

## caring for the schools



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## building a family



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50 CENTS



## Former police chief Valentine to resign from council among topics of discussion at Monday's meeting

by Ellen Mork  
contributing reporter

At Monday's city council meeting, longtime resident Jim Valentine announced he is moving out of the city. As a current member of the city council, and former police chief he has garnered many friends and great memories.

He will be resigning from the council January 31st.

The Lowell charter mandates that a replacement be appointed within thirty days of the resignation. The city will accept letters from interested citizens until January 25th. The new councilmember will be sworn in on February 5th.

Mayor Jim Hodges said, "I always valued your leadership and friendship."

City manager Mark Howe identified how selflessly Valentine served the community. He said he "became an icon" in the community and said he "will be missed."

A new piece of business covered Monday included accepting a bid for lime sludge removal from the water treatment plant. This lime, found to be inert, is a by-product of softening of well water. Because the storage beds are almost full, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality



**Councilmembers: Andrew Schrauben, Sharon Ellison, mayor Jim Hodges, Jim Hall, and Jim Valentine at first city council meeting of 2013.**

(MDEQ) would like the city to dispose of it. The bid went to Gro America, LLC for \$89,880. Because the city is the generator of this lime, they own the liability and should dispose of the material in a way that minimizes future risk. The city attorney recommended the best way to dispose of the lime was to spread the material on farm property to achieve a satisfactory pH level. Alternatively, the lime can be used for land

reclamation. This is the process of mixing the lime with other soil to create a hybrid. While this type of soil blending is used in other cities, it would not properly mitigate the risk to Lowell and was not recommended by the attorney.

In other news, the council is reviewing the code of ordinances. The first was Chapter 2 – Administration. There were relatively few changes for this section, which is why

police chief Barry Getzen chose this section first.

The changes expand the city's ability to dispose of public property, allowing it to have a public auction

as many cities do now. Each council meeting this year will include reviewing approximately two codes of ordinances.

## Lowell Light & Power contract negotiations continue as the one year mark approaches

by Ellen Mork  
contributing reporter

Lowell is one of the few cities left in Michigan that still maintains a local electric company. Their website says they pride themselves on keeping Lowell's best interests in mind and to keep all decisions local.

In 2008, Greg Pierce was named the new general manager. He had previously served as interim general manager for a portion of the year. He currently resides in Lowell, after living in Traverse City and working as deputy director of Traverse City Light & Power.

A little over a year ago, several of the workers of Lowell Light & Power (LL&P) joined the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers union. It was certified on January 3, 2012, by the Michigan

Employment Relations Commission.

The LL&P line workers were given little to no notice that their hours were changing, which was one of a few factors that prompted their decision to unionize. It is unclear how the union will be affected in the upcoming year due to the passing of the extremely controversial right-to-work bill.

Because this is the first time the electrical workers have been unionized, a new contract had to be drawn up. Mark Howe, Lowell city manager, said there are three employees in the union, out of a total of eleven at LL&P.

The city and union have been in the mediation stage since July, but the process began late February of 2012.

Contract negotiations, continued, page 3

## Flag presented to honor local Veterans



**On New Years day U.S. Army Specialist Eric Schreur presented the American flag flown over the U.S. National Support Element, N. Kabul Afghanistan International Airport, Afghanistan, on July 4, 2012, in honor of Lowell VFW Post 8303, to Cmdr. Herman Weststrate and senior vice Herb Rice.**

# DNR reminds public to play it safe on the ice

The Department of Natural Resources officials are reminding anglers, snowmobilers, skiers and others that no ice is ever 100-percent safe.

“All ice has the propensity to be dangerous,” said Lt. Steven Burton of the DNR’s Law Enforcement Division. “Obviously, during some times of the year, some ice is much better than other ice, but no ice is ever completely safe ice.”

*Anyone who ventures out onto the ice is advised to keep the following precautions in mind:*

- Check with local sources of information -- such as the bait shop or corner store – about ice conditions before venturing out.
- Travel in pairs whenever possible and make sure someone knows where you are going and when you plan to return.

- Carry a spud to test the quality of the ice as you move further onto the ice.
- Avoid inlets and outlets, areas with natural springs or currents, and places where structures – docks, pilings, dead trees or other vegetation – extend through the surface of the ice.
- Pay attention to wind direction – especially on large bodies of water.
- Wear a personal flotation device (PFD) and carry personal safety devices such as spikes and rope to help you get out of the water should the ice break.

“It’s important to stress that just because water is frozen doesn’t mean you shouldn’t carry a PFD. It’s not the law; it’s just good common

Be safe on ice, continued, page 3



## along main street

### VOLUNTEERS ART EXHIBITION

Showcasing the artistic talents of LowellArts! programs’ volunteers, this exhibition features a wide variety of fine arts and crafts creations. Jan. 8 – Feb. 2, 149 S. Hudson. Closing reception, Sun., Feb. 3, 2-4 pm (open to public). Gallery hours: Mon.-Fri., 10 am – 6 pm and Sat., 1-4 pm. For more information, call 897-8545 or visit [www.lowellartsmi.org](http://www.lowellartsmi.org)

### FREE SMOKING CESSATION CLASSES

Classes begin Thurs., Jan. 10. The class meets for six weeks from 6-8 pm at Lowell Family Medical Center, 2550 E. Main St. Registration encouraged, but not required. Call 616-446-7058 or email your contact information to [jvokes\\_healthandsafety@msn.com](mailto:jvokes_healthandsafety@msn.com)

### LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL BLOOD DRIVE

On Fri., Jan. 11 from 7:30 am to 2 pm there will be a Student Council Blood Drive in the auxiliary gym for the Michigan Blood Program. The Michigan Blood Program needs donations especially this time of year. Lowell High School is located at 11700 Vergennes and the drive is open to the public. Contact Heather DeJonge at 987-2945 with any 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.*

### 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.

### LADIES NIGHT IN AT THE Y

Fri., Jan. 25, 6-10 pm at the YMCA, 1335 W. Main St. Zumba, yoga, self-defense, healthy snacks, talk to a dietician, financial planner, physician and personal trainer. Have fun and hang out – it’s free. Call 616-855-9573 with any questions.

### PURPLE COMMUNITY HOCKEY GAME

Lowell/Caledonia/South Christian and Grand Rapids Christian hockey are teaming up to raise money for cancer and Parkinson’s disease research at the Van Andel Institute through a Purple Community Hockey Game on Fri., Feb. 8 at Kentwood Ice Arena at 7 pm. T-shirts will be available at each school for \$10 and is your admission to the game. The “power of purple” is people.



## At Your Local Library

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

### Frosty’s Winter Fun Fest –

Frosty the Snowman was a jolly happy soul! Get happy with everyone’s favorite “winter wonderman” with snowy crafts and frosty fun. For young children, ages 6 and under. Tues., Jan. 22, 6:30 pm.

### Raw Vegan + Dessert = Fabulous! –

Chocolate. Ice cream. Cobbler. Margaux Drake, WOTV4 Women’s “healthy eats” expert, will show you how to make healthy, delicious desserts with simple organic ingredients. Pre-registration is required and class size is limited. For adults. Wed., Jan. 16, 6:30 pm.

### Groovin’ with Pete the Cat –

This party is going to be groovy! We’ll enjoy making some Pete-inspired crafts and singing and dancing to silly songs. As Pete says, “It’s all good.” For young children, ages 6 and under. Thurs., Jan. 17, 10:30 am.

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# Contract negotiations, continued

Each side has an attorney. During this stage, one side presents a proposal and then the other side presents their proposal. This must occur for each section of the contract and continues until an agreement is made. Howe attends the meetings for the city and there are two union employees representing the union. They meet approximately once per month.

After each city council meeting, there is a closed union negotiation session. This is in accordance with the Open Meetings Act (MCL 15.268 (c)). Here, Howe discusses what went on in the mediation sessions and the council and board agree on what to do.

Because negotiations are ongoing, the involved are not allowed to discuss specific details.

During mediation sessions, the union employees represent the LL&P workers. Workers are not allowed to attend these meetings, nor should they have to because the union represents their interests.

Further, because they joined the union, all negotiations must be through the union and cannot be made with the individual employees. Accusations by several citizens that the city won't sit down with the employees are not true. If the city wanted to meet with the employees, the law would forbid them.

From the city's perspective, they are working in every way to meet the demands of the union.

