

military subscriber



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50 CENTS



Annual WWC WinterFest offered a flurry of activities from crafts to snowshoeing

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter



There were plenty of crafts inside as well as hiking the vast trails at the center.

Nature lovers were invited to the Wittenbach Wege Center last Saturday to celebrate their annual WinterFest inside and outside of the facility.

A flurry of activities took place at the festival including the Winter Waggle 5K. The informal race wove through the expansive trails at the center. Participants were able to walk, run, snowshoe or ski and then return to the center for snacks, hot chocolate and a snowflake-shaped completion medal. Fees from race registration will help support the center's future activities.

Those opting to hit the trails in a more recreational

fashion were given the opportunity to work on a nature inspired scavenger hunt or participate in trailside games. The center's supply of snowshoes was available for rent for just \$2 for the first 100 guests thanks to the support of sponsor Lowell Community Wellness. All-Weather Seal in Lowell also funded part of the fun community event.

Inside, arts and crafts were free of charge. Crafting paper cardinals, creating pine cone and bird seed feeders, nature origami and snowflake making were among the choices offered. Those in attendance were also treated to a demonstration from the

Michigan Bluebird Society titled Backyard Birding and Bluebirds. Hosted by society member Gene Wasserman, the presentation covered a variety of topics including how to sight and hear native birds, the different types of bird food and feeders and the specific needs of the bluebird. Guests built their own bird seed or suet feeders for a fee on site.

The Wittenbach Wege Center is open Monday through Friday from 7:45-3:45 and Sunday from 1-4 with Saturdays being reserved for special events. The center's trails are open to the public for no fee from dusk til dawn 365 days a year.

Mobile home park sold to owners of Key Heights

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Valley Vista Village, one of Lowell's two mobile home parks, was sold to First Holding Management Company, a firm based in West Bloomfield, Mich., on Jan. 12. The company owns commercial, industrial, residential and office properties all over the state and has also owned Key Heights, the other mobile home park, for several years.

"It is what we are considering, a sister

community to Key Heights," said Barb Brown, regional property manager for First Holding Management Company. "With the



employees that we have staffing that community, we could transition Valley Vista Village into a similar setting."

Valley Vista Village opened in 1972 and has not had many renovations since. Look for plenty of upheaval at the park, as well as a new name.

"There are going to be tons of changes," said Valley Vista Village community manager Fred Desero. "We're changing the name, buying new homes, putting

in new signage; this place is going to look like Key Heights does."

"It is going to be called 'Key Vista,'" Brown said. "We've already moved in two new homes and we have several that are abandoned that will be removed. We have three more brand new 2017 coming in this month. The plan is to continue that process. We get these five homes in there, get them all set up, get the sidewalks in place and then the goal is to keep buying new homes and

fill that place up." They plan to clean up the park with help from the community's residents.

"We are asking for [the residents] to help beautify the community and make it a place that they are happy to call home," Brown said. "We just brought in a dumpster for residents that want to start cleaning up as soon as possible. Lowell is a great town. Everybody seems to want to help each other there."

All Weather Seal giveaway winner announced

All Weather Seal has once again, donated replacement windows worth over \$15,000 to a local family through their Window of Warmth Giveaway.

All Weather Seal conducts a window of warmth giveaway once a year in December. "This give away is a great way to give back to the community and help a local family with energy costs," said owner Scott McDowell. The company takes nominations for the Window of Warmth giveaway all year long. All Weather Seal employees

then vote on the nominations at an annual year-end event to identify the recipient to receive the replacement windows.

This year's winner is Patty Inda. Inda is a Lowell native that has dedicated her time to provide for her family. Due to her medical issues and multiple surgeries, she is now unable to work. "The money I had saved up for windows had to be spent supporting my family," said Inda.

The next window of warmth give away will take place December 2017.



Patty Inda holds check along with All Weather Seal employee, Michael Trupke.

Twenty-seven servicemen honored at LHS game

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

At a recent Lowell varsity basketball game players stood beside some of the military's finest and honored their service to country. Created by the school's two new varsity coaches, Travis Slanger and Heath Kent, and coordinated with the help of students and parent volunteers the special military salute was featured with performances by the schools' choir and gymnastics team. 27 veterans or current servicemen were selected to be honored. Each walked to center court while stories of their lives and service were shared. The following is a list of those honored:

Coach Heath Kent honored his grandfather **Stanley Warszawski**. Seaman 1st Class Warszawski served in the United States Navy until his honorable discharge in 1946.

Coach Travis Slanger honored his grandfather United States Navy veteran **Walter Slanger**. Slanger is an active member of the American Legion.

Assistant coaches Mike King and Annemarie Shumaker honored **Scott Devroy**. Devroy, a 2007 Lowell graduate, is currently serving his eighth year of service with the Michigan Army National Guard including one year of active duty in Afghanistan. He is currently an Infantryman in Charlie Company, 1st Division, 125th Infantry Regiment.

Robby Schneider honored his grandfather **Paul Adams**. Drafted into the Army in 1964 Adams served for two years as a paramedic reaching the rank of Corporal.

Hana Steinebach honored her grandfathers **Charlie Babel** and **William Steinebach**. Babel served as the chaplain's assistant in Korea as part of his two years in the United States Army. Steinebach, a self described "lifer," served in the Army as well, attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel before his retirement.

Mitchell O'Gorman honored his grandfather **David Dick**. Dick joined the Air Force in 1964 and served in Laredo, Texas as a jet engine mechanic until 1968.

Mackenzie North honored her father **John C. North** and several other members of her military family. She also honored her brother **Jacob North** (Air Force), grandfather **John W. North** (Army) and uncle **Terry North** (Air Force).

Zach Petroelje honored his neighbor **Phil Schneider**. Retiring with 25 years of service Schneider joined the US Naval Reserve just out of high school and spent his career in the military. His time included two tours in Vietnam.

Darby Dean honored retired Navy commander **Dave Thompson**.

Christy Lyon honored her grandfather **Marvin Strong**.

Strong joined the Army National Guard during high school serving from 1956-1964.

Austin Pollock honored family friend **Richard Draigh**. Drafted into the United States Army in 1959 Draigh served two years stationed at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama.

Carly Hoekstra honored **Marvin Rosenberger Jr.** Serving during the

Korean War **Rosenberger** was aboard the USS Wisconsin Battleship in the Mediterranean Sea.

Andrew Poulton honored his father **Scott Poulton**. A 26 year veteran of the armed services Poulton spent six months in the Army on the front lines in Afghanistan and the rest of his time in the Navy where he served

Servicemen honored, continued, page 4



along main street

FOODMOBILE

Foodmobile provides food (mostly produce) to individuals in need and is available Feb. 11 at 10 am and runs until the food is gone. Foodmobile is one Saturday a month (except December) at the fairgrounds (at the Foreman building, 225 S Hudson St SE).

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Looking for a way to get involved in the community? Want to volunteer, but don't know what to do? Come to our volunteer orientation and learn about all of our day, evening and weekend opportunities. Our needs range from evening cashiers to daytime donation sorters with lots of options in between. Volunteer orientations at Flat River Outreach Ministries will be Thurs., Feb. 16 at 1 pm. Call 897-8260 for more information.

BLUEGRASS JAM SESSION

Free Bluegrass music jam session. Sat., Feb. 18 from 2:30 to 5:00 pm at the King Building at the fairgrounds. Come to jam or listen. Everyone welcome.

SMOKING CESSATION CLASSES

Free smoking cessation classes begin Tues., Feb. 21. Tobacco Free For Good class meets for six weeks on Tuesday evenings from 6-8 pm at Lowell Family Medical Center, 2550 East Main Street. Each participant creates their own individual quit plan. Friends and family members are welcome to attend for support. Registration encouraged. Call 616-446-7058.

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.

PROTECT YOUNG EYES PRESENTATION

The Lowell High School musical and student councils have joined to bring Chris McKenna from Protect Young Eyes to the Lowell Performing Arts Center for presentations about internet safety. He will present to all community parents on March 15 at 7 pm in the LPAC. Anyone and everyone is welcome. Complimentary babysitting during the presentation will be offered so parents can attend. No charge for the presentation. For more information call the LHS office at 987-2900.

SENIOR FOOD COMMODITIES

Senior Food Commodities provides low income adults 60 years of age or over with a monthly distribution of food that may include cheese, vegetables, fruit, grains, cereals and canned meats. Upcoming distribution dates are March 15-17 and pre-registration is required and must be completed a month prior to receiving food. Distribution is during regular food pantry hours. For more information or to register, contact Flat River Outreach Ministries at 897-8260.

TAX ASSISTANCE

FROM is providing free tax preparation and e-filing services (by appointment only) to qualifying families with an annual household income of less than \$62,000. Please call United Way at 2-1-1 to register and verify availability.

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Council revisits food truck issue, LHSM and VOIP system discussed

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The latest Lowell city council meeting at city hall was held on Monday, Feb. 6. The meeting lasted about 35 minutes and was attended by about 15 citizens.

The council spent some time discussing the inevitability of food trucks in Lowell. City manager Michael Burns researched what laws other local communities have on the books. Many nearby towns that Burns checked on (Belding, Cedar Springs, Rockford and Spring Lake) explicitly outlaw food trucks. Burns found two (Coopersville and Zeeland) that allow them, but with some reasonable rules, regulations and requirements. The council decided to base their potential food truck ordinance on one from Ferndale, Mich. and they will have a public hearing

about the issue at some undetermined point in the future.

“This Ferndale ordinance does look to be a great model,” councilor Jim Hodges said. “If you gentlemen [referring to Burns and police chief Steve Bukala] wouldn’t mind doing a little tweaking, bringing it back, presenting it to us and then after that maybe looking at our comments and then after that perhaps having a public hearing, getting some input and then I see us moving forward with it.”

“I think then the consensus would be to have [Bukala and Burns] bring back an ordinance that we can look at and edit,” said mayor Michael DeVore.

