

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 34 Issue 25

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

New student radio station, WLHS, hits local airwaves *Low-power AM station plays music, plans sports broadcasts*

By Dan Schneider

Broadcasting from a transmitter high atop Lowell High School, WLHS, the new student run radio station, is on the air.

It's broadcasting a mix of mostly golden oldies with just about anything else the programmers can get their hands on. On a recent Friday morning, listeners would have heard Howard Shore's "The Riders of Rohan," from his score to the Lord of the Rings movie, sandwiched between the Coasters' "Yakety Yak" and "Peppermint Twist" by Joey Dee and the Starlighters.

The studio is located in the "A" hallway of the school, next to the entrance to the Lowell Performing Arts Center (LPAC).

Listeners can pick up the signal at 1700 on the AM dial, but only on the Lowell High School campus. It's a low-power station ... one-tenth of a watt of power. That's enough to cover the high school, the parking lots at the high school, and Red Arrow Memorial Stadium.

There are other options available to hear the broadcasts, however. There's a link to the station's live audio stream on www.lowellschools.com. And a new development as of last week: the station is

being broadcast on Lowell Cable Channel 20 while community announcements scroll on the screen in hand-selected colors.

"It's one step in a longtime effort to encourage student-produced programming on Cable Channel 20," said Lowell Light and Power and Cable TV general manager Tom Richards.

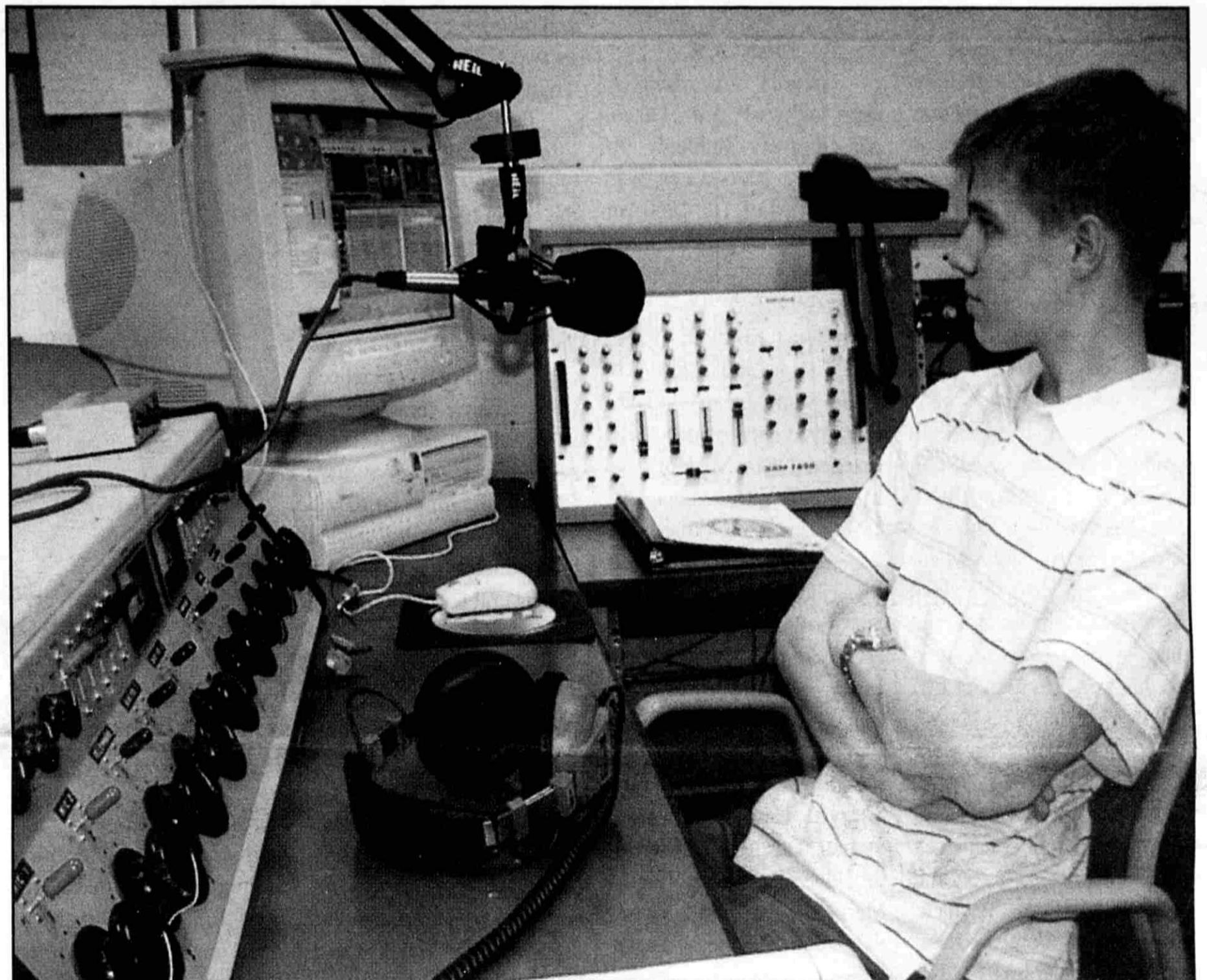
Previously, Channel 20 had broadcast the National Weather Service feed as background sound for the community events listings.

"My personal opinion was that something from here would be more interesting than the National Weather Service," explained WLHS advisor Al Eckman.

For the students involved in the station, the key benefit is it will help more listeners tune in.

"Before, I didn't think we'd have very many listeners. Now people can just tune in on their TVs," Andrew Bewell said.

Bewell has been one of the key student figures in launching the station, Eckman said. Bewell didn't have any particular interest in talking into microphones or in radio. When he signed up for the seminar-period wireless technology class last September, he thought he



WLHS radio DJ Andrew Bewell monitors broadcast equipment in the low-power AM station's studio.

could do something behind the scenes. But WLHS had an immediate impact on his career preferences.

"I love this," he said. "This is my life, basically."

Eckman, who retired last year as security director for Lowell Area Schools, is teaching the seminar class on a volunteer basis. Grants have covered the cost

of equipment and music royalties (the station runs a tight, totally above-board ship, following all broadcast regulations).

They have a switchboard that came from the studios of WION in Ionia. Currently, the WLHS music library offers about 900 songs. The station is looking for donations of CDs to help

augment that library. People who like to listen to a certain type of music while they read public service announcements might want to consider donating that kind of music.

The wireless technology class originated with only seven students; it's up to about 25 now. With the radio station

fairly established, the class has moved on to robotics. They are assembling and programming a Boe-Bot. The "Boe" stands for "Board of Education," which refers to the circuit board on top of the robot that allows it to be programmed.

Student DJs, including

Radio, cont'd., pg. 11

Local dog park fundraising begins, planning continues

By Dan Schneider

Progress is being made toward the creation of a dog park in Lowell.

A group of local dog owners led by Jeff Eckstrom has begun fundraising for the park. They are working to get city approval for what Eckstrom said would be the preferred location for the park.

The land is situated south of Front Street and west of Division St. It is currently a wide-open grassy field with woods at its south end.

It's proximity to the river has caused a high

concentration of nutrient-rich soil there. This is important, Eckstrom said, as it should help maintain a healthy turf in the park. Turf wear is one of the complications commonly associated with dog parks. This location would provide at least partial shade.

However, the wheels of city government still have some turning to do before a dog park could move into that location.

"There hasn't been any official decision on that," city manager Dave Pasquale said. "We've been meeting with them on a regular

basis and we've been very supportive of the concept."

Fundraising has already begun toward the estimated \$40,000 cost to build the park. That figure includes the cost of installing a paved parking lot. Eckstrom sent out a mailing in mid-March seeking donations. Since then, about \$1,600 has been collected toward the cause, all donations from private individuals. Eckstrom is seeking funds from a variety of other sources, writing grants to foundations and soliciting donations from major dog-food producers and pet supply retailers.

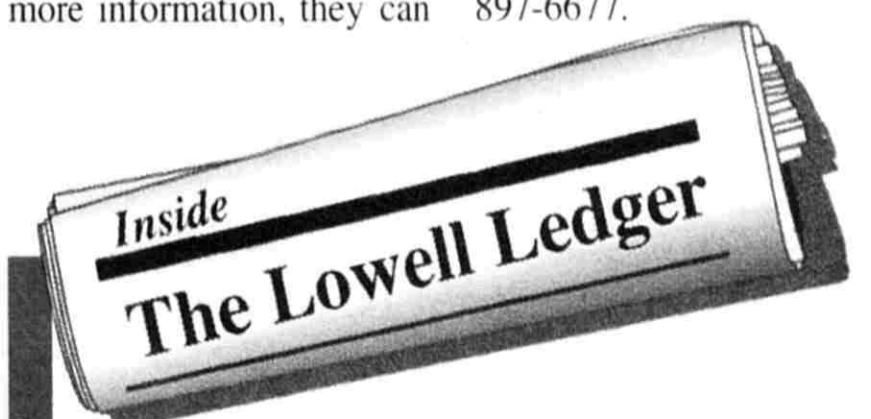
The proposed park itself would cover about two acres. Fenced in with six-foot high, vinyl-coated chain link fence, the park would be a rounded-off L-shape. It would have a large running area for big dogs, and a smaller area for little dogs and puppies.

Donors will be recognized when the park is built. For contributions of \$50 or more, donors can receive recognition on a community bulletin board or have a past pet memorialized. All donors will receive a Lowell Dog Park sticker or decal.

"We're hoping for donations from the public, and anybody who wants more information, they can

feel free to contact me," Eckstrom said.

He can be reached at 897-6677.



Cool plant art ... Page 10

Problematic plant pull ... Page 11

Signs over river ... Page 20

Lend A Hand VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

GIRL SCOUTS/GOODWILL CLOTHING DRIVE

Girl Scouts of Michigan Trails has worked with Goodwill Industries for seven years providing an annual community-wide donation drive. Some girls will have a patch this year rewarding their dedication to helping others. The donation drive allows community members to donate bags of gently used clothing and

participating in this drive on Saturday, April 29 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
For more information, call 897-2518.

HELP PROMOTE LITERACY

The Kent County Literacy Council has scheduled an information session on Thursday, May 4 for prospective volunteer tutors. This session is held at 6:30 p.m. and lasts one hour. At the end of the session, there will be an opportunity to sign up for tutor training.

By training people to be tutors, the council can offer one-on-one reading help to adults asking for assistance in reading or English as a Second Language (ESL). You do not need to speak another language to tutor ESL.

