

# The Lowell Ledger

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Wednesday, May 25, 2005

## Davison and Lowell officials exchange similarities & new ideas



By Dan Schneider

A group of municipal government representatives from the city of Davison was in Lowell last Thursday for Mayor Exchange day.

Davison, a city with a population of about 5,600, is located just east of Flint off I-69. Lowell's population is just more than 4,000. Lowell is the older city, having been settled in 1831. Davison was established in 1889.

Both towns are populated by wrestling fanatics--the Cardinals of Davison High School have won four straight Division I state titles. But the towns have other things in common, as well.

"They're very similar in their size and in that they both rely on volunteer groups a lot to get things done," said Davison city manager Pete Auger.

Davison mayor Fred Rappuhn professed to have been a critic of mayor exchanges in past city council meetings. They involved exchanging too many smiles and handshakes and not enough ideas, he said. But he said the Davison contingent had a good time in Lowell and learned a lot in the process. "We were able to steal ... er ... borrow a lot of ideas," he said.

The city of Lowell and the city of Davison have some civic projects in common. Davison, for example, is getting ready to build a new City Hall. So their representatives were interested to see Lowell's recently-renovated hub of municipal government. Davison also plans to build a new library in the near future.

"We learned a lot about where we can set our goals," Rappuhn said.

The multi-use Lowell Area Trailway is in the planning stages here. Davison is getting ready to pave the first section of the Davison Area Regional Trailway.

Though smaller, Lowell is in some respects a more self-sufficient city than Davison. Davison has its own sewer collection system, but depends on the city of Flint for processing, whereas Lowell has its own wastewater treatment plant. Davison gets its electricity from Consumers Power while Lowell has its own Lowell Light and Power company. Davison just built a new water treatment plant, however.

While the symbol of Lowell is the famous Lowell Showboat, the Robert E. Lee, Davison is known as the City of Flags. In its courtyard, Davison flies the flag of every state in the U.S.

Davison mayor pro-tem Pat Conley (front row, from left), Lowell city councilmember Jim Hodges, city manager Dave Pasquale, mayor Jeanne Shores, Davison mayor Fred Rappuhn and, in back, Davison city councilmember Don Csutoras, councilmember Greg Hale and city manager Pete Auger toured Superior Furniture last Thursday. The tour was part of Lowell's Mayor Exchange day with the city of Davison.

## Remembering ...

Memorial Day is this Monday, May 30. In observance *The Ledger* will feature two veterans who survived combat during two very different wars, World War II and the Vietnam War.

By Dan Schneider

On May 7, the world celebrated the 60th anniversary of "Victory Day," or V-E Day when Nazi Germany formally surrendered to end the fighting in the European Theater of World War II.

Glenn Marks, a retired minister who started the Evergreen Missionary Church in Lowell, was in Halle, Germany, on that date in 1945.

"We got the word quite quickly," Marks said. "And of course all the troops started drinking wine and celebrating."

But Marks wasn't a drinking man.

"Thank the Lord I didn't drink any of the wine so I didn't get drunk," Marks said.

Following high school in 1943, he tried to enlist in the Navy. But he wasn't tall enough to meet Navy

requirements, so he started bible college. He was already registered, however, and didn't get far in his studies before the Army drafted him. Trained as a medic and assigned to a the 451st Medical Collecting Company, his unit consisted of four men in a jeep.

"Our job was to go with any First Army division that was expecting extra heavy casualties," Marks said. "Our unit went with them to evacuate the wounded."

Marks saw his first combat the day after Thanksgiving in 1944. It was the day the U.S. Army broke through the Siegfried Line on Germany's western border. The fighting wasn't as heavy as expected. During the night, U.S. soldiers had placed dynamite on top of the Germans' concrete pillboxes. When the dynamite was exploded the next morning, the U.S. troops were able to break the line without difficulty, he said.

His unit was then attached to another division, which was again spared a major confrontation with the Germans. The U.S. troops were holed up in a German castle.

"We were up with a division which was right in front of this big mass of troops and we weren't sure what we were going to do," Marks said, pointing to a barn about 30 yards outside his living room window to show how close the Germans were. "Instead of coming right straight ahead, they went down five miles and came through a less guarded spot."

Remembering, cont'd., pg. 11

Glenn Marks shortly after returning home from World War II in 1946.



Memorial Day • Monday, May 30



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## LL&P budget, continued ... From Page 4

For the 2005-2006 budget, LL&P is projecting a net income of approximately \$73,000, roughly \$5,000 less than last year. Richards said the company operates under a not-for-profit, so that extra money from one year is put

toward improvements; this means the company will not have to borrow money to make those improvements. Basing the budget on a more typical year, the report shows an increase in revenues by about \$159,000

to \$5.493 million in 2005-2006. A large chunk of that revenue comes from consumption, which is expected to increase by \$150,000 from last year to about \$5.230 million. This increase also factors in about

a 2.9 percent growth rate for the Lowell area. Overall expenses are also expected to increase by about \$160,000 to \$5.420 million. A major factor in that is purchasing expenses, estimated to increase by

about \$130,000, going to \$3.195 million in 2005-2006. Richards said there are still a number of variables, including the weather, which could affect that cost, and company officials will be watching those factors

throughout the year. The Lowell Light and Power Company was established in 1896 by the city of Lowell. It is one of about 40 municipally-owned utility companies in the state of Michigan.

## To The Editor, continued ... From Page 5

A farmer's land costs a lot in the first place and the interest and annual costs that are paid on it in order to own it should allow for it to appreciate in value. Instead, decisions by the township board will reduce its value and increase the fragmentation of farmland. Would you like the township board making decisions that affect your retirement?

He raised the issue of wasteful spending by the township board. I would just like to give another example. The township board gave \$40,000 for a Kent County matching grant program for the purchase of development rights. It would have benefited all township residents if the board more wisely invested that money into much needed township road improvements. The township would then have received even more matching grant money from the road commission.

Grattan Township residents should also be concerned about construction of a new fire barn. I would be interested in knowing if the people who live on Ratigan Lake, Murray Lake Island, Crooked Lake or south of Five Mile Road know how narrow-minded the board is being in determining what is best of their safety. The location of the new fire barn is over 10 miles to Murray Lake or Ratigan Lake. By the time firemen get to the fire barn and get their equipment to these locations, you are looking at close to 30 minutes. If the Township Board and fire department would have been more open-minded and considered prompt safety of all people, they could have saved money and gave more protection. There are good firemen in all parts of the township and they have a lot of duplicate equipment. The township also

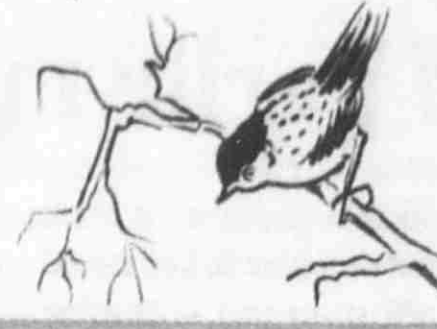
owns some land on Murray Lake Rd. near Five Mile Rd. where they could have built a less costly fire barn. The local firemen could have been on the scene with the necessary equipment to save lives in half the time while their back-up responded. Wouldn't that have made more sense?

I am deeply concerned about the future of our township. I agree with Mr. Scott that things are "way out of control" and that the township is being led by a few who like the "prestige and the control." The poor decisions of our township board are impacting all residents - not only farmers. I encourage all Grattan Township residents to be aware of the actions of their township board.

Sincerely,  
Tyler Nugent

## Outdoors

By  
Dave Stegehuis



### CAMPING

Life styles have changed over the last 30 years, but one thing remains the same ... people still like to travel to special places and camp. Camping gear has also changed, but the basic idea is still to get away for fun and relaxation in the outdoors with family and friends.

