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# the lowell ledger

wednesday • february • 9 • 2011

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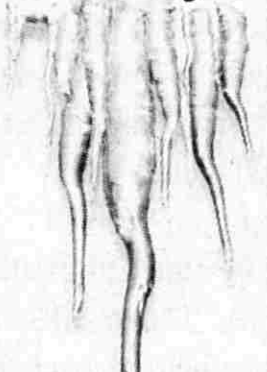
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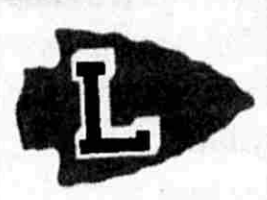


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## Blizzard 2011

### People dig out for days after huge snowstorm blankets midwest

by Emma Palova

The blizzard of 2011, that swept a large portion of the country overnight and lasted until Groundhog Day, left people trapped behind mounds of snow last week.

The Midwest states

were paralyzed even though there was no loss of power. However, getting around became a major problem for most.

Lowell closed down its shops, restaurants and banks on Wednesday. The

town was like a ghost town somewhere out in the wild West with the wind howling and large snowflakes still churning in the wind. Most businesses and residents were prepared for the 'storm

of the century' since it was forecasted well ahead.

On Tuesday, Feb. 1, prior to the storm, people were stocking up on food and liquids, as well as gas for generators.

The city Department of Public Works' (DPW) crews were working around the clock to clear first the center of the streets for emergency vehicles. Then they started pushing the snow back to the curb.

The day after the storm Lowell looked like a medieval walled city.

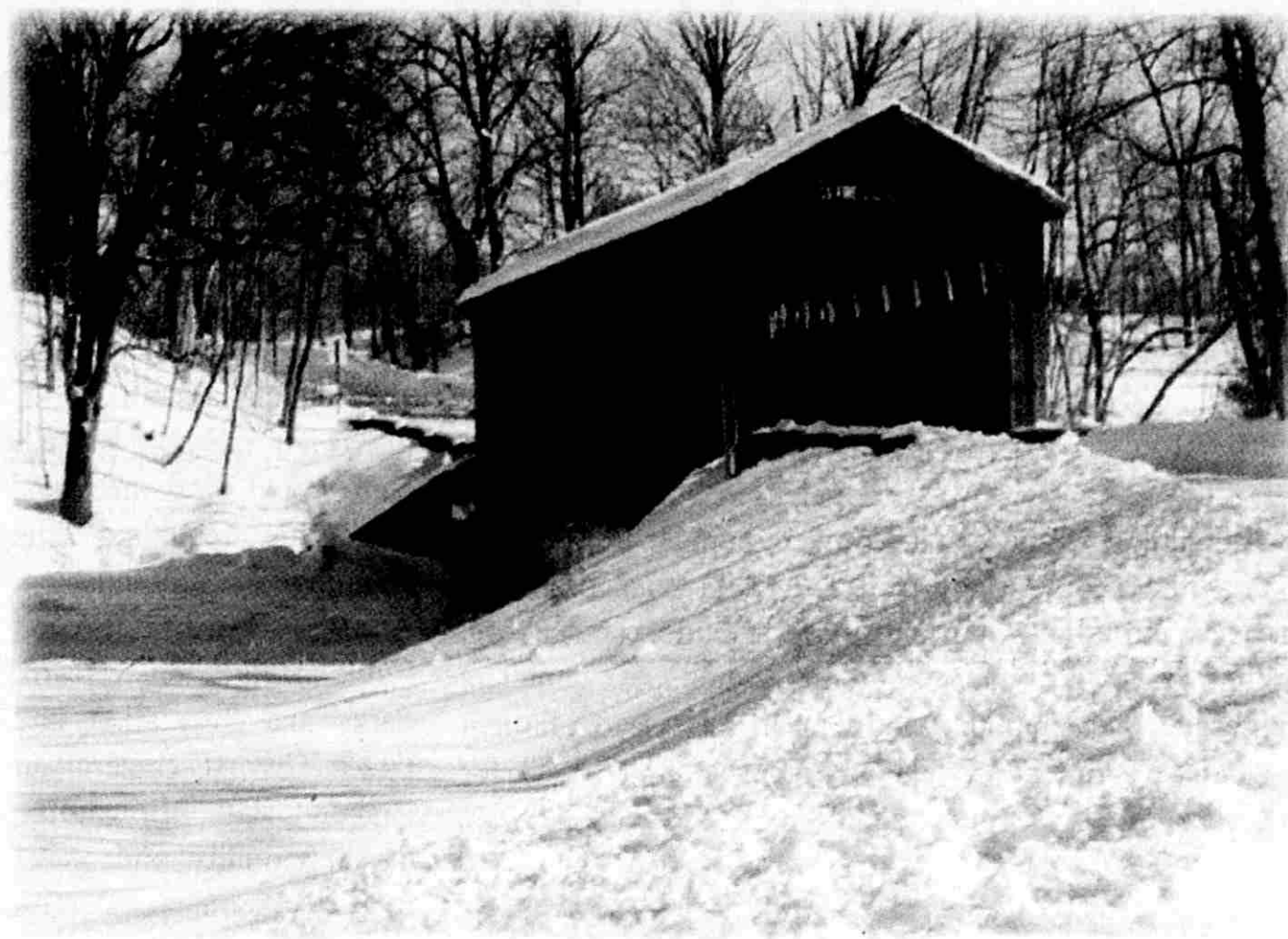
But, DPW director Dan DesJarden said everything was under control.

"I think we do," he said. "We wanted to get it done by the Superbowl."

DPW's teams with trucks worked diligently to get the snow to the fairgrounds, where it's going to sit until it melts.

DesJarden estimated the city got anywhere from 18 to 20 inches of snow, much like in 1978. No power was lost in spite of the frigid

Blizzard,  
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The Fallsburg Covered Bridge was covered with snow.



This roof over a garage at a rental home on Valley Vista Drive collapsed due to heavy snow.



A resident shovels to free his vehicle.



Trash waits for pick-up.

## Moratorium on licensing of snow plowers ends

by Emma Palova

Having reached a compromise on application requirements for the licensing of professional snow plowers, the city council will officially end the moratorium on Feb. 15.

The council dropped the requirements for an amber light, displayed names on trucks and customer lists, as well as workmen's compensation, if required by the state.

Still, some resistance came from the snow plowers represented by David Lehigh. According to Lehigh, out of the recent historic snow storm came only two complaints about snow being pushed onto the sidewalk, one was by a city plow truck.

But, mayor pro tem Sharon Ellison said licensing remains a safety issue, so

there is a record of who's plowing the city.

Lehigh questioned how come others plowing, or pushing snow or snow blowers, are not required to have a license.

"You have a lot of bureaucracy," he said. "You should look at anybody who has a snowplow. We're the ones getting the bad name."

According to

councilwoman LaPonsie, the city is not making any money on the licensing.

"We want to be proactive rather than reactive," she said. "We're not singling you out."

There is a \$10 licensing fee per vehicle. The city also requires licensing for garbage disposal trucks.

Ellison said licensing is about protecting citizens.

"We're not just making things up," she said. "It's not complaint based. It's not a burden. It's not to trap somebody."

According to Lehigh, anybody who pushes a snowplow should have a license because it's a safety issue.

But, mayor Jim Hodges said the city has ordinances

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CENTS





# Health and safety precautions for cold weather

Winter in Michigan is a celebrated season despite the extreme drops in temperature posing serious risks and hazards. To combat these potential dangers, there are specific guidelines citizens can follow to stay safe and healthy throughout the cold weather months.

Be extremely careful if you use a wood stove, fireplace or space heater in your home. Always keep a multipurpose, dry chemical fire extinguisher near the area you are heating. Do

not burn paper in your fireplace or wood stove and do not leak flue gas indoors. If you are using an indoor gas heater, be sure it is located in a well-ventilated space and only use the type of fuel recommended by the manufacturer. Regardless of the type of heating device you are using, be sure that it is up to date and meets all safety standards.

Authorities



are also reminding people during this weather emergency about the dangers of carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide is produced by gas-powered engines, such as generators and automobiles. It is odorless and colorless and can kill you. If you are using a generator to supply power to your home, make sure the exhaust

from the generator does not enter the indoor air. This means placing the generator away from air intakes or doors and windows and not running it in an attached garage. If you have to shovel your car out of the snow, or are stuck in a snowbank, and your car is running, make sure the area around the exhaust pipe is clear of snow. If you are using a generator and feel tired, dizzy, or nauseous, get fresh air immediately and seek medical attention.

For more information about carbon monoxide, see [www.michigan.gov/carbonmonoxide](http://www.michigan.gov/carbonmonoxide). Toxic fumes, such as carbon monoxide, from old or faulty heaters can cause unconsciousness or death from lack of oxygen.

While inside, monitor the indoor temperature carefully. Because they lose body heat much faster than adults, infants should never

Cold weather precautions, continued, page 7



## along main street

### Snow plowers, continued

for shoveling and snow plowing. Also, tractors have to be under registration.

In other business, the videotaping of all the city meetings, boards and committees came again under discussion.

Under a previous proposal from Al Eckman and councilman Jeff Altoft, the high school WLHS club would tape meetings, for \$20, including the planning commission, Arbor Board, Lowell Cable Television Board, Parks and Recreation and DDA. Current cameraman Brandon Hall will get the first opportunity.

However, some meetings, like the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), are held at noon.

Hodges said he is missing numbers, such as the cost of equipment and scheduling. But, the majority of the councilmembers wanted the next DDA meeting on Feb. 17 taped due to the amphitheatre upgrade. The results of the recently held charrettes will be presented by Design Plus at that meeting.

The council approved the DDA taping as a pilot for the future tapings by the high school club.

#### 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.

#### 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.

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.

#### 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.

#### YOUTH FAIR (KCYF) FUNDRAISER

Ada/Lowell 5 Theatre, 2175 West Main St., on Tues., Feb. 22, 4-8 p.m. Fifty percent of all the purchases at the concession stand will be donated to the KCYF. A short form to fill out can be printed from [www.kcyf.org](http://www.kcyf.org)

#### 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.

## the ledger

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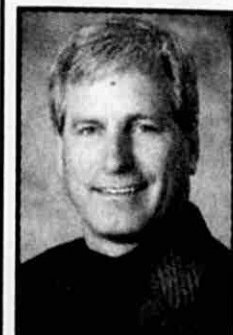
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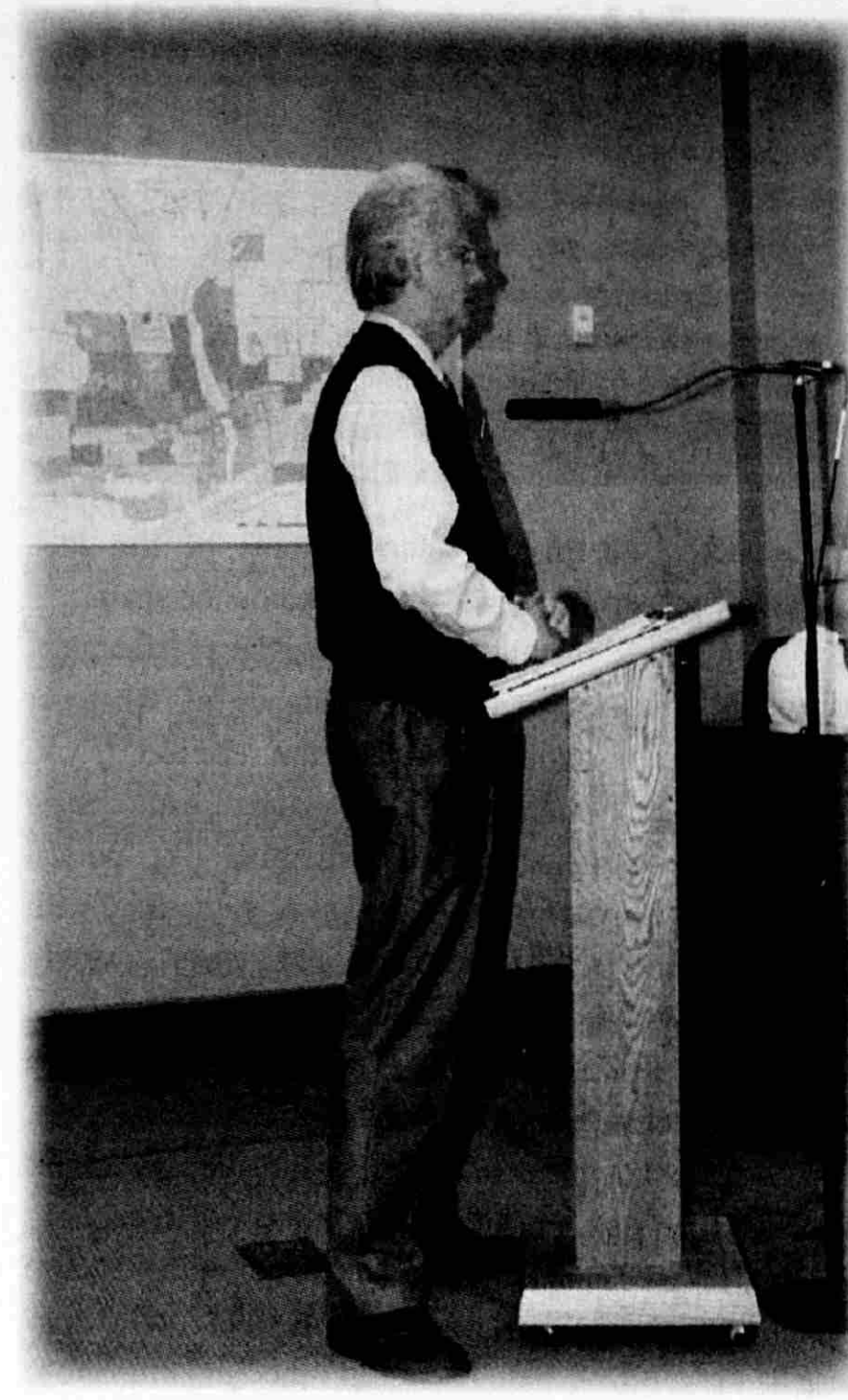
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# Lowell Light & Power to continue successful credit card services

