

## The Ryne Experience: "The Hits"



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## LMS teacher raises butterflyfiles



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## Berwyn Kloosterman's Standard Oil



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## LHS sports

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50¢



# Despite heat, Pink Arrow Pride returns



Student section members cheer during the Pink Arrow game.

by Justin Scott  
sports reporter

With temperatures in the upper 80s and the heat index in the 90s, it was certainly a hot one as Pink Arrow took place last Thursday at Bob Perry Field. After the

pandemic caused a more low-key affair last year, this year's events were much closer to normal than usual, though missing some of the flair last seen two years ago

at Pink Arrow XII.

The survivor's walk was canceled due to heat concerns, while COVID-19 and other factors prevented restaurant row from making

its return this year.

Events this year included the Pink Arrow football game, won by Mona Shores 56-14. The soccer team lost to Forest Hills Eastern

in the annual Pink Arrow soccer game by a score of 2-1. The volleyball team competed against Caledonia on their outdoor court in a scrimmage. It should be noted that reporting on school scrimmages is typically not permissible for the media, which is why there was not an in-depth article on the Pink Arrow volleyball game.

There were some changes, but the magic of Pink Arrow remained. All players competed for a loved one fighting or who has fought cancer. All three schools Lowell played during the day wore pink of some kind to show their support, including the Mona Shores student section who had a "pink out". The fall student-athletes and marching band led down the hill as "You'll Never Walk Alone" played over the loudspeakers in a tribute parade. The field was painted with the traditional pink arrow as has been done in years past.

It was a Pink Arrow night that for 14 years straight has brought a small town closer together.

Pink Arrow, continued, page 8

# Americana singer/songwriter Drew Nelson is LowellArts featured artist for September

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Singer/songwriter Drew Nelson is this month's LowellArts featured artist. During his career, Nelson has toured North America and Europe, and has opened for artists such as Melissa Etheridge, Edwin McCain and Josh White Jr.

"It's an honor," Nelson said. "I've been real fortunate in my career, I've been able to play in Ireland and Scotland and Netherlands and Belgium and all kind of different places and this has happened a few times before."

Nelson is a Kent City-native, a Navy veteran, a father, a lover of poetry, a luthier, a photographer and an avid fly fisherman. According to a LowellArts press release, "he writes as a witness to the lives and journeys of those he has met along the way, mixing Americana and roots rock with traditional folk styles."

"My wife and kids live in

Ada, right down the road, so I've spent a lot of time in Lowell," Nelson said. "It's a beautiful place, it's wonderful. I grew up in a real small town, Kent City, not very far away, and Lowell folks remind me a lot of the same kind of folks that I grew up with."

Nelson's musical influences are pretty basic: Bob Dylan and the Beatles. Instead, he takes most of his songwriting inspiration from poets and authors.

"Ever since I was a kid music has been a real big part of my life," Nelson said. "We had a big front porch on our old farmhouse and on Friday nights in the summertime people would come with mandolins and fiddles and guitars and they'd sing songs, a lot of old-timey stuff and Irish stuff and gospel, and it was just a huge influence on my life. And as I got older and discovered Dylan and artists

like that, it just clicked. But I'm probably influenced more by poets and authors than I am by other musicians. I've always been attracted to

the writing, so I would say the poet Mary Oliver is a huge influence on me. Jim Harrison, the writer and poet, Gary Snyder. For musicians,

I would say I was influenced by Greg Brown a lot. Dylan, of course, who wasn't

Drew Nelson, continued, page 4

# Lowell Police to host free 'Cons and Scams' symposium Sept. 8

By popular demand, Lowell police officer Aubrey Culver will lead another free "Cons and Scams" talk at city hall, 301 E. Main, at 6 pm on Wednesday, Sept. 8.

"We have received requests to have it at a later time so people could attend that work during daytime hours," detective Gordy Lauren wrote in an LPD

Facebook post.

"Due to recent uptick in local scams and cons, the Lowell Police Department will be hosting an informal talk on how to be aware and protect yourself from these predators," said an Aug. 9 LPD press release. "Topics that will be covered are the evolution of the con, tactics the scammers/con artists use, how to avoid becoming

a victim and Craigslist and Marketplace scams. Officer Aubrey Culver will be your host with several years of law enforcement experience. Please feel free to attend and bring your questions."

For more information, contact officer Culver at 616-897-7120 or Aculver8446@gmail.com.

# Ryne Experience's album "The Hits" coming in October

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Lowell indie rock band the Ryne Experience will release their sixth studio album "The Hits" on Saturday, Oct. 2. Work on the new record is still in progress and has been over the past year.

Band mastermind Ryne Clarke described "The Hits" as an "ambitious non-flow oriented 20 song mega album."

"I think it's gonna be a really cool collection of

songs," Clarke said. "What I'm going for is nothing too cohesive. I am going to lay out the tracks so they flow nicely if you decide to do a start-to-finish listen, or with a digital release you can throw it on shuffle and see which ones you like. I think out of the 18 there should be at least one song for everybody. And it won't just be serious all the time, there's a lot of light-hearted

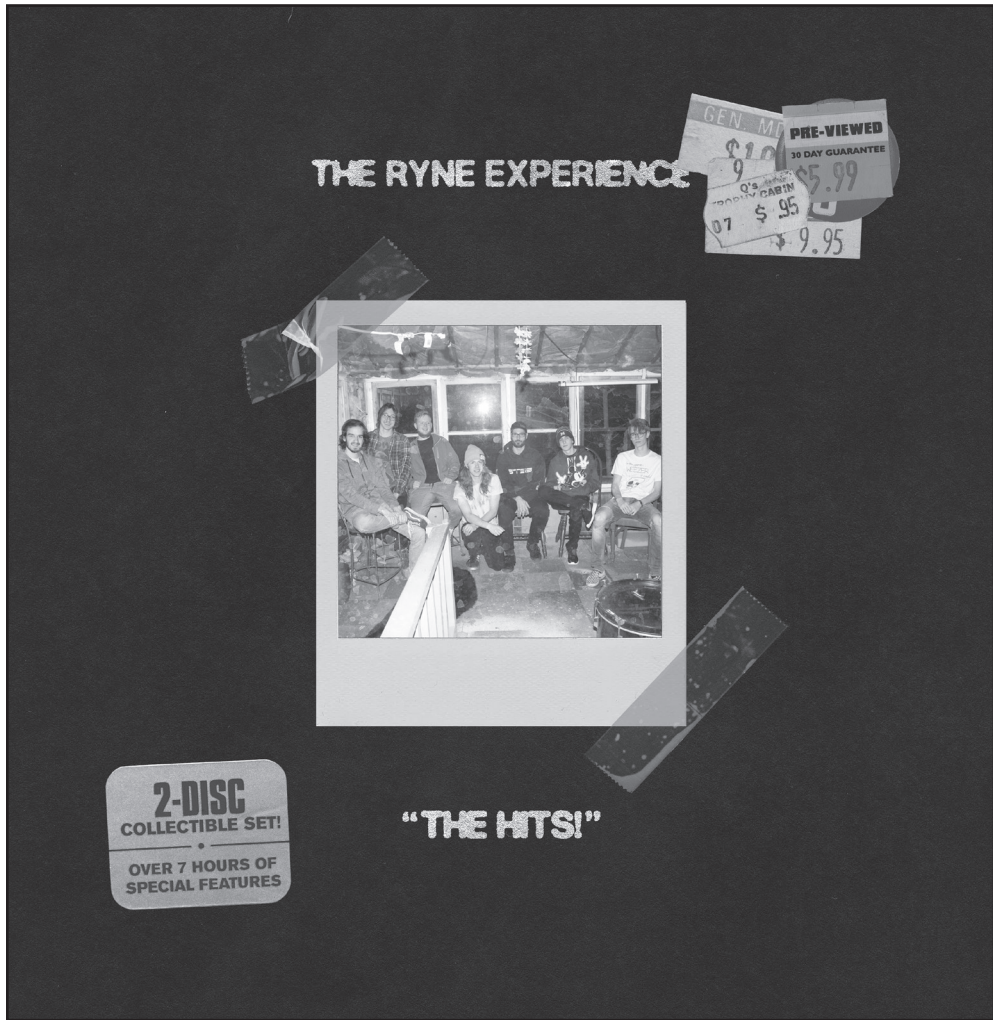
stuff on there, which is probably the stuff I'm most excited about."

The album art is nearly finished, and the track listing has been finalized. Right now there is final recording and mixing going on, and the album must still be mastered and pressed.

"We wanted the cover to look like a greatest hits album," Clarke said. "That's not the main goal of it, but



Upstairs, Man studio is on Monroe St. in Lowell. Photo by Tess Eileen.



could be released separately, one would be more of a downer album and the other one would be more of an upper. But there are a lot of good songs on both sides, and some of those good ones might get buried if they're later on the track listing. So something I thought about was that it's more digestible and it gives all the songs a chance if we put a barrier there and it's in two halves rather than one whole."

Like all Ryne Experience releases so far, there is a long list of collaborators on "The Hits." The difference this time is their contributions are more meaningful.

"A lot of the collaboration stuff I usually do got sort of pushed away this time," Clarke said. "I've been more selective on bringing in particular people. I was always stuck in the mindset that you needed to work with the same people to get the same results, but you don't, necessarily. There's still, I think, 20 people on there, but

there's less bringing people in for small stuff. If I'm bringing in a collaborator, they're doing a pretty heavy part of a song. Our normal lead guitarist, Jeremy Wenger, has been playing with the Benzing Graves Collective, so he pretty much has been gone since halfway through the year. With that going on, we decided to bring in different people to make all the tracks really different. So I'm doing lead guitar on a couple, Buddy David from Short Panic is doing lead on a couple, and we have a new lead guitarist, Conrad Schock. He's been doing our mastering and he's doing lead on a few, and Jeremy does lay down a few. Same thing with the drums, there are three drummers plus I do drums on one."

At least one song on "The Hits" features a string quartet consisting of Mitchell Evink, Charity Gerig, Megan Meadows and Natalie Paiz. Clarke also plays some accordion on

the new album, which was the first instrument he ever learned to play as a child.

"I was too late for band and orchestra sign-ups, but I still wanted to play something," Clarke said. "My grandma and great grandma both learned the accordion when they were younger, and they both owned accordions. I now have my grandma's, and it sounds great. I'd like to play it more, but it's really hard to improv on."

