

LL&P GM Donkersloot leaving before end of 2020

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell Light & Power general manager Steve Donkersloot will be leaving his position at the utility by the end of the year. He has accepted the position of “director of strategic energy resources and services” with the Michigan Public Power Agency, based in Lansing.

“It has been an honor to serve LL&P and the Lowell community for the last 11 plus years,” Donkersloot wrote in an email announcing the change. “Words cannot express the gratitude in my heart for the past and current LL&P board members, the LL&P staff and the entire community. My family and I are and always will be grateful for the opportunities and support that everyone has shown us.”

“It’s exciting, but it’s bittersweet. I have mixed emotions,” Donkersloot said in a phone interview. “I’ve been with Lowell Light & Power for over 11 years, which is crazy to think about! A lot still has to be determined, but I’ll be here for a while yet.”

According to their website, mpower.org, the MPPA is “a public body politic and corporate of the State of Michigan created in late 1978 under Act 448, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976 as amended.” The purpose of the MPPA is “to help members realize the benefits of joint action in the planning, development, acquisition and management of energy-related assets and services.” They have 22 public municipal utilities in their membership ranks, including Lowell Light & Power, plus six more associate members.

“Really, the MPPA is an extension of Lowell Light & Power,” Donkersloot said. “So what I am going to be doing is serving Lowell and 21 other municipal electric utilities, but in a different way than I have done before. The MPPA was formed in the 1970s so that utilities like Lowell Light & Power can join together and gain economies of scale. Currently, Lowell Light & Power and all these other

utilities use the MPPA to handle the power supply needs that we have, and there are numerous other ancillary services that the MPPA performs for its members. For the smaller municipalities to be able to keep up with everything in this changing industry, it’s just extremely difficult. It’s much easier for a joint action agency to handle new services and new needs on behalf of all members.”

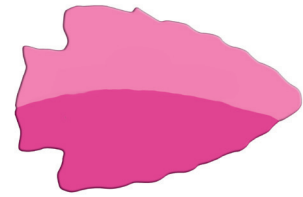
The LL&P board plans to involve Donkersloot in the replacement process, and the MPPA has given them a lengthy grace period to fill the important position. The position has been posted and the deadline for applications is Friday, Sept. 4.

“Lowell Light & Power is a member of the MPPA, so it’s in their best interests to have a smooth transition,” Donkersloot said. “The applicant pool will have a great impact on the transition, and I would like to be here, if possible, when they’re hired. It might take



Steve Donkersloot

62 days, it might take 121, I have no way to predict who is going to apply and what their notice period may be, et cetera. They were very understanding. We’ll know more at our September board meeting.”



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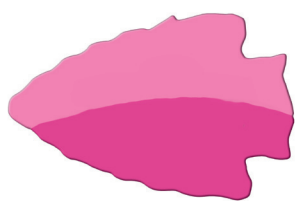
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**Football season
moved to spring**



page 11

Pink Arrow quilt up for auction

by Brendan Sanders
contributing reporter

A new product has been added to the Pink Arrow festivities with the addition of a quilt that has been put up for silent auction.

This week the Pink Arrow organization received another amazing gift with the donation of a quilt. This is a pink arrow quilt with commemorative t-shirts from years past on one side and a dark print on the other side. It was donated to the Pink Arrow organization by Bev and Carlen Anderson.

All proceeds will go directly to Pink Arrow Pride. Bidding will begin at \$200 with minimum increases of five dollars.

Pink Arrow coordinator Teresa Beachum gave insight into why many people may be interested in a piece of craftsmanship such as this.

“We had a lot of people who quilt themselves and appreciate the workmanship and the hours it takes to design and produce a quilt like this. We also have a lot of people in this community who would be interested in bidding because they have a loved one who’d they like to gift a Pink Arrow quilt to,” Beachum said.

This gifted silent auction item will be on display inside the Fans in the Stands store on Main Street starting today, Wednesday, Aug. 19. The public is invited inside to view the quilt and place a silent auction then, or they can keep up with the bidding process on the Fans in the Stands or Pink Arrow Facebook pages.

The bidding process is anticipated to end the date of the originally scheduled date of the Pink Arrow football game on September 3rd by 11:59 p.m. By September 4th, the new owner of the quilt will be notified.

LPD officer Van Solkema promoted to sergeant



Sgt. Scot Van Solkema

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell police officer Scot Van Solkema was promoted to a sergeant in the department on Thursday, Aug. 13. Sgt. Van Solkema has been with the department for over 15 years.

“He will be taking over the firearms training, oversee officer training, oversee officer welfare, other administrative duties, along with

patrol responsibilities,” Lowell police chief Christopher Hurst wrote in a Facebook post announcing the promotion. “The promotion process included a letter of intent, passing an interview panel of various law enforcement leaders from the area and written, scenario-based exercises that were evaluated by another panel of community leaders.”

The sergeant position was vacated recently when Hurst was promoted to chief. There were multiple applicants, and Hurst said that deciding between them was very difficult. The applicants were interviewed by a group including Kent County sheriff Lt. Justin DeBoode, Lowell city manager Michael Burns and Belding police chief Dale Nelson.

“They conducted the interview and I was just in the room as an observer while they interviewed

them,” Hurst said. “The next day they came back for a couple hours, and they had three different written scenarios that they had to handle. It was basically a writing exercise. The first one was about counseling a fellow officer who violated a rule of the department. They had to write down how would they handle that, what they would do. The next scenario was a multi-car, multi-injury accident, to see how they would use their people and prioritize the work. I made it so there were no other agencies available so they had to deal with it with what they had. In the last scenario, there was a major, multi-agency incident with an overturned truck, a dry chemical spill and a rain storm on the way. Those were analyzed the same day by myself, fire chief Ron Van Overbeek and the city manager. It was a very hard decision to make!”

50¢



Versiti to test all blood donations for COVID-19

Starting on Monday, Aug. 17, Versiti will be performing the SARS CoV-2 antibody test on all blood donations.

The antibody test will be performed on all successful donations at all Versiti blood drives, including at Pink Arrow Community Day on Friday, Aug. 21. The testing

will be done automatically on tubes that are collected as a normal part of the donation, in addition to the other FDA-mandated infectious disease testing their donor testing lab already performs.

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For more information, visit FDA.gov or versiti.org.



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National Republican money not being spent in MI

Republicans nationally are working hard to shore up North Carolina, Wisconsin, Arizona and Florida for President Trump in the run-up to the Nov. 3 election, based on where Ed Sarpolus of Target Insyght sees the GOP spending money at this moment.

Michigan could end up being the swing state it turned out to be in the 2016 election, particularly if Joe Biden neglects the Great Lakes State like Hillary Clinton did four years ago. But as of right now, Republicans need the aforementioned states for Trump to have a chance at a

second term.

It doesn't take much imagination to get Trump to the needed 270 Electoral College votes without Michigan. It's hard to get there, though, without Florida or North Carolina, in particular. Wisconsin, at the moment, is ahead of Michigan in terms of Republicans spending money.

"I'm talking to people across the country and they're starting to see money shift around very quickly," Sarpolus said last week. "And you got to look at where the money is going.

Florida, North Carolina, Arizona is where they are putting their focus right now. Those are the ones they cannot afford to lose. [...] Michigan, they're starting to ease up."

Sarpolus' comments come after Politico reported this week that US Senate Republicans are shifting their focus on defending their incumbents, as opposed to taking shots at a Michigan pickup with John James. Also, Trump is not on television in Michigan, which is making Republicans nervous.

Steve Mitchell of Mitchell

Research & Communications said he doesn't see Trump winning Michigan, but Republicans need to hope the president keeps things close in Michigan. He referenced the MIRS report from Wednesday that showed that once a presidential or gubernatorial candidate hits 53 percent of the vote, the chances of down-ballot House coattails kick in for his or her party. When that percentage hits 57 percent, the coattails are a 100 percent guarantee.

Bernie Porn of EPIC-MRA also said he doesn't see Trump winning Michigan,

but he did say that if the cash-strapped Post Office is dismantled, that will "have a profound impact on absentee ballots and voting by mail."

"Trump is claiming that the vote is going to be rigged, but I think that Donald Trump is doing the rigging," Porn said. "It would seem so with his recent discussions and actions."

Nate Silver has the possibility of Joe Biden winning Michigan at an 81 percent probability, and he has Biden winning the entire election as a 71 percent probability. However, Silver had Clinton's chance of winning Michigan on Election Day in 2016 at 78 percent.