Howe says, "What's been difficult for us is that the proposals that have been sent back to us refer to previous documents, the previous documents are absent or the response is vague." He says he has received responses to his proposals that say, "there is no agreement," but Howe wonders, "Does this mean there's a counterproposal or nothing?"

He adds, "It has been fairly difficult to sort through." The last mediation session was spent figuring

out the stances the union had on several issues.

Many Lowell citizens have been vocal about the ongoing negotiations. Voters Organized in Civil Excellence, VOICES, was formed in 2009. Currently, their members are advocating for more transparency in this process.

They hold their own meetings and have spoken during citizen comments at city council meetings. Their current issues revolve around the hiring of LL&P's general manager, the transparency of the process and the exclusion of LL&P workers in the negotiations.

There is currently much controversy over Pierce's hiring. He resigned from his previous position due to accusations of stolen furniture. According to Traverse City Record-Eagle, the furniture was returned so the police were not involved. He was also accused of planning a large hike in electricity rates. There were questions about

the city's decision to hire him in 2008.

Another issue they have is the exclusion of LL&P workers in negotiations. As previously stated, this is illegal and the city must work through the union.

Pierce says, "We are in the process of working out details." He did not identify

any sticking points, saying, "It is not uncommon for a first time contract to take a while to happen." He said a majority of the issues center around agreeing on the wording.

Pierce said there are up to forty separate components that need to be agreed upon. There is no set time

when the negotiations will be finished. Howe noted that the employees have the option to leave the union since they have been members for one year.

Moving forward, the two sides will continue to meet and work through the various components of the contract.

## business matters



Greenridge Realty announced that Philip Hooker received Sales Associate of the Month in December.

This award recognizes Hooker for his outstanding success and achievements.

Greenridge Realty has also announced that Amy Reedy received Realtor of the Year, for Lowell office. This award recognizes Reedy for her outstanding success and achievements.



Philip Hooker



Amy Reedy

# Be safe on ice, continued

sense," said Lt. Burton. "A personal flotation device like a floatable boat cushion or life jacket may not help you get out of the water, but will keep you floating until someone responds to pull you out."

Lt. Burton said it's also important for residents to remember that ice doesn't form with uniform thickness on any body of water; there can always be thin spots. He added that ice formed by melted and refrozen snow will appear milky and is very porous and weak.

"Any ice covered by snow should always be presumed unsafe," he said.

**In the event that someone witnesses a person breaking through the ice, the DNR advises:**

- Call 911 immediately.
  - Do not run out to the victim. If help is not immediately available, approach cautiously - lying on the ice to distribute your weight - and attempt to reach the victim with a rope, pole or ladder.
  - Take exposure victims to the hospital for treatment.
- "Outdoor recreation is one of the best things about

Michigan winters. Whether you're an angler, a hiker, a snowmobiler or someone who simply likes to explore the outdoors, there's no better place to be," said Lt. Burton. "Just make sure to keep ice safety as a key part of your winter recreation plans."



To learn more about recreation safety, including DNR class offerings in traditional and online settings, visit [www.michigan.gov/recreationsafety](http://www.michigan.gov/recreationsafety) or [www.dnr.state.mi.us/recnsearch/](http://www.dnr.state.mi.us/recnsearch/).

### New Wage Scale For Nurses and Nurse Aides

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## ask kathryn



Kathryn Denhouter Ph.D.

The time has come to look at what symptoms are present in children that would warrant a diagnosis of bipolar disorder. What is bipolar? It is a mood disorder that is characterized by swings of mania and depression. In many cases it is severe and requires psychiatric intervention when the child is still very young. Doctors, psychologists, parents and teachers have gathered information from the field to determine the symptom patterns that are present in children with bipolar. In the following months there will be an article that will describe childhood bipolar.

Each month a separate topic will be introduced to clarify the present state of work that has been done to identify and to help children with this mood disorder.

The topics of the seven articles to be presented in the subsequent months are: 1.) What is childhood bipolar disorder? This article will discuss the current understanding of the disorder. 2.) How can we spot the symptoms? The evaluation and diagnosis will be discussed. 3.) What is the best way to work with doctors and medication? 4.) How can medication be managed successfully? There are

so often many trials of medication which can be discouraging. This article will look at ways to successfully get through this phase. 5.) How can parents help the child have a successful academic life? 6.) How can parents help their children find their way? Intense parenting is often needed for the bipolar child so this article will give parents some tips. 7.) Finally, the last article is about adulthood and is titled, "What is a bipolar child's path to adulthood?"

When bipolar goes untreated, it can be a huge cost to society, so the time has come for earlier detection and intervention. If you have any questions or comments about these upcoming articles, please email me at [kathryndenhouter@gmail.com](mailto:kathryndenhouter@gmail.com)

## financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

### Make some New Year's (financial) resolutions for 2013

Once again, it's time to make some New Year's resolutions. This year, in addition to promising yourself that you'll hit the gym more often, learn a new language or take up a musical instrument — all worthy goals, of course — why not set some financial resolutions?

Consider these suggestions:

- Boost your retirement account contributions. If your income will rise this year, consider putting more money into your employer-sponsored retirement plan, such as a 401(k), 403(b)

and 457(b). You typically contribute pre-tax dollars to your plan, so, the more you put in, the lower your taxable income. Plus, your money can have tax-deferred growth potential.

• Don't over-react to the headlines. Lately, you've heard a lot about the "fiscal cliff," political paralysis, the debt ceiling and other Really Scary Topics. These issues are not insignificant — but should they keep you from investing? After all, in any given year, you won't have to look hard to find warnings and negative news events — and many people do use these ominous-sounding headlines as a reason to head to the investment "sidelines" for a while. But if you're not investing, you're unquestionably missing out on opportunities to make progress toward your financial goals. So, instead of focusing on the

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Financial Focus, continued, page 7

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# viewpoint

## Progress on protecting 'the most beautiful place in America'



Sen. Carl Levin

In the waning days of the 112th Congress, the Senate approved a bill I've been fighting to pass to protect more than 35,000 acres of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. The bill was introduced

almost two years ago and made its way through a committee hearing and then a committee vote, and finally was considered by the full Senate. The House of Representatives failed to take up the bill, but Senate passage makes me optimistic we can push this important legislation across the finish line in the incoming Congress. Senate passage was the result of years of effort by concerned citizens and community groups, local officials, the business community and the National Park Service. I've

introduced the bill along with Sen. Debbie Stabenow in the last two Congresses to establish a wilderness area that better protects precious natural habitat while improving access to areas with recreation opportunities or historic resources.

pioneers, farmsteads, and maritime activities.

Unfortunately, because a requirement included in a 1982 law directs the National Park Service to manage significant portions of the park as wilderness, the public cannot access some roadways and historic areas. These areas include county roads and other areas the local community did not believe should be managed as wilderness.

Over a period of many years, the community and the National Park Service worked to revise the park's management plan, including a new wilderness proposal, to preserve both precious habitat and public access. Our legislation excludes these features from the wilderness designation to ensure that access, recreation, and historic preservation are

Levin, continued, page 7

he hesitated some time before he decided to plead guilty. This he finally did.

At the Idle Hour theater Tuesday evening, January 14, will be shown Custer's Last Fight, a three-reel feature, something every patriotic man and woman should see. Usual price 5c and 10c. Doors open at 7. Show starts at 7:30. Second show at 7:30. Come early for seats.

### 75 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 13, 1938

Norton Henry now has the distinction of being Lowell's pioneer druggist. He was born in Grattan township and was 18 years of age when he came here to work as a clerk in the drug store of the late Dexter G. Look in 1891. That was 47 years ago, but Mr. Henry says it seems like only yesterday. "My wages were \$7.00 a week," said Mr. Henry, Monday, "and I paid \$3.00 a week for board and room and had plenty of money left for my other expenses. You see our pleasures were simple but satisfying. On Sundays we would pack our lunches and go for a trip on one of the two steamboats which plied Grand River in those days."

