



The Lowell Ledger

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Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Spring into Past tour will highlight museums of the Tri River Network

by Emma Palova

Explore the ambience of a more simple era inside museums located in the vicinity of three rivers, the Flat, the Grand and the Thornapple, this summer.

The Spring into Past tour will showcase the museums of the Tri River Network on May 2 and May 3.

This year, on the tour you can obtain a punch card that can be attached to a key chain. If you visit all 18 locations this summer, and get the card punched, you can win \$200, \$100 or \$50.

This year's theme is "Those Who Serve."

Each museum will have a display in honor of the local military veterans, fire departments and police departments in different communities.

"Every year we have something different," said Pat Allechin, director of the Lowell Area Historical Museum, "so even if you've visited us before, you'll find something new."

This year, it is a cake

contest from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the museum's dining room.

The focus of the area hometown museums is diverse and ranges from fancy former mansions to churches, schoolhouses,

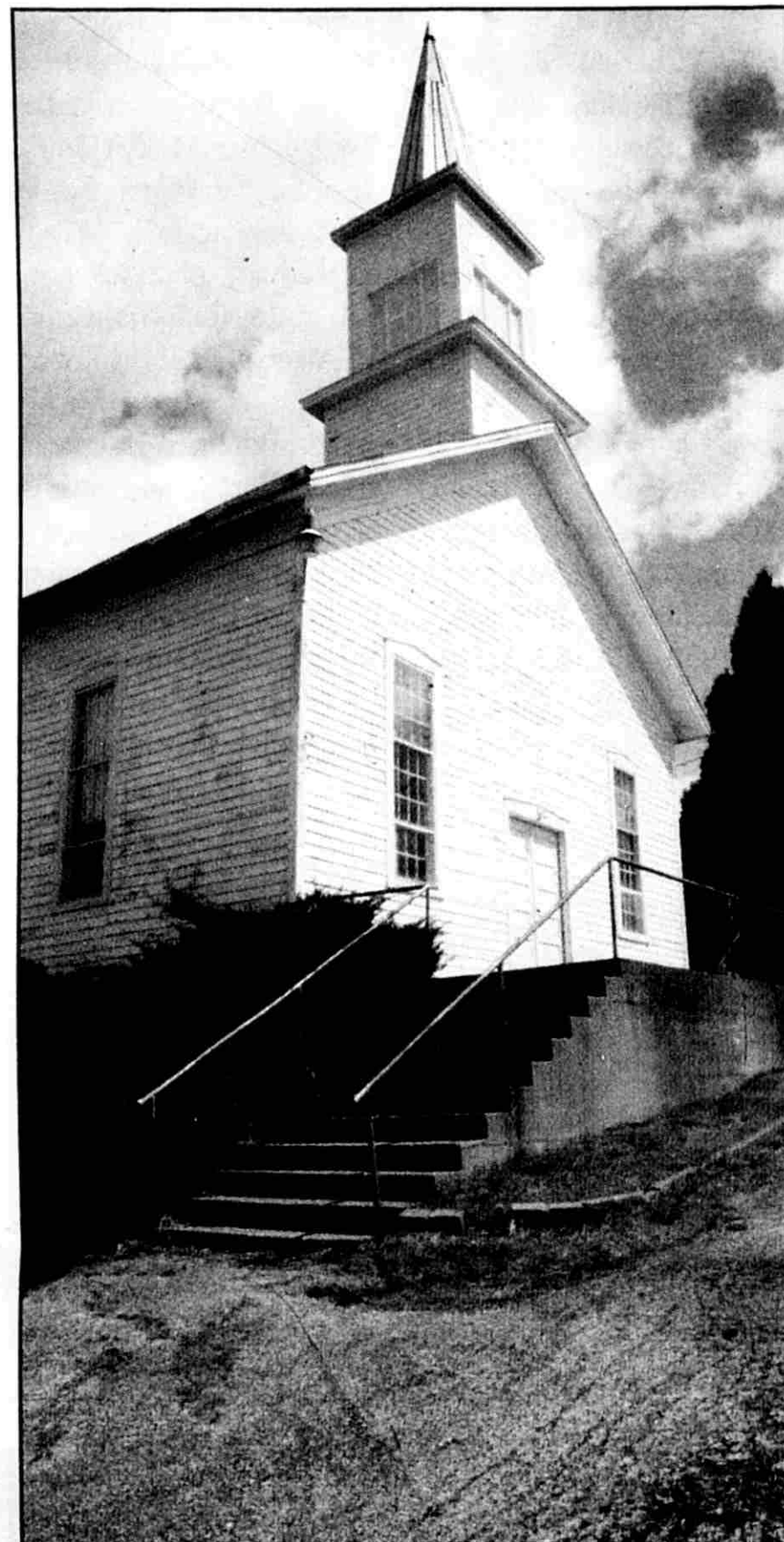
dormitories, train depots, old store fronts and war museums.

"The main purpose is to get people out to see what we're doing," said Allechin.

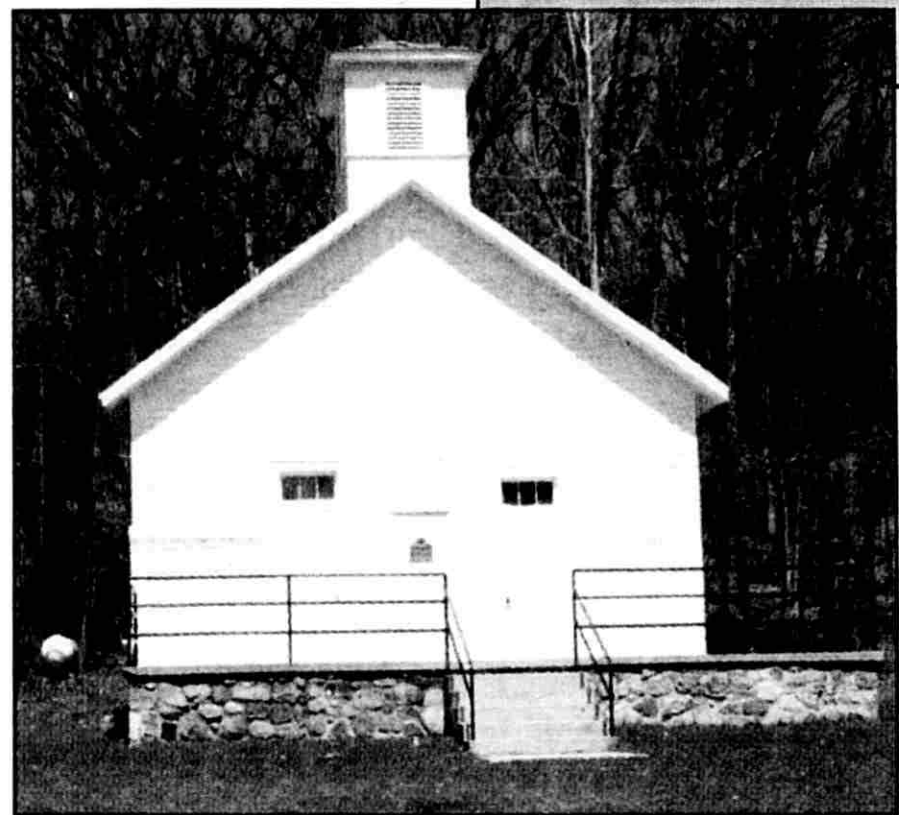
Tour, cont'd.,
pg. 3



Lowell Area Historical Museum located in the Graham home on Main Street and Fallsburg one room schoolhouse, bottom left.



Alton Historic Church Museum



Area organizations celebrate Earth Day

by Emma Palova

Local organizations celebrated Earth Day with different events ranging from tree plantings in downtown Lowell to the conservation expo held at the Wege Wittenbach Center last week.

The Lowell City Arbor Board members including Jim Reagan and Dana Chase along with Unity School students and members of the Lowell High School Environmental Club planted a green mountain sugar maple behind the city hall.

