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# the lowell ledger

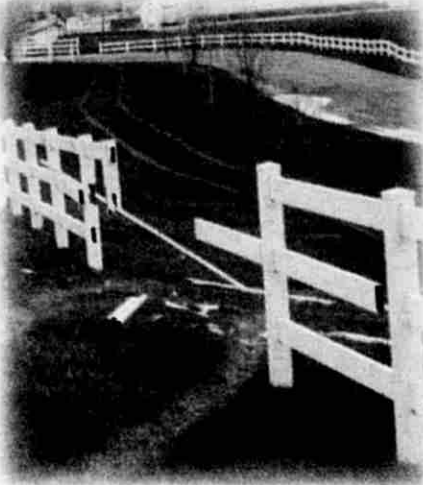
wednesday • april • 20 • 2011

vol. 40 issue 28

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## hit & run at fairgrounds



page 2

## new use for cable building



page 3

## film studies

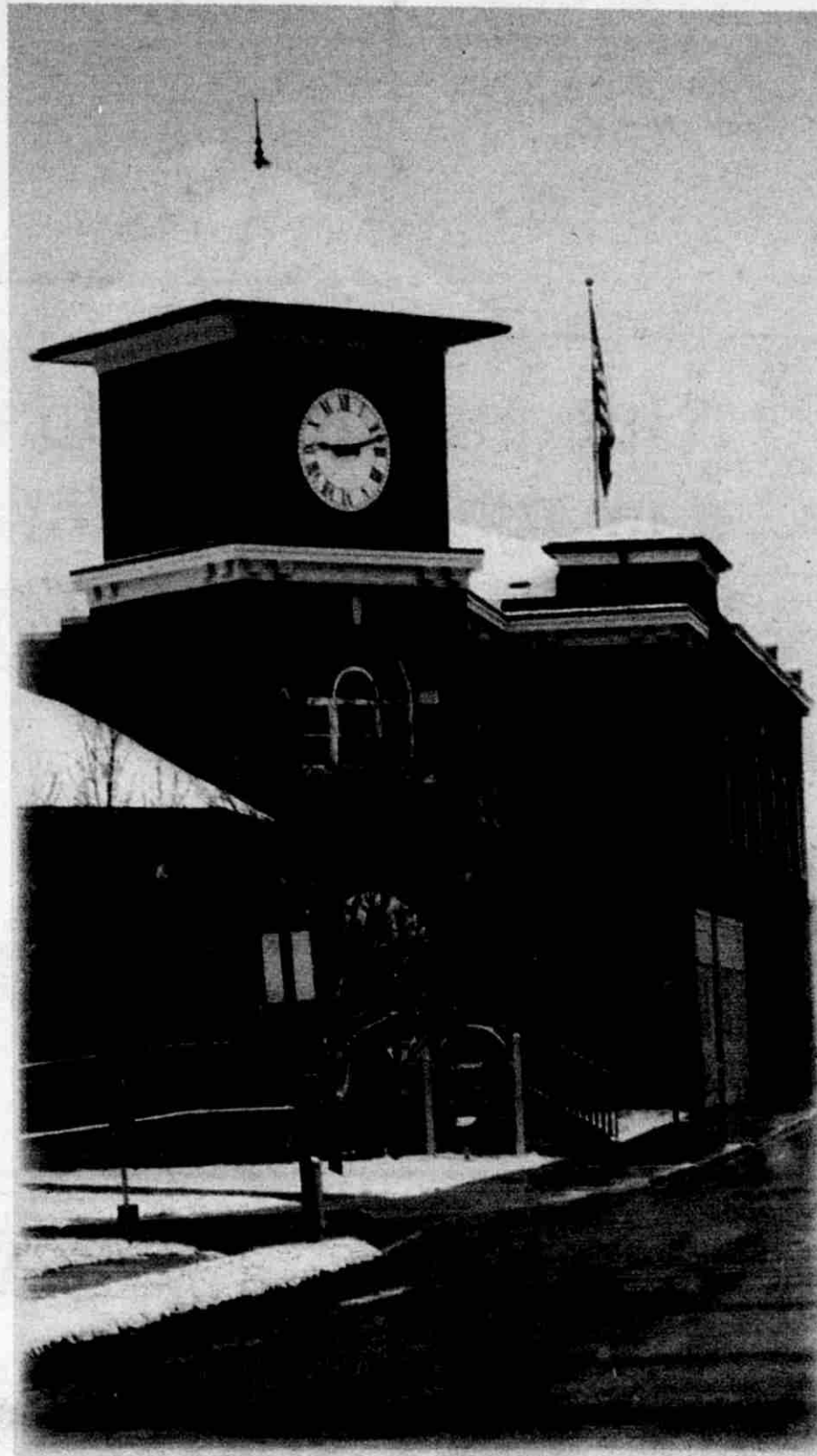


page 7

## lhs spring sports teams



pages 8, 9 & 16

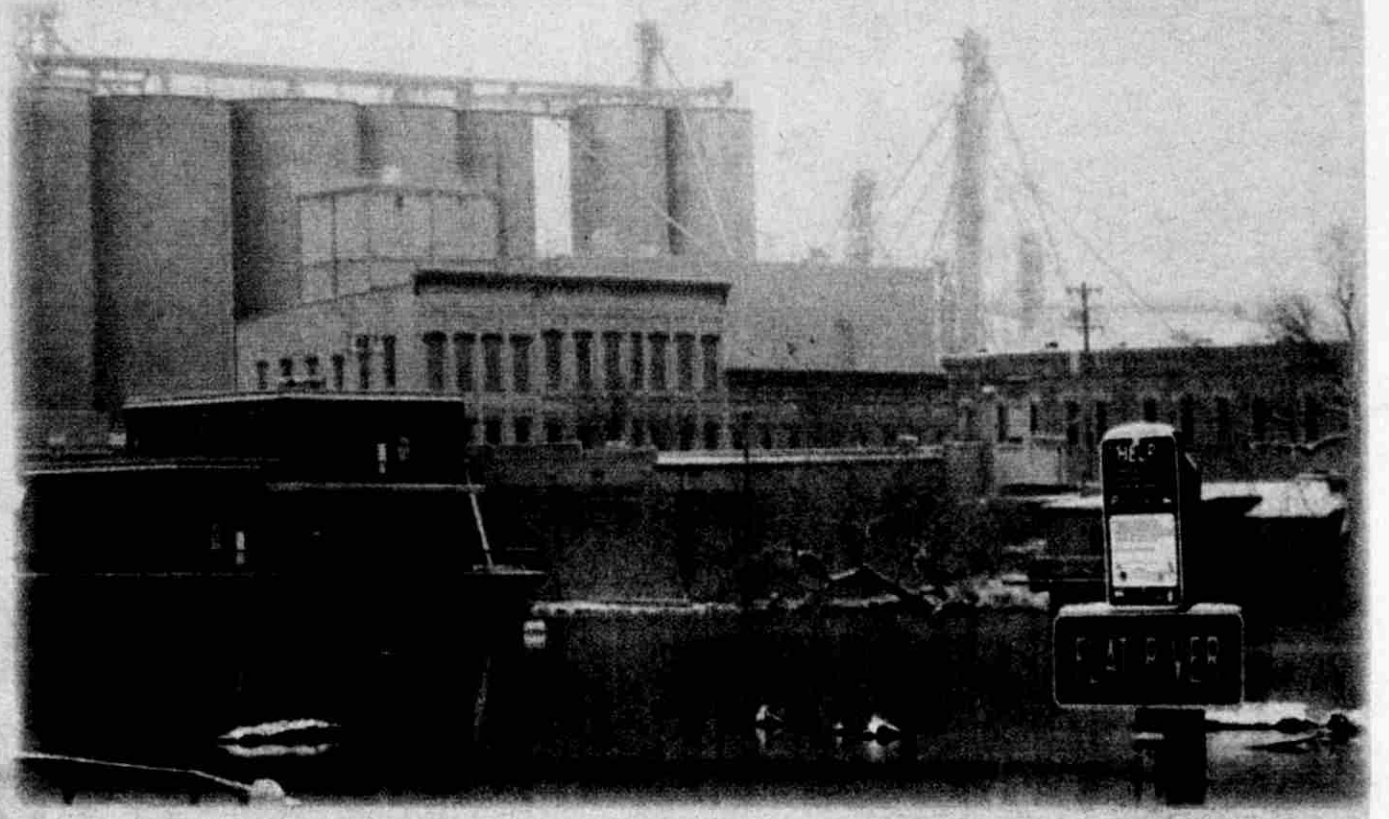


## Cold front brings April rain and late season snow

The area was blanketed with snow on Monday morning with unseasonably cold temperatures dipping back into the mid 30s. This was preceded by one 80-degree day with sunshine last week.

The cold weather put a damper on emerging growth of early spring flowers, budding shrubs and trees. High winds gusted through the area. The downtown scenery, again, looked like February or November with fog hanging over the Flat River. Snow covered the city hall and the lawn behind the library.

The forecast calls for more cold weather including high winds tomorrow, but a nice sunny day on Thursday and showers on Easter weekend.



## Center celebrates Earth Day by removing invasive plant

by Emma Palova

On a chilly April morning, last Saturday, a group of adults and Boy Scout troop 130 from Greenville headed out into the Wittenbach/

Wege preserve off Alden Nash to pull garlic mustard plants.

The activity was just one of many events at the Wittenbach/Wege Center

(WWC) to celebrate the upcoming Earth Day. Each year, Earth Day is celebrated on April 22.

But, because of late Easter this year, some organizations moved the event up on their schedules.

The group met early in the morning for an introduction about the invasive species prior to heading out on the trails.

The invasive biennial herb grows in forested areas, such as the nature preserve. It rapidly spreads by seeds.

It grows 12 to 40 inches tall, it has triangular shaped leaves with toothed edges and it smells of garlic when crushed. It has clusters of small white flowers with four



Dan Chipman, Matt Loper, Nate Behrend and Aaron Loper of Boy Scout Troop 130.

petals. First-year plants are low rosettes with rounded leaves.

Having no natural competitors, garlic mustard

Earth Day, continued, page 2

## Girls Night Out THIS THURSDAY

This year's Girls Night Out with the theme "These shoes are made for shopping" is expected to have a big turnout due to changes in economy, and the spring timing.

"There are signs the economy is turning around," said Lowell Area Chamber director Liz Baker. The shopping event has grown over the years to 30 merchants participating this year. It will take place on April 21 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. in historic downtown Lowell.

New on Girls Night Out is Click and Create Alphabet Photography by Jennifer Chiodini. She will be located at the chamber offices. "My goal is to connect with the community," she said, "and get into the local stores." Chiodini, who is based in Ada, does black and white photography of local architecture. She photographed last year's Riverwalk and this year's Expo. Chiodini was also in the ArtPrize last year. Other newcomers include Ella's Coffee & Cuisine and the Main Street Inn. There are also mainstays such as the Lowell Area Historical Museum, the Flat River Cottage, Pep Talk and Larkin's Fine Food and Cocktails.

The event brings out women of all ages, who enjoy browsing the streets and shopping in downtown Lowell. Most businesses will have refreshments and they will be offering specials like the popular \$5 eyebrow wax at eja' Salon, Inc.

## Council tables sidewalk inspection ordinance

by Emma Palova

The Lowell City Council tabled a proposed sidewalk inspection ordinance after a public hearing on Monday night.

Under the proposal, city residents would have to repair sidewalks upon the sale or transfer of property within 60 days. The

ordinance would require an inspection and any subsequent repairs.

The proposal, in its second round of talks, is being considered as a fix to the city's torn sidewalks, according to some councilmembers. Modeled after a Grand

Rapids' ordinance, it died a few years ago for the lack of support.

Last fall the council placed a moratorium on the issue due to lack of enforcement. The moratorium is set to expire on April 30.

Sidewalks, continued, page 7

50 CENTS





# Earth Day, continued

has spread across the country choking wildflowers by out-competing them for space and sunlight, as well as tree seedlings. The plants also excrete chemicals through their roots preventing further wildflower growth.

The weeds pose a serious threat to biodiversity of natural areas, as it also affects native insects. Seeds are small, produced in a row inside a capsule. There are more than 100 seeds per plant.

Garlic mustard plants should be hand pulled before flowering and bagged up in dark garbage bags to prevent flowering and seeding.

That's exactly what the group of approximately 15 adults and students was doing last week. They scouted the ground and the leaves for the short garlic mustard rosettes, pulled and bagged them up. "This is our service project," said Dan Chipman from the scout troop.

Garlic mustard was discovered in the preserve last year and WWC is doing everything to prevent the plant from taking over the area.

Later that day, a rain barrel workshop also took place at the center.

Rain barrels can be attached to downspouts to capture runoff from the roof for watering plants and to protect the watershed from storm water pollution.

The center has partnered with Litehouse Foods and Bernard's Ace Hardware to offer the community an opportunity to make rain barrels. All proceeds from the rain barrels will be donated to Relay for Life.

A group of people picked garlic mustard plants along Alden Nash preserve.



## A hit and run accident damages fence at fairgrounds

### LPD asks for help identifying vehicle

A hit and run accident, that occurred between 9 am and 4 pm on Monday, left a damaged fence at the fairgrounds. According to acting chief of the Lowell Police Department, Steve Bukala, the vehicle left the roadway and drove through the fencing.

