wednesday · december · 16 · 2009

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Lowell Area Recreation Authority receives \$398,000 grant from MDNR

winter sports preview pages 7-10

LARA grant



cont'd. page 2

school board meeting



page 4

snowy sights





page 16

by Emma Palova

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The Lowell Authority Recreation (LARA) has received a \$398,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) trust fund for the construction of the trail phase I.

LARA announced the funding from MDNR and MDOT totaling \$656,000 Monday night.

For many board members, who have worked on this project for 10 years, this has been a dream come true.

"This news is exciting for the entire community of Lowell, but especially for the LARA board and

the campaign cabinet of the Lowell Area Trailway," said board member Mari of 175 applications in Stone. "Some of us have been dreaming this dream since 2000 and when we are watching the construction next year, I for one will need a good pinch to prove it is

The Lowell trail project ranked number one out meeting the MDNR criteria of providing the access to natural resources such as the Wittenbach Wege Center and the Wege property. The project also connects into the Safe Routes to School

and into the rails to trails conversion to Greenville and Ionia.

"You flipped all the switches perfectly," said consulting engineer Dave Austin. "You have a well designed project; you're

Grant, continued, page 2

Lowell area nonprofit organizations present their wish lists to the community

by Emma Palova

Amidst the holiday rush and preparations, we've asked local non-profit organizations for their wish lists and needs, along with information about their mission and goals.

This list is also intended for those people who wish to reach out and help but don't know exactly where. Often, people with a desire to help financially or physically don't know where to turn to.

This list is by no means complete. It will continue to grow into the future as the community's needs grow. We will try to bring together the needy with the donors in this holiday season and beyond.

The greater Lowell community is made up of many fine organizations, who contribute to a better quality of life, from arts to sports and recreation and everything in between. Without them, there would be no trails to enjoy, no paths to walk, no safe havens for children or gathering places for fragile adults.

Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc. 11535 Fulton St. E. Lowell, MI 49331 food pantry: (616) 897-8260 leave message for: Kraig

Haybarker: (616) 897-8829

committed providing to emergency financial and food assistance to those in time of their hardship. We are dedicated to serving and enhancing the quality of life in our community in a discreet and loving manner. Our vision is to continue touching the lives of others as Christ has touched ours. In this we can make a difference.

Franciscan Life Process Center 11650 Downes St. Lowell, MI 49331-9489 Contact: Sister Colleen Ann Nagle, FSE phone: (616) 897-7842

Our mission is to promote a relationship with God that brings dignity and hope to the sacred process of all life through programs that assist, educate, enrich and inform.

Lowell Area Arts Council 149 S. Hudson, P.O. Box 53 **Lowell, MI 49331** e-mail: info@ lowellartscouncil.org web site: lowellartscouncil. org

The Lowell Area Arts Council will integrate the arts in daily life for all citizens in the Lowell area.

Statement of purpose: To encourage the understanding,

appreciation and importance of the arts in the schools and communities we serve and to provide expression to all segments of these communities.

Wish list:

Art supplies-any kind, snow shovel and sidewalk salt, new hard drive for Dell computer (approx. \$100), and a freestanding, large 'OPEN' sign that can go into the ground.

Copy paper - any colors, costumes for Thebes Players group, gift cards for office supplies or food at Costco, Meijer, Staples, or Gordon Foods.

Cookies and punch for receptions during various gallery shows. small pumpkins donated during and enjoyment of the arts Fallasburg Fall Festival for residential communities. children's area.

> Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce 113 Riverwalk Plaza P.O. Box 224 e-mail: info@ lowellchamber.org web site: www. discoverlowell.org

The objective of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce is to promote the commercial welfare of the Lowell area, making the area a desirable location for capital

investment and residence, and also to promote the quality of life and harmony among the business and

Lowell Senior Center 314 S. Hudson Street **Lowell, MI 49331** Marcia Roth phone: (616) 897-5949 web site: www. seniorneighbors.org

Senior Neighbors is "Enhancing Senior Lives." We address the needs of older adults at their specific levels. Senior Neighbors is

Wish List, continued, page 3

Christmas surprise! Grandparents deliver daughter's baby

by Emma Palova

It was an early Christmas present for the Eickhoff family. When Sally and both scary and exciting. Rocky Eickhoff arrived at their daughter Amanda's house last Thursday at 6:20 p.m., she was already in labor.

"I got a call that something was wrong and I delivered a baby," said Sally.

There was no time for an ambulance, so Sally delivered the baby at 6:45 in the bathroom while Rocky was on the phone with 911."

"I just went by instincts," said Sally. "She could not go into an ambulance or any vehicle."

For Sally, who had her

own children by cesarean section, the delivery was

"I was worried if the baby would make it, but the baby cried which was a good sign," she said. "I was very relieved when the rescue got there after the baby was

And even though it was only a matter of minutes for the ambulance to get there, for Sally it seemed like hours. She kept the baby warm in towels.

At first, because of the cord, she couldn't tell the gender of the baby.

"The cord was just hanging there," she said. "It was a female."

Baby Faylee Madison Eickhoff along with mom were transported to Spectrum Hospital. Faylee weighed 2.5 pounds and is still in the hospital.

Would Sally do it again?

"I would if I had to, but I would prefer not to," said Sally. "She did a good job. The Lord helped me. It was very nerve-wracking."

The grandparents were at hand to help because they decided to stay in Lowell this winter, rather than going to Gowen.

Sally delivers mail, while Rocky is a bowling coach. Faylee is their first grandchild.

mix, and carrots.

Various

Michigan Wildlife Center

contacts: Sjana Gordon

Cynthia Servis (616) 808-

MWC specializes

domestic animal rescue and

educational programs for all

ages. Donations can be made

at MWC and at the Lowell

Wildlife nutrition: We

that we use for wildlife is

rehabilitation,

12494 Vergennes St.

Lowell, MI 49331

(616) 885-4223

Wish list:

special ordered.

Nonformula

(MWC)

0553

LARA grant, continued

showing cooperation; you provided a match and you thinking about phase II and didn't ask for the full amount of the grant. It's all the as revisiting some donors. foundation you've laid over the last 10 years. You've that can be taken advantage done a lot of work."

This was the first time that LARA has applied for an the trail is being constructed MDNR grant, which scored high on the criteria list.

happen within the next three Community Fund, the months including further Steelcase Foundation, the design, specifics of plans Frey Foundation, Litehouse and specifications and soil borings.

Board member Perry Fund. Beachum questioned when LARA will start spending the money, like for borings.

Since MDOT does not cover engineering costs, the with Creekside Park, Cherry group is on the hook for a Creek Elementary and the certain engineering match, according to Austin. The group has also raised monies through a public campaign launched last March

"At what point can we spend these funds?" said Austin.

agreement with the agency, it National Scenic Trail. will not go away, according to Austin.

"It's placed in a trust fund; it's locked," said Austin

EMMA PALOVA.

JON JACOBS ..

The group is already fundraising in 2010, as well

"There is a momentum of," said Stone.

Beachumemphasizedthat without a tax millage. LARA has received commitments And a lot is going to from the Lowell Area Inc., the Amway Corporation and the Lowell Cable TV

> The first phase of the trailway system will connect Lowell High School and the Wittenbach Wege Center city of Lowell.

plans Conceptual include connections to Stoney Lakeside Park with a pedestrian bridge to Riverside Park in Lowell Township. In the future, the trails will also connect to the And even though the Lowell to Ionia and Lowell MDNR grant is pending a to Greenville rails to trails legislative approval and an and to the North Country

> The group plans to announce final funding and construction plans at the Lowell EXPO on March 20.

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Canfield

PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.



Dave Austin, Al Halbeisen, Perry Beachum, Betsy Davidson, Mari Stone and Jim Pfaller discuss the trail funding and phase I.



Feel free to send your event information to the Ledger for Along Main St. All submission requests for Along Main St. are subject to space limitations and The Ledger makes no assurances that they will appear in print. To ensure that an event notification will appear in the Ledger, it is best to place a paid advertisement. All efforts will be made to place suitable items in the Along Main St. column but they are printed at the discretion of the publisher. For profit events, church services, vard sales and the like, will not appear in this column.

BOOK SIGNING

Laurie Kuna, English teacher at Lowell High School, has released a new book - Fate's Fortune (published under her pen name Laurie Carroll). Laurie will have a book signing at the Lowell Area Arts Council on Wed., Dec. 16 from 7-8:30 p.m. This is Kuna's fourth published book and all four books will be available at the book signing. Refreshments will be served. For more information call 897-8545.

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Gilda's Club, Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson St. on Tues., Dec. 29, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Come to make and take home a fun holiday craft. To register call 897-8600 or 1-800-326-1419 or visit www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow

SENIOR TRIP

Lowell High School seniors - it is not too late to sign up for the senior class trip to Chicago. Fundraisers available and ongoing. Check our website at LHS10seniortrip@gmail.com or lowellschools.com

FROM CHRISTMAS ASSISTANCE

If your family could use some help this Christmas with food and/or toys and gifts, there is still time to come to the Food Pantry (during regular open hours) and sign up to receive assistance.



Moose KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY Saturday, December 19 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Free Picture with Santa Treats for the Kids Crafts too Moose Recreation Hall 1320 E. Main, Lowell

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continued

responsive to the needs of Kent County seniors and is proactive in developing programs to address trends and needs.

Lowell YMCA **Sports Department** 1335 W. Main St. **Lowell, MI 49331** phone: (616) 897-8445

The mission of the YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids is to Zone area.

Basketballs, soccer balls, computer games-school age, BOSU balls-fitness, yoga mats, industrial coffee pot, construction paper, young age, small toys for Kids

Wish list:

Tractor Supply Company. put Christian principles into

practice through programs that build healthy spirit, encourage cash donations, mind and body for all since most of the formula

rabbit food, shelled nuts, books/crayons. sunflower seeds, parrot food, cracked or whole corn, oats and wheat germ.

DDA updates on bridge, Cable TV building projects

by Emma Palova

looming million downtown bridge replacement project and a new use for the cable TV building dominated the discussion at the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) meeting last week.

Pasquale gave an update on the bridge project. As part of the project, the \$1 million gas line relocation has been completed.

The work is slated to begin in late March with completion by Oct. 1. A meeting of the stakeholders and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will be held prior to the start with a date to be announced.

"Property owners will be identified with letters," said Pasquale.

The project completion may change depending on contractors.

"We're hoping for no

hidden surprises," Pasquale

The sidewalks on the bridge will have decorative stamped concrete brick pavers matching the decorative lighting. Considering all the

MDOT's canceled projects, the city is lucky that the bridge will be replaced, according to vice-chair Brian In related business, the

DDA discussed potential uses for the former Cable TV Among the options discussed were an incubator

restrooms

concessions, or a boat renting and bait business. "Everything is up for discussion," said member

business.

Bob Ford. The roof of the cable TV

building has been cleaned and the satellite dishes removed. Currently, the Department of Public Works

Doubt is not a pleasant condition, but certainty is absurd.

uses the building adjacent to the Chamber of Commerce for storage. The DDA's focus is on the northeast side of the

"Put your thinking caps on," said chairman Jim Reagan. "We're trying to find a good use for it. The chamber doesn't want it." The DDA approved

\$8,785 for phase II of an environmental assessment of the acquired property located at 302 W. Main Street.

