

The Lowell Ledger

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Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Reindeer will land with Santa on the Riverwalk



By Emma Palova

While Santa will make his annual visit to the Lowell Showboat during the holiday season, for the first time real reindeer will make an entrance on Riverwalk Plaza this Friday.

Two reindeer, Noel and Prancer from the Rooftop Landing Reindeer Farm in Pewamo, will be there with sleigh for instant family photos for \$10.

Organized by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, both Santa and the reindeer should be a special treat for the community.

"Our goal is to give the community that special Christmas treat," said chamber executive director Liz Baker. "We want to bring families to the showboat."

Baker said the Lowell Santa, who goes to Santa Claus School in Mt. Pleasant for training, is the real thing. He has his own fully decorated Santa Room on the showboat.

"Our Santa is a great Santa," said Baker, "and we're going to have live reindeer with a sleigh."

Most people believe reindeer are only storybook creatures, according to reindeer owner Dave Aldrich.

Reindeer, the only domestic deer in the world, originate in Norway and Finland, around the Arctic Circle in Lapland. Aldrich said, however, that he got his first reindeer 15 years ago in Alaska. Today he keeps 20 on his farm in Pewamo.

"This will give people a chance to get up close to a storybook creature," he said.

Rooftop Landing reindeer are only one of a few traveling reindeer; they travel to 85 different events in Michigan.

Reindeer, cont'd., pg. 4

From Red Devils to Red Arrows

By Emma Palova

A four-panel kiosk about the history of Lowell Schools will bring home the story of the Red Arrows as it travels around the community.

Currently at Lowell High School, it is sponsored by the Lowell Area Historical Museum and funded partially by the Lowell Area Schools Foundation. The Red Arrows exhibit

explains how the district got its nickname.

In the 1940s, the local ministry raised objections to the original Red Devils' school nickname. The name was changed to Red Arrows in honor of a Michigan-based military division, the Red Arrow Division. The division included former Lowell Schools' students who fought in W.W.I and W.W.II.

Their motto was "Never Yield."

"It's a good show," said Lowell Area Historical Museum director Judy Straub. "The purpose is to help make parts of the community history more accessible."

Each panel on the traveling kiosk highlights the evolution of Lowell Schools from 1837. The district has evolved from a log schoolhouse on Water Street with only 14 students to a class A burgeoning Lowell Area Schools district.

The exhibit chronicles the history of the education system, one-room schoolhouses, Ward Schools and the Lowell High School.

"People who don't come into the museum can learn about the unique characteristics of the district," said Straub.