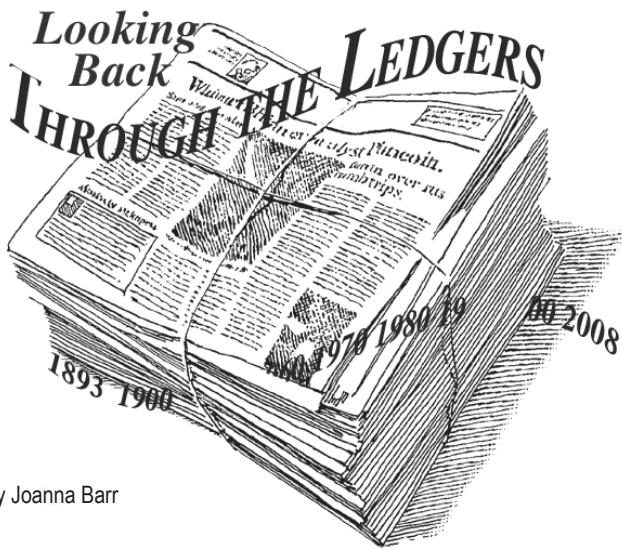
The Michigan Bell Telephone Company has accepted an order issued at the close of the year by the Michigan Public Utilities Commission eliminating the charge of 15 cents per month for the handset telephone and a charge of ten cents a month in certain rural areas for the desk type telephone.

The day before Christmas, Mrs. Harold Nash lost her wrist watch and had no idea as to where she had lost it. She searched for it for several days with no avail and then concluded that there would be no use in advertising for the lost article. Imagine her surprise, however, when she read in the want columns of the Ledger that a lady's wrist watch had been found by C. W. Klumpp. Mrs. Nash answered the advertisement and was gratified to find that it was the watch she had lost. Ledger want ads are proverbially known for bringing good results.

### 50 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 10, 1963

Lowell Mayor Ralph Townsend urged the council to take every action possible to get the city started on a Main Street program. At the mayor's request and the approval of the other council members, the city manager, Bernard Olson, was asked to investigate all the governmental units that are involved in downtown renewal programs and bring the information to the city. The mayor outlined a plan to bring the island in the Flat River north of Main St. down behind the stores and fill in this entire river bottom to make a huge parking and building area. He said that it appeared very possible and financing might be found with aid from several sources. The fill would serve as a parking area, give another way to get across the river without going on Main Street; improve fire protection in the downtown area and permit the city to install sanitary

Looking Back, continued, page 7



By Joanna Barr

### 140 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 13, 1898

For 1800 years people have been predicting the end of the world at an early date. For times uncounted has the fatal day been set; but through it all the old globe has been trotting right along, with never a break or a slip, paying not the slightest attention to the puny mortals who were so confident they knew it all.

Tomorrow the Ledger office will be moved to the second floor of the post office building, which will be a convenient point for our patrons. Drop in and see us after this week.

The replevin suit between Mrs. Christie Findlay and Chas. Blakeslee for James Anderson, which was on trial before Justice Walker, during the last week of December and in which twenty-two witnesses were called, was decided last week in favor of the plaintiff, with 6 cents damages and \$10 costs. Attorneys Mathewson and Mains represented the plaintiff and defendant respectively.

An independent order of Millers was established here Dec. 25 and several members were initiated. At the banquet oysters and roast turkey were served with plenty of good cheer to wash it down.

Our public schools are supported by the people of all religious denominations. Children are sent to them for the purpose of obtaining knowledge, not to be taught religion of any sort or stripe. Good moral principles should of course be inculcated; but anything bordering on sectarianism must be avoided.

### 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 19, 1913

"In common vernacular, you are charged with running what is known as a blind pig," said Judge Brown today in his attempt to explain to Ernest Lessiter the character of the charge preferred against him. Lessiter was arraigned on the charge; of selling liquor without a license and when he first was brought before the court he entered a plea of not guilty. This, however, was not (quite in accordance with the understanding which Lessiter had had with his attorney, H. Monroe Dunham. Finally after another conference with his attorney Lessiter said he desired to change his plea. But he did not like the wording of the information and

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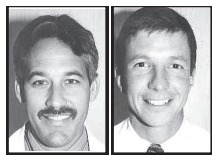
## Letters To The Editor:

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](mailto: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.yournews.com](http://www.yournews.com)

Click on the "Submit News" icon at the top left of the page, then select "Opinion".

# health



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

## bipolar disorder

Bipolar disorders are mental conditions that cause different types of mood changes. The cause of

bipolar disorders is unclear, but they may run in families. Bipolar disorders may cause depression. They can also

cause symptoms of mania, which can make you feel energized and impulsive. You can have symptoms of both depression and mania. This is called a mixed episode. Hypomania is similar to mania, but less severe.

Symptoms of bipolar illness vary depending on whether you are depressed and can include sadness, anxiety, crying, change in sleep or appetite, poor concentration and feeling of guilt. Mania symptoms can include bursts of energy, feeling better than usual, little or no need for sleep, racing thoughts and risky behavior.

Anyone can get a bipolar disorder, but certain factors make it more likely, for instance, stress, changes in season or exposure to daylight, previous depression or family history of depression or mental illness.

If you are diagnosed with bipolar disorder, your doctor may prescribe a medicine called a mood stabilizer. You may require more than one medicine. You may also need a referral for psychotherapy. Treatment today usually results in a good outcome for most patients.

# New online services available with a my Social Security account

Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security, today announced the agency is expanding the services available with a my Social Security account, a personalized online account that people can use beginning in their working years and continuing throughout the time they receive Social Security benefits. More than 60 million Social Security beneficiaries and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients can now access their benefit verification letter, payment history, and earnings record instantly using their online account. Social Security beneficiaries also can change their address and start or change direct deposit information online.

"We are making it even easier for people to do their business with us from the comfort of their home, office, or library," Commissioner Astrue said. "I encourage people of all ages to take advantage of our award-winning online services and check out the new features available through an online my Social Security account."

Social Security beneficiaries and SSI recipients with a my Social Security account can go online and get an official benefit verification letter instantly. The benefit verification letter serves as proof of income to secure loans, mortgages and other housing, and state or local benefits. Additionally, people use the letter to prove current Medicare health insurance coverage, retirement or disability status, and age. People can print or save a customized letter.

Social Security processed nearly nine million requests for benefit verification letters in the past year. This new online

service allows people to conduct business with Social Security without having to visit an office or make a phone call, and very often wait for a letter to arrive in the mail. It also will reduce the time spent by employees completing these requests and free them to focus on other workloads.

People age 18 and older can sign up for an account at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount). Once there, they must be able to provide information about themselves and answers to questions that only they are likely to know. After completing the secure verification process, people can create a my Social Security account with a unique user name and password to access their information.

People age 18 and older who are not receiving benefits can sign up for a my Social Security account to get a personalized online Social Security Statement. The online Statement provides eligible workers with secure and convenient access to their Social Security earnings and benefit information, and estimates of future benefits they can use to plan for their retirement. In addition, the portal also includes links to information about other online services, such as applications for retirement, disability and Medicare.

"Given our significantly reduced funding, we have to find innovative ways to continue to meet the needs of the American people without compromising service," said Commissioner Astrue. "These new enhancements will allow us to provide faster service to more people in more places."

For more information, please go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).

## LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 13-193181-DE

Estate of ROBERT FOLK. Date of birth: 12-14-1951.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Robert M. Folk, died 12/07/2012.

Creditors of the

decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Michael Folk, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

December 28, 2012

Michael Folk 1841 Fay Street Lowell, MI 49331 616-893-6470

...

Forgiveness is the healing of wounds caused by another. You choose to let go of a past wrong and no longer be hurt by it. Forgiveness is a strong move to make, like turning your shoulders sideways to walk quickly on a crowded sidewalk. It's your move.

~ RealLivePreacher.com

# happy birthday!

## JANUARY 9

Jordan Potter, Helena Guastavino, Zvonko Anđelkovic.

## JANUARY 10

Mary Jo Vezino, Jared Felling, Mike Barnes, Logan M. Eidenier, Chase Anderson.

## JANUARY 11

Katie Plutschow, Ian Blodger, Marian Guastavino.

## JANUARY 12

Judy Ellison, Stuart Sauber, Mike Vezino.

## JANUARY 13

Jake Sterzick, Stephen Rutherford.

## JANUARY 14

Angie Nowak, Ryan Burns, Tim Yonker.

## JANUARY 15

Dennis Burns.



# area churches

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Sunday School.....11:20 A.M.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.

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Rev. W. Lee Taylor & Pastor Phil Severn

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Sunday School Hour/ABF's.....11:00 A.M.  
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**SUNDAY SCHOOL.....9:30 a.m.**

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# Financial Focus, continued

news of the day, make your investment decisions based on the fundamentals of those investments you may

be considering, along with your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon.

