

**the business of backpacking**



page 2



**red arrow sports & winter teams**



starts on page 7

**50 CENTS**



## Increased holiday sales in 2011 raises hope for slow economic recovery

by Emma Palova

It was a perfect positive storm.

That is the 2011 holiday season which brought increased sales along with optimism for the upcoming year among downtown merchants.

People were buying everything from engagement rings, board games, hunting attire to Christmas ornaments.

Mike Sprenger of Springrove Variety attributed the increase in sales to good weather.

"People were just in a very good mood for Christmas," said Sprenger. "It was an encouraging season. We're hoping it continues."

The other Springrove Variety stores across the

United States reported the same response, according to Sprenger.

And the election year 2012 should spark things up.

"People are in a different frame of mind," said Sprenger. "The election year gives hope. People go out and spend money. It will be a good year for the economy."

And shoppers must have been in a playful mood as they were buying board games and miniatures at Rookies Sportcards.

Owner Jack Reedy said the sales were better than in the previous year.

"Things are slowly improving," said Reedy. "We were busy through November and December."

The holiday season also inspired guys from far and near to propose to their loved ones with engagement rings from Chimera Design.

For the fine jewelry store, November was the best month since opening in 2002. Owner Cliff Yankovich sold four engagement rings with more than one karat diamonds to guys from New York, Chicago, Saginaw and Lowell. He had more sales on the day before New Year's Eve than on Christmas Eve.

"It's been getting better every year," he said. "We haven't slowed down."

Julie's custom pieces were also very popular gift items.

Yankovich attributed the successful season to the "shop local" philosophy.

"It's recycled money when you buy local," he said.

At Ella's Coffee, the business on the day of the Christmas parade was so good, that owner Ella St. Germain had to purchase more chairs and tables. People were lining up to get into the coffee shop.

"We were packed during the parade," she said.

"And Christmas through Lowell was crazy."

Based on those factors, St. Germain expects a good year.

At Dovetail Antiques, there were increased sales of hunting attire and gear.

The Lowell Arts reported a 40 percent increase in sales from the holiday "Sleigh Bells and Holly" show.

**Holiday sales, continued, page 3**

## Works in Progress on exhibit now at King Gallery

by Emma Palova

The first stroke of a paint brush, the first word while an impatient cursor is blinking, the first note of the blank score or the first step in a complex choreography, those are the most difficult ones.

Any creative soul can attest that the first steps are the most intimidating because of the unknown outcomes and deciding which path to take to get there.

The show

"Works in Progress" now on display at the Lowell Arts King Gallery through Feb. 5 has been designed to inspire and to ease that fear.

In this exhibit, someone else has already taken that first step to lay the foundation of the future works of art.

"Have you ever experienced the classic artist's block," asked Kacey Cornwell, marketing

director. "Well this show is for you."

The show, as the name indicates, features unfinished paintings from local artists to be completed in various stages by visitors who venture into the Lowell Arts building.

The unique concept of creating paintings progressively by different artists was the brainchild of Lowell High School art teacher Bill Ingraham.

So, the gallery has actually been converted into a studio, complete with ea-

**Works in Progress, continued, page 19**



## The many dividends of Pink Pride

The student-led Lowell Pink Arrow Pride entered its fourth year on Sept. 9, 2011.

It raised \$122,260.06, which will be used as follows: to Gilda's Club of Lowell - \$80,000; to Lowell Community Wellness (family support, classroom grants, community education) - \$37,000; and to student scholarships - \$5,000.

Like it had for three years before, the entire Lowell community came together to make life better for individuals and families whose lives are affected by cancer. Families who have lost or have a surviving loved one, take the opportunity to honor and memorialize them in a special ceremony at Pink Arrow - a reverent and powerful moment.

The Pink Arrow Pride experience not only raised the level of awareness about cancer and its effect on families, but it provided an opportunity for Lowell's student athletes to demonstrate that life is not just about winning competitions. That day

**Pink Arrow Pride, continued, page 3**

## Lowell police offer some home safety tips

by Emma Palova

A chain of recent break-ins has struck the Lowell area. A home invasion occurred on December 19 on Kissing Rock Road in Lowell Township, according to Kent County Sheriff's Department reports.

The reports state that recently arrested Samuel Gonzales and Daniel Shears, for break-ins throughout Kent County, may also have been involved in the Kissing Rock home invasion.

Shears turned himself in at the Kent County Correctional Facility on Jan. 10. He was arraigned in the 63rd District Court, on charges of home invasion second degree and receiving and concealing stolen property, with a \$250,000 cash surety bond.

Gonzales was charged with second degree home invasion and a felony: in possession of a firearm.

In view of the recent break-ins, the Lowell Police Department is offering the following safety tips to prevent home invasion.

Chief Barry Getzen advises to first and foremost lock the doors and windows. "Make sure that it looks like your home is occupied even when you are gone," said Getzen. "If you are going to be away for an extended period of time, make sure you cancel delivery of mail and papers or have someone pick them up daily."

Also, set light timers in various rooms of your home and have them go on and off intermittently. Ensure that the sidewalks and driveways are shoveled or plowed while you are away. If you are gone during the summer, ensure your lawn gets mowed during that time.

Residents living in the city of Lowell can request the police department to do home checks while they are away. They can stop in or call the department. The police department will get information from the residents concerning the length of time away from home and emergency contacts.

Police officers will then check the home from time to time for security and any other obvious problematic issues (broken windows, obvious furnace problems, etc.). For residents who live in the townships, a similar service is available through the Kent County Sheriff's Department. They can request a home check by going to the Sheriff Department webpage on accessKent.com

Residents who stay home should lock their doors and windows. First floor windows should be closed and locked at night. Valuables, such as purses, phones, laptop computers, tablets or cash, should not be left in plain view of windows and doors.

# Backpacker hikes Appalachian Trail twice - plans a thru hike on North Country Trail

by Emma Palova

Gail Lowe always wants to be on the trail holding and kissing little orange

salamanders as the only companions on a lonesome and strenuous hike.

Lowe, 62, walked the

Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine twice and even celebrated her birthdays only with nature's creatures as the parties' guests.

The motivation to walk a 2,200 mile long trail originated in Lowe's health profession and a friend dropping a word about the trail at a camp in Florida. She had never heard about it before.

So, one day, Lowe, a registered nurse asked herself, "What if I were to lose my health tomorrow, what would I have done?"

Immediately a thought popped into her head and stayed there ever since.

"I would have taken a nice long walk," Lowe thought.

When she started preparing

for the first hike in 1988, the almighty Internet wasn't prevalent. So, Lowe did her research in libraries and saved up time to take six months off for the hike. She steadily accumulated gear, guidebooks and determination.

"I didn't want any excuse to fail," she said. "I told myself barring any severe physical injury or death, I am going all the way to Maine."

The outdoors became her church, as she embarked on a spiritual journey through the unknown carrying 45 pounds on her back.

"You have to have a lot of faith in yourself or you're not going to make it," she said.

Only 20 percent of hikers complete the trail hiking at an average elevation of 4,000 feet with the highest peak, Clingmans Dome, reaching 6,643 feet.

The trail is brutal and it has no sympathy for those who dare to walk it. The trail unleashes all its powers to fight the intruders.

"You have blisters, your knees and feet hurt and you

will lose your toenails," Lowe said.

To complete the trail within reasonable time, Lowe walked 12 hours a day.

As she celebrated her 42nd birthday on the trail by herself, Lowe realized there is certain magic on the trail.

"There is this sense of oneness with the nature on the trail," she said. "It's a miracle. You go out of your way not to step on ants."

When her brother picked her up in Maine, Lowe said, "I will never climb another mountain as long as I live."

But, the trail gets pounded into every cell of your body until you do it again.

And Lowe did.

Twenty years later in 2011, Lowe completed her anniversary hike on the Appalachian Trail. The second time around was much harder, due to age and illness. At the halfway point, Lowe had to get off the trail and have a surgery. But, that did not stop her by any means from completing the walk.

The difficulty came with knowledge. Lowe had

nothing more to prove to herself. She already knew the grueling trail.

"I knew what was ahead," she said. "The mystery was gone."

And in many ways, it was a different trail due to rerouting away from water sources to high ridges.

But, the trail also gives lessons, casts a spell on the hiker with its magic.

"It changes you, gives you time for introspection and personal growth," Lowe said.

And yes there is fear on the trail. Lowe was scared several times. First when she got struck by lightning in Shenandoah National Park in Virginia. But vanity prevailed, as she first checked her hair to see if she had an Afro from the lightning.

The second time in Pennsylvania, she spotted a man wrapping a handgun in a dirty shop rag.

"You go into this fight-or-flight thing," she said. "I can still tell you what he looked like. He was up to no good."

Hiker, continued, page 14



Gail Lowe



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# Pink Arrow Pride, continued

allows them to prove that there are more important values of family, kindness, honor and service.

Lowell's mayor Jim Hodges and city council enacted a proclamation and declared September 9, 2011, as the City of Lowell Pink Arrow Pride Day.

Lowell football players presented Pink Arrow lapel pins to the families, allowing the wearer to "carry" the name of their loved one on their shoulders.

While there are many organizations raising money to find a cure for cancer, Pink Arrow Pride is unique in that it is the only organization helping families who are currently fighting this illness.

Cancer is changing the

lives of people in Lowell and the surrounding area. People living with cancer need support – community support – and they are getting it with Pink Arrow Pride.

Along with family support, Pink Arrow maintains student scholarships in honor of Kathy Talus, a former Lowell teacher and coach who lost her battle with cancer and Dr. Donald Gerard, who has dedicated more than 30 years of volunteering and giving care to student athletes.

A significant way Pink Arrow is able to be so effective in the support of local families is through Gilda's Club of Lowell.

Gilda's provides numerous programs and activities to individuals and families who are fighting cancer. Pink Arrow has helped more than 95 Lowell families and has provided six student scholarships.

Every student, from kindergarteners to high school seniors, has received age-appropriate education related to cancer.

During the month of September, it was hard to miss that something special was going on as the Pink Arrow message was impossible to miss with light post street banners, t-shirts, marquees, billboards and local business participation.

And, for those not near Lowell, the students

and Pink Arrow IV were featured on NBC's Today Show.