July police data

Lowell Police Department made seven arrests during the month of July, compared to one arrest in June, seven arrests in May, zero arrests in April, 10 in March, 13 in February and 12 in January.

Three of the July arrests were for driving on a suspended license, three were for four were for outstanding warrants and one was described on the police department's monthly statistics sheet as "other arrests."

LPD also responded to plenty of misdemeanors during July. There were three larceny calls, three malicious destructions, two dog/animal complaints, four disorderly conduct calls and 12 assaults. Lowell police also notified three residents about ordinance violations and issued 25 citations. There were 129 traffic stops in July; 95 of those drivers were released with a warning.

Lowell police were called to assist other law enforcement agencies 24 times and called other agencies for assistance one time in July. They were also called for assistance by citizens and motorists 30 different times.

Lowell police were dispatched to seven accidents during July, one with injuries.

The Lowell Area Fire Department responded to 64 incidents during July; 29 in the city of Lowell, 19 in Lowell Township and 16 in Vergennes Township.

State revenues well over May projections

State revenues steered toward the general fund came in \$385.7 million above projected levels in July, while School Aid Fund revenues came in \$270.1 million above the projections from the May Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference.

Through July 2020, general fund collections are \$675 million above the May collections, and the School Aid Fund is \$429.1 million above, according to a report from the Senate Fiscal Agency. Combined, that is \$1.1 billion. State officials are planning on filling a \$3.1 billion hole in FY 2021, which starts Oct. 1.

July and year-to-date collections are strong enough that the state can expect significant positive

revisions.

The current surplus is due to unprecedented and temporary factors. Any significant year-end FY balance will be largely due to the unprecedented temporary federal stimulus money, not real economic expansion. The higher revenue totals came not only from state income taxes being due July 15 as opposed to April 15, but from personal income and sales taxes coming in stronger than expected.

No casino tax revenue is coming in, but more people are playing the state Lottery. School Aid Fund money from the Lottery is up \$42 million, 69.4 percent above projections. State revenues are still projected to be down 10.3 percent from this point in Fiscal Year '19.

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2020 Christmas Through Lowell event cancelled

'Tis the season for cancellations.

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce has had to call off yet another popular annual local event. This time Christmas Through Lowell was the coronavirus casualty.

"We have consulted with Kent County Health Department for their expertise," Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Liz Baker said in a press release on Wednesday, Aug. 12. "Currently, Region 2, [including] the greater Lowell community, is under Executive Order 2020-110 that set limits to the number of people who could safely gather for indoor and outdoor events. The uncertainty and overabundance of caution are the main reasons for the cancelation of the traditional Christmas Through Lowell. Encouraging gatherings into private homes is not prudent or safe. We also understand the impact it will have on our business community. We hope that our community will stand behind this decision and support [shopping] locally."

Christmas Through Lowell is an annual three day shopping event when hundreds of crafters, artists and others sell their wares in private homes, businesses and churches throughout the Lowell community. It started as a fun diversion for "deer hunting widows," but ballooned into one of the largest events of its type in West Michigan. Many participating homeowners create elaborate decorations for their property, both inside and out, to attract prospective customers.

"You have three days of bringing people into Lowell," Baker said about the event way back in 2016. "It has a huge economic impact, not just on people that are participating but the businesses that don't, like your gas stations, your fast food places. They all see commerce from this event. It's huge. It has such an impact in Lowell and on the businesses that participate. It's just a great event, a great way to spearhead your Christmas shopping."

As of Wednesday, Aug. 19, there are 126 days until Christmas.

"The board will be looking at other ways to hold smaller intimate events throughout the holiday shopping season," Baker said.

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Lowell High School's GSA joins National Network

by Alantha Owen
contributing reporter

Started in the 2018-2019 school year, the Gay-Straight Alliance at Lowell High School has recently become officially registered with the National GSA Network.

According to Megz March, advisor to the Lowell GSA, "The GSA Network provides educational tools, training, and ideas for meetings."

A GSA is a student-run organization that promotes social support and activism

for LGBTQ youth and their straight allies. GSAs began appearing in high schools, middle schools and universities in the 1980's and there are now more than 4,000 registered chapters throughout the United States.

"GSA clubs focus on education, activism, and inclusion. GSA clubs aim to counteract and end homophobia and transphobia in schools. Our GSA is in its

third year, and is a very small group. Our meetings are a social hour with snacks and games," says March. "Every student deserves to have a place where they can feel safe and accepted."

March has previously worked at Bushnell and Cherry Creek Elementary for six years as a paraeducator. When she took a position elsewhere, she knew that she still wanted to support

students. At the time, the high school didn't have an active GSA, so she volunteered to help establish the group and serve as the adult advisor.

She is hopeful that in the future, the group will grow and more students will join. "I would love to see new faces at our meetings this year. There are many opportunities for student leadership within the club. We will be working with

Lowell Pride and KDL to plan events like a Pride parade and a book club."

Any student at Lowell High School is welcome to join. Meetings are currently on hold because of the pandemic, but have previously been held bi-weekly on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, immediately after school. March hopes to resume meetings as soon

as it is possible to do so safely. She encourages people to support the club by spreading the word about it and following the club's accounts on social media.

Students and parents with questions about the club can contact March through Facebook or Instagram. To receive updates about meetings, follow the Lowell High School GSA on Facebook and Instagram @lowell.gsa.

Construction and remodeling at schools finishing up

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Construction is underway at many buildings in the Lowell Area Schools district, according to interim superintendent Nate Fowler.

Work at Alto Elementary was delayed for quite some time, but is now only a few weeks away from completion.

"Things are going well at Alto," Fowler said. "During the stay home order in Michigan during April and May there were some delays in getting started, but we were able to make those up. There were some delays because of some supply chain issues due to the pandemic. The biggest challenge was some heating and cooling equipment for the addition, and there were some electrical things that have been delayed because of production delays overseas. This week they were actually without power because we were transitioning to upgraded transformers for the electrical system. Having said that, things are on track and are looking good. The addition looks great. We're probably not going to be able to take occupancy of the addition until, we're anticipating, Oct. 1 because we're still waiting for delivery of the heating and cooling units for the addition."

At this point, Fowler said, Cherry Creek Elementary should be "ready to go" on the first day of school, complete with a new security system.

"We're putting the finishing touches on it right now, but Cherry Creek should be ready to go," Fowler said. "The roughest parts are just getting wrapped up. There is a new secure entrance to go into the office at Cherry Creek, similar to some of our other buildings. To get into the building during the school day, you'll have to go through the office. We're excited about that, and will be ready to go."

The new tennis courts at Lowell Middle School have been installed, and work continues at other buildings in the district.

"Next week the lines on the playing surface will be finished," Fowler said. "We're still planning to break ground on the addition to Lowell Middle School in September. We have new lighting and a new entrance at Murray Lake. There was a delay related to a buried fiber line, but everything is getting put back together. The new entry still needs some finishing touches, that may not be ready when school starts. Bushnell got new boilers for the building,

and there are some classroom heating and cooling units that will be installed during the school year. That work will be done after hours and on weekends."

Despite the rough timing, Fowler said his transition to the more visible role of superintendent has been relatively smooth.

"It's been good, the support I've gotten from teachers, administration and the community has been great," Fowler said. "It's been really intense too, trying to figure out what school is going to look like this fall. It's certainly going to look different this year!"

Speaking of the 2020-2021 school year, Fowler said that district leaders are trying to keep up with the state's guidelines to ensure

a safe school year for area students.

"Things are still changing quickly," Fowler said. "There are a lot of rumors at the state level, but I can't comment on that because we just don't know. As of right now, we're using the road map that the governor's office put out in July as our guidelines to return to school. We're still planning for it, and at Monday's [Aug. 10] board meeting we talked about it. Our back to school plan was approved, and some of the safety protocols that we have in place. We're starting with a hybrid schedule to have smaller groups of kids coming into school, so hopefully we'll be able to make sure we can bring students back to school safely."

School construction, continued, page 8

...

I hope that when machines finally take over they won't build men that break down as soon as they're paid for.

~ Bob Kaufman (1925-1986)

Honey Creek Ave. detoured until Aug. 28



Honey Creek Ave. is closed and detoured for construction between Pettis Ave. and Conservation St. starting Monday, Aug. 17 and scheduled to end on Friday, Aug. 28.

The contractor is Rieth-Riley Construction and the project is projected to cost \$482,000. The existing asphalt pavement will be ground or crushed and then regraded, compacted and covered with two courses of new hot mix asphalt.

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Sources: ¹eMarketer; ²Lamar Advertising; ³Triad/Coda Ventures - The Newspaper Generation Study; ⁴Pulse of America 2018; ⁵NAA

To my friend...

