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hristmas!

- From Everyone The Ledger!

food baskets



page 16

caring kids



page 7

Soldier receives a heartwarming welcome to Lowell

by Emma Palova

Approximately people from all over West Michigan gave a hearty welcome to Sgt. Shane Scherer at the Gerald Ford International Airport on Monday evening.

"I was absolutely flabbergasted," said organizer Dave Thompson.

And there weren't many dry eyes left as Scherer, in a desert uniform, was greeted by the many area veterans and the color guard.

"It was very emotional," said Thompson. "I am literally blown away."

The next welcome he received on his ride in a limo

through the streets of Lowell was from the businesses, the fire and the police departments.

Although Scherer has never been to Lowell, his fiancé, Jacqueline Bennett, is a 2000 Lowell High School graduate.

Scherer was injured in Northern Afghanistan on May 29, 2009, by a mortar round when the base was attacked by the Taliban only 11 days before Scherer was scheduled to return to the USA.

Scherer was near the blast that left his body covered

> Welcome to Lowell, continued, pg. 2



Sgt. Scherer shaking hands at the airport.

National Guardsmen along with local Veterans Jerry Parker, Vickisu Condon, John VanderWilp, Herm Westrate, Mark Lessens and Louie Dudeck were on hand with family and friends to welcome a hero to West Michigan. Photos submitted by John Bedard

Schools get a reprieve - how long will it last?

by Thad Kraus

pupil funding is enrollment driven.

Of all the Michigan school districts, 80 percent of them have declining enrollments.

Since the 2002-03 school year, the Lowell School District has cut \$5.59 million from its budgets.

The forecast calls for state structural budget problems.

The same forecast holds true at the local level with flat and possibly declining enrollment levels along with increasing employee costs (health care and pension costs).

With the state running Michigan schools per out of stimulus money and with a deteriorating revenue, how many more shortfalls will it be able to plug?

Half of the school state fund comes from the sales tax. When the economy lags or goes into the tank the school aid fund is adversely affected.

Michigan governor Jennifer Granholm has decided to postpone a \$127 per-student cut in state aid to school districts. This decision comes after already decreasing student aid by \$165 per pupil.

> School financing, continued, pg. 4

Toy shop serves 900 children in the area

honoring mayor Shores



page 3



Flat River The **Outreach Ministries toy** shop was abundant with toys this year. Much like the demand, the amount of toys almost doubled. Santa had to fulfill a long list for almost 900 children.

> **Pictured** are volunteers: Diane Kleczynski, Peggy Covert, Ray Wolfe and April Leikert.





medical

who has

Welcome to Lowell, continued

honorable

Scherer,

to get a master's degree in

The couple, whose

wedding has been canceled

with shrapnel, with a severed he couldn't walk or talk; artery, severe damage to his right hand, and a major brain to live."

Emergency surgery on the rebuilding his skills including skull, known as craniotomy, had to be performed in license. Afghanistan over the phone with a more experienced from the US Army in July. doctor to save his life.

open his eyes," said Bennett. Bennett. "He is doing well now, but

generally he wasn't expected working So, now Scherer is discharge.

working on his driver's a bachelor's degree in political science from San He received a Purple Heart Diego State, is planning

"It is a reflection of how public administration.

"All he could do was bad of an injury it was," said



Family members from Fremont holding the welcome banner.

he will receive a special gift

Chamber of Commerce, the

program because of the cold

weather," said Thompson,

contributing individuals.

and rescheduled for June be there to hear Scherer's 2010, is very excited about requests for Christmas and being in Lowell.

"He has only met basket from the Lowell Area my mom and dad," said Bennett.

A celebration is planned at the Showboat tonight at 7 p.m. Mayor Jim Hodges will present a Key to the City to Scherer. Santa will also

Navy commander, Post #152, Lowell American Legion.

"We urge everyone to be with us," said Thompson. "This is one of those situations where, especially local merchants and any at Christmas time, Lowell rises to the challenge and "This will be a very short makes everyone proud to be residents of this great who is a CDR, retired US

The crowd was three or four rows deep by the time Sgt. Scherer arrived.

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CITY OF LOWELL

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE NOTICE

Lowell City Hall, Department of Public Works, Police Office and Light and Power office will be closed on Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25, 2009 for the Christmas Holidays and Friday, January 1, 2010 for New Year's Day.

Those who participate in the City of Lowell's refuse program with the orange bags will have their refuse picked up on their regularly scheduled day of Thursday for both the Christmas week and New Years week.



Betty R. Morlock City Clerk



ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

Looking for a last minute gift that can be enjoyed all year? Get an Entertainment book (available until Dec. 24) at Huntington Bank, Lowell Area Arts Council, Brenda's Hair Design, or call Marj at 897-8107. The Lowell Women's Club profits benefit scholarships and other local nonprofit groups.

HOLIDAY CRAFT WORKSHOP

Gilda's Club, Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson St. on com Any questions, call Esther, 897-7395. 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

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deborah wilks pwmg@statefarm.com

Deborah A Wilks, Agent

Joann Litton, Financial Aid Officer from Grand Valley, will provide information about filing the Free Application

for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), on Thurs., Jan. 7, 7-8 p.m. at the Lowell Performing Arts Center. This is an important meeting for all college bound seniors and their parents.

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

Sign up at the Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St., on Sat., Jan. 9, 10 a.m. to noon. You may also order online using your debit or credit card. Go to www.angelfoodministries.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Looking for an environmentally friendly way to dispose of your Christmas tree? Bring it out to the Wittenbach/ Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center on or before Sun., Jan. 10, to be shredded and used for mulch around the Center. Please remove ALL decorations before discarding. Trees will not be accepted after Jan. 10. If you have questions, please call 987-1002.

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, yard sales and the like, will



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897-8560

Council, family, residents honor former mayor

by Emma Palova

28 years of service to the to council woman Maryalene city and the community on LaPonsie. Monday.

wednesday • december • 23 • 2009

acknowledged Shores as mayor emeritus shortly after her resignation due to health reasons. Shores has been battling cancer since June of

Shores, along with current mayor Jim Hodges, ran the city council meeting, which would have been her last one, since she wasn't seeking re-election. She went through the motions of the Hodges.

Shores also received recognition on behalf of the Kent County Board Dave Hildenbrand.

emotionally passion for public service charged atmosphere, the having served on most of the city council, family and city committees and boards. residents recognized former Shores was an example for mayor Jeanne Shores for her women in politics, according

> "Thank you for being council yourself," said city clerk Betty Morlock.

> > Shores said she misses the most, the people she had served and worked with.

"It was nice and sometimes frustrating," she

In other business, the council collection of summer taxes for the Kent Intermediate School District. The city collects the taxes at no fee, agenda with the assistance of but keeps the interest earned during the bank deposit before distributing the The Rotary pays \$75 and is

The council also approved a three-year extension of She is known for her city hall for meeting space. 2010 and 2011.

Mayor emeritus Jeanne Shores with current mayor Jim Hodges and council woman Sharon Ellison. Based

A public hearing has been the lease agreement with set for Jan. 4 for the allocation from state representative the Rotary Club of Lowell of the federal community for the second floor of the block development grant for

or unusual maintenance.

responsible for extraordinary recommendation of the city manager Dave Pasquale, remaining funds may be allocated to the North West the 2009-2010 funds will Street sidewalk improvement be allocated for Siblev or milling and repaying of Street road and sidewalk improvements. The 2010-2011 funds will be allocated

The council approved the change order to the northeast reservoir tank cleaning and

raising the project cost by for senior citizens. The

Meetings in 2010 will always be held on the first and third Mondays of the South Pleasant and South month with the exception of holidays. In case of holidays, the meetings will be held the following Tuesday.

Diane M. DeVries

Grand Rapids, MI 49525

470 Crahen NE

LEGAL NOTICE

October 14, 2009, must be filed with the

undersigned within the time prescribed

by law after which date the Estate will

claims filed.

Dated at Grand Rapids, MI

December 16, 2009

Chamber seeking Person of the Year nominations

Chamber of Commerce is requesting nominations for Person of the Year. This special award is given out at the annual Winter Gathering of the membership held on Feb. 18. The nominations are given to the selection committee and the Person of the Year is chosen. The selection committee is comprised of the last five years of recipients of the award.

Shawn Flippo

62 S. West St. owell, MI 49331

The following guidelines are used in determining the

Over time, the candidate has freely considerable to the community school district, church, or humanity. This is over and above the demands of their regular profession.

The community is a better place to live because of the efforts of the candidate.

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The candidate positively Gathering will be held at promotes the community Grand Volute Ballrooms. 1 in both word and action. The candidate possesses

The candidate cannot be a Chamber Board/ Foundation **Board** member at the time of nomination.

The annual

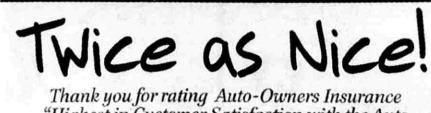
you would like to nominate someone who is deserving of new and innovative this honor, submit in writing ideas that benefit the your detailed nomination All claims against the Estate of to LACC, PO Box 224, Lowell, MI 49331 or e-mai VINCENT RICHARD PEIFFER, who died

info@lowellchamber. org or fax to 897-9101. The deadline for nominations is Jan. 16, 2010.

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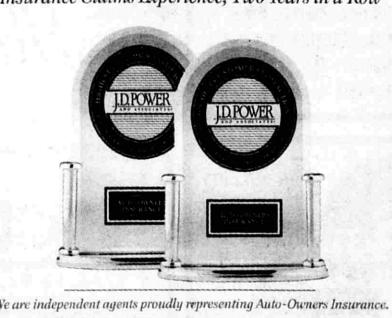


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Auto-Owners Insurance

School financing, continued

million more than projected. About \$50 million was saved taxes to a mix of property and spending make up the across-the-board cuts in the when schools cut programs sales tax. that would have required state matching funds and \$30 million will come from Michigan's participation in the multi-state Powerball

Michigan's governor total expenditures are at relevance of the numbers. is calling for changes to \$34.727 million. Salaries Proposal A, the landmark are 85 percent of that while Governor is required to send school finance reform that benefits fixed costs, unfixed shifted funding from property costs and discretionary

How about lottery money? Yes, it does go to the fund budget assumes a 3.1 School Aid Fund, but it only percent growth. That hasn't \$6,700) whenever the School accounts for about 7 percent happened since 2004-05 Aid Fund has a deficit. The of the overall fund.

remaining 15 percent

when it was 2.8 percent, governor sent such a letter Lowell School District's bringing into question the in early November. The

propose an alternative, such Under state law, the as finding a new revenue source. Again, if the rollback a letter to all school districts in the state income tax rate in the state announcing is paused, the state will have \$115 million in revenue to foundation allowance (the The 2010-11 school aid per-pupil funding provided put toward the School Aid Fund, meaning the amount to schools, currently set at of school funding that needs

> to be cut will be much less. Lowell superintendent Greg Pratt has heard that

> > The rental companies

legislature has 30 days to

cuts could be \$600 per pupil

Numbers like these have local educators proceeding with plans to make cuts.