by Emma Palova



Lowell Light and Power general manager Greg Pierce talks about credit card pilot.

The utility will continue a standard credit card services pilot while absorbing the customer cost. This enables the customers to pay at the office, over the phone or by mail, without having to use a third online party that collected a fee for the service.

Greg Pierce said the Lowell Light & Power (LLP) staff, after talking with city attorney Dick Wendt, decided to conduct a six-month pilot to see if there really was an interest from the customers. The pilot also aimed to identify the true cost.

By spreading the cost over all customers, the service costs 10 cents with the utility absorbing \$2.75. The utility already spreads the cost of the Energy Optimization program with CFL bulbs, even

though only a few hundred customers took advantage of it. The same goes for the refrigerator recycling program, where only less than a 100 customers have received the incentives, which are sponsored by all the customers.

"Everybody pays into the programs," Pierce said.

But, mayor Jim Hodges said the customer absorbs the fee when paying the city sewer and water bills. Hodges called it 'awkward' to have the fees different between the municipality and the utility. All the above mentioned funds, water, sewer and the utility are considered enterprise funds.

"We operate differently," Pierce said.

Treasurer Sue Olin said she doesn't know of a city that does not charge a fee for the credit card payment

service. "We're sending a confusing message to the customer," Olin said.

Since many Lowell customers pay the electric, sewer and water bill with a single payment, they too would benefit from the pilot project. The credit service allows another alternative for bill processing and prevents customers from being shut off.

"It's not going to cost the city if they pay both," said Jeff Altoft.

Approximately 700 people now use the credit card services, up from 250 users of online payment services.

In related business, the council set a public hearing for Feb. 22 to discuss an ordinance on placing a property lien on unpaid electric payments.

"It's another tool to keep the community safer," said Hinton.

The ordinance will allow the placement of charges on the property tax roll, much like in the case of sewer and water billing.

A work session is scheduled for March 14 at 7 pm. The next city council meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 22.

Police chief James Hinton presented a proposal for a laser device to enforce speed limits. The device helps pinpoint the speeding vehicle. The Doppler radars will stay in vehicles. The equipment is called the Stalker LIDAR for \$2,350. The money has been budgeted in the equipment fund. The device will last 15 to 20 years.

"It's another tool to keep the community safer," said Hinton.

# City approves resolution for LARA local funding and first time Pawsitive Walk

by Emma Palova

The city council, Monday night, approved resolution committing local funds for the Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA) phase I trail way.

Phase I of the trail way will connect the area by Cherry Creek Elementary with Wittenbach/Wege Center. LARA trail will then stand at the crossroads of other trails: the rail trail at Foreman Road and the Safe Routes to Schools on Gee Drive. It will traverse Alden Nash west to Lowell High School and cross Vergennes Road to the center.

The total cost of the construction is \$899,960 with \$273,318 from the Federal Transportation Enhancement Funds,

\$398,000 from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and \$228,642 from LARA.

City manager Dave Pasquale said the city must certify that the local share is secured, available and committed for constructing the project.

"In order to qualify for the enhancement grant, the council has to pass a resolution," said Pasquale. "There will be no city or taxpayer money used."

By approving the resolution, the city, through LARA, commits to owning, operating and funding and implementing a maintenance program over the design life of the trail way constructed with enhancement funds.

In other business, Kim Keglovitz of Lowell High School presented the request for a walk to raise funds for the Kent County Humane Society. The city approved Pawsitive Walk on Saturday, Feb. 12, from 1 pm to 2:30 pm by the chamber of commerce.

There will be sponsors and donation booths set up around the chamber. Donations, such as food, collars, leashes, blankets and toys, will be accepted. Donation boxes will be placed at the high school.

For a \$5 donation people

can have their picture taken with their pet.

Mayor Jim Hodges said the city normally does not allow critics on the Riverwalk and the group will be responsible for cleanup.

Students will also collect brushes, conditioner/ shampoo and toothbrushes

for pets. Money will be collected as well.

According to Capstone Project, most pet store puppies and 80 percent of American Kennel Club's business come from puppy mills. These are mass breeding operations in which ill, suffering dogs are kept in deplorable conditions. They

breed between two and four million puppies each year.

Every year, six to eight million dogs and cats enter shelters and three to four million shelter dogs and cats are killed.

Every year, 10 billion domesticated land animals are slaughtered for food in the United States.

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Every year, 10 billion domesticated land animals are slaughtered for food in the United States.



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**PAJAMA STORYTIME**

For families who can't come to the library during the day, Pajama Storytime offers an evening of stories and fun. Bring your teddy bear or other snuggly friend; pajamas optional! For children ages 6 and under with a caregiver. Wed., Feb. 23, 6:30 p.m.



# financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

## Financial gifts can bring smiles on Valentine's Day

On every Valentine's Day, Americans spend millions of dollars on candy and flowers. These are fine gifts, but after the chocolates are eaten and the roses have wilted, Valentine's Day will just be a pleasant, though transient, memory. But if you want to give a present that can benefit your valentine for years to come, why not give a financial gift?

Here are a few creative ideas for doing just that:

- Give shares of stock. Like everyone else, your valentine enjoys products or services produced by certain companies. So why not give her or him shares of stock in those businesses? Your valentine will enjoy being an owner, and may well use this newfound stock

ownership to develop a greater interest in investing — and all of us need to invest if we are going to achieve our financial goals. (Keep in mind that, if you are giving away shares of your own stock, to take note of your original purchase price; this information will be needed for tax purposes should your gift recipient ever sell the shares.)

- Contribute to an IRA. Does your valentine contribute to a traditional or Roth IRA? If so, he or she is making a wise move, because an IRA is one of the best tax-advantaged ways to save for retirement. Consequently, you'll be doing your valentine a great service by helping him or her fund an IRA. (While you can't directly invest in someone else's IRA, you

can write that person a check for the same purpose.) For the 2010 tax year, the IRA contribution limit is \$5,000, or \$6,000 for investors 50 or older. And contributions for 2010 can be made right up until the 2011 tax-filing deadline, which is April 15.

- Make a charitable gift in your valentine's name. Your valentine may well support certain charitable, educational or civic groups. By making a contribution to one or more of these groups, and designating the gift in your valentine's name, you will be doing a good thing for your valentine, for the charity — and for yourself, too, because your gift may earn you some tax benefits. If you simply give cash, you can write off part of the value of your gift if it's made to tax-qualified charitable organization. And if you give an appreciated asset, such as stock, you also may be able to avoid paying capital gains taxes, because when the stock is sold, it will be the charity, not you, taking the gain.

- Make a debt payment. You might want to volunteer to pay your valentine's car payment, or credit card payment, for a month, and then encouraging your valentine to put the savings to work in an investment. The more debts any of us have, the less we have to invest for our future.

- Check your beneficiary designations. If your valentine also happens to be your spouse, you'll be doing him or her a favor by making sure the beneficiary designations are correct on your insurance policies and investment accounts. Through all the events of life — marriage, remarriage, new children — these designations can sometimes get outdated, so you'll want to keep them current.

By following any or all of these suggestions, you can help make sure your loved one will feel the glow of this year's Valentine's Day far into the future.

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

# health

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



## contact dermatitis

Contact dermatitis occurs when your skin has a reaction to something you touch. The skin may get red, itchy, or swollen. You may also get blisters or bumps. It can be caused by irritants like soap, perfume, lotion, latex and make-up. It can also be caused by an allergen. The most common allergens that cause contact dermatitis is a chemical in poison ivy and oak, nickel and fragrances. Touching certain foods may also cause it.

The reaction varies depending on the part of the body that it affected. It may be worse on the eyelids, genitals and neck. It is usually not as bad on

the bottoms of the feet, hands and on the scalp.

The best treatment is avoidance of whatever causes the reaction. If you know that you are allergic to something like poison ivy, wash your skin with soap and water quickly after you touch it. Cool compresses will help soothe the affected skin. Heat will make it worse. If the reaction is bad enough, your doctor will prescribe a cream which will help lessen the inflammation. You may need to take oral medications if the reaction is worse, or doesn't clear with the cream. Again, avoidance is the key.

# viewpoint

## Myths behind drive to repeal the Affordable Care Act



Sen. Carl Levin

One of the Senate's first significant votes of the year was on an attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act, the health insurance reform that became law last year. I believe the attempt to repeal it stemmed from a number of myths about the law.

Some opponents said the new law amounts to a "government takeover" of health care. Some said it violates the Constitution. Others said it will cut the benefits on which Medicare recipients depend, or will

explode the deficit, or will kill jobs.

If such a law existed, I'd want to repeal it too. Thankfully, the Affordable Care Act does none of those things.

This law does not take over the health care system; it strengthens and protects our existing private health insurance system. The independent fact checkers at Politifact.com found that the law "is, at its heart, a system that relies on private companies and the free market," and called

the claim that government would take over the system Politifact's "Lie of the Year."

The new law does not violate the Constitution. Opponents claim that the law violates the Constitution because it requires citizens to purchase insurance. Under their arguments, many other programs, including Medicare, would also violate the Constitution. Perhaps that is what these opponents believe, but it is emphatically not what most Americans believe, and it is contrary to decades of legal precedent.

This law does not reduce care for Medicare

beneficiaries. In fact, most Medicare recipients already enjoy expanded benefits under the Affordable Care Act. Medicare beneficiaries now receive preventive care such as annual check-ups with no out-of-pocket costs; and starting last year this law began to shrink the "donut hole" that hits so many seniors with significant drug costs. The law strengthens Medicare by beginning to rein in the enormous costs that threaten to swamp the system in coming years, and it does so by encouraging efficiency and reducing waste and abuse.

The Affordable Care Act does not explode the

deficit. The independent, nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office found that repeal of the Affordable Care Act would increase the deficit by \$143 billion over the first decade and by significantly more in the years to follow. It was ironic in the extreme that members of Congress who say they want to reduce the deficit would try to add \$143 billion to that deficit as their first major action of the year.

This law does not kill jobs. Again, independent observers have dismissed this claim as patently false. The independent FactCheck.org called the claim "exaggerated and misleading" and said the law's opponents have "badly misrepresented" findings by the Congressional Budget Office in making their arguments.

Here's what the Affordable Care Act does, in fact, do.

This law protects Americans from abuses by insurance companies, such as denial of coverage for pre-existing conditions or gender. It allows parents to keep children covered under their insurance plan until age 26. It requires that coverage include preventive care at no out-of-pocket cost. It limits the unilateral power of

insurance companies to arbitrarily impose annual or lifetime coverage limits. Those arbitrary limits have forced families to choose between much-needed care and bankruptcy.

