

Merry
Christmas!

the lowell ledger

wednesday • december • 19 • 2012

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successful coat drive



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CENTS



Area families benefit from FROM's Christmas distribution

by Ellen Mork
contributing reporter

For many, the idea of having a Christmas full of gifts has always been a reality, an assumption. Yet, in this time of giving, we often forget those who have little to nothing.

For twenty years, Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) has helped these people, who have hit hard times and cannot afford to buy gifts for their children.

Open to those in the Lowell school district, almost 250 families participate in FROM's Christmas distribution. This year it was held on Saturday, December 15 from 9 to 2. Make-up days, held on Monday and Wednesday, will serve twenty to fifty more families.

In all, 352 children will receive gifts totaling over fifty dollars each. Parents are allowed to shop for the gifts, so that they can find something their children will love. Toys ranged

from trucks to ice skates to curling irons.

For each child, parents could pick three toys, a family game, an article of clothing, winter apparel and stocking stuffers. They even had "mom bags" full of goodies for mothers.

FROM also provided a Christmas dinner, fruit and breakfast for the families.

Donations from local businesses, individuals, families and Meijer stocked the shelves for the excited parents. There were drop locations throughout Lowell where anyone could drop off new, unwrapped gifts.

One mother said, "I was so excited I could not sleep last night." This was the first

FROM distribution,
continued, page 8

**Karen Whalen,
an active FROM
volunteer, distributes
toys for young
children.**



Georgian Ledger subscriber knows her news

by Justin Tiemeyer
contributing reporter

The Lowell Ledger would be fortunate to have former Lowell resident Bronwyn Harris as a member of its staff. With a degree in journalism from Michigan State University (MSU) and a few decades of experience in broadcast research, she would make a fine reporter. The Ledger is fortunate enough to have her as a subscriber, however, even though she lives just outside of Atlanta, Georgia.

Harris originally visited Atlanta after she graduated from MSU because many of her sorority friends were getting teaching jobs there. Cox Broadcasting recognized her talent and hired her immediately. Cox is responsible for the first television station in the South, WSB, which stands for "Welcome South, Brother."

Harris has since moved on to work for Turner



Broadcasting, the national conglomerate of cable networks whose assets include CNN, TBS and Cartoon Network. She's worked there since 1984.

Harris's favorite thing about the Ledger is reading what happened in Lowell in increments of 25 years.

"It gives you a good sense of history," Harris said.

Subscriber,
continued, page 7

Reindeer pause for a visit with Cherry Creek students



Cherry Creek had some special visitors. Rooftop Landing Reindeer Farm, from Clare, stopped by for a quick visit with Holly and Little Prancer. Cherry Creek classes all had a chance to visit and learn about these fabulous creatures.

Fourth graders learned specifically about adaptations. These animals all have antlers, including the females, so they can protect the babies from wolves. All antlers have velvet at first to protect them from biting bugs. Like the

white tailed deer, they will shed the antlers and grow new ones in the spring.

They also learned that reindeer have bigger feet that act like snowshoes, so they can walk on snow and ice. They have a unique adaptation, an extra clear eyelid so their eyes don't freeze in the extremely cold weather. The final adaptation is they have thick fur everywhere, including their nose and ears, also for protection from the extreme cold.

These reindeer are domesticated and raised on a farm. Reindeer have been domesticated for over 5,000 years. They are used for hauling big loads in extreme cold temperatures because horses won't survive in that climate. That is why Santa has used them for his purposes as well as the people that live in that area.

The Rooftop Landing Reindeer herdsman, Dave and John, have over 100 visits to do before Christmas.

Union discussions remain a point of concern for citizens

Ellen Mork
contributing reporter

Tensions ran high at the Lowell City Council meeting Monday night, as accusations of lack of transparency and coercion flew from citizens' mouths.

Concern regarding the union negotiations of Lowell Light & Power and the city hit an all time high. The general theme of the citizen's comments was "why?" Why is there no transparency?

Why is there no agreement? And why is there no talking between the two parties? The conference room was full of Lowell residents ready to hear answers.

Although no light was shed on these questions, the council reminded everyone that the union negotiations are a closed session by law. Citizens were encouraged

to attend the city council and Lowell Light & Power meetings.

Despite the confrontational start, the last meeting of the year continued smoothly. Many items were on the agenda.

The council voted to issue a one and a half percent cost of living increase to for Lowell Light & Power MERS retirees.

Police chief Barry Getzen was reappointed to the Kent County Dispatch Authority.

The frame on one of the Department of Public Works trucks cracked and broke, causing the need for

a new truck. The truck was 15 years old and was one of the most heavily used trucks by the city. It was a three-quarter-ton truck, but they have decided to upgrade to a one-ton due to the durability and everyday use.

The council approved the purchase of a one-ton 4x4 truck from Wittenbach GMC in Lowell for \$32,110.

Both the city of Lowell and Lowell Light & Power received unqualified opinions on their audits. Lowell Light & Power has had positive net income the past three years. The city had two bonds refunded totaling around \$800,000.

Lowell Rotary grant application deadline approaching

The Rotary Club of Lowell will be accepting grant applications for distribution in early February. With over 34,000 clubs serving communities around the world, Rotary works to meet the unique concerns and needs of the local community. Lowell Rotary grants are available to nonprofit organizations

serving the greater Lowell community.

Rotarians have continually adapted and improved the way they respond to the needs of the local community, supporting and implementing a broad range of service projects focused on the six foundational service areas that include peace

and conflict prevention and resolution; disease prevention and treatment; water and sanitation; maternal and child health; basic education and literacy; and economic and community development.

Rotary has served the Lowell community since 1935, awarding over \$101,000 in scholarships to local students and more than \$18,000 in community investment grants.

Grant applications and instructions can be found at www.lowellrotary.org under club information

and downloads. Grant applications are due no later than January 15, 2013.

The mission of Rotary International is to provide service to others, promote integrity and advance world understanding, goodwill and peace through its fellowship of business, professional and community leaders. The Rotary Club of Lowell meets at noon every Wednesday at city hall and is open to members of the business community. For information on the Rotary Club of Lowell visit www.lowellrotary.org

the lowell ledger

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along main street

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.

...

If one morning I walked on top of the water across the Potomac River, the headline that afternoon would read "President Can't Swim".

~ Lyndon B. Johnson (1908 - 1973)

THE LOWELL LEDGER WEBSITE IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

At this time we are just beginning to get our new website up and running.

As of now, readers can still submit articles, events, weddings, engagements - email

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AND OF COURSE

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Thank you for your patience as we attempt to bring you a new and improved website.

LOWELL MOOSE KIDS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

Kids' Christmas event on Sat., Dec. 22 from 11 am to 1 pm at Lowell Moose Rec Hall. Open to the public. For information call Brenda Schullo at 616-828-2663.

YMCA SENIORS EXERCISE

Ready, Set, Move, Seniors - Grant funded exercise class, ages 55+. Mondays and Fridays, 11 am - 12 pm. Begins Mon., Jan. 14, 2013. Call 855-9570 for more information.

CITY OF LOWELL HOLIDAY SCHEDULE NOTICE

Lowell City Hall, Department of Public Works, Police Office and Light and Power office will be closed on Monday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 25, 2012 for Christmas Holidays and Tuesday, January 1, 2013 for New Year's Day.

Those who participate in the City of Lowell refuse program with blue bags will have their refuse picked up on Friday, December 28, 2012 due to the Christmas holiday and Friday, January 4, 2013 due to the New Year's holiday.

Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP NOTICE

The Lowell Township office hours for the holidays are as follows:

Monday, December 24, 2012	CLOSED
Tuesday, December 25, 2012	CLOSED
Wednesday, December 26, 2012	CLOSED
Thursday, December 27, 2012	9am - 5pm
Friday, December 28, 2012	CLOSED
Monday, December 31, 2012	CLOSED
Tuesday, January 1, 2013	CLOSED
Wednesday, January 2, 2013	CLOSED
Thursday, January 3, 2013	9am - 1pm
Friday, January 4, 2013	CLOSED

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Lowell's superintendent sends reassuring letter to parents with advice for parents on talking to children

With the recent shootings in Connecticut weighing heavily on everyone's mind, Lowell's superintendent, Greg Pratt, sent a letter to all Lowell Area School parents. The letter along with some tips to help parents and teachers talk to their children and students follows.

