

the lowell ledger

wednesday • november • 17 • 2010

vol. 40 issue 6

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first deer winners



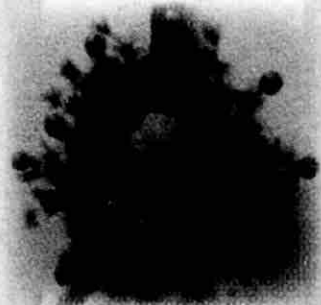
page 15

holiday gift guide



pages 8 & 9

seasonal art



page 7



arrows advance to semifinals



page 10

Holiday season kicks off with Christmas through Lowell tour

by Emma Palova

The 19th annual holiday tour through area homes and businesses kicks off the holiday season this weekend including Friday. Participating residents spruce up their homes and peddle Christmas wares to enhance the joy of the season.

"Christmas through Lowell is a three day shopping extravaganza that attracts shoppers from all over Michigan," said chamber director Liz Baker.

More than 300 crafters and artists are participating in this year's tour. There's

usually more than one artist in the same location. The destinations are labeled with green trees designating numbers that can be cross-referenced on a map. The map can be downloaded from the chamber's interactive site at www.discoverlowell.org.

The stations are in the greater Lowell area and in the city limits. Area churches also participate, as well as various organizations. The gifts offered vary from rustic outhouses, bird feeders, pottery, beeswax candles, scrapbooks to kitchen and wine gifts.



"All the shopping will make you hungry," said Baker. "Eat in our charming restaurants or the several stops that serve luncheons on the tour."

These include the craft show at Saint Patrick's, Vergennes United Methodist Church, First Congregational United Church of Christ and the Lowell Women's Club inside the chamber building.

They will be offering homemade soups, pies and hot sandwich plates.

Also, many area businesses participate. Some of the newcomers include Ella's Coffee and Cuisine and Giggles and Gumdrops.

"We want to be involved in the community," said owner Ella Bolan.

Christmas tour, continued, page 3

Plans to improve west bank and amphitheatre amended

by Emma Palova

An amended master plan will allow the city to apply for grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE) for major improvements to the

Showboat amphitheatre and to stabilize the west bank.

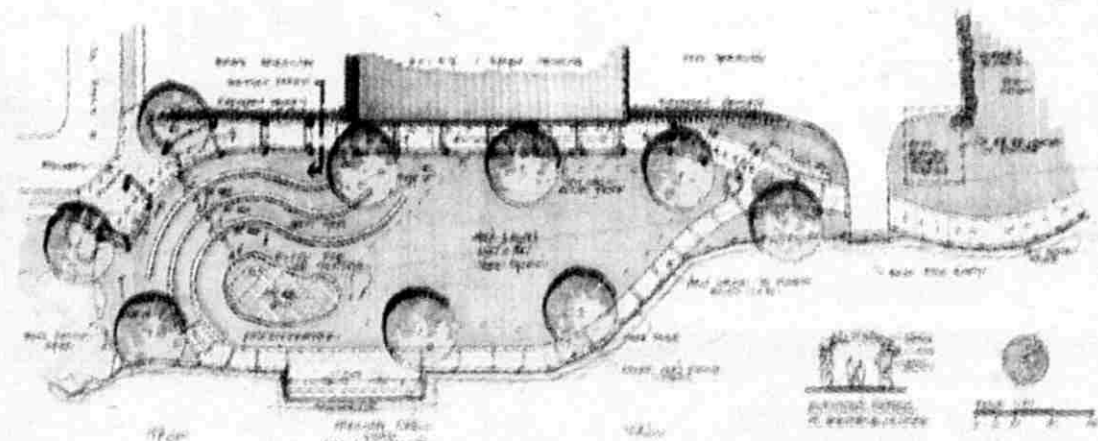
The parks and recreation commission has approved master plan amendments on both the

east and the west banks of the Flat River.

The estimated cost to improve the amphitheatre is \$700,000, while the cost to stabilize the west bank between Elm and Main streets is \$421,000.

"We will be pursuing grants from the state," said city manager Dave Pasquale.

Amended plans, continued, page 2



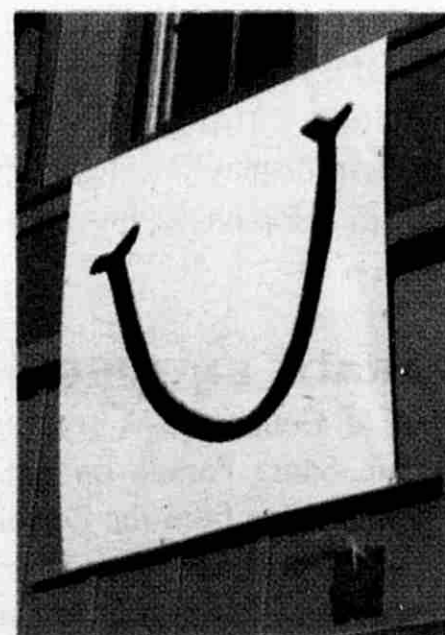
One of two plans for a new amphitheatre.

Mystery behind yellow smile banner to be revealed

The mystery behind the yellow smile signs and banners placed around town will be revealed this Thursday.

And it is supposed to be "bigger than an elephant," according to Teresa Beachum, member of leadership board of Gilda's Club of Lowell. "The smile will make the Greater Grand Rapids area smile."

The yellow smile signs and banners have been placed in the area at Main Street Inn, Impact Church, the middle school, and on



The yellow smile banner on Main Street Inn has left people wondering what it represents.

the corner of Alden Nash and Cascade roads.

The banner on Main Street Inn is a seven by seven foot vinyl banner placed on the facade.

"It's a great teaser campaign to celebrate the 10th year anniversary of Gilda's Club of Grand Rapids," said Beachum. "It's exciting. I am so tickled to hear what the great reveal will be and that Gilda's Club has been able to pull this off to enhance the club's work."

Community Thanksgiving dinner planned

by Emma Palova

The second annual community Thanksgiving dinner will be held on Thanksgiving day from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the First Congregational United Church of Christ with volunteers from all the area churches. The dinner is sponsored by Lowell Area Churches.

There will be four seating times available starting at noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.

The main purpose of the dinner is to help out the community and the people in the neighborhoods, according to parishioner Charlene Ricards.

The dinner was started by Shannon Hanley.

"We want to make sure as many people as possible are fed and be in the community on such a special day," said pastor Chris Schwab.

Ricards said Hanley was the catalyst for the

event, much like former pastor Roger LaWarre was instrumental in establishing Flat River Outreach Ministries.

"First Congregational Church is dedicated to helping people in the neighborhoods," she said. "Shannon got everybody psyched."

Last year, area church volunteers fed 150 people. The meal is a traditional Thanksgiving meal consisting of turkey, stuffing, cranberry relish, mashed potatoes, gravy, salads, coffee, cider and milk.

"It was a hoot last year," said Ricards.

There will be a prayer every half an hour.

Reservations are encouraged by calling 897-5906.

"I encourage everyone to come," said Ricards.

50 CENTS



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Amended plans, continued

Also, funding from the Downtown Development Authority will be considered.

The master plan has to be updated every five years and the amendments are part of the update, according to Pasquale. The goals and objectives of the updated and amended master plan are to enhance existing recreational facilities and to continue to seek opportunities for new recreational uses of city park properties.

If the Showboat amphitheatre gets redeveloped, it will serve as a focal point along with the Riverwalk in the community.

The Lowell area contains substantial park

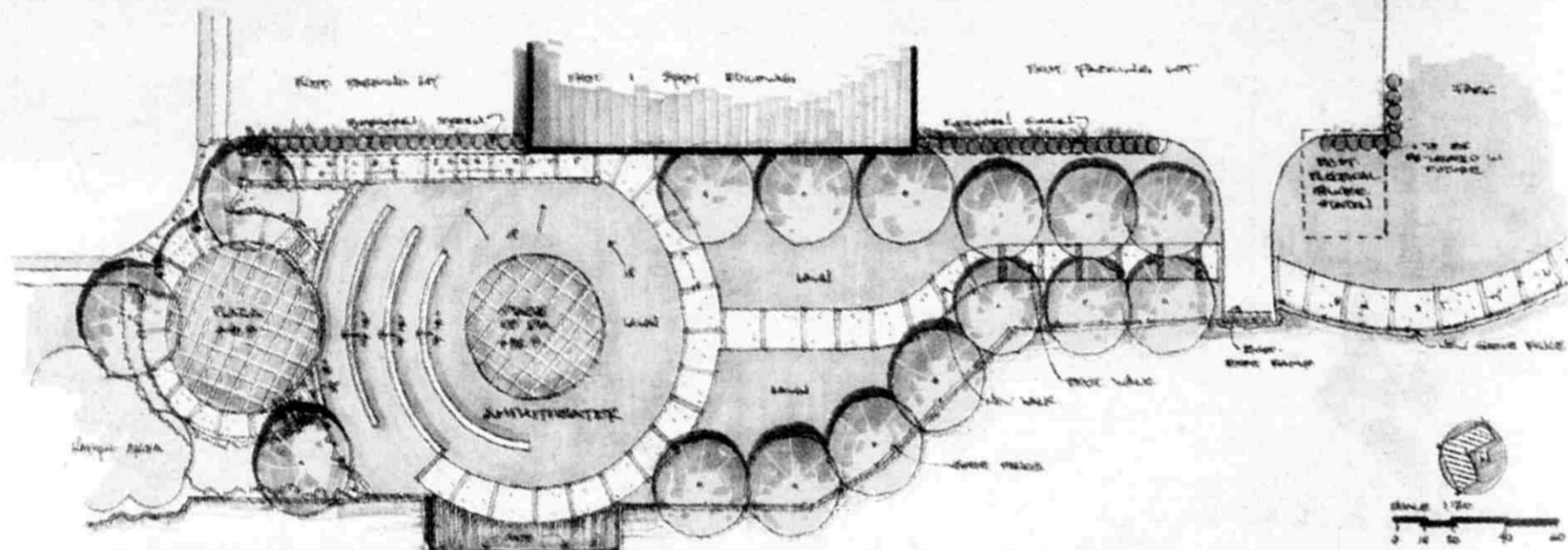
land and uncommon recreational assets, such as the Moose and Rogers properties. These could be used for an RV park.

The five-year updated master plan also includes the following proposals: expanded irrigation, realignment and resurfacing of West Field, improving boat launch, restrooms and concession stand, installing irrigation, new picnic shelter and light relocation at Richards Park, construction of walkways and trails at Stoney Lakeside Park, and paving of the Clark Street parking area.

The amended five-year master plan will make the city eligible for grants, according to Pasquale.



