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wednesday • may • 19 • 2010

vol. 39 issue 32

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New trail from Lowell to Greenville to be managed by intergovernmental authority

by Emma Palova

The soon to be acquired 22-mile long trail from Lowell to Greenville will be managed by an intergovernmental authority.

Ionia County administrator Mark Howe informed the rail to trail group about the forming of the authority progress last week at a meeting held at the chamber of commerce in Lowell.

The trail is slated for purchase this summer or in September with the help of a \$650,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). The total project cost is \$1.1 million.

The inter local authority between several counties will most likely be called Midwest Michigan Trail Authority.

"So, here we go," said Howe. "This has been two years in the works. Everybody will come with a

different perspective, but it is all about what can we live with."

The main thing is that the group will have a highly coveted trail that, together with other trails, will form a 125-mile long trail system traversing several counties. This will be the fifth longest trail system in the country.

"The interlocal agreement is very important," said Carolyn Kane, chairwoman of the group.

An endowment under the Meijer and Grand Rapids foundations will be created to sustain the whole trail network. This will put the trail into the hands of local government.

A friend's group will be essential to manage and maintain the trail. It is currently being formed in Belding and in other municipalities.

"The friend's group will be an essential player," said

Kane. "They are the heart and the soul. The challenges are to achieve sustainability for the trail system. This group has tremendous positive energy."

Howe said he likes the way all the pieces are coming together.

"There's a place at the table for everybody," he said. "It has been solidified. We are doing this. We will have an inter local agreement before we have a master plan."

Kane said there has been a lot of activity within the Heartland Trails friends group, that has created a video of the trail.

"It's a good group that has held well," Kane said.

Although, the Heartland Trail friend's group has been hesitant to take on additional responsibilities connected with the soon to be acquired new trail.

"If you have a core group

from a particular community they're more cohesive," said Kane.

The Lowell to Greenville piece is in the process of forming a trail group, while the Lowell to Ionia section

still needs to identify people from different locations along the trail, according to Kane.

Trail management, continued, page 3

Townships' study builds business case for wireless network

by Thad Kraus

For a number of years, residents in the tri-township area (Lowell, Vergennes and Ada) have been asking when the townships are going to provide high-speed internet service?

The simple answer is the townships have not been and never were in a position to provide such a service.

"Instead, the townships have worked together to build a business case to attract vendors to the area who will provide the service directly to end users," said Lowell Vergennes Township clerk Mari Stone.

The result has been a partnership with Azulstar who submitted a bid to Rural Utility Service for a grant to construct the "last mile" connecting broadband from hard wires to end user using a wireless connection.

The focus should have been building a business case that could attract a private company to come in and provide the service.

A report prepared by CBD Communications and commissioned by the three townships, titled "The Next Frontier," demonstrates the needs of the communities and the viability of their markets.

The non-using hard wire investment will use WiMAX in place of Wi-Fi.

WiMAX, with a stronger signal, can blanket 90 percent of the tri-township area with the exception of some residents located in valleys or some surrounded by trees.

Wi-Fi is limited to a six mile radius.

Wireless network, continued, page 2

River of Hope campaign passes \$500,000 mark

Rev. Roger LaWarre, Karen Whalen and Noreen Myers, co-chairs of the Flat River Outreach Ministries' (FROM) River of Hope campaign, have announced that an effort to raise \$1.4 million has passed the \$500,000 mark. "We are so grateful to our community for the generosity it is showing during these tough economic times.

Today, with the gifts of early donors and the work of our campaign volunteers, we have laid the groundwork for a renovated facility that will allow us to better serve more people in the greater Lowell area who are in need," said Myers.

The Flat River Outreach Ministries, a cooperative ministry of the churches of the greater Lowell area, is committed to providing food, financial aid and clothing assistance to people experiencing times of hardship. It was incorporated in 1998 by members of

thirteen local churches who banded together to address basic living needs of the greater Lowell community.

The River of Hope campaign began last June to raise funds to renovate FROM headquarters at 11535 East Fulton in Lowell which will include a new roof and a retrofitted facility designed to handle the increased demand for services while reducing maintenance costs. In addition, fundraising will also support expanded programming to reach more low income residents in Lowell and the surrounding region.

Rev. LaWarre, retired Lowell Congregational Church pastor, has been involved in FROM since the beginning. At a press conference he invited everyone to join in the fundraising effort which will continue through the summer. "Providing for those in need is a collective responsibility. Many hardworking families in our area have fallen on hard times. Flat River Outreach Ministries is here to step into the gap to help people in crisis so that they can get back on

their feet while providing for their families. I urge the community to support this important effort," said LaWarre.

River of Hope, continued, page 3

Memorial to be dedicated this summer

by Thad Kraus

The installation of and the dedication to the Battlefield Memorial was endorsed by the Lowell City Council Monday night.

The idea for the Battlefield Memorial was first brought before the council a year ago by American Legion Post 152 commander David Thompson.

The memorial is also referred to as a Battlefield Cross, something that appears on the field of battle where an American soldier is killed in action.

The memorial recognizes all men and women who have fought and died in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We will be adding the name of Lowell resident Lucas Beachnaw who was killed in Afghanistan

last January," Thompson explained.

"Sgt. Beachnaw is the only person from Lowell to be killed in the War on Terrorism, but, God forbid, should any others be lost there is space for those names to be added," Thompson said.

The formal dedication is scheduled for July 10 during the Riverwalk Festival following the parade.

A campaign to raise \$7,000 for the memorial is underway with contributions from both the legion and VFW.

Contributions can be mailed to: Attn: Veterans' Memorial Project, Lowell Huntington Bank, 414 East Main, Lowell, MI 49331. July 10.



The Fallen Soldier memorial sculpture to be dedicated on July 10.

Enforcement/harrassment continues to be an issue

by Thad Kraus

It's a question Lowell police chief James Hinton would like to see go away.

It hasn't. Instead, the question of enforcement or harassment surfaced again, this time at the Lowell City Council meeting on Monday night.

The allegations brought forward by Ron Warning noted Saranac little league teams wouldn't drive into Lowell for ice cream and a biker group would not ride into the community because of the enforcement/harassment issue.

Warning said he came forward because he wanted to work to solve the problem and do something good for Lowell.

"I got pulled over in my 1992 Lumina because an officer thought I had tinted windows," he alleged.

Reality or perception, it is not one police chief James Hinton takes lightly.

"I've talked to Kent County chiefs, organizations

and former Lowell police chief Jim Valentine," Hinton said. "This is not fun and is a concern."

The police chief repeated 30,000 cars pass through Lowell every day and on average his department pulls over 10 cars a day. "That's .03 - that's 300th of a percent," Hinton explained.

The hiring of a full-time officer for the night shift (6 p.m. until 6 a.m.), Hinton believes, may help.

"Right now we have more part-time officers working than in recent memory. Their responsibilities are patrolling and taking calls," he said. "With a full-time officer, comes more responsibilities and an ownership in the community."

This is the same shift that Cal Kamphuis filled for 30 years. A familiar face also makes it easier for drivers to communicate who pulled them over when there is a dispute.

A frustration Hinton has had to deal with is no one has

been able to tell him what they think harassment is.

"Is pulling someone over for not fixing a taillight, but not giving the driver a ticket - is that harassment?" Hinton asked.

The police chief was adamant about the way Lowell officers carry themselves.

"For as long as I've

been in Lowell, officers have always been told to be professional, respectful and courteous to people they are in contact with," Hinton said.

Personally, Hinton has been active in endorsing the community, assisting the business community and has carried out his obligation to keep the community safe

and to keep out the criminal element.

In 2009, Lowell police officers made 73 drunk driving arrests. Of those, 68 were for operating a vehicle while under intoxicant and five were for zero tolerance.

According to Hinton, the average blood/alcohol level of the 68 was .15, nearly double of the presumptive

.08 level. "The biggest complaint this department gets is about how people are driving. It's about speed, ignoring signs and running lights," Hinton said.

For now, Hinton is left searching for a comfort zone that lies somewhere between enforcement and harassment.

Wireless network, continued

In October of '09, Azulstar (Chris Borek) submitted a bid for federally funded stimulus dollars.

The bid was not funded. "The bids funded in the first round were fiber and not wireless," Stone explained. "In retrospect it makes sense. By funding fiber first, a background for the service is established."

Azulstar, a Grand Haven based company, submitted a second bid for

funds in March. A response is expected sometime this summer.

If approved, wireless networks will begin being built.

Under the terms of the grant the networks must be built within 36 months. According to Azulstar, the target is to do it in 24 months.

Borek said the township study was a brilliant snapshot of the reality (current needs

and desire of townships) we live in and is an integral part of its application.

If funded, the WiMAX model would work with the 4G network and wireless broadband.

"The townships' role was to help build a business case for Azulstar," Stone said. "They have a good reputation for being a progressive and aggressive private company in getting into markets with this technology."

The signal Azulstar would use is from Merit Network's fiber ring. Merit received \$45 million in the first round of grants to build a fiber ring around the state.

Funding for the township report was provided by the Englehardt Foundation.

Stone added that the townships believe that the study provides a mandate from its residents to accommodate and accelerate the process.

River of Hope, continued

As Michigan's economy has struggled over the past several years, FROM officials have seen a spike in demand for essential needs. Last fiscal year, FROM provided 2,524 boxes of food and hygiene products to families

in crisis and distributed over 50,000 pounds of supplemental groceries to families facing financial challenges. Over \$123,000 was distributed through a financial assistance program that assisted low income

homeowners facing utility shut-offs, foreclosures, and evictions. FROM's Christmas food and toy program served 335 families and free tax preparation services returned more than \$60,000 in refunds to participants.

So far this fiscal year, food pantry requests are up 18 percent over the same period as last year, the Christmas distribution increased by 17 percent, and the tax preparation

program more than doubled, returning nearly \$150,000 to participants. Lawarre's announcement marks the beginning of the public phase of the \$1.4 million campaign. Flat River

Outreach Ministries operates with a \$530,000 annual budget. FROM's mission is to meet the needs of people in the greater Lowell area in their time of hardship.

Dean and Stuursma will dance for Make-A-Wish

by Thad Kraus

Lowell football coach Noel Dean will spend a good portion of his week swinging.

On Thursday, Dean will be one of nine local celebrity dancers to participate in the Make-A-Wish Dancing with the Stars event.

It will take place on Thursday (May 20) at St. Cecilia Music Center, beginning at 6 p.m., 24 Ransom NE, Grand Rapids.

The night will include dinner, a silent auction and the dancing competition.

Tickets are \$75 and 18 and under are \$25.

Other local celebrity dancers will be George Aquino, JW Marriott general manager; Rosalynn Bliss, Grand Rapids city commissioner; Steve Bohner, Barnaby and Friends' show producer; Lt. Ralph Mason, Grand Rapids

police department; Gene Parker, WTRV; Jeff Smoker, former MSU quarterback; Andrea "SuperDre" Wallace, DJ, producer and Boutique Record label owner; and Peter Stuursma, East Grand Rapids football coach.

Make-A-Wish Foundation grants wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy.



At Your Local Library

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

Family Storytime - Share books, stories, rhymes,

music and movement as a family; develop early literacy skills and encourage a love of reading. For children ages 6 and under with a caregiver. Thursdays, June 3 to July 8, 10:30 a.m.

Teen Crew Orientation

- We're looking for a few good teens and teens to volunteer their time this summer to help with our summer reading program. Enthusiasm and energy are a must. Fun times guaranteed. Registration is required via a paper application. For teens grades 6-12. Saturday, June 5, 11 a.m.

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Caregivers offer important support

Relay for Life is coming June 11-12 to celebrate all the people who are cancer survivors, remember those who have lost their battle, and try to raise money to help fight back. They are the reason people participate in Relay For Life of Lowell. Another group who are recognized during the event are the caregivers. They are usually more in the background, but are no less important during the time of treatment and beyond. This group of people can be spouses and other family members, friends, and co-workers. Their job description entails driving to appointments and "just being there," offering encouraging words when bad

news comes down, keeping friends and others, informed, and coordinating what needs to be done to take care of the patient. They do this quietly and keep their focus on the patient. They are there in the good times when things seem up and the bad times when things are down. It is vitally important to encourage the person in the fight as they go through it.

The caregivers need a boost, too. Whether it be a card, an e-mail message, giving a time of respite so they can recharge their batteries, or just being there to listen, caregivers can't be forgotten. They are going through the same things as the person with the diagnosis

and they can get tired, too. More than one life in a family is turned upside down by hearing a single word - cancer. Cancer never only affects just one person. It ripples out beyond the one going through treatment to family members and friends who care deeply for their loved one. Their love and devotion is unconditional and always present, and for that we are forever grateful.

Come join Relay For Life of Lowell. For more information or to donate to this event, contact Carol Briggs at cbriggs@lowellschools.com or check us out online at www.relayforlife.org/lowellmi

Trail management, continued

The friend's groups operate as 501 C3 non-profit organizations with local chapters from individual communities along the trail.

And even though the trail from Lowell to Greenville will belong to the friend's group, it will be gifted to the Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

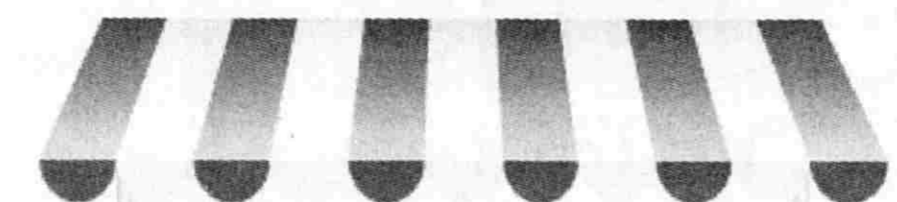
A \$1,000 grant from the Ionia Community Foundation will help fund a website for the trails.

The next meeting will be held on June 10 at 1 p.m. at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.

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• OCEANS (G) 5:20, 7:20, 9:15
• IRON MAN 2 (PG-13) 4:20, 7:00, 9:45
• A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET (R) 4:50, 7:10, 9:20
• FURRY VENGANCE (PG) 4:40, 6:50
• DATE NIGHT (PG-13) 9:00



RELAY FOR LIFE
American Cancer Society Relay for Life captains' meeting will be held May 25 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the conference room at the administration bldg., 300 High St. Relay for Life is June 11-12 from 3 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lowell High School. For more information visit www.relayforlife.org/lowellmi or contact Carol Briggs at 897-5501 or cbriggs@lowellschools.com

PLANT SWAP
Is your flower garden getting out of hand? If so, bring these plants with you to the Wittenbach/Wege Center for a plant swap. Sun., May 23, 1-2:30 p.m. Contact Meggan Johnson at 987-1002 or mjohanson@lowellschools.com for more information.

