

The Lowell Ledger

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Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Ada boasts biggest tree, Vergennes has most girth

by Emma Palova

While Ada Township boasts the biggest tree located somewhere below the second hill on the Honey Creek road, Vergennes has the most inches in measured girth.

The friendly competition between the two townships has resulted basically in a tie with Vergennes Township beating Ada by 1.5 inches in total

girth, but Ada touting the single largest tree.

"I think that is hilarious," said one of the organizers Betty Jo Crosby.

Maybe hilarious, but definitely bizarre. The biggest trees in each township happen to be willows, one in Fallasburg, the other on Crancreek Drive.

The contest was organized by the Open Space Preservation Committee

to promote rural character awareness.

"We're educating the public about the importance of preserving land," said Crosby. "We're always looking for projects to involve the public. Watershed awareness is high on our priority list."

The townships have recently completed a photography contest depicting the rural character of the area.

Annual cook-off features crafty chili concoctions

by Emma Palova

Morels and round steak were among the more innovative ingredients used at the annual Larkin's chili cook-off last weekend.

Although, the traditional red fare with chili seasoning and mince prevailed, hot or mild. Out of 21 entries, Chili Dan's red chili grabbed the coveted first prize with the most red tickets received from gourmand tasters.

The competition got

off to an early start in the crisp autumn morning in front of Larkin's and the Lowell Ledger offices. The chili chefs were equipped with large pots and cooking devices of all sorts, plus all the condiments and cheeses.

John Mika grilled his round steak for a wholesome delicious chili. "You gotta go lean," he said.

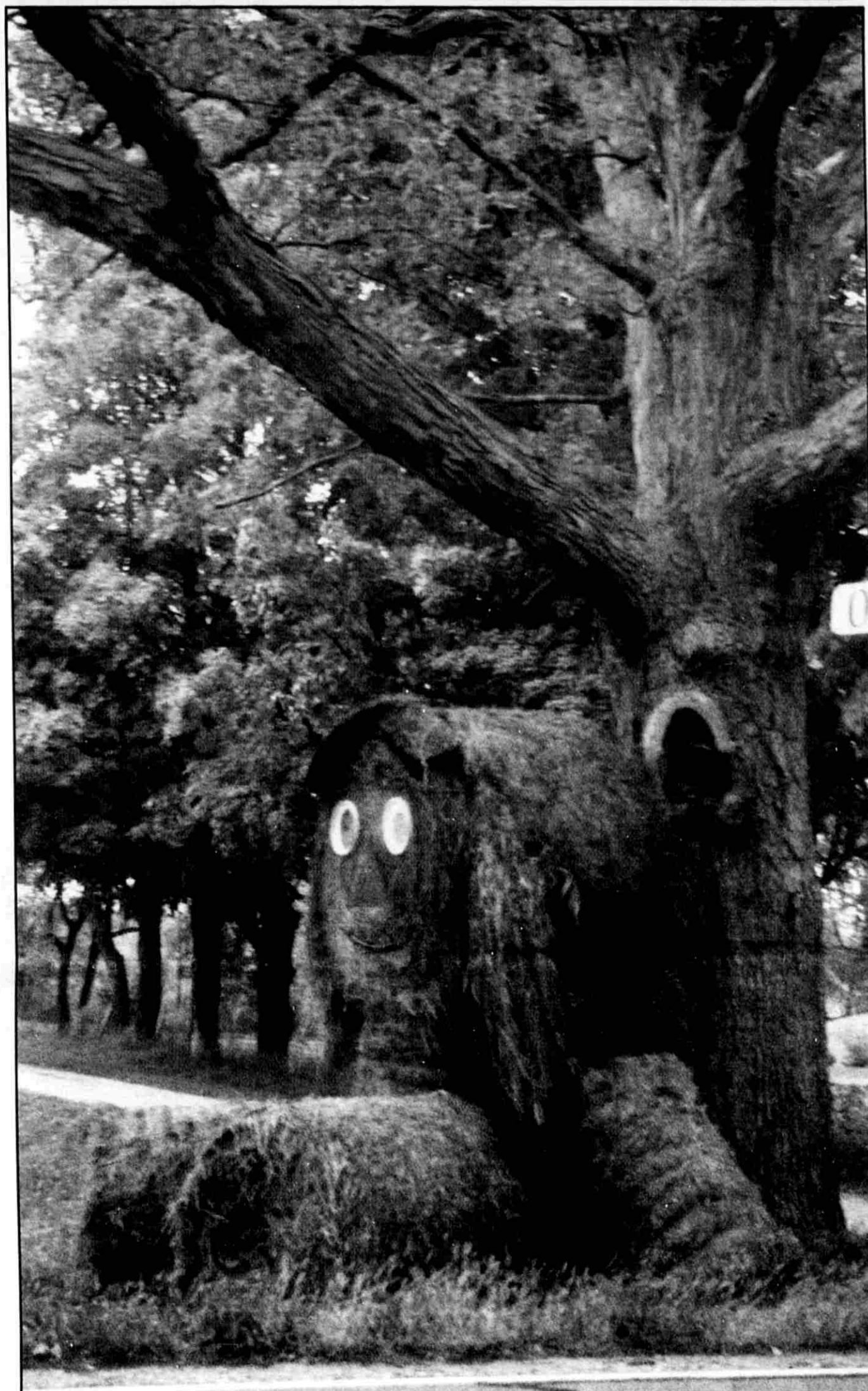
Guys like Mark Todd, Evert Bek and Mike Trimble made Rocky Mountain chili with the taste of Germany,

as their aprons boasted.

"Last year we burned the chili," said Todd.

Rick Seese made white chili with morels. Most chili entrees sold out, except for the hot, hot stuff. Beer was flowing at \$1 per plastic cup.

Some participants proudly displayed their trophies from previous years. The annual chili cook-off is a fundraiser to benefit local organizations. This year, the proceeds will go to the senior center.



Pictured is one of the bigger trees in Vergennes area decked out for Halloween.

Community input sought for Wege feasibility study

by Emma Palova

The community will have an opportunity to provide input on the recreation needs for the tri-jurisdiction area of Lowell city, Vergennes and Lowell townships on Oct. 25 at 7 p.m.

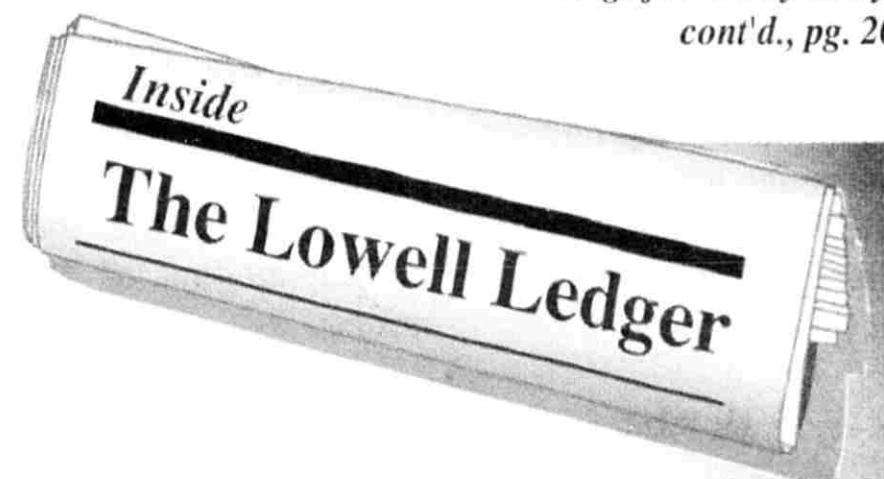
The meeting is part of a series of workshops ultimately leading to a feasibility study. The \$35,000 feasibility study will define the community's vision for the use of land that may be donated by the Wege Foundation. The study may also be used to apply for grants.

The Wege Foundation has proposed to donate land located on Alden Nash,

north of Foreman Road if the community can come up with a plan.