The council heard an update about all of the activities at the Lowell Area Historical Museum in 2016 from executive director



Lowell city council discussed food trucks and approved spending \$155,000 on a VOIP system at their meeting on Monday, Feb. 6.

Lisa Plank, including the completion of one of their more visible projects.

“We did a lot of great projects,” Plank said. “One very visible project was we installed five new interpretive boards in the historic district. This was the fourth year of a four year project, so we now have that project completed. [...] Each board tells a little bit of a story about what happened in that place in Lowell’s history. They’re all along Main St. and the Riverwalk. They’re out all year ‘round and really give people an opportunity to learn a little bit about Lowell’s history as they’re wandering our Main St. The boards also have scan codes that you can connect

to our website, so it’s a way for people to get in touch with the museum if they’re interested in learning more.”

The council voted to approve \$155,000 to upgrade communications in city buildings with a new VOIP system. The new system will save the city thousands of dollars a year and is supposed to pay for itself in two years.

“[The VOIP project] will result in savings of close to \$77,000 a year and that doesn’t take into consideration the 20 percent increase that we just all received from AT&T on Jan. 1 on all of our phone bills,” said Lowell Light & Power general manager Steve Donkersloot.



Lowell Area Historical Museum executive director Lisa Plank updated the council about all of the things the museum did in 2016.

Lowell city council’s next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, Feb. 21, a day later than normal because of President’s Day. They will also have a “Coffee with the Council” at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, 113 Riverwalk Plaza, from 8 am until 10 am on Saturday, March 4.

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP
 Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
 Synopsis of Minutes January 23, 2017
 Motions Approved:

1. Steve Christians as Zoning Board of Appeals member
2. Resolution 2017-004 Block Grant Funding
3. Resolution 2017-005 Supervisor Salary
4. Resolution 2017-006 Treasurer Salary
5. Resolution 2017-007 Clerk Salary
6. Resolution 2017-008 Trustee Salary
7. Add new cardboard only container to recycling area

Our next Township Meeting will be February 13, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. The approved minutes may be reviewed on our website at www.grattantownship.org

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Servicemen honored, continued

as a Sonarman and a Wings of Gold pilot participating in several Middle East conflicts including Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Dessert Storm.

Cassie Dean honored her grandfather **Curtis Cummings**. Cummings served from 1960-1964 in the United States Navy where he was involved in the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Joey Schaefer honored his grandfather **Fred Kubik**. Drafted into the United States Army at the age of 19 Kubik served in Vietnam from 1966-1968.

Kelly Reitsma honored **Rich and Patty Wade**. Patty served at Fort Hood as part of the United States Army from 1983-1987. Rich served the same place and time leaving with the rank of SP4/E4.

Will Reynolds honored his grandfathers **Al Reynolds**

and Marv Raffler. Reynolds served in the Navy for a total of six years. Army Sergeant Raffler served on the front lines in Vietnam for the Army for two years.

Riley Conlan honored Lowell graduate **Lucas Beachnaw**. The 2004 graduate joined the Army the same years serving two tours in Afghanistan where he earned seven medals including three Bronze Stars and was a top-rated sniper. Sergeant Beachnaw gave the ultimate sacrifice on the ground in Afghanistan in 2010 after being caught in a firefight.

Alex Powell honored Lowell graduate **Ben Richmond**. Colonel Richmond graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1993 and then served 24 years combined active and reserve service in the Marines. He served in both Iraq and Afghanistan and

is an active member of the Reserves in New Orleans.

Regan Coxon honored her grandfather **Richard E. Prins**. Prins left Western Michigan University to enlist in the United States Navy during the Korean War.

Nolan Cusack honored his grandfather **Thomas Frances Cusack II**. Serving at the rank of E4 or Spec 4, Cusack served three years in the United States Army serving in Germany.

Travis Cornell honored his father **Josh Cornell**. Cornell served four years in the Navy deployed in the West Pacific on the USS Towers and USS Francis Hammond.

Makyla and Austin Branagan honored their uncle **Larry Branagan**. Stationed in Hawaii, Japan, Philippines and Hong Kong, Branagan spent his years of service in the Marine Corps. He served aboard US Aircraft Carriers USS Boxer and USS Bonhomme Richard before his discharge.

Matt Beachler honored his great uncle **Kenneth C. Beachler**. Captain Beachler served two years in the Army Signal Corps and was promoted to Lieutenant in the Naval Reserve in 1968. He was stationed in active duty aboard the USS John F. Kennedy, Mt. Whitney and the Iowa where he earned the Thomas Jefferson Award for his service.

Addison Buckius honored his uncle **Daniel Rau**. Colonel Rau enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1992 and was stationed at Camp Lejeune and deployed to the Mediterranean. After his service he joined the Marine Reserve Unit in Grand Rapids where he served as an Infantry Squad Leader until 1997.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 16-199771-DE

Estate of
TAMARA HILL.
Date of birth:
11/29/1954.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Tamara Hill, died June 3, 2016.

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

forever barred unless presented to **William Leeder**, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Suite 2500, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

February 3, 2017

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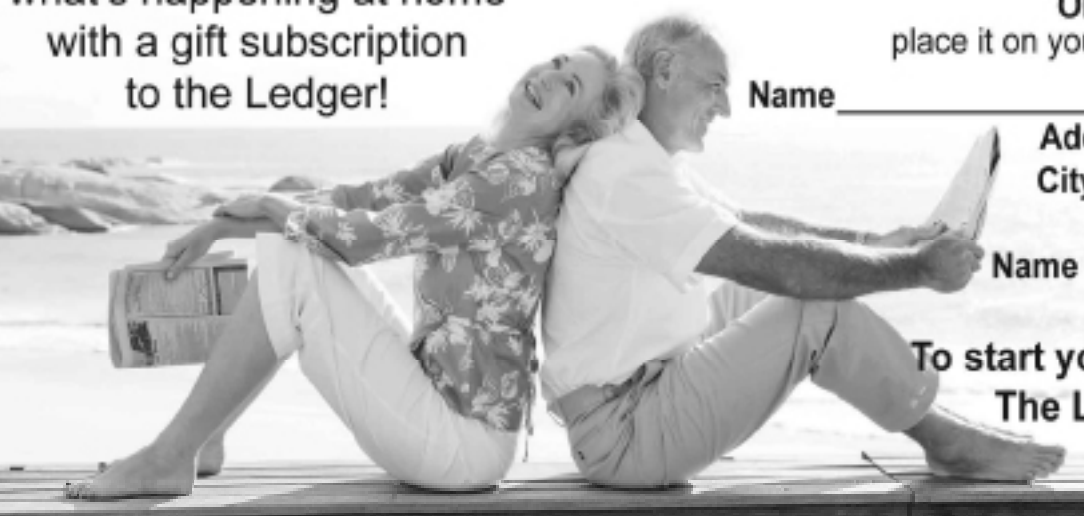
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viewpoint

to the editor

cheers to the women who marched

Dear Editor,

Regarding the letter from Carol Wittenbach Drenth in the Jan. 25 Lowell Ledger.

Mrs. Drenth states "she has never seen, read or heard anything related to the Republican Party that mentioned a negative view of women or a desire to take away a women's right to vote."

Well, first of all the

Republicans are doing their very best to make voting more difficult in many of our states. That's a fact. I believe that women live in those states!

I also believe the Republicans must have a negative view of women or they wouldn't work so hard to destroy Planned Parenthood or repeal Roe vs Wade. To me that shows a

derogatory and disrespectful view that women are so dumb that there have to be laws regarding their health and ability to make choices.

Mrs. Drenth goes on to state that she wonders how anyone can say Trump distrusts or hates women. Did she not see or hear about Trump's famous statements about women on Billy Bushe's bus ride? (Billy lost his job because of that conversation!) or how about Megan Kelly? Miss Universe? Carlie Fiorina ("look at that face!") or

all the women who have accused him of sexual harassment!?! How about Mrs. Kahn? As far as I see Trump respects only D.J. Trump.

Our country is in dire straits. I would like to be a builder of bridges – not walls. I too have hot coffee! Last but not least, cheers to the strong, smart, courageous women who marched in Washington, D.C. last Saturday. I'd love to meet you.

Susan Seime
Lowell

outdoors

choices

Dave Stegehuis

Times change as time moves on. Hunting and fishing methods have evolved along with the technical advancements found in most other aspects of our lives. Those who pursue fish and game now have to make choices about what latest equipment or methods to add to their must have or to do list.

Firearms manufactures offer dozens of different models in a wide range of ammunition. There are as many different sighting systems available to top off the firearm. Each of these items boast an advantage for using it, such as accuracy, range, convenience, durability, and in most cases a combination of all of the above. At the same time, all of this stuff really looks cool.

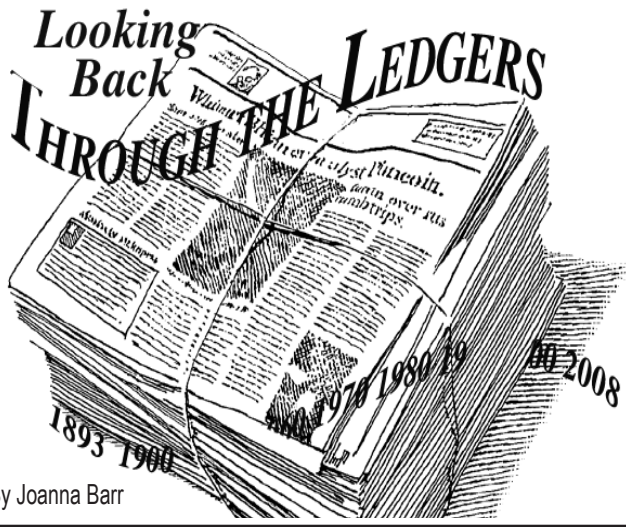
Game calls and scents to attract animals created another industry. Landowners and lessees plant food plots to support and attract game. Additional habitat improvement projects benefit both game and non-game species. G.P.S systems keep track of hunting dogs in the field. Trail cameras have advanced to the point where one can monitor

game movement in real time from the comfort of home. Hunting for many has become a year around activity.

