

AUTO\*ALL FOR ADC 481  
Springport Book Bindery  
Hoag & Sons  
127 Railroad St  
Springport MI 49284-9700

# the lowell ledger

wednesday • february • 2 • 2011

vol. 40 issue 17

for over 116 years • today - tomorrow - your lowell area news source

www.thelowellledger.com

inspired  
by water



page 8

businesses  
receive  
recognition



page 9

lhs sports



page 10-11

## Person of the Year 2011 a highly visible member of the community

by Emma Palova

When Joy Smith retired from a supervisory position at Jacobson's in 1994, she didn't just want to sit around the house.

"That wasn't for me," she said.

Tall, elegant with platinum color hair, Smith can be seen at almost any public place around the community. She was named the Woman of the Year last June.

She has been the president of the Friends of the Englehardt Library since 1994. To this day, Smith enjoys supervisory roles after holding several at Jacobson's. She supervised children's, accessories and ready-to-wear departments and did fashion shows as well.

"I've always wanted to volunteer," she said. "I was brought up that way."

She came to Grand Rapids with the Camp Fire Girls in 1956. Smith trained leaders, held workshops and worked with the camp in the summertime.

For 13 years she worked as a docent for the Grand Rapids Public Museum and she volunteered at Porter Hills Retirement Center.

She logged in 4,000 volunteer hours at the Grand Rapids Public Museum and received the President's Volunteer Service award on Oct. 7, 2009.

But later she wanted to more concentrate her energy and focus on Lowell.

"We're so lucky to have what we have," she said. "I

shifted all my energies to Lowell four years ago."

She became a docent at the Lowell Area Historical Museum, a volunteer at the arts council, a member of the Women's Club and her greatest love, being a part of the Friends of the Englehardt Library.

"I have to get up and do things," she said. "I helped the membership grow and



Joy Smith

brought in more adult programming."

One of the things that Smith is really proud of are the expanded book sales that help raise money for the library. These enabled the purchase of the new furniture for the coffee area.

"I try to help the

Person of the Year,  
continued, page 3

## All-Weather Seal to receive Business Appreciation award

by Emma Palova

All-Weather Seal is best known for its generosity and quality workmanship.

Owner Scott McDowell started working in the business with dad Dave McDowell, on the east side of the state in Burton, in 1981.

He did installs and later sales and then started his own business eight years ago with Dan McDowell. He branched out to Lowell four years ago because of the school system and the community.

"I checked nine school districts and wanted to make this the last move," he said.

He moved around a lot due to business needs that

have been growing steadily. The business has grown from five employees to 30 and it services Lowell and the west side of the state from Traverse City to Three Rivers and to Indiana.

"I have great employees that I work with," said McDowell.

This was the third year for the company to donate a houseful of windows worth \$15,000.

"We do this because Lowell has supported us," said McDowell. "We want to give back and we like the publicity."

Due to steady growth, McDowell is hoping to put up a second story to the building located at 319 E. Main Street.

"We need more people space and storage," he said.

Business  
Appreciation award,  
continued, page 2



## Chamber to bestow honors on citizens and businesses

by Emma Palova

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce will give awards to residents and businesses that have demonstrated a true commitment to the greater community during the annual Winter Gathering of the Membership held on Feb. 16.

Each year since 1986, the chamber has given out the most coveted honor to the Person of the Year. The chamber bylaws require the organization to hold an annual meeting.

"Later we added awards to the event," said chamber director Liz Baker. "The purpose of the awards is to recognize people in the community for their commitment, investment and volunteerism."

Past recipients of the Person of the Year have been: 1986 - Chris Van Antwerp, 1987 - King Doyle, 1988 - Dr. Orville McKay, 1989 - Ivan Blough, 1990 - George and Dode Dey, 1991 - Robert Reagan, 1992 - Al Eckman, 1993 - Ray Quada, 1994 - Priscilla Lussmyer, 1995 - mayor Jim Maatman, 1996 - Bob Pfaller, 1997 - Jim Reagan, 1998 - Marsha

Wilcox and John Timpson, 1999 - Dr. Donald Gerard, 2000 - Roger LaWarre, 2001 - Bert Bleke, 2002 - Judy Straub and Luanne Kaeb, 2003 - Jim Doyle, 2004 - Jim White, 2005 - Kraig and Jody Haybarker, 2006 - Ray and Barbara Zandstra, 2007 - Marj Harding, 2008 - Betty Yeiter, 2009 - John Stencil, and 2010 - Dave and Jan Thompson.

The Business Appreciation award started in 2004 and the newest award is the Brick award for 2011. Past recipients of the business award are: 2004 - Litehouse, 2005 - Ball's Softee Crème, 2006 - King Milling, 2007 - Cousins' Hallmark, 2008 - Lowell Granite, 2009 - Springrove Variety, 2010 - James Reagan.

This year, the following individuals and businesses will be recognized for their community involvement and outstanding service:

Person of the Year for 2011 is Joy Smith, Business Appreciation award goes to All-Weather Seal and the Brick award goes to Attwood and Main Street Inn.

Following are the criteria for the Person of the Year award who is chosen by a committee of

five members consisting of the last five year's of recipients:

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

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

The candidate positively promotes community in word and action.

The candidate possesses new and innovative ideas that benefit the community.

The candidate cannot be a chamber board of foundation board member at the time of nomination.

The business award recipients must demonstrate outstanding service, community investment, employment opportunity and volunteer service to the Greater Lowell Community.

The Brick award goes to a chamber member who has shown substantial capital investment in improving an existing facility or in building a new facility.

The banquet will be held at the Grand Volute starting at 6 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by Easy Idle bluegrass band. Reservation deadline is Feb. 8, 2011.

50  
CENTS



8 0487915383 2

## Business Appreciation award, continued

McDowell was honestly surprised about the award. "Being new in town and with all the other businesses, I am surprised we got picked," McDowell said.

The basic core of the business are windows, siding and metal roofing. Office manager Cindy Kelsey said she likes the people at work.

"Our product is high quality and serves the need," she said. "I am very excited about the nomination. It's very nice."

The award recognizes businesses for their outstanding service, investment, opportunity

and volunteer service to the Greater Lowell Community. Past business appreciation awards went to Litehouse in 2004, Ball's Softee Creme in

2005, King Milling in 2006, Cousins' Hallmark in 2007, Lowell Granite in 2008, Springgrove Variety in 2009, and James Reagan in 2010.



along  
main  
street

### DM SEMINARS

Free to the public, lose weight and stop smoking hypnotherapy on Wed., Feb. 2 at the Main Street Inn. Registration at 7 p.m., seminar 7:30-9:30 p.m. Contact David Miller at 231-288-5941 for additional information.

### WRESTLING MATCH

The match vs. Greenville scheduled for Wed., Feb. 2 has been moved to Thurs., Feb. 3 at Lowell High School with the JV team starting at 6 p.m. and varsity starting at 7 p.m.

### WINTER FEST

Come on out to the Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center on Sat., Feb. 5 from 1-4 p.m. for Winter Fest. It will be an afternoon of snowshoeing, crafts and live animals.

### BOOKS FOR BANKSHOTS

The Lowell basketball programs are proud to support literacy in our community by collecting books for The Alpha Women's Center. Help them help others by donating a new book, for ages five months to six years, in English and Spanish. Bring the books to school or to the varsity basketball game on Fri., Feb. 11 and receive \$2 off your tickets.

### CAN DRIVE

Members of the boys' and girls' Lowell lacrosse teams will be collecting returnable beverage cans and bottles door-to-door throughout Lowell on Feb. 12, 9:45 a.m. - noon. Please save your empties and place them in bags or boxes for pickup. You may also drop them off at the high school during this same time frame.

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.

### CLASS OF 2015

Orientation will be held at Lowell High School on Tues., Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. in the Lowell Performing Arts Center. Parents and students are invited to learn about high school policies, requirements and opportunities. Teachers and group/activity leaders will be available for questions.

### FOLK ART WORKSHOP

The Lowell Area Historical Society will be hosting a Michigan Folk Art Workshop for youth on Sat., Feb. 19 at the Wittenbach/Wege Center from 9 to 2. Activities will include arts and crafts that were popular in Michigan before the 1940s. Many of these crafts were originally done for utilitarian purposes. Classes include woodcarving, calligraphy and paper cutouts, Michigan samplers (embroidery and appliqué) and shop art. Class size is limited so register early! Call Linda at the museum, 897-7688, for more information and to register.

### DRAWING, THEATRE and FELTING CLASSES

Lowell Area Arts Council is offering drawing, fiber felting and theatre classes beginning the last week of February. Call 897-8545 to register or visit [www.lowellartscouncil.org](http://www.lowellartscouncil.org) for more information.

### TAX ASSISTANCE

Free tax assistance is available at FROM. Please call 897-8260 to see if your family is eligible and to register. Taxes done Tuesdays, from noon to 9 p.m.

## college news

The College for Creative Studies, in Detroit, is pleased to announce the graduation of Kirstin Anne Johnson on December 15, 2010. She graduated with honors receiving a fine art degree, majoring in photography. Johnson is a 2006 graduate of Lowell High School and the daughter of Marcae Manting Johnson.

## business matters

Greenridge Realty announced that Layle Lombardo received Realtor of the Month in January.

This award recognizes Lombardo for her outstanding success and achievements.



Layle Lombardo

## Competitions start for Lowell's color guard

Lowell's color guard competed at Reeths Puffer High School in Muskegon on Jan. 29. Exit 52 placed second with a score of 52.90.

Almost Home placed first with a score of 42.00.

This was the first competition of the 2011 season. The next event will be held at West Bloomfield Hills High School on Feb. 19.

The next home event with Exit 52 will be on March 12 at 7 p.m.

**IT'S SUPERBOWL SATURDAY at Spring Training Indoor Sports Center**  
Spring Training will be hosting a PlayStation 3 Madden NFL 2011 football tournament on our 100" television screen this Saturday starting at 9:30 am.  
Be sure to contact Spring Training to register prior to Saturday.  
Call 616-560-8889 or visit their website at [www.yourstraining.com](http://www.yourstraining.com)

**Hall for rent with kitchen**  
**SEATS 150**  
**Located at the fairgrounds**  
[www.kcfg.org](http://www.kcfg.org)  
Call 897-6050

# Canfield

411 E. Main • Lowell  
**616-897-0887**

**PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.**

- Residential
- Commercial
- Air Conditioning
- Heating Systems
- Licensed
- Insured
- Water & Sewer Hookups
- Video Inspection
- Same Day Water Heaters Installed
- Sales, Service & Installation of All Plumbing Fixtures
- Drain Cleaning
- Water Softeners

**100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEED**

the **lowell ledger**

(USPS 453-830)

Published weekly for \$22<sup>00</sup> a year for zip codes beginning with 493 or 495 \$32<sup>00</sup> a year any other zip code.

