

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 34 Issue 50

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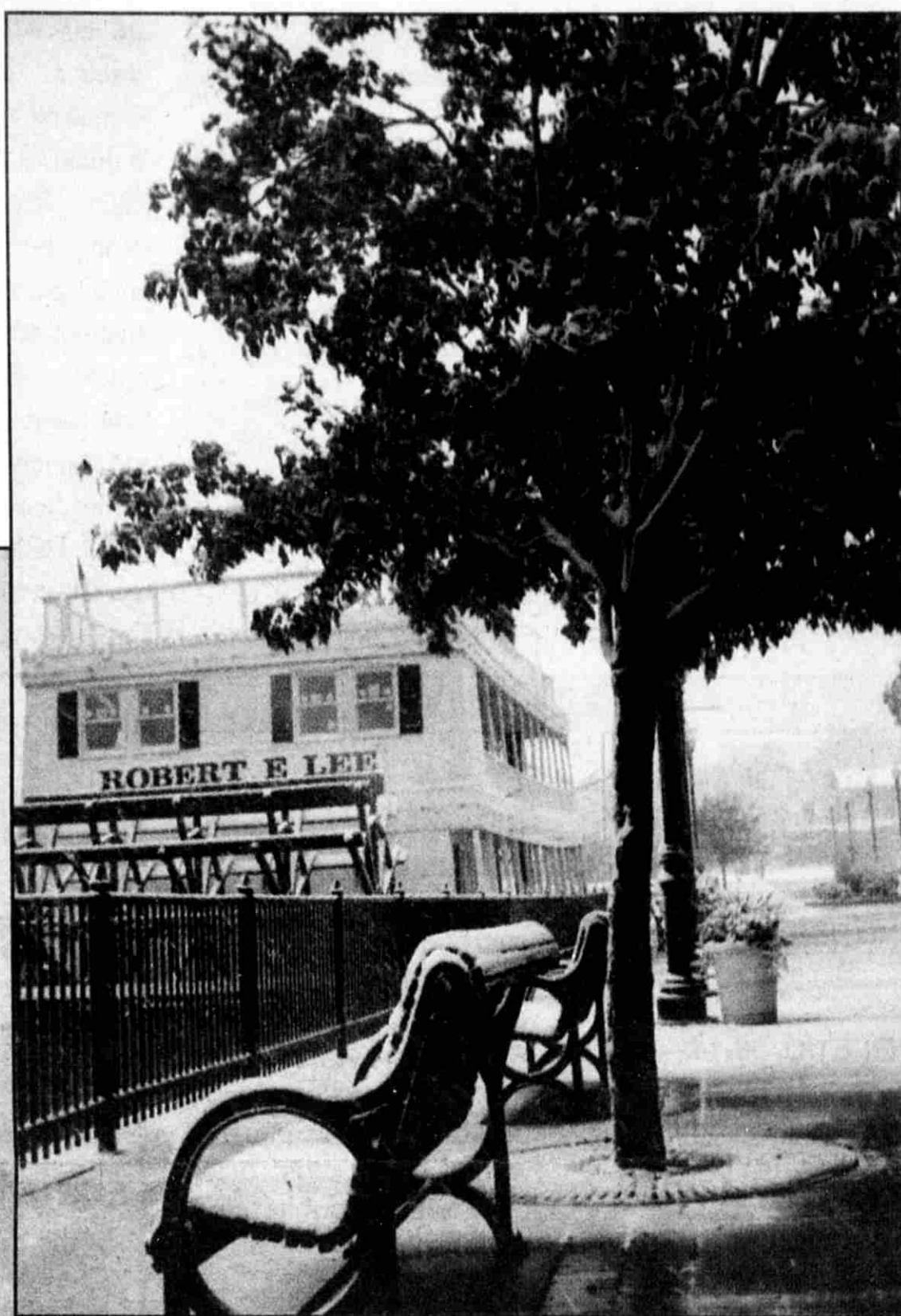
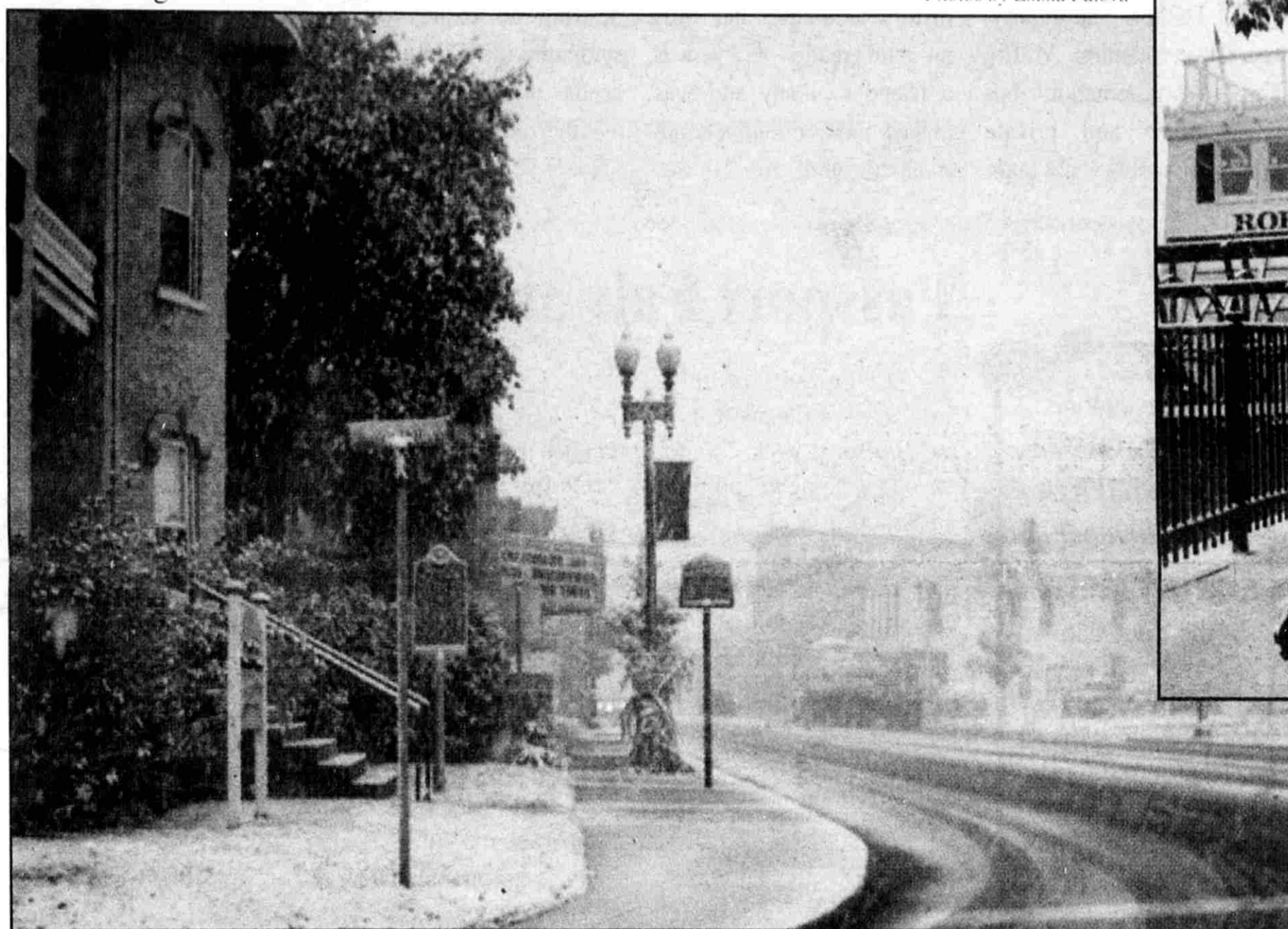
Wednesday, October 18, 2006

It really is too early for this!

