



# The Lowell Ledger

Volume 38 Issue 41

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

## Oh, What a Beautiful Morning for Lowell kids on their first day of the school year

by Thad Kraus

It's possible 1989 Lowell graduate and now first-year middle school principal, Dan VanderMeulen, heard "Oh, What a Beautiful Day," resounding from the choir room even before class started.

See, inside those choir room doors was first-year teacher, Haley Sulisz.

The Grosse Ile graduate was excited and looking forward to getting started on day one.

The last time Sulisz felt this type of excitement came as she took a phone call, walking out of a music conference at Michigan State University, this summer.

"The Lowell superintendent (Greg Pratt) called to tell me that he was offering me the choir job," Sulisz explained. "No nerves, I'm just looking forward to getting started."

When asked to define what makes a good

teacher, Sulisz was quick to respond, "A love of kids and your subject matter, and a commitment to lifelong learning."

That commitment is what has embodied Bushnell's Karen Burd for the past 32 years as teacher and now principal of Bushnell Elementary.

The first day of school has not gotten old. It is still as exciting and wrought with anxiety.

"There is nothing like

the first day of school. It's right up there with Christmas," Burd said. "I still don't sleep the night before. I have the same fears as the kids - the unknown and where's the bathroom?"

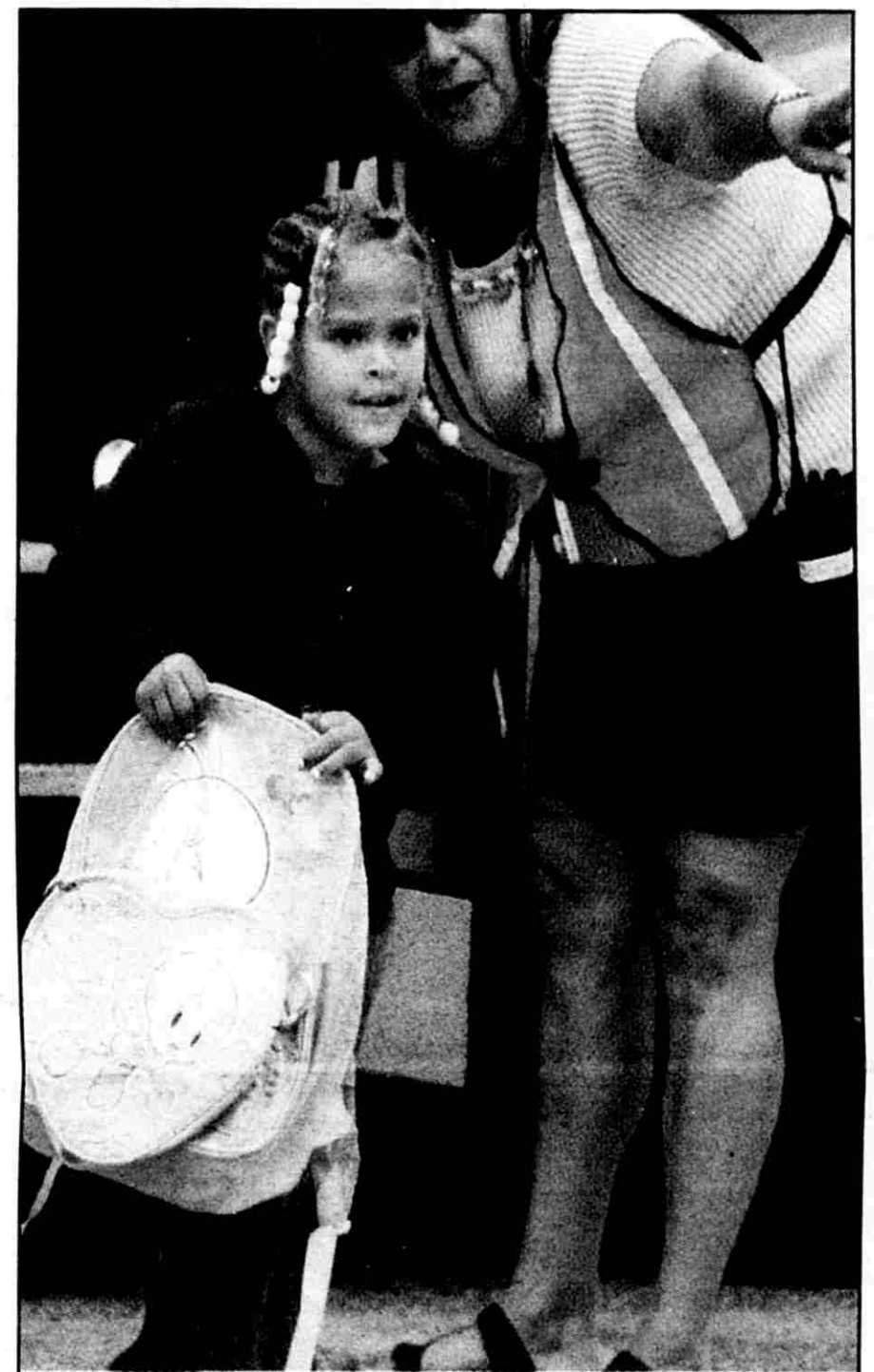
Burd explains that the children's detailed list also includes: Where's my room? Where do I put my backpack? And what bus takes me home?

Lowell Middle School's new science/math teacher, Katey Kutt, was also feeling the excitement of the first day as a teacher in Lowell.

"It's a dream job. It allows me to teach and live in the same community."

Prior to coming to Lowell, Kutt spent three years at Belding teaching high school science and math.

"Lowell has an outstanding facility with a supportive staff and a community atmosphere that promotes education



Eyes and ears wide open and Bushnell students take directions.

and children learning," Kutt explained.

VanderMeulen, after

12 years in the Godwin Heights school district, is happy to be returning to his roots.

"Lowell is a great community that takes pride in its school," VanderMeulen explained. "It's good to be back where I started."

On his first day, VanderMeulen said he'd begin the process of listening and learning about Lowell's rich history and culture while providing a strong vision of learning and working collaboratively.

"The first impression is a lasting one. I want it to be that LMS equals "the best choice."

And as Sulisz would have VanderMeulen, Burd, Kutt and all the kids believe - All sounds on earth (like on this day) are like music.

Oh what a beautiful morning.

Oh, what a beautiful day.

I got a beautiful feeling, ev'rything's going my way!



Bushnell's Susan Pomper helps students with any questions on opening day of school.

### Bags are packed and ready to go



Flat River Outreach Ministries handed out 200 backpacks along with school supplies to Lowell Area School children grades Kindergarten through fifth grade.

The backpack program was funded by F.R.O.M., the Amway One by One Campaign for children and Huntington Bank.



Anxiety got the best of this young girl on the first day of school.



# Obituaries

HUYSER



Kay Sharon Huysler, age 66, wife, mother and grandma, went to meet her Savior on Tuesday morning, September 1, 2009. She is survived by her husband of 48 years, Russ Huysler; three daughters, Connie (Ty)

Ysseldyke, Sandy Chappell, Sue (Aron) Dietzel; eight grandchildren, Alex, Isaac, Justice, LaRae, Rowan, Alina, Bach and Raven; two brothers and extended family. Funeral services were held Friday, September 4 at the First Baptist Church of Alto with Pastor David Henriksen officiating. Interment Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to First Baptist Church of Alto "Building Fund." 1 Thess. 4:16-18 "Comfort one another with these words." We look forward to seeing you in Heaven someday.



## Lighthouses protected us; now we must protect them

With Senator Carl Levin

Michigan's coastlines define our state. Every time we hold up our right hands in that familiar mitten shape to show an out-of-stater where we're from, we reaffirm the importance of our Great Lakes shores to our identity. And for decades, that boundary between land and water has been marked by lighthouses, silent sentinels that helped mariners navigate those often-dangerous shores.

Now, the lighthouses that protected Great Lakes shipping for so many years are in need of our protection. That's why I have authored the National Lighthouse Stewardship Act, a bill that would aid the preservation and rehabilitation of historic lighthouses in Michigan and other coastal states, and introduced it along with Michigan's Sen. Debbie Stabenow.

The recent history of lighthouse preservation is encouraging and at the same time worrisome. As satellites and electronics took over the navigation tasks lighthouses once fulfilled, the U.S. Coast Guard, which operated the lighthouses, looked to dispose of them. In 2000, I joined with Sen. Frank Murkowski, Republican of Alaska, to pass the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act. This law allowed the expedited transfer of lighthouses to state and local governments or nonprofit agencies, which could then take over preservation efforts.

More than 50 lighthouses have now been transferred under the law, including 13 in Michigan, a great victory for historic preservation. These transfers have saved historically

significant landmarks, helped boost local tourism and honored the maritime legacy of Michigan and other states. The tourism aspect is especially important; these structures draw thousands of visitors to our state. It is no coincidence that lighthouse images have become important symbols on everything from tourism brochures to our license plates.

But in many cases, the preservation task these nonprofits face has been daunting. Dr. Kirk L. Lindquist, a member of the Michigan Lighthouse Project, told a Senate subcommittee in July that renovation costs can reach \$1.5 million per lighthouse, and that merely maintaining existing structures can cost \$80,000 a year. "It is easy to predict the fate of properties that cannot be maintained by volunteer or private landlords," he said during that hearing. "They will be abandoned."

That hearing, of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, discussed the lighthouse stewardship act that we have introduced. The bill would establish a pilot program to provide grants to nonprofit lighthouse owners for preservation and rehabilitation. The program, which would offer up to \$20 million a year in grants for three years, would provide a much-needed boost to preservation efforts. As I told the subcommittee during its hearing, this funding would help ensure that our lighthouses remain cultural beacons for years to come.

These lighthouses are an important reminder of another time, a time when mariners couldn't depend on GPS and radio to find their way to safety. The importance these beams of safety played in our state's economic development and its maritime culture, and their importance now in preserving that history, cannot be over-stated. These lighthouses saved lives and helped build our state; now it's time for us to recognize their contributions past and future. I am hopeful that Congress will act soon to approve legislation to do just that.