Families will be protected from unexplained premium increases, and they will get clear, easy-to-read summaries of their options. Small businesses will receive tax credits to help them provide affordable insurance coverage to their workers. And insurance companies will be prevented from rescinding coverage when patients need it most — when they get sick.

This law is sensible, moderate reform that in the coming years will make health insurance more affordable and secure for those who have it today, and make affordable coverage available for millions of Americans who are now without it. It will reduce the deficit, protect the Medicare benefits that seniors depend on now and in the future, and help families afford the insurance coverage they need. It was good for Michigan and the nation that this important law's opponents failed in their efforts to repeal it.

*Carl Levin is the senior U.S. senator from Michigan.*

## 75 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo February 6, 1936

Herbert Washburn is completing a 21-inch high working model of a steam engine, of his invention, which will be submitted to local business interests with a view of organizing a company for its manufacture.

## 50 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger February 9, 1961

This week a review team of Robert DeBrugn of Zeeland and David Almerigi of Grand Rapids, both members of the site committee of the Grand Valley College, will visit Lowell and look over the site proposed here for the college.

The Lowell committee will host the men when they visit here on Thursday afternoon; they will be taken for a look at the site northeast of the city and also to an alternate site on the west edge of the city.

The Lowell Board of Trade and associated groups feel that this area is appropriate for the new college for the following reasons: In Lowell at the present time there are five active service groups of which there are many active business and professional people; the school system in Lowell consists of a modern high school with two new elementary buildings, one a parochial school; there are six churches of many denominations; and the recreation facilities are many and very diversified. We have a new swimming pool and fieldhouse and a 4-H fairground which is the largest in the state, consisting of many buildings.

## 25 Years Ago The Grand Valley Ledger February 12, 1986

Ron and Laura McCollum of Ionia have purchased the old "Townsend" building. The couple plans to refurbish the interior and lease 10' x 12' stalls to antique dealers. They hope to have 28 of these booths on the main floor and mezzanine when the project is complete. A partner, Clare Stolz, will operate a quality, hand stripping and refinishing service at the rear of the building. The McCollums intend to use the upper floors for storage of architectural salvage. They also plan to restore the front of the building to as near its original design as possible.



By Shelly MacNaughton

## 125 Years Ago The Lowell Journal February 12, 1886

A.W. Hine is taking lessons in banking at the Lowell National Bank.

M.C. Barber, host of the Davis House, is building a large hotel barn on the corner east of Chandler Johnson's.

J.B. Yeiter's drugstore has been receiving marked internal improvements.

## 100 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger February 9, 1911

Following her son Edward Stinton, only a week later, Mrs. Elizabeth Stinton, aged 89 years, died Saturday at his late home in West Lowell, after a long decline and illness.

Funeral services were held at the Snow church Tuesday afternoon conducted by Pastor Rookus of the Lowell and Alto Baptist church; burial in Snow cemetery.

Mrs. Stinton was a pioneer in this section and had lived on the farm where she died for more than half a century.

# local business directory

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**Letters To The Editor:**

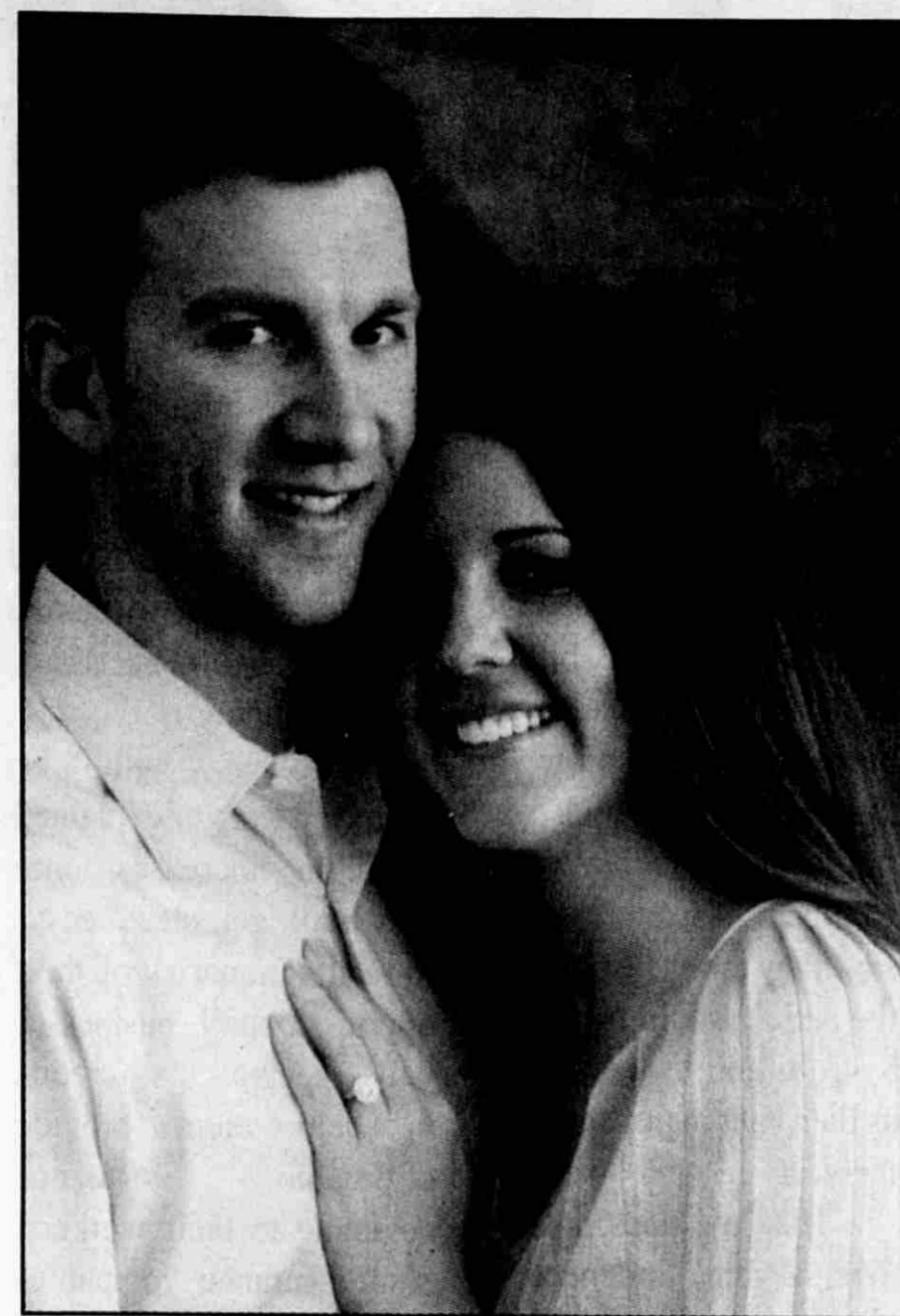
*The Lowell Ledger welcomes your Letters to the Editor. Letters are required to bear the author's signature, phone number and address (for verification purposes only, not for publication). Letters will be published at the discretion of the publisher. All letters are subject to editing for length and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



# engagements

## Vollmer/Webb



John Webb and Dianna Vollmer

Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Vollmer II of Grand Rapids are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Dianna to John Webb, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Webb of Lowell.

The bride-to-be received her Bachelor of Science degree from Michigan State University and a master's degree from Cornell University. She is currently employed as a hospital administrator at Boulder Community Hospital in Boulder, Colorado.

The future groom received his Bachelor of Science degree from Michigan State University and is employed as a project engineer with Barton Malow in Denver, Colorado.

A September 10, 2011, wedding is planned in Spring Lake, Michigan.

The Lowell Area Historical Museum, like most organizations, is in need of more volunteers. They have lots of volunteer opportunities available. From volunteering for special events, to office and clerical support, to a museum greeter or tour guide, they have a spot for you. If you are interested or you know someone who would like to become more

The Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center (WEC) is an outdoor learning center nestled amongst 140 acres of lush forests, rolling prairies, abundant wetlands and open fields, all waiting to be explored. We're just a frog's jump away from Lowell and the greater Grand Rapids area, so hop on out and visit us.

Are you a teacher looking for a great field trip destination? A parent looking for affordable, family-friendly nature programs? A gardener looking for a place to grow and harvest your own food? An exercise nut looking for new places to walk or run? Well look no further than the WEC. We offer our community all of these great opportunities and more. For more information, contact Meggan Johnson at 987-1002 or mjohson@lowellschools.com

actively involved with the museum, please call 897-7688. We would be happy to train you.

For information please call Linda Barnes 897-7688.

Freedom Farm is a nonprofit 501c3 corp. They currently have a six bed home for men with disabilities and are adding a Therapeutic Riding Center. This center will service Ionia, Kent and surrounding counties. They hope to start classes in May 2011.

To give the riders the best possible start, they have applied for a Pepsi Refresh grant. This grant would be used to purchase horses, tack and equipment as well as take care of start-up cost.

The North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA) instructor, Jackie Foster, is also in the process of being certified with MI 4-H Proud Equestrian Program (PEP). This will give Freedom Farm the availability of offering a 4-H horse program to those with disabilities.

Freedom Farm needs your help. They need voters.

Go to the website [freedomfarm1.com](http://freedomfarm1.com) and find the link to refresh everything.com in red. Click to join and place your vote.

## Rewards for reading



Murray Lake's Accelerated Reader (AR) gift card winners for the month of January are, from left to right: Steven Rickert, Jacob Cleaver, Jacob Hough, Ryan Roest, and Jeffrey Leach. Each month five lucky Murray Lake students are chosen to win \$10 gift cards to Ada-Lowell 5, Meijer, or Subway. Students can enter their name in the drawing each time they accumulate 10 AR points. Murray Lake students have now passed 11,715 AR tests and have earned 14,429 points. They are well on their way to their year's goal of 25,000 points.

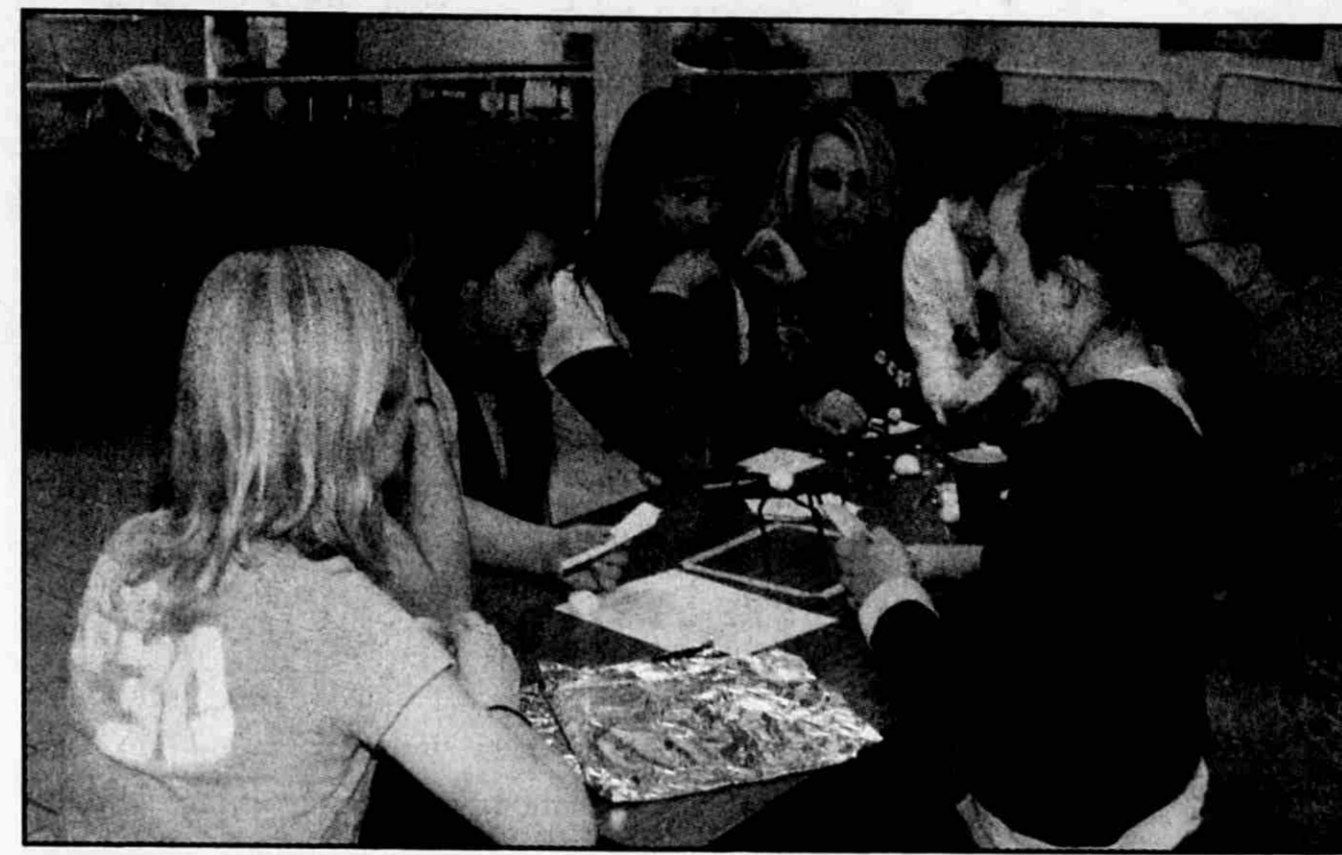
## happy birthday!

