

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 30 Issue 47

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, September 29, 2004

Contracts ratified by Lowell Area Schools

"We both came from completely opposite corners.

We both ended somewhere in the middle." - Lowell Education Association president Dorann Truax

By Dan Schneider

Contracts for Lowell Area Schools teachers and support staff passed ratification votes by both unions, Monday. Later in the day, the LAS board of education approved the settlement with two unanimous votes.

For both sides, the approval ends more than a year of often tense contract negotiations. Lowell Education Association (LEA) president

Dorann Truax said many teachers were just glad to have it over with.

"I don't know if it was relief, maybe resignation is a better word," Truax said. "They were resigned to the best offer we could get and looking ahead to better days. It was moving on."

Neither the LEA nor the Lowell Education Support Personnel Association (LESPA) released vote counts on the contract.

"While we know it was

not the contract of their dreams, they were just glad to get a contract," LESPA president Vicky Fredline said. "There's some disappointment because some of my group took some cuts this year that hurt them but it didn't affect the ratification."

She was referring to cuts the district made this summer that put part-time paraprofessionals under the threshold for receiving major medical coverage.

"Some of them are still

hurt by that but they still supported the bargaining team," Fredline said.

The contract was presented to LEA and LESPA members last Thursday. It is a three-year contract starting with the previous '03-'04 school year. It includes a 1.5 percent salary increase for the current school year with no salary increase for '03-'04. Teachers with 27 or more years in the district get a \$500 stipend for '03-'04. Support staff with 16 or more years in

the district get a \$200 stipend.

Step increases are in place for this year ('04-'05) and for '03-'04. The salary and step-increase portions of the contract will re-open for negotiations in the fall of 2005.

"We'll want to wait and see what happens at the state level," Truax said. By fall "the student count is in and we'll know exactly what the district is getting from the state."

Both sides felt they com-

promised in reaching the agreement.

"We both came from completely opposite corners," Truax said. "We both ended somewhere in the middle."

"I think that both sides, the union side and the board, compromised in coming to a settlement," said LAS superintendent Shari Miller.

The district paid in full

School contracts, cont'd., pg. 8



Sunshine graces 2004 Fallasburg Fall Festival

By Dan Schneider

Favorable weather Sunday contributed to a Fallasburg Fall Festival that was generally viewed a success. Cars filled the baseball fields and formed long lines on Fallasburg Park Dr. Several local food booths ran out of food by the end of the weekend.

It was the first festival for local exhibitors Jill and John Wenger who encountered more demand than anticipated for their "Nevaeh" soaps, creams and candles. They had to go home and mix more creams Saturday night in preparation for Sunday.

"It was crazy," John Wenger said.

A local artist exhibiting for the first time reported better sales for Saturday, when it was cloudy. Kathleen Mooney's theory was that people who came out in the cloudy and cooler weather Saturday were more serious about buying art.

Kids decorated pumpkins and painted in the children's area. Craft demonstrations of chair caning, origami, wool spinning and woodcarving ... including some displayed wooden penguins with dark-orange beaks ... took place in the pavilion.

Of course, there was also a wide variety of artists. Four of them, with consecutive booths at the north end of the festival area, were Rick Shapero, Norm Darwish, Judy Merckling and Gary Weiermiller.

Shapero, of Cedarville, made creations out of colorful hand-blown, low-lead crystal glass. He heats the glass to 2,300 degrees Fahrenheit and works with it as it cools. He has blown glass for 14 years making mostly functional, colorful things: vases, perfume bottles, hanging ornaments.

Fall festival, cont'd., pg. 12

Gary Weiermiller, at left, was the man behind these wood creations at the Lowell Area Arts Council Fallasburg Fall Festival.

Assault suspect commits suicide

By Dan Schneider

A man suspected of an assault last Friday night in Lowell apparently has committed suicide.

Authorities found the body of Dennis Eckman, 35, Saturday morning in a barn

on his relative's property in Saranac. Tim Stroosnyder had identified Eckman in a photo line-up as the man who attacked him in the parking lot of Fry Daddy's restaurant on W. Main St.

Stroosnyder was locking up for the night around 10

p.m. Friday. The assailant he later identified as Eckman confronted him on his way to his truck, according to Lowell police detective James Hinton. The two had a conversation and then, as Stroosnyder turned to go to his truck, the assailant hit him in the head

with a three-pound hammer.

The assailant fled the scene by car. Stroosnyder fell down repeatedly as he crossed the street to Little Caesar's to call the police, according to Hinton.

"Tim had quite an injury
Assault, cont'd., pg. 3



New Barber in Lowell... Page 4

So Many Tractors ... Page 10

Fall Sports Teams... Page 14-18

OBITUARIES

EVERITT- Mitchell B. Everitt, aged 44, of Lowell, passed away September 26, 2004. He is survived by his wife Suzanne; children Nicole, Justin Everitt and Michael Connor; parents Lawrence and Isabelle Everitt; brothers Larry (Victoria) Everitt, Jack (Mary) Everitt, Ronald (Mary) Everitt, Daniel (Jodi) Everitt, David (Kathleen) Everitt; sister Serene (Lee) Ogle, Sonata (Jim) Ogle; many nieces and nephews. Funeralservices will be 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Lowell Church of the Nazarene, 211 N. Washington, with Pastor Richard Forsythe officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to The Children's Scholarship Fund.

GEENE - Mrs. Lois Marie Geene, aged 51, of Grand Rapids, and formerly of Grand Haven, passed into glory Friday evening, September 24, 2004, after a lengthy illness. She is survived by her husband William; daughter Laura Marie; parents Lawrence and Lucille Kuipers of Grand Haven; three sisters Wanda and Lawrence Cleveringa of Milton, Fla., Debra and Edward DeYoung of Grand Rapids, Sherry and Marvin Mingerink of Lowell; par-

ents-in-law Marvin and Margorie Geene; brothers-in-law Edward and Kathy Geene of Alto, Douglas and Becky Geene of Wyoming; Donald Geene of Ada; many nieces and nephews. Lois was a member of Faith Reformed Church and its Sunshine Class. Funeral services were held Tuesday at Zaagman Memorial Chapel, the Rev. Bruce Osbeck officiating. Interment Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens. Memorial gifts can be made to Caretree Adult Day Services, 4065 Saladin Dr. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.

LETT - Brian Scott Lett, aged 25, of Alto, passed away September 25, 2004 of accidental injuries. He was preceded in death by his grandpa John Kowalczyk. He is survived by his wife Jamie; daughters Isis and Breanne; grandparents Pat Kowalczyk, Lois and Norris Brookens; mother Nancy and Mark Brookens; father John Lett; brothers Nicholas, Matthew, Craig and Marc; many aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be held Wednesday at the Roth Gerst Funeral Home at 11 a.m. with Rev. Ryan Pazdur of Cornith Reformed Church officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to Isis and Breanne's college fund or to defray funeral expenses.

TOWNSHIP OF GRATTAN COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on October 6, 2004 at 7:00 p.m., the Planning Commission of the Township of Grattan will hold a public hearing at the Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Road, within the Township, concerning the application of Mike Osmolinski and Deb Mathewson for a special land use for a private kennel in the A Agricultural District. The kennel would be located on lands commonly designated as 6314 Gavin Lake Road, and legally described as follows:

That part of the North 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 17, Town 8 North, Range 9 West, described as commencing at the Southwest corner of said North 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4, thence North 187.5 feet, thence East 523 feet, thence South 187.5 feet, thence West to the point of beginning, and also the South 2 acres, more or less, of following described lands: that part of said North 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4, described as commencing at a point on the North-South 1/4 line, 187.5 feet North of the Southeast corner of said North 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4, thence East 523 feet, thence North to the North line of said Southeast 1/4, thence West to the North-South 1/4 line, thence South to the point of beginning, Grattan Township, Kent County, Michigan.

The kennel, if approved, would be used for the breeding and raising of dogs. No commercial boarding of dogs would be permitted.

All interested persons may attend the public hearing and be heard with regard to the requested special land use. Written comments may be submitted prior to the hearing, to the Township office, 12050 Old Belding Road, Belding, Michigan 48809, up to the time of the public hearing. Dated: September 23, 2004

PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GRATTAN

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN JUDICIAL DISTRICT JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION/POSTING AND NOTICE OF ACTION

CASE NO. 04-08180-DO

PATRICIA E. CARRILLO 2785 Ingersoll S.W. Wyoming, MI 49519

V

NICOLAS DURAN CARRILLO McKinney Falls St. Park Austin, TX 78794

TO: NICOLAS DURAN CARRILLO

IT IS ORDERED: You are being sued by plaintiff in this court to obtain a divorce. You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in this court at the court address above on or before October 6, 2004. If you fail to do so, a default judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint filed in this case.

A copy of this order shall be published once each week in THE LOWELL LEDGER for three (3) consecutive weeks, and proof of publication shall be filed in this court.

A copy of this order shall be sent to Defendant, NICOLAS DURAN CARRILLO, at the last known address by registered mail, return receipt requested, before the date of the last publication and the affidavit of mailing shall be filed with this court.

