

promoting fitness



page 8

township standstill



page 3

Lhs sports



start on page 9

VOIP spending approved and attorney hired for contract negotiations at LL&P regular meeting

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The Lowell Light & Power board had their latest regular meeting on Thursday, Feb. 9. Most of the meeting was devoted to reports on topics such as the monthly outage report, income statement, capital projects report and manager's report. The meeting lasted two hours and 23 minutes and no citizens attended.

The board hired Okemos attorney Stephen Schultz to represent the utility during the upcoming contract negotiations with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Lowell city council also hired Schultz to handle the city's union negotiations during their Jan. 17 council meeting. His fee is \$200 an hour. The Light & Power workers' contract expires on June 30, 2017.

"He worked with [Lowell city manager] Mike Burns in Fenton and from what I understand he's a

great labor attorney," said Light & Power general manager Steve Donkersloot. "As this is a professional service neither Mike or

myself sought other quotes or bids."

"Everybody knows that I work in a union environment," said board

member Tina Cadwallader. "I took his name to one of my union stewards and we had a conversation. I said, 'Look, this name sounds

familiar. This gentleman came highly recommended by them. They said, 'You

LL&P regular meeting, continued, page 3



The Light & Power board's Feb. 9 meeting was the final hurdle for the upcoming VOIP project, which will streamline communications and save thousands of dollars.

FROM and United Way team up to help families with tax preparation

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Tuesday, April 18 is the deadline this year for Americans to file their income tax returns. Making sense of all the various forms and plugging the correct numbers into the correct boxes is one of

the most confusing and irritating chores required of US citizens. Flat River Outreach Ministries is in their ninth year of a partnership with the IRS and the United Way to offer free tax preparation services for local residents. It's called

the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program and appointments are currently available.

"We are doing it every Tuesday from Feb. 7 through April 18," said Amanda Haberlein, FROM marketing and

communications director. "Registrations are done through the United Way, so they have to call 211 to register. There are a number of appointments available in the morning, afternoon and evening, so even folks that work a regular first shift

could set up an appointment. The volunteers are IRS-certified, so people can also be confident in that."

"It's run by the United Way and they have sites all

Tax preparation, continued, page 7

Conference title in hand wrestlers head to regionals



Lowell grapplers claimed the MHSAA District Championship.

Wrestling photos submitted by Justin Scott

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

After earning a ninth consecutive conference title, Red Arrow varsity wrestling head coach RJ Boudro said that the success of Lowell wrestling goes far beyond the skilled grapplers who take to the mat each season.

"There is not just one reason why we are able to stay atop the conference. I think it starts with the culture that we have here at Lowell. From the administration, to the families, the fans and on down the line," said Boudro as they readied for last week's MHSAA team and individual district competition. "Lowell is a

tremendous community which allows us to perform year in and year out."

The Arrows continued that performance last week tearing through two neighboring teams en route to the championship title and qualifying all 14 of their wrestlers for the regional competition as the team takes aim for their fourth consecutive state title.

Wednesday at Forest Hills Eastern the Arrows took part in a two-part team district competition that opened with a dual against Forest Hills

Wrestlers head to regionals, continued, page 16

50 CENTS



8 0 4 8 7 9 1 5 3 8 3 2



along main street

Second annual Playwright Festival this weekend

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

This weekend LowellArts will present "Family Matters," the second annual Playwright Festival and the very first theater presentation in their new 223 W. Main location.

"Original plays that fit the theme 'Family Matters' were submitted to the competition which was open to any playwright 18 years and older," said project director Janet Teunis. "From a number of very innovative, original plays that were submitted, eight 10-minute plays were selected by a committee to be produced on stage. Two cash prizes will be awarded, \$300 to first place and \$150 to second place, selected by a panel of anonymous judges."

This will be the first event held in their new performance space.

"Audience members can expect to enjoy a more intimate theater experience at the new LowellArts theater space," Teunis said. "Set up much like a black box theater, the theater is created within the LowellArts gallery space with the use of movable walls, curtains and flexible seating. The theater can seat up to 55 people and many of the seats are elevated on risers for better viewing of the actors on stage, with the stage located on the floor."

The plays were written by writers from Lowell, Ada and Grand Rapids, plus one each from Alexandria, Va. and Troy, N.Y. The actors are from all over West Michigan. The plays will be directed by Sue Bradford and Ken Parrish.

"Since Ken [Parrish] and I participated in the first Lake Effect Fringe Festival Playwright competition in 2013, as actor and playwright/director respectively, we felt this would be a good event for LowellArts," said director Sue Bradford. "We are back for another year, bringing you a slightly different concept than "regular" theatre and thrilled to be the premier production in our new space on Main Street! Our playwright festival is exciting and innovative and helps bring new works to the area from near and far. Our theme this year is Family Matters and we hope you will enjoy watching these eight plays unfold and appreciate the talents of the ensemble of actors who have worked so hard to bring these plays to life."

The shows will be on Friday, Feb. 17 and Saturday, Feb. 18 at 7 pm; Sunday, Feb. 19 at 2 pm. Tickets are \$12 or \$10 for LowellArts members. You can purchase advance tickets online at lowellartsmi.org over the phone at 616-897-8545.

...

Baby eagles can never soar under their family's wing.

~ Liu Yang

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. The curriculum follows a strength based approach and is led by a Mayo Clinic trained and certified facilitator. Friends and family members are welcome to attend for support. Registration encouraged. Call 616-446-7058.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

General local scholarship applications are available in the counseling office for Lowell High School seniors. To be fair to all students, applications will not be accepted after 3:30 pm on Fri., March 3. Don't forget to include two letters of recommendation, transcript and personal statement. For more information please call Mrs. Pratt at 987-2913.

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.

the lowell ledger

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Tax services are available by appointment only.

To verify your eligibility and register for this program please call United Way at 211.

Church feels township land sale is being delayed

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

It wasn't on the agenda but the Lowell Township

planning commission had a discussion about the potential sale of the Noon



Equipment property to Impact Wesleyan Church at their meeting on Monday, Feb. 13. Both sides have agreed to the sale and the church has plans ready for a new building that will double their current seating capacity. When we last reported on this, the planning commission was waiting to receive a second legal opinion on the zoning issues involved with the sale. They received the opinion but, it was too late for them to add the issue to the meeting agenda.

Equipment property to Impact Wesleyan Church at their meeting on Monday, Feb. 13. Both sides have agreed to the sale and the church has plans ready for a new building that will double their current seating capacity. When we last reported on this, the planning commission was waiting to receive a second legal opinion on the zoning issues involved with the sale. They received the opinion but, it was too late for them to add the issue to the meeting agenda.

“It came in late today, so the planning commission has received it but we haven't had a chance to go through it,” said planning commission chairman David Simmonds. “When we go through it, it's going to be

in a closed session because it's all privileged and confidential [information].”

Impact Church executive pastor Ryan Kresge said the planning commission was deliberately delaying making a decision in order to kill the deal.

“It begins at this point to feel very intentionally like we are delaying and that is not at all helpful to Impact [Church] and our direction and our desire to move forward,” Kresge said. “It seems like a delay and a further problematic issue for our schedule.”

Impact Church attorney Ronald Vander Veen said that by delaying the sale the commission is stifling the church's religious freedom.

“The federal statute prohibits the township

from imposing substantial burdens on the exercise of religion,” Vander Veen said. “You can justify a burden if there is a compelling government interest, but that's the least restrictive thing to do to protect government interest. I'm not sure what government interest there would be that would be so compelling that it would prevent the use of that property as a church.”

In an interview after the meeting, Vander Veen and Kresge said that the real issue for the township is the loss of tax revenue. Churches don't pay taxes, so the township would rather have a commercial business purchase the property at 11930 E. Fulton.

“Wherever a church goes, it's exempt property,

so obviously there is no tax collected from that property,” Vander Veen said. “But that is just one property in the area. The tax impact is not that significant. It's a small impact. It's nominal.”

“I've provided the township with the revenue that Impact Church directly contributes to our community and it's considerably more than any tax [that] would generate off of that property,” Kresge said.

The next Lowell Township planning commission meeting will be at Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash, at 7 pm on Monday, March 13. The Lowell Township board will meet in the same location on Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 7 pm.

LL&P regular meeting, continued

know what? He's fair and he doesn't draw things out.”