The tree will replace an old sugar maple tree whose root system was stressed out by the adjacent parking lot. The asphalt lot did not provide adequate water for the existing root system.

"It will replace what they cut down," said Reagan. "It will develop its own root system."

The LHSEnvironmental Club with Wege Wittenbach Center director Meggan

Johnson will plant 200 seedlings at the recreation park and other sites in the city this spring.

The seedlings were purchased with funds from the Lowell Arbor Board.

The conservation expo

at the Wege Wittenbach Center featured unique attractions such as the Safari Club International mobile classroom. This Sensory Safari exhibited mounted animals from around the world.

Inside the center, educational booths displayed material about garlic mustard and rain

Earth Day,
cont'd., pg. 11

City of Lowell submits application for funding of street improvements

The city of Lowell submitted an application for funding of street improvement projects on Bowes Road for 2010-2011 under the Surface Transportation Program.

The project includes the reconstruction of Bowes Road west from Valley Vista Drive for a total of \$320,000.

For the economic stimulus program funding, the milling and resurfacing of Bowes Road from South Hudson to Valley Vista for \$78,000 was proposed.

Road and transit projects are eligible for funding under the Small Urban Program. They must be located on the federal-aid highway system, and within the federal urban area boundaries of cities within a 5,000 to 50,000 population. Projects must be consistent with regional land use and development plans.



Alma Bing shows off mounted animals at the Wittenbach Wege Center.

MDOT preps detour for 2010 downtown bridge replacement

by Emma Palova

Advance detour work will start this fall to prepare for the 2010 downtown bridge replacement.

Representatives from the Michigan Department of Transportation, consulting and engineering firms met last week to discuss the impact of a major project on the city.

Eastbound traffic will be maintained during the construction, while westbound traffic will be detoured, according to engineering consultant Al Halbeisen.

Jackson Street, which will be used as a detour route, will be repaved from M21 to the bridge as part of the detour. Also, a traffic signal will be installed at Grand River Drive and Alden Nash.

M21 and Hudson during the construction.

The pre-stage work on the bridge will start in March of 2010. The north side of the bridge will be constructed first because of the utilities, however there will be no service shutdowns, because service will be maintained

on the south side of the bridge.

The water level will be lowered by two feet in order to get a platform under the bridge to do the demolition. After that is completed, the water level will be raised up again.

The decks and approaches on the bridge will be most likely constructed in May and June.

The second stage of the construction will start in July and last till September.

City representatives were concerned about the impact of the construction on downtown events, such as the Riverwalk and the summer concerts. The Memorial Day parade may take an alternative route from the Baptist Church to the Oakwood Cemetery.

Art Green of the MDOT Transportation Center, said MDOT will try to meet the city's requirements halfway to lessen the impact on downtown activities.

"I don't want mud bog rides rather than pontoon rides," he said.

However, Halbeisen said the project won't be able to avoid all the parades. But, MDOT will have a traffic management plan.

A pre-construction meeting with the contractor will take place in February of 2010. Police chief James Hinton will serve as the central coordinator for all meetings and construction related activities.

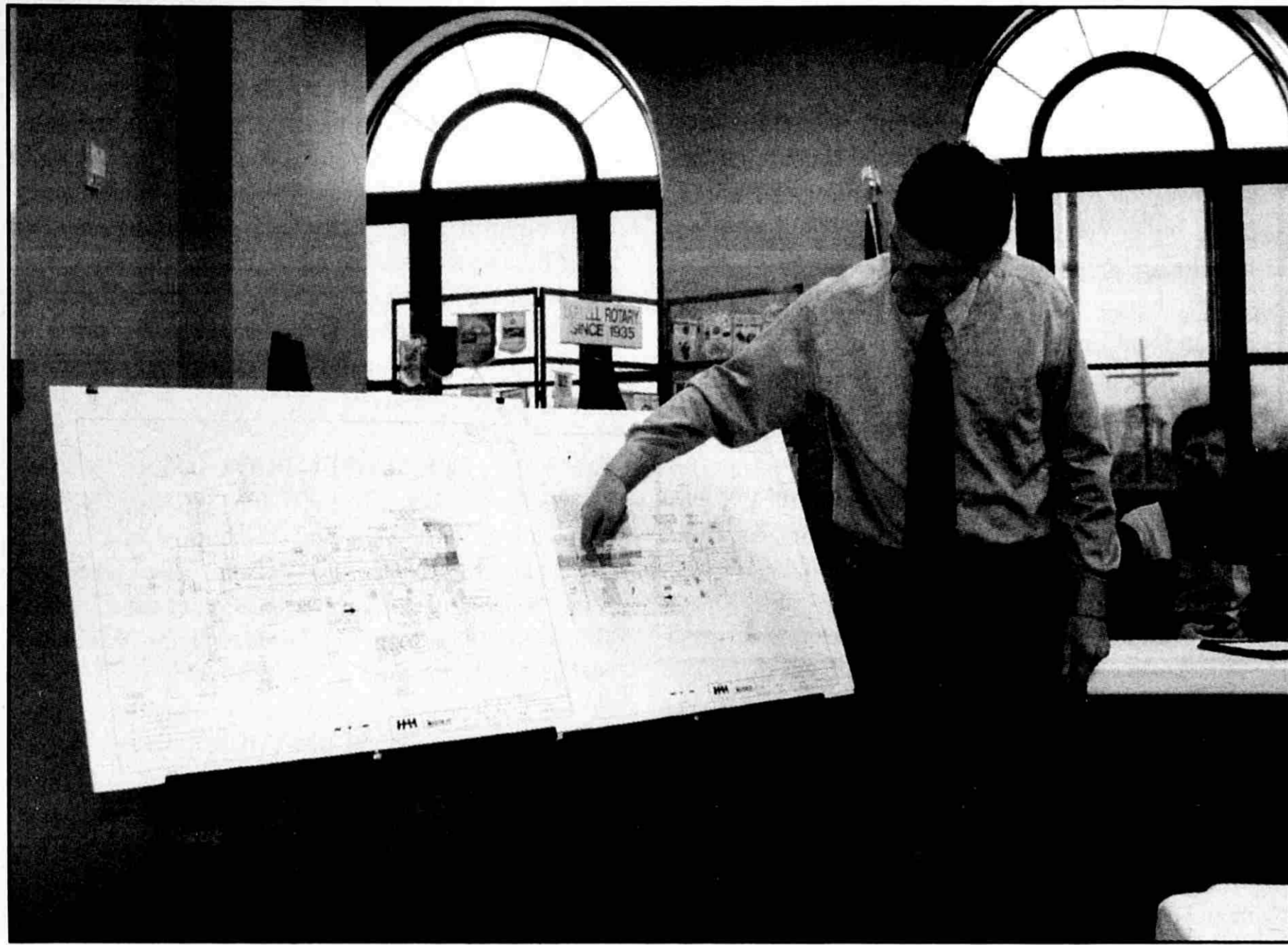
The project will happen in two stages; first stage will be on the north side of the bridge; second stage will be the south side of the bridge.

Decks will be poured at night. The most visible change will be on the bridge railing, that will be poured concrete classic style. There will be loss of parking on the north side of the bridge, while south side will have restricted parking.

Pedestrian access will be maintained including crosswalks.

The approximate time frame for the project is from March 2010 to mid September 2010 completion.

Signage will include that the business district is open during the construction. The banner over Main Street will be gone during construction time. The total project cost is \$2 million.



Al Halbeisen explains staging of the bridge replacement project.

City planning commission set to regulate temporary structures

by Emma Palova

The Lowell Planning Commission, Monday, decided to regulate temporary structures such as portable garages.

The decision came on the heels of a complaint against

resident Bob Robinson who had constructed a portable garage.

Robinson requested the commission to approve his structure. Rather than approval or enforcement, the commission decided to

work on an amendment to the zoning ordinance.

The amendment may include the type of sides of the garage, the type of surface or foundation, number of years and renewal.