September 9, 2004 G. PATRICK HILLARY P35303

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate FILE NO. 04-178,196-DE

Estate of ERMA McDANIEL Date of birth: 05-25-1927

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, ERMA McDANIEL, who lived at 817 Chatham, N.W., Grand Rapids, Michigan died 01-28-2004.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to DANNIE McDANIEL, named personal representative, or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Ave. N.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the

named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

September 21, 2004

CRAIG A. BRUGGINK P.L.C. (P-29358) 428 Turner N.W. Grand Rapids, MI 49504 (616) 456-5048

DANNIE McDANIEL 0-11167 8th Ave., N.W. Grand Rapids, MI 49544 (616) 453-2715

TO ALL CREDITORS:

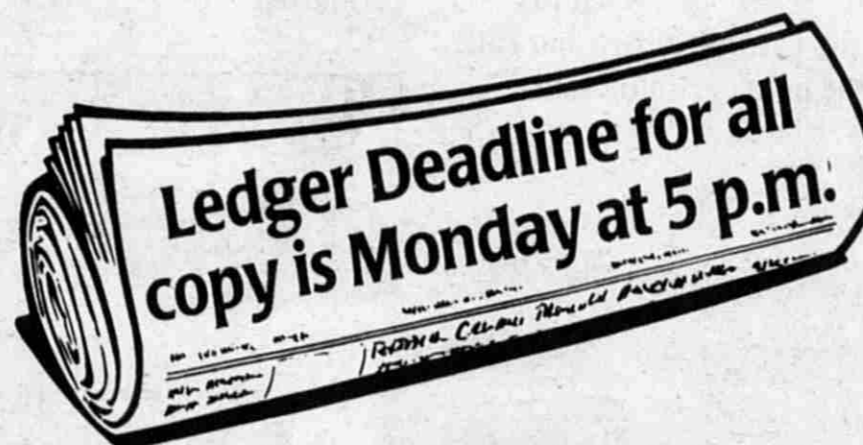
The Settlor, ROLAND GUNDY, who lived at Michigan Christian Home, 1845 Boston S.E., #101, Grand Rapids, Michigan, died January 28, 2004. There is no personal representative of the settlor's estate to whom Letters of Administration have been issued.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Roland and Mary Gundy Trust dated October 20, 1992 as amended, will be forever barred unless presented to Mary B. Gundy, Trustee, 1845 Boston, Grand Rapids, MI 49506, within four months after the date of publication.

Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

Dated: September 2004 MARY B. GUNDY, Trustee

CRAIG A. BRUGGINK P.L.C. (P-29358) 429 Turner N.W. Grand Rapids, MI 49504 (616) 456-4038

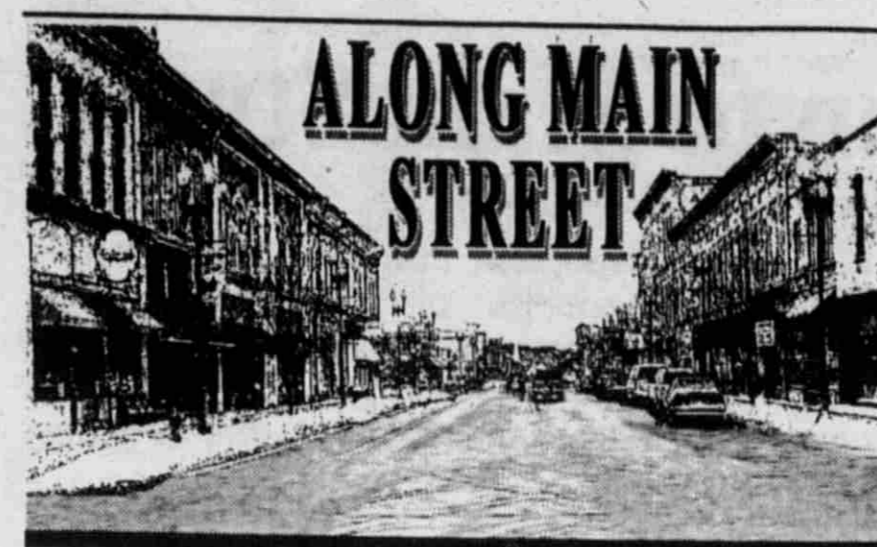


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INFORMAL QUESTION/ANSWER MEETING AT LMS

To find out what is happening at the middle school, Middle School Family Links will sponsor a question and answer meeting in the cafeteria on Thursday, Sept. 30 at 7 p.m. All are invited.

GIRL SCOUTS FUN DAY

If you are a girl scout or are interested in becoming one, attend the 5th annual Bring-A-Friend to Lowell Rollaway Family Fun Center on Saturday, Oct. 2 from 2-5 p.m. \$5 per scout; new registries free with form and fee of \$10. Call Susan at 868-9948 to RSVP or for more information.

ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEETING

The regular meeting will be held Monday, Oct. 4 in the high school staff lounge.

PICTURE RETAKES

An additional day for high school picture retakes is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 7 from 9-11 a.m.

HOMECOMING PARADE

Lineup for the Lowell Homecoming parade will be at First United Methodist Church, Friday, Oct. 8 at 5:30 p.m. Parade starts at 6 p.m., ends at fairgrounds. Call Curt Kaeb at 987-2953 if you are interested in participating.

Fourth break-in this year for local market

Police are still following leads in four break-ins this year at Michael's Farm Market on Hudson and West Main. "We have followed up on several leads, talked to possible suspects but have not been able to come up with an arrest yet," Lowell police detective James Hinton said.

Assault, continued...From Page 1

to the back of the head, laceration to the back of the head," Hinton said. Stroosnyder was taken to the hospital by his wife. He was back home Saturday, Hinton said. "The Ionia County Sheriff's Department determined at the scene that Eckman's death was suicide. An autopsy was scheduled for Monday. Eckman's relatives discovered his body and car in the barn and called the police, Hinton said. There is no known motive in the attack. Eckman had worked on Stroosnyder's truck two weeks previous to the attack, according to Stroosnyder. Stroosnyder gave no further comment on the attack. "We actually don't know what the motivation is because nothing was taken and the money was right there," Hinton said. Eckman had a history of crimes against property.

three break-ins. Nothing was taken in the fourth break-in as the money could not be found. Four break-ins is unusual for a Lowell business. "For one store to be hit four times in the same year is phenomenal, it's almost unheard of," Hinton said. Police are collecting evidence on four suspects. Leads so far have come from anonymous tips.

"Denny's had a pretty extensive criminal history but this is the first violent act," Hinton said. At the time of the attack, Eckman was on parole out of the Ionia County Parole Office after serving prison time for uttering and publishing checks. The charge is similar to check forgery.

LOWELL VETERANS CENTER

Hello Neighbor!

We just wanted to say "Hi!" And to invite you to an informal Open House at the Lowell Veterans Center to be held from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, September 26, 2004 at 3116 Alden Nash Ave. S.E.

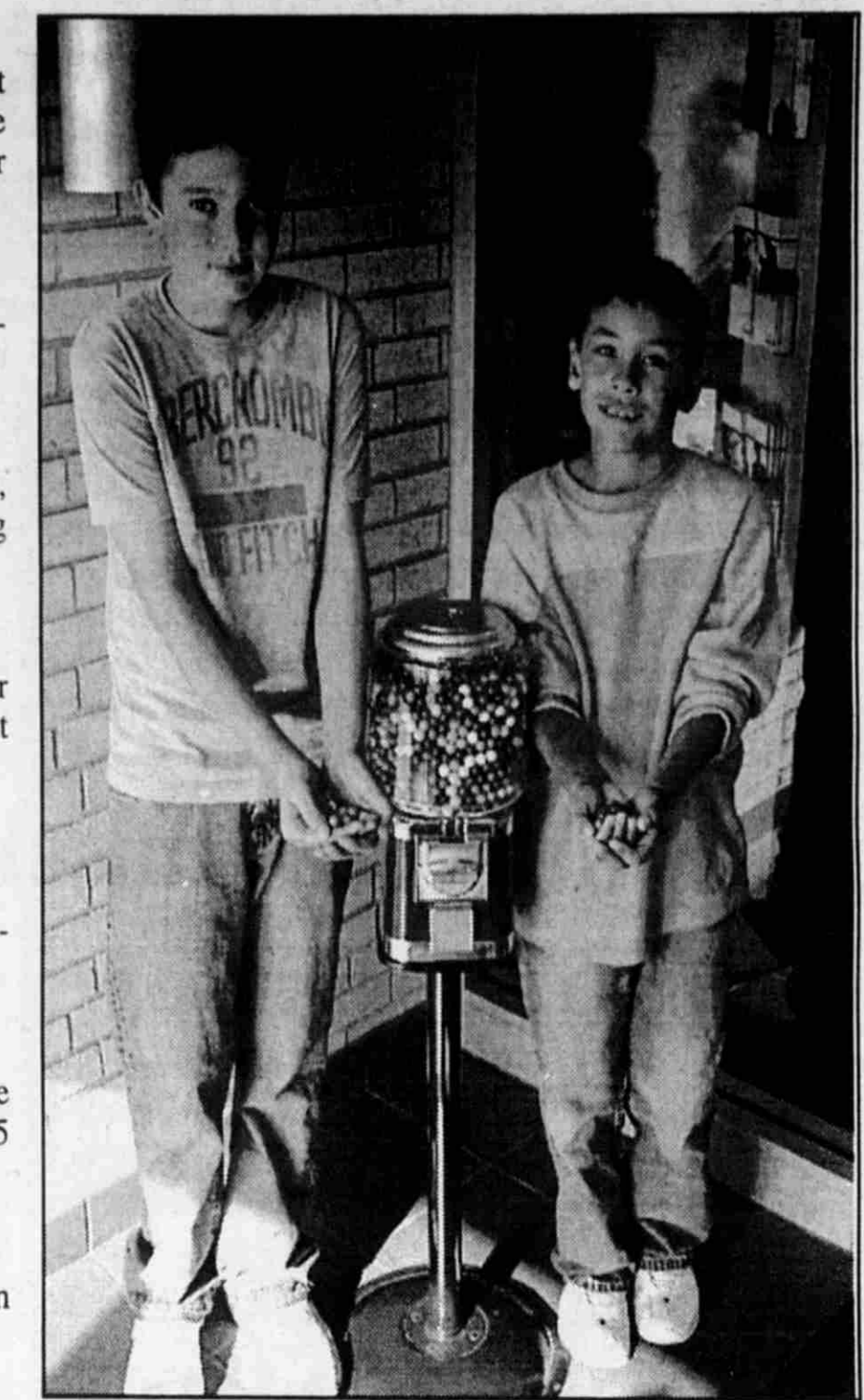
We want to show off our newly remodeled building and to get to know the neighbors and for YOU to get to know us and what we do. It is also the 105th Anniversary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the 58th of Post 8303.

