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# the lowell ledger

wednesday • december • 21 • 2011

vol. 41 issue 11

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## Memories of beloved fair manager echo throughout the Lowell community

by Emma Palova

Ron Wenger had a special kind of a laugh. He laughed with his entire body. If you got lucky, you could find him sitting in the little picnic area at the fairgrounds between the food booths. Creating a respite area from the hustle and the bustle of the fair was

In a long string of events, Wenger accomplished one thing after another. He oversaw the complete remodel of the King Building, including putting in the final flooring without the fair board approval. And then came the horse arena that has been used year-round for events.



his idea. At all other times, Wenger was working on the grounds he loved the most.

Wenger, 65, Kent County Youth Fair manager, passed away last week on Wednesday.

Those closest to Wenger call him an idea man and a visionary, a person who could take an idea from its origin to final completion and make it look like somebody else did it.

"He never took glory for anything," said his friend Jim McFadden.

Friends like Jessica Marks wish they had known Wenger longer.

"He gave of himself everything there was to give," Marks said.

A dairy farmer from Belding, Wenger was an imprint of the family.

"It's a genetic thing with the Wenger family," said friend Ray Hawkins. "They're inventors. If something needed to be done, they just did it."

The fair wouldn't be

what it is today if it wasn't for Wenger.

And the dream lives on. "The dream isn't gone. If it happens, it's because of him," said Marks.

Even though Wenger will be remembered the most for his involvement with the fair, he also volunteered for the Lowell Area Arts Council and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.

"He was a big Teddy bear," said arts director Loraine Smalligan. "He helped us out with the staging of the concerts."

Wenger was a "go to kind of guy." You went to him whenever you didn't know where else to turn to.

Backwater Café owner Jeff Altoft said Wenger and him had a mutual help relationship.

Altoft had known Wenger for 30 years back from the farming era.

"We were friends for so long we were like brothers," said Altoft. "We worked on projects all night long. Ron

was one of the most down-to-earth people I've ever met. He didn't have a bad bone in his body."

And he was a good teacher, to make sure there are other people in place to carry his vision.

Wenger will be missed for his character and personality.

"I will just miss him," said former city manager Dave Pasquale.

Pasquale knew Wenger from many years of interaction with the fair business.

Ron Wenger, continued, page 2

## Sharing the warmth of the season



The VFW and the American Legion just finished their annual coat drive. Over 100 coats were collected at Curtis Cleaners for the men and women at the Veteran's Home in Grand Rapids. "We thank everyone who assisted in this year's coat drive," said VFW vice-commander Herb Rice. "The people at Curtis Cleaners did an outstanding job. They very graciously acted as the main drop-off point for the coats and they also cleaned all the coats." Pictured from left, Herm Westrate, VFW commander and Herb Rice.

## Variance granted for King Milling's growth

by Emma Palova

The city council granted two variances to King Milling for the construction of new buildings on Monday.

The variances were required to accommodate the construction of a millfeed storage and load structure due to the irregularly shaped parcel. Also, the setbacks were not in compliance.

The zoning board of appeals tested all the criteria for the variances and unanimously granted the request

since no hardship was created by the company itself.

"We need the millfeed to grow our business," said Jim Doyle of King Milling.

The addition consists of a new facility including two storage bins similar to the numerous silos located on the adjoining site to the north.

The proposed development will be located on the

City council, continued, page 3

50 CENTS



# Ron Wenger, continued

"He kept everything going," said Pasquale. "He just got the job done. He was a nuts and bolts kind of guy. You could count on him to get things done."

When asked what people have learned from Wenger, the answer was overwhelming; his work ethic.

"He was a rare individual," said Pasquale.

But, he didn't always see eye to eye with coworkers, such as chamber director Liz Baker. Sometimes things turned into a competition. In the end, all worked out well for both sides.

Wenger assisted the chamber with the Expo, the concerts and the Farmers' Market.

"He was generous and he loved children," said Baker.

Wenger impacted generations of 4-H kids, such as Jim Crosby and Kristi Caine.

Both were exhibitors at the fair.

Crosby had known Wenger ever since he was a child.

"He made me who I am today," Crosby said. "I will miss him. The fair was his life. He had a way of dealing with things."

For Caine of Sparta, who showed at the fair, Wenger was a "go to guy" when you needed support.

"He was a busy guy who got the job done," Caine said. "He had an amazing vision for the fair; the kids were at the core." Caine remembers visiting other fairs with Wenger to see how other people did things. "He

created a food area. Ron was very perceptive of public needs," she said. "He was very generous."

Following is a eulogy given by exhibitor Sarah Crosby:

Ron was not just the guy on the gator. He was the man behind-the-scenes that got the job done. He understood everything it took to make the fair be a success and he was always trying to make it run more efficiently; he had plans for the future and knew how to make those plans a reality.

Not every exhibitor at the fair had the opportunity to know Ron, but I did. I remember many times sitting at my grandpa's dining room table listening to Ron's stories. I don't know if all the stories were true, but

there were lots of stories. Stories about the pig races and donkey rides; stories of collecting sap, raising hogs and milking cows; stories of the fair provided it. We have all learned from his ability to plan events as well as solve problems.

Ron was a great teacher. He was always proud when I accomplished my goals. I think that's because he felt he was a part of it, and he was. A part of Ron can be found in all of us.

Above all, Ron found great satisfaction in watching exhibitors grow and

like many of you, I have learned a lot from the example Ron has set. Ron's dedication to our communi-

ty taught us how to be good citizens. He also emphasized the importance of responsibility and knew that the fair provided it. We have all learned from his ability to plan events as well as solve problems.

Ron was a great teacher. He was always proud when I accomplished my goals. I think that's because he felt he was a part of it, and he was. A part of Ron can be found in all of us.

Above all, Ron found great satisfaction in watching exhibitors grow and

give back to the fair. When he saw examples of this, he would stop, smile and say, "this is why we do what we do."

The legacy that Ron left with so many of us is just that. We have learned to give back to the fair to serve the kids as best we know how, the way we learned from Ron.

So, he may be gone and yes, we will miss him, but let me assure you his legacy will live on through many of us sitting here today.



## lend a hand

opportunities

The Literacy Center of West Michigan has scheduled an information session on Tuesday, January 3, 2012, for prospective volunteer tutors. This session is held at 6:30 pm and lasts one hour. It allows persons interested in becoming volunteer tutors to find out more about the Center and its literacy programs. At the end of the session, there will be an opportunity to sign up for tutor training.

The Literacy Center of W. Michigan is a nonprofit, United Way agency devoted to reducing illiteracy in our community. Based on 1990 census figures, at least

19,000 adults in Kent County cannot read at a functional level. At least 6,000 adults cannot speak or understand English well. By training people to be tutors, the Center can offer one-on-one reading help to adults asking for assistance in reading or English as a Second Language (ESL). You do not need to speak another language to tutor ESL.

The information session will be held at the Literacy Center of West Michigan, located at 1120 Monroe Ave., NW, Suite 240, Grand Rapids, MI. Please call us at 459-5151 (ext. 10) to register.



# along main street

### WORKS IN PROGRESS ART EXHIBITION

This January LowellArts! will host an art exhibition with a new twist - all art on display is purposely incomplete. The Works in Progress Art Exhibition runs from Jan. 10 to Feb. 5. Gallery hours are Tues.-Fri., 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and Sat., 1:00-4:00 pm. LowellArts! is located at 149 S. Hudson, Lowell. For more information call LowellArts! at 616-897-8545.

### LAS ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB MEETING

The Lowell Area Schools Athletic Boosters will hold their regular business meeting in the high school staff lounge on Mon., Jan. 2 at 7:00 pm. Please come and support our athletes.

### COFFEE WITH COUNCIL

Come meet and have a cup of coffee with your city councilmembers on the first Saturday of the month from 8-10:00 am at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce office, 113 Riverwalk Plaza.

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.

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# City bids farewell to outgoing councilmembers

The city, Monday night, said goodbye to outgoing councilmembers Maryalene LaPonsie and Jeff Altoft.

Starting in January they will be replaced by newcomers, Jim Hall and

Jim Valentine, who were elected to the council in the November general election. Altoft will serve on the board of review and LaPonsie wants to stay involved in the city politics.



From left to right: Mayor Jim Hodges, Maryalene LaPonsie and Jeff Altoft.

# City council, continued

irregularly shaped parcel consisting of 11.337 square feet, where as the minimum lot area in the industrial district is 20,000 square feet.

In other business: The city approved a contract with Richard Wendt of Dickinson Wright law firm who has served the city for a number of years.

"My experience with Mr. Wendt has been very positive," said city manager Mark Howe. "He is efficient and carries a strong knowledge of the history of events within the city."

Also, the grant for East Riverbank renovations has been recommended for approval, according to Howe.

After five years of attempting to collect personal property taxes by the city unsuccessfully, they will be stricken from the tax rolls.

