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wednesday • april • 7 • 2010

vol. 39 issue 26

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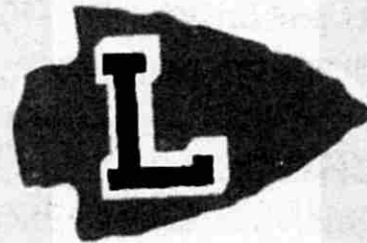
the lowell **ledger** for more bridge project updates.

Also stay informed by going to: **WWW. lowellbridge.blogspot.com**

new business?

HOOTERS
OPEN SOON

page 14



spring sports preview

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50 CENTS



Left turn light installed to alleviate traffic congestion

by Emma Palova

DVT Electrical from Wyoming installed a left turn light at the intersection of Hudson and M-21. This is part of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) detour plan to alleviate traffic congestion during the downtown bridge replacement project.

The detour started Monday, April 5. It maintains eastbound traffic at all times and reroutes westbound traffic via South Jackson Street to Oberly and Grand River Drive, Hudson Street back to the downtown intersection at M21. A new light was previously installed at Alden Nash and Grand River Drive as well.

Parking in the downtown area will be maintained in several lots and streets. These include Avery Street by the police department, Broadway Street, lots by the chamber, the city hall, King Milling, the museum, the library and Riverside Drive.

See maps on page 2.

Project engineer Darrell Heuker said the project is on schedule. But the construction crew has already found unexpected objects such as steel sheeting and concrete piers underground.

"We always run into something unexpected," he said.

A barrier wall is being set up to separate the work zone from traffic. The crews will be removing the permanent barrier wall on the edge of the bridge and removing existing deck from both bridges, removing beams from both bridges, patching and repairing the abutments and piers.

Next, they will rebuild beams and bridge deck. Ongoing utility work will be done at the end of the bridges and in between.

"There should not be any power outages," said Heuker.

Because of the tight schedule, the workers will end up working on Saturdays and Sundays to make up any time lost.

The contractor is located south of Main on Front Street.

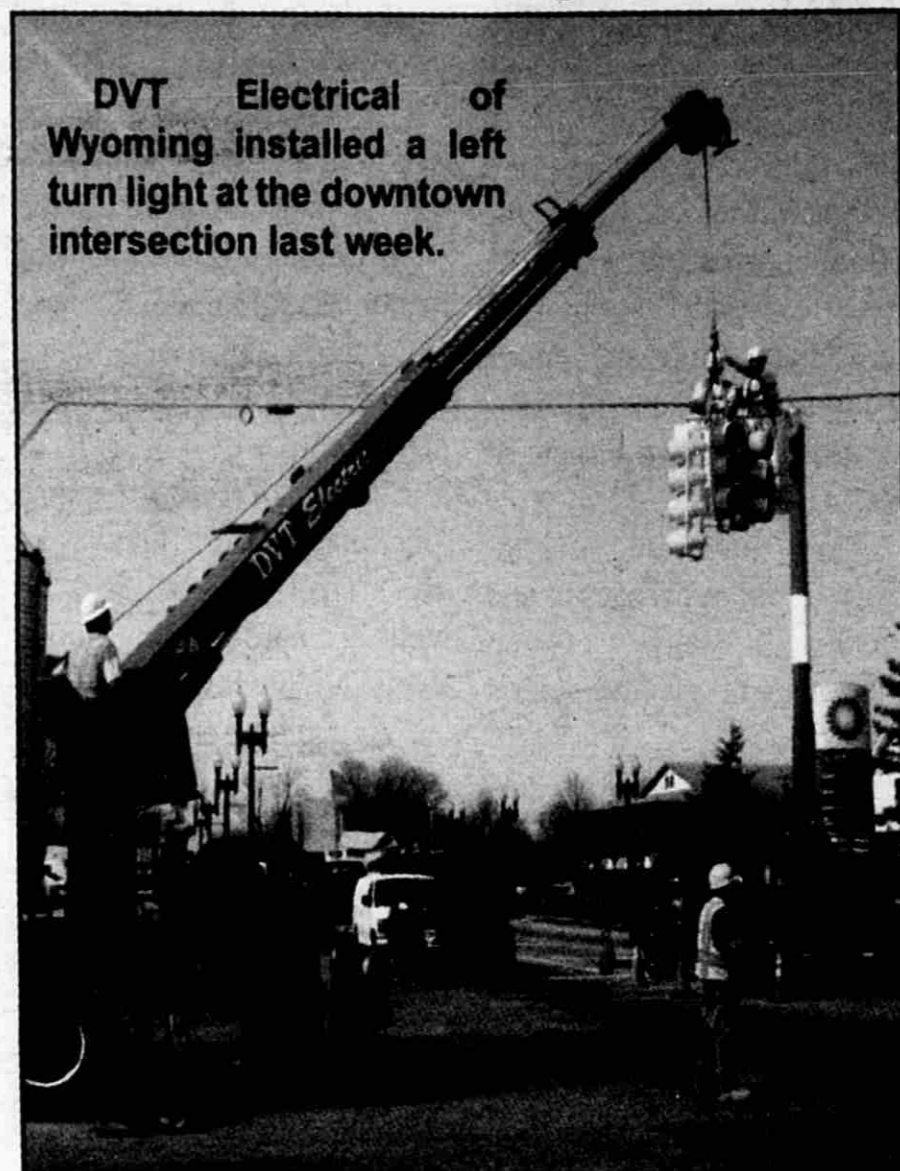
Westbound traffic will use the detour to access parking lots on Broadway Street, by the museum and on Riverside Drive.

The actual project is a superstructure replacement of everything above the water, including beams and the deck, and railing, and will extend the life of the bridge by another 50 years according to previous MDOT, reports and the shareholders meeting held in February.

Also, every Wednesday at 1 p.m. there will be project updates at the chamber offices.

According to the reports, there's approximately 19,000

Detour, continued, page 2



DVT Electrical of Wyoming installed a left turn light at the downtown intersection last week.

City presents preliminary budget

by Emma Palova

The preliminary general fund budget for 2010 to 2011 is tight, as projected, due to continuous loss in state revenue sharing and decrease in taxable value in the city.

The fund balance stands at \$200,951 with \$2.47 million in revenues and \$2.43 in expenditures. One mill in the city is valued at \$97,607. The millage will be kept as is for now.

The budget provides a salary freeze for all full time employees because a one percent increase would cost the general fund \$8,500. However, last year, the staff got a two percent increase. Health insurance is projected to increase by 10 percent.

Other provisions include the elimination of seasonal employees in parks and cemetery, which would leave the sexton Don DeJong doing all the mowing full time, according to Department of Public Works (DPW) director Dan DesJarden.

If eliminated, DPW would lose 4,000 man hours along with its six seasonal workers. The crew is used also for local street patching.

Also, the police department is restructuring to reduce part time officers. Full time officers have agreed to scheduling and overtime reductions.

Projects including new ground cover at Creekside Kingdom and roof replacement at the library will be covered from last year's grant funding.

One mill or \$97,607 will be transferred to the local street fund. The milling and repaving of South Pleasant and South West streets will be covered from the Community Development Block grant funds and the Local Street Construction Fund. This will leave \$25,000 for street maintenance.

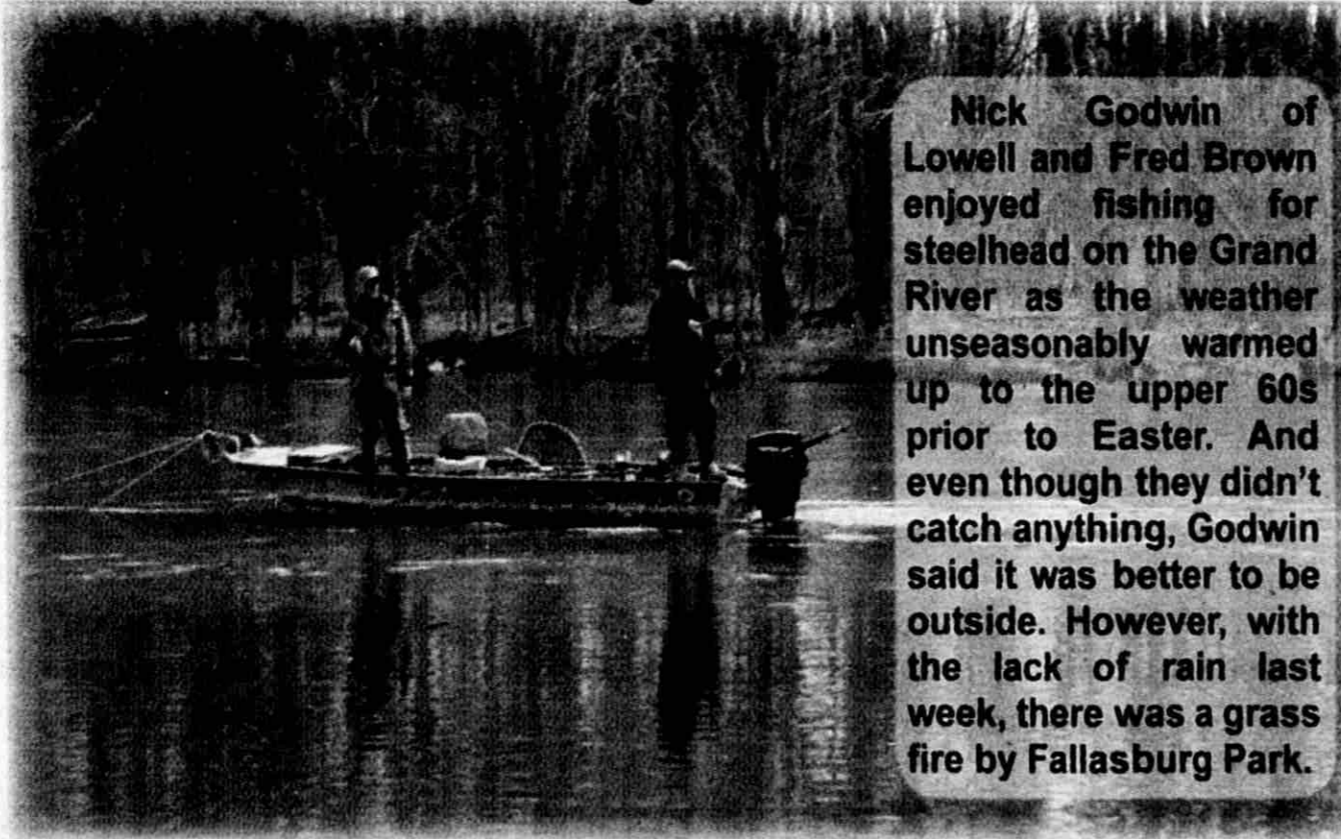
"This gives us street maintenance work and an idea of what's going on with the general fund," said city manager Dave Pasquale. "We're keeping things as tight as possible."

City mayor Jim Hodges said other communities are biting the bullet as well. The budget is scheduled for final approval in June.

In other business, the city council set a public hearing date, on the proposed ordinance that would allow temporary soft-sided garages in the city, for May 3. This has caused a lot of controversy over the past year, both among citizens and some opposition by the planning commission. Al Mathews spoke against structures at the meeting.

The city council approved fireworks on July 10 for the Riverwalk Festival.

Warm weather brings out the fishermen



Nick Godwin of Lowell and Fred Brown enjoyed fishing for steelhead on the Grand River as the weather unseasonably warmed up to the upper 60s prior to the Easter. And even though they didn't catch anything, Godwin said it was better to be outside. However, with the lack of rain last week, there was a grass fire by Fallasburg Park.

New phase of development will be environment friendly

by Emma Palova

Phase 3 of the Alden Nash West development, located within walking distance of the Lowell High School, promises to be environment friendly complete with a rain garden and a portion of the Lowell trail.

The rain garden will catch the storm water and it will have plants.

"It's more environment friendly," said developer Steve Hanson of Hidden Acre Development Company Inc. The builder is Larry Schout.

Alden Nash West 3 has a 500-foot landscaped

boulevard entrance consisting of 41 home sites. The average size of lots are 100 feet wide by 170 feet deep.