"We covered phase I and phase II," said Pasquale, "the taxes are up to date and we can close on the purchase before the end of the year."

A dry cleaning facility used to be located at the site. The study will be conducted Materials Testing Consultants, Inc. based in Grand Rapids.

The next DDA meeting will be held Jan. 21 at noon at the city hall.

- Voltaire (1694 - 1778)

Produce: apples, pears, strawberries, grapes, spring lowellschools.com

The Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education veterinary supplies. Center is an outdoor learning

Domestic nutrition: pellets, grains and center owned and operated by the Lowell Area Schools We are nestled amongst Animal bedding 140 acres of lush forests. everyone, paper goods and

nature.

Wish list:

cleaning supplies. rolling prairies, abundant wetlands and open fields, all General supplies: gift waiting to be explored! cards, fleece material, heat lamps, firewood, and come and get in touch with building supplies.

St. Mary's Pregnancy 402 Amity St.

Lowell, MI 49331

We are committed to raincoats offer each girl hope in their Magnifying glasses time of need. St. Mary's is Art supplies (cravons, a group of dedicated people markers, scissors, glue, who create a community and construction paper) of love and compassion children's story books for pregnant women and about animals and nature, families with small children. children's VHS tapes and We see 35 to 50 families DVDs about animals and a week, providing them

Wish list:

clothing for layettes.

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1, 4, and 5; wipes; baby bath,

baby shampoo and newborn

Wittenbach/Wege

Environmental Education

director: Meggan Johnson

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4:30, 6:50, 9:05 FANTASTIC MR. FOX (PG) 5:00

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to Michigan like deer and raccoon) and lopping shears Lanterns, poker chips,

and tanned animal skins

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West Michigan Bluegrass Association (W.M.B.M.A.)

president: Dave Simmonds contact: (616) 897-6220 president@ wmbma.org W.M.B.M.A. is a

non-profit organization established for the promotion preservation of traditional acoustic bluegrass music. Our purpose and activities include soliciting memberships, sponsoring festivals and concerts and publishing an informational newsletter.

Wish list:

"We really don't have any wishes or needs, but we would hope to see more Lowell area residents attend our Bluegrass music festivals in the spring and fall at the Lowell fairgrounds in 2010," said president Dave Simmonds. "They should come on out and enjoy the good music."

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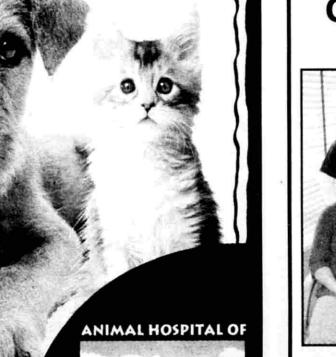
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District receives a pause from the governor's office regarding the latest round of cuts to school funding

performed as well as a stated Lowell has done while developing systemic paused. We need to keep the our finance department; Service Learning update. a fine job regarding its approaches for sustaining heat on that our schools need believe this audit shows we John Zielinski also briefed bookkeeping. the board of education and the public on recent news the board on the Academic her team have provided the governor's office," regarding school funding.

Parker Liu, president in its seventh year at Lowell. the broader service-learning of the student council and Lowell has a program that network in Michigan, student representative to the is recognized nationally. helping other districts to board of education, presented Academic Service Learning grow their programs using an update on activities at is a teaching method that the Lowell Area Schools the high school. Students combines have participated in various service to the community program officer for Michigan can drives. The high school with classroom learning. has adopted five families to "Each year projects take Commission. sponsor this holiday season. place in the K-12th grade; The environmental club is there is participation in all present a budget amendment participating in "Christmas schools and 70-80 teachers to the board due to the for the Animals" in participate adding up to a information received from conjunction with John Ball total of 40,000-50,000 hours the State of Michigan that The 2008-2009 audit teachers are providing to the additional \$127 per pupil;

performed by Hungerford, Aldrin, Nichols & Carter, P.C., was presented to the Community board. "Lowell got another Commission unqualified opinion this year, agency

improvements, but clearly service-learning experiences governors office has now

Service Learning that is now extensive leadership within

community," said Stone. that which is the highest opinion volunteerism as a means for office on Thursday stating an audit firm can give," said strengthening communities. that it is pausing this Adriane Schrauben. "You Lowell Area Schools has additional \$127 per pupil have one of the very closest been a part of our Learn cut. "We hope to hear more budgets to actual that you can and Service - Michigan regarding this additional

meaningful model," — Angelia Salas, John Zielinski intended to

of service our students and funding would be cut an this cut is in addition to the Michigan \$165 that was cut when the Service state approved its budget. However, the district received supports notice from the governor's

The board of education get. It looks like you did an program for six years. \$127 per pupil reduction said board member Peter for Lowell Area Schools held excellent job of controlling During that time, Lowell in January," said Zielinski. Haefner. "Put the pressure on its regular meeting Monday cost," said Schrauben. The has become a state model "We had planned to make our legislators," said board firm included suggested for providing high quality a budget amendment. The member Nancy Hopkins.

their programs. Over those this funding. Parents need to are being good stewards of Carla Stone updated six years, Ms. Stone and contact legislators, contact this community's money,"

said superintendent Greg Pratt. "I would also like to give special appreciation to our teachers and staff as we approach the holidays; the kids are getting excited and the teachers are doing a great job of keeping them on track," said Pratt.



Carla Stone updates at the LAS board meeting.

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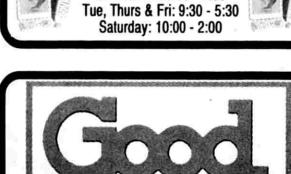
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O view Doint

some statistics.

to the ... editor

Dear Editor.

Michigan has lost its economic engine putting Michigan into a harsh recession causing 15 percent unemployment and depleting tax revenues.

Some in Michigan

First step

The long Michigan winter

has begun. Officially,

winter begins on the 21st of

is well underway. Now is the

time to make plans to take

advantage of recreational

opportunities available in

the north country. There is

Looking

By Shelly MacNaughton

succeed.

was destroyed.

gray snow clouds.

December but, in reality,

our present tax structure with

more taxation. Are more bottom 80 percent when who is in control. taxes the way to go? I believe they shoulder the greatest before this subject is even burden is unconscionable. for steelhead fishermen who outdoors

country equipment to those

follow trails which lead far from the trailhead to find solitude. Resorts and some

125 Years Ago

The Lowell Journal

December 17, 1884

Dry beech and maple wood were \$1.50 to \$1.75 per cord

The good citizens of Grand Rapids propose to close up

The Millard murder trial will continue some days yet.

100 Years Ago

The Lowell Ledger

December 16, 1909

In a fire that brilliantly illuminated the entire village

Monday morning at about 4 o'clock, the house, owned by

Wellington G. Sargent of Grand Rapids and occupied by

Henry Sargent, located near the German Methodist church,

When a verdict is reached the JOURNAL will announce it,

but will not attempt to publish the testimony in the case.

the gambling dens in that city and here's hoping they will

who ski only occasionally or just want to give it a try. Trail fees are generally reasonable at resorts and not rink. required at parks and federal or state forest trails. A pair of snowshoes will get you well off the beaten path if you feel gliding through the woods on skis is a bit risky. As soon as the ice is safe

Dave Stegehuis

a silver lining to those dark to walk on, experienced Cross-country ski trails the fishing can be very cooperates. good early in the season. across both peninsulas. The Ice fishing is an easy and inexpensive way to take advantage of our natural resources. Only a few basic pieces of equipment are needed to catch a batch of panfish for dinner. A number public parks rent cross- of rivers are open all year

don't mind chewing the ice lasts until the first of the off fishing rod line guides.

Ice-skating experienced renewed interest, and one can shovel the snow Sliding contraptions of

all kinds whiz down hillsides wherever a bunch of kids find a slope. Downhill ski areas have somehow survived snow-less winters and tough economic times obstacle to getting outdoors over the years and draw lots for fun and exercise is our fishermen head out knowing of skiers when the weather reluctance to leave a warm

a major commitment, but looking through the front Michigan is a great place to window, to be a hostile run the sleds. There are some environment. It is kind of areas of the state where the like diving into a lake, once trails are so extensive that a you are in its just fine. Take car can be switched out for a that first step and you will

every Christmas tree.

debated, we should look at Our state needs a system that puts more of the tax The top 20 percent of burden on the upper 20

our nation owns 85 percent percent. I wouldn't count are looking at changing of all wealth, while the on our state legislators to do Michigan's tax structure bottom 80 percent owns only the right thing; they seem while others want to add to 15 percent of the nation's to be more concerned about wealth. Adding taxes to the themselves, their party and

Sincerely, Jim Howard

Bow hunting season

New Year for die-hard has archers. Deer may be hunted with muzzleloaders until so more municipalities are December 20 in zones 2 and maintaining skating rinks, 3. Squirrels can be collected until March 1. Chasing off the pond for a hockey rabbits with beagles goes on until March 31. There is still plenty of opportunity to put wild game in the stewpot.

Even with all of the opportunities out there, most of us tend to spe nd the winter indoors. The major comfortable place and go Snowmobiling requires out into what would appear,

keep coming back.

75 Years Ago

The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo

December 20, 1934

Weaver's Market has been redecorated throughout the

Lowell's Christmas stocking is surely bulging over this

50 Years Ago

The Lowell Ledger

December 15, 1959

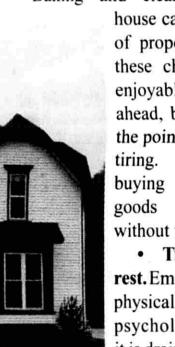
Lowell Police reported that there had been several cases

interior and floodlights have been installed in the windows.

year-twelve percent cuts in electric rates are not hung on

Throughout the year, there are many holidays or Realize that it isn't going to 'special days' including be easy. Do the things that are birthdays, anniversaries, very special and/or important graduations and weddings. to you. Do the best that you For many, the busy holiday can. Don't apologize for season in December can often mean "family" more your decisions. Once you than any other time of the have made the decision on year. For those who are the role you and your family living with cancer, another will play during the holidays. serious health issue or grief let relatives and friends

> Limit your chores. Baking and cleaning the



strength. Don't feel like vou need to respond to well

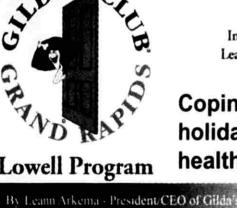
Here are some ideas and wishes. When someone says suggestions that many have "Happy Holidays?" You can found helpful in coping with say, "I'll try" or "Best wishes a serious illness and the to you."

 Limit • Be honest about your Shopping can sometimes be feelings. Sit down with your too much. If it is, have your family and decide what you spouse, a relative or close want to do for the holiday friend help you. Consider season. Don't set expectations shopping through a catalog too high for yourself or or online.