Dear Parents,

Just three short days since the horrific and tragic experience that occurred Friday in the small community of Newtown, Connecticut, it is with deep sadness that I send you this letter. First and foremost, our prayers are with the community of Newtown as they move forward with the grieving process and attempt to make sense of such a senseless act. As the events unfolded in front of us this past weekend, it is very natural for our thoughts to turn toward our own children and community. Please know that we will continue to reassure our children that they are safe, monitor our students, and be good listeners to best support those children that may need help coping with this terrible event.

I am attaching some helpful information from the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) for your review and use if you are looking for ways to help process this event with your child. This is a very good resource for how to help our children cope with this tragedy. I would also encourage parents to visit the NASP website for some very helpful information to help your family, adults and children alike, cope with this horrendous act of violence.

Please also know that the Lowell Area Schools safety procedures are reviewed on a regular basis with both staff and students to ensure that our schools are safe. This situation will cause us to again refocus those efforts and closely examine our school safety training and protocols. We will also take every measure possible to improve our facilities to keep students safe and examine the strengths and weaknesses of the district's safety procedures.

During this last week of school prior to the holidays, the best thing we can do is to provide a sense a normalcy for our students. At the same time, our hearts are filled with sorrow and our thoughts are with the families and community of Newtown and their school system as they move into the holiday season.

Thank you for reading this message and for your support of the Lowell Area Schools. Please feel free to reach out to school staff at your child's school building if you have any concerns and always feel free to contact our school administrators or myself for any assistance you may need.

Sincerely,

Greg Pratt, Superintendent of Schools

Tips for Parents and Teachers

Whenever a national tragedy occurs, such as terrorist attacks or natural disasters, children, like many people, may be confused or frightened. Most likely they will look to adults for information and guidance on how to react. Parents and school personnel can help children cope first and foremost by establishing a sense of safety and security. As more information becomes available, adults can continue to help children work through their emotions and perhaps even use the process as a learning experience.

All Adults Should:

1. Model calm and control. Children take their emotional cues from the significant adults in their lives. Avoid appearing anxious or frightened.
2. Reassure children that they are safe and (if true) so are the other important adults in their lives. Depending on the situation, point out factors that help insure their immediate safety and that of their community.
3. Remind them that trustworthy people are in charge. Explain that the government emergency workers, police, firefighters, doctors, and the military are helping people who are hurt and are working to ensure that no further tragedies occur.
4. Let children know that it is okay to feel upset. Explain that all feelings are okay when a tragedy like this occurs. Let children talk about their feelings and help

put them into perspective. Even anger is okay, but children may need help and patience from adults to assist them in expressing these feelings appropriately.

5. Observe children's emotional state. Depending on their age, children may not express their concerns verbally. Changes in behavior, appetite, and sleep patterns can also indicate a child's level of grief, anxiety or discomfort. Children will express their emotions differently. There is no right or wrong way to feel or express grief.

6. Look for children at greater risk. Children who have had a past traumatic experience or personal loss, suffer from depression or other mental illness, or with special needs may be at greater risk for severe reactions than others. Be particularly observant for those who may be at risk of suicide. Seek the help of mental health professional if you are at all concerned.

7. Tell children the truth. Don't try to pretend the event has not occurred or that it is not serious. Children are smart. They will be more worried if they think you are too afraid to tell them what is happening.

8. Stick to the facts. Don't embellish or speculate about what has happened and what might happen. Don't dwell on the scale or scope of the tragedy, particularly with young children.

9. Keep your explanations developmentally appropriate. Early elementary school children need brief, simple

information that should be balanced with reassurances that the daily structures of their lives will not change. Upper elementary and early middle school children will be more vocal in asking questions about whether they truly are safe and what is being done at their school. They may need assistance separating reality from fantasy. Upper middle school and high school students will have strong and varying opinions about the causes of violence and

threats to safety in schools and society. They will share concrete suggestions about how to make school safer and how to prevent tragedies in society. They will be more committed to doing something to help the victims and affected community. For all children, encourage them to verbalize their thoughts and feelings. Be a good listener!

10. Monitor your own stress level. Don't ignore

Tips for parents, continued, page 7

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financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Lower debt levels mean greater investment opportunities

In the past few years, Americans have done a pretty good job of whittling down their debt load. If you're in this group, you may now have a chance to use your lower level of indebtedness to your advantage — by investing for the future.

Consider the numbers: In 2007, just before the financial crisis, the country's household debt service ratio was about 14 percent. (The debt service ratio is the ratio of debt payments, including mortgages and consumer debt, to disposable personal income.) But by 2012, this figure had dipped below 11 percent, the lowest level since 1994.

These figures are national averages, but they do translate into real-life savings for many of us. If you're in this group — that is, if you've lowered your debt payments noticeably — what should you do with this "found" money?

Of course, you could spend it on material objects, which, in some cases, may make your life more pleasant today. But you'd probably be better off by devoting your financial resources to your goals for tomorrow,

such as college for your children and, eventually, a comfortable retirement lifestyle for yourself.

Consequently, you want may want to consider these suggestions:

- Increase your contributions to your retirement plan. Try to put more money into your employer-sponsored retirement plan, such as a 401(k), 403(b) or 457(b). Your contributions are typically made with pretax dollars, so the more you invest, the lower your taxable income. Plus, your earnings can grow on a tax-deferred basis.

- Fully fund your IRA. You can put in up to \$5,000 per year (as of 2012) to a traditional or Roth IRA, or \$6,000 if you're 50 or older. A traditional IRA grows tax-deferred, while a Roth IRA can grow tax-free, provided you meet certain conditions.

- Fill in "gaps" in your financial strategy. With a little extra money each month, can you find ways to fill in the "gaps" in your financial strategy? For example, do you have sufficient life insurance and disability income

insurance? Or can you add some investments that can help diversify your overall portfolio? While diversification can't guarantee profits or protect against loss, it can help reduce the effects of volatility on your holdings.

- Build an emergency fund. It's a good idea to build an emergency fund containing six to 12 months' worth of living expenses. Without such a fund, you may be forced to dip into long-term investments to pay for unexpected costs, such as a large bill from the doctor or a major car repair. Keep the money in a liquid, low-risk account.

- Establish a 529 plan. If you have children or grandchildren whom you would like to help get through college, you might want to contribute to a 529 plan. Your earnings grow tax-free, provided withdrawals are used for qualified higher education expenses. Plus, your contributions may be deductible from your state taxes. (Be aware, though, that withdrawals used for purposes other than qualified education expenses may be subject to federal and state taxes, plus a 10 percent penalty.)

Reducing your debt level can remove some stress from your life. And you'll gain even more benefits from debt reduction by using your savings to speed your progress toward your important financial goals.

We cannot control the evil tongues of others; but a good life enables us to disregard them.

~ Cato the Elder (234 BC - 149 BC)

LOWELL CITY COUNCIL

2013 CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATES
7:00 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SECOND FLOOR

JANUARY	7	JULY	1
	22 (TUESDAY)	Martin Luther King Day	15
FEBRUARY	4	AUGUST	5
	19 (TUESDAY)	Presidents Day	19
MARCH	4	SEPTEMBER	3
	18	(TUESDAY) Labor Day	16
APRIL	1	OCTOBER	7
	15		21
MAY	6	NOVEMBER	4
	20		18
JUNE	3	DECEMBER	2
	17		16



NOTE: Check City Website Calendar for any changes or cancellations at www.ci.lowell.mi.us

viewpoint

to the editor

shortsighted legislators

Dear Editor,
Our Rep. Lyons was quoted today (11 December) in USA Today saying the Right To Work legislation passed by the Michigan House and Senate "freed Michigan workers." How sad and what a shortsighted and inane statement. This legislation does nothing of the sort. It's another classic example of the state's GOP bowing to

its base support--business. Shame on them. Unions may have faults, but unions have helped build a strong, vibrant state and nation. I say this as a past union member with family and friends who are union members. This legislation will result in sad and regrettable consequences.

