



# The Lowell Ledger

Volume 38 Issue 14

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

## West Michigan Regional Competition involves the viewer

by Emma Palova

Most will agree that the best artwork involves the viewer as in the case of the 23rd West Michigan Regional Competition.

The show now on exhibit at the Lowell Area



Arts Council features diverse works of art that entice the viewer instantly.

From first place mixed media 'A Million Little Pieces' by Ann Morgan to bronze sculpture 'Hard Boiled' by Matt Large, the show is a mix of traditional and modern themes.

"I need an emotional or thought provoking attachment to the work," wrote juror Mark Mehaffey in his statement. "The idea that drives the content should involve the viewer."

This is reflected in 'Hydrophobic Otter' by Paul VanHeest of Holland, which received best of show.

The color pencil painting combines systematically various elements into one big stunning piece.

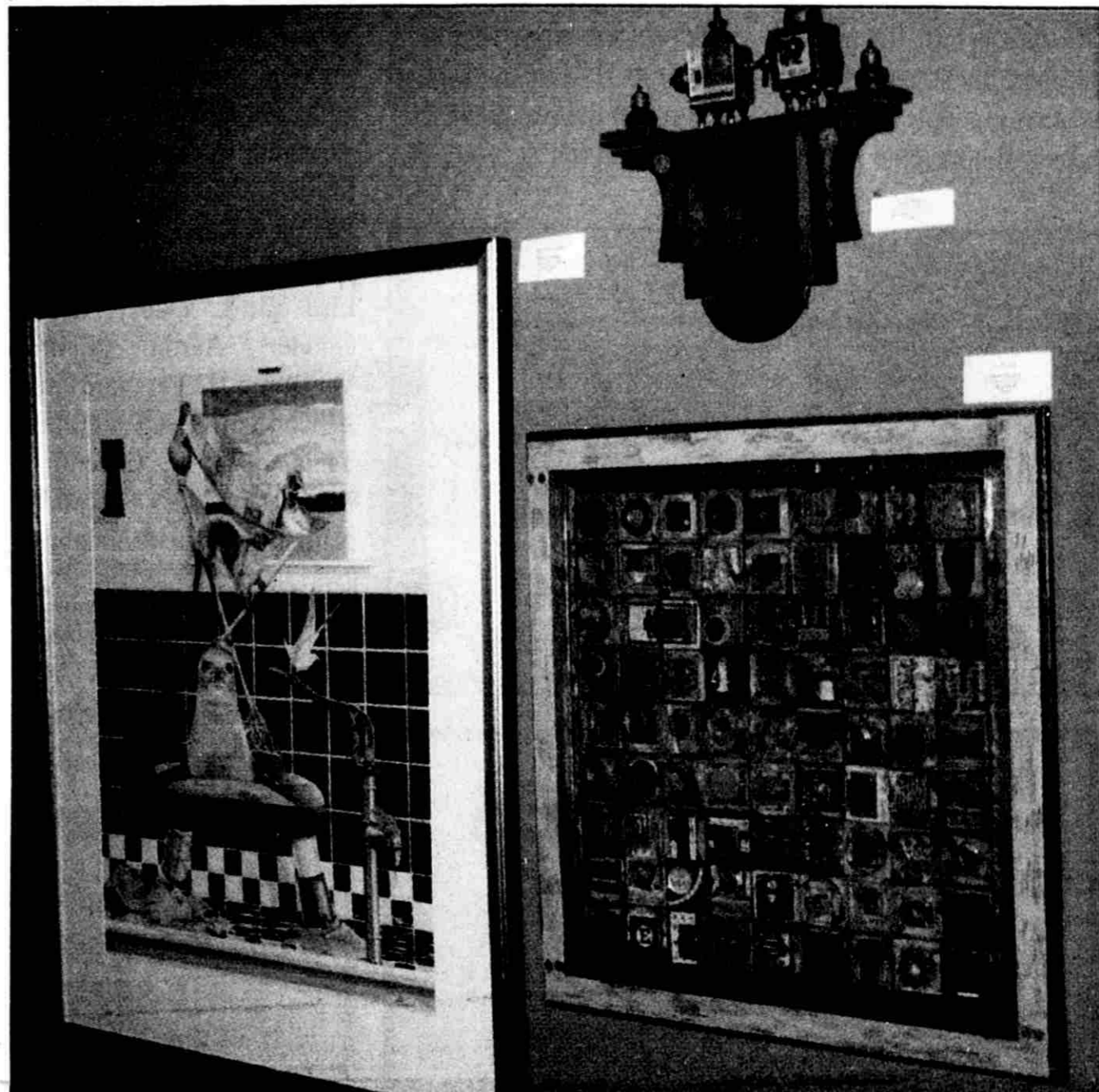
"I like to see conscious design choices based on what the artist wants to say," writes Mehaffey. "The award winners did a great job, their work kept me coming back for one more look. I was involved."

Other awards included second place for Randall Nyhof for photograph 'Stormy Relationship.' Third place went to Mary Anderson for oil painting 'Trees of the Field Shall Clap their Hands.' Nicole Castiglia received honorable mention for mixed media 'A Garden Enclosed.'

"The elements and principals of design are the same for all, it is the choices that we make enhance or detract from our work," wrote Mehaffey.

Although the entries were down a little compared to last year, the show is a must see. Even entries that didn't win such as the 'Battery Operated Painter' by Scott Patrick or oil 'Autumn Rhapsody' by Barbara Schilling are inspiring and enticing.

The show runs through April 11. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday from noon to 6 p.m.



Pictured are some of the winning entries in the West Michigan Regional Competition.

## Athletic apparel and gear coming to LHS

Lowell High School athletes will once again have an opportunity to purchase athletic apparel and gear from Under Armour's outlet store at reduced rates.

The Under Armour night is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25 from 4 until 8:30 p.m. in the Lowell High School cafeteria.

The store will be complete with cashier registers and credit machines. Special pricing will be made available for this night only.

Patrons attending the Athletic Apparel and Gear Party Invitation must RSVP to [lowellarmour@yahoo.com](mailto:lowellarmour@yahoo.com) by March 17 with name, number of people shopping for, ages, sizes (youth or adult), and specific Under Armour supplies that the buyer is interested in.

The majority of the supplies will come from Under Armour's team catalog. If it is not on deck they will order it at the special pricing rate, according to Lowell Football coach and event organizer, Noel Dean.

"The proceeds from this event will help offset new team uniforms for the varsity football team, which in turn saves the Lowell Athletic Boosters money for other programs," Dean explained. "Everyone wins."

Those attending the athletic apparel and gear party must make reservations by March 17 with name, number of people shopping for, ages (sizes youth or adult) and specific Under Armour supply shopping needs.

"This will help them have more of the appropriate items on hand and to organize help," Dean said.

Supplies that will be available include close out specials on 2008 cleats; baseball and softball batting gloves, sliders, mocks, cold gear and cleats; football chin straps, gloves and integrated girdles, lacrosse supplies; soccer shin guards, workout clothes and bags; and all sports heat gear, cold gear, wristbands, socks, hooded sweatshirts, sweatpants and sleeveless tees.

## Art scholarships help Lowell students realize their dreams

by Emma Palova

The Louise Harper Memorial Scholarship awards annually approximately \$250 to \$500 per application to a qualified graduating senior pursuing an arts career.

The Louise Harper Memorial Scholarship fund was started in memory of Louise Harper, a resident of Lowell and a member of the

will always be a tribute to her handiwork.

"The Lowell Area Arts Council and the relatives and friends of Louise Harper are proud to offer this scholarship in her memory," said Pierce.

The applications deadline is March 20. The scholarships are awarded at the senior awards night in May.

The LAAC scholarship

Other LAAC scholarships include the Kathie Quada Memorial Scholarship for students who want to major in English, writing, journalism, or secondary education. A written essay of 500 words is required.

The Jack Frost Memorial Scholarship is awarded to students pursuing careers in visual arts. The Jack Frost Design Scholarship is for graduating students who

legislators to oppose the zeroing out of funding for the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs in 2010.

The state is planning to sell \$100 million in bonds to leverage \$1 million in funding of capital improvements arts grants. There will no longer be state dollars for operational grants.

According to a news



"I am grateful to the Lowell Area Arts Council for the Louise Harper Scholarship that has helped enable me to pursue my education as an Art Therapist. Reflecting on my past discoveries in the arts I became more aware of many opportunities I acquired through the Arts Council. These started with basic drawing classes at the Arts Council at the age of seven and continued with wood carving, painting, poetry and creative writing. These building foundations I apply today in my studies at Seton Hill University." - Leara Glinzak

Lowell Area Arts Council (LAAC).

"It is a really good scholarship program," said LAAC outreach coordinator Barb Pierce.

Louise with her husband John designed and made the first three Fallasburg Fall Festival quilts. Their beauty

awards are based on a competitive process

which considers academic achievement, extracurricular activities, a statement of the applicant's personal aspirations and goals, and financial need. When applying for the scholarship, applicable artwork should be included.

wish to pursue a career in graphic arts.

The Thebes Players Education Scholarship is awarded to students pursuing careers in theatre arts.

In related arts news, the ArtServe Michigan and LAAC requires your action to contact Gov. Jennifer Granholm and the

release from ArtServe, the governor has also recommended increasing the nonrefundable grant application fee from \$300 to \$1,000.

For more information go to: [www.artservemichigan.org](http://www.artservemichigan.org).

Obituaries



CHILDS

Jeffrey R. Childs, aged 40, of Lowell, loving son, brother, uncle and friend to so many people who knew him, died unexpectedly

on Tuesday, February 24, 2009. He leaves behind his mother, Joann; sister, Lorene Ryan; nieces, Nicole and Megan Ryan; great-nieces and nephews, Mackenzie, Zachary "the huntin' boy", Hagen, Andrew, and Elaine. Jeff was an avid hunter and he loved his family and friends and the great outdoors. He will be sadly missed by all. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2009 at 11 a.m. at Lowell Church of the Nazarene, 201 N. Washington St.

HEYBOER

Elizabeth "Rose" Heyboer went home to be with her Lord and Savior peacefully in her home on Friday, February 27, 2009 at the age of 87. Rose was born to Arie and Gertrude Sluiter on December 13, 1921 in Rock Valley, Iowa. She married Arthur A. Heyboer April 23, 1942. They worked side by side for 57 years on the family farm with their two daughters. Rose was known for her beautiful flower gardens, embroidery workmanship, homemade apple pies, support for missions and sense of humor. She was a fun loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She is survived by her daughters, Marie (Jim) VanBuren, Wilma (Kurt) Roudabush; grandchildren, Steve Bird, Lisa Bird, Darcy (Todd) Gooder, Aaron (Tammi) VanBuren, Jeff VanBuren, Allison (Steve) Gilbert, Tanja (Tom) Greenfield, Marsha (Mike) Stephens, Nathan (Megan) Roudabush,

Karen (Andrew) Sweigart, Elizabeth (Russell) Spees; 14 great-grandchildren; siblings, Elvina Slot, Jim (Coral) Sluiter, Maisie Longstreet, Ray (Sandy) Sluiter; brothers- and sisters-in-laws, Jean Sluiter, Ethel Veenstra, Jim (Martina) Heyboer, and William Heyboer. She was preceded in death by her husband, Arthur; infant daughter, Mary Ann; brother, Arie Sluiter Jr.; and infant great-grandson, Samuel Greenfield. Rose's family would like to thank Evelyn Cramer and Dawn Skidmore for their loving care, and Elizabeth Rozeboom and Spectrum Health Hospice for their care and support over the last few months. Funeral services were held Tuesday at the South Boston Bible Church, Interment South Boston Cemetery. Anyone wishing may make memorial contributions to European Baptist Fellowship. Online condolences may be made to www.lakefuneralhomes.com.