The amphitheatre and west bank may be improved in the next five years.



New amphitheatre - option #2.

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along main street

LEARN TO SNOWBOARD

Students who currently attend Alto Elementary, Lowell Middle School or Lowell High School and would love to learn to snowboard at Cannonsburg are eligible for the Lucas Beachnaw Memorial Scholarship. Deadline is Nov. 19. Contact Lisa Nauta at 987-2913 or lnauta@lowellschools.com for an application.

SENIOR NEIGHBORS

Santa Claus is Coming To Town - Michigan's largest animated drive-thru Christmas light display is celebrating its 13th year at Fifth Third Ballpark. Hop on the bus Tues., Nov. 30 at 6 p.m.

LACC SEEKING PARADE ENTRIES

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce is seeking parade entries for the Nighttime Santa Parade on Sat., Dec. 4. The parade begins at 6 p.m. sharp from the Lowell fairgrounds. Parade theme is "Christmas Cartoons." Download application at www.discoverlowell.org or call 897-9161.

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. 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 not appear in this column.

TOBACCO FREE FOR GOOD

An informational meeting will be Wed., Dec. 8, 6-8 p.m. at Lowell Family Medical Center. This meeting is designed for anyone who wants information quitting tobacco. Talk with a tobacco treatment specialist and receive a resource guide that lists local classes, Internet and phone counseling options and low/no cost medications. Call 616-446-7058 with any questions.

DEADLINE FOR LOWELL COMMUNITY FUND REQUESTS

The deadline to request funds from the Lowell Community Fund is Fri., Dec. 10 at noon. To receive consideration and approval, all requests must be for funds that will aid local organizations in providing help to persons in the Lowell area. The Heart of West Michigan United Way has set the December date aside for those qualified to receive funding for 2011-2013. Request forms are available at Dr. James Reagan's office, 207 W. Main St., or at Huntington Bank, 414 E. Main St.

63rd District judge entertains Lowell Women's Club

by Emma Palova

Sara Smolenski, 63rd District judge, shared her sense of humor with the Lowell Women's Club last week. Smolenski, a popular speaker and a comedian, said she was booked through 2011.

"The problem with that is you don't know if you're going to live that long," she said. "You just hope you're still living."

Smolenski stressed that it is important to find humor in every situation, even in grieving. She lost three relatives within the last 18 months.

"I didn't know which stage of grieving I was in," she said.

Smolenski also told her favorite joke about bringing her yellow lab Babe into the court.

"I am the judge so what," she said.

But, the dog, who was under the table, per Smolenski, let a gasser while she was having a discussion with an attorney from White Cloud.

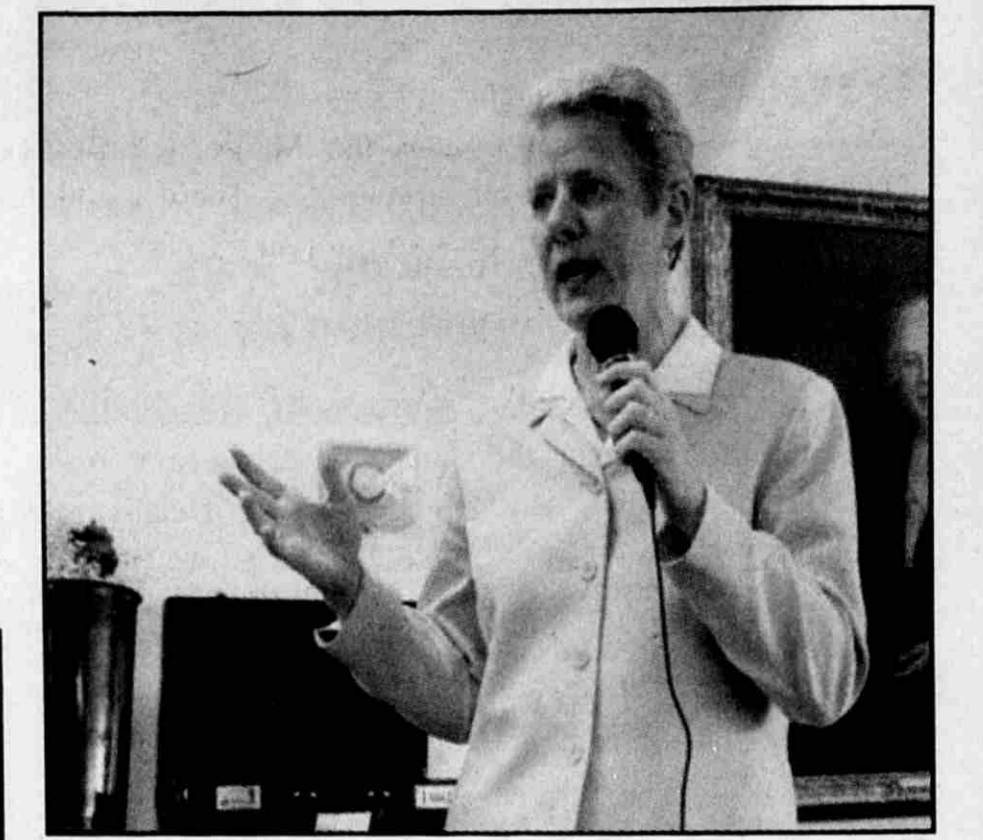
"I didn't know how to explain that I had a dog with me, but I didn't like the alternative either," she said.

So, she started waving around papers and so did the attorney.

"I took it for the dog," she laughed.

And the attorney said he would always come when Smolenski is on the bench and after lunch.

"Remember the tenth commandment of being a



Judge Sara Smolenski

club member - keep a sense of humor," she said. "Our plates are full. Humor is a means of finding balance."

The objective of the women's club is to promote peace, charity and higher education. The club's intergenerational membership includes business owners, teachers, school administrators, elected officials, homemakers, professionals, students and retirees.

Lowell Women's Club was founded in 1928 and received a 501(c)3 status in 2003. Established club members sponsor high school senior girls. They in turn mentor middle school girls.

According to the club's mission, the bridge

encourages openness, tolerance and civic mindedness.

The students gave presentations on facebook marketing of businesses and the advantages of it.

Lowell Women's Club fundraisers include Christmas through Lowell luncheon, Parade of Homes, entertainment books, yearbook advertisements, soup and cookie dough sales, bake sales and raffles, and private donation.

Monies raised go to scholarships for senior girls, Flat River Outreach Ministries, Lowell Area Historical Museum, Lowell Area Arts Council, the Santa Claus girls and Lowell Area Chamber events.

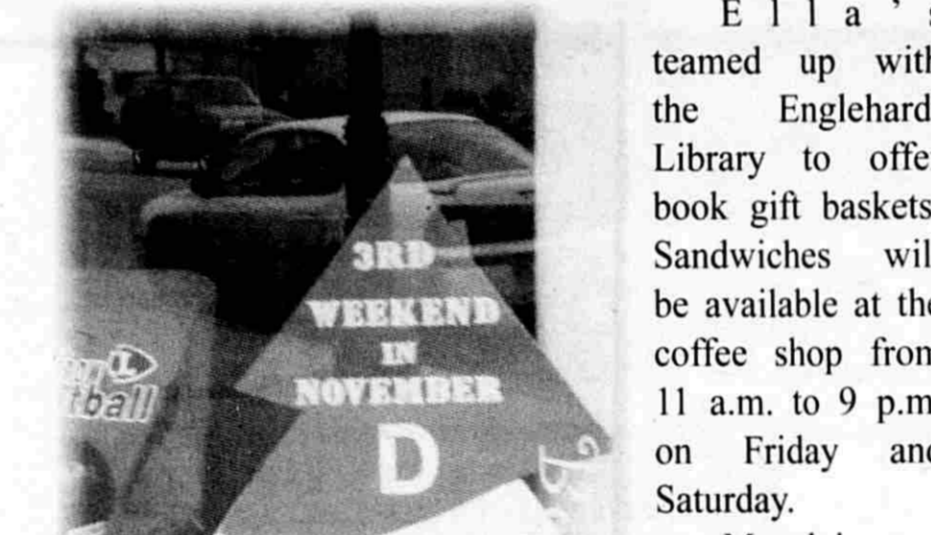


New members, left to right, are: Courtney Engel, Nancy Steckler, Lori Ingraham, and Mary Castro.



Junior members pictured, not in order, are: Corinne Alberts, Montana Bergy, Emma Duvernay, Ellie Fitzpatrick, Melissa Grasman, Alyssa Kargl, Maggie Lancaster, Jasmine Lillie, Rebecca Lorentz, Bryleigh Loughlin, Megan Montgomery, Summer Moore, Brynlee Pomper, Anna Scudder, and Hannah VanderHorst.

Christmas tour, continued



Elia's teamed up with the Englehardt Library to offer book gift baskets. Sandwiches will be available at the coffee shop from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Melissa Freeman, owner of Giggles and Gumdrops, said Christmas through Lowell is a great event for shoppers.

"It's great to support local economy," she said. "We're excited

about our Melissa and Doug product line."

The store, that opened in March, carries children's toys, clothing and custom-made hair bows. Some of the mainstays of the event are Chimera Design, Glass House Designs, Flat River

Cottage and Sleigh Bells and Holly at the Lowell Area Arts Council.

The tour runs on Friday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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SAW VII (R) 5:10, 7:30, 9:30

MEGAMIND (PG) 4:40, 6:50, 9:00

DUE DATE (R) 5:00, 7:10, 9:20

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financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Don't let "double dip" fears sink your investment plans

Fears of a "double-dip" recession are in the air. Obviously, this isn't particularly good news; we'd all like to feel that the economy is growing robustly. At the same time, however, you'll want to avoid making hasty, ill-advised investment decisions based on the mere threat of a slide into another recession. Instead, you'll want to keep your long-term investment plan intact — in all economic environments. The possibility of a double-dip recession makes great headlines. But such events have been rare. In fact, we've seen only one double-dip recession in the past 77 years. However, this history hasn't stopped gloomy forecasters from predicting a double-dip in 1991 (it didn't happen) and in 2003 (when it didn't happen again). Will we again avoid

bond funds, according to the Investment Company Institute.

Bonds can provide a source of regular income and will return your principal when they mature, providing the issuers don't default. They're an important part of most investors' portfolios. But if you're joining the crowd and over-concentrating on bonds, you risk losing the following:

• Growth opportunities — According to Ibbotson, a leading investment research organization, stocks have done particularly well following 10-year periods in which the stock market hasn't performed strongly — and the past 10 years were one of the worst periods we've ever seen for stocks. And right now, many quality stocks are trading at some of the most attractive values in 15 years, as measured by price-to-earnings ratio, or P/E.

