

questions for the candidates



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lhs sports

page 11

50 CENTS



Neighbor to Neighbor volunteers once again extend a helping hand to Lowell residents

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Volunteers from Flat River Outreach Ministry and Lowell Rotary worked on homes all over town on Saturday morning, Oct. 15. The project was called Neighbor 2 Neighbor. Around 30 people visited several area homes to work on home improvement projects for people who lack the resources or physical ability to do it themselves.

A crew from Lowell High School's Interact Club was picking up garbage and other debris outside of Valley Vista Mobile Home Park.

"We're cleaning up the trash along the back and the front of the entire treeline at Valley Vista," said John Russell. "There are a bunch of branches that fell out of the trees after the storms, and there are a lot of bottles, cans and all sorts of trash. We're trying to get this area to look a lot better than it does."



Karen Noreen, John Sterly and Jim Hodges built new stairs on the back of a house.

Over on Washington St, a crew was putting plastic over some drafty old windows on a house.

"We're winterizing some windows," said Ken Willmarth. "It's a little more durable. We're getting

pretty good at it. Practice makes perfect!"

"So many drafts come in there," the homeowner

said. "It's going to help my heat bill so much. I'm really pleased."

Volunteers, continued, page 7

Lowell's fur trading history on display at area historical museum

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

A new exhibit called "The Fur Trade in Lowell" opened last week at the Lowell Area Historical Museum, 325 W. Main. Two large rooms inside

the museum have been converted into a fur trader's cabin like those from Lowell's early history.

"The original site of the trading post was where

Bowes Rd. comes into M-21," said Luanne Kaeb, director of education and programming at the Lowell Area Historical Museum. "That is where the new park is going in. Lowell Township and the museum are putting a building there that will look like a fur trading post."

The exhibit focuses on Lowell's first settlers, including Lady Madeline LaFramboise (1780-1846), the first European to settle in this area. LaFramboise was of French and Odawa descent. She was born near Niles and raised in a tiny village that later developed into Grand Haven. With her husband Joseph, she owned and operated trading posts all over Michigan. When Joseph was murdered in 1806, Lady LaFramboise, as she was known, continued the business by herself



The new exhibit at the Lowell Area Historical Museum explores Lowell's fur trading past.

LAHM exhibit, continued, page 3

Much discussed at Monday's council meeting

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting at city hall on Monday, Oct. 17. The council ended the city's relationship with a trash collecting company and discussed a \$1,500 charge related to the biodigester at the meeting. It lasted just under an hour and was attended by about 15 members of the public.

At the beginning of their meetings the council votes to pay the city's bills, a process which is usually unquestioned and only takes a couple seconds. Councilor Jim Hodges noticed a \$1,500 payment to a company called Weston Solutions for "limited air monitoring" and asked if the council could discuss it.

"There is a bill for Weston Solutions," Hodges said. "I have an idea how that came about, but could you explain it?"

"To make sure that it was safe for the kids to go back to school we needed to know if what was coming from the biodigester was safe or not, so we hired that company," said mayor Jeff Altoft.

"It was my misunderstanding or understanding, that it was done solely by the mayor," Hodges said. "Not in consultation with the city manager prior to a crew being hired. That doesn't seem to quite follow our protocol and I was concerned about that."

"I know that it doesn't follow our protocol, but Light & Power didn't take it upon themselves to test

City council meeting, continued, page 3



along main street

Community fund accepting requests

The deadline to request funds from the Lowell Community Fund is noon, Friday, Dec. 2, 2016.

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

The Heart of West Michigan United Way has set the December date aside for those qualified to receive funding for 2017. Request forms may be picked up at Dr. James Reagan's office at 207 W. Main Street.

The formal request forms include a

demographic data sheet on clients served, how funds from the previous year were spent and the annual budget for the organization requesting funds.

Since 1955 up through 2016 the Lowell Community Fund has dispersed over \$286,000 into the community.

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



"I cannot trust a man to control others who cannot control himself."

~ Robert E. Lee

FROM VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION
Volunteer orientation at Flat River Outreach Ministries will be Thurs., Oct. 20 at 1 pm. Please call 897-8260 for additional information.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB
The Digital Photography Club of Lowell will meet on Oct. 24 at 7 pm in the King Building at the fairgrounds in Lowell. The club is open to all ages and experience. The October meeting will feature the top pictures of our members from over the summer and some instruction on Photoshop and software that is available. Call Bruce at 616-304-0082 for more information.

MAKE AND TAKE WORKSHOPS
Every Thursday, Friday and Saturday of November and two weeks into December at the Franciscan Life Process Center we're bringing in artists and crafters to teach you a skill and help you bring home a Christmas gift. These

are mini workshops teaching wreath decorating, fabric skills, felting, children's rocker painting, making rings and earrings, crocheting, and many more things in a half day or whole day setting. Go to www.lifeprocesscenter.org and click on the Services tab, then the Art Program tab and then the Art Workshops tab; or call 897-7842, ext. 352. Leave a message if you do not get a response.

HEROES BOTTLE/CAN DRIVE
The proceeds will go toward the purchase and training of rescue dogs scheduled for euthanasia and subsequently to help our veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Refundable cans and bottles can be dropped off at either Greenridge Realty, 1160 W. Main St., Lowell or 9145 Lincoln Lake Ave., Greenville (just south of 11 Mile Rd, west side). Cut off date and time for drop offs will be Nov. 5 at 6 pm. Local pick-ups can be arranged. For more information contact Kim Schwacha at 616-485-0099 or Beth Schwacha at 616-481-5462.

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

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CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Look Memorial Fund Board is now accepting grant applications for 2016. Applications are available at Lowell City Hall.

Grant applications should be submitted to Susan Ulery, City Clerk, 301 Main East Street, Lowell, MI 49331. The deadline for submitting 2016 applications is 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 28, 2016.

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City council meeting, continued

the air,” Altoft said. “To protect the citizens and for public safety, I took it upon myself to make sure that it got done.”

“I don’t think the proper process, no matter how important it may have been... A special meeting, something should have been called,” Hodges said. “We knew about this for weeks and weeks, for quite some time prior to. It does seem like something as a knee-jerk and didn’t follow protocol, didn’t follow our process and I would object to that. With that and because of that I really have some difficulty paying this bill. And I see that it’s divided up amongst... The total is \$1,500. \$750 from the general fund and then \$750 appears under administration, as I follow what we have in our packet here tonight. I don’t see any money being transferred over to Lowell Light & Power or the biodigester or LEAD or anyone else. I see \$1,500 being paid by the city of Lowell based on a contract that the mayor entered into illegally.”

“Is there a reason that LEAD didn’t pay for that testing,” asked councilor Mike DeVore. “I would have liked to see them pay for it.”

“We had to force [LEAD] to do anything,” Altoft said. “We hadn’t had a meeting and school was starting. We needed to know. I talked to [Light & Power general manager] Steve Donkersloot and he said Light & Power would

pay 50 percent because they wanted to know too.

“The citizens were asking about air quality,” said councilor Alan Teelander.

“Oh, I don’t question any of that,” Hodges said. “I know that the air quality was suspect, but it’s the way the process was done. Usually contracts come before council and we’re informed or that’s an administrative thing that comes through the city manager and his department heads, not through the city council. The city council does not have the right to enter into contracts with anybody. It’s process, gentlemen. It’s process.”

“We do under public safety,” Altoft said. “The mayor has the right, if it’s a public safety deal. And no-one knowing what was coming out of that biodigester can say that it was not a public safety deal. [...] We had a ticking bomb that was leaking biofuel into the air. It was making people sick.”

The council decided to look into the bill and determine how (or if) to pay it at their next meeting. Hodges also requested that city attorney Dick Wendt attend that meeting. Weston Solutions is based in West Chester, Pa. and has an office in Lansing. Their website says, “Weston is known as the go-to resource for regulatory permitting and compliance programs for all the market sectors we serve – federal, state and local, and commercial.

We plan, design, install, and operate emission testing and pollution control systems for some of the largest commercial/industrial clients across the US. We are sought after for our ability to accurately measure and monitor source emissions for engineering design, process optimization, energy efficiency, and compliance demonstration.”

The council voted not to renew the city’s contract

with Red Creek for trash removal. Citizens will now have to instigate their own business relationship with a trash removal company that is licensed to pick up garbage in Lowell.

“At the last meeting we discussed how this would impact the citizens,” Teelander said. “From what I’m told, this will have no impact.”

The council decided to officially rename the

Boy Scout park “Scout Park.” There will be a new sign hung there and a ceremony will take place on a date to be determined later. They also accepted a bid of \$1,646,735 from Grand Rapids contractors Kamminga and Roodvoets. The company will make repairs to the Valley Vista lift station at the wastewater treatment plant. Kamminga and Roodvoets had the lowest bid by a rather large

margin. Repairs listed on the accompanying documents include a new trunk sewer, manholes, electrical equipment and a lot more. Citizens can request copies of the complete documentation from city hall.

The city council’s next meeting will be at city hall at 7 pm on Monday, Nov. 7.



Mayor Jeff Altoft and city councilor Jim Hodges discussed a \$1,500 bill for air testing at the biodigester. Hodges said Altoft did not follow the correct process for hiring companies to do work for the city.

...

A good leader takes a little more than his share of the blame, a little less than his share of the credit.

~ Arnold H. Glasow

LAHM exhibit, continued

until she sold it in 1822 and retired to Mackinac Island at the age of 41.