The Pink Arrow volunteer committee can equivocally state that zero dollars raised are spent on administrative costs to run the entire Pink Arrow Project and 100 percent of the funds stay right here in Lowell. The committee-members said they are humbled and honored to announce the success in numbers for Pink Arrow IV.

The goal for the 2012 Pink Arrow Pride is to make 2012 bigger and better in order to provide more funding to the valuable programs that directly help the people of our community. Teresa Beachum adds,

"The committee thanks the community for continuing to participate and support the Pink Arrow mission. We also extend a sincere thank

you to our special partners: St. Mary's – The Lack's Cancer Center, Meijer, Byrne Electric, and Fifth/Third Bank."

## Holiday sales, continued

"We were back to where sales were in 2007," director Lorain Smalligan said.

Smalligan attributed that to factors such as people shopping locally and that the economy is finally picking up.

"We make an effort to bring in new artists each year to keep it fresh for our returning shoppers," she said.

The goal of the Christmas show is to provide a holiday artists' market in Lowell where shoppers can purchase unique handcrafted gifts and support the local artists at the same time.

This year, the Lowell

Arts could pay \$10,000 to the artists in the show from the sales of their art.

Some earned money from the show goes toward staff pay and marketing.

Karen Hall, owner of Cousins' Hallmark, said there was a few percentage increase in sales and that December was good.

"People seemed a little bit more positive," she said. "We're hopefully optimistic for 2012."

Lowell Area chamber director Liz Baker said everybody did well.

"What I've heard is good," she said.



# along main street

### MID-WINTER USED BOOK SALE

The Friends of Englehardt Library will sponsor a mid-winter Used Book Sale for adults and children, Fri., Jan. 27, 10 am to 6 pm and Sat., Jan. 28, 10 am to 4 pm. All proceeds go to library programming.

### Y LADIES NIGHT-IN

Lowell YMCA Ladies' Night-In will be held Fri., Jan. 27 from 6 to 10 pm. It is free to the public. Snacks, crafts, exercise classes, dietician, personal trainer, mani/pedi station. Join us to relax, refresh and restore. For information call 855-9570.



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### FIFTH GRADE SPAGHETTI DINNER

Murray Lake fifth grade spaghetti dinner and silent auction will be held on Sat., Jan., 28 from 5:00-7:30 pm. Money raised to help offset the cost of fifth grade camp. Many items to bid on at the silent auction.

### WINTER WONDERLAND CARNIVAL

St. Patrick Winter Wonderland Carnival, Sat., Jan. 28 from 6-8:30 pm at the St. Patrick Parish Center, corner of Parnell and 5 Mile. There will be games, food, prizes and giant inflatables. Everyone is welcome!

### CALL FOR ARTISTS

Punch Line Art Exhibition, Feb. 14 - Mar. 14, featuring works from artists ages 16 and over at LowellArts!, 149 S. Hudson. People's Choice Awards with proceeds from each \$1 vote going to LaughFest. Entries fee/\$10 due Feb. 10 & 11. For information call 897-8545 or download an application at [www.lowellartsmi.org](http://www.lowellartsmi.org)

### CALL FOR MICHIGAN BANDS

The Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts is seeking musical groups in Michigan to perform in the summer of 2012. Applications must be in by Feb. 15, 2012. For more information call 897-8545.

*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.*

### Lowell Area Schools SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENT RECORDS

It is a requirement by law for the Special Education Department to maintain special education records on students until they are 26 years of age. During the month of January, records of students with birth dates in 1984 will be purged to allow room for our current files.

**If you or your child has records in our office and you would like to have them sent to you, please contact the Lowell Area Schools Special Education Department at 616-987-2516.**



By Ed Van Cott, L.B.S.W.  
 Social Worker -  
 The Laurels of Kent

Dementia is a progressive disease in which loved ones and caregivers see the individual lose one ability after another. In the beginning stages the individual repeats themselves, believing they are telling you the story for the first time. For the afflicted individual *it is* the first time.

As the process continues, word-finding becomes increasingly difficult. "I need to get the what-sha-ma-call-it - you know." Then items the demented individual has lost are thought by them to have been stolen. There is the forgetting to take medication, or prepare a meal, or how to return home from the store. At some point the individual forgets about their own personal hygiene, or you find them getting ready to years ago.

These losses are painful for the person with dementia, for their loved ones and caregivers. The best approach is to step into their world. We step

into their world because we can always step back into ours. The other way around is not true for the demented individual. If they are looking for their spouse who has been deceased for years, simply begin a conversation about their spouse. "I haven't seen your husband/wife today, what is s/he like? What does s/he like to do?" Reorienting them to the fact that they are deceased only opens the wounds of grief all over again. If they are looking to milk the cows, engage them in a conversation about farming. You can go in different directions. "I milked a lot of cows as a kid," or the opposite, "I'm a city boy. The cow would probably kick me if I tried to milk her." In either case, you are stepping into their world. Trying to keep the demented oriented and accurate will prove frustrating for both them and their loved ones. Stepping into their world is gentle, caring and far more successful. Dementia is complicated, but there is help out there. There are Alzheimer support groups, social workers and other professionals ready to counsel, guide and refer. There is an Alzheimer support group at Fountain View here in Lowell. Call 897-8413 for more information.

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Dave Emmette

## Heat this winter safely: prevention tips

Over one-third of Americans heat their homes with fireplaces, woodstoves and other fuel-fired appliances as their primary source. As fuel prices rise, this number is quickly increasing. Unfortunately, many of the households heating with wood and solid fuels are not aware of the fire risks that come with the use of these heat sources. This lends itself to an increasing number of home fires.

Heating fires account for more than 36 percent of residential home fires every year. Out of the 36 percent,

the majority of these are a result of creosote buildup in chimneys and stovepipes. The results of these fires tend to be total losses as these types of fires quickly ignite and spread throughout the home. Within the past year, community has seen several neighbors and friends become victim to a house fire caused by a woodstove or chimney. Woodstoves, chimneys and other fuel-fired appliances can be safe to use if proper precautions and regular maintenance is performed.

Below are some tips to

keep your home safe while using fireplaces or woodstoves:

- Have your chimney or woodstove inspected and cleaned annually by a certified specialist.
- Do not burn green (unseasoned) or wet logs.
- Do not use logs made from wax and sawdust.
- Build small, hot fires. A smoldering fire is not safe.
- Regularly remove ashes from your woodstove/ chimney and put them into a metal container with a cover. Note – piles of ashes can hold heat for days so be sure to have them completely extinguished by adding water to them until they are cold.
- Open dampeners before starting fire.
- Keep dry wood and other materials far away from stove/chimney.
- Do a monthly inspection of your pipes and connections for any signs of creosote or soot buildup.
- Keep firewood at least 30 feet from your home.
- Keep roof clear of leaves, pine needles and other debris.
- Cover chimney with a mesh spark arrester.

- Remove any trees or branches hanging above the chimney, flues or vents.
- Install smoke detectors on every floor of your home, along with a fire extinguisher.

### Warning Signs of chimney problems:

- Buildup of creosote (dripping from the base of the chimney or staining of the outer chimney shell)
- Sluggish draft (smoke spilling out when the door to the chimney/ woodstove is opened).
- Corrosion of the outer shell of a factory built chimney.
- Deterioration of the brickwork or masonry.

Note, if any of these signs are noticeable, stop heating with that source immediately and contact your local contractor to repair it.

Do you have an insurance question you would like to see discussed in the future? Send me an e-mail with your topic and I will address it at [dave@theaic-group.com](mailto:dave@theaic-group.com)

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

## Don't wait six weeks

Soon, the world's most famous groundhog will be getting a lot of attention. On Groundhog Day, the world's furriest weather reporter, Punxsutawney Phil, will pop out of his home to forecast one of two possibilities: an early spring or six more weeks of winter.

Regardless of what Punxsutawney Phil predicts, there's no reason for you to wait six weeks to do business with Social Security. Whatever the weather, you can visit our online office from the convenience and comfort of your warm and cozy home or office. Just go to [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

You can do so many things online. And it's so easy, even a groundhog could do it - if eligible. Below are a few of the things you can do at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

Get an instant, personalized estimate of future retirement benefits with the Retirement Estimator at [www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator);

Apply for Social Security retirement, spouse's, or disability benefits at [www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline);

Apply for Medicare at [www.socialsecurity.gov/medicareonly](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/medicareonly).

Request a replacement Medicare card at [www.socialsecurity.gov/medicarecard/](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/medicarecard/).

Learn about Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug costs at [www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp), where you can find a link to apply.

Punxsutawney Phil has called for six more weeks of winter 87 percent of the time. We suspect that's because he just likes to stay in his comfortable home. You can too, on Groundhog Day or any day, by going online.

Whatever the weather, learn all about the things you can do online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/online-services](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/online-services).

*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)*

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**Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.**

~ Martin Luther King Jr. (1929 - 1968)

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# viewpoint



## fire safety 411

Captain Paul Roderick

I am sure that the majority of Ledger readers were made aware of the horrific fire that took place in Stamford, Connecticut, on Christmas morning which led to the death of three children and their grandparents.

There are a number of lessons that should be learned from this tragedy.

The residence was a century old Victorian home

that was under renovation. The family was spending Christmas Eve in the home which had not yet been approved for occupancy. There were plans for hard-wired smoke alarms, but they had not been hooked up.

At approximately 3:00 am, one of the occupants removed the ashes from the fireplace and placed them in a bag. They either placed the

bag in the mud room or in an adjacent trash enclosure.

Unknown to them there were hot embers mixed in with the ashes. Less than two hours later, firefighters were called to the scene. They arrived and found the home well involved and were unable to rescue the girls or their grandparents.

This incident was no doubt an incredible tragedy, but we should learn from what happened and make sure that similar tragedies do not happen again.

We should never rush ahead of the building inspections and occupy a dwelling that has not been approved.

Enough can never be said about the use of smoke detectors. Smoke detectors can give you the early warning that will allow you and your loved ones time to get out of the house and call 911.

Everyone should have a plan as to what to do if their residence catches fire. Everyone should know what exits to use and, if those exits are not available, what the alternative exit is.