Vance M. Dimmick
Lowell

outdoors



small game

Dave Stegehuis

The expansion of the deer herd to all counties in Michigan over the last several decades has brought big game hunting within easy reach of state residents. More people hunt deer than any other game animal. Well over 650 thousand firearm hunters took to the woods in pursuit of the celebrated whitetail this fall.

During the same period of time, small game hunter numbers have fallen considerably. There are several reasons for the lack of participation. First, our country is experiencing a social and cultural shift. We keep moving further away

from our rural agricultural roots. Also, the loss of habitat and an increase in predator numbers has affected the populations of some small game animals.

Pheasant hunting was once as popular as deer hunting. Pheasants and the habitat they occupied began disappearing in the 60's and the birds never recovered. Today, the state in cooperation with private sportsmen organizations are working together to reverse the trend. There are now areas where the colorful bird can be found in huntable numbers. Keep in mind that wild turkeys were once

extinct in Michigan, and today they are a nuisance in some places. Hopefully, pheasant reintroduction will be as successful.

Cottontail rabbits and varying hares (snowshoes) are alive and well where coyotes are in check. Coyotes are themselves considered small game and can be hunted in season.

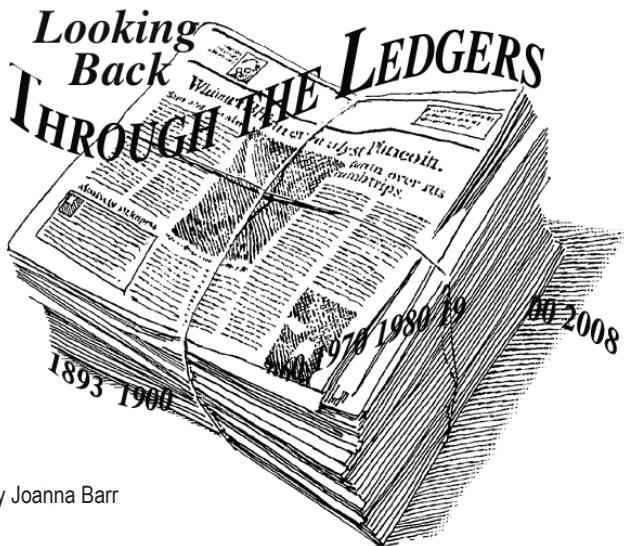
Gray, black, and fox squirrels are doing well and seem to be affected more by weather conditions than predators or habitat. Squirrel hunting used to be an entry level experience for new hunters. Rule changes and the availability of whitetails have made deer hunting the first experience for many young hunters today.

Waterfowl hunters and upland game hunters

(woodcock and grouse) are a dedicated group of outdoorsmen. Be careful about getting started in this kind of hunting because it can become an obsession.

Hunting does not have to be a huge commitment. Sitting or walking in a stand of old oaks for squirrels can be relaxing and low-key. Just watching and listening to a beagle howl and yip on the trail of a fleeing cottontail will make your day. Unless you are really hungry, it doesn't matter if you or a young partner bag anything.

There is still a lot of small game hunting out there, so don't overlook the opportunities. The seasons are long and the hunting can be an enjoyable way to connect with nature.



By Joanna Barr

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 19, 1912

The Michigan Bent Rim and Basket factory plant, which has been idle for many months, is to resume operations as soon as a stock of timber can be obtained, with which to begin turning out its former goods and additional lines...The new company is now advertising and making contracts for elm, basswood, oak and ash logs to be delivered at the Lowell plant at the Pere Marquette Main street crossing. Additional timber will be shipped in from outside, if necessary, in order to run the plant to its full capacity throughout the season, and fulfill the contract made to employ twenty men eight months in the year. The closing down of the Bent Rim factory was a disappointment to Lowell people; and it is hoped that the new concern will make Good with a big G.

Nola, 9-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Richmond of Vergennes, was kicked in the side of her head by a horse Tuesday afternoon, receiving a cut requiring four stitches. The child is a lover of horses and enjoys working among them. She was driving her father's horse to the barn at the time of the accident. One of the animals ran over her accidentally and struck her with his hoof.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 23, 1937

An accident occurred around noon Monday a few miles east of Lowell on M-21 when it is reported that Roy Thompson of R. F. D., Lowell, drove his milk route truck across the pavement to enter the driveway of a farm house and failed to see the Short Way bus approaching behind him. Both vehicles were going

Looking Back, continued, page 12

off the cuff

Jeanne Boss

Unspeakable. A word for the shootings that took place at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut. Words can be painful. Reality can be painful.

As 'civilized' humans is it possible that we could use our language to help save us from this brutality? And, given the onslaught of violence during this year alone, I use the word civilized loosely.

Maybe it's time we think about what we say as being one means of disarming our violent nature.

Think about how we choose to speak and interact.

Maybe at this time of year, when we talk about giving, we give the gift of a more peaceful vocabulary. A gift of tolerance. A gift of composure.

Consider these words. Corrupt. Evil. Fight. Forbid. Destruction. Vile. Cruel. Horrific. Reckless. Politician. Grieving.

Exchange these words. Honest. Good. Compromise. Allow. Build. Admirable. Kind. Pleasant. Disciplined. Diplomat. Joyous.

A simple meditative exercise that for a brief moment soothes one's thoughts.

But there are political issues here that cannot be saved for another time. Consider how the integrity of those discussions could

help our society. Our Michigan legislature just passed a bill to make it legal to bring a weapon into schools, churches, arenas and hospitals. What is the logic to that? A lame-duck legislature felt the need to surrender to special interest groups to whom they have made promises. Money - the love of which is the root of all evil.

It is time to back off of our most stubbornly held positions and think through to the desired result. Think ahead. Think beyond the first reaction of fear, hate and false pride.

"Sticking to your guns" only works if it is the right thing to do. Convincing yourself that there is only one extreme answer to a complicated problem is a fool's errand.

For instance, I, in no way, believe that video games cause violent behavior. But I am pretty sure they don't prevent it either. I do think that they reflect the level of violence, as a society, that we accept.

Consider that out of the top ten video games, (according to The Washington Post - Business with Bloomberg week ending 9/22/12) half of these are rated "M" (mature) or "T" (teen) and of the five "E" (everyone) remaining titles, four are NFL and NHL games.

Don't get ahead of me here. I am not saying football and hockey are intrinsically evil or violent.

But I believe, with no scientific data to back this up, that there is a big difference between playing hockey or football and sitting on a couch and playing a video game that has, according to its rating, "fantasy or mild violence and/or infrequent use of mild language." (Parents, you can get descriptions of these ratings online at www.esrb.org/ratings/ratings_guide.jsp)

There are many other examples. And there is no, one answer. This is a complex issue with many solutions. We need to rethink and rewire our negative, win-at-all-cost, violent society.

We need to address the violence within us.

Censorship, gun control

and the rest won't do it alone. We have to start addressing whether or not, as consumers, what we want to propagate.

We can choose to reject the negative aspects of society and accentuate what is productive. These horrific things will continue. No one measure will stop them all.

Robbie Parker, a man that just days ago lost his six-year-old daughter to the violence in Connecticut, said he is not mad.

In his unbelievable grief, Parker managed the true strength to say to the gunman's family, "I can't imagine how hard this experience must be for you."

I just can't help but think that there is power in our speech that can make us less violent and more human "kind."

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.

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Bea Byrne Media Center latest addition to St. Patrick School

When Bea Byrne was a student at St. Patrick School in the 1920s, inkwells and blackboards may have been the teaching tools of choice. However, today's students learn through technology that probably wasn't even conceivable 90 years ago. Now, thanks to a generous gift from Bea's family, St. Patrick students have access to the latest

or sit and read in one of the new couches added to the library.



21st century learning tools. In honor of their late mother, Norm and Rosemary Byrne generously donated the funds needed to completely renovate the St. Patrick School media center. The new computer lab is home to 31 new computers running Microsoft Office 2010 as well as a SMART Board that enhances instruction in the lab.

"One of the things that has impressed me most since joining St. Patrick School two years ago is the amazing sense of community here," said principal Scott Czarnopys. "We were so fortunate to not only receive Norm and Rosemary Byrne's generous gift, but we were also blessed with a group of volunteers who spent countless hours getting the lab and library ready this summer."