A group of community leaders representing Lowell and Vergennes townships, the Lowell Area School district, the chamber of commerce and the city of Lowell have met to create a long-term vision for the community.

The process will involve intensive public input that will help define the community's identity and chart its future.

"This is an exciting positive step toward building collaboration among the key public entities who serve the community," said Howe.

## LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF KENT

AMENDED  
PUBLICATION OF  
NOTICE OF HEARING

FILE NO. 03-175149-GM

In the matter of TEAGAN R. MCCOMBS.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including: TONY STERK whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on January 10, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: Petition for appointment of guardian notice of hearing.

12/13/2011  
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## CITY OF LOWELL

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE NOTICE

Lowell City Hall, Department of Public Works, Police Office and Light and Power office will be closed on Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26, 2011 for the Christmas Holidays and Monday, January 2, 2012 for New Year's Day.

Those who participate in the City of Lowell refuse program with the blue bags will have their refuse picked up on Friday, December 30, 2011 due to the Christmas holiday and Friday, January 6, 2012 due to the New Year's holiday.

Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk

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CHIPWRECKED (G)  
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SHADOWS (PG-13)  
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NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13)  
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financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

How to cope with the "threat" of longevity

You can't predict how long you'll live. Nonetheless, you still need to consider longevity as a key factor in creating, and following, a long-term investment strategy.

And your projected lifespan may be longer than you had thought. Men who turned 65 in 2010 can expect to live another 18.6 years, while women who reached 65 that same year can anticipate another 20.7 years, according to the 2011 Social Security Trustees Report. And these figures are just averages; depending on your health and family history of longevity, you could well spend two, or even three, decades in retirement.

Possibly because people are now realizing they may have to support themselves for far longer than earlier generations did, they seem to be growing increasingly concerned about running out of money in their later years. In fact, in a poll

of people ages 44 to 75, sponsored by Allianz Life Insurance, 61 percent said they fear depleting their assets more than they fear dying.

So, if you're concerned about outliving your resources — or if you think that you may become one of those people — what steps should you take, both now and during your retirement? Here are a few ideas:

- Keep investing. Put away as much money as you can afford for your retirement. Take advantage of tax-deferred accounts, such as your 401(k) and traditional IRA, or tax-free accounts, such as a Roth IRA. (Roth IRA earnings are tax-free provided you've had your account at least five years and you don't start taking withdrawals until you're at least 59-1/2.) And keep investing, year in and year out, despite the inevitable market volatility you'll encounter along the way.

- Re-assess your retirement age. If you enjoy your work, you might consider staying at your job a few years later than originally intended. Those extra years of income, not to mention extra contributions to your 401(k) and potentially bigger Social Security payouts, can make a big difference to your retirement lifestyle.

- Delay taking Social Security. As the laws now

stand, you can start taking Social Security as young as 62, but your monthly checks will be bigger when you reach your "full" retirement age. You'll get your biggest monthly Social Security checks if you wait until age 70, when they "max out," but many people feel that waiting that long may not be worth it, when weighing the lost years of any payments against the unknown variable of life expectancy.

- Calculate your "withdrawal rate." Once you retire, it's essential that you know how much can withdraw each year from your investments without running out of money. Your withdrawal rate depends on a variety of factors, including your age, size of portfolio, risk tolerance and retirement lifestyle. A financial professional can help you calculate your initial withdrawal rate and adjust it as time goes on.

The possibility of outliving your resources is not a pleasant thought. But by taking the steps described above, as well as others, you can go a long way toward taking the fear out of longevity, leaving you free to fully enjoy an active retirement.

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

LPD reminds of winter responsibilities

With the approach of winter weather the Lowell Police Department (LPD) reminds residents of several important weather-related responsibilities.

During the winter months, the police department begins stricter enforcement of city parking rules. Officers will pay close attention to vehicles parked on city streets between the hours of 2:00 am and 6:00 am. Vehicles must not be parked on the streets during that time so plow crews can

keep the streets cleared of snow and ice. Vehicles and other objects cannot obstruct sidewalks. Pedestrians must be able to use the sidewalks without having to walk around vehicles or other obstructions. Officers will pay special attention to obstructed sidewalks in school walk zones near the Bushnell, Cherry Creek and Middle schools.

Homeowners and occupants are responsible for keeping sidewalks clear of snow and other debris. Sidewalks and pathways between adjacent sidewalks need to be cleared of snow and debris within 24 hours of accumulation as required by the Lowell city code.

"With your help we can have safe streets and sidewalks through the winter season," said police chief Barry Getzen.



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viewpoint

to the editor

a poem for the holidays

To the editor: A Gift From Me To You

There comes one night, every year that's very special to us all.

It doesn't come in the spring or the summer or the fall. It's just a night in late December, the eve of a wonderful holiday. A night when people 'round the world each celebrate in their own special way. You know the night I'm referring to.

I don't need to give it a name. Where ever you're

from, what ever you call it, I'm sure the meaning is still the same. Some may call it a silent night, others a night of hope and joy or maybe a night of beautiful dreams for every little girl and boy.

It's a time when friends and family come together in love and harmony. What if that happened all over earth? Think how happy we all would be.

Next time you see a friend or a stranger, give them a smile and this poem

too. I know it's not much, but it came from my heart and it's my gift to all of you. Best wishes and happy

holidays from an old man that really cares.

Robert Grant Lowell

appreciative crafter

Dear Editor,

To everyone involved in the Rogue River Art Show held Dec. 3. I was overwhelmed how nice and pleasant the show was.

The hospitality was awesome. The young men and ladies, high school students - jumped in to help and serve us. It was so special.

We appreciate Robin and Rick White and all who organized the show. As a new crafter this year, I hope to be invited again and I look forward to next year.

Happy New Year to all, Linda Kropf Phillips Nature's Solitude Crafter

outdoors surprise

Dave Stegehuis

Deer in our hunting area have gone almost completely nocturnal since the opening day of firearm season. Many hours of stand setting have resulted in only a few deer sightings.

It would seem that the animals have moved out of the county. That did not happen. Deer are showing up in the headlights when driving after dark and our trail camera has been regularly capturing images of a variety of animals including deer.

I had been using an abandoned storage shed on the edge of a field as a blind for bow hunting. There is a mound of dirt dug from a hole in one corner. I assumed it was the work of a woodchuck as I sat comfortably in the shed on many occasions. Come to find out through trail camera photos, the residents are actually a family of skunks. I gave up the shed to the current occupants to avoid any territorial disputes.

Another series of photos caught a buck walking by the trail camera some one-hundred yards from my wife, Gwen, as she used a grunt call to get his attention. The next photo, 60 seconds later, has the deer responding and walking in the

opposite direction towards her tree stand. The final photo is of Gwen, the buck, and her bow posed for a picture on our pocket camera.

Other interesting trail camera photos include two bucks sparring, a pair of does standing on their hind legs flailing at each other, a pair of night roaming coyotes, a family of seven turkeys passing through on several different mornings, and a number of birds and squirrels engaged in routine daily activities. As of now, there are no pictures of mountain lions or bears, although a very long brown tail does appear at the edge of one photo.

We eagerly anticipate changing out the SD card in the camera because there are always surprises. An occasional image of a nice buck and several fat does kept us on stand during less than ideal December weather. Deer and other wildlife are out there doing business as usual, so we look forward to seeing what goes on when we are gone. What started out as a serious scouting tool, trail camera photography has turned into a fun and interesting outdoor activity.



By Shelly MacNaughton

110 Years Ago The Lowell Journal December 19, 1901

"The idea of a town of this size trying to run six churches is ridiculous," said a Lowell businessman and liberal contributor to church work, Tuesday, anent to the subject of practical Christian unity.

There is a growing sentiment among members of the Congregational and Baptist churches and societies in Lowell that a union of effort would result in great good to the community. One strong body would certainly be more effective than two weak ones; the governments of the two are almost identical and sectarian matters might well be left to settle themselves.

100 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger December 21, 1911

Good cigars in fancy boxes at Clark's confectionary. Miss Elizabeth Lennox is home from Whitby college, near Toronto, to spend the holidays with her father, Rev. L. E. Lennox.

The Bennett and Bailey schools will unite and hold their Christmas exercise together at Bailey church Friday evening at seven thirty.

75 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo December 17, 1936

J. M. Hutchinson, who came to Lowell twenty-three years ago to become editor and publisher of The Lowell Journal, last Friday sold his business and printing plant

and equipment to R. G. Jefferies, publisher of The Lowell Ledger. Mr. Hutchinson reached his decision to sell the Journal in order to be freed from the duties and cares of newspaper work. His many friends join in wishing him well-merited rest and many years of good health.

Thanks to the magazine salesmen in the high school, to the generosity of the class of 1919 and to the goodness of the Board of Education, the Lowell schools will have the very latest in the way of visual education. A new moving picture projector with sound equipment and microphone has been ordered and will be used for instructional and entertaining purposes.

