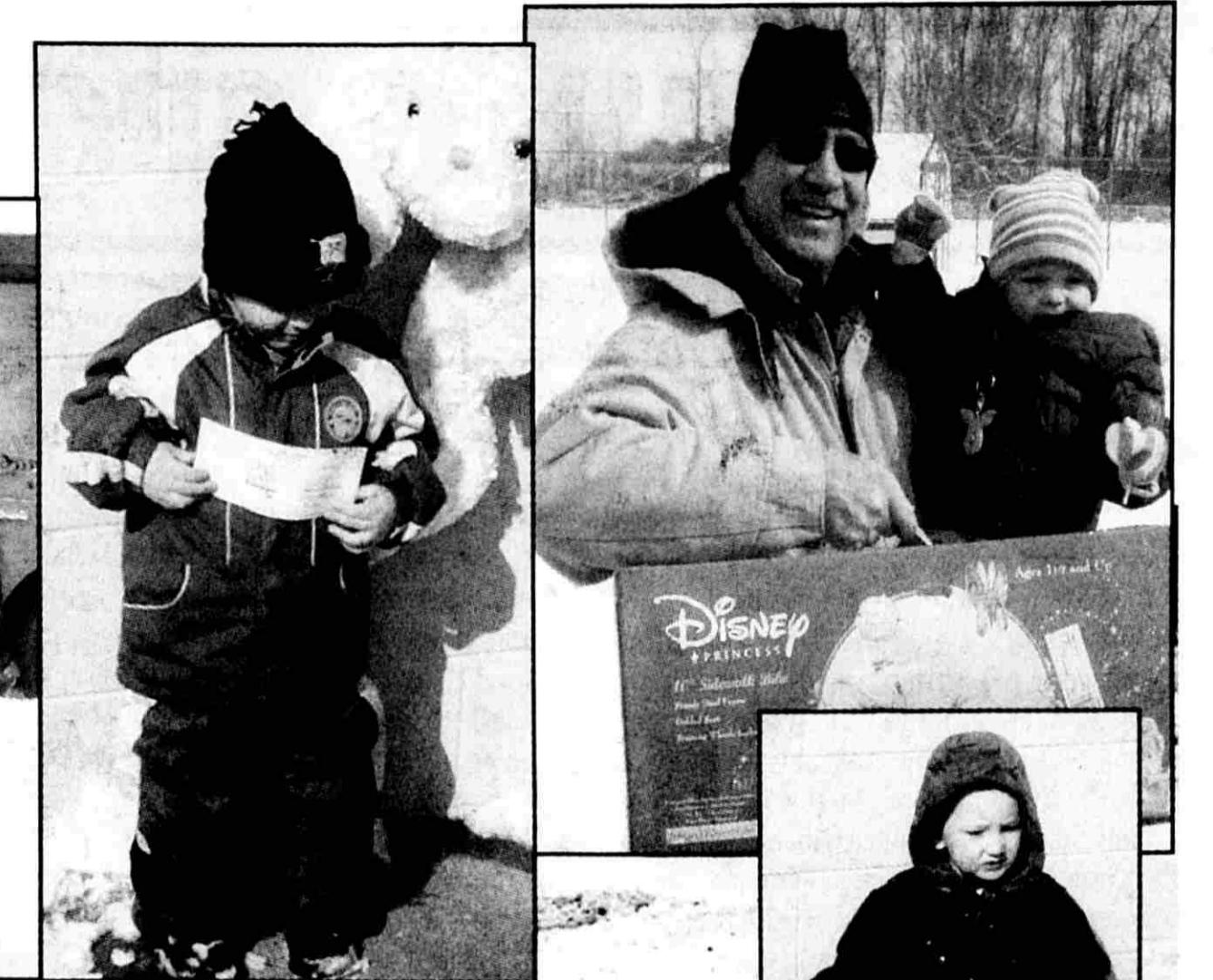
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Snowy Easter no deterrent to enthusiastic egg hunters

Brightly-colored eggs dotted the snowy ground for the annual Moose Lodge Easter egg hunt. This year was the first time the fields had to be plowed for the event.

Pictured with the Lowell Moose (Scott Franks) is senior regent Deb DeGrote holding the Meijer banner.

Clockwise, from the top, the winners of the egg hunt were: grand prize winner Kenneth Kenyon (1 and 2 year olds); Ella Curtis pictured with her grandpa and Moose member Bucky Curtis; Nathan Kamer, grand prize winner Ian Schwartz (4-6 age group), Allister and Noah Johnson, Koyuki Buckholb, Cassidy Stormzand, grand prize winner Collin McGee (7-9 year olds), Haley Kunkle and Austin Koning.



