



The Lowell Ledger

Volume 38 Issue 17

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Land preservation forum held at Wege Wittenbach Center

by Emma Palova

For Marsha Wilcox and Bonnie Robinson preserving their farmland at a time of economic downturn was not only the right thing to do, but also the smart thing to do.

They no longer receive endless phone calls from developers to sell their land, and their taxable values have gone up.

That was just one of many topics discussed during the land preservation forum held at the Wege Wittenbach Center last Saturday.

The event 'Caring for your Land' was well attended by the citizens, the township representatives and various agencies. The discussion topics included forest management, donating conservation easements, selling development rights and farmland/open space preservation issues in the townships.

Wilcox, member of the Vergennes Township Open Space Committee and the United Growth of

Kent County spoke about the benefits of farmland preservation, and the purpose of preservation agencies.

"We're trying to help people make good decisions," she said. "Land is always an emotional issue. We don't want people to make decisions based on bits and pieces of information."

And any decision related to land should always start with a family discussion.

"You do not make decisions lightly," she said.

The Wilcox family agreed to put some of their land into farmland preservation to maintain the rural character of the township, along with many other farmers in the three townships. That way the two-fold goal of preserving open space and keeping the land in the family was achieved.

On top of that, the economic downturn hasn't been all that bad for farmers, according to Wilcox. Like many farmers, the Wilcox family, who owns land on the west border of



Nancy Benner, Pete Gustafson, Marsha Wilcox and Jim Fero spoke about preservation issues in the townships. Kendra Wills of MSU Extension introduces the panel.

Vergennes Township would get frequent calls from developers to sell land.

"We don't get that many phone calls anymore," she said.

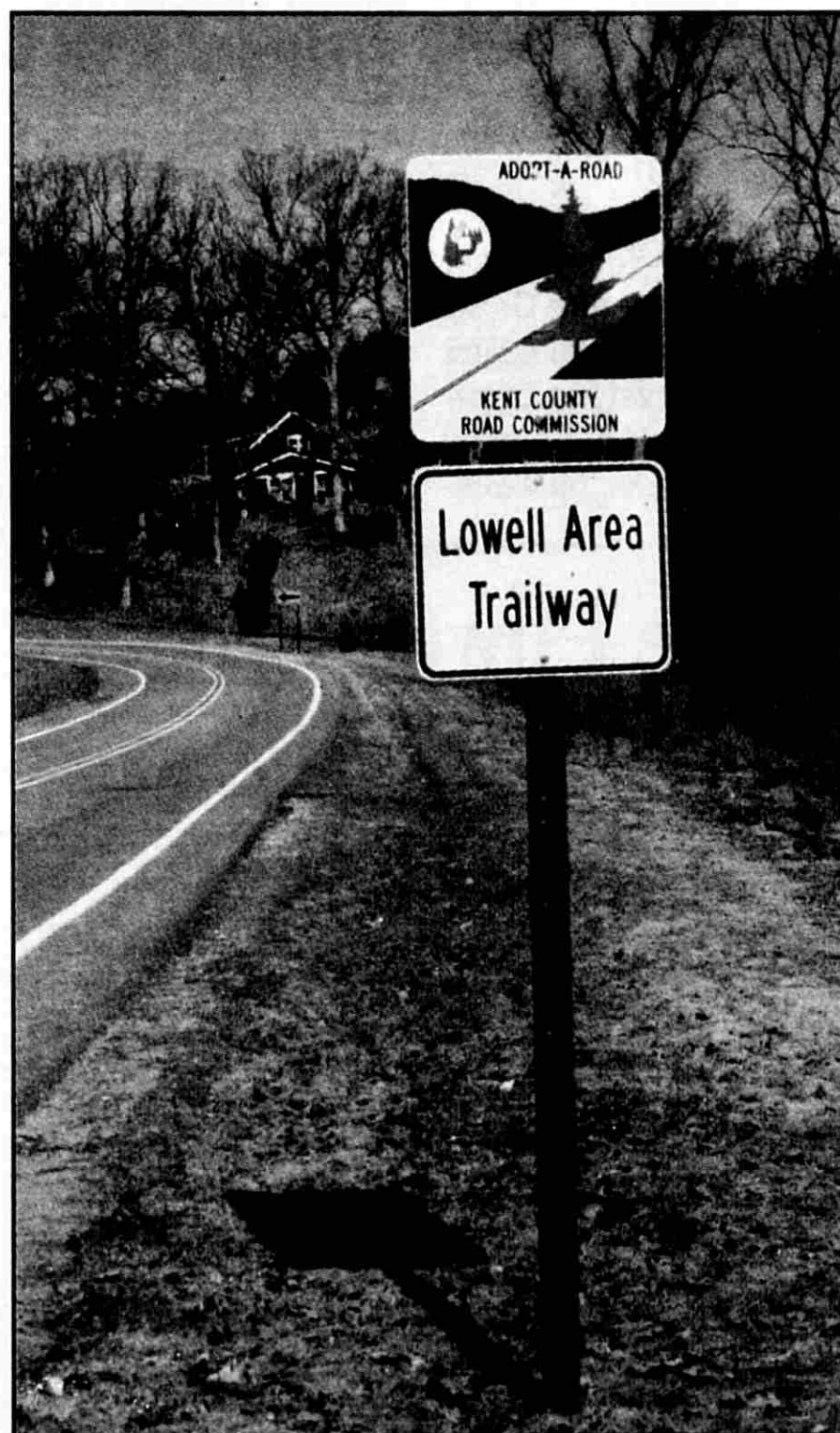
Robinson, who is a clerk in Sparta Township, put 160 acres of the 600-acre dairy farm into permanent preservation through the

purchase of the development rights program. "You start with your family," she said. "Our children were in favor of this."

And the taxable value of their land went up, because farmland in the fruit ridge

Land forum, cont'd., pg. 9

Capital campaign to raise \$750,000 for Lowell Area Trailway



A sign on Foreman Road designates the Lowell Area Trailway.

by Emma Palova

A campaign to raise \$750,000 for the first phase of the Lowell Area Recreational Authority (LARA) Trailway will officially kickoff at the Lowell Expo on March 28.

The funds raised in the on-going campaign will be matched by \$750,000 in state and federal grants to cover the total \$1.5 million cost of the first phase.

The trailway authority has recently approved an application for a grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, that can be used as a match for a grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation.

"We're very excited," said campaign chair Jodie Seese. "We've been working on this for about a year."

Phase 1 will connect Cherry Creek Elementary to Wege Wittenbach Center with a 2.5 mile long paved and boardwalk route. Points

of interest along the route include Foreman Road railroad tracks, a potential regional connection, Cherry Creek Elementary, Creekside Park, Lowell High School and Wege Wittenbach Center.

Also, conceptual plans have been developed for trails leading to Stony Lakeside Park with a possible pedestrian bridge to Riverside Park in Lowell Township.

"We're aiming for a ground breaking ceremony in May," said Seese. "We're very pleased."

Additional phases include connection to the Kent County Fairgrounds, the dog park and the downtown shopping area including the Riverwalk. When completed, the trail system will connect Lowell to Greenville, Lowell to Ionia, Lowell to Elmdale, Lowell to Ada and the Grand Rapids Township trails as well as Cascade trails.

With its unique

position, Lowell will also serve as a hub to the North Country National Scenic Trail, a premier footpath that stretches for 4,600 miles from New York to North Dakota.

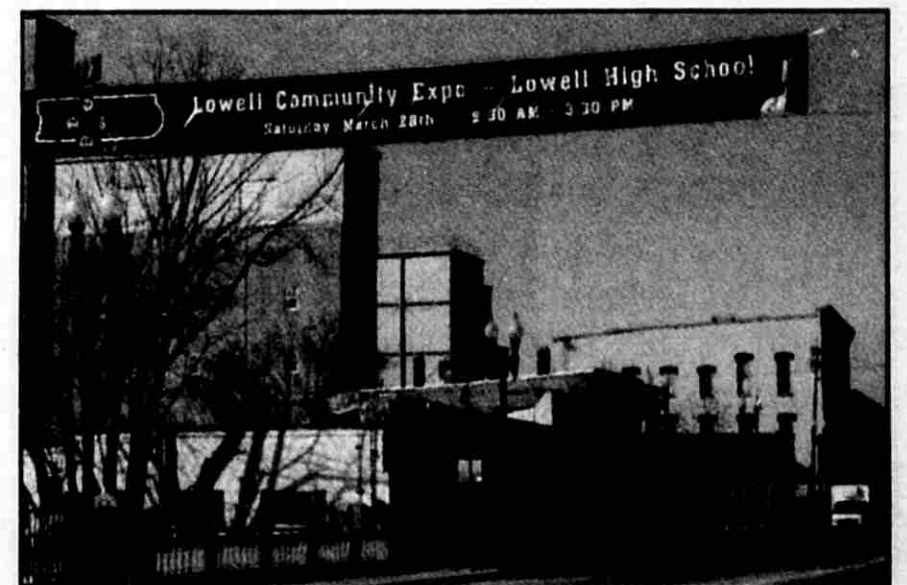
LARA has been working

on the trailway system for a decade now with dedicated volunteers like Vergennes Township clerk Mari Stone.

"The decision to build

LARA campaign, cont'd., pg. 3

Expo this weekend



CORRECTION

Last week's Ledger (March 18, 2009) incorrectly stated that "Lowell Area Schools will provide free food and beverages." It should have said **LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS WILL PROVIDE CONCESSIONS AT GREAT PRICES.** A full menu will be provided from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and cold food and beverages will be offered from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Obituaries

JERRILS

Erwin Johnson Jerrils, age 72, passed away at his home in Newport News, VA on March 16, 2009. He grew up in Ionia County, until he entered the Navy, where he served 22 years. He leaves his wife, Beulah; children, Erwin, Richard, Thomas, Lisa and Jeffrey; 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; sisters, Gayann Adair of Ionia and Roxie Hallock of Florida; and brother, Larry of Alto. Upon his request, cremation has taken place and his ashes will be buried at sea.



PHILLIPS

Don Lewis Phillips, age 74, of Lowell, passed away Wednesday, March 18, 2009. He was preceded

in death by his daughter, Pamela Faulkner. He will be sadly missed by his wife of 53 years, Wilma Phillips; children, Don (Lisa) Phillips of Stanton, Scott (Linda) Phillips of Lowell, Dale (Mary) Phillips of Chelsea, Dan (Sue) Phillips of Lowell; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Don is also survived by his brother, Rex Phillips of Lowell; sisters, Harriet Smith of Grand Rapids and Gail (Howard) Acheson of Lowell; his mother-in-law, Anna Booth of Lowell; sisters-in-law, Bertha (William) Franks of Texas, Vivian (Thomas)

Morse of Leroy; brother-in-law, Laurence Precious of Lowell; and many nieces and nephews. He was a member of the Lowell Lions Club. The funeral service was held Saturday at First United Methodist Church, Interment Oakwood Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Don's name to the First United Methodist Church, 621 E Main, Lowell, MI 49331.

