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Community, business and arts leaders express their hopes for the best in 2011

by Emma Palova

This is the year of the tiger, according to the Chinese horoscope, and it is the hope of local leaders in Lowell that it will be a better year.

"Let's hope it will be a grand year," said mayor Jim Hodges at the last city meeting of 2010. "In retrospect, it was a difficult year for this community. We've lost a lot of good people."

Hodges was referring to the passing away of former mayor Jeanne Shores and a community mover and shaker known as Mr. Showboat, Ivan Blough, and deaths of area high school girls in car accidents. "Wehopethat businesses will pick up and remain successful," said Hodges. "We hope to fill empty storefronts and with Main Street Inn open it will bring more life to downtown." Hodges, who acknowledged the great characteristics of current city manager of 20 years Dave Pasquale, expressed hope for bringing someone with new ideas and energy. In response to the question if Hodges could do anything to make Lowell successful or "The Next Place to Be," the mayor said



Mayor Jim Hodges

parade.

he would continue work Currently, the Lowell on the Riverwalk and the Police Department (LPD) is

department for technology upgrades. Tickets are now to the court system directly visual deterrent to crime. from the patrol cars.

Hinton, saves time and money for the department. The grant from the Lowell Area Community Fund was for \$22,000 over four years.

"It eliminates data entry and hours to deliver paper reports to courts," he said. "There are no typos, no mistakes, because the computer software populates the fields once the driver's license is swiped."

LPD also got new spike strips as a way to end high speed chases coming into is shot on the front bumper of

secured a grant for the Hinton believes that none of them happened in the city limits due to the level being printed and uploaded of enforcement, which is a

"My goal is voluntary This, according to compliance," he said. "The force is not overdoing it, they're just doing their jobs."

> Hinton also said due to budget constraints he had to cut on non-essential training.

Most recently, the force has been deploying a LIDAR (laser radar) instead of a regular radar.

"It's a portable hand held device for speed enforcement," he said.

With LIDAR, the red dot

begins on page 13





page 2

holiday helpers

amphitheatre, as well as the actively engaged in the town work on the west bank.

businesses vital in the downtown area, though we do well with little charming businesses," he said.

Hodges' goals for 2011 include giving good leadership and having the support of the community.

Police chief James Hinton also wants to continue the tradition of good leadership and the support of local businesses rather than being a hurdle to them.

events ensuring security "We need to keep and safe traffic flow during events such as the Riverwalk even Festival, the Kent County 4-H Youth Fair, Harvest Festival and the Christmas

> The LPD staff does not charge extra for special events. They will still help citizens if they lock themselves out of their vehicles, and will continue to do so into the future, according to Hinton.

Hinton, who is a firm believer continuous in education has recently

Lowell Light & Power steps into the future with charging station for electric automobiles

by Emma Palova

(LLP) has been selected as set up a charge station for Lowell was picked due to its one of the sites by Coulomb electric cars. based in Technologies

California to receive a grant LowellLightandPower from the stimulus monies to Pierce, LLPgeneralmanager,

The Lowell charge station will be able to charge two vehicles at once. It will be located by the Shell station and look similar to this.

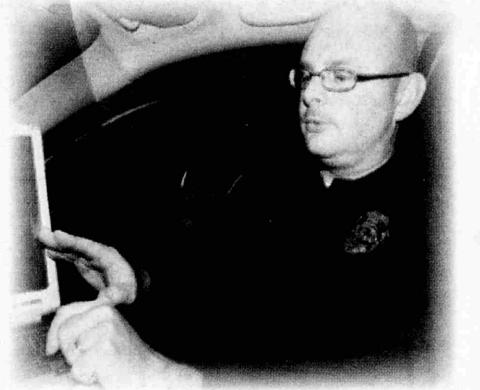
According to Greg location on axis from Grand Rapids to Lansing, from Lansing to Ann Arbor and from Ann Arbor to Detroit. "We are in that area,"

said Pierce. The name of the program for that key area was, ChargePoint America. The Lowell utility applied approximately two to three months ago. There will be 75 charge stations spread around West Michigan including Muskegon, Holland and Zeeland.

> Charging station, continued, page 3

the city.

the target speeding vehicle,



Police chief James Hinton

Hinton's major goals are to assist the community and the businesses in making Lowell the Next Place to Be.

"Government should not be a hurdle," he said. "We are hired by the taxpayers to get things done. We do not charge for extra police presence."

the force of six full-time and six part-time officers will remain the same.

"We're still dealing with tough financial situations just like everyone else," he said.

Hinton what said separates Lowell from other communities is the level of service, as well as the knowledge of the community members and to learn," he said. the people being served by the police department.

On the issue of the recent traffic crashes,

allowing the officers a safer access to the roadway.

"It's a further deterrent for violators to not speed and we still get voluntary compliance," Hinton said.

He is also looking forward to working with the new manager to bring back business into town.

"Tradition is good, but Hinton is hoping that I am an innovator when it comes to law enforcement because of networking," he said. "We want to be more of a partner to businesses."

> Hinton is working on his bachelor's degree in business administration from Northwood University. He would like to see public officials operate like a private entity.

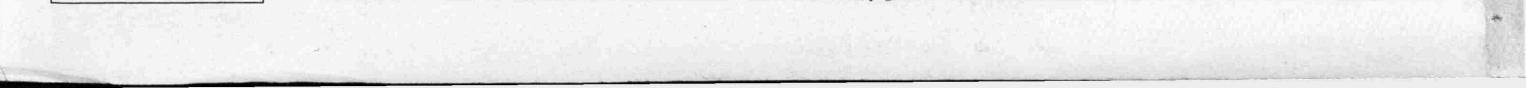
> > "You have to continue

Community leaders' hopes for 2011, continued, page 28

page 7







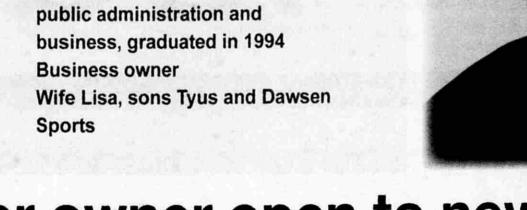
fedger

Shane Beach

Position: **Residence:** Education:

Experience: Family: Hobbies:

Co-owner of Spring Training Lowell bachelor's of science from Grand Valley State University, major in



Spring Training Center owner open to new ideas

by Emma Palova

to work long hours as epiphany. Plus the economy the owner of a successful was getting difficult. trucking company with 35 employees. But, when his upon my own life," he said.

Behind

I'he D

Shane Beach used away in 2007, he had an

"It made me reflect mother Janie Beach passed "Is this really what I want to

do. Life is too short working 80 hours a week."

And life became stressful for Beach, and basically not positive for the entire household.

"I wanted to get back my passion," he said. So, he shut down the trucking company in 2008. His lifelong passion has always been coaching

and mentoring of kids and adults. So, he opened Spring Training facility located right behind the former Good Chevrolet.

adults as many opportunities as possible," he said. "I am much happier and I enjoy life so much more. I enjoy sports, playing it, watching it and coaching it. I needed to get to my life's work." That business goal is



CALL FOR ARTISTS

Lowell Area Arts Council presents Art That Speaks, a unique art exhibition that is open to teen and adult artists. This art exhibition presents artworks that include words, symbols, markings, scratchings, etc., to visually enchance the two or three-dimensional artwork. This exhibit is open to artisits ages 13 and up. Enter up to two pieces, 2 and 3-D artworks. Drop-off: Jan. 5 and 6. For entry form or 560-8889 or visit www.yourspringtraining.com additional information go online to www.lowellartscouncil. org or call 897-8545.

GILDA'S CLUB LOWELL CLUBHOUSE

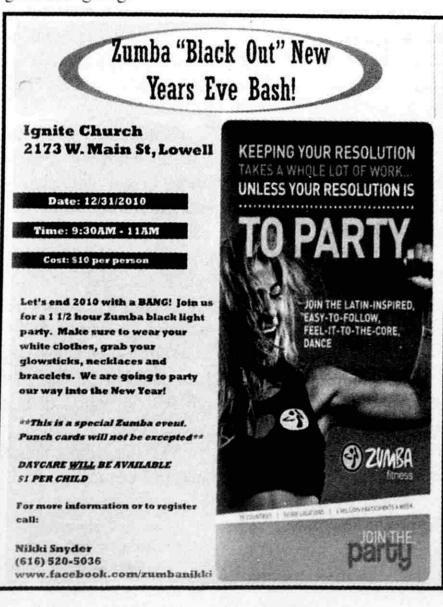
Cancer - New Member Meeting, Tuesdays, Jan. 11 and 25, 2:30-3:30 p.m. and Jan. 11, 7:15-8 p.m.

Felted Soap Making, Tues., Jan. 11, 2-4 p.m. Use www.tobaccofreepartners.org different colors of wool to give your soap its own unique look. All materials provided.

Oncology Skin Care Workshop, Tues., Jan. 11, 3-5 p.m. Receive a facial and learn tips about skin care.

Teen and Tween Talk, Tuesdays, Jan. 4 and 18, 6-7:15 p.m. This group is for youth in middle school and high school and includes discussion about cancer and grief as well as activities and social time.

For additional information call 897-8600 or visit info@ gildasclubgr.org.



-1

SPRING TRAINING

Looking for something to do over Christmas Break? Spring Training is accepting new/gently used winter clothing and nonperishable food to help FROM this winter season. Stop in at 1250 Main St. to drop off and get discounts on cage rentals, golf, whiffle ball, dodgeball, hitting leagues, pitching leagues, and PS3 gamer tournaments. Call 616-

SMOKING CESSATION CLASSES

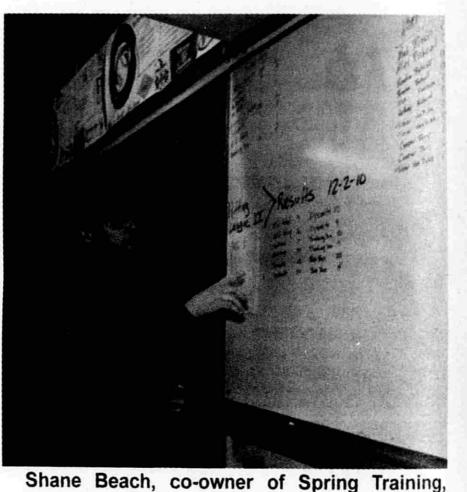
Free classes begin Sat., Jan. 15. The class meets for six weeks on Saturdays from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Lowell Family Medical Center, 2550 E. Main St. Registration encouraged, but not required. Call 616-975-0123 or go to

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES

The FROM Food Pantry is presently in need of fruit juice, cereal, canned fruit, boxed potatoes, spaghetti sauce, crackers, tomatoes, tuna, and pasta. Please help if you are

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.

G	IRLS SOFTBALL CLINIC
Lowe	Il Arrow Dynamics Softball Club is holding a
youn	all skills clinic for girls ages 10 years old and ger. The clinic will cover all basic softball skills
	beginners to advanced.
The	clinic begins Friday January 14, 2011 at
7	:00 pm at Alto Elementary Gymnasium.
	This will be an 8-week clinic with a
	cost of \$40.00 and includes a t-shirt.
Fo	or more information call 366-3783
	al appearances by Lowell's new varsity softball coach





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with 493 o	
JON JACOBS	s
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ledger

Charging stations, continued

Each station has the ability to charge two electric vehicles at once. One cord will charge at the 120 V rate and the other cord will charge at the 220 V rate.

The advantages of the program for Lowell are having a charging station next to the Shell gas station, from Larkin's, across provided by a \$5,000 grant and a link on website for people who have electric cars to look Lowell up.

So, basically Lowell will be on the national registry of charge stations.

Pierce said he has already received phone calls from interested owners of electric cars such as Chevy Volt, Nissan Leaf and Ford hybrids.

It is the hope that customers would charge their vehicles at night to lessen the impact on electricity.

"We will have special night rate to encourage to charge the cars off peak hours," said Pierce.

Depending on the model of the car, it may take two to three hours to charge a car at 220 V, or eight hours at 120 V.

the charge station installed by January or February.

the charge station for free for for purchasing a Volt. the first two to three years. And even though

Is it possible that consumers will no longer be held hostage by high gas prices?

Behind The Scenes, continued

Beach stressed importance of not being afraid to make a major decision or dreams may never happen. He played ball semi-pro through college and he was on a US to new suggestions." select team in Canada.

Beach baseball at the Kellogsville High School, and helped Davenport start their baseball program.

His philosophy is to teach kids to be the best athletes possible.

"I do rely on fantastic people around me," he said. From a business standpoint, Beach mainly

wants to get the message out about the year round Spring Training facility right in the heart of Lowell.

here that are not offered in Grand Rapids, and we are inviting the whole community to come in here," he said. "We are open

coached things such as organizations, and enjoys helping people succeed regardless their drive, along with co-owner Toby Alderink.

> "I love seeing the smile on people's faces and enjoying their time," he

> Beach projects an image of complete dedication in helping people succeed.

"Wewanttobeperceived as good leaders, so coaches can also feel comfortable

Early morning fire destroys

"We are offering things with us," Beach said. "We business is getting both the have the trust factor. I am a participants and the facilities true stand behind you type up to speed, while making of a person. I will be in your the programs affordable. corner to help you."

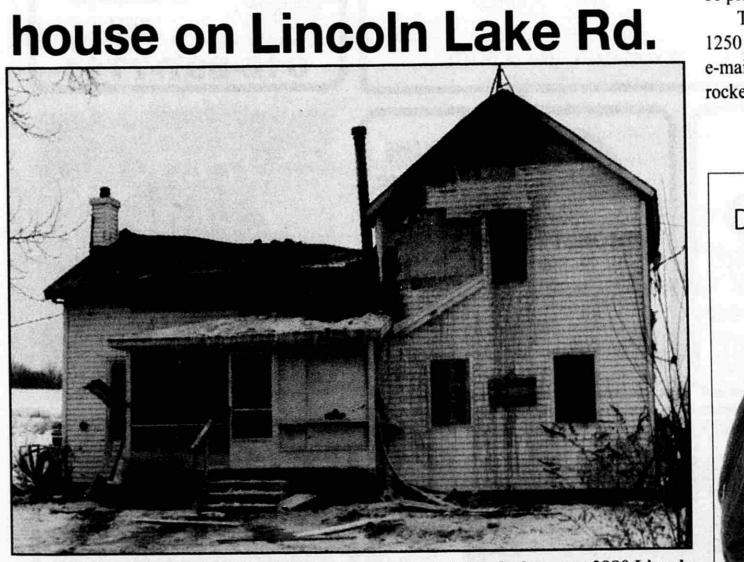
training facility from similar Beach loves building venues is precisely the love and care, and the concern about results.

> The training business has changed over the years with more indoor facilities due to the year round training of the astute athlete. It's all about training even out of season.

Beach has a five to 10 year plan for future growth with both indoor and outdoor facilities. One of the challenges of the

outside and inside. "I want to get as many people involved as possible,' he said. "Come in and get to know us. Not everything is for everybody, but you will be pleasantly surprised."

The facility is located at 1250 Main Street. You can e-mail at springtraining@ rocketmail.com.



A fire that started at 2:36 a.m. Tuesday morning totaled the house at 2880 Lincoln Lake owned by Ken Ford. A wood stove is believed to be the cause of the fire. Out of the seven family members inside the home no one was hurt, according to Lowell fire chief Frank Martin. The participating fire departments from Ada, Grattan, Cannon and Lowell cleared the scene at 9 a.m. Red Cross assisted the family. There was heat, smoke and water damage. Firstbank has set up a fund for the Ford family. Donations can be made to the Ford Family Fire Fund with checks and deposits made to the fund at Firstbank located at 2601 West Main Street or any other Firstbank location.

the community and educate kids and adults on different "I want to give kids and aspects of sports, mental and physical preparation," he said. "This allows for flexibility and time to spend with my family."

Behind The Scenes, continued, page 3

reflected in his long term

plan of continuing to grow

"I want to give back to

and expand.

loves everything about sports.

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electric vehicles are currently averaging \$41,000 there is



"We want to help under What separates the one tutelage," he said. "We take what we've learned and

utilize it."

And Beach stressed the importance of staying ahead of the game by offering different leagues. He plans to present to the planning commission, in the spring, a proposal for two baseball/softball fields on the premises.

His vision includes buying the entire property with the Good building. and to offer multiple sports

LLP will be sponsoring a \$7,500 tax rebate incentive

"It is here," said Pierce. "It's not something futuristic. It is another way Pierce expects to have somewhat cost prohibitive for energy savings. We will not be reliant on foreign fossil fuel."

> According to West Michigan Strategic Alliance. there may be as many as 75 public charging stations of various venues, paid by bills," said Pierce. stimulus funds.

received \$15 million from the U.S. Department of Energy to install 4,800 FROM if you have trouble stations in areas such as paying bills. Lowell and Detroit.

each. Approximately 2,400 a dozen citizens. owners of Chevrolet Volt

Nissan Leaf and Smart Car hybrid will be eligible for home charging stations on a first come, first-serve basis through their dealerships.

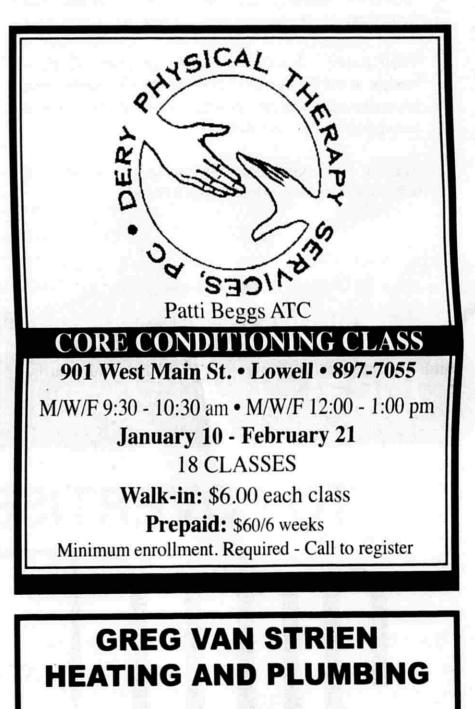
On a separate note, LLP is offering A Plus program for customers having trouble paying their bills.

"LLP customers can donate to the fund to help people who are having located in the parking lots trouble paying their electric

The city has a similar ChargePoint America program to help people pay water bills

Pierce said to contact

Last year approximately The public charge \$1,000 to \$1,200 was donated stations cost about \$5,000 to the program, which served



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41



SOME EVENTS FROM 2010

Dubai prepares to inaugurate the world's tallest building. The building, named Buri Khalifa, stands 160 stories, 2717 feet tall and cost \$1.5 billion (\$9 million per floor).

The Washington Redskins fire coach Jim Zorn.

- The future is uncertain for the Mars rover. It remains stuck six years after landing on Mars. 1 NASA rover is stuck in a sand rut.
- Apparently, it has been discovered that there was a third uninvited guest, a person traveling with the Indian delegation, allowed into the president's White House state dinner.
- Photographs, by Annie Leibovitz, of Tiger Woods will appear in the February issue of Vanity Fair. Taken before his current scandal, the photos as well as the article are supposedly quite revealing.
- "Balloon Boy" dad starts serving his jail sentence this week. He now denies that it was a hoax.

- "ledger
- NBC pulls the plug on the Jay Leno show in prime time and returns it to late-night.
- Thousands of U.S. troops descend upon Port-au-Prince to help relief efforts as desperate Haitians struggle to survive.
- Conan O'Brien of the NBC Tonight Show reached an agreement buy-out of \$40 million. A large portion of the money will go to his staff that moved from N.Y. to L.A.
- 'Hope for Haiti' telethon Friday evening brings in \$58 million and counting.
- 'Chemical Ali,' Saddam Hussein's cousin, was executed in Iraq Monday.
- Conan O'Brien fights tears on his final 'Tonight Show' cast Friday night. Conan served as host for seven months.
- Sam's Club, owned by Walmart, cuts 10,000 jobs.
- Toyota recalls a massive 5.3 million cars.
- J.D. Salinger, author of 'The Catcher in the Rye' and other popular books, dies at the age of 91.
- Apple's CEO, Steve Jobs, unveils the iPad.
- The White House grants \$8 billion for fast trains. The big winners are California. Florida and Illinois.
- Bill and Melinda Gates announce plans to invest \$10 billion in the fight against a number of illnesses, including AIDS, and say the record donation could save nearly nine million lives.
- Snow-packed Washington to get hit again with up to 20 more inches of snow.
- Rep. John Murtha of Pennsylvania, 77, dies after complications from gallbladder surgery.
- The New Orleans Saints wins its first Super Bowl over the Colts with a score of 31-17.

Young upstarting American Olympic hockey team stuns hockey superpower Canada, 5-3.

President Barack Obama will propose giving federal authorities the power to limit rate hikes by health insurance companies as part of a new health care overhaul plan he will unveil this week.

Bush administration lawyers who wrote "torture" memos are cleared of allegations of professional misconduct after a Justice Department internal investigation which recommends no legal consequences for their action.

Former Secretary of State, Al Haig, passes away at the age of 85.

In Orlando, Florida, a trainer at Sea World is dragged into the water and killed by a 12,000 lb. killer whale in front of spectators. This is the third time this particular whale has killed.

At the Oscars "The Hurt Locker" beats out box office titan "Avatar" to win best picture and director. Kathryn Bigelow of "The Hurt Locker" becomes the first woman to be named best director.

History is made as the health reform bill is signed into law on Tuesday, March 23, 2010.

President Obama hosts a nuclear summit with representatives from 47 nations to focus on how to better safeguard nuclear weapons materials and keep them out of the hands of terrorists.

Polish president Lech Kaczynski and his wife are killed along with all passengers aboard when their airplane crashes while attempting to land in Russia.

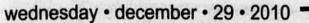
'Designing Women' star and wife of Hal Holbrook, Dixie Carter, dies at age 70.



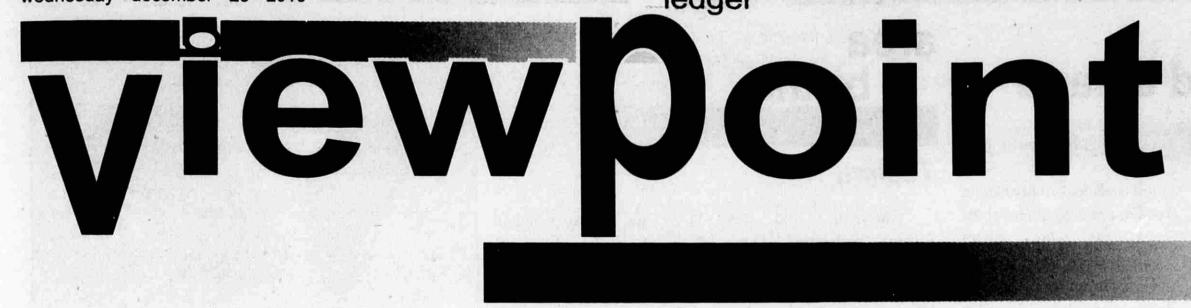
wednesday · december · 29 · 2010

Supreme court justice John Paul Stevens announces he plans to retire this summer at age 90.

Globe 2010, continued, page 10



fedger



outdoors ski the backcountry

Winter came early this year as bone-chilling cold froze a heavy covering of Upper and Lower Peninsula. wet snow creating a drab Trails are found on golf landscape under dark gray clouds. Today, however, shines brightly the sun from a clear blue sky. In the woods, tall leafless trees cast long dark shadows on a fresh blanket of snow scattered with sparkling ice crystals. The Christmas card-like scene is definitely an attitude booster. It's time to get outside and enjoy the season.

Cross-country skiing is a great way to get out and about and get that needed exercise. Crosscountry skiing is not a high profile sport, so it is often overlooked when people are seeking wintertime from the trailhead or lodge, activities. There are cross-

drive of anyplace in the courses, federal, state, and municipal land, as well as at private resorts. Because these trails meander through the backcountry they are not highly visible, but a little research will turn up about 3000-miles of trails in Michigan. Purchase a trail book or search online for trail locations and descriptions. Skiers can make their own trails on private property or public land where permitted. The terrain and scenery vary with the location of the trail. A trail system will be spread out over a wide area so crowds are seldom a problem. The farther one skis

Dave Stegehui

country trails within a short

the greater the opportunity to find solitude.