While the fall colors haven't had a chance to fully materialize, last week's snowflakes covered still green and yellow wisterias, Boston ivies and purple plum trees. The surreal-like weather created majestic scenes of gardens, woods and cityscapes. Even the Lowell Showboat and trees along Riverwalk Plaza were powdered with snow.

Lowell department of public works director Dan DesJarden said, "I haven't seen snow this early in the season since I've been with the city, and that's been 24 years, probably even in my entire life." He added that the DPW didn't have to use salt; the snow melted shortly after leaving a chill in the air.

Photos by Emma Palova



No waiver for Impact - city upholds ordinance

By Emma Palova

Lowell City Council stood firm behind its sidewalk program Monday when Impact Church requested a waiver of sidewalks on Hudson Street and Lincoln Lake Ave.

The church, which is building a 284-seat sanctuary with 12 new parking spaces, is mainly located in Vergennes Township. Some of the additional parking, however, is located in the city.

The Lowell Planning Commission, at its special Oct. 5 meeting, recommended sidewalks at Hudson St. extending from the new drive north to the Vergennes' border. At Lincoln Lake Ave., the planning commission recommended sidewalks from the existing property line south to the city border. A sidewalk was also recommended at Lincoln Lake Ave. from the south property line to the existing church drive.

Sidewalks, cont'd., pg. 8

Local inventor's hoist receives award for gadgets and gimmicks

By Emma Palova

City mechanic Ralph Brecken wears many hats. He likes to work on everything. When water treatment plant superintendent George Regan asked Brecken to find an easy way to lift the 300-pound top or euro-drive on the clarifier unit, Brecken went into the inventor's mode.

Brecken invented a simple hoist from old scrap metal that won him the state American Water Works Association (AWWA) award for gimmicks and gadgets for the best idea of the year. Not only that, but it saves the utility money and increases safety, according to Regan.

"He went into the Einstein mode," said Regan, "and he invented it."

Using old scrap metal

from fire hydrants, Brecken made a hydraulic lift or hoist that helps lift the top of the heavy clarifier unit in the drinking water tank. The hoist is placed under the euro-drive as it straddles it firmly in place. With simple hydraulics, the hoist lifts the top, so the rubber spider gear underneath can be replaced.

A clarifier at the plant is like a water softener at home, explained Brecken. The clarifier unit is a huge shaft with large paddles at the end that mixes different chemicals in the water tank. Separating the top from the rest of the unit is a rubber spider gear that gets worn out by the shocks it has to absorb as the paddles start to turn. It also helps with misalignments. From time to time, the spider has to be changed.

Prior to Brecken's invention, it took two men and 1.5 hours to replace the

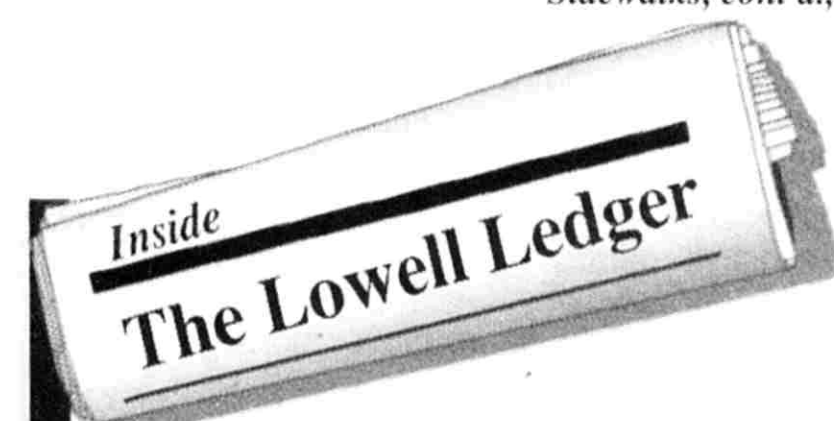
rubber spider gear. Wooden blocks had to be placed around the euro-drive to raise it up. The euro-drive would have to be tipped over, so the wooden blocks

could slide in to change the spider gear. Now, it takes 10 minutes to put in a new spider gear, explained Regan.

Inventor, cont'd., pg. 10



Dennis Benoit, AWWA co-chair for developing gadgets and gimmicks, presented Ralph Brecken with the state award for his hoist at the city chambers.