Dear Bob,
Up to this point in my life I have never written a more difficult letter as my heart is filled with sorrow with hearing of your passing. I struggle to find the words to thank you enough for allowing me to be part of your life.

Our friendship started the first day I began working for the City of Lowell a little over 19 years ago and from that moment on my life would never be the same. You showed me the true meaning of compassion, empathy, understanding and respect. Your kindness towards others was unmatched as you helped so many people in this community, most of whom may never have known your name. Bob, I know you were not one to talk about yourself so I would like to tell the citizens of Lowell a little about you.

Bob's full name was Robert L. Robinson and since 2017 he has been known to ham radio operators as KD8HNF. Bob came to Lowell in 1986 to supervise the water distribution department for Lowell's Dept. of Public Works. He worked full time in that position until his retirement in late 2014.

Recently, I had the opportunity to read one of his many daily work journals from years ago. In one daily entry Bob described asking the city manager permission to help a city resident install a new water service, but not during normal work hours (when he was getting paid) but on his own time. He



Bob Robinson (right) with his son-in-law Nate and daughter Tonya.

was concerned the resident did not have the financial resources to hire a contractor so he took it upon himself to help the resident hand dig a trench and install a new water service on a Saturday. His reward was simply the gratification of helping another person who was less fortunate. This is just one of his many unselfish acts of generosity. He did not look to be in the spot light as many just knew him as "that big guy in the water department who helped me out a couple years ago." His motivation in life was like few that I have ever seen and is an example for all to follow.

Bob, I know you would tell me not to mourn your passing as you had a blessed life that included a loving family, wonderful friends and a fulfilling career. You would want me to remember

the good times because life is too short to grieve it away but unfortunately time cannot heal every wound. I pledge to you that I will remember the good times and will pass them along to others. I will remember how you taught us co-workers to always keep Lowell's citizens best interests in mind, be honest in life, and to love our family and friends.

I was once told "a person is lucky to have five true friends in their life." I now know for myself and for a community it really only takes one Bob. You are more than a co-worker, you were like a second father to me and I am honored to be able to call you my friend. I will cherish the time we had together and miss you until the day I die.

Your loving friend,
Ralph Brecken

Beach volleyball court correction/clarification

by Brendan A. Sanders
contributing reporter

In last week's Ledger there was an article on the new beach volleyball courts located on the south end of Grand River Riverfront Park (pictured below). This included financial numbers stating that the project cost a total of \$20,000, including a \$10,000 grant and \$10,000 donated from Greg Canfield. This was not an accurate total cost of the project, as it did not factor in contributions made by Timpson Transport, who supplied all the sand, trucking, labor and bulldozing. Overall, their contributions totaled over \$22,000. \$10,000 was billed to Lowell Charter Township while Timpson transport gifted the other \$12,000.



viewpoint



125 years ago Lowell Ledger August 23, 1895

Portland's big farmer's picnic came near ending last week Thursday night in a tragedy. At 9 o'clock Mrs. Thos Crapo discovered a man in front of her house whose actions were suspicious. She called at a neighbor's house and Ray Badgely, a young man from Lake Odessa, went to her assistance. He grabbed the fellow by the collar who immediately pulled a revolver and fired the ball just missed Badgely's head. Officers arrested Aaron McCausey, of Mulliken, in the same vicinity a few moments later. He is the Crapo woman's first husband and it is suspected the charge was intended for Crapo, the assailant mistaking the man in the darkness.

Verdant people in Greenville and vicinity were done up recently by a sharper who called himself Cook, and claimed to be a detective from the state board of health. "Cook" said he was inspecting the cows in that vicinity; if one was found sick he would claim the cow was diseased and the milk was causing much of the sickness there and notified the owner that he was liable to a heavy fine, but if the owner would kill the cow and give "Cook" \$5.75, his expenses to and from Lansing, "Cook" would say nothing.

Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Lawrence gave a party to about forty little folks at Island Park, yesterday in honor of the ninth birthday of their daughter Lila. The children made the grove ring with music and mirth from 3 to 6 p.m., and were feasted in good things to their heart's content.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger August 26, 1920

The Lowell Sand and Gravel company is making rapid progress and bids fair to be one of the best paying propositions that has been Lowell's good fortune to secure. The deeds to the 331 acres in the Thornapple river have been secured, and are now in the hands of Harry Day, the trustee of the organization.

Township Clerk Frank N. White interviewed State Highway Bridge Engineer Hess regarding the unsafe condition of Upper Grand river bridge, and its south approach at Lowell and that official said that the bridge has been taken over by the state and he had orders from State Highway Commissioner Rogers to make repairs so that the bridge need not be closed

to the big through traffic, going over it, and that a new bridge will be built by the state next year.

Milk dealers cannot get new bottles and will be forced to skip patrons who fail to put their bottles out. People do not buy the bottles, but bottles can be found in the cemetery, on the river bank, where lunches have been eaten and on catsup shelves. Milk bottles cost money and just now, cannot be secured at any price; and this does not tend to lower milk prices. Better lock up the empties, and put them out, or someone will be disappointed.

75 years The Lowell Ledger August 23, 1945

The C.H. Runciman Company will pack pre-cooked beans, starting about November 1. They will be put up under the brand name "Hallmark" and distributed by the Stein Hall Company of Chicago. The C.H. Runciman Company will build a building 60-x-120 feet, 22 feet high of tile for this operation. Mr. Runciman states that it is expected that about 50 carloads of navy beans will be processed each year. The beans will be soaked, cooked in pressure cookers and then dried so that the product will be ready for the housewife to prepare baked beans in about 8 minutes.

President Truman announced last Thursday that there will be no official holiday on V-J day, which will come only after Japanese forces have laid down their arms. Mr. Truman asked Saturday that V-J day, when it is proclaimed, be a day of work and not a holiday.

Sergeant Lawrence C. Armstrong who has had more than three years' service in the Pacific with the famed 32nd (Red Arrow) Division, has been granted an honorable discharge, and arrived home last Thursday night. Sgt. Armstrong entered the army in January of 1940. He left for Australia with the 32nd Division in April, 1942. A hard-bitten veteran of six operations against the Japanese, he has seen action at Buna, Saidor, and Aitape, in New Guinea. Morotal, in the Dutch East Indies, and Leyte and Luzon, in the Philippine Islands.

50 years The Lowell Ledger August 27, 1970

A spectacular fire drew hundreds of Lowell residents out of bed one night last week to watch thousands of dollars go up in smoke at Walter's Lumber Mart. Forty-eight fire fighters from Lowell, Ada and Alto brought the blaze under control in about 45 minutes. Damage, estimated at about \$50,000, was limited to a lumber storage shed. Operations in the retail store were not hampered by the blaze.

If the students at the Lowell Senior High School wander around the halls wondering which classroom they're supposed to be in, and what time, it's probably because they forgot to look at their new computer-printed schedule. For the first time, the Lowell school system is experimenting with a completely automated scheduling system which is expected to save hundreds of man-hours and free teachers and counselors for work improving the curriculum.

Reports of two bicycle thefts at the last week's Kent County 4-H Fair brought investigations by Lowell Police this week. The first place they looked for the stolen vehicles was in the Grand River on the edge of the fair grounds. Rather than don scuba gear, police called in Lowell's fire chief, Frank Baker, who fashioned a hook long enough to pull the missing bikes out of the water.

outdoors

trails are us

Dave Stegehuis

The state of Michigan claims 13,000 miles of state designated trails and pathways. On top of that, municipalities and counties across the state develop and maintain their own trails. Trails are sometimes a cooperative effort between stake holders. The North Country Trail begins in Vermont and ends up in North Dakota and passes through the entire length of lower and upper Michigan. These trails often connect with each other creating public access to a variety of forests, waterways, parks, and historical sites.

Trails are available to bicyclists, hikers, ORV riders, motorcycle riders, cross country skiers, snowshoers, snowmobilers, horse riders, and watercraft paddlers. Some trails allow multiple use activities while others are identified a single use. Clearly, motorcycles and horses don't mix,

There is a lot of information online regarding the use, features, and location of these trail systems. In many communities around the state it is only a matter of looking around or asking locals in order to find a trail

through a park or woodland. The headquarters for the North Country Trail is in downtown Lowell.

Trails and walkways are common in states across the country. Michigan stands out from the crowd because of the extent of the trail systems as well as the diversity of uses. The state is considered number one in the country for trails. Because of the large number and location of trails, visitors and residents have convenient access to trails in highly populated urban centers as well as remote corners of the state.