The reason the development has done so well, according to Hanson, is the location and the access to homes under \$200,000. Most lots allow for 20x30 accessory buildings.

"It has country atmosphere, yet close to shopping and walking distance to [the] high school," said Hanson.

On top of all the

mentioned advantages, the lots are oversized and offer quality construction homes.

For example, the first sale in phase 3 was for a couple who were transferred and had to sell their first home in the subdivision.

"They are moving back and they are having us build another home in the same subdivision," said Hanson.

In spite of the economy, all the sites except for two, in the first two phases have sold over the last few years. The average price of homes is

Development, continued, page 3

Detour, continued

cars a day traveling across the bridge; three percent of that is commercial traffic.

The construction work is phased out in two stages. Stage one, on the north side of the bridge, runs from April 5 through July 5 and it is slated for completion prior to the Riverwalk Festival. During stage one, pedestrian traffic will be maintained on the south side of the bridge.

Stage two, on the south side of the bridge, will run from July 13 through Oct. 1. At that time, pedestrians will be using the north side of the bridge. The banner poles will need to go down for the actual construction.

And MDOT is making sure that people can move around and do business, according to Art Green of MDOT.

"We diverted certain routes for parades and events," said Green previously in a shareholders' meeting.

The entire project has been scheduled around various restrictions such as downtown events and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regulations for lowering the water level in the Flat River.

"It's not a typical project," said delivery engineer manager Tom Tellier. "We'll have some vibrations, dust and noise. We'll keep it minimal."

However, some busi-

nesses have relocated specifically because of the fear of the vibrations.

Modern Photographics has moved to the former Flat River Antique Mall.

But, on the other hand, the "Troll Project" is in full swing. After the official announcement at the Expo, there will be more troll building workshops so each business has their own individual troll with a story.

"We made a choice to make some lemonade," said chamber director Liz Baker. "The bridges have to be repaired and the challenge for us was to decide if we wanted to grumble and complain or try our best to make this into something positive and we decided to make the best of it."

Part of the entire marketing effort known as the "Troll Project" will be yellow hard hats during Girls' Night Out.

A troll drop is being planned for a Saturday in May. Two hundred and fifty trolls will be dropped from the sky along with bridge bucks and candy.

Everything will culminate at the completion of the project with the unveiling of a permanent troll by artist Nate Galusha. Papa Troll will reside near the new bridges and he will be introduced during the annual Harvest Festival in October.

The water will be lowered

in April and then after July 15 by two feet in order to get to the substructure.

"Water presents unique challenges," Green said. "It is an asset, but it's not just concrete, steel and mobility, but also environmental concerns."

Green said once the stages are in place, it will be business as usual. "It's just getting everything in place," said Green.

The project entails a lot of stake holders' coordination between MDOT, the city, Lowell Light & Power, and the historic commission.

And MDOT is determined to keep lines of communication open. A project brochure will be available both online and in print version. A blog will be maintained on the chamber site at www.lowellchamber.org. MDOT's website www.michigan.gov/drive will inform about closures. Progress meetings will be held on site and at the chamber office. The contact person for the project is Darrell Hueker at 1-616-464-1802, cell 1-616-262-4293 or heukerd@michigan.gov



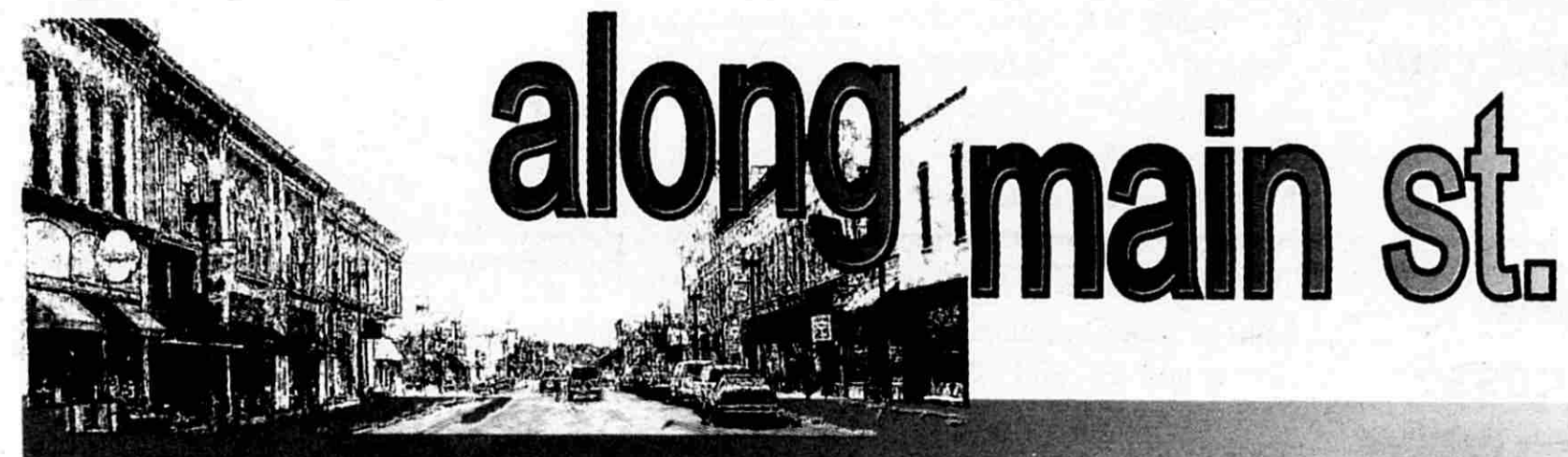
M-21 Bridge Project Westbound Traffic Detour Route

Take S. Jackson St. across the river to Oberly and Grand River Dr. Turn right onto Grand River Dr. to the traffic light at S. Hudson St. Turn right onto S. Hudson St. to the traffic light at W. Main St.

Eastbound Traffic - No Detour

- 1.) Avery St. by Police Department
- 2.) Broadway St.
- 3.) Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce
- 4.) City Hall
- 5.) King Milling
- 6.) Lowell Area Historical Museum
- 7.) Public Library
- 8.) Riverside Dr

Westbound Traffic: Use Detour to Access Parking Lots #2, #6, and #8



the lowell ledger

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LOWELL AREA COMMUNITY FUND ACCEPTS GRANT PROPOSALS

All Proposals Must Be Submitted Online No Later Than **April 16, 2010 to be considered.** Visit www.grfoundation.org/lowell to submit your application.

The Lowell Area Community Fund, a fund of Grand Rapids Community Foundation, awards grants to tax-exempt, nonprofit charitable organizations that have an impact in the Lowell area. The LACF funds innovative projects or programs that encourage community cooperation.

FREE PRESCHOOL
If your family resides within Lowell Area School district, your preschooler may qualify for a free preschool program. If your child turns three- or four-years old on or by Dec. 1, 2010, call our automated number at 987-2699. Leave your information and an early childhood specialist will be in contact with you.

COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN
Parents of children who will be five-years old on or before Dec. 1, 2010, are invited to a parent informational meeting on April 20 at Murray Lake Elementary; April 22 at Bushnell Elementary; and April 15 at Alto Elementary. A kindergarten information packet should be requested prior to the parent meeting. Please call the school in the area which you reside to have an enrollment packet mailed to you.

MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP
The Dr. Donald G. Gerard Honorary Medical Scholarship is provided for a Lowell High School graduate who is currently enrolled in medical school. Please contact Lisa Nauta 987-2913 at LHS for an application. Deadline is June 1, 2010.

BUILD A TROLL
Drop by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce building, 113 Riverwalk Plaza, anytime April 8 and 9 between 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and build a troll to showcase at a Lowell business during the Troll Project. For more information call 897-9161.

FOOD PANTRY
The FROM Food Pantry is presently in need of cereals, crackers, canned fruit, fruit juice, dish soap, and personal care items such as toilet tissue. Please help if you are able.

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES
Angel Food Ministries sign up at the Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St., Sat., Apr. 10, 10 a.m. - noon. You may also order online using your debit or credit card. Go to www.angelfoodministries.com Any questions, call Esther, 897-7395.

BOY SCOUTS HOLD OPEN HOUSE
Boy Scout Troop 102 of Lowell is holding an open house for the community of Lowell from noon until 4 p.m. Sat., April 10 at the scout cabin. There will be demonstrations of scouting skills, historical displays of scouting in Lowell through the years and past Eagle Scout projects and more. Lunch will be served throughout the event.

RELAY FOR LIFE
American Cancer Society Relay for Life team captains meetings will be held Apr. 20 and May 25 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the conference room at the administration bldg., 300 High St. Relay for Life is June 11-12 from 3 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lowell High School. For more information visit www.relayforlife.org/lowellmi or contact Carol Briggs at 897-5501 or cbriggs@lowellschools.com Sign up your team today.

Spay Neuter Express aims to reduce euthanasia of healthy animals

by Emma Palova

The Spay Neuter Express (SNX) started about a year and a half ago has been growing, so the owner, hospital director of Animal Hospital of Lowell, Bruce Langlois is making some changes and expanding.

SNX will provide services to anyone regardless of income. SNX will be a low cost outpatient alternative to a full service veterinary hospital, effective immediately.

"I have found that there are many people in need of this service," Langlois said.

Many people have chosen to not spay or neuter their pets for financial reasons in the current economy or at a full-service hospital, pay for a higher cost and then reduce money spent on their pets.

"SNX will now give everybody an alternative so that their pets can get sterilized, thereby reducing the euthanasia of healthy adoptable pets at our local shelters," said Langlois.

SNX will start a new location in Grand Rapids at the Centerpointe Mall starting April 15 because

many clients from Grand Rapids had to travel to the Lowell location. A weekly stop is scheduled at the Grand Rapids location. SNX will be working with the humane society.

"This will be a very convenient location and one that will be easy to find for Grand Rapids residents," said Langlois.

Currently SNX goes to Ionia, Owosso, Stanton and Ithaca animal shelters. The animals get neutered before the adoption paperwork is completed. Shelters request sterilization as a condition of adoption. Surgeries are also performed at the Animal Hospital in Lowell.

Also, the Spay Neuter Express in conjunction with Vicky's Pet Connection will be doing the Inner City Kitty project.

"Our goal is to spay and neuter 1,000 cats this summer," said Langlois.

This service is offered with a free will offering for Kent County residents. If the client is unable, it will of course be for no charge. This service will be Thursday nights at 1601 Madison.

Registration is at 5 p.m., and is first come, first served. The cats need to be brought in a secure carrier with a towel. Adults should be fasted for 8 hours and kittens for 4 hours. The males will be discharged at 10 p.m. the same night and females will be released at 9 a.m. the next morning. Contact Langlois if you have a place for posters at 897-8484.

SNX will be starting a daily transport service for Spays and Neuters. The animals will be picked up on a Monday-Friday morning and transported to Lowell for surgery, and then will be returned the next morning, Tuesday-Saturday.

Some locations may just want once a week pick-up, a scheduled pick-up or a pick-up on an as needed basis (such as TNR programs.)

Langlois will be working on securing locations for pick-up in Grand Rapids, Newaygo, Reed City, Stanton, Ithaca, Ionia, Hastings and anywhere else in the local area that has a need. Contact Langlois if you know of a location that

can be used for transport service at 897-8484.

"My goal is to continue to provide high quality, and much needed service, and to expand the services of SNX

to help more people and to reduce the euthanasia of healthy adoptable animals," Langlois said.

Contact Langlois at the Animal Hospital of Lowell

with any needs that are not being met or any suggestions. For more information go to www.lowellvet.com or www.spayneuterexpress.com

Development, continued

\$180,000 even though some have sold for over \$225,000 up to \$300,000.

Phase 3 consists of 13 additional home sites. One home has sold for \$174,900 and the construction will start in the next 30 days. The home has three bedrooms, two baths, walkout ranch featuring 9 and 10 footer ceilings, private master suite, kitchen with center island, and partial stone exterior. Construction on streets will be completed in the next 60 days. Prices for homes, including lots, will start at \$160,000 and go to over \$200,000.

Hidden Acre Development Company Inc. currently has three on-going developments,

in Byron Center, Allendale and Lowell.

