

the lowell ledger

wednesday • march • 16 • 2011

vol. 40 issue 23

for over 116 years • today - tomorrow - your lowell area news source

www.thelowellledger.com

**grcc
academic
outreach**
page 2

**school board
funding woes**
page 3

lhs play



page 9

**art &
environment**



page 8

Expo 2011 sells out to the last spot

by Emma Palova

The 2011 Expo will bring into town more vendors than ever. Chamber director Liz Baker had to accommodate eight last entries extending exhibitor space into the hallway.

"We're sold out," she said.

The Expo was the brainchild of the owner of Touch of Country, Michelle Tava, who 17 years ago visited expos around the country.

At the same time, the new high school was just finished and the Lowell Area Schools wanted to market themselves.

"The school did a marketing plan," Baker said.

The community also wanted to hire a chamber director to market Lowell.

"We decided to do an expo," said Baker. "We only had 15 booths in the hallway. The high school just opened. It got better every year, other communities just followed our suit. We have set the standard for other expos."

Baker said Lowell had set the standard for other expos in Rockford and Ionia. "We were ahead of our time," she said. "There's a lot of awareness between



the communities. It's like going to the fair."

The Expo is about connecting the customer to the business and vice-versa.

"It's just fun," she said. "Last year we were busting in our seams."

The preparation for the

Expo starts early in January with online applications.

"We work harder for leads and businesses," she said. "We're tapping into a whole new crowd."

And it's all free, there are no fees, parking or admission. No one has

to drive to Grand Rapids for exposure at the city's events.

What could possibly be the worst nightmare? A nice 70 degree sunny Saturday, when people just want to be outside.

"This is face to face

marketing," said Baker. "It's the only time when you do not want a nice day. It has been a long winter."

Approximately 5,000 people go through the Expo every year to check out businesses and non-profits.

Expo, continued, page 8

Good showing at state convention for Lowell FFA Fosburg elected to state office

submitted by Kevin Nugent,
Lowell FFA advisor

Sara Fosburg, a 2010 graduate of Lowell High

School, was elected to serve as the 2011-2012 state region V vice president



Sara Fosburg, left, was named the state winner in Agricultural Service and Paula Blough, right, was named the state winner in Agricultural Sales Proficiency areas.

at the Michigan FFA State Convention held March 9-11 at Michigan State University. Fosburg advanced through regional and state level interviews and gave a speech in front of the convention delegates. After counting the votes, Fosburg came out on top and will represent the members of the West Michigan area as one of twelve Michigan FFA Officers. Fosburg is the 13th state officer from Lowell and the first since 2004. She joins a list of state officers from Lowell which includes Sen. Dave Hildenbrand and Rep. Lisa Lyons.

In addition to Fosburg, 32 members from Lowell traveled to East Lansing to receive recognition or compete at the State

Convention. Highlights of the convention included a welcome address from Gov. Rick Snyder.

Members from Lowell competed in three 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 35 members compete at the district level, 17 advanced to regionals and nine competed at the state contests.

Middle school members Maria Blough, Amy

Carpenter, Paul Crosby, Kelliann Jacobs, Mary Leasure, Brice Warner and Rebecca Weaver 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 gold award and finished third overall in this contest making them the highest placing team from Lowell in the history of this contest.

In Greenhand Public Speaking, Emma Blough received a silver award. In this contest, freshman members had to research,

Lowell FFA state convention, continued, page 7

50
CENTS



GRCC extends pilot into fall

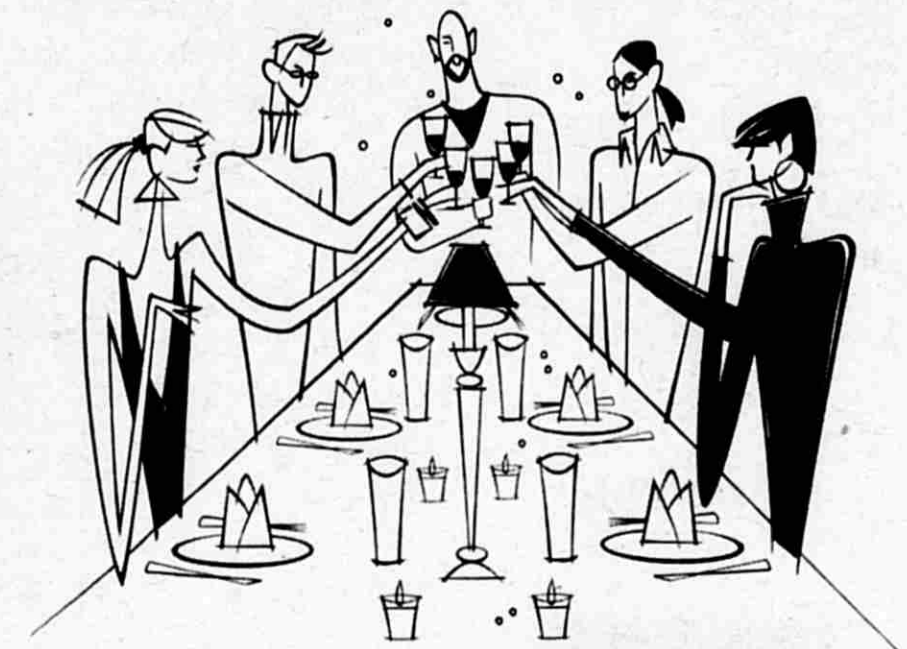
by Emma Palova
The Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC) academic outreach program will be extended into fall to generate more interest from the community. The pilot program started with the winter semester in January. There were 26 students enrolled in credit coursework toward a university degree. One of the many advantages of having college classes available in Lowell is that the students do not have to travel to the downtown campus. "This is a partnership initiated by superintendent Greg Pratt and the school board," said Dan Clark, dean of academic outreach for GRCC. "We looked at what could the college do in bringing courses to the community for students and adults."

The fall schedule will have again five classes in the Runciman Building. The pilot is based on 20 to 26 students in a class. The credit work can be transferred to other universities. The cost per credit hour is currently \$90 and the classes vary from three credits per class to four credits for the math class. "The whole idea is to provide easier access to college," said Clark. "We are coming to your community." GRCC has been offering classes in Byron Center, Rockford and Grandville as part of the academic outreach. "We've made our case point for the January semester and we want to extend this into the fall as part of the pilot program," he said. And the board of

education made it possible with renovations for a more college friendly environment. The classrooms have Internet availability. GRCC will be offering a broad gamut of information at this year's Expo on March 26. "We will be showcasing all our programs," said Clark. "We are very excited to have the opportunity to be in Lowell. It's a great way to get the college to the community." Clark mentioned other benefits of having classes in Lowell, such as people stopping at the local stores, restaurants and gas stations. Come and visit the GRCC booth at the Expo located in the main hallway.



along
main
street



Lowell Education Foundation's annual 'Dinner with Friends' is this weekend

The mission is to provide funding for innovative learning and enhanced programs for the students of Lowell Area Schools. And to be a reliable source of funding that supports a creative and innovative learning environment. "We want to provide grants for teachers to have access to more resources," said Laurie Knoall of the Lowell Education Foundation. The Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation is an independent not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to help Lowell Area School teachers and students excel in programs that are not funded by public tax revenues. Led by a volunteer board of directors made up of business, education and community leaders, the foundation has raised over \$350,000 since its inception in 1995. For more information go to www.lef.org. This year Dinner with Friends will be held March 19.

Education Foundation give grants to district teachers and students. Call Laurie Noall to make reservations at 616-828-8401 or register online at www.lowelleducationfoundation.org

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES
Sign up at the Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St., Sat., March 19, 10 am - noon. You may also order online using your debit or credit card. Go to www.angelfoodministries.com. Any questions, call Esther, 897-7395.

LOWELL COMMUNITY EXPO
March 26, 9 am - 3 pm at Lowell High School, 11700 Vergennes. Over 150 booths on display, entertainment and door prizes. Look for more information in this weekend's Buyers Guide.

COMMUNITY SUPPER AND FOOD TRUCK
March 16 at St. Mary Church, 402 Amity. Truck arrives at 5 pm and dinner is served at 6 pm. No charge, freewill donation. Questions call, 897-9820.

Free fee to send your event information to the Ledger for Along Main St. All submission requests for Along Main St. are subject to space limitations. 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.

LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS
General Local Scholarship applications are available in the Student Services Center. To be fair to all students, applications will not be accepted after 3 pm on Fri., March 18. Don't forget to include two letters of recommendation, transcript and personal statement. For more information please call Lisa Nauta at 987-2913.

DINNER WITH FRIENDS 2011
Lowell Education Foundation's eighth annual "Dinner with Friends" event is Mar. 19. Proceeds will help the Lowell

Planning A Wedding?
We offer the Carlson Craft line of invitations.
LITHO
105 N. BROADWAY • LOWELL
616.897.9261

Your Michigan home needs Michigan protection...