The district expects to hear from the state in January (second or third week) as to whether revenues will exceed, meet or be less than expectations for this year's

understanding insurance

Auto rental coverage

vehicle just broke and you a comprehensive or collision need to rent another vehicle claim. For example, you had Since you have auto rental your insurance policy that rental, right?

vehicle as the rental coverage an optional coverage with on your insurance policy does different levels of daily about renting a vehicle is the not pay for "maintenance limits you can choose. There one pertaining to purchasing is specific to the need of coverage: daily amount with from the rental company. If

Dave Emmette The alternator in your a covered loss resulting from has limits showing \$30/\$900 purchasing the offered rental damage to your vehicle as day toward a rented vehicle, Waiver) and a partial LDW personal auto policy (PAP) accident. a result of a deer accident however, the total amount (Loss Damage Waiver). Here or another vehicle collided that would be rendered with yours. In these would be \$900. Remember. should cover the cost of this examples you would qualify if you are renting a vehicle to receive rental coverage for vacation or as a result Their answer would be up to the limits stated on of a non-qualifying event "No" in this case; you would your policy. The rental like a mechanical issue, this have to pay for the rented coverage/reimbursement is coverage does not apply.

A common question coverage are two components of this the rental insurance coverage renting another vehicle after a corresponding maximum you have rented a vehicle

limit. The daily limit is the lately, you have probably most that will be allocated been asked if you wanted toward the rental per day. to purchase their insurance the rental agreements that The maximum limit is policy for the rented vehicle. exactly what it sounds like Although coverage will - the maximum amount you extend the limits from your company and not the driver have for this coverage in personal vehicle if you have or person renting the vehicle. one given occurrence. So if full coverage, you may In addition, rental companies your auto insurance policy want to start considering often value their vehicles max, this would mean you insurance for that vehicle, can receive up to \$30 per CDW (Collision Deductible bluebook value, so your

have made some changes in extend all the protection of the interests of the rental at full retail value, which can be much more than the

would fall short of paying the full amount in a total loss. Drivers who select and pay for this coverage are insulated from the rental car firm coming after them and collecting for damage to or theft of the rented vehicle. as well as towing expenses. charges associated with an

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of the most popular online Security retirement benefits. services in government — the

Improvements to one estimate of future Social

One major improvement Retirement Estimator, located is that more people will be at www.socialsecurity.gov/ able to use it. Previously, estimator — allow more people who had not yet people than ever before to filed for monthly Social get a personalized and instant Security benefits but who

were already enrolled in Medicare were not able to take advantage of the service. Now they can. So if you have Medicare coverage but have delayed filing for your Social

> Retirement, continued, page 7

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fëdger view Doint

sharing the vision

The Perfect Gift"

that in the hustle of preparing for the joyous holiday season, we sometimes get lost in the frenzy of running errands, fighting mall traffic. and maneuvering through crowds to find that "perfect gift?" As I began my annual down-to-the-wire holiday ritual, I promised myself that I would not allow the beauty and wonder of the holiday season. In my mind, I strategically planned my route to conquer the 28th Street flurry of traffic. I developed a mental itinerary of the shopping excursion that would conclude in record time. I even wore

holiday challenge. Then it

Indent Greg Prat

myself...to my family, my and providing toys to children the talents we possess. This gifts."

can focus on the good things budgetary challenges faced in life that really matter. by our district. I will give my It's so important, especially very best creative thoughts. throughout the holidays, to a compassionate heart, and gain perspective on what careful consideration for staff is right within your world. and students, as decisions are In the Lowell Area Schools and community, there are issues that will soon become hit me. I already have the countless examples of what a reality for all of us. The "perfect gift" to give within is "right." This season alone, best gift I can give is to be our staff and community met grounded in these guiding The best gift I can possibly a local need by generously principles throughout this give is to give the best of helping families with food difficult process. community. This doesn't Arrow Project II raised nearly are running high in response

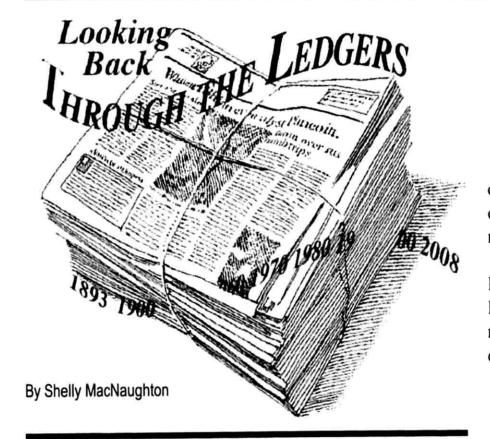
friends, and to the Lowell in the Lowell area. The Pink mean that it will always be \$115,000 to make life better to the difficult economy. perfect, but it does mean for individuals and families Many families have been that I will give my very best, in Lowell whose lives are significantly affected by the all along the way reflecting affected by cancer. The economic downturn and are upon every blessing. It is the Lowell senior class worked facing the pressures caused heart beneath the giving that with the Make-A-Wish by unemployment, loss of makes the gift so perfect. In Foundation and fulfilled a healthcare, and financial fact, giving your very best to wish for a young man who is uncertainties. The "perfect others often helps us realize battling Leukemia. "Perfect gift" can be a simple, "hello", is a gift that I am excited to Sometimes giving the offer to assist in some small "perfect gift" can be a way.

Giving the "perfect gift" challenge which requires requires us to be reflective focus. After the holiday on the many blessings we season, the administrative time, kindness, reflection, abilities to dash down the do have. Whether it is good team and Board of Education family and friends, obstacle course aisles. health, provision, family, fond will continue our work appreciation for was armed with every memories, a hopeful future, to make decisions and blessing tool necessary to meet the or the support of others, we preparations to meet the

made to address financial

Giving the "perfect gift' can be very simple. Tensions a sincere smile, or a gentle

May this season bring you the "perfect gift" of restful



125 Years Ago The Lowell Journal

John Wingler is selling groceries again at the old stand D. C. Sayles went west some days or weeks ago leaving sundry unpaid bills.

Milo J. Cannon, alias Johnson, is under arrest for forging a \$25 note on the Lowell National Bank. More later about

Rickert, the candy maker, is making some of the best confectionery ever seen in the market. He will soon beat the great Gunther of Chicago if he keeps on.

Some of our merchants are determined to do business strictly on a cash down basis the coming year. It is a safe basis. The credit system is a curse to both seller and buyer.

100 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger **December 23, 1909**

School closes Thursday afternoon of this week for the holiday vacation, re-opening on Tuesday morning, Jan. 4,

Through the kindness of the editor of The Lowell Ledger, the high school pupils have had an opportunity of examining about two dozen newspapers printed in foreign countries.

75 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo **December 27, 1934**

Christmas in Lowell this year was a bright and happy occasion. People generally seem to have thrown off the spirit of depression which has prevailed so long and are looking more hopefully toward the future.

The beautiful window display in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Gumser on N. Hudson-st., depicting the star of Bethlehem in a sky of blue with the three wise men below, received first prize in the judging of the best Christmas decorated residence front last Saturday night.

50 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger **December 24, 1959**

Lowell police reported that Carl Edward Franks, 21, of 1044 Lincoln Lake Avenue, ran up on the sidewalk, knocked over a street lamp, dragged it down the street damaging another parked car and drove away from the accident at 3:10 a.m. Sunday morning.

A man sleeping in the parked car identified the car which was found parked in Franks' yard. Franks appeared at the police station Monday morning to report the accident. He was ticketed by officer George DeGraw for leaving the scene of a property damage accident.

25 Years Ago The Grand Valley Ledger **December 24, 1984**

It was late in the afternoon when ten people scurried out of a small Volkswagen to spread a little Christmas Cheer. Betty Morris, of Lowell, had experienced the tragedy of a fire last week and the Lowell Senior High Class of 1987 decided to use the proceeds of their last dance to buy Morris some basic necessities for a room in her house. They chose the bathroom and arrived at the Morris residence after school Thursday, December 20 with gifts to furnish her new bathroom.



In This Together.. Learn. Share. Laugh.

Celebrating a loved one during the holidays

Leann Arkema - President CEO of Gilda's

Create luminaries. Line The holidays are traditionally a time spent with your sidewalk or driveway family and friends, and often with luminaries. These are include time reflecting over a Mexican tradition and are the past. For someone who simple to make, yet lovely, has recently experienced a as they light up the night in death of a family member or a soft glow. All you need friend, the holiday season can are brown paper bags, small be a difficult time. Memories candles and sand. They can be joyous or difficult to signify a warm welcome.

think about and traditions can often be a painful reminder church. Your decoration may be simple or elaborate Perhaps this holiday as you share the memory of season is a difficult time for your loved one with your you. At Gilda's Club, they congregation. honor those real feelings

Make a donation to of sadness, grief and loss. charity. An established Here are a few ideas and agency will welcome your suggestions Gilda's Club gift in memory of your loved has gathered from various one. You may also wish sources to remember a loved to help a needy family by one who has died during the providing Christmas dinner

Observe a moment of gifts for the children. silence. Silence or prayer before a meal or at another share as a family. Set aside a time you deem appropriate is time before opening gifts to a simple and gracious way to discuss the values you share honor your love.

some time together as a quality of your life. family with the family album. when the past is discussed, reviewed and relived

holiday season.

toast to your memories.

one. A gift for the home, direction which is very which will have a special place or take on a special

the season passes.

flowers, berries or other products of nature.

Decorate the altar at

for them or sending small

Discuss the values you as a family and how your Family album. Spend loved one contributed to the

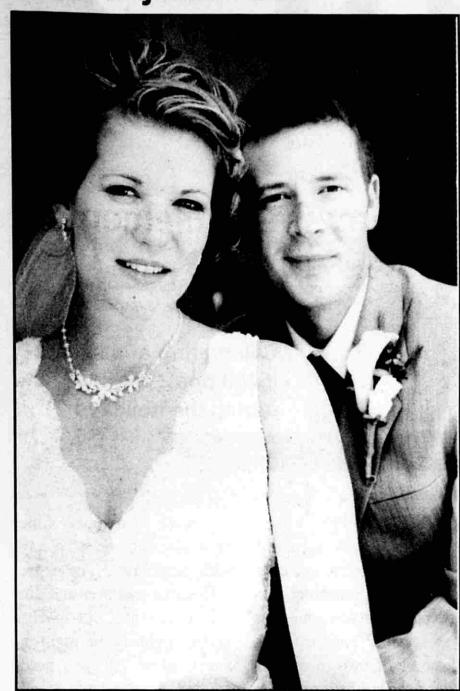
Toast the future. The New Make it a special celebration Year may bring with it your one resolution toward hope. Drinking a toast to the future Your favorite story, does not neglect the past Reserve some time to tell a but gives us the time to look favorite story, at the table or ahead and regain some sense around the Christmas tree, of control over our lives. about your loved one. This For the newly bereaved, could accompany a special this opportunity is even greater. There is something Buy a gift for your loved about planning or renewed

encouraging.

