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Pink Arrow XVI pictures



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Funny Book Forum



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Lowell Area Schools Sports



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\$1.00



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Perfect weather for Pink Arrow Pride XVI

It is an amazing sight to see a whole community come together to fight a cause that has touched everyone. Last week Friday's Pink Arrow Pride XVI was one such example of people coming together for a cause.

Your Pink Arrow T-shirt was your ticket into all the games. It was posted on the Pink Arrow Pride's facebook page on Thursday that they were sold out of short sleeve, adult sizes small, medium and large.

The events started Thursday night with the Lowell boys soccer team taking on FHC. The stands were packed with fans wearing their Pink Arrow XVI shirts cheering on the Pink Arrow team.

Friday, with the perfect weather for an outdoor event, started off with the girls volleyball scrimmage against Jenison. There was a game of flag football before the Survivor and Honoree tribute began. Out on the field, players walked out with someone that they were honoring that is on their cancer journey or is a cancer survivor.



Lowell students get into the game early on. The student section has been lauded for their attendance early on in the season.

That is what this day is all about - honoring the courage that it takes to fight cancer. Funds raised at Pink Arrow festivities help local people on their cancer journey. The money raised

and donated stays right here in the Lowell community.

After the Survivor and Honoree tribute, the Pink Arrows hit the field to play some football. The Lowell students section is always

entertaining to watch as they cheer their team on. The boys in Pink did not disappoint, they beat Greenville 35-14.

More Pink Arrow photos can be found on pages 8 and 9.

LAS Library Media Director honored by Kent District Library

By Cliff Yankovich
contributing writer

Christine Beachler has been a staff member of Lowell Area Schools for 35 years. She graduated from Central Michigan University with a teaching degree in Business. For her first 13 years, Beachler

taught accounting and computer classes. She became a school librarian in 2001. Since then, she earned a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree and then earned a Master of Library Information Systems

certification, both from Grand Valley. To be a school librarian, a person must have a teaching certificate, plus a master's degree or its equivalent in library science, as well as the specific certification required by the State of Michigan. Beachler

works in, and oversees, the libraries, in all six schools.

Anyone who spends any amount of time with Christine will come away with an impression of a person who loves what they do. She takes her job very seriously and is extremely informed and articulate. Most of the time, when we interview people, we cherry-pick the highlights from their answers, but in the case of Christine Beachler, her answers were so well thought-out and full of information that many of them are quoted in their entirety below. The subject of books in LAS schools has gotten a lot of attention from a small group in the last two or three years, and we welcomed the occasion of this award to discuss it in depth.

Beachler's work was celebrated by the Kent District Library Board of Directors. She was nominated, and ultimately

chosen, to be honored as a KDL Literacy Champion at their 9th annual Literary Libations Gala, September 19th. The nomination highlighted Beachler's advocacy for parent's and student's right and freedom to read what they choose. She was also recognized for creating a safe and welcome place in schools, where students feel safe and see themselves reflected in the library collection.

Lance Werner is the Executive Director of KDL. He stated, "Christine has proven, under the worst of circumstances, time and time again, that people's civil rights are worthy of being defended. Rather than being vilified, she should be celebrated as a defender of the Constitution and freedom. That's why she was selected for this award."

Beachler, continued page 2



Christine Beachler and her award from Kent District Library.

Beachler, continued

“Being nominated by a member from the Lowell Community, and ultimately being chosen for the KDL Literacy Champion award for 2023, is a huge honor for me,” Beachler remarked. “It is quite a distinction to be acknowledged as a leader throughout Kent County, promoting literacy. I am very grateful to KDL Leadership for recognizing the contributions of professionals in school libraries, working alongside them tirelessly to provide students with comprehensive, diverse, age appropriate and current library collections.”

Beachler believes school and public library collections instill a love of reading and lifelong learning for our students and provide the backbone of literacy. She feels that all students deserve the right to read books that they see themselves reflected in and stories that are most meaningful to them. Christine maintains that books are ways students understand complex topics, and limiting students’ access to books does not protect them from experiencing life’s issues.

We asked her a two-part question about all of the fuss being made in the recent past about kids having access to certain books. We inquired about the rules regarding what students are allowed to check-out and the rules in place for concerned parents who might want to limit access to certain books.

Beachler explained, “At Lowell Area Schools (and every school that I’m aware of in our area) all parents have 100 percent control over what their children may or may not read. If a parent has any concerns regarding books in their child’s library collection, they simply need to contact me to have titles restricted from their child’s access. We notify parents of this policy several times

each year, so they all know they have this option. All of our library catalogs are available online for parents to search, so every parent and community member has full access to the titles in each library, at any time. With this knowledge, we currently have three families, across all six schools in the district, that have restrictions placed on their children’s library accounts. That is three out of nearly 3,750 students. Clearly, the vast majority of our parents trust our library staff to choose excellent books to include in our libraries, and most parents work with us to provide the best literacy options for their children.”

From all of the hubbub about access to books at School Board meetings, one might expect that dozens of district parents had taken steps to restrict the access their children have to material they find objectionable from the library. Two seconds on a calculator shows that, as of today, exactly .008 percent of families have taken such measures.

When we asked Beachler to explain, she responded, “There is a small group of individuals from the community that have claimed that Lowell Area Schools has pornography in their libraries, by posting on social media, and reading at Board of Education meetings a few salacious excerpts from books. This claim is simply untrue. Members of the group even filed a police report to the Lowell Police Department with this claim, as well as to the Kent County prosecuting attorney. In both cases, the claims were dropped because the fact remains that, by Michigan Law, there is no pornography in our school libraries.”

This prompted a follow-up: What would you like to say to concerned

parents about the materials their kids can check-out at the High School and from any school in the District?

Beachler answered, “If a parent is concerned about what their children are reading, the best scenario is to read with your children and/or become aware of what they are reading. Talk to your children about the books they enjoy. Understand the value of literature to open children’s minds to be discerning readers and critical thinkers. We all raise our children to have integrity that guides their choices in everything that they do. As children grow, parents need to allow them opportunities to explore, expand their knowledge and experiences and learn.”

She also expressed that if questions or concerns arise, she would welcome the opportunity to address them by having parents reach out to her for factual information. The rules of engagement on the topic of books seems to involve a lot of misinformation and disinformation. Just recently, one of the people constantly harping about books and students ,posted five pages of pictures from five books on social media and inferred that all the books were available in Lowell schools, when in fact, only two of them in their collection, and one of the books, was restricted and could only be checked-out by a senior. Christine engaged with some concerned parents and explained the truth of the matter. Her attention and the answers she gave provided comfort to them and allayed their concerns.

Beachler explained, “After my conversation, clarification and factual information, [by] which I provided solid proof of to back up my comments, the people were no longer upset and thanked me for the

clarity. This has happened many times over the past three years. I realize that seeing this misinformation posted on social media can be concerning, but it is best to contact me directly for current and factual information.”