Electronic records improves disability decision process

By Vonda VanTil

Technology is helping the Social Security Administration (SSA) transform the disability decision-making process which will mean better service for applicants across Michigan. Medical providers can now send patients' medical records electronically to the Michigan Disability Determination Service (DDS), the state agency that makes the medical decisions for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability benefits. Through SSA's Electronic Records Express (ERE) website, www.socialsecurity.gov/ere, the DDS now sends an electronic request to these hospitals for the records of the disability applicants who've received treatment there. The electronic process makes it quicker and easier for medical and other claimant records to be transferred securely, eliminating mail time and automating handling so that disability applicants can receive a decision sooner. Spectrum Health and Saint Mary's Health Care are the first two hospitals

in Michigan to submit their patients' medical records using the new electronic process. The two hospitals combined submit medical records for nearly 5,000 disability applicants annually to the Michigan DDS.

Requesting and receiving paper copies of medical records could take up to 30 days to accomplish. Under the electronic process some records are received the same day they are requested, and nearly all of them are received within three to four days. Social Security's electronic options for sending medical records are secure and free of charge.

For more information on submitting electronic records, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/ere or call the Social Security Electronic Records Express Help Desk at 1-866-691-3061 or send them an email at electronic-records-express@ssa.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.

Personal Tax Preparation & Consulting
Business Consulting & Start-up
Small Business Tax Preparation
Small Business Accounting • Payroll Services

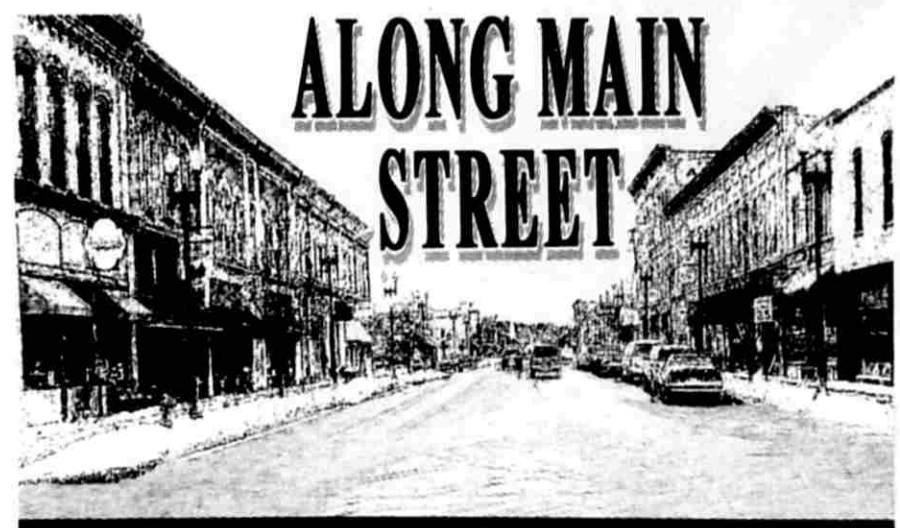
MICHIGAN TAX & ACCOUNTING SERVICES, INC.
Jan-Apr Hours: M-F 9A-7P, Sa 10A-3P
May-Dec Hours: M-F 10A-6P
216 East Main Street, Entrance at Rear, Parking in Alley
T: 616-897-7668 F: 616-897-7844
E-mail: mtservices@sbcglobal.net

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
BOWNE TOWNSHIP
KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN
Please take notice that on March 16, 2009, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Bowne Township Offices located at 8240 Alden Nash SE, Alto, Michigan 49302, there will be two public hearings held regarding the requested Township approval of two liquor license requests. The public hearings will involve the following:
Goeland, LLC - request for the transfer of an existing liquor license regarding the Alto Bar at 6064 Linfield SE in Alto.
Tyler Creek Golf Club and Campground - request for a new liquor license for the business located at 13495 92nd, Alto, Michigan 49302.

Copies of the applications and supporting materials for the above can be reviewed, purchased, or inspected at the Township offices on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Written comments will be considered as long as they are received at the Township offices by the commencement of the public hearings. The Bowne Township Liquor License Ordinance (Ordinance No. 2004-02) governs such applications, together with state law.
Respectfully submitted,
By Sandra L. Kowalczyk
Bowne Township Clerk

Sure you rent, but it's WHAT'S INSIDE that makes it YOUR HOME.
Deborah A Wilks, Agent
2050 W Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331-8640
Phone: 616-897-3237
deborah.wilks@statefarm.com
LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR STATE FARM IS THERE.
Providing Insurance and Financial Services

The Lowell Ledger (USPS 453-830)
Published weekly for \$22.00 a year for zip codes beginning with 493 or 495
\$32.00 a year any other zip code.
J-AD GRAPHICS INC. PUBLISHER
EMMA PALOVA LEAD REPORTER
THAD KRAUS SPORTS/SALES
TAMMY JANOWIAK CLASSIFIED/ACCOUNTING
JON JACOBS ADVERTISING SALES
(616) 897-9261
E-Mail: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com
Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI
Published every Wednesday
POSTMASTER: Send address change to:
The Lowell Ledger
P.O. Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331
www.lowellbuyersguide.com



Crisis team works to help children after they witness stabbing

by Emma Palova

A local crisis team is working to help children who witnessed the recent stabbing at 818 E. Main Street.

Police were called to a house at 818 E. Main to a domestic assault on Tuesday, Feb. 24. Lowell Township resident Jeff Childs, 40, stabbed his ex-girlfriend with a knife, and then took his own life in front of his niece and nephew.

Jayna Fuller, 29, sustained a neck injury and

was transported to Spectrum Hospital for surgery.

"Jeff was chasing her with a large kitchen-type knife and then assaulted her," said acting chief James Hinton. "The children were upset."

Hinton, who is on the crisis team, assured that the children will get grief counseling.

"It was a very traumatic event, hard to understand," said Hinton. "We are making arrangements for services to help them."

The crisis team met at the school last week to identify the type of support needed.

Superintendent Greg Pratt said a variety of staff will identify what kind of support the children need. Resources could include counseling and help from other agencies.

"We're trying to determine what type of resources they need," said Pratt.

Hinton said the incident was one of the largest cases of domestic violence in the city.

"To take it to this extent is unordinary," said Hinton. "I haven't seen anything of this magnitude in 17 years."

Hinton said he remembers a case where a husband killed his wife in Lowell Township.

"We will formulate a plan to help out the family," said Hinton.

According to Hinton, the current economic situation is contributing to an increase in domestic violence.

"Added stress, drug and alcohol abuse are good ingredients for creating domestic assault situations," said Hinton.

There has been a 61 percent increase in physical assaults last year. Last year, there were 41 cases of physical assaults in the city. "That is quite a jump," said Hinton.

Lend A Hand VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
EXCHANGE STUDENT PROGRAM
Open your home to one of 83 exchange students currently requesting a five to 10 month stay in the USA for the 2009/10 school year. Your cost is to provide room, board and guidance. Your payment is years of memories and enlightenment. Local residents, Jan and Steve Ockaskis, became a host family which led to Steve volunteering to be a Field Representative for the program. For further information contact Steve at 897-4830.

At Your Local Library
LIBRARIES OFFER EARLY LITERACY PROGRAM
The Kent District Library Registration may be required. For more information or to register, visit www.kdl.org.
Rhyme Time Music and Movement at Englehardt Branch on Thursdays, May 7-28, 10:30 a.m.

BOWNE TOWNSHIP
Bowne Township is now accepting Bids for the 2009 Lawn Maintenance Season.
Specifications are available at the Township Office
8240 Alden Nash SE
P0 Box 35
Alto, MI 49302-0035
616 868-6846
Wed, Thurs 9-5, Friday 9-Noon.

LEF LOWELL EDUCATION FOUNDATION
DINNER WITH FRIENDS
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. Please join us for this fun and worthwhile event. Underwritten by LITEHOUSE
REGISTER NOW!
Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_
Address: \_\_\_\_\_
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
Email: \_\_\_\_\_
Number of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ House # Attending \_\_\_\_\_
Paid with:  Check # \_\_\_\_\_  Cash: \_\_\_\_\_
Makes checks payable to Lowell Education Foundation
Return to: Dee McKendrick
62 Foleys Grade, Lowell, MI 49331
Questions: 616.889.1656 Register online: deemckendrick@gmail.com www.lowelleducationfoundation.org

897-4123 Arctic Inc. Heating & Cooling
Heating & air-conditioning • Wall hung boilers & water heaters
Geo Thermal systems • Radiant floor heat • Snow melt systems
Whole house generators • Duct work • Humidifiers
SALES, SERVICE AND INSTALLATION, UPGRADES, NEW HOMES

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:

- \*Agricultural .....49.49%.....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

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.

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES
Order days at First Baptist Church, 2275 Main St., are Fri., Mar. 13, 4 to 6 p.m. and Sat., Mar. 14, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Delivery, Mar. 28, 8:30-10:30 a.m. For info call IlaJean, 897-6609 or visit www.angelfoodministries.org.

MAPLE SYRUP FEST
The Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center will be having a Maple Syrup Fest on Sat., March 14. Join them for a pancake breakfast, served from 9-12 p.m., and a chance to go back in time and learn how maple syrup was made by both the Native Americans and early settlers. Call 987-1002 for more details or check out our website at www.lowellschools.com.

LWC GRANT REQUEST
The Lowell Women's Club is now accepting grant requests from Lowell Community Organizations which are in keeping with our philosophy, goals and mission. This application does not apply to LWC Scholarships. You can access an application form from www.lowellwomensclub.org or call Karen Thomure at 897-9862. Deadline is Mar. 18.

LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS
General Local Scholarship applications are due to Mrs. Nauta in the Student Services Center no later than 3 p.m. on Friday, March 20, absolutely no exceptions. Don't forget your two letters of recommendation and personal statement. For more information please call 987-2913.

WEST MICHIGAN REGIONAL COMPETITION
Attend the 23rd Annual West Michigan Regional Competition exhibit presented by the Lowell Area Arts Council. Gallery hours are Tues.-Fri., noon to 6 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m.; and by appointment on Mondays. The exhibit runs through April 11.

POETRY CONTEST
Poetry entries from The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly poetry contest are on display at the Lowell Area Arts Council through April 11. Hours are Tues.-Fri., 12-6 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m.; and Mon. and mornings by appointment. For more information call 897-8545.

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.

WHEN SUBMITTING PHOTOS
Please remember that we only keep photos on file for 6 months.
If you would like your photo returned, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.
The Lowell Ledger



**Recovery and Reinvestment in Michigan**  
With Senator Carl Levin

A comprehensive economic recovery effort must be balanced on a three-legged stool consisting of creating jobs, unfreezing credit markets, and addressing the housing crisis. Earlier this month, Congress and the Obama administration made significant progress on the first leg of that stool, creating jobs, with the enactment of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The act represents a significant and essential step in stabilizing Michigan's and the nation's economy. The

infrastructure projects will create Michigan jobs; the tax provisions will help Michigan families; and the investments in technology and modernization will pay dividends for years to come.

The impact the Recovery and Reinvestment Act will have on Michigan is significant. It will provide a tax cut to 3.9 million Michigan workers and allow over 120,000 Michigan families to benefit from a tax credit to make college more affordable. It is estimated that it will create or save 3.5 million jobs nationwide over the next two years, including jobs in health care, clean energy and construction.

It will also strengthen the social safety net by increasing unemployment insurance benefits by \$100 a month for over one million Michigan residents. The bill also provides for a \$250 one-time payment to recipients of Social Security, Supplemental Security Insurance, Railroad Retirement, and Veterans Disability Compensation - money that we hope will be spent promptly and will help boost local businesses.

The act is expected to provide Michigan with approximately \$1 billion dollars in highway and transit formula funds, allowing for significant repairs to roads and bridges and purchases of buses for our public transit authorities. There is additional funding that will hopefully result in investments in the Midwest High-Speed Rail corridor and improvements to Amtrak that can help bring commuter rail to Michigan.