"The land offered by the Wege Foundation

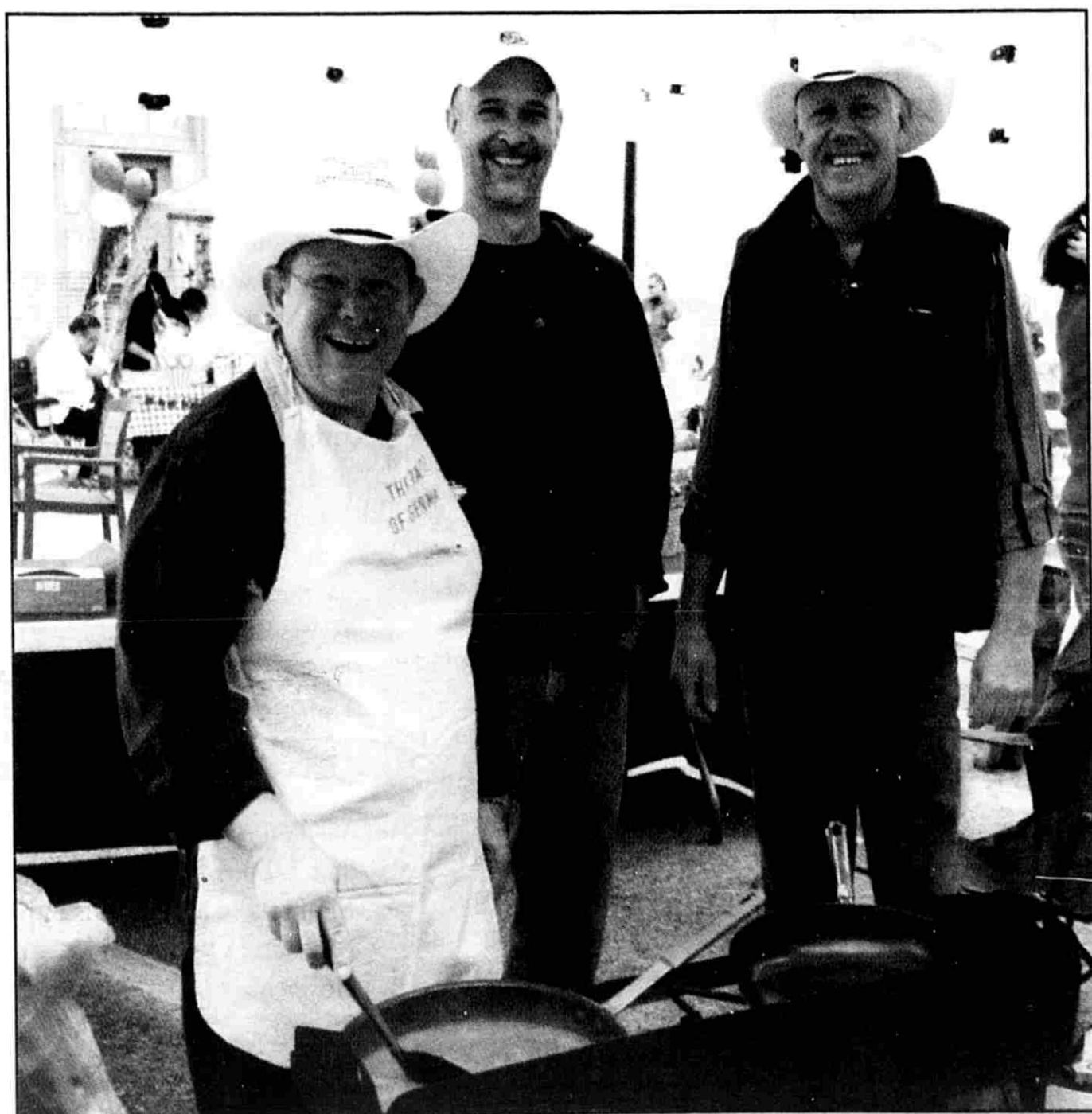
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Mark Todd, Mike Trimble and Evert Bek made Rocky Mountain chili.

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Reverend pens winning ghost story inspired by man in river

by Emma Palova

A writing reverend from Grand Rapids has penned the winning short story for the annual ghost story contest.

Inspired by a fisherman in the Grand River flowing through Lowell on a gloomy overcast day last year, Dr. Louis Lotz of Grand Rapids has written the spooky "Man Drowns in River."

Although Lotz has been published in various religious periodicals over the years, this was his first try at writing something scary.

"I suppose that does seem odd writing scary

stories as a reverend," he said.

But on the other hand, Arthur Conan Doyle, the author of Sherlock Holmes stories was a physician, and Edgar Rice Burroughs and Edgar Rice Burroughs had never set foot in Africa when he wrote Tarzan.

"What makes the story scary is that you never see the menacing, threatening presence," said Lotz. "You can feel it. You can hear it. But you never see it."

The story is about an undertaker called to the bedside of a dying man. The man, anguished and guilt-ridden, reveals a terrible secret that has been hidden

for decades. The secret concerns a drowning that occurred many years ago, and subsequent drownings on the same stretch of river.

"The story seems fantastic," said Lotz. "It can't possibly be true. The undertaker listens politely but concludes that the dying man is delusional."

Only afterwards, the undertaker discovers that the terrible secret is too true.

Following is an excerpt from the story:

"Then he felt it. A hand on his ankle. The undertaker could feel each cold finger.

Then another hand. They were pulling at him, tugging him down. He tumbled sideways into the dark water. He fought to the surface, numb, calling for help.

"But nobody came to help him. And then he went under, the river swallowed him, and he was gone. A wooden urn bobbed on the surface, and the ashes slowly disappeared in the current. Next day, a small article appeared in the local paper, "Man Drowns in River."

Lotz doesn't plan on doing anything with the story beyond the contest.

"The story I am best at is the one I tell on Sunday mornings," he said, "and in

the future I think I'll stick to that."

The second place went to another first time scary story writer, Rose Manning, for "Fancy Pants."

"I hope it is seen as strictly fiction with the idea that some true historical happenings were very scary even without ghosts," Manning said, "such as the Spanish influenza epidemic."

Manning retired as a manager in the scientific research information department from Pfizer in Ann Arbor. She plans to send her story to great nieces and nephews for Halloween and read it on PBS.

Craig Moore of Ada got third place for "SInneret".

Moore actually wrote and submitted four stories. And winning with one of them was ego-boosting until Moore found out there were only nine entries in the adult category.

The story answers the question what is it like being a ghost named "Boo."

In the kids' category:

Gabrielle MacDonald received first place for "Wendy the Witch and Gary the Ghost," second

place went to Meghan Ross for "Bed Bugs," and third place to Lindsey Crawford for "Trick-or-Eat?"

Murray Lake's staff member of the month

Julie Hruby was named Murray Lake Elementary's Staff Member of the Month for September. Ms. Hruby, a special education teacher at Murray Lake, was nominated by several staff members for this award. Fourth grade teacher Glenna Blanding says, "Julie shows a tremendous amount of patience and compassion to her students. She is well-deserving of this award."

Hruby graduated from Forest Hills Central High School. She went to Grand Valley State University for her teaching degree. Hruby taught in an autism program for three years at Forest Hills before moving to Colorado to fulfill a lifelong dream. In Colorado, Ms. Hruby

taught 3rd, 5th, and 6th grades for several years. She also taught severe and profoundly handicapped students at a middle school in Ft. Collins for one year.

After 7 years of teaching in the mountains, she moved to Lowell to live closer to her family. She has taught 4th and 6th grades in Lowell, prior to working in Murray Lake's special needs classroom.

"I love teaching at Murray Lake because the kids are so excited to be here



Julie Hruby

everyday, and that makes the teaching fun. I feel that the parents and staff members at Murray Lake are truly part of a team."

For a list of all the ways technology has failed to improve the quality of life, please press three.