## Lowell High school athletic pass policy change and Pink Arrow price reminder

Due to the tough economy and the necessity of the athletic department to cut costs and/or increase revenues, a policy change has occurred for the 2009-10 season. In the past, for varsity football games, superfans and football season ticket holders could enter at either of the main

gates. The new policy will require superfans and season ticket holders to enter through the pass gate located to the west of the main entrance. We have relocated the pass gate to the first gate past the main entrance to alleviate the congestion at the visiting team/band entry gate. Passes will be punched

at the time of entry and can be used for one entry into the game per night. The re-entry policy has been in effect for years and will continue. We will have multiple workers at this gate and continue to look at ways to expedite the process.

For the Pink Arrow game, if you have not

purchased the new 2009 Pink Arrow t-shirt for Friday's activities, you will need to buy a \$5 ticket (which is good for the stadium entrance only). Tickets will be sold in the high school athletic office on Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and at the stadium starting at 2:30 p.m.

## Students invited to enter Michigan history art contest

The Department of History, Arts and Libraries (HAL) announced a contest geared toward creative- and history-minded students in 7th through 12th grades: the challenge of designing a logo for the Michigan Commission on the Bicentennial of the War of 1812.

In cooperation with the Michigan Art Education Association, the Michigan Council for History Education and the Wayne RESA, the commission offers this terrific opportunity for the winning student's work to create the visual trademark for the commission - a look that will be carried through on all Web and print branding and promotional efforts.

"For three critical years from 1812 to 1815, the Michigan territory was on the front line of a clash among the United States, Great Britain and the Native American nations of the region," said Department of History, Arts and Libraries Acting Director Mark Hoffman. "It was a defining time for our state, and

through this contest we're confident that students will be able to generate ideas that capture the importance and spirit of a remarkable chapter in Michigan history."

The logo contest is open to any student in 7th through 12th grade enrolled in a public, private or home school program in the state of Michigan. A maximum of two entries will be accepted from each student, and all entries must be submitted by Saturday, Nov. 7. Full contest/design guidelines and an entry form are available at <http://socialstudies.resa.net> or <http://www.michiganhistoryed.org> (under the Workshops and Special Events tab).

"We encourage art teachers throughout the

state and anyone who instructs young people in the concepts of art and design to share news of this contest with their students," said Kimberly Cairry, president of the Michigan Art Education Association.

In addition to having his or her design selected as the commission's official logo, the first-place winner will receive a \$100 award and four tickets for a Lake Michigan cruise on the sloop Friends Good Will, based at the Michigan Maritime Museum in South Haven.

Up to three additional entrants will be selected for \$25 honorable mention awards. All participants will be notified of selections no later than Jan. 18, 2010. The logo winner, finalists

and teachers will be invited to attend the War of 1812 Bicentennial Awards presentation ceremony on Monday, Feb. 22, 2010, at the Michigan Historical Center in downtown Lansing.

For more information about the War of 1812 Bicentennial Logo Contest, contact David Hales, Wayne RESA social studies consultant, at [halesd@resa.net](mailto:halesd@resa.net).



### FAMILY TREE NIGHTS

Family Tree Nights are scheduled for the second Thursday of every month, beginning in September from 5-8 p.m.\* at the museum. Come and look up information about your family. Volunteer George Allchin will be present to help you with your research. \*Note the time change.

### ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

Sign up at the Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St., Fri., Sept. 11, 6-8 p.m. or Sat., Sept. 12, 10 a.m. - noon. You may also order online using debit or credit card. Go to [www.angelfoodministries.com](http://www.angelfoodministries.com). Any questions, call Esther, 897-7395.

### ORDER DAYS AT ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

Order days at First Baptist Church, 2275 Main St., Fri., Sept. 11, 4 to 6 p.m. and Sat., Sept. 12, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Or order online at [www.angelfoodministries.com](http://www.angelfoodministries.com). Delivery, Sept. 26, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. For info, call Illean, 897-6609.

### PINK ARROW PRIDE

Breast Cancer Awareness bandanas will be for sale at the high school during lunches and at the stadium on Sept. 11. \$3 each. Sponsored by the Student Government class 13.

### FRANCISCAN LIFE PROCESS CENTER

"Almost an Icon" exhibition by Dee Versluis, Main Gallery and "Markets & Gardens" exhibition by Nancy Fuller, Bonaventure Gallery. Sept. 13-Nov. 7, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Mon. through Fri., or weekends by appointment. 11650 Downes Street. For more information, call 897-7842.

### DISAPPEARANCE OF FLIGHT 2501

The Lowell Area Historical Museum along with Friends of the Englehardt Library would like you to join them for a program by Valerie van Heest of the Michigan Shipwreck Association, Sept. 15 at 7 p.m. at the Lowell Township Hall.

### 2010 SENIOR PARENT MEETING

There will be a meeting to discuss the senior trip on Wed., Sept. 16 at 7 p.m. at Lowell High School cafeteria. Any interested parents are welcome. Questions, call Janine, 897-0835.

### BLUEGRASS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Sept. 18-20, at fairgrounds in Lowell. Bands, camping, workshops. Bring the family.

## CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lowell City Planning-Citizen Advisory Committee will conduct a public hearing on Monday, September 28, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lowell City Hall Council Chambers, Second Floor, 301 East Main Street, Lowell for the purpose of receiving comments from the public on the following:

To consider a Special Use Permit request from Julianne Scheid who wishes to establish a group day care home for up to 12 children at 529 Avery. With R-2 zoning, a Special Use Permit is required under Section 7.03G. Thus, a Special User Permit is requested.

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



Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk

## Becoming a payee may be the best way to help

If a loved one, friend or neighbor receives Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits but is no longer physically or mentally able to take care of his or her

financial affairs, you may want to consider becoming a representative payee. Then, you'll be able to help them with managing their money. Keep in mind that being

a representative payee is not the same as having power of attorney. Even if you do have power of attorney, you will need to apply to be a representative payee in order to have the benefit payments made to you on the beneficiary's behalf.

When we learn that a person is no longer able to handle his or her own Social Security or SSI benefits, we conduct a careful investigation and appoint a relative, friend or other interested party to serve as the representative payee. This means that if you agree to be a representative payee and we appoint you, we pay you the person's benefits to use on his or her behalf.

As a representative payee, you would be responsible for using the benefit payments to help

meet the basic needs of the beneficiary. Primarily, the funds should be used to provide food, clothing, shelter, utilities and other essential needs for the person eligible for benefits.

Each year, Social Security will mail you a form to account for the benefits you have received. The quickest and easiest way to complete the form is online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/payee](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/payee). You can also complete the paper form and return it to Social Security.

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](mailto:vonda.vantil@ssa.gov).

## MAINTENANCE

Lighthouse, a growing manufacturer of dressings, dips & sauces is seeking a Maintenance Mechanic. This position is responsible to troubleshoot, repair & maintain our packaging & production systems. Must be able to demonstrate a well rounded knowledge of conveyor systems, packaging equipment & an overall mechanical aptitude. Previous experience in a similar position is required. Candidates must have the ability to work with notice on 2 or more different shifts & on weekends on a rotating schedule. We are an Employee Owned company offering 401K with match, medical, dental & vision plans, vacation accrual & a great working environment.

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MON 12:40, 2:50, 5:10, 7:20, 9:55  
TUE-TH 5:10, 7:20, 9:55  
WEDNESDAY BASTARDS (R)  
MON 11:50, 3:00, 6:15, 9:20  
TUE-TH 6:15, 9:20  
FINAL DESTINATION (R)  
MON 11:20, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:45  
TUE-TH 5:30, 7:30, 9:45  
HALLOWEEN II (R)  
MON 12:10, 2:30, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30  
TUE-TH 4:40, 7:10, 9:30  
JULIE & JULIA (PG-13)  
MON 11:00, 1:40, 4:15, 7:00, 9:40  
TUE-TH 4:15, 7:00, 9:40

**FARMERS' MARKET**  
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# Former Lowell teacher celebrates 95th birthday

The first grade teacher of half of Lowell's students from the mid-1950s to 1970 is celebrating her 95th birthday this month.

Lila Thaler, who now lives at Clark Retirement Center in Grand Rapids, was one of just two first grade teachers in Lowell Area Schools in 1955, when she returned to teaching after being a full-time mother for 14 years. She continued in the first grade classroom until 1969 when she received her master's degree and was a reading specialist at Bushnell Elementary until she retired in 1974.

Now, at 95, she is as vibrant as ever and is very involved in the activities at Clark, especially with the creative writing group. She has compiled many of her writing assignments, as well as other memories, into two volumes of memoirs, "I Remember" and "I

Remember More," both published after she turned 90 years of age. Copies of the books are available at the Lowell Public Library, Lowell Area Historical Museum, and the First



Lila Thaler will celebrate her birthday with an open house this Saturday at Clark Retirement Community in Grand Rapids.

United Methodist Church library.

At Clark, she is an area representative to the resident council. For the past two years, she served as the secretary of the council and until recently was a member of the Clark Players' drama group. She enjoys entertaining her many visitors, plays Scrabble and card games on the computer and with her fellow residents, and communicates via e-mail with friends and family around the country.

Lila Grace Smith was born Sept. 15, 1914 on a farm in Leighton Township, Allegan County, and attended a one-room school in Corning. At age 15, she graduated salutatorian of the Class of 1930 at Caledonia High School. Too young to attend the county normal school to become certified as a rural school teacher,

she attended Grand Rapids Junior College for a year and then Allegan County Normal for a year. Her first teaching jobs were in one-room rural schools. She then attended Western State Teachers College and graduated in 1937 with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She taught first grade in Battle Creek for two years.

Following her marriage to Orion Thaler in 1939, she taught for two years in Schoolcraft and spent the next 14 years as a full-time mother. She returned to the classroom in 1955 as one of only two first grade teachers in the Lowell district. Lila received her master's degree in reading from Michigan State University in 1969. She retired in 1974 and Mr. Thaler retired the same year having taught chemistry and physics at Lowell

High School for 29 years. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 1999, just six months before he died in December 1999.