The Recovery and Reinvestment Act also includes \$4 billion in funding for Army Corps of Engineers projects, and I am hopeful that a portion will be directed toward the Great Lakes to address the backlog of ready-to-go projects and maintain this maritime highway that is so vital for the Midwest. I am also hopeful that the Environmental Protection Agency will direct a portion of funds it receives from the Recovery and Reinvestment Act to cleaning up contaminated sediment under the Great Lakes Legacy program.

Michigan is also slated to receive more than \$150 million to address wastewater projects and \$70 million to upgrade water mains, leaking pipes and water treatment plants. These projects immediately create jobs and play a critical role in protecting public health, improving the environment, and creating a sustainable and strong economic climate in which commerce can thrive.

*Levin, cont'd., pg. 7*

**CITY OF LOWELL PLANNING COMMISSION - CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING**

The City Planning Commission-Citizen Advisory Committee will conduct a public hearing at their regularly scheduled meeting of Monday, March 23, 2009 at 7:00 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 8.04, "Description and Purpose," of Chapter 8, "R-3 Residential District," Section 9.01, "Scope," of Chapter 9, "MHP-Manufactured Home Park District," Section 12.01, "Description and Purpose," of Chapter 12, "C-3 General Business District," and Section 16.01, "Intent," of Chapter 16, "PF Public Facilities District," of "Appendix A-Zoning Ordinance" 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](http://www.ci.lowell.mi.us)

Interested persons may submit written comments to City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331 prior to the meeting or appear in person.



Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk



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

**RETIREEES MUST MAKE (AT LEAST) FIVE KEY FINANCIAL DECISIONS**

When you're working, you have a financial strategy that is largely based on one goal: saving money for a comfortable retirement. You'll likely have to make many adjustments over several decades to ensure that you stay on track saving and investing. But once you retire, a new goal arises - investing so you can remain retired. To help yourself achieve this goal, you will need to make a number of investment decisions.

Which of these decisions are most important? Here are five to consider:

- How much will you spend each year? Before you can pursue an appropriate investment strategy, you'll need to know about how much you'll spend each year. Estimate your costs for housing, food, travel, entertainment, insurance, gifts - everything. Keep in mind that your expenses will likely change annually, especially for items such as health care. Don't forget about inflation, which will likely cause your expenses to increase over the years.
- How should you balance your investment portfolio to provide sufficient income and growth opportunities? Clearly, you'll need your investments to provide a source of income during your retirement years. At the same time, you will need some growth potential to overcome the effects of inflation, which can erode your purchasing power. Consequently, you will need a mix of income- and growth-oriented investments, with the proportions depending on your risk tolerance and your lifestyle.
- How much should you withdraw each year from your investment portfolio? The answer depends on several factors, including your retirement lifestyle, the size and performance of your investment portfolio, inflation, your estimated life expectancy and the size of the estate you'd like to leave. This decision is important, because the amount you withdraw each year will directly affect how long your money lasts.
- From which accounts should you begin taking withdrawals? You may have built three different types of accounts: taxable, tax-deferred and tax-free. It may be a good idea to take withdrawals from your taxable accounts first, thereby allowing your tax-deferred accounts, such as your Traditional IRA and your 401(k), more time to compound and potentially increase in value. If you have a tax-free account, such as a Roth IRA, save it for last to maximize the compounding on money on which you will never pay taxes. (Roth IRA earnings grow tax-free if you've had your account at least five years and you don't begin taking withdrawals until you're at least 59-1/2.) That said, this is just a rule of thumb.

When should you take Social Security? You can begin taking Social Security as early as age 62, but your monthly checks will be considerably larger if you wait until your "normal" retirement age, which is likely 65 or 66. But if you need the money, you may be better off by taking Social Security at 62 and giving your tax-deferred accounts more time to potentially grow.

As you can see, you'll need a lot of expertise to successfully manage your financial and investment situations during retirement. If you don't already work with a financial advisor and a tax professional, now would be a good time to start. Once you've got your financial strategy in place, you'll be better prepared to enjoy an active, fulfilling retirement.

**WANTED HOMES THAT NEED ROOFING**

A select number of homeowners in Lowell and the surrounding areas will be given the opportunity to have a lifetime Erie Metal Roofing System.

If your home qualifies to install the look of our NEW Metal Shingle Roof, we will definitely make it worth your while.

We will offer you fabulous pricing and access to our special low interest unsecured bank financing.

An Erie Metal Roofing System will provide your home with unsurpassed "Beauty and Lasting Protection"!

Don't miss this opportunity to save!  
CALL TODAY TO SEE IF YOUR HOME QUALIFIES!  
**1-800-952-3743**  
email: [roofing@eriemetalroofs.com](mailto:roofing@eriemetalroofs.com)  
[www.ErieMetalRoofs.com](http://www.ErieMetalRoofs.com)

**Viewpoint**

**To The Editor**

Dear Editor,

A statement made in an article in the Feb. 25 Lowell Ledger questioned the approval of a curb cut for Walgreens and whether the city should have a PA 425 revenue sharing agreement and also why we let another business build on the fringe of town when businesses are paying high taxes in town. My question to that statement is - Has Lowell, with its shortcomings, taxed itself into a nowhere-to-go scenario? Lowell continues to see projected projects that are wants and not needs that probably will add more expense to the

community. You have to ask yourself, what is best for the community? I'm convinced I know what is not good for the community and that is more fruitless spending. Lowell needs to stop spending and hopefully add to its tax base. Now that the School of Missionary Aviation Training has left the Lowell Airport for greener pastures, and flights in and out are about null, it is time to reconsider the use of this prime piece of property. This property could be used as an Industrial Park where both Lowell and Vergennes Township would benefit. If our neighbor to the north, Greenville, can bring new businesses to their community, then there is no reason why Lowell can't do the same. It is time for a program that will help sustain our community for years to come.

Jim Howard



By Shelly MacNaughton

**125 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL JOURNAL MARCH 5, 1884**

The flouring mills are again running. Township elections begin to get ripe. This has been the best winter's sleighing we have had in several years. Spikes are being driven for the new post office building which will be of brick and we hope a two-story structure. The coming season will see more building improvements in Lowell.

**100 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER MARCH 4, 1909**

About 2 o'clock Saturday morning fire was discovered in the rear of the second story of the old Pullen barn at the corner of Bridge and Monroe streets. Three horses, a cow, a fat steer and several vehicles were removed in safety. Mr. Pullen and Corydon Barber were quite severely burned in saving the livestock, etc. Mr. Pullen had no insurance on the barn and contents but he has a good corner lot left and the Village Council thinks a new public building would look well there.

**75 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER AND ALTO SOLO MARCH 8, 1934**

Mrs. Sherman Neil is very ill at her home in South Boston. Mr. and Mrs. Loren Rusco of Grand Rapids spent Sunday with Mrs. Gladys Hartley. Mr. Fred Rogers, aged Civil War veteran, is confined to his bed as the result of a fall on the icy sidewalk last Friday.

**50 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER MARCH 5, 1959**

**HEADLINE: MARTHA WITTENBACH FIRST HONOR TEEN**  
Martha Mary Wittenbach, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur C. Wittenbach of Lowell, is among the highest students in the senior class. Martha has been an honor student for four years in addition to being very active in extra-curricular projects.

**25 YEARS AGO THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER MARCH 7, 1984**

Without a doubt, one of the most familiar faces around Lowell retired last Friday. Mac Fonger, 62, known to most Lowellites as the man at the window of the Post Office, hung up his uniform after nearly fourteen years of postal service. Always visible around town, Mac was once the manager of the Kroger grocery store here and operated a grocery store of his own in the sixties where Lippert Pharmacy is now located.



**Exploring Nature**

With Meggan Johnson,  
Director of the Wittenbach/Wege Center

**SPRING IS NEAR, TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT GARDENING!**

Since its birth, the Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center's Community Garden has been sowing friendships, growing community involvement and raising an appreciation for the land. It's become a place for those without sunny backyards or balconies to still enjoy the benefits of gardening.

- The WWC's Community Garden provides gardeners...
- the opportunity to grow fresh produce for family and friends
  - the ability to lower grocery bills
  - the opportunity to learn about gardening

**How would trails benefit Lowell?**

by Jodie Seese

When embarking on a project like a trail system, it's important to consider the impact for the entire community. In preparing for a possible trail in the Lowell area, land use studies were reviewed to see if Lowell would benefit from a trail system that connects the downtown with some of the outlying areas. Here are some of the findings.

Walking is beneficial to people's health, to community vitality, and for the environment. According to a report prepared by the Maine Development Foundation, "Walking improves community interaction as people are more likely to talk with neighbors and shop in local stores when they are walking through a community. It also provides easy, inexpensive and low-impact exercise that can improve the overall health of community residents. Walking instead of driving also protects environmental quality. Reducing vehicular emissions benefits plants, watersheds, and the health of wildlife and people alike."

Looking at local economic conditions, any time you increase access and foot traffic to a business district, the retail and restaurants sectors benefit. Liz Baker, Executive Director of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce saw first hand how trails benefit a business district on a recent mayor exchange with the city of Portland Michigan. "They gave us our tour of the city on golf carts using their trail system. It was great." Portland began working on its trails in 1992 by connecting schools, sports parks and churches on the west side of the river with its downtown area on the east bank of the river. Now trails connect several schools with a bike/walking trail that connects to a converted railroad trail, which leads to Main Street. (On a historic side note, the bridge used for the Portland trail came from Lowell. It was the Burrough's Road bridge.)

After seeing the advantages for Portland's business district, Baker added, "These two communities are very similar in their layout and close proximity to rivers. Lowell incorporates this natural beauty with the Riverwalk for entertainment and family venues. We would definitely benefit from this type of community interaction."

Trails increase safety for all pedestrians, but specifically for students. One example could be the sports teams that use

Alden Nash for running activities. A trail would move these athletes off the shoulder of the road away from traffic. There's also a state grant funded sidewalk improvement project that's been approved along Gee Drive that would feed into the proposed trail.

The health benefits of a paved nonmotorized path are also well documented. Trails allow residents of all ages and abilities easy access to the outdoors for exercise activities of their choice. The American Journal of Public Health uses the term "walkability" to describe how well a community or neighborhood encourages residents to walk to schools, work, parks and shopping by providing sidewalks or other safe, paved surfaces such as trails.

In studies, residents who live in communities with high walkability, meaning easy access to sidewalks and trails, were generally healthier with lower average body mass indexes and better cardiovascular profiles. The authors of one study theorized this was likely due to lifestyle change, but quickly noted the trail was needed in order for that healthier lifestyle to be adopted.

Dr Paul Gauthier of Lowell Family Medical Center was not surprised to hear this. "Any time you can help people get more exercise, you get a healthier community. That's why our practice has given financial support to the trails. Walking is easy; it's a cost-effective way to get people moving. With trails you can run, bike, and push a stroller. Get out there with your kids. Be a role model for good health."

A study by the Urban Land Institute found housing values are higher where it's "walkable." Here, the term refers to how easily neighbors can walk to common destinations or gain easy access for recreation and exercise. This 2006 study revealed that home buyers were willing to pay more for homes in walkable areas compared to similar homes in surrounding areas. This was particularly true when trails were located near schools or recreational parks.

You are invited to learn more about what trails could do for Lowell at a Public Meeting held on Wednesday, March 11 at 6 p.m. This meeting will be held at the Lowell Township Hall in order to obtain input for a proposed DNR grant. Residents with questions can also call Jodie Seese at 616-446-7058.