Fishing has not changed as much but has not been left behind. Boats are more powerful and convenient. Chest waders are lighter and more comfortable. Fishing rods designed for specific purposes are lighter and more responsive. Reels and line are also designed for specific applications. The biggest advancement has been with electronic fish locators and underwater cameras. We now have the ability to see in detail what is below the surface.

All of these choices may seem daunting. The good news is that hunters and fishermen can participate at any level and still enjoy the experience. Wild game and fish have not changed. There are a number of bow hunters, for example, who use wooden long bows and cedar arrows. Others prefer to take advantage of carbon compounds or crossbows.

We all can make our own decisions on how to ethically and legally go about hunting and fishing. We have plenty of choices.



By Joanna Barr

125 years ago Lowell Journal Feb. 10, 1892

The Lowell Lighting and Power Co. will get located in their new plant at the dam this week. They will be nicely situated there and have ample power to rent to those in need and in quantities needed, from enough to run a sewing machine to power sufficient to run the flouring mills. If properly appreciated and pressed it can be made one of Lowell's strongest cards for future booms. In the past that undeveloped waterpower has been pointed to as one of the resources of this town and one of the chief factors for its future development, now the power is improved and the company is prepared to furnish any quantity of power needed. Lowell people should remember this great advantage we have to offer.

The new power for the L. L. & P. Co. was started last night for the first time. It worked nicely, but only furnished the incandescent current. A new dynamo has been put in there. The arc dynamo will probably be moved tomorrow (Thursday) and the old station near the L. & H. depot will then be abandoned

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger Feb. 8, 1917

John R. Keiser of Alto has taken the Overland agency for Lowell and expects to make his home here in the near future. He has rented the large new McQueen building, opposite the Hakes livery, and the same is being fitted up for garage and salesroom purposes, the alterations including a new floor and all necessary conveniences. Mr. Keiser expects to open in his new place of business before March 1, and will sell Overland and Willys-Knight cars. J. B. Merriman of

Grand Rapids was in town Tuesday helping establish the Lowell business.

Born, in Lowell Monday night, at the home of Henry Delk, a son to Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Stegeman (nee Nora Delk,) while the babe's grandmother lay dead in the house.

Two great pacifists have spoken in the German crisis. Mr. Ford tenders the use of his tremendous Detroit factory for government munitions work in case of war and offers to operate it without a cent of profit. Mr. Bryan hot-foots it to Washington to tell Congress and the people what to do. Both in his own way has done his best for peace, knowing that President Wilson, upon whom the burden of responsibility lies, has done likewise. In the final show down, we prefer Mr. Ford's exhibit.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger Feb. 12, 1942

Mrs. Charles Doyle, local chairman for the Red Cross, announces that up to date, with the \$29 contributed by St. Mary's Church, Lowell's donations for the War Fund are \$592.

The common house fly, already on the list of public enemies, has now been named as a carrier of infantile paralysis, says a university bulletin. This discovery, coupled with the knowledge that the dread polio virus can enter the human central-nervous system by way of the alimentary tract, emphasizes how important it will be this summer to keep flies away from the family victuals.—Utica Sentinel.

Thursday a. m.—Governor Van Wagoner said Wednesday he would submit a new message to the legislature allowing it to take Michigan off "war time" and turn the clocks back an hour. If the senate concurs in resolutions already approved by the house asking for such action.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger Feb. 9, 1967

The 1967 TIME Current Affairs Test, given at Lowell high school recently, was a 100-problem questionnaire based on national and foreign affairs. Topics covered in the test, to help students review recent news events of significance were: events of the year, the elections, the nation, the war, places in the news, the world, the newsmakers, other news events, newswords, milestones, and a true and false section. Phil Schneider, son of Mr. & Mrs Phillip Schneider, jr., Lowell, scored highest on the test. Sue Maitek, exchange student from

Looking Back,
continued, page 12

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.

health

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



screening for colorectal cancer

The U.S. Preventative Services Task Force recommends screening for colon cancer in all people over the age of 50. There are several different screening tests available, some better than others. You should discuss your preference with your physician. We will review the current tests available along with the pros and cons.

Fecal occult blood test: A test used to collect a stool sample at home. The slide is then examined in the office for blood. This is a non-invasive test that does not require any prep. This test should be done annually. This test is not as good as direct visualization; there may be more false negatives and false positive tests.

Stool DNA testing: A test is used to collect stool specimen at home. It is then mailed to a lab and examined for abnormal DNA that arises from cancer cells. This is another noninvasive test that can be done at home without any prep. This is a pretty accurate test but there may be more false positives than others leading to unnecessary colonoscopies. It is recommended every one to three years.

Colonoscopy: After bowel prep, the entire colon is examined with a scope while the patient is sedated. This is the most accurate test for colon cancer

screening and if normal, can be done every 10 years. The downside is the extensive prep done the evening before the exam and having to miss a day of work the day of the test.

Flexible sigmoidoscopy: A shorter scope is used to examine the left half of the colon after a less extensive prep (enema). The patient is usually not sedated for this test. If normal, this test is recommended every five years. The downside is that the entire colon is not visualized.

CT colonoscopy (virtual colonoscopy): A CT scan is done to look at the inside of the entire colon and rectum. A bowl prep is needed the night before and a small tube is inserted in the rectum to pump air in to the colon before the exam. This test is recommended every five years if normal. This test only takes about 15-30 minutes and does not require sedation. Sometimes incidental findings can be seen requiring further testing.

We usually recommend colonoscopy as the best and most accurate test but many patients don't want to go through a bowel prep or don't like the thought of having a scope inserted into their rectum. Just remember that any screening test is better than no screening.

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: What's new in eco-friendly light bulbs? Is it true that incandescent bulbs are back in a much more efficient form?

-- Barbara Birke, via e-mail

The consumer landscape for light bulbs in the U.S. changed drastically in 2007 when Congress passed the Energy Independence & Security Act mandating, among other things, that household light bulbs in the 40-100 watt range needed to up their energy efficiency standards by at least 25 percent. This change effectively took the tried-and-true yet inefficient incandescent bulbs that lit up the entire 20th century out of the marketplace—and compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs, long the first choice for those looking to save on electricity usage, rushed in to take their place. CFLs on average use about 75 percent less energy to generate the same amount of light as conventional incandescents—consumers switching their whole houses over to CFLs could save hundreds of dollars a year on their electricity bills.

While CFLs were a giant step forward in energy savings and reduced the carbon footprint of lighting up our world, they contain trace amounts of mercury, a potent neurotoxin, that is sent airborne when they break. While CFLs still dominate domestic light bulb sales, their time on top may be short-lived given the development of even more efficient bulbs based on mercury-free light emitting diodes (LEDs). An LED uses around 90 percent less electricity than an equivalent incandescent bulb and almost 60 percent less than a CFL to generate an equivalent amount of light. While LEDs do contain trace amounts of lead and arsenic,

they are a lot less likely to break than CFLs and last a lot longer.

The surge in popularity of LED bulbs has led to lots of innovation in the lighting field. For example, Lighting Science is using LED lights developed for NASA to help astronauts sleep better in its new line of bulbs for the rest of us to use in our homes. Meanwhile, Sengled integrates consumer electronics (bluetooth speakers, home security cams, wi-fi repeaters, etc.) with energy-saving LED lighting in order to reduce clutter while expanding smart home capabilities. Their Element bulbs can be controlled via an app to dim or turn off at certain predetermined times, and can adjust the intensity and warmth of the lighting tone depending on the time of day or other user preferences. LEDs have busted out of the bulb, too, for some interesting new lighting applications: An LED wallpaper emits a “glow” in variable color casts; and LED “virtual sky panels” can replace office ceiling panels and give workers the sense of being outside in the sun.

But just when we were all starting to get used to these changes, incandescents are on the comeback. GE's new energy efficient incandescents are 28 percent more efficient than their predecessors and thus just squeak past the Energy Independence & Security Act cut-off. Likewise, Newcandescent bulbs use krylon gas to extend their lifespan five to 10 times longer than traditional incandescents. And

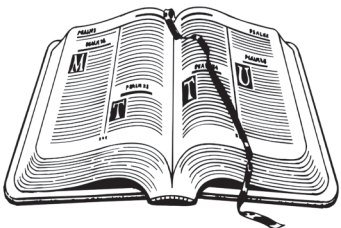
researchers from MIT and Purdue have collaborated on a new type of incandescent bulb that captures the waste heat from the conventional internal filament and recycles it into more light, upping the efficiency into the range of CFLs and LEDs. Given all the energy-efficient choices, if you haven't switched out the old incandescents around the house, now might be the time.



CONTACTS: Lighting Science, www.lsgc.com; Sengled, www.sengled.com; GE Lighting, www.gelighting.com; Newcandescent Light Bulbs, www.newcandescent.com; “A Nanophotonic Comeback for Incandescent Bulbs,” <http://news.mit.edu/2016/nanophotonic-incandescent-light-bulbs-0111>.

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area churches



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FEBRUARY 8 Laurie Chambers, Maya Newhouse, Steve Estes, Karis Dilly.
FEBRUARY 11 Julie Kenney, Judy Goodwin.

FEBRUARY 9 Tom Covell, Alan Ryder, Noah Newhouse, Madison Lombardo, Brady Foster, Dave Vankeulen, Charlotte Drake.
FEBRUARY 12 Peg Stanford, Kurt Roudabush, Travis Bergy, Jan Herb, Penny Spanbauer.

FEBRUARY 10 Richard Korb, Eric Kimble.
FEBRUARY 13 Deb Heydenburg, Emily Gerard, Jodi Kennedy, Alyssa Ellis-Roach, Thomas Alberts Jr.