RICHARDSON

Cheryl Cheri Ann Richardson, 51, of Lowell, passed away March 18, 2009, at the Laurels of Kent

Nursing Home in Lowell. She had been battling cancer of the lung and brain for the last three years. Cheri was born December 7, 1957 to Clarence and Gladys Richardson of Grand Ledge and graduated in 1976 from Lakewood High School in Lake Odessa. Cheri will be greatly missed by all of her family and those who loved her. She is survived by her companion in life David Cook of Lowell;

her daughter with Willie Colon, Tina (Mike) Farley of Lowell; her sister, Sue Skeen of Malad, Idaho; her brother, Paul (Debra) Richardson of Colorado Springs, Colorado; and many nieces and nephews. Cheri will be buried with her parents at the Lakeview Cemetery in Lake Odessa. No formal services are planned. Gifts may be made in her memory to the American Cancer Society.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate File No.09-186,560-DE

Estate of HONORATA DUBA Date of birth: 6/28/1917

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, HONORATA DUBA, who lived at 325 Grand NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan died 2-9-2009.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to JOHN TOCZYLOWSKI and KRYSZYNA BIZON, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa NW, Ste. 2500, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

March 18, 2009

John D. Mitus (P-31244) 410 Bridge St., NW Grand Rapids, MI 49504 616-774-4001

John Toczykowski 3494 Windshire Dr SE Grand Rapids, MI 49546 and Krystyna Bizon 161 Stonegate Spring Lake, MI 49456

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

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING File No. 09-186561-CA, 09-186562-GA

In the matter of OTIS GRESHAM

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS INCLUDING:

MICHAEL GRESHAM and the missing and unknown heirs

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 April 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 guardian and full conservator for OTIS GRISHAM

3/19/2009

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

Tom Davis 415 Franklin SE Grand Rapids, MI 49507 616-247-6317

Student council helps feed needy students

While many students were heading out to enjoy last Monday's weather, thirteen Murray Lake student council members (Garrett Nauta, Jerrod Humphries, Eric Dimmock, Edén Nethercott, Bryan

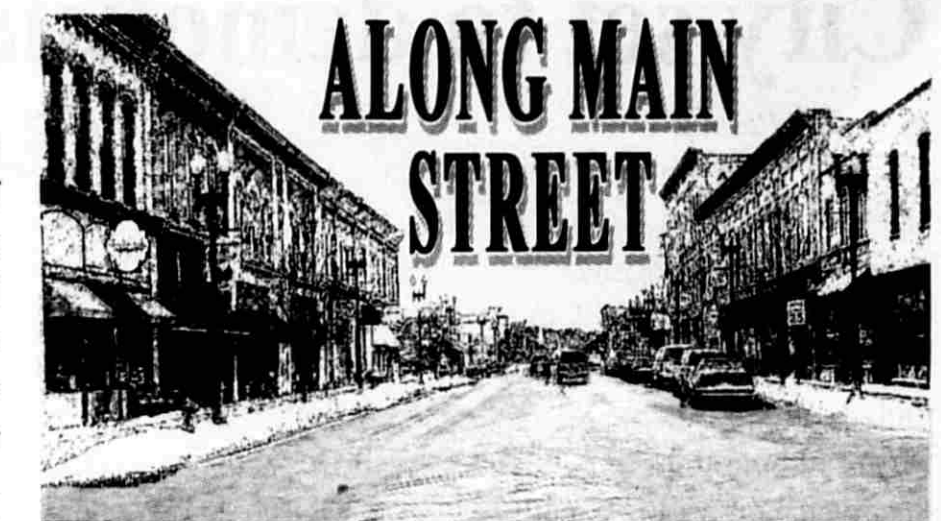
Ashenbremer, Adam Marks, Maria DeCator, Courtney Lubbers, Keyleigh Lubbers, Sara Majestic, Gabe Steed, Sam Russell, and Carter Noskey) were heading to downtown Grand Rapids

to help provide food for the most needy of children. Parent volunteers drove the students to Kid's Food Basket. Kid's Food Basket is a program that was created seven years ago when a

Grand Rapids elementary principal saw several of her kindergarten students digging through the school garbage for food. When she asked them what they were doing, they told her they get hungry at night.

She discovered that the students were not getting dinner at home. Today, Kid's Food Basket sends over 1,500 Grand Rapids Public School students home with a sack dinner. These are the neediest of students, who without the sack dinner, would probably not get a meal before coming to breakfast the next day.

Student council cont'd., pg. 13



LOWELL QUITTERS MEETS TUESDAY

Lowell Quitters group is meeting Tuesday, March 24, 6-8 p.m. at Lowell Family Medical Center, 2550 East Main St. This group meets to support those who have quit smoking or those who want information on quitting, including free local classes. Questions, call Jodie Seese, 616-446-7058.

SPRING BREAK WITH THE STARS

The Wittenbach/Wege Center invites you to come out Friday, April 3 beginning at dusk (approx. 7:30 p.m.) for telescopic observing of the moon, planets and constellations with members of the Grand Rapids Amateur Astronomical Association. Do you have a telescope but do not know how to use it? Bring it with you and have local astronomers show you how. Call 897-1002 for more information.

SPAY NEUTER EXPRESS

The Spay Neuter Express will be offering spays and neuters for cats at the West Michigan Pet Expo on April 4. The fee will be \$25 for the surgery. The Spay Neuter Express is a mobile Veterinary surgical hospital that focuses on sterilization of pets for low income families, rescue groups, and barn and cat colonies. Call 616-897-8865 for information.

COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN

Parents of children who will be five years old on or before Dec. 1, 2009 are invited to Countdown to Kindergarten. A parental informational meeting will be held April 16 at Alto Elementary, 987-2600; April 21 at Murray Lake Elementary, 987-2750; and April 22 at Bushnell Elementary, 987-2650. Please call the school district you reside in to have an enrollment packet mailed to you prior to the parental meeting, or for any questions.

F.R.O.M. FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

The Food Pantry is presently in need of canned fruit, juice, boxed potatoes, hamburger and chicken helper and paper products. Please help if you are able.

SHOP AT HOME CALL 897-9261

NOTICE
THE LOWELL TOWNSHIP OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FROM APRIL 1, 2009 UNTIL APRIL 13, 2009 FOR REMODELING.

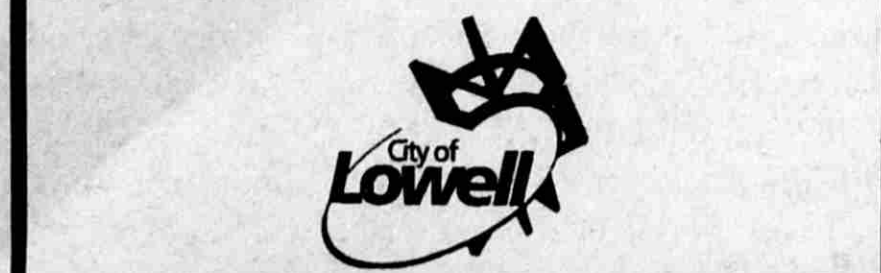
CITY OF LOWELL RESIDENTS ONLY YARD WASTE PICKUP SCHEDULE FOR SPRING AND SUMMER 2009

The City of Lowell's Spring and Summer yard waste program is scheduled for the second and fourth Thursday of each month through September unless there is a holiday in that week and the pickup day will be Friday. Yard waste bags are \$20.00 for a bundle of ten (10).

YARD WASTE PICKUP SCHEDULE
April 9th and 23rd
May 14th and 29th*
June 11th and 25th
July 9th and 23rd
August 13th and 27th
September 11th* and 24th

*PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES ARE A FRIDAY PICKUP DUE TO HOLIDAY DURING THE WEEK.

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



PASSPORT DAY IN THE USA AT THE 13TH ANNUAL LOWELL COMMUNITY EXPO LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL 11700 VERGENNES ROAD SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2009, 9:00 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M. VISIT LOWELL CITY HALL BOOTH (GYM "A") EACH APPLICANT WILL NEED TO COMPLETE AN APPLICATION AND: (Applications are available online at www.travel.state.gov or at Expo)

1. Provide a certified birth certificate; previously issued passport or Certificate of Naturalization
2. Provide two passport photos. Available at Meijer or Rite Aid.
3. Valid drivers' license or State issued ID (or that of a parent if 16 or 17 years old and both parents if under 16)
4. Application fee (check or money order made out to "U.S. Dept. of State") for: U.S. Passport Book (valid for travel by air, sea or land):
\$75 (16 years and over)
\$60 (age 15 years and under)
U.S. Passport Card (Not for travel by air - valid for land and sea crossings between the U.S. and Canada, Mexico, Bermuda and the Caribbean only)
\$20 (16 years and older)
\$10 (age 15 years and under)
5. Execution Fee (check or money order made out to "City of Lowell") for \$25.00

All applicants including children must appear at the time of processing. Passport applicants under 16 years old must have both parents present. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for processing. Expedited services are available.

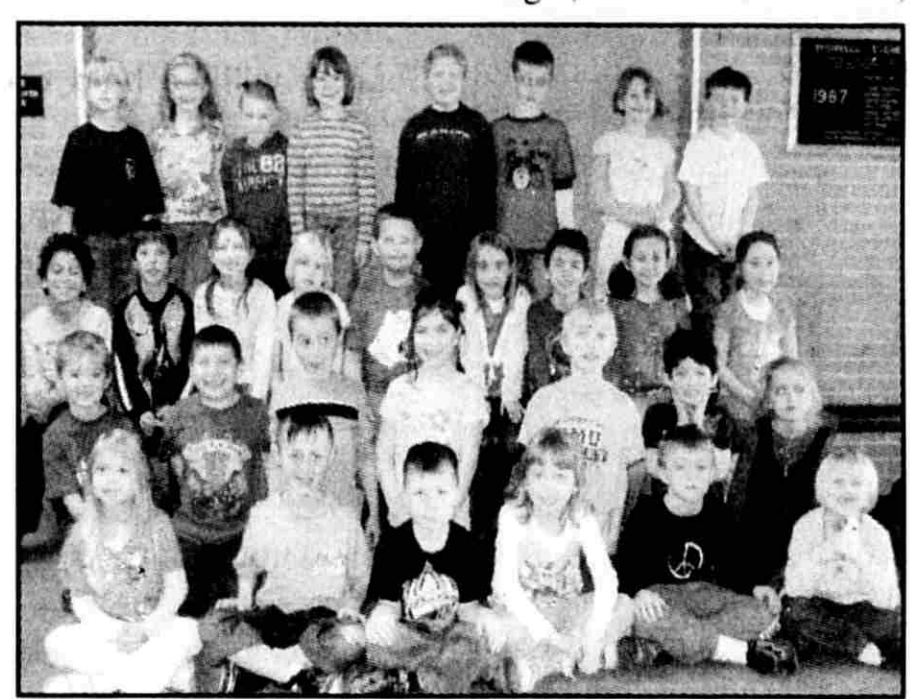
NOTE: On June 1, 2009, U.S. citizens must present a passport book, passport card, or other travel documents approved by the U.S. government to enter the United States from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda at land borders and sea ports of entry.

Questions call City Hall at 897-8457 prior to Expo. Passport applications processed Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan.

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Bushnell Characters of the Month

Pictured are Bushnell first grade character trait award winners for "Fairness."



Front row, left to right: Kaitlyn Rankin, Maliki Hager, Brendan Anderson,

Madeline Revere, Bradley Rohen, and Stephanie Bukala; second row: Evan Groeneweg, Wyatt Brown, Benjamin Kinnucan, Mariah Moomau, Stephen Collins, Benjamin Davis, and Jacquelyn Bileth; third row: Quan Sprague, Ryan Sikkenga, Emma McComber, Brianna Lachowski, Zachary Treadwell, Sidney Gordon, Tristan Ellsworth-Bristol, Olivia Dennie, and Akalia Foreman; back row, left to right: Stephanie Zalis, Jayleigh Bileth, Austin Clink,

Trinity Holst, Jaron DeVito, Nolan Smith, Lauren Woodhead, and Jacob Scheid.

LARA campaign, continued ... From Page 1

this trail system without taxing local residents has been a challenge, but it also has been exciting to see the level of local support for this effort," said Stone. A cabinet of local leaders was formed last year to carry out the campaign goals. "We plan to grow the Lowell Area Trailway in

achievable steps, one phase at a time," said cabinet member Stone. "Together with the rest of the community we are looking forward to this dream becoming a reality." Given the economic conditions, gifts can be payable over three years or on a monthly payment plan. Donors of \$1,000 will

This notice paid for with public donations

FREE to the public!