Not many of us live down on the farm anymore, but we have never had more opportunity to get out for a change of scenery and healthy exercise. The trails can be used for a daily walk with the dog, a well-deserved weekend getaway, or be the focus of a challenging outdoor adventure.

The opportunity is there, so it is just a matter of making the effort to locate a trail compatible with your interests, then get out and take advantage of your good fortune to live where vast natural resources belong to you.

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.

HEALTH

M METRO HEALTH

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH

Johnathan G. Meier, D.O. Laura E. Kass, PA-C
Wayne A. Christenson, D.O. Kaili M. Walker, PA-C
Tracy L. Lixie, D.O. Alexandria Clum, PA-C
Catherine S. Smith, NP-C

- urinary tract infection

Urinary tract infections are one of the most common conditions primary care providers see in the office. These infections are also commonly called “bladder infections” or “UTIs”. They are especially common in women. The urinary tract includes the kidneys, the ureters (the tubes connecting the kidneys and the bladder), the bladder, and the urethra (the short outflow tube from the bladder to the outside of the body).

A UTI is simply an infection of any part of this urinary tract caused by a bacteria. Symptoms include pain or burning with urination, frequent urination, an urgency to urinate, and sometimes blood in the urine. Fever, back pain, nausea, vomiting can be signs of a more serious infection involving the kidneys.

UTIs are diagnosed by discussing the patient’s symptoms, performing a simple examination of the abdomen and back in the office, and most

importantly- obtaining and testing a urine sample. The urine sample will often reveal white blood cells, red blood cells, and bacteria. Frequently we will also obtain a culture from that urine sample to identify the specific kind of bacteria causing the infection. This helps ensure we have selected the best antibiotic for the infection.

You can help prevent UTIs by drinking plenty of water and urinating frequently. Don’t hold your urine for long periods of time, as this can over extend the bladder and make it easier for bacteria to colonize in the bladder wall. You should always urinate after intercourse. Avoid wearing wet undergarments or swimsuits for any length of time. Remember good hygiene when wiping after using the rest room, especially wiping from front to back after a bowel movement. If you think you might have a UTI, you should call your health care provider promptly to check.

ABCs of Lowell History

The Lowell Area Historical Museum introduces a new weekly feature to explore local history. The ABC’s of Lowell’s History this week is:

T is for Theater The Strand Theater

In October of 1927, the Lowell Ledger announced, “Lowell is Soon to Have New Movie Theatre.” It was to seat 400 and provide vaudeville entertainment as well as moving pictures. In May of 1928 it was proclaimed that “New Strand Theater Nears Completion.” Now it was 514 opera chairs that were about to be installed, and the pipe organ was expected to arrive the next week.

The name ‘Strand’ identified the class of theater. It was a theater without a balcony. It was classier than a Bijou theater, and showed higher profile movies.

The big opening was a fine success! The Strand

opened with a big bang with all of its luxurious opera chairs full and a pleased and eagerly expectant audience. The roar and tremolo of the powerful pipe organ filled the ample auditorium; pictures, illustrated news, comedy and a newspaper drama, “Telling the World”, introducing scenes of Chinese riots, were shown and the entertainment concluded with a vaudeville act put on by a quartet of dancing girls.

1930 was a big year for The Strand Theater. An RCA photophone projection apparatus was installed along with a new air-cooling-device to keep patrons cool in hot weather. The Strand received a bronze plaque award for “Award of Merit” for “perfection and excellence that is achieved by The Strand in the presentation, projection

and reproduction of talking and sound motion pictures.”

The only class of Lowell High School to hold graduation exercises at the Strand was the Class of 1935. Famous stars

death of Henry Fonda, the studio pulled the movie “On Golden Pond” out of circulation for a few weeks. Because of prior commitments, The Strand was allowed to show the film as scheduled, effectively



such as Laurel and Hardy performed at the Strand.

Though it was to close as a theater the following year, in 1982 The Strand Theater, in small town Lowell, had an amazing experience. Following the

making it the only theatre showing the academy award winning film, exclusively!

Today, The Strand is a venue and is used for various events from plays, dinner theater and a venue for Christmas Through Lowell.

college news

Bailey Reitsma, of Lowell, and Brent Reed, of Grand Rapids, were awarded the Excellence in a Discipline Award for Health Administration from Grand Valley State University.

Reitsma is a graduate of Lowell High School and is the daughter Laura and Jim Reitsma.

Reed is a graduate of

South Anchorage High School and is the son of Jerry and Kristin Reed.

The Excellence in a Discipline Award honors one undergraduate student and one graduate student in each academic major. Faculty from each department select the award recipient for their academic major.

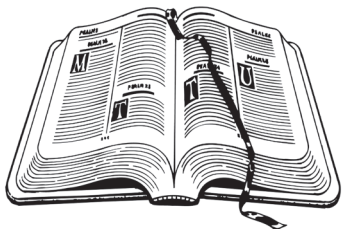
Matthew Easton, of Ada, was among the nearly 8,500 students who received degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison during a unique online commencement ceremony on May 9, 2020, including students from your area.

Easton graduated from the School of Med & Public Health, Doctor of Medicine, Medicine.

Eat. **Shop.** Explore.
LOCAL

...
It is not that I'm so smart. But I stay with the questions much longer.
~ Albert Einstein

area churches

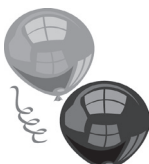


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Peggy Idema,
Joseph Thaler, Lois Boonstra,
Brown, Brian DeBold,
Daryl Chamberlain,
Charley VanKeulen, Betty Wierenga.

AUGUST 22
Mike Blough, Shane Teelander.

AUGUST 23
Kacy Anderson, Rhea Bundy Anes,
Stephen Rhodes, Brandon Taylor,
Ron Kennedy, Jesse Carr,
Katie Peterson, Chad Peterson.

AUGUST 20
Mattie Dalziel,
B.J. Rittersdorf, Alexis Holloway, Andrea Bryant,
Katelyn Kaczanowski.

AUGUST 24
Tim Raymor, Angela Rasch, April Barnes, Kelly Johnson, David Vankeulen,
Nicholas Myers.

AUGUST 21
Madelyn Pfaller,
Charlene DeShane-Dalga,
Joshua Hobrla, Tom Barnes, Ethan Shindorf,
Katelyn Videto, Emma Yeiter.

AUGUST 25
Patty Elzinga, Lindsey Trierweiler, Misty McClure-Anderson.

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\$1,000 turkeys and \$200 pies: KC Youth Fair auctions



Kenzy Everett



Emilia Veldman

by Brendan A. Sanders
contributing reporter

On Wednesday night, Aug. 12, the Kent County Youth Fair saw the small animal and still exhibit auctions take place in front of a very supportive crowd.

With the Kent County Youth Fair taking place at a limited capacity this year, only the showing of animals was permitted. Therefore, most of the action taking place happened at the auction house where many children and young adults sold the results of their hard work to many different bidders.

Many chickens, turkeys and still exhibits went to the auctioneer and many young sellers went home happy. Some of the products sparked bidding wars, with the grand prize turkey selling for \$1,000 on the market and some pies even selling for upwards of \$200.

A buyer on Wednesday was Jake Nugent, also a seller the next day at the large animal auction. He talked about why he spent \$300 on three chickens raised by a child he knew.

“It was 100 percent to support the youth,” Nugent said. “I knew the kid, since he wrote me a letter, and I know from being a seller that it’s important to make connections. I appreciated him being personal bringing

me a letter. They put hard work into it and that’s what I care about.”

Many still exhibits were sold throughout the night. Photos, drawings, even a play tree for cats were sold to the highest bidders, with many getting high bids.

Lambert Auctions ran the event, with many unique technological implementations that took place this year. First being the inclusion of online bids that worked alongside the live bidders, and the new television that gave everyone an update on who was to come and how much

the previous item sold for.

Even with the crowd limited to participants and bidders, the food vendors were still in attendance, selling elephant ears, ice cream, corn dogs and other fair essentials. They brought a sense of familiarity to an otherwise unique Kent County Youth Fair experience.

“I thought the auction went well,” Nugent said. “Even with COVID it was a good turnout. Stuff was going pretty high - \$1,000 for a turkey, that’s a good price! I can’t complain.”



Kennedy Beiber



Josiah Boersma



Lance Olney

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a special meeting of the Vergennes Township Planning Commission will be held on **Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI** to hold a public hearing as summarized below:

The public hearing is for proposed Zoning Ordinance text amendments to Section 201.309 (C) (9) to add the use of “Commercial amusement and recreation establishments” as a special exception use in the Industrial District.