- Alice Kahn

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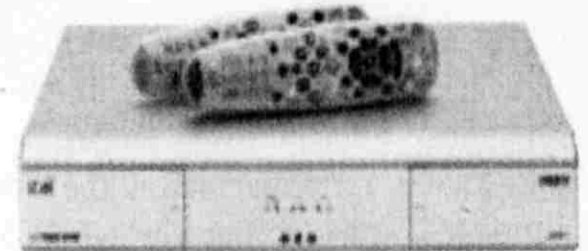
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Floral shop offers nontraditional designs, unique gifts

by Emma Palova

Roses are making a comeback, while loft occupants are demanding clean lines in nontraditional contemporary arrangements.

Those are the latest trends in the floral business, and the staff at the new Daisy Floral shop is ready to do whatever it takes.

"Nothing is too small or too big for us," said owner Jennifer Lopez. "We go above and beyond." The shop takes custom orders and designs to specifications. Also in the plans are future interior design consultations.

Other services include party, event and holiday decorating.

"It all goes back to customer service," said

Lopez, "we're not an assembly line florist. We put a personal touch."

Not only flowers, but also unique gifts such as a bell collection, are available here.

The shop employs four part-time employees, who all are Lopez' close friends and family. Lopez' father Leroy Mongar does deliveries, sister Leighanna Mongar is the designer/consultant. Sister Michelle Balahoski also works at the shop.

Lopez reminds all that Oct. 20 is Sweetest Day. The store is located at 505 W. Main.

Daisy Floral will be at the Bridal Open House at the Quail Ridge Golf Club on Nov. 1.



Owner Jennifer Lopez with sister Leighanna Mongar at the Daisy Floral store with unique gifts.

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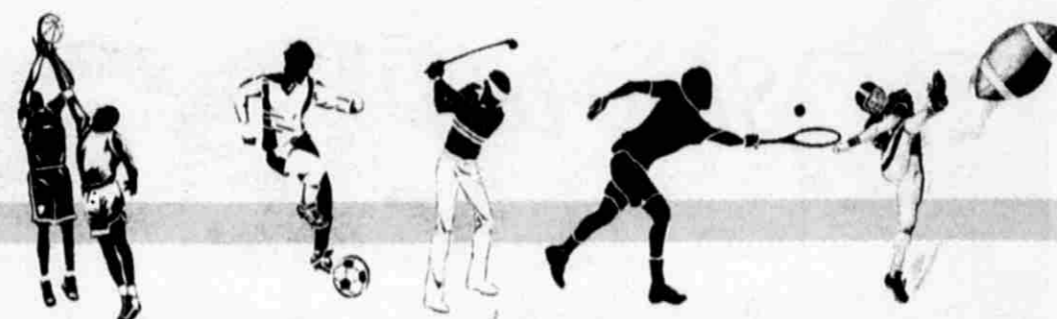
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RED ARROW SPORTS



The Benning-Fielder

by Molly Benningfield
Sports editor

Big week
for Lowell sports



It's been a pretty good week for Lowell athletics. And that's saying something, because something always seems to happen around here.

Equestrian - For starters, the Lowell equestrian team won the state championship in Division C. Pretty big, huh? But even cooler is that it's the fourth state championship for Lowell in just this decade. The team also won in 2003 in Division B, 2002 in Division C and 2000 in Division A. I sense a dynasty.

Golf - The girls' golf team took 5th of 17 teams in arguably the toughest division in the state. The team has been ranked for a good portion of the season and got two all-conference selections. Sydney Stuewe and Lauren Heemstra, out of the deal.

Football - The football team is league champs again. A win against Kenowa Hills and East's loss to Caledonia set the stage for exciting football Friday night. I can't wait until Friday's game at East - "Game of the Week", I'd say.

Soccer - The boys' soccer team pounded East into the ground last week to take 3rd in the conference. The Arrows outplayed and out-shot the Pioneers and could face them again this week in Districts, depending on wins.

Volleyball - The volleyball team played the most exciting game of the season against Kenowa Hills Thursday, winning a nail-biter in a five-game match that saw - you guessed it - back and forth, back and forth for two hours. I guess that's why it's called volleyball.

Tennis - The boys' tennis team finished their season at Regional finals, tying for third place. They only missed State finals by two points, which is hard to swallow, but the season saw many wins and good games for players like Travis Trapp, who finished his high school record at No. 1 singles with 78-28 in a tough conference, and newcomer Cort Thompson, who went 21-9 at No. 3 singles. Did I mention he was a freshman?

Arrow volleyball wins in five against Knights

by Molly Benningfield
Editor

"That was good volleyball." It was announced over the speakers in the middle of the second game after a back-and-forth volleying set that seemed to go on and on. And on.

But that statement could've been announced anytime during the game Thursday night against Kenowa Hills, as the

Arrows narrowly defeated the Knights in five games, 25-16, 22-25, 21-25, 25-19, 16-14.

The Arrows looked strong and ready in the first game, but soon backtracked with two losses in a row.

The fourth game was essential, and the Arrows came up big, winning by seven points.

With a close fifth game, it looked like it could've been any team's game,

but the Arrows kept their narrow edge and closed out the night with a win.

A friendly rivalry has formed between the two teams over the years and it made it exciting to watch.

Heather Burger led the team with 35 assists and 3 aces. Jasmine Holliman also finished with 3 aces. Mary VanderLaan had 6 kills, while Amy VanEns had an impressive 16 kills, most of which came from

a deafening cheer from the student section each time she went up to the net.

On Kenowa Hills' side, Jessica Schipper led the Knights with 41 assists. Janelle Morse had 2 aces, while Megan Mulder had 15 kills.

The Arrows have one more regular-season conference match against Greenville, at home Thursday night at 7 p.m.



Heather Burger makes a dive for a ball Thursday night.

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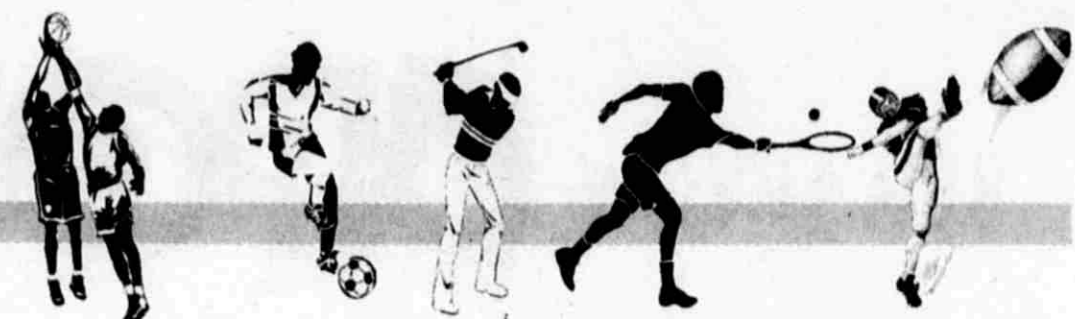
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold the second of two required meetings for the year on

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2007
at 7:00 p.m. at the Lowell Township Hall,
2910 Alden Nash, SE.

On the agenda will be any and all business which may be brought before this Board according to the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance.

Linda S. Regan, Clerk
Lowell Charter Township

RED ARROW SPORTS



Soccer takes 3rd in conference with win over EGR

by Molly Benningfield
Editor

With a little more than a week in between two games against conference foe East Grand Rapids, the results could not have been more different.

Two weeks ago, it was a double-overtime heartbreaker, with Lowell coming up short 1-2. Last week, the Arrows handily fended off the Pioneers 6-3 to take 3rd place in the OK-White Conference.

Coach Paul Legge said it was nice to bounce back from the previous loss. "Beating East is always one of our team goals each season. FHC is another team that we always want to get a "W" against. It's not that you don't want to win every

game, but those two teams are big rivals."

Forest Hills Central (15-4-2) took the conference championship, with Caledonia in 2nd. Lowell's win against FHC was one of the biggest games for the team this season.

