



# The Lowell Ledger

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Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

## Lowell participates in 2009 International Year of Astronomy at Wege Center

by Emma Palova

Astronomers from around the world including Lowell observed the spring sky with their telescopes as part of the "100 Hours of Observing" event during the International Year of Astronomy.

Led by Jim and John Foerch of Grand Rapids Amateur Astronomical Association and hosted by center director Meggan Johnson, a group of amateur astronomers gathered at the Wege Wittenbach Center (WWC) last week.

"We had a great night of viewing," said Johnson. "We saw the International Space Station, the craters on the moon and so much more."

The main goal of the event was to give 10 million people a view of the moon and Saturn, and preliminary reports show that goal has been achieved. The year 2009 is the 400th anniversary of Galileo's telescopic observations that confirmed Copernicus' heliocentric view of the solar system. Amateur and professional astronomers world wide placed telescopes in public

places, such as WWC.

"We enjoyed tinkering with several telescopes our visitors got out of their closets and showing them how to use them," said Foerch.

So using telescopes such as 6" inch Newtonian and 16" Dobsonian, binoculars, refractors and the center's refurbished 8" SCT on German equatorial mount and binoculars, they marveled at both the day and night sky.

At first in broad daylight the group observed the moon. Amateur astronomers learned how to identify the Straight Wall on the moon, which is a cliff, a mile high and 60 miles long. They also identified Mare Serenitatis, Mare Tranquillitatis, where Apollo 11 landed, and Mare Crisium.

"We saw the craters dramatically side lighted with their walls throwing long shadows," Foerch said.

And the father and the son amateur astronomy team is incredibly knowledgeable about the sky.

"They're excellent teachers," said Johnson. "I've learned a lot from them."

After the sun set, the group watched for the first stars: Sirius, the Dog Star in Canis Major; red giant Betelgeuse and blue Rigel in Orion; yellow Arcturus in Bootes; and Regulus in Leo.

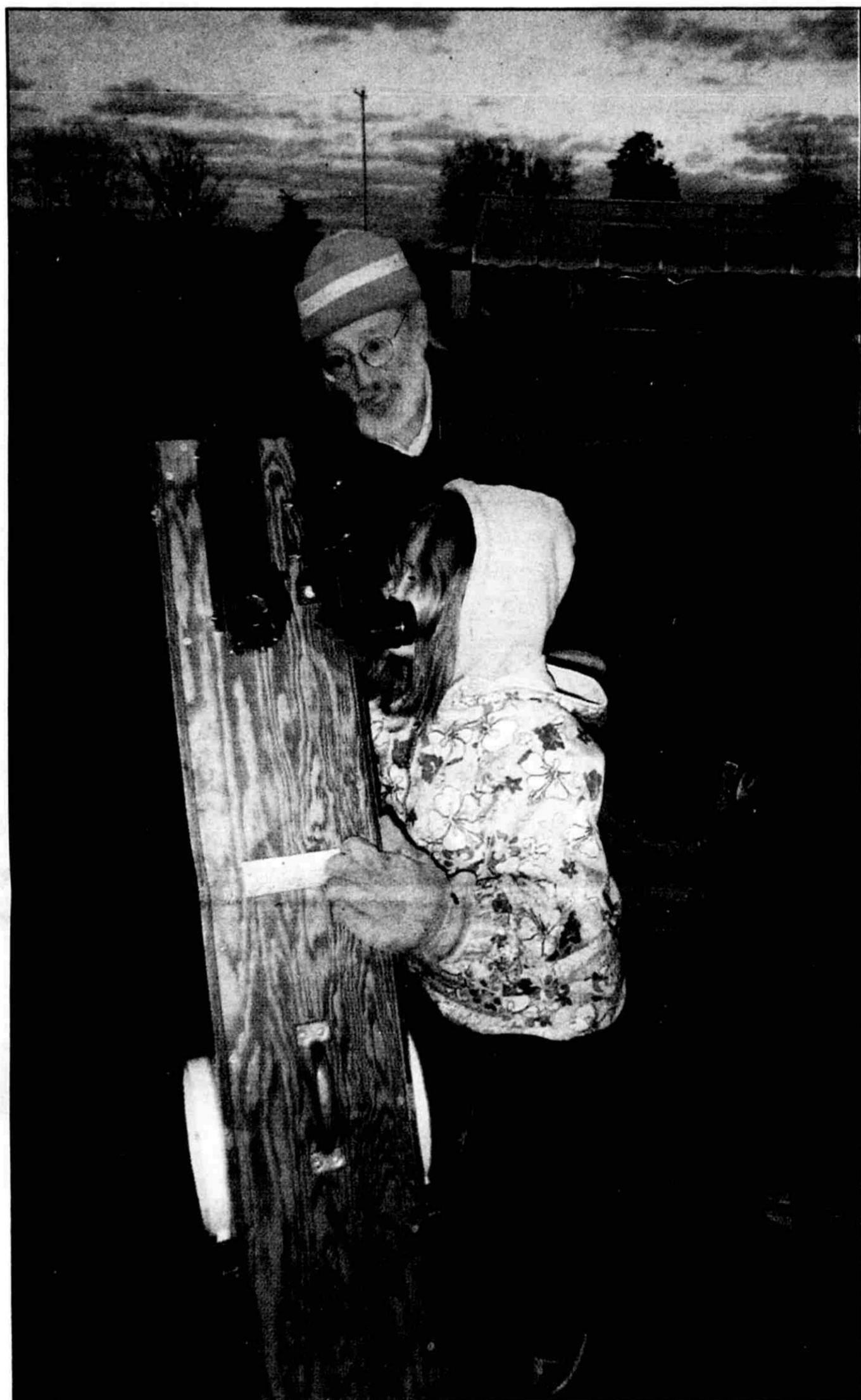
Right under Leo the Lion's haunches, they saw the gem stone of the solar system, Saturn with its rings, and its largest moon Titan. With the 6" Newtonian out on the lawn, they gazed at M-42, the Great Orion Nebula, a vast cloud of dust and gas, where thousands of stars and solar systems are condensing.

This spring, according to Foerch, the Big Dipper was in Ursa Major high in the north east dripping water down into the Little Dipper in Ursa Minor.

"To the right of the dippers we observed Leo the Lion with Saturn right under his haunches and the moon sailing through Gemini the Twins," said Foerch. "High in the west we saw Orion the Hunter with his dogs Canis Major and Minor."

Foerch eloquently

*Astronomy, cont'd., pg 4*



Ashley Hathaway and Jim Foerch marvel at the spring sky at the Wege Wittenbach Center last week during "100 Hours of Observation" event.

## City names James Hinton new Lowell Police Chief

by Emma Palova

The city council, on Monday, approved the appointment of James Hinton as the new Lowell Police Chief.

Hinton, 42, served as the acting chief since the beginning of the year filling in a void left after former chief James Valentine.

"I appreciate the opportunity to be able to give back to the community that has been so giving to me and my family," said Hinton.

Hinton has been with the Lowell Police Department since 1992 serving first as the police officer, and then as sergeant since 1996 and

most recently as the acting chief.

"I have every confidence in him," said city manager Dave Pasquale.

Hinton was selected by a committee out of 58 applicants including applicants from out of state. Four candidates have been interviewed for the position.

"We're glad to have you here," said Mayor Jim Hodges. "You have our support."

Hinton will lead a staff of six full time officers including himself, two clerical staff members and seven part time officers. The police department's budget is approximately 32.5

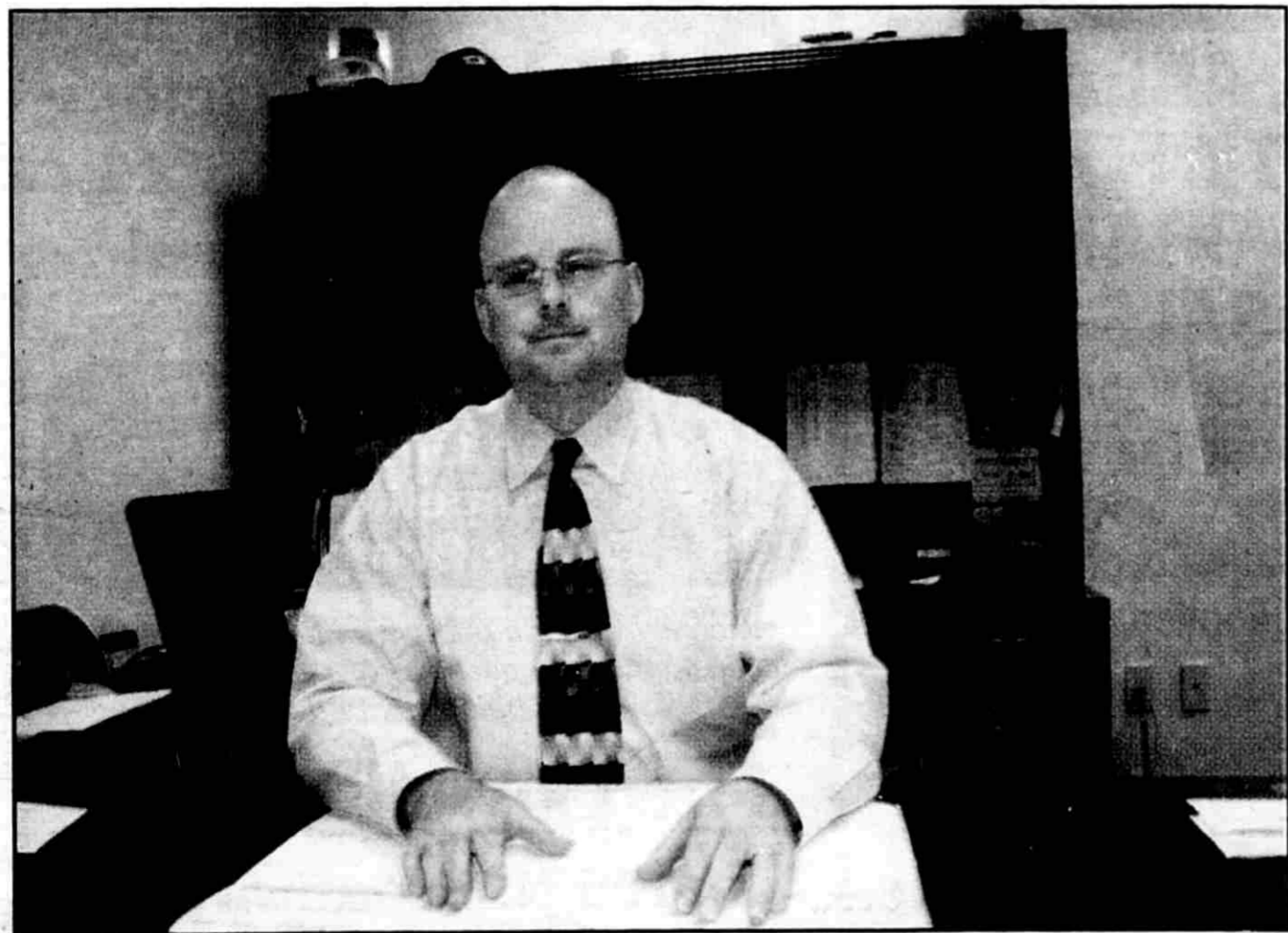
percent of the general fund or \$818,405.

During his tenure as a sergeant, Hinton has been instrumental in the technology grant process. This resulted in the department being fully upgraded.

"Technology-wise we're good for at least two years or later," he said.

Hinton plans to fill in one police officer position with the help of a cops grant totaling \$142,000 over three years. The money also pays for workman's compensation. One position will be lost due to attrition.

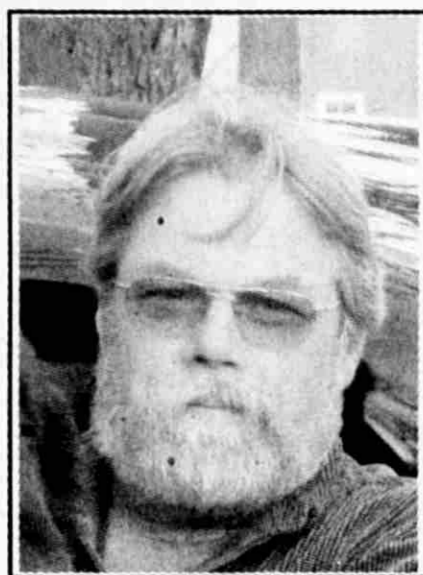
*Chief, cont'd., pg 3*



James Hinton is the new police chief.