"The tire marks show the vehicle tried to back up through the fence, but

was unable due to the snow or the wet grass," said Bukala.

The police department is asking any motorists who may have seen the accident to report the description of the vehicle to 897-7123. The total damage is about \$500 for the fence and labor.

This does not include the cost of grass.



### JV HOCKEY TRYOUTS

The LC JV hockey tryouts are April 26 and 27 from 5:30-6:30 pm (April 29 if needed) at Kentwood Ice Arena. Birth years: 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998. For more information, [www.eteamz.com/LC-Hockey/](http://www.eteamz.com/LC-Hockey/)

### FUN ON THE FARM

Join the Wittenbach/Wege Center on Sat., May 7, 9-12 pm for fun on the Farm. Hosted by the Lowell High School FFA Chapter.

### HIKE FOR A CURE

Help Hunt For A Cure raise funds for cystic fibrosis research. Hikers will collect donations before the hike and bring the funds with them to the check in, Sat., May 7 at 8:30 am. Hike starts at 9:30 am. Funds raised will support research at Michigan State University. If you have questions, or want to get a pledge form, call Jeff at 897-7829 or Pete at 616-450-7850. Forms are also available at the Wittenbach/Wege Center.

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

### MUSEUM OFFERS STORM PROGRAM

The Lowell Area Historical Museum will present Storms and Tornadoes of the Lowell Area, a program by meteorologist George Lessens. His program will discuss the many floods, snowstorms, hailstorms, windstorms, electric storms and tornadoes which have impacted our area. To have your weather questions answered, be at the Lowell Township Hall on May 3, at 7:30 pm. If there is a weather bulletin issued for channel 13 on May 3, an alternate date of May 17 has been selected. For more information contact Linda Barnes 897-7688.

Hosted by: Flat River Outreach Ministries and Marpower of Lowell.

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- SCREAM 4 (R) 4:40, 7:20, 9:50
- SOURCE CODE (PG-13) 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
- ARTHUR (PG-13) 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
- HOP (PG) 4:30, 6:50, 9:00

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**3 YR. ----- 11:00 A.M.**  
**4-5-6 YR. ----- 11:45 A.M.**  
**7-8-9 YR. ----- 12:30 P.M.**

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# Former cable TV building may house kayak/bicycle rental shop

by Emma Palova

The former Lowell Cable TV building on the north side of the chamber may house a kayak/bicycle rental shop, pending

approvals from the city council.

The city council, Monday night, extensively discussed the use of the now vacant building, also known

as the head end building. The building has a prime location on the Riverwalk. The area is targeted by the city and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) for further

improvements along the Flat River.

Currently, Brian Bangma remains the only interested party in the building after the proposals for a gun shop by Firearms LLC or a banquet center for the Flat River Grill died down. He has proposed a kayak/bicycle rental, retail and repair shops.

"I am here today," said Bangma, "I want to be in there."

The new use, according to Bangma's proposal, would create a unique shopping experience in downtown Lowell.

Bangma offered to do building improvements in

lieu of rent and he proposed a five-year maximum lease with an option to buy. The building would have additional entrances and exits.

"You need three to five years to be able to establish a business," he said. "It also shows a commitment to the community."

However, the details or the value of proposed improvements remained unclear.

"Give me the space and I'll find something," he said. "Space doesn't scare me."

Bangma said he has 5,000 square feet of retail in Grand Rapids. He would use the finished bay and warehouse bay for storage in Lowell. The remainder would still be available for the Department of Public Works' storage and for the chamber.

"It's hard to say yes without seeing the hard numbers," said councilwoman Maryalene LaPonsie.

Director of DPW, Dan DesJarden, said he is concerned about the two remaining vendors on the tower and what they may need to put inside the building.

The council did reach a consensus to further pursue the proposal pending more details on the proposed improvements.

the meeting in mayor Jim Hodges' absence, said the council is interested in pursuing the proposal.

"Kayak is a good fit," she said.

Still, the majority of the council insisted on more details prior to formal approval.

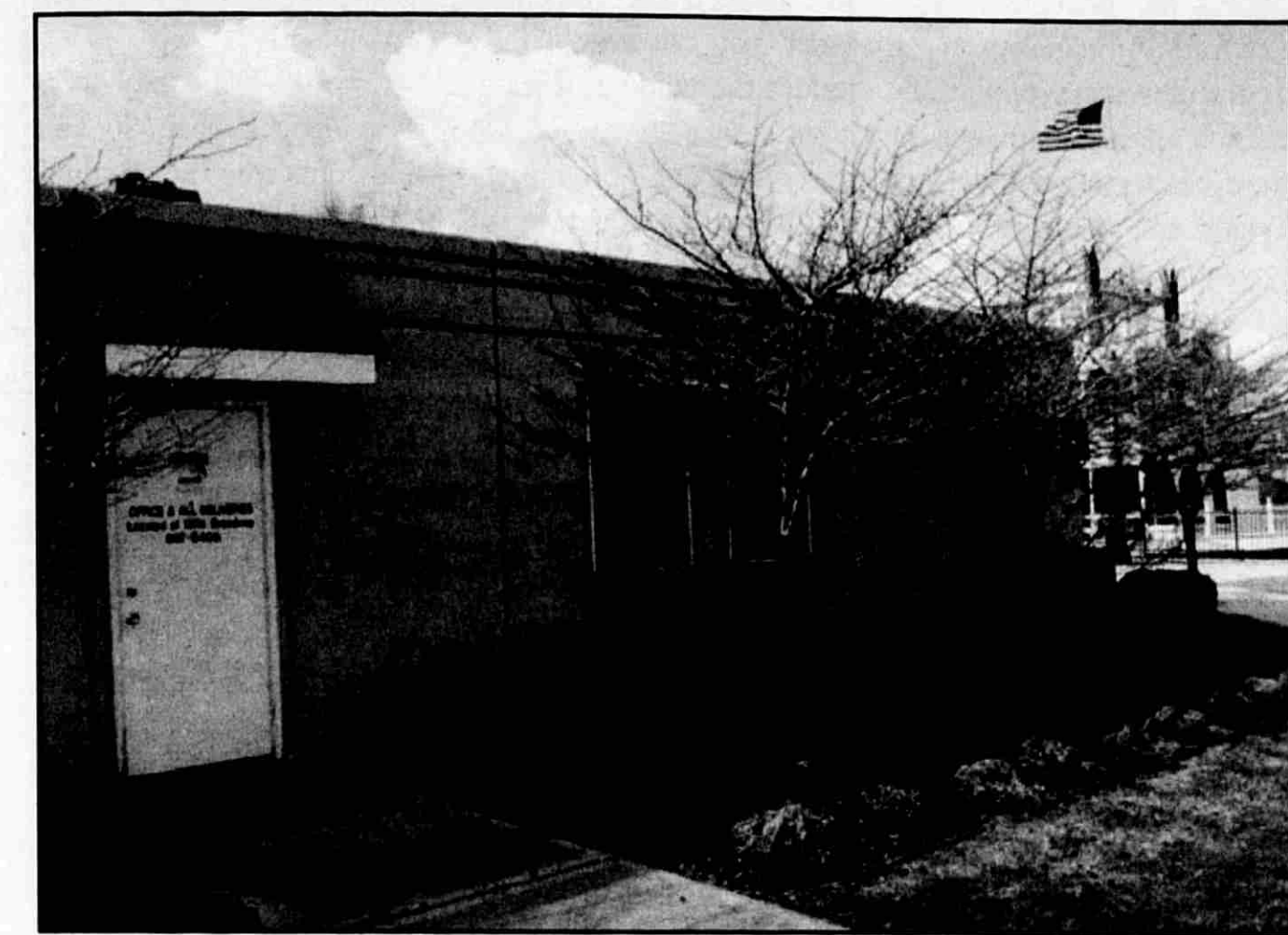
"There are no architectural drawings or blueprints to the building," Bangma said. "I am committed to warehouse and finished space."

However, Bangma said he is also looking for a unique user for the rest of the space that is not being used by the Department of Public Works' storage and for the chamber.

"I don't know the full extent of the building," he said. "I do need access to the storage space."

After much discussion, Bangma proposed a potential value of \$30,000 over 3.5 years in improvements to offset \$1,000 in rent.

Mayor pro tem Sharon Ellison, who conducted



The former Lowell Cable TV building may house a kayak/bicycle rental shop.

## At Your Local Library

### Rhyme time music and movement

Move and groove together with action rhymes, songs, games and hands-on musical activities that will help children develop motor, listening and literacy skills. For children ages 6 and under with a caregiver, Fridays, May 6 - 27, 11:00 am.

### Bookworms adult book discussion

A friendly, informal discussion of The Queen of the Big Time by Adriana Trigiani, Tues., May 10, 10:00 am.

### Mini day of learning

Learn new strategies for interacting with young children. Caregivers can earn hours toward their state-required professional development. Three sessions offered: 'Phonemic Awareness' by Kim Strayhorn; 'Effective Communication with Parents - A Positive Spin on Negative Situations' by Sarah Clause; and 'Too Old for Storytime' by Diane Forbes and Allison Brito. Registration required; seating limited to 45. Sat., May 14, 9:30 am - 1:00 pm.

Kent District Library programs at Englehardt Branch, 200 N. Monroe St. For additional information call 616-784-2007.

### KDLville ribbon-cutting party

Celebrate with Katie L. the elephant as she cuts the ribbon and welcomes you to KDLville, KDL's new early literacy play space. Party and learn with crafts, games, balloon animals, face painting, dance party fun and a KDLville cake. Thurs., May 12, 10:30 am, for children ages 6 and under with a caregiver.

\*\*\*  
 A word to the wise ain't necessary - it's the stupid ones that need the advice.  
 - Bill Cosby

**DEADLINE EXTENDED**  
 Lowell Women's Club grant request application extended deadline is May 4, 2011  
 Call Elaine Brinkert at 616-676-0683 for application or go to [www.lowellwomensclub.org](http://www.lowellwomensclub.org)

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Cherry Creek Elementary invites you to attend the annual **Celebrate Learning** event on **Thursday, April 28, 2011** From 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Please join us as we showcase student work throughout the building and enjoy an ice cream sundae served by our teachers and support staff.



# financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

## Are you an "environmentally conscious" investor?

On April 22, the 41st anniversary of Earth Day will be celebrated by millions of people around the world. As a global citizen, you may wish to commemorate this event by thinking of ways you can help the environment, such as boosting your recycling efforts and cutting back on your energy consumption. But you can

also contribute to a "greener" world through your investment activities.

Specifically, you can take action in two related areas: reducing your paperwork and consolidating your accounts. Let's take a look at both of these possibilities.

First, if you want to decrease your investment-related

paperwork, you need to take advantage of all the paperless options that have probably been made available to you by those financial services companies with which you work. So, for example, you may want to choose to receive online statements, rather than paper ones. And when you make transactions, you may also be able to receive online confirmations.

Not only will online documents help save paper, but it can also help protect you from identity theft. The more paper statements, confirmations and similar items lying around, the greater the possibility of their being exposed to prying eyes. (In fact, if you do still receive paper documents, you may

want to shred them soon after you've reviewed the information.)

If you think you may need to produce this investment-related information, possibly to give to your tax advisor, you can always go back to your financial service provider's web site, access the documents you need, and print them. Most companies make this information readily accessible to their clients for months, or even years, after it is initially generated.

Now, let's move to another environmentally conscious aspect of investing: consolidating your accounts. Start by listing all your financial assets, such as your bank accounts, investments, IRAs and employer-spon-

sored retirement plans, such as a 401(k), if you worked for a private employer, a 457(b), if you worked for a state or local government, or a 403(b), if you worked for a school or other tax-exempt organization. By consolidating as many of these accounts as possible with one financial services provider, you can significantly reduce the number of statements you receive and the paperwork you generate.

But the reduction of paperwork is only one benefit you'll receive from consolidating accounts. You might also be able to lower the amount of fees you pay. And even more importantly, by placing all your financial assets with one financial-services provider, you

will be better able to follow a single, unified investment strategy. If you work with a financial advisor, he or she will find it much easier to identify your strengths and weaknesses and help you allocate your investment dollars in a way that's appropriate for your retirement goals, risk tolerance and time horizon.

Earth Day only happens once a year. So take this opportunity to think about how you can do your part, through a few simple actions tied to your investments, to help improve the environment we all share.

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

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## Bipartisan report reveals conflicts of interest at heart of Wall Street crisis



Sen. Carl Levin

A few days ago, I joined with Sen. Tom Coburn of Oklahoma to release a bipartisan report on the causes of the financial crisis that pushed us into the recession that continues to afflict families in Michigan and across the country.

The report is the product of more than two years of work by the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which I chair. Last year, our subcommittee held four hearings on what we uncovered, and the 600-page report expands

on what we learned from those hearings, hundreds of witness interviews and millions of pages of documents.

The financial crisis was a man-made economic assault, the product of reckless risk-taking and rampant conflict of interest on the part of some big banks, mortgage companies and credit rating agencies. The recession that followed the crisis devastated Michigan's economy; it cost more than 400,000 Michigan jobs; it cost thousands of

Michiganians their homes; and it nearly decimated our domestic auto industry. That's why it's so important for Michigan and the country that we get a clear picture of the causes of the crisis, to try to make sure it never happens again.