**A TRUSTED TRADITION OF AFFORDABLE, PERSONALIZED, AND COMFORTABLE CARE**

**LIFETIME DENTAL EXCELLENCE**

- Professionally Trained, Caring, and Courteous Staff
- State-of-the-Art Procedures, Instruments, and Techniques
- Cosmetic Care: Porcelain Veneers, Bonding, and Whitening
- Mercury-Free Dentistry • Filtered Water Lines
- Orthodontic Care (Braces) • Wisdom Teeth Extraction
- Implants • TMJ (Jaw Pain Therapy)
- Treatment of Periodontal Disease (Latest Non-Surgical Techniques Available)
- Dentures • Partial • Root Canals • Crowns and Bridges
- Emergencies Accepted • Convenient Payment Plans
- Serving the Area Since 1981

**TODD GILLAN, DDS, PC**  
2186 MAIN STREET • LOWELL  
LOCATED ACROSS FROM ARBYS

WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO CALL  
**(616) 897-8491**

GILLAN DENTAL EXCELLENCE  
CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN LOWELL

**We want Your Family Doctor.**

• Sick or Injured Animals Seen Same Day  
• Evenings & Saturday Hours Available  
• Early Drop-offs & House Calls  
• 24-Hour Emergency Service  
• Science Diet Pet Foods  
• Boarding & Grooming

**Call 897-8484**  
11610 East Fulton Street • Lowell, Michigan

**ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LOWELL**



# A Better Place ...

Fountain View

## The Place of Choice

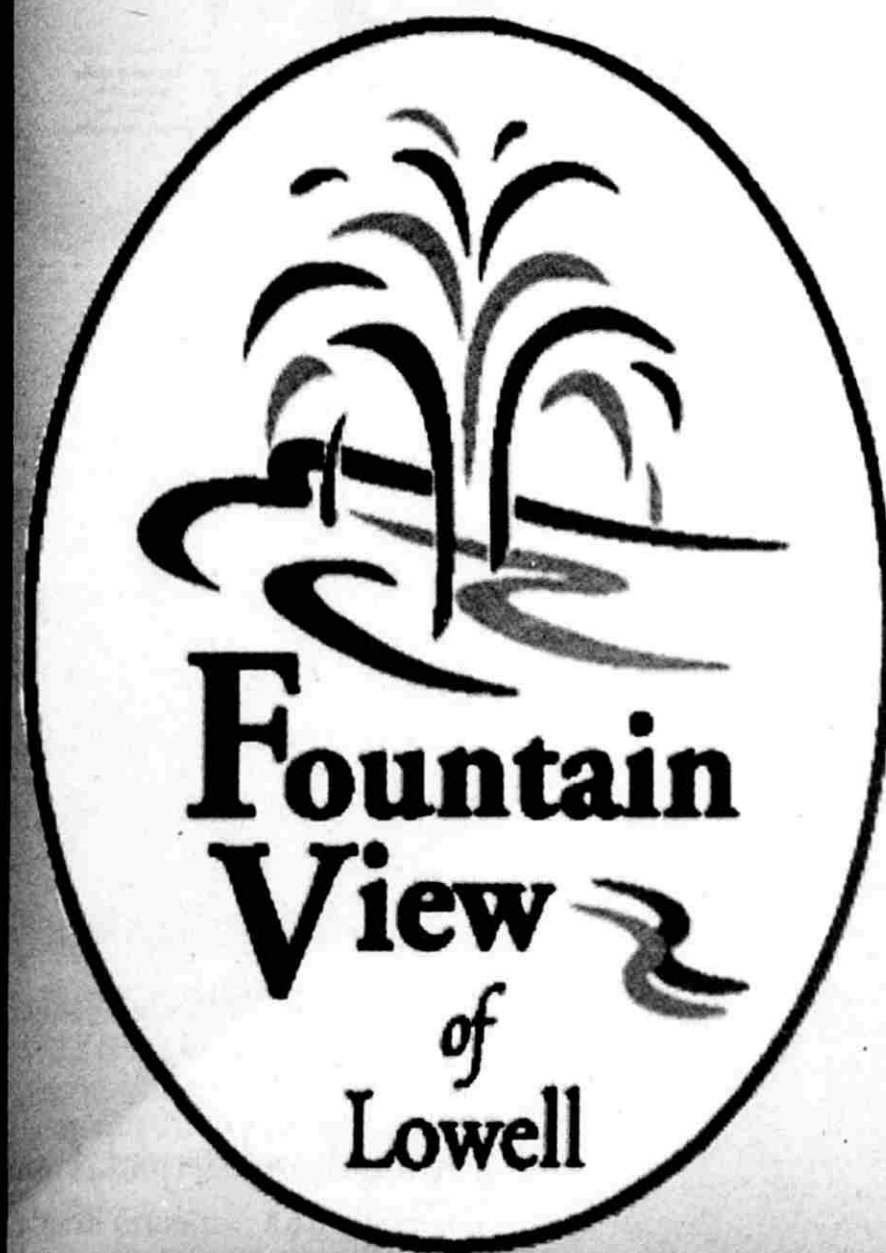
A couple of months after Mom's surgery, she was ready for more independence, but not quite ready to do everything on her own. I'm so glad she thought of Fountain View.

I had no clue we had such a wonderful resource here in Lowell!

The facility is beautiful, the staff is outstanding, and the other residents are delightful. Fountain View has been the perfect solution for us.

Mom has the independence she enjoys and we have peace of mind!

- Carla Stone and Jeanne Shores



### Fountain View Mission Statement

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

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

[www.leisure-living.com](http://www.leisure-living.com)



-RALPH ANHEUSER

Position: President of Special FX  
Residence: Grand Rapids  
Education: Some college, 1989 Lowell High School graduate  
Experience: 20 years of selling car audio and accessories  
Family: Wife Holly, Children: Nichole, Ashley and Alex  
Hobbies: Work, plays guitar in two local rock and roll bands - Dead Indians and Five Days Old



## FX creates special effects for customers

by Emma Palova

He loves his job of 20 years of delivering special effects to his customers.

As a kid, Ralph Anheuser, owner of Special FX, liked car audio systems, and later went to work for Classic Stereo Company in Grand Rapids. But, he grew up in Lowell and graduated from Lowell High School in 1989, so he decided to start his own business in 2001.

His line of business is remote starters, a hot seller in winter and in the summertime big sellers are truck accessories. The accessories include step bars, tunnel covers, tint windows and car audios.

"You know early challenges meant getting everybody out there to recognize that you're here," said Anheuser. "But, today's biggest challenge is economy."

So, Anheuser had to cut expenses, mainly overhead costs, as much as possible to deal with hard times. During his long career, he did try to get out of the car accessory business once, but



Ralph Anheuser still likes his business of selling car accessories.

Anheuser found out he can't do anything else.

"I did try another job," he said.

He did repair for Skytron, which made surgical tables, but he was on the road all the time. So, he went back to doing what he likes doing the most.

"My goal is to make

money and to keep my doors open," he said.

Anheuser accomplishes his goals by taking good care of his customers and giving the best price possible. He also recycles steel, copper and aluminum waste.

"I still like doing this, it is a challenge every day," he said.

With new stuff related to cars coming out every day, such as new computers, the business is never boring. His competitive advantage is being the only kid on the block.

"I am the only shop in town," he said.

The biggest change over the last two decades has been that not too many people buy car audios anymore. Everything is changing to convenience items, according to Anheuser. These include remote starters, back up sensors, seat heaters and cruise controls.

Christmas is of course

a busy time of the year and Anheuser takes it one step at a time. Car accessories make good gifts.

"I just wait and see what comes in," he said.

Anheuser's biggest contribution to the field is his knowledge of the cars. What makes him successful is good customer service. The company sponsors a Little League Baseball team and helps out Lowell football.

"We sponsor the Touchdown Club," he said.

His plans include opening up another business location in Grand Rapids in five to 10 years.



## A house full of new windows

Matthew Meissner and Robert Francis of All Weather Seal Windows/Siding install preservation windows at Jodi Sobota's house on Main Street. Sobota, a single mom, received \$15,000 worth of windows in December.

**THE CLASSIFIEDS**  
Where the Deals Are!  
Call 897-9261  
to advertise in  
**The Lowell Ledger!**

**Firstbank**

**IS THE ECONOMY CHIPPING AWAY AT YOUR RETIREMENT?**

◆◆◆

We're all about you.

Gotta keep an eye on this

Earn more interest

Stop losing principal

Find a secure place - fast

**12-Month 2.25% APY\* 24-Month 3.00% APY\***

Quick! Get your retirement savings into a Firstbank IRA and earn these high interest rates.

**WE'RE ALL ABOUT YOU.**

1.800.453.8700  
BELDING ◆ HASTINGS ◆ IONIA  
LOWELL ◆ SUNFIELD ◆ WOODLAND  
[WWW.FIRSTBANKMI.COM](http://WWW.FIRSTBANKMI.COM)

\*Individual Retirement Account (IRA) annual percentage yield effective February 23 - April 15, 2009. Minimum \$500 deposit. New money only. Penalty for early withdrawal. Member FDIC.



A FEW NOTABLE EVENTS FROM FEBRUARY 26 - MARCH 4 • 2009

- Government announces it will take up to a 36 percent stake in Citibank.
- Michael Vick gets home confinement.
- Slumdog child actor Azharuddin Mohammed is beaten by his father just days after walking down the red carpet at the Oscars.

- Tom Brady marries model Gisele in Los Angeles.
- Albert Haynesworth signs with Redskins for seven years at \$100 million.
- The Simpsons renewed for two more years setting a record at 22 seasons.
- Jerry Seinfeld is returning to NBC as a producer.
- Russia's Olympic plans plagued by protests, construction delays and economic woes.
- President Obama to pledge troop drawdown in Iraq by 2010.
- Pentagon permits photographs of the coffins of fallen soldiers as they return.
- NBA is set to borrow \$175 million for teams.
- The world's first \$2,500 car unveiled in India but can't be sold in the United States because it doesn't pass safety standards.
- Paul Harvey, longtime radio personality, dies at 91.
- Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele calls Rush Limbaugh's comments incendiary and ugly.
- Huge storm blankets the east coast from the Carolinas to Maine.
- Off the coast of Clearwater, FL an NFL player is found clinging to a boat that apparently flipped over in high waves. Three men are still missing. The coast guard has been searching for three days.

# Red Arrow SPORTS

## Deans deliver in Lowell's regional win over Greenville

by Thad Kraus

Everything about Lowell's and Greenville's goals clearly went through the Division 2 Regional.

"This match has been everything. Our goals clearly went through this match. If we weren't ready for this one we had no shot at our goal," said Lowell wrestling coach Dave Dean.

His Red Arrow squad was ready... as it turned out ready in duplicate, as it's goal-seeking journey continues Friday night into the team wrestling quarterfinals at the Kellogg Arena following a 33-25 win over the number one ranked team in Division 2 and the defending state champion Yellow Jackets.

Ryan Dean (140) stopped Greenville's Collin Fuller 3-0 in the third match of the night to give Lowell a 9-3 advantage.

Gabe Dean, wrestling at 171, and for the third time this year against Tyler Fuller, earned a surprising but electric 6-3 decision. "It's awesome and great to be a part of this team. I just kept wrestling, didn't let the crowd get to me," Gabe Dean explained. "The plan was for me to just get in there, but I thought no way, I want to win this match."

It was awesome for coach/dad too.

"Gabe's first couple of battles with Tyler served him

"Look at some of the kids I had out there and you could see some different performances.

That's part of the building process. There was a lot of heartache after that first dual. The kids did some soul searching and they reacted the way I had hoped that they would."

Lowell led 9-7 entering Jackson Morse's match at 152. The junior started a string of four consecutive victories for the Red Arrows which added up to a 24-7 advantage with six matches to wrestle.

Morse pinned Otis Putt at 4:20 of the third period.

Tim Gingerich battled through the meat-grinder at 160 to decision Adam Bonner 10-9.

The Lowell senior managed an escape in the final seconds to claim victory. "I just wanted to get my head out and get the heck out there," Gingerich said. "He's (Bonner) funky. I've never wrestled him before."