Many sports are associated with a certain age group, but cross-country with pre-school kids, middle age adults, and grandparents along with well-conditioned young athletes. Ski trails are in difficulty and length so a and moving this winter and, skier can choose the degree at the same time, provide of difficulty to match his or the opportunity to directly her skill and comfort level. engage with the natural Cross-country skiing is easy world as you glide quietly to learn from a book or with through the snow covered a couple of brief lessons at a outback.

Apackage of skis, boots, and poles can be purchased at a relatively reasonable participants represent a wide cost. Many ski areas rent range of ages and ability. One equipment. It would be can expect to share the trails wise for beginners to rent and find out if they want to continue in the sport before making an investment. Cross-country skiing laid out in loops which vary will get you off the couch

_etters To The Editor:

The Lowell Ledger welcomes your Letters to the Editor. Letters are required to bear the author's signature, phone number and address (for verification purposes only, not for publication). Letters will be published at the discretion of the publisher . All letters are subject to editing for length and grammar. Thank you letters, advertising or personal attacks will not be

Letters may be submitted via email to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide. com ("to the Editor" in subject line) or dropped off or mailed to: The Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, MI 49331. Also, our website, www.lowellbuyersguide.com has a link to submit emails on the left side of the page.

75 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo December 26, 1935

Barbara Stanwyck, film star has announced that she will seek a divorce from Frank Fay, the actor. In 1920 Paul McCarty of Lowell was co-starred with Mr. Fay and Joe E. Brown in the musical comedy, "Jim Jam Jems," Mr. Fay acquired the habit of reading Mr. McCarty's copy of the Lowell Ledger each week, enjoying the rural flavor of the items.

About this time a South Lowell farmer refused his two half grown sons the use of the family horse and buggy, and started out himself. A short distance down the road he was held up by "two masked dwarves" with a shotgun, who appropriated the rig and drove away. The farmer notified the police before he realized the "dwarves" had been his own sons.

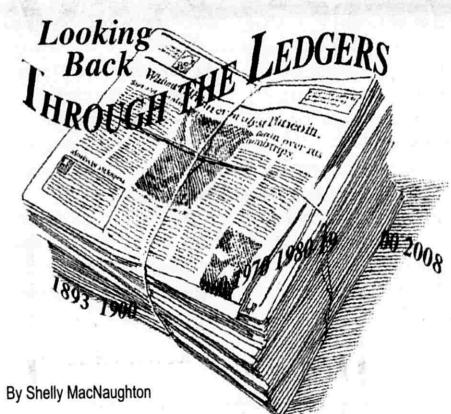
The Ledger's account of the incident intrigued the sophisticated Mr. Fay hugely. Ten years later he espied Mr. McCarthy and by the way of greeting shouted, with a nasal inflection, the length of a hotel lobby: "Hey, Paul! Heard anything more about them there two dwarves back in Lowell?"

50 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger December 29, 1960

It will be a big day Thursday for the State Savings Bank when they move to the new banking building at 414 East Main Street. And a big problem too, records, safety deposit boxes, and money all must be transported to the new building.

25 Years Ago The Grand Valley Ledger December 24, 1985

Gary "Coach" Rivers and his exceptional wrestling teams have become legendary. Rivers posted his 300th win last Thursday in a dual match with Forest Hills Central. His wrestlers, including his sophomore son Mike, rose to the occasion, walking away with the match 55-18. The Lowell grapplers led 33-0 at one point.



125 Years Ago **The Lowell Journal** January 1, 1886

A Washington dispatch a few days ago stated that John M. Mathewson would probably be appointed postmaster at Lowell soon.

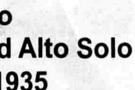
The Christmas Carnival at the Rink was a great success. An immense crowd of people was present; the music was superb, and everybody had a good time.

Miss Lottie Elias fell down the cellar stairs at Ort. Hill's Tuesday evening, with a lamp in her hand. She was quite seriously shocked and bruised. Her dress caught fire from the lamp but the flames were speedily extinguished. It was a narrow escape for Lottie.

100 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger December 29, 1910

A marriage license was issued yesterday in the county clerk's office to Adam B. Fox an Indian, and Miss Mabel N. Brown a white girl. Both live at Kent Co. and it is said that a Methodist minister there will perform the ceremony.

ski area or get advice from an experienced friend.





Ring in some New Year's financial resolutions

here, you may want to make of sudden, sharp swings in someNewYear's resolutions. the financial markets, and Planning to volunteer? Go you're likely going to see to the gym more often? but this year, why not add market. Over-reacting leads some *financial* resolutions to short-term thinking as well?

Which should you make? Here are long-term perspective. few ideas to consider:

 Boost retirement accounts. want to increase time. your contributions to your retirement accounts. If your salary is going up in of the past couple of years 2011, boost the amount you has obviously been a cause defer for your 401(k) or of concern for everyone, 403(b) plan (if you work for concerned about overorganization) or a 457(b) or local government).

With several investment options, these types of plans are tremendous ways to save for *cash levels*. As an investor, retirement. And try to "max you've got at least two good out" your traditional or Roth reasons for maintaining IRA, too.

 Look opportunities. With uncertainties in the economy be ready to act quickly to and the volatility of the take advantage of good financial markets, many investment opportunities. people decide to head to the And second, by having a investment "sidelines" for a cash cushion, you won't be while. Yet, this environment forced to liquidate long-term may actually be a good one investments to pay for shortfor investors with patience, term needs such as a major discipline and the ability car repair, a new furnace, a to look beyond yesterday's big doctor's bill, and so on. headlines. For one thing, we're still seeing rates - factors that may lead to greater economic demand follow. and improved strength in the financial markets.

market swings. Over the past Financial Advisor.

Now that 2011 is almost few years, we've seen plenty more of them in 2011. Don't Learn a new language? All over-react to either the worthy ambitions, of course, "ups" or the "downs" of the and successful investors are resolutions the ones who can maintain a

• Rebalance when your necessary. At least once a No year, review and rebalance matter how old you'll be in your portfolio, as necessary, 2011, one thing is certain to make sure it still reflects you're a year closer to your goals, risk tolerance retirement than you were and family situation, all in 2010. And that's why of which can change over

 Reduce your debts. While the sluggish economy other employer-sponsored we have seen one "silver retirement plan, such as a lining" in that many people, a school or other tax-exempt spending, have shed some of their debt load. The less plan (if you work for a state money you have to spend on your debts, the more you'll tax-deductible have available to invest for contributions, tax-deferred your future, so do what you growth of earnings and can to cut down on what you owe.

> • Maintain adequate enoughcashinyourportfolio. for First, having adequate cash the available means you'll

By following these many quality securities are suggestions, you can now good values. Also, position yourself to make low progress toward your longinflation and low interest term goals in 2011 - and in all the New Years that

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by • Don't over-react to your local Edward Jones

lend a hand ering opportunities

West Michigan has scheduled an information session on Thursday, January 6 and Wednesday, January 12 2011 for prospective volunteer tutors. This session is held at 6:30 p.m. and lasts one hour. It allows persons interested in becoming volunteer tutors to find out more about the Center and its literacy programs. At the end of the session, there will be an opportunity to sign up for tutor training.

W. Michigan is a nonprofit, United Way agency devoted Rapids, MI. Please call us to reducing illiteracy in our at 459-5151 (ext. 10) to community. Based on 1990 census figures, at least 19,000

Ri

area

(United Church of Christ)

www.OurBigChurch.org

unday Worship......10:00 a.m.

Church School 10:15-11:15 a.m.

arrier-freeNursery Provided

No matter where

you are on life's journey.

You are welcome here

(Assembly of God)

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!

621 E. Main Street • 897-5936

www.lowellumc.com

WORSHIP..... 8:30 & 10:30 a.m

SUNDAY SCHOOL9:30 a.m

Rev. Rick Blunt

Barrier-free entrance

CHURCH OF LOWELI

hursday Faith Alive

The Literacy Center of adults in Kent County cannot read at a functional level. At least 6,000 adults cannot speak or understand English well. By training people to be tutors, the Center can offer one-on-one reading help to adults asking for assistance in reading or English as a Second Language (ESL) You do not need to speak another language to tutor

The information session will be held at the Literacy Center of West Michigan The Literacy Center of located at 1120 Monroe Ave., NW, Suite 240, Grand register.

Planning

A Wedding?

We offer the

Carlson Craft

line of invitations.

105 N. BROADWAY • LOWELL

area births

Tesimu

Adriyanna and Jay 11 oz. and Sjouke weighed Tesimu welcomed home 7 lbs. 4 oz. Proud parents their new brothers, Taoli are Samuel and Tara (May) Levao and Sjouke Halevaka. Tesimu. Proud grandparents They were born December are Jay and Oranda May 13, 2010, sharing their of Lowell and Godwin and birthday with Grandma Doris Tesimu of the Solomon



DECEMBER 29 Amanda Martin, Donna Baker, Lauren Malone.

DECEMBER 30 Stacy Thomas, Ben Hodges, Kyle Triplett, Joe Hunt, Stacey Craig, Maliree Gee, Joshua Trierweiler, Matthew

DECEMBER 31 Marcie Page, DeHaan, Boerema.

LOW COST

No restrictions.

Available for everyone. Also vaccinations, tests

SPAY &

NEUTER

Trierweiler.

JANUARY 1 Tory Abel, John Wenger, Alice Hesche, Carolyn Yonker, Amanita Fahrni, Bea Hoekstra.

JANUARY 2 Rose Nead, Helen Kuiper, Angie Sloan.

JANUARY 3 Jon Vezino, Agnes Kent, Audrie Olszewski Bill Lloyd Callihan, Jane Lally Charles Rick Fyan.

> **JANUARY 4** NicholasKnonenwetter, Donna Johnson, Ruth Wood.



LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 201 N. Washington Lowell, MI • 897-8800

Sundays - Christian Education......9:15 a.m. ..10:40 a.m. Wednesdays - Kid's Service, Teen's Service, Adult Bible Study7:00 p.m

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org Worship Service.....

(Nursery available)

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL 897-7060

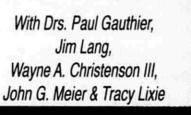
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI Morning Worship. .10:00 A. M. Sunday School. .11:20 A.M. Evening Worship ..6:00 P.M. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free

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



health



parenting advice

rewarding, but it can also every day. be stressful. No parent is 5. Praise perfect and everyone makes children. When your child mistakes. The following are learns to do something new, some tips to follow to help tell they you are proud of your kids grow up happy:

1. Spend time with your children. Do things children. When a child does together like reading, something wrong, explain playing, cleaning. Children love and how they could do it attention. Bad behavior is correctly the next time. often attemps to get your attention.

children. Listening to them and bedtimes. makes them feel important.

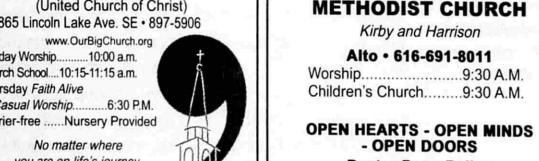
them they are protected.

4. Show your love. rules. Hug and kiss them often



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and parasite control 616.897.9261 Call 897-8865 www.spayneuterexpress.com CAURCHES



FIRST BAPTIST **CHURCH OF LOWELL** 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org Rev. David O. Sims , Rev. W. Lee Taylor & Pastor Phil Severn In. Worship Service Sunday School Hour... .. 11:00 A.N WANA/EXCITE • TEENS. ...Wed. 6:15 P.M Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free FIRST UNITED METHODIST 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. 393, EWTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Kirby and Harrison

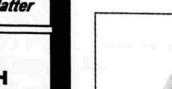
CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery

Pastor Dean Bailey

Pastor Wes Hershberger

Lowell Naz - Where People Matter

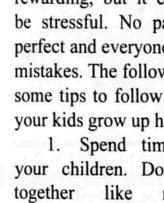
Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307



....Saturday - 5:00 P.M. Sunday -10:00 A.M.Sunday, 9:00 A.M. Sunday School...

All facilities are wheelchair accessible





Oranda. Taoli weighed 7 lbs. Islands.

ledger

ednesday · december · 29 · 2010



Being a parent is very and tell them they are loved,

your them.

6. Avoid criticizing talking and to them why it was wrong

7. Provide order in their lives. Keep regular 2. Listen to your schedules for meals, naps

8. Be consistent. 3. Make your child Rules should be clear and feel safe. Comfort them consistent. Both parents as when they're scared. Show well as any other caregivers should uphold the same

wednesday · december · 29 · 2010

Alto students connect with Schneider

After Thanksgiving, the discussion of "germ warfare" fifth grade students of Alto and the need to prevent the began to write formal letters spread of bacteria. There to the residents of Schneider were many adult volunteers Manor in Lowell. They were who helped guide the planning a Christmas Sing- process of preparing the along, and they wanted to treats for the residents. invite each member to join in the fun on December from this 16. A month of planning somewhat and practicing carols went Some genuine comments by quickly. During the last overheard, week of school, the students produced handmade greeting cards and over 3000 homemade cookies and candies.

The cooking (and clean-up) were all part be so much fun." of a community service project led by Alto teachers. candy cane!" Boys and girls took turns cleaning their workspace

Ruby Party

these lovable characters,

will have bunny games;

bunny crafts, and other

book-related bunny fun. For

children ages 6 and under

with a caregiver. Wed., Jan.

Family Storytime

movement as a family;

develop early literacy skills

and encourage a love of

reading. For children ages 6

Share books, stories,

and

12, 6:30 p.m.

rhymes, music

This party, based on

Other lessons gleaned event were unexpected.

"That was a bodacious concert!!!"

"Wow, those seniors really liked us!"

"I never knew that giving to other people could

"My person gave me a

Bus drivers from the school's transportation and demonstrated serious department donated their hygiene control as they time and expertise to measured, mixed, rolled carry the kids to and from and baked the cookies and the Schneider Manor candies. This followed a Community Center. Former



ledger

Alto staffers Mary Ann Schramm led the hol sing-along and Norma Peterson accompanied group on the piano.

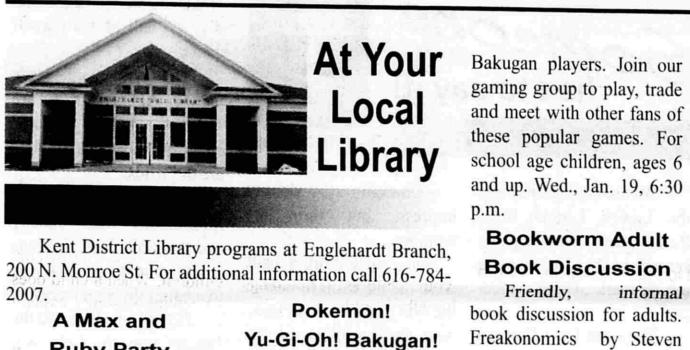
Bookworm Adult

Book Discussion

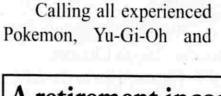
D. Levitt and Stephen J.

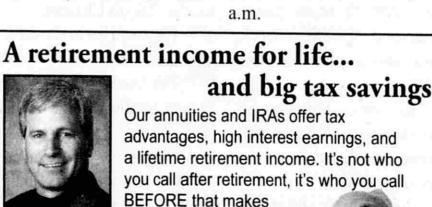
Dubner. Tues., Jan. 11, 10

Friendly, informal



Yu-Gi-Oh! Bakugan!





the difference.

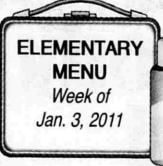
Call today!

Terry Abel

6095 28th Street SE - Suite 4 Grand Rapids







MON: Hotdog on bun patty w/cheese on also offered at Cherry Creek & Mu Lake), oven French fresh baby carrots, m fruit, milk.

TUES: Tony's peppe pizza (chili w/crackers offered at Alto, Ch Creek & Murrav La broccoli florets w/ra warm baked apple s

WED: Pancakes or o w/graham crackers, w/scrambled eggs, orange smiles, cinna applesauce, milk.

THURS: Chicken nu mashed potato bow wheat roll (tuna s sandwich also offere Alto, Cherry Creek Murray Lake), mai potatoes/gravy, peaches, milk.

FRI: Nachos w shredded cheese (3) sub also offered at Cherry Creek & M Lake), tossed salad romaine, refried bean cheese, chilled pinea

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"ledger

- WRESTLING

Work to be done but, Lowell wrestlers are on the right path

by Thad Kraus

Lowell wrestling team'sprocessofachieving a complete lineup is a function of time.

Meanwhile, the Red Arrows continue to work on their timing and shape. "Those are December things," said Lowell wrestling coach Dave Dean.

Another December thing is the annual quad with Detroit Catholic Central, Lakeshore and Rockford.

It took place on Tuesday at Rockford High School.

and the Red Arrows Kyle Carlson (ranked third over Rockford, Lowell Lakeshore to a scrap posted wins against the in division 2) at 285. Lancers and Rams.

Red Arrow

Lowell defeated Lakeshore 52-14 and then upended Rockford 38-21.

"Lakeshore was a bit short handed but we had some young wrestlers step and wrestle well," Dean explained. "Kalvin Meyer didn't wrestle. He's been won an overtime decision practicing, but we're going against Kyle Frese and to make it a controlled Jacob Stevens was real return," Dean explained. competitive against Travis "He wanted to wrestle, but Dragomer.'

Lowell victory was Jake

www.thelowellledger.com

Check us out online ...

Both the Shamrocks Lynema's win against

Gabe Dean (215) earned a tough win against the Lancers' Kyle Spear.

The Red Arrows wrestled without the services of Dan Fleet and Gabe Morse.

"Dan weighed in but a few more days will be Other highlights in the good for his ankle."

"ledger

In its 19-point win tough used two, two-point decisions at 171 and 189 explained. "We pulled pounds by Jake Stehley and Garett Stehley.

Freshman (Garret) was impressive as he turned back Rockford's Zack Banaszak.

against match with Rockford," Dean through, but physically we broke down in a few matches. Some of the matches were closer than they should have been. We need to get kids to



We are eight games into the Lowell Ledger Bowl impress, Pick Bonanza and only two winning. entries are ahead of my pole setting mark of four correct picks.

(6) and Joey Webster (5).

If my math is correct, there are 20 more games his San Diego Chargers. scheduled for this week, with seven the following is Kansas City. week.

In golf, Saturday is in will be the winner of the moving day, making this NFC West. moving week for those who

never hurt anyone.

Has anyone figured out and make the playoffs. the NFL yet? If so get back Otherwise, it's the powerful

Every week there seems

the team that has marched along to a 13-2 mark, but isn't getting much notice.

Chicago doesn't but The New York Giants

were the the team to beat in the NFC a few weeks back, They are Dale Dawson now they are out of the playoffs

> As is Phillip Rivers and The surprise in the AFC

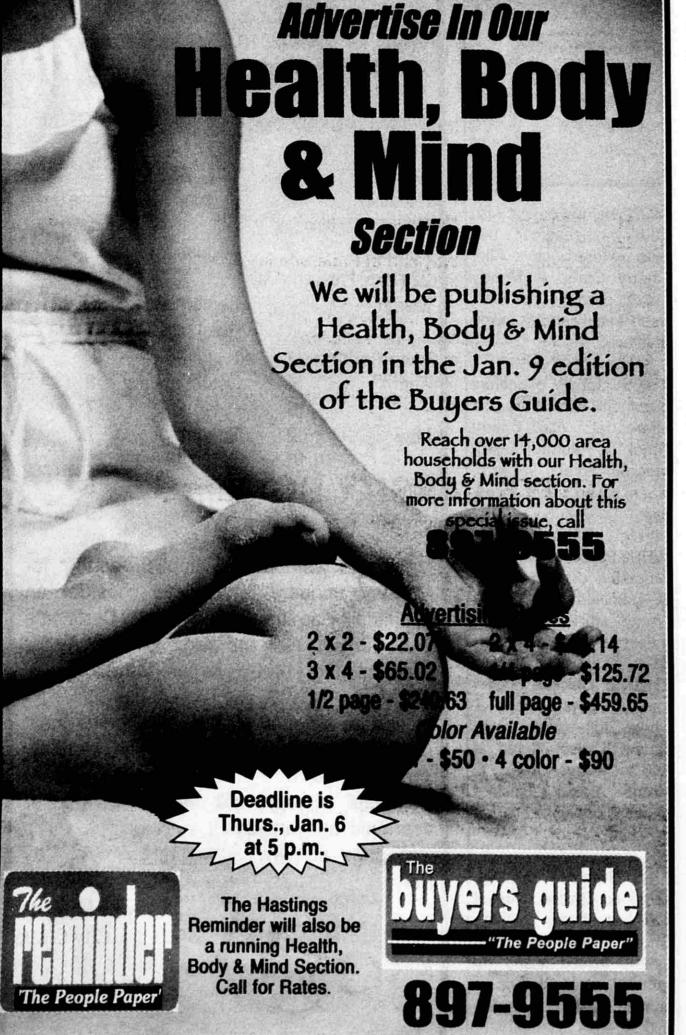
The worst team to get

That will be decided Sunday when the St. Louis Rams (7-8) play the Seattle Seahawks (6-9). If Seattle wins they win the division

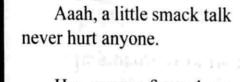
8-8 Rams. There is only one spot

If the Colts win against

Atlanta appears to be the Titans next week, they



have any game.



to me.

to be a new team of the week. It appears that it's left in the AFC playoffs. New England now.



vednesday • december • 29 • 2010

in shape."

Lowell will host the super duals this week. The Red Arrows will face Sparta, Lothrop, Davison and Richmond.

"Sparta may be the sleeper in Division 2." Dean said. "We have much more to do, but I like the "We went from a their weight and get them direction we're headed."

> are in the playoffs. They will also win the AFC South division and host a playoff game.

The wild card seeds in the AFC playoffs are wrapped up. The Jets and either the Ravens or Steelers are the wilds.

If the Jaguars win If Jacksonville wins Sunday and the Colts lose, the Jags would go to the playoffs due to a better division record.

If the Colts lose and the Jaguars lose, the Colts win the South due to having a better overall record.

The NFC Wild Card spots are a still a little shaky, and though it seems likely the NFC West champs would play the New Orleans Saints, that could change. A New Orleans win against Atlanta guarantees them a playoff berth. A Falcons win this week and a Saints win next week over Tampa Bay, still means that the Saints would travel to St. Louis to open the playoffs. A loss to the Falcons in week 16 followed by a loss to Tampa Bay would mean that the Rams face either the Buccaneers or Green Bay. A Packers win over the Bears next week and a Tampa Bay win over the Saints gives the Rams a date with Green

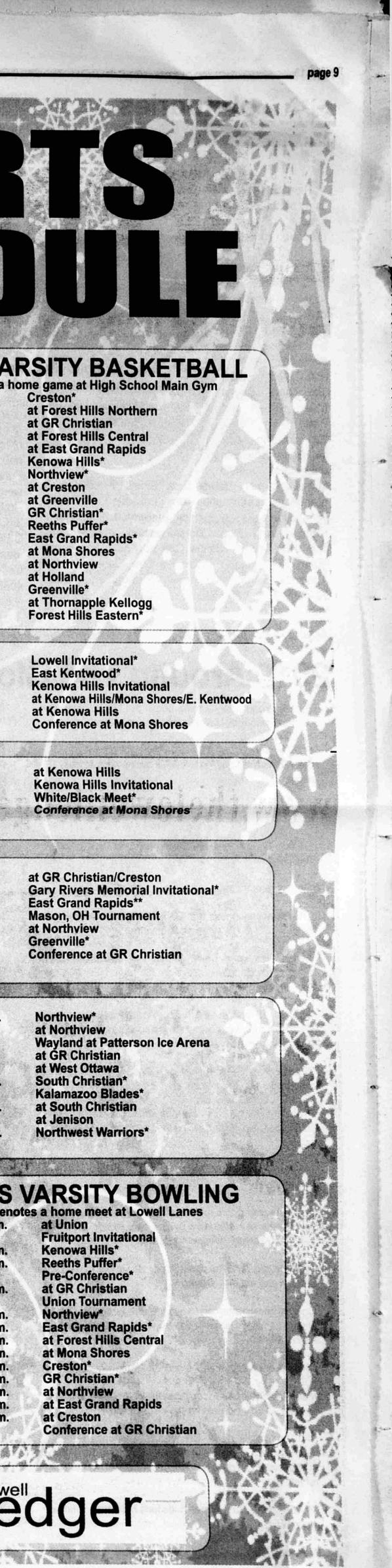
Bay. A Bears win and a Tampa win means that the Rams would play the Bucs.

Got that? Good! had to look it up and now I feel ill after reading through it.