LUNCH MENU

ELEMENTARY MENU
Week of March 31, 2008

MON: Deluxe Nachos: chips, meat & cheese (3 meat sub offered at Alto & Murray Lake), corn, assorted fruit, milk.

TUES: Chicken drumstick w/dinner roll (fish & cheese on bun offered at Alto & Murray Lake), mashed potatoes & gravy, assorted fruit, milk.

WED: Stacked ham & cheese sub (cheeseburger on bun offered at Alto & Murray Lake), mini carrots & dip, chilled pineapple, milk.

THURS: Tony's cheese pizza (turkey & cheese on bun offered at Alto & Murray Lake), green beans, assorted fruit, milk.

FRI: Spring Vacation Begins.

You're Invited
SATURDAY, MARCH 29
8 AM - 11 AM

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

FUNDRAISER
TO ELECT
JERRY HALE
LOWELL TOWNSHIP
SUPERVISOR

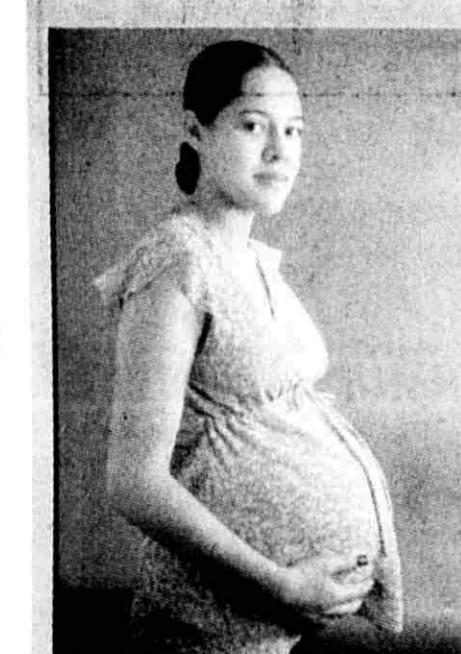
3175 Segwun
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\$10 Plate

Please come and show your support!

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Pregnancy

Explanation:



About half of all expectant mothers will develop lower back pain some time during their pregnancy. With the average weight gain of 25 to 30lbs, you will find your center of gravity shifting and causing additional stress on your lower back. Many women have found relief from their lower back pain and have had easier deliveries by receiving chiropractic care throughout their pregnancy. Scientific studies have found that spinal manipulation carries no increased risk to the mother or baby. Chiropractic care is also helpful after delivery as your body starts to tighten up those loose ligaments that developed during your pregnancy.

Recommended tips:

- ◆ Get regular Chiropractic checkups.
- ◆ Do safe exercises like walking, swimming, stationary cycling.
- ◆ Wear flat shoes with good arch supports.
- ◆ Use pregnancy pillow or full body pillow when sleeping.
- ◆ Eat small meals or snacks every four hours.
- ◆ Take a good nutritional supplement with at least 400mcg of Folic Acid.

TREATMENT

Chiropractic care works on correcting misalignments that cause lower back pain associated with pregnancy. To see if chiropractic may be able to help you, call today for a complimentary consultation.

Lowell Chiropractic
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Lowell, MI 49331

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9090 S. Rodgers Ct.
Caledonia, MI 49316

Ask Kathryn

With Kathryn DenHouter Ph.D.



In January, one of my readers asked, "What has the fast pace of our society done to how we do life?" In previous articles, I have discussed how physical health and emotional health have been affected by the hectic pace in our society (see website: www.kathryndenhouther.com.) This month, I will write about the "Driven Woman Syndrome." A dictionary definition of "syndrome" is: "a number of characteristic symptoms occurring together creating a pattern." There is a pattern emerging among women who tend to be overachievers. In the past 20 years, there has been a shift in college attendance. At this time, there are more women attending college than men. Suzanne Dudeck, a California Psychologist has written several articles about overachieving women. This tendency to overachieve to gain approval can create undue stress in a person's life. Sometimes women become so driven that they forget to "smell the roses." Here are some of the characteristics that indicate the "driven woman syndrome:"

1. Vision is limited to the future and they rush past the "now."
2. Overachieving women will often be attracted to "laid-back" sometimes underachieving men.
3. Women become driven by a need to be "In charge" or in control.

