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Volunteers gain gratification from helping others

by Emma Palova

The quality of life in a community can to a certain point be judged by the level of volunteerism.

Lowell has been fortunate to attract hundreds of volunteers to various organizations, non-profits and churches.

From Pink Arrow Pride to Alpha Women's Center, the spectrum of need is as wide as the universe. And even though there are still gaps in between different needs, most have been filled.

Here are the profiles of a few volunteers who are making a difference in the community.

Cliff Yankovich, owner

of Chimera Design, stood at the birth of the "shop local" campaign also known as "Lowell, the next place to be" marketing committee some six years ago. The philosophy of buying local is just beginning to pay off.



Cliff Yankovich

Today, Yankovich is involved in the community as the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce president for the second time. He is also on

the marketing committee, merchant's committee, on the chamber board of directors and on the recently formed Vision steering committee.

"I make my living in this community," Yankovich said. "I need to give back. I enjoy serving on the chamber board. It is the most effective way to serve."

Yankovich said there is great value in the chamber membership for \$125. Most area chambers are more expensive.

"The chamber does an outstanding job," he said. "We have one of the best websites in the country. You



Fay Horton

can find out everything on the site that you could possibly want to know about Lowell."

Yankovich said it is extremely important to get people thinking about shopping locally. On

each dollar spent, 70 percent of it sticks around, according to Yankovich.

"It's paying off," he said about the campaign. "We were ahead of the curve."

His advice to future volunteers is to just go ahead and do it.

Volunteers, continued, page 3



Perry Beachum

A smorgasbord of soups enjoyed on 'Souper Thursday'

by Emma Palova

It was the Who's Who in the community last week as chamber members scooped up the smorgasbord of soups during Souper Thursday.

If an empty crock pot is an indicator of the best tasting soup, then the winning soup, by popular vote, was the cheeseburger bacon soup made by Marianne DeYong who represented the city.

"I am definitely going to vote for this one," said Lowell Area Schools (LAS) superintendent Greg Pratt. "What a great day to do this."

The first annual Souper Thursday at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce was a fundraiser for Flat



Diane Carroll of Grattan tastes spinach soup.

River Outreach Ministries (FROM). It raised \$350 for FROM.

The social event at the

height of winter for chamber members was a definite hit.

"I am very happy with the turnout," said chamber director Liz Baker. "It was a good day; the members liked it. It was relationship building time."

Diane Carroll from Grattan tasted the deep green spinach soup located on the main counter.

"I've heard that it's good for you," she said. "I never liked spinach until I tried the soup. It's very good."



City manager Mark Howe with clerk Betty Morlock.

'Souper Thursday' continued, page 4

City will have more parking space, manager spearheads Vision group

by Emma Palova

The city of Lowell will have more parking space following the purchase of Moose property on Monroe Street.

The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) approved the purchase of the property for \$45,000. This will add 30 to 40 additional parking spaces right in the heart of the city.

The parking lot, currently in the design stages, will be completed by fall, according to city manager Mark Howe.

"There's not enough parking in the city," said Howe. "Parking is always an asset."

On the same note of progressively moving forward, Howe has recently spearheaded the Vision group. The steering committee consists of representatives from the city, Lowell and Vergennes townships, Lowell Area Schools and Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.

"We're developing a process to create a community vision," he said. "It is strategic planning for the community."

The group is expected

to formalize in the spring. The main goal will be to determine the future for Lowell.

"Where does the community see itself in five years," asked Howe. "I think the community needs to decide where it wants to go and where it wants to be. My job will be to help us get there."

Howe said he does not want to influence the process by presenting his ideas about the future of Lowell.

Superintendent Greg Pratt said he has no preconceived notions.

"We've had a grassroots conversation," he said. "It's in the process; what do we want to do. It's a great opportunity for five organizations to get together and talk about the future."

The Vision group will seek out community input through meetings and surveys.

"It's a pleasure to work with this group," said Pratt.

Howe said the group has to determine how to involve various organizations, community leaders and residents in the process.

Gov. Snyder emphasizes the need to keep the pace after a successful 2011 during state of the state address

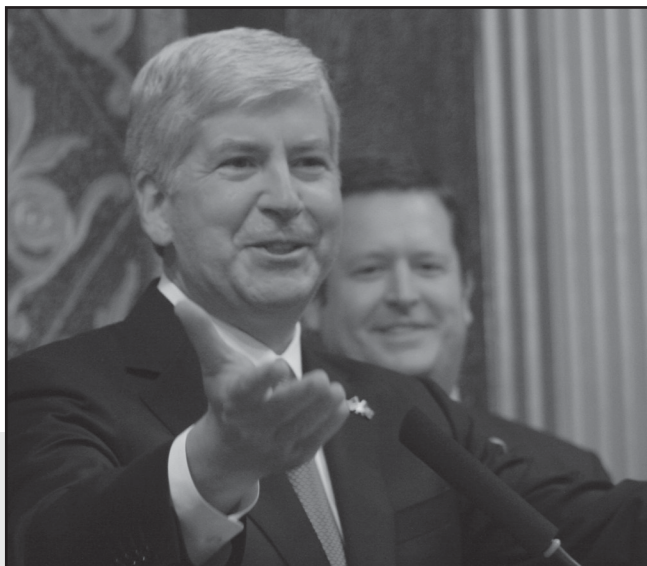
by Casey Cheney

Gov. Rick Snyder had a lot of good to say about his first year as governor of Michigan. Crime rates went down and college readiness went up. The state became more business-friendly — particularly with the abolition of Michigan's business tax, which Snyder called “dumb,” plain and simple.

The government made a historic deposit into a “rainy day fund,” though the size of that deposit had yet to be determined.

That being said, Michigan has a long climb ahead of it and Snyder acknowledged that.

Though crime was down in Michigan in 2011,



Gov. Rick Snyder addresses his fellow Michigan residents at the 2012 State of the State address, as the ever-present Lt. Gov. Brian Calley stands behind him in support.

it still lays claim to one of the four of the most dangerous cities in America. Thus, Snyder said, police forces must be expanded and the method of law enforcement must be examined.

Cost-saving measures on the part of public safety have helped pave the way for that, Snyder said.

When police stations closed to help balance the budget, squad cars were transformed into mobile police stations themselves. This, Snyder said, will allow the state to add on police officers. What will result is a more thorough and cost-efficient police force.

Though college-readiness in Michigan improved, Snyder said the numbers were still unacceptable. One hundred percent of Michigan high school graduates should be college- or work force-ready. Thus, Michigan residents can look forward to initiatives aimed at helping those who seek employment or higher education find success.

The abolition of the business tax was necessary to Michigan's economic growth, Snyder said. But

that was only one of many steps to come in tax reform.

He said taxes should be, “Simple, fair, efficient.” When he came to office, they were “none of those things.”

Tax reform will continue to be a primary focus in 2012.

The government worked vigorously in 2011, Snyder said. It passed 323 public acts. It balanced the budget and passed the new budget more quickly than it had in decades.

Snyder said this was an important victory for schools and businesses.

Snyder's tone was positive, yet simultaneously urgent. Michigan fared better in 2011 than it had in years. But, as Michigan residents well know, the work isn't nearly completed.

Therefore, to lessen the pace would be foolish.

He concluded that big government or small government did not matter. What mattered, he said, was “good government.”

The foundation for success was laid in 2011. In 2012, Michigan must build on it.



along main street

BLOOD DRIVE

The high school student council is sponsoring a blood drive Fri., Jan. 27 from 8 am to 2:30 pm in the small gym. Public is welcome.

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.

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.

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.

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 will be offered with proceeds from each \$1 vote going to LaughFest. Entry fees are \$10 and due Feb. 10 and 11. For more information call 897-8545, e-mail: info@lowellartsmi.org, or download an application at www.lowellartsmi.org

CALL FOR BANDS

The Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts is seeking musical groups in West and Central Michigan to perform in the summer of 2012 mid-June through end of August on Riverwalk Plaza. To be considered, applications must be received by Feb. 15, 2012. For more information call 897-8545 or e-mail info@lowellartsmi.org

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Volunteers, continued

"I am a big supporter of FROM," he said. "You can't get any more fundamental than having a food pantry. I like the idea that it represents different churches."

The time commitment for Yankovich is not a big deal, even though he has to do some homework prior to meetings.

"Just pick something that makes your motor run," he said. "Your heart has to be in it, so it's not drudgery. Pick something you get fired about."

And volunteerism certainly makes Lowell run.

Yankovich said it will be hard to fill some volunteer's shoes, like Ivan Blough who was known as Mr. Showboat.

"It's going to take two or three of us regular folks to fill Ivan's shoes," he said.

As the chamber president, Yankovich would like to attract more businesses to Lowell.

"I would like to see the river more utilized and attract some type of a sporting outfit," he said. "Lowell can support a sporting store."

Resident Fay Horton has been an avid volunteer for the Alpha Women's Center since its opening in 2006. Horton was on the initial steering committee with husband Jack. Currently, she is serving on the nine-member volunteer board.

Horton meets with clients and mentors them and she also helps out in the office.

"I want to be there to help the women, to show them God's love and that I care for them," she said.

The mission of the organization is to promote the value of human life and family in the community by offering encouragement, information and material assistance to individuals needing these services. The center offers assistance with clothing and helps women from a one-time pregnancy test to mothers of several children over a period of years.

Horton offered the following advice to potential volunteers, "Have a passion for a certain organization," she said. "I love the people

I love to sit down and talk with them."

As a mom of five, Horton feels she can relate to the women at the center. The center offers several programs, such as "Earn while you learn" where women can earn alpha bucks by keeping appointments.

The new location at 517 East Main has also worked out well for the center because of increased visibility.