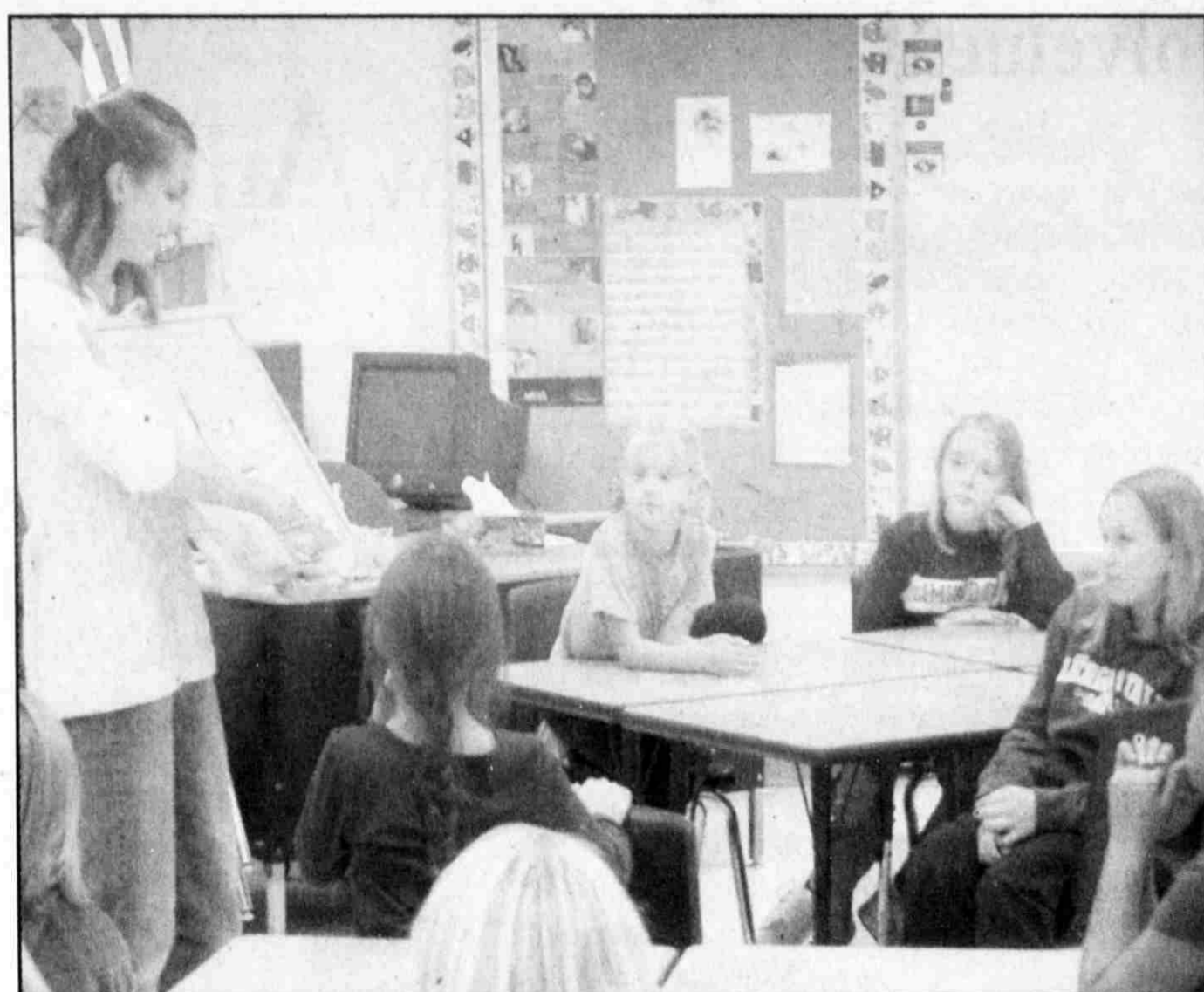


Coloring Contest Winners ...
Page 3

Jet's Lands In Town ... Page 10

Harvest Parade ... Page 11

O-K White Champs ... Page 16



Elementary Spanish

Lowell High School Spanish teacher Sarah Ellis recently began teaching an after-school Spanish class at Murray Lake Elementary. Ellis is pictured pointing out how to describe facial expressions with people's emotions. The new program, Ellis said, is helping prepare students she may have in a few years at the high school.

Sidewalks, continued ... From Page 1

Cy Floyd, representing the church, said he sees some consideration for sidewalks on Hudson due to new construction of sidewalks. But sidewalks to Vergennes' border would be sidewalks to nowhere.

"To us it would have limited value," he said.

The city closed gaps between sidewalks on Hudson St. in 2004 as part of the city sidewalk program.

"I view sidewalks for

public use," said mayor Chuck Myers. "We have closed up gaps on Hudson which is busy. Sidewalks provide for safety issues. We have to get firm on our sidewalk ordinance and uphold it."

Council members Jeanne Shores and Jim Hodges argued they would rather see kids walking on Lincoln Lake Ave. than on Hudson. Hodges suggested sidewalks be waived north

on Hudson but the church should put in sidewalks on Lincoln Lake.

The council upheld the sidewalk ordinance on a 3 - 2 vote, and did not grant the waiver to Impact Church.

Also, according to the planning commission recommendation, lighting poles on the site cannot exceed 15 feet and the light shall be directed downward.

Murray staff member of the month

Staff members at Murray Lake Elementary nominated first grade teacher Denise Washburn as September staff member of the month. Washburn brings a positive attitude to her class each day and has a dedicated work ethic. Murray Lake principal Brent Noskey said, "Denise has a great attitude toward teaching and her students. No matter what comes her way, Denise stays positive. She is a wonderful person to have on our staff."

Washburn is a graduate of Lowell High School, has a BA from Aquinas College and an MA from Western Michigan University. Currently in her 14th year of teaching, she and her husband Bruce reside in Lowell with their daughter Devin, a junior at Lowell High School. "I enjoy teaching at Murray Lake because of the supportive, encouraging and knowledgeable staff and principal, the parent partnerships, and of course the kids! I love the atmosphere here at Murray Lake. We all have a job to do. It is done with high expectations and accountability, but we can also have fun. The working, teaching, learning environment at Murray Lake is outstanding," said Washburn.



Tots, continued ... From Page 7

Various resources at groups, grand- and step- future student enrollment, FRC range from books and parenting, learning games videos about health and about shapes and colors, and nutrition, dental health, early literacy skills. Some of the benefits of TOTS include increased

improvements in learning productivity, higher graduation rates, lower teen pregnancy, higher wages, and reduction in abuse and neglect.

"The program helps get parents involved early with their children's education," she said. "It builds school involvement." Cole is also in charge of character education. She will be conducting a bully prevention workshop for teachers on Nov. 1. "It's highly effective," she said.

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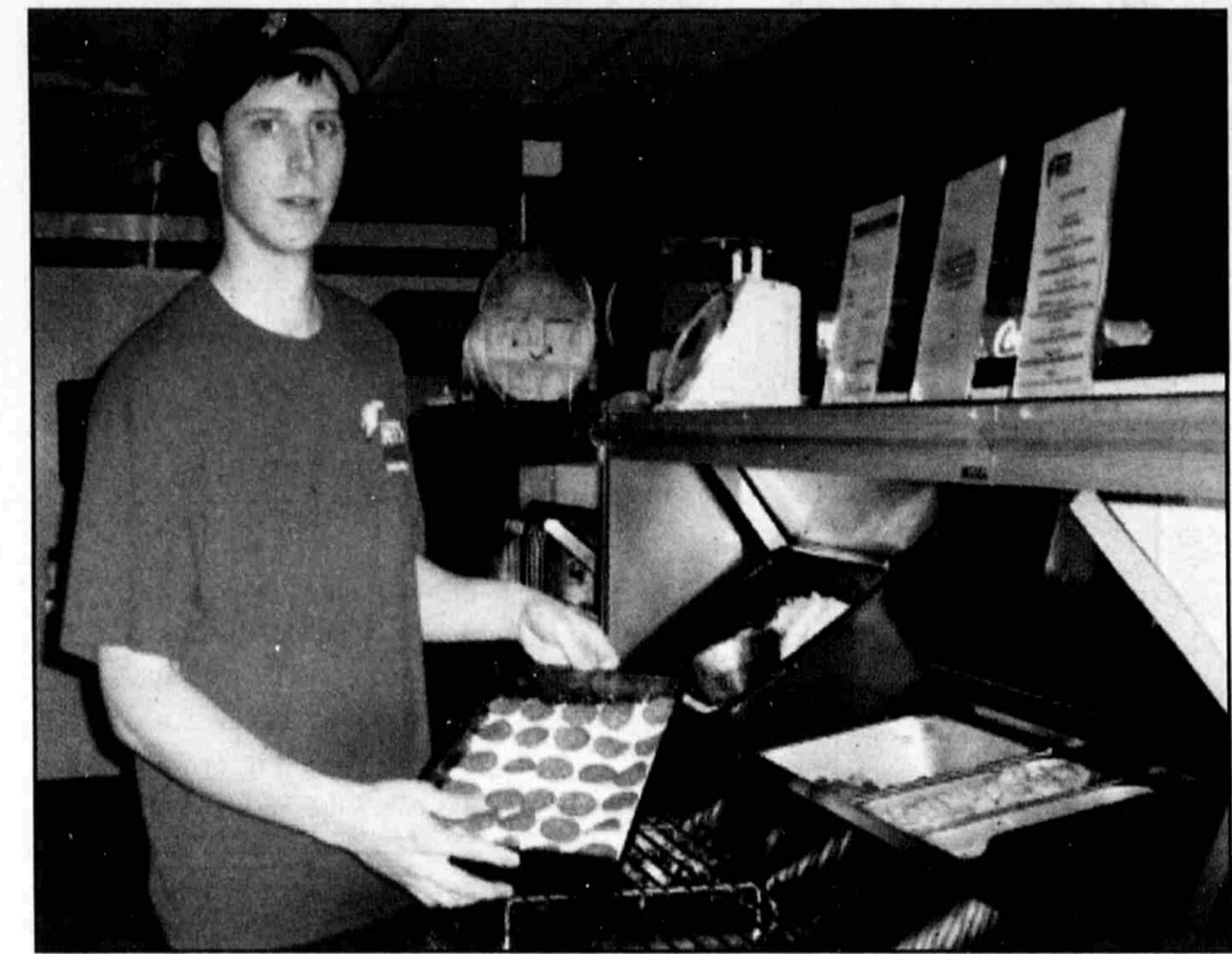
BUSINESSES SERVICES

BUSINESSES SERVICES

New pizza business arrives in Lowell

By Emma Palova

Jet's Pizza has landed in Lowell with its best known passenger, the square deep dish pizza. The popular pizza with lots of cheese and crunchier crust can be topped with just about anything. Made daily from fresh dough, the large deep dish pizza serves three to five.