We went on to discuss the subject of book banning. Christine explained that books being challenged in Michigan, and around the country, depends a lot on timing and the current hot topics. She named a short list of books that show up regularly, like *1984* by George Orwell, *The Catcher In The Rye* by J.D. Salinger and a few others by authors, like Mark Twain, Harper Lee, F. Scott Fitzgerald, John Steinbeck, and Alice Walker, that most of us probably read in the course of our education. She also explained that the efforts to block access to books in the last three or four years have centered around books that examine racial issues and those dealing with the LGBTQIA+ topics including *Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe, *All Boys Aren’t Blue* by George M Johnson, and *Flamer* by Mike Curato.

The American Library Association (ALA) has been tracking the effort to ban certain books for more than twenty years. According to the ALA, there were 1,269 books banned in 2022, which is the highest number of them since they have been monitoring the situation. Interested people can follow the subject at the ALA website: www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks/by-the-numbers)

Before leaving this topic, Beachler had more to “say,” Lowell Area Schools is a nonpartisan organization and the only activities we will participate in is educating all of our students to the best of our ability and within the guidelines, policies and laws of the LAS

Board of Education and the State of Michigan. It is not our place to get involved in political agendas of the community or to impose our personal opinions on our students. We educate students from families of all backgrounds, religions, races, or genders,, equally, by law. Therefore, parents with varying beliefs, morals, values and experiences will have differing opinions on what is or is not appropriate library content for our students. LAS simply can not determine what is/is not appropriate for each family, and that makes it critical for us to have a policy in place that allows for compromise and individual parent control. That is exactly what we have at LAS; every parent has complete control over what their children read. We will never all agree on over 125,000 books within the six libraries in our school district, so any parents with concerns should choose for their own children.”

The record of School Board meetings show that, over the last three years, a small but very vocal group of individuals have made false claims and spread disinformation around Lowell through social media and at board meetings.

“The group members know their claim is not true, yet continue to spread misinformation throughout our community,” Beachler continued. “By law, a work of literature must be evaluated as a whole, not by an excerpt. It is crucial all people understand this fact and refrain from making judgments on any title until they have read the entire book. If a person reads an entire book and feels it would not be valuable to any students in the district, they have a right to file a Request for Reconsideration (Book Challenge) for that title. LAS has clear, fair, thorough and current policies for all of our book catalogs.”

She brought up several other salient points about books in school libraries. First and foremost, library books are optional reading materials. Unlike books for particular classes, no students are required to read anything from the library. If a book is offensive in

some way, then leave it on the shelf. This does not represent the diminishing of anyone’s rights. Beachler has no inclination to stop any concerned parent from exercising their right to control materials accessed by their children.

“Every parent has the right to choose for their children what library books can be read,” Christine stated. “They do not have the right to choose for other parents’ children, and removing titles from our school libraries is book banning and a violation of our students’ first amendment rights to choose what they read. Just because the members of the small group of Lowell community members keeps saying they ‘don’t want to ban books’ does not change the fact that they are trying to ban books.”

As the discussion continued, we acknowledged that the last three years have been very difficult for Beachler. We asked about ways that people could let her know that they appreciate what she does.

“The past three years have undoubtedly been the most difficult of my 36-year career at LAS. Having school community members call me a pedophile, groomer, and many other unkind and untrue names, has been very hurtful to me and my family,” Beachler replied. “I have been bullied and harassed by members of this small group of community members for following our school board policies. It is very unfortunate that a few people feel it is OK to disparage and try to discredit me for doing my job. But on that same note, the vast majority of people in Lowell are kind, respectful and caring people; they do not associate themselves with this small group of individuals and do not agree with the mean tactics that have been used to force their beliefs and opinions on everyone else. Most people understand that we will not all agree on each book and respect other parents’ right to choose for their own children. There

Beachler, continued page 3

CITY OF
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Look Memorial Fund Board in now accepting grant applications for 2023. Applications are available at Lowell City Hall or on the website at www.lowellmi.gov.

Grant applications should be submitted to Susan Ullery, City Clerk, 301 East Street, Lowell, MI 49331. The deadline for submitting 2023 applications is 4:00 p.m. on Monday, October 30, 2023.

the lowell ledger

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Lowell Police Department swears in new officer

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

The Lowell City Council met for its regular semi-monthly meeting on Monday, September 18, 2023, with all members in attendance. All members were also similarly adorned in Pink Arrow XVI t-shirts and sweatshirts, ahead of the 2023 Pink Arrow Game Day on Friday, September 22. The meeting only lasted 23 minutes.

Before public comment, Police Chief Chris Hurst invited Fredi Raymundo to the front, to be sworn in as a new police officer. Raymundo was

joined by his father, Felipe, and his mother, Yolanda. The 19-year-old intern at the Grand Rapids Police Department had stopped in weeks ago to bring Hurst a resume, and Hurst noticed immediately how sharp Raymundo was. After a two-hour interview and an extensive background check, Hurst decided he wanted to offer him a position as a part-time police officer. Council Member, Marty Chambers, expressed interest in promoting Raymundo to full-time when the opportunity arises.

“He did very well for such a young man,”

Hurst said, “which is a compliment to his parents, who raised him very well.”

With the addition of another part-time police officer, resident Bob Rowley, expressed interest in increasing police presence to prevent speeding. He noted that during COVID there was an active police presence on Horatio, and speeding on the Ionia side of town was less of a problem. Now, Rowley claims that the speeding problem has gotten out-of-control. In response to speeding concerns, City Manager, Mike Burns, explained that police



Pictured, from left to right: Police Chief, Chris Hurst, new part-time police officer, Fredi Raymundo, father, Felipe Raymundo, and mother, Yolanda Raymundo.



Council Member, Cliff Yankovich, describes an incident where a representative of CL Trucking, responsible for the Monroe Street construction, verbally assaulted him at his Main Street shop in response to feedback about the project.

officers are now required to make three traffic stops per shift, and those who do not meet this quota would have to explain their reasoning to Chief Hurst.

In response to the council’s discussion about closing City Hall on Fridays at the previous council meeting, resident, John Sterly, suggested instead, opening City Hall for informal meetings with stakeholders at the Police Department, Lowell Light & Power, City Council, and the Chamber of Commerce. He noted that he felt badly for the developers, looking to convert the old

Rollaway building into rental properties, because each concern requires them to wait even longer before they can get to work on their project. Later, Council Member, Jim Salzwedel, explained that he intended to reboot Coffee With Council, starting on Saturday, October 7, but he found that he would be out-of-town on that date. Council Member, Marty Chambers, agreed to oversee that first meeting instead.