Michigan has one of the most diverse and extensive campground networks in the country. In addition to state parks, there are national and state forest campgrounds, plus county, township and city camping facilities. Throw in the national chain campgrounds and a few independent operators and one can be assured of camping opportunities in almost any region of the state.

My wife and I camp at Michigan state parks when traveling about the northern Lower Peninsula and Upper Peninsula. We walleye fish out of a city campground in one location and a county park in another.

If you think about it, most of the state parks are on water. All have different on-site features as well as local at-

tractions. It is a good idea to check on the recreational opportunities available in or around the general area of any prospective campground. For example, there are only a few places that allow off-road vehicle operation within the park. When camping with our ATVs at a state forest campground recently, we could ride from our campsite. It was convenient to be able to go to the store, get gas, and access over 50 miles of designated trails without trailering the machines.

It would also be wise to check on the need for reservations. Holidays, weekends and mid-summer are busy times at popular campgrounds. Reservations for state parks can be made on the Department of National Resources web site.

Facilities within campgrounds will vary. Some sites are rustic with no utilities while others provide electricity only. Full hook-up sites include electric, water and sewer service. Decide what you will need, and check ahead to find out what is available.

When camping at populated parks, be aware of how your activities are affecting fellow campers. It is OK to have a good time, but others deserve the same opportunity. Most campgrounds have posted rules so that all campers will have an enjoyable experience.

Before you leave for that camping trip, check out all equipment. It is easier and less stressful to learn to set up camp or make repairs in the driveway or backyard. Tires and wheel bearings can be a big problem if trouble occurs

on the highway. Always check trailer brakes, running lights and turn signals.

It is inconvenient to forget something, so make a list of items to pack for the trip. Check the list before going and then again before returning home.

Planning ahead and checking equipment will help to make camping out an enjoyable and memorable experience.

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# BUSINESSES SERVICES

# SERVICES

## She's on a mission to rid the woodland of garlic mustard

By Dan Schneider

Lowell resident Peggy Covert is on a mission. She wants to banish garlic mustard from the woods around the area. It was three years ago when she first noticed the plants with their heart-shaped, serrated leaves in the woods on her property at the north end of Washington Street.

"At that time it was just a few bunches, a ground cover kind of thing, and by the next year it had just completely taken over," Covert said.

Since that time, she has spent countless springtime hours pulling the invasive plant out of the ground, taking care to remove as much of the root as possible. She even pulls garlic mustard while taking her dog for a walk.

The plant was first brought over from Europe for use as a seasoning. It soon spread out of people's

gardens and proved it could grow well here. It has spread to 28 states and is heading northward in Michigan. It grows along roadsides and forests' edges, making its way into the forest along trailsides and stream banks.

Garlic mustard has a complicated life cycle. It is a biennial, which means it matures and flowers every other year. Seeds have to stay in the ground for at least a year before they grow. When they do, the plant first forms a rosette of small, kidney-bean-shaped leaves. In the second year, it grows tall and develops small bunches of white flowers at the top of its stalks.

The invasive species gets a jump on other plants every spring. It starts to grow as soon as the snow melts, well before most native vegetation.

"By the time some of those other plants are starting to come up, it's already a foot high," Covert

said. "Even if they (native plants) can survive, you can't see them because of all the garlic mustard."

That's the chief reason the plant is considered a menace—it out-competes native plant species for sunlight and soil nutrients. It also hides native wildflowers from view, which happened in Covert's yard.

"I have so much Jack in the Pulpit and phlox and all the really neat native kinds of things, and it was just starting to choke all that stuff out," she said.

After two springs, including this year, of intensive pulling, Covert has reduced garlic mustard to an almost-acceptable level in her woods.

"Now I'm kind of on a campaign overall throughout the community to see if I can get people more involved with getting rid of it on our public lands," Covert said.

*Garlic mustard, cont'd., pg.17*



Peggy Covert pulls some garlic mustard plants out of her woods on North Washington Street, demonstrating how they should be pulled out with as much root attached as possible.

## Unity High School mural dedication ceremony planned for Mon., June 6

Students and teachers at Unity High School worked throughout the 2004-2005 school year with Lowell artist Mary Kuilema on a mural project.

The mosaic wall, 7 feet high and 12 feet long, is located along the Flat River just north of the Englehardt Library.

One side of the freestanding wall depicts the Flat River area; the other side is a more abstract mosaic of the high school building and environs. Each student brought his or her own strengths to the project, contributing to its design. They rolled out thin slabs of

clay, glazing and breaking them into mosaic pieces, creating various naturalistic tile renderings of plants, flowers and fish, as well as bas-relief self-portraits. The wall itself, with its small doorway, symbolizes transition and passage.

Kuilema said, "These young adults have been very interesting to work with. They are open to new ideas and ways of doing things. I have learned from them, too, as we worked on solving the artistic and structural problems that the tile mural presented. It has been a long time since we started, and I think they are

a little surprised at how long it takes to make something like this. It takes dedication and planning to execute a complex design idea, and a certain amount of skill to pull it off, and just plain hard work to accomplish it."

The mural project was sponsored by the Lowell Area Arts Council with financial support provided by Steelcase Foundation, Meijer Inc., Lowell Education Foundation, Altacor, Inc., Arts Council of Greater Grand Rapids, Overbeck Construction, Lowell Rotary Club and Lowell Women's Club.

*Mural, cont'd., pg.17*



Fourth-hour students are shown working on the mural.

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## Remembering, continued ...From Page 1

During the Battle of the Bulge, Marks was assigned to a field hospital. His job was to bring people from the ambulances to the operating tents.

"We carried people in for amputations," Marks said. "There were young guys coming in who had left the states earlier that week and by the end of it, they were headed back for the states again."

His next assignment was to follow a unit as it attempted to capture a dam on the Rur River. The First

Army, British and Canadian troops were massed to the northwest of the dam. The U.S. needed to secure the dam so those troops could cross the river without the Germans destroying the dam and flooding the valley.

"An army unit was sent in to capture the dam and they had to do it regardless of casualties," Marks said.

The Germans had the high ground and were dug in with artillery. "They were shooting at us and the shells were landing all around us," Marks explained.