50 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger December 21, 1961

Headline: Christmas Tree Slow to Gain Popularity Undoubtedly, the Christmas tree, widely popular in Germany, was brought to this country by Hessian soldiers in the American Revolution. They decorated their Trenton, N.J., winter quarters with Christmas trees, but the custom was slow in taking hold in this country. August Imgard of Wooster, Ohio, trimmed a small spruce for his nieces and nephews in 1847. Friends followed suite the next year, but the practice was for many years considered "pagan". As late as 1851, a Cleveland, Ohio, minister almost lost his pulpit because he set up a tree in his church.

25 Years Ago The Grand Valley Ledger December 24, 1986

Headline: Major grant is awarded to historic Fallsburg Pioneer Village On December 1, the Board of Trustees of the Grand Rapids Foundation approved a grant of \$10,000 to help buy three historic properties in Fallsburg Pioneer Village. This grant is contingent upon the remainder of the money coming from other sources. On December 18, the Steelcase Foundation awarded a \$12,500 Challenge Grant, contingent upon \$25,000 (2 for 1) being raised from other sources. The village of Fallsburg is three miles north of Lowell on Covered Bridge Drive, up the hill from the old covered bridge and Fallsburg Park.

Several properties within the village are presently being offered for sale. The most important for the development of the project are the Stagecoach Inn and J.W. Fallas' home, both built about 1840, plus the boarding house with outbuildings of a stagecoach house and stables, blacksmith shop and harness shop.

the ledger Visit us online at... www.thelowelledger.com

Email Us! ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

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.

# Suite of services available in Spanish health

Good news for tens of millions of Spanish-speaking Americans. For years, Social Security has been at the forefront of providing online services for Americans, and we've provided a wealth of information in Spanish. Now, you can do even more with the expanded suite of services offered in Spanish at [www.seguro-social.gov](http://www.seguro-social.gov).

The most exciting enhancement: you can now apply online for both Social Security retirement benefits and Medicare in Spanish! The online Spanish re-

retirement application takes as little as 15 minutes. Once you complete the online application and "sign" it with the click of a mouse, your application is complete. In most cases there are no documents to submit or additional paperwork to fill out.

In addition, you can also go to [www.seguro-social.gov](http://www.seguro-social.gov) to apply for Medicare. The Medicare application can also be completed in as little as 10 minutes, from start to finish. Applying for benefits isn't the only thing you can do. You can get a lot of in-

# health



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

## Celiac disease

Celiac disease is a common digestive disease. It is also known as celiac sprue, gluten-sensitive enteropathy or nontropical sprue. In individuals with celiac, gluten (a protein in wheat, barley and rye) damages the small intestine and results in difficulty absorbing nutrients from food. The cause of celiac is unknown, but environmental, immunological and genetic factors all contribute. Several auto-antibodies are found in the blood of patients with celiac. There is also a genetic component to celiac. Almost all people who have celiac have a particular gene. When people with celiac eat certain foods or products containing gluten, their immune systems respond by damaging or destroying villi. Without healthy villi, people become malnourished no matter what they eat.

Because of the diverse symptoms of celiac, diagnosis is often delayed and many individuals are never diagnosed. Standard diagnosis of celiac begins with blood testing and is confirmed with small intestinal biopsy.

The only treatment for patients with celiac is avoiding foods containing or made from wheat, barley and rye for the rest of their lives. Eating even a small amount of gluten can damage the small intestine. In children, the small intestine usually heals within a few months, but it may take years for it to heal in adults. Oats are generally safe to eat. Rice, potato soy and buckwheat are also safe to eat. It is important for people with celiac to read product labels because gluten is used as an additive in some medications, lipstick, vitamins, and even Play-Doh.

Symptoms of celiac include abdominal bloating or pain, chronic diarrhea, vomiting, constipation and weight loss. Adults with celiac are more likely to have unexplained anemia, fatigue, bone or joint pain, arthritis, bone loss or osteoporosis, depression or anxiety, tingling or numbness in the hands and feet, or an itchy rash.

Vonda VanTil is the public affairs specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp St NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525 or via email at [vonda.vantil@ssa.gov](mailto:vonda.vantil@ssa.gov)

## LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING

FILE NO. 11-191093-DD

In the matter of JAYCE BEVIER.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including: LEE ANN BEVIER whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on January 25, 2012

at 8:45 a.m. at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: on the petition of Emily Pierce for the appointment of a guardian for Jayce Bevier.

12/19/2011

John D. Flynn (P27413) 1275 Hawthorne Hills SE Ada, MI 49301 616-897-6632

Emily Pierce 121 Franklin SE Grand Rapids, MI 49507 616-248-1335

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# Elementary school student council runs successful food drive

The Murray Lake Elementary (MLE) student council started their food drive for Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) shortly after Thanksgiving. Each day, the students



Murray Lake student councilmembers pictured, left to right: Regan Coxon, Ethan Furtaw, Regan Zimmerman, Morgan Cremer, Mike VandenHout, and Ally Pawloski.

## Volunteer of the month



Beth VanderMeulen was named Murray Lake's Volunteer of the Month for November. VanderMeulen spends countless hours each week helping in both of her son's classrooms as well as around the rest of the school. VanderMeulen is pictured with her sons, Peter and Brayden.

## Buying new electronics this season? Don't trash the old ones!

Electronics are once again dominating holiday shopping lists this season. In fact, analysts with the Consumer Electronics Association predict shoppers will spend six percent more on electronics this year compared to last - or about \$250 per consumer. And for every new laptop, tablet, phone, TV, gaming system and scores of other gadgets, an outdated device likely will be replaced. For those old electronics, the question is, "Now what?"

First off, do not throw replaced electronics in the trash. Electronic devices are comprised of a range of toxic components that can be harmful to human health and the environment if discarded in the same waste stream as the rest of your household garbage. Trashed electronics, or "e-waste," contain heavy metals such as lead, mercury and cadmium, which can leach out of landfills and into groundwater or nearby waterways. The good news is that there are several alternatives for disposing of your e-waste, including reuse and recycling.

One ideal method that is in keeping with the holiday spirit is to find a local community electronics recycling fund-raiser to properly dispose of your outdated electronics while helping to raise funds for a local organization. With the current economic climate most nonprofits, schools and other organizations are experiencing harder times. Not only will recycling benefit an organization in need, but the environment as well by diverting the e-waste from the landfill. Visit [www.simsrecycling.com/events](http://www.simsrecycling.com/events) or contact your favorite nonprofit or other charitable organization to find an event near you.

Another option is to look into electronics take-back programs. Many electronics retailers, like Best Buy or Staples, will accept your e-waste for free or a small handling fee, regardless of brand or condition. Several manufacturers, too, will take back retired products, although these take-back programs vary in terms of fees and conditions. A quick internet search of your local electronics retailer or manufacturers' recycling policy will provide instructions for their take-back process.

Many cities' waste management divisions also have electronics recycling programs, though opportunities differ in size and scope. Some municipalities have designated e-waste collection sites, while others might host periodic events to collect e-waste. Typically municipalities contract with third-party e-waste recyclers that process the collected material on behalf of the city. Check your city's website to learn about opportunities to drop off your e-waste or have it collected. Finally, consumers should look to see if e-waste recycling companies, such as those that contract with cities, have a facility nearby. These companies usually contract with organizations and businesses to handle large volumes of e-waste, but many welcome materials directly from individuals. Depending on the company, some accept electronics at their local facility at any time, some have designated days for public drop-off and others host periodic collection events with local partners.

Unfortunately, however, there are some bad seeds in the e-waste recycling industry. Individuals, municipalities and businesses should take several important steps before selecting a recycler, thereby ensuring their e-waste is properly managed. For example, make sure the recycler is either Responsible Recycler (R2) or e-Stewards certified, which is one indicator that the recycler is adhering to environmental best practices. Also, even if you think your electronic device has been cleared of personal data, be sure the recycler offers data destruction compliant with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to make certain all data is wiped clean.

Lastly, ask with whom a recycler does business. Some recyclers don't actually handle the recycling of equipment and only collect the material for recycling. Not knowing exactly where your electronics are being recycled could put you - and the environment - at risk. The best recyclers are those that "own the lifecycle," offering a complete range of remarketing and recycling services internally, thereby eliminating reliance on subcontractors, and thus improving accountability and security.

This holiday season when you are making room for your new electronic devices, remember there are plenty of homes for your old ones, but the garbage is not one of them.