“She was Michigan’s first businesswoman,” Kaeb said. “She had a chain of about 20 trading posts; we don’t know exactly how many.”

The new exhibit includes a simulation of a fur trading post based on what one of Lady LaFramboise’s might have looked like. The fur trader would accept furs as currency. Trappers would bring their pelts to the trading post and trade them for supplies, such as cloth, tools, blankets, food, playing cards and so forth.

“The beaver was the dollar bill,” Kaeb said. “The trader would record how many furs they brought, what they got and what they owed. They could also buy on credit and pay back later with more furs.”

The furs were shipped to Europe, where they were made into hats and other goods.

“They ended up mostly in France,” Kaeb said. “Beaver hats, for example, were very fashionable.”

The museum is open from 1 pm until 4 pm on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

and Sunday. Admission is free on the first Thursday of each month. For more information on this and other museum events and exhibits, call 897-7688 or visit lowellmuseum.org

CITY OF LOWELL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST OF THE OPTICAL SCAN TABULATING EQUIPMENT FOR THE NOVEMBER 8, 2016 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that the public accuracy test of the Optical Scan Tabulating Equipment for the November 8, 2016 Presidential Election will be conducted on Monday, October 31, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the Lowell City Hall, Council Chambers, Second Floor, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan.

Susan Ulery
City Clerk

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outdoors

dog daze

Dave Stegehuis

Last spring we had to put down our beagle Andy who was part of our family for eleven years. Andy was a loyal companion and hunting partner. He is still greatly missed.

My plan was to let time pass and adjust to life without a dog for the first time in fifty years. There are a whole lot of reasons why not to have a dog. The plan didn't work out, so we now have a beagle puppy creating a bevy of activity in our household.

Training a dog properly requires a plan. Achieving desired expectations takes a lot of time. It means deciding

what will be required of the dog and then working with the animal on a consistent schedule of training steps to achieve the goals. Our beagle pup Nui needs to respond to only a few basic commands. He will chase rabbits on occasion, which comes naturally to hounds, but beagles are more difficult to domesticate compared to other breeds. Taking game for me has become incidental to the hunt. It is all about the dog. Watching and especially listening to the yip and howl of a hound on a trail is like music to the ears of a dog owner.

Dogs of all kinds share a place in a surprising number of families given the demands caring for an animal places on busy lifestyles. The bond between dogs and humans has remained strong through the centuries. Of all the diverse cultures around the world, dogs as partners and companions are a common denominator in almost all countries. Some dogs work or hunt while all are valued for companionship.

Whatever the reason, we have made a long term commitment with Nui and are looking forward to sharing times of our lives with our new family member. Every day will be a dog day.



At Your Local Library

Awesome Autumn Adventure

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viewpoint

to the editor

don't give in to bullies

To the voters,
Your everyday freedom is not free, your military paid for it!

Now don't give it away to a bunch of playground bullies. They lost their power in the last election and are doing everything underhanded and low down that they can do to get it back.

I am a Veteran and was a prisoner of war in Korea for 33 months. The Chinese kept us underground for over a month interrogating me. Then I was sent on the Death March for approximately 30 days in 30 degree below zero weather walking nights so no one could see us. From that my feet still hurt from the frostbite. Many committed suicide during this ordeal. I'm still alive and now 87 and no one is going to bully me into silence or submission. I don't need to have anyone write my letters for me. I

have my own thoughts and can write my own letters. After all, I graduated from first grade! I wonder if they passed kindergarten.

I never said Greg Canfield never helped me. I said that when I questioned something he did as a city leader he went on the attack and said he'd never help me again. That's not the kind of representative that I want on my city council.

Greg Canfield is one of the people that brought the biodigester (stink machine) into the middle of town. Why wasn't it at least put somewhere like the waste water treatment plant area, not in a neighborhood in town?

Jeff Altoft is not a politician. He's just a good honest citizen who believes in this city and wants to keep it moving forward as the great city it is. He wants all the citizens, not just the

loud mouthed few, to know that it's safe for them to take back their freedom of speech and express their concerns without fear of being bullied or intimidated. Join me in voting for Jeff

for city council so we can get our city back from the bullies.

Thank you,
John Erickson
Lowell

form your own opinions and vote

Dear Editor,

This election is an extremely important one for our country. It's also very important for the city of Lowell. There is a call to make a change to the city council that was just elected in the past election. It's very important to do your research when getting ready to vote.

Don't just use rumor or hearsay to make your decision but take the time to look into it from proper sources. Know that your vote is coming from a place of truth. The democratic process has been set up with secret ballots to protect people from fear of bullying and reprisal. I was raised

in a family that believed in going to monthly township meetings and voting in every election. I form my own opinions and encourage you to do the same. I encourage you to exercise your constitutional right and elect the person who will keep Lowell moving in the right direction. Prayer is still our best course of action. Pray about your vote and pray that whoever takes office will do so from a position of respect and concern for the citizens they represent. Let's keep Jeff Altoft on the city council.

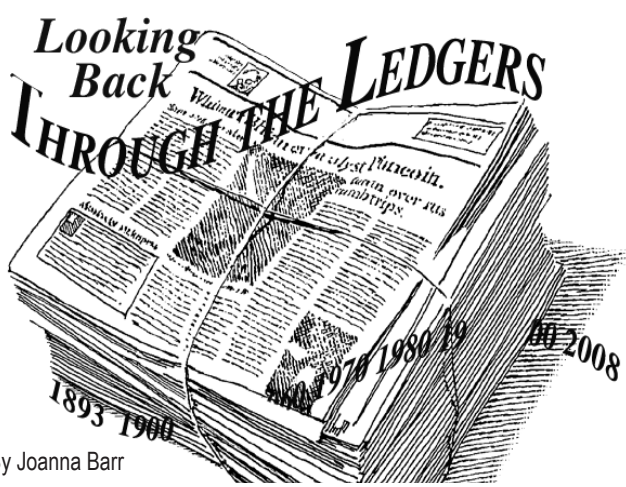
Vote, you lucky Americans,
Jeane Rockwell
Lowell

We love to hear from you!

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; duplicate comments/authors within a short period may be dismissed. Opinions expressed in "To The Editor" are not the views of the Ledger employees or the publisher. All letters are subject to editing. Thank you letters and advertising 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.



By Joanna Barr

125 years ago Lowell Journal

Oct. 21, 1891
No newspaper on record.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger

Congressman Mapes was calling on Lowell friends last week. He was told to go home and not worry about his vote in this section. Our folks know how to reward a faithful servant.

The Monday morning passenger train from Grand Rapids was delayed by a freight wreck at the curve between Grand and Flat river bridges in this village. A couple of empty flat cars were thrown off the track and mused some when the two engines failed to work together and the train buckled. No one hurt.

In direct violation of a Village ordinance, the electric light poles of the village have been placarded with signs "Vote Yes for Home Rule. Vote No for Prohibition." The poles are public property. The signs should be removed and the offenders punished.

The Clarksville Record usually arrives promptly but last Friday's issue did not show up until Monday. It seems that the editor's wife got out a fine special edition the day before; and dad was too dazed to get the regular out on time. It's a boy, Elbert Ray, born October 12, to Mr. and Mrs. Ray Spence, nee Abbie Ribble. Congratulations, Neighbor.

School closed Friday for two weeks on account of the potato harvest, Miss Hunt surprised the scholars with a dainty lunch of cake and cocoa.

Prices on eggs promise to break all records this winter. People are advised not to sell their hens.

Mrs. Harvey Haysmer entertained twenty little folks last Thursday in honor of her daughter Vivian's tenth birthday. Refreshments were served and all enjoyed a good time. Vivian received many pretty gifts.

Mrs. Whitman Kiel sustained a bruised ankle through the running away of her horse.

We are still getting this paper to press Wednesday evenings; but there are a few people who are making it as hard and expensive for us as possible by bringing in stale copy Wednesday afternoons. Last week an obituary several weeks old, a social affair ten days old and other similar matter and advertising were offered the last day in the afternoon when our force was busy with live news. Nothing to do but hire extra help or miss the Thursday morning mail.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger

Oct. 23, 1941
At the council meeting Monday night, C. H. Runciman announced that Lowell will have a W.

P. A. Sewing project this coming year. The project will start as soon as the council is able to provide a building. About 16 women will be employed for a year. The total wages to be paid out will amount to nearly \$300 a week. The project was secured through Mr. Runciman's efforts.

David Cox has returned home from a six weeks' trip to the Hawaiian Islands where he set up and demonstrated electric sorting machines to be used in picking coffee beans. Sorting of lemons with the electric eye is another possibility of the near future. The Runciman Elevator is now picking two carloads of beans every 24 hours and this capacity will be doubled by the addition of new machines in the near future.

Making big plans for Hallowe'en party. The annual Hallowe'en party for the young folks of the community will be held next Friday evening, Oct. 31, at Recreation Park. A. H. Stormzand of the American Legion is in charge of the affair with representatives from the Board of Trade and Rotary Club assisting. There will be many prizes this year, the prizes to go to the most terrifying, the most original and the most awe inspiring costumes. The "Parade of the Goons" will leave the high school at 7:30 p. m. and have an American Legion escort to Recreation Park where the program and contests will be held. Cider, friedcakes and apples will be served around a big bonfire.

The removal of the so-called bottleneck from the south side of the new bridge and the straightening of the sidewalk by the state highway department is a 100 per cent improvement for Main Street.