"There is a need for this in the community, so the women do not have to go to Grand Rapids," Horton said.

And anyone can come, there are no criteria.

"I feel blessed to be a part of the organization," Horton said. "It's all about the care coming from the heart."

All items at the center are donated by the community. For training or more information call Deb at 987-9533.

Volunteer Perry Beachum has found his passion in the Pink Arrow Project. He serves on the committee and he is also the chairman of the Lowell Parks Com-

mission, board member of Lowell Area Recreation Authority and Lowell Light and Power.

The time commitment varies depending on the time of the year. On average, Beachum estimates he puts 10 hours into volunteering. But, when Pink Arrow rolls around in the fall, it's more like 40 hours into the project.

"My philosophy is when you don't like something, get involved and change it," he said.

Beachum gets gratification out of volunteering.

"It makes you feel good," he said. "It's a way to give back. It's self-motivating, when you're done you feel good about what you did."

By getting involved in various community projects, Beachum said he realized that there are a lot of people who have a lot more difficulties.

"You're going to be proud of what you did," he said.

There is also a side benefit to volunteering for business people.

"As a result of things that you do, people are more supportive of you," Beachum said. "It's a benefit to you to be involved, but it is not the sole purpose of volunteering."

As a board member of the utility, Beachum wants to be the role model of the most progressive utility of its size in the USA.

Showboat to celebrate its 80th birthday this summer

- Community encouraged to submit photos

In 1932 Franklin D. Roosevelt was president, a stamp cost three cents and Lowell introduced showboat entertainment to the riverside community. Originally intended as a depression-era diversion, the Lowell Showboat continued to entertain throughout good and bad times with amateur acts, a "Showboat Chorus," joke-telling endmen, the interlocutor (emcee) and nationally recognized performers.

Eighty years later, entertainment on the Flat River will be revived as Lowell enjoys another summer evening at the Showboat. With the Robert E. Lee II red,

white and blue regalia as a backdrop, the crowd-pleasing classic rock band "Alive & Well" will perform the last Thursday night concert of the 2012 Sizzlin' Summer series on August 23 in honor of the icon's 80-year local history.

No stranger to the venue, "Alive & Well" first performed on the Showboat in 1981.

Quipped keyboardist Roger MacNaughton, "We're gearing up for our repeat performance on the Lowell Showboat. True-to-our-name, we've also penciled in the 90-year birthday celebration 2022!"

Included in the celebration will be a display of pictures of past Showboat performances, chorus members, stars and endmen. The public is encouraged to scour attic treasures and barn trunks to have their nostalgic pictures included.

Pictures should be submitted by March 15, in person, to the Lowell Area Historical Museum at 325 W. Main Street, by e-mailing history@lowellmuseum.org or contacting Pat Allchin at 897-7688. All pictures will be scanned and returned to their owners.

Two arrested in Lowell on criminal sexual conduct charges

Jonathan Crandall, 27, owner of Lucid Hydroponics and Jillian Lemmink, 17, were arraigned in the 63rd District Court on charges of criminal sexual conduct and accosting a minor for immoral purposes in the 100 block of West Main Street.

A preliminary examination has been set for Crandall and Lemmink, who are out on a \$25,000 bond, for Feb. 1 at 1:15 pm at the 63rd District Court in Grand Rapids.

Penalties range from 90 days for the delinquency of-

fenses up to life or any term of years for the first degree criminal sexual conduct charge.

The Lowell Police Department arrested the two subjects on Wednesday, Jan. 18.

Detective Steve Bukala would not comment on the case which remains an open investigation.



Jonathan Crandall



Jillian Lemmink

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

Online registrations are NOW open!

Walk in registration date:
 Sat. Feb. 18th 9:00am-1:00pm
 Lowell Chamber of Commerce

Registration deadlines:
 EDL & 7-8 (March 25th)
 9-10, 11-12 & 13-14 Boys & Girls (March 1st)
 15-16 Boys & Girls (May 1st)

Visit the website at:
www.lllmi.com for more information

REMINDER NOTICE REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 28, 2012

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT ANY QUALIFIED ELECTOR OF BOWNE TOWNSHIP, LOWELL TOWNSHIP, VERGENNES TOWNSHIP AND THE CITY OF LOWELL, WHO IS NOT ALREADY REGISTERED, MAY REGISTER TO VOTE AT THE CITY OR TOWNSHIP OFFICES, AT ANY SECRETARY OF STATE BRANCH OFFICE, OR OTHER DESIGNATED PLACES FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2012

THE LAST DAY FOR RECEIVING REGISTRATIONS WILL BE MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 2012

QUALIFICATIONS TO REGISTER TO VOTE:

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Betty Morlock
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 8am to 5pm

Linda S. Regan
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 9am to 5pm

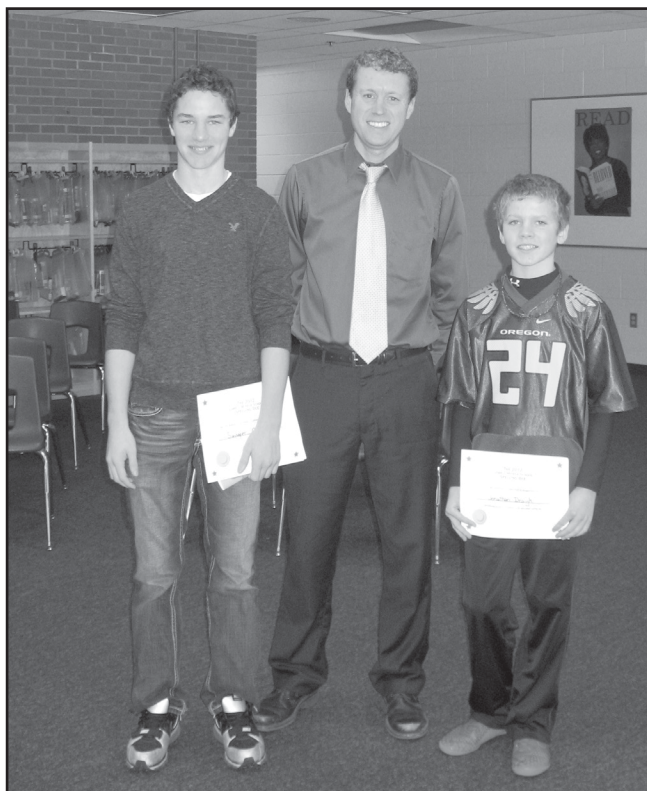
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Spelling bee winners



Pictured, from left to right: Runner up - Sawyer Olesko, assistant principal Nate Fowler and spelling bee winner - Jonathan Draigh.

Jonathan Draigh won the 2012 LMS Spelling Bee held on Monday, Jan. 16 in the media center at Lowell Middle School. Second place winner was Sawyer Olesko. It was a close com-

petition and everyone did a great job. Draigh and, due to a scheduling conflict, third place winner Chloe Looman will be representing LMS at the regional competition.



Pictured are Murray Lake's fifth grade spelling bee winners, Kylee Stephens (right) and runner-up Aili Fisher (left). Both girls will move on to the regional bee that will be held in Rockford in February.



At Your Local Library

Kent District Library programs at Englehardt Branch, 200 N. Monroe St. For additional information call 616-784-2007.

Family Storytime

Share books, stories, rhymes, music and movement as a family; develop early literacy skills and encourage a love of reading. For children ages 6 and under with a caregiver. Thursdays, Jan. 26 - Feb. 23, 10:30 am.

Rhyme Time Music and Movement

Move and groove together with action rhymes, songs, games and hands-on musical activities that will help children develop motor, listening and literacy skills. For children ages 6 and under with a caregiver. Fridays, Feb. 3 - 24, 6:30 pm.

Evening Storytime

For families who can't come to the library during the day. Evening Storytime offers an evening of stories and fun. Bring your teddy bear or other snuggly friend; pajamas optional. For children ages 6 and under with a caregiver. Tuesdays, Feb. 7 - 28, 6:30 pm.

'Souper Thursday' continued

Various soups in crock pots were set up on two different tables and on the main kitchen counter.

"They are all really good," said Betty Morlock, who tried six different soups.

The judge's vote went to Barb Williams of First-

bank for her delicious zuppa Toscana. The colorful soup tasted just as good as it looked.

Finance director for the schools, John Zielinski, liked the spicy chicken noodle soup the most.

"It's really good. It has homemade noodles in it,"

he said. "Nothing can beat that."

City manager Mark Howe tried almost all the soups, that is 15 of them. He refused to reveal his vote.

The soups boasted great variety from red paprika Guisado, turkey chowder, chicken rice and yellow as-

paragus to Tony's beef soup and everything in between, including black bean and pumpkin soup, cheesy veggie soup, southwestern tomato, curry chicken, mushroom soup, cheese broccoli and potato, crimini mushrooms and pancetta.

"The turkey chowder is definitely a front runner," said mayor pro tem Sharon Ellison.

Ellison said she will taste all the soups for the fairness of voting.

Baker was inspired to create the event by

Attwood's chili cook off, which included soups as well.

"It's all about the team," she said. "This is a cool thing. We had all this crossover going on."

The chamber will do it again next year.

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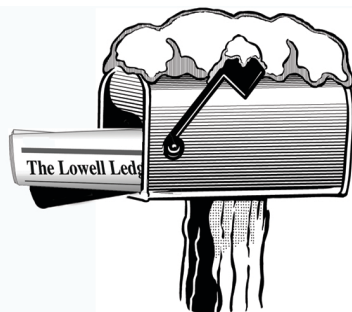
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Christopher C. Godbold

Delay in investing could prove costly

You've no doubt heard that "time is money." While this expression may be applicable in many areas of life, it's especially relevant for investors — because the more time you spend not investing, the less money you are likely to have when you really need it, such as during your retirement. That's why it's essential that you don't wait to start saving for your days as a retiree.

