

the lowell ledger

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**Happy
St. Patrick's Day!**

**maple
syrup time**



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winter guard



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**trolls
in town**



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CENTS**



14th annual Lowell Community Expo to feature variety of businesses, nonprofits

by Emma Palova

The 14th annual Lowell Community Expo will feature most area businesses and nonprofits on March 27 at the Lowell High School.

The mission remains the same as in the beginning to

provide networking opportunities offered by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.

"We were one of the first small community expos," said chamber director Liz

Baker. "We wanted to showcase our businesses, organizations and churches."

The Lowell Area Schools (LAS) were pushing marketing at the time and continue

to provide the venue to this day.

The first Expo was held in May, but the committee soon found out that was too late in the year to hold an Expo. The event was then changed to March.

"It's a true community Expo where everybody works to create the community we live in," said Baker. "It also highlights the Lowell Area School district."

The attendance has grown over the years from 25 booths to 150 spotlighting area businesses, service groups, churches and government agencies.

This year, the exclusive business sponsor is The Lowell Ledger/Lowell Litho. As part of the overall marketing strategy, a special section covering the Expo with maps and the schedule will come out in the Buyers Guide on March 21.

"This is a new venture in our marketing strategy," said Baker. "It's good for the sponsoring business."

The Expo has become a huge part of the greater Lowell community.

"You go there to meet friends," said Baker. "You

Community Expo,
continued, page 3



City will transition to using Kent County Sheriff's dispatch during off-hours

by Emma Palova

The city will transition to using the Kent County Sheriff's dispatch during off-hours from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. and weekends starting this October. The service will be provided through the Kent County Dispatch Authority.

The switch will end a 20-year partnership between the city of Lowell and Walker

due to Kent County restructuring of 911 centers from five to two facilities. Walker will be closed.

According to police chief James Hinton, this change was necessary to make the 911 call process cleaner and more user-friendly for the citizens. Hinton was appointed to the Kent County Dispatch Authority in 2008

to represent the city of Lowell.

"A benefit to this restructuring is that the communities will save money on future call taking services with better communications between agencies which are sharing more services," said Hinton.

City news,
continued, page 2

Lowell's Persha to help kickoff treadmill challenge

by Thad Kraus

Rheta Persha has been exercising/working out at the YMCA for 34 years.

Her routine has included two days of swimming and three days of weight exercise machines.

The bulk of those years (29) were in Royal Oak, Michigan.

"I came here to Lowell because I sort of outlived them (her YMCA partners) in Royal Oak," Persha explains.

You see, the Lowell resident of five years will turn 90 in June.

"I came here. It's been a new life. A good life," she says.

The YMCA has been good to and for Persha.

"Both in Royal Oak and here at the Lowell YMCA I've been with a really nice bunch of people. They've treated me like one of the people and not like an old person," she said.

Persha will help kickoff Lowell YMCA's 24-hour

Treadmill challenge,
continued, page 3

Teft left "beaming" after state championship

by Thad Kraus

Kelsey Teft placed 22nd as a freshman state qualifier on the balance beam.

Fast forward to Saturday at the Division 2 state gymnastic tournament in Rockford, Teft, now a senior, stood tall on the medal stand's top step as the balance beam state champion.

"It was exciting. I didn't know what to feel. I've always looked at other people up there," Teft explained. "It was a good day."

Her beam performance earned her a school record of 9.45, replacing the old mark set by Holly Plattner (9.4).

Her 9.45 placed her in a first-place tie with Farmington's Samantha Kohl and Sturgis' Mary Boyd.

"I'm always more nervous than the girls," said Lowell gymnastic coach Michele DeHaan. "This time I wasn't. Kelsey was so prepared, so driven, so focused and so confident. She kept her eye on the prize and never wavered."

Teft's good day didn't end on the balance beam.

The senior was the first Lowell gymnast to qualify for the state tournament in all four exercises and to medal four

times at a state meet.

"By far it was my best day as a gymnast," Teft said.

Her best day included three other medals. They were earned with a fifth-place finish on the vault (9.3), a ninth place in the floor exercise (9.225) and Teft was eighth overall with her all-around score of 35.650.

Teft's 7.675 did not earn her a medal on the uneven bars.

Teft's vault score tied her with Canton's Ayanna Lewis and Grand Ledge's Sara Peltier.

"Kelsey showed our young gymnasts what can be accomplished when you set your mind to doing something and work hard to achieve it," DeHaan said.

**Lowell's Kelsey
Teft finished her
Lowell gymnastic
career with a
Division 2 state
championship on
the balance beam.**



City news, continued

make communications more efficient.” The only two remaining dispatch centers in Kent County will be the Grand Rapids Police Department and the Kent County Sheriff’s Department. The city of Walker, Wyoming and the Michigan State Police Post in Rockford will no longer be answering 911 calls effective January 1, 2011.

Hinton informed the council about a potential grant to offset the costs for equipment, such as a radio repeater system to enhance communications to county dispatch. Also, the annual dispatch fee will cost more until Kent County Dispatch Authority starts paying units of government for call taking services. “Currently, everything is on track for a seamless switchover date and the citizens of Lowell will not be affected by this transition nor will there be a loss of dispatching services,” said Hinton. Next action will be the approval of a new dispatch agreement between Kent County and the City of Lowell. The current contract with the City of Walker expires June 30, 2010, but

there is a verbal agreement to extend the existing contract to Oct. 4, 2010.

In other business, Lowell Light and Power director Greg Pierce presented the 2010-2011 annual budget and capital plan. There will be a three to 3.5 percent rate adjustment in September.

The council approved a resolution authorizing signatures for the contract between the City and the

Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for the Bowers Road project. The street will be reconstructed from West Street to 1950 feet west of Valley Vista Drive. The estimated cost of the project is \$559,000. The project is funded through a mix of funds from the stimulus money, federal surface transportation small urban funds and city major street funds.

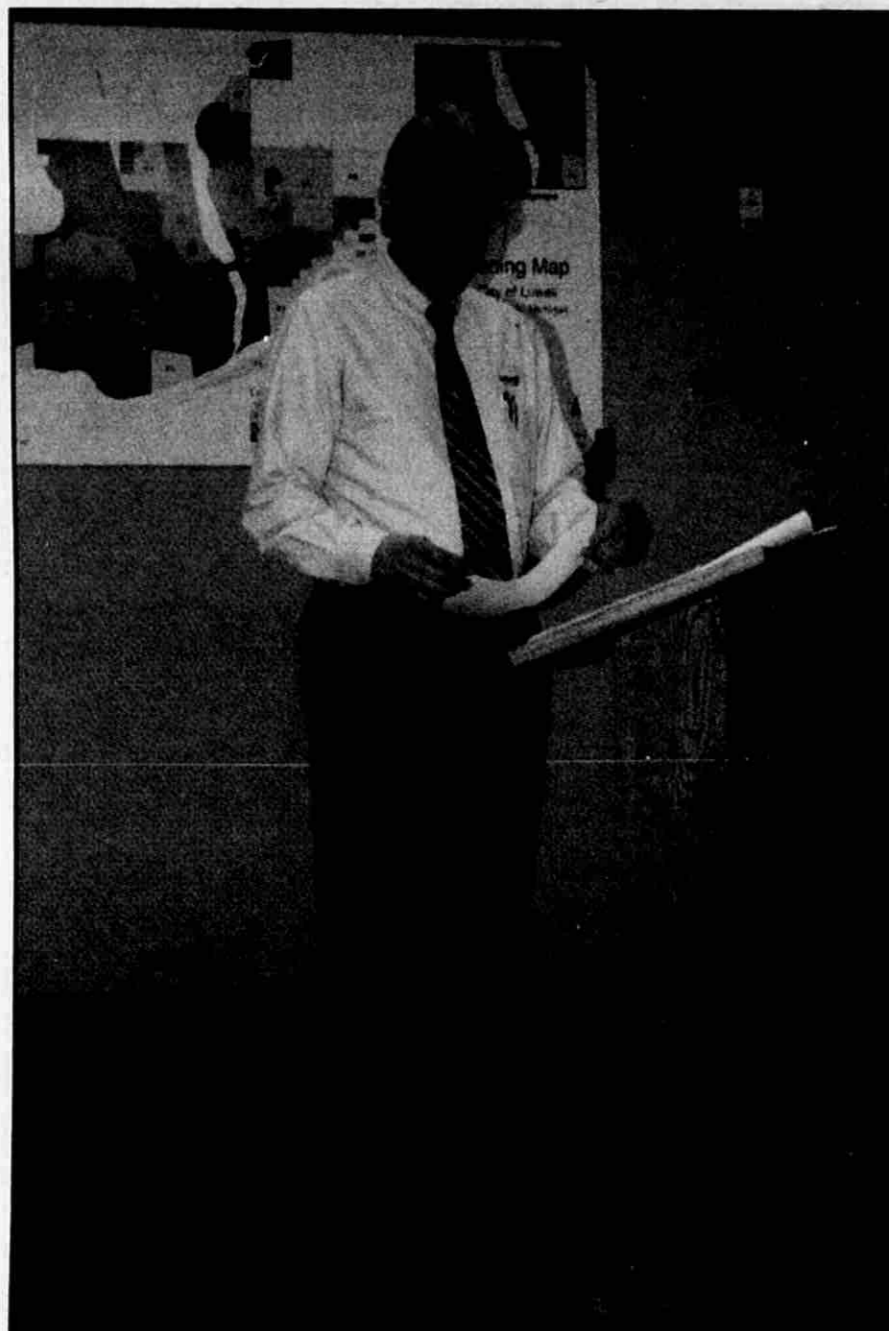
Social Security’s convenient online office