The goal of the museum is to eventually have four traveling exhibits

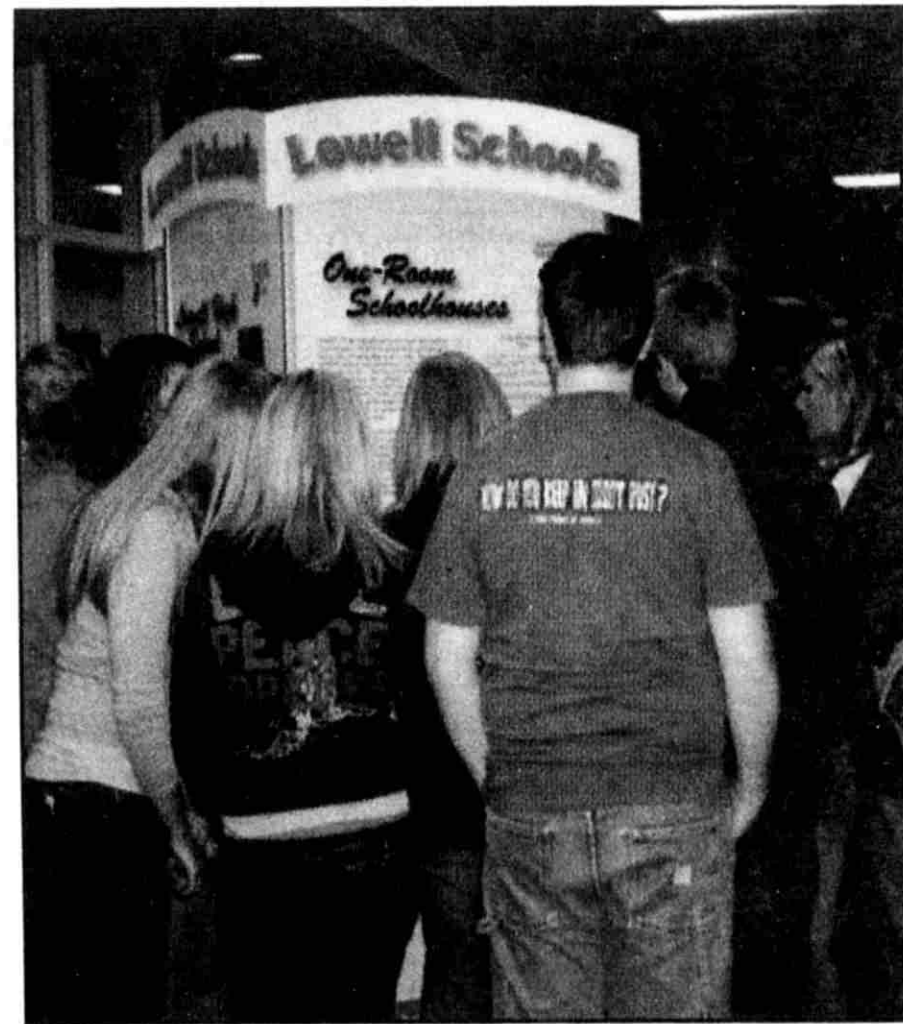
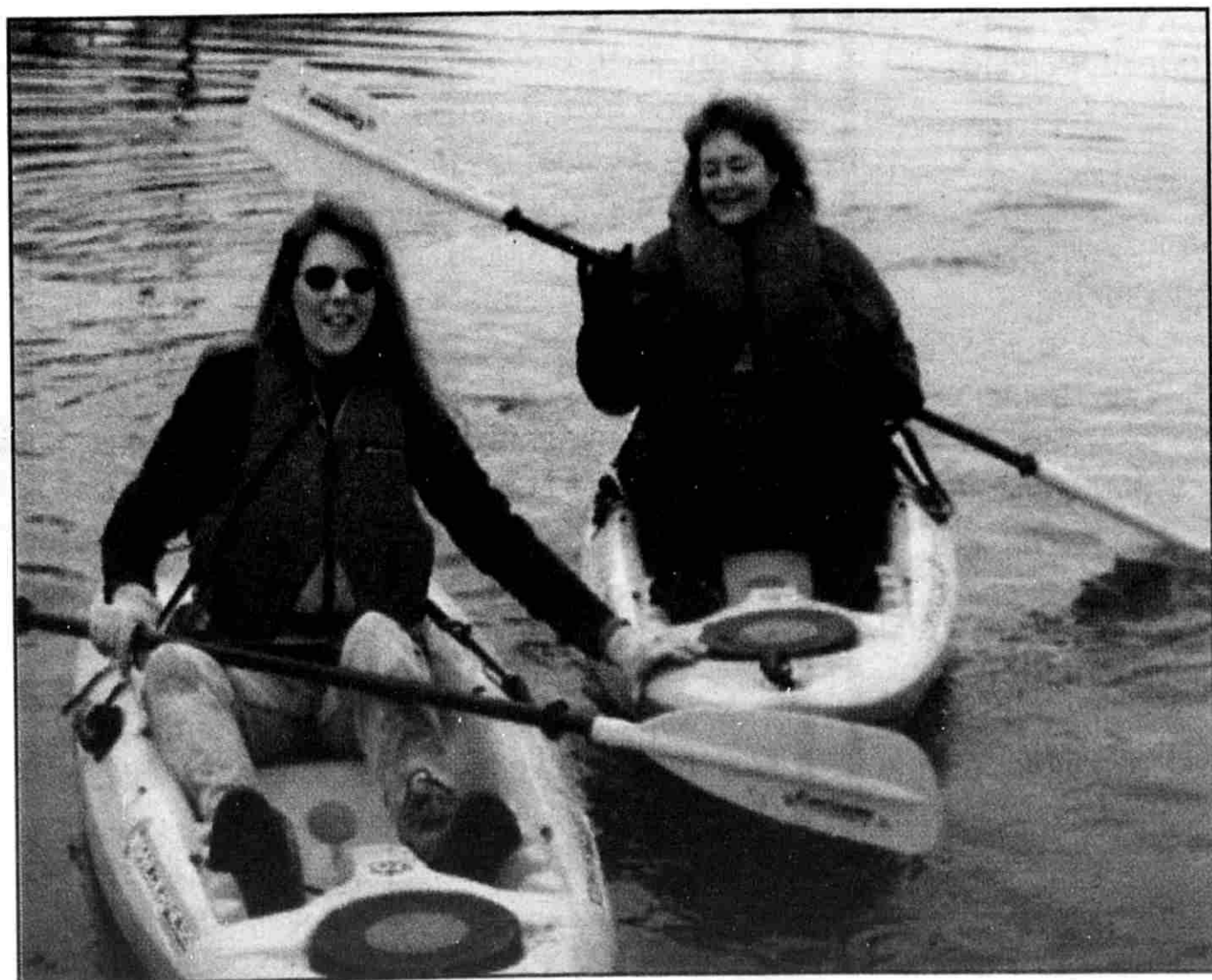
Kiosk, cont'd., pg. 13