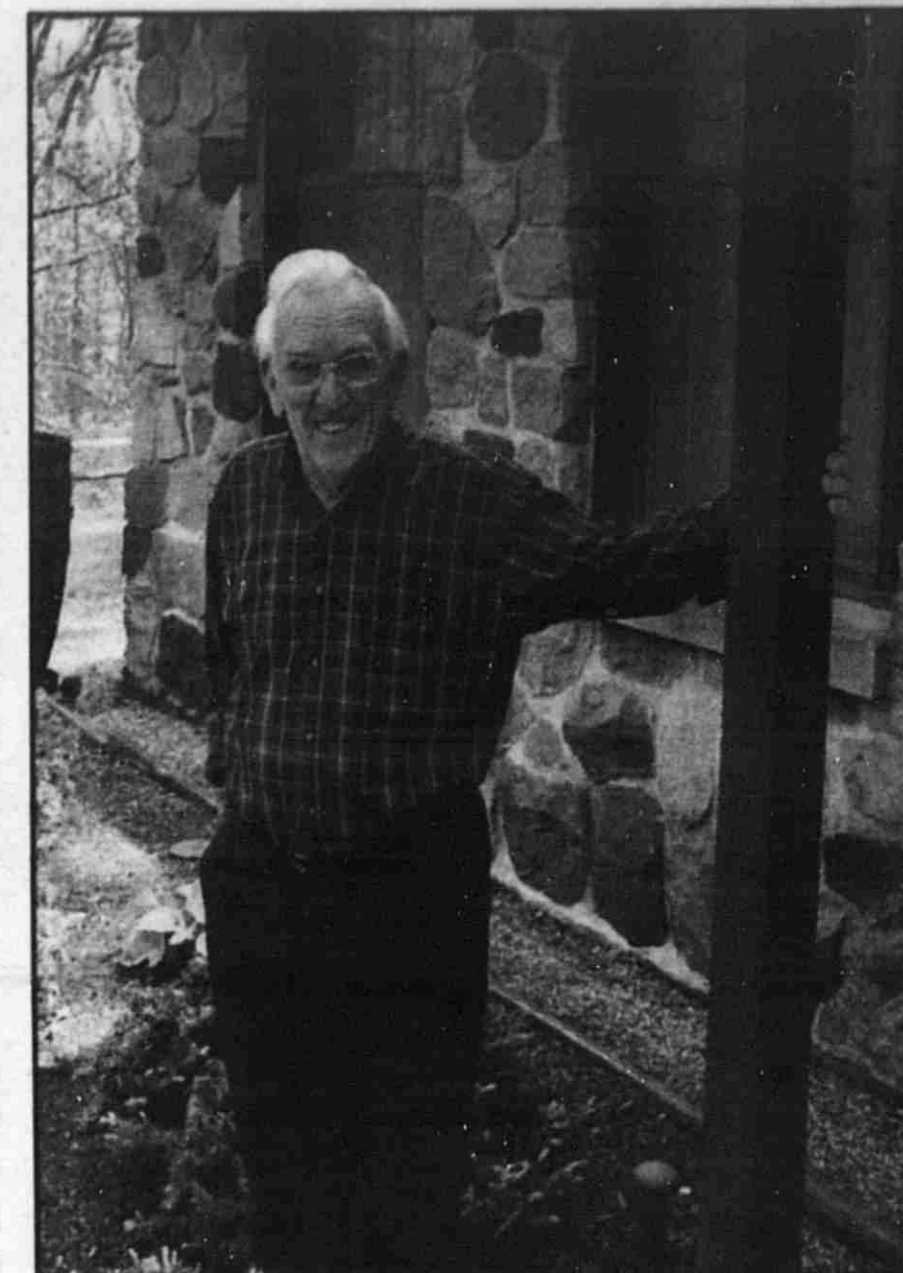
His unit slept in a house in the valley below the Germans' fortifications. The next day, they moved ahead only an hour before a shell destroyed the house.

That night, when the army attacked the German installations, Marks made it through a hazardous mission recovering casualties below the dam. He walked ahead of his unit's vehicle, down a road that hadn't been inspected for land mines, to get to the injured men.

"I really feel it was an answer to my father's

prayer that I got through that situation alive," Marks said.

After VE Day, the 451st Collecting Company set up a headquarters in Bad Wildungen, Germany. There, for the remainder of his time in Germany, Marks helped take care of German prisoners of war. He expected to be moved to the Pacific Theater, but the atom bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima ended the war with Japan. Marks returned to the U.S. in March of 1946.



Glenn Marks today, at his home in Lowell Township.

In July of 1969, Lowell postmaster Gil Brown was on an airplane taking off for Vietnam.

His first impression of the place he described as "hot and smelly."

A member of the U.S. Army Fourth Infantry Division, Brown spent a year in Vietnam's central highlands ... wilderness country. For the first eight months he was on a mortar platoon, providing fire support for the infantry soldiers. During the last four months, he was out in front as an infantryman - "a foot soldier or grunt they called them." went on search and destroy missions,

finding pockets of the North Vietnamese Army and the Viet Cong in the free-fire zone of the mountainous jungle.

"We weren't close to towns or villages or anything," Brown said. "We were just out in the jungle and we would try to find the enemy."

The war wasn't real heavy when he first got there. "We had isolated incidents of sniper fire ... but the last four or five months, it was nasty," Brown said.

He has pictures of him on his 21st birthday in May of 1970; his platoon was in Cambodia. At four in the morning, they came under



Gil Brown in Vietnam 1969.

attack, a massive fire-fight with mortars and rocket-powered grenades. In the

"They needed the experienced people," Brown said.

He turned them down. "I didn't think I'd make it back," he said.

Vietnam wasn't a popular war. But Brown said public sentiment against the war--or for it, for that matter--didn't make it into the part of the jungle where he was fighting.

"We were so isolated and trying to survive that I really didn't care what was going on at

home," Brown said.

Upon arriving back home in the States, he recalls only one thing he didn't like about his reception. When his airplane landed, the pilots and crew got off and all the soldiers remained on board. Then the interior of the aircraft was fumigated

Brown was drafted 10 months out of high school. He said if he hadn't been drafted, he probably would have enlisted anyway. Before he went over, he took three months of training in North Carolina and three more in Alabama.

When his deployment ended, the Army offered him \$10,000 to go back to Vietnam.

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**TREATMENT FOR DYSLLEXIA**

The previous two articles in this column covered dyslexia: the first defined dyslexia and the second presented some well-known individuals who have had dyslexia.

This column will look at what constitutes the diagnosis of dyslexia. Unless there is a very severe case of dyslexia and a consistent genetic pattern that has been based on family history, testing for the disorder does not typically

happen until the child is nine years old. This is because of the maturational level of the neurological system in children.

Many children have developmental dyslexia, also known as secondary dyslexia where reversals of letters and language processing challenges are common because of the status of their brain development. They almost always grow out of this by the age of nine. Secondary dyslexia is found in about 12 to 15 percent of the school population (four times more often in boys). However, if the child is nine years old and still struggling with language, testing for dyslexia is appropriate. This type is primary dyslexia.

Primary dyslexia seems to be carried by chromosome 15 in the human genetic chain. This form is found in 3 to 5 percent of the overall population. It is much more frequent in males than in females (approximately nine times more frequent in men than in women). At the testing age

of nine, the child is given the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC-IV) which measures aptitude, and an achievement test is given.

The most common test used to determine achievement is the Wechsler Individual Achievement Test (WIAT-II). If there is a significant disparity between the I.Q. (which needs to be in the average range) and the Achievement (below average in the language areas), then another test to determine dyslexia is given.

From this test, the Jordan Dyslexia Profile, and from the developmental history, a psychologist can make a diagnosis. Once determined, there are several school accommodations that are effective and special kinds of training that can help the individual be successful in managing this learning disorder.

Next month, treatments for dyslexia will be reviewed.



**Financial Focus**

With Christopher C. Godbold

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**TIPS ON PAYING FOR COLLEGE**

If you have a college-bound senior in your house, you know that the end of this school year means the beginning of a new adventure. However, while college can be exciting, it's also expensive. If you haven't saved as much as you would have liked, don't despair - even at this late date, you can take some steps to help pay those college bills.

Here are a few ideas to consider:

- Don't panic - You don't have to pay the full year's tuition, room and board up front - you will likely be billed in installments that may correspond to the school's quarter or semester system. This payment system doesn't lessen your overall costs, of course, but it does give you a bit of time to come up with additional funding sources. For example, if you have a bond coming due in the middle of the college calendar, you can use the proceeds to help pay for school.
- Liquidate assets in timely manner - If you've earmarked

certain investments for college, try not to liquidate them until it's absolutely time to write out a check - the longer you can keep your investments growing, the better off you'll be.

- Look at Roth IRA - If you have a Roth IRA, you can withdraw contributions, tax- and penalty-free, to help pay for your child's education. Certain conditions apply to penalty-free withdrawals, so you should talk to your tax advisor for more information. And keep in mind, if you start withdrawing earnings, you'll have to pay taxes on them unless you meet certain conditions.

If you have more time.

If you still have a few years before your children head off to school, you may want to take advantage of some of the more popular college -savings plans. Here are two to consider:

- Section 529 plans - When you set up a Section 529 savings plan, you put money in specific investments, which are managed by the plan administrator. If you participate in your own state's Section 529 plan, you may be able to deduct your contributions from your state income taxes. Your plan contribution limits are high, and your withdrawals are free from federal income taxes, as long as the money is used for qualified college or graduate school expenses. Withdrawals for expenses other than qualified education expenditures

may be subject to federal, state and penalty taxes.