JON JACOBS ..... PUBLISHER  
JEANNE BOSS ..... EDITOR  
EMMA PALOVA ..... LEAD REPORTER  
TAMMY JANOWIAK ..... CLASSIFIED/ACCOUNTING  
JON JACOBS ..... ADVERTISING SALES

**(616) 897-9261**  
E-Mail: [ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com](mailto:ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com)  
Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI  
Published every Wednesday  
POSTMASTER: Send address change to:  
The Lowell Ledger  
P.O. Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331  
[www.lowellbuyersguide.com](http://www.lowellbuyersguide.com)

## Person of the Year, continued

community understand what the library does and to make it more user-friendly." she said.

But like many organizations, the Friends are struggling to find volunteers nowadays. For one thing, the volunteers are aging and the task at hand is to attract a younger population.

"We have an active book discussion group," she said. "We want to start an evening program for working women, an evening discussion club to get some interest in the library."

Smith said the museum has the same problem with the lack of volunteers. She logs in 500 miles a month placing ads, making bank deposits, setting up

book sales, and lining up volunteers.

The library had a successful midwinter book sale last Friday and Saturday. The other big book sale is held during the Riverwalk on the lawn in front of the library.

"It's a humbling experience to be singled out for the award," said Smith. "Volunteering is what I do."

Smith also volunteers at Saint Mary's Church.

"I have the support of my husband Eugene," said Smith. "I enjoy getting thank you letters from schools from giving tours."

Smith likes to be able to say at the end of the day, "Okay, I did a good job today."



Joy Smith loves volunteering for the Friends of the Englehardt Library. Smith enjoys annual book sales.

## Murray Lake spaghetti dinner a big hit

The fifth graders from Murray Lake Elementary School held their annual spaghetti dinner this past Saturday. The proceeds earned from this annual dinner go toward the fifth graders' April camp experience at Camp Ebersole.



Many families shared in the event.

Over 400 people came out to participate in the dinner. There was also a silent auction held. Many Murray Lake fifth-grade parents donated the food for the dinner, which added to the amount of profit earned.

The dinner brought in over \$4,000 in profit and more money is still coming in for the silent auction items. This will cut the cost of fifth-grade camp in half.

"It is a great event. The kids did a wonderful job working the event. We had several of our staff members donate their time to the event. It went very well and everyone seemed to have a very good time," said event coordinator and fifth-grade teacher, Mike Fillman.

Fillman continued, "I also want to thank all of our parents who helped us, especially those who went above and beyond with their time. We could not have done it without them."

"Many people came and

we raised a lot of money for our camp. Everyone had a great time," said fifth grader Chloe Looman.

"We had to dress up nicely and do all the jobs. We also had to make all of our own advertisements for the event. It was hard work, but well worth it," added fifth grader Courtney Lubbers.

"Eating the spaghetti was the best part of the night!" commented fellow fifth grader Ethan Kaminski.

Fillman and fellow fifth-grade staff members, Paul

Jacobus and Julie Fuss, plan on running the event for the fifth consecutive year next January, so mark your calendars.

**You Always Protect The Ones You Love**

The security of life insurance, the smiles of your children, the help of your Farm Bureau Insurance agent. The best things in life are pretty simple. Call today.

**Mark Johnson**

6095 28th St., Ste. 4  
Grand Rapids  
**940-8181**  
[www.MarkJohnsonAgency.com](http://www.MarkJohnsonAgency.com)

**GREG VAN STRIEN HEATING AND PLUMBING**

HEATING SERVICE & INSTALLATION  
AIR CONDITIONING SERVICE & INSTALLATION  
PLUMBING SERVICE & INSTALLATION  
WARM AIR/RADIANT HEAT  
OIL BURNER SERVICE

**(616) 897-5569**  
Visa And Master Card Accepted

**Lowell Little League**

It's that time again to play ball!!!!

Registrations online begin NOW!

Walk in registration date:  
Sat. Feb. 19th 9:00am-12:00pm  
Lowell Chamber of Commerce

Registration deadlines:  
EDL & 7-8 (April 1st)  
9-10, 11-12 & 13-14 Boys & Girls (March 1st)  
15-16 Boys & Girls (May 1st)

Visit the website at:  
[www.lllmi.com](http://www.lllmi.com) for more information

*Family Dentistry Since 1994*

- » Gentle Dentistry for Children & Adults
- » Immediate Emergency Treatment
- » Cosmetic Dentistry, Teeth Whitening
- » Preventive Care
- » Extractions/Broken Tooth Repaired
- » Dentures (Same Day Repair)
- » Implants
- » Insurance Plans Accepted

*"Gentle & Painless Dentistry Is Our Goal"*

Hours:  
Monday.....9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Tuesday.....9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Wednesday.....9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Thursday.....8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Judd T. Carroll D.M.D.**  
103 East Main • Lowell, Michigan  
**(616) 897-7595**  
[www.juddcarrolldentistry.com](http://www.juddcarrolldentistry.com)

**THE FOODMOBILE**  
MOBILE FOOD PANTRY  
THIS MONTH'S SPONSOR: C OF C, FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH - LOWELL

**FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION**  
*(mostly produce)*

**LOWELL FAIRGROUNDS**  
Foreman Building, S. Broadway

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2011**  
**10:00 TO 11:00 A.M.** (or until food is gone)

Distributed by

**FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES**

AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER LOWELL AREA.  
Bring your own box or bag.

# sharing the vision



Superintendent Greg Pratt

## "Gloomy Pessimism or A Beacon of Light?"

Times have been very hard, people are anxious, and given the state of our world, it's easy to be a pessimist. In recent days, President Obama delivered a State of the Union address, and Governor Snyder delivered a State of the State address, both of which instilled optimism about plans for economic recovery for Michigan and for our country.

In his State of the State Address, Governor Snyder shared a vision to reinvent Michigan and specifically spoke about doing "more" to help students achieve academic success. He spoke of innovation, the need for a system that focuses on real achievement for all of our children, and giving children tools for success in their adult lives.

In his State of the Union speech, President Obama

urged every young person who's contemplating their career choice to become a teacher if they truly want to make a difference in the life of our nation and in the life of a child. He went on to say that when a child walks into a classroom, it should be a place of high expectations and high performance. He emphasized that the responsibility begins not in our classrooms, but in our homes and communities because it's family that first instills the love of learning in a child. He posed the question if we as citizens, and as parents are willing to do what's necessary to give every child a chance to succeed.

Words from both Governor Snyder and President Obama were inspiring. But, what is really inspiring for me is to know that the staff and students

at Lowell Area Schools aim high and these initiatives are well underway in our classrooms. Did you know that our teachers are working on many exciting instructional strategies including Data Retreat, analysis of preliminary MEAP data, deep discussions surrounding goals, Education YES!, school improvement, professional learning, and RTI interventions, just to name a few? Did you know that teachers across the district are integrating Universal Design for Learning which is a systematic way of approaching lesson design that encompasses all learners from the beginning rather than teaching and then designing interventions after the fact for those who did not learn? Did you know we engage students in authentic project based learning activities which allow them to learn in a variety of ways? Project based learning methods provide students with relevant standards-focused projects, it teaches 21st century skills, and it demands demonstration of mastery. With regard to accountability, did you

know that for years our district has received an unqualified opinion which is the best rating possible from the district's auditing firm? Quality audits and implementation of quality finance procedures results in a fiscally responsible organization. Our teachers meet the highly qualified status required by the State of Michigan and, beginning next year, will be evaluated on an annual basis. In terms of innovation, our teachers infuse technology like the classroom clicker system, Mobi Boards, Smart Boards, document cameras, premier software, Kindles, and Netbooks. Our students shine academically, since 2008, student ACT and MEAP scores are well above the state average. Did you know that our students take the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test and score above the national norms? Our kids are prepared and ready to compete. They are science fair winners, MIT scholars, and nationally recognized robotic team champions. They will be our next

Sharing the Vision, continued, page 7

# health

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



## acl injuries

The anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) is a band of tissue that keeps the knee joint in place. It connects the femur (thigh bone) to the tibia (the main bone in your lower leg). Your ACL can tear during a contact or noncontact injury. A contact injury can happen when your leg is firmly planted on the ground and something hits it from either side.

Noncontact injuries occur when your knee is extended too far or when it twists too far. Activities with these types of movements include skiing, volleyball, basketball, soccer, football, and tennis.

If you hear a popping sound, followed by knee pain and swelling, you may have an ACL tear. You might also feel your knee giving out

when you try to put weight on that leg. Your doctor will examine your knee to see if the ACL is torn. You may also need x-rays and other scans.

To treat an ACL injury, you should ice the knee for 20 minutes every three to four hours. Keep the knee raised when possible and use medications such as ibuprofen for the pain and swelling. It is important to do range-of-motion and strengthening exercises after the swelling starts to go down. Your doctor or a physical therapist can tell you what type of exercises to do. You may need surgery to repair an ACL tear. During surgery, doctors take tissue from another part of your body to replace the torn ACL.

# viewpoint

## to the editor

### road construction raises questions

Dear Editor,

A headline in the Jan. 19 Lowell Ledger stated - DDA contributes to North Center St. reconstruction. This article has brought to mind questions.

Why a mere \$36,501 towards the cost of \$241,000? The city council had to debate which road to do first, North Center St. or Sibley St. Wouldn't Lowell be better off if the DDA contributed more and then both roads could be done at the same time?

Doing both roads wouldn't add up to a mile of road, but it would be a start in the right direction. It would also show that both governing bodies are serious about replacing Lowell's city streets. Is

Lowell's leadership serious about replacing its road system? I have my doubts. It seems to me that they are more interested in the downtown area with the resurrection of the now defunct amphitheater.

Who's going to resurrect 22 miles of city roads if the city continues to promote needless projects? In my eyes, it's going to take a lot of DDA funding to help replace the city's roads and that's just logical thinking. Is the DDA up to the demand? Will the city council continue to support the DDA no matter the DDA's decision?

Sincerely,  
Jim Howard  
Lowell

## outdoors

ice fishing

Dave Stegehuis

Frozen water doesn't necessarily rule out all fishing opportunities in the winter. There are a few seasonal regulations, like closed trout streams, which require us to have patience and wait until spring. Panfish, however, can be caught anytime if we adapt the methods we use to catch them to current conditions.

Many fishermen choose to tap into technology to locate and catch fish in comfort. I recently received a catalog which offers no less than 44 portable shelters which all differ in brand, style, size, and cost. The same catalog lists a large selection of rods, reels, clothing, electronic fish finders, underwater cameras, ice augers, sleds, lures, and heaters, all specifically manufactured and marketed for ice fishermen. Every angler must make a decision

about what he or she feels is needed to catch fish in the winter.