So come and look us over and if any of you are veterans of the U.S. military, you are especially welcome. Bring along your D.D. Form 214 (Korea to current) or your WW2 military discharge.

Hope to see you there.

VFW Post Commander John Vander Wilp
American Legion Cmdr. Fay Johnson
VFW Auxiliary President Jackie Spencer

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CELLULAR (PG-13) 1:25, 3:25, 5:25, 7:25, 9:25
SKY CAPTAIN AND THE WORLD OF TOMORROW (PG-13) 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
MR. 3000 (PG-13) 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10
COUPON FREE 20oz DRINK with \$2.00 purchase of adult bag of softie popcorn
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Kids dabble in sticky business

Dan Wernet, 12, and Justin Castro, 10, gumball entrepreneurs, are shown with their recently-installed machine at the Huntington Bank branch at 414 W. Main Street.

"We heard about some kid who had three of them and he made like 50 bucks a month so we just put our money together and bought one," Castro said.

Their venture, DJ Vendings, includes the machine at the bank and a pop machine to be installed at Bareman's Dairy in Clarksville.

"The money that we get from the pop machine and gumball machine we're probably going to just get more machines," Castro said.

The gumball machine is on pace to make a return on investment within DJ Vending's current fiscal year. The two boys maintain the machine themselves, adding gumballs when the supply runs low. For a quarter, the machine dispenses between six and 10 gumballs.

REMINDER NOTICE REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION FOR THE

TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 2, 2004

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT ANY QUALIFIED ELECTOR OF BOWNE TOWNSHIP, LOWELL TOWNSHIP, VERGENNES TOWNSHIP, AND THE CITY OF LOWELL, WHO IS NOT ALREADY REGISTERED, MAY REGISTER TO VOTE AT THE CITY OR TOWNSHIPS OFFICES, AT ANY SECRETARY OF STATE BRANCH OFFICE, OR OTHER DESIGNATED PLACES FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2004.

THE LAST DAY FOR RECEIVING REGISTRATIONS WILL BE MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2004

QUALIFICATIONS TO REGISTER TO VOTE: CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 4, 2004 RESIDENT OF BOWNE TOWNSHIP, LOWELL TOWNSHIP, VERGENNES TOWNSHIP, CITY OF LOWELL

Sandra Kowalczyk Bowne Township Clerk (616) 868-6846 9 AM to 4 PM
Betty Morlock Lowell City Clerk (616) 897-8457 8 AM to 5 PM

Linda S. Regan Lowell Township Clear (616) 897-7600 9 AM to 5 PM
Mari Stone Vergennes Township Clear (616) 897-5671 9 AM to 3 PM

School contracts, continued...From Page 1

for the Michigan Education Special Services Association (MESSA)'s Supercare One health insurance. This year and in '05-'06 the staff will change to MESSA's Choices II plan with the district paying in full for the coverage.

"That was one of our primary concerns," Truax said. Miller said the district

compromised by considering this plan, which is still an untested program.

"That's something the board agreed to look at," Miller said. "It was not in existence when we started this process."

Staff members have the option of paying the difference in premiums and con-

tinuing with Supercare One. The difference in the cost of the premiums is estimated to be \$95. Miller said this satisfies the board's requirement that the employees participate in the cost of their health insurance. Built into the Choices II plan is the \$5 drug card and higher deductible the district wanted, as well.

This March, the school board declared an impasse in negotiations related to middle school planning time. This was the most controversial of the language issues in the contract. The impasse was declared in order to implement a pilot program for reading and math at the middle school. The LEA filed an unfair labor practice suit based on the declaration. The suit was dropped and contract language cutting

planning time was added as part of the tentative agreement that led to the contract.

Changes to contract language also took place in the areas of pay for high school department chairs and pay for teachers chairing district and building curriculum teams. There are also changes in personal leave language.

School board president Nancy Hopkins said the public scrutiny during the prolonged contract negotiations will benefit the district as it moves forward. "The teaching staff and the public became more aware of how complex these issues are of funding the public school system," she said.

Both union and district leaders expressed hope of moving into a brighter future

Monday. But the board acknowledged that the financial picture continues to look grim in the coming years.

"We will need to look at budget cuts in the future," Miller said.

With that in mind, the board announced the formation of a cost-containment committee. The 15-member group includes parents, teachers, administrators, bargaining representatives and representatives of the local business community.

"We had informally gathered information from those groups before and this time we felt ... like it was really important to have that community voice and have those thoughts," Miller said.

The district made a three-tiered list of possible places to

cut the budget three years ago.

"We've now finally made almost all those cuts on that list," said LAS assistant superintendent for finance and personnel Connie Gillette.

The board felt it was especially important to seek a wide range of input as it faces more challenging budget decisions in the future.

"It's not (going to be) some of the simpler things that we've come to so far; it's going to be deeper and harder," said board trustee Mark Lessens.

Former city councilman Mike Blough is chairperson of the committee, which had its first meeting Tuesday. The committee will act in an advisory capacity to the school board.

OUTDOORS

By Dave Stegehuis



HUNT PREPARATION

A cheap lesson on a recent fishing trip reminded me to pay more attention to details before leaving home. A dead starting battery on the boat could have been avoided by checking out all mechanical equipment before traveling. Leaving essential items behind is another common mistake, but making and using a comprehensive list can eliminate the problem.

This fall many of us are planning to hunt locally, while others will travel across the state, the country, or around the world. Regardless of the destination, when one gets into the field, it is soon apparent whether or not proper planning has been done. Following are some things to give attention to before heading out.

Proper clothing can make or break a trip. Physical comfort allows one to stay out longer and focus more on enjoying the experience. Good rainwear is essential on extended hunts when staying indoors is not an option. Properly fitted waterproof boots should be well broken-in by hunt time. Do a dress

rehearsal to identify possible problems.

Extensive practice with a bow under realistic conditions is necessary for most of us to become skilled enough to humanely take game with it. Practice with a firearm that has been properly sighted-in is also a prerequisite to any hunt.

Dependable transportation will get one to the hunt location on time and in good humor. Tune-up that truck or ATV. Firm-up airline reservations and make sure you understand and are able to comply with regulations regarding firearms, especially when leaving the country.

Speaking of regulations, don't forget to study the hunting rules in your area. I found Michigan's Big Game Hunting Guide to be brief compared to the rules in Montana. Be sure

to have the correct licenses and permits and put them on your list so they will not be left behind.

Last, but just as important as anything else, be physically ready to meet the demands of the hunt. Preparation may require a medical check-up as well as an exercise program. Remember you could find yourself walking long distances with heavy clothing and, in addition, be carrying a firearm and probably a loaded backpack. If you anticipate packing an elk quarter off a mountain, then you will have to work even harder to get in shape.

Anticipation adds to the total hunting experience, so consider all of the preparation just part of the hunt. Good hunting.



ANNUAL FALL COLOR TOUR
Kent District Library presents its third annual "Fall Color

Tour." Visit any four of the 18 KDL branches during October and you can sign up to win a reading gift basket. One basket will even contain diamond earrings!

Many of the local Friends groups will sponsor book sales and special events during the month to coincide with the tour. A program brochure, which contains directions to the branches and fall program information, can be picked up at any branch. The Fall Color Tour is sponsored by the Kent District Library Alliance of Friends.

For more information call the Kent District Library at 784-2007.

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Vintage tractor collection preserves local farm history

By Dan Schneider

The International Harvester Company got started in 1831.

That was when Cyrus Hall McCormick first tested a farm implement called the Virginia Reaper. He invented this reaper in the state of Virginia, later partnering with an implement manufacturer in Chicago which is where he started building some manufacturing facilities.

These factories were eventually turning out not only reapers but mowers and harvesters, as well. In 1902, the McCormick Harvester Company merged with the Deering Harvester Company, a competitor also located in Chicago. This merger formed the International Harvester Company, which was making farm implements with parts manufactured by both companies.