Thanks for making your home in our community. As Michigan's insurance company, we know Michigan homes and the hazards they face. We also know the kinds of discounts that help you save a lot of money on your home insurance. Call today.
Mark Johnson
6095 28th St., Ste. 4
Grand Rapids
940-8181
www.MarkJohnsonAgency.com

GREG VAN STRIEN HEATING AND PLUMBING
HEATING SERVICE & INSTALLATION
AIR CONDITIONING SERVICE & INSTALLATION
PLUMBING SERVICE & INSTALLATION
WARM AIR/RADIANT HEAT
OIL BURNER SERVICE
(616) 897-5569
Visa And Master Card Accepted

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE REGARDING DOGS AND CATS
Dogs or cats, when outside of the residence, must be leashed and can not run at large.
When walking your dog you must possess an appropriate device for scooping the dog excrement for disposal in a suitable receptacle.
Violation of these ordinances may result in a civil action with a penalty of up to \$150 in fines.

Chief James Hinton
City of Lowell

the lowell ledger
(USPS 453-830)
Published weekly for \$22⁰⁰ a year for zip codes beginning with 493 or 495 \$32⁰⁰ a year any other zip code.
JON JACOBS.....PUBLISHER
JEANNE BOSS.....EDITOR
EMMA PALOVA.....LEAD REPORTER
TAMMY JANOWIAK.....CLASSIFIED/ACCOUNTING
JON JACOBS.....ADVERTISING SALES
(616) 897-9261
E-Mail: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com
Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI
Published every Wednesday
POSTMASTER: Send address change to:
The Lowell Ledger
P.O. Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331
www.lowellbuyersguide.com

Early predictions are grim for LAS as Governor Snyder's budget proposals reach district administrators

by Shelley MacNaughton
The Lowell Area Schools Board of Education held their regular meeting Monday night. Monday also marked the first day of the new trimester throughout the district. Superintendent Greg Pratt offered a glimpse of the budget challenges as the district looks ahead to the 2011-2012 school year. "Governor Snyder is proposing in his budget that \$470 per pupil will be reallocated to community colleges instead of K-12 education," said Pratt. There is also an increase in the retirement rate. With these two factors

Lowell is facing an \$880 per pupil shortfall. "In order to maintain an eight percent fund balance we would need to reduce approximately two million in the 2011-2012 school year and 3.3 million the following school year. "If the governor reallocated the money being given to colleges back into K-12 education we could continue operating with many of our programs," said Pratt. "I urge people to contact legislature and watch what is happening in Lansing. We have to be ready with this worst case scenario," said Pratt. The band, orchestras and choir recently participated in district festival. Band and

orchestras receive a rating of I, II or III with I being the highest. The band concert and symphonic both received a rating of I. Symphonic orchestra earned a I and concert orchestra earned a II. The choir, under the direction of Haley Suliz, participated in district festival for the first time ever. Model UN took home 21 awards from their recent competition. "Thank you and congratulations to our athletic body as this season wraps up. Other events going on include the Sound of Music. The musical was spectacular. Winter Guard was this past weekend and they took home some medals," said Pratt. "I would like to congratulate the FFA; they received three silvers and gold at the State FFA Convention. Thank you Mr. Nugent, their advisor," said Gary Blough, board member.

Murray Lake Chess Champs



Murray Lake Elementary's top chess finishers were, left to right: Ryan Roest (champion), Garrett Pratt (runner-up), and Eric Dimmick (third place).

Hall for rent with kitchen
SEATS 150
Located at the fairgrounds
www.kcfg.org
Call 897-6050

WINDOWS/SIDING DOORS/GUTTERS
SAVE **50%** OFF
HEATING/COOLING BILLS GUARANTEED!!!
SAVE 10% OFF WITH THIS COUPON
897-7300
319 E. Main Lowell
All-Weather Seal
allweathersealinc.com
Not good when our offer Good on initial presentation

DOES YOUR DENTIST MAKE YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE?
At the Family Dentistry of Lowell you're more than a patient. You're part of my family.
That's why I want you to be comfortable.
Heated neck pillows.
Natural lighting.
The music you like.
I've been serving families like yours since 1991.
Aren't you ready for a better dental experience?
Family Dentistry of Lowell
ANN WILSON, D.D.S. | JENNIFER BYRD, D.D.S.
NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS - CALL: 616-897-4835
147 NORTH CENTER STREET, LOWELL
WWW.FAMILYDENTISTRYOFLOWELL.COM

CITY OF LOWELL, LOWELL CHARTER AND VERGENNES TOWNSHIPS
PUBLIC NOTICE
LCTV ENDOWMENT FUND GRANT APPLICATION
The 2011 LCTV Endowment Fund grant application forms are available at Lowell City Hall, Lowell and Vergennes Township Halls, Lowell Area Schools Administration Building and the Englehardt Public Library.
LCTV Endowment Fund applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 15, 2011.

Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk
(897-8457)

Canfield PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.
411 E. Main • Lowell
616-897-0887

• Residential
• Commercial
• Air Conditioning
• Heating Systems
• Licensed
• Insured
• Water & Sewer Hookups
• Video Inspection
• Same Day Water Heaters Installed
• Sales, Service & Installation of All Plumbing Fixtures
• Drain Cleaning
• Water Softeners
100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

Lowell High School Students of the Month

In conjunction with the LHS Academic Boosters, Lowell High School is proud to announce that freshman Max Everhart and juniors, Kyle Hendrick and Kay Lee Westerhuis 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 on academic achievement, character and work ethic. The students receive a \$20 movie gift card and a certificate.

Everhart was nominated by the English department and they write, "I've been watching Max all year. I've seen him sit next to disruptive students and get sucked into debates and arguments. Many of those disruptive

students have gone on to struggle academically, behaviorally and socially. I kept wondering which path Max would take. Many students would have found the pressure of their peers too strong to resist. Many would have compromised their values for friendship. Max seems more focused now than ever. As others have chosen more tumultuous paths, Max is steadily progressing toward his objective, alone."

Hendrick was nominated by Mrs. Sneider and she writes, "Kyle Hendrick is a polite, friendly young man who holds himself to high standards. Kyle consistently puts in time and effort both in class and out of class to master difficult subjects. He frequently can be found working on his math during lunch instead of hanging out with his many friends. He

also pays attention during class and does not hesitate to ask questions when concepts are not clear to him. He is always polite. When a teacher takes time to help him one-on-one, he is always responsible and turns in his assignments in a timely fashion. It is always a pleasure to have Kyle in class!"

Westerhuis was nominated by the art department and they write, "Kay Lee has been involved in the art department for a few years now. She is a student who goes above and

beyond what is expected of her. She does phenomenal work and is a wonderful motivator for her peers. Kay Lee is always willing to help a fellow classmate or even one of her art teachers. She is very excited to learn and is an ideal student."

In addition, Lowell High School would like to recognize senior Kendall Hewitt. Kent Intermediate School District has named

is very excited to learn and is an ideal student."

In addition, Lowell High School would like to recognize senior Kendall Hewitt. Kent Intermediate School District has named



Kyle Hendrick



Kendall Hewitt



Kay Lee Westerhuis



Max Everhart

local business directory

TO ADVERTISE IN THE LEDGER BUSINESS DIRECTORY Call 897-9261

Certified Garment Care Professional
CURTIS
 CLEANERS • LAUNDRY
FREE PICKUP & DELIVERY
 Lowell • Ada • Cascade
 Ionia • Grand Rapids
 2010 AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

MARCH SPECIAL
20% OFF
COMFORTERS & BEDSPREADS
 (616) 897-9809 • 1410 W. Main • Lowell

FRY DADDY'S
 608 West Main Street
 Lowell, MI 49331
897-FISH
 FISH SHRIMP WIND OMMOS - CHICKEN STRIPS
 DAILY SPECIALS
 OPEN TUESDAY - SATURDAY
 Best Fish In Town!!!

MIKA MEYERS BECKETT & JONES PLC
 ATTORNEYS
 John T. Sperla Benjamin A. Zainea
 Mark A. Kehoe Neil P. Jansen
 Ross A. Leisman Neil L. Kimball
 (616) 897-3111 www.mmbjlaw.com

Rich's Service Co.
 In-Home Appliance Repair
INSURED • 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE
 WASHERS • DRYERS • REFRIGERATORS
 GARBAGE DISPOSALS • STOVES • DISHWASHERS
 209 E. Main St. RICH CURTIS
 Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-5686

KIRK COLLINS Owner
Showboat
AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY, INC.
 Auto Value
 1450 W. Main St., Lowell, MI
 (616) 897-9231
 HOURS: MON - FRI 8-7; SAT 8-5:30; SUN 9-3

BILL WHEELER
 Certified Public Accountant
 W.J. WHEELER MICHIGAN
 103 Riverside Dr.
 Lowell, Michigan
 49331
616-897-7711

bloom where you're planted
BUY LOCAL
 LOWELL
 Love Your Hometown

It Pays To Advertise Your Business In
The Lowell Ledger
Business & Service Directory
 For As Little As **\$8.50** Per Week!
Call 897-9261 for information

Ostrander
 WINDOWS, SIDING & ROOFING INC.
 9019 W. Belding Rd. (M-44), Belding, Michigan
 Phone: (616) 794-0661
 Toll Free: (888) 750-7078
 Fax (616) 794-0105
 Email: info@ostranderinc.com
 Web: ostranderinc.com