You probably don’t need anyone to tell you that times are tough for many people right now. The past year has seen a recession-driven increase in applications for Social Security retirement and disability benefit applications. These increases translate into busier offices and telephone lines. So, if you need information, or want to apply for benefits, visit the most conveniently located office Social Security has: our online office at www.socialsecurity.gov. There, you can apply online for retirement, spouses, and disability benefits. There’s no need to fight the traffic to visit an office or wait for an appointment. Our website makes it simple, allowing you to apply for retirement benefits in as little as 15 minutes.

A Disability Starter Kit makes it easy to prepare for your disability application. The kit explains the documentation and information you’ll be required to share on the application, and includes checklists and worksheets to help take the mystery out of applying. You can find the Disability Starter Kit at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability on the left-hand side of the page.

There are other things you can do online, such as applying for a replacement Medicare card, and requesting an SSA-1099 for tax purposes. You can learn about these and other online services at www.socialsecurity.gov/onlineservices

When you are ready to apply for Social Security benefits, everything you need is at your fingertips. Just visit www.socialsecurity.gov/applonline



Lowell Light and Power director Greg Pierce presented the 2010-2011 annual budget and capital plan.

the lowell ledger

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HEART HEALTH
 Join us on Mar. 17 at 7 p.m. at Gilda’s Club/Lowell Senior Neighbors to visit with Dr. Manahar of St. Mary’s Healthcare. This free seminar will highlight some new ways to keep your heart healthy. RSVPs are appreciated at info@lowellcommunitywellness.org or leave a message at 340-7781.

LOWELL WOMEN’S CLUB
 The Lowell Women’s Club is accepting grant requests from Lowell Community Organizations. This application does not apply to LWC Scholarships. Access application form at the website: www.lowellwomensclub.org or call Karen Thomure at 897-9862. Deadline for requests is March 25.

LHS HELPS HAITIAN EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS
 Lowell High School partners with Rays of Hope for Haiti to collect needed supplies, such as food, water, over-the-counter medical items, personal hygiene items, and funds to aid earthquake victims in Haiti. This event started March 15 and will end March 27. For more information contact RJ Boudrou, 987-2978.

FROM FOOD PANTRY
 The pantry is in need of fruit juice, cereals, canned fruit, soup, boxed potatoes, hamburger helper, and crackers. Please help if you can.

LAHM PROGRAM
 The Lowell Area Historical Museum and the Friends of the Library will present a program in recognition of “National Women’s History Month” on Mar. 23 at 7 p.m. at the Lowell Township Hall. Marie Papciak will perform her program “Women Who Changed America.” Any questions, call 897-7688.

Feel free to send your event information to the Ledger for Along Main St. All submission requests for Along Main St. are subject to space limitations and The Ledger makes no assurances that they will appear in print. To ensure that an event notification will appear in the Ledger, it is best to place a paid advertisement. All efforts will be made to place suitable items in the Along Main St. column but they are printed at the discretion of the publisher. For profit events, church services, yard sales and the like, will not appear in this column.

Check us out online ...
www.thelowellledger.com

Community Expo, continued

have fun, talk, learn and see what’s going on. It’s a great event.”

The event has always been free with free parking and giveaways. Approximately

5,000 to 6,000 people attend the Expo annually.

Baker expects the Expo to sell out.

“I hope the weather is not glorious sunshine,” she said.

“I hope people will come out.”

And all who participate will gain from the experience. There is always entertainment such as the Bushnell

first grade puppet show and high school choir singing.

New this year is the recognition of 14-year Expo participants at 1:45 p.m.

Other novices include the

LAS Robotics Club with a robot. The electronics recycling is in its second year. “This event is an excellent opportunity for the community to increase their aware-

ness of the products and services provided or manufactured in the Greater Lowell Area,” said Baker.

The event runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Treadmill challenge, continued

Treadmill Challenge on Friday, March 26 at noon.

The event supports the Y’s Strong Kids Campaign which raises money to support the financial assistance program at the Lowell YMCA. This effort helps the

YMCA meet its mission of not turning away any family due to financial constraints.

This year’s Strong Kids Campaign goal is to raise \$35,000.

Staci Chambers, YMCA director, said the YMCA is

looking for staff, members, and friends of the YMCA to volunteer their time and efforts to raise money. The challenge is to have three treadmills going for 24 consecutive hours.

Individuals (must be at

least 10 years-old) and/or teams are encouraged to solicit sponsors to pledge an amount for miles walked or run. Pledges can also be for a specific amount no matter the miles traveled.

Joining Persha to kickoff

the 24-hour Treadmill Challenge will include Lowell Area School’s chief financial officer John Zielinski, Lowell football coach Noel Dean, Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce director Liz

Hodges.

Funds for the Strong Kids Campaign are also raised through corporate and individual donations, and through a pledge campaign.

Chambers says the YMCA has reached 42 percent of its goal.

“The money raised in Lowell stays in Lowell and is used to help Lowell families,” she concludes.

Hudson Street parking halted following accident

by Thad Kraus

The intent has been never to have parking on Hudson Street.

The reality is historically there has always been parking on Hudson.

A Thursday afternoon accident at 212 N. Hudson has changed all of that.

The Kent County Road Commission and Lowell police chief James Hinton revisited parking on Hudson. The intent will now become reality. There will be no parking allowed on Hudson Street.

“We’ve revisited the parking issue and asked ourselves are we doing the right thing?” Hinton said.

The Lowell police chief said there is adequate enough space for parking.

The intent of the fog lines in conjunction with the curb is to create traffic calming, to make the road look narrower therefore slowing down traffic.

The accident of note occurred around 3:50 p.m. on

Thursday when a driver, Robert Moore, 45, of Lowell, driving southbound on Hudson became distracted and clipped the back bumper of a

parked vehicle before losing control and colliding with a house, according to Lowell sergeant Steve Bukala.

Moore suffered bruises and bumps while concrete damage was done to the house’s porch and railing.



Damage was caused to this home’s porch and railing in a Thursday afternoon accident on Hudson.