• Portfolio balance — Ideally, you want your portfolio to contain a mix of investments — stocks, bonds, international and cash — designed to reflect your risk tolerance, time horizon and long-term goals.

You'll need to adjust your investment mix over time to reflect changes in your life, and regular portfolio reviews will prompt you to rebalance back to your target mix and determine whether any other changes are needed. But if you're constantly disrupting your portfolio's balance by reacting to short-term events, you'll have a much harder time achieving your objectives. In virtually all areas of life, balance is essential — and that's certainly true in regard to your investments.

A "double-dip recession" might sound scary, but it may well never come to pass — so don't let the mere prospect throw you off your investment strategy. Good investment opportunities are out there — so dip into them.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Before investing in stocks, you should understand the risks. Stocks are subject to market risks, including loss of principal invested.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

health



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

seborrheic dermatitis

Seborrheic dermatitis is a common condition that makes the skin look greasy, scaly, and flaky. It usually affects the scalp. In adults, this is commonly called "dandruff." In babies, it is known as "cradle cap."

Seborrheic dermatitis can also affect the skin on other parts of the body, such as the face, chest, and the creases of the arms, legs, and groin. It is common in babies younger than three months and in adults 30 to 60 years of age. In adults, it is more likely to affect men than women.

Doctors don't know the exact cause of seborrheic dermatitis. The cause may be different in infants and adults. It may run in families. The condition seems to be related to hormones because the disorder often appears in infancy and disappears before puberty. Seborrheic dermatitis has also been linked to neurological disorders such as Parkinson's disease and epilepsy.

The treatment of seborrheic dermatitis depends on its location on the body as well as the person's age. Dandruff in adults can be treated with medicated shampoos (Scalpicin, Selsun Blue, and Head & Shoulders). These shampoos can be used twice a week. Shampoos with coal tar (Neutrogena T/Gel) may be used three times a week. If the shampoo alone doesn't work, prescription steroid lotion may be used daily. For skin creases affected, steroid creams are often used.

Seborrheic dermatitis of the scalp in babies is treated with products that are not as strong as those used in adults. Brush the scalp with a soft-bristled brush and then wash with a mild baby shampoo, or use baby oil to soften the scales. In severe cases, prescription shampoos may be needed.

viewpoint

Reforming Wall Street requires tough enforcement of new law



Sen. Carl Levin

Now that Congress has passed strong new Wall Street reform legislation, it is up to federal regulators to enforce the law. If they adopt weak rules, or enforce them weakly, our reforms won't work, and the economy and taxpayers will remain vulnerable to a repeat of the Wall Street abuses and excesses that helped throw our economy into recession.

One key battle going on right now is how regulators will implement and enforce the protections against risky financial trading and conflicts of interest — protections that Sen. Jeff Merkley of Oregon

began to fall and those financial firms began losing huge amounts of money, some firms collapsed, and many others would have failed if not for the bank rescue we passed in 2008. Had we not saved them, their failures could have sparked a second Great Depression.

What troubles me and many others is that these risky bets were too often made not on the behalf of customers, but for the banks' own accounts. Increasingly in recent years, Wall Street firms made their money not by helping clients invest wisely, but by investing for themselves — investments known as proprietary trading.

The Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which I chair, found that firms such

as Goldman Sachs weren't just placing big bets for their profit. They were profiting at their clients' expense. They created investment vehicles full of assets they knew were bad risks, sold them to their clients, and profited further from their customers' misfortune by placing bets that those same investments would lose value. That was an intolerable conflict of interest.

So, Sen. Merkley and I authored legislation that limits proprietary trading and conflicts of interest, sometimes referred to as Merkley-Levin.

Under Merkley-Levin, banks whose depositors' money is insured by the FDIC cannot, with narrow exceptions, engage in proprietary trades, so they can't risk FDIC-insured accounts with their risky

bets. Other large firms must limit how much they can risk and must keep enough money on hand to cover the risk that those bets will fail. Put simply, banks and the largest financial firms will no longer be able to rely on taxpayer bailouts to save them from their risky bets.

Also, Merkley-Levin barred financial firms from creating financial products, selling them to clients and then betting against those same products.

The goal here is simple: Avoid the dilemma we

Levin, continued, page 6

outdoors

look around

Dave Stegehuis

Fall is a good time to spend days exploring natural areas around Michigan. Landscapes change from thick green vegetation to brilliant reds and yellows and finally to brown and leafless.

Without the cloak of vegetation to hide the coming and going of wild things, observing wildlife is easier as forest creatures go about daily routines. Migrating songbirds and waterfowl add to the activity in woodlands, swamps, and fields. Four legged permanent residents step up the pace in preparation for surviving inevitable winter hardships.

Increased activity during this relatively mild and bug free season provides a special opportunity to enjoy watching wildlife. Because the critters are wild, it will be necessary to seek out native habitat and then blend quietly into the background. Try not to disturb the animals by giving them plenty of space. Use binoculars to get a close up view, and equip your camera with a telephoto lens. A bird identification manual

will introduce any strange-feathered visitors.

Wildlife activity slows down in the winter, but life still goes on out there despite cold temperatures and scarce food. Fresh snow provides a slate upon which many interesting stories are written. Rodent tracks that stop in the center of a depression in the snow surrounded by the imprint of flight feathers tell of a recent woodland drama.

Watching a wild animal drift into your presence and then leave without realizing you are there gives one a feeling of being part of the environment. This direct connection with nature can change our perception of our place in the fabric life and perhaps allow us to reorder our priorities.

Considering of how resourceful and tenacious these creatures are to have survived and prospered as a species for such a long time, they deserve our respect and admiration. There is a lot to learn about life by observing nature and contemplating what we see and feel. Take a look around.

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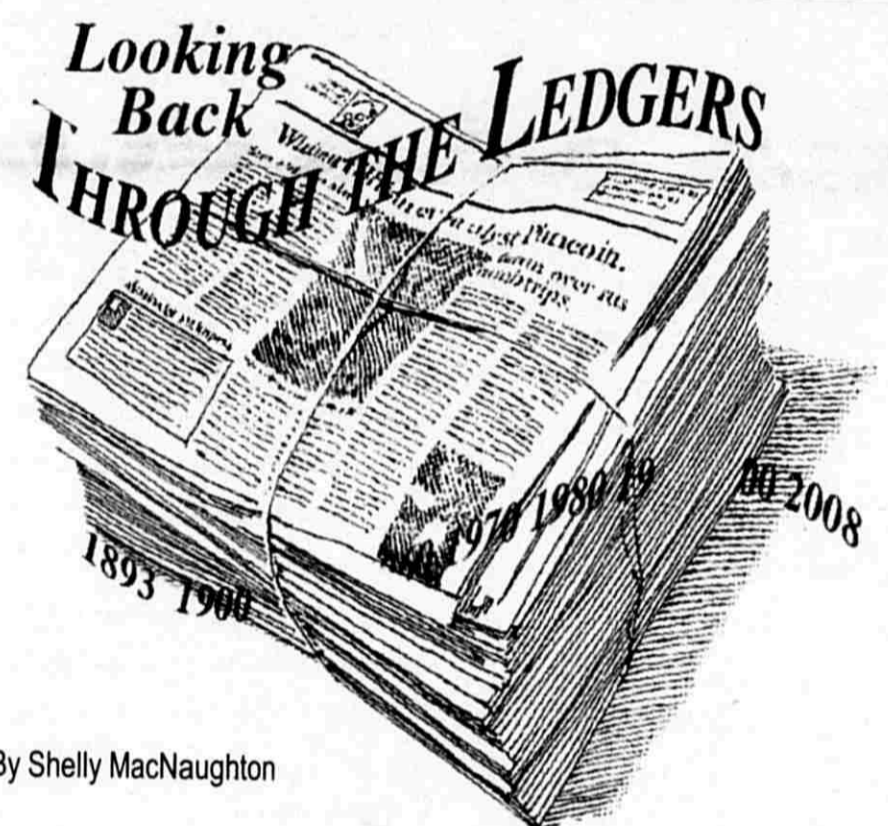
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By Shelly MacNaughton

125 Years Ago
The Lowell Journal
November 20, 1885

The Lowell Mfg Co. is unable to fill all their orders but are doing their best to catch up. They talk of putting up several more panel machines.

Some newspaper censors think it absurd that a paper should chronicle a fall of snow, or other incidents, when everybody knows all about it as well as the reporter. A change in the weather is not published as news, but as a matter of record to which it may be of use to refer to at some future day.—Ovid Union

100 Years Ago
The Lowell Ledger
November 17, 1910

The Lowell Light and Power building narrowly escaped destruction by fire last Saturday evening, but thanks to the prompt response and heroic efforts of residents of that vicinity, the damage was only about \$300.

75 Years Ago
The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo
November 14, 1935

Individual ballots have been mailed to voters of Lowell and nearby communities in a new Literary

FLPC music therapy staff will attend national conference

The Franciscan Life Process Center (FLPC) music therapy staff has been invited to give a presentation at the American Music Therapy Association 2010 Conference to be held in



Cleveland, OH, November 17-21. The conference marks the 60th year of the professional organization. "Music Therapists: Your Place on the Bus" explains how the Center's music therapy department has

college news

Andrea Converse, a Hope College junior from Lowell, served as an even-year song coach for the 76th annual Nykerk Cup competition. The Nykerk Cup competition, an annual

both the individual music therapist and the combined team great.

The Franciscan Life Process Center music therapy program was founded in 1978 by Sister Mary Margaret Delaski, FSE/MT-BC, music director. Today, the Center not only provides music therapy to those who come to the Lowell location, but serves the Kent and Ottawa counties and beyond, including children with fragile physical and mental health, those with severe mental illness, the frail elderly, those afflicted with Alzheimer's and/or Parkinson's diseases, patients suffering from cancer or other medical conditions that put them at risk, and young children.

Miranda Eden, MT-BC, is director of the music therapy internship program. Music therapists on staff are Diane Bauman, MT-BC; Sandy Koteskey, MT-BC; Pete Muszkiewicz, MT-BC, NMT; Sister Ann Frances Thompson, FSE/MT-BC; and Alisha Snyder, MT-BC.

attorney, the music therapy staff has added stability and efficiency to the music therapy program. The presentation will explore how to design a multi-music therapist team to enhance an organization

Through testimonies shared, participants will learn how evolving roles are beneficial. "Your Place on the Bus" is a celebration of the personalities, interests and passions that make

freshman and sophomore teams are coached by juniors and seniors, respectively. Moralers, men of the same graduation class as the women, encourage the teams in their efforts. This year the

freshman class of 2014 won the competition. Converse is the daughter of Gregory and Marsha Converse and a graduate of Lowell High School.