Schout Builders Inc. are

building the homes. Larry Schout has been building for over 35 years.



Developer Steve Hanson with builder Larry Schout.

Collage Concert features talented student musicians

When asked his future plans, tuba player Conner Swift will tell you that he wants to be a musician. That is part of what the Lowell music program is all about. Not every member of a Lowell musical group dreams of a career in music, but they all have one thing in common - they enjoy playing their instruments.



Clockwise: LHS concert choir; The eighth-grade band clarinet section and Jenny Huffman. Photos by Ted Bergin

The Collage Concert, held at the Lowell High School auditorium on March 30, showcased the Lowell music programs. Soloists Mattie Kropf and Linnea Rash, Murray Lake Elementary teacher Jacqui Dimmick, Conner Swift and Mackenzie Carlson impressed the crowd of 500 or so spectators with their mastery of the pieces performed. Lowell Fusion Experience played a song titled *Zombie*. Other ensembles included the fiddle club, a saxophone quartet, a bass duet, a string quintet with Lowell orchestra teacher Wendy Tenney and a brass sextet. Bands, orchestras and choirs from the middle school and high school performed some of their favorite pieces. The winter guards showed video clips from their state competitions.

THE LOWELL MUSIC BOOSTERS would like to thank everyone who: **donated items and food, practiced and performed, worked at, planned and attended the Collage Concert 2010.** *Thank You!*

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LHS March Students of the Month

In conjunction with the LHS Academic Boosters, Lowell High School announced that Dean Chittenden, 9th grade; and Conor McCarrey, 11th grade; are the Lowell High School March Students of the Month. In order to be eligible for this honor a student must be nominated by a department. All the nomination forms for the month are then reviewed and voted on at the monthly Department Chair Meeting. Students are selected based on academic achievement, character, and work ethic. There are 1283 students eligible for nomination, so this is quite an accomplishment for Chittenden and McCarrey. The students receive a

\$20 movie gift card and a certificate.

Chittenden was nominated by the freshman center



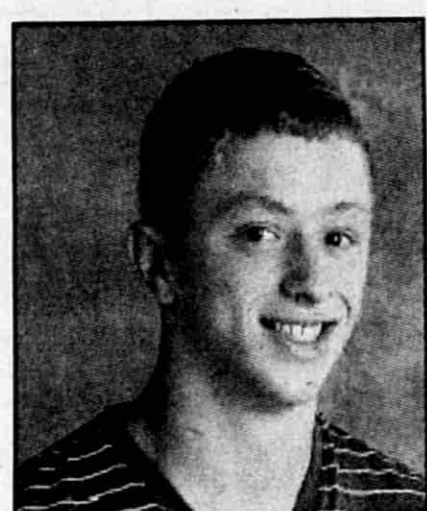
Dean Chittenden

east house and they write, "Dean has proven himself academically throughout the school year in Algebra I. He comes prepared each day, eager to learn and willing to help any of his peers. Dean

has continued to improve throughout the year and his increased confidence has produced increased success. His success in class has helped his social well-being as well."

McCarrey was nominated by the english department and they write, "Connor is a student, who in ACT prep, worked diligently all trimester on each and every test to improve. Often he was frustrated with his results, but he kept on trying, even on days when others gave up just because they were tired or it was a Friday. Recently, he received his scores from the February test and he exceeded all expectations, scoring a 26."

This program is made possible by the support of the LHS Academic Boosters, who support the high school



Conor McCarrey

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

health



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

vocal cord dysfunction

Vocal cord dysfunction is when the vocal cords partially close while you are breathing. This may cause shortness of breath, tightness in the throat, or a choking sensation. Vocal cord dysfunction can sometimes be mistaken for asthma.

The second test is a flexible laryngoscopy. A small, flexible tube is passed through the nose to look at the vocal cords while you breathe. This test helps the doctor to know if the vocal cords are not working correctly.

To treat vocal cord dysfunction, you should avoid anything that may be causing your symptoms. The doctor may also prescribe medicine to reduce stomach acid, lower anxiety, or control allergies. Speech therapy may be needed if symptoms continue. Therapists can help teach you how to breathe more easily and help you relax.

Everyone who signed petitions, wrote letters, or attended meetings had a part in this preservation and deserves to be proud of this accomplishment. The city council is to be commended for looking to the future and making this possible.

This city council has been demonstrating that they really are willing to listen to the public and make good decisions for the community. I hope all residents are

viewpoint

to the editor

Dear Editor,

I'm excited that the Boy Scouts are having an open house at the Boy Scout Cabin on April 10. This is such a great area and so many within the community worked so hard for a number of years to see it preserved as a park. The city has a wonderful asset here and this is the community's chance to get a tour and have some great fun as well.

realizing that it is of great benefit to be involved in your local government. You really can make a difference. In addition to contacting your local government with your ideas and concerns, I'd like to suggest volunteering to help with possible upcoming needs and projects. I've heard the council mention the need for cleanup of the park properties. I know one group recently helped with the changing of the lights on the Showboat. The Girl Scouts take the lead on garlic mustard pulls to help beautify the parks and trails and the Boy Scouts do numerous volunteer projects around town. We all know money is so tight; it would be nice to help with smaller projects so the community can use it's funds on the much needed bigger projects. This way we could all be part of the solution.

The next step for this property now is to have an official name designation. Wouldn't it be fun to have a contest-to come up with a name? Just an idea.

I have one more idea for this park property. It was the location of our original utility company which was one of the first in the state. (This shows how Lowell has always been a leader and forward-looking.) Only a few of the original buildings still stand on the property. Two of these are now being scheduled for demolition. I feel this would be a real loss to our history. They are in some disrepair but I understand there has been an offer made to make the repairs. It seems the cost of materials couldn't be more than the cost to tear them down. And what a great asset to our history to have them preserved. A sign indicating their history as well as signs showing the location of the Indian burial mounds, original dam site and other

points of interest could be great additions to the trail the North County Trail Association is considering bringing through this area.

As a community, and as residents within the community, let's talk, share ideas, help out and work together to make this an even better place to live.

Peggy Covert
Lowell

Dear Editor,

Councilmembers, where is your common sense and your pride in Lowell?

I am, of course, referring to the question put forth in an ordinance allowing "soft-sided" garages in the City of Lowell.

It has been indicated that the Council feels there has been little interest shown in the proposal and very little negative comments. Oh, come on! Steve Doyle personally called on me and fifty others to explain why he felt this was a detriment

to the City and we signed our name in agreement. Is our signature worth nothing? Can the same be said for the signatures gathered by Chris Fleszar? Later, I called City Hall to cast a "no" vote when the Planning Commission asked for input. I was assured the vote would be counted but apparently it just fell through the cracks.

Lowell is my home and I strive to keep a neat and tidy home. It makes me feel so good to drive the streets of Lowell and see the improvements being made on the lovely old homes here. The property owners have that pride and push to turn an okay situation into a thing of beauty.

It only makes good sense to factor in outside needs and expense when making any purchase. It would be hard to believe that anyone would

buy a house with the thought of skipping insurance coverage and hoping taxes could be paid because they did not sit down and think about those extras. Why should the entire city suffer because the extra needs were not factored in from the beginning? I don't wish to deprive anyone of anything they truly want, but please look at the whole picture.

Please, before any foolish decisions are made, drive through Lowell and enjoy the steps that have been taken to make our surrounding beautiful and welcoming. Do you see tents flapping in yards? Do they add to the attractiveness of our city?

Please, don't ignore the property owners who are truly concerned about this issue.

Donna Jean Ford
Lowell

outdoors

Full Strut

Dave Stegehuis

general, especially congratulating her on the low bacteria count.

Rumbling of heavy laden trucks, continuous whizzing of motor cars, with the roar of an occasional tri-motor airplane overhead — that's Main St. these days.

50 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger April 7, 1960

Headline: "Stormy" Takes Early Plunge

Anthony H. Stormzand, 69, of 506 N. Jefferson Street, spent more than half an hour in the frigid waters of Murray Lake Wednesday afternoon before rescuers found a way to get him out.

Stormzand, who had been ice fishing on the Lake with Elmer Ellis, walked too close to the north end channel which was partly obscured by fog and fell through the thin ice. Bob Ward of Ada, hearing the calls for help, fell through the ice when he attempted to help Stormzand and was helped out by Mr. Ellis, Stormzand's fishing partner.

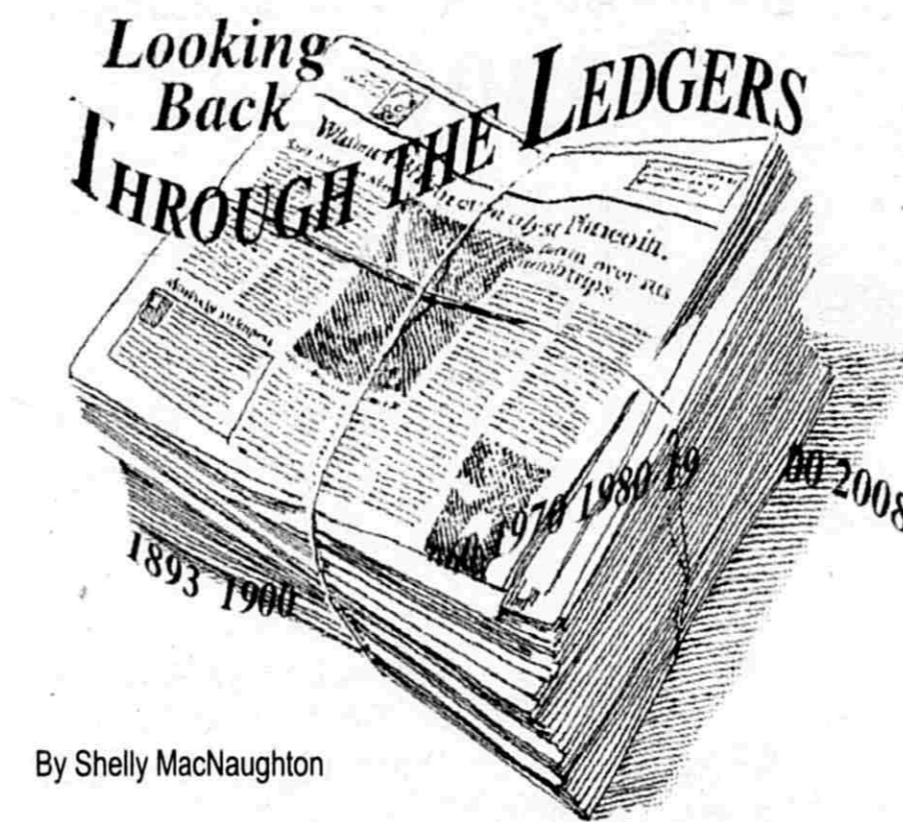
Bill Loughlin and Sidney Hoogebloom borrowed a boat and tried to rescue Stormzand by clearing ice through the channel while Mr. James Heether and his wife Barbara failed to pull Stormzand out with a rope. Mr. Loughlin finally pulled Stormzand, who was struggling to keep afloat, into the boat.

25 Years Ago The Grand Valley Ledger April 10, 1985

Three people were injured and one remains hospitalized as the result of a West Main Street accident last Wednesday at about 9:30 a.m. The accident occurred as a 16-year-old juvenile female from Lowell exited the McDonald's Restaurant in a pickup truck. She was attempting a left turn onto Main Street where an eastbound car driven by James McCaul, 74, of Ada, hit the pickup broadside at the driver's door.

Lowell police officer James Valentine has been awarded a citation for "Professional Excellence" by the Michigan State Police. The award was issued as a result of Valentine's key role in the arrest of Benjamin Acosta in August of 1983.

Acosta was wanted for the hit and run death of a Smyrna woman. A statewide search for the vehicle and driver had proved fruitless for more than two weeks. Finally, Valentine, in response to a tip, spotted the suspect vehicle.



By Shelly MacNaughton

125 Years Ago The Lowell Journal April 8, 1885

Village property is now in better demand than it has been for some time.