At Your Local Library

Women who changed America
 In celebration of March as Women’s History Month, the Lowell Area Historical Museum and the Friends of the Englehardt Library of Lowell will sponsor “Women Who Changed America” starring Marie Papciak on Tuesday, March 23, 2010 at 7 p.m. The program will be held at the Lowell Township Hall at 2910 Alden Nash. Papciak will perform as Laura Smith Haviland and Sarah Emma Edmonds, important women in Michigan history.

LOOK AT ME NOW!!!

Donald Anderson (Pictured Left) and William Heintzleman (Pictured Right) pose with their therapists at The Laurels of Kent before they leave and return to their homes. Both Donald and William chose The Laurels of Kent for their Post-Acute Rehabilitation. When asked about his stay William Heintzleman stated “I appreciate all the help from nursing and therapy, without them I wouldn’t be going home.” Donald Anderson replied, “The Laurels of Kent has been great. I wish to thank the therapy department for everything. The Laurels of Kent provides a great family atmosphere. Many thanks to All.”

Congratulations Donald and William!

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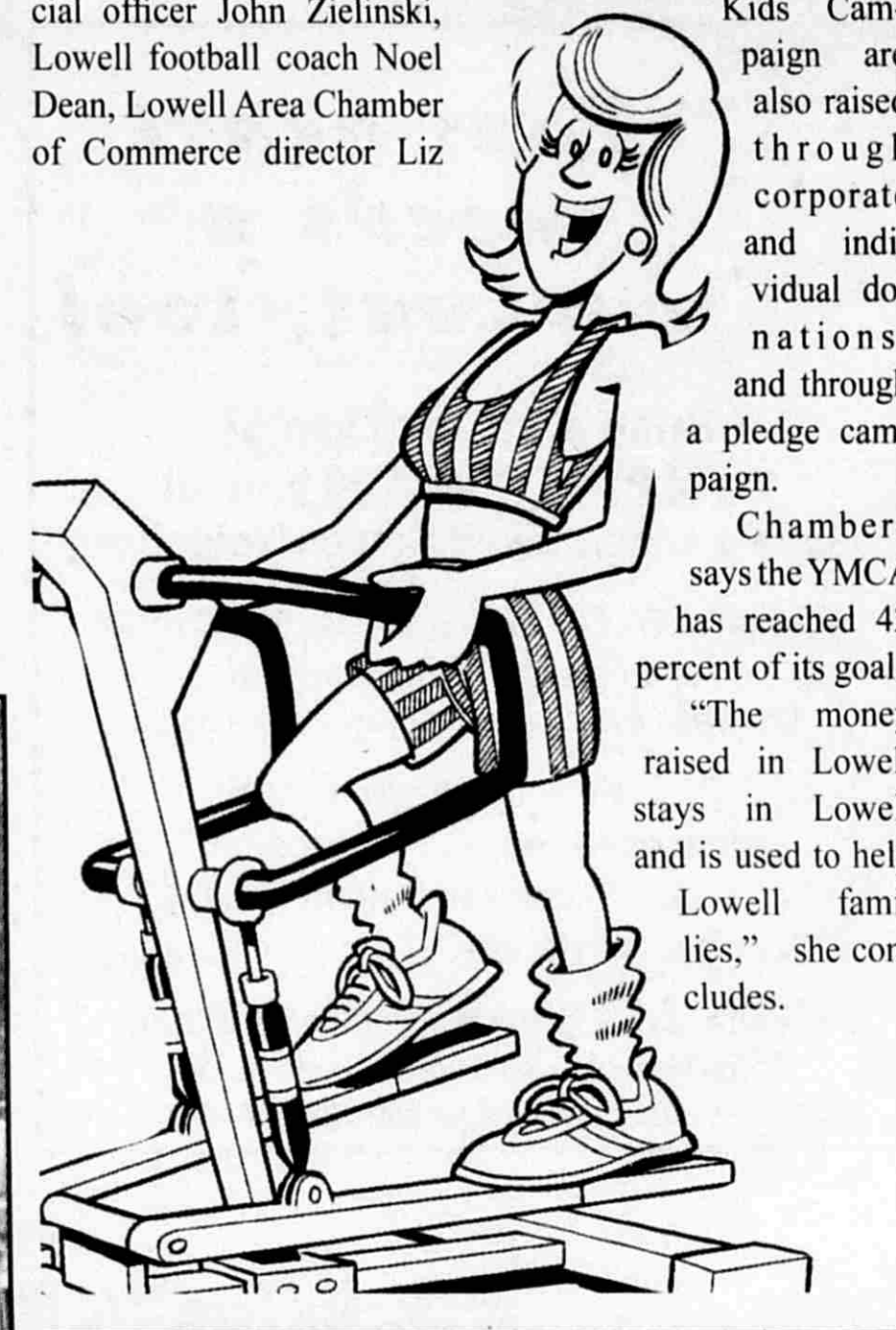
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Longtime city employee to retire in July

by Emma Palova

Frank Martin will be retiring, after 37 years with the city wastewater treatment plant, in July. He was hired in 1973 when there was an opening to drive a garbage truck under city manager Blain Bacon. Martin drove the truck for six weeks until a new position opened for the city in February.

As the chief operator at the plant, Martin does all the lab work, tests and treats the wastewater or sewage that comes from the city. And although all the human waste comes through here, there is no stink.

As part of the treatment, chemicals are added to remove solids, water gets disinfected and goes back

to the Flat River. The solids are used as fertilizers by area farmers.

"We pay to have the nutrients hauled away," he said.

Approximately 1.1 million gallons of water gets treated here every day. The pipes are in the ground and they run to the main lift station. Five employees work at the wastewater treatment plant with Martin and Mark Mundt being full-time.

"I am ready to retire," he said. "I will still probably get up early in the morning." However, he will still remain serving as the fire chief which he has done since 1986. He started with the fire department in 1971. Martin will be 62 when he retires.

The city contracts with



Frank Martin, chief operator of the wastewater treatment plant, says he is ready to retire.

United Water (formerly Earthtech) for the wastewater treatment work.

For Martin, it has been fun to come to work early in the morning, even on Sundays, for close to four decades. He has never had a

spill because at a wastewater treatment plant you know when you have a spill for sure.

"I'll probably still be sticking my head in the city hall," he laughed. "It's a good time to retire."

Martin is a 1967 graduate of the Lowell High School. His daughter, Stacy Van Denakker, works part-time at the plant on Saturdays.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

- Margaret Mead (1901 - 1978)

Your heart needs a workout, too!

Bring a friend to join us on March 17th at 7:00 p.m. at Gilda's Club/Lowell Senior Neighbors to visit with Dr. Manahar, Medical Director and Founder of the Heart and Wellness Institute at St. Mary's Healthcare

This free seminar will highlight some of newest and best research available to keep your heart healthy. RSVPs are appreciated, but not mandatory. Please let us know if you plan to attend: info@lowellcommunitywellness.org or leave a message with 340-7781.

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viewpoint

to the editor

sharing the vision



Superintendent Greg Pratt

Lowell Area Schools... Measuring up with revenues down

Dear Ledger,

Please allow me to add a bit of clarification about the "Bridge Bucks" that will be given away every week during the six month bridge construction project on M-21/Main Street.

Your article on the front page of the March 10 issue gives the impression that Bridge Bucks are designated for only the downtown businesses. Not true.

First of all, Bridge Bucks are just one result of the cooperation of business owners all along M-21/Main Street - from LA Trim to Bernard's and beyond. They are just one of the tools we are using to encourage people to continue to support every business and service provider in Lowell during the bridge construction. Every time anyone patronizes one of the participating businesses (we have over 40 cooperating now) they are eligible to enter for the weekly drawing of Bridge Bucks. Our plan is to give away \$200 in Bridge Bucks every week during the construction. We owe

a big "thank you" to the Downtown Development Authority and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce for their involvement.