- FEBRUARY 9**  
Tom Covell, Alan Ryder, Inga Weeks, Noah Newhouse, Allee Brenk, Madison Lombardo, "AJ" Alvin Davis Brenk II, Adrian Sterzick, Brady Foster, Dave Vankeulen, Charlotte Drake.
- FEBRUARY 10**  
Richard Korb, Eric Kimble.
- FEBRUARY 11**  
Julie Kenney, Judy Goodwin, Terry Nugent.
- FEBRUARY 12**  
Peg Stanford, Kurt Roudabush, Travis Bergy, Jan Herb.
- FEBRUARY 13**  
Deb Heydenburg, Emily Gerard, Jodi Kennedy, Alyssa Ellis-Roach, Thomas Alberts Jr.
- FEBRUARY 14**  
Heather Claypool, Carol Leyman, Gerri Ellison, Scott Treglia, Lori Rice.
- FEBRUARY 15**  
Jim VanDyke, DeeAnn Merriman, Deanne Newell, Marcus Kline, Adam Confer.

## Local students participate in Odyssey of the Mind at LMS

Odyssey of the Mind is a program that fosters creative thinking and problem-solving skills among kindergarten through college level students around the world. Teams work to solve any one of a number of long-term problems, from building mechanical devices and balsa wood structures to creating a unique interpretation of a literary classic.

Recently, ten Odyssey of the Mind teams from Lowell met at Lowell Middle School to practice a variety of spontaneous problems in preparation for their upcoming Region 13 competition on March 19.



Working a verbal/hands-on spontaneous problem, above, are first and second graders from Bushnell and Cherry Creek Elementary, front row, left to right: Malia Garrison, Caydence Pawloski, Lauren Todd, and coach Shannon Todd; back row, left to right: Clara Rauch, Desirae Rauch, and Robbie Hays.

At left, Lowell Middle School students, left to right: Alyssa Roest, Maria DeCator, Olivia Nurmikko, Angie Baerwalde, Maddie Burt, Nina Vulpetti, judge Mark Looman, and Isabelle Fleszar work on a solution to the problem at hand.

## Cold weather precautions, continued

never sleep in a cold room. It is also necessary for older adults to take extra home heating precautions, as they tend to have slower metabolisms and therefore make and retain less heat than other adults.

If you are caring for an infant or senior citizen, be sure to frequently check that their homes are adequately heated. If heating is not at a safe level, making alternative housing arrangements is recommended. When the weather is extremely cold, and especially if there are high winds, try to stay indoors. Making trips outside as brief as possible can help to reduce the potential dangers associated with cold weather.

To remain healthy and safe this winter, please follow these cold-weather tips while outdoors:

- Dress warmly and stay dry: Be sure to dress in layers in wind resistant clothing. Wool, silk or polypropylene inner layers will hold more body heat than cotton. If your clothing is wet, go inside as soon as possible. When inside, remove the wet clothing as soon as possible.

- Avoid exertion: Cold weather can put extra strain on the heart. If you have heart disease or high blood pressure, follow your doctor's advice about shoveling snow or other hard work in the cold. The body is already working hard to stay warm, so extra work can cause an overload.

- Cover exposed skin: Always wear a warm hat that covers ears, gloves or mittens that cover the full wrist, and a scarf or ski mask to protect face and neck.

- Be Safe During Recreation: Notify friends and family where you will be before you go hiking, camping, or skiing. Avoid perspiring or becoming overpiled. Be prepared to take emergency shelter. Pack dry clothing, a two-wave radio, waterproof matches and paraffin fire starters with you. Do not use alcohol and other mood altering substances, and avoid caffeinated beverages. Carefully watch for signs of cold-weather health problems.

It is important to be aware of any changes in exposed skin during cold weather periods. Frostbite and hypothermia are very serious conditions that can be lessened by early recognition and treatment. Shivering can be a good indicator that it's time to go in, as it is the first sign that the body is losing heat. Frostbitten skin is hard, pale, cold and numb. When the frostbitten skin is in warm air, it will become red and painful. Very severe frostbite can cause blisters, gangrene (blackened dead tissue),

tendons, muscles, nerves and bones. Hypothermia is a life-threatening condition that is caused by short exposure to extreme cold or long exposure to mild cold. Symptoms of hypothermia

include trembling, stiffness of muscles, puffiness in the face, poor coordination, confusion, and low consciousness and reactivity.

If you suspect frostbite, hypothermia or other complications surrounding extreme weather, seek emergency medical care immediately.

# area churches

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

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

**LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
201 N. Washington Lowell, MI • 897-8800  
Pastor Wes Hershberger  
Sundays - Christian Education.....9:15 a.m.  
Celebration.....10:40 a.m.  
Wednesdays - Kid's Service, Teen's Service, Adult Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.  
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**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. W. Lee Taylor & Pastor Phil Severn  
Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.  
Sunday School.....11:30 A.M.  
AWANA/EXCITE-TEENS.....Wed. 6:15 P.M.  
Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times  
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**CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
897-7060  
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI  
Morning Worship.....10:00 A. M.  
Sunday School.....11:20 A.M.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.  
Nursery available at both services  
Barrier-Free

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

**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Fr. Eugene Okoli  
402 Amity St. • 897-9820  
www.stmary-lowell.com  
Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM, SUN. 9:30 AM  
Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM  
Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM  
Saturday confessions: 4-4:45 PM  
Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM  
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SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 303. ENVI FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING

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

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Lowell • 897-9555

**CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The Lowell City Council will conduct a public hearing at their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 22, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, Lowell City Hall, Second Floor, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan for the purpose of receiving comments from the public on the following:  
An Ordinance to add Chapter 22, "Electric Utility Rates and Charges," to the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowell.  
Copies of the ordinance are available for inspection during normal business hours at City Hall and the Englehardt Public Library or on the City of Lowell's web page at [www.ci.lowell.mi.us](http://www.ci.lowell.mi.us)  
Interested persons may submit written comments to City Hall, 301 East Main St., Lowell, MI 49331 prior to the meeting or appear in person.  
Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk

**PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF LOWELL**  
**2011 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE**  
The City of Lowell Board of Review for 2011 will be held at the Lowell City Hall, 301 E. Main St, on the following dates:  
Organizational Meeting: Tuesday, March 8th, 10:00am  
**Appeal Hearings:**  
Tuesday, March 15th, 1:00pm to 5:00pm and 6:00pm to 9:00pm  
Thursday, March 17th, 8:00am to 1:00pm  
The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests and to equalize the 2011 assessments  
**By City Charter, residents are able to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 11th 2011**  
The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2011 are as follows:  
Commercial..... 55.74%..... 0.8970  
Residential..... 56.40%..... 0.8865  
Industrial..... 52.72%..... 0.9484  
Personal Property..... 50.00%..... 1.0000  
**Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Notice**  
The City will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 3 days notice.  
Contact: Dave Pasquale - City Manager, ph. 616.897.8457



# understanding insurance

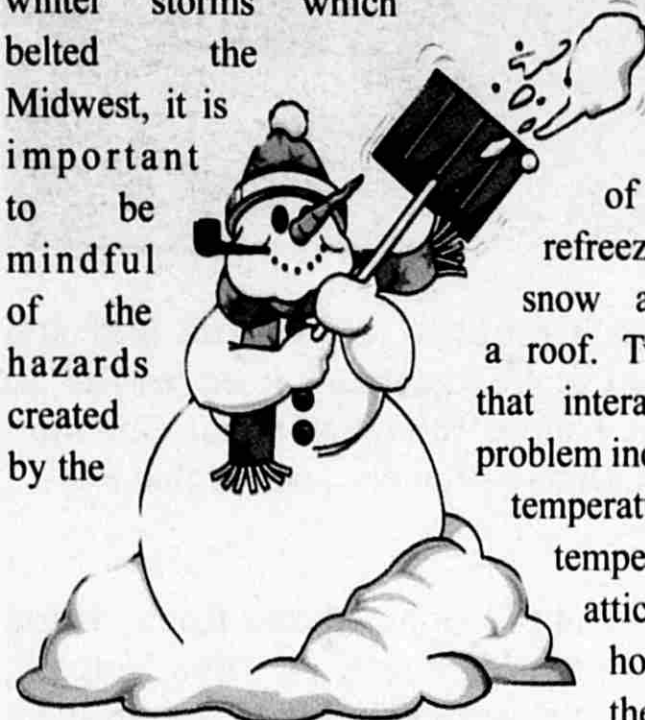


Dave Emmette

### What are ice dams?

Plus tips on removal and prevention:

In wake of the recent winter storms which belted the Midwest, it is important to be mindful of the hazards created by the



storm including the safety of your home and other structures.

### Definition and how it forms

A cycle of melting and refreezing occurs when snow accumulates on a roof. Two key factors that interact to cause a problem include the outside temperature and the temperature inside the attic of an affected home. The warmer the temperature is inside the attic, the more the snow will melt at the roof surface. Typically, the melted snow should flow off the edge of the roof. When the air temperature is very low, the melted snow refreezes at the edge of the

roof, where the interior roof surface is not being warmed by the attic. The refreezing forms an "ice dam," which is a collection of ice that blocks the path of other melting snow. As this dam continues formation to a certain height, the melting snow behind it will leak back under the roof shingles and eventually into the home's interior. On those roofs with a low slope, even a small amount of "ice damming" will result in water backup and damage in short order.

### The three rules of removing snow from a roof:

1. NEVER attempt to climb, stand or walk on the roof!
2. NEVER attempt to climb, stand or walk on the roof!
3. NEVER attempt to climb, stand or walk on the roof!

### Snow removal

Use a roof rake to remove snow from the roof. This action will help slow down an "ice dam's"

growth. Roof rakes work best if the snow is light and less crusty. Using a roof rake while standing on a ladder can be dangerous. Use caution.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Roof rakes are designed specifically for the function of snow and debris removal. They are most generally available at your local hardware store. Be sure to use proper equipment to prevent damage to your roof.

### Dam modification

Cut out or chisel grooves into the dam to allow the water behind it to drain off. Exercise caution so shingles are not damaged as you cut into the dam. Consult a licensed and insured contractor for any necessary roof repair, vent installation or modification. Wear appropriate footwear for working in the snow and exercise extreme caution when using a ladder in the snow.

### Insulation

Installing additional insulation on the attic floor will reduce the temperature in the attic. Keep in mind

once you reach the area's optimal R-Value (a measure of the insulating value of a material), a further increase in the amount of insulation will not show an appreciable decrease in heat loss.

### Weather stripping

Weather stripping and/or insulation can also be installed on attic stairways or hatchways and on attic floor-mounted louvers for whole house ventilation fans.

Review manufacturer specifications on the fans or recessed lighting fixtures regarding whether the additional insulation will adversely affect their performance.

### Ventilation

Without an adequate amount of ventilation, heat will build up despite the amount of insulation. Ventilation will also remove water vapor that can condense in the attic and result in dry rot and rust. Recommended venting is typically one square foot of vent for every 150 square feet of the attic floor area. Smaller gable vents can be replaced with larger units.