Everybody else waits till after the final week of the regular season to make their Super Bowl picks. Not I!

It's Green Bay and New England and the Packers win!!!!!

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	12/15 12/17 12/22 12/28	* Denotes	ARSITY WRESTLING a home meet at High School Gym a home meet at Middle School Gym at Reeths Puffer/Mona Shores Mishawaka** Rockford Quad Super Duals* New Lothrop Invitational	1/12 1/15 1/19 1/22 1/26 2/2 2/5	6 p.m. 9 a.m. 7 p.m. 9:30 a.m. 7 p.m. 7 p.m. TBA
	12/17 12/18 12/22 1/7 1/8 1/12 1/14 1/15	BOYS * Denotes 6:20 p.m. 4:20 p.m. 7 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m. 8:30 p.m. 4 p.m.	A home meet at Kentwood Ice Arena at Milford (Kettering Tournament) Kettering Tournament at Kenowa Hills Jenison* at Portage Northern at Creston Wayland* West Ottawa*	1/21 1/22 1/28 1/29 2/2 2/11 2/12 2/18 2/19 2/25	8:30 p.m. 5 p.m. 9 p.m. 6 p.m. 8 p.m. 8:30 p.m. 4 p.m. 8:30 p.m. 6 p.m. 8:30 p.m. 8:30 p.m.
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13		Th	is Page Brought To You		the lowell



obituaries

MILLER

Nina B. Miller, born December 19, 1931, passed away at home December 24, 2010, after her battle with

cancer. She was preceded in death by her husband, Leroy (Ted); son, Ronald; both parents; five sisters; one brother; daughter-in-law, Cathy; and son-inlaw, Russell. She is survived by her sons and their wives, Jim and Cheryl Miller. Robert and Miller, Patti their 12 children and 14 grandchildren: daughters, Anita



Miller and her partner Lisa Storrs, Anna Collins; grandsons, Leroy and Kerry Lozada, Craig Miller, Brent Storrs (Kristin Barnes), James Lozada (Autumn Rumsey) and Logan Storrs; granddaughters, Jamie and Rich Larsen, Calina Collins (Eric Mast); greatgrandsons, Brandon, Taven, Matthew, Caden, Landon, Adam Owen and Mason; great-grandaughters, Nichole, Jessany, Trinity, and Sierra; one sister, Anna Swanson from Judsonia, Arkanas; sister-in-laws, Eleanor,

"ledger

Wanda, Sharon and Elaine; brother-in-law, Robert; and numerous nieces and nephews. Memorial service will be at the Lowell Riverside Fellowship of Seventh-Day Adventists Church at 10300 Vergennes St., Lowell on January 16 2011 at 2 p.m.

VANDER MEULEN

Walter I. Vander Meulen, of Lowell, went to be with his Lord, Thursday, December 23, 2010. He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles (Martha)

Vander Meulen: sisters. Iva and Nancy. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Marion; children, Carole (Jim) Ponchaud. (Tom) Mesler, Chuck (Sue) Vander Meulen: brother-in-law. DeKoster: grandchildren; twelve great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews; and loyal cat Lucy. Funeral services were held Sunday at Roth-Gerst Chapel. 305 N. Hudson, Rev.

Chris Schwab officiating. Interment Bailey Cemetery Memorial contributions can be made to: American Cancer Society, 129 Jefferson S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or Alzheimer's Association, 2944 Fuller Avenue, N.E., Suite 101, Grand Rapids, MI 49505.

2010 Around The Globe, continued

Survivors and family commemorate the 15th anniversary of those who died in the bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building.

- Cleanup begins after deadly Miss. twister kills at least 10 people
- BP sends underwater robots, five aircraft, and 32 vessels to contain flowing oil after oil rig blast off Louisiana.
- George W. Bush's book "Decision Points" set a Nov. 9 release date.
- General Motors pays off U.S. government aid loans.
- The Navy announces that women, for the first time, will now be allowed to serve on submarines.
- British Petroleum vows to pay all necessary and appropriate clean-up costs from the huge oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.
- At least 19 people are dead following a weekend of thunderstorms that caused severe flooding in Tennessee, Mississippi and Kentucky.
- Actress Lynn Redgrave, 67, dies. Redgrave was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2003.
- President Obama picks Elena Kasan for Supreme Court. At 50 years old, Kasan will be the youngest justice on the court.
- Lena Horne, jazz singer and actress, passes away at the age of 92.
- The supreme court rules the federal government can keep some sex offenders behind bars indefinitely after they have served their sentences.
- After the massive Arkansas flood, 19 people have died and several are still missing.
- Country music artist and sausage entrepreneur, Jimmy Dean, died at his home in Varina, Virginia, Sunday, at the age of 81.
- China passes Japan as the second largest economy.
- Mark David Chapman, convicted killer of music icon John Lennon, is up for parole for the sixth time.
- BP Gulf well is dead. BP officials announce Sunday that the well is officially capped. However, long-term environmental, industry, and legal impacts from the spill remain unknown.
- UNICEF: 100,000 Pakistani kids face starvation in latest report.
- · President Obama signs a \$42 billion bill to aid small

business. The bill seeks to create thousands of jobs and will offer about \$12 billion in tax breaks.

- · Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg announces he is donating \$100 million towards improving public schools in Newark, New Jersey. "Every child deserves a good education, and right now it's not happening," Zuckerberg says.
- Google announces Sunday that it has developed cars that drive themselves automatically in traffic and that it has been testing them on the streets of California for months.
- British Prime Minister says U.S. forces may have thrown a grenade during a rescue operation in Afghanistan that killed a British aid worker.
- The Chilean miners are tantalizingly close to freedom. For the past two months 33 miners have been trapped half a mile underground.
- Democrat Virg Bernero and Republican Rick Snyder clash on jobs, education and social issues in Sunday's live and only scheduled debate.
- In a latest Nielsen study, texting is on the rise. The average teenager sends over 3,000 texts per month. That's more than six texts per waking hour.
- Los Angeles, California The California fertility doctor who implanted embryos in Nadya Suleman (Octomom), resulting in the birth of octuplets last year, faces a hearing Monday on a charge he was "grossly negligent" and could lose his license.
- BP sells four Gulf of Mexico fields to Marubeni to pay for oil spill.
- · A 26-year-old swimmer, Fran Crippen, and member of the U.S. swim team, dies during the last leg of the 10kilometer Marathon Swimming World Cup.
- Investigators believe two explosive packages found at airports in Dubai and the United Kingdom on Friday were assembled by the same bomb-maker responsible for the device used in last year's failed Christmas Day "underwear bomb" plot.
- Comedy Central funny men Jon Stewart and Stephan Colbert hold a "Rally to Restore Sanity and/or Fear" in Washington DC. The event turned out thousands of people.
- Speechwriter to JFK, Theodore C. Sorensen, at the age of 82, passs away Sunday.
- Detroit officials report the city has 169 fires during the three day Halloween period.
- Gov-elect Rick Snyder says he wants to be a friend to

2010 an eventful year

our diamond anniversary year, has been full of accomplishments.

We launched an important new service in 2010: the online Medicare application. It allows people reaching age 65 who opt to delay receiving from their computer in as socialsecurity.gov/appeals. little as 10 minutes. Also exciting is that we reunited Duke Show to promote the Medicare application at nedicareonly.

Speaking of Medicare. a "twist" in the law makes t easier for more people to qualify for Extra Help with www.socialsecurity.gov/ their Medicare prescription some things no longer count as income and resources. Government Plan. Chubby Checker, who made

Detroit. Michigan "can't be a great state until Detroit is on the path to being a great city. Detroit, too, needs a

- authorities.
- diplomatic cables sent between 1966 and 2010.
- Lelsie Nelson of 'Naked Gun' and 'Airplane' fame dies at the age of 84.
- borders.
- involve 500.000 to 1.5 million women.
- WikiLeaks publishes a secret document listing locations the U.S. considers vital to its national security.
- Washington Top senators from both parties indicate unemployment benefits that have expired.
- A band of frigid weather snaked up the east coast on inches fell on the east coast
- trial Feb. 7 on felony computer misuse charges.

Italian police were called to the Greek, Venezulian and Danish embassies in Rome after suspicious packages were found, authories said. The parcel at the Greek Embassy contained an explosive, police said.

- Duma voted 350-58 in favor of the accord.
- Top officials in Moscow have accepted a French offer to office said.





wednesday • december • 29 • 2010

Social Security is the "The Twist" popular, helped nation's most successful make the announcement domestic program. It's with a public service easy to look back at what a campaign. Learn more, and difference it has made over watch Chubby twist again, the past 75 years. And 2010, at www.socialsecurity.gov/ prescriptionhelp.

We took great strides in 2010 to help speed up the disability process, helping people with the most severe disabilities get their benefits faster as well as reducing the number of people waiting for a hearing on their appeal. retirement benefits to apply Learn more at the Hearings for Medicare coverage and Appeals website: www.

Social Security has shown that transparency is the original cast of The Patty as important to us as it is to President Obama. In January new application. Reunite 2010, the agency made new with the cast and go to the data available to the general public, supporting the www.socialsecurity.gov/ President's Transparency and Open Government initiative. In February, the agency launched an Open Government website at open and in April Social drug plan costs because Security used that website to showcase the agency's Open

On Friday morning, appearing on MSNBC's Morning Joe, vice president Joe Biden described 2014 as the "drop dead date" for "transitioning" power to Afghan

Top U.S. officials blast WikiLeaks for releasing thousands of secret documents. The website says it has 251,288

Seoul, South Korea - President Lee Myung-bak warns Monday that North Korea will face severe consequences if it launches another military attack across its southern

The Supreme Court will consider throwing out a massive lawsuit that claims Walmart pays women less than men and promotes women less frequently. The case could

Sunday that a deal is likely soon on temporarily extending Bush-era tax cuts for all Americans, along with

Sunday, causing blizzard-like conditions and wreaking havoc on travelers from the Carolinas to Maine. Up to 23

Rochester Hills, MI - A man who says he learned of his wife's affair by reading her email on their computer, faces

Moscow - The lower house at the Russian parliament gave preliminary approval to start a nuclear arms reduction treaty between Russia and the U.S. The start

help supply the Russian Navy with two new amphibious assault warships, French President Nicolas Sarkozy's wednesday · december · 29 · 2010 -

office hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. Fri. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. closed Sat. & Sun.

for sale

AMERICAN GIRL DOLL **CLOTHES** - homemade outfits \$10 & under. Come to my home & see. 6 miles E. of Lowell. 642-6097

'78 MOTOR HOME - \$1,250. Call 691-8847.

A GIFT THAT WILL LAST FOREVER - For sale American Campground - Spring Lake Resort & RV membership. 2 sister parks in MI & PA (near Gettysburg). Affiliated w/Coast to Coast. \$1,500. For information call 676-0231.

WESHI PUPPIES - 3 males. 1 female. 2 white. 1 black, 1 Brindle daddy is a Westi & mommy is a Shih Tzu. Will have their first shots. Please call 322-5144 between 11a.m. - 8 p.m. Female is \$400 & males \$350.

SUPPORT THE LOWEL ACADEMIC BOOSTERS & SAVE MONEY! - With a Key Card! Cards are \$20. Stop by & get your card today, Lowell Ledger 105 N. Broadway. Cash or check only please.

LAND CONTRACT - low down, 2 bedroom single wide mobile on very nice wooded lot. Newer well & septic system. \$64.900. Call Ron at 616-291-1413.

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LAST CHANCE TO MAKE SURE YOUR BUSINESS IS LISTED - in the 2011 Lowell City Directory! If you run a business out of your home & do not have a business phone number in the Grand Rapids phone book, there is a charge to put your phone number in the Lowell City Directory. There will also be a charge if you would like your cell phone listed or for an out of the area listing. The cost is \$15. Please call Tammy at 897-9560 or emai citydirectory@att.net for further info or to place your order.

ORDER YOUR CENTRAL BOILER CLASSIC OUT-DOOR WOOD FURNACE WHILE THEY ARE STILL AVAILABLE - The Classic model will no longer be offered after Sept. 2011. EPA Phase 2 E Classic & Maxim corn & pellet burner will be availabel. Call SOS your "Stocking Dealer" Dutton, MI 616-554-8669 or 616-915-5061.

NEWSPAPERENDROLLS AVAILABLE AT THE BUY-ERS GUIDE - Many uses, table cover, art projects, packaging, etc. \$3-\$5 each. Stop by & grab one today! 105 N. Broadway.

SOUND OFF PHONE LINE 897-0787.

for rent

FOR RENT-House, barns, pasture. Horse lovers dream. 3 bedrooms, 10906 Finn Rd., Lowell Schools. 616-897-5807.

FOR RENT - 1,800 sq. ft. country home. 4 bedroom. No smoking, no pets. \$750 per month plus utilities. References. Saranac schools. 642-0462.

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 897-8303.TEN

PRICELESS STOR-AGE - Indoor/outdoor. New Units on Alden Nash, 1 mile South of 196. Call for specials 558-2900.m

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

SENIORS CITIZENS! -1 bedroom HUD subsidized If you are charging admission free. 897-7688. apartments for rent! Rent | for an event - it is considered an based on income for those who qualify! BEAUTIFUL 6 acre country setting! Pets welcome! Conveniently located 20 minutes East of Grand Rapids. Call today to join our small waiting list. Equal Housing Opportunity. 616-693-2271, hearing impaired dial 711.

FOR RENT - Saranac bedroom upper apartment. new kitchen, bath, carpet. \$375 rent plus utilities. Call 616-890-2594.

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

help wanted

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

EDUCATIONAL SPECIAL IST FOR ALL AGES flexible, creative, original thinker, for new program. Check www.hammock learning.com

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wanted

- ledger

WALNUT TREES WANT-ED - Cash paid, insured work. Bob Sayers, Ionia, MI. 616-527-4142.

USED CHRISTMAS TREES - Used live trees. Will pickup, pay \$5. Steve 308-7988

100 FT. + SELF-SUP-PORTNG TOWER- Looking for 100 ft. (or greater) self supporting tower. New or used. Will pick up. 616-821-3766.

lost

LOST - REWARD \$100 - aluminum/plywood trailer ramp, between fairgrounds & I-96, 3 months ago. Call w/any information, Randy Smith, 616-292-7702.

services

SLEIGH RIDES - (Carriage rides also available). Your place or ours. New Years Eve downtown GR. For more information call 676-2895 or 616-204-3190. SNOWPLOWING - Ada. Cascade, Lowell area Residential & commercial, insured, seasonal or per time. Call Jon at Scenic Expressions, LLC, 240-4464.

YOGA CLASSES - Tues & Thurs. 6:30 p.m.; Fri 8 a.m. at Dery Physical Therapy. Cost \$6: www. hammocklearning.com or call 616-893-5661

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advertisement. Coming events are ran on a space available basis & ARE NOT GUARANTEED TO RUN. If you would like to make sure your event is placed in the paper, please call our office & place it as a classified ad. We will not run ANY Garage or Rummage Sales as a coming event. All Coming Events or changes to coming events should be sub-

BOOK WORM BOOK CLUB Jan. 17, 6 p.m. at the Saranac Public Library. Discussing Charles and Emma by Deborah Heiligman.

corn. Saranac Public Library.

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINIS-TRIES THRIFT STORE - is open Wed. - Fri., 10 - 6 p.m.; Sat., 10 E. Thrift Shop, 897-8260, Food Pantry 897-8260, Emergency Services, 897-8260.

p.m.; Tues. 6-9 p.m.; Thurs. 10-6 p.m. 987-9533. Diapers, formula, clothing & free pregnancy testing available.

ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY HOURS - Mon.-Wed., noon - 8 p.m.; Thurs. & Fri., 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat., 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 647-3920.

LOWELLAREAARTSCOUNCIL GALLERY HOURS - Tues. - Fri.. 10-6p.m.; Sat., 1-4p.m.; Monday by appt.; 149 S. Hudson. Visit www.lowellartscouncil.org.or call 897-8545.

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM - open Tuesday, Saturday & Sunday:1-4 p.m.; Thursday:

PLEASE NOTE - Coming Events 1-8 p.m. Families: \$10; individual pel, 10200 Grand River Ave. Moms NOOGIELAND - Tuesdays are for non-profit organizations. \$3; ages 5-17 \$1.50; members & grandmas come pray for our 5:30 - 7 p.m. Supervised play

MARY'S PREGNANCY ST. CRISIS CENTER- 402 Amity Mondays: 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Thursdays: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Nondenominational. Help for pregnant women/adolescents in need. Provides support, referrals, food, clothing/infantitems. Lowell area. 897-9393.

LOWELL SERENITY CLUB for children in first - eighth grade MEETINGS - (AA) Mon., Wed., Thurs.: 12-1 & 8-9 p.m.; Tues. & Fri.: 12-1, 4:30-5:30 p.m. & 8-9 p.m.; Sat. & Sun.: 10-11 a.m. & 8-9 p.m. 101 W. Main. 897-8565.

SHOTGUN & ARCHERY SHOOT-**ING LEAGUES** - at Caledonia Sportsman's Club (Alto/Freeport). Contact Al Potas 698-2051 or email shooting@csc.us.com.

Cascade Fellowship Christian Ref. Church, 6655 Cascade Rd. Free perishable food. 1st Monday. Register: 4:30 p.m. Distribution: 6 p.m.

BINGO - Every Sunday, 2 p.m. The Moose Rec Hall, 1320 E. Main St. Sponsored by W.O.T.M. Chapter #1388. Open to the public.

EVERYTHURSDAY - Nigh service at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 865 Lincoln Lake SE at 6:30 p.m. Public welcome. for grief support groups. Gilda's NEW CLASSES FOR EVERY-ONE - children - adults at Christian Life Center, 3050 Alden Nash SE, Lowell. Every Wednesday 7-8 p.m. Bible-centered classes for children through 5th grade, youth group for 6th grade thru high school & adult prayer & Bible study. Everyone is nvited to attend.

ST. PATRICK PLAYGROUP Thursdays 10 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. St. Patrick's preschool room. Stories, games, crafts, music & snack. Parents with young children welcome Call Jennifer Post. 897-0251 or Sally Goffer, 863-4952 with any auestions

MOMS IN TOUCH INTERNA TIONAL - Thursdays 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. at Friendship Country Cha-

classifieds@lowellbuyersquide. com, by mail: PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or in person: 105 N.

mitted by fax: 897-4809, email: Broadway, Lowell.

MOVIE NIGHT - Jan. 18, 6:30 p.m. showing Despicable Me. Free pop-

a.m. - 4 p.m. at 11535 Fulton St.

ALPHA WOMEN'S CENTER 2251 W. Main. Hours: Mon. 11-5

AVERILL HISTORICAL MU-SEUM OF ADA - 7144 Headley. is open every Friday & Saturday 1 -4 p.m. or by appointment. Closed Jan. & Feb. 676-9346.

ALTO LIBRARY HOURS: Tues. & Wed., 12 - 8 p.m.; Mon. & Sat., 9:30-1:30 p.m.; Thurs., 1-5 p.m. Info., call 647-3820.

own container.

FOOD PANTRY - at Lakeside Community Church, 6201 Whitneyville Rd. Free frozen, perishable food. First Friday. Registration 2:30, distribution 4 p.m. Bring



services

STEVEN R. SIMKINS, AT-TORNEY AT LAW - I am a lifelong resident of the Lowell community offering superior legal representation at affordable rates. Call 350-0909 for your free consultation.TEN

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services

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TAXES, PAYROLL. QUICKBOOKS, & AC-COUNTING SERVICE by certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-6351.TEN

LAMINATING SERVICE AVAILABLE - Next day service. Drop off & pieces will be available by 9 a.m. the next day. Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell

kids & schools. Contact Missy at for children kindergarten or 308-7920 or jakooistra@comcast. younger. Gilda's Club - Lowell net with any questions.

ORIGAMI - Each Tuesday, 2-3 p.m. Learn the ancient art of paper folding. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell,

CANCER-KIDS&TWEENTALK GROUP - First & third Tuesdays, 5:30 - 7 p.m. A committed group on a cancer journey. Incorporates curriculum-based activities, discussion & fun. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell.

GRIEF - ADULT GROUP - Each Tuesday, 2-3 p.m. & second & fourth Tuesdays 5:30 - 7 p.m. A committed group for adults who have experienced the death of a family member or friend.Gilda's MOBILE FOOD PANTRY - at Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell.

> **GRIEF - KIDS GROUP - Second** & fourth Tuesdays, 5:30 - 7 p.m. A committed group for children in first - fourth grade on a grief journey. Incorporates curriculumbased activities, dicussion & fun. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell.

> **GRIEF - NEW MEMBER MEET-**ING - Call the clubhouse to schedule your introductory meeting Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600.

FREE ADDICTIONS PROGRAM every Friday, 7 p.m. at Bible Believers Church, 404 N. Hudson St., Lowell. For more information call 616-485-2385.

MOTHERSWHOHAVEORHAVE HAD - sons/daughters serving in the military. We are meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. For more info call Sally 616-761-2042.

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES First Baptist Church of Lowell has made available new sign up times for this great savings opportunity! Signups are first 2 weeks of each month. Tues. - Fri., 9-5 p.m. at the church office with cash or Bridge Card: or online with your debit or credit card at www.angelfood ministries.com. First Baptist Church. 2275 W. Main, Lowell. Call the church office at 897-7168 or Angie at 897-0420 with questions.

Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600. www.gildasclubgr org /pinkarrow

KINGDOM KIDS, CADETS & GEMS - meets every other Wednesday, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. a Calvary CRC, Lowell. Programs for preschool - 8th Grade. GEMS for girls meets in the Church building, Cadets & Kingdom Kids meet in the ministry center. Call 897-7060 for info.

AMAX & RUBY PARTY!-Based on these lovable characters will have bunny games, bunny crafts & other book-related bunny fun. Wed., Jan. 12, 6:30 p.m. at the Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell 616-784-2007

EXPERIENCE EGYPT - Play games & make crafts related to all things Egyptian: dress like a pharaoh, make yourself into mummies, & create a pyramid. Sat., Jan. 29, 10:30 a.m. at the Alto Branch Library, 6071 Linfield Ave., 616-784-2007.

POKEMON! YU-GI-OH! BA-KUGAN! - Calling all expe rienced Pokemon, Yu-Gi-Oh and Bakugan players, join our gaming group to play, trade, & meet with other fans of these popular games. For ages 6 8 up. Wed., Jan. 19, 6:30 p.m., a the Englehardt Branch Library 200 N. Monroe, Lowell. 616 784-2007.

V.F.W. POST #8303 - meets the first Monday at 7 p.m. at 3116 Alden Nash S.E.

LOWELL SHOWBOAT GAR-DEN CLUB - meets the 3rd Monday in the Church of the Nazarene Fellowship Hall, 211 N. Washington St. at 6:30 p.m

BOY SCOUT TROOP 102 - ev ery Monday, 7-8:30 p.m. during school year in Scout Cabin a the end of N. Washington St Ages 11 and up or completing 5th grade. Call Scoutmaster Randy Jesberg at 897-4569 o Del Rockwell at 897-6814.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSI-BLY TOPS MI #372 - even Tuesday at Key Heights Mobile Home Park Community Building. Weigh-ins at 5:45 p.m.

Grandpa's Christmas Adventure part v

by Dave Thompson

TWe left off last week Christmas. just before Everyone who had been stranded by the storm was safely a quest someone's home in Lowell and waiting out the storm and the re-opening of the highways.]

The had snow finally stopped and it was a beautiful starlit Christmas Eve with a near full moon in the southern sky. Many of the families in town walked to the Baptist Church. where four churches had put together a truly ecumenical service, an evening of Christmas carols, the word of God, and, as always in Lowell a wonderful supply of food. Everyone brought something and the pastors each took part in the service. For the first time in anyone's memory, there were sleighs, carriages and a couple of hay wagons on Main Street, all helping to transport people through a snow-clogged Lowell Some even arrived on snowmobiles. It was small town America at its very best and the people of Lowell had definitely closed ranks around our stranded visitors. All no one would ever forget.

Township at Grandpa's it was Christmas morning and the children, to no Grandma bought at the one's surprise, were the Arts Council's Christmas they were. At least twelve Christmas Day and we first awake. The three of Fair last week, and both or fifteen - maybe even them, Elizabeth, Ralphie also got a pair of warm and Albert sat in the living winter "Snuggie Sox." room in their pajamas, Grandma had carefully looking at the tree and wrapped everything in the presents beneath it, colorful Christmas paper waiting patiently for the with pretty bows on top. others to get up.