Most importantly, Bridge Bucks are good at ANY business in Lowell that is willing to accept them - not just those who are investing directly in the program. They can be turned into the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce by the business owners for real money. Please note that you can only enter the drawings by shopping at the participating businesses from April 5 through October 1. We also plan on dropping some Bridge Bucks out of the sky - but that is another story for another day.

Please see our blog for the latest list of participating businesses and the latest information about all of the fun we have planned during construction: www.lowellbridge.blogspot.com

Cliff Yankovich
Lowell

a leaner organization, we are still left with disconcerting school funding problems at the state level. The bottom line is that Lansing MUST develop long-term solutions for the funding crisis that exists in the entire state of Michigan. The state MUST work to complete a budget in a timely fashion, especially during these critical economic times. Did you know that for multiple years, school districts have had to wait until October for their first school aid fund payment of the new school year? School district's fiscal year begins in July. It is unacceptable that our legislators are unable to work together, for kids, to prepare and pass a budget in a timely fashion and meet the deadline that is stipulated by state law, especially in unprecedented economically challenging times. Their actions create additional uncertainty for school districts and governmental agencies.

These frustrations were clearly evident as parents, Board of Education members, school teachers, and administrators from across the state rallied for public education in Lansing on March 10. We are proud that a constituent group from Lowell comprised of school board representation, principals, and parents, were in attendance, working on behalf of our students. They deeply care for kids.

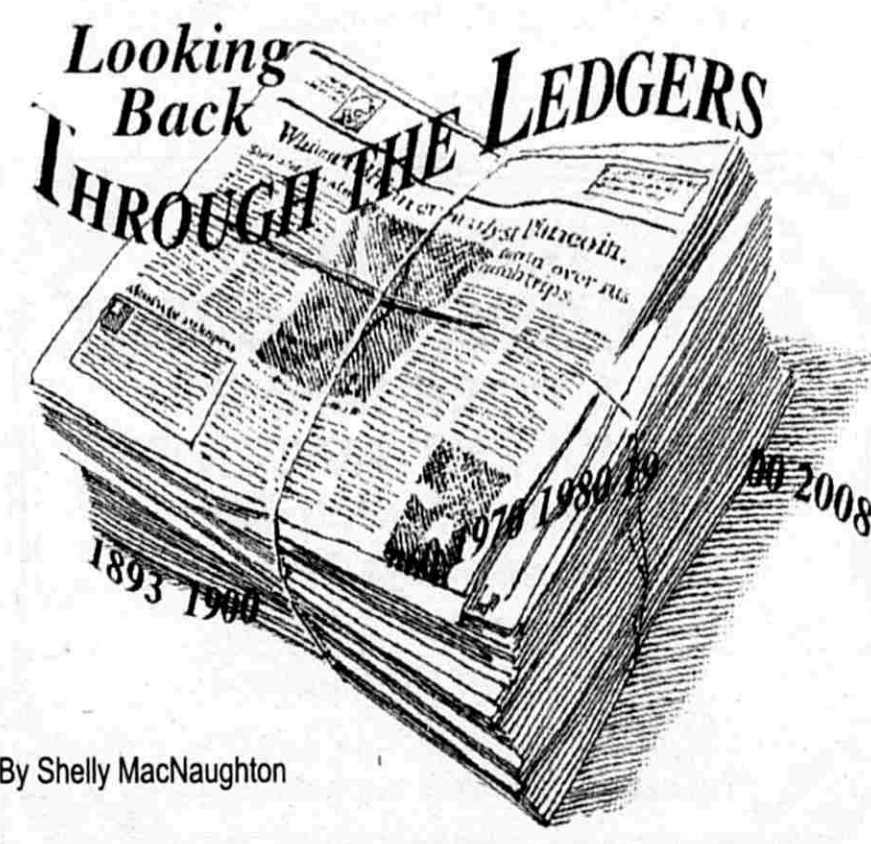
As the district navigates through the murky and unsettled financial waters, we have been extremely fortunate to work in a collaborative manner with our teaching staff. This spirit of cooperation has allowed us to save precious funds and resources by way of negotiations. Lowell teachers have made concessions in the area of healthcare, and they have taken a wage freeze in an effort to control costs.

Despite the plummeting state funding decreases that will potentially thrust school districts to funding levels that would equate to a foundation allowance at or below the 2005/2006 level, the Lowell Area Schools will measure up with revenues down. Our resilient staff will do more with less and do what we do best...prepare children, yours and mine, for the most rigorous curriculum in the country.

In the October and November editions of *Sharing the Vision*, I wrote about the "state of the state" and the budgets that were passed for K-12 education in Michigan. When the education budget for the 2009/2010 school year was finally passed by legislators in October, school districts received a reduction of \$165 per student. This reduction decreased the Lowell Area Schools' revenue stream by more than \$640,000.

Since that time, teachers, Area Schools has measured up, even when revenues are down.

What is of troubling concern is the 2010/2011 school year, where we will, once again, be faced with astronomically dyer economic issues. Regardless of our unending work to run



By Shelly MacNaughton

the groceries on an errand, carrying a jug. A sad feature of the fatality is that Mr. Speaker's niece, Minnie Cable, had died at his home on the previous Monday and her funeral was to have been held today. Arrangements have now been made for a double funeral at the Methodist Church Saturday.

Letters To The Editor:

75 Years Ago
The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo
March 21, 1935

"February 23, 1905, Rotary was founded. February 23, 1935, the Lowell Rotary Club came into existence - 30 years to a day." - Paul P. Harris, founder of Rotary.

First officers of new Lowell Rotary Club: Ernest C. Foreman, president; Carlton H. Runciman, vice president; Frank F. Coons, secretary; and Harry Day, treasurer.

The Lowell Ledger welcomes your Letters to the Editor. Letters are required to bear the author's signature, phone number and address (for verification purposes only, not for publication). Letters will be published at the discretion of the publisher. All letters are subject to editing for length and grammar. Thank you letters, advertising or personal attacks will not be printed.

Letters may be submitted via email to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com ("to the Editor" in subject line) or dropped off or mailed to: The Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, MI 49331. Also, our website, www.lowellbuyersguide.com has a link to submit emails on the left side of the page.

50 Years Ago
The Lowell Ledger
March 17, 1960

Bruce Baird, 19, of Lowell, killed two deer on David Highway Friday at 11 p.m. two miles east of Saranac. Baird said when he came over a hill there were 30 or more deer crossing the road.

Dr. Prothro of the Grand Rapids Kent County Health Department announces the scheduling of a polio immunization clinic at the Runciman Elementary building on Monday, March 28, 1960, beginning at 9 a.m.

25 Years Ago
The Grand Valley Ledger
March 20, 1985

The third annual WCUZ Budweiser showboat weekend promises to be bigger and better than ever. Planners met last week to begin putting the gala weekend together. The two day weekend is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, May 24 and 30.

100 Years Ago
The Lowell Ledger
March 17, 1910

George B. Speaker fell in front of Reeds store Wednesday morning about 7 o'clock and died after gasping several times. He was but a few rods from his own home, coming to one of

the lowell ledger

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weddings

Brown/Johnson

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Adam and Lisa Baar

Joined in marriage on August 29, 2009 at Trinity Lutheran Church were Lisa Ann Roth and Adam Jon Baar. Parents of the couple are Larry and Mary Roth and Charles and Anne Baar. Maid of honor was Lauren Rothwell. Matron of honor was Rachael Holcombe. Bridesmaids were Megan Defouw, Hannah Stepnitz, Sarah Boomers, Alyssa Mul-



Beau and Amy Brown

Amy Johnson and Beau Brown were united in matrimony on November 7, 2009 at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament in Depew, NY. Parents of the couple are Kathy Johnson of Depew, NY, and the late Paul Johnson and John and Frances Brown of Saranac. Maid of honor was Jaime Morphy. Bridesmaids were Abby Scott, Kara Raimier, and Ricki Myers. Junior bridesmaid was Cameron

health

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



Skin cancer

Signs of skin cancer and the ABCDE rule

The best way to find skin cancer early is to keep an eye on your skin, especially moles. It's a good idea to do a monthly self-exam of your skin. Look for any change in a mole or the appearance of a new mole. Any moles that appear after age 30 should be watched carefully and shown to your doctor.