Many people think it won't make much difference if they delay investing for a few years. As you know, time flies, and before you know it, "a few years" turns into a decade — and a decade's postponement in saving for retirement can make an enormous difference in your life.

How big a difference? Suppose you plan to retire at age 65. If at age 25, you

began putting \$200 a month into a tax-deferred vehicle, such as a traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA), and your investments inside that IRA hypothetically earned on average 7 percent a year, you would accumulate about \$512,000 after 40 years. However, if you had waited until you were age 30 to start saving for retirement, with all else being equal, you'd end up with only about \$355,000 when you reached 65 — \$157,000 less — due to that five-year delay. And if you waited 10 years, until you were 35, you'd end up with about \$243,000 — far less than half of what you would

have accumulated had you started saving at 25. (Keep in mind that you will eventually have to pay taxes on these accumulations, and the actual figures don't reflect fees, commissions or expenses.)

Clearly, the cost of delay can be considerable — which is why you should consider taking these steps:

- Develop a strategy with your financial advisor. It's easier to stick to a strategy if you know where you're going. Your financial advisor can help you determine how much you need to save to reach the type of retirement you've envisioned.
- If you haven't start-

ed saving, begin now. If you wait until you feel more financially comfortable before you invest for retirement, you may never begin. Even if you can put away only a small amount, such as \$50 per month, you'll have made a start.

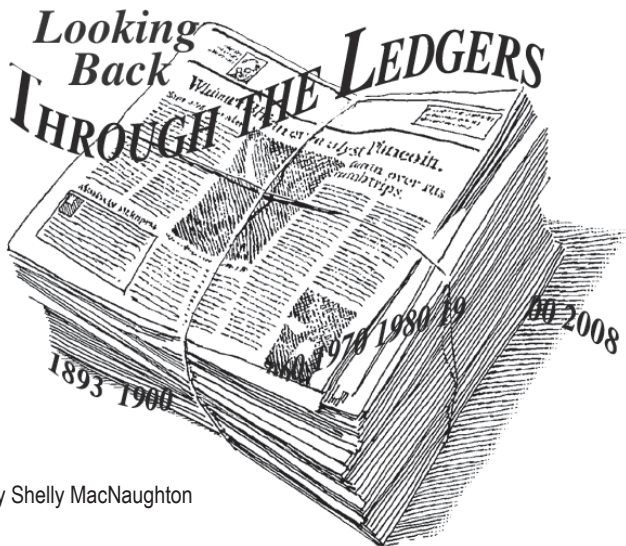
To make it easier on yourself, set up your accounts to automatically move a set amount each month into your IRA. As the above examples show, the best way to build substantial savings is to start early, but even if you're in your 30s or 40s, you can catch up — although you'll need to save more to potentially get to the same level.

- Increase your investments when your income rises. Every time you get a salary increase, boost your contributions to your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan.

- Don't take a "time-out" from investing. Keep on investing, whether the "news of the day" is positive or negative. The best investors are those who follow a consistent strategy and continue investing, year in and year out.

In short, save early, save often — and keep investing.

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



By Shelly MacNaughton

public share of the expense, which the remainder of \$9,350 will be borne by the abutting property owners.

75 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo January 21, 1937

The reputation of Ben Kerekes as a maker of a high grade, handmade harness continues to grow. His orders come from several miles around and he has found it necessary to construct a 12x16 addition to his shop, which is located on his farm on M21 just east of town. He is also building a 16x30 woodwork shop in connection and when completed the building will have an overall size of 56x16.

50 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger January 25, 1962

The ex Libris Club entertained their husbands at a post holiday gourmet party, Friday, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Fonger with thirty attending. Out-of-town guests were Mr. and Mrs. Hollis Brillhart of Grand Rapids and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thomas of Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Oesch had their children and grandchildren home for dinner on Sunday. Charles, their youngest son, entered the Air Force on Monday. He will be stationed in Texas.

25 Years Ago The Grand Valley Ledger January 28, 1987

The Michigan Sesquicentennial celebration got underway Monday. Several events were held in Lowell to commemorate the day. All classes at the Runciman Elementary School were asked to bring in a cake for a special project. Parent volunteers, Ellen Lietzke, Lori Smith, Joanne Groeneweg and Nancy Shortle, then fashioned the cakes into a huge map of the state that measured approximately six feet by six feet. Throughout the day students from the various classes decorated the cake with items indigenous to certain areas. There were cherries for Traverse City, navy beans for Bad Axe, a car for Detroit, furniture for Grand Rapids and, of course, a Showboat for Lowell. There were even gobs of frosting to depict Beaver, Mackinac, Manitou, Drummond and other islands.

The steeple bells at the Methodist Church were run at noon on Monday to acknowledge the sesquicentennial celebration.



lend a hand

volunteering opportunities

The Literacy Center of West Michigan has scheduled an information session on Thursday, February 2, 2012, for prospective volunteer tutors. This session is held at 6:30 pm and lasts one hour. It allows persons interested in becoming volunteer tutors to find out more about the Center and its literacy programs. At the end of the session, there will be an opportunity to sign up for tutor training.

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

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

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

Letters To The Editor:

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

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

Visit us online at...

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Knights crown free throw champions

The Knights of Lowell held their annual Columbus Council 7719 free throw competition from St. Mary Parish in last Wednesday evening.

Students ages 9-14 participated in the event. Winners at each age level

move on to a district competition held in Pewamo on February 11.

"Numbers were down a bit this year. Everyone is so busy with other things, but it is still a lot of fun for the kids involved," said coordinator Brent Noskey.

"We've had a few kids win state over the years. It is neat to see local kids go on and do well all the way through the state competition," added Noskey.

Pictured, at left, back row: Mark Langlois, Adam Anderson, Brady Schaefer, Sydney Powell, and Lucy Wade; front row: Nolan Cusack, Alexander Pollack, Khloe Hayes, and Regan Coxon.



health



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

tennis elbow

Tennis elbow is a painful condition involving the flexor muscle of the forearm. Most people feel a constant ache in the elbow and forearm which becomes worse with gripping, shaking hands or lifting. At times it can even be too painful to hold a cup or pen. It is the result of repetitive activity involving the contraction of the muscles that control the hand and wrist. The tendon that inserts into the bone becomes inflamed and microscopically torn.

old; job - those jobs that require repetitive motions of the wrist and hand, like painting, cutting, driving screws, excessive computer mouse use; and sports - those that involve rackets.

Treatment involves rest. This is key to healing. Anti-inflammatories, like Motrin, Tylenol, Aleve and braces that apply compression to the area, are also very helpful. Ice before and after painful activities helps as well. If this fails, physical therapy can be employed. Rarely, one needs to have a surgical procedure to resolve the problem

Factors that increase the chance of developing this include age - those between 30 and 50 years

college news

Asher Maliepaard, a student at Northland College, has been named to the dean's list for outstanding academic performance during the fall 2011 term. To qualify for the dean's list, full-time students must

have a grade point average of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale with no grade less than a "C."

Maliepaard is a resident of Lowell and the son of Diane Loomis and John Maliepaard.

Western Michigan University has announced that the following students have been named to the fall 2011 dean's list:

Sarah Eickhoff, Rebecca Kempker, Bryleigh Loughlin, Thomas Mark, Cameron McGillicuddy, Leslie Morrison, and Jessica Stephens, all of Lowell; Caroline Aleck, Matthew Bir, Eric Culver, Steven Datema, Colin Gallagher, Carly McHale, Doug Stutzman, and Heidi White, all of Ada; Hannah Bolt, Luke Burley, Josephine Isaac, Amanda Johnson, Annie Krempa, Maria Phillips, Emily Temple, and Ashley Tuma, all of Alto.

To be eligible for the dean's list, students must have earned at least a 3.5 grade point average (on a scale of 4.0 being all A's) in at least 12 hours of graded class work.

Timothy Wernet has been named to the Albion College dean's list for the fall 2011 semester. To be named to the dean's list, students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or above at the completion of the semester.

Wernet is the son of Timothy and Suzanne Wernet of Rockford and a graduate of Lowell High School.

business matters



Greenridge Realty announced that Don Reedy received Sales Associate of the Month in December.

This award recognizes Reedy for his outstanding success and achievements.



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- JANUARY 28**
Ryan White, Cher Mastenbrook, Amy
- JANUARY 29**
Brenda Traetz, Kim Call, Karen Potter, Zach DeBold.
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Growing poverty threatens children's health, recent Michigan policy decisions worsen the impact on kids

Child abuse and neglect in Kent County almost doubled over the past decade while almost half of Kent County K-12 children qualify for free and reduced price lunches, the latest Kids Count in Michigan Data Book concludes.

Michigan's long economic struggle is reflected in the new Kids Count findings. Children qualify for school-based meals if their family income is 185 percent of poverty or less. Studies confirm that families need income of about 200 percent of poverty – at least \$44,226 for a family of four – to cover basic needs without assistance. Poverty also drives up neglect cases.

"The findings show that kids in Kent County and across Michigan are still suffering the fallout from our long recession," said Jane Zehnder-Merrell, the Kids Count in Michigan director at the Michigan League for Human Services.

"Poverty in Michigan is as big a threat to our children today as polio was to a previous generation. Fortunately, we can do something about this. We know that public policy can improve children's social and economic environment."

This year's report, Health Matters, focuses on child health and the role that the social and economic factors in children's lives play in good health.

The annual Data Book is released by the Kids Count in Michigan project. It is a collaboration between the Michigan League for Human Services, which researches and writes the report; and Michigan's Children, which works with advocates statewide to disseminate the findings. Both are nonpartisan, nonprofit advocacy organizations concerned about the well-being of children and their families.