Clarke has had a very busy summer with a full calendar of solo and full band concerts. Most of them were successful, but Clarke found out the hard way that Bay City apparently isn't a big live music town.

"I've been playing outdoor gigs at a boat rental place in Saugatuck every Sunday this summer, and it's been awesome," Clarke said. "Good money out there, and great people. They just invited me out one week, I was the first performer they

Ryne Experience, continued, page 3

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations for Kent County, Michigan (All Jurisdictions)

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency has issued a preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), and where applicable, Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report, reflecting proposed flood hazard determinations within Kent County, Michigan (All Jurisdictions). These flood hazard determinations may include the addition or modification of Base Flood Elevations, base flood depths, Special Flood Hazard Area boundaries or zone designations, or the regulatory floodway. Technical information or comments are solicited on the proposed flood hazard determinations shown on the preliminary FIRM and/or FIS report for Kent County, Michigan (All Jurisdictions). These flood hazard determinations are the basis for the floodplain management measures that your community is required to either adopt or show evidence of being already in effect in order to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. However, before these determinations are effective for floodplain management purposes, you will be provided an opportunity to appeal the proposed information. For information on the statutory 90-day period provided for appeals, as well as a complete listing of the communities affected and the locations where copies of the FIRM are available for review, please visit FEMA's website at [https://www.floodmaps.fema.gov/fhm/BFE\\_Status/bfe\\_main.asp](https://www.floodmaps.fema.gov/fhm/BFE_Status/bfe_main.asp), or call the FEMA Mapping and Insurance eXchange (FMIX) toll free at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627).

I don't know, I thought it would be funny if someone saw it and thought it was a compilation record. We put these weird stickers on, like 'seven hours of special features!' We basically wanted the cover the look like something you'd pull off the record shelf over in the other room. But it's going to be 18 songs, and although it could fit on one disc, I want to split it up physically onto two CDs. The music itself is more serious on the first disc, more produced, and I would say it's going to have a more polished sound. The second disc is going to consist more of live takes and sessions, and we did a few acoustic songs. There's also a song where I'm doing drums and vocals together live at the same time, which I've never done before. The two CDs

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# Ryne Experience, continued

had out there, and they said to come back every Sunday. They put Hamm's beer on tap, now that's turned into 'Jams and Hamm's,' and I guess I'm the host of the event! I played out in Bay City a couple times this summer too. I'm convinced there are no people in Bay City! I played out there on a Friday night, they had me out on the street, and the street was closed off and everything. Nobody! I was like, 'Where are all the people at?'"

The new album's Oct. 2 release, on the CULTure.m4a label, will be celebrated with a show at the Pyramid Scheme in Grand Rapids the same day. Then that will probably be it for the Ryne Experience for a while.

"After we get this album out, we have some shows to finish up, then the full band is taking a hiatus until probably next summer," Clarke said. "I want to try and focus on booking this winter and get a full calendar so hopefully I can take next summer off

recordings, and I haven't written much lately due to the amount of shows. The pandemic is still going on, obviously, but the amount of shows I've done is probably the most ever. Everyone laughs at me and says, 'You'll never take a break', but it's really gonna happen this time!"

Clarke has lately been hard at work updating and upgrading the Upstairs, Man recording studio in his Monroe St. home. The studio now boasts a 16 channel mixer, stereo headphones, a vocal booth, various amplifiers, instruments and other equipment.

"It's a lot more studio-like now, and people will be able to start using it this winter," Clarke said. "I want people to sort of use the space like I've used it in the past. I think of how I started off all by myself. You don't exactly have a following at first, but you want to record something get it out there. I think that's a really important step, because if

you go out and play shows, people are like, 'Where can I hear your music?' If you don't have anything out, it's hard to kind of push that aspect. So definitely a goal is getting the studio space open for other people. Now, with the new two-room set-up, it's very easy to live-track in here, overdubs are extremely easy and everything is faster. I upgraded some of my microphones and have been putting in the hours at mixing, so I feel more confident there. I mixed the last two releases I did, and on this one I'm getting some help from my bandmates. So even if I just recorded the stems for people, they could go get a mix somewhere else. I am capable of mixing, but I'm not the best mixer in the world. The way I do my mixing, I try not to overproduce too much, because you want to keep it all authentic. You don't want people to listen to the album and be like, 'Man, this is great!' Then they see you live, 'Man, this sucks!' That's



Ryne Clarke

## Ryne Experience Fall Shows

- Sept 2 - Busking on Main st in Ionia, MI (solo) 5 to 8pm**
- Sept 3 - Unruly Brewing, Muskegon, MI (full band) 9pm**
- Sept 4 - Mulligan's Pub, Grand Rapids, MI (full band) 10pm**
- Sept 5 - Old Boat House Bar, Saugatuck, MI (jam set) 5 to 7pm**
- Sept 10 - The Chicken Coop, Ferndale, MI (solo) 4pm**




- Sept 12 - Izzy's Barber Shop, Ionia, MI (solo) 6pm**
- Sept 18 - Harmony Hall, Grand Rapids, MI (full band) 8pm**
- Sept 19 - Old Boat House Bar, Saugatuck, MI (jam set) 5 to 7pm**
- Oct 2 - Pyramid Scheme, Grand Rapids, MI (ALBUM RELEASE) 8PM**
- Oct 22 - Pik-Nik at Sullivan Field, Grand Rapids, MI (full band) 6pm**

a big part of my philosophy with recording in general: if you can't physically play the part when you're recording it, you probably shouldn't use it. There are so many tools out there that you can use to get very far into the production aspect. Some people only need a MIDI keyboard and their voice, and they can probably make the same sounds that I'm making here. It might be more hassle this way, but it's a lot more fun. I don't have any formal training with music production, so a lot of things I do are unconventional, and a lot of the production stuff we do

over here is very DIY. For example, we recorded some saxophone in the hallway the other day. I had them shut the two doors and kind of shoot the sax down the stairwell, where there's a little reverberation spot. He had a clip-on mic that was picking up all the actual sax, and then we had another mic to get that slapback." Besides the upcoming CD, a vinyl pressing of 2020's "The Onion Tree" should be available sometime early next year. Clarke is also working on a documentary film about "The Ship," a folk music group active in Urbana, IL in the 1970s.

"To book the studio, they can go through my website, ryneexperience.club, starting this winter" Clarke said. "I'll make an announcement there probably in October or November. I'm eager to try and get some people over here who want to do cheaper DIY recording and experiment. I have a slew of instruments here, such as banjos, resonators, keyboards and guitars, so you wouldn't necessarily have to bring anything, but you always can. If you want to just bring in a band and record something quick, just walk right in!"

from working and just do gigs. I don't want to record anything for a while after this next album. It's going to be 18 tracks, that's a big project. Hopefully, part of taking some time off this winter will be opening up the studio to other people. I want to be able to do that when I fully have the attention and time to spend on it. Getting past this milestone will open that up a lot more. After this, I'll have 60 published originals, so I'm ready to take a break from my own stuff. Performing live, even doing solo shows, I have a lot of fun because I can draw from three or four hours of material, even more with cover songs. So I don't really plan on digging into any new

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# Drew Nelson, continued



Drew Nelson (Facebook photo)

influenced by him? The Beatles... It's a pretty wide swath, but I think the poets and authors are the ones that really get to me. The great southern writer Flannery O'Connor said that a writer needs to create a sense of place, and there's a lot of small town, rural America in my music, kind of looking at the world through that lens, how I grew up. I also do a lot of characters and storytelling. For example, there's a song on my last record called 'Dust.' I was in a hotel room reading an article about a farmer who wouldn't let the bank come repossess his house, so instead he bulldozed it down with a bulldozer. In my song,

I couldn't rhyme 'bulldozer' well, so he burns it down. So a lot of times I'll find a character and I'll try to think of people I grew up with and different things people would say, and I just write these stories about them. Basically, you find a nugget of truth and then make a lot of stuff up. And then there's some autobiographical stuff that seeps in, because you just can't help it."

He has released three albums of original material. The last one, "Tilt-A-Whirl," came out in 2012.

"You can find my stuff online, and all my stuff is on iTunes," Nelson said. "I'm starting to work on new material. I usually have a

good hunk of time between albums, so it's time again. I've got probably half a record sitting there, songs all written, and I'm kind of trying to figure out what the next move is, trying to figure out what do you with albums. Do you make an album? Do you have CDs? What do you do with the product when it's done? It's a whole new world to try to figure out than it was when I started making music."

For more information about LowellArts, call 616-897-8545, send a message to [info@lowellartsmi.org](mailto:info@lowellartsmi.org) or visit their website.

For more information about Drew Nelson, look for the "drewnelsonmusic" page on Facebook.

## First EEE-carrying mosquitoes of 2021 found in Barry County

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services says to protect yourself from mosquito bites following the detection of the first Eastern Equine Encephalitis-positive mosquito pool of the year in Barry County.

"The EEE virus is here in Michigan and provides warning that residents could also become infected by a mosquito," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, MDHHS chief medical executive and chief deputy director for health. "EEE is one of the most dangerous mosquito-borne diseases in the US, with a 33 percent fatality rate among humans who become ill."

EEE has a 90% fatality rate in horses that become ill, and infection in both people and animals occurs through the bite of an infected mosquito. EEE is not spread from person-to-person.

Signs of EEE include the sudden onset of fever, chills, and body and joint aches. Illness can eventually develop into severe encephalitis, headache, disorientation, tremors, seizures and paralysis. Permanent brain damage,

coma and death may also occur in some cases.

This is the first year the MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories has been performing testing on mosquitoes collected by local health departments and academic partners. To date, over 43,000 mosquitoes have been tested.

Residents can stay healthy by following steps to avoid mosquito bites:

Apply insect repellents that contain the active ingredient DEET, or other US Environmental Protection Agency-approved product, to exposed skin or clothing, and always follow the manufacturer's directions for use.

Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors. Apply insect repellent to clothing to help prevent bites.

Maintain window and door screening to help keep mosquitoes outside.

Empty water from mosquito breeding sites around the home, such as buckets, unused kiddie pools, old tires or similar sites where mosquitoes may lay eggs.

Use nets and/or fans over outdoor eating areas.

"For horses, EEE is a serious but preventable disease," said State Veterinarian Nora Wineland, DVM. "Positive mosquito pools can help to identify areas of risk. Horse owners should work with their veterinarian to develop a plan to protect their animals."

To safeguard their horses, owners could take the following measures:

Talking to a veterinarian about vaccinating horses against EEE.