The complete proposed text amendment 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: www.vergennestwp.org**. Written and oral comments will be received from any interested party until the conclusion of the public hearing. Written comments may be mailed, dropped off, or placed in the drop box at the Township Offices. Comments may be emailed to the Planning Commission at: zoning@vergennestwp.org

Vergennes Township Planning Commission

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Cherry Creek Elementary



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In the LowellArts gallery: Nikki Trim & Molly Burgess

by Brendan A. Sanders
contributing reporter

The final two artists in our series on the “Being + Wonder + Within” exhibition at LowellArts are a pair that teamed up to create their own amazing pieces.

Artists Molly Burgess and Nikki Trim have been best friends for a long time, and within that friendship they have built an artistic partnership that has been very fruitful. With two varying artistic styles and pieces, they were a major part of this LowellArts gallery exhibition.

Merely by looking at the art pieces, you might not immediately suspect the two were connected. Burgess’s work is fabric bugs and insects, while Trim’s work includes bright paintings of landscapes that can be picked out from across the room.

Burgess’s insect sculptures were planted for all to see in the gallery, with several of her insects hanging on the walls. Burgess had been a seamstress since 2004, but started doing fiber arts sculptures around 2014. She was also an interior designer for a decade before she decided that it was time to try something new and branch out to create her own business. The business has panned out so well, she has so far amassed 90,000 Instagram followers at mollyburgessdesigns. This, along with her Esty shop, allowed her to open up commissions with Nikki Trim as her assistant, earning many requests with every new post. She does shop updates every Monday and takes on intricate commission work when others request her bug designs with moths, slugs and nudibranchs (sea slugs) being fan favorites.

“She opened up her commissions three months at a time, and she filled up her three months in less than

24 hours after opening them up,” Trim said.

Burgess’s work is heavily inspired by the outside world, but she needed an extra push from her friend to begin her work creating insect sculptures.

“For me it’s always been the natural world, I love nature,” Burgess said. “A friend of ours loves bugs, so I really wanted to make a cicada for her. I was already I could give it a shot, and after much trial and error I finished it and liked it so much I decided to do it more. I always had a bit of a phobia of bugs, and I realized after making so many of them that I don’t anymore. After looking at them and learning about them intricately, with the way they work, it cured me. Now I love them!”

Burgess’s work with insects includes various different colorful bugs from all different colors on the spectrum. The gallery had bugs ranging from the red ceanothus moth to the white silkworm moth, to her own creations such as flora, a black moth that has flower pattern fabric as its wings. These all required different strategies when designing and creating the insects.

“It depends on if it is one of my natural bugs, like a monarch butterfly, for which I’ll probably look at a picture,” Burgess said. “I do luna moths a lot, so I don’t need to look at a picture. For most species, I do have a reference photo just so I make sure I get all the markings right and stuff like that. But my other ones, like the fabric-based, I just walk into my fabric room and pick out a few. I go, ‘I like this body with this pair of wings, this velvet color is good,’ and I just do it without any photos to reference.”

Burgess is able to recycle fabric that would otherwise

be thrown away. Her work with fabric includes work with upholstery fabrics, lots of sequins, lots of lace and other vintage and discontinued samples from fabric showrooms.

Trim has taken a bit of a different path toward entering the art field. A self-taught artist, Trim has been able to create her own vision without the confines of rules given to other artists. Spending time in France and England while earning her Master’s degree, she was able to study the surrealist movement and other artistic movements to develop her own art style. Trim’s art is very bright to the eye, with all colors of the rainbow being incorporated into each painting to draw viewers in from across the room.

“For my art, color is really big for me,” Trim said. “I’ll paint anything, but it’s not the way it’s going to look naturally, it’s going to be in my surrealist color scheme. It’s going to be a little expressionist and a little bit out there. Painting in natural tones means you’re going to be looking at a lot of browns [and] a lot of greens the entire time. For me, it started for fun. Like, I’m painting more what I want to see, which is brighter, more like the world I wish I could see rather than the world I am seeing.”

Burgess had a strong description of Trim’s paintings.

“I always describe her work as a surrealist expressionist,” Burgess said. “It’s very Van Gogh, where it’s very heavy with color. Everything about Nikki is very bright and just sparkly and colorful and fun.”

For Trim’s landscape paintings, some are taken from photos she has taken, while others, such as ‘Thai Falls,’ were given to her by friends. Many of her commissions are

from people wanting their vacation photos or special locations turned into paintings. The largest challenge for Trim is the fact the paintings take much longer to create than her friend’s sculptures.

“Something I’ve noticed is that with Molly’s art, it is something she can post almost every day,” Trim said. “Whereas, for me, I’m working on the same painting for sometimes two months, and I don’t really like giving people previews. If it’s not done, I don’t want people to see it yet. I haven’t been able to build as much of a social media following, so I have to focus on building more of a relationship with the people who buy my work and give me commissions.”

Trim’s work is sometimes spread out, as she also has a toddler at home, is Burgess’s assistant and is in charge of a few different activist organizations. Trim is the co-leader of ‘Speak Up Grand Rapids’ and the leader of an ally group to Black Lives Matter.

“This means that I’ve had paintings take as long as six months before,” Trim said.

Both artists have other impressive specialties that include drawing and writing. Burgess has been working on getting into creating hyperrealistic drawings of insects, while Trim has a specialty in writing, particularly for political campaigns. Soon they will be combining their other skills.

“Nikki and I will be working on a tarot deck here soon,” Burgess said. “I’m the one who is going to have to draw while she does the writing for it.”

Both artists have hopes for what they want others to take away from their work. For Burgess, it is about growing an appreciation for nature.



Insects by Molly Burgess

“I want people to be more engaged with the natural world, especially with insects, arachnids, isopods,” Burgess said. “They are generally considered by most people to be gross or scary, and I really want to open people’s eyes to the fact that these are actually really beautiful creatures and incredibly necessary for the ecosystem. Whenever I post something, I usually get someone who says, ‘I hate spiders but this is adorable,’ or ‘This is something that I love,’ and that is exactly what I want to hear.”

For Trim, it is about others enjoying being able to see her work.

“When you have a painting, it is going to be an addition to a room so I just really want to create something that, every time they look at it, they feel joy or calm or whatever they felt that made them want to add it to their space in the first place.” Trim said.

Both artists had things to say about what up-and-coming artists should focus on to succeed in the field. For Burgess, it was who one should surround themselves with while they create their art.

“The most important thing for me is to surround

myself with supportive people,” Burgess said. “I think that has been my number one thing. My husband, Nikki, my family, my other friends, everyone has been so unbelievably supportive. There’s never been anyone who has questioned me doing this. I would say that’s what you need to do.”

For Trim, it was about the confidence of having others enjoy the work you create.

“Just have confidence that if you have something to put out there, people will want to see it eventually,” Trim said. “It might take a while. I was in a cubicle for five years and I was miserable. Art makes me happy, and even though it’s been a financial struggle going from a full time income to trying to sell one painting at a time, I wouldn’t trade it at all. I would do it again and again.”

You can find Burgess on Instagram at mollyburgessdesigns, on her website mollyburgessdesigns.com or on Facebook at Molly Burgess Designs LLC.

You can find Trim on Facebook at Nikki Trim Art or on Instagram at nikkitrustart.



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MDHHS, Ford Motor Company, FEMA partner in keep Michigan safe

Four million free masks are being provided to Michigan residents who are most vulnerable to COVID-19 through a partnership involving the state, Ford Motor Company and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced today.

Low-income residents, seniors, schools and homeless shelters will benefit from the MI Mask Aid partnership that is part of the Mask Up Michigan campaign.

"Michigan needs to continue to 'mask up' to protect us all from COVID-19," Gov. Whitmer said. "Vulnerable populations may have difficulties buying masks and our schools need face coverings to keep students, staff and community members safe. I am thrilled that the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Ford and FEMA are working together to help control the spread of the coronavirus."

The project is in partnership with Gov. Whitmer's Michigan Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities chaired by Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist II.

The irony of this pandemic that requires physical distancing is that it reveals how connected we truly are - how much we rely on one another every day," Lt. Governor Gilchrist II said. "I'm thankful for our partners at Ford, FEMA and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for coming together in a big way to ensure that our communities, particularly those hardest hit, have what they need to get through these tough times. By delivering four million masks at no cost to Michiganders, we can provide a proven, lifesaving device to countless residents as they go back to work, school, and define new way of living during this pandemic."