# area churches

**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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**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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[www.goodshepherdlowell.org](http://www.goodshepherdlowell.org)  
Saturday Eve Service.....5:00 P.M.  
Worship Service.....Sunday - 10:00 A.M.  
(Nursery available)  
Joseph Fremier, Pastor 897-8307  
All facilities are wheelchair accessible

**CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
897-7060  
Pastor Rod Galindo  
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  
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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.  
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2275 West Main Street • 897-7168  
Internet: <http://www.fbcloowell.org>  
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Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.  
Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M.  
AWANA/EXCITE TEENS.....Wed. 6:15 P.M.  
Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times  
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**SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell  
Pastor Dr. Mike Coaklin  
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10:30 A.M. .... Fellowship  
11:00 A.M. .... Worship  
897-9863  
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[www.lowellumc.com](http://www.lowellumc.com)  
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Sunday School.....9:30  
Youth Groups ( Jr. & Sr. High).....6:00  
Wednesdays  
After School Kids' Club.....UNTIL 5:30  
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**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
402 Amity St. • 897-9820  
[www.stmary-lowell.com](http://www.stmary-lowell.com)  
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Saturday confessions: 4-4:45 PM  
Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:00 AM - 8 PM  
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## The best way to cheer yourself is to try to cheer someone else up.

~ Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

happy birthday!

- DECEMBER 21**  
Al Smith, Brooke Page, Zachary Tykocki, Debbie Walendzik, Eric Koeppel.
- DECEMBER 22**  
Jason Seeley, Cody Soyka.
- DECEMBER 23**  
Norma Stevens, Marie Doyle.
- DECEMBER 24**  
Jeffrey Pfaller.
- DECEMBER 25**  
Scott Shindorf, Chris Woolfenden, Chris Treglia, Jeni Clouser, Peggy Hayes, Star Daverman.
- DECEMBER 26**  
Margaret Gasper, Shay Hacker, Stephanie Peel, Butch Landman, Kaitlyn Callihan.
- DECEMBER 27**  
Mark Nyp, Jay Clark.

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## Thank You

The family of Inga Weeks wishes to extend their gratitude for the many acts of kindness provided throughout the past few years and since her recent passing.

We thank Reverend Dean Bailey for his heartwarming eulogy, our soloist Sylvia Taylor for the beautiful music, the Rockford Chapter #215 Order of the Eastern Star for their moving tribute and the Gerst Family at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home for their kindness and attention to detail.

Our thanks to the Lowell Township Hall for providing the perfect setting for Bif and her crew at Backwater to cater the delicious luncheon after the funeral. Also, our neighbors at Murray Lake - Mike and Gladys Little, Don and June Dilly and Chris and Peggy Kropf - your thoughtfulness over the years will never be forgotten. To Faith Hospice and Visiting Nurses for added encouragement as well as continued emotional support.

A special thank you to Dr. James Lang, his colleagues and the entire staff at Lowell Family Medical Center, for their compassion, flexibility and loving care.

*We truly appreciate each and every one of you. Having your support has made this journey less stressful.*

Bruce Weeks  
Barb & Ray Zandstra  
Kim, Mike and Jordan Harding  
Ryan, Chayo, Brayden, Gavin and Jacob Gould

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ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LOWELL

# Celebrating the season with dance



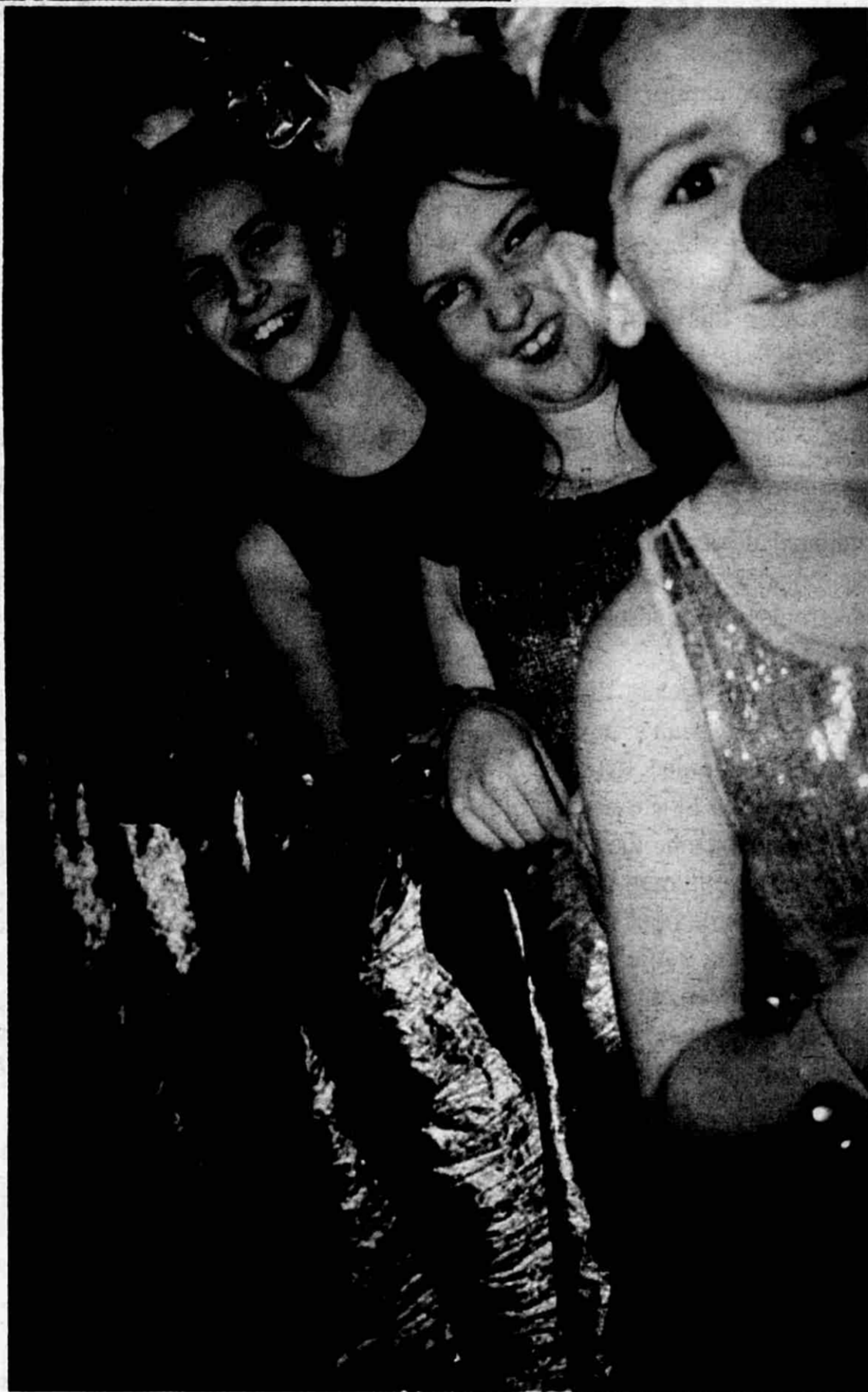
Front row, left to right: Alexia Rudegear, Catherine Reed, Olivia Staley and Julia Wilterink; second row: Lauren Pearson, Leah Davidson, Emma Pearson, Emma Hollern and Kari Gerard; third row: Fountainview of Lowell residents; back row; Grace Ostrander and Mica Gladding.

Residents of Fountainview of Lowell were treated to a dance performance by Celebrate Dance Studio dancers of Lowell last month.

The dancers performed special class dances, as well as a parade including a marching band, floating balloon animals along with a celebration of the Olympic spirit complete with torch runner and the Olympic rings. The parade concluded with Santa and his reindeer. The artistic director for the group is Lori Teft.



Catherine Reed



From front to back, (Rudolph) Emma Hollern, Emma Pearson, Grace Ostrander, and Leah Davidson.

