

The Lowell Ledger

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Wednesday, May 31, 2006

High temps preside over annual Memorial Day parade

By Dan Schneider

Lowell's Main Street was lined with American flags flapping in the breeze Monday as Memorial Day was observed with a parade heading to Oakwood Cemetery for a brief program.

A sizeable group of Lowell veterans and current soldiers marched at the front of the parade. A steady stream of applause

could be heard from people who had gathered to watch from South Broadway to Monroe St.

The parade paused for a moment at the downtown veteran's memorial. In the Lowell tradition, a floral wreath was placed in the waters of the Flat River as a tribute to the service men and women who died at sea. The Lowell High School marching band played the national anthem.

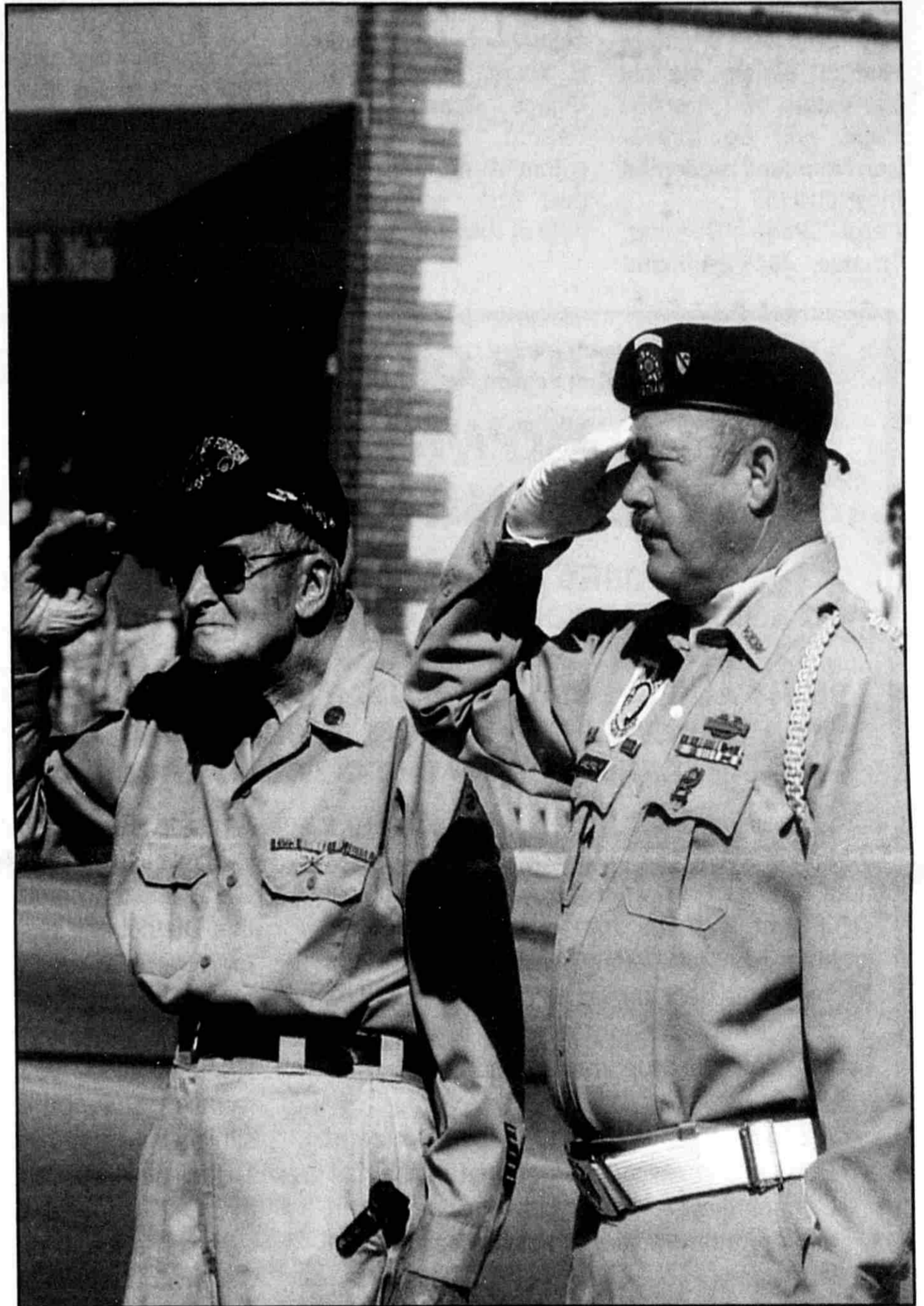
At Oakwood Cemetery

an abbreviated program was given due to the high temperature and humidity of the day. Glen Marks, chaplain of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8303, gave the convocation.

"Thank you for a country where we have the freedom to gather and express ourselves," he said.