This holiday season take would be the same, you are some time to honor those you know who may be Do things a little differently. living with cancer or grief and let them know that the family member can handle free support program at Gilda's Club is available for • There is no right or them. Gilda's Club is now in wrong way to handle the Lowell at 314 South Hudson holidays. Some may wish Street thanks to a special to follow family traditions, partnership with the Pink while others may choose to Arrow Project II, Lowell Community Wellness and the • Be careful of Lowell Senior Neighbors. "shoulds." It is better to do You may also contact us by what is most helpful for you calling 897-8600 or 1-800and your family. If a situation 326-1419, or visiting www.

of vandalism last week in the community; six complaints were made on shooting BB pellets through windows in the community: three plate glass store windows in the Strand Theatre, Dee's Restaurant and the Ledger office were broken with pellets with damage estimated at \$200. These were shot

of 219 North West Street, Lowell, last Thursday evening Marvin was reportedly sound asleep at about midnight when the dog, appropriately named "Smokey," began raising a fuss as if he had to go outside. Marvin, who rents an apartment in the basement of the home owned by Betty Morris, 57, reluctantly put on his pants and went upstairs to let the dog out the garage door. When Marvin opened the door leading to the garage, he was confronted with the heat and thick smoke of a fire. Marvin and Smokey, who were the only ones home at the time, immediately fled from the fire.



In This Together. Learn. Share. Laugh.

Coping with the holidays on a serious health or grief journey

limitations.

of any kind, December can know. This is a time for be a time of year when they YOUR healing. become acutely aware of the changes in their life.

holiday season:

the day. If you wish things

going to be disappointed.

Undertake only what each

permission to abstain.

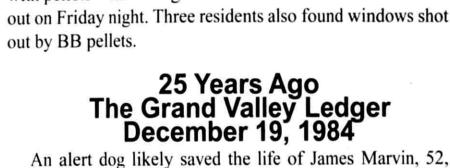
the holidays, give yourself for more information.

house can get out of proportion. If these chores are enjoyable, go ahead, but not to the point that it is tiring. Consider baked

or go without this year. Try to rest. Emotionally. physically and psychologically, it is draining. You need every bit of

shopping.

looks especially difficult over gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow



weddings

Dibble/Hankins

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The ceremony which Mark Dibble, on November united in marriage Renee 21, was performed at the Lynn Hankins and Brandon Naval Air Station in Corpus

Christi, Texas. Parents of the couple are Thomas and Christie Hankins, of Kent City; Debra Myers, of Lowell: Mark and Lori of Lowell; and Dibble, also of





Elevated triglycerides

fats in your blood that are

Triglycerides (trigs) are pancreatitis, a potentially harmful condition. Elevated trigs can occur

at any age and often runs likely to have them if you with your heart or liver. smoke, are overweight, or Elevated trigs can also cause eat unhealthy foods. Some

medicines (ie. birth control or hormone pills) may cause it. If you have other medical illnesses like thyroid disease or diabetes, you may also have increased trigs.

If you are found to have elevated trigs, you should get 20 to 40 minutes of aerobic exercise three to four times a week. You should also eat a diet low in saturated fat and sugar. Don't drink more than two alcoholic beverages per day and don't smoke or use tobacco. If your levels of trigs are too high, your doctor may ask you to take prescription medicines.



DECEMBER 16 Timmy Buechler.

DECEMBER 17 Bill Ellison, Jerry Scott.

DECEMBER 18 Anchors Danielle Graves, Walling, Julie Alberts,

DECEMBER 19 Lori Moore, Carol

Heather Walendzik.

Chamberlain.

Burtt, Jackie Spencer, Rob Lombardo.

DECEMBER 21

DECEMBER 20

Ed Mohr, William Henry

Al Smith, Brooke Page, Zachary TyKocki, Debbie Walendzik.

> **DECEMBER 22** Jason Seeley.



NOTICE CHARTER TOWNSHIP LOWELL **HOLIDAY HOURS**

Lowell Township will be open the following days during the holidays:

Monday, December 21, 2009. ..9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM Monday, December 28, 2009. ..9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM Tuesday, December 29, 2009.. ..9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM

Dr. Paul M'Pindi, Radio Revivalist in Africa Presents "The Coming of Jesus into Our World" Sunday Services 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM Children's Christmas Program December 20 • 6:00 PM Christmas Day • 10 AM

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WEDNESDAYS: Family Night (for all ages): 7:00 p.m. "The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m. Loving God ... Loving People!

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- OPEN DOORS

Pastor Dean Bailey

...9:30 A.M.

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Winter Sports

Boys Varsity Basketball



Front row, left to right: Mgr. Brennan Page, Jon Hanson, Kevin Luyk, Sam Steed, Conor McCarrey, Zach Noskey, Jacob Meyer, Tyler Wallner, and Isaac Tawney; second row, left to right: coach Nic Bond, Griffin Brenk, Noah Burtt, Zach Fizer, Dan Wernet, Elliott Drain, Derek Cornish, assistant coach Phil Garber, coach Jeff McDonald.

Girls Varsity Basketball

Frontrow, left to right: Montgomery, Sam Visscher, Kallie Holzhueter, Kait Drudy, and Brooke Curtis: second row, left to right: Taylor Flanagan. Courtney Schmidt, Katie **Bryleigh** Tompkins, Loughlin, Stephanie coach Stevens, and Danielle Gallert.

wednesday • december • 16 • 2009



Will extensive minutes translate into success for Lowell in 2009-10?

returning starters logged last year translate into more wins this year?

"We hope it turns into more wins. We hope it means we make more plays, handle pressure better and knock down more shots," explained Red Arrow boys' basketball coach Jeff McDonald.

Lowell will count on junior Jacob Meyer and senior Jon Hanson to control empo and handle pressure

us more of a half court. calming influence. He will direct traffic," McDonald explained.

McDonald, however, also

and wants to score for us."

Both are crafty creative in getting to the

Elliot Drain.

propensity to throw the ball

back out when he gets it,"

The Red Arrows will need a relentless pursuit of the basketball if it is to make its mark on the boards.

"We're not the tallest group. So rebounding will have to be an emphasis and one we do by committee," McDonald said.

"We think Zach will be

"Meyer is quick and can penetrate and go by people."

needs them to consistently get the ball to the other players and over the half-

McDonald will count on seniors Derrick Cornish and Isaac Tawney (co-captain) to carry much of the scoring

"Cornish can shoot the basketball and has a great first step," McDonald said. "Isaac has had a nice three weeks of practice. He has to

Their success could be enhanced by the play of

"We need Elliot to attempt in nine months, is out for the shots in the paint. He has the year.

To start, it will have to be done without senior cocaptain Zach Noskey (out with a broken arm).

back after Christmas. He's a coach on the floor for us. He knows what he's suppose to do as well as others," McDonald explained. The Lowell coach will

and Noah Burtt for important minutes underneath. "Griffin (6-3, 225) has good hands and good feet

look to juniors Griffin Brenk

Noah is also a slasher and shooter," McDonald said. East Grand Rapids and Grand Rapids Christian are

expected to be the cream of the crop in the O-K White. "The Eagles have a ton of size and East has size, speed

and shooters," McDonald

Others expected to minutes are juniors Conor McCarrey, Sam Steed. Danny Wernet and senior

Junior Tyler Wallner, who suffered a third concussion

Kevin Luvk.

Varsity Wrestling



Front row, left to right: Will Schmidt. Johnny Tippett, Matt Hoogenboom, Kalvin Meyer, Ryan Schmidt, Eli Scoby, Martin Brubaker, Alex McIntire, Ethan Sutton, Zach Dawson, and Tyler Dalstra: second row, left to right: Gabe Morse, Jake Mitchell, Jake Gould. Jake Fillingham, Jackson Morse, Daniel Fleet, Erik Ingebretson, Jake Lynema, Zack Jeffries, Zac Graves, and Ryan Olep; third row, left to right: Austin Hause, Matt Griffioen, Wade Schlosser, Andrew Morse, Tyler Prill, Chase Treglia, Nick Shaffer, Luke Stephens, Cody Kooiman, Jacob Murray, and Luke Henderson; fourth row, left to right: Jake Stehley, Tyler Mitchell, Shawn Dulin, Connor Kruse, Gabe Dean, Austin Ellsworth, James Wierenga, Austin Gildea, Alan Lally, and Nick McKay.

Girls Bowling

nothing less than a league title

come from captain Kristin out a 165 average as she

Bouwhuis, a four-year bowler enters the new season, while

year ago. Eickhoff believes Geldersma, Jessie Alberts, a good season and expect to

Alberts sports a 160 average

and Mulder and Mitchell

sophomore Molly Doering

"The girls should have

(120) provide some depth.

Boys Bowling

it's a good mix of senior Sara Mulder and junior win the O-K White again.

Lowell girls' rolling for

leadership and youth.

up by sophomores Amber

bowling team will roll

for a fourth consecutive

starters return from a

team which qualified for

the state tournament.

talent to play with.

coach Rocky Eickhoff.

league title.

In its first match of the

Eickhoff is being, assisted

"Eva is young and has

up to Kelloggsville at the

with the girls team by Eva

been through this and can

relate to the girls," Eickhoff

Amber Geldersma rolls vear, Lowell was runner-

Geldersma

Winter Sports

Hockey

Tier 3 championship, hockey's coveted cup

This year, the eighth-year hockey coach added winning the O-K conference tier 3

The Lowell/Caledonia

"It got a little scary in that goalie), but we survived."

despite the loss, was against Forest Hills," Ballard said. "Though, our play early on has been inconsistent." The 2009-10 squad is

junior and senior dominated. Lowell/Caledonia battled through a difficult year last

year, finishing last in tier 2. The league is set up where the last place teams in tiers one and two drop down a tier the following year. The first place teams in tiers two

and three bump up one tier. Seniors, Billy Watson, Kevin VanDenBerge and Kolin Morgan, have been selected captains and will be looked to for leadership.

"All three of them work well with the younger players and are willing to help them "Billy wins over 60

good, solid, stay-at-home in front of the net," Ballard

He's also good in front

A well blended mix of gymnasts welcome DeHaan back

While Michelle DeHaan hasn't held the most visible role in Lowell gymnastics like each girl to qualify for the tuck in their floor over the past four years, she the regional in at least one routines. has remained the program's event," the Lowell coach matriarch.

come up through the Lowell we also have gymnasts with beam. program, I've worked with since elementary school," DeHaan said. "I'm happy to be back coaching at the freshmen varsity level. I didn't realize just how much I missed it."

at the varsity level in four years. She did, however, coach Lowell for the 11 years preceding that.

A well-rounded roster has DeHaan said. elevated DeHaan's goals.

"Our first goal is to qualify for the team regional. I'd also McVey both have executed explains. "We have some Jorie Bennett, is expected "Most of the girls that have inexperienced gymnasts, but

> That may be most evident senior Kelsey Teft. The Red with the Red Arrows' three Arrow's off-season work has

Abby Rogalke is expected to be a central contributor DeHaan has not coached both on the bars and in the floor exercise.

