

HAPPY
THANKSGIVING



home fire



page 3

PINK ARROW
PRIDE

thanks
community



page 16

Twenty charming years of tradition *Christmas Through Lowell*

by Sharon Miller
contributing reporter

A tradition that Jody Haybarker began with a handful of female crafter's during hunting season long ago has exploded in size over time and Christmas Through Lowell completed its 20th year on Sunday.

Shoppers wandered the hilly woods and meadows of outlying Lowell venues and strolled the sidewalks of its quaint downtown, with tour guide in hand, in search of the familiar wooden Christmas tree marker.

A unique item for every taste could be found, with item prices ranging from \$3 to more than \$1,000. Countless shoppers, including new Lowell resident Carrie

Christmas Through Lowell,
continued, page 15



Assistant scout master of Boy Scout Troop 102 selling fraser fir wreaths outside the Grand Volute Ballroom.
photos by Sharon Miller



Cathy Razmus was selling home decor items at Home for the Holidays.

Team looks to revitalize Lowell brownfields

by Ellen Mork,
contributing reporter

During Monday night's Lowell City Council meeting, a promising way to revitalize downtown Lowell was discussed. There are a number of properties downtown that could potentially contain hazardous materials.

As a result, Triterra, an environmental consulting firm, has offered to do an assessment of the downtown historic area. Triterra's DREAM team, or the Downtown Revitalization Environmental Assessment Model team, would be in charge of helping Lowell become more environmentally sound.

This assessment would include walking through buildings, checking for hazardous materials, reviewing the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's database and reviewing historical information. The total cost for these services is \$1,000. Permission by property owners must be granted for an assessment on prospective properties.

Because of this, the

assessment would only be completed if 25 percent of the owners in the downtown area agreed to have their properties assessed. A database for the downtown area would also be created for \$500. This will become public information. The database will include photos, building conditions and any environmental concerns. The city council passed a motion for this downtown database to be created.

There are many benefits to this agreement. The cost for one property to be assessed can be north of \$2,000. The DREAM team would assess the entire downtown historic area for what one assessment normally costs. Also, having knowledge of where environmental concerns are is highly beneficial.

For a potential buyer, the knowledge of whether a property is environmentally safe is invaluable. It not only saves them money, but also time in trying to make an unsafe property viable.

Once the assessment is complete, the DREAM team will help Lowell move forward and find ways to make any brownfields (abandoned, closed or underused commercial buildings) viable. One negative aspect of this project is that if a building contains potentially harmful materials, the building owners may not want this information given to the public, which is an issue the city is taking into consideration.

The city council has given thought to permitting the assessments to be given

to the building owners and allowing them to resolve the issues privately. Mark Howe, the city manager, hopes to have this undertaking funded by outside sources. Lowell is inviting all downtown businesses to the town hall meeting November 27th at 7 pm, to discuss this opportunity.

Other points discussed at the meeting included city manager Howe's open office hours on Tuesdays from 1:30 to 3. He is available to answer questions regarding any city issue. The Historic District Commission, airport board and arbor board are looking to fill one vacant seat each. Please contact the city at 897-8457 for further information if you are interested in filling a position.

SMALL BUSINESS
SATURDAY
NOV 24

pages 7-11

50
CENTS



Thanksgiving festivities

Murray Lake fifth graders celebrated the Thanksgiving week by acting out Christopher Columbus' finding of the Americas and having their own feast with family members.

Paul Jacobus, fifth grade social studies teacher, started the event nine years ago. "I started doing this the first year we came to Murray Lake and it has become a tradition. The students love putting on the skit and it is great to have all of the parents come in and share a meal with us."

The morning started with the Columbus play that the students had been practicing for several weeks. Following the play, there were Thanksgiving activities and then the big feast. Eight turkeys were cooked and parents brought in several dishes to go along with the meal. Both parents and students enjoyed the events.



along main street



lend a hand

volunteering opportunities

Fountain View of Lowell, a local organization whose mission is to provide high quality senior lifestyle services that promote the value and dignity of every person, is currently accepting applications for a variety of volunteer positions. Opportunities are available for students and adults who are interested in helping us fulfill our mission on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis. Examples of service roles include leading or assisting with a variety of activities such as games, crafts, spa days, building projects, music, socializing, participating in landscaping projects or other outdoor activities like gardening, contributing to the monthly newsletter, and being involved in the planning, decorating, and/or facilitating for special events like holiday and family parties and outings. If you have a few extra hours each week or month, please consider offering your time, talents and love to the senior residents here at Fountain View of Lowell. You may contact Elisa White, the Life Enrichment director of Fountain View of Lowell, at 616-897-8413 ext. 111 or e-mail her at fv1.active@leisure-living.com

COAT DRIVE FOR THE VETS

Curtis Cleaners and the VFW are collecting new and used coats for both men and women living at the Veterans Home in Grand Rapids. The coat drive will run through Nov. 31. There are about 60 women living at the Veterans Home. Curtis Cleaners and Laundry at 1410 W. Main in Lowell has graciously offered to be a drop-off point for coat donations.

ROGUE RIVER ARTISANS

The Rogue River Artisans will hold their 30th anniversary show at Lowell High School on Dec. 1 from 9 am to 4 pm. Lunch will be served. The entry fee is \$1 and proceeds from that and the lunch will go toward area causes. For more information contact Robin or Rick White at 691-7443.

CLAY ART CLASS

Artist Janet Krueger will teach "Clay Art - Buttons & Pendants" at LowellArts!, 149 S. Hudson, Wed., Dec. 5 and 12, from 5-7 pm. For more information, call 897-8545 or visit www.lowellartsmi.org

FREE COMMODITIES

Commodities food order for low income families, Thurs., Dec. 6, 9 am - 4 pm has been moved to Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM), 11535 E. Fulton. Bring proof of income and Social Security numbers for each member of household. Please bring bags. Call Virginia, 897-8754 with questions.

Feel free to send your event information to the Ledger for Along Main St. All submission requests for Along Main St. are subject to space limitations. The Ledger makes no assurances that they will appear in print. To ensure that an event notification will appear in the Ledger, it is best to place a paid advertisement. All efforts will be made to place suitable items in the Along Main St. column but they are printed at the discretion of the publisher. For profit events, church services, yard sales and the like, will not appear in this column.

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ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF



LOWELL

Fire in Lowell contained by the fire department

by Karen Jack

Linda Schumaker smelled a “weird kind of burning” after coming home from the store. She walked into her home and smelled something strange, but she thought perhaps she was imagining. She then

went into her bedroom and changed her clothes but continued to smell it.

“I thought it smelled like burning, but an odd kind of burning.”

She went into her bathroom and saw smoke coming from the furnace reg-

ister. Quickly calling 911 she began searching for her three cats. The smoke was becoming too much so she left with one cat, hoping her other two would get themselves out.

The Lowell Area Fire Department showed up almost immediately and was able to contain the fire.

“These trailers have a seven-minute fire time,” said fire chief Frank Martin, meaning they have seven minutes before the entire trailer would be totally destroyed.

Martin said they were able to save most of the trailer. They had to break a couple of windows and put a hole in her roof, but the fire was mostly contained to underneath the trailer and a room on the south end.

“It wasn’t a complete loss, but she had an awful lot of soot to deal with,” added Martin.

Schumaker was more concerned about her two cats and was hoping they had gotten out of her home. Unfortunately, Martin confirmed that both cats perished in the fire. It took the fire department about two hours on scene to ensure it didn’t have any more hot spots.

