

ABC'S
OF LOWELL

page 6

Biodegradable
golf balls

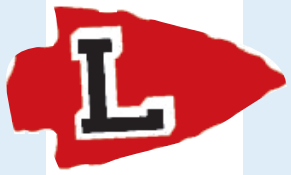


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Red Arrow
Winter
SPORTS TEAMS

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Lowell Area
Schools Sports



page 10 & 11

\$1.00



City Council discusses 990 N. Washington property

By Jake Bates
contributing writer

The Lowell City Council meeting took place on Jan. 3rd and lasted over an hour and a half. Among the usual business was a lengthy discussion about the 990 N. Washington property. Lowell City Manager, Michael Burns, began the discussion on cleanup before transitioning to the future.

The tenants at the 990 N. Washington property were formally evicted on Dec. 2nd, 2022. Burns addressed the council, seeking guidance on how to proceed with cleanup of the property, “I had Mayor Pro Tem, Chambers, visit the site to see if there were any items of value we could sell which would help us recover our costs for cleaning up the site.” Mayor, Mike DeVore, agreed with the idea, mentioning that any amount recuperated would be helpful.

The former resident of the 990 N. Washington property, addressed the council. He said he believes the proper eviction process was not followed in regards



Lowell City Council discusses the options for the 990 N. Washington property at the January 3rd City Council meeting.

to his personal belongings. City Attorney, Jessica Wood, responded succinctly that the “proper legal procedure was followed, there is no doubt about that.” The city attempted to work with Dietzel many times before proceeding with an eviction.

City Council voted in favor to allow Red Barn Consignments to facilitate the sale of any items of value at the 990 N. Washington property.

Burns introduced the next topic regarding the

future use of the 990 N. Washington property. The property, owned by the City of Lowell, is a part of Vergennes Township. He explained the process of annexing the property, “Vergennes Township cannot contest. The one condition is, any buildings on the site must be demolished.”

Burns then introduced four options regarding future usage of the property, “Add the property to the park network, developing

residential units, considering affordable housing opportunities, or treating the property as a park but not adding the property to the park network.” After a short discussion, city council decided to not make a decision regarding the future of the property yet. But they did decide to begin discussion and hear questions and discussion from citizens.

Lowell residents expressed unanimous support at the meeting to

have the property converted to a park. The North Country National Scenic Trail is located on a portion of the property and was frequently referenced as a reason to add this to the park network.

DeVore made the motion to approve the city manager to begin demolition and annexation of the property. It was supported and passed unanimously.

Rotary Club adds two more scholarships

Because of generous donations made in memory of Betsy Davidson, the Rotary Club of Lowell Community Foundation (RCLCF) has announced two new scholarships in 2023. One is for another four-year renewable scholarship, and this year, a one-year scholarship for someone going to a trade/technical school has been added. Applicants must be graduating seniors and live in the boundaries of the Lowell Area School District or attend LHS. Students who are home-schooled or in a school of choice program are encouraged to apply.

There are a total of twelve renewable scholarships available:

Renewable four years-\$1,000 per year: Betsy Davidson Memorial Scholarship (IT/Computer

Science Focus); Hahn/ Rotary Club of Lowell Scholarship; King and Marie Doyle Family Scholarships (five scholarships); Dorothy and Clinton Christoff Family Scholarship – attending Cornerstone University; Eva and Lee Lampkin Scholarship.

Renewable three years-\$500 per year: Jim and Bobbie White Family Scholarship – (Education Degree focus).

Renewable two years-\$500 per year: Donald and Ellura McPherson Scholarship – Attending GRCC (two scholarships).

Non-Renewable one year-\$2,000:Betsy Davidson Memorial Scholarship - attending a trade/technical school.

Scholarships are centered on the Rotary

motto; Service Above Self. Along with an application, students are asked to submit an essay describing their volunteer activities, who was served and how the experiences have impacted their life. They should include all school and non-school service-related activities, like student government, sports, choir, clubs, church, work, etc.

The RCLCF has awarded over 110 scholarships, totaling over \$320,000, to Lowell area students since being established in 1997. Applications are available at LHS guidance office, Lowell and Alto Public Libraries and on the Lowell Rotary Club website (LowellRotary.org) in the home page download files section. Applications must be submitted to the LHS guidance office or post-marked by March 16, 2023.

January is National Birth Defects Prevention Month

Nearly 13,000 children in Michigan are diagnosed annually with a birth defect within one year of birth. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is joining with leading prenatal health experts from the National Birth Defects Prevention Network this month to increase awareness of five critical tips that help reduce the chances of having a baby with a birth defect.

Birth defects are structural changes that can affect almost any part of the body, such as the heart, brain or foot, and can cause lifelong health challenges. Annually, the National Birth Defects Prevention Network raises awareness of birth defects and promotes strategies

that help reduce the risk of birth defects and their complications. The National Birth Defects Prevention Month campaign theme this year is “Healthy Communities, Healthy Babies.”

“As medical care and treatment have improved, babies and children with birth defects are living longer and healthier lives,” said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, chief medical executive. “Although not all birth defects can be prevented, pregnant people and prospective parents are encouraged to make healthy choices and adopt

Prevention,
continued page 2

For bad (or frivolous) Michigan golfers: biodegradable golf balls



Have you ever stopped to wonder what happens to those golf balls that you used for driving practice out by the lake?

Roughly, 300 million golf balls are discarded or lost in America, alone, every year, according to John Waddington, the founder of Golf Educate.

The Danish Golf Union also says that at the rate that

A handful of companies are producing biodegradable golf balls, which dissolve after days or weeks

they break down naturally, it puts them in a spot to be one of the largest contributors to water pollution, globally.

The issue of big water sources being polluted is not too far from home.

A 2019 investigation, by the Detroit Free Press, found that golfers at the exclusive Arcadia Bluffs

course in Arcadia, Manistee County, were encouraged to hit balls into Lake Michigan at the 12th hole.

The large number of balls lost annually means microplastics are being introduced into waterways at an alarming rate, according to the Danish Golf Union.

Mitch Schols, the owner of Biodegradable Golf Balls, is one of a number of entrepreneurs with a plan to lower those numbers.

The company has designed and created exactly what you would expect from its name: biodegradable golf balls. They are made of only two ingredients: corn starch and polyvinyl alcohol. “Both ingredients dissolve in water and are also completely non-toxic,” Schols said. They take

roughly 2-3 weeks to break down once they hit the water.

A few other companies also produce biodegradable balls. They include Albus Golf, whose EcoBioBall wins style points, for a core that releases non-toxic fish food as it dissolves which, the company touts, “opens up the possibility of practicing golf on cruise ships, beaches, jetties, seafront hotels and resorts, oil rigs, boats (and) yachts.”

According to the Danish Golf Union, it takes a typical golf ball between 100-1,000 years to break down naturally in water.

Besides the obvious difference in ingredients, there are other major differences between biodegradable balls and your typical Titleist ball.

The primary use of the biodegradable golf balls is for driving practice where open water is the target, not playing a full 18 holes.

Unlike Titleist balls, these are single core. That



Golf balls that find their way into lakes and other bodies of water are a significant source of plastics pollution. (Shutterstock)

means they don’t have the multiple variations of materials on the inside to make the balls fly as far.

According to Alex Scott, an environmental consultant for the UN, golf balls have a rubber core, surrounded by more layers

of rubber, with a hard outer coat.

The multiple cores are where most of the problems reside, when it comes to breaking down golf balls. The layers of rubber that allow for the ball to fly further, be hit harder and provide an elastic effect, are more difficult to break down. “If you watch a slow-motion video of a golf ball getting hit at a high speed, it will almost look elastic,” Schols said. “We’re working to get those multiple cores, and that’s what will be the game-changing thing.”

“We do wholesale, too, so after 1,000 they come out to be \$1.35/ USD a ball,” Schols said. “Some people are wasting \$5 a swing using other balls to practice driving.”

Although the company is currently selling primarily online, the goal is to continue expanding. “The next step is getting into golf stores at golf courses,” Schols added.

Biodegradable Golf Balls is based in Vancouver, British Columbia, and has expanded to the U.S.

According to Schols, the market for what his company produces is a niche one. However, few countries are looking into this issue.

“Our next big project is getting into the UK because there is so much golf in the UK,” Schols said. “That’s my big project for the next six months.”

Prevention, continued

healthier habits to help lower their risk of having a baby born with a birth defect.”

Follow these five tips to increase your chances of having a healthy baby:

- Be sure to take 400 micrograms (mcg) of folic acid every day at least one month prior to conception.
- Plan a visit with your health care provider to support a healthy pregnancy.
- Reduce risk of infections.
- Become up to date on all vaccines before becoming pregnant. If you are pregnant, the CDC recommends the following

vaccines: flu, Tdap and COVID-19.

- Care for your body and mind before and during pregnancy to set up you and your baby for success.
- Avoid harmful substances during pregnancy, such as alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

The MDHHS Birth Defects Education and Outreach program encourages Michiganders to be active participants in National Birth Defects Prevention Month by sharing these tips for healthy communities and healthy babies.

college news

Zachary Hudson, a freshman accounting major from Lowell, was among approximately 850 Bob Jones University students named to the fall 2022 Dean’s List.

The Dean’s List recognizes students who earn a 3.00-3.74 grade point average during the semester.

Located in Greenville, South Carolina, Bob Jones University provides an outstanding regionally accredited Christian liberal arts education, purposely designed to inspire a lifelong pursuit of learning, loving and leading.

BJU offers over 100 undergraduate and graduate programs in religion, education, fine arts and

communication, arts and science, health professions, and business.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison has recognized students named to the Dean’s List for the fall semester of the 2021-2022 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.

Students from Ada on the Dean’s List are: Mark Boeve, George Cobb, Remington Ingraham, and Brooke Miller.



Warren, third most populous city in the state of Michigan, shares a rather famous border with Detroit. The rather famous border between Detroit and Warren is Eight Mile Rd. Eminem is from Warren which is an industrial town and bedroom community north of Detroit.

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Encouraging news from the environmental front

by Cliff Yankovich
contributing writer

As you may recall, yours truly learned about recycling, at the knee of his Ronald Reagan loving, Republican mom ,from a very young age. For mom, recycling was not about politics, rather, it was about common sense. If the glass jar could be made into another glass jar, then why would you toss it in a land-fill? She grew up in a frugal household; my grandmother Wright grew and put away, every kind of fruit and vegetable you can imagine - cherries, corn, beans, apples, peaches, grapes, and more. All done on a double lot on Manning Street in Detroit.