# Obituaries

**MYERS**  
Mr. Robert W. Myers, age 72, of Greenville and formerly of Lowell, passed away on Monday, April 6, 2009. While attending Petoskey High School, Bob mowed lawns and did yard work for the summer people in the Bay View area. After his graduation he moved to Grand Rapids and worked at Hekman's Furniture. He was drafted into the U.S. Army and served his country during the Vietnam War. After coming home, Bob returned to work at Hekman's and then went to work for Baker Furniture until his retirement. He was an avid hunter, did lots of fishing, and enjoyed camping. He is survived by his children, Roxanne and Charles Wright of Greenville, Debra Myers of Lowell, Scott Matthew and Barbara M. Myers of Coopersville; step-



**POTTER**  
James L. "Pete", of Lowell, passed away peacefully on Saturday, April 4, 2009 at his home after a courageous struggle with cancer. James was born in Madison, WI on April 16, 1949, the son of Mildred and Elvyn Potter. He leaves to mourn his passing, his wife, Mary; daughter, Stephanie (Rich) Robinson; grandson, Joshua; son, Mark; Mary's sons, David and Gary Buche; one brother, Kelvin (Mindy) Potter; one sister, Lois (Ron) Heffron; nieces, nephews and many friends. James proudly served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam conflict. He worked for over 30 years in the asphalt paving business, from

which he retired in 2005. Jim found great joy playing harmless pranks, mostly on co-workers, sometimes-unsuspecting family. Many admired his artistry in rock carving and his love of collecting rocks, especially those with prehistoric culture embedded. He often searched riverbeds looking for stone tools from earlier eras. Jim was an avid reader of both archaeology and geology publications. His love of dogs was felt by his faithful companion King, an imposing black shepard. He was an emotional, caring, kind, loving person who left us all too soon in his young life. A Military funeral service will be held on Wednesday, April 8 at 11:00 a.m. at the Roth Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, with Mr. Tim Hawkins officiating. Those wishing to share a contribution are asked to consider Great Lakes Hospice Care, 900 Cooper

## Lend A Hand VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

Pacific Intercultural Exchange (PIE) needs caring host families for 15 to 18 year old students. These foreign students will arrive in August and will attend your local high school for the 2009-10 school year and return to their home country in June 2010.

PIE has students from 48 countries. Students from Germany, Netherlands, China, Ethiopia, Mexico, Ukraine, Georgia, Brazil, the Middle East, Russia and former Russian Republics, Thailand, etc. These students come with their own spending money and they have full coverage medical insurance. The host family is responsible for board, room, and guidance.

Now is a good time to select your student from the many student files. You will have time to get acquainted by e-mail before your student arrives. These students have many of the same hobbies and interests that your family may have, sports of all kinds, musical interests, reading, computers, animals, etc.

PIE is a Government designated program and has placed over 30,000 students since 1975. Our program also has the outbound program for American students who would like to study abroad.

If you have questions or are interested in hosting a student or being an exchange student, please call your local Regional Manager, Pat, at 616-527-0012 or 1-800-382-7439.

## Alto Elementary participates in the Kent County Earth Day Challenge

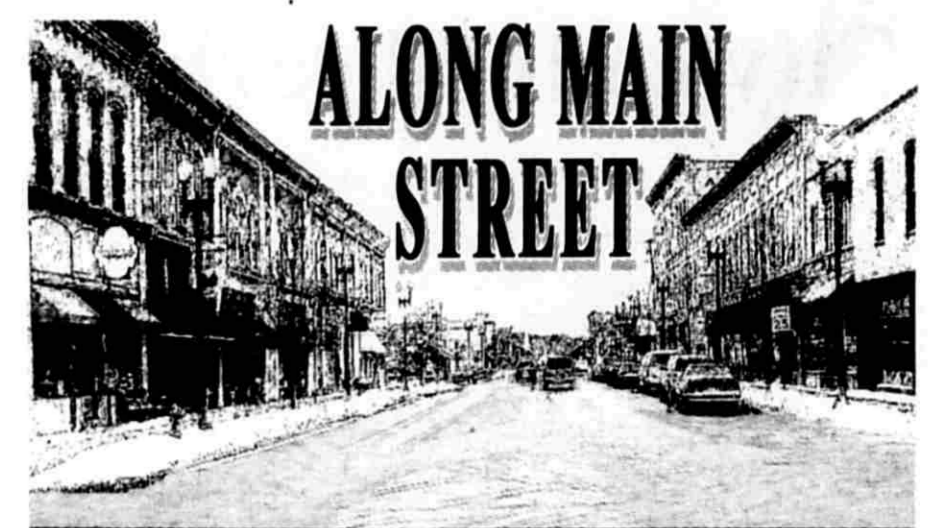


Each year, the Kent County Board of Public Works invites all kindergartens through grade five schools in Kent County to participate in the Earth Day Recycle Challenge to promote an awareness for Earth Day (celebrated April 22nd each year) and to encourage recycling at an early age. Schools are challenged to collect a specific item for recycling, and awards are given out to the top performing schools based on a per student average of the collected item. This year, the challenge was to collect plastic grocery bags for recycling. The top 15 schools will receive a recycled bench for their campus. While Alto was the school that collected the fourth most bags in all of Kent County, the per student average put us at 21st, out of the running for a bench. Alto collected 35,748 plastic bags. Pictured are students who Alto gave special recognition to for bringing in 300 or more bags each.



## Alto American Legion

The Alto American Legion held a pancake supper on March 20 to benefit Alto Elementary's Fifth Grade Camp fund. Terri Brodock and Kelly Witt (both far right) present some fifth grade students, Principal Fleanor and Sheri Litchfield, a check for \$400.00.



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

**ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES**  
Order days at First Baptist Church, 2275 Main St., are Friday, April 10, 4-6 p.m. and Sat., April 11, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Delivery April 25, 8:30-9:30 a.m. For info call IlaJean, 897-6609 or visit [www.angelfoodministries.org](http://www.angelfoodministries.org).

**EASTER EGG HUNT**  
Lowell Moose 809 will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt on Sat., April 11 at Creekside Park. 1-3 yr. - 11 a.m., 4-5 yr. - 11:45 a.m., 7-9 yr. - 12:30 p.m.

**ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB**  
Due to spring break, the Lowell Area Schools athletic boosters will hold their regular business meeting in the high school staff lounge on Mon., April 13 at 7 p.m. Please come and help support our athletes.

**ANNUAL PRESCHOOL SCREENING**  
Lowell Area Schools annual preschool screening for program placement of 3 to 4 1/2 year olds is Wed., April 22 and Thurs., April 23, by appointment only at Bushnell Elementary School, music room, 700 Elizabeth St. To schedule a screening or for questions contact Carol Briggs at 987-2516. Deadline to schedule is Friday, April 17.

**HERBS AND FLOWERS**  
The Lowell Area Historical Museum and the Friends of the Library will present a delightful program on "Herbs and Flowers of Colonial America" with Connie Hanson. Please join us at the Lowell Township Hall on Tuesday, April 21 at 7 p.m. If you have questions please contact us at 897-7688.

**TOBACCO FREE FOR GOOD**  
Smoking cessation class begins Tuesday, April 28. The class meets for six weeks on Tuesdays from 6-8 p.m. at Lowell Family Medical Center, 2550 E. Main St. Registration encouraged, but not required. Call 616-975-0123 or go to [www.tobaccofreepartners.org](http://www.tobaccofreepartners.org).

**Police chief, continued...From Pg.1**  
"It's a great financing for municipalities," said Hinton. The appointment to the helm of the police department came to Hinton as a surprise due to heavy competition. "I was hoping through my experience as interim chief I would shine over the others," he said. Hinton is grateful to his staff of seasoned skilled people. "We're not just a training ground," he said. "I have long term committed people who take ownership of complaints. It makes life easier." Hinton is pursuing a bachelor's degree in business administration from Ferris State University.

**WHEN SUBMITTING PHOTOS**  
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"Some succeed because they are destined to, but most succeed because they are determined to."  
- Unknown

**CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Lowell City Hall Offices, Police Offices, Light and Power offices and the Department of Public Works will be closed on Friday, April 10, 2009 in observance of Good Friday.  
Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk

**LOWELL AREA COMMUNITY FUND ACCEPTS GRANT PROPOSALS**  
All Proposals Must Be Submitted Online No Later Than April 17, 2009 to be considered. Visit [www.grfoundation.org/lowell](http://www.grfoundation.org/lowell) to submit your application.  
The Lowell Area Community Fund, a fund of Grand Rapids Community Foundation, awards grants to tax-exempt, nonprofit charitable organizations that have an impact in the Lowell area. The LACF funds innovative projects or programs that encourage community cooperation.

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MONSTERS VS. ALIENS (PG)  
TUE 12:20, 2:30, 4:45, 6:50, 9:00  
MONWEDTH 4:45, 6:50, 9:00  
I LOVE YOU, MAN (R)  
TUE 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:15  
MONWEDTH 4:40, 7:00, 9:15  
KNOWING (PG-13)  
TUE 11:20, 2:00, 4:35, 7:20, 10:00  
MONWEDTH 4:35, 7:20, 10:00  
DUPLICITY (PG-13) DAILY 9:50  
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG)  
TUE 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:30  
MONWEDTH 9:20, 7:30

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# City council reviews preliminary 2009/2010 budget

by Emma Palova

Local streets and the roof of the Cable TV building, all in dire need of repair, were just a few items discussed during preliminary budget talks at the Lowell City Hall Monday.

The projected revenues of \$2.56 million are slightly less than last year due to less interest earned on lower funds, but on the other hand there are less expenditures for fire due to the Fire and Emergency Service Authority, according to city manager's, Dave Pasquale's report.

"We are seeing a true sharing of costs now," said Pasquale.

The budget provides for a two percent salary increase for city employees with no planned merit increases. It also assumes further cuts in state revenue sharing currently at \$393,143.

However, the projected fund balance has increased from last year from \$147,000 to \$239,000. Also, the value of the mill has increased from \$95,000 to \$99,000.

That mill could be used for street repair, according to Pasquale, but not for

major street reconstruction such as the replacement of curbs and gutters. Minor repairs include milling and repaving.

The city shares the same dilemma that most municipalities face, that is the general fund is being used to subsidize the local street fund. The local street fund is used mainly for maintenance of the roads including snow plowing.

"Local streets need the assistance, but there is no money," said Pasquale.

However, due to

potential cuts in state revenue sharing, council member Maryalene LaPonsie suggested money from the fund balance should be saved.

But, council member Jeff Altoft opposed that stating the streets have been ignored for too many years.

"It's been 20 years since we did anything," he said. "We need to cut more out of the budget, even if that means services."

With five more budget meetings to go prior to the final adoption in May, the

council will search for further input.

In other business, council member Jim Pfaller proposed the use of cracker shells to deter wildlife damage in the city. Since there is an ordinance prohibiting discharging of fire arms in the city, chief James Hinton voiced his concerns.

"I am opposed to this wildlife management," said Hinton. "It's a less effective method of controlling wildlife. There are other products out there."

The council also approved

a park use agreement for Backyard Dreams, a youth travel league baseball organization for Creekside Park and other recreation parks.

An amendment to the resolution establishing the Lowell Cable TV Endowment Board has been approved. This means that the distribution of the funds will be based on a formula set out by the Grand Rapids Community Foundation.

The LCTV Board this year will be taking the first round of applications.

# Burglary suspects arrested

The Lowell Police Department advises that two suspects were arrested and charged with two counts of burglary force and possession of burglary tools. Shawn Michael Spivey, 20, of Lowell, and Brian James Warren, 22, of Lowell, were arraigned Friday via video at Grand Rapids 63rd District Court.