What did we learn in our investigation? Conflict of interest is the common thread that runs through this whole sordid story. Our bipartisan report pulls back the curtain on shoddy, risky

Levin, continued, page 15

# local business directory

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# viewpoint

## to the editor

### questioning on school crisis

Dear Editor,

In the recent edition of Directions, Lowell Area Schools' (LAS) Superintendent Greg Pratt, along with the school board president, espouse that there's a school funding "crisis" in Lansing and the state legislature is "raiding" the state's school aid fund. It leads Lowell taxpayers to believe a "crisis" really exists in school funding!

However, if you Google "Michigan Bulletin 1014 and 1011," you'll find school district funding documents, produced by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). These documents identify, among other information, the lat-

est student counts for fiscal year (FY) 08-09, current per pupil funding figures and how each district allots the school revenue they receive from local, state and federal sources.

Mr. Pratt indicates that LAS must address a \$3 million budget shortfall. MDE documents indicate that for FY#09, LAS had a \$4.6 million fund surplus! Their operating expenses totaled over \$35.2 million which means their fund balance, as a percentage of operating expenses, was over 13 percent; quite impressive indeed. So where's the "crisis" with such a large fund balance? For FY#09, LAS had 3,902 students as compared

to Forest Hills at 10,061 and Rockford at 8,096. Forest Hills had a fund balance of \$14.9 million but Rockford came in at a meager \$1.6 million. Again, where's the "crisis?"

For FY#09, LAS received a combined \$8,810 per student from local, state and federal revenue sources. They spend \$8,893 per student and have a student/teacher ratio of 23:1. This means that LAS spent over \$204,539 per classroom, but somehow a "crisis" remains.

Since 2005, shortfalls in the state's school aid fund (SAF) budget have ranged from \$479 million to a staggering \$1.85 billion. Despite these challenges, the legislature has increased funding for K12 education at the expense of other state departments. The legislature has moved more than \$4.4 billion from other state departments to ensure a fully-funded K12 education system.

As to whether school aid fund revenue can be "raided" or pay for community colleges and higher education, the language voters approved in 1994 with Proposal A was clear, the

school aid fund can be used for these purposes. Article 9 Section 11 of the Michigan Constitution states, "there shall be established a state school aid fund which shall be used exclusively for aid to school districts, higher education and school employees' retirement systems, as provided by law..."

For 15 of the past 16 years (FY 10/11 being the exception), the legislature has not had to transfer SAF revenue to higher education because the legislature was able to find other revenue sources within our general fund/general purpose (GF/GP) budget; even as overall revenue coming into the GF/GP budget continued to decline.

But somehow the message from LAS officials is one of "crisis." Let's expect our school officials and employees to be accountable and fiscally responsible with our tax dollars thereby ensuring there is measurable academic achievement in the classroom where the \$204,539 really needs to be spent, so we avert a future \$3 million "crisis."

Peter Willis Lowell

### sleepy controller solution

Dear Editor,

How could we expect our air controllers to stay awake on duty? Do they not see our politicians asleep at the switch continuously?

Just put a republican and a democratic politician in the tower. Talk about

maintaining control!! The sky would be lit up all night and no one could sleep. You might have to close the airport, due to high winds, but I guarantee you, nothing would happen. Absolutely nothing!

Jack Friesner Alto

### bushnell painting answer

To The Editor,

I wanted to let someone know that the boy and girl drinking milk are Don Porter and Nicole Eggerding.

I think it is a shame that the painting ever left Bushnell.

If they did any remodeling, it should have

been put in a different location within the building. Please let us know what happens to the painting if at all possible.

Thank you, Amanda Bittrick (Formerly Eggerding and sister of Nicole)



By Shelly MacNaughton

They will extend and improve the house and put out orchards on the hills.

## 75 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo April 16, 1936

Recent additions to the town's fire-fighting facilities will be further augmented with the completion of the new reservoir now under construction. Village president Arehart and the common council will take steps with the hope of bringing about a downward revision of local fire insurance rates. All will join in hoping for success of the effort.

## 50 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger April 27, 1961

Pastor and Mrs. Erwin Tunistra of Alton Bible Church attended the National Convention of the Independent Fundamental churches of America, held at Cicero Bible Church near Chicago.

Gilbert Rolf, custodian at the Lowell Post Office for the past 21 years, will retire this Friday. Head custodian position will be taken over by Leonard Rittersdorf. John DeHaan will become the second man on the custodial staff.

Gilbert Rolf was born on a farm near Orleans in Ionia County and came to Lowell in 1923. Before taking over the position at the post office he had worked at several local and Grand Rapids' factories.

## 25 Years Ago The Grand Valley Ledger April 23, 1986

Lowell taxpayers may have to dig a little deeper into their pockets when taxes come due again. Lowell city manager Ray Quada forewarned the city council Monday that there may be a two or two and one half mill increase in this year's tax levy. The budget will be presented at a Tuesday, May 20, public hearing on the subject.

## 100 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger April 20, 1911

The Dr. Ellsworth hill, 40 acres, has been sold to A. Velzy, formerly of Grandville, more recently of Kentucky. Mr. Velzy and family will move here at once and engage in fruit culture and market gardening.

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## 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.

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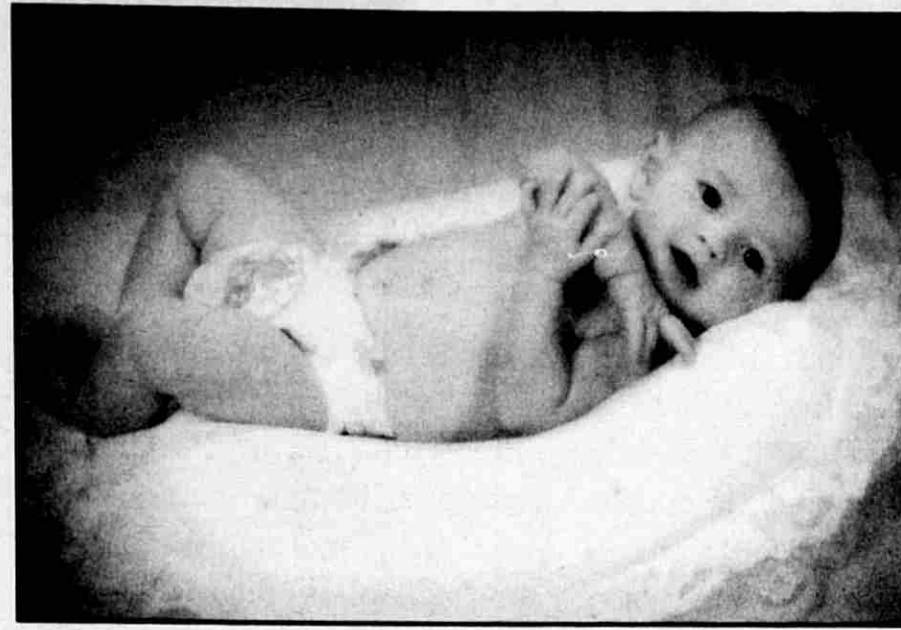
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# area births

## Mull



Wyatt Henry Mull

John and Stephanie Mull of Grand Rapids announce the birth of their first child born on November 26, 2010. Wyatt Henry Mull weighed 7 lbs. 14 oz. and measured 20 inches.

Grandparents are Allan and Patricia Mull of Lowell and Mark and Eileen Scholten of Sparta. Great-grandparents are Ellen Miller of Lowell and Leslie Mull of Grand Rapids.

# health



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

## Shin splints

Many people will begin running again as spring weather approaches. Some will experience "shin splints." This is a sharp pain along the inside of the lower leg. This initially will occur

only while running, but will begin progressively worsen and ache during rest.

Shin splints (or medial tibial stress syndrome) occur as a result of training errors or an anatomical

abnormality of the foot. Training errors include running too many miles per week or increasing mileage too quickly, hard surface running, or old shoes. Foot hyperpronation and fallen arches also contribute to shin splints.

Over time, a stress fracture may occur if one continues running with this pain. Plain x-rays of the area may not show a stress fracture, so sometimes a bone scan is ordered to confirm this type of injury.

Treatment for shin splints includes anti-inflammatory medications, rest, ice massages prior to and after exercise, new shoes, and formal physical therapy. If shin splints continue to occur, custom foot orthotics may be needed. These help to correct anatomical defects, such as hyperpronation or fallen arches. After the pain has substantially subsided, runners can increase their weekly mileage by 10 percent or less.

# happy birthday!

## APRIL 20

Jim Hodges, Rick Briggs, Bobbie White, Donna Peterson, Kendra Merriman, Angela Miller, Charles Marshall.

## APRIL 23

Nathan Roudabush, Jonathan Dixon, Karen Merriman, Nicole Cummings, Brandon Short.

## APRIL 21

Roxann Roth, Connie Phillips, Ian Newhouse, Daniel Titcombe.

## APRIL 24

Gary Goff, Trevor Foss, Nichole Hoag, Don Shaffer, Logan Propst.

## APRIL 22

Mallorie VanDerWarf, Tim Hill, Mackenzie Hacker, Sharon Potter.

## APRIL 26

Marsha Ray, Casey Brown, Bonnie Baird, Audrey Bailey, Jonathan Christiansen, Brad Brzezniak.

# Good Friday cross walk

A group of churches, including Lowell United Methodist Church, Evergreen Missionary Church, Vergennes United Methodist Church, Lowell Church of the Nazarene, Lowell Congregational Church and Impact Church will participate in a Good Friday cross walk at noon this Friday. Last year, this event included five churches from the Lowell community and around 150 people walked behind the cross through the streets of Lowell. "This year we are hoping for even more people to participate in this event," said Pastor Rick Blunt, one of the organizers. "It's a great way for all denominations to spend some time remembering Jesus' sacrifice and celebrating all of the ways that we are the same as a community of churches."

Those that find walking to be difficult will be able to ride from point to point on a bus. The walk will go down Main Street from the Methodist Church and conclude at Oakwood Cemetery. "We are really excited to be able to offer this worship opportunity to our city," offered Pastor Wes Hershberger.

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# area churches

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 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.

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**ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
 Kirby and Harrison  
 Alto • 616-691-8011  
 Worship.....9:30 A.M.  
 Children's Church.....9:30 A.M.

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 Pastor Dean Bailey

**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.  
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**CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)**  
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 Worship: 10 a.m.

**WEDNESDAYS:**  
 Family Night (for all ages): 7:00 p.m.  
 "The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m.  
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 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  
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**SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell  
 Pastor Dr. Mike Conklin  
 9:45 A.M.....Sunday School  
 10:30 A.M.....Fellowship  
 11:00 A.M.....Worship

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL.....9:30 a.m.**

Rev. Rick Blunt  
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 - Dennis Miller  
 comedian

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# Students make film at the art gallery in Lowell

by Emma Palova

Cameras, lights and action were all back in Lowell last week.

This time, the set was the gallery at the Lowell Area Arts Council. The short fiction film "Art Thou?" is produced by Bryce Thompson and directed by Ashton Spittka.

Comerstone University film students worked on the short fiction film as their final project. It was written by Ken Tanis and by Thompson.

"It was great to direct this," said Spittka. "We went to a different location outside the school. The gallery is beautiful."

The film also used a large cast including professional actors from the Screenwriters' Guild and it will incorporate a composed music score.

The main character, Jed, shows up to an art show in a button up shirt and walks around the gallery trying to look sophisti-

cated and blend in. He bites into a wax apple that is part of an art piece. Jed, by accident, destroys an art piece by Rose, whom he was trying to impress.

"He is wreaking havoc through the gallery," said Thompson. "There is a lot of situational humor."

The simple project required a lot of production design to make the surroundings look authentic, according to Thompson.

The crew moved some art around to give the gallery a more modern feel.

"I love the location," said Thompson.

The filming worked out well with the current artwork of the West Michigan regional show now on display at the gallery.

Lorain Smalligan, director of the Lowell Area Arts Council, said it was wonderful to provide a venue for the film in a contemporary art setting.

"I was very impressed with the class," she said.

And for Spittka, a sophomore majoring in media and film studies, directing is a passion. She wants to move to Los Angeles to pur-

sue filming projects with a certain mission. It will take two to three weeks to edit and complete the actual pro-

duction of the movie. The students may enter the three to seven minute movie into contests and film festivals.

The gallery will have the movie on their website at [lowellartscouncil.org](http://lowellartscouncil.org)



Cast and crew of 'Art Thou?' inside the Lowell Area Arts Council gallery during filming.

# Sidewalks, continued

In spite of a previous work session, the council appeared to be split on the proposed ordinance due to additional costs and fairness.

Resident Al Mathews opposed the ordinance.

"You're going to throw it on the property owner," he said. "It's ridiculous in the economy we are now in. People are struggling to make house and tax payments. Now is not the time, not the place."

Mathews pointed out that many councilmembers themselves live on streets without sidewalks.

"You want sidewalks from where to where," he questioned.

The sidewalk inspections would be conducted by the city inspection services (IMS) for extra time and cost.

"It looks like a lot of overhead on our part,"

said councilman Andrew Schrauben.