(Section 529 tax benefits are only effective through 2010, unless extended by Congress. Also a Section 529 plan could reduce your child's or grandchild's ability to qualify for financial aid. Because tax issues for 529 plans can be complicated, please consult your tax adviser.)

- Coverdell Education Savings Account - Depending on your income level, you can contribute up to \$2,000 annually to a Coverdell Education Savings Account. Your Coverdell earnings and withdrawals will be tax-free, provided you use the money for qualified education expenses. (Any non-education withdrawals from a Coverdell Account may be subject to a 10 percent penalty.) You can fund your Coverdell Education Savings Account with virtually any investment you choose - stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit, etc. And you can contribute to a Coverdell Account in the same year that you put money into a Section 529 plan.

Consider all options

Putting together a good college-funding plan - either at the last minute or years in advance - can test your resources and ingenuity. But by diligently exploring all your options, it's a test you should be able to "pass."

**HEALTH**



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

**COLORECTAL CANCER - HOW TO DETECT IT EARLY**

Colorectal cancer is the third most common type

of cancer in the body. Every person has approximately a six percent lifetime risk of developing colorectal cancer. Fortunately it can be treated, and in most cases cured, if detected early.

Most colorectal cancers begin as a polyp. Polyps start out as a small growth on the colon or rectal wall that can take years to develop into a cancer that grows and spreads. You should see your health care provider if you have any of these warning signs: bleeding from the rectum, blood in your stool or in the toilet after you have a bowel movement, a change in the shape of your stool, cramping pain in your lower stomach, or a feeling of discomfort or urge to have a bowel movement when there is no need to have one.

Colorectal cancer is more common in older individuals, so health care providers usually begin screening people after

the age of 50. Those individuals with a family history of colorectal cancer should begin their screening at an earlier age.

Screening for colon cancer involves a yearly digital rectal exam and one or more of the following tests: Yearly Fecal Occult Blood Tests (tests stool for blood you can't see), Flexible Sigmoidoscopy every five years (a tiny camera that views the lower 1/2 of the colon, Double Contrast Barium Enema every five years (X-rays to detect abnormal spots in the colon), or Colonoscopy every 10 years (a tiny camera that views the entire colon).

Talk to your health care provider about your potential risk of developing colorectal cancer, and when you should begin testing for it.

**It's time to put Michigan families first**

By U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow

I was born and raised here in Michigan, where we are proud to make things and grow things for America.

We are leaders in the manufacturing industry. We work hard, and we play by the rules. But these are very challenging times for Michigan families. Every day, I hear from men and woman who tell me they have been laid off and are struggling to support their families. Too many Michiganders are out of work, and our businesses are struggling to compete with companies overseas.

There's no higher priority for me as your U.S. Senator than creating new jobs and keeping jobs here at home. That's why I was proud to lead the successful effort to create a \$2 billion tax cut for American manufacturers who create jobs here at home. That's a start, but we need to do more to level the playing field for American businesses because some countries aren't playing by the rules. China and Japan manipulate their currency, an illegal practice that results in lower prices for their goods sold here and higher prices for American goods sold in

their countries. With these lower prices, China sells five products to us for every one product we sell to them. For example, a \$20,000 Japanese car sold in Michigan costs \$2,000 less than it should because of currency manipulation. That's not fair to our auto industry, which is losing business, and to our workers, who are losing their jobs. We've lost 51,000 jobs in Michigan in the last 15 years due to unfair trading practices in China alone.

Recently, Edmore lost 120 high paying manufacturing jobs, which moved to China. An

automotive plant in Alma laid off 260 employees, and a Grand Rapids company announced plans to cut 600 jobs. Another Grand Rapids company eliminated 300 jobs - and their layoffs will affect a Schoolcraft company, which will lose more employees this summer.

Unfair trade practices are not only costing us jobs, they're crippling our manufacturing sector. Counterfeit automotive parts from China and Taiwan have cost the American automotive-part-

and-components industry an estimated \$12 billion.

As a member of the Senate Banking Committee, I am helping to lead the effort to get tough with China and Japan. In a recent historic vote, 67 members of both parties passed an amendment to send a strong message to China that America will not tolerate unfair trade practices.

We also need someone to ensure our trading partners follow the rules. I introduced a bill with Sen. Lindsey Graham (R)

that creates a chief trade prosecutor who will fight for American businesses and workers every day.

My jobs bill will identify important export markets closed to American products and provide the tools needed to open them. It also will ensure that our trade deficit doesn't get out of control. Together, we can put Michigan families first by keeping jobs here at home and ensuring smart trade practices to enhance our competitive edge in the global marketplace.

**Hildenbrand introduces constitutional amendment**

State Rep. Dave Hildenbrand recently introduced a resolution that would amend Michigan's Constitution to recognize hunting and fishing as a right given to the people of the state.

"Hunting and fishing are important legacies in our state heritage," said Hildenbrand, R-Lowell. "It is important to protect the rights that we have and set a clear precedent that hunting and fishing are supported and encouraged in this state.

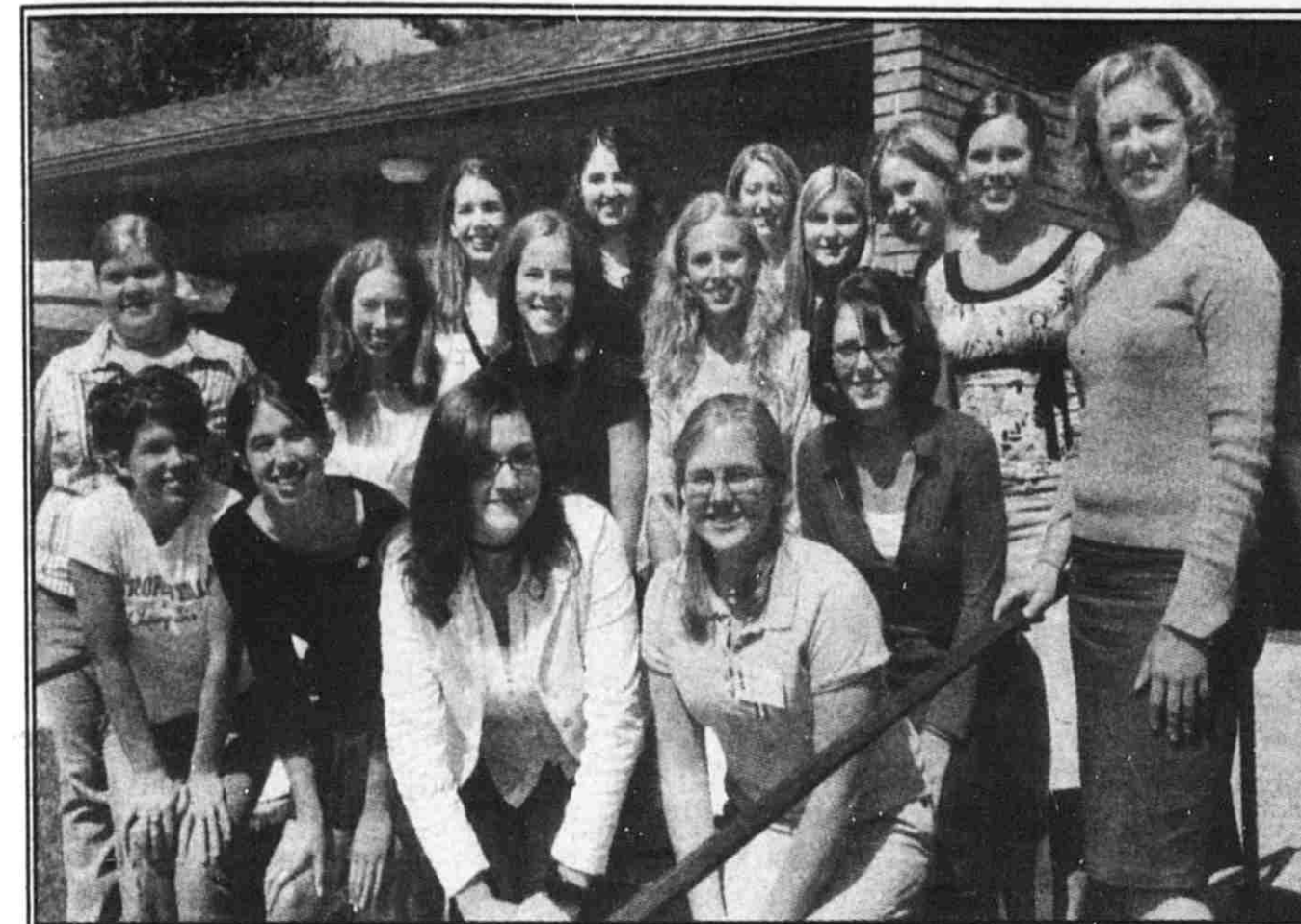
"By amending the constitution to protect our rights to hunt and fish, we are protecting ourselves from those who wish to infringe upon this rich tradition and legacy enjoyed by many."