"They took the best of the companies," Harold Metternick, Jr. said.

By the early 1990s, examples of this machinery were

making their way into Metternick's barns in southwest Lowell Township.

"These implements were out in the fence rows and they're going to be scrapped out faster and faster as time goes on," Metternick said.

He has 30 pieces of farm machinery on steel wheels: binders, cultivators, discs, potato planters and seed drills. They were all covered with rust after coming out of the fence rows and forests' edges.

"Most of the stuff is from 50 to 100 years old," he said.

Metternick restored some of them as close as possible to what they looked like new. He spent last winter refurbishing eight of the implements. First he would wire-brush as much rust off as possible. Then he'd rust-proof and paint the metal parts red and blue or red and green according to the paint schemes from old International Harvester product catalogs in his collection. The metal wheels of the tractors were painted light cream-yellow.

Metternick also owns a

number of International Harvester Farmall tractors.

"There's about 25 of them around here," he said.

The first Farmalls revolutionized the family farm when it was introduced in 1924. They are in varying conditions—some rusty, some restored. One is a white 1950 Farmall C demonstrator.

"This was the first one restored at the 1992 Red Power show in Marion, Ohio," Metternick said. "When we took it to the show, they said 'Why in the world would you want a white one?'"

The demonstrators were painted white at the factory and taken to county fairs and such for promotion of new tractor models. Then they were taken back to the factory and repainted red before being sold to farmers. Metternick discovered white paint under the bolts he loosened when he started restoring the C and determined he had a demonstrator on his hands. The tractors are rare and prized by collectors.

Metternick has built two

mobile-museum trailers. One is made out of a 1977 Chevrolet travel trailer. It contains vintage sales literature, some written history of International Harvester, corn shellers and sickle grinders. These were mounted on the steel wheels of hay mowers in the field and used to sharpen the blades. The examples in the

trailer were manufactured by several of the companies, like Milwaukee Harvester Company, that were also bought up in the McCormick-Deering merger in 1902.

The other traveling museum consists of two hay wagons containing hit-and-miss engines and a sign from an International Harvester dealer.

Metternick has examples of many other products manufactured by International Harvester. These include a 1957 International fire engine, refrigerators, freezers and a milk-can cooler. But Metternick's main interest is in implements.

Tractor collection, cont'd., pg. 11



Above, a 1950 Farmall C demonstrator is among the first tractors Harold Metternick, Jr. restored.

Let us endeavor to live that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry.

—Mark Twain



A sign Metternick made for the back of his truck displays the old logos for the International Harvester Company, International trucks on the left and the most modern logos on the right.

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LAAC to present "Murder by Natural Causes" beginning Oct. 8

By Dan Schneider

In a production featuring a high proportion of cast members from the Lowell Area, the Thebes Players are presenting "Murder by Natural Causes."

The play by Tim Kelly is a mystery-drama about a woman, Allison Sinclair (Sally McAlpine) who tries to kill her husband, Arthur Sinclair (Jim Hodges), who happens to be a mind reader. He's a very popular mind reader on TV and the radio, and he has a book coming out.

Motivated by greed, the wife enlists her lover, Gil Weston (Jeff Stacer) to try to bump off the mentalist. The hitch is they insist his death be by natural means. The mentalist helps them in this regard by having a bad heart. Several complications ensue, however, and there is a surprising plot twist.

Other actors in the play are Dean Borth as George Brubaker, Diana Roush as Jessica Prescott, Anne Pasquale as Marta the maid, Steve Tokarski as detective Eddie Oakman and Marla McFadden as Mrs. Carrington.

The dinner-theater production takes place at Larkin's Other Place in downtown Lowell. The menu features chicken with marshmallow sauce, redskin potatoes and caesar salad.

Tickets range in price from \$21 to \$26. The production opens Friday, Oct. 8 at 6:30 p.m. Performances are Oct. 15, 16, 22 and 23 at 6:30 p.m. and Oct. 10 and 17 at 12:30 p.m.

Call the Lowell Area Arts Council at 897-8545 to reserve tickets. Since it is a dinner theater, it is recommended that tickets be purchased 48 hours in advance of the performance.



From left: Ann Pasquale, Diana Roush, Jim Hodges, Dean Borth, Sally McAlpine and Marla McFadden in a scene from the Thebes Players' upcoming production of "Murder by Natural Causes."

Lowell woman selected for national fellowship program

The University of Miami's School of Architecture recently announced that **Kendra Wills**, of Lowell, has been selected as one of the recipients of the 2004-'05

Knight Fellowship Program in Community Building. She will represent the state of Michigan.

Upon completion of the program, Fellows earn a certificate in community building and become members of the Community Building Network of Fellows, Scholars and Faculty.

Wills works for the MSU Extension Service as Kent County's Land Use agent and is the project manager for the United Growth for Kent County project.

Wills works for the MSU Extension Service as Kent County's Land Use agent and is the project manager for the United Growth for Kent County project.

Tractor collection, continued...From Page 10

He plans to continue restoring the rusty pieces in his collection and hopes to some day have a building in which to display them.

"This is history as far as I'm concerned," Metternick said.

Especially the history of farming in southeastern Kent County. Metternick is the second owner of several tractors and implements first owned by farming families in Lowell, Bowne and Vergennes townships.

Metternick didn't grow up on a farm himself. He started doing some small-scale farming in 1962 with a 1954 Super

C Farmall. He's been collecting implements and tractors for about 15 years.

He focused his interest on International Harvester machinery "because they had just gone belly up."

Tenneco Inc. bought International Harvester and merged the company with its Case equipment subsidiary in 1984. The once-great farm machinery manufacturer had struggled for the previous decade through tough financial times.

Still, Metternick said, "It was the grand-daddy of all agricultural equipment."

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VARSITY BOYS GOLF

Front row: Zach Foley, Josh Gilliard, Brian Scheider and Vincent Larkin; back row: Coach Gary Fredline, Mark Cerajewski, Sean Donahue, Ryan Kalman, Lance Perkins and Kyle Wittenbach.



VARSITY FALL CHEERLEADERS

Front row: Jenna Gillan, Jenna Mitchell and Tiffany Wilkins; 2nd row: Jenny Kettel, Sheila Walling, Amanda Roberts, Nichole Swift, LynnAnn Bell, Cassey Wildey and Mgr. Kyleigh Dawson; 3rd row: Suzy Richardson, Alyssa Rash, Nikita Miles, Kelsey Brenk, Katie Callihan and Coach Kari Dawson; back row: Emily Lemke, Jenna White, Kyleigh Gilliard, Lyndsey Skinner and Melissa Warners.



BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

Front row: Abbot Kastanek, Steven LaFave, Will Bryan, Ken Hayes, Thomas Doll, Nate Stoliker, Steve Nugent and Jonathon Riddle; back row: Coach Clay VanderWarf, Alex Getz, Chad Drenth, Steve Ellison, Ryder Jones, Mitch Solon, Grady Drown, Sean Fitzpatrick, Adam Baker, Andy Mark and Eric Schumm.

LHS 2004 FALL SPORTS TEAMS



VARSITY FOOTBALL

Front row: Mike McElroy, Brock Graham, Frank Mulder, Gabe Delnick, Keith Nichol, Mgr. Zeth Dean, Mgr. Canon Dean, Ryan Esbaugh, Cory Jones, Mike Koster, Jason Welsch and Zach Burger; 2nd row: Jeremy Holliman, Michael Long, Bill Gill, Matthew Batchelor, Adam VanderPols, Chris Meeuwse, Kameron Blake, Cory Ruesink, Kyle Kaminski and Philip Burton; 3rd row: Andrew Schultz, Tim Droese, Jay Eldridge, Kenneth Kline, Justin Craig, Scott Perdaris, Tony Adrianse, Joseph Woodhead, Kyle Estes and Mike Racine; back row: Greg Stevens, Evan Ormiston, Ed Zigmont, Michael Wildey, Matt VanEns, Shaun Scudder, Eric Klahn, John Rasch, Brad Shea and Jordan Hill.