"Beating FHC was a big milestone for our program, as we have never beaten them in the eight years I have coached at Lowell," Legge said. "They are one of only two - three teams that I have never beaten. I believe it is the first loss FHC has had in the OK-White in five years - definitely a big accomplishment for the boys."

It was a big game for the boys' soccer team and a nice way to go into the District finals this week.

"Everyone wanted to

finish the regular season with some momentum going into the Districts," Legge said. "I think the convincing fashion in which we won the game will provide this momentum to help us in the District."

Legge said the team met some of their goals this season, including wins against the two teams. "The boys wanted to compete in every contest this year, which we have done. They wanted to prove they were as good as the top teams in the area, which I believe we have." The Arrows were the first to score against East, with a goal by Jake Karasiewicz, assisted by Bud Shepard on a total team effort. Shepard took the ball up the field, faked an EGR defender and kicked the ball in front of the goal, where Karasiewicz scored.

The second goal for the Arrows came in the middle of the first half on another memorable goal. Ian Beddows took a free kick, making a quick decision to shoot after a Pioneer defender jumped early.

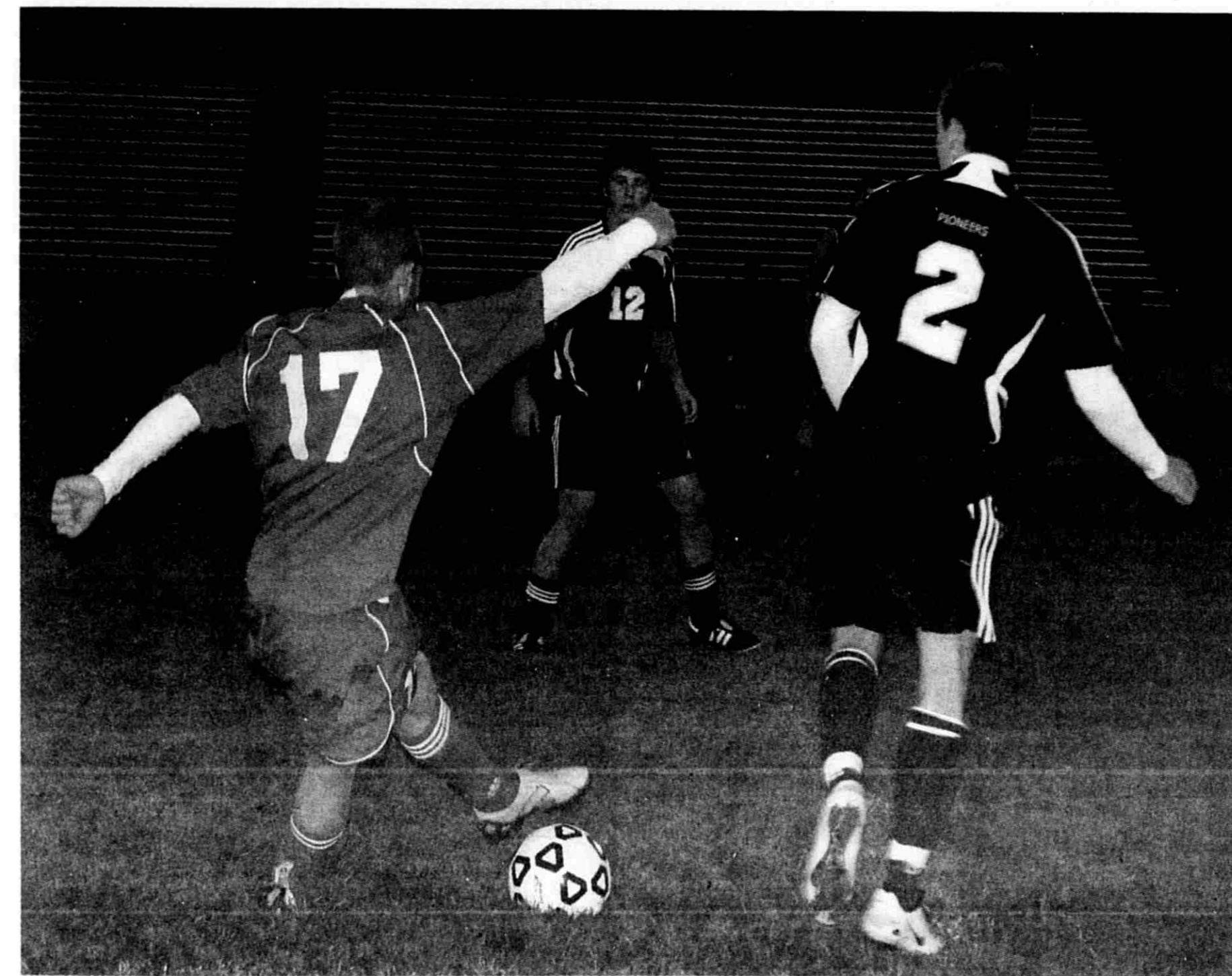
Shepard and Beddows added two more goals in the first half, to put the Arrows up 4-1 at the half.

In the second half, Karasiewicz and Nick Abdo both scored, assisting each other on their goals.

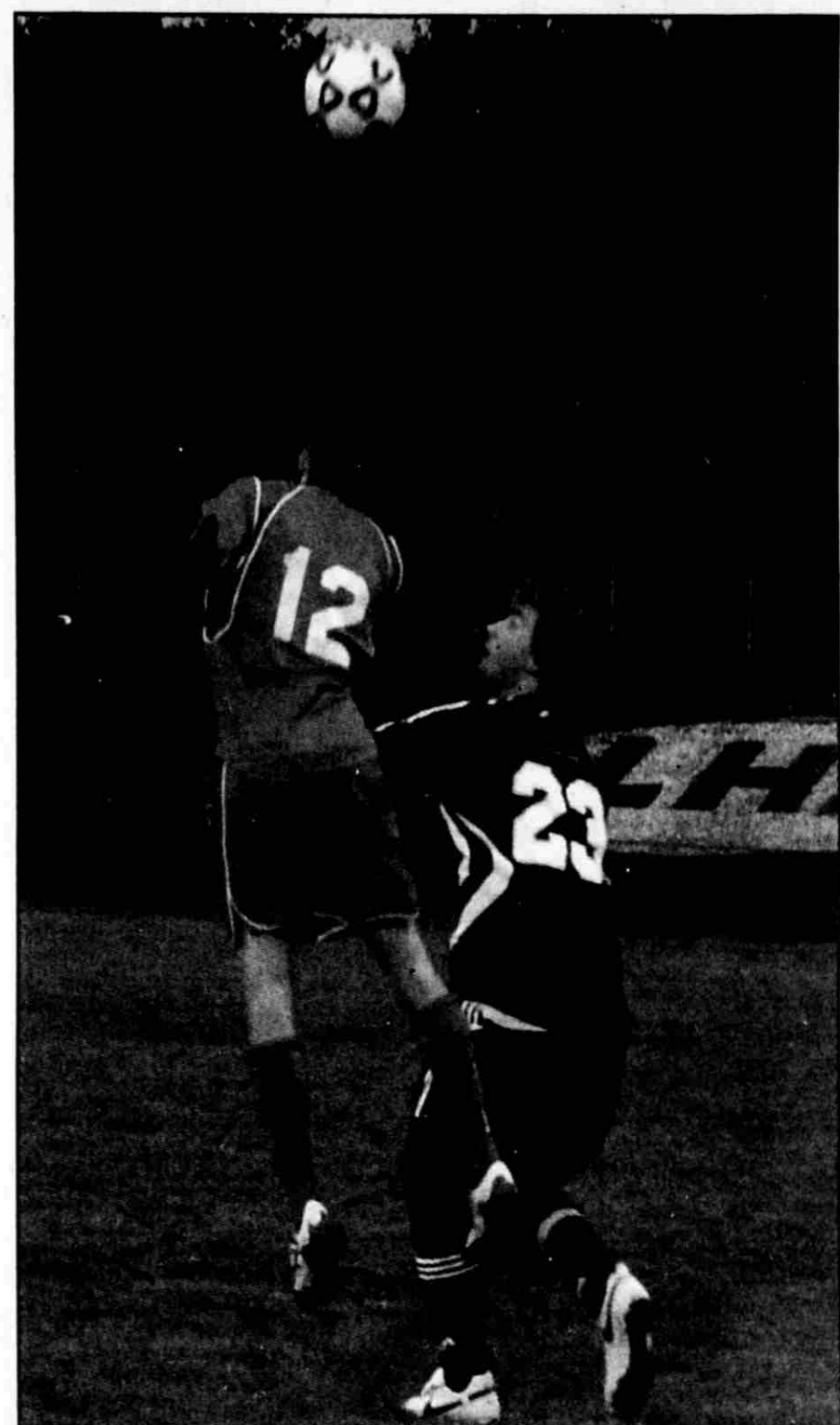
A few missed opportunities could've put the Arrows up by a few extra points. Lowell had 11 shots at goal, while EGR had 7.