Councilwoman Maryalene LaPonsie was also in the opposition to the proposed ordinance to fix sidewalks. Much like the streets, the sidewalks have been in disrepair for years.

"I am not so hot on this," said councilwoman Maryalene LaPonsie. "Something needs to be done. I don't know if this is

a fair way of dealing with it, by setting up one more hoop. We are competing with the townships."

There was some discussion whether a fixed sidewalk is a selling point in a real estate transaction. The realtors' association has previously opposed the ordinance.

"This is one way to catch up with bad sidewalks and not saddle the new

owner," said mayor pro tem Sharon Ellison. "This is to keep the new buyer from fixing a sidewalk. A sidewalk is not a deal breaker."

The council agreed something needs to be done with the sidewalks starting out on a complaint basis.

"They're the same sidewalks they were years ago," said councilman Jeff Altoft. "We just need to do the enforcement. When there is a two-inch step in the sidewalk, it needs to be fixed."

# CITY OF LOWELL

## RESIDENTS ONLY YARD WASTE PICKUP SCHEDULE FOR SPRING AND SUMMER 2011

The City of Lowell's Spring and Summer yard waste program is as follows:

- YARD WASTE PICKUP SCHEDULE**
- April 7th and 21st
  - May 5th and 19th
  - June 3rd\*, 16th and 30th
  - July 14th and 28th
  - August 11th and 25th
  - September 9th\* and 22nd

Yard waste pickup is always on Thursday, unless there is a holiday that week, and then pickup day will be Friday. Yard waste bags are \$20.00 for a bundle of ten (10) and are available at City Hall, Springrove Variety and Meijer.

\*PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES ARE A FRIDAY PICKUP DUE TO A HOLIDAY DURING THE WEEK.

If you have any questions, please contact City Hall (897-8457).

Betty R. Morlock  
 City Clerk

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# Red Arrow SPORTS Springteams

## TV Baseball



First row, left to right: Kyle Shurlow, Austin Rix, Andrew Potter, Jason Malling, Gabe Gorman, Zach Dawson, and Jake Stephens; second row, left to right: Tim Antel, Ryan Schaefer, Jon Fox, Austin Lemke, Garrett Stehley, and Jeff Hollston.

## Varsity Baseball



First row, left to right: JP North, Luke Bigham, William Plummer, Sam Steed, Titan Anderson, and Jacob Merklinger; second row, left to right: Jake Boelens, Elliott Drain, Jordan Drake, Matt Houston, and Travis Gordon.

## TV Golf



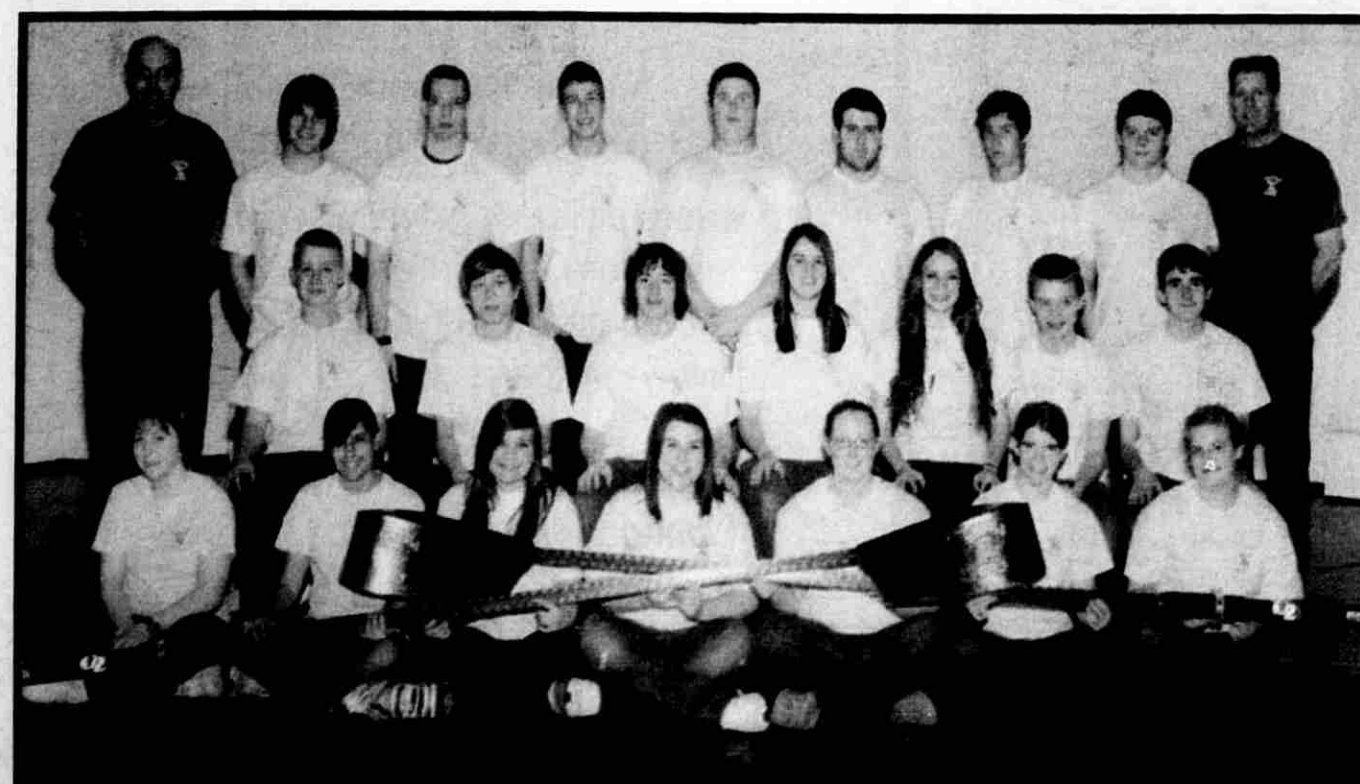
First row, left to right: Jacob North, Zach Crawford, Trentin Sheppard, Justin Scott, Andrew Metternick, Tyler Garter, Foster Nethercott, and Tyler Roth; second row, left to right: coach Kim Stevens, Brandon Tichelarr, Johnny Morris, Derek Bitterman, Matt Ligman, Jake Herb, Christian Huisman, and Max Ligman.

## Varsity Golf



First row, left to right: Joey Gauck, Alec Bobko, Ben Hart, and Isaac Brenner; second row, left to right: coach Gary Fredline, Grant Breuker, Tyler Bitterman, Aaron Anderson, Alec Roerig, and Evan Kohtz.

## Crew



First row, left to right: Paige Hale, Mia Carvajal, Shelby Young, Denise Fyan, Brevot Morris, Kelsey Ward, and Brie Blattner; second row, left to right: Jesse Kaskes, Hunter VandenHout, D.J. Mixan, Brittany Branagan, Sara Cadwallader, Kaeleb Brown, and Brennan Rauch; third row, left to right: coach Keith Gillhespy, Matt Proefke, Parker Buck, Josh Dykman, Austin Ellsworth, Carl Smith, Justin Rinks, Spencer Drudy, coach Peter Chittenden.

## TV Lacrosse



First row, left to right: Kile Mitchell, Doug Nordman, Micah Babcock, Dan Cowden, Zachary Jahnke, Hunter Moody, and Jon Niemann; second row, left to right: coach Chris Schwab, Cody Selli, Dan Dyer, Grant Noskey, Joshua Zalis, Josh Bartholomew, Steven Petrovic, Sawyer Buck, Evan Hedlund, and Kyle Selli; third row, left to right: coach Dressander, Zach Bauman, Alex Kaminski, Quinn Summerfield, Austin Kempker, Andrew Kiczenski, Jayce Stickney, Brock Creighton, Josiah Buys, and Seth Monroe.

# Red Arrow SPORTS Springteams

## Boys' Lacrosse



First row, left to right: Jordan Nurmikko, Derek Bitterman, Eli Scoby, Nicholas Getz, Joe Potter, Jim Collins, Jonathon Nichols, Conor McCarrey, and Garrett DeBoer; second row, left to right: coach Matt Hauschild, coach Eric Bredin, Forrest McRee, Zach Graham, Jordan Cambert, Reece Posthumus, Troy Peterson, Taylor Martin, Chad Martin, Justin Ball, and coach Mike DeVries; third row, left to right: Hunter Zuk, Tyler Bitterman, Greg Blanton, Jacob Litchfield, Austin Buckius, Braydon Foley, Brandon Blough, Matt Charrouf, Tim Creighton, and Kyle Bassin.

## Girls' Lacrosse



First row, left to right: Elizabeth Downing, Samantha Moody, Marissa Hills, Marta Fernández, Hannah Burt, Allison Young, Summer Moore, and Dayna Crumback; second row, left to right: coach Jonathan Getz, Nicole Cummings, Krystal Troyer, Andrea Herrera, Monica Bussell, Hanna Liu, Makenzie Frederickson, Delaney McCarrey, and assistant coach Steve Ries; third row, left to right: Autumn Munroe, Hannah Vanderhorst, Hannah Johnson, Ashleigh Buckius, Perry Bencker, Molly Clarke, Jenna Ries, Kensie Barnes, Ashley White, and Rachel Wittenbach.

## TV Soccer



First row, left to right: Rachel Sova, Allysen Dubisky, Morgan Fuller, Alyssa McCormick, Megan Perkins, and Maddie Stadt; second row, left to right: Blythe Carvajal, Erin Wade, Chris Kargl, Danielle Ordway, Abi Ellis, Sophie Kohtz, and Delainey Ferguson; third row, left to right: Paige McKenna, Karah Smith, Lauren Blanchard, Abby Petroelje, Bailey Loughin, Gabby Gibbs, and coach Mike Lincolnol.

## Varsity Soccer



First row, left to right: Erica Walendzik, Alyssa Kargl, Melissa Southwell, Taylor Vanderhorst, Skylar Bowne, and Megan Montgomery; second row, left to right: Sarah Kramer, Dan Ebbutt, Caitlin Fitzpatrick, Courtney Schmidt, Stuart Collins, and Brittany Martin; third row, left to right: Claire Hopkins, Brooke Curtis, Michelle Foote, Jordan Timmer, Stephanie Stevens, Taryn Endres, Hannah Fitzpatrick, and MacKenzie VanDerWarf.

## TV Tennis



First row, left to right: Marie Dollar, Taryn Morris, Leigha Boogaard, Sarah Bocskey, Halley Stasiak, Casie Burr, and Kendall Solon; second row, left to right: Samantha Sage, Madelynn Willestein, Brianna Steiner, Pauline Harrington, Alexis Deleon, Aubrey Ardis, and Lexi Myers; third row, left to right: Martine Tauland, Famke Van Der Molen; Alexandra Fotis, Hannah Tawney, Hannah McLane, Mallory Kramer, McKenzie Slupe, and coach Sue Beute.

## Varsity Tennis



First row, left to right: Ellie Fitzpatrick, Zoe Beloncis, Kelly Trapp, Abby Rogalke, Breana McKendrick, Morgan Rogalke; second row, left to right: coach Bonnie Wall, Molly Willestein, Kiram Riley, Jessica Lewis, Kelsey Whittenbach, Raechel Stougaard, Kelsey Mankel, Brynlee Pomper, and coach Roger Wall.

SpringTeams continued, page 16



# 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.

This Week - Jon Bassin  
Lowell Varsity Lacrosse

**Do lacrosse players have superstitions or rituals?**  
I pray before every game and follow up with the defense and middies by painting our faces with eye black for the intimidation factor.

**What other school activities are you involved in?**  
Lacrosse all yearround. I train in some way all yearround.

**What's in your iPod right now?**  
Ahhh, lots of stuff: Kings of Leon, RK Fire, Animal Collective and City in Color, to name a few.

**Favorite athlete or role model?**  
Goalie Tillman Johnson (professional goalie). I watched a lot of college games of his and that really got me going and made me want to play goalie. I loved watching him; I am a huge fan. Also, my mom and dad have always been very supportive and never missed a game.

**Anything else you'd like people to know?**  
It would be great to see more people come and check out a game. It's so much fun and once you see one game, I think you'll want to see more.

**Family? Mom, dad, brothers, sisters, pets?**  
Mom, Kim Bassin; dad, Randy Bassin; sister, Kelsey; and brother, Kyle. I have two dogs: Sophie and Buckley.

### When did you start playing lacrosse and why?

Started playing as a freshman. I was just sick of being bored in the spring, so I thought I'd try out for lacrosse. It had just started to get popular at that time in Lowell.

### What kind of player are you on the field?

I'd say I'm pretty intense. Lacrosse means a lot to me. I need to use my leadership, being the goalie, so I try to stay very focused at games and practice at all times.

### What are your expectations and goals this season?

For our team to bond as a brotherhood. It's one of the big things that we started to lack last year. We work hard on the essentials and play hard to improve on everything we've accomplished so far.

### Who will be your strongest challenge this year and why?

Northview, who we just lost to this year. I'd say they are our biggest rival. We lost the conference to them last year by only one point. They play a tough game and get under our skin so we want to be able to beat them. We need to focus on our game. Rockford will be very challenging as well.

### What are your favorite things about playing lacrosse?

I love the adrenaline rush. As a goalie, being the last line of defense is such a rush. I enjoy the togetherness of everyone. It takes skill and mental creativity. It is a complex game with so many facets to it.