> "She comes to the varsity level having already learned the kip (uneven bar skill),"

Cheer

DeHaan. Senior Sarah Piell's best event will be the uneven Gymnast, continued page 10



season is to enjoy, learn and

championship.

skaters, after losing their opening two non-conference games, hung on to win their league-opener against Unity,

final minute of play," Ballard explained. "Because of penalties, Unity was skating 6-on-3 (having pulled its

Lowell/Caledonia's Bay City Thunder (5-4) in overtime and to Forest Hills

Northeastern, 3-2.

out," Ballard said.







Stanford, Tyler Bitterman, Karson Arnold, Billy Watson, Jordan Swift, Jacob Anderson, coach Tim Beurer; Front row: Nathan Propst, Zach Hoffman, Dennis Echelbarger, Justin Lehman, Branden McGillicuddy, Kolin Morgan, Adam Hubert, Cam Steger and Tyler Morris

percent of his faceoffs,"

"He also has a big body VanDenBerge is a and can take care of players

Hockey, continued page 10

Rogalke and Morgan

The third freshman,

The team leader is

added some new tricks to her

routines. They should help

Teft not just get to the state

gymnastics tournament, but

place as well, according to

to contribute on the balance

Gymnastics



Front row, left to right: Vonda Kyes, Sarah Piell, Kelsey Teft, Abby Rogalke, Morgan Rogalke, and Jorie Bennett; second row, left to right: coach Michele DeHaan, Cassie Miles, Becky Chamberlain, Lauren Trasky, Morgan McVey, Emma Bencker, and assistant coach Sara Tarchala.

Depth brings some light to area ski team

Timmers, Brandon Segal, and Logan Phenix.

Marquee names sat atop the Kenowa Hills/Lowell/ Comstock Park ski team rosters last year.

Coach Marc Hagerman hopes this is the year where depth can get blended in. Junior Spencer Gillette

(Kenowa Hills) was an all conference slalom skier last year. His best finish was sixth place for both slalom and giant slalom at the Cabefae

Samantha Hagerman was also all conference in giant slalom and slalom. Her best finish in slalom was sixth (twice).

our girls' team should be and could be a top 20 skier. able to compete and score at each event," Hagerman said. "We're looking to be a sport of skiing," Hagerman

Front row, left to right: Dillon Buck, Jordan Dennie, Jacob Hornbrook,

and Josh Rocco; second row, left to right: Alec Bobko, Trevis Shea, Ryan

A promising new face to this year's club is freshman Abigail Ellis, who enters the year with a few years of racing experience. Gabor Halasz, D.J. Mixon Hagerman thinks she can be and Justin Barrett. a top 20 skier.

more depth, but it is Race," Hagerman said. inexperienced. exchange for Jan. 29 in Marquette. student Jelena Petricevic

"With increased depth, has ski racing experience "Four of the six team

The race is scheduled

members are new to the may tumble the Lowell competitive cheer team into explained the upper echelon of O-K Other members of the White/Black conference. teams include Katy Mork.

Wieman, Sean Florian, to execute and the tricks themselves should result in high round two and three Claypool. "A race we always look scores for the Red Arrows. The boys also have forward to is the Cabefae

Synchronizing 16 girls as opposed to eight creates a greater degree of difficulty," Lowell coach Kari Dawson explained. "Do it successfully and we will get bonus points added to our routine scores."

Higher numbers of back

This year's squad will

starter, Erin Fleet.

Red Arrow competitive cheer

Growth expected from

"Erin gives us floor handsprings and back tucks leadership and is able to help out younger members because she knows all the routines," Dawson said Juniors who should play

The combination of key roles in Lowell's success the number of girls able in 2009-10 are Becky Chamberlain, Kate Scudder, Anna Scudder and Ericka "Ericka is an amazing

stunt person for us. She possesses a variety of skills,"

"Becky also provides us with leadership out on the floor and has good tumbling and three.

Both Scudder girls bring be led by senior, three-year back tucks to the table.

While Kenowa Hills appears to be the frontrunner going into the season, Dawson says her Red Arrows are positioned to challenge Grand Rapids Christian for the second spot.

Senior Lindsey Stehley serves as Claypool's spotter. Senior Hailey DeGrote is also expected to contribute.

In the field of 20 at the Competitive Cheer Coaches Association of Michigan scrimmage on Saturday, Dawson was pleased with the degree of execution her club displayed in rounds two

Front row, left to right: Kate Scudder, Becky Chamberlain, Hailey DeGrote, Chelsae Prill, and Anna Scudder; second row, left to right: Kelsey Schoon, Lowell's first competition Kirsten Baker, Erin Fleet, Paige Rash, Ericka Claypool, and Lacey Norden; is Jan. 9 against Cedar third row, left to right: coach Kari Dawson, Jenn Hartley, Jordan Ervin-Wakefield, Erin Groom, Lindsey Stehley, and Taylor Whaley.

to compete for league honors When asked about the sophomores Dillon Buck, should provide quality depth 2009-2010 Lowell boys' Alec Bobko and Jake by year's end. bowling team, coach Rocky Hornbrook. "Many of these kids

Young Red Arrows expected

immediate response is "a challenge." Hornbrook average 150. It's the type of challenge that includes youth and talent, providing a solid foundation four freshmen and a

Front row, left to right: Molly Doering, Kristin

Bouwhuis, and Janina Richardson; second row, left

to right: Jessica Alberts, Shelby Mitchell, Sammi

Geldersma, Amber Geldersma, and Sarah Mogor.

"This is a year for building and learning the Phenix, Jordan Denning, basics and getting them set Ryan up for their junior and senior Rocco and Brandon Segal

championship team are Timmers, Rocco and Segal

years," Eickhoff said. Returning from last

for growth.

Dillon, the team captain, rolls a 170 while Bobko and The new faces include

sophomore.

Timmers, Josh

(sophomore). Phenix and Denning are year's O-K White conference expected to help right away.

have been bowling in kid's leagues," Eickhoff explains. "They all have talent. We just have to work with it and build and mold them for the

next two years." Eickhoff identifies Northview as the team to beat, but doesn't discount his young Red Arrow squad.

Assisting Eickhoff with coaching duties will be his

Ski Team



Front row, Katy Mork, Aubrey Gillette and Maxi Wiemann; back row: Sean Florian, Gabor Halasz, Jelena Petricevic, Sam Hagerman, D.J. Mixon, Justin **Barrett and Spencer Gillette.**

Red Arrows open season with wins against tradition-rich wrestling programs

by Thad Kraus

in others when they don't is a pillar of leadership The success seniors Jake

Gould, Jake Fillingham and Matt Griffioen enjoyed on the mat at Friday night's quad many authors along the way.

"First of all it's a credit to those kids for understanding the value of playing different roles and for being ready staff for teaching and developing character in these young men."

Dean understands Gould. Fillingham and Griffioen

A first-quarter spark

was all the Lowell girls'

basketball team needed at

Cedar Springs as it evened

"The girls came out with

Some of that spark was

more of a spark in the first

quarter," said Lowell coach

its record at 2-2 with a 47-

32 nonconference win.

Danielle Gallert.

may not have been around of the year, and for some Seeing the potential value for Friday night's quad with Catholic Central, Allegan and St. Rita's (Chicago).

> Gould, wrestling at 140 Detroit Catholic Central. "The young man he pinned was fifth in the state last year in Division I," Dean

Fillingham, 130, lost his match to St. Rita of Illinois before battling back to post a win against Detroit Catholic Central. The wrestler from families and to my wrestling St. Rita finished second in the state of Illinois last year.

> Griffioen, 125, wrestled 5-2 decision to last year's they were seeking. number one wrestler in the

Sparkling effort produces

win at Cedar Springs

around you."

Wrestling in its first meet to wrestle at the University

"The press got us some

easy buckets," Gallert said.

"The girls also did a good job

Stephanie Stevens led all

while Courtney Schmidt and 12 points.

Lowell scorers with 12 points

online at the lowellledger.com

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LOWELL • MICHIGAN

with limited practice time, Lowell impressed its coach. "The boys competed

better than I expected," Dean said. "I feel good and really encouraged by what I saw.

What Dean saw was Lowell wrestlers competing against superior wrestlers, fighting for six minutes and

whole match and a good end result. It isn't glorious, but it shows a lot of pride and that they are accountable to their

He also watched his superior wrestlers come off well before dropping a the mat with the end results

Lowell senior Jackson

Red Arrows

outscored Cedar Springs 30-

18 in the first half and 17-14

Tiffany Karger led all

Cedar Springs players with

Morse, who has committed

fueled by a 1-2-2 full court, Bryleigh Loughlin tallie

with its help-side defense. in the second half. Lowell

That comes about with being held the home team scoreless

alert to what is going on over the final eight minutes

eight apiece.

The

of Illinois next year, won in the process, you can find both his matches by pin. Morse's vounger brothers, sophomores Andrew and Gabe, also won both their

The Friday night wrestling then in round two, Detroit match also accomplished a Catholic Central 37-26. few things for the sport.

promotes the sport, and doing Detroit Catholic Central 29this on Friday night you can 17 and then St Rita's 46-24. really feature wrestling more because Friday night is the great. We had some tough prime night for sports. And matches, but I didn't think (Chicago).

wrestling is great. I'd surely like to do a few more of these. It's a great idea."

wednesday • december • 16 • 2009

Lowell travels to Mishawaka, Ind., to wrestle the Cavemen, a team it hosted and lost to last year. On Tuesday, Dec. 22, the Red Arrows host Rockford. Stevensville-Lakeshore and

Bigger Bulldogs bounce Lowell, 68-52

out a lot about your team

by wrestling such great

programs," Dean explained.

In its two matches, Lowell

Allegan, the fourth

"The competition was

member of the quad, upended

defeated St. Rita's 49-18 and

by Thad Kraus

After one game it is clear that a short, scrappy Red Arrow boys' basketball team will compete and play hard for four quarters.

What is also clear, large O-K Red basketball team." match-up problems.

With a baseline that measures up from 6-6 to 6-8. Grandville's Bulldogs used an inside-out mix to eventually pull away from Lowell in the third quarter en route to a 68-52 nonconference victory.

"Their size provided

opportunities at the rim," said Lowell basketball coach Jeff McDonald. "Grandville scored lots of points in the paint. They are a pretty nice

Lowell trailed 14-13 after eight minutes and by six (28-22) at half-time. Grandville pulled away after half with a 26-19 third-quarter scoring

"With just four practices with a full unit, this is a good starting point for us," McDonald said. "That was enough time to get stuff in."

The Lowell coach added that his club's timing and spacing was not very good. "If we commit to a

great Christmas vacation of practice, it will give us a huge opportunity for growth," McDonald said. Isaac Tawney led all

scorers with 16 points. Derek Cornish netted 14 points while Jacob Meyer added six.

Lowell travels to Friday night to open up its O-K White

Gymnast, continued

in the floor exercise.

Teammate Cassie Miles has the desire and confidence to shine on the balance beam in 2009-10.

Sarah Bencher is expected to contribute and add depth in the floor exercise.

missed all of last year due less than that to pick up the to a fractured ankle, but high bar kip," DeHaan said. be Rockford, Kenowa Hills

season could very well be a she is able to catch on to steady all-around gymnast.