The free masks include 1.5 million from FEMA that the state has already sent to organizations that include local Community Action Agencies serving low-income residents, MDHHS offices, Area Agencies on Aging, homeless shelters and Native American tribes.

Another 1 million face coverings from FEMA and 1.5 million from Ford will go to low-income schools, the City of Detroit, Federally Qualified Health Centers, some COVID-19 testing sites and to many of the organizations listed above to reach vulnerable populations - including minority residents who have been affected by the public health crisis as a result of racism.

"Masks are proven to reduce a person's chance of spreading COVID-19 by about 70 percent. There's also growing evidence that masks can protect the wearer's life, by reducing the severity of COVID if they get it," MDHHS Director

Robert Gordon said. "It's critically important to make sure communities most impacted by COVID-19 have greater access to masks at no cost. The MI Mask Aid initiative is a critical step in this effort."

Ford's involvement makes MI Mask Aid a public-private partnership that can provide even more free masks. Ford assembles more vehicles and employs more hourly workers in the U.S. than any other automaker.

"Manufacturing is the backbone of America and from World War II to fighting COVID-19, Ford has a rich history of stepping up in times of crisis to help Michigan and our country," said Ford Motor Company president and CEO Jim Hackett. "And today we continue in our efforts, with the State of Michigan and in coordination with the Task Force on Racial Disparities, by donating face masks to serve communities especially vulnerable to



COVID-19. We also will continue to look for ways to address urgent needs of our communities by leveraging our partnerships through the Ford Motor Company Fund."

Anyone interested in receiving a free mask can find a distribution location by calling the COVID-19 Hotline at 888-535-6136 or looking up their local Community Action Agency online.

Information around the COVID-19 outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.



Late arriving absentee ballot tally 1,200 and rising

According to information from the clerks of 15 of Michigan's largest cities and townships, 1,199 completed primary absentee ballots arrived at their offices through the mail after the 8 pm election night deadline.

Grand Rapids received 118 ballots on Monday all bundled together. Sterling Heights received 165, Ann Arbor has received 202,

Macomb Township received 170, West Bloomfield received 86, Livonia has received 58, Farmington Hills and Clinton Township each received 57, Wyoming 45, Novi 47, Troy 43, Ypsilanti Township received 19, Muskegon 14 and Jackson 8.

The city of Lansing has received 110 absentee ballots in the mail past election day, with 90 of

them coming on Aug. 5, the day after the primary, according to clerk Chris Swope. While one of the ballots came from Ireland and another from Australia, 43 have arrived with an Aug. 1 postmark. Another 45 had a postmark from the day of the primary election, Aug. 4. Thirteen were postmarked either Aug. 5 or later.

Overall, 2.5 million

voters cast ballots in the primary, breaking the previous record for an August primary set in 2018 when 2.2 million people voted, according to the Secretary of State's office. The roughly 1,200 that have come in late makes up .05 percent of all ballots that were received on time, either by mail, dropbox or voting in person.

Emergency order requiring testing of agricultural and food processing employees remains in effect

Emergency Order Requiring Testing of Agricultural and Food Processing Employees Remains in Effect

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Director Robert Gordon applauded a recent decision by the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan regarding a lawsuit challenging the department's order requiring

testing to protect farm and food processing employees from COVID-19. The court denied a temporary restraining order regarding the department's Emergency Order.

"MDHHS appreciates the judge's ruling," said Gordon. "The department's goal is to save lives during a pandemic that has killed more than 6,300 people in Michigan. At a time when farms, food processing

plants and migrant worker camps face 21 outbreaks, the best way to save lives is to support and test these hard-working employees."

The order, which was announced on Aug. 3, remains in effect. It requires migrant housing camp operators to provide COVID-19 testing as follows:

One-time baseline testing of all residents ages 18 and over.

Testing of all new residents with 48 hours of arrival, with separate housing for newly arriving residents for 14 days and a second test 10 - 14 days after arrival.

Testing of any resident with symptoms or exposure. Employers of migrant or seasonal workers, meat, poultry and egg processing facilities and greenhouses with over 20 employees on-site at a time to provide

COVID-19 testing as follows:

One-time baseline testing of all workers.

Testing of all new workers prior to any in-person work.

Testing of any worker with symptoms or exposure. The deadline for businesses to comply is Aug. 24. Those seeking assistance with compliance can email MDHHS-Migrant-Affairs@

michigan.gov. Additional information, including a Frequently Asked Question document, is available on the COVID-19 website.

Failure to comply with this order may result in the issuance of a civil monetary penalty under the authority of MCL 333.2262.

Red Arrow

FOOTBALL

SPORTS

MHSAA postpones high school football season to spring 2021

by Justin Scott
contributing reporter

For the first time since the 1910's, there will be no Lowell Football this fall. This comes after the Michigan High School Athletic Association formally announced the postponement of high school football in Michigan until Spring of 2021. All other fall sports at the time of this article's writing are still on as scheduled.

MHSAA executive director Mark Uyl, in a video conference Friday was emotional when sharing the news. "At the end of the day, we did everything we could to find a path forward for football this fall. But while continuing to connect with the Governor's office, state health department officials, our member schools' personnel and the council, there is just too much uncertainty and too many unknowns to play football this fall."

Uyl, who is also a parent of a high school football senior, noted that he feels the disappointment the same as many.

"Do know that our other fall sports are scheduled to move forward because simply put, they just don't carry the same risk levels that the hand-to-hand, face-to-face every play contact in football requires of our young people that play our great game," Uyl added.

Football in particular, due to the high level of contact between players, was considered a high-risk sport for the potential spread of COVID-19. Michigan became the twelfth state (not including District of Columbia) to postpone their football season until spring. No other fall sport was considered high risk, though volleyball and soccer fell in the moderate risk category. Three other sports did fall in the high-risk category, which puts their status as most uncertain going into their seasons. Those sports are boys lacrosse, competitive cheer, and wrestling.

Since March 11, the MHSAA has put a hold on all sporting events due to the pandemic. That cut

short not only the winter sports season for many teams but completely canceled the spring 2020 season as well. Michigan has recorded 92,720 confirmed COVID-19 cases as of August 16. In total, there have been 5.37 million confirmed cases in the United States. The USA, which represents

year under head coach Jacob Henige.

Lowell High School Athletic Director Dee Crowley sent the following statement to the Lowell Ledger regarding the MHSAA's announcement:

"The MHSAA Representative Council announced on Friday afternoon that high school

adjust the athletic calendar for the 2020-21 year to add a second spring season. The football schedule and number of games that will be played in the spring is still unknown, as well as the tournament format. It is important that our spring teams have their season in 2021 after the 2020 spring season was canceled, and

have implemented, most of which were started in June. Some of these protocols include: health screening questions that all participants must answer before participating, hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes on location at each practice, hand washing, intermittent ball cleaning, coaches wearing a mask at

using the Pink Arrow sport court so that our volleyball teams could practice outside on the court.

Since March 12, this has been a very challenging time for everyone who enjoys high school sports, including athletic directors. ADs understand the importance of educational athletics and not having



Lowell's varsity football team takes the field against Rockford last year. The earliest we will see Lowell Football is spring 2021 after the MHSAA announced the postponement of football.

4.25 percent of the world's population currently accounts for 24.86 percent of cases.

The last time football was not played in the fall was during the 1910s. In 1918, there is no record of any games played. Another pandemic, the Spanish Flu, and the effects of World War I could have contributed to the absence of a high school football season. In 1913 and 1914, the Lowell High School football team abandoned their season due to "lack of materials".

This news hits the Lowell community, known to be especially passionate for high school football, hard. The team was looking forward to playing in front of their fans this fall after a return to the playoffs last

football has been postponed until the spring. Football had been categorized as a high-risk sport due to the amount of physical contact, and according to the MHSAA, it felt that there was too much uncertainty to feel confident moving forward with the fall football season. While I understand the reasons for the MHSAA decision, it was still very disheartening, as our players and coaches had been working hard since mid-June with conditioning, strength training and had a great first week of practice. No Friday night lights in the fall also impacts our sideline cheer team, marching band, Athletic Boosters and a lot of community members who have spent Friday nights supporting Lowell Football for many years.

I expect the MHSAA to

our seniors from the class of 2020 were not able to complete their high school athletic careers.

Right now, our remaining fall sports are practicing and moving forward. Our golf, tennis and cross-country teams (categorized as low risk) have their first competitions this week. volleyball, girls swim and boys soccer (categorized as moderate risk sports) are practicing, and the MHSAA will announce on August 19 whether those sports will be able to compete during the fall season and what the competition schedule might look like.