Check us out online ...
thelowelledger.com
 Make us your homepage!
 Find us on Facebook

viewpoint

to the editor

local products available

To The Editor,
 Shoppers of Lowell - we've won.
 Meijer in Lowell is now carrying hometown Litehouse products in its produce area. This is a test market and Sweet French, Blue Cheese, Ranch and Thousand Island dressings are available for starters. We have sought this breakthrough for years and urge you to purchase your

outdoors hunting heritage

Dave Stegehuis

Michigan has always been recognized as having a strong hunting heritage. Hunting skills and traditions have been passed from generation to generation since the first Native Americans made their home on the Great Lakes Peninsulas.
 Over the last twenty years participation in hunting activities in Michigan has

steadily dwindled. This trend is troubling because hunting offers a practical management tool for balancing game populations with habitat availability and social expectations. Hunting also provides major funding for the conservation of our natural resources through federal tax on firearms and ammunition and the sale of hunting licenses. Hunters spend billions of dollars in the state which benefits business and creates jobs. Just as important, hunting draws people into a personal relationship with nature fostering concern for the environment and our natural resources.
 Because of the significant social, environmental, and economic impact of hunting on our state and its residents, we need to address the reasons for lack of participation. Modern life-style presents a number of distractions which lure people away from the outdoors. Wireless communications has had a significant impact on our time and culture. Calendars are booked solid with social obligations and events. All this in addition to commuting to a job, if you're lucky enough to have one, demands time as well as physical and emotional energy. The solution to this problem will require individuals to re-assess priorities.
 Access to hunting areas has been restricted by commercial and residential development which robs wildlife of viable habitat. Large tracts of land are fragmented then placed off limits due in part to our litigious society. Most wildlife agencies across the country have agreements with landowners and are working on additional programs to increase public access for hunters.

Recruiting new hunters to replace "retired" hunters has been a problem in our state because most young people today face a multitude of distractions and have limited exposure to nature. Many have made a number of life-style choices before they had a chance to experience hunting. A bill has been introduced in the state legislature seeking to create a mentoring program which would allow a parent or guardian to determine the age when a youngster is ready to hunt. Rules include specific supervision guidelines under a special license which would include most game species. Other states have done this with great success.
 Getting someone out to the woods, fields, and wetlands to experience the outdoors first hand is the best way to recruit lifelong hunters whether nine or ninety. Take someone hunting. If they catch the fever, they will work around any obstacles to pursue the hunt. I have observed sweaty and bruised middle school kids wearing grass stained jerseys squeeze hunter safety classes between football practice, dinner, and homework. If they want to hunt they will find a way, but let's give them all the opportunity we can. Our hunting heritage and wildlife are depending on it.

Check us out online ...
www.thelowelledger.com



By Shelly MacNaughton

125 Years Ago
The Lowell Journal
March 19, 1886
 The Lowell Man'f Company shipped a carload of buggies this week to C.S. Chamberlin in Oakland, Cal.

The ladies of the Baptist church and society will give a sugar party at the Davis House Wednesday evening of next week. All invited.

100 Years Ago
The Lowell Ledger
March 16, 1911
 Bert E. Fenning, mail carrier on rural route 46, died by his own hand shortly after 6 o'clock Monday morning, in the barn on his home premises in this village, shooting himself through the heart with a revolver.
 Following is a copy of the note left to his wife:

Dear Grace: Have been wicked I know but what has happened is past and gone so there is no reason for me to try and recall it. Would not do what I am if there was anything else to do. So try and think well of me if you can. You will hear what has happened, why I didn't stop to feed. Had trouble over there over two weeks ago and maybe you will find out it wasn't all my fault. Am not doing this because I am afraid of them for they have been as much to blame as I and are glad to let it go, only they have published it all over and no doubt the people blame it all on me.

75 Years Ago
The Lowell Ledger
and Alto Solo
March 12, 1936
 John A. Arehart re-elected village president in Monday's election without opposition. At various times in the past Mr. Arehart has been called upon to serve as village president and his administrators have been uniformly successful.

50 Years Ago
The Lowell Ledger
March 23, 1961
 Lowell firemen were called to four grass fires on Friday and Saturday. There was no damage to buildings but several close calls.

25 Years Ago
The Grand Valley Ledger
March 19, 1986
 Singing, dancing and comedy were part of the inaugural Teens Involved Talent show Thursday, March 13, at the Lowell Middle School.
 Between 600 and 700 people were on hand to see LHS senior Mark DeYoung win first prize for his break dance routine.

the lowell ledger

Letters To The Editor:
 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.

Write us online at...
 ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

area births

Hoppes



Landon Charles Hoppes born February 13, 2011, is pictured with his relatives: Ella Weeks Hurley, age 91; Ella's son, Roger; Roger's son, Brian; and Brian's daughter, Nickie Hurley Hoppes.

health

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

RSV

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) causes a common respiratory infection in children during the winter months. It can occur in children of any age but is seen more frequently in children less than two years old.

Symptoms of RSV include a cough, runny nose, wheezing, and a mild fever. These symptoms are also seen in the common cold. RSV tends to cause



more breathing difficulty and wheezing than a cold especially in younger children.

Your doctor can usually diagnose RSV by simply examining your child in the office. A nasal swab test can also be done to confirm the diagnosis but this is usually not necessary. Your doctor may recommend a chest x-ray to rule out pneumonia. We tend to avoid x-rays in small children unless absolutely

necessary to minimize exposure to radiation.

Treatment of RSV is symptomatic. Antibiotics are not helpful because RSV is a virus. Updraft treatments with a bronchodilator may relieve respiratory wheezing. Steroids are not usually helpful. You should keep your child well hydrated. Most cases of RSV can be treated at home. In severe cases, hospitalization and oxygen treatment may be necessary.

If you suspect your child has RSV and has trouble eating, drinking or breathing you should see your doctor. Most healthy infants with RSV will have symptoms that are no worse than a cold and can be treated with watchful waiting.

Planning A Wedding?

We offer the Carlson Craft line of invitations.

LITHO

105 N. BROADWAY • LOWELL

616.897.9261

happy birthday!

MARCH 16
Greg Briggs, Louise Weeks.

MARCH 17
Renee Barnes, Logan Landman.

MARCH 18
Bruce Phillips Jr., Chase Treglia, Jim Hacker, Denise (Brenk) Woolfenden.

MARCH 19
Jeremy Barber, Elmer Czapek, Terry B. Abel, Kimberly Dixon, Sean Ellison, Alberta Ryder.

MARCH 20
John Roudabush, Cody Moore, Denise Fyan.

MARCH 21
Terry Raymor, Ardis Barber, Gary Yeiter, Molly Clark, Steve Kovacs.

lend a hand

...ing opportunities

Host families needed for international students

It is only through the kindness and generosity of people like you that international teens will be able to fulfill their dream of living as an American.

Teens, from 15 to 18 years-old from Brazil, Denmark, Germany, Mexico, Norway, Russia, Russia former Russian Republics, Thailand, etc. are anxiously waiting to hear from a friendly

American host. If you can open your home and heart, please contact Pacific Intercultural Exchange at 1-800-382-7439.

American hosts provide the daily meals, room and a caring environment. The student has medical insurance and their own spending money. PIE accepts single parents, retired couples, families with children or no children. The students are prescreened, to speak English. Call the regional manager, Pat, at 616-527-0012 or 1-800-382-7439 if you are interested or have questions.

LOW COST SPAY & NEUTER

No restrictions. Available for everyone. Also vaccinations, tests and parasite control.

Call 897-8865

www.spayneuterexpress.com

LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

201 N. Washington
Lowell, MI • 897-8800
Pastor Wes Hershberger

Sundays - Christian Education.....9:15 a.m.
Celebration.....10:40 a.m.
Wednesdays - Kid's Service, Teen's Service, Adult Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

Lowell Naz - Where People Matter

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)
Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21
www.goodshepherdlowell.org

Worship Service.....Sunday - 10:00 A.M.
Sunday School.....Sunday, 9:00 A.M.
(Nursery available)
Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307
All facilities are wheelchair accessible

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL

897-7060

1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI
Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday School.....11:20 A.M.
Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.
Nursery available at both services
Barrier-Free

SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell
Pastor Dr. Mike Conkin

9:45 A.M. Sunday School
10:30 A.M. Fellowship
11:00 A.M. Worship

897-9863
Nursery & Children
Worship Programs Provided

A friend...a family...a mission!

area churches

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
(United Church of Christ)
865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906
www.OurBigChurch.org

Sunday Worship.....10:00 a.m.
Church School.....10:15-11:15 a.m.
Thursday Faith Alive
Casual Worship.....6:30 P.M.
Barrier-freeNursery Provided

No matter where you are on life's journey, You are welcome here.

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)

3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery

Robert Holmes, Pastor
SUNDAYS:
Worship: 10 a.m.

WEDNESDAYS:
Family Night (for all ages): 7:00 p.m.
"The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m.
"Loving God ... Loving People!"

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL

621 E. Main Street • 897-5936
www.lowellumc.com

WORSHIP..... 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.
SUNDAY SCHOOL.....9:30 a.m.

Rev. Rick Blunt
Barrier-free entrance

ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Kirby and Harrison
Alto • 616-691-8011

Worship.....9:30 A.M.
Children's Church.....9:30 A.M.

OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS
Pastor Dean Bailey

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL

2275 West Main Street • 897-7168
Internet: http://www.fbcloell.org

Rev. W. Lee Taylor & Pastor Phil Severn
Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.
Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M.
AWANA-EXCITE-TEENS.....Wed. 6:15 P.M.
Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times
Nursery Provided • Barrier Free

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Eugene Okoli
402 Amity St. • 897-9820
www.stmary-lowell.com

Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 9:30 AM
Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM
Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM
Saturday confessions: 4-4:45 PM
Prayer & adoration each West. 8:15 AM - 8 PM
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL FEE WISCONS 897-7915
SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 383, CHN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING

Lowell FFA state convention, continued

prepare and present a 6-8 minute speech and then answer questions from the judges. Blough's speech was on the possibilities of producing ethanol with grasses as opposed to corn.

In the Prepared Public Speaking contest, John Mark represented Lowell and received a silver award. The Prepared Speaking contest pitted Mark, a sophomore, against some of the best speakers throughout the Michigan FFA. Mark's speech covered the potential EPA regulation comparing milk spills to oil spills.

work she does at Heidi's Farm Stand. Fosburg was named the state winner in the Agricultural Services

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 344 were chosen to receive this award. The Lowell FFA members that received the award were Katie Bartholomew, Audrey Blodger, Aaron Fetzer, Melissa Grasman, Martin Hewitt, Craig Huber, Allison Oesch, Kristin Schramm, Jennifer Stevens and Kelsey Ward.

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



In the Greenhand Public Speaking contest, Emma Blough received a silver award.

category for working with Grand Carriages, a company that gives carriage rides at Meijer Gardens and around the Grand Rapids area. Pipkins earned recognition in the Small Animal Care area for breeding and selling show quality rabbits.

Ten members from the Lowell Chapter received their State FFA Degree. The State FFA Degree



John Mark earned a silver award in the State Prepared Public Speaking contest.

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

In the State Proficiency awards, Paula Blough and Sara Fosburg were each named state winners in their respective areas and Chelsea Pipkins earned a gold award. As state winners, Blough and Fosburg will have their applications forwarded to the national level where they will be judged against applications from across the nation. The proficiency awards recognize students that have outstanding Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE). Blough was named the state winner in the Agricultural Sales category for the



Receiving the State Outstanding Junior award from Lowell were, front row, left to right: Caitlin Clover, Emma Roderick, and Kendra Merriman; back row, left to right: Katy Mork, Josh Bartholomew, and Cassie Rybicki.



Lowell FFA members that received the State FFA degree were, front row, left to right: Kelsey Ward, and Katie Bartholomew; back row, left to right: Allison Oesch, Kristen Schramm, Jennifer Stevens, and Melissa Grasman. Not pictured: Audrey Blodger, Aaron Fetzer, Martin Hewitt and Craig Huber.



Members of the third place gold award Jr. High Conduct of Meetings team from Lowell include, front row, left to right: Maria Blough, Amy Carpenter, and Mary Leasure; back row, left to right: Paul Crosby, Rebecca Weaver, Brice Warner, and Kelliann Jacobs.

The Outstanding Junior award was given to six students from Lowell. The requirements for the Outstanding Junior award are similar to the State Degree but with lower numbers. Students receiving the award from Lowell were Josh Bartholomew, Caitlin Clover, Kendra Merriman, Katy Mork, Emma Roderick and Cassie Rybicki.

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 former Lowell Middle School band director Dale Latva, included Emma Blough, Mia Carvajal 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 award in the National Chapter recognition program. Only 18 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.

Serving as delegates for the Lowell FFA were Sarah Crosby, Drew Corson and Olivia Kauffman. In addition to electing the 2011-2012 state officers, the delegates had the opportunity to travel to the Capitol Building to meet with legislators concerning issues facing the agriculture industry.

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 100 members.

DIVORCE \$350*

*Excludes gov't Fees
1-800-522-6000 Ext. 172
Baylor & Associates

ADA LOWELL 5

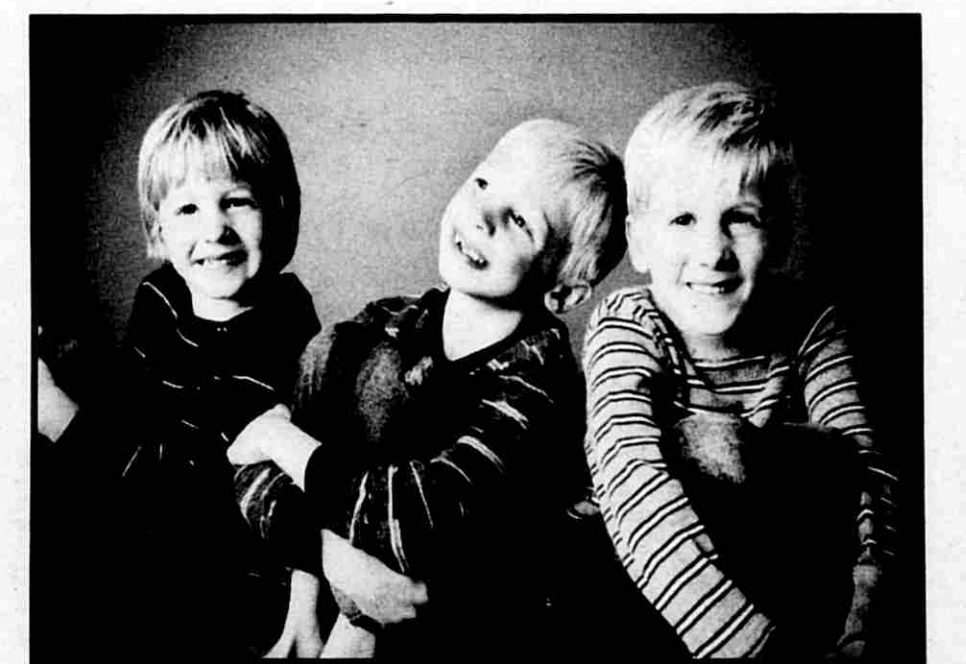
616-897-3456
On M-21, 5 Minutes East of Amway H.O.

QUALITY TREATERS

\$4.50 BARGAIN TWILIGHT
DAILY 4:00-6:00 PM

FREE SPRING MOVIES
Saturday & Sunday 9 & 10 AM
3/19 & 3/20. DESPICABLE ME PG

© BATTLE LOS ANGELES (PG-13)
© 441 7:10-9:40
© MARS NEEDS MOMS (PG)
5:04-7:00, 9:00
© RED RIVING WOOD (PG-13)
5:15, 7:30, 9:50
© HANDED (PG) 4:30, 6:50, 9:10
© THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU (PG-13)
4:50, 7:20, 9:30



Family Dentistry Since 1994

- Gentle Dentistry for Children & Adults
- Immediate Emergency Treatment
- Cosmetic Dentistry, Teeth Whitening
- Preventive Care
- Extractions/Broken Tooth Repaired
- Dentures (Same Day Repair)
- Implants
- Insurance Plans Accepted

Accepting New Patients

"Gentle & Painless Dentistry Is Our Goal"

Hours:
Monday.....9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tuesday.....9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Wednesday.....9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday.....8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Judd T. Carroll D.M.D.
103 East Main • Lowell, Michigan
(616) 897-7595
www.juddcarrolldentistry.com

Local artist strives to help the environment



Kathleen Mooney's work "Yellow Dog - Golden Plains" above, and photo "Yellow Dog River - The Falls" will be on display this weekend.

On Friday evening, March 18, a special free event "The ART of Sustainability" will be held at the Muskegon Museum of Art. Local artist Kathleen Mooney will have her art and photography from the Yellow Dog River on display.

She will present her new 15-minute movie "Yellow Dog" with photographs of the Yellow Dog River, paintings and collages inspired by the environmental threats and damages to the wilderness in Michigan's UP. "I am excited to have this opportunity to share my inspiration from this beautiful river and participate in this powerful educational event," said Mooney.

There will be a reception at 5:30 followed by presentations, an artists' panel discussion at 6:00 and networking at 8:30. Three artists - Kathleen Mooney, Curtis Frillmann and Lee Ann Frame will share how art and the environment are merging - art activism, making

art from found objects and recycled materials. There will be a panel discussion on the simple steps each of us can take to make a positive impact on our environment.

This event is part of "Sustainability: A West Michigan Journey," a month-long series of sustainability-based activities sponsored by the West Michigan

Symphony and supported by a number of organizations in West Michigan. The artist panel is co-sponsored by the West Michigan Symphony and the Muskegon Museum of Art.

For more information on Kathleen Mooney and her Yellow Dog series of art go to www.kathleenmooney.com



Expo, continued

"We want people to get out to the Expo and make it a part of their day," said Baker, "and to support the vendors."

An integral part of the Expo is the entertainment on stage. The talent is represented by every school based on the principal's

choice, said Larry Mikulski. "It shows off the talent regardless the age group," he said. "The principals

have searched for the talent. It's a day of showing off; the parents come and see their children on stage."