The information session will be held at the Grand Rapids Public Library, 111 Library St. NE, Grand Rapids in the VanderVeen Center. Call 459-5151 to register.

Successful turkey hunter

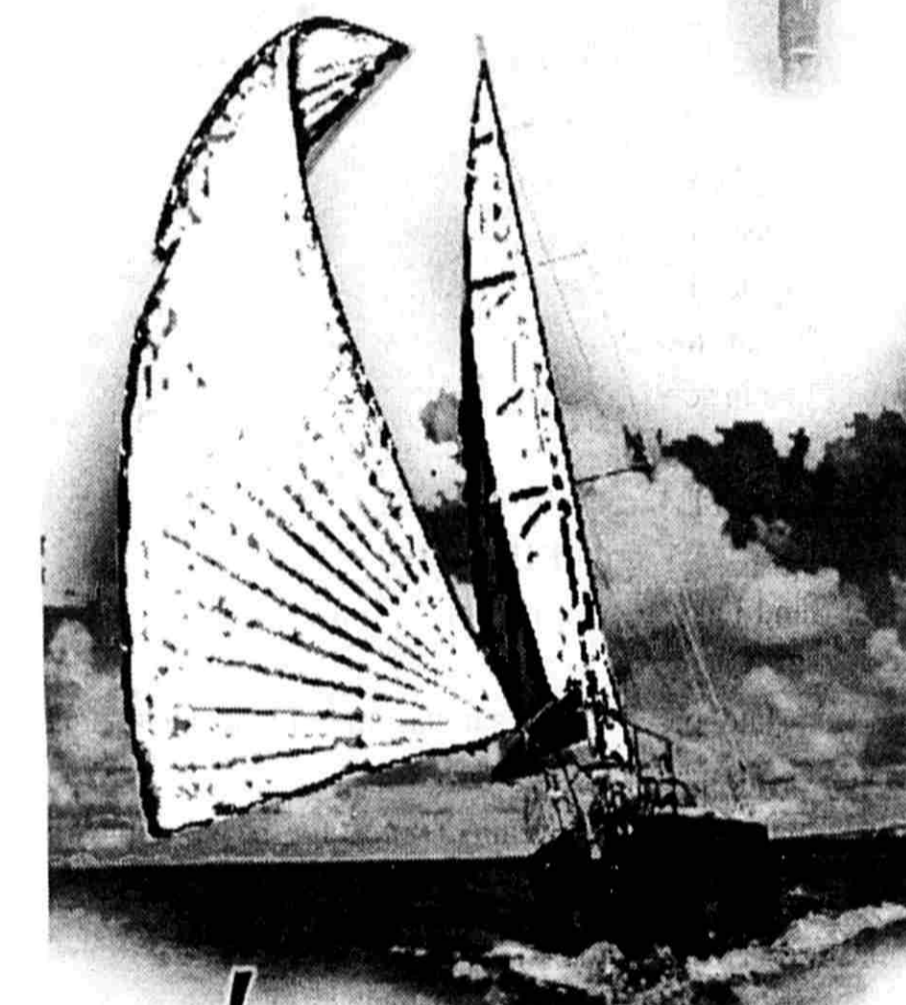
Vic Scudder bagged day of this year's turkey on the third season, Tuesday, April



18. He shot the bird around 8:30 a.m. on private property east of Lowell. The bird weighed 22 pounds and had an 11-inch beard. Scudder was the first turkey hunter to bring a turkey to the Lowell Ledger office during this year's season. For that matter, he may have been the first hunter ever to bring a turkey to the Ledger office.

"I never get my deer in here because I'm always up north hunting so I thought I'd see if I could get my turkey in," Scudder said, referring to the popular annual Lowell Ledger First Buck Contest, which awards prizes to the first hunters to bring in deer on opening day of gun deer season.

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Boaters urged to help protect Michigan's lakes

The Department of Environmental Quality's Office of the Great Lakes is reminding boaters that they play an important role in protecting Michigan's waters from aquatic invasive species. Over 162 aquatic invasive plants and animals threaten Michigan's diverse ecosystems and interfere

with many uses of our waters. Those enjoying Michigan's lakes and streams should inspect watercrafts and recreational equipment before leaving a lake or other water body, remove any vegetation, drain all live wells, clean areas that may contain water, and dispose of unused bait in the trash. Allowing boating and recreational equipment

to dry five - 10 days also helps to prevent the spread of zebra mussels and other organisms from one lake to another.

"Invasive species not only impact the use of Michigan waters, but have negative impacts on sport and commercial fishing, industry, municipalities, and native fish and wildlife," said Office of the Great Lakes director Ken DeBeaussart.

Boaters, cont'd., pg. 13

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"Lowell Area Schools is facing an exciting and challenging future. My experience on the Board and my knowledge of educational issues will be valuable components as we work with our new superintendent. I look forward to meeting the challenges of the next four years. I hope that I can count on your vote."

Board Experience:

- Board Member for eight years (Secretary six years)

Education Experience:

- Certified teacher with thirteen years experience
- Master's Degree in Education
- Advanced coursework in and knowledge of curriculum, technology, school finance, and current trends

Community Involvement:

- Lifelong Lowell resident, LHS Class of 1989
- St. Patrick Church History Committee and Cemetery Committee
- Grattan Township Historical Society
- Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation
- Lowell Agriculture Supporters

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Patrick Nugent, 10060 Kehoe Dr., Ada, MI 49301

Viewpoint



by Roger Brown

Our neighbors have a yellow Lab. He is a little over a year old and answers to Jake. He thinks I'm the greatest human in the whole world. That's what is wonderful about dogs, especially big old rambunctious dogs like a young Lab ... they're easily influenced.

Jake hit the Lottery, big time, when adopted by his owners. He just doesn't realize it. These people are in their late fifties, are retired, never had kids and shower all their love, affection and lots of cash on their dog. Jake replaced Mac, another yellow Lab who lived to fourteen or so. These people had a \$40,000.00 elevator built for Mac when he could no longer climb the stairs. I told you Jake hit the Lottery.

Why does Jake think I'm the greatest? For starters, I always have a big old Milk Bone dog biscuit on me when I think I might see him. I don't think Milk Bones are on his closely supervised diet, so the cheap Milk Bone is a real treat. It's like a guy sneaking a fast food burger while trying to maintain a heart healthy diet.

More important than the treat, I have about the same mentality as a Lab. For us, life is all about chasing cats, retrieving anything that can be thrown, swimming, eating, bending the rules and flaking out on the sofa when we're tired. Labs relate to me, and Jake is no exception.

Our family has been through four male Labs over the years. They were all raised from pups and I know what makes them tick. Which is, all the same things that make me tick. My daughter has a yellow Lab, and when I visit, he is at my side for the entire stay. He even follows me into the bathroom. How sick is that?

The neighbor lady is trying desperately to train Jake. She has a trainer coming over for regular lessons and is making some progress. If Jake sees me, forget the training. He bolts for his Milk Bone and then literally attacks me until we get some fetching or rough housing going.

If I'm out for my morning walk and maybe even a mile ahead of Jake and Linda, his owner, he'll pick up my scent and literally drag her down the road. She has stopped taking Jake with her on her morning walks. She tells me that four miles is too tough on him. I know it's really because she

thinks I'm a bad influence. It's sort of like high school when some girls' fathers wouldn't let them go on a date with me. They blamed it on the motorcycle, but I knew it was really me they didn't like.

Poor Jake has been relegated to this overly protective environment and we don't see much of each other any more. All of this brings me to an episode from last week. I needed to set the stage for this little story so that you can begin to believe it.

I knew Jake was scheduled to be neutered last Tuesday. Their vet recommended postponing the procedure until he had a chance to develop physically. I'm not sure I agree, but that's beside the point.

I hadn't seen Linda on my morning walk all week. When I did see her on Friday, she was in the car running an early morning errand. She stopped to talk briefly. She looked tired and frazzled.

The first words out of her mouth was a report on Jake. The surgery went well and there had been no complications. When I asked why I hadn't seen her out for a morning walk, she explained. You're not going to believe this.

After the surgery, the vet told her to try and keep Jake from licking his incision. I told you she is overly protective. I've told you no expense is spared for their dog. The reason Linda looked tired and frazzled was because she was sleeping on the floor at night listening for him to try and lick his incision. If he did, she'd be there to stop him. When I saw her, she'd been three nights without any real sleep. Seriously!

She then said they might not be going to a wedding on Saturday that the entire neighborhood was invited to. She was worried about Jake's stitches. The vet had said boxer shorts work to keep the dog away from the incision. The only problem with that idea was Linda's husband, Jake's dad, weighs close to 300 pounds. His boxers weren't going to work.

At the wedding I was talking to another neighbor. I mentioned that Jake must have been doing okay, as his owners were there. (Yeh, I was going to poke a little fun.) This neighbor, a skinny little guy, replied with, "Oh, you haven't heard the latest?" Never above a little gossip I said, "Do tell."

Because this guy was the littlest in the neighborhood, he was tapped to loan a pair of underwear to Jake's recovery. He said they wanted to "borrow" the underwear. He told them they could go ahead and keep the boxers. Can't say I blame him.

That's the story of Jake, the poor pampered Lab. I had always said that if I ever come back in another life I want to be these people's dog. After this neutering thing and having to wear the neighbor's boxers ... I'm not so sure.

Ledger Entries

of 125, 100, 75, 50 & 25 Years Ago

By Priscilla Lussmyer



125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL APRIL 27, 1881

Arbor Day is coming up. Plant some trees. This is the season for measles. The east side has huge puddles and full basements. Something needs to be done about this. There are too many boys in the streets each day who ought to be in school.

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER APRIL 26, 1906

A Sand Lake burglar is captured on Bridge Street after a shootout. The state tuberculosis sanitarium will be located at Howell. Parmalee will have a beauty contest for the woman with the most shapely nose. A gang of men is trying to round up a herd of elk that escaped from the Hill game preserve near Pontiac.

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO APRIL 23, 1931

Elmer Layer makes state Class C records in the shot-put and discus in a meet with East Grand Rapids at Recreation Park, takes firsts in javelin and broad jump, and ties for second in high jump.

About 60 Kent farmers, including 20 from the Lowell area, have received federal farm aid, averaging about \$150. There were 30,000 brook trout which were distributed in three local creeks last week, courtesy of Grand Trunk Railway.

Dr. Altland is driving a new Ford Victoria.

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER APRIL 26, 1956

The damaged west gateway to Lowell is slated to be torn down in a week, and now the east gateway has been cracked by a dozing driver.