The following ABCDE rules can help you remember what to look for when you're checking for moles.

A for asymmetry: A mole that, when divided in half, doesn't look the same on both sides.

B for border: A mole with edges that are blurry or jagged.

C for color: Changes in the color of a mole, including darkening, spread of color, loss of color, or the appearance of multiple col-

ors such as blue, red, white, pink, purple or gray.

D for diameter: A mole larger than 1/4 inch in diameter (about the size of a pencil eraser).

E for elevation: A mole that is raised above the skin and has an uneven surface.

You should also watch for these changes to your skin:

- A mole that bleeds.
- A mole that grows fast.
- A scaly or crusted growth on the skin.
- A sore that won't heal.
- A mole that itches.
- A place on your skin that feels rough like sandpaper.

If you notice any of the above signs or changes in your skin visit your doctor. Skin cancer can be treated successfully if it's treated early.

area births

Plattner

Aaron and Rebekah Plattner would like to announce the birth of their son, Titus John, born February 24, 2010 at Rush Medical Center, Chicago, IL. He weighed 7 lbs and 14 oz.

financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Plan now for unexpected early retirement

None of us can see what the future holds for us. But you have to make certain assumptions if you're going to create a strategy for building the resources you'll need for a comfortable retirement. But what happens when those assumptions prove unrealistic?

Unfortunately, many people are wrestling with this very problem. Specifically, they plan to work until a certain age — but they leave the work force earlier. Obviously, this can have a big effect on a variety of other retirement income factors, such as the amount of money they need to put away each year while they're still working and the age at which they should start collecting Social Security and begin tapping into their IRA, 401(k) and other retirement accounts.

Just how big a problem is this? Consider the following statistics from the Employee Benefit Research Institute's 2009 Retirement Confidence Survey:

- 47 percent of retirees left the work force earlier than planned.
- Of that total, 42 percent did so because of health problems or disability, 34 percent left due to their employers' downsizing or closure, and 18 percent left to care for a spouse or another family member.

So here's the bottom line: Even if you *think* you're going to work until, say, 65, and you *want* to work until 65, you may be forced to quit at 62, 60 — or even younger. And during those years you won't be working, you're not just losing out on earned income — you're also *not* contributing to your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan, and you might lose your ability to contribute to your IRA as well. At the same time, your retirement lifestyle expenses have begun earlier than you

anticipated — and many people find that these costs aren't much, if any, lower than the expenses they incurred while working.

What can you do to help avoid coming up short of the income you'll need during your retirement years? For one thing, don't spend a lot of time focusing on those things you *can't* control, such as downsizing or an unexpected health crisis or disability. Instead, concentrate on those factors over which you have power. Consider the following:

• **Maximize your contributions to your 401(k) and IRA.** Each year, put as much as you can afford into your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan.

• **Invest for growth.** Include growth-oriented investments, such as stocks, in your balanced portfolio if appropriate for your objectives, risk tolerance and time horizon. While it's true that growth vehicles will fluctuate in value, you can help reduce the effects of volatility by buying quality investments and holding them for the long term.

• **Create alternative plans.** While you may want to construct an investment strategy based on retiring at a certain age, you'll also want to come up with some alternative scenarios based on different retirement ages and corresponding differences in other factors, such as amounts invested in each year, rate of return, age at which you begin taking Social Security, and so on. A financial professional can help you develop these "hypotheticals."

You can't predict the future. But you can at least help yourself prepare for those twists of fate that await you as you plan for retirement.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Blanding named Staff Member of the Month

Fourth grade teacher, Glenna Blanding, was named Murray Lake's Staff Member of the Month for February.

Blanding was nominated by several staff members for her dedication to Murray Lake. "Glenna is a great teacher and a positive role model to our students. She recently went above and beyond by hosting our March is Reading Month authors in her home," commented Murray Lake office assistant, Angela Baerwalde.

Blanding and her husband

Mark both graduated from Lowell schools.

Their three children, Josh, Maggie, and Abbie, also attended Lowell schools. Blanding now has grandchildren attending Lowell. She has been teaching in Lowell since 1986; all of those years minus one have been in fourth grade. Blanding has been a lead teacher for science, social studies, and now math.

"I enjoy teaching because it keeps me current on the latest trends in education, fashion, language, technology, and

anything and everything to do with today's children. The children continue to be my primary focus each day. I tell them they are my/our future. I want to be sure I'll be secure in my old age by knowing that they will have the intelligence and the skills to become successful adults who will take care of our world."

When Blanding is not at work, she enjoys scrapbooking and spending time with her family. Her fourth grandchild is due any day.

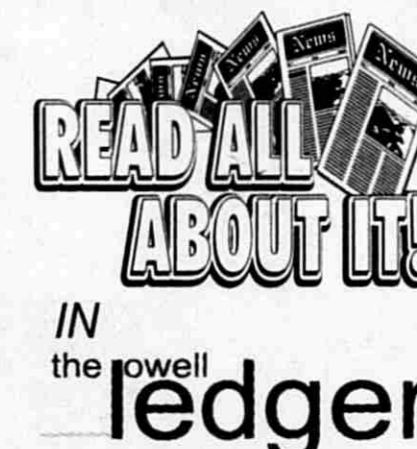


Glenna Blanding pictured with her fourth grade students.

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Winter guard has strong showing in competition

Winter guard groups, Exit 52 and Almost Home, had a strong showing at a competition at Reeths-Puffer on Saturday, March 13.

Almost Home had their best performance of the season and brought home well-deserved first place honors.

Flag line class results: 1st, Almost Home, 73.20; 2nd, Reeths-Puffer Cadets Green, 67.90; 3rd, Reeths-Puffer Cadets White, 66.70; and 4th, Muskegon Catholic Central Crusaders, 66.30.

Exit 52 got great crowd response adding fireflies and sparkles and came in second.

AA class results: 1st, Reeths-Puffer JV Winterguard, 65.60; 2nd, Exit 52, 63.60; 3rd, Mount Pleasant High School Winter Guard, 60.90; 4th, Portage Northern, 59.00; and 5th, Zephyros, 57.10.



The members of Almost Home are, front row, left to right: Rachael Yomtoob and Mackenzie Bush; back row, left to right: Emily Mundwiler, Ciera Bowden, and Riley Breimayer.



The members of Exit 52 are, front row, left to right: Nicole Bagin, Sara Mundwiler, Jodi Carvill, Robert Becker, Amanda Willson, and Danielle Bagin; back row, left to right: Allison Huffman, Kayla Blough, Rachel Phelps, Audrey McKay, Kaylee Davies, and Brianna Heikkila.

Lowell High School Students of the Month

In conjunction with the LHS Academic Boosters, Lowell High School announced that Daniel Geurkink, 10th grade; and Tyler Geurkink, 12th grade; are the Lowell High School February Students of the Month.

In order to be eligible for this honor a student must be nominated by a department. All the nomination forms for the month are then reviewed and voted on at the monthly Department Chair meeting. Students are selected based

and focused. One of the nicest things about Dan is his attention to detail. He took the time at the end of class each day to carefully fold all of the blankets kept in the room for students to use. He appreciated the blankets and so he treated them as a privilege, not taking them for granted. Thoughtfulness like Dan's is often taken for granted and never celebrated as it should be.