John D. Yeiter, town treasurer, made a good showing in his settlement with the county treasurer. His return of lands for unpaid tax was only \$36.63 and he collected every cent of the drain tax.

100 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger April 14, 1910

The Lowell Auto Body company has orders for one thousand auto bodies before a wheel has turned and this morning the first carload of timber was put in the new dry kiln.

75 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo April 11, 1935

Highland Hills Dairy Milk was one of eight in Kent County selected to enter the state contest of retail milk producers. Mrs. Cameron received congratulations from the State Board of Health on her fine scoring and conditions in

local business directory

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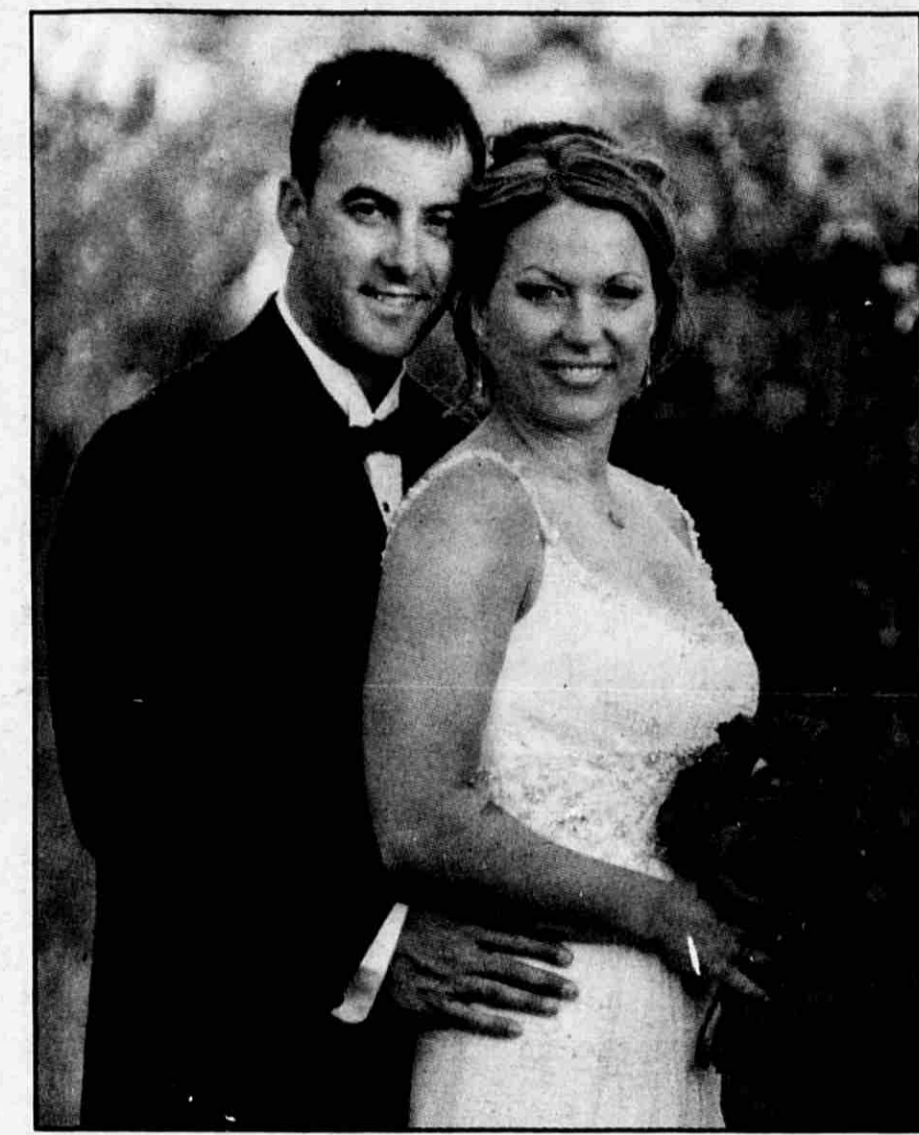
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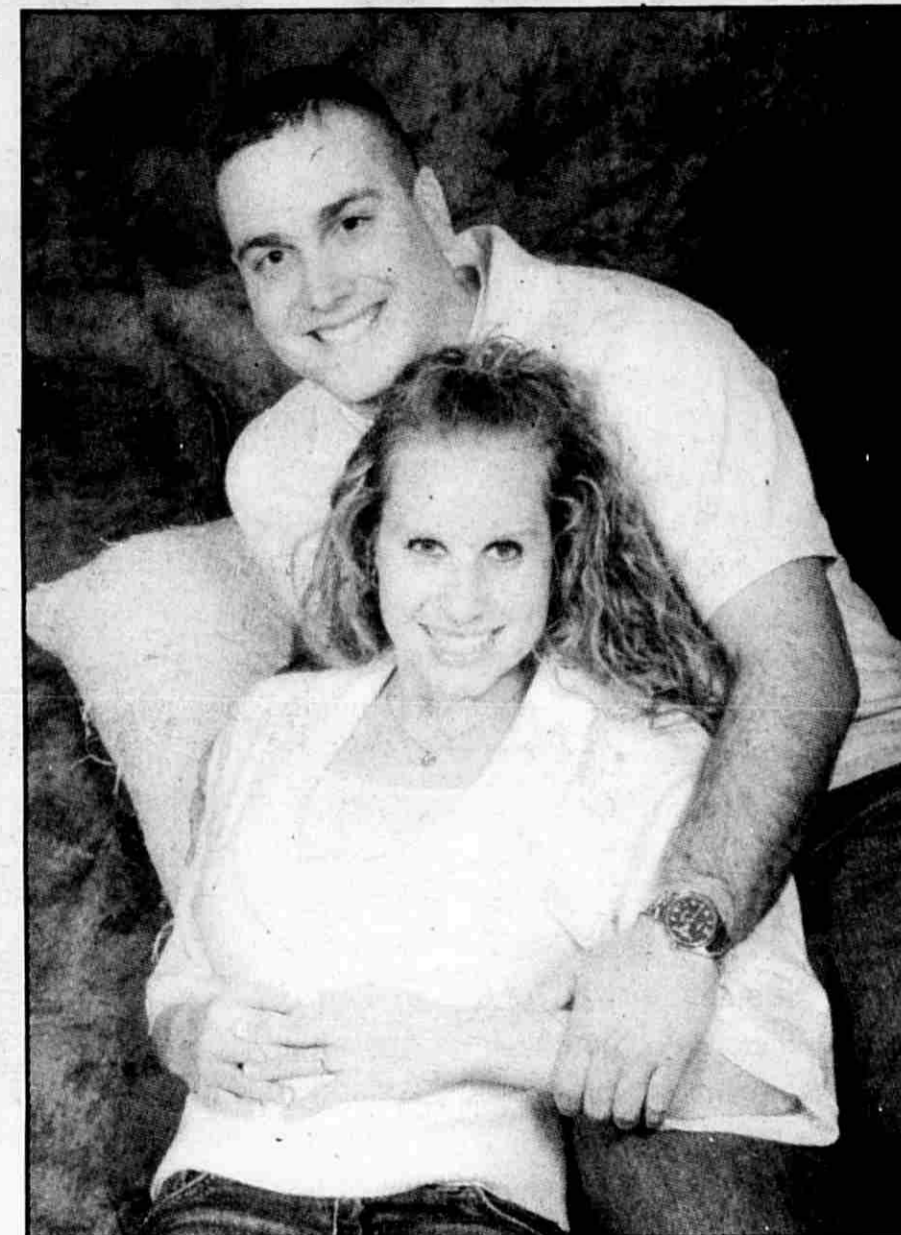
Gomer/Sterzick



Andrew and Heather Gomer

Heather Lee Sterzick and Andrew David Gomer exchanged vows on December 8, 2009 in Western Australia. Their intimate ceremony was held at Wise Winery of Margaret River. Proud parents of the bride, John and Helen Sterzick, were able to attend and give their daughter away. Parents of the groom, Charlie and Anne Gomer of Gettysburg, PA, were also in attendance. The wedding party included Jill Hill, Philip Gomer, and Selina Higgons. To celebrate their marriage with those that were unable to attend, a reception will be held in August.

Seaman/Foupht



Chris Foupht and Kimberly Seaman

Wedding vows will be exchanged on July 24, 2010, by Kimberly Seaman and Chris Foupht. The bride-to-be is a 2003 graduate of Lowell High School and a 2007 graduate of Ferris State University. She is the daughter of Randy and Peggy Seaman of Lowell. The future groom is a 2001 graduate of Tri-County High School and a 2008 graduate of Ferris State University. He is the son of Jim and Joni Maile of Newaygo and Rich and Rhonda Foupht of Elgin, SC.

ask kathryn



Kathryn Denhouter Ph.D.

This article will discuss the psychological and physiological responses to stress. In other words: "How does stress affect our minds and our bodies?" Many of you have heard from your doctor that you have to reduce stress in your life to maintain a healthy body and mind. Truer words have never been spoken. Because stress is accumulative, it is imperative that we find a way to bring the stress level down to "no stress" or at least down to manageable levels. If we don't, we lose control and often will hurt ourselves.

Our emotions and our mental state are affected as well. Many times we have: 1.) an inability to concentrate, 2.) boredom and listlessness, 3.) general irritability, 4.) free floating anxiety, 5.) high-pitched and nervous laughter, 6.) startle reflex from sounds, 7.) nightmares, 8.) stuttering and other speech difficulties, 9.) accident proneness, 10.) phobias and fears, 11.) aggressive tendencies and angry feelings, or 12.) increased substance abuse.

In this fast-paced, high stress world we need to be even more aware of what stress does to us and have "industrial-strength" solutions to the stress that is all around us. The next article will be about: "What Does Stress Do to Aging?" If you have any comments or questions, please email me at kathryndenhouter@gmail.com

or hives, 16.) grinding teeth, 17.) loss of hair, 18.) muscle spasms, 19.) nail biting, 20.) rapid heartbeat, 21.) stomach upsets, or 22.) trembling legs. There are others but this list covers the majority of the symptoms.

college news

The University of Northwestern Ohio is proud to acknowledge that Micah D. Soyka of Lowell has made the Dean's List for the February 2010 session in the College of Technologies. Full-time students must receive a grade point average of 3.5 or better to be named to the Dean's List. He is the son of Mark and Vicki Soyka of Lowell.

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PREVIEW

Road gets tougher for two-time defending league champs

by Thad Kraus

The rest of the O-K White doesn't care that Lowell, the defending two-time conference champion, only returns one starter from a year ago.

That will not take their eye off the bull's-eye that is firmly attached to the back of a team that finished 26-8 last year.

"We're young, but these guys are maturing into good baseball players. There is a lot of opportunity for them," said Lowell baseball coach Justin Miller.

The Red Arrow coach has posted a record of 102-63 in six years at the helm of the Lowell baseball program.

"We're reloading, but we expect big things," Miller said.

As with all good clubs that starts with pitching. The

top four starters include a lefty and three right handers.

Kaleb Ort is the hardest throwing Red Arrow. The other two right handers, Patrick Martin and Jordan Drake, along with lefty Will Plummer throw in the high 70s.