The board approved \$155,000 for the VOIP project, the same spending the city council approved at their last meeting. This project will streamline communications by connecting city hall, the police department, the library, the Department of Public Works, the wastewater treatment plant and the fire department. The project will cost

\$155,000 shared between the city of Lowell, the water department, Lowell Light & Power, the wastewater treatment plant and the fire authority. This new VOIP system will also reduce the phone bill by \$6,413 a month or \$594,280 over ten years.

The Light & Power board's next meeting will be on the second floor of their 127 N. Broadway headquarters on Thursday, March 9 at 6 pm.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

PUBLICATION OF
NOTICE OF HEARING

FILE NO. 17-200700-DE

In the matter of Estate
of Mary T. Puchala.

TO ALL INTERESTED
PERSONS including:
Diane Koziej and
Gerald Koziej whose
address(es) are
unknown and whose
interest in the matter
may be barred or
affected by the
following:

hearing will be held
on March 1, 2017 at
1:30 pm at 180 Ottawa
Avenue NW, Ste.
2500, Grand Rapids
before Judge David M.
Murkowski (P35026) for
the following purpose:
Petition for Probate
and Appointment
of Personal
Representative.

February 8, 2017

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

Marianne Graverson
1137 Dayton SW

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life. The greatest loss is what
dies inside us while we live.

~ Norman Cousins

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP
Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Synopsis of Minutes February 13, 2017
Motions Approved:

1. Resolution PC 2017-001 Lantern Festival May 13, 2017
2. Fire and Safety Committee new members Anna Visser 3 yrs, Ken Brandes 3 yrs, Mary Kay Groening alternate
3. Approved Fee Schedule changes for simple site plans and escrow
4. New job descriptions for Zoning Board Administrative Assistant and Office Manager
5. Approved not to exceed 10,000.00 for repairs or a new purchase for Grattan Sewer Pump Station #5

Our next Township Meeting
will be February 27, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.
The approved minutes may be reviewed on
our website at www.grattantownship.org

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Northern Physical Therapy to hold grand opening this Thursday

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Northern Physical Therapy, 2050 W. Main, is having a grand opening celebration on Thursday, Feb. 16. You'll be able to meet the staff, tour the facility, enjoy food and drinks and win some prizes, including a Fitbit Flex, gift certificates to local restaurants and more.

"We will have our two Lowell physical therapists, David Sefton and Ashley Vandenberg, as well as the two owners, Gina Otterbein

and Janis Kemper, our operations director Lisa Otterbein-Bolek and our wellness director Julie Blodgett," Otterbein said. "There will be food and drinks (alcohol, pop and water) and people can tour our facility. We will have a sign up for our step challenge that will start on Monday, Feb. 20."

Northern Physical Therapy's new location in Lowell offers occupational and physical therapy, rehabilitation, athletic training, fitness classes and

more. Northern Physical Therapy's three physical therapists, David Sefton, Ashley Vandenberg and Anna Schoenborn, are all from Lowell.

"Anna is from Lowell and she did her undergraduate work at the University of Michigan," Sefton said. "She's a very well-versed occupational therapist. She's a lot of fun to work with and our patients love her. Ashley graduated from Grand Valley State University. She has a passion for working with women and their different health issues, especially women who are pregnant."

Sefton said that physical therapy is not just for people who have suffered an injury or who have abused their body by playing sports for years. Just about anybody could use some level of therapy and Northern Physical Therapy will check you out for free.

"We are available to just about anyone, particularly someone who is pursuing healthier lifestyles," Sefton said. "One of the things that we are very happy to offer the community are free consults. Physical therapy services are available to anyone who feels like they would benefit from it. Anyone can refer themselves to physical therapy."

Northern Physical Therapy also has an athletic trainer on staff to deal with any injuries you receive when you're out competing.

"Rachel Sprenger is our certified athletic trainer, she has been an active member of the Lowell community for a while," Sefton said. "She helps athletes with training and injuries."


Call them at 616-987-0019 or check out their website, northernpts.com, for more details or to set up an appointment.

**CITY OF
 LOWELL
 PUBLIC NOTICE**

The offices of Lowell City Hall, Lowell Police, Light and Power and the Department of Public Works will be closed Monday, February 20, 2017 in observance of President's Day.

ALSO

Due to President's Day, the Lowell City Council meeting will be on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.



Susan Ullery
City Clerk

**LOWELL
 CHARTER
 TOWNSHIP**

BUDGET HEARING NOTICE

Please take notice that there will be a budget hearing on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 followed by a regular meeting of the Lowell Township Board. The hearing will be held at 7:00 PM at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash SE, Lowell, MI 49331. At such time, in accordance with the law, a budget covering proposed expenditures and estimated revenues of the Township shall be submitted for consideration. Copies of the proposed budget are available at the Township Hall during regular office hours or on the Township's website - www.twp.lowell.mi.us.

Linda S. Regan, Clerk

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viewpoint

to the editor

opinion appreciated

To The Editor,

Thank you Susan Seime for your well thought-out answers to Carol Wittenbach Drenth's letter. I too, feel under attack by the Republican Party. I rallied to support Planned Parenthood on Saturday and will do so again until I feel respected and safe.

Thank you again for speaking out. It is difficult in these times and takes courage to speak out. You said what many women are thinking and talking about.

Marcia Kapolka
Alto

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.



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Your Hometown News Source



By Joanna Barr

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger Feb. 15, 1917

F. M. Johnson, Editor Lowell Ledger: The Grand Trunk has been obliged, due to scarcity of coal, to cancel two passenger trains on the D. G. H. & M. branch. The present schedule gives Lowell the following service, daily except Sunday: East bound, 6:33 a. m.; 2:28 p. m.; 6:28 p.m. West bound, 9:05 a. m.; 12:31 p.m.; 9:46 p. m. This cuts out the east bound train due at 10:28 and the west bound train due at 4:53. The present general conditions have placed the railroads in a critical situation, due to the lack of coal. Every effort is being made to keep the freight tonnage moving and to do this the passenger train service had to be temporarily curtailed. E. A. Anderson.

Nother herd comes. Moose headed this way from upper Grand. Get your gun, Pap. A big herd of Moose from the wilds of Ionia is coming down Grand river intent on grazing on the rich pasturage at the mouth of the Flat and due to arrive here Wednesday evening, Feb. 28. Three Island Lodge will initiate a class of twenty on the above date and the Ionia team will do the work. A supper will be served. Lowell Moose be ready to receive your guests.

Edwin Fallas returned Monday from a trip to Chicago, where he landed orders that will mean several thousand dollars worth of mince meat business this season, in addition to large orders already booked and booking.

Frank Ritterstauf has bought the John King farm in Keene and Mr. King has bought the Will Worden property on the west side, Lowell.

Sunday night was a "blinger." Reports vary from 22 to 40 below zero. Probably 28 to 30 is about right. Some say it is a record breaker; but don't you remember the three cold weeks 18 years ago? Our remembrance is that 35 below was the record; but Uncle John Hooker says it 32, and we won't dispute it. Three degrees "don't cut much ice" down in the thirties. Saturday night wasn't so bad—only 12 below.

The week opening Monday, March 12, is "Dress Up" week in Grand Rapids. Appropriate window displays of seasonable goods in dry goods, clothing, millinery and department stores and attractive advertising in the newspapers will feature the opening of the spring trading activities, Lowell merchants will doubtless go after their share of this business and The Ledger will gladly serve at the publicity end.

Edwin Fallas' residence had a narrow escape from fire Monday morning. The roof caught fire from a burning chimney. Just as their attention was drawn to a roar from the chimney a neighbor telephoned that the roof was afire. Two pails of water put out the blaze. With mercury registering around 30 below 'twas a lucky escape.

Ionia, Mich., Feb. 12. After warning his fellow workmen of the danger, Henry Young, highway commissioner of Berlin township, was instantly killed Monday afternoon while at work in a gravel pit taking out material for highway improvements. A premature explosion of dynamite blew his body to pieces. He was past 60 years of age and a prominent man in Berlin township.

Rabies in Ada. High time to look after Lowell dogs.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger Feb. 19, 1942

Acting upon the suggestion of Trustee Peter Speerstra, the Common Council on Monday night voted to place a flag pole at the City Hall corner and to fly there from every day in the year the national colors. That's a good idea. It will do us all good to be able to see Old Glory every day and thereby be reminded of all that it stands for in "Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Mrs. Esther Fahrni, who has charge of the local license bureau, reports that the citizens of this community have been responding nicely to the call for old license plates, to be used in national defense work. Mrs. Fahrni states that Mrs. Frank Daniels of Keene brought in a bushel basket full of old plates and Carl James of Vergennes brought in old plates ranging from the year 1919 to 1941.