First of all, when one's vision is limited to the future, the present is clouded by the need to plan and organize for the future. Enjoying the present and just being with people that they care about is lost. The quiet times when we are with someone we care about, is what helps us relax and center. When our goals become so important that we minimize our need to be social, we lose the meaning of what it is to be human. Our tomorrow's storm clouds hide the sunshine of today. This is what happens when we become so future-focused that we rush past today. Secondly, another pattern that is often seen in "driven women" is that they are attracted to "laid-back," often underachieving men. Suzanne Dudeck explains this by pointing out that "driven women" lose their ability to play, and "laid-back" fun-loving men get them back in touch with that healthier part of themselves.

Finally, one of the most destructive characteristics of "driven women" is their need to control their circumstances and to control others. Undoubtedly, this will create stress within themselves as well as with those they connect with. Actually, very little in life can be controlled. A stress-free life

begins to take shape when you realize the only person you can control is yourself. So when we move from controlling others to a healthy self-control, we begin to feel less stressed and acquire an inner calm.

I welcome your questions. If you have a question or concern, please send e-mails to kathryndenhouther@gmail.com.

College News

Sergio B. Uccello, of Ada, recently received a 4-year bachelor of business administration and 2-year associate of arts degree from Northwood University.

Kristin Johnson, a sophomore marketing major, has been awarded the University of Findlay's Dean's Scholarship for the 2007-08 academic year.

Johnson, a 2006 graduate

of Lowell High School, is the daughter of Peggy and Mark Johnson of Alto.

Adam Ingraham, of Lowell, has been named to the Dean's Honor Roll for the Fall 2007 semester at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield. To be named to the honor roll a student must maintain at least a 3.5 grade point average for the term.

Lowell students compete and place at BPA State

At the 2008 State Leadership Conference held at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids on March 14-16, five Lowell students placed

at the State level in an individual and team event. Over 2000 students arrive in Grand Rapids to compete in the many business skill competitions, attend a formal

banquet, and attend the closing awards ceremony. The Lowell students who placed at the State competition were:

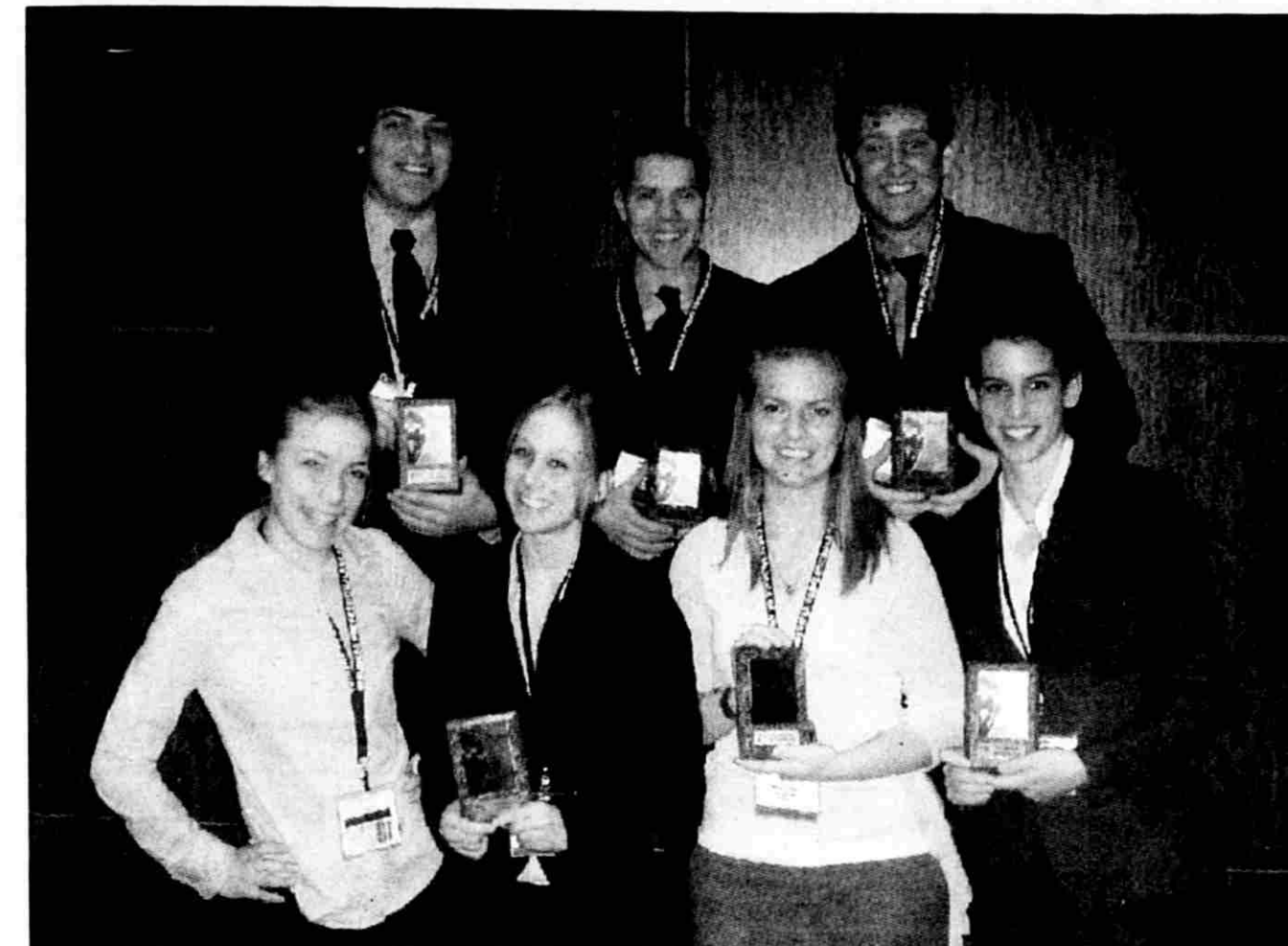
• Andrea Converse - 7th place in Prepared Speech
 • Parliamentary Procedure Team of Brian Hook, Tom Alberts, Thomas Jeffrey, Andrea Converse and Katie Krolewicz - 7th place.