LOOKING FOR LOWELL LEDGERS
The Lowell Area Historical Museum is looking for copies of The Lowell Ledger from the years 1994 to 2001. If you would like to donate any or all of your copies from this time period, they would appreciate it. This is valuable information and would help complete their collection for historic research. Please contact the museum at 897-7688.

GARDENING WITH JOHN BROTT
Join John Brott in our beautiful gardens and grounds for some basic gardening and landscaping projects. Gilda's Club Lowell, 314 S. Hudson St. Tues., May 25, 1-3 p.m. For more information call 897-8600 or go online to www.gildasclub.org/pinkarrow

Feel free to send your event information to the Ledger for Along Main St. All submission requests for Along Main St. are subject to space limitations. The Ledger makes no assurances that they will appear in print. To ensure that an event notification will appear in the Ledger, it is best to place a paid advertisement. All efforts will be made to place suitable items in the Along Main St. column but they are printed at the discretion of the publisher. For profit events, church services, yard sales and the like, will not appear in this column.

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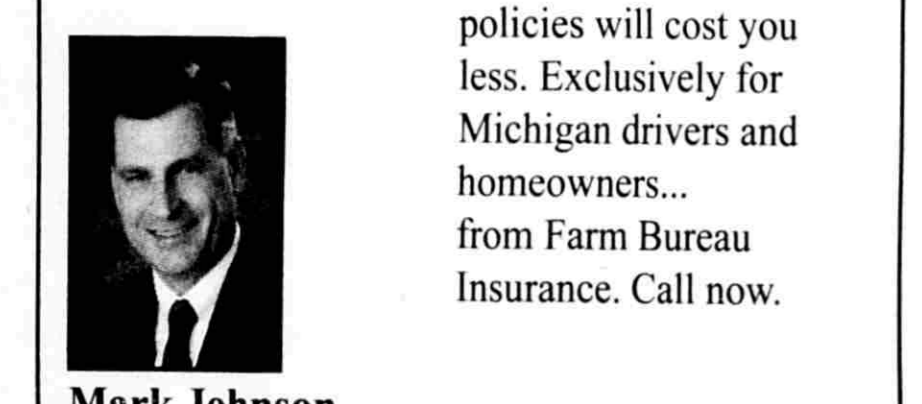
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financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Answering five questions can help you pursue your goals

As you strive to achieve your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement, you may, at times, feel frustrated over events you can't influence, such as the up-and-down movements of the financial markets. Yet there is much you can control — once you determine the answers to just five key questions.

Where am I today? Take stock of all your assets — your IRA, 401(k) and other savings and investment accounts. Then, do the same for your debts, such as your mortgage and any other financial obligations. On your financial journey through life, it's essential that you know your starting point.

Where would I like to be? Once you've established where you are today, you'll need to identify where you'd like to be tomorrow. How much will you need to pay for the retirement lifestyle

you've envisioned? Will you be able to help pay for your children's or grandchildren's college education? Will you need to support any other family members? At this stage, you'll want to write down all your goals and put a price tag on each one.

Can I get there? After you've identified your goals, determine if they are, in fact, achievable. By considering a variety of factors — including your likely future income stream and your family situation — you should be able to determine if you can attain your goals or if you need to modify them in some way.

How do I get there? Now it's time to put a strategy into action. Specifically, you need to choose those investments that can help you pursue the goals you've selected. Your ideal portfolio will depend on your risk tolerance and time horizon, but in general, you'll want a diversified

mix of quality investments. While diversification, by itself, cannot guarantee a profit or protect against loss, it can help reduce the effects of volatility. As you put together your holdings, make sure you understand what you can expect from your investments. For example, growth stocks may offer the highest potential returns, but they also carry the greatest

risk. On the other hand, investment-grade bonds can offer a steady income stream and, barring the default of the issuer, will repay your principal when they mature.

How can I stay on track? Once you've built your investment portfolio, you'll need to review it regularly — at least once a year — to help ensure it's still meeting your needs. After all, many

things can and will change in your life, such as your family situation, your goals, your employment and your risk tolerance. To address these changes, you'll need to adjust your portfolio over time. As you can see, answering all these questions will take both work and expertise. That's why you may want to work with a professional financial advisor to help

you identify your goals and create a strategy for pursuing them.

In any case, though, start asking — and answering — these five key questions as soon as you can. It's easier to reach your financial goals if you put time on your side.

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

health



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

Atrial Fibrillation

Atrial fibrillation is probably the most common abnormal heart rhythm seen in a doctor's office. It is much more prevalent in older people. Atrial fibrillation can cause serious problems like heart failure and stroke.

Normally our heart beats in a regular fashion with the impulse beginning in the sinoatrial node located in the upper part of the heart (atrium). This impulse

travels to the ventricles (the lower chambers) and causes them to contract. The atrium and ventricles thus contract in a synchronized fashion efficiently pumping blood to the rest of our body.

Atrial fibrillation occurs when the electrical impulse becomes disrupted or disorganized causing the heart to beat in an irregular or rapid fashion. Often, the contractions are not as

forceful as they are when the heart beats normally.

Many people with atrial fibrillation will not even know they have it, while others will experience symptoms of shortness of breath, palpitations, dizziness, fatigue and chest discomfort.

The problem with atrial fibrillation is that blood clots can develop within the upper chamber and travel through the arteries to the brain causing a stroke. If atrial fibrillation causes a rapid heart rate, the heart works less efficiently, which can lead to heart failure or a heart discomfort.

The diagnosis of heart failure is done by performing a simple EKG in the doctor's office. Treatment of atrial

fibrillation consists of maintaining a proper heart rate to improve efficiency and prevent a stroke. Your doctor will prescribe certain medications to maintain a moderate heart rate and blood thinners that must be taken regularly to prevent formation of blood clots. Warfarin is the most common blood thinner prescribed. It is very effective at preventing strokes, but blood levels must be monitored regularly to prevent bleeding and to make sure the dosage is at appropriate therapeutic levels.

For further information on atrial fibrillation, contact your doctor or contact the American Heart at www.americanheart.org

viewpoint

outdoors

pitch in

Dave Stegehuis

Another Earth Day has past. Once a year we pause to remember that people, as stewards of the environment, have the responsibility to make decisions and take action to protect and sustain our planet.

This sounds like a daunting task, and it certainly is considering such monumental challenges like massive oil spills and air pollution. Confronting major ecological disasters and heading off future environmental problems through public policy may be the business of government. However, if enough private citizens work together with a common purpose, significant results are possible.

Good stewardship can start in your own backyard.

Select environmental friendly fertilizers and pesticides or avoid their use altogether. Leave natural vegetation and establish brush piles with tree trimmings. Choose plant species which will provide cover and food for wildlife. Make a family project out of constructing houses for birds that will need nesting sites when they return in the spring. Flower gardens can include plants which will accommodate birds and butterflies.

Owners of larger tracts of land such as farms and recreational property have additional options. One program is designed to protect farmland from residential and commercial development while the

owner can continue to use the land for other purposes. Land can be managed for native plant species and wildlife habitat. Food plots have become popular with landowners who want to draw deer to their property. These plots are beneficial to other kinds of wildlife as well. Planting native grasses, like switchgrass, will protect the soil from erosion and provide excellent cover for a variety of wildlife. I recently witnessed a controlled burn of over 30 acres of switchgrass. The burn was timed to eliminate emerging invasive species and weeds which were beginning to establish a presence. It will be interesting to watch the switchgrass grow back from deep root which were unaffected by the very hot fire.

There are a number

of private conservation organizations that work to provide wildlife with suitable habitat and protect environmentally sensitive areas. People who are involved with outdoor activities from flower gardening to elk hunting are aware of organizations which address environmental issues related to their interests. You can do your part in protecting the environment and supporting wildlife by becoming active in those organizations. Do some careful research before making a commitment if you are not familiar with their work.

If everyone can find some way to pitch in to protect our resources, together we can make a significant impact on our quality of life and that of future generations.

ask kathryn



Kathryn Denhouer Ph.D.

This is a continuation of a discussion on what stress does to a person. There are many physical symptoms of stress which were listed in the last article. Today, we'll look at how stress can impact the aging process. Each day as we live our lives we usually don't think about aging and stress. But, it is clear from research that how we structure our life has a huge impact on the negative factors that accelerate aging. The major negative factors in aging are: 1) depression, 2) lack of routines (both daily and work routines), and 3) job dissatisfaction.

The symptoms of depression, such as feeling worthless, sad, not interested in life, irritability, regretting the sacrifices made in the past, criticism of one's self and others, and especially feelings of loneliness, lead to internal and external disruptions that tax the body and mind. Loneliness is a key factor in the aging process. It makes one feel helpless and marginalized with no one to share how we feel. Sharing emotions and getting things "off our chest" goes a long way in helping us age more gracefully. Financial burdens, as well, create excessive worry that creates

stressful burdens. All of this negatively impacts on how we age because the body is being challenged each and every day.

There are some positive factors that retard aging. This is described in Deepak Chopra's book, *Ageless Realities, A Guidebook*. The three most important factors are: 1) a happy marriage, 2) job satisfaction, and 3) feelings of personal happiness. Some parts of the state of happiness can be an inherited mindset, but much of it comes from learning how to enjoy life. If one is optimistic about the future, feeling financially secure by living within their means, and if one has developed a regular work and daily routine, chances are that they will age gracefully. Staving off loneliness by making and keeping close friends and by having enjoyable and satisfying hobbies is crucial in slowing down the aging process.

So the old adage "Live well, and live long" has some merit. Next month we will discuss "How to Prevent Stress." If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at kathryndenhouer@gmail.com

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By Shelly MacNaughton

125 Years Ago The Lowell Journal May 27, 1885

Low water in Flat River has made slow work for the log drive.

J.C. West & Co's soda fountain is once more on duty. It spurts a delightful beverage.

Inez Sexton, the singer, is in San Francisco singing in a church choir and in concerts. Lowell people remember her well.

100 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger May 19, 1910

G.H. Uglow has sold his bakery and restaurant business to Herman Strong and the latter took possession Tuesday morning. Mr. and Mrs. Uglow have successfully conducted the business for nearly two years and have given the public a good and accommodating service. Mr. Uglow is a druggist by profession and will return to that business.

75 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo May 23, 1935

Headline: Chain Letter Graft Soon Will Blow Up If all the mental energy and ingenuity spent in

devising ways and means of separating trusting individuals from their money, without giving full value in return, could be turned to solving the problems of state and society, this world would likely be on the border of the millennium in a few decades. The latest piece of hokum, which is sweeping the county and which is including Lowell in its scope, as of necessity it must be every city village and hamlet in the nation if it continues, is the chain letter craze.

The federal post office department has sent notice to all post offices that a fine of \$1,000 or 2 years in prison, or both, is the penalty for anyone convicted of participating in these chain letters.

50 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger May 19, 1960

United States Representative Gerald Ford is one of the busiest officials in government on a national level. His time is valuable and he has demonstrated time and again that as a member of one of the most powerful committees of the House, he considers his county's business as a matter of the first magnitude. He is being considered as a candidate for nomination as vice-president. He left a busy schedule to fly to Grand Rapids last Friday to participate in the State Republican convention. Soon after arrival on Friday, he happened to ask the delegate from Lowell about Mr. Runciman's condition. Upon being told that "Runci" was doing fine but in general was confined to his room, Mr. Ford straightway insisted that he must see his constituent. We happen to know that "Jerry" was extremely busy Friday night until 1:30 a.m. We also know that the only time the congressman could drive to Lowell was at 7 a.m. on Saturday — which he did.

25 Years Ago The Grand Valley Ledger May 22, 1985

The first of 100 signs alerting motorists to Michigan's new safety belt law are going up at freeway rest areas and border points around the state. The new law requires the driver and all front-seat passengers of motor vehicles to wear safety belts. Failure to comply can bring a fine of up to \$10, until January 1986, when the fine will increase to \$25.

Farewell, Ernie



Sen. Carl Levin

"For, lo, the winter is past,
The rain is over and gone;
The flowers appear on the earth;
The time of the singing of birds is come,
And the voice of the turtle is heard in our land."

Spring after spring, for four decades, a man named Ernie Harwell would recite those words from the Bible's Song of Songs. He would recite them at the beginning of the first baseball broadcast of spring training. And those are the words that would tell us, as we shivered through the end of a long, cold, Michigan winter, that it would soon be spring.