A number of people gathered around the Civil

Parade, cont'd., pg. 16



Glenn Lyons, left and John Vanderwilp of the Flat River Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8303 salute the American flag during the playing of the national anthem in Monday's parade.

Veterans recall military experiences past and present

By Dan Schneider

Many people in Lowell spent Monday, Memorial Day, attending family barbecues or traveling to the beach, perhaps after taking in the parade and other observances in town.

For veterans and people currently serving in the military, the day can have other meanings.

For Larissa Thomson, 19, Memorial Day has special meaning in her family. An active duty recruiter for the Army National Guard, she traveled

home from Arkansas to march in the parade with her grandfather, Ed Barris.

"For me, it's great because I get to follow my grandfather's footsteps and my mom's," she said of her military service. "I'm the third generation."

Barris is a veteran of both World War II and the Korean War. Diane Thomson, Larissa's mother, is in the Army National Guard Reserves and an instructor with the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps.

Larissa Thomson is proud to wear her

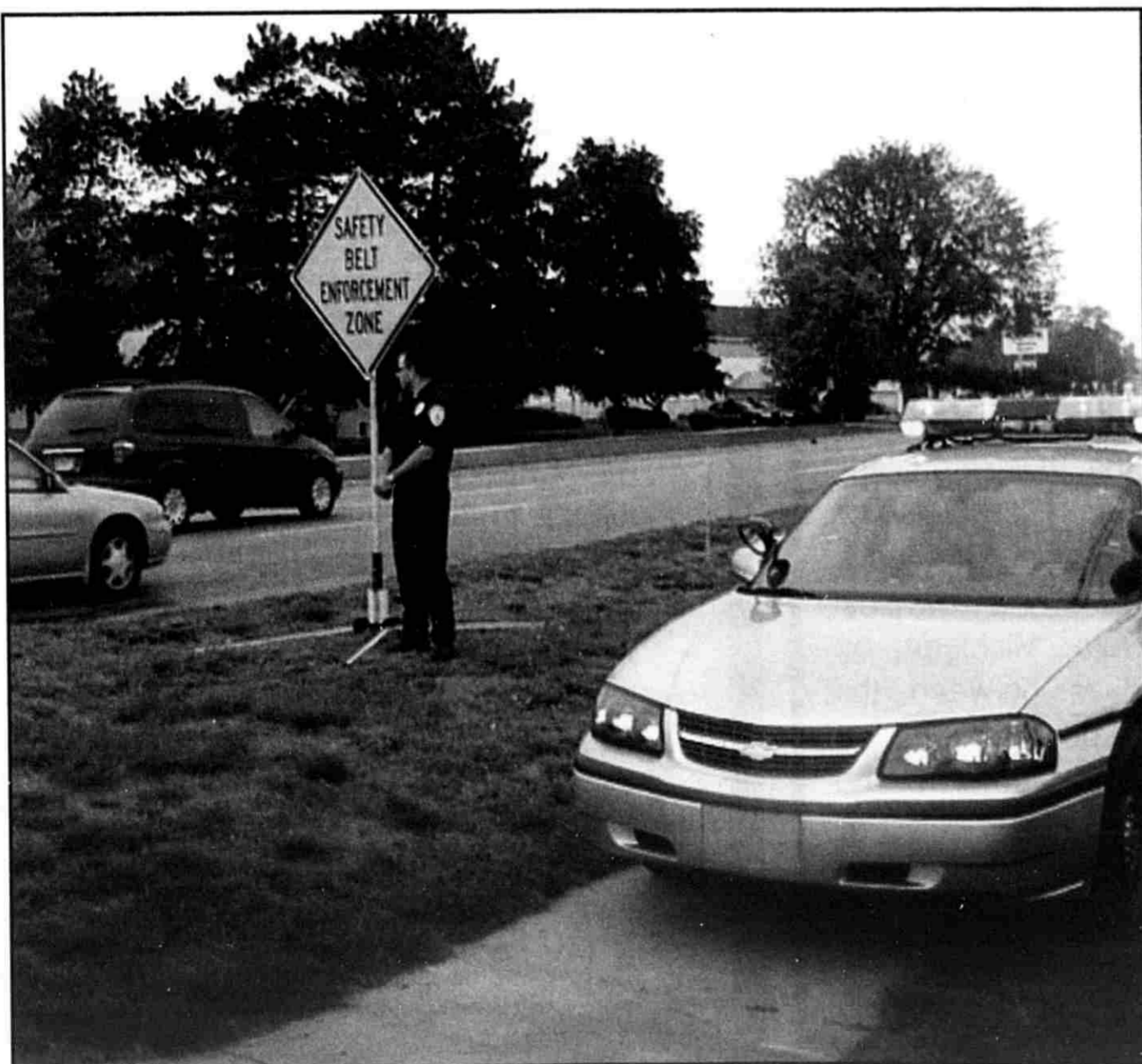
uniform every day ... but she is especially proud to wear it on Memorial Day, particularly with her family.