Pizza toppings range from pepperoni to pineapple and anchovies. Feta cheese and chicken are available for an additional charge. "This is what separates us from other competition," said manager Mike Sawyer. The deep dish pizza slowly travels through a large oven for eight minutes that bakes it to perfection. Paired with cheesy bread sticks and garlic dipping sauce, the pizza may just hit the spot on a wintery day. Also available is the traditional hand-tossed round pizza.

And, said Sawyer, the cinnamon jet-sticks topped with cinnamon and vanilla icing are very popular, as well. New on the menu are Jet's boneless chicken tenders with BBQ sauce. "We have a hard time keeping them in," said Sawyer. Although subs are available, Jet's also offers deli boats. Made of freshly baked pizza dough, Jet boats are like calzonis with cheese and toppings. The take-out and order pizza place, with its red, white and green decor, has been renovated from a former garage and is located next to Pauly's on M-21 across from Key Heights Village. "We're circling Grand Rapids," said Sawyer. "The next one will be in Cascade." With its original location in Detroit, Jet's has 150 locations nationwide. "We hope to stick around," he said, "and get to know people." Jet's Pizza helps with donations to school functions and offers discounts on big orders. "We work with our customers," said Sawyer.

Mike Sawyer, manager of Jet's Pizza, makes the signature deep dish pizza.

Inventor, continued ... From Page 1

Although built specifically for the Lowell Water Treatment Plant, Brecken's hoist would fit most utilities of Lowell's size. "It's a standard unit," said Regan. Brecken was surprised when he received the award. It's not like he sits around all day thinking about inventions, but when there is a need, he has a solution. "It's just a simple hoist," Brecken said. "I looked for a simple mechanism that will help in the water field. It's a product of necessity. We needed a hoist and I built it. It's part of my job." Encouraged by all, Brecken is now ready to enter his hoist into the national AWWA competition. The national honor comes with a \$1,000 monetary award. Brecken has received \$500 for his state award. The AWWA criteria for gimmicks and gadgets competition includes simplicity and originality. "What they liked about my hoist was that it was made from recycled material and that it is simple," said Brecken. Dennis Benoit, AWWA co-chair of committee for developing gadgets and gimmicks, said the entries were judged on basis of ingenuity.

"He can enter national competition," he said. According to AWWA criteria for the gadget award, the idea for the device or the procedure is the most important part of the story. Everything else is details that can be usually set down in a simple standard format.



Ralph Brecken shows the milling machine in the city garage.

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LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS BOARD BRIEFS

Regular Meeting of October 9, 2006

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Brooke Liu, Student Council President and Student Representative to the Board, reported that Homecoming was a success and students were able to raise money for "Alternatives in Motion" a non-profit group who provides wheelchairs for the uninsured. The student council is sponsoring a blood drive on Nov. 3 and they are hoping that more students and community members will participate so they can top their goal of 100 pints.

REPORTS

TOTS and Curiosity Corner

Kathy Cole shared information on the Tots On Track for School program and the Curiosity Preschool. The TOTS program is available for all families living in the Lowell area with children from birth to beginning school. Playgroups, monthly family nights, parenting classes, along with music, art, and cooking classes are offered. Curiosity Corner Preschool for 3 year olds and 4 year olds provides classes two to three mornings or afternoons a week.

ACTION ITEMS

The Board accepted the following gifts:

- Doug & Brenda Nowak donation of books valued at \$271.75 to be used by Murray Lake Elementary School
- The Damm family donation of books valued at \$75 to be used by the Murray Lake Elementary School Media Center.
- Wendy Jeffrey donation of books valued at \$25 to be used by Murray Lake Elementary School.

CONSENT ITEMS

- Approved/adopted were:
- Minutes for the September 11, 2006 Regular Meeting, September 25, 2006 Special Meeting, September 25, 2006 Board Workshop, and September 25, 2006 Closed Session
 - The following payment of bills for September 2006:

GENERAL FUND.....	\$1,351,280.85
SCHOOL SERVICES FUND	
A. Food Service Fund.....	\$9,472.54
B. Athletic Fund.....	\$5,507.51
Scholarship Fund.....	\$1,000.00
1990 Debt Fund.....	\$10,350.06
2000 Debt Fund.....	\$4,708.43
2004 Debt Fund.....	\$18,190.94
TRUST AND AGENCY FUND.....	\$30,687.10
 - Overnight student trips for 2006-2007
 - West Michigan Risk Management Trust Resolution

BUDGET UPDATE - Connie Gillette reported that the September student count was taken and that once a review has been made by Kent ISD, the numbers will officially be given. The Board will look at a budget amendment during their October workshop based on the student count, and they will adopt the amendment at their November Board meeting.

CURRICULUM UPDATE - Roger Bearup, newly hired Coordinator of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction, reported that MEAP testing will run from Oct 9-27. The Data Warehouse is being implemented at Lowell and will be an outstanding tool in student progress assessment. Roger said that he has been made to feel very welcome at Lowell and that he is excited to be on board.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Greg Pratt gave a report on the November 7 Proposal 5 education ballot initiative. While the proposal is a legislative initiative and does not amend the Michigan Constitution, it does make public education, kindergarten through university, a top State government budget priority. Greg encouraged voters to study this proposal and all the other ballot proposals prior to the November 7 election. Greg also emphasized that Lowell Area Schools continues to review safety procedures for students and staff. Administrators have recently met with local police and fire personnel to review all aspects of school safety. Greg reported that Lowell Ledger reporter Dan Schneider has recently moved to the UP and he wished him well. He announced that Dan's replacement is Emma Palova and he welcomed her to this new position.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Board Workshop - Monday, October 23, 2006 - 5:30 p.m.
 Runciman Administration Building - Board Room
 300 High St., Lowell, MI

Regular Board Meeting - Monday, November 13, 2006
 Runciman Administration Building - Board Room
 300 High St., Lowell, MI - 7:00 p.m.

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Crowd gives warm reception to huge Harvest parade

By Emma Palova

Hundreds of spectators enjoyed the Harvest Parade on a chilly but sunny afternoon last Saturday only two days after a record snowfall.

With more than 80 entries, the parade was well represented. The first part consisted of the military salute including a fly-over by A-10's jet attack aircraft from the 110th Fighter Wing of Battle Creek. Lowell High School senior Brennan Ellison sang the national anthem in front of a packed downtown from a tribune set up near the Flat River. And announcing each parade entry were LHS cheerleaders carrying a picket sign.

The official parade opened with Native American drummers and a Native American group in full regalia. There was a horse-drawn float by the Lowell Area Historical Museum and a float of "Fashions Through the Ages" by Lowell Senior Neighbors.

"I stood there knowing what was coming," said parade director Dave Thompson, "and I was still impressed."



The Grand Rapids District Bag Pipe band marched during the Harvest Celebration parade.