Finally, appeared and suggested dinner time, Grandpa they put some wood in bundled up the kids and fireplace for Grandpa to took them out in the yard, have a fire for breakfast. Grandma continued to breakfast and one by one the others bell for, Grandpa" asked gathered. once they were all there she 'calling bell,' Albert," he each was warmly greeted surprised everyone when she announced that have a chance to ring it, rubbing up against his leg off the second table and breakfast could wait a few but I want to see who can minutes while they opened ring it the loudest!" He then hind legs so as not to be the animals, seeds for the their gifts. 'Twas Grandpa rang it weakly one time missed. He knelt down to birds, fresh hamburger for who seemed most excited himself before handing it say hello and petted each the carnivores, a supply of at that prospect and he to Albert. Each then took animal. There were four of fresh cut branches for the quickly sat on the floor in a turn, all trying to out- five birds, a couple on his beavers and some favorite front of the big tree with ring the previous ringer. a thousand sparkling little When they returned to the lights.

and pass them around. The night before, Grandpa had raided his shop and quietly to her brother, "I found a couple of extra don't know, Ralphie, but items for gifts, things still you have to admit, they remembered an old brass things, don't they?" telescope that would "I know," Ralphie ice." Bernard the Beaver

year-old Ralphie. He also had a special flash light emergencies for six-yearold Albert and for Dad, a Dremmel tool, something he had purchased but had never taken out of the box. And, of course, window in the kitchen.

up in the garage? Is that eat?" His question went unanswered until dinner

ledger

Grandpa stood by the bay

become a treasure for nine- shrugged, "and, how come looked at Clarice with a soon everyone was into they have those tables set very disgusted frown and, conversations with them. cupping his hand near Some of the animals had that even flashed red for where we are going to his mouth so the children more questions than the couldn't hear what he was children did. By the time saying, muttered to her, the animals had to return "Gee, Clarice, you know to their homes, everyone Once back inside, we have all sworn to keep had become good friends this a secret. Why are you and none of the animals blabbing your mouth in nor the kids wanted the

front of these children?" he spoke to her angrily.

alright. Bernie are friends from all out-of-town whoarestuck here over Christmas. accident from Edgar Eagle that actually Really. it's

more upset. "Hey, hey, careful what you say about us cats. We have feeling, too, you know," responded Buffy the Lynx.

"Whoa, whoa, there, everybody,' interrupted "Hey, it's want all of you to be on one another, okay?" The others shuffled around nervously for a moment mumbling amongst themselves before things became a little more iust kids.

About out into the warm garage. Grandpa pulled the sheet roots for the woodchucks and chipmunks. However, the kids were asked to pesky chipmunks. Later, they thought no one was looking. All five family the animals

good times to end. But, bedtime was nearing and eventually the animals said their goodbyes and O h , the children, too, were off to bed

During the time the visitors were in Lowell, a crew of tow trucks brought of the snow bound cars into Lowell to the old Good Chevrolet lot, almost a hundred of them. When the announcements came on the radio and TV discovered that the roads were once again being opened, the word also came that cars could be picked up the next morning.

A large crowd gathered the lot and many aoodbyes were exchanged. In just a short davs. many dships were made their even though mouth Edgar Christmas plans had been to let the cat unexpectedly interrupted, out of the no one seemed to mind the Christmas Story with their Grandma had a couple of his eyes sweeping the bag," he snapped, even inconvenience the storm



In answer to your question: "Do You Believe in Santa?" If you have ever worked on the Showboat with Santa, smiled and winked at the If you have ever been to Gilda's Club for Christmas, If you have ever been Grandma to "Lowell's" Grandpa, that time, The answer is a resounding YES!!!



Do you believe in Santa? Yes "believe" is the right word •••••••• 40%



surprises, too. For eleven- yard and beyond toward vear-old Elizabeth, a the woods. Suddenly pair of stuffed animals, a he exclaimed, "Here agreed, it was a Christmas giraffe and a cuddly panda they come. Here come bear, and a embroidered our woodland friends Out in Vergennes hooded sweat shirt for the for Christmas dinner, Mom that said "World's Grandma! The bell call still Best Mom," something

Later in the afternoon Grandma when it got closer to carrving a brass hand bell that sat on a shelf in the kitchen. "What's the house Ralphie whispered Slowly he began to to Elizabeth, "Whadda was all about?"

Elizabeth whispered

works."

Sure enough. There Grandpa. twenty animals and birds, your best behavior. This all struggling through the is a day filled with love for deep snow to the garage. Grandpa was quick to open the service door and in they came, shaking off the snow. "Well, look at all of you," he called to them. "Merry Christmas to you, cordial. Grandpa indeed!"

The children were as fascinated with this arrival as they were the Grandma led the grand other night when Rudolph entrance, followed by the arrived for their rescued. Mother and Father as they Albert? "Well, that's our As the animals came in, carried a sumptuous dinner said. "Each of you will by Grandpa, some while others stood on their where there was a feast for shoulders and one sitting proudly on his head. Clarice the Chickadee said "Hello" as clearly as keep an eye on those read names on presents suppose ringing the bell anyone which caused the others animals to stop the kids saw them snitch cold in their tracks as they a couple of cookies from looked up at her in shock. the dessert tray when "It's okay, everybody, they know we can talk in their boxes. He also sure do some rather weird and I thought by saying members were amazed 'hello' I might break the at

wednesday · december · 29 · 2010

had caused. Many of the families carried goodie bags with sandwiches and drinks, cookies, veggie snacks and fruit from their hosts to take with them they completed their as journeys.

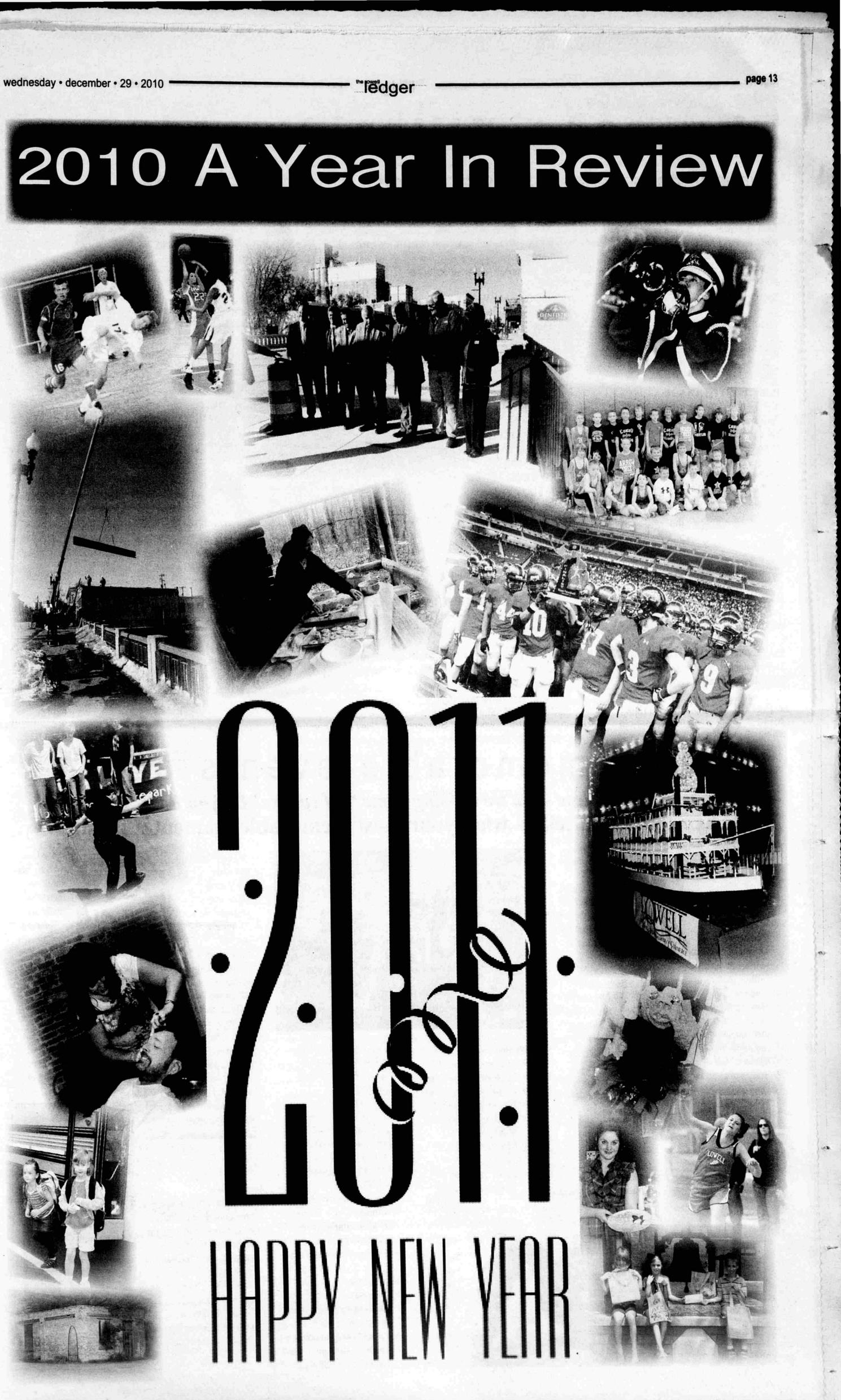
Leading the caravan of Lowell with the out biggest box of goodies were the National Guard trucks with their APC and soldiers, with everyone's horns tooting and hands waving. The cheerful sounds continued way past the Lowell Township Hall. Some folks said they would go on and celebrate the New Year with their families and friends, but they all left with memories of how wonderful everyone had been and that Lowell was, without question, the friendliest little town to be found, anywhere.

And so ends the story for this year as Grandpa looks up from his writing tablet to say to all of you, 'Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to a everyone of you."

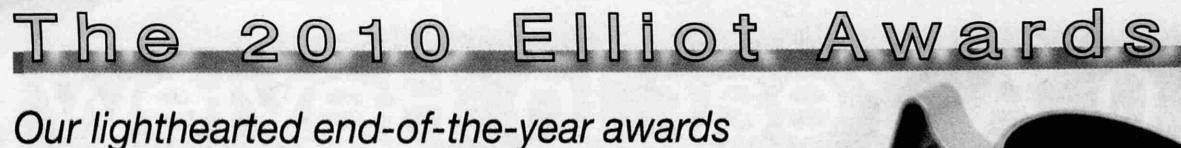
want to once again thank the Ledger for allowing me the opportunity to share my readers.

- Dave Thompson

poll result:



fedger



MATH 101 AWARD

Goes to the Detroit police and fire department fund that spent \$30 million to renovate a building that's worth just more than \$1million

CORRUPTION CAPAWARD

For 493,000 counts of corruption goes to Kwame Kilpatrick (enjoy jail)

CART BEFORE THE HORSE AWARD To The Lowell DDA/City for the feasibly study of the riverwalk

expansion with no appropriated funds P. R. DISASTER AWARD

To Christine O'Donnell

Any time you run for Senate and your commercial says that you are not a witch. things are not going very well!

THE INSIDER OUT AWARD

To Dave Hildenbrand For successfully convincing voters he wasn't in Lansing

THE LAST MAN STANDING AWARD To Don Reedy for keeping the biz going while the bridgework continued

WHY ARE YOU (STILL) HERE AWARD To Snookie (Jersey Shore) Isn't there a 15 minutes of fame rule?

INVITATION WAS IN THE MAIL AWARD To the Salahis - the people that crashed the White House dinner

SUCH FRIENDLY SKIES AWARD To Steven Slater - for grabbing some beers and telling off passengers on Jet Blue

THE CLAM UP AWARD To Julian Assange of Wikileaks

WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR AWARD To Arizona's governor Jan Brewer, for her stance against immigration

NEPOTISM AWARD To the hermit that anoints the feature leader of North Korea - his son, Kim Jong Un

THE CONDUCTING FOR TWO AWARD To Wendy Tierney for hanging in there throughout the Christmas concert.

PUBLIC ENEMY #1 AWARD - Goes to To BP CEO Tony Hayward for his statement "I want my life back"

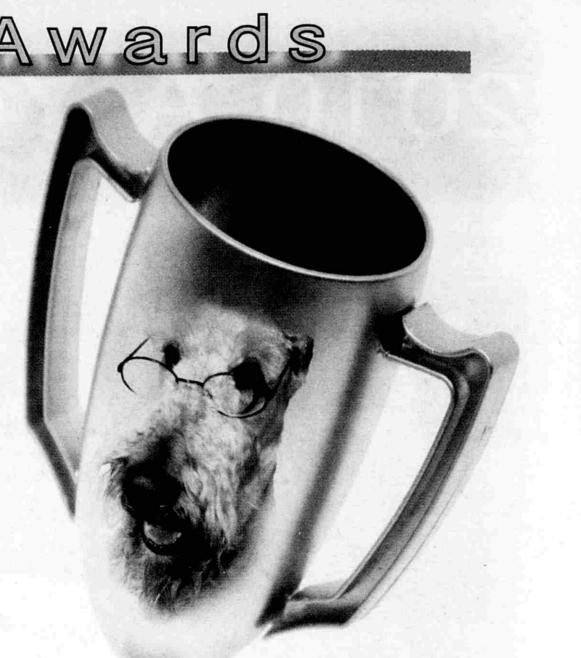
NIP TUCK AWARD To Mayor Hodges For bravely going where no man would go and getting his eyebrows waxed

THE PLUCKY AWARD To April McClure For helping the mayor out!

BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME AWARD To Jerry Jones owner of the Dallas Cowboys \$1 billion dollar stadium

HOUSTON, WE HAVE A PROBLEM AWARD To Antarctica's Mammoth ice break the size of Luxembourg

THE HEE HAW AWARD To the chamber for moving the Farmers' Market



THE PURE MICHIGAN AWARD To Gov. Granholm now that she has time to travel

UNDER THE BRIDGE AWARD To the Queen of Trolls Liz Baker for injecting fantasy into construction

SUGAR DADDY AWARD To China - Any Questions?

ONE TUFF NERD AWARD To Rick Synder Would you want that job?

most memorable events of 2010 10 We came up with these - are we missing some? Of course! Do you have your own? Write us a letter and tell us what your most memorable moment was and why.



Jon Jacobs • The oil spill - BP Deepwater Horizon spilling at least 185 million gallons of crude oil

- Haiti earthquake -Some 23,000 people died and hundreds of thousands injured
- Chilean Miners 33 miners trapped for 69 days
- · WikiLeaks In July the release of 77,000 U.S. Military files and still growing
- · Mexico's Drug War violence and murders spilling over the border
- · No Shame on Wall Street - bailouts and still huge bonus checks
- Don't Ask Don't Tell - the senate voting to repeal
- · The rise of the tea party
- · The White House passage of the Health

Care Reform Act Baseball's Imperfect Game - Tigers pitcher Armando Galarraga getting screwed by umpire Matt Joyce.

Emma Palova

- Haiti earthquake
- The engagement of
- Prince William and Kate · The overwhelming
- victory of GOP in the
- · The BP oil spill
- Trapped miners
- Michael Douglas sick as
- Avatar winning Oscar
- **Tammy Janowiak**
- Gulf oil spill
- · Lost series finale
- · Prince William engaged



- Obama care
- Winter Olympics
- · Michael Jackson's death
- Obama visiting China · Mid-term elections
- · North Korea bombing
- Tax cut agreement
- · Chile mine rescue Tiger Woods - Phone sexting
- BP oil spill
- Rick Snyder elected
- Michigan Governor Obscure ruling denies Calvin Johnson winning
- touchdown in week one of NFL · Jay Leno bumping out
- Conan · High unemployment/
- failing economy
- · Tea Party movement

Cathy Acker

- Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg person of the year at 26
- Labron James announces his decision to go to the Heat live on ESPN

- and Kate Middleton announce engagemen 33 miners rescued
- after trapped underground for 69 days

Prince William

- BP oil spill in Gulf of Mexico
- Apple introduces Ipad Brett Favre's starting
- streak ends at 297 games · Obama passes health care reform - finally someon with a brain
- Tiger Woods extramarital affairs exposed
- The Lions double wins and show promise for the 2011-12 season

Jeanne Boss

- · That even after all that time underground there was concern that a couple of the miners were still too fat to stuff up that rescue tube.
- · Sarah Palin getting a reality TV show.
- · Passing health care what a ridiculous concept - healthy Americans
- South Korea Michigan/Nation's unemployment China's reaction to Xiaobo winning the Nobel Peace Prize Thad Kraus •Health Care bill
- November election
- a dog

wednesday · december · 29 · 2010

THE STICKY BUNS AWARD To the Thompsons for their sweet

thank you treats to the Ledger staff

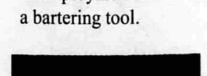
The mid-term elections



short our memories really are Keeping the tax cuts Times Man of the Year for

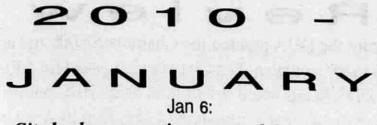
exposing how little we think of "Friendship'

- The fact that Americans were actually angry with Obama for stopping oil drilling while trying to clean up the spill
- That it took a tragic death at the Winters Olympics to slow things down
- George Bush writing a book - who'da thunk it? The Republicans using unemployment checks as

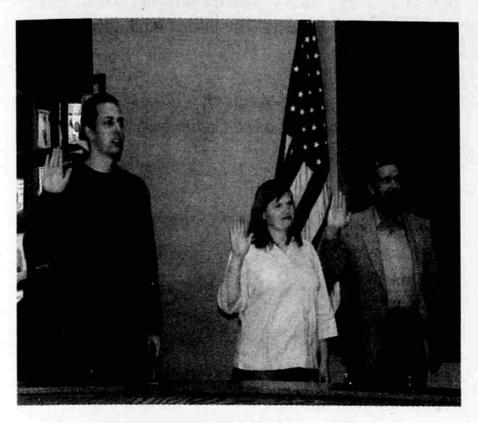




wednesday · december · 29 · 2010



City leaders sworn in at start of the new year Andrew Schrauben, Maryalene LaPonsie and Jim Hodges were sworn in Monday night by city clerk Betty Morlock. Hodges is again mayor, while Sharon Ellison is mayor pro



City council continues struggle over single hauler The Lowell City Council continued its struggle with a proposed ordinance that would allow for a single waste hauler in the city to realize cost savings and cut down on noise in the streets.

Moratorium placed on growing/dispensing of medical marijuana

The Lowell City Council placed a six month moratorium on growing or dispensing of medical marijuana in order to explore a new ordinance that would regulate such activ-



Helping out during the holidays

Lowell Middle School Girl Scout Troop 3079 spent a day during their Christmas break to serve a meal at the Spectrum Health Renucci Hospitality House.

City continues to mull over trash ordinance In a continued discussion, the city council along with waste haulers and residents mulled over the proposed ordinance that would allow for a single hauler. Perry Beachum led the opposition against the proposal. Beachum suggested the city should get out of the refuse business.

Exhibit explores safaris

and tropical forests The colorful 'It's a Jungle Book' show at the Lowell Area Arts Council delves into a wild world of safaris and tropical forests.

Annual bird count held at Wittenbach/Wege Center The Grand Rapids Audubon Club sponsored the annual Christmas Bird Count on Janu ary 2. The Wittenbach/Wege

Agriscience and Environmental Education Center (WWC) co-hosted the bird count and provided the base station. Weekend snowmobile accident claims two lives

William Hatchett, 39, of Lowell, and Kristin Stowie, 19, of Sparta, died in a snowmobile accident when their snowmobile struck a tree and they were ejected off the snowmobile. The accident at 52nd Street and Timpson Avenue happened around 2:40 a.m. Another snowmobile fatality involving a male and a female occurred almost at the same spot eight years ago, according to Phil Dougherty, Bowne Township fire chief.

ledger Year Local woman celebrates 100th birthday

A

Marie Rickert was born on January 12, 1910 and on her 100th birthday got a thin molasses cake. She's had the recipe since she turned 16. Rickert lived at Schneider Manor for 18 years. Last year, she moved to Emerald Meadows in Grand Rapids. Every Wednesday, Rickert gets The Lowell Ledger. "It's like getting letters from home," she said. "It's the first thing I read."



Jan 20:

Lowell soldier remembered as a hero Army Sgt. Lucas Beachnaw, 23, will be remembered as a hero by his family and friends. Beachnaw, a 2004 Lowell High School graduate, was killed Wednesday by small



arms fire in Afghanistan just a few months before he was scheduled to return home in August. His mother, Jeanne Beachright thing to do for his country and the money would help with his future. "I will miss everything about him," said his mother. Beachnaw was laid to rest in St. Johns at

South Bingham Cemetery.

Lowell man seeks help for Haiti earthquake victims Nehemie Destine, a local refugee from Haiti, is seeking help for earthquake victims in his native country. His fa- the river will be lowered by two feet. ther, Marcel Destine, is a missionary in Saint Marc, Haiti, Destine is organizing that help locally through Ray of Hope for Haiti.

Edwards retires from LARA board

The Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA) expressed For Dave and Jan, volunteering and community work gratitude to retiring board member Dan Edwards for 10 years of service to the Lowell Area Trailway project. Edwards, who served as the Vergennes Township citizen rep- teering much more fun." resentative on the LARA board, has taken a new job in North Carolina.

Jan 27:

Concerts on Riverwalk will continue downtown Riverwalk and Sizzlin' Summer concerts are here to stay, in the downtown area, even during the upcoming bridge project. The DDA approved \$5,500 for the concert series. City to install new decorative lights

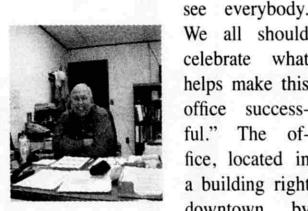
The downtown area may soon get new decorative lights the beauty of the downtown," with compact fluorescent bulbs since the old globes have he said. been falling off from posts due to decay. City manager The three buildings will be Dave Pasquale said it makes a lot of sense to switch the lights for cost savings and to reduce light trespass.

FEBRUARY Feb. 3:

Community loses franchise

In a continuum of recent losses, the closing of the Good Chevrolet franchise is like the proverbial last straw in a community hit hard by the economy. For general manag-

er, Rodger Garner, who planned on selling used cars, the announcement last week came as a definite surprise after a deal with the Wittenbach dealership didn't work out. Twelve employees will be impacted by the closing. Many of them have worked at the dealership for 30 years. **Republican legislators**



share ideas on fixing Michigan More than 100 people filled the Lowell Veteran's Center to listen to the legislative update by the East Kent County Republicans. The following legislators were present: Dave Hildenbrand, Mark Jansen, Bill Hardiman, Wayne Kuipers, Justin Amash, Tom Pearce, Dave Agema, Kevin Green and Rev. Robert Dean.

Residents will continue to enjoy choice in trash pickup Listening to the outcry of the people, the Lowell city council favored maintaining the status quo in choice of trash pickup. Over the past few months, the council has been discussing granting an exclusive franchise to a trash hauler to realize cost savings, eliminate wear and tear of the streets and noise. However, the proposal met opposi-



Review tion both from the residents and small waste haulers. The haulers complained the amendment would limit freedom of enterprise.

Senior Neighbors purchase land and building Senior Neighbors, Inc. has purchased the land and building located at 314 South Hudson from the Lowell Area Housing. Prior to the purchase, Senior Neighbors leased the house from the Schneider Manor. The 100-year-old



farmhouse building has been home to the Senior Neighbors organization since 1972. The building had undergone an extensive remodel last year, in phase I, to accommonaw, said he entered the date the new Gilda's Club programming. The plans are to army because it was the have everything in place by 2012.

Feb. 10:

Meeting to brief shareholders on bridge project The Michigan Department of Transportation will hold a shareholders' meeting about the upcoming bridge replacement project. The bridge project is on schedule to start next month according to Green. The design is called a superstructure replacement in which the beams, the deck, the railing and sidewalks will all be replaced.

Since the bridge sits on a dam, at some point the water in

Husband and wife team named Lowell Chamber of Commerce Person of the Year for 2010

Dave and Jan Thompson have been named the Person of the Year by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce

are like second nature. "You always get the two of us," laughed Dave. "Doing things together has made volun-

Bridge buildings remodeled to 1920s look

The buildings located on the northwest end of the bridge, originally slated for condemnation, are getting a major facelift.

Owner and general contractor Greg Canfield purchased the buildings, built in the 1880s, last year.