"Children in poverty

often experience hunger, abuse or neglect, extreme stress, depression or anxiety, and other issues impacting their overall health, as well as their ability to learn and grow into successful adults," said Michele Corey, vice president for programs at Michigan's Children. "The best public policies must address the whole child from cradle to career and this data can help guide these policies."

The report ranks counties on 16 indicators of child well-being (with No. 1 being the best), though data is not available to rank smaller counties on all 16. Trends over time are available for 15 indicators, with nine indicators improving and six worsening.

Kent County ranked No. 9 of 39 counties for teen deaths with a rate of about 45 deaths per 100,000 teens compared with the statewide rate of 55.6 per 100,000.

The county's worst ranking was No. 73 of 80 counties for high school dropouts with a rate of almost 13 percent compared with the statewide rate of about 11 percent.

Statewide, the biggest improvements were in the area of education with fewer students considered not proficient in math and among adolescents with fewer births to teens, fewer teen deaths and fewer high school dropouts.

Michigan saw a small improvement between 2000 and 2009 in infant mortality, although African American infants have triple the risk of mortality than that of white infants. There was also a 25 percent improvement in the rate of child deaths over the decade with 318 children (ages 1-14) dying in 2009, down from 471 in 2000.

Worsening trends included the rate of children confirmed as victims of abuse and neglect, which rose 34 percent statewide over the decade. In 2010, 32,500 Michigan children were confirmed victims with four out of every five suffering from neglect.

In 2010, almost half of K-12 public school students (46.5 percent) qualified for free or reduced price lunch, jumping from 36.2 percent in 2006.

Democratic or Republican party primary. By state law, this is called a 'closed primary.' When voters request an absentee ballot or arrive at the polls and fill out their application to vote, they must indicate in which party's primary they wish to vote. They will then receive a ballot listing candidates for that party. That ballot will also contain any special election issues.

Sample ballots will be available online at www.Michigan.gov/vote.

Voters who wish only to vote in the special election may request a ballot that does not include presidential candidates.

Voters will be asked to provide identification when at the polls on Election Day. They will be asked to present valid photo ID, such as

The percent of children living in poverty jumped from 14 percent to 23 percent between 2000 and 2009. Even more startling is the rate of children living in extreme poverty – roughly less than \$11,000 a year for a family of four – jumped from five percent of children to 11 percent. That means that more than one in every 10 kids in Michigan is living in extremely desperate circumstances, living at half the poverty level.

Children growing up in poverty face lifelong consequences. They are less likely to graduate and more likely to suffer from heart disease, obesity and high blood pressure as adults.

"The impact of high unemployment and declining wages is leaving its mark on a generation of children," Zehnder-Merrell said. "Unfortunately, policymakers have cut family supports aimed at blunting the impact of the economic downturn on kids."

Recent policy decisions that negatively impact kids include:

- Cutting the Michigan Earned Income Tax Credit from 20 percent of the federal credit to six percent. The credit has been responsible for pushing 14,000 Michigan kids out of poverty.

- Placing stricter time limits on cash assistance for 12,000 families living in poverty, including nearly 30,000 children.

- Putting asset limits on food assistance that will impact the newly unemployed and divert needed federal aid from Michigan.

- Reducing the traditional period of unemployment from 26 to 20 weeks. The tough labor market means half of jobless workers search six months or longer before finding employment.

Kids Count in Michigan project is part of a broad national effort to improve conditions for children and their families. Funding for the project is provided by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Detroit-based Skillman Foundation, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation, local United Ways and the Battle Creek Community Foundation. The annual data book is available from the Michigan League for Human Services and on the web at www.milhs.org. More state and local data are available at the Kids Count Data Center, www.datacenter.kidscount.org

Voter registration deadline nears for February presidential primary

Residents have until Monday, Jan. 30 to register in order to vote in the Feb. 28 presidential primary election.

"This year will present Michigan residents with important choices at the voting booth, whether they're voting for president or local offices," said Ruth Johnson, Michigan's Secretary of State.

The polls will be open on Election Day from 7 am to 8 pm.

To register, applicants must be at least 18 years old by Election Day and be U.S. citizens. Applicants must also be residents of Michigan and of the city or township in which they wish to register.

Voters may register by mail, at their county, city or township clerk's office or by visiting any Secretary of State office. The mail-in form is available at www.Michigan.gov/elections. First-time voters who register by mail must vote in person in their first election,

unless they hand-deliver the application to their local clerk, are 60 years old or older, are disabled or are eligible to vote under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

To check their registration status, residents may visit the Michigan Voter Information Center at www.Michigan.gov/vote. Residents can also find information there on absentee voting, Michigan's voter identification requirement, how to use voting equipment and how to contact their local clerk. In addition, they will find a map to their local polling place.

Voters who qualify may choose to cast an absentee ballot. As a registered voter, you may obtain an absentee ballot if you are:

- age 60 or older.
- physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another.
- expecting to be absent from the community in which you are registered for

the entire time the polls will be open on Election Day.

- in jail awaiting arraignment or trial.
- unable to attend the polls due to religious reasons.
- appointed to work as an election inspector in a precinct outside of your precinct of residence.

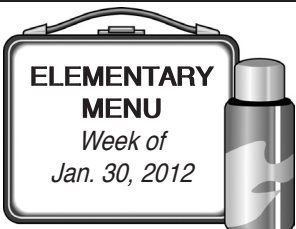
Those who wish to receive their absentee ballot by mail must submit their application by 2 pm Saturday, Feb. 25. Absentee ballots can be obtained in person anytime through 4 pm on Monday, Feb. 27. Voters who request an absentee ballot in person on Monday, Feb. 27 must fill out the ballot in the clerk's office. Emergency absentee ballots are available under certain conditions through 4 pm on Election Day.

The February election, like all elections, is open to all registered voters. Michigan does not require voters to register as a member or supporter of a political party, so voters can choose to participate in either the

a Michigan driver's license or identification card. Anyone who does not have an acceptable form of photo ID or failed to bring it with them to the polls can still vote. They will be required to sign a brief affidavit stating that they're not in possession of photo ID. Their ballots will be included with all others and counted on Election Day.

For more information about voting and the Secretary of State's Office, visit www.Michigan.gov/SOS.

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THURS: Pasta & Italian meat sauce, tossed salad w/light dressing, banana, milk.

FRI: Cheese pizza on whole grain crust, steamy corn, fruit goop, milk.

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Traveling exhibit sows “Seeds of Inspiration”

by Emma Palova

The four-panel traveling exhibit “Seeds of Inspiration” now located at the city hall focuses on Lowell as a town known for its vision and spirit.

The insight into the future dates back to 1932 when a group of local businessmen came up with the idea of having an entertainment venue, the Showboat, on the Flat River at the height of the depression. The idea was to stimulate business after the centennial celebration.

“We’re getting a good feedback from the exhibit,” said Lowell Area Historical Museum director Pat Allchin. “Everybody gets something different out of it.”

Another panel features the Gusmacker, three on three basketball, that was started in Lowell in the 1970s.

The Pink Arrow Project adorns one of the exhibit panels.

“We have this huge thing here that started with the vision of one person and now Lowell is nationally known for this,” said Allchin.

The exhibit also highlights two major organizations that have put Lowell on the map of the country. These are the Lowell arts and the museum, known as the best small-town museum in the country.

“A group of people got together and made something happen,” said Allchin. “They reflect the vision and the spirit of the community that brought national recognition to what we do.”

The Showboat panel reflects on Lowell memories and prominent personalities like Ivan Blough, while the Pink Arrow panel showcases the present, the new face of Lowell.

“It’s kind of like transition in time,” said Allchin.

The traveling exhibits are just one facet of the museum’s constant effort to bring the history outside the walls of the historical Graham building located at the main downtown intersection.

“We want to educate and inspire people to appreciate the past,” said Allchin. “We want to reach out to the community in a different way one piece at a time.”

The traveling exhibits are built every two years. On off years, the museum creates a special exhibit. Right now in the planning stages is special exhibit “Real to Reel” about the history of the Lowell Strand Theater.

The museum has also released the “Historic Downtown Walking Tour” brochure highlighting local landmarks.

“We included what we thought people felt was pertinent,” said Allchin.

So, the brochure features the Negonce Block where Flat River Grill is currently located. Other blocks highlighted include the Union, the Lyon, the Museum, the bank, the city hall, Davis House, Superior Furniture block, and the south and north side of the bridge.

The Lowell downtown was designated a Downtown Historic District and registered on the National Register of Historic Places in 1995.

“Seeds of Inspiration” traveling exhibit at the city hall.



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Red Arrow SPORTS

- GYMNASTICS

Lowell gymnasts continue to improve scores

by Casey Cheney

After a high-scoring loss to Rockford on Wednesday, the Lowell gymnastics team scored their highest of the season at the Lowell Invitational on Saturday.

Lowell's A team finished sixth and their B team placed ninth out of the 11 teams competing in the invitational.

The score of the A team

at the invitation, 127.95, is the same score Rockford had, to beat Lowell on Wednesday.

"Too many falls on beam basically lost this

meet for us," Head coach Michele DeHaan said of the Rockford meet. "The girls lost their focus. You never want to be on the losing end of close ones like this."

The mistakes they made on Wednesday, however, helped prepare them for Saturday's meet.

Recapping Saturday, DeHaan said, "We competed beam first at this meet, so hitting that first and getting it out of the way made a huge difference."

The team finished with much higher beam scores overall, she said.

"I'm extremely pleased to have four girls place," DeHaan said. "This success will only push the girls to work harder at practice to get up on that podium again."