Ten students of the Lowell chapter earned the right to compete at the BPA State Leadership Conference. The students earned the right to compete at the State level by qualifying at the Regional competition in early January.

Those students

competing at the State competition included:
 • Ethan Drain in Economic Research Project
 • Becca Happie in Small Business Management Team
 • Heather Jousma in Small Business Management Team
 • Renee Buist in Small Business Management Team
 • Jim McCormick in Small Business Management Team
 • Brian Hook in

Parliamentary Procedure Team
 • Tom Alberts in Parliamentary Procedure Team
 • Tom Jeffrey in Parliamentary Procedure Team
 • Katie Krolewicz in Prepared Speech and Parliamentary Procedure Team
 • Andrea Converse in Prepared Speech and Parliamentary Procedure Team



Pictured, back row, left to right are: Brian Hook, Thomas Jeffrey, and Tom Alberts; front row, left to right: Heather Jousma, Renee Buist, Becca Happie and Andrea Converse. Missing from photo: Ethan Drain, Katie Krolewicz and Jim McCormick.

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 by Andre Jubert, MD
Dates & Times:
Sunday, March 30, 4-6 PM
 Lecture: *Diabetes Challenges*
 Question & Answer Session
Sunday, April 27, 4-6 PM
 Lecture: *Diabetes Reversal*
 Question & Answer Session
 Diabetic friendly food samples and recipes will be provided after the lecture.
A Better Life and a Healthier You!
 Dr. Andre Jubert, MD is a retired Grand Rapids surgical oncologist who has a burden to help people prevent and overcome disease. Dr. Jubert's new book, *A Doctor's Advice to Keep You Out of His Office*, will be available for sale.
 Cost: Donations. For more information, please call Marian Cruttenden, 897-0581 or Linda Douglass, 676-1667.
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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
BID PROPOSAL
 Sealed bids, in triplicate, for Lowell Area Schools Re-roof Bushnell Elementary, will be received at Lowell Area Schools Administration Building, 300 High Street, Lowell, Michigan on Wednesday, April 2, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.
 All proposals received (mailed and delivered) will be opened and read publicly shortly after 2:00 p.m. local time in Lowell Area Schools Administration Building Board Conference Room 300 High Street, Lowell, MI.
 Bids may be mailed to Lowell Area Schools, 300 High Street, Lowell, Michigan 49331. Mailed bids must be received prior to the bid due time and date stated above. **FAXED BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
SITE INSPECTION
 A construction pre-bid meeting will not be held for this project. Site visits are encouraged and can be arranged by contacting York Tardy phone # 616-262-8172. The address for Bushnell Elementary is, 700 Elizabeth, Lowell, MI. All bidders are encouraged to visit the site. **Construction can begin June 9, 2008 and needs to be completed August 15, 2008.**
BID DOCUMENTS
 The Bidding Documents may be obtained at Owen-Ames-Kimball Co., 300 Ionia N.W., Grand Rapids, MI. A deposit of \$100.00 is required. The deposit will be refunded if documents are returned within 60 days after bid opening. A non-refundable charge of \$20.00 will be required for mailing documents.
BIDDER QUALIFICATIONS
 Bidders submitting a Bid for this Project shall have qualifications as follows:
 a. Shall be a reputable, recognized organization, with at least five (5) years successful experience on work of this type and scope of this project.
 b. Shall have a license where required by public authorities having jurisdiction.
 c. Shall have ample financial resources for work of this magnitude.
BID SECURITY - PERFORMANCE BONDS
 Each bid shall be accompanied by good and sufficient bid security or bid bond in an amount not less than 5% of the Bid amount and shall secure the Owner from loss or damage by reason of the withdrawal of the Bid by a Bidder or by failure of the successful Bidder to enter into a Contract with the Owner if his Bid is accepted by the Owner.
 The successful Bidder will be required to secure Performance, Labor and Material bonds for all contracts exceeding \$50,000, from a surety company having a rating of A- or better, for the full amount of the Contract.