Placing horses in a barn under fans during peak mosquito activity from dusk to dawn.

Using an insect repellent on the animals approved for the species.

Eliminating standing water on the property-i.e., fill in puddles, repair eaves, and change the water in buckets and bowls daily.

Contacting a veterinarian if a horse shows signs of the illness: mild fever and stumbling, which can progress to being down and struggling to stand.

Additionally, West Nile virus activity in Michigan has increased in wildlife and mosquito populations. Health officials have identified 11 positive mosquito pools and 10 infected animals in the Lower Peninsula. No human cases of West Nile virus have been reported to date; however, a case has been reported in a horse from Midland County.

Mosquito-borne illness will continue to be a risk in Michigan until late fall when nighttime temperatures consistently fall below freezing.

For more information about mosquito-borne diseases, visit [Michigan.gov/emergingdiseases](http://Michigan.gov/emergingdiseases).

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# viewpoint



**125 years ago  
Lowell Ledger  
September 4, 1896**

This edition of the Lowell Ledger is missing.

**100 years ago  
The Lowell Ledger  
September 8, 1921**

Another automobile party has taken the high dive from Lowell's upper Grand river bridge, and not only "lived to tell the story," but drove away in their own car rejoicing, not only that their lives were spared, but that they were practically unhurt. They were Mr. and Mrs. Newton E. Brown, of Lansing, and the time was Saturday evening. They were making the quick turn from the east at the south side of the bridge and Mrs. Brown was driving. Mr. Brown nervously grabbed the wheel, and though the car was going slow, it was going too strong for the guard rail on the bridge, broke through and the car dropped 25 or 30 feet into three or four feet of water, but right side up.

John Rowe, of Norway, who shot and killed Leo Cant, 12 years old, also of Norway, when he caught him and some other boys in his vegetable garden, had his hearing here and was formally charged with murder. Rowe maintained he only shot to frighten the boys. Rowe is an ex-service man and is 27 years old.

Complaint is made by the railroads that motor bus lines are interfering with their passenger traffic to such an extent that retrenchment in local train service will be inevitable if the competition continues. That is a condition that will become more and more noticeable as good roads and motor cars multiply, and reduction of train service means reduced employment of train men, a situation that will never be remedied by strikes and demands for a continuation of wartime wages.

**75 years  
The Lowell Ledger  
September 5, 1946**

"Before you call out the fire department be sure there is a fire and property is endangered," Fire Chief Dave Clark requested this week. "The Lowell department is a volunteer unit and is glad to turn out to save property and protect buildings but does not like to go out on false alarms." Recently there have been several calls, the fire chief declared, that have been needless and each time the equipment leaves the fire barn it costs the residents of the village upwards of \$100.

Effective September first the King Milling Co. and

all other flour mills of the United States returned to their regular milling extraction after six months of unnecessary, expensive and aggravating trial of trying to get more flour out of a bushel of wheat than there is in it. 72 percent of the wheat kernel is flour. Beginning March first the Government asked the mills to get 80 percent of flour from the wheat kernel, which means that the flour had to contain a certain amount of mill feed.

Several veterans in this area plan to return to high school to make up deficiencies for graduation. Such veterans will qualify for subsistence. Other veterans plan to participate in the training in agriculture and they will also participate in the subsistence allowed by the government.

**50 years  
The Lowell Ledger  
September 9, 1971**

Lowell City Police are continuing to receive calls reporting breaking and entering and larcenies in the area. Abram Huyser Sr. reported that his house was burglarized sometime between Sunday, August 29, and Wednesday, September 1, while he and his wife were on their honeymoon in Canada.

The members of Lowell's Western Michigan Balloon Association experienced minor set backs Saturday, September 4, after spending three days repairing tears and fabric burns in the basement of Douglas Mills. After completing repairs to the nylon envelope, damaged in a recent flight, the balloon was removed to the back lawn of the Mills residence.

No progress was reported this week as the donations for the new decorations along Main Street were analyzed by the supporting groups. Maybe because it was because of the long Labor Day week end that the interest dropped, or maybe the people lack the interest in their home town environmental appearance...whatever the reason, the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, chief supporters of the project, will put the drive back into full force this week to see if the needed funds to purchase the new decorations can be raised.

**25 years  
The Lowell Ledger  
September 4, 1996**

When Lowell hired Phil Christensen away from the Constantine School District some 19 years ago, its high school principal told then Lowell High School principal Gary Kemp that Christensen wasn't their best teacher anyway. Kemp replied, "He's not?" The Constantine administrator answered, "No, he's the second best... his wife Karen is the best." On Thursday, Christensen announced that he would be leaving Lowell to accept the principal position at McBain High School.

Gracie Neubecker traveled 47 miles a day, six days a week for nearly 30 years, covering Route #2 for the Alto post office. On Monday, that routine came to an end. The first lady letter carrier in the Alto/Lowell area has now begun a new life - retirement. Officially retirement won't begin until Dec. 20-that's when Neubecker will have used the last of her 73 days of annual leave she'd saved up over the years.

Sharon Gahan was provided with insurance, her own car, and a decent wage for a graduate just one year removed from Grand Valley State University. Gahan wanted more. She gave all of that up so she could become the sole proprietor of Candy Blossoms, at 5247 Northland Dr., Grand Rapids. The 1991 Lowell High School graduate now focuses her energy on a store that provides customers with a unique alternative to flowers that are really "sweet."

## outdoors

fall salmon

Dave Stegehuis

Fall is a season that seems to sneak up on us. One week the beaches and parks are alive with activity and the next week schools are in session as football practice shifts into high gear.

Fall provides something for everyone in Michigan. As the season progresses, folks can enjoy cool weather and brilliant countryside while visiting festivals and roadside produce stands. Hikers and bikers can get close to nature in a comfortable bug free landscape. Another fall activity for some of us includes a pilgrimage to a Great Lakes port to fish for salmon. Fishermen, who gave it up, may want to revisit salmon fishing and those who never have battled a chinook or coho should check it out.

Chinook and Coho salmon were introduced to Lake Michigan back in 1966. Large schools of alewives in the lake at that time provided ample forage for the hungry salmon. The salmon population exploded. Michigan fishermen flocked to the big

water and learned by trial and error how to catch the silver fish from the west coast.

The party lasted a long time, but in later years invasive aquatic species pulled the rug from under the food chain and salmon numbers dropped off. Management practices and a natural readjustment in the ecosystem have reestablished fishable numbers. The fish are growing bigger as time goes by, so today catching 30 pound plus fish is possible.

Salmon return to their home water in the fall. Rivers and connected bodies of water present anglers with the opportunity to fish from small craft and piers. Chinook salmon are light sensitive and bite best early and late in the day when in shallow water. Our plan is to fish for salmon early and spend the full daylight hours hiking and touring the area trails and backroads. Later in the day, it's time to retire to the campsite in a not so busy campground. It is a good time to make plans for fall activities.



## 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

### - de quervain's tenosynovitis

De Quervain's tenosynovitis is a condition that affects the tendon on the thumb side of the wrist. It causes chronic pain. The exact cause is not known, but typically is due to chronic overuse.

Tendons are structures that attach muscle to bone. Repeated motions or trauma can cause these to become inflamed and this causes pain.

Symptoms are pain at the base of the thumb and swelling near the base of the

thumb. Patients also have difficulty moving the wrist or thumb without pain.

Risk factors include age between 30 and 50, being female or pregnant, and repetitive gripping.

Treatment initially includes anti-inflammatory medications and splinting of the thumb and wrist. Physical therapy can also be helpful. Cortisone injections along the tendon can also be used to treat the inflammation.

# ABCs of Lowell history



The ABC's of Lowell History was introduced last year as a way to share some of the many fascinating stories from Lowell's past. It was initiated in part by the pandemic shutdown which led the Museum to seek alternative ways to share local history with the community. The series will continue with a third round of the alphabet.

### U is for Union Graded School

In 1862 Lowell built a school that became so well loved that the students and Alumni had a memorial service when it was to be torn down. It represented the remarkable growth of Lowell, and was on the cutting edge of educational methods of the day.

In 1838, Lowell boasted that it had the first school house between Grand Rapids and Ionia. Following the initial log schoolhouse, a couple other shanties were used until the Red Schoolhouse was built where today's Methodist Church stands. This school was 36 by 26 feet, and in 1856, 150 students were educated here. When special meetings and plans led to the vote to build a new school, it was long overdue. The leading ideas in education at the time were towards developing Union Graded Schools. As explained in 1855, a Union School was a larger school, consolidated for the purpose of establishing a system of schools better adapted to the educational wants of a larger community, rather than the individual district school.

A graded school was a way to organize the levels that the scholar had attained. For example, the lowest level of scholars was the second primary, the next level up was the first primary, then first and second intermediate departments with the grammar department just below high school. High school then was the highest department. A graded school had to have more than one grade department in the school. These schools had just recently been established along the east coast, and were the way of the future. Today we see these grades as simply numbered tiers, beginning with 1 through 12. This school building was to be a central school, and was called Central School, Union School, and

lovingly referred to as the "Old White Schoolhouse". It was decided that it would be built near the east bank of the Flat River. It was built on the block bounded by Monroe, East Water (today's Lafayette), High and King Streets. The ground was purchased from Abel Avery. A building committee, consisting of Dr. A. Peck, I.N. White and Hiram West, was appointed with power to act. The contract to build was given to M.N. Hine and B.G. Wilson. The lumber was purchased at Greenville and rafted down the Flat River. The Union Graded School building was completed in December, 1862, for a cost of \$1,889.42. The bell was not hung until the spring of 1863. It was

ABCs, continued, page 12

## business matters



Greenridge Realty announced that Kim Hickson Peterson received Realtor of the Month in August.

This award recognizes Peterson for her outstanding success and achievements.