The proposed temporary garage is 380 square feet on hard compacted ground and to be used for tools storage. The structure is only anchored to the ground. The investment is approximately \$3,000.

Commissioner Laurie Noall said she is concerned about the renewal not to exceed three years.

However, commissioner Maryalene LaPonsie suggested a total of six years, and then the structure becomes permanent.

Commissioner Vance Dimmick said he had a problem with a temporary structure and then constantly renewing it.

"I can't approve having something like this," he said.

Most commissioners were concerned about temporary structures and their monitoring so they don't fall into disrepair.

"It's rental property;

whose responsibility is the structure?" said Dimmick.

Ultimately both the landlord and the owner of the garage will have to sign off on the structure. The amendment will not apply to sheds because they are considered primary storage structures and because of their size.

Chair Doug Folsom was concerned about the length of time for enforcement.

"I would like to see some clarification in the enforcement process," he said.

Any such zoning violations

are now enforced under the new civil infractions ordinance.

The planning commission will also move ahead on previously tabled items such as joint signage ordinance with Lowell Charter Township and the off street parking lighting section of the zoning ordinance.

In related business commissioner Dimmick resigned due to health reasons.

The deadline for the owners of three buildings slated for demolition passed Monday. Inspector Doug Hopkins said he hasn't heard back from the owners. No decision was made as to the next step.

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at the regular meeting of the Lowell Charter Township Board held on April 20, 2009, the Board adopted Ordinance 02-2009, an amendment to the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance regarding the LI, Light Industrial Zoning District. This amendment expands and specifies the types of uses allowed by right and Special Land Use permit and would add development regulations pertaining to outdoor storage, driveway paving, enclosures for dumpsters, building facades and other similar requirements.

The ordinance shall become effective May 6, 2009. A copy of the complete text of the ordinance can be obtained at the Lowell Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash SE, during regular office hours or by calling 897-7600.

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Viewpoint

To The Editor

If we, as a community, can completely rework a road and parking lot in our downtown business district, then we, as a community, should be able to do the same for some of our other roads that are badly in need of restructuring even if it means one block at a time.

Sincerely, Jim Howard

Dear Editor,

A comment at a City Council meeting expressed the need to fix Lowell's deteriorating roads. Also suggested was making a list of bad roads. But that is as far as the discussion went.

I believe a list of Lowell's bad roads should have been done ten years ago with a follow up. Now all they will come up with is a list of despair.

I believe that Lowell's governing body down through the years has failed the community. The community has been taxed to death with big ideas. Our city government should not spend one cent more on any new project until they can come up with a progressive system of replacing our city streets.

In these dire times it wouldn't be feasible to ask the community to contribute more in taxes. But I do see a glimmer of hope if the community utilizes all available taxes on their needs and not on their wants. It's not that it can't be done, it's about the willingness to do it. Putting our roads in the forefront, I believe, would make it possible to start next year using funds allocated for road work and from the DDA.

Dear Editor,

Several years ago when we first started our business in Lowell, I read a short article in the Lowell Ledger noting that Mrs. So and So had spotted the first bluebird of spring!

As the years go by I've come to look forward to spring as we all do in Michigan. Most everyone in the U.S. equates spring with the opening of spring training in Major League Baseball and the beginning of weekend golf, etc.

However, in Lowell, there are some unique signs that are kind of our own spring predictors:

- Ball's Softee Cream opens
 - Fred the Barber returns from Florida
 - The flower and garden store in front of Curtis Cleaners opens
 - Time to check our local mowing ordinance for this year
 - Still waiting for the first bluebird sighting.
- Isn't this a great place to live?

Charlie Bernard



By Shelly MacNaughton

125 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL JOURNAL APRIL 30, 1884

The street sprinkler reminds us of summer about as much as this weather does.

Too many cattle at large within the corporation limits. Where is the pound boy?

Grand Opening at the new rink Friday evening, May 9. It will be the event of the season.

The bus team ran away Saturday while at the depot, upsetting the bus and disfiguring it somewhat, but no one was injured.

100 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER APRIL 29, 1909

Arbor day will be observed by our school. L. W. Cogswell Sr., was in Lowell Saturday for the first time in four months.

Mrs. D. A. Wood is very poorly. Mrs. Henry Patterson and son William spent Saturday in Valley City.

O. C. Austin and family have moved back on their farm after living in Lowell for the past year.

75 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER AND ALTO SOLO MAY 3, 1934

Memorial poppies which the women of the American Legion Auxiliary will distribute here on "Poppy Day," May 26, have been a means of providing employment to hundreds of World War veterans through the winter and summer months. The little red flowers have made possible earnings of approximately \$100,000 for these disabled men.

Making of the paper poppies, which the American Legion Auxiliary offers on "Poppy Day" to be worn in honor of World War dead, is reserved strictly for the disabled. The poppy is used exclusively by the Auxiliary because its making is by a hand rather than machine process.

50 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER APRIL 30, 1959

Two science teachers from Lowell High School will take a closer look at some of the newer developments in science Friday, May 1, when they visit Michigan State University for a one day science seminar.

While the teachers are in East Lansing they will be replaced by industrial scientists in the classroom. The scientists who will replace the teachers in the classroom will be Stan W. Dylewski and Peter Reisner of The Dow Chemical Company.

25 YEARS AGO THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER MAY 2, 1984

Headline: 60 M. P. H. plus winds topple hundreds of trees.

Garages appeared to be a popular target for the huge trees as they were toppled by wind gusts of 60 miles per hour or more on Monday. The Lowell Light and Power Company began receiving complaints at about 7 a.m. and crews were kept busy all day long working through both their lunch and supper hours, trying to restore power lost to numerous downed lines.

Writing to the editor ...

The requirements are:

- All letters must be signed by the writer, with address and phone number provided for verification. All that will be printed is the writer's name and community of residence.
- Letters that contain statements that are libelous will not be published.
- All letters are subject to editing for style, grammar and sense.
- Letters that serve as testimonials for or criticisms of for-profit businesses will not be accepted.
- Letters serving the function of "cards of thanks" will not be accepted unless there is a compelling public interest, which will be determined by the editor.
- Letters that include attacks of a personal nature will not be published or will be edited heavily.
- "Crossfire" letters between the same two people on one issue will be limited to one for each writer.
- In an effort to keep opinions varied, at times there may be a limit of one letter per person per week.
- We prefer letters to be printed legibly or typed, double-spaced. For e-mailed letters, please copy letter as part of the e-mail body and send to ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com.



A FEW NOTABLE EVENTS FROM APRIL 23 - APRIL 29 • 2009

- A Federal government exercise, Monday, involving low-flying planes created panic in New York City. Two fighter jets escorted a low-flying Boeing 747 over Manhattan.
- GM will shed 21,000 U.S. factory jobs. GM also announced the phasing out of Pontiac, Hummer, Saab, and Saturn. GM hopes to sell Saturn and Hummer.
- The UAW agrees to concessions with Chrysler.
- Seven NASCAR fans are injured by debris at Talladega Speedway.
- The Detroit Lions drafted Matthew Stafford of Georgia with the number one pick.
- A WWII fighter plane was brought to the surface after 60 years at the bottom of Lake Michigan.
- Bea Arthur, 86, famous for her TV roles in Maude and The Golden Girls, dies of cancer at her home.
- Music lovers mark 40 years of Jazz Fest in New Orleans, LA. The celebration expects to draw well over 400,000 people.
- An earthquake registering 5.6 occurs in S. Central Mexico.

The Chinese use two brush strokes to write the word 'crisis.' One brush stroke stands for danger; the other for opportunity. In a crisis, be aware of the danger - but recognize the opportunity.

John F. Kennedy (1917 - 1963)

• The United States advises against travel to Mexico as the swine flu spreads. American swine flu cases climb to 40 (the surge is due to students from the same high school in New York who were in Mexico, all coming down with it) with one case reported in Michigan. So far, in the U.S., the flu does not present with the severity that it has in Mexico.