- Keep whittling

away your debt. Over the past few years, Americans have done a good job of lowering their debt burdens.

Of course, the economy is still tough, and it can be challenging to avoid taking on new debts. But

the less debt you have, the more you can invest for your retirement and other important objectives.

- Rebalance your portfolio to accommodate your risk tolerance. If you spend too much time worrying about the ups and downs of your investments, then your portfolio's potential for volatility may be too great for your individual risk tolerance. On the other hand, if you continually see little growth in your holdings, even when the financial markets are going strong, you may be investing too conservatively — especially if you are willing to take on some calculated risk to potentially boost your returns. So review your portfolio at least once in 2013 to see if it needs to be "rebalanced" to fit your risk tolerance.

- Get some help — Navigating the investment

world by yourself is not easy. For one thing, there's a lot to know — different types of investments, changing tax laws, the effects of inflation, interest rate movements, and much more. Furthermore, when you're making investment decisions on your own, you may have a hard time being objective — so you might end up investing with your heart, and not your head. The need for knowledge and objectivity point to the advantages of working with an experienced financial professional — someone who understands both the financial markets and your individual needs and goals.

These aren't the only financial resolutions you could make for 2013 — but if you follow through on them, you may well need to make fewer ones when 2014 rolls around.

# Looking Back, continued

sewers in the ground. It would also be a wonderful improvement for the recreation facilities in the city, giving the community a fine deep lake with a sandy bottom. By putting the Showboat seating on this facing north up this lake like area it could be used not only for Showboat, but for water sports programs and other day or night time events. It would also eliminate an eyesore in the swampy islands that now dot the area and would eliminate the smell from the decaying vegetable matter, which would be cleaned out in building this giant landfill across the river. Channels would be left for handling spring high water.

Work men started Tuesday to tear down the old Light and Power garage and warehouse on Riverside Drive, preparing to build a new 62x32 building. Contract for the construction was awarded to Beckering Construction Co. for a total price of \$12,599.00. The building will be of block construction and have four overhead doors for Light and Power vehicles, plus warehouse and crews quarters. A 38 foot retaining wall will be built in the rear of the building to allow it to set back over the river.

Judson K. Moore, 89, one of Lowell's first city mail carriers, died Sunday at Charlevoix Hospital... J. K. Moore, as he was affectionately known as when he carried mail on Lowell's west side from 1923 until 1940, was one of the first city carriers, outside the city of Grand Rapids, when he was appointed to that job in Lowell in 1923, along with Guy Shaw. Moore made two-a-day trips to every Lowell home and business place on the west side for nearly 20 years.

## 25 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 13, 1988

Headline: Fire destroys historic Keiser's Kitchen - Keiser's Kitchen, which started out as a truck stop in 1945 and turned into Lowell's venerable eating establishment and oldest retailer, was destroyed by a fire Friday, Jan. 8. Blair Cahoon, co-owner, said that the state fire marshal said the cause of the fire was electrical. He adds that the state fire marshal

suspects the fire started in the electrical closet. "We haven't put an amount on the damages, but to rebuild will cost \$500,000," Cahoon said. "We hope to rebuild just as soon as possible." The building was not fully insured because coverage was too expensive. "Few companies are willing to insure a wood-framed building," Cahoon adds. Cahoon estimated that Keiser's had 1/3 to 1/2 of what it needs in insurance protection. Firefighters from Lowell, Ada and Alto battled the blaze in the bitter cold from 1:35 am until 8:30 am. "When we got here the fire was already through the roof," Lowell fire chief Frank Martin said. "The roof collapsed into the 165-seat family restaurant." The fire leaves 40 of Keiser's Kitchen employees without work, including three of owner Darlene Westcott's children and their families. There has been three generations of families working at Keiser's. The freezing temperatures and water left a thick coating of ice on the sidewalk outside of the family restaurant. "While we were battling the fire, the cold was not too bad, but now that the fire is out, the wet and the cold starts to penetrate through you," Martin said, shortly after the fire was extinguished. Martin suggested that there were 40 firefighters that battled the fire. "And one firefighter was treated for frostbite on his toes," he said. Frank Keiser built the main building of the restaurant in 1945 next to their home on the corner of M-21 and Amity Street during World War II, with the idea that a truck stop was needed between Flint and Grand Rapids. In the beginning, the stop was just an extension of Keiser's home. It was a very popular stop for many years, with just a counter, eight stools and a few tables and chairs for seating, but with success came expansion. The first addition was in 1956. The kitchen size and seating capacity was enlarged. In 1962, Keiser's added onto the front. In 1975, the side and in 1985, the upper hall was opened up and seating was added.

# Levin, continued

balanced at the lakeshore, reflecting community input.

The wilderness designation in our bill redefines the areas that should be managed as wilderness to reflect a balanced approach to conservation, recreation, and historic preservation, which are all important goals of this lakeshore. The wilderness areas are undeveloped and possess significant and valuable natural characteristics.

In contrast, developed county roads and state highways, boat launches and many historical structures have all been excluded from the wilderness designation to maintain access and recreational opportunities and ensure preservation and interpretation of historical resources. Hunting, fishing, trail use and camping at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore would continue. Motorboats would still be allowed offshore of

the dunes and allowed to beach in areas adjacent to the wilderness area.

The Senate passed the bill in late December. Rep. Bill Huizenga introduced companion legislation in the House that had the bipartisan support of the Michigan delegation, and we were hopeful the House would act before the end of the 112th Congress on Jan. 3 and send the bill to President Obama. Unfortunately, the House failed to take

it up, which means that the bill expires. We plan to reintroduce the bill in the 113th Congress, and Senate passage makes me optimistic that we can pass this important legislation in both chambers to ensure that the woods, waters and beaches of Sleeping Bear Dunes will remain unspoiled for countless generations to enjoy.

*Carl Levin is the senior U.S. senator from Michigan.*



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# Meet the administrative assistants of Lowell Area Schools

by Theresa Heethuis  
contributing reporter

With warm smiles and caring hearts, administrative assistants across Lowell Area Schools are working to create a safe and welcoming environment for the nearly 3,800 students attending Lowell schools each and every day.

They are the second moms, the soothers, the listening ears and the number one. Today, we take a look at the administrative assistants, the faces who greet Lowell students for the very first time at the elementary level and middle and high school levels.

## Bonnie Gokey

When you walk into Alto Elementary School, you immediately know you are welcome. Warm smiles and laughter are the first signs that you can come right in. For years upon years, Bonnie Gokey has strived to provide an environment where all are welcome. "I especially want to make new students feel comfortable so they

**"I especially want to make new students feel comfortable..."**

- Bonnie Gokey

don't have anything to worry about." said Gokey

In the year 1966, Gokey unknowingly began her forty-six year career at Alto Elementary School as she participated in the on the job training program offered through Lowell High School. When asked if she wanted to continue, she had no idea that she would find such joy in her job over the next four decades.

For all of these years,



Gokey has viewed Alto Elementary School and the students as her family and says their safety is her number one priority. "I watch the front door like a hawk [and] constantly look out the window."

At the end of the day, Gokey knows she has done her job, "when everything is completed at 4:30, the busses are back and everybody got home safe."

"I love my job! This is my second family. These are my kids."

## Joanne Wierenga

Many years ago, when Joanne Wierenga began volunteering at Lowell Area Schools as a room mom and as a P.T.O. member, she saw firsthand all that was going on within the school district and wanted to be a part of it.

**"This is the first time that many kids are leaving their parents..."**

- Joanne Wierenga



For the last eighteen years, Wierenga has officially been a part of Lowell Area Schools as the administrative assistant at both Cherry Creek and Bushnell Elementary Schools. In this time it has always been her priority to offer a friendly environment, making people feel welcome.

"This is the first time that many kids are leaving their parents for the first

**"I love people and I love to serve the community."**

- Maureen Kissinger

time and we want to make sure kids are comfortable at school."

Of the many wonderful memories Wierenga has had during her time at Lowell schools, her favorite includes, "all of the memories walking down the hallway getting

## Maureen Kissinger

An opening, children on the same schedule and a wonderful opportunity to stay in touch with her kids, all led Maureen Kissinger to her administrative assistant position twenty-seven years ago.

hugs, waves and hearing stories from the students."