Red Arrow SPORTS

Baum, varsity team make Academic All-State teams

The wrestling team earned Academic All-State accolades from the Michigan Wrestling Association this week, as did Zach Baum on the individual list.

The team's average GPA was 3.61, based on the average of the 14 highest GPAs.

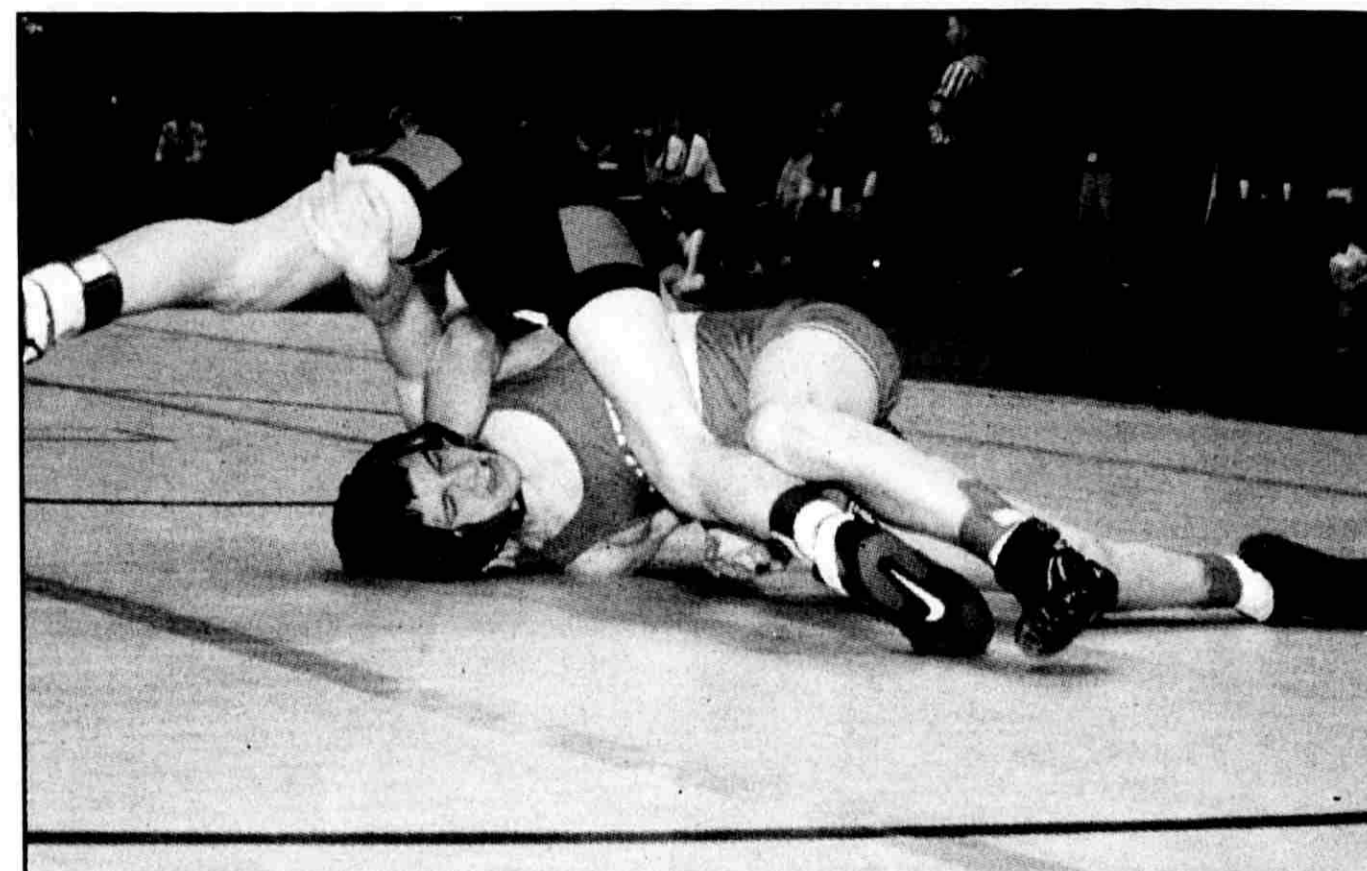
To make the team, a wrestler must have over a 3.5 GPA, be a senior and be a regional qualifier.