Lack of sunlight under the ice depletes vegetation which reduces oxygen causing food to become scarce. Fish tend to move deeper and become less active as the winter wears on. Consistently catching panfish at this time will be more challenging. Electronic fish finders and underwater cameras help locate scattered fish. It may be necessary to drill a lot of holes with an electric or gas powered auger to chase them down. Special ice line on short graphite rods with small lures fished at the proper depth will draw bites which can be detected on delicate spring indicators. Often fish can be found within a foot off bottom, but sometimes

suspend. A lure can be delivered directly to the fish using a sonar flasher which will track both the fish and a tiny lure. A handheld GPS will guide an angler pulling a pop-up shelter behind an ATV to the hot-spot.

Fishing through the ice can still be simple, inexpensive, and yet productive. A short rod to hold a hook and line and a grub for bait is basically all that is needed when fish are biting on a popular

lake. Locating a group of fishermen will put one on the fast-track to a mess of fish. Just be sure to respect the space of your fellow anglers.

Remember, there is no such thing as safe ice, so always exercise extreme caution and a great deal of common sense. There is still time to get out and catch a mess of panfish. Pay attention to the seasons in Michigan because as time passes, so do opportunities.

## ask kathryn



Kathryn Denhouter Ph.D.

Emotional I.Q. is a new yardstick in the world of work. Our new governor in the State of the State address has emphatically expressed the importance of jobs for people in Michigan. These articles will give those searching for jobs an edge on what some employers are looking for in their new employees. The information is taken from Daniel Goleman's book, *Working with Emotional Intelligence*.

What Goleman contends is that the rules in the world of work are changing. Academic abilities are not as important as they used to be. The new standard takes for granted that a person has enough intellectual ability and technical know-how to do the job. These new standards, focus

instead on personal qualities such as initiative, empathy, adaptability and persuasiveness. We become more employable when we have the "soft" skills such as getting along with others. It helps when we can work in teams and know when to contribute to our ideas in an engaging way.

Daniel Goleman has predicted a coming crisis: "A rising IQ, but a dropping EQ." What he means by this is that the more facts that we gather without the people skills necessary to communicate pertinent information, the more ineffective we become at our jobs. As children become smarter (I.Q.'s

Ask Kathryn, continued, page 6

# local business directory

TO ADVERTISE IN THE LEDGER BUSINESS DIRECTORY Call 897-9261

Certified Garment Care Professional

**CURTIS**  
CLEANERS • LAUNDRY

FREE PICKUP & DELIVERY  
Lowell • Ada • Cascade  
Ionia • Grand Rapids

2010 AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

**FEBRUARY SPECIAL**  
20% OFF  
3 OR MORE  
PANTS AND SLACKS

(616) 897-9809 • 1410 W. Main • Lowell

**MIKA MEYERS BECKETT & JONES PLC**  
ATTORNEYS

John T. Sperla Benjamin A. Zainca  
Mark A. Kehoe Neil P. Jansen  
Ross A. Leisman Neil L. Kimball

(616) 897-3111 www.mmbjlaw.com

**BILL WHEELER**  
Certified Public Accountant

W.J. WHEELER MICHIGAN  
103 Riverside Dr.  
Lowell, Michigan  
49331

616-897-7711

**Rich's Service Co.**  
In-Home Appliance Repair

INSURED • 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE  
WASHERS • DRYERS • REFRIGERATORS  
GARBAGE DISPOSALS • STOVES • DISHWASHERS

209 E. Main St. RICH CURTIS  
Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-5686

**KIRK COLLINS** Owner  
**Showboat**  
AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY, INC.

Auto Value  
PICKUP SERVICE

1450 W. Main St., Lowell, MI  
(616) 897-9231

HOURS: MON - FRI 8-7; SAT 8-5:30; SUN 9-3

bloom where you're planted  
**BUY LOCAL**

LOWELL  
Love Your Hometown

**FRY DADDY'S**  
608 West Main Street  
Lowell, MI 49331

897-FISH  
Fish Shrimp Wino Dinos -  
CHICKEN STRIPS  
DAILY SPECIALS  
OPEN TUESDAY - SATURDAY  
Best Fish In Town!!!

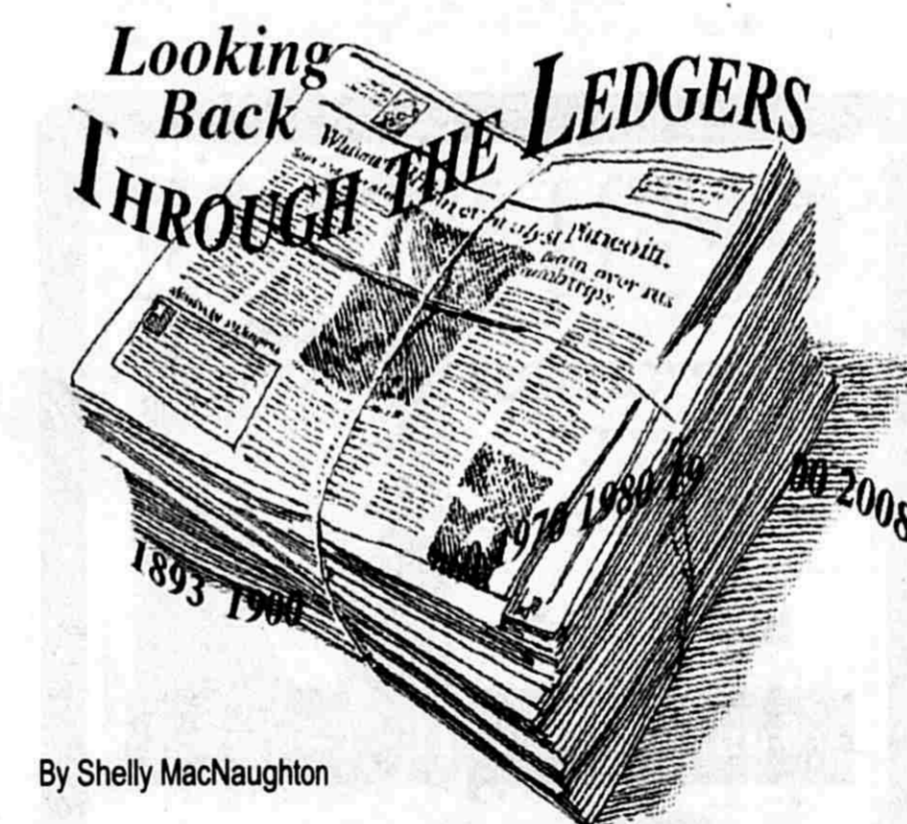
**BROOKE KREBILL**  
Residential Real Estate Agent  
Cell (616) 881-6327  
Fax (866) 794-3721  
E-mail brookek@grar.com

LOWELL RESIDENT FOR 20 YEARS

**KELLER WILLIAMS**  
REALTY  
GRAND RAPIDS  
630 Kenmoor SE, Suite 101 • Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

**Ostrander**  
WINDOWS, SIDING & ROOFING INC.

9019 W. Belding Rd. (M-44), Belding, Michigan  
Phone: (616) 794-0661  
Toll Free: (888) 750-7078  
Fax (616) 794-0105  
Email: info@ostranderinc.com  
Web: ostranderinc.com



By Shelly MacNaughton

**125 Years Ago**  
**The Lowell Journal**  
February 5, 1886

Tom Collins is in the Ingham county jail. Some years ago he was a man much sought after.  
Dentist J.H. Rickert, of Kalamazoo, made Lowell a visit a few days ago. He is well pleased with his new home and the prospects for business there.

**100 Years Ago**  
**The Lowell Ledger**  
February 2 1911

Headline: Wreck at Elmdale  
Two Pere Marquette freight trains, Nos. 345 and 337, extras, came together Wednesday morning about 4:45 o'clock while running between Elmdale and Lowell, severely injuring three of the crew of one train, making a veritable slaughter house out of a car full of sheep, and piling up engines and cars in a most picturesque way. The wreck is said to have been caused through a brakeman allowing one train to pass Lowell for Elmdale, while the returning train, to which he was attached, had the right of way.

**75 Years Ago**  
**The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo**  
January 30, 1936

The construction of a "drive around," following the old original Lower Ada Road from M-21 at Ada, northwesterly to the oil station where the Lower Road intersects M-21 again, is urged in a petition addressed to Murray D. VanWagoner, state highway commissioner, which is being circulated by George Washburn. The proposed route would leave the present highway M-21 at the base of the first hill just west of Ada and rejoin it a few miles further on.

**50 Years Ago**  
**The Lowell Ledger**  
February 2, 1961

February 17 will mark the 75th anniversary of the World Day of Prayer, sponsored by the United church women. It all started way back in 1987, Mrs. Darwin James, a Presbyterian, called for a national day of prayer for home missions. The purpose was to unite all Christians in a bond of prayer and Christian fellowship with others around the world and to make an offering for inter-denominational projects at home and abroad.

**25 Years Ago**  
**The Grand Valley Ledger**  
February 5, 1986

A sidewalk snow removal ordinance seems to be a topic that is at least as slippery as the sidewalks themselves. A public hearing on the subject was re-opened at Monday's meeting of the Lowell City Council to a considerably smaller audience than when the issue first surfaced in January.  
Members of the Lowell Board of Education and administration disclosed, Monday night at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Lowell Booster's club, that it has received a \$50,000 gift from an anonymous donor to build a new baseball field.