At the end of the day Wierenga's biggest accomplishment is, "making sure that all of the kids are on the right bus, everybody gets home safely and receiving the call saying, "We're clear!"

For those twenty-seven years, Kissinger has strived to provide a nurturing, friendly and comfortable environment where the kids can trust her.

"I love people and I love to serve the community," Kissinger said. "The most rewarding part of my job is the interaction with the kids and knowing that you've touched their lives somehow. To give kids attention; they need to know that somebody cares."

In her many years as an administrative assistant, Kissinger said, "I do not have one specific favorite memory but love the way our district comes together. It's amazing to watch how everyone pitches in and helps."

"My biggest desire is for parents to let their kids know they are loved and cared for."



## Joan Weeber

Originally, Joan Weeber took the administrative assistant position at Lowell schools to be involved with her children. Now, many years later, she still strives to create a welcoming environment for her students, to make it a happy place, a place where students want to visit.

As a result of this environment that she has created, Weeber said,

**"The most rewarding part of my job is seeing the smiles..."**

- Joan Weeber

"The most rewarding part of my job is seeing the smiles on the kids' faces, seeing students that are happy to come to school and the amazing parent support."

In a position with many different demands and so many things going on, the staff, parents, students and great people

are Weeber's favorite part of her job.

"In all these years, the starting of Murray Lake, the way the staff came together, the feeling of success and the starting of a new school and traditions are my favorite memories."

Administrative assistants,  
continued, page 9





# Administrative assistants, continued



**Sharon Ellison**

It was through an ad in the Buyers Guide that Sharon Ellison began her career as a Lowell administrative assistant thirteen years ago.

In her thirteen years in the middle school, Ellison's ability to remain calm in an environment where lots is going on has helped her to be successful.

Ellison shares that in such a busy environment, "You have to be caring and listen. People just want to be listened to and helped."

While even at her calmest, Ellison says the hardest part of her job is, "not being able to help as much as she would like and not being able to do more."

"If I can leave knowing I helped somebody," Ellison knows she has accomplished everything she could.

"The staff here is outstanding. Everyone here has the best interest of the students at heart. The kids here are safe and loved and it is the best place for them."

**"You have to be caring and listen."**

- Sharon Ellison



**Gail Hutchinson**

Gail Hutchinson began her career at Alto Elementary School while having a young daughter attending the school. She enjoyed it so much that when a position opened, she knew she would love to have the job.

For the past eighteen years she has loved the fast pace her job at the middle school offers.

"You have to be able to go from one thing to the next, getting interrupted often," Hutchinson said.

The most rewarding part of her job? "Every single day. To help the kids and adults to get through each day, day by day," Hutchinson stated.

In this fast-paced, day-by-day grind, Hutchinson hopes that

students think of her as their second mom. And, at the end of the day, "getting the workload done while being constantly interrupted," she feels she has accomplished what she came for.

On her bucket list? "To move to somewhere warm and tropical and buy a little shanty on the water."

**"You have to be able to go from one thing to the next..."**

- Gail Hutchinson

**Betsy Maki**

Nineteen years ago, Betsy Maki's husband encouraged her to take a position in the athletic department as an administrative assistant.

Nearly two decades later, she is so glad she did and she has now added freshman campus administrative assistant to her athletic department role.

During her time at Lowell, she had strived to create a calm and caring environment for every

student, while always maintaining her sense of humor. With this warm and welcoming environment,

happy place where they feel comfortable."

At the end of the day, Maki's biggest

**"My fondest memory is every time we beat East!"**

- Betsy Maki

Maki said, "The most rewarding part of my job is having kids stop in just to tell you how their day is going because you've given them the time and attention and made them feel loved, giving them a

accomplishment is, "knowing that I've shared with and cared about each and every one of these kids."

Her fondest memories? "Every time we beat East!"



**Renay Bouwhuis**

Renay Bouwhuis began her career at Lowell Area Schools fourteen years ago on the playground at Alto Elementary School. Since that time she has been an office assistant at Alto and Cherry Creek Elementary schools as well as the high school. In 2004, Renay became the administrative assistant at the high school and has provided a happy, positive and friendly environment since.

"Bonnie Gokey taught me long ago that my job is about helping people and supporting people. Our job is to help the community," said Bouwhuis.

Of all of her memories over the years, her favorites are "the so many times of laughter and all of the different triumphs of the kids," Bouwhuis said.

"My favorite part of being at the high school is the energy, the connection. It keeps me involved in the community, the heartbeat of the community."

When asked if there was anything special on her bucket list, she said, "I've got it all. Wonderful husband, kids, friends and job. I'm quite content."

**"Bonnie Gokey taught me long ago that my job is about helping people ..."**

- Renay Bouwhuis



# Red Arrow SPORTS

## - WRESTLING

### Grapplers enjoy the holiday break

by Karen Jack

Lowell won their annual Holiday Invitational against second-ranked New Lothrop (division four), Grand Haven, Fruitport, and Howell.

In the first match against Fruitport, Lowell won 65-14, with wins by void at eight different weight classes. Zeth Dean (112 lbs.) won his bout by technical fall, Derek Krajewski (119 lbs.) and Taylor Kornoely (215 lbs.) both won by pin.

Lowell also beat Grand Haven 45-22 in the next match. Lucas Hall (103 lbs.), Krajewski (119 lbs.), Jordan Hall (135 lbs.), Zac Graves (145 lbs.), and Kornoely (215 lbs.) all pinned their opponents. Garrett Stehley (189 lbs.) won by technical fall. Bailey Jack (130 lbs.) won, 12-5; Danny Kruse (125 lbs.) won, 9-6; and Jake Garcia (152 lbs.) won, 4-3.

Facing the division four number two-ranked team, the Lowell grapplers beat New Lothrop 37-29.

Finally, the Arrows faced Howell for first place and beat them 43-29. Zeth Dean, Lucas Hall and Kornoely all won by pin. Lucas Hall and Stehley both won by technical fall. Kanon Dean won by major and Krajewski won by decision.

The team also traveled to New Lothrop on Saturday for the annual New Lothrop Hall of Fame tournament. Not taking a full team, due to illness, the Arrows still managed to take fifth place overall. Individually, Lowell had four wrestlers in the finals. Freshman Zeth Dean (112 lbs.) beat Logan Irey from Whitehall, 3-1; and sophomore Jordan Hall (135 lbs.) beat Mark Bozzo from St. Johns, 4-2; to both

take first place. Freshman Lucas Hall (103 lbs.) lost to St. Johns' Ian Parker (ranked first), 6-4; and junior Bailey Jack (119 lbs.) lost in overtime to first seed Jerry Fenner from Birch Run, to both take seconds. Kanon Dean placed fourth.

"I'm generally pleased with the progress of quite a number of our kids," said coach Dave Dean. "We've worked through some adversity this year, which had given some other kids great opportunities and they've performed well."

**Lowell travels to Grand Rapids Christian on Wednesday, with the meet starting time of 7 pm. They then host the Gary Rivers Memorial tournament on Saturday at Lowell High School. Start time is 9 am.**



Bundling his opponent is Lucas Hall.



Going against Grand Haven, Derek Krajewski gets the pin.



Taylor Kornoely flattens his opponent to get the pin.



Louis Hart takes control in the match.

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# Red Arrow SPORTS

## - BASKETBALL

### Boys' basketball wins two in a row

by Karen Jack

Friday night was full of turnovers, fouls and missed shots, all forced by intense defense from the Lowell boys' basketball team, as they crushed Lakewood in a 65-35 blowout.

The Red Arrows came out strong from the beginning, forcing Lakewood to scramble just to touch the ball. In the first quarter, Lowell held Lakewood to only five points, with one of them being a three-point shot. Offensively, the Arrows couldn't miss. Going into the second quarter with a 17-5 lead, they didn't let up, outscoring Lakewood 16-10.

Outscoring Lakewood by 17 points in the third quarter, though, is what sealed the win. At one point, the Arrows were up by 36 points. They ran perfect plays, were rebounding both offensively and defensively and held Lakewood to only three points the entire quarter.

Three players scored in double-digits, including Jason Malling, who scored



Grant Noskey blocks the ball.

five three-point baskets for a total of 20 points. Austin Lemke had 14 points and Grant Noskey had 11 points. Lemke had five blocked shots in the game, with four rebounds as well.