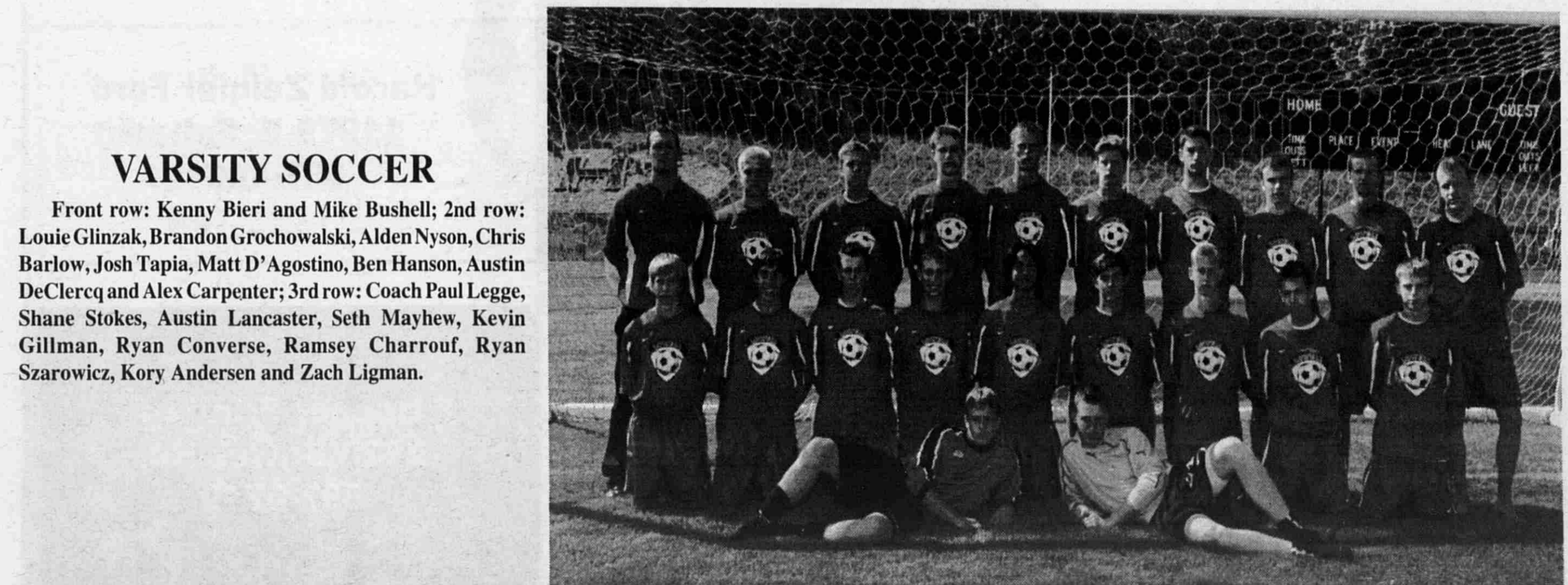
VARSITY BASKETBALL

Front row: Asst. Coach Danielle Gallert, Brittany Lyman, Audrey Grummet, Brittany Bueche and Coach Dee Crowley; 2nd row: Nicole Shepard, Kelsey Crowley, Kelsey Graham, Brooke VanEck and Kelly Malling; 3rd row: Devon Collins and Kennie Gallert; at top: Meghan Beachum and Amy Oberlin.



VARSITY TENNIS

Front row: Heather Spratt, Rebecca Plummer, Jean Kimberlin and Mandy Gunberg; 2nd row: Kelly Koning, Stephanie Thompson, Lindsay Aiken, Katy Barnes and Nikki Baker; back row: Asst. Coach Roger Wall, Rachelle Levingston, Kayla Irwin, Julie Geelhoed, Haley Irwin, Shelly Wernet, Terrah Tawney and Coach Bonnie Wall.



VARSITY SOCCER

Front row: Kenny Bieri and Mike Bushell; 2nd row: Louie Glinzak, Brandon Grochowalski, Alden Nyson, Chris Barlow, Josh Tapia, Matt D'Agostino, Ben Hanson, Austin DeClercq and Alex Carpenter; 3rd row: Coach Paul Legge, Shane Stokes, Austin Lancaster, Seth Mayhew, Kevin Gillman, Ryan Converse, Ramsey Charrouf, Ryan Szarowicz, Kory Andersen and Zach Ligman.

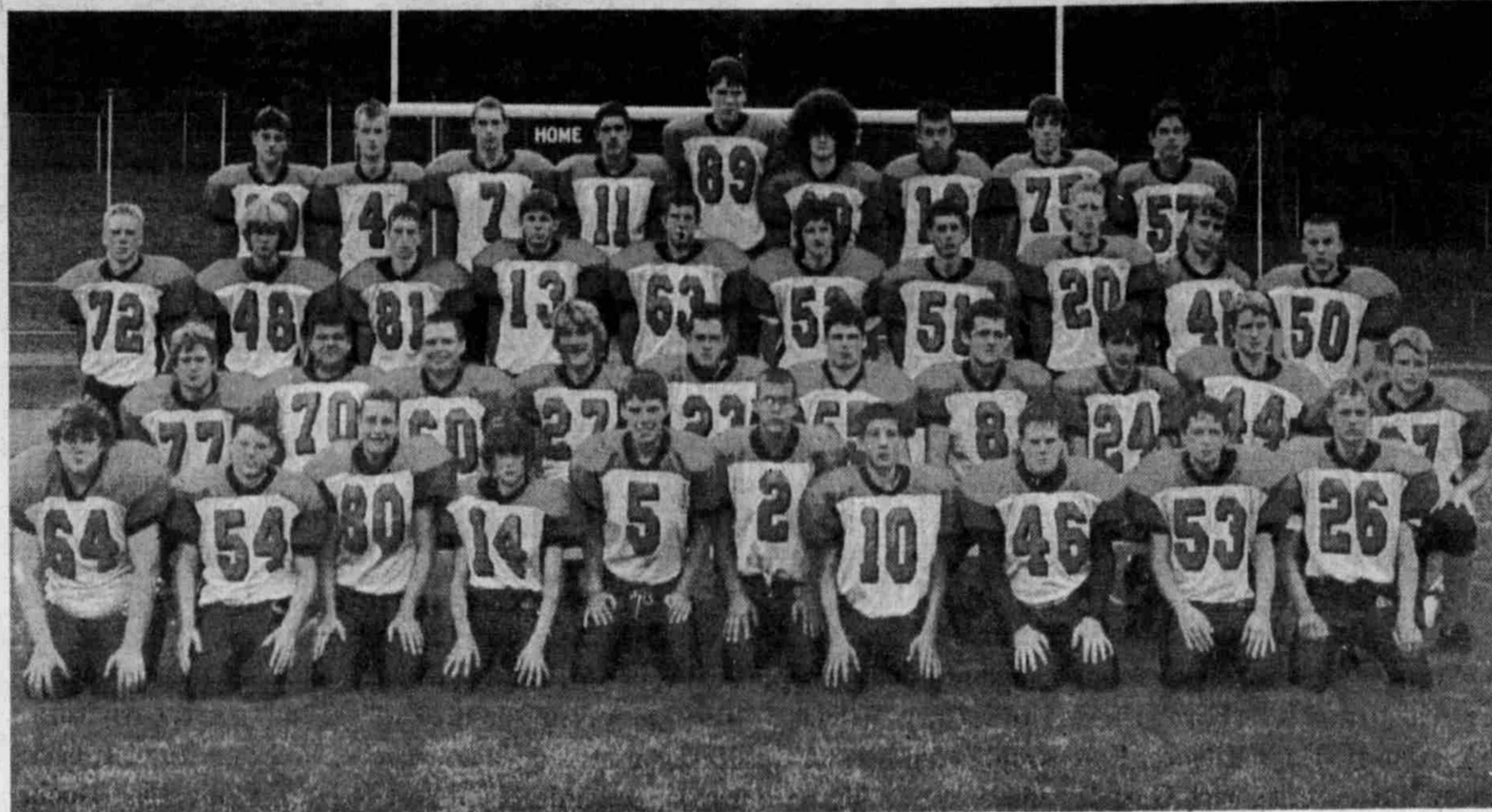
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LHS 2004 FALL SPORTS TEAMS



FRESHMAN CHEERLEADERS

Front row: Leslie Rash, Mackenzie Conley, Alisha Newsted; 2nd row: Nicole Gould, Tara Beran, Brittany Dykhouse, Jensen Miller and Aimee Dockter; 3rd row: Cheyenne Siciliano, Hannah Fleet, Cassie DeCator, Rebecca Kempker and Olivia Breuker.



FRESHMAN FOOTBALL

Front row: Christopher Miller, Bryant Johnson, Jesse Droog, Kyle Murray, Justin VanAcker, Matt Kurtz, Justin Walling, Brandon Jahnke, Garek Mechane, Justin Boss; 2nd row: Troy Kerr, Cody Chambers, Daniel Hogan, Justin Story, Patrick Plite, Michael Kinsley, Nicholas Rempalski, Ben Canfield, Craig Lorentz and Michael Schumm; 3rd row: Brandon White, Cory Hagerman, Joshua Ferris, Justin Corwin, Todd Crissman, Ethan Drain, Brian Sejat, Nathan Vaught, Travis Tol and Seth Nawrocki; back row: Steven Bouwman, Peter Scudder, Jacob Swift, Conrad Ruffilo, Bob Wernet, Andrew Davis, Kyle Murray, James Dyer and Anthony Herrera.



FRESHMAN BASKETBALL

Front row: Chandel Bronkella, Breanna Bueche, Ashley Nawrocki, Leah Jelsma and Paige Senters; 2nd row: Meggy Fitzpatrick, Mary VanderLaan, Keri Fosburg, Brittany Clark and Sara Poelstra; back row: Coach Kim Stevens, Crystal Dietz, Meaghan Gallup, Catherine Howard and Jessica Meyer.