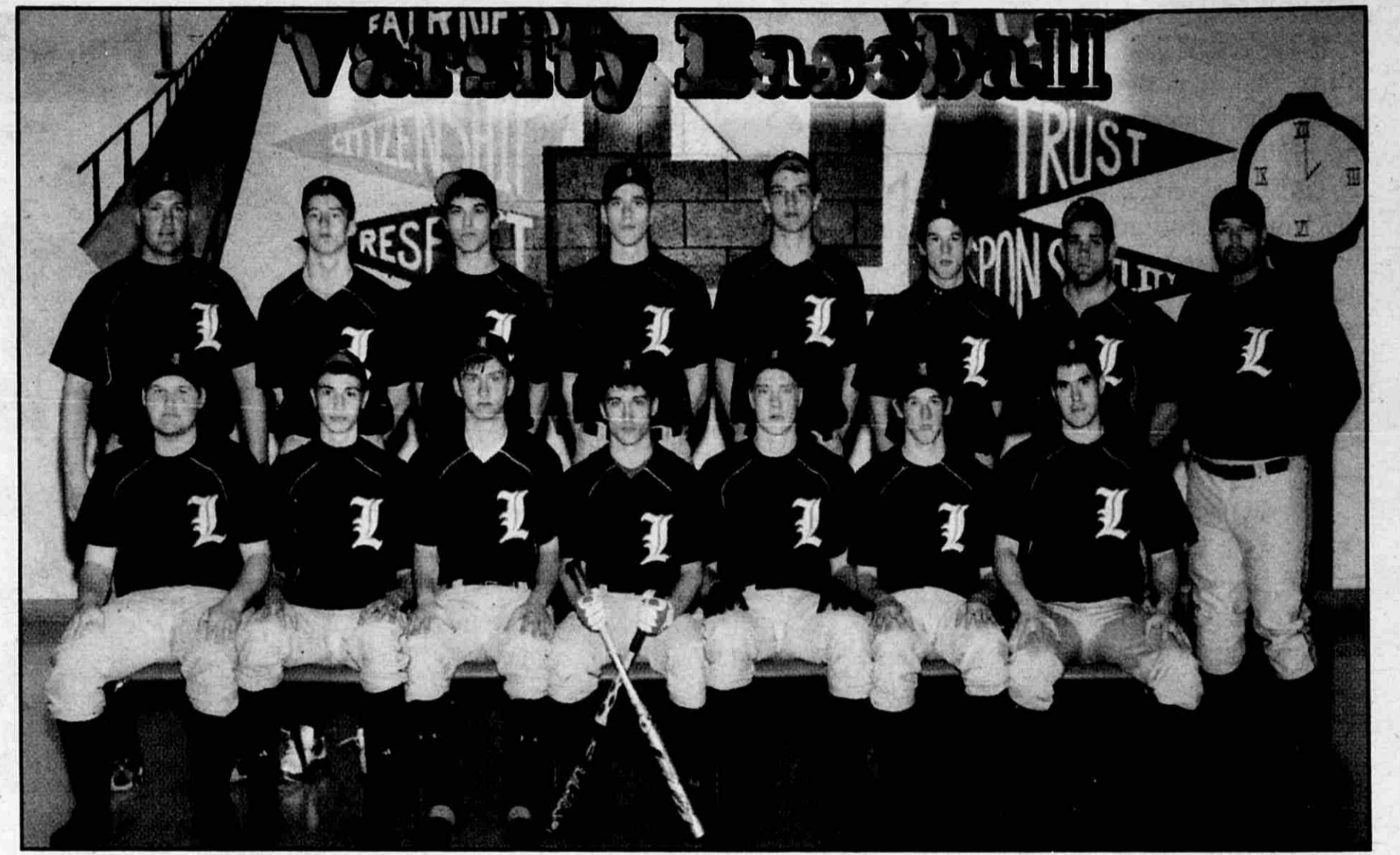
"They are throwing hard and working on their consistency. They have done a lot to get ready for the season," Miller said.

"They are developing their pitches and will need to build some fortitude and the ability to bounce back and deal with setbacks."

Other members of the pitching staff include Conor Barr, Alex Westdorp, Elliott Westdorp and Jacob Gould.

Another key element to winning baseball is defense.

Baseball, continued, page 10



Front row, left to right: Shane Ryan, Conor Barr, Sam Steed, Jake Gould, Kaleb Ort, Alex Westdorp, and Will Plummer; second row, left to right: coach Justin Miller, Matt Houston, Pat Martin, Elliott Drain, Jordan Drake, Eliot Westdorp, Keegan Hanrahan, and coach Shane Beach.

A wealth of pitching elevates Lowell's outlook

by Thad Kraus

An abundance of young softball pitchers not only return but are better than they were a year ago.

That may help bring an abundance of success.

"They all pitched in the off season and got better," said Lowell softball coach Bob Rodenhouse.

They are sophomores Lyndsey Crawford and Morgan Groom and juniors Amanda (M.J.) Vietzke and Kaylie Petroelje.

Crawford throws a nice drop ball and wheels a good stick at the plate.

Groom finished strong from the mound her freshman season. "She throws a legitimate rise ball

and is recovering from ACL surgery," Rodenhouse said.

Vietzke was up and down from freshman to junior varsity last year, but is labeled as a legitimate hurler for the Red Arrows in 2010.

Petroelje is a transfer from Grand Rapids Christian. She was the Eagles' number one hurler last year. "Kaylie should help very much," Rodenhouse said.

The youth on the mound is representative of Lowell's entire roster.

"We're young with varsity experience, but not young in softball experience," Rodenhouse explains. "Most of the girls play summer travel ball and take part in off season conditioning and

practice in the hitting cage.

All of that has to help a team's overall quality."

The Red Arrows finished at 11-21 last year. Rodenhouse is looking for and expects a 20 win season this year.

"There is no reason we can't win 20 games. It will be a disappointment if we don't contend for a league championship," Rodenhouse says.

Lowell will need to play better because its nonleague schedule is challenging. It includes Unity Christian, Ionia, Kentwood and Rockford.

Softball, continued, page 10



Front row, left to right: Amanda Vietzke, Sarah Mogor, KayLee Westerhuis, Kaylyn DeWaard, Lauren Dood, and Kelly Wyckoff; second row, left to right: coach Bill McElroy, Kaylie Petroelje, Rachel Wold, Lindsey Crawford, Leigha Frisbie, coach Bob Rodenhouse, Jenna Smith, Brianna Richardson, Morgan Groom, and coach Terry Wieland. Not pictured: Shelby Roberts.

Trapp to lead Arrow charge in 2010

by Thad Kraus

Lowell girls' tennis team's second-place finish at the Fruitport Invitational provided a little bit of a measuring stick as to what might lie ahead for the Red Arrow netters.

The goal continues to be qualifying for the state tournament.

"I think we have a shot at qualifying for state," said Lowell tennis coach Bonnie Wall. "The girls have to keep trucking, keep moving forward."

To start, that will mean handling the challenges

levied by Grand Rapids Christian and Northview.

Lowell comes off a 6-6 season last year where the Red Arrows finished fourth in the league at 2-3.

Good hustle, good movement and pulling out close, tough matches are all elements that will bring the improved results that Wall and her Red Arrows covet.

In singles play, Kelly Trapp, the Red Arrows' top player, will stare down the opponent's best player.

Taylor Mankel is penciled in to play at second singles with June Ramsay playing

at third singles. "Taylor has a lot of potential and hits a strong ball," Wall said.

Morgan Rogalke will fill Lowell's fourth and final singles position.

Kelsey Wittenbach and Caitlin Baker, playing first doubles, opened the year with a tourney win at Fruitport.

Brynlee Pomper and Zoe Beloncis are Wall's choice at third doubles.

Molly Williamstein and Katy Mork are slotted for fourth doubles. The Red Arrows play league foe Greenville on April 14.



Front row, left to right: Katy Mork, Kelsey Mankel, Morgan Rogalke, Zoe Beloncis, June Ramsay, Molly Willemstein, and Abby Rogalke; second row, left to right: coach Mike Mankel, coach Bonnie Wall, Caitlin Baker, Kelsey Wittenbach, Taylor Mankel, Kelly Trapp, Brynlee Pomper, and coach Roger Wall.

Spring Sports PREVIEW

Talented Lowell soccer team looking for results in 2010

by Thad Kraus
If the results match the talent, the Lowell girls' soccer team should do just fine in 2010.
"This is a very talented bunch of kids. This group of girls has better technical skill ability than any group I've coached," said Lowell soccer coach Paul Legge. "Talent and results, however, as we all know are two different things."
A year ago, the Red Arrows were 13-4-3 overall and 7-3 in the O-K White, good enough for third behind Grand Rapids Christian and East Grand Rapids.
"I think any of these three could finish any of those three positions," Legge said.

Lowell's offense will run through center midfielders Michelle Foote and Jordan Timmer.
Foote is very strong technically, according to Legge. Timmer is described as a phenomenal athlete. "Athletically Jordan is very gifted," Legge said.
A strong defensive unit will be anchored by two seniors: Courtney Schmidt, an all-state center back as a freshman; and Kelly Stevens, a three-year starting outside back.
"With these two girls, we've allowed 20 goals over our last 40 games," Legge explains. "If we can bring together our speed and athleticism into one package

we will be successful and results will follow."
Prior to spring break, the Red Arrow results were mixed. Lowell lost a 1-0 decision to Caledonia.
"The girls had a shaky start. Caledonia is a real good soccer team. We were not able to finish at the offensive end and they scored in the last 30 seconds of the game to win it," Legge said.
Lowell turned things around against the O-K Red's Grandville Bulldogs. The Red Arrows won the nonconference game 4-1.
Claire Hopkins netted two goals and Timmer and Sara Nagy each added a goal



Front row, left to right: Sara Nagy, Mackenzie VanDerWarf, Lauren Ferguson, Stephanie Stevens, Kelly Stevens, and Brooke Curtis; second row, left to right: coach Paul Legge, Sarah Kramer, Amanda Mott, Alyssa Kargl, Megan Montgomery, Claire Hopkins, Michelle Foote, and Jessica Montgomery; third row, left to right: Erica Walenzik, Paige McVey, Emily Oberlin, Jordan Timmer, Courtney Schmidt, Taryn Endres, and Caitlin Fitzpatrick.

Arrow golf program driving brightly into future



Front row, left to right: Ben Hart, Tyler Bitterman, Jacob Hornbrook, Lucas Miles, and Brandon Poll; second row, left to right: coach Gary Fredline, Grant Breuker, Zach Fizer, Evan Wilterink, Alec Roerig, and Evan Kohtz.

by Thad Kraus
The phrase of spring is "golf is where it's at."
"We're back to that," said Lowell boys' golf coach Gary Fredline. "We have kids whose passion is golf compared to kids who like to play golf."
There are 15 freshmen on this year's junior varsity squad. All of whom are products of the Arrowhead Junior League.
"Seven or eight a year is really good. With this many freshmen prospects, the program's future is bright," Fredline explains.
That's the future. 2010

will blend a couple seniors, three sophomores, a junior and a freshman.
Evan Wilterink and Zach Fizer will be the squad's two most consistent scorers.
"Evan is our most powerful hitter and Zach has probably the most consistent overall game," Fredline said.
Both Red Arrow seniors card low to mid 40's.
Fredline adds that if sophomores Grant Breuker, Alec Roerig, and Ben Hart, junior Evan Kohtz and freshman Brandon Poll are all shooting in the low to mid 40's by year's end, Lowell will have had a successful

season. "Kohtz has elevated his game while Grant, Alec Ben and Brandon all have solid games. They just need seasoning," Fredline explains.
Grand Rapids Christian and East Grand Rapids are the league's favorites. Northview fields the conference's best player Casey Tull.
If Fredline can pencil in four rounds of 41, Lowell has a chance at finishing in the O-K White's middle of the pack.
Anything less than that will make it difficult to compete at a high level in a top heavy league.



Front row, left to right: Kaeleb Brown, Bailee Emelander, Sara Cadwallader, Kelsey Ward, Katie Tackmann, and coach David Cadwallader; second row, left to right: coach Keith Gillhespy, Brennen Rauch, Joe Schreur, Aaron Johnson, Derek Mixon, Steve Trierweiler, and coach Peter Chittenden; third row, left to right: Mia Carvajal, Bravot Morris, Samantha Hagerman, Ashley Metternick, and Denise Fyan.