When my mom taught me to recycle, we did not have a service that would pick it up at the curb. We had to save the items and drive them to the recycling center, which she did faithfully for many years. I mention all this to let you know, recycling is in my DNA.

The last few months have given me a lot to cheer about in this regard. My slippers were getting pretty nasty and a new pair was in order. As I am typing this, my dogs are ensconced in a pair of Ecowise® slippers from Minnetonka. The fabric in them is made from fiber, woven entirely from recycled plastic bottles. The plush, warm lining is 50 percent recycled plastic bottles and 50 percent polyester, and the indoor/outdoor soles contain 5 percent recycled rice husk that would otherwise be burned. Minnetonka tells me there are approximately eight recycled bottles in my slippers and in the other Ecowise® models.

At the REI Co-op sporting goods store, I found a great replacement for my well-worn, bright (not so bright anymore) red winter jacket. The Chroma jacket series is made by Obermeyer and is built to keep you warm on the ski slopes. Mine is mostly getting used on my daily walking commute to and from the store, but should I wake up and decide to ski again, I am set. Chroma jackets are made using REPREVE®, a yarn that must be similar to that used in my slippers because it is made with 100 percent post-consumer plastic bottles. The tag, with my cool looking two-tone gray jacket tells me it contains eleven plastic bottles.

My new pair of specs for work are from the ReMake® line of eye wear from Zenni, made with 100 percent post-consumer plastic. When I ordered them, after my slippers and coat, I felt like I had hit the eco-trifecta! Anyone with any sense can figure out that putting bottles and paper and cardboard at the curb is great, but if there is no market for the things we try to recycle then they are going to end up in the landfill anyway.

Before we go any further, let me assure you that I am not telling you about these items so that you will think better of me. My point is that there are some great advances being made every day, with industries making giant leaps to re-use and recycle. Less than a week ago, I read an article about a University of Michigan professor, Danielle Fagani, who led a team of scientists who came up with a way to recycle Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) -

think plastic plumbing pipes or lawn furniture or any of the thousands of things we make from PVC. Prior to this breakthrough, exactly zero percent of PVC could be recycled. How cool that this breakthrough happened, and it is extra cool that it happened in Michigan. (Spartan fans, you need to just calm down and be happy about it, okay?) This is a good time to mention that our state was on the forefront of recycling bottles and cans in the last century. Pop quiz - What was the third state to make recycling cans and bottles a law?

Speaking of bottles, Julie and I just took a driving vacation to Charleston, SC. We do not buy a lot of bottled water, for a variety of reasons, but Julie wanted one to drink in the car. She likes Life Water. Guess what - the Life Water bottles are all made from 100 percent recycled plastic. She showed me that with a big grin on her face, and at the next stop, we made somewhere in West Virginia, she came back to the car and told me the convenience store had six or seven brands of bottled water and ALL of them claimed to be in containers made entirely of recycled plastic.

The skeptics out there are thinking, “Big deal. A pair of slippers and a jacket re-used 19 plastic bottles.” Sure, you can look at it that way if you want. What is the old adage about a glass being empty or full to a certain degree? Me, I

prefer to celebrate the fact that giant companies are recognizing that it is time to quit burying plastic bottles in the ground or letting them end up in our lakes, rivers, and oceans. In addition, they are answering a demand from people, like me, who

sustainable fashion, buy it and take a further step by letting the makers know you appreciate their efforts.

Looks like I am running out of space. Otherwise I would love to talk about the powerful, all-electric, outboard motors

I would highly recommend a website started by David Byrne, (yup, the musician and front man for the Talking Heads): Reasons To Be Cheerful. Along with their daily efforts, they publish a big list of things to be cheerful about every



appreciate their efforts and will support them. Believe me, a nearly 75-year-old company like Minnetonka is not going to develop a line of slippers just for the fun of it. They figure people will buy them, and that is exactly what all of us, who care about the planet and the future of healthy water, soil, and air, need to do. Am I asking you to buy slippers and a jacket? No, but if you care about such things, then keep your eyes peeled for products that you need and use in your everyday life. If you can find one made in a

I just read about, or how they are beginning to see a substantial increase in the monarch butterfly population in Mexico, or how just nine large US cities generated more green electricity last year than the entire country did ten years ago.

If you like to learn these kind of encouraging things,

January. Go to [www.https://reasonstobecherful.world](https://reasonstobecherful.world) and read the list of 183 things they compiled this year to celebrate about 2022. It will only take about 15 minutes and you might end up being as excited about plastic bottle recycling as I am.p



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NOTICE

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

2023 Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at the Township Hall,
69 Lincoln Lake Ave NE, Lowell

The Vergennes Township Board meetings are scheduled as follows:
January 16, February 20, March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19, July 17, August 21, September 18, October 16, November 20, and December 18

The Annual Meeting of the Electors will be held at 6:30 pm on March 20, prior to the Regular Board Meeting

The Vergennes Township Planning Commission meetings are scheduled as follows:
January 9, February 6, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July 10, August 7, September 11, October 2, November 6 and December 4.

2023 Office Schedule
Regular Office Hours are Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 am - 3 pm, and Thursdays from 9 am until noon.

Office Holiday Closings for 2023
January 2 – New Year's Day
May 29 – Memorial Day
July 5 – 4th of July Celebration
September 4 – Labor Day
November 22, 23 – Thanksgiving Break
December 25 – Christmas Break

Pages Promotions hosts Indie Author Virtual Book Festival in February

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

Diana Kathryn Plopa is a category disruptor, author, editor, book designer, podcaster and a writing coach.

In support of Indie and small press authors all over the world, Plopa is hosting a Virtual Book Festival on Zoom, from Feb. 1 through Feb. 28, with the theme, “The Case of the Missing Manuscript” and a scavenger hunt.

The virtual festivals started during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 as a way to connect authors with readers who were all in isolation. The virtual book festivals enjoyed a tremendous success, so Plopa, founder of Pages Promotions, is bringing them back in 2023 to connect everyone.

It’s wintertime in Michigan and other parts of the world, and authors

aren’t easily able to meet with crowds of readers at book festivals and fairs like they do in the warmer months... so a virtual book festival gives readers the opportunity to discover new authors and their books... all while staying warm in their homes.

Each day, live interviews with authors will be shared on Zoom, and all

unpredictable people... after all, we make stuff up for a living. You never know what kind of literary shenanigans might happen,” said Plopa.

The festival platform can accommodate all Indie authors. The only qualifying criteria is: You must have published a book, all genres are accepted except for erotica, since the event is

10 books, spanning most genres;she is an editor, book designer, podcaster and writing coach. Plopa’s books also include community anthologies; six are completed and four are in the works. Proceeds support the Haley Sue Foundation.

“Our goal is to create a strong community for Indie authors and the people who read them,” she said. “We want to bring like-minded souls together to celebrate the written word as sacred,

no matter the content. We want to support writers in their passion for the craft, and to show to the world that books can be far more entertaining than the screen...most of the time.”

Whenever Plopa reaches the point of being overwhelmed, she escapes to her cabin up North. “I spend some time doing nothing but writing and kayaking,” she said. “I find that I recharge best by living, in the words, in nature. And I spend time with nurturing writer friends

who remind me that life is good.”

Listen-in to the interview with Plopa on For the Love of Books Podcast with host author Emma Palova, for a chance to win a free registration to the festival and a signed copy *A Duck Quacks*.

<https://www.podbean.com/media/share/pb-pyy3s-13575ed>

Share on social media
#virtualbookfestival
#mysteryofthelostmanuscript

“Writers can sometimes be a wacky group of unpredictable people... after all, we make stuff up for a living.”
~ Author, Diana Kathryn Plopa

social media. You can listen to authors read some of their work, play games, give away prizes with the Spinny Wheel of Happiness, and generally, have a good time with the written word.

“Writers can sometimes be a wacky group of

family friendly.

The deadline for authors to apply is January 15, the registration fee is \$50. Organizational briefing for registered authors will be held on Jan. 18, on Zoom, at 7 pm.

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JANUARY SCHEDULE

Karen Tintori, Unto the Daughters, Jan. 2
Ingar Rudholm, Book marketing, Jan. 9
Marion Volkman, Life Skills, Jan. 13
Donna Neumann, I Want a Birthday Party, Jan. 20
Leslie Cieplechowicz, Detroit Revealed, Jan. 27

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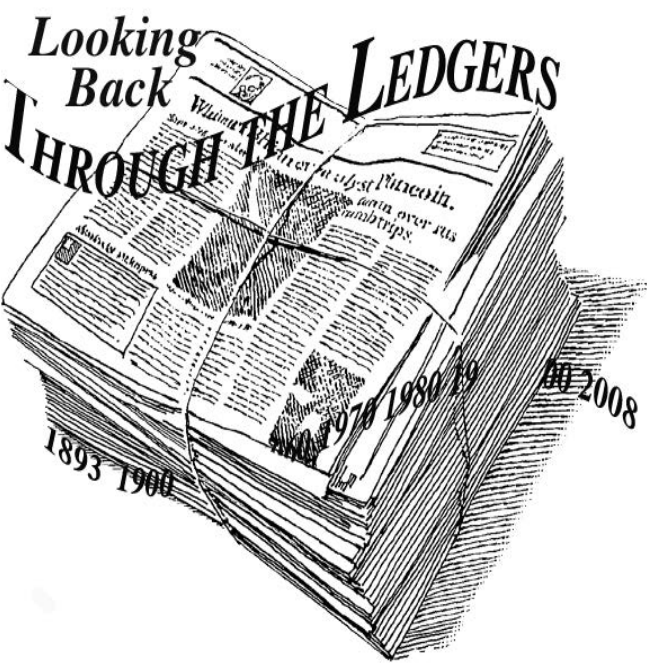
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125 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 13, 1898

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

The Vergennes dancing club, after three years of unalloyed happiness, has been wrenched in two, and henceforth, there will be redhanded war between the two factions. The trouble was all over the question of which man should play the fiddle.

Scott Lowe of Bowne went clear to England after a wife. Great Scott, Lowe, isn't that a violation of the alien contract labor law?