Lila is a longtime active member of the First United Methodist Church in Lowell which the Thalers joined in 1945 when they moved to Lowell. Along with the Rev. Dean and Janet Bailey, she was one of the cofounders of the United Methodist Preschool in 1972. She served on the preschool governing board for 25 years.

The Thalers have four sons and a daughter: Robert (Janet Patrick) Thaler, of Saginaw; David (Karen) Thaler, of Lowell; Sue (Mike) Martens, of Muskegon; Steve (Linda) Thaler, of Kent City; and Jerry (Janet) Thaler, of Pickney; 17 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.



A FEW NOTABLE EVENTS FROM SEPT. 2 - SEPT. 8

In his school speech, Obama says education is key to the country's future. "No matter what you do in life, I guarantee that you'll need an education to do it," Obama says.

DNA trail leads to arrest in Wisconsin serial killings. Using "shoe leather and science," police in Milwaukee have arrested a suspect in the serial killings of nine women spanning over 21 years.

Former first lady, Laura Bush, praised the performance of President Obama. Bush tells CNN he is doing a good job under tough circumstances.

Afghanistan's Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) ordered a partial recount of ballots in the Aug. 20 presidential election. ECC ordered the audit because of "clear and convincing evidence of fraud in a number of polling stations."

Scientists have discovered a new species of giant rat in a rainforest of Papua, New Guinea. The rat measures 32.2 inches from nose to tail and weighs 3.3 pounds.

British court convicts three in plot to blow up Trans - Atlantic flights.

In the Philippines, an Air Force helicopter plucked to safety, Monday, a woman who drifted for about 30 hours in choppy seas after the sinking of a ferry that left nine dead. Only one of nearly 1,000 people on board is now unaccounted for.

A 140 pound cougar, that prowled through Seattle for about a week and forced the closure of the city's largest park, was captured early Sunday, wildlife officials reported.

The anniversary of terror attacks will be used to honor volunteerism. Congress and President Obama have declared Sept. 11 a national day of service and remembrance.

Celebrity photographer Annie Leibovitz could lose the rights to her portfolio of world-famous photography if she doesn't meet a Tuesday deadline to pay back a 24-million dollar loan.

# Viewpoint

## To The Editor

Dear Editor,

Residents of Lowell and Vergennes Townships, as well as the City of Lowell, might be interested in a civic group that has formed called VOICE - Voters Organized in Civic Excellence. We are striving to create more interest and involvement in our local governments. We would especially like to see some young people join us, even if you aren't old enough yet to vote.

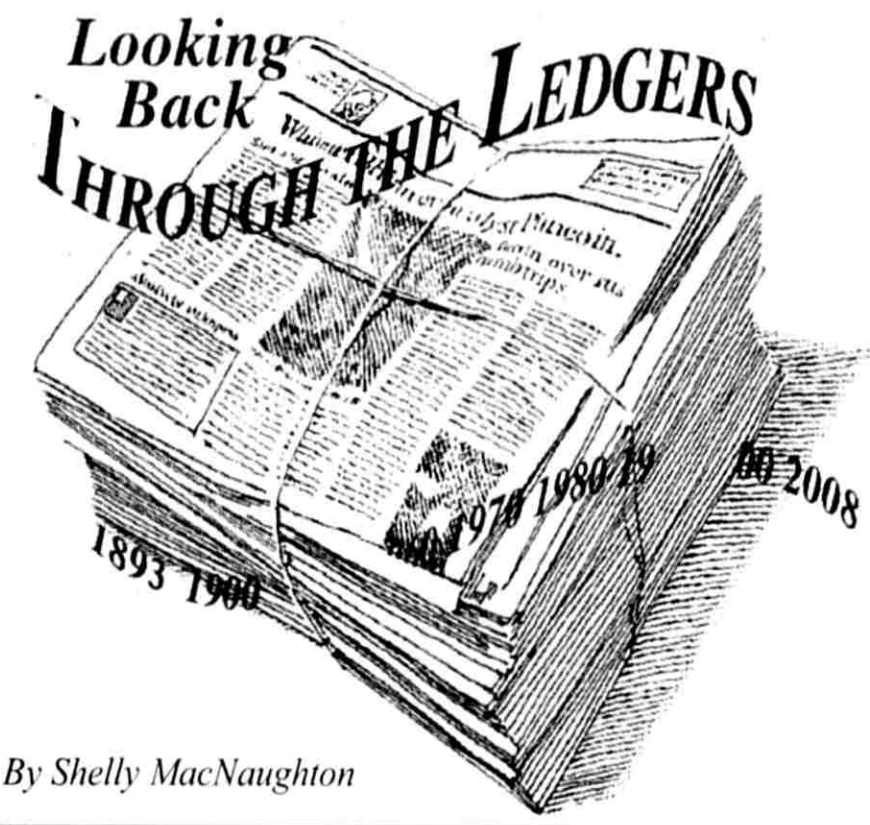
Our mission is to create a link between the residents of the Lowell communities and their elected officials. Instead of individuals complaining to their friends and neighbors about what the city or township is doing, we propose you come to our meetings and start a dialog. Our intent is to present positive solutions to issues through research and open dialog, to work hand-in-hand with government instead of complaining about it.

Not everyone wants to sit on the Council or become a Trustee, but you may still have some very valuable input that would help our officials to make more informed decision, which would in turn better our communities. Remember, if our government doesn't hear our VOICE, they won't know what we expect of them.

One project we are working on for the city of Lowell is to research a plan to recycle yard waste instead of paying to have it hauled away. Many communities these days are creating mulch from their yard waste that can then be used for free by the residents. You might have other ideas that we could work on, but we won't know about them unless you join our group.

We meet the third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Lowell City Hall, 2nd floor. Our meetings are informal and friendly, and we welcome everyone, including government officials and employees.

R.E. Reagan DDS, Chairman  
Barb Barber, Secretary



By Shelly MacNaughton

### 125 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL JOURNAL SEPTEMBER 10, 1884

J. S. Daniels has reopened his meat market on West Water Street.

Mrs. Hazlett will speak on the political issues of the day at Music Hall in Lowell, Friday evening Sept. 12. Don't fail to hear this eloquent lady.

The republican meeting at Fallasburg Friday night was well attended. Dr. S. S. Fallas was chairman. Messrs. Elsworth and Hine spoke and the Lowell Glee Club sang. It was a good meeting.

### 100 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER SEPTEMBER 9, 1909

Wright & Pratt of Ionia building contractors will erect Lowell's handsome new city hall. The figure at which the job is taken is \$13,000, which is \$3,311 less than the highest bid.

It should be added that the Council has decided to use Saginaw red paving bricks, while the specifications called for a lime and sand brick. The paving bricks cost \$300 more than the other but will last forever, while the cheaper brick is perishable.

### 75 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER AND ALTO SOLO SEPTEMBER 13, 1934

The gross proceeds from the 1934 Lowell Showboat amounted to \$1,970.02 or about \$600 more than the gross receipts last year. The net proceeds this year, after paying all expenses, leave a balance slightly in excess of \$400.

In spite of the fact that several rural schools, because of financial conditions, withdrew their pupils from Lowell, we find that the total enrollment in the Lowell schools has increased markedly over what it was a year ago. This is the largest enrollment Lowell has ever had in the upper four grades, out distancing the former figure by about 30. Shifts have been arranged whereby all pupils will be comfortably accommodated.

### 50 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER SEPTEMBER 10, 1959

Frank J. McMahon Park dedication ceremonies will be held Wednesday, September 30. Bless of the Plaque by the Reverend Speer Strahan, Pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church, will take place at the park site, Reservoir Hill, at 6 p.m. followed by a 7 p.m. dinner at Runciman Elementary School. The Honorable Gerald R. Ford, our Congressman from this district, will be the guest speaker.

### 25 YEARS AGO THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER SEPTEMBER 19, 1984

Lowell Cable TV viewers will soon have a new family entertainment channel available to them. Herb Haines, manager of LCTV, announced that the company has signed a contract with the "Disney Channel" and hopes to put it on line by October first. The Disney Channel will be an extra fee channel costing \$8.95 per month to the subscriber.

## Outdoors

By  
Dave Stegehuis



### PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE

Colder than average temperatures in late summer remind us fall is not far away. As seasons change, so does the focus of outdoor activity. Except for a few die-hard fishermen, most of us switch from fishing to hunting after the salmon run. Before the onset of snow and freezing temperatures, it would be wise to attend to the maintenance of fishing gear. Tackle maintenance can be done anytime before next season, but the longer the time lapse, the more likely it is to forget something. Taking care of boats, boat trailers, and most importantly, outboard engines now will help to avoid problems in the spring.

Boats should be cleaned up and organized. Be sure to drain water out of the hull and pumps to avoid freezing. Interior dirt is abrasive to decks and carpeting. Road grease, and who knows what else, may be stuck to the hull. This stuff will come off easier now and a clean hull runs smoother on the water.

Starting batteries as well as deep cycle trolling motor batteries need to be kept at full charge when in storage.

Check water levels in nonmaintenance free batteries. Use distilled water to cover plates.

Boat trailers are often ignored until something goes wrong. Winch straps or cables and hold-downs may be damaged or worn. Tires, lights, and wiring need to be inspected. Because wheel bearings spend time submerged, they should be checked and fresh grease applied so they will be ready for that first trip in the spring.

Outboard motors are remarkably dependable if maintained properly. Drain and replace the oil in the lower gear case. Check for the presence of water in the oil, which indicates leaking seals, which will have to be replaced. Check the owner's manual for manufacturer recommendations for the inspection or replacement of the water pump impeller. Grease zerk fittings. Moving on to the upper part of the engine, check spark plugs and replace if questionable. Fog cylinders with a recommended lubricant. Run a gas stabilizer through the fuel delivery system. Stabilizer is more important these days because of the presence of ethanol in some fuel. Ethanol attracts water which may cause problems with engine function and can be detrimental to fuel lines and tanks.