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Spring Sports PREVIEW

O-K conference lacrosse sure to be competitive

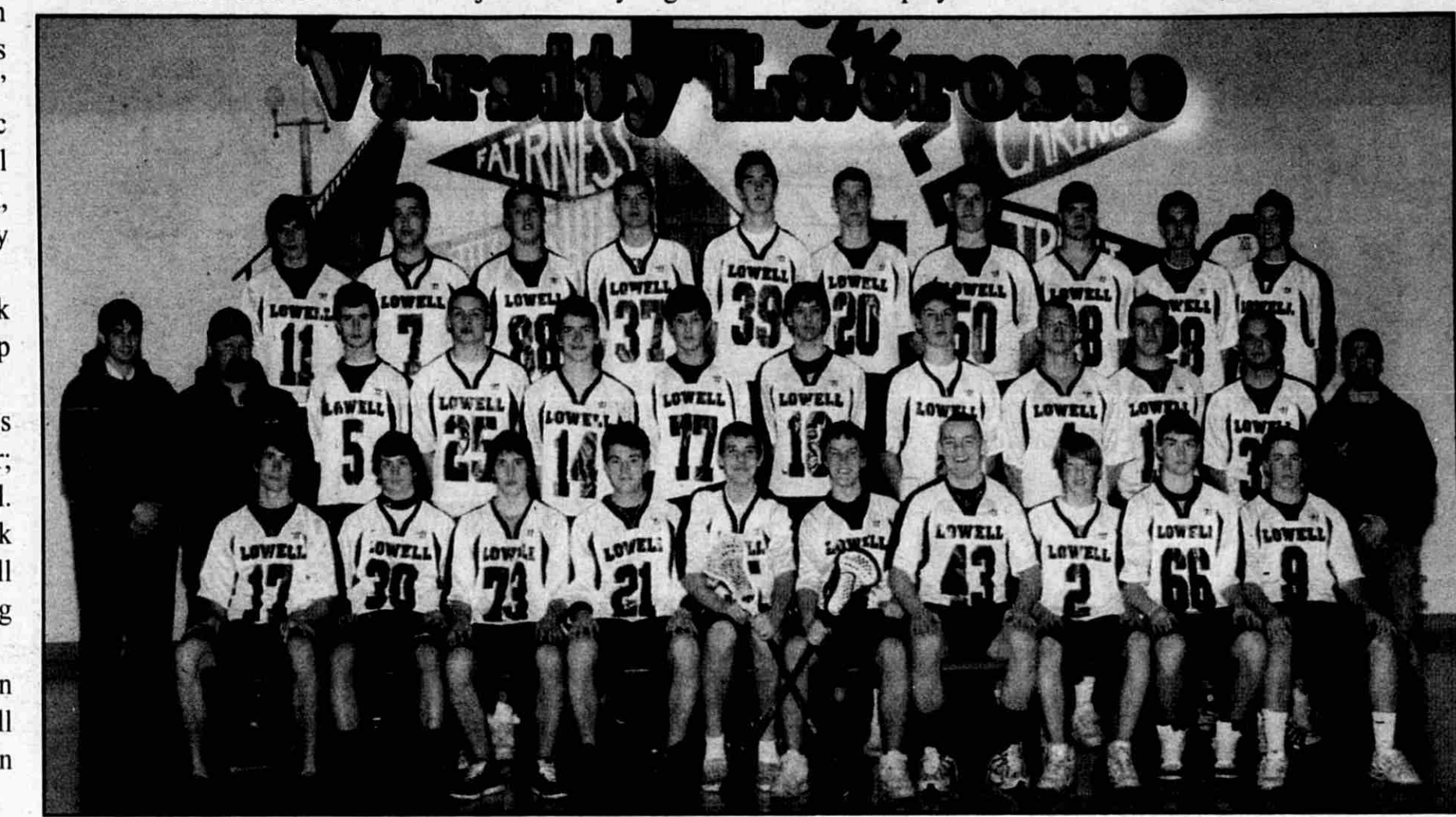
by Thad Kraus
Personnel is there to compete for a lacrosse conference championship.
Why not win a league title?
Based on the 2009 season, in a balanced O-K conference, competing for a championship is the rule.
Five teams finished within a game of one another last year.
The 8-5 Red Arrows were third.

Alec Downing will become the Red Arrows' top offensive player.
"Alec has switched from midfield to attack and has shown great improvement," Lowell lacrosse coach Eric Bredin said. "I know we will score goals. The key, though, will be playing defense every game."
Seniors Jim McCormick and Isaac Tawney will help meld youth and experience.
McCormick, midfield, is an intense, hard nose player; he moves well off the ball. Tawney brings a quarterback mentality who likes the ball and likes to drive, according to Bredin.
Seniors Dylan Olin (captain) and Chris Bewell will play important roles in Lowell's success.

Taylor Martin and junior Gerrid Ball.
"Martin has some of the best stick skills on the team," Bredin explained. "Gerrid led the junior varsity in goals and will fill the role as an attack man in 2010."
Lowell plays its first home game of the year against Catholic Central on Thursday (April 15).

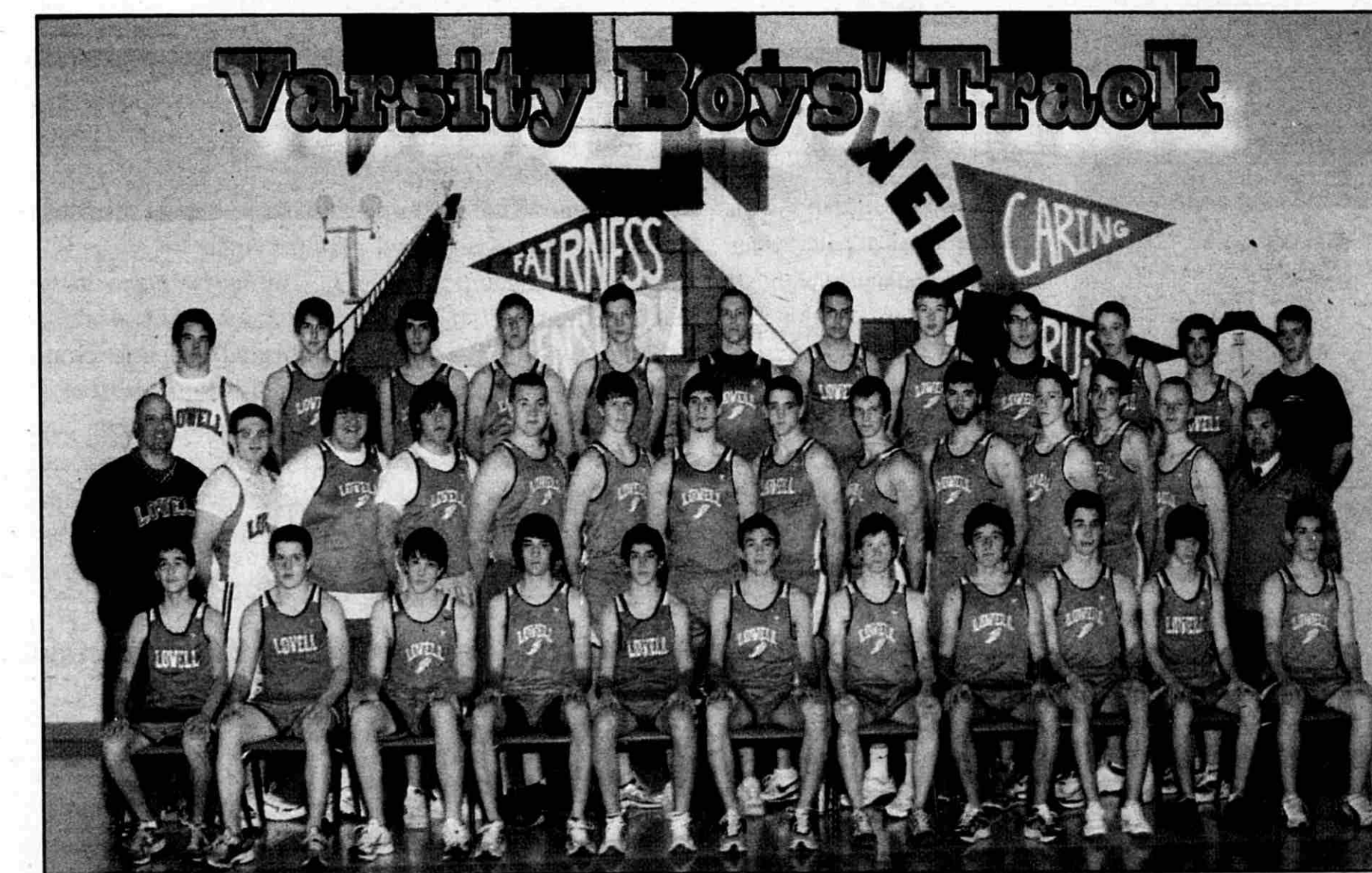
With that said, an injury to the Red Arrows' top offensive player in their season-opening win against Holland Christian could complicate things.
Kolin Morgan, senior, injured a knee against the Maroons. His status going into spring break was up in the air.
When Morgan is out,

"Dylan is a student of the game. Chris has outstanding technique and clearing ability."
New faces expected to step in and make a difference are sophomores Jim Collins (face off midfielder) and



Front row, left to right: Gerrid Ball, Joe Potter, Charlie Young, Josh Jacobs, Chris Bewell, Nicholas Getz, Sam Young, Reece Posthumus, Jim Collins, and Alec Downing; second row, left to right: coach Eric Bredin, coach Matt Hauschild, Stephen Hauschild, Austin Buckius, Kameron Claypool, Jonathan Bassin, Dalton DeBoer, Isaac Tawney, Kolin Morgan, Dylan Olin, Jim McCormick, and coach Kaiser Downing; third row, left to right: Jake Bennett, Paul Luna, Tyler Bitterman, Tyler Morris, Matthew Hanks, Jacob Litchfield, Austin Litchfield, Braydon Foley, Braden McGillicuddy, and Taylor Martin.

Boys' track works to nail down improved league standing



Front row, left to right: Nick McCormick, Alex McIntire, Tobias Marks, Sean Khodli, Javier Carascal, Matt Kyllonen, Zach Robinson, Ben Partridge, Tyler Geurkink, Martin Brubaker, and Robby Coffey; second row, left to right: coach Russ Stevens, Chase Treglia, Cody Rockwell, Cody Kooiman, Tyler Lessens, Jeremy Wodarek, Chris Eckman, Wade Schlosser, Brandon Blough, Brandon Hrusovsky, Brent Cone, Daniel Geurkink, James Wierenga, and coach Clay VanderWarf; third row, left to right: Nick McKay, Cody Bieri, Jacob Khodli, Tom Mark, John Schramm, Austin Tackmann, John Mark, Chris DeWeerd, Robert Becker, Connor Smith, Carlos Ruiz, and Zack Jeffries.

by Thad Kraus
There is plenty to be excited about as the 2010 Lowell boys' track season begins.
How much that translates into results only the season that lies ahead knows.
With a large freshmen contingent, Lowell will field a 50-man track team. It also returns seven of its top scorers.
"With such a large roster and a number of young kids, the key will be finding the right spot for each one of them," said Lowell boys' track coach Russ Stevens.
The top returning point scorers are Zach Robinson, Austin Tackmann, Chris Eckman, and Matt Kyllonen.
Robinson blossomed as a junior and will play a significant role in Lowell's mile, two mile runs, and mile relay.
"Zach looked good inside at Grand Valley. Now he needs to bring that outside," Stevens said. "It's his senior year. Time for Zach to take his place. It's go time."

Eckman is Lowell's iron man. His focus will be the 400 and the relays.
"Chris is a dedicated kid who works hard. He's my utility man. If I need someone to fill a spot, Chris is there," Stevens explained.
If you're looking for someone to go and to go quickly, then it's Tackmann you want to watch.
"He has great starts and beats everybody out of the block, which allowed him to compete in the final heat at Grand Valley," Stevens said.
If Eckman is the iron man, then Kyllonen was made for the decathlon.
"Matt is just an all-around track guy. He's someone to watch over the next couple of years," Stevens projects.
Greenville is the O-K White favorite with Grand Rapids Christian its closest competitor.
"I think we have a chance to win some meets. I think we will excel in the mile and two mile, the mile relay, and we should do well in the 100- and 200-meter dashes."