If the house roof has an overhang, or soffit, vents can be added to these soffit areas. A ridge vent can also be added. This vent is mounted along the length of the peak of the roof. The cold outside air that enters the soffit vents rises along the inside of the roof and exits through the ridge vent. This action cools the roof and removes moisture at the same time.

### Be safe

Keeping your home free from ice dams is no accident. Be safe. Take note of the topics and recommendations discussed in this article. It is encouraged you put them into practice - doing so helps ensure your safety.

*Do you have an insurance question you would like to see discussed in the future? Send me an e-mail with your topic and I will address it at dave@theaicgroup.com*

*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.*

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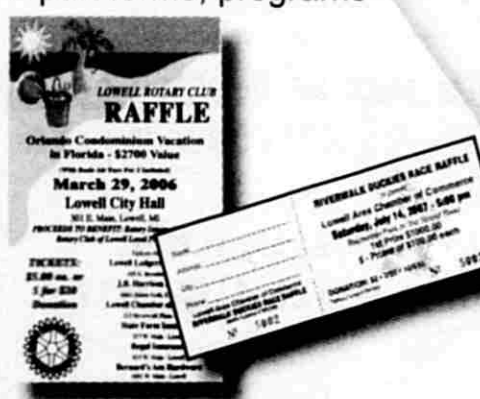
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## 2011 BOARD OF REVIEW NOTICE

Vergennes Township  
10381 Bailey Dr  
Lowell MI 49331

### 2011 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The Vergennes Township Board of Review for 2011 will be held at the Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Dr, on the following dates:

- \*Tuesday, March 8, 8:00 am = Organizational Meeting
- \*Monday, March 14, 1 pm to 9 pm = Appeal Hearing
- \*Wednesday, March 16, 8 am to 12 Noon = Appeal Hearing

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2011 assessments. **By board resolution, residents are able to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 4.**

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2011 are as follows:

*Agricultural .....	51.71%	.....9669
*Commercial.....	50.67%	.....9867
*Residential.....	50.06%	.....9988
*Industrial.....	56.23%	.....8892
*Personal Property.....	50.00%	.....1.0000

### Americans With Disabilities (ADA) Notice

The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 4 days notice.

Contact: Tim Wittenbach, ( 616) 292-4595.

Board of Review Members, Jim Herb, Ken Ford, Steve Hansen  
Tim Wittenbach, Secretary of Board of Review

# Blizzard, continued

temperatures and heaps of snow. The teams changed shifts at 2:30 a.m.

"We always had somebody on," said DesJarden. "We were prepared."

DesJarden said there was very little traffic Wednesday since people listened to the broadcasts to stay at home.

"That helped a lot," said DesJarden.

The lack of people and cars helped the efficiency of the clearing of the roads. The DPW plows approximately 20 miles of streets.

DesJarden asks residents for cooperation when shoveling driveways.

"When facing the street, put the snow on the

right-hand side so the trucks can pick it up, otherwise it's just going to get put back in the driveway," he said. "Clear the hydrants."

Even though the postal carriers headed out on routes in the morning, the US Postal Service delivered only 25 percent of the mail, according to postmaster Gil Brown. The last time this happened was in 1968.

Mike Larkin of Larkin's said he too was closed. Sysco wasn't making any deliveries and people were not out and about.

Keiser's had to close earlier, around 1 p.m., because they had minimal business.

There was a delay in trash pick-up, from

Thursday to Friday instead, according to the city clerk Betty Morlock.

The Lowell Ledger office was closed as well on Wednesday.

But, by Friday everything seemed back to normal. Cliff Yankovich of Chimera resumed regular business on Thursday, as well as Ella's Coffee and

Cuisine. The sandwich signs on Main Street hovered on the snowbanks.

Back roads and gravel roads remained plugged with snow until Thursday when Kent County Road Commission did the first plowing. Others were digging themselves out with Bobcat loaders or with anything available on hand.



The Showboat and the arch leading to it looked more like a Snowboat.



Cars on the side streets in Lowell were buried in snow.



The gazebo at Stoney Lakeside Park overlooked the vast white space of the Stoney Lake.



The Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist got their fair share of snow in the country.



The hydrant by the memorial park was almost buried in snow.



Dan DesJarden, Ralph Brecken and Scott Fosburg ready trucks for snow removal from Main Street.



# Red Arrow SPORTS

## Spotlight On Sports

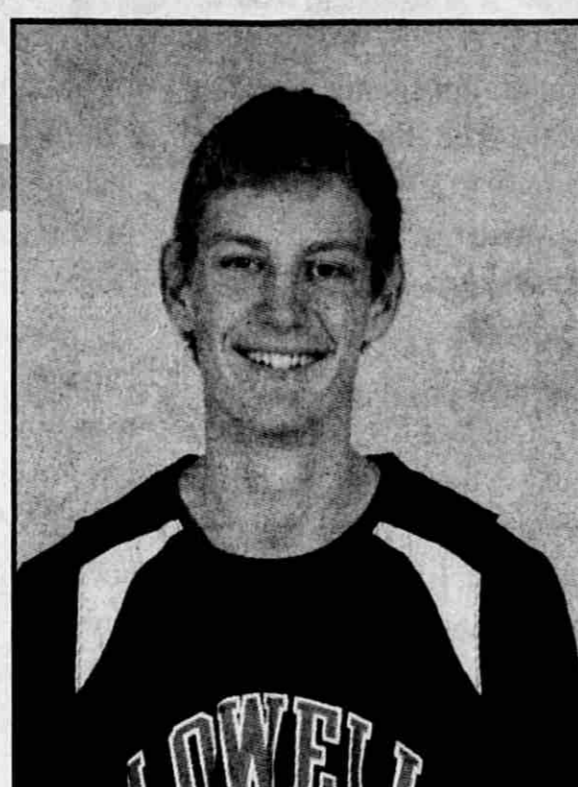
With Shane Beach

Each week, Shane Beach will visit Lowell High School athletes to find out a bit more about each one and get a closer look at the kids we're all so proud of in the community.

**This Weeks' Athletes:** *Jacob Meyer*, senior point guard, and *Noah Burt*, senior forward  
**Sport:** Lowell Boys' Varsity Basketball



Jacob Meyer



Noah Burt

### You guys hang out outside the gym? Doing what? Hobbies?

**JM:** Hang with friends. Hang out, talk, watch TV. I also love hot tubing.  
**NB:** The same really. Hang with friends. Going to the mall. Favorite summer activity is scuba diving. Anything deeper than 50 feet.

### Really? Ever find anything really strange?

**NB:** No dead bodies.

### What's in your iPod or MP3 right now?

**JM:** I don't have one. I like Lil Wayne, it's fun to listen to.  
**NB:** In my iPod it's Wiz Khalifa, DJ Khaled, and Eminem. I like to listen before games, it gets my confidence going and swagger.

### Do you have a favorite NBA team or what NBA team would you want to play for?

**JM:** Orlando Magic or just somewhere down south. Seems the Magic players are always having fun, always fun with Dwight Howard on the team.  
**NB:** I've liked the LA Lakers since in second grade. I'd like to play for Phil Jackson who is a legendary coach.

### Do you have any role models and idols?

**JM:** Tough one, but I'd say my dad. He's had to work really hard helping provide for us, especially lately because he's always having to work out of town making sacrifices for us. He played college football, so I look up to him. It's something I hope to do as well.  
**NB:** My dad, we spend a lot of time together. He's taught me everything I know.

### Anything you want the community to know?

**JM:** We're a very close team. We have team bonding after every game; go to someone's house. We're very close knit. Everybody likes everyone.  
**NB:** The same. We're all very connected with the team and get together well. Great team chemistry.

### Parents? Brothers and sisters?

**JM:** Younger brother, Calvin; two older sisters, Jess and Kate; mom and dad, Kim and John.  
**NB:** Younger sister, Hannah; older brother, William; mom and dad, Monica and Bill.

### What's your favorite position?

If you could play another position what would it be?

**JM:** I play the point and it is my favorite because at point you get to control everything. You're in charge of what's going on.  
**NB:** I would like to play point guard. You get to incorporate everyone else on the game.

### Can you guys jam? What have you set up to help you jam for fun?

**JM:** No. I have a six foot rim in my basement and have practice dunk competitions, but it broke.  
**NB:** No. I've used a regular trampoline to help me jam before.

### What will you take with you that coach McDonald has stressed to each of you while playing for him?

**JM:** In my three years with coach McDonald he's talked a lot about being good men and leading a good life. Not always about winning, but being good men on and off the court.  
**NB:** This is my second year with coach McDonald and he stresses the importance of being a hard worker and having confidence in yourself. Working together as team and accomplishing goals.

### Any pregame rituals? Any superstitions?

**JM:** Always wear same undershirt and undershorts. Go home after every game.  
**NB:** Not superstitions, but I do always eat McDonald's before a game. I just try to stay relaxed and want to have fun. I like to incorporate that into the game.

### What's the biggest breakout or memorable basketball game you've ever played?

**JM:** Junior year at Northview I scored 25 points which is my varsity high score. I also went 9-10 from the free throw line that game.  
**NB:** My sophomore year at Greenville. We were not doing real well as a team, but seemed to have a good game and my teammates did a nice job feeding me the ball. I think I had 18 points that game.

GO RED ARROWS!



WE ACCEPT



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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)

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# Red Arrow SPORTS

## - Wrestling

### Red Arrows wrestlers fall to rival Greenville

submitted by Nancy Dood

It was not the result that Arrows were hoping for in front of a packed house Thursday evening at Lowell High School. The Red Arrow wrestlers lost to their OK White conference rival Greenville, 34-27.

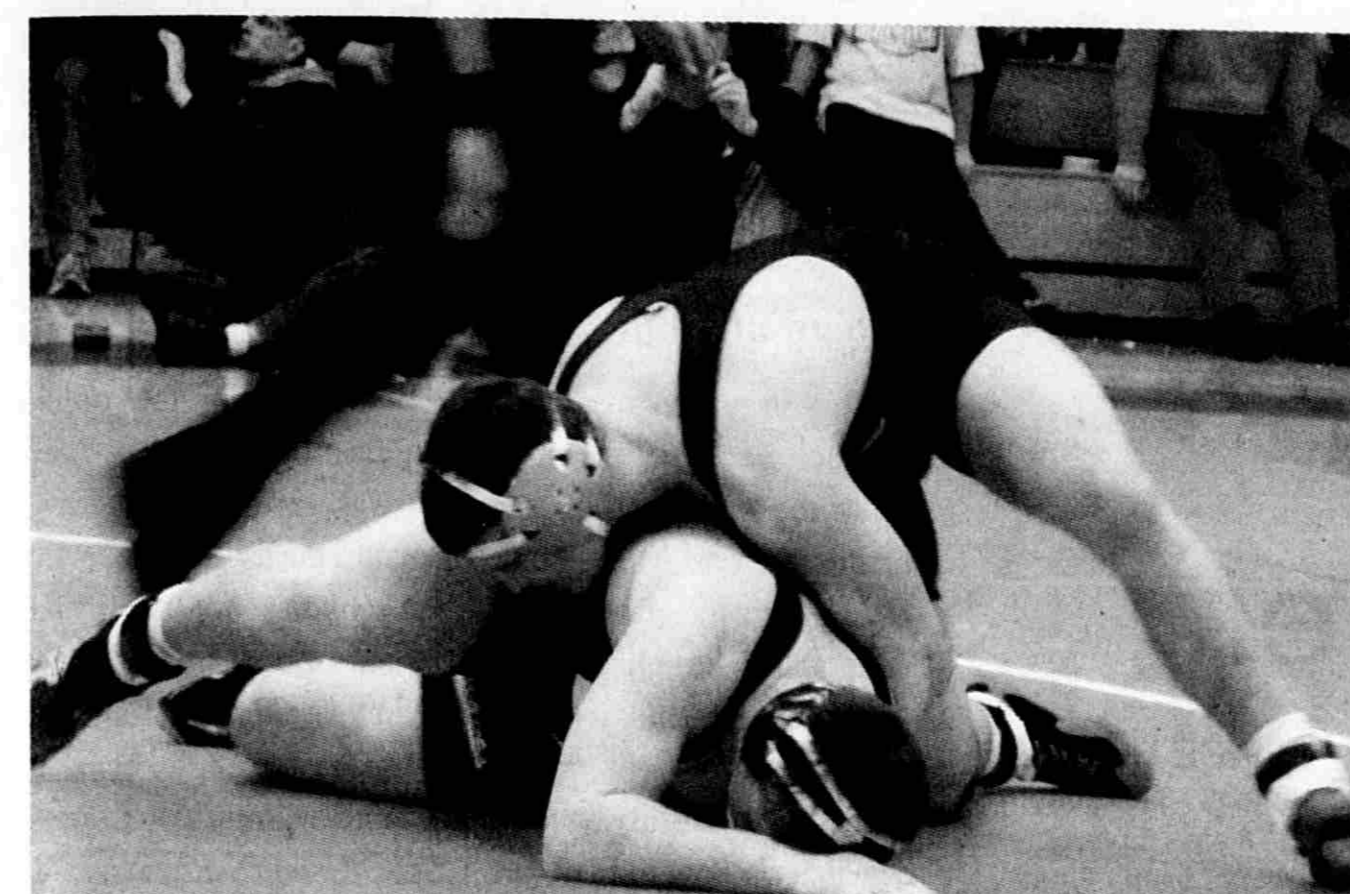
Down 4-0 after the 112-pound weight class, the Arrows got on the scoreboard with an impressive win by major decision from senior Zack Jeffries to tie the score at four apiece. A loss at 125 pounds put the Arrows down

again. The Yellow Jackets went on to a 15-4 lead after the first five matches of the evening. Lowell got on the scoreboard again, with another major decision win by junior Gabe Morse at 140 pounds over Greenville's