Danielle Krajewski came back from an arm injury and competed beam for the first time this year, earning her first regional quali-

fying score, a great way to start. Kaylee Wold competed floor for the first time ever and DeHaan said Wold surprised herself by coming so close to a regional qualifying score.

Lauren DeHaan placed tenth overall at the invitational, scoring 32.55.

DeHaan said that to earn the right to compete individually at regionals in March, the girls must hit a certain score on each event four times. The qualifying scores are 7.9 for the vault, 6.8 for the bars, 7.5 for beam and 8.0 for floor.

To qualify as a team, they must score 120 four times. Lowell has already done this, so they have already qualified to go to regionals as a team.



Winners – The winning gymnasts at Lowell's invitational meet on Saturday celebrate their awards.

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Lauren DeHaan receives a medal for placing tenth all-around at the Lowell Invitational on Saturday.

SCORES

LOWELL INVITATIONAL	Floor
A team	Morgan Taylor 8.1
Vault	Kaylee Wold 7.75
Meghan Plutschow 8.75/ tied for third place	Emily Judd 7.5
Lauren DeHaan 8.7/tied for fifth place	Colleen Cater 7.35
Abby Rogalke 8.35	Overall scores:
Kaezi Bladey 8.0	Kenowa 142.10
Bars	Forest Hills A 137.35
Kaezi Bladey 7.9/tied for seventh place	Adrian 130.80
Lauren DeHaan 7.9/tied for seventh place	Coldwater A 128.75
Bethany Kaczanowski 7.25	Rockford A 128.70
Abby Rogalke 7.15	Lowell A 127.95
Beam	East Kentwood 119.65
Kaylee Wold 7.8	Forest Hills B 116.80
Lauren DeHaan 7.75	Lowell B 111.25
Abby Rogalke 7.75	Coldwater B 105.2
Bethany Kaczanowski 7.75	Rockford B 82.25
Floor	
Bethany Kaczanowski 8.4	
Kaezi Bladey 8.3	
Lauren DeHaan 8.2	
Meghan Plutschow 8.15	
B team	
Vault	
Morgan Taylor 8.55/tenth place	
Colleen Cater 8.2	
Emily Judd 8.4	
Bars	
Morgan Taylor 6.85	
Morgan McVey 5.9	
Kaylee Wold 4.95	
Emily Judd 7.15	
Beam	
Kaylee Wold 7.8	
Emily Judd 7.5	
Danielle Krajewski 7.5	
Erin Groom 7.1	
	LOWELL VS. ROCKFORD
	Vault
	Meghan Plutschow 8.6
	Kaezi Bladey 8.45
	Morgan Taylor 8.45
	Lauren DeHaan 8.40
	Bars
	Bailey Roberts 7.90
	Lauren DeHaan 7.90
	Kaezi Bladey 7.60
	Emily Judd 7.225
	Beam
	Jorie Bennett 7.90
	Kaylee Wold 7.75
	Abby Rogalke 7.30
	Lauren DeHaan 7.25
	Floor
	Lauren DeHaan 8.275
	Kaezi Bladey 8.20
	Bethany Kaczanowski 8.175
	Meghan Plutschow 8.10

Red Arrow SPORTS

- BASKETBALL

Girls' go undefeated last week, now stand at 4-7

by Casey Cheney

With two strong wins, the Lowell Red Arrow girls' basketball team doubles its victories and is now 4-7.

The Red Arrows crushed Muskegon Reeths Puffer on Tuesday 40-53 in an above-average offensive performance.

Amber Martin led the scoring with 16 points, followed by Stephanie Stevens with 13 points.

Lowell and Reeths Puffer went into the game with the same record.

The Red Arrows started out hot, scoring 20 points in the first quarter. After the first eight minutes of the game, they led Muskegon 20-12.

They continued to out-score the Rockets in the

second and third quarters. They held Reeths Puffer to only four points in the third quarter.

At the start of the fourth quarter, Lowell boasted a 44-26 lead. Though the Rockets' defense held the Red Arrows to only nine points in the fourth, their own 14 points weren't enough for the comeback.

The momentum carried over to Lowell's match on Friday against Greenville. Greenville came into the game 7-3, while the Red Arrows were 3-7.

Though the offense was not nearly as active – scoring only nine combined points in the second half – their defense got the job done.

Lowell held a 25-18 lead going into halftime.

The two teams went blow for defensive blow in the third quarter, scoring five points a piece. Once again, in the fourth, their scoring was limited – this time, only to four points. But, yet again, their defense held strong. They only allowed Greenville to score six points.

Stevens led the scoring for Lowell with nine points. Aubreigh Steed, Amber Martin and Lauren Kurtz both had six points. Jessica Montgomery scored five points.

This week, they face Grand Rapids Creston and Grand Rapids Christian.



Amber Martin knocks down two free throws in Friday's win.

Boys' basketball splits week 3-6

by Casey Cheney

The long-awaited third win of the season came to the Lowell Red Arrow basketball team on Tuesday against Muskegon Reeths Puffer. Lowell handled the 0-8 Rockets 58-45, losing on Friday to undefeated Greenville.

Except for slowing down to eight points in the second quarter, Lowell's offense consistently got buckets in Tuesday's game against Reeths Puffer. Though the Rockets shut them down in the second, allowing only eight points, Muskegon was only able

to put up nine points themselves.

The Rockets' offense picked up in the third, where they scored 20 points, but Lowell was able to nearly match them with 17 points. The Red Arrows scored 16 in the first quarter and another 17 in the fourth.

Defeating a currently winless team, Lowell found themselves in the trenches with 11-0 Greenville. And, as has been the sad story all season, the Red Arrows fell behind in the final minutes of the game after keeping up with a respectable opponent.

Lowell got off to a quick start against Greenville. They gained control of the tip and Blake Lyman laid in the quick bucket off a nice dish, giving Lowell the early lead.

Greenville responded with a goal of their own in the paint. Jason Malling drained a triple on their next possession, regaining the lead 5-2.

The early full-court press by Greenville rushed Lowell's offense. Meanwhile, the defense couldn't shut down Greenville. The first quarter ended with Lowell trailing 11-20.

Early in the second, Greenville held a 25-13 lead over the Red Arrows, but head coach Kyle Carhart's offense pressed forward.

Another Malling three-pointer gave Lowell back the lead and capped off a 13-0 run. With less than three minutes in the half, Lowell led 26-25.

By halftime, Malling had scored yet another three, but the two teams drew even, 30-30, at halftime.

The Red Arrows held their own throughout the third quarter, at one point taking the lead and tying the game several times after that.

Exchanging blows, neither team showed a definite edge throughout the rest of the third and most of the fourth quarter.

Malling brought his team within four points after

making both free throws on the one-on-one bonus.

Lyman was then fouled following a Lowell steal and he made both shots from the free throw line. The score was now 52-54 with a minute and a half left in the game.

Unable to get the tying bucket, the Red Arrows were forced into clock-management fouls. Two made shots from the charity strip and Greenville held a four-point lead with less than a minute remaining.

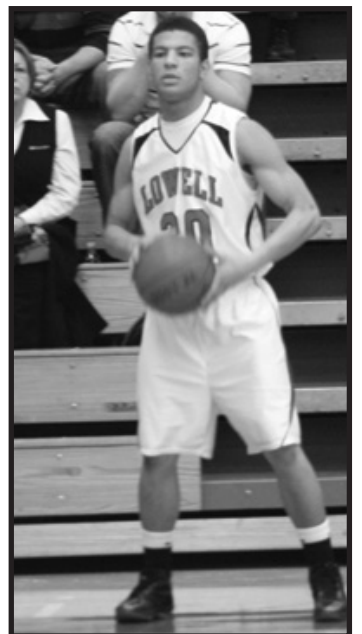
A Greenville steal sealed Lowell's fate as

Greenville scored yet again, making the score 52-58 with 10.4 seconds left in the game.

Justin Castro tossed up a long three ball as the game ended, but it, like the Red Arrows, fell short.

Lowell now looks ahead to 1-7 Grand Rapids Creston on Tuesday and 8-3 Grand Rapids Christian on Friday.

Shannon Massey inbounds the ball past the Greenville defense.



Jason Malling drives the lane and gets a sweet lay up past the defense. Malling led the impressive offensive charge in the loss to Greenville on Friday.



Alec Roerig posts up his man in Friday's game against Greenville.

obituaries

DeNOLF

Winifred "Wendy" Edith DeNolf, of Lowell, after an adventurous life of 81 years died Tuesday, December 27, 2011. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bob DeNolf. She is survived by her children, Bob (Sue), Kathy (Gary) Rosemary, David (Nancy), Steve (Mary Jo); grandchildren, Jennifer (Chad) Saalfrank, Beau, Garret (Sara), Elliot, Austin, Mitchell; great-grandchildren, Samantha and Cora. Wendy, a Lowell resident for the last 39 years, worked at City Hall for 15 years and was the co-owner of the Lowell Strand Theatre. She attended St. Mary's Church, was a member of Lowell Area Arts Council, Lowell Garden Club, Lowell Library and for the past 10 years was a docent for the Lowell Historical Society Museum. A lifelong learner and educator, she was also a docent at both the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and the VanAndel Public Museum for 17 years. Her passion for her family, life, educational experiences and travel will be long admired by her family. Memorial service will be held Saturday, January 28, 2012, 1:00 pm at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. Visitation Friday 3-7:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Lowell Area Historical Museum, PO Box 81, Lowell, MI 49331.