Martin said the cause of the fire was probably the blower on her furnace and Schumaker confirmed that she was having problems with the furnace, but said she hadn’t been running it because of the problems.

Schumaker had no insurance on the trailer.



Smoke billows out of the home.



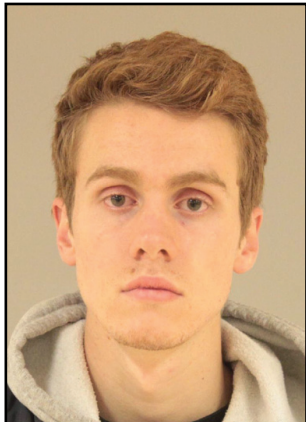
Firefighters map out their plan to finish the job.

Suspect jailed for attempted home invasion

by Karen Jack

Last Wednesday, an attempted home invasion on Riverside Drive ended in the arrest of Keefer Riley, age 20. Riley is being charged with attempted home invasion and minor in possession.

The homeowners heard someone trying to break in around 10:40 pm and one of them chased after the suspect, but lost him. A Kent County canine unit tracked Riley down at



Keefer Riley

his home, which led to his arrest.

This is the second attempt by Riley to enter the same home. The homeowner recognized him from the previous incident.

Riley has a history of home invasion, according to Sgt. Scott Bukula of the Lowell Police Department, including one in Eastgate about a year ago. That time he was held at gunpoint by

the homeowner until the police arrived.

“People need to keep their doors locked, but this isn’t a common occurrence in Lowell,” said Bukula.

Riley originally had a \$2,500 bond, but was remanded to custody because of a probation violation. His court appearance has been adjourned and he will remain in jail until a future court date.

Detective graduates from Northwestern

On Friday, November 9, 2012, Detective Scot VanSolkema of the Lowell Police Department graduated from the Northwestern University, Center for Public Safety, School of Police Staff and Command, Class #328 with 36 other law enforcement professionals from West Michigan. The class was conducted at the Ottawa County Sheriff De-

partment facility in West Olive. The School of Police Staff and Command is an intensive ten-week program that prepares law enforcement managers for senior positions by uniquely combining academic principles with practical applications. Research is a key component of the School of Police Staff and Command and many times a student’s

research project comes directly from the timely and critical issues facing that student’s agency. Detective VanSolkema’s research centered on the efficient use of police agency financial resources, alternative funding sources and the maximization of fee recovery through the use of city ordinance violations versus state law violations.



Detective Scot VanSolkema

Lowell Community Fund accepting requests

The deadline to request funds from the Lowell Community Fund is noon, Friday, December 7, 2012.

To receive consideration and approval, all requests must be for funds that will aid local organizations in providing help to persons in the Lowell area.

The Heart of West Michigan United Way has set the December date aside for those qualified to receive funding for 2013.

Request forms may be picked up at Dr. James Reagan’s office at 207 W. Main St., or at the main branch of Huntington Bank at 414 E. Main St.

Rhe formal request forms include a demographic data sheet on clients served, how funds from the previous year were spent and the annual budget for the organization requesting funds.

Since 1955 up through 2012, the Lowell Community Fund has dispersed over \$275,000 into the community.

“It is important to note that this funding program is entirely separate from the Harold Englehardt funding program which is handled through the Grand Rapids Foundation,” said Dr. Bob Reagan, secretary/treasurer of the fund.

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TUES: Homemade pepperoni pizza on whole wheat, seasoned corn, fruit & veggie bar: red pepper strips, celery sticks, mandarin oranges, pears, milk.

WED: Breaded fish sticks w/WG roll, herb broccoli & cauliflower, fruit & veggie bar: baby carrots, cantaloupe, applesauce, mixed fruit, milk.

THURS: Turkey & gravy w/dinner roll (WG breaded chicken nuggets served at Bushnell), mashed potatoes w/gravy, fruit & veggie bar: romaine side salad, cucumber coins, banana, peaches, milk.

FRI: Cheese quesadilla (breaded chicken sandwich on WG roll served at Bushnell), refried beans, fruit & veggie bar: romaine side salad, baby carrots, peaches, apple, milk.

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financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Battle those low rates – with three types of income

If you depend on fixed-income investments for at least part of your income, you probably haven't been too happy in recent years, as interest rates have hit historic lows. Nonetheless, even in a low-rate environment, you can broaden the income-producing potential of your investment portfolio.

However, before taking action, it's helpful to know what the near-term direction of interest rates may look like. The Federal Reserve has stated that it plans to keep short-term rates at their current historic lows until at least mid-2015. The Fed doesn't control long-term rates, making them somewhat less predictable, but it's still likely that these rates will rise sooner than short-term ones.

In any case, rather than worry about something you can't control – that is, interest rate movements – try to

focus on those things you can accomplish. And one achievable goal is to create an investment mix that includes three types of income: variable, reliable and rising.

- Variable income investments – Some variable income investments, such as certificates of deposit (CDs), offer significant protection of principal, and the value of your investment won't change with fluctuating interest rates, provided you hold your CD until maturity. Of course, current rates are quite low, which means CDs provide you with little income today, but their rates have the potential to rise along with short-term interest rates.

- Reliable income investments – When you purchase reliable income investments, which can include individual bonds, you have the opportunity

to earn more income today, and more consistent income over time, than you'd typically get from variable income investments. However, you will likely also experience greater price fluctuations as interest rates change. Specifically, as interest rates rise, the price of your existing bonds typically will fall.

- Rising income investments – When investing for income, you'll want to keep at least one eye on inflation – because if the interest rates paid on your CDs and individual bonds are lower than the annual inflation rate, you may lose purchasing power. If this gap persists over time, it could grow into a real problem for you. Consequently, you'll want at least some of your investment income to come from rising income investments, such as dividend-paying stocks. Of course, not all stocks pay dividends, but with the help of your financial advisor, you can find companies that have paid – and even increased – their dividends for many years running. And if you don't actually need the dividends to supplement your cash flow, you can reinvest them to build your ownership stake in these stocks. Keep in mind, though, that companies can reduce or discontinue dividends at any time. Also, remember that stock prices will constantly rise and fall, so the value of your principal could decline.

As you can see, all three types of income-producing investments – variable, reliable and rising – offer some benefits, along with some risks of which you need to be aware. But putting together a mix of these investments that's appropriate for your individual needs, goals and risk tolerance may help you boost the productivity of the "income" portion of your portfolio – no matter what's happening with interest rates.

BUSY. BUSY. BUSY. BUSY. BUSY.

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viewpoint

to the editor

Shop local is more than a slogan

Dear Editor,
National Small Business Saturday is Saturday, Nov. 24. The third annual small business Saturday event urges each of us to shop local independently owned businesses to support the small business sector which is so vital to our local economy. I strongly encourage the Lowell community consumers to be part of this nationwide initiative and take time to see all that our local businesses have to offer.

that during this holiday season, everyone makes a concerted effort to support local business. Shop local means you believe in your neighbors that work so hard each and every day and supports all the functions we enjoy all year long. Shop local is a way of acting, thinking and creating jobs. Imagine what Lowell can be if we all support local area businesses year-round.