**You can't make someone feel good about themselves until you feel good about yourself.**

~ Robin S. Sharma

# area churches



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
865 Lincoln Lake SE • [lowellucc.org](http://lowellucc.org)

Pastor Alyssa Anten  
Worship Service - Sundays 10 AM  
Open Table (No-cost meal) - Thursdays 5 - 6 PM

**Open & Affirming • LGBTQ+ Inclusive**  
616-897-5906

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
10305 Bluewater Highway  
(Missouri Synod)  
Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21  
**Sunday Services - 10:30 am**  
[www.goodshepherdlowell.org](http://www.goodshepherdlowell.org)

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

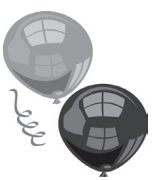
**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES  
2275 West Main Street - (Barrier Free)  
897-7168 • [www.fbclowell.org](http://www.fbclowell.org)  
Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor  
Pastor Andrew Bolcom • Pastor of Discipleship  
Christi Swain • Director of Children's Ministries  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP....9:30 AM** (Nursery provided)  
**LIFE GROUPS.....11:00 AM** (Nursery-Adult)  
**Awana** (K-5 during school year) **Wednesday, 6:15 PM**

**CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
897-7060  
Pastor Ryan Landt  
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI  
Website: [calvarylowell.org](http://calvarylowell.org)  
Morning Worship.....10:00 AM  
Weekly Prayer Meeting - Mondays ....7 PM  
Barrier-Free

**St. Mary Catholic Church**  
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  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN TO ADULTS

**LOWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
discover. grow. share  
621 E. Main Street  
897-5938  
[www.lowellumc.com](http://www.lowellumc.com) • Barrier Free Entrance  
WORSHIP  
Traditional Service: 9 am  
Contemporary Service: 10:30 am  
Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

## happy birthday



**SEPTEMBER 1**  
Jerry Bellah, Todd Mahalic, Chuck Myers, Ron Utley.

**SEPTEMBER 2**  
Eric Elzinga, Whitey Tubergen, Virginia Conner, John Stevens, Bryant Sloan-Johnson, Callie Dorsey.

**SEPTEMBER 3**  
Bailey Allen, Fay Johnson, Carlene Bottrall.

**SEPTEMBER 4**  
Ashlie Hathaway, Mark Smith, Ron Merriman, Theresa Engle, Ethan Riddle.

**SEPTEMBER 5**  
Barb Vezino, Kohlton Scott Clouser, Nicole Bellah.

**SEPTEMBER 6**  
Brian Haan, Mitch Mercer.

**SEPTEMBER 7**  
MacKenzie VanDerWarf, Gloria Morris, Karah Baker.



# MDOT closes on \$800 million road bond

The second installment of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's \$3.5 billion "Rebuilding Michigan" program was closed on by the Michigan Department of Transportation. All told, the Rebuilding Michigan bonding program is expected to pay for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of 122 major highways.

Gov. Whitmer made the announcement on Wednesday, Aug. 25, illustrating the second installment as an additional \$800 million bond issue intended to cover the expense of revamping some of Michigan's most highly traveled freeways, including a \$120 million project "in progress" on Interstate 94 in Jackson County.

"The Rebuilding Michigan plan will create thousands of good-paying jobs and drive our economy forward," Whitmer said in a statement. "I am proud that we are fixing the damn roads without an increase at the gas pump."

In 2020, the first \$800 million issue was sold to launch the Rebuilding Michigan program, backed by the State Trunk Line Fund, which is made out of constitutionally restricted revenues like vehicle registration fees and motor fuel taxes.

Ultimately, Michigan aims to sell \$3.5 billion of 25-year bonds by the end of 2023, allowing MDOT to expand its five-year road and bridge plan to approximately \$7.3 billion.

The bond-packed strategy has skeptics like Sen. Aric Nesbitt (R-Lawton), who wants to see some legislative oversight on the program.

In May, Nesbitt explained the governor had no real conversation with the legislature on the subject. According to the Senator, this was despite the state devoting the previous decade to eliminating as much debt as possible and having raised the gas tax to 26.3 cents per gallon in 2015.

"Shame on me for not seeing this sooner, that anybody would go out, especially after we passed a huge influx in 2015, and blow up MDOT's budget," Nesbitt said to the Senate Transportation Committee in May.

MDOT communications representative James Lake illustrated that interest rates have remained low and stable through the past year and bond ratings at hand have remained high.

"Investors are willing to pay a premium for these bonds," Lake said. "The interest costs for these bonds, 2.35 percent, is remarkable, as it is less than half of what MDOT paid in interest for

bonds issued 10 to 15 years ago. The debt the department is incurring now is far less than the cost of letting our infrastructure continue to deteriorate."

Lake said the first round of \$800 million in bonds sold in fall 2020 generated more than \$1 billion in proceeds. MDOT is anticipating to issue another \$1 billion in bonds next year.

S&P Global Ratings, the American credit rating agency, assigned the latest bonds a "AA+" long-term rating. According to The Bond Buyer, the rating from S&P is "limited to one notch above the state under the firm's priority-lien tax revenue debt criteria."

"S&P believed pledged revenues are exposed to the state's operating risk. The state has a history of making minor adjustments to statutory distribution of Michigan Transportation Fund revenue," the article reads. "The state's double-dose of good credit news in the form of an outlook change should trickle down to the deal given they underscore the state's recovering economy, market participants said."

The governor's press release shared MDOT utilized favorable market conditions to refund \$68.2 million of trunkline bonds, a reimbursement to yield \$19.3 million in net present value savings and will be streamlined back into the trunkline road and bridge program.

An independent analysis from Moody's Investor Services showcased that despite a drop in fuel taxes and registration fees by approximately 6 percent in connection to the COVID-19 pandemic, the bonds benefited from strong coverage by constitutionally dedicated funds.

"Pledged highway revenue provided 4.8 times coverage of the maximum debt service anticipated after the current issues," the Moody analysis stated.

Lake described the fruition of the program as benefiting drivers -- making road delays less prominent and decreasing the threat of vehicle-damages.

"Every year we don't invest an appropriate amount in our roads, their condition [will] continue to decline, and we'll need to spend more money to repair and maintain them," Lake said. "Drivers also benefit, in that rebuilding these roads now will mean less damage incurred to their vehicles, and fewer delays in future years due to maintenance and lesser repairs. Rebuilding Michigan is fixing roads correctly for long-term service."

# TOWNSHIP OF GRATTAN COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

### ROUND LAKE WEED CONTROL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Township Board of the Township of Grattan, Kent County, Michigan, The Township Board has tentatively determined that the cost of the Improvements shall be specially assessed against each of the following described lots and parcels of land which are benefitted by the Improvements, and which together comprise the following proposed special assessment district:

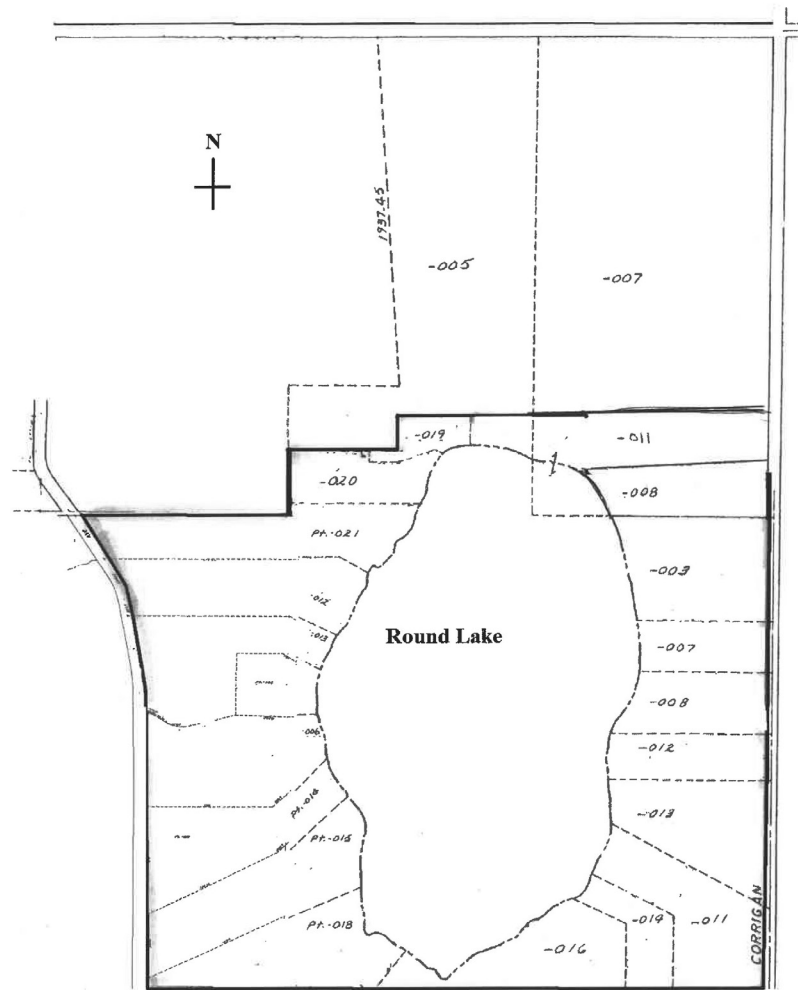
#### ROUND LAKE WEED CONTROL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

The lots included within the proposed special assessment district are depicted on the map appearing below the lots and parcel numbers.

Lots and Parcels Numbered:

41-12-21-400-003, 41-12-21-400-007, 41-12-21-400-008, 41-12-21-400-011, 41-12-21-400-012, 41 12 21-400-013, 41 12 21-400-014, 41-12-21-400-016, 41-12-21-326-002, 41-12-21-326-006, 41 12 21 326-012, 41 12 21-326-013, 41-12-21-326-014, 41-12-21-326-015, 41-12-21-326-018, 41 12 21-326-019, 41-12-21-326-020, 41 12 21-326-021, 41-12-21-200-005, 41-12-21-200-008, 41 12 21-200-011

#### MAP OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT



TAKE NOTICE that the Township Board of the Township of Grattan will hold a public hearing on Monday, September 13, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Road, Belding, Michigan, to hear and consider any objections to the proposed Improvements, the proposed special assessment district, and all other matters relating to said Improvements.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that preliminary plans and estimates of cost for the Improvements are on file with the Township Clerk for public examination.

PROPERTY SHALL NOT BE ADDED TO THE PROPOSED SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT AND THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATE OF COST SHALL NOT BE INCREASED BY MORE THAN 10% WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Periodic redeterminations of the cost of the Improvements may be necessary, without a change in the Special Assessment District, and in that event, such redeterminations may be made by the Township Board without further notice to record owners or parties in interest in the lands in the Special Assessment District, in accordance with the provisions of said Act 188.

This Notice was authorized by the Township Board of the Township of Grattan.

Dated: August 23, 2021

Michelle Alberts, Clerk  
Township of Grattan

# Pink Arrow Pride 2021 photos courtesy of Justin Scott



Sophomore Wyatt Duimstra plays the bass drum in the Lowell Pink Arrow marching band's performance of "Queen."