In addition, the adjoining library was also upgraded with new carpeting, paint, server switches and electrical work. Students can now work at custom built benches, tables and desks

Heading up the volunteer group were Bill Doyle, Jim Stratton and Lil Vroma. In addition, numerous members of

the Byrne family helped move, pack, unpack and shelve items throughout the renovation.

Today, the Bea Byrne Media Center stands as an enduring legacy to one of St.

Patrick School's pioneering graduates. It is the hope of the school that as students use the lab, they will be reminded of the generations that preceded them.

happy birthday!

- DECEMBER 19**
Lori Moore, Carol Chamberlain.
- DECEMBER 20**
Ed Mohr, William Henry Burt, Jackie Spencer, Rob Lombardo.
- DECEMBER 21**
Al Smith, Brooke Page, Zachary Tykocki, Debbie Walendzik, Eric Koeppel.
- DECEMBER 22**
Jason Seeley, Cody Soyka.
- DECEMBER 23**
Norma Stevens, Marie Doyle.
- DECEMBER 24**
Jeffrey Pfaller.
- DECEMBER 25**
Scott Shindorf, Chris Woolfenden, Chris Treglia, Jeni Clouser, Peggy Hayes, Star Daverman.

health



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

warts

Warts are bumps that develop on the skin. They usually occur on the hands, feet or extremities. Warts that occur on the penis, vaginal region or perianal areas are called genital warts. Warts on the bottom of the feet are called plantar warts.

Warts are caused by an infection with the human papilloma virus (HPV). Warts are contagious. Genital warts are spread from one person to another during sexual contact. Other warts can be spread by sharing towels, razors or walking barefoot in public places like locker rooms.

Most warts will eventually go away on their own if left alone but it may take several years to go away. The immune system eventually kills the virus resulting in clearing of the wart. Because warts can be unsightly or painful, many will seek treatment to get rid of their warts.

Warts on the hands, feet or extremities can

be treated by applying over-the-counter acid preparations for six to eight weeks. These medications work best if you soak the affected area for 10-15 minutes prior to application of the medication. It helps to trim the dead skin around the wart that may build up during treatment. If these warts don't resolve after six to eight weeks your doctor may choose to treat the wart with prescription medication or destroy the wart by freezing, burning, surgery or laser.

Genital warts should not be treated with over-the-counter acid medications because the surrounding skin is too sensitive. Your doctor will prescribe medication that is applied to the warts a couple of times per week which may take up to 12 weeks to completely resolve the problem. If you have genital warts you should use condoms to prevent the spread of HPV to your partner.

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Meet the Ledger reporters

The Ledger has several new reporters who will be helping to bring local news, sports, business and human interest stories to our readers. They include Ellen Mork, Karen Jack, Theresa Heethuis, Justin Tiemeyer, Sharon Miller and Ledger intern Kelvin Anderson. If you have any story ideas that you might like to see covered, send an email to: reporter@lowellbuyersguide.com

Ellen Mork

Mork will be covering a wide range of city meetings and events. She grew up in Lowell and graduated from Lowell High School in 2008. She is a 2012 graduate of the University of Michigan and majored in economics, international studies and political science. Mork is currently awaiting an invitation from the Peace Corps to serve as a community economic development volunteer. "I enjoy reporting for the Ledger because it allows me to meet a wide variety of community members as well as go to myriad community events I would not normally have the chance to attend. Local papers are important because they cover facets of the news ignored by larger media outlets. Wherever you go, Go Blue!"



Karen Jack

Jack has actually been covering Lowell sports for a year now. She is a graduate of Michigan State University and has been an editor of higher education textbooks for the past seven years and has also worked as the operations director of several non-profit organizations. She has three children: Ashleigh, 23, going to school for her paralegal degree; Tyler, a senior at Tulane University in New Orleans; and Bailey, 16, who attends Lowell High School. "My interests include sports (obviously), writing, reading, puzzles, and creating anything with my hands," says Jack. "Of course, wrestling is my favorite sport, but I'm a little biased." She says she likes being the sports reporter because she gets to watch these kids grow into young adults, see how sports affects them as human beings and enjoys seeing the camaraderie between the players and teams.



Tips for parents, continued

your own feelings of anxiety, grief, and anger. Talking to friends, family members, religious leaders, and mental health counselors can help. It is okay to let your children know that you are sad, but that you believe things will get better. You will be better able to support your children if you can express your own emotions in a productive manner. Get appropriate sleep, nutrition, and exercise.

What Parents Can Do:

1. Focus on your children over the week following the tragedy. Tell them you love them and everything will be okay. Try to help them understand what has happened, keeping in mind their developmental level.
2. Make time to talk with your children. Remember if you do not talk to your children about

this incident someone else will. Take some time and determine what you wish to say.

3. Stay close to your children. Your physical presence will reassure them and give you the opportunity to monitor their reaction. Many children will want actual physical contact. Give plenty of hugs. Let them sit close to you, and make sure to take extra time at bedtime to cuddle and to reassure them that they are loved and safe.
4. Limit your child's television viewing of these events. If they must watch, watch with them for a brief time; then turn the set off. Don't sit mesmerized re-watching the same events over and over again.
5. Maintain a "normal" routine. To the extent possible stick to your

family's normal routine for dinner, homework, chores, bedtime, etc., but don't be inflexible. Children may have a hard time concentrating on schoolwork or falling asleep at night.

6. Spend extra time reading or playing quiet games with your children before bed. These activities are calming, foster a sense of closeness and security, and reinforce a sense of normalcy. Spend more time tucking them in. Let them sleep with a light on if they ask for it.
7. Safeguard your children's physical health. Stress can take a physical toll on children as well as adults. Make sure your children get appropriate sleep, exercise, and nutrition.
8. Consider praying or thinking hopeful thoughts

Theresa Heethuis

Heethuis will be covering a variety of stories from education to human interest. She says, "I am the mom to three little ones and the wife of Steve. As a former teacher, I have my master's degree in reading and love anything to do with the written word." She adds, "Lowell has already offered me an amazingly warm welcome and I look forward to being a part of the community."



Sharon Miller

Miller is a Lowell resident and is founder of Erthtones (formerly Earthtones Photography). Her main focus at Erthtones is editorial photography, head shots and environmental portraiture. She says about local newspapers that, "In these days of social networks and blogs, with information at everyone's fingertips, the existence of the local newspaper is more crucial than ever before. I love how the assignments for the Ledger bring me into the community more than I would otherwise venture. I've met so many wonderful people who are doing magnificent things. I've always loved bringing people, events and places into the spotlight."



Subscriber, continued

When Harris lived in Lowell, the population was smaller than that of the Brody dorm complex at MSU, where she would reside while attending college. She fondly recalled time spent at the Showboat, the 4H fair and at the make-shift fairground ice skating rink.

"I have some great memories of being a cheerleader and attending football games," Harris said.

The thing that Harris

loves the most about Lowell was originally her least favorite quality of the town. When she was young it felt like everyone knew everything about her. Over the years, however, she realized that what seemed like nosiness was in fact care and concern.

"Lowell is a very supportive community," Harris said. If Harris is any measure, Lowell is also a community teeming with talent and the potential for success.

for the victims and their families. It may be a good time to take your children to your place of worship, write a poem, or draw a picture to help your child express their feelings and feel that they are somehow supporting the victims and their families.

9. Find out what resources your school has in place to help children cope. Most schools are likely to be open and often are a good place for children to regain a sense of normalcy. Being with their friends and teachers can help. Schools should also have a plan for making counseling available to children and adults who need it.

For information on helping children and youth with this crisis, contact NASP at (301) 657-0270 or visit NASP's website at www.nasponline.org.

Justin Tiemeyer

Tiemeyer has a BA in philosophy and writing from Grand Valley State University and a master's in theological studies from Brite Divinity School. Tiemeyer says he believes that local newspapers make democracy work by informing the public and that working for the Ledger makes him feel more connected to the people of Lowell. "My favorite part about being a reporter is hearing stories from interesting people," Tiemeyer said. "News isn't abstract. It's flesh, blood, bones and spirit."