City Manager, Burns, recommended that the City Council approve a replacement for the #14 dump truck dump box, a small dump that serves the cemetery, which Burns recommended not to exceed the \$27,914 allotted from both the budget and the equipment fund. He also recommended the City Council approve his request for Earthwork Excavating to perform storm drain repair near 1030 W. Main for no more than \$12,240. The council approved both of these new business items, and there were no old business items on the agenda.

about how the construction was going to pile up and decided to send an email to CL Trucking about what he had experienced. This prompted an individual, representing CL Trucking, to come into Yankovich’s shop and verbally assault him about the feedback, a personal attack that was not assuaged until Yankovich’s wife and daughter stepped in. “All of the issues have been addressed,” Yankovich concluded, “and I got an apology from the owner of the company.”

CL Trucking holds semi-monthly meetings at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce so residents can provide feedback about the Monroe Street construction. City Manager, Burns, advised residents not to wait for these meetings if there is something they need resolved; residents can call City Hall, and Burns’ team will take care of any concerns.

The next City Council meeting will take place on Monday, October 2, 2023, at 7:00 pm. Those interested in watching the September 18 meeting can find it on the City of Lowell YouTube channel, @cityoflowell. The agenda can be found at the City of Lowell home page, lowellmi.gov.

Council Member, Cliff Yankovich, provided a personal update on the Monroe Street construction project, which has torn up the streets both in front of, and to the side, of his house. He had let some of his concerns

Beachler, continued

has been an incredible outpouring of support from the community, and I’m very grateful for those people that can compromise and act in the best interest of all students, and support our library staff, administration and school board.”

Christine also wants to assure LAS parents that the schools will continue to work in good faith, on behalf of all students, with class, grace, respect and integrity.

“We will always answer questions with complete honesty and treat everyone in our school community kindly. It has been a full three years dealing with this same issue, and we are still here providing the truth in

the face of misinformation and still providing a high quality, robust collection of library books for all LAS students,” she concluded.

In spite of the last few turbulent years, the affection and appreciation that Christine has for the Lowell area in general, as well as the schools, students and families, continues to be clearly evident. She is married to Phil Beachler, who has taught and coached in Lowell schools for over three decades, as well. Their two children, Matt and Kortney, attended and graduated from Lowell schools.

“I have always loved working and living in Lowell. It is a wonderful,

supportive and amazing community that my husband and I are blessed to be a part of and where we had the honor of raising our family,” Christine said. “My favorite part of my job is seeing a student’s smile when they find the perfect book for them!”

Helping students find “the perfect book,” while at the same time, making sure that families have the

ability to control what their children access. Watching over the inventory of six libraries, while dealing with unwarranted attacks that crossed way over-the-line into personal territory, is no easy task. Christine Beachler has the passion, training, and professionalism to pull it off. No wonder the people from Kent District Library saw fit to honor her. She is truly a Literacy Champion.

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Lowell Light & Power celebrates Public Power Week, Oct. 2-6

Lowell Light & Power (LL&P) is celebrating Public Power Week, Oct. 2-6, along with more than 2,000 other community-powered, not-for-profit electric utilities that collectively provide electricity to 49 million Americans.

“Since we operate right here in Lowell and serve our friends and neighbors, we care a great deal about things like customer ser-

vice, helping folks save energy and money, and keeping the community safe,” said Charlie West, General Manager. “We are proud of the work we do in these areas.”

This year, the focus is on how public power utilities are working to ensure reliable, affordable, sustainable, and customer-focused service to the community. To mark Public Power Week, Lowell

Light & Power offers a few tips on how to save energy and money in your home, as we build for the future:

According to the Alliance to Save Energy, the average U.S. home uses 70 light bulbs. Even though modern bulbs are energy-efficient, you should still turn them off when they aren’t in use.

- Swap out old incandescent bulbs for new LED bulbs. According to the Department of Energy, residential LEDs - especially ENERGY STAR-rated products - use at least 75 percent less energy, and last up to 25 times longer, than incandescent lighting.
- Heating and cooling your home uses a lot of energy. Set your thermostat lower in the winter and higher in the summer to save energy and money on your power bill.
- Unplug appliances when you aren’t using them. Even when they aren’t being used, they are sometimes drawing “phantom power,” which wastes energy.
- Your water heater is a big energy-user. Make sure to use cold water



Lowell Light & Power team.



when you can and turn off the hot water while you are scrubbing your hands.

“We know that using energy wisely to lower monthly electric bills is important to Lowell residents. And we recognize that even as our utility builds for the future, we encourage our customers to do their part to help save energy,” said West. “While we are sharing these tips during Public Power Week, we hope our community will keep an eye on energy efficiency all year-round, as we work to provide reliable, safe, affordable, and renewable power supply.”

Lowell Light & Power invites community members to participate in a variety of Public Power Week events. Activities include:

- Free popcorn and Energy Saving Kits (over \$50 value!) for customers who stop in the office throughout the week (Mon-Fri, while supplies last)
- Enter to Win a \$50 Bill Credit—customers can enter by stopping in

the office during the week

- 1st-3rd Graders Public Power Drawing Contest – selected entries displayed in the LL&P office lobby, first place receives a \$50 Amazon Gift Card, second and third place each receive a \$20 Amazon Gift Card

- 4th Graders Public Power Art Contest – artwork displayed in the LL&P office lobby; winning student will receive a pizza party for his/her class and a \$20 Amazon Gift Card

Follow on Facebook and Instagram for energy saving tips, more information on what public power does for you, and to learn more about the staff at LL&P

Visit LL&P at the Lowell Harvest Celebration on Saturday, October 14th, from 10 am – 4 pm, for pumpkin decorating (pumpkins generously donated by Heidi’s Farmstand)

Lowell Light & Power has 18 employees and two primary facilities; an office building at 127 N. Broadway and an Energy Center at 625 Chatham. The Energy Center

houses the distribution and generation departments and is also the location of LL&P’s two natural gas-fired combustion turbines. LL&P serves over 2,600 residential customers and over 450 commercial and industrial customers.

Public Power Week is an annual national observance coordinated by the American Public Power Association (APPA). APPA is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide. The Association represents public power before the federal government to protect the interests of the more than 49 million people that public power utilities serve, and the 93,000 people they employ. It advocates and advises on electricity policy, technology, trends, training and operations. Its members strengthen their communities by providing superior service, engaging citizens, and instilling pride in community-owned power. More at www.PublicPower.org

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college news

University of Alabama student, Derek Mohr, of Lowell, is participating in UA's Cooperative Education Program during the fall 2023 semester. Mohr is working for SSAB Americas.

In the Cooperative Education Program, students alternate periods of full-time study with periods of full-time employment. This program offers work, related to the academic major or career interests of each student.

While in school, students carry regular-course schedules. While on co-op, they work with professionals in their fields who supervise their training and work. At work, co-op students earn competitive salaries and may receive benefit packages, in addition to valuable job experience. Participants maintain their

full-time student status while at work and have priority registration status each semester through graduation.