Goalkeeper Phil Bieri made 3 saves while Austin Swaney of EGR had 5.

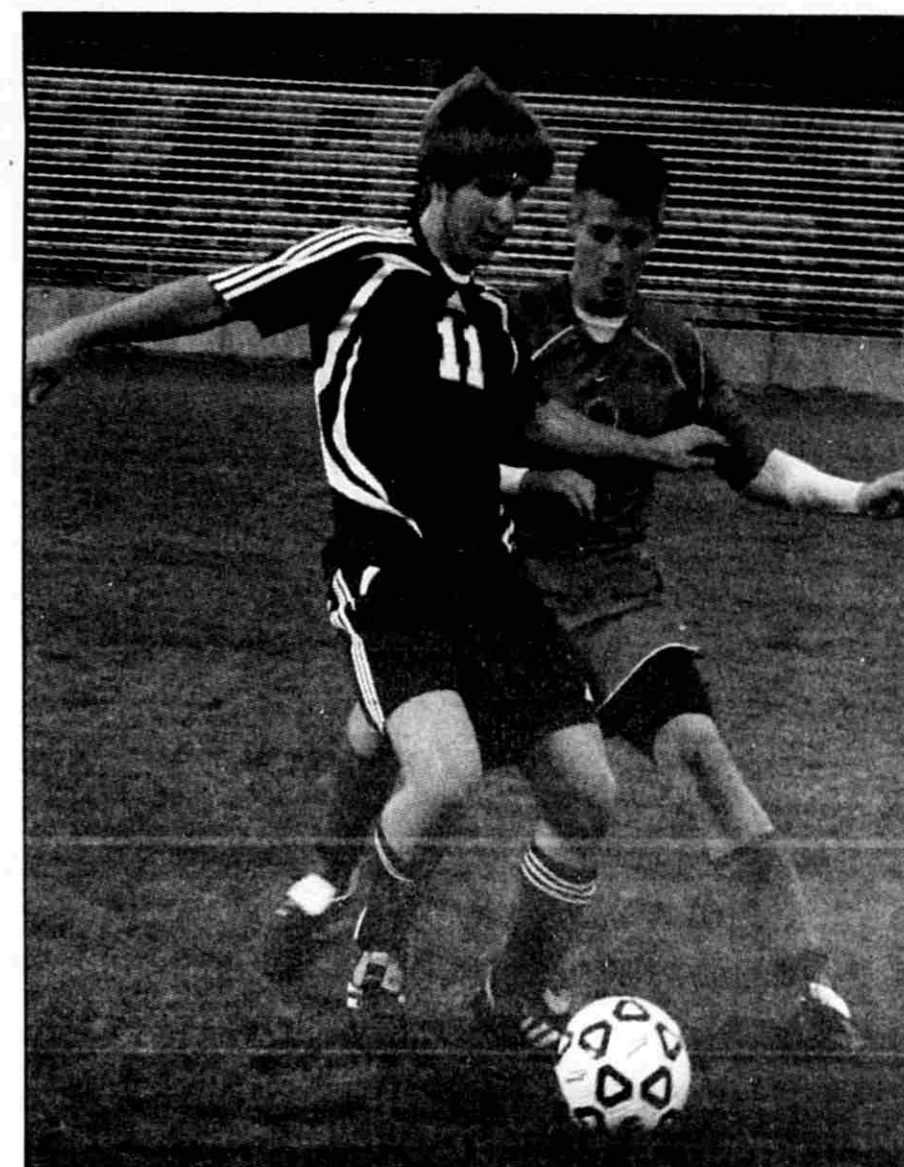
The Arrows compete in the District finals this week.



Jerry Adams (17) fends off an EGR defender.



Bud Shepard (12) goes up for a header against EGR.



Matt Schloop (20) fights for the ball

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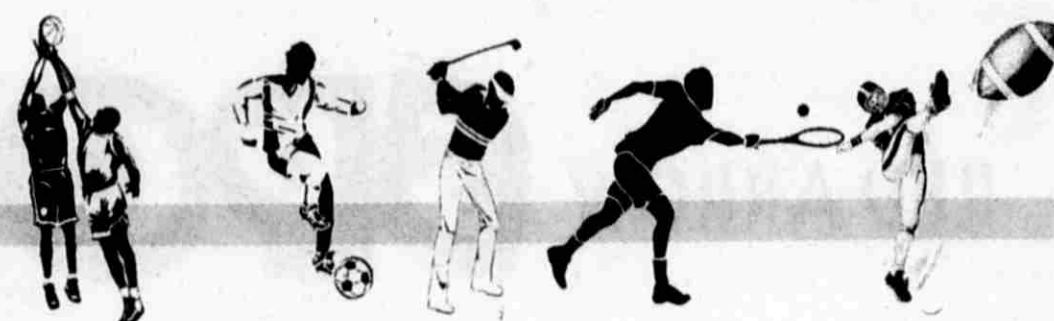
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RED ARROW SPORTS