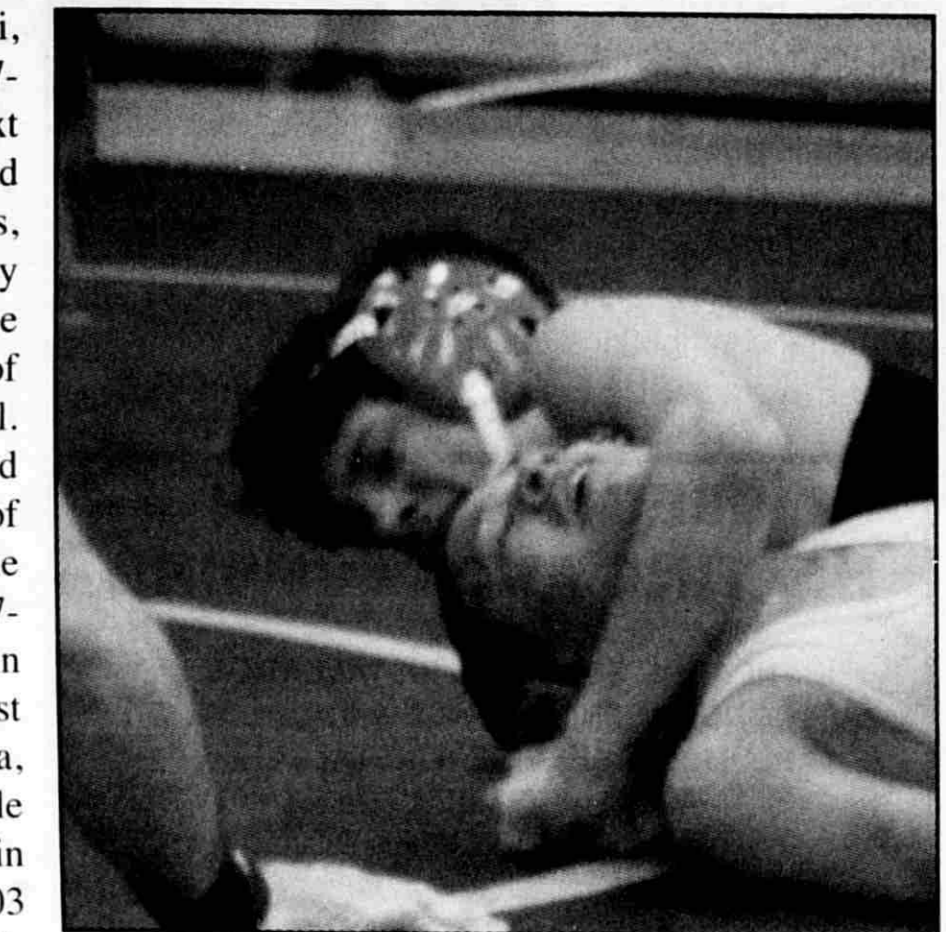
Josh Juarez, a pin from junior Andrew Morse at 145 pounds over Travis Groom and a decision by senior Dan Fleet at 152 pounds over Teagan Boni, to take the lead back, 17-15. Greenville took the next two matches to take the lead back, 25-17. At 189 pounds, freshman Garrett Stehley gave the Arrows some hope with a major decision of his opponent, Garrett Veihl. Junior Gabe Dean pinned Colt Harrington at 3:36 of the second period, giving the Arrows the lead back, 27-25. But Greenville got a pin by Justin Zimmer, against Red Arrow Jake Lynema, at heavyweight. Greenville was able to secure the win when Mike Schmidt, at 103 pounds, defeated Lowell's Bailey Jack 3-2.

"How my team responds will be important," said coach Dean. Lowell didn't have time to think about this

loss as they were be able to avenge it at the OK White conference tournament on Friday.



Red Arrow Gabe Dean working for his pin against Colt Harrington.



Bailey Jack works for the pin.

### Wrestlers win share of conference title

submitted by Nancy Dood

On Friday evening, the Red Arrow wrestlers were able to avenge their loss to Greenville the night before by winning the OK White conference tournament at Grand Rapids Christian High School.

Coach Dave Dean wanted to see how his team

would respond after that heart-breaking loss and respond they did. The Red Arrows won the tournament by edging Greenville by one half point, 266 - 265.5.

In the finals of the conference tournament you would have thought you were back at Lowell High

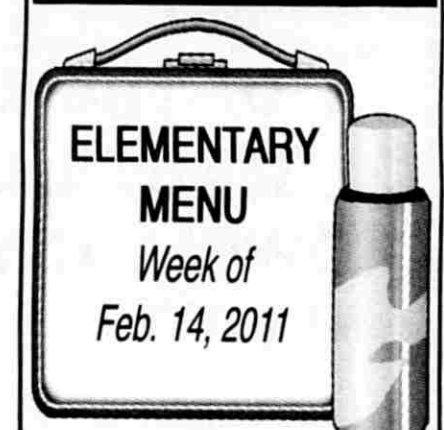
School the night before, as eight of the 14 finals matches were Lowell/Greenville wrestlers. All results were the same except for the 125 pound weight class. On Thursday evening, Lowell junior Calvin Meyer lost his match to Greenville's Mike DeLaFluente, but avenged

that loss in a great match in the semifinals, winning 8-6. That put Meyer in the finals, where he met Northview's Zach Keur, coming out on top 10-8 to win the title. Lowell finished with six conference champions. Along with Meyer, senior Zack Jeffries won the title

at 119 pounds beating Kyle Reamer of Greenville, 13-4. Junior Gabe Morse beat Northview's Joe Preston, 7-1; junior Andrew Morse pinned Greenville's Travis Groom at 41 seconds of the first period.

Conference meet, continued, page 14

## LUNCH MENU



**MON:** Chicken patty on bun (Jr. ham & cheese sub also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), sweet potato oven fries, pears, rice krispy treat, milk.

**TUES:** Bagel & peanut butter/Danimals yogurt (sloppy joe w/scoops or wheat bun also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), mixed vegetables, orange smiles, milk.

**WED:** Tony's cheese pizza (chili w/crackers also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake),broccoli florets w/low fat ranch dipping sauce, fresh apple wedges, milk.

**THURS:** Hotdog on bun (Jr. turkey & cheese sub also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), 2 hashbrown patties, pineapple, milk.

**FRI:** French toast sticks or cereal w/Graham crackers each w/scrambled eggs, peaches, cinnamon applesauce, milk.



The Lowell Red Arrows with the trophy on Friday night.



obituaries

BUNN

Margaret Mary Bunn, age 84, of Lowell, has gone home to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, February 2, 2011. She was preceded in death by her husband Ralph; sisters, E. Jean Nelmark and Luella Fales. She survived by her children, Sandra (Larry) Shellenbarger, Susan Miller, James (Constance) Bunn, Sharon (Michael) Miller, Ralph Glenn (Tammi) Bunn; nine grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Saturday at St. Mary Catholic Church, 402 Amity, Lowell. Fr. Eugene Okoli presiding. Interment St. Mary Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Faith Hospice, 2100 Raybrook St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.



ZOOK

Gregory Lamar Zook, age 16, of Alto, passed from this life into the arms of Jesus on Thursday, January 20, 2011. He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Raymond and Clara Kuhns. Surviving are his parents, Thomas and Malinda Zook; brothers and sister, Bill (Shelly) Zook, Brian (Stephanie) Zook, Tim (Cassi) Zook and Audrey (Philip) Hogan; grandparents, Edwin and Iris Zook; niece, London Rebekah Zook and nephew, Wyatt Braydon Zook; numerous uncles, aunts and cousins. Funeral services were held on Monday, January 24, 2011, at Calvary Grace Brethren Church, Alto. Interment followed at Bowne Mennonite Cemetery. He will be sadly missed by family, friends and caregivers. Memorial contributions in Gregory's name may be directed to Lincoln Developmental Center where Gregory attended school. To share a memory or place a tribute please visit www.koopscf.com



Give yourself some credit - Social Security credit

Sometimes people don't give themselves enough credit. If you work and pay Social Security taxes, you're earning credit for yourself every payday. This is credit that will pay off later in life when it comes time for retirement, or in the event that you become disabled and are unable to work. It's also credit that can help your family if you die early and need to provide for those who depend on you.

You qualify for Social Security benefits by earning Social Security credits when you work in a job or are self-employed and pay Social Security payroll taxes. In 2011, you receive one credit for each \$1,120 of earnings, up to the maximum of four credits per year. Most people need 10 years of work (40 credits) to be eligible for retirement benefits.

The number of credits needed for disability benefits depends on how old you are when you become disabled. For example, if you become disabled before age 24, you generally need 1 1/2 years of work (six credits) in the three years before you became disabled. At age 31 or older, you generally need at least 20 credits in the 10 years immediately before you became disabled.

In most cases, about 10 years of work is needed for a worker's family to qualify for survivors benefits. Survivors of very young workers may be eligible if the deceased worker was employed for 1 1/2 years during the three years before his or her death. You can find a detailed chart that shows exactly how many credits you would need in the online publication, How You Earn Credits, available at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Vonda VanTil is the public affairs specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 50 College SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or via email at vonda.vantil@ssa.gov

classifieds

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

for sale

BUNKBED SET - oak, with mattresses, complete, \$89 for all. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. Delivery available.

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KING MATTRESS - Jonathan Stevens Comfort Master Coronado pillow top mattress (mattress only). Excellent condition, spotless clean, \$200 obo. Cash only please. Call 616-446-5310.

HOUSE FOR SALE - 2 bedroom, 1 bath, fresh paint, new carpet throughout, city of Ionia, \$45,000 cash, conventional or FHA. Possible land contract, \$47,000, \$5,000 down, 10% interest, \$500 per month. 616-691-8140.

STOP PAYING HIGH HEATING BILLS - MAXIM Outdoor Wood Pellet & Corn furnace by Central Boiler heats entire home & more with wood pellets or corn. Winter Sale. Call SOS your "Stocking Dealer" Dutton, MI 616-554-8669 or 616-915-5061.

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BED & MATTRESS SET - queen (complete) \$95 includes frame. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main, Carson City, 989-584-1600. Delivery available.

FREE AD! - Place & pay for a classified ad in the Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger for 3 weeks & receive the 4th week FREE! You must mention the special in order to receive this offer. Must be paid for when ad is placed. Call 897-9555, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, Ph. 897-9261.

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MARKETERS NEEDED - apply at 319 E. Main St., Lowell, MI 49331 or call Jason at 897-7300.

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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.

FOR RENT - House, barns, pasture. Horse lovers dream. 3 bedrooms, 10906 Finn Rd., Lowell Schools. \$1200/mo. 616-897-5807.

PRICELESS STORAGE - Indoor/outdoor. New Units on Alden Nash, 1 mile South of I96. Call for specials 558-2900.

FOR RENT - 2 bedroom, 2 bath, full unfinished basement, garage, lake front, \$1,000 per month plus \$1,000 deposit. 616-691-8140.

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.