Doing routine maintenance now will prevent problems when it is time to get back on the water. It is nice to be able to enjoy the excitement of the first trip and not be disappointed with expensive and time-consuming mechanical problems. Invest some time now and enjoy the results of your efforts later.



## Understanding Insurance

With Dave Emmette

### NO-FAULT INSURANCE MYTH - LIABILITY:

Since I live in Michigan and have No-Fault insurance, this means even if I am at fault in an accident and someone sues me, my liability coverage is irrelevant.

Wrong, this is a common misunderstanding and this is not what No-Fault insurance means. You are only protected up to your limits of liability (Bodily Injury portion) of your policy. So, if you are driving to work and hit a child on a bike, severely injuring them, you are only protected up to your limits of liability. Let's say you have Bodily Injury at \$100,000/\$300,000 and the parents sue and the court awards \$500,000 - this means your auto insurance policy only pays \$100,000 and you are responsible for the remaining \$400,000. This can result in assets being liquidated and may also include garnished wages.

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- Henry Ford (1863 - 1947)



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If you have a dress you no longer need but would like to donate, please give us a call. Free local pickup

## LUNCH MENU

ELEMENTARY MENU  
Week of  
Sept. 14, 2009

MON: Cheeseburger on bun (egg salad sandwich also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), oven baked French fries, mixed fruit, milk.

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

WED: Spaghetti & Italian meatsauce (stacked ham & cheese on bun also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), mini carrots & dip, pineapple, milk.

THURS: Cheese pizza (BBQ ribbette on bun also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), green beans, fruited gelatin salad, milk.

FRI: Walking taco with lettuce & tomato (tuna salad sandwich also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), Fritos corn chips, corn, assorted fruit, milk.



# Father Stan Fortuna, CFR comes to LIFEfest 2009

"If you want to talk about energy, there it is, right there. It's called the Eucharist, and it's the body and the blood and the soul and the divinity of Jesus Christ," explains Father Stan Fortuna, CFR. "What I've got inside of me, and what everybody has inside of them, because in the image they were created in the image of love, that love is the source of the energy."

It is this spiritual energy that keeps the dynamic Bronx-born Roman Catholic priest travelling around the world, ministering and performing. Among his appearances were the 1999

St. Louis youth rally with John Paul II, and the recent World Youth Days in Sydney and Toronto.

A founding member of Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, Father Stan uses his background as a cabaret singer, recording artist, music producer and composer to reach people of all ages. He will be the speaker and performer at the Franciscan Life Process Center's annual fundraiser, LIFEfest 2009, October 10 and 11, starting with the 'Evening of Inspiration,' from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday.

At 'A Country Sampler' beginning at noon on Sunday,

October 11, Father Stan will celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Later in the afternoon, he will take the stage, performing with his guitar. Additional musical performers throughout the afternoon include Pete Muszkiewicz, Hall Street Entertainment, and Melvin Crawford. The Family Fall Celebration runs until 4 p.m.

Youngsters will enjoy Kevin Kammeradd, children's book author and illustrator of 'The Tomato Collection' books. Afterwards, children can make puppets with puppet-maker Mary Riley. Other activities include kite-flying, pumpkin decorating, sack races, softball, wagon rides and miniature horse cart rides. Bake-sale items, pottery, fresh-baked bread and other homemade treats will be some of the new items for sale in the main tent.

Saturday night's 'Evening of Inspiration' is \$60 per adult/\$50 per student, including a country pig roast dinner as well as a time of inspiration and music with Father Stan. The Sunday 'Family Fall Celebration' costs \$8/ person or \$20 per family and includes admission, children's games and rides, musical entertainment, apple roast, and s'mores. New this year, separate box lunches are available for purchase at the event. Guests are welcome to bring their own picnic lunches if they prefer. Tickets are available by calling (616) 897-7842, e-mailing registrar@lifeproc center.org or by visiting www.lifeproc center.org.

The Lowell-based organization, Franciscan Life Process Center, was founded by the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist in 1973. Through the music

education, music therapy, art, preschool, and retreat programs, the Center assists in the education, healthy development and cultural enrichment of individuals and communities of people throughout the greater Grand Rapids area and Kent County.

All monies raised from this annual benefit directly support the Franciscan Center's scholarship programs, which provide subsidies for preschool tuition and music and art scholarships for families and individuals needing financial assistance.

## College News

Tyler Kent was named to the Dean's List for recognition of academic excellence at Grand Rapids Community College for the 2009 winter semester.

Kent is a 2007 Lowell High School graduate. His parents are Dennis Kent, of Lowell, and Rose Lawrence, also of Lowell.

## Happy Birthday

**SEPTEMBER 9:** Sarah Schalow, Amy Cook, Allison Mahovic, Linda Morrison, Charles Gee, Todd Lenneman.

**SEPTEMBER 13:** Beatrice Kuiper, Randy McIntyre, Gloria Ossewaarde, Haley Briggs.

**SEPTEMBER 10:** Brecken Hendrick, Chris Gerard.

**SEPTEMBER 14:** Christian Barnes, Dan VanDyke, Michael Timmers, Missy Ossewaarde, Megan Gee.

**SEPTEMBER 11:** Sean Ellis, Justin VanDyke, Susan Barry, Diane Johnson.

**SEPTEMBER 15:** Brandi Phillips, Mark Trierweiler, Nick Baker, Bryan Bitterman.

**SEPTEMBER 12:** Deborah Claypool, Nathan Propst, Jim Smith, Tyler Bitterman.

The Wisdom Wellness Center presents the **FRIDAY MORNING Weight Loss Challenge and/or Wellness Workshop!**

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**Wellness Workshop Only Option!!** Don't need to lose weight or just want to learn more?? The Wellness Workshop classes without weigh-ins is only \$15 for the full 12 weeks!

**Date:** Classes start September 18  
**Time:** Friday morning at 9 am.  
**Place:** The Wisdom Wellness Center 10015 Cascade Road, Lowell Twp.

Class is filling fast! Call today to reserve a spot!!  
**Call Cheryl at (616) 868-7551 or email Cheryl@WisdomWellnessCenter.com**

**You're invited to Doug & Judie Eddy's 50th Anniversary Celebration!**

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No gifts please. Your presence is present enough!



## In The Service



Autumn J. Johnson

Air Force Airman Autumn J. Johnson graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Johnson earned distinction as an honor graduate.



Michael S. Westra

She is the daughter of Gerald Johnson, of Saranac, and Julie Haller, of Grand Rapids.

Johnson is a 2005 graduate of Wayland Union High School.

Air National Guard Airman Michael S. Westra graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

He is the son of John Westra, of Ada, and Darla Van Dyke, of Pueblo West, Colorado.

Westra is a 2007 graduate of Forest Hills Central High School.

## Lowell teachers hike part of Grand Canyon

Sixteen Lowell teachers recently hiked into part of the Grand Canyon. On June 14 they hiked down in what is known as the Havasupai Indian Reservation which is located in the middle of

the Grand Canyon. They stayed two nights on the reservation in the Supai Village. This particular part of the canyon has several beautiful waterfalls that create natural swimming

areas. The native Americans of this reservation are known as the "People of the Blue-Green Water." The teachers, pictured at the Hoover Dam, sported their "Jared's Team" t-shirts on behalf of Jared

Sweet who has Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy. Even though these teachers have been working together for many years, they all felt that the experience brought them closer as colleagues.



Pictured, front row, left to right: Karen Eldridge, Sue Sweet (Jared's mom), Kendal Khodli, Sue Gordon, Diane Titcher, Missy Harrison, and Nancy Russell; back row, left to right: Stephanie Robinson, MaryHelen DeLiefde, Nancy Breuker, Sally Sterly, Linda DeCator-Highway, Denise Washburn, Julie Hruby, Dawn Landis and Lori Coffman.

## HEALTH

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

### MITOCHONDRIAL DISEASE AND PAYTON'S RACE FOR A CURE

On Saturday, September 12, a fundraising event for a beautiful little girl will be held. The event is called "Payton's Race for a Cure" and will be held at the Cedar Springs Race Track. Payton was born with a rare disorder in which the cells energy powerhouse (mitochondria) fails to work.

Mitochondrial Disease is a disorder in which a cell's mitochondria fail to work. A mitochondria produces energy for each cell in the body. When it fails, the cell does not work and/or may die. This causes entire organ systems to fail and results in devastating problems to the body. Symptoms can include loss of motor functions and strength, seizures, problems with seeing or hearing, global developmental delays, and failure to grow. This disease occurs primarily in children, but can occur late in life. There currently is no cure or satisfactory treatment for those affected.

More information about Payton can be found online as well as specific information regarding the dirt bike race and other events occurring on Saturday afternoon. The Grand Rapids Press had a very nice article about Payton this past Monday and an ad will be in the Lowell Ledger. The event will raise money for the United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation to support research and treatments for this disease.