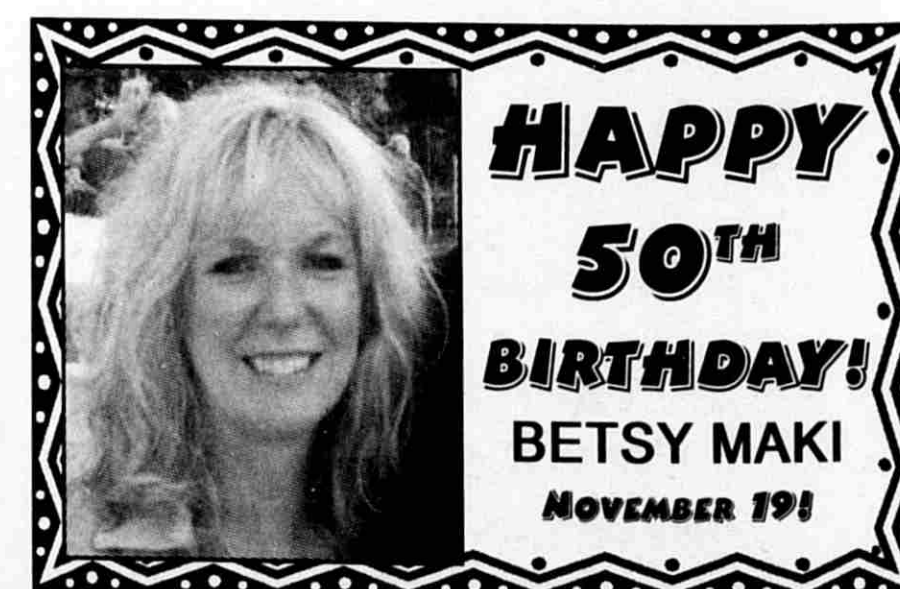
happy birthday!

- NOVEMBER 17**
Scott MacNaughton, Cory DuBridge, Tyler Shindorf, Mary Schutts, Anastasia Barnes, Ali Wernet.
- NOVEMBER 21**
Gert DeHaan, Michael Hewitt, Tammy Gildner.
- NOVEMBER 22**
Lu Green, Carla Briggs, Andrea Richmond, Karrie Borton, Joshua Gerard, Dylan Olin, Arlene Sytsma.
- NOVEMBER 23**
Trisha Propst, Sherri Vezino, Gregory Duiven, Mike Harding, McKinsie Rice, Dave Thompson.
- NOVEMBER 18**
Brent Noskey, Sandy Roe, Lillian Briggs, Lindsey Sherman.
- NOVEMBER 19**
Ken Mulder, Jamie Zoodsma, Marlene Nash, Lewis Powell, Betsy Maki.
- NOVEMBER 20**
Brian Brown, John Butler Sr., Michelle Wernet.

Levin, continued

During this financial crisis, when we had to choose between bailing out banks that made risky bets or enduring a second Depression. And while that seems logical enough, Wall Street lobbied hard against these safeguards, and now they're asking regulators to take it easy on them and water down these reforms. Even some of our congressional colleagues say the rules on proprietary trading should be eased because they might cut into Wall Street's profits. That's exactly the wrong advice. This is no time to weaken reforms aimed at stopping Wall Street

Don't part with your illusions. When they are gone you may still exist, but you have ceased to live. - Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)



CARL DAVID MILLER II turns 50 years old on November 20th. Please "SHOW" him with cards at: 1490 Sibley • Lowell, MI 49331 or CALL with birthday wishes at 745-8520

Featured artist on Christmas tour offers an eclectic mix

Christmasscent burning on the stove and lovely metal wire crosses with crowns of thorns at the top. Those are the trademarks of The Great Find stop no. 7. Featured artist of The Great Find, Heather Hoffman and family, enjoy the time spent together during the tour, as well as the people they haven't seen



Heather Hoffman with her crafts and husband Jeff's metal wire nine-inch crosses.

in years, or regulars who stop by their popular home every year.

When the event starts on Friday, Heather usually has a line in front of her popular home located at 300 Sudan Drive, half-a-mile west from the high school. Upon entering the

home, a large metal wire cross with a crown of thorns immediately draws attention. In fact, the smaller metal wire crosses with the thorn crowns, made by husband Jeff, are one of the hottest sellers.

Jeff started making the

crosses with the crowns of thorns when Heather couldn't afford to buy one for \$100. "We sold out of them within the first 20 minutes," she said. Now, they also do custom orders yearround available at thegreatfind@etsy.com.

But, on the tour they team up with family members: Kortney Cox, who has homemade English toffee, jam, children's hair accessories and necklaces; sister-in-law Jody Yaw has beaded bookmarks, beaded necklaces and coffee scoops; Ray and Ronda Benedict have lighted glass blocks.

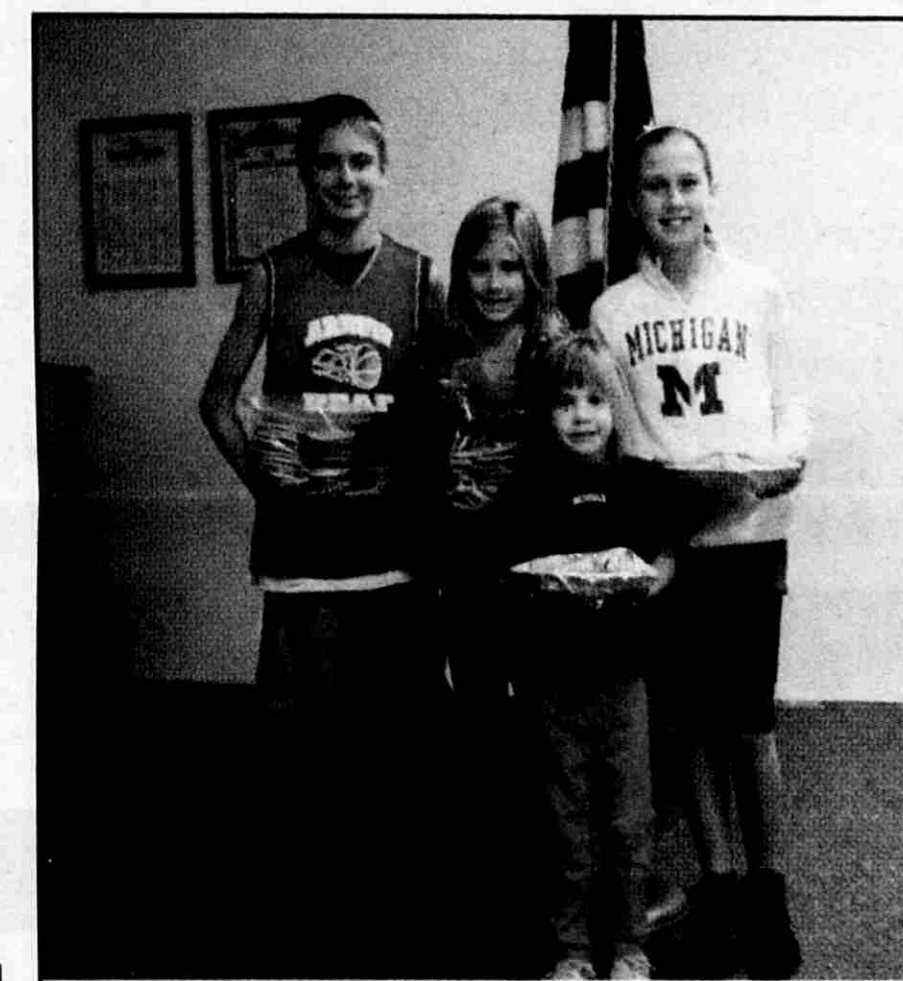
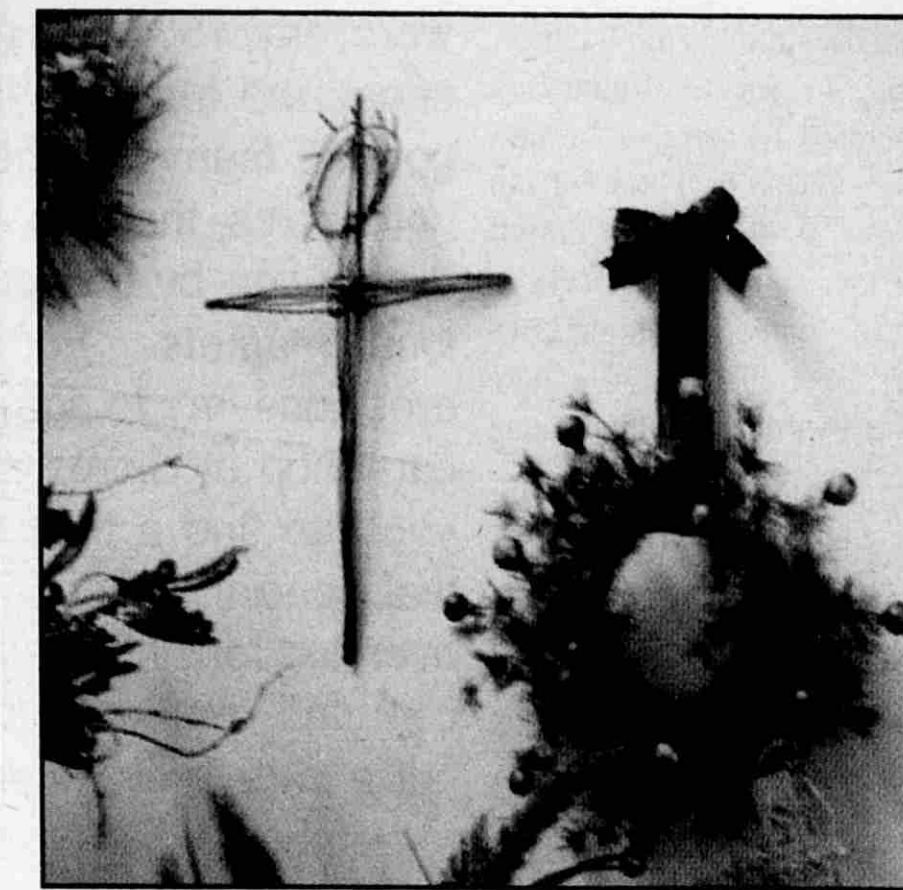
"We love to see our customers," said Heather. "We see people we haven't seen in years."

Heather said the tour is one time when the family gets to see everybody. The Great Find gets so busy that Heather has to make additional stuff to put out in the kitchen during the event. And she sells out of the Christmas scent.