The young men of Lowell and neighboring townships will no doubt be greatly interested in the extensive campaign now under way in Michigan designed to secure enlistments in the U. S. Navy. Hundreds of new ships are being built and launched and men are needed to man these ships. "Earn While You Learn,"

LL&P approves cost of living adjustment for retirees

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The board of Lowell Light & Power had their latest regular meeting on Thursday, Oct. 13. The board heard a presentation about their fiscal year 2016 audit and gave retirees a “cost of living adjustment.” The meeting lasted over two hours and was not attended by any members of the public.

Accountant Peter Haefner of the Grand Rapids accounting firm Vredeveld Haefner described the utility’s audit as one of “the smoothest” he has ever been involved with.

“It was very straight forward,” Haefner said. “I think you’re very solid.”

The board unanimously voted to give their retirees a .2 percent “cost of living adjustment.” This issue will have to go before the Lowell city council next for final approval.

“It’s \$4,475. There is money in the budget for this so there’s no question that it’s my recommendation to go forward with this cost of living increase,” said Light & Power general manager Steve Donkersloot.



The board of Lowell Light & Power during their latest regular meeting on Thursday, Oct. 13.

The board paid a \$24,067.04 bill from OnPower “for labor and engineering work they have performed thus far to assist in the commissioning of the Siemen’s” turbine generator.

“Due to a number of hiccups that have happened during the commissioning of the combustion turbine

that we can talk about later, I do expect that we will incur more than a total of \$50,000 from OnPower for the commissioning of the combustion turbine,” Donkersloot said. “This [\$24,067.04] invoice has been completely budgeted for, but due to circumstances I do expect that we will

receive additional labor charges. We will have the capital funds available, they just were not allocated to this specific project.”

The board’s next meeting will be at the Light & Power headquarters, 127 N. Broadway, on Thursday, Nov. 10 at 6 pm.

health



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

acute sinusitis

The sinuses are hollow spaces between the bones of your face. Sinusitis is what happens when the sinuses are infected by a virus, bacteria, or both. Sinusitis is sometimes called rhinosinusitis or a sinus infection.

Patients with sinusitis may have pain or pressure in their foreheads or cheeks, or around their eyes. They may also have thick, cloudy mucus coming from their nose, aching teeth or a stuffy nose. They may have a fever. Patients with sinusitis often report having a cold that was getting better, but then started feeling worse again.

Sinusitis often happens after a common cold. When you catch a cold, the lining of the sinuses becomes swollen and the mucus becomes thick and sticky and doesn’t drain very well. The built-up mucus is a good place for bacteria to grow. These bacteria cause a sinus infection.

Treatment for sinusitis depends on what caused it. You will feel better by helping the sinuses drain. Drink plenty of fluids to keep the mucus thin. Get plenty of rest. Use moist heat to help loosen mucus. A saltwater nasal spray or Neti pot can help loosen mucus and OTC pain relievers can help with sinus pain and headaches. Do not take antihistamines (such as Benadryl or Claritin), as they make mucus thicker and harder to drain. Do not use a nasal spray with decongestant in it for more than three days, as the swelling in your sinuses may worsen when you stop using it. Your doctor may prescribe antibiotics if it appears that a bacterial infection is causing your sinus symptoms. It is important to take the antibiotic as instructed and to take all of the medicine until it is gone.

happy birthday

OCTOBER 19

Lydia Brenk, Nancy Brenk, Zachary Lee, Ty Stanford.

OCTOBER 22

Troy Abel, Aamir Ismail, Donna Potter, Devin Falk.

OCTOBER 20

Bob Hildenbrand, Michael V. Johnson.

OCTOBER 23

Bill Stouffer, Melody Kastanek, Lyle Morrison, Rachael McIntyre.

OCTOBER 21

Andrew Mercer, Madison Hacker, Jessica Alberts.

OCTOBER 24

Brian Ray, Tanja Greenfield, Don Miller, John DeVries, Lynn Perrien.

OCTOBER 25

Diane Pretzel, Bill Ellison, Amanda Stoutjesdyk.

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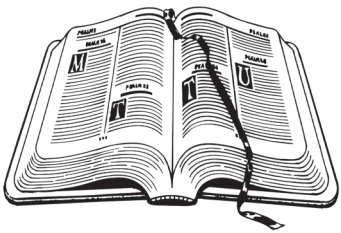
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~ Eubie Blake

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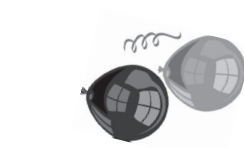
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Volunteers, continued

A home on Roberta Jayne needed a new wheelchair ramp. The old one had rotten boards, and the homeowner had trouble getting in and out of their residence.

"We redid the deck, the front steps and the railing," said volunteer Sylvia Taylor. "There is another crew coming to redo the ramp, because it's too long and it's too narrow. Accessibility makes such a big difference."

"This is one of the bigger projects," said volunteer Steve Flohr. "We made it safe and more usable, so they can't fall through the wood on the deck. It was not sturdy or safe."

City councilor Jim Hodges was part of a crew who built new back stairs at a house on Settlewood.

"We replaced an unusable set of steps with a brand new set of steps," Hodges said. "We're serving the community and helping people have a little better life. We're here to help enhance the community, and we had fun doing it."

"This program is so beneficial to the community and such a blessing," said one homeowner. "I just really appreciate it."

"That's Lowell," said volunteer Betty Morlock. "It's the best place to be."



Steve Flohr, Evert Bek and Sylvia Taylor repaired a deck and a wheelchair ramp at a home on Roberta Jayne.



Ken Willmarth, Jim White and Carol Duncan-Smith winterizing a few windows at a home on Washington St.



Volunteers from Lowell High School's Interact Club cleaning up trash on Main St. near Valley Vista Mobile Home Park.

...

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.

~ John Quincy Adams

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Candidate Questions & Answers



Ledger reporter Tim McAllister posed a dozen questions to the four candidates running for state representative in the 86th District. Thomas Albert, Bill Gelineau, Lynn Mason and Cliff Yankovich all responded and their answers appear on the following pages.



Thomas Albert



Bill Gelineau



Lynn Mason



Cliff Yankovich

What is the biggest challenge facing residents of the 86th District? What will you do about it if elected?

Lynn Mason, Democrat

Our State's infrastructure (roads, bridges, drinking water systems, airports, dams, wastewater treatments, broadband, etc.) is crumbling around us. The American Society of Civil Engineers has graded our infrastructure a "D," and that was before the Flint water crisis happened. Our decaying infrastructure puts citizens' well-being at risk, and negatively affects tourism and our economy. I would address these issues by forming a bipartisan coalition to design a plan that would make infrastructure a priority. I would work with my colleagues to secure low interest funding. We would outline the number of workers needed and strategize how to pay them a fair, decent and livable wage. Another way to place Michigan in the lead is to develop an alternative energy industry, creating jobs, helping business with energy costs, and giving landowners more options for energy saving systems. These are proactive vs. reactive approaches that will work to place our state in the top rankings once again.

Thomas Albert, Republican

Residents of the 86th District need a representative who will fight to reduce taxes and over-regulation. We need businesses that are not restricted from growing and creating good jobs. Additionally, we need a tax policy which does not overzealously take hard earning household income from families. As a state representative of the 86th District I will fight for families and job creation.

Bill Gelineau, Libertarian

Most of the people in our district are doing quite well. Our biggest challenge is recognizing the struggles of a smaller but not insignificant number of our neighbors who continue to fight day-to-day to make ends meet, ensure their kids are educated, and take care of themselves and others (primarily parents). I will continue to be a bullhorn for misdirected state resources – calling out our legislature for bad spending priorities. I hope to be appointed to committees that will allow me to work on mental health issues.

Cliff Yankovich, Green Party

The biggest challenge facing Michigan as a whole boils down to the power of money in politics. People from both major parties are consistently disappointed because they elect someone based on their promises only to see those disappear when the candidate gets to office. Our state is rated number 50 for transparency. We pass bills at 10 pm with NO public input. Our roads are terrible. School children were poisoned with lead contaminated drinking water in Flint. Our schools are being turned into for-profit enterprises. All of this happens because of the power of corporate and PAC money in Lansing.

Has the "Citizens United" ruling had a positive, negative or neutral effect on our elections? Why?

Lynn Mason, Democrat

The 'Citizen's United' ruling has had a negative effect on our elections. The people do not want more money in politics, especially if it is unaccountable and secret. This ruling has opened the door for unlimited election spending with little to no transparency. Money should not be driving our elections; people should be. I support a constitutional amendment to repeal Citizen's United.

Thomas Albert, Republican

In my campaign for state representative I am focused on knocking on doors and talking to voters directly. I believe that is the best and most effective way for me to share my vision with voters. The Citizens United ruling impacted federal elections, so it does not directly impact me. Regardless of that decision I am running to be state representative by personally connecting with voters on their doorsteps.

Bill Gelineau, Libertarian

The political left and right continue to argue about a court ruling in which donors can spend unlimited amounts of money shaping the political process. The U.S. Supreme Court has (for better or worse) ruled this legal for now. This argumentation misses the central point. Why are the fruits of government so beneficial that interest groups of all kinds spend millions shaping it? It doesn't really matter which gang (Rs or Ds) are in charge. The real problem is the big pile of money that becomes the process of government. Republicans fraudulently claim to want small government. I will work to reduce spending in meaningful ways....and will endeavor to be the William Proxmire (former U.S. Senator) of the Michigan legislature. We will hand out many Golden Fleece awards.