Spivey and Warren broke into the Lowell Bus Garage on Foreman Road last week. This, according to the police chief James Hinton, has been the sixth breaking and entering into that facility in the last four months. They face a felony charge of up to 10 years for breaking and entering with the intent to steal.

"Physical evidence led us right to them" said Hinton. "A clear path led us right to these individuals."

Among items stolen from the bus garage during the breaking and entering were cash, change, office equipment and digital cameras.

# Astronomy, continued ... from Page 1

explains the changes in the sky with the seasons.

By the start of summer on the June 21 solstice, Orion will have set below the horizon.

"We will direct our telescopes to Scorpius and Sagittarius in the south to see the dense star fields and nebulae toward the center of our Milky Way galaxy," he said.

As the summer wears on, the Summer Triangle of bright stars will show off. These include Vega in Lyra, Deneb in Cygnus and Altair in Aquila the Eagle.

"We'll use those as guides to the Ring Nebula, a perfect circle of dust and gas around a dying star," he said. "M-13, a great globular cluster of 100,000 very ancient stars and the Veil Nebula, the speeding remains of a super nova."

By the fall, the Sagittarius will be below the horizon. At that time, astronomers will marvel at M-31, our sister galaxy in Andromeda.

"We can contemplate how it and our Milky Way are falling towards each other at thousands of miles per hour," Foerch said.

And although eventually, some billion years from now, the two galaxies will merge, there is no need to worry. The spaces between the stars are so great that none will collide, advises Foerch.

The Grand Rapids Astronomical Association will host Visitor's Nights, the second and last Saturdays of the months through October at Veen Observatory located at 3308 Kissing Rock. Check graa.org or details and directions to the observatory.

# Viewpoint

## Outdoors

By Dave Stegehuis



### HUNTER SAFETY

My grandson, Tristan, called the other day to tell us he had earned his hunter safety certificate. I was as excited as he was except for the realization that I have a grandchild who is old enough to get a hunting license. Tristan is eleven and can now be licensed to hunt big and small game with adult supervision.

A hunter safety certificate is necessary to obtain a regular hunting license for anyone born after January 1, 1960. Hunter education and the blaze orange clothing requirement helped to make hunting one of the safest outdoor activities. Hunter education classes go well beyond firearm safety. Other topics considered are hunter responsibility, hunter ethics, wildlife identification, wildlife management, and natural resource conservation. Game care, survival training, and first aid are included in the class which requires between 10 to 12 hours of classroom instruction and field experience. It is possible to complete

a portion of the program on-line. Information about class schedules and locations as well as options and requirements can be found at [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).

Completing a hunter education class would be worth the effort even if one didn't intend to hunt. Awareness of firearm safety is important because firearms are so prevalent in our society. Understanding the role of game and non-game species in our lives fosters an appreciation for wildlife. In depth knowledge of wildlife and related scientific management principals prepares citizens to make informed decisions regarding conservation issues. Acquiring outdoor skills and knowledge allows one to be more comfortable and confident when enjoying outdoor activities. The future of wildlife and our environment depends on young people becoming involved with resource conservation at a time when more popular activities compete for their time and attention.

Regardless of age or gender, we can all share the hunting experience. I am sure Tristan is familiar with the latest web sites, music, and electronic gadgets, but I also know he and his grandma are excited about sitting together in the springtime woods listening to a tom turkey's booming gobble echo across the ridges as the bird emerges from cover and breaks into full strut as it warily makes its way towards their blind.



By Shelly MacNaughton

### 125 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL JOURNAL APRIL 9, 1884

Mrs. Tanner's dancing school here is closed. There has been a big decline in the wheat market. There was more "bridge" than politics in our township elections.

Two years ago the prohibition candidate for Governor received 871 votes in Kent County, 114 of which were cast in Lowell.

### 100 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER APRIL 8, 1909

Mrs. Adelia Sisson was awarded damages in the sum of \$3000 by a jury in Judge Perkins' court against saloonists Theodore Lambert of Ada and R. W. Swayze of Lowell, on grounds that her husband became drunk in their saloons and later fell off a load of straw and broke his neck. The evidence showed that on the day the woman's husband came to his death, he had spent considerable time and money in each of these saloons and later started to drive home on his load in August 1908.

### 75 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER AND ALTO SOLO APRIL 12, 1934

A crew of about 25 men have been at work on the Pere Marquette railroad between Lowell and Moseley for the past two weeks, engaged in building up, by a welding process, the worn ends of the steel rails. The workmen will soon be in the vicinity of Lowell and The Ledger has been requested to warn all persons, and especially school children, to keep a respectable distance between themselves and the workmen as there is great danger of serious damage to the eyes of anyone gazing directly into the white heat generated by the electric welding process employed.

### 50 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER APRIL 9, 1959

The outlook is bright at Lowell High for the Red Arrows to have a successful baseball season this spring. Under the able coaching of Chris Burch, the Arrows have five lettermen returning from last year and a hustling group of juniors who have moved up from Vern Morse's championship reserve team of 1958.

### 25 YEARS AGO THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER APRIL 11, 1984

With a giant spatula as a spade, Al Symons, the owner of Lowell's new McDonald's Restaurant, and several dignitaries from McDonald's Corporation and the City of Lowell, officially broke ground at the building site last Thursday.

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**Need Help Filing Unemployment Claims?**  
With Rep. Dave Hildenbrand

Last week, the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) reminded eligible low-income, disabled and unemployed utility customers that utility shut-off protection is available through April 30, under the emergency rules in effect.

Given these difficult economic times, I am glad that this shut-off protection has been extended a full month to the end of April. Under the emergency rules, utility shut-offs are prohibited when:

- A customer is 65 years of age or older or has a physical or mental disability;
- A customer's household income does not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines and the customer pays the lesser of either of the following:
- An amount equal to seven percent of the customer's estimated annual bill, or
- The customer enters the utility's equal monthly payment plan; or
- The customer and the utility mutually agree to the payment of a specific amount.

After April 30, customers will be responsible for paying any arrearages. Customers should contact their local utility to enroll in the shut-off prevention program. Further information on the Michigan Public Service Commission can be found at: [www.michigan.gov/mpsc](http://www.michigan.gov/mpsc). The MPSC is an agency within the Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office toll-free at: (877) 328-3086 or via email at: [rephildenbrand@house.mi.gov](mailto:rephildenbrand@house.mi.gov).

**Ask Kathryn**  
With Kathryn DenHouter Ph.D.

This is the first discussion in a series of five articles that will be dealing with the effects of pornography. Last month's article presented some startling statistics about how pervasive pornography is in our society. We live in an over sexualized world. The numerous explicit images that we see daily are overwhelming. Billboards, the swimsuit edition of Sports Illustrated, T.V., and most of all, the Internet, all contribute to our daily experience. We are bombarded with these temptations every moment we live. With temptations like this, we need to find an iron will that will help us ward off these temptations. Many of us, and especially men, are wired to respond visually to something attractive. As teenagers we become infatuated by someone we see as beautiful. Then, as we become more mature, we have a deep desire to become intimate with someone that we see as beautiful. As courtship progresses, we express our love and most of us will in turn, marry, but the deep need to respond to new visual stimuli does not stop. The powerful reaction to pornographic material creates such

**CITY OF LOWELL**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
LAST DATE TO FILE NOMINATING PETITIONS  
**TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2009, 4:00 P.M.**

City of Lowell registered residents of the City interested in seeking election to the Lowell City Council to fill any of the three (3) two to four year term vacancies occurring must obtain nominating petitions forms for circulation and return no later than 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2009. Petition forms are available between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday from the Lowell City Clerk, Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell.

Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk

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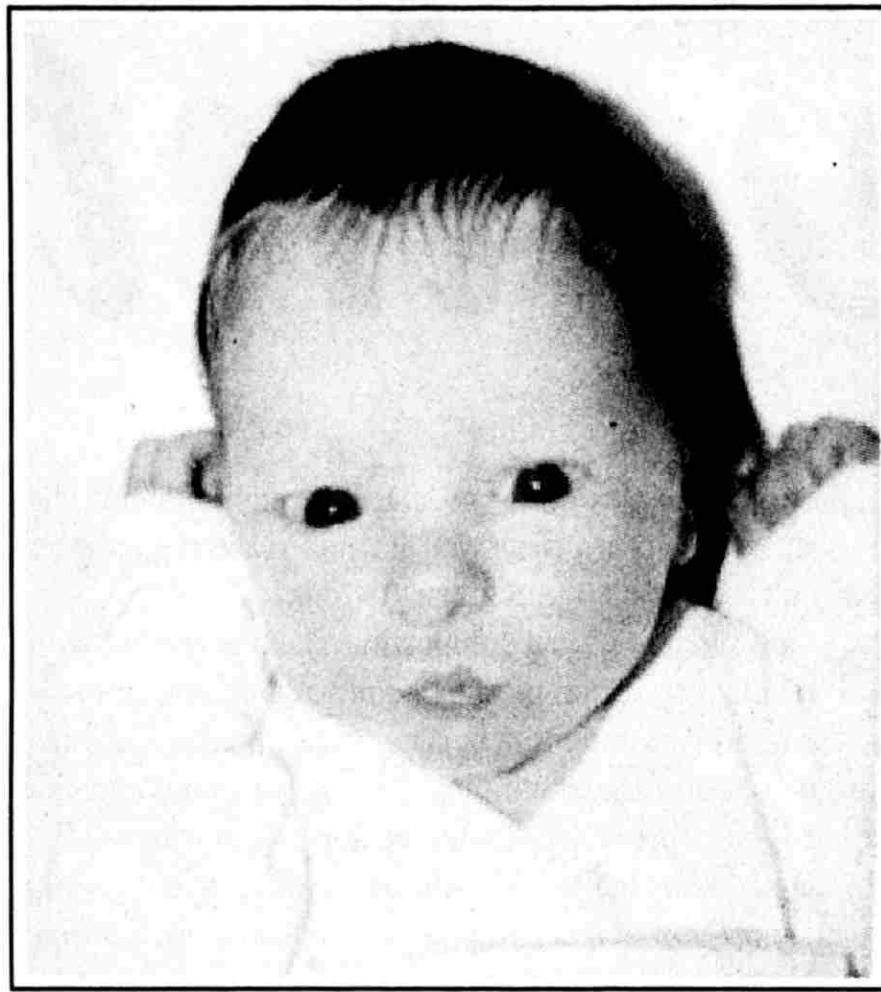
**100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEED**

# New Arrivals

## Kennedy

Rob and Shannon Kennedy, of Lowell, are proud to announce the birth of their son, Kamden Robert Kennedy. Born on March 12, 2009, Kamden weighed 6 lbs. 7 oz. and measured 19 inches.

Enthusiastic grandparents are Kevin and Christine Kennedy and Keith and Diane Bennett.



Kamden Robert Kennedy

# College News

The University of Northwestern Ohio is proud to acknowledge that Bryant J. Sloan-Johnson, of Lowell, has made the Dean's List for the February 2009 session in the College of Technologies. Full-time students must receive a grade point average of 3.5 or better to be named to the Dean's List.

\*\*\*

**"USA Today has come out with a new survey - apparently, three out of every four people make up 75% of the population."**

- David Letterman

# Reflections of faith

by Rev. Randy Meyers  
Calvary Christian Reformed Church

Sunday we read the Triumphal Entry passage out of the book of Luke, chapter 19, to compliment our Palm Sunday worship. Many people celebrate Palm Sunday

as the beginning of Jesus' Kingdom. When Jesus entered Jerusalem the crowds went about as crazy as the Michigan State fans did after Saturday's win. There are four aspects of the Triumphal Entry that can help us better celebrate our life following Jesus.

First is the giving response. In a culture with economic times far harder than Michigan's, "The Lord needs it" was all that crowds of people needed to hear for people to turn over their colt for Jesus to ride and coats for him to walk on so his feet would not get muddy. What can we do to build our giving response? We could prioritize our giving and focus on what we see Jesus wanting us to support. Or we can ask for accountability and transparency from those to whom we give. Like time, we have a limited amount of financial resources so let's give where it counts.