LEE

Lena Lee, aged 93, of Lowell, went to be with the Lord on Saturday, January 21, 2012. She was preceded in death by her husband, Wallace Lee; daughter, Ruth Kiefner; and son-in-law, David Kiefner. She is survived by her children, Kenneth (Arlene) Lee and Jerry Lee; grandchildren, Michael (Missy) Lee, Matthew Lee and Daniel Lee; three great-grandchildren; and brother, Ray VanHoven. Lena was a devoted Christian and a loving, caring mother and grandmother. Funeral services were held Tuesday at Calvary Grace Brethren Church, Alto. Rev. Brian Auten, officiating. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Great Lakes Caring or Great Lakes Hospice, 630 Kenmoor Ave. SE, Suite 200, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.



MAPES

Michael "Slim" Robert Mapes, age 58, of Lowell, passed away Sunday, January 22, 2012. He was preceded in death by his father, Slim. He is survived by his wife, Jana, of 37 years; daughter, Tanya Mapes; granddaughter, Athena; mother, Barbara Mapes of Midland; brothers, Dave (Jean) Mapes, John Mapes, Mark (Deb) Mapes; and sister, Mary (Rick) Green. Slim was employed by Lacks Enterprises for 26 years and was an avid pool and poker player, hunter and fisherman. Visitation will be Wednesday, 2-4:00 and 6-8:00 pm at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. Upon his request there will be no funeral services. Memorial contributions may be made to Pink Arrow Pride, PO Box 246, Lowell, MI 49331.



O'TOOLE

Dennis O'Toole, of Lowell, formerly of Sunfield, Michigan, age 69, passed away on January 18, 2012. He grew up in Grand Ledge as the son of Wendell and Gretchen (Mapes) O'Toole who predeceased him. His family includes brothers, Michael and wife Shirley, Patrick and wife Ronni; sons, Ryan O'Toole and his wife Emily, Art Conrad and wife Jean; daughters, Kim Lum and WingFoo Lum, Karmle Eroh, and Robin Shapiro; many grandchildren; uncle, Larry (Kate) Mapes; nieces, nephews, cousins and lifelong friends. Denny lived a full life with great triumphs and challenges, always sharing an optimistic outlook with everyone in his life. Denny made friends throughout his life beginning in his youth in Grand Ledge, Sunfield, Flint, Kentwood, Gun Lake, Lansing and most recently Lowell. He enjoyed playing tennis during his college years at Michigan State University and later enjoyed tailgating at the same location with fellow Spartans. He relished watching Michigan State University games with many, but especially his grandson, Kai Lum. Denny spent the last years of life living at Murray Lake with his kitty, Hoopsey Doo, while he cheered on his favorite teams! Funeral services were held Tuesday at Rosier Funeral Home, Mapes-Fisher Chapel, 193 Jackson Street, Sunfield. The family also suggests memorial gifts to the Michigan State University Spartan Marching Band, C/O RFH, PO Box 36, Sunfield, MI 48890. Express your thoughts and memories in the online guest book at www.legacy.com The family is being served by the Independent Family Owned Funeral Home in Sunfield: Rosier Funeral Home.



SMART

Charleen C. (Shondelmayer) Smart, age 69, of Lowell, passed away January 15, 2012, in Lowell. She was born February 15, 1942, in Grand Rapids, the daughter of J.C. and Nancy (Seelye) Schondelmayer. She married Willard Smart March 10, 1962. Charleen is survived by her husband, Willard Smart of Lowell; son, Jeff Smart of Saranac; daughters, Beth Smart of Lowell and Melissa (Richard) Edwards of Ionia; grandchildren, Heather Smart, Megean Smart, Joshua Smart, Tabitha Baker, Savannah Baker, Autumn Perez and Zachary Thayer; and several great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and one sister, Judy. Cremation has taken place and services will be held at a later date. Arrangements by Lake Funeral Home in Saranac. Online condolences may be made at www.lakefuneralhomes.com

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 12-191474-DE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

Estate of HELEN ROSE EATON, deceased. Date of birth: 01/18/1917.

FILE NO. 12-191542-DE

Estate of DOROTHY A. POTTER. Date of birth: 01/16/1920.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Helen Rose Eaton, who lived at 2912 Dawes, S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49508 died 11/28/2011.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Dorothy A. Potter, died 04/21/2010. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Ronald Potter, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Ste. 2500, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Joshua Eaton, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Ste. 2500 Grand Rapids, MI 49504 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

1/23/2012

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

Craig A. Bruggink (P29358)
429 Turner Ave., N.W.
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-456-5048

Ronald Potter
985 N. Washington Rd.
Lowell, MI 49331
616-540-8107

Joshua Eaton
1478 102nd Ave.
Plainwell, MI 49080
407-865-0127

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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...
All the President is, is a glorified public relations man who spends his time flattering, kissing and kicking people to get them to do what they are supposed to do anyway.

~ Harry S Truman
(1884 - 1972)

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Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Fri. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
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classifieds

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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.

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.

WHAT A DEAL IN LOWELL!! - \$199,900. This 3 bedroom, 3 full bath stick built home features 2 fireplaces, hardwood floors, wet bar in family room, walkout lower level, two stall attached garage, 40x20 in-ground heated pool, hot tub, 5 year old 32x32 two story barn with awesome man room, 32x32 basketball court, cul-de-sac location all on a 1 acre tree lined lot. Natural gas, high speed internet & paved road. All appliances are included. No short sale or foreclosure here so none of the headaches! Absolutely beautiful! Immediate possession! (1925 Berrywood) Go to patschaefer.com for more info. Five Star Real Estate, 616-897-9027.

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

BRUNSWICK 8' SLATTE BILLIARD TABLE - Slate billiard table with black cloth, includes cues, cue stand, cover, balls & all accessories. Buyer responsible for paying set-up fee with Reliable Billiards in Grand Rapids. \$5,500. Call 616-826-6726.

DON'T PAY HIGH HEATING BILLS - Eliminate them with a Classic Outdoor Wood Furnace from Central Boiler. 25 year warranty. Sale. Call SOS your "Stocking Dealer" Dutton, MI 616-554-8669 or 616-915-5061.

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

for sale

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.

2003 JEEP LIBERTY LIMITED 4 WD - \$5,800. Leather, loaded to include heated seats, newer tires, brakes & rotors. Call 897-4275.

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.

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.

for rent

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

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

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

FOR RENT - Big brick centennial 4 BD home between Lowell & expressway, no pets. \$900/mo. Call 293-0980.

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.

found

PLEASE NOTE - All ads in this category must be prepaid.

FOUND CAT - Tan & black, long hair, Murray Lake area. Call 691-7902.

card of thanks

THANK YOU

To all my family and the many good friends who helped me celebrate my 80th birthday. It was a great day for me and I so appreciate every moment of it. Thank you.

Alice Merriman Hesche

THANK YOU

to everyone who came to my 90th birthday party on Sunday and for all the beautiful cards sent. Your caring has touched my heart.

Agnes Wieland

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.

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SHORT SALES - How do they work? Call **Joice Smith** with your questions. No obligation and a free CMA. Country Hills Realty 897-1061.

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

services

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

SNOW REMOVAL - small driveways 100 ft. or less & sidewalks 4 ft. or wider. Reasonable rates, free estimate & licensed. Walnut Hill Lawn & Garden. Call Aaron at 616-328-9558.

PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION - Michigan's Qualified Forest Property program exempts eligible forestland owners from certain school taxes. Call 616-897-8575 for details.

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.

services

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

COPIES COPIES - We have color & black & white copiers! As low as 10¢ per copy for black & white. Stop by our office, Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway.

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

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Community Calendar

PLEASE NOTE - Coming Events are for non-profit organizations. If you are charging admission for an event - it is considered an advertisement. Coming events are 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.

IONIA-MONTCALM CHAPTER #6 - State Employee Retirees' Association will hold its monthly meeting following a luncheon Thurs., Jan 26 at noon in the admin. building of the Ionia County Intermediate School District, 2191 Harwood Rd., Ionia. Reservations are necessary before noon on Jan. 24 by calling 616-527-1825. All Vested & Retired State Employees may attend. Please note: day & date change.

LOWELL AREA PRAYER & HEALING ROOMS - located in the FROM building, 11535 Fulton Street, most Monday evenings, 6-8 p.m. Christian Scripture based. No cost or fees, no appointment necessary, confidentiality respected.

TOTS PLAYGROUP - Meets every Tues., Wed. & Thurs. at Bushnell Elementary, 700 Elizabeth, Lowell. 8:30 a.m. or 10 a.m. Meeting at Alto Elementary, 6150 Bancroft, Alto on Thursdays at 10 a.m. For more info contact Lori at TOTS, 987-2532.

KENT COUNTY NARFE GROUP - for retired & current federal employees meet the 2nd Thursday at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 E. Fulton, 1/2 mile west of E. Beltline. Potluck at 12:30 p.m. & meeting begins at 1:30 p.m. Call Ed Moore for time, 616-784-6716.

COFFEE WITH THE COUNCIL - Come meet & have a cup of coffee with your city council members. First Saturday of each month at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce office, 113 Riverwalk Plaza, Lowell. 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.

CIVIL AIR PATROL - Meets the second & fourth Tues. of the month, 6 p.m., Benz Aviation Building at Ionia Airport, teen/adult programs available, Call Shawna, 616-430-1348 or visit online http://mi222.miwg-cap.org

KIDS TALK - Every Tues., in 1st - 4th grade on a cancer or grief journey. Incorporates curriculum-based activities, discussion & playtime. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600.

FREE SENIOR COFFEE - Every fourth Friday, 8-9 a.m., sponsored by Laurels of Kent, Lowell McDonalds, 1300 W. Main St.

FOOD PANTRY - First Friday of month at Lakeside Community Church, 6201 Whitneyville Rd. Free frozen, perishable food. Registration 1 p.m., distribution 4 p.m. Bring own containers. 868-6402.

MOMS IN TOUCH GROUP - forming for Alto Elementary. Call Suzanne for more info, 868-7337.