Weight Loss & Stop Smoking Hypnotherapy

Health Awareness Clinics is providing therapists to administer weight loss, stop smoking, and stress relief group hypnosis therapy. For many people, this therapy reduces 2 to 3 clothing sizes and/or stops smoking. Funding for this project comes from public donations. Anyone who wants treatment will receive professional hypnotherapy free from charge.

An appointment is not necessary. Sign in and immediately receive treatment. Health Awareness Clinics is a non-profit organization. They rely on donations to make treatment available to those in need. A modest \$5.00 donation when signing in is appreciated. Only one 2 hour session is needed for desirable results. Sign in 30 min. early

Monday Mar 30, 7:30pm
VFW
3116 Alden Nash
LOWELL

Wednesday Apr 1, 7:30pm
VFW
1324 E. Bridge St.
PORTLAND

HealthAwarenessClinics.org
(713) 927-3364

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

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The Lowell Ledger
105 N. Broadway, Lowell

City set to demolish three bridge buildings in mid April

by Emma Palova

The city is now set on the path of demolition of three buildings located on the north west side of the bridge, after the owners failed to repair them. And although the city has received some phone calls from parties interested in the buildings, no actual plans of action have emerged. The planning commission, Monday, discussed the issue of demolition, since the time for repair is almost running out. The owners Rita Reister and Don and Connie Reedy were notified close to three months ago by the city inspection services. "We're going down the path of demolition of three structures," said city manager Dave Pasquale. "We don't have a choice unless somebody is willing to spend the money to remedy the situation." The cost of the demolition is far less than fixing the buildings up, according to Dan DesJarden, Department

of Public Works director. The buildings have deteriorating foundations. According to inspections, many of the supporting piers consist of un-mortared concrete block, timber posts and concrete filled 55 gallon drums. Some areas have no support at all, and some of the support timber beams have rotted. "We don't take any joy in having them removed," said Pasquale. "But when you

look at the foundation, it is a serious problem." If nothing is done by mid April, the city will take the buildings down, according to building inspector Doug Hopkins. Usually the demolition cost is placed on the tax roll on the property, but in this case once the buildings are down, only water is left. "We will do everything legally to recover the costs," said Pasquale.

It remains uncertain what the abutting building Spring Grove Variety will look like once the buildings are torn down. "You might get a big surprise," said Pasquale. Some of the plans after demolition include possible extension of the Riverwalk on the north west side of the bridge, because the land spot left is not big enough to build anything else. The Department of Environmental Quality would be a part of the decision making about the land use. "It will look more natural," said commissioner Maryalene LaPonsie. "The water is a public trust." The buildings, dating to the early 1900s, at one time or another housed various retail and real estate offices. All the other structures on the bridge are fine, according to Pasquale.

Ignite Church to establish at former Family Dollar store

by Emma Palova

Ignite Church will establish at the former Family Dollar store in Ridgeview Plaza following planning commission's approval Monday night. The property is zoned C-3 general business, and allows special land uses such as theaters, concert halls or similar places of public assembly. The 5,000-square-foot building will not increase, according to the proposal. But the church intends to renovate the space of the leased building.

"It looks like a great property," said Phillip Struckmeyer, lead pastor of Impact and Ignite churches. "We wanted it to be community based." Previous proposals included the location at Larkin's Other Place, but according to Struckmeyer this location played out much better. "It addresses our needs and fits in well," he said. Moreover, the new location close to the theater has adequate parking.

"Parking is no longer an obstacle," said Struckmeyer. "It seems to be kind of a teen area already." Ignite is working with the YMCA and the middle school, as a source to help teens. However, some concerns resurfaced around potential noise during events. "The main concern is the noise," said Pasquale. "There needs to be sensitivity."

On the other hand, the plaza is half empty, and the church location could attract more people. "If it fits your needs and brings more people," said commissioner Maryalene LaPonsie. "It's a much better option," said chairman Doug Folsom. The intended uses may include after school programming with the YMCA, the middle school and other partners in the community, family programming, community events, concerts, worship service and community-wide student ministries.

LHS Students of the Month for March

Lowell High School and the LHS Academic Boosters are proud to announce the Students of the Month for March 2009. In conjunction with the LHS Academic Boosters, Lowell High School is proud to announce that Rebekah Martin, 10th grade; Katie Oudhoff, 10th grade; and Beth Wyckoff, 12th grade; are the LHS March Students of the Month. In order to be eligible for this honor a

student must be nominated by a department. All the nomination forms for the month are then reviewed and voted on at the monthly Department Chair Meeting, normally selecting two students to be honored for the month. Students are selected based on academic achievement, character, and work ethic. There are 1315 students eligible for nomination, so this is quite an accomplishment for Martin,

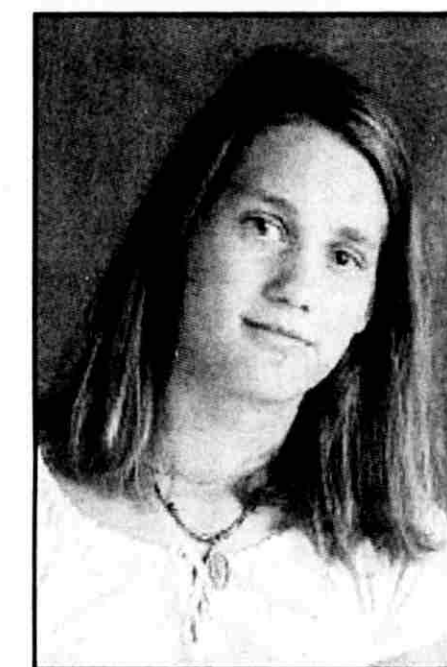
Oudhoff, and Wyckoff. The students receive a \$20 movie gift card and a certificate. Martin was nominated by the English department, and they write, "Rebekah is an exceptional student and role model for her peers. She is relatively new here and sometimes it appears as though she is still trying to find her niche. Instead of being frustrated and



Katie Oudhoff



Beth Wyckoff



Rebekah Martin

feeling left out, Rebekah takes responsibility for approaching others and working to become part of a group in the classroom setting. Because she is so pleasant and unassuming, she is one of those students who are easy to overlook and take for granted. If you assign homework to a student like Rebekah, it will be done on time and to perfection. If you ask her to complete a task, she will without fail, and with a positive attitude."

POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION
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Viewpoint

Outdoors

By Dave Stegehuis



CALL IN THE WILD

The grey wolf is the voice of the wilderness. In northern Quebec the eerie sound of a pack of howling wolves provided the background music for the evening meal in caribou camp. The wolves were gathered along the banks of the George River for the same reason I was—to intercept migrating caribou. The mournful cry of the wolf now echoes through the backcountry of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan as well. How cool is that.

Wolves inhabited the entire state in the early 1800's. Fairy tales and myths about the big bad wolf and livestock predation promoted the use of traps, guns, poison, and a bounty to remove wolves from the Michigan landscape. After being evicted as nuisance predators, gray wolves began drifting back into Michigan from Canada and adjoining states.

Although protected since 1965, it was not until 1973 when the gray wolf was listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act. Provided with this protection, the wolf has done very well. Despite road kill and a fair amount of poaching, there are now over 500 wolves roaming around the Upper Peninsula and a few reported in the Lower Peninsula.

To The Editor

Dear Editor,

Recently the City Council has been discussing relaxing a hunting ordinance for the city of Lowell. I'm not sure the citizens of Lowell really understand what this ordinance does. This ordinance only encompasses bow hunting. The shooting or hunting of creatures small or large with a gun is not permitted in the city at any time. The ordinance under discussion states you may only hunt with a bow, on private property of 10 acres or more, with the permission of the property owner during hunting season. There are only about 10 properties in Lowell that even qualify for this ordinance. These properties for the most part border the outskirts of the city of Lowell. So far safety of children has been the main concern of citizens opposing this ordinance. People invasion arrows whizzing past and hitting children innocently playing in their backyards at any time. This just isn't the case. Hunting will only be permitted during regular hunting season. Permission to hunt must be obtained from the property owners. Property owners will be responsible for what happens on their property. There are only a few properties that even qualify to hunt on.

The reason the few property owners that qualify for this ordinance revision want it is, they border land that isn't hunted. The deer population has exploded; they are eating and destroying crops, gardens, landscaping, basically anything green.

Everybody loves Bambi, however Bambi grows up, eats, populates, eats and overpopulates. There are no natural enemies living in the city of Lowell to control the herd. As a citizen who has hit a deer on Main Street with my car, I see no problem with a little positive thinning of the herd. I would rather see responsible land owners hunting and harvesting nature's resources than deer dying by horrific diseases or the unsuspecting motorists.

Please think about this issue and let your Council people know how you feel. Decisions are made by citizens only if the council knows how you feel.

Bif Altoft

Dear Editor,

Lowell Light and Power complies with the State of Michigan's Public 295 and prepares to submit its Renewable Energy and Energy Optimization Plans to the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC). In October of last

The grey wolf has finally been removed from the endangered list. Now the Michigan Department of Natural Resources will be able to manage wolves using a comprehensive plan which was developed as a requirement for delisting. Managing the wolves will definitely be challenging. The canines travel in packs over large areas of remote forests, so they are difficult to monitor.

Wolves prey on deer and moose, as well as smaller animals. Farm animals and pets occasionally fall victim to wolf predation. Unless it was your calf or dog, this hasn't been a big problem. Some hunters perceive the wolf as competition for available game animals, although severe winters are the major threat to deer populations.

When asked, the general public has a variety of opinions regarding a free ranging population of wolves in our state. It seems the majority of citizens like the idea of at least some wolves out there. I have been thrilled to observe wolves in the Upper Peninsula, but the decedents of the original Yellowstone wolves, however, have significantly changed the habits of elk on the mountain I hunt in Montana.

Despite the relentless march of development and our hi-tech lifestyle, there are places not far away where we can encounter more wildlife than if we were living a hundred years ago. We will all have to make some compromises to ensure this will continue to happen. For a guy who wrote grade-school book reports on Jack London stories, sitting by a campfire listening to howling wolves is a moving life experience.

year, the State of Michigan adopted Public Act 295, which requires Michigan's electric utilities to spend part of their annual revenue on Energy Optimization (Efficiency) and Renewable Energy generation. Lowell Light and Power was ahead of the game in this area and had already implemented a Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) promotion and had contracted to purchase electricity produced from Landfill Gas which is considered a renewable energy source. Lowell Light and Power's proactive decisions will ultimately end up saving customers money. The CFL program that took place in the fall of 2008 was one of a few programs in the State that will receive credit under the Public Act (PA) 295 requirements. In addition, contracting to purchase electricity produced from Landfill Gas, prior to the enactment of the new legislation, has insured Lowell Light and Power a competitive price for this power. Public Act 295 also allows Michigan utilities to pass on the cost of adding these programs to their customers. The ability to pass on these costs is capped at two percent for the Energy Optimization Program and at \$3/month to Residential customers, \$16.58/month to Commercial customers and \$187.50/month to Industrial customers for the Renewable Energy Program.

The Board and management of Lowell Light and Power made a commitment, as this legislation was being enacted, to absorb the cost of these programs and not to pass any additional costs on to its customers. Lowell Light and Power believed these activities were where the utility should be headed anyway as part of being a forward thinking utility and looking out for the interests of its rate payers.

Public Act 295 requires that Michigan utilities have 10 percent of their power generated from renewable sources by 2015. Renewable energy is more expensive to produce than historic coal fired plants, which is why the State is allowing at least part of that cost to be passed on to Michigan rate payers. Lowell Light and Power has contracted to purchase more Landfill Gas than it needs to meet its 10 percent requirement. This means that it will have excess of a commodity in high demand (energy produced from a renewable source). Lowell Light and Power will be able to sell this energy and its associated renewable energy credits into the market. The revenue generated from the sale of this excess renewable energy will offset the additional cost Lowell Light and Power will incur to meet its own renewable energy needs. The bottom line is that even though renewable energy is more costly, Lowell Light and Power should be positioned to meet the renewable energy requirements of Public Act 295 without additional cost to its customers.