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 <p><b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 www.lowellumc.com</p> <p>WORSHIP..... 8:30 &amp; 10:15 a.m.</p> <p>Rev. Rick Blunt Barrier-free entrance</p>	<p><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.</p> <p><b>OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS</b> Pastor Dean Bailey</p>		<p><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</p>	
<p><b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 www.lowellumc.com</p> <p>WORSHIP..... 8:30 &amp; 10:15 a.m.</p> <p>Rev. Rick Blunt Barrier-free entrance</p>	<p><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</p> <p><b>SUNDAYS:</b> 10:00 a.m. - Worship &amp; Evening: LIFE home Groups &amp; "The Source" Youth</p> <p><b>WEDNESDAYS:</b> Family Night: (for all ages) 7:00 p.m. "The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m. Loving God... Loving People!</p>		<p><b>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Fr. Eugene Okali 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com</p> <p>Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM &amp; 7 PM Saturday confessions: 4-4:45 PM Prayer &amp; adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETER WIGGINS: 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48, ENTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>	<p><b>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> (United Church of Christ) 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906 www.OurBigChurch.org</p> <p>Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Thursday Faith Alive Casual Worship.....6:30 P.M. Rev. Terry Tessari.....Interim Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director</p> <p>Barrier-free.....Nursery Provided No matter where you are on life's journey, You are welcome here.</p>
<p><b>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell &amp; Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org</p> <p>Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. (Nursery available)</p> <p>Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>		<p><b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbcloowell.org Rev. David O. Sims &amp; Rev. W. Lee Taylor</p> <p>Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. &amp; 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA/EXCITE - TEENS Wed. 6:15 &amp; 6:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free</p>		<p><b>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Pastor Mike Conklin</p> <p>11:00 A.M. ....Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M. ....Sunday School</p> <p>897-9863 or 897-9588</p> <p>Nursery &amp; Children Worship Programs Provided</p> <p>A friend...a family...a mission!</p>

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- BETTY MORLOCK

Position: City Clerk - Lowell  
Residence: Lowell Township  
Education: GRCC - business and accounting  
Experience: Secretarial, office  
Family: Husband Sam, daughter Jamie Watrous  
Hobbies: Volunteering, time with grandkids, president of Rotary Club, member of the Rockford Ambulance Board



## City clerk works to make a difference locally and internationally

by Emma Palova

Sitting at her desk overloaded with paperwork, city clerk Betty Morlock talks about her love for her job and the community.

She is an altruist, who has always given more than taken.

"I am a people person," she said. "This is the perfect job for me. Everyone likes the clerk."

Truly, working in an environment that can get heated over the neighbors' chickens during Monday night meetings, Morlock keeps her composure.

"Let them vent, I like that," she said. "I take a deep breath and start the next day anew."

Morlock started the job in 1988 as a deputy clerk after seeing an ad in the Lowell Ledger advertising office work with night meetings. Before that, she was a teacher's aide and worked part time for an insurance company.

But, she knew this was her niche, since she's always wanted a job that she could retire from. She became the city clerk in 2000 after receiving certification for clerk.

The challenges now and then of the job are a lot similar, mainly contact with the public, representing the community and night meetings.

But, with the advance of technology, Morlock's complex job has gotten easier. Still, she says about herself, that she works

better under stress like during presidential year elections.

"I set daily goals to be more understanding and not short with people," she said.

Her long term goals include continuing service, to love, to be loving and a good example.

Morlock is motivated by people like Betty Yeiter, Jeanne Shores and Liz Baker.

"I want to be friendly, helpful and caring," she said.

Morlock works best within her own system that she calls "unorganized organized."

"I am here for the people," she said. "I do as much as I can."

That may mean long election nights, but with the support of other clerks and technology, it has gotten easier.

Every day she faces the main challenge of the city government, that is tightening of the budget, while giving the same level of service with less money.

One thing Morlock doesn't like about her job is dealing with cemetery deeds, burial arrangements and authorization to open the grave site.

"I am glad I can do it, but I am sensitive and it saddens me," she said.

But, on the other hand, it is also a rewarding task to be able to help out and offer kind words of comfort.

"I pray quietly before I meet with them and get the business done," she said. "It rips your heart up."

Morlock said she is fortunate to have good people to work with such as the city council, the planning commission and

the city manager, and the entire city staff.

In five to 10 years, Morlock may consider retiring, but she will continue her involvement in the community, such as being a trustee on the Lowell Township Board.

"I love our community," she said. "I love everything about it. If you have a tragedy, everyone is there for you."

And Morlock knows that first hand. The community was there for her when grandson Tyler

Morlock was diagnosed with cancer, and in 2000 when her son Steven Morlock died in a quad accident.

Morlock is also a member of the Legislative Committee for State Clerks.



Betty Morlock, at her desk at city hall, loves being a city clerk.

## "Behind the Scenes"

They're everyday people who make things happen with their persistence and determination. They know their job inside and out making their companies or businesses hum like a well-oiled machine. They have a passion for what they do, no matter what it is or where it is.

You run into them at the downtown merchant stores, industry plants, at the local meat markets or behind the counter at local banks. And they go above and beyond their duties as they get involved in community projects.

*We encourage our readers to nominate these people for our upcoming "Behind the Scenes" series.*

Email your suggestions to:  
ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com (in the subject line put "Behind the Scenes"),  
phone in your suggestion at (616) 897-9261 or write to us at:  
The Lowell Ledger, P.O. Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331.





# Red Arrow SPORTS

## Senior's letter inspires overwhelming support for aunt

by Thad Kraus

A young girl's aunt is diagnosed with breast cancer.

That scenario is repeated countless times every day across this country.

Its uniqueness is not what's alarming. The stories of how patients living with cancer, and their families, endure and survive.

While not unique, it is compelling.

In May, Lowell senior Britteny Ramirez learned that her aunt, Debbie Austin Videan, was diagnosed with breast cancer.

Over the past four months, Videan has had the cancer surgically removed and is now going through chemotherapy.

Lost through this

emotional process is her waist-length hair. Gained is the gratefulness and support of her family, friends and strangers.

Yes, strangers. Videan learned from Ramirez, on Thursday, just how much support.

The Lowell senior sent letters out into the community three weeks ago to family, friends and people who don't even know her aunt, explaining to them the purpose of the Pink Arrow Project and how cancer had touched her life.

Within a few days, Ramirez began getting feedback and receiving donations to the Pink Arrow Project in the name her of aunt.

On Wednesday night, at the jersey auction, Ramirez purchased the jersey of Lowell varsity football player, Kyle Fitzpatrick, for \$1,400, the sum of all the

donations sent to Ramirez by those compelled to through her letter.

"I told my aunt today," said Ramirez at half-time of the Holland/ Lowell football

game. "She was really happy and emotional and oh so grateful for the support."

On Friday, after the game with Union, Fitzpatrick will present his jersey to Videan.

Ramirez says her aunt is doing well, and the senior is feeling good about the letter she wrote and is grateful too for the support forthcoming by her community.

## Red Arrows lose to Dutch on first-half header

by Thad Kraus

The Red Arrows' controlled tempo had the opposition on its heels, made good decisions, played solid defense, but did not get the desired result.

That was the scenario that played out in Holland on Wednesday as Lowell boys' soccer team dropped its first game of the year, 1-0, to the Dutch (3-3-1).

"I thought we played great, maybe our best game

of the year," explained Lowell coach Paul Legge. "We created plenty of opportunities, but the boys just didn't finish. They were just a little tight in front of the net."

The difference came midway through the first half when Holland's Jake Carter sent a first-half, corner kick into the back of the net off a corner kick from senior Matthais DeJongh, giving the Dutch the winning goal.

It was Carter's fourth header goal of the season, his seventh total and the first goal allowed by Lowell (3-1).

"In a 1-0 game, when you make seven saves, all seven saves were important," said Holland coach Greg Ceithaml. "But along with that, I know Chad (DeWilde) would be the first to credit his defense too, with limiting their opportunities."

Holland managed just

three shots on goal, but made good one.

"That's the way the game of soccer works sometimes," Legge said. "When you give up just one goal you should get a good result."

After playing three of its first four games on the road, Lowell hosts Union and Greenville (first league game of the year) this week.

# Red Arrow SPORTS

## Lowell grounds up Holland: Graham scores four rushing touchdowns

by Thad Kraus

It appeared the only two things that could have gotten in the way of Lowell's second win of the season was sloppy play and a lack of focus.

Instead, the Red Arrows' message in Holland, Thursday night, was one of intensity and strength.

Lowell wasted little time in establishing control as it scored on all five of its first-half possessions en route to a 55-0 drubbing of the Dutch.

"I am proud of these kids for their focus and the way they came out and played from the start," said

Lowell football coach Noel Dean.

"There was no slop and no lack of focus."

While the offense rushed for 239 yards and threw for 193, the Red Arrow defense scored two touchdowns itself on a recovered fumble in the end zone by Jake Fillingham and an interception returned (24 yards) to a touchdown by junior Matt Houston.

"I would hope that our boys take from this game the level of intensity in which Lowell plays," said Holland football coach Shawn McManus. "If we can do that, then this will help us in our next seven games."

Lowell's first touchdown came on a 72-yard drive capped off by a six-yard touchdown run by Austin Graham.

The senior running back finished with the game 125 yards on the ground and caught one pass for 17 yards. Graham also found the end zone four times.

His other rushing touchdowns came on runs of three, two and seven yards.