Hildenbrand, an avid outdoorsman, believes amending the constitution now will protect hunters and fishers should a controversy over these activities arise in the future.

"Amending the constitution is no small task,"

Hildenbrand said. "But the constitution is designed to empower and protect. My amendment does just that. It empowers hunters and fishers to continue to pursue a legacy of this state and it protects them for those who wish to make it more difficult to participate in these activities."

House Joint Resolution J has been referred to the House Committee on Conservation, Forestry and Outdoor Recreation.



**Lowell Women's Club junior members**

Sixteen Lowell High School seniors were selected to be junior members of the Lowell Women's Club this year: front row, left to right, are: Karis Prill, Hillary Briggs, Rachel White, Marie Wade, Jenni Watikunas and Meghan Beachum; back row are: Katie Serne, Nicole Swift, Amy Oberlin, Abbie Debiak, Chris Kuhn, Amanda Rau, Lerin Bommarito, Tiffany Kidder, Melody Dernocoeur and Kristin Befus. The Lowell Women's Club has invited high school girls to participate for a number of years; they undertake community service and fundraising activities.

For the first time, this year's community service work included mentoring at-risk sixth grade girls at Lowell Middle School. The senior girls helped the younger ones learn about things like goal setting, self-respect, conflict resolution and developing positive relationships.

**College News**

A total of 4,342 students are included on the dean's list for the spring semester of the 2004-2005 academic year at Western Michigan University.

From the Lowell area are Michael Arnsward, Joshua Fisher, Kristen Ford, Brian Pfaller, Emily Roth, Brandy Stroo and Shelby Tomczak.

From the Alto area are Sophia D'Agostino, Christian Gorgas, Jaimie Griffith, Lauren Horner, Jaclyn Shurmack and Arturo Ziraldo.

From the Ada area are Katie Anderson, Charles Gauthier and Kurt Telman.

Northwood University held its annual honors convocation on Sunday, April 24.

Receiving academic honors from the Lowell area was Ashley S. Rickert,

daughter of Jeffrey and Julie Rickert. She received the Edward N. Cole Award,



Ashley S. Rickert

named in memory of Cole who was a giant in the automotive industry and a strong supporter of the Northwood University Automotive program. The award is granted to a BBA graduate in Automotive Marketing with a high academic average upon recommendation by the Automotive Marketing Department.

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# Softball rolls through last week of conference play

*Perfect game, defensive plays contribute to late-season Red Arrow hot streak*

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell varsity softball team went 5-0 last week to finish out the OK White season tied for second place.

Beating Cedar Springs 4-1 last Monday, the Red Arrows scored a run in the first, another in the second, and two more in the third for the win. It took six hits

and two errors to score those runs.

Ashleigh Inman tripled in the first inning and went home on a base hit by Becky Plummer. Inman also had an

RBI double in the second. Samantha Lambert and Ashley VanderWal both had RBIs in the third inning.

Plummer struck out six and walked none in the win.

Hosting Kenowa Hills last Wednesday, the Red Arrows shut out the Knights 4-0 in the first game of a doubleheader. Plummer struck out nine and walked one. Lowell scored one in the second and three in a fourth inning that was error-ridden for the Knights. Plummer made it to first on an error. She later scored on an error that also left Katie McElroy safe on first. Ashley Nawrocki batted McElroy home. Lambert batted Nawrocki home.

Game two of the doubleheader went extra innings. VanderWal was hit by a pitch, giving Lowell the win in the 11th inning. Jean Kimberlin hit a two-strike sacrifice bunt to advance VanderWal. Then Inman hit a two-out RBI double to drive in the winning run. Lowell won 4-3.

What kept the game alive that long for Lowell was a defensive play in the bottom of the eighth inning. With a runner on second, Kenowa Hills hit a light pop-up just behind the pitcher's mound. McElroy came over from second and Brittany Bueche from shortstop. The ball glanced off McElroy's glove, but Plummer was able to pick it up and make the throw to first base in time to catch the runner.

"That was just a great defensive play and just great softball," Lowell coach Bob Rodenhouse said.

Plummer struck out 11 and walked one.

Lowell traveled to Sparta on Friday and blasted the Spartans for 12 runs, winning 12-1. Inman had a home run, Plummer hit two triples. McElroy and VanderWal also had extra-base hits. Lambert hit three RBIs in two hits. Plummer struck out seven batters and walked none. The game ended by mercy rule after six innings.

Plummer pitched her second perfect game of the season and the third in her career in game two of the Sparta doubleheader. She struck out 15 of the 18 batters as Lowell blanked the Spartans 10-0 in another six-inning mercy-rule game.

Plummer also added a double and a triple for four RBIs in the game. Inman, McElroy and Kimberlin each had two hits in the game.

The Arrows finished the OK White season with an 11-3 league record and a 20-6 record overall. The Red Arrows are tied for second place in the league with Northview, who split a doubleheader with Greenville Monday.

Lowell hosted the Mandy Tichelaar Memorial Tournament with Catholic Central, Kenowa Hills and Grandville Tuesday. They play a crossover game Wednesday at Wyoming Park. District play starts next Tuesday at Northview.



Lowell's Becky Plummer connected with this pitch in game one of last Wednesday's doubleheader against Kenowa Hills. She hit it far enough for a home run, but it didn't stay fair.

# Red Arrow girls soccer peaking at the right time

By Dan Schneider

Forming offense last week, finding its tournament-

the Lowell girls soccer team beat Middleville Thornapple Kellogg 10-2 last Monday and shut out Greenville 11-0 Wednesday in the first round of the OK White tournament.

"We're hitting the net," Lowell coach Paul Legge

said. "That's two games in a row where we're putting the numbers up we should be putting up."

Lowell was up 10-0 at halftime against Greenville. They scored another goal before the officials called

the game a mercy-rule 10 minutes into the second half.

Legge was glad with the team's 11 on the scoreboard out of 25 shots on goal.

"We finished today," Legge said. "We've had a

lot of games like this, this year, when we'd only score five goals. And it's the right time of the season, too, going into the tournaments. I think we're going to carry this for a few games."

Lowell shut out Northview 6-0 in the conference semifinal Monday. Earlier in the season, the teams played through two overtimes to a 1-1 tie.

By beating the Wildcats, Lowell advances to Wednesday's OK White conference final game at Unity Christian. The Crusaders won 10-0 against Cedar Springs, Monday.

Unity Christian also gave Lowell its only loss of the season. The Arrows are hoping for a repeat of last year, when they beat the Crusaders in the tournament final for a share of the OK White conference title.