By Shelly MacNaughton

125 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL JOURNAL MARCH 26, 1884

A new boy (12 lbs) at C. McCarty's.
 We have had several days of beautiful spring weather. There is some talk of building a new skating rink here. The heavy rain yesterday will make Grand River feel big again.
 Gus Weekes has gone to Chicago to buy more goods for Collar & Weekes.

100 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER MARCH 28, 1909

School closes Friday of this week for the spring vacation of one week, opening again on Monday April 5.
 Parents having children old enough to enter the kindergarten may start them with the opening of school after vacation, as a new class will be formed at that time. All new children entering the kindergarten this spring will be expected to continue work in that department during the next school year.

75 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER AND ALTO SOLO MARCH 29, 1934

By more than a two to one vote the patrons of Lowell School District No. 1 approved of the purchase of the property known as "the Cooper Shop site," at the meeting held in the Central building last Friday evening.
 In addition to the land known as the Cooper site the purchase includes a plot of land extending east from this site to Monroe Avenue.

50 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER MARCH 26, 1959

Discontinuing of two Grand Trunk Western passenger train runs between Durand and Muskegon will end all passenger trains through Lowell except an early morning (3 a.m.), which runs both directions, on May 1st.
 More important to Lowell will be the elimination of east bound mail train No. 56, which arrives in Lowell from Grand Rapids at 1:53 p.m., bringing mail and taking east bound mail.

25 YEARS AGO THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER MARCH 28, 1884

At their meeting of Monday, March 19 the Lowell City Council voted regarding condemnation proceedings on two main street buildings. The council voted unanimously to condemn a house which last served as the Jaycee paper drop at the corner of Main and Horatio Streets, and is owned by Blackhawk Realty of Chicago, Ill. A three to two vote, with councilman Dean Collins and Phillip Schneider voting no, condemned the building at the southwest corner of Main and Broadway, currently owned by Richard Curtis of Lowell.

To The Editor, cont'd., pg. 7

Lacics celebrate 60th anniversary



Mr. and Mrs. Al Lacic

Al and Dot Lacic will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. They have lived in the Lowell area for 56 years. They have five children, Adeline Brower of Pentwater, Art and Eillen Lacic of Lowell, Dorothy House of Lowell, Russell Lacic of Lowell, and Jim and Mary Dillree of Stanwood. They have 13 grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. They will be celebrating on May 16.

College News

Kimberly Meiste, a 2005 graduate of Olivet Nazarene University, was recently featured in her alma mater's alumni publication as one of the "30 under 30." The article, which appeared in the winter 2009 issue of The Olivetian, highlighted 30 up-and-coming alumni under the age of 30.

"I know that the work I accomplish has eternal implications," Meiste was quoted as saying in the article. "The projects we produce are used in churches worldwide as instruments of worship. I've seen how



Kimberly Meiste our music has touched my heart and can only begin to imagine how [God is] using our projects in the local church."

Meiste is a 2000 Lowell High School graduate and the daughter of Chris and Bonnie Meiste of Lowell. Meiste currently serves as the development coordinator and music editor for Lillenas Publishing Company in Kansas City, Mo. She has created and compiled a Christmas musical for children, entitled A Song of Joy, and is currently arranging an easy piano accompaniment book, which will be available at lillenas.com.

The Olivetian is a quarterly publication and has a circulation of more than 45,000 alumni and friends of Olivet Nazarene University. It is also available online at www.olivet.edu. Olivet Nazarene University is an accredited Christian, liberal arts university offering over 120 areas of study. It is centrally located in the historic village of Bourbonnais, Illinois, just 50 miles from Chicago's loop, with additional School of Graduate and Continuing Studies locations in Rolling Meadows, Ill. and throughout Chicagoland.

Quizzers heading to finals



Mitchell Hovey and Catherine Reed from Lowell Church of the Nazarene have qualified to participate in the Nazarene world finals in Orlando, FL. Hovey placed second in the Michigan District.

Quizzers included: Zachariah Tozer, Xavier Sanchez, Catherine Reed and Mitchell Hovey.

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|--|--|
| MARCH 25:
Chris Yeiter, Shirley Carigon, Sari VanKeulen, Andy Quada, Troy Sloan. | MARCH 29:
John Ellison, Sandra VanWeelden, Laura Rasch, Carl Rasch, Robin Burns, Casey Yonker, Brianna Homrich, Priscilla Nearing. |
| MARCH 26:
Margaret Hoats, Carol Maynard. | MARCH 30:
Deb Maxim, Erin Wade, Delores Ellison, Laurinda Horsley, Patrick Drake. |
| MARCH 27:
Joel Roudabush, Kelly Geldersma. | MARCH 31:
Katelynn Fonger, Jennifer McCaul, Ben Lobbezoo, Tera Raab, Rudy Smith, Michaela Blough. |

Reflections of faith

By Roger La Warre

With the warm and sunny days that we have been enjoying, I could not help but think of the goodness of God and give thanks for the wonder and power of the seasons. Of course, entering into a spring season after the cold and snow of this past winter is especially an experience in joy. You know what I mean because humanity has always enjoyed the beauty and warmth of spring. We even know a sickness that comes only at this time of the year. We call it "Spring Fever."

I can imagine that Psalm 95 was written during spring days like what we have been experiencing this week. I imagine the poet enjoying the sun and the warmth of the change of seasons and then writing: "O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation." (Psalm 95:1) When one first reads this Psalm it is tempting to take it literally. I believe there are other ways of praising God that do not include singing. I believe our words or our actions can create the sounds that to God's ears make a "joyful noise."

I have found a number of "Bloopers" from church bulletins. As I read these, I could not help but experience a sense of joy and laughter. Perhaps as you read them, you too can make a "joyful noise" to God and give thanks for the simple things of life - like laughter. Here are a few of the bloopers: "Remember in prayer the many who are sick of

our community." "Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you." "Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. Please use the back door." "Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 p.m. - prayer and medication to follow." "The fee for the Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals" "The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight 'Searching for Jesus.'" The last one: "Irving and Jessie were married on March 14 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days."

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord" Let it be the noise of laughter, of kindness, of love, of warm greeting and words of compassion and care. Let the noise of your lips bring honor and praise to God. "For the Lord is a great God." (Psalm 95:3)

In The Service



Air Force Airman Sara L. Levering has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

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

In addition, airmen who complete basic training receive credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

She is the niece of Robert and Pat Levering of Ada. The airman is a 2007 graduate of Forest Hills Central High School, Grand Rapids.



Sara L. Levering

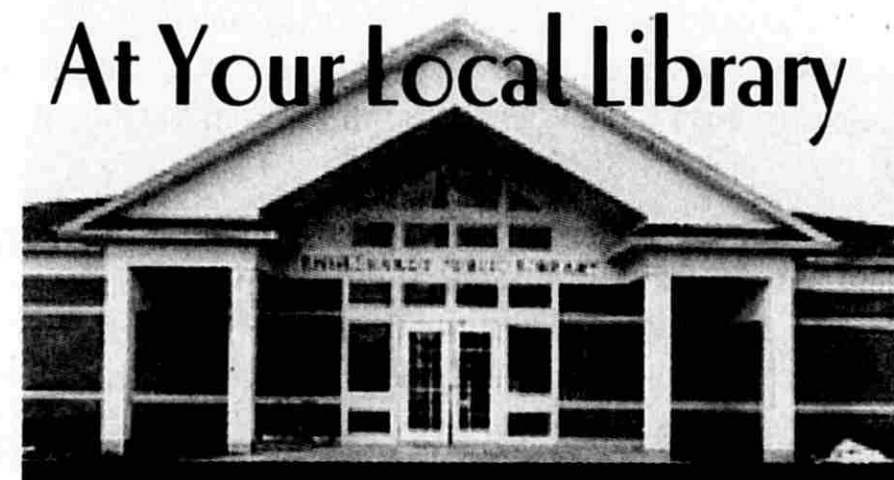
New Arrivals



Kamron Michael Cooper

are Sandy Sturgeon of Lowell, Gene and Linda Sturgeon of Lowell, Polly Taskey of Gaylord, and Dane and Grace DeFord of Spring Port.

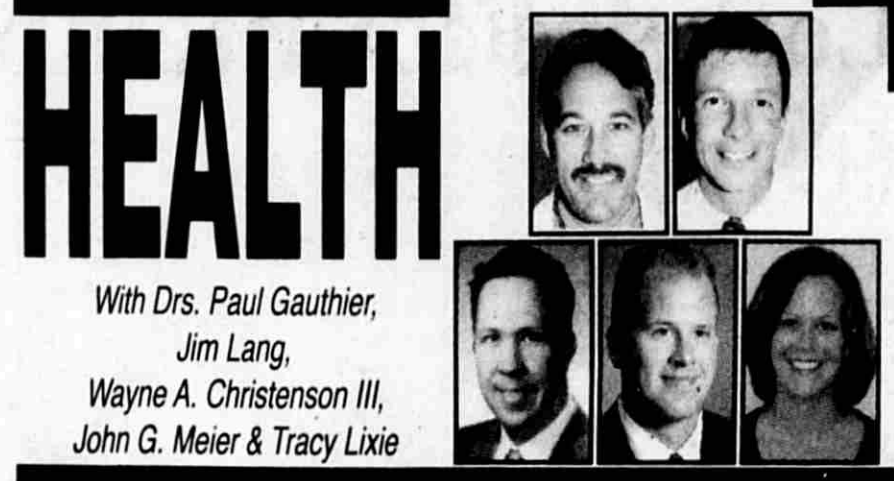
Kamron Michael Cooper was born February 25, 2009 weighing 6 lbs. 10 oz. and measuring 17.3 inches. Proud parents are Brandon Cooper and Amanda Sturgeon. Grandparents



At Your Local Library

LEARN EARLY CHILDHOOD ESSENTIALS
Parents and caregivers are invited to join others at the library for an informative seminar series. If you have young children, or if you work in child care and need professional development hours, the Early Childhood Essentials series is made for you. Each month will include a one-hour seminar that meets guidelines for state required professional development hours. Certificates are provided.

Seminars to be held at Englehardt Branch include:
Tuesday, April 28 at 7:30 p.m. - Kids Got To Move It - Move It
Tuesday, May 5 at 7:30 p.m. - Play-Grow-Read
Tuesday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m. - Nursery Rhymes That Work.
For more information or to register, visit www.kdl.org.



NOSEBLEEDS

Nosebleeds are a very common problem, especially this time of year. Most commonly the bleeding originates from the anterior nose. This area is filled with tiny blood vessels that are located close to the surface. They serve to warm and humidify the air that is inhaled. These vessels are very fragile and can rupture causing a nosebleed. When a person has a "cold" the vessels become dilated and bleeding may occur when one sneezes, coughs, or blows their nose. These vessels can also rupture spontaneously, especially when the air is very dry.

Bleeding may also begin in the posterior aspect of the nose. Patients typically will feel blood trickle down the back of their throat. This type of nosebleed is a more serious problem and can indicate problems with blood clotting or high blood pressure. This type of bleed requires immediate medical attention.

If you experience a nosebleed, first sit or stand up, as this will lower your blood pressure. Hold your head forward, not back. Then pinch the nose tightly, holding it closed for five minutes. Gently release the nose and check for bleeding. If bleeding continues, pinch the nose closed for 10 to 15 minutes without releasing. You should seek medical care if: the bleeding continues for 15 to 30 minutes, you feel weak, you are on coumadin (a blood thinner), the bleed is rapid with large amounts of blood, or you are having frequent nosebleeds. Your doctor will attempt to cauterize a bleeding vessel or pack the nose to stop the bleeding.

To prevent nosebleeds, use a humidifier during the winter. Furnace humidifiers generally do a poor job at keeping the air moist. You can also use saline nasal spray every one or two hours during the day, or apply vaseline to the inside of your nose.