Looks as though the time question which has upset the people of the state for the past ten days has been settled and that Michigan clocks will remain as they are (one hour faster than Eastern standard time) from now until six months after the duration of the war. The matter was settled on Tuesday when Governor VanWagoner vetoed the bill that would set the clocks back one hour and the legislators decided to let the matter drop at that.

On Friday of last week Lowell schools were closed for the second time in a quarter of a century on account of the heating plant. The first time this happened was a few weeks ago when the stoker was out of commission. Last Friday the motor attached to the return pump was at fault and no repairs were to be found in Lowell or Grand Rapids. Bob Starkey and Frank Stephens again appeared on the scene and installed a temporary set-up which functioned satisfactorily until Tuesday night when the necessary repairs arrived from Chicago.

Ten new automobiles were released on Tuesday to Kent County purchasers under the federal rationing regulation in the first action taken by the Kent county rationing board. It was reported by Lewis J. Donovan, county clerk and board chairman. In order to get the acquisition orders for new passenger cars, Donovan

125 years ago Lowell Journal Feb. 17, 1892

Mrs Ella Jakeway last week sold her crop of chickens, 115, besides a few ducks, for \$46. That is pretty good for one farmers wife.

David Condon is getting out posts for a lot to be fenced with pickets. Picket fencing is becoming quite a craze among farmers, judging from the outlay.

Newton Warner is canvassing for the sale of Talmage's new book, with a good degree of success.

C. V. Riegler was "brewing a cough mixture Monday morning, into which he had put turpentine. A drop fell on the stove and in a moment the whole mass was ablaze. The door casing shows signs of a struggle with the flames and it was a narrow escape for the (would be) doctor. C. V. says he shall try it again with better success.

The S. V. auction lunch social last Friday evening was a most successful affair both socially and financially. There was a large crowd present and all enjoyed themselves to the utmost. It netted the camp about \$12.00.

A large amount of stone (14 car loads) has been hauled off the Nolan farm and shipped to Grand Rapids within the past ten days.

Misses Bessie Chapman and Stella Ranney were the victims of a runaway last Friday which terminated in their being unceremoniously dumped out near the east steps of Train's Hotel. The accident was a fortunate one, as no one was hurt. The shafts became loose and frightened the horse.

Thursday evening the ladies of Lowell will give a leap year party. A great time is anticipated, as the fair ones are resolved to spare no expense.

At the club dance and oyster supper last Friday night, over 100 numbers were sold.

Lemuel and B. Davis are putting up logs sufficient to cut out 15,000 pickets.

area births

Roberts



Eden Joy Roberts

Mike and Laura Roberts, of Jackson, are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Eden Joy Roberts. She was born February 8, 2017, weighing 9 lbs. and is welcomed home by big brother Logan, 3.

Maternal grandparents are Mike and Karol Burnham and paternal grandparents are Paul Roberts and Cathy Minnie, all of Lowell.

...
It is better to travel well than to arrive.

~Buddha

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Receiving housing benefits? A trip to Social Security may not be necessary

Social Security is constantly evolving to make your life easier. If you are currently receiving benefits from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and are reapplying for benefits, or are assisting someone with their application, a trip to the Social Security office is probably not necessary even if verification of Social Security benefits is needed.

Because of a data exchange established between Social Security and HUD, most people do not need to contact Social Security for a benefit verification letter. HUD administrators processing a Recertification Application for Housing Assistance can use their Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) System

to verify Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits.

Public housing agencies, private owners, and management agents administering HUD rental assistance programs may get registration information about EIV by logging onto the hud.gov website and searching EIV System.

If you are a new applicant for housing assistance, you can provide your HUD administrator with your Social Security award letter, Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) notice, SSA-1099, or other SSA benefit document you should have received at the beginning of the calendar year or when you began receiving benefits, whichever is later.

We created these data exchange agreements to help you get the support you need at the first point of contact, even if that's not with Social Security. If you do need to provide proof of Social Security benefits

yourself, we have another way to save you a trip to Social Security. You can get an instant benefit verification letter with a personal my Social Security account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

health



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

essential tremor

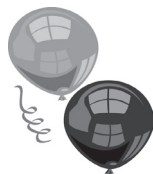
Tremor is an involuntary movement of certain muscles. Essential tremor is one of the most common causes of tremor. Essential tremor leads to a fine shaking or tremor of the hands or head during activity. People with this condition will notice a tremor when writing, drinking from a cup or reaching an object. The tremor is usually mild and stable over several years. It is more common in older individuals.

The cause of essential tremor is not completely understood but it does appear to run in families, as it is sometimes called familial tremor. Essential tremor is usually diagnosed in the office by reviewing the history and performing

a neurologic exam. Other causes of tremor must be ruled out, such as Parkinson's disease, overactive thyroid or medication side effects. Your doctor may refer you to a neurologist for specialized testing to confirm the diagnosis.

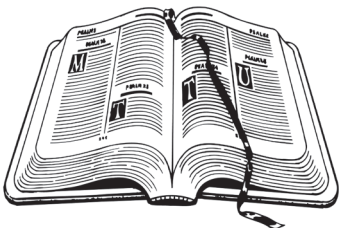
Mild cases of essential tremor do not require any treatment. The tremor will sometimes progress over time. Stress, excessive caffeine and lack of rest will exacerbate the tremor. If the tremor is interfering with your daily activities, medication can be prescribed. In severe cases, unresponsive to medications, neurosurgery may be indicated and has proven to be very successful.

happy birthday



- FEBRUARY 15**
Jim VanDyke, DeeAnn Merriman, Deanne Newell, Marcus Kline, Adam Confer.
- FEBRUARY 16**
Matthew Schuitema, Tracey Main.
- FEBRUARY 17**
Chris Hodges, Justin Stanford, Stephanie Ellison, Reatha Johnson, Lynda Horsley, Deb Tulecki.
- FEBRUARY 18**
Richard Claypool, Courtney Phillips, Missy Crandall Nikodemski.
- FEBRUARY 19**
Jerrica Foss, Bruce Baird, Betty Newhouse.
- FEBRUARY 20**
Mike Rivers, Gary Kemp, Barbara Carpenter, Sara Soyka, Madison Emelander, Nate Sloan.
- FEBRUARY 21**
Betsy Vezino, Ashton VanDerWarf, Kimberly Sterzick, Robin Martin, Luke Landman.

area churches



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
103 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)
Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21
www.goodshepherdlowell.org

Worship Service Sunday - 10:30 AM
Sunday School..... 9:15 AM

Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307
All facilities are wheelchair accessible

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL
897-7060
Rev. Dr. Paul Mpindi PHD
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI

Morning Worship..... 10:00 AM
Sunday School..... 11:20 AM
Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM
Nursery available at both services
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402 Amity St. • 897-9820
www.stmarylowell.com

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Saturday Confessions: 3-4:30 PM
Prayer & Adoration each Wed. 8:00 AM - 8 PM
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETE WIGGINS 897-7915
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Pastor Dick Sherlock

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Lowell's Open Table - Thursdays 5 - 7 PM
Serving meals and providing fellowship to the greater Lowell community
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897-7168 - www.fbclowell.org

Pastor Jon Pickens, Lead Pastor
Pastor Phil Severn • Youth Pastor
Christi Swain, Director of Children's Ministries

SUNDAY WORSHIP..... 9:30 AM (Nursery provided)
SUNDAY School..... 11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)
Awana (K-5 during school year) **Wednesday, 6:15 PM**
Middle & High School - Mon-school year/Wed, summer, 7 PM

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9 AM - Traditional • 11 AM - Contemporary
Kid's Crew 11:15 AM
Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

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the lowell ledger
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Lowell Women's Club entertains foreign exchange students

The junior members of the Lowell Women's Club hosted Lowell's foreign exchange students at an all American luncheon on Wednesday, Feb. 8 at Schneider Manor. The girls and members of the LWC enjoyed the company of student guests from Germany, Chile, France, Spain, Brazil, Thailand and Indonesia. The guests told stories about their homelands and shared their impressions of American schools, food, sports, Lowell and the United States. Everyone enjoyed BC's Pizza, salad, brownies, soft drinks and new friendships.



Pictured from left to right: Katie Peterson and Jovan Marcos from Indonesia, Haley Godbold and Jana Treitsch from Germany.