Everyone should know where to meet outside so that you know everyone is out. Once out, do not reenter the structure to retrieve anything. Let the

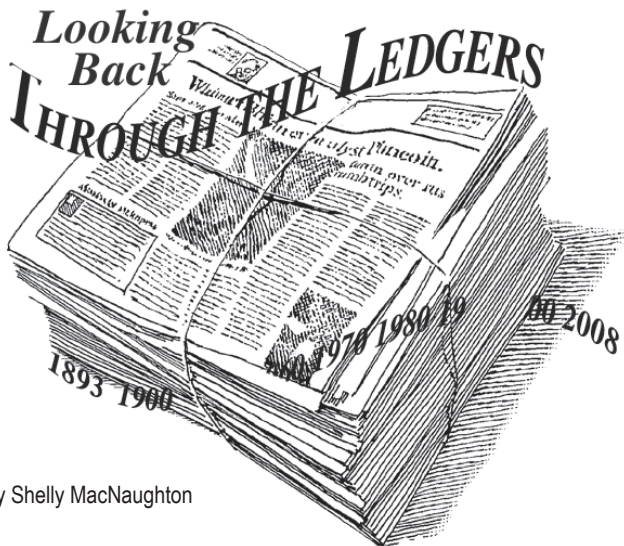
fire department do that for you.

And please do not remove ashes from a wood burner or fireplace and dispose of them in an unsafe fashion. We have already this year had a structure fire in our area that was caused by disposing of ashes in an unsafe manner. Luckily, no one was injured in that fire and the majority of the home was saved. If the fire had occurred during the early hours of the morning, this

fire could have had a totally different outcome.

The Connecticut fire will haunt the surviving family, friends, the neighbors and the firefighters who were unable to make the difference they so desperately wanted to make, for the rest of their lives.

Please do everything you can to help prevent a similar tragedy from happening again.



By Shelly MacNaughton

### 110 Years Ago The Lowell Journal January 23, 1902

Miss Nina Hiller has taken the place of Miss Lillie in the American Express Office.

W. S. Godfrey's fleeced lined underwear, "knocks-em-all" price 15, 20, 25, 35, and 50.

Mrs. Fitzgibbons will be at Hotel Waverly, Feb. 14 and 15, for the purpose of removing all facial blemishes by electrolysis, Consultation free.

Mrs. Richard Bergin of Vergennes slipped and fell, breaking her hip last Friday and was brought to Lowell for treatment.

### 100 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger January 18, 1912

Matthew Fase lost a horse recently.

The little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M Verlin died Friday night, Jan. 12. The funeral was held at Parnell Sunday.

Teams from Ada are drawing logs to Martin's mill from M. Farrell's woods.

Little John Krum, while out to the barn with his father Saturday was hooked in the mouth by one of the cattle, tearing his lip. It was necessary for the doctor to take several stitches in it. The little fellow is doing as well as could be expected.

Grandpa Walker is in very poor health at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Jude Fletcher.

Mrs. Rhoda Regan, who has been staying with her mother Mrs. George Northway for a while, joined her husband at Belding last week where they will start housekeeping.

### 75 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo January 14, 1937

Main Street now boasts a shooting gallery, one having recently opened in the Richard Café block with James Rosewarne as proprietor. Many of the local crack-shots are trying their skill.

The Strand Theater will present a Fox news reel every Thursday night beginning this week. The reel comes direct from the Eastman laboratories in New York City and is shown in the theater here the night before it is shown at the Fox theater in Detroit. Don't fail to see this news feature regularly.

### 50 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger January 18, 1962

Three more candidates' petitions for the Lowell City Council have been circulated; already filed are petitions for Robert G. Chrouch, local radio man and Richard Schlemitzauer, proprietor of Frank's 5c to \$1 store. A petition is also being circulated for Dan H. Treleven, retired insurance man and former FHA district head.

Mr. and Mrs. Wesley L. Griffin, Route 1, Lowell, wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, Sharon Kay, to Roger Depew. The prospective bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Roland Depew, Route 1, Alto. Plans are being made by the engaged couple for a July 27 wedding.

### 25 Years Ago The Grand Valley Ledger January 18, 2012

Headline: Hollow is now "Sneakers Sports Bar"

You won't be required to wear your Pro Keds or Converse All Stars to get in the door at "Sneakers" The Ultimate Sports Bar, but you might feel more comfortable. Bret and Nancy McManus, new owners of the 211 East Main St. restaurant and bar are hard at work renovating the establishment to a sports motif. McManus and his wife purchased the business from Gary and Donna Laux. It was formerly known as the Hollow.

A grand opening will be held February 19, 20 and 21. As part of the celebration, a spring break trip to Ft. Lauderdale will be given away with all proceeds going to the Lowell Lions Club.

### Task for New Year: more jobs, balanced deficit reduction



Sen. Carl Levin

The past year has been an unusually challenging and stressful one for our nation and for Michigan. As we look forward to 2012, I'd like to share with you my thoughts about a tough year just completed and about the year to come.

Twin challenges in 2011 – the need to grow the economy and to reduce the deficit – dominated 2011 and will demand our attention again this year.

The past year included some heartening signs that steps we took in the aftermath of the financial crisis are bearing fruit. The unemployment rate, both in Michigan and nationally, has fallen in the last year. Michigan and the nation benefitted from some small business job-creation programs that I helped author: the State Small Business Credit Initiative, modeled after a Michigan program that helps small businesses get the capital they need to grow; and the Intermediary Lending Pilot Program, which helps nonprofits boost small businesses in their local communities. These programs will continue to help create Michigan jobs in 2012.

Unfortunately, too often our jobs-related efforts in 2011 were sidetracked by brushes with disaster.

For instance, in late July, Congress dawdled and then barely avoided financial catastrophe by raising the federal government's debt limit.

As part of the agreement to avert that disaster, we passed a series of deep spending cuts, and we established a "supercommittee" tasked with finding agreement on at least \$1.2 billion in additional deficit reduction over the next 10 years. When they could not reach an agreement, the law triggered automatic, across-the-board spending cuts that will take effect in 2013.

Those automatic cuts are unacceptable. Avoiding those drastic cuts and making real progress on deficit reduction will be our most important task in 2012.

The only path to true deficit reduction is a balanced path – one that includes both spending cuts and revenue increases, and one that ensures that all Americans, not just middle-class families, share in the sacrifice.

In September, I outlined a seven-point plan to restore revenues along with spending cuts to reduce the deficit. I will continue making the case in the

Levin, continued,  
page 15

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# area births

## Nauman



Kylee Grace Nauman

Don and Hannah Nauman of Belding are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Kylee Grace. She was born at 10:12 pm on October 21, 2011, at Spectrum Butterworth, weighing 8 lbs. 1 oz. and measuring 21 inches.

Big sister Alexis welcomed her home.

Grandparents are Rick and Valarie Bruse of Saranac and Ron and Jenipher Nauman of Grand Rapids. Great-grandparents are Donald and Margaret Videan of Saranac and Donald and Carmen Nauman of Kinross. Great great-grandmother is Florence Videan of Ada.

# Local church welcomes new pastor

submitted by Earl Pomeroy

First Baptist Church of Lowell welcomed Rev. Jonathan Pickens as the new Lead Pastor. Pastor Pickens is a native of Columbus, OH. He is a graduate of Cedarville University with an emphasis in Christian education, where he received the Marlin Rayburn award for excellence in homiletics. He comes to Lowell, having

At his Installation service on Sunday, worship and praise in singing surrounded challenges to the church and to the pastor and a response by Pastor Jon. This was followed with laying on of hands by the deacons and pastoral staff with a prayer of dedication led by Phil Van Laan, chairman of the deacon board.



Rev. Jonathan Pickens and family

served for fifteen years in youth ministries in various Baptist churches throughout the country, most recently as Pastor of Student Ministry at First Baptist Church of New Castle, PA.

Pickens and his wife, Trish, have a daughter, Tori and a son, Caleb. He is an avid golfer, a Buckeye's fan, watches the Denver Broncos football and enjoys wilderness camping.

Rev. Ken Floyd, Michigan Association of Regular Baptist Churches state representative, presented the Challenge to the Church. Rev. Dennis Moles, RBC Ministries, Dept. of Theological Editing and Dept. of Pastoral Relationships, presented the Challenge to the Pastor.

# health



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

## acne

Acne occurs when hair follicles become blocked with oil, dead skin cells and bacteria. Sebaceous glands at the base of hair follicles generate oil (sebum) to lubricate your hair and skin. When your body produces too much oil and dead skin cells, they can create a plug where bacteria can cause infection. It then can appear as a whitehead or a blackhead. Hormones and certain medications can worsen acne.

Acne is not due to greasy foods, chocolate or dirt in the skin.

Prevention is key. Wash

areas only twice per day. Use an over-the-counter acne treatment for mild cases. Do not use heavy foundation make-up and remove make-up before going to bed. Wear loose fitting clothing and shower after exercising or working. Watch what touches your face and avoid irritants. Don't pick or squeeze.

If this fails to clear up your skin, there are prescription options. Oral and topical antibiotics, retin-A products and laser and light therapy can also be used.

# happy birthday!

## JANUARY 18

Shelby Weston.

## JANUARY 22

Cheryl DeYoung, Bob Pfaller, Dale Latva, Jenni Magner, Frances Walling, Glenn Vanbuskirk, Shane Gildner, Reece VanderWarf, Frances DeVries, Elijah Barr.

## JANUARY 19

Tim Stencel, Susan Cook, Tim Schuitema, Trevor Mooney, Mark Ries.

## JANUARY 20

Shelby Baird, Josh Rinard.

## JANUARY 23

Amanda Wingeier, Zach Stauffer.

## JANUARY 21

James Vezino, Mark MacNaughton, Krysta Jankowski, Brooklyn Rinard.

## JANUARY 24

Allan Baird, David Szymczak, Haleigh Timmers, Mackenzie Stiles.

# area churches

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Celebration.....10:40 a.m.  
Wednesdays - Kid's Service, Teen's Service, Adult Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

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Sunday School.....11:20 A.M.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.  
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Rev. W. Lee Taylor & Pastor Phil Severn  
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Sunday School Hour/ABF's.....11:00 A.M.  
AWANA 6-8/Youth Ministry.....Wed. 6:15 P.M.  
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# Red Arrow SPORTS

## Boys' basketball picks up first two wins in undefeated week

by Casey Cheney  
It was a long time coming, but the Lowell Red Arrow basketball team picked up their first win of the season. Then, a few days later, they picked up their second.

The Red Arrows had an undefeated week, winning against Kenowa Hills and

Northview 63-47 and 59-56 respectively.