Sincerely,
Jon Jacobs
Publisher
Lowell Ledger/Buyers Guide

sharing the vision



LAS Superintendent Greg Pratt

“A moving target”

Continuous change rocks Michigan’s world of education

Never before has education endured the rapid change that is so pervasive in schools today. The changes in education are radically transforming the face of academia as we know it. Think about how the impact that the internet alone has had on how we learn, research, and access information. That is only one example of the significant change in our classrooms and how instruction is delivered to our students. Now consider the use of instructional tools like iPads, NEOs, and Smart Boards, and we are quickly reminded of the considerable departure from chalkboards, books, or overhead projectors. Our curriculum and instructional strategies are immersed in new technologies, innovative high school options, and on-line learning. Anyone who watched our newscasters as they tracked election results can clearly see how technology has changed how we live and learn.

Technology is not the only drastic change to education. Michigan has instituted a set of state-led education standards called the Common Core State Standards. These K-12 standards

were developed in collaboration with a variety of stakeholders including content experts, states, teachers, school administrators and parents. The standards establish clear and consistent goals for learning that will prepare America’s children for success in college and work. The Common Core standards have been woven into the academic culture of Lowell Area Schools. This instructional change has been accompanied by significant professional development and hundreds of hours of study and hard work on the part of our staff. Of course, when dramatic curricular changes are made, changes in assessment follows. In a nutshell, this assessment, called SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium, is being developed in a series of formative, interim, and summative assessments based on the Common Core Standards. These assessments will ultimately replace standardized tests like MEAP and MME.

Another change that is significant for our district and staff that is not evident in the classroom is the state retirement reform and budgeting that you may have

Sharing The Vision, continued, page 12

outdoors



awaken your senses

Dave Stegehuis

Every generation experiences life challenges which are unique to their time in history. Today, many people are overbooked and constantly overwhelmed by a flood of information from multiple media sources and instant communication. The mind is always jumping from one distraction to the next. Only time will tell what the long term mental and physical effects of these conditions will be.

A good way to slow life down and sooth frazzled nerves is to take to the woods, fields, and waters in search of peace and solitude. Opportunities to do so abound in rural areas as well as what is left of our wilderness. Even large cities like

New York have natural areas accessible to its citizens. One of our presidents was addressing the nation on a critical world issue from the Oval Office when a squirrel on the White House lawn appeared through the window over the president’s shoulder. The little rodent was more concerned about storing up acorns for the long D.C. winter than an impending human crisis as his activity was witnessed around the world in real time.

Once out in the countryside, one must take a deep breath and concentrate on clearing the mind and focus on the surroundings. This requires all of the senses. When was the last time you listened carefully to a

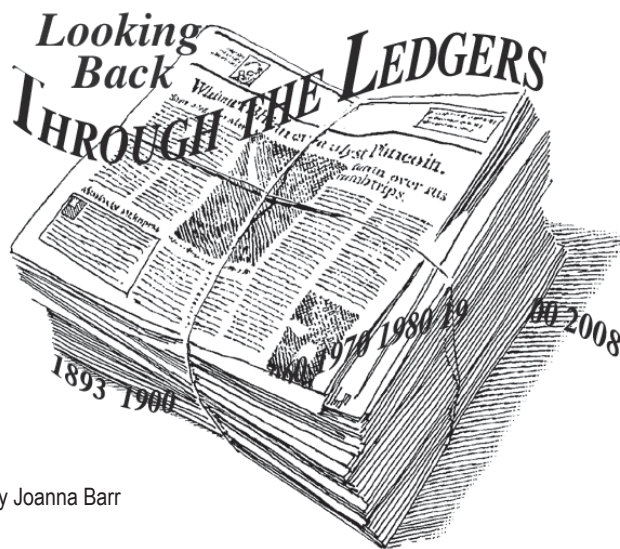
bird call and thought about which species you were hearing? The rustle of dry leaves announces the presence of another forest creature. Can you guess which one? Wind blowing through pine boughs or a light chop lapping on the hull of a small fishing boat on a summer afternoon could lull anyone to sleep.

Spring is the most aromatic time of the year when the fragrance of fresh blooming flowers fills the air. Fertile wet earth takes on an aroma that promises nourishment for new life. The smell of a cedar swamp creates an ambience which defines the northern wilderness.

Have you ever taken the time to watch animals go about their daily business? They have survived out there on their own for a long time and are experts

at what they do. The observer can witness feeding habits as well as social issues being settled by members of the wildlife community. Forest residents are usually very busy, but I did have a deer sleep under my tree stand for an afternoon. I am presently sharing my pop-up deer blind with a vole who is enjoying his spacious new home.

All this may seem strange to some folks, but the point is that despite our high tech, fast paced lives, the natural world has not changed. We can still enjoy the wonders of nature in the same way as those who lived in less complicated times. Connecting with nature on its own terms can calm us down and possibly change our perspective on our role in a dynamic and complex world. Take time to smell the roses.



By Joanna Barr

140 years ago Lowell Weekly Journal November 21, 1872

While working off last week’s edition of the JOURNAL, Frank Hathaway, a printer of this office, accidentally got his right hand severely bruised by the cylinder of the press. A dozen pair of sheriff handcuffs could not have held him closer. Audible sounds were at once heard in the vicinity of the captured Frank. We wanted him to take his hand away and let the press move on, but he wouldn’t and finally it became evident that his reasons were sufficient, for he couldn’t. Upon taking the press apart he immediately took his hand out o’ that, without anybody telling him to and to-day, while he calmly tells the story of the “hidden hand,” he never forgets to bless the man who first invented monkey wrenches. Frank is again at his post of duty, but will be allowed hereafter to hold his hands out of the window while the press is in motion.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger November 21, 1912

The business men’s street cleaning gang was out again in force Tuesday morning. The council will please notice that a clean street is desired.

Monroe street was newly graveled at large expense

last winter and now some one has been throwing dirt onto that portion fronting the Central school lot, evidently to make more mud. Shows poor sense or indifference to public rights.

The Village Council committee appointed to investigate the matter of street sweeper finds that in some places where tried the sweepers are not used, having been found impracticable or inadequate. It will doubtless be found necessary to give one man with a proper outfit, steady employment on the street through the open season. Given a clean street to start with, it is believed one good man could keep it in a respectable condition.

Irene Kellogg has a badly broken left arm, the result of a collision with a schoolmate while playing “tag” in the Central schoolyard during recess Friday morning. One of the forearm bones was broken and the other dislocated, making a very painful injury.

Herman Raimer and Bert Hayes opened a meat market yesterday in the building on River street occupied by the Central Michigan Produce Company, which company is represented by Mr. Hayes. The style of the firm is “Raimer & Hayes Central Meat Market.”

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo November 25, 1937

At a meeting of the executive committee of the Lowell Board of Trade last Friday night, it was decided to have Window Night on Wednesday evening, Dec. 1. Window night will celebrate the opening of the Christmas season in Lowell, with the singing of Christmas carols, the lighting of the Christmas trees on the streets and the appropriate decorating of store windows. The Lowell Light & Power plant will have the municipal Christmas trees lighted and William Christiansen and committee will have the village streets decorated with beautiful Christmas trees, which they brought from the Upper Peninsula, especially to decorate the streets of the village. A real live Santa Claus will be on the streets this night and distribute gifts to the children. Bring all the children to town for window night.

Lowell fire department obtained real fire fighting experience last Friday when they responded to a call for assistance from Ada. The home of Dr. H. O.

Looking Back, continued, page 12

anniversaries

Stanard



Sandy (Doyle) and Gordon Stanard

Gordon and Sandy (Doyle) Stanard from Caledonia celebrated their 25th anniversary on October 29, 2012. An afternoon party was held with family and friends who enjoyed refreshments and the music provided by the Legacy band who played old time music.

