



The Lowell Ledger

Volume 38 Issue 13

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

America Saga may film movie in Lowell

by Emma Palova

The America Saga Productions may be filming a movie in Lowell from March through summer this year. The \$10 million movie 'Genesis Code' with screen play written by Michael Leighton is mostly set in Lowell, according to one of the producers, Jerry Zandstra.

The movie is about a relationship between two college students. The guy is on the Calvin College hockey team.

"It has a faith component," said Zandstra.

Zandstra will play a minister in the movie and

the father of the female lead. Zandstra is also a real life minister for Christian Reformed Church in Caledonia and Wayland.

The producers liked the historical setting of Lowell and picked the Flat River Antique Mall to locate their production offices. The company expects to employ 170 paid people spanning the entire gamut from actors to construction people, drywallers and caterers. "We will have all sorts of jobs," said Zandstra.

And much of the revenues may stay in Lowell, since the company plans to use local joints to

shoot scenes. The shooting sites considered include Sneakers, Keisers, Larkins, Main Street and the Flat River Antique Mall because of its high ceilings.

"We will be interviewing a lot of extras," said Zandstra.

For example, the production will have a scene with a church full of people.

America Saga picked Lowell and Michigan because of the 42 percent tax break incentive initialized by Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

"The incentives were in place," said Zandstra.

Developer of Flat River

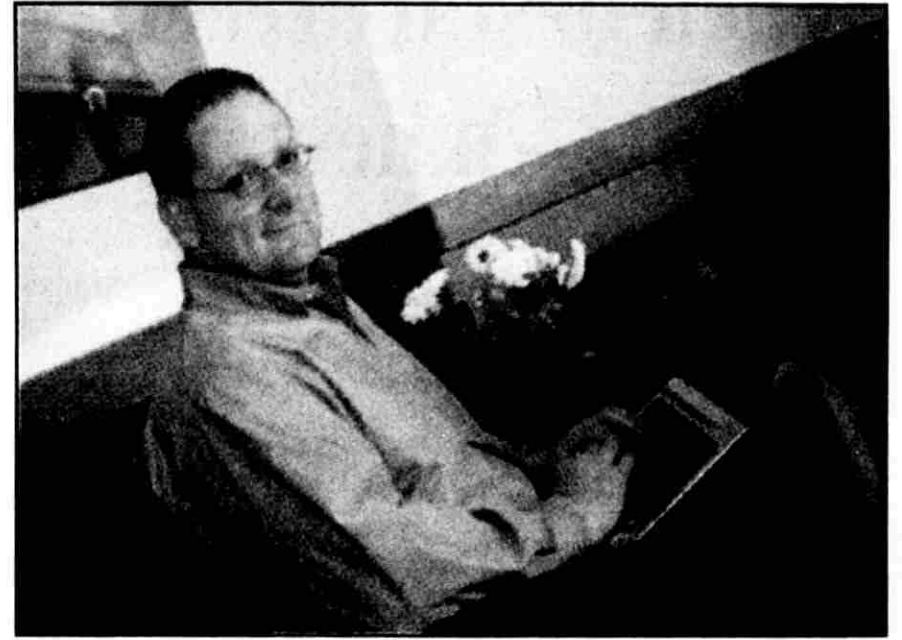
Antique Mall, Jordan Bush, said he likes the idea of the mall being reborn with film production. "It's been a great process," said Bush.

America Saga filmed 'Station House', a reality television pilot with focus on firefighters last year in Grand Rapids.

A group of private investors formed America Saga last year to work on four to five films a year portraying the best in America. The projects will go easy on sex and violence.

"We'll do as many as we can," said Zandstra.

Two movie and



Jerry Zandstra is the vice-president of America Saga Productions.

television veterans helped shepherd America Saga, Nick Grillo, who was a top executive for Neufeld/Rehme on movies including 'The Hunt for Red October' and 'Clear and Present Danger,' and Jerry Offsay, who spent 10 years as

president of programming for Showtime.

America Saga will also film this summer TV mini-series 'The Line' in West Michigan starring Robert Duvall. America Saga has an annual budget of \$80 million.

Survey to determine needs for high speed Internet

by Emma Palova

A survey determining the needs for high speed Internet, will be sent

to Vergennes Township residents. A task force met Monday to discuss the availability of Internet in the township.

Most residents complained because of the lack of high speed Internet or due to high costs of service. The survey, among other

questions, will ask if you have children in school and if you own a business. Lowell Area Schools do have high speed Internet through fiber optic. An extension of that could be one of the options of servicing the residents of Vergennes Township.

The survey will be funded through the Lowell Area Community Fund,

followed by an estimate by Internet providers.

"The lack of Internet is starting to affect the quality of our lives," said clerk Mari Stone.

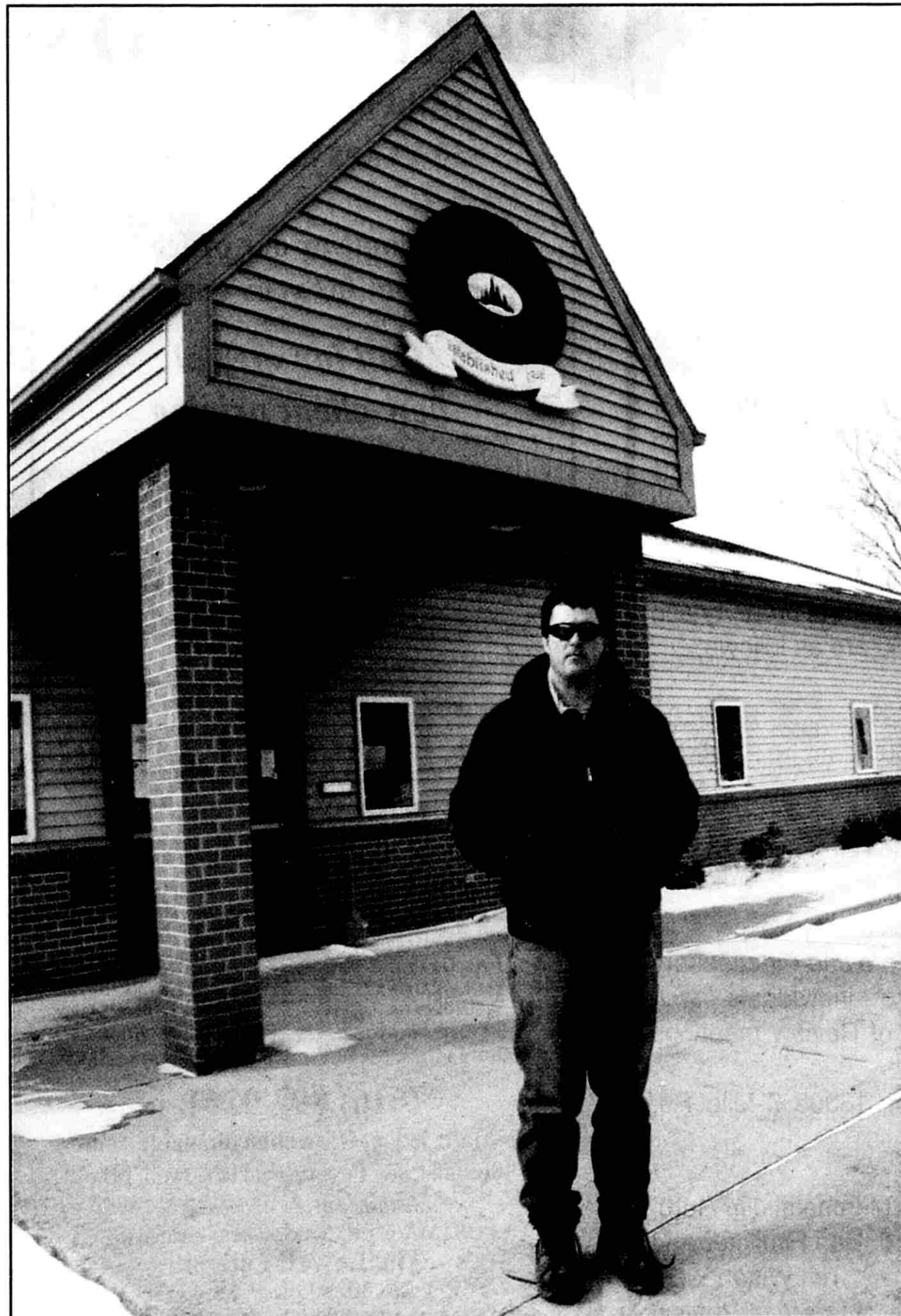
Resident Heather Cooper called her Internet service crappy.

A federal broadband investment of \$7.2 billion

targeting rural and poor areas is part of the \$787 billion economic stimulus package approved by the Congress Friday.

Consumer broadband is split between digital subscriber lines, or DSL, offered by telephone

Internet, cont'd., pg. 8



Marc Middlestadt filed a complaint of violation of Open Meetings Act against Grattan Township.

Open Meetings Act violation in Grattan Township investigated

by Emma Palova

The Kent County Sheriff's Department is investigating potential violation of the Open Meetings Act in Grattan Township.

The complaint was filed by Marc Middlestadt of Sierra Consultants, a consultant and operator of the township's extensive and outdated sewer system, built in the 70s. According to Middlestadt, the township prevented the consultants from attending a special meeting on Oct. 27, 2008 due to lack of adequate posting.

The announcement was posted only shortly before the meeting, according to Middlestadt. The law requires posting 18 hours ahead of time.

"We were prevented from attending a public meeting. We're their hired contractor to maintain and operate their sewer systems," said Middlestadt. "They have a neglected sewer system and we got blamed for it. We're just trying to fix it."

The police recently seized the township's three computers for investigation.

Middlestadt is hoping the truth comes out through the investigation. He said he only wanted to get in the same room with the township engineers, Prein and Newhoff, to discuss a lagoon overflow problem.

According to the minutes posted on the township web site, board members talked with the township engineers about the investigation of the sewer overflow problem and billing for services.

The lagoon overflowed last year in the spring, and the consultants did report it, according to Middlestadt.

"We're going to fix this, but they intentionally kept us away," said Middlestadt.

Spokesperson for Kent County Sheriff's Department said the prosecutors must look at board members' intent for not posting the meeting properly.

A violation of the Opening Meetings Act is a misdemeanor punishable by up to 93 days in jail.

The Open Meetings Act protects the citizens' right to know what's going on in government by opening to full public view the processes by which elected and non-elected officials make decisions. The township officials were unavailable for a comment.

Obituaries

BRIGGS (BISHOP) is preceded in death by her husbands, Robert D. Hodge (1974) and James L. Briggs, Sr. (1991). She will be dearly missed by her children, Jan (Bud) Rogers, Curtiss (Lisa)

Hodge, Beverly (Dan) Hodge, Steven (Patricia) Hodge, Mitchell Hodge, Electa (John) McCurdy and Camela Wilson; step-daughters, Judy (Duane) Schwan, Joan (Cameron) Hoffman, and Pamela (Norris) Carstensen; along with 17 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; sisters, Alma Joy Wells and Barbara Page along with

many nieces and nephews. Extending from her wishes, a private family ceremony will be held. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. The family requests that memorial contributions be made to Hospice Care of America.

GROVER

Albert Dashiell Grover, known to his friends as Al, passed away on February

15, 2009, at the age of 88. He was preceded in death by his wife, Lila (Cornell); his parents Clyde and Louise Grover; and his sisters, Eleanor Barns and Jean Merrick. A native of California, Al moved to Michigan in 1946 where he and his wife were married and built the Al-O-Ray Motel in Thompson. In 1955, they moved to Lowell. A few years later, they bought and operated Fairchild Oil Company. A veteran of World War II, Al was proud to have served in the United States Navy from December 1940 until his honorable discharge in December 1946. Al leaves behind two daughters, Judy (Charles) Stewart of Green Valley, Ariz. and Louise (William) Bouck; six grandchildren, Sheila (Don) Dubbink, Alan (Anne) Huver, Sharon (Ken) Morris, Robert (Jane) Huver of Green Bay, Wis., Amber Bouck and Brandy Bouck; eight great grandchildren, Stacy and Taryn Dubbink, Tyler and Taryn Morris, Hunter and Pyper Fenton and Kennedy and Kaia Zimmerman; several nieces and nephews; and many good friends. The family wishes to extend its sincere thanks to the A.C.E. unit at Spectrum Health, Blodgett, Dr. John Maurer and West Michigan Heart for their

special care of our loved one. A private interment was held Friday at the Graceland Memorial Park Cemetery. If anyone would like to make a donation in Al's honor, the family asks that it be made to Grand Rapids Youth Commonwealth, Camp O'Malley, 235 Straight Ave., N.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49504.



WASHBOURN

Anne P. Washbourn, age 78, of Fountain View, Lowell, passed away Friday, February 20, 2009. Surviving are her children, David (Kristi) Washbourn of Ionia, Michael (Eileen) Washbourn of New Jersey, Maria Washbourn of South Carolina; grandchildren, Jacob, Emily, Nolan, Juliana and Erin Washbourn. Funeral Mass and burial will be held Thursday, February 26 in Westbury, New York.

To learn more about Social Security, visit the website at www.socialsecurity.gov.

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.

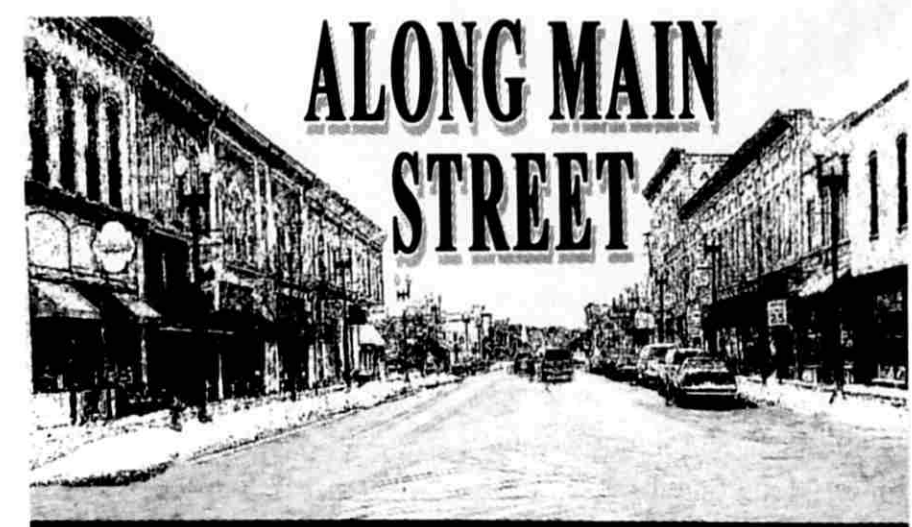
When to start receiving retirement benefits – a new pod cast to help you decide

The pod cast encourages listeners to use Social Security's online Retirement Estimator, which you can find online at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator. The Retirement Estimator can help you "try on" different retirement scenarios, playing with such variables as when you'd like to retire and how much you expect to earn in future working years.

So stop wondering when the best time is for you to retire. Your first step to figuring out the answer is to visit www.socialsecurity.gov/podcasts and listen to "Deciding When to Start Receiving Retirement Benefits." Then, you'll want to subscribe to the ongoing series, or bookmark the web address and check back for additional pod casts.

To learn more about Social Security, visit the website at www.socialsecurity.gov.

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.



Lowell Area Recreation Authority seeking public input on DNR grants for trails

Lowell could be turning into one of the prime locations for non-motorized trails in West Michigan: the existing North Country Trail, the upcoming Safe Routes to School trail, and the proposed Greenville and Ionia rail-trails to name a few. This is good news to the Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA) who will be holding a public meeting on Wednesday, March 11 at 6 p.m. at the Lowell Township offices to seek input and comments on their proposed five year Recreation Plan and a proposed grant application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Trust

Fund for Phase 1 of their railway masterplan.

The proposed Phase 1 LARA trail will connect to the Cherry Creek Elementary Safe Routes to School trail along Gee Drive and to the future Lowell to Greenville rail-trails to trail project at Foreman Road.

The MDNR grant is for up to \$500,000 to be used towards the construction of Phase 1 of which will connect Cherry Creek Elementary School with Lowell High School and the Wittenbach/Wege Agri-Science and Environmental Center via a nonmotorized trail along Foreman Road and Alden Nash Road.

In addition to the MDNR grant, LARA is seeking funding from other state and local programs, private and community foundations and private fundraising so that no local public funds from the Townships or City will be used to construct the trails.

All interested persons are encouraged to attend the March 11 meeting or provide your input to the trail in other ways. The proposed five year Recreation Plan and public input forms are available at the City of Lowell, Vergennes Township and Lowell Township offices as well as the Englehardt

Public Library. More information about the proposed LARA trail can be viewed at the Authority's web page www.lowellareatrailway.org.