In their thorough defeat of Kenowa Hills on Tuesday, Blake Lyman led all scorers with 14 points. Close behind him were Jason Malling, who had 12 points and Justin Castro, who had 11 points.

Lowell's offense was pretty evenly spread with

five other players scoring in the game, four of whom had a couple buckets each.

Seven of Castro's points that night came at the free throw line, where he only missed one shot. As a whole, the team was sent to the line often and shot well. They shot 80 percent from the line, going 16 for 20.

Their win against Northview was a bit more intense, decided in overtime by just three points.

The Red Arrows started out in a bit of a hole, losing 6-12 at the end of the first quarter. Their offense picked up pace, however, scoring sixteen points in both the second and third quarters. Between the two, they outscored Northview 32-22.

Going into the fourth, Lowell held a 38-34 lead over Northview.

Their offense slumped a bit in the fourth, scoring only eight points. Northview was able to put up 12 points, sending the game into overtime.

The two teams were pretty evenly matched in that overtime, but Lowell managed to sneak three

points past the Wildcats, giving them their second victory of the week and of the season.

The Red Arrows are now 2-5.

Northview is now 4-4 for the season.

Lowell faces Reeths Puffer and Greenville this week.

HOOKING YOU UP WITH THE LATEST SPORTS NEWS

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## Girls' basketball splits week 2-7

by Casey Cheney

A strong performance against Kenowa Hills gave the Lowell Red Arrow girls' basketball team their second win of the season.

Head coach Kevin Brechting said that Kenowa Hills is another team struggling to start off the season, but that his players elevated their level of play to get the 36-15 victory.

"We obviously played at a higher level than they did," Brechting said.

Part of that he attributed to the level of competition they faced, a welcome shift in what's so far been a tough schedule.

Brechting said, "It was good to execute. We got a

lot of nicer looks."

The team could not keep the winning streak going against Northview, who won 46-28 on Friday.

The game, however, showed hope for the team's future. The Red Arrows scored 17 points in the first quarter – more than half their average score at the end of the game this season.

This impressive offensive display gave them a three-point lead going into the second quarter, but it didn't last. They scored only four points in the second and third quarters and three points in the fourth.

Brechting said their effort in the first left them fatigued for the rest of the

game, leading to mental mistakes like missed rebounds and poor shot selection.

"Our struggle is still finishing games," he said. "We gave the other team too many buckets."

Brechting said this week he hopes to build on the win they got on Tuesday. Lowell faces Reeths Puffer and Greenville, teams with whom they are fairly evenly matched.

With good execution and shutting down Greenville's powerhouse in the post, Brechting said, "Then I think we can run them."

## Lowell High School awarded \$2,000 for student-led teen driver safety campaign

Lowell High School has been selected as one of 25 schools across the U.S. and

Canada to receive a \$2,000 Project Ignition grant for 2012.

Project Ignition, now in its eighth year, is a student-led teen driver safety program funded by State Farm® and coordinated by the National Youth Leadership Council. It was developed because car crashes are the number one killer of youth. With a little help from Project Ignition, students at Lowell High School are working to change that devastating reality.

If their campaign is chosen at the end of the school year as one of the top 10, they are eligible to receive additional funding (up to \$7,500) to extend their cam-

paign and to participate in a national event where they will showcase their leadership in teen driver safety.

"As the nation's number one insurer of vehicles, State Farm makes it a priority to promote teen driver safety through programs like Project Ignition," says State Farm agent Deborah Wilks. "We believe in the power of young people to make a difference and are happy to join them in promoting teen driver safety."

If you are interested in learning more, visit SFProjectIgnition.com to check out Ohio Hi-Point Career Center's winning plans and for more information about the program.

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~ Author Unknown

# Red Arrow SPORTS

## Wrestling handles memorial tournament - will face three squads ranked number one

by Casey Cheney

The upcoming schedule for the Lowell Red Arrow wrestling team is daunting – in one week, they will have faced three teams ranked No. 1 in their respective divisions.

The wrestlers face St. John's first. Ranked No. 1 in Division 2 – Lowell's same division – their No.

3 national ranking reflects their full talent.

Whether or not his team can pull out the win, head coach Dave Dean wasn't sure. But they're certainly going to try.

"It's a pretty tall order at this point," Dean said. "We're a very good team, but [St. Johns is] kind of a historic team this year."

He explained that something like six or seven wrestlers on the St. Johns' squad have won national championships.

"They're a very balanced team," he said. "We might have two or three guys that are on that level right now."

In addition, he said Lowell may have approximately 10 wrestlers capable of reaching

that caliber, but have yet to get there.

Dean said that at this point in the season, however, he's looking less for a win and more for exposing and eliminating weaknesses for the post-season tournaments. If all goes as is expected for the Red Arrows, they would have another shot at St. Johns in the state championship.

"By and large, you're still trying to expose some things. You hope they start gaining some confidence against this level of competition," Dean said.

With a couple months of practice, he said, "By March, we'll be successful."

Next comes Detroit Catholic, ranked No. 1 in Division 1 and No. 10 in the nation. However, the Lowell wrestlers will also have to face the No. 1-ranked team in Division 3.

Over the weekend, the Red Arrows won their annual Gary Williams Memorial tournament, beating Heartland in the finals 47-12. Heartland is ranked fourth in Division 1.

Dean said of Heartland, "They did expose a few things with our kids."

He pointed out wrestlers with outstanding performances that weekend.

Josh Colgrove, a freshman, beat the number two wrestler in Division 2 and number two wrestler in Division 1 for the 189-pound weight class.

Freshman Nate Limmex also beat a top-ranked wrestler.

Derrick Krajewski went 5-0 for the day in the 103-pound weight class. Bailey Jack also went undefeated in the 112 pound weight class.

Dean estimated that his team was likely ranked in the thirties nationwide, having defeated 39-ranked Glen Barton North from the Chicago area handily earlier in the season.

## Lowell-Caledonia hockey picks up first three wins of new year

Lowell-Caledonia (LC) hockey finished with three league wins this past week. All of these games were

played on the road this week

On Wednesday, Jan. 11, they played the Unity Knights, a Wayland cooperative.

Head coach Tim Beurer said, "This game started out with a quick goal for Unity on the first shift of the game. Their goal was scored twenty-six seconds into the game and put our team on their heels. I am not sure any of our players expected that kind of start."

An undaunted LC took control of the game after that, scoring the next six goals of the period to take a 6-1 lead at the end of the first period.

Goals in the first period were scored by Collin Finkhouse, a junior from Lowell, who scored two times in the period; Trevor McCoy, a junior from Caledonia; Cam Steger, a senior from Caledonia; Tage Green, a senior from Caledonia; and Colin Echelbarger, a senior from Caledonia.

The assists on those goals go to Jake Rossman, a junior from Caledonia, who had two assists in the period; Finkhouse, who also had two; Andrew Light, a senior from Lowell; and Bailey Rietman, a junior from Caledonia.

The second period started where the first one left off for LC. They scored five more times in the period to finish out the mercy rule shortened game at the end of the two periods with LC winning 10-1.

The second period goals were scored by Finkhouse, with two more goals; Justin Pinto, a sophomore from Caledonia; Kyle Jansens, a senior from Caledonia; and Eric Balut, a junior from Caledonia.

The assists on those goals were by Jansens, who had two; Echelbarger, McCoy and Finkhouse.

They faced Grand Rapids Public next, on Friday, Jan. 13.

This game also ended in a mercy rule shortened

game after two periods of play, with LC winning 10-1. "The goals came quick and often for LC in this game," Beurer said.

LC scored eight times in the first period alone.

The LC goals were scored by Light, who had two; Braden McGillicuddy, a senior from Lowell, who also had two goals; Finkhouse; Balut, who scored twice that period; and Steger.

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# Red Arrow SPORTS

## Gymnastics participation highest in nearly a decade

The Lowell Red Arrow gymnastics team consists of 15 girls, making it the largest team since 2003. And, with only one senior, the team has lots of room for growth. There are four juniors, four sophomores and six freshmen.

Head coach Michele DeHaan said, "The bulk of our talent is in our underclassmen, so we will only get stronger and more competitive over the next few years."

With that in mind, the sky's the limit.

One goal she's set for the team is to break the school record for highest score, which is in the mid 130s.

"I believe last year we scored in the low 120s all season," DeHaan said. "This year we started around 123 or 124 and my goal is to break 130 before end of season."

DeHaan has been with the program for a while. From 1992 to 1994, she assisted Annette Pearson, who was one of her coaches when she attended Lowell. The 1994-1995 season was her first year as head coach. After coaching for 11 years, she took 3 years off, came back for one year as assistant and is now in her third year back as head coach.

"We practice for two whole months before any competitions, so it's nice once we start competing and having the judges' score sheets to go over with the girls so they can see where they need improvement."

### - GYMNASTICS

## Highest score of season

The Lowell Red Arrow gymnastics team lost to Forest Hills Monday night 127.625 to 137.975.

"Our highest team score yet," head coach Michele DeHaan said. "I'm disappointed with all the falls on beam because that is a 0.5 deduction every time they fall off."

She added, "floor and bar scores were higher than the last few meets so that was a nice improvement."

Their next meet is at home on Wednesday against Rockford.

She added, "Once that score at a meet is flashed, then everything we have been practicing makes sense to them finally. Then improvements start to come more frequently because the girls want their scores to go up."

DeHaan said that each skill in the girls' routines serve a purpose. She makes

sure each of the girls know all the requirements of their routines, what connections are important and the value of all their skills.

"That helps them understand why they get the scores they do," she explained. "It also helps them understand what might be missing in their routines and the points that can be

added for adding certain things."

This can help her keep an eye on judges' scoring, where sometimes mistakes can get in. It also helps her monitor herself.

"The more the girls understand the scoring, the more it helps me. They can catch any mistakes I make when choreographing

routines and they also can catch judges' mistakes at meets," DeHaan said.

The Red Arrow Youth Gymnastics youth program, which DeHaan runs, got 13 of the 15 girls on the team started.

This means that DeHaan has been coaching some of the girls on the team since preschool and all the others

since elementary school.

"Having that feeder program is why we have the depth and so much talent this year," DeHaan said. "Many of these girls competed AAU and our former 'Junior Arrows' all through middle school and have been preparing for years for being on this high school team."