"It was a great team win. All 11 guys got an opportunity to play and performed the same way they do in practice," said head coach Kyle Carhart. "They really gave great effort and that is something the [assistant] coaches and I ask for daily. It was fun to watch the team take advantage of their opportunity and cap off a successful holiday break."

The Arrows also had 59-49 victory over Greenville on December 28th. Malling had 20 points, with seven rebounds; Shannon Massey had 10 points and six rebounds; and Andrew Potter had 13 points.

The boys travel to Kenowa Hills on Friday, with game time starting at 6 pm.



Austin Lemke shoots the ball for two points.

### Girls' basketball team struggles over break

by Karen Jack

The Lady Arrows struggled over the holiday break, losing two games to both Lake Odessa Lakewood and Forest Hills Eastern.

The Lakewood game was a low-scoring game on both sides, with both teams struggling in the first quarter. Each team only made one basket each, although Lakewood's basket was a three-pointer. The Lady Arrows kept it close in the second quarter, only going into halftime down by five. They were outscored by ten in the third quarter, but made up some of the lost ground in the third quarter by outscoring Lakewood 13-8. The final score in that game was 38-28. Kate Montgomery was the high scorer with 13 points.

In the Forest Hills Eastern game, played on Dec. 21, the Arrows lost, 56-35. Abbey Petroelje led the team with ten points, followed by Aubreigh Steed with seven. Petroelje also had 11 rebounds. She tried to spark the team with her

rebounding, but they just couldn't get in the groove offensively to keep things close.

"Our girls are working really hard to be more aggressive rebounding, but Eastern shot the ball really well and it was an uphill battle the entire night," said coach Jake Strotheide. "I'm proud of the girls and their

effort. We're getting better every day."

The girls travel to Kenowa Hills on Friday,

with game time starting at 7:30 pm or 20 minutes following the boys' game that starts at 6 pm.



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**CONGRATULATIONS**  
To The Boys' Bowling Team



They finished second in the Lowell Invitational and last weekend they won the Fruitport Invitational.

# obituaries

## KOHN

Richard P. "Dick" Kohn, age 73, of Cascade went home to be with his Lord early Friday morning, January 4, 2013.

He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. Richard was raised on the family farm north of Lowell, attended The Marble one-room schoolhouse, then graduated from Lowell High School in 1956. During school Dick was very proud of his time spent within the 4H organization. While attending Michigan State University Dick was a member of the AGR Fraternity. After graduating in 1960 he actively



served our country in the Air National Guard. He met his wife, Jeanne Tomlinson, while attending MSU; they married in 1962 and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August 2012. Dick's first job was at Haviland Chemical for 11 years while their family grew to add a daughter and a son while living in East Grand Rapids. During this time Dick was very active in The Grand Rapids Jaycees, eventually becoming president of the organization in 1970-1971. His second job for nearly 30 years with The Bayer Corporation led them to leave town and move to many US cities, the blessing of another daughter, of being an Elder for their Missouri Synod Lutheran Church, and eventually full circle back to Grand Rapids for retirement. He enjoyed deer hunting, fishing and snow and water skiing with his family all through his life. Dick was an avid MSU sports enthusiast and his greatest joys were the time with his wife, children and grandchildren during holidays and vacations. He was able to enjoy his retirement years by spending winters traveling in Florida and summers up north at the cabin. Richard was preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Hazel; and his sister, Lorene Jonas of Belding. He is survived by his wife, Jeanne; their three children, Karen (Mike) Anderson, R. Paul Jr., Kristen (Norm) Albinson; three grandchildren, Kira, Cora and David Albinson; brother-in-law, Paul "Bud" Jonas; nephew, Carl (Brenda) Jonas and their children and grandchildren of Belding. A memorial service has been arranged for 2:00 pm, Wednesday, January 9 at the Metcalf and Jonkhoff Funeral Home. Visitation will be held at 1 pm until the time of service. Memorials may be made to the Our Savior Lutheran Church, 3639 S. M-65, Glennie, MI 48737. The family is being served by Metcalf & Jonkhoff Funeral Service, 4291 Cascade Rd SE at Kenmoor, E of I-96. www.metcalfandjonkhoff.com

## REHL

Matthew C. Rehl, age 53 of Lowell, passed away peacefully Friday, December 28, 2012. He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Betty; children, Christopher (Mindy) Zuiderveen and Jessica Rehl; mother Marge Rehl; brothers Mark (Chris) Rehl, Tom (Bheng) Lowe; sister Lisa (Bill) Childs; mother-in-law Johnnette Hunkins; brothers-in-law Harry (Hope) Kukawski, Steve Kukawski, Paul (Andrea) Kukawski, John Kukawski; 5 grandchildren, also several nieces and nephews. A funeral service was held December 31st at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lowell. Rev. Joe Fremer officiated. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society in Matthew's name.



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# LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF KENT

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 13-193197-DE

FILE NO. 12-193156-DE

Estate of NELLIE ZICKUS. Date of birth: 12/17/1920.

Estate of ROXIE ARLENE HUNTER. Date of birth: 03/12/1913.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Nellie Zickus, who lived at 1206 Pannell Rd., NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan died 12/2/2012.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Roxie Arlene Hunter, died May 9, 2009.

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

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

December 26, 2012

January 4, 2013

John D. Mitus (P31244)  
410 Bridge St., NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504  
616-774-4001

Mary L. Benedict (P45285)  
4519 Cascade Rd., SE  
Suite 14  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
616-942-0020

Bronwyn B. Zickus  
5083 Stony Creek, NW  
Comstock Park, MI  
49321

Barbara Zandstra  
423 King St.  
Lowell, MI 49331

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

## ~ Card of Thanks ~

Maybe you visited Matthew in the hospital. Perhaps you sent a message of sympathy, sent flowers, or brought food to the family. Maybe you made a charitable donation in Matt's name. Maybe you attended the visitation and/or funeral service. In whatever way you showed care and concern, please know how much we appreciate you. Our loss is huge, but with God's help we will recover. Thank you all again. *The family of Matthew Rehl*

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# classifieds

## for sale

**A BED** - A brand new queen pillowtop mattress set in plastic, w/warranty, sacrifice, \$135. Call 989-584-6818.<sup>TFN</sup>

**2009 NISSAN VERSA** - 1.6L, 5 spd. manual, 4 dr., 47,000 miles. \$9,000. Call 616-325-8451.

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

**4 UPHOLSTERED BUNKBOARDS** - Under-the-mattress support frames for twin size beds. Like new. \$5 each. Call 897-6310.

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

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

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

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

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

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**LEDGER OFFICE HOURS:**  
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## misc.

**IONIA FREE FAIR AGRICULTURE BENEFIT DINNER & AUCTION** - Sat., Jan. 12, Steele Street Hall, 115 S. Steel St., Ionia. Public welcome, \$6 per person. Dinner 6-7:30 p.m. (doors open at 5:30) Serving: Chili, bean soup, hot dogs & dessert. Silent & live auction, 7:30 p.m. Music by John Slater, 50/50 raffle tickets, cash bar.

**UNITED METHODIST PRESCHOOL** - Registration begins for the 2013-2014 school year on Monday, Jan. 14, 2013 at 9 a.m. Call 897-8690 for information.

## help wanted

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

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## for rent

**HALL FOR RENT** - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.VFW8303.org. FREE All Vets Coffee Hour at the center the 3rd Thursday of each month. Bring a friend. Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.<sup>TFN</sup>

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

**APARTMENT FOR RENT** - Upper floor efficiency in historic downtown Lowell. Newly remodeled. \$575 per month includes gas, electric, central air, trash. References required. No pets. 616-914-0828 or 616-897-9074.

## wanted

**I WANT TO BUY** - Refrigerator, stove, washer, dryer & furniture in good shape. Have cash. 989-584-6818.<sup>TFN</sup>

## services

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**J&T LAWN & AUTO SERVICES** - Snowplowing, lawn care, general auto repair. 616-293-7126.

**ASSISTED LIVING ALTO** - Modern country home, Cathy 616-891-1840. AssistedLivingAlto@charter.net Private-pay, long or short term, Christmas.

**YOGA CLASSES** - at 901 W. Main, \$8 walk-in, Mon. 7:30 a.m., Tues. & Thurs. 6:30 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m., specials/schedule. 893-5661, www.thehammockllc.com

**LAMINATING SERVICE AVAILABLE** - Next day service. Drop off & pieces will be available by 9 a.m. the next day. Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

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**DAYCARE** - in my country home, over 10 years experience, many fun activities. Healthy meals provided, full or part time, CPR/first aide certified, low rates. Contact 616-481-1210.