This holiday season, take meaning for the holidays to some time to honor those you come, can be the gift to your know who may be living with cancer or grief and let them Buy or create your own know that the free support advent calendar. You may program at Gilda's Club is wish to place a photograph available for them. Gilda's of members of the family Club is now in Lowell at 314 or close friends behind each South Hudson Street thanks window for the month of to a special partnership with December. This tradition The Pink Arrow Project anticipates coping slowly, as II, Lowell Community Wellness and the Lowell tree. Senior Neighbors. You may This year you may wish also contact us by calling to decorate your tree or a 616-897-8600 or 1-800small special tree with fresh 326-1419, or visiting www. gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow for more information.

weddings

Miller/Wojciakowski



Lisa and Joshua Miller

Ashley Wojciakowski and Joshua Lee Miller was celebrated on May 2, 2009

Hall for rent with kitchen **SEATS 150**

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area

The marriage of Lisa at St. Patrick's Catholic Church. Parents of the couple are Ed and Sally Wojciakowski, Barry Miller, and Teri Miller.

> Maid of honor was Jessica Karl. Bridesmaids were Sarah Beck and Brooke Bueno. Flower girl was Alexis Miller.

Best man was Andy Miller. Groomsmen were Matt VanderBerg and Kyle Kaliniak. Ushers were Michael and John Wojciakowski.



Remelts has returned to the U.S. after being deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Freedom. servicemember is regularly assigned to the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry, Fort Wainwright, Fairbanks, Alaska.

Operation Iraqi Freedom is the official name given military operations involving members of the

coalition forces participating in efforts to free and secure Mission objectives Iraq. focus on force protection, peacekeeping, stabilization, security and counterinsurgency operations as the Iraqi transitional governing bodies assume full sovereign powers to govern the peoples of Iraq. Members from all branches of the U.S. military and multinational forces are

armed forces and



DECEMBER 23 Norma Stevens, Marie

DECEMBER 24

Jeffrey Pfaller.

DECEMBER 25 Scott Shindorf, Chris Woolfenden, Chris Treglia, Jeni Clouser, Peggy Hayes, Star Daverman

DECEMBER 26

Margaret Gasper, Shay Hacker, Stephanie Peel, Butch Landman, Kaitlyn Callihan.

DECEMBER 27 Mark Nyp, Linda Aksamitowski, Jay Clark.

3230.

DECEMBER 28 Stormzand, C.J. Sokolowski, Matt Francisco, Randy L.

DECEMBER 29 Amanda Martin, Donna Baker, Lauren Malone,



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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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METHODIST CHURCH

Kirby and Harrison

Alto • 616-691-8011

Children's Church......9:30 A.M.

OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS

- OPEN DOORS

Pastor Dean Bailey

.9:30 A.M.

Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org Rev. David O. Sims & Rev. W. Lee Taylor Sun. Worship Service......9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. AWANA/EXCITE •TEENS. Wed. 6:15 & 6:30 P.M. **Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times**

Nursery Provided · Barrier Free

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Fr. Eugene Okoli 402 Amity St. • 897-9820

www.stmary-lowell.com Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM Saturday confessions: 4-4:45 PM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETE WIGGINS 897-7915

SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 49, EWTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTIN

Rev. Randy Meyers - 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI

Morning Worship. 10:00 A. M Sunday School. ..11:20 A.M ..6:00 P.M Evening Worship. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free

> **SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** 3189 Snow Ave. SE. Lowell

Pastor Dr. Mike Conklin 9:45 A.M. Sunday School 10:30 A.M. .Fellowship 897-9863

Nursery & Children Worship Programs Provided A friend...a family...a mission!

also assisting in rebuilding He has completed his 10-Iraq's economic day leave and is currently governmental infrastructure, working as a recruiter's and training and preparing assistant in Grand Rapids Iragi military and security and will return to Camp forces to assume Pendleton on Dec. 29 where authority and responsibility he will complete four weeks in defending and preserving of military combat training. Iraq's sovereignty His military occupation

specialty will take him to Fort Leonard Wood, MO, Remelts is a vehicle where he will train as an commander with more engineering equipment than three years of military mechanic.

Geldersma is a 2009 He is the son of Lisa graduate of Lowell High School.



Augustus J. Geldersma

health

Lucchese of Lowell.

The specialist is a 2002

Private First Class

Augustus J. Geldersma, of

Lowell, graduated from the

United States Marine Corp

Recruit Depot, San Diego,

completed 13 weeks of

intensive basic training at

MCRD San Diego as one of

61 recruits who made Honor

Platoon in Kilo Company,

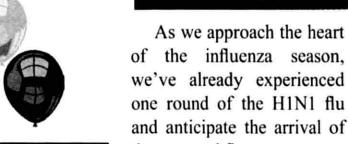
Geldersma successfully

on November 20, 2009.

graduate of Lowell High

With Drs. Paul Gauthier, Jim Lang, Wayne A. Christenson III John G. Meier & Tracy Lixie

Influenza



the seasonal flu.

March. About 10-20 percent physicians and clinics should flu season. Most people will this time. You cannot get the people, infants, children and usually limited to soreness at complications that can lead aches to hospitalization and may become life threatening. The in treating influenza because seasonal flu is responsible it is caused by a virus. for more than 200,000 Antiviral medication can be hospitalizations and more than 35,000 deaths yearly.

respiratory infection different duration of illness by a day or from a cold or the "stomach flu." Patients with the flu medications like Tylenol, usually have a fever for a ibuprofen or naproxyn will couple of days, headache, help alleviate fever and other muscle aches, fatigue and symptoms of the flu. upper respiratory symptoms

As we approach the heart like a stuffy nose, cough, of the influenza season, sore throat and sneezing. The best defense against

one round of the H1N1 flu the flu is to get a seasonal and anticipate the arrival of flu shot. Unfortunately, this year there has been a delay The fluis caused by a virus. in shipments of the seasonal The peak season in our area flu shot due to the production is from November through of the H1N1 shot, but most of people are infected every have an adequate supply at recover from the flu within flu from the vaccine. Side a week or so, but elderly effects of the flu shot are patients with chronic diseases the site of injection, possible are more likely to develop fever and mild muscle

Antibiotics are not useful used if prescribed within 48 hours of onset of symptoms, Seasonal flu is a but they will only shorten the so. Taking over-the-counter

GREG VAN STRIEN HEATING AND PLUMBING

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"Free" credit reports aren't so free



In these tough times, a Business Bureau over the good credit record is essential last three years. In 2007, for consumers seeking a two University of Utah loan, a better credit card, a researchers analyzed 58 sales new apartment, sometimes pitches for credit reports or even a job. Federal law scores; 41 of those advertised gives consumers the right to "free" access to reports or check their credit reports for scores that actually required free once a year so they can purchase of a product or review and fix any problems, service. but scams promising "free"

Especially troublesome is to obtain their free annual credit reports that often the fact that many consumers turn out to be expensive are think they are getting the making a mockery of that truly free credit report they federal right. I'm pleased are actually entitled to once a that federal regulators taking year under federal law. Federal regulators are

Accountability,

steps to end these abuses. You probably have seen taking steps to end these ads for Web sites promising abuses, and they're using to help you obtain your credit the provisions of Credit score at no cost. In some ads Card you'll hear catchy jingles; Responsibility and Disclosure others use endorsements Act of 2009. This legislation from well-known media includes a section I authored figures. But none of these that requires clear and honest ads will prominently mention disclosure of just what that your "free" credit report these "free" credit report may not be so free. These marketers are selling. The companies use the promise Federal Trade Commission of a free report to lure recently released a proposed consumers into buying credit rule for implementing these monitoring services for a requirements, and the FTC's hefty monthly fee. proposal will do much to

Thousands of consumers have been trapped in this complaints to the Better annual credit

Retirement Estimator will

immediate and personalized

estimate of your retirement

benefits right now? Visit

In The Ledger

ADA LOWELL 5

UALITY Con M-21, 5 Minutes East of Amway H.Q.
THEATERS www.GQTI.com

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ALL SEATS

SHOWTIMES 12/21 - 12/22 ONo passes

MORGANS? (PG-13) 4:50, 7:10, 9:25

O THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG (G)

4:30, 6:50, 9:05 THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13) 4:20, 7:00, 9:

200z.DRINK
with \$3.00 purchase
of 460z.bag of buttery popcorn
one pie at 6 Atta-Lanet 5 Elep. JAN 4, 2010 11.2

MOVIE GIFT CARDS

Now thru Jan. 3 bonus \$1.00 concession coupon for every \$10.00 in gift cards

O AVATAR (PG-13) 6:10, 9:35

BROTHERS (R) 4:40, 7:20, 9:55

O DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE

§4.50 to^{\$}5.00

616-897-3456

available in Spanish.

gov/estimator.

The rule would require Box 105281, Atlanta, GA scheme. Just one company, advertisements to disclose 30348-5281. You can get a FreeCreditReport.com, has that they are not advertising been the subject of 10,000 the free, no-strings attached Retirement, continued

the information matches

the Retirement Estimator

with the information that

Social Security has on

record, including your yearly

earnings, to provide a quick

and reliable online benefit

Tout Pale

In the spirit of Christmas

and in honor of our bosses

Doctors Gauthier, Lang,

Meier, Christenson and

Lixie

and toys was made to the

Flat River Outreach

Ministries.

Merry Christmas

your staff

a generous donation of food

be the first online service Social Security's records,

Would you like to get an combines this information

protect consumers.

Security benefits and you www.socialsecurity.gov/ While you're checking would like to get an estimate estimator. To get an estimate, out the most popular online of your future benefits, just you'll need to enter your service in government, try visit www.socialsecurity. first and last name, date out some of our other online and place of birth, Social services and information as Other improvements are Security number, and well. You can find it all at www.socialsecurity.gov. coming soon. Next year, the mother's maiden name. If

> Vonda VanTil is the 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.

mandated by federal law. protection organizations. Web sites for these services • Remember that your such as a home or vehicle. absolutely sure what you would have to make the free annual credit reports do But you will have to pay for might be charged for.