Eugene Smith, who lives just north of Lowell, was in the Army Air Corps stationed in India during the Asiatic-Pacific campaign of World War II.

"We were stationed near Burma, which the Japanese controlled, and our job was to bomb the Japanese supply lines in Burma so the ground

Veterans recall, cont'd., pg. 8

A fair amount of tickets issued over weekend "Click It or Ticket" campaign



Lowell police officer Scot Van Solkema scans West Main Street for drivers not wearing safety belts last Thursday, part of the statewide "Buckle Up or Pay Up, Click It or Ticket" campaign of the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP). Between 9 and 11 a.m., squad cars from Walker, Grand Rapids, Kentwood, Grandville and Wyoming and the Kent County Sheriff's Department lined a quarter-mile stretch of Main Street. Van Solkema and Lowell police sergeant James Hinton scanned passing motorists and radioed ahead to the squad cars to pull over those not wearing safety belts.

On Thursday, officers

stopped 17 cars and issued 14 tickets for seatbelt violations. Officers issued two tickets for other violations and a verbal warning.

The special seatbelt enforcement continued Sunday; 30 cars were stopped and 21 seatbelt tickets issued. Tickets were issued for seven other

traffic violations and police gave two verbal warnings.

The safety belt enforcement zones were part of an effort by the OHSP to increase safety belt compliance from 93 percent to 95 percent in Michigan. The effort was paid for with federal traffic safety funds.

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troops could wipe them up, and that's exactly how it happened," Smith said.

Japan left Burma a year after Smith was first stationed in India. After that, his mission changed to making supply runs to China.

to be in an outfit that did not suffer heavy casualties from combat.

"We were lucky," Smith said.

Those he knows who did die, died of malaria, he said.

Smith is appreciative that over the years, Memorial

Day has evolved to become a day of recognition and honor for living veterans, in addition to those who have died.

"I always think that to honor the dead, that's the way they should do things," Smith said. "But I think it's important that

they do (recognize living veterans)." It's something people should do year round, said U.S. Army reservist and Cherry Creek Elementary fifth-grade teacher Rob Stevens.

"I don't think we recognize veterans enough,"

he said. "That there are heroes around. I think we get a little apathetic."

Stevens joined the Army in 1979 to help pay for college. After several years of active duty, he joined the Reserves in 1987. He was mobilized for Desert Storm, for the Bosnian conflict in 1996 and for Kosovo. His most recent tour of duty was in Iraq from February 2002 to April 2004.

For the last 15 years, he has served in Civil Affairs units, which go into cities ahead of the combat troops to warn civilians.

"Our job is to keep civilians out of the way," Stevens said. "We set up sites where they can go for safety."

After battles, they help the civilians re-establish their lives. While in Iraq, Stevens helped re-establish schools in the region known as the Sunni Triangle.

Stevens said it was a good way to experience the people living in war-torn countries.

"I've gone several tours and each time I've met a lot of people and in a lot of ways, they want the same things we do," Stevens said. "They want to be safe and want to be able to go to work and go to school."

Unfortunately, it's also a dangerous job.

"We got mortared every single night from the time we got in the country to when I moved down out of Balad," Stevens said.

He was in Balad for three months.

Stevens has made it through his military experience so far in good health. He knows soldiers,

some close friends, who haven't. He has a picture on his classroom wall of a friend whose humvee was recently blown up in Iraq. The friend survived, but the driver didn't.

Stevens has posted pages with names and pictures of the soldiers who have died in Iraq on the windows of the library at Cherry Creek. He especially hates to see the soldiers whose picture is their high school graduation photo, or no picture at all.

For Stevens, much of any Memorial Day is typically spent quietly and contemplatively.

"I have a real hard time during Memorial Day," Stevens said. "I've got friends who are no longer with us."

His long service means he has known many, many people in the military.

"When you've been in the army as long as I have, you're losing people who you know too often," Stevens said. "When you read about people losing their lives, it always affects you because you wonder 'Is it someone I know? Is it someone I trained? Is it someone who got hurt because I trained them wrong 20 years ago?'"

Stevens not only remembers the people who died, but he remembers what they died for.

"People who are willing to say, 'Okay, I'm going to let people shoot at me in foreign lands because I believe in this country and it's the best thing we got,'" Stevens said.

It's something he believes people should keep in mind all year long.

A little nonsense now and then, is cherished by the wisest men.