## - LACROSSE

# Girls varsity lacrosse looks toward a good season

By Shane Beach.

When the girls' head coach Jon Getz started coaching lacrosse four years ago in Lowell, as an unpaid assistant, he never imagined the lacrosse team would blossom as quickly as it has for the girls' program. 2011 marks the first season girls' lacrosse is a varsity sport.

Coach Getz could not be happier. He's happy for the team he sees working so hard day in and day out. The girls are led by many veteran players that have been with the program from the beginning.

Coming off a .500 season in 2010, coach Getz has implemented a new defense that has girls on the opposing team's heads spinning, so far, in 2011.

The girls cranked-up style of defense, along with a high-powered offense, has already yielded many victories and caught the eye of college scouts.

Come out to see all the action as the ladies' Red Arrow lacrosse team competes for a league title. The girls' next game is April 20 on Burch Field against Grand Rapids Catholic Central at 7 pm.

The Lowell Area Select Soccer Organization (LASSO) U12 girls went 4-0 this past weekend to win the Crew Spring Classic soccer tournament. They did it in impressive fashion with all the games being shut-outs. The first game LASSO played PASS U12 team. LASSO defeated them 3-0, with goals from Darby Fuller, Christy Lyon and Amber Curtis.



Their second game they played the CASSA Tri-Hawks. LASSO defeated them 2-0 with goals from Remington Phillips and Maura Fitzpatrick. Game three was against the Grand Rapids Crew U12 Silver team. LASSO handed them a 4-0 defeat with goals from Fitzpatrick, Fuller, Lucy Wade and Curtis.

# Depth is key to boys' lacrosse success

By Shane Beach.

One goal separated the Red Arrow boys' lacrosse team from a conference title last year.

Coach Eric Bredin reminds his team heading into the season, "Our number one goal heading into 2011 is to join our proud sports programs here in Lowell and add our name to the currently blank banner in the high school gym."

The boys' lacrosse team wants to be the first boys' lacrosse team in Lowell history to own a title.

"We are building a strong foundation here that everyone should be proud of," said Bredin. "We are not building just one team, we are building the future of Lowell lacrosse through motivation, dedication, morale and integrity."

When it comes to winning, Bredin has been building just that throughout his eight years as coach. His team returns most of its squad intact that came ever so close in 2010.

The 2011 varsity team has many talented juniors and seniors leading the team this season and play well together. The coach expects great goaltending, defense and a formidable offense that doesn't rely on just one or two players to carry the load this season. In seasons past, opponents may have shut down the team when they were able to corral one or two Red Arrow players - but not this year. "Depth will be key along with our midfielders," states Bredin.

Saturday, April 23 marks the annual Quick Stix Invitational Lacrosse Tournament hosted by Lowell High School. It features the entire lacrosse program.

**NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP Accuracy Test of Voting Equipment**

A public accuracy test of the voting equipment to be used in the May 3, 2011 Election to elect school board candidates will be held on Monday, April 25th, at 2:00 p.m. at the Vergennes Township offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell, MI 49331.

Mari C. Stone  
Vergennes Township Clerk

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# Red Arrow SPORTS

## - BASEBALL

# Red Arrows begin season with an eye for OK White title

By Shane Beach.

Hours of off-season learning, training, lifting, throwing, hitting, fielding, coming in early for workouts and staying late for

more, is coming to an end as coach Justin Miller's team gets ready for another season on the diamond.

solid nucleus of upper classmen, including seniors outfielder/pitcher Will Plummer, infielder Elliott Drain (who was lost to a broken

wrist halfway through the season after putting up big stats for the Red Arrows in 2010) and All-district infielder Sam Steed. Returning All-conference Junior, first baseman Jordan Drake and late season call of J.P. North who helped at catcher and infield.

on fundamentals, back ups, etc.," explains coach Miller.

The Red Arrow ballplayers finished the 2010 season losing a heartbreaker at home in the districts, vs. Forest Hills, after chasing number one pitcher and University of Michigan bound Alex Lakatos from the mound. Coach Miller hopes to build on that season ending game that left a disappointing taste in many of his ballplayers off-season. Miller adds, "That game should teach all of them that teams are never out of any game at any point. We played well and showed we can compete with top level teams; we just needed to finish, focusing on one inning at a time."

It will be the usual OK White suspects, in 2011, challenging for a title along with our Red Arrows. East Grand Rapids (conference champs), Grand Rapids Christian and an improving Greenville program will all be tough competitors. "Our conference is tough top to bottom and no team is just going to slip through. Our goal is to win every two out of three series, but we'll need to be able to get the young kids some experience and be able to move things around, stay focused and make sure we minimize mistakes."

# LASSO U12 girls win spring soccer tournament



The LASSO team, pictured, back row, left to right: coach Doug Lyon and coach Jeff Fuller; middle row: Sara Majestic, Tori Hewitt, Callie Ford-Weber, Christy Lyon, Lucy Wade, Amber Curtis, Kyla Dixon, Abby Mangus and Maura Fitzpatrick; front row: Kayleigh Striplin, Remington Phillips, Darby Fuller and Olivia Nurmikko.

The Lowell Area Select Soccer Organization (LASSO) U12 girls went 4-0 this past weekend to win the Crew Spring Classic soccer tournament. They did it in impressive fashion with all the games being shut-outs. The first game LASSO played PASS U12 team. LASSO defeated them 3-0, with goals from Darby Fuller, Christy Lyon and Amber Curtis.

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The championship game was played against a very tough TKO Academy '99 team. The winning shot came halfway through the second half from Lyon. LASSO defeated TKO 1-0. Goalkeeper Tori Hewitt did not let one ball hit the back of the LASSO net with lots of help from defensive players: Sara Majestic, Kyla Dixon and Callie Ford-Weber; and midfield support from Olivia Nurmikko, Abby Mangus and Kayleigh Striplin.

**DRAFT SYNOPSIS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2011**

Motion to excuse the absence of Mayor Hodges.

Motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2011 meeting as corrected.

Motion to approve the accounts payables as presented.

Motion to recommend approval of the application for temporary authorization to the Liquor Control Commission from West Michigan Environmental Action Council for their Grand River Water Festival on Saturday, June 25, 2011.

Motion to approve the Outdoor Furnace Ordinance as presented.

Motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. The next regular scheduled meeting will be Monday, May 2, 2011.

Complete minutes will be available after approved on May 2, 2011 on the City's web page at [www.ci.lowell.mi.us](http://www.ci.lowell.mi.us) or at City Hall.

Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk

**CITY OF LOWELL KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION AND SUMMARY OF AN ORDINANCE TO ADD A DEFINITION OF "OUTDOOR FURNACE" TO SECTION 2.16, "DEFINITIONS - O," OF CHAPTER 2, "DEFINITIONS" AND TO ADD SECTION 4.25, "OUTDOOR FURNACES," TO CHAPTER 4, "GENERAL PROVISIONS," OF "APPENDIX A - ZONING ORDINANCE" OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LOWELL**

The Lowell City Council adopted Ordinance No. 11-05 adding the definition of outdoor furnace to Section 2.16, "Definitions O," of Chapter 2, "Definitions," and adding Section 4.25, "Outdoor Furnaces," to Chapter 4, "General Provisions" of "Appendix A - Zoning Ordinance" of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowell on April 18, 2011. Ordinance No. 11-05 regulates the location and operation of outdoor furnaces within the City of Lowell. A complete copy of Ordinance No. 11-05 is available for review at City Hall, 301 E. Main Street, Lowell, Michigan, during regular business hours.

Ordinance No. 11-05 is effective 10 days after this publication.

Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk

**LUNCH MENU**

**ELEMENTARY MENU**  
Week of  
April 25, 2011

**MON:** Hot dog on wheat bun (burrito w/salsa also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), potato wedges, mixed fruit, milk.

**TUES:** Three meat sub (lasagna roll up w/marinara sauce also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), tossed salad w/romaine, fruit goop w/vanilla pudding, milk.

**WED:** Stacked ham & cheese bagel (beef teriyaki dippers w/wheat roll also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), broccoli florets w/ranch, warm baked apple slices, milk.

**THURS:** Chicken nugget mashed potato bowl & wheat roll (tuna salad sandwich also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), mashed potatoes/gravy, fresh grapes, milk.

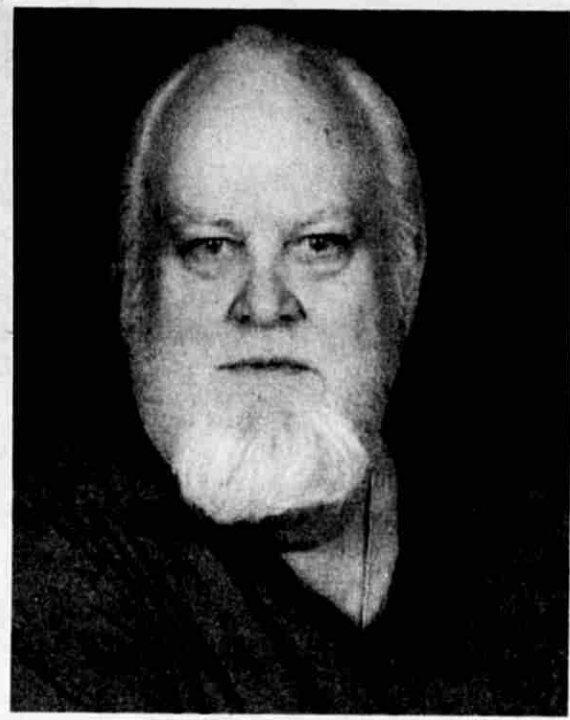
**FRI:** Homemade cheese pizza (fish sandwich w/cheese on bun also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), celery sticks & mini carrots, low fat ranch dipping sauce, cinnamon applesauce, milk.



obituaries

FAHRNI

James Ernest Fahrni, age 70, of Lowell, passed away April 15, 2011. He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Esther Fahrni and infant sister Susan Fahrni. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Ruth; children, Mark (Tracy) Marentette, Michelle (Tom) Oesch, Brian Marentette and Rob (Amanita) Fahrni; grandchildren, Justin Raymond and Jamie Sue Marentette, Tom (Annie), Matthew (Shelli) and Andy (Listyn) Oesch, Ruthanne (Luke) Grummett, Keana Rae Fahrni; and very good long-time friends, Tom (Connie) Vaughan. Jim was an avid hunter, fisherman, and motorcycle rider. He enjoyed visiting friends, spending time with family and loved his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Funeral service will be held Thursday, 11:00 am, at Apostolic Christian Fellowship Center, 7700 Wingeier, Alto. Pastor Nathan Gray along with Matthew Oesch officiating. Interment Cascade Cemetery. Visitations will be Wednesday 2-4 and 6-8 pm at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. Memorial contributions may be made to American Lung Association, 25900 Greenfield Road, Ste. 610, Oak Park, MI 48237 or American Diabetes Association, PO Box 888877, Grand Rapids, MI 49588-8877.



KINSLEY

Marilyn G. (Robinson) Kinsley, age 82, of Lowell, peacefully went into the arms of her Lord and Savior Sunday, April 10, 2011. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Sandra E. (Kinsley) Gauw in 2005. She is survived by her husband of 63 years, George D. Kinsley; daughter, Terry Kinsley; sons, William (Kristy) Kinsley, Rick (Sue) Kinsley and George (Kathy) Kinsley of Lowell; brother, Eugene Robinson; sister, Irene Swift; grandchildren, Jaimie (Bob) Morgan, Jim (Jennifer) Gauw, Bob Kinsley, Heather (Neil) French, Josh Kinsley, Nick Kinsley, Sabra Kinsley, LCPL Michael Kinsley, Kerri Kinsley, Kelsea Fillingham, Jake Fillingham, Heidi Kamen, Heather Whaley, Lindsay Bencker; great-grandchildren, Autumn French, Casey French, Bryce Morgan, Mya Loyd, Jonathan Loyd, Cameron VanEnk, Jacob VanEnk, Morgan VanEnk, Kayla Gauw, MaKarah Howard, Dominic Dempsey, Autumn Dempsey, Jordan Dempsey, Kaylin Kamen, Elijah Kamen; honorary number one son, David (Cindy) Clark; and many nieces and nephews. Marilyn was a great stay-at-home mom, grandma, sister, aunt, and cousin. She will be greatly missed by all. Celebration of life will be held Saturday, April 23, 2011, at the Lowell Township Hall from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.



Connecting to older Americans

Older Americans Month is an occasion to show appreciation and support for our seniors as they continue to enrich and strengthen our communities. This May, the theme - Older Americans: Connecting the Community - pays homage to the many ways in which older adults bring inspiration and continuity to the fabric of our communities and highlights how technology is helping older Americans live longer, healthier, and more engaged lives. Social Security uses technology to make dealing with Social Security easier for seniors. A variety of services are available at www.socialsecurity.gov. Nearly every senior will receive a benefit payment from Social Security at one time or another which makes for a very special relationship between American seniors and Social Security. In fact, nine out of ten Americans aged 65 or older receive Social Security benefits.