## Letters 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 printed.

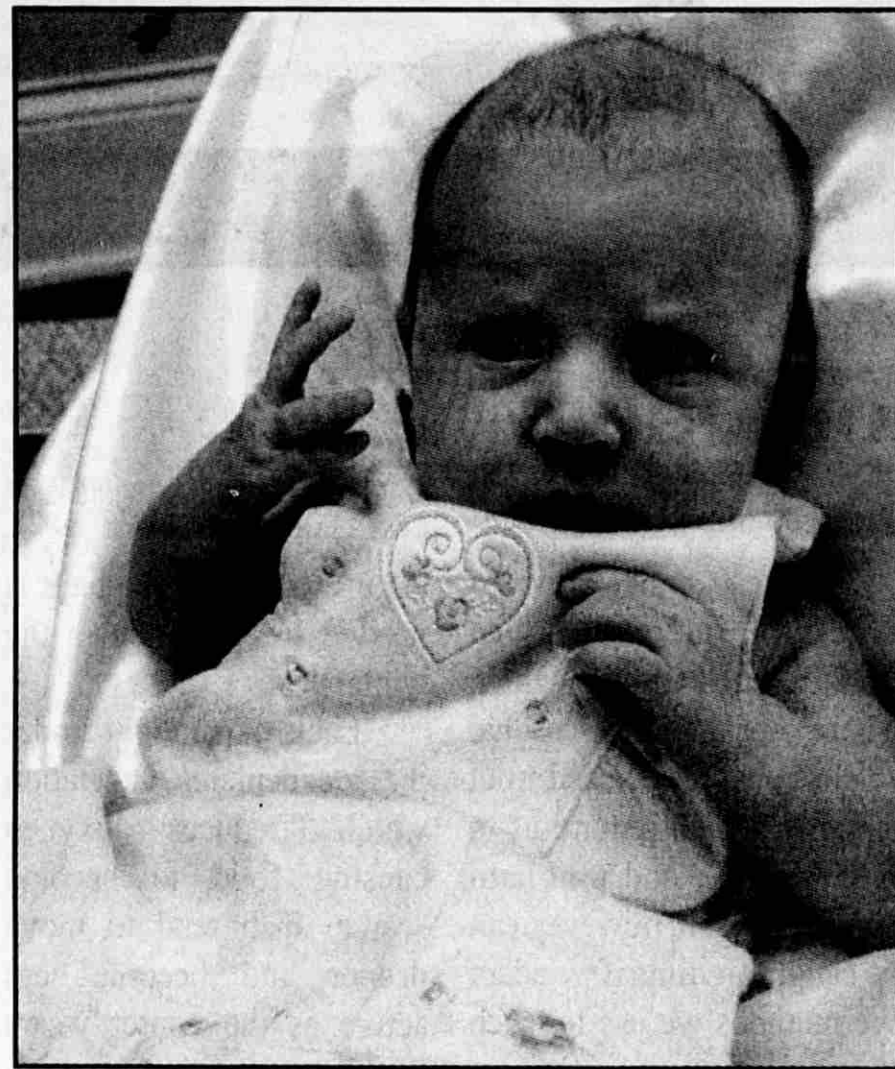
Letters may be submitted via email to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com ("to the Editor" in subject line) or dropped off or mailed to: The Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, MI 49331. Also, our website, www.lowellbuyersguide.com has a link to submit emails on the left side of the page.

## Ask Kathryn, continued

have risen 24 points since 1918), the more depressed, more angry and more prone to worry they become. There is a disconnect with the necessary human or "soft" skills they need to do well in the work world. Dr. Thomas Achenbach, from the University of Vermont, did a series of studies that show a decline in children's emotional competencies. These competencies are declining worldwide as indicated by an increase in despair, alienation, drug abuse, crime and violence, depression, or eating disorders, to name just a few. Instead, what employers want are: 1. listening

## area births

### Pollert Conant



Opal Louise Pollert Conant

Opal Louise Pollert Conant was born November 5, 2010 at 1:56 p.m. to the proud parents, Jason M. Conant and Clare L. Pollert of Grand Rapids. She was 7 lbs. 13 oz. and measured 19.5 inches.

She was welcomed home by her four-year-old brother, Carl; grandparents, Dan and Debbie Pollert, of Ada; and Don and Carol Conant, of Lowell.

### FAXING

Sending or Receiving  
\$1 or 1st sheet,  
50¢ each additional sheet

**The Lowell Ledger**  
105 N. Broadway • P.O. Box 128 • 897-9261

## happy birthday!

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>FEBRUARY 2</b><br>Marie Wade, Sarah Baker.  | <b>FEBRUARY 6</b><br>Donna Oesch, Reed Stormzand, Norm Johnson, Angie Blough.  |
| <b>FEBRUARY 3</b><br>Dale Phillips, Clarice Poisson, Sana Bryant, Cassandra Thomas, Chris Dennie, Olivia Dennie. | <b>FEBRUARY 7</b><br>Margaret Peckham, Gordie Barry, Peggy Covert.             |
| <b>FEBRUARY 4</b><br>Jo Hill, Kelsey Scheider, Alan Lally.   | <b>FEBRUARY 8</b><br>Laurie Chambers, Maya Newhouse, Steve Estes, Karis Dilly. |
| <b>FEBRUARY 5</b><br>Ann Mulder, Kenneth Gregersen Sr., Colleen Myers, Mandy Schneider, Mike Conklin.            |  |

## THANK YOU

*Thank you to everyone for your thoughts and prayers during Brad Ball's hospital stay. All of your visits and food were very much appreciated. Thank you local businesses and all others that donated towards Brad's Benefit. The Benefit funds will go toward Brad's unexpected expenses.*

*Thank you all so much, Pat & Brad Ball, Bonnie & Darren and Families*

## Planning A Wedding?

We offer the **Carlson Craft** line of invitations.

# LITHO

105 N. BROADWAY • LOWELL

616.897.9261

## area churches

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL**  
(United Church of Christ)  
865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906  
www.OurBigChurch.org

Sunday Worship.....10:00 a.m.  
Church School.....10:15-11:15 a.m.  
Thursday Faith Alive  
Casual Worship.....6:30 P.M.  
Barrier-free.....Nursery Provided

*No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*

**ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Kirby and Harrison  
Alto • 616-691-8011

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

**OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS**  
Pastor Dean Bailey

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

Worship Service.....Saturday - 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday - 10:00 A.M.  
Sunday School.....Sunday, 9:00 A.M.  
(Nursery available)

Joseph Fremmer, Pastor 897-8307  
All facilities are wheelchair accessible

**CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)**  
3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery  
Robert Holmes, Pastor  
SUNDAYS: Worship: 10 a.m.

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

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
2275 West Main Street • 897-7168  
Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org  
Rev. David O. Sims, Rev. W. Lee Taylor & Pastor Phil Sevens

Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.  
Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M.  
AWANA/EXCITE-YEENS.....Wed. 6:15 P.M.

Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times  
Nursery Provided • Barrier Free

**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

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
621 E. Main Street • 897-5936  
www.lowellumc.com

WORSHIP.....8:30 & 10:30 a.m.  
SUNDAY SCHOOL.....9:30 a.m.

Rev. Rick Blunt  
Barrier-free entrance

**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Fr. Eugene Okaj  
402 Amity St. • 897-9820  
www.stmary-lowell.com

Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 P.M. 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 WIGANS 897-7915  
SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 303, WITH FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING

**SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell  
Pastor Dr. Mike Conkile

9:45 A.M.....Sunday School  
10:30 A.M.....Fellowship  
11:00 A.M.....Worship

897-9863  
Nursery & Children  
Worship Programs Provided

*A friend...a family...a mission!*

## OPEN HOUSE

**DR. RICHARD SIEGLE'S 95TH BIRTHDAY**

Sun., Feb. 6, 2011 • 1-4 p.m.

**LOWELL TOWNSHIP HALL**

2910 Alden Nash, Lowell, MI

## SEX... ROMANCE... GOD.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ELEPHANT IN THE CHURCH FROM SONG OF SOLOMON. STARTING THIS WEEKEND.

**IMPACT** SATURDAY | 7:00PM  
SUNDAY | 9:00, 10:30, 11:59AM  
WWW.IMPACT-CHURCH.ORG

## financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

### Business owners need their own "quarterback"

Unless you've been cut off from every source of media, not to mention all human contact, you're probably eager to watch the Super Bowl is fast approaching. If you're a football fan, you're probably eager to watch the game featuring this year's best teams. And if you're a business owner, you can learn a lot from how Super Bowl teams are put together. One thing that virtually all Super Bowl teams share is a stellar quarterback — someone who drives his team with skill, agility and vision. These same qualities can be found in a qualified, experienced financial professional — someone who can act as your "quarterback" and help you reach your goals.

What sorts of guidance might you get from your "quarterback"? Here are some possibilities:

- Coordinating your

"team" — A Super Bowl-caliber quarterback obviously is adept at getting everyone on the offense to play well together. And as a business owner, you, too, may need to get your own "team" up and running. Specifically, you may well need to use both an attorney and a tax professional to help you take care of various aspects of your business. Your financial advisor can help coordinate their services. For example, if your business is involved with your estate plans, you will have legal, tax and investment considerations to deal with — so you'll want all your legal, tax and financial advisors working together toward your ultimate objectives.

- Executing your strategy — Whether a quarterback hands off the football or throws a pass, he is attempting to follow his team's game plan, or strategy.

And your financial advisor, as your quarterback, will help you execute the right game strategy to attain your own objectives. For starters, your financial advisor will ask questions such as these: *Do you have a retirement plan in place? If so, is it appropriate for your needs? Do you have the right types and amounts of business insurance? Have you considered business succession strategies?* Once your financial advisor knows the answer to these questions, he or she can then help you implement your overall strategy through the use of suitable products and services.

- Adjusting your "plays" — When a quarterback sees something he doesn't like, such as a last-minute change in the opposing team's defense, he may call an "audible" to adjust his team's designed play. Similarly, your financial advisor, upon identifying obstacles to your success, may recommend changes to your "plays" — the individual actions that make up your overall financial strategy. To illustrate: After reviewing the progress you're making

Financial Focus, continued, page 15

## understanding insurance



Dave Emmette

### How are you going to pay the bills?

Most people are aware that if they are injured at work, typically their employer's workers' compensation insurance policy will provide medical coverage and pay them a portion of their wages while they cannot work. But what if you are injured in a non-work related accident, develop cancer, suffer from a stroke or other debilitating disease? How will you replace the income you can no longer earn?



through their employer. If you are one of the two-thirds of American workers who cannot purchase group coverage, you need to strongly consider purchasing an individual disability insurance policy.

So, really, what are the odds of you becoming disabled and unable to work? The Council for Disability Awareness has a useful website for you to estimate your own odds. www.whatsmypdq.org allows you to enter specific personal characteristics to establish your "Personal Disability Quotient." Once you look at your odds of becoming disabled for three months or longer, you can find out how much of your income is at risk. These are very sobering numbers and most visitors to this website realize their own personal need for disability insurance.

### How do disability policies work?

According to a U.S. Department of Labor Statistics Employee Benefits Survey in March 2010, only 33 percent of private industry workers had access to group long-term disability coverage

Disability insurance policies use an "elimination period" which is essentially a "time deductible." This is a waiting period after you become disabled, but before benefits are payable. A longer elimination period will

produce a cheaper premium. Typical elimination periods are 30, 60 or 90 days. After you have fulfilled the elimination period, you enter the "benefit period."

This is when you will receive payments to replace a portion of your income. Most insurance companies will allow you to purchase coverage between 30 percent and 65 percent of your income. The benefit period can last from two years, or up until age 65, depending on the company. Obviously, a longer benefit period will cost an additional premium. One of the main things to consider is the definition of total disability. Each company can have varying definitions and getting the broadest definition possible can be the key as to whether a claim is paid or not.

Age, occupation, health, length of elimination period and benefit period and optional riders (extensions of coverage in addition to your base benefit) all play a part in determining your final premium. While purchasing another insurance policy in addition to your home, auto, health and life insurance may seem like overkill, insuring your most important asset — the ability to earn an income — may be your smartest insurance purchase of all.

Have an insurance question you'd like to see discussed? Send me an e-mail at [dave@theaigroup.com](mailto:dave@theaigroup.com) I will address it.

Information provided is general in nature and not intended for your individual situation. Refer to your policy or agent for specific coverage, limitations or exclusions.