The University of Alabama, part of The University of Alabama System, is the state's flagship university. UA shapes a better world through its teaching, research and service. With a global reputation for excellence, UA provides an inclusive, forward-thinking environment and nearly 200 degree programs on a beautiful, student-centered campus. A leader in cutting-edge research, UA advances discovery, creative inquiry and knowledge through more than 30 research centers. As the state's largest higher education institution, UA drives economic growth in Alabama and beyond.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) has named following students to the Summer 2023 President's List. The summer terms run from May to August.

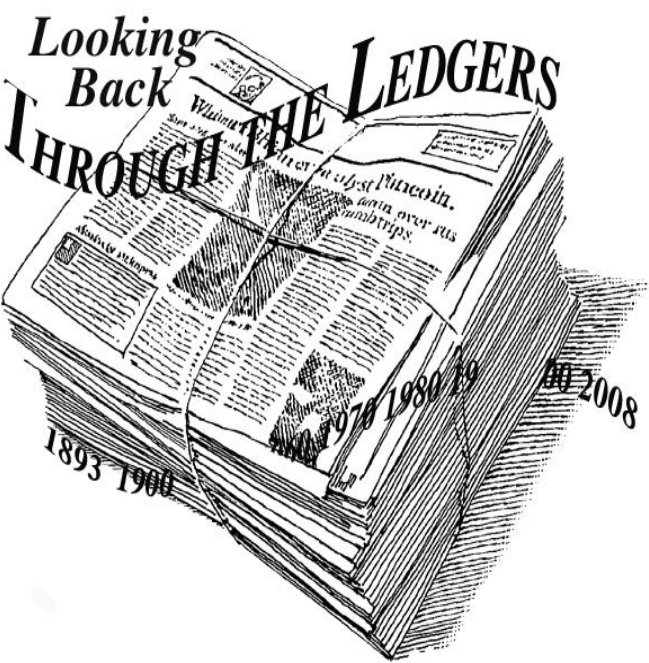
From Lowell were Isis Lett and Seth Brower; from Alto was Shawn Beach and Kenneth Petersen of Saranac.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit institution with a 90-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults.

Learn more at www.snhu.edu.

viewpoint



150 years ago The Lowell Journal September 24, 1873

Mrs. I.J. Buc sent us a basket of nice grapes the other day, and we returned the basket filled with thanks.

Mr. Boyce, of the firm, Boyce & Nash, of this village, exhibited his new Feed Cutter at the State Fair, and it was pronounced by many, the best ever invented.

Another accident. Six cars of the freight train, going east last Friday night, ran off the track three miles this side of Ionia, killing two choice cattle and injuring several others, which were being taken home from the State Fair. A broken rail was the cause.

125 years ago The Lowell Ledger September 29, 1898

The new east Ward School building was formally opened last Saturday, when the citizens of the village, to the number of several hundred, were called to that end of the town by the cheery music of the Military Band. The new building was lighted throughout by electricity.

Clifford Long, of the "Rough Riders," is home on a furlough visiting his mother and brother, Mrs. Thos. Gardner, and Sergt. Clarence Long of the 83d Mich. Vol., and other friends in Lowell.

L.J. Lee surprised the editor this week with a five-year subscription and now his date is July 1, 1900 - the first subscription dating into the twentieth century.

Matt Connelly, who figured in Justice Walker's court last week, wishes the public to understand that his offense was not intoxication, as the item in last week's Ledger might lead readers to inter.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger September 27, 1923

One of Lowell's oldest landmarks, the old "Axe factory building," long an eyesore is being torn down, and in its place will be an open view of Island Park.

The Bowne Center base ball team went to Grand Rapids fair to play and came home highly elated, as the score stood 13 to 0, in favor of the Bowne boys.

Lewis Electric sponsors a Hotpoint cooking school with Lois Baker of Consumers Power Co. teaching.

The Legion Memorial Community Building will start up the bowling alleys next month, says chairman, Bill Christiansen. The three stores in Lowell, which sell

shoes - Hill's, Coons' and Wepman's - sponsor a used-show collection of European children, who lack them.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger September 23, 1948

The time confusion, which has prevailed in Detroit and some other points in Eastern Michigan, will come to an end Sunday, September 26, when the clock are turned back one hour, thereby again, getting in line with the rest of the state.

At the meeting of the Michigan Municipal Utilities Association at Mackinac Island last week, Frank J. McMahon, superintendent of the Lowell Municipal Light and Power Plant, was elected to the executive committee.

Two men, driving a big red car, broke into the Carlson-Hess home Sunday, between 3 and 5 pm, while the family was away, and thoroughly ransacked the place, taking about \$100 and the children's banks containing about \$40. Sheriff Blacklock was notified and they are working on the case.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger Suburban Life September 6, 1973

A tree, downed by last Thursday's storm, heavily damaged the Tanis Motel on East Fulton at the West City limits. Owners of the motel, Jerome Stanley and Larry Krzykwa, reported four to the eleven units were put out of commission by the tree and extensive water damage.

Lowell Police are investigating a breaking and entering at Lippert's Pharmacy. An unknown quantity of drugs and money was stolen during last Monday's break-in.

Lowell High School football coach, Al Rowe, and his assistants, Al Eckman and Dick Brennan, are getting the team into good form for the 1973 season.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger September 30, 1998

Through a Vergennes Township Board-supported petition, residents, if given a choice, prefer a four-way stop at the intersection of Bailey and Parnell Ave. The Kent County Road Commission won't guaranteed a four-way stop at the busy intersection.

Crowned 1998 Lowell High School Homecoming King and Queen were Jon Ballema and Sarah Debiak.

The Red Arrow football team scored 35, of the first half point as it shut-out Northview in OK White clash.

CROP Walk presents a check in the amount of \$1,075.82 to the Lowell Senior Neighbors.

outdoors

solitude Dave Stegehuis

Modern life, for most of us, takes place in an environment of concrete, bright lights, traffic, and plenty of distractions. We adjust to these conditions to the point where we feel that all is normal. There is another world out there. A world void of people, urban infrastructure and noise. A place inhabited by creatures with fins, feathers, and fur. A place where life goes on as it did before human encroachment.

Loons call to a mate from across the still water of a wilderness lake. Geese honk to one another as they wing their way south on ancient flyways. An owl hoots deep from within the darkened woods. Daylight brings a symphony of chirps, whistles, and calls, as songbirds begin a day of seeking out berries and bugs. Carefully placed hooves rustle dry leaves as a cautious doe senses human presence. Sit or stand quietly and motionless, and you will hear the flapping of small feathered wings. Stay long enough and you may observe a wild resident of the forest going about their daily routine. Focus on breathing and

you will discover the scent of decaying leaves and emerging flora.

