

### Red Arrow sports



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### The Old 97's



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### Baby doll head planters



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### Lowell Rotary raffle



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50¢



## Pink Arrow Community Day takes place on a perfect sunny Friday

by Brendan A. Sanders  
contributing reporter

Pink Arrow Community day took place on Friday, Aug. 21 in front of Impact Church on a perfect sunny day. Many people from across the community came out to get the newest edition of the Pink Arrow Pride t-shirt, this year with an accompanying mask.

An overwhelming amount of people came to the blood drive that took place over the course of the event, with some even having to be turned away as the event reached capacity.

The Ice Cream Kabus was on-site for the first few hours of the event, giving away ice cream to those who came by. Stationed across the parking lot was the Spectrum Health mobile mammography bus, which allowed for many to get screened.

Donna Miller, one of the main organizers of Pink Arrow Pride, said the day was a success.



"We've had a steady stream of people all day long, it has been awesome," Miller said. "The blood drive surpassed the [expected] amount of people. We sold out of some things and are ordering more. Today worked out

wonderfully, better than our expectations."

The Pink Arrow Pride t-shirt quilt that was recently donated to the foundation was also on display, with bids making their way up to \$500 at the time of writing.

Many athletes stood roadside encouraging vehicles passing by to give Community Day a look and help donate to the cause. This included football players and cheerleaders holding up Pink Arrow signs along

M-21. State protocols about masks and social distancing were observed around the tent area where t-shirts were being sold.

Residents expressed  
Pink Arrow, continued, page 8

## Only a few weeks left at Springgrove Variety



by Brendan A. Sanders  
contributing reporter

The time of Springgrove Variety is coming to an end soon, with just a few weeks left until it closes its doors for good.

Springgrove Variety has been a staple of the community for decades, being one of the few remaining dime stores around. It has provided the community with years of arts and crafts not found anywhere else in town.

Store owner Mike Sprenger gave an update on how the closing sale was going and when exactly they planned on closing the store.

"We've done three weeks at 20 percent off, Monday we're gonna go to 30 percent off," Sprenger said. "It will be a progressive thing so we'll stay at 30 percent until sales go down to certain point then we'll raise it to 40 percent, then 50 percent, then

75 percent. We're looking at the middle of September to later September. We're almost about half empty right now."

The decision hasn't been easy for Sprenger, who has owned and run the store for decades, but many of the goods his store sells are staying in town. This includes the candy that Springgrove Variety has long been known for, which will

henceforth be sold by Red Barn Antiques.

When the signs say 'everything must go,' Sprenger means everything - the shelves that hold the stockpiles of goods for sale and the goods they are holding. Two of the shelves have already sold, while many are sure to go in the coming weeks with prices for the shelves being as cheap as \$10 to \$20.

One thing that Sprenger will miss most is the people he's met. It's what is making the shutdown process so hard for him, with so many longtime customers having to say goodbye.

"I started the dime store in 1970, so Sept. 1 will be 50 years," Sprenger said. "I loved it, I enjoyed coming into work everyday, I just loved working with the people and helping people. I felt like it was more of a mission for me. I really enjoyed helping people and being part of a small town. And that's what it is. People just come in here and talk. They've been coming in and doing it for 80 years, and that's what hurts me the most about doing this semi-retirement, having to

shut it down. But I've been doing 12 hour days six days a week for 20 years, and I'm 67 years old [so] it's time for me to start slowing down."

Many customers shared their deep sentiment with the store, expressing how sad they were to see it go. One customer, Valerie Videan, was emotional as she talked about the store she had visited her entire life.

"When I drove by a couple of weeks ago, I saw the closing signs and I started crying really hard," Videan said. "I couldn't believe what was happening. I was born and raised here in Lowell. Some of the memories are from eighth grade, where us girls would come down here during lunchtime and the wooden floors were always here, the candy counters were always here. The thing about Mike is, several years ago I was a heavy seamstress and if Mike didn't have it on the shelf he would always order it for me. He would get it in and give me a call promptly. When I came in, I may not have needed anything else, but I would go up and down the aisles. It always changed,

Springgrove, continued, page 4



# Lowell postmaster says no mail delays, no problems

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Lowell's postmaster Alex Sereseroz says that recent news stories about the USPS are election year exaggerations, Lowellians will see no changes or delays in their mail service.

"Everybody has been hearing this stuff since before I started 20 years ago, about every two or three years, 'the Post Office is going to go under,'" Sereseroz said. "We're not. We're fine. What you're hearing is a lot of hearsay. Nobody is delaying mail. All the mail is getting out. We're up and running and we're okay. My carriers are here every day, they're usually back by 4 o'clock. All the mail is delivered, nothing is delayed and we're all good to go. Lowell, Grand Rapids and the surrounding office -

nothing is being delayed."

Sereseroz said the new Postmaster General Louis DeJoy was definitely trying to make changes in the USPS, but DeJoy's changes would not have caused any significant difference in day-to-day service. He put the rest down to election year political shenanigans.

"When you have a new Postmaster General who is making some changes, then they think the mail is going to be delayed, but that is not the case," Sereseroz said. "The new Postmaster General does want to make some changes and streamline us to make us more efficient, but a lot of things got taken out of context about what he was going to do. It's just a whirlwind of stuff. Basically, the administration right now

who are in charge of the country are putting out false rumors because it's an election year. They want people to go to the polls to vote, they don't want them mailing ballots. It's Trump who doesn't want the mail-in votes, he wants everybody to go to the polls."

Mail-in voting is an option in 33 states and the District of Columbia. Five states - Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Utah and Washington - hold their elections almost entirely by mail.

Sereseroz said the local Post Office has never had any problems with election-related mail.

"We just had an election not too long ago," Sereseroz said. "It's not a problem for us, we've never had an issue."



# Lowell Rotary raffle prizes include trips, free golf

by Brendan A. Sanders  
contributing reporter

The Lowell Rotary club is taking tickets for its annual raffle this year.

The Lowell Rotary is looking for community support for its annual raffle, with three top prizes to be handed out to three lucky individuals.

The raffle, which was started in 2007, takes place every other year. The money for this raffle goes

toward Rotary grants that nonprofit organizations can apply for.

The Lowell Rotary club is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Rotary



membership represents a cross-section of the community's business and professional men and women, and this raffle is a way to support the

organizations involved.

The winners of the Rotary raffle will receive various prizes. First place will receive a deluxe condo stay in Orlando,

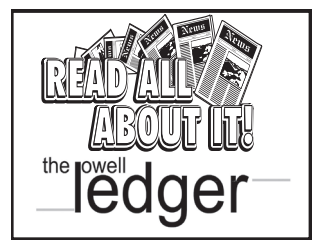
FL at either the Sheridan Vistana Resort or the Marriott Royal Palms Resort. This will be a one week stay with two rooms for up to six people. Second place will receive \$300 in cash, while third place will receive four passes for a free round of 18 holes of golf at either Arrowhead Golf Course or Morrison Lake Golf Course.

"We're really trying to do as much as we can with this raffle, as we are really struggling with fundraisers this year along with everyone else," said Rotarian Betsy Davidson. "We usually use the Fallasburg Fall Festival for fundraising, but with

that being cancelled we aren't able to use that this year."

The drawing will be held at Larkin's, 301 W. Main, on Saturday, Oct. 10 at 4 pm. You don't need to be present to win.

You can order tickets and receive more info by contacting Lowell Rotary at [info@lowellrotary.org](mailto:info@lowellrotary.org) or by calling 616-293-3206, or you can visit their website at [lowellrotary.org](http://lowellrotary.org).



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# Lowell city council Aug. 17 meeting report

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting at Creekside Park, 1550 Gee Dr., on Monday, Aug. 17.

The council decided to continue waiving late fees for water bills as the COVID-19 pandemic drags on. Executive Order 2020-144 banned shut-offs until Dec. 31. Late fees on city water bills will also be waived until Gov. Whitmer's order expires.

