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Fall Back!

Daylight saving time
ends this Sunday,
Nov. 1 at 2 a.m.

THIS SUNDAY • 2 AM

Check for LARA



page 3

Orchestrated sounds



page 7

Soccer season ends



page 9



Spooky
Halloween
Story
page 14

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CENTS



Three candidates for three open seats on the city council in November

by Emma Palova

With the impending downtown bridge replacement project hanging in the air like Damocles' sword and the economy in deep trenches, surprisingly, three candidates have stepped up to fill three open seats on the Lowell City Council.

It was the passion for public service that drove all three at a time when most would just sit back and watch what's going to happen.

Incumbent mayor Jim Hodges, 59, is a veteran of public service, currently serving his 15th non-consecutive year on the city council. As a veteran of the Bowes Road traffic

light project, dating back to the mid '90s, Hodges knows the importance of communication during a major construction project.

"It will be difficult, it will be painful, but it will be wonderful when it's done," he said.

In conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, Hodges is hoping to use the construction chaos as a promotion for downtown businesses. Already, the city council has extended hours of construction into the night to speed up the project. And one-way traffic will be maintained to allow access for fire trucks to the east part of town.

"Safety and maintaining services to the public are my priorities," he said.

Tweaking the already tight budget also tops the priorities, although there may not be much left to trim.

"Our budget is good; we've balanced every department equally," he said.

Some of the upcoming cost savings and revenue generating avenues include the restructuring of ticket fees, bringing up to code the North Washington city-owned house, watching expenses with other city-owned properties such as the Chamber and the museum.

"They are responsible for their direct expenses," said Hodges.

And through the DDA, Hodges intends to pursue

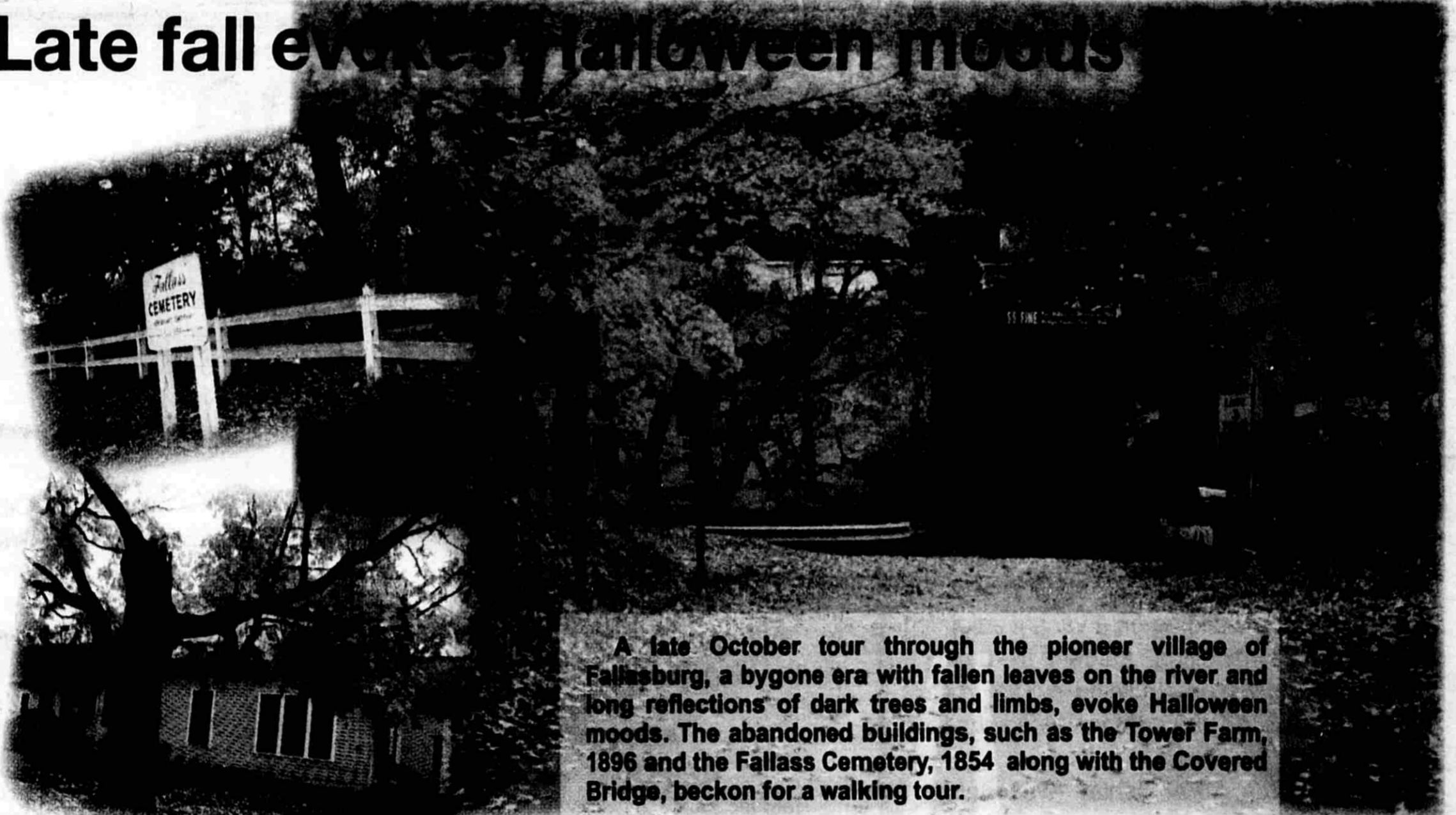
further marketing of the downtown area. Hodges said he is very much in favor of creating a west side