The MHSAA has established safety protocols for each sport (available at www.mhsaa.com and then select sport) that we

all times (unless providing clear coaching instructions from a distance), students wearing a mask when arriving, transitioning, exiting, students bringing own water (no shared jugs, water, etc.), and social distancing when not actively participating.

Spectator attendance is still unknown at this time, but we hope to hear news this week. We are also waiting to hear when volleyball may start practicing in the gym since high school gyms are still closed. We appreciate

our student-athletes participating in high school sports with their friends and coaches causes great concern. Overall, the mental health of our student-athletes is very important during this pandemic as they are dealing with so many changes, unknowns and disappointments. Our kids need to know that they should reach out to talk to someone if they are struggling or need to talk about what's happening with them. Our community is here to support them."



obituaries

BROWN

Marilyn Janice Brown, age 85 of Clarksville, went to be with the Lord Thursday, August 13, 2020. She was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth William Brown; daughter, Sandra Ann Brown; sister, Donna Crowle; parents, Michael and Grace Whitton. She is survived by her children, Bill (Dawn) Brown, Mary (Lewis) Esterline; sisters, Carolyn Campbell, Judy (Jon) Provancher; grandchildren, Heather (Matt) Opper, Tara Brown, Emily (Kaden) Schwarz, Kelly (Ben) Nickson; great-grandchildren, Eden Opper, Easton Opper; also, nieces and nephews. Marilynn graduated from Allegan High School. She had a great loved for family and her church, St. Mary's of Lowell, where she volunteered for luncheons, adoration, church office, and F.R.O.M. She enjoyed reading books, knitting, and cooking or baking for her family. Mass of Christian Burial will begin at 11am with visitation one-hour prior on Thursday, August 20, 2020 at St. Mary Catholic Church, 402 Amity St., Lowell. Rev. Aaron Ferris presiding. Interment St. Mary Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Flat River Outreach Ministries, 11535 Fulton St E, Lowell, MI 49331.



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ROBINSON

Robert Leo Robinson, age 62 of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly Thursday, August 13, 2020. Robert was a devoted family man and friend to many. He was never too busy to lend a helping hand, an understanding ear, or a shoulder to cry upon. He was heavily involved with the City of Lowell both personally by participating in events and council meetings; and professionally serving his community from the Department of Public Work for two decades before retiring in 2016. He was an active member of Amateur Radio community researching, participating, and donating his time to help train future enthusiasts. Robert was preceded in death by parents, Roland and Patricia Robinson; sister, Sandy Lawrence; brother, Paul Robinson. He is survived by his loving daughter, Tonya (Nathan) Seeley and her mother, Christa; brother, Rex Robinson; nieces and nephews, Sookie, Karen, Randy, Roger Jr.; also, several aunts and uncles. A private graveside service will be held at Trufant Cemetery. A Celebration of Life will be held at Fallasburg Park on August 22, 2020 from 11AM - 4PM. Memorial contributions may be made to Lowell Amateur Radio Club, 11535 Fulton St E Suite 112, Lowell, MI 49331-9609 or Pink Arrow Pride Lowell, PO Box 246, Lowell, MI 49331.



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Social Security - 85 years of serving people like you

by Vonda Van Til
Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

We take pride in having provided vital benefits and services to this great nation for 85 years. America has a diverse population with a variety of needs. With our diverse population in mind, we've created webpages that speak directly to groups of people who may

years in retirement and have a greater chance of exhausting other sources of income. A woman who is 65 years old today can expect to live, on average, until about 87, while a 65-year-old man can expect to live, on average, until about 84.

Also, women often have lower lifetime earnings



need information about our programs and services. These pages are easy to share with friends and family or on social media. Here are just a few that might speak to you or someone you love.

We proudly serve wounded warriors and veterans. They made sacrifices to preserve the freedoms Americans treasure. Many of them do not know they might be entitled to disability benefits from Social Security. Share our resources with them to make sure they get the benefits they deserve. www.ssa.gov/people/veterans.

Social Security plays an important role in providing economic security for women. Nearly 55 percent of the people receiving Social Security benefits are women. With longer life expectancies than men, women tend to live more

than men, which usually means lower benefits. Women need to plan early and wisely for retirement and we're here to provide valuable information to help. Share this page with someone who needs this information and may need help planning for their golden years. www.ssa.gov/people/women.

Do you know someone who is just starting their career? Now is the best time for them to start preparing for retirement. The sooner they begin to save, the more they'll have at retirement. Share this page with a young worker you know. www.ssa.gov/people/earlycareer.

These are just a few webpages that are tailored to a specific group's needs. If you didn't see your own, check out our People Like Me home page at www.ssa.gov/people.

Looking back, continued

25 years The Lowell Ledger August 23, 1995

Bill Walters was awakened early Thursday morning by the sound of a lightning bolt striking a storage barn that sits in back of Donald and Donna Gerard's house at 2251 W. Main St. Walters, 80, who resides with Donald and Donna Gerard said he heard the crash and then everything shook.

Vergennes Township's historic Fallasburg district will once again add to its impressive repertoire of

historic artifacts. A 70-year-old two-lane bridge from Belleville will be arriving soon to add historic flavor to the area and open up Burroughs Road to nearby residents.

The Lowell Showboat Amphitheater's venerable and greatly underutilized venue played home to West Michigan Blues Society's first-ever Showboat Blues Festival. "It is greatly underused and we were in need of a venue for the first-ever West Michigan Blues Festival." said Mark Smith, vice president of the Blues Society and chairman of the Showboat Blues Festival. "Blues is so popular in West Michigan we felt there is a base to support a festival."

LEGAL NOTICE

TO ALL CREDITORS:

Elaine E. Connolly, who lived at 2885 10 Mile Rd., Rockford, MI, died on 4/12/2020. There is no personal representative of the estate to whom Letters of Administration have been issued.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against Elaine E. Connolly or the Connolly Family Trust, dated 11/11/1996, will be forever barred unless presented to Kevin J. Connolly, Successor

Trustee, within four months after the date of this publication.

Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

Kevin J. Connolly
4850 Chauncey, NE
Belmont, MI 49306

By: Craig A. Bruggink
Attorney for Successor
Trustee
429 Turner Ave., N.W.
Grand Rapids, MI
49504
616-456-5048

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for sale

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sales

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Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold

Edward Jones

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What Does an Unplanned Career Transition Mean for You?

The COVID-19 pandemic has unsettled the country's employment picture for months and will likely continue to do so for a while. However, the nature and terminology of this disruption varies greatly among individuals – some have seen their jobs disappear, others have been “furloughed” and still others have been offered an early retirement. If you're in this final group – those either offered, or feeling forced to accept, an early retirement, how should you respond?

Try to look at your situation holistically, rather than strictly in a short-term manner. Consider these four areas:

Retirement

What does retirement really look like to you? Are you ready to fully retire or would you like to work part time? Are you confident that you can work somewhere else for a few years before retiring on your own terms? If you're not certain you can work elsewhere, how can you adjust your desired retirement lifestyle – what you planned to do, where you hoped to live, etc. – to meet your new reality?

Income

Just how financially affected you'll be from an early retirement depends on several factors: how much you've already saved and invested, whether you're

married and have a working spouse, whether you've paid off your mortgage, and so on. In any case, though, you'll need to answer several questions, including these: Do I need to start taking withdrawals from my IRA and 401(k)? If so, how much can I afford to take out each year without running the risk of outliving my resources? Should I adjust my current investment mix? If I haven't yet started collecting Social Security, should I do so now, or can I afford to wait until my monthly payments will be bigger? Are there any other sources of income I can leverage? You may want to work with a financial professional to address these and other key income-related issues.