Expo entertainment schedule

- 9:00 - Josey Pontius singing the National Anthem-LMS
- 9:30 - Olivia Starkweather - Cherry Creek Elementary
- 10:00 - Eden Nethercott - Murray Lake Elementary
- 10:30 - High School Choir - director Haley Sulisz
- 11:00 - Middle School Choir - director Haley Sulisz
- 11:30 - Addison Bruwer - Murray Lake Elementary
- 12:00 - Lunch
- 12:30 - Skielyne Roberts - Lowell Middle School
- 1:00 - Hailey Hoevenaar & Joslynn Battle - Alto Elem.
- 1:30 - Joanna Link & Amber Brown - Alto Elementary
- 2:00 - ZumbAtomic Lil Starz, ZumbAtomic Big Starz, Zumba Fitness & Aqua Zumba with Nikki Synder
- 3:00 - Liz Baker - Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce

Happy St. Patrick's Day
From Dr. Reagan & Staff

207 W. Main Street
Historic Downtown Lowell
616.897.7179

HOURS
EVENINGS & SATURDAYS:
MONDAY - THURSDAY:
8 AM - 5 PM
TUESDAY: 8 AM - 7 PM;
FRIDAY 8 AM - NOON

Save with State Farm Bank.

Certificates of Deposit

3 month	0.35% APY*
6 month	0.47% APY*
12 month	0.80% APY*
24 month	1.31% APY*
36 month	1.38% APY*
48 month	1.58% APY*
60 month	2.43% APY*

Money Market Account

\$0 - \$99	0.00% APY*
\$100 - \$9,999	0.70% APY*
\$10,000 - \$24,999	0.80% APY*
\$25,000 - \$49,999	0.88% APY*
\$50,000 - \$99,999	0.94% APY*
\$100,000 +	1.10% APY*

Savings Accounts

\$0 - \$24,999	0.12% APY*
\$25,000 - \$49,999	0.17% APY*
\$50,000 - \$99,999	0.72% APY*
\$100,000 +	0.81% APY*

Bank with a good neighbor.
CALL ME TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION.

State Farm Bank

*Annual Percentage Yields as of 03/09/11. Rates subject to change without notice. Minimum balance to open an account and obtain the stated APY is \$500. Rates apply to deposits less than \$100,000. A penalty may be imposed for a withdrawal prior to maturity. Certificates automatically renew at maturity at the then-current rate for the same term.

Musical is well performed by LHS students

by Emma Palova

Whether you think of Maria as the nanny in Sound of Music or Captain Georg von Trapp portrayed by Elliot Westdorp, the Lowell High School put on a good performance last Saturday.

The play is set on the backdrop of the 1938

Anschluss of Austria preceding Hitler's rise to power. It starts in the Nonnberg Abbey before Maria heads out to take care of von Trapp's children.

Von Trapp himself plays the role of a dictator who tyrannizes his children. Maria shows them a way

how to sing, play and be themselves. She also breaks the ice for the new mother of the children.

The children, Liesl, Friedrich, Louisa, Kurt, Brigitta, Marta, and Gretl learned to like Maria.

"This production

definitely has its challenges, but that is what makes it such a great show," wrote director Kim Nyson.

There were 52 cast members, three stage managers, 10 staff members, 20 pit band managers, eight crew members and others.

"Our new form of

marketing and advertising for this show has been flash mobbing," wrote Nyson. "I hope that you enjoy the show and that you take a little piece of Austria home with you."

Following is the cast: Sydney Bishop, Brianne Warren, Amy Bartikus,

Jessica Kansman, Kiran Riley, Elliot Westdorp, Dan Geurkink, Dayna Crumback, Whitney Bunn, Ben Nickson, Zoe Beloncis, Alex Tobin, Shelby Antel, Megan Ritchie, Maria Briggs, Robby Coffey, Marina Jones, Rachel Wolci, Max Forton, Will Athmann, Nick Smith and Ryan Durkee.



Maria played by Sydney Bishop; Cpt. Georg von Trapp portrayed by Elliot Westdorp; Children: Liesl, Friedrich, Louisa, Kurt, Brigitta, Marta, Gretl, and messenger Rolf Gruber.

Red Arrow SPORTS

Spotlight On Sports

With Shane Beach

Each week, Shane Beach will visit Lowell High School athletes to find out a bit more about each one and get a closer look at the kids we're all so proud of in the community.

What is your basketball background?

JM: Played in high school, had Division III opportunities but decided to run track at MSU. Coached two years in Flint as a JV coach and one year as a freshman coach, was an assistant coach at Alpena Community College and two years at Lowell as JV coach before becoming the varsity coach.

How long have you been coaching at Lowell and what brought you here?

JM: Since fall of 1999. Actually, Noel (Dean the varsity football coach) and I met in 1994 and coached football together. I coached football for five years with Noel; I also coached with Noel in the Flint area prior to coming to Lowell.

Where did you grow up?

What sports did you play?

JM: Flushing High School. Played football, basketball and baseball and last two years also ran track. We still hold the Flushing 3200 relay record. Track lead me to MSU to run D1 (Division I) track. I've always set goals for myself throughout life and I've always had a goal to run a marathon every year, however, by 30 years (of age) I'd worn away a lot of cartilage, leading to surgeries, thus limiting my running career. I have been able to participate in three marathons in my life. I always wanted to qualify for the Boston Marathon. My closest attempt I finished with a time of three hours, 10 minutes, 59 seconds. Missing the cut by only one minute and four seconds.

Did you have a mentor growing up? Who and what interested you about playing/coaching basketball?

JM: Flushing High School had a strong basketball program growing up. I always liked going to the gym and games to watch the high school kids and coaches. Bill Ballagh (Flushing varsity basketball coach) was a big influence on me. I loved watching the players, coming to games where the seats were always packed with people, watching, then playing in front of a full house on a regular basis.

How has the game changed and how have the kids changed from when you were growing up?

JM: The biggest is the schedule change, boys and girls playing at the same time. Many of the best players are one-sport athletes. I don't agree in one-sport athletes because of the misconception of many. Kids need to play multiple sports to have more opportunities. I wish people really understood how limited scholarships are, so playing multiple sports is very important. We need to better educate people on how scholarships work and how limited they are in every sport.

This Week - Jeff McDonald

Lowell Varsity Basketball Varsity Head Coach

What are your biggest challenges as a coach and how do you overcome them?

JM: Kids needing to understand the skill level needed for players. Every kid must be able to do seven things on the basketball court. Work on the seven skills and develop them all. Teach kids expectations on how to win. Winning is a by-product to doing everything well. Having the confidence to win.

Any pregame rituals? Any superstitions?

JM: No, I like to have some quiet time and visualize kids playing well. I get away and visualize the by-product and positives of all the kids and see them doing well.

What can kids do to get involved in your program? How can they excel?

JM: Many youth programs. Future Red Arrow program, which is kindergarten through sixth grade, for everyone. Our Arrow Heat program, more competitive, so kids see and play talent from other areas. We also offer summer camps for all grade levels. All basketball opportunities are available on our website www.lowellbasketball.com We tell everyone, get hungry and get a basketball in your hands. Get parents and siblings out there helping kids. The two biggest things to work on for kids? Tell all your kids to work on ball handling and shooting. We'll teach you the rest.

One question I've asked all your kids, what should our community know about the Lowell basketball program? Anything additional to add?

JM: What you don't see is a lot of the behind-the-scenes work with many kids working so hard. All these kids have worked so hard. It doesn't always show in wins and losses but it's not been because of lack of effort. These are great kids that we can look up to as role models. I would really love to see our kids play in front of a packed house at least one time so they can experience what it feels like. Please come to games and support us.

Do you follow districts/regionals/state? Any predictions?

JM: No predictions. I just love to watch and see kids play hard. I love to see many area schools do well.

How about March Madness? Any predictions?

JM: No, but pulling for MSU. Get in (the tournament), play hard, anyone can shock the world this time of year.

Family?

JM: Wife, Susan, who teaches at Comstock Park; daughter, Abby, 5; and son, Micah, 3.

Any closing words on the season?

JM: We have to get better differently. Get in the gym and individually work hard because our kids don't play all the games like AAU basketball kids. We have basketball opportunities yearround, open gyms, camps and leagues, so take advantage. I want to make sure everyone knows how much I appreciate all the kids and people behind-the-scenes that help Lowell basketball. So many people doing so many great things.

LEDGER SUBSCRIPTIONS

We can take care of it right over the phone - place it on your credit card & receive your first issue the following Wednesday in the mail!

The Lowell Ledger

105 N. Broadway • P.O. Box 128 • 897-9261



Red Arrow SPORTS

Spielman will be keynote speaker at annual dinner

Lowell football wasn't quite sure they could top last year's keynote speaker Michigan State football coach Mark Dantonio for its annual golf outing/dinner social. But this year they feel they have found a man that embodies "Lowell football." This year their special guest and keynote speaker will be Chris Spielman.

Spielman was an All-American and won the Lombardi award as a linebacker for Ohio State University. He was all pro four times for the Detroit Lions, a 2010 member of the College Football Hall of Fame and is currently an ABC/ESPN college football TV analyst. He has

tremendous insight into the game of football and is a remarkable speaker. This will be a rare opportunity for the city of Lowell.

Spielman has firsthand knowledge of the Pink Arrow Pride event and is passionate about the support and care given to families in need. His wife Stephanie

was diagnosed with breast cancer in early 1998 and lost her battle in Nov. 2009.

When his wife was diagnosed the Spielmans threw themselves into the world of fundraising, using their public profile life to raise millions of dollars for breast cancer research. This NFL football player

embodies "Lowell football" and the Pink Arrow Pride Project.