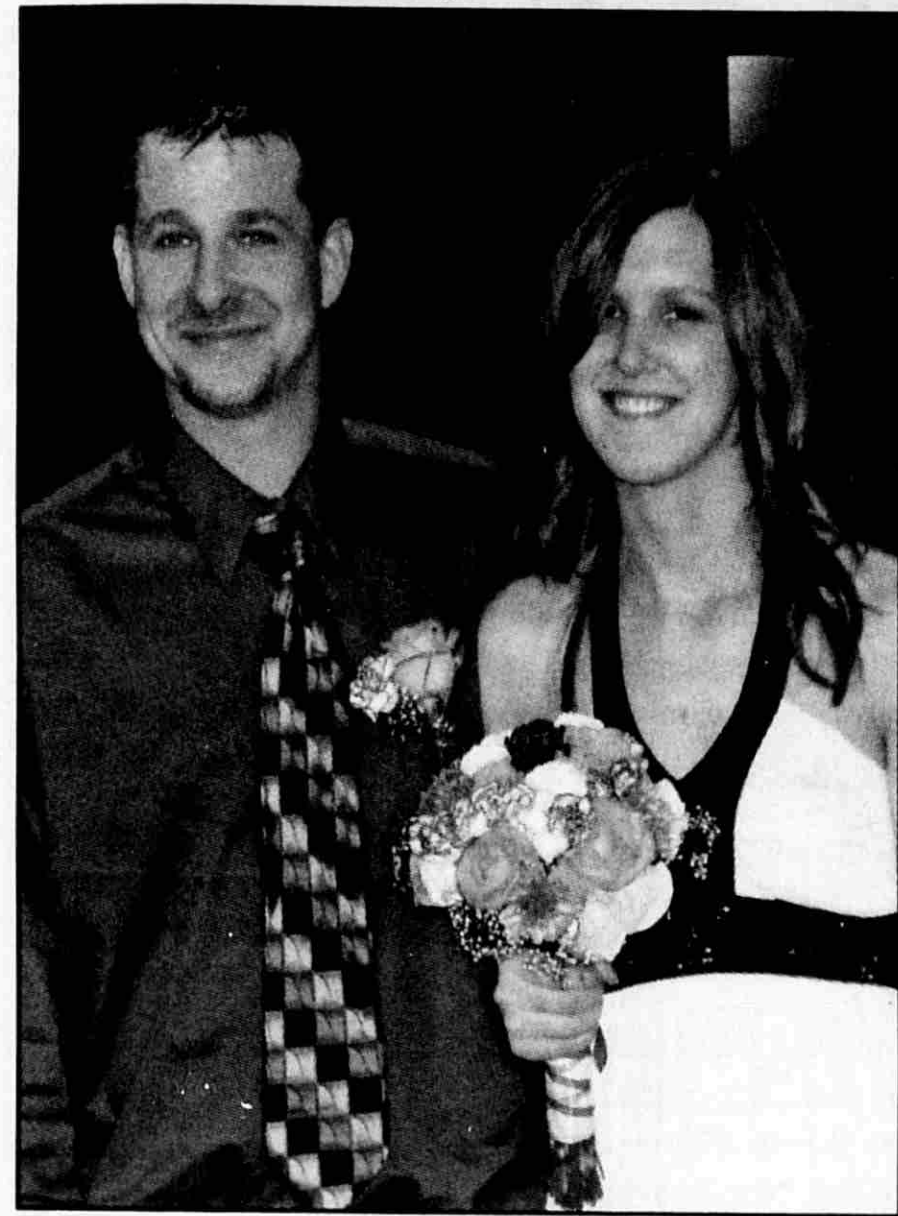
Ernie was the radio voice of the Detroit Tigers for 42 years, and in that time, there may have been no Michiganian more universally beloved. Our state is mourning his passing after a battle with cancer. He fought that battle with the grace, the good humor, and the wisdom that Michigan had come to expect, and even depend on, from a man we came to know and love.

Ernie grew up in Atlanta, and he often told fans that as a boy he was tongue-tied, coping with a speech impediment, but with therapy and hard work, he turned his

Levin, continued,
page 11

engagements area births

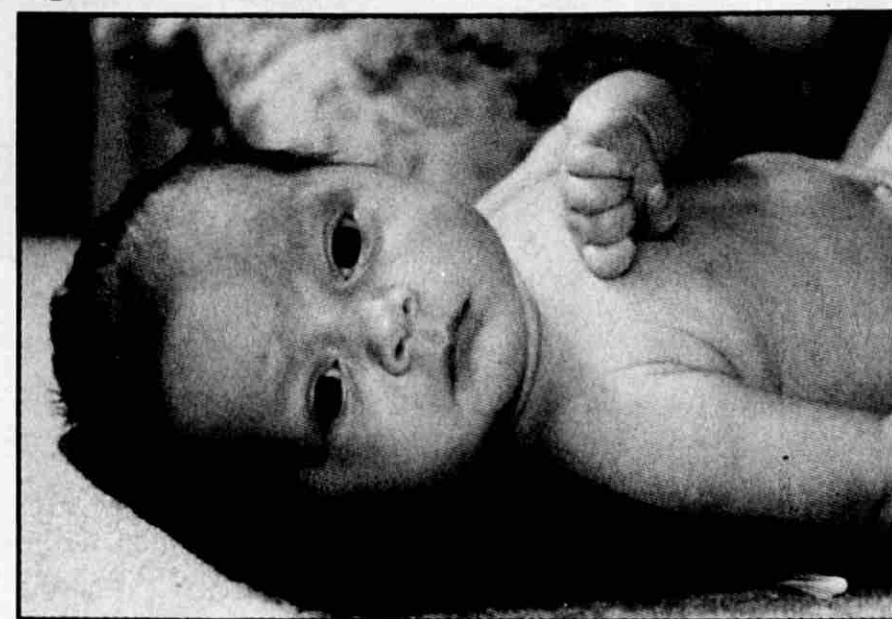
Todosciuk/Eikey



Nicholas and Chantal Eikey

The marriage of Chantal Todosciuk and Nicholas Eikey was celebrated on May 11, 2010. Parents of the couple are Mike Todosciuk, Linda Linton, Robert Eikey, and Patricia Eikey. Maid of honor was Barbra Linton. Best man was Brandon Linton. The couple resides in Lowell.

Lyons

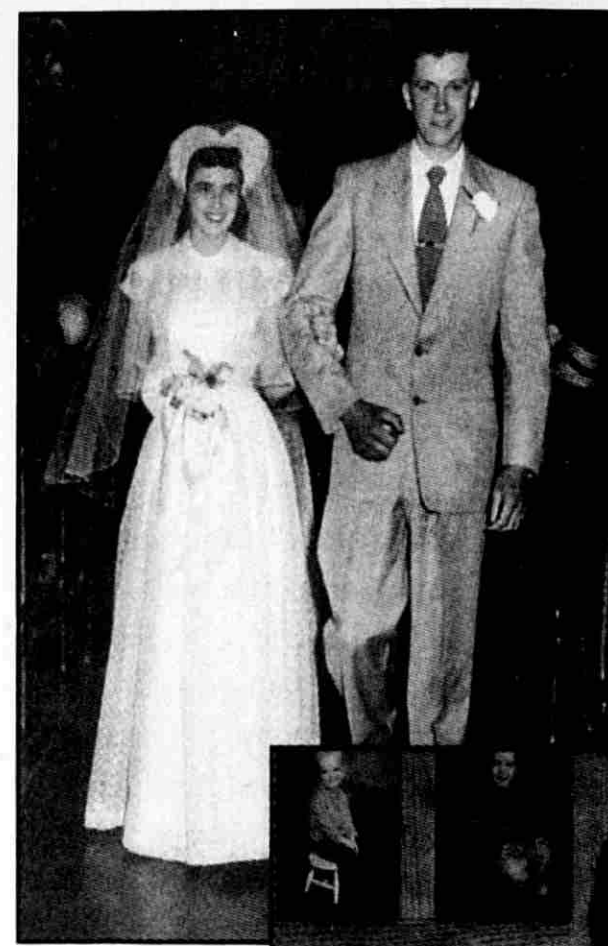


Mason Thomas Lyons

James and Erin (Koewers) Lyons would like to announce the birth of their son, Mason Thomas, born March 23, 2010. He weighed 6 lbs. 15 oz. and measured 21 inches. Proud grandparents are Alan and Donna Miller of Lowell, Stacey and Kyle Wheeler of Parma, and Charles and Janet Lyons of Hanover.

Celebrating 60 years of marriage

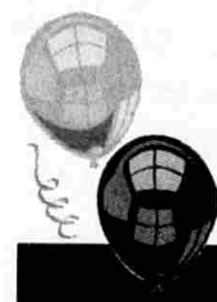
Bob and Morna (Rickert) Ford will be celebrating their 60th anniversary on May 20. They were married at St. Mary's Church, in Lowell, on May 20, 1950. They will be celebrating their anniversary with family and friends. Bob and Morna are lifelong residents of Lowell, raising five children in the house they have lived in for most of their marriage.



Bob and Morna Ford

Children are Greg Ford (deceased), Doug and Karen Ford, Jody and Kraig Haybarker, Beth Ball, and David and Joy Ford, all of Lowell. They have 12 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

happy birthday!



- MAY 19**
Helen Tetzlaff, Kathy (Tetzlaff) Williams, James Young, Debbie DeHaan, Thomas Jahnke Jr., David Main, Andrew Kiczanski, Ken Stager.
- MAY 20**
Christine Baird, Shanda Weed, Julie Beaton, Bryan Borton, Laura Brower.
- MAY 21**
Pat Erickson, Eric Ellis, Kayla Mohr, Katelyn Bush.
- MAY 22**
Tim Shurwood, Meghan Beachum, Mark Anderson.
- MAY 23**
Wesley Patnode, Tory DeBold, Patrick Ortiz, Anna Richmond.
- MAY 24**
Matt McClure, Josh Buechler, Harry Tichelaar, Summer Bevan, Dylan Bevan.
- MAY 25**
Rick Wernet, Phyllis Bieri.

Golden wedding anniversary



Lowell and Yvonne Swift of Lowell are celebrating their 50th year of marriage on June 19. They were married in Grand Ledge in 1960.

The couple has five children: Nathan (Peggy) Swift, Eric (Cathy) Swift, Valerie Swift (deceased), Amy Churchill, and Sara (Jason) Taylor; and 12 grandchildren.

The family will have a gathering on June 5.

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Yvonne and Lowell Swift

Red Arrow SPORTS

Coach Rodenhouse tallies 500th career win

by Thad Kraus

In 1979, a young physical education teacher and baseball enthusiast, hired to start a softball program in Lowell, asked and was granted permission to sit in on Tom Judson's Northview practice.

Thirty-one years later, Red Arrow softball coach Bob Rodenhouse is one of a select few West Michigan high school softball coaches to record 500-plus victories.

Judson says the role of a coach has gotten tougher thus making coaching longevity less and less likely anymore.

"I don't know why coaching is tougher, but it is. The kids are still kids, but everything else is harder," Judson explains.

The former Wildcat coach does have an explanation for Rodenhouse's success.

"Bob has the ability to make tough times seem not so tough. He is able to laugh about things," Judson said.

Some might say 500 wins is a byproduct of coaching for so many years. Judson believes it's more than that.

"It's not only the years, but it's many years of doing a consistently good job of coaching," Judson explains.

With the exception of taking three years off to watch his son Dan play baseball, Rodenhouse has been the face of Lowell softball.

"It's not been about the number of wins. It's truly all about the number of memories," Rodenhouse says.

The Lowell coach revisits those memories every day in his office, as his wall is covered with pictures of past softball players and teams.

"It's been a lot of work, but I've had a lot of fun."

When asked about his coaching future, Rodenhouse shares that he always said when he retires from teaching, he won't coach.

The Lowell physical

education teacher is retiring at the end of the school year.

"There is always time to change my mind," he adds with a signature Rodenhouse smile.

The role of a coach has changed over the past 15 years, and Rodenhouse recognizes that.

"There's a lot of off-season work that is done now that wasn't being done 12-14 years ago. Without it, a program can't compete today," he explains.

The other elements of the game that have changed are the bats which have gone from composite to aluminum and the balls which have changed from the old white puff Dudley balls to the yellow softballs.

Rodenhouse says there is a legitimate reason as to why he and others do what they do for so long. "We love what we do and we show it," he concludes.



Lowell softball coach Bob Rodenhouse collected a career win number of 500 in a doubleheader sweep against Creston.

Reception for Rodenhouse scheduled

Following the East Grand Rapids/Lowell varsity softball game at Cherry Creek Elementary on Wednesday, May 26, a reception recognizing Bob Rodenhouse, on capturing his 500th career softball coaching victory, will be held.

business matters

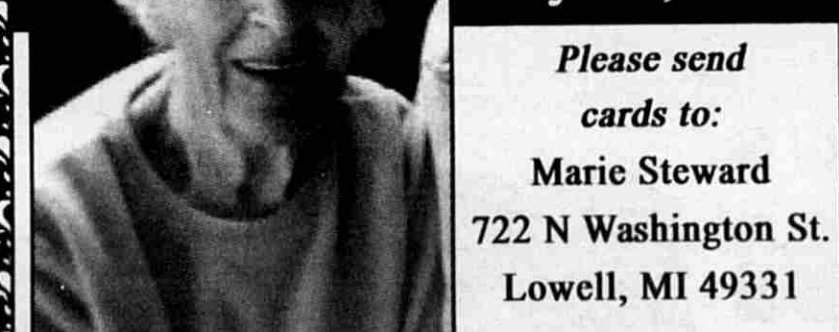
Greenridge Realty announced that Don Reedy received Realtor of the Month in April.

This award recognizes Reedy for his outstanding success and achievements.

Don Reedy

The Trolls under the bridge heard a secret from the old Christiansen Drug Troll - the fountain may not be serving ice cream any longer but everyone's favorite chocolate malt maker is still around...

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Week of May 24, 2010

MON: Chicken patty on bun (rib BQ on bun also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), tossed salad w/low fat dressing, pineapple, milk.

TUES: Baked mini corndogs (hamburger on bun also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), oven baked beans, assorted fruit, milk.

WED: Homemade cheese pizza (chili w/crackers also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), fresh tossed salad, assorted fruit, milk.

THURS: Baked chicken nuggets & dinner roll (turkey & cheese on bun also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), oven potato wedges, fresh orange, milk.

FRI: Macaroni & cheese w/cinnamon roll (3 meat sub also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), green beans, fresh fruit, milk.

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We were the first branch of the YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids to hit our goal, and we couldn't have done it without the dedication and support of the Lowell community and businesses.

A special "thank you" goes out to Huntington Bank, Meijer, and BC Pizza, our Sports Sponsors.



Red Arrow SPORTS

Red Arrows drop series to Eagles

by Thad Kraus

A three-game series with Grand Rapids Christian began a tough two-week stretch for the Lowell baseball team.

It would determine the success of the Red Arrows' drive for a third straight O-K White conference championship.

The start was tougher than Lowell imagined. The

Eagles swept all three games, enhancing their chances for a league title while dashing Lowell's hopes.

"Overall, the boys played well and battled," said Lowell baseball coach Justin Miller.

Two of the three losses went to extra innings.

In its 8-4 nine-inning loss in game one, Lowell trailed

4-2 going into the bottom of the seventh inning when Kaleb Ort belted a game-tying, two-run homer.

Grand Rapids Christian rallied for four runs in the ninth to earn the victory.

"It was a great high school baseball game," Miller said. "The boys played hard, were energetic and never gave up.

After a game like this you just have to tip your hat to the other team."

Jordan Drake started and went the distance for Lowell. He walked one and struck out 11.

Drake said he felt good throughout.

"I felt good warming before the game," Drake said. "I had all my pitches and was able to mix them up."

Lowell lost game two in eight innings, 10-9.

The Red Arrows had the winning run on second with two out when Pat Martin ripped a shot to the first-base side of the second baseman.

The Eagle dove parallel to the ground, stopping a would-be game-winning hit and throwing to first to end the inning.

As devastating as the loss was, Lowell took a bigger hit in the eighth inning when Elliott Drain broke his right hand diving into a base.