Second is joyful praise. Joyful praise flows out of nearness to Jesus. Jesus came near a specific place. Place is important throughout his ministry. Jesus came near the crowds. Or was it that the crowds came near to Jesus? Either way, where Jesus was, crowds were, and he had to work hard to get alone time. Next was his nearness to passion. This first century Michigan State crowd did not whisper. The volume of their cheers matched their passion for Jesus.

And finally there was nearness to the miracles they recalled Jesus doing among them. As we near Jesus and allow him to come near to us, we will more joyfully praise God. There is a direct correlation.

Third is "so-wrong-and-yet-so-right." While the crowds chanted "Jesus is king" the religious leaders were freaking out and told Jesus to quiet the people. If the current king, Herod, heard this he would have them all killed. These guys were so right and yet so wrong and Jesus told them off. On the other hand, the crowds thought Jesus was going to try to overthrow King Herod and move into the palace. Even though they were quoting Old Testament scripture, they were so wrong and yet Jesus defends them. They were so right. How do we know if we are right or wrong? How do we know if Jesus will yell at us or defend us? In a word, relationship. Jesus was not friends with the religious leaders but he was friends with the crowds. Even when they were wrong he knew what they meant.

Fourth is a compassionate warning. Jesus warns the people that their time is short because they do not recognize that enemies were getting into positions all around them. They are missing out on God among them. Yet he does so with tears. The Bible tells us Jesus cried two times. Once when his friend died and here when he compassionately warns the city to be on alert or totally miss the coming of his kingdom. Part of our celebration this week is that Jesus has compassion for us as well. We have to open our eyes to see God's kingdom coming to us and also receive it for what it is, not what we want it to be.

So may your celebrations this week be a bit crazier than usual. Joyfully respond to Jesus, even if you do not quite get it, and open yourself to receive his compassion.

## CATHOLIC HOMECOMING

Are you a non-practicing Catholic who misses and yearns to once again receive the Eucharist? If so, you are cordially invited to **Catholic Homecoming**. An outreach to Catholics, who for whatever reason, no longer practice their faith - to return home to the Church and the Eucharist in a warm, welcoming, non-judgmental environment. We at Catholic Homecoming would like to be the ears that hear what happened that led you to leave the Church; the heart that listens to your pain. We are eager to be the arms that welcome you home; to embrace you, as the father embraced his prodigal son.

Catholic Homecoming is a three week process that begins on Tuesday, April 21 at 7 p.m. at Saint Mary Church, 402 Amity, Lowell, MI.

For more information please call the Office of Religious Education at 897-7915.

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105 N. Broadway, Lowell

# Mullen celebrates 100 years



Blanche Mullen, formerly of Lowell, turned 100 years old, on April 1, 2009.

Currently she lives with her daughter and son-in-law, Brooke and Frank Transue, of Elgin, IL.

She was born in Alberta, Canada and was raised and educated in Marlette, Michigan. She graduated from Eastern Michigan University (Michigan State Normal College), where there is a music/art scholarship for eligible

sophomore students in her name.

Mullen and her late husband, Don, were married in Lowell in 1939; they lived in Grand Rapids and Traverse City, and returned to Lowell in 1947, where they resided until 1981.

Don and his family were natives of Lowell, educated in Lowell Schools, and members of the Congregational Church.

Mullen was active in the Lowell community, teaching art at the Lowell High

School. She was well known for her area art shows, the Lowell Art Association and a pioneer for the West Michigan Art Association. Numerous students became well known designers and artisans. The late David Davis, of Lowell, was one of her high school pupils.

Retired from Lowell Schools in 1974, she was elected for two terms to the Lowell School Board; she was vice president of the board in the 1976-77 term.

Blanche and Don Mullen were active in the Lowell Players during the 1950's. They were puppeteers, designed and produced puppets, and produced plays for children's theatre.

Their daughters, Dr. Ann Frisch, Dr. Brooke Transue and Noel Feeney are all graduates of Lowell High School and the University of Michigan.

# Happy Birthday

**APRIL 8:** Jay Veзино, Sandy Converse. Roe, Harry Carigon, David Johnson.

**APRIL 9:** J.R. Guastavino. Sarah DeShane-Dalga, Jesse Lewis-Anes.

**APRIL 10:** Julie Webb, Nicholas Comdure, Chelsea Comdure, Betsy Walker, Sarah Rusch-Hildenbrand, Tristan Lane Ellsworth-Bristol, Barbara Bechtel. **APRIL 13:** Addie Abel, Pete Baker, Marv DeVries, Carol Brzezniak, Melissa Quada.

**APRIL 14:** Phyllis Jones, Dennis Rasch, Joshua Anderson, Nichol Gurney, Bernie Boersma, Brenda Stuart, Cole Wade, Stephanie Ossewarda.

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**"That would be a good thing for them to cut on my tombstone: Wherever she went, including here, it was against her better judgment."**

- Dorothy Parker

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

## SEASONAL ALLERGIES

The weather has yet to change but the calendar states that spring is here. Soon, the typical spring allergies will begin. Most people will experience some type of allergic symptoms, from the typical nasal congestion to red, itchy eyes, and sneezing. For those patients who experience these symptoms, a variety of treatment options exist. The most common treatment is antihistamine pills. These are typically once or twice per day pills. The newer medications do not cause drowsiness. These antihistamine medications need

to be started before your allergy symptoms begin. They block the release of histamine, which is responsible for the allergic symptoms. Once histamine has been released, it takes approximately one week for it to disappear from your system. This is why it is important to take them approximately one week prior to the typical onset of your allergies.

Another highly effective treatment option for allergies is a topical steroid nasal spray. Recent studies indicate that these medications are more successful than antihistamine pills for severe allergy symptoms. These sprays are not addicting like the nasal sprays available over the counter. The most common side effect is a dry nose. They are typically effective within three to four days of starting use.

The final way to treat allergies is called immunotherapy. This is the process involving weekly allergy shots over several years. Usually this is reserved for year long allergy sufferers, or very severe allergic symptoms.

## LUNCH MENU

**ELEMENTARY MENU**  
Week of April 13, 2009

**MON:** Mini corn dogs (3 meat sub also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), oven French fries, assorted fruit, milk.

**TUES:** Spaghetti & Italian meatsauce w/dinner roll (stacked ham/cheese on a bun also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), mini carrots/dip, pineapple, milk.

**WED:** Sausage pizza (BBQ ribbette on bun also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), antipasto salad, banana, milk.

**THURS:** Chicken drumstick w/dinner roll (tuna salad wrap also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), mashed potatoes & gravy, assorted fruit, milk.

**FRI:** Bosco sticks (cheese stuffed breadsticks) w/ dipping sauce (turkey, cheese on bun also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), green beans, applesauce, milk.

**SEEING LIVES CHANGED & OUR COMMUNITY TRANSFORMED**

**Ignite**

**Launching this Easter! Sunday April 12, 2009 10:00am**


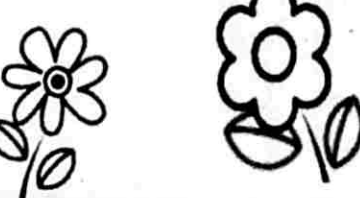







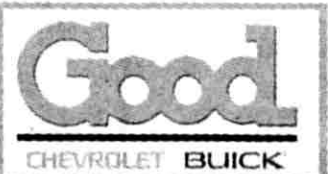




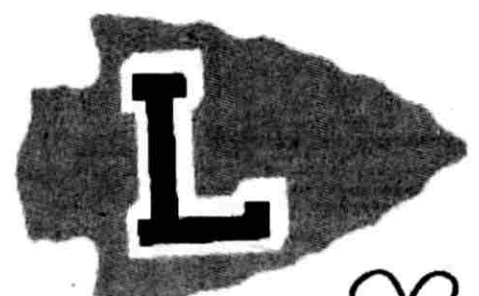


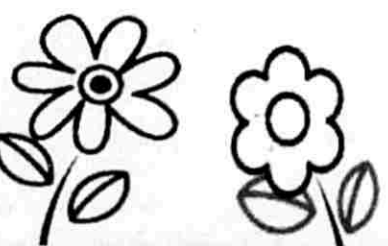



Be a part of the Start!  
IGNITE: A Community Church  
Seeing lives changed and our community transformed!  
Sunday, April 12, 2009  
9:30am doors open - 10:00am worship gathering  
Ignite is located next to the Lowell/Ada Five Theater at 2173 W. Main St., Lowell, MI 49331

# AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

 <b>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M. OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey	<b>DAY BIBLE CHAPEL</b> 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!"	<b>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> Rev. Randy Meyers - 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free	 <b>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> (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 Tassar.....Interim Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director Barrier-free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship
<b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 www.lowellumc.com WORSHIP.....8:30 & 10:15 a.m. Rev. Rick Blunt Barrier-free entrance	 <b>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)</b> 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Lead Pastor John King, Youth Pastor <b>SUNDAYS:</b> 10:00 a.m. - Worship & Evening: LIFE home Groups & "The Source" Youth <b>WEDNESDAYS:</b> Family Night: (for all ages) 7:00 p.m. "The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m. Loving God...Loving People!	<b>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Fr. Eugene Okoli 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM, SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RESOURCES EDUCATOR, COUNSELORS TO STUDENTS: CALL PETER WIGANS 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48, EWN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING	 <b>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 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!
<b>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 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 Fremar, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible	<b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 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	 <b>LOWELL FAIRGROUNDS</b> Foreman Building, S. Broadway <b>SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2009</b> 10:00 TO 11:00 A.M. (or until food is gone) Distributed by <b>FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES</b> AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER LOWELL AREA. Bring your own box or bag.	 <b>THE FOODMOBILE</b> MOBILE FOOD PANTRY THIS MONTH'S SPONSOR: FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL <b>FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION</b> (mostly produce) <b>LOWELL FAIRGROUNDS</b> Foreman Building, S. Broadway <b>SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2009</b> 10:00 TO 11:00 A.M. (or until food is gone) Distributed by <b>FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES</b> AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER LOWELL AREA. Bring your own box or bag.

# 2009 RED ARROW SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW

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# 2009 Lowell High School Spring Sports Preview

## Lowell girls tennis team swings for state

by Thad Kraus

Two points were the difference between a good and a landmark year in Lowell girls' tennis last year.

"We were two points short of qualifying for the team state tournament," said Lowell girls tennis coach Bonnie Wall. "A Lowell girls team has never done that. We've been so close. We've missed by two points and by one point."

This year may be the year where all the stars are aligned.

"I think this year's team can be better than last year's team," Wall said. "Our doubles teams look stronger and our singles players were good last year and I think will be better this year."

Leading the charge in

singles will be first flight Red Arrow Kelly Trapp, who was an individual state qualifier in 2008.

"She is just stronger and better this year," Wall said. Trapp's kicking serve also penetrates deeper into her opponent's court.

Filling flights two through four are Taylor Mankel, Lauren Heemstra and Megan Willemstein.

"Mankel is a strong player who moves well into her shot. Heemstra is a heavy hitter with a strong backhand. Willemstein moves up to fourth singles from first doubles."

Lowell's doubles roster is headed by Caitlin Baker and Erin Brechbiel.

The second flight will be filled by Kelsey Wittenbach and June Ramsay.

Morgan Rogalke and Kelsey Mankel will play third doubles with Brynlee Pomper and Rachel Hulka filling in at fourth doubles.

"I think we have some good doubles play combinations. We're hoping to improve," Wall explained.

The clear and overwhelming O-K White favorite is East Grand Rapids. The pioneers field three players who are ranked nationally.

Wall believes Lowell, Grand Rapids Christian and Northview will compete for second.

"It will be nip-and-tuck but we can do as good or better than last year (fourth place)," Wall said.



First row, left to right: Brynlee Pomper, Erin Brechbiel, Megan Willemstein, Lauren Heemstra, Rachel Walendzik, and Morgan Rogalke; second row, left to right: Coach Bonnie Wall, Kelsey Wittenbach, Kelly Trapp, Taylor Mankel, June Ramsay, Kelsey Mankel, Caitlin Baker, and Asst. Coach Roger Wall.