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 18, 1923

William C. Shepard was arrested at his home, when a posse of Sheriff Smith's deputies arrived at his home and found and secured for evidence a still, about two gallons of liquor, and a barrel of mash, the still being of the copper-boiler type. Sheriff Pat Bowes of Lowell had sent a man to the Shepard place to buy a quart of moonshine and was promised more, all he wanted, next day, as Shepard expected to "run a lot off" that night. When confronted by the officers, Shepard claimed he was just making it for himself.

The Comfort Transit Line runs four round-trips a day, between Grand Rapids and Ionia, with stops at Ada, Lowell and Saranac.

The county road commissioners stand accused of using public vehicles for joyrides and parties.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 15, 1948

Amateur boxing is again being revived in Lowell by four boys, Milford Fase, Bob Eickhoff, Ted White and Bernard Number; also Dwayne Nelson of Saranac, Lester Stauffer and Richard Baird, former amateur boxers, are coaching the boys and believe they have a good chance. The fellows are entered in the Golden Gloves tournament to be held February 3 at the Civic Auditorium.

A new line of Ford trucks is being shown in Lowell for the first time this week at a special display and open house held by C.H. Runciman Company Motor Sales.

Mr. and Mrs. John Frying and family, of Home Acres, called on Mr. and Mrs. Tom Forward Sunday afternoon. They brought fish from 3 to 10 lbs., that

they caught in the ocean, having recently returned from Florida. The bait used are huge crabs they catch on the beach before they can get back in the crevices.

Kent County Investigator, Arnold Pigorsch (under sheriff Hugh Blacklock), tells Rotary that Frank Stephens is just about the best deputy in Michigan and that Roger McMahon is the best assistant prosecutor the county ever had.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger Suburban Life January 11, 1973

Alto parents protest moving their fifth-graders to the new middle school next fall.

Lowell police can ticket you for leaving your car running and unattended.

All kids in the Lowell area, aged eight through 15, will get a chance to display their "Model Making" abilities in a contest being conducted by the Lowell Moose Lodge, No. 89. Models may be built from scratch or a pre-scaled kit. The entries will be judged as how well it is built to the scale of the original.

Do not leave your car running and unattended - this is an open invitation to theft. The Lowell Police Department issues violations for this, and it could cost you \$10, if cited.

Four Lowell churches have combined forces to distribute scripture portions to 450 area residences, Saturday, January 20. The New Testament books of Luke and Acts will be given out as part of the nationwide distribution program of Key 73.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 21, 1998

Lowell and Forest Hills high schools had to deal with their second bomb threat in a month.

Lowell area nonprofit organizations, with projects exemplifying community cooperation and participation, may now begin applying for the first round of grants to be made available from he Lowell Area Community Fund.

Alto resident, Judy Harrison, announced she will run for Jack Horton's House of Representatives seat.

For the past 24 years, Joyce Blasher has been the special education bus driver for Lowell Area Schools. She has seen to the transportation needs of the severely handicapped. Blasher retired before Christmas break. Retirement has allowed her to extend more time to her own grandchildren.

The Lowell Area Arts Council awarded its yearly volunteer awards on January 14, as the annual Arty awards were announced. The Arty for volunteer of the year was awarded to two individuals this year, Donna Jean Ford and Ann Breckon,

to the editor

Letter writer opinions are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of this publication.

To the Editor:

As of January 3, 2023, the Lowell City Council has met and is now considering what to do with the approximately four or so undesignated acres surrounded by Lowell Scout Park. We certainly hope that they will be paying attention to what their citizens want. To some, this may seem like a perplexing question that needs to be unwound or dissected to get a clear answer, but in truth, the clear answer already exists, and has so for over 17 years.

In November of 2006, 2 Lowell City Council members squared off in a hotly contested election, which had quickly evolved into a referendum over the future of the 27.4 acre parcel of land at the end of North Washington, we now refer to as Lowell Scout Park. The people turned out in large numbers and handily defeated the two incumbents who refused to protect this area. The newly elected council members kept their promise, and under the leadership of newly elected City Council member, Sharon Ellison, Scout Park became a reality in 2007. Although the City Council intended to declare the entire 27.4 acre parcel as parkland, they were technically unable to do so because of the rental house located on the property. As a result, approximately four acres of park road frontage were reluctantly excluded from the newly formed Scout Park.

With the removal of the rental house at 990 North Washington now imminent, the City Council needs to fulfill the will of its citizens, and make Scout Park whole, as was intended in 2007. Make no mistake, the will of the people has not changed since 2007. We witness, on a daily basis, the use of Scout Park, and that use has grown considerably since that time. Let not the passage of time be used as

Letter, continued
page 14

We love to hear from you!



The Lowell Ledger welcomes letters to the editor from readers, but there are a few conditions that must be met before they will be published.

The requirements are:

- All letters must be signed by the writer, with address and phone number provided for verification. All that will be printed is the writer's name and community of residence. We do not publish anonymous letters, and names will be withheld at the editor's discretion for compelling reasons only.
- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
- All letters are subject to editing for style, grammar and sense.
- Letters that serve as testimonials for or criticisms of businesses will not be accepted.
- Letters serving the function of "cards of thanks" will not be accepted unless there is a compelling public interest, which will be determined by the editor.
- Letters that include attacks of a personal nature will not be published or will be edited heavily.
- "Crossfire" letters between the same two people on one issue will be limited to one for each writer.
- In an effort to keep opinions varied, there is a limit of one letter per person per month.
- We prefer letters to be printed legibly or typed, double-spaced. We have a 500-word limit.

Letters can be sent to emailed to
ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com
Deadline is noon on Mondays



At Your Local Library

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

Teen Zone

Mondays, 3 - 4 pm. Teen-only fun for you and your friends at the library! Stop by for activities that may include board games, food and more. For teens 11-17.

Toddler Time

Tuesdays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Nurture your toddler’s love of books through music, movement and stories while helping to develop their language, motor and social skills. For ages 0-5.

Storytime

Thursdays, 10:30 - 11:30 am. Nurture your child’s love of books and build early literacy skills through stories, rhymes, music and movement. For ages 0-5.

Teen Zone

Thursdays, 3-4 pm. Teen-only fun for you and your friends at the library! Stop by for activities that may include board games, food and more. For ages 11-17.

Mahjongg

Fridays from 1-3 pm. American Mahjongg, a game of skill, strategy and calculation. All skill levels welcome.

Family Yoga

Saturdays, 10:30 - 11:30 am. Space is limited; first come, first served. Doors open 15 minutes before the program begins. Family yoga is an all-ages activity with a focus on the benefits of mindfulness. Together we will engage in fun poses, learn how to breathe, be creative with yoga activities/games and relax.

Open Craft Lab

Saturday, January 14, 1-2 pm. Stop in and try something new or bring in your own project! New projects will be introduced monthly. All previous projects will be available while supplies last. For ages 18+

KDL Lab Experience

Wednesday, January 25, 4-5 pm. Drop in and allow children to think creatively, tinker, explore and collaborate while engaging in a variety of hands-on activities based on STEM concepts. For ages 5-10.

ABCs of Lowell history

Address: 218 E. Main
Date Built: 1868
Builder: Powlison & (Reuben) Quick
1st business:
Lowell National Bank

The Lowell National Bank was organized in May 1865. In 1868, they purchased this site and built a bank that operated successfully for 20 years. In 1891, the building was purchased by the Lowell State Bank, which included out-of-town investors who had incorporated to operate a Commercial and Savings Bank. The bank was purchased from the original stockholders by the following local capitalists in 1894: Francis King, Frank T. King, Charles McCarty, M. Ruben, A. H. Force, L. J. Force, Dr. M.C. Griswold of Lowell and Robert Hardy of Keene.

The second floor once housed offices of Dr. W. A. Fallas and Dr. Jas. Edie, Fort’s Medicine Western Office, prior to their building, the three-story building on the lot that now sits empty east of the City Hall, Attorneys J.M. Matheweson and Myron



Lowell State Bank operated from this building, 1891 to 1933; then Michigan declared a “banking holiday” and closed all banks. In 1934, the City State Bank and Lowell State Bank were ordered to merge into one bank, called State Savings Bank. It operated in this building until Jan. 1, 1961.

H. Walker and the Christian Science Society.

A fire, in 1927, damaged the original Romanesque-style building. The first floor had roman-arched windows and doorway but was remodeled with glazed terra cotta in the more modern Art Deco style.

A banking holiday was declared in Feb., 1933. The State of Michigan closed all banks, due to

the depression and the failing Detroit banks. Both Lowell banks, The Lowell State Bank and the City State Bank, were doing okay. In 1934, the State Banking Department ordered Lowell’s two banks to merge and to use the 218 E. Main location. They elected new officers and opened as the State Savings Bank on August 20, 1934. The State Savings Bank operated here until 1961, when they moved to their new building at 414 E. Main.

Richmond Real Estate & Rittenger Insurance (1965), H & R Block (1971), Zzano’s pizza (1973-1998), and Hearthstone have been here, along with



Lowell State Bank in 1893.

many other businesses over the years. Currently, Red Wagon Advisors (business coaching) occupies the ground floor and there is an apartment on the second floor.



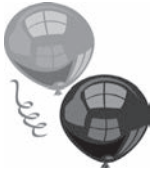
State Savings Bank era

area churches

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www.lowellriverside.com
Pastor Darrel le Roux

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Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 9 am to 4:45 pm
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JANUARY 12

Judy Ellison, Stuart
Sauber, Mike Vezino.

JANUARY 17

Kevin Rasch, Joe
Potter.

JANUARY 13

Jake Sterzick, Stephen
Rutherford, Emma Seddon.

JANUARY 18

Shelby Weston.

JANUARY 14

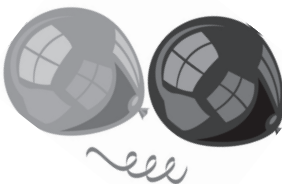
Angie Nowak, Ryan
Burns, Tim Yonker.

JANUARY 15

Dennis Burns.

JANUARY 16

Alex Stuckey.



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The Benefits of Crying

According to scientists and researchers, “emotional crying” has both physical and mental health benefits. Tears are shed for many reasons, from joy to pain. Tears help to release feelings of happiness, stress, grief, sadness, frustration, pain, hurt, and even anxiety. Researchers classify 3 types of crying; emotional, continuous, and reflex. For this article, I will focus on emotional crying and how it helps our mental health.