- Roald Dahl (1916 - 1990)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

BOWNE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS 2.33, 2.45, 2.76, 2.94, 3.39, 5.02, 5.03, 6.02, 6.03, 7.02, 7.03, 8.02, 8.03, 9.02, 9.03, 10.02, 10.03, 14.02, 19.01, 19.02, 19.04, 19.05, 19.06, 19.07, 19.08, 19.09, 21.04, 21.05, AND 21.06 TO CHANGE CERTAIN DEFINITIONS, CHANGE CERTAIN USES TO USES ALLOWED BY RIGHT IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS, TO AMEND APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR SPECIAL LAND USES, TO REVISE MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS, POWERS, APPLICATION AND HEARING PROCEDURES, AND APPEALS FROM THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, AND TO AMEND THE HEARING AND NOTIFICATION, DECISION, AND ADOPTION PROCEDURES FOR ZONING AMENDMENTS

Public notice is hereby given that the Bowne Township Planning Commission will hold a hearing on Thursday, June 8, 2006, at 7:30 p.m., in the historic Township Hall, located at 8240 Alden Nash Avenue, Alto, Michigan, to hear public comments regarding a proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendment:

- Amends Section 2.33 (Family Day Care Home) to revise the definition to meet PA 116 of 1973.
 - Amends Section 2.45 (Institutional Care Facilities) to revise the definition to meet PA 116 of 1973.
 - Amends Section 2.76 (State Licensed Residential Facility) to revise the definition to meet PA 110 of 2006.
 - Amends Section 2.94 (Zoning Board) to delete outdated definition.
 - Amends Section 3.39 (Open Space Development Regulations) to change title to Open Space Preservation Development Regulations in accordance with PA 110 of 2006.
 - Amends Sections 5.02 and 5.03 (Uses Allowed By Right, Accessory Structures And Uses) to change State Licensed Residential Facilities from accessory use to use by right in the AG Agricultural District, and to delete Family Day Care Homes as accessory uses.
 - Amends Sections 6.02 and 6.03 (Uses Allowed By Right, Accessory Structures And Uses) to change State Licensed Residential Facilities from accessory use to use by right in the R-1 Rural Residential District, and to delete Family Day Care Homes as accessory uses.
 - Amends Sections 7.02 and 7.03 (Uses Allowed By Right, Accessory Structures And Uses) to change State Licensed Residential Facilities from accessory use to use by right in the R-2 Low Density Residential District, and to delete Family Day Care Homes as accessory uses.
 - Amends Sections 8.02 and 8.03 (Uses Allowed By Right, Accessory Structures And Uses) to change State Licensed Residential Facilities from accessory use to use by right in the R-3 Urban Residential District, and to delete Family Day Care Homes as accessory uses.
 - Amends Sections 10.02 and 10.03 (Uses Allowed by Right, Accessory Structures and Uses) to change State Licensed Residential Facilities from accessory use to use by right in the R-5 Manufactured Housing Community District.
 - Amends Section 14.02 (Application Procedures) to revise the public notice requirements for Special Land Uses in accordance with PA 110 of 2006.
 - Amends Section 19.01 (Membership) to revise certain membership requirements for the Zoning Board of Appeals in accordance with PA 110 of 2006.
 - Amends Section 19.02 (Powers of the ZBA) to amend certain review authority provisions and require a 2/3 vote for to approve use variances for the Zoning Board of Appeals in accordance with PA 110 of 2006.
 - Amends Section 19.04 (Appeals) to revise the title to Application and Hearing Procedures, to revise the public notice requirements for ZBA hearings, and to allow representation agent representation before the ZBA, in accordance with PA 110 of 2006.
 - Amends Section 19.05 (Hearings) to place certain provisions under Section 19.04 while deleting others.
 - Amends Section 19.07 (Appeals of the ZBA) to revise process for appealing final ZBA decisions, in accordance with PA 110 of 2006.
 - Amends Sections 19.06 through 19.09 to renumber as 19.05 through 19.08.
- May 17, 2006
Sandra L. Kowalczyk, Clerk
Bowne Township

Interested parties may be heard at the public hearing. Written comments will be received until the close of the public hearing and may be addressed to the Township Clerk, P. O. Box 35, Alto, Michigan 49302. The proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance may be copied or examined at the Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash, Alto, Michigan, on Wednesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and on Fridays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

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- John F. Kennedy (1917 - 1963)

A new place to play

A brief ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Thursday at a new community playground. Located behind the Lowell Area Schools (LAS) administration building at 300 High Street, the playground is designed for children ages 2-5 and is open to all families in the community. Volunteers assembled the playground Saturday, May 20, and it was paid for with a \$37,869 grant from the Lowell Area Community Fund. Pictured, from left to right are volunteers Simon and Kara Kelley, LAS Curiosity Corner Preschool and Tots on Track for School (TOTS) coordinator Kathy Cole, interim superintendent Pat Murphy, and community fund board member Kurt Lardie. The playground will be used by children in the community ages 2-5, TOTS kids, 96 Curiosity Corner Preschool students this fall and children in the YMCA daycare programs.