Cliff Yankovich, Green Party

One family pretty much controls the Republican party - they are nice folks who do a lot for Grand Rapids, but they wield way too much influence in Lansing. They spend millions

to influence elections and policies - that is wrong and I believe goes directly against the opening words of the Michigan Constitution: "All political power is inherent in the people. Government is instituted for their equal benefit, security, and protection." Art 1 Sec 1. That is why I am running as a Green Party candidate. We take zero money from corporations or PACs. We want to restore the promise of the Michigan Constitution.

Which presidential candidate do you support and why?

Lynn Mason, Democrat

I am disappointed in the direction that most of this 2016 Presidential campaign has gone. There is too much negativity, too many insults, and too many topics that shouldn't be a part of any campaign. The anger and frustration has boiled over. I'm angry too. Angry that we have too many students in our classrooms, too many crumbling roads and outdated water and sewer systems, and no apparent plan of action. The candidate who can answer policy questions with strategies and substantive answers, who can lead America toward peace, who can help build an economy that rewards hard work, and who would be welcome in a room full of children and young people will get my vote. That candidate is Hillary Clinton.

Thomas Albert, Republican

I am focused on supporting the constituents of the 86th District to the absolute best of my ability. I will always vote for what best supports good jobs and stronger families.

Bill Gelineau, Libertarian

Libertarian Party nominee Gary Johnson. First and foremost, he has a track record. As governor of New Mexico, he vetoed 750 spending bills and reduced the percentage of government to GDP by almost 20% in 5 years. He also maintained and even improved essential public services. We need to focus on efficient, low-cost delivery of ESSENTIAL services. And cut the fluff.

Cliff Yankovich, Green Party

After hearing her speak and researching her platform, I support Jill Stein. Her plan is not "pie in the sky." I would encourage people to read it directly from her web site. For example: America should be leading the world in terms of moving away from fossil fuels and moving ahead with renewable energy sources. Instead, countries like Chile and Bangladesh, never mind first world nations like Germany, are moving ahead in leaps and bounds while leaving us in the dust. Again, this speaks to the power of money in our politics. Big oil wants us dependent on last century's technology. Stein's vision is not clouded by money.

Should Michigan legalize marijuana for personal use? Why/why not?

Lynn Mason, Democrat

Michigan should, at the very least, decriminalize marijuana. There are too many people incarcerated for use or possession of small amounts. They instead should be dealt with at the treatment and prevention level. Before legalization occurred, I would want steps taken to answer questions about the safety of ingredients in the products that would be available. Would there be product integrity? I support the use of medical marijuana that is distributed in connection with doctor approval and care. If this issue came to me as a legislator, I would use the skills I have learned through my strong background in substance abuse prevention and treatment.

Thomas Albert, Republican

Any legalization of marijuana at the state level is a violation of the US Constitution. This is because federal law would require changing before the state of Michigan can move forward with considering the legalization of marijuana.

Bill Gelineau, Libertarian

Yes. The U.S. drug war is a total failure. 15-20% of our citizens continue to use marijuana on a regular basis despite the so-called prohibition. It's time to stop wasting public resources (police, courts, etc.) prosecuting this scheme. Use of mind altering substances and abuse should be treated as the health problem it is....and not as a criminal behavior. Responsible use should be left alone....whereas abuse (impaired driving, etc.) should be punished just as we would drunk driving. I've never tried pot (smoking anything is dumb, in my opinion).... but, it's time we leave people alone.

Cliff Yankovich, Green Party

Yes. The war on drugs is a farce - it has not worked. Studies show use of marijuana is almost exactly the same across all racial and socioeconomic groups. People in America and Michigan consume marijuana. The effort to put legalization on the ballot this fall was stymied in Lansing, which provides one more example of elected officials being out of touch with the will of the people/taxpayers. It should be handled like alcohol - legal, regulated and taxed.

Candidate Questions & Answers

Does it really matter if Hillary Clinton releases her emails and Donald Trump releases his tax returns? Why/why not?

Lynn Mason, Democrat

At this point, they matter very little. It is very important for voters to look at a candidate's total background. What have they accomplished? What experiences have they had? How do they handle themselves in challenging situations?

Thomas Albert, Republican

Running for public office is a high honor whether it is for local election or for President of the United States. I believe individuals running for office should be held to a higher standard and be open and transparent to voters. Secretary Clinton's refusal to be transparent with her emails and use of a private server is a reflection of her true character.

Bill Gelineau, Libertarian

Like so much of this campaign season, these are distractions. The media continues to focus on non-issues --- whilst the issues that truly matter to most Americans go undiscussed. How will they prevent us from sending thousands of young men and women off to another war? How will we pay for the huge financial disaster coming with Medicaid and Medicare? How will we upgrade our national infrastructure? These are issues..... emails and tax returns are just the latest way the major parties throw poop at each other (the preferred method of fighting among lesser apes).

Cliff Yankovich, Green Party

I am sick to death of hearing and reading about Clinton/Trump. People who support either one completely will not be moved by any further "revelations." My concern is with the future of Michigan. We need to protect and preserve the most valuable asset on the planet: Our freshwater. This is not just a "tree hugger" talking, I am talking about the monetary value of fresh water. Water is life. Our governor just appointed an oil company lobbyist to be in charge of our lakes, rivers and streams. That is a primary concern to me - not emails or tax returns.

How should Michigan handle and pay for all of our badly needed infrastructure improvements, including roads, bridges and utilities?

Lynn Mason, Democrat

Michigan should borrow money when the interest rates are low. There should be a plan of action created that prioritizes the areas of greatest need. Workers should be hired and paid a decent wage that provides them more disposable income to spend in the local economy. The tax revenue generated could be dedicated to pay down the debt.

Thomas Albert, Republican

The \$1.2 billion road funding package that was passed by the Republican controlled legislature and signed into law by Governor Snyder should greatly improve our crumbling infrastructure. Fixing our infrastructure is about setting clear priorities in our budget and ensuring we have good roads and bridges to drive on. If elected I will be a strong advocate for setting priorities to fix our roads with existing resources, not increasing taxes.

Bill Gelineau, Libertarian

We've built too many roads and bridges by irresponsible cost sharing models. I would work to re-shape the responsibilities of the State to ensure trunklines and major highways are maintained by MDOT. Counties and local jurisdictions should pass specific bond proposals to cover a greater percentage of the cost of local improvements AND should set priorities on how those are maintained.

Cliff Yankovich, Green Party

Frankly, I believe there is enough money in Lansing. If we can give a billionaire millions in tax dollars so that he can build a sports stadium in which he will make more millions, then we can repair roads. If we can give a Swiss corporation (Nestle) millions in tax relief and let them pull 212 gallons of freshwater a minute from our aquifers for almost nothing and then turn around to sell it for millions in profit, then we can fix bridges and replace water lines. Corporate welfare takes million dollar chunks from our budget. Companies with billions in profits do not need our tax dollars. The ultimate irony is that Nestle is selling millions more gallons of water they get for almost nothing because of the Flint crisis. The spokesperson for Nestle in Michigan is Deb Muchmore. She is married to Dennis Muchmore - who until January of this year was Governor Snyder's chief of staff. Does that help make my point about corporate welfare?

Should the U.S. Senate continue to obstruct Merrick Garland's nomination to the Supreme Court? Why/why not?

Lynn Mason, Democrat

Merrick Garland's credentials seem to be top-notch. He has received universal praise from both Republicans and Democrats. Looking past political titles and biases is hard work, but necessary. If the nominee is qualified, the Senate should hold hearings and vote.

Thomas Albert, Republican

As a candidate for state representative, my focus has been issues at the state level. However, as demonstrated by this question, I think we all can agree that Congress and our federal government is broken. If elected to the state house, I will be an advocate for West Michigan and fight for real solutions to our state's problems, not patrician bickering as we see too much of in Washington DC.

Bill Gelineau, Libertarian

Of course not. This is raw political nonsense. However, it's not really relevant to the office of State Representative. This is part of the problem in our political discourse... where we have to have "battles" about everything - and someone running for State Representative should focus on the issues that truly affect our area.

Cliff Yankovich, Green Party

No. This has never happened in the history of our country. Part of the system is that the seated president gets to appoint judges. I am not a fan of Obama, but he won the election. Twice. That means he gets to appoint judges.

Q & A, continued, page 10



WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE | IMPROVEMENTS

It Changes Communities

The presidential election isn't the only one you should be fired up to influence at the ballot box. In fact, your local representatives, mayors and council members have more day-to-day impact on your life than the president.

Local elected officials make decisions on policies that directly affect your lives, from when and how you'll vote.

THE KIDS

Children cannot vote, but our community's laws and policies will impact them, especially when it comes to education. Our children are depending on us to represent their voices at the voting booth, and we must make sure we don't let them down. Educating children, one of the best ways to ensure a bright future for our democracy is building a well-rounded child at an early age. Talk to your children or students about why voting is so important to democracy and how it can impact things that are important to them—like school, playgrounds and public parks.

THE IMPACT

Your local representatives fight hard for your personal rights at the highest levels. They're responsible for things like: pension security, taxes and health insurance issues are a few of the most important aspects of your life that can be influenced by your local officials.

When you vote you are telling local officials how you feel about these issues. Your vote can influence decisions on funding for schools or roads that you or family members may see every day.



LOCAL CREDIBILITY

Citizens who vote hold more credibility over their non-voting counterparts when talking about issues in their communities around the water

cooler at work or in the classroom at the high school football game, politics are likely to pop into the conversation.