The council voted to spend \$36,500 to have

Williams & Works perform design services for the Amity St. resurfacing project, stretching seven blocks from Main St. to Suffolk St.. The total cost for the project is estimated to be \$500,000. The city recently received a \$250,000 Community Development Block Grant, \$142,857 will be paid for by the Downtown Development Authority and \$107,143 will be taken from the city's "local streets" fund.

The council voted to allow the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce to hold a "drive in fireworks" event at either the Fairgrounds or Stoney Lakeside Park on Saturday, Oct. 10. More information about that event will be forthcoming. The council also voted to allow Ability Weavers, 215 W. Main, to close Riverside Dr. for a weaving and fiber arts market on Saturday, Sept. 26. Ability Weavers is an "integrated work site" where disabled adults learn

basic job skills and a fine arts craft.

There will be no football game this year, but the council voted to designate Thursday, Sept. 3 "Pink Arrow Pride Day – Arrow Force XIII" in the city of Lowell.

Lowell Showboat Committee member Mark Mundt told the council they discussed the new boat's name but did not pick one and talked about potential donors and volunteer opportunities at

their committee meeting on Thursday, Aug. 13.

"[The new Showboat] is probably going to be one of the finest assets that this city has," Mundt said. At a special meeting back on Tuesday, Aug. 11, Lowell city council picked the general contractor for the Showboat interior. With a bid of \$1,414,611.57, Wolverine Building Group out of Grand Rapids was the winner and will perform the work.

The Lowell Showboat Committee will next meet

at Creekside Park at 7 pm on Thursday, Aug. 27. That meeting is open to the public.

Lowell city council's next regular meeting is scheduled to take place at city hall at 7 pm on Monday, Sept. 7. This date, time and location could change.

To watch previous city council, board and commission meetings, look for the "City of Lowell" or "Lowell Light and Power" channels on YouTube or visit archive.org.

# Sidewalk chalk and island burgers to save downtown



Ashley Dunn has come up with yet another unique event that will benefit local businesses.

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Ashley Dunn, owner of Creative Party Bug, 102 W. Main, has come up with another unique event to bring revenue to downtown businesses, "Let's Chalk About It" on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 29 and 30.

"All the sidewalks in Lowell are for purchase for \$25 a square, and that money goes to the business that is in front of it," Dunn said. "They can come into my store to sign up and pick

their time. We have to stick with social distancing, we can't have 50 people out there coloring squares at the same time!"

Local bands will be around town playing live "Jimmy Buffet" style music, and chefs at participating restaurants, including Larkin's, Sneakers, Flat River Grill and Big Boiler Brewing,

are creating special "island burgers" exclusively for that weekend's menu.

"On Saturday, many of the restaurants downtown are going to be doing different tropical-themed hamburgers to go with the event," Dunn said. "Something like adding a slice of pineapple or dipping the bacon in rum."

Dunn said she is on

a mission to keep Main Street afloat during the most difficult era for small business since the Great Depression.

"Everybody still has to pay their rent every month even though there's a pandemic," Dunn said. "Things are still really slow, so this is an event to support local businesses and have people come into town."

# FROM marketing director Haberlein resigns

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Flat River Outreach Ministries marketing and communications director Amanda Haberlein announced last week she is resigning her position at FROM in order to stay home with her child during the unprecedented 2020-2021 school year.

"I am not homeschooling, but we are in the Forest Hills district and they have switched the in-person option to two days a week [at school] and two days at home for the first two weeks," Haberlein said. "We will know more later what the other weeks look like, but a first grader certainly can't do two days at home on his own."

Haberlein's last day at FROM will be Wednesday, Aug. 26. A replacement has not yet been hired.

"What I will miss most about FROM is all of the great people involved in this organization," Haberlein said. "I've had the opportunity to meet and work alongside a lot of wonderful volunteers, staff members, participants and board members."

For more information about Flat River Outreach Ministries, call 616-897-8260 or visit fromlowell.org.

"Lowell is a very giving and generous community that really rallies around each other, especially in times of need," Haberlein said. "That is so rare in communities and is one of the many things that truly makes Lowell special."

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter



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## Fatal accident at Alden Nash and 36th Street



Crews were still cleaning up and investigating the accident on Friday afternoon.

Just before 8:15 am on Friday, Aug. 21, Kent County Sheriff deputies were dispatched to an accident involving a pickup truck and a tractor/trailer near 36th Street SE and Alden Nash Ave SE.

The at-fault vehicle, a Dodge Ram, was

eastbound on 36th Street SE and ran the stop sign at Alden Nash Ave SE. The Dodge Ram struck the tractor/trailer on the trailer and was pinned underneath the trailer, the at-fault driver was pronounced deceased at the scene. The driver of

the tractor/trailer was not injured.

Alcohol and/or drugs do not appear to be a factor in the accident.

Names are being withheld at this time pending out-of-state family notification.

## Springgrove, continued



The shelves are getting empty... and they're also for sale.

and there were always things you could find in here that you couldn't find anywhere else. It's really hard for me."

"I come here for the huge selection of toys," said Barbara VanPortfleet, a longtime customer. "They have a huge selection of educational stuff and I'm going to miss it because most of these stores have pretty much gone away and it's hard. You could come in and find some pretty offbeat things here, like a dime store. I've been coming in here a lot to get toys for my young granddaughter."

Customer Beth Wolfe said that with very few stores like Springgrove Variety remaining, it will not be an easily replaceable business.

"I think it's really going to be missed because there isn't anything in town to take its place," Wolfe said.

"My favorite memory is just wandering around and finding things that I didn't know I needed!"

Once an owner of six stores, Sprenger now operates three, putting in many hours a week for many years.

"I am going to keep two stores open," Sprenger said. "At one point we had six stores open, now we have it down to three and after this store closes it will be two. I was going to close those two down also, but those

managers have been with me a long time and asked for three years so they could retire. So I'll be cutting down my 70 hour weeks down to 20. I have six grandkids, and I'll be spending time with them!"

This business's final chapter is in the midst of being written, but right now it's not too late to make one more visit to Lowell's dime store, one of the last of its kind, and perhaps score a few bargains.

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



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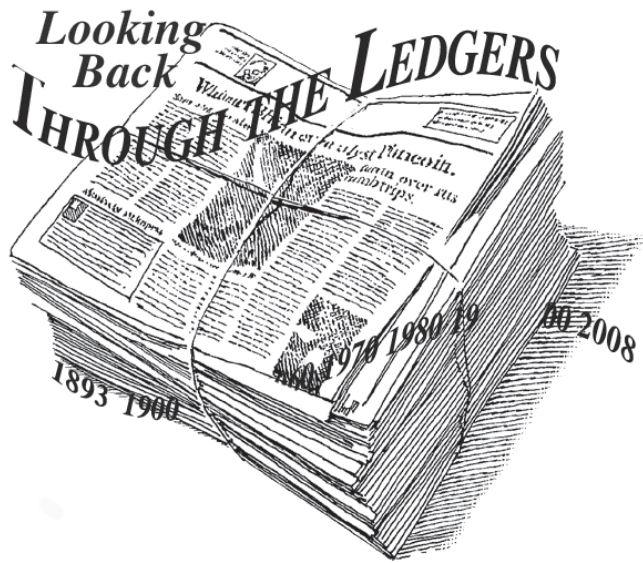
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# viewpoint



## 125 years ago Lowell Ledger August 30, 1895

George F. Legge of Sunfield, who came to the city Sunday on an excursion to attend the Schwabenfest, was run over and killed by motor car 223 at 6 o'clock that evening. He had spent the day with friends at Reed's lake and was returning on a car that was crowded and sat on the inside of a seat. As the car approached Diamond street he became sick, and said: "It is too close in here, I will have to get out." Somebody pulled the rope and he stepped out on the running board, and as the car slacked up, he stepped off on the other track and began to vomit. Car No. 223, heavily loaded, going down grade, was within ten feet of him. Motorman Morehouse reversed the motor, but it was impossible to stop the car.