**MPA** What do all those public notices cost us? Can't they just be posted on a Web site?

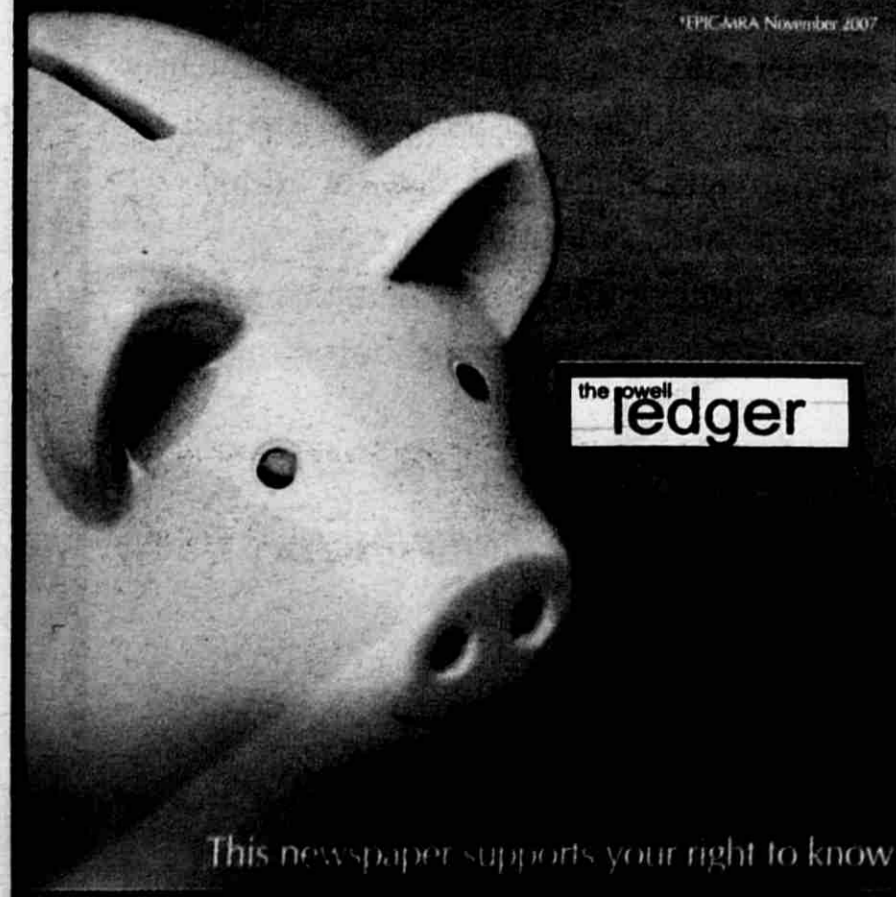
State law requires that citizens be informed of certain governmental activity through paid public notices like the ones in this newspaper.

It's one way to make government accountable to the people.

More than two-thirds of active Michigan voters\* would be concerned if government placed these notices on Web sites because important information could be concealed from the public.

So, what's it worth to you to be able to pick up this newspaper and find out what's going on in your town, your county, or your local schools?

\*IPCA/AMA November 2007



This newspaper supports your right to know

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~ Agnes de Mille

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# Flat River Outreach Ministries breaks ground on new donation room

Flat River Outreach Ministries broke ground on December 16, 2011, for an addition to their building at 11535 Fulton Street East. "The new donation room will provide a secure drop off location for the community and facilitate easier processing of donated items," said Tamela Spicer, executive director at FROM.

According to Spicer, volunteers walk the length of a football field from the current donation room on the southwest corner of the building to the thrift shop showroom and sorting areas. The new donation room will minimize that travel down to just a few steps and provide a larger drop off area and sorting room. Construction on the 600 square foot addition to the northwest corner of the FROM facility is expected to take approximately six weeks according to Greg Halonen, construction services manager for Facilities Resource Group.

"This addition is possible because of the generous support to the River of Hope Capital Campaign," said Ann Dimmick, board chair of FROM, "we are thankful for the donors and

volunteers that make this all possible."

The FROM Thrift Shop is staffed and managed by volunteers, with every dollar raised going directly to help people in the greater Lowell community. "Revenue from the thrift shop accounts for nearly 43 percent of our annual budget," Dimmick said. "Not only do we need the donation of those gently used items, but we encourage everyone to come in and shop to help support the continued ministry of FROM."

The FROM Thrift Shop is open Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm, Thursdays from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and Saturdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Donations of gently used and new items are sold to help fund the ministry. FROM also provides thrift shop vouchers to families facing hardship and in need of clothing or household items.

Flat River Outreach Ministries is a nonprofit organization whose mission is serving the people of Lowell in their time of hardship. You can find more information at [www.fromlowell.org](http://www.fromlowell.org)



Pictured, left to right: Roger LaWarre, Tamela Spicer, Ann Dimmick, Marilyn Lambson and Greg Halonen.

**FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES**

[www.fromlowell.org](http://www.fromlowell.org)

The entire staff at FROM wants to wish you and your loved ones a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with love, laughter and peace!

Thanks to all of our faithful shoppers in the Thrift Shop, Boutique and Furniture Store and to all of you who have donated to us in the form of gently-used merchandise or cash.

(Watch for the big, store-wide sale after Christmas!)

Without you we couldn't do what we do in the community!

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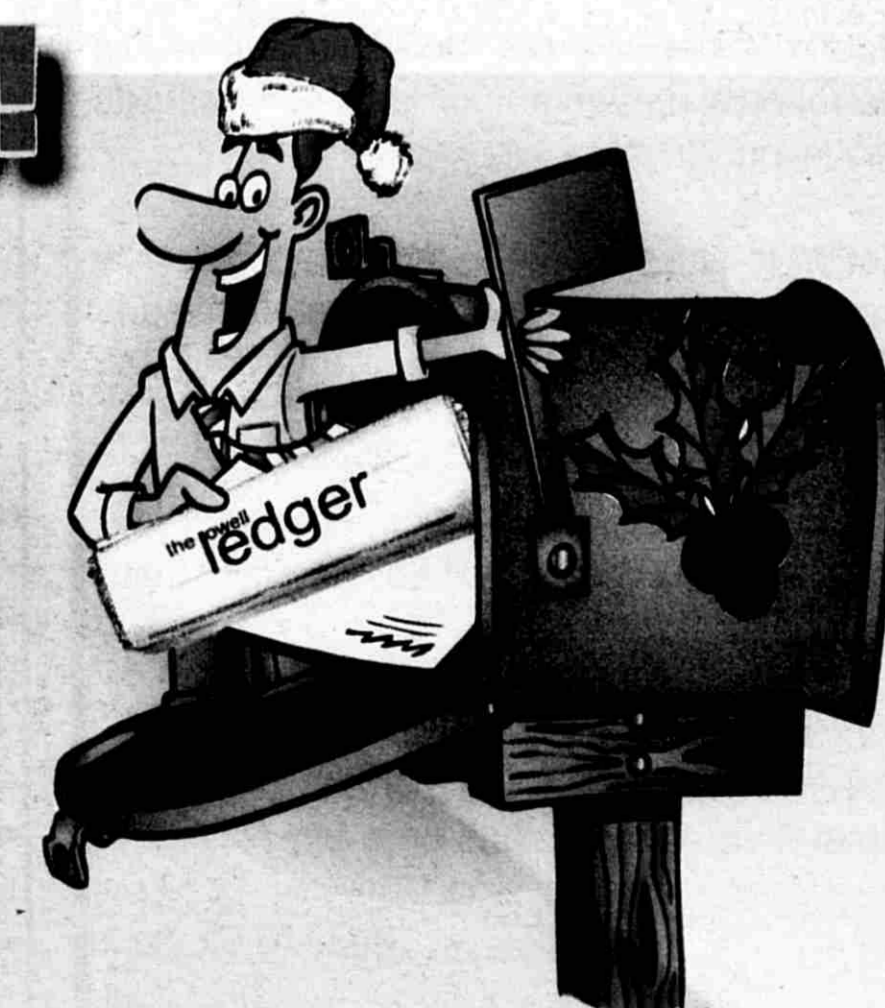
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# Red Arrow SPORTS

## Lowell-Caledonia hockey heads into 2012 with one loss, eight wins

by Casey Cheney

Going 3-0 in their last week of 2011, the Lowell-Caledonia varsity hockey team looks ahead with an 8-1 record.

"It was a really good week for the Lowell-Caledonia varsity hockey team," coach Tim Beurer said. "We finished the week with three wins to finish out the 2011 year with an 8-1 record in our first nine games."

The team's first opponent was the Kalamazoo Blades at Wings Stadium Arena on Wednesday, Dec. 14. "It was a one-sided game in our favor on this day," Beurer said.

Lowell-Caledonia (L-C) jumped out to an early 3-0 lead in the first period with goals by Caledonia senior Cam Steger, Lowell junior Collin Finkhouse, and Caledonia senior Kyle Jansens. They were assisted by Lowell senior Braden McGillicuddy, Finkhouse, Caledonia junior Jake Rossman, and Steger.

Each of these goals were scored on power plays as Blades' players consistently occupied the penalty box.

The second period started right where the first period had ended. The first two goals of the period were scored shorthanded by Lowell senior Andrew Light and Finkhouse.

The Blades managed to get two quick goals in a span of approximately 15 seconds.

Beurer said, "At that point, the team managed to focus again on their task and secure a victory. We scored three more goals before the end of the period while playing even strength."

These goals were scored by Caledonia junior Jake Roetman, Finkhouse, Caledonia senior Justin Pinto, with assists to Rossman and Caledonia junior Eric Balut.

At the end of two peri-

ods, Lowell-Caledonia held an 8-2 lead.

"The message in between periods was simple," Beurer said. "We just needed to keep doing what we were doing and stay out of the penalty box and we would be able to get out of this game early."

The third period started with a quick L-C goal by Caledonia senior Tage Green, assisted by Caledonia junior Bailey Rietman and Pinto.

The team clamped down on the defense to ensure the Blades would not get another opportunity to score.

At the 8:37 mark of the third period, Finkhouse found the back of the net to end the game under the mercy rule for Lowell-Caledonia. L-C had a total of 44 shots on goal and won the game 10-2.