"lëdger

site, AnnualCreditReport.

com, restricting commercial

and confusing "terms and

of the three commercial

credit bureaus from which

consumers have the right

Companies that profit

from these deceptive offers,

that is, those that offer credit

reports linked to the purchase

of a service or product, are

fighting the FTC rule, so its

fate is still up in the air. But

I am hopeful consumers will

prevail. In the meantime,

one free, no-obligation credit

report each year from each of

the three commercial credit

reporting bureaus: Experian,

TransUnion and Equifax. You

can get those reports online

at AnnualCreditReport.com,

by phone at 1-877-322-8228

or by mailing the request

form to Annual Credit

Report Request Service, P.O.

copy of the form at www.ftc.

gov or from many consumer

· You are entitled to

keep in mind:

requirements

advertisements

eliminating

same disclosure, and provide not include a credit score - them. a clear, easily readable the number many lenders government-sponsored Web often be useful if you're a commercial service your

link to the government- and other businesses use to a commercial credit-report cards and other credit sponsored site providing assess your creditworthiness. service, make sure you read issues on the Federal Trade truly free reports. And the Consumer advocates say the fine print closely. Make Commission's Web site at rule would improve that obtaining these scores can sure that before you give ftc.gov/credit.

considering a major purchase, credit card number, you're

 You can learn more If you're looking into about credit reports, credit

Caring kids at Cherry Creek Elementary



Cherry Creek students participated in a food drive for Flat River Outreach Ministries. Over 1100 food items were collected, enough to fill two pickup truck loads. Students also

Pictured are second graders who won the championship trophy for collecting the most items of any grade level - nearly 300. The food and toy drive was part of the school's focus on the character trait of Caring.

3 Distinctly Different Candlelight CommunionServices

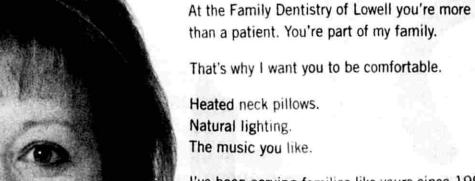
7:00 p.m. Festive Traditional 9:00 p.m. Contemporary Blend 11:00 p.m. Quiet Intimate

Lowell First United Methodist

621 E. Main, Lowell website: www.lowellumc.com phone 616.897.5936



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Snap Fitness offers cutting edge fitness program

cutting edge fitness program assessment that evaluates available. Kerry Foley is the area complete with an online good or bad things in health trainer at the Lowell location personal trainer and a 24- routine and suggests changes with Devon McQueen as the hours a day workout gym.

center, located right next to the Ada Lowell 5 Theatre, is helps outline goals. divided into cardio theater. muscle strengthening and own workouts online with

has good value that the based on goals, suggests the competitions," said Lothian, residents will appreciate." said owner Ryan Lothian.

on CYBEX, top of the calves and abs

Snap Fitness offers a for a personal wellness and a personal trainer is feet with a free dumbbell or improvements. It also state-of-the-art puts together a customized personal wellness plan and

marathons, body building, Members can build their losing weight or staying fit. the help of 3-D animated who lost 100 pounds, people "The product we provide figures. The online trainer, training for body building different franchises, this is a

type of exercises that can be "or just people who want to downloaded on a smart phone be fit." and members bring their own

an equipment orientation customized workout to the a correct warm up and ends the enrollment is \$49 with Each member gets a key actual workout consists of local retailers. A prepay card that provides entrance cardio and muscle strength program for six months into any location nationwide training. Strength training provides the seventh month including chest, back, quads, open 24 hours a day. There helps tighten and tone, and free, or for 12 months - gives hamstrings, biceps, triceps, are 17 Snap Fitness clubs in build muscle, the body's threes months for free, for 18 West Michigan. Each center primary calorie burner.

member has is staffed with a manager The entire gym is free

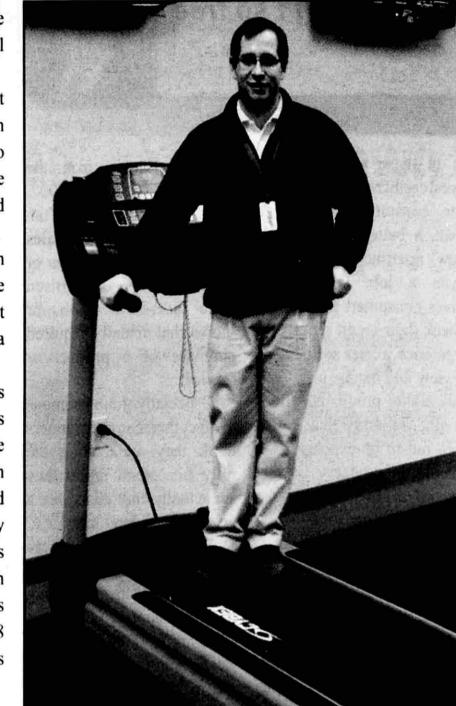
page four to eight hours a day approximately 2,000 square

Lothian, who is a project manager for Autocam in Grand Rapids, decided to The club is basically for open up the franchise because anyone, whether training for he has always envisioned

"We've had members entrepreneurial family," he said. "We've been looking at

required. The cost is Any program starts with \$34.95 per month, while with a proper cool down. The discounts at national and months - gives six months

> For more information go to www.snapfitness.com



Ryan Lothian has opened up Snap Fitness, a franchise in Lowell.

Learning about weather



Wood TV's Terri DeBoer visited Nancy Russell's class last Friday. DeBoer was visiting Russell's class because her students were painting bowls that they are donating to God's Kitchen as part of a service learning project. DeBoer's coverage will air on Monday's eightWest, an entertainment/news program that airs on Wood TV.

2009-2010 CDBG funding:

Sibley Street road and sidewalk improvements between Valley Vista Drive and North Center Street

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF LOWELL, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE

CITY OF LOWELL'S PROPOSED USE OF

2009-2010 AND 2010-2011 KENT COUNTY

DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

A public hearing will be conducted by the Lowell City council on

January 4, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, Lowell

Public comments will be received during the hearing, orally or in

writing, regarding the City of Lowell's proposed use of U.S.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community

City Hall, Second Floor, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan.

Development Block Grant Funds for the following projects:

\$25,073.40

2010-2011 CDBG funding:

North West Street sidewalk improvements

\$25,186.00

Milling and repaving of S. Pleasant and S. West Streets

North Kent Transit assistance to senior citizens and Handicapped riders

> \$6,000.00 \$31,186.00

The County of Kent has informed the City that \$25,073.40 remains unallocated in the current 2009-2010 year for Federal Community Development Block Grant funds. Further, \$31,186 will be allocated for projects in the 2010-2011 year starting July 1, 2010. The primary objective of the federal CDBG Entitlement Program it's the development of viable urban communities, by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income." Activities using CDBG funds must meet one of the following National Objectives: benefiting low and moderate income persons; addressing slums or blight; or, meeting a particularly urgent community development need.

Interested persons may submit comments to Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street, prior to the meeting or appear in person.



Betty R. Morlock City Clerk

THANK YOU

The Alto Lions Club Would Like To Thank The Following Businesses & Individuals For Their Donations To The 2009 Children's Christmas Party

Heidi's Farm Stand

Ice Cream Caboose

Mark Johnson/Farm Bureau Ins

Alto Automotive Alto Fire Department Alto Friends of the Library Alto Library Gas Alto Marathon Alto Meat Processing Alto PTO American Legion American Legion Auxiliary Mary Benedict, Attny. Tim Bergy Blough Lumber Sales Inc. Circle Pine Ranch/Gil VanWeelden Cogent Civil Engineering Deter Home Remodeling Dougherty Electric **Durkee Lumber** Good Chevrolet/Buick Lila Lee Grummet

(in memory of Bob Grummet)

Kentwood Sales Corp. Lowell Area Schools Meijer - Cascade Plains L.P. Gas Marketing Richardson Machine Skyline Electric Stedfast Construction Swiss Lane Farms Pat Thomet (in memory of Stewart Thomet) United Bank - Clarksville Vanderziel Machines Chris Wenger Weeland Farms Zook Farm Equipment Alto Area Lions Club

Red Arrow

Lowell caves to the weight in loss to Mishawaka

Lowell returned from its wrestling match against Mishawaka (IN) Friday night having identified the standard as to where it needs to be come mid February.

wednesday • december • 23 • 2009

The Cavemen, Indiana's top ranked high school wrestling team, left nothing to the imagination as to why, in their 41-17 demolition of the Red Arrows.

"My initial impression is that it is a better wrestling squad than what we faced last year," said Lowell wrestling coach Dave Dean. "It's not enjoyable going through something like this, but it's all about how you use the information."

Lowell, up in its weight classes at the weigh-in an hour prior to the match, paid the piper.

heavyweight.

Jackson Morse was in

control throughout his 19-4

technical fall.

against a team like this."

a huge 37-21 win over its Northern Indiana conference foe, Penn, the night before, stopped the bleeding with gave the look of anything but a 7-5 decision against Matt

"I thought our match thought we wrestled okay against Darius Marshall. against Penn, but not like

the best they have all year." coming right out of the gate.

opened the match with a we can on our schedules

Gabe Dean, 189, followed ready for the tournament at championship. with a 4-1 decision over

The Cavemen (13-0) then reeled off seven straight wins, Mishawaka, coming off three via the pin and two by

Lowell's Gabe Morse Gurra at 135 pounds.