## Sharing the Vision, continued

innovative entrepreneurs, researchers, and inventors. One could feel rather gloomy after hearing from our politicians the things that "need to be done" in order for our kids to compete globally. Let me shine a beacon of light: It is said that if we have a roof over our heads, a warm bed in which to sleep, and food

on our tables, that we are better off than 80 percent of the world's population. We are blessed to have those things and more. In Lowell Area Schools, we are so fortunate to have a staff and a community who do what it takes to help our kids succeed. We do have high expectations and, as a result, high performance on the

part of our students. We can all agree that in our entire school community, we have a love of learning and give the necessary support to help students and one another achieve. So as I think about the reinvention and vision for education, I am moved to reflect upon our present blessings of which we have many! Go Red Arrows!!

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

P.O. Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331  
897-9261

DOES YOUR DENTIST MAKE YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE?

At the Family Dentistry of Lowell you're more than a patient. You're part of my family.

That's why I want you to be comfortable.

Heated neck pillows.  
Natural lighting.  
The music you like.

I've been serving families like yours since 1991.

Aren't you ready for a better dental experience?

**Family Dentistry of Lowell**  
ANN WILSON, D.D.S. | JENNIFER BYRD, D.D.S.  
NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS - CALL: 616-897-4835  
147 NORTH CENTER STREET, LOWELL  
WWW.FAMILYDENTISTRYOFLOWELL.COM

## 118 Years and Counting [and Praying, Reading, Writing, and More!]



### Preschool, Young 5, Kindergarten 2011-12 School Info Night February 10, Parish Center

6:00 Kid-Friendly Supper (Bring the Children!)  
6:30 Q & A, Classroom Visit  
Meet Teachers, Principal, Families and Alumni

**Saint Patrick School**

691-8833  
4333 Parnell Ave. NE, Ada  
stpatrickparnellschool.org  
scottczarnopys@gmail.com

## Quiet artist creates thundering work inspired by water

by Emma Palova

Quiet and shy, Marylu Dykstra, sporting a blouse with greens, blues, purples and golds, talks about her work now on display at the Fire and Water Art Gallery. She is the featured artist for February.

Her ultimate love for water has taken Dykstra from portraying fish using the pointillism technique to her stunning 'Falling Water' and 'High Water' series.

As a self-taught artist, with classes from Kathleen Conover and gallery owner Kathleen Mooney, Dykstra likes to experiment with different techniques.

"I've always liked water and waterfalls," she said. "Water is incorporated in much of my work."

Her love for water has prevailed even though twice she almost drowned, once by Long Island where she grew up and the second time while kayaking after a storm on Thornapple River.

Last fall, she painted in Marquette imaginary waterfalls during a

workshop with Conover. The 'Falling Water Series' was the product of her stay up North.

The mixed media pieces breathe with life in bold greens, purples, blues and golds. She uses gesso for the white foam. To create the old-fashioned feeling, depth and texture, Dykstra uses many layers of colors and scrapes them with a palette knife.

"They're contemporary and old-fashioned at the same time," she said.

The thundering falls with white foam roar from Dykstra's paintings.

"I am inspired by the sound, the power of water," she said. "It is strong but soft. It flows, you get enveloped by it."

She has always wanted to do a series that is somehow connected, but yet different.

"These give a sense of almost prehistoric, primal earth," Dykstra said about 'The Falling Water' series. "There is no indication that humans touched it."

Looking at Dykstra's work is a lot like watching Avatar. Dykstra's paintings literally have motion and sounds, as well as more than just two dimensions. They entice, draw in and move with action.

Her 'High Water' series captured the progression of last year's Labor Day gale over Lake Michigan. While camping at Mears State Park near Pentwater, Dykstra watched the onset of the storm brought in by 70-mile strong wind.

At first Dykstra stood on the beach, but then went into the lake to feel the power of the water. She went in with a life jacket and a partner, never fearing for a moment.

The waves would throw them back or roll over them, on other occasions the sandy bottom would just disappear



Marylu Dykstra with mixed media stunning series 'High Water' and 'Falling Water.'

under their feet. The swells kept rolling and rolling, coming in and building up.

"You had that sense of sand churning up, the waves creating a wall and then you stepped into a hole," she said, her deep brown eyes sparkling with excitement.

She captured the marvelous water in the storm in a series of several smaller and bigger paintings.

"I watched the progression of the storm," she said. "I was knocked down several times. I enjoyed the swells."

The spectacle was stunning, much like the series that captured it.

The first painting in the series shows calm waters early in the morning.

"The water just glistened," she said.

Then the clouds started to move in, along with the rain, and the waves crested with froth caps.

"It was cold boiling,"

said Dykstra about the second painting.

The third painting shows constant churning of the waves and no more caps.

"The horizon was more pronounced with a thicker cloud cover," she said.

Then everything turned into total chaos with the horizon almost disappearing and the moon peeking out in the background. At the height of the storm, the waves were 15-feet high. The peak of the storm is Dykstra's favorite painting.

"We were intrepid," she said. "The swells bring you up and go over your head. The undertow is strong. We were driven down the beach and had to fight our way back."

The last painting in the

series is much like the first, everything calms down again and the sustained wind disappears. Even though the waves were gray as steel, Dykstra used greens to portray the warmth of the water.

"It was warm enough to go into the water," she said. "It was 68 degrees."

Dykstra compared the feelings before, during and after the storm.

"At first it was calm and serene, then the storm was invigorating and exciting," she said. "I wanted to be in the water."

When it was all over, Dykstra was disappointed.

Both water series are very dramatic in texture and contrast. The paintings bring the viewer into their own drama.

"It feels like you're in the dark, on a field looking at the waterfall," she said. "You're feeling the night air, you hear the water. It brings me right into the scene."

Dykstra owns her own company, Sirius Resources LLC, in Alto. She works as a strategic planner mostly for non-profits.

"I am excited to help organizations and to see their results," she said.

But painting for Dykstra, fulfills her lifelong dream to be an artist.

Dykstra joined the gallery in 2008 following an invitation from Mooney.

"I went home and I cried," she said. "I actually cried in the car. It's an amazing life's experience. It's a whole new life."

\*\*\*

**I passionately hate the idea of being with it, I think an artist has always to be out of step with his time.**

- Orson Welles (1915 - 1985)

Discount  
**RATES**  
without discount  
**SERVICE.**



It's no accident more people trust State Farm to insure their cars. Call today.

Deborah A. Wilks, Agent  
2050 W. Main Street  
Lowell, MI 49331  
Bus: 616-897-9237  
deborah.wilks@statefarm.com

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR STATE FARM IS THERE.™

Providing Insurance and Financial Services

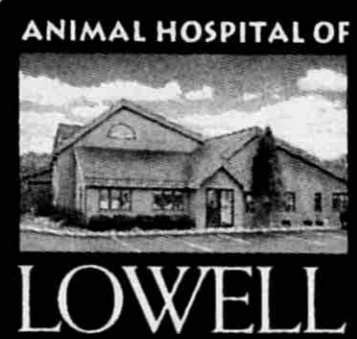
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company (Not in N.J.), Bloomington, IL. PH00314 12/06

We want  
to be your  
Other  
Family  
Doctor.

- Sick or Injured Animals Seen Same Day
- Evenings & Saturday Hours Available
- Early Drop-offs & House Calls
- 24-Hour Emergency Service
- Science Diet Pet Foods
- Boarding & Grooming



Call 897-8484  
11610 East Fulton Street • Lowell, Michigan



## Attwood Corporation to receive Brick award

by Emma Palova

The brand new Brick award, based on capital investment in the industrial category, will go to Attwood Corp. for a total investment of \$3 million into consolidation and expansion over the last five years.

These expansions have created approximately 50 jobs.

"We're very excited to receive this award," said president Chris Drees. "Lowell is a great place to do business. We're hoping to continue expansions in the future. We've added employment for the

community and we are pleased with the quality of people in the community and the ability to hire talented employees."

The consolidations include Swivi-Eze for seat bases from Lancaster, TX, and the consolidation of MotorGuide from Tulsa, OK. The manufacturing and distribution facility has been expanded due to growth.

"We have a great relationship with the city," said Peter Zimmer, vice-president of finance.

Drees said the company is looking at positive trends in sales in the future.



Swivi-Eze CNC set up technician Ryan Grider. Swivi-Eze makes seat bases.

"We believe the marine market hit bottom in 2010," said Drees.

However, internally there has been an increase in sales in each year and growth in hiring. The company is hiring right now at www.Brunswick.com.

Attwood sold to Brunswick in 2003 and leases 280,000 square feet from Steelcase.

With each expansion also came new tooling and equipment.

"We're excited about

being in Lowell," said Zimmer. "The city is very supportive. It's a win win for everybody."

City manager Dave Pasquale said Attwood definitely is worthy of any award.

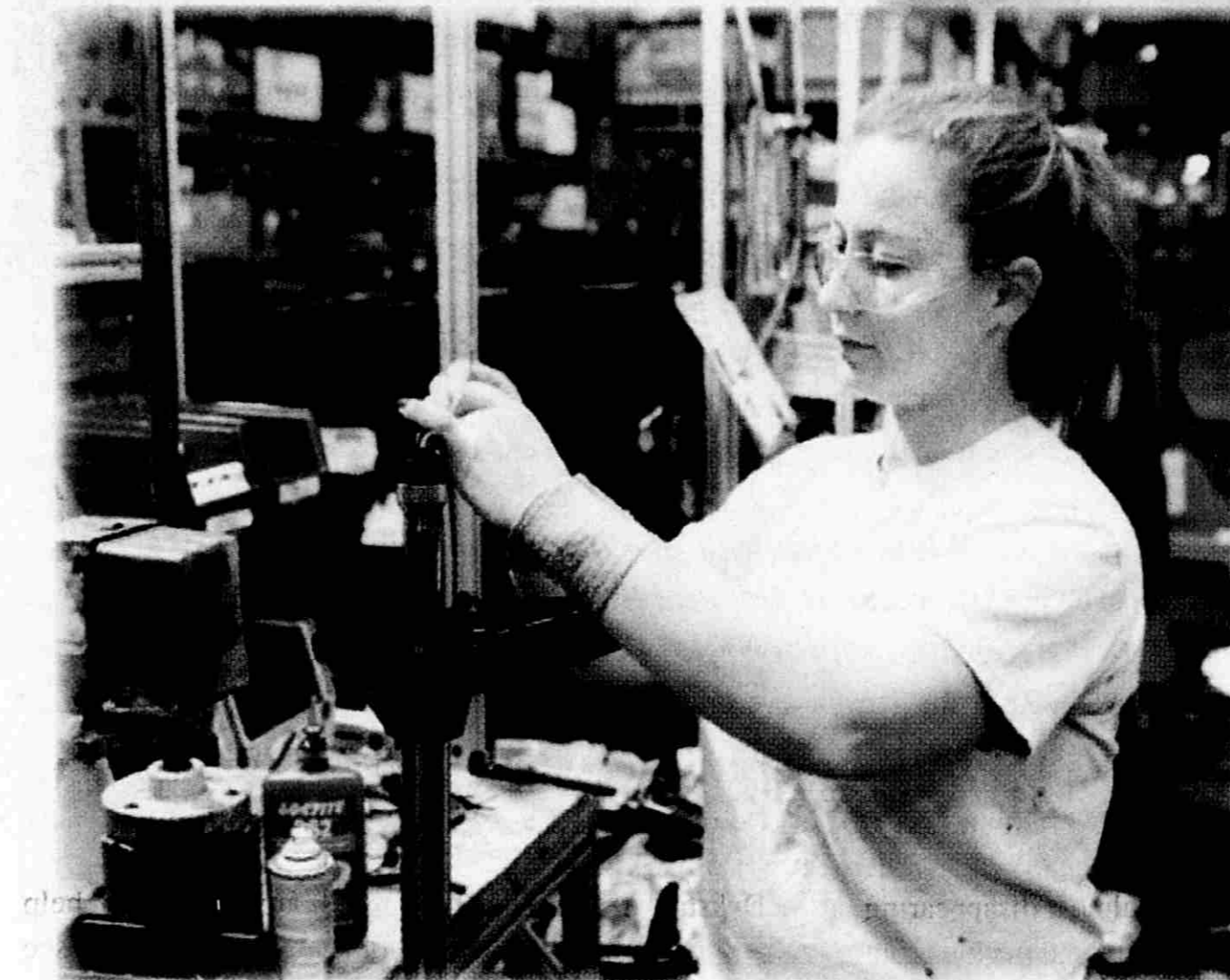
"They have added jobs to the community," said Pasquale. "They transferred jobs and added new jobs to the community."