Kettner



Harold and Beth Kettner celebrated their 50th anniversary on November 17. Married in Big Rapids in 1962, they have lived in the Lowell area since that time. Their children are Mark Kettner, of Lowell; CDR Brenden Kettner, of Guam; and Sarah Lutz, of Leesburg, MO. They have nine grandchildren.



Harold and Beth Kettner

health



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

sore throat

A sore throat is often a sign of a common cold or respiratory illness. It may feel painful to swallow, dry, or scratchy. Most sore throats are caused by a virus. Sometimes it can be caused by bacteria, oftentimes streptococcus or "strep throat." A rapid throat swab can be used to diagnose this in the office.

Signs and symptoms of a viral infection accompanied by a sore throat:

- sneezing
- cough
- watery eyes
- mild headache
- mild body aches
- runny nose
- low-grade fever (less than 102°F)

See a healthcare provider if you or your child has:

- a sore throat that lasts longer than 1 week
- difficulty swallowing or breathing
- excessive drooling (young children)

- temperature higher than 100.4°F
- pus on the back of the throat
- rash
- hoarseness lasting longer than two weeks
- blood in saliva or phlegm
- symptoms of dehydration (dry, sticky mouth; sleepiness or tiredness; thirst; decreased urination or fewer wet diapers; few or no tears when crying; muscle weakness; headache, dizziness or lightheadedness)
- contact with someone with strep throat
- recurring sore throats

Antibiotics are only needed if strep throat is detected. One should not return to work or school until they have been on antibiotics and are fever free for 24 hours.

happy birthday!

NOVEMBER 21
Michael Hewitt, Tammy Gildner.

NOVEMBER 22
Lu Green, Carla Briggs, Andrea Richmond, Karrie Borton, Joshua Gerard, Dylan Olin, Arlene Sytsma.

NOVEMBER 23
Trisha Propst, Sherri Vezino, Gregory Duiven, Mike Harding, McKinsie Rice, Dave Thompson.

NOVEMBER 24
Sabra Nicole Kinsley, Ryan Moore, Jenny Decker, Heather French.

NOVEMBER 25
Pat Vezino, Melissa Peterson, Amy Swift, Shawn Ayres, Hazel Megan Hewitt, Lorri Myers.

NOVEMBER 26
John Erickson.

NOVEMBER 27
Bonnie Vezino, Kim Harding, Marty Chambers, Chad Uzarski, Elizabeth Roudabush, Heather Burrows, Aaron Rittersdorf, Josh Spencer, Aiden Malone.

area churches

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201 N. Washington
Lowell, MI • 897-8800
Pastor Wes Hershberger
Sundays - Christian Education.....9:15 a.m.
Celebration.....10:40 a.m.
Wednesdays - Kid's Service, Teen's Service,
Adult Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

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www.goodshepherdlowell.org

Worship Service.....Sunday -10:00 A.M.
(Nursery available)
Sunday School.....9:00 A.M.

Joseph Fremer, Pastor **897-8307**
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CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL

897-7060
Pastor Rod Galindo
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI
Morning Worship.....10:00 A. M.
Sunday School.....11:20 A.M.
Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.
Nursery available at both services
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SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell
Pastor Tony Shumaker
9:45 A.M.Sunday School
10:30 A.M.Fellowship
11:00 A.M.Worship

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Robert Holmes, Pastor
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WEDNESDAYS:
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"The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m.
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2275 West Main Street • 897-7168
Internet: <http://www.fbclowell.org>
Rev. Jon Pickens
Rev. W. Lee Taylor & Pastor Phil Severn
Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.
Sunday School Hour/ABF's.....11:00 A.M.
AWANA 6-8/Youth Ministry.....Wed. 6:15 P.M.
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THE IMPORTANCE OF SHOPPING SMALL

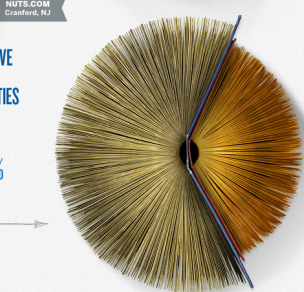
— SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY IS NOVEMBER 24th —

SMALL BUSINESS HAS A BIG ECONOMIC IMPACT

44% SMALL BUSINESSES PAY OF TOTAL U.S. PRIVATE PAYROLL



89% OF CONSUMERS SAID THEY BELIEVE THAT SMALL BUSINESSES CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES



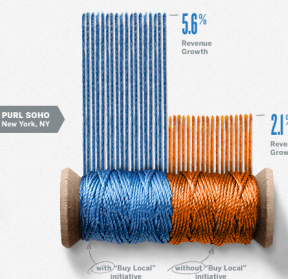
65% SMALL BUSINESSES CREATED OF THE NET NEW JOBS CREATED IN THE 17 YEAR PERIOD ENDING IN 2009

COMPLETE TRAVELLER ANTIQUARIAN BOOKSTORE

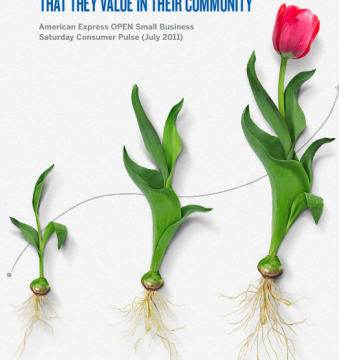
SMALL BUSINESSES ENRICH THEIR COMMUNITIES



93% OF CONSUMERS BELIEVE IT'S IMPORTANT TO SUPPORT THE LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES THAT THEY VALUE IN THEIR COMMUNITY



INDEPENDENT RETAILERS THAT ARE IN COMMUNITIES WITH A "BUY LOCAL" INITIATIVE REPORTED REVENUE GROWTH OF 5.6% ON AVERAGE IN 2010, COMPARED TO 2.1% FOR THOSE ELSEWHERE

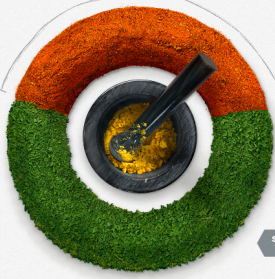


78% OF SMALL BUSINESSES BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A GROWING APPRECIATION OF SHOPPING LOCALLY AT SMALL BUSINESSES IN THE U.S.

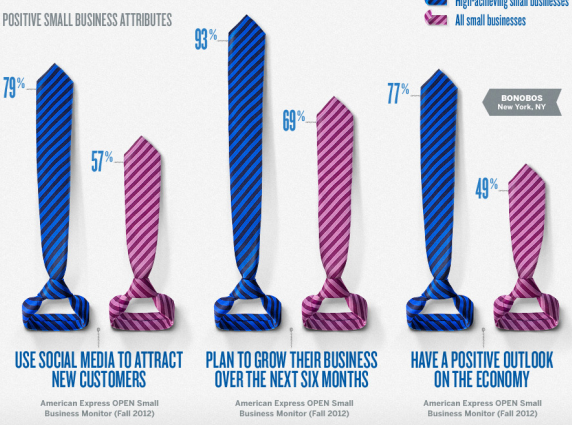
SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY CAN HELP ATTRACT NEW CUSTOMERS AND INCREASE SALES



LOCAL COLLABORATION EMBODIES THE SPIRIT OF SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY



46% OF SMALL BUSINESSES THAT ARE AWARE OF SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY THIS YEAR



SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY NOV 24

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Buy Local

“Buy Local” – you see the decal in the store window, the sign at the farmer’s market, the bright, cheerful logos for Local First Michigan. The apparent message is “let’s-support-local-business,” a kind of community boosterism. But buying close to home may be more than a feel-good, it’s-worth-paying-more-for-local matter. A number of researchers and

organizations are taking a closer look at how money flows and what they’re finding shows the profound economic impact of keeping money in town—and how the fate of many communities around the nation and the world increasingly depend on it. At the most basic level, when you buy local more money stays in the community. The New

Economics Foundation (NEF), an independent economic think tank based in London, compared what happens when people buy produce at a supermarket vs. a local farmer’s market or community supported agriculture (CSA) program and found that twice the money stayed in the community when folks bought locally. “That means those purchases are twice as efficient in terms of keeping the local economy alive,” says author and NEF researcher David Boyle.