CHECK OUT OUR SPORTS
thelowelledger.com

Preview

Red Arrow girls aim to supplant Eagles atop of the O-K White



Front row, left to right: Chelsea VanderPols, Nicole Everitt, Carli Lewis, Kelsey Teft, Kayla Williams, and Jessica White; second row, left to right: Mariah May, Morgan Kornoelje, Alli Oesch, Anna Scudder, Mian Jackson, Hannah Boon, Kendall Hewitt, Kallie Holzhueter, Lauren Trasky, and Caitlin Brown; third row, left to right: coach Sarah Ellis, manager Kelsey Brown, Brianna Vezino, Vonda Kyes, Justice Cupp, Gloria Rivera, Crystal Vosburg, Kimmy Noall, Dana Franklin, Ashlyn Hussey, Kaitlin Fisher, Stephanie Vosburg, and Rebekah Betts; fourth row, left to right: Molly Denison, Amy Bartkus, Danielle Ordway, Alannah McBryde, Kendra Merriman, Haley Ladd, Mattie Newman, Emily Peterson, Brandi Aikens, Maranda Johnson, Sarah Aeder, and Kristin Fisher. Not pictured: Lexi Wabeke, Pauline Harrington, Sage Maliepaard, Annie Vescolani, Madie Tomé, Abby Ellis, Chelsea Montgomery, Haleigh Timmers, and Jillian O'Haire.

by Thad Kraus

New faces, familiar faces and some unanswered recovery questions will all play significant roles in the success of 2010 Lowell girls' track team.

Amy Bartkus, Rebekkah Betts, Anna Scudder and Maddie Newman are the new faces representing energy, stamina and strength.

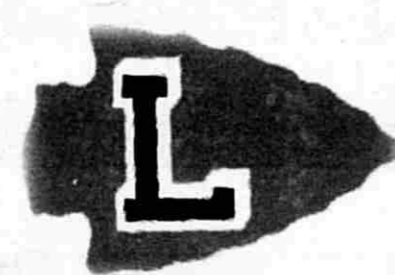
Bartkus and Betts will help strengthen a pretty solid distance crew. "They both look pretty strong," said Lowell track coach Robin Briggs.

In Scudder, Briggs says the squad will get a nice burst in the sprints. The junior is expected to run in the 100 and 200 meters and in the relays.

Newman is a freshman shot put and discus power fusion. She holds the middle school record in the shot. Newman, however, is nursing back to health a broken foot.

"Right now Maddie is just doing power throws as we ease her back into it," Briggs explained.

The health matters do not end with Newman. There is also junior Kallie Holzhueter who is recovering from knee surgery in the early fall. When healthy, the junior will bolster the Red Arrows' backup at third base.



Baseball, continued

A roster filled with athletes is also one Miller says is sound defensively.

Setting up behind the plate is Lowell's sole returning starter, Keegan Hanrahan.

From first to third Lowell will field Sam Steed (1b), Elliott Drain/Gould (2b), Drain/Martin (ss), and Jordan Drake (3b). Martin can also

Grand Rapids Christian returns eight. "Northview has a lot of young talent and Greenville, who played three tight games against us, returns most of its team," Miller said. "Our goal is to win the conference, get through the district and then follow the Yellow Brick Road."

East Grand Rapids, the defending Class B state champions, returns seven starters from a year ago and is an early season favorite in the O-K White.

Softball, continued

Defensively, Lowell's venerable coach believes his defense will be decent. "We'll need to work and focus on situational play," he says.

Patrolling the outfield for the Red Arrows will be sophomore Kalyann DeWaard, KayLee Westerhuis and Rachel Wold.

DeWaard is fast, a natural lefty and is a slap-and-run hitter.

Wold may be Lowell's

attack in the 400, 800, 3,200 and mile relay.

"We're going to ease her back slowly," Briggs said.

Holzhueter set school records in the 800 and 1,600 runs a year ago.

If you're looking for familiar and proven on a roster with a few (seven) seniors and plenty of young blood, then Kelsey Teft is a welcome veteran. The senior should provide a boost in the pole vault, hurdles and relays.

Other familiar faces are Miah Jackson, Haleigh Timmer and Kendall Hewitt.

Jackson will lead the sprint crew and should be a force in the long jump.

"Miah jumped 15-1 at Grand Valley State. That's a great start to the season," Briggs said.

Hewitt is penciled in at the 400, 800 and mile.

Timmer, meanwhile, should provide a strong leg in the distance events.

Lowell finished second behind Grand Rapids Christian last year. Briggs is hopeful her Red Arrows can catch and surpass the Eagles in 2010.

The two teams meet on April 27 at Red Arrow Stadium.

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Lowell soccer coach makes the kindest of cuts

by Thad Kraus

Through the encouragement of a colleague at Allegan Schools, Lowell soccer coach Paul Legge went to great lengths to make sure he got the result he sought.

No, not an O-K White conference championship, although that would be nice and it would only take a couple months.

The result he sought took 29 months and "six months of that was filled with bad hair days," Legge explained.

Someone had to say it!



Thad Kraus

It was a good, entertaining national championship game Monday night.

I would have preferred a different ending. Butler had a couple opportunities, but could not make a bucket.

One thing Butler and Duke have in common, which I like, is both schools have college players and not players looking to run off to the NBA after one year.

Having a roster of seniors who have played together for four years may be the road map of the future for college coaches.

What have one and done players done for Memphis and Kentucky?

The Wildcats had all that young talent this year and next year, it's a good bet that they will all be on an NBA bench somewhere. How is that working for you coach John Calipari?

The most alarming thing about the one and done college players is the "student athlete" (LOL) only has to earn passing grades in one semester of classes and they are good to go for the entire season.

This is obviously a joke when one considers their schedule can consist of blow off-type classes.

I believe all of Butler's starters return next year and two of the starters are members of academic All-America team. Quite the contrast from what is going on at the Kentuckys of the world.

One final note, Tom Izzo's comment that he thought Butler would lose to Duke by a big margin (15 points), I thought smacked of sour grapes.

It's almost as if he wasn't giving Butler any credit for shooting 24 percent from the floor and still beating MSU!

Makes one wonder how big of an underdog he would have made his Spartans had they faced Duke?

Finally, it's time to announce this year's winner

Legge volunteered to grow, cut and donate his healthy hair to make wigs for women who have lost their hair due to cancer treatments.

After growing out six ponytails, each 11 inches long, Legge had his hair cut last week and donated to the Pantene Beautiful Lengths program.

"I started growing out my hair in October of 2007," Legge explained. "I'm glad to have been able to help and to make a donation."

The Lowell soccer coach said he was also glad to have his hair back to a desired length.

A real-hair wig allows a woman to look in the mirror and at least see a familiar face while she fights to regain a sense of normalcy in her life.

Creating a real-hair wig takes approximately three to four months and each wig requires at least six ponytails to make.

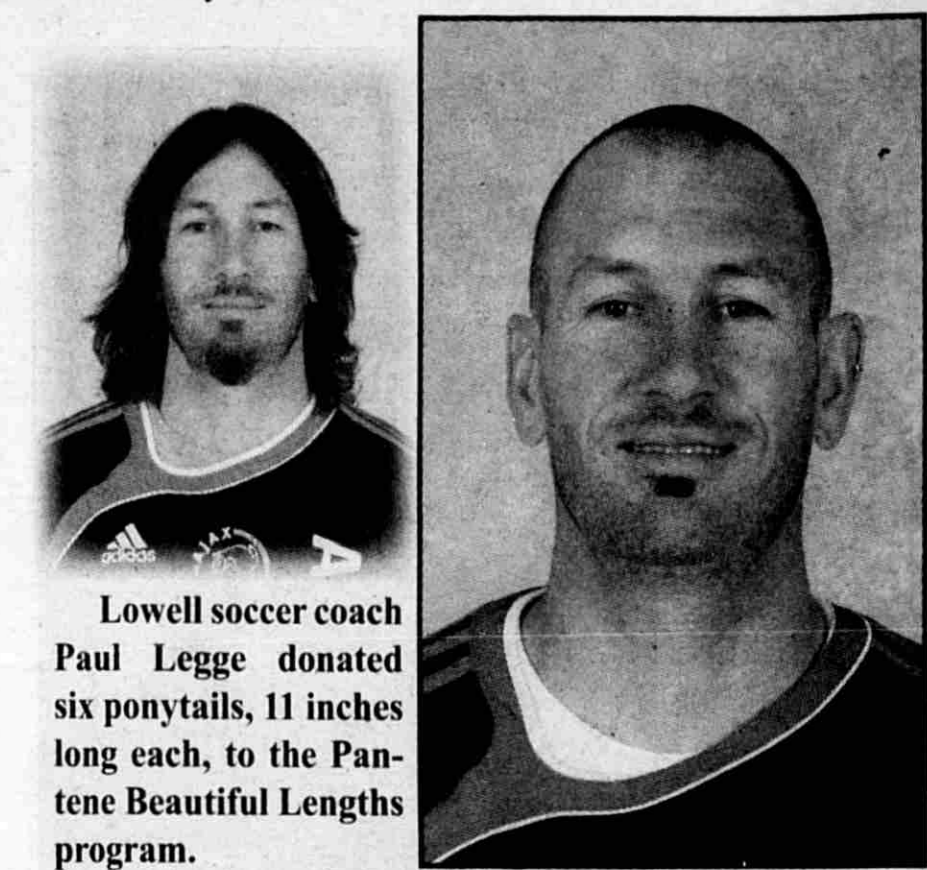
As Pantene Beautiful Lengths wigs are created, they are distributed for free through select American Cancer Society wig banks

across the country. Women facing cancer can find out about the availability of a Pantene Beautiful Lengths wig by calling the American Cancer Society at 1-877-227-1596. The Society can also help callers with a number of resources providing educational and emotional support.

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer

through research, education, advocacy, and service. Visit the Society's website at

www.cancer.org to learn more about its mission and activities.



Lowell soccer coach Paul Legge donated six ponytails, 11 inches long each, to the Pantene Beautiful Lengths program.

School's expanded website now community based

The Challenge. For many years, Lowell Area Schools of Michigan housed its own website and dedicated significant staff resources along with hundreds of hours to the ongoing maintenance of its web environment.

This structure - combined with an uninspired design and challenging interface - resulted in outdated information and ineffective communications between the district and its constituents.

Now, students and their families can access comprehensive information on the website from local business- and real estate listings, local arts and cultural resources, and library and daycare links.

"We like the look. The site is updated on a regular basis. It's also been expanded from a school site to a community site," said Lowell Area School's administrative assistant to the superintendent, Valerie Behm. "Each school has its own webmaster in charge of updating the site with reliable information."

Lowell is now on the leading edge when it comes to websites and how they now reach beyond parents and students.

Most schools are not at this level, according to School Center's Colleen DeVine.

The district needed to develop an interactive, user-friendly website with easy navigation and timely content that would attract parents and students, better connect the entire community, and create a community of learners.

It provides links to community sites, such as realtor.com, Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, arts council, hospitals, daycares, and much more.

Lowell Area Schools began working with SchoolCenter in late 2008 to implement SC Pro, a new best practices approach to building an effective web presence. Using SC Pro, the district and SchoolCenter collaborated to define objectives for an

School website, continued, page 14

Gallert resigns as varsity girls' basketball coach

by Thad Kraus

Lowell varsity girls' basketball coach Danielle Gallert announced last week that she has resigned as the Red Arrow coach.

Gallert spent three years as the girls' varsity coach and was a varsity assistant the seven years prior to that.

"I will miss working with the girls," Gallert said. "The issues for my resignation have nothing to do with basketball."

Gallert says she thought about it a long time before making a decision. In the end, though, the drama and politics outweighed the enjoyment of coaching.

In her three years as coach, Gallert's teams posted a combined record of 31-32.



Danielle Gallert

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

ATTENTION CITY OF LOWELL AND TOWNSHIP WATER CUSTOMERS

Due to major maintenance the City of Lowell's Water Treatment Filtration Plant will not be softening nor fluoridating the water from April 13th through May 15, 2010. We are sorry for any inconvenience.

If you have any questions, please contact the Water Treatment Plant (897-5234).

Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

MPA What do all those public notices cost us? Can't they just be posted on a Web site?

State law requires that citizens be informed of certain governmental activity through paid public notices like the ones in this newspaper.

It's one way to make government accountable to the people.

More than two-thirds of active Michigan voters* would be concerned if government placed these notices on Web sites because important information could be concealed from the public.

So, what's it worth to you to be able to pick up this newspaper and find out what's going on in your town, your county, or your local schools?