The Lowell Pink Arrows take the field for their game against Mona Shores.



Members of the volleyball team celebrate during their scrimmage against Caledonia.



Fans file in for Pink Arrow XIV.



Kelton DeVito played for Denise Washburn, a Murray Lake Elementary school teacher currently in remission.



Members of the Lax family supporting Kate Lax (Lum) during Pink Arrow. Brady Swift played in honor of Kate this year, who is fighting stage IV brain cancer.



Mona Shores head coach Matt Koziak calls a timeout during Pink Arrow. Both Shores staff and players wore pink during the event.



Lowell cheerleaders smile in between routines.



# Remains of Berwyn Kloosterman's defunct Standard Oil station revealed



by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Workers clearing a section of property adjacent to Betten Baker Buick GMC as part of their renovations uncovered some odd concrete structures that look like a weird old castle.

"Those cement slabs have been covered up for decades by the trees, and now they're exposed," said Betten Baker Buick GMC used car manager Tim McCormick. "A couple people told me they assumed they were fueling spots for the train when the train used to come through, but that's not accurate, that's on the other side of

Korean War. He moved to Lowell from Grand Rapids in 1939 and graduated from Lowell High School in 1948. He married Shirley Pollock in 1956 and they had five children: Gail, Lois, Carl, Mark and Jill.

Kloosterman worked as a Standard Oil agent in the Lowell area for approximately 10 years, and was vice president of the Fairchild Oil Company when he retired in 1992. He was also a member of the Lester J. Silts VFW Post in Sheridan, the Lowell Rotary, the Lowell Lions, the Lowell

thing back then."

Kloosterman died on Sept. 12, 1993 at age 63. He is buried at South Boston Cemetery in Saranac.

"Some of his family is still in town," McCormick said. "They were quite young when their dad had that business. His son Mark works down at King Milling and Gail also lives here in town. I'm not sure about the status of anybody else."

"That wasn't a gas station, it was a bulk plant," said Berwyn's son, Mark Kloosterman. "My dad drove a Standard Oil Company fuel truck back in

from there and put it into a smaller truck, which he could deliver to homes. His truck was about the size of a waste management truck, it had twin axles in the back, probably about 20,000 pounds gross weight. Most homes now are now heated, anything that's rural is probably going to be on propane. They still do fuel oil deliveries, because I have a tank where I live and about once a year they come out and fill it up for me. My dad had a pretty large customer base. Lowell used to be a pretty big farming community, and

spot to have thousands of gallons of fuel sitting, because you've got the railroad right there, and if something ever happened, it's all going to go into the creek. It just didn't make a whole lot of sense, and maybe that's one of the reasons why it eventually closed. There was one time when he put his fuel oil truck on its side. He didn't roll it, but it tipped over on him. He was going around the sharp curves out there by Timpson's orchard on Segwun. The roads were icy, and he lost control and flipped the truck on its side. It scared the living crap

employee of King Milling. "I've been here for 40 years, since August of 1981," Kloosterman said. "But I worked part time summers here while going to college and getting a degree. Then I was like, 'Okay, I'm all done working here.' Then friend of mine said, 'Hey, I heard they're moving some people around down there at King Milling if you're interested in going and getting a little better job with them.' I thought I might have a pretty good chance because I worked there four years, and now I had a college degree. It



the creek. People probably thought that because of the location, how close it was to the railroad tracks, but it was actually a fuel oil business owned by Berwyn Kloosterman about 40 or 50 years ago. It was a small operation. Just between the creek and the railroad track is where the driveway to it actually used to be. The driveway is still there, but it's all grass-covered and stuff."

Berwyn Kloosterman was a US Navy veteran who served during the

Moose Lodge, the Lowell American Legion, the Flat River Snowmobile Club and the West Michigan Oilmen's Club.

"Back then, fuel oil was used for heating homes and for tractors and farm implements," McCormick said "Kloosterman had different tanks on the slabs with fuel oil in different grades for whether you were heating your home or running your tractors or whatever, and then he probably had gasoline and kerosene, that was a big

the 60s and 70s. He would pull in there where there were some aboveground tanks that were on these concrete supports, and he would pump the fuel from the large tanks into his smaller fuel truck and then make deliveries to houses and farms and whatnot. So it was not a gas station, cars could not go in there and purchase fuel, it was a bulk plant. A bigger tank truck would come in and fill the tanks that sat on those concrete cradles, then my dad would take it

my dad would go to all the farms and homes to deliver the fuel or the gas. At some point, I want to say it was probably in the late 70s or early 80s, his company merged with the Fairchild Oil Company, which is now the Crystal Flash. Basically, at that point, he didn't have to drive truck anymore, and he just worked in their office up there. He eventually retired from Fairchild at the age of 62 and then, unfortunately, died at the age of 63."

Holding and moving large quantities of combustible substances is incredibly dangerous. Berwyn was conscious of the risks, especially after one near disaster.

"I was born in 1964, and I remember as a kid, probably five or six years old, going down to that bulk plant with my dad," Kloosterman said. "I'd wander over and play in the creek and get hollered at. That little creek flows right right through there and there are the railroad tracks... he just wanted to fill up his fuel oil truck! It wasn't really the ideal

out of my mom, I know that! When a fuel truck goes on its side you start wondering, you know. One wrong spark and things go boom! I don't think he got hurt at all, so he got lucky on that one."

Kloosterman is a veteran

ended up being 1989 when this opportunity opened up. I knocked on the door and said, 'Well, what have you got?' They gave me the title of 'Director of Safety and Sanitation,' and that's what I've been doing ever since."



Red Arrow

- SOCCER

## SPORTS

## Soccer team shows well in Pink Arrow game

by Justin Scott  
sports reporter

A good squad in Forest Hills Eastern came ready for the always eventful Pink Arrow soccer game on Thursday. This year's game would come in blistering heat, leading to several mandatory water breaks taking place throughout. The Pink Arrows would fall to the visiting Hawks 2-1.

Throughout the game, Nate Ryan on the offensive side, and David Foster on defense and in set pieces, were helping create opportunities for Lowell. Ryan notably put one of Lowell's best chances together in the first half, one that came from nothing with a bicycle kick. The bicycle

kick, also called an overhead kick is a challenging and acrobatic strike of the ball where a player kicks a ball in midair while throwing their body backwards. When successfully executed, it is one of the most uncommon and awing goals found in soccer. In this case, Ryan successfully executed the skill, but the ball slipped just wide of the net.

"Senior Captain Nate Ryan is our dynamic difference-maker in the offensive third. He has the pace to stretch the field, and Nate will create many opportunities for our sophomore attacking midfielders: Bryce

Thompson, Quim Cormella, and Jack Schaedig," head coach Dan Lipon said.

"Junior Captain David Foster, anchors our back line. David is an extremely intelligent defender. His technical skills will be crucial for our build up play this season," Coach Lipon added.

FHE, who sported custom black and pink jerseys for the game, complemented Lowell's annual all pink look. They would be the ones to score first. Lowell found the back of the net in the 52nd minute as Ben Mika knocked in a rebound from the edge of the penalty box to tie the game.

"Senior Captain Ben Mika is our leader in the midfield, and his role will be vital to our success this fall. Ben has the difficult task of controlling the midfield, to make everyone better around him."

Heroics on the goalkeeping side of things kept Lowell in this game. Shortly after the LHS equalizing goal, Forest Hills Eastern would receive a penalty for a Lowell trip in the box. The penalty shot taken to the right was saved by LHS goalkeeper Lincoln Homolka, who blocked the shot and smothered the rebound that had trickled behind him. Homolka additionally saved a penalty last week against Allendale, and saw varsity action as a freshman last year.

"He is brave off his line, commands the box, and the kid has a bright future in the game. One of the top sophomore keepers in the



Nate Ryan hits a bicycle kick against FHE.



David Foster takes a free kick for Lowell.

state."

FHE would eventually get their second goal and hold on for the 2-1 victory.

"Pink Arrow is always a significant match on our schedule; and the boys never disappoint. Though the Red Arrow fell short 1-2 against Forest Hills Eastern (district favorites), the boys are young, featuring only three seniors and returning four starters from last season," Lipon noted of the loss.

Lowell will host Ottawa Hills this Thursday. While the Grand Rapids Public School programs tend to struggle against their suburban counterparts, the Bengals soccer program always plays competitively. Ottawa Hills has scored in five of their last seven matches against the Red Arrows, though the Red Arrows hold a 17-0 record in the series. The game is likely

to be played at Bob Perry Field.

Following the game against the Bengals, Lowell will jump headfirst into the challenging OK White. East Grand Rapids is the only conference team that is state ranked, sitting at 14th in division two. An interesting note, as Forest Hills Northern, not only a perennially ranked team but usually a state championship contender, starts outside the top 15.

"The OK White features many of the top boys soccer programs in the state. We are excited to measure up against EGR, GRC, and FHN. On paper, those would be the most experienced and talented teams this season in the White," Coach Lipon noted.

The team is looking forward to a historic moment for the program this season,

as they'll play their first ever game at the new turf stadium just on the edge of Vergennes on the high school campus. Most area soccer programs are playing on artificial turf, and thanks to the millage, Lowell will be joining them this year. The program expects that first game to take place September 14 against Byron Center, though due to some finishing touches taking place at the stadium, that date is not set in stone.

"That will be a huge moment for the program and the soccer community in Lowell. The facility is amazing, and that surface will grow the game and change perception of Lowell Futbol."



## Boys take first and second in competitions last week

The boys cross-country team won the White Division in the Hesperia Invite at Baker Woods. Fremont took second place with 45 points followed by Grandville Calvin Christian with 51 points.

Cole Weston was the first Arrow to cross the finish line placing fourth with a time of 19.05. He was followed by Sawyer Fowler, fifth at 19.11, and Jackson Fowler, seventh with a time of 19.13. Scoring as well were Ben Bromley, 10th, 19.55 and Levi Mills, 11th, 19.59. Antonio Casarez and

Keegan Cater completed the varsity lineup with 13th and 14th places, with times of 20.10 and 20.33. With medals going 25 deep, Blake Bennett was 15th, 20.33, followed by Alex Weber, 18th, 20.49, Dannion Simmet, 23rd, 21.34, and Evan Klein, 25th, 21.56.