Next, L-C played in the annual Waterford-Kettering

holiday tournament. They started the tournament playing the host team on Friday night at the Lakeland Arena in Waterford.

Beurer said, "This tournament is always a good measuring stick for our team when compared to some of the competition on the east side of the state."

The game started out tight with both teams coming out strong and getting chances on each goaltender. L-C scored first on an even strength goal by Rietman and an assist by Green.

Kettering scored about one minute later to tie the score. The first period ended at a 1-1 deadlock.

"During the intermission, I told our team to wake up and start skating out there," Beurer said. "I felt they were being too complacent and needed to pick it up a little. They answered my challenge and started

the second period with a lot more energy."

L-C's first of two goals in the period was scored by Steger with an assist by Rossman. Kettering got into some penalty trouble in the period, providing for many opportunities for L-C to increase their lead. They capitalized on such an opportunity about half way through the period. Rossman found the back of the net after a pass by Light. L-C ended the period with a 3-1 lead.

Lowell-Caledonia continued to play tough defensively in the third period and not give the opponents any good opportunities to score. They padded their lead with goals by Caledonia junior Trevor McCoy and Light.

Goalie and Caledonia junior Ben Smith put on a strong performance in this game by turning away 21 of 22 shots on goal.

This put L-C in the championship game against Milford Saturday night.

"The second game of the tournament found L-C facing a tough Milford team, who won the night before 5-2 against Reeths Puffer," Beurer said. "They were a strong and physical team and would be a good test for our team."

Once again, L-C got on the scoreboard first with an unassisted goal by Finkhouse in the first minute of the game.

Beurer said, "I believe that goal eased a little of the pressure for the team and got us in a good rhythm to start the game."

But Milford evened the game at 1-1 with just over two minutes left in the first period. L-C couldn't respond before the period ended.

"We were playing well. However, I challenged the team to play better in the second and continue to move the puck around," Beurer said. "If we could start getting their goalie to play side to side, we would start getting better scoring opportunities."

The team got the message and started out the second period moving the puck around in the offensive zone. Light scored twice in this period with assists by Rietman and Caledonia senior Colin Echelbarger and Rossman respectively. L-C scored twice more on pow-

er play advantages. McCoy scored the first power play goal with assists by Jansens and Finkhouse. Green scored the second with just 33 seconds left in the period. Rossman had the assist.

Lowell-Caledonia led Milford 5-1 at the end of the second period.

The third period started out with a quick penalty against Milford. L-C capitalized once again on the opportunity, Finkhouse scoring with Jansens assisting.

Echelbarger scored with assists by Balut and Caledonia freshman Josh Dillon. And, finally, L-C managed to get one more goal in this period on the stick of McCoy with an assist to Finkhouse.

Beurer said, "At this point, we had a good lead and just needed to finish out the game. Unfortunately, we found ourselves in some penalty trouble in the third period forcing us to play shorthanded."

Lowell managed to get the next three goals of the period.

"We found ourselves trying to do too much and gave them some opportunities which resulted in goals for them," Beurer said. "After the third Milford goal of the period, we called a timeout so I could talk to the team again. I told them to relax and get back to playing our game. We needed to be committed to playing defense first and everyone had to remember their defensive responsibilities."

The team buckled down and starting playing well in their defensive zone, allowing only one more Milford goal.

Lowell-Caledonia secured the tournament victory with a final score of 8-5. Beurer concluded, "One significant reason for our wins was our power play. Both power play units were responsible for scoring almost half of our goals during this stretch of games. At this point in the season I could not be happier with where we are."

Lowell-Caledonia is 8-1: Of their 15 games remaining, ten are conference games. They play next on Friday, Jan. 6 at the Kentwood Ice Arena at 8:30 p.m.

# Red Arrow SPORTS

## BASKETBALL

## Girls' basketball takes losses against Forest Hills Central, Grand Rapids Christian

by Casey Cheney

Take the two losses suffered by the boys' basketball team last week, repeat them and you've got the results for the Red Arrow girls' team.

Lowell faced the undefeated Forest Hills Central on Tuesday. The game

looked to be within reach after the first quarter, the Rangers with only a 16-9 lead over the Red Arrows. However, that was the most points Lowell could sneak past Forest Hills in one quarter.

They were held to eight

points in the second quarter – making it 28-17 going into halftime – three points in the third quarter and a single point in the fourth.

The Red Arrows ended up losing that one 59-21.

Aubreigh Steed led her teammates with nine points.

Behind her was Amber Martin with five points, including a three-pointer.

Lowell's game against Grand Rapids Christian looked like it might take the same route. The Red Arrows got off to a slow start with only seven points by half-

time, compared to the Eagles' 21.

The girls were able to get their offense going in the second half, however, scoring 10 points to Christian's 12. The Eagles led 33-17.

Lowell mounted a comeback in the fourth, out-

scoring Christian by five, but the surge fell short. The Red Arrows lost 44-33.

Martin led the Lowell scorers with 12 points, including another three-pointer and five-for-six shooting from the charity stripe.

## G.R. Christian crushes Lowell 92-61 in home defeat

by Casey Cheney

Coming off a narrow loss to Forest Hills Central earlier in the week, the Lowell Red Arrow boys' basketball team lost big to the Grand Rapids Christian Eagles on Friday.

Lowell went into the game Friday looking for their first win, but it was not to be had.

Though the Eagles' main offensive threat, Drake Harris, finished with only six points, 13 of his teammates stepped up, racking up points uncommon to high school basketball. Christian's 11 three-pointers certainly didn't hurt them.

The Eagles (2-1) out-scored Lowell every quarter, though only by two points in the fourth quarter.

Blake Lyman led all scorers with 20 points.

The Red Arrows lost a nail-biter on Tuesday to

Forest Hills Central (2-1) in a 45-42 defensive struggle. Lowell held a six-point lead at halftime, which the Rangers whittled down to a single point at the start of the fourth.

Marquef Mondy led the Rangers with 14 points, his height and ball-handling making him tough to guard. Mondy struggled to finish in traffic and his 50 percent free throw percentage justified the fouls.

Early in the fourth, Mondy snagged a defensive rebound – the Rangers held a one-point lead – and took the ball coast-to-coast, looking to cap off the play with a slam dunk finish.

The home crowd exploded as Mondy not only missed the dunk but was sent back on defense after being called for a charge.

The Rangers extended

their lead to 40-36, effectively shutting down Lowell's offense. Then, Mondy missed a chip shot off the backdoor ally-ooop, paving the way for a transition bucket for Lowell.

Another quick score tied the game at 40.

Forest Hills went one-for-two on the bonus free throws and Jason Malling connected with Lyman to put Lowell back on top, 42-41.

A.J. Sharkey drained a three-pointer from the top of the key to return the lead to the Rangers, 44-42.

Once again, Forest Hills made only one of two shots from the free throw line. They led by three with 37

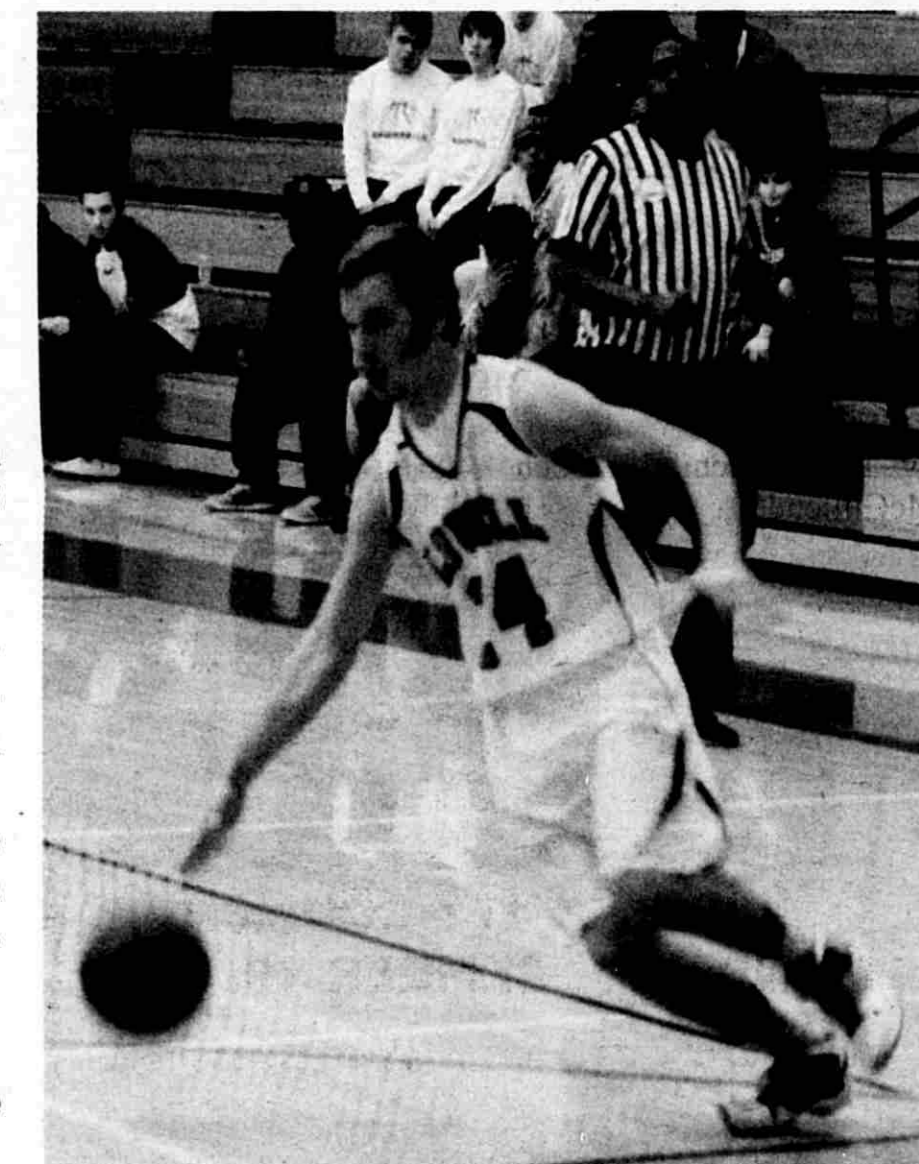
seconds in the game. With 9.8 seconds left, Mondy had a chance to put the game out of reach, but missed both free throws.