Healing through tears

Through his studies, Dr. William Frey found that when we shed emotional tears they actually help flush stress hormones and other toxins that accumulate in our body during stressful times. So, after crying we may feel cleansed, renewed, and better able to face our troubles.

Other studies suggest that crying also stimulates the production of mood-boosting hormones, like oxytocin and endorphins. The release of oxytocin produces feelings of well-being and calm. Endorphins help by alleviating feelings of stress and anxiety. So, together, these hormones act as regulators to help ease emotional pain.

Crying can also help improve sleep. Lack of sleep increases stress levels, anxiety, feelings of sadness, etc. When we cry, our parasympathetic nervous system engages and returns the body to our “normal state.” Intense crying takes a lot of energy so this energy drain, along with the resulting feelings of relief and calmness, can equal better sleep.

After an emotional cry, our heart rate and breathing

slow, resulting in a calmer emotional state. So, even though the problem may not be gone, crying helps purge overwhelming emotions and stress, making us feel better. Our tears also have other benefits such as signaling to others that we need help, comfort, and/or empathy.

While the focus of this article is about how our tears can benefit us, I want to mention how crying can also be a sign of a problem. Crying becomes a problem when it negatively affects your daily life and/or is uncontrollable. It can also be a problem when you want to cry but are unable to. If this is happening, it may be time to seek professional help.

Takeaway

I hope this article takes away some of the negative associations about crying. Tears are not a weakness but instead show strength. Crying is a way to process difficult emotions, purge stress and sadness, and help us heal. It can be a healthy way, both physically and mentally, to express and handle overwhelming emotions.

I hope you find this information helpful but it is not intended to diagnose or treat. I hope everyone stays safe, healthy and has a wonderful New Year!

Governor Gretchen Whitmer declares January Radon Action Month

Governor Gretchen Whitmer has declared January 2023 as Radon Action Month in Michigan, and she encourages all Michigan residents to learn more about this environmental hazard and test their homes during the heating season.

You cannot see, smell, or taste radon, and there are no short-term side effects that could cause alarm or warn of its presence. However, long-term exposure to radon increases the risk of developing lung cancer, which accounts for more deaths in both men and women than any other form of cancer in the United States, according to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), which aims to increase awareness of health risks associated with elevated indoor radon levels, promote home testing, and encourage citizens to take action to reduce exposure once elevated radon levels are found.

Behind smoking, radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer and is considered a leading environmental cause of cancer deaths in the United States.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) estimates that radon is responsible for about 20,000 lung cancer deaths in the United States each year. The risk of lung cancer from

radon exposure is higher for people who smoke than for people who do not smoke. However, the USEPA estimates that more than 10% of radon-related cancer deaths occur among people who have never smoked cigarettes.

According to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in Michigan. Male residents and Native American residents have the highest rates of lung cancer in the state. Reducing exposure to cigarette smoke and radon is proven to reduce the risk for lung cancer.

Radon testing has increased in importance as many Michiganders work from home. Testing is easy, inexpensive, and the only way to determine if a radon problem exists. Residents are encouraged to test for radon every two to five years. If a radon mitigation system was previously installed in the home, residents are encouraged to test every two years to make sure radon levels remain in



the acceptable range.

One in every four Michigan homes is expected to have radon levels exceeding the federal action level of 4.0 picocuries per liter. Elevated radon levels have been found in all 83 Michigan counties. Radon poses a serious threat to our community’s health, but high radon concentrations are also easily fixed.

For more information about radon testing and other information

including resources for homeowners, builders, real estate agents, teachers, and health care providers, go to Michigan.gov/Radon or call EGLE’s Indoor Radon hotline at 800-723-6642 (800-RADONGAS). For more information on lung cancer prevention strategies, please visit Michigan.gov/Cancer.

To stay up to date on other EGLE news, follow us at Michigan.gov/MIEnvironment.

CITY OF LOWELL

NOTICE OF ADOPTION AND SUMMARY OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 14 “F-1 FLOODPLAIN DISTRICT” AND TO AMEND CHAPTER 14A “RIVER’S EDGE DISTRICT” OF APPENDIX A, “ZONING” OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LOWELL.

The Lowell City Council adopted Ordinance No. 23-1 amending Chapter 14 “Floodplain Overlay District” and Chapter 14A “Rivers Edge District” of Appendix A, “Zoning,” of the Code of Ordinance of the City of Lowell on January 3, 2023.

Ordinance 23-1 amends section 14.02 to update the effective date of the Flood Insurance Study for Kent County to February 23, 2023 and adds reference numbers for the City’s Flood Insurance Rate Map index panels. Ordinance 23-1 also amends Section 14.04 to add the terms “filling, grading, mining, dredging, paving or storage of equipment or materials” to be included as types of development, replaces “Department of Natural Resources” with “Department of Environment Great Lakes and Energy,” removes language pertaining to nonresidential structures, and replaces “Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration (FIMA)” with “Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)”. It also updates elevation regulations throughout the chapter to reflect the minimum construction elevation at 1 foot above the 100-year floodplain.

Ordinance 23-1 also updates Section 14A.05 to Replace “Department of Natural Resources” with “Department of Environment Great Lakes and Energy.”

A copy of Ordinance 23-1 is available for inspection at City Hall, 301 East Main Street in the City during regular business hours of the City.



Ordinance No. 23-1 is effective 10 days after this publication.

Susan Ullery
City Clerk



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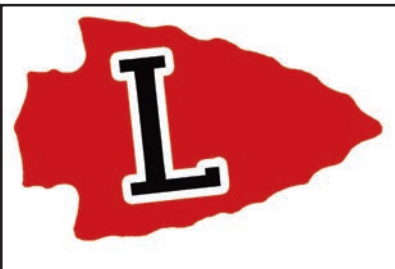
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LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL WINTER TEAMS

Girls Freshmen Basketball



Judy Chang (24/3), Brooklyn Braun (15/5), Cecilia Martinez Garcia (12/10), Maree Perfitt (11), Brooke Shellenbarger (1/12), Liliana Guevara (20), Rafaella Cavalcante (21), Luisa Priolo (2/22), Ava Sanchez (23). Coach Makyla Branagan.

Girls JV Basketball



Olivia Blood (1), Sophie Liley (3), Avah Vandermeulen (10), Alison Smith (11), Avery Krieger (12) Mackenzie Frey (14), Lyn Melby (15), Natalie Cornell (20), Ava McCormick (21), Kayla Howell (23), Molly Lincolnhol (32). Coach Travis Slanger

Girls Varsity Basketball



Allison Munson (3), Gracyn Hamilton (5), Reese Wagamon (10), Aubriegh Oswald (15), Braxcynn Baker (20), Hope Rummelt (21), Lexi Howell (23), Piper Risdon (25), Taryn Jackson (32), McKenzie Munson (33). Coach Heath Kent, assistant coach Ashley Velzen

Boys Freshmen Basketball



Elliott Kemp (2), Kalin Williams (3), Jack Hughes (4), Ethan Nanninga (5), Evan Nanninga (10), Thomas Fryers (11), Dhuol Mach (12), Brennen Nelson (20), Emmett Schaedig (21), Landon Lodholtz (22), Thomas Judge (33), Ethan Doezeema (34), Keegan Cooper (40), Carmine Posati (42). Coach Josh Branagan

Boys JV Basketball

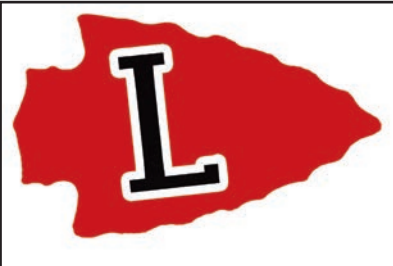


Will Mrozinski (0), Caden Cone (10), Thomas Hayes (12), Nicholas Binns (14), Corbett Phillips (15), Eyan Dial (20) Lucas Charboneau (21), Morgan Diekevers (22), Owen Newland (30), Ty Wasilenski (34), Eghan Bellinger (40), Benjamin Bannan (42), Ean Wolters (43). Coach Parker Travis

Boys Varsity Basketball



Dawson Huhn (2), Ben Gaskin (10), Aidan Fitzpatrick (12), Weston Godbold (14), Jackson Reisbig (15), Drew Veldman (20), Alex Binns (21), Jackson Liley (22), Nick Williams (30), Ethan Krieger (34), Liam Lincolnhol (40). Coach Bryan Powell, asst. coaches Brian Daller and Garrett Veurink.



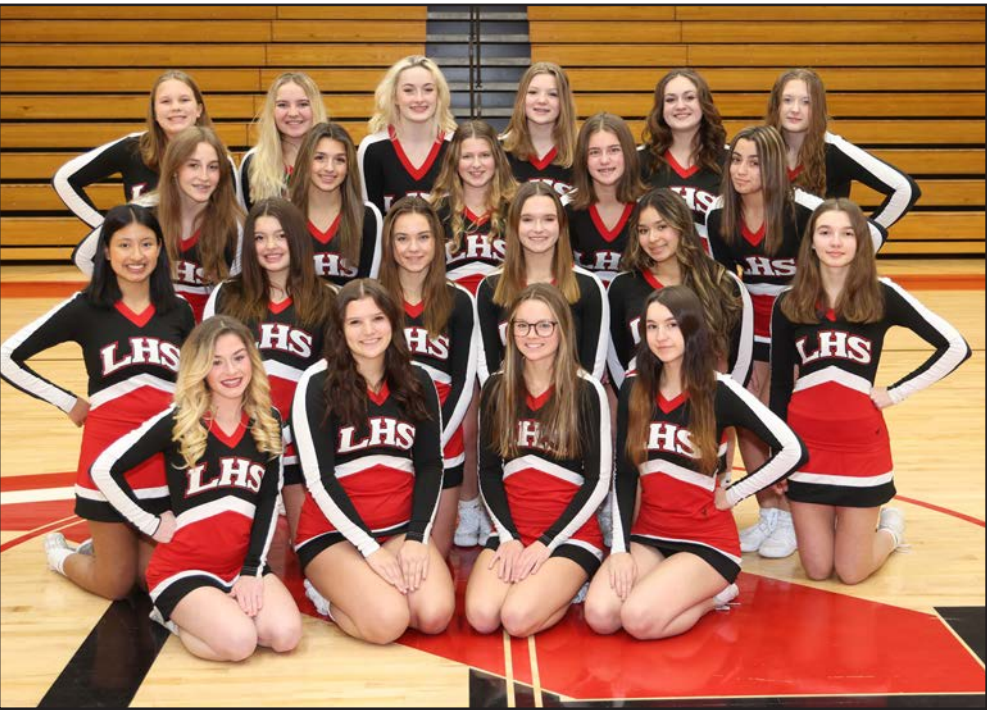
LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL WINTER TEAMS