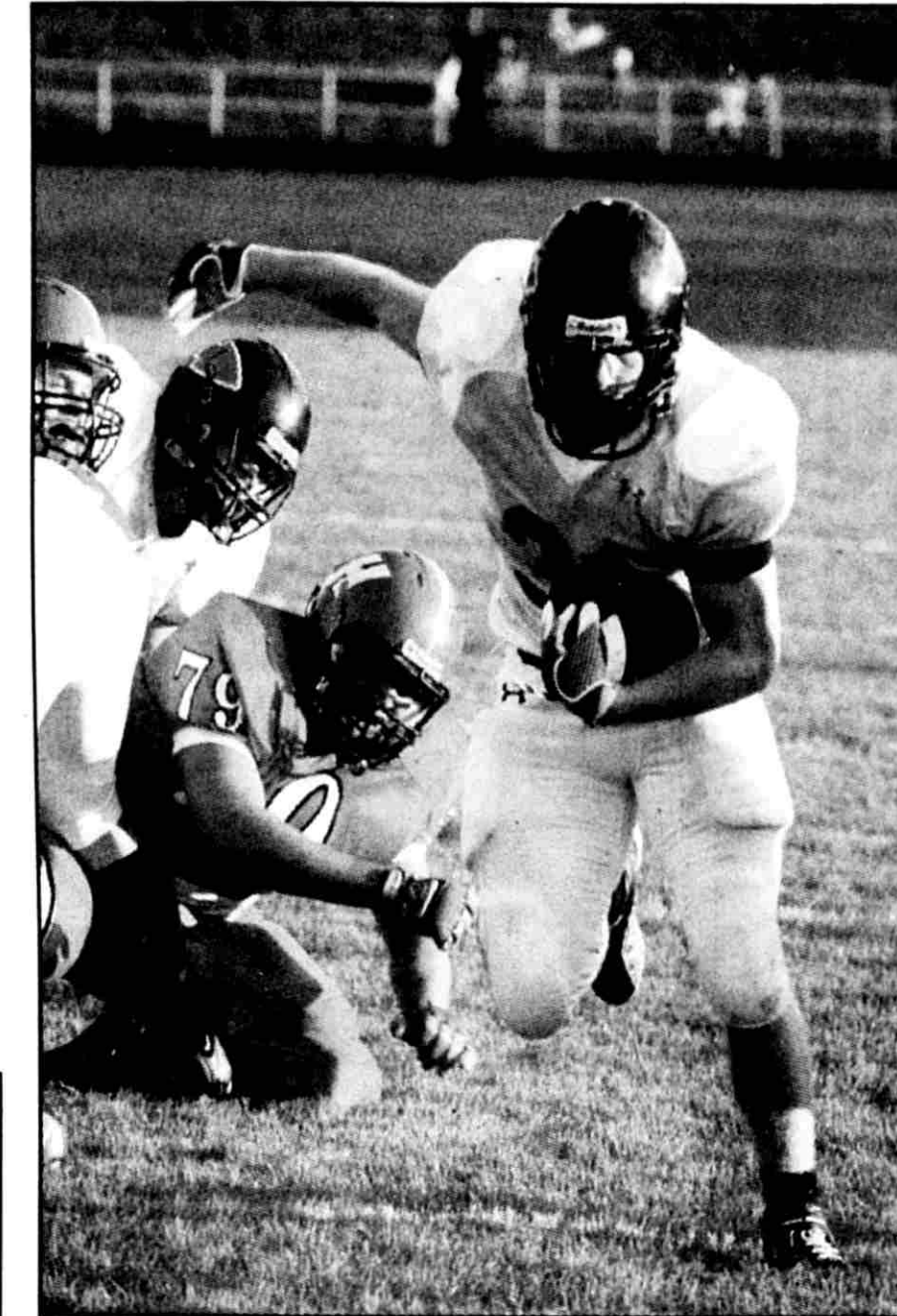
Red Arrow quarterback, Gabe Dean, connected on 9-of-13 through the air for 193 yards and two touchdowns. Dean also rushed for 97 yards.

The scoring strikes came on a 26-yard pass to Houston and a 47-yard pass-and-catch to Derek Cornish.

Cornish caught four passes for 92 yards. Erik Ingebretson was on the receiving end of two passes for 32 and 13 yards.

Lowell, 2-0, returns home on Friday for the Pink Arrow game with nonleague foe Grand Rapids Union.

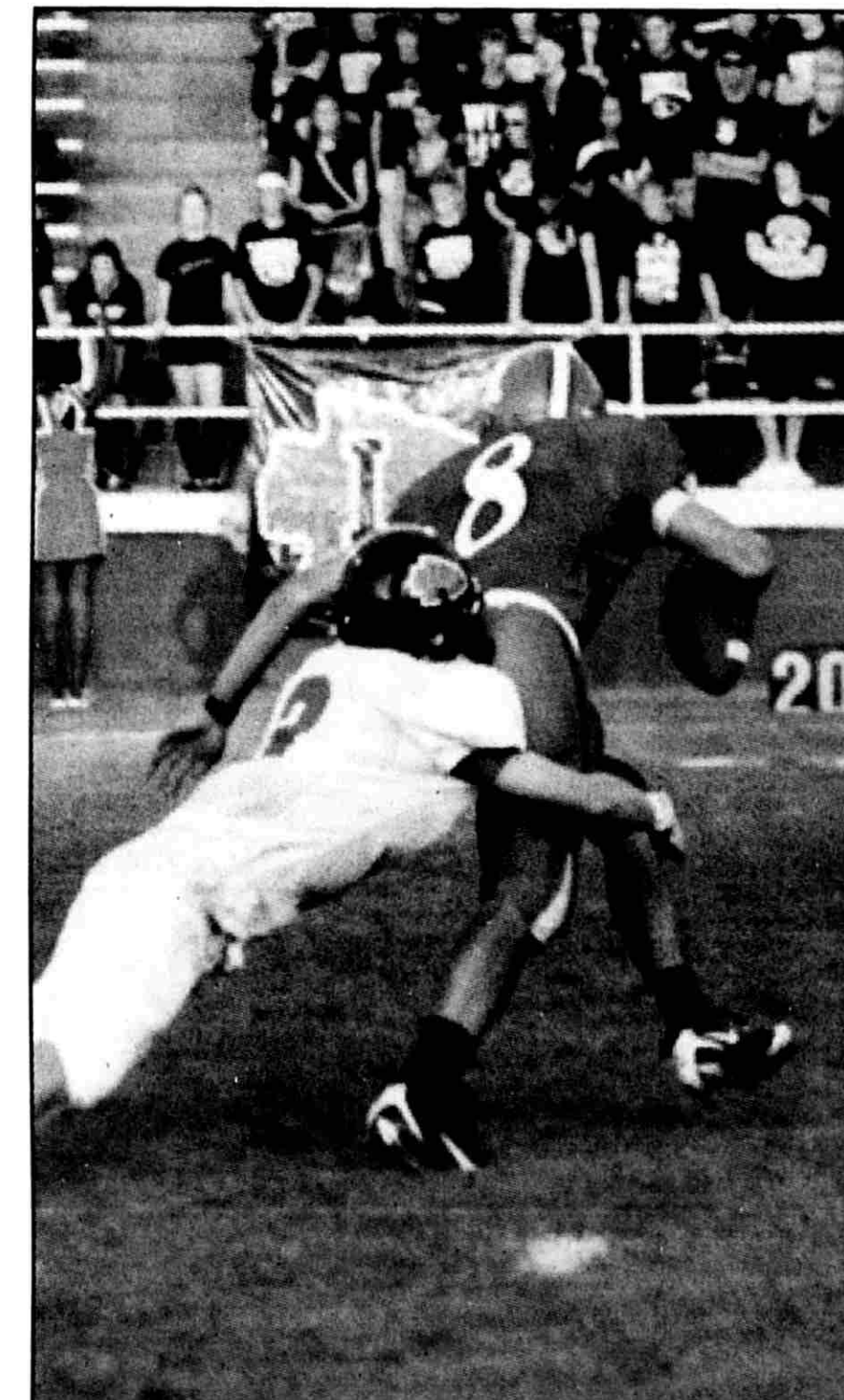
The Red Hawks improved their record to 1-1 with a 34-16 win over Grand Rapids Central. Union lost in week one to Creston, 14-0.



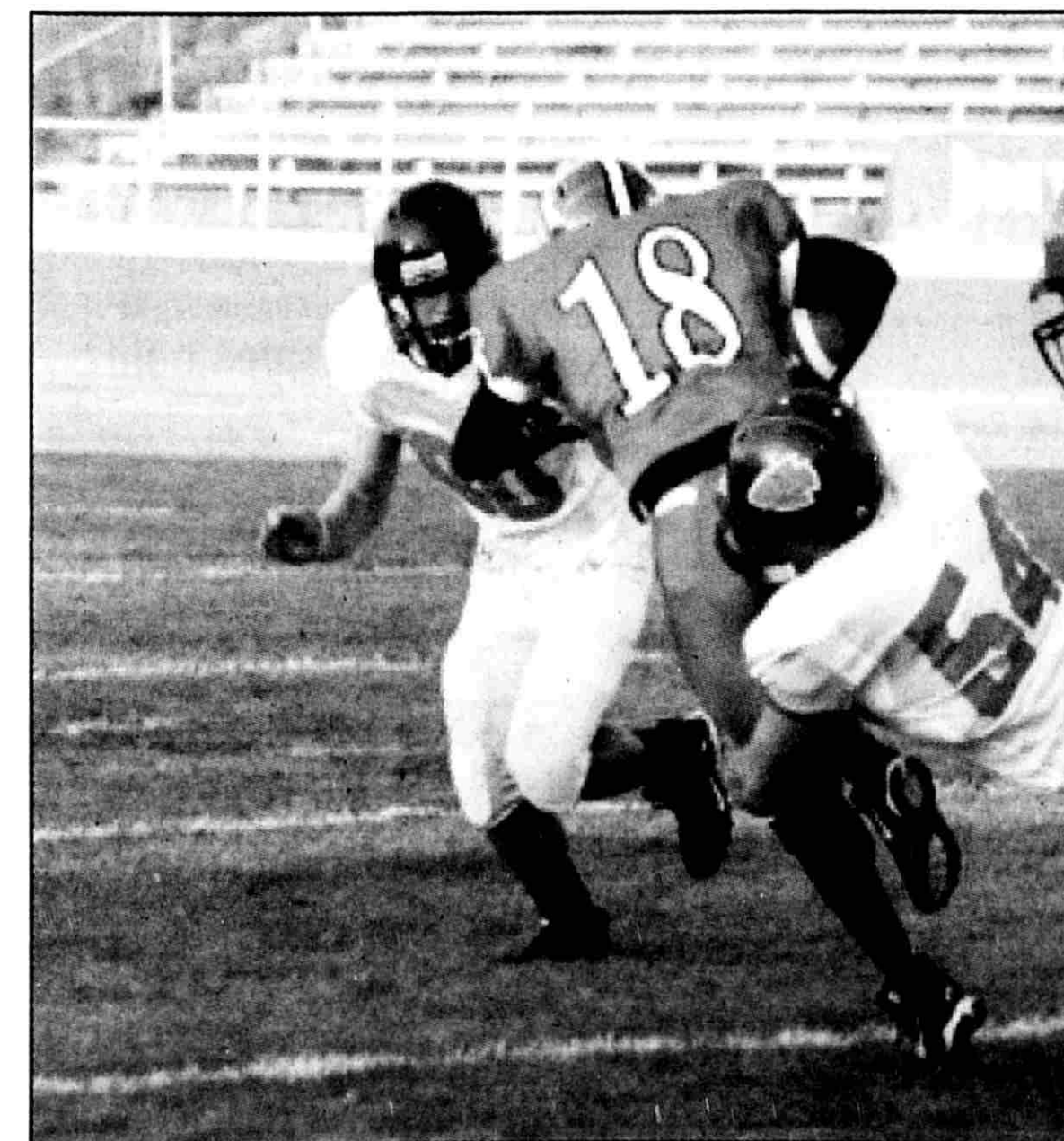
Austin Graham found the end zone four times against the Dutch defense.