A little nonsense now and then, is cherished by the wisest men.

- Roald Dahl (1916 - 1990)

Michigan's anglers encouraged to help protect our waters

In an effort to prevent the introduction or spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) into the Great Lakes and Michigan waters, the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes, Michigan Sea Grant, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources will be distributing over 65,000 "Don't Dump Your Bait" stickers to approximately 650 Michigan bait retailers this year to distribute with annual license renewals.

Invaders such as zebra mussels and water fleas can be easily introduced through the improper disposal of water from bait buckets into Michigan's lakes and streams. The bait stickers will be distributed to anglers by local bait retailers throughout Michigan in an effort to educate and remind anglers to properly dispose of their unwanted bait in the trash. Preventative practices will help to protect Michigan's waters for future enjoyment.

More than 160 AIS have entered the Great Lakes and Michigan waters through ballast water, aquaculture, canals and waterways, recreational activities, and the trade and use of live organisms. Without natural predators, AIS contribute

environmental degradation as well as economic losses which have been estimated at \$5 billion annually to the Great Lakes basin.

Bait disposal stickers on AIS Awareness Week. To request the stickers contact the Office of the Great Lakes at 517-335-4056. Bait disposal stickers can be viewed online at www.michigan.gov/dequaticinvasives, click Lakes at 517-335-4056.



Students pay tribute

Sherri Melle's third grade class at Cherry Creek Elementary remembered our military heroes with a special ceremony on Friday as John Bigham, Calib Taylor, Brendan Spencer and David Rose hoisted the flag. Melle's students have been responsible for raising the flag for the entire school year.



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Jim Yowais, fleet manager for the engineering, architecture and construction firm Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber (FTC&H), with Good Chevrolet Buick salesman Charlie Craig and firm's new Chevrolet Silverado 4x4. The vehicle is the 3,000th one Craig has sold at Good Chevrolet, formerly Thomet Chevrolet, where he has worked for 24 years. FTC&H, which has done projects in Lowell such as the City Hall and police department, has 53 Chevrolet vehicles in its fleet.

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BUSINESSES & SERVICES

RED ARROW SPORTS



Lowell softball places second at Tichelaar Tournament

By Dan Schneider

Lowell placed second at the 11th annual Memorial Mandy Tichelaar Softball Tournament last Tuesday at the Cherry Creek softball field.

Four teams were invited. Grandville beat Kenowa Hills 3-2 in one first-round game. Lowell played Grand Rapids Catholic Central in the other, winning 5-1.

The Red Arrows scored two runs in the first inning. Katie McElroy scored the first by hitting a single, making her way to third base and scoring on a bunt by Ashley Nawrocki. Later in the inning, Kerri Ort hit a double that drove in Becky Plummer, who had walked to base.

Lowell scored another run in the third inning on

a single by Plummer and a triple by Nawrocki, one of two she hit in the game.

Nawrocki had her other RBI triple in the fifth inning. She again scored Plummer, who had gotten on base with a double.

Catholic Central scored their only run of the game on three hits in the seventh inning. The Cougars had four total hits in the game.