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## in

## memoriam

In memory of  
**SUSAN M. WESTER**  
Oct. 23, 1948 -  
Jan. 10, 2008

Not a day goes by that we don't miss you with all of our heart.

Our memories of you, we will cherish forever.

Your family misses you

# Coming Events

**PLEASE NOTE** - Coming Events are for non-profit organizations. If you are charging admission for an event - it is considered an advertisement. Coming events are ran on a space available basis & ARE NOT GUARANTEED TO RUN. If you would like to make sure your event is placed in the paper, please call our office & place it as a classified ad. We will not run ANY Garage or Rummage Sales as a coming event. All Coming Events or changes to coming events should be submitted by fax: 897-4809, email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com, by mail: PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or in person: 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

**DINOSAUR ROMP** - Sat., Jan. 12, 10:30 a.m. Prehistoric program for kids of all ages at Alto Branch Library, 6071 Linfield, Alto, 784-2007.

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

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

**FROSTY'S WINTER FUN FEST** - Tues., Jan 22, 6:30 p.m. Snowy crafts & frosty fun for ages 6 & younger at Englehardt Library, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell, 784-2007.

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

**NEEDLERS** - Second & fourth Monday evenings, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Schneider Manor Community Room.

**KID CRAFT SATURDAY** - Third Saturday of each month. Drop in anytime between 9 a.m. - noon.

Make a craft & take it home. All ages are welcome. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main, Belding. 616-794-1450.

**WOMEN OF THE MOOSE** - third Monday at 7:30 p.m. for business meeting.

**AMERICAN LEGION CLARK-ELIIS POST 152** - meets the fourth Monday at 3100 Alden Nash S.E. at 7:30 p.m.

**ALTO AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY** - meets the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Alto American Legion Post.

**V.F.W. POST #8303** - meets the first Monday at 7 p.m. at 3116 Alden Nash S.E.

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

**LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL BLOOD DRIVE** - Fri., Jan. 11 from 7:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. there will be a Student Council Blood Drive in the auxiliary gym of the high school, 11700 Vergennes. The blood drive is for the Michigan Blood Program. Contact Heather DeJonge at 987-2945 with any questions.

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

**TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY TOPS MI #372** - every Tuesday, weigh-ins at 5:45 p.m. New meeting place through Jan. 1320 E. Main.

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

**QUA-KE-ZIK SPORTSMANS CLUB** - meets second and third Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at 8731 West Riverside Dr. Go to www.qua-

ke-zik.org for information. New members welcome.

**LOWELL LIONS CLUB** - meets third Tuesday at noon at Lowell City Hall.

**LOWELL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB** - meets the 2nd Saturday at Flat River Outreach Ministries, 11535 E. Fulton, 9 a.m. social gathering; 10 a.m. meeting. LARC sponsors 145.27 MHz area radio repeater system.

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

**IONIA-MONTCALM CHAPTER #6 STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREE'S ASSOC.** - Wed., Jan 23, 12p.m. will hold its monthly meeting beginning w/lucheon at Admin. Bldg. of Ionia Intermediate School District, 2191 Harwood Road, Ionia. Reservations are necessary. Call 616-527-1825 by noon Mon. Jan. 23.

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

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

**ALTO LIBRARY HOURS:** Tues. & Wed., 12 - 8 p.m.; Mon. & Sat., 9:30-1:30 p.m.; Thurs., 1-5 p.m. Info., call 784-2007.

**GROOVIN' WITH PETE THE CAT** - Thurs., Jan. 17, 10:30 a.m. Pete-inspired crafts & singing & dancing to silly songs for ages 6 and younger at Englehardt Library, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell, 784-2007.

**ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY HOURS** - Mon.-Wed., noon - 8 p.m.; Thurs. & Fri., 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat., 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 784-2007.

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

**ST. MARY'S PREGNANCY CRISIS CENTER** - 402 Amity. Mondays: 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Thursdays: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Non-denominational. Help for pregnant women/adolescents in need. Provides support, referrals, food, clothing/infant items. Lowell area. 897-9393.

**LOWELL SERENITY CLUB MEETINGS** - (AA) Mon., Wed., Thurs.: 12-1 & 8-9 p.m.; Tues. & Fri.: 12-1, 4:30-5:30 p.m. & 8-9 p.m.; Sat. & Sun.: 10-11 a.m. & 8-9 p.m. The first step is always the hardest. If your life has become unmanageable due to alcohol, please join us at 101 W. Main. 897-8565.

**EVERY THURSDAY** - Night service at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 865 Lincoln Lake SE at 6:30 p.m. Public welcome.

**NEW CLASSES FOR EVERYONE** - children - adults at Christian Life Center, 3050 Alden Nash SE, Lowell. Every Wednesday 7-8 p.m. Bible-centered classes for children through 5th grade, youth group for 6th grade thru high school & adult prayer & Bible study. Everyone is invited to attend.

**MOMS IN TOUCH INTERNATIONAL** - Thursdays 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. at Friendship Country Chapel, 10200 Grand River

Ave. Moms & grandmas come pray for our kids & schools. Contact Missy at 308-7920 or missykoistra@gmail.com with any questions.

**ORIGAMI** - Each Tuesday, 2-3 p.m. Learn the ancient art of paper folding. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson.

**CANCER - TEEN & TWEEN TALK GROUP** - Each Tuesday, 6-7:15 p.m. - A group for youth in middle or high school on a cancer or grief journey. Incorporates curriculum-based activities, discussion & fun. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson.

**CANCER - KIDS TALK** - Each Tuesday, 6-7:15 p.m. - A group for children in first - fourth grade on a cancer or grief journey. Incorporates curriculum-based activities, discussion & fun. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson.

**KNITTING** - Tuesdays, 6-7:15 p.m. Instructional knitting class by Cathie Richter. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson.

**TODDLER THURSDAY** - Every Thursday 11-11:30 a.m. Stories, songs, rhymes & learning. Ages 18 mo. - 36 mo. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main, Belding. 616-794-1450.

**SUPPER TOGETHER** - Each Tuesday, 5:30-6 p.m. Join in a meal together before group begins. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson.

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

# Red Arrow SPORTS

- GYMNASTICS

## Gymnastics team starts out season on a friendly note

by Karen Jack

Every year, the gymnastic team starts out their season with their annual friendship meet, which is held to help promote new friendships between the team members. This year, it was with Kenowa Hills-Grandville (KH-G). Both the teams and coaches are split in half, then mixed with the halves of the other team to make two teams.

Head coaches, Michele DeHaan (Lowell) and Brenda McDonald (KH-G) coached the red team, where all the girls wore red hair ribbons and assistant coaches, Alyssa Buikema (Lowell) and Tracy Anderson (KH-G) coached the green team, where all

their girls wore green hair ribbons. There were no "official" team scores, but the individual scores did count towards qualifying for regionals. The girls that perform their beam routines without any falls are recognized by being crowned "beam queens" with Burger King crowns.

Top scores for the Lowell gymnasts were Morgan Taylor (8.525), Meghan Plutschouw (8.525), Colleen Cater (8.45), and Lauren Browning (8.375) for the vault. On the balance beam, the top scorers were Lauren DeHaan (8.35), Bethany Kaczanowski (8.0), Plutschouw (7.75), Jorie Bennett (7.5), and

Danielle Krajewski (7.15). For bars, the top scores came from Kaezi Bladey (8.15), Browning (7.3), Taylor (7.15), and Plutschouw (7.15). The floor exercise top scorers were DeHaan (7.95), Bladey (7.75), Sarena Wilterdink (7.7) and Kaczanowski (7.55).

"I look forward to this meet every year," said head coach Michele DeHaan. "Since this is our first home meet, it helps us get the first meet bugs out and gives the girls a wake-up call as to things that are in their routines that they might not get credit for, such as skill combinations or skills not being performed to standard."



Jorie Bennett, Bethany Kaczanowski, Megan Annis (KH-G), Meghan Plutschouw, and Lauren DeHaan.



Performing the floor exercise is Lauren DeHaan.



Bethany Kaczanowski takes a leap on the beam.

At the Rockford Invitational, Lowell took two teams, with the Red team placing eleventh and the White team placing thirteenth overall.