"We are so fortunate to have a man of Chris Spielman's integrity come here to Lowell. He will be a great speaker and we are very blessed to be able to have him come here," said head coach Noel Dean.

This year the outing and/or dinner social will be held on Friday, May 20. Registration and more information is available at www.lowellfootball.com. All proceeds from this event go to support Lowell football.

Michigan prevails in Great Lakes ballast water battle

State officials announced an important step forward in the effort to prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species in the Great Lakes, signing a settlement agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that will better regulate ballast water from commercial vessels.

Since 2005, Michigan has led the fight for commonsense regulations to protect the Great Lakes from damaging invasive species transported in the ballast water of oceangoing vessels. Michigan and a coalition of other Great Lakes states and leading environmental organizations ultimately prevailed in establishing baseline regulations after suing the EPA in federal district court in California to force it to use its authority under the Clean Water Act to regulate ballast water discharges. EPA's first "Vessel General Permit" regulating invasive species

transported in ballast water was issued in 2009.

Yet instead of requiring modern ballast water treatment technologies, the EPA simply required ships use the inadequate "swish and spit" saltwater flushing process developed over a decade ago. The new permit also failed to ensure all state water quality standards were met throughout the interstate waters of the Great Lakes. Under the federal regulations, states with more protective standards still faced the risk of pollution from ballast water dumped under less stringent guidelines from neighboring states. An effective minimum "floor" standard to unify the various Great Lakes states' water quality standards was still required for the permit to fully protect the region's waterways.

"The Great Lakes define the State of Michigan," said Governor Rick Snyder. "But our waters are now home to more than 180 aquatic

invaders, introduced and spread by unregulated ballast water. I urge the EPA to move swiftly on plans to offer a long-term protection strategy for the Great Lakes."

The settlement agreement outlines a process for the EPA to establish common protective standards for ballast water discharges to United States waters. Key elements of the settlement agreement include:

- Arranging for scientific reports, speeding up the time line for issuance of the next Vessel General Permit;
- Facilitating regional communication for ballast water regulation; and,
- Providing information on the development of the next VGP requirements.

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette said the state will continue to pressure federal regulators for basin-wide, common standards.

"It's time to bring the fight against invasive species into the 21st century," said Schuette. "This agreement moves the EPA forward to more effective methods that will protect our Great Lakes and the jobs that depend upon them."

The EPA has enlisted experts from the National Academy of Sciences to help develop its next VGP. These experts will craft a risk analysis on release of organisms from ballast water.

Further, the EPA's Science Advisory Board will report on the performance and availability of ballast water treatment technology. Both reports are expected to be completed by May 31. The EPA's current VGP expires Dec. 19, 2013, but through the settlement agreement, the U.S. EPA

committed to drafting the next VGP by Nov. 30, 2011, and a new final VGP by Nov. 30, 2012.

The agreement also requires EPA to provide information and facilitate communication with Michigan and the other Great Lakes states after the issuance of the next draft VGP. Patricia Birkholz, Director of Michigan's Office of the Great Lakes, said she looks forward to working with other Great Lakes states and federal partners to craft strong and effective common standards.

"This issue impacts everyone who has a stake in the health of our waters," Birkholz said. "The list of new invasive species grows yearly, and we need to halt the introduction and spread of these foreign invaders."

At the end of the day, we want strong ballast water standards and consistent protection for all the Great Lakes."

For additional information, please contact the Office of the Great Lakes at 517-335-4056.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 11-189933-DE

Estate of DONALD HAYNES, deceased. Date of birth: 08/07/1947.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, DONALD HAYNES, who lived at 1633 32nd St. SW, Wyoming, Michigan, died 02/02/2011. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless

presented to PATRICIA ROOSIEN, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

03/09/2011

John T. Conroy (P43709) 410 Bridge St. NW Grand Rapids, MI 49504 616-454-4119

Patricia Roosien 1135 White Ave. NW Grand Rapids, MI 49504 616-454-1774

LUNCH MENU

ELEMENTARY MENU Week of March 21, 2011

MON: Chicken patty on bun (Jr. ham & cheese sub also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), 2 hashbrown patties, peaches, milk.

TUES: Bagel & peanut butter w/Danimals yogurt (Bushnell only: Bagel & American cheese w/ Danimals yogurt) (sloppy joe w/Tostito scoops also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), mixed vegetables, orange smiles, milk.

WED: Tony's cheese pizza (chili w/crackers also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), broccoli florets w/low fat ranch dressing, apple wedges, milk.

THURS: Footlong on bun (Jr. turkey & cheese sub also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), potato wedges, pineapple, milk.

FRI: Pancakes or cereal w/graham crackers, each w/scrambled eggs, cinnamon applesauce, orange juice, milk.

HOOKING YOU UP WITH THE LATEST SPORTS NEWS



105 N. BROADWAY • P.O. BOX 128 LOWELL • MICHIGAN 616.897-9261

WE ACCEPT



Phone Orders Welcome Lowell Ledger 897-9261

Thebes Players and Lowell Area Arts Council present "Sing On!"

The Thebes Players will present "Sing On," a comedy about a musical, written by Rick Abbot and directed by Matt Tawney.

There is something universally appealing about comedy on stage — whether it is watching

the odd personality quirks vividly portrayed in the works of Neil Simon or the rapid-fire delivery of live

improvisation. Audiences love to laugh, especially at the antics of inept characters. In *Sing On!*, a comedy about a musical, a troupe of inexperienced thespians take desperate measures to save their theatre.

The sequel to the farcical *Play On!* presented by Thebes Players in 2010, the group of amateur actors are back, joined by Phyllis's song-writing nephew Monte. When dire circumstances threaten their theatre, the gang is forced to do yet another show by Phyllis. *Sing On!* is the hilarious spectacle of a harried theatrical troupe, facing disaster with a song, while rather off-key, in their hearts.

The cast includes several cast members from

the Thebes Players *Play On!* They include Ken Parrish (actor in many West Michigan community theatre productions), Diana Roush, Gary Brook, Courtney Kerry and Sue Bradford (actor and director in many productions). Other performers are Laurie Kuna, Terry Snuffer, Sue Veenema, Kelsey Ohle, Casey Berg and the play's director, Matt Tawney.

The play will be performed at Larkin's Other

Place on March 18, 19, 25, and 26, with dinner at 6:30 pm and the show at 7:30 pm; Sunday matinee performance March 20 with dinner at 1:30 pm and the show at 2:30 pm. Guests may enjoy either a dinner theatre experience or purchase a ticket for the performance only. For tickets or more information, contact the Lowell Area Arts Council at (616) 897-8545.



Rehearsing for *Sing On!* are cast members, from left to right: Diana Roush, Courtney Kerry, Laurie Kuna, Kelsey Ohle, Matt Tawney, Gary Brook, Casey Berg and Ken Parrish.



MARCH 9 - MARCH 15

• March 11 is a devastating day for Japan. A magnitude 8.9 offshore earthquake violently rattled the nations eastern coast before unleashing a deadly tsunami that swept away cars, homes and businesses as it touched land.

• Approximately 2,000 bodies are found Monday in Miyasi on Japan's northeast coast, the Kyodo news agency reported. Another 1,000 are seen in the town of Minamisanriku, where some 10,000 people are unaccounted for.

• Soma Japan - The second hydrogen explosion in three days rocks a Japanese nuclear plant Monday sending a massive cloud of smoke into the air and injuring 11 workers. The blast was felt 25 miles away.

• Fuel rods at a separate reactor in the Japan plant were fully exposed after it lost its ability to cool down, officials say. The exposure raises the risk of the unit overheating and adds to fears of a potential third explosion at the plant.

• Reports for the AP: Insurance companies are looking at billions in losses from the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, with one early estimate placing the figure around \$35 billion.

• A nonprofit organization called Archangel Ancient Tree Archive is rushing to collect the genetic material of the redwoods and sequoias in California. Their mission is to clone the oldest and largest, within the world's most ecologically valuable tree species, and persuade people to buy and plant millions of copies — on factory grounds and college campuses; along riverbanks and city streets; in forests, farms, parks and back yards.

• Troubled actor Charlie Sheen racks up one million Twitter followers in just two days.

• Stocks tumbled more than 2 percent on Tuesday and the Nasdaq turned negative briefly for the year as Japan's looming nuclear crisis looked set to thrust financial markets into a period of turmoil.



