

the lowell ledger

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tis the season



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fallasburg
christmas



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sports



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The Wittenbach/Wege Center hosts 12th annual luminary hike



When families finished hiking, they could head inside for crafts and cocoa.

by Casey Cheney

The Wittenbach/Wege Center held their twelfth annual luminary hike on Saturday. The hike, established originally as a volunteer appreciation event, is open to the community as a time to enjoy the snowy landscape of Michigan.

Families that came to the Wittenbach/Wege Center enjoyed a trail lined with softly-glowing luminaries. Here, they could reminisce about past hikes and Christmases or



walk in silence and enjoy the tranquil surroundings complemented by the sound of snow crunching underfoot.

More than 250 candles lit the path.

"Every year we change it up a bit," director Kathy Doyle said. "In past years, we have had activities in the cabin, including a fur trapper, candle making, story tellers and more. In 2010, we eliminated the cabin activities because of space."

Doyle estimated that 100 people partook of the luminary hike this year, adding that for many, it's become a tradition.

"One lady shared that she used the trail to 'walk into the Christmas spirit,'" Doyle said.

History museum celebrates in style at annual Christmas party

by Emma Palova

The Lowell Area Historical Museum celebrated its annual Christmas party in style at the house of David and Tina Cadwallader last week.

The historical mansion was decked out for Christmas with luminaries in the driveway. The food spread included spinach dip, olive and mushroom skewers and fabulous desserts.

The Cadwalladers have been putting on the

party for the last few years. In return, Tina received a hand-drawn picture of a bird's eye view of Lowell dating back to 1870 from the Lowell Area Historical Museum.

"I thought it was a good party," said museum director Pat Allchin. "We could reflect on the past and look forward to the future."

The museum has just signed a new lease with the city of Lowell for another 10 years. The renewal of the

operating millage for the museum was overwhelmingly approved by the voters in the November general election.

At right, Tina Cadwallader holds a drawing from 1870 of Lowell as Pat Allchin and Jim Doyle look on.



Below, Linda Barnes and Luanne Kaeb check out the food served in a beautiful dining room overlooking the Flat River.



Lowell Light & Power fields more questions on ground breaking plant

by Casey Cheney

Only five Lowell citizens came to further inquire about Lowell Light & Power's Bio-Digestion Project, but their questions were far from few. (LLP) plans to break ground on the energy plant, the only of its kind in the United States, in the spring of 2012.

The company held a town hall meeting prior to this at which citizens

could voice their concerns. Though this was their regular monthly meeting, the board dedicated the lion's share of the meeting to discussing this Bio-Digestion Project with Frank and Hazel O'Connor, Deb and Bruce Wilk and Ray Wolfe.

LL&P, continued, page 7

50 CENTS



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Lowell High School Students of the Month

In conjunction with the LHS Academic Boosters, Lowell High School has announced that Meghan Plutschow, tenth grade; and Ryan Durkee, 12th grade; are the Lowell High School December Students of the Month.

In order to be eligible for this honor a student must be nominated by a department. All the nomination forms for the month are



Meghan Plutschow

then reviewed and voted on at the monthly Department Chair Meeting. Students are selected based on academic achievement, character and work ethic. There are 1200 students eligible for nomination, so this is quite an accomplishment for Plutschow and Durkee. The students receive a \$20 movie gift card and a certificate.



Ryan Durkee

Plutschow was nominated by the math department and they write, "Meghan is a very hard-working and polite young lady. I have had the pleasure of having her in class for first trimester and now second trimester. While she is extremely hardworking academically, she also has an outstanding presence in the classroom. She is always willing to ask questions that help clarify material for her understanding, but also for the other students in class that may not be comfortable asking questions. Meghan utilizes every classroom opportunity for learning and strives for excellence on all curricular work. While Meghan is an outstanding example of what we look for in the classroom, she also is a valuable member of the Lowell community as a role model. She is a member of the LHS gymnastics

team and also a gymnastics teacher to preschool aged children. We are fortunate to have Meghan as a member of the LHS community!"

The English department nominated Durkee and they write, "Ryan Durkee is a standout student in Advance Placement Literature and Composition. After just one trimester, Ryan has demonstrated the writing and critical thinking skills we want all of our graduates to have. His contributions to class, whether in small- or large-group discussions, are incredibly insightful. I am very impressed by his work ethic as well."

This program is made possible by the support of the LHS Academic Boosters, who support the high school in many ways. If you are interested in helping support the LHS Academic Boosters you may call Janine Mork at 897-5671.



along
main
street

MEMORIAL FOR KAITLYN BAKER

Lowell High School students are holding a sky lantern memorial service for Kaitlyn Baker at the Lowell fairgrounds on Sat., Dec. 17 from 6:30 to 7:00 pm. For more information contact Maddie Cross, 616-240-1766 or Sam Gibbs, 616-822-8957.

GILDA'S CLUB LOWELL CLUBHOUSE

Book Club, Tues., Dec. 20, 4:30-5:30 pm; Building Fitness: A Gentle Approach, Tues., Dec. 20, 1-2 pm; No Sew Fabric Christmas Trees Workshop, Tues., Dec. 20, 3:30-5:30 pm; Origami, Tues., Dec. 20, 2-3 pm.

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.

RECEPTION AT CITY HALL

The city of Lowell will host a community reception for outgoing city councilmembers Maryalene LaPonsie and Jeff Altoft. The reception will be held from 7:00 to 7:30 pm on Mon., Dec. 19, before the city council meeting at city hall, 301 E. Main St. Cake and coffee will be served.

Success is a lousy teacher.

It seduces smart people into thinking they can't lose.

~ Bill Gates (1955 -)

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LHS honor roll additions

The following names were inadvertently omitted by the high school in last week's first trimester list. GPA must be a 3.000 or higher to qualify based on final grades.

Ninth grade
Bem, Timothy
Winogrocki, Mark

12th grade
Fox, Mackenzie
McQueen, Daniel

Secretary of State offices to close for the holidays

All Secretary of State branch offices and the Office of the Great Seal will be closed in observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

The closures are: Friday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 26, for Christmas. SUPER!Centers will be closed on Saturday, Dec. 24; Friday, Dec. 30, and Monday, Jan. 2, for New Year's and SUPER!Centers will be closed on Saturday, Dec. 31.

The Department of State mails notices to motorists 45 days before their driver's license or license plates expire to give them ample time to renew. Licenses and plates that expire on a day when state offices are closed, such as a holiday or weekend, can be renewed the following day without penalty.

People renewing license plates, driver's licenses and SOS offices, continued, page 9

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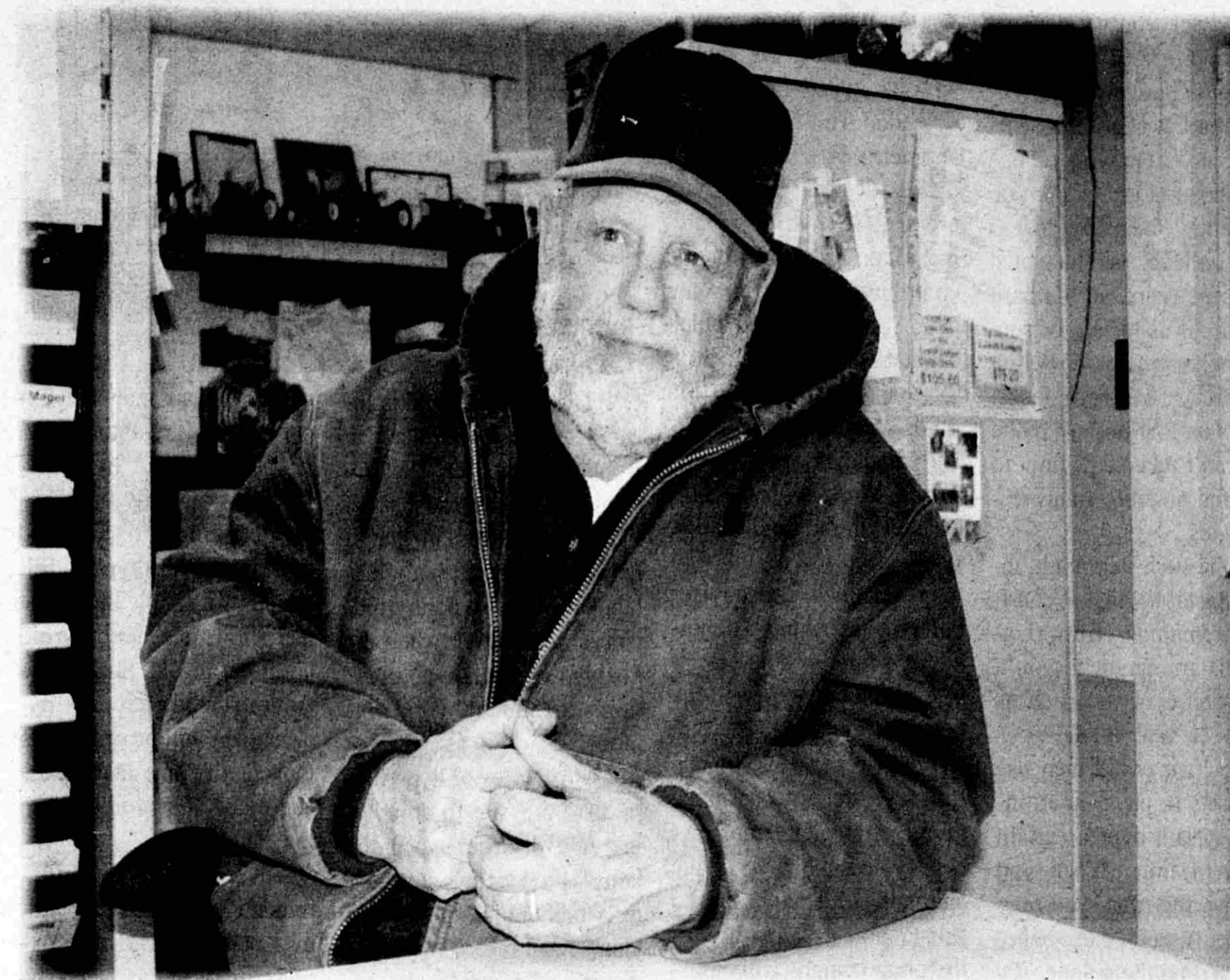
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Wenger is the Kent County Youth Fair manager and a tireless volunteer for local charities and causes.

The staff at the Ledger has become aware that Ron Wenger is very ill. We are keeping him in our prayers and know that the entire Lowell community feels the same.

If you would like to let him know you are thinking of him and his family during this trying time and would like to send letters of support, address them to:

Ron Wenger
1380 Marble Rd.
Belding, MI 48809

It's cold outside! Seniors urged to prepare for winter months

The Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) is reminding all older Michigan residents to take a few simple steps to stay healthy, safe, and comfortable by preparing now for the frosty winter months ahead.