Indeed, says Boyle, many local economies are languishing not because too little cash comes in, but as a result of what happens to that money. “Money is like blood. It needs to keep moving around to keep the economy going,” he says, noting that when money is spent elsewhere – at big supermarkets, nonlocally owned utilities and other services, such as online retailers – “it flows out, like a wound.” By shopping at the corner store instead of the big box, consumers keep

their communities from becoming what the NEF calls “ghost towns” (areas devoid of neighborhood shops and services) or “clone towns,” where Main Street now looks like every other Main Street with the same fast food and retail chains. “Buy local” campaigns serve another function: alerting a community about gaps in the local market. For instance, if consumers keep turning to online or big-box stores for a particular product – say, socks – this

signals an opportunity for someone local to make and sell socks. This is the way product innovations get made, says Witt. “The local producer adds creative elements that make either the product or materials used more appropriate to the place.” For example, an area where sheep are raised might make lambs wool socks and other goods. The point is not that communities should suddenly seek to be self-sufficient in all ways, but

Buy Local, continued, next page



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Buy Local, continued

rather, says Boyle, “to shift the balance. Can you produce more locally? Of course you can if the raw materials are there and the raw materials are often human beings.”

And what about the higher cost of local goods? After all, big-box stores got to be big because their prices are low. Susan Witt says that the difference falls away once you consider the increase in local employment as well as the relationships that grow when people buy from people they know. (Plus, one could argue, lower transportation and therefore environmental, costs and you know what you’re getting – which as we’ve recently seen with suspected contamination in toys and other products from China, can be a concern.)

There’s also the matter of local/regional resilience. Says Witt, “While now we’re largely a service providing nation, we’re still just a generation away from being a nation of producers. The

question is what economic framework will help us reclaim those skills and that potential.” Say, for example, the exchange rates change or the price of oil rises (and it has started to creep up, if not at last summer’s pace) so that foreign-made goods are no longer cheap to import. We could find ourselves doubly stuck because domestic manufacturing is no longer set up to make all these products. While no community functions in isolation, supporting local trade helps “recreate the diversity of small businesses that are flexible and can adjust” to changing needs and market conditions, says Witt.

Another argument for buying local is that it enhances the “velocity” of money, or circulation speed, in the area. The idea is that if currency circulates more quickly, the money passes through more hands – and more people have had the benefit of the money and what it has purchased for them. “If you’re buying

local and not at a chain or branch store, chances are that store is not making a huge profit,” says David Morris, vice president of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, a nonprofit economic research and development organization based in Minneapolis and Washington, D.C. “That means more goes into input costs – supplies and upkeep, printing, advertising, paying employees – which puts that money right back in the community.”

One way to really make sure money stays in the community is through creating a local currency.

As an economic principle, velocity has been considered a constant. It was stable in the 1950s, ‘60s, and ‘70s, but starting in the ‘80s velocity has decreased as more money has been diverted to the financial sector. This scenario may benefit financial centers, but money tends to drain away from other places. Both the Euro and the

U.S. dollar have slowed way down. “In the last several months velocity has declined sharply because there’s less gross domestic product (GDP) and more money. “The money doesn’t flow. More money is being

printed, but it’s not going into circulation.”

As the nation limps through the recession, many towns and cities are hurting. “Buy-local” campaigns can help local economies withstand the

downturn. Says Boyle, “For communities, this is a hopeful message in a recession because it’s not about how much money you’ve got, but how much you can keep circulating without letting it leak out.”

Local Snap Fitness owner gives fitness tips for the holiday season

The holiday season is just around the corner and for many of us that means plenty of food and family get-togethers. However, if you’re not careful it can also mean packing on a few unwanted pounds. The secret to avoid feeling “holiday-heavy” is to create a plan and stick to it. That’s why the local Snap Fitness has created a simple three-step process for a happier, healthier holiday season.

Step one: stay physically active

“Holidays are about celebrating and spending time with loved ones - not a time to worry about indulging every once and awhile,” said Ryan Lothian, Snap Fitness owner in Lowell. “But it’s important that you stay active. It not only helps you be successful at burning off any extra holiday calories, it relieves holiday stress, too. That’s where we come in.” That activity can be anything from shoveling snow to taking a walk around the block with the family. Of course, the holiday season is also a great time to get a jump-start on those New Year’s fitness goals. That is why the Lowell Snap Fitness location is promoting a holiday membership special. Free dues until January 1, 2013. In addition, members will receive a free, customized nutrition program and supplement profile.

Located at 2173 West Main St., Snap Fitness is a locally owned neigh-

borhood gym that offers ‘round-the-clock access to state-of-the-art cardio and

Fitness tips, continued, next page

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Fitness tips, continued

strength-training equipment, allowing busy individuals the opportunity to stay active and fit without sacrificing time and convenience.

In addition to the club's "Basic 8" total-body, strength-training program, members also receive a variety of free services, including access to a personal

mynapfitness.com webpage where members can create and track workouts, build a nutrition plan and more.

Step two: fill your time

While it's easy to talk about staying active, the weather outside can sometimes be enough to squelch anyone's motivation. That's why Lothian says it's important to make plans ahead of time and stick to them. "Time management is a healthy habit to maintain all year round, but even more so during the holidays," said Lothian. "No matter what you do, just make sure you're keeping busy."

But what about that first step? How can you get in a

workout with all these other plans?

"The great thing about Snap Fitness is that we're open 24 hours a day, so our members can still squeeze in a workout whenever they want. Plus, we're right in the neighborhood, so they don't need to go out of their way to get in and get moving."

Step three: don't try

and out-exercise a bad diet When it comes to keeping off unwanted pounds during the holidays, proper nutrition is key. That's why the free customized nutrition

program and supplement profile from Snap Fitness is such a tremendous benefit. "You can go to pretty much any fitness club and work out, but the reality is you can't out-exercise a bad diet," said Lothian. "At Snap Fitness, we'll give you the road map you need to get real results and to have a fuller, happier holiday." This holiday season give yourself the gift of better health and leave those unwanted holiday pounds out in the cold.