Lowell quarterback, Gabe Dean, rushed for 97 yards and threw for 193 in Lowell's 55-0 win over Holland.



Lowell linebacker, Randy Hogan, delivers a finishing blow in first half action.



Matt Houston is on this tackle; the Red Arrow also returned an interception for a touchdown.

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# Red Arrow SPORTS

## Perfect conditions bring home better times

by Thad Kraus

Lowell was eighth in the 12-team field at the Gracewil Golf Course for the O-K White vs. O-K Black boys' cross country meet. Kenowa Hills claimed the top spot with 59 points. The Knights had three runners finish in the top five.

Grand Rapids Christian was second with 73 followed by Mona Shores, 93; Forest Hills Central, 96; Reeths Puffer, 156; East Grand Rapids, 171; Creston, 179, Lowell, 182; Northview, 196; Greenville, 263; Holland, 267; and Union, 361.

"Overall, the boys ran a better race," said Lowell boys' cross country coach Clay VanderWarf. "All five of our guys were under 20 minutes. They just have to keep working and improving from week to week." Leading Lowell was senior Zach Robinson. He

came home in 17:42 earning him a 14th-place finish. Tom Mark was the second Red Arrow in and 30th overall in a time of 18:28. Ben Partridge stopped the clock in 18:42 placing him 38th. Caleb Hershberger was

the fourth Lowell runner to finish. He came off the course in 18:49 placing him 43rd overall. "We're going out hard in that first mile but our time is dropping off in the second mile," VanderWarf said. "We need to improve on that

so there is not such a drop-off." John Mark, 57th, crossed the finish line in 19:35. Running, but not figuring in the team scoring, were Josh Corteville (20:04) and Matt Griffioen (21:41).

## Personal bests the story at Gracewil

by Thad Kraus

The performance of Lowell girls' cross country team at the O-K White vs. O-K Black cross country meet reflected a hunger of better things to come. "We had a great day at

Gracewil Golf Course! The girls were much improved from last week," said Lowell coach Sarah Ellis. "I think a mixture of a dry course and athletes hungry for better performances made the day a success."

Personal bests were recorded by Taylor Marchido, 21:15; Rebekah Betts, 21:49; Katie Jousma, 22:17; Emily Jelsma, 22:47; Amy Bartkus, 22:53; and Carissa Paiz, 23:43. At the junior varsity

level, Ellis saw several girls make their move as well. Karis Dilly, 22:37, will be moving back up to varsity, and there were personal bests for Skye Thebo, Kendall Solon, Jessica Lewis, Melissa Southwell,

Annie Vescolani, Kelsey Mankel, Lexi Wabeke, Pauline Harrington, and Allie Hinton. The Red Arrows placed seventh out of 10 full teams, while 12 teams participated in the event.

"After the race, I showed the girls how close we were to the other teams, just 3 points away from Greenville and 16 from Northview (both in our conference)," Ellis concluded.

## Red Arrows play-level setting the mark in volleyball

by Thad Kraus

When a team is playing well in the first half, a basketball coach hates to see half-time come. Well, volleyball has no half-time. It's not anywhere near half way through the season and yet Red Arrow

volleyball coach GiGi Peal has some regrets about the minimal number of games slated over the next 10-14 days. "Overall, I'm pretty happy with the progress we've shown," Peal said. "I'm excited about the

girls' level of play and what they are bringing to each match." Lowell finished third at the Forest Hills Eastern Invitational, losing to Grand Rapids Christian in the semifinal.

In the WMVOA, Lowell was bounced from the quarterfinals by Hudsonville. The Red Arrows advanced to the quarterfinals by pushing through a tough

gold pool. Lowell finished 2-1 in pool play, defeating Grand Rapids Christian and Forest Hills Eastern while losing to Rockford. "Our defense and setting has been consistent. Offense and scoring has been where the girls have been struggling. Out hitting

and serving has not been as consistent as I would like," Peal said. "If we show up focused, we can play with anyone." On Tuesday that maturity and focus helped Lowell turn back Breckenridge and Williamston, 3-0.

**OKAY - Someone Has To Say It ...**  
by Thad Kraus

**BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME**  
Build a winning program/be a perennial power and not so much. Scheduling an opponent in week one has been a challenge facing the perennial football powers the likes of Lowell for a number of years now. Why you ask? The MHSAA playoff system - schools have to hit the 6-3 mark to qualify for the playoffs. Yes, 5-4 puts teams on the bubble - but six brings the guarantee. Therefore, schools are looking to dot their schedules with enough opportunities so they can reach the magic number of six. Many are not willing to schedule a non-conference opponent, in week one, they have little chance of defeating Lowell was challenged this year to find someone for game one. After many phone calls and conversations, Detroit Mumford came forth. It came at a cost of roughly \$2,500 plus bussing expenses. So why are some schools willing to travel while others are not? Poor home attendance and large gate receipts at other venues make it financially lucrative. Good thing, without Mumford, Lowell may have had to traverse outside of Michigan -- to Indiana, Ohio, or Illinois looking for an opponent. Facing this scheduling challenge, a school's only other option, if nine games aren't available, is to play eight games (remember FHC a number of years ago) - then they

are charged with winning five games to make the playoff as opposed to six. No coach or team likes or welcomes that scenario. The only area schools willing to consider scheduling Lowell for their opener were Muskegon and Rockford, however, both are contractually tied up through 2010 - Rockford with Davison and Muskegon with Detroit Martin Luther King. Lowell will travel to Walled Lake Western next year for its opener. Walled Lake is scheduled to come to Lowell in 2014. For the two in between 2010 and 2013, an exciting scheduling change is on the way. Lowell and Rockford have agreed to play a home-and-home series in 2011 (Lowell) and 2012 (Rockford). Both winning programs draw well and would benefit financially. Not only with the Friday night game, but even more so at the freshman and junior varsity levels. It will pit two of West Michigan's top football programs, two of its top coaches, and two good friends against one another! Great fodder for us media folk and great excitement for the fan. All of this begs the question, why are so many West Michigan schools traveling east or have the east come west for a football game? I have a thought, why not play one another? Wouldn't it be great if East Grand Rapids, Lowell, Rockford, Muskegon, and the other premier football teams stayed home and played one another the opening week of the season? It would be like those early season basketball tournaments where great matchups are forged. That first game will not put any of these schools in jeopardy of not making the playoffs. Let us hope that Rockford and Lowell, whether intentional or not, has started something here.

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## Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold

### GET EDUCATED ABOUT INVESTING

If you have children at home, you're no doubt aware that it's the traditional back-to-school time. But even if your days of parent-teacher conferences are in the past, or even in the future, you can still find a place in your life for education — and you might want to start by educating yourself about investing.

To get the most out of your investment education, ask yourself these questions:

- What are my goals? Your financial goals should drive your investment decisions. You probably have

short-term goals, such as making a down payment on a home or paying for a vacation, and long-term goals, such as saving for your children's college education or building resources for your retirement. Once you've identified your goals, you can create an investment strategy to help achieve them.

- What is my risk tolerance? Self-awareness is important in every aspect of life — including your approach to investing. As you create your investment portfolio, you need to understand your own views on risk. Would you consider yourself an aggressive investor — that is, someone who can accept a relatively higher degree of investment risk in exchange for potentially higher returns? Or are you a more conservative investor — someone who is willing to take lower returns in exchange for lower potential risk? Or perhaps you're a moderate investor, less risk-averse than some but less aggressive than others. However you'd characterize yourself, it's essential that you factor in your risk tolerance when choosing investments. Otherwise, you'll likely end up causing yourself needless worry over your investment portfolio's performance.

- When should I make changes to my investments? Once you've built an investment portfolio, you shouldn't leave it on "autopilot." Over time, you most likely will need to add new investments or sell others. However, try to avoid selling quality investments just because

their share price has dropped — they may still have good long-term prospects. In general, you should sell an investment under certain circumstances. For example, if your goals have changed, you may find the need to sell some investments and purchase others. You may decide to sell an investment if it's no longer what it was when you purchased it. For example, maybe you've invested in a company whose products are less competitive than they once were, or perhaps the company belongs to an industry now in decline. And finally, if your portfolio has become "overweighted" with certain types of investments, you may decide to sell some of them to bring your holdings back into balance, based on your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon.

- Whom should I consult for help? You can do a lot to educate yourself about investing — but when it comes to making the right choices for your future, you may need help. A professional financial advisor who is familiar with your family situation, short- and long-term goals and investment preferences can help you build and maintain a portfolio that can help meet your needs. The investment world can be complex, so the more knowledge you have on your side, the better off you'll be.

Take the time to learn as much as you can about investing. It's an education that can pay off in the long run.

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### EVENTS

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**SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** - at 3189 Snow Ave. SE will serve a family style turkey & dressing dinner on Wed., Sept. 9 starting at 5:30 p.m. Adults are \$9, Children 6-12 are \$3 & children 5 & under are free. Take out dinners also available.

**THE EAST KENT COUNTY REPUBLICANS (EKCR)** - will be meeting on Sat., Sept. 12, 2009 at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce (113 Riverwalk Plaza) from 8:30 to 10 a.m. to discuss current events on the local, state and national levels. Bring your concerns and issues to our meeting for open discussion! Please join us and share information about what you can do to become involved! For more information, please call Dave Emmette 644-0759 or Nancy Steckler 897-6380.