Arrow football to claim back-to-back league titles

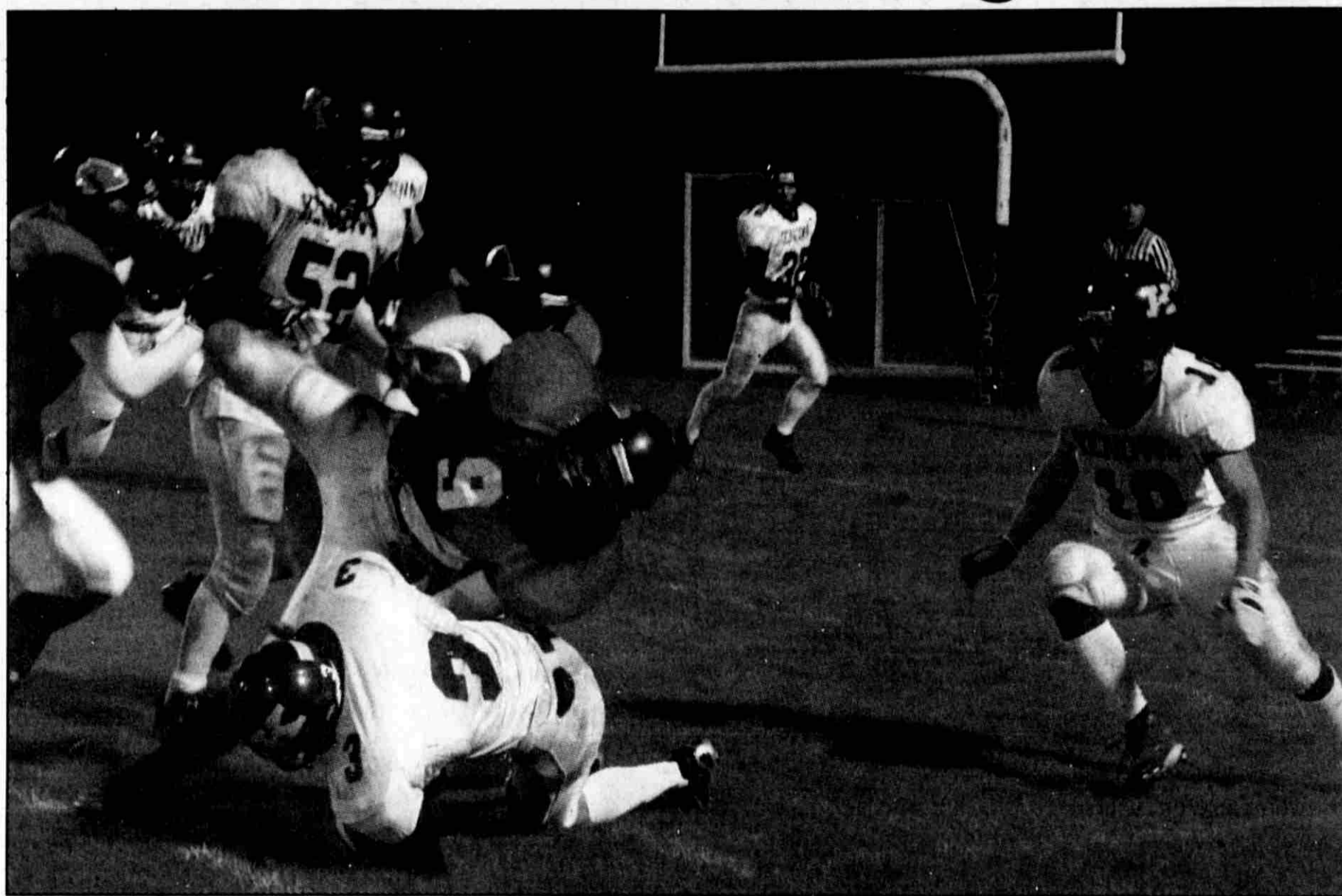
by Molly Benningfield
Editor

It's been a while - 34 years to be exact - since the Arrows won back-to-back league titles. With Friday's win against Kenowa Hills and a stunning East Grand Rapids loss to Caledonia, Lowell will at least share a piece of the conference title.

And coach Noel Dean is excited. With a big grin on

his face, he yelled, "we got a league title, baby!" as the players walked off the field. It's a big win for the team, which has been in rebuilding mode with its relatively young team.

Early on Friday night, the team looked like a shadow of its hardworking self, allowing Kenowa Hills to score twice on 1-yard runs by Justin Ford to lead in the first quarter, 0-14.



Nate Vaught (9) goes down with the ball Friday night.

The Arrows would score twice in the second, with a 2-yard run by Kyle Nichol and a 52-yard pass from Nichol to Jacob Swift

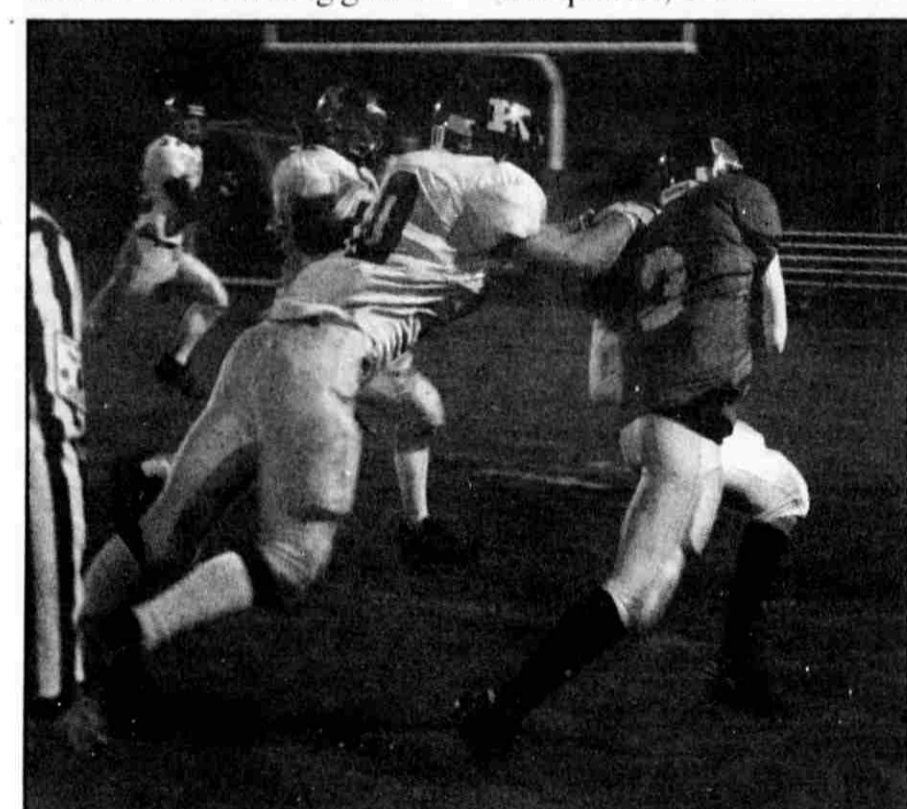
to tie at 14, but the persistent Knights answered back with a 23-yard pass from Kurt Van Essen to Luke Palmer.

It must've been a tense locker room at the half, because the Arrows came out in the third quarter to score twice, on an 11-yard run by Torsten Boss and a 1-yard run by Nichol.

The Arrows were up by nine, 29-20, after a missed extra-point field goal by the Knights in the second quarter and a successful two-point conversion run by Nate Vaught. "That was big" was whispered along the sideline.

In the fourth quarter, Kenowa Hills again narrowed the gap with a 23-yard run by Ford. With less than three minutes left in the game, the Arrows scored again on a 3-yard

Football,
cont'd., pgs. 17



Kyle Nichol (3) races for the endzone.

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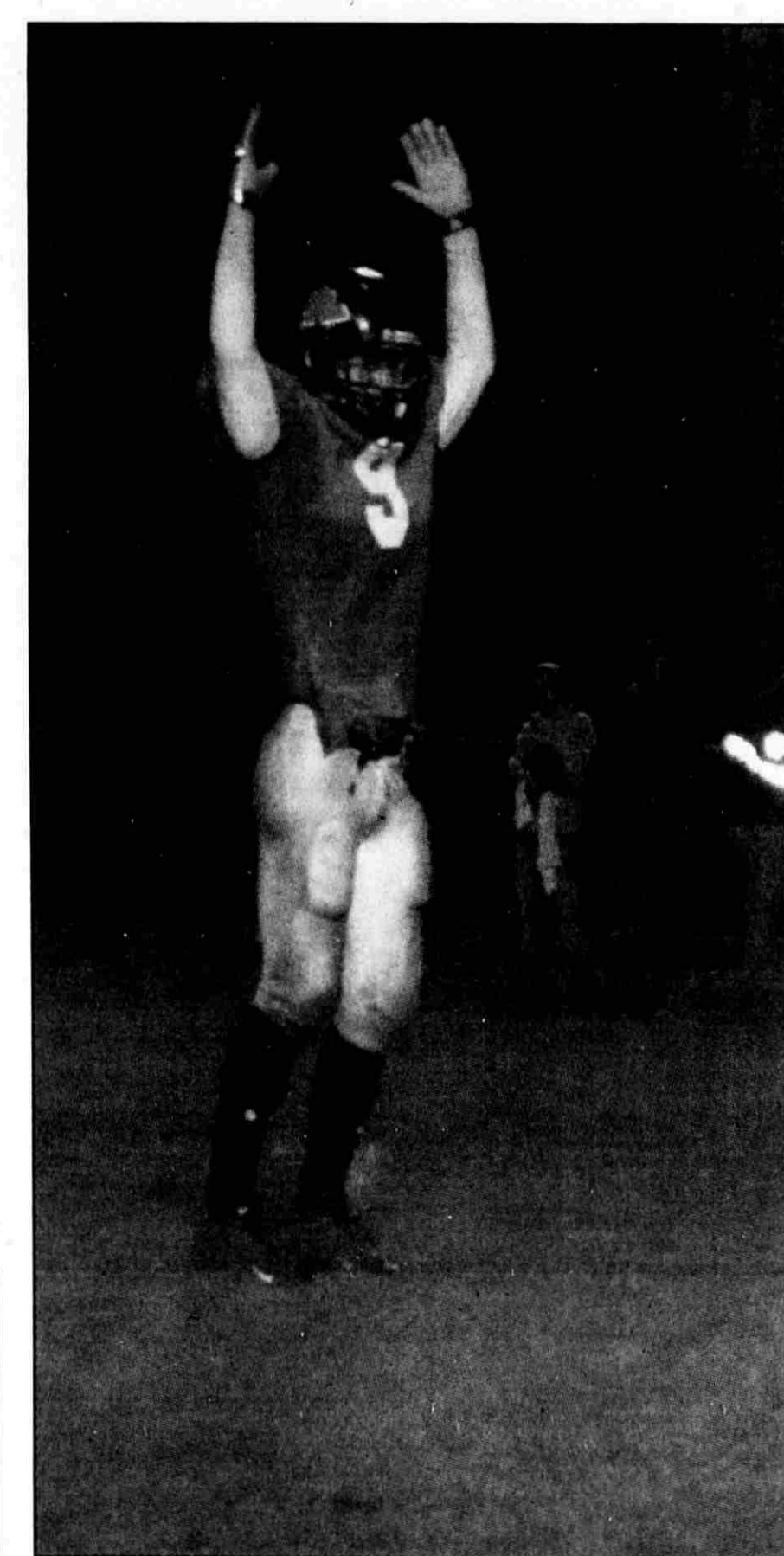
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RED ARROW SPORTS