Ryan Olep followed

Gabe Dean's win with a convincing 11-6 win over a tough customer in Justin Drobbish.

The two clubs swapped wins at 215 and 285. Ike Hanson major decisioned Tom Fleet 13-2.

Lowell's Connor Kruse answered with a 22-6 technical fall against Yellow Jacket Juan Borja, giving Lowell a comfortable 29-11 lead with four matches to

Greenville responded with three consecutive wins, cutting its deficit to four at 29-25.

Luke Gilmore (103) won a 26-11 technical fall over Aaron Nowak; Ryan Hansen (112) earned a 14-5 major decision against Zach Jeffries; and Tyler Keselring (119) won an 18-3 technical fall over Ty Jack.

Leading by four, Lowell's Gabe Morse (125) secured the regional championship with a 15-5 major decision against Eric Hansen.

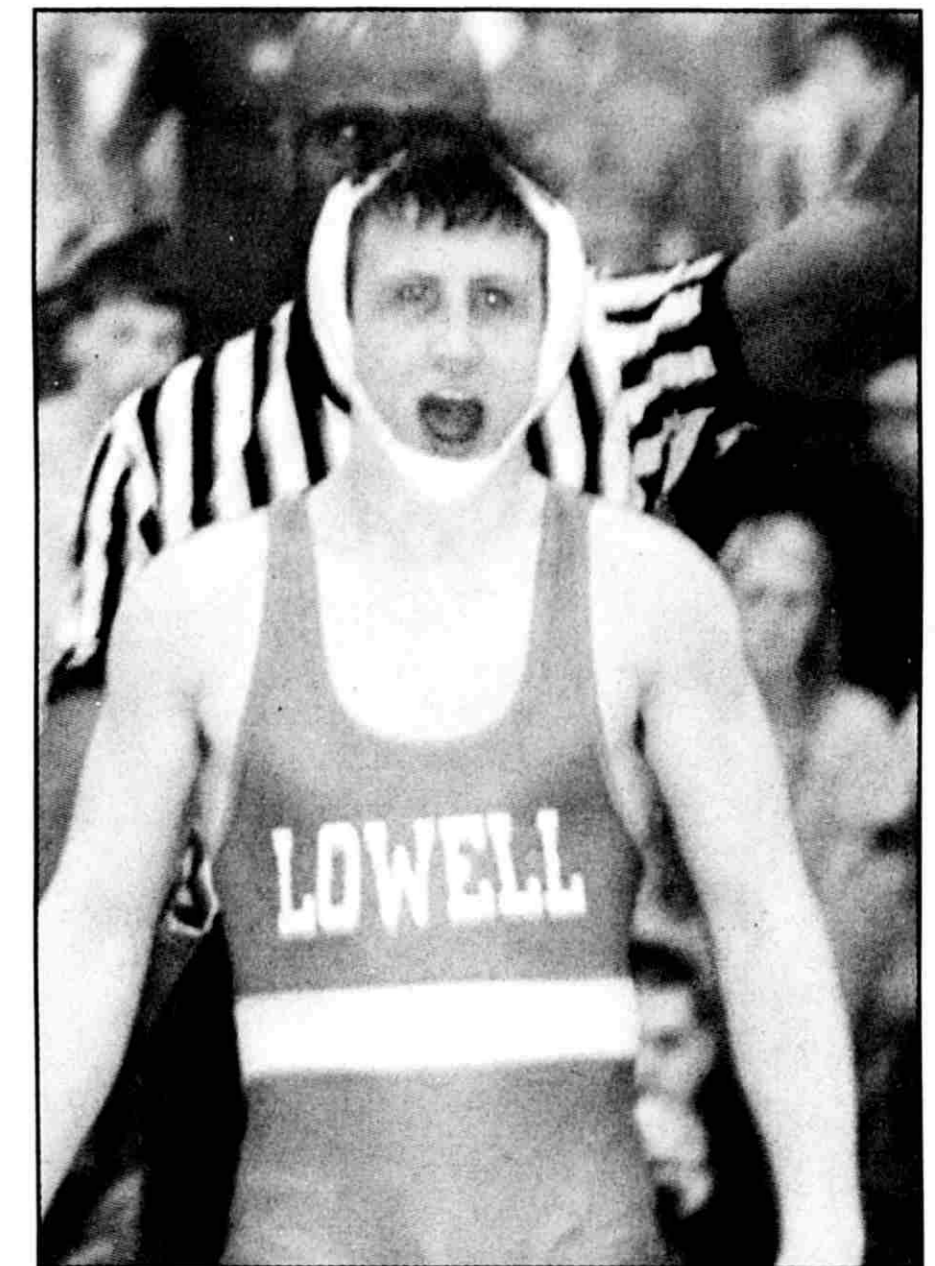
Lowell's first win of the night came in the second match when Andrew Morse (135) pinned Greenville's Steven Kurtz in 1:38 of the first period.

Yellow Jacket Nick Bogue (130) started the title match with a 2-0 decision against Dan Fleet.

Greenville's Jordan Thomas earned a major decision against Rocky Pabon at 145 pounds.

"No question about it, they won two swing matches I thought at 140 and 171 pounds.

They were close matches



Red Arrow Gabe Dean posted an improbable 6-3 decision against Greenville's Tyler Fuller.

and Lowell won both of them. Lowell just wrestled well tonight, that's just the bottom line," Johnson said. "They are a very fundamental and a very well coached team. You can

Four Red Arrows claimed regional championships while two others placed second, and three Lowell wrestlers placed third.

Winning regional titles were Dan Fleet (130) defeating Austin Endsley, Hastings 1-0; Andrew Morse (135) defeated Greg Pederson, Hastings 8-3; Jackson Morse (152) earned a major decision against Wyoming Park's Jake Potyraj 15-4; Ryan Olep (171) defeated Brian Plummer, Byron Center 6-5.

Lowell's Ryan Dean (140) lost his championship match 1-0 to Reeths-Puffer's Jake Connell. Tim Gingerich (160) lost 6-2 to Sparta's Adam Miller.

In the consolation round, Rocky Pabon (145) defeated Hasting's Trent Brisboe 3-2; Gabe Dean (171) defeated Coopersville's Jake Brown 5-2; and Connor Kruse (285) upended Rogers' Garrett Carpenter 7-1.

"After that two-three week tangle with Greenville the boys were relatively tired. It took its toll on them" Lowell wrestling coach Dave Dean said. "There were some pretty good wrestlers at this regional. They worked to get through it and now they get a little break."

Despite his 1-0 loss in the championship round, Dean said Ryan Dean (140) continues to show great strides.

"It was a close match. It came down to one little thing as opposed to three."



Gabe Morse clinched the regional championship for Lowell with a match-ending 15-5 at 125 pounds.

"No question about it. For ourselves and Lowell, simply put, the goal was to win a state title this year," said Greenville wrestling coach, Paul Johnson.

In a match this big, the result usually comes down to a couple swing matches. Those matches were at 140 and 171. On this night, Lowell found a way to win both and the Red Arrows did it in duplicate fashion. At least in name only.

He's gotten more confident and got use to Fuller's unorthodox style," Dave Dean explained.

Lowell's coach was as happy and as proud of Ryan Dean's win.

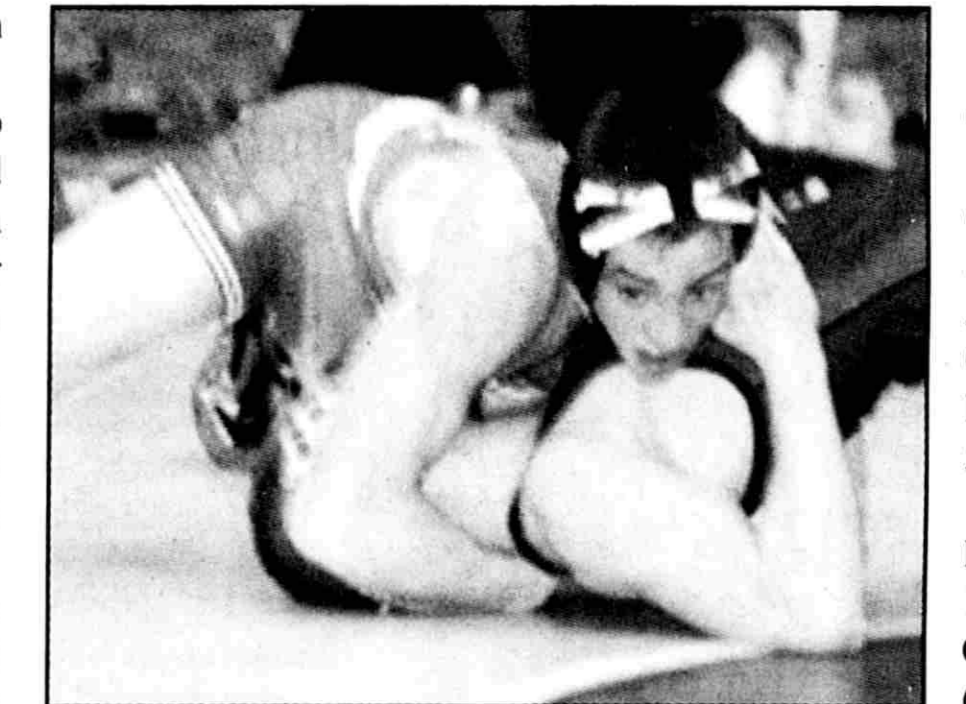
"He's not my kid, but I'll claim the other Dean too! The redheaded freckled one."

Both Deans wrestled with more confidence and conviction according to their coach.

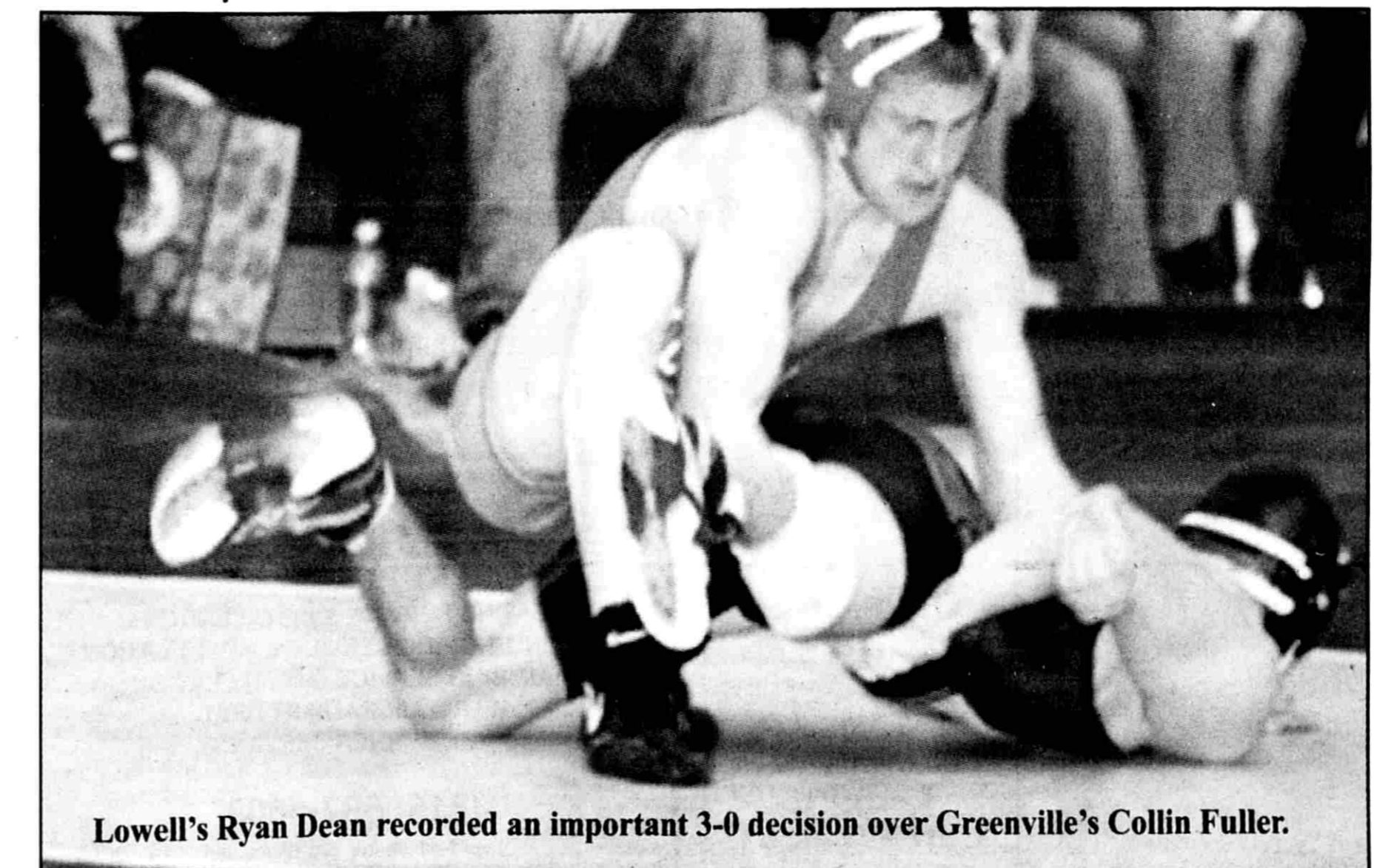
Gabe Dean's win with a convincing 11-6 win over a tough customer in Justin Drobbish.