Tax preparation, continued

over Grand Rapids," said FROM volunteer Diane LaWarre. "We have tax preparers that are trained by the IRS. They have to re-certify every year. This program is for taxpayers of low and middle income with family incomes of less than \$62,000 per year and they have to call for an appointment, it's appointment only. our

last date is April 18. They start at 9:30 am and the last appointments are at 6:30 in the evening. The appointments are an hour and a half. Some are shorter and some are longer, but we schedule hour and a half appointments. We can do taxes for people from all over, they don't have to be in the Lowell school district. We've some done

out-of-state returns this year already."

There will be a special day devoted to doing taxes for veterans of the armed forces.

"This year we are going to do a walk-in for veterans on Feb. 15," LaWarre said. "We're going to do free taxes for any veterans with no income limitation, just to thank veterans. It's also a program that the IRS is doing."

All tax returns are checked over repeatedly to make sure there are no mistakes.

"If someone calls for an appointment, they're going to screen them," LaWarre said. "If they [qualify], then they can make an appointment at our site. When they come in, they're greeted. They need to show their Social Security card and an ID to the greeter. She assigns them to [either] a tax preparer and then they prepare the taxes. The IRS requires that we have a quality review, so another

person comes in while the taxpayer is sitting there and they have a quality review. They go over the total tax return and find out if there are any errors or anything that we should ask about. Then they go home and that's when we e-file it. We schedule the appointments every hour and a half, but they usually take about an hour on average. Some are shorter, some are longer."

It might be tempting to offer a donation or a tip to your tax preparer, but this is strictly forbidden.

"A lot of people ask us if they can give us some money or ask how much it costs," LaWarre said. "The IRS would close us down if we took any money at all. It's totally free."

Call the United Way at 211 to schedule an appointment or call FROM at 616-897-8260 for more information.

"It's important for people to get their taxes done well and with no cost," LaWarre said.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 17-200703-DE
Estate of ELLEN R.
JABLONSKI, deceased.
Date of birth:
12/17/1931.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS: The
decendent, Ellen
R. Jablonski, died
11/05/2016.

Creditors of the

decendent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Shelia M. Patterson, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 3933 17 Mile Rd., Kent City and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

John T. Conroy (P43709)
410 Bridge Street NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-454-4119

Shelia M. Patterson
3933 17 Mile Rd.
Kent City, MI 49330
616-914-5698

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing before the Vergennes Township Planning Commission will be held on Monday, March 6, 2017 at 7:00 pm at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI to consider amendments to the Zoning Ordinance as summarized below:

Chapter 3, Zoning Districts: it is proposed to amend the Flat River District section 201.307 to describe the district boundaries, clarifying the dock, stairs and boardwalk sections, further describing activity permitted in the natural vegetation strip, adding a land alterations section and matching language with the State Natural Rivers ordinance. In section 201.3075 Lake Residential District, is new language to allow one small storage building with setbacks on a lake front lot without a dwelling. Chapter 2, Definitions: in section 201.202, new definitions of river related terms are being added. Chapter 4, Accessory Buildings: section 201.402 is adding a reference to section 201.3075 (B) (B) for accessory buildings on Murray Lake lots. Also in section 201.422 Swimming Pools, language is amended to describe for the new State Building Code changes allowing special non-fall through covers on in-ground pools in place of fences.

Input and comments: The Planning Commission is inviting any concerned people to give input regarding the target shooting section of the adopted Noise Ordinance. They are studying this section for further clarification of the language.

The complete ordinance amendments can be reviewed at the Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 - Phone: (616) 897-5671 or on the website at www.vergenneswp.org. Written and oral comments will be received from any interested party until the conclusion of the public hearing. Written comments may be addressed to the Planning Commission Chairman or the Planning Coordinator at the Township Offices. Comments may be emailed to the Planning Commission at zoning@vergenneswp.org

Vergennes Township
Planning Commission

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CELEBRATION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 5:30-7PM

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GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

PUBLIC NOTICE 2017 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETINGS

The Grattan Township Board of Review will meet at the Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Rd., Belding, MI 48809 on:

Monday March 13th, 2017 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Thursday March 16th, 2017 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Call 616-691-8450 for appointment
Frank Force, Supervisor
Matt Frain, Assessor

After 10-month course, LPD sergeant uses skills to create fitness requirement for fellow officers

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Sgt. Chris Hurst of the Lowell Police Department recently completed a ten month training course in

leadership and management. He has used this training to create a physical fitness requirement for LPD officers.

“It’s called ‘police staff and command’ [training],” Hurst said. “It’s a ten-week course through Northwestern University

that’s taken a week at a time over ten months. I took it at the Ottawa County Sheriff department with about 50 different officers from the west side of the state. It was a management class. I learned about budgeting, statistics, management of employees, management of the police department and wrote a lot of research papers.”

Hurst’s work at the program led him to the realization that most police officers have no requirement to stay healthy.

“One of the course requirements was to complete a staff study,” Hurst said. “You pick a topic, they approve it, you research it. I did mine on physical fitness in law enforcement. Right now there is no such requirement at any law enforcement agency that I know of. There is a physical fitness requirement that you have to maintain to get through the academy, but once you get hired at a police department it is no longer required that you remain physically fit, although you’ve got to keep up your education to qualify with equipment and weapons. It has a lot to do with the ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act]

and HIPAA [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act]. You have to go get medically screened and then your department has to be ADA compliant. If you have employees that have a handicap you can’t require them to do anything more than you would require a well person to do. It doesn’t make sense to me, so that’s why I did a paper on it.”

Thanks to Hurst, LPD officers now have to keep in good shape so they are ready and able to respond to any situation.

“We do now have a physical fitness requirement at LPD,” Hurst said. “I gave the [staff study] paper to chief [Steve] Bukala and he signed off on it, so it is now our policy.”

Hurst has been with the LPD since 1994. He served in the National Guard for 20 years and said that a lot of what he learned in police staff and command training seemed similar.

“A lot of the leadership classes that I had through the military were pretty much in line with what I took at this staff command school, except it now applies to police departments instead of the military,” Hurst said. “How to do a budget, how

to manage your people, how to manage your resources. It was a very good refresher on that and how to apply it to a police department.”

As a police sergeant, Hurst has numerous responsibilities in addition to the regular work of fighting crime.

“I keep track of the personnel files of the people in the department, keep track of training; I am the firearms instructor, I keep track of equipment; I am responsible for policy review and policy enforcement, internal investigations if that has to happen; I take citizen complaints about the department, then I review reports and do case management,” Hurst said.

All of this education and training do not mean that Hurst is looking to leave our community for greener pastures.

“I plan on spending the rest of my career in Lowell,” Hurst said. “As long as Chief Bukala is in the front office I’ll be in the sergeant’s job. I don’t plan on leaving or anything like that. We’ve got a very good department. I am very lucky to work here. Because we’re a small department, we all wear many hats.”



Sgt. Chris Hurst of the Lowell Police Department.



"If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you."

Health act will help school-based health centers strengthen health care services for children

U.S. senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), ranking member of the health subcommittee of the Senate Finance Committee, and Gary Peters (D-MI) introduced the Hallways to Health Act to help school-based health centers improve health care services for children. In Michigan, there are more than 120 school-based health centers that play a major role in

providing basic health services for thousands of students who have limited access to medical care outside of school. Typically, a school-based health center provides a combination of primary care, mental health care, substance abuse counseling, case management, dental health, nutrition education, health education and health promotion activities. Senator

Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Senator Al Franken (D-MN) cosponsored the legislation and Congressman John Sarbanes (D-MD) has introduced companion legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

“Too many children across our state do not have access to a family doctor and depend on school-based health centers for basic care,” said Senator Stabenow. “This is an important step toward making sure children across Michigan receive the care they need throughout the school day.”

“School-based health care centers provide quality health care services to thousands of underserved students,” said Senator Peters. “The Hallways to Health Act will better connect school-based health centers with skilled professionals, enhancing students’ wellness and encouraging healthy behaviors.”

“School-based health centers are the primary sources of care for thousands of American children,” said Congressman Sarbanes.

“We must provide these health centers with the resources they need to keep our children healthy and help them succeed in the classroom.”

“At the heart of The Hallways to Health Act is the incontestable fact that healthy students are better learners,” said John Schlitt, president of the school-based Health Alliance. “And what better time than now, in this uncertain health care landscape, for Congress to acknowledge school-based health centers. They represent a key strategy for ensuring our most vulnerable children and adolescents receive high-quality primary and mental health care services in a location that is safe, convenient and accessible.”