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# Red Arrow **SPORTS** *winter* **TEAMS**

## **COMPETITIVE CHEER**



**VARSITY CHEER**

First row, left to right: Khayli Scott, Katie Haan, Kailee Dawson, and Kiersten Ashenbremer; second row, left to right: Lexi Corner, Taylor Ergang, Shannon Gorman, Morgan Vulpetti, and Brandi Thompson; third row, left to right: Brianna Thomet, Abby Mitchell, Cassi Mullins, and Kate Videto; fourth row, left to right: Caitlyn Gauck, Alexis Martinez, Michelle Smith, Tara Propst, and Hannah Churches.



**JV CHEER**

First row, left to right: Zoey Kramer and Hannah Michelle Lambert; second row, left to right: Kaylee Tucker, Braylin Conner, and Katelyn Yuhas; third row, left to right: Fallon Fox, Amaia Ross, and Anna Vanoverbeek.

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First row, left to right: Kaleb Brown, Katy Mork, Kyra Marks, and Sean Khodl; second row, left to right: Maximilian Sander, Jacob Khodl, and Justin Barrett.

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# **SOCCER SIGN-UPS** **Spring Registration**

**In Lowell:** January 30th from 6-8pm at Coldwell Banker, 202 W. Main St.  
**In Saranac:** January 23rd and 31st from 6-8pm at the High School  
Registration fee is \$35 plus one fundraiser per family (buy-out option available)

# Red Arrow SPORTS winter TEAMS

## BOYS' BASKETBALL



### VARSITY BASKETBALL

First row, left to right: Shannon Massey, Kyler Shurlow, Blake Lyman, Justin Castro, Luke Bigham, Jason Malling, and Andrew Potter; second row, left to right: assistant coach Jon Edmondson, coach Kyle Carhart, Jake Boelens, Filip Milivojevic, Austin Lemke, Alec Roerig, Grant Noskey, Kyle Rogers, and assistant coach Dan Redder.

### JV BASKETBALL

First row, left to right: Spencer Lyon, Tyler Garter, Josh Bearup, and Matt Reitsma; second row, left to right: coach Jon Edmondson, Grant Peterson, Isaac Brenner, Parker Groom, and Josh Menzel.



## GIRLS' BASKETBALL



### GIRLS' VARSITY BASKETBALL

First row, left to right: Jessica Montgomery, Danielle Ordway, Kate Montgomery, Bailey Loughlin, and Katie Holzhuetter; second row, left to right: coach Kevin Brechting, Lauren Kurtz, Amber Martin, Aubreigh Steed, Abby Petroelje, Stephanie Stevens, Emma Tompkins, and assistant coach Tom Hosford.

### GIRLS' JV BASKETBALL

First row, left to right: Mallory Paiz, Colleen Lally, Amy Carpenter, Tara McQueen, and Jessica Graves; second row, left to right: Katie Bush, Athena Mohr, Karah Smith, coach Jason Douma, Michelle Griffioen, Sarah Oesch, and Brittany Branagan.

# Red Arrow SPORTS

# winter TEAMS

## GYMNASTICS



### GYMNASTICS

First row, left to right: Kaezi Bladey, Captain Morgan McVey, Abby Rogalke, Danielle Krajewski, Bethany Kaczanowski, Bailey Roberts and Erin Groom; second row: Kaylee Wold, Emily Judd and Colleen Cater; third row: Maranda Johnson, Morgan Taylor and Lauren DeHaan; back row: Jorie Bennett, assistant coach Alyssa Buikema, head coach Michele DeHaan and Meghan Plutschow.

## BOWLING



### GIRLS' BOWLING

First row, left to right: Melissa Mosher, Amber Geldersma, Nora Donahue, and Stephanie Vosburg; second row, left to right: coach Amanda Eickhoff, Veronica Grieves, Sidney Anderson, Paige Rozell, Kenya Jones, and Krystal Sheldon.



## HOCKEY



### HOCKEY

In front, left to right: Andrew Light (SR - LOW), Eric Balut (JR - CAL), Colin Echelbarger (SR - CAL), Tage Green (SR - CAL), Trevor McCoy (JR - CAL), Cam Steger (SR - CAL), Justin Pinto (SO - CAL) and Conrad DeRidder (JR - CAL); in back: Collin Finkhouse (JR - LOW), Bailey Rietman (JR - CAL), Braden McGillicuddy (SR - LOW), Jake Rossman (JR - CAL), Josh Dillon (FR - CAL), Ben Smith (JR - CAL), Kyle Jansens (SR - CAL) and Jake Roetman (JR - CAL).



### BOYS' BOWLING

First row, left to right: Josh Rocco, Carl Mitchell, Joseph Ryder, Logan Phenix, Jason Price, and Alec Bobko; second row, left to right: Ryan Timmers, Dillon Buck, Justin Everit, Jordan Dennie, Sean Ritsema, and Austin Casarez.



For Red Arrow Sports



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# Red Arrow SPORTS

## Wrestling starting strong - will get stronger

by Casey Cheney

The Lowell Red Arrow wrestling team, as usual, is a force to be reckoned with on the mat. This is despite having many of the wrestlers late in joining the game due to a long postseason in their other sports.

Head coach Dave Dean said, "The season seems like it's gone by very fast. It takes a little bit for us to get going.

And we have kids that play quite a few different sports that comprise our team, so some joined late."

The team has done well, ranked No. 2 in their division and eying a trip to the state finals even with getting a late start. But, Dean said, this is what's expected of them and what he expects of his wrestlers.

"The expectations in this

program are very high," he said. "We have a long history of winning."

He dated this strong tradition back to Gary Rivers, for whom the memorial match this past weekend honored some 50 years ago.

"You see guys that are like 90 years old that have wrestled here," Dean said, adding that they have

come to watch their great-grandchildren compete.

The team currently has 38 wrestlers - approximately 12 less than when the season started. And, Dean said, that number will go down some more before the end of the season.

"It's more intense and physical and more regimented," Dean said,

explaining that some boys decide the commitment is too much.

Although it's a big team, there are always wrestlers who stand out and this year, Dean said, quite a few are seniors. It's hard to lose the seniors, he said, but the system they've established will keep the team strong.

Dean said, "It's a real

credit to our moms and dads in our youth program."

"My next group of kids coming in from the eighth grade group are exceptional, just like the group we got this year," Dean said. "I think we'll be able to maintain our standards as long as we take care of the system and maintain it well."

## Gymnastic scores, continued

### Vault

Lauren DeHaan 8.475  
Morgan Taylor 8.5  
Jorie Bennett 8.55  
Meghan Plutschouw 8.675

### Beam

Kaylee Wold 7.0  
Abby Rogalke 7.25  
Lauren DeHaan 7.5  
Kaezi Bladey 8.525

### Bars

Meghan Plutschouw 7.25  
Abby Rogalke 7.55  
Kaezi Bladey 7.7  
Lauren DeHaan 7.7

### Floor

Abby Rogalke 8.1  
Bethany Kaczanowski 8.15  
Emily Judd 8.3  
Kaezi Bladey 8.4

## Girls' basketball takes hope from similar start last season

by Casey Cheney

At 2-7, head coach Kevin Brechting hasn't given up his goal of the Lowell Red Arrow girls' basketball team winning a district championship.

It's not an out of reach goal. The team had a similar

start last year and finished 10-11, winning their district.

"We're just hoping the magic comes back this year," Brechting said, laughing.

To make this goal a reality, Brechting said the team

needs to finish the rest of the games this season with seven or eight wins and only three or four losses.

Part of the slow start, he said, has been youth and inexperience on the team. He

only has three seniors this year and they are the only returning varsity players from last year.

There are four juniors, two sophomores and two freshmen.

## Lowell-Caledonia hockey starts strong

The Lowell-Caledonia (LC) 12-1 and undefeated league record start to the season isn't enough for head coach Tim Beurer.

"Our season is going pretty well," Beurer said. "This is a great place for us to be sitting at the halfway point of our season."

LC has eleven games left to play, seven of which are conference games.

Beurer said, "As with most teams, it takes a while

for guys to get comfortable with one another and learn how each of them play. This is especially important for our team this season because we graduated 10 seniors from our team last year."

In spite of that struggle, Beurer said they've improved on their record from last year at the halfway point.

"We play a very fast-paced game with a lot of emphasis on puck control and

movement," he said. "We work each day on defensive responsibilities and how to play when we do not have control of the puck."

The team's goal each season is to win their conference and that certainly hasn't changed this year.

Beurer said, "I believe we have a good opportunity to do that if we continue to play the way we have

been. We have some tough games in the next couple of weeks with Jenison, South Christian and West Ottawa on our schedule. These games should prove to be a good measuring stick for us and help identify what we need to work on before starting the state tournament at the end of February."

LC hockey consists of sixteen players from Lowell

and Caledonia high schools. Thirteen players are from Caledonia this season.

"Typically," Beurer said, "we see a 50/50 split between the players from each school."


Of the sixteen players, there is one freshman, one sophomore, eight juniors, and six seniors.

"As I mentioned earlier, we graduated 10 seniors

last season, which means we started the season with seven returning players and needed to fill in quite a few gaps on both offense and defense," Beurer said. "The combination of the returning players and the players I was able to add to the team have provided an increase in scoring from last season."



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# Hiker, continued

Lowe made small talk with the guy telling him that there are more people coming behind her.

However, as she hiked on, the guy came back and headed toward her blocking the trail with both of his arms.

"So, where are the rest of the people you talked about," he asked.

Terrified, Lowe bolted around the tree and continued until she hit the Smith Gap road. One lonely car was putting down the road and the driver took her to safety. It turned out to be the president of the local hiking club doing trail maintenance.

In the last 50 years, there have been 11 murders on the trail.

And then there was the time, when Lowe forded the Kennebec River in Maine.

It was five days after hurricane Bob, so the river was swollen.

"I went under and almost drowned," she said. "It carried me like a leaf on water."

But there were two

sandbars and Lowe quickly propped up the backpack on the sandbar and fought the river until reaching the bank. She walked to a small town, Caratunk and stayed in a hostel in a general store. The next day she waited for a canoe to pick up her backpack.

"I have restored my faith in mankind," she said. "There are so many kind helpful people on the trail."

Yes, there are trail angels, who take you into their homes for perhaps \$20 or for free. They help the hikers re-supply and run errands.