Dramatic weather shifts

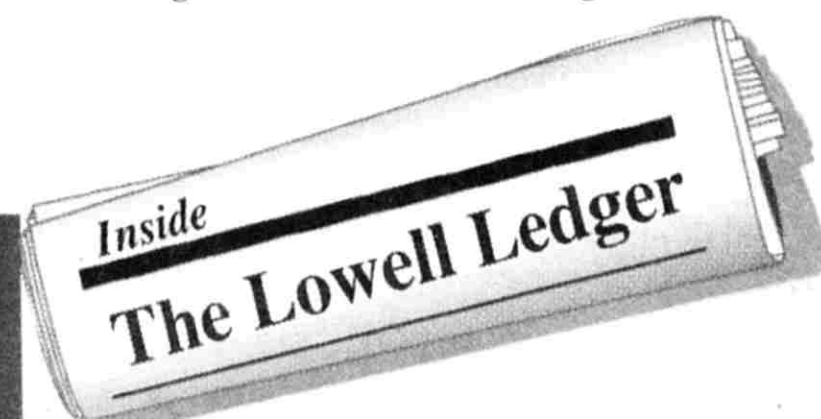
With several inches of snow falling and temperatures below freezing, balmy weather seems far away.

But, Karen Waid and Janet Kruger enjoyed kayaking on the Flat River in 61 degree temperatures just last week.

The two were not discouraged by the snow that followed. They were reportedly on the river again this week.



Members of the LHS student council gather around the traveling exhibit after its unveiling.



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To The Editor, continued ... From Page 5

According to the State of Michigan Aeronautics Department, the Lowell Airport is in compliance with runway regulations to operate safely as a Basic Utility Airport.

My father has planted over 400,000 trees in Vergennes Township since 1947. He has always had a deep love of land conservation which has driven his ambitious efforts in tree planting.

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**Great Lakes
Restoration Act
provides crucial resources**
With Senator Carl Levin

As those of us who live in Michigan know, the Great Lakes are awe-inspiring. They are also an indispensable natural, economic and recreational resource for Michigan and many other states. The largest fresh water system in the world with roughly 18 percent of the world's fresh water, the Great Lakes provide drinking water for more than 30 million people.

However, the Great Lakes face a host of ongoing challenges, including threats to water quality, low water levels, contaminated sediments and the impacts of more than 160 non-native species. With so much at stake, it is critical that we make a serious commitment to the long-term health of the lakes.

The Great Lakes Regional Collaboration strategy, released in 2005, is a joint effort among governors, mayors, congressional leaders, executive branch officials and tribal governments to establish a framework for restoring and protecting the Great Lakes. The Regional Collaboration calls for an ambitious commitment of resources to combat invasive species and contaminated sediments, improve water infrastructure for states and cities, and restore damaged fish and wildlife habitats.

Congress recently passed one part of that plan, the bipartisan Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act, which I co-sponsored with my Republican colleague from Ohio, Sen. Mike DeWine, with whom I serve as Chairman of the Senate Great Lakes Task Force.

Enacted in 1990 and reauthorized in 1998 and 2006, the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act authorizes funding for the restoration of the lakes. The 2006 act authorizes \$9.4 million for a grant program to help restore the Great Lakes and the fish and wildlife habitats they sustain. For example, a grant helped fund a study, done in partnership with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Central Michigan University and Michigan State University, of the impact of cormorants on Great Lakes fish communities.