Candidates, continued page 3



City Council candidates Andrew Schrauben, left, and Jim Hodges. Maryalene LaPonsie was not available for photo.

Late fall evokes Halloween moods



A late October tour through the pioneer village of Fallsburg, a bygone era with fallen leaves on the river and long reflections of dark trees and limbs, evoke Halloween moods. The abandoned buildings, such as the Tower Farm, 1896 and the Fallas Cemetery, 1854 along with the Covered Bridge, beckon for a walking tour.

Lowell schools brace for more budget cuts

In a continued momentum of budget talks, the Lowell Area Schools (LAS) district is expecting another \$127 cut in per pupil foundation on top of the already approved \$165 due to state deficit. The final word is expected within 30 days.

But, the cutting trend is nothing new to the school districts. The

schools have been cut ever since proposal A and steadily since 2002, according to LAS superintendent Greg Pratt.

"We need to be more proactive and work with the legislature to fix the structural deficit," said Pratt. "The state does not have a reliable funding stream."

The budget this year stands at \$33.7 million in

revenues, and \$34.7 in expenditures. However, Pratt expects even more cuts next year due to the structural deficit.

If the additional \$127 cut passes, the district will lose \$1.1 million in revenues. First, any maintenance projects will be put on hold. The per pupil foundation for 2008 was \$7,316.

Lowell hosts St. Johns in opening week of playoffs

by Thad Kraus

St. Johns!

What do we know about the Redwings?

We know they finished the regular season at 6-3. Its losses have come to DeWitt (52-7), Mt. Pleasant (19-14) and Mason (36-0).

We know they tied for first in the Red Division of the Capital Area Activities conference.

We know they are familiar with playing state ranked teams.

St. Johns played four of them this year. Lansing Sexton and Mason were state ranked when they played St. Johns.

DeWitt (2nd Div. 3) and Mt. Pleasant (3rd Div. 3) are still ranked.

And we know the last time (2004) these two schools met on the gridiron, the Red Arrows won 38-17 and with it the school's second state football title.

Playoffs, continued page 9

Someone had to say it, continued

Grand Haven hosts Grand Ledge. Grand Haven wins!

Muskegon travels to Kenowa Hills. The Big Red pulls the upset. Muskegon wins!

Ottawa Hills travels to Portage Central. The Bengals fall short. Portage Central wins!

Portage Northern hosts Caledonia. The Scots win!

Forest Hills Eastern travels to EGR. Good night Red Hawks. East wins!

Byron Center entertains Hastings. This may be the game of the week. Bulldogs win!

West Catholic battles Catholic Central for a second time this year. This has all the makings for an upset. And I believe the Falcons win!

Holland Christian and Spring Lake. Maroons win! Dowagiac travels to Hamilton. Hawkeyes win!

Kelloggsville hosts Hillsdale. The Rockets are poised for a long run. Kelloggsville wins!

Calvin Christian travels to Ithaca. Ithaca wins!

NorthPointe Christian plays Olivet. Olivet wins!

And finally, Lowell hosts St. Johns. Red Arrows win!

Thad's New Top 10

Well, it's not really new. Everything remains the same!

1. Rockford
2. EGR

3. West Catholic
4. Lowell
5. Grand Haven
6. Kenowa Hills
7. Kelloggsville
8. Hamilton
9. Byron Center
10. Caledonia

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