"It keeps the downtown business district intact and adds to

combined into one and stored to the 1920s look.

he said. "I don't

We all should

celebrate what

helps make this

office success-

fice,

The

located

building righ

the town clock

has had a dentist

in it since 1935.

downtown

of



Feb. 17:

Dentist named business of the year James Reagan credits his staff for the Business of the Year recognition from the Chamber of Commerce. "When you

get a business recognition it's a joint effort on the part of the whole staff,"



Snow storm blankets area

Last week's storm dumped 10 more inches of snow on the existing white cover. Area landmarks in Fallasburg Park, including the covered bridge, were embellished by the snow in the icy-like kingdom. Roads and driving became treacherous again, but the ice cover on the area lakes remained strong enough for fishermen to continue to enjoy ice fishing for bluegills.

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2010 Group needs authority to manage funds



In a series of road blocks, it becomes obvious that the Rails to Trails group needs a fiduciary to manage its funds."I want to Jim Reagan and see the authority happen," said chairwoman were recognized Carolyn Kane from the as business of the West Michigan Trails and year. The chamber Greenways Coalition. also honored Dave "We need an authority or and Jan Thompson

a governmental unit, so we do not have to use someone for their extensive contributions. else."

LHS plans 'green' prom

Lowell High School has decided to put on a green prom this spring for its junior and senior classes. The students want to promote helping the Earth by using environmen tally friendly practices for this year's prom.

Feb. 24:

MDOT ready to roll out the downtown bridge replacement

The \$2.1 million downtown bridge replacement project is ready to start with March 15 through April 4 preparatory work. In a shareholders' meeting last week, representatives from the Michigan Department of Transportation gave an overview and a timeline for the project. Planning commission readies final version

of ordinance regulating soft-sided accessory buildings

In a painstakingly slow process, the planning commission readied the final version of an ordinance that will regulate soft-sided temporary accessory buildings.

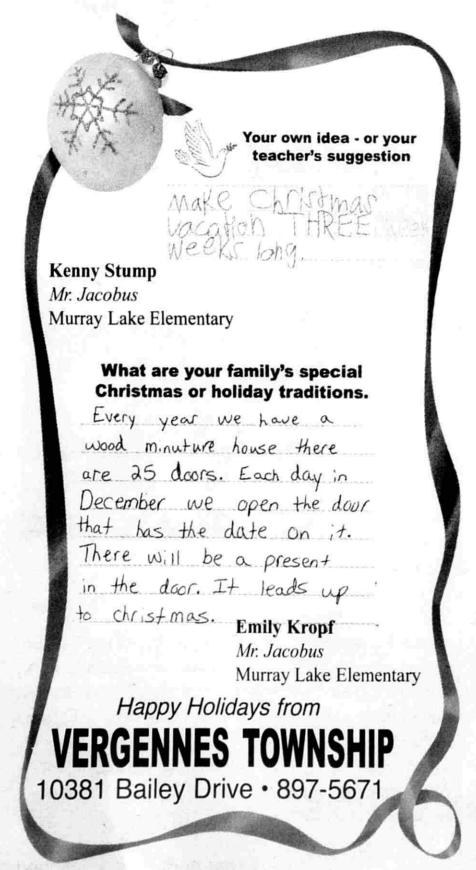
The issue came up based on a request from one resident. Bob Robinson. Since then, the planning commission has struggled with it on both sides.

City waits on dispensing of medical marijuana

The city council passed a moratorium on the distribution and dispensing of medical marijuana last week. According to police chief James Hinton, the additional six months will give the city officials time to decide whether to regulate medical marijuana. Like many other surrounding communities, Lowell is taking a wait and see attitude on an issue passed by the voters two years ago. Hinton said the initiative is coming from the International Association of Chiefs of Police to create a law to somehow control the dispensing of medical marijuana. According to Hinton, the main concern is if communities like Grand Rapids do not allow dispensaries then it will put them into the rural areas like Lowell.

Chamber dinner honors prominent residents

The annual Winter Gathering of the chamber members at the Grand Volute enjoyed a good turnout of approximately 200 people. Moderated by Cliff Yankovich of Chimera



Y ear Design, the eve-

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ning progressed easily with a full agenda. After a great dinner his dental office



In



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W. Michigan competition boasts variety of artwork A wide variety of artwork and many new artists, that is what the annual staple show at the Lowell Area Arts businesses Council is all about. And this year, it's also about realism. "The show feels very balanced," said the arts council director Lorain Smalligan. "It exposes people to new artists at the Lowell and a wide variety of work."

New ground cover for Creekside Kingdom

Financial conditions and the limited life of the 15 year-old Creekside Kingdom were key elements in the City's decision in allocating funds for new ground cover.

Muha retires after 24 years

Lieutenant safety officer John Muha retired on March 1 2010 from the Lowell Area Fire Department. Muha left the fire department after 24 years of service to the city of Lowell and surrounding areas.

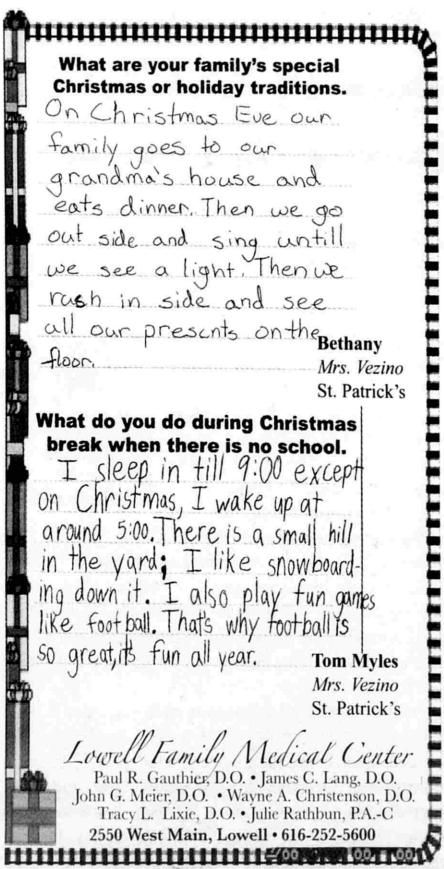
March 10:

Michigan will wait until June for a shot at Race to the Top federal funds

If at first you don't succeed, try again in June. That is apparently the State of Michigan's plan in its effort to secure funds from the federal Race to the Top program. Michigan hoped to win up to \$526 million in education funds from the federal program, the Obama Administration's national competition to reward states committed to education reform. However, Michigan's legislative process and the inability to construct a complete plan in the time allotted left Michigan out of the running for the first phase of funding.

Marketing plan key element in success

of established community events in Lowell Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce has budgeted over \$50,000 in each of the last two years toward its community-wide business marketing plan. The money has been provided through the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and the Lowell Community Fund. At its March



meeting the DDA granted the Chamber \$5,000 toward its 2010 marketing plan. The Chamber has asked for \$30,000. The DDA board noted it will look at its 2010 budget and consider granting the remaining \$25,000 at its April meeting. Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce director Liz Baker explained that the Chamber has budgeted \$70,000 toward its community-wide business marketing plan. The initial grant of \$5,000 will be used toward the bridge project's "bridge bucks" weekly drawing where \$200 a week will be given away. The bridge buck giveaway begins in April.

The 14th an-Lowell nual Community Expo will feature most area and nonprofits on March 27 High School The mission re-

mains the same as in the beginning to provide networking opportunities offered by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. "We were one of the first small community expos," said chamber director Liz Baker. "We wanted to showcase our businesses, organizations and churches."

Lowell's Persha to help kickoff treadmill challenge Rheta Persha has been exercising/working out at the YMCA for 34 years. "I came here to Lowell because I sort of outlived them (her YMCA partners) in Royal Oak," Persha explains. You see, the Lowell resident of five years will turn 90 in June. Persha will help kickoff Lowell YMCA's 24-hour Treadmill Challenge on Friday, March 26. The event supports the Y's Strong Kids Campaign which raises money to support the financial assistance program at the Lowell YMCA.

City will transition to using Kent County Sheriff's dispatch during off-hours/LL&P rate adjustment The city will transition to using the Kent County Sheriff's dispatch during off-hours from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. and weekends starting this October. The service will be provided through the Kent County Dispatch Authority. The switch will end a 20-year partnership between the city of Lowell and Walker due to Kent County restructuring of 911 centers from five to two facilities. Walker will be closed. Lowell Light and Power director Greg Pierce presented the 2010-2011 annual budget and capital plan. There will be a three to 3.5 percent rate adjustment in September. Longtime city employee to retire

Frank Martin will be retiring, after 37 years with the city



Martin is a 1967 graduate of the Lowell High School. His daughter, Stacy Van Denakker, works part-time at the plant on Saturdays.

Maple syrup festival at WWC a true harbinger of spring

The breakfast celebrating maple syrup time at the Wittenbach Wege Center (WWC) is ready. The chef made pancakes with maple syrup, scrambled eggs and sausage links, all for only \$5. After the hearty breakfast, a short stroll through the woods, to the cabin that has been transformed into a sugar shack, shows that the winter is finally over.

Local doctor helps injured victims of Haiti earthquake Dr. James Lang of the Lowell Medical Center traveled to Haiti with a team of doctors and nurses from Orthopedic Associates of Michigan through Partners in Health affiliation. The team spent a week, from Feb. 24 through March 3, on a farm, Double Harvest, approximately 20 minutes away from Port-au-Prince, the capital. "There was a number of volunteers from all over the United States and the world working to make the situation better," said Lang. "It made me feel good about fellow volunteers."

Rails to trails project set for June closing The Lowell to Greenville portion of the rails to trails con-

wednesday · december · 29 · 2010 Review

March 17: 14th annual Lowell Community Expo





wastewater treatment plant, in July. He was hired in 1973 when there was an opening to drive a garbage truck under city manager Blain Bacon. "I'll probably still be sticking my head in the city hall," he laughed. "It's a good time to retire."

March 24:

wednesday · december · 29 · 2010

2010



Masonic Lodge may be used as a wrestling center The Masonic Lodge on Lincoln Lake Avenue may be used as a wrestling center and dormitory for wrestlers. Dave Dean presented the plan Monday night to the planning commission. The building, zoned as public facility, would require general business zoning with special use for the ell Litho. housing portion of it. The upstairs is 2,200 square feet, while the downstairs would accommodate 20 bunk beds. The idea, according to Dean, is to lower the cost for the parent, so the wrestlers don't have to stay in a motel. New Vergennes trustee appointed

Longtime Vergennes planning commissioner Rick Gillett, 57, has been appointed to the township board to fill the vacancy after Vern Nauta.

Bridge bucks, part of a

community-wide business marketing plan As part of a community-wide effort to embrace the upcoming bridge replacement project, bridge bucks will be of Lowell. issued to continue to motivate people to shop in the torn up downtown. The investment of \$300 spread over the project from April through September will provide the following: name on detour/parking map, individual businesses will be highlighted in the weekly troll story published in The Lowell Ledger, a two by two custom made troll for businesses, name on the bridge bucks, bridge construction blog and chamber website, 26 weekly drawings of bridge bucks at the participating businesses, Girls' Night Out (GNO), on April 15 and October 14. To celebrate the end of the project there will be a Bridge Celebration, also known as the Harvest Celebration, and a giant troll sculpture will be erected.

Building trolls for business, part of marketing Trolls and bridge bucks, that is the name of the game during the upcoming downtown bridge replacement project. The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce will officially announce the much talked about "Troll Project" at this year's Expo. The "Troll Project" is a way to keep people shopping in the downtown while it is being torn up with construction. "We want to give people an incentive to continue to



shop and support our busiand nesses restaurants." Chimera owner and chamboard ber member Cliff Yankovich

Each business will have their very own personalized troll

Signs of spring ly here. The signs of spring are all around. Some spring sightings include white and purple crocuses in front of the post office.

"ledger

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March 31:

Lowell Community Expo 2010 attracts thousands If a batch of missing ink pens is a gauge of attendance, then Deb Canfield of Canfield Plumbing & Heating can attest that the 2010 Expo was bigger and better than last year. "We had 570 ink pens and they're all gone," she said. "We had an excellent turnout." At times, the booths got slammed with so many interested customers that it was impossible to talk to all. Right up front was located the major sponsor of the event, The Lowell Ledger and Low-

Trailways announce reaching their fundraising goa The Lowell area trailways had a large presence at the Lowell Community Expo last Saturday. Three booths side by side represented the area trails. Former superintendent Bert Bleke made an announcement, on behalf of the LARA group, at the Expo about reaching its capital fundraising goal. They have raised \$1,092,330 for the building of phase 1 of the trail. Bleke was one of the original visionaries who saw how a trail would benefit the commu nity. "Lowell is the place to be, not the next place to be," he said. "What a great gift this trail will be to the people



As part of Alto Elementary's March Is Reading Month activities, coach Juston Miller and members of the varsity Lowell baseball team visthe school ited and read to variclassrooms This annual reading month tradition is highly anticipated by students and

baseball players alike. Alto Elementary students and staff were grateful to Miller and the team for taking the time to share their love of reading with the students. Pictured, Kaleb Ort reads to a kindergarten class.



Treadmill Challenge walks off with just under \$3,500 owell YMCA's 24-hour Tread nill Challenge 66 garnered walkers/runraising ners \$3,493.57.

with a mischievous troll story. A troll drop is planned for Saturday, April 17 at the fairgrounds.

Rachel McVey Mr. Bredin Cherry Creek What do you do during Christmas break when there is no school. ussally LOVE the anticipation I love that reeling then when it's Christ mas I grab the poney nut cherriss and poor that real Quick and I east

teacher's suggestion the best gift I ever got was my bike my Parnents hid it in the basment I was so surprized I rode if everewere even When it was swoning it Was the best chistnas ever

Nick Mason

Mr. Stevens

Your own idea - or your

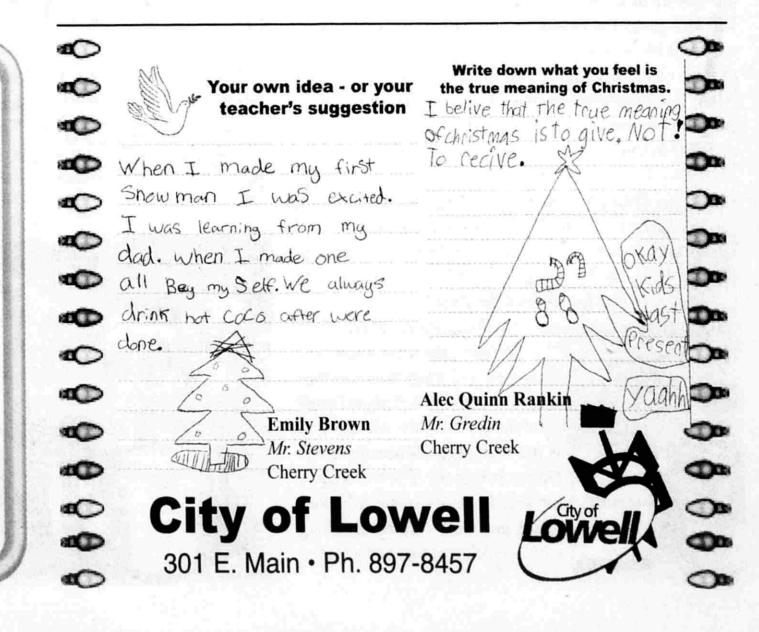
Cherry Creek



Ceral on the floor and

just stare at the presents

BILL WHEELER Certified Public Accountant 103 Riverside Dr., Lowell · 897-7711



In

Baseball team members read to students

April 7:

APRIL

Review

Left turn light installed to alleviate traffic congestion DVT Electrical from Wyoming installed a left turn light at the intersection of Hudson and M-21. This is part of the MDOT detour plan to alleviate traffic congestion during the downtown bridge replacement project. The detour started Monday, April 5.

City presents preliminary budget

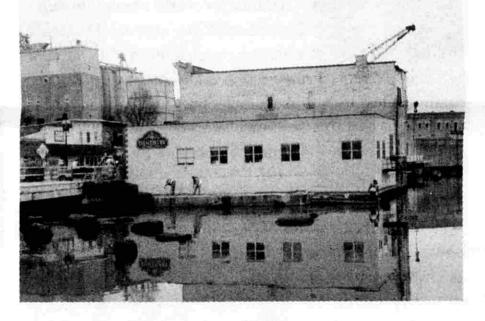
The preliminary general fund budget for 2010 to 2011 is tight, as projected, due to continuous loss in state revenue sharing and decrease in taxable value in the city. The fund balance stands at \$200,951 with \$2.47 million in revenues and \$2.43 in expenditures. One mill in the city is valued at \$97,607. The millage will be kept as is for now.

New phase of development will be environment friendly Phase 3 of the Alden Nash West development, located within walking distance of the Lowell High School, promises to be environment friendly complete with a rain garden and a portion of the Lowell trail. The rain garden will catch the storm water and it will have plants. In spite of the economy, all the sites except for two, in the first two phases have sold over the last few years. The average price of homes is \$180,000 even though some have sold for over \$225,000 up to \$300,000.

April 14:

GNO resonates with construction theme Get a yellow hard hat and a safety vest at designated places on Main Street and jump in with the flow, just don't jump into the lowered Flat River. That is the advice of Liz Baker, director of the Lowell Area Chamber for participants of this year's Girls' Night Out. "Pay attention to construction and have a good time," she said

> MDOT officials inform about bridge replacement progress



In a weekly Wednesday meeting MDOT officials gave an update on the progress of the downtown bridge replacement. The project started April 5 with a westbound detour and is slated for completion by the Harvest Festival scheduled for Oct. 9. The water in the Flat River was drawn down to its lowest level on April 2 and will go back up by May 1. The water level had to be lowered so the contractor can get underneath the bridge to access substructure repairs. However, due to last week's heavy rains, the water level rose again and it was difficult to get the barges under the bridge. Businesses on the bridge and in the vicinity maintain a positive attitude.

2010 - A Year In Review, continued

page 18

2010

New retirement living facility coming to Lowell A 20-unit senior assisted-living facility, located next to the One month into it, the downtown bridge replacement bowling alley on the west end of town, may open late this fall. Green Acres Retirement Living has applied for a special use permit to construct a senior living facility on 4.2 acres zoned agricultural two in Lowell Township.

Police chief proposes \$50,000 in savings



Lowell police chief James Hinton is proposing a \$50,000 savings in the general fund budget is being finalized for May presentation. The cost savings will be realized by having a full-time officer to elimistaffing levels to six full-time of-

ficers including Hinton and eight part-time officers. "It's hard to restructure too much without impacting the service or jeopardizing the safety of citizens and officers," said Hinton

Lowell to Greenville trail receives \$650,000 grant

The Lowell to Greenville rail to trail group has received \$650,000 in transportation enhancement funds matched by \$461,000 from the West Michigan Trails and Greenways Coalition.

The total project cost is \$1,111,650.

Hildenbrand launches State Senate bid Dave Hildenbrand formally announced his candidacy to represent the residents of Michigan's 29th State Senate District.

School board hears budget predictions for next year At its regular meeting Monday night, the Lowell Area School Board received several updates including a budget update from superintendent Greg Pratt. Administrators in Lowell have crunched numbers and are predicting a large shortfall for next year. "At this point we are projecting a 3.2 to 4.2 million dollar shortfall for next year.



Robotic club traveling to Atlanta for world championship Lowell will be one of 44 rookie teams to compete in the FIRST (For

Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) robotics competition championship at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, April 15-17.

April 21:

Lowell celebrates 50th anniversary as a city

Lowell is celebrating its 50th anniversary as a city established by a charter in March of 1960. Voters of the Village of Lowell passed a charter to become a city governed by a five-member city council. The city man-



ager is appointed by the council, according to the charter. There are 268 municipalities in Michigan that use this form of government

Troll project and construction

boosts Girls' Night Out participation Who would have thought that the mayor of Lowell would have his eyebrows waxed on Girls' Night Out and walk the streets in a hard hat bragging about it? No kidding. Jim Hodges got his eyebrow wax at Eja Salon as a pres- Grand Rapids, and ent from his wife Chris. "He's turning 60, so I want him to look nice," said Chris. The fourth annual spring Girls' Lowell vs. South Lowell. Flat River Outreach Ministries Night Out in downtown Lowell, amidst blossoming trees and an 80 degree temperature, enjoyed an average turnout of 1,000 in spite of a slow start to the evening.

April 28:

Trail group gets \$650,000 grant to purchase Lowell to Greenville section The final purchase of the railroad corridor from Lowell to Greenville is slated for June.

"Spring Into the Past"

will feature Tri River

Network museum tours This year's Spring Into the Past museum tour will feature more area museums. New on the tour is the Pine Forest Museum, an old church in Edmore. The mainstay of the tour is the museum in Lowell which includes a virtual tour along with Victorian rooms and garden.

MDOT updates - Bowes Road project to start up project appears to be on target and on schedule. All the prestage work has been completed. The piers and the abutments have been saw cut. New beams will be erected this Thursday. The water in the Flat River has been drawn down to its maximum two feet. It will be raised back up by May 1. The Bowes Road project will be done in two stages. The first stage will consist of a milling and resurthe police department budget as facing from West Street to Valley Vista. The second stage will consist of adding new curb and gutter, storm sewer and sidewalk from Valley Vista to just east of the entrance drive to the Ada-Lowell Self Storage driveway.

ledger

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Lowell Area Schools wins top "Green" award nate overtime. This will bring the At the third annual Green School Awards program, hosted



by Kent County and Kent Intermediate School District (ISD), Lowell Area Schools received the highest recognition given at this year's event.

Lowell man runs in Boston Marathon Matthew A. Smith, of Lowell, participated in the 2010 Boston Marathon.



prepare for the annual walking challenge The annual summer walking challenge has kicked off with registration last Saturday. Walkers are encouraged to participate by walking one mile a day, anywhere in the community, starting May 31 until September 6, 2010.

Lowell celebrated National Arbor Day by planting a commemorative tree

and sponsoring the Biggest Tree contest

Lowell Schools kicks off FROM Food Fight 2010

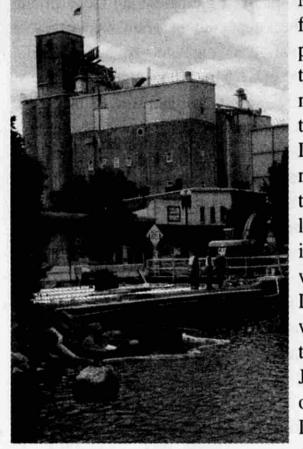
There is Michigan vs. Michigan State, Lowell vs. East now there is North

(FROM) has put the finishing touches on what appears to be another epic battle, between North Lowell and South Lowell, to collect the most nonperishable food items benefiting FROM's Food Pantry.





In



bridge replacement project started in April and is slated for completion by the Harvest Festival in October. Farmers' Market to open May 13

Since its inception four years ago, the Farmers' Market located at the fairgrounds has been growing steadily. And now it is slated for opening on May 13 with extended hours from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

be managed by intergovernmental authority The soon to be acquired 22-mile long trail from Lowell to Greenville will be managed by an intergovernmental authority. The trail is slated for purchase this summer or in September with the help of a \$650,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). The total project cost is \$1.1 million. The inter local authority week, to de- between several counties will most likely be called Midcide whether west Michigan Trail Authority.

Townships' study builds case for wireless network For a number of years, residents in the tri-township area (Lowell, Vergennes and Ada) have been asking when the townships are going to provide high-speed internet service? The simple answer is the townships have not been and never were in a position to provide such a service. "Instead, the townships have worked together to build a business case to attract vendors to the area who will provide the service directly to end users," said Lowell Vergennes Township clerk Mari Stone. The result has been a partnership with Azulstar who submitted a bid to Rural Utility Service for a grant to construct the "last mile" connecting broadband from hard wires to end user using a wireless connection.

The installation of and the dedication to the Battlefield



the legion and VFW.

It's a question Lowell police chief James Hinton would like to see go away. It hasn't. Instead, the question of enforcement or harassment surfaced again, this time at the Lowell City Council meeting on Monday night. Reality or perception, it is not one police chief James Hinton takes lightly. "For as long as I've been in Lowell, officers have always been told to be professional, respectful and courteous to people they are in contact with," Hinton said. For now, Hinton is left searching for a comfort zone that lies somewhere between enforcement and harassment. Coach Rodenhouse tallies 500th career win

In 1979, a young physical education teacher and baseball enthusiast, hired to start a softball program in Lowell, asked and was granted permission to sit in on Tom Jud-





police

It

"En-

you decide."