The company received two mega grants from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation

(MEDC) and two individual tax abatements, for 12 years from the state, for additional personal property, machinery and equipment.

Pasquale said the company benefits the community with their chili cook-off fundraiser. Pasquale was one of the judges last year. The money went to Flat River Outreach Ministries.

"They're very generous to the community," said Pasquale.



MotorGuide assembly operator Andrea Lamance. MotorGuide makes trolling motors.

## Main Street Inn to take home Brick award

by Emma Palova

Greg Canfield is best known for his relentless efforts to preserve historical buildings in the downtown area, often taking great risks.

His latest brave venture was the complete restoration of three buildings on the northeast side of the bridge. The buildings were slated for demolition by the city since they didn't meet the code.

But Canfield didn't want to see the heart of historic downtown perish with the buildings. With the help of Downtown Development Authority funds, totaling \$30,000 for the bridge foundation, Canfield embarked on a long journey.

This journey included the strengthening of the foundation in the water, complete gutting of the buildings and recreating the original two-story look. And a new hotel, the Main Street Inn, opened for business in December.

"It's always great to be recognized for hard work," said Canfield about the Brick award for retail.

His investment into the building totaled \$400,000 and the outcome is beautiful inside and outside. The reception cage, made from brass and cast iron, comes from a 1900s State Bank in Byron Center.

Canfield purchased the cage without any specific plans 10 years ago.

"I thought I might use it someday," he said. "This is the perfect location for it. It's a nice focal point."

More over, the cage is also functional protecting the receptionist from rowdy visitors.

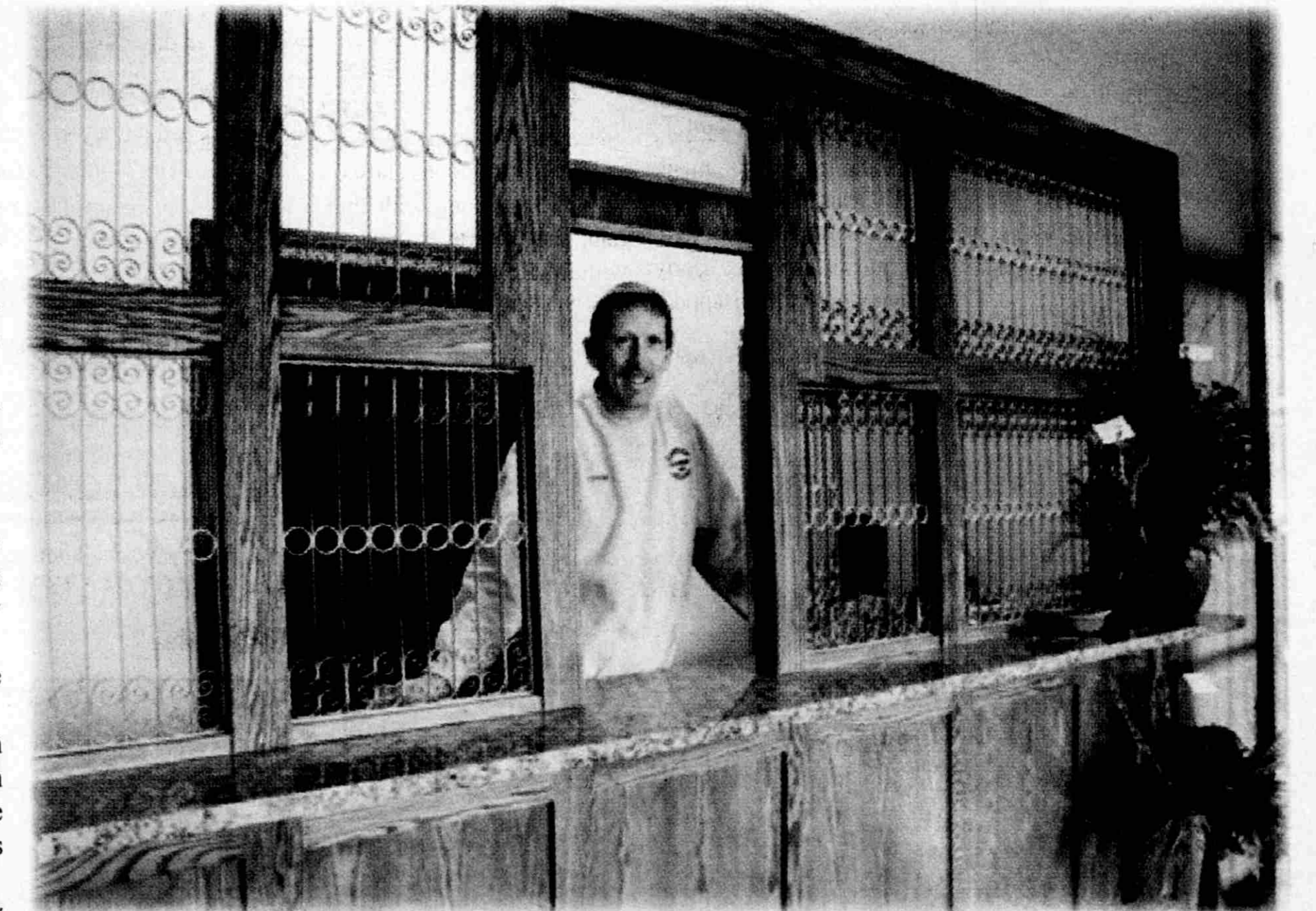
"You can close the gate," he said.

And even though business was good in December due to all the downtown activities, it has now slowed down.

But Canfield is already accepting reservations for spring and summer. He encourages locals to come and spend the night.

"I want local people to come and stay with us," he said.

He is offering a Valentine's special from Feb. 11 through Feb. 14



Greg Canfield in the brass and cast iron cage inside the Main Street Inn.

for \$99 a room, including champagne, flowers and downtown shopping coupons.

His daughter Leslie McCracken works part time at the Inn.

"It's fun to be a part of the journey," she said.

The individual rooms are luxuriously appointed with furniture from Klingman's. The biggest rooms, one overlooking

the Showboat, has been named after an icon in the community, Ivan Blough. The other room, Canfield named after himself.

"This is a first time

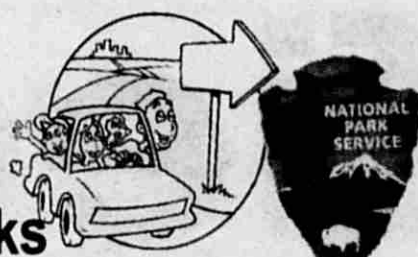
award," he said. "I am very excited."

The room prices range from \$85 to \$125 and \$995 for the whole building.





### exploring our national parks



Kurt Hieshetter

Unlike our last trips, which have started in Lowell and ended in a National Park, this week we start at a National Park and end up in Lowell. In my last article, we left off 1,800 miles from home. Between East Glacier, Montana and Lowell, there are many parks and national historic sites. This week, on our trip home, we will visit a few of them.

Our plan was first to travel south out of Browning, MT on US-287. This would allow us to pick up I-15 just north of Helena. I-15 would then bring us down to the town of Dillon, MT. Dillon is key for a number of reasons. First, it is the name of my son with the same spelling. So, posing for a photo op in front of the town's "welcome sign"

okay, as we figured we would just find one on the way out of town. The next task was to find the Patagonia Outlet and a parking spot on the street for a car and travel trailer. Once parking and the store were located, it began to rain. It was just a shower, so we ran to the outlet store. Once inside the heavens opened up. Rain, rain and more rain poured from the sky. There was also, hail, thunder and lightning to add to our experience. This was the kind of thunderstorm you read about, but never want to experience for yourself. The power went out in the store, so we were unable to check out, not that we were going anywhere anytime soon!

By the time it started to let up, the streets were literally rivers. Water was



Dillon and Sierra at the entrance to Little Bighorn National Battlefield.

of town, welcome sign or not. And finding State Route 41, we were happy to put Dillon behind us, the town, not the kid.

Thirty miles out of Dillon, we turned onto Montana 287. This road was to take us into West Yellowstone after a

your way. Being well north of where we were yesterday, we decided to follow the Yellowstone River on State Route 89 into Gardiner, MT. This would allow us to enter Yellowstone at Mammoth Hot Springs under the Roosevelt Arch. We then could stop at the Visitors' Center, get the passport stamped and leave through Cooke City.

Entering or leaving Yellowstone through Cooke City and the northeast entrance require you to travel along the Beartooth highway. This road is not for the faint of heart. It should not be for anyone pulling a travel trailer. But, for us, it was too late to turn back, we were committed. This extremely narrow, switchback laden highway reaches an elevation of 10,947 feet before dropping quickly to Red Lodge, MT. After losing one of our trailer brakes, we descended this route with a little less braking capability.

With the harrowing experience of pulling a trailer, in the mountains, behind us, we were off to Billings, MT and the closest campground we could find. As luck would have it, a boom town like Billings is the home to many private campgrounds. There are many good campground guides, but if you have access to the Internet while traveling, the best is RVParkReviews.com. We were able to find a campground on the Yellowstone River that was very close to I-94.