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card of thanks

THANK YOU With deep appreciation and many heartfelt thanks to: Dar, Colleen, Lindsay, Molly, Leesha, Chad, Maya and the Ball Families for years of beautiful memorials and loving touches at the cemetery for Alden. Especially the wonderful Christmas trees. Your special touches never go unnoticed. Callie

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SNOWPLOW SERVICE ON DEMAND - Big storm coming, call for on demand plow service. \$30 minimum charge, cash only. Large parking lots and driveways will be quoted over the phone. Payment at time of service. Call Ryan, 616-644-6267.

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services

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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.

wanted

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Community Calendar

PLEASE NOTE - Coming Events are for non-profit organizations. If you are charging admission for an event - it is considered an advertisement. Coming events are 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 Rumage Sales as a coming event. All Coming Events or changes to coming events should be submitted by fax: 897-4809, email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com, by mail: PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or in person: 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

PAWSITIVE WALK - To raise money for the Kent County Humane Society, Feb. 12, 1-2:30 p.m. at Lowell Chamber of Commerce, 113 Riverwalk Plaza. Ph. 897-9161. For more info: PawsitiveWalk@gmail.com

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

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

BOWNE TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY - meets the second Monday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Historical Museum at 84th/Alden Nash.

NEEDLERS - Second & third Monday evenings, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Schneider Manor Community Room.

WOMEN OF THE MOOSE - third Monday at 7:30 p.m. for business meeting.

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

ALTO AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY - meets the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Alto American Legion Post.

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

LOWELL SHOWBOAT GARDEN 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 - every Monday, 7-8:30 p.m. during school year in Scout Cabin at the end of N. Washington St. Ages 11 and up or completing 5th grade. Call Scoutmaster Randy Jesberg at 897-4569 or Del Rockwell at 897-6814.

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

CUB SCOUT PACK 3188 - meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main.

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

LOWELL LIONS CLUB - meets third Tuesday at noon at Lowell City Hall.

COFFEE BREAK/LADIES BIBLE STUDY - Sept. - May, Tuesdays 9:30-11:15 a.m. No church membership or experience required. Bring preschoolers for Story Hour & Craft. Free nursery for younger children. There's an evening class on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. No children's class. Calvary Christian Reformed Church, M-21 across from Burger King, 897-7060.

DIABETIC SUPPORT GROUP - 2nd Tuesday at Schneider Manor Community Rm., 9:30-10:30 a.m. 897-2760 or 897-9160.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #7719 - second and fourth Tuesday at St. Mary School, 7:30 p.m.

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

ROLLAWAY LTD. SENIOR BOWLING - Wednesdays, 1 p.m., 55 and over.

LOWELL AREA TRAILWAY - meets 2nd Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. Visit www.lowellareatrailway.org or call Mari 897-5671.

ALANON - Tuesdays at 7 p.m. First Congregational Church, 865 Lincoln Lake Ave, North door. 616-581-1059.

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

FLAT RIVER WOOD CARVERS - Tuesdays at LAAC 1-3 p.m. New members welcome.

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

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION OF WEST MICHIGAN - Support Group 3rd Wednesday at Fountain View of Lowell, 11535 E. Fulton, 1 p.m. Call 897-8413.

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

MICHIGAN HEPATITIS C FOUNDATION SUPPORT - 1st Thursday, 7-8:30 p.m. at 250 Cherry, Lacks Cancer Center, Grand Rapids.

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

SARANAC AREA MUSICIANS - Practice Thursdays at Saranac High School band room. Choir: 6-7 p.m. Band: 7-8 p.m. Call Kathy at 897-5981.

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

KEEP IT SIMPLE ADDICTIONS SUPPORT GROUP - Socialization & peer support for recovering addicts. Meets every Thursday at 7 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, Raya building. Contact Charlene, 897-7636 or Carrie, 897-7303 for more info.

QUARTER BINGO - 2nd Thurs. of each month, 1-5 p.m. 2 cards for a quarter. 50% payback w/100% payback hourly specials. Open to the public. The Moose Rec Hall, 1320 E. Main St. Sponsored by W.O.T.M. Chapter #1388.

LA LECHE LEAGUE OF ADA, CASCADE, LOWELL - 2nd Thurs. 7 p.m. meeting. Support for pregnant/breast-feeding women. Church in Ada. 752-8300.

WEIGHT WATCHERS - Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. at Impact Church, 1070 N. Hudson. New members invited. 1-800-651-6000.

GENEALOGY ALTO FAMILY TREE CLUB - second Thursday at the Alto Library at 2 p.m.

LOYAL ORDER OF MOOSE - second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Members in good standing may attend.

ADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY - second Saturday of every month at 10:30 a.m. at the Averill Historical Museum of Ada, 7144 Headley, Ada.

COFFEE WITH THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL - First Saturday each month, 8 a.m. - 110 a.m. at Chamber office, 113 Riverwalk Plaza. Concerns & ideas welcome.

THE EAST KENT COUNTY REPUBLICANS (EKCR) - meets the second Saturday of the month at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce (113 Riverwalk Plaza) from 8:30 to 10 a.m. to discuss current events on the local, state & national levels. Bring your concerns & issues to our meeting for open discussion! Share information about what you can do to become involved! For more information, please call Dave Emmette, 644-0759 or Nancy Steckler, 897-6380.

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES THRIFT STORE - is open Wed. 10 - 8 p.m.; Thurs. & Fri., 10-6; Sat., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 11535 Fulton St. E. Thrift Shop, 897-8260, Food Pantry 897-8260, Emergency Services, 897-8260.

ALPHA WOMEN'S CENTER - 2251 W. Main. Hours: Mon. 11-5 p.m.; Tues. 6-9 p.m.; Thurs. 10-6 p.m. 987-9533. Diapers, formula, clothing & free pregnancy testing available.

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.

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.

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DRAFT SYNOPSIS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2011

Motion to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2011 meeting as corrected.

Motion to approve the accounts payables as presented.

Consensus to approve the Pawsitive Walk on Saturday, February 12, 1-2:30 p.m. by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce - Showboat area.

Motion to approve the extension of the street sweeping contract for one year with Sanisweep, Inc.

Motion to approve the resolution committing local funds for the Lowell Area Recreation Authority Phase I Trailway.

Motion to establish a public hearing for February 22, 2011 to consider an Ordinance to place property lien on unpaid electric payments.

Motion to purchase a STALKER-LIDAR UNIT for the police department.

Motion to adjourn at 8:41 p.m. The next regular scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, February 22, 2011.

Complete minutes will be available after approved on February 22, 2011 on the City's web page at www.ci.lowell.mi.us or at City Hall.

Betty R. Morlock City Clerk

the ledger

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

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

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP BUDGET HEARING NOTICE

Please take notice that there will be a budget hearing on Tuesday, February 22, 2011 followed by a regular meeting of the Lowell Township Board. The hearing will be held at 7:00 PM at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash SE, Lowell, MI. At such time, in accordance with the law, a budget covering proposed expenditures and estimated revenues of the Township shall be submitted for consideration. Copies of the proposed budget are available at the Township Hall during regular office hours or on the Township's website - www.twp.lowell.mi.us

Linda S. Regan, Clerk

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the ledger

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Grid of crossword puzzle solutions with words like STOIC, LINDA, ALLIN, BEYONCE, TOR, DOWN, ORB, TUPI, LEDGER, VERB, MOSS, MOUSE, EMIL, BUBBLE, NITS, NABOB, FAUX, GLEE, SPECIE, NETT, EST, EGAD, ROE, CARBOY, LAMBERT, LOUIE, ERA, COVES, ERROR, RID, ANITA, GNAT, SPY, TYLER.

Grid of numbers for a crossword puzzle solution.





# Red Arrow SPORTS

**- BASKETBALL**

## Arrows challenged against GRC Eagles

by Shane Beach

Last Friday the Red Arrows hosted the number one team in the area, undefeated Grand Rapids Christian (GRC).

Six first-quarter turnovers put Lowell in the

hole 6-15 after one. Two free throws by Noah Burt and baskets by Blake Lyman and Kyle Rogers accounted for the Red Arrow points.

Burt scored six points in the second quarter and

Justin Castro chipped in three as the Red Arrows narrowed the gap to 24-19 with 1:21 to go in the half. Coach McDonald called a time out, down only five, as the Red Arrows had momentum on their side.

"I was proud of how they came back in the second quarter," said coach McDonald. "We were primed to go in at half-time with just a 2-3 point deficit."

Unfortunately, momentum swung back to the Eagles as the half ended 30-19 in favor of GRC.

Lowell battled and played tough defenses to keep the Eagles off balance.

Three points by Alec Roerig, a basket each by Castro, Malling and Burt and a free throw by Jacob Meyer accounted for the scoring. McDonald stated, "I was proud of our effort in the third after giving up those easy points right before half. We had the lead back to eight which is very manageable."

The Red Arrows battled hard in the fourth as they had the lead cut to seven on several occasions. Unfortunately, they could not get any closer as Matt Grasmeyer (returning all-conference player), Justin Crow and Drake Harris kept the Arrows at a distance by a 49-40 score. Dan Wernet chipped in three points in the final stanza to give Lowell a lift off the bench.

"Coach, what did you think about your team's effort tonight?"

"Quite frankly, I was disappointed with the loss but encouraged about some things. We are battling and have played our two best games back to back now. Noah Burt has given us some offense and we went 14-17 from the FT line as

a team. I look back at the last 1:21 before half where we had the ball down by five and we didn't capitalize and it may have been the difference in the game."

"Anything else to add?"

"I like our direction. I like our improvements. I like our attitude. We deserve to be rewarded with a nice win, but we've got to make our own breaks."

The Red Arrows' basketball teams will be back in action Friday night while they host East Grand Rapids during the Books For Bankshots game. Everyone who donates books at the door will receive \$2 off admission into the game. Books go to support The Alpha Women's Center of Grand Rapids.

## Books for Bankshots

*Boys' and girls' basketball teams help benefit Alpha Women's Center this Friday*

by Shane Beach

The boys' and girls' Lowell basketball teams have teamed up for a project called "Books for Bankshots," led by varsity boys' head coach Jeff McDonald, girls' varsity basketball coach Kevin Brechtling and Bryleigh Loughlin representing Alpha Women's Center of Grand Rapids.

The idea for the charity game came from the senior girls on the Lowell varsity basketball team. Coach Brechtling's players wanted to do something for the community other than just asking for money. Once the idea of the project was presented to coach McDonald, the boys' basketball team jumped on board immediately.

Alpha Women's of Grand Rapids Mission is "changing hearts and changing lives, changing generations." Alpha Women's Center of Grand Rapids is a community service providing means of establishing hope and God's presence in lives. It is a resource for pregnant women, providing young mothers with an opportunity to access mentors and achieve points to purchase books and other baby products at no charge.

The women are required to attend classes and mentoring sessions every month. The women receive points that can be used to purchase baby products, including books. The center is also creating a child care facility to help with child care.

Books brought to Friday's home game vs. East Grand Rapids (student can also bring books to school to donate as well) will be donated to the child care facility to help benefit the Alpha Women's Center of Grand Rapids.

Lowell student council will be helping with the collecting and promotion of the event.

Bryleigh Loughlin is asking for books, appropriate for ages five months to six years, in both English and Spanish. Everyone bringing books to the game will receive two dollars off their ticket.

Please come out to promote this great charity and cheer on your boys' and girls' basketball teams this Friday night, Feb. 11.

## Conference meet, continued

Freshman Garrett Stehley won the 189 pound weight class by defeating Garrett Viehl of Greenville, 7-2 and junior Gabe Dean pinned Colt Harrington of Greenville for the 215 pound title.

All of Lowell's 14 wrestlers placed. Second-place finishers were freshman Kanon Dean at 135 pounds, senior Dan Fleet at 152

pounds, junior Jake Stehley at 160 pounds, senior Wade Schlosser at 171 and senior Jake Lynema at 285 pounds. Third-place finishers were freshman Bailey Jack at 103 pounds, sophomore Scott VanOosten at 112 and sophomore Zach Graves at 130 pounds.

"The guys responded. I was really proud," coach Dean said. "You measure it

by the little things and we did the little things tonight. Like my 125-pounder who wrestled to his potential and that was a huge deal."

The Red Arrows now start the postseason with team districts taking place Wednesday, Feb. 8, at Ionia High School starting at 6 p.m.