“Hallways to Health Act brings together health and education to work collectively to ensure that all of our children are healthy and learning,” said Deb Brinson, interim CEO of the school community Health Alliance of Michigan. “Health and education go hand and hand. Hallways to Health Act helps to remove

health related barriers to learning while improving; a student’s health status and academic performance and reduces health disparities. We all know and evidence shows that healthy children are successful students and successful students create stronger communities!”

“Physical and behavioral health are essential to a strong education for our nation’s children,” said Tom Livezey, superintendent of Oakridge Public Schools and board president of School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan. “Without a healthy body and a healthy mind, there is no way that our youth can learn efficiently and effectively. School-based health centers are a vital solution to a positive educational experience because they bring health care to where children are – the schools. The Hallways to Health Act recognizes the immense impact these continue to have on our youth throughout the country.”

The Hallways to Health Act will provide grants for school-based health

centers that partner with community health care workers who can coordinate care and services in the community for families. The legislation will also create a demonstration project to provide telehealth services at centers and expand existing telehealth services in medically underserved areas. Finally, the bill will ensure school-based health centers can be reimbursed for covered services under Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program at the same level as services provided in a physician’s office or outpatient clinic.

Senator Stabenow championed the School-Based Health Center Capital Program as part of the Affordable Care Act to help centers access critical funding for construction, renovation and equipment needs. The Health Resources and Services Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, oversees the school-based Health Center Capital Program.

Red Arrow

- BASKETBALL

SPORTS

Girls hold ceremony to honor lost Caledonia teammate

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Pink Arrow pride was recently a lovely shade of purple. The Lowell girls varsity basketball team brought class and respect to the hardwood pausing pregame to honor Caledonia High School multi-sport athlete Macayla “Mac” Kohn who passed away last October in a tragic car accident.

The teams were poised to take to the court at LHS when the Lowell team surprised Caledonia with a touching rose ceremony. Each player walked across court holding a purple painted rose, in honor of the Scots purple and gold school colors and placed it on the sideline seat saved by the Scots for Kohn since her passing. The simple gesture was the idea of Lowell sophomore Emily Depew who knew Kohn from her years of competing in another sport.

“She [Depew] was the one who is responsible for everything that happened

that night. She played with Macayla on a softball team and was friends with her,” said coach Heath Kent of the brief ceremony, “I was very proud of her for what she put together that night. She is a great representative of [the] type of students that Lowell High School has.”

Kent said that Depew had a tough time in the process of honoring her friend, but was well taken care of by her team. “I was proud of the rest of the girls and how they rallied around Emily to support their teammate.”

On the other side of the court, surprise and appreciation was evident on the faces of Caledonia athletes and fans.

“There are not words. Macayla’s family comes to many of our games and I wished they were there. It was so far beyond. It was so thoughtful and I don’t think there were many dry eyes in our crowd,” commented Caledonia parent Shelly Stammers.

The experience brought up many emotions for Stammers and others from Caledonia still struggling to come to terms with the loss of a young lady described as a fun and vibrant person who competed fiercely and with fantastic sportsmanship.

“It was surprising that they would think of doing this. It was a mixture of happy and sad and everything all at once,” said Stammers, who shared the experience via social media. She also reported that a fellow Caledonia

fan captured a video of the memorial and shared it with Kohn’s parents Scott and Jessica. Another parent hand delivered the purple roses to their home.

“It was a beautiful sentiment and these girls

showed incredible love and respect,” said Stammers of the Lowell team. “What they did was above and beyond. A great example to kids and adults everywhere.”



Purple roses rest upon the chair reserved for Macayla Kohn at each of Caledonia’s games since her tragic passing.

Keith Alberstadt

FRIDAY, MARCH 10
GRAND VOLUTE,
LOWELL
7 PM

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Red Arrow

- BASKETBALL

SPORTS

Two wins on the road for the Red Arrow girls

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Girls varsity basketball padded their OK White conference lead with a 50-42 win over Ottawa Hills and picked up a non-conference win over Zeeland West 45-31.

Tuesday in OK action against Ottawa Hills the Arrows improved their conference record to 7-1 with a 50-42 triumph over the Bengals. Lowell bested their opponents scoring in all but one period taking an

early 13-10 lead at the close of the first and maintaining their lead by two, 23-21, at the half. The fierce battle continued in the second half with Lowell topping Ottawa 16-13 in the third and 11-8 in the fourth spelling out the victory. The win was led by court standout Cassie Dean who put up 19 points. Sophomore Regan Coxon followed her performance with a fiery 15.

Friday in exhibition

play the team visited the lakeshore to take on Zeeland West High School coming out on top 45-31 after a defensively dominant second period propelled the Arrows too far to catch for the Dux. After breaking even in the first period 14-14 they crushed the Dux offense locking them out of scoring in the second period while racking up 14 more to take a 28-14 lead at the half.

Not fairsing much better

in the third, Zeeland West was only able to produce six points while Lowell also experienced a scoring slump adding just eight to the board. Moving into the final stanza of the game, ahead 36-20, the Dux outscored the Arrows 11-9, but came nowhere near the earlier established deficit falling at the hands of Lowell. Coxon and Dean once again led in scoring, each netting 12 points in the win.

The team, now 13-3 overall and 7-1 in conference, looks to top two more OK White opponents this week as they host an important pair of games. The team welcomed the Northview Wildcats on Tuesday and will battle Forest Hills Northern, who issued the their only conference loss earlier this season, on Friday starting at 7 pm.

Boys extend their winning streak to six games

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Red Arrow varsity boys basketball extended their winning streak to six games picking up an OK White conference victory over Ottawa Hills on Tuesday 58-50 and adding a exhibition win over the Zeeland West Dux on Friday night in a down to the wire 54-52 battle.

At home versus the Bengals of Ottawa Hills, senior power prevailed once again with 6' 7" Austin Branagan leading the scoreboard with 19 for the Red Arrows. Teammate Matt Beachler nearly matched his offensive performance netting 17 and adding ten rebounds and six assists. Andrew Poulton played an aggressive game producing 12 points for the team in the 58-50 win.

Lowell found themselves down by 21-9 at the close of the first but started the second on a scoring run that included a huge dunk from Branagan after nabbing the ball from the Bengal offense. The run brought the Arrows back into contention throughout the second and third before Beachler pushed a three-point range shot to Branagan who completed his mission at the buzzer taking the Arrows up 42-39 moving into the fourth. Remaining tight until the waning minutes, the Arrows finally pulled away logging the 58-50 win. The victory keeps the 7-1 Red Arrows atop the OK White by two games and the formidable Forest Hills Central in second with a record of 5-3.

Friday at Zeeland West the Arrows won with a defensive effort that kept

the Dux one bucket short of forcing overtime. The Arrows claimed the 54-

52 win after leading 13-8 after the first period and expanding their lead to 32-22 at the half. A slow offensive third period effort only produced eight points for Lowell allowing Zeeland to recover from their early scoring setbacks

and drive the game to a tie at 38 points heading into the fourth. The Arrows trailed until a new wind, blown in by an 8-0 scoring run, put them up by two with seconds remaining. The win improves the team's overall season record to 11-5.



A pair of OK White challenges are on tap this week. Tuesday the team traveled to Northview and this Friday they will have the opportunity to avenge their only conference loss when they take on Forest Hills Northern for the second time this season. Action is scheduled to begin at 5:30 pm at Lowell High School.

Andrew Poulton under heavy coverage during last week's home event.

LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING STATE OF MICHIGAN The Probate Court for the County of Kent

In the matter of JUDITH WISER

Guardianship File No. 17-200,719-GA Conservatorship File No. 17-200,718-CA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including TIMOTHY DEYOUNG AND DANIEL DEYOUNG, whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on MARCH 15, 2017, at 9:00

a.m. at Kent Co. Probate Court, 180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: Appointment of a Guardian and Conservator.

Dated: February 9, 2017

Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner 121 Franklin St. NE Grand Rapids, MI 49507 (616) 690-7176

VAN ESSEN AND ASSOCIATES PLLC, Attys. for Petitioner by Amanda Van Essen Wirth (P75001) 3425 Kelly St. Hudsonville, MI 49426 (616) 633-0196

Sports Summaries 

BOYS SWIM & DIVE

Caledonia/Lowell/South Christian boys swim team dove into action twice last week traveling to Grand Rapids Christian and Wayland placing third in dual action and falling in conference competition. Tuesday the Arrows fell in the middle of a five-team meet topping West Catholic and Mona Shores but losing to Ludington and host GRC. First-place finishes included Ryan Parsons in the 50- and 100-freestyle and Mike Johnson in the 100-backstroke. The team also picked up relay wins in the 200-medley, swam by Johnson, Parsons, Parker Lee and Ren Bykerk, and the 400-freestyle, swam by Lee, David Bud, Johnson and Parsons. Thursday in OK action against Wayland the team fell 99-77. Parsons and Johnson led in the meet with Parsons grabbing first in the 200-individual medley and 100-freestyle and Johnson earning the top spot in the 100-backstroke. Their next meet is this Thursday at Ottawa Hills at 6 pm.