To The Editor, continued ... From Page 5

The fact that Lowell Light and Power has taken the necessary steps to insure its customer's rates do not increase as a result of Public Act 295, does not reduce the probability of an upcoming rate adjustment. Last year, financial projections completed by an outside consultant indicated that Lowell Light and Power would most likely have to raise rates by approximately six percent for three years to rebuild its reserves. The reserves are needed to maintain a reliable, up to date system and to keep the utility healthy and viable for generations to come. The first six percent adjustment was implemented in the spring of 2008. During the last several months Lowell Light and Power has diligently looked for ways to keep expenses down. Lowell Light and Power is currently working with the City to explore areas where they could combine duplicated efforts. Even though expenses that are out of the utility's control, like the cost of purchasing

power, are expected to increase by five percent next year, the total operating expenses for next year's budget are down one percent from the 2008 budget. The goal of the Light and Power Board and management is to not have to adjust rates by six percent for three years in a row. They hope that this year's adjustment will be less than the six percent and that next year's could be significantly less than the six percent.

Greg Pierce

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider a request from McTee & Company, LLC for a Special Use Permit to change an existing non-conforming use to another non-conforming use in accordance with Section 4.6.1.E of the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance. Specifically, the applicant wishes to change the use of the property from a hobby garage and auto restoration which was permitted by the Township Zoning Board of Appeals in 1980 to an electrical and data contracting business to be conducted in the existing building on the property. Commercial storage use of one of the buildings which was approved in 1980 would remain.

This property is zoned AG-2, Rural Agricultural and is located on the north side of 36th Street just east of Snow Avenue.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: The property is legally described as Parcel 41-20-18-300-017 which is 9817 36th Street SE.

The hearing will be held as follows:

WHEN: MONDAY, April 13, 2009







TIME: 7:00 P.M.

WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
LOWELL, MI 49331

The Special Land Use application material is available for review at the Lowell Charter Township Offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, MI. 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday or by calling 897-7600.

Tim Clements, Secretary
Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

 <p>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M. 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>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Fr. Eugene Okoli 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 P.M. SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETE WIGGINS 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48, EWTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</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 John King, Holmes, Lead Pastor Robert W. 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>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> 	<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 Tessan.....Interim Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director Barrier-freeNursery 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>		

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 • Partials • Root Canals • Crowns and Bridges
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- Serving the Area Since 1981

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2186 MAIN STREET • LOWELL
LOCATED ACROSS FROM ARBYS

WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO CALL
GILLAN DENTAL EXCELLENCE (616) 897-8491

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN LOWELL

Lowell FFA members awarded at state convention

Sarah Crosby, an eighth grade student at Lowell Middle School, was named the state winner in the Jr. High Public Speaking contest at the Michigan FFA Convention. The State FFA Convention was held March 11-13 on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing. Thirty FFA members from Lowell attended the convention in order to compete in the State Leadership contests or receive awards.

Lowell competed in five of the State FFA Leadership contests. The Leadership contests are designed to help the students build teamwork and communication skills in order to make them better leaders and more prepared for the future. In order to qualify for the state contests, members first had to advanced through district and regional contests, finishing in the top two at each level. Lowell had 40 members compete at the district level, 17 advance to regionals, and ten competed at the state contests.

In Crosby's contest, she had to research, prepare and present a 4-6 minute speech and then answer questions from the judges. Crosby's speech on biosecurity



Lowell FFA members receiving awards in the State FFA Leadership contests were, front row, left to right: Sarah Crosby, Jack Weeber, Ian Blodger, Emma Roderick and Katy Mork; back row: Bob Crosby, Josh Phelps, Cody Kastanek, Tom Mark and Dakota Bergy.

concerns on a poultry farm earned her a gold award and a first place finish out of the 12 students competing at the state contests.

Ian Blodger finished third in the Prepared Public Speaking contest. The Prepared Speaking contest is considered the premier speaking contest in the FFA, often putting the very best speakers against each other. Blodger's speech on the financial crisis and the impact it will have on agriculture earned him a gold award.

In other speaking

contests, Katy Mork competed in the Creed Speaking contest. This contest requires the member to memorize and recite the FFA Creed and answer questions about how the creed impacts the FFA and their life. Mork earned a silver award in the Creed contest. Emma Roderick competed in the Greenhand Speaking contest, a contest for mainly freshman members, with her speech on anaerobic digesters. Roderick received a silver award for her speech.

The team of Dakota

Bergy, Bob Crosby, Cody Kastanek, Tom Mark, Josh Phelps and Jack Weeber competed in the Parliamentary Procedure contest. In this contest, members have to demonstrate that they can run a meeting using correct Parliamentary Procedure. The Lowell team received a bronze award.

In addition to students competing in contests, Lowell also had several members receive individual recognition at the State FFA Convention.

Five members from the



Representing Lowell in the State FFA Band were, front row, left to right: Kelsey Ward, Paula Blough and Mia Carvajal; back row: Conner Swift, Rachel Folkersma and Dale Latva, Director.



Receiving the State FFA Degree from Lowell were, front row, left to right: Sheryl Huber, Ian Blodger; back row: Mike Clover, Dakota Bergy and Cody Kastanek.

Lowell Chapter received their State FFA Degree. The State FFA Degree is the highest award that the State Association can bestow upon one of its members. Of the over 5,000 members in the Michigan FFA, only 339 were chosen to receive this award. The Lowell FFA members that will receive the award are Bergy, Blodger, Clover, Kastanek and Sheryl Huber.

In order to be considered for the State Degree, students have to show that they have worked on a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) and have been active

in the FFA. A student's SAE project combines the information learned in the agriscience classes with the leadership experiences in the FFA. The SAE is tailored to the student's interests in agriculture. These projects can range from fair animals to jobs to community service activities. In order to qualify for the State Degree, the student has to document that they have either earned \$2000 from their project, spent at least 450 hours on the project, or a combination of the two.

FFA convention, cont'd., pg. 11

Featured Artist

Jan Johnson

by Emma Palova

Long time artist Jan Johnson does not remember a time when she was not painting. She painted when she worked for Amway as a publication designer. When the kids were little, she painted. Now that they're grown up and far away, Johnson still paints. Johnson is the featured artist for April at the Fire and Water Art Gallery.

"I still get rejected," Johnson laughed. After all the years of painting, amazingly enough Johnson still finds challenges in painting such as keeping the composition intact.

"I try not to get too detailed and I try to keep the colors soft and bright," she said.

Encouraged by her mom Cecile Croninger, Johnson started painting while still in high school. She went to Kendall and Ringling School of Art to learn how to paint animals.

And animals are one

of her favorite painting subjects. You will find among her work, paintings of hens, pelicans and horses.

For Johnson, painting means sitting down and throwing some color on paper, while making a good composition of the color. She paints out of her head, off photos or on site.

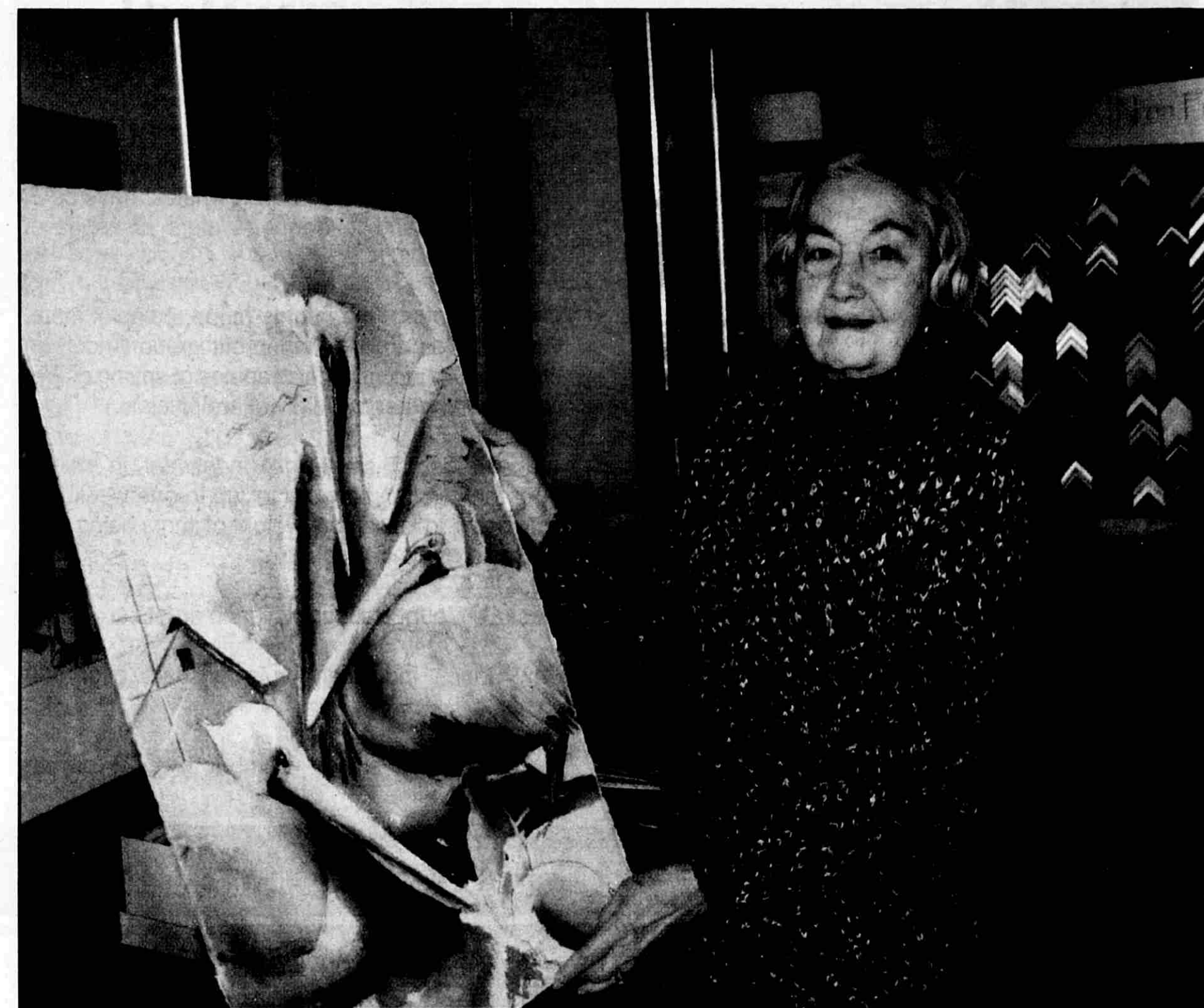
And she paints big, watercolors on arches paper. Johnson likes all the freedom of a big canvas. Her art has evolved from all too realistic paintings to intricate combination of realistic and the abstract.

"I prefer painting big," she said. "I like the freedom of more room."

While studying her paintings, one will notice that not every spot in the painting is all filled in with colors.

"I like the combination of the underlying colors," said Johnson.

She is one of the regulars at the Fire and Water Art Gallery. For Johnson, it's a



Artist Jan Johnson loves to paint big.

place where she can hang her paintings side by side with other artists.

"It's been great to be here," she said.

Johnson is hoping

the sales will pick up as the economy gets better, although she sold four big paintings during Christmas.

Johnson also paints local scenery often right in

front of her own home of 50 years on Riverside. She painted a picture of the river bank on the Flat River with the trees.

"I still love to paint," she said. "Lowell is a great town for artists."

Reception "Tea with Me" will be held on April 24 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Land forum, continued ... From Page 1

area sells high as farmland. The program allows the land to be sold as such, but never for development. The family can also save one lot for building a house.

For Betty Jo Crosby, of Ada Open Space Advisory Board, putting a conservation easement on her land in Ada Township was like getting a peace of mind. Although she could have added three additional homes, she gave up her development rights with the conservation easement.