Malling tossed up a three-pointer as the buzzer sounded, surrounded by Rangers, but the shot missed.

The Rangers finished the game shooting only 65 percent from the free throw line.

Lowell's Kyle Rogers lead all scorers with 16 points. Lyman had 12 and Alec Roerig had 10.

The Red Arrows are now 0-3. Their next game is Jan. 3 at home against Forest Hills Northern.



Blake Lyman drives to the hole against the Rangers' defense.



Lowell's coach Kyle Carhart pumps up the bench in the narrow loss to the Rangers.



Jason Malling dribbles up the court in Tuesday's tough loss to the Forest Hills Central Rangers.

### DRAFT SYNOPSIS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2011

Motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion to approve the regular minutes of the December 5, 2011 meeting as presented.

Motion to approve the accounts payables as presented.

Motion to approve the variances as requested from King Milling Company for new buildings located at 139 South Broadway.

Motion to approve the resolution authorizing the renewal agreement for legal services with Dickinson Wright.

Motion to strike the 2006 delinquent personal property taxes owed to the City amounting to \$154.78 of Faros Pizza, Lowell Auto Body and Goldworks.

Motion to adjourn at 8:26 p.m. The next regular scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, January 3, 2012.

Complete minutes will be available after approved on January 3, 2012 on the City's web site at [www.ci.lowell.mi.us](http://www.ci.lowell.mi.us) or at City Hall.

Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk



### PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

B	R	A	S	H	U	M	P	S	P	A	S		
R	O	G	U	E	G	A	R	S	C	U	B	A	
A	M	E	E	R	L	E	I	L	A	T	E	X	
G	A	D	D	A	F	I	S	H	U	T	T	L	E
				E	L	L	E	M	I	R			
J	O	N	D	U	A	L	S	P	R	I	N	G	
A	V	O	N	K	N	E	W	S	E	T	I	N	
P	O	P	E	E	D	G	E	R	M	E	S	A	
A	L	A	R	M	Y	A	R	E	S	M	E	W	
N	O	R	D	I	C	N	E	C	K	S	I	N	
				S	U	I	T	T	I	C			
P	A	C	K	E	R	S	W	I	L	L	I	A	M
O	C	H	E	R	S	E	E	T	O	N	G	A	
S	H	I	N	Y	U	S	E	E	S	S	A	Y	
T	E	N	T	E	S	P	R	E	T	R	O		

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



### State police report increase in traffic fatalities

The Michigan State Police (MSP) confirmed today that preliminary reports indicate eight people lost their lives in eight separate traffic crashes during the 2011 Lifesaver holiday weekend.

In comparison, five people died in five traffic crashes during the 2010 Lifesaver holiday weekend.

Alcohol was not a known factor in any of the fatal crashes, but three of the eight victims were known to have not used restraints.

"These numbers are preliminary and only reflect those fatalities reported to the MSP as of 11:30 am today," stated Capt. Kari Kusmierz, commander of the MSP Training Division. "While the preliminary numbers show an increase

in fatalities from this same holiday period last year, law enforcement agencies throughout the state remain devoted to the task of preventing these tragedies and continue to strive toward making Michigan a safer place to travel."

The 2011 Lifesaver holiday weekend ran from 6 pm on Friday, Dec. 16, 2011, through midnight on Sunday, Dec. 18, 2011.

### THIS WEEK'S LEDGER POLL QUESTION

If you had to cast your vote for president today, for whom would you vote?

- Newt Gingrich
- Mitt Romney
- Barack Obama
- Ron Paul
- Michelle Bachman
- None of the above

GO TO:  
thelowelledger.com  
and vote!



DECEMBER 14 - DECEMBER 20

- South Korea put its military on alert after North Korean leader Kim Jong Il dies at the age of 69 of a heart attack. U.S. diplomat calls the peninsula a tinderbox.

- House of Representatives are expected to vote Monday night on payroll tax holiday. The \$33 billion bill will extend payroll tax cuts for 160 million, extend unemployment benefits and delay pay cut to Medicare physicians for another two months.

- Saab Auto files for bankruptcy on Monday, giving up a desperate struggle to stay in business after previous owner General Motors blocked takeover attempts by Chinese investors.

- The last American troops cross the border from Iraq into Kuwait early Sunday, ending the U.S. military presence there after nearly nine years. As the convoy left Iraq at daybreak Sunday, soldiers whooped, bumped fists and embraced each other in a burst of joy and relief, the Associated Press reports.

- Former Czech president, Vaclav Havel, dies at 75. The dissident playwright led the 1989 Velvet Revolution that peacefully toppled communism in the former Czechoslovakia.

in aluminum cans and other scrap metal (copper, steel, etc.) for cash. Yet another way to recycle and make some cash is to sell your old stuff in a yard sale. Likewise, shopping at yard sales and second-hand stores will also prevent the manufacture of new items altogether.

And there are many benefits to recycling beyond each household's own bottom line. Recycling saves resources. By recycling paper we save oxygen-providing, carbon-sequestering trees from the axe. By recycling plastic, we save petroleum, contributing (however slightly) to national security. By recycling metals, we take a bite out of energy-intensive mining. And recycling anything saves large amounts of energy and water that would otherwise be expended in making new goods from virgin materials. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) adds that recycling "protects and expands U.S. manufacturing jobs and increases U.S. competitiveness."

Yet another benefit of recycling is reducing the amount of waste we send to overcrowded landfills and polluting incinerators. At the other end of the consumer loop, buying products made out of recycled rather than virgin materials is another way to save money, as they are often less costly and just as good quality.

Beyond recycling, reducing our consumption of goods that are heavily packaged (often with materials not recyclable themselves) is another important part of any effort to spare bulging landfills and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. And the re-use of materials that would otherwise end up in landfills is yet another way to conserve resources. It's not difficult to think of many ways that used boxes, packaging, paper and plastic bags can be re-purposed to extend their usefulness and spare the garbage (or recycling) man. Also, composting food scraps — either at home or as part of a community effort—helps reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills and incinerators.

With world population still growing and developing countries now fully embracing an American-style consumer culture, recycling and other waste reduction techniques take on an increasingly important role in efforts to protect the environment. Indeed, there's no time like the present to step up reducing, re-using, recycling and composting. To find out where to recycle just about anything near you, visit the Earth911 website, where you can search by entering your zip code along with the item you're looking to unload.

CONTACTS: EPA, www.epa.gov/osw/conserve/trr/recycle.htm; Earth911, www.Earth911.com.

### THEME: 2011 in Review

- ACROSS**
1. Presumptuously daring
  6. He has final say at the plate
  9. Where to get pampered, pl.
  13. Scoundrel
  14. Needlefish
  15. Diver's lung
  16. Independent African ruler
  17. Big Island necklace
  18. Type of paint
  19. \*Deposed despot
  21. \*Atlantis was the last one
  23. Right-angle building extension
  24. Another spelling for #16 Across
  25. \_\_\_ Bon Jovi
  28. Like Jekyll and Hyde's personality
  30. \*Arab \_\_\_
  35. Stratfor-up-on-\_\_\_, Shakespeare's birthplace
  37. "The Man Who \_\_\_ Too Much"
  39. Become established
  40. Holy Father
  41. It cuts edge of yard
  43. \_\_\_ Verde National Park
  44. A rooster to farmers?
  46. Ready and eager
  47. Eurasian duck
  48. Scandinavian, e.g.