FEBRUARY 14 Heather Claypool, Carol Leyman, Gerri Ellison, Scott Treglia, Lori Rice.

Protect Young Eyes presentations to be held at LHS

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Chris McKenna from the organization Protect Young Eyes will give three presentations about Internet safety in Lowell during February and March. One of the events is free and open to the public, one is for students at Lowell High School and one will be for high school staff.

McKenna worked in advertising for 12 years, was a youth minister in Caledonia for ten years and is currently the educational resource manager for Covenant Eyes, an Internet safety company. He started Protect Young Eyes in 2015 as a way to promote what the organization's website calls "responsible use of technology" among youth.

"The Internet, in spite of all its awesomeness, also has all kinds of ways that, if used inappropriately, can do damage to the kids in terms of what they see or in terms of the individuals they may come in contact with," McKenna said. "The Internet is an awesome thing, but they must choose to use it awesomely. The difference between awful and awesome, when it comes to technology, is just one click. I want to increase their awareness of the significance of using technology responsibly, so they don't make a life-changing decision."



In the next few weeks Chris McKenna from Protect Young Eyes will give several talks in Lowell about how to keep kids safe on the Internet.

McKenna's first appearance in Lowell will be on Feb. 14 when he will speak about Internet safety to Lowell High School students in the Lowell Performing Arts Center as part of "Be Nice Week." He will also give a presentation to LHS staff on Feb. 28.

"The theme of the week is to be nice, so the focus of my conversation with them is how to make good personal choices," McKenna said. "When you're first good to yourself, this then results in better behavior for those around you. By making better

choices online you'll treat others better.

Parents who work full time and run a household don't always have time to police their kids' phones as often as they would like. It can also be difficult for square parents to keep up with all the latest teen trends in social media apps and platforms. McKenna's third event, at the LPAC at 7 pm on March 15, is designed to explain all of this to busy, working parents. The event is free, open to the public and includes free babysitting.

"It's incredibly difficult [to keep up to date] and it's

what I spend a lot of my time doing," McKenna said. "Imagine how difficult it is for parents and people who don't spend hours a day researching it. The pace of change is very rapid. I speak to thousands of parents. In 2016 I did 70 presentations in Michigan and around the Midwest. The feedback I get is that it's extremely helpful and very practical. I'll be speaking to educators and parents on slightly different information, a little more direct than with the kids. With parents and educators I talk about four myths when it comes to raising kids in a digital age, I talk about then five realities that come along with educating and raising kids in the digital age and then I talk about eight strategies for equipping our kids to navigate the digital age. Through that conversation we unpack what it means to raise a child who learns how to use technology responsibly today."

All children are curious about sex, it's basic human nature. Today's kids, however, have a camera in their pocket and the complete range of human perversity a click away. McKenna said that it is important for

parents to do whatever they can to protect their kids during adolescence because "massive amounts" of porn could damage developing brains and lead to broken relationships and porn addiction.

"The difference between a two-dimensional magazine and its neurological impact on my brain and how it processes the nudity that I'm seeing in a two-dimensional magazine is far less the neurological impact of the video and now virtual reality, format that pornography is now taking," McKenna said. "Setting aside the spiritual components, there is neurological brain science evidence that supports the level of damaging impact that Internet pornography has, in its many forms, has on the developing adolescent brain, which is already in a very vulnerable state of development because of what puberty does to the brain's development. So you have this unfortunate convergence between the brain being at a very vulnerable and formative point in its life span, in conjunction with being exposed to massive amounts of sexually stimulating

material, which then causes the brain to form in a way to be addicted to those images because of the point in time it's happening. Choices you make in adolescence have the potential to be addictions that you form into adulthood because of how you formed your brain during that very significant time of brain development. Online pornography can distort how they perceive relationships and how they perceive themselves. It changes the way they treat each other."

McKenna used to be a minister and his organization's website has a lot of Christianity on it, but McKenna said he will not preach or quote the Bible during the presentations, all of which will take place in a public high school.

"The nice thing about Internet safety is that it's agnostic," McKenna said. "Whether you are an atheist, a Muslim, a Jew or a Christian, as a parent and as a teacher we can all agree that we need to protect our kids from online danger. It gives me a very neutral platform to talk about these topics, because everybody agrees about 98 percent of what I'm going to say."

...

Half of the American people have never read a newspaper. Half never voted for President.

One hopes it is the same half.

~ Gore Vidal (1925 -)

Be alert for new email tax scheme

With the individual income tax season kicking off, the Michigan Department of Treasury is asking tax preparers to be alert for a new two-part email scheme targeting tax professionals nationwide.

In the two-part scheme, a tax preparer initially receives an email from a potential client asking for services to file taxes. If the preparer responds, the cybercriminal sends a second email with an embedded web address or a PDF attachment with a web

address allegedly linking to the taxpayer's personal information.

In reality, the cybercriminal is collecting the tax preparer's email address, password and possibly other information. To date, no known Michigan-based tax preparers or tax preparation firms have been victimized through this scheme.

Tax professionals and tax preparation firms are asked to consider creating internal policies or consult security experts on how to address

unsolicited emails seeking their services.

As the Treasury makes progress in the fight against identify theft, cybercriminals are becoming more sophisticated in their efforts to steal additional client information. Criminals need more data in their effort to impersonate clients and file fraudulent returns to claim refunds.

For the 2015 tax year, over 22,100 returns were stopped that prevented more than \$11.7 million in potentially fraudulent refunds from being issued by the state of Michigan.

Tax professionals who believe they may be the victim of this phishing scheme should immediately report the incident to local law enforcement and contact Treasury's Office of Privacy and Security at 517-636-4081.

To learn more about tax preparer security, go to www.irs.gov/protectyourclients

business matters

Greenridge Realty announced that Corey Lee received Sales Associate of the Month in January.

This award recognizes Lee for his outstanding success and achievements.

Corey Lee



VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

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BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The Vergennes Township Board of Review for 2017 will be held at the Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Dr. SE Lowell MI 49331, on the following dates:

**TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2017 at 9:00 am,
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

**MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2017 at 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm,
APPEAL HEARING**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2017 at 9:00 am to 3:00 pm,
APPEAL HEARING**

The Board of Review will meet additional days as deemed necessary to hear questions and protest, and to equalize the 2017 assessments. By board resolution, residents are able to protest by letter, provided letter is received prior to March 15, 2017.

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers of each class of real property and personal for 2017 are as follows:

Agricultural	51.03%	.97981
Commercial	51.59%	.96918
Residential	48.19%	1.0375
Industrial	45.96%	1.0879
Developmental	50.00%	1.0000
Timber Cutover	50.00%	1.0000
Personal Property	50.00%	1.0000

Americans With Disabilities (ADA) Notice:

The Township will provide necessary and reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 3 day notice. Contact Tim Wittenbach 616-897-5671.

Heather Hoffman
Vergennes Township Clerk

Student finds focus and confidence in Young Marines

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Tyler Snyder, a 12-year-old seventh grader at Lowell Middle School, is the one and only Young Marine in the Lowell area. The Young Marines is an organization for youth that instills military-style discipline and other useful habits in children ages 8 to 18. Because he is the only Young Marine in the area, Snyder has to travel to Ionia in order to participate in the group's activities, but he doesn't care. The military and history are his passions and his goal is to someday serve his country as a marine.

"I was nervous because it was in Ionia, but I got used to that after a while, after the first few weeks," Tyler Snyder said. "I like the marines so much. My uncle was a marine and it would interest me to see different places all over the world."

Katrina Alexander teaches French and world cultures at Lowell Middle School. She was one of Snyder's teachers and said that the Young Marines have had an impressive impact on his school performance.

"His dedication to the Young Marines, interest in the military and kind personality made an impression on me," Alexander said. "He even did a research project on the Hotel des Invalides in Paris, not just because it

holds Napoleon's tomb but because it is also a military museum. Tyler is a unique and successful student, in my opinion, because he doesn't give up on learning. He works hard for the grades he earns and part of that determination is inspired from the concepts instilled by the Young Marines organization."

Tyler's mother Nikki Snyder agreed that the lessons taught at Young Marines have been incredibly important for him.

"Young Marines has taught Tyler the importance of respecting his self, parents, teachers and those around him," Nikki Snyder said. "He has gone on several encampments where he has learned how to use a compass, survival skills and more. Tyler's [school] work has improved. He has been open to trying new things that he might not have done in the past. He is extremely proud of his involvement in the Young Marines. His goal is to eventually serve his country as a marine."

The Ionia chapter of Young Marines are involved in events all over West Michigan.

"Tyler has participated in many different activities in the Young Marines program," Nikki Snyder said. "Just recently they participated in the Lowell gymnastics Salute to

Veterans program. He has participated in various parades around the area for Memorial Day, Labor Day, Christmas, et cetera. In November he helped with a veterans dinner honoring those who have served. In October he participated in Red Ribbon Week educating those about the dangers of drugs."

"For Red Ribbon Week [in October] we were in Ionia," Tyler Snyder said. "They had a concert going on and we handed out cards and ribbons to people."

The Snyders heartily recommend the Young Marines for any student who wants to improve any aspect of their life. Tyler said it has improved his focus and his work ethic.

"I would recommend it to all kids," Tyler Snyder said. "It's really fun, but just don't get on the commanding officer's nerves. I've talked to my friends and said, 'You should join!' They said they weren't sure. Since joining Young Marines I'm not as chaotic as I used to be. I have a habit of marching while I'm walking. I am pretty proud of myself. My mom is proud too. It was my decision to join, my mother said it was my choice."

"Here is what I like about Young Marines," Alexander said. "They focus on a healthy and drug-free body; they build self-

confidence, especially in students who may not fit the typical student mold; they honor veterans and teach good citizenship skills and they teach students, with an interest in firearms, to handle them responsibly. I had never heard of it until Tyler introduced me to it. Tyler has been in the Young Marines since I have known him so I am not sure if his school performance has improved due to the influence of this organization. However, I asked him if he thought his school work and studies had improved since he became part of the Young Marines a year ago and he said he is more determined to get his work done on time and to get assignments turned in."