"Public input is really important to the development of the trail and to the success of the grant application," according to Lowell resident Dave Austin, of Williams & Works, who is assisting LARA with the grant application and the trail design. "We want to hear from all groups, young and old and persons of all abilities so that this trail can be universally accessible to all."

CALL FOR AUDITIONS

"Danny Trooper (in the Land of Modmyth)" will hold auditions at the Englehardt Library on Thurs., Feb. 26 at 6 p.m. Any questions call Lowell Area Arts Council at 897-8545.

LOWELL LACROSSE SWAP MEET & REGISTRATION

Don't miss final registration for Lowell Lacrosse on Sat., Feb. 28 from 10 a.m. to noon at Cherry Creek Elementary School. There will also be a swap meet if you have equipment to buy/sell.

ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

The Lowell Area Schools Athletic Boosters will hold their regular business meeting in the high school staff lounge on Mon., March 2 at 7 p.m.

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

Sign up at the Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St., Fri., Mar. 13, 6-8 p.m. or Sat., Mar. 14, 10 a.m. - 12 noon. Everyone welcome. Any questions call Esther at 897-7395.

F.R.O.M. FOOD PANTRY

The food pantry is in need of canned fruit, juice, boxed potatoes, hamburger and chicken helper. Please help if you can.

College News

Seton Hill University has named Leara D. Glinzak, of Lowell, to the Dean's List for the fall 2008 semester. To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must have earned a grade point average of 3.7 or higher, on a scale of 4.0 being all A's. Glinzak is the daughter of Louis and Lynnea Glinzak of Lowell. She is a 2008 graduate of Lowell High School.

Michigan University's fall semester honors list includes the following students who earned 3.5, on a 4.0 scale, and higher grade point average. Students from Ada include: Kathleen Ciosek, Julie Ely, Audrey Fleet, Erin Gavigan, Molly Gerst, Daniel Lingenfelter, Brett McMahon, Erika Murray, and Matthew Tevlin.

Of Alto, Laura Danielson, Cynthia Engerson, and Lindsey Forton. Students from Lowell: Karl Bouwhuis, Christin Cardani, Jamie Cardani, Kenneth Hayes, Rebecca Hommowun, Kimberly Hoogewind, Catherine Howard, Jordan Nawrocki, Autumn Nethercott, Tara Ormiston, Justin Peterson, Taryn Schumacher, Ashley Spicer, Lindsey Trierweiler, and Amanda Weaver.

Kimberly Ward, a local resident of Lowell, has been named to the Dean's List at Robert Morris College for the last quarter.

Erin Beddows, of Ada, was among those honored on the Lewis University Deans' List for fall semester 2008. To be eligible for this honor, students must have completed a minimum of 12 semester hours of credit with a grade point average of 3.25 out of a possible 4.0.

Erin Craig has appeared on the Dean's List at Grand Rapids Community College for the fall and winter semesters. She is the daughter of Charles and Patty Craig of Alto.

Calvin College has announced its winter 2008 Dean's List. To earn a spot on the Dean's List at Calvin requires that a student maintains at least a 3.5 grade point average for the semester and has at least a 3.3 cumulative grade point average at one of the country's top Christian, liberal-arts colleges.

Kara Bielema, Alexander Boelkins, Abigail Hollemans, Lukas Leisman, Joel Meredith, Carla Nelson, and Nichole Smith, all of Ada. Katherine Baker, Leslie Boot, and Rebecca Schmidt, all of Alto. Kristin Befus, Benjamin

DenHouter, Chad Drenth, Hannah Gerig, Kelly Malling, Matthew Scheider, Brook VanEck, and Kelise Vriesema, all of Lowell.

Collin Roth, of Ada, and Amanda Geelhoed, of Grand Rapids and a Lowell High School graduate, were named to the Dean's List for the 2008 fall semester at Hillsdale College.

Lauren Hanson, of Ada, received academic honors at Oakland University for the fall semester. Undergraduates who have earned a semester grade point average (GPA) of 3.60 or higher in at least 12 credit hours of numerically graded university work receive academic honors.

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FRIDAY THE 13TH (R)
TUE 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
MON/WED TH 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
THE INTERNATIONAL (R)
TUE 11:25, 2:00, 4:35, 7:05, 9:50
MON/WED TH 4:35, 7:05, 9:50
THE PINK PANTHER 2 (PG)
TUE 11:05 AM
TAKEN (PG-13)
TUE 12:50, 3:30, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30
MON/WED TH 5:10, 7:20, 9:30
GOLDEN BIRD (R)
TUE 11:05 AM
TAKEN (PG-13)
TUE 12:50, 3:30, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30
MON/WED TH 5:10, 7:20, 9:30

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The last day to purchase a dog license is **Friday, February 27, 2009** at Lowell City Hall.

After this date, licenses must be purchased at the Kent County Animal Control Office, 711 Ball N.E., Grand Rapids.

Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

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Saturday, March 14, 2009

Appetizers: 5:30 p.m. at Cherry Creek Elementary
Dinner: 7:00 p.m. at participating houses

A fundraiser to benefit education in Lowell Area Schools

This event is sponsored by the Lowell Education Foundation and is underwritten by Litehouse, Inc. Tickets for the event are \$50.00 per person and all proceeds from the event will go toward fundraising innovative grants for Lowell teachers and students. Underwritten by: **LITEHOUSE**

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BOWNE TOWNSHIP NOTICE

BOARD OF REVIEW

THE BOARD OF REVIEW OF BOWNE TOWNSHIP WILL MEET IN THE NEW TOWNSHIP OFFICE BUILDING - 8240 ALDEN NASH SE., ALTO ON:

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009 10:00 A.M. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2009
9:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon
1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2009
9:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon
6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.**
**EVENING HOURS - BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING THE TAX ROLL AND HEARING ALL CLAIMS. YOU MAY APPEAL YOUR ASSESSED VALUATION ONE OF (2) WAYS: BY LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE BOWNE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR AND RECEIVED BY HIM PRIOR TO MARCH 6, 2009 OR BY APPEARING IN PERSON ON ONE OF THE DATES THE BOARD OF REVIEW MEETS.

THE TENTATIVE REAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AND ASSESSMENT MULTIPLIER REQUIRED BY PA 165 OF 1971 ARE:

Agricultural Ratio	48.54	Multiplier	1.0300
Commercial Ratio	47.06	Multiplier	1.0624
Industrial Ratio	48.82	Multiplier	1.0241
Residential Ratio	51.93	Multiplier	.9628

DENNIS MCKELVEY-ASSESSOR
CHRISTIAN WENGER-SUPERVISOR
BOWNE TOWNSHIP

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE

2009 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The Vergennes Township Board of Review for 2009 will be held at the Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Dr, on the following dates:

*Tuesday, March 3, 7:30 am, = Organizational Meeting
*Monday, March 9, 12 pm to 5:00 pm & 6 pm to 9 pm = Appeal Hearing
*Wednesday, March 11, 8:00 am to 1:00 pm = Appeal Hearing

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2009 assessments. By board resolution, residents are able to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 6. The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2009 are as follows:

*Agricultural49.49%.....1.0110
*Commercial.....49.90%.....1.0020
*Residential.....52.98%......9437
*Industrial.....50.27%......9946
*Personal Property...50.00%.....1.0000

American With Disabilities (ADA) Notice
The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 4 days notice.
Contact: Tim Wittenbach, 13005 3 Mile Rd, 616-292-4595

Board of Review Members, Jim Herb, Ken Ford, Dan Faulkner and Tim Wittenbach, Secretary of Board of Review

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Bow and arrow hunting may be allowed in the city

by Emma Palova

The council set a public hearing for an ordinance amendment that would allow bow and arrow hunting in the city for March 2.

The recent proposal initiated by mayor pro tem Jim Pfaller, has drawn much controversy and a split council on the issue.

If approved, the ordinance would allow hunting in the city on parcels of 10 acres and more. However, council member Sharon Ellison, pointed out there are only five parcels of that size in the city. Most large parcels are commercial or industrial.

"That leaves us with five private property owners," council member Sharon Ellison said. "We're changing the ordinance for a handful of people. We're going too fast."

"I am not against hunting but there is a time and place for it."

Ellison proposed a variance for the year to deal with the overpopulated deer problem.

"Let's deal with the problem and not change the ordinance permanently," she said. "I don't like it."

A major change in the ordinance amendment is that

the city will not be issuing permits, according to acting police chief James Hinton. "It's a criminal matter if someone is hunting without a deer license," said Hinton. "We can enforce any state law."

However, by getting out of the permitting process, the city may be giving up control.

"We're letting DNR take control," Ellison said. "We're giving up control of our town."

But, council member Jeff Altoft, strongly favored the ordinance change. "You can hunt only few

days a year," he said. "It's pretty cut and dry. We're moving along pretty good. We're just changing enough."

On a different issue, Altoft also questioned the approval of a curb cut for Walgreens. He said the city should have PA 425 revenue sharing agreements.

"We gave our whole town away in the last 15 years," he said. "Why do we let another business build on the fringe of town, when businesses are paying high taxes in town?"

However, city manager Dave Pasquale maintained

that the city has tried in the past to have PA 425 agreements with the townships.

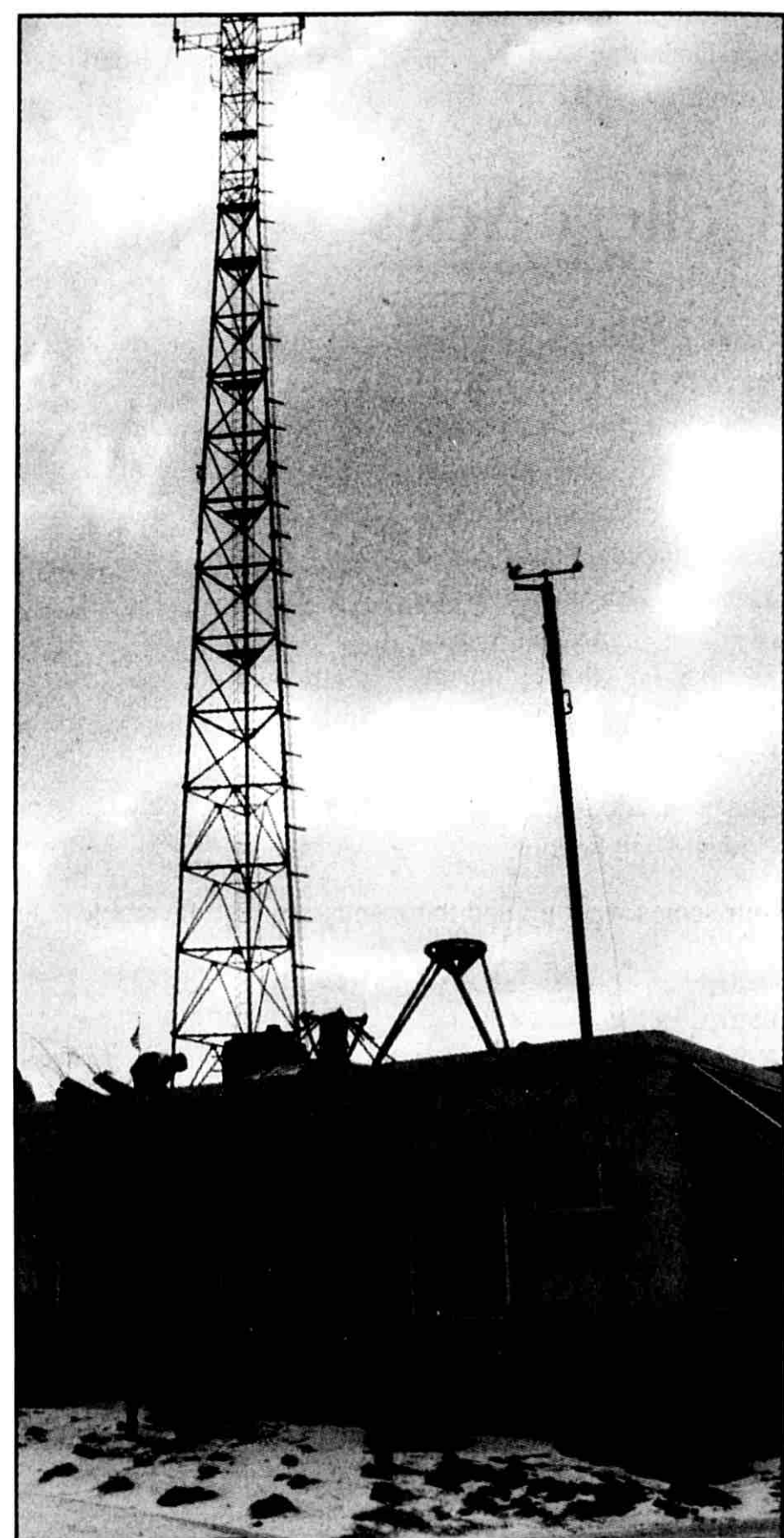
"It has to be an agreement," he said. "We can't force the townships."

But, Altoft, persisted the curb cut approval could have been used as leverage to force the agreement.

"It's sad, they're building on the fringes," he said. "It's sucking us dry. I don't understand why our forefathers didn't have these agreements."

In other business, Pasquale informed that the organizational meeting of the LCTV endowment fund will be held on Feb. 24.

City takes down antennas for a cleaner look



Chrouch Communications removed all unused antennas and cables from the city tower, as well as microwave dishes and lines from the top of the building for a total cost of \$8,620. The project also included relamping and the replacement of strobe heads.

Lowell Education Foundation introduces new website

The Lowell Education Foundation's new website, www.lowelleducationfoundation.org, means getting the latest information on fundraising, grants to students and LAS staff and other programs is just a mouse-click away.

The website was created and donated by i2Integration, a Lansing company whose president and CEO, John Forsberg, lives in Vergennes Township, using DotNetNuke, a free, open-source content

management system that allows foundation officials to update the websites themselves without having to rely on programmers or paying outside vendors.

Visitors can learn about programs funded, download a grant application, donate online and register for events, such as the foundation's popular "Dinner With Friends" fundraiser.

"It's been our goal over the past several years to get our name out to the community better," said Dee McKen-

drick, foundation trustee. "There are a lot of programs people don't know have been funded by our foundation. The new website is a good, one-stop place to find out about everything we do."

The Lowell Education Foundation, established in 1995, has raised more than \$350,000 for financial support to the school district for projects not funded by its operating budget.

The new logo, also designed by i2Integration, incorporates the foundation's sig-

nature Tribute Tree, a metal sculpture that hangs outside the Lowell High School Performing Arts Center. Leaves - inscribed with names of donors or honorees - represent donations toward a \$160,000 fund-raising goal for the foundation's endowment.

"The new logo really helps give us our own look," McKendrick said. "Now, every time people see that tree with 'LEF' beside it, they'll know it's the Lowell Education Foundation."

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Medical scholarship applications available

Lowell High School is currently accepting applications for the first-ever Donald G. Gerard M.D. Medical Scholarship. Eligible applicants must have been accepted into

or are currently attending a medical school in pursuit of an M.D. or D.O. Application forms are available at the high school student services center. For more information please contact Lisa Nauta at 987-2900. The grant application deadline is June 1.

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Viewpoint



Sharing The Vision

With Gregory Pratt
LHS Superintendent

WE'VE GOT SUNSHINE ON A CLOUDY DAY

As we wade through the daily headlines and dire news stories about the country's recession, and the details of Michigan's budget from Governor Granholm, it is a natural, human response to feel disheartened. Just like many homeowners, business owners, and members of our society, the Lowell Area School District is facing significant financial challenges. Truthfully, I have endured some sleepless nights when I give thought to the hardships being imposed upon education, our students, and students across the country. After processing the initial disappointments and anxieties regarding these challenges, I became reflective. I thought about the extraordinary qualities that exist within our community which drew me to accept the responsibility of being your superintendent and choosing to raise our family in the Lowell area. Among those qualities are resilience, and a very evident spirit of a hard working community. I believe that those qualities will sustain us as we move forward and persevere.

I'm sure you have heard the 1964 Temptations' lyric, "I've got sunshine on a cloudy day." That rings true for the Lowell Area Schools! There is good news and bright spots in an otherwise gloomy state of affairs:

We have seen the initial dividends of our efforts in the area of instruction and interventions. Last fall, our students in grades three through nine took the MEAP (Michigan Educational Assessment Program) in reading, math, science, and social studies. I am pleased to report that as a district our scores went up and the results are very favorable. I am

encouraged because the increased scores are evidence that the focused adaptations in our practices are of benefit to our students.

This is also the time of year that excitement builds about the prospect of new families joining the Lowell Area Schools. We will soon begin enrollment for the 2009/10 school year. Each year, it is rewarding to know that our district will have the honor of educating a new generation of students. We welcome kindergartners, families who are new to the Lowell community, and new students who enroll under the Kent County Collaborative Schools of Choice Program.