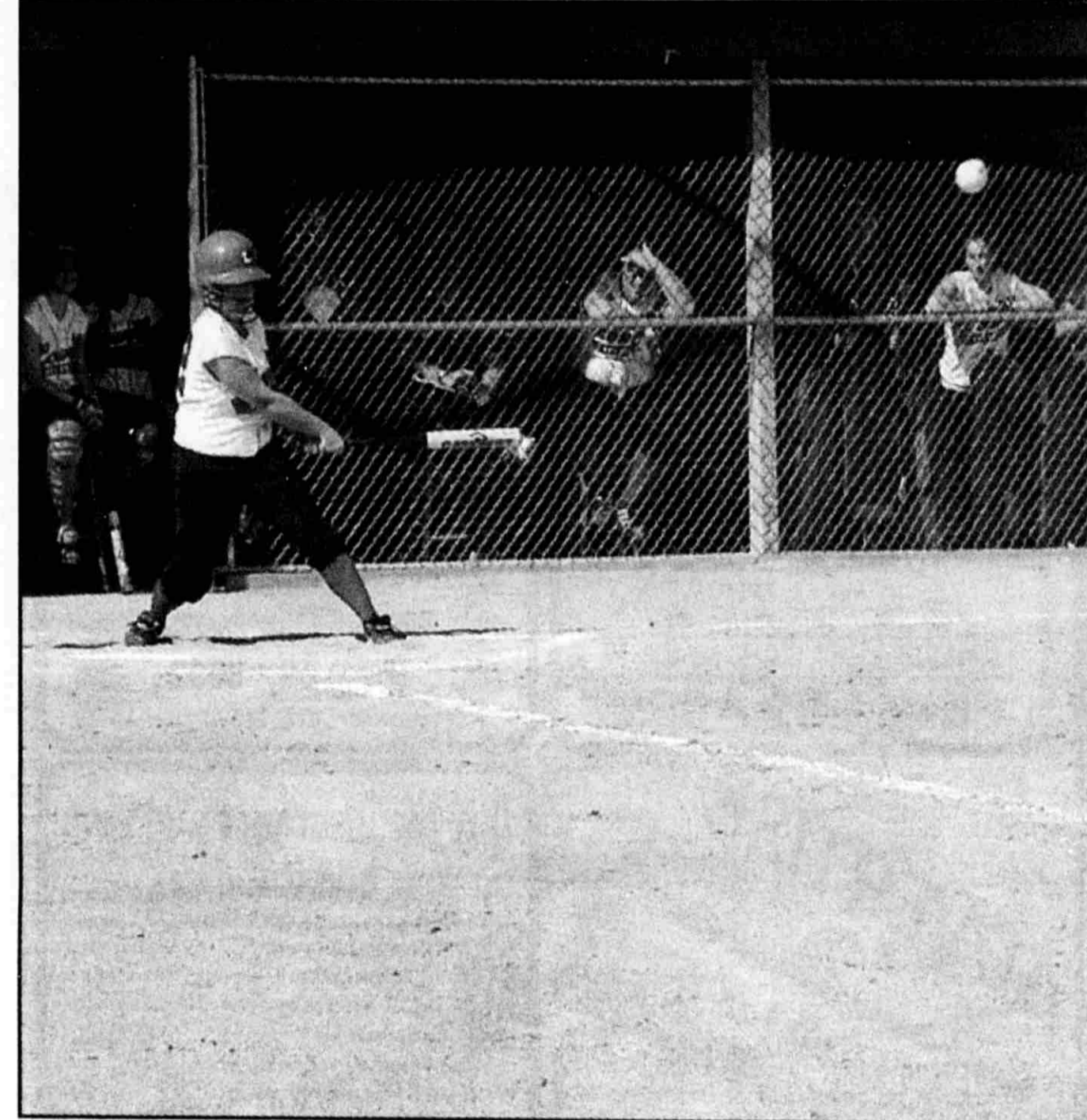
Ort had three hits for Lowell.

Plummer hit a major pitching milestone in the fourth inning of the game: the 1,000th strikeout of her high school softball career. It was one of 12 strikeouts she had in the game.

Lowell lost the championship game to Grandville 4-3. The Arrows gave up three runs in the first inning, one of them earned, and what proved to be the deciding run in the sixth inning.

Lowell scored two runs in the first. Brittany Bueche

Lowell's Jen Ettinger connected with the ball in this at-bat in last Tuesday's game against Catholic Central, round one of the Memorial Mandy Tichelaar Softball Tournament.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BOWNE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION PROPOSED NEW TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN

Public notice is hereby given that the Bowne Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, June 8, 2006 at 7:30 p.m., in the historic Township Hall, located at 8240 Alden Nash, S.E., Alto, Michigan, to hear public comments regarding the proposed new Master Plan. The proposed new Master Plan has been revised following the Township Board's objection to the proposed Master Plan originally approved by the Planning Commission. The revision changes the designation of property in Sections 23, 24, and 25 of the Township from Rural Reserve to Agricultural Preservation. The areas affected by this revision are generally bounded by 84th Street, 92nd Street, Wingeier Avenue and Freepoint Avenue (four parcels are south of 92nd Street).

The proposed new Master Plan, as revised, is intended to serve as a guide for future development and land use within Bowne Township. The proposed new Master Plan contains information about current and past conditions in the community, goals for the future of the Township, and a future land use map illustrating development patterns and intended land uses throughout the Township. The proposed Master Plan will replace in its entirety the current Land Use Plan adopted in 2000.

Adoption of the proposed new Master Plan does not change any ordinance or regulation regarding the use of land. Adoption of the proposed new Master Plan also does not mean that any property will be immediately rezoned to match the Plan.

Interested parties may be heard at the June 8 public hearing. Written comments will be received until the close of the public hearing and may be addressed to the Township Clerk at P. O. Box 35, Alto, Michigan 49302. The proposed Master Plan may be copied or examined at the historic Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash, S.E., Alto, Michigan, on Wednesdays and Thursdays, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and on Fridays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

May 17, 2006
Sandra L. Kowalczyk, Clerk
Bowne Township

Lacrosse beats Catholic Central

By Dan Schneider

Lowell played their final game of the regular season last Monday, beating Catholic Central 13-10.

It was the first time Lowell defeated the Cougars in six meetings in the history of Lowell lacrosse. Catholic Central beat Lowell 5-2 earlier in the season.