Over 50 rural school districts will meet at Lowell to discuss recent state changes in tuition and transportation rates, and annexation laws.

Councilman Frank Battistella tells the Ledger about the Law Enforcement Committee's concerns with speeding and overtime parking.

The police department office is being moved from the City Hall "Kitchen" to the front of the building.

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER APRIL 22, 1981

Rising costs plus lower student numbers and state economy put next year's school budget in a crunch.

Frank Baker retires after 35 years in the Volunteer Fire Department, 27 years as fire chief, and 15 years as mechanic for the city of Lowell.

To The Editor

Dear Editor,

Are you a Lowell city resident? Do you enjoy the rural atmosphere of your city - the possibilities for walking, biking, hiking, etc.? If so, please be aware of the decision your city council members are being faced with as Lowell Light and Power vacates the North Washington Street site.

This is prime property for maintaining "green space," the rural country atmosphere for all these outdoor activities. It is adjacent to the river as well as state land, which makes it even more unique and valuable for preservation.

We as neighbors have been working hard to convince the city council to preserve this area but we are Vergennes Township residents and so are not represented by the Lowell City Council. They need to hear from you - city residents - as to your concerns and desires for this area. Please let your voices be heard since ours aren't. Call or write your council members or attend the city council meetings to voice your concern.

We are losing more and more areas like this and yet they are what help make Lowell the wonderful rural community that most of us live here for. When it's gone, there's no getting it back.

Peggy Covert

Letters, cont'd., pg. 7

Letters... We love to hear from you!

The Lowell Ledger - welcomes all "Letters to the Editor" for publication on its "Viewpoint" page. Letters can be typed or written. However, we ask that they not exceed 250 words and not be strictly thank you letters. "Letters to the Editor" should be sent to the Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, P.O. Box 1216, Lowell, MI 49331 or emailed to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com. Letters must be signed and please include a phone number. Editing may be necessary for space, clarity and to avoid obscenity, libel or invasion of privacy. The Lowell Ledger thanks you in advance for your cooperation.



Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold
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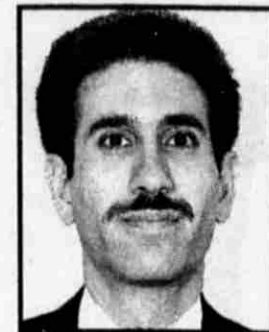
If you're like many homeowners in this country, you probably saw your house appreciate in value quite a bit over the past few years. That's the good news. The not-so-good news is that, during this same time period, your savings and net worth might have stagnated or fallen. What does this mean for you? It could mean that when you retire, you do what a lot of current retirees are doing: using the equity in their homes to fund a large portion of their retirement. And that is not a good thing.

Before looking at how retirees are tapping into their

home equity, let's review a few statistics from a recent survey by the Federal Reserve. (The survey, released in early 2006, covers the years from 2001-2004.)

- The typical American household's net worth (assets minus debts) increased only slightly, from \$91,700 to \$93,100.
- The typical family's savings (including retirement accounts) fell from almost \$30,000 to just \$23,000.

Financial Focus, cont'd., pg. 9



Legal Ease

With Jonathan David

DEAR JONATHAN: My husband and I have been married just over three years. This is my first marriage and his second. He has children from his first marriage, but he

is not on real good terms with them, or his ex-wife. I have been harping on him to prepare a will, but I can't seem to get him motivated. Some of our assets are in joint names, like the house, and I realize that if he were to die that I would be entitled to those assets. However, he has approximately \$2,000,000 worth of assets in his name alone. If he dies and does not leave a last will and testament, how much of that \$2,000,000 would I be entitled to?

JONATHAN SAYS: Under Michigan law, any time someone dies intestate, which means without a last will and

testament, and that person leaves a surviving spouse and children from a prior marriage, then the surviving spouse is entitled to the following: The first \$100,000 plus one half of the balance of the testate estate.

In your case, if your husband's testate estate is worth \$2,000,000, then you would be entitled to the first \$100,000, plus one half of the balance, or \$950,000 for a total of \$1,050,000; the remaining \$950,000 would pass to your

Legal Ease, cont'd., pg. 12

Financial Focus, continued...From Page 8

The median value of homes rose from \$131,000 to \$161,000, a 22 percent jump.

By looking at these numbers, you can easily see the problem that many retirees are facing: too few liquid resources available to comfortably support themselves during their retirement years. Consequently, an increasing number of retirees are taking out "reverse mortgages." This is a special kind of loan that enables borrowers to convert their home equity into cash, either through a line of credit or installment payments.

But if you ever decide to sell your home, you will have to pay back what you borrowed on your reverse mortgage. And if you were to die and leave the house to your children, they would have to pay back the loan.

Clearly, these are potentially big drawbacks to taking out a reverse mortgage. And that's why, if you have many years to go until you retire, you'll want to give yourself more options for boosting your retirement cash flow. Here are two to consider:

- "Max out" on your IRA each year. Put in the maximum allowable contribution to your Roth or traditional IRA each year. And fund your IRA as early as possible every year; the more time you have on your side, the greater your growth potential.

- Increase your 401(k) contributions with every raise. Each time you get an increase in salary, defer more money in your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. As you enter retirement, you may be able to boost your

income by doing the following:

- Delay taking Social Security. You can begin collecting Social Security at age 62, but your monthly checks will be larger if you can wait until your full retirement age, which can be anywhere from 65 to 67.

- Purchase an immediate annuity. An immediate annuity works pretty much as its name suggests: You make a lump-sum payment to an insurance company, and you immediately start receiving an income stream, which can last the rest of your life. Make sure you purchase an annuity that receives high ratings from one of the independent rating agencies.

You work hard for much of your life to own your home - so do whatever you can to keep it once you've retired.

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Photographer explores time through lilies, chair, light

Artwork currently on display at Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce

By Dan Schneider

An exhibit by Pravin Sevak at the Riverwalk Gallery in the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce features some of the most exciting artwork to come to Lowell since the Lowell Area Arts Council's West Michigan Regional Competition (WMRC) not too long ago.

That competition was what brought Sevak to Lowell in the first place. Arts council executive director Lorain Smalligan saw his

photography in that juried show and asked if he would be interested in exhibiting more work in Lowell. He was.

So he and his wife, Arvind, spent most of last Tuesday afternoon hanging frames at the chamber of commerce. His photographs are parts of two series: one about a canna lily; the other about a chair. Color, line and shape are the primary aspects of both series.

"I enjoy playing with simple lines, colors," Sevak said. "This whole show is basically how beautiful our surroundings are, both man-made and nature."

Man-made would be the chair; nature would be the plant.

The concept of time is introduced in both series. In the chair photos, time is found in the movement of shadows. The canna lily photographs depict time in the life cycle of the plant.

"It's a life cycle, I call it a life line in the series," Sevak said. "How that plant grows and changes colors."

Later in the series, Sevak photographed the lily as it was decaying, but those photos are not part of the exhibit.

The lily in the photographs is specifically known as a Bengal tiger canna lily. Last year, it was growing outside the window of Sevak's office at Western Michigan University where

he is an associate professor of art. The post is the latest stop in what for Sevak has been a tour of U.S. art schools since he left India in 1998.