Here are some more statistics to consider. Among older Social Security beneficiaries, 52 percent of married couples and 72 percent of unmarried persons receive half or more of their income from Social Security. Life expectancy continues to rise, and by 2035, it's estimated that there will be twice as many older Americans as there are today. Older Americans, as well as people who don't expect to retire anytime soon, who use Social Security's website give it consistently high customer satisfaction ratings. Right now you can get an estimate of your future retirement benefits, plan your retirement, even apply for retirement benefits right online at www.socialsecurity.gov. Vonda VanTil is the public affairs specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 50 College SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or via email at vonda.vantil@ssa.gov

Public Affairs Specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 50 College SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or via email at vonda.vantil@ssa.gov

THE SIMKINS LAW FIRM 616.350.0909 Aggressive Representation in all Criminal and Family Law Cases Drunk Driving • License Restoration • Drug Crimes • Divorce • Child Custody • Parental Rights steven.simkins@gmail.com • www.simkinslaw.net

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE Lowell City Hall Offices, Police Offices, Light and Power Offices and the Department of Public Works will be closed on Friday, April 22, 2011 in observance of Good Friday. Betty R. Morlock City Clerk

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP NOTICE FOR TESTING OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT FOR THE MAY SCHOOL ELECTION NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Accuracy Test for the May 3, 2011 School Election will be conducted Monday, April 25, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash S.E., Lowell, MI 49331. Linda S. Regan, Clerk Lowell Charter Township

BOWNE TOWNSHIP NOTICE M-100 TABULATOR TESTING The public accuracy test of the M-100 Tabulator will be held on Wednesday, April 27, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in preparation for the School Election to be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2011 in the Historic Bowne Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash SE., Alto, Michigan 49302. Sandra L. Kowalczyk Bowne Township Clerk

CITY OF LOWELL NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST OF THE OPTICAL SCAN TABULATING EQUIPMENT FOR THE MAY 3, 2011 LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS AND GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE ELECTION Notice is hereby given that the public accuracy test of the Optical Scan Tabulating Equipment for the Tuesday, May 3, 2011 Lowell Area Schools and Grand Rapids Community College Election will be conducted on Tuesday, April 26, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at Lowell City Hall, Second Floor Conference Room, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan. Betty R. Morlock City Clerk

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing before the Vergennes Township Planning Commission will be held on Monday, May 9, 2011 at 7:00 PM, at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI to consider amendments to the Zoning Ordinance as summarized below: Amendments are proposed in Chapter 3, the Flat River District, Section 201.307 (B), (b) and (c) to add wording "and a building permit" for river access stairs and boardwalks, which is required by building code. In the Industrial District, Section 201.309 (E) (1) change part of sentence "202.005 (e) to (d)" to correct a reference letter error. In the Private Road Ordinance, Section 202.004 (f), remove the word "residential" in the last sentence and in section 201.005 (d), change reference letter of "subsection (d) to (c)" in middle of paragraph for reference letter correction. The complete ordinance amendments can be reviewed at the Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 - Phone: (616) 897-5671 [fax 897-5674] or on the website at www.vergennestwp.org. Written and oral comments will be received from any interested party until the conclusion of the public hearing. Written comments may be addressed to the Planning Commission Chairman or the Planning Coordinator at the Township Offices. Comments may be emailed to the Planning Commission at: zoning@vergennestwp.org Vergennes Township Planning Commission

classifieds

office hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. Fri. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. closed Sat. & Sun.

for sale

MATTRESS SETS - Buy direct from local warehouse. Prices less than Sam's, Art, Dr, Carson City. Queen pillowtop \$249 brand new. All sizes. R.C.D. Direct, 1803 Plainfield NE. 616-682-4767. Can deliver.

PRICE REDUCED - low down, 2 bedroom single wide mobile on very nice wooded lot. Newer well & septic system. \$58,800. Call Ron at 616-291-1413.

FREE AD! - Place & pay for a classified ad in the Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger for 3 weeks & receive the 4th week FREE! You must mention the special in order to receive this offer. Must be paid for when ad is placed. Call 897-9555, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell. Ph. 897-9261.

LOGBED SET - Cedar (complete), \$125. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. Delivery available.

POTTED TREES - Maple, Spruce & Pine, \$10 & up. 616-761-7588.

BOB'S 14TH ANNUAL BIRDHOUSE SALE - nice selection of bluebird, wren & bat houses; also feeders. All cedar, solid construction, best prices around. Bob's Birdhouses, 12279 60th St., Alto. 868-6633.

200 APPLIANCES - Washers, dryers, refrigerators & stoves. Guaranteed. From \$69. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main, Carson City, 989-584-1600. Delivery available.

BED & MATTRESS SET - queen, Sealy \$95 includes frame. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main, Carson City, 989-584-1600. Delivery available.

INTERNATIONAL 720 CHOPPER - w/2 row corn head, 6' hay head & elec. controls, \$2,250. Also Cobey 52F chopper wagon on 6 ton gear, \$1,200. Both OBO & always stored. No Sunday calls please, 897-8067.

QUEEN PILLOWTOP MATTRESS SET - (new), \$250/set. Thick & plush. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600.

4-YEAR-OLD - Neutered male, 1/2 Siberian Husky, 1/2 Malamute. Great dog for adults, would do best in a single dog home - free to a good home; 3-year-old reg. female Siberian Husky. Fantastic w/kids & other pets, \$150. 897-8890.

MATTRESS - All new sets. Twin \$125, full \$149, queen \$159, king \$199 up. Pillowtop set \$175 up. Bunkbeds, 58 choices, \$199 up. Can deliver. 616-682-4767.

TWIN BED - Mattress, box spring & frame, (Sealy), \$85 complete. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600.

for sale

MEMORY FOAM OR LATEX MATTRESS - Relieves back "PAIN!" Best prices in Michigan. Queen starting at \$499. King \$699. R.C.D. Direct. 616-682-4767. Can deliver.

2 OUTDOOR GRILLS - 1 gas w/side burner, 1 George Foreman electric, \$25 each; 24" bar stool, \$20. Call 897-7883.

1999 OLDSMOBILE SILHOUETTE VAN - good condition, 140,000 miles, asking \$4,000. Call 269-948-0502.

for rent

DUPLEX FOR RENT - clean, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, upper unit, includes washer/dryer, No smoking, no pets. \$565 plus deposit & utilities. 126 N. Center. 897-8504 or 540-7788.

OUTDOOR PARTY CANOPY TENT - for rent. Table and chair package available, set up included. Call 446-2048.

APARTMENT FOR RENT - in Lowell. 2 bedroom, utilities included. \$700/mo. \$400/deposit. Available immediately. No pets. Call 897-7176 or 299-3198.

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.vfw8303.org. Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.

PRICELESS STORAGE - Indoor/outdoor. New Units on Alden Nash, 1 mile South of I96. Call for specials 558-2900.

LOWELL MOBILE HOME PARK - Under new management. Nice 1, 2 & 3 bedroom trailers for rent. Rent from \$350 - \$550. For info call George at 616-754-0276 or 616-813-8041.

free

PLEASE NOTE: Ads placed in this category must be prepaid.

FREE FIREWOOD - 30 ft pine, 4-6 inch, still standing. West of Alto 3 miles. 460-2773

card of thanks

The Guard would like to thank everyone for all of the support that they received during the 2011 season, especially all of the advertisers who bought ads in the program for their home competition at the Lowell High School last month. Doug Shassberger

help wanted

LOOKING FOR - Grand Rapids Press carriers. Need reliable transportation. In Ada & Lowell area. Please call John Herdegen, 222-5426.

LOCAL BUSINESS LOOKING TO EXPAND - its sales force due to demand. Will train, no sales experience needed. If you are a motivated people person, please contact Desirae at 987-8110.

RN LPN's - experienced only, nights 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., PRN all shifts; CENA'S, second shift, PRN all shifts. The Laurels of Kent at 350 N. Center St., in Lowell has current openings in our subacute & skilled nursing center. Our building is newly renovated & air conditioned. We offer great benefits with high wages based upon your experience. Visit us for a tour or call Terrie Kerschen, RN, DON for more information. 897-8473.

PHOENIX PERSONNEL IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS - for packaging, assembly & warehouse. Apply at 615 Chatham, Lowell, or online www.phoenixpersonnel.com or call 897-7881 for information.

NOW HIRING - and training for career positions with West Michigan's leading real estate company. Call Rick Seese, Greenridge Realty, Inc. for a confidential interview. 616-437-2576 or 616-974-4250.

sales

GARAGE SALE - 1111 Alden Nash SE (1 mi. north of Meijer). Friday, April 22 & Saturday, April 23, 9-5.

HUGE MOVING OUT OF STATE SALE - Everything must go! Appliances, furniture, treadmill, garage shelving, toys galore, baby items & much more! Thurs. & Fri., April 21 & 22, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 11228 Cascade Rd.

BIG GARAGE SALE - April 22 & 23, 9-5. 538 Flat River Dr., S. of Vergennes. Household, electronics, jewelry, girls comforter sets, air purifier, bike, teen girl and ladies clothes, Favorite Truffles and other Goodies. See craigslist.

COMMUNITY GARDEN EXCHANGE - Sat., April 30, 9 to 11 a.m. Alto Baptist Church, 6015 Bancroft Ave. Door prizes, refreshments, garden help. Bring your extra plants, take home new plants. No charge.

UPS SHIPPING COPY SERVICE,

(black & white & color!) FAX SERVICE, LAMINATING, & MUCH MORE AVAILABLE AT THE LOWELL LEDGER BUYERS GUIDE 105 N. Broadway Ph. 897-9261

services

TAXES, PAYROLL, QUICKBOOKS, & ACCOUNTING SERVICE - by certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-6351.

NEED A DUMPSTER? - Dudley's Dumpsters. Dumpsters priced to get rid of your trash & save you cash! Garage, attic, household clean-up, roofing, trash, junk etc. 14 to 20 yards available. Call for free estimates. Contact Doug 616-295-6640.

WATSON'S HANDYMAN SERVICE - Decks, Doors, Drywall Repair, Misc. Repairs. Small jobs welcome. As always 10% senior citizen discount. Call Steve 897-6906.

DANI'S CLEANING SERVICE - Spring cleaning discounts. Detail cleaning, organizing, gardening & offices. 12 years' experience. 616-322-3634.

NEW BUSINESS - Lowell Floral "Your town florist" 1004 W. Main St., 897-1300.

services

TUTORING/ACADEMIC MENTORING SERVICES - ready to meet your student's needs at The Hammock LLC (Lowell). Call 616-893-5661 to schedule. www.hammocklearning.com

SEPTIC SYSTEMS - excavation & dozer work, trucking - sand, black dirt, road gravel, crushed concrete & asphalt millings. Call Jim Lillie, 691-7540. Lillie Digging & Dozing, LLC.

ACHIEVE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE - with a Classic Outdoor Wood Furnace from Central Boiler. 25 year warranty. Sale. Call SOS your "Stocking Dealer" Dutton, MI. 616-554-8669 or 616-915-5061.

AUTO DETAILING SERVICE - Serving Lowell for over 3 years. Call for appointment, 706-4421, ask for Eric. Professional Car Appearance, LLC.

DAY CARE - I have 2 full-time openings for summer. 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. ages 4-11. Reasonable rates. Please call, 897-8166.

services

AQUA ZUMBA - 6 week session, Sat., April 23 & 30, May 7, 21 & 28, June 4 from 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Oak Hill Place, 2991 Alden Nash SE, Lowell, MI 49331. \$30 for full session or \$7 to drop in. Call Nikki Snyder, 616-520-5036, zumbanikki@gmail.com

COMPUTER REHAB - \$65 all repairs - Virus & Spyware removal. No diagnostic fees! Mon. - Sat., 505-B West Main, Lowell. 987-1155, www.computerRehab.com

HANDY REPAIR SERVICE - All kinds of service work: locks rekeyed, deadbolts installed, screen & window repair. Call Bob Ford, 299-3198.

SHIP UPS AT THE LEDGER OFFICE - We cannot accept hazardous materials or firearms. Call for a price quote! We will need weight, zip code & dimensions for a price quote over the phone. 105 N. Broadway, 897-9261. Please note we can no longer accept prepaid packages unless they have ARS or RS on the label.