Among other things, The Great Find offers floral arrangements, candle holders, lawn games, cubby bags and sweet dolls.

"We're enjoying being together as a family," said Heather.

Heather is also busy doing other shows, such as the upcoming Rogue River Artisans Holiday Marketplace at the Lowell High School on Dec. 4, and a show in McBain.



Many volunteers help the cookie count more than double for Veterans

Last year 1,600 cookies were baked by 20 women in Lowell to help launch the Veteran's Home 2009 holiday season. This year, Jan Thompson put out the call about two weeks ago

and these Lowell women and some students responded with 4,047 cookies that were baked by 53 individuals. The Powell family of Lowell heard about the cookie drive after the "Proud of Our Veteran's" program, performed by Alto Elementary students last Thursday, and the whole family got involved

in the project. Plates of cookies were delivered to the Veteran's Home that afternoon. Thompson expressed her thanks to all the bakers and those who helped bag the cookies. "This is just another living example of the wonderful people that make the Lowell area truly a special place to live," she said.



Cookie makers, from the left: Alex, Sophia, Sydney and Ashley Powell.

area churches

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
(United Church of Christ)
865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906
www.OurBigChurch.org
Sunday Worship.....10:00 a.m.
Church School.....10:15-11:15 a.m.
Thursday Faith Alive
Casual Worship.....6:30 P.M.
Barrier-free.....Nursery Provided
No matter where you are on life's journey, You are welcome here.

ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Kirby and Harrison
Alto • 616-691-8011
Worship.....9:30 A.M.
Children's Church.....9:30 A.M.
OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS
Pastor Dean Bailey

LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
201 N. Washington
Lowell, MI • 897-8800
Pastor Wes Hershberger
Sundays - Christian Education.....9:15 a.m.
Celebration.....10:40 a.m.
Wednesdays - Kid's Service, Teen's Service, Adult Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.
Lowell Naz - Where People Matter

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)
3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery
Robert Holmes, Pastor
SUNDAYS:
Worship: 10 a.m.
WEDNESDAYS:
Family Night (for all ages): 7:00 p.m.
"The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m.
Loving God ... Loving People!

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL
2275 West Main Street • 897-7168
Internet: http://www.1bclowell.org
Rev. David O. Sims, Rev. W. Les Taylor & Pastor Phil Severn
Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 8:00 P.M.
Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M.
AWANA/EXCITE/TEENS.....Wed. 6:15 P.M.
Contact Church Office for Prayer Meeting Times
Nursery Provided • Barrier Free

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)
Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21
www.goodshepherdlowell.org
Worship Service.....Saturday - 5:00 P.M.
Sunday - 10:00 A.M.
Sunday School.....Sunday, 9:00 A.M.
(Nursery available)
Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307
All facilities are wheelchair accessible

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL
621 E. Main Street • 897-5936
www.lowellumc.com
WORSHIP..... 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.
SUNDAY SCHOOL.....9:30 a.m.
Rev. Rick Blunt
Barrier-free entrance

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. 6:15 AM - 8 PM
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CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL
897-7060
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI
Morning Worship.....10:00 A. M.
Sunday School.....11:20 A.M.
Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.
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
11:00 A.M.Worship
897-9863
Nursery & Children
Worship Programs Provided
A friend...a family...a mission!

FREE PRESENTATION

Partial Knee Replacement: How it is Different from Total Knee Replacement

By **Orthopedic Surgeon**

Dr. Randy F.R. Lovell III, M.D.

will present

At **The Laurels of Kent**
350 North Center St
Lowell, MI 49331

Friday November 19
10:15 am

Sponsored by **THE LAURELS OF KENT**
A Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

Call To Reserve a Seat 616-897-8473

Lowell Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanksgiving Day
12pm - 4pm

Held at First Congregational United Church of Christ
865 Lincoln Lake Ave SE -Lowell

All Welcome! Free!

RSVP Encouraged, Call 897-5906
Seating at 12pm, 1pm, 2pm and 3pm

Transportation Available - Let us know when you RSVP
Sponsored by Lowell Area Churches

HOLIDAY Gift Guide

Hometown shopping at its best

According to the Small Business Administration, small companies pay 44 percent of total U.S. private payroll, and have generated 64 percent of new jobs over the past 15 years. They're the backbone of our economy and they'll lead the way as our country crawls its way out of the recession. Plus, more money stays in your community when you buy local, and your hometown businesses also tend to support local charities. But here are plenty of other good reasons why you should patronize local businesses.

Small businesses give community character. We've all driven along those unsightly strips of road that are flanked mostly by gas stations and box stores. Is that what you want your entire city or town to look like? It will if you don't patronize local businesses. The effect: property values go down, your school system suffers, and your local economy is suddenly dependent on the whims of big chains that have no stake in your community.

Small businesses save the world from homogeneity. A big box store in Grand Rapids carries the same stuff as the same

big box store in Detroit. Didn't you stop wanting to be like everyone else when you were, say, 15? Local retailers and specialty shops are far more likely to carry unique goods, many of them made by small companies that are hoping to get wider distribution by first proving themselves in local markets. For instance, Litehouse dressings, made right here in Lowell. You can shop at Chimera Design where you can find a truly original gift for that special someone, then amble on over to Cousin's Hallmark where you can find, not only that special card, but a variety of unique gift items. And remember when you're having trouble reading all that holiday mail that it might be the time to stop by Advanced Eyecare for an exam. And if that special gift includes a family portrait, Modern Photographics can capture an image that will last a lifetime. Take a break and head to Ella's Coffee and Cuisine for a great cup of coffee and a quick lunch.

once in a while. But if you want to solve a problem or get advice on how to patch the hole in your ceiling caused by a leaky pipe, go to Bernard's Ace Hardware. A family business in Lowell staffed by people who you know and trust. And when you're ready to have work done on the outside or your home, like windows or siding, All Weather Seal can help with that. Just as Arctic Heating and Air Conditioning can take care of your indoor climate needs.

When it comes to your car, Special FX will have what you need to enjoy your tunes and Showboat Automotive has everything you need to keep your vehicles running smoothly. When you're ready for that holiday celebration Pauly's will remember that you don't like Chardonnay and will automatically hand you a bottle of Sauvignon Blanc or suggest what might go well with your dinner menu.

Tired after a long day? Call B.C. Pizza for a delicious, no-hassle meal or an easy party menu. And if you need party favors or supplies, stop and check out Springrove Variety.

Here's the bottom line: yes, you might spend a few pennies more shopping at local businesses, but you'll spend less time, be more satisfied with your purchase, and most likely walk away smiling instead of scowling and probably save in the longrun. The real test is this: ask yourself which company you'd miss the most if it suddenly went out of business and make sure you visit them throughout the year.

Shopping locally not only gives you a first look at hot new products, but it allows you to support the small companies that make and sell them.

H o m e t o w n businesses know who you are and what you need. Sure, you shop at H o m e Depot

Here's the bottom line: yes, you might spend a few pennies more shopping at local businesses, but you'll spend less time, be more satisfied with your purchase, and most likely walk away smiling instead of scowling and probably save in the longrun. The real test is this: ask yourself which company you'd miss the most if it suddenly went out of business and make sure you visit them throughout the year.

Use your Flex spending or Health savings account before the end of 2010!

- Stop by our office and pick out a new pair of glasses, Rx sunglasses or contacts. You can always use a back-up pair!
- Give the gift of sight with our great gift ideas! We offer gift certificates & fun eyewear cleaning stocking stuffers.

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Optometrist, Dr. Chad Kresnak
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105 N. Broadway, Lowell
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The buyers guide "The People Paper"

HOLIDAY Gift Guide

Why Buy Locally Owned?

There are many well-documented benefits to our communities and to each of us in choosing local, independently owned businesses. We realize it is not always possible to buy what you need locally and so we merely ask you to think Lowell first.



Top Ten reasons to Think Local - Buy Local - Be Local

- 1. Buy Local -- Support yourself:** Several studies have shown that when you buy from an independent, locally owned business, rather than a nationally owned business, significantly more of your money is used to make purchases from other local businesses, service providers and farms -- continuing to strengthen the economic base of the community.
- 2. Support community groups:** Non-profit organizations receive an average 250% more support from smaller business owners than they do from large businesses.
- 3. Keep our community unique:** Where we shop, where we eat and have fun -- all of it makes our community home. Our one-of-a-kind businesses are an integral part of the distinctive character of Lowell.
- 4. Reduce environmental impact:** Locally owned businesses can make more local purchases requiring less transportation and generally set up shop in town or city centers as opposed to developing on the fringe. This generally means contributing less to sprawl, congestion, habitat loss and pollution.
- 5. Create more good jobs:** Small local businesses are the largest employer nationally and in our community.
- 6. Get better service:** Local businesses often hire people with a better understanding of the products they are selling and take more time to get to know customers.
- 7. Invest in community:** Local businesses are owned by people who live in this community, are less likely to leave, and are more invested in the community's future.
- 8. Put your taxes to good use:** Local businesses in town centers require comparatively little infrastructure investment and make more efficient use of public services as compared to nationally owned stores entering the community.
- 9. Buy what you want, not what someone wants you to buy:** Small businesses, each selecting products based not on a national sales plan but on their own interests and the needs of their local customers, guarantees a much broader range of product choices.
- 10. Encourage local prosperity:** A growing body of economic research shows that in an increasingly homogenized world, entrepreneurs and skilled workers are more likely to invest and settle in communities that preserve their one-of-a-kind businesses and distinctive character.

WRAP UP your holiday shopping early!

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60,000 BTU Propane Heater
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Clear or Multi-Color. 9105529, 9105537

7.99 Ea. 150 Ct. Net Lights
Clear or Multi-Color. 4'L x 6'W. 9864307, 9864331

Red Arrow SPORTS

Destine, defense stop Muskegon late in dramatic 33-28 regional win

Lowell went flat twice in the second half Friday night in the regional championship game against Muskegon. Each bringing different results.

The first time it didn't work so well.

The Red Arrow offense, after exploding for 27 points in the first half, flattened out in the third quarter going three and out on three consecutive series.

The second time was a game changer. Lowell defensive end Jon Destine went flat (blitzed from his defensive end position), avoided the block of a Muskegon running back and then pursued and tackled Big Reds' quarterback, Kavonte Keyes, from behind, forcing a fumble and enabling Lowell to secure a 33-28 victory and its third regional title in eight years.