LHS boys' tennis team finishes 3rd at regional match

The boys' tennis team ended its season last Thursday at the Regional meet, missing the State qualifications by two points, ending with 16 points total.

The team tied for 3rd place with Northview, behind Forest Hills Central

and Forest Hills Northern, who tied for first with 22 points.

Pat Misner won the championship at No. 4 Singles, defeating top-seeded Travis Whitaker (FHN) 6-4, 6-2. Misner was unbeaten during the

tournament, and ended with a 27-6 overall record.

Coach Bonnie Wall said he had "an outstanding year."

Travis Trapp, Josh Hobla and Cort Thompson made it to the Singles semifinals on Thursday, as well

as the doubles teams of Chase Canning and Isaac Tawney, Clayton Stedman and Jack Weeber, and Dylan Dues and Evan Wilterink.

Trapp finished with a 22-9 record at No. 1 singles. Wall said she was proud of his time at Lowell.

"What a great career he has had in his four-year play at LHS," she said. "He played No. 2 singles his first two years and No. 1 these last two year. His four-year record is 78-28,

and he's played in one of the toughest leagues in the state." Wall also said Thompson, the team's lone freshman, "had a fine year." He posted a 21-9 record at No. 3 singles.

Girls' golf finishes 5th at regionals

The girls' golf team finished 5th of 17 teams at Bowen Lake on Thursday to end their season.

The Arrows shot 405 to tie with Kenowa Hills. Greenville won the meet with a score of 344, and Forest Hills Central, Forest Hills Eastern and Mona Shores followed.

Coach Bob Stuewe said the meet was "easily the toughest regional in the state, as there were six teams that were ranked in the state in Division 2, not including us."

Lauren Heemstra was the top Arrow finisher with a score of 97. Sydney Stuewe shot 98, Crystal Dietz shot 99 and Kim Kline shot 111.

Stuewe said the team "shot higher than we have been shooting, but conditions were tough as it was cold and windy."

The team played well

in a tough conference during the season, and Stuewe said he was proud of the way they played.

"I thought we had a great season with some stellar wins against some good programs - FHC and Kenowa Hills to name two."

He said that in the four losses the team had, three matches were decided by three strokes or less. The team finished 3rd in the OK-White, behind Greenville and FHC.

Stuewe said his team next year "looks promising."

"We have three-time letter winner and all-conference selection Sydney Stuewe coming back, as well as our other all-conference player, Lauren Heemstra. June Ramsay will also return as a junior to give us a strong 1-2-3 punch."

Football, continued ... From Page 16

run by Nichol, for a score of 36-27. It seemed as if a win was in the bag, but the Knights scored with 1:08 on the clock to get within two points.

But the Arrows held them off, winning 36-34 in a too-close-for-comfort match-up. Dean said he knew the Knights were going to bring their A-game, and said his team was ready for the challenge.

"It doesn't matter who we play, we give a good game either way," Dean said.

The Arrows had 373 total offensive yards, with 197 rushing yards and 176 in passing. The Knights had 470 total yards, with 203 rushing yards and 267 in passing.

Nichol led the team in rushing, with 16 attempts for 104 yards. Vaught added 80 yards, with 19 attempts. Van Essen (KH) was 10 for 117 yards.

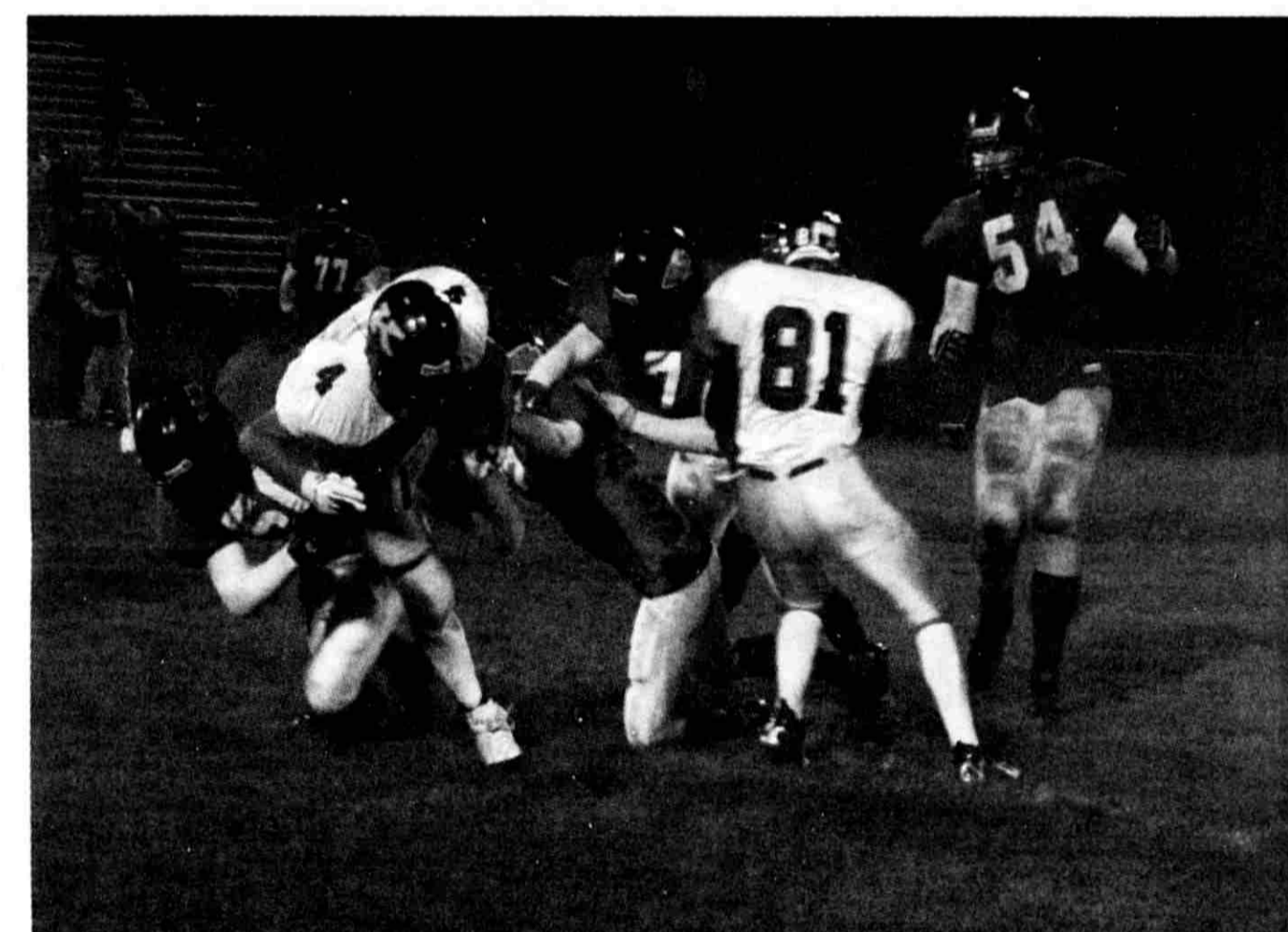
Nichol also led in passing, with 7 for 11 complete passes for all of Lowell's 176 yards. Van Essen was 12 - 19 for 267 yards.