LHS ecology class shares in DNR's success story

Students from Lowell High School released Chinook salmon into the Flat River on Thursday.

It marked the culmination of a unique Salmon in the Classroom (SIC) program.

The year-long hands-on project was supported by Trout Unlimited in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Trout Unlimited donated \$1,000, used toward the purchase of a 55-gallon tank and chiller. The DNR supplied 200 eggs, of those, 34 survived until the release date.

"This has been a great opportunity to directly teach the qualitative parameters of a salmon's habitat as well as how nonnative species has succeeded in the Great Lakes," said Lowell High School Ecology teacher, Tammy Coleman.

SIC offers students the opportunity to obtain eggs in the fall, raise them in the classroom until spring and release them into their new home (the Flat River).

From the fall through April, students have monitored the tank, the oxygen level of the water, removed dead

eggs and replaced about one quarter of the water every other week.

Upon their release into the Flat River, the three-to-four inch salmon journey to the Great Lakes where they fatten up and then through their chemo receptors are able to return to the river to spawn.

Coleman notes that the process from the time of their release to their return is about three years.

"Some of the young men in this class may very well be fishing for them," Coleman said.

Andy Milnes, president of Schram's West Michigan Trout Unlimited said Coleman is a past board member of the chapter and that he was thrilled she added SIC to her curriculum.

Nichole Allison, a student of Coleman's explained, "We have been monitoring the water chemistry and learning the habitat and life cycles of the salmon."

Ben Carlson added "I monitored the amount of oxygen and nitrates in our habitat, representing the larger scale habitat found in nearby rivers."



Lowell ecology students acclimate the Chinook salmon to the cooler water of the Grand River prior to their release.



At the LAAC

Through the month of May, the Lowell Area Arts Council is sponsoring grades K-12 art exhibitions that showcase the visual art curriculum taught at Lowell Area Schools. As stated on the National Endowment for the Arts website, "Research strongly suggests that young people who learn about and participate in the arts acquire skills that help them in decision making, problem solving, creative thinking, and teamwork. An increasing number of studies also find that arts programs motivate children to learn, assisting in improving performance in core academic subjects."

Susan Langford, visual art teacher at Lowell High School, shares another perspective on the importance of having art classes available for students.

"With the increasing academic demands placed upon children, I strongly believe that art helps us to remain human. As humans, we are drawn to beauty - beautiful sounds, beautiful

colors, beautiful images. In art we tap into the creative side of the brain where our individuality is unleashed and we are free to be expressive and to create beauty. Through the arts, students can take a break from their very demanding world and create, express themselves, and strengthen their imagination.

Yes, we problem solve, work as teams and make decisions, but even more than that, we express our humanity through the arts."

Lowell Area Schools has a strong art education program and we encourage you to stop down to the Arts Council and see the wonderful creations of our community's students.

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Aldona Springer and Joan Poulas returned home after receiving sub-acute rehabilitation at The Laurels of Kent.

Aldona stated "The staff was very nice. Therapy worked her hard and got her home by her goal." Joan replied "The staff is very compassionate. Therapy was excellent, better than expected!" Aldona and Joan would recommend others to The Laurels of Kent for sub-acute rehabilitation.



Congratulations Aldona and Joan!!!

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- Tumbling for Cheer Classes
- Girls Recreational Classes
- Preschool Camp
- Girls Camp
- Boys Camp

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Financial assistance is available for those who qualify.



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What Benefit does the Ford Protection Program offer?

It pays the monthly amount due on your vehicle purchase/lease up to a maximum monthly benefit of \$700, for a maximum of 12 benefit payments.

Benefit is paid directly to your financing source.

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What do I need to do to qualify for these benefits?

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Finance your new purchase/lease (cash and equity line vehicle purchases are not eligible; vehicle must be titled in the name of the individual).

Be the primary purchasers/lessee responsible for the financing of the vehicle.

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Become involuntarily unemployed after the first 30-day exclusionary period immediately following the purchase/lease of your Ford vehicle, and before January 1, 2010.

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Complete a benefit form and submit all required documentation within 90 days of the day you become involuntarily unemployed in order to be eligible for benefits.

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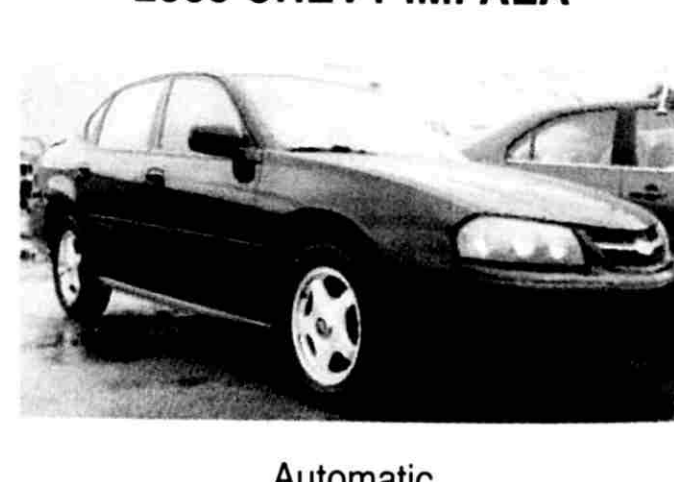
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Earth Day, continued ... From Page 1

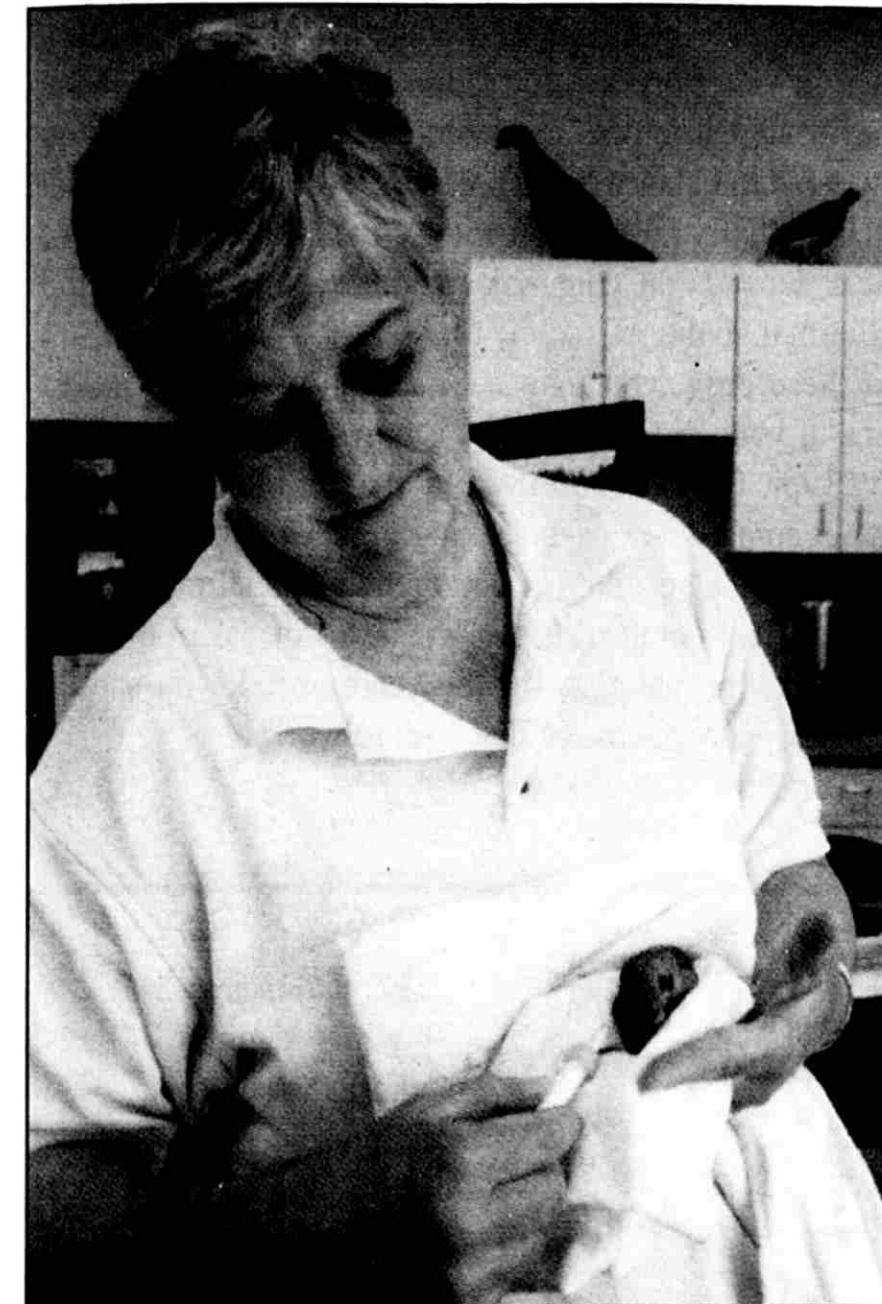
forest gardens. Founder of Michigan Wildlife Center Sjana Gordon was feeding a baby squirrel.