Playing on Lowell's

field, the Red Arrows had the lead the entire game. The Cougars kept it close, but could not overtake them.

"It was pretty even throughout," Lowell coach Eric Bredin said.

Ben Nugent had six goals in the game. Scott Devroy had three assists and Adam Bowers had two. The rest of Lowell's scoring was

pretty well distributed with six scorers.

"It was good to see some scoring," Bredin said, "... especially against Catholic Central's zone defense, a defensive scheme that has given the Arrows trouble in the past."

"The last few games we played, we had a tough time scoring a lot and against CC

a lot of the guys played their best offense of the season," Bredin said.

In last Wednesday's game against Okemos, Lowell lost 16-4 at Okemos in the first round of the regional tournament.

David Gallagher scored two of Lowell's goals. Bowers and Nugent each had one goal.

Okemos has a more established lacrosse program.

"They're just at a different level than we are," Bredin said.

Lowell is showing growth, however. The Red Arrows had an overall record of 8-11 this year. That's three more games in the win column than last year's record.

"Beating Holland Christian and Catholic Central at the end of the season was good," Bredin said.

Holland Christian, too, had beaten Lowell earlier in the season.

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Red Arrow baseball pulls out big win against Caledonia

By Dan Schneider

Lowell baseball picked up a win last Wednesday against Caledonia, the OK Gold champs.

The Arrows won by an 8-6 score. They scored one run in each of the third and fourth innings and three in each of the sixth and seventh innings.

Lowell had 14 hits in the game. Josh Gilliard had three hits in four trips to the plate. He scored twice and batted in two runs. Tylor Meppelink went 3-4 on the day. Jay Ryan had two RBIs and Jordan Ickes had one.

Zach Burger pitched five strong innings for the Red Arrows, but was knocked around a bit toward the end. Torsten Boss pitched the rest of the game and got the win.

"Our boys played well. They weren't committing errors," Lowell coach Justin Miller said. "Throughout the year, we've been in a lot of close games and this one we were on the good end of."

He said Lowell was a focused team throughout the game, which is the reason they won.

"Our boys, when they

come with focus, I think they can beat anybody," Miller said. "They just have to stay focused on every pitch. If we can continue to do that, we'll be alright."

The win came after a pair of losses in a doubleheader at Northview last Tuesday. Lowell lost the first game by a 4-1 score. It was only 2-1 going into the bottom of the fifth, but the Wildcats scored two more runs in that inning and put the game out of reach. Lowell had three base runners in the seventh inning, but was unable to drive in the runs.

The Arrows' run came in the top of the fifth. Ethan Drain hit a double and moved to third on Kenny Hayes' sacrifice bunt. He then scored on an error at first base.

Boss went 2-4 in the game with a double in the seventh.