"I have saved this little creek watershed, and I can still put in a wildlife viewing station," she said. "The most important thing is peace of my mind. It's still our property."

In Vergennes Township preserving the rural character as identified by the master plan goals and a survey is the main wish of the people.

"We have developed a land ethic," said Pete Gustafson, member of the Vergennes Township Zoning

Board of Appeals. "We have a lot of people who have common interest in our land. We will fight for it."

And petroleum may not be the black gold anymore, as farmland continues to disappear around the country. But the top soil may be, according to Gustafson.

"It's up to us now to protect our resources," said Gustafson.

There is a preserved Parnell corridor between Grattan and Vergennes

townships, along which development is not desirable.

"The Parnell corridor has created a real sense of confidence," said Nancy Benner of Grattan Township.

Benner talked about the new planning concepts in the township. These include

allowing non-contiguous properties for development, clustering and bonus density points. This tool was used by a developer on Big Pine Island in Grattan Township.

Unlike the other

townships, Ada Township has a voter approved millage for preservation for 15 years.

"We use our funds as a match to fund preservation," said Jim Fero. "We've lost a lot of property to development."

Travel only with thy equals or thy betters; if there are none, travel alone.

- The Dhammapada

Saranac Community Schools

Preschool/Kindergarten Roundup is Coming
Monday, March 30th and Tuesday, March 31st

KINDERGARTEN

- Art, fitness, computer, gym, & music classes
- Small class sizes
- Three NEW state-of-the-art playgrounds
- Grand opening of early childhood center last fall (2008)
- Just completed a district-wide \$8.5 million bond project
- Experienced and highly qualified teachers
- Developmentally appropriate curriculum
- Focus on literacy skills
- Transportation to and from school

PRESCHOOL for 3-5 year olds

Your child may qualify for our half day every day FREE preschool if:

- Your child has a hard time playing with friends or separating from you
- He/she seems uninterested in academics (writing his name, drawing a picture, learning the ABC's, or counting)
- Your child can't listen to a whole story, stay with one activity for more than five to ten minutes, or follow directions
- Your child's speech is not understood when talking to you, friends, or family members
- He/she has a lack of coordination (difficulty with running, catching, throwing, jumping, etc.) or has a hard time holding a pencil/crayon, or cutting with scissors

Full time (all day/every day) and half time kindergarten will be filled on a first come, first served basis

Please notify us with your preference by April 3

Call today to save your spot - 616-642-1200

RETIREMENT PARTY

for Lowell Police Officer **CAL KAMPHUIS** (35 years with the City)

TUESDAY, MARCH 31
4 PM - 6 PM

LOWELL CITY HALL
Second Floor
Council Chambers

PUBLIC WELCOME
Cake and Coffee Provided

The Lowell Education Foundation would like to thank the following people and businesses for their part in making our annual Dinner with Friends event a success.

The money raised will go directly back to the schools in the form of grants to teachers for innovative classroom projects.

LITEHOUSE, our generous event underwriter

FLAT RIVER GRILL, for providing appetizers at our pre-dinner gathering

THE LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL FLUTE QUARTET, for the beautiful music before dinner

And to our hosts, without whom we could not hold this event:

Chuck and Martha Hayden	Sue Beute and Chef Todd Veenstra
Tim and Patti Zuk	Dave and Michelle Tackman
Roger and Kim Bearup	Patty and Frank Brechbiel
Maureen and Allan Dorough	

For more information on the Lowell Education Foundation, please visit our website at www.lowelleducationfoundation.org.

Big on Mission,

This means we generously support FROM, help cover emergency heating expenses for local families, and volunteer with the Lowell Food Mobile. We also reach out to those in the U.S. and in more than 70 countries by supporting refugees, providing clean drinking water and responding to disasters. Our church has taken more than 14 mission trips in the last 10 years to many places including South Dakota, Chicago and Mexico. We support fair trade, Heifer Project and CROP Walk. We are reaching out and YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.

big
OUR CHURCH
www.ourbigchurch.org

First Congregational United Church of Christ / 865 Lincoln Lake Ave SE / Lowell, MI 49331



A FEW NOTABLE EVENTS FROM MARCH 19 - MARCH 25 - 2009

- Lance Armstrong falls while racing in Spain and breaks his collarbone. His comeback Tour de France race may be in jeopardy.
- Small plane crashes in a cemetery in Butte, Montana. All 14 passengers die, seven adults, seven children. The plane's capacity may have been exceeded, also, ice on the wings is a possible cause.
- A cargo plane crashes in Japan's Narita Airport killing the two pilots. It was the first fatal crash at that airport.

- David Letterman marries his longtime girlfriend Regina Lasko.
- The Red River in Fargo North Dakota is in danger of flooding. Residents are piling up the sand bags.
- A mass stranding of pilot whales on a Perth, Australia beach has left over 70 pilot whales and several dolphins dead. Eleven whales have been trucked overland to deeper waters in hopes of saving them.
- With only four of the infants home, octuplet mom, Nadya Suleman, fires nonprofit group Angels in Waiting. She accused the nannies of spying on her and reporting her to child welfare officials.
- Japanese test smell-free underwear in space. Apparently it can be worn for up to one week, the goal being to lessen the weight of items being sent with astronauts into space.
- Alaska's Mount Redoubt volcano erupts six times.
- Dow Jones Industrial Average soars over 400 points.
- In Baghdad, a suicide bomber kills 23 people attending a funeral.

- A study (the largest to date) shows eating large amounts of red and processed meat put people at greater risk of heart disease and cancer.
- A firefighter, Robert Tracy, is arrested in connection with over 50 fires that were deliberately set in Pennsylvania.
- Palm Springs welcomes back spring breakers after virtually banning them in the eighties.
- Somalian pirates still a huge problem for oceangoing cargo ships and their crew. Since 2005 90 ships have been captured, all released after ransom was paid.
- The 20th anniversary (March 24, 1989) of The Exxon Valdez oil spill. Creating the worst spill in U.S. history, an oil tanker ran aground on Bligh Reef in Prince William Sound on Alaska's coast. Wildlife is still affected by the effects of that spill.
- Matt Lauer is injured when a deer jumps out in front of him while biking and he is launched over the handlebars. He separated his shoulder in the accident.



Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold
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GIVE YOUR INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO A SPRING CLEANING

Spring is almost here — time to spruce up your house and get rid of your clutter. But this year, don't confine your spring cleaning to your home and yard. Why not "freshen up" your investment portfolio at the same time?

Of course, you can't just take a mop and broom to your brokerage statement. But some of the same principles that apply to your basic spring cleaning can work just as well when you tidy up your investments. Consider the following suggestions:

- Take an inventory of your belongings. If you're like

most people, you've got some things lying around your house that have outlived their usefulness. It might be that lawn mower that died in 2004 or the toaster that warmed its last slice during the Clinton Administration, but whatever it is, it's beyond repair — and it should go. And the same may be true of some of your investments. If one hasn't performed the way you had hoped or no longer fits into your long-term goals, this might be a good time to speak with a financial advisor.

Dispose of your duplicates. If you went through your house carefully, you might be surprised at how many items you have that do the same thing. Do you really need two colanders? And how many radios can you listen to at one time? If you looked at your investment portfolio the same way, you might be surprised by some of the redundancies that pop up. For example, you may have several stocks issued by similar companies that make similar products. This might not be a concern when the stock market is booming, but it could be a definite problem if a downturn affects the industry to which these companies belong. Always look for ways to diversify your holdings. While diversification, by itself,

cannot guarantee a profit or protect against a loss, it may help reduce the effects of market volatility.

Put things back in order. Over time, and almost before you're aware of it, the spaces in your home can get "out of balance." Perhaps you have too many chairs in one corner, or maybe your new desk takes up too much space in your home office. With some rearranging, however, you can get things back in order. The same need for rearrangement may apply to your portfolio, which might have become unbalanced with too much of one investment and too little of another. This situation could undermine your financial strategy, especially if the imbalance means you are taking on too much risk or, conversely, if your holdings have become too conservative to provide the growth you need. So, look for ways to restore your portfolio to its proper balance.

By giving your portfolio an annual spring cleaning, you can help make sure it's up-to-date, suited to your needs and well-positioned to help you make progress toward your key financial goals. And you can do it all without going near a dust cloth.

FFA convention, continued ... From Page 8

After the State Degree applications are scored, the top applications are pulled to be considered for the Star Award, the best student projects in four areas: Production, Placement, Agribusiness and Agriscience. Clover was selected as a finalist for the Star in Ag. Placement and received a Gold State Degree award for being named one of the top five placement SAE projects in the state.

The Outstanding Junior award was given to 12 students from Lowell. The requirements for the Outstanding Junior award are similar to the State Degree but with lower numbers. Students receiving the award from Lowell will be Emma Bencker, Kari Bergy, Paula Blough, Bob Crosby, Sara Fosburg, Kelsey Langlois, Kirsten Mork, Josh Phelps, Chelsea Pipkins, Mackenzie Roerig, Mary Walsh and Jack Weeber.

The individual honors continued with Keri Fosburg being recognized with a State Proficiency award. The proficiency awards recognize those students with outstanding individual agricultural projects. Fosburg received a gold award in Small Animal Production and Care for her project breeding and raising show dogs.

Lowell was represented in the State FFA Band also. Paula Blough, Mia Carvajal, Rachel Folkersma, Conner Swift and Kelsey Ward applied and were chosen to perform in front of over 1,500 at the Convention sessions held at the MSU Auditorium. This year, the State FFA Band was under the direction of Lowell Middle School Band Director, Dale Latva.

In other musical areas, Sheryl Huber was selected for the State FFA Talent, where she played the piano. Huber was also selected to open the Wednesday night

session by singing the National Anthem.

The Lowell FFA chapter was again honored as one of the top chapters in the State with a gold in the National Chapter recognition program. Only fourteen chapters in Michigan were awarded the gold level. The National Chapter award recognizes chapters that do an exceptional job of developing leadership and promoting agriculture at the student, chapter and community levels. As a result of this ranking, Lowell's application will be

forwarded to the National level, where it will be scored against chapters from across the country.

In addition to the National Chapter award, the Lowell FFA was recognized in two other areas. In the Food For America program, the chapter was recognized for their Farm Animal Day program educating elementary students from Lowell about farm animals. In the Building

our Michigan Communities area, the chapter submitted an application detailing their work with North Godwin Elementary school and their HarvestFest program. The Lowell FFA members help to teach the students about life on the farm.

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.

LUNCH MENU

ELEMENTARY MENU
Week of
March 30, 2009

MON: Tony's sausage pizza (BBQ rib on bun also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), broccoli, fruit cocktail, milk.

TUES: Chicken mashed potato bowl (like KFC) w/ gravy & dinner roll (3 meat sub also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), mashed potatoes/gravy, assorted fruit, milk.

WED: Baked potato wedges w/chili & cheese & dinner roll (ham & cheese wrap w/potato wedges also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), applesauce, milk.

THURS: Ball-Park frank on bun (quesadilla w/salsa also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), baked beans, fruit, potato chips, milk.

FRI: Spring Vacation.

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BUSINESSES SERVICES

Red Arrow SPORTS

Fitness fills niche for Lowell's Fisher

by Thad Kraus

For Lowell's Skye Fisher life is a marathon. You just go, go, go and when you think you're ready to stop, you keep going.

To hear Fisher explain it, it's really quite simple "You never really stop."

Three years ago in her first marathon, the Chicago Marathon, a little over half way through, Fisher injured her ankle. She kept going. After five-plus hours she finished with an injured ankle (involving a joint and a nerve issue) along with a sponsor list of revenue that helped with Anna Organek's cancer treatment.

Then, last August, Fisher

fought through the emotion, pain and stress of losing her mother to cancer. That's not true. That's a battle she still struggles with daily.

Ironically, it is the strength and support that her mother shared with Fisher that she has called on to prepare for and compete in the Arnold Amateur Body Building Fitness and Figure Show.