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LHS 2004 FALL SPORTS TEAMS



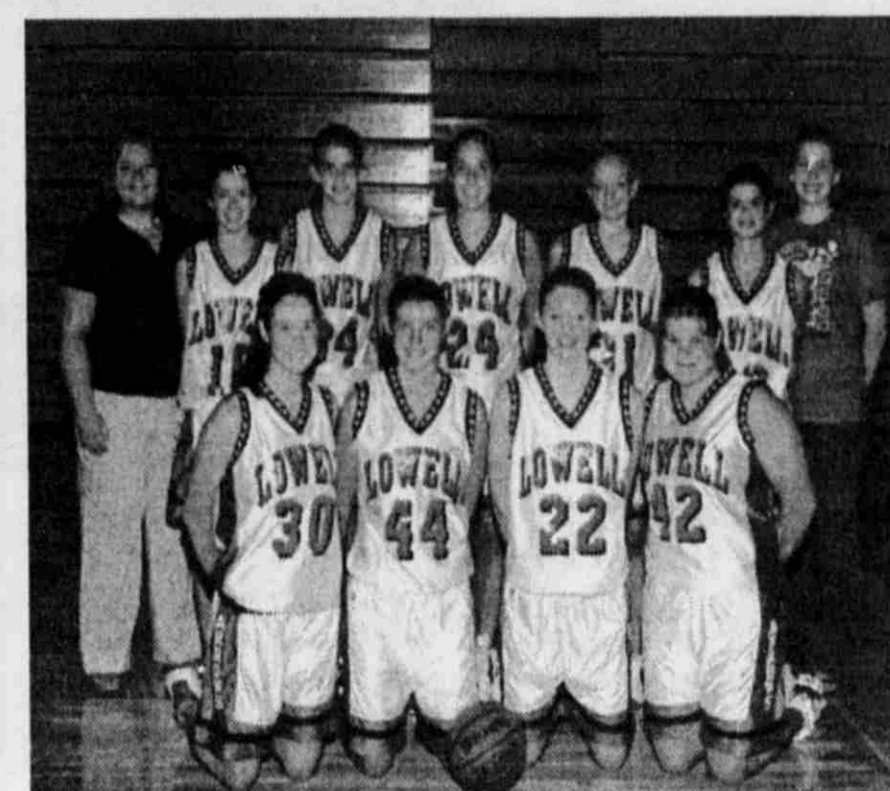
JV GOLF

Front row: Josh Hobria, Brian Langlois, Rich Porter, Eric Mundt and Kyle Bardwell; back row: Cory Fosburg, Tyler Dewey, Gary Kilgore, Kyle Kropf, Alan Messing, Corey Hurley and Coach Gary Fredline.



JV CHEERLEADERS

Front row: Tarah Essich, Brooke Liu, Lindsey Jousma, Tori Ruesink and Jamie Phillips; 2nd row: Kaylyn Koza, Kasi Hanrahan, Kaylee Yonker and Lisa Nugent; back row: Stephanie Kempker, Kristen Wolfe, Jesi Hook, Michelle Blanchard and Stacey Janeschek.



JV BASKETBALL

Front row: Kelsey Koewers, Amanda Geelhoed, Lindsey Trierweiler and Karri Ort; back row: Coach Roxanne Gallert, Lisa Johnson, Andrea Converse, Chelsea Harrison, Hayley Getzen, Austyn Foster and Mgr. Hannah Oberlin.



JV SOCCER

Front row: Lee Dickerman, Travis Trapp, Drew Kyllonen, Nicholas Abdo, Matt Gurd; 2nd row: Ian Lowande, Katlin Manszewski, Greg Harreld, Andrew Gerig, Bud Shepard and Michael Nichols; 3rd row: Kealan Henschke, Jordan Blanchard, Adam Bowers, Spencer Sellner, Tim Oberlin, Ryan Padgett, Marek Mikesell and Coach Mike Lincolnhol. Not pictured: Bruno Chaguri.

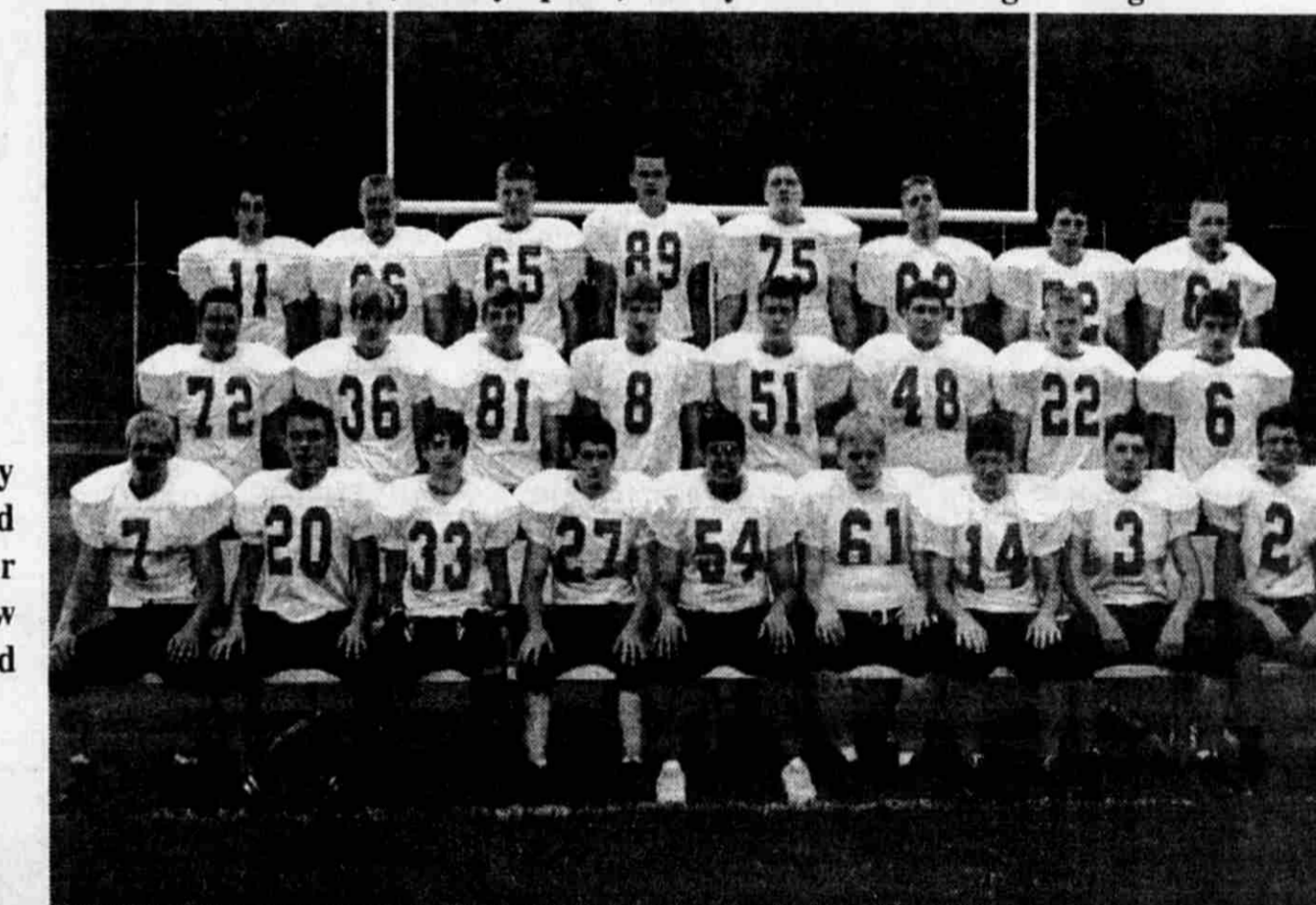


JV TENNIS

Front row: Ashley Stebbins, Brandi Rix, Mallory Hines and Ellen Mork; 2nd row: Leara Glinzak, Paula Lawrence, Lyndsay Huver, Tanya Baker, Katy Barnes, Whitney Jernigan and Leannah Seese; back row: Coach Sue Beute, Casie Pedley, Katrina Schollaart, Kim Kline, Ashley Spicer, Kathryn Collins and Megan Vaught.

JV FOOTBALL

Front row: Samuel Hopkins, Bujar Selimi, Trevor Wernet, Shane Elliott, Bradley Nordman, Douglas Hartley, Ryan Mechane, Billy Watikunas and Kory Stevens; 2nd row: Michael Crain, Troy Heimer, Matt Hodges, David Gallagher, Chris Ritz, Tylor Meppelink, Nick Canfield and James Richardson; back row: Justin Harden, Andrew Nozal, Larz Lindstrom, Colin Rich, Dominic Doyle, Travis Hippey, Edward Parks and Alex Fleet.