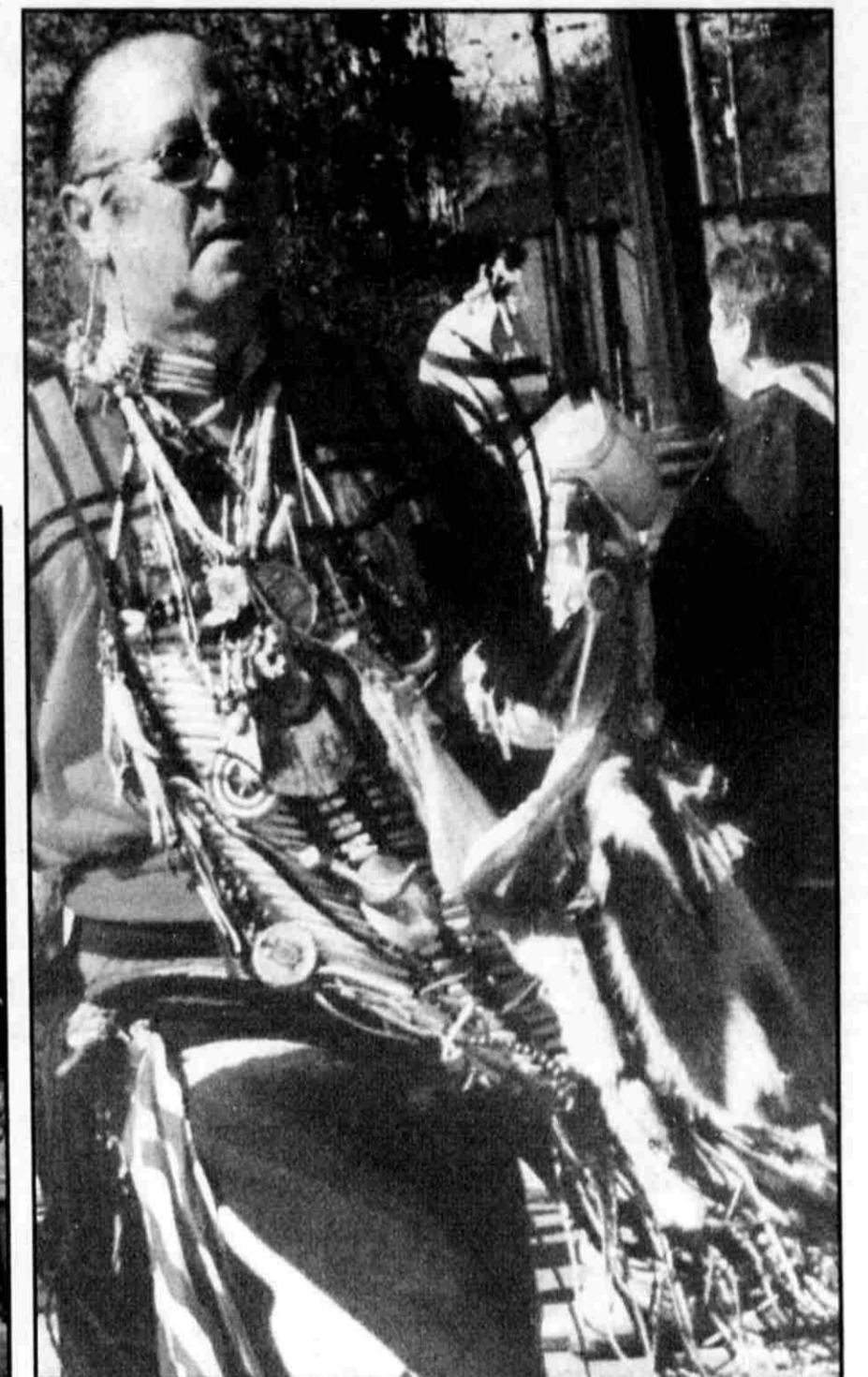
Senior Neighbors had a float of period costumes.

According to Thompson, many kids were highlighted in the parade, such as the Lowell Equestrian Team and the Unity High School students. There was also a float with a model of the new First Congregational Church on Lincoln Lake Ave.

Bands ranged from the Grand Rapids District Bag Pipe Band and Lowell Area Schools bands to the

German Umpah Band. And there was the smell of chili in the air on N. Broadway St. between Larkin's and the Lowell Ledger office.

"I am tremendously pleased with how everything came together," said Thompson. "I am grateful to all the volunteers." Bands ranged from the Grand Rapids District Bag Pipe Band and Lowell Area Schools bands to the



An Indian drummer was one of many diverse entries in last Saturday's parade.



Unity High School students as well as bespeckled Lowell Middle Schools clowns donned red noses as they marched along.



Lowell veterans from all wars stood in review.

TOWNSHIP OF GRATTAN COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN

NOTICE TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GRATTAN OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2006 SPECIAL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that a SPECIAL ELECTION will be held in the Township of Grattan on November 7, 2006, from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Local Time, to vote on the following Ballot Proposition:

MILLAGE PROPOSITION

.3577 MILL FOR TOWNSHIP GENERAL OPERATING PURPOSES RESTORATION OF PAST HEADLEE REDUCTIONS

Shall the Township of Grattan property tax rate limitation be increased, and shall said increase be levied on taxable property in the Township, in the amount of .3577 mill (\$.3577 per \$1,000 of taxable value), subject to reduction as provided by law?

As an example, a resident with a home having a taxable value of \$100,000 would have an increase in annual property taxes of \$35.77.

The purpose of the millage levy is to offset decreases in the Township's allocated operating millage levy as a result of the Headlee Amendment. Property tax revenues generated by this millage levy will be used for general Township operations. It is estimated that a levy of .3577 mill would provide revenue of \$50,645 in the first calendar year. Revenues from the millage will be disbursed to the Township of Grattan.

YES _____
NO _____

List of Polling Place Locations:

Precinct 1:	Grattan Township Hall 12050 Old Belding Road
Precinct 2:	Fire Station 12134 Old Belding Road

The following is the statement of the Kent County Treasurer, given as provided by Act 62 of the Public Acts of Michigan 1933, as amended:

Statement of Kent County Treasurer as to Voted Increases

I, Kenneth Parrish, Treasurer of Kent County, Michigan, hereby certify that as of September 15, 2006, the records of this office indicate that the total of all voted increases over and above the tax limitation established by the Constitution of Michigan, in any local units of government affecting the taxable property located in Grattan Township, Kent County, Michigan, is as follows:

Unit	Voted Increases	Years Effective	
By Kent County:	III84 Mill	1990 to 2009, inclusive	
	III33 Mill	2006 to 2013, inclusive	
By Grattan Township:	1.10 Mill	1979 Unlimited	
	1.00 Mill	2004 to 2009, inclusive	
	III50 Mill	2004 to 2009, inclusive	
By Belding Area Public Schools:	18.00 Mills (exempting principal residence and qualified agricultural property)	1999 to 2018, inclusive	
	II7.00 Mills	1996 to 2026, inclusive	
	II2.00 Mills	2006 to 2018, inclusive	
	18.00 Mills (exempting principal residence and qualified agricultural property)	2000 to 2009, inclusive	
By Rockford Public Schools:	II.00 Mill	2004 to 2023, inclusive	
	III7.15 Mill	1990 Unlimited	
	II.65 Mills	1992 Unlimited	
	III1.43 Mill	1996 Unlimited	
	III.091 Mills	1997 Unlimited	
	III4.46 Mill	1997 Unlimited	
	II.27 Mills	1997 Unlimited	
	II.185 Mills	1997 Unlimited	
	By Lowell Public Schools:	18.00 Mills (exempting principal residence and qualified agricultural property)	2006 to 2009, inclusive
		III.60 Mills	1990 to 2020, inclusive
III.55 Mill		2000 to 2030, inclusive	
III.10 Mill		2004 Unlimited	
III.75 Mill		2005 Unlimited	

Dated: September 6, 2006

/s/Kenneth D. Parrish
Kenneth D. Parrish
Kent County Treasurer

This Notice is given by authority of the Township Board of the Township of Grattan, County of Kent, State of Michigan.