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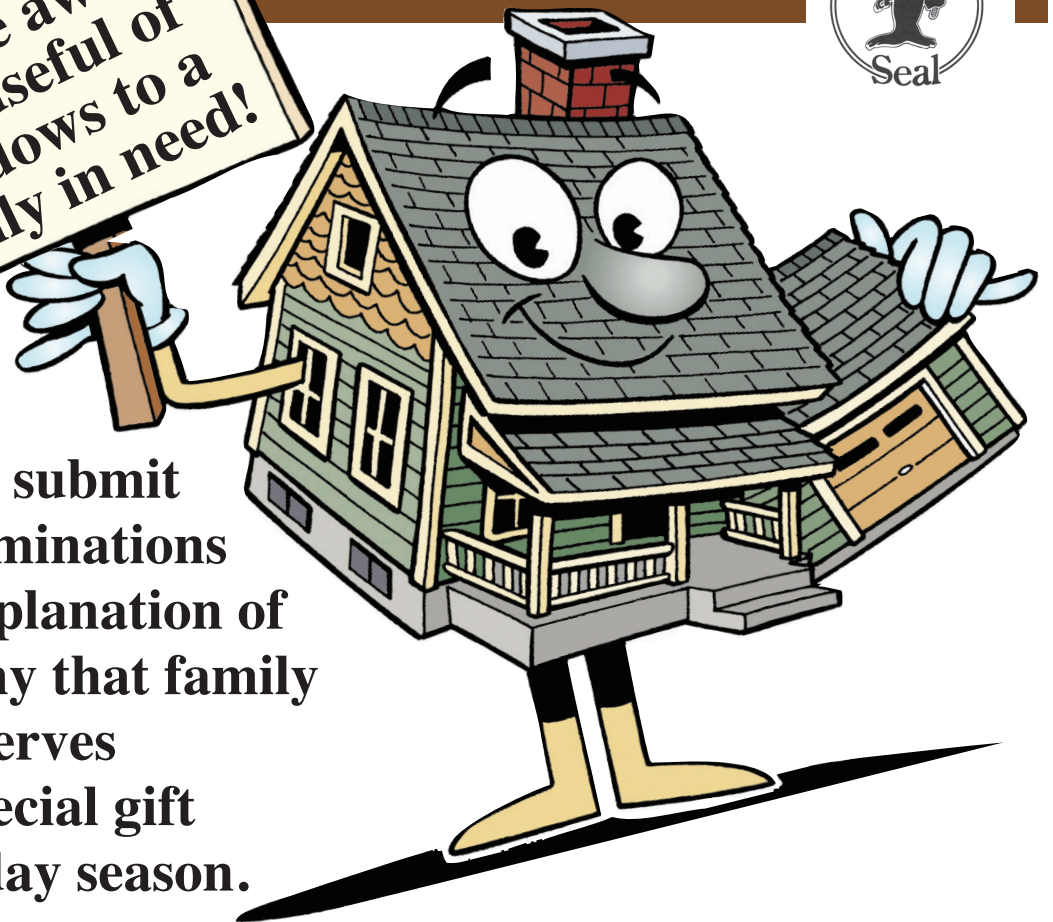
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It's Small Business Saturday, and this year, it's happening on November 24.

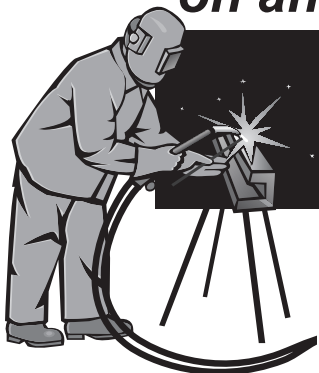


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obituaries

TICHELAAR

Harry Tichelaar, age 91 of Lowell, passed away Tuesday, November 13, 2012. He is survived by his wife of 43 years Sharon Fay; children, Richard (Helayne), David (Tammy), Tim (Mary), Phil (Jan), Sue Switzer, Tom (Elcene), Mark (Shelly), Tina, Amy; brother, James (Virginia), sister, Theresa Schrier; brothers-in-law, Fred (Terry), Bruce (Sandy) Kaechele; sisters-in-law, Cheryl (Ken) Thied, Helen (Joe)



Wyman; 23 grandchildren, 31 great grandchildren. Funeral services were held Friday, November 16, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. Rev. Mara Joy Norden of The Community officiated. Interment Pinckney Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to The Community Church, PO Box 164, Ada, MI 49301.



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Looking Back, continued

Messmore was in flames when the Lowell department arrived. They reached the scene in fifteen minutes after they were called, going 10 miles over icy roads. The pumper was the only means of throwing water, taken from the Thornapple river, forcing two streams of water on the fire. The blaze was brought under control after a battle of nearly six hours.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger November 22, 1962

Lowell area deer hunters report both success and disappointment in the 1962 season. One of the first to call to report a deer in this vicinity was Vic Heim, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey Heim who got his buck on his father's Vergennes township farm at 8:30 Thursday morning. It was a 180 lb., five-point buck; half of the rack was broken off. Harold Bozung who

gets his buck regularly reported that he shot a seven-point buck near Marble School in Keene Township early Friday morning. Another hunter who reported early success near here was Garry McWhinney, who got a six-point buck near Alto, early opening day. Bernard Kropf bagged a six-point, 175 lb. deer north of Lowell on Friday. Jim Smith, 19, Route 3, Lowell, shot himself in the foot Monday morning while hunting deer near Lowell. He was treated by a local physician. One local hunter who sat a few miles north of the city early Thursday morning waiting for his buck said he saw a nice buck approaching him, he lined up his sights waiting for the deer to approach closer, just as he was ready to shoot another hunter dropped the deer only a few yards away from him. Edwin B. Potter is telling a U.P. story of the hunter who saw a buck following close behind a doe; on a closer look he discovered that the buck had ahold of the doe's tail. When he attempted to shoot the buck he shot off the doe's tail and the buck stood still; then the doe ran off. Approaching the buck, he found that it was blind and was being led around by the doe by holding its tail. The hunter led the buck back to camp with the shot off tail and was about to shoot the buck when a conservation officer came along and confiscated the buck because it was blind.

Sharing The Vision, continued

heard so much about. When complex reforms that impact schools are developed in Lansing, substantial technical work on the part of our business and payroll staff is needed to ensure that modifications resulting from the reform are accurately processed. While the retirement reforms enacted in Lansing are still being deliberated, the district has had to make budgetary projections for any scenario that could come our way once legislators complete their work.

I think it is important to keep parents and community members informed of the massive changes that have occurred in our schools and classrooms. It has been said that "it's hard to hit a moving target." Education today is much like that moving

target. But, our students and staff have hit the mark in the midst of immense change as evidenced by yet another awesome achievement. I am pleased to announce Lowell Area Schools is one of 539 districts in the nation being recognized by The College Board and will receive the AP District of the Year Award: 3rd Annual Honor Roll. I am proud to say that thanks to the hard work of our students, entire staff, and the support of our community, the Lowell Area Schools has successfully navigated the plethora of change and has enjoyed a great start to the 2012-2013 school year.

Happy Thanksgiving. May this time of gratefulness be restful and meaningful for the Lowell community

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger November 25, 1987

Marking its third consecutive year, the Lowell Chamber of Commerce Retailer Division will sponsor Christmas activities for the holiday season. The fun and festive activities are available for all and are expected to help promote local shopping. This year's holiday fun starts with sleigh rides on Nov. 27, running from 1-9 p.m. On Saturday, Dec. 5, a local Christmas parade will walk the streets from the First United Methodist Church to the corner of Keiser's Kitchen. Children can also have their pictures taken with Santa from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. following the parade at Lambert Variety. Horse and buggy rides will be available to the community on Dec. 18, starting at 5 p.m. and running into the evening. The route will be lined with candle lights. The Leaders Club will donate and put up the lights. Two Christmas lighting contests will take place the week of Dec. 14, for the area residents and the merchants. Santa Claus will also visit local retail stores throughout the month of December.