Other locations celebrating Earth Day included Honey Creek with its Water Fest and pancake breakfast.

Arbor Board is looking for a bigger tree than the 2008 winner. Last year's

winner was a white oak that measured 180 inches in circumference.

A plaque will be installed on the site of the 2008 winner on Schneider Manor property that can be viewed 24 hours a day.



Sjana Gordon feeds a baby squirrel.



A green mountain sugar maple was planted behind the city hall to replace a tree that had to be taken down. Present were Arbor Board members, Unity School students and the LHS Environmental Club.

Exhibit features student artwork



The high school and the middle school show runs through May 2 at the Lowell Area Arts Council, followed by the elementary school exhibit from May 6 through May 20. A public reception will be held on May 6 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

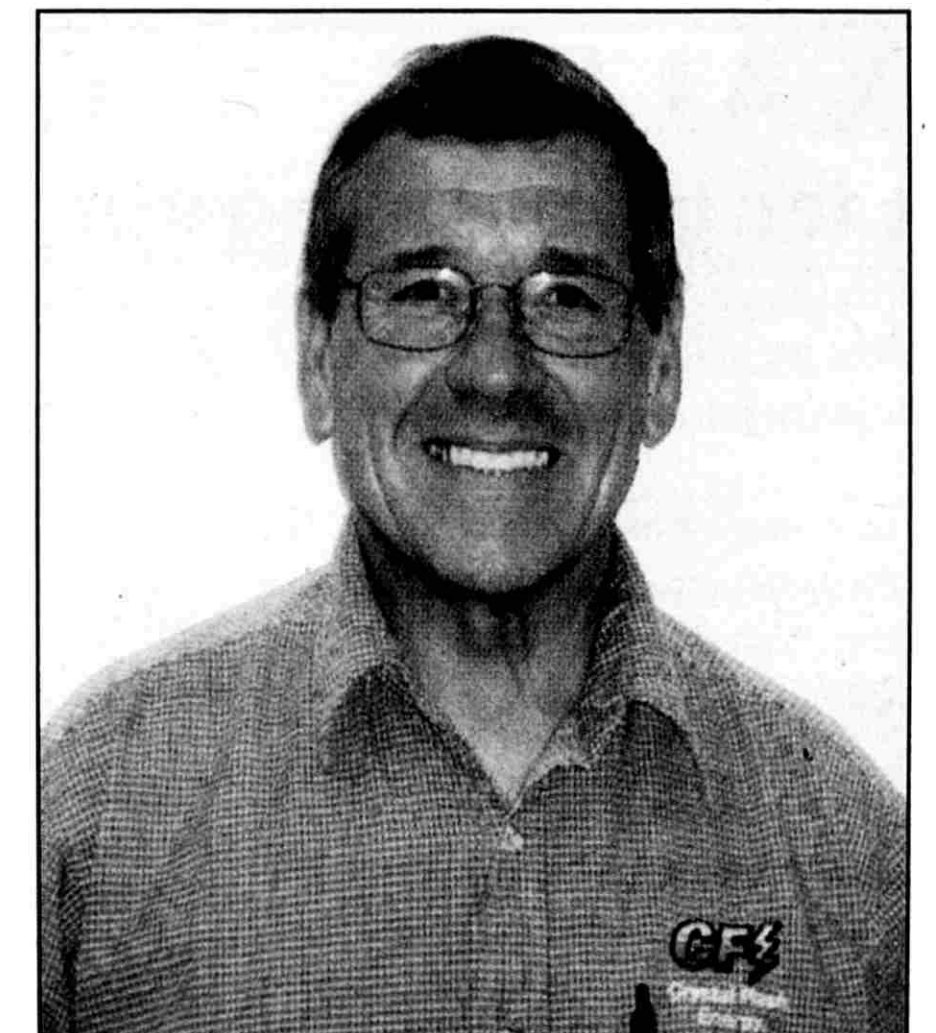
I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies.
- Thomas Jefferson

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Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold

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YOU CAN HELP MOVE A MOUNTAIN (OF CASH)

In an uncertain economy, it's natural for people to "tighten their belts" by cutting down on their spending. And yet by having too much cash on hand today, you could actually slow your progress toward your financial goals of tomorrow.

Before we get to the possible pitfalls of hoarding cash, let's consider your fellow Americans' recent savings habits:

• How much? In the last quarter of 2008, the personal savings rate was 2.9 percent, the highest level

since the third quarter of 2001, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce.

• Where? People are putting their money in what they consider safe vehicles. At the end of 2008, the ratio of money market fund assets and bank savings deposits to stocks - as measured by the Wilshire 5000 Index, one of the broadest market indices designed to track the overall performance of the US stock market - was 95.4 percent, according to Ned Davis Research. (Keep in mind that the Wilshire 5000 index is unmanaged and not available for direct investment.) This ratio is the highest it's been since money market accounts were created in the early 1980s.

Of course, given the stock market decline, it's not surprising that so much money is going into these accounts, because people are looking, above all else, to preserve their principal. Consequently, as a nation, we are now sitting on a "mountain" of cash.

However, the trip up this mountain does not come free. While it's true that these vehicles may help preserve your principal, they may not provide you with returns that can keep up with inflation, which means that the more of these instruments you own, and the longer you own them, the greater the likelihood that you will lose purchasing power.

Furthermore, if you're putting most of your assets into

cash, you're incurring "opportunity cost" - the chance to invest that money into vehicles that have the potential to provide the growth you need to help achieve your long-term goals, such as an enjoyable retirement.

So here's the situation: On the one hand, you have a tough economy and a stock market that has probably already saddled you with losses. On the other hand, you need to consider investing in stocks or other growth-oriented investments to help you reach your long-term goals. What's the solution? Balance. There's probably a place in your portfolio for short-term instruments whose chief benefit is helping to preserve your principal. But you may need to balance these holdings with investments that can potentially reward you with growth. The exact mix of assets depends on your risk tolerance, time horizon and individual goals.

In these days, you may need a leap of faith to invest some of your cash. But history is on your side: Downturns have typically been followed by market rallies. Plus, we may eventually see cash seeking higher returns, and that should have a positive impact on the financial markets.

It may feel comforting to have a lot of cash on hand. But if you're planning for the years ahead, you should consider putting some of that cash to work.

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In The Ledger

At Your Local Library



3-PART ALZHEIMER'S EDUCATION SERIES AT ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY

The Greater Michigan Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association will be sponsoring an educational seminar series. The seminars will be held at the Englehardt Public Library, 200 N Monroe, Lowell.

This is an excellent opportunity for anyone helping someone affected by Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. Information will be shared about how to get diagnosis, recent developments in treatment, latest research

findings, and planning for the future. Practical strategies to promote the best life possible for persons with dementia will also be shared.