Wrestling



Front Row: Manny Garcia, Chase Wilder, Easton Lyons, Jace Blakely, Braddock King, Jarrett Smith, Carter Cichocki, Chris Rogers, Veronica Tapia, Kailey Sweaney, Elijah Knapp; Second Row: Conor McDowell, Noah Chipman, Jackson Sage, Brayden Hekman, Rasmus Rewitz, Mason Saylor, Colten Barney, Steve Skinner, CJ Poole, Logan Dawson, Juan Acosta, John Graham; Third Row: Seth Harvey, Nate Mohr, Connor Smith, Pistachio Gonzales, Max Bigard, Gabe Olin, Jack Lamoreaux, Tacho Gonzales, Owen Segorski, Hunter Stepanovich, Brady Smith, Trevor Boone, Kenton Kolp; Back Row: Maddox Simcoe, Carson Crace, Tate Hare, Ari McFarland, Landon Miller, Casey Engle, Tyler White, Cody Hare, Jared Boone, Dylan Polczak, Cole Schulz

Cheer



Left to right, front row: Autumn Lamoreaux, Kendra Hoffert, Ryleigh Wilder, Savannah Redumski; second row: Sophia Campos, Abbie Winn, Anna Seddon, Ilana Rhodes, Alyssa Aguilar, Skylar Redumski; third row: Autumn Baer, Rylan Winn, Hope Worsley, Maya Schilling, Kailyn Gustin; fourth row: Rylee Foster, Bri Fullerton, Abigail Wegscheidler, Kaitlin Hettinga, Lannie (Alana) Wester, Corrie Sakowski

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Red Arrow

- BASKETBALL

SPORTS

Boys basketball keeps pace with defending semifinalists

Justin Scott
sports reporter

One of last year's boys basketball state semifinalists, Lowell knew they'd have their hands full with Northview. Yes, Northview lost last year's Mr. Basketball runner-up, Kyle VanderJagt, to Belmont University. They lost another high-profile player, Jalen Charity, to Grand Valley State. They lost 6'9" Calvin Hyde to graduation. Just waiting in the wings though, EJ Ryan, who has a Division 1 offer from Western Michigan, Tyran Thomas committed to Division 2 Frostburg State, and Terrell Jefferson (Aquinas).

Good programs reload, and Northview has certainly done so, likely to be among the OK White elite this year. With all that talent on

the other side, Lowell's performance on Friday had to be reassuring to Red Arrow fans. Lowell gave the Wildcats a fight, in front of a big crowd, in a 58-41 loss.

The game started off well enough for Lowell, as Aidan Fitzpatrick found himself open for a long-range three that gave the Red Arrows a 3-2 lead. Northview found their stride going up 13-6, before Drew Veldman hit a buzzer-beater layup to slow the Wildcats momentum at the end of the first quarter, which got the Lowell crowd right back into the game.

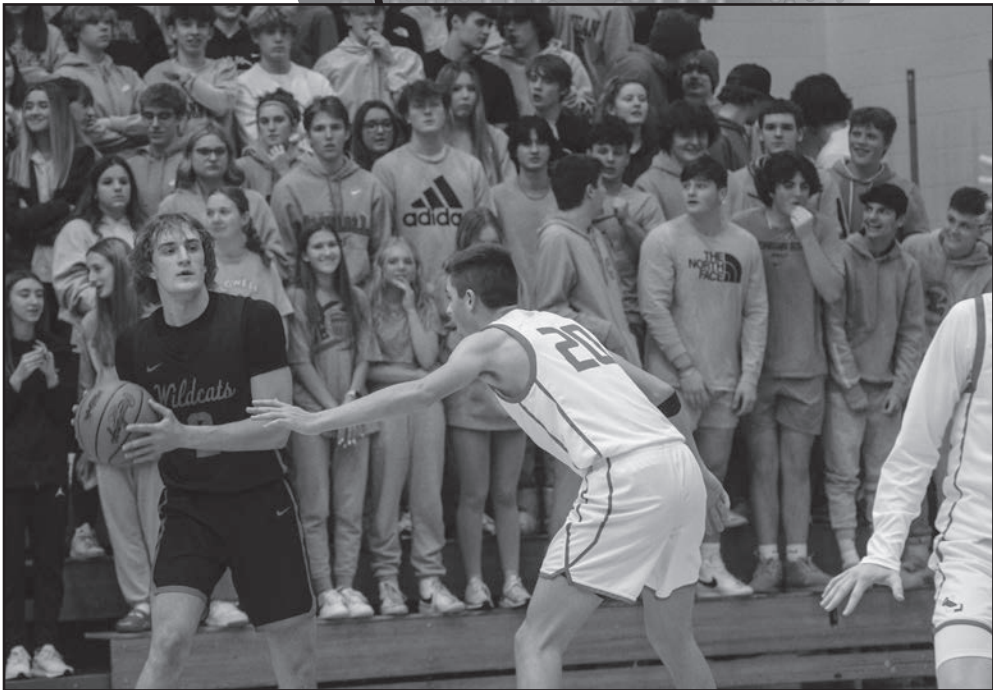
Trailing by five, off a missed three late in the second, Veldman came up with an offensive board and converted a three-point play on a made shot, where he was fouled. It brought

the Red Arrows to within two at halftime, 24-22.

The Wildcats would take control in the third quarter, closing out a 16-5 run on back-to-back buckets in one possession, thanks to a field goal, missed free throw, offensive rebound, and putback basket. Layups and offensive rebounds were huge for Northview in closing out the victory.

Fitzpatrick hit another three, to bring Lowell within 12 in the fourth, but Northview's dominance inside proved to be too much to overcome, as Lowell fell 58-41.

Veldman led the scoring with 16 points and Fitzpatrick added 12. The Red Arrows are home this week against Greenville on Tuesday and FHN on Friday.



Drew Veldman guards a Northview player in front of the Red Arrow student section.

Game of the year looms, as Lowell hosts EGR next week

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

All the pieces are starting to fall into place. Two wins for the Lowell varsity girls basketball team this week will put the Red Arrows at 10-0. A perfect 10 wins out of 10 to start the season. It's still a big if, but if Lowell can beat Greenville and Forest Hills Northern this week, the Red

Arrows would be unbeaten, heading into a titanic matchup on the 17th.

Two wins this week would put an undefeated Lowell team at home against East Grand Rapids on Tuesday, January 17th, 7:00 pm, at LHS.

Whatever Lowell's record will be, going into next Tuesday's showdown,

it will easily be the biggest basketball game, boys or girls, hosted by LHS in the last five years. Two of the best teams, not in the area but the state, with an early conference dual, where the winner controls their destiny in the OK White. The Pioneers enter this week at 7-1, their only loss to top-ranked Grand Rapids West Catholic, and wins over Northview and GR Christian, away from having a 9-1 record heading into the game with Lowell. The Pioneers are led by University of Michigan commit, Macy Brown, and currently sits second in Division 1 in the MHSAA's

MPR rankings,;Lowell just recently broke into the top 10 in the 10th slot.

Last week, Lowell had one game and cruised to a win 66-22 over Northview. Braxcynn Baker was the leading scorer with 27 points. The game was lopsided from the start, with Lowell getting out to an 18-2 lead after the first quarter and eventually 35-11 at halftime. The Red Arrows would end up winning every quarter and closed out the 44-point win. Piper Risdon added 15 points and 13 rebounds, while Taryn Jackson and Hope Rummelt each added nine points.

Students were admitted

free into Friday's game, a business sponsorship provided by Impact Operations LLC, a metal finishing company in Saranac. Additional free student admission dates are January 27th and February 17th.

This week's game against Greenville will tip off Tuesday at 7:00 pm at Greenville, while the team is home on Friday at 5:30 pm against FHN.

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Bowling takes on Jenison Invitational

by Justin Scott
sports reporter

This past weekend, the Lowell boys and girls bowling teams competed at the Jenison Invitational at Fairlanes in Grandville. There, Caden Witten highlighted the Red Arrow performance. He earned tournament medalist honors, placing fourth out

of 113 boysbowlers, the team placed tenth. On the girls side, Lowell finished 11th out of 18 teams.

Both teams home bowling alley is Hillcrest Lanes, and they'll compete in OK White matches this week before heading to Mona Shores for another tournament this weekend.



The season is young for the Lowell bowling teams, and Caden Witten had an excellent day, taking fourth place at Jenison this past weekend.

Red Arrow

- GYMNASTICS

SPORTS

Two meets for gymnastics last week with Lowell Invitational on deck

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Last Thursday, Lowell gymnastics took on Forest Hills United and one of their former gymnasts. Jordan Lytle, (LHS Class of 2014), took the head coaching job for Forest Hills gymnastics this winter. She competed for LHS her senior year of high school and has been coaching on and off since graduation and only recently got married. Lytle had only positive things to say of her high school program, as they faced off in the gym.

“Lowell has a wonderful youth program that helps flow into their high school program. They have the advantage of working with many of their athletes long before they get to high school, which has allowed them to build a great program. This is something that we are aware of when we compete

against them. There are not many gymnastics programs in our area so we appreciate teams like Lowell and the opportunity to compete against them,” Lytle told the Forest Hills Central student sports reporting network.

As more schools turn to co-op programs, like the Forest Hills schools have, Lowell has been able to maintain a single school program, and a gymnastics program history that stretches back to the 1970’s. Several schools in the OK White do not have a gymnastics program at all.

In the matchup with Forest Hills, Lowell picked up a win by a score of 133.55-122.875. The Red Arrows won across all four apparatuses, picking up their highest score on vault. Alexis Clark led the way for Lowell in vault with a 9.025. Leah Krieger had an 8.8, as well, followed by Julia

Meier (8.75), and Haley Haywood (8.55). On bars, Ivy McDonald led Lowell in her only event of the night. On beam, Lowell got a meet high score from Meier, as well. Clark’s 8.725 on floor led the team and gave her all-around honors for the meet. Krista Jungblut also had an excellent score on floor, with an 8.625. Addison Hoxworth led Forest Hills with a 31.575 all-around score.