Lana Green, Clerk
Township of Grattan

To The Editor, continued ... From Page 5

• All consumption would be in a strictly controlled environment.

• The State requires every server be trained, certified, and remain current with skills to recognize when a guest is nearing the point of being overserved and the appropriate intervention techniques.

• Servers and business owners have great incentive not to overserve clients. One lawsuit from an intoxicated person can result in the business, the business owner, and even the server losing all their property and their livelihood.

• I am not opening a drinking establishment. I am opening a place for celebrations.

Voting yes on this proposal would prohibit package liquor stores. When I wrote this proposal I chose phrasing which will provide the citizens of Vergennes Township with a great amount of control while still allowing them to choose whether they want the right to enjoy a cocktail.

But let me be clear: this proposal is not about my business. It is a proposal of how Vergennes' citizens can cope with growth, encourage business, and still retain the quiet restrained lifestyle of the past. We want this proposal in place so we will not have to fight somebody else with a much less restrictive proposal.

If you vote in Vergennes Township, vote yes on the last issue on your ballot.

Sincerely, Kent McKay

Conservancy asks deer hunters to help

The Michigan Wildlife Conservancy is urging Michigan's deer hunters to report sightings of cougars (mountain lions) again this fall. For the last eight years, the nonprofit organization, based near Lansing, has conducted research on the big predators, which were once thought to have vanished from the state by the early 1900s.

Field work by the Wildlife Conservancy, published in a peer-reviewed scientific article, detected cougars in widely-separated areas of both the Upper and Lower Peninsulas. On Oct. 5 the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officially acknowledged the credibility of the Conservancy research and conceded that Michigan has cougars.

"We suspect that on Nov. 15 more cougars are seen in Michigan than on any other date," said Dave Haywood, president of the Conservancy. "Deer hunter reports have helped identify cougar home ranges in

years past, so we are again asking the state's 750,000 gun hunters and numerous bow hunters for help in obtaining information about this endangered species. We urge them to take video or still cameras to their blinds when hunting this fall."

While the Conservancy is interested in all cougar sighting reports, the organization is making a special appeal to hunters in Southern Michigan where there have been numerous recent reports of the sightings. A horse killed in Jackson County last year was the victim of a cougar attack.

The cougar is fully-protected by state law, and the Conservancy has established the Michigan Cougar Protection Fund to increase awareness of their presence and biology, aid future research, and help curb illegal killing.

Hunters and other citizens can contact the Conservancy at 517-641-7677 or by email at wildlife@miwildlife.org.



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Remodeled McDonald's to carry specialty coffees

By Emma Palova

The remodeled McDonald's in Lowell will start offering specialty coffees at its McCafe counter on election day.

Although the dining room will be closed during renovation from Oct. 16 through Nov. 6, the drive-thru will stay open.

Specialty coffees will include cappuccino, mocha, latte and other high line coffees from freshly ground beans. They will be served from behind an etched glass counter. Cold coffees will also be available. "There's a market out there for specialty coffees that needs to be developed," said owner Larry Berg, "at a reasonable price."

Since the beverage counters will be basically reversed, the flow of traffic should improve, Berg said.

The dining area will be larger with new seating and interior decor in burgundy and gold colors. The back door has been eliminated to make room for a corner electric fireplace near the restrooms.

In the Playland, there will be a table with chairs for kids. While play equipment will remain the same, the floor will have a new safety surface. The glass wall, now moved back 10 feet to increase the dining area, will be a solid wall.

"The big toy will remain the same," said Berg. "Our goal is to reopen on election day."

There will be no layoffs, according to Berg. And the level of employment will stay the same if not increase.

"We're bringing in a higher class experience," said Berg. "We're moving into the 21st century. We're ready for a facelift."

There will be construction-special coupons during the renovations.

The contractor is Houseman Construction from Grand Rapids.



McDonald's franchise owner Larry Berg next to a sign that explains his restaurant's renovations.

Lowell's marching band competes at marching invitational

The Lowell High School Red Arrow Marching Band competed in Richland at the Gull Lake High School Marching Invitational last Saturday, Oct. 14.

The competition was part of the Scholastic Competitive Marching Circuit and was judged under the Michigan Marching Band Judging System.

Lowell's marching band performed its halftime show featuring music from

"Rent," the hit Broadway musical. Lowell took second place in class A with a score of 77.4 points out of 100. Judges evaluated music performance, music effect, marching performance, and visual effect, as well as performance of the color guard and percussion sections.

"We are very proud of our students' accomplishments this season," said director Tim Haan.

Assistant director Kate Bredwell added, "The competition was a good experience for the band. Our only regret is not being able to participate in the Fall Festival Parade."

This is the second year

that the Red Arrow Marching Band has participated in competition. The band is led

by drum majors' Erin Soules and Gary Kilgore, along with flag captain Mary Gillhespy.

The color guard is instructed by Sharon MacDermaid and Terry Raymor.