We are continuing to make advances in technology. Lowell teachers are infusing technology into the classroom everyday. Technology touches almost every part of our lives, even the Lowell Meijer has incorporated a computerized check-out system for those of us who pick up those last minute items. Technology is ubiquitous and it opens a whole new world of possibilities for our students. Its use provides our classrooms with more current, interesting, meaningful instruction. Technology also changes the way our teachers teach by introducing new avenues for instruction to reach different types of learners. And, outside of the classroom, the district is in the initial stages of developing an improved website with a fresh look. It is my goal to feature a website that will represent the Lowell Area School District and all it has to offer. The new site will be an awesome communication tool, with an easy to read format that is current and reliable.

And of course, there is our sunshine - our students. Each time I visit a school, attend an athletic event or an activity, I come away with a new-found appreciation for the emerging generation. One can't help but to feel privileged to have an opportunity to build potential in our youth.

In January, many of us witnessed a moment in history when President Obama was inaugurated as the 44th President of the United States. He declared that "We have chosen hope over fear." Be assured that the Lowell Area Schools chooses hope as well, and will continue to thrive!

Outdoors

By Dave Stegehuis



BEAGLES

There were 170 breeds and varieties of dogs paraded around the ring at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show this year. You and I may never see a live specimen of the majority of these dogs unless we attend a show of that size.

It seems that the popularity of a particular breed of dog changes over time. In the 1940's, my dad owned a Springer Spaniel which was the go-to bird dog at the time. Today, the German Shorthair and Brittany share that distinction. The Cocker Spaniel was the popular family pet back then. Now, labs regularly show-up in suburban backyards. The Labrador Retriever has held a special place in the hearts of waterfowl hunters for generations. There are a number of other breeds which make excellent hunters and great family pets.

When it comes to choosing a dog to hunt rabbits, the beagle is in a class by itself. Other dogs will hunt rabbits,

and some do it well, but the dog of choice for hard-core rabbit hunters is the Beagle.

The Beagle is small enough to get in and out of tight cover yet large enough to plow through snow and jump over obstacles. They use their extraordinary sensitive nose to sort out and tenaciously follow even the coldest trail. Some trail slow, some fast, but they never quit.

The plan for hunting bunnies with Beagles is to hang around the area where the rabbit first jumped and wait for the dog to chase the rabbit back around because rabbits tend to return to their home base. All the time, the hound will yip, bellow, and howl as it feverishly wags its tail while keeping its nose to the ground.

Hunting with a bird dog is a team effort between dog and hunter. The two are always in direct communication. I don't think Beagles care if you are even there. They just do their own thing.

Hopefully, there will be some sunny days with a dusting of fresh snow on the ground. It will be a good opportunity to get out with the hounds a few more times before the end of rabbit season which is March 31.

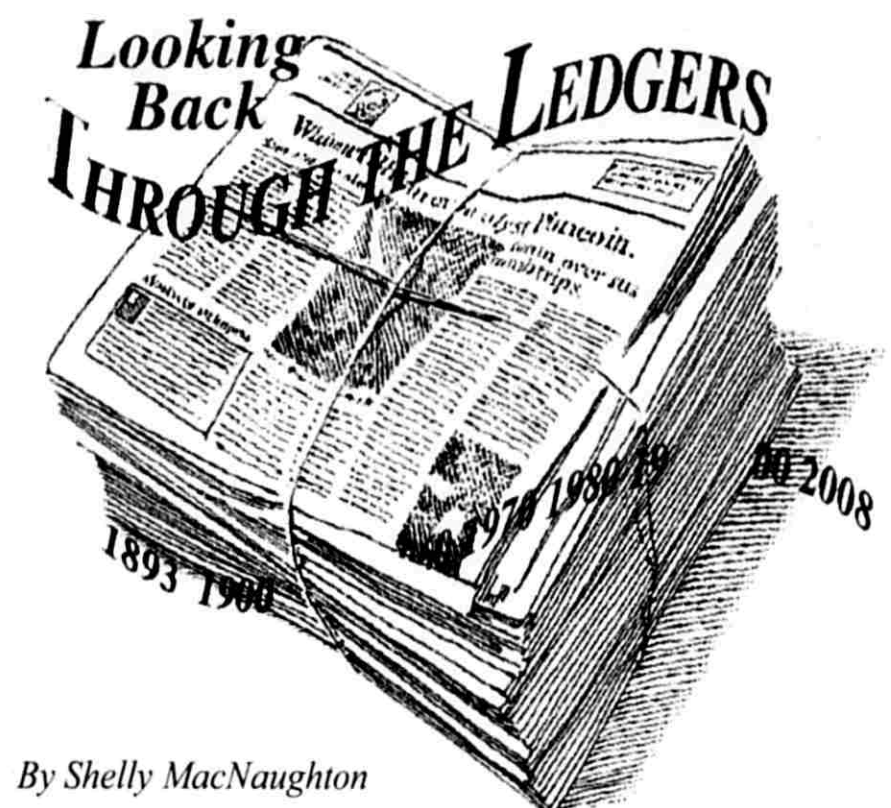
The dog that won Best in Show at Westminster last year was a Beagle named Uno. I wonder if he moonlights as a rabbit dog.

Are trails coming to Lowell?

by Jodie Seese

Did you ever hear that rumor that trails are coming to Lowell? It's been going around for many years, and now we are learning more about how that may happen. In the fall of 2007 LARA commissioned a feasibility study to find out if the Lowell community was still interested in trails and if area residents and business leaders would financially support such a project. The LARA Board of Directors consists of seven

community volunteers with representatives from the City of Lowell, Lowell Township and Vergennes Township, as well as residents from each municipality, with one member at large. You may have attended a community meeting to get input on trails or you may have stopped by the LARA booth at EXPO over the years. Now, fast forward to the feasibility study. Even though the idea of trails has been around for over



By Shelly MacNaughton

125 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL JOURNAL FEBRUARY 27, 1884

Simon Valentine of Stanton was sent up for 30 days for disturbing a religious meeting. It didn't look like dull times in Lowell Saturday afternoon when at one time there were over 100 teams on our principal business street. Frank L. Wright, of Lowell, died Saturday, of consumption. Funeral Yesterday.

100 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER FEBRUARY 25, 1909

The Lowell Orchestra played for the dance at Moseley Monday night. A citizen caucus for the nomination of village officers is called for this (Thursday) evening at 7:30 in the Wright building. A president, clerk, treasurer, three trustees and assessor are to be nominated.

75 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER AND ALTO SOLO MARCH 1, 1934

Mrs. Helena White, Vergennes township's only monogamian, passed away at her home in Alton Tuesday morning, February 27, at the age of 95 years, 1 month, and 27 days. Mrs. White's health had been good up to last Saturday morning when in a spell of dizziness; she fell, sustaining a fractured hip.

50 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER FEBRUARY 26, 1959

Headline: 300 Out of School as Virus Influenza Strikes Lowell Area. Great increases have developed in Lowell this week in the number ill with a virus infection that creates high fever and makes the sufferers very uncomfortable for several days. Lowell schools reported that Wednesday one-half of the junior high students were out and that about one-fourth of the students in high school and elementary rooms.

25 YEARS AGO THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER FEBRUARY 29, 1984

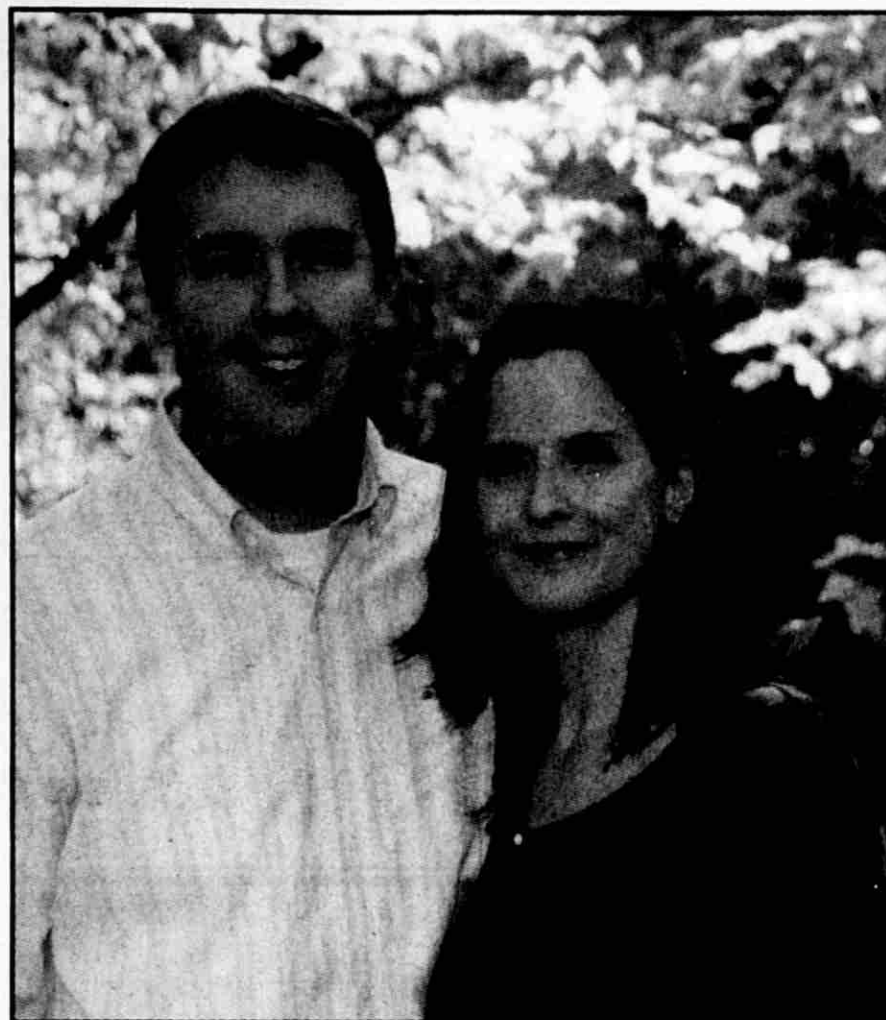
Superior Furniture Co., a landmark business here for about 80 years is planning a major expansion of their facility at 318 East Main Street. William J. Lee, an officer and shareholder in the company told members of the Lowell Planning Commission that he is planning construction of an 80' x 120' addition on the east side of the existing structure.

Everyone is talking about the Ledger! Get your subscription today! 897-9261

Trails in Lowell, cont'd., pg. 7

Engagements

Aksamitowski/Meissner



Amy Aksamitowski and Ryan Meissner

Amy Aksamitowski will become the bride of Ryan Meissner on June 20, 2009. The bride-to-be is a graduate of Catholic Central High School and Grand Valley State University and is currently attending Western Michigan University. She and her parents, Tim and Linda Aksamitowski, are of Lowell. The future groom is a graduate of West Catholic High School and ITT Technical Institute. Of Allendale, he is the son of James Meissner, of Walker, and the late Linda Meissner.

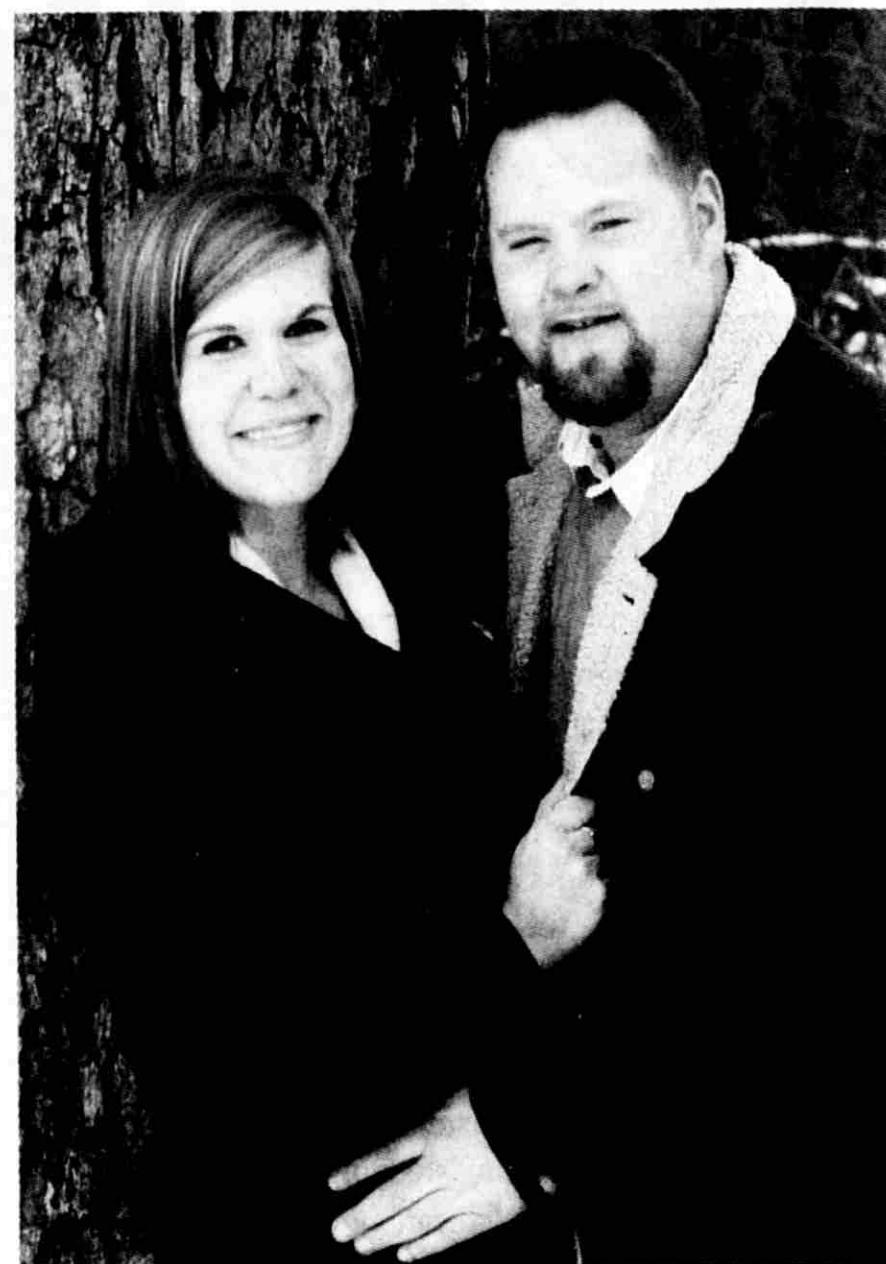
Mills/Akers



Robert Mills and Karrie Akers

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Akers, at Helen Devos Children's Hospital. The future groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Mills, of Cedar Springs. He is currently working for Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte, NC. The couple will wed on June 6, 2009.

Serne & Turley



Katie Serne and Charles Turley

A fall 2010 wedding is planned by Katie Serne and Charles Turley. The bride graduated from Lowell High School and will graduate from Michigan State University in May with a degree in Animal Science and Agribusiness. She is the daughter of Patrick and June Serne of Lowell. The groom is a graduate of Evert High School and a veteran of the U.S. Army and currently attends Lansing Community College. He is the son of David and Bonnie Turley of Decatur.

Reflections of faith

by Pastor Joe Fremer, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Lowell

Today is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the 40 days known as Lent in the church calendar. Tonight at Good Shepherd and in many other churches people will have their foreheads marked with ashes as they hear the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you will return." A consciousness of where we come from, and where we are headed, helps us to figure out who we are and where we are. Our conception of our origin, and of our destiny, affects how we value ourselves, and how we treat others. If we think we are just the dust of a cosmic accident, just random

particles kicked out by the Big Bang, we'll have no basis to think we humans are anything special or worth caring for. We need to hear Jesus' words of validation recorded in Luke chapter 12: "Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows." How do you judge the worth of something? It's worth whatever someone will pay for it. What are we worth? Some say we are worth dust. Some live that way, too. In their view, life is cheap, a cosmic accident, no more significant than dust. God values us differently, if we believe the message of the Bible. God says that yes, you are dust, but valuable dust. He has purchased us, dust though we are, with the life of His Son. The blood of the only human being who was also God, Jesus called the Christ, was offered in exchange for our lives. Maybe there is more to us than the derivation and destiny of dust.

With the receipt of that valuation, everything changes. Our view of ourselves, our view of others, becomes imbued with gratitude. Ransomed dust, forgiven sinners, we are moved to thankfulness for the generosity of God. A woman was so moved with gratitude that she washed Jesus' feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. Someone criticized Jesus for letting a sinful woman touch him in this manner. He answered, "Her many sins have been forgiven, as evidenced by the love she is showing. But he who has been forgiven little, loves little." The more grateful we are to God, the less we take each day for granted. The more grateful we are to God, the less we treat other people as just props in our personal play. Jesus is the hinge-pin upon which huge changes turn, including that huge change called "repentance." His life offered for ours is the answer to the grave and other dusty downturns in life. You are loved, therefore love Him. Love others. Love even yourself. He has freed you from the dust of death.