The men who were peddling clocks, rugs and clothes wringers here a short time ago have been arrested at Saranac for peddling without a license. Now they are suing the town for \$5,000 damages.

Jerry Coleman, a widower with ten children, was married the other day to Maggie Fitzgerald at Green Bay, Wis. At first we thought that Maggie was getting the worst of it, but come to find out she was a widow and also had ten children, which makes a pretty even match. But what a long dining room table Jerry will have to have.

## 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger September 2, 1920

Only 321 votes were cast at the Lowell primary election Monday, hardly half what was expected. Of these eighteen voted Democratic, and one Prohibition, the other 300 voting for Republican candidates. The unopposed Democratic candidates from Ferris down received 15 of the 18 votes cast.

Another of the old saloon fallacies has been disproven by experience. Beer drinkers used to claim that the habit of cooling in summer and warming in winter. It was long ago demonstrated that users of alcoholic drink were less able to withstand severe cold than abstainers. Witness the selection of strictly temperate men for polar explorations. Now comes an official report of New York City under prohibition that only one person in that city was overcome by heat on the hottest day this year at a temperature of 90 degrees, while on last year's hottest day this year at a temperature of 90 degrees, while on last year's day of 91, two persons died and eight were prostrated; and Dr. Copeland, health commissioner of New York,

adds: "One thing I noted was the number of drinking persons who suffered heat prostrations." "Want the old saloon back?" Well, we guess not. What we want is not less prohibition, but more, and public officers who will enforce the laws.

## 75 years The Lowell Ledger August 30, 1945

Mrs. Ethel Read has received further information regarding the death of her son, Sgt. William M. Read, which occurred while serving with the army of occupation in Germany, on July 24, 1945.

The Superior Furniture Co. has had the trees and stumps removed from the lots between the factory and Washington street, and will level it off as a parking lot to use as a parking lot for their employees.

Housewives in some Michigan towns are being warned by officers to keep their eye on the clothes that they have hanging out to dry, as an epidemic of thieving has broken out during the past few days. Two St. Johns' families had their washings, which included sheets, pillowcases, towels, slips and wash dresses stolen.

## 50 years The Lowell Ledger September 3, 1970

A Lowell woman is considering filing of civil charges after she reportedly was taken from her home at the point of a knife following a domestic argument. According to the police report, they answered a call from one of the woman's six children, who range in age from six months to 16 years, who told officers their mother had been threatened by their father.

Lowell Public Works Superintendent, Fred Baker prepares to put a new emblem on a new, \$7,177 dump truck the city has purchased. For the first time, the city is experimenting with a rust-proofing process in an attempt to get more mileage of the truck's body. The truck can carry up to five tons and is equipped with an undercarriage scraper for use in snow removal. It brings to seven the number of trucks in the city's fleet.

## 25 years The Lowell Ledger August 30, 1995

Segments from all areas of the community will have a helping hand in the first-ever Riverwalk Festival this Labor Day Weekend. The Riverwalk Festival is being coordinated by the Lowell Chamber of Commerce. The proceeds from the festival will go toward the new chamber office (the old Drake Station) and the employment of Liz Baker (in charge of marketing).

Doug Morrell, Coopersville, read about how Dave Stevens, an assembler at Attwood, played Santa Claus to children in the pediatrics unit at Butterworth Hospital three weeks after Stevens and his wife Sherrie lost their three-year-old son Tony to a brain tumor. The story moved Morrell so much he wanted to give back some of his time to children.

Classmates from the graduating class of 1950 enjoyed an informal evening at the Norm Borgerson residence on Friday, August 4. The class reminisced over old times and old photographs. The main event

## to the editor

### Stealing political signs

Dear Editor,

Nearly 20 years ago my family and I bought a house in Lowell. We have always found Lowell to be a warm and friendly place. However, this past weekend we were victims of a crime. What was taken from us was not of a significant monetary value, but rather represented something fundamentally more important: an exercise of our right to speak freely and show support for the candidate of our choice.

You see, a yard sign supporting a presidential candidate was stolen off our property. The name on the sign doesn't matter - the colors were red, white and blue and our sign signified our right to express support for who we believe to be the best candidate. There are signs just down the road for the other candidate, and it has never crossed my mind to steal those signs from that yard simply because I don't support that person for the office of president.

If we can't respect our different opinions in a town like Lowell, how can we as a country come together in November after the election to go forward as a nation to be our best selves?

Shame on the person who stole our sign. Shame on the person who is denying our freedom of speech. Lowell is better than this. Let's commit to allowing for a difference of opinion and commit to making this community an example of how we can respect one another and agree to disagree.

Janet Hieshetter

was Saturday evening, August 5, with a dinner held at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza. There were 37 classmates in attendance, with seven of those being from out of state (Connecticut to California). The class was happy to have as their guests Steve and Norma Nisbet, former Lowell High School teachers from St. Joseph, MI.

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# 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:

### U is for Uniform

The Lowell Area Historical Museum is honored to be able to preserve many fascinating artifacts. One such treasure is the World War I Uniform that belonged to Walter John Kropf, Balloonist.

Walter was a U.S. Army Balloon Pilot, licensed on January 30, 1918 as a member of the Aero Club of American,

which was recognized by the Federation Aeronautique Internationale. He and his classmate from Lowell, Bruce McQueen, flew observation balloons over France during the war. They were in the 15th Balloon Company of the 4th Balloon Squadron. The December 15, 1960 Lowell Ledger explained that, "The balloon was a tactical vehicle used by the expeditionary forces to spot enemy positions and direct artillery fire. Stout cables reeled the observers up to heights of 1200 to 8000 feet."

"We maintained communications with the ground through telephone wires in the cables," Kropf

explained in the article.

On February 28, 1918, The Lowell Ledger announced the news that Walter Kropf and Bruce McQueen were promoted to Second Lieutenant and were stationed at Fort Omaha in Nebraska. On Decoration Day, May 30, 1919, Lowell was honored to have Lt. Bruce McQueen and Lt. Walter Kropf command the returned soldiers and sailors in the parade and memorial service.

Walter John Kropf went on to be a merchant here in Lowell. He was involved in the community, serving as one of the original Endmen of the Lowell showboat. He later worked as a purchasing



Walter Kropf and Bruce McQueen in their uniforms.

contractor for the United States Air Force for 25 years and lived elsewhere, but Lowell was always home. Walter also was a founding member of the American Legion Lowell Post #152, and his uniform hat is preserved by the museum.

Walter died in 1970, his wife Hazel, three sons, one daughter, and eight grandchildren surviving him. He is now buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

## - opioid pain medications

Opioids are medications used to treat pain. They are also called "narcotics". These medications are intended to be used strictly for short-term pain management, such as a broken bone, or after a surgery. If you take opioids daily for any length of time, there are serious complications that can occur. Basic side effects of opioids include constipation, abdominal pain, sleepiness, memory problems, difficulty breathing, and even respiratory arrest.

are vomiting, or insomnia. In some instances of opioid overuse, people become addicted to the opioid. The more opioids you take, the more likely this is to happen. People who are addicted to opioids may save extra medication to take a lot at once, taking it to feel "a high", spending a lot of time and effort acquiring more medication. Addiction to opioids often leads to trouble with work, relationships, and family life.

A complication of overuse of opioids is that your body may build up a tolerance to the medication, making them ineffective for you. It may seem like the medication is no longer working. Alternatively, your body may start to depend on the opioids. That means that if you don't take them, or if you take less than your usual amount, that you may have withdrawal symptoms. Withdrawal can feel like a bad case of the flu, with sweating, diarrhea,

To avoid problems with opioids, take the medication exactly as prescribed. Tell your health care provider about any other medications you are taking, as some medicines interact poorly with opioids. Don't use alcohol or recreational drugs while taking opioids. Keep your opioid medication out of sight and out of reach of others. If you or a family member is struggling with opioid use or addiction, contact your health care provider right away for treatment options.