Disconnect from the stresses and distractions of modern life, to recharge the mind and body, by spending time in wild places relating to nature. The experience can provide one with a more balanced perspective on our place in the universe.

It may seem that we live in a world dominated by the trappings of human invention, and it may appear difficult to escape to more calm and settled surroundings. Fortunately, there are still pockets of undisturbed habitat, in and around urban centers, and also vast stretches of wilderness around the world. Fly high over the world's plains, deserts, mountains, and forests, and imagine being alone on the ground in the middle of one of these vast remote regions and you may feel very small and insignificant.

Seek out these places and deliberately experience being part of the natural world. Find a balance between the challenges of daily living and the solitude of nature.

We love to hear from you!



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

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

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



Kent District Library programs at Alto Branch, 6071 Linfield Ave SE. For additional information call 616-784-2007.

At Your Local Library

Storytime

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

Mushroom Cultivation

Tuesday, October 10, 6:30 - 7:30 pm. A wide variety of edible mushrooms can be grown in basements, garages, spare bedrooms and shady areas in your yard. This class will focus on growing edible mushrooms at home, on a hobby scale, using simple and accessible methods, and provide you with the best resources for continuing to learn on your own. For 18+

KDL Lab Experience: Techtropolis

Wednesday, October 11, 4-5 pm. Come get some hands-on experience with different types of technology. It’s a great time to nerd out and explore! For ages 5-10.

All Aboard! Book Club

Thursday, October 19, 10:30 - 11:30 am. Join a fun, informal discussion of great books. This month, we’ll discuss *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. For ages 18+

business matters

Greenridge Realty announced that Josh McCracken received Salesperson of the Month for the Lowell office in July. This award recognizes McCracken for his outstanding success and achievements.



ABCs of Lowell history

Guest Article by Lowell High School Volunteer, Mackenzie Wyant
The ABCs of Lowell History is back for another round. This popular series explores a wide variety of topics in Lowell area history, in weekly online articles. Information provided by the Lowell Area Historical Museum

R is for Red Arrow

In 1946-1947 it was decided that Lowell High School needed a permanent nickname. In previous years, the school went by names, including the Maroons, Reds, Big Reds,

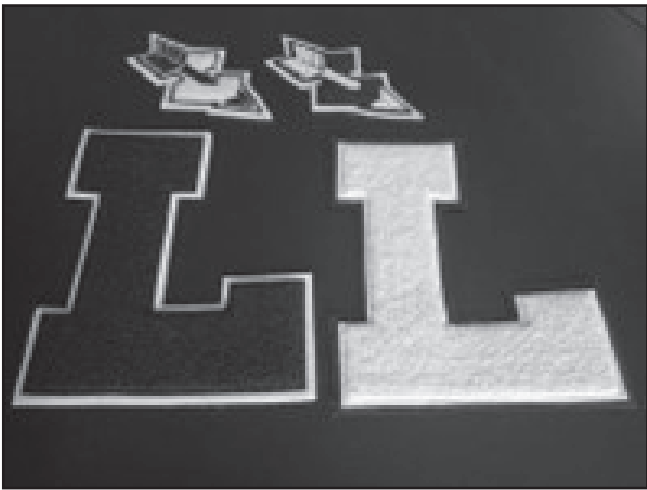
Redbirds, Redskins, Red Wings, Red Demons, and Red Devils. They mainly went by the Red Devils. But they needed a permanent name. Coach, Carrol Burch, asked a group of seniors to create that name. They chose the popular name “Red Devils.” The students loved the name. Uniforms and varsity sweaters were ordered. But a problem arose when concerned community leaders, church groups and citizens, with no particular affiliation, did not like the anti-Christian name. The School Board decided to change the name after the backlash.

One student from each class was chosen to come up with a more suitable name. They agreed upon “Red Arrows,” in 1947, for several reasons - the swiftness and accuracy of an arrow, the color red was associated with Lowell, and it was the name of a division of Michigan and Wisconsin soldiers that fought in WWI and WWII.

The 32nd Red Arrow division was highly respected, as well as decorated. They defeated 32 German divisions in WWI. They were the first allied division to pierce the



A patch from the 32nd division. They adopted this shoulder patch; a line shot through with a red arrow, to signify its tenacity in piercing the enemy line.



Norman Borgerson’s letters. The red was more of a maroon; they did not like the dark color so they later changed that to the brighter red we see today. Norman was one of the students chosen to come up with the name Arrow.

German Hindenburg Line of defense. During tough combat in France, in World War I, the French gave them the nickname Les Terribles, referring to the division’s fortitude in advancing over terrain others could not.

They fought against the Filipinos and the Japanese in WWII, in 90+°F weather, in mosquito-infested areas carrying diseases. They did not stop fighting until their body temperatures reached 104°F. They never lost territory; they always got through enemy lines. They saw more combat than any other unit, fighting under constant fire for seven months with only 10 days rest. Many men from Lowell fought in this division. Men from Lowell included: Gordon Newell, Ray Barrett, Gerald Ellis, Robert Fineis, Harry Gould, Lee Hoag, Edward McDonald, L.J. Nummer, Lavant Potter, Calvin Preston, and Gerald Schreur. The traits of dedication and perseverance were ones

that Lowell students wanted to show in their school and on their fields. They are traits that Lowell still values and promotes.



Tinted portrait of an unknown soldier from Lowell wearing what appears to be a WWII uniform. He has two emblems on his jacket lapels and a red arrow on his left shoulder; same emblem on his cap. Reverse side shows ink-stamped “Leonard Studios-Commercial and Portrait-Lowell, Michigan”

area churches

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616-987-0567
www.lowellriverside.com
Pastor Darrel le Roux

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happy birthday



SEPTEMBER 28

Erin Doyle, Chad Newhouse, Tony Johnson, Matthew Foster.

SEPTEMBER 29

Orison Abel, Judy Baird, Kelleigh Stephens, Edward Stormzand II, Keaton Dilly, Cameron Dilly.

SEPTEMBER 30

Jimmy Hodges, Lowell Swift, Linda DeCator, Mark Willmarth, Jay Thaler, Haley Main, Ernie Barnes, Jessica Spencer, Don VanSickle, Kyle Potter, Roger Hurley.

OCTOBER 1

Sue Zoodsma, Stephanie Foss, Justin Anes, Sara Schuitema Sandy Nikodemski.

OCTOBER 2

Doris Titcombe, Timothy Hoag, Alex Blundy, Alison Blundy.

OCTOBER 3

Mike Moore, Jim Stoutjesdyk, Sr., Lori Smith.

OCTOBER 4

Raymond Kastanek, Cody Chambers, Rich Wade, Dennis Denton, Jr., Morgan Ford, Theresa Baerwalde, Joe Kovacs, Nichole Dorsey.