ACROSS

- Seemingly unaffected by pleasure or pain
- \*Shop Boys, nominated for 2010 Electronic/Dance Album
- Attention grabber
- Supermodel Evangelista
- Consumed
- Las Vegas is a popular spot to do this
- TV classic "\_\_\_ the Family"
- Type of sweet potato
- \*What a Grammy award celebrates
- \*"Halo" nominee
- Bret Michael's glam metal band
- High rocky hill
- \*Petula Clark won a Grammy for "\_\_\_ town"
- Globe or eyeball, e.g.
- Language of Tupi people
- Late actor Heath
- Action word
- Rolling stone gathers none of this
- \*Danger \_\_\_, nominated for Producer of the Year
- Male version of Emily Baker
- \*"Haven't Met You Yet" singer
- Lice eggs
- Wealthy man in the Orient
- False
- \*Nominated cast
- Metal money
- As opposed to gross
- NYC time
- Archaic exclamation of surprise
- Caviar
- Bottle for corrosive liquids
- \*Nominated former "Idol"
- This name is repeated twice in a song title
- Major time period
- Small inlets
- Mistake

**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13					14			15					
16					17			18					
19				20			21	22					
		23				24							
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34				
35			36		37		38		39				
40					41			42		43			
44				45		46				47			
48				49		50		51		52			
				53		54		55		56			
		57	58	59				60			61	62	63
64					65	66			67				
68						69				70			
71							72				73		

THEME: THE GRAMMYS

- Relieve from
- \*8-time R&B winner
- Annoying biting fly
- "I \_\_\_" game
- \*Demon of Screaming
- What DJs do
- Short for detective
- \*He won a Grammy and Oscar in 2002
- Pigeon food?
- Harry Potter's mail carrier
- \*The Beatles won for "Let It Be" the year they did this
- Bakers' bakers
- Make another map
- Grease one's palms
- On Marie Antoinette's head
- Ding-\_\_\_
- Shrewdness
- \_\_\_ Park, CO
- Button on electrical outlet
- Eastern \_\_\_
- Uncontrolled swerve
- It often preceded, "Read all about it!"
- \*"Best New Artist" nominee discovered online
- Between id and superego
- Male cat
- "The Soloist" protagonist Nathaniel
- Black wood
- Maize
- Radiant light
- '80s band "Quiet \_\_\_"
- \*Describes Antebellum or Gaga?
- Diabolical
- Network of intersecting nerves
- Ivan the Terrible, e.g.
- A dark meat
- Popular acronym on Halloween

Answers on page 12

## SUDOKU

Solution on page 12

4		5						
5	6	1	8	9				4
9		3						
3	5		2	9		8		
2				7	5			
						4	6	
			9	6		3		2
1	9						6	
8				3	4	5		

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

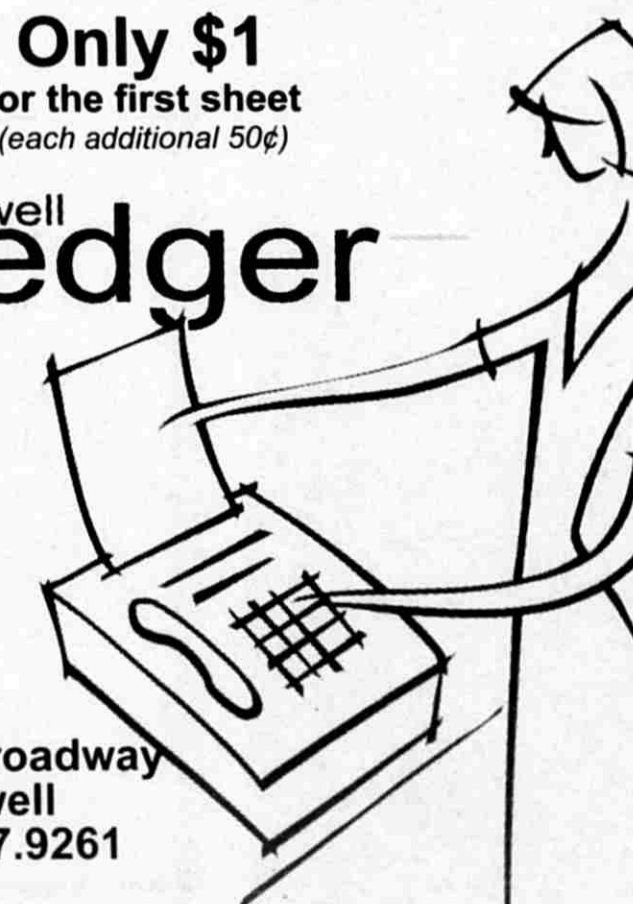
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93-year-old neighbor, went out to get mail at 4:30 Thursday - still not delivered at 5:30. Why? Press delivered - no problem. Netflix won't be returned. I won't get another DVD until Monday. I don't give a carp about the Superbowl.

I have been a longtime reader of the Ledger and enjoy the Looking Back column and current news about Lowell residents. I do not like "Someone Had to Say It" and I miss the "Sound Off."

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

## THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION -

*Do you think astronaut Mark Kelly, Rep. Gabrielle Gifford's husband, should stay with his recuperating wife or fly his last mission on the space shuttle Endeavor?*



FEBRUARY 2 - FEBRUARY 8

- The Green Bay Packers win the Superbowl game in Dallas defeating the Pittsburgh Steelers, 31-25.
- Astronaut Mark Kelly has decided to go back into space and leave his wife's side, Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, saying he knows her well and she would be comfortable with the decision.
- AOL buys the Huffington Post website for a reported \$315 million.
- Egyptians have staged the biggest protest yet calling for President Hosni Mubarak to step down.
- In Helsinki, Finland scientists are hoping to re-brew an old ale. They found an ancient beer in a 19th-century shipwreck and hope to replicate it.

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## Local Red Cross calling for donors to help blood supply recover

With this latest round of severe winter storms, the American Red Cross Great Lakes Region has been unable to collect 995 expected pints of blood over the course of the last week of days. 20 blood drives across the 65 county coverage area were forced to be cancelled throughout the week.

Further compounding the issue, many Red Cross blood drives across the country have also been cancelled and the number of blood donations uncollected due to winter storms over the last several weeks rose to 28,000 since January 1.

"At any given moment we have patients relying on life-saving blood products. And this need is constant, even in emergency situations,"

said Sharon Jaksa, CEO for the Great Lakes Region of the American Red Cross. "The quickest help will come from those local blood donors who are able to safely travel to a blood drive or donor center near them. We are encouraging the public to donate blood and platelets as soon as it is safe to travel in the coming days and weeks."

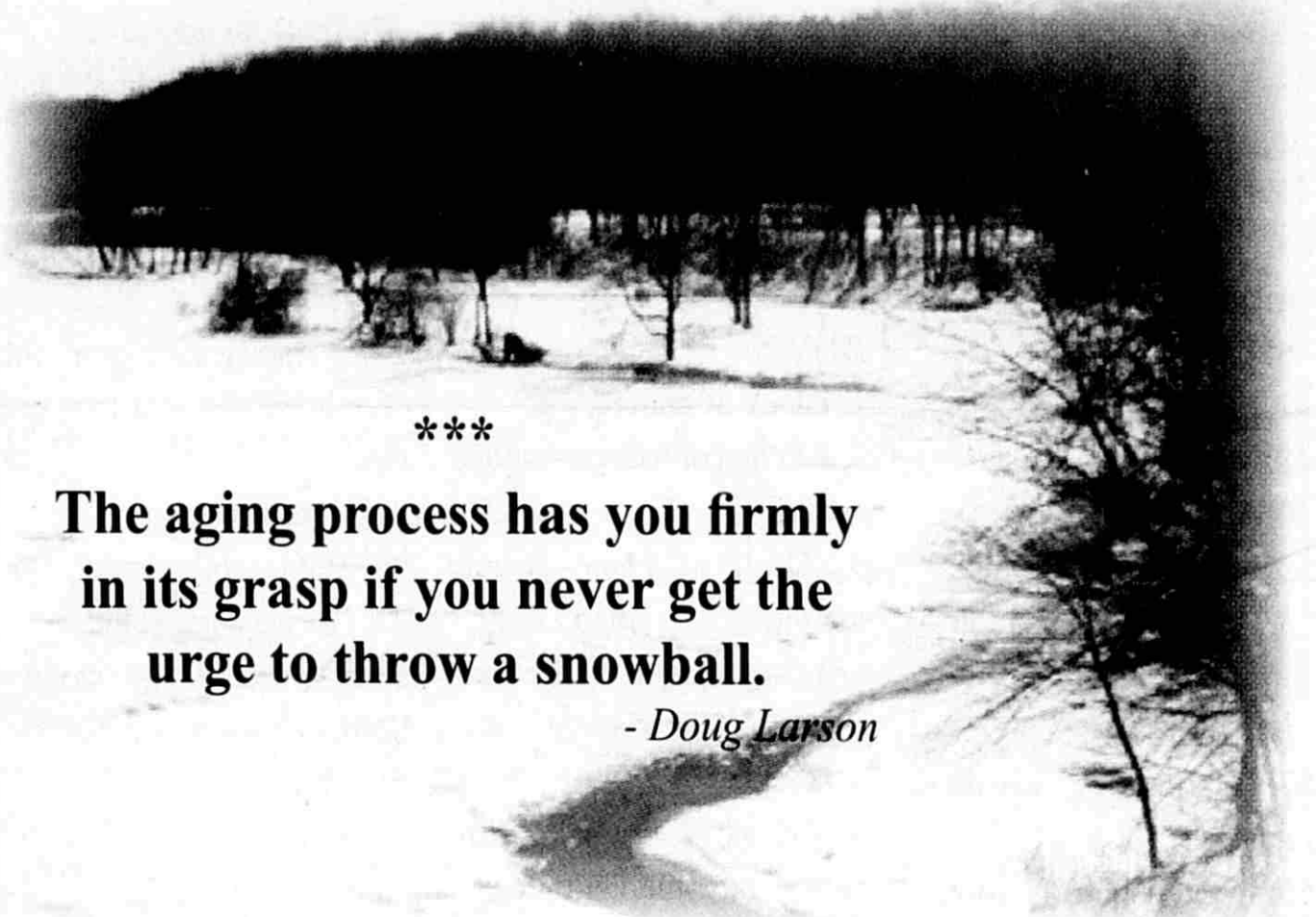
People are asked to make and keep an appointment to give blood by calling 1-800-RED CROSS or visiting [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org). All blood types are needed, but there is a special need for donors with O-Negative, A-Negative and B-Negative blood.

Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental permission in some

states), meet weight and height requirements (110 pounds or more, depending on their height) and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood.

Donors may give whole blood up to six times per year or every 56 days, double red cells every 112 days or up to three times per year, and platelets every seven days or up to 24 times a year.

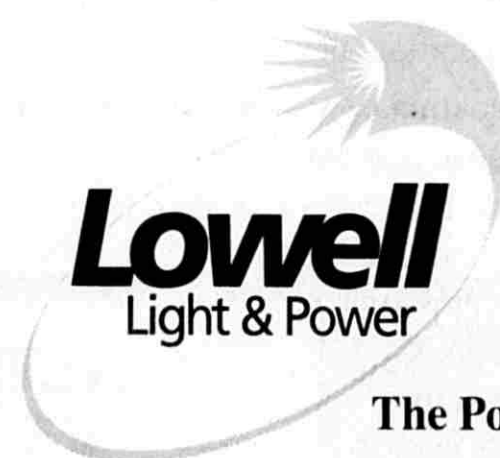
People have been responding to the call for blood donors, and the Red Cross is grateful to those who are stepping up to donate blood to help build the blood supply back to sufficient levels. The Red Cross distributes blood products to approximately 3,000 hospitals and transfusion centers across the United States.



\*\*\*

The aging process has you firmly in its grasp if you never get the urge to throw a snowball.

- Doug Larson



The Power of Lowell Working for You

Lowell Light and Power would like to thank the following families for their participation in the APLUS Program during the month of January.

Beachum	Mellema	Ross
Bieber	Miller, C.	Rush
Bosscher	Miller, M.	Saxe
Broene	Misner	Teelander
Culver	Pierce	The Elle Family Trust
Ford	Reiber	Tousley
Franek	Rood	Vredenburg
Hoats	Robinson	Warren
Luster		Wilcox

We thank you for your continued support!