Kelvin Anderson

Anderson will occasionally bring us some insight on high school life and the community. He has lived in Lowell his whole life and is a junior at Lowell High School. His hobbies include band, reading, spending time with friends and helping out on the family farm. When asked why he's interested in reporting for the Ledger, Anderson said, "I think a local paper is important because it helps to tie the community together. Reading a local paper is different than reading a national paper because most of the people or events you read about you probably know. This helps to connect us all in a way a larger paper can't do. What I like about being a Ledger reporter is that you get to write about people and events that happen right here. It is my way of giving back to the community."



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Young Champions cheerleaders take second at regional competition



by Sharon Miller
contributing reporter

Head coach of the Lowell area Young Champions cheerleaders, Jennifer Hartley and assistant coach, Amber Cook are proud of their team of nine little girls in Level 1 who took second place in a regional competition.

The competition took place on Dec. 8 at the Delta Plex in Grand Rapids. The team competed against 10 other teams. On January 13 they will compete at the Delta Plex in a state competition with teams that placed in other areas around Michigan.

Little Layla Risdon really likes being a Young Champion cheerleader. When asked what she liked best about it she said, "I like this best," and demonstrated with a back bend.

Head coach Jenn Hartley (center), assistant coach Amber Cook (right) and a volunteer who is soon to be an assistant coach, Ashley Burks (left) lead the Lowell Young Champions cheer team Level 1 in a routine.

Toys for Tots drive wraps up collections

by Justin Tiemeyer
contributing reporter

Christopher Godbold is the financial adviser who runs the Lowell branch of Edward Jones. He has assisted the people of

Lowell with investing and retirement planning for 11 years. For 10 of those 11 years, he has collected donations for Toys for Tots.

When the employees

of Edward Jones decided they wanted to help out the community in some way, they found that their best option was to work with a highly recognized program like Toys for Tots.

Currently, 80 regional Edward Jones' offices serve as drop-off locations for Toys for Tots from Lowell to Holland. Much of the collected toys are

distributed to children in West Michigan.

This year, the region held a client appreciation event with a Christmas concert. Attendees were asked to donate a toy upon entry. As a result of this event, Edward Jones was able to collect thousands of toys in just one day.

"I love when families bring their kids into the

office and the kids drop off the toys. It's a great teaching moment," Godbold said.

The Edward Jones' Toys for Tots collection ran from Nov. 12 through Dec. 14. The day before the drive's conclusion, Godbold's branch had collected over 100 toys.

"A lot of people wait until the last minute, so I wouldn't be surprised if

we doubled that amount," Godbold said.

Godbold does not expect that Edward Jones will ever discontinue its relationship with Toys for Tots. He is already looking forward to next year's drive.

"Year in, year out, we need to up the ante," Godbold said. Edward Jones' offices resume collection in Nov. 2013.



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FROM distribution, continued

year her family has lived within the school district, thus the first time she could participate. This meant she and her husband could finally exchange gifts with their five children

Tamela Spicer, executive director of FROM said, "everyone is thankful." Spicer added that they expected 400 families to take part in the Christmas giveaway, but they were almost 150 short. She sees this as a positive. Perhaps families are doing better or have help from extended families. "Our goal is to go out of business," Spicer said, "that everyone will have enough eventually and not need our assistance."

Each year, close to 150 volunteers work throughout the week. They help set up the event, organize the gifts and direct families on the day of the distribution. Volunteers included members of the Interact club at the high school as well as families and individuals from the area.



Toys lined the tables in the toy room where parents could choose three items for each child.

Successful coat collection distributed to many grateful recipients

by Justin Tiemeyer
contributing reporter

The annual Coats 4 Kids & Vets drive at the Lowell Curtis Cleaners may have concluded Dec. 1, but the effects of Lowell generosity will be felt by many this Christmas season.

In an update from program supervisor Andy Curtis on Nov. 26, the total amount of donated coats was at nearly 700 and climbing.

Mel Trotter Ministries administrative assistant Rebecca Robertson said that they have received at least 150 coats from Curtis Cleaners over the last three years. Remaining donations are distributed to both Flat River Outreach Ministries and the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans.

"Curtis Cleaners is the only one who cleans the coats before they are brought, which is a blessing to those who receive the coats," Robertson said.

Public relations associate Cindy Longvyne expressed excitement that Curtis Cleaners delivers donations themselves.

"We are blessed to be one of their recipients," Longvyne said.

After reaching Mel Trotter, volunteers sort coats according to size and send them to storage rooms. From there, men and women's resident directors distribute coats to long-term residents, people who stay at the shelter and others who visit the day center.

While most donations collected by Curtis Cleaners are distributed by Flat River Outreach Ministries to people living in Lowell, Mel Trotter assures that the needy in the Heartside neighborhood and other locations in greater Grand Rapids stay warm this winter.

Though the Curtis drive has concluded, Mel Trotter continues to accept donations year-round. With plenty of winter yet to come, coats remain in high demand, especially larger sizes from XL to 4XL. Donations can be delivered to Mel Trotter's 225 Commerce SW location or to any Mel Trotter retail store.



Andy Curtis delivers two large bins of coats to Mel Trotter Ministries on his Dec. 7 visit.

Organek named Volunteer of the Month

Heather Organek was named Murray Lake's Volunteer of the Month for November. Organek, who was hired as a playground supervisor this year also volunteers many hours of her own time each week. She has spent a lot of this time helping kindergarten students.

"Heather selflessly gives of her time to be with

students that need some extra attention to help cope with emotions and school social skills. Wow! Has this time made a huge difference in the whole atmosphere of the entire kindergarten class. I've even learned a few ideas from her about how to work with students who have some special needs by watching Heather interact with them," commented

Murray Lake music teacher, Jacqui Dimmick.

Heather and husband Brian have been married 17 years. They have three children: Tyler, who graduated from Lowell High School; Anna, who attends Lowell High School; and Emma, a fifth grader at Murray Lake. She also has two grandchildren. Organek

has lived in Lowell her entire life.

"I very much enjoy my job and volunteering at Murray Lake. The kids make me smile and laugh each and every day," says Organek.

When she is not at Murray Lake, Organek enjoys spending time with family and friends.



Heather Organek with kindergarten student Ralph Langford III.

DEQ volunteer river, stream and creek cleanup grants available

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Great Lakes Commission today announced \$25,000 in small grants available to support local efforts to clean up Michigan rivers, streams and creeks.

Michigan's Volunteer River, Stream and Creek Cleanup Program supports grants to local units of government to help clean up Michigan waterways. Local units of government may partner with nonprofit

organizations or other volunteer groups to carry out the work. A 25 percent-minimum local match is required.

The program is funded by DEQ-collected fees from the sale of Michigan's water quality protection license plates.

The application deadline is Jan. 22, 2013. The grant application package is available at www.glc.org/streamclean/app13.htm. Applications are reviewed and assessed by

the DEQ and Great Lakes Commission, with final decisions anticipated in early May 2013.

To learn more about the grant program, contact Laura Kaminski, Great Lakes Commission, at 734-971-9135 or laurak@glc.org. Questions about the grant application process should be directed to Dr. Paul Steen, Huron River Watershed Council, at 734-769-5123 or psteen@hrwc.org; or Bill Dimond, Surface Water Assessment Section,

Water Resources Division, DEQ, at 517-241-9565 or dimondw@michigan.gov

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Red Arrow SPORTS

- BASKETBALL

Greenville and Northview games prove challenging

by Karen Jack

The Lady Arrows had a tough week this past week, losing both of their games. On Tuesday, the Arrows fell to Northview, 62-42 and on Friday, they lost to Greenville, 44-34.

In the Northview game, the Arrows came out strong, matching Northville's scoring point to point, trailing at the end of the first quarter by one, 15-14. In the second quarter, the Arrows were only outscored by four points and went into halftime, trailing only by five points. The Wildcats held Lowell to only six points in the third quarter while scoring 15 of their own, which made the difference in the game. The Arrows made a strong effort in the fourth quarter, but just couldn't pull it off, trailing at the final buzzer, 62-42.

Kate Montgomery was the leading scorer, shooting 70 percent and scoring 18 points. Her sister Jessica Montgomery scored ten. Brittany Branagan had another strong showing off the bench with six points and eight rebounds.