It was a short drive to our next two stops, both national monuments. The first one is a lesser known monument called Pompey's Pillar; the second, a well-known national battlefield, Little Bighorn.

Pompey's Pillar is a large sandstone butte rising 150 feet above the Yellowstone River valley floor. It holds the only physical evidence of the Lewis and Clark expedition. William Clark stopped at this sight on his return trip to the U.S. and carved his

name into the side of the sandstone tower. His carved name is protected under glass and appears just as it did in 1806. To our surprise, once a year on the date in July that Captain Clark camped here, Clark days are celebrated. And, as luck would have it, it was the day we stopped. There were many displays set up showing the history of the area. Everyone was in period costume and many of the foods that might have been eaten on the Lewis and Clark expedition were available for sampling. We spent much more time here than we thought we would. But, it was a great experience and the kids learned a lot of history in a fun atmosphere.

Some fifty miles south of Pompey's Pillar lies the little town of Garryowen, MT. Garryowen is on the banks of the Little Bighorn River. It was very near this place that Major Marcus Reno first encountered Lakota warriors. Reno, part of the seventh Cavalry, had just split from General George Custer and Capt. Benteen. Unknown to Reno at the time, the beginning of the end had just begun.

The Little Bighorn Battlefield national monument is a solemn place that all Americans should visit. Visitors walk the trails of Last Stand Hill reading the monuments and doing very little talking. White marble stones mark the spots where over 260 members of the 7th Cavalry fell. Last Stand Hill, which is fenced off, has a large monument with names engraved. This is the spot of the mass grave that most of the enlisted men were laid to rest. Red granite markers are placed at the sites where Lakota and Cheyenne warriors fell.

To truly immerse yourself into this dark moment of American history, more than one day is needed. Children have so many questions about how and why this event happened. The interpretive guide is a great way to walk the battlefield, read the markers and try to answer

their questions. Looking over the river valley you can see how the events of that June day, only 135 years ago, took place.

Very near the southern end of the battlefield, where Reno and Benteen held off the remaining warriors, is a great campground called the 7th Ranch RV Campground, (very nice people, free ice cream for the kids, and extremely clean restrooms and showers). At night under the stars, after putting the kids to bed, Stephanie and I were able to look out over the river valley imagining how it looked in 1886 with 7,000 men, women and children, Lakota, Cheyenne and Arapaho families trying to preserve their way of life.

Montana Highway 212 takes you east through the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservations. It is a desolate area but this is the way to our next stop, Devil's Tower. Devil's Tower is our nation's first national monument. After President Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed it a national monument in 1906, Wyoming became the home of our first national park, Yellowstone, and our first national monument, Devil's Tower.

Approaching Devil's Tower from the north allows you to see it long before you arrive. The tower rises nearly 870 feet from the base and is over 1,000 feet around. The campground at Devil's Tower is located just south of the tower on the Belle Fourche River. Most of the campsites have an awesome view of the Tower. As with other National Park campgrounds, this one is first come, first serve. It was nice to arrive early because by 4:00 p.m. the campground was full.

At the end of a long narrow road near the base of the Tower is the Visitors' Center. This building is an old log structure built by the CCC during the depression. This park, like many others, was built and established many years ago and is in great need of additional funding just to upgrade some of the infrastructure. Another great reason to buy your National Park pass every year! Anyone visiting Devil's Tower can sign in at the base trailhead and go climb it. Over 5,000 people a year do. However, we were content to walk the 1.3 mile trail around it and watch while others made the attempt to get to the top.

Our final stop on this trip was at Wind Cave National Park. Wind Cave is located in the Black Hills

National parks, continued, page 15



JANUARY 26 - FEBRUARY 1

- Swarming the streets of Egypt! 250,000 pack downtown Cairo. New government sworn in, but Mubarak still in charge.
- Johannesburg - 92-year-old former President Nelson Mandela is discharged from a South African hospital Friday after treatment for an acute respiratory infection, the nation's Surgeon General reports.
- The man who detonated a bomb at Domodedovo Airport in Moscow on Monday, killing 35 people, was a 20-year-old from the North Caucasus, the Russian investigation committee says. It is also clear that the bomb was targeted toward foreigners.
- Conyers will run for 25th congressional term in 2012. U.S. Rep. John Conyers Jr., the longest serving African-American, will seek another term stating he's not ready to retire.
- Enbridge spill has some crying foul. Six months after, the oil spill continues to impact people, businesses and ecosystems. More than 2,370 claims have been filed by residents on everything from medical bills, to hotel stays, to property repairs.

To vote on the current poll question go to: [thelowellledger.com](http://thelowellledger.com)

### Financial Focus, continued

toward the retirement lifestyle you seek, your financial advisor determines that your retirement plan — e.g., your owner-only 401(k), SEP-IRA, SIMPLE IRA or whatever plan you've chosen — is underfunded, contains a high percentage of conservative investments, and may need potential growth opportunities. Consequently, your financial

advisor may help you decide it's time for an "audible" — in other words, it's time to re-evaluate so you may consider adjusting your contribution level and investment mix. A Super Bowl team needs a good quarterback — and so does your business.

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

## WE SHIP UPS!

Our Prices Can't Be Beat!  
Call Us for a Price Quote!  
Weight & Zip Code Required for a Quote



The Lowell Ledger  
105 N. Broadway, 897-9261

## National parks, continued

area of South Dakota. This area is also home to Jewell Cave national monument, Mount Rushmore national monument and Badlands National Park. We visited these on a different trip, so details on those parks will come at a later date.

Wind Cave is one of three caves in the National Park system (along with Carlsbad Caverns and Mammoth Caves). It is very different from the other two. A National Park since 1903, it is considered one of the oldest caves in the world. Only eight of the known 100 miles of passages are open

to tours. As with Carlsbad and Mammoth Caves, if you are lucky enough to visit, take time to go on one of the tours. Our tour was the Natural Entrance tour which enters the cave near the only natural opening, a small hole in the ground. It then followed a cave passage under the Visitors' Center into the elevator building for about 1-1/2 hours.

Wind Cave has very few stalactites and stalagmites that are commonly found in other caves. It does, however, have many other strange formations and a wide variety of minerals.

This makes Wind Cave truly unique among caves and should not be missed if you visit the Black Hills' area.

We spent that night at the KOA of Hot Springs. They did not have a hot spring anywhere, but they did have a pool for the kids. Driving south from Hot Springs gives you the opportunity to drive through the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. This reservation is where Wounded Knee is located. Wounded Knee is the site of the last armed conflict between the U.S. and the Native Americans, another dark chapter in American

history: the massacre of over 150 men, women and children. This site is a national historic landmark.

It was finally time to find our way to I-80 and head east. We had been on the road for nearly two weeks and one more night was needed before we were to arrive in Lowell. The area that was visited on this trip should not be missed, as they are some of the most historic and wild places in America. This trip will be hard to top. Stay tuned, however, as next time I will try.

# 2010 WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE

### GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

* Denotes a home game at High School Main Gym		
2/4	7:45 p.m.	GR Christian*
2/8	7:30 p.m.	at Reeths Puffer
2/11	7:45 p.m.	East Grand Rapids*
2/15	7:30 p.m.	Mona Shores*
2/18	7:45 p.m.	at Northview
2/22	7:30 p.m.	Holland*
2/25	7:45 p.m.	Greenville*
3/15	7 p.m.	Class C Quarterfinal*

### BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

* Denotes a home game at High School Main Gym		
2/4	8 p.m.	GR Christian*
2/8	7:30 p.m.	Reeths Puffer*
2/11	6 p.m.	East Grand Rapids*
2/15	7:30 p.m.	at Mona Shores
2/18	6 p.m.	at Northview
2/22	7:30 p.m.	at Holland
2/25	6 p.m.	Greenville*
3/1	7:30 p.m.	at Thornapple Kellogg
3/3	7:30 p.m.	Forest Hills Eastern*

### GIRLS VARSITY GYMNASTICS

* Denotes a home meet in Auxiliary Gym		
2/2	7 p.m.	at Kenowa Hills/Mona Shores/E. Kentwood
2/9	7 p.m.	at Kenowa Hills
2/19	TBA	Conference at Mona Shores

### VARSITY CHEERLEADING

* Denotes a home meet in the High School Main Gym		
2/2	6:30 p.m.	at Kenowa Hills
2/5	10 a.m.	Kenowa Hills Invitational
2/9	6:30 p.m.	White/Black Meet*
2/12	10 a.m.	Conference at Mona Shores

### BOYS VARSITY WRESTLING

* Denotes a home meet at High School Gym		
2/2	7 p.m.	Greenville*
2/5	TBA	Conference at GR Christian

### BOYS VARSITY HOCKEY

* Denotes a home meet at Kentwood Ice Arena		
2/2	8 p.m.	at West Ottawa
2/11	8:30 p.m.	South Christian*

2/12	4 p.m.	Kalamazoo Blades*
2/18	8:30 p.m.	at South Christian
2/19	6 p.m.	at Jenison
2/25	8:30 p.m.	Northwest Warriors*

### GIRLS VARSITY BOWLING

* Denotes a home meet at Lowell Lanes		
2/2	3:30 p.m.	Creston*
2/4	3:30 p.m.	GR Christian*
2/9	3:30 p.m.	at Northview
2/14	3:30 p.m.	at East Grand Rapids
2/16	3:30 p.m.	at Creston
2/19	9 a.m.	Conference at GR Christian

### BOYS VARSITY BOWLING

* Denotes a home meet at Lowell Lanes		
2/2	3:30 p.m.	Creston*
2/4	3:30 p.m.	GR Christian*
2/9	3:30 p.m.	at Northview
2/14	3:30 p.m.	at East Grand Rapids
2/16	3:30 p.m.	at Creston
2/19	9 a.m.	Conference at GR Christian