Game two of the

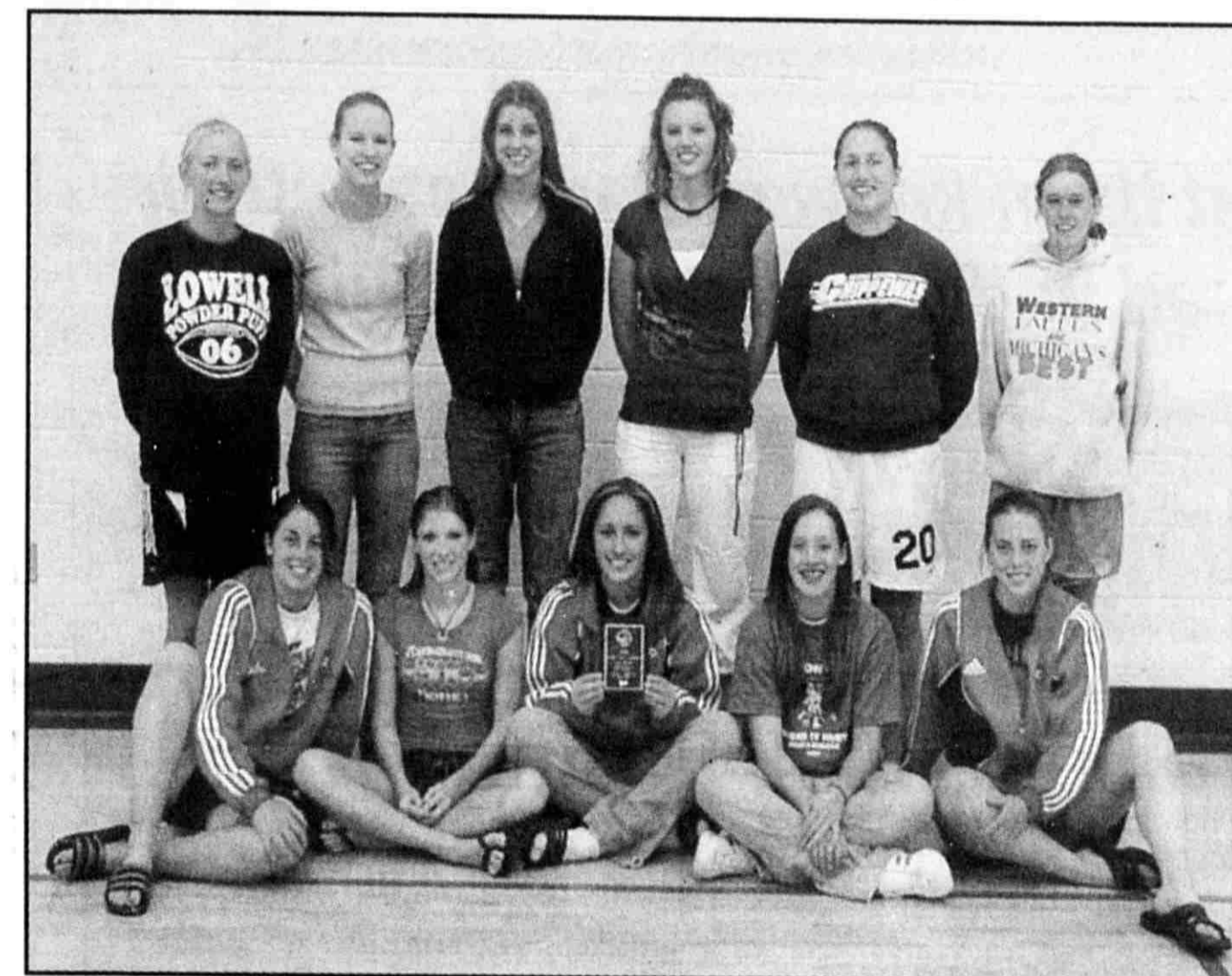
doubleheader was an 8-1 loss for Lowell. The Red Arrows scored in the second inning when Ickes hit a single, moved to second on a fielder's choice, and was driven in by a Meppelink base hit. Those were the only two hits of the game.

"Bats went cold in that game," Miller said. "We had

a lot of plays where we put the bat on the ball but we just weren't able to get on base."

Lowell hosted Creston Tuesday in a pre-district game. The district tournament starts at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Cherry Creek baseball field.

Girls basketball team earns academic all-state recognition



The Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan (BCAM) recently recognized the 2005 Lowell girls varsity basketball team as Academic All-State. The team placed sixth in Class A with an overall grade point average of 3.684. The grade point average of all players are combined and averaged to reach the team grade point average.

Pictured back row, left to right, are members of the 2005 Lowell varsity team: Audrey Grummet, Kelsey Crowley, Amanda Geelhoed, Lindsey Trierweiler, Brittany Lyman and Kelly Malling; front row are: Brook VanEck, Lisa Johnson, Chelsea Harrison, Brittany Bueche and Nicole Shepard.

"I can't believe they pay us to play baseball - something we did for free as kids."
- Former Detroit Tigers manager Sparky Anderson

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Crew competes in Indiana

Lowell crew traveled May 19 to Culver, Indiana, to compete in their last regatta of the 2006 season. The students were housed overnight in the Culver High School next to Lake Maxinkuckee where the rowing regatta was also scheduled to take place.

On Saturday, Lowell

competed against local rival Rockford, Culver, and other schools from Ohio, Illinois and Canada. Everyone on the team made a great effort but only the men's Novice 4-boat placed third in an

initial heat, to row again in a final 1500-meter race. The 4-boat rowers included Kyle Riley, Logan Brenk, Erick Holmgren and Nick Gilhespy, with coxswain Jessica Nelson.

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Parade, continued ... From Page 1



War Monument as Marks gave the remarks for the service. Around the crowd, scattered throughout the cemetery, were the grave sites of 555 Lowell veterans.

He referred to his experiences in the battles of World War II.

“Five hundred fifty-five veterans that served our country and did their part for freedom,” Marks said.

“Even though the odds were against us,” Marks said, “men went in there and did the job, whatever was required.”

He told the people to be mindful of the sacrifices service men and women continue to make.

“Our troops need to be supported,” Marks said. The high school band performed “America the Beautiful.” The program ended with “Taps,” performed on the bugle by Jack Misner.

“Our troops need to be supported,” Marks said.

Lowell veterans marching in the parade drew applause from onlookers all along the parade route.



The Lowell High School color guard makes its way along Main St.



The Lowell Middle School marching band performs in Monday's parade.

Motorcyclists decorated their bikes in patriotic fashion for the parade.



Lowell veterans and current soldiers salute during the playing of the national anthem at Oakwood Cemetery.



Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8303 chaplain Glen Marks gave both the convocation and remarks at Oakwood Cemetery for the Memorial Day observances.