The two clubs swapped wins at 215 and 285. Ike Hanson major decisioned Tom Fleet 13-2.

Lowell's Connor Kruse answered with a 22-6 technical fall against Yellow Jacket Juan Borja, giving Lowell a comfortable 29-11 lead with four matches to



Lowell's Andrew Morse pinned Yellow Jacket Steven Kurtz in 1:38 of the first-period.



Lowell's Ryan Dean recorded an important 3-0 decision over Greenville's Collin Fuller.

TO ADVERTISE IN THE LEDGER BUSINESS DIRECTORY Call 897-9261

**MIKA MEYERS BECKETT & JONES PLC**

ATTORNEYS

John T. Sperla  
Mark A. Kehoe

Benjamin A. Zainca  
Neil P. Jansen

(616) 897-3111 www.mmbjlaw.com

**Rich's Service Co.**  
In-Home Appliance Repair

INSURED • 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE  
WASHERS • DRYERS • REFRIGERATORS  
GARBAGE DISPOSALS • STOVES • DISHWASHERS  
209 E. Main St. RICH CURTIS  
Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-5686

**KIRK COLLINS**  
Owner  
**Showboat**  
AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY, INC.

1450 W. Main St., Lowell, MI  
(616) 897-9231  
HOURS: MON - FRI 8-7; SAT 8-5:30; SUN 9-3

**FRY DADDY'S**  
608 West Main Street  
Lowell, MI 49331  
FISH, CHICKEN & SHRIMP  
**897-FISH**  
Check Out Our Daily Specials  
OPEN TUESDAY - SATURDAY  
Closed Mondays For The Winter  
Call For Daily Specials!

**BILL WHEELER**  
Certified Public Accountant  
W.J. WHEELER MICHIGAN  
103 Riverside Dr.  
Lowell, Michigan  
49331  
**616-897-7711**

**McCAUL'S AUTO SERVICE INC.**  
EST. 1971  
Owned and Operated by  
Tim and Julie McCaul  
13515 Grand River Drive SE  
Lowell, MI 49331  
**616.897.7524**

**Good**  
CHEVROLET BUICK  
GREAT DEALS FROM GOOD PEOPLE!  
**897-9294**  
goodchevybuick.com

**YOUR BUSINESS COULD BE HERE! SAVE \$\$\$\$\$ ADVERTISING IN THIS SPACE!!!**  
Call **897-9555**

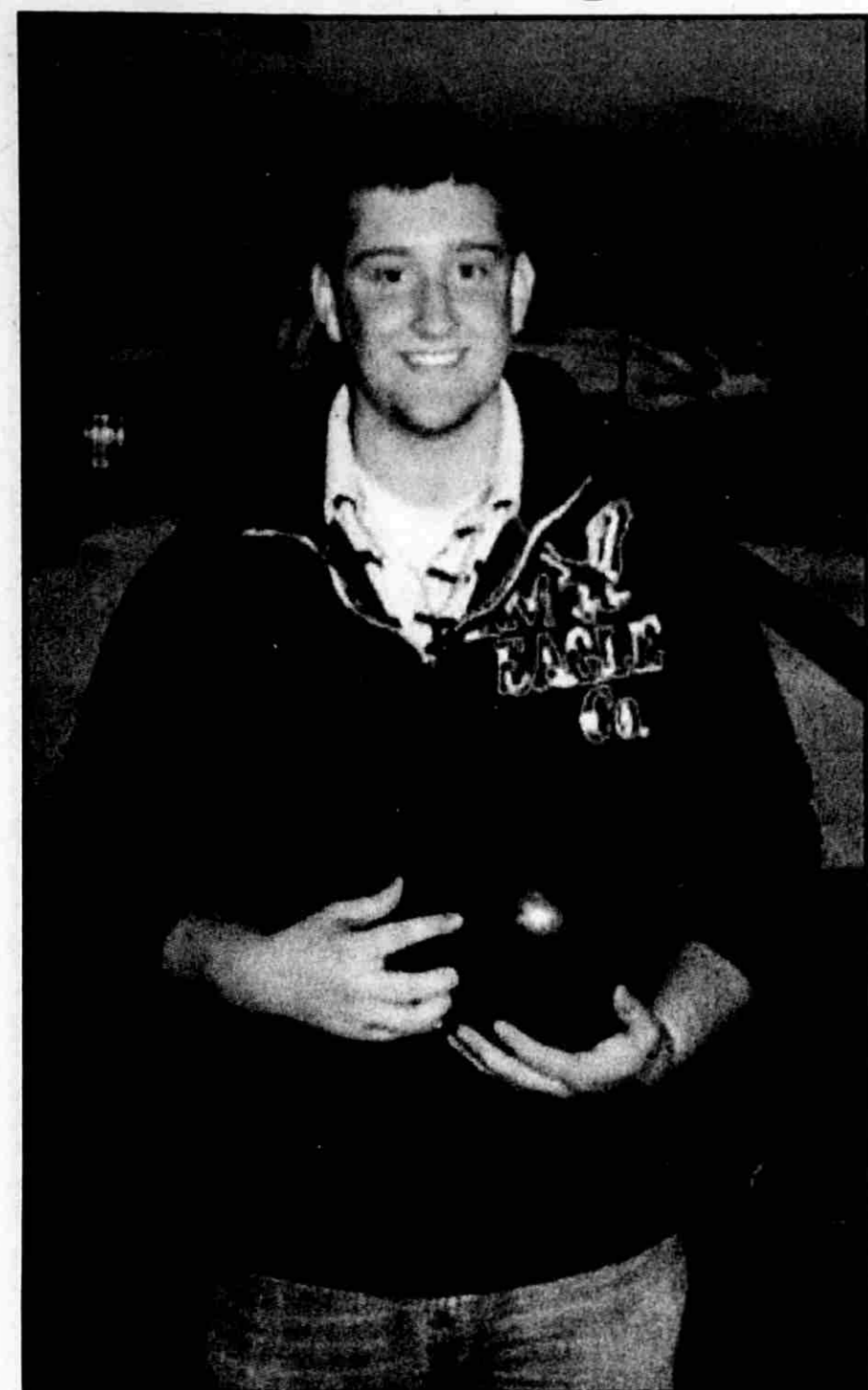
Certified Garment Care Professional  
**CURTIS**  
CLEANERS • LAUNDRY  
FREE PICKUP & DELIVERY  
Lowell • Ada • Cascade  
• Ionia • Grand Rapids  
2008 AWARD OF EXCELLENCE  
MARCH SPECIAL  
**20% OFF**  
WINTER COATS & JACKETS  
(616) 897-9809 • 1410 W. Main • Lowell

**COPIES**  
Black & White  
15¢ per copy or  
10¢ per copy  
if more than 10 of same page  
Color Copies  
8 1/2 x 11 size paper.....95¢ each  
discounts for 10 or more of same page  
11x17 size paper.....\$1.25 each  
discounts for 10 or more of same page  
**The Lowell Ledger**  
Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1889  
A BUSINESS AD THIS SIZE ONLY  
**\$850** PER WEEK!  
Call **897-9261**

**BUSINESSES SERVICES**

# Red Arrow SPORTS

## High rolling Alberts qualifies for state



Tom Alberts Jr. rolled a 226 to propel his way into the state tournament on Saturday.

by Thad Kraus

When the going got tough, Lowell's Tom Alberts Jr. got rolling.

Knowing that the top 10 individuals qualified for the state tournament, Alberts found himself in 15th place, 25 pins out of the top 10 with one game to bowl.

"It was now or never.

and I just wanted to do the best that I could," Alberts explained.

The Lowell senior did better than that as he rolled the day's high game, a state tournament qualifying 226, leapfrogging him into seventh place.

"Tommy bowled a very good game. His ball carried

better and he threw it better in that last game," said Lowell's coach John Stuckey Jr. "He knew what he had to do and he just went for it and got it."

Alberts finished with a 1151, which included games of 202-205-226.

Red Arrow Dillon Buck finished with a 1077 while

teammate Jeremy Drake rolled a 1074 series; both fell short of the cut.

Buck's high game was a 211 while Drake had a 200.

The Red Arrow boys team placed 10th overall on Friday, missing the qualifying cut.

## Third-place finish lifts Lowell into state tourney; Clark rolls to individual success

by Thad Kraus

Every time Lowell's Liberty Clark and Kenowa Hills' Trisha Hickerty shared congratulatory salutations, good vibes were struck.

"It seemed like every time one of us congratulated the other, we'd strike," Clark explained.

Not wanting to appear to question why, the friends continued the ritual

throughout the individual regional final.

The results were striking as both qualified for the individual state tournament in Muskegon on Saturday at Northway Lanes.

Clark finished fourth with a 1052 which included games of 226 and 203.

"Liberty rolled consistently throughout," Lowell girls bowling coach Tom Alberts said.

This marks the second straight year Clark has qualified for the state tournament.