The Arrows continued their impressive effort in the early season with a second place finish, 101 points, in the Varsity Big Division Race at the Pete Moss Invite at Benzie Central High School on Saturday. Traverse City Central won

the race with 54 points and Grand Rapids Christian taking third with 106 points.

Sawyer Fowler was the top runner to come in for the Red Arrows with a 12th place finish at 16.20, followed by Cole Weston, 16th, 16.30, Ben Bromley, 21st, 16.53, Jackson Fowler, 27th, 17.06, and Levi Mills, 61st, 17.48. Finishing the varsity lineup for the team were Keegan Cater, 71st, 18.01, Antonia Casarez, 79th, 18.19, Blake Bennett, 81st, 18.21, and Alex Weber, 82nd, 18.22.

Lowell JV team put in

a solid effort as well with a fifth place in their race. Medaling in the event were Dannion Simmet, fourth, 18.32, Evan Klein, ninth, 18.44, and Rhys Sandman, 22nd, 19.09. The Red Arrows will begin OK White Conference play with the first jamboree on September 8 at the Gainey Athletic Complex.



The boys cross-country team after earning first place at the Hesperia Invite last Wednesday.

Red Arrow

FOOTBALL

# SPORTS

All Pink Arrow pictures provided by Justin Scott

## Mona Shores too strong for Pink Arrows

by Justin Scott  
sports reporter

The two-time defending state champion Mona Shores Sailors showed why they're the odds-on favorite to make it three in a row in division two this year despite heavy senior losses. The Sailors simply reloaded their roster and imposed their will on Lowell in the season-opening football game this past Thursday.

Lowell's Pink Arrow games originally were scheduled against easier opponents, something that the last few years has not been the case. In perhaps

their toughest Pink Arrow opponent yet, Lowell fell to Mona Shores who utilized a variety of playmakers, to win by a score of 56-14.

Mona Shores is no stranger to cause games, they started a Military tribute game in 2015 called the Sailor Salute. Nonetheless, Sailors head coach Matt Koziak, who sported a pink Sailors ball cap, was impressed with the showing by Lowell fans. "The environment is just so cool. It's packed – it was packed like an hour before we even took the field for



Lowell piles on to bring down one of the Sailors of Mona Shores.



Carter Blough runs down the field during the first quarter.

special teams. It's just a big deal. It's a really cool thing," Koziak told MLive's Scott DeCamp.

The game started off perfectly for LHS, as Carter Blough scampered for 75 yards down the sideline to set the Pink Arrows up with first and goal. Lowell was about to take a lead over the defending state champions it seemed. The next play was

a fumble that Mona Shores recovered. The following, a 94-yard touchdown pass was from Mark Konecny to Demetri Roberson. Later, down 21-0, Lowell appeared to be on the verge of scoring again before a 91 yard interception return for a touchdown turned the Mona Shores lead to 27-0.

To beat a team like Mona Shores, you need to be nearly perfect, and

for LHS the two redzone turnovers kept them from staying close with the Sailors. It was big plays that helped Mona Shores jump out to a 35-0 halftime lead, and their defense helped keep it holding Lowell to just 1 of 7 passing.

One Lowell player who performed exceptionally was Connor Lixie, who may have scared special teams coordinators across Lowell's schedule by returning two kickoff returns for touchdowns, one of which was 86 yards.

Carter Blough had 86 yards rushing, while Nate Cleaver added 67. Josh Rau had Lowell's lone catch, while Dawson Hugh averaged a solid 43 yards punting. On

defense, Gus McDonald and Xavier Young each had six total tackles to lead the way. Aiden Fitzpatrick accounted for Lowell's only takeaway on an interception.

While the Sailors hit on some big plays, Lowell stayed fairly equal with Mona Shores in terms of time of possession and rushing yards. Lowell also limited themselves to just four penalties over the course of the game.



## Ladies take top honors at Hesperia Invite and top 10 in Benzie

The Lowell girls cross-country team worked on pack running as they tackled the always tough Baker's Woods cross-country course last Wednesday. The approach worked as Lowell put seven runners in the top 15 to earn top honors in the White Division.

Lowell also earned gold and silver medalist positions as Annika and Katrina Sandman took first (21:52) and second (22:42) respectively. Close behind and closing out Lowell's top five was Keira Sandman fifth (24:23), Claire O'Boyle sixth (24:57), and Megan Lillie eighth (25:41). Jamara Harper and Kaylee Byrne closed out the varsity team with 11th and 13th place finishes.

Final scores were: Lowell 22; Calvin Christian

58; Fremont 84; GR Union 91; FHN 159 and Grant 117.

In competition last Saturday, the ladies knocked out an early season goal as they finished in the top 10 teams out of 25 at the Benzie Pete Moss Invitational. The goal was a big one as the Arrows lined up against three state champions and numerous other state-ranked teams. Leading the Arrows was Annika Sandman with a 22nd place finish (19:24), Katrina Sandman in 36th place (20:09), Keira Sandman in 51st place (20:57), Allye Risner in 83rd place (22:05), and O'Boyle in 100th (22:41). Lillie and Harper served as displacers as they finished in 114th (23:08) and 120th (23:21) respectively.

The team ran some great times considering the

heat and humidity as well as racing on Wednesday. Lowell had ten girls set personal records for the day which was super exciting.

The team is off until September 8, when they will begin the OK White season at Gaineys Athletic Field.



The lady Red Arrows after their win in Hesperia last Wednesday.

2021 HOMECOMING PARADE

Calling all Lowell clubs, organizations, community groups or school sports teams that would like to participate in the Homecoming Parade.

Friday, September 24!

If interested, please reserve your spot by contacting Nick at the Lowell High School.

Phone: 616-987-2994

Email: [nblough@lowellschools.com](mailto:nblough@lowellschools.com)

## ABCs, continued

purchased in New York City and cost \$68.88. It was first rung for the funeral knell of a former teacher, Miss Elizabeth Campbell. The second tolling was for the death of Abraham Lincoln. It rang out at the fall of Richmond and again when the soldiers came home from the Civil War.

Newspaper reports over the years show between 380 and 500 students attending the school. After the Civil War, in the 1870s, three Ward schools were also built. The East Ward, West Ward and South Ward schools were used for the younger students. The Union Central School became the high school.

In a fun, jesting newspaper article in 1906, the Union Central High School was called "The Lowell Brains Factory." Below a picture of the school it said, "this represents the main building occupied by the Lowell Brains Factory, employing the most people and turning out a product of

young men and women of intelligence and culture. The greatest industry possible in any community. The factory has three branch buildings, all feeders to the main one, these are more modern buildings, but none have so important or interesting a history. From the factory represented above, the Lowell High School, students have gone forth in all the walks of life, reflecting credit and honor upon their alma mater and old home town."

Though it took three separate votes, Lowell voters approved of the building of a new school on the site of the old one that was to open in 1916. In May of 1915 a memorial service was held for the Old White Schoolhouse. It was estimated that around one hundred alumni and former pupils of the Lowell High School gathered at the Central building for a farewell visit. A short program was given, including musical numbers

from the high school chorus, and address by Mrs. M.M. Perry, and short talks by F.T. King, Mrs. M. C. Green and Mrs. H. J. Coons. The atmosphere was said to be "tinged with a feeling of sadness, many of those present having tears in their eyes as they took their departure." They concluded with a bonfire where they gave class yells, sang class songs and rang the old bell.

The dedication page of the 1915 yearbook says, "DEDICATION. To the old school-house which has stood for earnest, true-hearted effort, seeking for the advancement and welfare of every incoming student for the last half-century, and living as an emblem of immortal education, we, the Seniors of nineteen hundred fifteen, very sincerely and wholeheartedly dedicate this book."

## Governor Whitmer signs legislation allowing clean slate for non-repeat OWI offenders

Governor Whitmer has signed House Bills 4219 and 4220, which will allow for expungement of convictions for a first violation of operating while intoxicated (OWI) under certain circumstances. The bills are expected to allow an estimated 200,000 non-repeat OWI offenders to have the opportunity for a second chance at a clean record. The governor also signed legislation that continues Michigan's legal blood alcohol content (BAC) level for driving at .08, eliminating a planned sunset that would have increased the limit to .10.

"No one should be defined by a mistake they have made in the past," said Governor Whitmer. "These bills allow Michiganders to move on from a past mistake in order to have a clean slate. We must clear a

path for first-time offenders so that all residents are able to compete for jobs with a clean record and contribute to their communities in a positive way."

The bills give those with OWI convictions the option to seek expungement of their first offense five years after probation ends.

record expungement.

Together, the bills allow for the criminal record expungement of first-time offenses for:

Any person operating a vehicle with a BAC of .08 or more

Any person operating a vehicle while visibly impaired by alcohol or



Applicants must submit a petition to the court, which would be reviewed and determined by a judge. Incidents that caused death or serious injury to a victim are not eligible.

"Safe & Just Michigan thanks Gov. Whitmer for signing these popular, bipartisan bills, which represent a long-awaited chance for a fresh start for tens of thousands of Michiganders whose opportunities have been limited by a single old DUI conviction," Safe & Just Michigan Executive Director John S. Cooper said. "Drunk driving is a serious problem in Michigan, but permanently limiting a person's ability to work and drive based on a one-time, decades-old mistake does not make sense. People who can show that their DUI conviction was a one-time mistake should have an opportunity to make a fresh start."

"We are honored to work alongside many coalition partners to shed light on the needlessly harsh and racially-biased criminal legal system that especially impacts youth, Black people and communities of color," says Shelli Weisberg, ACLU of Michigan Political Director. "The expungement law is another step forward in transforming our criminal legal system so that people have the opportunity to be restored and can contribute to their communities. We urge lawmakers to continue on this path of reform until the work is done."

House Bill 4219 and House Bill 4220 will allow first-time OWI offense violators to be eligible for

other controlled substance

A person under 21 years old operating a vehicle with a BAC of .02 or more

Any person from operating a vehicle with any bodily amount of cocaine or a Schedule 1 controlled substance

House Bill 4219 was sponsored by Rep. Tenisha Yancey, D-Grosse Pointe, and House Bill 4220 was sponsored by Rep. Joe Bellino, R-Monroe, and copies of the bills can be found here and here.

House Bill 4308 and House Bill 4309 will together amend the Michigan Vehicle Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure to maintain the state's per se OWI presumption at a BAC level of .08. Without this legislation, Michigan BAC legal limit was set to rise to .10 on October 1, 2021, endangering Michigan drivers and costing the state millions in federal dollars.