"I would definitely recommend the program to anyone that has a child interested in the armed forces," Nikki Snyder said. "This gives them a taste of what kind of things they would encounter. Each week Tyler has drill and physical training just like you would in the marines. They learn how to keep their uniform proper and are able to rank up if they choose to do so."

For more information on Young Marines, visit their website, youngmarines.com. To connect with the Ionia branch, scroll to the very bottom of that page and click on "Find a Unit."



Lowell Middle School student Tyler Snyder is Lowell's only member of the Young Marines. His time spent in the program has improved his life in multiple ways.

Lowell High School February Students of the Month

Sydney Dodde, 12th grade and Justin Plunkett, 11th grade, are the Lowell High School February Students of the Month. To be eligible for this honor a student must be nominated by a department. All the nomination forms for the month are then reviewed and voted on at the monthly department chair meeting. Students are selected based on academic achievement, character and work ethic.

There are 1,200 students eligible for nomination, so quite an accomplishment for Dodde and Plunkett. The students receive a \$20 movie gift card and a certificate.

Dodde was nominated by Jeff Larsen and he writes, "Sydney Dodde's work in AP literature and composition goes above and beyond my expectations of our students. At this level, almost all students complete their work on time and with



Sydney Dodde



Justin Plunkett

great attention to detail, but Sydney demonstrates a willingness to push herself to get the most out of every session. Sydney Dodde is dedicated, inquisitive and detail-oriented – a terrific student and young lady!"

Mike Michaud nominated Plunkett and he writes, "Justin, as a junior in AP calculus BC, is coming into this class directly from pre-calculus (unlike six of the students that completed

AP calculus AB last year). Justin is "crushing" the calc II material now and leads the class with a grade that exceeds 100 percent. Justin makes himself available everyday after school to assist others needing math help in classes ranging from geometry – calculus. Need I say more? Only that I am very proud of Justin and the dedication and understanding he continues to humbly display."

January Student of the Month at Kent Career Technical Center

Five Lowell High School students have been named Student of the Month at Kent Career Technical Center. Clayton Brown,

12th grade, is enrolled in the diesel & equipment tech program; Nathan Hawkins,

12th grade, is enrolled in the advanced IT program; Lauren White, 12th grade,

is enrolled in the graphic design 3D animation program; Bradley Stoffers,

12th grade, is enrolled in the diesel & equipment tech program; and Brandon

Smit, 12th grade, is enrolled in the graphic design 3D animation program.



Clayton Brown



Nathan Hawkins



Lauren White



Bradley Stoffers



Brandon Smit

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Red Arrow

- GYMNASTICS

SPORTS

Gymnasts vie for second in conference standing

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell's Red Arrow gymnastics team hosted their last home meet of the season on Wednesday. The team fell to Forest Hills co-op 139.05-138.75 in a battle that came down to a single event.

"Lost to a tough team. I knew it would be a close meet. They were able to stay on the beam and we weren't, that was the difference," explained coach Michele DeHaan. "Close meets usually come down to the beam and the team that stays on usually wins, that's exactly what happened Wednesday."

Despite setbacks on the beam, junior Maura Fitzpatrick pulled out an

8.625 to lead the Lowell ladies on the event. Fitzpatrick, a junior, produced good scores on all four events, in fact garnering an 8.175 on the uneven bars, behind teammates Alise Forward and leader Karmen Anderson; a 9.1 on the floor exercise falling just a half point behind top finisher Lisa Price; and led the team on the vault alongside Corah Miller with both scoring a 9.0. Her performance earned her an All-Around title with a combined score of 34.9.

Also scoring high on multiple apparatus were Miller, Forward, Price and Anderson. Fellow gymnasts Hadyn Nash, Corah Kaufman and Paige DeHaan also made their

presence known with top scores among the Arrows, displaying the depth and talent of the team as they move into the tail end of the season. With only two meets left before the conference finale on February 16 in Rockford, the team is already looking to top Forest Hills again according to DeHaan. "Even though we lost to FH this week, if we can beat them at the conference meet, we can tie them for second in the conference. Otherwise we should finish third. This week at our duals, we hope to get the rest of the individual scores we need to qualify girls for the regional meet in March."



Lisa Price executing a switch ring leap in her floor routine in conference action.

This week the team met with Rockford on the road Monday and will complete their regular conference schedule Wednesday night at East Kentwood High School with competition scheduled to begin at 6 pm.

VAULT	
Corah Miller.....	9.0
Maura Fitzpatrick.....	9.0
Alise Forward.....	8.875
Karmen Anderson	8.65
Hadyn Nash.....	8.65
BARS	
Karmen Anderson	8.75
Alise Forward.....	8.65
Maura Fitzpatrick.....	8.175
Corah Kaufman.....	8.175
BEAM	
Maura Fitzpatrick.....	8.625
Karmen Anderson	8.35
Lisa Price	8.175
Paige DeHaan.....	7.7
FLOOR	
Lisa Price	9.15
Maura Fitzpatrick.....	9.1
Corah Miller.....	9.05
Karmen Anderson	8.95



Alise Forward at the team's last home meet.



Junior Maura Fitzpatrick performing a cartwheel on the beam.

- BASKETBALL

Girls stay on top of league standing

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Hungry for a league title, focused and a lot of fun to work with, is how coach Heath Kent describes the 11-3 Lady Arrow varsity basketball team.

The girls team put together a phenomenal first half to their season whipping out eight straight wins after their season opening, non-conference loss. The team now rests at the top in the OK White with a 6-1 record and their only loss coming at the hands of Forest Hills Northern.

This week the team faces conference foe Cedar Springs, hoping to add another win but knowing a title will be an uphill battle. "It's going to be tough,

we are on the road for most of those games and we have to learn how to play with the bulls-eye on our backs," said Kent of the path moving forward. "We are going to get everyone's best shot each night so there is no room for error. The second time around there are no secrets between teams, everyone has played or scouted you so it comes down to effort and execution every night."

Before traveling to take on the Red Hawks on Friday, the team first met with Caledonia on Tuesday night at home. Dropping the contest 58-29 the Arrows saw their offense stunted by their opponents defensive pressure, allowing only

one shooter, Regan Coxon, into the double digits and keeping sharp shooter Cassie Dean to just a handful of points. The Arrows fell behind 27-8 in the first and were only able to add four to that total by the half which ended 40-12.

The two teams shared more similar stats in the second half of the game but Lowell was never able to overcome the early deficit losing their third game of the season 58-29. Coxon led with 12 points followed by Cassie and Darby Dean who each produced five, Kelly Reitsma who added four and Kenzie North who tallied three.

Back in play on Friday the girls extended their run

with a second season win over Cedar Springs, this time by a margin of 45-40. The tight back-and-forth game was truly anyone's game down to the last seconds. Lowell outscored the Red Hawks in three of four periods with three players scoring in the double digits. C. Dean led the Arrow effort with 12 points, Coxon put up 11 and Carly Hoekstra netted 10. The 45-40 victory maintains Lowell's first place OK White conference position.

Girls basketball, continued, page 11

Regan Coxon rises above her Cedar Springs opponent.



Red Arrow

- WRESTLING

SPORTS

Wrestlers finish perfect 6-0 season and bring home ninth consecutive OK White championship

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell's varsity wrestlers finished off a perfect 6-0 OK White season last week Wednesday with a 45-17 win over Greenville. They then topped their conference competition all over again on Friday at the finals clinching their ninth consecutive OK White title.

Tearing through their opponents all season long, the team put up impressive performances in all of their OK matches this season, even shutting out Ottawa Hills 74-0 in their second home meet. They flanked

that success with cross state and around the corner tournament wins and state ranking.

Picking up falls on the mat were 171 pounder George Gonzales who topped Tyler Ubele; David Kruse defeated Cal Syrjala at 189 pounds, Bryce Dempsey picked up a win over Jeremy Payne at 160 and Elijah Boulton wrestling at 285 bested Diego Jimenez. Three of the winning Arrows won their bouts by wide margin major decisions. Dawson Jankowski went 17-5 for

a win at 119 pounds over Micah Bouman, Austin Boone scored 14-5 in his 135 weight class over Tren Bartrum and 140-pound Avry Mutschler outdid Matt Jeffrey 19-5.

Also picking up wins by decision were Nick Korhorn at 103 who beat Jared Pomental 6-1; Hunter Browning garnered a 7-6 decision over Anthony Goodfellow in the 112 weight class and college wrestling commit Sam Russell wrestled to a 6-4 win over Bryce Larsen at 145. Dropping their contests

were Tyler Lynch at 130, Carter Bierling at 152 and Tyler Delooff at 215.

Friday the team headed to Ottawa Hills High School to wrap up the conference season at the OK White championships and once again rose to the top securing their ninth title in a row and placing six individual wrestlers in the first position in their respective weight classes. The successful meet saw Jankowski (112), James Fotis (119), Boone (140), Mutschler (145), Dempsey (160) and Kruse (189) place first among the

With a conference trophy in hand the team will next march into the MHSAA team district competition at Forest Hills Eastern (FHE) on Wednesday. They will take on Forest Hills Northern in round one and host FHE in round two. Competition begins at 6 pm. The individual districts competition will be held this Saturday at Lowell High School beginning at 9 am.

competition. Coming in Rounding out podium second place were Korhorn appearances were Jeff (103), Channing Perry Leach (125), Russell (152) (135), Connor Nugent (215) and Gonzales (171) who each came in third.