For the Red team, DeHaan was the Lowell top scorer in all four events, scoring 8.45 on the vault, 7.7 on the floor, 8.65 on the beam, and 8.85 on the floor. DeHaan placed fifth on the floor and seventh on the beam. The second top scorers for Lowell on the Red team were Browning (8.3) on the vault, Wilterdink on the bars (7.55) and floor

(8.15) and Taylor with an 8.35 on the beam, which was her personal best routine ever. Taylor missed placing by only 0.5.

The White team's top scorers were Bladey on the vault (8.25), bars (7.95), and floor (8.075) and Kaczanowski (8.0) on the floor. The second highest scorers for the White team were Cater and Plutschouw, both with 8.15 on the vault; Plutschouw on the bars with 7.45 and floor with 7.975 and Krajewski on the beam with 7.85.

DeHaan placed fifth overall in the meet. "Lauren added more difficult jumps and turns in her beam and floor routines this year. I am pleased to see it making a difference," added head coach DeHaan.

The gymnasts face Forest Hills Northern on Wednesday, Jan. 9 at home. The meet starts at 7 pm. They then travel to Rockford on Monday, Jan. 14 at 7 pm.



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**TWENTIETH CENTURY**

**ACROSS**

- 1. Alfred Hitchcock in his movie, e.g
- 6. \*Banned insecticide
- 9. \*Infamous weapon in Persian Gulf War
- 13. \*\*"The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" author
- 14. Two halves
- 15. Chummy
- 16. Site of witchcraft trials
- 17. Fred Flintstone to Barney Rubble, e.g.
- 18. Stupid or silly
- 19. \*Code name for detonation of first nuclear device
- 21. \*1945-1990 antagonism
- 23. Batman and Robin, e.g.
- 24. \*Rock and \_\_\_\_
- 25. Unit of absorbed radiation
- 28. Manufactured
- 30. Stubbornly unyielding
- 35. Prima donna problems
- 37. Clever
- 39. Used to indicate compliance over radio
- 40. It hovers
- 41. Red Cross supply
- 43. Like something that can't fit anymore
- 44. Stay clear
- 46. \*Ernest Hemingway's nickname
- 47. Blue-green
- 48. \*Split by a wall
- 50. Like Dr. Evil's tiny self
- 52. Hog heaven?
- 53. Openmouthed astonishment
- 55. Recipe amount
- 57. \*Salk's discovery
- 61. Sea dog
- 65. "\_\_\_\_ Last Night," movie
- 66. \*Shock and \_\_\_\_
- 68. Wide open
- 69. One who "\_\_\_\_ it like it is"
- 70. 100 lbs.
- 71. Attach to, as in a journalist

CROSSWORD														
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65						66	67			68				
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**JANUARY 2 - JANUARY 8**

- President Barack Obama picks Vietnam Veteran and Republican Chuck Hagel to run the Pentagon and White House counterterrorism adviser John Brennan to head the CIA.
- Two jaguar cubs are born in Milwaukee's zoo and are introducing new genes to the endangered species' captive population. Unlike most zoo babies, their father was born in the wild.
- Former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and her husband launched a political action committee aimed at curbing gun violence on Tuesday, the second anniversary of the Tucson shooting that killed six people and left her critically injured.
- Urooj Khan's scratch-off ticket was a \$1 million winner. But the day after the state issued the check last July, he died of cyanide poisoning. The case was reopened after a relative pleaded for an expanded screening after the autopsy.

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- 72. Editor's mark
- 73. Lamb's mother
- 74. Plural of lysis

**DOWN**

- 1. Those in a play
- 2. Purim's month
- 3. \*French Sudan after 1960
- 4. Correct
- 5. Heaviest known metal

- 6. Showing stupidity
- 7. \*Its discovery had a huge impact on crime investigation
- 8. \*Ma Bell, e.g.
- 9. Equivalent to hands on clock?
- 10. Eagle's talons, e.g.
- 11. Long forearm bone
- 12. Textile worker
- 15. \_\_\_\_ talk
- 20. A despicable person, pl.
- 22. \*Hemingway's "The \_\_\_\_ Man and the Sea"
- 24. Sometimes done to an argument
- 25. Betty Ford Center, e.g.
- 26. Type of nectar
- 27. Sorrow
- 29. Like a billionaire's pockets
- 31. Received on special occasions
- 32. They can be Super or Crazy
- 33. Enthusiastic approval
- 34. \*First cloned mammal
- 36. Potting need
- 38. South American Indian people
- 42. Kind of ray
- 45. 20 on a human body
- 49. \*A Bobbsey twin
- 51. \*Newly-founded state, 1948
- 54. \*Gerald Holtom's sign
- 56. Unusually small individual
- 57. Giant kettles
- 58. Lend a hand
- 59. \*First African-American to host a TV show
- 60. \*Branch Davidians or Heaven's Gate, e.g.
- 61. "Out" usually follows it
- 62. Captures
- 63. D'Artagnan's weapon of choice
- 64. \*Bolsheviks
- 67. \*A huge web

*Puzzle Solutions for this week are on page 12*

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4			1	5			2	
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	5		2			8		

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



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*How did we ever get so lucky to have the real Santa located right here in Lowell? Here's a person who takes his own vacation time from work so "Santa" can touch so many lives at Christmas time! He and Mrs. Claus work with thousands of kids each year. What a wonderful image they present for our community. We are indeed fortunate. May the Claus' New Year also be filled with some of that same lasting joy they bring to so many. Happy New Year, Haybarkers, and God Bless!*

~ Dave and Jan Thompson

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# Local families share their love through adoption

by Ellen Mork  
contributing reporter

Just over a week ago, Jason and Heidi Holdridge brought home their two adopted children from Ethiopia. Brandon Mulnix was at the airport to document the homecoming. He cannot wait for the day he too, gets to bring his adopted son back.

Mulnix owns Modern Photographics, but his true passion lies in documenting adoptions and missionaries.

It had only been a few months prior that Mulnix and his wife Emily traveled with the Holdridge's to document their adoption and Ethiopia. The Mulnixes "didn't go there expecting to adopt." Yet they came back with one little boy on their minds.

One afternoon on their short trip, a young boy came up to Emily, smiled and played trucks with her. From this moment on, she knew she wanted him as her son. Earlier that day, he had stolen Mulnix's Detroit Tigers hat along with his heart.

Three months later, they are now in the process of adopting four-year-old Silas.

As difficult as life may seem to be for the Mulnixes, they know many have it worse. In 2011, Mulnix was in a tragic car accident, which required months of recovery. Emily also has health issues. They have one wonderful daughter, Lily, who is nine. They've struggled with money and live in a small house. Many of these factors make adopting difficult for them, but they will go to any means to bring Silas to the United States.

The adoption process is expensive, costing on average 25 to 30 thousand

dollars per child. Since the process can be cost prohibitive many families must think outside the box and rely on others to help fund their adoption.

The Holdridge family was fortunate enough to receive grants to cover their cost. The Mulnix family hopes they are as lucky because they cannot afford

a family who were able to adopt "because God always provides." The Mulnix family believes this as well.

For the Holdridge family, adoption had been on their bucket list and they were able to adopt two wonderful boys. They went through Adoption Associates in Jenison and adopted from Addis-Ababa,



Silas, Emily and Brandon Mulnix's hands. Having photographs of children that are not yours is illegal in Ethiopia, so this was all the Mulnix family could share. Bottom right, Silas showing his love by making a heart with his hands.

the process themselves. They are having a benefit with food and a silent auction at the Grand Volute, March 15 from 6-9 pm to raise funds. Mulnix, an avid runner, recently ran an ultra-marathon, 100 miles. People pledge money for every mile. The only way he got through the race was "thinking about Silas and bringing him home."

Despite the Mulnix's financial situation, they say their needs are always met and they are surrounded by love. They have the support of their community and other families they have met during their adoption process. Mulnix said he met

the capital of Ethiopia. They began their process in early 2011 and brought their boys here just a week ago. The Mulnix family hopes their process will take about nine months. Mulnix joked, "I guess they give you nine months to prepare, the same time a woman is pregnant and gets to prepare."

Although adoption was not the original plan, what transpired was "an act of God." It is "constant God things" that keep this family thinking positive.

There is not a moment Silas is not on their minds and they "want a better normal for him."



Jason and Heidi Holdridge, their three daughters and two newly adopted sons stand as a family for the first time at the airport.



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~ McCallister Dodds

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