"Michigan's seniors are especially vulnerable during the cold Michigan winter months. Topping the list of issues seniors are most susceptible to are influenza, hypothermia, and slips and falls," said Kari Sederburg, Director of the OSA. "It's important to draw attention to these risks so that every family can have a warm, safe and happy winter."

OSA has a few tips for residents preparing for the winter:

- Get your flu shot if you haven't already done so. The flu can wreak havoc on older adults and anyone with a weakened immune

system, respiratory issues, or heart disease.

- Wash your hands often with soap and clean running water for at least 20 seconds. Stopping the spread of germs is especially important in the winter.

- Bundle up to stay dry and warm. With age, the body becomes less able to respond to long exposure to very cold temperatures, sometimes resulting in hypothermia - a drop in internal body temperature - that can be fatal if not detected or treated. When going outside, dress appropriately for

comfort and safety. Wear a hat, gloves, light layers of clothing, a coat, and proper footwear.

- For homeowners, make plans with a neighbor, friend, or family member to have porches, sidewalks, and driveways cleared of snow and ice. Falls, a concern for older persons, are more likely when ice and snow are present. Further, the strain that shoveling snow can place on the heart during cold weather increases the risk of heart attack.

While these common

sense approaches will go a long way toward staying safe, comfortable, and healthy during Michigan's cold weather months, calling 9-1-1 is almost always the fastest way to get life-saving treatment should you need it. Emergency medical services staff can begin treatment when they arrive, up to an hour sooner than if taken to the hospital by car.

For more information Agency on Aging or OSA or assistance, residents can at (517) 373-8230 or www.michigan.gov/miseniors.

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NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) 4:35, 7:10, 9:50

3D HUGO (PG) \$2.50 PREMIUM PER 3D TICKET 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

THE MUPPETS (PG) 4:25, 6:50, 9:25

ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 4:00, 6:30, 9:00

TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) 4:10, 6:45, 9:20

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financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Charitable giving helps everyone

To participate in the spirit of the holiday season, you may be thinking of making some charitable gifts. If so, you'll no doubt enjoy helping a group that does valuable work.

But to begin with, it's important to understand just how necessary your gifts are to the country's social fabric. Given the effects of the Great Recession and the slow recovery, it's not surprising to learn that charitable giving fell a combined 13 percent in 2008 and 2009, after adjusting for inflation, according to The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana Uni-

versity. And although 2010 giving increased by 2.1 percent, again adjusted for inflation, many groups are seeing tough times as 2011 comes to a close. So your gift counts.

And it can count for you, too. By contributing to a qualified tax-exempt organization [e.g., a charitable group that has received 501(c)(3) status from the IRS], you may earn valuable tax deductions. This is true whether you give cash or another type of asset, such as stocks or real estate. And you may be able to get further tax benefits if the non-

cash asset you've donated has appreciated in value since you purchased it. Making charitable gifts now may help you reduce your taxable estate. As you may know, the estate tax exemption level has fluctuated in recent years, so it's hard for any of us to say for sure that we won't be subjecting our estates to these taxes. However, that doesn't mean you can't take steps now to plan for possible future estate taxes.

One such step might involve establishing a charitable remainder trust. Under this arrangement, you'd place some assets, such as stocks or real estate, in a trust, which could then use the assets to pay you an income stream over a certain period of time. When you establish the trust, you may be able to receive tax benefits based on the amount the charity is likely to ultimately receive, the charitable group's so-called "remainder interest." Upon its termination, the trust would relinquish the remaining assets to the charitable organization you've named. Keep in mind, though, that this type of trust can be complex; to establish one, you'll need to work with your qualified tax advisor and estate-planning attorney.

Another popular contribution vehicle is the "donor-advised fund." Here's how it works: You give cash or appreciated securities to the donor-advised fund, with the expectation of receiving a tax deduction for the contribution in that same year. You recommend which charities are to benefit from the contributions to the fund, and the fund invests and manages your contribution, along with the other assets in the fund. Again, you'll need to consult with your qualified tax advisor before establishing a donor-advised fund to help ensure you obtain any expected tax benefits.

As we've seen, you can follow different charitable giving strategies. But however you choose to make charitable gifts, you can take satisfaction in helping worthy organizations while possibly improving your own tax picture.

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors are not estate planners and cannot provide tax or legal advice. Please consult your estate-planning attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

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

Hyperthyroidism

The thyroid gland is located at the lower neck in front of the trachea. The thyroid gland acts somewhat like a thermostat in that it helps regulate our body metabolism. Hyperthyroidism is a condition when the gland is overactive and produces too much thyroid hormone.

Most cases of hyperthyroidism are due to an autoimmune disorder when the body produces antibodies which attack the thyroid gland resulting in over production of thyroid hormone. Women are usually affected more often than men. The disorder can occur at any age but it is more common in younger people.

Symptoms of hyperthyroidism include unexplained weight loss, excessive sweating or heat intolerance, heart palpitations, tremors, anxiety or nervousness, protruding eyes and swelling or tenderness of the thyroid gland.

Older persons with hyperthyroidism may not experience any symptoms.

Diagnosis of hyperthyroidism is usually made after obtaining a history and examining the thyroid, followed by a simple blood test that shows elevated thyroid hormone levels. Sometimes an ultrasound picture or nuclear scan will be ordered to look at the size and assess abnormal function within the gland.

Treatment of hyperthyroidism is varied depending on the cause. Antithyroid medications can be prescribed but destruction of the thyroid gland by administering radioactive iodine is often the best treatment. Surgical excision is another option. Patients that have their thyroid removed or inactivated by radiation will need to take thyroid hormone pills for the rest of their lives.

More information can be found at the American Thyroid Association at www.thyroid.org

viewpoint

to the editor

sidewalks too expensive?

Dear Editor, Headline in the Lowell Ledger - City continues discussion of sidewalk replacement plan. It seems that the city council spent an hour discussing replacing sidewalks.

I can't see putting the burden of replacing sidewalks on the constituents of Lowell when Michigan's median household income lost \$12,000 in the last decade or the equivalent of \$1,000 a month from the family budget. Why doesn't

the city council discuss Lowell's \$140,000 budget deficit?

Why doesn't the city council discuss the cost of the police department, the largest cost to the city budget? Why doesn't the city council ask the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to pay the full amount of the yearly payment towards the combination police station and city hall, freeing up the general fund and eliminating the city budget deficit?

Why don't they debate those subjects, which are essential to the funding of the general fund and the balancing of the city budget? It will be interesting to see what comes out of an up-and-coming city council and workshop meeting.

I believe this workshop meeting will either show a big change in the way the city council and DDA does business or it will be business as usual. Lowell can no longer afford to do business as usual.

Sincerely,
Jim Howard
Lowell

ask kathryn



Kathryn Denhouter Ph.D.

MENTAL HEALTH ALERT:

I will be suspending the December article on "New Approaches Dealing with Pain" because of a serious mental health concern. In the past six months, I have had two separate cases involving young teenage girls that have highlighted the danger of texting, social media and use of phones.

Both of these cases happened in the early morning hours. Phones were in their bedrooms when they went to bed. Their "boyfriends" called them and during the course of the conversations, they ended up "breaking-up" with them. In both of these cases, suicide attempts were made by the teenage girls. Fortunately, both sets of parents were home. Help was nearby so fortunately the suicide attempts failed. But it sends a message to us that we need to take the phones away from our children before they go to bed.

These suicide attempts are not gender specific. It happens to both teenage boys and to teenage girls. Social media has some positive qualities, but most teenagers do not have the necessary filters to handle this array of social connections. It is so important that parents monitor their children's material on Facebook or other social media to determine if the content is appropriate.

Because of the emergent nature of these behaviors, the following recommendations are made:

1. Phone(s) should be placed outside of the child's or adolescent's bedroom and preferably, in the parent's bedroom.

2. Conversations that our children have on the social medias should be monitored so that it is appropriate.

3. The rapidity of rejection(s) that occur on social networking needs to be discussed with the child or adolescent. It happens so quickly that the immediacy is hard to process. Individuals are friended/unfriended, blocked or unblocked in the "blink of an eye." It is important that they have a place where they can process this material in a healthy way. Coping skills take time to learn and apply. The quick rapidity of acceptance/rejection in the social media and texting makes it difficult to process. As a consequence, we react impulsively rather than becoming proactive regarding our feelings and behaviors.

If you have any questions or concerns about this article, please email me at kathryndenhouter@gmail.com



By Shelly MacNaughton

50 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger December 14, 1961

The Lowell Board of Education on Monday night, agreed that the efforts of the board should be directed at once to push for an early vote to bond the district for a new high school.

Stephen Nisbet, superintendent of the school, presented the board with a four part program to expedite the construction of a new high school building.

If a new school is not ready by 1963, Nisbet predicted, there may have to be half day sessions in the senior and junior high school.

110 Years Ago The Lowell Journal December 12, 1901

Geo. Murray has rented the farm known as the Patterson forty.

Merton Reynolds is home from Grand Rapids with the mumps.

The Ring sawmill has been undergoing repairs and is now ready for business.

Mrs. Dorus Church was on the sick list last week.

25 Years Ago The Grand Valley Ledger December 17, 1986

Construction isn't even complete on the new restroom concession and utility building at Creekside Park, but the vandals are already doing their work. City workers discovered Tuesday morning that vandals attempted to enter the building by using a heavy instrument to break off a doorknob on a door leading to the utility room portion of the building.

Besides the damage to the building, an 80'x150' tarp was also vandalized. The tarp had been spread out by city crews and flooded with water in an attempt to build an ice rink.

100 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger December 14, 1911

Little Bertha Briggs who has been very ill with pneumonia is improving.

10,000 Christmas postcards are at Clark's confectionery.

Public stenography and typewriting are available at The Ledger office. Competent, confidential.

75 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo December 10, 1936

W. E. Hall has been in Lansing Wednesday and Thursday of this week attending a state convention of farm equipment manufacturers and dealers. Arthur Schneider has also been in attendance as representative of the F. C. Mason Company of St. Johns.

Burt A. Charles, Lowell's veteran barber, this week

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.

Off the cuff

Jeanne Boss

I'll betcha

I'll betcha ... with all the furor over Mitt Romney challenging Rick Perry to a \$10,000 bet that there will be plenty more overblown reactions to relatively innocent claims made by politicians. What's not amazing, but commonplace, is how much can be made of really nothing.

I'll betcha ... there are relatively few who care whether or not the Duggars ever have that 20th baby, but I'll bet that we will hear about it if they do or don't. I'll betcha ... the parades would still be marching down Main Street U.S.A. if George W. Bush had taken out Bin Laden. I'll betcha ... none of the Republican nominees, in spite of their apparent dislike for each

other, will turn down the offer to be a running mate.