Junior Morgan Rogalke shows the skills to help out in the floor exercise and on the vault

Lauren Trasky may be the amazing Lowell gymnast. "She needed just a month

Junior Vonda Keyes to learn the low bar kip and with rehabilitation in the off- "It amazes me how quickly and Forest Hills Central.

joins the gymnastics team in 2009-10. The Red Arrow will compete in just the floor exercise. She will also attempt to juggle both gymnastics and competitive cheer. The O-K Rainbow's

Junior Becky Chamberlain

tough teams are expected to

Hockey, continued

of the net on Lowell/ Caledonia's powerplay.

Morgan is considered one of the team's fastest skaters and plays the game with tenacity.

biggest asset may between the pipes.

Senior goalie, Tyler and maneuvers well, plays square to the puck and doesn't sit back in the crease.

according to Ballard. junior Nathan Propst.

Lowell's leading scorer ice. is junior Karsen Arnold. Forward Cam Steger

Lowell/Caledonia's handles the stick well and displays good shooting

> Tyler Bitterman, center, handles the stick well, is physical and also wins over 60 percent of his faceoffs.

Braden McGillacuddy. Backing Morris up is sophomore defenseman, sees the game well on the

"He has good peripheral vision and knows what's happening around him." Ballard explained.

The Lowell-Caledonia coach expects the league title to come down between Grand Rapids Christian and

Someone had to say it!

Here are the games

(circle the winner):

Rutgers

S. Mississippi

Wyoming vs Fresno St.

Thad Kraus

Good Luck! Based on second last year's results, I'm the Ledger Bowl Pick one who needs some luck. Bonanza is here.

Last year's winner was Darwin LaLone. He was one of nine entries who correctly picked the winner of more bowl games than I did.

Of the 34 games, I picked 14 correctly (41 percent). I hope to do better this year.

If you forgot, here's BYU how the game works. I'm printing my picks in this Utah week's paper. I encourage any and all readers to do the same before 5 p.m. on Dec. 19 and either drop SMU off or mail their selections to the Ledger office. The computer literate can e-mail their selections to reporter@ Marshall lowellbuyersguide.com

Those participants who Clemson choose more games correctly than I do will have their names dropped in a hat. A winner will then be selected. Miami The lucky winner will receive a \$50 gift certificate UCLA to Larkin's.

Williams

been named Murray Lake's

Volunteer of the Month for

November. Williams is in

the building volunteering

on a weekly basis. Her son,

Cameron, is a third grader at

"Anne comes in every

week and helps me with so

manythings. Itruly appreciate

the time she donates to our

school," commented third

grade teacher Dawn Landis.

Until recently, Williams

activities

was busy with work and

many of her children's

and did not have time to

volunteer. An unfortunate

spinal cord injury has taken

"Although the injury

is tough to deal with, the

blessing has been that I now

have the time to volunteer

and be more involved with

my son in his school life,"

Williams moved to

Lowell two years ago. She

also has three other children.

"I am a firm believer in 'It

says Williams.

Williams' ability to work.

extracurricular

Murray Lake.

vs California Boston College vs USC

vs Nevada North Carolina vs Pittsburgh

vs Kentucky Texas A&M vs Georgia vs Wisconsin

Volunteer of the Month

vs Temple

Anne Williams and son Cameron.

takes a Village.' I am unable at Murray Lake who have

to work and I certainly have given my son the direction

no ability to teach. However, and discipline he needed is

I believe my presence in my simply not enough. To give

son's life at school provides my time is just a small token

an opportunity to work of the appreciation I feel

with the 'village' at Murray the Murray Lake 'village'

Lake and strengthen the deserves. The smile on my

foundation for which my son son's face each time I walk

will grow and be productive. into his classroom lets me

For me to say 'thank you' to know I am where I am

the great staff and teachers supposed to be."

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Air Force vs Houston vs Oklahoma Minnesota vs Iowa State

Virginia Tech vs Tennessee Northwestern vs Auburn vs Univ. Central Florida Penn State vs LSU

vs Middle Tennessee Florida State vs West Virginia vs Oregon State Ohio State vs Oregon

Florida vs Cincinnati East Carolina vs Arkansas South Florida vs Northern Illinois Oklahoma State vs Ole Miss.

Connecticut vs South Carolina Michigan State vs Texas Tech **Boise State** vs TCU

> Georgia Tech vs Iowa Troy vs Central Michigan Alabama

vs Texas

financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Put unused vacation days to work in your 401(k)

Now that the year is almost over, you may want to explore some lastto potentially boost your fortunes and improve your tax returns for 2010. And one good place to

look is your 401(k). Your 401(k) is a great retirement savings vehicle. You typically fund your plan with pretax dollars, so the more you put in, the lower Now, however, the Obama your taxable income. Plus, your earnings can grow on a tax-deferred basis, which means your money can grow faster than if it were placed in an investment on which you paid taxes every year. Also, you can spread your 401(k) dollars among a range of investments to match your risk tolerance, time horizon and retirement goals. Clearly, then, would be nice to "max out" on your plan each year. But during difficult economic times, it may not be easy for you to defer more of your salary into your 401(k). Fortunately, there may be a the conversion feature won't way in which you can boost

P.O. Box 128

— without cutting into your take-home pay.

Specifically, you may minute steps you can take be able to convert any unused vacation and sick time to your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan, such as a 457(b) or 403(b). Many employers have offered this conversion option for years, but relatively few employees have taken advantage of it. administration has asked the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the IRS to issue new rulings on the topic in the hope of getting more people to increase their retirement savings. And this is an important goal, because many of us still need to put away much more money on a regular basis if we're going to enjoy the type of retirement lifestyle we've

The ability to convert vacation or sick time to your 401(k), 403(b) or 457(b) plan can help you make progress toward that lifestyle. While enable you to exceed the your 401(k) contributions contribution limit for your

plan contributions, so check with your human resources or benefits office to see if you can make this move. If it is allowed, though, consider taking action. Once you know how many retirement plan dollars can result from your unused vacation or sick days, go over your 401(k) or other plan, perhaps with the help of your financial

plan — which for 2009 is

\$16,500, or \$22,000 if you're 50 or older — it may make

it easier for you to beef up

your contributions for this

year, particularly if you have

unused vacation or sick time

Not all employers are

willingorabletoturnvacation

or sick hours into retirement

you can't carry over.

advisor, to determine an appropriate allocation of your money. For example, you may have accounts within your plan that are currently under-funded. Or vou might benefit from "rebalancing" your plan by adding some new money into different accounts. Keep in mind. however, that diversification does not guarantee a profit or protect against loss. In any case, consider this

opportunity to add to your retirement plan. The more you save today, the brighter your outlook could be for



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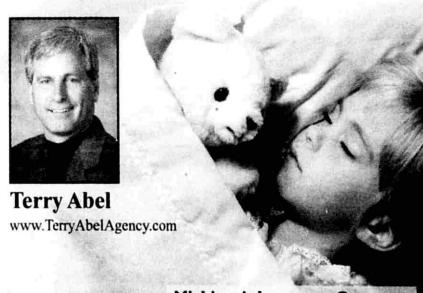
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RISHER Donald L. Risher II, aged 68, of Middleville, passed away December 11, 2009. He was born June 17, 1941, in Grand Rapids, the son of Donald and T. Elizabeth (Hoag) Risher Sr. He married Jean Geldersman in Ionia December 16, 1987. She preceded him in death December 17, 1994. Donald was in the Air Force during the Vietnam war. He was a past member of the American Legion. Donald was an avid bowler. He is arrangements by Lake survived by his stepsons, Funeral Home in Saranac. David and Hilda Dieble, of Grant; George and Gaynell may be made at www. Dieble, of Fenwick; and lakefuneralhomes.com

Nelson Smith, of Ionia; eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren: brothers, Robert Risher, of Grand Rapids; Jerry and Sandie Risher, of Saranac; and Tim Risher, of Middleville; sister, Pam and Larry Southerland, of Hastings; and many nieces and nephews. Donald was preceded in death by one niece, Barb Risher Davis. A graveside service was held Tuesday at Pinckney Cemetery with Rev. Ken Harger officiating. Funeral condolences

Local woman accused of embezzling

Woman is accused of according to the Hastings embezzling more than \$100,000 from a local law firm where she worked.

Over the past three years, Jessica Harmon, of Lowell, allegedly managed to redirect more than \$100,000 had from her employer's accounts paychecks for herself. into her own pocket.

\$25,000.

Hastings' office of attorney embezzlement over \$20,000 Tim Tromp for nearly a and use of a computer decade before discrepancies to commit a crime. A were noticed in bank records. preliminary examination has The discrepancies were first been set for Dec. 16 at 8:30 noticed in May of this year a.m.

investigation, discovered that 32, had allegedly made unauthorized withdrawals from various accounts and been writing extra

Harmon was arraigned relationship with law firms on embezzlement charges and legal personnel in the Wednesday, Dec. 2, and county, a special prosecutor was released on a personal was brought in from Kent week's massive cross country a first offense is \$50, and it public roadways between 2 was before," Hinton said. recognizance bond of County to oversee the case.

This holiday season, don't give a gift to a thief

spirit of the holiday season is number. In many cases, those about you. Identity thieves your Social Security card in giving, not receiving. With asking don't really need it. If can use your number to locked away in a safe place this in mind, it's likely that you will be spending a bit of Security number or other name. Then, they use the papers. Check your credit time shopping for presents, identifying information, credit cards but leave the reports once a year, which your credit card flying out ask them why they want it bills for you. Falling victim of your wallet or purse like and whether they absolutely to identity theft can ruin your

and online, be sure you're it, but consider whether the to come. not giving a surprise gift to service is worth the risk. an identity thief. The surprise

business, you may be asked number can use it to get

anyone asks for your Social apply for more credit in your need it. They can refuse you credit rating and make things

There are things you can Identity theft is one of do to protect your identity. will be on you - and it won't the fastest growing crimes Don't give out your Social in America. Someone who Security number to just Sometimes when you do steals your Social Security anyone. Don't carry your card vantil@ssa.gov

It's been said that the true for your Social Security other personal information in your wallet or purse; keep with your other important you can do for free at www. annualcreditreport.com

Vonda VanTil is the But as you shop in stores service if you don't provide difficult for months or years public affairs specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 50 College SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or via email at vonda.

Kent County Sheriff's Department urges holiday shoppers to stay safe

cheer, hope and joy, are here, of what's going on around possible, use credit cards, vehicle, carefully check but with them can come an you. increase in crime.

they represent increased opportunity crime," said Sheriff Lawrence Stelma. To help your shopping go safely, Sheriff Stelma offers the cart.

"Crooks love the holidays and purse-snatchers. Carry a space and be sure to lock the hiding there. as much as everyone else purse close to your body, not car, close the windows and dangling by the straps. Put hide shopping bags and gifts relatives. There is safety in your wallet in an inside coat in the trunk. or front pants pocket.

> unattended in a shopping have your keys in hand, ready guard if you get separated. Never carry large

debit cards or checks. Deter pickpockets
 Park in a well-lighted floors for anyone that may be

When returning to

to open the door.