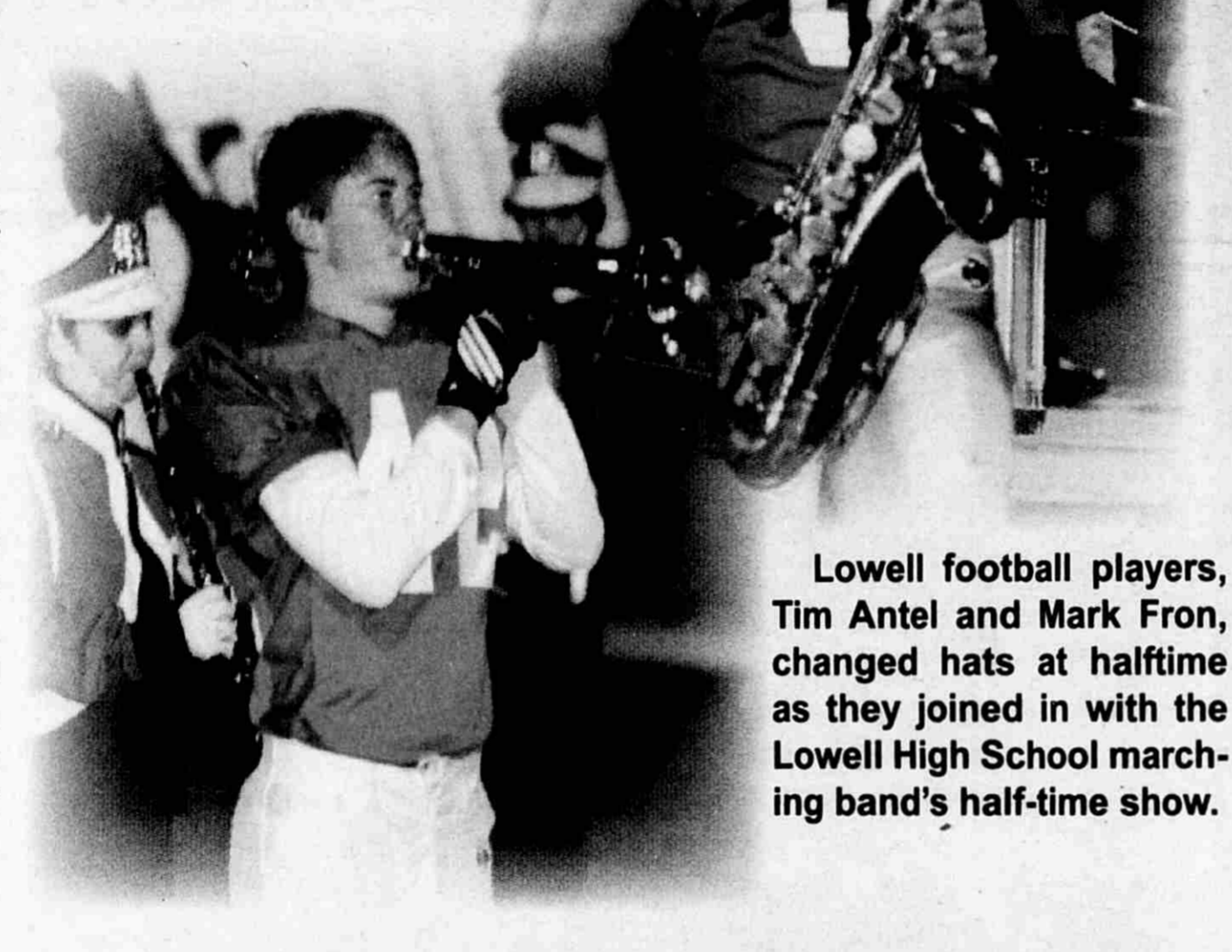
With the win, Lowell advances to the Division 2 semifinal where it will play Walled Lake Central at Central Michigan University on Saturday. Walled Lake

Central advanced with a 39-13 regional win over Fenton.

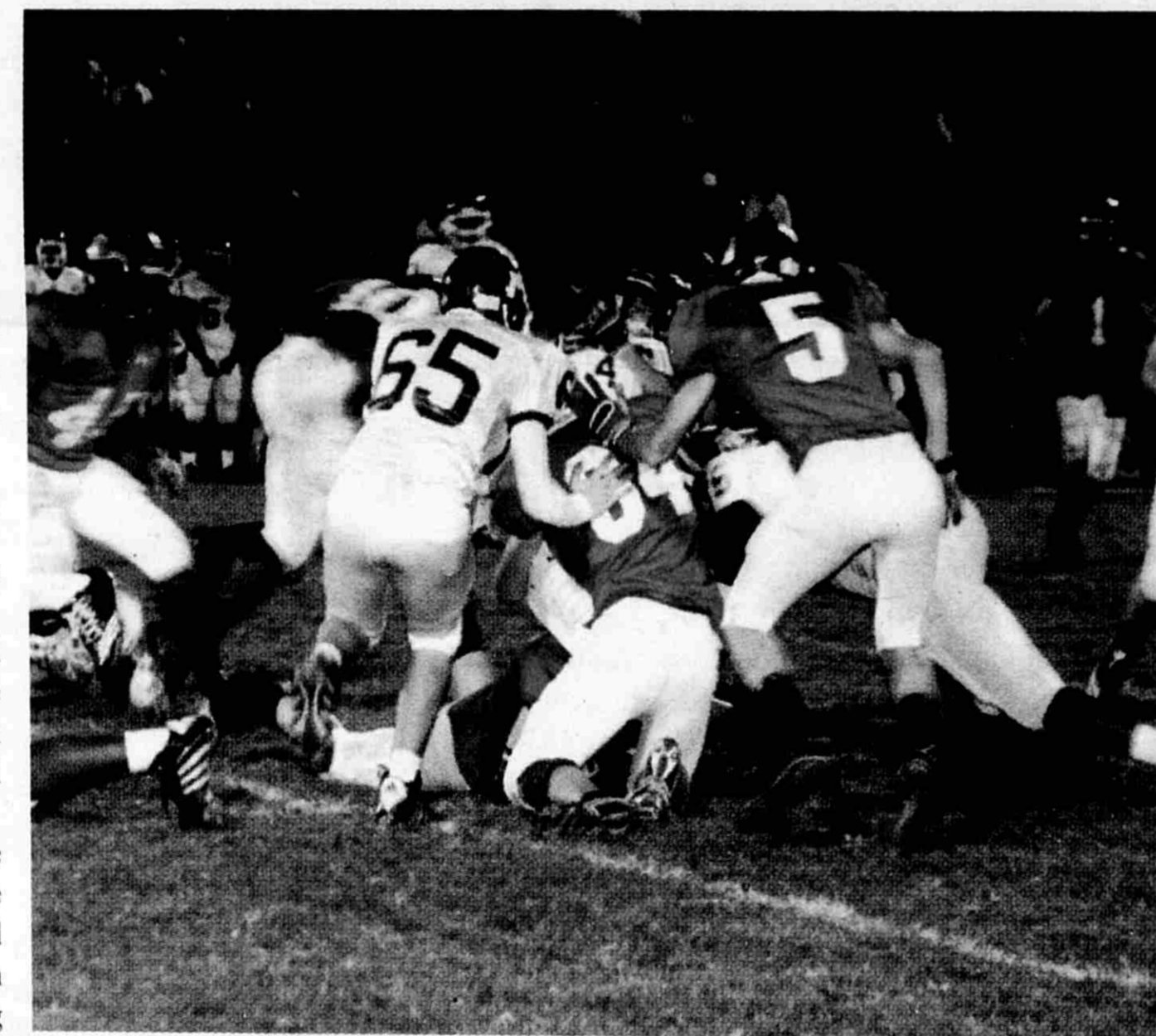
"You know Muskegon was a good football team, a well-coached football team, and is a school where football is a priority," Lowell football coach Noel Dean explained. "That creates some anxiety. They also have players who can go the distance any time they touch the ball. That's scary."

Muskegon, trailing by five, got the ball at its own 11 with 2:20 to play. On second and seven Keyes broke free for 42 yards, taking the ball to the Lowell 44 with a little over a minute to play. Following two incomplete passes, Keyes rolled right on third and 10 before being caught from behind by Destine. The Big Reds' QB fumbled the ball, which was recovered by Jake Stehley, securing Lowell's victory.

"That was the best tackle of my career," Destine explained afterwards. "Coach called the play, I went flat, we all went all-out. I'm just glad to be a



Lowell football players, Tim Antel and Mark Fron, changed hats at halftime as they joined in with the Lowell High School marching band's half-time show.



Lowell's defense converges on Muskegon's Justin Means.



Lowell's Jon Destine wraps up Muskegon's Kavonte Keyes.

OUR TOWN PHOTO CONTEST

E-mail YOUR BEST picture of Lowell to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

Winning photos will be published in the **LOWELL "OUR TOWN" CALENDAR!**

Three entries per person. High resolution images only. Pictures must be attached as a jpeg. Include your name, address and phone number in the body of the email. Must be submitted by November 30, 2010. By submitting your photo you grant J-A Graphics unlimited use of that image in future publications.

Red Arrow SPORTS

Someone had to say it!



Thad Kraus

And then there were 16. That is how many teams are still alive in the MHSAA football playoffs.

Five of those schools are in the West Michigan area with a sixth coming from the Lakeshore.

Rockford's win over Howell lands the Rams in a Division I semifinal matchup against a Plymouth team who had to take out Canton and Detroit Catholic Central in consecutive weeks to advance.

The journey for Lowell in Division 2 has been a daunting one. The Red Arrows have had to defeat Grand Ledge and Muskegon with Portage Central sandwiched in the middle.

East Grand Rapids which has dominated Division 3 over the last four years, has taken a different approach this year. The Pioneers have

picking Zeeland East. And that was by the narrowest of margins (a toe).

Rockford - Plymouth
Plymouth's road has been as difficult as any team in any division. The Rams built a big lead against Howell and then hung on.

I think Plymouth may be tired! I love Rockford!

EGR - Mount Pleasant
Pioneers get a breather. EGR all over Mount Pleasant. I love the Pioneers!

Catholic Central - Edwardsburg
The Cougars have seen the wing-t before (Zeeland West). They didn't stop it, but won a 50-42 shootout. How can I possibly love anyone but Edwardsburg! I love the Eddies.

West Catholic - Menominee
I just think it's the Falcons' year to reach the finals.

I love West Catholic.

Ravenna - Ishpeming
The Bulldogs knocked off a good Uby team and now it's Ishpeming. I love Ravenna.

Lowell - Walled Lake Central
It took a sensational first quarter by the Red Arrows to defeat Muskegon. What a game! The Red Arrows may be playing their best football and Walled Lake Central won't prevent them from a second straight trip to Ford Field.

I Love Lowell!
My other weekend winners are:
Cass Tech, Farmington Hills Harrison, Orchard Lake St. Mary's, Williamston, Olivet, Constantine, Ithaca, Hudson, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart, and Saugatuck.