I'll betcha ... that Michelle Bachman's new mantra of "New - Romney policies" will suddenly cease if that nominee is Newt Gingrich and she is asked to be the V.P. I'll betcha we've got another "I'll take it" moment just like the one we had back when George H.W. Bush accepted his rival's invitation for the position. In spite of the fact that he thought Ronald Reagan was proposing "voodoo economics" during the debates, he jumped at the chance. I'll betcha ... that more than one or two people, but less than eight, are thinking about Shakespeare's comedy

Off the cuff, continued, page 7

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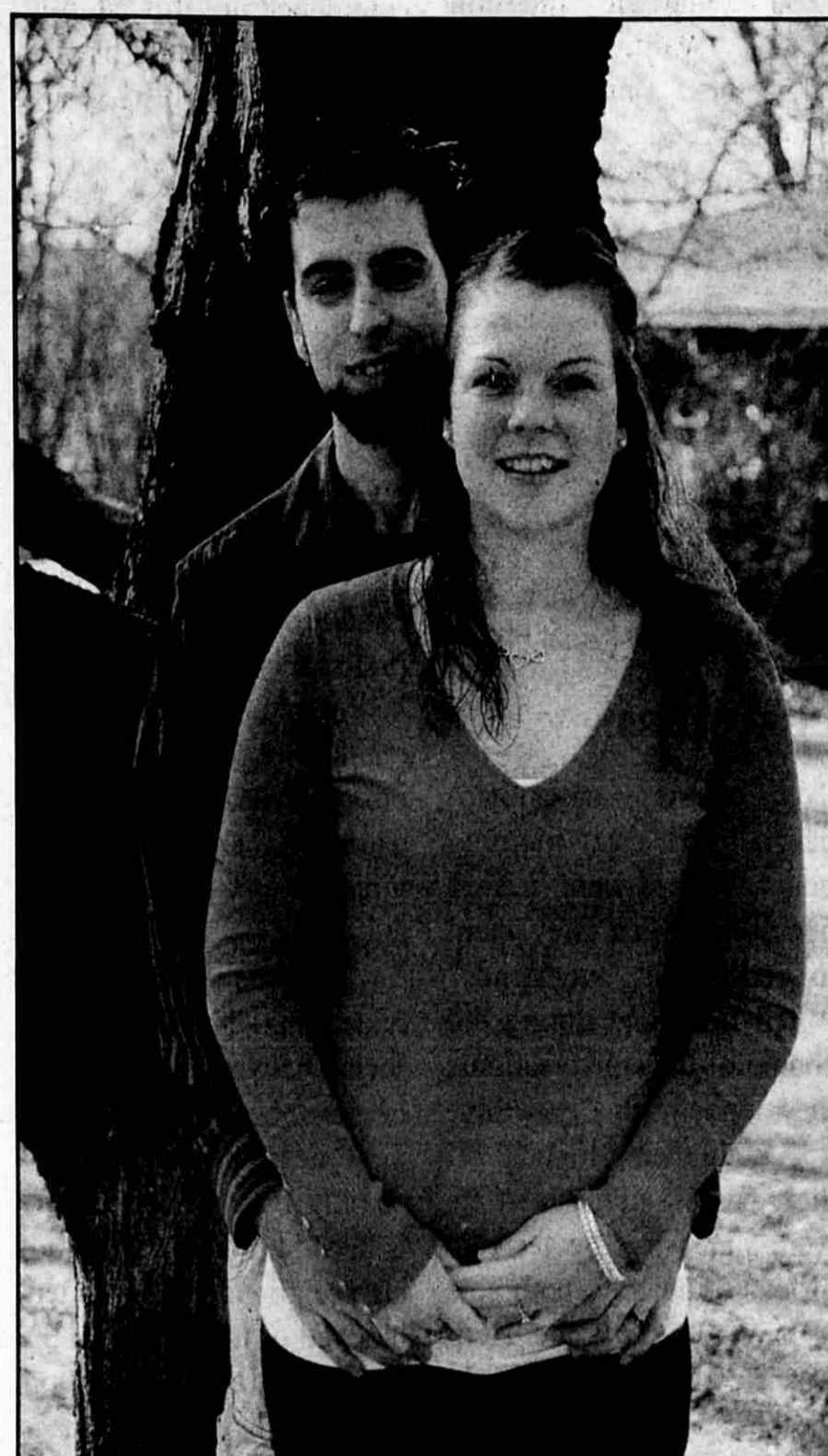
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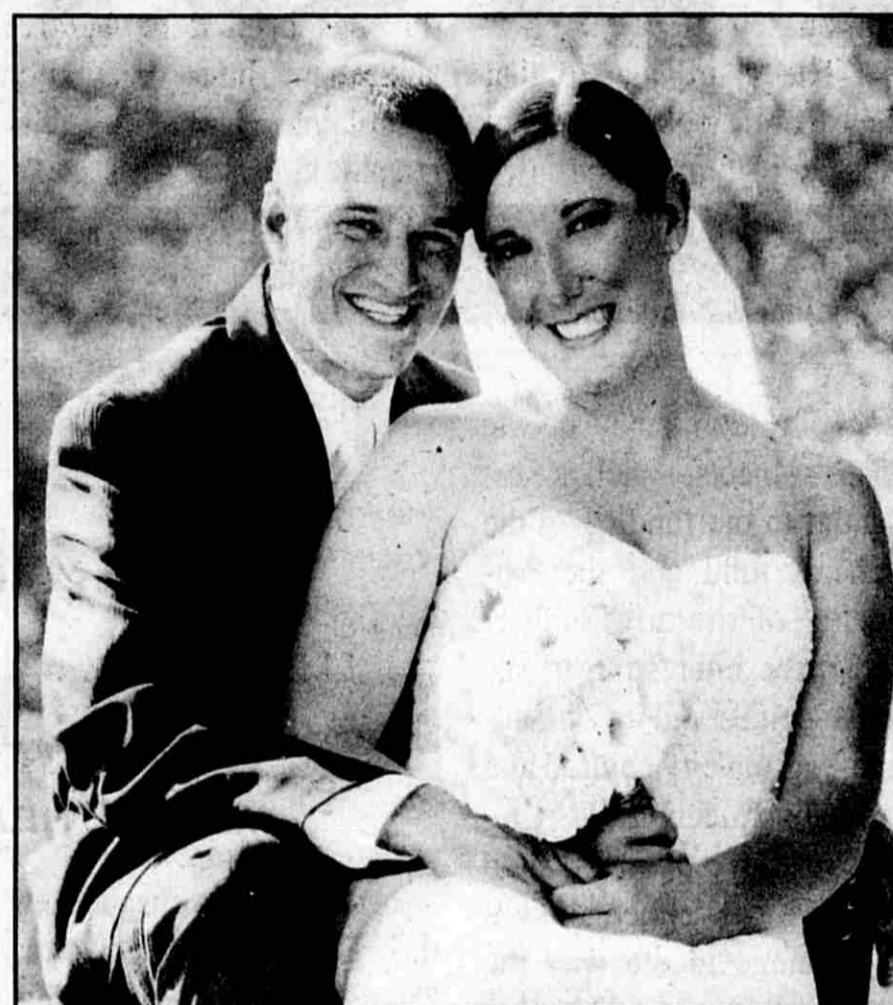
Randy Wade and Melissa Warners

Kellie Warners (Grim) of Lowell and Al Warners of Zeeland, along with MaryBeth Wade and Bret Kellam of Lowell, would like to announce the engagement of their children, Melissa Warners and Randy Wade. Ran-

dy proposed to Melissa on the day they celebrated their ninth year of dating at their new home amongst friends and family. They are planning a September 2012 wedding.

weddings

Lee/Cariano



Casey and Tara Lee

Tara Ann Cariano and Casey Michael Lee were united in marriage on July 16, 2011, in a beautiful mountain wedding in Bolton, Vermont. The reception was held following the garden ceremony in the Ponds in the Green Mountains of Bolton, VT.

Parents of the bride are Randy and Ann Acker of Lowell and William and Cindy Cariano of Spring Lake. The groom is the son of Lisa Potter-Lee of Freedom, NH, and Michael Lee of Manchester, NH.

Maid of honor was Liz Dulac and best man was Brian Thompson. Bridesmaids were Kim Hoogewind, Suzanne Corbitt and Jenna Lee. Groomsmen were Jon

Boldue, Mike McGovern, T. Vincent Cariano and Jesse Powers. Emma and Grace, the couple's black Labradors, were the flower dogs.

Tara and Casey enjoyed a honeymoon in Costa Rica and reside in Bolton, Vermont.

Tara is a graduate of Lowell High School, a 2007 graduate of Michigan State University and is currently completing her master's degree in mental health and school counseling at the University of Vermont. Casey is a graduate of the University of Maine and is currently employed by the Howard Center in Burlington, Vermont, as a senior behavior interventionist.

Important reminders from Enron's fall



Sen. Carl Levin

Ten years ago this month, Enron collapsed, bankrupting the seventh largest U.S. corporation at the time and ripping away the mask from a massive and damaging corporate fraud.

This is a good time to reflect on what happened a decade ago and how many of the misdeeds that led to Enron's collapse are still far too prevalent today.

We shouldn't forget how the culture of Enron - built on oversized corporate pay, conflicts of interest, tax evasion, financial engineering, and hidden debt - did so much harm to so many, and nearly brought the global economy to its knees.

That culture is still too big a part of our financial system. Runaway executive pay. Enron paid its CEO Ken Lay \$140 million in 2000, including \$123 million in stock options.

Enron set the standard for outrageous CEO pay, and demonstrated how, in search of ever-larger paychecks, CEOs can lead companies

of Enron's board members to safeguard shareholder interests; actions taken by major financial institutions to help Enron cook its books; and Enron's use of financial engineering to make its financial results look better than they were, while evading taxes.

The findings we reached in the aftermath of Enron's demise are worth keeping in mind as we consider our economic future. Why should we remember Enron?

The Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which I chair, released reports on the failure

Levin, continued, page 10



- DECEMBER 14 Chris Kropf, Bryan Robert Roth. DECEMBER 15 Karen Latva, Tammy Baird, Roger Brown, Kathryn Duiven, Kristin Ellis, Danielle Brenk, Marea Borg, Kimberly Kline, Kelly Potter, Tom Kehoe. DECEMBER 16 Timmy Buechler. DECEMBER 17 Bill Ellison, Jerry Scott. DECEMBER 18 Danielle Anchors, Hillary Graves, Cliff Walling, Julie Alberts, Heather Walendzik. DECEMBER 19 Lori Moore, Carol Chamberlain. DECEMBER 20 Ed Mohr, William Henry Burt, Jackie Spencer, Rob Lombardo.