 Stay alert and be aware amounts of cash. Whenever
 Before entering your the front and rear seats and

Shop with friends or

 Teach your children to · Never leave your purse your car or home, always go to a store clerk or security

compliance than to be the

Chief: "Keep snow off sidewalks"

storm that dumped up to a can go up to \$150. Harmon was arrested foot of snow in some areas, She worked as an Dec. 2 and is facing charges Lowell Police Chief James and residential districts is \$15. administrative assistant in the of uttering and publishing, Hinton advises citizens and businesses to keep sidewalks Hinton. in front of their properties clear of snow and ice.

removed within 24 hours of plowing.

In the aftermath of last the last snowfall. The fine for No parking is allowed on to clear out where the car

need to be maintained," said

Also, the Department of Public Works needs the According to the city roadways and streets clear ordinance, snow must be of cars for efficient snow

a.m. and 6 a.m. A fine for the "We don't like to enforce it. "The downtown business first time or a meter violation We'd rather have voluntary

> "They have to come back sidewalk police." and hit the streets twice



Jim Reagan shovels snow in front of his dentist



practice on Main Street last Thursday after the



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DO YOU KNOW SOME-ONE IN NEED OF A NEW FURNACE? - Arctic Heating & Cooling Inc. would like to help out with a new furnace & installation (all labor & materials included) Please submit your nominations with explanation by Dec. 22 to info@Heatin gCoolingonline.com or mail to: P O Box 181, Lowell, MI 49331

HOUSE FOR SALE BY OWNER - Nice Ada walkout ranch, 3 BR/2bath. Large detached 2 stall garage, lot 100' X 325'. 633 Alta Dale, \$155,000, 616-881-2623.

FREEAD!-Place & pay for an ad in the Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger for 3 weeks & receive the 4th week FREE You must mention the special in order to receive this offer. Valid only with new ads, and must be paid for when ad is placed. Call 897-9555, fax 897-4809 or email to: classifieds@lowell buyersquide.com, Lowell Ph. 897-9261.

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LAST CHANCE TO MAKE SURE YOUR BUSINESS IS LISTED - in the 2010 **Lowell City Directory!** Prices as low as \$10 to be listed. Call Tammy at 897-9560 or email: citydirectory@att.net for further info or to place your order.

LOWELL/SARANAC SCHOOLS - Clean, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1392 sq. ft. double wide home, 24x16 garage, shed & deck on .83 acre rectangular lot for \$79,000! Call Nancy Steckler 616-450-5192/Midwest Properties, 2355 Belmont Center Dr., Belmont.

HIGH EFFICIENCY - Central Boiler Classic Outdoor Wood Furnace, 25 year warranty, Dual fuel models. Maxim Corn & Pellet burner also available. Call today SOS your "Stocking Dealer" Dutton, MI 616-554-8669 or 616-915-5061.

help wanted

FOR RENT - Lowell, bedroom, 1 bath apartment, utilities included. \$600/ month. 112 N. Jefferson. Call 897-4829.

for rent

HALL FOR RENT - with kitchen, seats 150. Call 897-6050. TEN 2 BEDROOM DUPLEX

 153 N. Center. No pets. \$575/mo. includes water. Security deposit required. Call 252-5611.TEN RENOVATED (2009) - 2

bedroom Victorian (circa 1870) home for rent in Lowell. \$950/mo. 8 rooms (original woodwork/stained glass) in total including a separate pantry w/floorto-ceiling built-in cabinets & bonus room. New kitchen/bathroom cabinets & fixtures. New fridge. Washer & dryer included. New gas furnace & central A/C. Utilities (except water) included. Newly painted inside & out. Yard maintenance provided. Sits on a one-acre wooded lot w/plenty of space to play. Only a 3-minute walk to historic downtown Lowell.

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.vtw8303.org. Call John at 299-0486 or 897-

No smoking please. 312-

FOR RENT - House, pasture, barn, 3 bedroom ranch, Lowell Schools. Will not rent house only. 616-

LOWELL MOBILE HOME PARK - Under new management. Nice 1, 2 & 3 bedroom trailers for rent. Rent from \$350-\$550. For info call George at 616-754-0276 or 616-813-8041.TEN

CENTER COURT APT - first month rent free! (w/12 month lease.) 2 bedrooms, \$600; 1 bedroom, \$500; on-site laundry & cats allowed. Center Court Apt., 201 N. Center St., Lowell. Call CB Richard Ellis/Grand Rapids, 877-780-2200.TEN

LIGHT INDUSTRIAL BUILDING FOR RENT - in Lowell. 1000 - 2000 sq. ft. Call Greg 292-4948.

2 BEDROOM DUPLEX FOR RENT - 309 High, Lowell. \$600/mo. + utilities. No pets. Call 897-5686.

FOR RENT - Lowell, 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, utilities included. \$600/ month. 112 N. Jefferson. Call 897-4829.

HOUSE TRAILER FOR RENT - Large country wooded lot 1 mile S. of Saranac. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. \$545 per mo. + deposit. 616-291-1413.

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SMALL PRIVATE H/J CASH PAID FOR OLD BARN - Looking for help, STUFF!-Buying advertis-4 p.m. to 6 p.m., 5-7 days a week. More hours available. Alden Nash/Cascade Rd. Call 897-5139

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nity Employer. NOW HIRING - & training for career positions with West Michigan's leading real estate company. Call Rick Seese, Greenridge Realty, Inc. for a confidential interview. 616-437-2576 or 616-974-4250.

roe NW, Suite 460, Grand

Rapids 49503. Attn: Julie

Lake. "An Equal Opportu-

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services services

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more information call 616-A beacon of light cutting through the fog of debt. Da-862-6712. vis Legal Advocates, give LAMINATING SERVICE us a call 897-7010, 1151 AVAILABLE - Next day Bowes Road, Lowell service. Drop off & pieces NEED SNOW REMOVAL will be available by 9 a.m. OFF YOUR ROOF OR the next day. Lowell Litho,

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PLEASENOTE - Coming Events LOWELL SHOWBOAT GAR- KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #7719 are for non-profit organizations. **DEN CLUB** - meets the 3rd They are ran on a space avail- Monday in the Church of the able basis & are not guaranteed Nazarene Fellowship Hall, 211 to run. If you would like to make N. Washington St. at 7 p.m. sure your event is placed in the paper, please call our office & place it as a classified ad

THE LOWELL BOARD OF the end of N. Washington St. EDUCATION - second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Administration Building, 300 High

NICOTINE ANONYMOUS - TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSI-Every Monday 7-9 p.m. at BLY TOPS MI #372 - every Englehardt Public Library, 200 Tuesday at Key Heights Mobile . Monroe, Lowell. For info call Home Park Community Building. homas at 691-1147. Nicotine Weigh-ins at 5:45 p.m. Anonymous is a fellowship of men & women helping each other CUB SCOUT PACK 3188 to live free of nicotine. There are meets every Tuesday at 6:30 no dues or fees.

WOMEN FOR SOBRIETY meets every Monday, 7-8 p.m. at Bowne Center United Methodist Church, fellowship hall, 12051 84th St., corner of Alden Nash. Call Sue at 868-6219 or www. womenforsobriety.org.

CAL SOCIETY- meets the sec- every first and third Tuesday at ond Monday of the month at 10 6:30 p.m. at Look Memorial Fire a.m. in the Historical Museum Station, S. Hudson. at 84th/Alden Nash.

NEEDLERS - Second & fourth Monday evenings, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Schneider Manor Commu-

Monday at 7:30 p.m. for business

AMERICAN LEGION CLARK-ELLIS POST 152 - meets the fourth Monday at 3100 Alden Nash S.E. at 7:30 p.m.

ALTO AMERICAN LEGION

POST 528 AUXILIARY - meets 2nd Monday of the month - 7 ALTO AMERICAN LEGION

Alden Nash S.E.

AUXILIARY - meets the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Alto American Legion Post. V.F.W. POST #8303 - meets the first Monday at 7 p.m. at 3116

ery Monday, 7-8:30 p.m. during school year in Scout Cabin at Ages 11 and up or completing 5th grade. Call Scoutmaster Randy Jesberg at 897-4569 or

Del Rockwell at 897-6814.

p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main.

New members welcome.

QUA-KE-ZIK SPORTS-MAN'S CLUB - meets second and third Tuesdays at 8 p. m. at 8731 West Riverside Dr. Go to www. qua-ke-zik.org for information.

BOWNE TOWNSHIP HISTORI- LOWELL LIONS CLUB - meets

COFFEE BREAK/LADIES BIBLE STUDY - Sept. - May. Tuesdays 9:30 - 11:15 a.m. No church membership or experience required. Bring preschoolers for Story Hour & WOMEN OF THE MOOSE-third Craft. Free nursery for younger children. There's an evening class on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. No children's class. Calvary Christian Reformed Church, M-21 across from Burger King.

> A.D.D./A.D.H.D ISSUES GROUP - meets every third Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 32156 4-Mile N.E. (at E. Beltline). Call Linda at 874-5662.

DIABETIC SUPPORT GROUP - 2nd Tuesday at Schneider Manor Community Rm., 9:30 10:30 a.m. 897-2760 or

 second and fourth Tuesday at St. Mary School, 7:30 p.m.

BACK TO BASICS - every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at 865 Lincoln Lake, Lowell. Closed AA meetings. Non-smoking.

ROLLAWAY LTD. SENIOR BOWLING - Wednesdays, 1

p.m., 55 and over. LOWELL AREA TRAILWAY meets 2nd Wednesday at 6 p.m. at alternate locations. Visit www.

lowellareatrailway.org or call Mari

ALANON - Wednesdays at 8 p.m. Lowell First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main St. (Use west entrance off Jackson St.)

LOWELL WOMEN'S CLUB-2nd Wednesday at 11:45 a.m. in Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd.

FLAT RIVER WOOD CARVERS Wednesdays at LAAC 2-4 p.m. New members welcome.

KENT COUNTY YOUTH FAIR BOARD - 2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. at King Memorial Center at Fairgrounds. 897-6050.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION OF WEST MICHIGAN - Support Group 3rd Wednesday at Fountain View of Lowell, 11535 E. Fulton, p.m. Call Carrie Pattee or Cindy Meyer at 897-8413.

ROYALARCH MASONS-Hooker Chapter #75, 2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; dinner at 6:30 p.m at Masonic Temple, 211 E. Main St., Belding.

PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY SUPPORT GROUP - meets second Wednesday for the month, 4 p.m . at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 2560 Lake Michigan Dr. NW. Dorothy 897-9794.

BLUEGRASS JAM - 1st and 3rd hursday. Kountry Korner of Alto, 6077 Linfield. Call 868-6371.

ALTO LIONS CLUB - first & third Thursday at United Methodist Church in Alto at 7 p.m.

The Four Health Family Resource Center

Would like to thank the following silent auction donors and other supporters for making this event a success. Over \$7,000 was raised to go into a general scholarship fund to help individuals and families in need.