Dark Sky, Bright Future: what lies ahead for the Veen Observatory

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

In 2024, Dave DeBruyn will celebrate his 60th anniversary with the Grand Rapids Amateur Astronomical Association (GRAAA), and his greatest pride during that time has been the opportunity to help and mentor some incredibly impressive young people. One of his earliest proteges, a young man named Jack McCarthy, helped build the Veen Observatory, out on Kissing Rock Avenue, when he was only fourteen years old. Another young man named Jacob Bourjaily, after programming Pink Floyd laser light shows with DeBruyn at the Roger B. Chaffee Planetarium, went on to study physics and mathematics at such prestigious institutions as the University of Michigan, Cambridge, Princeton, CERN, and the Niels Bohr Institute. As a long-time leader with the GRAAA, DeBruyn is all-too-familiar with the need for new leadership at the Veen Observatory, and he looks to other young talents, like McCarthy and Bourjaily, for the future.

Board member, Curt Blakeslee, is one of the talented younger GRAAA members that DeBruyn has tapped for future leadership. Blakeslee has frequented the Veen Observatory since he was a freshman in college in 2006, but he never got around to becoming an official member of the GRAAA, until his sister bought him a membership for his birthday this past year. Blakeslee is fully aware of how well-positioned he is to take on more and more responsibility over the coming years. “It does seem a bit fated,” Blakeslee said.

When Blakeslee imagines the old guard passing the torch of

leadership, there is nobody else in the organization with the same amount of experience as him. For Blakeslee, this is not a source of burden or stress because he sees the GRAAA as a great organization that practically runs itself. “We’re not dying on the vine here,” Blakeslee said. “We had to turn cars away the other night.”

Blakeslee is referring to the all-night Perseid meteor shower watch-party the GRAAA held at the Veen Observatory, from the evening of Saturday, August 12 through the early morning of Sunday, August 13, which was one of the most heavily-attended events in the organization’s history. The framework is already there to keep the GRAAA going. For continued success, Blakeslee only needs to do three things: keep showing up, keep turning the lights on, and keep opening the doors. Aside from that, the facility will need an occasional technological upgrade, but this is a formula that has worked for at least as long as Dave DeBruyn has been around, and there is no reason to believe that it will not apply for generations to come.

Blakeslee proves that the pipeline for GRAAA leadership is not broad, but it is deep. Whereas he, himself, is walking, talking evidence that the next generation of star-gazers will be well-served, Sam Sherman embodies the fact that the generation after that is in good hands, as well. Sherman is a sophomore in high school and a rising star, whose name is already revered within the organization. He attends the West Michigan Aviation Academy on the grounds of the Gerald R. Ford Airport, and he intends to acquire a pilot’s license, but his true passion is teaching.

Sherman has been

coming to Veen Observatory public nights since he was a nine-year-old in 2016, and he learned that he could volunteer there during the 2019/2020 school year, which is when he put his love for astronomy to work. He did some basic work at first, but he was quickly trusted with running the telescopes and explaining the night sky to visitors young and old. Sherman would watch YouTube videos the day before a public night and teach what he learned the next day, a fast and furious process that is a bit too intimidating for many, but which suited Sherman well. Amid cosmic aspirations, Sherman has remained remarkably grounded..“I’ve had nine year olds who might know more than I do,” Sherman said.

It is Sherman’s respect for an individual’s learning capacity that makes him the perfect teacher, and he’s honed his skills daily since jumping into the hobby. Sherman has taught others about astronomy so frequently that he already thinks in terms of pedagogy. He knows that he explains concepts much like his favorite YouTube teachers, particularly VSauce host, Michael Stevens, who has posted videos about state-of-the-art advances in science and technology for almost as long as Sheman has been alive.

It is a bit unfair to put the yoke of leadership on Sherman, this far in advance. After all, he still has a couple of years of high school left, and he has no idea what college he will attend after that, but it certainly seems like the folks at the GRAAA are hoping that Sherman’s long and promising path ahead leads him back to the Veen Observatory, eventually.

While both Blakeslee



Board member, Curt Blakeslee, is one of the talented younger GRAAA members that Dave DeBruyn has tapped for future leadership.

and Sherman have an “if it isn’t broken, don’t fix it” mentality about the GRAAA, both hold onto lofty goals for its future. If NASA’s James Webb telescope has taught us anything, it is that the public remains interested in astrophotography, and Blakeslee wants people to come to the observatory to take pictures. In most cases, the equipment needed to take high quality photos of deep sky objects is prohibitively expensive, but Blakeslee enjoys the idea of teaching astrophotography classes, letting private individuals use GRAAA equipment for their own projects, or allowing people, who with their own equipment, to use the observatory simply as a way to get away from light pollution. Sherman, on the other hand, is

mostly interested in driving GRAAA membership, and more than anything, he wants to see that growth come from area schools.

Blakeslee and Sherman outline an easy path for others to follow. For example, Sherman intends to start an astronomy club at his school, and that’s something anybody at any school can do. Similarly, Blakeslee was gifted a membership to the GRAAA, which points to an underutilized means of membership growth. Today’s visitors will be

tomorrow’s members, just as today’s members form the pool from which tomorrow’s leaders will be chosen, and there is no better place to observe this exciting fact than through the fact that Blakeslee is expecting his first child around Halloween of this year. This is the type of person who has brought his wife, his parents, his aunt and uncle, and his siblings out to the observatory; one expects that his son will know the observatory well. The sky may be dark, but the future is bright.

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Photos from Pink Arrow Pride XVI

More pictures of the Pink Arrow activities and game can be found at:
facebook.com/imagesofvision
<http://www.heffronphotography.com/.../Pink.../PinkArrow23/>
<https://shamrocksportsphotography.smugmug.com>



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Red Arrow

- GOLF

SPORTS

Another solid week for golfers

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

The week started strong, as Elle Sluss nearly matched her record-breaking 36 from last year, at Kent Country Club, scoring a one-over-par 37 to lead the Red Arrows to a conference jamboree victory. The round came just three days before the one-year anniversary of that round.

EGR, the host, finished in fifth, ahead of Northview. FHN, GR Christian, and FHC finished ahead, with Lowell the victory over the Rangers by four strokes. Leah Krieger (44), Elyse Veldman (45) and Hannah Flickinger (47) rounded out the Lowell scorers.

FHC got their revenge on Wednesday, edging out Lowell by a single stroke, at

Lowell’s home jamboree, at Arrowhead.

Sluss (42), Veldman (44), Krieger (47), and Flickinger (51) led the way. Ava McCormick chipped-in for a par save on the third hole. Veldman birdied the second hole. The Red Arrow golfers finished with a 184 to FHC’s 183. Greenville played very well, earning a third-place finish and knocking off FHN at 187 and 190, respectively. GR Christian and Northview rounded-out the six schools. Byron Center and EGR were the two schools that did not participate.