The Thursday, May 21, 7 p.m. seminar, "Understanding Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias" will be presented by Madelon Krissoff, MD, Geriatric Internal Medicine and Memory Disorders Specialist.

The Thursday, May 28, 7 p.m. seminar, "Legal and Financial Issues" will be presented by David G. Ledbetter, Elder Law Attorney.

The Thursday, June 4, 7 p.m. seminar, "Strategies for Navigating the Dementia Journey" will be presented by Christiana Getz, Program Coordinator of the Alzheimer's Association.

The series is provided with financial support from Older Americans Act National Family Caregiving Funds administered by the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan, Inc. A donation of \$10 per person (or family) is suggested to assist in covering costs. To register or for more information, please call the Alzheimer's Association at 800-272-3900 or 616-459-4558.

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1/2 OFF WHITENING MAY 1 - JUNE 30

TAX ALERT TAX ALERT TAX ALERT

Don't let them take your money and then use it irresponsibly!

GRCC has its eyes on your wallet! There they are talking about when (not about if) to try again to **raise your taxes permanently.**

Two years ago they almost succeeded. The GRCC Trustees voted unanimously to propose a millage increase. Voters rejected it in the May 2007 election.

Then the Trustees, unanimously once again, voted to propose another millage increase. The **re-do election**, which in itself cost voters more than \$100,000, was scheduled on an **odd date** in August to try to catch voters off-guard. Voters rejected this millage increase proposal also, but only by 373 votes. That's too close for comfort.

Higher taxes contribute to job losses and bankruptcies. Send a Trustee to the Board who will help you and your neighbors guard your wallets and more.

Maybe you wouldn't mind paying more taxes if you knew that what you were already paying was being used responsibly. Is it? (More info at www.grcc-taxpayers.org/.)

- *Celebration: March 30 - April 3 was celebrated with "uncensored sex talk" and a drag queen show as part of "Queer Equality Week."*

- *Diversity Lecture Series: This past December, yet another homosexual activist was hosted. He said that he had come to "evangelically" enlighten students concerning homosexuality and that those opposed to same-sex marriage were "evil." There have been no speakers presenting opposing views.*

- *Academic Freedom Policy: Rather than being used to ensure open discussion of controversial issues, this policy is used to ensure that students, even in required courses, are forced to watch films saturated with violence, drug use, profanity, nudity and sex acts.*

- GRCC's Actors' Theatre says it seeks to "change" our community, and that it specializes in plays that cause "discomfort." Example: Corpus Christi, portraying Jesus Christ as a promiscuous "King of the Queens." In December they presented the play The Wild Party, a "seductive musical" about a couple "attracted to sleaze and kink."

GRCC is being used for the promotion of **reckless agendas** that are unsafe for students and the community. Put your taxes to better use. Send a Trustee to the Board to help steer GRCC back to its vital task of responsible education. On May 5 elect Richard Ryskamp for Grand Rapids Community College Board of Trustees.

For more info, visit www.ryskampforgcc.org

Endorsed by Right-to-Life of Michigan PAC.

Paid for with regulated funds by Richard Ryskamp Committee, 1436 Penncross SE, Caledonia, MI 49316

On May 5 vote RYSKAMP for GRCC Trustee



LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS VARSITY SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULE

This Page Brought to You By The Lowell Ledger

BOYS VARSITY BASEBALL

* Indicates a home game at Cherry Creek baseball field
Games begin at 4:15 p.m. unless indicated

- 4/30 at Greenville*
- 5/4 at 4 p.m. Caledonia (doubleheader)*
- 5/5 Creston (doubleheader)*
- 5/7 at Creston
- 5/12 at G.R. Christian (doubleheader)
- 5/14 G.R. Christian*
- 5/16 at 10 a.m. at Hudsonville Tournament
- 5/18 at 4 p.m. East Grand Rapids (doubleheader)*
- 5/20 at 4 p.m. at East Grand Rapids
- 5/26 (or 5/29 or 5/30) time & place TBA Districts

GIRLS VARSITY SOFTBALL

* Indicates a home game at Cherry Creek softball field
Games begin at 4:15 p.m. unless indicated

- 4/30 G.R. Christian*
- 5/4 at 4 p.m. Caledonia (doubleheader)*
- 5/5 Creston (doubleheader)*
- 5/7 Northview*
- 5/11 at 4 p.m. Hudsonville (doubleheader)*
- 5/12 G.R. Christian
- 5/14 at Greenville
- 5/15 at 4 p.m. Forest Hills Central*
- 5/18 at 4 p.m. East Grand Rapids (doubleheader)*
- 5/20 at Creston
- 5/21 at 4 p.m. Mandy Tichelaar Tournament*
- 5/26 (or 5/29 or 5/30) time & place TBA Districts

CREW

- 5/2 time TBA WyHi Regatta at Wyndotte
- 5/9 time TBA EGR Mini-Regatta at Reeds Lake
- 5/16 time TBA SRA State Rowing Champ. at Milford

GIRLS VARSITY TENNIS

* Indicates a home game at LHS Tennis Courts
Games begin at 4 p.m. unless indicated.

- 5/2 at 9 a.m. Northview Invitational
- 5/4 East Grand Rapids*
- 5/6 at Jenison
- 5/9 at 9 a.m. Conference*
- 5/12 at NorthPointe Christian
- 5/13 Lakewood*

For More Information on School Athletics or for Directions to Area Schools visit: www.lowell.k12.mi.us
Under Athletics.

BOYS VARSITY GOLF

* Indicates a home meet at Deer Run Golf Course.
All meets begin at 3:30 p.m. unless indicated.

- 4/29 at G.R. Christian
- 5/6 at Northview
- 5/7 at Kenowa Hills
- 5/11 East Grand Rapids*
- 5/13 at East Grand Rapids
- 5/14 Caledonia*
- 5/18 time TBA Conference at Thornapple Pointe
- 5/21 (or 5/22 or 5/23) time & place TBA Districts

GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER

* Indicates a home game at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium.
Games begin at 6:45 p.m. unless indicated.

- 4/29 East Grand Rapids*
- 5/4 at 5:45 p.m. at Union
- 5/6 Northview*
- 5/11 at Greenville
- 5/13 at 5:45 p.m. at Creston
- 5/15 Cedar Springs*
- 5/18 G.R. Christian*
- 5/20 at 4 p.m. East Grand Rapids
- 5/26 time TBA Start or Districts at Port. N.

BOYS VARSITY LACROSSE

* Indicates a home game at Burch Field. Games begin at 7 p.m. unless indicated

- 4/30 Zeeland*
- 5/5 time TBA at Northview
- 5/8 Catholic Central (at Red Arrow Stadium)
- 5/12 Grand Haven*
- 5/14 time & place TBA Start of Regionals
- 5/14 at 7:30 p.m. at Holland Christian

BOYS & GIRLS VARSITY TRACK

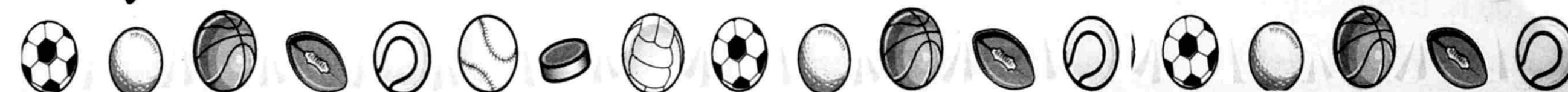
* Indicates a home game at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium
Meets begin at 4:15 p.m. unless indicated.

- 4/16 at Northview
- 4/18 at 10 a.m. Hastings Relays
- 4/21 Greenville*
- 4/23 Creston*
- 4/28 at G.R. Christian
- 4/30 East Grand Rapids*
- 5/2 at 8:30 a.m. Kathy Talus Memorial Invitational
- 5/5 Forest Hills Central*
- 5/7 & 5/8 time TBA Conference at GR Christian
- 5/15 (or 5/16) time TBA Regionals at Caledonia
- 5/26 time TBA John Bos/Champ meet

What's Your Sport?