LOWELL WOMEN'S CLUB - Meets the second Wed. of each month, Sept. - May, 11:45 a.m., Schneider Manor. For more information call Jan at 897-2533.

FIRST & THIRD WEDNESDAYS - Fun at Calvary for boys & girls preschool - 8th grade. Cadets for boys 1st - 8th; GEMS for girls 3rd - 8th; Kingdom Kids for boys & girls preschool - 2nd grade. 1125 W. Main, Lowell. Ph. 897-7060, email: lowellcalvarycroc@yahoo.com

FIT CLUB - Every Tues. at 9 a.m., Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main, Clarksville. 616-693-1001.

WINTER READING - Now thru Mar. 31, ages 10 - adult, Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

BELDING-IONIA MASONIC LODGE #355 - which serves the Belding, Ionia, Lowell, Lyons-Muir & Saranac areas, will conduct its Stated Communication, Mon., Feb. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the lodge room of the temple building, 211 E. Main St., Belding. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. All Master Masons are urged to attend.

HOOKER 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.

MID-WINTER USED BOOK SALE - Fri., Jan. 27, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. & Sat., Jan 28, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. For adults & children. Englehardt Library, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell. Sponsored by The Friends of Englehardt Library. All proceeds go to library programming.

FREE LADIES NIGHT AT THE YMCA - Fri., Jan. 27, 6-10 p.m. Lowell YMCA, 1335 W. Main St. Phone 897-8445.

BLOOD DRIVE - Fri., Jan. 27, 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Lowell High School Student Council. At Lowell High School in the small gym. Public is welcome.

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

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY - at Cascade Fellowship Christian Ref. Church, 6655 Cascade Rd. Free perishable food. 1st Monday. Register: 4:30 p.m. Distribution: 6 p.m.

classifieds

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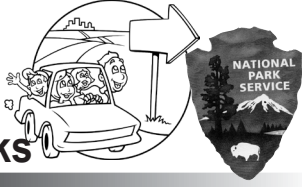
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exploring our national parks



Kurt Hieshetter

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In the summer of 2006, we decided to take our first long distance road trip. The kids were not quite four. We had a new trailer and a wild idea to visit all the national parks. So we thought a minute about where we could go, in two weeks, to see the largest number of parks. The unanimous decision was Yellowstone. Stephanie had been there as a kid and I had never been there. Along the way, we could stop at Badlands National Park, Mount Rushmore National Monument and Wind Cave National Monument. On the way home we could fit in Rocky Mountain National Park. Not a bad plan to see as much as possible in very little time, so let the planning begin.

Other than driving to Chicago or flying to Colorado, the kids had not had to sit for more than four hours at a time. Driving to Wyoming meant at least eight hours in the car. This might be a challenge. There would be no DVD player in our car. Other resources had to be found to keep two three-year-olds occupied. Stephanie found the answer at the dollar store. Ten dollars could buy ten of the cheapest toys China can produce. One of these toys a day can entertain a child for hours. Those toys and books on disc proved to be priceless.

I also did not entertain pulling a travel trailer through Chicago. The only way around would be the Badger ferry boat out of Ludington. Three hundred dollars later, our space was reserved. A car and trailer wedged in between two semi trucks is not the cheap way around the lake. There is, however, a large parking lot at the ferry dock in which to spend the night so you are able to make the early sailing without having to drive from Grand Rapids in the morning. So far, our plan was going off without a hitch. We were half way across Lake Michigan in the first full day of our two week trip and I hadn't had to drive one mile. We just had to get off this slow boat to Manitowoc, WI.

The only real problem with getting off the ferry in Manitowoc is that if you are going West there is no expressway. You must drive around Lake Winnebago and across most of the state on two lane roads. This is ok if you are going to the Wisconsin Dells, but not ok if you are going to Wyoming. A lot of time was lost getting over to I-90/94.

After driving through one of the worst thunderstorms I have ever been in, we arrived in Albert Lea, MN. This was to be our first night on the road after leaving the Badger in Manitowoc. Albert Lea is the home of Myre-Big Island State Park. This is a great place to stop for the night if you are traveling along I-90, plenty for kids to do, located on the shores of Albert Lea Lake. Full electric hookup with extra clean showers. This would prepare us for the five hundred miles we would need to drive on the second day.

The second full day of driving brought us to the first national park of our trip. Western South Dakota is home to two national parks and two national monuments. Our plan was to spend one day in Badlands National Park and another at Mount Rushmore, staying one night near each park. As we approached the visitors' center at Badlands, the car thermometer was hanging around the 100 degree mark. We had a hard time getting the kids out of the car just to go in the visitors' center, let alone get out to go for a hike. The park campground was out of the question since it did not have electricity. There was no reason to start out on day two with a couple of kids that are wanting to go home, so we had to move on. A quick photo by the welcome sign and Sierra could not get back in the car fast enough.

As we traveled west from the barren land around Badlands National Park, we began to gain altitude and the trees started to reappear. This meant that the temperature started to retreat, possibly giving us a restful night after all. One thing the Black Hills area of South Dakota has to offer is multiple campgrounds to choose from. Our choice was Horse Thief Campground and Resort in Hill City, SD. It had water, electric and a pool, with the pool being the most important for the kids. It was also very close to Mount Rushmore which would allow us to see it at night.

There is no need to go into any detail about Mount Rushmore. It is one of the most visited national monuments in the country. I will say that it is quite a money maker for the park system, almost like Niagara Falls. If you visit, just make sure you are there for the lighting ceremony in the evening. It

is worth the eight dollars it costs to park your car.

From Hill City we traveled three hundred miles to a little town called Burgess Junction in the Big Horn Mountains of Wyoming. This was only two hundred miles from Yellowstone. We were almost there. We were out west.

Yellowstone National Park was unlike any park I had ever visited. It has an

River and linked up with the Grand Loop Road, hugging the shore for another 21 miles to the west thumb area and Grant Village. This was to be our home for the next four days.

The Grant Village area has something for everyone, a campground with over 400 sites on Yellowstone Lake; a visitors' center which has displays focusing on the big fires of 1988; a general store,

inquire about any bear activity. On any backcountry trail you could encounter a grizzly and we were not ready to do so with the twins just yet.

After a short drive south, we found the parking area for the trailhead. We were pleasantly surprised that there were no cars. If you are ever fortunate enough to visit Yellowstone, make a point to take a hike. If you are able to find a trail with no one on



Dillon and Sierra at Mount Rushmore

area of almost 3,500 square miles with over 1,000 miles of trails. There are five points at which to enter and twelve campgrounds and it was going to be impossible to see it all with two, almost four-year-olds. We decided to stay at Grant Village campground. This is not as centrally located as the Fishing Bridge RV park but was less prone to visits from grizzly bears. Our kids and grizzlies might not be the best combination. Reservations at both these campgrounds must be made six months in advance.

From Burgess Junction to Yellowstone, the easiest entrance would be the east entrance through Cody, WY. This is known as the high country entrance. From the entrance station you climb seven miles up to Sylvan Pass, then descend to Yellowstone Lake through an area that saw huge fires in 2003. This road also was being rebuilt in 2006 when we visited. The narrow mountain road, built long ago, was being widened to accommodate today's traffic.

The 27 mile trip from the entrance station to Lake Village was spectacular with a different view around each corner. Before the final descent you see the entire length of Yellowstone Lake and the Grand Tetons some 60 miles to the south. As the road begins to hug the shore, you finally begin to see what brings over three million people a year to this park, steam. Your first hint of this sleeping volcano is a thermal area known as Steamboat Springs on the north shore of the lake.

At Lake Village we crossed the Yellowstone

hotel, gas station, and pay showers, with the showers being a luxury in a national park. We were lucky enough to have secured a campsite on the lake. With many trees and a campground designed in 1970, it looked like a few big motor homes might have a hard time negotiating the narrow roads.

We had made it to Yellowstone National Park. It was time to unload the bikes, lawn chairs, grill, etc. However, while setting up camp, we needed to remember not to leave any food preparation items out or we might get a visit from the bears. I could sit on the shore of Yellowstone Lake just outside my door and finally have a beer and figure out where should we go first.

One of the very special things about our trip to Yellowstone was that our good friends from Colorado were able to meet us at Grant Village. Jeff and Kathleen had just purchased a new pickup camper and were able to get a campsite next to ours. They had been to Yellowstone many times, so were able to help in planning our days. After driving for three days I was ready for a hike. Our whole family had new Merrell backpacks and hiking boots and we all wanted to put some miles on them. The question was, "how far could the kids hike?"

We settled on a short five mile hike in and back to a small lake just south of where we were camping. The Riddle Lake trail was a well marked trail to the shore of beautiful Riddle Lake. As with any hike in Yellowstone, you should stop at the ranger station to

all the better. Most of the time on the roads of Yellowstone you will be bumping into people: 3.6 million of them a year. One small trail that is 2.5 miles long with no people on it is what the real Yellowstone is all about. A very small percentage of people ever leave the boardwalks.

A few short steps from the trailhead (with small children all steps are short), you find yourself surrounded by Yellowstone wilderness. The crowds and road noise are left behind. This trail was great for our group of six. It was flat with thick woodlands. Every now and then we would cross an open meadow. It was 2.5 miles back to Riddle Lake where we had lunch. The trip back was a little more trying on the adults. It is amazing how fast small kids tire out when they are in the outdoors. Playing on the shore, exploring every log we stepped over, takes its toll. Sierra wanted no part of the 2.5 mile walk back to the car. It was very hard for our dear friend Kathleen to not stop and pick Sierra up. It might be cruel to threaten your daughter with the noise of a possible grizzly bear, but it did seem to make her pick up the pace! The return trip took about 30 minutes longer than the trip in, but the day was a complete success.