# Two Lowell vaulters qualify for state track meet

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell track teams competed in the Division 1 regional meet Saturday at Houseman Field in Grand Rapids.

The girls team scored 15.5 points to finish 11th.

Lowell's Rebekah Woods cleared 9'-6" to take fourth place in the girls regional vault. The vault also qualifies Woods to compete in the state finals June 4 at Rockford High School.

In the high jump event, Amy VanEns and Mary Calvi tied with two other jumpers for third place. They cleared 4'-9". Morgan Olin took fifth place in long jump for

Lowell, jumping 15'-5.5".

Jasmine Holliman threw the shot put 32'-8 3/4" to place fifth in that event. Lowell's 3200-meter relay team of Megan Majestic, Monica Fitzpatrick, Hayley Getzen and Brittany Dietz took sixth place, finishing in 10:04.30.

Rockford ran away with first place in the girls regional meet, scoring 158.25. Lowell finished ahead of Creston, Mona Shores, Grand Rapids Central and Union.

For the boys team, Eric Dean took second place in the pole vault event, clearing 12 feet. The vault qualified him for the state meet and also gave the team enough

points to finish in 11th place.

"We're pretty proud of him ... he's a sophomore, he's really improved this year," said Lowell coach Russ Stevens. "He scored eight points so he beat three other teams."

Muskegon won the boys regional with 118 points. Lowell finished ahead of Grand Rapids Central, Forest Hills Central, Creston and Union.

Two Lowell girls placed sixth at the OK Champion of Champion meet Monday: Mary Calvi in high jump and Rebekah Woods in pole vault.



Lowell's Eric Dean cleared 12'-0" in Saturday's Division 1 track regional at Houseman Field in Grand Rapids. The vault earned him a second place medal and a chance to compete in the state track finals.

# Red Arrow lacrosse team takes two tough losses

Both of the Lowell lacrosse team matches went down in defeat last week.

Against Grand Haven last Tuesday, the Arrows fell 14-4. On Thursday, Grand Rapids Catholic Central beat Lowell 13-5. Earlier in the season, the Cougars shut out Lowell by a 7-0 score.

Lowell hosts Okemos Wednesday. The Red Arrows struggled when the two teams met on the Chieftains' turf, losing 12-2.

Lowell will compete next Tuesday in the first round of the first-ever Michigan High School Athletic Association Division 2 lacrosse

regionals. They will travel to Portage Central to take on the Mustangs. The Arrows traded wins with Portage Central in their two meetings during the regular season.

The winner of that game plays East Grand Rapids in the Regional semifinal June 3 at East Grand Rapids.

# Open house Friday to recognize retiring wrestling coach

By Dan Schneider

A retirement open house will be held for Lowell wrestling coach Dave Strejc.

After 11 years of coaching wrestling at Lowell, Strejc is retiring to spend more time with his family. His first four years were as assistant coach under Gary Rivers and for the last seven, he has been head coach.

During those seven years, Lowell went to the state wrestling finals six times, taking home state championships in 2002 and 2004. The Arrows were state runners-up three times and advanced to the semifinals this year.

"Just to be able to be a part of a program that is so rich in tradition as this program is a blessing and to have the success we've had on top of that is just unbelievable," Strejc said.

He remembers when he first took the reins of the program.

"It was a tough time because coach Rivers had passed away and I had a group of boys looking at me," Strejc said. "They were looking at me to guide them, to lead them to a state

championship in honor of coach Rivers."

Strejc carried Rivers' wrestling bag with him for four years until the Arrows won the championship in 2002.

"That was my piece of coach Rivers to carry with me," Strejc said. "I stooped down and emptied the contents out and put all the papers and everything in the new bag. It did what it came there to do."

Though Strejc looks at himself as just a steward of the tradition Rivers built, the wrestlers he coached look at it differently.

"I owe a lot to Dave Strejc," Lowell senior Joe Mendez said after winning his fourth individual state championship this year. "He doesn't say I owe anything, but I know I do."

Strejc was also adept at relating to individual wrestlers, resulting in several unique motivational strategies.

"I remember (coach) always telling me that 'second is still pretty good,'" said former Lowell wrestler Bobby Gingerich. "He somehow knew that would

eat away at me until I couldn't stand it anymore. I hated that saying. It made me try harder and harder so I wouldn't have to hear it again. It was a great motivator."

Gingerich won an individual state title his senior year.

Strejc said moving on from wrestling amounts to a turning point in his life.

"These lifestyle changes are difficult but sometimes

we have to step out of that role we've always had and step into something else," Strejc said.

He said making a last trip to Battle Creek for the state finals with this year's underdog team was a great note to go out on.

"This is one of the special teams I'll never forget," Strejc said. "The way they won those meets, the way they won that regional,

it was just very sweet, very satisfying."

The retirement open house for Strejc will be from 6 to 10 p.m. Friday at

the home of Tom and Katie Mendez, 5874 Morse Lake Road in Alto. A tribute to Strejc will take place at 8 p.m. All are welcome.

## LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS "SUPERINTENDENT'S NIGHT IN"

Shari Miller will be in on Thursday, May 26 & Thursday, June 16 to answer any questions from staff members or members of the community and to hear comments and suggestions.