Live Nativity With Live Camels Saturday, December 17 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Enjoy the true spirit of Christmas at Bowne Center United Methodist Church's Live Nativity where even the camels are real. Tour the Township Museum and one-room schoolhouse hosted by the Bowne Township Historical Society. Have some cookies and hot chocolate while you talk with your neighbors. It's all FREE. Bowne Center United Methodist Church Located 84th St. & Alden Nash (M-50)

LL&P, continued

The three main concerns presented to the board: location, odor and noise.

The first question, asked by Deb Wilk, concerned flooding: "Did they examine [the building site] for wetlands and water run-off?"

Greg Pierce said, "We're working on that with the Department of Environmental Quality in respect that it's on the flood plain."

The DEQ has not completed the survey, general manager Greg Pierce said. He added that there are environmental regulations with which the company must comply and he does not anticipate the location to be a problem.

Deb Wilk requested that an alternate location be found further from residences, citing specifically the lighthouse as an option.

Wilk added that she didn't think the council had taken

her previous request for a site change seriously.

Board Chairman Greg Canfield said, "We're certainly willing to look at other options, but private property is a challenge."

Wilk responded that the money the company wouldn't need to spend on burying pipes would likely balance out the premium expense of purchasing private property.

LLP, Greg Pierce countered, has considered many options, including the waste water treatment plant. None were found to be as suitable as the site on Chatham Street.

As for traffic, the lot is big enough and truck traffic infrequent enough that there will be no congestion on the street.

Wilk later said that a petition to change the site may be forthcoming.

She then requested a performance bond to compensate affected

residents for the odor of the plant, a bond with a suggested value of \$5 or \$6 million.

The board agreed that they would look into it, but that the recommended price tag was steep.

Canfield then assured Wilk that any odor would be trace.

"If there's an odor, we're losing money," he said.

There are measures in place to prevent odor, Pierce said. For example, a spray and brush system will clean trucks carrying waste before they leave the sealed containers in which they deposit their cargo.

And though the company will likely only use waste with the least odorous stench because of availability, Pam Laudes of SPART said odor would be minimal either way.

Any smell comes primarily from emissions and it's mostly methane being burned -

not so much the odoriferous ammonia.

Pierce added that this has been done before and there have been no complaints. He said, "It's not the first one that's been built, it's just the first one in this country."

"I think this is a wonderful thing," Canfield said. "We've had cheap energy forever and we've been energy hogs. This is how we keep at the front edge of technology."

Not only that, he added, the plant may bring in food processing businesses who wish to use the facility to deposit food waste.

Regarding noise, Laude said the generator will be stored inside a "containerized system," limiting noise to 65 decibels at 35 feet. Residences, she

said, are far enough from the plant that noise will not be a factor.

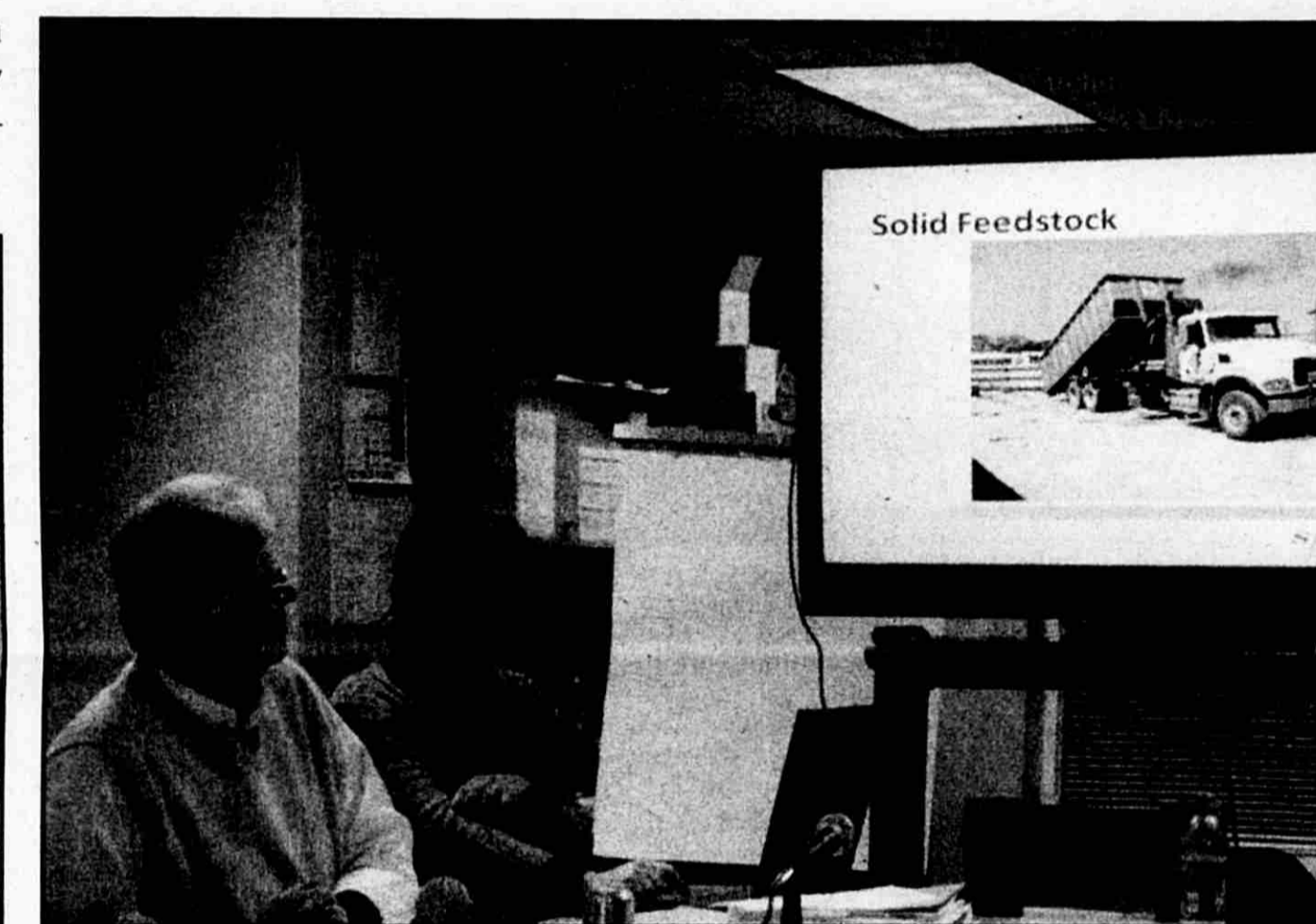
Fielding a question from Wolfe, Pierce said the company will conduct regular testing of emissions as required by the government.

Frank O'Connor had the final word.

"I don't have any confidence in this at all," he said. "It sounds like it's going to be a big, smelly mess."



Deb Wilk, a Lowell resident living on Chatham St. where the plant will be built, presses the board for information regarding her concerns about the location, odor and noise.



Greg Pierce and Pam Laudes present the board and its guests with more detailed information on the plant.



Frank O'Connor voices his own concerns, specifically regarding the odor, and his lack of faith in it being contained.

Off the cuff, continued

"Much Ado About Nothing" while reading this.

I'll betcha ... Clinton was lying about being involved with Monica Lewinsky.

I'll betcha ... that football player Tim Tebow will have a hard time convincing even the most devout Christian that God really cares that much about football. I mean seriously, folks, it really cheapens all religion to make your God so small as to care about American football. I mean isn't it possible God might care more for troops dying in war for example.

I'll betcha ... At some point in time, we'll expect to have the Kardashians weigh-in on the election. But even that "reality" family will be too sharp to have their

pocketbooks lightened by expressing any real opinions.

I'll betcha ... that Romney was just out for points during the debate. He was merely trying desperately to make sure that somehow Perry would have to admit that he had misquoted Romney in his book. In doing so, poor Mitt failed miserably by making a not-so-well-thought-out bet. Really, I think everyone knows most candidates are "out of touch" with "regular" citizens and if they stop to think about it, they'll realize that the outlandish \$10,000 bet was just that - outlandish.

But many a candidate has been brought down by similar insignificant remarks or actions.

And I'll betcha that a huge section of the

population would rather have water cooler gossip and shoot-from-the-hip rhetoric to argue about than spend time understanding the more substantive issues. Maybe that's the root of all this picayune political banter - no one wants to admit how difficult it will be to set things right. And no one wants to put the effort toward real recovery. And I'll betcha no one wants to vote for the candidate who is willing tell the truth for that very reason.

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

SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Pastor Dr. Mike Conkila 9:45 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. Sunday School 10:30 A.M. - 11:20 A.M. Fellowship 11:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M. 897-9863

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

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL 897-7060 Pastor Rod Galindo 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI

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!

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

Christmas festivities around Lowell continue

Christmas festivities continue in Lowell as Christmas Day approaches. With only 12 days left until Christmas, Lowell still has a lot of activities to offer.