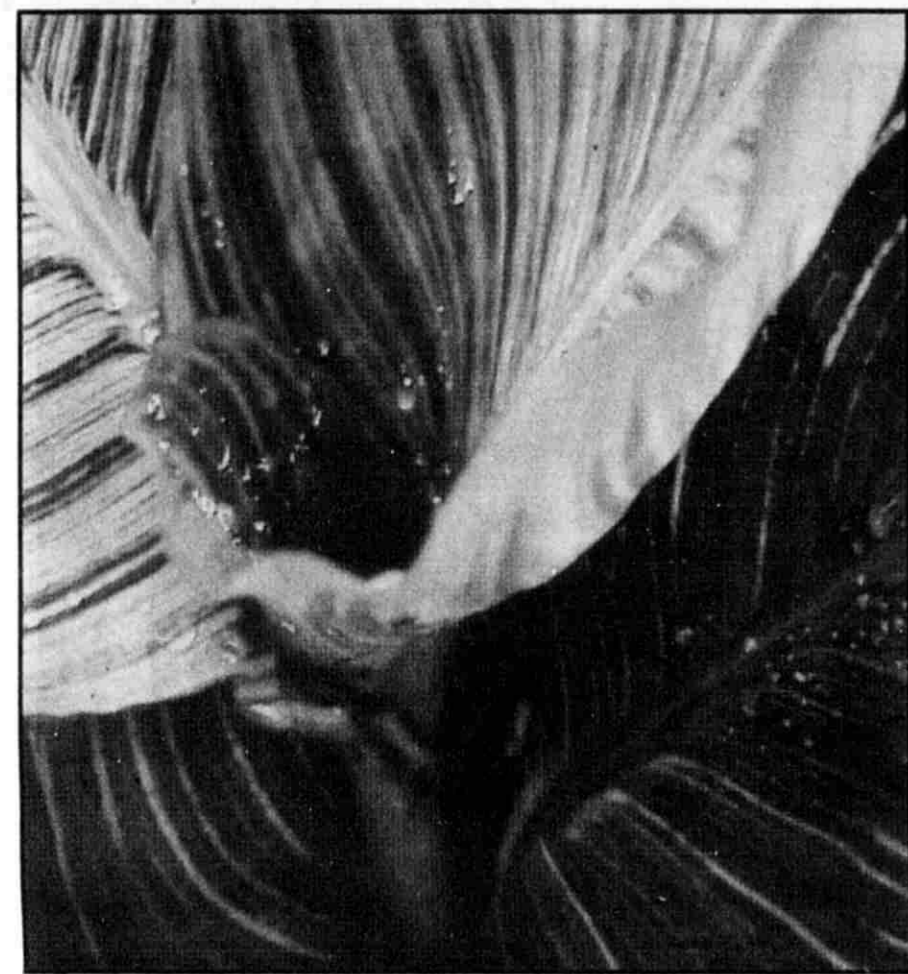
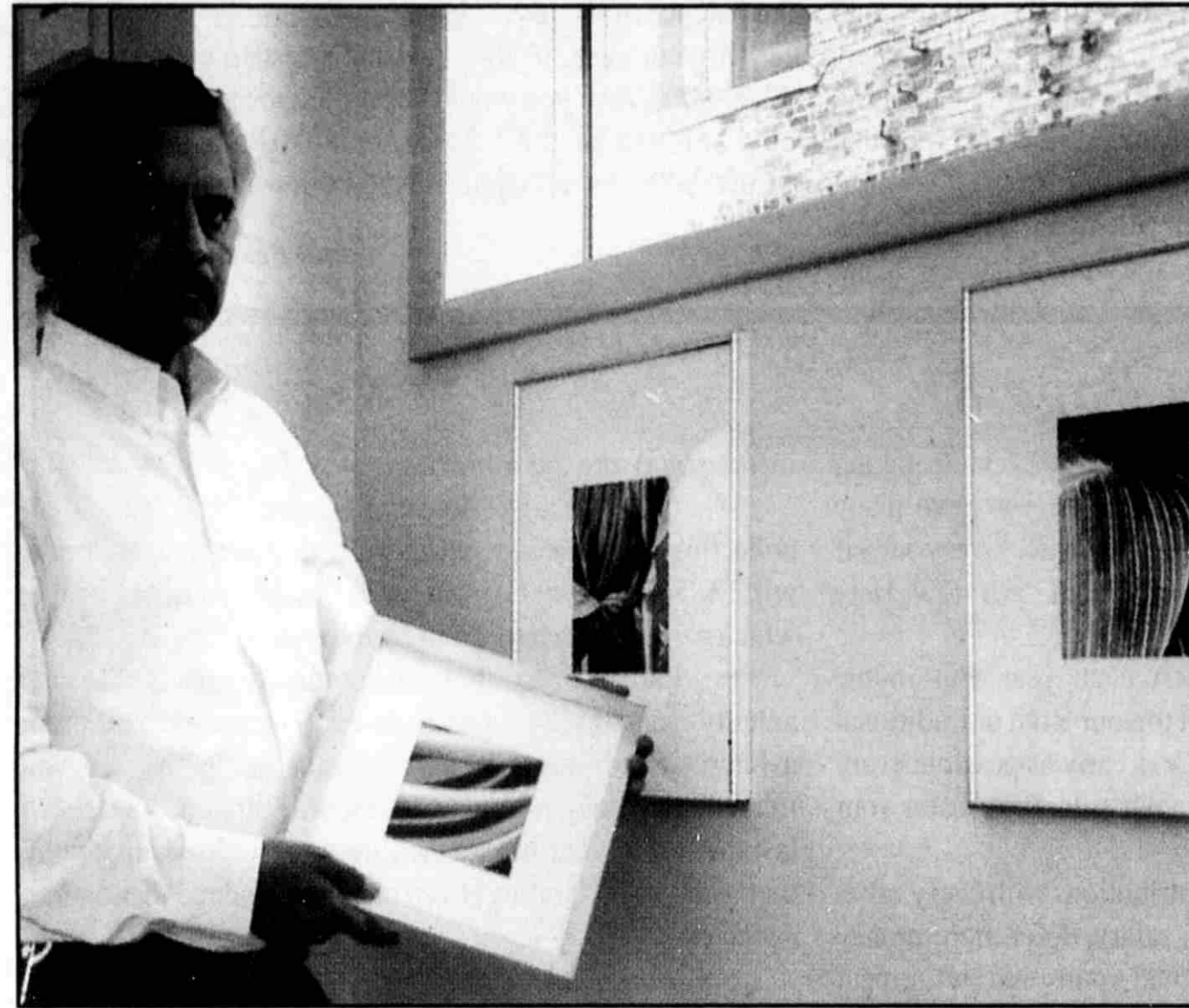
In that year, Ohio University invited him as a visiting faculty. Prior to that, he had taught graphic design for 17 years in India. Since then, he has taught at Truman State University in Missouri and Northern Kentucky University before coming to Western, where he has been for three years. Photography is something he has done on the side since coming to the U.S.

"Photography is my passion, it's not my profession sort of thing," Sevak said. "Being very new to this country, I restarted that passion that I was doing in India in my younger days."

It is the first of several shows Sevak will present in Lowell. His next will be a series on water at the Huntington Galleria. At the end of summer, he will be showing work at the Riverwalk Gallery again. This time, it won't be photography but a set of 16 yantras (pronounced ee-ahn-tras). The paintings are used for meditation.

"I am bringing Indian culture here to show people what the yantra is and how I see these yantras," Sevak said.

He will also be one of four photographers who will spend a year chronicling their perspectives of Lowell for a show next year at the arts council gallery on Hudson Street.



Top: Pravin Sevak with examples of his artwork currently on display at the Riverwalk Gallery in the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.

Above: Two photographs from Sevak's series on a Bengal Tiger canna lily. The images reflect changes in light and plant growth over time

Volunteers out to destroy invasive plant species locally

By Dan Schneider

Lowell citizens will have a chance this Saturday to battle what is considered by many a growing ecological scourge in southern Michigan: garlic mustard.

Lowell resident Peggy Covert, who for years has combatted the invasive plant species both on her property and on nearby publically-owned land, is organizing volunteers for a garlic mustard pull Saturday. This pull will take place at 1 p.m. at Stoney Lakeside Park.

A similar pull last Wednesday attracted more than 25 people, who pulled garlic mustard plants along the Flat River in the forest north of the Boy Scout Cabin on North Washington Street. Covert expects Saturday's pull to attract a similar number of people. She said girl scouts and church youth groups have been especially interested in participating.

"We've been having a real good response with youth groups, so that's been real great," Covert said. "They get a lot accomplished."

Garlic mustard, a highly aggressive plant with complex and successful survival mechanisms, damages ecosystems by out-competing local plants for sun, water and soil nutrients. Delicate spring wildflowers are especially vulnerable.

Once garlic mustard gets well established in an area, it is difficult to near-impossible to eradicate. That is why Covert has selected Stoney Lakeside Park as the site for the next pull. There is a large amount of the plant growing there, but it is located all in one place, near the start of the hiking trail at the west end of the lake.

"I noticed over there in the woods where we're going, there's a huge area right at the beginning of the trail but there's very little farther on," Covert said. "So we're hoping we can stop

it from spreading if we get rid of what's growing at the beginning."

Volunteers have been a help in combatting garlic mustard. Department of Public Works employees do not have enough time, among all their grounds care duties, to locate and deal with garlic mustard.

"I've got so many other things on my plate that I don't really take huge notice of remembering where they are," cemetery sexton Don DeJong said.

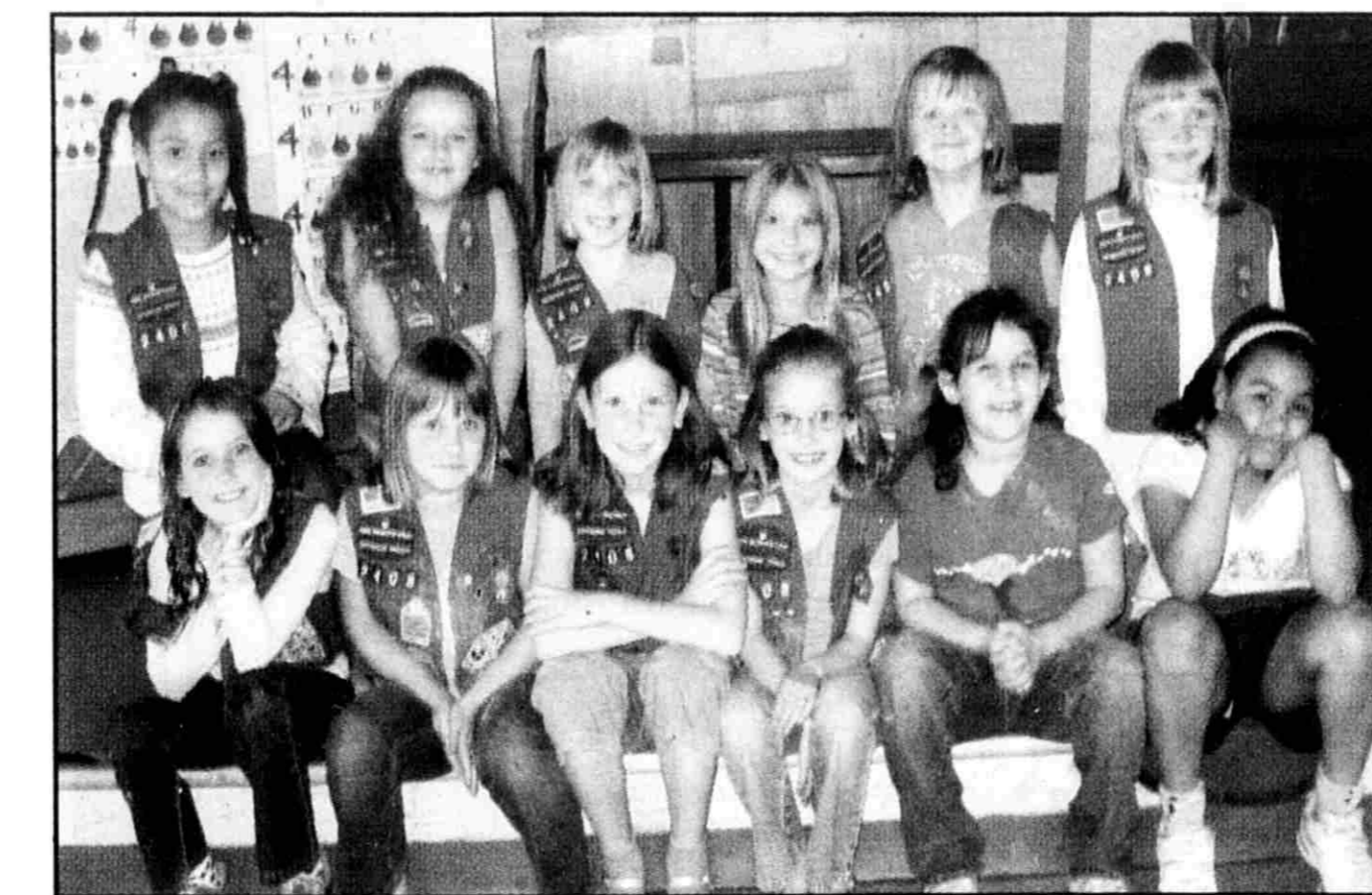
Pulling garlic mustard plants does have an impact. Covert said Melanie Good, a naturalist with Blandford Nature Center who lives near Lowell, has seen evidence of native wildflower recovery in areas where garlic mustard was pulled last year.

Covert has produced a video documentary about garlic mustard in Lowell. It airs at 7 p.m. Wednesday, 6 p.m. Thursday, and 7 p.m. Friday on Lowell Cable channel 20.



Volunteers plan to remove this and other garlic mustard plants, which are growing near a trailhead at Stoney Lakeside Park, this Saturday.