"You hate to see a kid get hurt. Elliott has worked so hard and is a talented baseball player," Miller said.

Christian was on the winning side of an 11-6 score in game three.

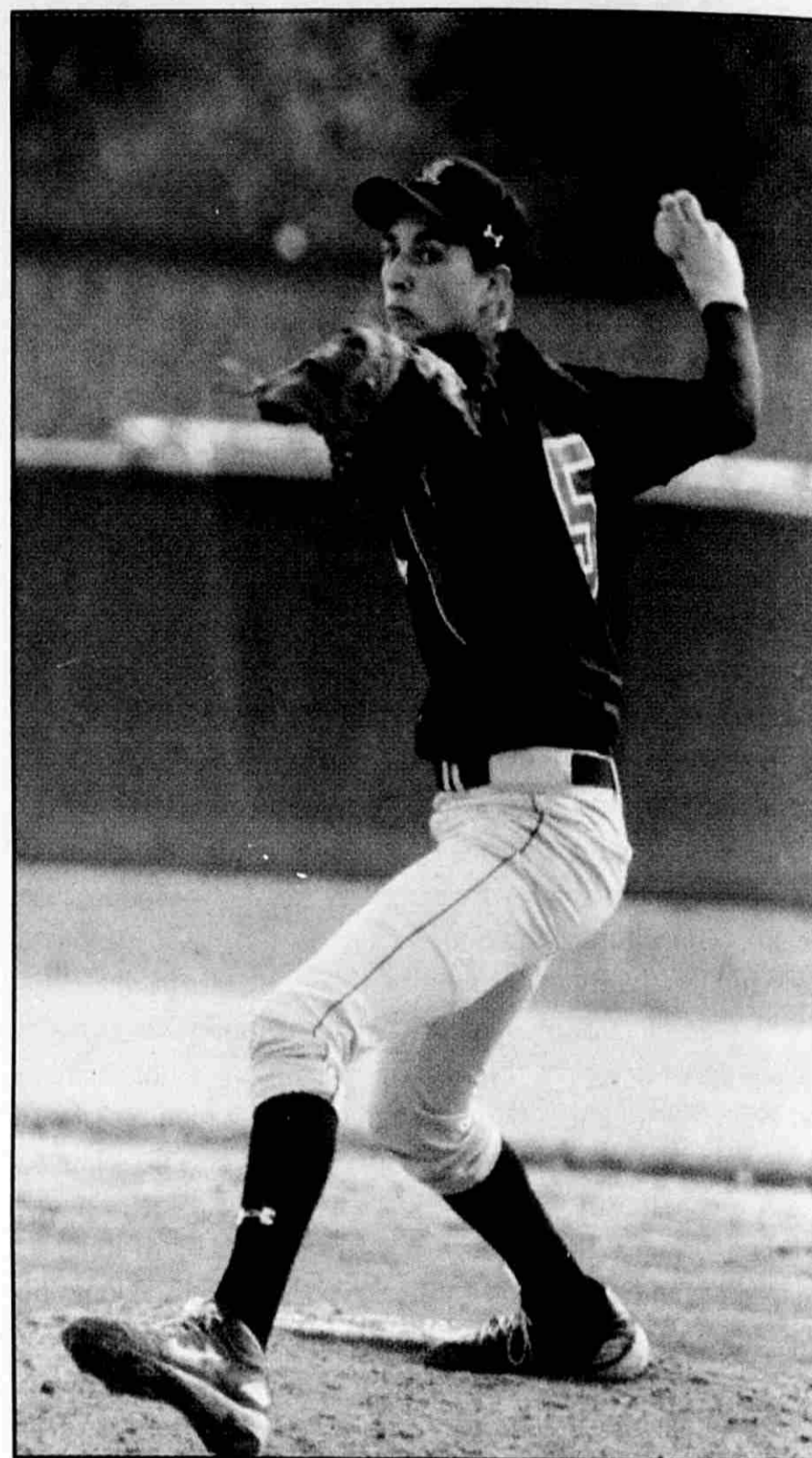
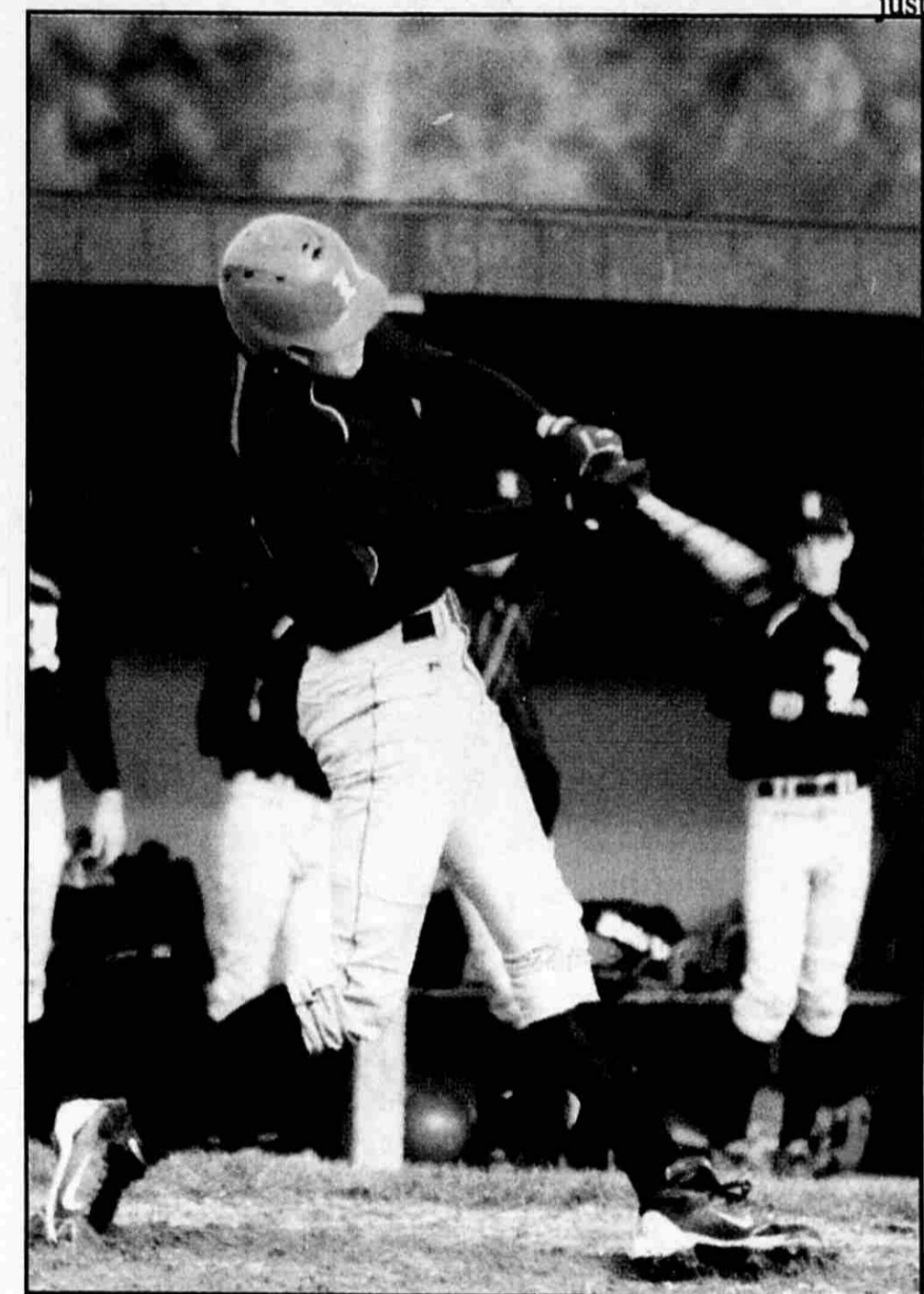
At Hudsonville on Saturday, Lowell split a pair of games, losing to the Eagles 4-2 and defeating Northview 1-0.

Jacob Gould pitched a three-hit shutout against the Wildcats.

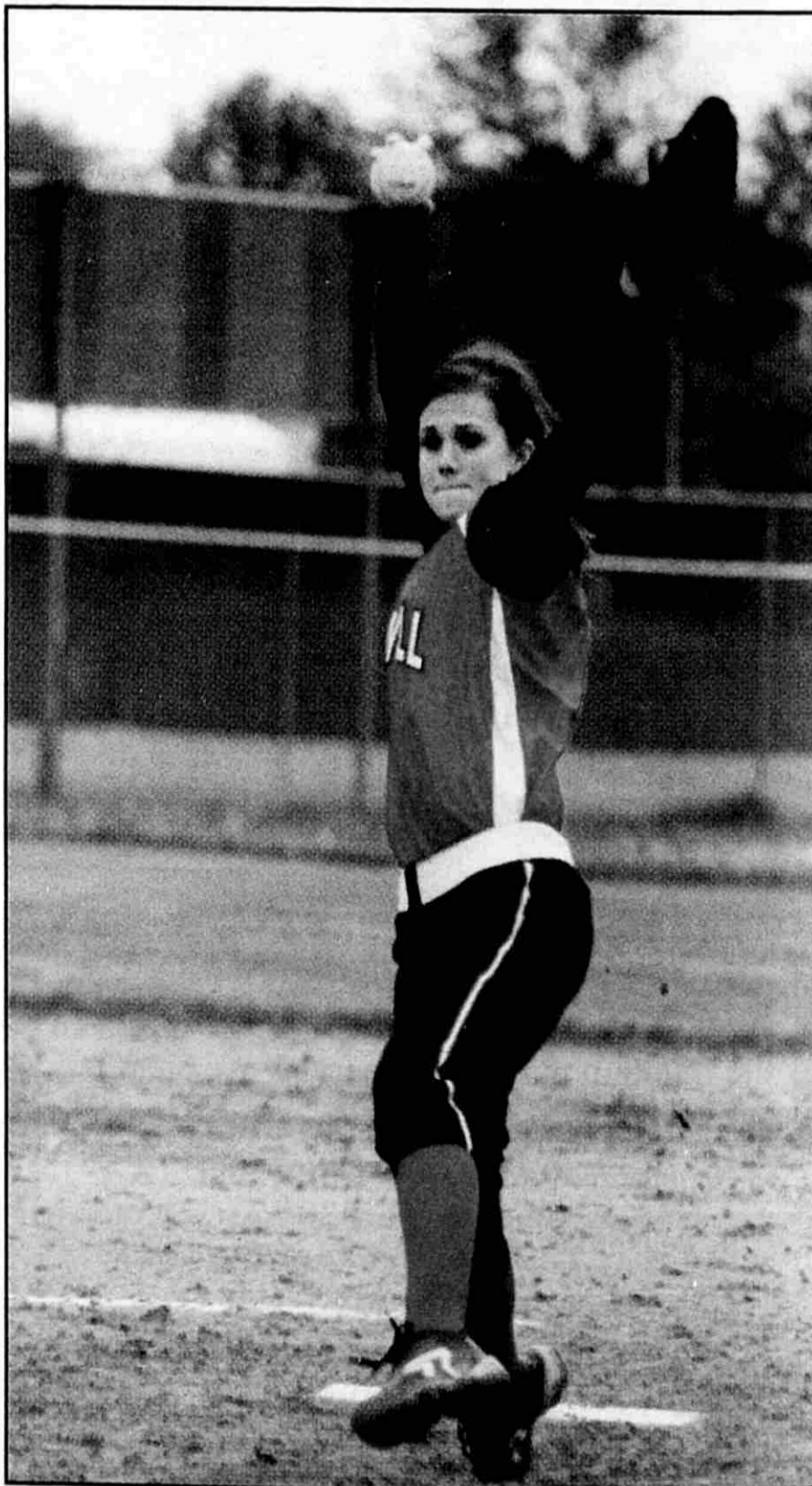
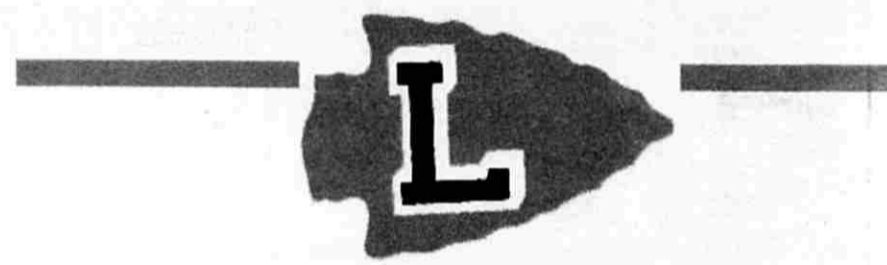
"Jacob is normally a reliever, but did a really nice job for us," Miller said. "He threw strikes in tough situations with men on base.

A walk, an error and a wild pitch plated the only run of the game in Lowell's second inning.

Lowell finished the week at 12-10 overall and 5-4 in the O-K White.



Jordan Drake pitches strongly into the seventh inning against Grand Rapids Christian.



Morgan Groom fired on all cylinders in her 4-3 win over Grand Rapids Christian.

Kaleb Ort belts a game-tying two-run home run in the seventh inning.

Lowell stays in the hunt, sweeps Christian

by Thad Kraus

Lowell girls' softball team kept its league championship hopes alive with big wins

over league rival Grand Rapids Christian. The Red Arrows won

game one, 4-3, behind the strong pitching performance of Morgan Groom.

An eight-run third inning blasted Lowell past Christian in the nightcap 9-6.

In the opener, Lowell plated two runs in the third inning on the strength of a two-run double off the bat of Kaylie Petroelje.

Lowell tallied two more runs in the sixth inning on a hit batsman, an RBI single by M.J. Vietzke, an error and a wild pitch.

"The girls showed some character coming off a tough loss to Northview," Lowell softball coach Bob Rodenhouse said.

Lowell collected eight runs on seven hits in the third inning of game two to earn the win.

The first five Red Arrows to the plate got on base.

Kaylyn DeWaard singled, Sarah Mogor singled and

Petroelje doubled them both home.

A Jenna Smith single followed by an Eagle error loaded the bases.

Following a foul out, Vietzke rapped an RBI single. Two batters later, Rachel Wold fought off six pitches before lining a two-run single into right field.

"That was a great at-bat for Rachel and then to finish it with a shot into right field," Rodenhouse explained.

DeWaard and Mogor followed with their second hits of the inning. Two walks to Petroelje and Smith plated the final runs of the inning.

Lowell sent 14 hitters to the plate in the inning.