- THAD'S TOP 10**
1. EGR
 2. Rockford
 3. Zeeland East
 4. Lowell
 5. Muskegon
 6. West Catholic
 7. Catholic Central
 8. West Ottawa
 9. Grand Haven
 10. Greenville

Lowell, WLC travel to CMU for semi battle

Tickets for the Division 2 state semifinal football game between Lowell and Walled Lake Central will go on sale Thursday and Friday in the Lowell High School athletic office.

Tickets are \$6 (no passes allowed) and will go on sale from 7:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. both days.

The game is being played in Mount Pleasant at Central Michigan University.

Kickoff is scheduled for 1 p.m.

Saturday will mark the first time in school history that a Walled Lake Central

football team has advanced to the state semifinal.

Prior to defeating Fenton in the regional final, the Vikings only other trip to a regional final was in 2006 in a loss against Orchard Lake St. Mary's.

Over the last two seasons the Vikings have posted a record of 19-3.

The Red Arrows and Vikings have one common opponent in Walled Lake Western.

Central defeated Western 40-7 and the Red Arrows opened the season with a 30-7 win over Walled Lake Western.

LUNCH MENU

ELEMENTARY MENU
Week of Nov. 22, 2010

MON: Tony's cheese pizza (chili w/crackers also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), steamed broccoli, apple wedges, milk.

TUES: Mini baked corn dogs (hamburger on bun also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), glazed carrots, fruit slices, milk.

LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS BOARD BRIEFS

Reports

- Summer Moore, Student Representative, provided an update on high school and student council activities.
- Mr. Noskey, Ms. Titche, and last year's third grade students provided a service learning presentation.

Action Items

- The Board accepted the following gift to the district:
- Minolta XD11 35mm Camera with 70-300mm Zoom Lens (Macro Capability) and Camera Case, donated by Robert Garcia. Valued at \$700.00, to be used by the Lowell High School Art Department.
- Two Detroit Lions Tickets for October 31 Game, Donated by Emily Liley, valued at \$180.00 to be used for the Pink Arrow Project Kick-Off Festivities.
- One XDA Module, donated by Hedrick Associates, Valued at \$2,378.00 to be used in the Lowell Area Schools District Server Room.
- Adopted Resolution Approving NEOLA Board Bylaws and Policies

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes for the October 11, 2010 Regular Meeting; October 25, 2010 Board Work Session Meeting, and October 25, 2010 Board Facilities Committee Meeting.
- The following payment of bills for October, 2010:

1. GENERAL FUND	\$909,497.22
2. SCHOOL SERVICES FUND	
A. Food Service Fund	\$103,523.14
3. TRUST AND AGENCY FUND	\$51,707.55
4. 2007 DEBT FUND	\$500.00
5. SCHOLARSHIP FUND	\$1,200.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	\$1,066,427.91
- Hired Robert Ward, Part-time 8th Grade Orchestra Teacher, Lowell Middle School and Megan Thompson, Performing Arts Center Director, Lowell High School
- Approved Overnight Student Trips:
 - State FFA Convention: East Lansing, Michigan - March 9-11, 2011 (High School - Kevin Nugent)
 - Camp Blodgett: West Olive, Michigan - May, 2011 (High School - Kim Griffith, Amanita Fahmi, Amy Pallo)
 - Aman Park Indian Trails Camp: Grand Rapids, Michigan - May 25-27, 2011 (Alto - Barb Schneider)
 - Camp Manitou-Lin: Middleville, Michigan - May 25-27, 2011 (Middle School, 7th Grade - Stacy Verburg)

Budget Update

Mr. Zielinski summarized the budget status reports for the month of October. Mr. Zielinski stated that he plans to share preliminary budget information at the November Board Work Session, and submit budget amendments for Board consideration at the December Regular Meeting. Mr. Zielinski provided an update on state Edu Jobs funds which have yet to be distributed. Mr. Zielinski distributed comprehensive annual financial reports for the general fund and audit information of federal programs to Board members for review in preparation for the auditor's presentation at the November Board Work Session. Mr. Zielinski extended gratitude to Mr. Eckman for assisting the district in Mr. Hommowun's absence, and to Ms. Anstett, bus drivers' association president, for assisting in Ms. Hamilton's absence.

Curriculum Update

Mr. Bearup announced that administration and submission of this year's MEAP is complete. Mr. Bearup commended MEAP coordinators, teachers, and principals for their work to ensure that the assessment is administered correctly and that the materials are accurately compiled and submitted. Mr. Bearup reported that the Students with Disabilities Ad-hoc Committee is meeting to examine action plans. Mr. Bearup noted that K-5 teachers will meet next week to work on common core curriculum and the District School Improvement Team will meet to develop implementation plans for district and building plans. Mr. Bearup recognized Mrs. Diane Titche, stating that "her presentation is a perfect example of inquiry based learning and common core standards. He added that Mrs. Titche is an amazing teacher who breaks traditional barriers in the way of high quality learning for students."

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Pratt commented that the recent busy months are an indicator of the phenomenal work going forward district-wide including MEAP, numerous music performances, parent teacher conferences, and high quality instruction. Superintendent Pratt acknowledged Mr. Bearup for his hard work and leadership with regard to the completion of MEAP. Superintendent Pratt expressed appreciation to all staff for the extra time and effort put forth during parent teacher conferences to ensure that the

school/parent partnership is strong in order to optimize the success of our students.

Superintendent Pratt was excited and proud to announce a collaborative partnership with Grand Rapids Community College that will offer our students greater access to courses in Lowell. A pilot program for the winter semester will begin in January, with five classes being conveniently offered at our Runciman building. Students will have the opportunity to take 13 credits, three evenings per week.

Board Communications

- Mr. Nugent announced that the Lowell FFA held their annual hog roast and auction, which is a great fundraising event. Mr. Nugent commented that the FFA is a valuable district program, offering creative learning opportunities for students and encouraged those willing to provide assistance to support this program. Mr. Nugent reported that the Lowell Education Foundation held its annual grant review meeting and, of 36 applications, 14 grants received funding with a few more pending. To date, the Lowell Education Foundation has granted \$20,700.00 to teachers who applied in order to enhance the curriculum and offer innovation in the classroom. The funds are made available through donations and grants from the Grand Rapids Community Fund.
- Mr. Turner thanked Mrs. Titche and students for a great presentation. He added that examples of innovative learning through student presentations reinforce his desire to serve as a Board of Education member in Lowell.
- Mr. Blough commented that he was in one of the district's school buildings during a recent tornado warning and was very impressed with the conduct and procedures followed by our staff and students. Mr. Blough thanked the Lowell staff for a job well done.
- President Lessens expressed appreciation to the student presenters for an inspiring report on how we can all help one another, even across the globe. President Lessens thanked Carla Stone who works tirelessly to support and inspire students and staff to participate in service learning.

Board of Education Regular Meeting
December 13, 2010
7:00 p.m.

Secretary of State offices to close for Thanksgiving holiday

Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land reminds customers that all branch offices and the Office of the Great Seal will be closed in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

All offices will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 25, Friday, Nov. 26, and SUPER!Centers will be closed on Saturday, Nov. 27.

The Department of State mails notices to motorists 45 days before their driver's

license or license plates expire to give them ample time to renew. Licenses and plates that expire on a day when state offices are closed, such as a holiday or weekend, can be renewed the following day without penalty.

Motorists renewing license plates can "skip the trip" to the branch office and do business by mail, or if eligible, by Internet. Easy to follow instructions can be found with the renewal

notice. License plate tabs will arrive by mail within seven business days.

License plate tabs can also be renewed at Self-Service Stations, many of which are available 24/7. Visit the Branch Office Locator at www.Michigan.gov/sos to find a Self-Service Station near you.

With the exception of holidays, branch offices are open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Smaller branch

offices may close for the lunch hour. On Wednesdays most offices are open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., with those in city centers open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. PLUS offices and SUPER!Centers are open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays. SUPER!Centers also provide Saturday hours from 9 a.m. to noon.

For more information visit the department website at www.Michigan.gov/sos.

Murray Lake names Volunteer of the Month

Murray Lake parent, Lisa Northup, was named Volunteer of the Month at Murray Lake. Northup is the newest addition to the Murray Lake Family Links and can frequently be seen volunteering at Murray Lake.

a great job," commented Murray Lake administrative assistant, Joan Weeber.

Northup graduated from Michigan State University with a BA in psychology.

She began working for Eastman Kodak Company as soon as she graduated and worked there for eight years. She left the company when she had her twins, Kaden and Kyra, both students at Murray Lake. She has been married to her husband Jud for 15 years.

that has such a dedicated group of staff and teachers.

I also am lucky to work with such an amazing group of ladies in Family Links.

I think that having parental involvement in the school system is important

and makes a noticeable difference in our children's lives," said Northup.

When Northup is not busy volunteering, she enjoys computers, gardening, traveling, and spending time with friends and family.



Lisa Northup pictured with her children, Kaden and Kyra.

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NOVEMBER 10 - NOVEMBER 16

- Paul and Rachel Chandler, the British couple held hostage for more than a year by pirates, are finally freed.
- Former President Bill Clinton joins the cast of the upcoming movie Hangover 2.
- Petraeus and Karzai spar over U.S. war plans. Karzai's call for U.S. to "reduce military operations" irks U.S. commander ahead of transition plan talks.
- Gov-elect Rick Snyder says he wants to be a friend to Detroit. Michigan "can't be a great state until Detroit is on the path to being a great city. Detroit, too, needs a friend."
- Prince William and longtime girlfriend Kate Middleton have officially announced royal wedding plans. Middleton will be the first commoner to marry an heir to the throne in 350 years.



The Lowell YMCA would like to thank the 175 participants that came out to our first Turkey Trot 5k at the Wittenbach Center. It was a great event. We were able to bring a carload of donated food from participants to FROM after the run. We got so much positive feedback that we will again be doing it next year. Thanks again.

To the stupid driver Thursday night on Alden Nash, just before Segwun where a car turned left - This is a dangerous road. Was is really necessary to pass me? Also, did you not see the two deer by the side of the road?

The arts council and Larkin's are doing a great job with the dinner theater and Escanaba in Love! You can still sign up for the final two showings Friday and Saturday. Great show, great food, great time!

BE SURE AND GO TO thelowelledger.com AND VOTE IN OUR WEEKLY POLL!

Opening day good fortune continues for Cook

by Thad Kraus

Gary Cook's drive to his opening day hunting location may have taken longer than it did to drop his six-point buck.