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					
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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				

PRESENTED BY



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- DOWN**
26. Convex molding
  27. With no face value
  29. \*Retired from "60 Minutes"
  31. Roentgen Equivalent Man, pl.
  32. Particulars
  33. One born to Japanese immigrants
  34. Chewed on
  36. Smart but awkward
  38. "The Way We \_\_\_"
  42. Straight muscles
  45. It loves company
  49. Mixed breed puppy
  51. Out of \_\_\_
  54. October's "Time," e.g.
  56. Bring to an end
  57. Well-mannered Emily
  58. Heart feeling
  59. Body part that can double
  60. Superman's last name
  61. "Read'em and \_\_\_"
  62. In or of the present month
  63. Petri dish gel
  64. \_\_\_ Clinic
  67. Female suffix

### SUDOKU



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

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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.



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.

Lowell needs to post a speed limit on Riverside Drive. Too many people treat it as their personal drag strip. Speed bumps would be the best solution.

### THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL RESULTS

Do you have your Christmas shopping done?

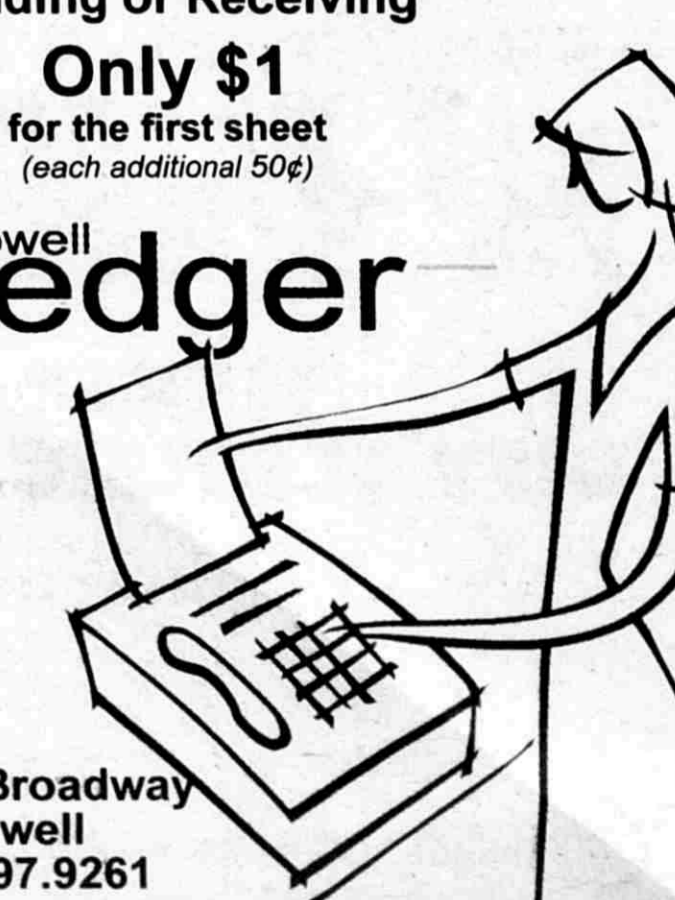
- YES ..... 60%
- NO ..... 40%
- I don't celebrate the holiday ..... 0%
- I wait till Christmas Eve ..... 0%

### NEED TO SEND A FAX?

We CAN HELP! Sending or Receiving

Only \$1 for the first sheet (each additional 50¢)

the powell ledger



105 N. Broadway Lowell 616.897.9261

### DOES YOUR DENTIST MAKE YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE?



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

That's why I want you to be comfortable.

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

I've been serving families like yours since 1991.

Aren't you ready for a better dental experience?

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



# Byrne named Staff Member of the Month

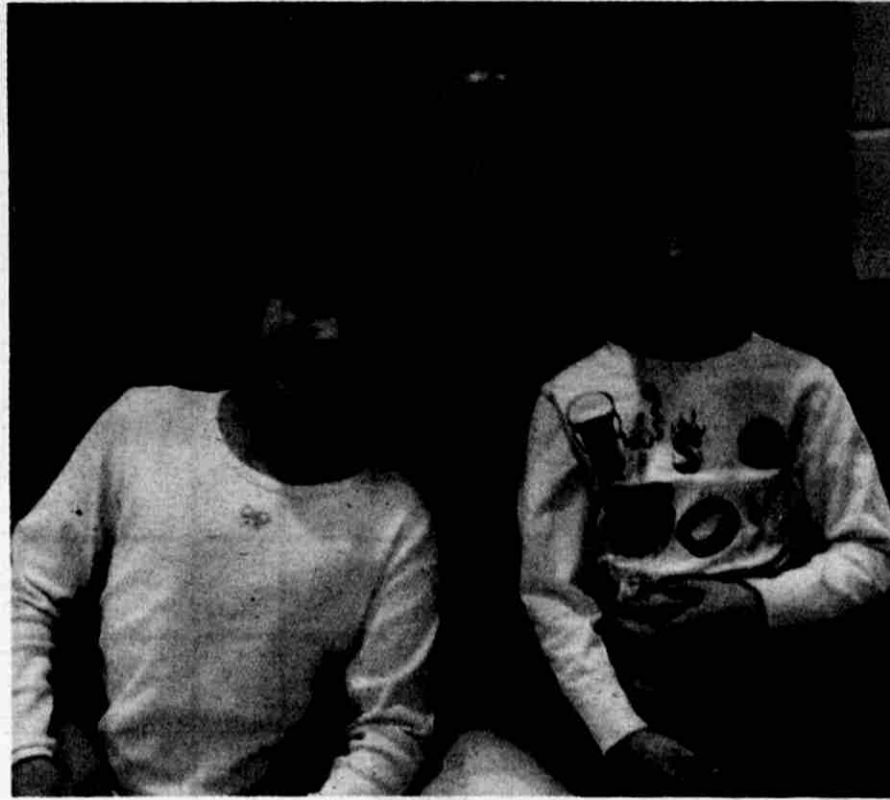
Kindergarten teacher Karla Byrne was named Staff Member of the Month at Murray Lake Elementary School. Byrne was nominated by several fellow staff members.

"It has been fun working with Karla this year. She is great with the kids and has been so patient and helpful in the library," commented Murray Lake librarian, Patti Harreld.

Byrne and her hus-

band Christopher grew up in Lowell and are thrilled that their own children are able to attend Lowell Schools as well. They have three children (Kaylee, Colton and Cooper), two of which attend Murray Lake.

"I've been teaching kindergarten in Lowell for 14 years. I absolutely love teaching these young learners. It's such a treat to get to see the sparkle in their eyes when they read for the very



first time! I feel blessed to be part of such a wonderful staff and community."

When Byrne is not teaching she spends her time with family. She loves cooking, decorating cakes, skiing and being outdoors.

"Karla is an outstanding

teacher. She is always pushing herself to become better. She has had a profound impact on all of the kindergarten students that have had an opportunity to call her their teacher," said Murray Lake principal, Brent Noskey.

Byrne with two of her children, Kaylee and Colton.

\*\*\*

If there were in the world today any large number of people who desired their own happiness more than they desired the unhappiness of others, we could have paradise in a few years.

~ Bertrand Russell (1872 - 1970)

## LAUGH FEST

seriously funny.

MARCH 8-18, 2012

### IT'S NOT TOO LATE! GIVE THE GIFT OF LAUGHTER THIS HOLIDAY!

10 DAYS • OVER 40 VENUES • OVER 60 ARTISTS • OVER 200 FREE AND TICKETED EVENTS



### CLEAN COMEDY SHOWCASES



### GUN LAKE CASINO PRESENTS STAND-UP COMPETITION \$10,000 CASH PRIZE



### BEST OF THE MIDWEST SHOWCASE



### MEIJER PRESENTS THE FAMILY FRIENDLY SERIES



LOWELL PERFORMING  
ARTS CENTER  
MARCH 16  
**PATTI VASQUEZ  
& GREG MORTON**

## TICKET PACKAGES AND GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE NOW!

Go online or call to purchase ticket packages at:  
**laughfestgr.org 616.735.HAHA(4242)**

All proceeds will benefit the cancer, grief and support programs offered through Gilda's Club Grand Rapids.

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



## SEASON'S GREETINGS Holiday Hours

### Week of Dec. 19

Mon. - Thurs. 8-5 p.m.  
Closed Fri., Dec. 23  
Deadline for the 12/25 Buyers Guide is 5 p.m. Wed., Dec. 21.  
Deadline for the 12/28 Lowell Ledger is 5 p.m., Thurs., Dec. 22.

### Week of Dec. 26

Mon. - Thurs. 8-5 p.m.  
Closed Fri., Dec. 30  
Deadline for the 1/1 Buyers Guide is 5 p.m. Wed., Dec. 28.  
Deadline for the 1/4 Lowell Ledger is 5 p.m., Thurs., Dec. 29.

# Buyers Guide

the lowell ledger

105 N. Broadway  
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