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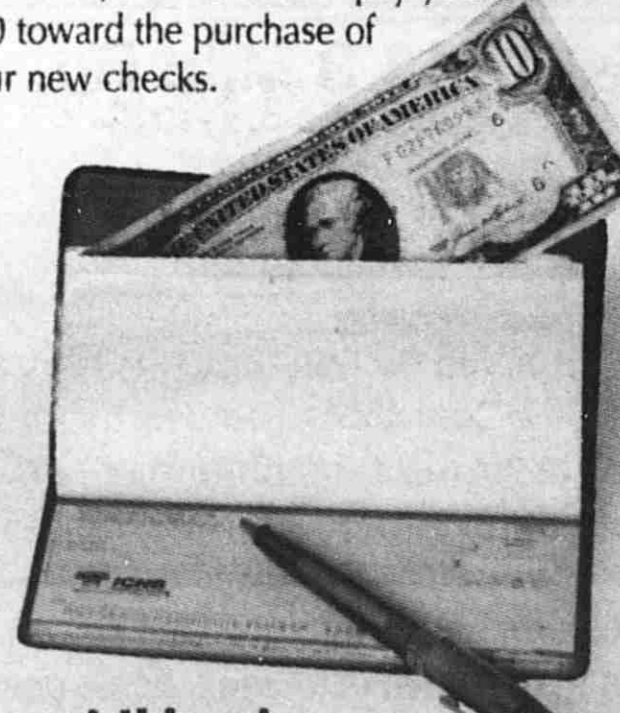
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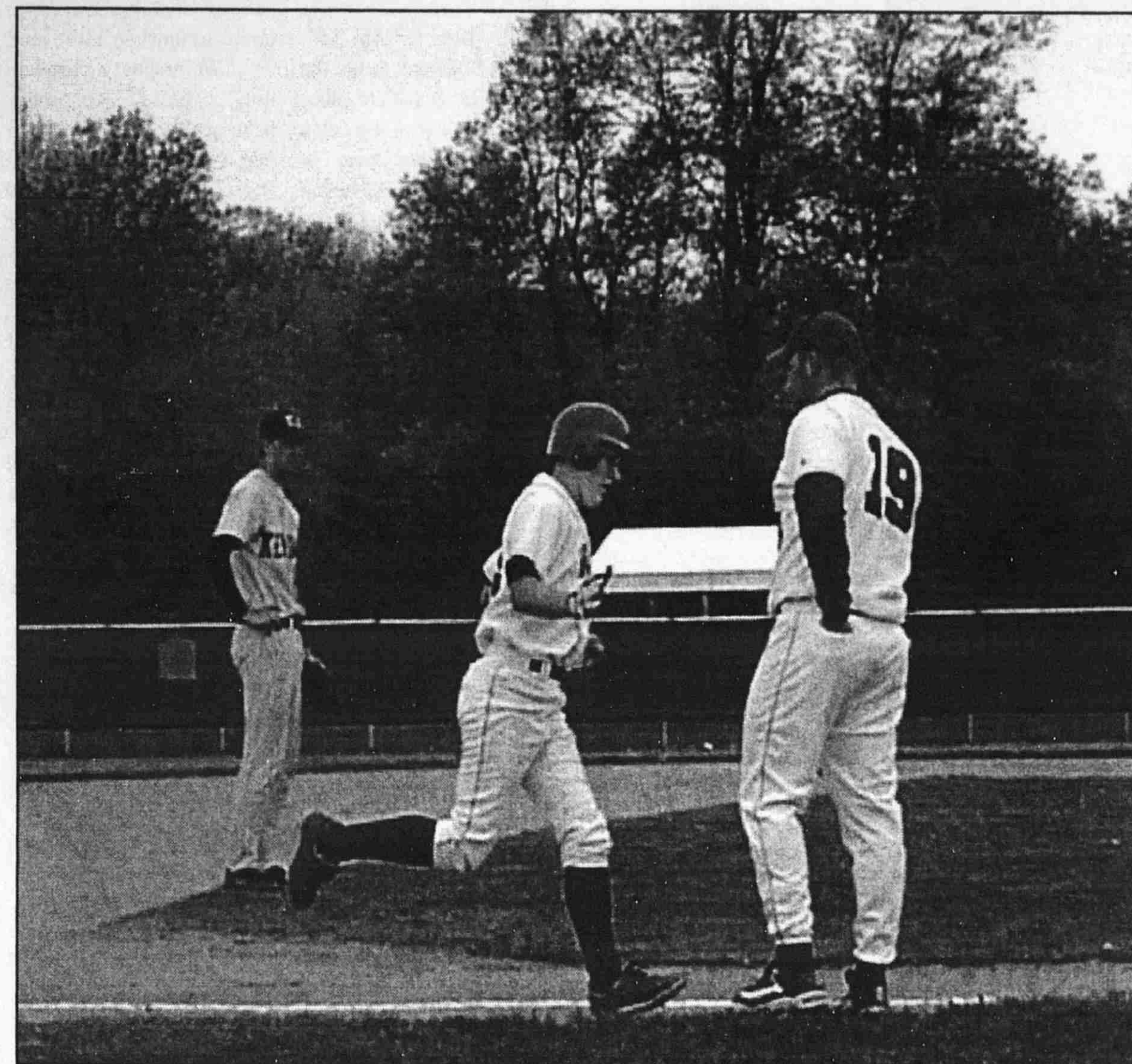
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# Last week of OK White tough on Lowell baseball

By Dan Schneider

Lowell baseball was on the losing side of three close games and two blowouts last week. Last Monday's game against Cedar Springs was scoreless until the fifth inning when the Red Arrows took the lead on a Jordan Ickes base hit and an RBI double by Tony Adrianse.



Lowell's Jason Welsh gets a high five from coach Juston Miller after hitting it out of the park in the first inning of game one of last week's doubleheader against Kenowa Hills.

That run gave Lowell the lead but the Redhaws came back and scored three runs in the top of the sixth.

Lowell held Kenowa Hills scoreless for one inning at home last Wednesday. The Arrows caught their lead-off batter trying to steal second, got their third batter out at first and stranded a runner at third by catching a fly ball to left field. Then Lowell took the lead early on a home run to center-right by Jason Welsh.

But the Knights' number eight batter hit a three-run homer in the top of the second. Kenowa scored three runs in each of the next two innings and one in the seventh to win 10-1.

Game two was a tight contest. The score was 0-0 for four and a half innings. But then Kenowa, who was 23-1 going into game two of the doubleheader, scored four runs in the fifth which was enough for the 4-0 win.

"We played with a lot of top teams," Lowell coach Juston Miller said. "We just keep having that one inning that snowballs."

In that game, things snowballed after Kenowa got runners at first and third. The Knights hit a ground ball to shortstop. Welsh

fielded the ball well but the throw to second ended up in right field and the bases were loaded. The next batter walked and the next hit a triple to clear the bases.

The first game of a Friday doubleheader at Sparta was the other close game last week.

Lowell went into the seventh inning, down 2-1. The Arrows loaded the bases with singles. Then Lowell executed a suicide squeeze, with Zach Burger running home off the bat of Spencer Quinn.

But Sparta won off a bases-loaded sacrifice fly in the bottom of the seventh. Quinn got the loss for Lowell.

Quinn had a home run in the first inning of game two to help Lowell go up 4-2 on the Spartans. But things snowballed again and Sparta managed 14 runs in the second and third innings.

"We just kept walking people," Miller said. Lowell went through five pitchers in the game. Dan Kern got the loss.

Lowell plays an OK Gold crossover game Wednesday at Hastings and an away game at Wyoming Park this Friday.

# Red Arrow tennis team takes seventh at regionals

Lowell makes a good showing despite some tough draws, lack of seniors

By Dan Schneider

The regional tennis match at Forest Hills Central last Thursday left the Lowell boys tennis team in seventh-place. The Red Arrows ran into nearly unstoppable Ranger and Forest Hills Northern teams on multiple occasions during the tournament. The Huskies took first place; the Rangers took second.

Lowell's Brett Hoblar

advanced all the way to the finals match of third singles before losing to Northern's Jordan Cantor 6-2, 6-2.

Brett McMahon advanced to the semifinals where he lost to Northern's Naoto Hida.

Winning his opening first singles match was Kyle Wittenbach against an opponent from Reeths Puffer.

In the first fourth-flight

singles match, Travis Trapp lost in a tie break against Petoskey.

"It would have been nice for him to have had a match under his belt before he played that one," Lowell coach Bonnie Wall said. "We seldom had a good draw."

In last Tuesday's OK

Gold crossover match, Lowell defeated South Christian 5-3.

"Kyle Wittenbach won a great match and so did Travis Trapp."

The RedArrows finished the season 8-4 overall and 5-2 in conference, and are

looking forward to an even stronger team next year.

"I know we're going to have better competition," Wall said. "I don't know how our record will come out, but I know we're going to have a stronger team."

Individual scorers for Lowell were Stef Stuewe (103), Sarah Eickhoff (116), Brittany Foley (135) and Melissa Telman (144).

# Girls golf finishes season at regionals

Playing without its seniors, the Lowell girls golf team finished 13th in the Division 2 regional last Thursday at The Highlands in Grand Rapids.

Lowell's team score was 498 for 18 holes. The Red Arrows finished ahead of Cedar Springs, Ionia, Creston and Fruitport. Grand Rapids Christian

won the regional with a team score of 373. East Grand Rapids scored 378 to finish second.

Lowell's seniors attended their senior trip.

# Lowell hires new wrestling coach

Lowell High School has a new varsity wrestling coach. Dave Dean will replace Dave Strejc who is retiring from coaching at the end of the 2004-2005 school year.

Dean comes to Lowell with 14 years of intercollegiate level coaching and 13 years as an assistant at Michigan State University. He was a two-

time NCAA All-American wrestler at the University of Minnesota. He and his wife Beth plan to move to Lowell with their three children. He joins his brother Noel on the Red Arrow coaching staff.

Strejc, wrestling coach at Lowell for seven years, led the Red Arrows to two state championships, three runner-up finishes and six trips to the final four.

# Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week May 22 - 28

Gov. Jennifer Granholm proclaimed the week of May 22 - May 28 as "Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Awareness Week" throughout Michigan to raise public awareness about EAB and the collective effort underway to prevent its spread.