Boss led in receptions,

with 3 receptions for 83 yards, while Swift had 3 for 82 yards. Luke Palmer (KH) had 8 for 200 yards.

Ben Canfield led in tackles, with 7, while Zach Smigiel (KH) had 6.

Lowell plays at East Grand Rapids on Friday for their last regular season game. If the Arrows win, they will take the league title, and if they lose, they'll share the title.



A group of Lowell defenders tackle a Kenowa Hills player.

DR. AARON J. BUYS

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Dr. Buys is a Grand Rapids area native who graduated with honors from Spring Arbor University. He then moved on to graduate from National University of Health Sciences as a valedictorian where he received his extensive chiropractic training including spinal and soft tissue manipulation, rehabilitative exercise, nutrition, Graston technique, and orthotics.

In his free time Dr. Buys enjoys spending time with his family, biking, swimming, and fishing. He is also an active member of the Michigan Association of Chiropractors. Dr. Buys and his wife regularly attend Ada Bible Church and are expecting their first child early this fall.

If you're looking for a chiropractor with extensive training and experience in the treatment of back and neck problems, don't suffer needlessly. Call Dr. Buys today to schedule an appointment.

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• LEGAL NOTICE •

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 07-183,809-DE

Estate of
JOSEPH C. SHIRLEY
deceased

Date of birth:
10/25/1936

10/10/07

TO ALL CREDITORS:
The decedent, **JOSEPH C. SHIRLEY**, who lived at 3388 MITCHELL DR NE, GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49525, died 7/26/2006.

JOHN D. FLYNN named personal representative, or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 OTTAWA NW, SUITE 2500, GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

John D. Flynn
P27413
1275 Hawthorne Hills SE
Ada, MI 49301
616-897-6632

John D. Flynn
1275 Hawthorne Hills SE
Ada, MI 49301

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to

Wege feasibility study, continued ... From Page 1

represents an important and unique opportunity for the Lowell community," said superintendent Greg Pratt.

The meeting, facilitated by consultants Williams & Works at the Lowell Township Hall, is the first step to obtaining the land.

Initially, the consultants will provide overall findings, then the participants will break into discussion groups with facilitators.

"It will be centered on the big picture of the needs for recreation," said Pratt.

The participants

will define strengths and weaknesses of the area pertaining to recreation and to the future feasibility study.

Ideas generated from the meeting, as well as a recreation inventory of the area will be processed by the consultants.

A two-day design charrette will be held at the Wittenbach Wege Center on Nov. 2 and Nov. 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The charrette will have a drop-in format with architects creating drawings

in a studio setting accessible to the public. Residents again may provide input during the charrette sessions.

"Potential alternatives will emerge here," said project manager Jay Kilpatrick.

The concepts for the site will be visualized and their implications evaluated by the consulting team and the public during the sessions.

"These ideas will be used to ultimately develop the feasibility report to the Wege Foundation," said Pratt.

In addition to the report, each municipality will get an individual recreational plan out of the planning process.

"It's a lot of effort," said Pratt. "The donation is dependent upon the outcome."

The feasibility study is expected to be completed before Christmas.

Land located north of Foreman Road and Alden Nash may be donated to the Lowell community for recreation



DEQ encourages alternatives to leaf burning

The Department of Environmental Quality is encouraging Michigan residents to explore alternatives to burning leaves this autumn. Leaf burning creates air pollution, contributes to breathing problems, is a serious fire hazard, and is illegal in many Michigan cities and communities.

Burning leaves releases fine particles, carbon monoxide, and hydrocarbons into the air that may be harmful to children and people with allergies, asthma, or heart disease.

Although leaves and yard waste cannot be sent to a landfill, mulching and composting are simple,

environmentally-sound ways to manage most yard waste. The easiest option is to simply mow over leaves with a lawnmower to chop them into fine mulch, and when left on a lawn, the mulch provides a number of needed nutrients for the grass that will keep it looking healthy.

Many communities also have municipal composting programs, and those communities interested in developing an open burning ordinance may refer to the Model Ordinance for Outdoor and Open Burning at www.michigan.gov/deqair. Select "Open Burning Information"

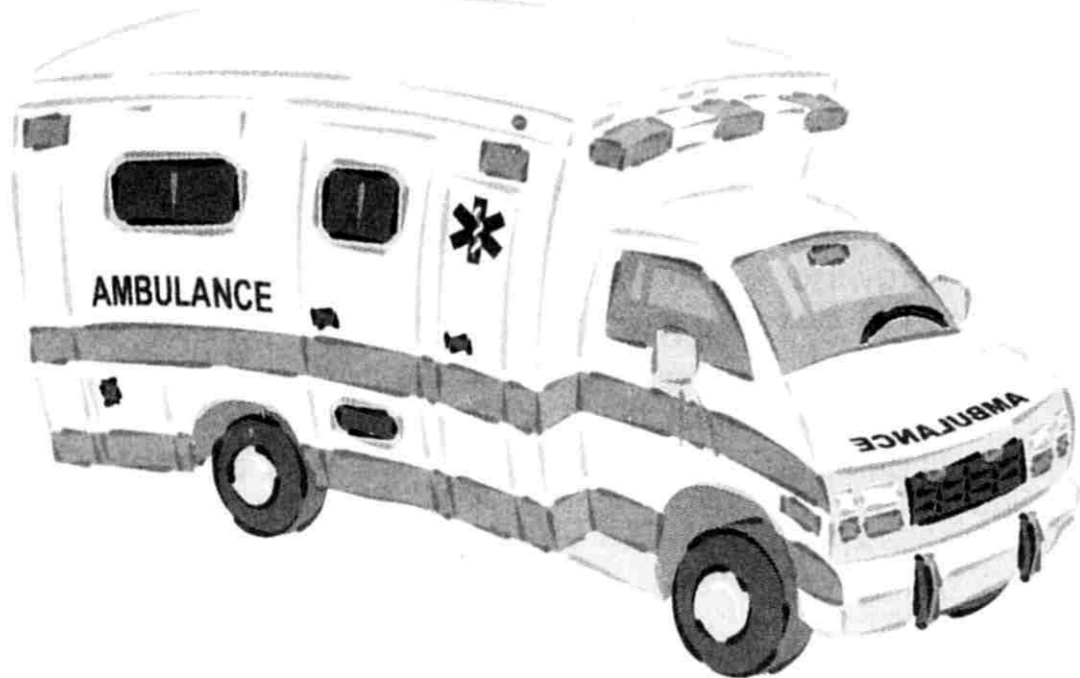
listed under Spotlight. A one page brochure entitled "Open Burning Regulations in Michigan" is also available along with a home composting brochure and other alternatives to burning.

In rural areas where burning yard waste is allowed, permits are

required to burn leaves or brush. Homeowners are reminded to obtain a permit before burning and that they are responsible for damage caused by a fire they start.

For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/deqair or contact the DEQ Environmental Assistance Center at 1 800-662-9278.

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