When you place your vote, your voice is one more powerful and

justified in publicly conveying your feelings on specific issues. Whether you agree or disagree with a certain policy or legislative item, your thoughts will be considered more vital to the public community you vote.

Candidate Questions & Answers, continued

How can Michigan's educational system be improved?

Lynn Mason, Democrat

Michigan's education system can be improved with state leadership that values our public education system again. Public education helped to build our great state and country. The current funding levels are some ten years behind schedule. We need to put the public education system back into the hands of the educators and the local districts who will work with parents, families, and their communities. Professionally trained educators know how to evaluate students appropriately and are prepared to present content in meaningful ways. Too much standardized testing is getting in the way, and our children are suffering from it. I have been a public education advocate for my entire adult life and I will fight to keep the profiteers and privateers from pocketing the money that should be going to our kids. Bringing respect back to the profession of teaching is a top priority of mine.

Thomas Albert, Republican

I believe strongly that a good education starts at the local level. I will fight to empower parents by providing as many educational opportunities as possible for their children. I also believe that we need to empower local school boards, administrators and teachers to be nimble and adjust to local challenges that arise. Lansing or Washington DC does not have all the answers. We need to provide more power to parents and local districts.

Bill Gelineau, Libertarian

I have long advocated for MUCH more power and responsibility (they come together) for ensuring a good education be given to parents. Continuing the create more educational models like the Khan Academy – whereas learning is ongoing and virtually free. The brick and mortar “schools” of the 19th and 20th century are becoming dinosaurs. I believe the support for traditional school systems (and the financial support thereof) will continue to decline as ordinary folks recognize the power of online learning tools. And it's all FREE. Responsible leaders need to get ahead of the revolution by creating a more efficient “product” in schooling. We even need to rethink the concept of “classroom.”

Cliff Yankovich, Green Party

We need to stop the influence of the one big checkbook in Lansing. They want to break the teacher's union and turn schools into for-profit endeavors. My mom was a teacher, I can tell you first hand they work a lot more hours than just when the school doors are open. I used to think standardized testing was a good answer. It is not. The three best teachers I can think of were creative in the classroom. They made learning a challenge. The worst teacher I ever had sounded like he was teaching the same thing on the same day of the year, year after year. Teachers should be highly educated and well paid. We pay a lot of lip service to “the children.” Why then do we not want to compensate the people who spend more time with the children than anyone else? Remember - I do NOT take any union PAC money. My positions about charter schools, teachers pay, and standardized testing have been reached by doing research, not cashing a check or going to lunch with a lobbyist.

Do you believe in climate change? Why/why not?

Lynn Mason, Democrat

I do believe in climate change. For too long, people have simply taken too little notice of how their actions have affected our environment. The extreme weather systems, the high amounts of asthma-like health conditions, the disappearing animal species, and the changes in water temperatures, are just some indications that our climate is changing due to human activity.

Thomas Albert, Republican

We are blessed to live in a state that has an abundance of natural resources. Not only do we have the Great Lakes but also we have thousands of lakes, rivers, streams, and a huge agriculture community that depends on our natural resources. I believe we need to protect our natural resources and ensure they are available for future generation.

Bill Gelineau, Libertarian

Someday, this will go in the category with “do you believe the Earth is flat?” The scientific community is in general agreement that human activities are leading to huge global changes. Denying that is akin to denying the Earth revolves around the Sun. However, I think we're a long way from any consensus on a solution. (Yes, I still believe consensus is important.) I don't support radical solutions that require massive taxes on carbon or large increases in government regulatory authority. Broad-based initiatives to encourage alternative energy – including a feed-in tariff in which we can all become individual energy producers (wind, solar) of the kind used in Germany is a good idea.

Cliff Yankovich, Green Party

This should not even be a question. I am 58 years old and I have seen the impact of mankind on the health of the planet. I am not asking everyone to ride a bicycle or live in the dark, but for the sake of our gorgeous state and our Great Lakes, we need to buckle down and look for cleaner, less destructive ways to live our lives. I am old enough to remember when the Grand River was a toilet - Nixon helped pass the EPA and now our longest river is in much better shape. We can do this people. It is possible to enjoy what we have in a responsible manner.



How could the Lowell biodigester's odor problem have been better handled?

Lynn Mason, Democrat

It seems to me that there could have been more communication and discussion on the implementation of the biodigester prior to its construction. From what I have seen and read, the people of Lowell have had enough. It is encouraging to see that citizen action and involvement helped move the issue. It is tough being an elected official when dealing with issues such as this.

Thomas Albert, Republican

The odor problem is unacceptable. Local businesses and homeowners should not have that odor as a daily disturbance. That being said, we live in a regulatory climate which demands renewable energy be 15% of our total electric generation. Biodigesters are used in other municipalities with no public nuisance, so the operator of the facility needs to ensure the right equipment and best practices are in place.

Bill Gelineau, Libertarian

Any business that fails to meet air quality standards should be treated the same way. I'm not sure there are simple answers that could have predicted these problems.

Cliff Yankovich, Green Party

The response time was terrible. It is my understanding that most biodigesters are installed in new, purpose built facilities and ours was retro-fitted which exacerbated the problem. That does not excuse the extreme amount of time it has taken to address and correct the problem.

Are you in favor of the Lowell city council recall election? Why/why not?

Lynn Mason, Democrat

I support citizen democracy. When people get a chance to use their voice through a vote, that is a good thing. This issue shows the importance of transparency with elected officials.

Thomas Albert, Republican

The citizens of Lowell have the right to exercise the established political process. As in any fair democratic system it is up to the people to vote to support who they so choose.

Bill Gelineau, Libertarian

I do not live in the city and have not followed this closely. Generally, recall elections have been misused. Public officials should only be recalled when evidence of malfeasance is present. We have ordinary elections to change the course when we don't like how individual members have voted.

Cliff Yankovich, Green Party

Even though we own a building in town, I cannot vote in Lowell, so I have kept out of this situation the entire time. Ivan Blough asked me to join Voice when he first put it together and I gave him the same answer. The extreme divisiveness is a sad reflection of our country as a whole. What I love about Lowell is our ability to put aside differences and work together. Think of Pink Arrow, FROM, Neighbor 2 Neighbor, etc. In fact, the power of community I learned in Lowell helped inspire me to run for office.

Should people vote for the Lowell Area Schools operating millage? Why/why not?

Lynn Mason, Democrat

Yes, operating millages provide the resources to keep our children's schools strong. This is a continuation of the current operating millage and will not raise homeowner's taxes. Lowell has great schools and it is my hope that the people vote in favor of continuation of this funding.

Thomas Albert, Republican

Just to clarify, the Lowell Area School operating mileage on the ballot is a renewal and not a new tax. I personally do not live in the Lowell School District and do not have a vote in this issue, but I believe this renewal is important to the Lowell School District and would support it.

Bill Gelineau, Libertarian

This is an incredibly complicated issue not well-suited for short answers. I believe the Lowell district is MUCH too large and the cost factors for transportation and other areas are outliers compared with other districts. Our total cost/student continues to be high compared with a statewide model --- but, when compared with Forest Hills and Rockford (who Lowell aspires to emulate). Having said all that, non-renewal of the 18 mill non-PRE millage would be the equivalent of unilateral disarmament. I am voting YES and would encourage others to do so. Beyond that, all voters should get more involved to understand how we can save money and make our community affordable for everyone.

Cliff Yankovich, Green Party

Yes. Bear in mind that I am encouraging this even though as a commercial property owner I do and will continue to pay a much higher millage than homeowners, but I believe schools set the tone for small towns. Schools and Main Street business are co-dependent. Greg Pratt gets this. Our schools rock, we have some of the best teachers in Michigan.

Red Arrow

- FOOTBALL

SPORTS

Arrows earn another fourth quarter win over Huskies

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Despite a slow start, a pair of fumbles, missed extra point attempts and a slew of personal fouls, it was another fourth quarter win for the Red Arrow varsity football team last

Friday night at Forest Hills Northern as they staged their second comeback in a row, scoring 14 late and unanswered points, to top the Huskies 41-34 earning their eighth season victory.

The Huskies hit the field taking their first possession to the end zone to grab an early lead that would last until the final stanza of the game. They were able to strike again after recovering a fumbled ball during the Arrows' first possession on their own twenty-yard line good for a second score and a 14-0 lead.

Red Arrow Nate Stephens was the first to score for Lowell finding the end zone after a combined 43-yard rush. This was the first of two first quarter touchdowns for the senior, who also scored on a one-yard rush with just seconds on the clock. In the second quarter, with FHN ahead 21-13, Stephens picked up his third and final touchdown of the game after a fiercely fought 13 play 73-yard rush pursued by Stephens and

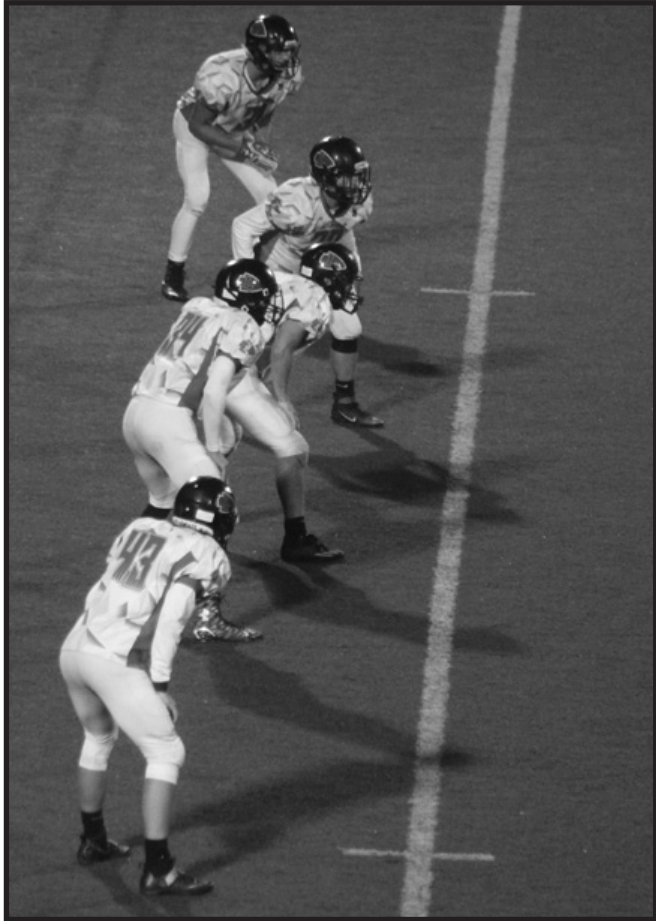
quarterback David Kruse. In total Stephens carried the ball 16 times for 95 yards and picked up one pass good for four.