Trails in Lowell, continued ... From Page 5

the health and recreational value of a community and they too would support this effort. Armed with this information, the LARA Board approved the formation of a Cabinet to start working on the capital campaign. This group has been working quietly since February of 2008. Since that time, several other communities around Lowell have completed or extended trails that continue to see more and more use. Whether it's dog walkers, nature lovers, bikers or runners - Ada, Cascade and Rockford residents have enjoyed the health and recreational benefits of trails. You'll see parents with strollers, grandparents biking with grandkids and students with science projects in hand - and of course, dogs. Dan Edwards is a board member of LARA. He moved to Lowell in 1997. "We like biking as a family. We live on Vergennes Road, but the narrow shoulder and traffic load make it unsafe. On the weekends we load up the bikes and drive to Rockford or Portland. It's fun and great exercise." Edwards adds, "But we have such a beautiful area right here in Lowell - trails would give everyone access to recreation right here in our own backyard." There is an opportunity for public input on trails. As part of the process to obtain DNR grant funding there is a meeting taking place at the Lowell Township offices on Wednesday, March 11 at 6 p.m. Updates will appear on the trails in the Ledger. Anyone needing more information may call Jodie Seese at 616-446-7058.



Isabelle Magnanti stands next to the boxes to be shipped to her dad and fellow company in Iraq.

Students at Bushnell support the troops

Kindergarten children at Bushnell Elementary have been participating in a service learning project to support our armed forces serving overseas. A Lowell Area School service learning grant covered the cost of postage to send boxes of items to our service men and women in Iraq. Kindergarten student Isabelle Magnanti's father is serving overseas.

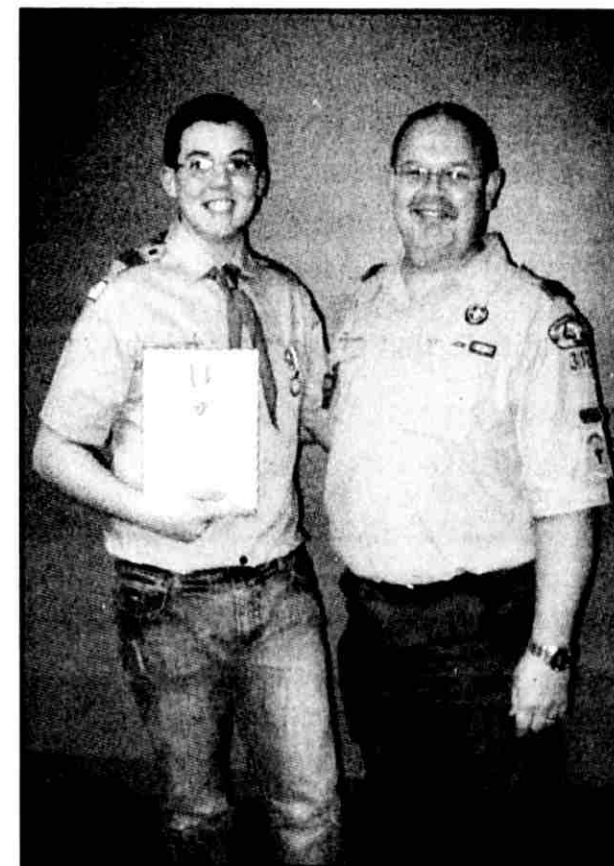
This company is in Iraq, so the class decided to send letters, pictures and packages filled with goodies. A tremendous amount of caring was demonstrated as students collected items to send to our troops. The writing portion of the project continues as students hear back from Sgt. Luigi Magnanti's company.

Happy Birthday

- FEBRUARY 25:** Guastavino, Skylar Brown, Susan Miesal, Mike Sarah Hoag, Nearing.
- FEBRUARY 26:** MARCH 1: Jeremy Goff, Barry Vezino, Barak Brown, Jill Callihan, Bob Ford, Nancy Porter, Laura Christiansen, Leslie Rash.
- FEBRUARY 27:** MARCH 2: Mary Vezino, Roger Joshua Soyka, Justin Soyka, MacNaughton, Anna Kline, Lisa Schoen.
- FEBRUARY 28:** MARCH 3: Mark V. Ritzema, Connie Sarah Newell, Roth, Scott Denton, Claesa

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JILL!
Sweet 16
MARCH 1st
- Love, Mom & Dad
Katie & Kelsey

Heroism award



Wesley McDannold is pictured with his Scout leader Leon Lamoreux after receiving the Boy Scout Heroism award. In March of last year, McDannold was credited with saving the life of his cousin Gary Shults. When Shults walked out onto the thin ice on Stoney Lake he fell through. "He was too far out for my reach at first but, I reached my hand out and told him to swim as much as he could," said McDannold. After getting him out of the water he ran to a nearby apartment and phoned for help. He is the son of Michael and Melanie McDannold.

JOHN RAYMOR
202 Shiawassee • Fenton, MI 48430
formerly of Lowell
Celebrated his 94th Birthday on Sunday, February 15

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 www.lowellumc.com WORSHIP..... 8:30 & 10:15 a.m. Rev. Rick Blunt Barrier-free entrance</p>	<p>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH <i>Kirby and Harrison</i> Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M. OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p>DAY BIBLE CHAPEL 9305 Centerline, Saranac 897-6332 Worship.....9:45 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M. 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>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 www.lowellumc.com WORSHIP..... 8:30 & 10:15 a.m. Rev. Rick Blunt 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 <i>Fr. Eugene Okoli</i> 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 PETER WIGGINS 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 49, ENTW FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>	<p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL (United Church of Christ) 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906 Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Thursday Faith Alive Worship.....7:00 P.M. Rev. Terry Tessari.....Interim Pastor Shannon Hamley.....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 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 Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA/EXCITE - TEENS, 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. Vance Dimmick Jr. 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>	

Lowell Community Date Night
Presented by IGNITE
February 27, 2009
6:00pm- 11:00pm

Free Childcare for Toddlers and Activities for "Tweens" while parents go out for a night on the town.

Sponsored by the following local businesses providing food and entertainment specials for the night:

Flat River Grill
Mynt Fusion
B.C. Pizza
Arby's
Ada/Lowell Five Theatre
YMCA
Lowell Lanes

Childcare and Tween activities will be held at IMPACT, located at 1070 N. Hudson. Please register and check out the local specials being offered at
www.IgniteLowell.com/DateNight.

DRAFT SYNOPSIS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2009

Motion to approve the agenda as submitted.

Motion to approve the Regular Minutes of the February 2, 2009 meeting as corrected and the accounts payable were approved.

Motion to award contract to All American Water Solutions for \$17,206.00 for the Filter Media Replacement at the Water Treatment Plant.

It was the consensus of the City Council to have the Lowell Area Historical Museum pay the City operating expenses not exceeding \$200 per month for usage of the municipally owned building located at 323-325 West Main.

Motion to set a public hearing for Monday, March 2, 2009 to consider a Bow and Arrow Hunting Ordinance.

YEA: 4. (Councilmember Altoft, LaPonsie, Pfaller and Mayor Hodges)
NAY: 1. (Councilmember Ellison)
Motion carried.

By consensus, the City Council appointed Councilmember Maryalene LaPonsie for a two year term on the Fire and Emergency Services Authority Board.

Motion to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. The next regular scheduled meeting will be Monday, March 2, 2009.

Complete minutes will be available after approved on March 2, 2009 on the City's web page at www.ci.lowell.mi.us or at City Hall.

Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

Internet, continued ... From Page 1

providers, high-speed cable, wireless, and satellite. Most residents would like to get their high speed Internet through their telephone providers like AT&T, but in remote Vergennes Township, it is not available.

According to AT&T, it is a matter of geography and money; extending services is costly and takes time.

AT&T has worked to expand broadband access to 57 areas in Michigan, including Alto, Clarksville, Freeport, Grattan Township and Hopkins in West Michigan.

A report by Digital Policy Institute at Ball State

University in Muncie, Ind. estimated 5.9 million rural access lines in the U.S. do not have access to advanced broadband. It would cost \$28 billion to build high-speed Internet networks for those areas.

And according to Verizon Communications, nothing prevents any broadband provider from coming in and putting in the infrastructure.

Even though dial-up is good for checking e-mail, shopping or reading the news, more and more people are using bandwidth for heavy tasks that include streaming video.



Vergennes Township residents discuss need for high speed Internet.

Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold
Edward Jones
Serving Individuals Investors Since 1871

THE RIGHT TIME TO CONVERT TO ROTH IRA

Do you regularly contribute to a traditional IRA? If so, you're taking an important step toward building financial resources for retirement. But it's possible that you could take an even bigger step - by converting your IRA to a Roth IRA. And you may have two especially good opportunities to make this conversion in 2009 and 2010.

Before we examine why this may be so, let's take a quick look at the differences between a traditional IRA and a Roth IRA. Depending on your income level, your contributions to a traditional IRA may be tax deductible; regardless of your income, your earnings grow tax deferred. With a Roth IRA, your contributions are never deductible, but your earnings grow tax free, provided you've had your account for at least five years and you don't start taking withdrawals until you're 59 1/2. However, if your modified adjusted gross income exceeds certain levels (\$120,000 per year if you're single and \$176,000 per year if you're married and filing a joint return), you can't contribute to a Roth IRA.

Here's another distinction between the two types of IRAs: With a traditional IRA, you must start taking required minimum distributions (RMDs) when you reach 70 1/2. But if you own a Roth IRA, you are never required to take distributions, so you can let your money grow as long as you can afford not to touch it.

Which IRA is "better?" There's no one right answer for everyone. Generally speaking, though, the combination of potential tax-free earnings and no RMDs might make the Roth IRA an attractive choice for most people. Additionally, you have access to the money you put into the Roth tax-free and penalty-free at any time, as long as you are not withdrawing earnings. So, if you have a traditional IRA, you might wish to convert it to a Roth - if you can. If your adjusted gross income is more than \$100,000, you can't make the conversion in 2009. Also, keep in mind that any conversion will require you to pay income taxes on your pre-tax contributions to your traditional IRA and any growth in your account's value.

If you meet the income limits for a conversion in 2009, you might want to consider doing so, because your tax obligation for a Roth conversion might be lower in 2009 than it would have been in previous years. Following last year's steep market decline, the value of your IRA may be down significantly - and, generally speaking, the lower the value, the lower the tax bill upon conversion. Furthermore, if your income is somewhat dependent on the state of the economy, you could end up with lower earnings in 2009 - another factor that could lessen the tax impact of a Roth IRA conversion.

Even if you don't make the conversion in 2009, though, you may still want to consider this move next year. In 2010 - and in 2011 only - you can convert your traditional IRA to a Roth IRA regardless of your income level. Furthermore, the income taxes due on conversion can be spread over two years - 2011 and 2012.

So contact your financial and tax advisors to determine if a Roth IRA conversion is appropriate for you. Over the next two years, you've got a good window of opportunity to make this move - so you'll want to act before that window closes.



Bushnell students raise funds through mathathon

Bushnell first graders participated in the St. Jude's Mathathon. These students collectively earned over \$2000. Breanne Lett raised the most donations with \$170. Pictured are 16 of the 23 participants.

Pictured, front row, left to right: Sebastian Szymanski, Aidan Kelley and Aaron Fox; middle row, left to right: Madeline Revere, Austin Pallottini, Jayleigh Bileth, Mackenzie DeBold, Breanne Lett and Tyler Lange; back row, left to right: Olivia Dennie, Austin Knaggs, Zeke Johnson, Evan Groeneweg, Alexis Haines, Jaron DeVito and Malcolm Venema. Not pictured: Jacquelyn Bileth, Noah Hayden, Stephanie Bukala, Miles Droski, Hayden Stickney, Alyssa Allen and Brecken Pawloski.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
File No. 09-186,397-DE

Estate of
LORRAINE F. POPIEL.
Date of birth
May 9, 1926

TO ALL CREDITORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent LORRAINE F. POPIEL, who lived at 1249 Cora NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan died January 18, 2009.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to DOROTHY B. BRYSKA, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Ave NW, Suite 2500, Grand Rapids and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
February 19, 2009

John D. Mitus (P31244)
410 Bridge St. NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-774-4001

Dorothy B. Bryska
1751 Bridge St. NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT
CIRCUIT COURT -
FAMILY DIVISION

PUBLICATION OF
NOTICE OF HEARING
File No. 09-186364-GA

In the matter of
ROGER STEVENS

TO ALL INTERESTED
PERSONS including:

BOBBY JAMES STEVENS whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on 3/10/2009 at 9:00 a.m. at 180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose:

To appoint a full guardian for ROGER STEVENS.
2/16/2009

John D. Flynn - P27413
1275 Hawthorne Hills SE
Ada, MI 49301
616-897-6632

Sheryl Sanders
415 Franklin SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
616-246-1754

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lowell City Council will conduct a public hearing at its regularly scheduled meeting of Monday, March 2, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lowell City Council Chambers, Second Floor, 301 East Main Street, Lowell for the purpose of receiving comments from the public on the following:

An Ordinance to amend Section 13-107 of and Add Section 13-112 (Hunting with bow and arrow) to Article IV, "Offenses Against Public Safety," of Chapter 13, "Offenses," of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowell.

Copies of the ordinance are available for inspection during normal business hours at City Hall and the Englehardt Public Library or on the City of Lowell web page at www.ci.lowell.mi.us

Interested persons may submit comments to the Lowell City Hall prior to the meeting or appear in person.

Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk



Chamber honors business, person of the year

by Emma Palova

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce honored person of the year, John Stencel and Springgrove Variety at the annual winter gathering held at the King building.

Cliff Yankovich was in the spotlight as the master of ceremonies with his lighthearted humor. He introduced Mike Spranger of Springgrove Variety, which has received the Business of the Year award. Yankovich said Spranger embodies the local business philosophy.

"He wanted to become a part of the community," said Yankovich. "He is doing what the big stores are not doing."

Stencel was honored for his relentless volunteerism in the community. He was accompanied by his wife Virginia.

Chamber director Liz Baker said Stencel was a definite asset to the chamber. Rep. Dave Hildenbrand also handed recognitions to the two honored men.

Baker introduced the chamber board members

and chamber ambassadors. The buffet-style dinner, catered by Larkin's, included appetizers, caesar salad, mustard chicken with almonds, beef, vegetable lasagna, wild rice, potatoes and vegetable medley. A definite highlight was the chocolate fountain with strawberries drawing lines of craving consumers.

The music was provided by the Lowell High School string quartet. Pastor Joe Fremer of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church gave the invocation.



Liz Baker introduced chamber board members and ambassadors.



John and Virginia Stencel enjoy the evening.

Mike Spranger of Springgrove Variety received Business of the Year award.



A FEW NOTABLE EVENTS FROM FEBRUARY 19 - FEBRUARY 25 • 2009

- \$650 million is recovered so far from Bernie Madoff. Victims could qualify for up to \$500,000.
- New York Post apologizes for offensive cartoon.
- 49-year-old Washington resident survives after a 300-foot drop after his bungee cord snapped. He fell 25 feet into a creek.
- Illinois governor calls for Senator Burris to resign.
- First Lady Michelle Obama opens the White House kitchen to culinary students.
- Supreme court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, 75, on the bench 18 days after surgery for pancreatic cancer.

- A McDonald's employee is denied workman's comp after being shot on the job.
- George Bush stops by a hardware store (after being invited by the manager) and jokes, "I'm here for a job."
- Mexican woman trampled by a bull that escapes from a bullfighting ring.
- Stocks fall to a level not seen since 1997.
- And the winner is....This year the Academy Awards gave the Oscars to: Kate Winslet, best actress (The Reader); Sean Penn, best actor (Milk); Danny Boyle, best director (Slumdog Millionaire); Slumdog Millionaire, best movie; Heath Ledger, posthumously, for best supporting actor (the Dark Knight); and Penelope Cruz for best supporting actress (Vicki Christina Barcelona).

"Tea With Rose"

The Laurels of Kent "Tea With Rose" group is out on the move supporting the community. Recently the group visited the Kent County Animal Shelter to take pictures of animals ready to be adopted.

The group is posting pictures of these animals at The Laurels of Kent along with information about how to adopt any animal at the shelter. The group is supporting animal adoption. The group's next focus is to work with The Girl Scouts in efforts to help the girls earn a few of their badges.



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VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE

The Vergennes Township Board will hold a public hearing for comment on the proposed 2009-10 budget during a regular meeting of the board to be held March 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. The board meets at the township offices located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI 49331.