"Tyler has become the 'go-to' guy in speech class. When no one wants to

LHS also announced that Hailey DeGrote, 12th grade; and Kristyn Krey, 11th grade; have been named the February Students of the Month at KCTC. DeGrote received the honor for cosmetology and Krey for graphic design.

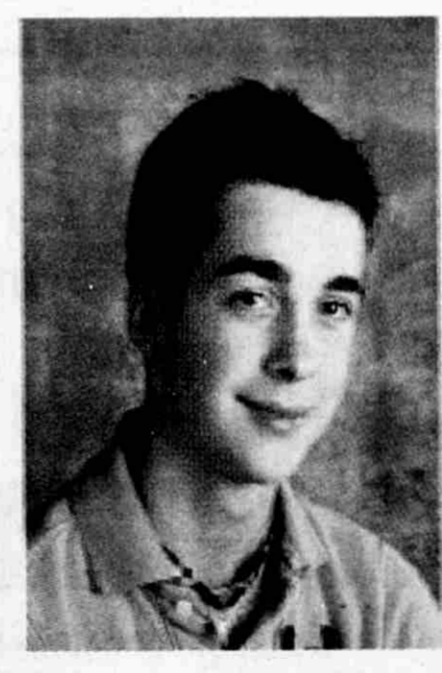
If you are interested in helping support the LHS Academic Boosters you may call Janine Mork at 897-5671.

I am a kind of paranoid in reverse. I suspect people of plotting to make me happy.

- J. D. Salinger (1919-2009)



Daniel Geurkink



Tyler Geurkink

on academic achievement, character, and work ethic. There are 1283 students eligible for nomination, so this is quite an accomplishment for Daniel and Tyler. The students receive a \$20 movie gift card and a certificate.

Daniel and Tyler were nominated by the English department, and they write, "The amazing thing about Dan is that he does enjoy entertaining others, but he never does it at the expense of the academic rigor of the classroom. His jokes are consistently additive, and his participation is always astute

volunteer to time speeches. Tyler is always ready to oblige. He is friendly and engaging with everyone. He never has a negative thing to say and he is always ready with a smile. I cannot honestly picture Tyler without a smile. He is also one of the most thoughtful speakers I have ever met. Each element of his speeches is weighed and organized for optimal effect on his audience. His classmates have even commented on how much they like to hear Tyler's speeches."

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Maple syrup festival at WWC, a true harbinger of spring

by Emma Palova

The breakfast celebrating maple syrup time at the Wittenbach Wege Center (WWC) is ready. The chef made pancakes with maple syrup, scrambled eggs and sausage links, all for only \$5.

After the hearty breakfast, a short stroll through the woods to the cabin that has been transformed into a sugar shack shows that the winter is finally over. The trails with leaves are softened by the thaw and only a few patches of stubborn snow remain here and there. The water in the creek is clear and abundant. A steady stream of visitors admires the native tradition of making maple syrup by demonstrators Luanne Kaeb, Gary Blough and Joy Zaagman. Kaeb explained

that the natives taught the pioneers how to make the sweet syrup. And even though it may be a short season for maple syrup this year, according to Melody Nobel of Melody Bee sugar bush in Alto, the sap may still flow if it cools down at night to 25 degrees. Nobel said it has been too warm, so far. Compared to last year, the farm may only make 160 gallons of syrup this year. Last year, they made 350 gallons. "We might still have a good run," said Kaeb.



WWC director Meggan Johnson was the chef for the day as she made pancakes.



Demonstrator Luanne Kaeb shows how the pioneers tapped the tree.

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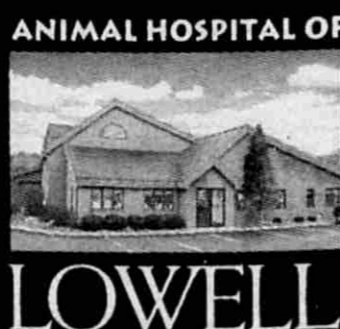
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Maple syrup fest, continued

The Center has been sharing the art of making maple syrup at the cabin since 2005. The sap has to boil to a certain temperature so the water evaporates. A hydrometer is used to measure the temperature. Kaeb showed how the pioneers tapped the tree with a drill.

After all the hard work in the smoke and the morning chill, there is always a sugar party at the sugar shack complete with pickles. "Your body absorbs the sap and it just craves pickles," said Kaeb.

Zaagman made donuts from scratch on the same fire next to a pan full of sap. No party would be complete without a snow cone, that is maple syrup served on snow. Since the snow was gone, the demonstrators offered maple syrup on ice.

The whole event was well attended with approximately 240 in attendance, and by 11 a.m., the eggs were gone.

Melody Bee farms make honey, maple syrup, beeswax, maple coated nuts, lip balm, maple bark, honey soap and maple candy. For more info: (616) 862-3771.



A short stroll through the pine woods ends up at the cabin with demonstrators.



Melody Nobel of Melody Bee farms in Alto had a table explaining the maple syrup making process. The farms donated the syrup for the breakfast.



Joy Zaagman, left, made donuts from scratch.

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Lowell FFA members attend state convention

Thirty-five students from the Lowell FFA traveled to East Lansing to receive recognition or compete at the State FFA convention which was held March 11-13 on the campus of Michigan State University.

Members from Lowell competed in two State FFA leadership contests. The leadership contests are designed to help the students build teamwork and communication skills in order to make them better leaders and more prepared for the future. In order to qualify for the state contests, members first had to advance through district and regional contests, finishing in the top two at each level. Lowell had 40 members compete at the district level, 12 advanced to regionals, and nine competed at the state contests.

In Greenhand public speaking, Sarah Crosby was named the state runner-up and John Mark finished in fourth place, both receiving gold awards. In this contest, these freshman members had to research, prepare and present a 6-8 minute speech and then answer questions from the judges. Crosby's speech was on the topic of manure management on farms and Mark's speech

was on invasive species in Michigan, specifically feral pigs and Asian carp.

Middle school members, Maria Blough, Amy Carpenter, Emma Clouser, Paul Crosby, Kelliann Jacobs, Jacob Poll and Brice Warner competed in the Jr. High conduct of meetings contest. These members had to demonstrate their knowledge of FFA ceremonies and parliamentary procedure by properly and efficiently running a meeting. The team from Lowell received a silver award in this contest.

In addition to the leadership contests, individual members were recognized in other award areas.

In the state proficiency awards, Emma Bencker and Chelsea Pipkins earned gold awards, while Paula Blough and Sara Fosburg received silver awards. The proficiency awards recognize students that have outstanding Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE). Bencker and Blough were each honored in the agricultural sales category, Bencker for her work at the Ice Cream Caboose in Alto and Blough for the work she does at Heidi's Farm Stand. Pipkins earned recognition



Lowell FFA members that received the State FFA degree were, front row, left to right: Chelsea Pipkins, Kirsten Mork, Mary Kate Walsh, Emma Bencker, and Kelsey Langlois; back row: Mackenzie Roerig, Sara Fosburg, Kari Bergy, Bob Crosby, Jack Weeber, and Paula Blough; not pictured: Josh Phelps.

in the small animal care area for breeding and selling show quality rabbits and Fosburg was recognized in the agricultural services category for working with Grand Carriages.

Twelve members from the Lowell Chapter received their State FFA degree. The State FFA degree is the highest award that the State Association can bestow upon one of its members.

Of the over 5,000 members in the Michigan FFA, only 352 were chosen to receive this award. The Lowell FFA members that received the award were Emma Bencker, Kari Bergy, Paula Blough, Bob Crosby, Sara Fosburg, Kelsey Langlois, Kirsten Mork, Josh Phelps, Chelsea Pipkins, Mackenzie Roerig, Mary Kate Walsh and Jack Weeber.

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

The Outstanding Junior award was given to nine students from Lowell.

FFA, continued, page 20



Sarah Crosby and John Mark each earned gold awards in the State Greenhand public speaking contest.