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you give yourself.**

~ Robert Louis Stevenson

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Sports Summaries

ICE HOCKEY

Wednesday at Kenowa Hills the team destroyed Kenowa Hills in a 9-2 win that saw six LC players find the back of the net, including a hat trick from Austin Whaley. Ahead 2-0 at the close of the first period, with goals from Ethan Pinto and Austin Whaley, the team continued to dominate the ice in the second which ended 6-1. Whaley scored the second and third of his trifecta in the period while Charlie Hayes and Alex Osborn added one apiece to the scoreboard. Assists were credited to Nate Regan, Pinto, Ethan Green, Nolan Winterburn, A. Osborn and Carter Osborn. Their 9-2 victory was completed with goals from Hayes and Regan both assisted by Whaley and Owen Ratdke. Saturday Lowell went 3-2 over Portage Northern by the end of the first with goals sliding in from Hunter Fridley, Pinto and Whaley. Nick Vantil sealed the win in overtime with one of his two scores, the other came in the second, to grab a 5-4 victory.

COMPETITIVE CHEER

Lowell varsity competitive cheer visited Kenowa Hills High School to take on the Knights and other area teams in the popular invitational last Saturday morning. The team placed ninth among the competition as they continue to strengthen their routines. The team has three competitions remaining with one being their third OK White contest of the season this Wednesday at Northview. The district championship meet is scheduled for February 17 at 6 pm in St. Johns.

SCHOLAR ATHLETES

Three senior athletes recently made commitments to pursue their individual sports at the collegiate level. Kicker Logan Landman will play soccer at Davenport University next fall. Hayden Barry and Logan VanderMeulen will play football at Olivet College.

GIRLS BOWLING

The girls varsity bowling team improved their OK White conference and season records last week Wednesday against the Huskies of Forest Hills Northern. The team picked up a close 16-14 win over their opponent led by the team's top bowler Morgan Allison who rolled a 154 in the victory. This was their third conference win.

BOYS SWIM AND DIVE

Senior celebration and serious competition were on the schedule for the Caledonia/Lowell/South Christian varsity boys swim and dive team last week. The team put up a great performance Tuesday at East Kentwood High School but were crushed under the number of opponent swimmers falling 108-71. Claiming first-place swims were Parker Lee in the 200 freestyle and 100 butterfly, Ryan Parsons in the 50 and 100 freestyle, Mike Johnson in the 100 backstroke and the relay teams of Johnson Parsons, Emmet Schmeihling and Ren Bykerk in the 200 medley and Lee, Alex Pollock, Johnson and Parsons in the 400 freestyle. The swimmers also honored their three seniors during the week: Andrew deVoest and teammates Bykerk and Ian Fan.

BOYS BOWLING

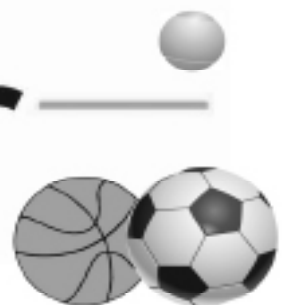
Lowell bowling set the lanes on fire last week Wednesday competing against Forest Hills Northern in OK White action burning up a 23-7 win over the Huskies. Lowell's commanding performance was led by bowler Carson Clark who had an outstanding day on the lanes rolling a 279 and a 244. The team is currently undefeated and in first place overall. This week the team hosts both Ottawa Hills and Hopkins as their season winds down to the OK White conference championship on February 18.

L
Go Red Arrows!



the lowell

ledger



Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports

Red Arrow

- BASKETBALL

SPORTS

Girls basketball, continued



Sophomore Emily DePew under the glass in OK White action.

It has been a busy and successful year for Kent who took over the girls program just this year. A brand new youth basketball league, the team's first military salute game and a winning season record have offered a lot of great beginnings for the program and the coach. "As a coach the highlights for me have been having the girls buy into the program

and working as hard as they have been. We haven't yet accomplished our goals, so hopefully our biggest highlights are yet to come, but the girls are on the right track. Off the court I would have to say the success of the Arrow basketball league with almost 300 kids involved has been a big highlight as well."

This week the team headed back into OK White action on the road Tuesday against Ottawa Hills and will travel to Zeeland West on Friday in non-conference exhibition play.



Multi-sport athlete Carly Hoekstra on the hardwood.

Boys chalk up two more wins, 6-1 record in conference

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell boys varsity basketball chalked up two more wins last week when they traveled to Caledonia and Cedar Springs and improved their record to 9-5 overall and 6-1 in the OK White.

Seniors Austin Branagan and Matt Beachler combined for 110 points in the pair of games, nearly 74 percent of total scoring, working together with the power and drive of a comic book dynamic duo. The four-year starters were the point leaders in both games, as well as defensive all-stars in blocking, tipping and stealing their way to an 80-68 win over Caledonia and a harder fought 69-67 triumph over Cedar Springs.

Tuesday at Caledonia the Red Arrows won a decisive victory over former conference rival Caledonia topping their opponents 80-68. Branagan and Beachler accounted for 62 of the team's points netting 28 and 34 respectively. The win was the seventh of the last eight games for the Arrows, a good place to be heading into the second half of the OK White conference season.

After leading at the close of the first period 12-10 Lowell produced a remarkably consistent

offensive performance picking up exactly 19 points in the three remaining periods against the Red Hawks of Cedar Springs. The 19 was enough to maintain their lead at the half as Cedar Springs produced only 12 to make the score 31-22. After the locker room break, the Red Hawks caught fire. They netted

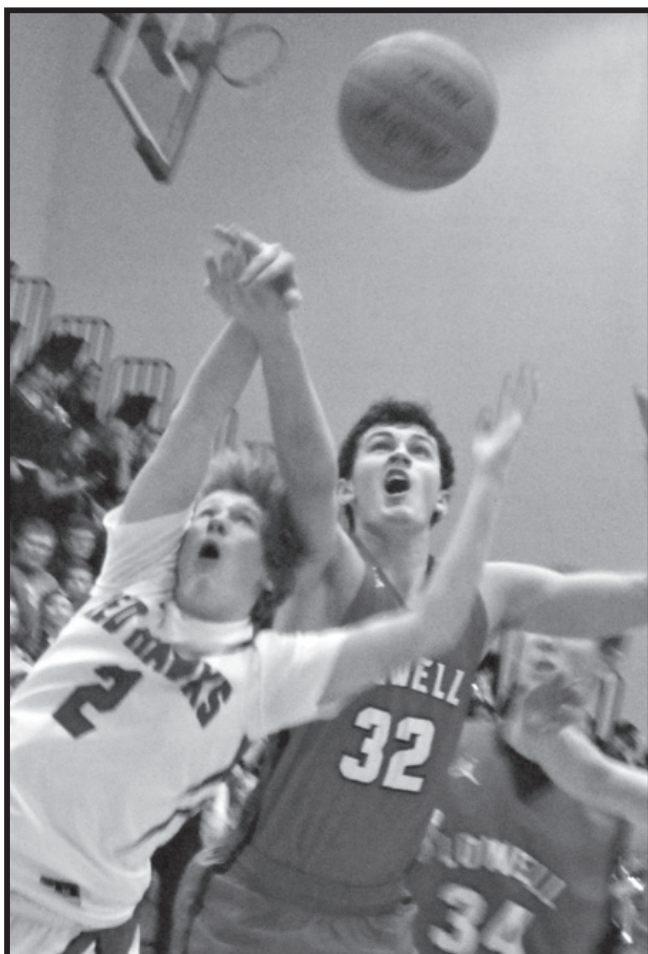
one three-point swisher after another, getting a huge points boost from the outside that tallied to 29, ten ahead of the Arrows 19.

Coming into the game with a record of just 2-9 overall and 5-1 in the league the Red Hawks were poised for an upset. It would come down to a fast and furious fourth period which started

with Lowell down 51-50. After watching the lead shift back-and-forth on the scoreboard and several players on both sides hit the free throw line for all important tosses, the two teams were tied at 67 with less than ten seconds on the clock. Garnering possession with the game on the line, the Arrows propelled the

ball down the court into the capable hands of Branagan who netted what would be the game winning layup. Met with several Lowell defenders at the other end of the court, the Red Hawks' buzzer beater efforts were thwarted wrapping up the 69-67 win in dramatic fashion.

Branagan led scoring with 26 in the victory, followed by Beachler with 22, fellow senior Andrew Poulton with seven, sophomore Robby Schneider with six, senior Zach Petroelje with four and freshman Nolan Cusack and junior Travis Cornell who both added two.



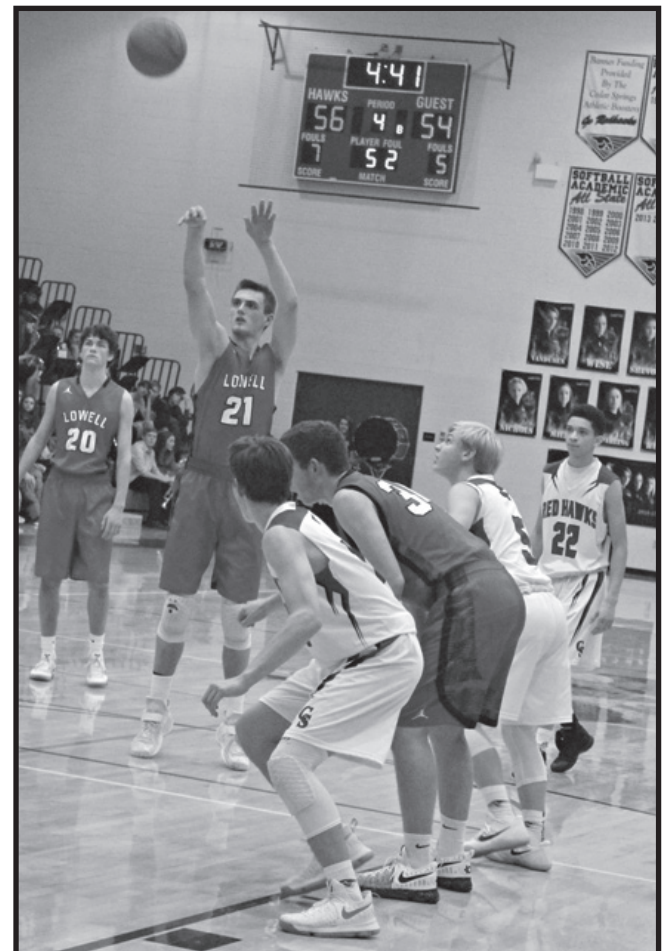
Matt Beachler netting one of his 56 points.