**ROYAL ARCH MASONS** - Hooker Chapter #75 2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; dinner at 6:30 p.m. at Masonic Temple, 211 E. Main St., Belding.

### EVENTS

**ST. PATRICK PLAYGROUP** - Thursdays 10-11:15 a.m. St. Patrick's Preschool Room. Parents with young children welcome. Stories, games, crafts, music & snack. Any questions please call Jennifer Post, 897-0251 or Penny Spanbauer, 635-0385.

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**LOWELL SERENITY CLUB MEETINGS** - (AA) Mon., Wed., Thurs.: 12-1 & 8-9 p.m.; Tues. & Fri.: 12-1, 4:30-5:30 p.m. & 8-9 p.m.; Sat. & Sun.: 10-11 a.m. & 8-9 p.m.; (NA) Mon./Thurs., 6-7:30 p.m. 101 W. Main. 897-8565.

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**GARAGE SALES**  
*This Week!*

**This is the last Garage Sale Page of the season**

**YARD SALE**  
Sept. 4 & 5, Fri. & Sat., 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 3136 Segwun Ave., between 36th St. & Emery Dr. 30 inch gas range, adult clothing, seasonal decorations, Coke memorabilia, some tools, old kitchen table & chairs, fuel oil furnace, dishes & misc. golf balls & equipment, nice 7 ft. Christmas tree with containers.

**BAKE & GARAGE SALE**  
Fri. & Sat., Sept. 11 & 12, 9-6 p.m. Mill Creek Apartment, West Building, 320 Summit, Saranac. Please use patio entrance.

**ADA BARN SALE FUNDRAISER**  
Aug. 28 - Sept. 27. Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays 1-4 p.m. The Averill Historical Museum, 7144 Headley St., Ada. 676-9346.

**GARAGE SALE**  
Sat., Sept. 12, 8-4 p.m. Homecoming & prom dresses, name brand jr. clothes, furniture, lots of misc. items. 4748 Kyser Rd.

**END OF YEAR YARD SALE**  
Fall items, Halloween & Christmas items, plus size clothes, kids books & toys, tools, glassware, turtle sandbox, lots more items not listed, all priced to sell. Thurs & Fri., 9/10 & 9/11, 8 a.m. to ? 11326 Denise, Key Heights, Lot 120.

**MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE**  
2991 Alden Nash Ave. SE, Sept. 11 & 12, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**HUGE MULTI-FAMILY BACK-TO-SCHOOL SALE**  
Name brand clothes for everyone in the family, boy's school uniforms, size 10-14, toys, books, movies, furniture, guns, household items, video games & much, much more! 11400 West Grand River Ave., Lowell. Sept. 10-12, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**MOVING SALE**  
Sept. 11 & 12, Fri. & Sat., 9-5 p.m. 14200 Spruce Forest Dr. Lots of camping gear, household items, misc. wood shop equip., furniture, clothing, dishwasher, refrigerator & more.

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## Pink Arrow Project art auction at Lowell Area Arts Council to benefit Gilda's Club of Lowell

Artworks created by Lowell artists for the Pink Arrow Project are on display in the Lowell Area Arts Council gallery. The artworks were created as the artists' interpretation of what the Pink Arrow Project means to them. Work was donated by Peter Bauman, Cheryl Blodgett, Mary Bommarito, Jan Johnson, Jason Katt Family, Lowell High School Ceramic Class, Kathleen Mooney and Daniel Vosovic.

"Pink Community" by Peter Bauman was selected to be featured on the cover of the Pink Arrow Program for the September 11 Lowell High School football game.

The public is invited to visit the Arts Council gallery, 149 S. Hudson, to view the Pink Arrow Artworks and to bid on the art through a silent auction. Hours are Tuesday through Friday 12 to 6 p.m. and Saturday, 1 to 4 p.m. or by appointment. On Tuesday evening, September 8, the Silent Auction will conclude with a reception at the Lowell Area Arts Council gallery beginning at 7 p.m.

In addition to the art, the auction will include sports memorabilia for purchase along with Pink Arrow Force II t-shirts. There will be representatives from the Pink Arrow Committee, sports team coaches, and athletes hosting the evening along with Arts Council members. Entertainment and refreshments will be offered as part of the evening. All proceeds raised through this auction will benefit the Pink Arrow Project and Gilda's Club of Lowell.

For more information call the Lowell Area Arts Council at 897-8545 or Pink Arrow Project at 897-7768.

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# Volleyball goes outdoors for the Pink of it

by Thad Kraus

Lowell volleyball coach GiGi Peal attended the Michigan/Michigan State hockey game which was played outside in the Big House (Michigan's football stadium).

As she was sitting and watching the game, Peal thought it was pretty cool (no pun intended).

Therefore, when the opportunity was presented to her and the Lowell volleyball

program to play the first ever sanctioned high school volleyball game outside, there was no hesitation with her "Yes."

"I can't imagine anyone who would pass up this opportunity," Peal explained.

The opportunity is more than to just play in a volleyball game, it is also being a part of an event that brings awareness and education to cancer, and

how it has touched the lives of so many in the Lowell community.

This year it extends from a Pink Arrow football game to a Pink Arrow event on Friday, Sept. 11.

This all leads up to the grand opening of Gilda's Club on Sept. 13 from 1-4 p.m. at the Lowell Senior Neighbors' location at 314 S. Hudson.

"It's a big opportunity and I wanted to make sure

the right school, all the way up to the officials, were invited to be a part of it," Peal said.

Peal's first call went out to her friend and coaching peer, Tracy Kirk, from Forest Hills Northern.

"I wanted a school with a good volleyball program and a strong tradition," Peal explained. "For some, this may be the first match they've ever watched. I want it to be good volleyball,

giving them a reason to come back and watch some more."

Forest Hills Northern certainly meets the criteria.

While the Pink Arrow event begins at 2:30 on Friday, the volleyball game will start at 5 p.m. It will be played at the north end of the stadium (where the high jump area is located).

A hard plastic sports court is being transported from Indianapolis. It along

with a portable net will be put in by Lowell volleyball parents.

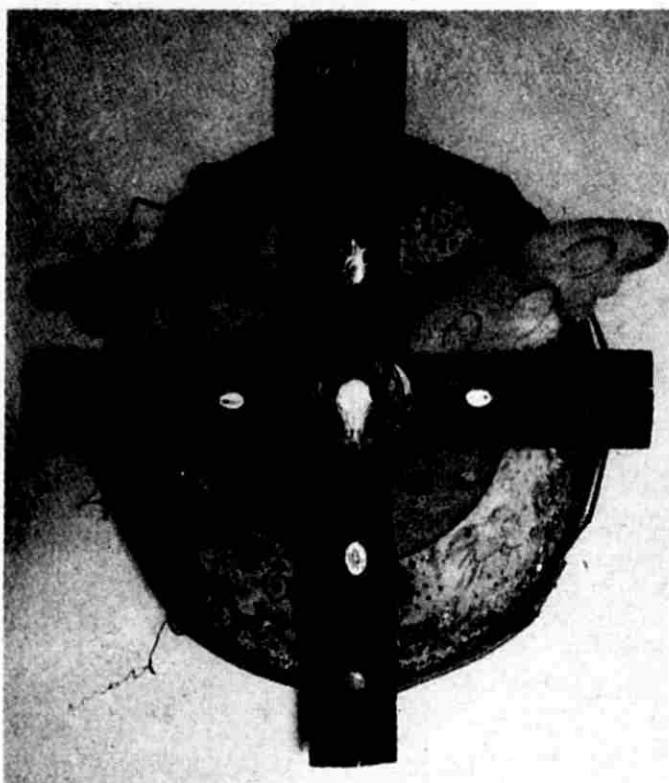
"It's a surface club volleyball players are use to," Peal said.

The two teams will play three games to 25.

Peal is hopeful that a volleyball attendance record will be broken.

"The record sits at a little below 5,000," she explained. "We're hoping to surpass that."

## Healing traditions on display



What we are now calling complementary medicine, is not something new, it has always been. The ability of the body to heal itself is a

gift that we can all tap into. There is no one philosophy governing healing. Healing customs have been handed down through the generations. Practices range from spiritualism

to herbalism. In the oldest Sanskrit writings, it teaches that energy is manifested in the body as vitality. There

are a variety of healing methods used to balance life energy. Acupuncture uses needles to stimulate the flow of energy. Crystal healing is based on the belief that gemstones focus healing energy. Shamans commune with the spirit world and with nature to heal their people. In addition, research shows that art, prayer, and healing all come from the same source. In fact, it is now known that whether a person is creating art, is in prayer, or is healing, the same brain wave patterns, mind-body changes, and state of consciousnesses are emitted. Art has the ability

to comfort, inspire, and awaken the senses. It is used in ceremony, to celebrate new beginnings, to honor the past, and to express the mysteries of life.

Karen Godfrey's artwork expresses these healing qualities in her mixed media, found object, and assemblage boxes. "Each box is a shrine to the healing process. Some of the assemblages reflect my own personal journey of finding balance and wholeness in my life." Godfrey has been working in this new medium since she closed her art gallery, Art Beat, in 2008. She incorporates her own life experiences and her wisdom from being a social worker and art therapist into each box.

An exhibit by Godfrey is being held at the Lowell Area Arts Council, 149 S. Hudson, Sept. 15 through Oct. 31. A reception will be held on Sunday, Oct. 4, from 2 to 4 p.m. with a presentation by Godfrey at 3:30 p.m.

The Magic of Milagros Workshop will be held by Godfrey and Linda Griggs on Sunday, Oct. 11 and 25, from 2 to 5 p.m. For more information or to sign up call the Lowell Area Arts Council at (616) 897-8545.



Shield of Abundance, top left, and Birth of New Dreams, two of the artworks that will be on display at LAAC.

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**Don't Forget the Pink Arrow Game this Friday, Sept. 11!**

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