Chelsea Pipkins, Paula Blough, Emma Bencker and Sara Fosburg earned recognition in the State FFA proficiency award areas.



Members of the Jr. High Conduct of Meetings team from Lowell include, from left to right, front row: Maria Blough, Amy Carpenter, and Brice Warner; back row: Paul Crosby, Emma Clouser, Jacob Poll, and Kelliann Jacobs.

Red Arrow SPORTS

Football golf outing structure redirected

by Thad Kraus

The 2010 annual Lowell football golf outing links a football generation past with the present.

The May 21 event will celebrate the players of the 70's and their accomplishments.

"We're changing the structure a little bit by using the event to unite generations of Red Arrow players," Lowell football coach Noel Dean explained. "This year we're honoring and celebrating players from the 70's."

The generation produced three Tri-River championships, 1972 (6-0,

7-2), 1973 (6-0, 9-0) and 1979 (5-2, 7-2).

Just a few of the names you may recall from the 70's include Carl Kloosterman, Rick Wilcox, Ed Roth, Kris Kropf, John Wilder, Dean Olin, Perry Beachum, Bob Grummet and Denny Huver. Kloosterman is also forever linked to one of the best regular season football games in Lowell's history.

Kloosterman scored the go-ahead and winning touchdown with 1:13 to play in the Red Arrows' 28-22 win over Forest Hills Northern in 1979.

The day of the event will begin with a morning

tour of the Lowell facilities along with some player demonstration pieces.

Coffee and donuts will be available.

Golf is scheduled to fill the late morning and afternoon at Quail Ridge (18 holes) and Arrowhead Golf (choose between 18 or nine holes) courses.

Players will be able to choose their course.

There will be an \$85 fee at Quail Ridge and a \$65 fee at Arrowhead. For players choosing nine holes the fee will be \$50. Play will include lunch at the turn.

The golf fee also includes dinner at the Grand Volute

Ballrooms.

The dinner portion of the event will start with a social hour/silent auction at 5:30 p.m.

The keynote speaker address featuring Michigan State football coach Mark Dantonio is scheduled to begin at 6:30 at the Grand Volute.

The evening will also include comments from a few 70's players and from coach Dean.

Those individuals not interested in playing golf are welcomed to attend the dinner program.

Dinner is \$60 per couple or \$35 per person.

A live auction will follow. The items being auctioned off are a birthday party, East Grand Rapids press box 12 person dinner, 11 players for yard cleanup, a signed helmet of the 2009 state champion players and a money ball.

Light music and dancing will conclude the evening. The event committee encourages everyone who knows a player to have them contact, through e-mail or a phone:

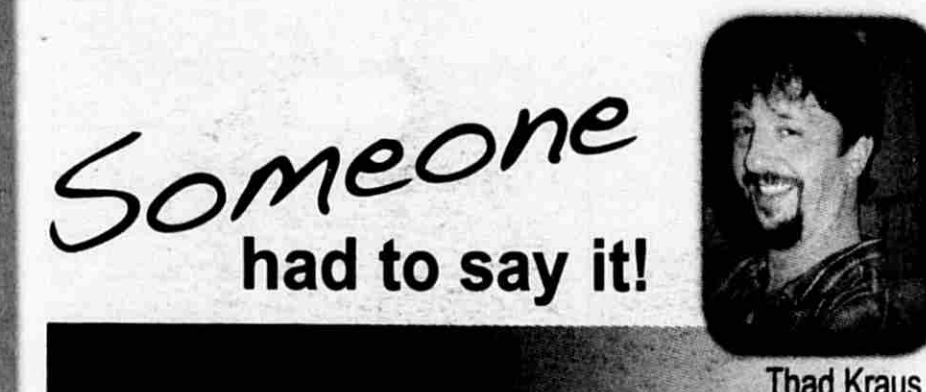
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Bucky Curtis - buck92055@sbglobal.net - 616-299-1614

Perry Beachum - 616-460-3934
Rick Seese - rseese@greenridge.com - 616-437-2576

The contacts will be able to pass along information and forms for the event.

All proceeds from the daylong event will support an endowment to aid underprivileged kids who want to play football and the Lowell youth football and high school programs.

"It will be an exciting day and an opportunity to welcome back and celebrate generations of Red Arrow football players," continued Dean.



Thad Kraus

It's time to fill out your brackets, if you haven't already.

Tipoff for the tourney is noon on Thursday.

Enter the Ledger's Bracket Brigade contest and have a chance at winning a \$35 Larkin's gift certificate.

All entries which finish with more points than Thad (that would be me) are entered into the drawing for the certificate.

First round games are worth a point. Second round games are worth two points. Third round games are worth

four points. Elite eight games are worth eight points. Final four games are worth 16 points and correctly picking the champion is worth 32 points.

All entries must be in the Ledger office before noon on THURSDAY. Good Luck!

Just a few thoughts about this year's tournament. If I had to pick a double digit seeded team to make the elite eight, who might it be?

I'm going to go with Murray State.

Who will be the first number one seed out?

I'll go with Kentucky. I will root that it's Duke.

When is the third number one seed treated like the number one overall seed? When you wear a Blue Devil uniform or are coached by Coach K. Could the Dukies have an easier path to the final four?

Will the Spartans benefit from the Izzo effect this year? No! State just isn't that good with or without Izzo on the bench.

Since the start of the NCAA play-in game back in 2001, the winner has always played the number one overall seed. Not this year. An exception was made for, you got it, Coach K's Dukies.

How does that make you feel Kansas?

Jason Whitlock, who writes for the Kansas City Star, wrote a terrific article in Monday's paper titled

"NCAA caves to TV pressure by going easy on Duke."

In it he suggests the reason CBS and ESPN did not address the Duke issue was because the Blue Devils are a television ratings gold mine. (They and North Carolina have two of the biggest built-in audiences to TV sets.) The NCAA is also in the process of negotiating a new TV contract.

Duke making it to the final four helps the television numbers and thereby helps the NCAA's bid for more dollars in the new contract as does holding the 96-team tournament carrot out in front of the networks.

Whitlock noted he would not be surprised if Christian Laitner, Grant Hill and Shane Battier referee all of Duke's games.

Copies of my filled out bracket can be picked up at the front desk of the Ledger office.

A shout out to Lowell's Kelsey Teft. The Red Arrow gymnast was crowned the

balance beam Division 2 state champion.

She is the first Lowell gymnast to qualify for the state tournament in all four events.

She also placed fifth in the state on the vault and ninth in the floor exercise. Teft was eighth in all-around points.

Her performance on Saturday in Rockford makes Teft arguably the best Lowell gymnast in the school's history.

LUNCH MENU

ELEMENTARY MENU

Week of
March 22, 2010

MON: Pepperoni pizza (cheeseburger on bun also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), tater tots, assorted fruit, milk.

TUES: Chicken patty on bun (hot ham & cheese bagel also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), oven baked beans, fruit crisp, milk.

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

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

FRI: Pizza dippers w/ sauce (turkey & cheese on bun also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), fresh vegetables, fruited gelatin salad, milk.

JOIN THE LEDGER'S

BRACKET BRIGADE

64 TEAMS - 32 PICKS

1 WINNER!!!

Join in the MADNESS of it all and make your college basketball tournament selections along with Ledger sports reporter Thad Kraus.

BEAT HIM and have your name entered into a drawing at a chance to win a \$35 dinner certificate to LARKIN'S RESTAURANT.

It's simple and costs nothing to enter. After Sunday's (March 14) NCAA Tournament Selection Show, fill your bracket out all the way through and mail or drop it off at the Ledger office before noon on Thursday, March 18.

Then follow along, and compare how you're doing against that Ledger guy.

Thad's picks will be published in the paper and his running total will be in each week's edition.