Walkers

wednesday · december · 29 · 2010

Review May 12:

MDOT on track for phase I completion by Riverwalk

MDOT is on track for completion of phase I of the downtown bridge replacement project over the Flat River in Lowell. Within the next three weeks, the contractor, Anaan, will be pouring sidewalks, back walks and deck. Decorative railings will be done toward the end of May and June. "The work is on schedule," said Dave Frogner of Anlaan Corp. The

May 19:

New trail from Lowell to Greenville to

Memorial to be dedicated this summer

Memorial was endorsed by the Lowell City Council Monday night. The idea for the Battlefield Memorial was first brought before the council a year ago by American Legion Post 152 commander David Thompson. The memorial recognizes all men and women who have fought and died in Iraq and Afghanistan. A campaign to raise \$7,000 for the memorial is underway with contributions from both

Enforcement/harassment continues to be an issue

wednesday • december • 29 • 2010

201son's Northview practice. Thirty-one years later, Red Arrow softball coach Bob Rodenhouse is one of a select few West Michigan high school softball coaches to record 500-plus victories. "It's not been about the number of wins Rodenhouse says "It's been a lot of



O

work, but I've had a lot of fun." The Lowell physical edu cation teacher is retiring at the end of the school year.

May 26:

Spartan's coach speaks to Lowell golf outing crowd Zanesville, Ohio and Lowell are separated by hundreds of



miles. At the Lowell Footthe Grand Volute the two cities were brought together. Michigan State football coach Mark Dantonio de- Haan. livered the keynote address. The Spartan coach is also a Zanesville football alum. during the an 'The two communities par- nual mayor exallel one another in a lot of

ways," Dantonio said. "Both have a great sense of community and a great energy for football."

FROM honors Haybarkers for their philanthropy Ann Dimmick, vice chairperson of Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM), surprised attendees at the organization's River of Hope Campaign public announcement by cil official and revealing that FROM's food pantry has been named in honor of Jody and Kraig Haybarker, visionaries and cofounders of the organization.

Skateboarders have a place to develop their skills



"We finally did it!" said Cody Dalton, president of the Our Love Skate Park committee. Then he skated up the new quarter pipe temporarily installed at the Our Love Skate Park in Richards Park. Dalton is referring to the length of time it has taken to get a skate park built in Lowell. Beginning in 2007, Dalton and others have been raising money to build a park. The Lowell Chapter of Rotary International committed to a makeover of Richards Park and installed new playground equipment, among other things.

LPD puts the kibosh on cannabis crop A marijuana grow operation in Lowell was uncovered during a response to a domestic violence incident. After obtaining an executive warrant, police discovered a small grow operation in the closet. They seized eight plants, a grow light, plus other components indicating an



intent to manufacture and distribute.

Lowell remembers and honors those who have served with annual Memorial Day parade

The Memorial Day parade this year, in spite of the volatile weather, had a good turnout. Spectators lined the southern part of the bridge, which is currently under construction. A tribune was set up on the north side of the bridge. The city council represented by mayor Jim Hodges along with city manager Dave Pasquale walked in the parade. The parade route started at the fairgrounds and proceeded east on Main Street with a salute to the veterans at the Veterans Memorial in downtown Lowell. Also "Those Who Have Perished at Sea" were honored with flowers thrown into the Flat River by the dam near King Milling. There was a

ear Y brief ceremony at the Oakwood Cemetery. A new memorial will be erected after the Riverwalk parade on July 10. It will resemble combat boots, rifle and a helmet cast in bronze. Along with Beachnaw, it will also honor another victim of The War on Terror, Michael Purcell. Second "Food Fight" hopes to help

"ledger

stock the shelves of FROM

There is always a winning team in most contests. As was the case in last year's inaugural 2009 Lowell Community "Food Fight." The North Lowell team did beat the South Lowell team 4,292 to 4,204 in the collection of nonperishable food items. The result was the Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) received 8,496 food items for their newly dedicated Jody and Kraig Haybarker Food Pantry. "What a fun way for the community to help us stock the shelves, especially when we need it the most," says FROM VanAndel Institute," explained Carol Briggs, co-chairperexecutive director, Mary Novell. "Lowell is a generous and caring community and it shows everyday."

June 9:

Lowell High School's 2010 commencement ball Golf Outing dinner at A highly emotional 2010 commencement ceremony included the recital of Emily Dickinson's poem "Hope" by high school principal Patricia Murphy-Alderman, coupled by music conducted by high school band director Tim

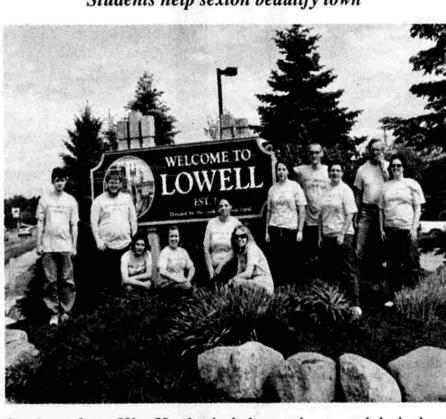
> Lowell hosts mayor exchange day with Greenville The city of Lowell hosted a delegation from Greenville

change day last week. The offi cials from both municipalities. represented by elected councity employees, visited among the many local sites, the Lowell Light and Power plant.



Students Walk for a Cure at Creekside Park Over 500 students, staff, and parents participated in a Walk for a Cure at Creekside Park prior to the school's May 27 field day activities. Students and staff raised over \$6,000 in pledges for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF).

Students help sexton beautify town



Students from Kim Keglovitz' class volunteered their time to beautify the city. They helped sexton Don DeJong clean out areas by the city sign west of town on M21. DeJong said the entire experience was refreshing compared to previous. "I got a lot and I was grateful," he said.

Fifth annual Relay for Life starts this Friday

In association with the American Cancer Society, Lowell will host its fifth Relay for Life on June 11 and 12. Participants will walk around the track at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium. Last year \$62,000 was raised. This year's goal is \$70,000.

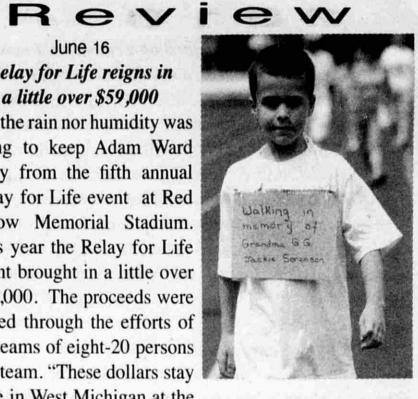
District Champions

For the third time in six years Lowell's softball team earned itself the title of district champion. Lowell did so Saturday with a 6-1 win over East Kentwood in the Division I district title game. The Red Arrows advanced to the final with a 10-0 win over Forest Hills Central in the semifinal. Lowell will now play in the regional on Saturday at Hudsonville against Rockford.

In

June 16 Relay for Life reigns in a little over \$59,000

Not the rain nor humidity was going to keep Adam Ward away from the fifth annual Relay for Life event at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium. This year the Relay for Life event brought in a little over \$59,000. The proceeds were raised through the efforts of 19 teams of eight-20 persons per team. "These dollars stay here in West Michigan at the



son of Relay for Life along with Paul Mundt. There were eight entries who walked for the entire 24 hours while 15 entries lasted 12 hours.

All-Weather Seal donates windows

All-Weather Seal has donated 25 windows to the Flat River Outreach Mir nistries (FROM). Owner Scott McDowell said the company does this to give back to the community that has shown support. The plan is to do all the 72 windows at FROM for a total value of \$58,000.



County begins rural transit assessment With the aid of a Service Development New Technology grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation, the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council, in cooperation with ITP/The Rapid, is conducting a transit needs assessment for Kent County. "It was a general discussion of transit needs and to determine if there is sufficient interest," said Lowell city manager Dave Pasquale.



Daniel Ruland, a boy scout from Lowell Troop #102, is working on his Eagle Scout leadership service project and has chosen for his required community project to scrape and paint all the gray decks and stairways of the Lowell Showboat.

June 23: Sizzlin' Summer concert rocks the Riverwalk

Summer night zlin' mer concer series taking the on the River walk by Showboa Hundreds



concert goers flock to the banks of the Flat River to relax in a lawn chair while listening to music. The first concert of the season featured the Bronk Brothers Band, a Rockin Hillbilly Extravaganza.

Meijer president speaks about ways to improve Michigan economy

President of Meijer, Inc., Mark Murray, shared his ideas how to improve Michigan economy with the Lowell Rotarians and their guests last week. Murray was president of

Grand Valley State University from 2001 to 2006. Prior to that Murray spent 20 years working for the state government and in education. Speaking in front of the full city council chamber,

Murray touched on issues of global economy and the fact that Michigan is not well prepared to compete in it. "Michigan has struggled, we're all engaged in



a global system. We need to enhance skills, entrepreneur skills," he said. "There is quite an urgency, we're at a pivotal point. How do we move forward?"

Scout working on Eagle badge spruces up Showboat

2010

Rails to trails group expects agreement next month A purchase and sales agreement of the Lowell to Greenville railroad corridor with Mid Michigan Railroad may be on the horizon. The much anticipated agreement is expected in July. A rails to trails group has been meeting over the last three years for the purpose of acquiring two railroad corridors that will be converted into trails. The corridor from Lowell to Ionia has been successfully acquired and even boasts a name, the Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Trail. On the other hand, the group continues to struggle with the acquisition of the elusive Lowell to Greenville corridor.

City approves labor contract with Lowell Police Officers Association

The city council, Monday, approved a labor agreement with the Lowell Police Officers Association. The police association is affiliated with the Michigan Fraternal Order of Police. The agreement includes the hiring of a police officer to fill an existing vacancy. "This fills an existing Lowell will now have a motel/bed and breakfast sitting vacancy," said city manager Dave Pasquale. "The contract helps our efficiencies with overtime. It's a win win situation." The contract reduces work hours for a two-week cycle from 84 down to 80. The reduction in hours gives the police chief James Hinton more latitude to fill shifts. Also, the police pay rates have been frozen and aligned with the rest of the city staff. "It's a good agreement," said The downtown bridge replacement project is two weeks Hinton, "it will reduce overtime."

Lowell High School educator recognized

Teachers teach more by what they are than by what they say. Lowell High School English teacher Kristin Schutte exemplifies this daily. Schutte was selected by the Kent County Education Association (KCEA) as High School Teacher of the Year and honored at the KCEA's annual awards banquet in May.

Prominent citizen remembered as Mr. Showboat

Ivan K Blough was a man for all seasons. He will be forever remembered as Mr. Showboat. He designed everything on the boat from the Valentine heart to the Riverwalk duck on the top deck. "He was there for everyone," said lines. grandson Nick Blough, history teacher at Lowell High

Year School. "He was always there to listen." That is how Ivan will be remembered - always there for everyone. Ivan died while mowing the lawn by the Boy Scout cabin on Saturday. His funeral will be held on Thursday at the high school performing arts center.



In

Bike tour raises funds for historical preservation of Fallasburg pioneer village

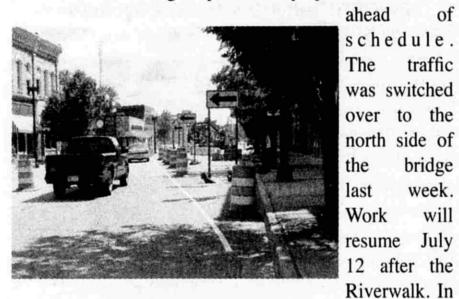
ledger

The 16th annual Fallasburg Covered Bridge Bike Tour will be held on Sunday, July 11, 2010. The tour raises funds for the preservation of the Fallasburg pioneer village. The routes range from 12 to 100 miles, they begin and end at Fallasburg, north of Lowell.

Lowell plans to have motel/bed and breakfast

right on the newly halfway replaced bridge over the Flat River. The building will also have an 18 by 20 square feet conference room, as well as seven motel rooms. Greg River. Canfield is restoring the old 1900s building to its former two-story turn-of-the-century look at 117 West Main.

Bridge project approaches phase II



the meantime, crews like Consumer's will hook up new

Jovial salesman remembered for his smile James D. Wood, "Woody," "Papa," age 74, of Lowell, passed away on Friday, June 25, 2010 at one of his most favorite places, the golf course (Deer Run). In recent years, he set up shop with his truck loaded with golfing supplies, just north of the expressway on Alden Nash. For many golfers and friends that was the first sign of spring.

Riverwalk Fest 2010 this weekend The almighty duck mascot will once again take to the streets in downtown Lowell on the halfway finished bridge during this year's Riverwalk Fest. The festival promises a full spectrum of activities for three entire days. New this year is the North Country Trail Pack and Paddle event. Visitors are encouraged to compete in the Bill and Paul's kavak and canoe race or just plain enjoy kayak fun on the Flat

Lowell to offer accommodations downtown Lowell will have a motel right in the heart of town overlooking the Flat River by this fall. Deb Canfield of Canfield Plumbing and Heating said the motel will fill a big need in town. Currently, there are no accommodations available in the downtown area.

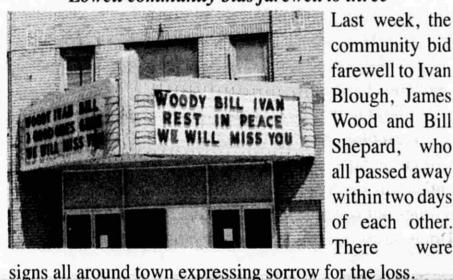
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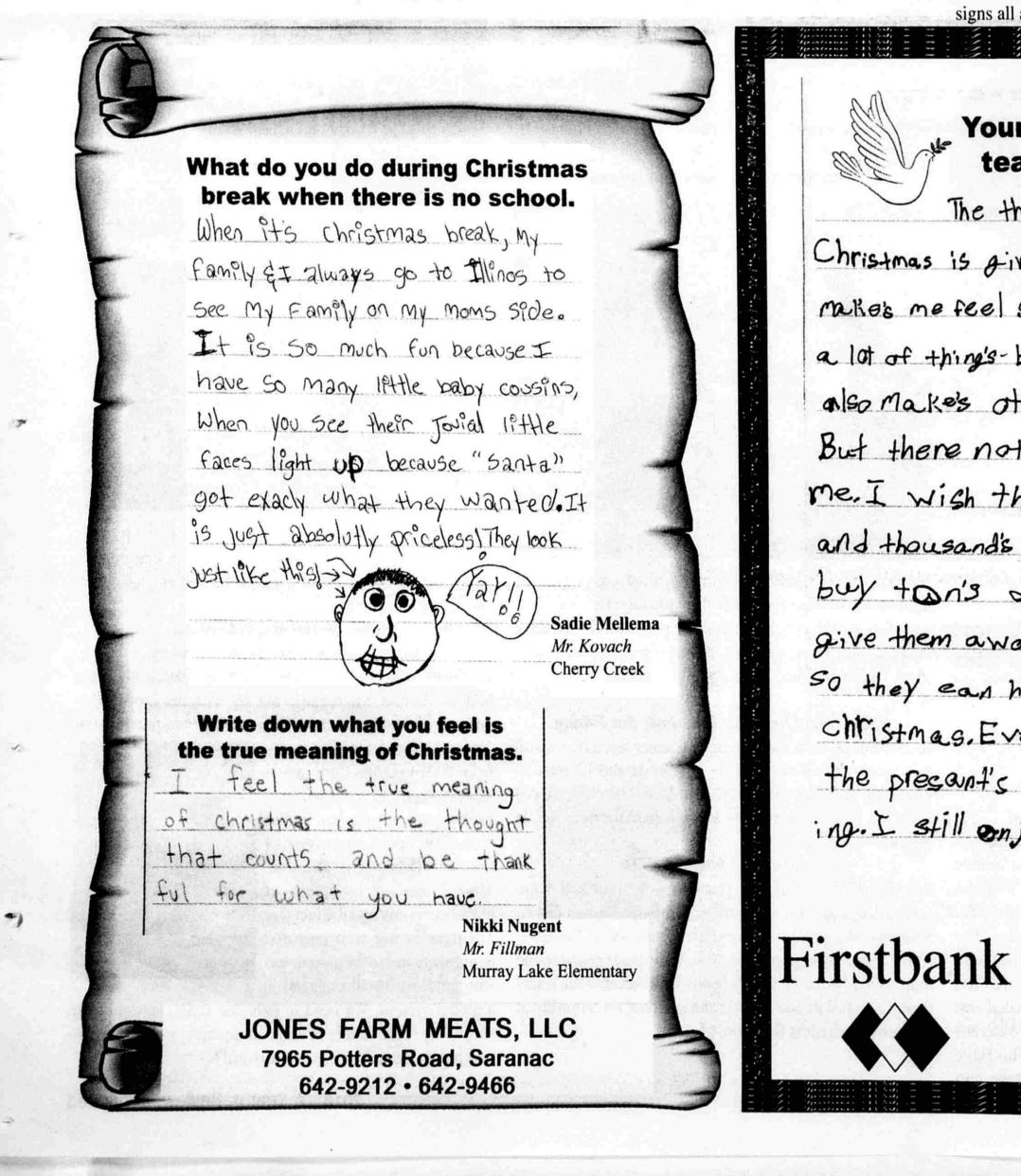
bridge

week

will

July





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JULY July 7:



Lowell community bids farewell to three

Last week, the community bid farewell to Ivan Blough, James Wood and Bill Shepard, who all passed away within two days of each other.

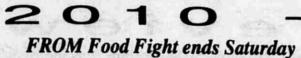
Your own idea - or your teacher's suggestion

The thing I like best about Christmas is divering. I love to give it make's me feel so good inside. I regret a lot of thing's - but never giveing. It also make's other people happy. But there not nerly as happy as me. I wish that I had thousands and thousand's of dallor's so I could buy ton's of presant's and then give them away to complete stranges So they can have a much happyon christmas, Even thought it's not about the presant's and it's about give ing. I still on joy getting presants.

Tianara Gallvan Mr. Kovach Cherry Creek

2601 W. Main, Lowell 897-6171

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There are rivalries and then there are RIVALRIES, as in North Lowell vs. South Lowell. It appears that the 2010 decided on the last day, as it was last year. The North team ended up winning by only 88 food items on the final day

July 14

City manager will retire after 24 years in Lowell

during the FROM the Heart Riverwalk Parade.

City manager Dave Pasquale, 63, will retire next year from his multi-faceted job. Pasquale came to Lowell in 1987 after working as the assistant city manager for Mt. Pleas- Lowell now has a nice place to ant for six years. Prior to that, he worked as a planner for several communities. "I wanted to become city manager,"



he said. In spite of the ongo-Harold Englehardt left \$12 million to the community in lot to offer." 1997. This enabled the establishment of the Lowell Area

Community Fund which is an advised fund of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation. "It was a blessing," said Pasquale. "It allowed us to do numerous projects." "I will miss the day to day working with people and my fellow employees," he said. "But, it's time to retire."

Battlefield cross memorial dedicated

The battlefield cross memorial honoring Sgt. Lucas Tyler Beachnaw was unveiled at the Lowell Veterans' Memorial Park on Main Street alongside the Flat River. A crowd of about 500 attended.

Safe medication disposal program to help

keep pharmaceuticals out of water, off streets A Kent countywide initiative to collect unused pharmaceuticals through local police agencies will keep unwanted drugs out of water supply and off the streets. Drugs never go away even after going through the waste-

Year In water system," said police chief James Hinton. Most people get rid of old drugs by throwing them down the drain. That's how they eventually end up in the water supply. Flat River Outreach Ministries Food Fight is going to be The Lowell Police Department is collecting old drugs in a big metal box placed in the lobby of the city hall, to the right, when entering. Only three people in the police department will have access to the box, which is sort of like a library dropoff box only with a lock at the bottom, and they are Hinton, detective Scot VanSolkema and Leslie Heffron. "Anyone can just come in and dispose of the ter level will remain down for the next three weeks. This pharmaceuticals," said Hinton.

ledger

Ella's Coffee & Cuisine to feature specialty coffees

gather for a discussion, to read a book, or to surf the Internet while sipping on a cup of specialty cofing financial challenges due fee - that is Ella's Coffee & Cuisine to decreasing revenues, the just a few doors down from the city community has been blessed, hall. Owner Ella Bolan is excited according to Pasquale. Low- to start her very own business. "I ell has been endowed several think Lowell is the next place to times by local philanthropists. be," she said. "It's a growing community. It's a small town that has a



July 21

Grand River Expedition 2010 comes to Lowell The Grand River Expedition 2010 is a journey of discovery down mid-Michigan's Grand River, from its source south of Jackson to its mouth at Lake Michigan. The event Hopkins/Allegan area. started July 14 and runs through July 26. The expedition is made up of a broad coalition of organizations, individuals, and communities traveling down river to identify, study and enjoy the values, challenges and opportunities of the Grand River and its 5,570 square mile watershed. This effort will contribute to the public's knowledge, awarenects communities across the region for present and future generations. The watershed analysis and teaching team stream.

Your own idea - or your teacher's suggestion Devin Redd Mrs. Latva Cherry Creek
when I an at my dads we watch the bull brop on New years eve. we drink take wine and hit pans and spoons, When I am at my
this spoons agains + pans almost line at my dods. TIA SALON
EJA SALON 204 W. Main · Lowell · 897-1700
Your own idea - or your Trenton Wyant Trenton Wyant Trenton Wyant Mr. Stevens Cherry Creek Village, i ve got a small pond, buildings, lots of people, and trees, benches, some cars and truchs, and just lots of stuff! I'ts really Fun putting up the miniature village.
Canfield Plumbing & Heating 411 E. Main, Lowell • 897-0887

ew

Doyle said.

Bridge replacement project on track for early October completion

Revi

The downtown bridge replacement project is on track for fall completion. It entered the second phase on the south side approximately two weeks ago. The eastbound traffic is maintained, while westbound traffic remains detoured. Additional detour signing has been posted on Monroe, Washington and Jefferson streets. The water in the Flat River has again been drawn down by two feet and the wadoes affect King Milling because less power is generated from the dam. But, King Milling will purchase the power necessary from Lowell Light & Power, according to president Brian Doyle. "It reduces the amount of power,"

Pink Arrow Pride Day, Aug. 3

In celebration of Gilda's Club of Lowell's 2009 opening of its new remodeled facility at the Lowell Senior Neighbors Center, 314 S. Hudson, a Pink Arrow Pride Day has been scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 3. Gilda's Club staff will be on hand to provide tours to patrons. Along with tours, free lunch and dinner will be served to all who take part in the day's events.

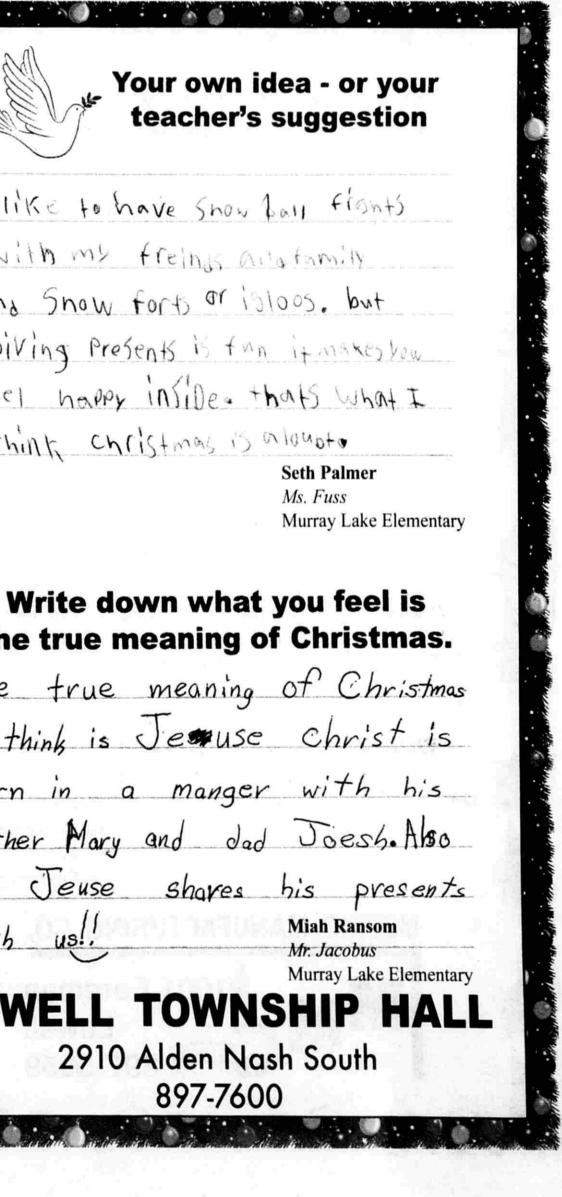
New full-time cop on the block Police chief James Hinton introduced the new full-time police officer Blair Kacos. Kacos has worked part-time in the department since 2009. He is originally from the

July 28 **Community Pink Arrow** Pride Day making a difference



There is something significant about the billboard north of I-96 on Alden Nash which announces the Community ness and appreciation of the Grand River and how it con- Pink Arrow Pride Day (Aug. 3) leading up to the third annual Pink Arrow football game on Sept. 9. "The biggest piece to all of this is the education, prevention and support conducts studies and explains results as it moves down- piece," said Lowell football coach Noel Dean. "Pieces for

2010 - A Year In Review, continued







research and support of family are also important aspects to all of this.'