Jake Gould posted the against Penn got us ready Red Arrow's final win of the for tonight," said Mishawaka evening at 145 with a pin coach Darrick Snyder. "I at 3:19 of the second round

tonight. Our guys wrestled relationship with Lowell because neither school cares Lowell won just four of about individual or team dual the 14 matches, with two records. All that matters is what happens in February. Jackson Morse, 171. We put the toughest teams 19-4 major decision against and let the chips fall where Mishawaka last year to they may. It's all about being win the Division 2 state

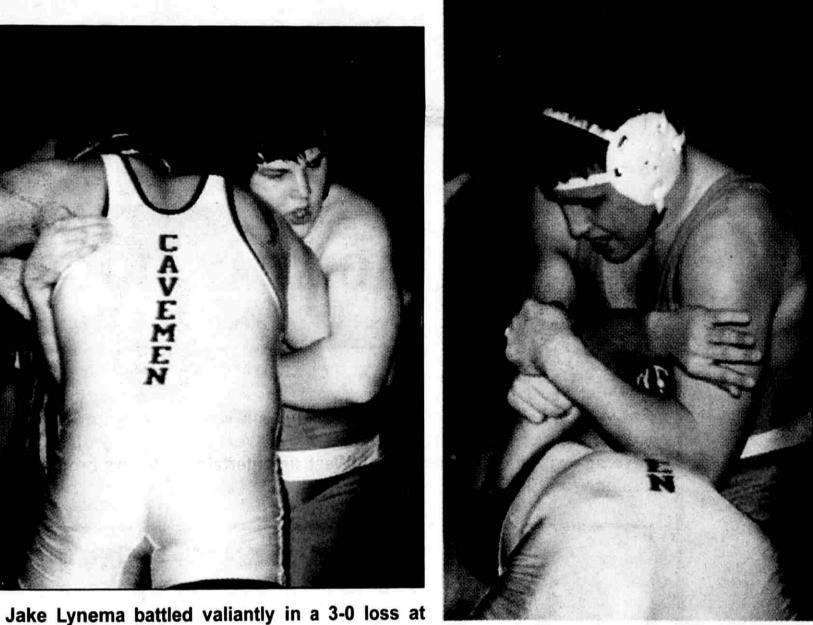
Gabe Morse earned a 7-5 decision at 135 pounds.

beat Martin Brubaker by fall

beat Ethan Sutton by fall:50: 119: Layten Binion (M) beat Zack Jeffries 9-3;125: Taylor Whistler (M) beat Kalvin Meyer by fall 3:28; 130: Nick Schrader (M) beat Matt Abu 4-1; 215: Christian Griffioen 16-7; 135: Gabe Lentz (M) beat Ryan Olep Morse (L) beat Matt Guerra 9-1; 285: Travis Thomas 7-5; 140: Anthony Eddy (M) beat Jake Lynema 3-0. (M) beat Jake Fillingham

103: Grant Martsolf (M)

4-0: 145: Jake Gould (L) beat Darius Marshall by fall 3:19; 152: Ryan Stahl Gabe Dean (L) beat Danny



Gabe Dean battled for six minutes in recording a 4-1 decision.



final approval by the Township Board.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

LOWELL

CHARTER

TOWNSHIP

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Lowell Charter Township Planning

Commission will hold a public hearing to

amend the Township Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendment would require setbacks

and yards for a development project to be measured from any future public road

recommended in the Township Master Plan.

The proposed amendment would require the

location of the future road right of way to be

determined by the Planning Commission with

The hearing will be held as follows: WHEN: MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2010

7:00 P.M. WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER

TOWNSHIP HALL 2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE **LOWELL, MI 49331**

The proposed amendment is available for review at the Lowell Charter Township offices. 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell Michigan, 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday or by calling 897-7600.

> Tim Clements, Secretary **Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission**

Red Arrow SPARIS

Lowell drops league opener to Greenville 61-43

Lowell generated some tenacity in its play along with some scoring opportunities.

"Our effort and toughness was better tonight. We played with more of an edge," said boys' basketball Jeff McDonald, following his club's 61-43 loss to Greenville.

While the percentage of shots made was not where it needs to be, many of the shots created came on penetration.

""We're missing shots that we need to have drop," McDonald said.

Jon Hanson was the leading scorer for the Red Arrows with 11 points while Elliott Drain scored 10.

Lowell trailed 18-13 after one quarter of play and 34-21 at half-time.

physical and to play hard," Greenville boys basketball coach Mark Haist said. "But we played a good solid game and our defense was able to

keep the game up tempo." Ian Drobish and Brendan McNeal led Yellowiacket scorers with 16 points.

"Defensively, we have some things we need to shore up and fix," McDonald said. "The two weeks over Christmas break will be key to working on our conditioning. timing and execution."

Another area McDonald hopes his club can improve on is rebounding.

"It's positioning, having numbers crashing the boards

VERGENNES

FOWNSHIP

ZONING BOARD

OF APPEALS

PUBLIC NOTICE

There will be a meeting of the Vergennes

Township Zoning Board of Appeals on

Monday, January 11, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at

the Vergennes Township offices located at

10381 Bailey Dr., PO Box 208, Lowell, to hear

Applicant Frank Southwell is requesting a lot

area variance from section 201.304 (E) to

split an existing parcel into 2 parcels of which

one parcel will be less than the required lo

area of 3 acres (2.5). The parcel is located at

1794 Fallasburg Park Dr., which is on a

private road off Ike Rd. along the Flat River in

The members may review any other business

that may come before them as permitted by

the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act and

Property owners and residents within 300 feet

of the application property will receive this

The complete application can be reviewed at

the Vergennes Township Hall from 9 a.m. to 3

p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Public comment will be heard at the meeting.

Written comments received by mail, in persor

or in the mail slot located at the office

entrance will also be considered if received at

the Township office prior to 7:00 p.m. on the

day of the meeting. Comments may also be

Vergennes Township ZBA

emailed to: zoning@vergennestwp.org

Vergennes Township Zoning Ordinance.

the following business:

the NE ° 1/4 of section 13.

notice by mail.

and boxing out," McDonald

Lowell (0-3, 0-1) lost a to stay out of high possession "We expected them to be 68-38 nonconference game Holland earlier in the

> "That's a good basketball team that we don't match up with real well," McDonald

The Lowell coach said

可圖圖圖 competitiveness, it will need be at home against Lakewood HOLLAND

STUDENT

an offensive rebound and a bucket against the Dutch.

CHECK OUT OUR SPORTS

Lowell Arrow Dynamics Softball Club is holding a softball skills clinic for girls ages 10 years old and younger. The clinic will cover all basic softball skills from beginners to advanced.

The clinic begins Friday January 8, 2010 at 7:00 pm at Bushnell Elementary Gymnasium. This will be an 8-week clinic with a

For more information call 366-3783



'We need to keep the

Lowell's next game will

possessions in the 50s,"

McDonald explained.

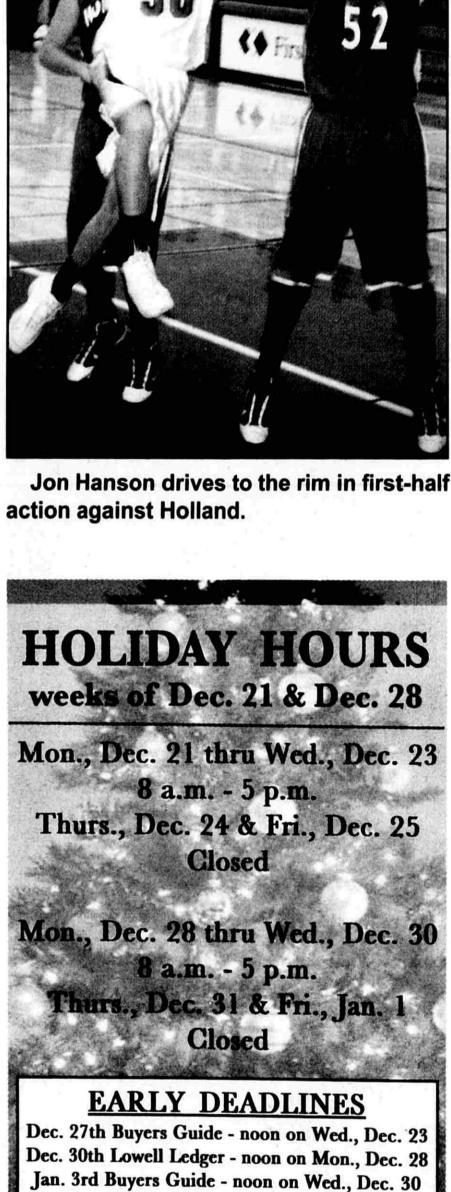
on Jan. 5.

Elliott Drain rises above defenders for

thelewellledger .com

GIRLS SOFTBALL CLINIC

cost of \$40.00 and includes a t-shirt.



Jan. 6th Lowell Ledger - noon on Mon., Jan. 4

97-9261 - 897-9555

the lowell dger

Red Arrow SP0315

Inside play enables Lowell to post first league win

The Red Arrows built

Oregon State

Ohio University

Bowling Green

Pittsburgh

Clemson

Nebraska

Air Force

Oklahoma

Missouri

Iowa State

Virginia Tech

Northwestern

West Virginia

LSU

Oregon

Cincinnati

South Florida

Connecticut

perimetershooters, however, it did find a way to close out the game over the final 90 seconds in securing a 45-43 O-K White win.

Lowell did not close Lowell's mark to 4-2 overall and moved its league record

> anchored by the inside play of Bryleigh Loughlin and Katie Tompkins

toughen its personal conduct

Moments prior to his

death, he was beating on the

back window of a moving

truck his girlfriend was

teammates and the Bengal

organization have come out

and said he was turning his

life around.

I know most of his

driving before falling off.

The Red Arrow win was Gallert.

Both Loughlin and Hyler. Tompkins tallied a team-high

"We took advantage of

our size and were able to Lowell's post play and they get in the paint and score," were able to make easy said Lowell coach Danielle passes and get to the basket," said Greenville coach Jeremy

12 points.

However, had the fall

Henry's life, the result would

have been another arrest on

Then what would Goodell

That's the conundrum

with suggesting all stadiums

hold a moment of silence.

It flew in the face of what

the commissioner can't have

I failed to reveal my

list of college football bowl

winners last week

Fresno State

Here they are:

Southern Mississippi

From where I'm sitting

Goodell has represented.

his record.

have done?

from the truck not taken Utah

"We could not get around but were never able to put "Greenville (0-4, 0-1)

> fought hard and did a nice job. They battled us hard all night long," said Gallert.

The Red Arrows' defense leads of nine and 10 points forced 27 Yellowjacket turnovers.

> turnovers, you're going to have a hard time winning games," Hyler said

Lowell led 15-11 after one stanza, but trailed 26-24 at half-time.

lead in the third quarter. outscoring the Yellowjackets 10-4 to take a 34-30 lead into the final eight minutes of play.

"Our size was the difference. The girls did good pushing the ball inside," Gallert said.

MacKenzy Nichols led Greenville in scoring with 12 points.

The Lowell girls' play at Creston next, on Friday Jan. 8.

with 3399. Hudsonville

finished fifth with a team

The championship match

In the boys' side of the

was first in match play with

Byron Center 3974 and

Someone had to say it!

In a sad, odd sort of way found it troubling that NFL commissioner Roger Goodell requested a moment of silence for Cincinnati

receiver Chris Henry. Goodell, since taking the commissioner position, has held a no tolerance position on player violence and crime off the football field.

Henry was no stranger to

arrests during a five-year

I bought some batteries, but they weren't included.

- Steven Wright (1955 -)





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The Lowell Ledger 105 N. Broadway, 897-926

college news

Nicole Hensch and Adam Konyndyk, both of Ada, have been named to the Dean's List for the 2009-10 fall quarter at DePaul University. To receive

Dean's List commendation, full-time students must earn a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or above on a four-point scale.

Arkansas Texas Tech Boise State

Georgia Tech Central Michigan

Finally, here's hoping all of you have a MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Bowlers struggle at Kenowa Hills

It wasn't the sendoff into the holidays the Lowell bowling teams were shooting total of 3221. for, however, the Kenowa Hills Invitational did give saw Kelloggsville defeat them a good measure of Hudsonville 384-223. where they stand among some of West Michigan's invitational, Kelloggsville

best. The Red Arrow girls' 4202 followed by Wyoming placed seventh in a field of Park 4171, Wayland 4081, 16, missing entry into the

final round. Lowell rolled a 3158.