Kruse was the night's leading rusher racking up a massive 242 yards on 29 carries and three second-half touchdowns that brought Lowell out of their 28-19 halftime deficit into victory. Kruse earned the first of his trifecta in the third on a 73-yard quarterback keeper. The second two touchdowns came in the fourth with the final being scored with just a minute left in play sealing the comeback 41-34 victory. Kruse also completed 5/9 passes good for 164 yards. On the receiving end were Hayden Barry who earned 98 yards in two catches and Addison Buckius who caught twice for 62 yards.



Lowell vs FHN

Score	41	34
First Downs	16	20
Rushing Attempts	49	34
Yards Rushing	346	102
Yards Passing	164	360
Net Yards	510	462
Passes Attempted	9	39
Passes Completed	5	19
Interceptions	0	2
Offensive Plays	58	73
Average Gain	8.8	6.3
Fumbles: Number/Lost	2/2	0/0
Penalties: Number/Yards	5/36	6/67
Number of Punts/Yards	1/50	2/21
Average Per Punt	50	10.5
Punt Returns: Number/Yards	1/0	0/0
Number of Kickoffs/Yard	7/318	6/240
Average Per Kickoff	45.4	40
Kickoff Returns: Number/Yards	5/70	4/136
Int. Returns: Number/Yards	2/33	0/0
Possession Time	21:29	26:31
Third-Down Conversions	6/10	7/11
Fourth-Down Conversions	1/2	0/3



The Arrows ready to receive a kick during the team's eighth straight season victory.

The win sealed Lowell's position in the OK White earning them their fourth consecutive conference title. This week Friday, the Arrows will look to maintain their undefeated record, 8-0 overall and 5-0 in conference, in their last regular season game against OK conference competitor Northview High School on the road at 7 pm.

- SOCCER

Arrows pick up two shutouts; head to districts on top

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell boys varsity soccer picked up their tenth and eleventh shutout of the season and their fifteenth and sixteenth season win last week taking on OK White competitors Ottawa Hills and top-ranked Forest Hills Northern in a pair of successful road challenges that wrapped up their regular conference schedule.

Tuesday the team headed to Ottawa Hills where they earned a 3-0 victory dominated by Red Arrow Jonny Draigh. Scoring all three goals, Draigh had a big night finding the back of the net twice off balls slotted by Colin Bowers and picking up the hat trick after using his head to capitalize on a free kick from teammate Elijah Dixon.

Thursday at FHN the Arrows faced the top-ranked team with similar results. Topping the Huskies 4-0, Lowell controlled much of the pace and possession in the game. The Arrows scored early in the first half after Bowers pushed

a series of passes from Jacob Thompson and Jay Stadt into the net to take the 1-0 lead. Bowers struck again about twenty minutes later with the assist being credited to Dixon.

Second half scoring was achieved by Jonah Epema who made good on an penalty kick to put the Arrows up 3-0. Logan Landman added the last goal with less than a minute left in play after nabbing the ball from FHN and winning a showdown with their defenders en route to the net.

The Arrows' defensive unit logged yet another shutout with the win as they continue to work cohesively, quickly and effectively on the field according to head coach Rick O'Keefe. "The defense led by Jonah Epema, Elijah Dixon, Tristan Stephens, Ben Nofke and goalkeeper Trevor Sherman played well to complete their eleventh shutout for the season," said O'Keefe.

The Arrows are at the top of the OK White conference with a record of 9-2-1 and an overall record

of 16-3-2 with district competition scheduled for this week at Northview High School. Round one was held

Monday night and round two will be Wednesday at 7 pm with a Monday victory.

A second win will propel the Arrows to the finals on Saturday at 3 pm.

Sports Summaries



BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

Lowell's Red Arrow runners hit the course last Saturday at the Kent-Ottawa Invite held at Gainey Field and earned a fourteenth-place 394 point finish. The effort was led by Caleb Swart who broke the school's freshman record with a time of 17:26 placing 48th in the pack. Other runners scoring for Lowell were Eric Judd who clocked a 17:51, Kyle Cater who came in at 18:20, Kenny Stump who ran a 19:19 and Calvin Simmet who placed in the varsity top five for the first time with a 19:34.

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Red Arrow girls varsity cross country team emerged from the Kent-Ottawa Invite last Saturday with an eleventh-place 268 point finish. The event, held at Gainey Field, saw Lowell freshman frontrunner Audrey Conrad log a personal best time of 21:02 to lead the Arrow pack. Teammates Lauren Aud (21:04), Katrina Droski (21:52), Dawn Kondor (22:15) and Alexis Haines (22:30) rounded out the top five runners.

VOLLEYBALL

Varsity volleyball took to the court several times last week further enhancing their winning season schedule with victories over fellow conference competitor Ottawa Hills and Unity Christian only logging one loss to Zeeland East. Maria DeCator, Jill Fidler and Carly Hoekstra served up aces in the team's win over Ottawa Hills. Also making the

stat books were Sydney Powell with 29 assists, Abi Mangus with 11 kills and Fidler who also provided 34 digs. Zeeland East flipped the script at the same tournament beating the Arrows 3-0. Carly Hoekstra and Mangus provided two aces and four kills each with Powell leading in assists and Shannon Hoekstra throwing in two digs. At Unity Christian the girls came out on top after four sets winning 3-1 with Powell leading in assists and Mangus in both kills and digs. Saturday at Jenison the team competed in pool play making their way to the semifinals versus Grandville. Mangus served flawlessly for the Arrows earning 15 aces and also leading in kills.

GIRLS SWIM & DIVE

Aquatic competitors from the Lowell/Caledonia/South Christian girls swim and dive team added another win to their season last week Thursday when they competed against Wayland Union earning the win by a margin of 121-59. The team had a stellar outing overall placing first in all but two of their events.

GIRLS GOLF

Senior Paige Fosburg headed to Grand Valley State University's Meadows Golf Course last Friday to represent the Red Arrows in individual competition at the MHSAA Division II state finals. Paige capped off her final season with Lowell earning a 99 on day one and a 108 on day two for a card total of 207.

obituaries

ROGERS

Verna Doran Rogers passed peacefully into the next life Thursday, October 13, 2016. Our loving mother, sister, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend died at home in sight of her lake, in the house she and her husband built together.



She was independent and with her family, as she wanted. Verna was born in Grand Rapids, graduated from Lowell High School and worked at Keiser's Kitchen in Lowell before her children started arriving. She married the love of her life, George Rogers, in October 1948 and set out on their life together. Verna loved her life on Murray Lake, loved the sun (and always had an amazing tan), boating and raising her children within calling distance of her parents, James and Pauline Doran. Her days were spent corralling five rambunctious children, taking care of her extended family and working on family projects. Verna taught her kids to play chess and made chess sets, crafted Raggedy Ann dolls and tried to teach her children to play bridge. When the grandkids started arriving, she was a day-care grandma for years. Verna was a devout member of Saint Patrick Parish and attended weekly Mass until she became housebound. Verna is survived by her five children, Amy; Joseph, who cared for her devotedly full-time until she died; Timothy (Rita); Mary Grim Evans (Scot Evans); and Andrew (Jayne). Verna had 11 grandchildren, Adrian and Delaney and Daniel Nye; Nicolas and Victoria Ponte; Joshua, Jacob, Cody and Dylan Grim; and Megan and Kyle. She had 10 great-grandchildren, Hazel and Alice; Maya and Louis; James Timothy; Jake and Cole; Hayli and Wesson; and Brady. Her parents, husband, brothers, James Frank and John Gerard; and brothers-in-law, Dale Metts and Donald Stockinger preceded her in death. She is also survived by her sisters, Elizabeth Metts, Pauline McGlade and Mary Stockinger; special sister-in-law, Mari Gail Doran; and many nieces and nephews. Visitation was held Oct. 16 at the Johnson-Feuerstein Funeral Home in Belding and a Mass of Christian burial on Oct. 17 at Saint Patrick Church. Committal prayers followed in St. Patrick Cemetery. She was a beautiful, tenacious and caring woman. May perpetual light shine upon her.

Looking Back, continued

is the Navy's slogan and that slogan is literally true. The pay is good and grows better with advancement. Any young man interested in the navy may feel free to visit the Ledger office and secure what information is available. All we ask is that each young man leave his name and address.