"As we begin the traveling and tourism season, it is a perfect time to highlight ways we can work together to preserve and protect our treasured resources for future generations," Granholm said.

"The most important role every citizen can play in this battle against emerald ash borer is to not move firewood as they head to their favorite vacation destination."

Residents are urged to immediately report possible signs of infestation through the toll-free EAB hotline (866-325-0023).

"Since its discovery in 2002, Emerald Ash Borer has caused significant economic and environmental damage to Michigan's natural resources," said EAB policy director Patricia Lockwood.

"Each state affected by EAB must work together and take aggressive action in order to safeguard the nation's forests and natural heritage. To be successful, this has to be a collective effort involving the cooperation of every citizen."

The Emerald Ash Borer is an exotic insect native to Asia that attacks ash trees. In its larval stage, EAB feeds undetected under the bark of ash trees, disrupting water and nutrient flow, and ultimately killing the trees in just a few years.

For more information, visit [www.michigan.gov/eab](http://www.michigan.gov/eab) or [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info)

Garlic mustard, continued ...From Page 10

"So far, there's a lot of interest, individuals willing to help out."

She has put up fliers alerting people to the garlic mustard problem at Blue Ribbon Feeds, Tractor Supply Company, "places where people who were outdoorsy would go."

With her friend Bonnie Grooters, she made a nine-minute video that has played repeatedly on Lowell Cable channel 20.

"What my vision is is an environmental organization set up to take care of this sort of thing," Covert said. "This is such a beautiful community.

Because so much of it is being developed, it would be neat to protect what we do have."

Covert said a small group of people can make a large dent in a forest's garlic mustard population in only a few hours. It is recommended to first pull up outlying, small patches of the plant before it gets a chance to establish itself. Garlic mustard plants must be pulled while they are still flowering, before they have a chance to go to seed.

Unity High School principal Marlene Heemstra said, "This extensive art project involved every student in our building. With past art projects, students who lacked artistic abilities didn't always want to participate. That was not the case with this project. There were many aspects that didn't require artistic ability,

so every student worked on the different stages of creating the mosaic tile mural wall. The fact that this was a "real life" project gave the students a real sense of community."

A dedication ceremony is planned for Monday, June 6 at 7 p.m. The public is invited.

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Gas prices on Alpine are \$1.96 and Lowell prices are \$2.08. **Must cost more to send the trucks here or are Lowell residents being ripped off?**

To a certain daytime waitress - You need to treat your customers with a little (lot) more respect. **Have a little respect for yourself and put some clothes on.**

Thanks to Lindsey and Ryan for finding the lost check and returning it to a senior citizen. **Your honesty is appreciated.**

Talk about Boves Road and redoing Grindle - What about Gee Drive ... it's like driving on a washboard.

Thank you Alto PTO- Kim DeWard. You were missed in last week's Sound Off how did that happen??? - Kathi

I REALLY hope that Sterling Massey runs again for school board. **We need someone like him helping to lead our district!**

To the person who doesn't like sports on the front page- Do you have pride? **If you didn't realize, sports are a part of our Lowell culture. We win state championships!**

It's a SHAME, while we are at war, Fred Maier has to fight a battle over care of our flags.

How come no one complained about anything good last week?

Is anyone missing a large black cat?  
The sound off in the Ledger is the highlight of my week. Isn't that sad.

My first year in Pack 3188 has been fantastic. My son has enjoyed it immensely.

Why is it that the only people who cannot hear a barking dog is its owner?

PLEASE don't speed the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer - Don't transport firewood!!!

To all the past and present Veterans, God Bless You and The United States of America !! On Memorial Day, remember those who have passed.

Be safe on this Memorial Day weekend. Remember, "Click it or Ticket"

It doesn't matter what kind of car, suv or truck you have. They all have blinkers - Please use them!!!

Doesn't anyone in this town stop for pedestrians when they try to cross Main Street? It will only take a second out of your day.

We need a skate park for the kids. I don't even have a child that skateboards and I think we need one.

Why can't we put things at the cemetery for our loved ones?

Ken and I would like to thank our Hatch Hollow neighbors and friends and 5/3 Bank for all of their support after the burglary in our home.

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**YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids**

Currently an opportunity exists for an Associate Executive Director for our Lowell YMCA branch. The branch has a 400-membership base, budget size of just under \$1 million, and newer facility of 8,350 square feet. The Associate Executive Director assists with the management of the Lowell YMCA in the areas of fitness, membership, funds development and volunteer management. The Associate Executive Director is responsible to lead fitness programming, membership development initiatives, and manage the "Strong Kids" campaign. The Associate Executive Director oversees the management of facilities, staff development, and the operation of the branch in accordance with policies, procedures, and standards established by the YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids Board of Directors and the Lowell YMCA Branch Board of Managers. Bachelor's degree (B. A.) from four-year college or university, Master's degree preferred; three to five years of supervision, budget management, fundraising, and community collaboration experience preferred or equivalent combination of education, training, and experience. Expertise in the health and wellness area and proven fundraising skills. Excellent benefits include 12% retirement. Contact: Fax: (616) 456-7232; 40 Monroe NW Suite 201, Grand Rapids MI 49503; or e-mail to [jobs@grymca.org](mailto:jobs@grymca.org). Visit our website at [www.grymca.org](http://www.grymca.org).

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**Come Join  
The Celebration!**

**Observed Monday,  
May 30, 2005**

**LOWELL**

*The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8303 and American Legion Post #152 invite all Veterans, Civic Organizations, Scouts & other participants to take part in the annual Memorial Day Ceremonies & salute our deceased & living Veterans.*  
**MONDAY, MAY 30, 2005** - The parade forms at Kent County Youth Fairgrounds on S. Broadway St. between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m. with departure promptly at 9:30 a.m.

The parade will proceed North on Broadway St., East on Main St. stopping at the Veterans memorials on the east side of the Flat River for rendering of honors to Those Who Have Perished at Sea.

The parade continues East on Main St., North on Monroe to Oakwood Cemetery for observances at the GAR Civil War Memorial there. Any wishing to participate should please contact Parade Marshal Gordon Marshall at 897-8625.

Patriotic themes shall be permitted. Commercial and political advertising is prohibited. Tossing of candy from floats or passing out of literature along the parade route, is strictly prohibited. Memorial Day is a day to remember and honor those who have served our nation and have passed on.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Michael P. Conklin

**BOWNE CENTER**

**Monday, May 30 - 8:00 p.m.** - Meet at the Bowne Cemetery, corner of Alden Nash (M-50) & 84th St. Service will be held followed by a 21-gun salute and taps.

**GRATTAN**

17th Annual Bridge Walk and Memorial Day Tribute.  
Monday, May 30, 2005.  
7:00 - 10:00 a.m.: Pancake Breakfast - Sponsored by Grattan Twp. Fire Dept. & Ladies Auxiliary  
11:30 a.m.: Memorial Service - Grattan Center Cemetery  
12:15: Bridge Walk & Foot Parade  
OTHER ACTIVITIES AT THE TOWNSHIP HALL

**SARANAC**

**10:00 a.m.** - Parade starts at Erv Taylor Avenue at the rear of business district and ends at the cemetery. All entries welcome. There will be a program at the cemetery.  
**Speaker:** Brian Calley, vice chairperson, Ionia County Commission

**ALTO MERRIMAN CEMETERY**

**Sunday, May 29 @ 2 p.m.** Remembrance program with guest speaker, at Merriman Cemetery 12030 - 52nd St.

**SOUTH BOSTON CEMETERY**

108th meeting of South Boston Cemetery Association will be held on Monday, May 30, 2005 at noon at the South Boston Bible Church on 6958 Kyser Road. Speaker will be Rolland Smith, missionary to Mexico with CAM international. Followed by a potluck lunch at the church. All are welcome.

**THIS AD IS SPONSORED BY THE  
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