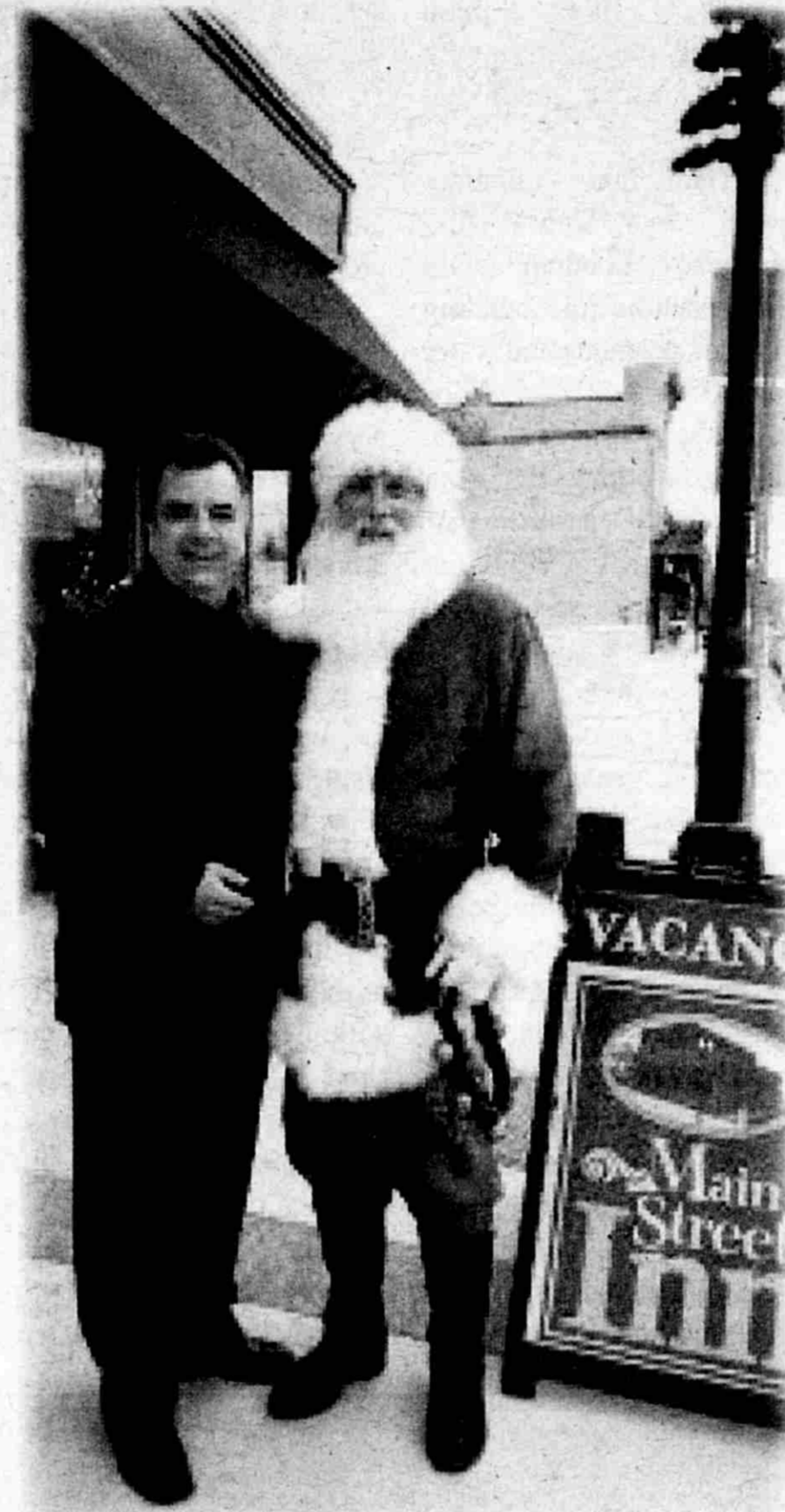
Last Friday, there were carriage rides on the Riverwalk sponsored by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. Hundreds of people lined up to have their photo

taken with Santa Claus on the Showboat.

But, there is still more coming. Santa will be available for pictures on Wednesdays, Dec. 14, Dec. 21, from 5:30 to 7 pm and on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 10:30 am to 1 pm.



Carriage rides on the Riverwalk.



Lowell city manager Mark Howe posing with Santa Claus in the historic downtown.

I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.
~ Ebenezer Scrooge, A Christmas Carol

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Christmas in Fallasburg

by Emma Palova

The Fallasburg Historical Society celebrated its fifth annual holiday party at the one room schoolhouse on Saturday. The food was a smorgasbord of pork, bacon and sauerkraut complete with potato salad, macaroni and cheese and desserts.

"We had a great turnout. A bigger turnout than last year," said president Ken Tamke.

"All the credit for making food goes to Dorothy Blain," he said. "She is the best."

A local band, Hawks and Owls, provided the holiday music in the heart of the historic village of Fallasburg.

The donation of \$10 per person will help the reconstruction of some of the buildings in the village.



Hawks and Owls.

Lillian Briggs celebrated her 101st birthday in Nov.



On November 18, 2011, residents of Laurels of Kent, family and friends gathered to celebrate Lillian Briggs turning 101. Everyone applauded as she was escorted into the room by her daughter Pam. She was presented with an honorary crown, a bouquet of her favorite flowers, roses; and a serenade of "Happy Birthday" as cake and ice-cream was served.

Big band music was played in the background to bring back memories of the days Briggs went to dances and listened to her husband play saxophone in a band.

Smiling, she remembered, "We were always going someplace so Hilton could play his horn, but he would always sneak away for one or two songs to dance with me. I met him at a dance, now that I think of it."

She was born and raised in Lowell on a farm near Murray Lake, but after meeting Hilton Briggs at that dance they married and relocated to Grand Rapids for the duration of their marriage. The couple had one daughter, three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Briggs says she has no secret to living a long life other than, "Good genes and doing the things you love." For her that was repairing clocks in her home as a small business, tending her rose and iris flower gardens, music (of course) and her second love - Hilton was her first - playing bridge and Euchre, which she did every week.

Her daughter remembers what her mother referred to as "card afternoon" and coming home from school to find her mom and friends gathered around the card table.

To this day Lillian Briggs has a hard time turning down a good euchre game.

Always fashionable and looking her best, she now enjoys visiting with her family and the staff and her friends at Laurels, sharing her memories with wisdom and humor. She enjoys watching TV in her room and states, "I like to watch golf sometimes, but only the male golfers."

SOS offices, continued

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Performing together for a special Gilda's Club Evening, Saturday, March 17, 2012

Levin, continued

into ever-riskier schemes that endanger not just shareholders, but the economy as a whole.

Tax evasion. Despite reporting huge profits, Enron paid no taxes in four of its last five years and used tax scams and offshore shell entities to dodge paying its fair share. Today, dozens of U.S. corporations use similar tactics not only to dodge Uncle Sam, but claim huge tax rebates. Enron was a catalyst for today's corporate tax cheats.

Corporate conflicts of interest. Enron's chief financial officer profited by using his own company, LJM, to do deals with Enron to cook its books. Heedless of En-

ron's example, banks such as Goldman Sachs and Citicorp later set up synthetic securities, sold shares to clients, and profited by betting against their own clients. Enron helped create a culture of corporations failing to do right by their clients.

Accounting conflicts. Enron's accounting firm, Arthur Andersen, approved financial statements loaded up with fraud. Despite Enron's cautionary tale, so did accountants for Madoff Securities, Olympus, and other firms that have collapsed in years since, damaging investors, consumers and market stability. Enron showed how accountants reliant on revenues from clients can be

convinced to look the other way. It's still happening today.

Credit rating conflicts. Credit rating agencies gave Enron AAA ratings until it collapsed. They have given the same AAA ratings to toxic securities, failing corporations, and deadbeat banks, often because issuing tougher ratings would cost them business. Enron exposed the unreliability of credit rating agencies that place the search for market share above the need for objective analysis.

Excessive speculation. Enron speculated and manipulated electricity prices for big profits. Today, speculators whipsaw the Amer-

ican economy with roller coaster energy, metal, and food prices. Enron jacked up the commodity business to everyone's detriment but the speculators; and without tough enforcement of anti-speculation laws, the damage will continue.

Financial engineering. Enron designed countless financial engineering gimmicks that served its financial interests but endangered clients and investors. Today, financial firms rave about financial "innovations," while pushing toxic products like auction securities, naked credit default swaps, and worse. Enron showed how financial engineering creates

weapons of mass destruction; a decade later, exotic financial products helped bring the U.S. economy to its knees.

The need for regulators to stop the madness. In response to Enron, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act banned multimillion-dollar corporate loans to corporate insiders, forced CEOs to certify their internal financial controls, and created new accounting oversight. Those

changes helped curb Enron-style abuses. Congress continued the cleanup in 2010 with Wall Street reform legislation, but much more needs to be done. All of us should keep Enron in mind as financial regulators work to turn the law we passed into strong rules that can build new protections for consumers and the economy.

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

Seniors protected with historic five-year rate freeze on Blue Cross

Attorney General Bill Schuette today announced that Michigan seniors will be protected from rate increases on Medigap health insurance for five years under a historic agreement with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM), the state's largest health coverage provider.

The freeze, stretching from August 1, 2011 to July 31, 2016, comes as part of an agreement with the Attorney General's office involving BCBSM's acquisition of a stake in Pennsylvania-based Medicaid company AmeriHealth Mercy.

"This is an example of the important responsibilities the Attorney General's office has to protect Michigan citizens and fight rising health care costs," said Schuette. "The responsibility to fight on behalf of Michigan families, especially seniors, is a legacy Frank Kelley etched in stone for every Attorney General that comes after him."

Medigap is insurance which fills in health care cost gaps not paid by Medicare. BCBSM is required by state law to offer Medigap at a subsidized rate as part of its non-profit, non-taxable status. However, BCBSM is allowed to seek rate increases for the coverage. For example, in the last five years BCBSM has received approvals for three rate increases for a total of \$85.1 million (2007, 2009, 2011), based on total rate increase requests of approximately \$300 million.

The rate freeze is considered to be historic because no such freeze has occurred in recent memory. Similar agreements in the

public utility field have resulted in three-year freezes at most.

Michigan law grants the Attorney General oversight authority related to BCBSM under the Nonprofit Health Care Corporation Reform Act (MCL 550.1101 et seq.) and the Supervision of Trustees for Charitable Purposes Act (MCL 14.251 et seq.). Under this authority, the Attorney General represents the public in administrative hearings to set BCBSM rates before the Office of Finance and Insurance Regulation (OFIR).

As part of the agreement, Schuette opted not to legally contest a transaction in which BCBSM is partnering with Pennsylvania-based Independence Blue Cross to acquire a minority interest in Medicaid company AmeriHealth Mercy, allowing the companies to expand into the national Medicaid market. The transaction would give Michigan-based BCBSM a minority interest in AmeriHealth Mercy of approximately 38 percent. AmeriHealth Mercy currently provides Medicaid managed care services in Pennsylvania, Indiana, Kentucky, South Carolina and New Jersey.

Schuette's office reviewed documentation related to the transaction, including: all documents filed with state and federal regulators; purchase agreements; independent valuation opinions; articles of organization and other documents related to the governance of the new AmeriHealth Mercy "holding company;" and BCBSM board minutes and resolutions.

Red Arrow SPORTS

Arrow wrestlers win weight class at memorial tournament

by Casey Cheney

The Lowell Red Arrow wrestling team, who finished eighth overall, had three wrestlers win their weight class in the first annual Dorothy McClenathan Memorial Classic on Saturday.

Senior Andrew Morse in the 152-pound weight class defeated Rockford's Austin Scogg 11-3. Both boys are past state champions.

On his path to the win, Andrew Morse defeated Mike Babicz of Detroit Catholic Central and Joe Preston of Northview.

One weight class down, Morse's twin brother Gabe pinned Anthony Gonzalez of Holly in 27 seconds, giving him the victory in the 140-pound class.

The brothers will go on to wrestle at Northern Illinois University next year.

Finally, Lowell freshman Nate Limmex won the 125-pound title by beating Mason Cleaver of Holly 4-1. Limmex had to go through former state champion Justin Oliver in the semifinals.

Despite the success of these three teammates, Lowell placed eighth overall, one point behind East Kentwood. Davison won the tournament with 173 points. Lowell had 101.5.

Grandville beats boys' basketball 64-52

by Casey Cheney

The Lowell boys' varsity basketball team lost to Grandville last Friday. Although the Red Arrows were within two points of Grandville at the end of the first quarter, Grandville's eight-point stretch in the second gave them an 11-point lead at half.