"My mother was my biggest supporter. She cooked my meals for me and watched Aili (Fisher's eight-year old daughter) for me," Fisher said. It allowed Fisher to do her thing. To train and to work her body into shape so that she could

compete in the Arnold fitness show in Columbus, Ohio on March 12-14.

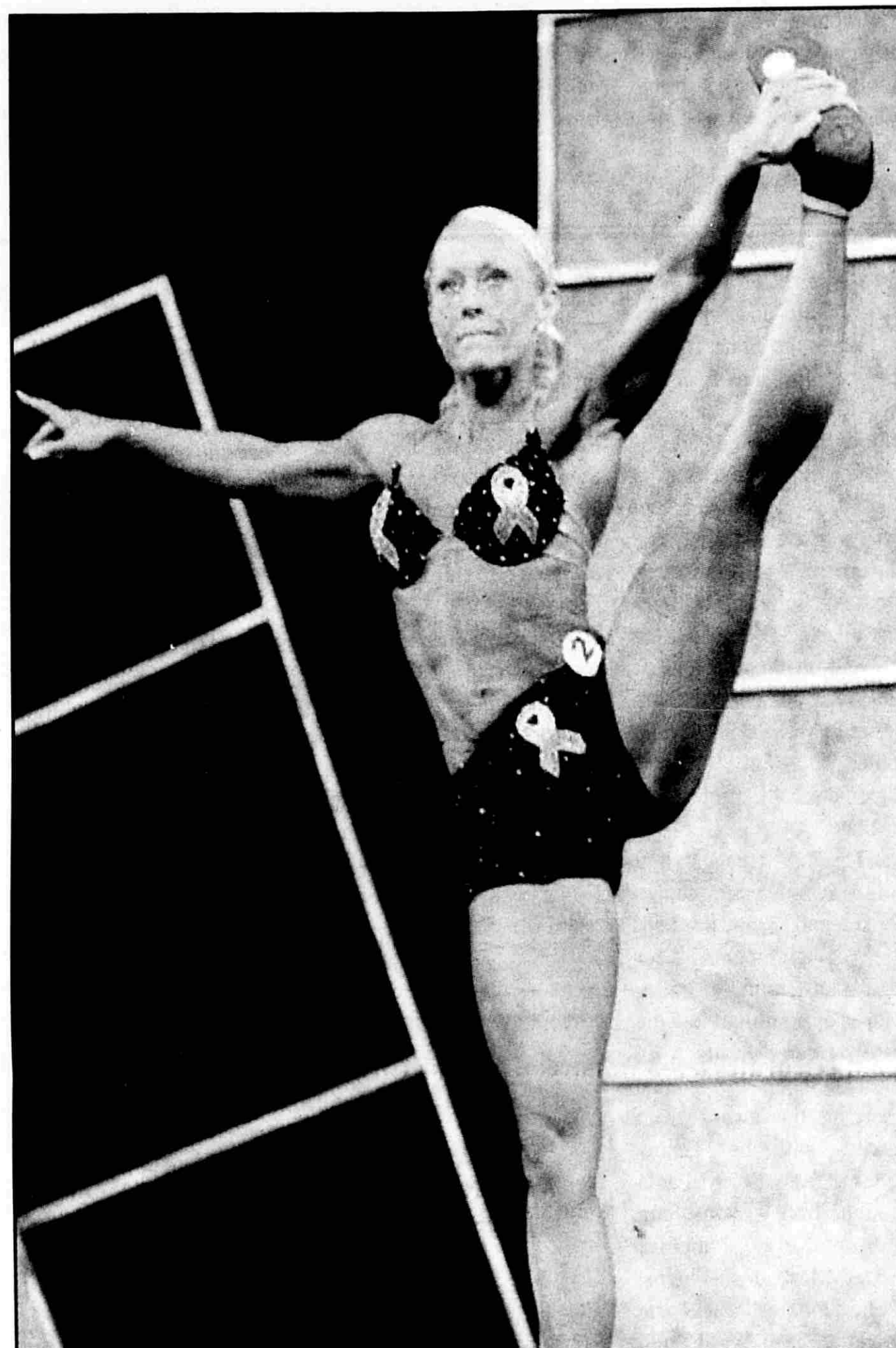
That thing she now refers to as her life's niche. It's all consuming, it's weight training seven days a week, it's cardio, it's protein, green vegetables and a few carbs.

"I really relied on my trainer. Preparing for this type of show is very emotional and stressful on your body. The height of that emotion and stress all bubbles to the top over the final 14 weeks leading up to the competition. "There were times I was falling apart and had to rely on friends and my trainer," Fisher noted.

Those final two weeks are used to manipulate the body into shape so that it looks just right on stage. "So you're muscular and cut but yet still feminine," Fisher said.

While the Arnold show is Fisher's biggest competition to date, it wasn't her first. She has also competed in the Capitol City event in Lansing and Belding's Natural Classic. A fitness event Fisher proudly notes she won along with the Grand Rapids show and the Junior Michigan event.

Fisher's goal was first to qualify for the finals of the Arnold Amateur Body Building Fitness and Figure Show. Once in the finals, the Lowell gymnastics coach had her eye on a top five finish. "I finished sixth out of 12," Fisher said with a just missed grimace. "It was an international show with girls from all over the world."



Competing in the Arnold Amateur Body Building Fitness and Figure Show, Skye Fisher placed sixth among the 12 finalists.

The fitness event is broken down into three parts, body building (muscle posing), fitness and figure posing. "I think fitness was my standout event. It's where I did my best."

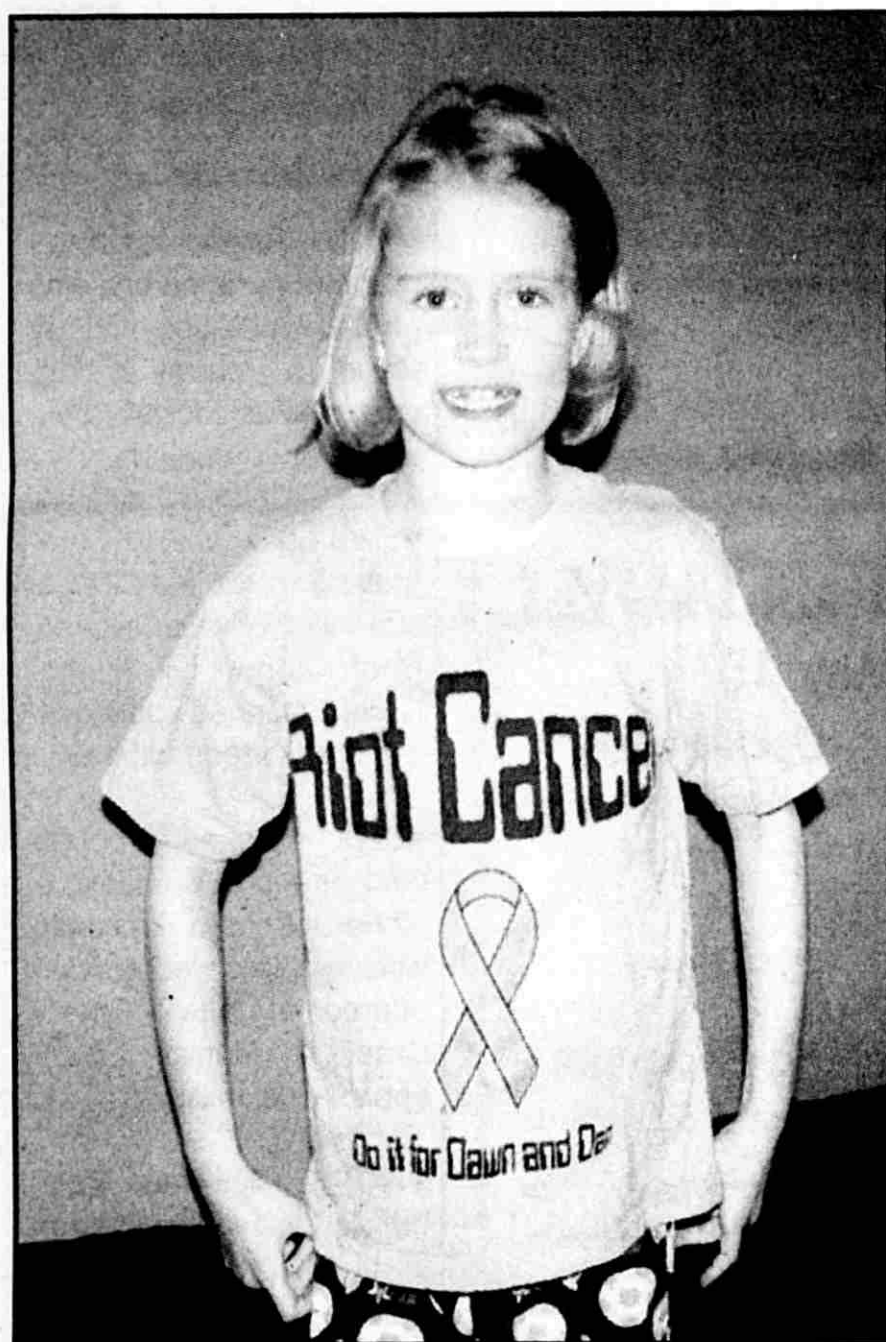
Fisher dedicated her performance to her mother

and her friend Renusa (a cancer survivor). Her performance included them. "Part of my routine included a t-shirt which read "Riot Cancer," Fisher explained. That simply means stand up against cancer.

The fitness athlete allowed

herself to grab some pizza and cheesecake after her showing in Columbus.

But then it was back to what she knows, begin training for a June competition. "The season never really stops," Fisher said. And so she goes!



In memory of her mother, friends and family, Fisher's eight-year old daughter, Aili, wears a Riot Cancer t-shirt.

Red Arrow SPORTS

JV Arrow hockey team skates to championship

by Thad Kraus

The Lowell-Caledonia junior varsity hockey team skated back from a 2-0 first-period deficit to win the Tier 2 championship.

The Red Arrows defeated Traverse City, 5-3.

"This has been, by far,

the most successful junior varsity season in the history of the Lowell-Caledonia hockey program," said Red Arrow JV hockey coach Steve Anderson.

Collin Finkhouse's unassisted goal provided Lowell-Caledonia with the game-winner on a

backhanded roofer at 12:39 of the second period.

An insurance goal was added with 13 seconds to play in the second period when Karson Arnold scored via a backhand deke.