"I knew we could hit and we finally strung some hits together," Rodenhouse said.

Lowell finished the week at 16-9 overall and 6-2 in the conference.



Sarah Mogor sets up to lay down a bunt in action against the Eagles.

Red Arrow SPORTS

Robinson and Newman hand in top performances

by Thad Kraus

There were a number of athletes who won more than one O-K White championship Friday at Houseman Field.

There were also athletes who won a league championship for their second, third and even fourth times.

And then there were athletes who earned all-conference honors by recording their first league championship.

As was the case for Lowell senior Zach Robinson and freshman Mattie Newman.

Robinson, in his last attempt at league honors, stopped the clock in a

personal best fashion of 4:35. It was five seconds better than any previous time he'd recorded in four years at Lowell.

"My focus has been the mile. Winning the race and earning all-conference honors was my goal," Robinson said. "This is huge. It is the best race I've ever run."

Robinson led from start to finish. "I like running in front. However, with the wind I didn't know how it would work. I just kept running faster and faster."

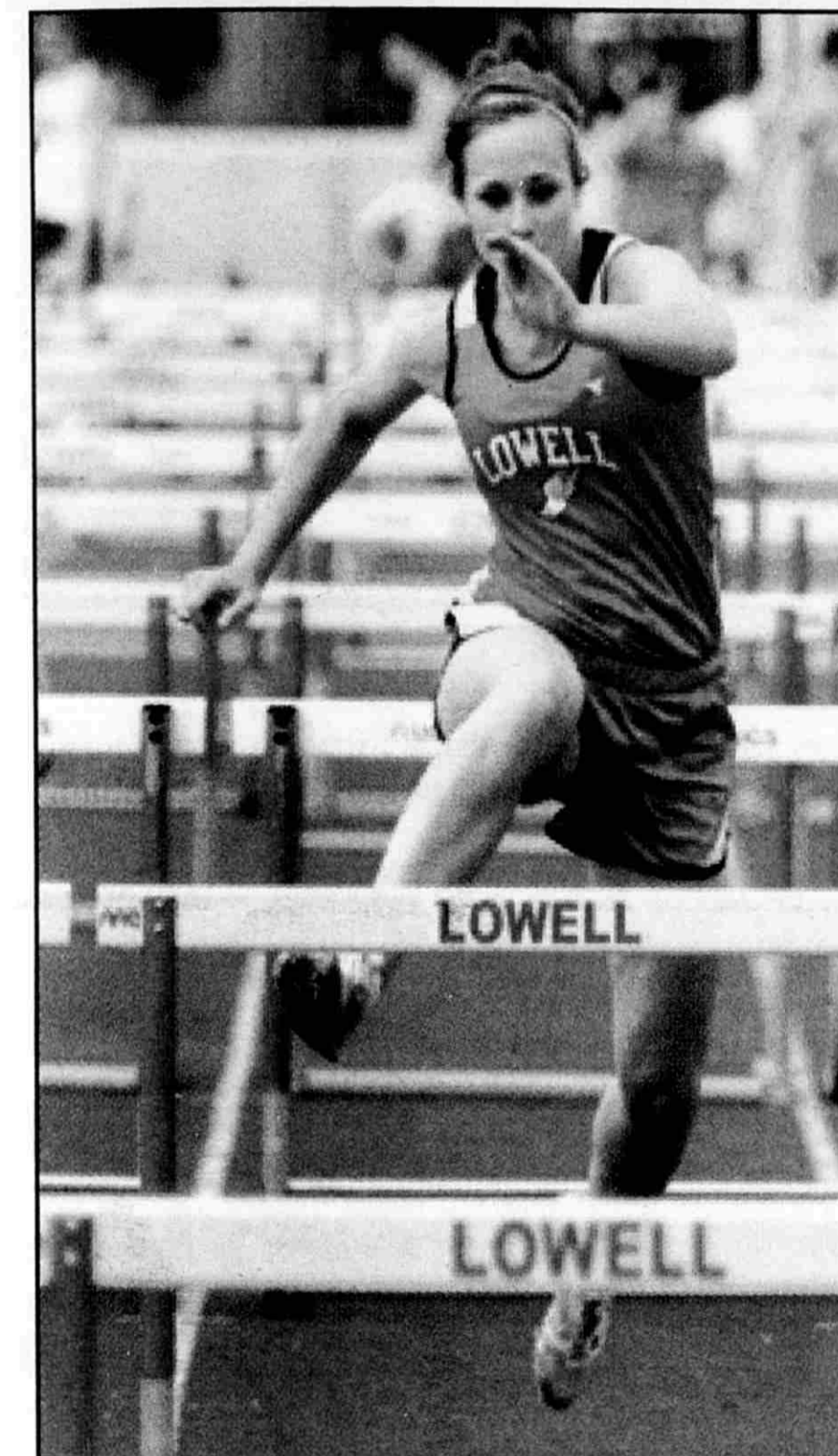
Greenville won the boys' conference title with 186 points, followed by Grand Rapids Creston, 109; Grand Rapids Christian, 99; Northview, 53; East Grand Rapids, 44; and Lowell with 35 points.

"Zach went all out and got things done," said Lowell boys' track coach Russ Stevens. "I am very proud of him and what he accomplished today."

Mattie Newman, in her first league championship, used a personal best throw of 32-2 in the shot put to win top honors in the O-K White.

"Mattie would have been a softball player this year if it were not for a foot injury," said Lowell girls' track coach Robin Briggs. "Based on what she did this year, the sky's the limit for her."

Nicole Everitt finished second to Newman in the



Kelsey Teft was third in the 100 hurdles with a time of 17.21.



Zach Robinson won the league 1600-meter race in a time of 4:35.

shot put with a distance of 31-9 and fourth in the discus with a personal best throw of 88-5.

"Nicole peaked and has peaked at a really good time. She's worked hard to get where she is at," Briggs explained.

Kelsey Teft, in her final league appearance, was second in the pole vault (9-6) and third in the 100 hurdles, coming home in 17.21.

"She is the sort of athlete that makes you wish you had

a dozen Kelseys," Briggs said. "She'll be missed next year."

Everitt and Teft earned all-conference honors through accumulative points.

The 3200-meter relay team of Haleigh Timmers, Kendall Hewitt, Kallie Holzhueter and Rebekah Betts stopped the clock in 1:03.7.

The East Grand Rapids girls, who tied with Grand Rapids Christian for last year's title, coasted past

the field this year with 180.5 points. Grand Rapids Christian finished with 120, followed Greenville, 93 and Lowell, 52. Northview and Creston were fifth and sixth respectively.

Lowell's track teams travel to Holt on Friday for the Division I track regional.

The top two athletes in each event competes along with athletes who have posted qualifying times or distances.

Red Arrows blast their way through round one

by Thad Kraus

In its first round game of the O-K White conference tournament, Lowell did what good teams do, rip the heart out of its opponent.

The Red Arrows scored early and often in building a 5-1 first-quarter lead against Grand Rapids Christian, en route to a 17-2 victory.

"We played well and we played well for four quarters," said Lowell lacrosse coach Eric Bredin. "We played at a high level in that first quarter against an opponent which

was better than the score might indicate."

The win improved the Red Arrows to 10-2 overall and 6-2 in conference play.

The victory also advances Lowell into the semifinal against Caledonia. The winner will meet up in the finals with the winner of the Northview/Holland Christian game.

Tyler Bitterman led all scorers with three goals. Alec Downing and Isaac Tawney added two goals and three

assists each. Lowell led 12-2 at the half and 15-2 after three periods.

"Our defense did a good job of pressuring their offense," Bredin said. "When we attack defensively and don't sit back, that's when we're at our best."

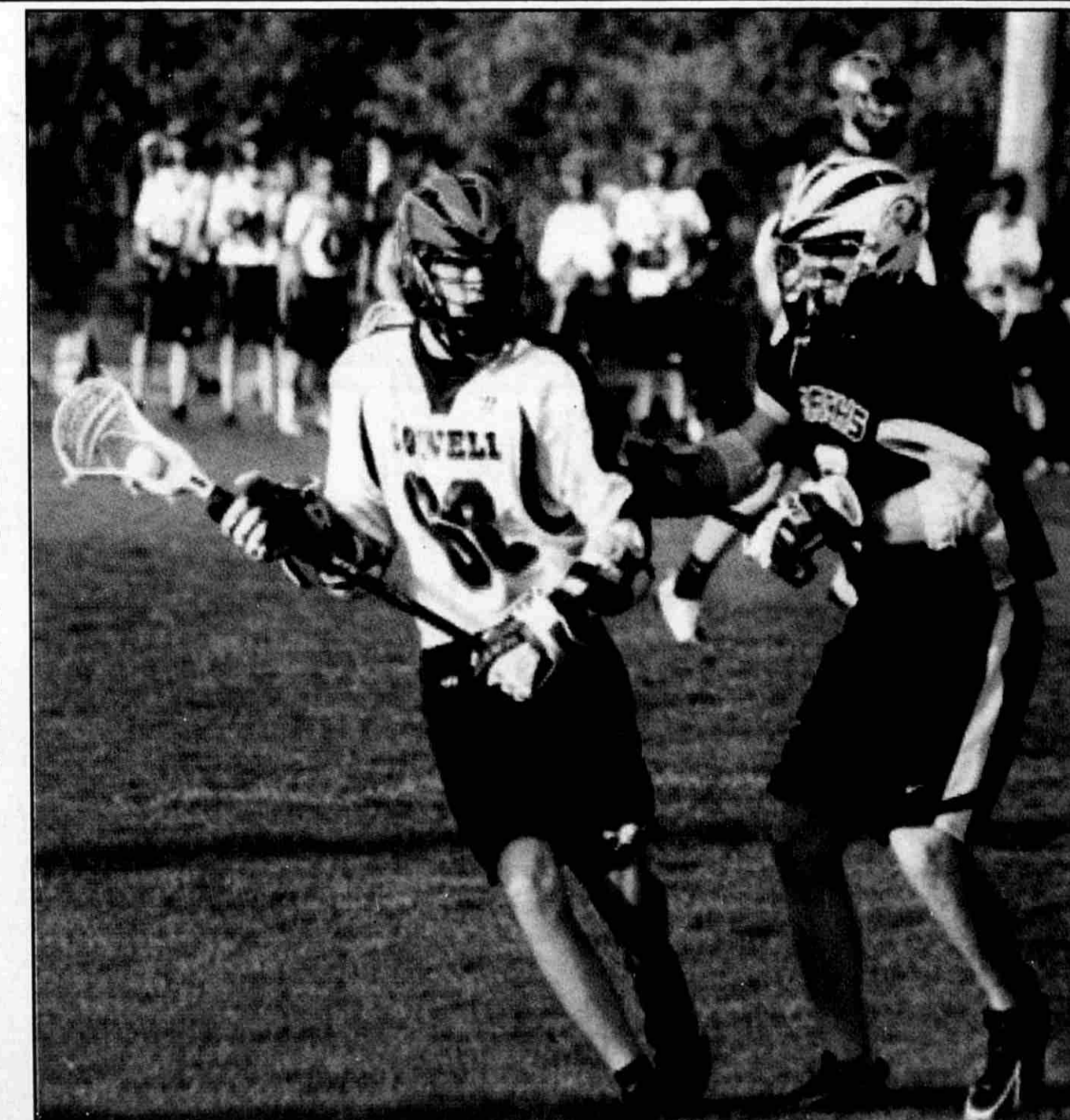
Lowell finished second to Northview during the regular season, however, by winning the league tourney they can claim at least a share of the conference title.

college news

The University of Northwestern Ohio is proud to acknowledge that Micah D. Soyka of Lowell has made the Dean's List for the March

2010 session in the College of Technologies. Full-time students must receive a grade point average of 3.5 or better to be named to the

Dean's List. Soyka is a 2008 Lowell High School graduate and is the son of Mark and Vicki Soyka of Lowell.



Lowell advanced to the conference semifinal with a 17-2 win over Grand Rapids Christian.

Red Arrow SPORTS

Lowell girls' third in conference tourney

by Thad Kraus

A conference tournament oftentimes is a place where high school athletes showcase their talent.

Katy Mork and Molly Willemstein, who at times have struggled playing at fourth doubles this season, closed that file prior to entering the O-K White conference tournament. The new file they opened showcased their desire and heart, and yes, their talent as they played their way into the finals.

To get into the finals, the doubles team took out Grand Rapids Christian in the semifinals.

"They really played well and the girls played with a lot of heart and desire," said Lowell tennis coach Bonnie Wall.

Willemstein and Mork lost to East Grand Rapids in the finals.

They were one of two flights to advance into the finals. The other Red Arrow to do so was Lowell's number one singles player, Kelly Trapp.

The Red Arrow was tripped up in the finals by EGR's top tennis player.

"Kelly played well. The score is misleading in that it was a long, hard match," Wall said. "She just couldn't get over the hump."

The Pioneers won the league tournament with 48 points. Northview was second with 35 followed by Lowell with 30 and Grand Rapids Christian with 29. Greenville and Creston tied with 13.

"We were pleased to

finish ahead of Christian and to finish third," Wall said.

In its final dual conference meet of the year, the results were not as pleasing. Lowell lost to Northview 7-1. The Wildcats tied Grand Rapids Christian 4-4, the same Eagles' team Lowell defeated 5-3.

"I left feeling disappointed in myself and the team," Wall explained. "We did not play well. It's probably the only time this year I've been disappointed in a match we've played."

Lowell's only win came at first singles, where Trapp defeated Natalie Stam 6-0, 6-0.

In other singles matches,

Lowell's Kelly Trapp, playing at number one singles, will be the top seed in Friday's regional.

Taylor Mankel lost 6-1, 6-2; June Ramsay was defeated 6-2, 6-1; and Morgan Rogalke fell 6-4, 7-6(5).

In doubles play, Caitlin Baker and Kelsey Wittenbach lost 6-1, 6-2; Kelsey Mankel and Abby Rogalke fell in three sets, 7-5, 2-6, 4-6; Brynlee Pomper and Zoe Beloncic were upended 6-2, 6-1; and Molly Willemstein and Katy Mork lost 6-0, 6-3.

In a 10-game pro set, the Red Arrows lost 8-0 to Hudsonville on Monday. The Eagles are ranked eighth in the state in Division I.

"Hudsonville is really good. It was a good match to prepare us for regional play," Wall concluded.



Hope is alive as Red Arrow soccer wins two

by Thad Kraus

With few exceptions, "getting results" has defined the 2010 Lowell girls' soccer season.