Arrowhead Golf Course Bill and Claudine Athmann Paul and Melissa Athmann William Athmann Bader & Sons Co., Dave Chase Janet and Dean Bailey Bareman's, Tim Wernette Kensie Barnes Eric and Heather Beck David Benjamin Don Benjamin Abbie Blanding Blue Ribbon Feed Co. Arthur and Veronica Blough Body & Mind, Kerri Ritsema Benjamin Bookie **Branch Adventures** Whitney Bunn Brian Calley Bruce and Margaret Chadwick Carl and Kay Chatfield Sherry Conley **Dolores Cook** Creative Memories, Cindy Cole Creative Styles Salon and Spa Daisy Floral Sam and Doris Dausman Deer Run Golf Club Rachel DeJonge Karyn deKeiser Moulton Dollar General of Saranac Franciscan Life Process Center Forest View Hospital Vickie Gavighio

Garage of Lowell

Grand Rapids Griffins

General Signs, Craig Fergurson

Great Lakes Publishing Great Lakes Super Clean Robert and Rose Hardy Lois and Ron Heffron Heidi's Farm Stand and Bakery Herbruck's Poultry Ranch, Inc. Home Interiors, Angela Stephens

Hooper Printing Peg Hubbard The Hyatt Place South Independent Bank Mary Izzard Izzy'z Barbershop, Seth Izzard Janowski-Waid Family Joe's Place, Joe Smith Dale J. Johnson Chris Kargl Amanda Kettel Cheryl and Dr. Elroy Kidle

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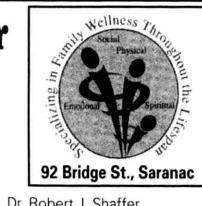
Susan Johnson Patrick Tim Patrick and his Belding Middle School Art Students Pep Talk Portland Federal Credit Union Julie Rausch Samantha Rausch

Dr. Frank L. Schmid

Scrapbook Gardens,

Veronica Nash

Dr. James Reagan The Resorts of Tullymore and St. Ives Roll Away Lanes Edwin and Doris Roth Sandywood Gardens, Wanda Lehmar Sandy Lockwood Alex Ligman Saranac Dental Cindy Livingston Saranac Community Schools Ruth and Sam Lombardo Saranac Hardware Lynn Mason Saranac Post Office



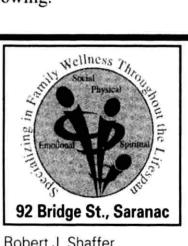
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Waid & Ron Janowski



Grandpa's exciting Christmas flight - Part III

Thompson. The Ledger will print the subsequent sections, each week, finishing with the Dec. 25th edition.

Week Three Continues

[As we last read, Oscar-the-Owl had returned to Santa and Grandpa with the news from Clarice-the-Chickadee that maybe the missing family was staying in the Robinson's old deserted milk house that was attached to the old dairy barn. You'll also remember that Santa, Rudolph and the other eight reindeer were off like a flash with poor Grandpa hanging on for dear life.]

Our story continues

Riding in a sleigh was quite a new experience for Grandpa. In fact, he admitted that even for him it was really scary! With all nine reindeer straining in their harnesses, the sleigh lurched and jerked as they climbed into that winter's night sky. All Grandpa could hear was that now familiar "Whoooooooshing" sound in his ears, even with his eyes closed tight! Once he finally dared open his eyes again, he peered down at the ground below. They were whisking along at nearly 60 miles per hour, high above everything, yet strangely, Grandpa could feel no wind in his face.

The soft light of the full moon splashed across the snow covered landscape below. It was truly a beautiful picture, all sparkling and glistening, but as they raced along, he was also aware it didn't even feel cold as it was before. Santa must



December 9 - December 15

- A strange, blue, spiraling light was seen last week over the Norwegian sky. There was plenty of speculation including, meteors and aliens, but some experts are saying it was most likely a Russian missile.
- President Obama collected his Nobel Peace Prize saying, "I receive this honor with deep gratitude and great humility."
- General Motors Co. confirmed Buick GMC general manager Michael Richards guit after nine days on the job.
- Michigan will become the 38th state to ban smoking in public places on May 1. Exceptions include the gaming floors at the three Detroit casinos, cigar bars, specialty tobacco shops, home offices and motor vehicles.
- Detroit may be closer to a light-rail system after the U.S. House passed a provision in a bill Thursday clearing key funding for the city. The \$430 million project would run along Woodward downtown to Eight Mile.
- Japan is providing up to a \$2,830 tax cut for scrapping a car 13 years or older toward the purchase of a new car. Excluded from this program are any U.S. made vehicles for the new car purchase.
- · The 2009 Heisman Trophy was awarded to Mark Ingram of the University of Alabama. Ingram is a resident of Flint, MI. This is the first Heisman for Alabama.
- NASA is launching a new telescope to scan the cosmos for undiscovered objects. This includes asteroids and comets that might threaten Earth.
- The Copenhagen climate talks are suspended in chaos as countries walk out of the conference.

This is Part III, of a four-part Christmas story, by Dave have a wonderful heater in his sleigh, Grandpa thought to the children, huddled together to help keep each other warm

From up so high, everything looked like a miniature world down below. The street lights from the village off in the distance cast a faint yellow glow on the snow and he could see that every house had a little wisp of smoke from its chimney, telling Grandpa that they were all warm and snug comfortable inside. That was a good

way to be on a cold, cold night like this.

Suddenly, the sleigh jerked and bumped off to the right as they banked into a sharp turn. With Rudolph's downward, the sleigh took a new direction. ahead they could see the deserted Robinson Farm they were looking for. Rudolph had spotted the roof of the old dairy barn lying just ahead with the faded Robinson name partially covered with snow.

From a distance, the walls and silos were only dark shadows against the white snow and it appeared to be totally dark inside the building. The only movement they could observe was its own thin sliver of smoke curling its way skyward from the chimney of the old milking room. Other than that, nothing was moving. Only that thin wisp of smoke provided a clue that someone might be living in there.

Another abrupt turn and another slight bump and a thump and the sleigh came to a gliding stop outside the old deserted barn. It was then that Grandpa realized what a truly silent night it was. The only sound he could hear was the heavy breathing from the flared nostrils of Santa's nine, hardworking

Quickly, Santa was out of the sleigh and up to the window, and, stretching up to his full height on his tiptoes, he peeked layer of straw that was scattered on the floor lay three of Guide for the conclusion of our story!





Sound Off! The Ledger's "Almost" anything goes column!

When submitting your opinion to Sound Off!, we ask you to follow a few guidelines. Sound Off! is meant to be a way for you to compliment or vent your feelings with civility. A healthy way to get something off your chest or spread a little kindness.

We welcome your comments, with or without signatures, but signing your name to your comment does increase the odds of seeing it in print. Threatening or deliberately cruel comments will not be accepted and, of course, no advertising a product or service please. So basically, submit anything - but not everything will make

The Ledger reserves the right to choose what is printed, and reminds the public that views expressed in Sound Off!, unless otherwise stated, are not the opinions of The Ledger staff or its

Mr. Howard pontificates every week about the wrong our city fathers do. Why isn't his name ever on the ballot for city council?

The Grand Rapids Veterans Home thanks the city of Lowell residents, American Legion and the VFW for the 1300 cookies that were prepared and brought as a cookie shower last Saturday.

God Bless to everyone and Merry Christmas.

through the cold night. They were all sound asleep, cuddled up close to the little potbellied wood stove. The newest baby, Lisa, was sleeping soundly, snuggled into an old feeding trough wrapped in an old faded blue baby blanket. Their mother and father slept close by with a tattered and frayed comforter pulled up over them. The older three children, Wendell, 8; Marianne, 6; and little Freddy, who was threeand-a-half fingers old; had gone to bed that night certain that Santa would never be able to find them before Christmas

Quietly, Santa with his bag slung over his shoulder, entered through an unlocked door and carefully placed the last of his presents around the base of their makeshift little Christmas tree. The tree was a dead apple tree branch anchored in a pail of sand which had been decorated with dried milkweed pods, bits of colorful varn, a few bows of old ribbon and some strings of dried red and green berries. At the very top of the tree was a homemade six inch silver star that Mrs. Peterson had cut out from the bottom of an old discarded aluminum foil baking pan. She had also cut some additional thin strips from the same foil, making little icicles by bending the ends into hooks, allowing them to dangle from the branches. Finally, some red and white chicken feathers were also attached to the tree as were pieces of cotton batten to look like snow. It was a grand looking tree, even though it had no lights.

Once Santa had placed the presents under the tree, he and Grandpa silently slipped away, closing the door behind them and boarding the now empty sleigh. Soon they were winging their way back to Grandpa's. The sleigh finally glided to a stop up close to the house where Grandpa hopped out and thanked Santa for his thoughtfulness and for one exciting ride. Santa laughed loudly and with a smile thanked Grandpa for his help. Then, with a wave he turned and with a shout of "Mer-r-r-ry Christmas," Santa once again slapped the reins and off they went, this time headed in the direction of the North Pole in his empty sleigh behind his nine beautiful

Coming next week: The final chapter of our story comes just two days before Christmas. We'll find that Grandma is scurrying around to make Christmas something truly special for this poor family! But where will this family live and what in through the cobweb covered window. There, on a soft about a job for the father? See next week's Ledger and Buyers



I want to tell you how much I've enjoyed Dave Thompson's story and I can't wait for the rest of them to come out. So keep 'em coming.

Dave, continue to write your story about Santa Claus and grandpa. My grandchildren are very interested. Keep up the good work.

- Jennette

Where are the first place winners (the bus drivers) of the float contest? I didn't see it in the Ledger, did I

Editor's note: We are not informed of the winners during the parade when the pictures are taken. We're not given that information until the Monday after the parade. The winners are mentioned in the story however. Also, along those lines, it should be mentioned that the band on the front page should have been identified as the Middle