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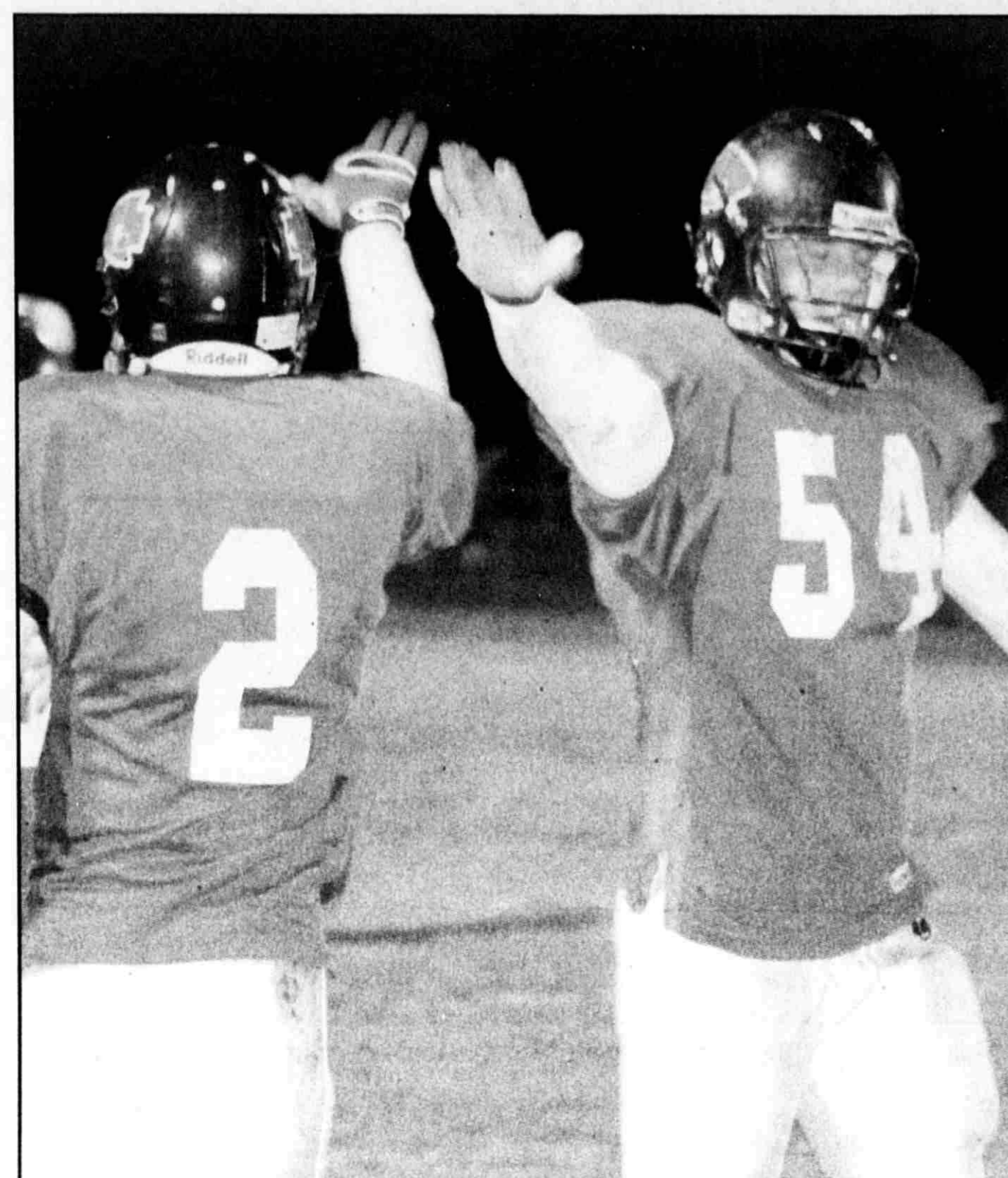
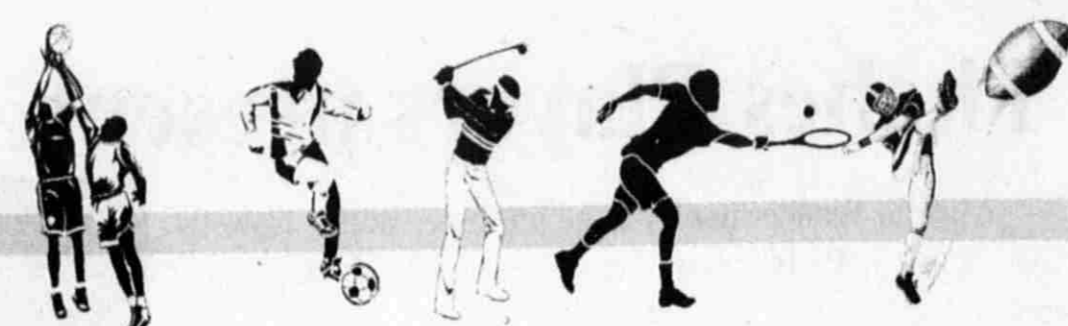
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RED ARROW SPORTS



Champs once again! Red Arrow football claims share of league title

By Justin Swan

While it's hardly Mission Accomplished, last week's victory over the Northview Wildcats does eliminate the first hurdle in a series of late-season goals for Lowell football. The Red Arrows' usual shelling of another conference foe, before a numbed home crowd, last week afforded Lowell its first O-K White title since their State Championship run two years ago.

The victory, a sound 48-0 win over the Wildcats, kept the Red Arrows atop the league standings, and as one

of only two West Michigan teams with unscathed records, joining Muskegon at 8-0 overall.

The shutout was one of three this season for Lowell, the most since 2004 when they held seven opponents scoreless, which included 7-out-of-nine during midseason.

Against Northview, the Red Arrows sang a similar tune on offense as well, rounding up 285 yards rushing to go with

124 yards passing behind another strong performance from senior quarterback Keith Nichol. Kameron

Blake continued to run the ball well and showed some breakaway ability with a 66-yard touchdown run in the third-quarter.

The Red Arrows will travel to Kenowa Hills on Friday to close the regular season. Despite the Knights' record (2-6) there will likely be some scoring chance at the hands of quarterback Kurt VanEssen, who can get to the end zone on the ground and through the air.

A victory will give the Red Arrows the O-K White title outright and the guarantee to play host for the opening round of the playoffs on Oct. 27.

Mike McElroy gets a high five from Taylor Sprague in the second quarter

Girls vindicate early season loss by mowing down EGR

By Justin Swan

It wasn't so much a guarantee that senior Amanda Geelhoed made following last week's decisive victory over Grand Rapids Christian ... more like a confident statement.

"We're going to beat East," she said with certainty and a smile. She was right.

In a game with first place implications in the O-K White, the Red Arrows sought revenge on East Grand Rapids after a loss to the Pioneers one month ago to the day. In that game, East overcame a fourth-quarter lead to upend the Arrows 39-44, but a lot has changed since then.

"The first time we played them I didn't think we were very smart defensively," said Lowell head coach Dee Crowley. "We talked about that game and were really focused on fixing

those defensive mistakes we made before. I thought the girls did a really good job of executing our game plan; they were prepared, they were focused, they knew what they were going to do and how to stop them."

The Pioneers held an early lead before Chelsea Harrison forced a turnover and quickly dished the ball to fellow guard Brittany Bueche for an easy basket. Consecutive 3-pointers midway through the second quarter by the backcourt duo, including some transition baskets, resulted in a 14-0 run by the Red Arrows, who went into the locker room at halftime with a 24-16 lead.

The second half was all Lowell, particularly on defense as they held the Pioneers to just five second-half field goals; a source of pride for the Red Arrow coach.

"There was a stretch

in the second half when we were right where they wanted to go with the ball every time," Crowley said. "We were just making sure to jump the pass, to know who the scorers were and just being a little more physical underneath. We take a lot of pride in our defense so we want to make sure that's the strongest part of our game."

One player in particular, Brittany Lyman, has been at the right place at the right time lately, racking up countless steals for the Red Arrows over the last several games. The result of some savvy work in practice, according to the senior.

"I just try to sag a little bit in to the lane to help everyone out and just stay up to the ball," Lyman said. "Lately we've been playing a kind of zone where we

Basketball, cont'd., pg. 18



Senior Brittany Lyman has been a terror on defense this season.

Tournament troubles at Kaufman end golf season at regionals

By Justin Swan

Despite solid play from seniors Eric Mundt and Brian Scheider, the Red Arrows varsity golf team finished last at the regional tournament at Kaufman Golf Course, ending an up and down season.

Both Mundt and Scheider scored rounds of 82 on Monday giving head coach Gary Fredline some hope that perhaps his team, which would have to place in the top three to advance to

the state tournament, could survive.

But high scores of 90 and 91 resulted in a total score of 345, ending the season for boys golf, which he said did quite well at times throughout the year.

"We lost our top three scorers from last year and our seniors really stepped it up," Fredline said. "We actually had a better average in our dual meets this year than they did last year, and that was due to a lot of hard work over the summer."

The work contributed to a respectable finish in the O-K White. "We finished fourth overall in conference, so I think it was a good year for us," said Fredline, who enjoyed some improvement in his team's play last week during the conference tournament at Thornapple Pointe Golf Course.

"I think we improved a lot since finishing last in the first tournament in the pre-season. We raised our standing by a couple of places and were only a

couple of shots out of third," he added.