Three juveniles will be referred to Probate Court at a later date to answer to charges of larceny from a residence when they took a quantity of pop cans and cashed them in at a local store on Tues. Nov. 17. Two were from Belding and the third is an Ionia resident.

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KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF ADOPTION AND SUMMARY OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 2-71, "BIDDING AND PURCHASING PROCEDURE," AND SECTION 2-72, "EMERGENCY DIRECT PURCHASE PROCEDURE," OF DIVISION 2, "PURCHASING," OF ARTICLE II, "FINANCE," OF CHAPTER 2, "ADMINISTRATION," OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LOWELL

The Lowell City Council adopted Ordinance No. 12-05 amending Section 2-71, "Bidding and purchasing procedure," and Section 2-72, "Emergency direct purchase procedure," of Division 2, "Purchasing," of Article II, "Finance," of Chapter 2, "Administration," of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowell on November 19, 2012. Ordinance No. 12-05 provides for the development and approval of a bidding and purchasing policy for the City of Lowell and for emergency purchases. A complete copy of Ordinance No. 12-05 is available for review at City Hall, 301 E. Main Street, Lowell, Michigan, during regular business hours.

Ordinance No. 12-05 is effective 10 days after this publication.

 Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

Your Social Security Statement is a gift to yourself

Give yourself the gift of your own Social Security Statement this holiday season. You can get yours online at www.socialsecurity.gov/mystatement.

The online Social Se-

curity Statement is simple, easy to use, and provides estimates you can use to plan for your retirement. It also provides estimates for disability and survivors benefits, making the Statement

an important financial planning tool.

To get a personalized online Statement, you must be age 18 or older and must be able to provide information about yourself that matches information already on file with Social Security. In addition, Social Security uses Experian, an external authentication service provider, for further verification. You must provide identifying information and answer security questions in order to pass this verification. Social Security will not share your Social Security number with Experian, but the identity check is an important part of this new, thorough verification process.

When your identity is verified, you can create a "My Social Security" account with a unique user name and password to ac-

cess your online Statement. In addition, your online Statement includes links to information about other online Social Security services, such as applications for retirement, disability, and Medicare.

This holiday season, it's likely you'll be hearing some of your friends and family saying "you shouldn't have" as they receive their gifts from you. That's something to look forward to. But be sure that you don't find yourself saying "I should have" when it comes to planning your own financial future. Get your online Social Security Statement and look it over. Do it again next year. It may be the best gift you can give to yourself in the long run.

Your free gift is waiting at www.socialsecurity.gov/mystatement.

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the lowell ledger

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Red Arrow SPORTS

- HOCKEY

Lowell-Caledonia team off to a slow start

by Karen Jack

In their season opener against Hudsonville on Friday, the Lowell-Caledonia hockey team lost 6-3 and

then on Saturday dropped their game against East Grand Rapids, 5-2.

While Lowell only has three players on the varsity co-op team, they were definite contributors in both games. In the game against Hudsonville, Lowell-Caledonia was able to score a goal in each period, but Hudsonville was too much, allowing a goal in the first, three in the second and two in the third. Austin Bieri had an assist on the third goal of the period. The Lowell team had 31 shots on goal as opposed to the 29 shots on goal Hudsonville had.

In the East Grand Rapids game, the team got off to a bad start, allowing East to score in the first six seconds of the game, but they rebounded, scoring a goal of their own two minutes later. In a fast-paced and high-scoring first period, the Pioneers led the game 4-1 at the end. Each team scored one goal in the second period, and no score from either team in the third period, ending the game 5-2 in East Grand Rapids' favor.

Head coach Tim Beurer said it was an interesting weekend for the team, as he always schedules tough op-

ponents at the beginning of the season to prepare the players for conference play. "I thought we played well for the most part. Unfortunately, we made some critical mistakes during each game which led to goals for our opponent. Once we settled down and started playing like we are capable of, we were able to control the play and tempo of the game," said Beurer.

Regarding the three Lowell players, Beurer said, "I thought Austin Bieri, Cam Bonney and Eli Barr played well considering it was their first games at this level. They continued to get better with each shift. I expect their play to continue to improve as we move through the season."

The hockey team will be playing in the Thanksgiving Falcon Classic tournament at the East Kentwood Ice Arena, starting with Forest Hills Central on Friday night at 8:00 pm. Depending on the outcome of that game, they will play again on Saturday, either at 2:00 pm or 4:00 pm.



Eli Barr fights for control.



Cam Bonney protects the puck.

Our Cookie Angels

The following wonderful individuals provided cookies and help last Saturday to make our Veteran's Cookie Day for the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans a huge success! This is the Fifth Anniversary for the program after four successful years and this year you baked a total 6,932 cookies (The top number of cookies previously baked was 4,022 in 2010.)

Speaking for all of the veterans and their families who shared your cookies, we want to thank all of you for both your generosity and thoughtfulness. You sure put smiles on some faces that sometimes have little to smile about.

Again, Thank You for all you did!

Jackie Morgan; Sue Behnke; Karen Waid; Deb Apol - (Larkins Restaurant); Cindy VanderWall; June Dilly; Jeanette Yeiter; Joy Smith; Jennifer Reinsma; Gwen Hughes; Nancy Wood; Karen Thomure; Eva Cain; McKensie Barnes; Babette and Gordy Maylone; Shirley and Tim Howard; Ann Pasquale; Kathy McBride; Robert, Rebecca and Carley Hornbeck; Clara and Herb Rice; Ginny Weber; Gary Eickhoff; Diane Barnes; Charles and Char Drake; Ellen Lietzke; Janet Marble; Donna Nuereither Beducci; Mary Tett; Lyn VanStee; Beverly Bobko; Janet Boerema; Laura Brower; Joyce Cooper; Judy Timpson; Betty Deans; Susan Stouffer; Charmane Richardson; Richard and Nola Bryan; Phillip and Jan VanDuinen; Kent McKay - (The Grand Volute Ballroom); Mary McAlary; Penny Gerdeman; Amy Bancroft; Jan and Jim Herb; Beth Dalstra; Kyra, Rylee; Tyler and Nikki Snyder; Janet Lalus; Emily Liley; Barb Mulnix; Linda Bishop; Michelle Winters; Melanie Brim; Kathy Casler; Ardis Barber; Bev Hall; Andree Swift; Addison, Ava and Amber Pipe; Denise Donamer; Renay and Kristin Bouwhuis; Arissa Nierenberger; Barb Zanstra; Gordy and Arlene Newell; Karen Hale - (and Customers of Cousins' Hallmark); Ruth Wood; Mike Sprenger - (Springrove Variety); Sydney, Sophia and Ashley Powell; Candice Brown; Skylar Bowne; Jeff and Bif Altoft - (Backwater Cafe); Norma Noall; Holly Henderson; Linda Hamp; Linda Comett; Lynn Seese - the Flag Lady; Amy Wilcox; Marsha Wilcox; Judy Sterling; Don Souser; Dave Thompson; Glennnda Parker; Madalyne and Wendy Grace; Jaycey Culross; Dorothy Anible; Richard Vorace; Chloe Looman; Shelly Johnson; Dawn Kondor; Fiona Kelly; Jack Sarb; Kathy Stewart; Karin Bowen; Doug Shassberger; Kim DeWaard; Colleen LaLone; Michael Hensen; Mary Kay Wright; Cheryl Foster; Kim and Josey Porter; Mary Dudeck; Barb Briggs; Jan Bennett; Jacqueline Sherer; Steve Adamczak; Pat Erickson; Carol Leyman; Brenda and Sarah Weaver; Marj Harding; Sheila Kelly; Rene VanderWilp; John VanderWilp; Hooper Printing; The Lowell Ledger ... and all of those good folks who didn't have a chance to sign-in.