Though Grandville only outscored them by two points again in the third, Lowell wasn't able to put a comeback together in the fourth quarter, instead matching Grandville 19 points a piece.

Blake Lyman led all scorers with 29 points, as well as six assists, accounting for more than half of Lowell's offense. Justin Castro scored eight points, Jason Malling had six points, Alex Roerig had five points, and Austin Lemke and Kyle Rogers both had a bucket.

The Red Arrows now look ahead to Grand Rapids Christian, who they will play at home this Friday at 7:30 pm.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

BOYS' & GIRLS' VARSITY BOWLING

* Denotes a home game at Lowell Lanes
12/10 at 10 a.m. Lowell Invitational*
12/17 time TBA Kenowa Hills Tournament
1/4 at 3:30 p.m. Kenowa Hills
1/7 at 8 a.m. White Pre-Conference at Creston
1/9 at 3:30 p.m. Creston*
1/11 at 3:30 p.m. Grand Rapids Christian*

BOYS' VARSITY WRESTLING

* Denotes a home meet at LHS gymnasium
12/10 at 9 a.m. WMWOA Tournament at E. Kentwood
12/16 at 7 p.m. Mishawaka High School
12/21 at 5:30 p.m. Lakeshore quad
12/28 9 a.m. Lowell Super Duals*
12/29 at 11 a.m. Glenbard North
1/4 at 6 p.m. Greenville/Kenowa Hills

BOYS' VARSITY ICE HOCKEY

* Denotes a home meet at E. Kentwood Ice Arena
12/9 at 7 p.m. Portage Northern*
12/14 time TBA Kalamazoo Blades
12/16 at 6:20 p.m. Kettering Tournament
12/17 time TBA Kettering Tournament
1/6 at 8:30 p.m. Kalamazoo Blades*
1/11 at 7 p.m. Wayland Union
1/13 at 8 p.m. Creston

BOYS' VARSITY BASKETBALL

* Denotes a home game at LHS Main Gym
12/9 at 7:30 p.m. Grandville
12/13 at 7:30 p.m. Forest Hills Central*
12/16 at 7:45 p.m. Grand Rapids Christian*
1/3 at 7:45 p.m. Forest Hills Northern*
1/6 at 7:45 p.m. EGR*
1/10 at 7:30 p.m. Kenowa Hills

GIRLS' VARSITY BASKETBALL

* Denotes a home game at LHS Main Gym
12/13 at 7:30 p.m. Forest Hills Central
12/16 at 6 p.m. Grand Rapids Christian*
1/3 at 6 p.m. Forest Hills Northern*
1/6 at 6 p.m. EGR*
1/10 at 7:30 p.m. Kenowa Hills
1/13 at 6 p.m. Northview

GIRLS' VARSITY COMPETITION CHEER

* Denotes a home meet at LHS
1/25 at 6:30 p.m. OK White/Black Jamboree at Northview
2/1 at 6:30 p.m. OK White/Black Jamboree at Reeths Puffer
2/4 at 10 a.m. Lowell Invitational*
2/8 at 6:30 p.m. OK White/Black Jamboree at Union
2/11 at 10 a.m. Conference at GR Christian

BOYS' & GIRLS' VARSITY SKIING

* Denotes event held at Cannonsburg Ski Area
1/3 at 4:30 p.m. GS Championship*
1/5 at 4:30 p.m. Slalom Championship*
1/10 at 4:30 p.m. Tournament*
1/17 at 4:30 p.m. Tournament*
1/24 at 4:30 p.m. Tournament*

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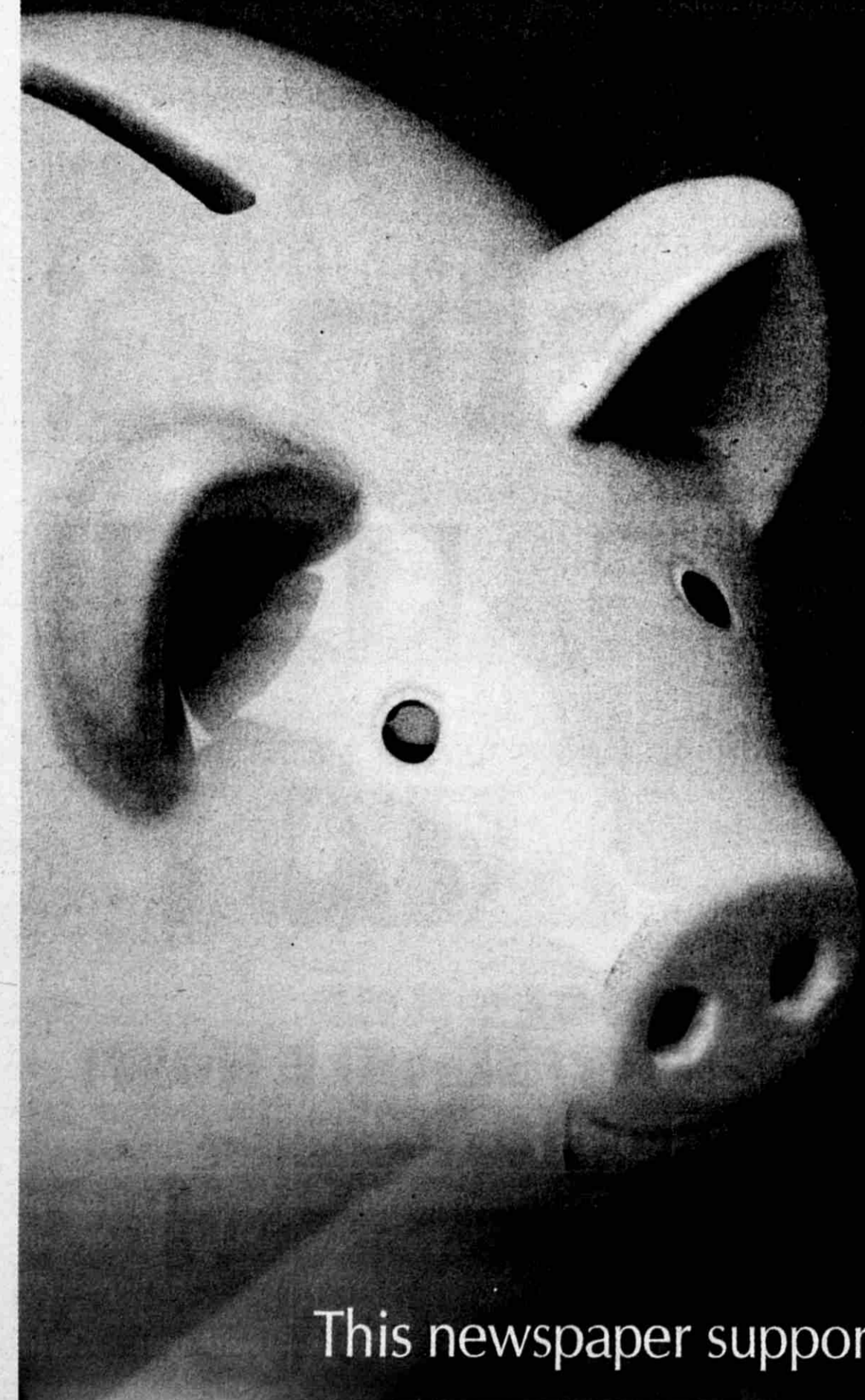
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*EPIC-MRA November 2007



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obituaries

RASH

Nora Belle Simington Rash, age 87. On Wednesday, December 7, 2011, precious Nora Belle was received into heaven's gates with smiles and hugs. Surrounded by her loving children and grandchildren, she peacefully went to be with the Lord. Nora Belle was born on May 5, 1924, to Nora and Marion Simington. She was one of fourteen children. Nora Belle enjoyed serving the Lord, knitting, writing poetry, enjoying the outdoors and being with her seven children. Nora Belle was preceded in death by her loving sweetheart, Edward William Rash. Nora Belle is survived by her brother Marion; children, Darrel (Margaret), Pastor Thomas (Gail), Bonita Ross, William Rash, Carol (Scott) Decator, Jonathan (Pamala), Lori Micko-Rodriguez; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Nora Belle was a loving mother, kind friend, loyal follower of Christ, and will be dearly missed by all. Memorial service was held Saturday at Lowell Church of the Nazarene. Pastor Thomas Rash and Pastor Wes Hershberger officiating.



THIS WEEK'S LEDGER POLL QUESTION

Do you have your Christmas shopping done?

Yes

No

I don't celebrate the holiday I wait till Xmas Eve.

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 11-190929-DE

Estate of CLARA LEWIS. Date of birth: July 13, 1927.

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 11-191322-DE

Estate of LORRAINE M. PONCHAHAR. Date of birth: 05/09/1922.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Clara Lewis, who lived at 1543 Benjamin NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan, died 08/27/2011.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Daniel Blauw, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/ proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

09/13/2011

Daniel Blauw (P37283) 2020 Raybrook SE, 204A Grand Rapids, MI 49546 616-336-5098

Daniel Blauw 2020 Raybrook SE, 204A Grand Rapids, MI 49546 616-336-5098

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Lorraine M. Ponchahar, who lived at 1304 Emerald Avenue NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan, died 08/26/2011.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Wendy Sakoski, named personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/ proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

12/07/2011

R. John Stephan (P71686) 3875 W. River Dr., PO Box 327 Comstock Park, MI 49321 616-784-5080

Wendy Sakoski 1066 North Hampton Dr. NE Grand Rapids, MI 49505 616-454-8601



DECEMBER 7 - DECEMBER 13

- Mikhael Prokhorovi, one of Russia's richest tycoons and owner of NBA New Jersey Nets, will run against Putin for president.
Xavier and the University of Cincinnati both said on Sunday that they have suspended players in the wake of a brawl between their school's basketball players.
Michelle Obama now holds part of a world record. The first lady announced Monday that her bid to have the most people doing jumping jacks in a 24-hour period succeeded. The total amount was 300,265 people.
Maria Assunta, from Rome, leaves a \$13 million fortune to her pet cat. Maria died two weeks ago at the age of 94. Rules in Rome don't allow this so her caretaker gets the money.
The supreme court adds another hot button issue to it's docket this term agreeing to hear Arizona's strict immigration law. The case will be argued sometime this spring.

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LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HOLIDAY HOURS Holiday hours for Lowell Charter Township: Monday, December 19 - 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 20 - 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursday, December 22 - Closed Monday, December 26 - Closed Tuesday, December 27 - 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursday, December 29 - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The Township offices will be closed Monday, January 2, 2012.

classifieds

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

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FREE HEAT & HOT WATER - Eliminate monthly heating bills with Classic Outdoor Wood Furnace from Central Boiler. Call SOS your "Stocking Dealer" Dutton, MI 616-554-8669 or 616-915-5061.