Keep Caught Up On All The Lowell High School's Sports Action In

The Lowell Ledger



Red Arrow SPORTS

Lacrosse team answers the call against Holland Christian

by Thad Kraus
Lowell's lacrosse team controlled the proceedings early and answered any potential uprisings late in its 8-5 win over Holland Christian.

Arrow coach Eric Bredin. "Our midfielders controlled the transition game, ground balls, clearing and the riding aspects of the game." Lowell jumped out to a 3-1 advantage after one quarter and led 5-2 after two. The Red Arrows then took a 7-3

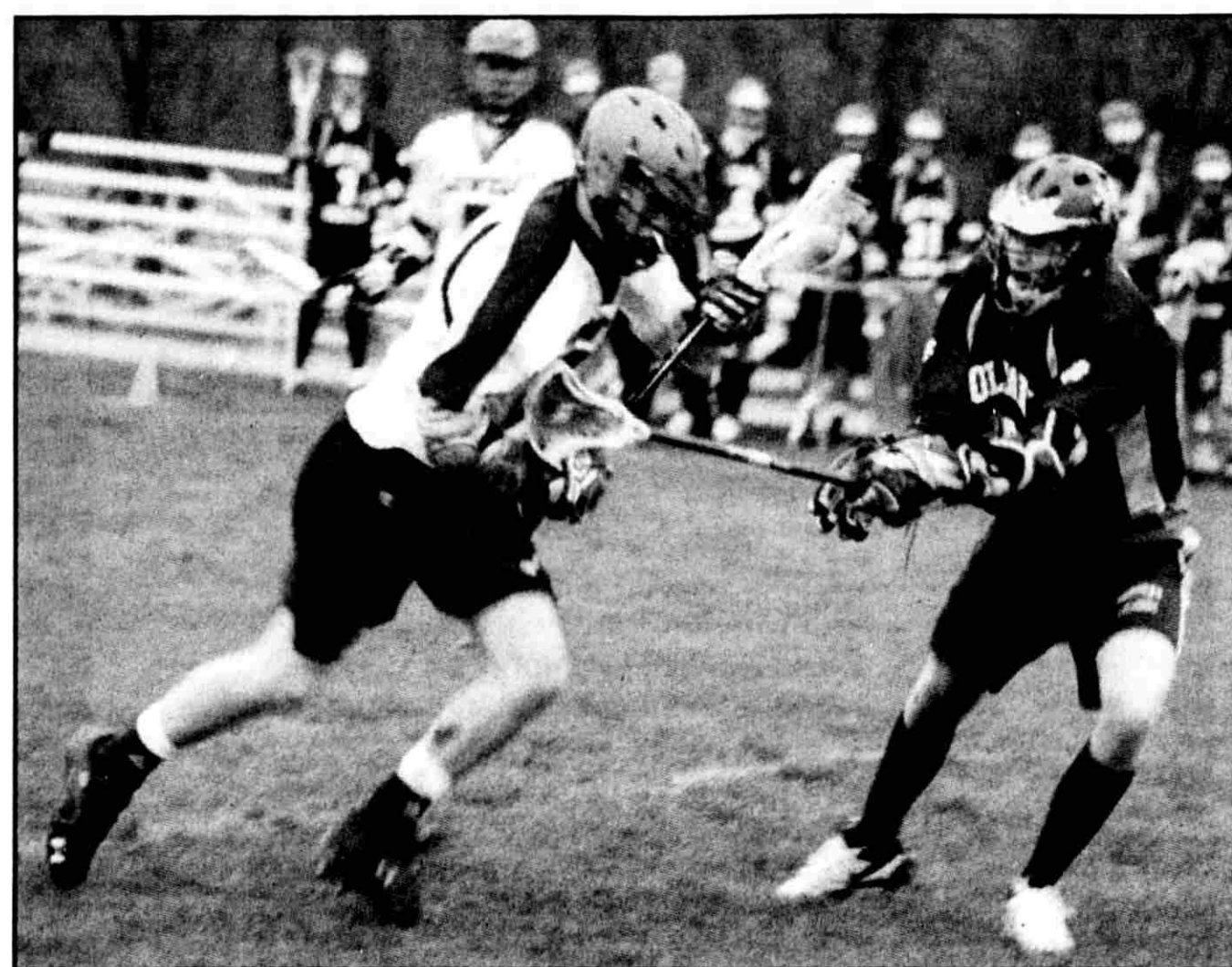
lead into the final quarter of play. "Eric Petersen did a great job on face-offs and Alec Downing and Isaac Tawney also provided pivotal play at the midfield position. Tawney finished the game with three assists.

Bredin, while pleased with the way his club controlled the game from the outset, was most impressed with his clubs maturity in dealing with any signs of a Holland Christian run.

"Any time it looked like Holland Christian might make a run, we answered," Bredin explained. "We also got good work from our man-up team. Christian had some early penalties."

Another key statistic in Lowell's win was its five assists.

Joel Morgan led Lowell in goals with three while



The Red Arrow lacrosse team fought through the wet and cold dealing out an 8-5 defeat to Holland Christian.

Abe McIntire and Jimmy McCormick each netted two goals and Kolin Morgan tallied one.

Catholic Central 12 Lowell 5

As well as Lowell played against Holland Christian, its play against the Cougars paled in comparison.

"We did everything wrong

against Catholic Central," Bredin said. "The boys were complacent after a few wins in a row. They just weren't mentally ready to play and that's my fault."

Lowell finished the week at 5-4 overall and 2-4 in conference play.

"From the start of the season until now there has been a vast improvement in

our play," Bredin said. Lowell will have an opportunity to avenge one of its losses this week when it plays Caledonia, a team it lost (9-5) to earlier in the year. Abe McIntire and Joel Morgan led all Lowell scorers with two goals and Bobby Nichols contributed with one.

Lowell golfers fall short in link play

The game of golf is difficult enough to play from the vantage point of experience. Its difficulty shoots through the roof with inexperience. "We're getting better, but we're struggling," said Lowell golf coach Gary Fredline. "We have guys

out there with only one-two years of experience."

In a triangular match at Deer Run, the Red Arrows lost to league foes Greenville and Northview.

Northview won the match with a team score of 173. Greenville carded a 177 and

Lowell finished with a 189.

Keith Neubecker led the way with a round of 44. Zack Fizer was three shots back at 47 and Tom Alberts and Mark Ford came off the course with rounds of 49.

In its dual match at Glenkerry against the

Yellow Jackets, Lowell finished with a round of 183. Greenville finished with a winning total of 164.

Ford and Neubecker led all Red Arrows with 44s. Fizer and Alberts came home in 47 and 48 respectively.

Sports do not build character. They reveal it.

- Heywood Broun
(1888 - 1939)

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Red Arrow SPORTS

Plenty of pitching and hitting leads Lowell to sweep over Northview

by Thad Kraus

In its first league series of the season, Lowell's baseball team swept Northview.

On Friday at home, in the third game of the series the Red Arrows earned a 5-1 victory.

"It was a big win. Northview played us tough. They saved their ace for this third game," said Lowell coach Justin Miller.

The Wildcat ace did not have an answer for Lowell's Torsten Boss. The senior threw a complete game, allowing one run on four hits while walking two and striking out seven Northview batters.

"Torsten challenged hitters and he didn't tire in his first full outing," Miller explained.

Boss also went 2-for-3 at the plate and scored a run.

The game was scoreless going into the fourth inning, when Lowell's Tim Hettinga hit a two-out, two-run double to put Lowell on top.

Zach Stephens also had a double and two RBI. In the opening two games at Northview, Lowell won both ends of a doubleheader 8-1 and 7-1.

One constant throughout the three games was Lowell's pitching.

"We're challenging our pitchers to work in positive pitching counts," Miller explained. "Giving up only one run in each of the three games increases your chances for success."