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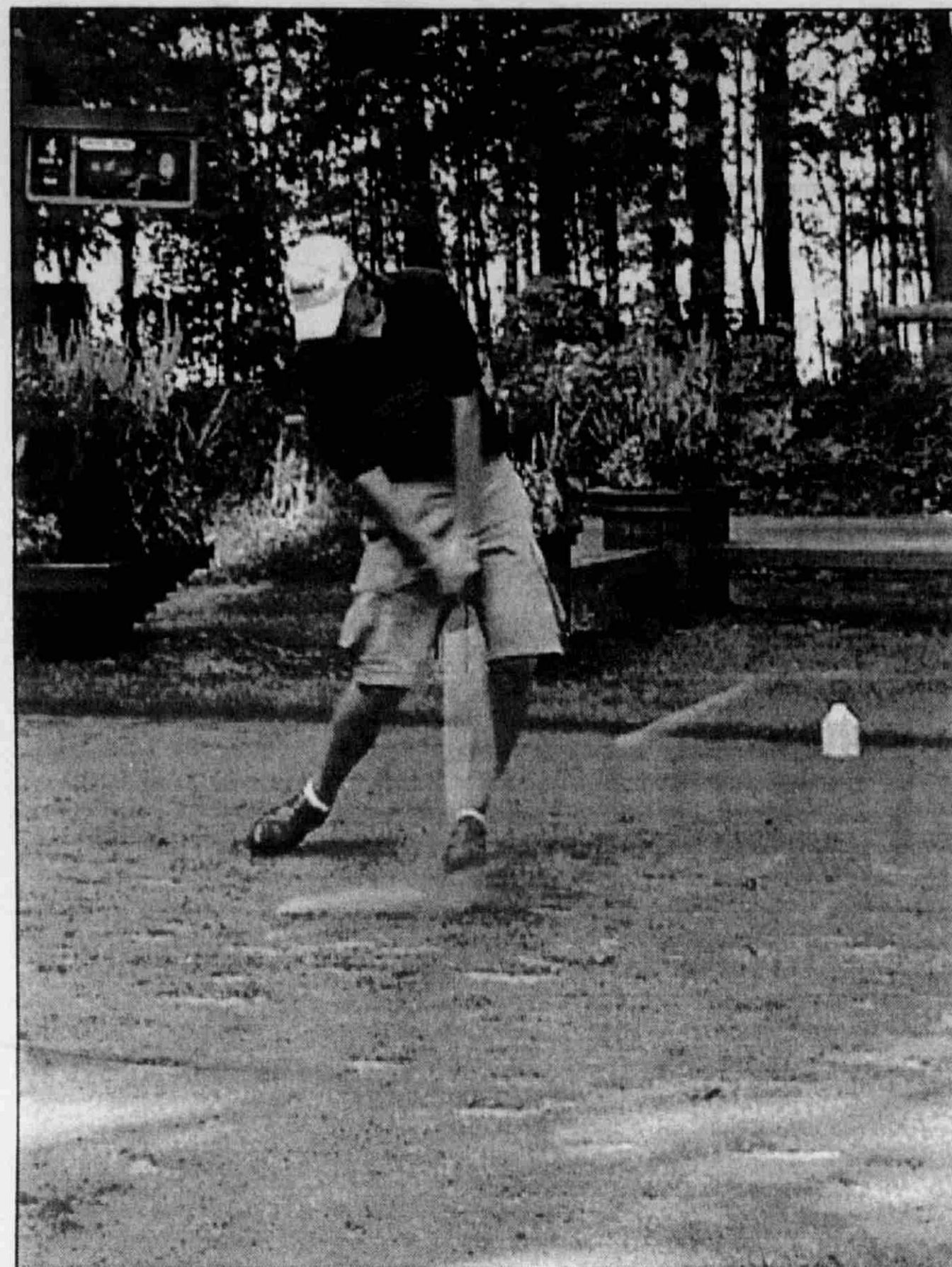
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Ryan Kalman hits a seven iron from the tee at Deer Run's hole four during last Wednesday's win over Northview.

Golfers finish regular season with two wins

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell boys varsity golf team finished out the OK White regular season with two wins on their home course.

Last Wednesday they beat Northview at Deer Run, scoring 162 to the Wildcats' 175.

Kyle Wittenbach was the low scorer for Lowell in that match, shooting 37 for his best nine holes of the season. Ryan Kalman shot 40 for Lowell, Vinnie Larkin, 42, and Brian Scheider, 43.

"It's been a pretty good

couple of meets," said Lowell coach Gary Fredline.

Wittenbach has been achieving low scores all season and Kalman has improved the consistency of his play. Various players emerge at different times to take the three and four spots.

"It seems a couple of the four guys I have left do the job for us. It might not always be the same guys, but they come through for us," Fredline said.

Hosting Greenville on Monday, the Arrows won 162-175. Wittenbach shot a 39,

Kalman and Josh Gilliard, a 41, and Larkin, a 47.

"They've pulled it up to the point where it's what I expected them to shoot," Fredline said.

The Arrows have a break until the OK White tournament next Monday at Boulder Creek Golf Club in Belmont.

"I think we're ready for it," Fredline said. "We played pretty well in the first tournament and I expect we will play well in this one."

The tournament, which is 18 holes, starts at 8 a.m.

Tennis rebounds against Greenville after loss to Wildcats

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell girls varsity tennis team recovered Monday from last week's disappointing loss to Northview with a trouncing of Greenville.

The Arrows defeated the Yellow Jackets 7-1 in Lowell. The only thing standing in the way of a Lowell shutout was Greenville's star first singles player, Emily Dudzik, who defeated Lowell's Mandy Gunberg.

In second singles, Rachel Levingston defeated Anna Pahl 6-0, 6-1 for Lowell. In third singles it was Lowell's Haley Irwin over Trisha Bailey 6-1, 6-1.

Lowell's Heather Spratt defeated Brittany LaFollette 6-2, 6-1.

In first doubles, Kelly Koning and Becky Plummer defeated Ashley Wiborn and Ashleigh Dean 6-1, 6-0. Jean Kimberlin and Julie Geelhoed defeated Kayla Peterson and Melissa Cole 6-2, 6-2 to win second doubles for Lowell.

Kayla Irwin and Shelly Wernet had the only shutout of the evening for Lowell, defeating Katie Saladin and Mariah Sheldon in third doubles. Fourth doubles was the only close match with Lindsay Aiken and Nikki

Baker of Lowell defeating Ashley Kassuba and Alanna Hackworth 5-7, 6-4, 6-4.

"We expected to do that well and we did. We lived up to our expectations," said Lowell coach Bonnie Wall.

Last Wednesday's match against Northview was a 5-3 loss for Lowell, the Red Arrows winning second, third and fourth doubles.

The Arrows are 3-3 in OK White competition this year. They host Cedar Springs Wednesday at 4 p.m. before traveling to Greenville for Saturday's conference tournament.

Basketball stops two more opponents

By Dan Schneider

For the Lowell varsity girls basketball team, it's frequently defense that wins games.

In fact, it says "defense wins" on their warmups and on the wall of the gym where they play their home games.

"I think it was defense again," said coach Dee

Crowley, of Lowell's 50-32 home victory over Northview last Thursday.

The Red Arrows held Northview to six points in the first quarter and three in the second. They were up at half-time, 26-9.

"Defensively we just dominated them," Crowley said.

Amy Oberlin had 14 points and eight rebounds in the game. Brook VanEck had eight points. Keni Gallert and Kelsey Crowley each had four assists in the game. Lowell forced 23 turnovers and outbounded the Wildcats, 21-17.

"Our defense was so tight on them they weren't really getting off shots," Crowley said.

Last Tuesday, Lowell beat Kenowa Hills, 61-47.

"That was more of an offensive explosion in the first half," Crowley said.

Devon Collins and Gallert each hit two three-pointers in the first quarter. This drew the defense and opened up the inside for Oberlin to score nine in the second. Oberlin had 17 in the game. Collins scored 15 and Gallert, 12.

Lowell hosts Unity Christian Thursday at 7:30 p.m. The Crusaders were the only other team undefeated in the OK White as of Tuesday. Lowell played Greenville Tuesday.

Lowell hosts cross country invitational

By Dan Schneider

Top cross country teams from around the area converged on Lowell High School Saturday for the Lowell Invitational meet.

Running in a top division, Division three, which included the likes of Forest Hills Northern, Brighton and Rockford, the Red Arrow boys team finished sixth.

"I thought they did a great job," said Lowell coach Clay VanderWarf.

Top finishers for Lowell were Eric Schumm (10th place

in 16:57), Mitch Solon (23rd, 17:30), Steve Ellison (25th, 17:32), Jon Riddle (38th, 18:02) and Andy Mark (45th, 18:22). Lowell's team score was 141.

"Eric, Steve and Mitch have been going back and forth as far as who's leading," VanderWarf said.

Forest Hills Northern won the boys top division with 69 points. Brighton was second with 81. Rockford finished third with 94.

In the girls race, the Red Arrows finished seventh with

173 points. Top runners were Karen Judd (21st, 20:44), Abbie Debiak (32nd, 21:21), Monica Fitzpatrick (33rd, 21:22), Emily Gerard (43rd, 22:04) and Rebecca Woods (44th, 22:05).

"We get those fourth and fifth runners up there, we'll definitely be a stronger team," VanderWarf said. "The OK White is a lot more competitive this year than it has been in the past and the one thing I notice is they are running in packs."

Rockford won in the girls top division with a team score of 39 and three runners in the top 10. Brighton also put three in the top 10 to take second place with a team score of 65. Forest Hills Northern scored 74 to take third place while Grandville was close behind scoring 76.

Grand Rapids Christian won both the boys and girls races in Division two. Defending state champions Grand Rapids West Catholic won the boys Division one. Whitehall won the girls Division one.

There were 36 teams out for this year's invitational, the most yet at the cross country race. The boys junior varsity race had 306 runners and the girls, 270.

"Teams just wanted to check out the course for regionals," VanderWarf said.

Lowell is hosting MHSAA Division II and III regionals this year.