GIRLS BOWLING

Junior Morgan Allison led the Red Arrow girls varsity bowling team twice in competition last week in a pair of team wins and broke through her own personal best score rolling a career best 253. Wednesday at home versus Ottawa Hills in OK White conference action, the Arrows shut out the Bengals in a big 30-0 win. Allison topped Lowell bowlers with a 200 at the competition. Thursday, once again at home, the team took on non-conference foe Hopkins winning 17-13 assisted by the high game from Allison.

BOYS BOWLING

Topping opponents in both of their home competitions last week, the Lowell varsity boys bowling team maintained their flawless OK White conference record with a 27-3 win over Ottawa Hills and extended their winning overall season with a 18-12 victory over Hopkins in exhibition play. Carson Clark and Foster Skoog led in the Wednesday win over Ottawa Hills earning scores of 205 and 196 respectively. Thursday against Hopkins, Lowell saw Landon Smith roll a career high 265 on the lanes and pin leader Clark roll a 266. The team will move into OK White conference tournament action this Saturday in first place.

ICE HOCKEY

Lowell Caledonia Hockey took an early beating from West Ottawa last week Saturday at the Kentwood Ice Arena going down 5-0 before seeing their first score in a match that ended in a 5-3 loss. The team struggled to overcome the early deficit finding the back of the net just three times but managed to stalemate their opponent offensively. Scores were attained by Ethan Pinto, assisted by Charlie Hayes and Austin Whaley; Alex Osborn, assisted by Hayes and Eddie Heikkila and Nolan Winterburn, assisted by Osborn and Nate Regan.



Red Arrow

- GYMNASTICS

SPORTS

Gymnasts head to conference meet on Thursday

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell varsity gymnastics broke even last week falling to familiar foe Rockford on Monday

142.65-134.75 and topping East Kentwood High School on Wednesday 131.375-120.25. The team wrapped up their regular conference

schedule in third-place with their sights set on this week's OK tournament meet.

Junior Maura Fitzpatrick led the Red Arrows in three of four events at Rockford in the first meet of the week. The gymnast earned an 8.275 on the bars, a 8.375 on the beam and a 9.175 on the floor exercise. She also placed fourth among her teammates on the vault with an 8.7. Her effort earned her a top all-around spot with a score of 34.525.

Also earning all-around honors during the 142.65-134.75 win were Karmen Anderson with a combined score of 33.375 and Alise Forward with a 33.5. Anderson scored an 8.8 on the vault, an 8.125 on the bars and a 7.9 on the beam. Forward tied Anderson on the beam with an 8.8 and also landed in the top four on three other events. Corah

Miller was Lowell's top finisher on the vault with an 8.875.

Despite the strong showing, Rockford was better prepared after suffering a recent loss to the Red Arrows. According to Lowell head coach Michele DeHaan, "They were ready for us this time after we got the win at our last dual meet together. It didn't help that we struggled again to stay on the beam. We have our work cut out for us between now and regionals in March. I am confident we will get where we need to be before then."

Wednesday at East Kentwood the team had the opportunity to compete in conference one last time coming out on top 131.375-120.25. Four Lowell gymnasts scored highest on each of the four events with Anderson claiming top score on the vault with an 8.85, Forward leading on the bars with an 8.35, Lisa Price leading on the beam with a 7.9 and Fitzpatrick once again topping the floor exercise with a 9.275. Emily Lothian was the all-around finisher ending her day with a combined score of 32.05 to earn the honor. Lothian placed fourth on the vault and bars, second on the beam and third on the floor. Finishing their conference season 5-3 in duals, the team will jump into the conference tournament looking for a top finish with their performance. "If we are able to beat Forest Hills at the conference meet, our dual points and conference meet points will shake out with us tying them for second place in the conference," explained coach DeHaan. "The highest we have ever finished is third. If we can stay on the beam, we have a good shot at it."

Lowell	131.375	Rockford	142.65
East Kentwood	120.25	Lowell	134.75
Vault			
Karmen Anderson	8.85	Corah Miller	8.875
Hadyn Nash	8.7	Karmen Anderson	8.8
Alise Forward	8.625	Alise Forward	8.8
Emily Lothian	8.425	Maura Fitzpatrick	8.7
Amber Brown	8.425		
Bars			
Bars			
Alise Forward	8.35	Maura Fitzpatrick	8.275
Karmen Anderson	8.3	Karmen Anderson	8.125
Olyvia Johnson	7.475	Alise Forward	8.0
Emily Lothian	7.4	Amber Brown	7.975
Beam			
Beam			
Lisa Price	7.9	Maura Fitzpatrick	8.375
Emily Lothian	7.825	Karmen Anderson	7.9
Corah Miller	7.75	Alise Forward	7.8
Marissa Grover	7.625	Amber Brown	7.45
Floor			
Floor			
Maura Fitzpatrick	9.275	Maura Fitzpatrick	9.175
Karmen Anderson	8.85	Lisa Price	8.925
Emily Lothian	8.4	Alise Forward	8.9
Paige DeHaan	7.625	Corah Miller	8.675



Marissa Grover starting her floor routine.

The conference championship meet is scheduled for Thursday at Rockford High School to begin at 6 pm.



Karmen Anderson doing a back handspring on the balance beam.



Paige DeHaan doing a kip on the lower half of the uneven bars.

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

10381 BAILEY DR SE
LOWELL, MI 49331

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	51.58%	.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

college news

The University of Wisconsin-Madison has recognized Isabel Hart and Olivia Rotelle, both of Ada, to the dean's list for the fall semester of the 2016-2017 academic year.

Students who achieve at a high level academically are recognized by the dean at the close of each semester. To be eligible for the dean's list, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester.

Grand Valley State University announces the names of students who were placed on the dean's list for the fall 2016 semester concluding in December. The list includes those students who have maintained a 3.5 grade point average and been enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits. The honor is noted on the students' official records.

Students honored for the winter semester

include, of Ada: Keara M. Anderson, Keaghan R. Bacon, Katelyn A. Boerma, Joshua E. Boonenberg, Tyler W. Brewer, Marshal J. Brummel, Christina A. Byl, Mowgli J. Crosby, Rosemary F. Cusack, Benjamin J. DeVries, Jacob P. DeVries, Margaret A. DeVries, Margaret C. Farmer, Erica E. Fischer, Natalie E. Fischer, Emily M. Fries, Evan J. Gerondale, Adam J. Heiss, Ryan D. Hilbert, Marion L. Jamet, Bisam M. Javid, Nicole E. Jimenez, Rebecca V. Karl, Robert M. Killeen, Joseph

T. Lapenna, Chiara A. Licari, Kelly M. McMillen, Ryan T. Merrill, Macie L. Pasciak, Katherine E. Platt, Lucas A. Posthuma, Stephen J. Prefontaine, Ruth I. Rapeyko, Brooke T. Rosier, Kira N. Rosol, Riley P. Rouse, Emma R. Rupprecht, Rachel L. Rye, Collin T. Schlosser, Avery C. Sena, Shaelen R. Sena, Tabitha Y. Sherk, Caleb G. Smith, Kyrn M. Stoddard, Cassidy J. Terhorst, Jacob W. Theisen, Cassandra E. Trapp, Rachel A. Trisch, Nabeel O. Vali, Trent R. VanWagoner, Luke A. Vroegindewey,

Bryce M. Wallace, and Joshua P. Witherell; of Alto: Kellie N. Abraham, Carly C. Byam, Clare G. Carlson, Sarah M. DeVries, AnneMarie Echelbarger, Drake M. Ellens, Zachary S. Jacobson, Megan N. Latreille, Jacob R. Lindale, Jaclyn A. Meeuwenberg, Leah M. Metzler, Grant L. Mortenson, Hannah L. Petersen, Kailee N. Schafer, Kaitlyn M. Schweda, Kendra L. Stauffer, Kimberly R. Sterzick, Brandee D. Taylor, Jessica K. VanderSloot, Thomas J. Williamson, and Noah G. Yonker; of Lowell: James P. Barnard, Casey R. Cahoon, Lisa A. Castro, Kayla J. Cook, Daniel E. Cowden, Jordan M. Drake, Allysen M. Dubisky, Nicole L. Gaunt, John P. Heffron, Katie L. Holzhueter, Haris I. Islamcevic, Philip R. Janowski, Daniel H. Johnson, Drew E. Mayhew, Kristen S. McAlpine, Austin M. McNeal, Jonathan P. Newsome,

Jacob M. North, Anna M. Organek, Lauren M. Penninga, Jessica M. Piell, Meghan K. Plutschouw, Andrew S. Potter, Bailey L. Reitsma, Kelsey M. Smith, Aubreigh M. Steed, Brianna D. Steiner, Jacob D. Stephens, Lanaia J. Walker, Jake W. Will, Madelynn A. Willemstein, and Meaghan E. Zech.