Once again, Lowell has shown its true colors Red, White and Blue!

Sincerely,

Jan Thompson

And The Lowell American Legion Post #152



Austin Bieri takes on the defender.

Christmas Through Lowell, continued

Vonderheide and her friend, Terra Bieneman, expressed their pleasure at spending their dollars locally on unique items that cannot be purchased in the "big box" stores.

Some of the participants, like Mary Bommarito of Hangin' with Friends and Cathy Razmus of Home for the Holidays have taken part and sold their beautiful work for 12 or more years. Bommarito hosts ten other artists in her Lowell home.

"My house is beautifully decorated like an art gallery during Christmas Through Lowell. When the event is over the walls seem so bare," stated Bommarito.

Kathy Wittenbach of Witt's Inn & Cafe' and Marty and Laurie Chambers from Red Barn Antiques and Specialties were enjoying their first year participating. Marty creates bird houses, wooden outhouses and beautiful, unique lamp posts in custom sizes.

"Customers were taking pictures of each other sitting inside an outhouse." Laurie said with a big smile.

The thousands of shoppers Christmas Through Lowell has drawn can be proud of the fact that they contributed to the local economy and in the process bought something special and handmade.



Sarah Heins and Annette Pratt create these lovely decorative bottles sold at Red Barn Antiques.



Wildlife photographer Dallas Carlson, owner of His Handiwork Photography, at The Grand Volute Ballroom, stop 15 for Christmas Through Lowell.



Chep Kilel of Kenya, East Africa, was selling beautiful artwork and jewelry at First Congregational Church. The work was created by Kenyan women at a women's co-op located in Kenya.



Marty Chambers, host of Red Barn Antiques and Specialties, creates these mini outhouses. He also builds birdhouses and unique lamp posts.



Ruth Vrugink from Hudsonville with daughter Lisa Powers from Caledonia shopping at Family and Friends Crafts.



Carrie Vonderheide from Denver, Colorado, just moved to Lowell a month ago. She and friend Terra Bieneman are shown shopping at Home for the Holidays.

CITY OF LOWELL

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY NOTICE

Lowell City Hall, Department of Public Works, Police Office and Light and Power will be closed on Thursday, November 22 and Friday, November 23, 2012 in observance of Thanksgiving.

City of Lowell residents who use the city's blue refuse bags and City of Lowell yard waste bags will have their refuse, recycle and yard waste picked up on Friday, November 23rd due to Thanksgiving holiday.

Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk



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Pink Arrow Pride grateful for community support

Thanksgiving is a time of reflection, peace and gratefulness in one's life. Families around the country celebrate diverse past-time Thanksgiving traditions from family stuffing recipes, to football, to crafted turkey art made with children's hands. But the most meaningful tradition honored across the globe is universal - giving thanks.

On Thanksgiving we pause to meditate upon our blessings of family, dear friends and the many provisions we have in our lives and community. And the special community of Lowell evokes the spirit of Thanksgiving by consistently and thoughtfully giving, helping and blessing others in need throughout the year. While there are countless examples, one instance that captures the heart is Pink Arrow.

For the fifth consecutive year, the student-led Lowell Pink Arrow Pride V, a truly special event, was held on September 7, 2012. Meaning and emotion filled the Lowell stadium that day. Once again, 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; it is a reverent and powerful moment for us all.

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

important values of family, kindness, honor, and service. It seems fitting during the Thanksgiving season to speak of Pink Arrow because it is all about blessing.

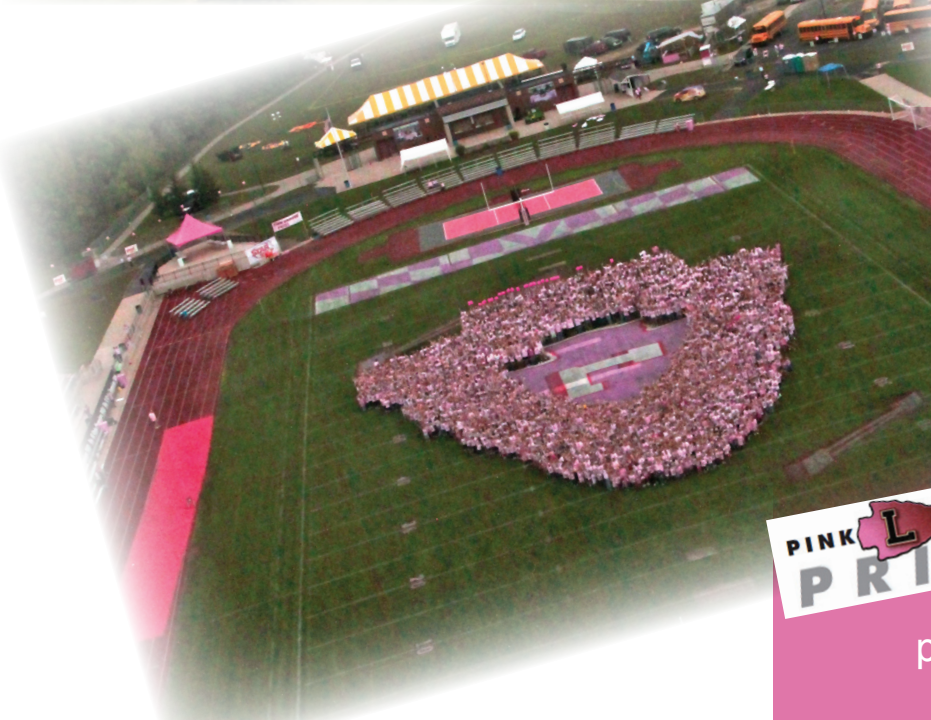
Since its inception, Pink Arrow blesses those in the community who are fighting cancer with abundant support. In addition to providing plentiful measures of support to families living with cancer, Pink Arrow maintains student scholarships in honor of Kathy Talus, a former Lowell teacher and coach who lost her battle with cancer and Dr. Donald Gerard who has dedicated more than 30 years volunteering and giving care to student athletes.

Of note, is the support that Pink Arrow provides to Gilda's Club of Lowell. Gilda's

provides free cancer and grief counseling for any loss to children, adults and families. Gilda's is a place to go where everyone understands the impact of cancer for the person with the diagnosis and those on the cancer journey with them.

Pink Arrow encourages anyone to take the first step in visiting Gilda's Club to receive the gift of love and support. In addition, Pink Arrow makes financial provisions for families who face exorbitant costs related to treatment. It is also important to note that Pink Arrow designates funds for K-12 age-appropriate education related to cancer and wellness for students.

Raising the student level of awareness and service to others will assure that they too will bless others through giving and volunteering in their community.



Thank you to the community, for continuing to participate and support the Pink Arrow mission. The Pink Arrow committee extends a sincere thank you to our special partners: St. Mary's – The Lack's Cancer Center, Meijer, Huntington Bank, Enwork, H & R Block, and Fox Motors. Let us all give thanks for the ongoing support, selflessness and passion of the Lowell Community.