Copies of the proposed budget are available at the Township Hall on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Written comments will be accepted if received by 7 p.m. on March 10th by the Township Clerk. They can be sent to PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331, or by e-mail to clerk@vergennestwp.org.

Mari C. Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk

Red Arrow SPORTS

Lowell's rising pole vault star tracked down by ISU



Richelle Kimble

by Thad Kraus

One of the nation's top track programs has signed Lowell High School's top pole vaulter.

Actually, Richelle Kimble owns the school's girl pole vaulting record (11-6). Kimble is a good bet to beat her current mark in this her senior season.

"I feel positive that I will vault 12-0 this year," Kimble said. The senior finished

second in the state last year with a height of 11-3. The state outdoor record is 12-3 set by Abby Shannahan. Asked if she can surpass that mark, Kimble responds with a smile.

"It's my senior year. I have no worries now. I'm just going to have fun," she explains.

Kimble has accepted a four-year scholarship with Indiana State University,

with a verbal commitment to take care of a fifth year if necessary.

Her choice was not an easy one. Kimble had to decide between Michigan State University and Indiana State.

"It was difficult turning down a Big 10 school, plus

I'm a Spartan fan," Kimble said. "The deciding point was Indiana State is one of the best track programs in the nation and they also have great academics."

Her academic choices include journalism, prelaw and political science.

Kimble's rise in the high

school pole vaulting arena she attributes in-part to her gymnastics background. "It has really helped me with my pole vaulting technique," she said. "ISU coaches were pleased because it gives me an awareness of what it's like to be upside down."

Rash leads Lowell past Reeths-Puffer

by Thad Kraus

It's been a point of emphasis all year for the Red Arrows girls' basketball team.

Kara Rash was the poster-player for just that in Lowell's 11-point win over Reeths-Puffer.

Rash attacked the basket and finished well in netting a game-leading 18 points in Lowell's 44-33 nonconference win.

"Kara had a big game for us offensively," said Lowell coach Dani Gallert. "She attacked the basket hard and finished well."

Lowell trailed Reeths-Puffer by three (13-10) after one quarter of play.

The Red Arrows rallied for an 18-10 second-stanza advantage to take a 28-23

lead at half time. "Many of Reeths-Puffer's points were coming from offensive rebounds," Gallert said. "We were able to make some adjustments after that first quarter."

Kallie Holzhueter added eight points for Lowell as the Red Arrows improved to 10-8 overall.

G.R. Christian 45 Lowell 36

Lowell shadowed one of the O-K White's elite teams for three quarters, before succumbing to fourth-quarter full-court pressure over the final eight minutes.

"The girls panicked and did look up court against Christian's press," Lowell coach Dani Gallert said.

"The girls were right with

Christian for three quarters but the difference was we struggled against their press."

One Red Arrow whose game does not seem to be struggling, is sophomore Kallie Holzhueter.

The sophomore threw in 11 points.

"Kallie is gaining confidence and is not afraid to attack the basket," Gallert said.

Logan DeClercq contributed with a team-high 13 points.

The Red Arrows led 10-8 after one quarter of play. The Eagles rallied for a 19-16 half time lead and led 27-25 after three quarters of play.

The loss dropped Lowell to 10-9 overall.

Red Arrow SPORTS

Lowell gymnasts fifth at conference; three Red Arrows earn post-season honors

by Thad Kraus

Kenowa Hills gymnastics coach Brenda McDonald's Knights entered the O-K Rainbow Conference meet as the regular season dual meet champion and with the league's best gymnasts.

That proved to be more than enough as the depth-laden Knights won their first-ever gymnastic conference championship.

"It's awesome. We knew there was a chance," McDonald said. "What has separated this team from others is our depth. We have six-seven girls we can count on."

At the top of that list is Neena Zwier. The senior was the league's all-around champion with 36.425 points. Lowell's Richelle Kimble was fifth overall with 34.9 points. Teammate Kelsey Teft was eighth at 34.225.

Zwier handed in the meet's top performance on the vault, earning a 9.525. Kenowa Hills finished with 140.475 points. The Knights were followed by Mona Shores 138.250; Rockford 135.950; Forest Hills 132.00; Lowell 129.625; and East Kentwood 121.900.

"It's (129.625) not our best score. We've been in the 130s," said Lowell gymnastic coach Skye Fisher. "We'll work to see improvement for the regional."

Teft recorded Lowell's top score of the night in the floor exercise. The Red Arrows' 9.2 tied her for first with Zwier. Teft placed fifth on the balance beam with a score of 8.975. She finished with an 8.65 on the vault and a 7.4 on the uneven bars.

Kimble was solid in the floor exercise with a 9.1 tying her for fourth place with Kristin Kampenga

from Mona Shores. The Lowell senior received an 8.65 on the vault, 8.575 on the uneven bars and an 8.55 on the balance beam.

Both Kimble and Teft were honored for their performance throughout the season and their sportsmanship as the league coaches bestowed all-conference honors on the Red Arrows.

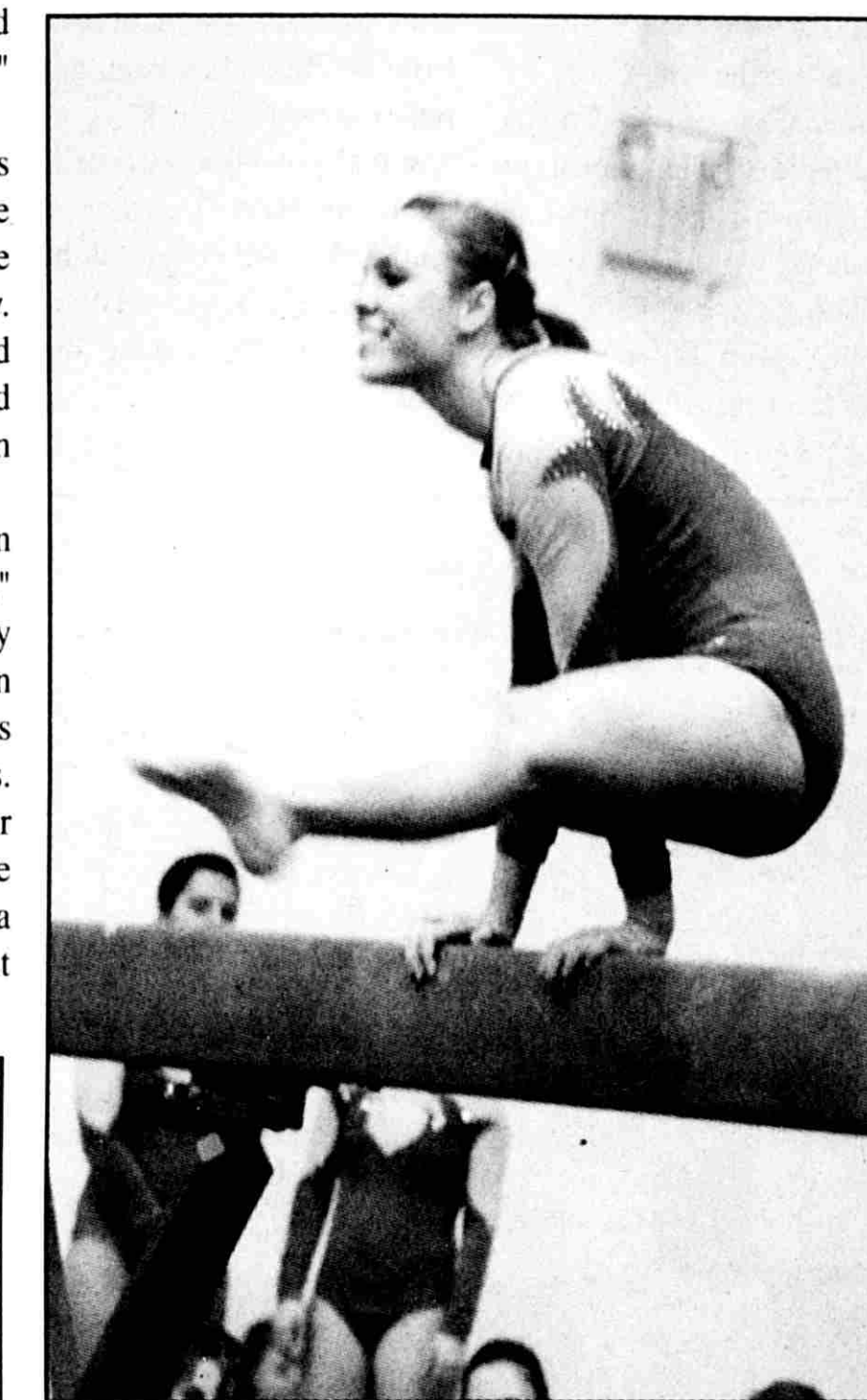
Earning honorable mention all-conference honors was Lowell's Andrea Coffey. The Red Arrow tallied an 8.825 in the floor exercise; 8.625 on the balance beam; a 7.7 on the vault; and a 7.6 on the uneven bars.

"Those three girls are not a surprise. They have stood out throughout the year," Fisher said.

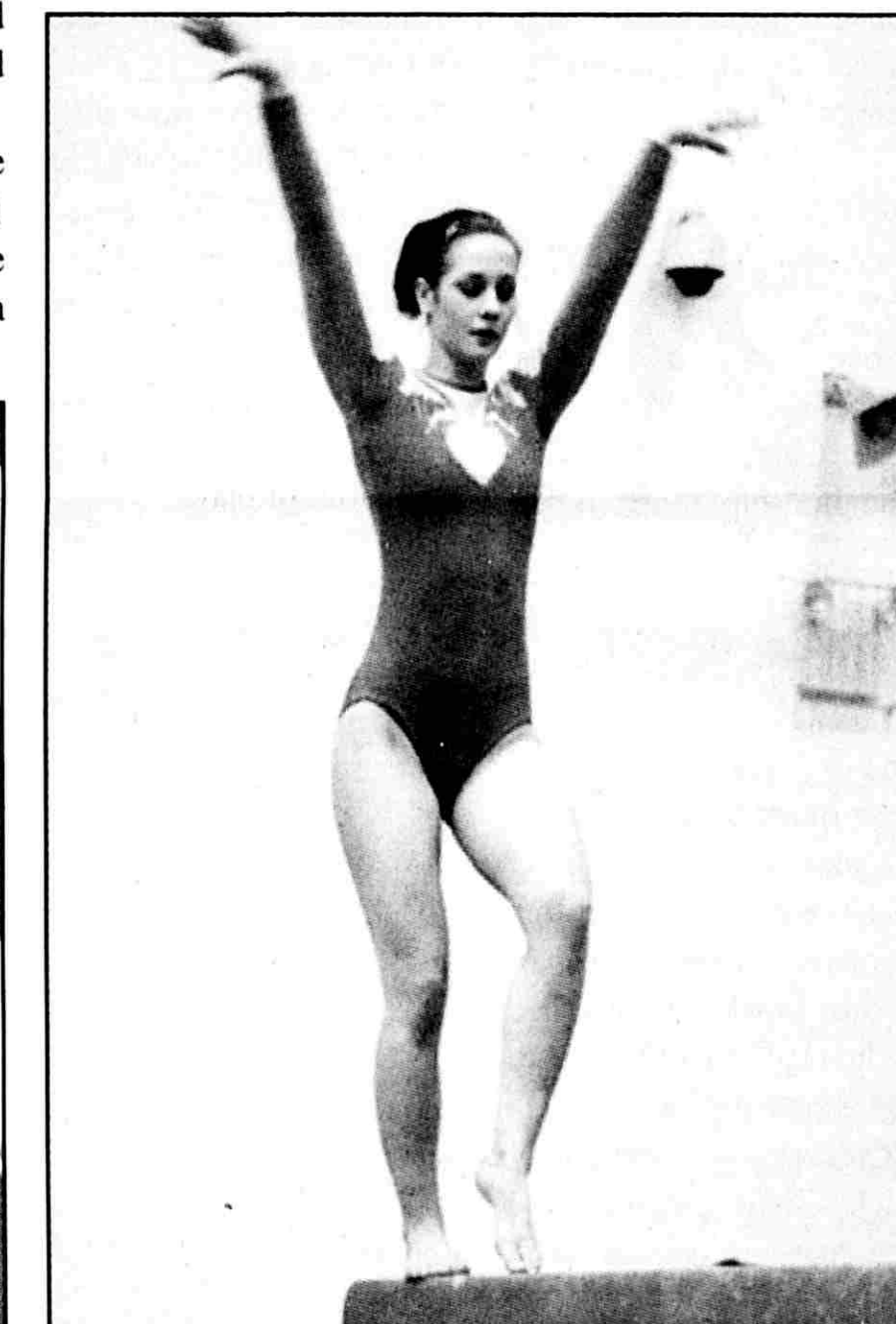
Sarah Piell posted scores of 5.65 and 7.350 on the uneven bars and in the floor exercise respectively. Morgan Ragelke finished with a 6.650 on the vault and Cassie Miles tallied a 7.5 on the beam.

"The girls were solid on the vault, beam and floor," Fisher explained. "They were better on the bars than they have been, but it was not a good day on the bars. They stood out in the floor exercise. The girls were ready to go. They showed a lot of spirit and energy out there."

Andrea Coffey was voted to the 2009 honorable mention gymnastics team.



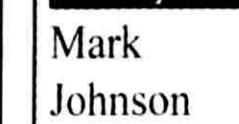
Richelle Kimble was fifth in the all-around at the O-K Rainbow Conference meet.



Kelsey Teft's 9.2 tied her for top honors in the floor exercise.

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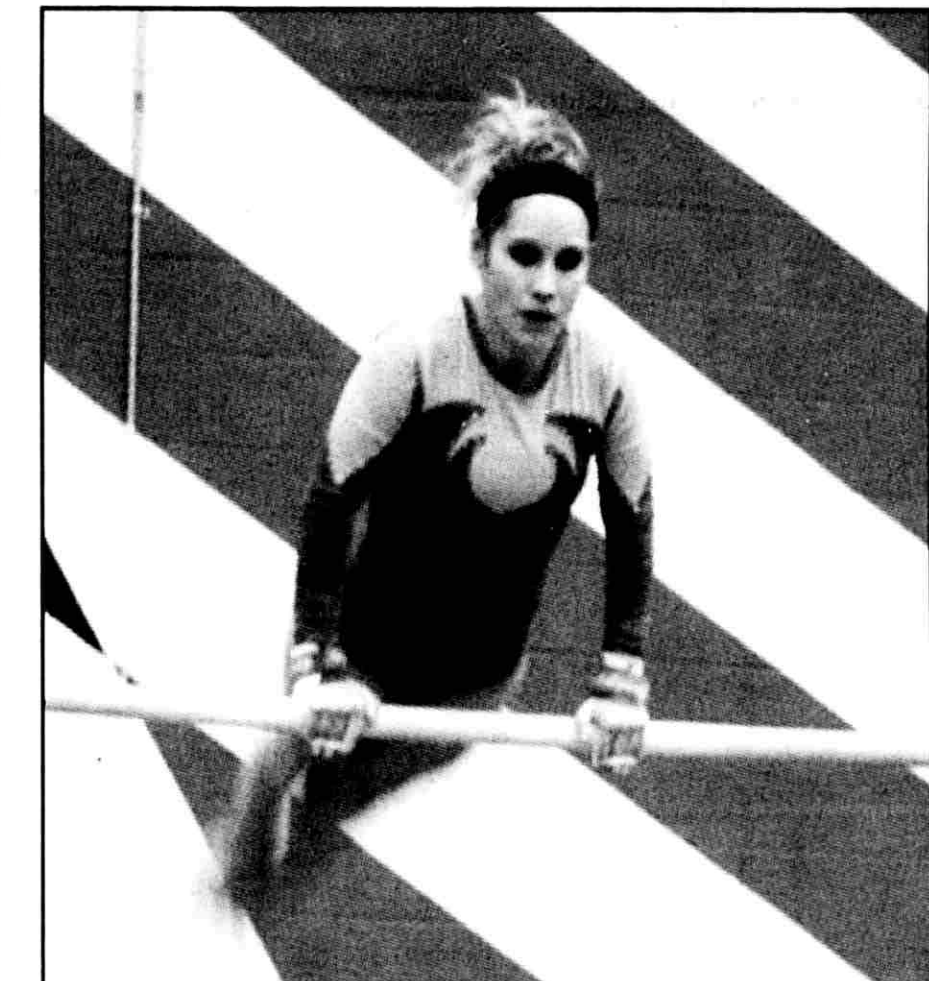
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Andrea Coffey was voted to the 2009 honorable mention gymnastics team.

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Red Arrow SPORTS

Lowell bowling teams sweep conference tourney

by Thad Kraus

The number now stands at five.

That's the number of consecutive O-K White Conference championships the Lowell girls bowling team has won.