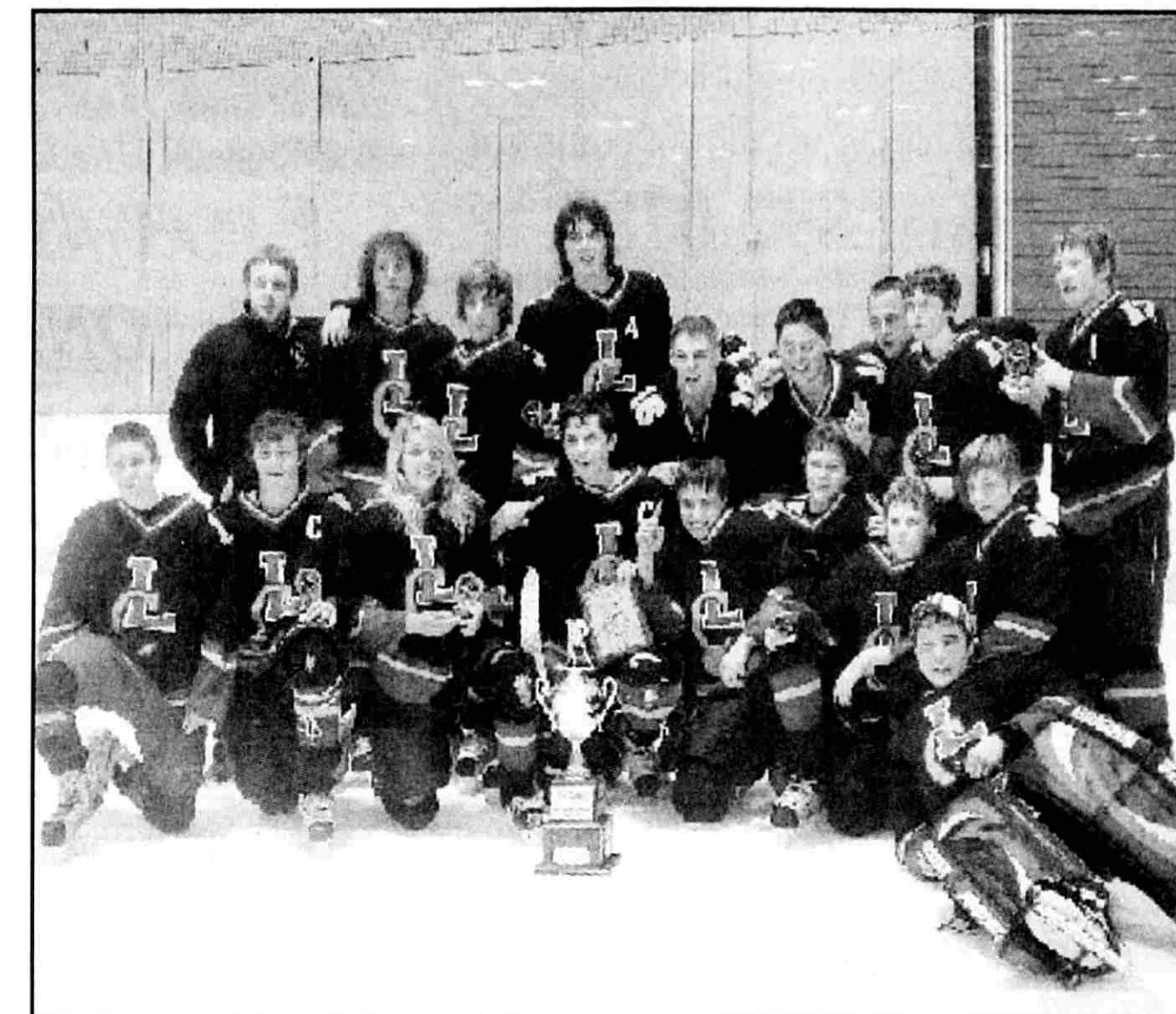
Trailing 2-0 early, Lowell-Caledonia started its comeback when Tyler Bitterman scored the Red Arrows' first goal with assists going to Brandon Jamieson and Arnold at 10:52 of the first period.

Andrew Light tied the game at 2-2 when he scored on an assist from Collin Finkhouse with 6:32 to play in the first period.

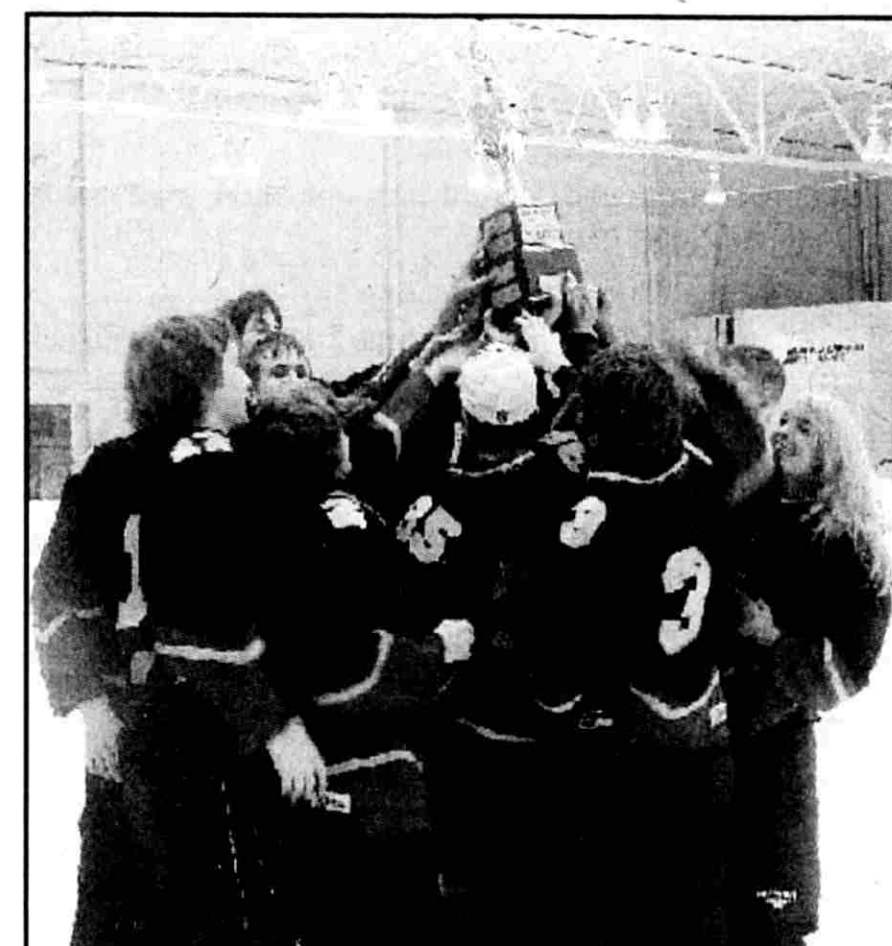
Bitterman gave Lowell-Caledonia its first lead when he scored with assists from Kyle Jansens and Arnold at 1:25 to play in the first period.

Red Arrow goalie, Nathan Probst stopped 21 of 24 shots on goal.

Contributing to the team win, but not scoring were



The Red Arrows overcame a 2-0 first-period deficit to win the Tier 2 championship.



Lowell-Caledonia's junior varsity hockey team celebrates a 5-3 win over Traverse City.

Adam Hubert, Alec Grinage, Calvin Meyer and Taryn Clint Echelbarger, Dennis Morris. The junior varsity hockey squad finished the regular season at 28-12-1. Its Tier 2 league record was 13-7, second to Traverse City.

Student council, continued ... From Page 3

The Murray Lake students were truly touched to hear that kids their own age have had to go without a dinner at night. "I felt really bad to hear that these kids do not get dinner and had to wait until breakfast to eat," said fifth grader Adam Marks.

Fourth grader, Sara

Majestic added, "It felt good to be able to help these kids. It made me feel very thankful for everything my family has."

"It made me see all that I sometimes take for granted," commented fifth grader Carter Noskey.

The students and parent

volunteers helped prepare all of the food items that would be part of the following night's sack dinners. They spent just over an hour at Kids Food Basket. The work they did equated to over \$400 in labor that the

program did not have to spend. The volunteer work they did also added up to the equivalent of 400 sack dinners being made.

If you would like to learn more about Kids Food Basket, call 235-4532.

The aim of life is self-development. To realize one's nature perfectly - that is what each of us is here for.

- Oscar Wilde (1854 - 1900)

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Lowell Light and Power will be submitting its Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) Plan and its Energy Optimization (EO) Plan to the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) for review, in compliance with Michigan Public Act 295, by April 4th, 2009. As part of the review and submission process, Lowell Light and Power is soliciting comments to these Plans from its customers. The comment period will be from March 27th, 2009 through May 15th, 2009.

Copies of the Plans may be obtained from the Lowell Light and Power office located at 127 N. Broadway, Lowell, MI on or after March 27th, 2009. Interested persons may submit comments in writing to the General Manager anytime before May 15th, 2009 or in person at the Lowell Light and Power Board Meeting scheduled for April 1st, 2009.

The Board Meeting will be held at the Lowell Light and Power offices, 127 N. Broadway, Lowell, MI at 5:30 PM. Please note that this meeting date is not the regularly scheduled meeting time for the Lowell Light and Power Board. The meeting has been changed to the April 1st date for April's Board Meeting.



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Sound Off

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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.

Webster's defines "incredible" as
too implausible to be believed,
unbelievable, astonishing.

One of the things I would like to
encourage about local shopping is that
people be considerate of handicapped
spaces. And I wish the shop owners
would enforce those spaces.

People working in a bar/restaurant
need to wash their hands before
cooking for customers.

Does anybody know where
Cindy from Great Clips went?

To the people in Eastgate that called and
complained about my leaves being too
close to the road - Get a life.

A big thank you to Rob Stehley and Good
Chevrolet. The wrestling celebration
for our state champs was awesome.

ONLINE POLL RESULTS

For a laugh, do you prefer...?

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- A GAWFAW 10%
- A GIGGLE 50%
- A WHEEZE 10%
- A SNORT 15%



OKAY - Someone Has To Say It ...

by Thad Kraus

The NCAA tournament worked its way through the opening two rounds over the weekend and the results are not any better than my bowl pick selections.

I selected 21 of 48 games correctly for a total of 41 points which places me 15th among the 16 entries. The only participant I am ahead of at this point in the tourney is Mary Jo Buechler. Based on her hand writing, I'm guessing she's a student in one of the local elementary schools (second or third grade).

Truth be told, she probably watched all of 10 minutes of this weekend's games. I'm sure she had more important things to do. I wish I could say the same.

What I can tell you is I'm kicking her tail by 17 points. I chose this angle since my keester is being kicked by 14 other tourney participants.

There is no reasonable explanation for this. I followed the college basketball season. I knew who was hot coming into the tournament, what lower seeds could surprise, and who had the better match ups.

And how is this working for me? I enter the third round, left grasping onto these wise words. "It's not over until it's over."

"The cream always rises to the top."
"Three rounds left, that's a lifetime," and "The last shall be first."

The good news for the likes of myself and Mary Jo is this game is not based on number of games one correctly picks. It is scored on the total number of points accumulated at the conclusion of the tournament. Each of the five rounds has a different point value for each game correctly selected.

Going forward, round three games are worth four points, round four games are worth eight points, Final Four games are worth 16 and the championship game is worth 32 points.

So there is a chance to climb out of this mess. For those of you wanting to keep tabs at home here are the results after the opening two rounds.

The first two numbers represent the total number of games correctly picked in rounds one (worth one point) and two (worth two points). The last number is the accumulative total number of points for the two rounds.

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Kevin Klutman 26-15-56 | Josh Buechler II 24-12-48 |
| Dan DeHaan 25-15-55 | Jon Jacobs 25-11-47 |
| Craig Wittenbach 24-15-54 | Andy Buechler 25-11-47 |
| Zach Crouch 24-14-52 | Cristine Buechler 22-11-44 |
| Acker Family 24-14-52 | Jeanne Boss 24-10-44 |
| Keith Valentine 25-13-51 | Tim Buechler 22-10-42 |
| Josh Buechler 23-13-49 | Thad Kraus 21-10-41 |
| Denese Crouch 22-13-48 | Mary Jo Buechler 5-16-24. |

To all who are ahead of me, don't look
back. I may be sneaking up on you!

Few people can see genius in
someone who has offended them.

- Robertson Davies

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

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

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.

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.

FOR RENT - Put your mobile home on approx. 1 acre lot in country, bet. Lowell & Saranac. Rent includes lot & water. For info call Nancy at 616-691-7388.

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ATTENTION - Management opportunities, customer service, customer care & support representatives. Local branch for 70-year-old company is looking to fill positions immediately. No experience, company paid training, from part-time to full-time with pay ranging from \$200-\$600. Details will be discussed at a one-on-one interview. Please call 616-243-1250.

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SALES - Need self motivated, confident, outside sales rep. Earn 60K first year. Highest commissions in the industry. Email resume to scott@awswest.com

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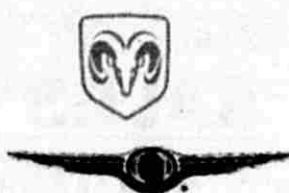
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