Lowell was 14th with a Kelloggsville was first in pin total of 3214. match play with 4056. South Lowell's

Hudsonville 3966.

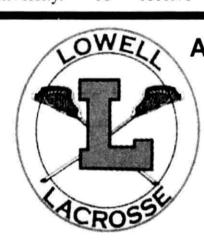
Christian was second at 3445 bowling scores were not and Byron Center was third provided

CATALOGS

FLIERS/COUPONS

BROCHURES

. Post Cards



1st Congregational

As 2009 comes to a close, the Lowell Lacrosse Organization would like to thank the following contributors for their generous donations and support during this year!

Thank you all for making this year such a great success for Lowell Lacrosse!

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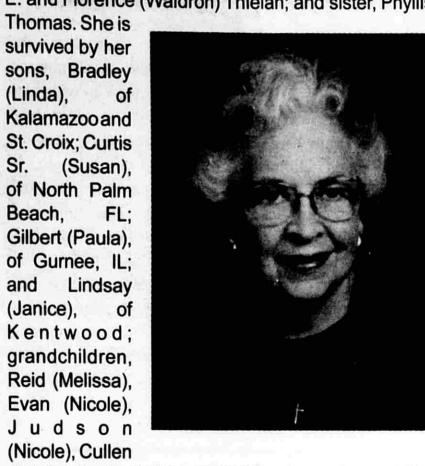
897-9555 105 N. Broadway

obituaries

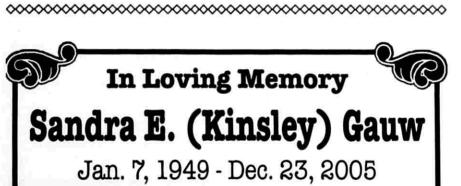
FONGER

Virginia C. (Thielan) Fonger, aged 88, of Lowell passed away at Clark Retirement Community on Friday, December 18, 2009. She was preceded in death by her lovinghusbandof55years, M. JackFonger; parents, Harold E. and Florence (Waldron) Thielan; and sister, Phyllis J.

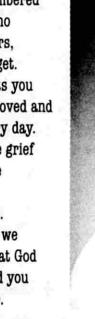
Thomas. She is survived by her sons, Bradley (Linda), Kalamazooand St. Croix; Curtis (Susan) of North Palm Beach, FL Gilbert (Paula), of Gurnee, IL Lindsay (Janice), Kentwood grandchildren Reid (Melissa) Evan (Nicole)

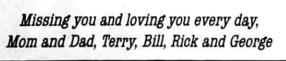


(Nicole), Cullen (Kristy), Curtis Jr. (Andrea), Kyle, Jacquelyn and Celia great-grandchildren, Josephine, Ethan and Lillian; sisters-in-law, Marjean Brillhart, Rose, Gail and Sandra Fonger; many nephews and nieces. Virginia was born near Adrian, graduated from Adrian Senior High School in 1939 and Western Michigan University in 1943. She earned a Master's degree in library science in 1968 at WMU, and was a member of Beta Phi MU. She taught school for 28 years, 21 years as Lowell High School librarian. She was active in school, church and the community as well as a loving wife and mother. Virginia was a member of United Methodist Women, Evening Club, Ex Libris, Lowell Museum and after moving to Clark in 2001, she was an active volunteer in the library. the handbell choir and resident council. Funeral services were held Tuesday at First United Methodist Church of Lowell, Rev. Rick Blunt and Rev. Dean Bailey, officiating. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to First United Methodist Church, Clark Benevolent Fund or Faith Hospice.



This day is remembered and quietly kept no need for reminders, we will never forget. Deep in our hearts you will always stay loved and remembered every day. No one knows the grief we bear when the family meets and you are not there. Wishing today as we wished before, that God could have spared you many years more.







A Subscription To The Lowell Ledger! Call 897-9261

'lëdger **ROCHELEAU**

Donald G. Rocheleau, aged 76, of East Grand Rapids, passed away in his home on Thursday, December 17. Saturday, December 12, 2009, at Pennock Hospital. She 2009, after a courageous battle with cancer. He was preceded in death by his mother, Elaine Rocheleau; and son, Donald Rocheleau, Jr. He is survived by his wife, Carol (Coleman) Rocheleau; son, Mike (Lisa) Rocheleau, of Rockford; grandchildren, Aaron (Sarah), Hannah, Sawyer and Reed; stepchildren, Sibley Kirchgessner, of Los Angeles, CA; Susan (Charles) Scrafano, of Birmingham; and Michael (Kendra) Kirchgessner, of Naperville, IL; grandchildren, Charles, in business in 1995. Isabella, Coleman, Camden and Madeleine; brother, Richard Rocheleau. of Grosse Pointe; and sister, Helen Johnson, of Alpena. An avid hunter and fisherman, Don believed in giving back, even in his leisure time. With that, he approached his personal life and experiences as he did his business life and invested time into the and for the office organizations in which he was involved. Don was a member of the Kent County Conservation League, life Corrections from member of the One Shot Antelope Hunt (Lander, WY), past president of the Past Shooters Council of the Grand November of 1996. National Waterfall Association, chairman for the Water she married Dennis for Wildlife Foundation (Lander, WY), member of Kent Country Club and the Useppa Island Club (Bokeelia, FL). Throughout his career that spanned more than five decades, his leadership, devotion and significant Timothy, contributions to the industry allowed him to achieve many important goals, accomplishments and prestigious She is also survived by her mother, Linda Frasier; father, coveted awards, including everything from the National Walter Nelson; and sister, Laura (Chris) Black. Michelle Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) Hall of was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Fame's 27th member, the Charles Chapman Award from Hastings and homeschooling groups. She enjoyed NMMA and Motor Boating Magazine, the ABYC Horizon reading Christian books, knitting, and being involved Award, the National Marine Representatives Association with her family. Michelle was preceded in death by her Mel Barr Award, to the Alan J. Freeman Memorial Award grandparents, Richard and Shirley Knauss and Grandpa

Songs of the Season will be

shared as friends

and neighbors

join together to

welcome the

Birth of Christ.

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and Yacht Council. He spent thirty-three years at Attwood Corporation, retiring as president and CEO. Don's basic business wisdom was "Know Your Customer." He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. A memorial service was held December 22 at the O'Brien-Eggebeen-Gerst Chapel. Memorial contributions may be given to the cancer society of your choice. Christmas Eve at Day Bible Chapel!

PROBATE COURT **COUNTY OF KENT**

CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

File No. 2009-187705-

Estate of WARREN VANWYCK, deceased.

OFFICE HOURS Monday - Thursday: 8 am - 5 pm Friday: 8 am - 2 pm Closed Sat. & Sun.



wednesday • december • 23 •2009

was the daughter of Walter Nelson and Linda Frasier. Michelle was born July 26, 1975 in Grand Rapids. She was raised in Middleville where she graduated from Thornapple-Kellogg High School in 1993. Shortly after high school. Michelle continued her education at Grace Bible College where she received her

WILLIAMS

Michelle L. Williams, age 34, passed away on

Associate's degree Michelle worked in the loan accounting Hastings City Bank Community Williams and then had four children: Lindsay Joseph, and Rachel

presented to Don by his peers for his leadership and the Carl Nelson. Funeral services were held December Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International. He served 17 at the First Baptist Church of Hastings with Dan as president of the Marine Accessories and Services as Currie officiating. Interment followed at Irving Township well as president of the National Association of Marine Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions Products. He was appointed to the U.S. Coast Guard may be directed to the Michelle Williams Benefit Fund National Boating Safety Advisory Council by President at Hastings City Bank. Please share a memory with George H.W. Bush and the Board of the American Boat Michelle's family at www.lauerfh.com

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN

NOTICE TO

TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE **CREDITORS:**

Date of birth: 2/3/1927

WARREN decedent, VANWYCK, who lived Schimperle 2273 Grand Rapids, Michigan, died 9/13/2009. Creditors

decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented MARY to VANWYCK named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court Ottawa Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/ personal proposed representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this

12/11/2009

Gregory G. Prasher (P19068) **429 Turner Ave NW** Grand Rapids, MI 49504 616-454-7780

Mary VanWyck 2273 Schimperle Dr. NE Grand Rapids, MI 49525 616-361-8646

*Merry * Classifieds

3198.TFN

for sale

MEMORY FOAM MAT-TRESS - Tempurpedic style visco memory foam. Never used. Queen \$595. king \$795. 616-682-4767 or 293-6160._{TEN}

SEALYMATTRESSSALE - Full, queen or king, \$95 per set. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St. Carson City, MI.

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.

CHIHUAHUA PUPPIES - \$100 - \$400, variety of colors, 616-693-2806 or 269-838-2398.

BOB'S 12th ANNUAL BIRD HOUSE SALE - Bird houses & feeders make great Christmas gifts. Good selection of blue bird & bat houses, glass jar squirrel feeders, regular bird feeders. Wren houses, great as they are or buy & decorate to give away, comes with hanger, just hang in tree. Solid construction, excellent prices. Bob's Bird Houses. 12279 60th St. Alto, 868-6633.

MATTRESS - Replace your worn out mattress for as little as \$79, all sizes. Name brand. Never used. 616-682-4767 or 293-6160.TFN

KEYCARDSMAKEGREAT GIFTS! - Help support the LHS Academic Boosters & save money at the places you shop in Lowell and in Grand Rapids. Cards are \$15. Stop by & get your card today, Lowell Ledger 105 N. Broadway. Cash or check only please.

FREE AD! - 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 buyersguide.com, Lowell. Ph. 897-9261.

HELP US DELIVER THE PAPER...please DIG OUT around your newspaper tube, mailbox, steps, walkways & porches! Let's all try to HELP EACH OTHER survive the Winter.

SCRATCH PADS OF PA-PER - 2 sizes to choose from. \$1.50 per lb. Stop by Buyers Guide, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

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.

HARDWOOD PELLETS - \$210 a ton, delivery service available. Chance to win one Free ton with every ton purchased. Call 616-794-1037, Ross Wood Products, Belding.

for rent

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

bedroom, 1 bath, appliances included, \$700/mo. By Stoney Lake. Section 8 welcome. Call 676-0023.

SMALLHOUSEFORRENT 1 mile to downtown. Park nearby. Studio floor plan (no bedrooms!). Pets negotiable. Available immediately \$550 per month. Call John at 616-745-1587.

PRICELESS STOR-AGE - Indoor/outdoor. New Units on Alden Nash, 1 mile South of 196. Call for

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. maintenance provided. Sits STILL SEARCHING - for

897-5807.