On the schedule this week, the Red Arrows hosted Ottawa Hills for OK White action on Tuesday night and a Friday night trip to Zeeland West for non-conference play.



CATCH UP ON LHS SPORTS!

the lowell ledger



Senior Austin Branagan at the free throw line.

obituaries

ALEXANDER

Gladys Arlene Alexander, age 84 of Lowell, passed away Friday, February 03, 2017 surrounded by her family. She was preceded in death by her husband, Merle "Snowball" Alexander. She is survived by her children, Karen (Doug) Ford, Ken Alexander, Carol (Bill) Grummet, Ray (Lisa) Alexander, Tom (Jodi) Alexander; brothers, Don (Shirley) Knutson, Richard Knutson; sister, Guri Skar; grandchildren, Bob (Julie) Ford, Doug (Morgan) Ford, Katie (Scott) Cole, Ami (TJ) Ayres, Charlie Alexander, Jillian (Milo) DeVries, Holly (Dave) Finkler, Kaley (Tim) Sherwood, Audrey (Justin) Soyka, Kort (Ashlyn Albright) Alexander, Ellery Alexander, Kale Alexander, Brady Alexander; great-grandchildren, Addie, Auburn, Woodrow, Hailey, Austin, Jordynn, Madi, Will, and Matt. Funeral service was held Tuesday, February 7, at Roth-Gerst Chapel. Memorial contributions may be made to Emmanuel Hospice, 2161 Leonard St. NW, Grand Rapids MI 49504, or Lowell Senior Neighbors, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell MI 49331.



BROWER

Mary Joanne "MJ" Brower, age 61 of Ada, passed away Saturday, February 4, 2017. She is survived by her husband of 39 years Jeff; children Sam, Elizabeth "Lizz" (Scott) Grams; parents Robert and Joanne Bailey; brothers Bob (Bobbi Jo) Bailey, Chuck Bailey, Pat (Shelley) Bailey, Dan (Lisa Zigmont) Bailey; sisters Maureen Bailey, Linda Bailey, Jane Bailey; grandson Griffin Grams. Funeral service will be held Thursday, February 9th, 1:00 p.m. at O'Brien-Eggebeen-Gerst Chapel, 3980 Cascade Rd. S.E., Grand Rapids. The family will meet with friends and relatives one hour prior to the service at the funeral home chapel. Memorial contributions may be made to Third Church of Christ Scientist or Carol's Ferals.



JAHNKE

Thomas James Jahnke, Sr., age 58 of Lowell, passed away peacefully Wednesday, February 1, 2017, with his family at his side. He was preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Billy Jahnke; and son, Thomas (Layla & Alyssa) Jahnke, Jr. Tom is survived by his children, Robert (Amy) Jahnke, Kevin Jahnke, Kayleigh (Steve) Geelhoed, Zachary Jahnke; and their mother, Bonnie Jahnke; brothers, Paul (Karen), Steve (Lori), Don, Scott, and Dick Jahnke; sisters, Cindy Gomery, Sherry (Sam) Wabeke; grandchildren, Kaytlynn, Ayvah, Thomas III; and many nieces and nephews. He loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren, and was an avid Detroit Lions and Tigers fan. He was a generous, kind and caring man, who gained great satisfaction from his work as a builder. Tom will be greatly missed by all. A celebration of Tom's life will be held Saturday, February 11, 2017, from 5-9:00 p.m. at Community of Christ Church, 8146 68th St. SE, Alto, MI 49302. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Community of Christ Church.



KROPF

Born in Lowell, April 4, 1927, Walter Bruce Kropf died on February 1, 2017, after an illness at Capital Care Hospice in Arlington, VA. He had been a resident of Sandusky, OH and Birmingham, AL before moving to live near his son in Arlington. His body will be cremated and then interred at Arlington National Cemetery. Mr. Kropf is survived by his son, John Kropf, of Arlington; his sister, Carol Burchfield of Bradenton, FL, Charlie Kropf of Alexandria, VA; and by his grandchildren, Mary Ann Unemori, Olivia Unemori, Daniel Unemori and Charlotte Kropf as well as several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Hazel Kropf; and his daughter, Ann Unemori. Mr. Kropf was a graduate of Lowell High School. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1945 and served during the first two atomic bomb tests at Bikini Atoll in Operation Crossroads. He graduated in 1950 from Wayne State University. His marriage to Mary Whitworth Kropf in 1957 ended in divorce in 1974. Mr. Kropf worked for thirty-seven years at Vulcan Materials Company and later H&R Block. He was an active sailor placing at the top of the top of the Flying Scot class national rankings in the 1950s and was an avid golfer. Mr. Kropf served as a Deacon for the First Congregational Church of Sandusky and later Treasurer of the Unitarian Church. The family will hold a private service at a later date. Donations may be made in Mr. Kropf's name to the U.S. Navy Memorial at <http://shipsstore.navymemorial.org/donate/donation> or the Lowell Area Historical Association at <http://www.lowellmuseum.org>



Looking Back, continued

Germany, who is making her home with Dr. and Mrs. R. D. Siegle of Alto, was second in the contest. Laura Coons, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Coons, Lowell, was third highest in the test given to the individual classes. TIMES's Current Affairs test is given annually in the local school system, and has been in existence for the past thirty-one years. Over ten million students have participated in this annual event, sponsored by the news magazine.

One Lowell Police officer has given up "Good Samaritan" acts for the duration. Last week when he attempted to help a lady stuck in a snow bank west of town, while wearing plain clothes, he was mistaken for an attacker. The lady ran down the highway screaming and swinging a snow shovel.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger Feb. 12, 1992

Lowell FFA wins district contests. On Feb. 6, the Lowell FFA hosted the District FFA Leadership contests at Lowell High School. Lowell FFA members dominated the competition receiving seven first place gold awards and one second place gold award. According to Dave Hildenbrand, Lowell FFA President, "the purpose of the contests is to develop the leadership skills of FFA members through organized competition with other FFA chapters in the area."

Miss Lowell Showboat Pageant now accepting applications through March 10. Applications are being taken for the third annual Miss Lowell Showboat Pageant on March 10. Pageant chairman Sheila Dubbink said applications for those wishing to be contestants must be received no later than March 10. "We're hoping to have 20 contestants for this year's pageant," Dubbink said. Some of the contest rules have been changed. The rules are as follows: a contestant must be a female, age 16-21; a contestant must be single and have no children; a contestant cannot be a professional model; a contestant must be in attendance at the rehearsal; contestants will be judged on poise, personality, speech and appearance; decision of the judges will be final; There will be no swimsuit or talent competition; formal attire will be required.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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5	8	4	7	2	1	9	3	6

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National Kidney Foundation of Michigan recognizes African American History Month with diabetes and health education

The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan (NKF) is recognizing African American History Month in February by spreading awareness about the increased risk of diabetes and kidney disease in African Americans and the importance of health management to prevent and manage these health issues. Diabetes is the leading cause of kidney failure among African Americans. For African American adults with diabetes, it's important to take care of your health to prevent kidney failure and other health complications.

An estimated 4.9 million—18.7 percent—of all non-Hispanic blacks age 20 and older have diagnosed and undiagnosed diabetes. Minority youth are also affected; type 2 diabetes is more common than type 1 diabetes in non-Hispanic blacks ages 10-19. Additionally, African Americans are twice as likely to be diagnosed with diabetes as non-Hispanic whites and are more likely to suffer diabetes-related complications, such as kidney failure and lower extremity amputations.

In fact, unmanaged diabetes is four times more likely to cause kidney failure in African Americans than in non-Hispanic whites and can also lead to serious complications, such as blindness, limb amputation, heart attack and stroke. The good news is that people with diabetes can reduce the risk for these complications by controlling blood glucose,

blood pressure and blood lipids. The following steps can help individuals with diabetes control their disease and prevent or delay complications:

Learn about diabetes. Diabetes means that your blood glucose (sugar) is too high. Diabetes is serious because it can damage your heart, blood vessels, eyes, kidneys and nerves.

Know your numbers. Ask your doctor what diabetes target numbers are best for you. Learn about your A1C, blood pressure and cholesterol numbers. In addition, if you are a smoker, quit today. Call 1-800-QUITNOW for help.

Manage your diabetes. Keep track of your diabetes numbers, be active on most days of the week, eat healthy and don't smoke.

Get regular care. Contact your health care team if you have any questions or problems as you manage your diabetes, medicines or supplies.

Despite the increased risk of kidney disease and diabetes in African Americans, type 2 diabetes can be managed and research shows that type 2 diabetes can be prevented or delayed in minority groups. You can cut your risk for developing type 2 diabetes by as much as 58 percent by losing weight, eating less fat and fewer calories and being active for 30 minutes, five days a week.

For more information about the management and prevention of diabetes and kidney disease, please visit www.nkfm.org or call 800-482-1455.

MDHHS reporting an increase in pertussis, recommends vaccination

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is supporting the Oakland County Health Division following an increase in the number of identified pertussis cases, commonly referred to as whooping cough.

"Pertussis is a contagious disease that easily spreads between people and can be difficult to diagnose," said Dr. Eden Wells, chief medical executive for the MDHHS. "We support the proactive efforts of the Oakland County Health Division in ensuring residents are aware of this increase and the steps they can take to protect themselves and their children."

Anyone exposed to pertussis and displaying symptoms should be evaluated by a doctor to determine if antibiotics are needed. Infants younger than 12 months are at greatest risk. Infants and children who have not been fully vaccinated against pertussis are at a higher risk of developing severe illness. To be fully immunized, doses are given at two, four, six and 15 months. The last dose is given at four years of age.