"Michigan is the only state in the country not to have a firm .08 Blood Alcohol Concentration limit for operating a motor vehicle," said Rep. Graham Filler. "Eliminating the sunset is not only the right thing to do, but it ensures the safety of those traveling on our roads."

House Bill 4308 was sponsored by Rep. Abdullah Hammoud, D-Dearborn, and House Bill 4309 was sponsored by Rep. Graham Filler, R-DeWitt, and copies of the bills can be found here and here.



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HEELER MIX PUPPIES FOR SALE - Loves attentions, 1st shots & wormed, \$300. Call 269-223-9194.

EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE AND VALUE - Requires less wood & provides more heat. Central Boiler certified Classic Edge OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE. Call today! 616-554-8669. SOS Property Maintenance LLC, 6950 Hammond Ave, Caledonia.

sales

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YARDSALE - Thurs., Sept. 2, priced to sell. Just S. of Murray Lake School at 1017 Alden Nash.

free

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HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3116 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.VFW8303.org. All Vets Coffee Hour the 3rd Thursday of each month at Keiser's. Bring a friend. Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.

misc.

VETERAN POTLUCK - Begins Sept. 12 & every 2nd Sunday (except December) at 2 pm at Veterans Center, 3116 Alden Nash. All veterans welcome. Bring dish to pass.

BLUEGRASS MUSIC FESTIVAL - Sept. 10-11, 2021. Lowell Fairgrounds. The Fallfest festival is back. A weekend of stage shows & campground jamming. Camping is available. For details visit wmbma.org or call Ed at 269-806-8561.

NEED AN AL-ANON MEETING? - Al-Anon is a fellowship of families and friends of alcoholics. Join us Sunday-Saturday at 10:30 AM and 7 PM on Zoom. Come learn the Steps, Traditions & Concepts of living and coping, in Serenity, with alcoholism. There are no dues or fees for Al-Anon. For Zoom meeting ID & Password, please call Joy at 616-901-7779.

TOPS (TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY) WEEKLY MEETINGS - Tuesdays, 6:30 pm at Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd., Lowell. Cost \$32 per year and \$5 per month... start losing weight TODAY!

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services

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PROFESSIONAL TREE CLIMBER - Needs work. Call Dan, 616-970-3832.

WHEN IN AN ACCIDENT - YOU CAN CHOOSE WHO TOWS YOUR VEHICLE - Request J&K Roadside Service, 616-690-0983.

TWO BROTHERS AUTO SERVICE - 5400 Ivan Rd., Saranac, 616-642-9180. 30 years experience, state certified, licensed & insured. Hours Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm. Dave Traver head mechanic.

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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Grid of puzzle solutions with words like CRAFTSMAN, VETERAN, BLUEGRASS, etc.

Grid of numbers for a crossword puzzle.

Large word search puzzle with words like TRAIL, MOUNTAIN, etc. circled.

# Live the Life You Want

## Why do some partners cheat?

Melissa Spino MA LPC CDMS  
Life Transitions Therapy LLC

This is a difficult subject for many but I think an important one to discuss as knowledge can help maintain a healthy relationship. This is also an article that was suggested to me several times. Just so we are all on the same page, let's define "cheating." According to Wikipedia infidelity is "a violation of a couple's emotional and/or sexual exclusivity that commonly results in feelings of anger, sexual jealousy, and rivalry. What constitutes infidelity depends on expectations within the relationship. In marital relationships, exclusivity is commonly assumed." Wikipedia seems to have left out a few other resulting feelings such as hurt, pain, and sadness just to name a few.

What one couple considers cheating may not be the same as another couple's definition of cheating. So, it will vary from couple to couple. For this article the focus will be on some research study statistics on cheating and some of the main reasons people give for cheating on their partner.

This is going to be a three-part series. The second article will focus

on signs that your partner may be cheating while the third article will focus on surviving an affair.

### The Statistics

In this section I share results from several studies related to cheating. The numbers are staggering and seem to support the change in how people view relationships.

The experts claim one of the most common causes of cheating is emotional disconnection from your partner. There are many reasons people claim for cheating but this seems to be the core reason for many. In terms of emotional affairs, research from the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, state that 35% of women and 45% of men have had emotional affairs.

It used to be said that more American men than women cheated but that is apparently now changing. According to data from the recent General Social Survey (GSS), they state that 20% of men and 13% of women reported that they've had sex with someone other than their spouse while married. But that's not the full story. Among adults ages 18 to 29, women are

slightly more likely than men to be guilty of infidelity (11% vs. 10%). But this gap quickly reverses among those ages 30 to 34 and grows wider in older age groups. If you are interested you can see the study details at: <https://ifstudies.org/blog/who-cheats-more-the-demographics-of-cheating-in-america>

There have been numerous studies on cheating and some professionals suggest that 70% of Americans in committed marriages have some type of affair. A Fincham & May, 2017 study suggests that the lifetime prevalence of cheating is about 20-25% of marriages and that men and women cheat at similar rates.

About 32% of participants from a 2019 Selterman study reported that they were driven to have an affair because of sexual desire. Men reported this reason more so than women.

### Why Do They Cheat?

There are many reasons people give for cheating. This is not intended to validate the reasons given but is just to relay them for informational purposes. Below are the main reasons

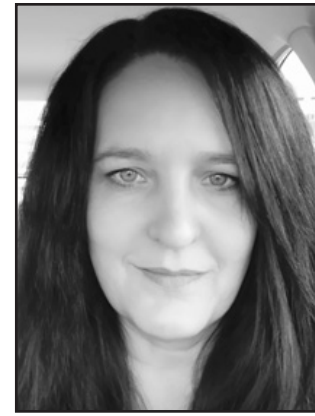
people have cited for cheating.

Their emotional or physical needs are being met. They feel neglected and crave attention.

The definition of cheating between partners is not the same, discussed, or agreed upon. This is a discussion that should happen so you are in agreement and on the same page. Do you consider flirting, sexual fantasies and viewing porn as cheating? Do you consider sexting (sexual talk via an app, text, or email) and phone sex cheating? What about emotional cheating?

Not truly being committed. Many claim to not really feel love or commitment to their romantic partner. Not having these connections typically result in feelings of relationship dissatisfaction and can result in cheating.

Feeling a strong sexual desire and attraction for another. The cheating partner often claims they have this attraction because they are not getting enough sex (frequency), the type of sex they prefer, not enough intimacy, and/or their emotional needs are not being met.



Melissa Spino  
MA LPC CDMS

An affair is exciting. The newness is exciting as are the feelings of being wanted and the center of the other persons attention. These are things that may not be present in or felt as much in an established relationship. An affair may provide a boost to their ego or self-esteem or they may also feel the relationship is stale so they seek out variety.

Situational reasons. Some state they didn't plan to cheat but when they had the opportunity, they took it. Maybe they were drinking at a bar and hooked up with someone and had sex.

Some claim to just have fallen out of love. When this reason is cited, they also often state they are in love

with another.

Some relationships can survive cheating but it is not an easy road. The best option is to keep open communication and be honest with your partner when you feel the relationship is not meeting your needs in some way. It's also important to make sure you are meeting your partner's needs. Learn to communicate with your partner to understand their needs and wants. It doesn't mean you can always meet them but open communication, understanding, and negotiation/compromise are important in a healthy relationship.

Look for the second and third articles in this series. The second article will focus on types of cheating and the signs. The third article will focus on surviving an affair.

I hope you found this article helpful but as always, I have to add that pesky disclaimer that this article is not intended as advice, or to diagnose or treat. It is for information purposes only.

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## Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold

Edward Jones

Serving Individuals Investors Since 1871

### Start thinking about your retirement income plan

If you're getting close to retirement, you're probably thinking about the ways your life will soon be changing. And one key transition involves your income – instead of being able to count on a regular paycheck, as you've done for decades, you'll now need to put together an income stream on your own. How can you get started?

It's helpful that you begin thinking about retirement income well before you actually retire. Many people don't – in fact, 61% of retirees wish they had done better at planning for the financial aspects of their retirement, according to an Edward Jones/Age Wave study titled Retirement in the Time of Coronavirus: What a Difference a Year Makes.

Fortunately, there's much you can do to create and manage your retirement income. Here are a few suggestions:

Consider ways to boost income. As you approach retirement, you'll want to explore ways of potentially boosting your income. Can you afford to delay taking Social Security so your monthly checks will be bigger? Can you increase your contributions to your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan, including taking advantage of catch-up contributions if you're age 50 or older? Should you consider adding products that can provide you with an income stream that can potentially last your lifetime?

Calculate your expenses. How much money will you need

each year during your retirement? The answer depends somewhat on your goals. For example, if you plan to travel extensively, you may need more income than someone who stays close to home. And no matter how you plan to spend your days in retirement, you'll need to budget for health care expenses. Many people underestimate what they'll need, but these costs can easily add up to several thousand dollars a year, even with Medicare.

Review your investment mix. It's always a good idea to review your investment mix at least once a year to ensure it's still appropriate for your needs. But it's especially important to analyze your investments in the years immediately preceding your retirement. At this point, you may need to adjust the mix to lower the risk level. However, you probably won't want to sell all your growth-oriented investments and replace them with more conservative ones – even during retirement, you'll likely need some growth

potential in your portfolio to help you stay ahead of inflation.

Create a sustainable withdrawal rate. Once you're retired, you will likely need to start taking money from your IRA and 401(k) or similar plan. But it's important not to take too much out in your early years as a retiree, since you don't want to risk outliving your income. A financial professional can help you create a sustainable withdrawal rate based on your age, level of assets, family situation and other factors.

By planning ahead, and making the right moves, you can boost your confidence in your ability to maintain enough income to last throughout your retirement. And with a sense of financial security, you'll be freer to enjoy an active lifestyle during your years as a retiree.

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

# FUN PAGE

## SUDOKO

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

Level: Intermediate

### 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!

# HEART HEALTH WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

### HEART HEALTH WORD SEARCH

A-FIB  
 ANGINA  
 ANGIOGRAM  
 ANGIOPLASTY

ANTICOAGULANTS  
 AORTA  
 ARTERIES  
 ATRIUM  
 ATTACK  
 CAPILLARIES  
 CARDIOLOGIST

CATHETER  
 CHAMBER  
 CHEST  
 CONGENITAL  
 CORONARY  
 ECHOCARDIOGRAM  
 HEART

HYPERTENSION  
 ISCHEMIC  
 PACEMAKER  
 VALVES  
 VEINS  
 VENTRICLE

## Guess Who?

I am an actress and singer born in California on September 1, 1996. I began my career as a fashion model for department stores and in 2009 I appeared on a Kidz Bop album. I was in a few Disney television shows. On the big screen, I have appeared in two "Spider-Man" films.