Conference jamborees are limited to six schools, on a rotating basis, given the space available on a nine-hole section of a golf course.

In a rare dual, Lowell beat Grand Rapids Christian 175-200. The dual allowed both teams to play more than the usual six golfers and gave members of their team some experience in a varsity match.

Ten golfers started for Lowell. Leah Krieger (40), Sluss (41), Veldman (44), and Ava McCormick (50), led the way for the Red Arrows. Freshman, Kaila Richards, and Junior, Hannah Flickinger, were just outside of the scorers at 51 each. Avery Krieger, Andrea Plantz, Ellery Ostrander, and Mia Kinney, all competed at Arrowhead as well, in the win. Plantz recorded a par on the tough par four third. Leah Krieger recorded a birdie on the fifth hole.



Ava McCormick celebrates, as the ball is falling in the hole, as she chips in at Arrowhead.



Elle Sluss takes a practice swing during the Lowell Jamboree.

Lady Arrows coming into stride

Submitted by Coach Paul Judd

Lowell travelled to South Christian, to compete in the second OK White XC race of the season, last week. GR Christian (No. 1 ranked in Division 2) won the meet with Lowell finishing in sixth place. The two take-aways from the meet, were the top five, who went out harder for the first half of the race, and the results of this showed as Lowell edged closer to the fifth-place spot in the conference.

Claire O’Boyle led the Arrows, finishing in 21st place, followed by Evie Deur in 23rd, Audrey Latchaw in 37th, Olivia Lothian in 52nd, and Mia Vondeheide in 53rd. Brooklyn Jackson and Jadyn Young completed the varsity line-up.

Some courses are made to be fast and the 5k course at Covenant Christian HS is one of them. Take a piece of flat, firm ground, cut the grass to “lettuce tight” and throw in some

long straight stretches, and you have the makings for a very special day. The Lady Arrows showed that their hard work is starting to take form, as eight of the eleven Arrows scored “giant” PR’s last Saturday. Lowell placed eighth in the Autumn division, which was won by Zeeland East.

Claire O’Boyle grabbed the 16th-place medal while hitting her new PR of 20:12. O’Boyle’s race was special, as she was challenged to

really be aggressive for the first half of the race, and it paid off. Following O’Boyle was Mia Vonderheide, who hit a new PR going 21:33; Olivia Lothian hit a new PR going 21:57, Audrey Latchaw going 22:37, Jadyn Young hitting a new PR running 23:27 and Brooklyn Jackson hitting a new PR running 23:57.

Lowell will travel to Allendale on Saturday for the Falcon Invitational.

Injury and illness do not slow down harriers

Submitted by Coach Clay VanderWarf

With a couple of runners out of the traditional lineup, as a result of injury and illness, the Lowell boys cross country team was challenged to step-up and run as if they were still a full team. The Red Arrows accomplished that with a sixth-place finish at the second OK White

Jamboree at South Christian High School. Grand Rapids Christian took top honors with 45 points. East Grand Rapids followed with 56 points and Byron Center, third, with 69 points.

Cooper Byrne was the first Arrow in, at 17.21, in 22nd place, soon followed by Marshall Huhn, 25th, 17.47.

Drew Swayze was the third Arrow at 33rd, 18.09. Colin Stawasz had a strong finish, recording a PR with a time of 18.38, 46th place. Paul Fowler completed the score with a time of 18.53, good for 51st. Antonio Casarez and Brayden Hekman rounded-out the varsity lineup at 58th and 64th, with times of 19.11 and 19.29.

The team took advantage of a fast course, and the prospect of fresh Heidi’s donuts at the end, to secure third place, 76 points, at the Autumn Sunrise Invitational at Covenant Christian High School, last Saturday. Byron Center took first place with 52 points, followed by Zeeland East with 75 points in the Autumn Division.

Byrne dropped his PR to 16.38 for sixth place, followed by Huhn’s PR of 17.03, 10th. Swayze was right behind Huhn with his PR of 17.24, 11th. Stawasz captured his PR at 17.41, 22nd and Mason Saylor completed the score with a 27th-place finish at 18.00. Fowler set his PR with a 31st place at 18.23, followed by Casarez at 37th, 18.29.

The Red Arrows next race will take place Saturday at the Allendale Invite, at Allendale High School.

RED ARROW SPRING

SPORTS SCHEDULES

FOOTBALL

* Denotes a home game at Bob Perry Memorial Field

9/29 at 7 pm at Byron Center

10/6 at 7 pm at FHN

CROSS COUNTRY

9/30 Allendale Falcon Invite at Allendale HS

10/4 at 4:30 pm OK White Jamboree*

GOLF

* Denotes a home meet at Arrowhead Golf Course

10/5 at 9 am OK White Conference

BOYS SOCCER

* Denotes a game at LHS North Athletic Complex

10/2 at 6:45 pm OK White Conference*

10/4 at 6:45 pm OK White Conference*

BOYS TENNIS

* Denotes a home game at LHS tennis courts

10/2 at 4:15 pm GR Christian*

10/6 at 8:30 am OK White Conference at Gainey Athletic Complex

VOLLEYBALL

* Denotes a home game at LHS gym

10/3 at 6 pm at FHN

10/10 at 6 pm FHC*

More information can be found at

www.redarrowsports.com

SHAMROCK

PHOTOGRAPHY

By Justin Scott

Find LHS Athletics Photos at

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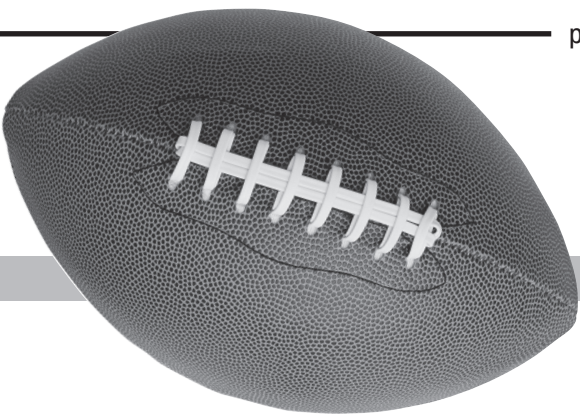
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Red Arrow

- FOOTBALL

SPORTS



Pink Arrows push past Greenville

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

In a wild and wacky OK White, Greenville found themselves 0-3 after three games. Disheartening for a team that played Lowell, East Grand Rapids, and a Northview team that nearly upset the league leading Pioneers.

On Pink Arrow night, Greenville, under third year coach Tom Hallock, hung with the Red Arrows, trailing 14-7 at halftime before Lowell’s depth, strength, and overall talent took over the game and gave the Arrows a win on their most important night of the year. Final score was 35-14.