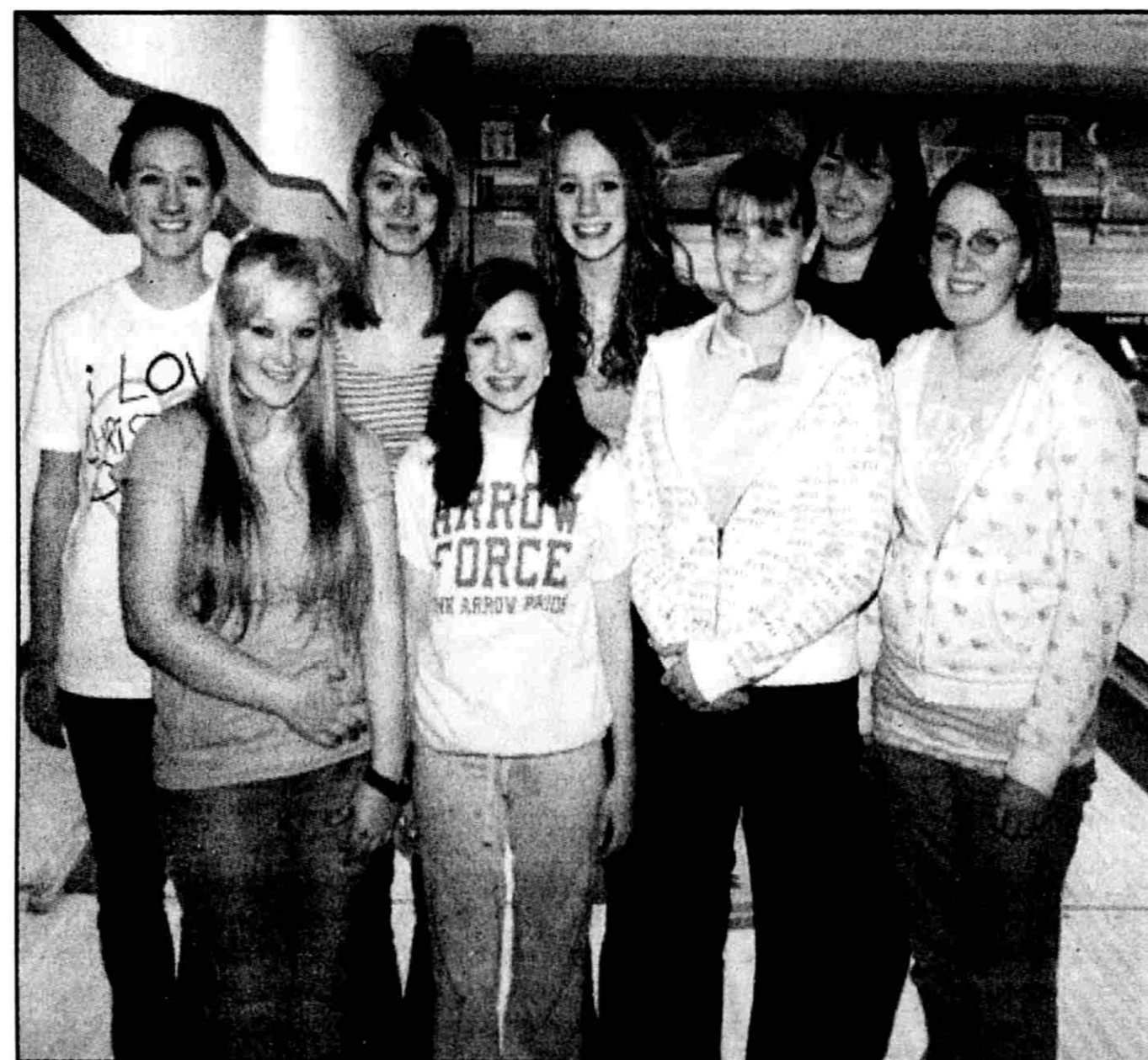
"My goal is to place higher, try harder and do better than last year," Clark explained.

The senior and her Red Arrow teammates also earned a spot at the team state tournament as they finished third at the regional on Friday with a score of

3182. Their match series scores were 808-743-712. Lowell's baker game total was 919.

Zeeland East and Northview finished one-two respectively.

Kristin Bouwhuis was Lowell's top bowler with a 528 series. Sammi Geldersma rolled a 491 and Clark finished with a 481.



The Red Arrow girls bowling team qualified for state over the weekend. Pictured, front, left to right: Jessica Alberts, Sarah Mogor, Kristin Bouwhuis and Liberty Clark; back row, left to right: Sammi Geldersma, Shelby Mitchell, Amber Geldersma and Janina Richardson.

**NEWS**

The Perfect Gift! - A Subscription To The Lowell Ledger! Call 897-9261

**GREG VAN STRIEN HEATING AND PLUMBING**

HEATING SERVICE & INSTALLATION  
AIR CONDITIONING SERVICE & INSTALLATION  
PLUMBING SERVICE & INSTALLATION  
WARM AIR/RADIANT HEAT  
OIL BURNER SERVICE

(616) 897-5569  
Visa And Master Card Accepted

**ROTARY CLUB OF LOWELL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS**

Since 2000, over \$70,000 in college scholarships have been granted to Lowell area high school seniors.

**Application deadline is Friday, March 20, 2009**

Eligibility guidelines and scholarship application can be found under the Foundation tab at: [www.lowellrotary.org](http://www.lowellrotary.org)

Applications can also be obtained at the Lowell High School Guidance Office.

# Red Arrow SPORTS

## Lowell tripped up by Northview in opening round of district

by Thad Kraus

Lowell girls basketball team battled, battled some more, but never was able to clear the obstacle in front

it, as it lost to Northview 41-30 in the opening round of the Division I District Basketball Tournament.

"We just were never able to get over the hump," said Lowell girls basketball coach Dani Gallert. "When we did get close, we committed crucial turnovers."

Lowell took a 9-8 lead after

the opening eight minutes, but behind a trio of Danielle Kapustka threes, Northview battled back to take a 22-18 lead into halftime.

"Danielle has been shooting the ball well and on a roll as of late," said Northview coach Mike Kapustka. "She has 47 threes on the year."

The Northview junior netted a game-leading 20 points. Danielle Jones contributed with 11.

Lowell was led in scoring

by Kara Rasch with nine points. Kallie Holzhauer added six.

"We've just not been a consistent club offensively this year," Gallert said. "We just weren't able to step up."

Northview outscored Lowell 10-8 in the third quarter to take a 32-26 lead into quarter number four.

Neither team scored a basket from the floor over the final eight minutes.

Northview outscored

Lowell from the foul line in the fourth quarter 9-4.

"We never got in sync. At times, I felt as if we were fighting ourselves," Kapustka said. "We knew it would be a tough battle, but we felt good coming in. And we had two days of great practices leading up to the game."

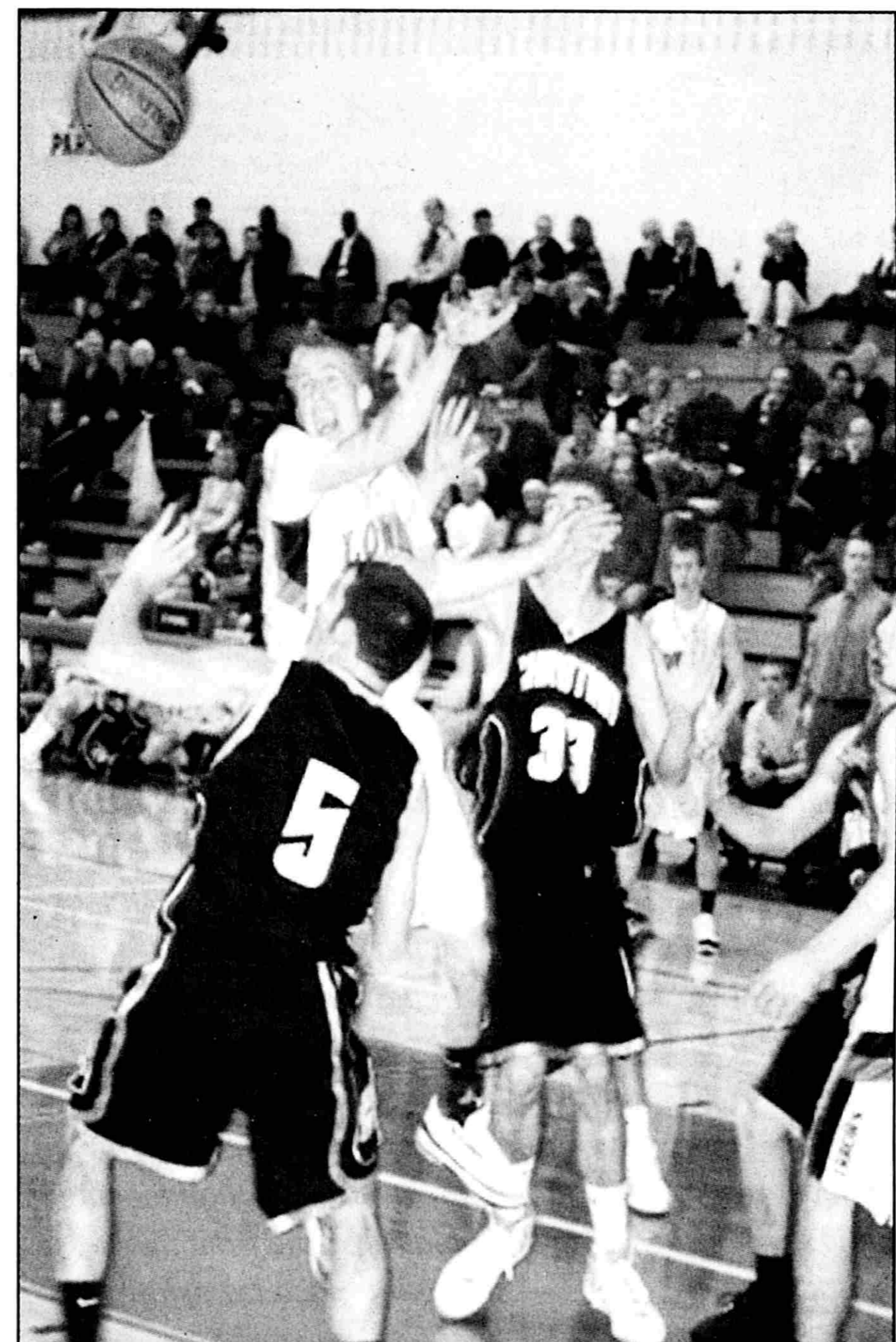
Lowell finishes the year at 10-11.

Northview with the win improved to 13-8.



Kara Rasch drives to the basket for two of her nine points.

## Low-scoring second quarter derails Lowell boys



Jon Hanson gets pushed around as he attempts a short jumper in the lane.

by Thad Kraus

An extended scoring drought, hampered Lowell boys basketball team in its effort to upend league-leading Grand Rapids Christian.

The Red Arrows led 12-10 after one quarter of play, but managed just four second-quarter points while the visiting Eagles poured in 21 to take a 31-16 halftime lead.

Lowell coach Jeff McDonald pointed to his club's inability to make shots, its execution and its shot selection for its second quarter offensive woes.

"This has been a tough stretch. The boys have to believe if they are to compete and expect to win," McDonald said.

Derek Cornish led all Red Arrows with 11 points. Tim Hetta netted 10.

Alex Schierbeek led Grand Rapids Christian in scoring with 10 points. Twelve Eagles scored in a balanced Christian attack.

The Eagles made 25 shots from the floor compared to Lowell's 13.

**WE UPS! UPS!**  
The Lowell Ledger  
105 N. Broadway  
897-9261

What's Your Sport?

Keep Caught Up On All The Lowell High School's Sports Action In

**The Lowell Ledger**

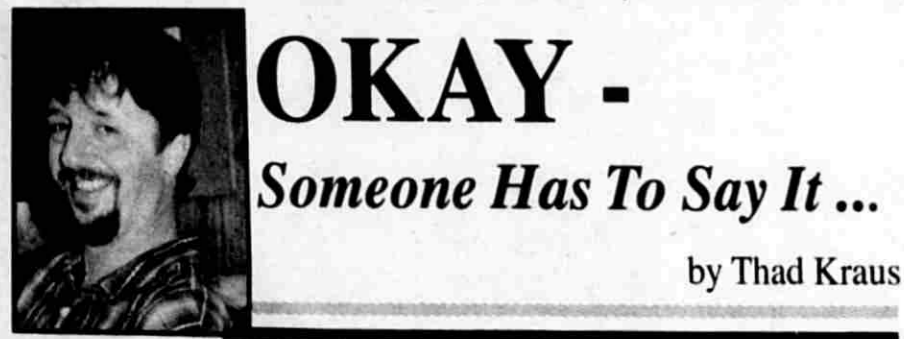
**CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Lowell City Planning Commission-Citizen Advisory Committee will conduct a public hearing on Monday, March 23, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lowell City Hall Council Chambers, Second Floor, 301 East Main Street, Lowell for the purpose of receiving comments from the public on the following:

To consider a Special Use Permit request from Impact Church, who wishes to establish a church-community center called Ignite at 2173 West Main Street (the Family Dollar store in Ridgeview Plaza). This property is zoned C-3 General Business District. Under Section 12.03 H. Special land uses, theaters, concert halls or similar places of public assembly, determined by the zoning enforcement officer are considered under Planning Commission review and approval. Thus, a Special Use Permit is required.