"The girls did very, very well," said Lowell girls' coach Tom Alberts. "It was pretty close coming

in because Northview had one loss and we had one loss. We, however, won the pre-conference tournament and that positioned us well going into today."

Lowell finished with a team score of 2794. Northview was second at 2627.

Three Red Arrow bowlers

finished in the top 10. Sammi Geldersma led the way with a 483. Liberty Clark rolled a 468 and Kristin Bouwhuis finished with a 457.

Northview's Chelsea Churchill rolled a tournament-high series of 509.

"The girls rolled on a difficult oil pattern, but they stepped up when needed." Lowell now advances to the regional where Alberts says the competition will be tough. "Kelloggsville will be there and their low average is a 182."

Four Red Arrow girls were named to the all-conference team. They were Clark, Bouwhuis, Geldersma and Sarah Mogor. Lowell's Amber Geldersma was named to the honorable mention squad.

O-K White Boys Conference Championship

None of the teams competing in the O-K White Conference Bowling championship rolled lights

out, but the team that won had the best consistency.

That club was Lowell, recording its second consecutive O-K White title.

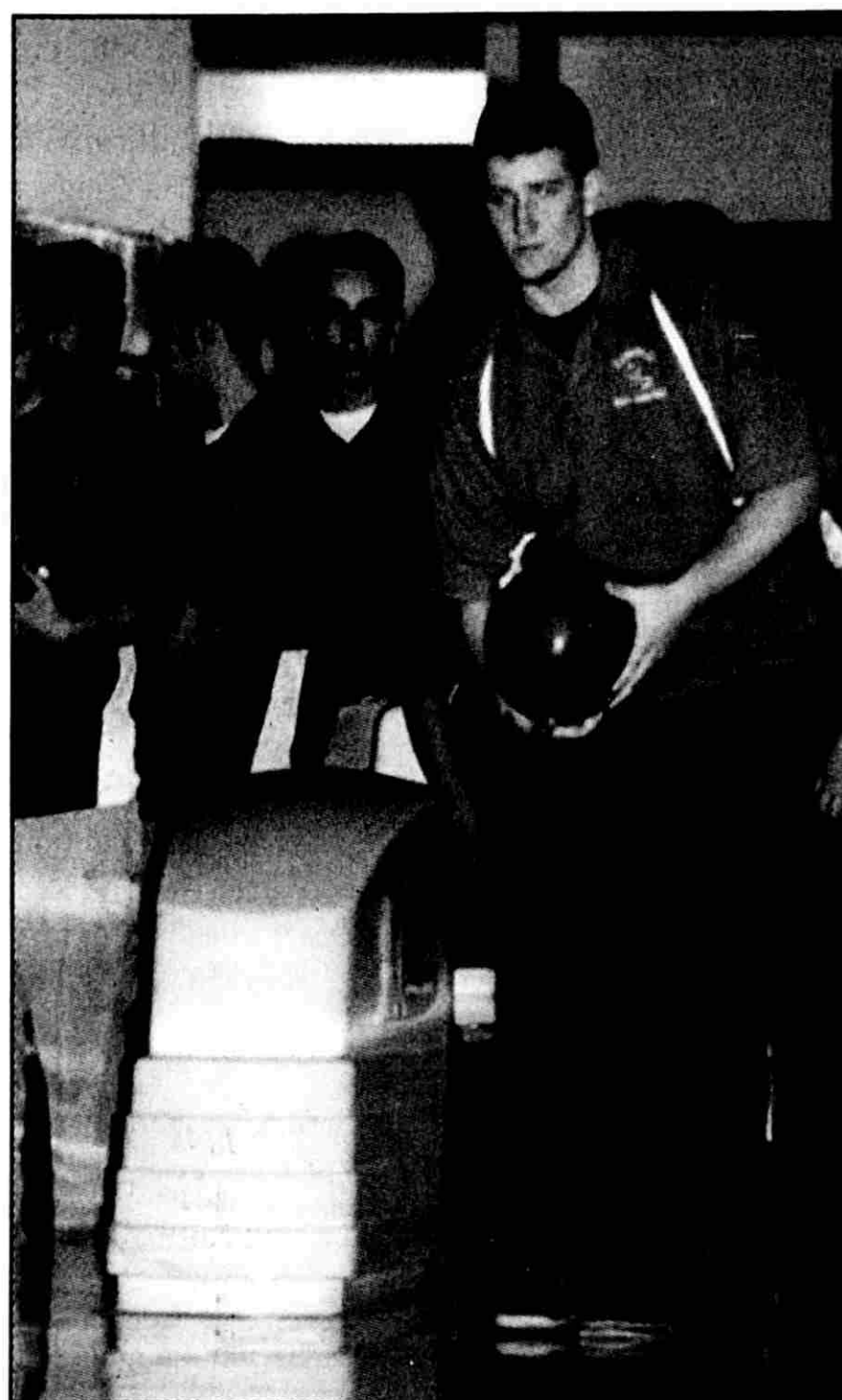
"The boys are bowling good right now. I think they have a good shot at qualifying for the state tournament," said Lowell bowling coach Tom Alberts. "Any time you win the conference, that's not bad."

Lowell was led on Saturday by Tom Alberts Jr. He rolled a 558 series. Trevor Washburn followed with a 539 and Brian Hook penciled in a 514. Jeremy Drake finished with a 459.

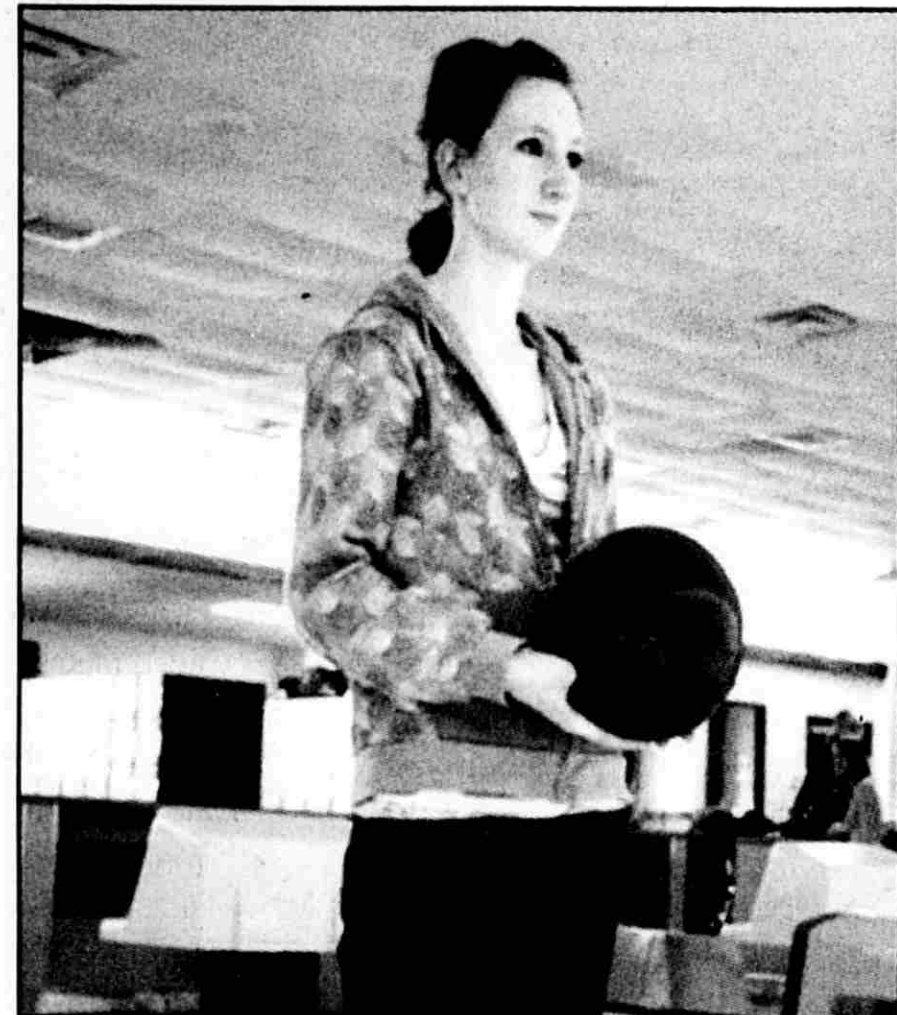
Earning all-conference honors were Trevor Washburn, Alberts, and Dillon Buck.

Both the boys and girls will roll in the regional at Westgate on Friday (teams) and Saturday (individuals).

"Both clubs did a better job picking up spares and will need to get even better next week," Alberts said.



Tom Alberts rolled a 558 series.



Sammi Geldersma was Lowell's top girl bowler with a 483 series.

Lowell shot down in losses to Creston and Kenowa Hills

by Thad Kraus

Nothing changes momentum like a win.

Lowell basketball coach Jeff McDonald and his Red Arrows are searching mightily for that direction-changing victory before the district tournament in two weeks.

"I can't fault the effort. The boys continue to have a

good attitude and are hanging in there, but we have to find a way to create our own breaks," McDonald explained.

Despite making progress in their half-court execution, Lowell was unable to turn back Kenowa Hills or Creston.

The Red Arrows fell be-

hind 9-2 early against the Polar Bears but battled back to take a second-quarter 23-19 advantage. Creston, however, created some of its own breaks and finished the first half on an 8-0 run to lead at half-time 27-23.

"Creston is extremely quick. Their pressing and face guarding created some

problems for us," McDonald said.

A third-quarter scoring drought was the other problem Lowell could not overcome.

The Red Arrows scored just six points in the third stanza while Creston threw in 22. The last three came on a buzzer-beating three from half court.

Tim Hettinga led all Lowell scorers with 13 points. Jacob Meyers netted eight.

Karl Brooks led Creston with 16 points as Creston defeated Lowell 55-38.

Kenowa Hills 65 Lowell 46

The Knight tandem of Luke Palmer and Kurt Van-Essen attributed for 41 of the club's 65 points in its 19-point win over the Red Arrows.

Palmer, 6-5, 250, finished with 27 points and 12 rebounds.

"He was a huge difference in the game and tough for us to defend," McDonald said. "He's a big kid who can play in the paint, hit free throws and he stepped out tonight and hit some threes."

A second-quarter run saw Kenowa Hills turn a three-point first-quarter lead into a 35-18 half-time advantage.

"We're still not doing as good a job with putting the ball in the basket as we need to," McDonald said.

Lowell's Tim Hettinga led the way for Lowell with 14 points. Isaac Tawney contributed with 10 and Derek Cornish added eight.

Lowell (4-13, 1-7) hosts Grand Rapids Christian on Thursday.

LUNCH MENU
ELEMENTARY MENU
Week of
March 2, 2009

MON: Green eggs & diced ham, Belgian waffle sticks, applesauce, 100% fruit juice, milk.

TUES: Baked chicken nuggets & dinner roll (ham & cheese on bun also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), mashed potatoes, peaches, milk.

WED: Rotini & Italian meatsauce w/dinner roll (tuna salad sandwich also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), mini carrots/dip, pineapple, milk.

THURS: Tony's sausage pizza (chili w/crackers also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), broccoli, warm baked apple slices, milk.

FRI: No School. Staff records day.

SYNOPSIS BOWNE TOWNSHIP FEBRUARY 16, 2009

Motions approved:

- Minutes of January meeting. List of all invoices.
- Liquor License public hearing scheduled for March 16, 2009 7:30 p.m.
- Motion to include hourly wage increases for firemen and computer worker, repairs to historic hall in 2009-10 proposed budget.

Entire copies of minutes available on the township website-bownetwp.org.

Sandra L. Kowalczyk
Bowne Township Clerk

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Red Arrow SPORTS

District success behind it; Lowell wrestlers now eye regional

by Thad Kraus

Lowell sent seven wrestlers into the individual district championship on Saturday. Five of those Red Arrow wrestlers left with titles.

Their reflections on Saturday afternoon's district championships at Northview were replaced before they reached Lowell High School Saturday evening by what lies ahead on Wednesday.

The Red Arrows will get a third and final chance at Greenville. Lowell lost its dual meet by three and were edged out in the conference meet by a half point. That will be all forgotten if Lowell can muster up a win over the defending Division II state champions from Greenville in the team regional final on Wednesday.

"The boys are ready to get to Wednesday," said Lowell wrestling coach Dave Dean. On their way to Wednesday, winning individual district titles for Lowell were Dan

Fleet (130), Andrew Morse (135), Jackson Morse (152), Ryan Olep (171) and Connor Kruse (285).

"Connor is getting his confidence and is becoming the real deal," Dean explained. "He's had a lot of guys to fight. He now knows what he's doing and add to that, Connor is a good athlete."

Gabe Morse (125) was the only Lowell wrestler to win his consolation match.

The other five wrestlers advancing are Tyler Jack (119), Ryan Dean (140), Rocky Pabon (145), Tim Gingerich (160) and Gabe Dean (171).

Division 2 Individual Districts

Championship:
130: Dan Fleet d. Dillon Churhard (Northview) 4-2
135: Andrew Morse d. Collin Fuller (Greenville) 4-2

140: Jake Connell (Reeths-Puffer) d. Ryan Dean 6-0
145: Jordan Thomas (Greenville) md. Rocky Pabon 14-5

152: Jackson Morse md. Ryan Dugan (Forest Hills Eastern) 17-8

160: Adam Miller (Sparta) d. Tim Gingerich 6-0

171: Ryan Olep inj. def. over Jake Brown (Coopersville)

285: Connor Kruse md. Jake Daling (Coopersville) 12-4

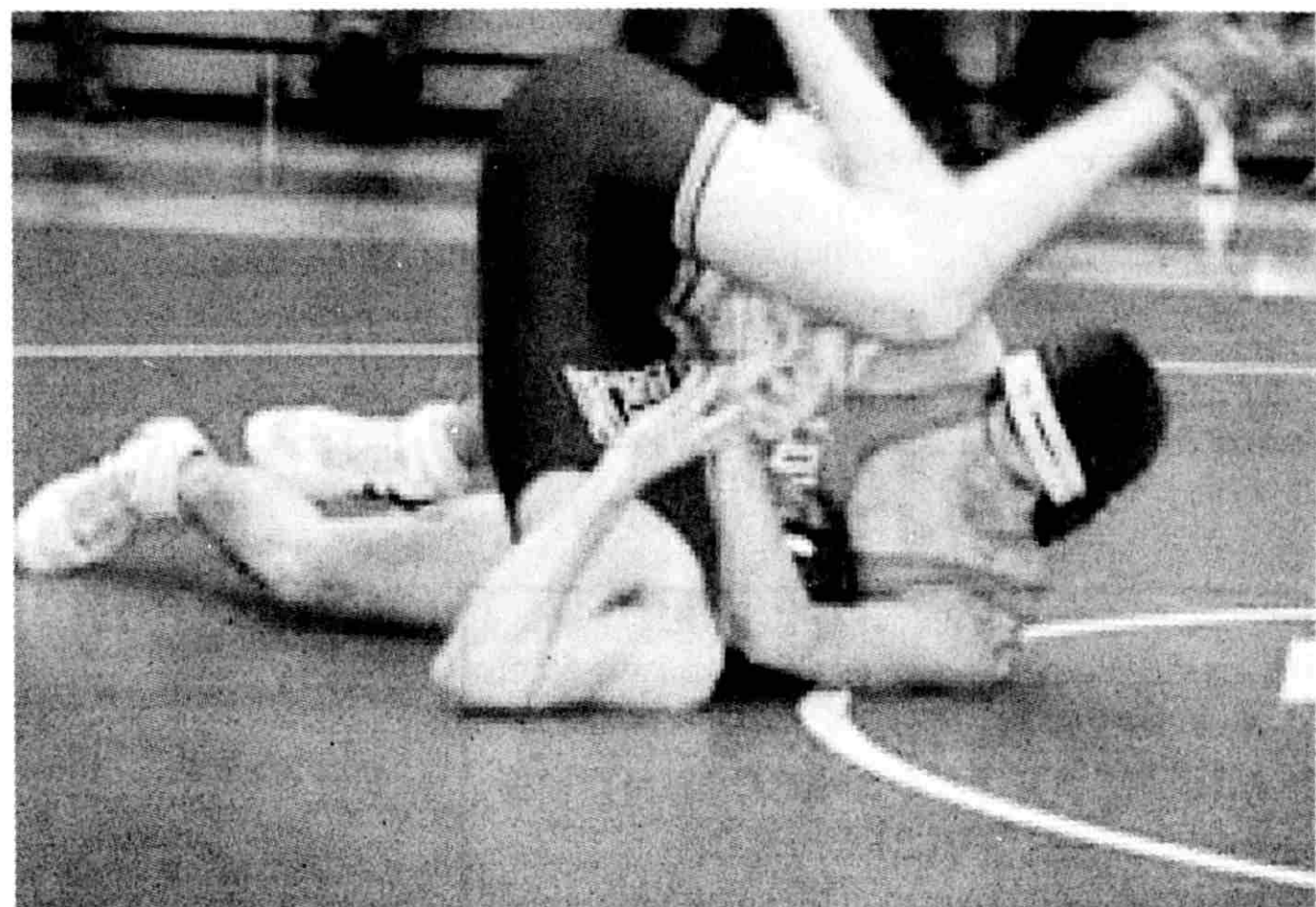
Consolation:
119: Nick Trimble (Sparta) d. Tyler Jack 10-4

125: Gabe Dean d. Joe Preston (Northview) 10-3

171: Richard Clinkscale (Northview) d. Gabe Dean 8-6

Team District:

The Red Arrows hosted and won their team district on Wednesday, defeating



Andrew Morse (140) pinned FHE's Rance Carpenter in 27 seconds of the first period.