First-round selections will be worth a point apiece; second-round selections will be worth two points; third-round, four points; fourth-round, eight points; and the championship game is worth 16 points.

ANNUAL REPORT OF PRIVATE FOUNDATION NOTICE

The annual report of the Lowell Area Housing, Inc. Foundation for the year ended December 31, 2009 is available for inspection at its principal office, 725 Bowes Road, Lowell, Michigan during regular business hours by any citizen who requests within 180 days after date of this notice.

Dated: March 10, 2010

Leo Pfaller
President

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2009 Water Quality Report for City of Lowell and Lowell Charter Township

This report covers the drinking water quality for The City of Lowell and Lowell Township Water for the calendar year 2009. This information is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided to you in 2009. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards.

Your water comes from 4 groundwater wells, each over 87 feet in depth, drawing from the Grand River watershed. They are located at 1596 Bowes Road in Lowell behind the water plant. The State performed an assessment of our source water in 2003 to determine the susceptibility or the relative potential of contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tiered scale from "very-low" to very-high" based primarily on geologic sensitivity, water chemistry and contaminant sources. The susceptibility of our source is moderate. (See Table 1.) We have no significant sources of contamination. We are making efforts to protect our sources by maintaining a wellhead protection program. A copy of the full Source Water Assessment can be obtained by contacting George Regan at the Lowell Water Treatment Plant, 1596 Bowes Rd., Lowell, MI 49331 or call at 616-897-5234.

Contaminants and their presence in water: Drinking Water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Vulnerability of sub-populations: Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune systems disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Sources of drinking water: The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. Our water comes from wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and

residential uses.

Radioactive contaminants, which are naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2009 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 – December 31, 2009. The State allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly

from year to year. All of the data is representative of the water quality, but some are more than one year old.

Terms and abbreviations used below: *Water Supplier:* Define only the terms you use in the table below. Delete any you don't use.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

N/A: Not applicable **ND:** not detectable at testing limit **ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter **pCi/l:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).

Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Regulated Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range	Sample Date	Violation Yes / No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	1.4		06/16/09	No	Run off from fertilizer use and erosion of natural resources
Total Trihalomethanes (ppm)	0.080	0.080	0.003		06/16/09	No	Organic and chlorination by-products
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.0		06/16/09	No	Erosion of natural deposits. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Radioactive Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range	Sample Date	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Alpha emitters (pCi/l)	15	0	<3		10/31/00	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Ra226/228 (pCi/L)	5	None	<1		5/13/03	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Unregulated Contaminant **	Single Sample Test	Range	Sample Date	Typical Special Monitoring and Source of Contaminant	
Sodium (ppm)	12		06/16/09	Erosion of natural deposits	
Contaminant Subject to AL	Action Level	90% of Samples ≤ This Level	Sample Date	Number of Samples Above AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	15	3	6/28/07	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppb)	1300	10	6/28/07	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

LEAD: If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Lowell is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

** Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.

2009 Water Quality Report, continued

Microbial Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Number Detected	Violation Yes / No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Coliform Bacteria	1 positive monthly sample (5% of monthly samples positive)	0	0	No	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform and E. coli	Routine and repeat sample total coliform positive, and one is also fecal or E. coli positive	0	0	No	Human and animal fecal waste

Table 1
Distribution System Regulated Contaminant Source Water Assessment

Sample point	Test Result	Analyte Name	Tested	Limit MCL	Rpt Limit
Plant Tap	0.0030 mg/l	Max Potential Trihalomethanes	6/16/09	0.08 mg/l	0.0004
Sample Hydrant	0.0180 mg/l	Max Potential Trihalomethanes	6/17/08	0.08 mg/l	0.0004

CHLORINE RESIDUALS:

"Maximum residual disinfectant level, or MRDL (4.0mg/l), means the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants."

"Maximum residual disinfectant level goal, or MRDLG (4.0mg/l), means the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants."

"RAA is the running annual average".

Previous Year

Chlorine (ppm)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
D											

Bacteriological sample site #1				0.52	0.57	0.58	0.48	0.39	0.50		0.50	0.48
Bacteriological sample site #2				0.34	0.42	0.35	0.21	0.15	0.27	0.28	0.37	0.41
Bacteriological sample site #3				0.45	0.52	0.44	0.39	0.38	0.46	0.35	0.37	0.42

Monthly average of samples				0.44	0.50	0.46	0.36	0.31	0.41	0.32	0.41	0.44
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Year Covered by the CCR

Chlorine (ppm)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
D											

Bacteriological sample site #1				0.45	0.52	0.47	0.47	0.48	0.51	0.56		0.58
Bacteriological sample site #2	0.31	0.17	0.20	0.32	0.32	0.33	0.24	0.24	0.30	0.36	0.46	0.44
Bacteriological sample site #3	0.28	0.32	0.33	0.48	0.39	0.47	0.43	0.48	0.42	0.47	0.47	0.54

Monthly average of samples	0.30	0.24	0.33	0.44	0.39	0.42	0.38	0.40	0.41	0.46	0.47	0.52
RAA computed quarterly			0.377			0.364			0.373			0.397

RAA 2009 quarterly			0.377			0.364			0.373			
0.397												

RAA 2009			0.377			0.364			0.373			
0.397												

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which provide the same protection for public health.

Monitoring and Reporting Requirements: The State and EPA require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We met all monitoring and reporting requirements for 2009.

We will update this report annually and will keep you informed of any problems that may occur throughout the year, as they happen. Copies are available at Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main, Lowell, Michigan and at Lowell Township Offices, 2910 Alden Nash S.E., Lowell, Michigan. This report will not be sent to you.

We invite public participation in decisions that affect drinking water quality. Lowell City Council meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:30pm in the Council Chambers at Lowell City Hall, 301 E. Main, Lowell, MI. Lowell Township meetings are held at 7:00pm on the first and third Mondays of each month at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash S.E., Lowell, MI. For more information about your water, or the contents of this report, contact George Regan at 897-5234. For more information about safe drinking water, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at www.epa.gov/safewater/.

Look in the Buyers Guide this weekend for a special section with information on the Lowell Expo!



FFA, continued

The requirements for the Outstanding Junior award are similar to the state degree but with lower numbers. Students receiving the award from Lowell were Katie Bartholomew, Audrey Blodger, Molly Doyle, Aaron Fetzer, Martin Hewitt, Craig Huber, Allison Oesch, Kristin Schramm and Kelsey Ward.

The State FFA band and choir performed during the convention sessions with members from Lowell participating in both. The State FFA band, which is directed by Lowell Middle School band director Dale Latva, included Paula

Blough, Kendra Merriman and Kelsey Ward. Cassie Rybicki represented Lowell in the State FFA choir.

The Lowell FFA chapter was again honored as one of the top chapters in the state with a gold in the National Chapter recognition program. Only 20 chapters in Michigan were awarded the gold level. The National Chapter award recognizes chapters that do an exceptional job of developing leadership and promoting agriculture at the student, chapter and community levels. In addition to the National Chapter award, the Lowell FFA was also recognized as a

Superior Chapter and earned recognition in the Food for America and Building our Michigan Communities award areas.

In total, the Lowell FFA had 29 members receive awards or recognition at the State convention. FFA is a national youth leadership organization that strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. The Lowell FFA is one of the largest chapters in Michigan with over 120 members.



Representing Lowell in the State FFA band were, left to right: Kelsey Ward, Kendra Merriman, Paula Blough, and Mr. Dale Latva, director.

Trolls invade Lowell



Foreshadowing the things to come along with the upcoming bridge project, Elaine Hommowun of the Lowell Area Arts Council displays the council's troll, Charlie, and The Hanger's troll, Daisy. The Lowell High School arts students have made a bunch of trolls for the area businesses that will be decorated this Saturday at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. Many businesses are also making their very own trolls. The trolls symbolize the city and the businesses embracing of the large construction project.

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