## Fruitport Invitational

In their first tournament of the season, the Red Arrows secured their second consecutive tourney championship.

"This is the second straight time we've won the Fruitport Invitational," Wall said. Lowell finished with 22 points followed by Fruitport 12; Hamilton 10; and Reeths-Puffer 4.

In singles play Kelly Trapp won in straight sets 6-2, 6-0.

Megan Willemstein (fourth singles) won 6-2, 6-1.

Taylor Mankel (second singles) was defeated 6-1, 6-2, while Lauren Heemstra (third singles) lost in three sets 7-6 (6), 6-7 (2), and 5-7.

Lowell swept all four doubles flights.

Caitlin Baker and Erin Brechbiel swept in straight sets, 6-2, 6-1.

Kelsey Wittenbach and June Ramsay (second singles) won 6-2, 6-2.

Morgan Rogalke and Kelsey Mankel needed three sets to earn a 6-4, 5-7, 7-2 victory.

In fourth doubles it was Brynlee Pomper and Cheyenne Brown earning a 6-4, 6-2 win.

"We're delighted to win all four doubles matches," Walls said.

## Soccer team



First row, left to right: Hannah Oberlin, Paige Smith, Kelly Stevens, Lauren Ferguson, Sara Nagy, and Logan DeClercq; second row, left to right: Coach Paul Legge, Caitlin Fitzpatrick, Courtney Schmidt, Sara Messing, Stephanie Stevens, Megan Montgomery, and Sarah Fetzer; third row, left to right: Sarah Kramer, Claire Hopkins, Jordan Timmer, Brooke Curtis, Erica Walendzik, and Alissa Moore.

## High expectations serves as preface to soccer season

by Thad Kraus

Youth, experience, athleticism, speed and nine returning starters are the elements which make up the foundation from which Lowell girls soccer team will begin its 2009 season.

In some conferences that would be enough to crown the Red Arrows champions right now.

But this is the O-K White, home to East Grand Rapids and Grand Rapids Christian.

So, prepare for a competitive battle at the top.

"This is the most athletic group of girls I've ever coached," said Lowell soccer coach Paul Legge. "All three teams should be excellent."

The Lowell coach likes his chances with center midfielder Logan DeClercq serving as the anchoring point for all that happens on the field.

"Logan will be our puppet master," Legge explains. "She is probably

the best defensive midfielder on this side of the state and is definitely in the best shape she's ever been in," Legge said.

Working alongside the Ferris State bound senior will be senior Hannah Oberlin.

"She's got a big foot, serves the ball really well and is masterful at delivering the ball on the spot," Legge said.

Lowell's most technically strong player is Sara Nagy. The junior will play at forward.

Junior outside backer Kelly Stevens and junior outside midfielder Lauren Ferguson will all start for Lowell.

"All three of those girls are three-year starters," Legge said. "They are not flashy but they are consistent."

Sophomores Courtney Smith and Brooke Curtis

will also garner plenty of playing time.

Smith, as a freshman, earned third-team all-state honors. Legge says the center back has incredible athleticism.

Curtis is dubbed as the club's best player in the air. Freshman Kaitlan Fitzpatrick will bring incredible speed and athleticism to the field.

Another freshman, Jordan Timmer will see action as an outside backer. She is described as athletic and well conditioned.

Lowell opened its season ties against Caledonia (0-0) and Mona Shores (1-1) and a 1-0 win over Holland.

Lowell finished third in the O-K White last year with a 6-3 record.

# 2009 Lowell High School Spring Sports Preview

## Success in field events could elevate girls track



by *Thad Kraus*

They do not have the glamour of a 100-meter dash, however, the field events are a quiet, unassuming effective way to supplement a team score.

In high school, field events are often times where schools struggle to compete. Clearing that hurdle can be the difference between finishing in the upper or lower tiers of one's a conference.

The success of the Lowell girls track team throughout the years has been linked to its success in the field events.

Last year was no exception. Through the lead of one of West Michigan's top field event athletes, the Red Arrows will seek to elevate themselves into the top tier of the O-K White in 2009.

Richelle Kimble, who will own every school record

in the pole vault before she leaves for Indiana State University in the fall is also expected to be a fixture in the hurdles.

A young field event squad will look to her leadership.

"Our field event squad is young," said Lowell girls track coach Robin Briggs. "In the past we've been heavy in the field events, but with our youth, this year we will need a more balanced attack."

Junior Nicole Everett will have the ominous task of filling the vacated shoes of Jasmin Holliman in the shot put.

Madilyn Brower and Bryleigh Loughlin will tackle the high jump duties while senior Kara Rasch will be penciled in at the long jump and possibly the shot put.

Kelsey Teft is expected to contribute in the pole vault, hurdles and sprints.

Names to watch for in the sprints are freshmen Annie Vescolani, Brower and Loughlin.

Red Arrow depth may most be on display in the distance events. Sophomore Kallie Holzhueter begins 2009 with better times than what she finished her freshman year. "Her times are good and the fact she's only as sophomore is great," Briggs explained.

Briggs believes Haleigh Timmers will be a front runner in the 1600.

"The league should be very competitive," Briggs said. "I think Greenville and Grand Rapids Christian enter as the favorites. I also believe we will be very competitive."

Lowell finished 3-3 in the O-K White last year and with a few breaks, Briggs says, could have easily been 5-1.

Miller adds that he is fortunate to have a number of guys who can play multiple positions. "Guys who can play multiple positions, I think have a better understanding of the game. However, we want our players to be an expert at one position rather than a jack-of-all-trades."

Early in the non-conference part of the season, the defending league champions are seeing their opponent's number one pitcher. "If we are going to be successful, this team is going to have to show it can hit better pitching," Miller said. "That starts with hitting with a positive pitch count, and being able to bunt on command. We'll do a lot of that in the beginning and then build from there."

Miller will also work early with his seven, eight and nine hitters. He will need to prepare them now so we can get the most out of them later in the year.

Defensively, one of the biggest challenges will be filling the void left by the graduation of catcher Pete Scudder. Jeremy Drake and Keegan Hanrahan are expected to assume the duties.

In the infield from first to third will be Stephens and Drake (depending on who's pitching); at second will be Hettinga or Martin; at shortstop is Boss; and at third base will be Nick Trasky or Josh Drake.

Penciled in the outfield, from left to right, are Mitchell Malling, Jesse VandenBosch and in right will be Ryan Dean or Ort.

"There's no doubt we have the talent on this team; the challenge will be keeping the juniors and seniors together as one team.

Prior to spring break, Lowell lost to Forest Hills Central 5-3 and Wyoming Park 7-5. The Red Arrows were up 16-2 in game two against the Vikings before

it was called due to rain/darkness. "In our losses we've had guys in scoring position

and didn't come up with big hit," Miller said. Expected to challenge Lowell for conference honors are East Grand Rapids and Grand Rapids Christian.

# 2009 Lowell High School Spring Sports Preview

## Talent in place to meet lofty baseball expectations

by *Thad Kraus*

The last time Lowell won back-to-back conference baseball titles was 1972-1973.

That's where the lofty expectations are for the Red Arrows as they enter the 2009 season.

"We're trying to rewrite history. We have the talent on this team to succeed. The boys, however, have to play with an urgency and drive," said Lowell baseball coach Justin Miller.

The return of a strong starting pitching staff positions Lowell favorably. "Our pitching staff returns from last year in tact. So yes, the expectations are high," Miller explained.

Returning from a 31-7 season on a team that made it all the way to the regional final before losing to Jenison (2-0) are Zach Stephens, Josh Drake, Nick Trasky and spot starter/closer Torsten Boss. Depth will be provided through the arms of senior Tim Hettinga and juniors

Kaleb Ort and Pat Martin.

Miller adds that he is fortunate to have a number of guys who can play multiple positions. "Guys who can play multiple positions, I think have a better understanding of the game. However, we want our players to be an expert at one position rather than a jack-of-all-trades."

Early in the non-conference part of the season, the defending league champions are seeing their opponent's number one pitcher. "If we are going to be successful, this team is going to have to show it can hit better pitching," Miller said. "That starts with hitting with a positive pitch count, and being able to bunt on command. We'll do a lot of that in the beginning and then build from there."

Miller will also work early with his seven, eight and nine hitters. He will need to prepare them now so we can get the most out of them later in the year.

Defensively, one of the biggest challenges will be filling the void left by the graduation of catcher Pete Scudder. Jeremy Drake and Keegan Hanrahan are expected to assume the duties.

In the infield from first to third will be Stephens and Drake (depending on who's pitching); at second will be Hettinga or Martin; at shortstop is Boss; and at third base will be Nick Trasky or Josh Drake.

Penciled in the outfield, from left to right, are Mitchell Malling, Jesse VandenBosch and in right will be Ryan Dean or Ort.

"There's no doubt we have the talent on this team; the challenge will be keeping the juniors and seniors together as one team.

Prior to spring break, Lowell lost to Forest Hills Central 5-3 and Wyoming Park 7-5. The Red Arrows were up 16-2 in game two against the Vikings before



First row, left to right: Mitchell Malling, Jesse VandenBosch, Tim Hettinga, Zach Stephens, Josh Drake, Nick Trasky, and Ryan Dean; second row, left to right: Jake Gould, Jeremy Drake, Conor Barr, Kaleb Ort, Keegan Hanrahan, Pat Martin, Joshua Phelps, and Shane Ryan.

## Lowell boys expect to run with competition

by *Thad Kraus*

Lowell boys track team will be running for success in 2009.

"Our sprinters and distance runners will be strong this year," said Lowell track coach Russ Stevens.

The Red Arrows will need it to offset the inexperienced field event athletes.

"We don't have a lot of experience in the field events so we'll have to work hard to prepare for the conference meet," Stevens explains.

With that said, Stevens likes the competitiveness of the 2009 team.

"We're a young team, but it's a team that doesn't tolerate mediocrity," Stevens said. "I think that will make for some outstanding

individual performances this season."

Stevens will have to look no further than captain Austin Tackmann. The junior will lead the Red Arrows in the 100, 200-meter dashes and in the sprint relays.

Captain Zach Robinson will lead a strong distance crew.

"Zach had an outstanding season last year and we expect a lot from him again this year," Stevens explained. "Zach has already nearly matched his best overall mile time at the Grand Valley State University indoor meet."

Another key set of legs in the distance events will be Tom Mark.

Stevens is looking for a breakout year from junior

Brandon Hrusovsky in the 400-meter.

Chris Eckman, with a year of experience, should be a p layer in the 300 low hurdles.

Newcomers to this year's team include juniors Austin Graham and Josh Corteville. Both were held out last year due to injuries.

"Having them both healthy is obviously going to help our depth," Stevens said.

Other Red Arrows to watch for include freshmen Matt Kyllonen, Kalvin Meyer, Dan Trupke and Ian Newhouse.

"We have a lot of good young guys with great potential," Stevens concluded.



First row, left to right: Drew Culross, Dan Trupke, Matt Kyllonen, Jeff Sova, Ben Partridge, Tom Mark, Zach Robinson, Josh Corteville, Stan Karas, and Brent Cone; second row, left to right: Coach Russ Stevens, Austin Tackmann, Ian Newhouse, Zack Jeffries, Chase Treglia, Cody Kooiman, Daniel Geurink, Nick McKay, and Coach Clay VanderWarf; third row, left to right: Christian Crook, Austin Ellsworth, Marc Destine, Brandon Hrusovsky, Zach White, Austin Graham, Nick Toomey, Chris Eckman, Will Athmann, and Kason Cook.

## It's a short game that will take linksters a distance

by *Thad Kraus*

The hard swings and distances are there, but will the short games and control be?

"Distance is good, but to score and be competitive you have to also have control and a short game," said Lowell golf coach Gary Fredline.

The Red Arrows lost their top three golfers from a year ago. The team numbers are low (seven); the individual scores have been consistent (low 40s) which will keep Lowell competitive in 2009, but Fredline knows to play for any league honors, they will have to be in the mid to high 30s.

Returning from last year are seniors Tom Alberts, Keith Neubecker, and Mark Ford.