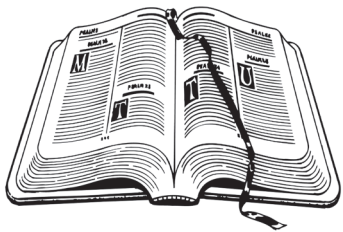


Maps used to chart courses over Belgium and France. There are dark lines drawn on the map that highlight main rivers that could be seen from the air to help guide the balloon. The maps have fabric backings to make them sturdy. They have survived in wonderful condition along with the map bag used to store the maps.



...  
**When the rich wage war it's the poor who die.**  
 ~ Jean-Paul Sartre

# area churches



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 Left hand side, click on Sermons, etc.

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

**CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
 897-7060  
 Pastor Ryan Landt  
 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI

Morning Worship..... 10:00 AM  
 Sunday School..... 11:20 AM  
 Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM  
 Nursery available at both services  
 Barrier-Free

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 402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820  
 Website: [www.stmarylowell.com](http://www.stmarylowell.com)

Weekend Masses: Sat 5 pm; Sun 10:30 am  
 Confession: Saturdays 3-4:30 pm

Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 8 am to 7 pm  
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 Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor

Pastor Andrew Bolcom • Pastor of Discipleship  
 Christi Swain • Director of Children's Ministries

**SUNDAY WORSHIP.....9:30 AM** (Nursery provided)  
**LIFE GROUPS.....11:00 AM** (Nursery-Adult)  
**Awana** (K-5 during school year) **Wednesday, 6:15 PM**

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WORSHIP  
 11 AM on the Riverwalk

Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

# happy birthday

- AUGUST 26**  
 Teresa Kimble, Regan Doyle, Dianne Gee, Brandie Barnes.
- AUGUST 27**  
 Virgil Roudabush.
- AUGUST 28**  
 Lee Miller, Terri Hoag, Kim Stager.
- AUGUST 29**  
 Donna Jean Hathaway, Kenney Vickers.
- AUGUST 30**  
 Jim Austin, Herb Swan, Jordan Cloud.
- AUGUST 31**  
 Amy Vezino, Scott Wolfe, Morgan Nelson.
- SEPTEMBER 1**  
 Jerry Bellah, Todd Mahalic, Chuck Myers, Ron Utley.





# Gov. Whitmer announces “Mask Aid” to protect vulnerable populations from COVID-19

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, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced on Friday, Aug. 14.

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, 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 US 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.

## obituaries

### ELMORE

Page Marie Lombardo Elmore  
We lost our beloved Page August 9, days before her fifty-second birthday, after a long battle with cancer, at her home in Rockford. Page was originally from Lowell and later moved to Adrian where she graduated from Sand Creek School. Our broken hearts went with Page as she leaves behind husband, Kevin; parents, Joan and Leonard Venneman; brothers and sister, Peter, Patrick, Perrie Lombardo and families; in-laws, Kathy and Chuck Elmore of Tecumseh; and good friends, Shelley and Tim Judkins of Adrian. Page will be missed by step brothers and sister, Jeff, Lenny, Gretchen and families. Passing before her was father, John Lombardo and brother-in-law, Doug Elmore of Tecumseh. A memorial will take place at a later date.

### PERRIN

William Perrin, age 81 of Lowell, passed away Thursday, August 20th, 2020. He is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Judy; daughter, Pam (Chris) Platz; sisters, Joyce Pennock, Etheldra Holtz; grandchildren, Daniel (Jackie) Barrett,

S a m a n t h a ( K e n d a l l ) Jackson, Nicole (David Shores) Platz, Christopher (Tiffany Miller) Platz, Stephanie Platz; great-grandchildren, M e m p h i s , S a v a n n a h , Logan, Erika, Lilly, Amber, Gabrielle and Kayden.



Visitation will be held Sunday, August 23, 2020 from 4pm to 6pm at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331. A graveside service will be held Monday, August 24, 2020 at 1:00pm. Pastor Ryan Landt of Calvary Christian Reformed Church officiating. Interment Roth Coons Cemetery.

**ROTH GERST**  
www.gerstfuneralhomes.com

## Enhanced notification service now available for crime victims

The Michigan Division of Victim Services with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has launched an enhanced version of Michigan Victim Information and Notification Everyday that expands access to critical services for crime victims in Michigan.

MI-VINE has been serving victims since 1999 and has continued to evolve through advancements in technology. The enhanced MI-VINE service offers users innovative functionality, an improved user experience and expanded access to victim services. A key feature is the MI-VINE Service Provider Directory, which allows users to seek assistance and connect directly with both local and national victim service providers.

“Expanding and enhancing access to services is critical in our work to provide one voice for victims of crime in Michigan,” said Debi

Cain, executive director of the Michigan Division of Victim Services. “These advancements help ensure crime victims and their families receive timely and potentially life-saving notifications surrounding the custody status of offenders in a user-friendly and victim-centered way.”

MI-VINE has long played a key role in keeping victims in Michigan safe through the power of information. During 2019, 256,511 Michiganders registered to use MI-VINE’s services, 443,090 notifications were provided to MI-VINE users through outbound calls, emails, text messages and TTY, a device used to communicate with hearing or speech impaired individuals and 5,591,525 offender searches were conducted using the MI-VINE website and mobile applications.

An entirely free service provided by Appriss Insights, VINE is the nation’s leading victim

notification network and provides crime victims and concerned citizens access to timely and reliable offender custody information through a toll-free telephone number, website or mobile application. Users may also register to receive automated notifications relating to changes in custody status via telephone, email or text message.

Josh Bruner, executive vice president of Victim Services at Appriss Insights, added: “Appriss is pleased to introduce this new suite of VINE features and benefits to

victims throughout the state of Michigan. Users are now able to benefit from a more streamlined experience, and we are thrilled to increase accessibility to victim-centered services that will help guide them on their road to healing, peace and recovery.”

Appriss has been serving victims since 1994. Michigan is the 21st state in the country to implement the enhanced VINE service since its rollout in May 2017.

To learn more about the enhanced MI-VINE service, visit Michigan.gov/MIVINE.

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WC-29998-H17 Nassau HIC License# HD1057000 Registration# 176447 Registration# HIC.0649905 Registration# C127229 Registration#  
C127230 Registration# 366920918 Registration# PC6475 Registration# IR731804 Registration# 13VH09953900 Registration# PA069383  
Suffolk HIC License# 52229-H

## VERGENNES TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING PUBLIC NOTICE

There will be a meeting of the Vergennes Township Zoning Board of Appeals on **September 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Vergennes Township Hall located at 10381 Bailey Dr. (Lowell) at the corner of Parnell to hear the following business:

A variance application has been received from Lyle Weeks to split land acreage off with a remainder parcel of less than 300 feet of road frontage at 1190 Biggs Ave NE, Lowell, parcel number 41-16-23-200-010. The variance is from the R-A Rural Agriculture District section 201.304 E.

The complete variance application can be reviewed at the Vergennes Township Hall from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays and from 9 a.m. to noon on Thursdays or on the website at [www.vergennestwp.org](http://www.vergennestwp.org). Public comment will be heard at the meeting and comments received by mail, email or in the Township drop box will also be considered if received at the Township office prior to 6:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Comments may be emailed to: [zoning@vergennestwp.org](mailto:zoning@vergennestwp.org)



# Pink Arrow, continued

gratitude toward the Pink Arrow foundation and all that they do. Community member Marlene Knottnerus explained why it is such a big event for families.

“I’m glad they do this because my son-in-law died of cancer, [and] I think almost every person has had a family member have cancer so it’s a great event,” Knottnerus said.

Community Day wrapped up over on the south side of Grand River Riverfront Park with a beach volleyball clinic for young, up-and-coming volleyball players.