Local Brownie troop donates to Louisiana Girl Scouts



Brownie Troop #2408 recently donated \$100 towards rebuilding Girl Scout camps in southeast Louisiana hit by Hurricane Katrina. The second grade girls, most of them from Cherry Creek Elementary and one from Murray Lake Elementary, used profits from their Girl Scout cookie sale. They set a good example living by the Girl Scout Law to "be a sister to every Girl Scout."

Radio, continued ... From Page 1

several from outside the wireless technology class, do most of their work after school. Music does play all day, however, on computer rotation. Eckman said the station plans to put together a regular programming schedule, perhaps from 7 to 10 p.m. The station is equipped to do remote broadcasts, and plans to broadcast Lowell football games along with other athletic events. It will also broadcast live from community events such as the Kent County Youth Fair.

By the end of April, the station will be wired into the LPAC. It will then have

the capacity to broadcast musical performances and other events there.

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VOTE MAY 2ND

And join these Lowell citizens voting **YES, YES** on the school millage issues **Support our local schools!**

Proposition I - Renew the 18 mill non-homestead property tax. (Currently provides over 3 million dollars of school funding)

Proposition II - Restore the millage back to 18 mills and override the Headlee amendment (Would provide over \$270,000 of lost school funding)

Kelly Taylor	Colleen Damm	Melissa VanderSloot	Brad Mooney	Phil Wilson
Patty Smith	Brent Noskey	Jeremy Barber	Jake Munson	Jennifer Haywood
Tracy Loughlin	Jeff Cleveger	Heather Kuzdzal	Melissa Casalina	Mike Lezan
Rich Bouwhuis	Pearl Fohlbrook	Tammy Beatson	Howard Burton	Eva Carey
Rick Walendzik	Pat McMahon	Lannie Rice	Kate Democoeur	Greg Frey
Kathy Curtis	Dave Warsen	Heather McCormack	Renay Bouwhuis	Karl Fohlbrook
Mark Beatson	Carol Burton	James Carey	Mike McMahon	Bob Rice
Bonnie Frey	Bucky Curtis	Stephanie Warsen	Jeff McCormack	Marilyn Wilson
Lynn Nauta	Kyle Gildea	Judy Straub	David Pasquale	Phil Nauta
Angela Gildea	Kendal Khodl	Jodi Sheveland	Kelly Fuller	Angela Baerwalde
Kathy Noifke	Jack Weeber	Toby Alderink	Karen Woodhead	Lisa Hindley
Paula Briggs	Cindy Wissman	Lisa Noskey	Mary Mooney	Mike Khodl
Jeff Fuller	Joan Weeber	Wendy Alderink	Denise Washburn	Sue Wernet
Don Hindley	Chris Briggs	Heidi Heffron	Andrea Clevenger	Mike Taylor
Tammy Barber	Mike Kuzdzal	Eric Damm	Heidi Munson	Breyoudn Haywood
Joseph Casalina	Karen Lezan	Dan Stadt	Diane Stinson	Kammie VanOosten
Ken White	Katie Peters	Rachel Stadt	Ron Stinson	Bill VanOosten
Sandi White	Gregg Peters	Marcia Roth		

This vote does not affect the taxes of your primary residence or qualified agricultural property!

Support your local schools on May 2nd and vote YES, YES

For additional information visit the school website at <http://www.lowell.k12.mi.us/> or call 987-2500

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Thebes Players' "On Golden Pond" production continues



Come join the Thayers and an evening of laughs! The Thebes Players are presenting the dinner theater "On Golden Pond" this weekend at Larkin's Banquet Hall. Dinner is at 6:30, the show at 7:30 on Friday, April 28 and Saturday, April 29; a 2 p.m. matinee is on Sunday, April 30. Tickets are available at the Lowell Area Arts Council 897-8545 or online at www.thebesplayers.org.

The cast includes Jim Marron as Norman Thayer, Elly Stevens at Ethel Thayer, Sally McAlpine as Chelsea Thayer, Walt Williams as Bill Ray, Daniel Trupke as Billy Ray Jr. and Ken Trupke as Charlie.

Turkey with stuffing, mashed potatoes, green beans almandine, salad and pie are on the menu. Show tickets-only are also available.

Pictured, left to right, are: Ken Trupke, Jim Marron, Elly Stevens, Sally McAlpine, Daniel Trupke and Walt Williams.

Legal Ease, continued...From Page 9

husband's children from his first marriage. Maybe after you explain to him the consequences of his not preparing a last will and testament, he will finally get motivated enough to engage in the estate planning process.

DEAR JONATHAN: My husband died several months ago. Fortunately we set up an estate plan a couple years ago and arranged it so that we would avoid probate at either of our deaths. Besides power of attorneys, we both wrote last will and testaments and set up trusts. Am I supposed to do anything with his will and trust at this point? The reason I ask is that my husband owned a lot he purchased as an investment several years ago, and now I want to sell it. The realtor pointed out that the lot is titled just in my husband's name, so do I need to bring the will and trust to the closing in order to transfer the lot to the buyers?

JONATHAN SAYS: If your husband's lot is just in his name alone, then in order to be able to sell that lot, you need to open up a probate estate on your husband's behalf and depending upon what the will states, you may or may not have the right to sell it. In other words, if the will does not name you as the beneficiary of the lot and the lot would pass to the named beneficiary. My guess, however, is that your husband's trust is named in his will as the beneficiary of his probate estate and that you are the beneficiary of that trust. Assuming I am correct in my assumption, then once the lot is distributed to the trust, the trustee of the trust can either sell the lot on your behalf or distribute the lot to you and allow you to sell it on your own.

If your husband owned any other assets in his name alone at the time of his death, then those assets also will need to go through probate before they can be distributed to the beneficiaries named in his will to receive those assets. In other words, in order for those assets to pass to the named beneficiary, they need to be probated first. Regarding your original question, your husband's last will and testament needs to be filed with the probate court in the county in which your husband resided at the time of his death. Under Michigan law, the holder of the original will of the decedent is required to file that will with the probate court of the decedent's residence within a reasonable period of time of that person's death.

I recommend that you meet with an estate planning attorney who can review with you your husband's will and trust, as well as those assets that are currently titled in the name of your respective trusts and those assets which are titled outside of the trust. The attorney can further advise you as to how to go about probating your husband's estate and administering his trust.

Humane Society open house

A spring open house will be held at the Humane Society of Kent County on Sunday, April 30 from 12-4 p.m. Featured will be reduced adoption fees on all pets, discounted microchip ID's, pet photography and children's activities. All adoption fees include a veterinary exam, disease screening, vaccinations, spay/neuter surgery, pet ID chip, and pet food. The event is sponsored by Bissell, Invisible Fence and Priority Mortgage.

For more information go online to www.HSKC.org or call 791-8088.

Kite fest

Just because March is behind us doesn't mean that kite weather is too. The annual Great Lakes Kite Festival attracts thousands of people to the Lake Michigan area each spring. The 17th annual festival, put on by Mackinaw Kites and Toys, will be held May 19, 20 and 21 at Grand Haven State Park. A variety of kites will be featured: stunt kites, ballet kites and even fighter kites performing an aerial game of tag. Free kiting seminars are offered as well. Families will also enjoy the Family Fun Tent with a giant inflatable obstacle course, carnival games and crafts for the kids on Saturday. All proceeds will benefit Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan.

Detroit Edison offers spring storm season safety tips

Damaging spring storms can disrupt electrical service to homes and businesses are a fact of life in Michigan. Detroit Edison continually prepares for unavoidable storm outages to ensure service is restored as quickly as possible.

There are steps customers can take as well to make sure they're prepared for - and stay safe - during storm-related power outages. Detroit Edison offers the following tips and suggestions: What to do before a storm:

- Assemble an emergency kit: include a battery-powered radio or television, a flashlight with extra batteries, candles and matches or a lighter, a first-aid kit, a fire extinguisher, bottled water, non-perishable food and a can opener.
- Keep a corded or cell phone on hand because cordless telephones need electricity to operate. Learn how to manually open automated garage doors.
- Customers who depend on electrically powered medical equipment should ask their physician about a battery back-up system. If a customer is elderly or has a medical condition that would be adversely impacted by a power outage, he or she should develop an emergency plan that allows for alternative accommodations with family or friends.
- Customers who depend on a well for drinking water should have bottled water on hand.
- What to do during a storm:
 - Stay at least 10 feet away from downed power lines and anything they may be touching, especially metal fences. Treat every downed power line as if it were energized. Keep children and pets out of the area.
 - Downed power lines should be reported immediately to Detroit Edison at (800) 477-4747 so the hazard can be assessed and marked off until repair crews arrive.
 - Customers should report power outages through Detroit Edison's automated system at (800) 477-4747 from a location with power. Don't assume the company knows your power is out.
 - If you lose power, don't open refrigerators and freezers more often than absolutely necessary. A closed refrigerator will stay cold for 12 hours. Kept closed, a well-filled freezer will preserve food for two days. Partially thawed food or food that has ice crystals usually can be refrozen.
 - Never use a gas range for heating, or charcoal as an indoor heating or cooking source.
 - Turn off or unplug all appliances to prevent an electrical overload when power is restored. Leave on one light switch to indicate when power is restored.
 - If using a portable generator, disconnect house circuits from Detroit Edison power lines. Pull or switch to "off" all main fuses or circuit breakers to protect line crews working to restore service. Always operate generators outdoors to avoid dangerous buildup of toxic fumes.
 - During low-voltage conditions - when lights are dim and television pictures are smaller - shut off motor-driven appliances such as refrigerators to prevent possible damage. Sensitive electronic devices also should be unplugged.
 - Stay out of flooded or damp basements or other areas if water is in contact with outlets or any electrically-operated appliance. The water or moisture may serve as a conductor of electricity. This can cause serious or even fatal injury.