"Alberts hits the ball a long way and is a solid scorer. Neubecker is just a solid, steady performer," Fredline explains.

Newcomers to the varsity links are junior varsity players Zach Fizer

and Evan Wilterink along with seniors Kyle Nichol and Cole Wade.

Lowell finished 3-3 in the O-K White last year, earning it a fourth-place finish.

The Red Arrows first tournament (pre conference) of the season is Tuesday, April 14 at the Thornapple Point in Ada.



First row, left to right: Mark Ford, Keith Neubecker, Cole Wade, Kyle Nichol, and Tom Alberts; second row, left to right: Coach Gary Fredlin, Garet Foote, Evan Wilterink, and Zack Fizer.

## Lacrosse program finds its footing at Lowell



First row, left to right: Nolan Blair, Stephen Hauschild, Agim Selimi, Sam Young, Cole Posthumus, Joel Morgan, Kolin Morgan, Isaac Tawney, Matt Szarowicz, and Chris Bewell; second row, left to right: Jim Nordman, Dylan Olin, Jim McCormick, Matt Schloop, Bobby Nichols, Abram McIntire, Alex Vera, Josh Geldersma, Jake Bennett, Charlie Young, and Alec Downing; third row, left to right: Assistant Coach Brechbiel, Max Stormzand, Austin Litchfield, Ryan Christie, Eric Petersen, Josh Faulkner, Matt Hanks, Nic Brown, Ryan Verdon, Jonathan Woods, Dalton DeBoer, and Coach Eric Bredin.

by *Thad Kraus*

A foundation for the Lowell lacrosse program has been built as apparent by the two junior varsity squads, the programs at the elementary and middle schools, the conception of a girls program and the 31 members of the Red Arrow varsity team.

"We have the foundation and now we also have the ability to beat all the teams on our schedule," said Lowell Lacrosse coach Eric Bredin who is in his sixth year as coach.

The final step, the biggest step of three is to elevate its play and grow out of tier two status and into tier one where the established lacrosse programs (Forest Hills, East Grand Rapids and Rockford) call home.

The Red Arrows are coming off a 6-10 2008 campaign where they finished 4-8 in the West Michigan Lacrosse Conference. For the first time, in 2009, lacrosse will compete under the O-K White Conference umbrella.

The good news for Lowell is that it brings back its entire offensive unit. The unsettling news is it will have to replace much of its defensive unit and goalies.

Only two long pole defencemen return. "We don't have a lot of experience filling those spots, but we do have guys who are learning the game and have potential," Bredin explained. As with most sports the defensive key is for Bredin to get all seven defencemen to play as one unit. "That happens when you have players who have vision and see the field along with the ability to communicate and anticipate."

Tri captains for the 2009 Red Arrow lacrosse team are Josh Faulkner, a starting long stick midfielder; Joel Morgan, attacker; and midfielder Eric Peterson.

Morgan was the team's leading scorer last year until an injury sidelined him with five games to play. Collin Morgan stepped in his place as the club's leading scorer.

Playing alongside Peterson at the midfielder position will be juniors Jimmy McCormick and Isaac Tawney.

The goalie role will be filled by Dylan Olin and Chris Bewell.

Caledonia is the returning league champion. Bredin points to Grand Haven as the conference favorite in 2009.

Lowell is 2-1 in its opening three games with wins over Grand Rapids Christian (7-3) and Zeeland (11-2).

"I liked our intensity and the way we executed on offense and defense," Bredin said. "The other thing I was very pleased with was our transition."

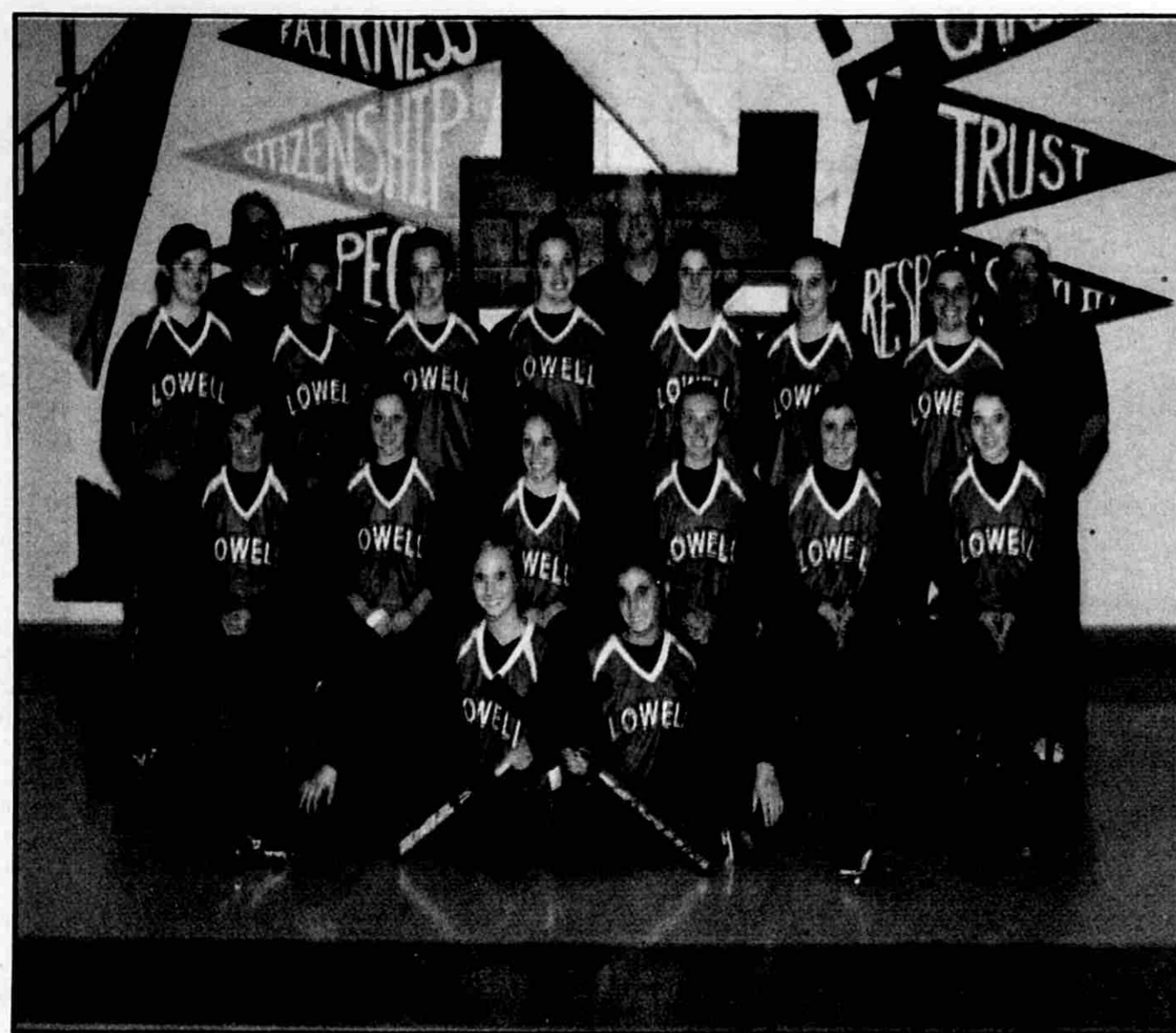
The Red Arrows led 2-1 after one quarter, 8-2 after two, 10-2 after three and outscored Zeeland 1-0 in the final quarter.

Lowell's only loss came to Caledonia, 9-5.

Lowell will host its Quik Stix Invitational on April 18th at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium. The event showcases all Lowell lacrosse teams from elementary to high school. The day ends with a game between Davenport and Ferris State where the focus for the Lowell fans will be lacrosse grad Adam Bowers (Davenport).

# 2009 Lowell High School Spring Sports Preview

## Young Arrows to play way through growing pains



First row, left to right: Ellie Timpson, Bailey Allen; second row, left to right: Kacy Anderson, Kelly Wyckoff, Andrea Coffey, Beth Wyckoff, Shelby Roberts, and Brianna Richardson; third row, left to right: Asst. Coach Bill McElroy, Morgan Groom, Jourdan Westdorp, Jenna Smith, Leigha Frisbee, Coach Bob Rodenhouse, Sarah Weaver, Sam Braman, Lauren Dood, and Asst. Coach Terry Wieland.

by Thad Kraus

Bob Rodenhouse has seen a lot in his tenure as Lowell softball coach, but not everything.

"I don't remember ever fielding a team this young before," Rodenhouse explained. "I feel like we're going to be playing a varsity schedule with junior varsity players. We're just so young."

The veteran softball coach looking beyond the inexperience, also sees potential.

"There is potential, the question is how quickly we get there," Rodenhouse said.

Lowell may be helped out by a league that overall may be down a notch or two.

The Red Arrow with the most significant amount of playing time at the varsity level, from a year ago, is

Beth Wyckoff. The third baseman will switch from third to short in 2009.

A trio of players may see action at first base. They are Jourdan Westdorp, Leigha Frisbee and Jenna Smith.

There are no questions at second base. Shelby Roberts will cover that ground.

Morgan Groom, Lauren Dood and Kelly Wyckoff all could see time at third until one separates herself from the pack.

Roaming outfield for Lowell will be Ellie Timpson, Andrea Coffey, Sarah Weaver, Sam Braman and Kacy Anderson.

Catching Lowell hurlers will be Brianna Richardson or Smith.

Pitching for the Red Arrows in '09 will be Bailey Allen and Lauren Dood.

"I think our pitching will be okay, but we have to be

able to field," Rodenhouse said.

Fielding was an issue in Lowell's double-header losses (15-3, 13-4) to Wyoming Park.

Lowell committed 10 errors in its opener against the Vikings.

Adding fuel to the fire were the nine walks handed out by Lowell pitchers in both games.

"We have to throw strikes and catch the ball better. We had way too many errors," Rodenhouse said.

Getting hits for Lowell in game one were Westdorp, Wyckoff and Timpson.

In game two, Smith went 2-for-3 with a triple; K. Wyckoff was 2-for-3 with a triple and C. Anderson contributed with a pinch-hit double.

## Lowell adds Red Arrow Regatta to 2009 schedule



First row, left to right: Andrew Brim, Steve Trierweiler, Sam Hayerman, Sam Gibbs, Mattie Kropf, and Mia Carvajal; second row, left to right: David Cadwallader, Lauren Kurtz, Joe Schreur, Chad VanBennekom, D.J. Mixon, Bailee Emelander, and Coach Keith Gillhespy; third row, left to right: Kelsey Ward, Katie Tackmann, Sara Cadwallader, Ashley Metternick, and Brandy Washburn.

by Thad Kraus

Lowell High School's crew team will look to build on good.

In the first-ever Scholastic Rowing Association of Michigan's state championship, Lowell put three boats into the water, two of which made it into the finals last year.

"We were obviously very pleased with our performance in the state championship regatta," said Lowell crew coach Peter Chittenden.

In building toward competing in a second straight state championship regatta, Lowell will host its first ever Red Arrow regatta at Murray Lake on

April 25 against East Grand Rapids and Northview.

Lowell will also compete at the Riverside Regatta (Riverside Park) hosted by Forest Hills Central on April 19.

"We have a good group of kids who have a strong desire to be out there and to compete," Chittenden explained.

The co-ed crew roster has six returning girls and two returning boys from last year's team.

There are a total of nine novices (six girls and three boys) joining the team this year.

Members of this year's crew roster are Andrea Elmer, Bailee Emelander,

Sam Hagerman, Mattie Kropf, Jessica Mankel, Ashley Metternick, Sara Cadwallader, Brandy Washburn, Andy Brim, Steve Trierweiler, Sam Gibbs, Joe Schreur, Lauren Kurtz, Mia Carvajal, Chad Van Brenden, Katie Tackmann, Kelsey Ward and Derek Mixon.

Chittenden believes Lowell will again be strong in the women's junior eight and the boy's junior four races.

Assisting Chittenden this year will be Keith Gillespie and David Cadwallader.

# LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS VARSITY SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULE



This Page Brought to You By The Lowell Ledger

## BOYS VARSITY BASEBALL

\* Indicates a home game at Cherry Creek baseball field  
Games begin at 4:15 p.m. unless indicated

- 4/14 Unity Christian\*
- 4/16 at 4 p.m. at Ionia (doubleheader)
- 4/18 at 10 a.m. Lowell Invitational\*
- 4/21 at Northview (doubleheader)
- 4/23 Northview\*
- 4/27 at Thornapple Kellogg (doubleheader)
- 4/28 Greenville (doubleheader)
- 4/30 at Greenville\*
- 5/4 at 4 p.m. Caledonia (doubleheader)\*
- 5/5 Creston (doubleheader)\*
- 5/7 at Creston
- 5/12 at G.R. Christian (doubleheader)
- 5/14 G.R. Christian\*
- 5/16 at 10 a.m. at Hudsonville Tournament
- 5/18 at 4 p.m. East Grand Rapids (doubleheader)\*
- 5/20 at 4 p.m. at East Grand Rapids
- 5/26 (or 5/29 or 5/30) time & place TBA Districts

## GIRLS VARSITY SOFTBALL

\* Indicates a home game at Cherry Creek softball field  
Games begin at 4:15 p.m. unless indicated

- 4/14 Unity Christian (doubleheader)\*
- 4/16 at 4 p.m. at Ionia (doubleheader)
- 4/18 at 10 a.m. at East Kentwood Tournament
- 4/21 at Northview (doubleheader)
- 4/22 at East Grand Rapids
- 4/25 at 9 a.m. at Hamilton Tournament
- 4/27 at Thornapple Kellogg (doubleheader)
- 4/28 Greenville (doubleheader)\*
- 4/30 G.R. Christian\*
- 5/4 at 4 p.m. Caledonia (doubleheader)\*
- 5/5 Creston (doubleheader)\*
- 5/7 Northview\*
- 5/11 at 4 p.m. Hudsonville (doubleheader)\*
- 5/12 G.R. Christian
- 5/14 at Greenville
- 5/15 at 4 p.m. Forest Hills Central\*
- 5/18 at 4 p.m. East Grand Rapids (doubleheader)\*
- 5/20 at Creston
- 5/21 at 4 p.m. Mandy Tichelaar Tournament\*
- 5/26 (or 5/29 or 5/30) time & place TBA Districts

## CREW

- 4/19 time TBA FHC Inv. Regatta at Riverside Park
- 4/25 time TBA Lowell Inv. at Murray Lake
- 5/2 time TBA WyHi Regatta at Wydotte
- 5/9 time TBA EGR Mini-Regatta at Reeds Lake
- 5/16 time TBA SRA State Rowing Champ. at Milford

## GIRLS VARSITY TENNIS

\* Indicates a home game at LHS Tennis Courts  
Games begin at 4 p.m. unless indicated.

- 4/15 at Northview
- 4/16 at 3 p.m. E. Kentwood Quad
- 4/18 at 8:30 a.m. Lowell Invitational\*
- 4/20 Greenville\*
- 4/22 Creston\*
- 4/24 at 12:30 p.m. Caledonia Invitational
- 4/29 at G.R. Christian
- 4/30 Forest Hills Eastern\*
- 5/2 at 9 a.m. Northview Invitational
- 5/4 East Grand Rapids\*
- 5/6 at Jenison
- 5/9 at 9 a.m. Conference\*
- 5/12 at NorthPointe Christian
- 5/13 Lakewood\*

For More Information on School Athletics or for Directions to Area Schools visit: [www.lowell.k12.mi.us](http://www.lowell.k12.mi.us)  
Under Athletics.

## BOYS VARSITY GOLF

\* Indicates a home meet at Deer Run Golf Course.

- All meets begin at 3:30 p.m. unless indicated.
- 4/14 time TBA Pre-Conference at Thornapple Pointe
- 4/15 at 1 p.m. Kent County Classic at Elks
- 4/18 at 11 a.m. Lowell Invitational\*
- 4/22 Greenville/Northview\*
- 4/24 at Greenville
- 4/27 G.R. Christian\*
- 4/29 at G.R. Christian
- 5/6 at Northview
- 5/7 at Kenowa Hills
- 5/11 East Grand Rapids\*
- 5/13 at East Grand Rapids
- 5/14 Caledonia\*
- 5/18 time TBA Conference at Thornapple Pointe
- 5/21 (or 5/22 or 5/23) time & place TBA Districts

## GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER

\* Indicates a home game at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium.  
Games begin at 6:45 p.m. unless indicated.

- 4/14 at Hastings
- 4/15 at 7:15 at Northview
- 4/17 Wyoming Park\*
- 4/20 Greenville\*
- 4/22 Creston\*
- 4/24 Fruitport\*
- 4/27 at 6:15 G.R. Christian at Gainey
- 4/29 East Grand Rapids\*
- 5/4 at 5:45 p.m. at Union
- 5/6 Northview\*
- 5/11 at Greenville
- 5/13 at 5:45 p.m. at Creston
- 5/15 Cedar Springs\*
- 5/18 G.R. Christian\*
- 5/20 at 4 p.m. East Grand Rapids
- 5/26 time TBA Start or Districts at Port. N.

## BOYS VARSITY LACROSSE

\* Indicates a home game at Burch Field. Games begin at 7 p.m. unless indicated

- 4/14 Holland\*
- 4/16 at 7:45 p.m. Grand Haven at Lakeshore MS
- 4/18 at 5 p.m. G.R. Christian (at Red Arrow Stadium)
- 4/18 at 7:30 p.m. Davenport v. Ferris State (at Red Arrow Stadium)
- 4/21 Holland Christian\*
- 4/23 at 5:30 at Catholic Central
- 4/25 at 1 p.m. Portage Northern\*
- 4/28 Caledonia\*
- 4/30 Zeeland\*
- 5/5 time TBA at Northview
- 5/8 Catholic Central (at Red Arrow Stadium)
- 5/12 Grand Haven\*
- 5/14 time & place TBA Start of Regionals
- 5/14 at 7:30 p.m. at Holland Christian

## BOYS & GIRLS VARSITY TRACK

\* Indicates a home game at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium  
Meets begin at 4:15 p.m. unless indicated.

- 4/16 at Northview
- 4/18 at 10 a.m. Hastings Relays
- 4/21 Greenville\*
- 4/23 Creston\*
- 4/28 at G.R. Christian
- 4/30 East Grand Rapids\*
- 5/2 at 8:30 a.m. Kathy Talus Memorial Invitational
- 5/5 Forest Hills Central\*
- 5/7 & 5/8 time TBA Conference at GR Christian
- 5/15 (or 5/16) time TBA Regionals at Caledonia
- 5/26 time TBA John Bos/Champ meet

**GO, TEAM, GO!**  
Support Your Red Arrow Teams!

## DEMOCRACY

In Action!

THURSDAY ★ APRIL 16

6:30pm - Jerilee Bouma, MA, CLTC, will explain Veteran Assistance Benefits and the application process

7:00pm - Dave Hildenbrand, Representative from Michigan's District #86, will update constituents on new issues affecting seniors. Bring your questions, and Representative Hildenbrand will answer!

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A FEW NOTABLE EVENTS FROM APRIL 2 - APRIL 8 • 2009

- Italy earthquake kills 70, injures 1,500, and destroys historic towns.
- North Korea launched long range rocket, ignoring international warnings.

- President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela said he will take prisoners of Guantanamo Bay if U.S. gives base and land to Cuba.
- Media covers return of fallen soldiers for the first time in 18 years.
- U.S. highway deaths at lowest level since 1961.
- IBM drops \$7 billion bid to buy Sun Microsystems.
- Yamaha Rhino off roader recalled after 46 deaths.
- Farrah Fawcett hospitalized in cancer battle.
- Fast & Furious shatters box office records.
- Ford and GM to make car payments if you lose your job.
- New Hampshire Hospital officials admit giving baby to wrong mother.
- Colorado man coughs up nail stuck in his nose for 30 years.
- Metallica and Run DMC inducted into Rock Hall of Fame.
- Japan aims to create moon-walking robot by 2012.
- Hidden planet discovered in old Hubble data.

## Fundraising to begin for trailway

Leaders of the Connecting Our Community campaign announced the beginning of the public phase of a \$750,000 fundraising effort to bring a three mile pedestrian trailway to the community of Lowell and the surrounding region.

Over the past several years, community surveys have ranked accessible trailways as one of the top recreational priorities by area residents. In 2007, the Board of the Lowell Area Recreational Authority authorized the initiation of a public fundraising effort to bring community trails to the Lowell area.

Since then, a group of dedicated community leaders has been working with area philanthropists and community donors to raise \$750,000 as a local contribution for the \$1.5 million trailway effort. The group will be seeking another \$750,000 in state and federal grants designated for non-motorized trailways.

To date, the Connecting Our Community campaign has raised over \$360,532 in gifts and pledges for this project. "This campaign ensures that local residents will have safe connections to schools and community parks as well as pathways for recreational activities

such as walking, running, and biking," said Betsy Davidson, one of three co-chairs for the fundraising campaign.

Liz Baker, Executive Director of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce and Co-Chair of the campaign described the benefits that trailways will bring to the region. "Trails provide avenues for exercise and safe travel. More importantly, they provide another free activity for local families while connecting our schools, parks, and neighborhoods to the local business community."

The first phase of the trailway system will connect

Lowell High School, and the Wittenbach/Wege Center in Vergennes Township with Creekside Park, Cherry Creek Elementary and the City of Lowell. Conceptual plans have been developed for trails leading to Stony Lakeside Park with a pedestrian bridge to Riverside Park in Lowell Township. Additional planned phases include connecting to the Kent County Fairgrounds, the dog park, and the downtown shopping area. The local trail will also serve as a hub to larger regional and national trail systems including connections to Greenville and Ionia and

the North Country National Scenic Trail, which extends through seven states.

"We salute the Lowell Area for their vision, trail planning and fundraising accomplishments," said Annamarie Bauer with the Department of Natural Resources, Recreation and Trails Sections. "The Lowell Area Trailway will provide community recreation opportunities and help achieve important connections in the regional and state trail network."

"Today's announcement marks the beginning of the community phase of this campaign which has already seen tremendous support from

regional foundations and local business leaders," said Jodie Seese, Campaign Co-chair. Seese expressed her appreciation for early leadership commitments from the Lowell Area Community Fund, the Steelcase Foundation, the Frey Foundation, Litehouse Inc., Amway Corporation and the Look Memorial Fund, just to name a few. "The support so far has been outstanding. Now we will work with the community to complete the fundraising efforts. Together we will build trails that will connect our community for generations to come."

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## Social Security tax tips

Shakespeare wrote "Beware the Ides of March," but that was before tax day found a resting place on April 15 of each year. Let us help you "be aware" of some Social Security tax tips by answering some of the most common questions we receive about taxes and Social Security.

We had a baby in 2008. Do we need a Social Security number for our taxes? Yes. Most parents apply for their baby's Social Security number while still in the hospital at the same time they apply for the birth certificate. If you didn't, you'll need to apply for your child's Social Security number in order to claim the child as a dependent on your tax return. You'll also need it if you ever apply for government benefits on behalf of the child or your family.

\*\*\*

"I love deadlines. I like the whooshing sound they make as they fly by."  
- Douglas Adams

I changed my name when I got married last year. Do I need to report it to Social Security? Yes. If you've legally changed your name due to marriage, divorce, court order or for any other reason, make sure you change your name with Social Security. Make sure you change your name with your employer as well. If you change with one source but not the other, it could cause your earnings to be

improperly recorded. You can learn more about Social Security numbers and how to change your name in Social Security's records at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber.

Does Social Security have any advice to make tax filing and future benefit applications go smoothly? We strongly encourage you to carefully check your name, Social Security number and all of the data

on your W-2s and on your Social Security statement. A mismatch could delay your tax refund and might cause problems with your Social Security benefits.