“The youth clinic is just good for the program to get people out here, continuing to try to build the program in the right direction.” said Lowell High School volleyball coach Jordan Drake. “The turnout was good, about as many as our other clinic, which is good with the pandemic going on.”

An estimated 40 to 45 kids came out to the youth clinic before a showcase match was performed by coach Jordan Drake, Bill Genovich, Lowell High School senior Dillon Hieshetter and Aaron

Jones. This was a slight detour, as many of the professional athletes could not attend due to last minute scheduling conflicts. Despite this, a good show was put on by the makeshift duos.

Overall, the Pink Arrow Community Day was a success this year despite the circumstances of COVID-19. With the Pink Arrow Pride football game not taking place this year as the football season has been postponed, stay tuned for more updates about community happenings surrounding Pink Arrow.



Beach volleyball clinic



Beach volleyball showcase with players Bill Genovich, Jordan Drake, Aaron Jones and Dillon Hieshetter.



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# Ryne's Reviews: the Old 97's new album "Twelfth"



by Ryne Clarke  
The Ryne Experience

They say the longevity of a band speaks volumes.

Texas alt-country rockers the Old 97's are no exception, after 27 years with no lineup changes and albums that sound great next to each other no matter what the time gap is.

Their newest album "Twelfth" could have easily followed their 1994 debut or it could have been a precursor to their infamous 1997 record "Too Far to Care." But here we see the band with their twelfth studio album, appropriately titled just that. Dallas Cowboys player Roger Staubach graces the cover with his number 12 jersey, a literal dream cover that front man Rhett Miller has wanted to do for years.

Somehow, no matter what the circumstances, we get quality records again and again from the Old 97's and with "Twelfth," they may have stepped a little out of their comfort zones.

Kicking "Twelfth" off is the lazy romper "The Dropouts," possibly about themselves early on, with them just "waiting on a phone call." The whole record surrounds Miller's new-found sobriety, achieved in 2015. He has been writing songs alone again, reflecting on the old days where the 97's shared a small space, sleeping on the floor, eating noodles everyday, before they made it big. As always, their production is spectacular with popping bass and drums, twinkly leads and strong harmonies from Miller and bassist Murry Hammond, who has two of his own songs on this 12-track album.

Following is the haunting tune, "This House Got Ghosts," it instantly grabs me with the anti-chorus and whispered words. Every time hearing the false ending fills me with joy,

with distorted sustained leads from guitarist Ken Bethea, who also adds accordion to two of the tracks.

"Twelfth" continues its strong start with the album's lead single, "Turn Off the TV." This song initially had me uninterested in the album with a bad video featuring a clown, now it sits a little better. This song is obviously about young love and the old house where most of these songs seem to be set. This is the most Old 97's track on the album.

"I Like You Better" is next and perhaps lets in some of the sounds from Miller's solo work, particularly his 2018 pop album "The Messenger." A quiet piano cuts through at just the right moments. The theme of most Old 97's songs seems to stay the same, with songs about relationships, drinking and introspection. Even with sobriety under his belt, Miller found a way to channel his songwriting persona without the use of substances, truly a triumph for the singer, now in his 40s.

Now we get the first Hammond song, "Happy Hour." This is a classic Hammond addition to the album with its walking bass line and dark country overtones. This track could easily fit on any Old 97's album, being especially reflective on their past drinking days: "Happy Hour is over."

"Belmont Hotel" follows with string accompaniment and a simple chord structure, a true country song that could have been written in the 1970s. Comparing love to a building in the most crooning fashion with a little accordion in the back.

"Confessional Boxing" rips off next, the most upbeat song on this record

and possibly in their discography. This near-punk song has driving drums and bass, slick leads and loud vocals. This seems to be the most energy they've had since 2014's "Most Messed Up" album. It's songs like these that make me think the Old 97's can play any style of music they want.

In large contrast is the walker "Diamonds on Neptune," dropping the energy drastically, but keeping a warm feeling in its place. Drummer Phillip Peebles has a very particular drum beat on this track.

Next is the creeper song "Our Year," a track that started so quietly and slow that it lost my interest upon

first listening. Towards the end the track really starts to amp up with the two electric guitars cutting through, creeping up on you when you've just about lost track of the tune. "Twelfth" seems a tad front loaded with strong rock tunes to start and weirder slow jams towards the end.

Another tune that could fit any Old 97's album is "Bottle Rocket" with its country drums and simple chord progression and lyrics. In this track you can hear the energy the band has playing live together with your foot tapping by the end of the song.

Perhaps the most slept-on track on "Twelfth" for me is "Absence." This tune reminds me more of

their polished 2017 release "Graveyard Whistling," exemplifying Miller's strong songwriting yet again. I can't help but wonder if any of these songs were rewrites for their 2018 Christmas album "Love the Holidays."

To end this successful "Twelfth" album is the haunting and quiet Hammond composition "Why Don't We Ever Say We're Sorry." It is such a contrast to any other Old 97's track, with heavily reverbed vocals, guitar and accordion. The song is as moving as any other on this album, if not more moving, and fits in as well as "The Butcher's Tale" on The Zombies' 1968 "Odessey and Oracle"

All and all the Old 97's continue to do what they do best: rock. Nearly 30 years since conception, they still deliver that warm, comfortable feeling with every album just as good as the last, making for a discography not to be forgotten and a band to live forever.

**Final score: 8/10**  
**Favorite track: "This House Got Ghosts"**

The Ryne Experience's latest EP "Homey" is available on all major digital streaming services, at [theryneexperience.bandcamp.com](http://theryneexperience.bandcamp.com) or on cassette tape from [ryneshyne.club](http://ryneshyne.club).

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Red Arrow

- MHSAA NEWS

**SPORTS****MHSAA announcement leaves Lowell soccer, volleyball, co-op girls swim & dive teams waiting**by Justin Scott  
contributing reporter

The MHSAA's announcement on the sports of soccer, volleyball, and swim & dive left us with more questions than answers last week. The three sports, in the state "moderate" category for risk associated with COVID-19, were allowed to go forward only in the two regions of the state based on their standing in Michigan's COVID-19 Safe Start Plan. Those two regions, regions 6 and 8, are composed of the state's upper peninsula and northern lower peninsula.

For the rest of the regions, including region 2 which is where Kent County is located, those sports play a waiting game, hoping that they are given the green light from the Governor's office.

"Our Council has made clear it is ready to offer students these opportunities, pending approval from Governor Whitmer that we

may do so," said MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl. "We have been told that within a week, future guidance will address athletic issues that exist in current executive orders. We are awaiting that guidance."

The MHSAA's decision was mixed news for those involved with soccer, volleyball, and swim & dive. The sports avoided a postponement to the spring of 2021, which is what happened to high school football in Michigan. It also avoided the unlikely scenario of completely being canceled immediately by the association. However, there are no clear answers yet as to when the three sports can start competition. The MHSAA does expect further guidance from the state within the next week.

The uncertainty is tough for the soccer, volleyball, and swim & dive teams, but

LHS teams are making the best of it as they await the news. All three teams have been able to field practices during the time, and are ready for when competition is, hopefully, given the green light.



Red Arrow

- CROSS COUNTRY

**SPORTS****Arrows kick-off 2020 against Jenison**

The Red Arrows started the 2020 cross-country season hosting the state ranked Jenison Wildcats. Jenison bested Lowell 19-38 but the Arrows showed they are on plan to meet both team and personal goals. Individual honors went to Jenison's Maya

Guikema in a time of 21:30 and she was followed by Lowell's Annika Sandman in 21:52. Additional scoring came from Kiera Sandman (7th), Katrina Sandman (8th), Kaylee Byrne (10th), and Lauren Swain (11th).