WOW! POST FRAME PACKAGES - Act Now! 24x24x8-\$3749. 24x40x10-\$5449. 30x40x10-\$6249. Standard Lumber, 616-676-2108 or 1-800-444-4075.

FRY DADDY'S GIFT CERTIFICATES - make shopping easy! 608 W. Main St., Lowell.

BOB'S 14TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRDHOUSE SALE - Feeders: bluebird, wren, bat houses, ready to go, make great Christmas gifts. New this year - wood duck nesting boxes, several on-hand, taking orders for spring. Bob's Birdhouses, 12279 60th St., Alto. 868-6633.

1/2 ACRE LOT WITH POLE BARN - Everything there but the house. Mobile homes welcome. 1 mile from Lowell on M21, Ionia County, Lowell Schools. Commercial or residential. Byowner. 616-446-7426 or 897-6045.

HOME FOR SALE BY OWNER ON 5 ACRES - 11365 Foreman Rd., Lowell. 616-897-5632 or 616-328-4212.

LOWELL - 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch for sale or rent. Land contract terms. Call Ron or Marvie, 897-6757 or 485-9703.

OVAL DINING TABLE - solid oak, 6ft X 3.5 ft. extends to 10 ft., 4 side chairs & 2 arm chairs, \$700. Colonial rocking chair by Montgomery Ward, \$50. Call 558-1744.

FINAL WEEK TO MAKE SURE YOUR BUSINESS IS LISTED - in the 2012 Lowell City Directory! If you run a business out of your home & do not have a business phone number in the Grand Rapids phone book, there is a charge to put your phone number in the Lowell City Directory. The cost is \$15. Your business name & phone number will be listed in the red pages & under 1 category in the yellow pages. Please call Tammy at 897-9560 or email: citydirectory@att.net for further info. All orders must be paid by Dec. 31, 2011 to be included in the book.

help wanted

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

OCCASIONAL BABYSITTER - New Christian family in Lowell looking for occasional babysitters for day & eve. appts. 5 well-behaved children, \$8/hr. 616-987-3356.

ACCTG. CLERK - Service oriented manuf. org. searching for highly organized acctg. clerk w/strong work ethic. Req. recent & relevant exp. in A/P, A/R, P/R, HR, G/L & all cler. func.; teamwork attitude & exc. attendance record. Must be accurate, multitask & meet deadlines. Send resume to: Michigan Wire/D&D, P.O. Box 70, Lowell, MI 49331 or ddtc@att.net

CENTER COORDINATOR - to manage a Senior Center located in Lowell. Part time 30 hours. Oversee meals program and activities. Must possess organizational and people skills. Computer knowledge, creativity and some physical labor required. Salary \$19,546 per year. Please send resume to Senior Neighbors, Inc., 820 Monroe NW, Suite 460, Grand Rapids, 49503-1442. NO PHONE CALLS "An Equal Opportunity Employer"

for rent

LOWELL - 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, carport, water, sewer & trash included. \$500/mo. \$300 deposit. No smoking & no pets. 897-4829.

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.vfw8303.org. Also for those interested in dance classes at the post. Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.

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

wanted

BUYING OLD & VINTAGE ITEMS - Toys, military related, retro furniture, jewelry, sports related, books, awards, knives, games, models, coins, any advertising items, & MUCH MORE. Cash paid. Call 616-550-0521.

wanted

RIDE SHARE WANTED - Lowell to Woodland Mall area. 1 work Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. I can drive half the time or give you gas money. We could set it up for 5 days a week or just a few - whatever works for you. I am flexible! I am a professional middle-aged woman. Let's see if we can both save some gas money! Call 616-540-3053.

services

BUSINESS CARDS - Before you order your cards from somewhere else - check our rates! Call Lowell Litho, 897-9261.

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

ZOOLAND DAYCARE - has full time openings for children. Call 897-8386 or 308-0195. www.zoolanddaycare.com

services

WANT YOUR SENIOR PORTRAITS FOR FREE - We are looking for fun, outgoing and motivated 2013 HS Seniors to be BOSS representatives for Jenuine Creations, LLC-Photography. Go to www.jenuine-creations.com and apply by Dec. 31, 2011.

SNOW REMOVAL - Red Arrow player offering before/after school & weekend SNOW REMOVAL and GUTTER CLEANING. Got Snow? Call John, 897-7368.

ANGELIQUE'S PROFESSIONAL HAIR DESIGN - both genders. Color, cuts & chemical treatments. NEW FLEXIBLE HOURS. New clients welcome. Ada, 616-914-1568.

LOCAL COUNSELING SERVICES AVAILABLE - by a licensed therapist. See www.facebook.com/LifeTransitionsTherapyLLC or call 616-238-2116.

services

PROFESSIONAL TREE CLIMBER NEEDS WORK - Fully insured. Removals, trims, chipping, stump grinding. Call Dan for free estimate at 616-970-3832.

FREE! YES FREE! - No gimmicks, no cost. Do you have some or no prescription coverage? Save up to 10 to 85% on prescriptions, lab work & hearing aides. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope, with your address, and I will do the rest! It is designed to help the less fortunate. Mail to: Helping People, PO Box 922, Cannonsburg, MI 49317.

HANDY REPAIR SERVICE - All kinds of service work: locks rekeyed, deadbolts installed, screen & window repair. Call Bob Ford, 299-3198.

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.

services

PIANO INSTRUCTION - Experienced, patient, & professional performer has openings for fall & winter. Watch your child's confidence & academics improve as they learn notation, theory, & keyboard technique. VergenesWsp. Ph. 897-9485. MissMeowswic@msn.com

card of thanks

We wish to thank everyone from emergency personnel, friends, neighbors, the I-96 racing community and anyone who sent a card or had a thought or prayer for us or Jim. Special thanks to Lakes funeral home, Pastor Fred and the Outreach Christian Church and his great kitchen staff. Also Al McDonald for his wonderful words of comfort. There are not enough words to express our great appreciation for everyone's caring and generosity.

The family of Lowell Jim Thompson of Lowell

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 ran on a space available basis & ARE NOT GUARANTEED TO RUN. If you would like to make sure your event is placed in the paper, please call our office & place it as a classified ad. We will not run ANY Garage or Rummage Sales as a coming event. All Coming Events or changes to coming events should be submitted by fax: 897-4809, email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com, by mail: PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or in person: 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

TOTS PLAYGROUP - Meets every Tues., Wed. & Thurs. at Bushnell Elementary, 700 Elizabeth, Lowell, 8:30 a.m. or 10 a.m. Meeting at Alto Elementary, 6150 Bancroft, Alto on Thursdays at 10 a.m. For more info contact Lori at 897-6814.

KNITTING 101 - Every Tues., 10 a.m. - noon, Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main St., Clarksville.

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

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

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

LOWELL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - meets the 2nd Saturday at Flat River Outreach Ministries, 11535 E. Fulton, 9 a.m. social gathering, 10 a.m. meeting. LARC sponsors 145.27 MHz area radio repeater system.

NEEDLERS - Second & fourth 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 FROM building, 11535 Fulton Street, most Monday evenings, 6-8 p.m. Christian Scripture based. No cost or fees, no appointment necessary, confidentiality respected.

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

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM - open Tuesdays, Saturdays & Sunday: 1-4 p.m.; Thursday: 1-8 p.m. Families: \$10; individual \$3; ages 5-17 \$1.50; members free. 897-7688.

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

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

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

BOY SCOUT TROOP 102 - every Monday, 7-8:30 p.m. during school year.

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES THRIFT SHOP - 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.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Grid of numbers for puzzle solutions: 9 5 2 8 7 4 3 1 6, 4 1 8 9 6 3 7 5 2, 3 6 7 1 2 5 4 8 9, 5 8 9 6 4 1 2 3 7, 7 2 3 5 8 9 6 4 1, 6 4 1 7 3 2 8 9 5, 8 7 5 4 9 6 1 2 3, 1 3 6 2 5 8 9 7 4, 2 9 4 3 1 7 5 6 8

Grid of letters for puzzle solutions: ATTIC, PEG, FLOP, LAURA, URI, TIARA, ALTAR, FEZ, EDICT, CUTOFF, MENORAH, ELI, COLA, JAB, SLUR, KNOCKS, ERAS, TREE, TRINE, SITE, HANDS, AVIV, USHER, LEGO, LIFE, SEEMED, LEAF, LEN, BIAS, PRO, DICKENS, MYOPIA, IDEAL, KEA, SEMIS, SELLS, EGG, TRADE, HALE, WOE, YAMEN

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2008 CHEVY IMPALA LT 50TH ANNIVERSARY! Low miles, two tone leather, moonroof, loaded, great MPG's, Hot Car!! \$16,750	2011 BUICK LACROSSE CXL Heated leather, low miles, GM Certified, loaded, Blue Tooth \$24,488	2010 MAZDA 3s SPORT Great MPG's, low miles, full power \$15,350	2011 CHEVY CRUZE LT GM Certified, 48 mo., 48,000 mile warranty - MORE THAN NEW!! WOW...the MPG's \$17,750	2008 GMC ACADIA SLT 2 Available 3rd row, bucket seats, heated leather, Bose. Now \$21,200. Now...\$19,998
2008 BUICK LACROSSE Great MPG's, only 54,000 miles, heated seats \$12,998	2008 SATURN OUTLOOK XR 3rd row, heated leather, jet black, like new. Was \$19,999 Now...\$18,498	2006 AUDI A-4 Turbo, heated leather, moonroof, 5-speed, local trade. Was \$14,498 \$13,900	2003 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER LT EXT. Tow package, 4x4, heated leather, moonroof, 3rd row \$7,788	2007 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX GXP Heated leather, moonroof, V8, loaded \$12,998

SPECIAL BUYS

2008 CADILLAC STS AWD Heated leather, moonroof, Bose system, navigation, loaded. Was \$19,377 Now...\$18,450	2008 CHEVROLET SILVERADO CREW CAB Z-71, 4x4 \$19,999	2010 GMC TERRAIN GM Certified, like new, sunroof, heated leather, loaded \$24,998	2004 BMW X5 Heated leather, loaded, sunroof \$16,765	2008 BUICK ENCLAVE Diamond White Chrome Pkg. 3 to choose from Heated leather, moonroof, 3rd row seating, loaded, beautiful SUV From...\$18,488
2008 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX Moonroof, low miles, great MPG's \$13,988	2005 BUICK RENDEZVOUS Heated leather, moonroof \$9,998	2006 CADILLAC SRX Ultra view sunroof, heated leather, loaded \$16,995	2008 BUICK LUCERNE Heated leather, local trade, low miles \$17,999	2004 GMC SONOMA CREW CAB Running boards, 4x4, Tonneau cover \$11,998
2008 GMC YUKON SLT FlexFuel, 3rd row bucket seats, heated leather, CarFax, 1 owner, loaded, beautiful SUV \$24,988	2007 CADILLAC STS AWD BOSE System, heated leather, 52,794 miles \$17,997	2011 CHEVROLET MALIBU Low miles, great MPG's, full power, just arrived \$15,998	2008 GMC SIERRA SLT Jet black, camel heated leather, 41,000 miles, sweet truck! \$24,498	2008 HONDA ACCORD V6, great MPG's, sunroof, heated leather, loaded \$16,488