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- If you lose power, don't open refrigerators

First Baptist Egg Hunt

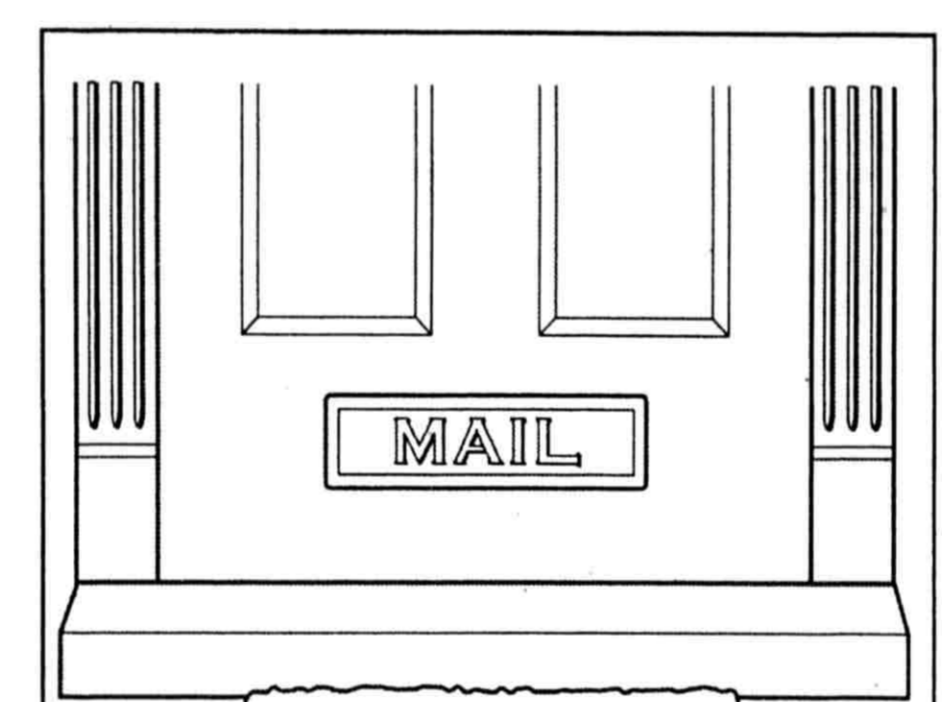
First Baptist Church of Lowell held their annual Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 15 with approximately 75 children participating. After searching for eggs, the group went inside to hear the resurrection story told by Terre Ritchie. Prizes and refreshments followed. The event was hosted by the ministry, g.i.r.l. (growing intimate relationships with the Lord). It is a group of young mothers who meet weekly for Bible study at First Baptist Church.



Renee Johnson's children were just a few who participated in this year's Easter egg hunt at First Baptist Church.

Boating, continued...From Page 4

registration or identification stickers, though boaters may notice the decal order form in their registration renewal package. Decals may also be ordered online through the Michigan e-Store at www.michigan.gov/michiganmall.



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CITY OF LOWELL/ ALLIED WASTE SERVICES YARD WASTE PICKUP PROGRAM FOR SPRING AND SUMMER 2006

The City of Lowell yard waste pickup program is scheduled for the first and third Thursday of each month, unless there is a holiday in that week and the pickup day will be Friday. Your waste pickup will be the same day as your refuse/recycling pickup is. The dates are listed below.

- Yard Waste Pickup Schedule**
- April 6th and 20th
 - May 4th and 18th
 - * June 2nd and 15th
 - * July 7th and 20th
 - August 3rd and 17th
 - * September 8th and 21st

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

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

Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

CITY OF LOWELL KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLANS OF THE CITY OF LOWELL DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO ACT 197 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF 1975, AS AMENDED

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Lowell, pursuant to and in accordance with the Downtown Development Authority Act, Act 197 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1975, as amended ("Act 197"), will hold a public hearing on Monday, June 5, 2006, beginning at 7:30 p.m., local time, at the City Hall, 301 E. Main Street, in the City of Lowell, Kent County, Michigan.

The public hearing will be held to consider whether the City Council shall, pursuant to Act 197, approve amendments to the Development and Tax Increment Financing Plans (the "Plans") of the City of Lowell Downtown Development Authority (the "DDA") to permit the DDA to create, operate and fund marketing initiatives that benefit retail and general marketing of the DDA District (the "Amendments").

The Amendments are available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk located at the City Hall, 301 E. Main Street in the City between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

At the public hearing all interested persons will be heard and all aspects of the Amendments will be open for discussion.

Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS BOARD BRIEFS

Regular Meeting of April 17, 2006
STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT
Brooke Liu, Student Council President and Student Representative to the Board, reported that the Student Council sponsored blood drive went very well. The students who took the 18 hour bus trip to Mississippi to help with Hurricane Katrina relief were very impressed with staff, parents, and community members who turned out at the bus loading to wish the students well and to offer support. The Jr. Class is participating in "LHS Idol" which mirrors American Idol, and students are enjoying sharing their talents. Elections will be held in May for student council officers.

REPORTS
Alternative Spring Break Trip
Brooke Liu, along with fellow students Alena Brubaker and Megan Lonnais, reported on the Student Council sponsored Alternative Spring Break trip to Mississippi. The students were amazed at the devastation from Hurricane Katrina and they worked hard in bringing some relief to the victims. The students felt the trip was very rewarding and stated that they will be going next year as well.

ACTION ITEMS
The Board accepted the following gifts:
• David & Kelly Landgren donation of toys valued at \$50 to be used by Curiosity Corner Preschool and the TOTS Program.
• Nancy Frazer donation of prom dresses valued at \$1500 to be used by the LHS Junior Class.
Adopted the resolution naming Michigan Teacher Day as Tuesday, May 9 and purchase reading materials for each of the school libraries.

Approved the implementation for the 6th-9th grade science curriculum along with the textbook adoption. Approved the renaming of the stadium at the high school to the "Red Arrow Memorial Stadium", the field to the "Bob Perry Field," and that Kathy Talus be honored with a plaque on the "honor wall".

CONSENT ITEMS - Approved/adopted were:
• Minutes for March 13, 2006 Regular Meeting, the March 21, 2006 Special Meeting, and the March 27, 2006 Board Workshop and Closed Session
• The following payment of bills for March 2006:
GENERAL FUND.....\$1,103,435.08
SCHOOL SERVICES FUND
A. Food Service Fund.....\$79,841.80
B. Athletic Fund.....\$14,066.85
2004 Construction Fund.....\$4,743.91
Scholarship Fund.....\$600.00
TRUST AND AGENCY FUND.....\$50,159.96
• Shared Time Program at St. Patrick School

BUDGET UPDATE INFORMATION - Connie Gillette reported that the '05-'06 budget will be reviewed with the Board members at their Board workshop. It is expected that the State will raise the per pupil foundation allowance by \$220 next year.

NON-HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX LEVY INFORMATION - Connie Gillette explained the importance of renewing the non-homestead property tax levy that will be placed before the voters at the May 2 election. The restoration of the 18 mill non-homestead property tax levy applies only to industrial, commercial, business, rental and second homes and does not affect the millage rate (6 mills) on owner-occupied primary residences. Voters approved the initial 18-mill levy in 1996 and a renewal in 2000. The renewal in 2000 was for five years and expires in June, 2006. The 18-mill levy on the May 2 ballot will be for three years.

WELLNESS POLICY DISCUSSION - Patty Sellner reported on the Wellness policy that must be in place by all school districts by July 1, 2006. The Board reviewed the policy on its first reading and the policy will come back for adoption at the May Board meeting on its second reading.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Pat Murphy thanked Burt Breuker and Amy Pallo for reporting on the science curriculum for grades 6-9. He also thanked the administrators for picking up jobs and duties from Mark Kasmer's curriculum and instruction position and for Connie's work with compiling information and reporting on the non-homestead property tax levy. Pat reminded voters of the May 2 election.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:
Regular Board Meeting - Monday, May 8, 2006
Runciman Administration Building - Board Room
300 High St., Lowell, MI - 7:00 p.m.

Board Workshop - Monday, May 22, 2006
Runciman Administration Building - Board Room
300 High St., Lowell, MI - 5:30 p.m.

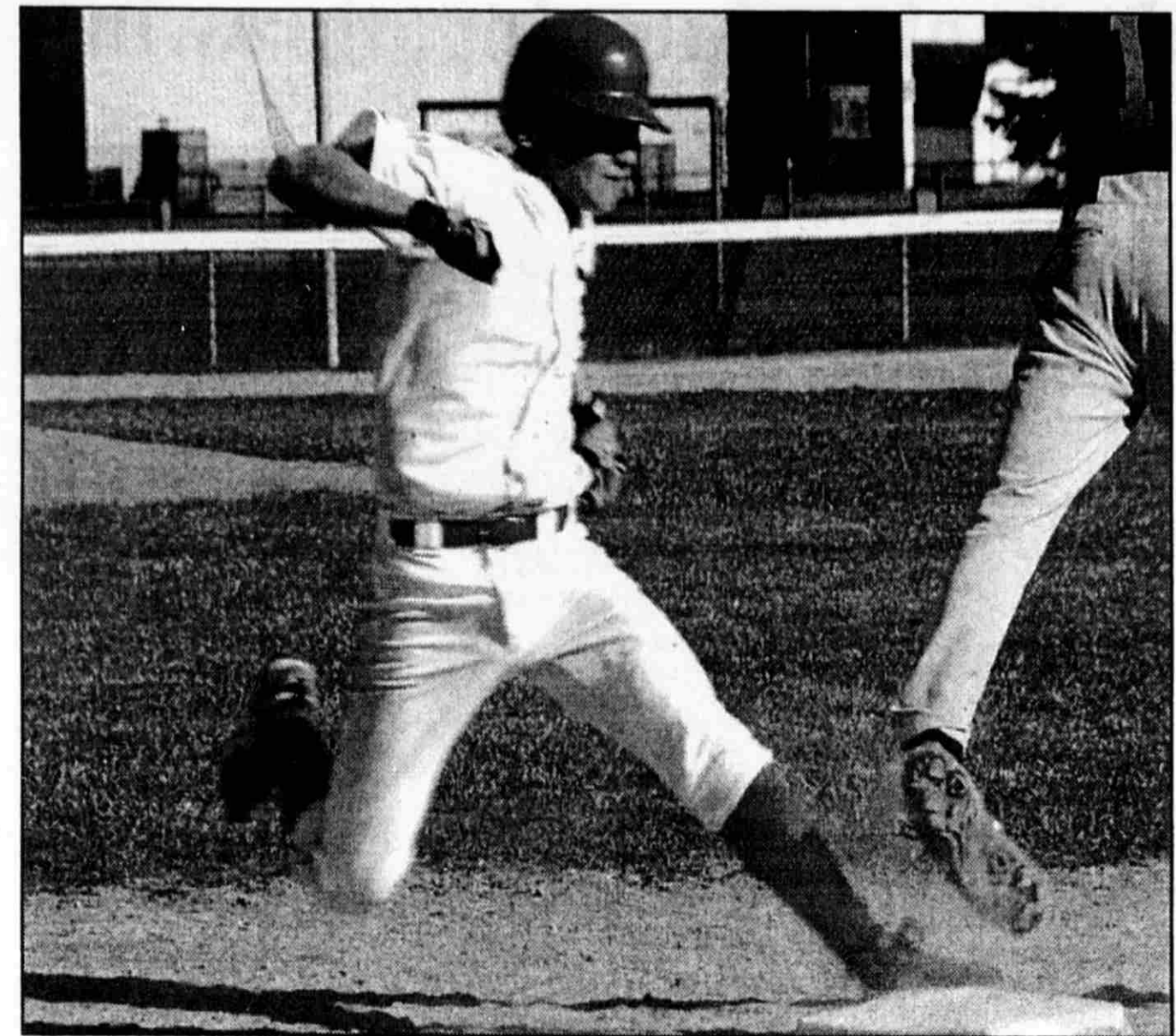
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Red Arrow baseball rolls through two doubleheaders

By Dan Schneider

In a pair of doubleheaders last week, the Lowell baseball team won two games each against Portland and Ionia. Hosting Portland last Monday, Jordan Ickes struck out 13 batters en route to a 5-0 win for the Red Arrows. Lowell scored their first run in the second inning and two



Lowell's Torsten Boss was safe at first on this play during last Wednesday's game against Ionia.

runs each in the third and sixth innings.