In the Greenville game, the Arrows stayed closer



Kate Montgomery shoots over opponent.

to the Yellowjackets, but ran out of time in the end, dropping that game, 44-34. The Arrows struggled in the first half of the game, being outscored by five in the first quarter and going scoreless in the second quarter, but holding Greenville to only six points. Making adjustments in the locker room, they outscored Greenville by two in the third quarter and scored ten points versus Greenville's eleven points in the fourth quarter.

Leading the scoring for Lowell in that game was Kate Montgomery, scoring half the team's points with 17. Aubreigh Steed had eight points and eight rebounds.

"We have some work to do," said head coach Jake Strotheide, although happy with his bench playing. "Once again, Brittany (Branagan) came off the bench and played strong," he added.

The Lady Arrows face Forest Hills Eastern at home on Friday. Game time is scheduled for 7:30 pm, but the game starts 20 minutes after the end of the boys' game.



Aubreigh Steed passes the ball in traffic.

Boys' basketball splits for opening week

by Karen Jack

The boys' basketball team started their season off on Tuesday with a win against Northview, 52-47, then faced Greenville on Friday, losing 47-30.

In the Northview game, the Arrows looked good, running plays successfully and playing great defense to beat the Wildcats. Never trailing in the game, Lowell

came out strong, holding Northview to only nine points in the first quarter. While Lowell scored 20, the first quarter was the key to the game. The Arrows were outscored by four in the second quarter and by seven in the fourth quarter. They outscored the Wildcats in the third quarter by five.

Senior Jason Malling scored 20 points and had four assists, senior Grant Noskey had 16 points and seven rebounds and senior Shannon Massey had 10 points and four rebounds. Austin Lemke had nine rebounds.

The Arrows didn't fair so well in the Greenville game on Friday night, dropping that game, 47-30.

With problems executing, the Arrows only scored in the single digits for three of the quarters, with only five points in the

first quarter, ten points in the second, eight points in the third, and seven points in the fourth.

Malling got more than half the team points with 16, including four 3-pointers. He also had three steals. Lemke had five points and five rebounds and Ryan Stevens had four points and three assists.

Head coach Kyle Carhart said they just didn't execute in the Greenville game and had to focus more on that for future success.

"Jason can shoot it and he did a great job of getting open," Carhart said. "Greenville did a great job protecting the basket. They deserve the credit for this game. We need to do a better job executing."

The Arrows face Forest Hills Eastern at home on Friday. The game starts at 6:00 pm.



Looking to drive the ball to the basket is Grant Noskey.



Austin Lemke makes a move towards the basket.

Red Arrow SPORTS

- Wrestling

Varsity wrestlers one and one for the week

by Karen Jack

The wrestling team traveled to the Chicago area this past weekend to face the number 10 and number 21 ranked teams in the nation, falling to both, but beat two other teams in the process. The scores don't reflect some close matches in which the Arrows lost.

On Friday, the Arrows faced Marist High School in Chicago, 40-15. Marist is ranked as the 21st best team

in the nation. With Michigan being the only state that still has the old weight classes, both meets were run under the national weight class weights.

Senior Zac Graves won his match at 145 lbs., 11-5; Junior Garrett Stehley won his match at 195 lbs., 7-3; Taylor Kornoely won his match at 220 lbs., 11-5; and Josh Colegrove pinned his opponent at 285 lbs.

Saturday's action was a quad in Wilmington, IL, facing Wilmington High School, Barrett High School and the number ten-ranked team in the country, Montini High School.

The Arrows beat Wilmington, 49-21. Getting pins in that match included Max Dean (160 lbs.), Stehley (195 lbs.), Kornoely (220 lbs.) and Lucas Hall (106 lbs.). Bailey Jack won by void, earning six team points. Jordan Hall won by technical fall (scoring 15 or more points on his opponent). Kanon Dean (171 lbs.) and Zeth Dean (113 lbs.) both won by majors (scoring more than eight points) and Derek Krajewski (120 lbs.) and Zac Graves (145 lbs.) both won by minors (winning by six or less points).

In the Barrett match, the Arrows won 57-6. Jack, Max Dean and Kornoely all got pins. Stehley, Krajewski and Jordan Hall both had voids. Kanon Dean, Zeth Dean and Lucas Hall all had technical falls and Graves and Logan Wilcox both had minors.

Facing number ten, Montini, the Arrows fell 44-17. The Arrows started off strong, leading the match after five bouts. Winners included Stehley with a pin,



Junior Garrett Stehley gets the pin.

Kornoely (6-4), Lucas Hall (12-6), and James Wierenga with a void.

The Arrows face Hudson and Tecumseh on Friday at Tecumseh.

Match times are still yet to be determined.



Jordan Hall takes control.



Putting his opponent on his back is Josh Colegrove.

Pike named Staff Member of the Month

Amy Pike was named Staff Member of the Month at Murray Lake Elementary (MLE) School. Pike shows great patience and compassion with her kindergarten students. "Sometimes I want to call her Saint Amy," says colleague and third grade teacher Sue Wilterink. "She truly has the patience of a saint. She is firm, consistent and compassionate when dealing with each of her students no matter how challenging a child may be."

Pike is married to husband Del, who teaches in Ionia. They have a four-year-old daughter, Ella Anne, who attends preschool. They also have a lab/shepherd mix dog named Millie, a flock of sheep and 10 chickens. Pike resides in Belding. This is her tenth year teaching at Lowell. She has taught second grade, Young Fives and kindergarten. Pike taught first grade at Montabella Community Schools in Edmore for six

years before coming to Lowell. She is a graduate from Central Michigan University (CMU). Pike grew up on a farm near a small town called Napoleon in Jackson County.

"I love being at MLE because we have such

supportive parents and staff members. Everyone works as a team to meet our students' needs and it's great to be part of such a positive school. I love teaching kindergarten. Every day is a new adventure and my students are little sponges soaking up so much

learning," says Pike. In her spare time, Pike likes to spend time with her family, travel to the Upper Peninsula (UP) in the summer, read and try new recipes. She enjoys different crafts and has made several quilts.



GIRLS' SOFTBALL CLINICS

Lowell Arrow Dynamics Softball Club is holding a softball skills clinic for girls ages 11- 14

CLINIC BEGINS:
Sunday, Jan. 6, 2013
at 1:00 pm at the
Lowell High School gym.

ALSO:
A skills clinic for girls 10 and under. The clinic covers all softball skills from beginners to advanced.

CLINIC BEGINS:
Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2013 at 7:00 pm at
Cherry Creek Elementary

These will be 8-week clinics with a cost of \$45 and includes a T-shirt.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
366-3783

Looking Back, continued

east. It is said that the impact tipped the truck over and spilled the milk on the pavement. There were about a dozen passengers in the bus at the time of the collision and it is said that, through presence of mind of the bus driver, Myron B. Greenhoe of Lansing, passengers were saved from serious injury.

The temporary court order secured by M. B. McPherson of Lowell, restraining John N. Fegan, named chairman of the state tax commission by Governor Murphy, from seizing the chairmanship held by McPherson, was continued to Dec. 29 at a hearing held Monday before Circuit Judge Leland W. Carr in the Ingham Circuit Court. Both sides must submit briefs on the case at the next hearing.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 20, 1962

A dog team driven by Cecil Houghton of Grand Rapids brought Lowell's Santa to town in the annual parade last Saturday afternoon. The Santa, played to perfection by shapely George Dey, Jr., brought candy to all the hundreds of kiddies present at the end of the parade. George Brew, another dog team enthusiast, of Grand Rapids, gave Mrs. Santa (Mrs. William Collins) a thrilling ride through town. Completing the parade was the high school band, twirling group and city trucks and new cars. Houghton and his team of seven dogs had to be held in check by boys on each dog. He said one of the dogs hitched to the sled on Saturday was only three months old but already team-wise. He has appeared in parades with his dogs in nearly twenty cities in West Michigan and Indiana.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 23, 1987

Headline: Beachum wins his third decorating contest - The judging took place on Tuesday the 15th, the night after the big snowstorm. The freshly fallen snow set the perfect scene for the lights and decorations. The winner was once again the Perry Beachum residence for the third consecutive year. Each year Beachum becomes more and more clever in his Christmas displays. This year he has combined Christmas lights, Santa and his reindeer flying high above the street and Santa's workshop. Santa's workshop is a mechanically operating hut where Santa's elves are seen hammering and sawing toys. This is a Christmas display that will delight both young and old alike and shouldn't be missed.