Expedition brings awareness to Grand River watershed Most of the paddlers lost track of time after day nine on the Grand River Expedition 2010, when they briefly stopped in Lowell for lunch last week. After all, they've been on the river since July 14, starting out by the headwaters near Liberty, south of Jackson. The expedition happens only once in 10 years.

Nixle offers a social networking site



Nixle is a new social networking site that allows local agencies and municipalities to let the communities know what is going on in their own backyard. For example, Lowell police chief James Hinton posted a message on July 16 that water at Stoney Lakeside Park did not meet the Michigan criteria for total body contact. In other words, the total bacteria count was too high. Anybody can sign

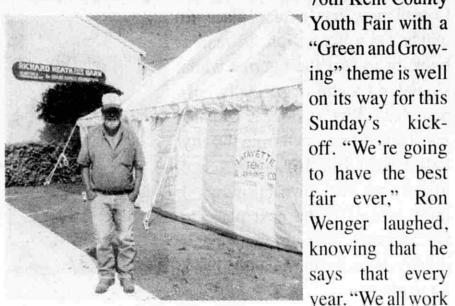
Year In up for nixle.com. It is a pilot program. You can also sign up on the City of Lowell or the chamber website. You can sign up for all advisories, including traffic, schools, Lowell Light and Power, and Department of Public Works.

ledger

AUGUST

August 4 Fair time in Lowell

The fair is coming. That magical time at the height of summer when everything is just right in the middle. The day at the Gilda's Club of Lowell/Lowell Senior Neigh-



together. We support the community and the community supports us.

Sheriff's department to close honor camp

In an effort to make cuts to its \$60 million budget, the Camp in Gowen.

City to regulate trash haulers and snowplow operators In an attempt to regulate the city trash pickup haulers and snowplow operators, the city council set a public hearing for Aug. 16. The main purpose of the hearing is to listen to input from the public and the haulers on the proposed amendment. If approved, the amended ordinance would require the licensing of both solid waste haulers waste," said city manager Dave Pasquale. and snowplow operators.

First Bocce for the Arts fundraiser is fun for all The first Bocce for the Arts, a fundraiser for the Lowell Area Arts Council, was a great success according to di-

76th Kent County "Green and Growon its way for this Sunday's kickoff. "We're going Lowell football coach Noel Dean. to have the best fair ever," Ron Wenger laughed,

Smalligan.

Kent County Youth Fair 2010 off to a great start This year's fair, carrying a 'green' theme, got off to a great start with opening ceremonies Sunday, followed by a busy Heroes' Day on Monday. In the evening, people flocked to the fairgrounds in search of entertainment, and there was plenty of it.

City to bid trash pick-up, may drop recycling subsidy After much ado, the city council representatives will re-Kent County Sheriff's Department may close the Honor bid trash pick-up contract with the same specifications as before. Based on the prices, the city will decide whether to drop recycling subsidy. The city has a bag system and charges \$1.50 per bag for trash, and \$2 for yard waste. In order to encourage recycling, the city has been subsidizing it. The city has 533 recycling bins. The contract with Allied Waste charges the city \$4.34 for recycling."We're at crossroads with garbage pick-up, recycling and yard

0*00*00*00*0 En all What are you What are your family's special **Christmas or** WAKE UP! Christmas or holiday traditions. That's my houiday Traditions are a huge nom up early o Christmas. My favorite part of My Sigter and I Christmas tradition takes on My monts bed Lexi Poll Mrs. Young Delace on Christmas morning. My man gets real Cherry Creek Cant help smilin Our family piles in the After that we a car, and we drive to our My mom saysiwi Grandma and Grandpa's Act Christmas" wait and seel, house. Once we're there with Your own idea - or yo all of my dads side of the teacher's suggestio Chease! That is family, Grandma makes wattles Sound we say when we breakfast. We love to for do a family Picher. I lov add strawberry sauce and whipped to do familey pichers. We Some times make funny for cream. We re all together and part and we do indevisibal this family tradition. ot picher's. We also do cope Madelyne Crace I usealey do a piche Mrs. Fox with my dog. Sometime Alto Elementary We go out side and to **METRIC MANUFACTURING CO.** Piches. Do you do Fam pichers like I do. 1001 Foreman ZEIGLER 119 Lowell 897-5959 . FOR A GREAT EXPERIENCE! 6 * 6 * 6 * 0 * 0

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rector Lorain Smalligan. The event was held in the arts council's own backyard with more than 50 people in attendance. Due to the cuts from the state for arts funding, the arts council has to do more fundraisers, according to

Pink Arrow Pride fuels cancer education

Community Pink Arrow Pride Day brought them in. The opportunity to make an additional donation through their purchase of a t-shirt was added incentive. And food and entertainment was the cool for the soul on a hot and humid bors' Center. Community Pink Arrow Pride Day (Aug. Youth Fair with a 3) was the precursor leading up to the third annual Pink Arrow football game on Sept. 10 against Kenowa Hills. ing" theme is well "Pink Arrow Pride Day is another way to get information out, to get people on the Gilda's Club of Lowell campus and share information and positives about the event," said

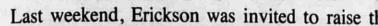
August 11

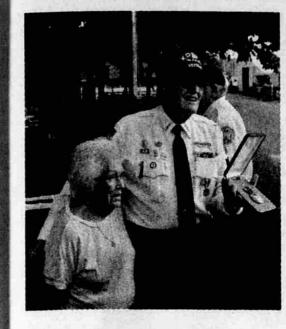
Korean War Veteran at last receives Purple Heart Earlier this summer, Lowell resident John Erickson was recognized by a proclamation from the president of South Korea for his service during the Korean War.

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County 4-H Youth Fair. A surprise was waiting for him. Despite being wounded twice, he had never received a Purple Heart. Through Ehlers' office and otha Purple Heart was at last issued to him.

City saves North Washington Street pump house

The North Washington Street pump house peacefully sleeps amid ferns and trees. The yellow brick building In the last few weeks of summer left, the Sizzlin' Summer dates back to the 1920s. It is an integral part of the North Washington city-owned preserved property that sits on 20 acres, just a few feet away from the North Country Trails. tors to the banks of The city purchased the land in 1917. "It's a valued asset," the Flat River, now said renter of the adjacent home, Gary Dietzel. "There's a back up to its normal park surrounding it." Although the pump house was slated level. for demolition, the city council last week recognized its The last concert of historical value and moved to put \$4,000 into the repairs. The demolition would have cost \$1,900. Dietzel contributed \$2,000 toward the fix-up which will include electric- on Aug. 26. ity, windows, structural stabilization and roofing. "You will get another 30 years out of it," said Dietzel. But, the city will go ahead and demolish the bigger building be- The Pink Arrow Pride live jersey auction will take place on hind the pump house and the concrete slabs left after the pole barn structure used by the Lowell Light and Power. The estimated cost is \$5,050.

Crowley named new high school assistant principal

As Lowell's former girls' basketball coach, Dee Crowley understands how important it is to have players who bring a skill set conducive to executing within the system. Crowley's skill set and competent background in the areas of management and curriculum made her the best qualified candidate for the assistant high school principal



position, according to Lowell superintendent Greg Pratt. "We are fortunate that we had such a viable candidate in the system," Pratt said.

August 18 Sweet farewell to the fair

It was a fair to remember. Some will remember it for 90degree temperatures, others for their well-auctioned off animals, and yet others for their well-deserved colorful ribbons. And it wasn't just kids having fun, but adults too of Labor Day on major networks and cable. enjoyed the country atmosphere.

Bridge replacement project on target for Oct. 1 completion

The downtown bridge replacement project over Flat River is on target for Oct. 1 completion. The water in the river has been brought back up to the regular height. The project is within the \$1.4 million budget according to Darrell Heuker, Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) delivery engineer.

Genesis Code to premiere Aug. 27 in Lowell Filmed in Lowell and Grand Rapids last year, the movie Genesis Code premieres Aug. 27 in Ada Lowell 5 theater. City to adopt license fees for trash haulers

The city will adopt license fees for garbage haulers and snowplow operators at the next city council meeting on Sept. 7. A brief discussion was devoted to the issue at the Monday night meeting. The council was unanimous that the fees will be minimal and the intent of the ordinance amendment is not to make money but provide for safety of the city residents. "This is not intended to be a money maker for the city," said councilwoman Maryalene LaPonsie. "We want to set a minimal fee."

Car dealer joins Pink Arrow Pride to help food pantry Harold Zeigler Ford is joining forces with Pink Arrow Pride by helping to bring community awareness to the empty shelves at The Flat River Outreach Ministries. A pickup truck will be available, starting at noon, on Pink Arrow game day at the Lowell Red Arrow Stadium. The community is asked to bring nonperishable food items, toiletries and household cleaning products to the games on Friday.

August 25

New event showcases nonprofits The new Kaleidoscope of Flavors will showcase nonprofit

Year A In Last weekend, Erickson was invited to raise the flag to organizations in the Lowell area. The event is designed to kick off the 2010 Kent highlight volunteer opportunities. "The idea is to get to SEPTEMBER know the nonprofits," said chamber director Liz Baker. The event will be held on Sept. 9. Approximately 22 organizations with 14 different stops are participating.

ledger

DDA funds crack sealing at municipal parking lots The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) approved \$3,705 for crack sealing of downtown parking lots. The for community and kids. the combined efforts lowest bidder was Stormzand Asphalt. The work will be As part of its teacher inof Congressman Vern carried out on a Sunday.

River Revelry to raise funds for arts ers aware of his story, The second annual River Revelry to be held on the Riv- en at Red Arrow Stadium erwalk and the Showboat will raise funds for the Lowell Area Arts Council and its programming. Due to cuts to arts funding from the state, art organizations are forced to a staff effort to show and emphasize that they, the commudo more fundraisers.

Sizzlin' finale for summer concerts

Concert series has attracted many visi-

the season will Blues Argentucky



Pink Arrow jersey auction, Sept. 1

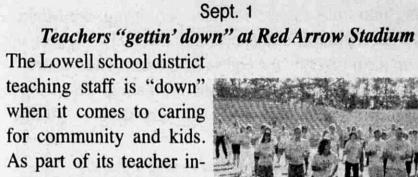
Sept. 1 after the Lowell junior varsity football game. The auction provides an opportunity for, a Pink Arrow football player, the honor of wearing your loved one's name on his jersey. All bids on the jerseys will start at \$225. There will be jerseys available for auction. The jerseys will be presented to the family at the end of the Pink Arrow football game on Sept. 9 against Kenowa Hills.

Lowell High School's Class of 1950 hold reunion Lowell High School Class of 1950 held their 60th class reunion at Deer Run on June 24, 2010.

Planning commission approves Litehouse expansion industrial and the expansion will add one more acre to the Noel Dean. complex.

Commercial for Chemical Bank shot in Lowell So what that Lowell doesn't have a Chemical Bank. It has a nice, small hometown feel. And that is exactly what the producers of a commercial for Chemical Bank were looking for last week. The ad focuses on natural resources and history in Michigan. The ad is scheduled to air the week

What are your family's special Christmas or holiday traditions. As soon as my dog Gemini licks me to wake me up, I run to get Mallory, my sister logether, we wake up my mom and dad. We start to open gifts as soon as my mom gets her camera. After we open preasents at my house, We go to my papa's house for dinner or lunch. We open gifts there too. Then we go to my other grandpass house. Then my grandma comes over Natalie Price Mr. Kovach Cherry Creek **B.C. PIZZA** 1335 W. Main • 897-9776



Review

service day on Tuesday, a video of the staff was takin their Pink Arrow Pride shirts getting "down" to Jay Sean's pop hit. It's all part of nity, and kids are all in it together. The Pink Arrow games

Sept. 8

are scheduled for September 10.

The 2nd annual River Revelry signals end of summer The annual fundraiser for the Lowell Area Arts Council ended the hot summer days with colder temperatures on its heels. The event on the Riverwalk was well attended.

Farmers' Market continues with new produce The Farmers' Market is rolling into its full season with great fresh produce such as tomatoes, peppers, melons, peaches and potatoes.

Sept. 15

Pink Arrow - a show of pride on and off the field



The third annual Pink Arrow Pride event continued to amaze and respond to the needs of local cancer survivors and to the memories of those who lost their battle. The event brought together staff, students, community and local organizations to make life better for individuals and families whose lives are affected by cancer. Nearly 9,000 (8,801) Pink Arrow Pride t-shirts were sold and nearly 2,000 Purple Shield shirts

The Lowell City Planning Commission approved, Mon- were sold in the Kenowa Hills community. "I really apday, a 43,127 square-foot addition for Litehouse Inc., lo- preciate everything the Kenowa Hills community did to cated on Foreman Road. The 18-acre property is zoned support this project tonight," said Lowell football coach

Sept. 22

Fallasburg Fall Festival arrives this weekend Decked out in the bold glory of fall colors, Fallasburg Park provides an ideal setting for a festival that annually celebrates the arts. And this year it has more entries than ever. The multi-faceted event will feature 105 fine artists selling their work in specific booths around the park.

你茶 茶茶茶茶茶茶茶茶茶茶茶茶茶 Your own idea - or your teacher's suggestion * My torocite part about christma essept for the girts is deorating. I love decorating the house. The & have looks like a Sonta Shop. I # mean red sanks, white sontas big fat. * cout on them, and santas with gifts. * The tree is covered with green, White, red, Siver, and gold. It has bous and everything, my favorite thing in the house is a candycane house. It is has a red roor, the door is a & Chocolote brown with a heart # dar nob. It locks the best. That's how my * house larks. **Kaitlynn Williams** Mr. Stevens Cherry Creek James Reagan, D.D.S. 207 W. Main • 897-7179 茶茶茶茶茶茶 AD # #A #e# # B#V#WAC # 1940

2010

Main Street bridge project nearly complete The much feared downtown bridge replacement project is heading into final stages. Weather permitting, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) expects to wrap up the project by the end of next week. The construction started in April and it is ahead of schedule. The bridge will last at least another 50 years, according to MDOT officials.

LAAC gallery dedicated to Doyle family

The Lowell Area Arts Council Gallery has been dedicated to the Doyle family after 25 years in existence. Approximately 50 people were present. King Doyle gave the final speech. The celebration included naming the gallery "King Gallery" with a wood carved sign to honor the company for its commitment to supporting the arts in Lowell The Flat River woodcarvers made the sign.

Alto Harvest Festival celebrates the season The 30th annual Alto Harvest Festival took place last Saturday. The day started with a pancake breakfast put on by the Alto/Bowne Township Fire Department. This was followed by the opening ceremonies with the raising of the flag.

Sept. 29

Powerful storm takes out some foliage in Lowell A powerful storm rocked the city of Lowell last week



leaving behind and debris in the downtown area and the surrounding townships of Vergennes Lowell. were said chief police James Hinton. "It could have been worse." Strong winds also broke

down a pole in front of The Lowell Ledger offices. The Lowell Light and Power crew replaced it.

Lowell downtown bridge replacement

project will be celebrated during Harvest Festival The city of Lowell will celebrate the completion of the \$3 million downtown bridge replacement project twice. MDOT will hold its own dedication on Oct. 7. The city then, during the Harvest Festival, will have its own ceremony on the bridge on Oct. 9. Following an official speech, an eight-foot tall troll created by Nate Galusha will be unveiled by the new Main Street Inn. The Lowell troll will be placed on a pylon, where he will be anchored forever. "He will guard the city of Lowell," said Lowell

Area Arts Council director, Lorain Smalligan. Fallasburg Fall Festival well attended

The 42nd annual Fallasburg Fall Festival was well attended with the most entries ever. Artists, crafters and artisans were stationed all around the park.

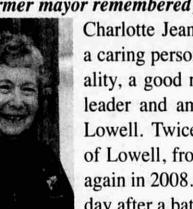
Skateboard park relocated

The skateboard ring has been relocated from Richards Park to Stoney Lakeside, next to the doggie park, thanks

fiedger Year

to a grant from the Lowell Area Community Fund and the Lowell Cable Television Fund. The total cost including the 20 new parking spaces is \$37,000. The contractors were Roth Construction.

OCTOBER Oct. 6



**

Former mayor remembered for her love of Lowell Charlotte Jeanne Shores was known as a caring person with a balanced personality, a good neighbor, a relentless city leader and ambassador for the city of Lowell. Twice, Shores was the mayor of Lowell, from 2001 to 2005 and then again in 2008. Shores passed away Sunday after a battle with cancer at age 74.

Harvest Celebration adds new barn dance



The annual Harvest Celebration will take place this Saturday both in downtown and at the fairgrounds. New this year is the barn dance at Reath Barn.

Big Tree Contest

The Big Tree contest October 9 deadline is fast approaching. The Lowell Arbor Committee is looking to document the biggest trees in Lowell.

City approves search facilitator to find new manager

The Lowell City Council, Monday, approved Michigan Municipal League search facilitator Bill Baldridge to find a new city manager. Current manager Dave Pasquale will be retiring on June 30 after 20 years with the city. The search project is expected to last 12 weeks and it will include site visits. "We're looking to find a proper fit," said mayor Jim Hodges.

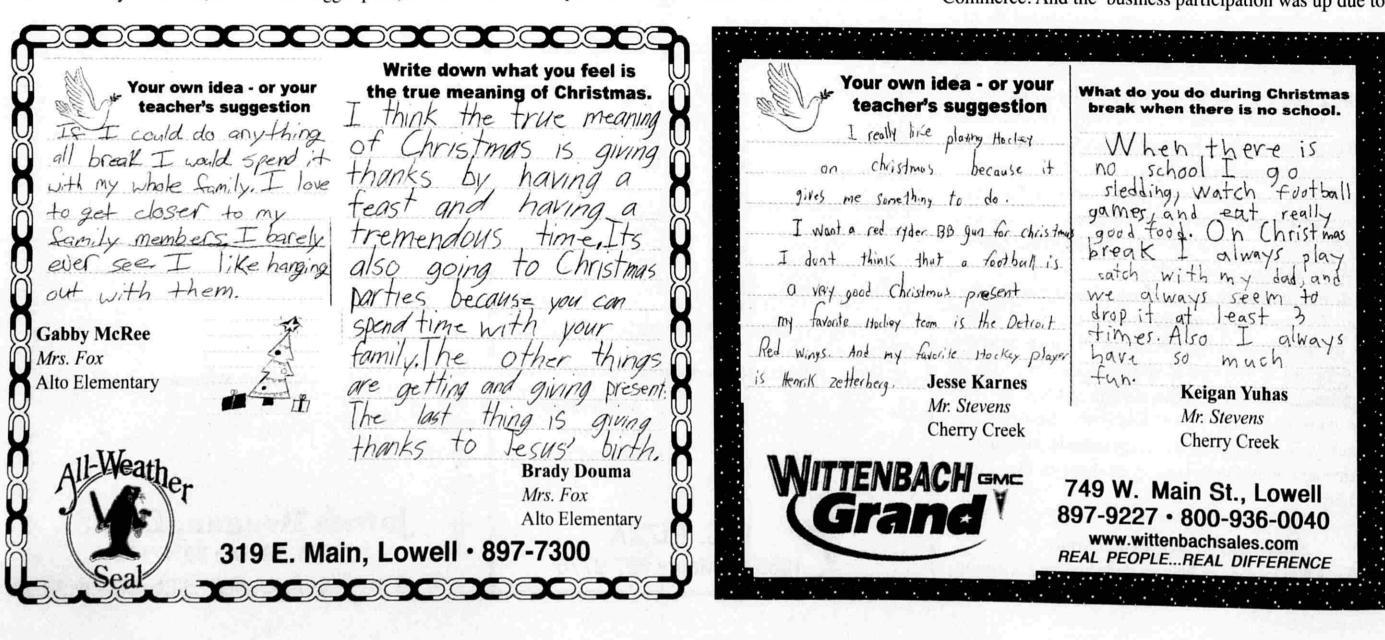
Rotary Club member and LHS student luncheon Members of the Lowell Rotary Club will welcome the 2010-11 Lowell High School Interact Club students from Lowell High School at a noon luncheon at Grand Volute in Lowell on October 13. Twenty-eight students ages 14-18 will be part of this year's Interact Club, lead by school advisor R.J. Boudro, with Lowell Rotary Club as its sponsor. The students are also required to do at least two service projects each year - one local and one international. Last year the two projects included Hope for Haiti and the FROM Food Fight

Museum unveils temporary exhibit

The Lowell Area Historical Museum unveiled the newest temporary exhibit "Fabulous Furniture" last week after an opening receiption at the McQueen Building.

Equestrian team captures region's championship Lowell's equestrian team continued its ride of excellence

the trolls that have been sent home now that the bridge project is done. Actually, the trolls have been auctioned off and some businesses would not give theirs up, according to Catherine Bek of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. And the business participation was up due to



the competition started in 1976.

In

Troll permanently installed in river and new Main Street bridge is officially opened

A troll, designed and built to commemorate the downtown bridge replacement project, has been permanently installed on a pylon floating in the Flat River by the Main Street Inn. The artist, Nate Galusha, built the seven and a half foot troll of styrofoam and fiberglass. Then he placed burlap on him and painted him bronze. There will most likely be a contest to name the troll, who is right now being called the Lowell Troll.

Sunny Harvest Festival celebrates bridge completion It was a perfect October Saturday, not a cloud in the sky. The Harvest Celebration took off strong with crowds gathering on the newly restored bridge. The bridge was closed to celebrate the \$2.5 million project put on by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). Vergennes Club puts on fashion show promotes FROM The Vergennes Cooperative Club organized a fashion show at the Schneider Manor to promote awareness about the Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) clothing store

Lowell YMCA celebrates 50th anniversary The YMCA of Lowell is celebrating 50 years of organized programming for youth and adults. The organization started in 1960 thanks to a half a million dollar donation from Florence Lee King. The headquarters were set up in the east half of the Robert W. Graham building right next to the library. The branch director at that time was Jim Hodges, now the mayor of Lowell. "The motto back then was everybody participates," said Hodges. To celebrate their anniversary the YMCA will have an open house on Oct. 16.



wednesday · december · 29 · 2010 Review

when its "B" squad captured the Region A grand championship. The win qualified Lowell for this year's finals Oct. 14-17 at Midland County Fairgrounds. A Lowell equestrian team has been part of the state finals every year since

Oct. 13



Oct. 20 Girls' Night Out differs from previous years

Champagne, choco-

ate covered strawberries and dancing, that's what it was all about last Thursday during a different Girls' Night Out. Even though some girls still sported yellow construction hard hats from the spring Girls' Night Out, it was all about

wednesday · december · 29 · 2010 ·



the troll marketing project. Each participating business in the troll project got automatically enrolled in Girls' Night High gust cyclonic winds ripped through the area last Out. However, according to most merchants, public participation was down, as well as sales.

Lowell city approves \$2,000 for economic development Monday night, the Lowell City Council approved \$2,000 for economic retention and development for The Right Place, Inc., an economic development corporation. Its in downtown Lowell. number one goal, according to Klohs, is economic retention of existing businesses and attraction of new businesses, mainly manufacturers.

Pauly's launches new bus for pub crawl

Nothing beats being chauffeured in a small bus to area microbreweries. That is Pauly's newest addition to already existing wine tours to Leelanau and Old Mission peninsu la wineries. Last Sunday, Paul and Stacey Faba held their inaugural voyage to three local breweries. The other local breweries included Founders and the newest brewery in Sparta, the Michigan Beer Cellar.

Pink Arrow Pride continues to inspire

The Pink Arrow Pride event experienced a 14 percent increase in charitable donations this year. In 2009 the event raised \$115,000 in donations. This year, that total ballooned to \$133,000. The three-year total for the Pink Arrow events rests at a little over \$340,000. All of the funds are disbursed to community wellness, scholarships and Gilda's Club of Lowell to enhance cancer education and awareness.