The Arrows head next to Benzie Central on Saturday to participate in the Pete Moss Invitational.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
LOWELL CHARTER  
TOWNSHIP  
PLANNING COMMISSION****APPLICANT:** Sara Karasinski**REQUEST:** Special Land Use Permit to construct a building within the Flood Hazard Overlay Zoning District.**LOCATION:** 11250 Fulton Street which was formerly occupied by Pauly's and Jet's Pizza. The property consists of three parcels totaling 13 acres.**PARCEL NUMBERS:** 41-20-09-100-043, 044 and 045.

The public is invited to attend this hearing which will be held as follows:

**WHEN: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020****TIME: 7:00 P.M.****WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER  
TOWNSHIP HALL  
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE  
LOWELL, MI 49331**

The proposed site plan and other materials pertaining to this project are available for review at the Lowell Charter Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, Michigan 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday or by calling 897-7600.

The materials may also be viewed on the Township web site at [www.twp.lowell.mi.us](http://www.twp.lowell.mi.us) one week before the public hearing date.

Tim Clements, Secretary  
Lowell Charter Township  
Planning Commission

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
LOWELL CHARTER  
TOWNSHIP  
ZONING BOARD OF  
APPEALS****APPLICANT:** John Rizqallah**VARIANCE REQUEST:** The Township Zoning Ordinance requires that accessory buildings be setback a minimum of 25 feet from the side lot line in the R-1, Rural Low-Density Residential Zoning District. The applicant wishes to place an accessory building only five feet from the side lot line and is requesting a variance of 20 feet.**LOCATION:** 13322 Grand River Drive**PARCEL NUMBER:** 41-20-11-255-010

The public is invited to attend this hearing which will be held as follows:

**WHEN: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020****TIME: 7:00 P.M.****WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER  
TOWNSHIP HALL  
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE  
LOWELL, MI 49331**

The application materials for this variance request are available for review at the Lowell Charter Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, Michigan 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday or by calling 897-7600.

Tim Clements, Chair  
Zoning Board of Appeals

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
LOWELL CHARTER  
TOWNSHIP  
PLANNING COMMISSION**

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider the following amendments to the Township Zoning Ordinance:

1. An amendment to Section 4.15, Accessory Buildings and Structures, to clarify existing wording regarding the required setbacks and locations for accessory buildings and to better define the term attached accessory building.
2. An amendment to delete Section 4.09 regarding the requirement for land uses not specifically listed in the Zoning Ordinance.
3. An amendment to Section 4.06 to revise the language regarding the main use of a lot.

The public is invited to attend this hearing which will be held as follows:

**WHEN: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020****TIME: 7:00 P.M.****WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER  
TOWNSHIP HALL  
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE  
LOWELL, MI 49331**

The proposed amendments are available for review at the Lowell Charter Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, Michigan 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday. Phone 616-897-7600.

The amendments may also be viewed on the Township web site at [www.twp.lowell.mi.us](http://www.twp.lowell.mi.us) one week before the public hearing date.

Tim Clements, Secretary  
Lowell Charter Township  
Planning Commission



Red Arrow

- GIRLS GOLF

# SPORTS

## Lowell varsity girl golfers earn three-peat at Sparta

by Justin Scott  
contributing reporter

When the Lowell Varsity Girls Golf team stepped out on to Gracewil Golf Course on Aug. 19, they were making history in several ways. No MHSAA sport had taken place involving a Lowell team since March. It had been a long five months. Lowell also won their third straight time at the Sparta Invitational.

“It was a great way to start the season,” Lowell Girls Golf Head Coach Josh Bruwer said. “We played three tournaments in three days against some of the best teams in the state. It was a great opportunity to get everyone some tournament action and prepare us for the conference portion of our schedule.”

Like other Lowell sports, the Red Arrows not

only have to deal with a conference realignment this year, but also the effects of the pandemic. “Top to bottom, I’m not sure there is a better conference in the state. We are going to have our work cut out for us. We are going to use that to our advantage. We are looking to peak and play our best golf in October. We have set a goal to make it to States this year and compete on the highest stage. Playing in our conference, we will be able to measure ourselves with the best players and teams in the state two times a week. When we get to Regionals there won’t be anything that we haven’t seen. Our kids are looking forward to embracing that moment,” Bruwer said of

the challenging conference slate.

Lowell’s new conference includes the Red Arrows, Byron Center, East Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Christian, Forest Hills Central, Forest Hills Northern, Greenville, and Northview. The addition of the Pioneers, Bulldogs, and Eagles to a conference that already had the defending state champions (FHN), and a team that finished 3rd last year (FHC) will make for perhaps West Michigan’s best high school golf conference.

The golf team has been fortunate during the pandemic to have a safe option for practices close to home. Girls golf was considered by the MHSAA to be one of the three sports

(along with boys tennis and cross-country) to be among the least risky to participate in during the pandemic. The girls and coaching staff have been able to use the facilities at Arrowhead Golf Course throughout the summer, while participating in small groups, using masks, and social distancing.

The team will be led by returning all-conference and HM all-conference seniors this year, Lexy Kaptcia and Addison Bruwer. The two finished first and second respectively at Sparta. Kaptcia shot a 40 while Bruwer shot a 43.

“We will be looking for Amiya Schaefer to take a leap forward this season. So far her leadership has been tremendous. We have

many players that will have to distinguish themselves with strong performances throughout the season. I have high hopes for Tressa Huizenga and Katy Hock to do just that. I have also been very impressed with the dedication of our seniors this offseason. Caroline Cooper, Emma Hollern and Sydney Spanbauer have put in a lot work and it shows so far in the early part of the season. All three have already set career lows this season,” coach Bruwer added.

In their third tournament in three days, the girls team placed sixth at the Middleville TK Invitational out at Yankee Springs Golf Course. Kaptcia shot an 85 to medal in the tournament. Sedona Bonter, Jordyn Vriesman, Katy Hock, and

Amiya Schaefer all shot career-best 18 hole rounds.

So far I have really enjoyed the enthusiasm and energy from the kids. I’m looking to see who in our program is going to take the next step forward and help us bring Lowell golf to another level,” coach Bruwer said of his team’s start.

Sandwiched in between the TK Invitational and Sparta Invitational was the always difficult Kent County Classic. The team placed tenth, led by Addison Bruwer’s 18-hole round of 99.

“We’re just grateful that we are able to have a season. We are fortunate in that regard. It is up to us to carry the torch for Lowell athletics and our school,” coach Bruwer concluded.

Red Arrow

- BOYS SOCCER

# SPORTS

## Boys soccer team is ready for the season to begin

by Justin Scott  
contributing reporter

While the Lowell Boys Soccer Team hasn’t been cleared to compete yet under the MHSAA’s most recent announcement regarding fall sports, they have been practicing hard since July in anticipation of the season starting.

LHS is coming off a 9-7-1 record last season and will be coached by third year head coach Dan Lipon. Like all Lowell teams, they’ll be faced with a new OK White conference this season thanks to realignment. Gone are Ottawa Hills and Cedar Springs, and in their place return East Grand Rapids and Grand Rapids Christian. The OK White will also welcome Byron Center for the first time.

For soccer, it makes one of West Michigan’s perennial power soccer conferences even tougher, but that doesn’t faze the Red Arrows.

“With conference realignment this season, the OK White is up for grabs,” says Coach Lipon. “The conference now features five boys soccer programs with state championship titles. Coming off a second

place finish in 2019, the Red Arrows plan to battle every match and see where they finish at the end of the conference tournament.”

The conference will have Forest Hills Central, Forest Hills Northern, Lowell, Byron Center, Northview, Greenville, East Grand Rapids, and Grand Rapids Christian for at least the next three years.

The COVID-19

pandemic has created some unique circumstances for Lowell soccer, including the cancelation of their annual alumni game. Organizer, and Lowell JV Boys Soccer head coach Jake Sweet has said they plan to pick it up again next year.

“Restrictions really limited our preseason workouts to conditioning and technical sessions, but

the boys just really enjoyed spending time together,” Lipon said of the pre-season.