In Saturday’s Rockford Invitational, Lowell took fifth with a score of 130.525. Medalists for Lowell were Alexis Clark (fifth on vault, sixth on bars), Julia Meier (ninth on vault, ninth on bars) ,and Ivy McDonald (second on bars, fourth on beam). Lowell’s B team scored a 124.675 in the event, as well.

The Red Arrows host Rockford on Wednesday, then the Lowell Invitational on Saturday.



Lowell gymnastics after a win over Forest Hills.

Q&A with Lowell ski coach Karla Byrne

by Justin Scott
sports reporter

2023 being here means the Lowell ski season is underway, so long as the weather cooperates, of course! This week we had a quick catchup with coach, Karla Byrne, as the team eagerly awaits the start to the season.

Having started the program over, basically from scratch, how would you describe the evolution of the team over the last few years as far as numbers, recognition, sustainability?

We are beginning our fifth season of racing at LHS. Our first year, we started up the team with four female athletes and three male athletes. Our largest group was last season, where we had 14 racers. We graduated eight seniors last year.

This year we have one co-ed team of eight athletes that will race against the men’s teams. We are

hoping to bring on board some more female athletes in the future, to bring back a full mens and womens team.

Every year, we have qualified at least one individual racer to the state competition, since 2019. Kaylee Byrne, our 2021 D2 Giant Slalom State Champion and last year’s state runner-up, now skiing for Northern Michigan University’s Alpine Race Team, competed at the state level all four years. Preston Sobeck, who now skis for Colorado Mesa University saw two state competitions and this year’s senior, Colton Byrne, is aiming to see his fourth state competition in February.

Are there any new faces on the teams, compared to last year; what will they bring to the teams?

We have four new racers joining the team this year. Senior, Ramsey Ponchaud, turned in his

snowboard this season to try out a pair of racing skis. He brings a lot of natural athletic ability to the team as a multi-sport athlete. We’re excited to have junior, Mitchell Swint and freshman, Kaleb DeYoung, joining the team this year. They bring several years of skiing experience to the team. Freshman, Cooper Byrne, is also one to keep a close eye on this year, as he brings six plus years of ski racing experience. Last year, as an eighth grader, he qualified and competed at the Junior National Championship in Vail, CO.

Who are the returning student-athletes who you expect to lead the teams this year?

Senior and this year’s captain, Colton Byrne, leads the team by sharing his knowledge of the fundamentals of ski racing and by being a strong student-athlete role model.

This year, we also have returning athletes,

Anders Melby and Sophie and Sam Konyndyk. These athletes are eager to get back in the gates.

What is the event everyone should have circled on the schedule, that the team is looking forward to?

Our first race is scheduled for next Tuesday, Jan. 17th at 4 pm



where we face-off against GR Christian and Spring Lake. We are also looking forward to the all Varsity Race at Caberfae on Friday, Jan 27th. Our Regional competition will be held at Cannonsburg this year on Feb. 14th.

We are eager to keep the

team going for future years to come and encourage anyone interested to seek us out on the ski hill!

Note: Jan. 10th ski meet was cancelled due to weather conditions.

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obituaries

CURTIS

Jennifer L. “Jenna” Curtis, age 35 of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly on January 1, 2023. She is survived by her husband of 13 years, Chris; children, Henley, Maddox, and Pippa; parents, Jane (Mike) Alber and Jeff (Tina) Dickerman; father and mother-in-law, Bucky and Kathy Curtis; brother, Lee (Becky) Dickerman; brothers-in-law, Mike (Jessica) Curtis, Andy Curtis; and many nieces and nephews. Jenna graduated from Lowell High School in 2005 and attended GRCC nursing school. She loved her kids and family and will be deeply missed. Visitation was held 2-4pm and 6-8pm, Thursday, January 5, 2022, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson St., Lowell, MI 49331, funeral services were held at 11am, Friday, January 6, 2022, at Impact Church, 11840 Fulton St. E, Lowell, MI 49331. Pastor Daniel Boone officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to Impact Church.



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CONNER

Geraldine Ruth Conner, age 84 of Lowell, passed away January 3, 2023, at her home. She was born November 17, 1938, in Ionia, the daughter of Otis E. and Ruth L. (Tingley) Rice. Gerri worked at Michigan Bell in Ionia for 4 years and later went to work at MAGNA in Alto for 31 years. She married Roger Conner, October 24, 1958; he preceded her in death July 19, 2006. She later would marry Ron Wells, August 6, 2011, he preceded her in death, May 6, 2019. Gerri was a member of The First Baptist Church in Lowell. She always loved sharing her faith with others. Gerri enjoyed puzzles,



reading, playing cards, knitting and board games. Surviving are her children; Randy (Nicki) Conner of Belding, Lynn Green of Lowell, Cynthia Conner and Kent of Saranac, Kevin Conner of Saranac and Michele (Dave) Longfield of Rockford. Stepchildren; Debbie (Troy) Black of Charlotte, Ted (Diana) Wells of Lake Odessa, Brett (Connie) Johnson,

and daughter-in-law Kay Beach of Lake Odessa, brother Richard Rice of Orleans, many grandchildren, great grandchildren and great, great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, husbands, son-in-law Don Green, sister Joane Bailey, stepsons Ron Wells Jr. and Dave Beach. Funeral Services were held at the First Baptist Church in Lowell on Sunday, January 8, with Pastor John Pickens officiating. Those wishing, may make memorial contributions to First Baptist Church Lowell-Children's Youth Camp. Arrangements in Care of Lake Funeral Home in Saranac. Online condolences may be made at www.lakefuneralhomes.com

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MULDER

Born - October 29, 1935
Died – January 5, 2023
Allen (Al) Mulder passed away on January 5, 2023. Born on October 29, 1935, at home in Wyoming Park, Michigan, Al was the oldest son of John and Mamie Mulder. He attended school in Wyoming Park and maintained close relationships with several of his school friends throughout his life, including close friends Don and Linda Hamilton. Al spent most his career working as a Millwright for General Motors, Diesel Equipment Division, in Wyoming Park. Al joined GM in 1953 at the age of 18, working on the assembly line. Shortly after joining GM Al met and was smitten by Annie Laurie Hubbard, a nurse in training from Howard City, Michigan. In 1955 Al took a two year leave of absence from GM and joined the Army. After basic training he spent his time in the Army as a clerk-typist at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Washington. During a brief leave Al and Annie married on January 18, 1956 – a marriage that lasted 66 years until Annie's death in May 2022 -- and Annie joined Al in Washington. At the end of his service for Uncle Sam Al and Annie moved back to Michigan to be closer to family. Al rejoined GM and began an apprenticeship program to become a Millwright. As a Millwright Al was responsible for keeping the machinery in the plant operating smoothly. It was hard work, often under difficult conditions, particularly when he spent the day in “heat treat”. Following his retirement from General Motors in 1987, Al drove for several years for Wittenbach auto dealership in Lowell. Al always provided for his family and we never lacked food, shelter, and medical care, or love and attention. While Al did not attend college, there was an unspoken expectation his sons would. Al took pride in having all four sons graduate from college and receive advance degrees in a variety of fields. Al also was appreciative his sons married four wonderful daughters-in-law, who quickly surpassed the sons as Al's favorites. Al was a faithful attendee of Wyoming Park High School's yearly alumni reunions. During his childhood Al became a devout, though often frustrated, fan of the Detroit Tigers, Lions, Pistons, and Red Wings. Radio broadcasts of late night Tiger games often echoed through the household on warm summer nights. His favorite player was, of course, Al Kaline, a standout right fielder for the Tigers. Al also was old enough to remember when the Lions actually won championships. Al was a long-time member of the Lowell United Methodist Church, having been raised in the Wyoming Park Evangelical United Brethren Church. Al served as an Usher and collector of Sunday School offerings when he wasn't hiding out under the stairs comparing notes with the Bieri brothers. He often

GOUGE

Lynn Gouge, age 81, with family by her side, went to be with the Lord on December 30th, 2022. She was born in Detroit to parents Alfred and Reba Lynas, and later, step-dad Thurskin (Skip) Bulgin. Lynn's love of animals began with the horse named Penny, she owned as a child. As an adult, she rescued every stray dog and cat that crossed her path and cherished her backyard wildlife. She worked as a legal secretary until marrying Tom Carter Gouge and raising two daughters. Her love of community led her to become the Chairman of the Planning Commission for Commerce Township. Later, her family moved to Ionia, Michigan to become the owners of Tom Carter Motor Sales. There she acted as receptionist, secretary and anything else needed to hold it together. In retirement, she served as Board Member and Lead Kitchen Angel at Unity Church, which she loved dearly, and always enjoyed the theatre and symphony. She is preceded in death by her parents and husband. She is survived by her daughters Dale Marie James, Kathleen West, son-in-law Todd, grandson Carter, and cat Lulu. Please join us for A Celebration of Life, held at Fredrick Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids, on January 18, 2023 at 11 am, with luncheon following. In lieu of flowers, donations to Ionia County Animal Shelter are welcome.



exhibited his Christianity in subtle ways, such as giving a freezer, welding equipment, and his work tools to those who needed but could not afford them. Al loved sports and games. He was a skilled bowler with a high game of 266 and a high series of 667. Al taught his family to love card and board games and was a skilled card player, especially at Euchre, Cribbage, and Pinochle. He spent his lunch time at Diesel playing cribbage with a regular group of co-workers. His sons, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren carry on Al's game playing tradition, with lengthy battles being a highlight of family get-togethers. Vacations also were a fixture of family life. Every summer brought new adventures, including an epic four week journey out west that included a drive along the Pacific coast from San Francisco to Mt. Rainer in Washington. We also managed to squeeze in a Christmas vacation at Disney World. Al served as a Boy Scout leader in Troop 102, including serving with his two oldest sons as part of the Governor's Honor Guard on Mackinac Island, and as a little league baseball coach. Al was predeceased by his loving wife Annie, parents John and Mamie Mulder, and his younger brother, Roger Mulder. Al is survived by his sons, Craig (Kathi) Mulder, Kevin (Beatrice Maugeri) Mulder, Clifford (Brenda) Mulder, and Kenneth (Emily) Mulder, sixteen grandchildren, Bryan (Jessie), Keith (Lisa), Tara (Stephen), Laurel (Michael), Celia, Hannah (Hazen), Philip (Riley), Elizabeth, Gabriella, Obadiah, Ezekiel, Mamie Beth, Thaddeus, Annamarie, Leila, and Amos, six great grandchildren, several nieces, nephews, and cousins, and brother-in-law Gary (Darlene) Hubbard. The family would like thank Allen's niece Becky and her husband John for all the care and support they provided our parents. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, January 14, 2023, at Lowell United Methodist Church. Visitation will begin at 1:00, with a service to be held at 2:00 followed by a reception. The family suggests memorial donations be made to the Lowell United Methodist Church or the Flat River Outreach Ministry.