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

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You will be scheduling your child's visitation time!  
**ALTO ELEMENTARY**  
Kindergarten Parent Meeting THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2009  
6:00-6:25 PM - Sign-up  
6:30-7:30 PM - Meeting  
**BUSHNELL ELEMENTARY**  
Kindergarten Parent Meeting WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2009  
6:00-6:25 PM - Sign-up  
6:30-7:30 PM - Meeting  
**MURRAY LAKE ELEMENTARY**  
Kindergarten Parent Meeting TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2009  
6:15-6:25 PM - Sign-up  
6:30-7:30 PM - Meeting

**BUSINESSES SERVICES**



# Red Arrow SPORTS



## OKAY - Someone Has To Say It ...

by Thad Kraus

Losing the Ledger NCAA Tournament Bracket contest hurt, but North Carolina winning the whole thing hurts even more.

I'm not a fan of Carolina Blue and not a fan of Roy Williams.

You may remember he spent three days or more a few years back denying he was leaving Kansas for North Carolina. The championship crowd had not cleared the building and guess what, Williams was gone.

Honesty is high on my list of character traits. It seems the college coaching world, often times lacks that!

### BLUEGRASS CALLS

John Calipari is leaving Memphis for Kentucky. I hope he is not allowed to take all his Memphis recruits with him.

He says he hopes all the recruits stay at Memphis, but then again he's a college coach!

### FALL BACK CBS

Why can't the NCAA championship game start at a normal time? Let's say 8 o'clock.

I know why, because money talks and that is what makes decisions.

I'm guessing the west coast is another reason for the time slot.

A 9:21 tip-off on the east coast is 6:21 on the west coast.

Those may all be good valid reasons, but how about the players? How many 9:21 tips do they have during the regular season?

Upon further review, with ESPN doubleheaders on Monday night and Tuesday night and whatever other night of the week they televise games, I guess there are more than a few late regular season games.

I still say move up the starting time to 8 p.m. I'd even settle for 8:30.

No one should have to stay up until midnight to know the outcome.

The good thing about Monday night's game between

Michigan State and North Carolina, fans only had to stay up until 9:30 to know who was going to win the game!

### AND THE WINNER IS...

The winner of the first-ever Ledger NCAA Tournament Bracket contest is Denese Crouch.

The Lowell resident finished with 140 points, making her the top point-getter and thus a most worthy winner.

As all the readers of this weekly dribble are aware, I finished last, therefore, every one who entered the contest was eligible for the \$35 dinner certificate from Larkin's Restaurant.

### HERE ARE THE FINAL NUMBERS:

Denese Crouch 140; Acker Family 136; Craig Wittenbach 130; Keith Valentine 119; Jeanne Boss 112; Andy Buechler 107; Tim Buechler 104; Josh Buechler II 92; Jon Jacobs 91; Dan DeHaan 87; Josh Buechler 85; Kevin Kutman 84; Zach Crouch 80; Cristina Buechler 72; Mary Jo Buechler 72; and Thad Kraus 69.

## One last cheer



Varsity cheer coach Kari Dawson presents captain awards to Kylee Karas, Sydney Burrows, Theresa Buist and Alex Herb.

Lowell varsity and junior varsity cheer teams held their end-of-year banquet at the Grand Volute Banquet Hall.

"Being the first team to have a banquet at the Grand Volute was an honor. It was especially meaningful since the cheer team had their first-ever cheer poster photographed here," said receiving Most Improved Player.

## GOING TO THE DENTIST DOESN'T HAVE TO HURT ANYMORE!

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## Business Matters



## Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold  
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### CAN P/E HELP YOU MAKE SMART INVESTMENT CHOICES?

Many stocks were pummeled by the long and severe market downturn. As a result, you can now find plenty of good, quality stocks selling at low prices. On the other hand, some companies belong to industries whose near-term future looks uncertain - and even though these stocks, too, may be inexpensive, they aren't necessarily good deals. So, how can you tell the difference between good stocks selling at temporarily low prices and not-so-good stocks selling at deservedly low prices? One tool that may help you is the price/earnings ratio, or P/E.

When looked at mathematically, P/E is a simple concept - it's calculated by dividing the current stock price of a company by its earnings per share. So, for example, a stock that is now priced at \$40 and has \$2 of earnings per share will have a P/E of 20. Generally speaking, a stock's P/E reveals how much investors are willing to pay per dollar of earnings. So, for the stock mentioned above, its P/E of 20 implies that investors are willing to pay \$20 for every \$1 of earnings that the company generates. It follows, therefore, that the higher the P/E, the more "expensive" a stock is perceived as being.

Because the average P/E in the stock market has been around 15 over the past 50 years, one might say, in a broad sense, that a stock with a P/E of 20 is neither terribly expensive nor particularly cheap.

Overall, the P/E ratio is typically a good indicator of a stock's value - and a much better indicator than the price alone. To illustrate: A \$20 stock with a P/E of 70 may actually be much more "expensive" than a \$100 stock with a P/E of 20. As an investor, you're paying much more for

the future earnings of the \$20 stock than you are for the earnings of the \$100 stock. So, in the present-day situation, with the market still down so much, you might be able to use P/E to get a clearer sense of which stocks are really priced attractively and which ones are expensive, despite their low market price.

Keep in mind, however, that a low P/E doesn't automatically mean that a company is undervalued. One way of interpreting P/E is as a measure of the market's optimism about a company's growth prospects. So, if a company has a P/E that is lower than average, it could mean that the market has low expectations for this company.

Furthermore, just looking at a stock's P/E in isolation can't always tell you if it's a good deal. For that, you also need to compare its P/E with other stocks in the same industry. That's because some industries, such as utilities, typically have low P/Es, while others, such as technology, generally have higher ones.

As you can see, you'll need to consider a few "wrinkles" in P/E before using it to evaluate whether a stock is priced attractively. Consequently, you may want to get some help from a financial advisor. But one thing to keep in mind: Right now, you can find attractive prices on quality stocks - and the correct use of P/E may well help you find the best ones.

\*\*\*

"A good sense of humor is essential."

- Rich Willis

## NOTICE OF MEETING FEDERAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM SMALL URBAN PROGRAM LOWELL AREA INCLUDING PROJECTS UNDER THE ECONOMIC STIMULUS PROGRAM

A meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lowell City Hall, Conference Room, 301 East Main Street, Second Floor, to receive comments on eligible street improvement projects in the Lowell area for the Federal Surface Transportation Program allocated to the Small Urban Program and the Economic Stimulus Program.

Road and transit projects are eligible for funding under the Small Urban Program. All road projects must be located on the Federal-aid highway system, and within the federal urban area boundaries of cities within 5,000 to 50,000 populations. Projects must be consistent with regional land use and development plans.

The Michigan Department of Transportation is accepting Small Urban Program project applications for the year 2010-2011. An application from the Lowell area will be submitted after the public meeting and in consultation with transportation agencies.

The City of Lowell has proposed the following project for STP 2010-2011:

- Reconstruction of Bowes Road from 1950 feet west of Valley Vista Drive to 2900 feet west. Federal fund \$256,000. Total cost \$320,000.

For the Economic Stimulus Program the following projects are proposed:

- Milling and resurfacing of Bowes Road from S. Hudson to Valley Vista \$78,000.
- Reconstruction of Bowes to 1950 feet west - toward local share and sidewalks \$42,000.

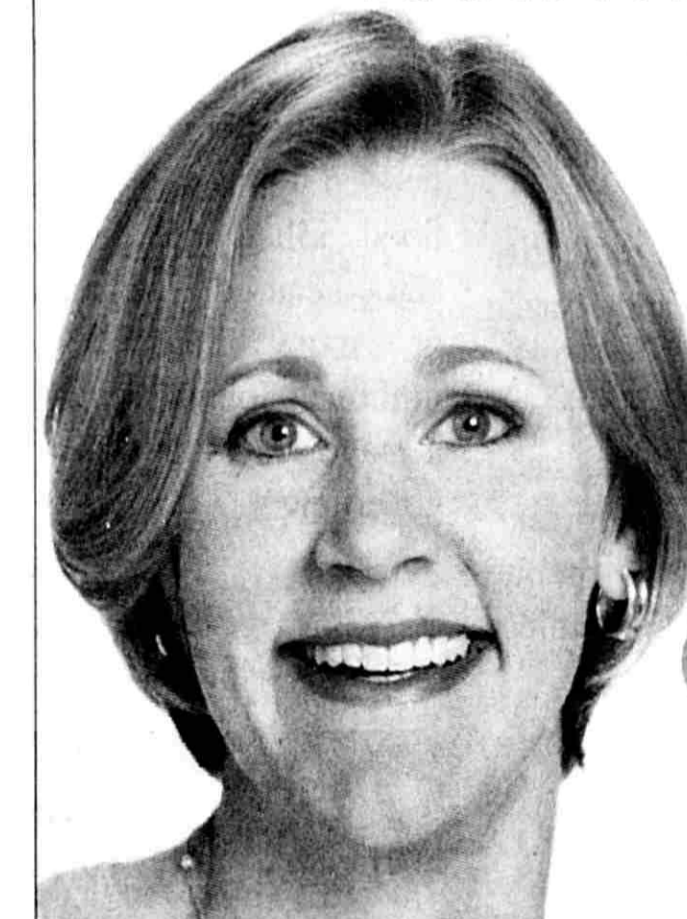
If there are any questions, please contact David M. Pasquale, City Manager at 897-8457 or write to 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan 49331.

Written comments prior to the meeting will be accepted.



Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk

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Childcare is not available. An RSVP is appreciated, but not required. Call 616.254.7919.  
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## LOOK AT ME NOW!!!

George Poulas went to The Laurels of Kent for sub-acute rehab after a hospital stay had left him weak and unable to return home. George enjoyed his experience at Laurels of Kent stating, "The therapy was excellent, all staff were very friendly and helpful. I would recommend Laurels of Kent to others." George met all of his therapeutic goals and successfully went to Lacey's Too Assisted Living. Congratulations George!! We all miss you!



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## We're Hiring!

Grand Volute Ballrooms will be holding a JOB FAIR Friday and Saturday April 10 and 11 • 11-3 PM • Apply in person. Work begins April 24.

The following positions are available:

- Culinarian (experience or degree required)
- Ballroom set-up (age 16 and up)
- Food Server (no experience required)
- Banquet bartender
- Housekeeping

Most positions require:

- Able to read, write and converse in English.
- No visible tattoos.
- Professional appearance.
- Available 3 Saturday evenings per month.

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# FORD ADVANTAGE PLAN



The Ford Payment Protection Program is available on all Ford, Lincoln and Mercury vehicles - Excluding E/F-450 and higher. New vehicles purchased from March 31, 2009 to June 1, 2009, are eligible for the Ford Payment Protection Program.

## What Benefit does the Ford Protection Program offer?

It pays the monthly amount due on your vehicle purchase/lease up to a maximum monthly benefit of \$700, for a maximum of 12 benefit payments.

Benefit is paid directly to your financing source.

No cost to you.

It is important for you to continue to make your monthly financing payments on your account until you have received notification that your benefits have been approved in order to maintain your current account status.

## What do I need to do to qualify for these benefits?

Purchase/lease an eligible new vehicle between March 31, 2009 - June 1 2009.

Finance your new purchase/lease (cash and equity line vehicle purchases are not eligible; vehicle must be titled in the name of the individual).

Be the primary purchasers/lessee responsible for the financing of the vehicle.

Become involuntarily unemployed for at least 30 consecutive days.

Become involuntarily unemployed after the first 30-day exclusionary period immediately following the purchase/lease of your Ford vehicle, and before January 1, 2010.

Not have received notification of involuntary unemployment prior to your enrollment in the Ford Payment Protection Program (i.e. the date you purchased/leased your vehicle)

Have been working full time for 90 consecutive days, at least 30 hours per week, immediately before becoming involuntarily unemployed. This program does not cover part-time, seasonal, self-employed or persons employed by a family household member. However, if you subsequently become a full-time employee and later become involuntarily unemployed, you may qualify for benefits provided you meet the stated eligibility requirements.

Complete a benefit form and submit all required documentation within 90 days of the day you become involuntarily unemployed in order to be eligible for benefits.

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