And there is life after completing the hike. It's a different life. Every single day for the next five years, Lowe will go back to a memory on the trail and replay it.

Lowe also hiked the Pacific Crest trail from Mexico to Canada.

She plans to do an end to end hike, aka a "thru hike," on the North Country Trail from New York State to North Dakota in one hiking season. That would make her the only woman to accomplish this feat.

# In The Service

Master Sgt. Gregory Hiser is retiring from the United States Air Force on February 1, 2012, after 20 1/2 years as an avionics specialist on the F-117s and the F-16s. He served two tours in Korea, one tour in Afghanistan, received several commendations and medals, including three bronze

stars. Hiser is married with two children. He is the son of Doug and Lynn Hiser of Lowell.

He is taking college classes in environmental biology and has a degree in business and his plans are to return to Michigan if the family can find jobs here.

Air Force Airman William T. Poulias of Lowell and Air Force Airman 1st Class Robert S. Staal of Ada graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The airmen completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Poulias is the son of John Poulias of Lowell and a 2011 graduate of Lowell High School.

Staal is the son of Gail Staal of Ada and a 2004 graduate of Forest Hills Central High School, Grand Rapids.



Master Sgt. Gregory Hiser

## Senators announce support for Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow and Carl Levin today announced support for the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. The grant comes through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in Parks Grant Program. The grants were designed to help address the challenge of increasing vehicle congestion in and around our national parks and other federal lands.

"Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is one of our nation's precious natural resources and a part of our Michigan way of life," said Stabenow. "With the creation of the Heritage Trail, we are increasing safe access to the sights, sounds and beauty of the Lakeshore while promoting one of our state's top tourist attractions and the most beautiful place in America."

"This trail is important because it safely connects people with the Lakeshore's natural scenic beauty, creating new opportunities for

recreation, education and more while preserving its wilderness areas," Levin said. "The organizations and communities involved have done great work, working together and involving all interested parties in the planning and development of this trail and their hard work is paying off."

The \$1.3 million dollar grant will assist in the completion of the first phase of the Sleeping Bear Heritage trail connecting the Villages of Empire and Glenn Arbor. The hard-surfaced trail paralleling state highways M-22 and M-109 for a total of 27 miles through the Lakeshore will provide a safe, non-motorized, multi-use transportation alternative connecting main visitor destinations with neighboring communities.

America's national parks, wildlife refuges, and national forests were created to protect unique environmental and cultural treasures, but are now facing traffic, pollution and crowd-

ing that diminishes the visitor experience and threatens the environment. The program is administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation, together with the

Department of the Interior and the U.S. Forest Service. More information can be found at <http://go.usa.gov/RQT>.

## Local snowmobiler on a ride for a cause

Lowell resident Amy Rathsburg and Rockford resident Deb Manson will help carve a path in the snow leading to independence and success for children with disabilities during Easter Seals Michigan's 25th Anniversary For Women Only (FWO) Snowmobile Ride at Alpine Lodge in Gaylord from February 3-5, 2012.

During its quarter century history, FWO has raised more than \$2.25 million for Easter Seals' Children's Developmental Therapies and Services (CDTS). These funds are especially important to families who need valuable early intervention treatments which are not covered by insurance.

The two riders are among 40 women statewide who have committed to sled in support of Easter Seals' mission to serve people with disabilities or special needs so they can successfully live, learn, work or play in their communities. Only 10 more snowmobile enthusiasts are needed to help the agency reach its 25th anniversary goal of 50 participants.

To learn more about FWO or to support a snowmobile rider's fundraising efforts, visit [www.easterseals.com/fwo](http://www.easterseals.com/fwo) or contact 248-475-6411.

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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# financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

## Don't play politics with your investment decisions

While the election season heats up, you will hear more and more promises, claims and counter-claims from the candidates. As a citizen, you may or may not enjoy this "political theater," but as an investor, you might be concerned over all the talk about taxes, Social Security, Medicare and other financial topics. Will you need to adjust your savings and investment strategies? If so, how?

Before you think about adjusting your investment strategy in anticipation of any actions coming from Washington, keep a couple of facts in mind. First, few campaign promises become reality. And second, due to our system of government, radical shifts in direction are difficult to implement —

which is why so few of them occur.

Still, we may see some smaller-scale — yet not insignificant — changes in the near future. In light of this possibility, what investment decisions should you make? Here are a few suggestions:

- Consider owning investments that are taxed in different ways. No one can predict what will happen with income tax rates or the tax rates that are applied to capital gains and dividends. Consequently, it may be a good idea to seek "tax diversification" by owning investments that are taxed in different ways. For example, when you sell appreciated stocks, you pay capital gains taxes, whereas interest payments from bonds will be taxed at your individual

tax rate. And it's always a good idea to take advantage of tax-advantaged vehicles, such as an IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan.

- Stick with quality. It's a good idea, when owning stocks, to invest in quality companies with diversified businesses. These companies are usually less dependent on a particular government program, and they typically have a global reach, so they may be better able to handle any changes implemented in Washington.

- Stay focused on your long-term goals. Politicians come and go, and our political parties seem to take turns holding the reins of power. Yet your long-term goals — such as college for your children, a comfortable retirement and the ability to leave a legacy to your family — don't really change. By realizing that you are largely responsible for achieving your goals, and by following an investment strategy that's suitable for your individual risk tolerance and time horizon, you can make gradual, but still meaningful, progress toward those goals — no matter what's happening in Washington.

• Review your strategy regularly. With the possible approach of changes in tax policies and in government programs that can affect your retirement security, you'll want to review your investment strategy regularly to make sure it's still on track toward helping you meet your objectives. As part of this review, you may want to seek out more "tax-smart" investment opportunities, while always

looking for ways to supply the asset growth you'll need to enjoy the retirement lifestyle you've envisioned.

Aside from voting for the candidates who best represent your interests, you may not have much influence over what goes on in Washington. But by "electing" the right moves to help meet your goals, you can have plenty of control over your investment strategy.

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

## outdoors



winter wonderland

Dave Stegehuis

Winter has been a long time coming, and some of us are getting impatient. We are looking forward to cold temperatures, ice covered lakes, and knee-deep snow. These conditions will create opportunities to get outdoors and enjoy the season.

Cross country skiers will glide along on groomed trails at resorts, parks, and on public land. Break your own trail on less traveled pathways, or strap on a pair of snowshoes and seek out your own solitude in the backcountry. Alpine skiing draws people together on the slopes to experience the exhilaration of a downhill run. Snowboarding is popular with another group, and racing to the bottom of the hill on an old fashioned toboggan or sled is still a favorite wintertime activity.

Lakes and farm ponds are venues for ice skating and hockey games for those who don't have access to city rinks or flooded backyards. When the fish are biting, ice fishing is fun and productive with the added bonus of a tasty meal.

Hunters can track jackrabbits and cottontails by reading sign left on a blanket of fresh snow or leave the chase to a pack of baying beagles. Predator hunters dressed in white camouflage use calls to lure coyotes into gun range. Now is also a good time to scout possible hunting spots for next deer season by using clues left in the snow covered woods.

For those with an eye

for art, the winter landscape provides plenty of subject matter for photographers to capture the essence of the season. Taking pictures of wild birds and animals adds an additional challenge and some excitement to photography. Locate an ice and snow shrouded stream and you have the setting for next year's Christmas card.

Providing food and fresh water for birds will attract a host of feathered visitors to liven up the quiet winter landscape. A little research will reveal the proper way to help resident birdlife make it comfortably and safely through a tough winter.

Snowmobilers ride sleds over hundreds of miles

of trails across both peninsulas through fields and forests. In northern regions of the state, one can tour for days and not travel the same trail twice.

A lot of folks have the perception there is not much to do in Michigan during the winter. As you can see, there are abundant opportunities to have fun, get healthy, and take advantage of our winter wonderland. Bundle up and get out there.

## Levin, continued

coming year for a balanced approach to deficit reduction because it offers the only real hope for avoiding draconian automatic cuts that would make our nation less safe and our families less secure.

Despite these challenges, I remain optimistic about our future, because we saw lots of encouraging signs in 2011.

First, the U.S. auto industry, and manufacturing more generally, continued a remarkable rebound. Domestic carmakers continued to create jobs. These successes validate the investments taxpayers have made in preserving domestic manufacturing.

We also made progress in protecting consumers during 2011. In April, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which I chair, released the results of more than two years of investigation into the causes of the financial crisis. This bipartisan report highlighted the unrestrained greed, heedless risk-taking and conflicts of interest that nearly sank us into a second Great Depression.

The hearings we held in 2010 as part of our investigation helped set the stage for passage of Wall Street reform legislation, and in 2011, our task was to encourage regulatory agencies to forcefully implement the new law. I'll continue pressing regulators

in 2012 to put a cop back on the beat on Wall Street.

I also serve as chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and in 2011, we succeeded in guiding a defense authorization act through Congress for the 50th consecutive year. This bill ensures that our troops and their families will have the support they need to keep us safe, and it includes other important policies, including tough new sanctions against Iran that already are having an impact, and can help us prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

But perhaps the most important national security development of 2011 was the end of the war in Iraq and the withdrawal of our troops. Our strategy in Afghanistan — a strategy to prepare Afghan institutions to take responsibility for their own security — is moving forward, and 2012 will be a crucial year in preparing Afghan security forces to assume responsibility for the security of the entire country by the end of 2014.

We are coming through the worst financial crisis in generations, two difficult wars, and we survived a series of often discouraging and polarizing political battles. I look forward to 2012 optimistic about our future and determined to work for solutions that work for Michigan and our nation.

...  
**I prefer winter and fall, when you feel the bone structure of the landscape - the loneliness of it, the dead feeling of winter. Something waits beneath it, the whole story doesn't show.**  
 ~ Andrew Wyeth

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**LUNCH MENU**

**ELEMENTARY MENU**  
 Week of  
 Jan. 23, 2012

**MON:** Tony's flatbread cheese pizza (Rib BQ on wheat bun also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), tossed romaine salad w/lite dressing, pears, milk.

**TUES:** Bushnell - Sloppy Joe on whole wheat bun; Cherry Creek, Alto & Murray Lake - egg, cheese & sausage on wheat English muffin or sloppy jo Tostito scoops; everyone - southwest corn & black bean salad, pears, milk.