Community Calendar PLEASE NOTE - Coming Events are for non-profit organizations. If you are charging admission for an event - it is considered an advertisement. Coming events are run on a space available basis & ARE NOT GUARANTEED TO RUN. If you would like to make sure your event is placed in the paper, please call our office & place it as a classified ad. We will not run ANY Garage or Rummage Sales as a coming event. All Coming Events or changes to coming events should be submitted by fax: 897-4809, email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com, by mail: PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or in person: 105 N. Broadway, Lowell. GRIEF - KIDS GROUP - Second & fourth Tuesdays, 5:30 - 7 p.m. A committed group for children in first - fourth grade on a grief journey. Incorporates curriculum-based activities, discussion & fun. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell. KNITTING 101 - April 21 & 28, 10 a.m. - noon at Saranac Public Library. Beginning class but all levels of knitters welcome to attend. 611 N. Bridge, Saranac, 642-9146. GRIEF - NEW MEMBER MEETING - Call the clubhouse to schedule your introductory meeting for grief support groups. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600. FLAT RIVER WOOD CARVERS - meets every Tuesday, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. FREE ADDITIONS PROGRAM - every Friday, 7 p.m. at Bible Believers Church, 404 N. Hudson St., Lowell. For more information call 616-485-2385. MOTHERS WHO HAVE OR HAVE HAD - sons/daughters serving in the military. We are meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. For more info call Sally 616-761-2042. KINGDOM KIDS - CADETS & GEMS - meets every other Wednesday, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Calvary CRC, Lowell. Programs for preschool - 8th Grade. GEMS for girls meets in the Church building. Cadets & Kingdom Kids meet in the ministry center. Call 897-7060 for info. SPRING INTO THE PAST - April 30 & May 1. Tours of 20 area small museums. For further info call 616-527-3369. LOWELL AREA PRAYER & HEALING ROOMS - located in the FROM Building, 11535 Fulton Street, most Monday evenings, 6-8 p.m. Christian Scripture based. No cost or fees, no appointment necessary, confidentiality respected. TOTS PLAYGROUP - Meets every Tues., Wed. & Thurs. at Bushnell Elementary, 700 Elizabeth, Lowell. 8:30 a.m. or 10 a.m. Meeting at Alto Elementary, 6150 Bancroft, Alto on Thursdays at 10 a.m. For more info contact Lori at TOTS, 987-2532. KENT COUNTY NARFE GROUP - for retired & current federal employees meet the 2nd Thursday at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 E. Fulton, 1/2 mile west of E. Belline. Potluck at 12:30 p.m. & meeting begins at 1:30 p.m. Call Ed Moore for time, 616-784-6716. FAMILY STORYTIME - Thursdays, now - May 5, 10:30 a.m. Share books, stories, rhymes, music & movement as a family. Develop early literacy skills & encourage a love of reading. For children ages 6 & under with a caregiver. Alto Branch Library, 6071 Linfield Ave. 616-784-2007. QUA-KE-ZIK SPORTSMANS CLUB - 8731 Riverside Dr., Saranac. Open to the public on Sundays thru Oct. 30. Except Holiday weekends. For more info call 642-9800. www.Qua-Ke-Zik.org. EASTER EVENT - April 23, 10:30 a.m. Bookmark hunt for all ages & Easter goody bags for all participants. Saranac Public Library, 61 N. Bridge, Saranac, 642-9146. ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES - Sign up at the Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St., Sat., April 16, 10 a.m. - noon. You may also order online using your debit or credit card. Go to www.angelfoodministries.



# Clay birds will fill cage at Wittenbach/Wege Center

by Emma Palova

Everybody loves birds, live or sculptured, free or caged, predatory or tamed.

Two local organizations offer an opportunity to capture a bird forever and to have it on display in an Art-Prize birdcage in front of the Wittenbach/Wege Center (WWC). The birds will be installed in the cage in May.

"Today was a day dedicated to the earth," said center director Meggan Johnson. "We created beautiful art and helped protect our forest."

Grand Rapids artist Brenda Sipe donated the cage art piece called "Birds of a Feather" to the center.

"I wanted it to be in a place where it is truly appreciated," she said.

The cage is made from willows with a free standing tree inside and it weighs

600 pounds. It was decorated with 170 birds, made by children from the Grand Rapids area, for the Art-Prize.

"It was quite a challenge getting it here," she said.

And the center wanted to express appreciation of the gift by localizing it, according to Johnson. So, a clay bird making workshop, in conjunction with the Lowell Area Arts Council,

was held last Saturday during the Earth Day celebrations at the center.

Each participant received a wooden dowel with a whole drilled through it. A wire goes through the hole for the bird to be later hooked to the cage. Aluminum foil is wrapped around the piece to make the bird body. Then, using a cranked pasta making machine, Sculpey clay is rolled out into a thin sheet.

One of the advantages of the sculpting clay is that it is very colorful, according to Lowell Area Arts Council director Lorain Smalligan. The pieces are baked in a regular oven, not in a kiln. The group used bird books to design the bodies of the birds.

Each participant made two birds, one for the cage and one for themselves. The clay birds ranged from small songbirds to Avatar-like colorful birds.

"The center is a perfect fit for the piece, in proximity to my home, but especially the mission of the organization is compatible with the art. I am happy to have found an organization that appreciates the piece and will let the piece continue teaching students as it was designed to," said Sipe.

Sipe explained that the project represents inclusiveness on several levels: physical, mental, racial and social.

The birds were created by children, from differing backgrounds, based on their interpretations of Maya Angelou's "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings."

And parents and children will soon have another opportunity to create their very own art and embellish the willow cage as well.

The Lowell Area Arts Council will be offering a clay bird making workshop on April 30 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. through a partnership with WWC.

For \$5, the participants will make two birds, one for the willow cage and one for themselves.



Willow cage by Grand Rapids artist Brenda Sipe.



Kate Nelson displays the bird she will add to the cage.



Participants made colorful clay birds for a willow cage at the Wittenbach Wege Center during the Earth Day celebrations.

## NOTICE OF REVIEW OF APPORTIONMENT

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that on Tuesday, the 3rd day of May, 2011, at the Kent County Drain Commissioner's Office, 1500 Scribner Ave., N.W., Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49504, County of Kent, or such place and time, I, William R. Byl, Kent County Drain Commissioner, may adjourn, the apportionment for benefits and the lands comprised within the "SCOTT LOWE COUNTY DRAIN DRAINAGE DISTRICT", and the tentative apportionments against parcels and municipalities in the Drainage District will be subject to review on the above specified date only, from 8:30 A.M. until 4:30 P.M. Also on this date, the computation of cost for said drain will be open for inspection by any interested parties. You may also review your apportionments by phone at (616) 336-3688.

**WHEREAS**, You are further advised that, pursuant to Section 154 of the Michigan Drain Code of 1956, as amended, drain assessments against land will be collected in the same manner as property taxes. And also if drain assessments against land are collected by installment, the land owner may pay the assessments in full with any interest to date at any time and thereby avoid further interest charges.

**WHEREAS**, You are further advised that, pursuant to Section 155 of the Michigan Drain Code of 1956, as amended, any owner of land within the Drainage District or any city, village, township, district or county feeling aggrieved by the apportionment of benefits made by the drain commissioner, may appeal the apportionment within ten (10) days after the Day of Review of Apportionment by making an application to the Kent County Probate Court for the appointment of a Board of Review. If there is no appeal, the roll will be confirmed ten (10) days after the Day of Review of Apportionment. The confirmed roll may be slightly different from the roll presented at the Day of Review due to arguments made at the Day of Review.

**AS A PROPERTY OWNER WITHIN THE DISTRICT, YOU ARE SUBJECT TO A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR A PORTION OF THE COST OF THIS PROJECT.**

The following government units and permanent parcel numbers of the parcels of land within the Special Assessment District of said drain will be assessed:

41-24-27-300-001, -003;

41-24-28-200-004; 400-016 thru -020;

Bowne Township at large and the County of Kent on account of roads.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, All unknown and non-resident persons, owners and persons interested in the above described lands, and you: Mary Hollinrake - Clerk of Kent County, Christian Wenger - Bowne Township Supervisor, and Jon Rice - Kent County Road Commission Managing Director, that at such time and place, as stated above, the apportionment for benefits and the lands comprised within the Scott Lowe County Drain Special Assessment District will be subject to review.

**AND EACH OF YOU**, owners and persons interested in the above referenced parcels of land, are hereby given the opportunity to appear at the time and place noted above to review the apportionments and be heard with respect to such special assessments and your interests in relation to them, if you so desire.

Dated this 11th day of April, 2011.

William R. Byl,  
Kent County Drain Commissioner

# Alto 5k Fun Run/Walk set for May 7

The Alto Elementary PTO is hosting its second annual Fun Run/Walk on Saturday, May 7. Whether you are a competitive runner, or want to walk your first 5k, this is a great opportunity to have fun and get some exercise with your family.

Last year's event drew 173 registered participants representing 52 families. The participants ranged in age from one month to 71-years-old and raised nearly \$2000 for the Alto PTO. The PTO provides funding for school activities that help enrich the education of Alto Elementary School students.

The PTO has provided needed supplies, subsidized the cost for field trips and allowed teachers to purchase

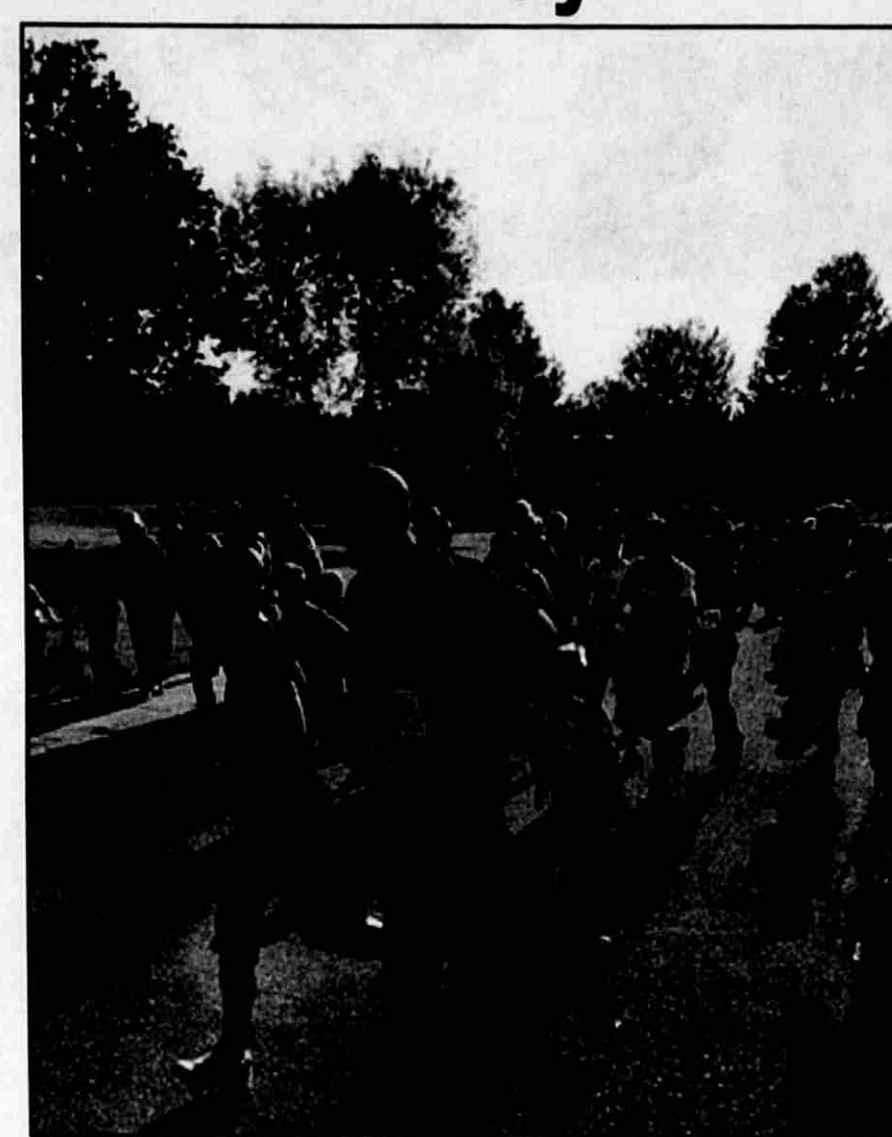
materials for their classes that would not be available without PTO support.

Prizes will be awarded to top male and female finishers in four age brackets. All youth participants will receive finisher medals.

Water stops will be provided at the halfway point and at the finish. There will also be milk and homemade cookies for all participants at the race finish.

The cost is \$15 per person or \$30 per family before April 22. After that date the price goes up to \$25 per person or \$50 per family.

Registration forms are available at Pep Talk, the Alto Library and online at [www.altoelementary5k.com](http://www.altoelementary5k.com).



# Levin, continued

and deceptive practices. We showed that major financial institutions deceived their clients and the public, aided and abetted by conflicted and deferential regulators and credit rating agencies.

Sen. Coburn, who with his staff made major contributions to our investigation, put it well: "The free market has helped make America great, but it only functions when people deal with each other honestly and transparently. At the heart of the financial crisis were unresolved, and often undisclosed, conflicts of interest."

Washington Mutual Bank, the nation's largest thrift, issued thousands of mortgages in Michigan that later failed and resulted in foreclosures that devastated neighborhoods. Executives at WaMu, as the bank was known, pursued a high-risk strategy of selling dubious and often fraudulent mortgages and pushing customers into high-risk, high-interest loans so WaMu could reap higher profits, then turning these mortgages into toxic assets that the bank used to pollute the financial system.

WeshowedhowWaMu's main federal regulator, the Office of Thrift Supervision, knew all along about major problems with the bank's mortgages. But instead of cracking down, OTS treated WaMu with kid gloves, refusing to act on repeated warnings by its examiners and blocking efforts by other regulatory agencies to act. One problem was that fees from WaMu made up a big chunk of the agency's annual budget. In 2008, WaMu collapsed under the weight of its junk loans and is now the largest bank failure in U.S. history.

We also examined how credit rating agencies that

were supposed to provide objective opinions about the quality of mortgage-related securities gave high ratings to toxic assets. The credit rating agencies knew they would lose lucrative business from investment banks if they gave lower ratings.