Forest Hills Eastern in the finals 57-17. Lowell advanced to the finals with a 67-9 win over Ionia. The Hawks advanced with a 38-36 win over Forest Hills Northern.

"Nobody got hurt and we came out of the district real well," said Lowell wrestling coach Dave Dean. Lowell won 11-of-14 matches.

"We wrestled better against Lowell this year than we did last year. Our program is making strides," said Forest Hills Eastern coach Kevin Sankey. "It's always great to beat the other Forest Hills

school." FHE finishes its team portion of the season at 12-19. The Hawks were fifth in the O-K Gold.

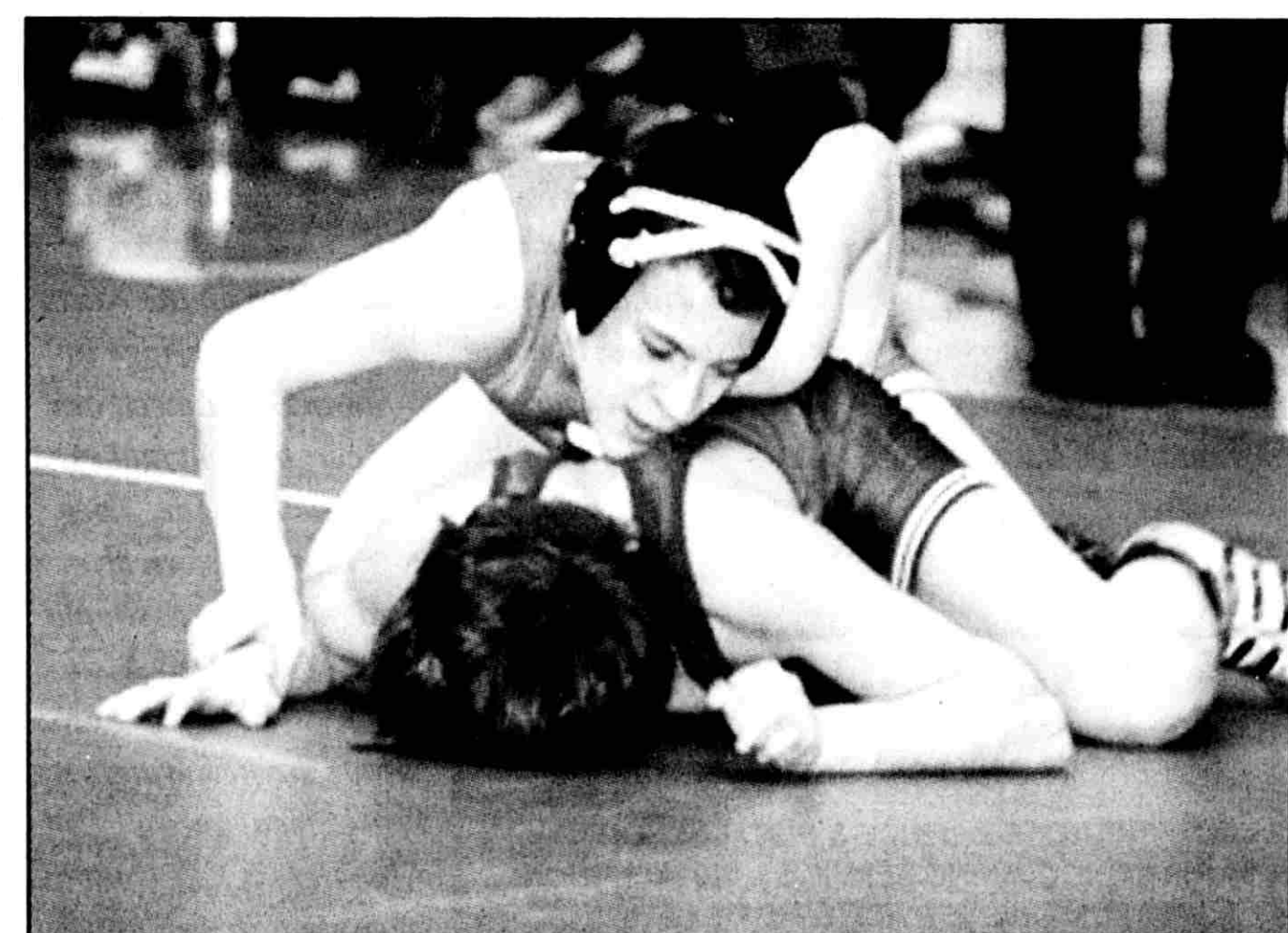
Winning via the pin for Lowell were Andrew Morse (140), Rocky Pabon (145), Jackson Morse (152), Gabe Dean (171) and Tom Fleet (285).

Earning decisions were Gabe Morse (125), Dan Fleet (135), Tim Gingerich

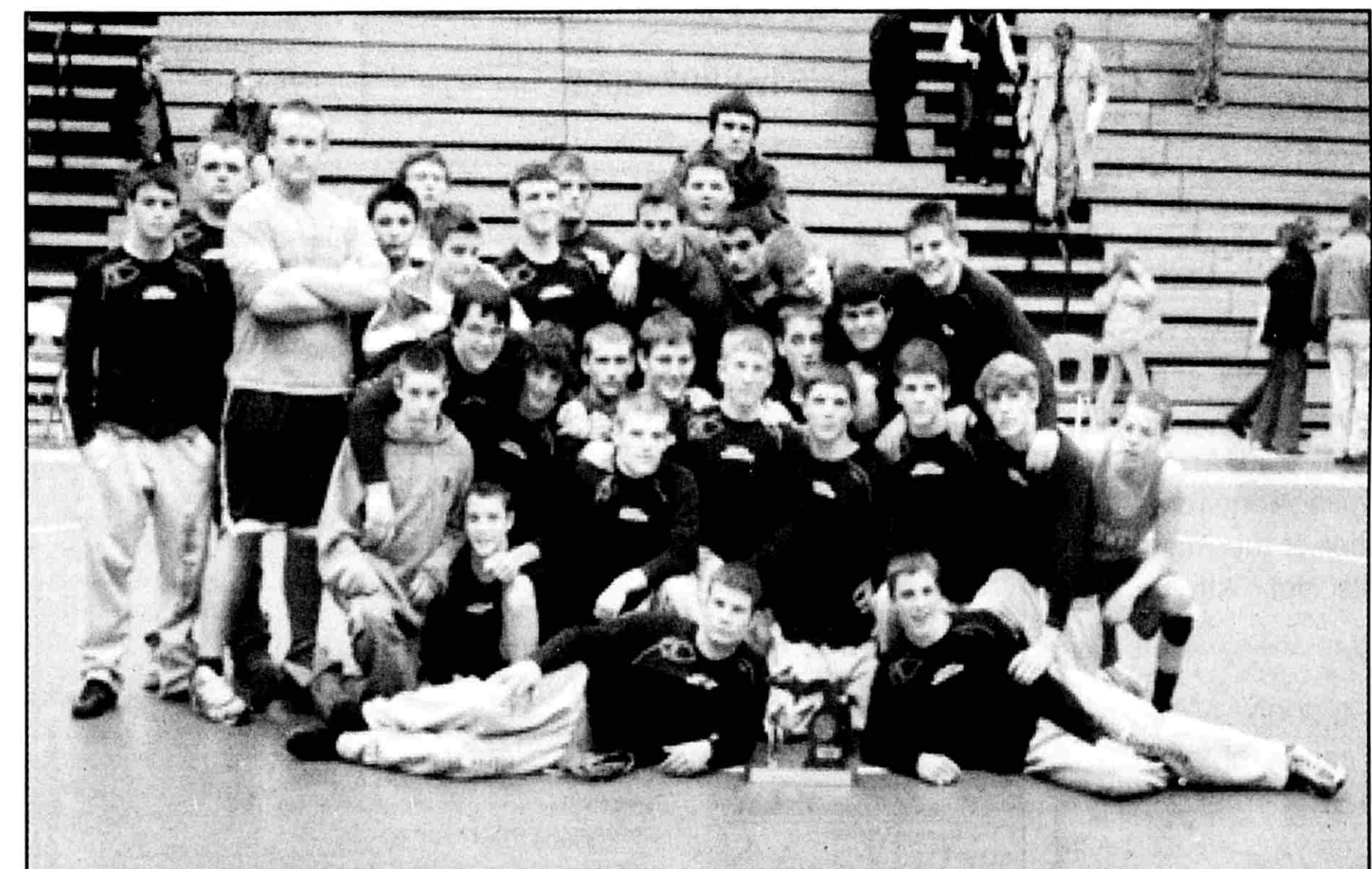
(160), and Aaron Nowak (103). FHE voided matches at 189 and 215.

"By and large I like the way we competed tonight," said Dean. "Matches like this are not balanced. Not all the wrestlers go out to the mat in the same boat."

Forest Hills Eastern received wins by Jeff Carrel (130) p.; Tim Lambert (112) dec.; and Colin Sullivan (119) p.



Aaron Nowak, 103 pounds, earned a 6-4 decision over Forest Hills Eastern's Trey Corey.



Lowell celebrated its fourth consecutive district championship with Dave Dean at the helm.

LOWELL AREA RECREATION AUTHORITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Lowell Area Recreation Authority will conduct a public meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the Lowell Charter Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash Road, Lowell, Michigan for the purpose of receiving input and comments from the public on the following:

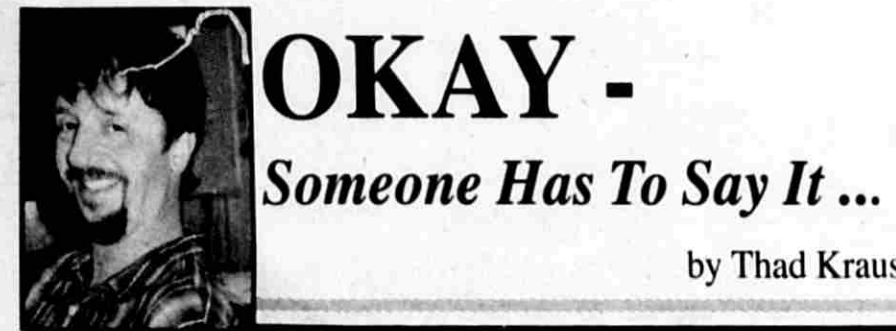
Proposed Lowell Area Recreation Authority Trailway 5 year Recreation Plan

Proposed application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund for Phase 1 of the Lowell Area Recreation Authority Trail.

Copies of the proposed Recreation Plan are available for viewing at the City of Lowell, Lowell Township, Vergennes Township and the Lowell (Englehardt) Public Library.

Interested persons may offer comments at the meeting or submit them prior to the meeting directly to the City of Lowell, Lowell Township or Vergennes Township or you may email them to info@lowellareatrailway.org.

Mari Stone
Secretary



OKAY - Someone Has To Say It ...

by Thad Kraus

The Pittsburgh Steelers brought the sports slogan "One for the Thumb" into the sports culture mainstream.

DeKalb High School in DeKalb, Ill. upgraded that recently to "Two for the Mom."

Rules dictated that DeKalb shoot two, second-quarter technical free throws in its game against Madison, Milwaukee.

The technical was assessed after Madison coach Aaron Womack Jr. entered senior Johntell Franklin into the game.

Franklin, who lost his mother, Carlitha, to cancer on Saturday, Feb. 7, decided he wanted to play in that night's game against DeKalb after previously indicating he would sit out.

Arriving to the game late (second quarter) Franklin's name was not in the score book since his coach didn't expect him to be there.

Rules dictated that a technical be assessed to Womack for inserting a player whose name was not listed in the score book.

DeKalb players and coach (Dave Rohlman) knew of the situation, and told the referees they did not want the call.

The referees made the call, forcing Rohlman to put a player on the line to shoot two technical foul shots.

Senior Darius McNeal volunteered to shoot.

He went to the line and as Madison players watched, standing by their bench, McNeal shot the first attempt about two-three feet in front of him. It bounced a few times and then rolled past the basket.

The referee picked up the ball and handed it to McNeal a second time; the senior repeated his first shot with the same result.

Afterwards, McNeal said he did it for the guy who lost his Mom.

Womack recognized Darius for missing the technical fouls on purpose.

"He could have been selfish and cared only for his own stats. I hope Coach Rohlman doesn't make him run for missing the free throws," Womack said afterwards.

The two schools had met twice previously; this time Madison garnered the victory, but as in the other games, the two squads shared a pizza dinner; four players to a pizza, two Madison players and two DeKalb players.

From heartwarming to calculating and dishonest. Did anyone believe Alex Rodriguez's steroid story?

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Actually it will have ramifications, but by being forthright and honest from the start Alex may have had a chance to overcome it.

No chance now unless they add a "steroid era" wing to the Hall.

This is weeks late, but nonetheless relevant and worthy of a few written words. A hearty congratulations to Tom Lehman (Middleville wrestling coach) on reaching the 700 win plateau.

He's on my short list of favorite high school coaches regardless the sport. You know what, he's also a just great guy.

Here's to another 700 Tom and Go Trojans!

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To whoever was smashing streetside car windows on Woodbushe in Eastgate Friday night (2/20): You have caused a lot of stress and uncertainty for my family. Grow up and try to find some legal fun.

-LP

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Can you please put the Sound Off back in? All you put in it now are fluffy comments. It should go back to

being a true Sound Off. If not, I will not renew my subscriptions for the Ledger this year.

I would like to thank a Meijer employee for putting my prized coin purse in a safe place for me. Thanks again.

Buildings on the North side of the bridge in downtown Lowell are part of what makes Lowell unique. They have historical significance & should be protected.

Hope the new Walgreens uses local unemployed laborers if they want us to shop in their store. We're looking for local contractors at the site. Don't see any so far.

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NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at the regular meeting of the Lowell Charter Township Board held on February 17, 2009, the following ordinances were adopted:

Ordinance No. 2009-01, an amendment to the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance, a summary of which follows:

- Amend Section 4.4.3, Definitions for the Sign Chapter
- Add Section 4.4.4.I, Portable Signs
- Add Section 4.4.5.C.b., Off Premise Signs in the C, CPUD, LI, and IPUD Zones
- Amend Section 4.4.4.C.h & i, to Permit Agriculture Industry and Farm Identification Signs
- Amend Section 4.4.5.C.d, Wall Signs in the C, CPUD, LI, and IPUD Zones
- Add Section 4.4.5C.h Reader Board Signs
- Amend Section 4.4.4. A Signs Prohibited
- Amend Section 4.4.5. B to Add Home Occupation Signs
- Amend Section 4.4.5 B to Add off Premise Signs for Farm Products in the AG-1, AG-2 and R-1 Zones
- Amend Section 4.4.5.D to Add Off Premise Signs for Farm Products in the LI and IPUD Zones.

Ordinance No. 2009-02, an amendment to the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance, a summary of which follows:

- Amend Section 6.3.B.b.2 to comply with the requirements of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act. The amendments include appeals of the Zoning Board of Appeals(ZBA) decisions to circuit court; appointment of alternate members to the ZBA; public notice requirements for ZBA interpretations; voting requirements for a member of the ZBA who is also a member of the Planning Commission and notification requirements for structures containing four or fewer dwelling units.

The ordinances shall become effective March 4, 2009. A copy of the complete text of the amending ordinances can be obtained at the Lowell Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash SE, during regular office hours or by calling 897-7600.

Linda S. Regan, Clerk

CLASSIFIEDS

small ads BIG deals

FOR SALE FOR SALE

100 APPLIANCES - Re-conditioned refrigerators, stoves, washers and dryers. From \$69. 1 year Warranty. Mention this ad for free 30 mile delivery. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600.

MEMORY FOAM & LATEX MATTRESSES - 8 different models. All new. Starting at \$399. Why pay \$699 at the big name stores?? RCD Wholesale, 616-682-4767 or 293-5188.