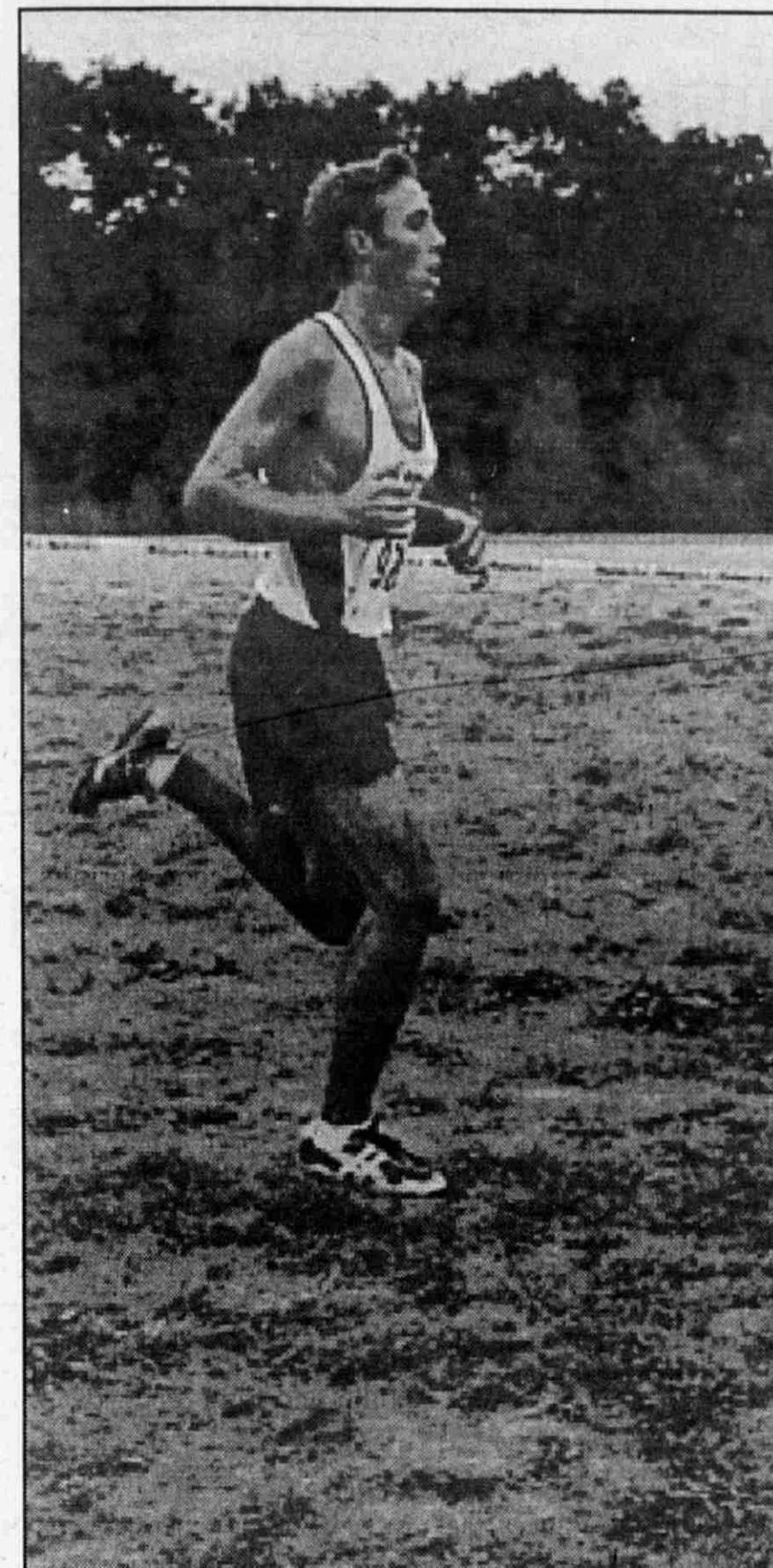
In last week's OK White conference action, the Lowell boys lost to East Grand Rapids, 21-34. They are 0-3 in the conference. Lowell girls are 2-1 in conference after losing 13-69 against the Pioneers.

The Red Arrows host Kenowa Hills Wednesday at 5 p.m.



Abbie Debiak (left) and Monica Fitzpatrick finished second and third for Lowell and 32nd and 33rd overall in the girls Division three race at the Lowell Invitational. Karen Judd took Lowell's top spot and 21st in the race overall with a time of 20:44.

At left, Lowell's Eric Schumm sprints to the finish at the Lowell Invitational. He was Lowell's top finisher in the boys race.



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—Albert Einstein

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- UPS/FedEx Shipping
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- Specialty Gift Shop
- Gift Wrapping Services
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IN MEMORIAM

the 1,000 since
19 March 2003

To be a "war president,"
you got to have a war.

Proverbs 29:9-12

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1999 DODGE RAM 1500 4X4
Quad cab pickup, new car trade, V-8, fully loaded, and 63,000 mi.
\$15,994



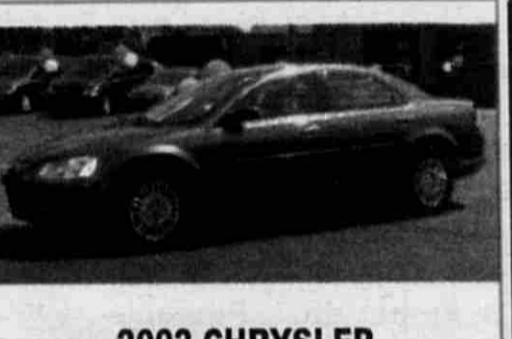
2002 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER
Limited, auto., air, moonroof & more! New car trade! Clean!



2000 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED
V-8, leather, moonroof, fully loaded! Fresh Trade! Sharp!



2000 FORD F-150 4X4
Ext. cab pickup, 5.4 V-8, auto., air, fully loaded & 55,000 actual miles.
\$18,794



2002 CHRYSLER SEBRING LX
4-dr., auto., air & more! Fresh trade! Must See!



2001 DODGE RAM 1500 4X4
Sport RT pickup, 5.9 V-8, auto., air & 29,000 actual miles! Clean!
\$18,994



2002 DODGE RAM 1500 4X4
Quad cab pickup, V-8, auto., air, sport pkg. & 52,000 miles!
\$21,994



2002 DODGE DAKOTA CLUB CAB
Pickup, auto., air, tilt, cruise & 59,000 actual miles! New car trade!
\$15,894



2003 DODGE DURANGO SLT PLUS
V-8, 4x4, leather, 3rd seat & loaded! New car trade!
\$21,994



2000 CHEVROLET 1500 4X4 EXT. CAB PICKUP
5.3 Vortec, V-8, auto., air, Z-71 & more!
\$16,694



2001 CHRYSLER SEBRING
Convertible, V-6, auto., air, 52,000 actual miles! New car trade!
\$12,994



1999 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO
6 cyl., auto., air, 4x4 & more. Fresh new car trade!
\$12,994



2003 DODGE DAKOTA SLT 4X4 EXT CAB PICKUP
V-8, auto., air, 20,000 actual miles, matching topper & more!



2005 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT
3400 actual miles, Stow-N-Go seats, r. air & more! Save!



2001 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SPORT
V-6, auto., front & rear air & heat, tilt, cruise & more! Fresh new car trade!



2002 JEEP LIBERTY LIMITED
4x4, V-6, auto., air, moonroof, leather and much more! Clean!
\$19,494



2002 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY LIMITED VAN
AWD, V-6, auto., quads, leather & more! Nice!
\$22,494



2000 FORD EXPLORER XLT
4x4, 4-dr., V-6, auto., air & more! New car trade!
\$9,994

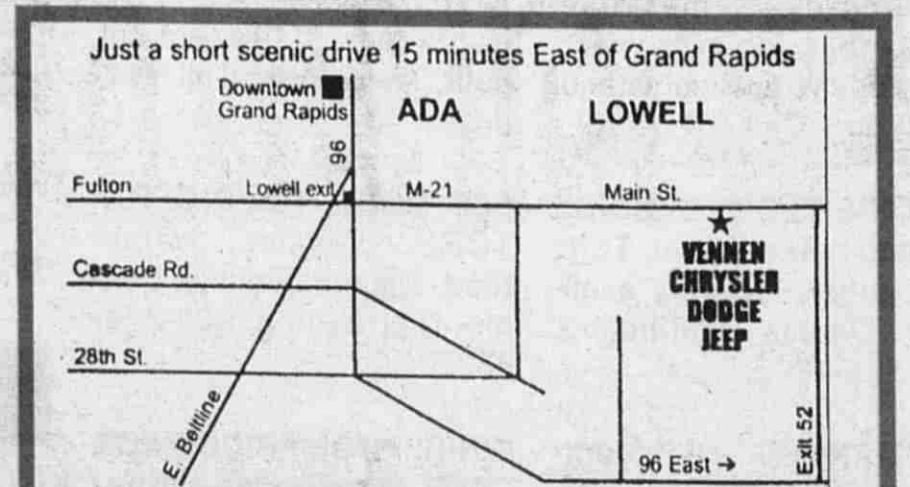


2002 FORD WINDSTAR LX
V-6, auto., air, tilt, cruise & 36,000 actual miles! Fresh new car trade!



2004 DODGE RAM 3500 QUAD CAB PICKUP
Cummins Turbo Diesel, 1 owner, 4x2, 8,000 actual miles! Hard to find! Just in!

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