MARCH MADNESS

ACROSS

1. It's called fire-raising in Britain
6. Marching insect
9. Door sign
13. John _____
14. Children's card game
15. 1970s disco band "_____ M."
16. Opposite of afar
17. Hula dancer's necklace
18. Stomach sore
19. *March _____
21. Portable rocket launcher
23. Short for Gilbert
24. German luxury car
25. Last month
28. Surfer's "man"
30. Deceive
35. Voyeur's glance
37. Dali's Gala or Dante's Beatrice, e.g.
39. Make happy
40. Of sound mind
41. Type of lizard
43. Brazilian indigenous people
44. Sound of "s," pl.
46. Jumpy or uptight
47. AKA One-armed bandit
48. "_____ & Louise"
50. Greek god of love
52. "He _____ and drank the precious Words..."
53. Franz Schubert's creation, e.g.
55. "_____ of the morning!"
57. *Tourney grid
61. *This year's final destination
65. Suggestive of the supernatural
66. Used for testing the water
68. "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" spin-off
69. Smartly dressed
70. Between NE and E
71. Chocolate substitute
72. Other than what's implied
73. *St. John's "_____ Storm"
74. Pitchers

DOWN

1. Sandler or Arkin
2. Actress Sofer
3. *A lower one is a better one
4. Bornean ape
5. Sea nymph

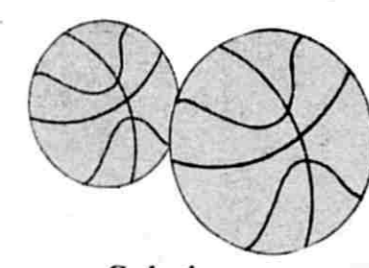
CROSSWORD													
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13					14			15					
16					17			18					
19					20			21	22				
			23				24						
25	26	27		28		29		30		31	32	33	34
35			36		37			38		39			
40					41			42		43			
44				45		46				47			
48					49		50		51		52		
					53		54		55		56		
57	58	59	60					61			62	63	64
65						66	67			68			
69						70				71			
72						73				74			

PRESENTED BY



VolunteerMatch.org
Where volunteering begins.

6. Hole-punching tools
7. National Academy of Engineering
8. Cherokee or Hopi, e.g.
9. Prince William's sport
10. Beyond what is natural
11. It's often used in potato soup
12. Vega's constellation
15. *_____ beater
20. Slumdog Millionaire's surroundings
22. A conjunction
24. As well
25. *When a low seed beats a high seed
26. Dog restraint
27. Past, present or future, e.g.
29. *Last year's winner
31. "_____ Make a Deal"
32. Throat lobe
33. Train stop
34. *Like the final eight
36. Slip on banana one?
38. Engineer, abbr.
42. Former capital of Japan
45. William "_____"
- Robinson, Jr.
49. King Kong, e.g.
51. Reporter's helper
54. Articulate
56. Exclamation of contempt
57. "Well" to Burslesconi
58. Like time with Bill Maher
59. The "A" in A&E
60. Give a traffic ticket
61. Pay close attention
62. Ruptured
63. Scent
64. Picks up, as in suspect
67. *The top seed



Solution on page 12

To be conscious that you are ignorant is a great step to knowledge.

- Benjamin Disraeli (1804 - 1881)

WE SHIP UPS!

Our Prices Can't Be Beat!
Call Us for a Price Quote!
Weight & Zip Code Required for a Quote



The Lowell Ledger
105 N. Broadway, 897-9261



616-897-0787

To all the businesses and individuals who contributed to the Lowell Winter Guard competition - Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Your support and contributions are what makes this kind of school function happen. It's not a band program thing - it's a sport!

Does anyone else think a certain store should be spending millions to remodel in Lowell? Yeah, the store is so ancient!

When submitting your opinion to Sound Off!, we ask you to follow a few guidelines.

Sound Off! is meant to be a way for you to compliment or vent your feelings with civility. A healthy way to get something off your chest or spread a little kindness.

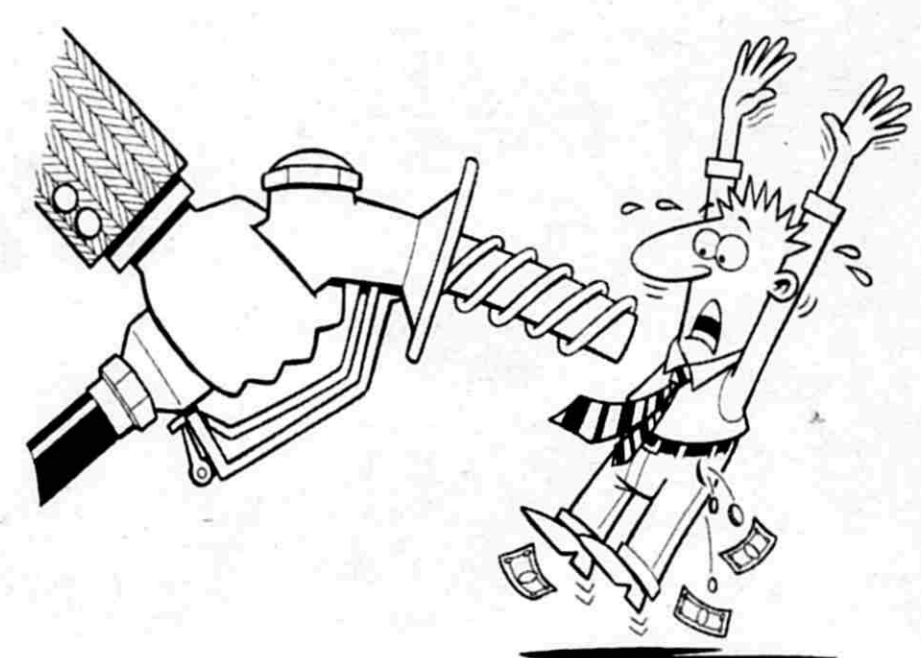
We welcome your comments, with or without signatures, but signing your name to your comment does increase the odds of seeing it in print. Threatening or deliberately cruel comments will not be accepted and, of course, no advertising a product or service please.

So basically, submit anything - but not everything will make it to print.

The Ledger reserves the right to choose what is printed, and reminds the public that views expressed in Sound Off!, unless otherwise stated, are not the opinions of The Ledger staff or its publishers.

To vote on the current poll question go to: thelowellledger.com

last week's poll result:



How would you lower the gas prices?

- STOP DRIVING 14%
- GET RID of the speculators 43%
- NOTHING - Just suck it up 29%
- BUY A RICKSHA 0%
- TELEPORT 14%

2011 LAS SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULE

BOYS & GIRLS TRACK

* Denotes a home meet at Red Arrow Stadium
All meets begin at 4:15 p.m. unless indicated

4/14 Creston*
4/21 at Grand Rapids Christian
4/23 at 9 a.m. Caledonia Relays
4/26 EGR*
4/28 at Northview
4/30 at 8:30 a.m. Lowell Invitational*
5/5 Greenville*
5/12 Conference at Greenville
5/26 time TBA Jon Bos Meet
5/13 at 6 p.m. Conference at Greenville

BOYS VARSITY BASEBALL

* Denotes a home game at Cherry Creek Ball Field

3/29 at 4:15 p.m. Grandville*
3/30 at 4 p.m. Wyoming Park* - double header
4/5 at 3:30 p.m. at Lakeview (Macomb Tournament)
4/5 at 5:45 p.m. at Dakota (Macomb Tournament)
4/7 at 2:30 p.m. at Detroit Western (Macomb Tournament)
4/7 at 4:45 p.m. at Cousino (Macomb Tournament)
4/9 time TBA Macomb Tournament
4/14 at 4 p.m. Ionia - double header
4/16 at 10 a.m. Lowell Invitational*
4/19 at 4:30 p.m. Creston* - double header
4/21 at 4:15 p.m. at Creston
4/26 at 4:15 p.m. GR Christian - double header
4/28 at 4:15 p.m. GR Christian*
5/3 at 4:30 p.m. EGR* - double header
5/5 at 4:15 p.m. at EGR
5/10 at 4:15 p.m. at Northview - double header
5/12 at 4:15 p.m. Northview*
5/14 time TBA Aquinas Tournament
5/17 at 4:30 p.m. Greenville
5/19 at 4:15 p.m. Greenville
5/21 at 11 a.m. Grand Ledger* - double header
5/23 at 4:15 p.m. Forest Hills Eastern* - double header
5/28 at 10 a.m. Oxford High School - double header

GIRLS VARSITY SOFTBALL

* Denotes a home game at Cherry Creek Ball Field

3/30 at 4 p.m. Wyoming Park* - double header
4/12 at 4:15 p.m. Unity Christian* - double header
4/14 at 4 p.m. Ionia - double header
4/16 at 10 a.m. East Kentwood Invitational
4/18 at 4:15 p.m. Byron Center
4/21 at 4:15 p.m. South Christian - double header
4/22 at 7:15 p.m. FHC at Leonard Field
4/27 at 4:30 p.m. Jenison* - double header
4/28 at 4:15 p.m. Creston*
4/30 at 9 a.m. Lake Orion Tournament
5/3 at 4:15 p.m. Grand Rapids Christian - double header
5/5 at 4:15 p.m. EGR*
5/10 at 4:15 p.m. Northview - double header
5/12 at 4:15 p.m. Creston
5/14 time TBA Traverse City West Invitational
5/16 at 4:30 p.m. Hudsonville* - double header
5/17 at 4:15 p.m. Greenville* - double header
5/19 at 4:15 p.m. EGR
5/25 at 4 p.m. Tichelaar Tournament*

GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER

* Denotes a home game at Red Arrow Stadium

3/25 at 5:45 p.m. Caledonia*
3/28 at 7 p.m. Grandville*
4/12 at 6:45 p.m. Wyoming Park*
4/13 at 6:45 p.m. Forest Hills Central
4/16 at 6:45 p.m. Kenowa Hills*
4/20 at 6:45 p.m. Creston*
4/22 at 6:15 p.m. GR Christian
4/27 at 6:45 p.m. EGR*
4/29 at 6:45 p.m. Fruitport*
5/2 at 6:45 p.m. Northview*
5/4 at 6:45 p.m. Greenville*
5/9 at 6:45 p.m. Reette Parter*
5/11 at 5:45 Creston
5/13 at 6:45 p.m. Cedar Springs*
5/16 at 6:45 p.m. GR Christian*
5/18 at 7:15 p.m. EGR
5/23 at 7:15 p.m. Northview
5/25 at 6:45 p.m. Greenville*

GIRLS VARSITY TENNIS

* Denotes a home meet at H.S. Tennis Courts

3/26 at 9 a.m. Fruitport Invitational
4/13 at 4 p.m. Creston*
4/14 at 3:30 p.m. East Kentwood Quad
4/16 at 8:30 a.m. Lowell Invitational*
4/19 at 4 p.m. Cadillac at Ferris State University
4/20 at 4:15 p.m. at GR Christian
4/23 at 9:30 a.m. Caledonia Tournament
4/27 at 4 p.m. EGR*
4/28 at 4 p.m. Jenison
4/30 at 9 a.m. Northview Tournament
5/2 at 4:30 p.m. Mona Shores*
5/4 at 4 p.m. Northview
5/5 at 4 p.m. Portland
5/9 at 4 p.m. Greenville*
5/12 at 4 p.m. Hudsonville
5/14 at 9 a.m. Conference*

BOYS VARSITY GOLF

* Denotes a home meet at Deer Run Golf Course

4/13 at 12:30 p.m. Kent County Classic
4/16 at 11 a.m. Lowell Invitational*
4/21 time TBA Pre-conference at Thornapple Point
4/25 at 3:30 p.m. Portland*
4/27 at 3:30 p.m. GR Christian/Creston*
5/2 at 3:30 p.m. EGR
5/4 at 3:30 p.m. Northview/Creston*
5/5 at 3:15 p.m. Kenowa Hills
5/9 at 3:30 p.m. EGR*
5/11 at 3:30 p.m. Greenville
5/16 at 3:30 p.m. Greenville/Northview*
5/18 at 3:30 p.m. GR Christian
5/20 at 3:30 p.m. Caledonia*
5/23 time TBA Conference at Thornapple Point

For More Information please visit www.lowellschools.com
Be sure to read the Lowell Ledger for coverage of the LAS Spring Sports.

This Page Brought To You By **the lowell ledger**

Cash In on Your GOOD LUCK

2011 GMC TERRA

M.S.R.P. \$25,290



Sale Price

\$22,995*

Stock #11137

32 MPG!!

2011 GMC SIERRA WORK TRUCK

Power locks, remote entry, locking differential & cruise



Sale Price

\$17,755*

Stock #11066

2011 GMC ACADIA

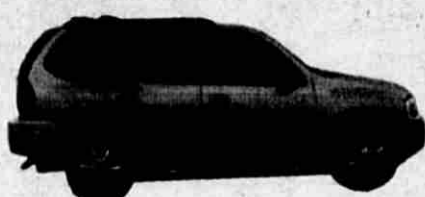
Remote start, Bluetooth, loaded



Sale Price

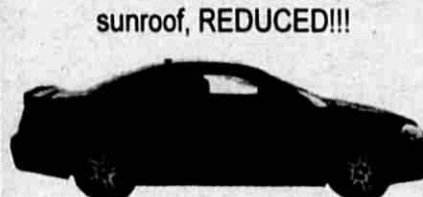
\$28,750

2002 GMC ENVOY SLT
Heated leather, CD, chrome wheels, check out the low miles



\$10,900

2006 CHEVROLET MONTE CARLO LT
3.9 V6, chrome wheels, sunroof, REDUCED!!!



\$9,990

2003 BMW 3 SERIES 325xi
AWD, leather, local trade, just arrived!!!



\$11,795

2007 PONTIAC SV6
Ext., 3.9L, dual sliding door, 59,000 miles, fully loaded



\$12,950

2009 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY
Dual sliding doors, fully loaded, just arrived, only 24,000 miles, full warranty



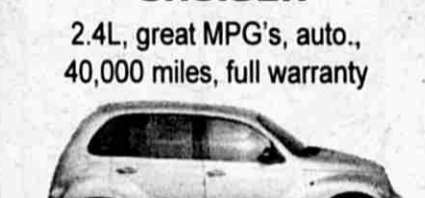
\$21,975

2006 PONTIAC VIBE
1.8L, can't beat the MPG's, auto, full power



\$9,875

2009 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER
2.4L, great MPG's, auto., 40,000 miles, full warranty



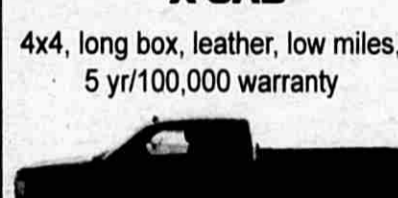
\$8,890

2002 FORD ESCORT
Local trade, great MPG's, nice car



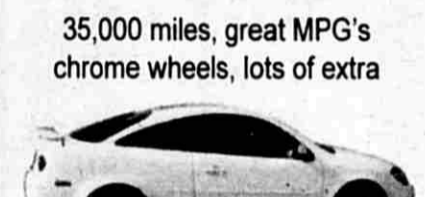
Was \$4,877
Now... \$3,900

2007 GMC SIERRA X-CAB
4x4, long box, leather, low miles, 5 yr/100,000 warranty



\$21,755

2008 CHEVROLET COBALT LT
35,000 miles, great MPG's chrome wheels, lots of extra



\$11,775

2006 PONTIAC G6 GT
Sunroof, chrome wheels, loaded



\$8,988

2007 CHEVROLET AVEO LS
4 door hatchback, CD, great MPG'S WOW!



Only... \$8,275

2009 FORD FUSION SE
Only 29,000 miles, just arrived Great MPG's



\$13,500

2002 CHEVROLET SILVERADO EXT. CAB
Tow package, alloy, 5.3L fresh trade, Tonneau cover



\$10,990

2007 CHEVROLET COBALT LT
4 door, great MPG's, 5 yr./100,000 warranty, only 32K



\$9,488

2005 GMC SIERRA SLE 1500 CREW CAB 4X4
Full power, great condition, running boards, only 68,000 miles



\$17,900

2007 PONTIAC GG GT CONVERTIBLE
Heated leather seats, only 20,000 miles, like new, loaded



\$16,950

2007 CADILLAC ESCALADE
Nav/DVD, heated leather seats, Bose, loaded, has it all, 5 yr/100,000 mile warranty



\$32,575

2009 Ford Fusion SE, 3.0L, auto, blue.....	\$12,990
2008 Chevrolet Silverado, 1500, 5.3L, auto, red.....	\$17,450
2008 GMC Acadia SLT1, 3.6L, auto, leather.....	\$15,900
2007 Chevrolet Malibu LT, w/2LT, 3.5L, auto., dark gray.....	\$10,755
2007 Chevrolet Aveo, 1.6L, red.....	\$8,275
2007 Chevrolet Impala, 3.5L LT, auto., red.....	\$10,488
2007 Pontiac G6, sunroof, 3.5L auto., red.....	\$8,775
2007 Pontiac Grand Prix, 3.8L, auto., black.....	\$9,788
2007 Pontiac Grand Prix GT, leather roof, 3.5L auto, midnight blue.....	\$9,900
2007 Pontiac G6, 3.5L, auto, sunroof, silver.....	\$9,750
2007 Pontiac G6, sunroof, 3.5L auto, red.....	\$8,775
2006 Pontiac Vibe 1.8L, auto., Neptune blue.....	\$9,875
2006 Pontiac G6, 3.5L, auto, electric blue.....	\$8,988
2006 Chevrolet Tahoe, 4x4, 3rd seat, 5.3L, auto, black.....	\$15,488
2006 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD Crew Cab, 4x4, 6.0L, auto, black.....	\$22,900
2006 GMC Envoy Denali, 5.3L, auto, onyx black.....	\$17,900
2005 Pontiac Vibe, 1.8L, moonstone.....	\$7,900
2004 Chevrolet Trailblazer 4x4, LS, 4.2L, auto.....	Reduced... \$6,990
2003 Pontiac Montana, Luxury Ext., DVD, leather, 3.4L, auto.....	\$7,750
2003 BMW 3 Series, 325xi, 2.5 auto., green.....	\$11,795
2002 GMC Envoy, SLT, heated, leather, 4.2L, auto.....	\$10,900
2000 new GMC Sierra 1500 SLE, X-cab, 4x4, 5.3L, auto.....	\$9,450
2000 Chrysler Cirrus LXi, 2.5L, auto., leather.....	\$3,275
1999 Lincoln Continental 4.6L, auto, leather, well maintained.....	\$3,990

WITTENBACH
Grand GMC



www.wittenbachgm.com

REAL PEOPLE - REAL DIFFERENCE!

749 W. MAIN ST., LOWELL
PH. 1-866-761-4067
Check out the rest of our inventory at www.wittenbachsales.com

SALES OPEN: 9:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M. MON. & WED.; 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. TUE., THUR. & FRI.; 9:00 A.M. - 3 P.M. SAT.