The first heavy snowfall of the year may have brought to a halt many of the area activities, but one activity it invited, was the construction of Lowell's very first snowman. Donna Kinsley and her two children Bobby and Heather along with the help of Rob Manszewski built a 9-10 foot high snowwoman in 2-1/2 hours as the snow fell on Dec. 15.

...

What we anticipate seldom occurs; what we least expected generally happens.

~ Benjamin Disraeli (1804 - 1881)

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STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT AND DUTIES OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

FILE NO: 12-192987-DE

Estate of JAMES
HENRY FRIELINK,
deceased

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

1. On 11/19/2012 I was appointed personal representative as requested in the application or petition for probate of this estate. I am serving without bond. The papers related to the estate are on file with the Kent County Probate Court located at 180 Ottawa Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. This is not a supervised administration.

2. Attached is a copy of the will of the decedent which was admitted to probate and under which I will administer, manage, and distribute the estate.

3. The court does not supervise the personal representative in the administration of an estate except in limited circumstances.

4. If I was appointed informally, you or another interested person may petition the court objecting to my appointment and/or demanding that I post a bond or an additional bond. The petition must be filed with the probate court along with the applicable fee. Unless the court grants the petition, I will continue

to serve as appointed.
5. You or another interested person may petition for a hearing by the court on any matter at any time during the administration of the estate, including for distribution of assets and allowance of expenses of administration. The petition must be filed with the probate court along with the applicable fee.

6. If you continue to be an interested person (such as an heir of an intestate estate or devisee or beneficiary under the will of the decedent), I will provide you with: 1) a copy of the inventory within 91 days of my appointment; 2) unless waived by you, a copy of an account including fiduciary fees and attorney fees charged to the estate, within 1 year of my appointment; and 3) a copy of the closing statement or settlement petition when the estate is ready for closing.

7. To avoid penalties, I must have paid any federal estate and Michigan estate taxes within 9 months after the date of the decedent's death or another time period specified by law.

8. The estate may not be closed earlier than 5 months after the date of my appointment except in limited circumstances. If the estate is not settled within 1 year after my appointment, within 28 days after the anniversary of the appointment, I must file with the court and send to each interested person a notice that the estate remains under administration and the reason for the continuation of the estate. If you do not receive such a notice, you may petition the court for a hearing on the necessity for continued administration or for closure of the estate.

December 12, 2012

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

Frederick J. Bartel
12055 Shaner Ave. NE
Cedar Springs, MI
49319
616-822-4636

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 12-192987-DE

Estate of JAMES
HENRY FRIELINK,
deceased. Date of birth:
07/10/1922.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, James Henry Frielink, who lived at 943 Hollywood NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan died 10/17/2012.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless

presented to Fredrick J. Bartel, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

December 12, 2012

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

Frederick J. Bartel
12055 Shaner Ave. NE
Cedar Springs, MI
49319
616-822-4636

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LHS Students of the Month for December

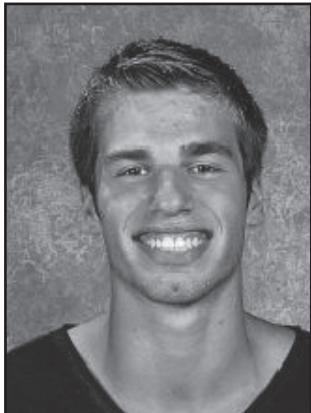
Lowell High School (LHS) has announced that Brad Cardis, 12th grade; and Bryce Hrusovsky, 12th grade; are the Lowell High School December Students of the Month. In order to be eligible for this honor a student must be nominated by a department. All the nomination forms for the month are then reviewed and voted on at the monthly department chair meeting. Students are selected based on academic achievement, character and work ethic. There are 1,200 students eligible for nomination, so this is quite an accomplishment for Cardis and Hrusovsky. The students receive a \$20 movie gift card and a certificate.

Cardis was nominated by RJ Boudro and he writes, "Over the past year Brad has made remarkable improvements academically. He deserves



Brad Cardis

this award more than any student I can think of. I admire Brad's work ethic and willingness to face adversity in order to achieve his goals. Education has not always been Brad's top priority and he has struggled to focus on school in the past but he has been able to turn this all around recently. I am not sure what did it, but Brad decided to put his best foot forward and he is now reaping the benefits. I am very proud of Brad for this accomplishment and I



Bryce Hrusovsky

hope he continues to realize his potential and experience success. He has a bright future and will represent the Lowell community well in what ever he chooses to do in life."

Shelly Swift nominated Hrusovsky and she writes, "Bryce has been a student in my college English classes for the past two trimesters and I am so glad I've had the opportunity to work with him. Bryce is a class act - he's kind to others, hard-working and has a

great sense of humor. Bryce works hard both inside and outside of the classroom. It's not uncommon for him to be here early in the morning working out in preparation for the track season and he's not one of those kids who falls asleep in class at the end of the day; he stays alert and works hard all day long.

Bryce is also the student who will go the extra mile with his own studies. It's not uncommon to find Bryce here early to work on a paper or come in for extra help because he wants to learn material and do his best with his academics. I have a great deal of respect for him. Bryce is also a leader around

the building. He volunteers his time for various projects including the Pink Arrow Project and he's a member of the leadership class here at LHS. Bryce is just a cool guy-dedicated to his community, his academics and his athletics. I highly recommend him for this honor."

Students of the Month at KCTC

Lowell High School is pleased to announce that three Lowell High School students have been named Students of the Month for December 2012 at Kent

Career Technical Center. Hannah Burt, 12th grade, is enrolled in the Health Pharmacy Technician program; Haley Kyburz, 12th grade, is enrolled in

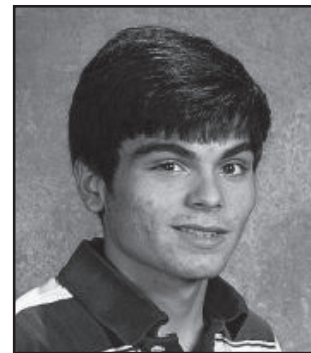
Graphic II-Layout and Design; and Dalton Seese, 12th grade, is enrolled in Graphic I-Interactive Design.



Hannah Burt



Haley Kyburz



Dalton Seese

Player Spotlight

Aubreigh



Basketball is my favorite, because it always has seemed to be a more competitive sport.

Have you received any awards for any of them?

No, I haven't.

Have you broken any records?

No.

Do you have siblings?

I have three brothers: Steve, who is 25 years old; Sam, who is 19 years old; and Gabe, who is 14 years old and a freshman at Lowell.

What do you like to do for fun?

I love to hang out with my friends for fun.

What was your personal best during any of your sports?

I really have never checked my personal bests. If I had to pick one from this season, it would be my triple double against Union.

Do you plan on attending college? If so, where?

Yes, but I'm undecided at this time.

Do you plan on playing any sport in college?

I might play basketball in college, but I am not sure where yet.

Our Spotlight Athletes This Week:

Aubreigh Steed
Team: Basketball
Grade: Junior

& *Zach Graves*
Team: Wrestling
Grade: Senior

Zach



How long have

you been wrestling?

I have been wrestling for 10 years, since third grade.

What other sports do you play and for how long?

I played football for five years. I rode on the equestrian team and have been riding for 11 years and I have participated in shooting sports for four years.

What is your favorite sport?

Wrestling is my favorite sport.

Have you received any awards?

I was on the equestrian dream team for district five.

Have you broken any records?

I have broken no records that I know of.

Do you have siblings?

Jess Graves, who is a junior at Lowell High School.

What do you like to do for fun?

I like being outside during the summer to enjoy the sun, especially at the beach.

What was your personal best during any of your sports?

I don't keep records so I couldn't tell you any personal bests. I have obtained some of my goals, but they would all be considered minor things, like being able to get playing time on the football field; being able to train my horse well enough to compete; placing at the state 4-H trap shoot and I'm aiming for a successful wrestling season.