Over 22,000,000 people will have to make out federal returns of income next year under the new law, and over 13,000,000 of them will have to pay taxes to the federal government, many of them for the first time. Some people will tear their hair in the endeavor to make a correct return.

coded. Postmaster Charles Doyle is urging postal patrons to return the cards promptly. Here is a chance to get your Christmas mailing list zip coded!

After the football game with Belding on Friday night the two concession stands and the press box were broken into and severely damaged. A quantity of pop and candy were stolen. Police have several leads they are checking.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger Oct. 23, 1991

School Board approves a 5.5% pay raise for Lowell Superintendent. A superintendent's salary and a few eyes were raised at the October Lowell Board of Education meeting.

"I don't understand how a millage can be passed, raises can be given, and then cuts affecting students can be approved," said a Lowell resident who wished to remain anonymous. "Superintendent Esch's contract was extended in March and his salary should have been renegotiated in May or June," Lowell School Board vice president, Ray Quada said. "With the millage just having been renewed, the timing probably isn't the best, but had it not been overlooked in June, it would have been done then." Esch's salary was raised by 5.5 percent, placing him in the top third of superintendents in Kent County. The raise brings his salary to \$77,774. He was eligible for a six percent raise. His salary conditions and contract extension are subject to annual negotiations. Esch's retirement annuity was increased by \$500 to \$3,000. What many may not understand is the fact that most of the school employees' raises are anticipated. "It is something the school budgets for," Lowell assistant superintendent Gary Kemp said.

Need your leaves raked? The Lowell YMCA Leaders Club is available to rake your yard for you on the following Saturdays: Oct 19 and 26, Nov. 2 and 9. You supply the bags we will do everything else. No set fee, just a contribution to the club. Proceeds will go towards club members who will be attending Leaders Training School. Call the Y-office to set up your appointment, 897-8445.

Spooky fun on Halloween! The Lowell Area Fire Department is hosting a haunted house at the Look Memorial Fire Station on Halloween night.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger Oct. 20, 1966

The story along Main Street this week was that the local Ford dealer had come to a parting of ways with the company and Ford Motor Company was looking for a new Lowell outlet. Maybe it's only wishful thinking?

Lowell Postoffice distributed 2100 zip code cards which allows residents to have their address list zip

In Memory of DONALD FIZER Who left us 20 Years Ago



Loved and missed by his entire family

I couldn't believe it
when I heard you were gone.
Without you in my life I wondered how I'd go on.

I cried as I tried to decide what to do,
So I'm writing this poem as a small tribute to you.

You were always there when someone
needed a friend, and so generous
when you had anything to give or lend.

You worked so hard to make everything right,
always tried to achieve the best
with all your strength and might.

You changed the lives of
so many every single day
knowing very well that your
kindness some could not repay.

You were always giving with
no thought of yourself,
knowing the friendships created
were the true wealth.

Now that you're gone
we must all be strong,
even though we know in our
lives is where you belong.

I miss you so much my
Grandpa, my friend,
but I know you'll be
with me until the end.
Liz Lovick - 10/30/86

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

C	L	A	S	P	U	S	E	S	L	O	B	
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2	8	7	5	6	3	1	9	4
9	4	6	2	8	1	3	7	5
7	5	8	4	1	6	2	3	9
4	9	1	8	3	2	5	6	7
6	3	2	7	5	9	8	4	1
1	7	5	3	9	8	4	2	6
8	6	4	1	2	7	9	5	3
3	2	9	6	4	5	7	1	8

CITY OF LOWELL

OAKWOOD CEMETERY FALL CLEAN UP NOTICE

The annual clean-up of Oakwood Cemetery in the City of Lowell will be the week of October 24 through October 30, 2016.

Please remove all arrangements, baskets, etc. you wish to keep by Sunday, October 30, 2016.



Susan Ulery
City Clerk

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EARTH TALK™

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: You hear a lot about solar and wind energy, but what's new in efforts to generate electricity from ocean waves? - Melanie Bernstein, New York, NY

Wave power advocates cheered in September 2016 when Hawaii-based Naval researchers started feeding power from two experimental offshore wave energy devices into the grid on nearby Oahu, representing the first time the American public could access electricity derived from ocean waves. The trickle of energy from these experimental devices doesn't amount to anything substantial yet, but wave energy's potential is huge.

Analysts think we could derive at least a quarter of U.S. electricity needs by harnessing wave power around our coasts. Most other countries around the world have coastlines they could exploit for wave energy, as well, if engineers could create affordable technology to capture and transport the energy back to shore where it would be used to power local communities or get fed into existing larger power grids.

But just because we can tap ocean energy big time doesn't mean we necessarily will, given the high costs of getting started, technical issues with maintaining offshore equipment, and the challenges of scaling up for mass consumption. The world's first experimental wave farm, the Aguçadoura Wave Park off the coast of Portugal, went online in September 2008 with three wave energy converter machines, but ceased operations only two months later when bearings on the equipment gave way, underscoring the technical challenges of running complicated heavy machinery in unstable marine environments.

While such technical problems may be frustrating, financial concerns loom larger over wave energy's future. Two of the biggest wave energy endeavors in the world, Pelamis and Aquamarine, both based out of wave-battered Scotland, went belly up recently despite funding from the Scottish government and plans to build out the biggest wave energy farms in the world based on the success of earlier prototypes.

Aquamarine's CEO John Malcolm chalked up his company's demise to "the considerable financial, regulatory

and technical challenges faced by the ocean energy sector as a whole." Meanwhile, cheap natural gas and the surge in solar and wind power options have kept ocean energy on the back burner.

But wave power is far from dead in the water. Besides the experimental wave farm off Oahu, two larger projects are being built off the coast of the United Kingdom, while three additional projects are underway around Australia. Funding for these projects has come from not only the host governments but also the private sector. American defense contractor Lockheed Martin, for one, is a big player in deployment of wave power technologies and is a driving force behind the 19 megawatt, grid-connected wave power station currently in the works near Victoria, Australia.

Here in the U.S., wave energy advocates say the federal government has done too little to encourage research and development in this promising niche of the energy sector. Subsidies and tax incentives helped solar and wind power grow from pipe dreams in the 1980s to significant players in the global energy mix of today. Wave power advocates would like to see similar incentives employed to boost the development of ocean-based renewable energy sources, but for that to happen the American public will need to speak up to get Congress to act.

CONTACTS: Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative, www.hawaiicleanenergyinitiative.org; Lockheed Martin, www.lockheedmartin.com.

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Stabenow announces nearly \$1.9 million in support for Michigan fruit, vegetable and nursery producers

U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), ranking member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, announced nearly \$1.9 million in critical funding to support fruit, vegetable, nursery, and floriculture producers across Michigan. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Specialty Crop Block Grant Program will award

\$1,887,408 million to support 20 specialty crop projects throughout the state.

"Today's announcement is great news for Michigan growers, who will be able to more effectively sell their products at local and regional farmers' markets, protect their crops from pests and diseases and develop better production and food safety practices," said Senator

Stabenow. "Support for fruit, vegetable, nursery, and floriculture producers has been a top priority of mine and I will continue to work so that Michigan families have better access to local and health[y] food options and Michigan growers have the tools they need to succeed."

In 2008, Senator Stabenow authored the first ever fruits and vegetables

section of a Farm Bill in history that supported specialty crops - fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, nursery products, and floriculture. Stabenow's 2014 Farm Bill strengthened support for specialty crops and made major investments in organic crops and local and regional food hubs.

Discover a whole world of retirement benefits

Christopher Columbus might be one of the most famous explorers in America. He's credited with discovering the New World, though Native Americans were here long before the Italian sailor.

Centuries later, there are new horizons to explore and you can do it from the comfort of your home

or office. With Social Security, you can discover a new world of information and services at www.socialsecurity.gov.

For example, you can apply online for Social Security retirement benefits. Not sure whether you're ready for retirement? We can help you plot your course with our online *Retirement*

Estimator, which you can use to get quick and accurate estimates of your retirement benefits. You also can apply online for disability benefits and for help to pay the costs of the Medicare prescription drug program at www.socialsecurity.gov.

One of our most powerful tools is our website: *my Social Security*.

Create your online account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount and then you'll always have quick and easy access to see and update your information. You can use *my Social Security* to get estimates of your retirement, disability, and survivors benefits and view your earnings record.

If you already receive Social Security benefits, you can use your account to get an instant benefit verification letter and change your address, phone number, and direct deposit information. If you receive Medicare, you can get a replacement Medicare card using *my Social Security*.

You may be able to apply for a replacement Social Security card in certain states, all online.

We've made exploring your bright future secure and easy at www.socialsecurity.gov. Remember, we're with you through life's journey. Social Security online tools will help you decide when to weigh anchor, and venture into the seas of retirement.