Cook was the first hunter in on Monday (9:26 a.m.) for The Lowell Ledger's First Deer Contest.

Tucked away north of town near the Flat River in

his ground blind, Cook, with companion Sandra Sturis, spotted the 165-pound buck about 50 yards out, 30 minutes into his hunt, when he took aim and dropped the buck with his 12 gauge.

"I hit him and then he ran about 75 yards before falling," Cook explained.

Finding a deer on

opening day of buck season has become a common occurrence for the Grand Rapids' man.

"I think I've gotten a buck in probably 10 of the last 15 years," Cook said.

Three generations of Yeiters came to The Ledger office at 9:58 a.m. with an eight point weighing roughly 125 pounds.

The shot was delivered by the youngest Yeiter, Payden.

It was the first year of hunting for Terry Yeiter's grandson.

Payden dropped the buck with a 20 gauge from about 40-yards out.

"I was a little nervous," he explained afterwards.

Joining the two Yeiters was Terry's son, Bliss.

Going out on opening day has become a tradition. The other tradition is breakfast at the Backwater," Terry said.

Two seven-point bucks and an eight-point buck within 45 minutes is a story not often told.

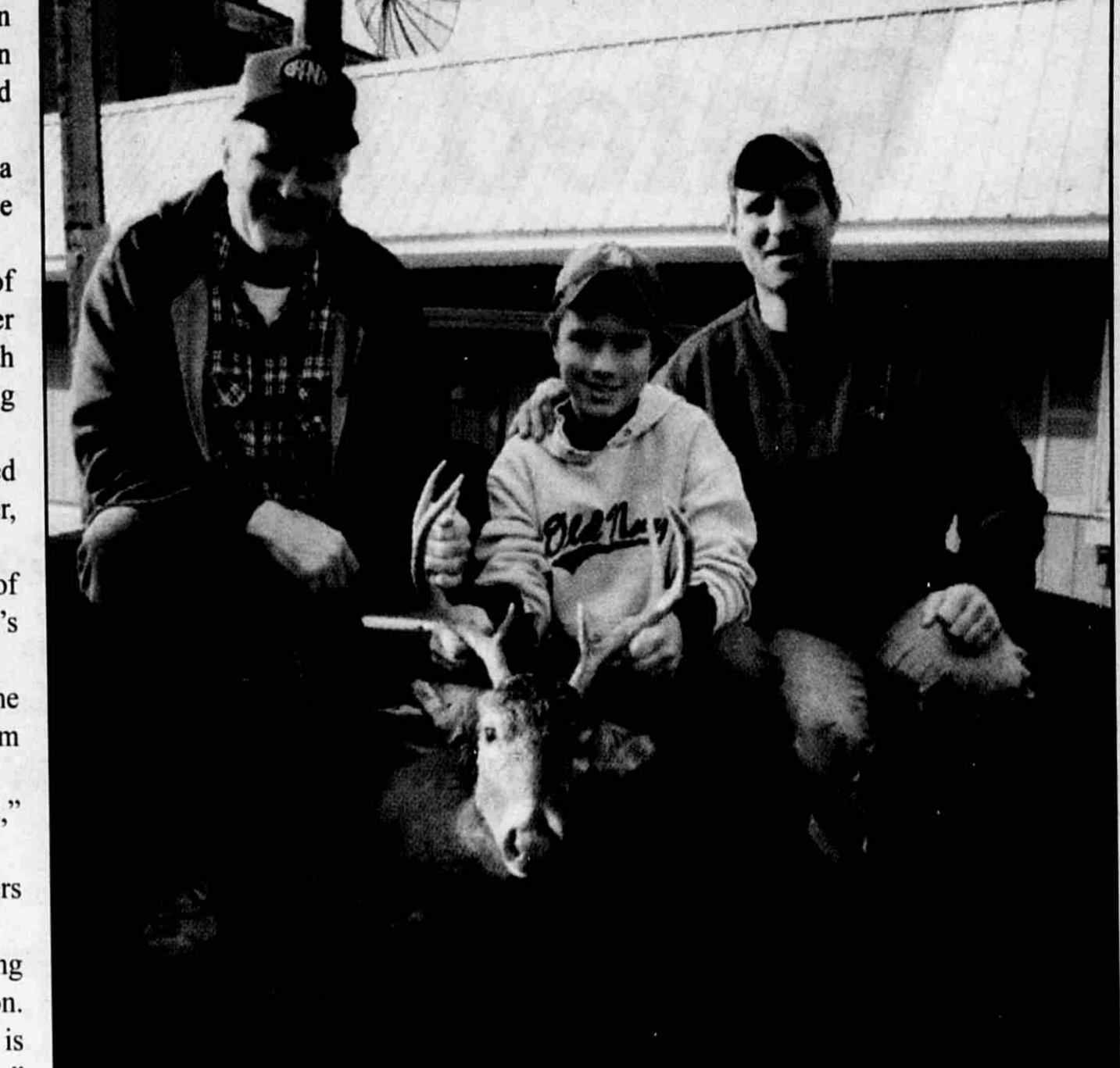
However, that was the story shared by Barry Sayer, Jared Blough and Logan Blough.

Hunting south of town, the youngest of the three, Logan, dropped an eight-point, 140-pound buck at around 7:30 a.m.

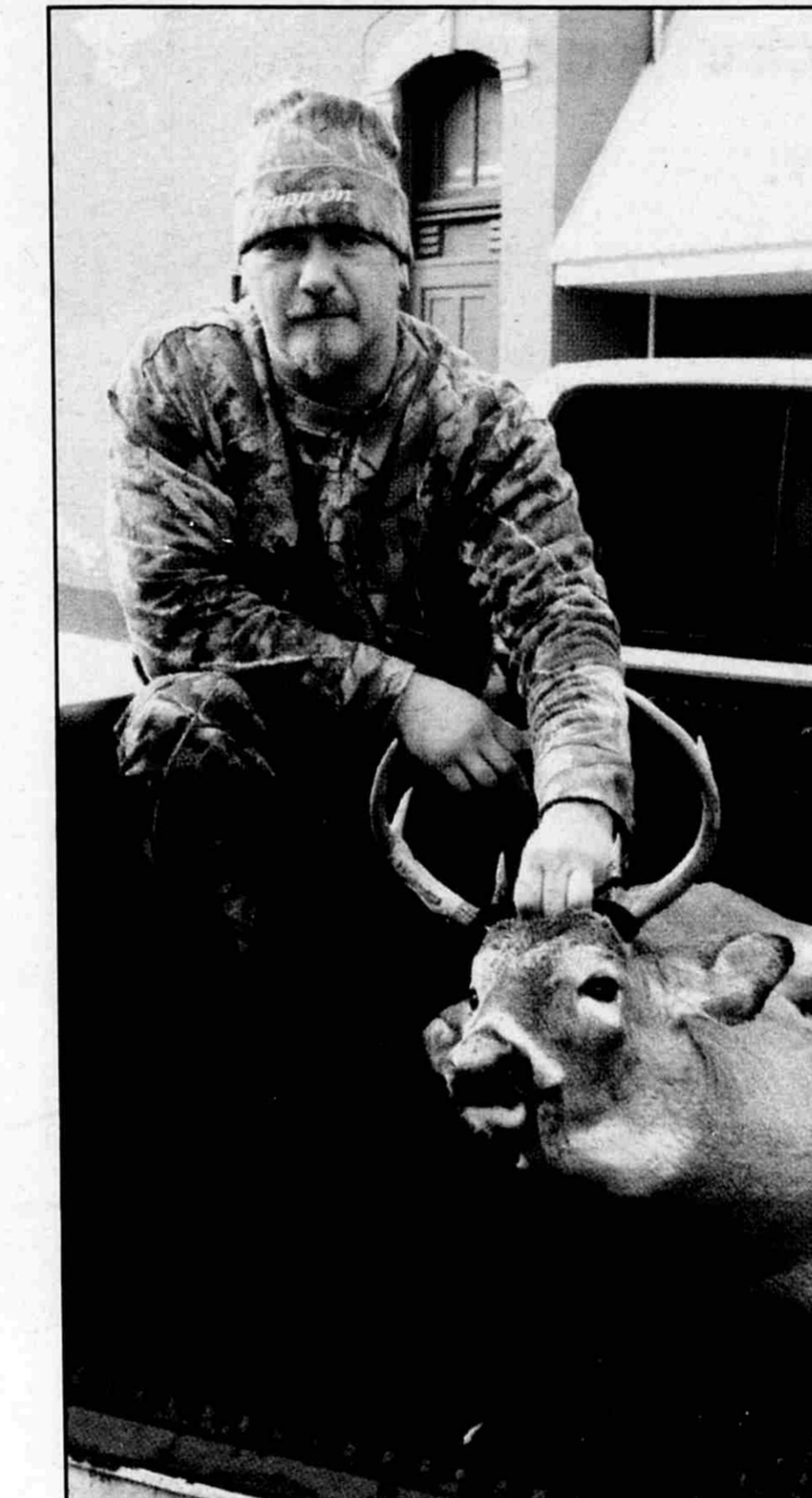
Blough, enjoying his third year of hunting, is a perfect 3-for-3 on opening day.

"They've all been eight points," he says.

His father Jared adds,



All in the family. Terry Yeiter, Payden Yeiter and Bliss Yeiter (left to right) all found their marks and came home with a buck on Monday.



Gary Cook was the first to arrive at The Ledger with his deer on opening day.

"Yeah, he's been spoiled." Jared Blough was second as he shot his seven-point, 150-pound buck moments later with his muzzle loader.

Within moments (7:40 a.m.) it was Barry Sayer's turn when he saw and dropped a seven-point buck weighing roughly 155 pounds.

"It's nice we all got our bucks, but it's also nice to have some momentum build

up a little bit," Jared Blough said.

The breakfast of champions on this morning was swiss pancakes.

For Cub and Jeanne Vezino, breakfast was a banana before they left the house around 6:30 a.m.

Roughly two hours later they both had themselves a buck.

Jeanne Vezino shot her 100-pound, four-point buck at around 8:30 a.m.

"It was my first buck on opening day," she explained.

Cub, who's been hunting 28 years and has seen a few opening days come and go, spotted his prized 10-point at 8 a.m.

Shooting his muzzle loader he dropped the 170-pound buck.

"It's the biggest buck I've ever shot," Vezino said.



Cub Vezino and his wife Jeanne shared in one another's success as they both shot a buck on opening day.



Pictured, from left to right, are Barry Sayer, Jared Blough and Logan Blough. They were the second hunting threesome of the morning to arrive at The Ledger office with all having an opening day buck story.

CONGRATULATIONS

to all of the hunters!

See you next year!

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