Oct. 27

A community icon and entrepreneur, King Doyle dies He was an icon in the community.

an old navy salt, a great entrepreneur and a supporter of the arts, an artist himself. A gallery inside the Lowell Area Arts Council has just been named after him. King Doyle, 88, served as the King Milling president for 50 years and most recently as the company chairman until his death on Oct. 23. He will mostly be remembered for his humbleness and generosity.



Airplane attracts attention

A Piper Cherokee plane from the 1970s is on display in front of the Lowell Airport to promote awareness about the airport. "The airplane was beyond repair," said airport fixed based operator Dan Williams. The airplane didn't pass the annual inspection due to engine troubles this year, according to Williams. It has attracted attention so far since it was put up on the site during late summer.

> Chili cook-off raises money for the **Greater Lowell Chamber Foundation**



annual chili cook-off, Guide. held during the Harvest Celebration and organized money for the Greater Lowell Chamber Foun-

dation in memory of Ivan K Blough for scholarships

NOVEMBER November 3

Motivated midterm election voters flock to the polls

Patricia Ramos was motivated to vote because she is only three years away from social security. And she cares about young people having jobs in Michigan and not leaving the state. "I want jobs back in Michigan and I want to see it keep going," she said. Just before the polls opened,



there was a line of 15 people, according to city clerk Betty Morlock. "I think people are paying more attention as the economy gets tight," she said. "They're upset with changes. We've had a steady stream," said Morlock. "People Street near Meijer has already started. are continuously coming through. It's a busy election, beter than normal."



ledger

week knocking down more branches and trees only one month after the last storm. The newly placed troll sitting on a pylon survived the storm with only a few cattails exposing metal. The last storm was at the end of September and it mostly caused damage in the area of Richards Park

LHS grad places among top 20 in local TV competition Darryl Thompson, a 2002 graduate of Lowell High School, hopes to become a face on WOTV. So far, he has placed among the first 20 after the open auditions held on Oct. 23 at Celebration Cinema South in Grand Rapids.

Halloween sees fewer costumes in Lowell businesses



This year, there weren't quite as many dressed up business people as usual. Dr. Jim Reagan's office dressed up last Thursday. Jack Reedy, owner of Rookies Sportcards Plus, dressed up as the newest upcoming superhero, The Green Lantern. Overall, Halloween was without any major incidents, according to the Lowell Police Department.

Nov. 10

Biggest trees named in annual tree contest

They may not all be tree huggers, but the three top winners of the "Biggest Tree" contest are aware of the beauty and the magnitude of the trees in their yards. The winning tree located at 412 N. Division was submitted by Gail Thomet, who saw the ad in The Lowell Ledger or the Buyers



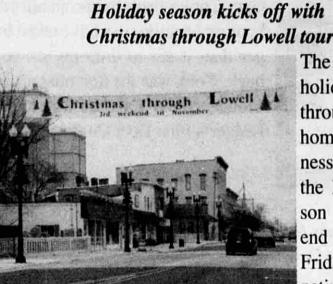
Lowell honors veterans with annual dinner The American Legion and VFW will honor veterans with an annual dinner at the Veteran's Center. The dinner will Larkin's, raised be catered by Backwater Café. The featured speaker is \$2,195 in seed Gary Morrison.

> Area resident will turn 100 Lillian Briggs doesn't know yet how she will celebrate her



100th birthday. That is a surprise left up to the kids, daughter Pam Wengorovious and granddaughter Lori Moore. Briggs lives with Pam in Belmont. The family celebrated her 99.5 birthday on July 11. They will most likely take Briggs out to eat somewhere. Briggs plans to continue to play cards into the future.

Skateboard park relocation completed The relocation of the community skateboard park, from Richards Park to Stoney Lakeside, has been completed. The main goal, according to city manager Dave Pasquale, was to get the skateboarders out of the residential areas. City approves \$10,000 for Lowell Township sidewalk The city council has approved an additional \$10,000 from the Lowell Cable Television (LCTV) Fund for the construction of a sidewalk and a pedestrian bridge. The project which connects Key Heights Village to Birmingham



Review

Nov. 17

The 19th annual holiday tour area hrough homes and businesses kicks off the holiday season this weeknd including riday. 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

Plans to improve west bank and amphitheatre amended 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 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.

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. "It's a great teaser campaign to celebrate the 10th year anniversary of Gilda's Club of Grand Rapids," said Teresa Beachum. "It's exciting."



Community Thanksgiving dinner planned

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.

63rd District judge

entertains Lowell Women's Club



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.

2010 - A Year In Review, continued

What do you do during Christmas break when there is no school.

During Christmas break my family and I do many things together. My brothers and I go sledding or snowboarding, since we are almost always outside. Sometimes, when my dad comes. home from work, he will give the family rides on the snowmobiles. He even lets me drive the **Hailey Hoevenaar** smallest one.

Mrs. Schneider Alto Elementary

1450 W. Main

Lowell

897-9231

800-798-9973

What are your family's special Christmas or holiday traditions. My family special holiday is black out. It means we have no light's on but we have are christmass light on that is all. We alwas have fun on Kamryn Mattso black out. So that is my Mr. Kovach special holiday. Cherry Creek

Ohowboat

- Stummunuumunuumunuumunuumunut-

AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY, INC.



First Deer Contest winner

O

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.

Nov. 24

Christmas through Lowell shows steady turnout

The annual Christmas through Lowell tour had a steady, comfortable turnout, a sign of an improving economy. Beautiful November sunshine held up for all three days of the shopping

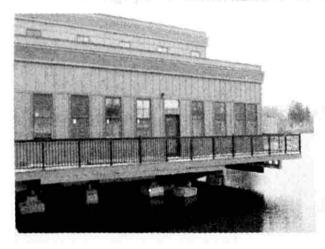


spree. "We've been comfortably busy," said June Dilly, organizer of the Lowell Women's Club luncheon at the Chamber of Commerce.

LaughFest hopes to bring out community comedians for a cause

Get ready to laugh. There will be comedians all over Grand Rapids in March and the organizers of the first Laugh-Fest are encouraging communities like Lowell to emulate the fest. "It's a community based event," said marketing and public relations director of Gilda's Club, Paul Salyer. "Anyone can sign up." The LaughFest is modeled after ArtPrize following its huge success, according to leadership board member of Lowell Gilda's Club, Teresa Beachum. "This was 18 months in the planning," she said. "ArtPrize was the fuel for bringing comic relief to West Michigan." So, March will bring the nation's first ever community-wide festival of laughter to Grand Rapids, March 10, 2011.

Middle school students visit the Lowell Airport A group of 32 seventh-grade students from Lowell Middle School chose a field trip to the Lowell City Airport as their activity for the end of Trimester I Rewards Day. New hotel slated to open on Main Street



The much awaited hotel on Main Street is slated to open on Thanksgiving The majority of the rooms under \$100. To rent the entire inn costs \$995.

What do you do during Christmas break when there is no school.

Over Christmas break I do many things. My top favorite thing to do is sleding. I like standing straight up on my slead going fast. Second favorite would have to be making forts. Just take a big mound of snow, dig through it to make a hole, and enjoy. Other wise I read or go to Christmas Parties.

> **Katie Flier** Mrs. Fox Alto Elementary

> > Lowell



Lowell perseveres in 35-21 win over Central Gary Cook's drive to his opening day Lowell will return to Ford Field Friday to defend its 2009 Division 2 state championship following the Red Arrows 35-21 semifinal win over Walled Lake Central on Saturday. "It's great. These kids (seniors) deserve it," said Lowell football coach Noel Dean.

ledge

In

Year

DECEMBER Dec.1

Shopping in Lowell off to a good start

Shopping in downtown Lowell on Black Friday was slightly up, but followed an up and down pattern due to a Lowell football game. "We got off to a good start," Mike Sprenger of Springrove Variety said. "But then everybody went to the game." "It was a little better than last year," said Sprenger. At Larkin's, business picked up after the football game. Further down west on Fulton, salesperson Sharon Miller of Bernard's Ace Hardware said the store was busier last year.

Farmers' Market may move to new location

The Farmers' Market may move next spring from the fairgrounds to the parking lot in front of Tractor Supply for better exposure for the vendors. Chamber director Liz Baker is hoping that the move will reinvent the market. The market has had a diminishing number of vendors.

Christmas at Fallasburg raises money for historic preservation

The Christmas bonfire, 50 feet tall, held after the Christmas dinner at the Fallasburg schoolhouse can be seen all the way from town. It is the highlight of the annual fundraiser, according to president of Fallasburg Historical Society, Ken Tamke. The stack, made from tree trimmings collected from the area, is 15 yards long and 10 yards high. The Christmas dinner on Dec. 11 is the second largest fundraiser after the July bike tour. Craig Wood is the firemaster who tends to the fire along with some diehards. "The community gathers around the fire," said Tamke.

Community Thanksgiving dinner a big success



The second annual community Thanksgiving dinner held the First Congregational Church was a big success, according to pastor Chris Schwab. The meal was sponsored by Lowell area churches with many volunteers serving food. Approximately 150 people were served.

Your own idea - or your teacher's suggestion when I get gifts for my family I think about what they I. Ke to do. For example, my brother likes to build and take apart stuff. I might give him a tool Kit or some screwdrivers. My mom loves things that share love. I might buy her a Cup that says how much I love, her. That's how I can choose gifts for my wonderful family. **Hunter Krzysik** Mr. Stevens Cherry Creek 301 W. MAIN

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Harrison 38-28.



Claus aboard.



Following Santa and Christmas festivities in Lowell As Mr. and Mrs. Claus make their grand entrance through the decorated trellis onto the Showboat, for their annual Santa visits and picture session last Saturday, seven-yearold Austin Bartrum runs to hug Santa. The Showboat, with its Santa room on the lower deck, is decked out with garland, Christmas trees and lights. Mrs. Claus turns up the heater as the windows fog. Santa especially likes seeing grandpas and grandmas in front of him turn into little kids again. He believes that no one is ever too old to have a photo taken with him, or too young.

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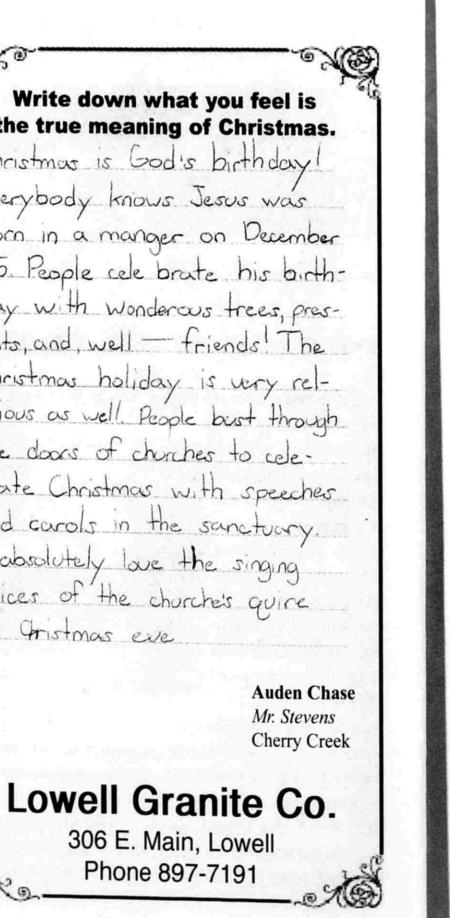
Red Arrows' title dreams upended Four second-half possessions that resulted in four consecutive turnovers erased an 11-point lead and with it washed away any chance of a second straight Division 2 state title for the Lowell football team on Friday at Ford Field in Detroit, as Lowell lost the title game to Farmington Hills

Dec. 8

Annual nighttime

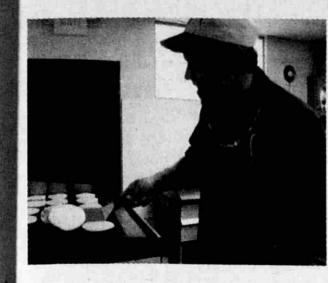
Santa Parade ushers in holiday spirit annual night-Santa parade ime had 54 entries and it went smooth all the way from the opening emergency vehicles

to the closing carriage ride into town with Mr. and Mrs.



vednesday · december · 29 · 2010 2010

Chef cooks up pancakes during Christmas festivities



Anytime between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m., prior to the parade, anyone can get delicious pancakes, scrambled eggs and meat patties with juice and maple syrup for a freewill donation. The event is a fundraiser

for the premium program at the Kent County Youth Fair according to coordinator Rory Kidder. On average, the pancake supper raises from \$800 to \$1,200. Chef Dean Olin with co-chef Gary Ridder always makes sure there is plenty for all. Last week they served 358 people.

Ice Sculpture contest draws talent

The annual Flat River Freeze Ice Sculpture challenge held on the Riverwalk during Christmas festivities last week attracted a lot of talent. Joe Pearson received first place, \$40 in Shop Lowell gift certificates, with his elaborately carved butterfly.

Dec.15

Christmas festivities gear up to grand finale The snow on the ground and arctic temperatures arrived just in time for Santa. So, the Christmas atmosphere definitely prevailed in spite of the cold as the young and the old queued in front of the Showboat to visit with Santa. Connections and trailheads on

the docket for Rail to Trail group

Taking it easy after months of work and finalizing the purchase of the Midwest railroad corridor from Lowell to Greenville, and even contemplating disbanding, the Rail to Trail group discussed trail connectivity and trailheads. At the same time, the corridor was being gifted to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), a common practice with converted railroad corridors. The 25-mile long corridor from Lowell to Greenville was the last to be purchased in the Fred Meijer River Valley Rail Trails network, right after the Grand River Valley Rail Trail from Lowell to Io-



"ledger

The Lowell Area Historical Museum celebrated Christmas right at the beautiful headquarters, unlike in previous years at area private homes. The exposure of the museum now gains new momentum as the millage will be up for renewal in 2012.

Volunteers pack food boxes, stock toy shop This year FROM handled 415 orders compared to last year's 385. Approximately 40 voluntee



worked on two shifts last week.



It is only necessary to make war with five things; with the maladies of the body, the ignorances of the mind, with the passions of the body, with the seditions of the city and the discords of families.

- Pythagoras (582 BC - 507 BC)

The only good is knowledge and the only evil is ignorance.

- Socrates (469 BC - 399 BC)

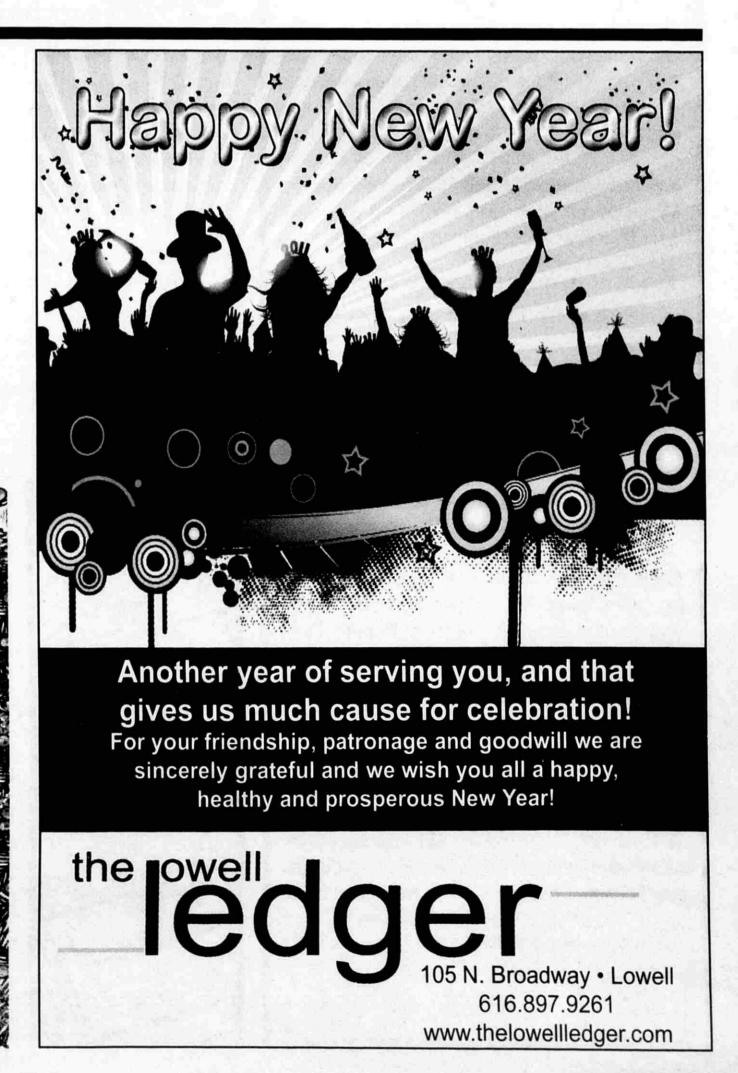
What are your family's special Christmas or holiday traditions.)ne Each year on Christmas + faditions Eve our family set cookies and under the fireplace for Santa Clause. We have a plate first that we can write messages on. Also we take outmeal and sprinkle around the yard for the reindeer. In Christmas Day Santa always ites back and the oatmeal is gone. mom We continue doing this tradition each in hard Erin Smithee Mrs. Fox

205 E. Main, Lowell • 897-9480

Alto Elementary Chimera Desidn

What are your family's special Christmas or holiday traditions. families is +0 hide fake pickle in a tree. Who finds ever it first opens the present. It is amazing but Stressfur game. It is fun because find it.I. is difficult because hides it Spots.

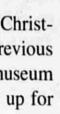
Gabby McRee Mrs. Fox Alto Elementary



Review In the spirit of the holidays, the Pink Arrow Pride and local organizations handed over checks with raised funds for Gilda's Club last week at the Senior Neighbors center. Due to the unbelievable response from the community, the Pink Arrow Pride project and various organizations have raised a total of \$135,753 this year.

All-Weather Seal gives the give of warmth

This year, All-Weather Seal donated a houseful of windows worth \$15,000 to Tom and Diana Whitelock of Ionia. They were nominated by sales representative Leonard Whitelaly, who met the couple in May on a sales call. The





Whitelocks income was cut in half, they lost their farm and had to declare bankruptcy. They now live in Ionia in a small three bedroom home that needs windows and siding. Even though they couldn't afford to pay for new windows, Tom said, "Let's do it."

Public hearings scheduled to grant tax abatement to Litehouse/selecting streets for repairs

The Lowell City Council set a public hearing for Jan. 3 to grant tax abatement to Litehouse for the \$4.9 million expansion to the existing facility located on Foreman. The addition of a 43,000 sq. ft. facility qualifies Litehouse for a 50 percent abatement for 12 years. This according to the application will retain 161 existing positions, and add 25 new jobs within two years. In other business, the council set a public hearing for Jan. 3 for street improvements funded partly by the Federal Community Development Block Grant. (CDBG) The streets in question were North Center Street from West Main Street to north of Heffron at Laurels of Kent or Sibley from Valley Vista Drive to west of Ridgeview.

page 28

wednesday • december • 29 • 2010

Community leaders' hopes for 2011, continued

"ledger

Museum director Pat Allchin foresees bringing more businesses into the downtown.

"We're going to keep Lowell." on trying to stimulate things in town, making people want to be here and keep the downtown active," said

are collaborating to make this a place to live, work and play. We're going to focus on doing more things in

Upcoming plans at the museum include a spring raffle with a night at the new Main Street Inn and a meal Allchin. "All the non-profits at the Flat River Grill or



Museum director Pat Allchin

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION **ORDINANCE NO. 10-05** and ORDINANCE NO. 10-06

BOWNE TOWNSHIP

other local restaurants, plus Worskshop on the Showboat \$50 in Lowell bucks.

"We want to make it a tradition for anniversaries," said Allchin. "It's a great place to be."

Allchin said the museum plans on maintaining the level of services, while increasing visitors.

"Our goal is increasing our programs and working on the traveling exhibit to be released in 2011," said Allchin.

The museum will be celebrating its 10th anniversary next year. During a planned open house in the fall, the museum will highlight its incredible collection of in July.

Also the museum, along with the rest of the nation, will celebrate 150 year anniversary of the Civil War at the Lowell Township Hall.

"Our everyday activity speaks volumes for this community," said Allchin.

Last year, 3,700 volunteer hours were logged. Allchin wants to keep building on the momentum of collaboration between businesses and non-profits. The museum received a grant from the Look Memorial Fund for tables and chairs for the rentals of the facility.



include a new venue for the gallery and the performing arts program, as well as dance programming.

"It's difficult here to do performing arts," she said.

The arts council works around the high school programming. With the performing arts, Smalligan hopes to bring more tourists into town. During the recent play "Escanaba in Love" most people came from the out of town areas, according to Smalligan.

"I'd like to see more happenings downtown," she said.

And arts are vibrant in Lowell that has traditionally embraced its values and many local talents.

Gallery owner Kathleen Kennedy Jr. in 1999. Mooney is known for making things happen through collaboration with other groups like the Pink Pride, Gilda's and the chamber.

"You achieve more when you work with other people than by yourself," she said.

Her big project is the "Waterkeepers Series" with focus on clean water locally and nationally.

She defines success as creating net personal happiness in the world.

"Be authentic," she said. "Okay is the new fine. I want to build awareness of the waterkeepers movement locally. As a person I don't have to do everything, but through my small efforts I can help people make a better world."

For more information about the Waterkeepers go to www.waterkeeper.org. Fire and Water Art It was started by Robert

> Along with many other leaders, Mooney believes that Lowell truly is the Next Place to Be, a place to share a voice and talent.

At a regular meeting of the Bowne Township Board held on December 20, 2010 Ordinance No. 10-05 and Ordinance No. 10-06 were adopted. These ordinances amended the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance. A summary of these Ordinances is as follows:

Ordinance No. 2000-3, the Ordinance to establish zoning in Bowne Township, was amended to include the correct State of Michigan acts under which zoning is established (the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, PA 110 of 2006 as amended), and to include the correct State of Michigan act which regulates land use planning (the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, PA 33 of 2008 as amended).

Section 3.40 B. was amended to delete the reference to the M-50 Corridor Overlay District.

Section 4.01 was amended to add Planned Unit Development (PUD) as a Zoning District; Section

4.05 was amended to delete the reference to a repealed Act with an incorrect date with the correct current Act, the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act (PA 110 of 2006) as amended.

Ordinance No. 10-06 is an Ordinance to repeal Ordinance No. 2000-3, and adopt in its entirety the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance as amended.

This Ordinance shall become effective seven days after publication.

Ordinances No. 10-05 and 10-06 are available for review at the Bowne Township offices, 8240 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Alto, Michigan, 49302 during normal office hours on Wednesday & Thursday from 9 AM to Noon and 1 PM to 5 PM and on Friday from 9 AM to Noon or by calling 616-868-6846.

> Sandra Kowalczyk, Clerk **Bowne Township**



Art gallery owner Kathleen Mooney

artifacts. Approximately 1,300 artifacts were donated to the museum in 2010, and 67 books have been given to the educational library.

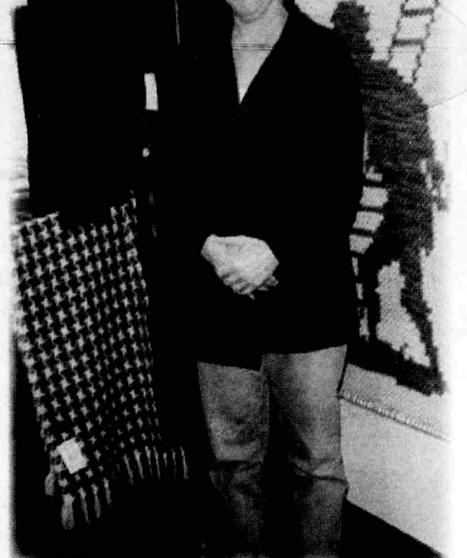
The museum uses the artifacts to build special exhibits. All day workshops are being planned for students ages eight to 14. There will be a folk art workshop at the Wittenbach Wege Center held on Feb. 19, and a Discover Lowell

A new 2011 calendar and a new picture book are available at local businesses and at the museum.

Director of the Lowell Area Arts Council Lorain Smalligan is hoping for continued support of the arts.

"I hope to bring more artists into the community so it becomes recognized for its arts," she said.

Long-termplanningmay



Arts Council director Lorain Smalligan