*EPIC-MIRA November 2007

the lowell ledger

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Mexican market - an interesting economic puzzle for Lowell students

by Thad Kraus

Trading and bartering are important and essential elements to the Mexican economy.
Lowell Middle School

sixth-grade students were given an opportunity to experience a market setting where they could trade and

barter items with fellow classmates. Items such as cd's, dvd's, computer games, old toys,

jewelry and crafts were all part of LMS' Mexican Market Trade and Barter Day.

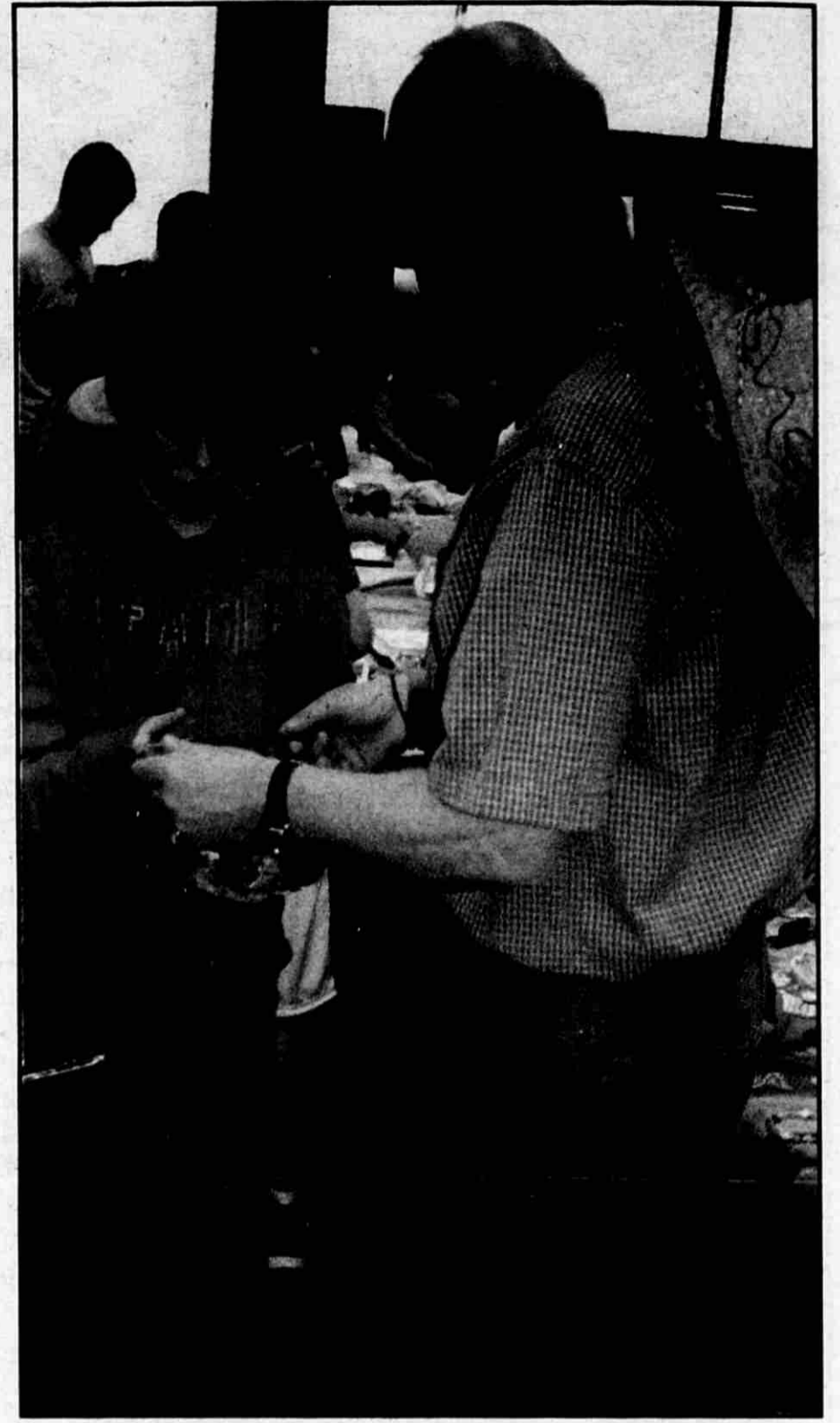
"It not only allows them to experience what they could experience in Mexico, but it also teaches them about economics and the value of objects," said Lowell sixth-grade history teacher Gordon Vandenberg who initially started the activity 20 years ago while instructing at Cherry Creek.

The estimated value of all the objects traded and bartered was \$310.

While the sixth-grade history class studied trade and bartering, the language/arts department created God's Eyes; the math department created mosaic masks and the science department constructed piñatas. Computer classes researched the Mexican hat dance and music classes studied Mexican tunes.



Zach Canfield and Robert Sheldon engaged in a semi-lengthy bartering session as part of the Mexican Market Trade and Barter Day.



Liam Peterson works on a trade with teacher Gordon Vandenberg.

Winter Guard competes at annual championship competition

The Michigan Color Guard Circuit (MCGC) held its 35th annual championship competition at Saginaw Valley State University

(SVSU) on Saturday, March 27, 2010. Two local guards were on hand to compete for top honors. Exit 52, consisting of 12 members

from Lowell High School, and Almost Home, consisting of five members from Lowell Middle School, both came to SVSU for the MCGC

championships event with high hopes of winning big.

Exit 52, in its fourth year of competition in the MCGC, performed their 2010 program, Fireflies, set to the music of Owl City. The show opened with a flag solo by Robert Becker and a full guard dance section followed by the entire guard on flag. Exit 52 featured their rifle line in the middle section of the show and included a partner feature with the flag line and the rifle line. The last section of the show featured the entire guard on impressive gold flags. Six of the flags contained hidden gold and neon green confetti which was thrown out of the flags during the final flag feature which represented fireflies. As the confetti fell to the floor, the show concluded with a flag solo by Sarah Mundwiler who ended the show holding a jar of lit up fireflies. The guard had a great ending to their 2010 competition season.

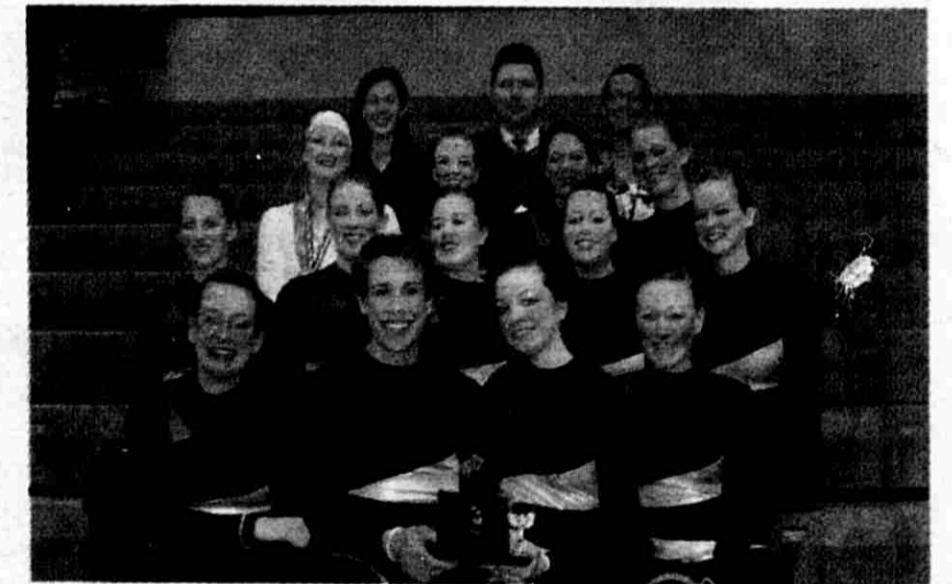
Almost Home, in their third year of competition, performed to the song, Be OK by Ingrid Michaelson. Almost Home had a strong

regular season and had their best performance of the year on Saturday. The show featured soloists Rachael Yomtoob and Emily Mundwiler and was a crowd favorite all season. Almost Home was the 2008 Flag Line Class Champion. They went into the championships event in second place putting them in medal contention again this year.

At the awards ceremony on Saturday afternoon Exit 52 placed fourth in AA class competing against 12 guards. It was a very close finish with

just over two points between first and fourth place. Almost Home returned the title of Flag Line Class Champions to Lowell by once again placing first at the MCGC championships.

Exit 52 and Almost Home are under the direction of Sharon MacDermaid. The staff of Exit 52 also includes Karen Mae Wesolek, Lindsey Schuller, Keith Burns and Brian Liwak. The staff of Almost Home also includes Keith Burns and junior staff members, Robert Becker and Sarah Mundwiler.



EXIT 52: back row, left to right: Lindsey Schuller, Keith Burns, and Sharon MacDermaid; third row, left to right: Karen Mae Wesolek, Kayla Blough, Amanda Wilson, and Sarah Mundwiler; second row: Rachel Phelps, Alison Huffman, Nicole Bagin, Danielle Bagin, and Bree Heikkila; front row: Kayleigh Davies, Robert Becker, and Jodi Carvill.



ALMOST HOME: back row, left to right: Robert Becker, Keith Burns, Sharon MacDermaid, and Sarah Mundwiler; front row, left to right: Emily Mundwiler, Rachael Yomtoob, Mackenzie Bush, Ciera Bowden, and Riley Breimayer.

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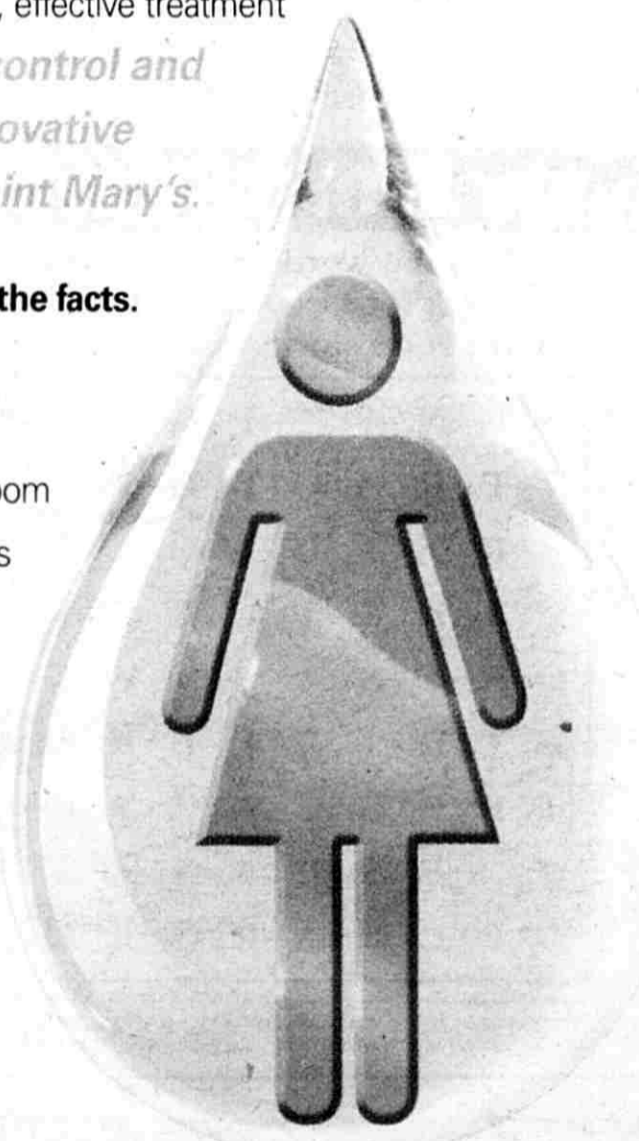
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- CLASH OF THE TITANS (PG-13) 4:45, 7:10, 9:35
- THE LAST SONG (PG) 4:25, 7:00, 9:40
- HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON (PG) 4:35, 6:50, 9:05
- DIARY OF A WIMPY KID (PG) 5:10, 7:15, 9:15
- THE BOUNTY HUNTER (PG-13) 4:55, 7:25, 9:50

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