Connor Bergin was on the Fall 2016 dean's honor list at University of Michigan. To receive this recognition, a student must earn a 3.5 GPA term average or better. The students who attained this achievement are recognized on the Michigan Engineering Student Recognition website.

Bergin also received a four-year Lowell Rotary Club scholarship in 2014. He is the son of Lorain Smalligan and Ted Bergin, of Lowell.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

BID PROPOSAL

Sealed bids, in triplicate, for the Lowell Area Schools 2017 Summer Improvements, will be received at Room B100, Lowell Area School Administration, 300 High St, Lowell, MI 49331 on Thursday, March 2, 2017 until 2:00 pm local time. Bids received after this time, at this location, will neither be considered or accepted.

All proposals received by the time and date stated above will be opened and read publicly at 2:00pm local time on Thursday, March 2, 2017 in Room B100, Lowell Area School Administration, 300 High St, Lowell, MI 49331. Bids may be hand delivered at Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. representative just prior to the bid opening.

Bids may be mailed to Owen-Ames-Kimball Co., 300 Ionia NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Mailed bids must be received prior to the bid due time and date stated above. FAXED OR EMAILED BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

In accordance with Section 1267 of the Revised School Code each bid must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized Familial Disclosure Statement completed by the bidder disclosing any familial relationship between the Owner or any employee of the Bidder and any member of the District's Board of Education or the Superintendent of the District.

SITE INSPECTION A construction pre-bid meeting will be held at Room B100, Lowell Area School Administration, 300 High St, Lowell, MI 49331 on Thursday, February 16, 2017 starting at 2:00 pm local time. All bidders are encouraged to attend.

BID DOCUMENTS The Bidding Documents may be obtained at ARC-Veenstra Documents Solutions, 800 Monroe Ave NW Grand Rapids, MI 49503, at no cost or deposit. A non-refundable charge of \$30 will be required for mailing documents.

Documents can be viewed at the following locations:

- <http://las2017.blogspot.com/>
- Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. website: www.owen-ames-kimball.com/subcontractors/
- Builders Exchange plan rooms in Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing and Traverse City.
- Dodge McGraw Hill plan rooms in Grand Rapids, Lansing & Southfield.
- Reed Construction Data and Construction Association of Michigan, Detroit.
- Construction News Corp, Cleveland

BIDDER QUALIFICATIONS Bidders submitting a Bid for this Project shall have qualifications as follows:


- Shall be a reputable, recognized organization, with at least five (5) years successful experience on work of this type and scope of this project.
- Shall have a license where required by public authorities having jurisdiction.
- Shall have ample financial resources for work of this magnitude.

BID SECURITY - PERFORMANCE BONDS

Each bid shall be accompanied by good and sufficient bid security or bid bond in an amount not less than 5% of the Bid amount and shall secure the Owner from loss or damage by reason of the withdrawal of the Bid by a Bidder or by failure of the successful Bidder to enter into a Contract with the Owner if his Bid is accepted by the Owner.

The successful Bidder will be required to secure Performance, Labor and Material bonds for all contracts at or exceeding \$50,000, from a surety company having a rating of A- or better, for the full amount of the Contract.





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Looking Back, continued

said, applicants must prove they had negotiated for the vehicles before the freezing order went into effect. This proof must show that the buyers paid cash, signed notes for the cars or turned in used vehicles before Jan. 1. Those to whom new cars were released in this vicinity were Evelyn L. Yeiter and William P. Kerekes.

Car surplus wheat arrives in Lowell. The King Milling Company announced this week that the first carload of surplus wheat to be shipped into Michigan for use for livestock and poultry feeding has been received at the mill here. This wheat is being offered the farmers of this community for feeding purposes, the wheat being of excellent quality, testing more than sixty pounds.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger Feb. 19, 1967

"Learning to do, doing to learn, earning to live, living to serve." With this as their motto, the Future Farmers of America work for progress and a brighter tomorrow, through the development of agricultural leadership, cooperation and citizenship. To these young men of high purpose and outstanding achievement, we extend our hearty thanks and congratulations during National FFA Week, February 18th through 25th.

Army Private First Class Darroll G. Kelley, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Kelley, Lowell, has arrived in Viet Nam with his unit, the 41st Engineer Port Company. The company was previously located at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia. Pvt. Kelley is an electrician in the company.

Army Sergeant Stephen P. Malone, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul E. Malone, Lowell, participated in cold weather exercise "Frontier Assault" with other troops of the Alaskan Command and forces from the Royal Canadian Air Force February 1 through 10. Sgt. Malone is assigned to the U. S. Army, Alaska. Thousands of soldiers took part in the exercise designed to evaluate and develop procedures for the command and control

of joint Allied forces, and to provide practice in tactics during severe weather conditions.

Jody Collins was elected Miss Basketball by her fellow students of Lowell High School last Friday. She represented the sophomore class and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rex Collins of Lowell. Other candidates for this annual honor were Jane Ward, senior class; Liz Hughes, junior class and Carol Worfel of the freshman class.

Lowell Lions honored charter member Bernard Kropf with a meritorious Service award at their annual Ladies Night program. Kropf has served as an officer for the 12 years the club has been organized here and has a perfect attendance record.

Also awarded a plaque was Postmaster Charles Doyle who was short-changed by the city lately. Doyle said he will hang his plaque along with his personally autographed photo of L. B. J. in his private office.

A belt on an overhead conveyor at the C. H. Runciman Company plant on South Broadway Street, caught fire Tuesday night at 11 p. m. Lowell firemen were called, and the fire was quickly extinguished with a small amount of damage encountered.

Work is progressing with the approaches to the new bridge under construction over Grand River on M-21. Motorists are warned that extreme caution should be observed while driving through this area during the working hours.

If you want your snow hauled away, try a sign in your window...It worked for Curly Howard.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger Feb. 19, 1992

The City of Lowell learned early last week that the Michigan Department of Transportation will install the "no parking" signs along M-21 just west of the Hudson St./Main St. intersection this week. Lowell City

Manager Dave Pasquale said it is his understanding that the signs were suppose to be put up Tuesday. Lowell Police Chief Barry Emmons said as soon as the signs are up they will begin to enforce no parking on M-21 west of the downtown light to Vennen Chrysler Dodge. "The first week we will not hand out tickets, we will ask for people to remove their cars," Emmons said. "We want to make everybody aware of the change." The M-21/Valley Vista light was put up back in April. The signs were to follow. Pasquale said along with the new "no parking signs," the state said there would be an additional asphalted lane going west extending beyond the Valley Vista light. "It will then taper off near the Ridgeview Shopping Center," he adds. State officials said the project should be completed this spring. Pasquale said there would be no cost to the City of Lowell.

A coordinated effort by the Lowell Showboat Garden Club, Look Memorial Fund and The City of Lowell is bringing the highly successful "Adopt-A-Tree" program to City Residents again this year. The Look Memorial Fund is entering its third year in a financial commitment to offer free trees to City residents. The "Adopt-A-Tree" program is seen as a wise ecological move and a beautification endeavor to better our community. To date the program has planted 133 various types of trees in the City limits. This year the program will offer upwards of 125 trees of one inch in diameter for all residents with first-time applicants given first priority. "Adopt-A-Tree" offers a free tree to Lowell residents to be planted between the curb and sidewalk or within 10 feet from inside the sidewalk. Merchants are allowed to apply with the only restriction being that there is enough property for tree placement and that they not plant the trees between the state controlled curb and sidewalk properties. The recipient of the tree must take care of the tree by making sure it's properly watered and maintained.