Lowell will be led by a senior backline which should keep them competitive in every game this season. Those seniors are Justin Wade (captain), Aaron Bomia, Ben Thompson (captain), and Rohan Dixon.


“The leadership on our backline, and the boys’ collective defensive performance, will be vital for our success this season. I’m looking forward to

seeing the boys in uniform, under the lights, competing for their school and community,” Coach Lipon concluded.



Lowell senior and captain Ben Thompson will help lead the Red Arrow soccer team this season.

YOU HIT THE BIG 50!






TOM NUGENT

AUGUST 26

On this day, 50 years ago  
A boy was born and a barn would flow  
That boy grew to be charming, witty  
and quite smart  
He left the farm to pursue his part  
A great friend, family, neighbor, coach,  
computer tech  
His talents are endless but his humor is  
the best  
Tom will try so hard to hide this  
day away  
Be sure to wish him well on his  
special day.

HAPPY 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday

TOM NUGENT



Red Arrow

- VOLLEYBALL

## SPORTS

## Lowell volleyball primed for another strong year

by Justin Scott  
contributing reporter

Last season Lowell won their first volleyball regional championship in program history, swept through the conference schedule, won their first quarterfinal, first semifinal, and made their first state championship appearance. It's hard to top those accomplishments, but the 2020-2021 Lowell Volleyball team could be even better than last season.

Like other Lowell teams, the volleyball program has had to adapt to the new world of athletics due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The team did a lot of outside workouts on beach volleyball courts, due to not being able to access a gym. The Red Arrows are fortunate in that they've had the "sport court" to practice on at Bob Perry Field. This artificial volleyball court, typically used for Pink Arrow, has allowed LHS and other local programs to practice outside of the gym.

"The outdoor practices are definitely different because we have to consider the wind and sun when we are outside which we obviously don't have to inside. The girls

have done a great job adjusting and it just makes us have that much better ball control to avoid the wind," head coach Jordan Drake told the Ledger.

In 2019, Lowell cruised through the conference schedule where the closest team was Forest Hills Central. The Rangers were the only OK White team to take a set off the Red Arrows. Even with FHC representing a strong challenge, Lowell won nine of the 11 sets against them. This year, with the OK Conference realignment, things get a lot tougher in the White.

"Our new conference is definitely tougher than it was before. Adding Grand Rapids Christian who won states the last two years and Byron Center who we beat in regional semis are definitely going to present a challenge for us. Our goal is to defend our conference title, but we will definitely have our work cut out for us with them, FHC, and FHN this year," coach Drake said. The OK White adds GR Christian, Byron Center, and East Grand Rapids. Leaving the conference are Cedar Springs and Ottawa Hills.



Senior Jenna Reitsma will lead a trio of all-state returners for Lowell volleyball this year.

Senior outside hitter Jenna Reitsma was named Michigan's best high school volleyball player this past week by MaxPreps. The rankings list said of Reitsma, "While leading the Red Arrows to a 55-4 mark and Division 1 runner-up finish (2019), Reitsma hammered 873 kills along with 422 digs and 86 aces. She was a MaxPreps All-American

and her monstrous year notched her ahead of other standouts Addie VanderWeide and Evelyn Doezema." Jenna will play at Marquette University (Wisconsin) next year.

Reitsma will lead a strong group of returning core players from last year's state championship run. Those include senior all-staters Jenna Reitsma, Sophie Powell, and Emma Hall.

"Junior Emily Struckmeyer will also have a bigger role as an attacker for us this year," added Coach Drake.

While the sky's the limit for these Red Arrows, right now they're just looking forward to competing again. Their first match date is still to be determined as of this article's writing, but news regarding volleyball competition from the state is expected this week.

"I am really looking forward to just having a season. In light of the pandemic, it really makes you realize how much you need to cherish the moments you have with each team. I can't imagine not having a season with this group of girls, so really just looking forward to creating memories with this group," Coach Drake concluded.

Red Arrow

- TENNIS

## SPORTS

## Tennis starts off with quick shutout against K. Hills

by Justin Scott  
contributing reporter

The Lowell Varsity Boys Tennis team, under the direction of Head Coach Chris Phillips, opened their season last week by blanking Kenowa Hills 8-0. The Red Arrows return a healthy majority of their team from last season, with their most notable loss being Class of 2020 graduate and No. 1 singles Collier Kaufman. Terrick Stewart and Noah LaMore won the match of the day, a 40-game 2-1 marathon match.

Results were as follows:

**Singles:**

No. 1 - Will de Voest, 6-0, 6-0

No. 2 - Ty Knottnerus, 6-2, 6-2

No. 3 - Winton Garrelts, 6-1, 6-3

No. 4 - Patrick de Voest, 6-0, 6-0

**Doubles:**

No. 1 - Terrick Stewart & Noah LaMore, 6-1, 6-7, 11-9

No. 2 - Max Del Rosario & Tyler Spinella, 6-0, 6-1

No. 3 - Mason Thomas & Josiah Kissenger, 6-0, 6-0

No. 4 - David Kaczanowski & Sam VandenHout, 6-3, 6-0





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## Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold

Edward Jones

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### Get the Most from Your 401(k)

You won't see any greeting cards celebrating it, and it's not likely to be on your calendar, but in just a few weeks, National 401(k) Day will be observed. And this type of recognition may be warranted, too, because 401(k) plans have become key building blocks for a big part of people's lives – a comfortable retirement. Are you making the most of your 401(k)?

Of course, during the past few months, you may have had mixed feelings about your 401(k). After

all, at the beginning of the coronavirus, when the financial markets tumbled, the value of your account probably fell significantly, although it has likely regained some ground since the initial drop.

Nonetheless, the recent market volatility and its short-term effects on your 401(k) should not unduly influence your decisions about this important retirement account. After all, a 401(k) is truly a long-term vehicle, in every sense – you contribute

to it for decades while you're working, and you can draw on it, along with other sources of income, for decades during your retirement. Consequently, you'll want to consistently review your account to ensure it is working hard for you.

Here are a few suggestions:

Get the match. At a minimum, put enough into your 401(k) to earn your employer's matching contribution, if one is offered. While employers can set their own rules, a typical match is 50% of what you put in, up to 6% of your salary. So, if you don't contribute the amount needed to earn the match, you are essentially "leaving money on the table." (Be aware, though, that some

employers have temporarily suspended matching contributions in response to the economic slowdown during the pandemic.)

Give yourself regular "raises." Every time your salary goes up, increase your annual contributions. Most people typically don't come anywhere near hitting the maximum annual 401(k) contribution limit (which, in 2020, is \$19,500, or \$26,000 for those 50 or older), and you might not, either, but try to put in as much as you can afford. Not only will you be building tax-deferred resources for retirement, but you'll be giving yourself a big tax break, because the more you contribute each year, the lower your taxable income (unless you have a Roth 401(k), in which case your contributions

aren't deductible, but your earnings can grow tax-free).

Invest for growth. Because your 401(k) is designed to help fund your retirement, which could last 20 years or more, you'll want to build the biggest account possible. That means you'll need to include investments designed to provide growth within your 401(k), subject to your personal risk tolerance.

Be careful about loans. You can take out loans from your 401(k), but it's not always a good move. You'll have to pay yourself back, and if you leave your job, either voluntarily or involuntarily, the repayment may be due at an inconvenient time. (However, as part of the CARES economic stimulus act, many 401(k) loan repayments are being

suspended for up to one year.) Furthermore, by taking out money from your account, even temporarily, you can slow its overall growth potential. So, you may want to look for other sources of income before tapping into your 401(k).

National 401(k) Day is just that – a day. But by taking the appropriate steps, you can help ensure your own 401(k) gives you many years' worth of benefits.

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

## Live the Life You Want

### The importance of restoring emotional intimacy

Melissa Spino MA LLPC CDMS  
Life Transitions Therapy LLC

Emotional intimacy is important to all of us but maybe even more so during uncertain times. Why? Because when we feel a threat (i.e.: fear of getting COVID-19 or of supporting ourselves or our family) we may back away from intimacy which in

turn increases our fears and anxiety.