In the second game, Lowell came from behind in the sixth inning. After the Red Raiders scored one run in every inning except the first, Lowell found themselves on the wrong end of a 5-4 score going into the bottom of the sixth. With two men on base, two outs and two strikes against him, Tony Adrianse hit a single to drive in the tying run and the go-ahead run for the win: 6-4.

Game one against Ionia last week at Cherry Creek baseball field was kind of bizarre for the Arrows. A trap play in the bottom of the sixth turned out to be the pivotal moment in the game. After retiring all three Ionia batters in the top of the sixth, Lowell trailed 3-1. Up to bat was Torsten Boss; he made it to first base on an error and stole his way

to third. Then a single by Ickes scored Boss. Adrianse hit a single to move Ickes to third. Trevor Wernet pinch ran for Adrianse. Jay Ryan tied the game at 3-3 with a single that scored Ickes and moved Wernet to third.

Pitching for Lowell, Zack Stevens picked up his first varsity win in the fifth inning. At the Hamilton Tournament on Saturday, Lowell lost their first game to Sparta by a score of 10-1. Their only run came in the fifth inning. Lowell beat Spring Lake 10-6 in the next game, scoring five runs in each of the first and third innings. Lowell took their 9-4 record to Lakewood Monday. Their next game is the OK White opener Wednesday, when they host last year's league champion Kenowa Hills. Lowell travels to Forest Hills Northern Friday for a doubleheader.

Lowell girls soccer team undefeated in April games

The Red Arrow girls soccer team has been undefeated throughout the month of April.

After beating Rockford 4-3 on April 12, Lowell tied Jenison 1-1 the following Saturday.

Lowell scored six goals

in the first period of last Wednesday's game against Zeeland East. The Arrows went on for a 6-0 victory.

In another home game Friday, Lowell beat Middleville-Thornapple-Kellogg by a score of 2-0.

Lowell finished off is Wednesday against East Grand Rapids. Next

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at the regularly scheduled meeting of April 17, 2006, the Lowell Charter Township Board adopted Ordinance 04-2006, an amendment to the Lowell Charter Zoning Ordinance. The amending ordinance amends Section 4.5 Private Streets. The amendments regulate existing private streets; require additional information to be submitted as part of the application; require a public hearing for a private street; require certification from a professional engineer or surveyor that the street was built to the approved construction plans; require a minimum and maximum right of way; require certain construction standards relative to the number of dwellings to be served; require a maintenance agreement; and require a second means of access if the private street serves more than 50 lots or dwellings. Additional definitions are also part of this amendment.

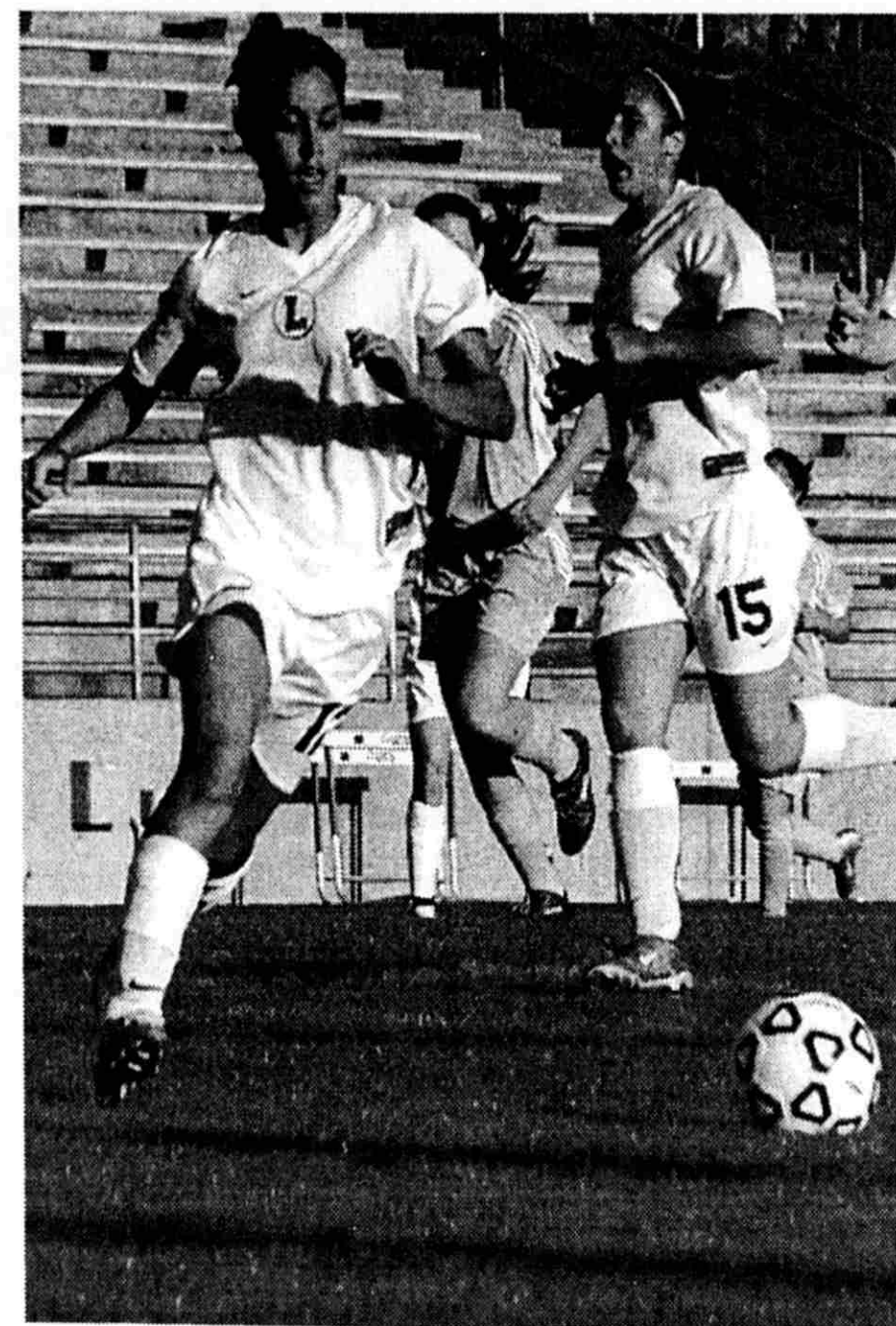
This ordinance shall become effective May 3, 2006. A copy of the complete text of the amending ordinance can be obtained at the Lowell Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash SE, during regular Township hours or by calling 897-7600.

WHEN: MONDAY, MAY 8, 2006
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
LOWELL, MI 49331

The proposed amendments are available for review at the Lowell Charter Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, NE, Lowell, Michigan 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday & Thursday or by calling 897-7600.

Tim Clements, Secretary
Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission

Linda S. Regan, Clerk
Lowell Charter Township



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Lowell softball beats state-ranked Unity Christian

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell softball team got off to a good start Saturday at the Hamilton tournament.

Lowell faced a tough team in the first round but was up to the challenge. The Arrows beat Unity Christian, ranked fifth in the state in division II, 3-2.

Pitcher Becky Plummer struck out 10, walked none and gave up five hits. One of those hits as a home run in the bottom of the second that put Unity up 1-0.

Lowell came back in the following inning, when Plummer hit a triple, scoring Katie McElroy and Kelly Malling.

The Arrows scored

again in the top of the sixth when Chelsea Wolbers singled, advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt by Ashley Schmidt, made it to third on a wild pitch, and scored on a Kerri Ort single.

Unity scored again in the bottom of the sixth, but the Arrows held on to their lead with a wild defensive play in the bottom of the seventh. McElroy, in at catcher for the first time at the varsity level because of an injury to starter Ashley Nawrocki, mishandled a strike-three pitch that sent the batter running for first. Unity had a base runner at third who took off for home. McElroy made the throw for the out to first base. Then

Terrah Tawney threw from first to Plummer, who was covering home plate, and tagged out the tying run. The Arrows made two outs from what could have been a rough situation.

"That was a big win," said Lowell coach Bob Rodenhouse.

Wolbers was the leading Red Arrow batter with two hits in the game.

Lowell lost the next game of the tournament to Allendale by an 8-3 score, despite Lowell's jumping out to a 3-0 first-inning lead. McElroy and Tawney shared pitching duties, with Tawney coming in, in relief at the fourth. Allendale tallied three runs in each of



Lowell's Becky Plummer sends a pitch toward home plate during the first game of last Wednesday's doubleheader against Ionia.

Red Arrow girls golf team scores dropping

By Dan Schneider

Since the start of the season, the Lowell girls golf team has been steadily improving. The Red Arrows posted their best team score of the season last Thursday, shooting a 199 at Yankee Springs Golf Course. Unfortunately, the score was three shots short of Middleville-Thornapple-Kellogg's score of 196.

Stef Stuewe led the way for Lowell with a personal best score of 40 for nine holes. Crystal Dietz shot a 46, Sydney Stuewe had a 54, and Rachel Plotner shot a 59.

"They were three shots short, unfortunately, but they played really well," said Lowell coach Becky Lecuru.

Lowell lost 173-215 last Wednesday to a tough East Grand Rapids team at Thousand Oaks Golf Club. Stef Stuewe shot a 48 in the match; Dietz, a 51; Sydney

Stuewe, a 57; and Sarah Eickhoff, a 59.

A home match at Deer Run Golf Club last Monday ended in a 203-224 loss to Kenowa Hills.

Lowell started the season on April 10 scoring a 238 at Egypt Valley Country Club; they lost to Forest Hills Eastern, who scored 226.