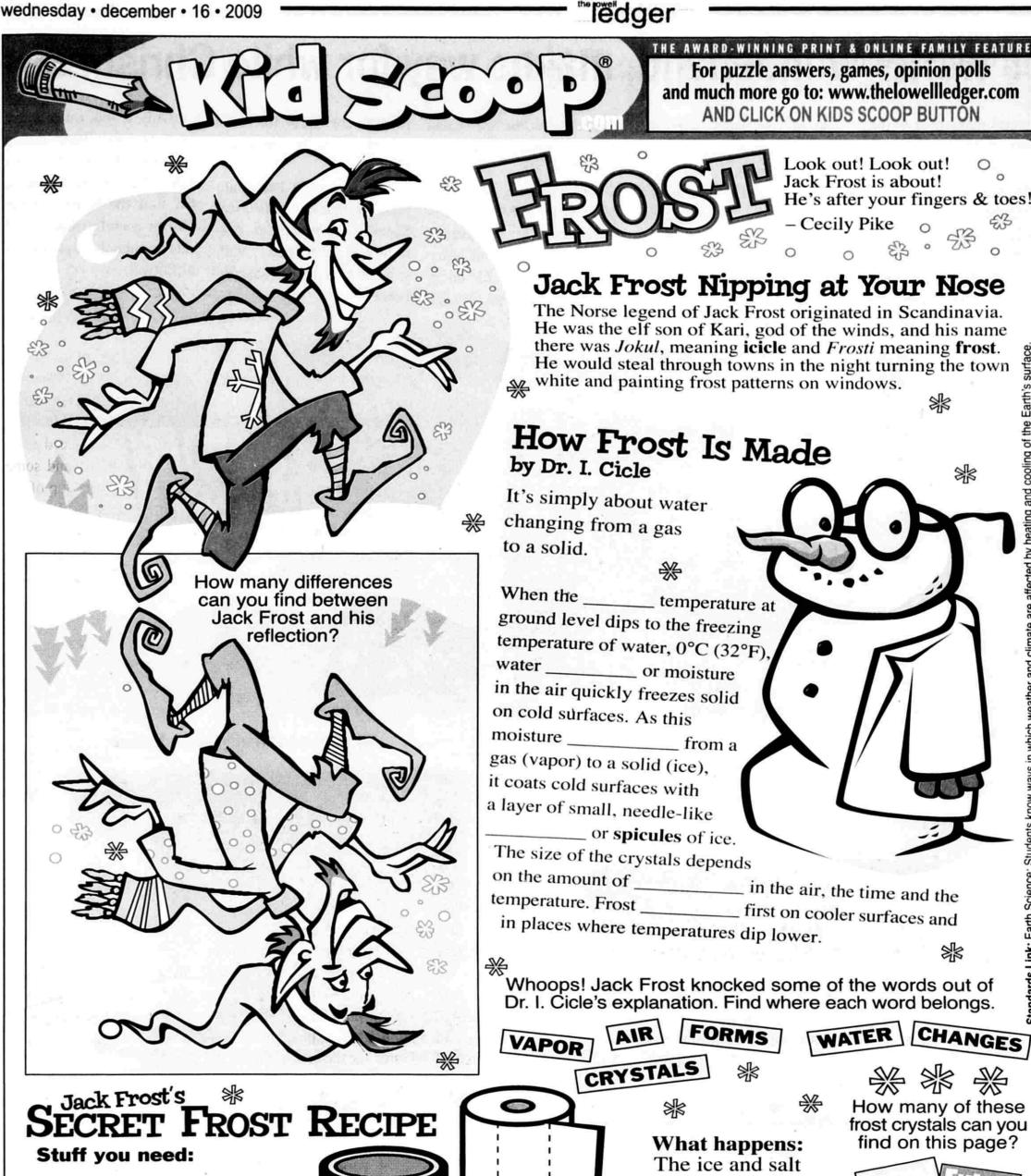
poll result:

This Christmas are you spending more or less than last year?

62% •••••• Less 38% ••••• About the same

To vote on the current poll question go to: thelowellledger.com

THIS WEEK'S POLL -Do you think Tiger Woods will come back from his current situation?



lower the temperature of the can's surface to below freezing point. The moisture in the air that touches the outside of the can

freezes, thereby describe the weather forming frost.

Weather Words Look through the newspaper for words that describe a cold winter. Use them in a sentence to

today. Standards Link: Grammar Use adjectives in writing; write wimple and complex sentences.

Jack Frost left you a message in this window. Color each space marked

Add 4 tablespoons

of salt.

with a dot blue to reveal it. You can control the weather—make your own storms or enough wind to fly a kite. You can even make a blizzard.

FROST PATTERNS SPICULES MOISTURE JOKUL FROSTI VAPOR SOLID FORMS

and let

ICICLE GAS METAL SE LAYER COLD STEAL Check it out at: www.kidscoop.com/kids

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

NSTELCICI MRPSFROST POPIOINADN LPIGCRAGLJ AATSEUFNOD EVTTTOLKCI TOTERUUESI SAEMMLRSSO PHSELAYERS

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.



· empty metal can (no label)

Make sure the outside

Standards Link: Science: Conduct simple investigations

weather report. Design your own symbols

Standards Link: Visual Arts: Use a variety of media to convey

for different kinds of weather conditions

including frost, snow, sun, clouds, fog,

Kid Scoop Puzzler

of the can is dry and

fill it halfway with

crushed ice.

CRUSHEL

4 tbsp. of salt

crushed ice

paper towels

What to do:

Hoar frost is the

name given to the

forms on the ground

Fern frost is the name

feathery patterns made

grow on windows and

by ice crystals that

surface frost that

for the beautiful,

Investigation: Identify objects in patterns.

thunder and lightning.

and other cold

surfaces.

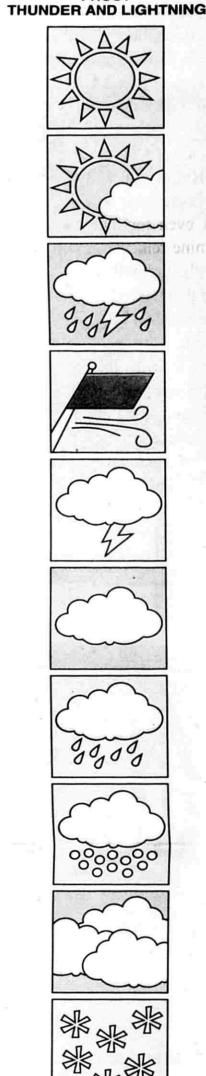
ANSWER: The Tonight Snow.

What do snowmen like to watch late at night?

Kid Scoop Together: **Weather Symbols** Match each of the symbols

below to the kind of weather it describes. **PARTLY CLOUDY** SUNNY CLOUDY

THUNDER SHOWERS SNOW FROST



Standards Link: Earth Science: Understand symbols used to represent weather patterns.

Kid Scoo-doku

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word FROST in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces ave been filled in for you.



Kid Scoop VOCABULARY • BUILDERS This week's word: VAPOR * The noun vapor means

isible particles of moisture floating in the air.

Fog and steam are examples of vapor that we can see.

Try to use the word vapor in sentence today when talking with your friends and family

Write On! **Frosty Finish**

On a chilly day, I saw Jack Frost hard at work

making things icy ... Finish this story.

Storm creates winter wonderland, makes way for white Christmas

by Emma Palova

After a surprisingly warm November, the winter swept in swiftly last week dumping up to a foot of snow, creating havoc, traffic jams and grounding airplanes. In its wake came bitter cold freezing temperatures.

But, as the storm subsided, the winter wonderland emerged making way for a white Christmas.

As the snow blanketed the fields and orchards, the ice put frosting on wild grasses and hay bales on Four Mile Road. The clouds danced around the eerie sun evoking a peaceful atmosphere. Trees and forests silhouetted in the

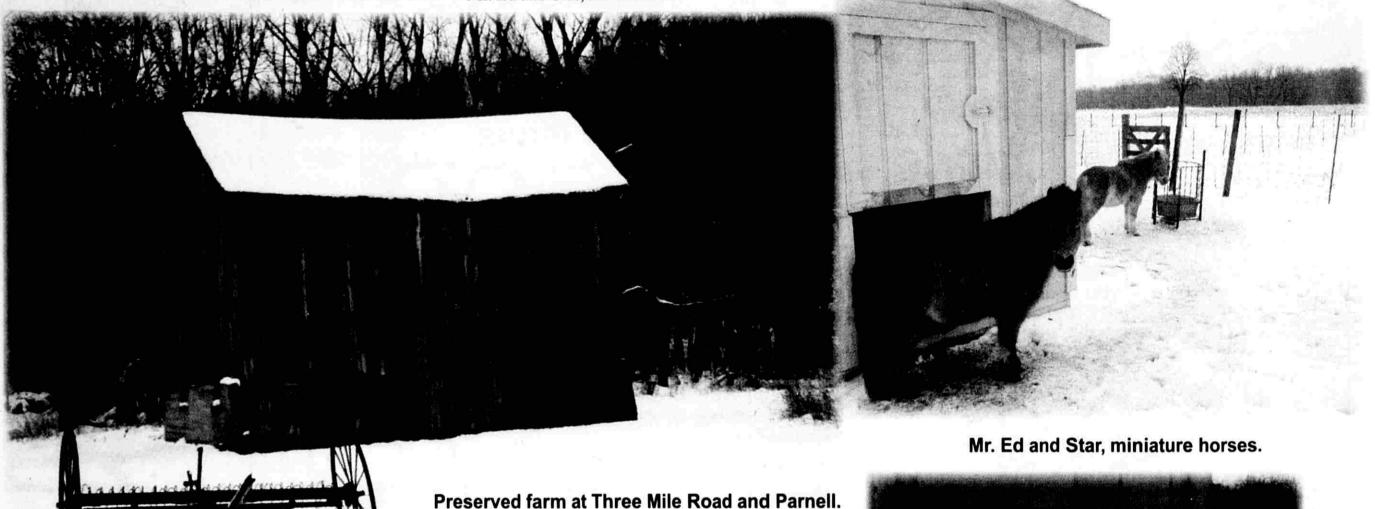
setting sun, along with St. Patrick's Church steeple.

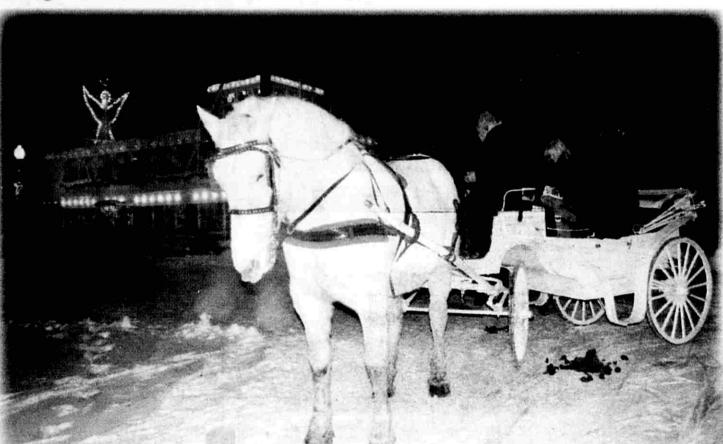
The farms with silos were covered with caps of snow, while the animals were warming up in their pens. Down on the farm at the Franciscan Life Process Center, miniature horses, Mr. Ed and Star, munched on

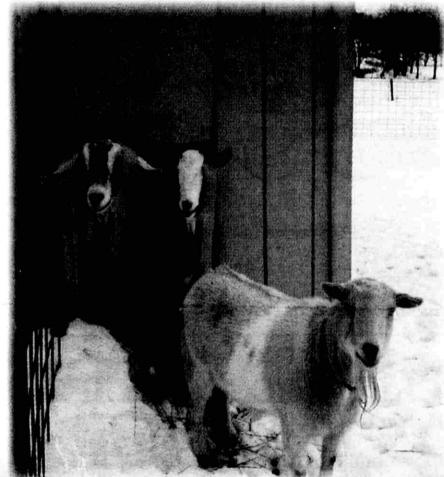
their hay while the Norwegian dwarf goats came out to greet the visitors.

It's a working farm here at the Sister's. Mr. Ed pulls a two-man cart, the sheep get sheared and Sister Mary Colman spins wool on a regular basis. The angora rabbits are used for wool too, the goats for cheese and milk.

In the nearby Fallasburg Park, the Fallasburg Historical Society celebrated an oldfashioned Christmas with a bonfire at the Fallasburg Schoolhouse. Only a few miles away in town, the horse drawn carriage rides by the Common Gentry Carriage Co. took the young and the old for a chilly illuminated ride through the night streets of Lowell.







Norwegian dwarf goats

The many of the

Frosty hay bales on Four Mile Road.



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