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1. Flat-bottom hauler
6. Ewe's cry
9. 32-card game
13. *"The _____ Suspects," winner of two Oscars in '96
14. Not in good health
15. O.J.'s nickname
16. Forearm bones
17. 18-wheeler
18. Change the Constitution, e.g.
19. *"Hidden Figures" nominee
21. Recessed space
23. Half a dozen
24. Bird's groomer
25. Male
28. Western Samoan money
30. *#15 Down, e.g.
35. Geishas' sashes
37. Poet Angelou
39. Swelling
40. Quite a stretch
41. Deadly sin
43. Arrival times
44. Bigwig in the Orient
46. Dwarf buffalo
47. Solomon, e.g.
48. Freshwater protozoans
50. Arab ruler
52. Grazing land
53. "_____ we forget"
55. Sheep not yet sheared
57. *"Manchester by _____"
60. *Hidden what?

CROSSWORD														
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FEBRUARY 8 - FEBRUARY 14

- Michael Flynn resigned as national security adviser after reports that he had discussed U.S. sanctions with Russia prior to Trump's inauguration — and then misled then-Vice President-elect Pence about that conversation. 
- Kim Jong Nam, the 46-year-old half brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has died under suspicious circumstances in Malaysia.
- After a year of no full-frontal nudity, Cooper Hefner, Playboy's chief creative officer, is bringing it back saying, "Naked is normal."
- Starbucks is about to begin serving ice cream at more than 100 stores across the US.

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- | | | |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| 64. *"Moonlight," e.g. | 71. Midterm or final | 33. Candidate's concern? |
| 65. Golfer's goal | 72. Hitherto | 34. *Ben's younger brother and best actor nominee |
| 67. Saudi Arabian money | 73. Like a well-defined muscle | 36. Nose-in-the-air type |
| 68. Levi's fabric | | 38. Tiny piece of anything |
| 69. Prefix for prior | DOWN | 42. Site of 2010 cholera outbreak |
| 70. Use the blunt pencil tip | 1. Plant prickles | 45. ____ fir |
| | 2. "Hurry!" | 49. To witness |
| | 3. Like unpleasant awakening | 51. Sadness about past |
| | 4. Capital increases | 54. Like foolish or romantic movie |
| | 5. Provoke | 56. Gourd musical instrument |
| | 6. Ethiopian currency | 57. Genealogical plant |
| | 7. *Will Smith's 2002 nominated role | 58. *Academy Award winning composer |
| | 8. Lake scum | Zimmer |
| | 9. Japanese wrestling | 59. What exhaust pipes do |
| | 10. Capital on the Dnieper | 60. Worry |
| | 11. High school breakout | 61. *Oscar nominee and 2017 Golden Globe winner |
| | 12. "Ideas worth spreading" online talk | 62. Comfort |
| | 15. *Portman's role | 63. Iditarod ride |
| | 20. MCAT and LSAT | 64. Banned insecticide |
| | 22. Research location | 66. 1/100 of a hectare |
| | 24. Infantryman's knife | |
| | 25. *Animated nominee | |
| | 26. Perpendicular to the keel | |
| | 27. She turned to stone, Greek mythology | |
| | 29. *"_____ Land" | |
| | 31. Lyric poems | |
| | 32. Flower part | |

Puzzle solutions on page 12

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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.

THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

Are you beginning to feel less stress or more as the new administration approaches its first 100 days?

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Red Arrow SPORTS

Wrestlers head to regionals, continued

Northern. Claiming a 61-6 victory they lost only two matches at the 112 and 130 weight classes. Keigan Yuhas (171), David Kruse (189) and Elijah Boulton (215) picked up their wins by forfeit, while Austin McKechnie (135) and Nick Korhorn (103) earned their wins by major decisions of 16-2 and 17-6 respectively. Claiming win by fall were Dawson Jankowski (119), Tyler Lynch (125) and Avry Mutschler (145), while Sam Russell (140) picked up a technical fall. Carter Bierling (152) claimed his win in a 13-7 decision and Grant Pratt (160) by an 11-4 decision.

The first-round victory advanced the team to the finals round against host FHE where they bested their previous performance garnering 13 out of 14 victories in a 75-3 win that granted the Red Arrows the district title. Kruse opened up action in the match at 189 earning a win by fall at 1:29. Boulton and Connor Nugent followed at 215 and 285

winning by forfeit. Korhorn picked up his second victory of the night at 103 with a win over Gavin Smith by fall at 2:16 followed by a Bryce McCune 15-5 major decision at 112.

After dropping the match at 119, the Arrows next saw Tyler Lynch earn a forfeit at 125, John Russell take over at 130 and earn a fall at 5:13 and Austin Boone log a technical fall at 135. S. Russell and Mutschler were up next at 140 and 145 with Russell winning by forfeit and Mutschler by fall at 4:43. Rounding out Lowell grapplers were Joshua Havey (152) by forfeit, Bryce Dempsey (160) and George Gonzales (171) by fall.

Saturday Lowell hosted the MHSAA individual districts utilizing both of the schools gyms for the showdowns. With four mats of action, the day was busy for the Red Arrows and incredibly successful. Lowell sent 14 wrestlers into battle and qualified the same amount for regional

competition. Seven of the 14 qualifiers left the tournament with individual district championships in hand, filling up the top of the podium in 50 percent of the contests.

Red Arrow Jankowski claimed first at 112 earning wins by fall over his FHE, Coopersville and Greenville opponents before topping Jacob Osmolinski of Sparta in the first-place match by a slim 3-2 decision. James Fotis topped the 119 weight class after receiving a bye in the first round and then decision wins over Reeths Puffer and Sparta. He battled teammate Jeff Leach in the first-place match claiming a 3-0 decision win. Leach was the second-place finisher. At 135 Boone earned the top spot with a bye and wins over Greenville and Muskegon by fall before taking out Jordan Ringler of Cedar Springs by forfeit.

Also atop the podium Mutschler claimed the title at 140 with a bye and wins by fall over Cedar Springs

and Fruitport. His first-place victory came by forfeit over fellow Red Arrow Sam Russell, who finished second also qualifying him for regional competition. Dempsey topped fellow top ten wrestler Levi Six of Fruitport in his first-place match getting a pin at just 1:19 into the match after earning falls over his Fremont quarterfinal and Sparta semifinal opponents. 189 pound Kruse became district champ after battling through Orchard View and Kenowa Hills on the way to a first-place battle with Dawson Romanosky of Reeths Puffer, winning by major decision 11-3.

Finishing off Lowell's first-place finishers was Boulton who faced a familiar face on the mat to earn his championship status at 215 pounds. After defeating his Coopersville, Fruitport and Reeths Puffer competitors, Boulton found himself set to take on Forest Hills Northern grappler Connor Bruinius. The Husky dealt Boulton two of the three defeats he suffered this season, but he earned a 7-2 decision win to round out the first-place finishers.

Placing second for the Arrows, besides Russell and Leach, was Yuhas at 160 who picked up wins over wrestlers from Spring Lake and Cedar Springs along with a first-round bye before losing to Blake Ross of Reeths Puffer and Austin Engle at 171 who went bye, fall and 3-0 decision over Muskegon and Reeths Puffer respectively before losing to Ryan Ringler of Cedar Springs in a 21-14 decision.

Hunter Browning placed third at 103 after losing in the semifinals and then topping Jared Pomental of Greenville in the consolation round and

teammate Nick Korhorn by forfeit in the third-place match. Korhorn also fell in the semis and then picked up a win over Derek Monje to earn his fourth-place finish against Browning. Connor Nugent also fought his way back from a semifinal loss to place fourth and qualify for the regional competition. His win came after victories over Fremont and Reeths Puffer as well as Fruitport and followed a mighty performance at the conference competition last week. "Connor weighs 205 pounds and was wrestling up at 285 pounds

because Max Bishop, our normal heavy weight, was ill. Connor managed to make the finals and went six minutes with the No. 2 ranked wrestler in the state. I think it showed tremendous poise and courage by Connor to do what he did." Boudro sited Nugent as a source of leadership on the team along with Boulton, Dempsey, Mutschler, Boone and Kruse, saying that these particular wrestlers have provided leadership for the team and stick out as, "guys that we have been able to lean on in tough situations."

Wednesday the two-round team regional tournament will be held at Sparta High School at 6 pm and continue when 14 qualifying wrestlers take part in the individual regional competition at Byron Center on Saturday morning.



Keigan Yuhas claims one of his victories on the mat at in individual districts.



Senior Bryce Dempsey on the mat en route to his district championship at 152 pounds.

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