"We started a little high but we're moving in the right direction," Lecuru said.

In their second match of the season, the Arrows shaved 21 shots off their team score. Playing at Cedar Springs, the Arrows won 217-235.

Lowell finished seventh at the conference meet, which was held April 14 at Silver Lake Country Club.

Despite some early setbacks, the young Arrows' team continues to improve its score. Lecuru said that is what is important for the team to focus on right now. "Because we are a

young team, we want to learn and improve in every match," she said. "Our goal is to lower our scores, learn and get a lot of kids varsity experience."

Lowell hosted Greenville Tuesday. The Arrows' next match is Thursday when they host Unity Christian at Deer Run Golf Club. They travel to Belding Friday.

LUNCH MENU

ELEMENTARY MENU
Week of May 1, 2006

MON: Cheese pizza (BBQ rib on bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), vegetables & dip, assorted fruit, milk.

TUES: Soft taco w/ meat, cheese, lettuce (stacked ham & cheese on bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), green beans, assorted fruit, milk

WED: French toast w/ syrup (cereal also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), sausage, fresh fruit, 100% fruit juice, milk.

THURS: Hotdog on bun (cheeseburger on bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), oven French fries, assorted fruit, brownie, milk.

FRI: Staff Professional Development Day - no school

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

Judd T. Carroll, D.M.D.
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(616) 897-7595

Cumberland Retirement Village
would like to celebrate National Volunteer Week by thanking all of its many volunteers that have donated their time and talents over this past year.

It takes a special person who is dedicated, caring, and giving of themselves to be a volunteer. Thank you, students, church groups, individuals, and all community groups that have given our residents a part of themselves. Our volunteers make a difference in our residents' quality of life each time they enter the building. We truly appreciate your efforts and dedication.

Thank you from all of the Residents and Staff at Cumberland Retirement Village. Assisted Living and Specialized Memory Care

CUMBERLAND
Retirement Village of Lowell

CITY OF LOWELL

UPCOMING STREET CLOSING NOTICE

Gee Drive (from Creekside Park to approximately 1/2 mile west) will be closed to through traffic from May 8 until June 23 for street improvements. Traffic will be limited to local access only. Through traffic will be detoured to Foreman Road and Alden Nash. Creekside Park will be accessible from Foreman.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience.

The City of Lowell

Planning commission may allow wall signs over river

By Emma Palova
Contributing Writer

A change in the city zoning ordinance may allow wall signs on buildings in the downtown business district if approved by the Lowell City Council.

The Lowell Planning Commission on Monday night recommended the change to accommodate several businesses which have petitioned for wall signs facing the Flat River. Hungry Howies and the office of Dr. Judd Carroll

had requested wall signs open to the river.

Currently, the existing city ordinance allows only wall signs and projecting signs facing a street, a public or a private parking area. The proposed amendment would allow projecting signs extending no more than five feet from the building or one-third of the width of the sidewalk, but none on the river.

Steve Doyle, chairman of the downtown historic commission, opposed the

measure on behalf of the group. In a recent meeting, the historic commission had voted 4-0 to maintain the current ordinance, according to Doyle.

"We felt the current ordinance should stand," he said. "It's appropriate."

Doyle was concerned that someone could put up a five-foot projecting sign over the river.

"You could see a projecting sign sticking off the side of the building," he said.

According to city manager David Pasquale, wall signs can be made attractive like the sign on the east side of the Flat River Grill.

"The whole issue is allowing a wall sign here," he said. "Projecting signs came as an unintended consequence."

Moreover, to protect the historic image of Lowell, the historic district has stringent design standards for signs as well. Under the proposed amendment, any sign would

still have to adhere to these criteria.

According to building inspector Doug Hopkins, individuals must receive approval from the historic district, and then apply for a sign permit.

Also opposing the change was commission member Sherry Grimm. Grimm said she does not want to see signs over the river.

"I enjoy the view over the river," she said. "I would like not to see them."

However, the majority of the commission members agreed wall signs should be allowed as long as they are historically accurate and pleasing.

"I don't have a problem with a wall sign as long as it meets historic commission standards," said commission member Garland Berry. "I don't want to see projecting signs."

The city council may decide to hold a second public hearing on the amendment.

Lowell crew competes in Grand Rapids Invitational regatta

The Grand Rapids Invitational regatta was held at Riverside Park on April 22. Competing with Lowell High School crew members were local adversaries, Rockford, Forest Hills Northern, Forest Hills Central, Northview and East Grand Rapids. Teams from as far away as Culver, Indiana, and Ignatius, Chicago also participated.

Competition in the heats proved to be fierce. Varsity girls 8-boat (Dana Zerbe, Jackie Moerdyke, Heidi Cadwallader, Ashley Krolewicz, Mary Gillhespy, Katie Slatten, Carla Hesh

er and Nicki Freed) placed 4th.

Novice boys 4-boat (Logan Brenk, Kyle Riley, Nick Gillhespy and Eric Holmgren) placed 5th.

Novice girls 8-boat team (Brittani Sherman-Hibbitts, Kate Wehby, Jillian Lane, Gabbie MacDonald, Laura Blanton, Lauren Hanson, Kristen Nelson and Jessica Mankel) placed 3rd.

Varsity girls 4-boat (Zerbe, Hesh, Cadwallader and Freed) placed 4th.

Novice boys 8-boat team (Nick Gillhespy, Holmgren, Brenk, Garet Foote, Steve Maier, Nick Drake, Andy

Brim and Riley) placed 5th.

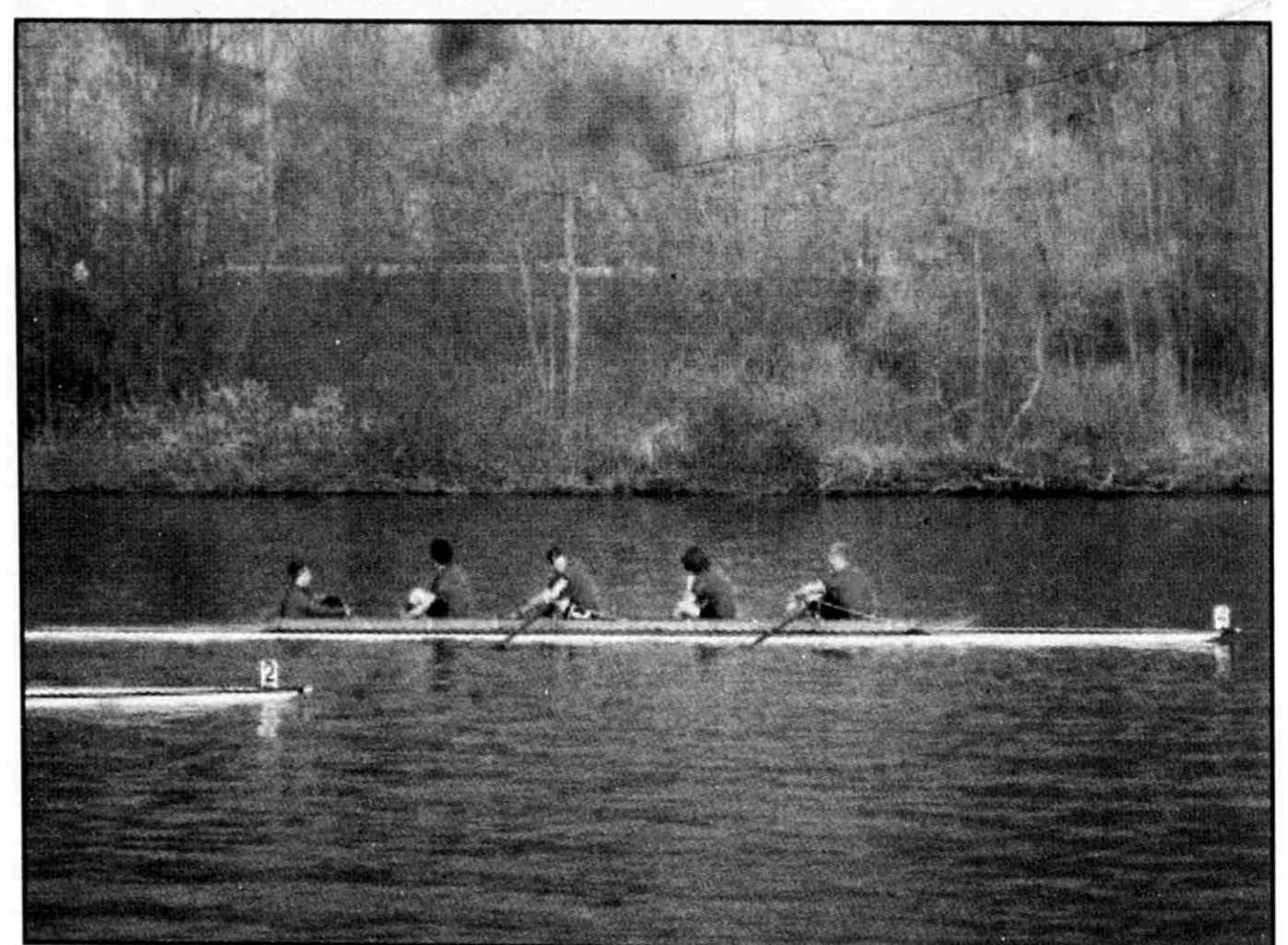
Varsity girls 4-boat (Andrea Kulhawik, Kelly Wingeier, Julie Johnson and Moerdyke) placed 5th.

The coxswains included Kulhawik, Alexis Strouse, Leara Glinzak and Jessica Nelson.

The Hebda Cup Regatta is Saturday, April 29 in Wyandotte on the Detroit River.

At right: Lowell crew team members prep their shells for the regatta.

Bottom: Rowing in the Grand River in downtown Grand Rapids.



Join us in Historic Lowell for
Girls' Night Out
Thursday, April 27, 2006
5 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Lowell, Michigan

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- C.T.'S Scrapbook Central—1335 W Main St
- Chimera Design - 208 E Main St
- Collectors Corner - 218 W Main St
- Cousin's Hallmark/River Hollow - 223 W Main St
- Dream Pieces - 219 W. Main St
- Elle Boutique - 212 W Main St
- eja' Salon - 204 W Main Street
- Flat River Cottage - 117 W Main St
- Flat River Grill - 201 E Main St
- Hearthstone Design Studio - 218 E Main St
- Pep Talk - 207 E Main St
- Spins & Needles - 214 East Main St
- Springrove Variety - 123 West Main St
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- Voyages Coffee Shop - 307B East Main St

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