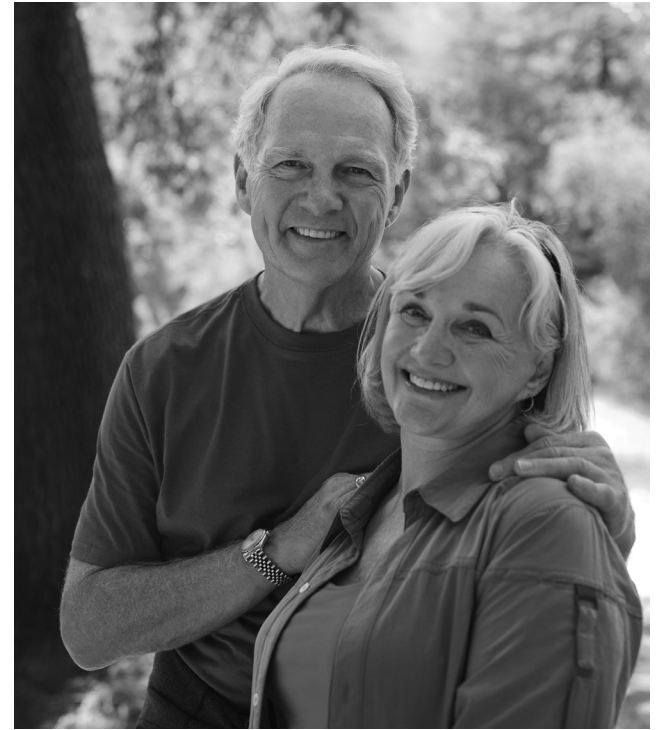
Insurance

If you received health insurance through your employer, an early retirement could present you with a dilemma, especially if you're not quite old enough for Medicare. You might be eligible for COBRA, which provides

ex-employees and their dependents the option of continued health insurance for potentially up to 36 months, but this coverage can be expensive. As an alternative, you might be able to negotiate an extended severance package, which could provide you with health insurance for several months. Or, you might be able to get on the health insurance plan of your working spouse.

Legacy

Many people want to take care of their family while they're alive – and leave something behind when they're gone. If you take an early retirement, you might lose your employer's group life insurance. Of course, if this plan was not sufficient, you may have already supplemented it with your own policy, but, if you haven't, you may need to shop around for some coverage, particularly if you have children still at home. You also may want to take this opportunity to review your key financial accounts to make sure your



beneficiary designations still accurately reflect your wishes.

Going through an unplanned career transition is certainly challenging. But looking closely at the four areas describe above, and making the appropriate moves, may help you reduce some of the stress and can put you in a better position

to start the next phase of your life.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones.

Live the Life You Want

Building a satisfying and loving relationship

Melissa Spino MA LLPC CDMS
Life Transitions Therapy LLC

This fifth article in the relationship series focuses on the science of building a satisfying and loving relationship. While this article is geared toward romantic relationships with some modification you can also apply these tips to other types of relationships.

Tips for Building A Satisfying and Loving Relationship

According to recent research, there are five relationship variables that most strongly predicted relationship satisfaction and quality. They are perceived

partner commitment, appreciation of one's partner, sexual satisfaction, perceived partner satisfaction, and reduced conflict. So how do you turn these variables into relationship satisfaction?

Create a safe environment that encourages trust.

One where each person can share openly without fear. This is done by avoiding personal attacks (name calling), not making threats, avoiding assumptions, and treating your partner with respect.

Avoid interrupting and listen to understand not to show how you are right. Show that your partner and their feelings matter.

Separate facts from feelings and opinions.

Be aware of what triggers your beliefs and feelings during conflicts. Know that your past influences your perceptions and how you see situations. Ask yourself: is this about my partner or is it really about me? When you learn to tell the facts from feelings or opinions, you'll see your partner more clearly and be

better able to resolve issues that arise.

Develop and nurture compassion and empathy.

Practice being non-judgmental. Judging your partner says that their feelings and opinions don't matter. It is the opposite of compassion. Instead, work to be open, respectful, caring, and connected. Listen to understand their feelings.

Make time for your relationship.

You choose to commit yourself to your partner and that includes making

time for the well-being of your relationship. This includes regular dates, intimate time, and spending leisure time together. Try to pick activities where you are engaged with each other and communicating — activates that you both enjoy. Relationships need nurturing.

Create a “we”.

Part of the foundation for a healthy relationship is to be separate but connected. When you are separate but connected, each individual contributes to the creation of the “we”. This doesn't



Melissa Spino
MA LLPC CDMS

mean you have to be with someone who shares all of your interests and opinions. Our differences can keep things interesting. Each partner has a “vote” in decision-making about things such as the values you will live by, how the children will be raised, household and relationship goals etc. Neither partner should overshadow the other. Practice flexibility and compromise.

Building satisfying relationships takes time and commitment but is well worth the effort!

This article is not intended to provide any type of treatment or diagnosis. If you experience a mental health crisis be sure to call 911.

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FUN PAGE

SUDOKO

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

Level: Advanced

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!

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

WATER QUALITY WORD SEARCH

AQUATIC
 AQUIFER
 BIOACCUMULATE
 CHEMICAL
 CLIMATE

COMMUNITY CONTAMINANT DATA

ECOLOGICAL
 ESTUARY
 EXPOSURE
 FISH
 GEOGRAPHIC

HABITAT IMPAIRMENT LAKE

METRIC
 MONITORING
 ORGANISMS
 POLLUTANT
 SEDIMENT

STANDARDS TESTING WILDLIFE

Guess Who?

I am a comic actress born in New York on August 22, 1973. I was an art major in college, but dropped out to pursue acting. I was on Saturday Night Live for seven years, and had a breakout role in a film about wedding attendants.

Answer: Kristen Witg

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to water quality.

R I L F T E

□	□	□	□	□	□
---	---	---	---	---	---

Answer: Filter

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				52		53	54	55
	56					57		58					59
				60				61					
					62								
										63			

CLUES ACROSS

- Popular musical awards show
- Speech in one's honor
- A state of poor nutrition
- Not ingested
- More lacking in taste
- "Popeye" cartoonist
- Helps to reduce speed
- January 1 greeting (abbr.)
- Georgian currency
- Proverb expressing a truth
- Jewish calendar month
- Volume measurement
- Fair-skinned
- Patti Hearst's captors
- Have already done
- Touch lightly
- Autonomic nervous system
- Plant part
- College degree
- Military alliance
- Tokyo's former name
- Carpenter's tool
- Before
- Consent to receive
- Passages
- The Duke of Edinburgh
- Utter repeatedly

- Linked together in a chain
- Quality that evokes pity
- Maintained possession of

CLUES DOWN

- U.S. military school
- Controls
- Away from wind
- Grab quickly
- Being everlasting
- Vase
- Atomic #3
- Type of medication
- Encircle with a belt
- Belonging to you
- American state
- City in Zambia
- Good Gosh!
- Of the country
- Helsinki district
- 36 inches
- Reporters' group
- The voice of Olaf
- Explains in detail
- Tooth caregiver
- One point south of due east
- Scottish river
- Elsa's sister

- Civil Rights group
- Line of poetry
- Doctor
- Fatty acid
- Avatar (abbr.)
- Awe-inspiring garden
- Fall down
- Rock icon Turner
- Asian country (alt. sp.)
- UK museum network
- Stairs have at least one
- Part of (abbr.)
- Simpson trial judge
- Sun up in New York
- Exclamation of surprise



What is the Michigan State flower?



SPECTRUM HEALTH
Spectrum Health Cancer Center



LOWELL COMMUNITY WELLNESS PINK ARROW HEALTH FAIR



FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2020
08.21.20



AT IMPACT CHURCH
Across from Meijer

Lowell Program

*In This Together...
Learn. Share. Laugh.*

**SUPPORT
PINK ARROW PRIDE!**

**PURCHASE YOUR 2020
PINK ARROW FORCE XIII T-SHIRT**

PINK ARROW STRONG

\$20

INCLUDES A
FACE MASK



LONG SLEEVE
ALSO AVAILABLE \$25

LOWELL STRONG

Sizes up to 5x additional cost

Cash,
Check or
Debit &
Credit Cards
Accepted

**FOR EACH
T-SHIRT SOLD
ON 8/21/20**



will match \$1

**VISIT THE NEW BEACH VOLLEYBALL COURTS AND WATCH
AN EXHIBITION GAME WITH PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS
FROM 6 TO 7
PARK CONCESSIONS
WALK THE FOOT BRIDGE OVER THE GRAND RIVER**



Visit Yeiter Meeting Cabin
*Learn about Lowell Area
Historical Museum Fur
Trading History*

See the CABUS!!!



FREE ICE CREAM

*Beginning at 11 am
for the first 300*



BLOOD DRIVE

Friday, August 21, 2020 • 10 am to 7 pm
Inside Impact Church

PLAN TO DONATE BLOOD!

Versiti pledges
to donate \$10 to Gilda's Club
of Lowell for every person who
signs in to donate at the drive.

WE MUST MEET 100 PINTS TO QUALIFY!

**For Appointment: Versiti.org
or call 1.866.642.5663**



VERSITI™

SPECTRUM HEALTH
Spectrum Health Cancer Center

**BETTY FORD BREAST
CARE SERVICES**

MAMMOGRAMS

10:00 – 5:00

*Qualified patients
(screening mammograms guidelines)*

Call 877-495-2626

to schedule

Bus in Impact Church parking lot