Pertussis is a very contagious disease that usually starts with cold-like symptoms and maybe a mild cough or fever. After one to two weeks, severe coughing can begin. Pertussis can cause violent and rapid coughing, over and over, until the air is gone from the lungs and people are forced to inhale with a loud "whooping" sound. In infants, the cough can be minimal or not even there. Other symptoms include:

- Runny nose
- Nasal congestion
- Sneezing
- Red, watery eyes
- Mild fever
- Dry cough
- Vomiting after coughing fits

People infected with pertussis can spread the disease by coughing or sneezing in close contact with others who breathe in the bacteria. Pertussis is most contagious during the first two weeks of illness. Infants are at highest risk of severe disease and death; older siblings and adults often are the source.

Infants and children should receive pertussis vaccine series (DTaP) as per the U.S. recommended childhood immunization schedule. All doses should be given as close to the recommended ages as possible. A pertussis vaccine booster dose (Tdap) is recommended for adolescents and adults and is especially important for those in contact with infants. Current recommendations call for a single lifetime Tdap booster dose with the following exception: a dose of Tdap is recommended for pregnant females in each pregnancy between weeks 27 and 36.

For more information about pertussis, visit www.cdc.gov/pertussis

Raising awareness: Schuette recognizes Data Privacy Day

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette recognized January 28, 2017, as Data Privacy Day and shared a few tips to help citizens protect their personal information.

Data Privacy Day is an international effort held annually on January 28 to create awareness about the importance of privacy and protecting personal information.

"The more conversations we have around privacy threats, the more educated we can be in preventing criminals from compromising our data," said Schuette. "Technology

is such an intimate part of our lives that its presence has dangerously lowered our guard. It can be difficult to spot a fraud and takes preparation. Following some basic practices are easy and can greatly safeguard our personal identities, as well as the identities of those we love."

Schuette issued a short video with a few tips on how to defend against scams. The tips include:

1. Know who you're dealing with before sharing information - Identity thieves may pose as representatives from banks, businesses or even government agencies.

If in doubt, contact the organization directly.

2. Use login approvals or two-step verifications - This is one of the best and easiest ways to protect personal accounts from hacking.

3. Take advantage of privacy settings - You don't have to share everything with everyone. Make sure your data is being used the way you want it to be.

4. Use different passwords for different websites.

5. Keep software and apps up to date.

6. Before sharing a link, always think twice -

Once you share something online it is out there. Be cautious when making your own post or sharing someone else's post. Are you sharing too much personal information? How will what you post be perceived in the future?

7. Remember to always be vigilant with all personal information - Especially your credit cards, bank account numbers and social security number.

For more information and tips about how to safeguard your personal information online, visit the Stay Safe Online website.

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If you have pictures, attach them as jpegs. Make sure you identify everyone in the picture and explain the photo.

BY PHONE - 616-897-9261

All stories submitted will be reviewed and may be published in either The Lowell Ledger, Buyers Guide or online at thelowellledger.com!

**STATEPOINT
CROSSWORD**

**THEME: US
PRESIDENTS**

ACROSS

1. Sometimes greener on the other side
6. Moray _____
9. United _____ Emirates
13. Piled up a debt
14. Cross country foot gear
15. Tequila source
16. UV light absorber
17. *Fala to F. D. Roosevelt
18. Andrea Bocelli, e.g.
19. *He also went by name Jack
21. *One of 4 to die of natural causes while in office
23. Hostile
24. Sub station?
25. Opposite of hence
28. With minimal sound distortion
30. *President submits one to Congress
35. River obstruction, pl.
37. Cyrano's distinctive feature
39. Covered with fungus
40. Wet nurse
41. Better then good
43. Christmas Day in France
44. Short skirts
46. Small European freshwater fish
47. Hefty volume
48. Whine
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FEBRUARY 1 - FEBRUARY 7

- For the first time in history, a vice president had to cast a vote to break a tie for a cabinet position. Mike Pence placed his vote for Republican Betsy DeVos to confirm her as the Education Secretary. There were many demonstrations against DeVos in Michigan mostly because of her lack of experience and having, by her own admission, "paid" for this appointment.
- Apple, Airbnb, Facebook, Netflix, Paypal, Microsoft, and Uber (97 other companies, so far), have joined together to fight President Trump's immigration ban by telling the federal court in a legal brief that Trump's immigration ban will harm American business.
- The New England Patriots won Super Bowl LV1 beating the Atlanta Falcons 34-28 in an exciting game that went into the first overtime ever during a Super Bowl. After the game, the remaining mystery is the disappearance of the game jersey of five-time winning quarterback Tom Brady.

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| 53. "For Pete's _____!" | "Drove my chevy to the _____" | 22. Priest's robe |
| 55. Hawaiian dish | 66. _____ Spermatozoa counterpart | 24. Polio, e.g. |
| 57. *First Baby Boomer to become President | 68. Cuckoo | 25. *Presidential father or son |
| 61. *Andrew or Lyndon | 69. Nautical cease | 26. Gavroche, e.g. |
| 65. Don McLean: | 70. Collagen target | 27. Muscat resident |
| | 71. Mulled wine | 29. *He pardoned Nixon |
| | 72. Refuses to | 31. Negative contraction |
| | 73. *_____ Harvey Oswald, JFK assassin | 32. Low light |
| | 74. Without deductions | 33. a.k.a. dropsy |
| | | 34. *"Tippecanoe and _____ Too" |
| | | 36. Convict's weapon |
| | | 38. Per person |

DOWN

1. Get the meaning of something
2. Level to the ground
3. At another time, to Romeo or Juliet
4. Saddam Hussein's Islam
5. *Delivered _____ at inauguration
6. Sports award
7. Augment
8. Like a ballerina
9. Wine quality
10. Hindu princess
11. _____ Shakespeare's hometown river
12. _____ Mountain in Germany
15. Nero's court
20. Faulkner's "As I Lay _____"

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.

LAST WEEK'S
ONLINE
POLL
RESULTS

Do you agree with the executive order to ban refugees from entering the United States?

- YES 30%
- NO 70%
- NO OPINION 0%

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thelowellledger.com

Subscriber reads Lowell Ledger all over the world

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

In 1996 he was Joel from Lowell, a high school senior interested in nuclear science and playing sports. Now he is Commander Joel Uzarski, executive officer of the USS Gridley, an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer in the United States Navy. Uzarski joined the Navy immediately after graduating from Lowell High School and has served his country all over the world. His ship is currently in dry dock in Everett, Wash., so Uzarski had a



Joel Uzarski, LHS class of '96, in Seattle with his wife, Heather and kids Jackson, age nine and Katherine, age five.

little free time to chat with his hometown newspaper.

"I am the executive officer of the USS Gridley," Uzarski said. "It's called an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer. It's about 505 feet long, about 60 feet wide, it's got a crew of about 300 sailors of which about 30 are officers and about another 30 are senior officers. We can do many, many missions, there are a lot of different things we can do. We carry all types of missiles, tomahawks, torpedoes, we have five inch guns on board, we can carry two helicopters... I'll take over as commanding officer of the same ship about 18 months from now. As executive officer you're second in command. You support the commanding officer, making sure the day-to-day operations of the ship are occurring on time, making sure we're meeting all requirements and commitments, making sure the sailors are trained and ready to go, making sure the ship is cleaned. It's like making sure the trains run on time. All administrative stuff falls to me, making sure the captain is able to see the bigger picture and communicate with his bosses. I make sure everything happens on time when it's supposed to."

The Ledger did a story about Uzarski when he was just about to graduate from high school. The article, dated March 27, 1996, said that Uzarski had been accepted to the Naval Academy in West Point where he would spend four years, then he was committed to six years of active duty in the US Navy. The article also detailed Uzarski's illustrious career in academics and sports at LHS. His ambition at the time was "to serve on a nuclear submarine and then to run a nuclear power plant," but that plan did not work out exactly. He did not enjoy the submarine experience and the six year commitment to the Navy turned into a career that is still going strong and has taken him to places like Hawaii, Virginia, California, Rhode Island, Washington, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Philippines, Australia, Bahrain, Oman, Dubai, Djibouti, Spain, Italy and Greece.

"From Lowell High School I was accepted into the Naval Academy," Uzarski said. "I did a four year stint, got my degree and got commissioned in 2000 and started my naval career then. I originally wanted to go into nuclear power and serve on a submarine. I served for 30 days on a nuclear submarine, the USS Annapolis. They show you the ropes, teach you what it's like to be a submariner, then you get to pick what you want to do. I liked submarines, but it just wasn't for me. I couldn't spend 30 days under water at one time and not see the light of day, so I decided not to do that. I went with surface warfare instead and have never regretted that decision. I love it. I am a Surface Warfare Officer, which basically means I drive ships. Surface Warfare Officers are the Jacks of all trades, we do everything. We do all the mission sets, surface warfare, antisubmarine warfare, air warfare, strike warfare, we've got every type of mission you can imagine."

Uzarski makes time to visit Lowell now and then and said that Lowell has something you literally cannot get anywhere else in the world: Gary's Country Meats.

"My parents still live in Lowell, in the house I grew up in," Uzarski said. "I try to visit once a year. When I left it was a lot smaller, it didn't have a Meijer. My first two years of high school were at the old high school and my last two years of high school were at the new high school, where the high school is now. Everything west of Alden Nash has really grown. Also, I have not been able to find any kind of Polish meat market like Gary's Country Meats [205 E. Main] anywhere I've been. I have to go back there every time I'm in Lowell and get their kielbasa and beef jerky. I can't find anything as good as that anywhere else in the world. I love it. I always make a beeline over there and get a couple pounds to take home with me. We have moved 11 times in the last seven years for the Navy and nowhere has anything like Gary's. At least I haven't been able to find it yet."

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