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THEME:
HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

- ACROSS**
- Movie "Flowers in the _____"
 - _____ down, as in time
 - Follows "flip"
 - "Little House on the Prairie" character
 - University of Rhode Island
 - Queen's headdress
 - Sacrificial spot
 - Tasseled hat
 - Court order, e.g.
 - Stop serving
 - *It has 7 or 9 branches
 - Giant thrower
 - Used in floats
 - Pacquiao's punch, e.g.
 - Talk like a drunk
 - School of hard _____
 - Paleozoic and Mesozoic, e.g.
 - *Coniferous tradition
 - Trinity or triad
 - www.google.com, e.g.
 - Keep yours to yourself!
 - Tel _____, Israel
 - Lighted helper
 - Toy building block
 - "It's wonderful in Bedford Falls
 - It _____ like such a good idea...
 - *It's red on a Christmas poinsettia
 - Short for Leonard
 - Partiality
 - Aaron Rodgers, as opposed to Andrew Luck
 - *Tiny Tim creator
 - Eyesight abnormality
 - Perfect
 - Mauna _____, Hawaii
 - Rigs

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
13					14			15						
16					17			18						
	19				20			21	22					
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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				74				

- DOWN**
- Pie _____ mode
 - Bath powder
 - *"The Nutcracker" outfit
 - Angry
 - *"White Christmas" and "Silent Night," e.g.
 - Magic dragon
 - *"...I heard him ex-
 - claim, '_____ he drove out of sight..."
 - Whatchamacallit
 - Dog name
 - Batman's cave, e.g.
 - Black and white killer
 - Beaten by walkers
 - Dweller without mortgage
 - Pigsty contents
 - Member of the Benevolent Order
 - Scallops
 - *Central to nativity scene
 - _____ from the ashes
 - Cleanse
 - Europe/Asia mountain divide
 - Type of test
 - Law, but not criminal
 - Chef Ramsay's tool
 - *Number of Kwanzaa days
 - Give certain impression
 - Competitive advantage
 - Like water with detergent
 - Guerillas
 - Loud noise
 - *He'll be back again some day
 - Lopsided
 - Verdi's opus
 - *Christmas goose, e.g.
 - Worth a million dollars?
 - Jailbird's home
 - Curly-leaved cabbage
 - Magician, in the olden days
 - Allah's cleric
 - _____de-camp
 - Big head
 - Precedes senator



616-897-0787

When submitting your opinion to Sound Off!, we ask you to follow a few guidelines.
Sound Off! is meant to be a way for you to compliment or vent your feelings with civility. A healthy way to get something off your chest or spread a little kindness.
We welcome your comments, with or without signatures, but signing your name to your comment does increase the odds of seeing it in print.
Threatening or deliberately cruel comments will not be accepted and, of course, no advertising a product or service please.
So basically, submit anything - but not everything will make it to print.
The Ledger reserves the right to choose what is printed, and reminds the public that views expressed in Sound Off!, unless otherwise stated, are not the opinions of The Ledger staff or its publishers.

Perhaps the Red Arrow jerseys are nameless because it's more about the team than the individual. Congratulations for a well-fought season!

The parade was wonderful. But please, if you smoke step away from the crowd so everyone does not have to breathe in your cigarette smoke.

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	3				8			4
				1				

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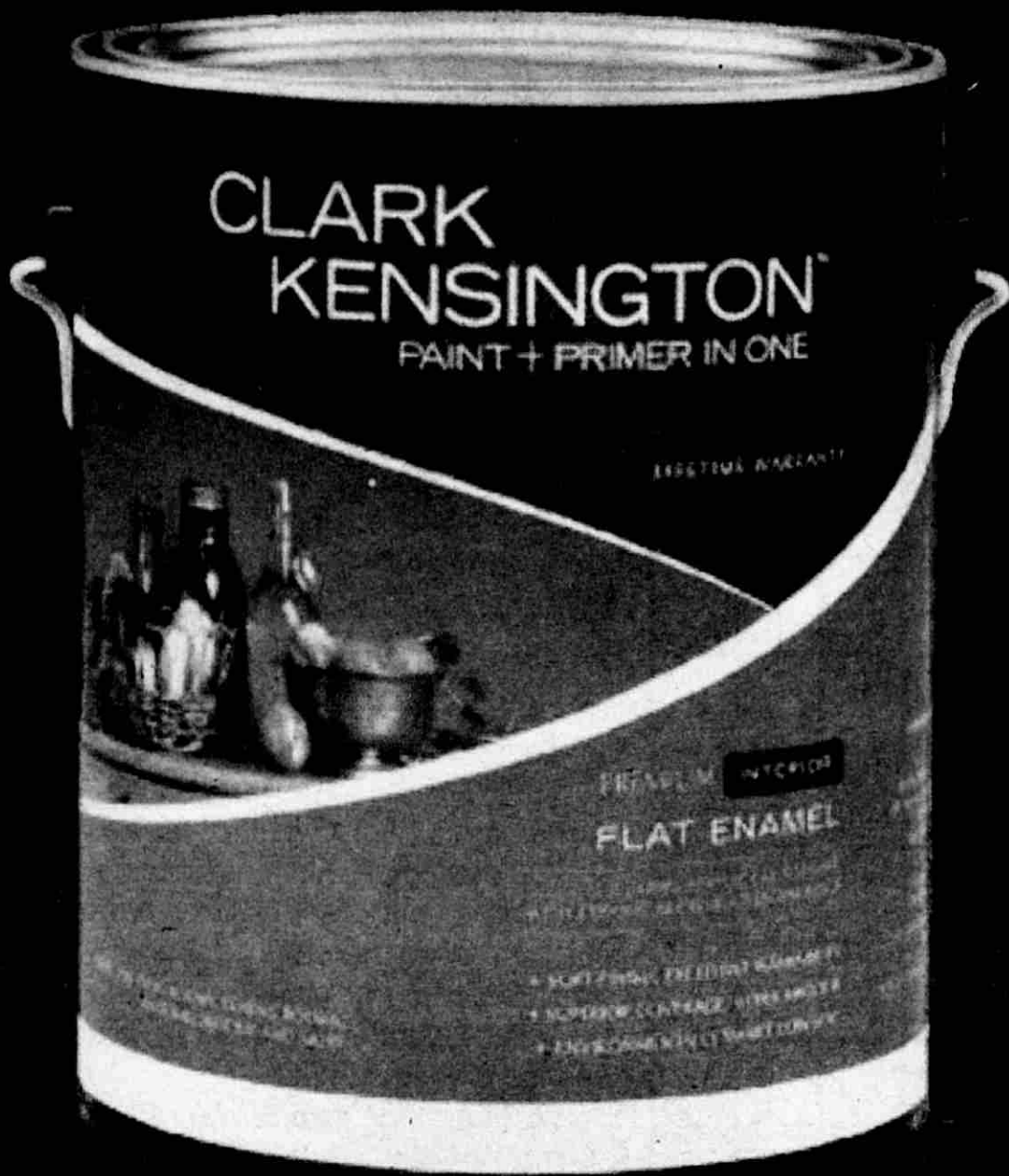
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thelowellledger.com

THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL RESULTS

What do you think was the biggest story of 2011?

- Japan's earthquake 44%
- Death of Bin Laden 45%
- Global economic crisis 0%
- The Kardashians sagas 0%
- U of M football 11%
- Republican Primary 0%

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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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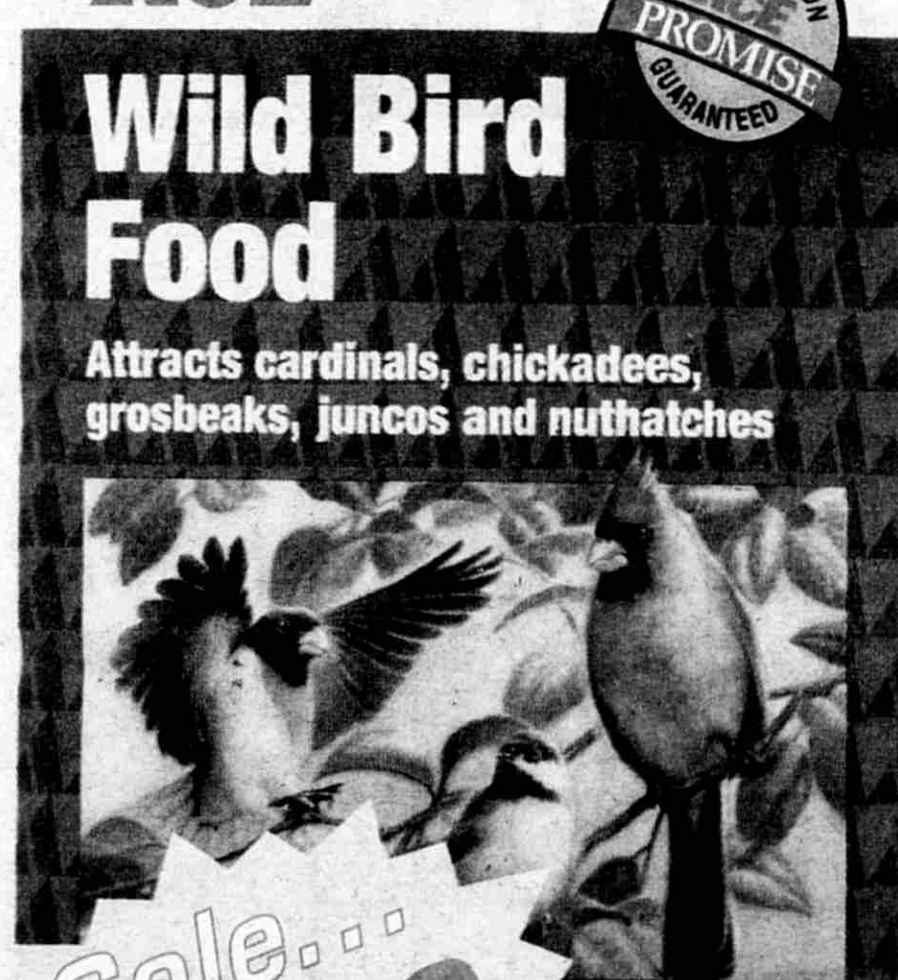
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