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.vfw8303.org. Call John at 299-0486 or 897-

LOWELL MOBILE HOME 0276 or 616-813-8041.TEN

CENTER COURT APT Rapids, 877-780-2200.

NOW HIRING - & training HOUSE FOR RENT - 3

Management is seeking a

specials 558-2900.

CA\$H PAID FOR OLD STUFF! - Buying advertising items, military related. toys & games, jewelry, knives, lighters, hunting & fishing AND MUCH MORE. Call 616-550-0521

New gas furnace & central A/C. Utilities (except water) included. Newly painted inside & out. Yard on a one-acre wooded lot w/plenty of space to play. Only a 3-minute walk to historic downtown Lowell. No smoking please, 312-

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

PARK - Under new management. Nice 1, 2 & 3 bedroom trailers for rent. Rent from \$350-\$550. For info call George at 616-754-

- 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

APARTMENTS - Lakeview apartments in Lowell. Starting at \$520. All utilities and carport included, exp. electric. 1st Month Free. 897-6880 or Lowell MichiganApartments.com

PEBBLE BEACH

help wanted

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.

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full-time RN/LPN. The ideal candidate must have strong managerial & communication skills & a love for seniors. Previous experience in geriatrics is a plus. We offer the right candidate a generous compensation package, possible on-site housing, benefits and the opportunity to join a winning team. For consideration, please send your resume in confidence to: Human Resources, 1845 Birmingham

wanted

SE, Lowell, MI 49331

lost

an ALL BLACK, LONG-HAIRED, 2 yr old male, neutered cat w/bright yellow eyes - named Blackie. Last seen 10-28 on Ryan Ridge SE & Alden Nash in Lowell Twp. REWARD, please call 897-8385.

misc.

NEW YEAR'S EVE FAMILY PARTY! - Bowl, skate, laser tag, food, prizes & fun! 7 p.m. - 1 a.m. Check out: www.Rollaway.Biz & click current events. 897-0001.

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NEED SNOW REMOVAL medicine administration OFF YOUR ROOF OR activities & laundry. For ROOF REPAIR? - Call 616 more information call 616-477-1566. Insured, reason-862-6712. able price. flippo@sprint blackberry.net TAXES, PAYROLL QUICKBOOKS, & AC-

BE HEALTHY - HAPP YOGA CLASSES - Tu. Th., 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Fr. 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. 901 W. Main. \$6 per class. 616-893-5661. hammocklearr ina.com

SNOWPLOWING - Gravel accounts welcome. Seasonal or per time. Salting available. Serving Ada Lowell area. Call Gilchrist Concrete Construction, 616-893-1569.

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #7719

second and fourth Tuesday at St.

BACK TO BASICS - every Tues-

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 Method-

ist Church, 621 E. Main St. (Use

west entrance off Jackson St.)

Mary School, 7:30 p.m.

616-841-1876, 897-7792. **BIG STEPS LITTLE FEET** Christian Childcare & Preschool in Ada now enrolling. 616-682-8300.

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advisor. Call Kathy 897-

residential & commercial

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PLEASE NOTE - Coming Events LOWELL SHOWBOAT GARare 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 o 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 & BOY SCOUT TROOP 102 - evplace it as a classified ad.

THE LOWELL BOARD OF the end of N. Washington St. EDUCATION - second Monday Ages 11 and up or completing of the month at 7 p.m. in the 5th grade. Call Scoutmaster Administration Building, 300 High Randy Jesberg at 897-4569 or

homas at 691-1147. Nicotine Weigh-ins at 5:45 p.m. Anonymous is a fellowship of

WOMEN FOR SOBRIETY meets every Monday, 7-8 p.m. at QUA-KE-ZIK SPORTS-MAN'S Bowne Center United Methodist CLUB - meets second and third Church, fellowship hall, 12051 Tuesdays at 8 p. m. at 8731 84th St., corner of Alden Nash. West Riverside Dr. Go to www. Call Sue at 868-6219 or www. qua-ke-zik.org for information. womenforsobriety.org.

BOWNE TOWNSHIP HISTORI- LOWELL LIONS CLUB - meets 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 BIBLE STUDY - Sept. - May. Monday evenings, 5:30 to 8:30 Tuesdays 9:30 - 11:15 a.m. p.m. Schneider Manor Commu- No church membership or

VOMEN OF THE MOOSE - third 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

2nd Monday of the month - 7 ALTO AMERICAN LEGION

first Monday at 7 p.m. at 3116

Alden Nash S.E.

AUXILIARY - meets the second DIABETIC SUPPORT GROUP Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at - 2nd Tuesday at Schneider the Alto American Legion Post. Manor Community Rm., 9:30 10:30 a.m. 897-2760 or V.F.W. POST #8303 - meets the

day and Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at 865 Lincoln Lake, Lowell. Closed ery Monday, 7-8:30 p.m. during AA meetings. Non-smoking. school year in Scout Cabin at ROLLAWAY LTD. SENIOR **BOWLING** - Wednesdays, p.m., 55 and over.

Del Rockwell at 897-6814. 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.

men & women helping each other CUB SCOUT PACK 3188 o live free of nicotine. There are meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main.

preschoolers for Story Hour &

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.

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. New members welcome KENT COUNTY YOUTH FAIR BOARD - 2nd Wednesday, 7:30

p.m. at King Memorial Center at Fairgrounds. 897-6050. COFFEE BREAK/LADIES LZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION OF WEST MICHIGAN - Support Group 3rd Wednesday at Fountain /iew of Lowell, 11535 E. Fulton, 1 experience required. Bring p.m. Call Carrie Pattee or Cindy

Meyer at 897-8413. Craft. Free nursery for younger children. There's an evening **ROYALARCH MASONS-Hooker** class on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. Chapter #75, 2nd Wednesday No children's class. Calvary 7:30 p.m.; dinner at 6:30 p.m. Christian Reformed Church, at Masonic Temple, 211 E. Main M-21 across from Burger King. St., Belding.

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

KEEP IT SIMPLE ADDICTIONS SUPPORT GROUP - Socializa tion & peer support for recovering addicts. Meets every Thursday at p.m. at First United Methodist Church, Raya building. Contact Charlene, 897-7636 or Carrie, 897-7303 for more info.

Grandpa's exciting Christmas flight - Part IV

This is the final installment of a Christmas story, by Dave Thompson

[Well, last week Santa and Grandpa had found the "lost family," delivered the presents and Santa was now winging his way back to the North Pole and Mrs. Claus. But would everything work out for this family and for Grandpa and Grandma?

As Grandpa entered his house, he stomped the loose snow from his boots. Grandma was sleeping all curled up in her old rocking chair with her favorite blanket tucked tightly around her legs. The sound of Grandpa stomping his boots had startled her and she blinked her sleepy eyes and stretched looking over at him. "Well." she exclaimed, "it's about time you got back in the house Grandpa. You seemed to have been gone an awfully long time just to fill our three bird feeders. And please, don't tell me you're returning with another one of those "how-thebirds-talked-to-you-stories!" He looked at her with a smile and with a twinkle in his eyes assured her, saying, "Oh, no, no, Grandma, No 'talking bird stories' tonight."

He continued, "However, early tomorrow morning I think we may want to make some plans to take some of your wonderful Christmas dinner and share it with that poor family that's been living in the old Robinson's barn milk house! It would be a really nice thing to do on Christmas Day, don't you think? We always have so much more than wec a n ever eat ourselves!"

The wrinkles in-Grandma's forehead turned to a frown as she replied, "In that creepy old Robinson barn? Who on earth would be staying in a drafty old place like the milk house on a freezing night like this? They must be bums or hobos passing through the area," she quipped, sounding a bit annoyed. But Grandpa knew that once she had discovered there really was a family in there, well, she would be the first one to arrive with help! That was just Grandma's wonderful nature and Grandpa

A little while later, Grandpa, unable to go to sleep, laid in bed thinking about the incredible experience he'd had with Santa. Flying through the sky at almost sixty miles an hour had been something truly unbelievable and certainly something he would never, ever forget. Imagine, meeting Santa right up close like that! He was absolutely sure this was the real one not one of his many helpers who are found in all the malls and big city department stores at Christmastime. This one was the real one. He was sure of it. He had a real white beard and that little cherry red nose! Grandpa thought he looked just like the real one who appeared every year in



December 16 - December 22

- · Senate Democrats might meet their goal of passing health care reform by Christmas. The bill passed a crucial test setting up a final vote on Christmas Eve.
- Government tests nation's top hackers. Elite young group competed in the U.S. Cyber challenge. The idea is to recruit help to defend the government against cyber attacks.
- · The Mayon, in the Philippines, is at level 4 and is ready to erupt within days. Tens of thousands of people have been evacuated from the area.
- Actress Brittany Murphy dies at the age of 32 from apparently natural causes.
- · James Cameron's sci-fi epic "Avatar", the most expensive movie made to date, soared to number one at the box office raking in \$232.2 million worldwide.

places helping Santa out! Grandpa smiled as he recalled how cheerful Santa was and how short the little man seemed to be when standing next to Grandpa. After all, he knew that Santa was an elf and elves are mostly pretty short. But, oh my, how his eyes glistened and cheeks and nose were as red as cherries and how they looked especially red next to his long, snow white beard. Grandpa laid there wondering if Santa possessed

some kind of magic that kept his tiny glasses from slipping or blowing off the end of his nose when he was racing across the sky at such blinding speed? Santa certainly was unusual, but he was also magical in many ways!

Early Christmas morning, as usual, Grandma was up first and when Grandpa awoke, she announced take a look at those folks who were living in that old Robinson Milk Barn! And, sure enough, with the wonderful smells of turkey

already coming from the oven and after Grandpa had finished his breakfast and a second cup of coffee, there she stood with her coat on and waiting for him. It was easy to see that Oh, yes, and they would all remember the wonderful feeling she was prepared to launch her plan. "If there really is such that Christmas is a time of sharing, even if the only gift you a family in that drafty old barn, we'll just have to bring them have to give is love. right back here to our house," she declared.

Grandpa knew that this family would soon be in for one and vegetables. (Well, if you liked them, that is, because on den window sills for many evenings following Christmas. Christmas day at Grandma's, you got to decide what went on What great fun it was to see those happy faces on the children. your plate that day!) And, of course, she'd have three kinds Some even wondered if Grandma would ever discover of desserts.... her wonderful bread pudding with raisins and covered with whipped cream in their own little individual Pyrex dishes, that scrumpt-dil-lee-licousious Dutch apple day she would make that discovery ... but, then again ... umm, pie with the criss-crosses on the top, and, everyone's all-time maybe not! favorite, her dark chocolate cherry cake with that chocolate fudge frosting almost as thick as your pointing finger!