**WED:** Pasta Marinara w/cheese & Bosco stick (Jr. ham & cheese sub also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), broccoli florets w/low fat ranch dipping sauce, peaches, (pineapple offered at Bushnell), milk.

**THURS:** Soft taco w/ shredded cheese/lettuce (cheese quesadilla w/salsa also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), refried beans/diced tomatoes, applesauce, milk.

**FRI:** Grilled cheese served w/tomato soup (hot chili also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), baby carrots, orange smiles, milk.

# obituaries

## COLLINS

Ronald W. Collins, age 80, of Ada, left this life to be in a better place on Sunday, January 15, 2012. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Cheryl; children, Bill (Beth) Collins, Tracy (Sarah) Collins, Shelli (Don) Talkington, Jill (John) Lang; grandchildren, Nick (Lindsay) Collins, Matt (Jenny) Collins, Daniel and Hannah Collins, Chad, Brandon and Justin Talkington, A.J. and Christopher Lang; brothers-in-law, Darwin (Lorraine) Nellist, Duke Thomet, Orley (Diana) Kranenberg; sister-in-law, Dode Collins; many nieces and nephews. Ron was preceded in death by his sisters, Cleone McCormick, Rosie Kranenberg and Marilyn Thomet; and brother, Rex Collins. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict and worked for the Kent County Road Commission for 39 years before his retirement. Ron was admired by his family and friends for his gentle spirit, quick wit and positive attitude. He served as a great example of how to live. Funeral services will be Thursday at 11:00 am at First Congregational Church of Ada. Rev. Gary Burdick, officiating. Interment Ada Cemetery. Visitation Wednesday, 2-4 and 6-8 pm at the O'Brien-Eggebeen-Gerst Chapel, 3980 Cascade Rd. SE. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Ada Congregational Church, 6330 Ada Dr. SE, Ada, MI 49301; The A.L.S. Association of West Michigan, 731 Front Street, Grand Rapids, MI 49504; or In the Image, 1823 S. Division, Grand Rapids, MI 49507.



## HUHN

Kyle Nicholas Huhn, age 31 of Clarksville, took the hand of his Father in heaven Saturday, January 14, 2012. He was preceded in death by his sister, Liza Huhn; grandfathers, Bob Fish and Gerald Huhn; grandmother, Pauline Simington; grandparents, Harold (Judy) Seese. He is survived by his wife of 7 years, Pamela; children, Madison Lynne, Calvin Nicholas; father, Claud (Donna) Huhn; mother, Pennie (Richard) Simington; father and mother, Lloyd (Ann) Seese, John (Pam) Kitchen; brother, Chad (Emily) Huhn; sister, Christina (Jeff) Henningson; nieces, Bri, Lauren; nephews, Corey, Codi, Coy; brothers-in-law, Dual Kitchen, David Watson; sister-in-law, Sarah (Erik) Watson; grandfather, Marion Simington; grandmothers, Judy Flinchbaugh, Elizabeth Huhn; grandparents, Mary (Bill) Wardell, Janet (Don) Squires, Richard (Marilyn) Foster; and many cousins, aunts and uncles. Kyle was the most selfless man I ever knew, amazingly loving husband, father, brother, and son. He loved hunting and spending time outdoors, cutting wood, going to the shooting range, snowmobiling, riding quads, and always cracking jokes. He was such a hard worker, everyone loved working with him. He loved his kids more than words can express. We will love him forever and ever and always and around the moon and back 80 times. We love you Kyle Nicholas Huhn. Memorial service will be held Thursday 1:00 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. Pastor Gary Dougherty of Faith Bible Church and Pastor John Prominski of Resurrection Life Church - Ionia officiating. Interment Portland Cemetery. Visitation Wednesday 5-8:00 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made for the education of his children to Huhn Educational Fund c/o Patty and Mike Smith, 9025 River Ridge, Middleville, MI 49333.



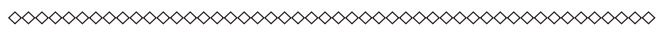
## ROTH

Joan D. Roth (Rypstra), age 89, of Lowell, was received into the loving arms of her Lord and Savior on Friday, January 13, 2012, surrounded by her children. She was preceded in death by her husband, Alfred E. Roth, in 2008; and brothers, Maurice H. and her twin Alfred H. Rypstra. Joan was born on April 13, 1922, in Muskegon, grew up in Grand Rapids, graduated from Ottawa Hills High School in 1940 and then attended Hope College. Joan married Alfred in 1948. They moved to Lowell where they raised three children and Joan was a partner in the family business, Roth Surge Dairy Farm Equipment, for 33 years. She was a lifetime member of First United Methodist Church of Lowell. In retirement, Joan enjoyed spending winters in Florida with Al. Joan was very proud of her children and six grandchildren. She is survived by her children, David (Anita) Roth, Linda (John) Affholter, Gary (Suzanne) Roth; grandchildren, Patrick and Collin Roth, Michelle (Steve) Feutz and Carolyn Affholter, Alison and Nicholas Roth; sisters-in-law, Irene Rypstra, June Roth; brothers-in-law, Edwin (Doris) Roth, Walter (Kapua) Roth; and special friend, Ann Fackler. The family would like to thank the staff of Emerald Meadows Assisted Living for the care given to Joan over her last three years. Funeral services were held Tuesday at First United Methodist Church of Lowell. Rev. Rick Blunt officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main, Lowell, MI 49331.



## JANUARY 11 - JANUARY 17

- John Huntsman is out of the race for president and is expected to endorse Mitt Romney.
- A Minnesota couple is missing after an Italian cruise ship capsized off Italy. So far 29 people are still missing and six are confirmed dead.
- A newly discovered horsefly has been named *Scaptia (Plinthina) Beyonceae* after singer Beyonce because of its rather large back section.
- Cracker Barrel founder, Dan Evins, dies.
- A man treated for pneumonia at Bronx-Lebanon Hospital says he nearly had an asthma attack when he received the bill. The bill was for \$44 million. It was a system error - he only owes \$300.
- A new study reports that some people with a certain variation of the CD36 gene had a greater desire to eat fatty foods. So far results are inconclusive but it may be one more clue to why some people are obese.
- A 3,500-year-old cypress tree nicknamed 'The Senator' has been burned to the ground. Apparently, it was struck by lightning two weeks ago and has been smoldering ever since. No one knew until it burst into flames at the top, having been burning from the inside out. It was donated to Seminole County in 1927 and dedicated by Calvin Coolidge as a national historic landmark in 1929.
- Stephen Colbert says he is forming an exploratory committee to determine whether or not he should throw his hat in the ring for president as he hands over his Super PAC to Jon Stewart. Early polling predicts he would get more votes than John Huntsman.
- A Montana man found an engagement ring in a toilet that had been lost for over 35 years. Apparently, his wife dropped it in the toilet all those years ago and could not retrieve it. When the place was being renovated the toilet was removed, he smashed it and there was the ring.
- 24 million customer accounts were hacked online. Zappos (owned by Amazon.com) said customer information was stolen but hackers had not been able to access servers that held customers' critical credit card and payment data.
- 81-year-old actor, Gene Hackman was hospitalized in Florida after someone bumped his bicycle from behind with their pickup truck. He was thrown from the bike, taken to the hospital and after being checked was released with bumps and bruises.



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**THEME: ROCK AND ROLL**

**ACROSS**

- 1. "We Are the \_\_\_\_\_"
- 6. \*Madonna's cone-shaped garment
- 9. Clarified butter
- 13. Farewell in France
- 14. "Barbara \_\_\_\_\_," sung by The Beach Boys
- 15. Private university in Des Moines, IA
- 16. Times New \_\_\_\_\_
- 17. \*Papa's got a brand new one
- 18. Oil tanker
- 19. \*A rockabilly original
- 21. Ran away to marry
- 23. Open box attached to long pole handle
- 24. Scratch or scrape
- 25. Programmer's bane
- 28. Pocket bread
- 30. Chew the fat or chat
- 35. It will
- 37. Literary "through"
- 39. Peter in Russian
- 40. "In \_\_\_\_\_ of"
- 41. \*Behind Wilson sisters, this group rose to prominence in 1970s
- 43. Japanese soup
- 44. Treeless plain
- 46. Affirm
- 47. A bunch, often followed by "of"
- 48. Inhabitant of republic on southwestern shores of Arabian Peninsula
- 50. "Heat of the Moment" band
- 52. \_\_\_\_\_ Luis Obispo
- 53. Similar in quality
- 55. Some pop-up online
- 57. \*Founding member of legendary British band
- 60. "\_\_\_\_\_ Rock and Roll"
- 64. \*Rock and Roll, e.g.
- 65. Not divisible by two
- 67. \*New \_\_\_\_\_, formerly Joy Division
- 68. Sometimes precedes "nonsense"

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
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	57	58	59						60			61	62	63
64						65	66			67				
68						69				70				
71						72				73				

- 69. Motion of assent
- 70. Period from Dec. 24 to Jan. 6, pl.
- 71. Cook slowly
- 72. "Owner of a Lonely Heart" band
- 73. Farley's side-kick in "Tommy Boy"

**DOWN**

- 1. "Let's do the time \_\_\_\_\_ again"
- 2. Detected by olfactory organ
- 3. Ice crystals or frost
- 4. Some keep others on a short one of these
- 5. Tire brand
- 6. \*The Beach Boys' "Don't Worry \_\_\_\_\_"
- 7. DNA transmitter
- 8. \*Aerosmith song with one-word title
- 9. "Get a \_\_\_\_\_!"
- 10. Exhibiting vigorous good health
- 11. Added to, commonly followed by "out"
- 12. Poetic "ever"

- 15. \*Popular R&B style of 1950s and 1960s
- 20. Archie Bunker's wife
- 22. French lake
- 24. Single-file procession
- 25. "It's still Rock and Roll" to him
- 26. Being of service
- 27. Flash of light
- 29. Titaness who was mother of Helios, Selenene, and Eos in Greek mythology
- 31. Jodie Foster's "\_\_\_\_\_ Island"
- 32. Laertes and Fortinbras to Hamlet, e.g.
- 33. Like ship away from harbor
- 34. \*Mr. Dynamite
- 36. Anything half-moon shaped

- 38. Mine deposits
- 42. \*Chuck Berry went to prison after one \_\_\_\_\_
- 45. Medieval siege weapon
- 49. \*\_\_\_\_\_ & Tina Turner
- 51. Software plug-ins
- 54. Literary technique
- 56. Razor sharpener
- 57. "I Love Rock 'n' Roll" singer
- 58. Initial stake
- 59. What Jack's beanstalk did
- 60. Made in Vegas
- 61. It turns on a light bulb?
- 62. Mix together
- 63. Gaelic
- 64. "Hop on the bus, \_\_\_\_\_"
- 66. John or Jane \_\_\_\_\_

*Puzzle solutions, on page 14*



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.