Do you plan on attending college? If so, where?

I'm not sure about what college I will attend. I am leaning towards MSU and their honors college. Wherever I go I plan to study mechanical engineering.

Do you plan on playing any sport in college?

I will not play sports in college, although I'll continue to ride and shoot trap.

THEME: HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

ACROSS

- 1. Prepare for surgery
- 6. One time around
- 9. "___ we forget"
- 13. Uniform shade
- 14. Sacha Baron Cohen's ___ G
- 15. Raccoon cousin
- 16. Smidgins
- 17. Olden-day aerosol can propellant
- 18. Be of one mind
- 19. *"A Visit from St. Nicholas" beginning
- 21. *Waiting time
- 23. Chapter in history
- 24. Moldy appetizer
- 25. Greyhound, e.g.
- 28. Sea World attraction
- 30. *They hang around
- 35. Cross to bear
- 37. "You betcha!"
- 39. Nigerian monetary unit
- 40. Judicial document
- 41. A-bomb on steroids
- 43. Largest organ of human body
- 44. It sometimes gets infected
- 46. Water color
- 47. It usually goes with "up"
- 48. *It's sometimes spiked
- 50. Cold war initials
- 52. Poseidon's domain
- 53. Gridiron move
- 55. Letters of distress
- 57. Willing to face danger
- 60. *Left out as snack
- 64. D in LED
- 65. Unit of electrical resistance
- 67. Common thing?
- 68. As a rule
- 69. Extremely
- 70. Tennessee footballer

CROSSWORD														
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DECEMBER 12 - DECEMBER 18

- A horrific school shooting at an elementary school in Newtown, CT ends with 26 lives lost. 20 were children mostly six and seven years old. The gunman then killed himself.
- At a press conference, New York mayor Michael Bloomberg blasted lawmakers for being too cowed by the firearms lobby to pass gun control laws saying, "Somehow or other, we've come to think that getting reelected is more important than saving lives; that political power is more important than saving lives."
- Child actor known for his part in the "Our Gang" series from the 1920s dies at the age of 96.
- A robotic arm controlled directly by thought, the first of its kind, is showing a level of agility and control approaching that of a human limb say scientists in London. A 53-year-old woman paralyzed from the neck down is able to control the artificial limb just by thinking.
- Hillary Clinton was briefly hospitalized with a concussion after fainting and hitting her head. She was apparently suffering from a stomach virus.

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DOWN

- 71. Kind of cell
- 72. Hold title to
- 73. Honker
- 6. Speed test
- 7. *Polar helper
- 8. "The ___ of Wakefield"
- 9. Opera house box
- 10. Deserve
- 11. Proofreader's mark
- 12. 20-20, e.g.
- 15. Miner's fear
- 20. Like Siberian winters
- 22. Nickelodeon's youngest Pickle
- 24. Painter Rubens' style
- 25. Haul with a tackle
- 26. Strip of rigging
- 27. Seeking damages
- 29. Largest island in West Indies
- 31. Tackler's breath?
- 32. Rate ____, pl.
- 33. Father, Son and Holy Ghost, e.g.
- 34. *Legendary patron saint of children
- 36. Flabbergast
- 38. Outback birds
- 42. Lowest male singing voice
- 45. Make less severe
- 49. Gangster's gun
- 51. Hen beds
- 54. Former capital of Japan
- 56. Coil of yarn
- 57. *Partridge in a pear tree, e.g.
- 58. Learning method
- 59. Footnote word
- 60. Expression of encouragement
- 61. A fan of
- 62. Biblical twin
- 63. Email folder
- 64. ___ and don'ts
- 66. To what extent, amount or degree

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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.

Puzzle Solutions for this week are on page 12

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A big thank you to the Lions Club for providing a very memorable Christmas experience for my grandchildren. It was obvious that much time, effort, and planning went into this event. The smiles on the children's faces were a testament to the generosity of area businesses that donated the wonderful gifts the kids received. Thank you for continuing to make this anticipated Christmas tradition a part of the holiday for so many families in our area. You do it for no other reason than to see smiles on the faces of children, and for that, we all thank you.

~ Rhonda Delnick

616.897.0787 or email
ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com



Position: Works at Bernard's Ace Hardware
Residence: Ionia
Experience: Fixing things around the house
Family: Husband, Bob; stepson, daughter-in-law, three grandchildren, one great-granddaughter
Hobbies: Golfing, crafts and home repair

Ace is the place for Sara Fox

by Justin Tiemeyer
 contributing writer

There is an expansive paint department near the entrance of Bernard's Ace Hardware, shelves stocked with gallons of paint and primer, a wall of color swatches and a counter with color-matching technology. At any given moment, there is also likely to be an employee named Sara Fox who is ready to assist customers with their every need.

Fox was originally hired into the Ace family in 1995, but she's been working for a living since she was a 14-year-old girl making sundaes at a Dairy Queen in Ionia.

Fox describes herself as a jack-of-all-trades. She has always been interested in home repair and this is

what led her to work in the hardware business.

"What my dad knew, he taught me. What he didn't know, we learned together," Fox said.

When Fox speaks of her father Donald Chance, she does so with a tone of veneration often reserved for heroes and world-changers. To her, Chance is a legend.

"There were always rumors around Lowell that my father was a master engineer or mechanic or electrician," Fox said. "In fact, he was the postmaster."

Fox took a two-year leave from Bernard's Ace in order to care for her father just prior to his death. She would later take another leave in order to start her own business, a dream that

saw its tragic end with the 2006 recession.

Owner Charlie Bernard invited Fox to return to Ace Hardware shortly thereafter.

"I'm back where I belong," Fox said.

Fox has seen her fair share of teenage employees come and go. When asked

"I love to work with the public. I love interacting with the customers. I love helping them solve their problems."

~ Sara Fox

how many people she thinks she has trained over the years, Fox said there were so many she couldn't even hazard a guess.

Bernard's Ace has expanded considerably since Fox started in 1995. An addition was built on to the original store; they now

do rentals and small engine repair and there is currently a huge paint department with color-matching capabilities.

Though her father is no longer around, Fox remains blessed with a loving family: a husband named Bob, a stepson and daughter-in-

law, three grandchildren and one seven-month-old great-granddaughter.

Fox can't imagine working anywhere other than Bernard's Ace. She may retire some day, but then again, she may not. Fox would rather stay busy and help the community



Sara Fox in the paint department at Bernard's Ace Hardware.

of Lowell with their home repair problems.

"I love to work with the public. I love interacting with the customers. I love helping them solve their problems," Fox said.

It is possible that future generations will remember

Fox as a master engineer or mechanic or electrician, when in fact she devoted herself to helping people at Bernard's Ace Hardware. It is certain, however, that Fox's father would be proud of her.

Happy Holidays

from  Lowell Family Chiropractic

Old St. Nick Had a Crick

Twas the day before Christmas, but there was no cheer, No jingle bells jingled, no sound of reindeer. The word had got out that Santa was sick. There'd be no friendly visit from a sick St. Nick.

The people were sad, no gaiety sounded. For Christmas had come, but Santa was grounded. He walked down the street and what should he see? On a sign was painted, Dr. Chichester, D.C.

Now Santa was not one to like a new tactic. But Mrs. Claus suggested he try Chiropractic. In a very short time, to judge by the clock, He was in the adjustment room talking to the Doc.


"It must be the hurry, the tension and all. I simply can't seem to get on the ball. Life used to be easy, just toys, guns and whistles. Now I have to dodge fall-out, space ships and missiles."

"And Doc, take a look at the size of this pack! Have you any idea what it does to my back?" Poor Santa was miserable, just barely able With the help of the doctor, he got on the table.

The doctor was gentle. Without fuss or tussle He examined the vertebrae and relaxed the muscles. He spotted the trouble, and then with a click, Started aligning the ailing St. Nick.

And Santa felt the aches and pains slipping away, In no time at all he began feeling gay. His cheeks were rosy with a new found glow, And a healthy Kris Kringle was rarin' to go.

As he went out the door, he threw the receptionist a kiss. Why, it had been centuries since he'd felt as good as this! Then once more he shouldered the bag of toys, His heart overflowing with true Christmas joys.



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