The following day was spent driving the Grand Loop Road which is laid out in the middle of the park like a figure eight. You must spend a whole day or more on this drive. We saw wolf in the Lamar Valley, bison walking along the road and elk grazing feet from the

car. Time was spent hiking in the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. The upper and lower falls are a site to see. At the north end of the park is Mammoth Hot Springs and the park headquarters. All the buildings here were built by the US Army over a century ago and have a huge historical significance to Yellowstone.

Entire books have been written about the Grand Loop Road. I just can't devote enough time to it in this article. At over 150 miles long and scenic vistas at every turn, this road is the lifeline in Yellowstone. Designed in the 1880s, the Grand Loop Road connects all of Yellowstone attractions.

It's possible to spend another whole day in one of the park's main areas, such as Mammoth Hot Springs or Canyon Village. We spent our full day in the Old Faithful area. Our friends had spent much time here in the past and were great tour guides. Besides Old Faithful Geyser, trails lead to Castle Geyser and Grand Geyser. These geysers, although not as spectacular as Old Faithful, are still pretty cool to see.

The highlight of our time in this area had to be dinner in the Old Faithful Lodge. This spectacular building, with its walk-in fireplace and massive hand cut logs, takes your breath away. This is one of the largest log buildings in the world and, unlike the Grand Hotel on Mackinaw Island, you can tour the one of a kind, four story lobby for free!

Although dinner was a little pricey, it was like no dinner we have ever had before. Even the hot dogs the kids ate were special considering the surroundings. After dinner, ice cream for the kids on the second floor outside deck which overlooks Old Faithful Geyser, was a great finishing touch to the meal.

Seventeen miles back in the Grant Village campground, with a good bottle of wine for the adults on the shore of Yellowstone Lake, was a fitting end to our time in Yellowstone. Much had to be done before we could head out the next day. We were to follow Jeff and Kathleen to our next destination, Rocky Mountain National Park, before this trip could come to a close. Of all the national parks we have visited, Yellowstone is the only one we have been to twice, stopping again on our way home from Glacier. If our future travels happen to bring us close, we will visit Yellowstone again, as there is that much to see.

Next time, we are off to Rocky Mountain National Park. Until then, remember you can catch up on the parks we have written about at nationalparkswithtwins.blogspot.com

THEME:
Super Bowl

ACROSS

- 1. No longer required to lick this
- 6. *Kick catcher
- 9. Manufactured
- 13. BBQ spot
- 14. Argonaut's propeller
- 15. Inside of a jacket
- 16. Lusitania's destroyer
- 17. *___ Bowl, 1 week before Super Bowl
- 18. ___ peace
- 19. Type of sale
- 21. *Last year's winner
- 23. International trade organization
- 24. Screen material
- 25. Legal group
- 28. Process of seeping
- 30. Pass away
- 35. A graduate
- 37. Of sound mind
- 39. Specialty
- 40. *Can be used to describe a safety

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
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48					49		50			51		52		
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57	58	59	60					61				62	63	64
65						66	67			68				
69						70				71				
72						73				74				

- 41. Item in diary
- 43. To finish with a ceiling
- 44. Twig of willow tree
- 46. It includes upward and downward dogs
- 47. It replaced the ECU
- 48. Food of the gods?
- 50. "Where the Wild Things Are" rollick
- 52. Teacher's favorite
- 53. *A field goal wide right, e.g.
- 55. Immeasurable period
- 57. *She infamously had a wardrobe malfunction
- 61. *This year's host
- 65. Repent
- 66. *Defensive ___
- 68. Quechuan people
- 69. Inanimate thing that talks?
- 70. Electric swimmer
- 71. Not fashion-minded
- 72. Volcano action

- 73. Wade's opponent
- 74. Austin Powers creator

DOWN

- 1. Basketball star Tim Duncan, e.g.
- 2. Inhibition resulting from social custom
- 3. A-bomb particle
- 4. *Most frequent Super Bowl host
- 5. Sometimes mashed
- 6. Antonym of "yup"
- 7. ENT's first concern?
- 8. Figure of speech
- 9. Not to be worn, according to PETA
- 10. ___ Hathaway
- 11. It can be white-tailed or black-tailed
- 12. He/she "___ on the safe side"
- 15. Bushy tree growth
- 20. *Tony Siragusa's nickname

- 22. Egyptian cobra
- 24. Trusted advisors
- 25. *Last year's MVP
- 26. Nonchalantly unconcerned
- 27. Derived from gold
- 29. Like a clown
- 31. *Hall-of-Famer and Super Bowl XXIII MVP
- 32. Frost over
- 33. Frodo Baggins' homeland
- 34. Feudal lord's property
- 36. *Team captains do it on the 50 yard line
- 38. Consequently
- 42. Mandarin's headquarters
- 45. The infamous Jon-Benet ___ case
- 49. Site of 2016 Olympics
- 51. Preacher's platform
- 54. Show contempt
- 56. Nincompoop
- 57. Peach and strawberry preserves, e.g.
- 58. Summit location
- 59. Traffic controller
- 60. "I ___ it!"
- 61. Not in use
- 62. Heart pain
- 63. Hair removal product
- 64. #22 Down, pl.
- 67. What's old is new again, prefix

Puzzle solutions, on page 12

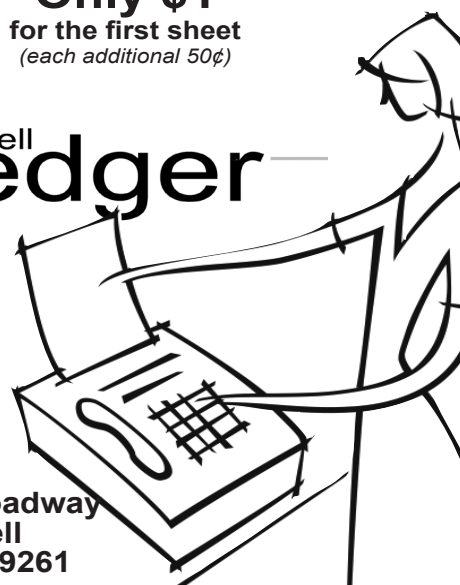
SUDOKU								
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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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.

Was wondering if the editor of the Buyers Guide has kids that go to Murray Lake Elementary? Every week there is a article about Murray Lake. Do they know there are other elementary schools in Lowell?

Editor's note: No I have no vested interest (or children) at Murray Lake Elementary. We simply receive more input from their principal.

Since you guys are interested in interviewing Louise for an article about her friend Thelma and their trip to the Grand Canyon, you might also want to interview local resident Luke Skywalker and his fight against the dark side. Wow, I hope you're aware enough to realize you got pranked.

Editor's note: We, at The Ledger, are all very aware of the movie Thelma and Louise and we were hoping that the woman that called our office was actually (anonymously) giving her friend a gift and using the pseudonym "Louise" to make her point. She would have no clue that we might want to do a story so we're not quite sure how that prank would work but if you could get us a number for this "Mr. Skywalker" we'll see what we can do. :)

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loaded, great MPG's, Hot Car!!!

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the MPG's



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2006 JEEP COMMANDER 4X4



3rd row seating, dual moonroofs

\$14,995

2008 SATURN OUTLOOK XR

3rd row, heated
leather,
jet black,
like new.
Was
\$19,999



Now... \$17,750

2001 CHEVY TAHOE 4x4



3rd row seating, running boards, clean

\$6,700

2009 CADILLAC CTS AWD



Heated leather seats, dual sunroof,
loaded, low miles, 1 owner, just arrived!

\$23,477

2004 FORD EXPLORER XLT



3rd row, 4x4, extra clean local trade

\$9,998

2004 BMW X5



Heated leather, loaded, sunroof

\$16,765

2004 NISSAN TITAN EXT. CAB



4x4, bedliner, tow package, V8,
extra clean

\$10,998

2006 GMC 2500 SLT 4X4 EXT. CAB



Tonneau cover, 6.0L, leather heated
seats, tow pkg., local trade, new BF
Goodrich tires

\$16,998

2008 FORD TAURUS SEL



Great MPG's, moonroof, leather

\$12,500

2006 FORD F350



Powerstroke turbo diesel, local trade.
Was \$10,788

Now... \$9,998

2005 CADILLAC SRX



Heated leather, moonroof, loaded

\$11,488

2003 HONDA ODYSSEY EX-L



3rd row seating, buckets seats,
leather, loaded, clean

\$10,998

2004 DODGE RAM 2500 QUAD CAB



Cummings turbo diesel, Tonneau cover,
running boards, like new. Was \$19,488

Now... \$18,988

2008 BUICK ENCLAVE CXL AWD

Heated leather,
dual sunroofs,
3rd row seat,
rear
entertainment
package,
navigation,
loaded



\$22,988

2010 CHEVY EQUINOX



Great MPG's, GM Certified

\$18,488

2008 GMC YUKON XL

Heated leather,
navigation,
moonroof,
2nd row
buckets
seats, rear
entertainment,
low miles, loaded



\$27,988

2007 PONTIAC VIBE



CarFax, 1 owner, great MPG's,
extra clean

Now... \$9,998

2003 GMC YUKON DENALI XL



Heated leather, moonroof, running
boards, 3rd row, towing package

\$12,988

2010 GMC TERRAIN AWD



GM Certified, heated, leather, moon-
roof, low miles

\$24,788

2005 CHEVROLET AVALANCHE Z-71



4x4, tow package, 5.3L, nice truck

\$15,950

2008 CADILLAC SRX



Ultra view sunroof, heated leather,
like new. Was \$21,200.

Now... \$19,998

2008 GMC ACADIA



3rd row, low miles, extra clean,
second row bucket seats

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