A league win this week against Grand Rapids Christian will position Lowell for an opportunity to get the result it covets, an O-K White conference championship.

A win against the Eagles

will set up a regular season-ending confrontation with East Grand Rapids, a team that beat Lowell in their first matchup 3-0.

"We have to beat Christian to even have a shot at the league title," Lowell soccer coach Paul Legge said.

The Red Arrows improved their conference record to 6-1 with a 4-0 shutout over Greenville.

Michelle Foote led players in scoring with two goals. Stephanie Stevens and Jordan Timmer each added a goal.

"The girls looked good and at times they had flashes of real good," Legge said.

Lowell controlled the game throughout.

"The girls' play had been kind of stagnant coming

in, but there were moments against Greenville they played at a very high level," Legge added.

Against a good nonconference opponent, Lowell posted a good result as it defeated Cedar Springs 2-0.

Foote and Claire Hopkins netted Lowell's only goals.

Foote's came in the first

half and Hopkins creased the net early in the second half.

"At times our play was outstanding. Offensively, I felt we were sharp," Legge explained. "It was a good win against a good soccer team."

With the win, the Red Arrows improved their record to 12-2.

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The Kent District Library (KDL) is celebrating National Audiobook Month in June by giving away a Playaway audiobook - a self-contained, single-title audiobook playback device. National Audiobook

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There can be no happiness if the things we believe in are different from the things we do.

- Freya Madeline Stark

FROM Food Fight Boxxscore

Lowell Schools Competition

Through Thursday, May 13, 2010

	1	2	3	4	T
North	32	82	0	0	114
South	24	37	0	0	61

Visit

www.FROMfoodfight.org

for up to date scoring, pictures and stories as they unfold during the competition.



In This Together... Learn. Share. Laugh.

What to say and do when someone you know has cancer

Lowell Program

I remember when I first started working with families living with cancer, I was uncertain of what to say, fearing I might say the "wrong" things. When I talk with others who find out their friend or family member has been diagnosed, they too have said that "the news" can often create awkward tension, especially if you don't know what to say or how to help. Some share that they end up avoiding the friend or family, not because they don't care or want to help, but they are afraid to make things worse by talking about cancer.

At Gilda's Club, they honor the many changes that cancer can bring to families and know that it's not always easy to talk about cancer when someone we know has been diagnosed. And yet, they also know that when families and friends connect and talk openly and honestly about their cancer journey, that so many lives can change for the better.

Here is some advice that was helpful to me in learning how to reach out to someone who has been diagnosed with cancer. We hope it is helpful to you, too:

Don't be afraid of the word "cancer" - Confront it directly saying, "I heard about your cancer diagnosis. How is it going for you?" This allows the person with

cancer to not be burdened with opening the subject and allows them to tell you their experience of cancer, without any assumptions. They can decide if they want to expand on the conversation, or not.

Follow their lead - If the person with cancer chooses not to talk, this doesn't mean you said the wrong thing. It may just mean they need some time or are not in the right mood to share. Don't take it personally. Ask them again in the future and ask directly if you may ask them about it. They will share when they are ready.

Be a good listener - If the person with cancer chooses to talk, slow down in the moment and listen, listen, listen. Avoid sharing your own stories with them. Just listen actively and share your feelings honestly. Crying is allowed and ok, and yes, so is laughter. (Just ask our namesake Gilda Radner! Laughter is always welcome and important. It can, as we often hear, be the very best medicine.) Revealing your emotions and sharing them honestly shows that you care.

Avoid talking about other cases - Again, sharing your own personal experiences about who has survived or who has died will not be helpful to someone newly diagnosed. Cancer is

a complex disease and every case is different.

Avoid trying to fix it - Your family member or friend doesn't expect you to find a cure, offer false hope, or have all of the answers for how they should embrace the changes cancer will bring to their lives. Instead, they just want someone to be there for them no matter what happens.

Be direct with how you help - Instead of making generalized offers like "let me know if there is anything I can do," let your family member or friend know exactly how you're able to help. Offer to mow their lawn, pick up children from school or practice, fix dinner, or even offer a specific time (i.e.: Saturday from 2-4 p.m.) that you will help, even if it means watching the kids, or staying with the person diagnosed so the caretaker can have a few hours on their own. You could take out their garbage, go grocery shopping or simply bring in their mail. It doesn't matter if the task is big or small, pick something specific and stick to your commitment. Let them know they can count on you amongst the many other rapid changes happening all around them.

Gently persist - You might hear at first that your family member or friend doesn't need or want help. Many people who have been diagnosed have a hard time accepting help from others and just need to be gently asked again. Wait a few days and offer a second time.

Small gestures make a difference - If you're not sure where to start, begin with a "Thinking of You" card, flowers, homemade soup, or something similar. Remember to continue this offer on a regular basis throughout the cancer journey. These genuine gestures can make such a difference to someone with cancer, even if they feel like a small effort to you.

A person diagnosed with cancer is experiencing so many changes happening so quickly - from doctor's appointments to treatment schedules to new medications. They are learning to embrace the changes that cancer brings to their entire family. Gilda's Club is available in Lowell to help people of all ages learn to embrace the many

changes that cancer brings. Perhaps one of the biggest ways you can help a friend or family member with cancer is to tell them that the free education and support at Gilda's Club is a resource available to them.

As Carol McGregor, one of our Lowell program members and volunteers, recently shared with us, "Having Gilda's Club available in Lowell while I am on my second cancer journey has been so helpful. Gilda's Club is for everyone, not just the one who goes through cancer. Everyone's always laughing. It's not a 'doom and gloom' kind of place, it's cheery."

Gilda's Club is a cheery

place and so we encourage anyone in the Lowell and surrounding communities to refer people they know who are living with any kind of cancer, or who are on a grief journey, to our free education and support program for all ages. Gilda's Club Lowell is located at 314 South Hudson Street, thanks to a special partnership with The Pink Arrow Project II, Lowell Community Wellness and the Lowell Senior Neighbors. Stop by the clubhouse every Tuesday from 12:30 to 8:30 p.m. For more information call 616-897-8600 or 1-800-326-1419, or go online to www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow

Gilda's Club is a cheery

Levin, continued

and hard work, he turned his voice into a tool so powerful it brought the game to life. He had become a historic figure before he even came to us. In 1948, when Ernie was broadcasting for a minor-league team in Atlanta, the Brooklyn Dodgers needed a play-by-play man when their regular broadcaster fell ill. So the Dodgers traded a catcher to Atlanta for Ernie, making him the only broadcaster in baseball history traded for a player.

This gentlemanly Georgian adopted our team, and our state, as his own. And his career would have been worthy had he done nothing more than bring us the sound of summer over the radio, recounting the Tigers' ups and downs with professionalism and wit, as he did for 42 seasons.

But without making a show of it, Ernie Harwell taught us. In his work and his life, he taught us the value of kindness and respect. He taught us that in a city and a world too often divided, we could be united in joy at a great Al Kaline catch, or a Lou Whitaker home run, or a Mark Fidrych strikeout. He taught us not to let life pass us by "like the house by the side of the road." He taught us that every cold and snowy season of our lives would be followed by glorious spring.

In 1981, when he was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, Ernie told the assembled fans what baseball meant to him. "In baseball democracy shines its clearest," he said. "The only race that matters is the race to the bag. The creed is the rulebook. Color merely something to distinguish one team's uniform from another." That was a lesson he taught us so well.

I will miss Ernie Harwell. All of Michigan will miss the sound of his voice telling us that the winter is past, that the Tigers had won a big game, or that they'd get another chance to win one tomorrow. We will miss his Georgia drawl, his humor, his humility, his quiet faith in God and in the goodness of the people he encountered.

But we will carry in our hearts always our love for him, our appreciation for his work, and the lessons he taught us.

Carl Levin is the senior U.S. senator from Michigan and a lifelong Detroit Tigers fan.

Reader program, laptops, and broadband internet, beginning in June. Plans for summer school classes at the high school have been finalized which include on-line Epic opportunities and math instruction. Mr. Bearup distributed an article regarding literacy coaching which features national research on the impact of literacy coaching on reading skills. Mr. Bearup indicated that work ensues to summarize, measure, and wrap-up the 2009/2010 school year, and planning is underway for summer work and the 2010/2011 school year.

Superintendent's Report
Superintendent Pratt expressed appreciation to Parker Liu, Student Board Representative, for his detailed student reports and participation over the past two years. Superintendent Pratt reported that the 2nd round for the state "Race to the Top" grant is underway and the Board of Education will be asked to review and consider a memorandum of understanding when it becomes available. Superintendent Pratt presented the David D. Smith Memorial Award to the Board of Education. He added that this prestigious award is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a school district as it relates to energy management and conservation. Superintendent Pratt extended congratulatory remarks to Mr. Jim White for his efforts to help Lowell Area Schools be the leader in the Great Lakes region. Superintendent Pratt also expressed appreciation to Mr. Turnbull, and the Lowell staff for their cooperative efforts to support the district energy management initiative. Energy management in Lowell is yet another example of being good stewards of funds provided to Lowell Area Schools.

Board Communications
Mr. Nugent thanked the community for their attendance at the Board Candidate Forum and for getting out to the voting polls to participate in the May election. Mr. Nugent acknowledged Mr. Gary Blough and Mr. Brian Krajewski for supporting the district. Mr. Nugent commented that he is looking forward to continuing his service on the Board of Education.

LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS BOARD BRIEFS

Regular Meeting of May 10, 2010

Reports

- Parker Liu, Student Representative, provided an update on high school and student council activities.
- Mr. Fleenor presented an Alto School Improvement Report.
- Superintendent Pratt provided a demographics report.

Action Items

- The Board accepted the following gifts to the district:
 - \$1,000.00, Donated by Alto Lions Club, to be used for this year's 5th Grade Camp at Alto Elementary.
 - One Computer Keyboard, Office Supplies, Books, CD's, and DVD's, Donated by Phil and Christine Beachler, Valued at \$400.00, to be used in Various Locations District-Wide.
 - \$1,000.00, Donated by Dirt Cheap! Excavating (Kenny Wittenbach), used for the Restoration and Construction of a New Viewing Section at Red Arrow Stadium.
 - \$500.00, Donated by Andrews Concrete Construction (Earl Hawley), used for the Restoration and Construction of a New Viewing Section at Red Arrow Stadium.
 - \$150.00, Donated by the Lowell Education Foundation, to be used to Purchase Library Books in Honor of Former Board Members Sue Beute, Janine Mork, and Chuck Hayden.
 - \$988.00, Donated by Western Michigan American Society of Metals International Chapter, to be used to purchase a Therm-o-vac and Accessory for the 6th Grade Plastics Technology Class at Lowell Middle School.
 - Approved Chartwells Food Service Management Agreement for 2010/2011
 - Approved Kent Intermediate School District Budget Resolution

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes for the April 12, 2010 Regular Meeting; April 2, 2010 Closed Session Meeting; April 19, 2010

- Athletic Committee Meeting; April 26, 2010 Work Session Meeting; May 3, 2010 Athletic Committee Meeting; May 6, 2010 Special Meeting, and May 6, 2010 Closed Session Meeting.
- The following payment of bills for April, 2010:

1. GENERAL FUND.....	\$1,490,397.71
2. SCHOOL SERVICES FUND	
A. Food Service Fund.....	\$81,097.72
B. Athletic Fund.....	\$16,443.02
3. TRUST AND AGENCY FUND.....	\$74,669.42
4. 2007 CONSTRUCTION FUND.....	\$28,328.40
5. DEBT FUNDS.....	\$5,256,337.51
TOTAL EXPENDITURES.....	\$6,947,273.78

Budget Update

Mr. Zielinski summarized the budget status reports for the month of April. Mr. Zielinski stated that the draft for the 2010/11 budget will be presented for Board review at the May 24 Board Work Session. The annual public budget hearing will be held on the evening of June 14, prior to Regular Board of Education meeting. Mr. Zielinski stated that the finance department continues wrap-up work and final recommended amendments to the 2009/2010 budget. Mr. Zielinski commented that the state revenue estimating conference in May is a critical component in the development of the 2010/2011 budget. Mr. Zielinski noted that his goal is to have all contracts to the Board for review by the end of June.

Curriculum Update

Mr. Bearup informed the Board that building teams are wrapping up their work with school improvement plans. Mr. Bearup referred to the consolidated grant application that is written and submitted in order to secure funds for goals and strategies under the auspices of Title One and At-Risk.

Mr. Bearup announced that the "Arrows on the Move" summer reading program will again be underway in Lowell.

The program will, once again, feature the Accelerated

P **r** **n** **t** **i** **g**

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Dr. Steve Langford, D.V.M.

The Tale of the Troll, Part VI

By Amy Hayes

So, everyone has been looking everywhere for Troll Daddy for the past several weeks. He's the fella that started the whole story, the troll who moved from the UP years ago and fell in love with Lowell. He's the troll who ended up with every cousin, friend, niece, nephew, and in-law moving in with him under the bridge. Where could the happy-go-lucky Troll Daddy be hiding?

As it happens, our delightful Troll Daddy has been blissfully happy because Mrs. Troll has been kept busy, busy, busy, finding all her friends and family members places to live. The last he heard his beloved wife had completely taken over the Chamber of Commerce offices and so our Troll Daddy knew exactly where "not" to be seen. Instead, he planned to take advantage of his new-found freedom and live it up a wee little bit.

Of course, being the social guy that he is, Troll Daddy wasn't going to "live it up" alone, no sir. He knew just the fellas to help him have a great time, sort of a celebration - a time to enjoy his freedom. The first pal on his list to recruit into his scheme of fun was none other than his best friend and old college roommate, Brewski. Brewski was bunking down with Bob, the new owner of The Lowell Beer Store. The Lowell Beer Store was the perfect place for Brewski because he knew everything there was to know about wines, beers, fine whiskeys and cigars. Brewski knew exactly which wine should go with which main dish. He knew exactly how much alcohol a family should order for reunions, weddings, and any other celebration.

Brewski was the smartest troll that Troll Daddy knew. Besides, Troll Daddy just liked going into The Lowell Beer Store, since it was under new management, to see all the changes that were taking place in the store. The shelves were now fully stocked and Bob, the new owner, was adding new products to the store daily. Yes! Brewski would be the first friend Troll Daddy would enlist in his plans to have a fun filled weekend.