In game one of the doubleheader, Zach

Stephens improved his record to 2-1. The Red Arrow allowed one run on five hits.

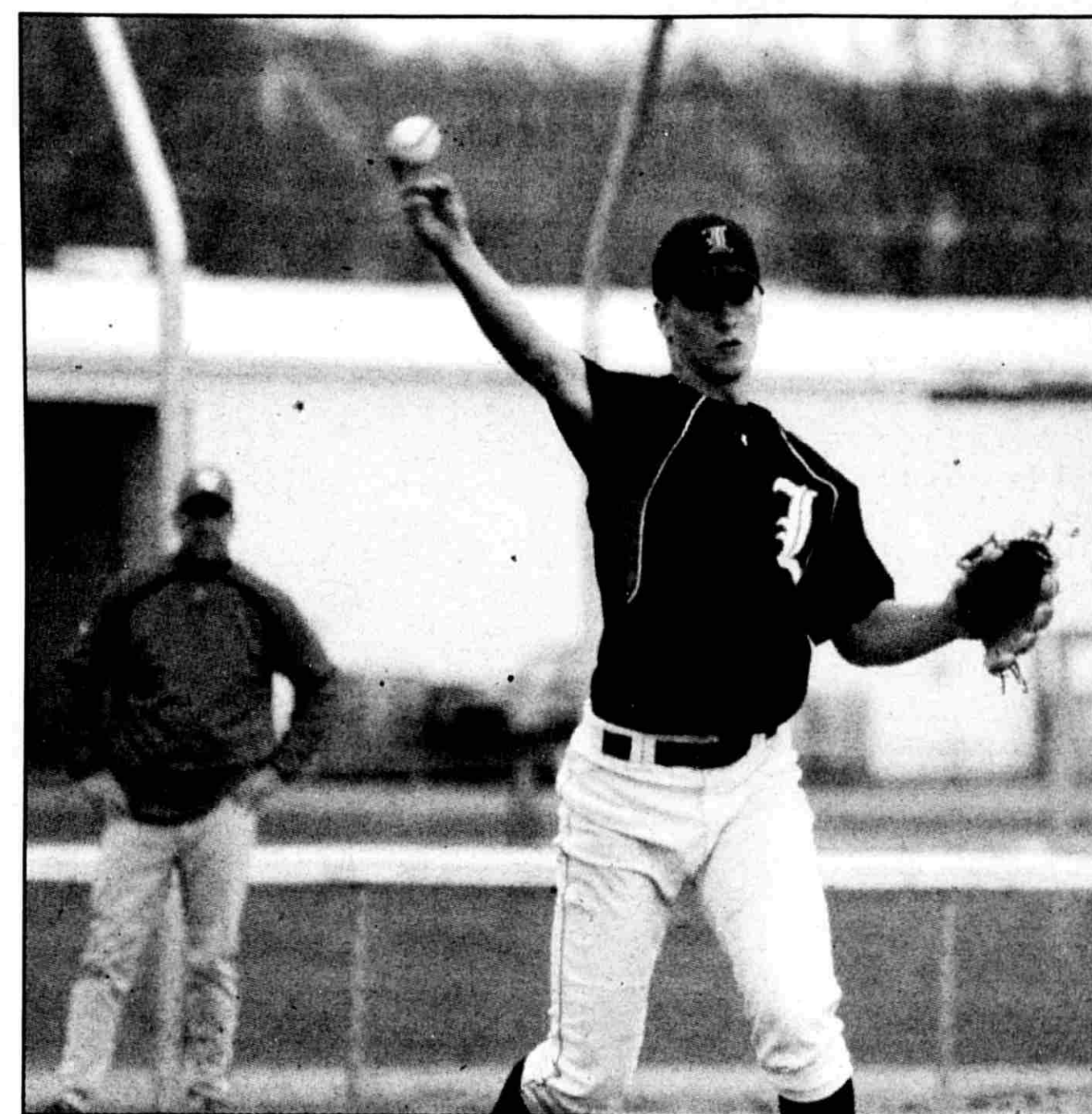
At the plate, Josh Drake provided all the firepower that was needed. The Red Arrow went 2-for-3 with two RBI and two runs scored.

Lowell tallied four runs in the second inning, two in the fifth and two more in the sixth.

In game two, Lowell banged out 12 hits against Northview pitching and scored seven runs.

Drake again was big at the plate. He went 4-for-4 with three singles and a double and plated three runs. His batting average sits over .600.

"Josh has been phenomenal at the plate. He has had an



Torsten Boss did it on the mound and at the plate in Lowell's three wins over Northview.

extra base hit in every game this year," Miller said.

Boss was also perfect at the plate. He was 3-for-3 with two doubles, a single,

a walk and one RBI.

On the mound, Josh Drake allowed one run on six hits. Lowell scored a run in

the first inning, three in the third, one in the fifth and added two more in the seventh inning.



Nick Trasky, shortstop, fields and throws to first in action against Northview.

GO, TEAM, GO!
Support Your Red Arrow Teams!



OKAY -
Someone Has To Say It ...

by Thad Kraus

In game four between the Pistons and the Cavaliers, at the Palace, fans were chanting MVP, MVP, MVP.

No, it wasn't for Alan Iverson!

The chants from the crowd were for Cleveland's LeBron James.

This stirred the ire of some. Not the chants but the fact the Palace had many more Cleveland fans than Detroit fans.

Why was this?

Because the Pistons, a sub .500 team, had no business being in the playoffs?

Detroit had no chance of beating Cleveland?

No, to all the above. The Detroit organization made a business choice prior to game four. Knowing that Piston fans were not going to pay top dollar to come out and watch a bad team get its head handed to it. The Piston organization e-mailed playoff ticket opportunities to Cavalier season ticket holders.

Makes sense. Cleveland, the home of the hapless Browns and the underachieving Indians, has a basketball team that's home to the best basketball player in the NBA and is pretty good money to win the NBA championship in 2009.

So, instead of the Pistons being booted out of the playoffs in front of empty seats, Detroit sold tickets for those empty seats to a wanting Cleveland fan base.

From a business standpoint it smelled of genius.

From a public relations standpoint it ruffled a few feathers.

What is that again? Money talks, people walk. In this case Cleveland fans walked right on in, turning the Palace into their place.

Detroit, long ago, walked away from a bad team. The Detroit organization walked away from the embarrassment of empty seats and into the bank with a money bag delivered the next day from Cleveland.

"Simply Give" program to help restock Flat River Outreach Ministries Food Pantry

With local food banks facing shortfalls this spring, supercenter chain Meijer is relaunching its "Simply Give" food donation program to help restock the shelves of local food pantries, including FROM Food Pantry. The announcement was made recently by Hank Meijer, co-chairman and CEO of the Grand Rapids, Michigan

based retailer. "The need to restock and replenish our local food pantries is greater than ever, so we are encouraging our customers to join us again in reaching out to lend a helping hand to those in need," said Meijer.

"We're committed to making a difference in all the communities where we do business, and this

is just another example of the importance we place on being an active member of the community."

The program, which will run from now through May 30, encourages Meijer shoppers to purchase a \$10 Meijer Food Pantry Donation Card. You can also pick up a card at the FROM Thrift Shop. The donation cards

will then be converted into Meijer Gift Cards and given to the local food pantry. (The \$10 amount reflects a typical bag of groceries at Meijer).

Meijer will once again seed the program with an overall donation of \$100,000 in grocery gift cards that will be divided equally among all the participating food pantries. As part of the

program, each Meijer store selected one local food pantry to receive its donations.

"The importance of receiving this type of donation is that we are able to buy exactly what we need and can take advantage of special sales," said Jody Haybarker, director of the FROM Food Pantry.

Meijer donates more

than six percent of its net profit annually to a broad group of charities and organizations throughout the five states where its stores are located. The "Simply Give" program drills down even deeper by ensuring the benefit is recognized in the very community where the specific Meijer is located.



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