And we showed how investment banks such as Goldman Sachs assembled toxic securities, misled the clients they sold them to, and then profited by betting against the very same investments they had sold to their clients.

Our report, the product of two years of hard work by my subcommittee, goes into great detail in each of these areas, and I'd encourage you to go to my website, [levin.senate.gov](http://levin.senate.gov), to read the entire report.

Last year, Congress passed the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which addresses many of the problems our investigation identified. For example, it eliminated OTS, the regulatory office that failed so completely to rein in WaMu's reckless lending. And it included a provision that Sen. Jeff Merkley of Oregon and I fought for, limiting the ability of banks to make risky investments for their own profit, and prohibiting them from betting against the same investments that they sold to clients.

Our report includes 19 new recommendations to further curb Wall Street excesses and conflicts of interest. Those recommendations, like the Dodd-Frank Act itself, will be opposed by some members of the financial industry who want to continue their risk-taking ways. I'll do all I can to make sure that federal regulators act with forcefulness and determination to fully implement the Dodd-Frank reforms.

Michigan and the nation can't afford another crisis from Wall Street. Understanding how the last crisis happened is vital to preventing the next one, and our report is designed to contribute to that effort.

senate.gov, to read the entire report.

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616-897-0787

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.

## THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION -

### Which do you prefer, E-Books or paperbacks?

To vote on the current poll question go to: [thelowellledger.com](http://thelowellledger.com)



APRIL 13 - APRIL 19

- Forty-five people are killed by weekend storms in the south. The weather service got reports of 230 tornadoes, but some may be duplicates.
- For tax year 2010, roughly 45 percent of households or about 69 million will end up owing nothing in federal income tax.
- Japan - Engineers will need six to nine months to bring the damaged nuclear reactors at Fukushima Daiichi power plant to heel, the plant's owner says in the first public time table for ending the crisis.
- Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. addresses the U.S. current unemployment crisis and claims the iPad was "probably responsible for eliminating thousands of American jobs."

An ice storm hit Hillsdale, Michigan, on Sunday evening February 20th, causing a significant power outage. The Hillsdale Board of Public Power had 70% - 80% of their customers without power and called in their crews, along with management, that evening. The following day, they realized they needed additional assistance. "This was by far the worst outage we've had in 15 years, storm damages were estimated at \$500,000," said Annette Kinney of Hillsdale Board of Public Utilities.



Ultimately, they recruited 25 linemen from 12 public power utilities; including Lowell Light and Power employees, Mark Droog and Tom Torres, who spent two days assisting Hillsdale in restoring power.

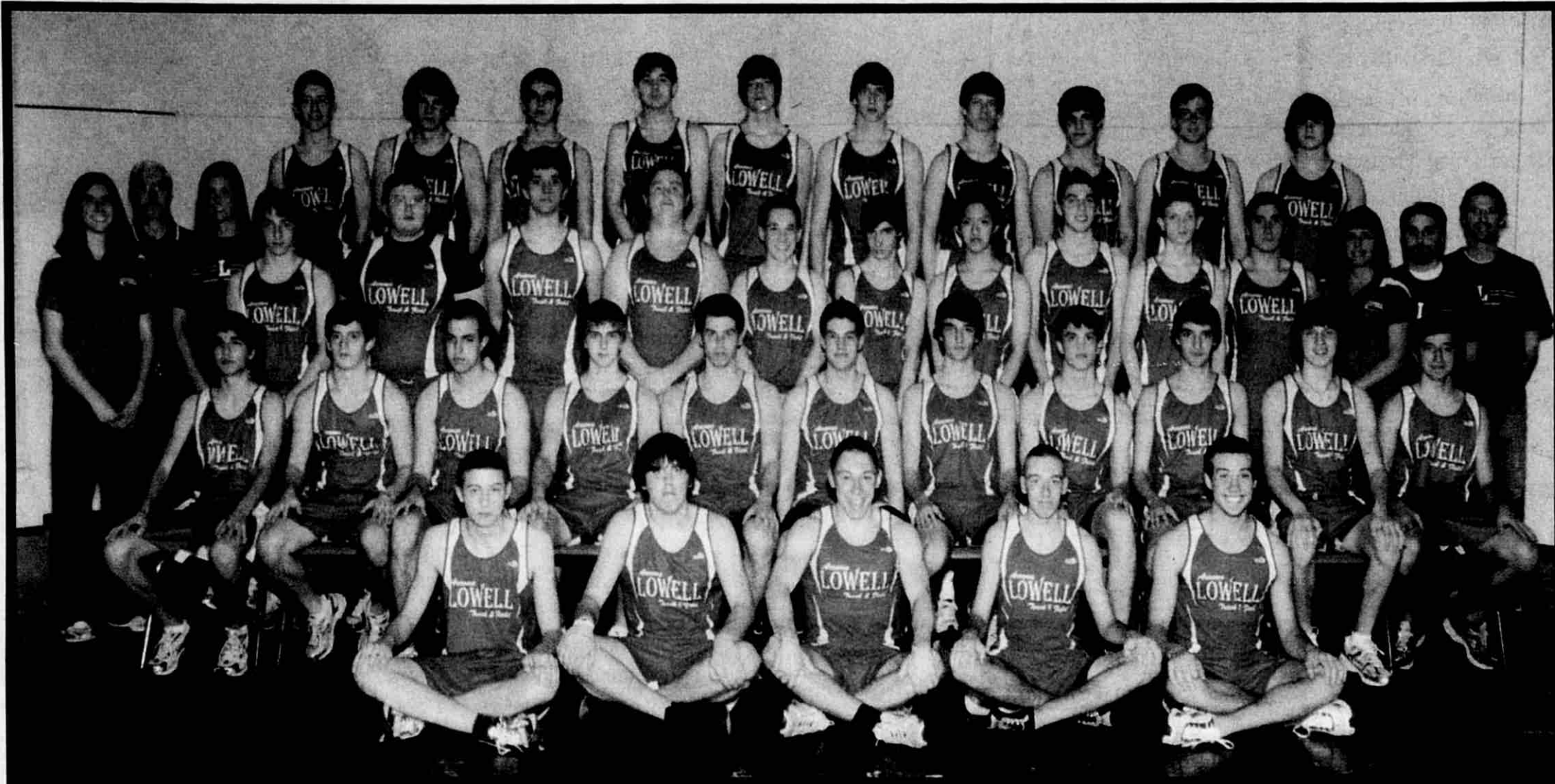
Lowell Light and Power is part of a statewide organization that provides aid services to member utilities in time of need.

**Thank you to Lowell Light and Power's Mark Droog and Tom Torres for volunteering to help Hillsdale during their crisis.**



# Red Arrow SPORTS Springteams

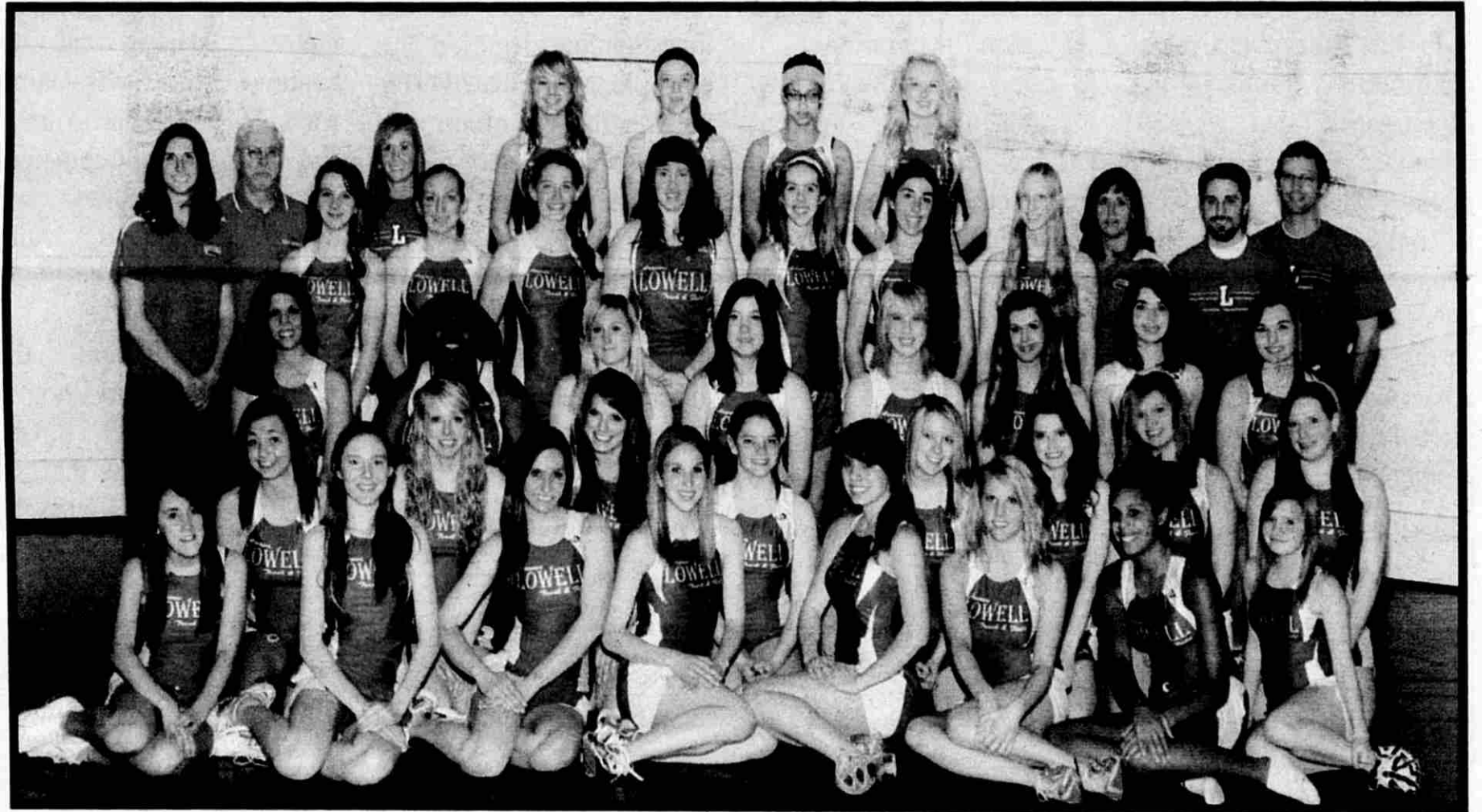
## **L** Boys' Track



First row, left to right: Bob Schreur, Cody Kooiman, Jacob Meyer, Michael Brown, and Robert Becker; second row, left to right: Nick McCormick, Alex McIntire, John Mark, Cody Bieri, Bryce Hrusovsky, Tommy Lee, Sean Khodl, Tobias Marks, Jacob Khodl, Ryan Timmers, and Ben Partridge, third row, left to right: coach Sarah Ellis, Chris Halstead, Chase Treglia, Zach Rose, Austin Ellsworth, Robby Coffey, Martin Brubaker, Yoshi Tamaki, Matt Kyllonen, Jeff Onan, Alejandro V. Cortés, coach Robin Briggs, coach Jon Look, and coach Daniel Boon; fourth row, left to right: assistant coach Keith Boeve, assistant coach Kelly Gibbons, Liam Kelley, Dakota Miller, Carl Mitchell, Nick Price, Ryan Lubbers, Alex Dlouhy, Zach Kaywood, Dylan Brower, Kyle Stubbins, and Dan Trupke.

## Girls' Track

First row, left to right: Mariah May, Kimmy Noall, Lauren Trasky, Kallie Holzhueter, Alli Oesch, Hannah Boon, Miah Jackson, and Caitlin Brown; second row, left to right: Krystal Blanker, Nora Donahue, Christy Marsalese, Kendra Merriman, Kylie Jean, Annie Vescolani, Ashlyn Hussey, and Brandi Aikens; third row, left to right: Gloria Rivera, Karianna Hill, Sarah Aeder, Stephanie Vosburg, Tessa Lee, Madeline Simmons, Alannah McBryde, and Dana Franklin; fourth row, left to right: coach Sarah Ellis, Audrey Pearson, Catherine McNaughton, Abi Ellis, Mattie Newman, Rachael Walters, Jessica Graves, Emily Peterson, coach Robin Briggs, coach Jon Look, and coach Daniel Boon; fifth row, left to right: assistant coach Keith Boeve, assistant coach Kelly Gibbons, Molly Denison, Rebekah Betts, Danielle Starkey, and Haley Kyburz.



## **L** JV Softball Varsity Softball



First row, left to right: Jordan Cloud, Lauren Weaver, Julie Smith, Hope Stepek, and Tara Propst; second row, left to right: coach Bill McElroy, Samantha Flippo, Allie Hinton, Ashley Kaminski, and Bethany Dean; third row, left to right: Kortney Beachler, Kim Malcolm, Olivia Kauffman, and Kaylee Depew.



First row, left to right: Rachel Wold, Kaylie Petroelje, Kelly Wyckoff, Brianna Richardson; second row, left to right: Shelby Wolbers, Morgan Groom, Lindsey Crawford, Jenna Smith, Carissa Paiz, and Sarah Mogor; third row, left to right: Kelsey Wold and Amanda Vietzke.