**Editors note:**

Would the caller who referred to herself as "Louise" in Sound Off last week please call the Ledger office (897-9261) or email ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com (attention Jeanne) and tell us more of your story? We think it's interesting and would possibly like to do interview you.

Ask for Jeanne or Emma.

SUDOKU								
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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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**THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL RESULTS**

**2011 saw the lowest movie ticket sales since 1995. Do you go to the movies?**

- YES - I prefer to go out ..... **18%**
- NO - I rent or use the Internet ..... **28%**
- NO - I can't afford it ..... **45%**
- Nothing interests me ..... **9%**

the **ledger**

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Friday: 8 am - 2 pm

Closed Sat. & Sun.

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**Fri. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.**  
**closed Sat. & Sun.**

# classifieds

## for sale

200 APPLIANCES - Washers, dryers, refrigerators & stoves. Guaranteed. From \$69. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook. Delivery available.

KEY CARDS ARE STILL AVAILABLE - Help support the LHS Academic Boosters. Cards are \$25. Stop by & get your card today, Lowell Ledger 105 N. Broadway. Cash or check only please.

BED & MATTRESS SET - queen, Sealy, \$95 includes frame. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook. Delivery available.

FREE AD! - Place & pay for a classified ad in the Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger for 3 weeks & receive the 4th week FREE! You must mention the special in order to receive this offer. Valid only with new classified ads, and must be paid for when ad is placed. Call 897-9555, fax 897-4809 or email to: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell. Ph. 897-9261.

QUEEN PILLOWTOP MATTRESS SET - (new), \$248/set. Thick & plush. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook.

TWIN BED - Mattress, box spring & frame, (Sealy), \$85 complete. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook.

CENTRAL BOILER CLASSIC - Outdoor Wood Furnace. Safe, clean, efficient, wood heat. 25 year warranty. Sale. Call SOS your "Stocking Dealer" Dutton, MI 616-554-8669 or 616-915-5061.

KENMORE REFRIGERATOR & STOVE SET - (2006), cost \$900, sell \$199 for pair. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook.

LOWELL SCHOOLS! - 3 bedroom, 2 bath home featuring a fireplace in the living room, sun porch, plenty of cupboards & counter tops in the kitchen, walk-in shower & more! Fantastic backyard! No kidding! Just \$119,900. Call Melinda at 616-648-0151 or visit www.GoMelinda.com Five Star Real Estate, 791-1500.

## for rent

LOWELL - Nice clean 3 bedroom home in country, big yard. No pets. No tobacco. Please call 616-897-7203 eves/weekends.

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.TFN

**PRICELESS STORAGE - Indoor/outdoor. New Units on Alden Nash, 1 mile South of 196. Call for specials 558-2900.**TFN

ONE BEDROOM - main floor apartment. Quiet location south of town. \$475 per month. Includes electric, water, trash pickup. Pay only gas heat. NO PETS. Deposit & references. 616-824-1366.

FOR RENT - 2 bedroom apartment, washer/dryer hookup, some utilities included, no dogs, \$600 per month. 897-8067.

LOWELL MOBILE HOME PARK - Nice 1, 2 & 3 bedroom trailers for rent. Rent from \$350 - \$600. For info call George at 616-813-8041.

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

## help wanted

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

WANTED - Ordained Minister 10-15 hrs/week at small Christian Assisted Living. Apply in person at 6117 Charlevoix Woods Ct. SE, GR. 616-954-2366.

## WEDDING INVITATIONS

Available at Lowell, 105 N. Broadway. Stop by & check out one of our books for the weekend. Wide variety of invitations & prices. Ph. 897-9261

## misc.

**CONGRATULATIONS ANDY GRINDLE** - On an annual basis the Michigan Nursery and Landscape Assoc. presents Outstanding Student Awards. These awards are in recognition of outstanding academic accomplishment & leadership. Andy met all the qualifications for this prestigious award & it was presented to him on Jan. 10 at the Green Industry & Student award reception at the Amway Grand Plaza. Andy we're so proud of you! Love from Jean, Emily & Hailey; Mom; Terry & family & Sheryl & family.

**SOUND OFF PHONE LINE 897-0787.**

## 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.TFN

**SHIP YOUR UPS PACKAGES WITH US & SAVE!!** - Call us for a price comparison. We will need: weight, zip code & dimensions of the box. No Hazardous materials or firearms accepted. Daily UPS pickup at 3 p.m. Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, 897-9261.

**YOGA CLASSES** - Mornings: Tues. & Fri., 7:30-8:30 a.m. Evenings: Tues. & Thurs., 6:30-7:30 p.m. Walk-in fee \$8. 901 W. Main (Lowell). Call 893-5661. www.thehammockllc.com

**NOBODY KNOWS FISH - like FRY DADDY'S, the BEST fish in town! 608 W. Main, Lowell. 616-897-3474.**

## services

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**COUNSELING SERVICES - Available from a licensed therapist in Lowell. Call 616-238-2116. Life Transitions Therapy LLC. www.facebook.com/LifeTransitionsTherapyLLC**

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

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## in

### memoriam

**In memory of Dorene Zerbe 1961-2011**

She walked a gentle pathway her whole life through, she was a great mom and a good sister too.

A loving daughter in so many ways, her laughter will follow us all of our days.

She loved mother nature and animals too.

She loved life and lived it so fully.

She sang like an angel, her voice so pure and true, we'll miss her forever, our whole lives through.

Sadly missed by Marjory & Frederick Zerbe,

James David Bates, Connie (Rick) Taylor, Sonja Ryan,

Gary (Donna) Wheeler, John (Julie) Zerbe, Ernestine & Christopher

Williams & John Stiles

# 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.

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

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

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

**NEEDLERS** - Second & 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.

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

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

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

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

**QUA-KE-ZIK 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 LIONS CLUB** - meets third Tuesday at noon at Lowell City Hall.

**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.

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

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

**ALPHA WOMEN'S CENTER** - 517 E. Main. Hours: Mon. 11-5 p.m.; Tues. 6-9 p.m.; Thurs. 10-6 p.m. 987-9533. Diapers, formula, clothing & free pregnancy testing available.

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

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

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

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

**HOOVER CHAPTER #73** - of the Royal Arch Masons, which serves the Belding, Ionia, Lowell, Lyons-Muir & Saranac areas, will hold its Stated Convocation on Wed., Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the lodge room of the temple building, 211 E. Main St., Belding. Dinner will precede the meeting at 6:30 p.m. All Royal Arch Masons are urged to attend.

**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.

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# Works in Progress, continued

sels, paint smocks and art supplies.

“We purposely focus our January art exhibitions on themes that showcase Lowell artists, as well as to provide activities for our visitors,” said director Loraine Smalligan.

Each year in January, Lowell Arts selects a theme that is appealing to the youth and adults.

“It seemed like a perfect show to get people to come to the gallery in the wintertime and have some fun making art,” said Smalligan.

The hope is that visitors will come several times to see the changes to the artworks, to which they have added their own creative touches.

And it doesn't matter if it's the first time holding a paint brush, it's all about having fun and getting inspired, according to Smalligan.

“We're providing a jumping place on that blank piece of paper,” said Cornwell. “We've taken your fear away.”

Some participating novice artists from the Unity High School were immediately drawn to certain pieces, while others had to search deep among the easels.

The public is invited to stop and paint until Jan. 27.

Lowell Arts will host a silent auction at the gallery from Jan. 31 to Feb. 5. Pro-

ceeds from the sales will be split between the donating artists and the Lowell Arts.

Donating artists are Mary Bommarito, Karen Cornwell, Cathy Dykstra, Marylu Dykstra, Gary Eldridge, Bill Ingraham, Jan Johnson, Bonnie Osbourne, Victoria Marnich-Reynolds, Patti Salka, Jera Smith and Gerard Wood.



Jon Jacobs adds his personal touch to a painting.



Tory Abel and Amanda Watson add their brush strokes to unfinished paintings of Works in Progress exhibition.

# THANK YOU

Thank you to the local community for supporting the Main Street Inn during its first year of business!

*Thank you also to the following businesses for their patronage:*

- Attwood • King Milling • Litehouse
- All Weather Seal • Grand Volute

*Elegant Lodging  
On The River*



## ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

SUNDAY - THURSDAY

Come and celebrate your anniversary with us and get the percent off of your room equal to the number of years you have been married!

RENT ONE ROOM OR THE ENTIRE INN!

- Special Occasions • Weddings
- Family Reunions • Birthday Parties

# MAIN STREET INN

117 WEST MAIN • LOWELL

616.897.1171

**HAPPY 80<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**  
ALICE MERRIMAN HESCHE



An open house will be held in celebration on

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2012 from 1 to 5 PM**

Lowell Township Hall  
2910 Alden Nash, Lowell

No Gifts  
Please

# Parent Selected, Kid Approved



- ♣ 119 Years of Faith-filled Education
- ♣ Fully Accredited Preschool through 8th Grade
- ♣ SmartBoard Technology, Art, Music, Gym, Computer Lab, Library, Field Trips
- ♣ Special Education Services provided by Lowell Area Schools
- ♣ Middle School Sports Program and Extracurricular Activities
- ♣ Daily Prayer, Weekly Liturgy & Community Service

## School Information Night

*Saturday Jan. 28, 6:00-7:00*

*Preschool - 8th Grade*

*Stay for the Winter Wonderland Carnival, 6-8:30  
Games, Cake Walk, Blow-ups, Food in the Parish Center*

**Families New to the School, Half Price First Year Tuition!**

(applies to fulltime K-8 programs)



***We Are St. Pat's!***

**691-8833**

**4333 Parnell Ave. NE**

**[www.stpatrickparnellschool.org](http://www.stpatrickparnellschool.org)**

**[scottczarnopys@gmail.com](mailto:scottczarnopys@gmail.com)**