Answer: Zendaya

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to the heart.

**L E U P S**

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Pulse

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		

### CLUES ACROSS

- Secret clique
- Earliest in and out
- Ancient Egyptian symbol of life
- Olfactory property
- Kidnapping
- Golf prize
- Helps little firms
- Cast a spell on
- Panama is one
- Dishonorable man
- Sea eagle
- Part of the healing process
- Vin's last name
- Wings
- Made older
- Political device
- Looks like a rabbit
- Gurus
- Philippine Island
- Not or
- Hindu model of ideal man
- Exam
- Making less difficult
- Without
- Dravidian ethnic group
- A baglike structure
- Buenos Aires capital La \_\_\_
- Dab
- Singers who perform

### CLUES DOWN

- Harsh cries of a crow
- Type of horse
- \_\_\_ fide: authentic
- Doctors' group
- Fugitives are on it
- Forged
- Wild goat
- Influential American president
- Calls for help
- Repents
- Palm tree with creeping roots
- Black powder used in makeup
- Happy New Year
- Stretched out one's neck
- Whale ship captain
- Atomic #20
- Border
- River that borders India and Nepal

- After B
- Fencing swords
- Where researchers work
- Expression of satisfaction
- Broadway actor Nathan
- Heavy, heat-retaining stove
- A way to eliminate
- Type of tree resin
- Russian river
- Children's TV network
- Troublemaker
- Averts or delays
- Self-immolation by fire ritual
- It cools your home
- Satisfy to the fullest
- Stinks!
- Popular board game
- Attack by hurling
- A vale
- Type of acid
- Tasmania's highest mountain
- No seats available
- Licensed for Wall Street
- Family of genes
- Constrictor snake

# Middle school teacher spends summer raising butterflies

Many of us may know Sharon MacDermaid as a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) teacher at Lowell Middle School, but this summer she found herself involved in a different project. Over the past few months, MacDermaid has successfully raised and released over 100 monarch butterflies.

“My neighbor, Erin Brandt, has been raising Monarchs with her three daughters for a while now,” said MacDermaid. “She would share little stories with me, and this spring she gave me one tiny little monarch caterpillar, since I wasn’t having any luck finding any. Then she taught me how to find them myself and also how to find them as eggs. She let me borrow floral tubes to put some milkweed in to get started and from there, this became my summer job/obsession.”

Monarch populations have been in decline for several years due to loss of habitat and increased use of pesticides. The butterflies will only lay their eggs on milkweed and it is the only plant the caterpillars can eat. This spring, a bill was

introduced by Michigan state lawmakers that would remove milkweed from the list of noxious weeds and limit the types of pesticides that could be applied to the plants in order to promote the survival of the butterflies.

Between predators and environmental circumstances, only about five percent of the monarch eggs will make it to adulthood. MacDermaid oversees the caterpillars throughout their life cycle.

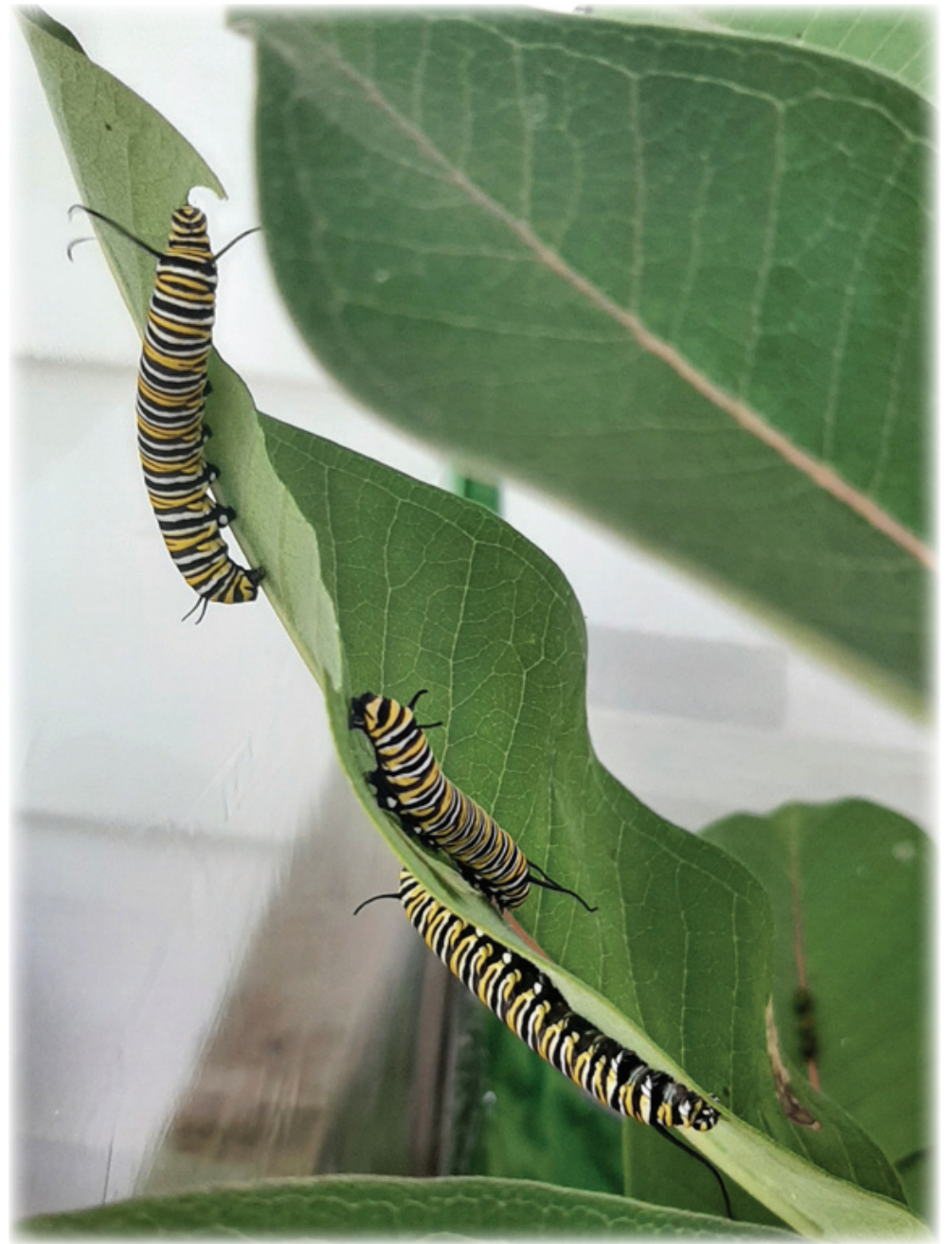
“Once an egg is laid, it takes about four days to hatch, it is a caterpillar (or larvae) for about two weeks, then they pupate and move to their chrysalis form and stay there for about 10 days before emerging as an adult monarch butterfly. Once they emerge (eclose) they hang from their chrysalis shell, expanding and drying their wings for a few hours. Once their wings are dry, we (the Monarch moms and dads) release them and off they go! The whole process takes about a month. As a mom, I clean their enclosures, making sure they don’t hang out in their frass (caterpillar poop) and change out their milkweed to make sure it is fresh and replenished so

they have enough to eat. They only eat a little when they are newly hatched but once they are a week old they start eating a LOT! Greedy monarch caterpillars have been known to devour a whole milkweed leaf in under five minutes. They eat 200 times their weight in milkweed!”

“The first time I had a caterpillar getting ready to go into a chrysalis, I stalked it from around six [pm] to almost two [am] because I wanted to catch it on video. I missed it that night but caught one on camera the next day. It was fascinating to watch. I felt like a little kid, I was so excited! It takes them about four to five minutes to shed their skin the last time to move into the chrysalis form. They also shed their skin four times before they reach that stage because they grow so fast.”

In addition to being a teacher and foster parent to numerous butterflies, MacDermaid is also an artist. She is a frequent vendor at the Lowell Farmers Market, occupies a booth at the Estate Sale Warehouse on 28th St. in Grand Rapids and sells her creations on Etsy. It seems only natural that she decided to put her skills to work incorporating her art into the monarch project.

“I decided at the start of this adventure to name each Monarch that I release and to paint their names on stones that I will put in a new expanded butterfly garden next year,” MacDermaid said. “As of August 22, I have released 110 monarchs. They have been named in memory of loved ones and also just given names that seemed right for each of them. You can tell the males from the females by two black dots on the inside of their wings. I would like to see a butterfly garden at



Sharon MacDermaid

the middle school once the construction is finished and have been told that some natural wildflower gardens are already in the works.

“I will be collecting milkweed seeds in the fall to share with anyone who would like some to plant. They need to be planted in the fall because the seeds require cold stratification from the winter months so they are more likely to germinate in the spring. Milkweed can be very invasive but it’s worth it since it’s the only food source for the monarch caterpillars.”

During their first week of

school, some LMS students have been able to interact with the caterpillars, and MacDermaid plans to create a unit focused on using the Design Think process to encourage students to come up with creative solutions to help increase the monarch butterfly population.

MacDermaid, whose yard was recently certified as an official Monarch Waystation by Monarch Watch, a nonprofit education, conservation and research program based at the University of Kansas that focuses on monarch conservation, encourages

everyone to take part in making our community a better home for the pollinators.

“The best thing we can all do to help the monarchs is to plant milkweed. If you plant it, they will come! Another thing you can do is stop using chemical herbicides and pesticides in areas that are home to any of our pollinators, bees, butterflies and other insects. As bad as the mosquitoes were this year, I still survived without spraying any part of my property because I wanted to protect the pollinators. Raising monarchs is fun, educational and rewarding. It might be just a little thing to some people but to the monarchs that we release, it means the world. There are lots of people in our community already raising Monarchs including: Erin Brandt and family, Nancy Raymor, Alice Bush, Julie Breen and I’m sure many more. Anyone can do this and it’s really worth it. I would love to help teach anyone who is willing to learn.”

For anyone seeking more information about raising monarchs, MacDermaid recommends visiting the following websites: Monarch Watch at <https://www.monarchwatch.org/>, MrLundScience on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/user/MrLundScience> and Craig the Butterfly Man at <https://craigthebutterflyman.com/>.

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