Baum, a senior on the team, has over a 4.0 GPA and was a captain on the team. He also wrestled his way to the State finals. He was the runner-up in the Regional finals at 130 pounds.

The team fell in the Regional finals to State champion Greenville, 39-21.

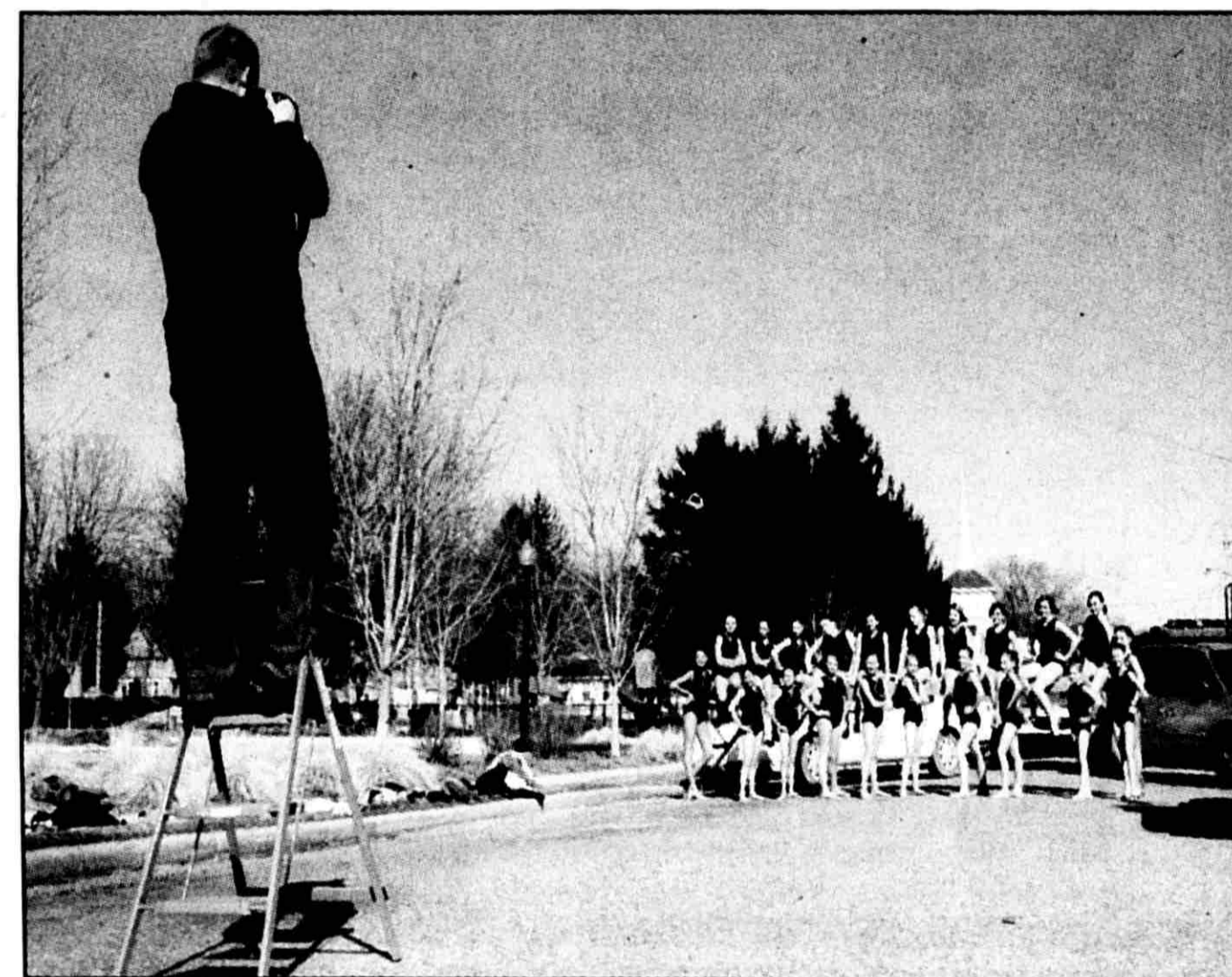


(Left): The 2007-08 varsity wrestling team earned Academic All-State honors.