This Page Brought To You

the lowell ledger



# Area schools announce Spelling Bee winners

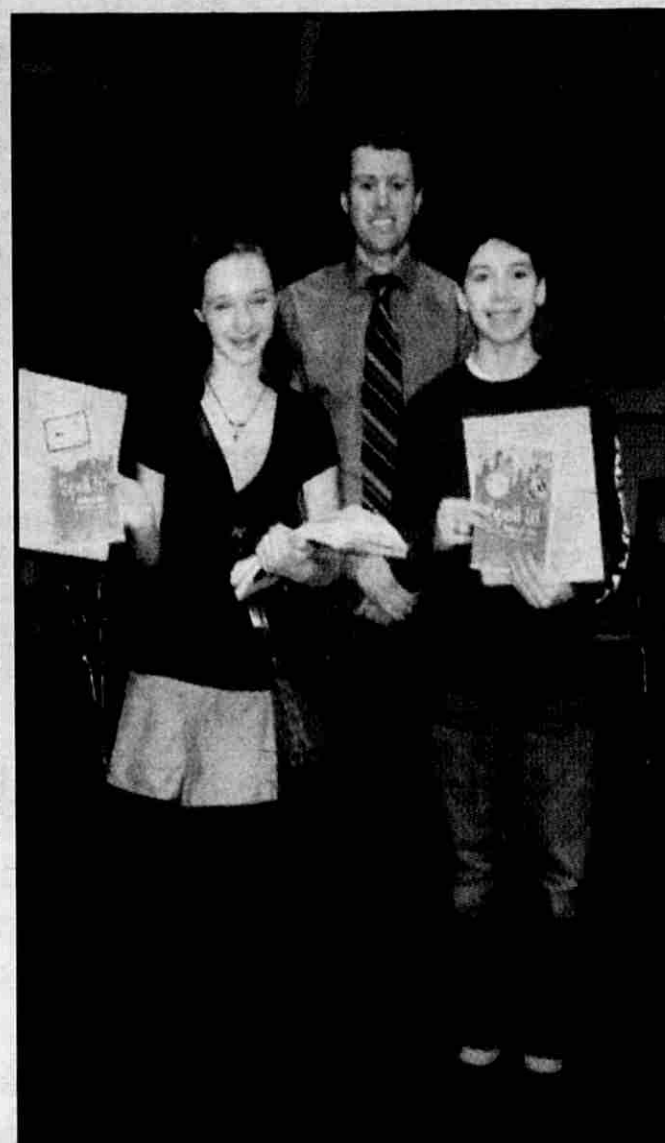
Lowell Middle School held their annual spelling bee on Jan. 26 in the media center at the school. It was an exciting contest and lasted a record 21 rounds before a winner was declared. The first-place winner was Adrienne Rife and the runner-up was Clayton Brown.

Final round participants were, eighth grade: Tyler Hall, Marie Blough, Adrienne Rife, Catie Wissman and Laurel Bronkella; seventh grade: Marrila Marks; sixth grade: Clayton Brown, Megan Dollar, Joel Dee, Tiana Peavey, Aidan Lane, Maria DeCator, Alyssa McIntire, Elijah Boulton, Maddie Burt, Trevor Sherman and Corrina Wenger.

Rife and Brown will be representing LMS at the regional competition in February.



LMS eighth-grade spellers and at right: Adrienne Rife, winner; Nate Fowler, assistant principal; and Clayton Brown, runner-up.

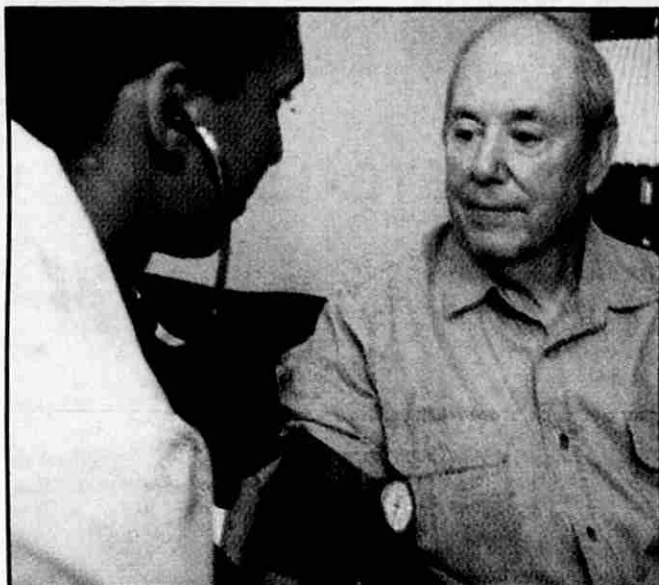


SENIORS AND HEALTH

ADVERTISEMENT

## Heart Health — Emerald Meadows' Wellness Series continues in February

**HEART HEALTH** "When we offered Part 1 of our Wellness Series in January, it was so well-attended, we knew we were meeting a need," says Kathy Higgins, Community Manager at Emerald Meadows in Grand Rapids, Michigan. "Part 2 promises to be just as informative and helpful."



The Wellness Series at Emerald Meadows is ideal for seniors to attend with their children. Sessions are scheduled for January, February, and March. The first installment, on January 13 at 2:00pm, is "Making the Most of Your Doctor Visits."

### THIS MONTH'S EVENT Wellness Series

Thursday, February 10, 2:00pm — "Heart Health" (RSVP to Emerald Meadows by February 4)

Emerald Meadows is located at 6117 Charlevoix Woods Court in Grand Rapids.

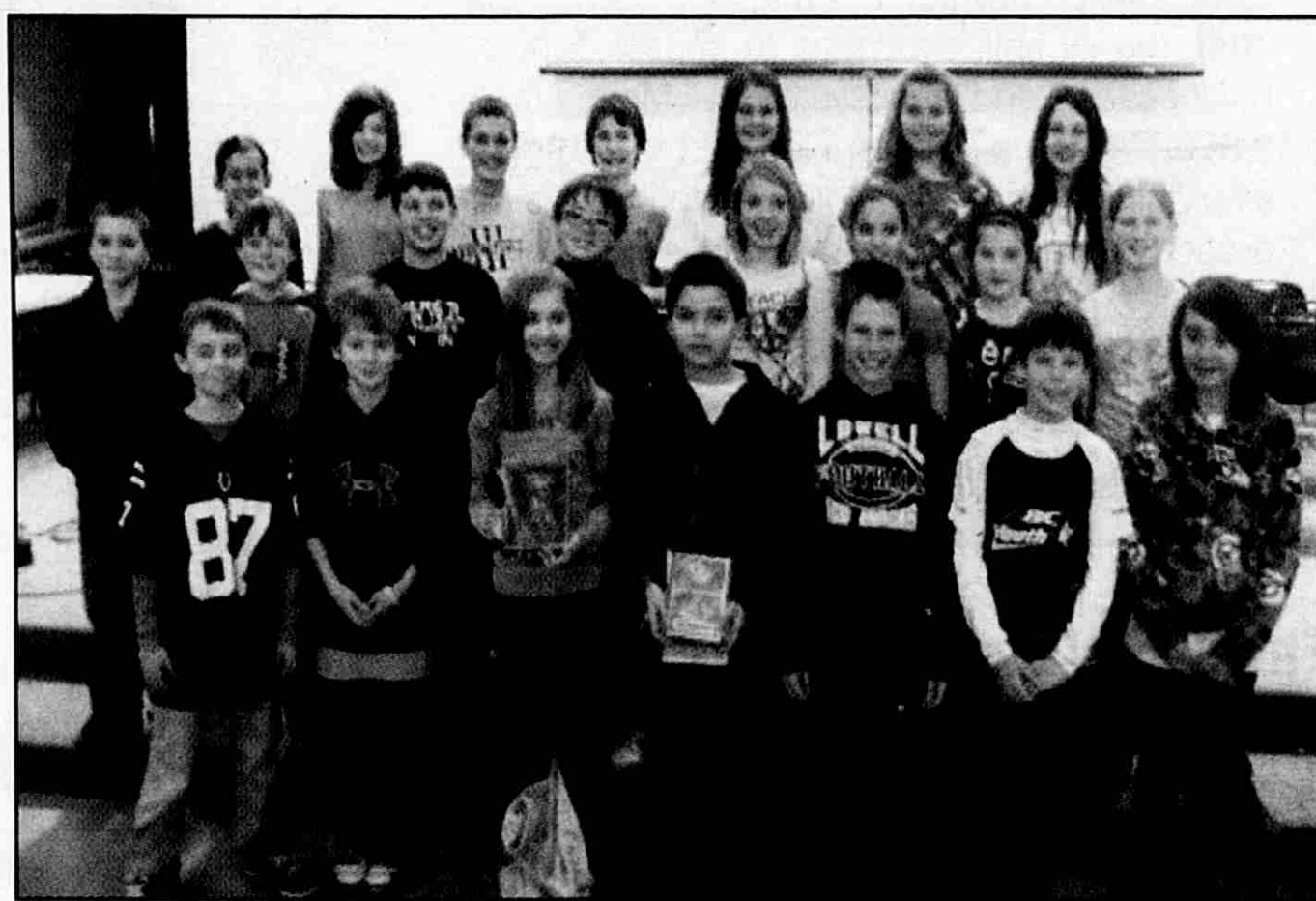
Call (616) 954-2366 for more information or to RSVP.

Since February is American Heart Month, it made sense for the February 10 installment of the series to focus on heart health. Emerald Meadows has invited medical experts from Great Lakes Home Health to share the latest information on heart-related health issues and what people need to know and do to stay healthy.

Kathy Higgins encourages people to sign up with their aging parents or grandparents because, she says, "Families who focus on wellness together often stay healthier. And they have fun doing it!"

The series will continue on March 10 with a "Diet and Nutrition" session.

Cherry Creek Elementary held its annual fifth-grade spelling bee Jan. 20. This year the winner is Nicole Paulus and the runner-up is Seth Ross. Both will compete in the regional spelling bee. It will be held at Cherry Creek Elementary on Feb. 22 at 4:30 p.m.



Pictured above are Murray Lake Elementary's fifth-grade spelling bee finalists. Chloe Looman (bottom center) was crowned the winner and Justin Plunkett (bottom center) was the runner-up. They will both move on to the regional spelling bee held in Kentwood next week.



Providence Life Services does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, or handicap.



PROVIDENCE LIFE SERVICES IS A 501(C)3 NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

## LOSE WEIGHT Feel Great!

RESULTS GUARANTEED!  
or Your Money Back!

### Join our 8-Week "Lose Weight" Challenge!

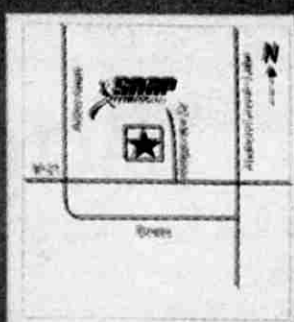
- ✓Regular private weigh-ins
- ✓Recommended workout plan
- ✓No long-term membership required
- ✓Online diet & nutrition plan
- ✓Win Prizes! Caribbean cruise, HDIV, free memberships & more!

Join now and get your

### FIRST MONTH FREE

—Plus—  
**LEARN YOUR FITNESS SCORE** (\*\$100 value)  
Meet with a Personal Trainer to find out your fitness level & to get on a workout plan!

**Lowell**  
2173 West Main St.  
**616-987-4000**  
Between the Movie Theater and TSC  
snapfitness.com/lowellmi



We're In Your Neighborhood!  
Minutes Away—Open 24/7™

Offer expires 02/28/2011

Time use per household, 150 min. max. Access card for other lines and some locations may apply. Visit www.snapfitness.com for full details and participating clubs. ©2011 Snap Fitness, Inc.



\*See our guarantee at www.snapfitness.com/guarantee  
\*\*Available at most Snap Fitness clubs

bloom where you're planted  
**BUY LOCAL**

**LOWELL**  
Love Your Hometown