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...
It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see.
~ Henry David Thoreau

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: HORROR MOVIES

ACROSS

- 1. Necklace lock
- 6. Put into service
- 9. Slovenly one
- 13. Center of iris
- 14. "Platoon" setting
- 15. Ben Franklin's invention
- 16. Naked protozoa
- 17. First prime number
- 18. Trail follower
- 19. *Norman Bates/Janet Leigh movie
- 21. *2002 horror flick starring Naomi Watts
- 23. Actress _____ Michele
- 24. Potato's soup mate
- 25. Not hook or cross
- 28. Fodder holder
- 30. Before Reuse and Recycle
- 35. Reunion attendee
- 37. Baptism or shiva
- 39. Enter user name and password
- 40. Delhi wrap
- 41. Abominable snowmen
- 43. Swine and avian diseases
- 44. Signs of things to come
- 46. "Will be," according to Doris Day
- 47. Cohen brothers' "Barton _____"
- 48. Public announcement
- 50. Bit attachment
- 52. #9 Across' digs
- 53. Like pinkish cheeks
- 55. Boston _____ Party
- 57. Go off on a _____, or deviate
- 61. *Jeff Goldblum's unfortunate teleportation experiment

CROSSWORD													
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69						70				71			
72						73				74			



OCTOBER 12 - OCTOBER 18

- From the land of "He can dish it out but he can't take it," Donald Trump tweeted this about last weekend's SNL skit, "Watched Saturday Night Live hit job on me. Time to retire the boring and unfunny show. Alec Baldwin portrayal stinks. Media rigging election!"
- WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange's Internet access was reportedly cut by an "unidentified state actor." Assange has been living in a London hotel for more than four years after skipping bail to avoid being extradited over sex crimes allegations and continues to deliver 'leaks' that may or may not be true about Hillary Clinton and others.
- A crippled bear nicknamed "Peddles" that walked on his hind legs and had become somewhat of a celebrity, was killed by a "hunter" this week in New Jersey.

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- 64. La _____ opera house
- 65. Freudian topic
- 67. Sag
- 69. Per _____, or yearly
- 70. Black and white sea bird
- 71. "Number the Stars" author
- 72. None of this for the weary

- 73. Soap-making ingredient
- 74. English county

DOWN

- 1. Number cruncher
- 2. Coal in a stocking
- 3. *Killer ones attacked in 1995's "Congo"
- 4. Female oracle
- 5. "Oh, The _____ You'll go!"
- 6. "Do _____ others as..."
- 7. *Movie featuring the killer Jigsaw
- 8. Be theatrical
- 9. Recipe command
- 10. Mischievous Scandinavian god
- 11. Baker's baker
- 12. Shipping hazard
- 15. Israeli money
- 20. *Like "The Wolf Man"
- 22. Of a female
- 24. 50-50 draw, e.g.
- 25. *Avenger in a hockey mask
- 26. Remember this battle site?
- 27. Chemistry lab glass device

- 29. *"What _____ Beneath" with Michelle Pfeiffer
- 31. Remove, as a hat
- 32. a.k.a. tangelos
- 33. *Dracula's title
- 34. Glorify
- 36. Short skirt
- 38. Michael Collins' country
- 42. Says, archaic
- 45. *Neve Campbell vs. Ghostface flick
- 49. Long period of time
- 51. Found in a haystack?
- 54. Diamond datum
- 56. 1970s big dos
- 57. Russia's 1917 abdicator
- 58. High school breakout
- 59. Grannies
- 60. Pig out
- 61. Puff of marijuana
- 62. Blues
- 63. Bygone era
- 66. Laroche or de Maupassant
- 68. Eucharist vessel

Puzzle solutions on page 12

SUDOKU

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

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Friday: 8 am - Noon
Closed Sat. & Sun.

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897-9261

LAST WEEK'S ONLINE POLL RESULTS

How important is religion in your life?

- Vital to my existence 33%
- Huge fairy tale 0%
- Important to meet people 0%
- Causes all the world's problems 0%
- Should be taught at an early age 22%
- Not important at all 45%

WWW.

thelowelledger.com

WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE | IMPACT

It Makes a Difference

It's Election Day. Do you know where your vote is? If you're keeping it in your back pocket, you may be doing yourself and those around you a civic disservice.

The fact is that your vote could make all the difference in not only winning an election, but in fulfilling your duty as a proud American citizen.

'BUT, MY VOTE DOESN'T COUNT'

While all heard the claim from non-voters that their one vote simply doesn't mean much in the grand scheme of things, especially in the presidential election that is determined by the Electoral College.

Not to mention, many politicians and pro-voting organizations.

There are some important events in U.S. history that were decided by just a few votes, according to the State of Illinois:

• Richard Nixon, not John F. Kennedy, would have become President of the U.S. in 1960 if one person from each voting place had voted differently.

• If just one U.S. Senator had voted differently, U.S. President Andrew Johnson would have been removed from office in 1867.

• Texas might not have become part of the United States in 1845 if one U.S. Senator had voted differently. The vote in the U.S. Senate was 27-23 to invite Texas to become a state. If it had been a tie, Texas would not have been asked to become part of the Union.

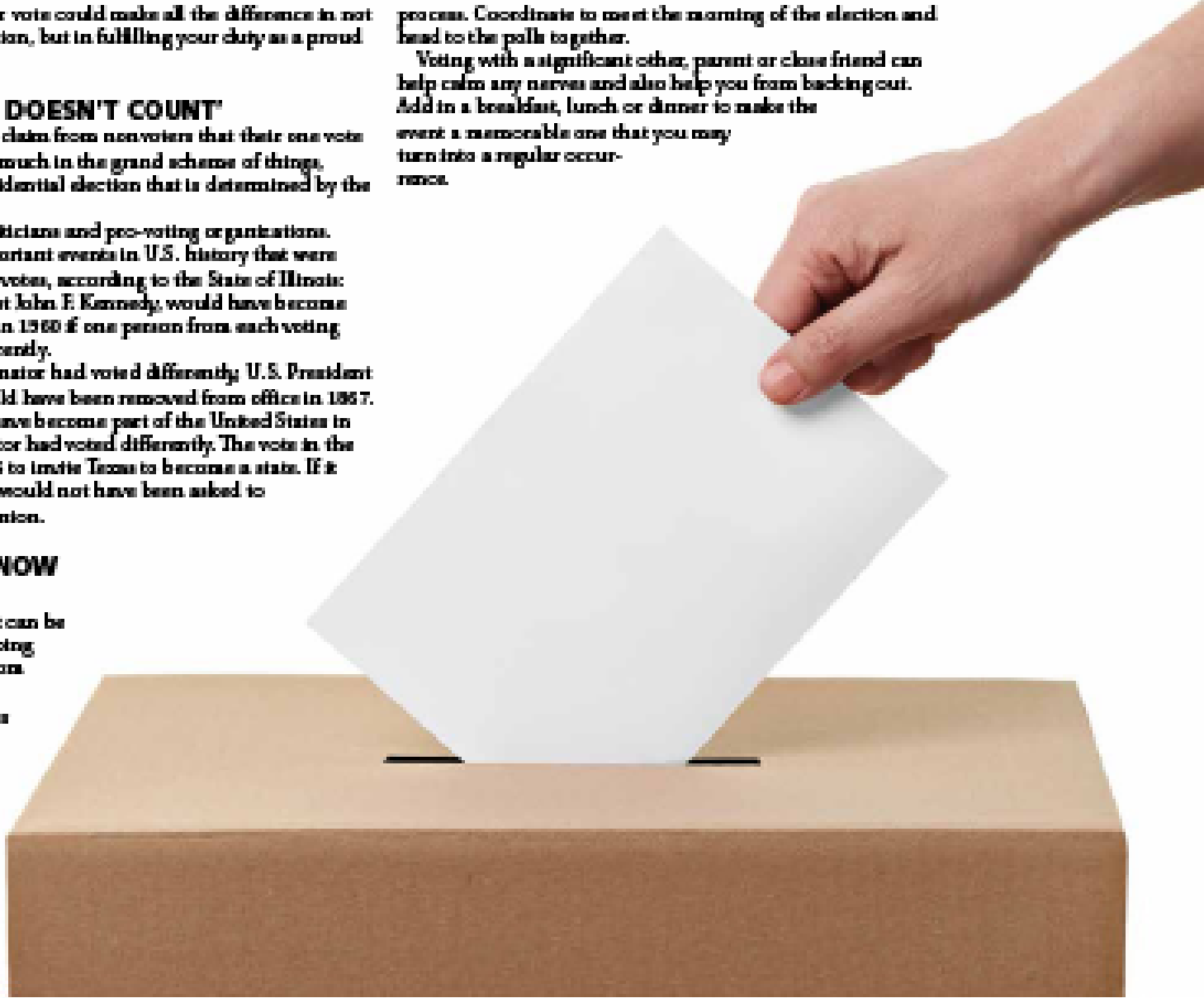
'BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO VOTE'

General discomfort can be a major factor in keeping many people away from the voting booth.

If voting felt like a daunting task, you or your loved ones need motivation to keep going. It can come in many forms, including family members or organizations in your planning process.

Coordinate to meet the morning of the election and head to the polls together.

Voting with a significant other, parent or close friend can help calm any nerves and also help you from backing out. Add in a breakfast, lunch or dinner to make the event a memorable one that you may turn into a regular occurrence.



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Honoring Our Area Veterans

The Ledger along with local businesses will once again be saluting area Veterans. The names and pictures we receive will appear in our November 9 edition in honor of Veterans Day, November 12, 2016.

If you would like to spotlight a Veteran living in our area, please mail or bring their picture along with their name, branch of service and years served to:

The Lowell Ledger/Veterans Page
105 N. Broadway - PO Box 128 - Lowell, MI 49331
OR email: displayads@lowellbuyersguide.com
Put "Veterans" on the subject line, type the name, branch of service and years served into the body of the email and attach the picture.

NOTICE

You **MUST** send a new picture this year. Even if, in the past, your service person was submitted.

Deadline for submission is noon, Friday, Nov. 4, 2016

For more information call the Ledger at 616.897.9261

You or the Veteran you are honoring must be from the Lowell area.

Honor Our Vets

Veterans Day, November 12, 2016