Shamus was the second troll to be targeted for a weekend of madcap chaos. Shamus could always be counted on for a good time. He was somehow a very distant cousin to Troll Daddy and they, more or less, crossed paths while growing up. So Brewski and Troll Daddy headed down to Larkin's, where Shamus now lived, to snag their friend for a day of craziness. Shamus loved it down at Larkin's and was right at home in his new "home away from home." Larkin's had some of the best food he had ever eaten and the happy hour specials always left him feeling very "happy" and very "special." As an added bonus, he was able to tell his famous Irish tales, dance a little and generally carry on with the good folks of Lowell. It wasn't long before Troll Daddy, Shamus and Brewski were huddled around a pitcher of icy cold beer at the perfect place for Brewski because he knew everything there was to know about wines, beers, fine whiskeys and cigars. Brewski knew exactly which wine should go with which main dish. He knew exactly how much alcohol a family should order for reunions, weddings, and any other celebration.

At some point in the night two more sidekicks joined in the fun. As the trio made their way down to Sneaker's, they met up with Boris. Boris was old, we are talking ancient, but he could still be

counted on for a rip-roaring good time. Boris took up his residence at Sneaker's, we suspect, because he hadn't met a cheeseburger he didn't love, and Sneaker's never had a shortage of delicious cheeseburgers. Boris told his younger buddies to head on over to have a few burritos, cheeseburgers, nachos and a cold beer with him once they finished up at Larkin's. Now Boris didn't have to ask the guys twice because just the thought of more beer and food and happy hour specials had the guys running down to Sneaker's.

On their way down the block, it just so happened that they stumbled upon Troll Daddy's first cousin, Billy Bob. Describing Billy Bob as a "redneck" may seem cruel, but that was how he introduced himself to everyone. "Hi, my name is Billy Bob and I am the redneck that cooks up one of da meanest breckfists down dere atta Backwater Cafe," he had been heard saying to just about everyone he met. Billy Bob drove his pickup truck into Lowell about 20 some years ago, give or take, and had lived in Lowell ever since. He was the first cousin to Troll Daddy and he was the one person Mrs. Troll absolutely would not allow to move into their home under the bridge. No bother to Billy Bob, no offense, he simply lived out of his pickup truck. He could out-cook, out-drink, out-cuss or outlast any of his troll buddies. So no

party was complete without dear old Billy Bob. Billy Bob also claimed family ties to Shamus, third, fourth or even a fifth cousin, but even Shamus would rather see Billy Bob live in his old pickup than have him invade his space.

Well, the folks at the Backwater Cafe agreed to put up with all of Billy Bob's "Billy Bobness" and his "redneck" ways just as long as he continued to whip up the delicious breakfasts and lunches that he was so famous for making.

So the party was now complete. Troll Daddy, Brewski, Shamus, Boris, and Billy Bob were out on the town for a night of total fun, food and carousing. They even planned to have a six-in-the-morning breakfast at the Backwater Cafe the next day. Nothing would get in the way of these mischievous trolls and their night on the town. Nothing would turn their jovial moods upside down. Nothing could stop them. Uh oh, who was that stomping toward them down Main Street with her hands on her hips and steam coming out of her ears? Who turned them in to the one person who could destroy their carefully laid plans? How could their evening turn south so quickly? Tune in next week to see if these trolls have the night they were hoping for, or if their night out is "water under the bridge."

Bridge buck winners

This week's Bridge Buck winners: the \$50 winner is: Dale Valentine; \$20 winners are: Velma Perry, Melody Kastanek, Dar Bilski, Victor VanderWarf and Luke Merigian; and the \$10 winners are: Wendy Morris, Isabel Remar, Marea Hoat, Luanne Kaeb and Cheryl Runstrom.



Sound Off!

The Ledger's "Almost" anything goes column!

Regarding the comment on "Blackie" - that was just downright mean. It is evident you have never shared your life with a pet.

- Deb Apol

Who or whatever you are, man or woman, did you have a mother, father, wife, husband, son, daughter or best friend? If you lost one of them, did you go buy a new one? If you had a heart, it fell out. Go buy a new one.

Here's an idea - The Ledger should do a story about this kitty and his owners.

- Troy Nietling

While I agree, I don't think the black cat is coming back after having been gone this long, the comment was nothing but mean.

The 2010 freshman service learning group was amazing. What a hardworking group the class of 2013 is going to be. Nice, respectful, young adults that were fun to work with. You should all feel very proud of a job well done. The cap looked beautiful.

- Candice Bowne

last week's Sound Off poll result:

Should the U.S. continue off-shore drilling despite the risks?
 YES40%
 NO40%

To vote on the current poll question go to:
thelowelledger.com



MAY 12 - MAY 18

- A 24-year-old, Rima Fakh, of Dearborn wins the crown of 2010 Miss USA.
- BP executives say they are getting over one-fifth of the gushing oil from the blowout.
- GM posts its first quarterly profit of \$865 million. This is the first profit since 2007.
- The supreme court rules the federal government can keep some sex offenders behind bars indefinitely after they've served their sentences.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN
 PROBATE COURT
 COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO
 CREDITORS
 Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 10-188,526-DE

Estate of MADGE
 PINTAL, Date of birth:
 11-24-1924.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO
 CREDITORS: The
 decedent, MADGE
 PINTAL, who lived at 53
 Luray Ave, NW, Grand
 Rapids, Michigan died
 March 29, 2010.

Creditors of the
 decedent are notified
 that all claims against

the estate will be forever barred unless presented to RICHARD F. PINTAL, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue, NW, Suite 2500, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

May 12, 2010

John D. Mitus (P31244)
 410 Bridge St. NW
 Grand Rapids, MI 49504
 616-774-4001

Richard F. Pintal
 P.O. Box 25399
 Los Angeles, CA 90025

Eldridge nominated as a "cool teacher"

Grand Valley State's WGUV staff presented public TV station takes Eldridge with the award nominations for "cool teachers" each month. They also sponsored a Domino's Murray Lake's first grade



Pictured: Karen Eldridge with her first grade class.

teacher, Karen Eldridge, was named the "cool teacher" for April.

Eldridge was nominated by Grant Lupton, a first grader in Eldridge's class. Lupton wrote, "Dear WGUV, my teacher Mrs. Eldridge should win the cool teacher award because she helps us learn how to read and write so we can make books. She even taught us how to make ice cream out of snow. She is the best teacher anyone could have."

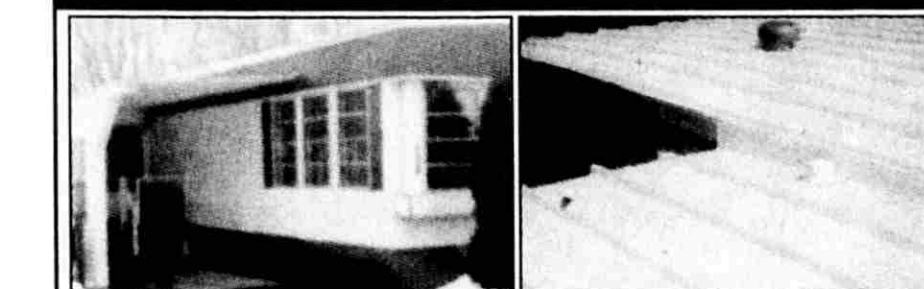
Lupton's nomination of Eldridge was chosen from over 100 nominations.

pizza party for the class. Eldridge and her husband Greg, and Lupton and his parents, participated in a dinner put on by WGUV. They also received a tour of Grand Valley's TV and radio station.

"I am very honored by the award. Grant is a wonderful student and I am humbled by his nomination," commented Eldridge.

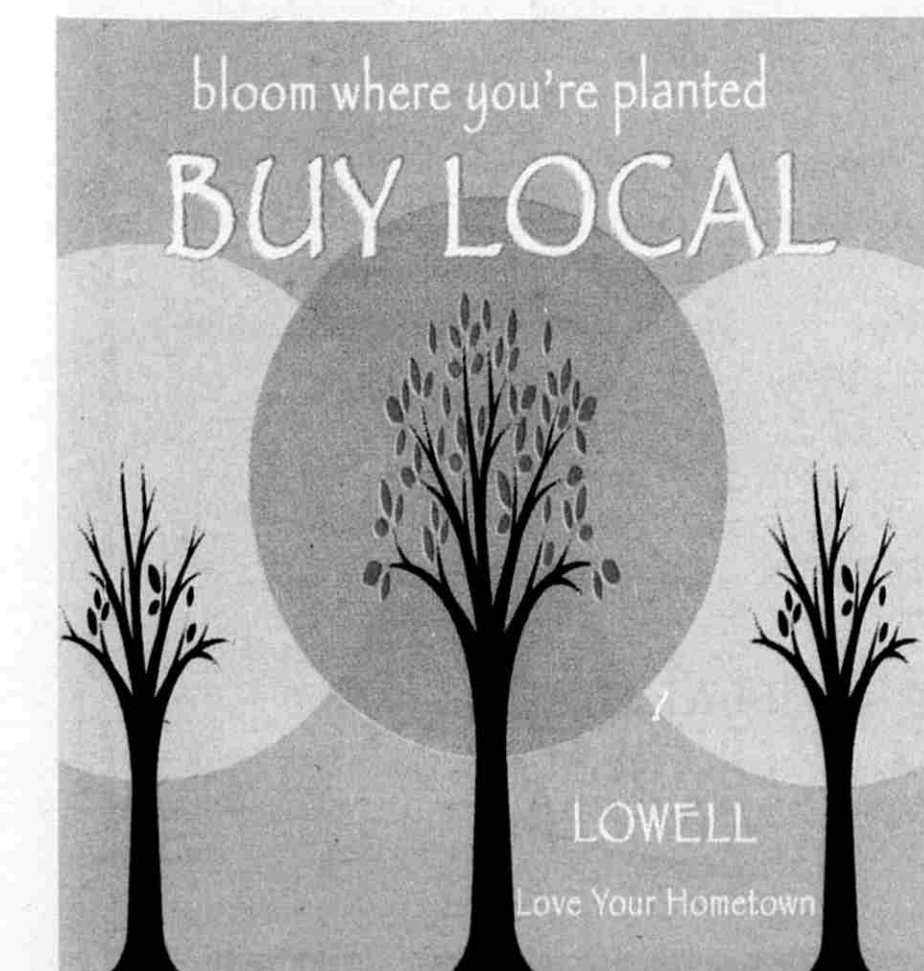
WGUV also video-taped the pizza party and has played it several times as an advertisement for the "cool teacher" award.

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RELAY FOR LIFE SPRING GARAGE SALE
 624 Riverside Dr., Lowell, May 20-21, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Furniture, antiques, clothing, books & much more.

MASSIVE CHILDREN'S CONSIGNMENT SALE
 Infant, children's, maternity & teen clothing, toys & more. Delta Plex Arena, Thurs. & Fri., May 20 & 21, 9 - 3 p.m. Visit www.jbfsale.com for details.

NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALES
 Thurs., May 20 & Fri., May 21, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Household goods, kids stuff, girls twin bed & dresser & lots more! Clear Meadow Development, 52nd St. 1 mile E. of Whitneyville Ave.

MULTI-FAMILY SALE
 May 20 & 21, 9-3 p.m. 902 Sibley. Toys, kids clothing & bedding, sports equipment including youth hockey, arts & crafts & more.

MAY 20, 21 & 22
 Thurs. & Fri., 9-5 & Sat., 9-? 336 Elizabeth Dean. Housewares, girls clothes, toys & much more.

MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALES
 Fri., May 21, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. & Sat., May 22, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Working Meijer penny horse, jewelry, scrapbooking supplies, Stampin' Up sets, kids' & adult clothing plus much more! Foreman Farms Ct. (off Foreman between Cumberland & Alden Nash).

HUGE GARAGE/ESTATE SALE
 We've cleaned out dad's house. Misc. of all kinds - priced low to go. Fri., May 21 thru Sat., May 22, 9-6 p.m. 1355 Lincoln Lake NE, Lowell.

GARAGE SALE
 May 21 & 22, 9-5 p.m. Fenton glassware, furniture, sporting goods & household goods. 1760 Faith Dr., Lowell

HANDS OF GRACE CHARITY SALE
 Garage sale, May 21 & 22. Fri. 9-5:30 p.m. & Sat., 9-4 p.m. Large variety of items for a very good cause. Stop by & see at 3314 S. Whites Bridge Rd.

3 FAMILY GARAGE SALE
 Thurs. & Fri., May 20 & 21 & Sat., May 22, 9-6 p.m. Adult & kids clothes, old Avon items, porcelain dolls, etc. 14115 Grand River Dr., btw Montcalm & Jackson.

GARAGE SALE
 Fri. & Sat., May 21 & 22, 9-5 p.m. Antiques, collectibles, dolls, buttons, books, household items, clothes, tools, lots of everything! 10821 Bennett (btw. Parnell & Cumberland).

HUGE CALVARY CHURCH GARAGE SALE
 Across from Burger King, Thurs. & Fri., May 20 & 21. Great stuff at great prices!

LIL' RED BARN SALE
 We've chosen a wonderful collection of antiques, shabby chic items & spring things to decorate your home & garden. We also have our special \$1 table. Thurs. & Fri., May 20 & 21, 9-6 p.m. 12795 Burroughs NE, 2 miles N. of Lowell, off Lincoln Lake Rd.

HUGE SALE
 Ada, 4978 Ada Dr., May 21 & 22, 8:30 - 5 p.m. Beautiful home decor, pictures, coffee table, lamps, crib, stroller, car booster, baby feeding seats, jumperoo, TV, monitors, cd player, boom box, bookcases, Fat Heads, toys, jewelry, books, cd's, dvd's, computer games, like new brand name women's, teens, girls, boys, toddler clothes; Karen Kane, Express, Limited, Hollister, American Eagle, Abercrombie.

3-FAMILY SALE IN 1 LOCATION!
 Fishing, hunting, new Harley Davidson mufflers, antiques, dining sets, furniture, tables, green house, skeet shooter, hammered dulcimer, household items, clothing & much, much more. May 21-22, 9-4 p.m. 3440 Segwun, Lowell.

REALLY BIG SALE
 up to 75% off. We're spring cleaning! 3 days only - May 20, 21 & 22. Cousins Hallmark & River Hollow, 223 W. Main St., Lowell. M-F, 9-7; Sat. 9-6 & Sun, 12-5.

CLEAN SWEEP SALE
 3 houses cleaned, attic to cellar. See Craig's list 11000 Cascade, 1 mi. W. of Alden Nash. May 20 & 21, 9-5.