Interested persons may submit written comments or appear in person at City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331.

Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk.



# OKAY -

Someone Has To Say It ...

by Thad Kraus

Every November and March there are cries for seeding high school football and basketball state tournaments. You heard it in November when it was learned that Lowell and Muskegon could possibly meet in a district final.

### 2009 BOARD OF REVIEW NOTICE

**LOWELL TOWNSHIP**  
2910 Alden Nash Ave SE  
Lowell, MI. 49331

#### 2009 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The Lowell Township Board of Review for 2009 will be held at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE, on the following dates:

Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. – Organizational Meeting

**Monday, March 9, 2009** 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon & 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. &  
**Thursday, March 12, 2009** 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

To appear at the March Board of Review, call on **Monday, Tuesday or Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** 616-897-7600, to schedule an appointment.

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 12.**

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2009 are as follows:

- \*Agricultural.....48.79%.....1.0248
- \*Commercial.....49.95%.....1.0010
- \*Residential.....52.61%.....0.9503
- \*Industrial.....47.06%.....1.0624
- \*Personal.....49.93%.....1.0000

**Americans With Disabilities (ADA) Notice**  
The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 2 days notice.  
**Contact: Supervisor Jerry Hale, 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE 616-897-7600**

Board of Review Members:  
Dave Simmonds, Barbara Tremblay & James Foerch.  
Jerry Hale, Township Supervisor, Secretary of Board of Review.

The same sentiment was echoed when two of West Michigan's top basketball programs met in the district. The chant for action was repeated within the last week, this time for wrestling when Lowell (#2) and Greenville (#1) met in the regional final.

"There is no simple solution to it. Going to a different sport, in this case Lowell and its big football game with Muskegon, many thought it was a shame they met so early," Greenville wrestling coach Paul Johnson said. "The MHSAA is doing the best it can. It didn't work out this year, hopefully, the MHSAA can make adjustments. I know people from the wrestling association are trying to work on that and make it as equitable as possible."

For the first time ever, wrestling teams will be seeded one through eight at the state finals.

Doing it earlier in the state playoff system does create other questions, such as travel time, costs, and the politics involved in seeding.

Seeding is difficult because it involves strength of schedule, geographic location, records, leagues and coaches and athletic administrators attempting to manipulate a team's district schedule.

The logic of seeding is trying to ensure the good teams meet in the finals.

Lowell athletic director Barry Hobla suggested that district basketball games up to the district finals could be hosted by individual schools with the finals played at a host site.

Lacrosse is the only MHSAA sport that is seeded all the way through the playoffs. Some of that is the fact that the majority of the powerhouse lacrosse schools are on the east side of the state.

Lowell's Dave Dean said he felt bad, knowing that Lowell's wrestling match against Greenville should have taken place in Battle Creek (site of finals).

"We shouldn't have met at this time (regional finals)," Dean explained. "In the finals, higher ticket prices could be charged, bigger crowds could be let in and you'd have the right kind of match-up."

While Dean raises valid points, there is no guarantee that a regional champion is going to win the state title. While the coach that won believes it and the coach of the losing team sings the winner's praises, "games aren't won on paper."

It is a cliché because it starts out as the truth.

How often, after the completion of a state tournament can a fan, school or coach say with conviction that the best team in the state was left on the district or regional floor, field or mat?

At the end of the day there can only be one champion and many, many more times than not the best team does win.

If upon occasion an upset or a strong regional mixes things up a little, is that so bad?

For me that's all a part of March's Madness.

## Sound Off

The Ledger "Almost" Anything Goes Column

www.lowellbuyersguide.com and Click "Contact Us" to submit comment.

Or CALL... 897-0787

The Lowell Ledger welcomes all "Sound Off" comments, but would like to remind readers of the nature of the column. "Sound Off" is meant to be a community notice board, a means for comments that can be regarded as helpful, congratulatory, thankful and informational. We will not print any comments that are offensive or libelous. Direct aims at individuals, political figures and businesses will not be printed. For direct opinions on a subject (including, but not limited to, politics, businesses, city government and Ledger criticisms), please send a letter "To the Editor". All letters must be signed (first and last names). All comments are submitted by the public and do not necessarily represent the views of the Ledger.

### ONLINE POLL RESULTS

Should the state cut funding for the Michigan State Fair?

YES	42%
NO	38%
DON'T CARE	20%

Be sure to check us out online at ... www.lowellbuyersguide.com and vote in this week's poll!

Since the city is not fluorinating or softening our water, I'm assuming our water bill will be adjusted accordingly?

I just got DSL in town. WOW! Better than any other I have tried. Keep business local.

I agree with the person last week. I used to read Sound Off first; I looked forward to it each week. Then it became limp and listless. Bring back the old Sound Off!

#### SENDING OR RECEIVING FAXING

\$1 for 1st sheet, 50¢ each additional sheet

The Lowell Ledger  
105 N. Broadway, Lowell

I wonder when the new coffee caboose next to Pauly's will be open. The "coming soon" sign has been there forever and I wonder how fresh those coffee products can be that are in the window.

Perhaps the city council should look at reasons why businesses aren't building in town rather than looking at ways to obtain income from businesses that built in the township.

I live on Gulliford Drive and someone has stolen my recycling bin. Couldn't you have just called Red Creek and requested another one rather than stealing mine?

Why isn't there a community pool anywhere in the Lowell area?

# CLASSIFIEDS

small ads **BIG** deals

### FOR SALE WANTED HELP WANTED SERVICES

**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.

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

**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.

The Lowell Ledger **CLASSIFIEDS**

TO PLACE AN AD

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

Classified ad rates:  
20 words...\$4  
each additional word 10¢  
Bold \$1 each or Box \$2 each

OFFICE HOURS:  
Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Friday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Closed Saturday & Sunday

**CLASSIFIEDS NOW POSTED ONLINE!**  
www.lowellbuyersguide.com

**NOW INTERVIEWING** - Customer service, \$600 a week to start. Local distributor for International Manufacturer has divisional office in Grand Rapids. Now expanding & has immediate openings in our set-up & display department. No experience req. Men & women & students encouraged, 18 years of age or older. Company offers: complete training, no layoffs, rapid advancement, paid vacation, benefits, full & part-time available. All applicants must be hardworking & ready to start immediately! Call now! 616-243-1250, ask for personnel dept.

**MARKETING ASSOCIATES NEEDED** - 62-year-old company looking for dynamic, mature individuals to work in our marketing division. Proven track record for earning great money. Call 987-8110.

**AFTER SCHOOL CHILD CARE NEEDED** - Saranac family seeking child care for two children, grades 2nd & 3rd, after school in our home. May either pick children up at school or meet children at bus stop. Home is beautiful. Children have tons of toys & loads of things to do. Your job would only be to play with children. Pay is very competitive. Contact 642-9561, Jolene or Mike.

**TRAILERS FOR SALE** - 16 ft. long x 5 ft. wide & snowmobile trailer, 8x8. Call 897-8541.

**TOOLS & EQUIPMENT** - air compressor, 30 gal. 10 hp Kohler, elec. start, battery, filter, \$180. Call 897-0389.

**PEMBROKE WELSH CORGI PUPPIES** - \$125 males, \$150 females. Doberman puppies, \$300 males. 616-240-4956.

**MEMORIAM**  
In Memory of **LEONORA TOWER**, 1923 - 1982  
The years have gone so fast, it only seems like yesterday you left. We miss you so much. Until we meet again.  
Addie, Orison & family

In Memory of **John DeHaan**, Oct. 20, 1918 - March 5, 2004  
May the winds of love blow safely and whisper so you'll hear. We will always love and miss you and wish that you were here.  
Your wife & family

**APARTMENT FOR RENT** - in Lowell, 1 bedroom, \$150/week includes utilities & basic cable. Call Bob at 299-3198.

**APARTMENT FOR RENT** - 1 bedroom in Historic downtown Lowell. Recently remodeled. All utilities + central air included. Month to month lease. Available immediately. \$650 per month. Call 914-0828 or 897-9074.

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

**1 BEDROOM UPSTAIRS APT.** - in owner-occupied duplex near downtown Lowell. \$575/mo. includes all utilities. 516-1767.

**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.

**CENTER COURT APT** - first month rent free! (w/12 month lease.) 2 bedrooms, \$600; 1 bedroom, \$500; on-site laundry & cats allowed. Center Court Apt., 201 N. Center St., Lowell. Call CB Richard Ellis/Grand Rapids, 877-780-2200.

**BINGO** - Every Sunday, 2 p.m. The Moose Rec Hall, 1320 E. Main St. Sponsored by W.O.T.M. Chapter #1388. Open to the public.

**STORYTIME AT THE SARANAC PUBLIC LIBRARY** - Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

**EVERY SUNDAY** - Tri-Town Conservation Club breakfast. 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. \$6 for adults, \$4 for children. 5615 Dunn Road, Grattan.

**FREE VEGETARIAN COOK & EAT CLASSES** - Sun., March 22, 4-6 p.m.; Sun., April 26, 4-6 p.m. Riverside Fellowship, 10300 Vergennes. Call 897-7930 to register.

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

**FINES FOR FOOD** - March 2-16. Bring in a can of non-perishable/canned food & receive \$1 off your Saranac/Clarksville library fines. The maximum amount to be waived is \$10.

**ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY HOURS** - Mon.-Wed., noon - 8 p.m.; Thurs. & Fri., 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat., 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 647-3920.

**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.

**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.

**2000 TOYOTATUNDA** - 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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

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

**SOUND OFF LINE** 897-0787  
Voice your opinion! (good or bad)

**COPIES COPIES COPIES** - Color & black & white copiers! Excellent quality! Stop by our office, Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway.

**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.

**"SIMPLY THE BEST LESSON FORMAT IN THE COUNTRY"** - six-1 hour golf lessons \$69. starting the wk. of April 13. Master teaching professional Norm Davidson, call now **GOLF EMPORIUM 616-754-2280**. 2 miles west of Lincoln Lake Rd. on 14 Mile.

**MYOFACIAL RELEASE THERAPY** - Gotpain? Hard to move? Myofacial Release is hands on technique which is gentle, sustained pressure that focuses on releasing connective tissue, or fascia. Call Sarah at The Hammock LLC for information at 616-893-5661 or www.hammocklearning.com.

**BABY BOOMERS** - Are you in the looking zone? Home Based Business opportunity. Fastest growing company of it's kind, upward trends business, leadership development within the health and wellness segment, looking for honest, ambitious, teachable people to become independent distributors. Contact me for an absolutely no pressure, information only appointment. 616-581-8468.

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

**ANGLE CONSTRUCTION** - licensed contractor available for any new construction, remodeling or general contracting, both residential and commercial. 616-293-5410.

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

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

**BUSINESS CARDS** - For as little as \$28 for 250. (white card, black ink). Before you order your cards from somewhere else - check our rates! Call Lowell Litho, 897-9261.



# Lowell High School Performs



# Seussical



March 6 @ 7:00  
March 7 @ 7:00  
March 8 @ 3:00  
March 13 @ 7:00  
March 14 @ 2:00  
March 14 @ 7:00

All Seats Reserved

\$5 Students / Seniors  
\$7 General Public  
\$8 All Tickets at the Door

Purchase your tickets now in the LHS Main Office  
or at Pep Talk in downtown Lowell

For Show Information, Call 987-2956



Help us support Jared's Team  
Purchase a Seussical shirt or autograph book  
at Pep Talk or at the show.

Would you like to win a free Seussical Shirt?  
Bring any of the following items to the show to be entered  
into a drawing: Flavored chapstick,  
Cartoon Band-aids, Wash-off Tattoos.  
All items will be donated to the  
Helen DeVos Children's Hospital