Zach Baum wrestled at 130 against Nick Humes of Stevensville Lake-shore in the second round at State finals at the Palace of Auburn Hills March 7.

The spring sports season has started! Keep up on all of your favorite varsity teams with us.



Who are you rooting for during March Madness? Are you a No. 1-seed fan? Or do you root for the underdogs every time?

Let the Ledger know - we'll be printing an end-of-the-season story after the basketball kings are crowned in April and we want to know what you thought!

Thank You!

The Lowell Chapter of Business Professionals of America (BPA) would like to thank the following businesses for donating funds to help support our high school chapter this year.

Through the help of these businesses, over 20 students were able to compete at the Regional competition and 10 students at the State level competition.

Thanks For Your Support!!!
King Milling
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Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc.

Now you can help a neighbor in need and help yourself at the same time!

During the week of March 26, bring in any size bag of non-perishable food items (bag must be full) and then fill that bag with items from the

F.R.O.M. THRIFT SHOP/
FURNITURE STORE FOR \$1.00

Those who do not bring in food may fill a bag (of our choice) for \$3.00

Offer is good Wed., Thurs., Fri.: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.;
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Get Your Summer Off to a Great Start! You are what you eat! Come and learn all about how to eat right, how to read labels, good fats vs bad fats, how much protein you really need, good carbs vs bad carbs, detoxification, why soda and sweeteners are bad for you, cardiovascular health and lots, lots more!

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Dates: Classes start on April 1st
Times: Tuesdays at noon or Tuesday at 7 pm.

Place: The Wisdom Wellness Center
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Call Cheryl at (616) 868-7551 or email
Cheryl@WisdomWellnessCenter.com

Client Testimony:
"Onmygosh! I can't believe how much I've learned! Thanks so much for putting this together!"
Cherie M from Caledonia

The Junior Arrow gymnastics team stopped traffic on Avery Street, behind City Hall, last Thursday.

They stretched the balance beam across the street and posed for Brandon Mulnix of Modern Photographics, who will be putting together a poster for the team.

Mulnix said he was glad they scheduled the photo shoot for Thursday, before the snowstorm hit on Friday afternoon.

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HOME FOR SALE - Country setting, 1.5 acres, 4 bedroom, 2 bath. Can be seen at owners.com listing ID wtj8007. Call 897-4162.

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IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM
In loving memory of Viola F. Smoes "Grandma Vi" who passed away one year ago March 25. God saw you getting tired, And a cure was not to be. So He gathered family around you, And said, "Come home to Me." This year has been trying, Full of tears and pain. But thoughts of you keep us going, So strong we shall remain.

Missed by children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren & many friends.

EVENTS

SNOW UNIT-ED METHODIST CHURCH - at 3189 Snow Ave. SE will serve a family style Turkey & Dressing dinner on Wed., April 9, starting at 5:30 p.m. Adults are \$8, children 6-12 are \$2 & children 5 & under are free. Take out dinners also available.

UNLIMITED SKATE AND BOWL - Rollaway in Lowell. Fri., March 28, 7 - 10 p.m. Cost \$8. Everyone welcome. Sponsors the 8th grade trip.

The Lowell Ledger

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By Fax: 616-897-4809

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HALL FOR RENT - with kitchen, seats 150. Call 897-6050.

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.

HELP WANTED

TREES INC. IS LOOKING FOR - experienced line clearance tree trimmers & climbers. Health benefits available. Pay dependent on experience. Must pass drug screen. Interested applicants can call Steve Stricker, 989-763-0845.

SERVICES SERVICES

BUSINESS CARDS - For as little as \$26 for 250. (white card, black ink). Before you order your cards from somewhere else - check our rates! Call Lowell Litho, 897-9261.

HANDY REPAIR SERVICE - All kinds of service work: locks rekeyed, deadbolts installed, plumbing, electrical, screen & window repair. Call Bob Ford, 299-3198.

ALTO DAYCARE - has 4 full time openings, infant - school age, fenced in back yard, food program, planned activities, CPR trained. Call 868-0752

CASH FOR GOLD & SILVER - Antiques, collections & other vintage items. Turn your stuff into \$\$\$! Call 616-550-0521 today!

ALTERATIONS - Experienced professional men's, women's, leather coats, all fabrics, zippers replaced, wedding & prom dresses altered. Call Helen 897-6071.

GET A HEAD START ON SPRING CLEANING - window washing, inside and out, commercial and residential. Makes a great Mother's Day gift also. Other services available include: gutter cleaning; power washing, houses and decks; deck staining and air duct cleaning. Call Randy for a free estimate 616-581-8561.