And while overall the team struggled in tournament play, they were impressive in dual meets, going 6-3 on the season. A record Fredline credits to the off-season work ethic of his upperclassmen, which he hopes will transcend down to next year's core group of returning players.

"The senior class did step up quite well," Fredline said. "Brian (Scheider),

Lance (Perkins) and Eric (Mundt) each significantly lowered their averages from the last year. We have a couple juniors in Allen Messing and Richard Porter who have played quite well and will basically make up the nucleus of next year's team."

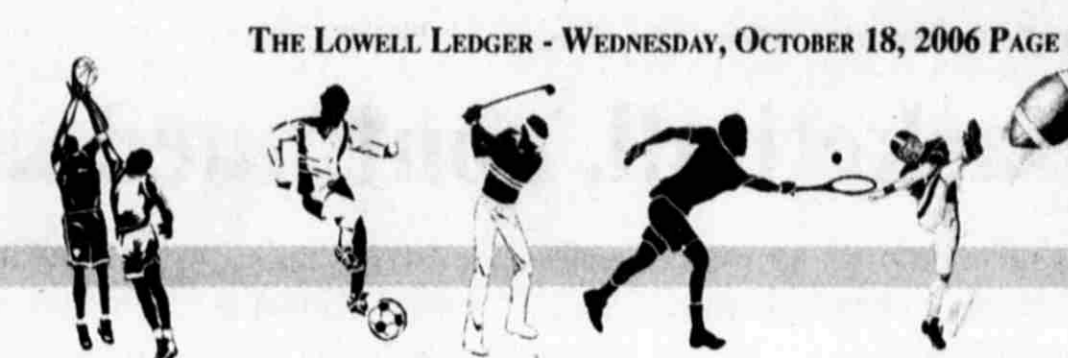
Fredline's summer camp in July has afforded him a great opportunity to help teach sound golf technique to his younger players, but

admits it's really up to the varsity players to improve throughout the off-season.

"They contribute to their own success by playing in tournaments throughout the summer," he said. "There are a lot of tournaments available for junior golfers, and that's where they get their best experience."

In the meantime Fredline will begin to prep the girls' golf team for spring competition.

RED ARROW SPORTS



Boys soccer off to a good start in first round of districts

By Justin Swan

Varsity soccer captain Chris Barlow put it best. "It's do or die." As one of only a handful of returning players from last season, Lowell coach Paul Legge can't say enough about Barlow. His three goals in Lowell's 6-1 victory over Creston during the first round of the district tournament are just one of a few bright spots for a team that's struggled up to this point. "We've only won six games this year," said Legge. "It has been a down year for us."

Followers of Red Arrow soccer have grown accustomed to winning over the last several seasons. Lowell's been ranked in the state in each of the past five years, and it wasn't uncommon to put up 15 or 16 wins a year, according to Legge. This season, however, has been different.

"Last year we had 11 seniors graduate, nine of which had started since they were sophomores," Legge said. "Youthful mistakes are hurting us, but at the same time the ability and talent of our younger guys is what has made us successful."

Which is when leadership from seniors like Barlow becomes so important, said Legge.

One of this year's captains, Barlow is no stranger to post-season play, and it showed in his first opportunity of the playoffs, scoring the second goal of the game against Creston which broke a 1-1 tie. Lowell's third goal by sophomore Ian Beddows, off an assist by junior Nick Abdo, was followed by two more goals from Barlow, putting the game out of reach and giving him the hat trick.

"It was nice to finally be able to put some in the back of the net," Barlow said. "All year I've been able to play ball, I just had a hard time finishing, so it was nice to put some in."

"Chris put it together tonight," Legge said. "I think he only had three goals all season up to this point, but he's an outstanding player."

Legge couldn't help but cringe at the missed opportunities early in the game, however. Countless chances presented them from scoring in the Creston goal, missed opportunities Legge worried might come back to haunt them.

"We put it together later in the game, it was just a poor effort in the first half," he said. "Finishing opportunities were there, but we just couldn't get it done. It was frustrating, but the second half was better."

And it's times like that when seasoned players like



The snow was noticeable in front of the lights in what head coach Paul Legge calls "perfect soccer weather."

Barlow, who's been on the last three teams "that were just outstanding," according to Legge, come in handy.

And Legge hopes that the sudden surge in scoring becomes contagious going into the second round this Thursday. With forecasts projected to be in the range which Legge calls "perfect soccer weather," he's hoping the balls continue to find the back of the net.

"Scoring a lot of goals certainly helps," he said. "On Thursday we'll play East Grand Rapids or Forest Hills Northern. We've played both of them this year, and beat Northern earlier in the season, so I think we know we can carry this over and win district."

But Legge admits it will take the entire team.

"It depends on who shows up," he said. "We're a very

good team when everyone plays well. If everyone doesn't play well, with the youth we have, we struggle. I think a win Thursday would put us in position to make a run. We could possibly win two or three games after that, but Thursday will be the obstacle."

"If we take our opportunities right off the bat we can beat any team," Barlow said. "We've competed with both teams, beat Northern and lost to East in overtime."

Last week Lowell traveled to East Grand Rapids where the team battled the Pioneers into overtime before succumbing 3-2. With snow sticking to the ground the weather was less than ideal for parents and fans, but the intensity of the Red Arrows was noticeable, even in the cold.

"This is the ideal temperature," he said. "Light rain and 45 to 50 degrees. This is perfect soccer weather right now."

Of course, Barlow disagrees, contending that he "hates the cold." But for a senior hoping to prolong his high school soccer career a few more games, he's not going to argue with the weatherman, especially following a hat trick.



A bundled-up Chris Barlow sends the corner kick toward the goal in a chilly match-up against East Grand Rapids last week.



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Outdoors

By
Dave Stegehuis



PAYING THE BILLS

The early morning sun highlighted the colorful foliage surrounding my tree stand as the woods came alive with the songs of busily feeding birds and the incessant chatter of a disgruntled red squirrel. Then several rapid reports from the shotguns of waterfowl hunters on the river echoed in the distance. A short time later, I heard a vehicle on the two-track where I had parked the truck. The engine stopped and a door banged shut. It was probably someone who came to hunt

squirrels, because it was getting too late in the morning for it to be another bow hunter. Just another typical weekend on public land during hunting season.

It would seem with so much hunting pressure, all the game would be gone and the habitat devastated. Just the opposite is true. Everyone hunting that day had provided financial support for the protection of the wildlife as well as the restoration and management of the habitat.

The license fees paid by hunters finance the work of state fish and game departments. In addition, a federal excise tax on firearms, ammunition and archery equipment must be returned to state wildlife agencies.

Hunters' dollars are spent to support both game and non-game species as well as habitat conservation which benefits everyone, whether one hunts or not. Many people, myself included, hike, ski, pick mushrooms and photograph wildlife in the same game area, and it doesn't cost a dime.

One of the most direct ways to support wildlife is to buy a hunting license even if it will not be used. Another option for helping wildlife and the environment is to join a conservation organization. I belong to several. Even though I have never hunted ducks and, at this time, have no plans to do so, I am a dues-paying member of a group that focuses on waterfowl conservation. This organization has a long history of supporting sound waterfowl management and establishing and protecting wetland habitat. These endeavors not only help waterfowl, but benefit a long list of other creatures from frogs to songbirds as well as plant life. For that matter, what is good for ducks is also good for people.

If you feel it is important to conserve our land and wildlife, choose an avenue to contribute to the effort in a positive and helpful manner. Wildlife management is complex and expensive and someone must pay the bills.

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