When they finally arrived at the old milk house, everything was still very quiet. Grandma tapped lightly on the door. When Mrs. Peterson opened the door a crack she had a couple of pieces of straw still stuck in her hair. Cautiously, she asked what Grandma wanted. Soon Grandma had made it clear that she and Grandpa were there to collect the family and to take them to their home for Christmas dinner. By this time everyone had gathered behind their mother and the children began to get excited. Grandpa and Mr. Peterson gathered up all of the presents from under the tree while the children put on their coats. Soon they were ready and everyone piled into Grandpa's old station wagon and off they went!

Once they were home, miraculously, Grandma had found some extra gifts and when they began to open presents, everyone had a couple of special gifts. Since they were about the same size, the father received one of the shirts and a sweater Grandma had planned for Grandpa, and, she knew



Sound Off!

The Ledger's "Almost" anything goes column! 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

GOOD Chevrolet - You made my day - thanks! You had someone come to change a flat tire for me in the parking lot of Lowell Middle School while I was teaching. When I came to pay after school with a smile, you would not take my money. I'll remember that when I need to shop for a car.

Lowell's big Christmas parade and on the Showboat, too. No two of her presents were a warm and colorful sweater and a fake beard like some of those had who could be found in other pair of fur-lined gloves that would fit the mother just fine. As for Wendell, Grandpa found a Navy shirt with jet airplanes on it that they had purchased some time ago for a neighbor boy, and a special pocket knife of Grandpa's, but he'd moved away before his birthday. Marianne received two matching dolls Grandma still had in their original boxes and little Freddy received a set of Match-box cars and trucks Grandpa had collected over the years. And the baby, who was still too little to fully appreciate Christmas gifts, got a new blanket and a snowsuit that their little girl had worn when she was that age. All and all, it was one glorious Christmas and everyone had many things for which to be thankful.

> Later on Christmas day Grandma got them all settled in the extra bedrooms upstairs. Grandpa was dispatched with young Wendell to the attic to retrieve the old crib for little Lisa, the old one that hadn't had a baby in it for over forty years. That night the family would have plenty of warm blankets on their cozy beds and all would have full tummies and many pleasant

> It was decided the next morning that the family would not return to the old dairy farm, but would, instead, continue to stay at Grandma and Grandpa's for the next few weeks. It turned out that after Christmas, Grandpa was able to find a good job for Mr. Peterson, at the mill on the north side of town, working for kindly old Mr. Washburn who needed someone like Mr. Peterson. Five weeks later, the family was able to move into a small house of their own just a few blocks from the mill along Frog Creek. They would all forever remember that very special Christmas, and, how Santa had managed to find them in that old barn. And, how Grandpa and Grandma had welcomed them into their home on Christmas morning.

It was truly a glorious Christmas. It was, without a doubt, the best any of them would ever experience! Somehow, with of Grandma's incredible Christmas dinners with roast turkey all of the excitement, they all failed to notice the woodland and sweet potatoes and lots of breads and relishes and jams birds and small animals who sat outside on the kitchen and Grandpa's secret of how he could talk with so many of the animals in the surrounding woods! Maybe, just maybe, some

That's about the end of the story of Grandpa's Christmas Eve flight with the jolly old elf himself and his nine incredible reindeer. So, let us say to each of you, "Merry Christmas to all... and to all a good night!"

A final author's note: "Grandpa" is only a slightly fictitious character who lives along the banks of the State Designated Natural Beauty Flat Rivah, a scant three miles north of the charming little town of Lowell, Michigan. The "Christmas Story" is only one of many "encounters" Grandpa has with his unique family of animal friends who also inhabit his beloved woods and rivah.

They were initially written for a wonderful grandson named Charlie May, who, at the time this was written, had reached the ripe old age of five fingers!

This is an original story written by David L. Thompson of Vergennes Township, Lowell, Michigan. The copyright is held by the author and this story may not be reprinted or used in any form without the written consent



To the fifth graders at Alto Elementary School - A great big thank you for thinking of Schneider Manor

I so enjoyed seeing the star at the top of the hill this time of year. Thanks to whoever does that.

last week's poll result:

Do you think Tiger Woods will come back from his current situation? 60% •••••• Yes

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

THIS WEEK'S POLL -Which public figure were you most disappointed with in 2009?

wednesday • december • 23 • 2009

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE For puzzle answers, games, opinion polls and much more go to: www.thelowellledger.com AND CLICK ON KIDS SCOOP BUTTON

pulling Santa's sleigh

was first recognized by

to discover the name of

Moore's poem.

andards Link: Reading Comprehension Follow simple written directions.

Reindeer mostly eat

tough grasses and a

type of moss called

lichen. It is easy for

reindeer to eat during

the summer, when new

plants are growing, but

it gets more difficult in

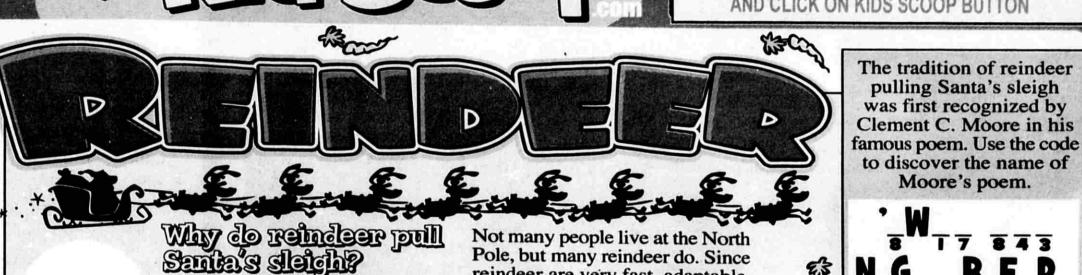
winter. Luckily, their

sharp hooves help

them dig down to get

to the food they need.

T7 843



reindeer are very fast, adaptable. Some say that Santa Claus is one trustworthy and able to live in of the most famous inhabitants cold climates, who better to pull

of the North Pole. Santa's sleigh?

On Top of the World

Not all reindeer are magical like Santa's, but they are still amazing in other ways. They live in the coldest part of the earth—not just at the North Pole, but also in the uppermost parts of Asia, Europe and North America, that together are known as the Arctic Circle.



About Those Antlers

Kid Scoop Puzzler

8 + 8 = BELLOW 9 + 3 + 3 = HERD

Standards Link: Number Sense: Calculate sums and differences.

24 - 5 = DOE

Reindeer Words Do the math to

match each word with its meaning.

Male reindeer: _

Female reindeer: .

Group of reindeer:

Sound they make: _

7 + 9 - 2 = BUCK

Baby reindeer: _

Draw this reindeer's other half. In summer. reindeer shed their heavy fur coats. Their hooves

become spongy in springtime to keep them from slipping on the muddy ground.

antlers. However, both male and female reindeer have antlers. Every reindeer is born with tiny nubs

antlers. However, both male and remaie remaier lave antlers. Duty that eventually grow. Once a year, reindeer shed their antlers, but they always grow back again.

Find the two identical reindeer. Look very closely!

(14)

(19)

(13)

(15)

(16)

What is the difference between a

reindeer and a caribou? Find out at kidscoop.com/kids

7 + 9 - 3 = FAWN

Which title matches each paragraph best? Draw a line to connect each title to that article.

> Hollow Hairs A Step Ahead

Moss Munchers

A reindeer has a very thick coat of fur, which helps it survive the extreme cold of the Arctic Circle. Each hair in the coat is actually hollow. The animal's body heat warms up the air inside each hair,

In most species of deer, only the males have

LICHEN

ADAPTABLE

SURVIVAL

ARCTIC

SLEIGH

HOOVES

SINK

SKILL

HEAT

PATCH

NUBS

SPECIES

Have you ever walked in deep snow? You take a step and sink. Reindeer have special hooves to help them walk on the snow and ice. Much like keeping the reindeer snowshoes, their nice and toasty. hooves are wide, allowing them to walk on top of the snow

> Santa's reindeer love carrots. How many can you find?

without sinking.

Newsy Holiday Cards

Make your own holiday cards by clipping out pictures and words from your local newspaper or printing them from he online edition of your newspaper.

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

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

SELBATPADA LRSSEVOOHH EEPURLLIKS IEERNEHCIL GDCVOLLNLH HNIIOHKTWC HIEVESBUNT

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

AESARCTICA

ANSWER: Because their green ones were muddy.

Kid Scoop Together **Christmas Bird Count**



I'm taking part in the **Annual Christmas Bird Count**. By counting birds in the same region every year at the same time, it gives scientists an idea of the ealth of the environment.





Kids Count! Kids can be part of the

annual Christmas Bird Count. It's a great school or family activity! To find out how, go to www.kidscoop.com and click on the bird on the

Kid Scoo-doku

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

S	L	H	1	G	H
		1		S	
G			S		
	S				
				H	L
	E		H		S



INHABITANT The noun inhabitant means someone or something that lives in

a particular place.

Reindeer are inhabitants of lands inside the Arctic Circle

Try to use the word nhabitant in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.



Let's Set Sale!

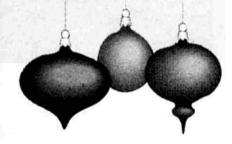
Using a display ad in the newspaper or from your newspaper's website, select an item and figure its cost if it were on sale for 1/2 off, 1/3 off and 1/4 off. Standards Link: Number Sense: Calculate sums and

Why did the reindeer wear red boots?

FROM helps out with food baskets for Christmas



The Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) gave out food baskets for 410 families during the big Christmas giveaway last week. Each basket contained turkey or ham, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, jello, pie filling, pie crust mix, muffin or bread mix, applesauce, macaroni and cheese, canned vegetables and fruits for a complete holiday dinner. Pictured are: Carole Sanocki, Dawn Broene and Barbara Boland; also helping out were Carol Devito and John Stencel.



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Lowell Middle School Students of the Month



Pictured, left to right: Madison Kaminski, Grace Quiggle and Josh Bearup.

Lowell Middle School is proud to announce Josh Bearup, Grace Quiggle and Madison Kaminski as the November Students of the Month.

Bearup is an eighth grade student who likes algebra because of the hard work and challenge it demands. He enjoys sports – particularly basketball, football and baseball. Bearup really appreciates the education he is getting at Lowell schools.

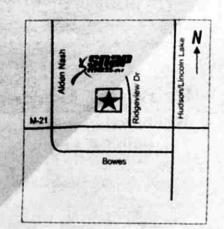
Quiggle is a seventh grade student whose favorite subject is social studies because she likes learning about the past. Her hobbies include softball, volleyball and riding horses.

Kaminski is a sixth grade student who likes being in the middle school orchestra. She is an animal lover who enjoys just being with her friends and all the people at LMS.

FREWEEK

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