PIANO INSTRUCTION - Spring and Summer openings with patient & experienced performer in Vergennes Township. 897-9485 MissMeowic@msn.com

SPRING CLEANING - Get it done! \$16 per hour with a 2 hour minimum. Call Kim 490-8778.

DID YOU KNOW THERE ARE OVER 200 HOMES FOR SALE IN LOWELL? - Now's the time to buy! Great deals on great homes! Our listings, their listings - we can help! Call Pat & Toni Schaefer to start your dream home search today! Five Star Real Estate, 1004 W. Main, Lowell, 897-9027.

NEW OFFICE HOURS - M-Th 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. & Fr. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Buyers Guide, Lowell Ledger, Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

JIM'S FLOOR COVERING - Discount prices on flooring. 23 years experience. 897-0737, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., leave message.

ZOOLAND DAYCARE HAS OPENINGS - on 1st, 2nd & 3rd shifts. Call 897-8386 or 308-0195.

PLUMBER - Licensed, 17 yrs. experience. Residential service or new construction, reasonable rates. No emergency or after hours fee. Call Platinum Plumbing, 897-2575.

JOHN SCHLOOP BUILDER - New homes, additions & remodeling. Call 897-1335.

WE ARE BUYING - Collector's Korner LLC. Coins, stamps, pocket watches, collectibles, estate jewelry. Will pay more for your scrap gold & silver jewelry than anyone else! Buy, sell, trade, appraisals. If you have something to sell, come & see me. You won't be turned away. Appraisals, \$5/hr. Tues-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 218 W. Main, Lowell. 616-821-9232. Come see a professional. We are buying!

DUCK DUCK GOOS DAYCARE HAS OPENINGS! - Licensed, loving, learning enriched environment that is fun for your little person. Structured activities include art, music, stories, early math & science experiences & early language & literacy development. Call 897-9444.

GALLERY and CUSTOM FRAMING - Fire and Water Art! 219 W. Main St., Lowell 890-1879. OPEN Wed. - Sun. 1-6 p.m. and Friday 1-7 p.m. NEWART created by OUR 25 leading local artists! ART CLASSES! www.fire-and-water-art.com

NEED A DUMPSTER? - Dudley's Dumpsters. Dumpsters priced to get rid of your trash & save you cash! Garage, attic, household clean-up, roofing, trash, junk etc. 14 to 20 yards available. Call for free estimates. Contact Doug 616-295-6640.

PAYROLL & BOOKKEEPING SERVICE - by certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-6351.

WANTED - Cars, trucks & vans. Free pickup. Licensed dealer paying minimum \$200 up to \$1,000. Call 616-889-0899.

WANTED - very affectionate, trustworthy, positive person whom enjoys camping as well as dancing, fleamarkets, cuddling and handholding a plus. I have been alone long enough and seek the simple things in life - a sunrise, full moon, a look from across the room, a touch in passing, a smile, a laugh or even a tear. For more info write: R.L.B. #07296067, Box #8000, Bradford, PA 16701.

SOUND OFF LINE 897-0787
Voice your opinion!

PERSONALS

COPY SERVICE, FAX SERVICE, LAMINATING, UPS SHIPPING & MORE! AVAILABLE AT THE LOWELL LEDGER 105 N. Broadway HOURS M-Th. 8-5 p.m. Fri. 8-2 p.m. Closed Sat. & Sun. Ph. 897-9261 Fax 897-4809

A Better Place...

The Place of Choice

Fountain View is designed to provide choice and convenience for seniors requiring various levels of assistance with activities of daily living. Working together with you, we offer a family atmosphere, companionship and care while our residents maintain their independence and dignity.

Fountain View is pleased to offer quality *Assisted Living* services and *Specialized Memory Care* for those dealing with Alzheimer's, dementia and other types of memory loss.

We're in touch with changing needs

- Spacious, Private and Couples Suites
- Assistance with Personal Care Needs for the Independent and Frail Elderly
- Medication Administration
- Separate, special needs Alzheimer's & Dementia Residence
- Individualized Care Plans
- Respite Care Between Hospital and Home or Caregiver Relief
- Monthly Alzheimer's Support Group
- Physical and Occupational Therapy
- Trained Staff 24 Hours a Day
- Nutritious Meals and Snacks Provided Daily
- Beautiful Landscaped Grounds, Walkways and Courtyard
- Hair Salon
- Scheduled Activities
- Library



Fountain View Mission Statement

It is the purpose of Fountain View to honor God by providing high quality senior lifestyle services that promote the value and dignity of every person.

**11535 E. Fulton • Lowell, MI 49331
(616) 897-8413**

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