YARD SALE
 426 N. Monroe, May 20 - 22. Thurs. & Fri., 10-6 & Sat., 10-? Multi-family sale. Girls clothing 2T & up, boys, 0 & up. Priced to sell, \$2 & less. Furniture, toys, tools, etc.

ADA GARAGE SALE
 Thurs. - Sat. May 20 & 21, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. & May 22, 8 a.m. - noon. 9089 E. Fulton, Ada. Desks, bed, dressers, couch, household items, dorm fridge, lamps, dishes, etc.

FAMILY GARAGE SALE
 May 20 & 21, Thurs. & Fri., 9-6 & Sat., 9-? 2600 Honey Creek, Ada.

MOVING IN AND OUT SALE
 2335 Segwun Ave, May 20 & 21, Fri & Sat 9-5 p.m. Appliances, toys, dolls, a little of everything.

HUGE MOVING SALE
 May 21 & 22 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., 703 E. Main/Lowell (across M-21 from Keiser's) Household items, furniture, crafts, teacher stuff, clothes: mens, womens & teens, movies, electronics.

LOWELL AREA SALE
 located on Corey Lane (off Pratt Lake, btw 28th & 36th St.) Furniture, clothes, home school resources. Thurs. & Fri., May 21 & 22, 9-4.

MOVING SALE
 May 28 & 29 9-3 p.m., 2950 Natures Place Dr., Lowell. Furniture, Kincaid paintings, holiday and house decorations, household and outside goods, TV's.

Deadline Mon. at 5 p.m.
 Price is 20 words for \$13, each additional word is 25¢
 Phone your ads in: 616-897-9555 or Fax to 897-4809
 Email to: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com
 Please include name, billing address & phone number



We recommend you place your ad a week before the sale, not the weekend of your sale. Some people do not receive the Buyers Guide until late Saturday It is also a good idea to put in directions.

We assume no financial responsibility for typos in ads taken over the phone or for emailed or faxed ads not received. All care & diligence are used to prevent omission or error in any ad or any part of an ad. If your ad is phoned in, please make sure it is repeated back to you.

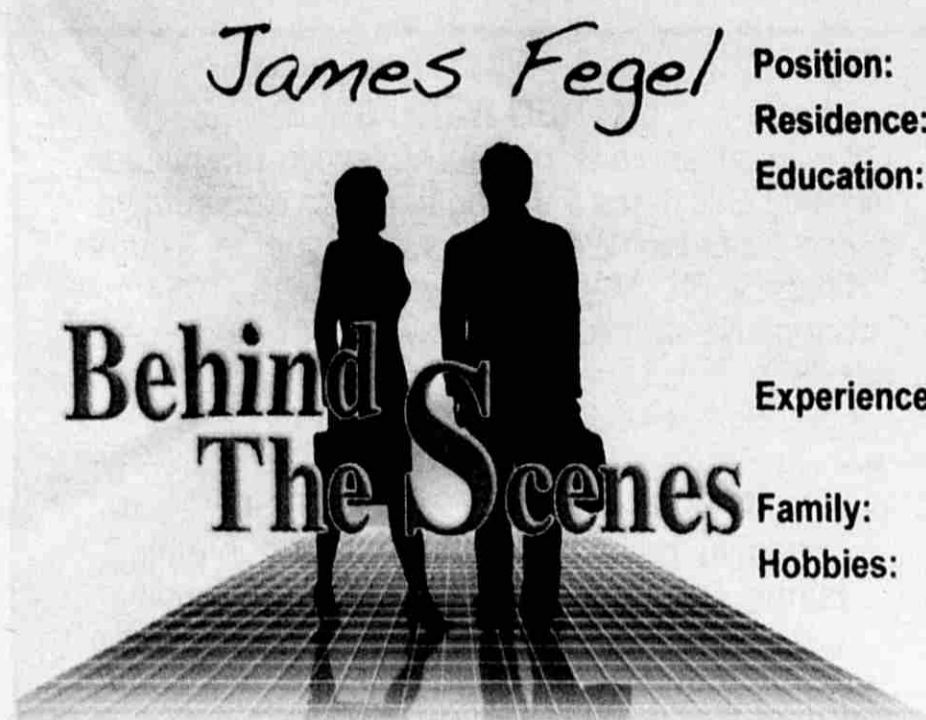
Local Author Linda Doane



will hold a book signing at Lowell Calvary Reformed Church across from Burger King

Sat., May 22nd - 2-4 p.m.
 and a second book signing on Sat., June 12 - 10:30-12:30 p.m. at Englehardt Library

This book is titled "God Had A Plan For Me" Linda wrote the book to introduce Christianity to children & pre-teens. She hopes her book will be an inspiration to all Christians.



James Fegel

Position: Manager
Residence: Lowell
Education: Associate's degree in culinary arts, University of Wisconsin, division Fox Valley
Experience: Seven years in franchise management
Family: Wife, Anna; son, Maxxon
Hobbies: Snowboarding and fishing

Pizza owner has footprint in the community

by Emma Palova

For James Fegel, owning a pizza franchise is not just another responsibility, but a matter of satisfaction and service, whether it's by delivering the highest quality, fresh product or by contributing to the schools, churches and other community organizations.

"Not only do we have a variety of menu items and fresh premium products, but we have a footprint in the community," he said. "Our main focus is to stay involved in anything that is beneficial for the kids."

Fegel had his eyes set on the location of the former Mancino's, right next to the YMCA, when it became available in 2003.

"I saw a franchise opportunity. I liked it," he said. "I was looking for a location."

For the new business owner, there were many early challenges, as well as rewarding experiences.

"You know there is a learning curve, and it's also about wearing many hats," he said.

As a franchise owner, Fegel has to balance customer service, public relations, scheduling and management.

The major challenges today are definitely time management. Short-term goals for Fegel on any given day are having the best possible pizza while bringing value to home.

Long-term goals include opening more locations. And what gives this pizza a competitive advantage?

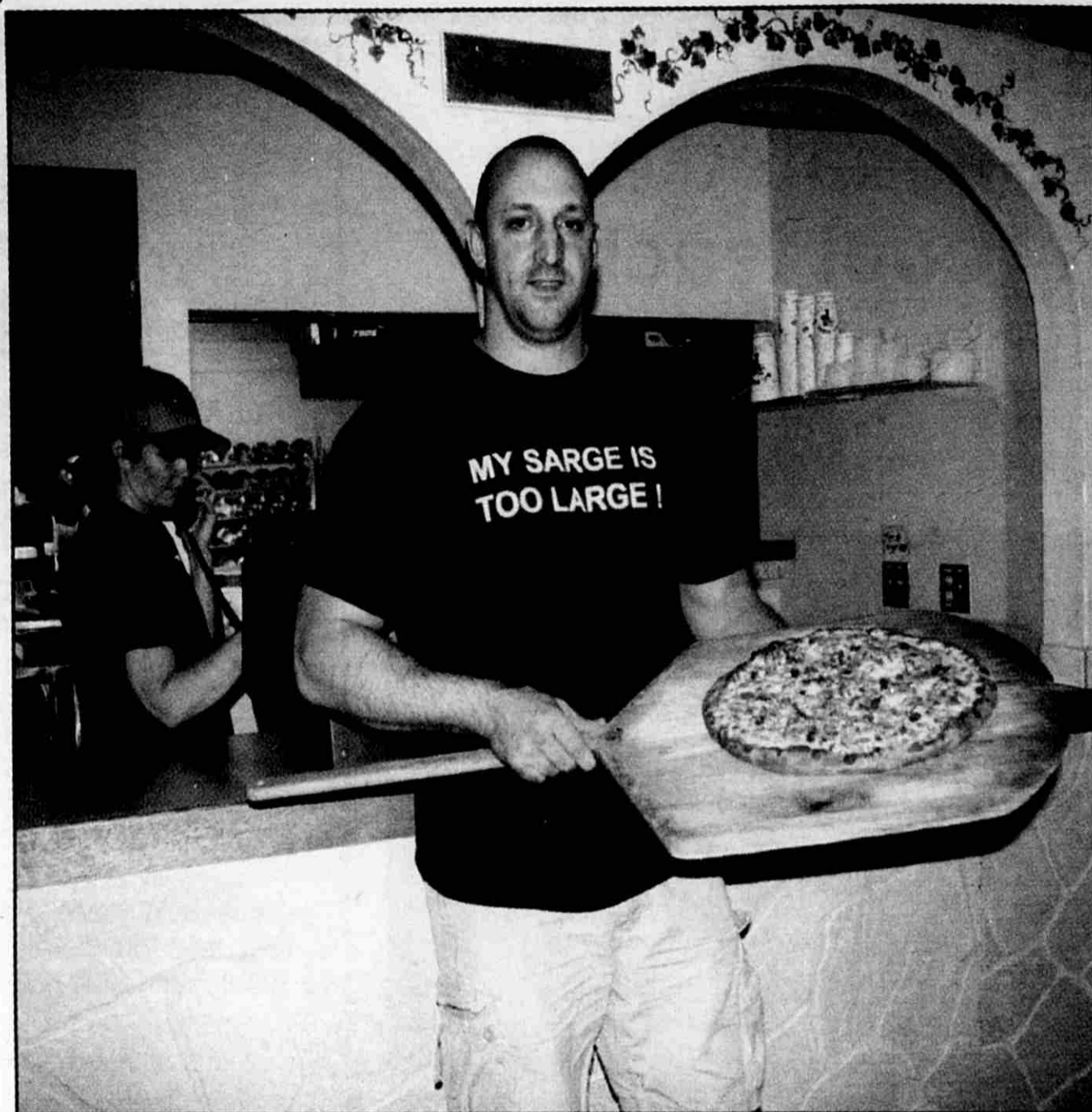
Speaking out of experience, it would have to be innovative products,

such as the popular signature chicken parmazeti pizza with special white sauce, chicken, broccoli, mozzarella, cheddar and parmesan.

"It's a special recipe," said Fegel.

Plus, everything is done fresh daily from dough to the grating of cheeses. The pizza dough varies from honey cracked wheat to classic cheese or pepperoni filled crust, garlic or parmesan flavored crust. Keystone pizza has crust on top and bottom.

Fegel says the pizza franchise reaches out to customers on a personal level using various marketing tools and rewarding customers for their visits. B.C. Pizza uses social networking such as Facebook.



"We try to touch clients on a personal level," said Fegel.

It's not just about turning on the open sign at B.C. Pizza, but staying visible and active in the community.

"I hope that people, after trying us and visiting, know that we care," said Fegel. "It's an owner-operated restaurant. We take care of a problem and do the best job we can."

So, what is a good day like at B.C. Pizza?

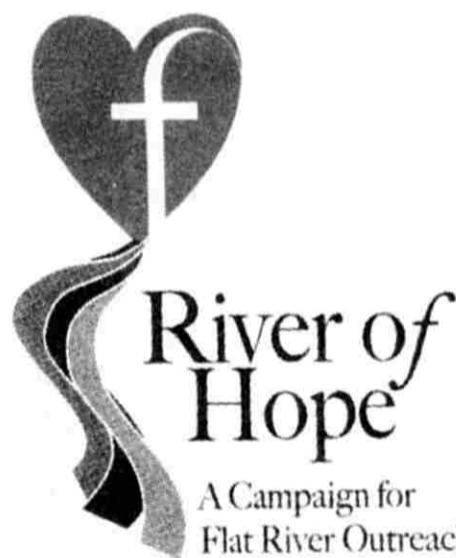
Well, according to Fegel, the kitchen is like a machine: employees have to perform tasks, orders have to be filled and expensive equipment has to run.

"A good day is when that machine is clicking," he said. "Employees have an upbeat personality and we work in a rock and roll atmosphere."

And a bad day is when all that synergy and symphony breaks down.

Big projects include handling large orders on the busiest Fridays and Saturdays. The other day, 107 pizzas had to be out by 10:30 a.m.

"You have to be prepared," said Fegel, "by having the right amount of product and labor. We cater to customers' needs and we've made a lot of friends."



A Campaign for Flat River Outreach Ministries

Flat River Outreach Ministries
River of Hope Capital Campaign



YES, I (we) support the *River of Hope* Campaign for Flat River Outreach Ministries

Name: _____
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 City/State/Zip: _____

Please print names as you would like them listed in donor recognition material:

I (we) prefer to remain anonymous.

Please accept my (our):

One-time gift of \$ _____
 Multi-year commitment of \$payable over _____ years.
 Beginning the month of _____, the year of _____.
 (gift total will be divided into three equal installments and pledge reminders will be sent annually)

My (our) gift will be:

Cash/check (please make checks payable to Flat River Outreach Ministries)
 Appreciated assets (please contact me)
 Credit Card
 Name on Credit Card: _____
 Signature: _____
 Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____
 I would like to make this gift in honor of: _____
 I would like to make this gift in memory of: _____

Flat River Outreach Ministries is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit. Your contribution is tax deductible to the full extent of federal and state tax laws.

Please return this form to:

Heidi Hutchins, Campaign Admin. Assistant, Flat River Outreach Ministries,
 11535 Fulton Street East, Lowell, MI 49331

Dear Friends:

The American anthropologist Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." As we prepare to lead this first ever Capital Campaign, we are keenly aware of the generous volunteers and countless community donors who have supported Flat River Outreach Ministries and demonstrated sacrificial commitment to the Lowell community. Through their generosity, families have been kept together, disintegration of the community has been prevented, and the true meaning of Christian love has been made tangible in our community.

In this the 11th anniversary of FROM's commitment to serve those most in need, a unique and wonderful opportunity is before us. Through this capital campaign we can again unite the community to address the critical-needs challenges together. This time we do not have to create something new. We must unite to retrofit the building from which our ministry emerges and thereby strengthen the base from which future families will find hope and tangible resources in the time of their worst need.

The price tag for this next chapter of community solidarity is \$1.4 million in pledges, donations and in-kind gifts. While this is no small amount to raise, we want always to remember that this amount pales in comparison to the amount of donations and sacrifice given up to this time.

Community support for this campaign is strong.

We have already generated significant support toward the goal. We have a prudent plan of action and we are now initiating fundraising in support of this effort. "The River of Hope" campaign is starting to gain momentum and excitement.

Please join with us in bringing that river of hope and much needed critical services to our neighbors and friends.

Sincerely,
 Karen Whalen,
 Noreen Myers,
 Roger La Warre
 Campaign Chairs



**FLAT RIVER
 OUTREACH
 MINISTRIES**