This year's bill also authorized \$4.6 million for new regional projects to be carried out by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, based on the recommendations of states and tribes. This will give the Fish and Wildlife Service the flexibility to pursue projects that go beyond a single location or jurisdiction.

Finally, the bill provides funding to maintain the Fish and Wildlife Service offices originally created in 1990. The Fish and Wildlife Service will also be required to submit reports to Congress detailing the grants that have been awarded and the results of those grants. With transparency in the grant process and with local offices overseeing their work, I am hopeful we will see measurable results that can

be evaluated and adjusted accordingly in the future.

The Great Lakes Regional Collaboration has provided a valuable blueprint for progress, but we still face serious challenges in implementing the plan. The Administration's 2007 budget proposal failed to include funding for almost every recommendation. It is time to make the tough choices necessary to fulfill the federal government's obligation to preserve and restore the Great Lakes for future generations.

Though the lakes face great challenges, we have seen in Michigan that responsible policies can be successful. In October, I joined Representatives John D. Dingell and John Conyers in releasing whitefish into the Detroit River

Levin, cont'd., pg. 18

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What is The Lowell Area Community Fund?

Lowell Area Community Fund was established as the result of a generous \$12.7 million bequest by Harold Englehardt.

Since its inception in 1996, LACF has granted more than \$5.9 million charitable dollars into the Lowell area. In the last fiscal year, ended June 30, 2006, \$730,138 was granted! Each grant touches the "areas of concern" originally identified by the community: recreation, human service, health, environment, community development, arts and culture, and - to honor Harold Englehardt's express request for emphasis - education.

The Advisory Committee meets frequently to steward the fund through both grant-making and development planning. The committee includes: Sandy Graham, representing Lowell Township; Dave Pasquale, Lowell City Manager; John Darling, representing the Englehardt family; Betsy Davidson, representing Vergennes Township; Kurt Lardie, President at Huntington Bank, Lowell; Gregory Pratt, Superintendent of Lowell Area Schools; and Scott Vashaw, Lowell High School principal.

2006 Annual Report to the Community Available Online

Please go to our website at www.grfoundation.org/lowell to download the 2006 Annual Report

Lowell Area Schools -
To purchase developmentally appropriate and safe play area for community children.
\$37,869.00

College scholarships for Lowell area students
\$44,000.00

Rotary Club of Lowell Community Foundation -
To provide matching dollars to purchase books for the Lowell Area Schools libraries.
\$5,000.00

Rockford Ambulance Inc -
To provide funding to expand and enhance the existing physical plant that currently houses Rockford Ambulance and the Lowell Fire Department at the Look Memorial Fire Station.
\$81,000.00

FINANCIAL STATEMENT PERIOD ENDING 6/30/06

Beginning Endowment Balance	\$14,812,850.44
Grants to the Community	(730,138.50)
Program Expenses	(1,796.62)
Contributions	\$1,533.00
Investment Income	\$1,544,007.89
Investment Manager Fees	(53,512.71)
GRCF Support	(70,768.45)
Ending Endowment Balance	\$15,502,175.05

Do you have questions?

Call anyone on the Advisory Committee.

Grand Rapids Community Foundation
209-C Waters Building
161 Ottawa Ave. NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Telephone: 616-454-1751
Fax: 616-454-6455
Email: grfound@grfoundation.org
Website: www.grfoundation.org/lowell

The Lowell Area Community Fund is a donor advised fund of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation.



Lowell football standout receives Gatorade Michigan player of the year

Lowell High School quarterback Keith Nichol has been honored by Gatorade Thirst Quencher as its 2006-07 Michigan Football Player of the Year.

Nichol, along with his

fellow State Players of the Year, is now a finalist for the prestigious "Gatorade National Football Player of the Year" award to be announced in mid-December. State winners

are selected not only for their outstanding athletic performance, but also for meeting high academic-achievement standards while demonstrating exemplary

personal character on and off the field. With a 3.36 grade point average, the senior is a dedicated student-athlete and has been an enthusiastic participant

in Lowell Schools' co-curricular community service program.

He produced staggering numbers for the 10-1 Red Arrows in 2006, throwing

for 2,143 yards and 33 touchdowns.

In January, Nichol will attend Oklahoma University on a football scholarship.

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