LIKE NEW 4 WINTER TIRES - Bridgestone Blizzaks 215 60R 16, new \$100 ea., with 4 Ford rims, \$200 obo. Call 821-5151.

ALDEN - NASH MEADOWS - south of Murray Lake School. 3+ acres to 7+ underground utilities, walkout sites, 20 minutes to G.R. and next to 95 acres of wooded preserve. Starting at \$84,900. Call 616-897-8820.

MATTRESSES - Large selection of name brand mattresses at 30% less than the stores 50% off "sale" price. Yes, 30% less! RCD Wholesale, 616-682-4767 or 293-5188.

WHITE SIDE-BY-SIDE - 23.4 cu. ft. refrigerator/freezer in good shape, everything works, \$300; upright freezer, \$250. Call 616-902-1377.

LAKE ODESSA UNION BANK STOCK FOR SALE - in 500 share increments. Email offer to ub4sale@yahoo.com

3 PLUS ACRES - South of Murray Lake School, wooded walkout site on paved road, 20 minutes to G.R. For sale by owner \$74,900. 616-897-8820.

MATTRESS SALE - Factory new mattress/boxspring sets, \$69 each. Twin, full or queen. Mention this ad for free 30 mile delivery. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600.

PRICE REDUCED - 9070 Bailey Dr, Ada. Home w/10 acres, 4 bedrooms up & 1 down. Large bath w/sep. shower & tub. Main floor laundry. Kitchen w/dining area & living room. Basement is not a Michigan basement & stays dry. There is a porch w/deck attached, 2 1/2 stall garage & small storage barn. All appliances included. Updates: New hot water heater & propane furnace, all heating ducts have been cleaned & carpet has been cleaned. The home still needs your personal updating & some TLC. Land is absolutely beautiful, approx. 275' wide & 1500' deep. Any questions or if you would like to see the house please call Peg at 616-540-0175.

NEWSPAPER END ROLLS AVAILABLE AT THE BUYERS GUIDE OFFICE - Many uses, table cover, art projects, packaging, etc. Stop by & grab one today! 105 N. Broadway.

SHIP UPS AT THE LEDGER OFFICE - We cannot accept hazardous materials or firearms. Compare our prices! Call for a price quote! We will need weight, zip code & dimensions for a price quote over the phone. 105 N. Broadway, 897-9261. Please note we can no longer accept prepaid packages unless they have ARS or RS on the label.

WEDDING INVITATIONS - We offer Carlson Craft wedding invitations! Stop by & check out a book today! Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, 897-9261.

AIR BEDS - Final close out of 2008 models. Select a comfort firmness for each of you. All new. Why pay double at the mall?? Air Bed Store, 616-682-4767 or 293-5188.

2000 TOYOTA TUNDA - Silver, 4 WD double cab, V6, AC, power steering, brakes, locks & windows, auto. trans, bedliner, keyless entry, <200k miles. Some damage from accident but fully drivable. \$2,300. Call 616-262-7115.

CLASSIFIEDS ARE NOW ON OUR WEBSITE ALSO - www.lowellbuyersguide.com.

PIT BULL/DOBERMAN PUPPIES - very friendly, 6 weeks, shots & dewormed, \$25 obo. 893-5774.

SOUND OFF LINE 897-0787
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(good or bad)

FOR RENT

LOWELL MOBILE HOME PARK - Under new management. Nice 1, 2 & 3 bedroom trailers for rent. Rent from \$350 - \$550. For info call George at 616-754-0276 or 616-813-8041.

FOR RENT - 2 bedroom, 2nd floor apartment, close to downtown Lowell, most utilities included, \$550 per month. 897-8067.

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.

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

WEDDING INVITATIONS
Available at Lowell Litho, Ph. 897-9261.
Stop by & check out one of our books. Many different styles & price ranges to choose from.

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In Person: 105 N. Broadway, Lowell
By Mail: PO BOX 128, Lowell, MI 49331
By Phone: 616-897-9261

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each additional word 10¢
Bold \$1 each or Box \$2 each

OFFICE HOURS:

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Friday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Closed Saturday & Sunday

CLASSIFIEDS NOW POSTED ONLINE!
www.lowellbuyersguide.com

EVENTS

PLEASE NOTE - Coming Events are for non-profit organizations. They are ran on a space available basis & are not guaranteed to run. If you would like to make sure your event is placed in the paper, please call our office & place it as a classified ad.

NEEDLERS - Second & fourth Monday evenings, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Schneider Manor Community Room.

ALTO AMERICAN LEON AUXILIARY - meets 2nd Monday of the month - 7 p.m.

AARP LOCAL CHAPTER 120 - Meets the second Monday of the month from 10-12 at Trinity Lutheran, 2700 E. Fulton, Centennial Hall. P. Vanderweide, 457-0614.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY - First Baptist Church of Alto, meets Tues. mornings, 10 - 11:45 Sept. - April. Child-care provided. 868-6403.

LOWELL MUSIC BOOSTERS MEETING DATES - All meetings are on Tuesdays in the Lowell Middle School Band Room & begin at 3 p.m. March 17, April 21 & May 19.

BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT & INFORMATION - La Leche League of Grand Rapids, open to all women interested and/or currently breastfeeding. Second Thursday of each month. Meeting at Cascade Library, 2870 Jacksmith Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. For more info call 752-8300.

EVENTS

ALTO AMERICAN LEON AUXILIARY - meets the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Alto American Legion Post.

DIABETIC SUPPORT GROUP - Tues., 7 p.m. at Elmdale Church, located just 3.3 miles E. of M-50 on 64th St. Phone 868-7690 & leave a message if interested or if you would like to meet at another time or location.

KEEP IT SIMPLE ADDICTIONS SUPPORT GROUP - Socialization & peer support for recovering addicts. Meets every Thursday at 7 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, Raya building. Contact Charlene, 897-7636 or Carrie, 897-7303 for more info.

TEXAS HOLD EM/CASINONITE FUNDRAISER - Feb. 28. Please join us for a fun night of gambling while raising money for the Lowell Arrow Dynamic Baseball Team. Texas Hold Em registration is from 3:30 - 4:15 & the tournament begins at 4:30 w/a \$40 buy in. Casino Night starts at 7 p.m. w/blackjack, craps, roulette, Let It Ride, cash poker tables, raffles, drink specials & more! For pre-registration or questions, please contact Pat Schaefer at 616-581-7580. We hope to see you there! LARKIN'S "The Other Place".

FAMILY FRIENDLY MOVIE NIGHT - Fri., Feb. 27, 7 p.m. Free family friendly movie, popcorn & soda. First Congregational Church, 865 Lincoln Lake SE.

HELP WANTED SERVICES

ANIMAL CARE GIVER - Large kennel of small dogs, 3-4 nights a week. \$8 an hour. 616-437-0342, Alto area.

ATTN: CUSTOMER SERVICE, TEAM LEADERS - Up to \$600 to start. Spring bonus. Local factory outlet has a huge increase in business. This has created new openings in company workforce. These are permanent positions with NO layoffs or strikes in 70+ years. Since there are several positions to fill, the Human Resources Manager will discuss the hours, pay scale & bonuses at a one-on-one interview. To schedule an interview call 616-245-7677.

COMMISSARY WORKER - need a person to work at the Kent County Jail as relieve on Fridays & Saturdays, 7-3. Job requires direct contact with jail inmates. Must be able to lift 50 lbs. Candidates must pass a background check & drug test. Call Mike at 517-243-2824.

HELP IS ON THE WAY - Residential cleaning. Many years experience. Call for in-home quote. Stephanie 616-835-3392.

ART GALLERY and CUSTOM FRAMING - Fire and Water Art! 219 W. Main St., Lowell. Open Wednesday thru Sunday. 890-1879.

RESIDENTIAL REMODELING - Professional full service remodeling. Licensed & insured. 20 years of experience. Call today for your free estimate. Choice Contracting, 616-916-0808 choicecontracting@gmail.com

FOUND
FOUND - Tan & white cat in the High & Jefferson St. area. Call 897-7371.

CLEANING/REORGANIZING - Professional cleaning & home organization services available at reasonable prices. Call today for your free estimate! Hidden Helpers 897-4164, hiddenhelpers@gmail.com

PIANO INSTRUCTION - Improve your child's motor skills & cognitive abilities with music. Popular, experienced (both performing & teaching) MMTA member has spring and summer openings. Yearly recitals, music theory, classical & jazz. Vergennes Township area. 616-897-9485 or visit: www.reverbnation.com/deborahkaypianistvocalist for more information.

MYOFACIAL RELEASE THERAPY - Got pain? Hard to move? Myofascial Release is hands on technique which is gentle, sustained pressure that focuses on releasing connective tissue, or fascia. Call Sarah at the Hammond LLC for information at 616-893-5661 or www.hammocklearning.com

HOUSE CLEANING SERVICES - reasonable price, references available & house sitting, experience w/ variety of animals. 616-477-4201 or 616-322-6813.

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

HOT TUB SERVICE - Every make & model, covers, supplies, maintenance. Call The HotwaterDr. 616-874-3385 or contact hotwaterdr.com

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Future Red Arrows basketball players

Pictured are the members of the Future Arrow basketball program. The program is organized by Lowell High School Varsity coach Jeff McDonald and the third and fourth grades are instructed by coach Dave Stump with Junior Varsity players as assistants.

Third grade, (left) front row: Kellum McDonald, Brendon Gardner, Keaton Bell, Josh Bush, Poitiven Santil, Nathan Yomtoob, Travis Cornell, and Brian Ashenbremer; second row: Jeffery Oesch, Dawson Chapman, Alex Trollman, Christian Davis, Kenny Stump, Caleb Mast, Elijah



Dixon, AJ Brandt, Austin Johnson, Austin Pollock, Jason Mohr, Justin Oesch, Blake McVey, Trenton

Wyan, and Jacob Hults; third

row: Coach Dave Stump and assistants Noah Burt, Tyler Wallner, Reece Posthumus, and Griffin Brenk.

Fourth grade, front

row: Evan Swanson, Eric Judd, Mark Langlois, Chase Launer, Mason Sturgeon, Ben Smith, Patrick Travis, and Nathan Barber; second



row, Jeremy Bergin, Aidan Lane, Zach Laux, Mitchell Brown, Dakota Bileth, Nick Sullivan, Jacob Bishop, Brayden Schramm, Cooper Perry, Riley Coxon, Michael Doyle, Shawn Barr, Adam

Korzen, and Keagan Barnes; third row: Coach Dave Stump and assistants Noah Burt, Tyler Wallner, Reece Posthumus, and Griffin Brenk.

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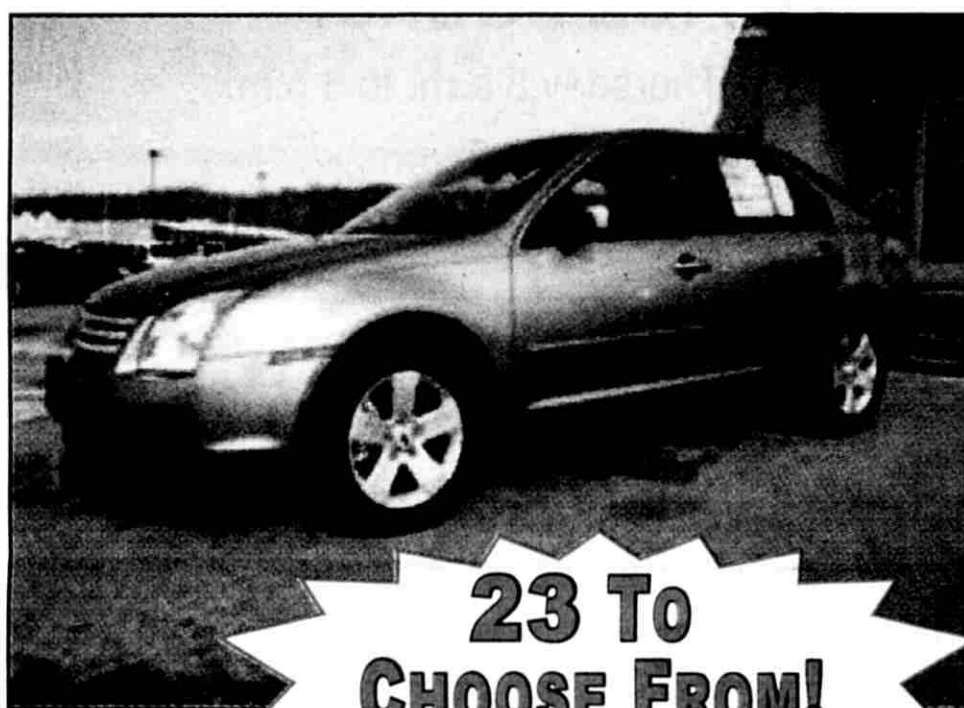
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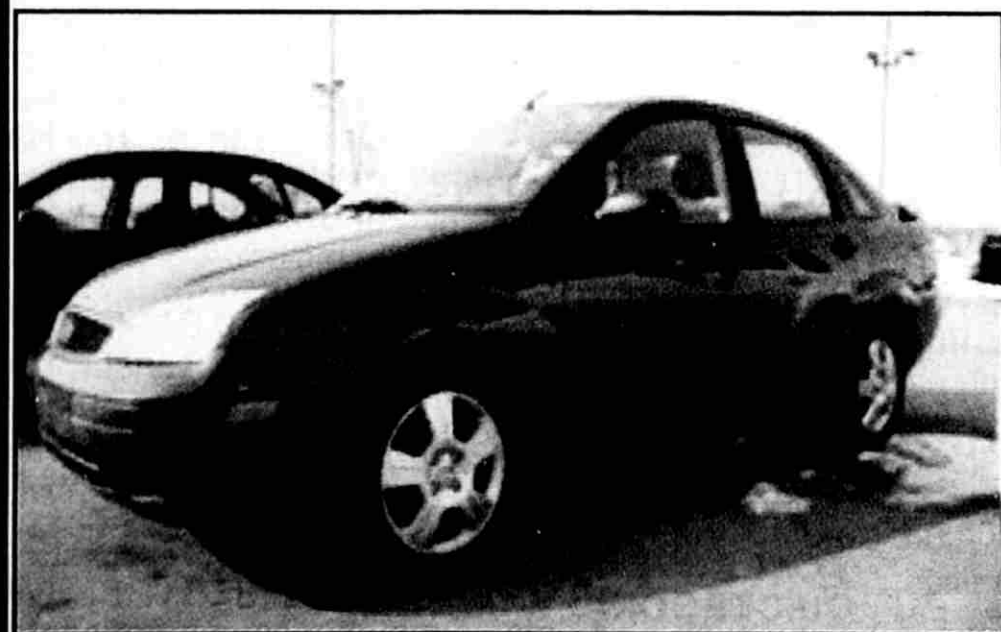
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FFA teams advance to state

Students from the Lowell FFA Chapter earned the right to compete at the State Competitions to be held March 11-13 at the State FFA Convention in East Lansing. The students competed in the Regional contests against schools from around the West Michigan area. The top two teams in each contest advance to the State level. Advancing from Lowell were students in Parliamentary Procedure,

Emma Roderick will be competing in the Greenhand Speaking contest with her speech about anaerobic digesters producing energy from animal carcasses. In the Jr. High Speaking contest, Sarah Crosby will represent Lowell with her speech about biosecurity on poultry farms. Ian, Emma and Sarah all placed first in their respective contests.

The Creed Speaking contest involves reciting the



Emma Roderick, Ian Blodger and Sarah Crosby.

Prepared Public Speaking, Greenhand Public Speaking, and Creed Speaking.

In the Parliamentary Procedure contest, the students show that they can run an efficient meeting using correct Parliamentary Procedure. Team members include Dakota Bergy, Bob Crosby, Cody Kastanek, Tom Mark, Josh Phelps, and Jack Weeber. They placed second at the regional contests, receiving a gold award.

In the Public Speaking contests, the students had to research and prepare and present speeches having to do with current agricultural topics. The Prepared contest consists of primarily upperclassmen; Greenhand is typically freshman students while Jr. High participants can be in either 7th or 8th grade. Lowell senior Ian Blodger will be competing in the Prepared Speaking contest with his speech about the economic crisis and the effects on agriculture.

FFA Creed and answering questions about how it relates to your life and the FFA. Katy Mork finished second in the contest and will also compete at the State Convention.

Also competing at the regional contests for Lowell were Paula Blough in the Prepared Public Speaking contest and Mike Clover in the Job Interview contest as well as the team of Emma Bencker, Kari Bergy, Sara Fosburg, Kelsey Langlois, Mackenzie Roerig and Mary Kate Walsh in Agricultural Issues. All received Silver awards at the regional contests.

FFA is a national youth leadership organization that strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. The Lowell FFA is one of the largest chapters in Michigan with over 120 members.