RISNER

Dorothy Mae Risner, age 90 of Lowell, went to be with her Lord and Savior peacefully on January 5, 2023. She was preceded in death by her sisters, Jewel Ritenburg, Shelva Smith; and great-grand daughter, Adalyn Smith. She is survived by her daughter, Debra (Dave) De Young; son, Steve (Cora) Risner; son, Terry Risner; daughter, Kim (Tom) Yonker; 11 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; brothers, Donald (Barb) Patrick, Lawrence (Shirley) Patrick; and sisters, Delores (Dennis) Spitzley, JoAnne Irwin. Dorothy loved being with her family and making pies and homemade noodles for them. She loved the farm life, especially her Hereford cows. She enjoyed gardening and canned anything and everything. Dorothy worked at Amway Company for more than 25 years. Visitation was held 3-6 PM, Monday, January 9, 2023, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson St., Lowell, MI 49331. Funeral services were held at 11 AM, Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at Calvary Grace Brethren Church, 13700 84th St. SE, Alto, MI 49302, with visitation one hour prior. Pastor Russ Simpson officiating. Interment ----Bowne Center Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Lowell Pink Arrow Pride, PO Box 246, Lowell, MI 49331.



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card of thanks

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Thanks, P, PD & B.

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DRIVER WANTED to a chiropractor in Ionia 2 days a week. Call Linda 897-9202.

Principal Architect & Lead Developer sought by s/ware solutions co. Must have proof of legal authorization to work in the US. Mon-Fri, 40 hrs/wk. Job to be performed at 2959 Lucerne Dr. SE, Ste 150, Grand Rapids, MI, 49546. For full info about the job opportunity please refer to the internet posting at https://www.aventuresys.com/careers.html refer to job number: PA072622 & ID072622. To apply send resume to hr@aventure-sys.com or to HR, Adventure Systems L.L.C, 2959 Lucerne Dr. SE, Ste 150, Grand Rapids, MI, 49546.

PART-TIME NEWSPAPER WRITER WANTED - The Lowell Ledger is looking for a news/feature reporter with strong writing skills and can meet a deadline. This is a stringer position - paid by the story. Please send writing samples and brief resume to: The Lowell Ledger, PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or email to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

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obituaries

Continued

MERKLINGER

Ricky Jay Merklinger, age 55 of Lowell, passed away on January 4, 2023. He was preceded in death by his father, Richard Merklinger. He is survived by his life partner, Krista Miller and her daughter, Amanda Miller; mother, Judy Pinckney; brother, James R. (Kimberly) Merklinger; sister, Darci (Joseph) Salinas; aunts and uncles, Linda Colburn, Lorna (Dave) Emelander, Carl Merklinger, Orville (Barb) Merklinger, Art (Sandy) Merklinger, Carol Miller; and extended family. Ricky was a loving son and brother, he loved the outdoors and enjoyed hunting as well as a collector of many things.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Lung Association, https://www.lung.org/?_ga=2, or by mail, 55 W. Wacker Drive, Suite 1150, Chicago, IL 60601.

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TOWER

Lon William Tower Sr., age 79, of Corunna, passed away Thursday, December 1, 2022 at Chesaning Nursing and Rehabilitation. Funeral services will be held 6pm, Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at Nelson-House Funeral Home. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Wednesday, 4pm until the time of service. Lon was born January 11, 1943 in Grand Rapids, the son of William and Leonora (DeLoof) Tower. He graduated from Lowell High School GED and proudly served in the United States Marine Corp. Lon enjoyed puzzles, board games and had a passion for computers and anything electronic. He married Carole Moen in Grand Rapids on March 27, 1964. Lon retired as an electrical journeyman from Local 665 IBEW Lansing, Michigan. Lon is survived by his wife; children Dennis Bohatch and Michael Tower; grandson Lon Tower III; 3 sisters; 1 brother; several nieces, nephews and other loving family and friends. He was predeceased by his parents and 2 sons, Lon Tower Jr., and Bill Tower. Memorial contributions are suggested to American Cancer Society. Online condolences may be sent to the family at Nelson-House.com.

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING
STATE OF MICHIGAN

The Probate Court for the County of Kent

IN THE MATTER OF:
Judith Green,
Guardianship File No. 22-212,603-GA.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including Jason Sandford, Joshua Desjarlais and any other unknown children and heirs, 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 February 21, 2023, at 9:00 AM at Kent

Co. Probate Court, 180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, Courtroom 9C in person and via Zoom before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) fro the following purpose: Appointment of a Guardian.

Dated: January 4, 2023

Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner 121 Franklin St, NE Grand Rapids, MI 49507 (616) 401-5242

VAN ESSEN and ASSOCIATES PLLC, Attys for Petitioner by Amanda Van Essen Wirth (P75001) 109 E. Main St. Suite 11 Zeeland, MI 49464 Phone: (616) 633-0196

TOWER

My friend and colleague Bill Tower passed away. Bill grew up in Michigan, worked as a flight medic in Chicago, and then came to Arizona. While working as an ER tech in Tucson, he applied for a position with Donor Network of Arizona, and we were impressed by his calm, easygoing demeanor. This would prove to be one of his defining qualities. Even when everything around him was going to hell in a handbasket, he'd chuckle and get to work at setting it straight. He was a thermostat rather than a thermometer, a rare but invaluable quality. One of his colleagues would tell new ICU nurses that Bill's nickname was "Wild Bill" because the dichotomy was too funny to pass up. Bill was also a great teacher. He didn't just tell people how to do the work and then let them fly or crash, he kept teaching by example well after a new organ recovery coordinator was out on her own. He was always available to discuss a difficult situation, or brainstorm about the best way to manage an unstable donor, or talk about how to accomplish the seemingly-impossible task of bringing everyone together to accomplish the miracle that is organ donation. He encouraged his colleagues to talk through what they were seeing, and in doing so, helped guide them to the proper solution. Perhaps, most importantly, Bill recognized the value of just showing up. Bill was great about calling and checking on his co-workers who were working on a case, making sure they were comfortable about what was going on and recognizing when they weren't. In the days after his death, multiple employees talked about how he would just appear on a unit or in an OR during a particularly difficult case, available to lend a hand and make things easier for everyone. He wasn't afraid of new situations; he'd just shake his head bemusedly and mutter something about winging it and hoping for forgiveness. He was quick to donate to school fundraisers or help someone with a personal emergency. He helped care for his aging parents, even from a thousand miles away. He took care of people in every facet of his life. My late-

night calls with him would often begin with his saying, "Hey, boss, it's time for you to earn those big bucks!" I'd chuckle and he'd explain the situation, and we'd come to a plan. When the call was ending, he'd preempt me, quoting Leslie Nielsen, saying "I know, I know, 'Good luck, we're all counting on you!'" I think we annoyed my wife plenty of times over the years by laughing uproariously at inappropriate hours. Bill was diagnosed with liver cancer in 2011 and was told he'd have maybe five years. In typical Bill fashion, he shrugged his shoulders and doubled down on getting well and living his best life. Many times, he was sick enough to call off, but he'd say, "That won't help the team tonight" and he'd keep helping in whatever way he could. He was focused on seeing the bright side and recognizing each day for the gift that it was for him. In the end, the cancer turned on him more quickly than any of us expected or were prepared for. He held on bravely as best he could, but in the end, it was just too much. When he died (on October 11, fifteen years and one day after he started with DNA), it took several hours for us to call his co-workers and let them know, as we all cried and laughed together on the phone, telling our Bill stories and lamenting the passing of our beloved friend. If you didn't know Bill, I'm sorry. You missed out on one of the best men I've ever known. He lifted all of us, encouraging us to do better, to *be* better. RIP, brother. We're all counting on you. Funeral services will be held 6pm, Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at Nelson-House Funeral Home. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Wednesday, 4pm until the time of service.

General enrollment period for Medicare Part B

If you did not apply for Medicare Part B (medical insurance) within three months before or after turning age 65, you have another chance each year during the General Enrollment Period. The period runs from January 1 to March 31, every year.

If you don't enroll in Part B when you're first eligible for it, you may have to pay a late enrollment penalty for as long as you have Part B coverage. Your monthly premium will increase 10% for each 12-month period that you were eligible for Part B but did not sign up for it. Your coverage starts the first day of the month after you sign up.

To learn more about Medicare, please visit our Medicare Benefits page at www.ssa.gov/benefits/



Letter, continued

an excuse to compromise or change the use of what the citizens clearly wanted in 2007, and today. To allow development on these (currently unprotected) four acres of park road frontage would spoil the unique character of Scout Park, as we have known it for decades, and make about as much sense as building homes along the road frontage of Fallasburg Park. We commend Council Member, Leah Groves, for her wisdom and stated commitment to not allow development in this four acre area. What will the council members vote for? We urge the Lowell City Council members to recognize and complete, without delay, what is and needs to remain the most unspoiled, unique natural area in the City's park inventory.

For those interested in following ongoing preservation efforts affecting Lowell Scout Park, please visit the Lowell Scout Park Association facebook page, and follow the page for updates. Your support is appreciated!

Bill Schreur
Bruce Matthews
Submitted on behalf of the Lowell Scout Park Association

medicare. You may also read our publication at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10043.pdf.

Please share this information with your friends and loved ones who may need it – and share it on social media.

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The Huron River, named after the Huron Indians, starts in Oakland, then travels through Livingston, Washtenaw, Wayne, and Monroe counties before ending. The river is about 130 miles long and passes through 13 state parks, game and recreation areas.

FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Guess Who?

I am a singer born in Nashville on January 8, 2000. I began my career on the show “Doc” when I was only 3. I also starred with my older sister on a popular Disney TV show. I released a solo album in 2016 and was nominated for a Grammy in 2021.

Answer: Noah Cyrus

			1	2	3	4	5	6			7	8	9
	10	11									12		
	13									14			
	15									16			
17									18				
19			20						21				
22				23	24	25	26		27				
	28							29			30	31	32
			33			34							35
			36						37				
		38							39				
	40							41	42	43			
44						45	46	47					
48						49							
50						51							

LUNAR NEW YEAR WORD SEARCH

B	S	W	S	P	N	N	W	F	I	R	E	W	O	R	K	S	L	Y	P
O	I	U	O	F	N	F	R	Z	W	O	G	Y	B	C	L	C	W	E	V
I	D	F	O	H	G	N	F	H	C	S	E	R	U	T	L	U	C	A	H
B	Y	I	T	R	F	N	O	K	S	U	R	S	K	P	B	O	O	R	T
O	G	A	F	R	E	S	H	I	W	N	C	A	L	E	N	D	A	R	W
R	P	P	O	S	N	P	R	C	N	L	U	N	I	S	O	L	A	R	O
K	D	W	B	O	S	E	S	G	L	U	P	S	Y	K	C	T	H	V	A
V	U	Y	O	N	I	H	I	O	G	E	E	W	A	B	R	L	K	F	S
Y	K	A	H	P	W	N	W	C	R	B	A	R	I	R	I	I	U	A	P
S	L	A	U	T	I	R	D	I	Y	P	C	N	T	U	S	O	F	I	R
R	C	E	L	E	B	R	A	T	I	O	N	I	I	V	R	N	S	S	I
V	N	T	L	P	K	Z	G	A	T	H	E	R	I	N	G	K	E	A	N
S	T	H	G	I	L	H	F	V	C	G	G	H	Z	H	G	C	P	B	G
R	B	L	S	K	D	E	C	O	R	A	T	E	N	S	B	E	O	R	T
V	G	B	N	L	O	V	D	D	I	D	F	Z	R	N	G	H	C	S	O
S	E	P	O	L	E	V	N	E	Y	W	Z	L	E	R	E	D	S	P	N
W	L	A	N	T	E	R	N	S	K	G	C	W	K	E	T	B	O	K	E
U	I	N	I	F	O	F	C	A	I	D	O	Z	H	K	P	Z	R	L	O
G	L	A	V	I	T	S	E	F	U	Z	N	N	N	W	U	D	O	G	E
H	H	E	V	T	R	H	Z	Z	S	Z	O	F	N	U	A	G	H	L	S

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

Puzzle solutions on page 13

LUNAR NEW YEAR WORD SEARCH

AFRESH

ASIA

CALENDAR

CELEBRATION

CLEANING CULTURES

DECORATE ENVELOPES

FESTIVAL FIREWORKS

GATHERING

HOROSCOPE LANTERNS

LIGHTS LION

LUNISOLAR NEW

PROSPEROUS

RED REUNION

RITUALS SPRING

YEAR ZODIAC

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to Chinese new year.

T R A B I B

--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Rabbit

CLUES ACROSS

1. Respiratory disorder

7. Bulgarian mountain peak

10. Group of important people

12. South American nation

13. Amazes

14. __-Castell, makers of pens

15. Perlman and Seehorn are two

16. Early medieval alphabet

17. Legislator (slang)

18. Tasty crustacean

19. Course of action

21. Airborne (abbr.)

22. Permanent church appointment

27. Larry and Curly's pal

28. Famed American journalist

33. 12th letter of Greek alphabet

34. In a way, vanished

36. Afflict in mind or body

37. Egyptian Sun god

38. Source of the Blue Nile

39. Egyptian unit of weight

40. Be the source of pain

41. Esteemed award d'Or

44. Partner to pains

45. Deep blue

48. No longer living

49. Country in the UK

50. Not even

51. Arizona city

CLUES DOWN

1. Wager

2. Classical portico

3. As a result

4. Bird

5. A type of "Squad"

6. Autonomic nervous system

7. Dish with food on a stick

8. City northwest of Provo

9. C. European river

10. One out of jail

11. Henry Clay estate

12. Heathen

14. Refrained

17. Parts per billion (abbr.)

18. "The Stranger" author

20. Not old

23. Periods of starvation

24. Language of tribe in

India

25. Savings account

26. Pitching stat

29. Megabyte

30. Ribonucleic acid

31. A place to put your feet

32. The fun part of a week

35. We all have our own

36. Partner to "oohed"

38. African nation

40. Breezed through

41. Sets out

42. Other

43. Not fattening

44. "Much __ about nothing"

45. Central Time

46. Former EU monetary unit

47. Charles S. Dutton sitcom

2022 quite the year in Sports

Often dominated by geopolitics, 2022 was quite the year for sports. It gave us retirements of some of the greatest athletes of their generation across multiple sports, some memorable plucky underdogs, and incredible champions, all in our first largely normal sports year since the COVID-19 pandemic onset in 2020.

January

Controversial NFL star, wide receiver and former Central Michigan standout, Antonio Brown, walked off the field during the Tampa Bay Buccaneers game with the New York Jets. He took off his jersey and flashed a peace sign to the fans in the middle of the game. He has not played in the NFL since.

The San Diego Chargers and Oakland Raiders played a final regular season game, where the winner would advance to the playoffs, with the loser being eliminated. The only caveat? A tie advanced both teams, eliminating the Pittsburgh Steelers. It nearly happened to the excitement of NFL fans, but with 38 seconds left, tied at 32 in overtime, the Chargers called a defensive timeout with Oakland running out the clock. It changed the Raiders mindset, who opted to go for the win, which they would end up getting.

The Georgia Bulldogs broke out of the shadow of conference juggernaut Alabama to claim their first NCAA Football Championship since 1980, defeating the Crimson Tide 33-18.

Football continued an exciting month with the Kansas City - Buffalo overtime game, which was won by the Kansas City Chiefs in overtime.

February

Matt Stafford and the Los Angeles Rams win the Super Bowl. Lions fans had mixed emotions watching their former quarterback bring the Lombardi Trophy home. The Rams defeated the Cincinnati Bengals 23-20 in Super Bowl LVI.

Norway finishes atop the medal count and sets a Winter Olympics record with 16 gold medals in Beijing's second hosted Olympics in 14 years. Concerns about China's human rights record led to a U.S. Diplomatic boycott of the game, and events were closed to the public for the

second straight Olympics, due to COVID restrictions. The Americans finished fourth in the medal count.

Russia invades Ukraine, attempting a rapid takeover of the country, which ultimately failed following setbacks outside of the Ukrainian capital of Kiev. Fighting is still intense and ongoing in the eastern and southern portions of the country. The invasion ultimately led to Russia's expulsion from the FIFA World Cup, which they had qualified for, banning of Russian players from Wimbledon, and Russian athletes' flags being obscured during competition across numerous sports. Actions by sports governing bodies also extended to Belarus who allowed Russia to invade Ukraine's north from Belarusian territory. Despite intense pressure from an autocratic regime at home, numerous Russian athletes condemned the war in the following months, including top-ranked tennis player in the world Daniil Medvedev.

March

NCAA Tournament darling, no. 15 seed, St. Peters, started their NCAA tournament run, which eventually ended after knocking off three higher-seeded teams, including no. 2 Kentucky and no. 3 Purdue, breaking brackets and winning hearts around the nation.

Penn State's, Max Dean, wins an NCAA wrestling



St. Peters, a small Jesuit school in New Jersey, shocked the college basketball world by advancing to the elite eight. *Jamie Sabau/ NCAA Photos via Getty Images*

championship. It was the first NCAA championship for the Lowell alumnus.

Australian tennis player, Ash Barty, wins her home major in Australia, and calls it quits following the victory, retiring on March 22 after winning in January. The Australian Open was in the headlines often due to Novak Djokovic not being allowed to play due to his COVID-19 vaccination status.

April

Kansas went on to defeat another underdog, no. 8 seed, North Carolina, in the NCAA Men's basketball championship game. Michigan State lost in the tournament's second round, and Michigan lost in the tournament's third round. The tournament was also notable, as legendary Duke head coach, Mike Krzyzewski, retired following his team's final four run. South Carolina won the NCAA Women's national title.

Scottie Scheffler wins the Masters Golf Tournament, where all eyes were on returning champion, Tiger Woods. The 25-year old American beat Rory McIlroy by three strokes.

Detroit Tiger Miguel Cabrera achieved the 3,000 hit milestone, all but ensuring his spot in the Baseball Hall of Fame.



ESPN graphic celebrating Miguel Cabrera's 3000th Hit

May

At 80-1 odds, Rich Strike won the Kentucky Derby. The horse was the second biggest underdog to win in Derby history.

June

Wales defeated underdog Ukraine to claim one of the last few World Cup spots. The game decided who would replace Russia in the World Cup, with Gareth Bales' Welsh side defeating Ukraine.

Under the guidance of former professional golfer, Greg Norman, Saudi-funded LIV Golf is created and forms a rival league with top professional golf tour, the PGA. With big guaranteed contracts and unique twists to the game, LIV has poached numerous PGA players, including Phil Mickelson, Dustin Johnson, Brooks Koepka, and eventual Open Champion, Cameron Smith, rocking the professional golf world as golfers like Rory McIlroy and Tiger Woods have stepped in to defend the PGA. The future of professional golf is now uncertain at best.

The Golden State Warriors took down Boston in six games to win the NBA Finals. Steph Curry was named finals MVP.

Old Detroit rival Colorado lifted the Stanley Cup after the Avalanche beat the Tampa Bay Lightning in the NHL's championship series.

July

Novak Djokovic and Elena Rybakina win Wimbledon titles. Despite being born and raised in Moscow, Rybakina switched to represent Kazakhstan in the early stages of her career. The move was notable, as Russian players were not allowed to participate at Wimbledon due to the War in Ukraine. The move was controversial, as they were the only major to impose such a ban. Tunisian star, Ons Jabeur, became the first Arab player, man or woman, to reach a Grand Slam final. Djokovic won his seventh title at the English club.

Look for August - December in next week's Ledger.

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