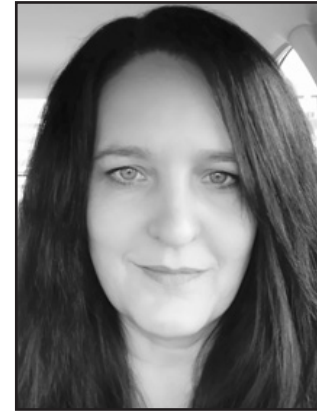
Most think of intimacy as emotional and physical intimacy with a partner or spouse. But there is also platonic emotional intimacy with close friends & family. This closeness with another allows you to share deep

personal feelings with someone that understands and demonstrates caring. Someone you trust so that you can be mentally and emotionally honest and vulnerable.

When you have emotional intimacy, you rely on each other while

learning and growing. You support each other by being there, through affirmations, or sometimes even brutal honesty. As human beings, we need this affection, affirmation, and support outside of a romantic relationship. So, if you haven't done so, now may be an ideal time to start rebuilding these emotionally intimate relationships so you don't start feeling emotionally starved.

I'm not saying break current social distancing mandates. Instead, start taking careful steps to begin restoring healthy connections within social distancing mandates and



Melissa Spino  
MA LLPC CDMS

using safety protocols (masks, hand sanitizer etc.). Agree on a safety plan for any in-person contact so you feel safe such as meeting outside, have a back-yard barbecue, play

games, etc. Spend time talking about your concerns and fears. Be honest even if you believe the way you're feeling is outside of the "norm." You may be surprised to find you are not alone in your feelings. Honest communication is important when starting to restore these connections. Healthy connections with those we care deeply about will help us get through these unprecedented times while helping to decrease our fears and anxiety.

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

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

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!

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

# VACCINE WORD SEARCH

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

### VACCINE WORD SEARCH

ACUTE  
 ADJUVANT  
 ADVERSE  
 ALLERGY  
 ANTIBODY

### ANTIGENS

ANTIVIRAL  
 ATTENUATED  
 BACTERIA  
 BOOSTER  
 BREAKTHROUGH  
 CHRONIC  
 COMBINATION

### COMMUNICABLE

CONJUGATE  
 CONTRAINDICATION  
 DISEASE  
 EFFICACY  
 EPIDEMIC  
 EXPOSURE  
 IMMUNITY

### INFECTIOUS

VACCINE  
 VIRUS

## Guess Who?

I am an actor born in California on August 26, 1980. I briefly studied at the University of Leeds in the UK. My debut role was on "ER" in 2003. Since then, a popular space series beamed me up for additional acclaim.

Answer: Chris Pine

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to immunizations.

**O B T O R E S**

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

Answer: Booster

	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	
13								14						15
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20		21				22				23		24		
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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			64	
65		66						67				68		
	69									70				

### CLUES ACROSS

- Slopes
- Attacks
- One who has left prison
- Goes against
- Atomic #37
- Home of The Beatles
- Mac alternative
- A common boundary with
- Fluid in a plant
- Genus that includes scads
- Longer of the forearm bones
- Gradually disappears
- AI risk assessor
- Type of whale
- Jaws of a voracious animal
- Patriotic women (abbr.)
- Ancient Egyptian God
- Obsessed with one's appearance
- Erase
- A type of smartie
- Nostrils
- Influential French thinker
- Popular K-pop singer
- One point south of due east
- Payroll company
- Moved quickly on foot

### CLUES DOWN

- Speak rapidly
- Trauma center
- River in W. Africa
- Ancient Greek district
- Bulgaria's monetary unit
- Children's ride
- Absorbed liquid
- Markets term
- Retail term recording sales
- Automaton
- Spanish form of "be"
- Divide
- Malaysian sailing boat
- Writers
- Cool!

- Popular tourist attraction studio
- Sets free
- An enthusiastic devotee of sports
- Unhappy
- Alternate term for Holy Scripture
- Influential French scholar
- What thespians do
- Local area network
- Free from contamination
- Coastal region of Canada
- Sun up in New York
- High schoolers' exam
- Fathers
- Call it a career
- Suitable for growing crops
- Rose-red variety of spinel
- Orange-brown in color
- Lowest point of a ridge between two peaks
- Late TNT sportscaster
- A way to wedge
- Cold, dry Swiss wind
- Hockey players need it
- Something highly prized
- Atomic #45
- Top lawyer





This is another installment in the Lowell Ledger's series of feature articles about the many different types of artisans who do business in the Lowell area. Some use the Internet as their storefront, others sell their wares out of a brick and mortar location. All of them are fascinating people and incredibly talented.

If you know of somebody who makes things and sells them, we want to do a story about it! Contact the Lowell Ledger at 616-897-9261 or send a message to [ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com](mailto:ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com)

## Crafts by Sharon Mac

### *Middle school teacher makes unique items*

Sharon MacDermaid has been a math teacher at Lowell Middle School for more than 20 years, but she spends her summers concentrating on something a little bit different. MacDermaid is the artist behind Crafts by Sharon Mac, a business that offers a number of unique handmade items.

MacDermaid began selling her creations two years ago when her husband, Scott, had a quadruple bypass. She took several weeks off from teaching to assist

with his recovery. She was making accessories for fairy gardens out of polymer clay for herself when her husband suggested that she try selling them.

"I just like to make stuff. It's weird because I'm a math teacher, but I have really always been drawn to art. It's my stress relief."

She found success with fairy garden accessories, and has since added more products including magic wands, fairy doors, necklaces with vials of

"dragon scales" and "fairy dust", key chains made from decorative ribbon, living rocks – rocks made from molded concrete with lifelike eyes and perhaps most notably, baby doll head planters.

The planters, which retail between \$10 and \$20, are made of concrete cast in silicone molds that MacDermaid makes herself. The method she uses is called a slush pour, a technique where concrete is poured into a mold and rotated until it dries. She originally made the molds with a mix of caulk and cornstarch, but she found that the molds had a short lifespan. "I invested in some special effects silicone to make some better molds and those molds will last for hundreds and hundreds of pours."

There are currently eight different baby doll head planters that MacDermaid produces, but she's always on the lookout for dolls that she can use to create new molds. "My aunt watches yard sales and thrift shops for me. She'll send me messages and pictures and say, 'Do you want this one?' and I'll have to tell her, 'No, it's not creepy enough.'" She admits that the planters might not be for everyone. "People



**These baby doll head planters are made of concrete. Currently MacDermaid makes eight different baby doll head planters.**



**Sharon MacDermaid can be found at the Lowell Farmer's Market at Impact church on Thursdays.**

Below are some of MacDermaid's living rocks, made from molded concrete.



either love them or think they're creepy."

A very recent addition to her shop are mask lanyards. When school shut down because of the pandemic, she began making the lanyards which are currently available for purchase. "That's mostly because I'm a teacher and the kids are going to have to wear masks at school. So I started making lanyards to put your mask on, so when you have to take it off at school to eat, you don't have to set it down."

MacDermaid's enthusiasm for teaching is apparent and she views her crafting as more of a hobby to stay busy during the summer. "If I make enough money to support my craft habit, I figure I'm doing okay. My ideal retirement job would be to have a little shop downtown where people could come in and make their own version of this stuff. I think that would be fun!"

MacDermaid also works for the Michigan Competitive Band Association in addition to teaching math during the school year. She and her husband have two



**MacDermaid also has a variety of magic wands.**

sons, Phillip, 18, and Keith who is 16. Her eldest son is currently enrolled in the welding technology program at KCTC. She hopes that they will be able to collaborate in the future to add welded metal items to her shop.

"I don't think that

people have to be one thing. I'm a math teacher, but I also consider myself an artist. Just because you do one thing for your day job doesn't mean you can't do something else that you also enjoy. And it's okay to make weird things!"