Lowell struck first on a three-yard run on second and goal as Bobby Nichols broke the goal line for six points, bolstered by a raucous student section pounding thundersticks until they got bored or they were deflated in some way or another. That roaring of thundersticks and children

playing with the over 1,000 set of them spread across the stadium was heard well into the second quarter.

Greenville bounced back to tie the game on a rush to the outside from six yards out, quieting the home crowd just a bit.

Nick Williams came up with a difficult catch in the endzone to give Lowell a 14-7 lead with 2:19 to go in the first half.

Nolan Compton led the Arrow defense with eight total tackles. Casey Engle and TJ Hollern each had seven tackles each. Hollern had two interceptions. In the Pink Arrow game, Lowell players often play for someone close they know or knew who battled cancer. *The Ledger* will be doing a full article on Pink Arrow in next week’s edition.

Jackson Reisbig had an efficient day passing, going eight for nine from the air for 127 yards and two touchdowns. Nick Williams had two catches for 70

yards and both of those touchdowns.

The Pink Arrows got the opening kickoff of the first half and went down the field where Reisbig got outside on a run and stiff-armed a Greenville defensive player before walking into the endzone.

Lowell closed the game off with two more scores, using that efficient run game to control the clock. LHS ran 58 times for 318 yards, an average of 5.48 yards per carry. That average makes it just about impossible for a defense to stop. Reisbig ran for 161 yards and a touchdown. Brady Swift (78 yards) and Bobby Nichols (71 yards) both ran for scores as well. Todd Parcheta went five-for-five on extra points. Nico Binns, the placeholder, helped set up those extra points.

Lowell, now 4-1, will head to Byron Center this week for a conference showdown with the 5-0 Bulldogs.



The Lowell line of scrimmage always the unsung heroes, controlled the line in the win over Greenville.

Arrows move to 3-0 in OK White conference

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

The trials of a difficult non-conference schedule have been evident the past week for Lowell volleyball. The first, being a non-conference tournament where Lowell went 0-3 against some of the best competition in the state. The second, Lowell rolled through conference action to start off their conference campaign, 3-0. The byproduct of a difficult non-conference schedule, Lowell is primed for what they hope will be a run at an OK White Championship.

Over the weekend Lowell fell to Lake Orion, Bloomfield Hills Marian, and Grand Haven, picking up a set in the first two match-

ups and falling in five sets to Grand Haven.

Earlier in the week it took five sets, but the Red Arrows knocked off Northview 3-2, closing off the final set 15-10. On Thursday Lowell swept Greenville 3-0. Three OK White teams are in the top ten in their divisions; GR Christian, Forest Hills Northern, and Byron Center. Lowell is in the honorable mention category in Division 1.

The Red Arrows also were a part of Pink Arrow festivities last Friday as they scrimmaged Jenison in front of a great crowd down at the sport court at Bob Perry Field. Scrimmage scores are not publicized. The Michigan High School Athletic Association has specific

rules regarding the publication of scrimmage results for schools in order to keep practices and scrimmages from being treated as competition that *The Ledger* adheres to.

This Tuesday, Lowell faced Byron Center. Results will be in next week’s *Ledger*. The Red Arrows sit at 15-7-1 on the year.



Soccer drops two to Forest Hills Schools

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Facing two teams featured in the MHSSCA soccer rankings, it was going to be a hard week for the Red Arrows soccer team, losing two to Forest Hills Northern and Forest Hills Central in admirable efforts.

On Thursday, Lowell took on FHC in the Red Arrows’ Pink Arrow Game. Lowell soccer’s biggest crowd is always on Pink Arrow day, and while the stands were pretty full, many might’ve expected a higher capacity crowd on such a beautiful night for soccer when Pink Arrow shirts got fans into the game for free.

FHC senior and Midwest United forward, Chris Dongmo, struck twice in the span of 10 minutes to kick off the scoring, but that would be it on the night. Once Lowell settled into the game, they were able to gain more control. It was the Rangers who had more chances on the night, however. The Red Arrows were unable to get a shot on goal. Lincoln Homolka had 22 saves in goal.

“Take away those first few minutes and we went toe-to-toe with those guys,” Coach Elena Barriger told her team of their effort against the Rangers. “We can beat anyone in this conference if we work together like we did tonight.”

The Red Arrows were

playing without Bryce Thompson, one of Lowell’s biggest scoring threats. Earlier in the week Lowell fell 3-0 to Forest Hills Northern.

Lowell faced Grand Rapids Christian at home this week on Tuesday. Tuesday results are too late to add to *The Ledger*.



Lincoln Homolka makes one of his 22 saves against FHC.

2023
HOMECOMING
PARADE

Calling all Lowell clubs, organizations, community groups or school sports teams that would like to participate in the Homecoming Parade.
Friday, October 13 at 6 pm
If interested, please reserve your spot by contacting Nick at the Lowell High School.
Phone: 616-987-2994
Email: nblough@lowellschools.com

obituaries

Van Strien

Van Strien, Clarence Robert

10/16/1927 – 9/19/2023

Clarence Robert “Bob” Van Strien passed away at his home, in Cascade, on September 19th, 2023 surrounded by his children and loved ones. He was preceded in death by Pauline, his wife of 72 years and his brother, Dave Van Strien (Lois). He is survived by his brother, Don Van Strien (Margaret), three children, Greg Van Strien (Kim), Jeff Van Strien and Dianne Cusack, daughter-in-law and caretaker, Liz Filler, son-in-law, Mark Cusack, as well as 15 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Bob was a profoundly devoted son, brother, husband and father, as well as one of our last remaining WWII Navy Veterans. After the war, he bought a milk truck and married the farmer’s daughter, Pauline. His love of farms and the farming community remained throughout his life. He made his livelihood in the trucking business as an owner, operator, dispatcher, salesperson and manager. His last business was C. R. Transport that moved sand, gravel and rocks... hence, his love of gravel pits and construction sites. Bob built the family’s first home along the Thornapple River, and later, purchased several tracts of land in Cascade township and divided them for homesites. A sod farm along the Grand River became Van Strien Airport with the help of son Greg. Bob made it possible for Lowell Township to complete the development of Grand River Riverfront Park with a section of that land. Bob loved to travel and he and his wife, Pauline, journeyed all across North America in their private plane and RV (which they fondly referred to as “the box”). They visited all 50 states together and made many friends along the way. Bob was also an avid skier, with the local Silver Streakers and others, into his 90’s. Giving back was a constant theme throughout Bob’s life. He was a fixture at Cascade Christian Church for 72 years, eventually becoming a lifetime elder. No service was beneath him; whether it was mowing lawns, fixing the steeple, driving kids to camp, steering the property committee, sitting on the board or many other unsung jobs that served the church. He also served as trustee on the Cascade Township Board, transported patients in need for Wings of Mercy, volunteered with Operation Santa Claus and delivered Meals on Wheels for many years. Friends can greet the family at the Van Strien Airport, 11621 Grand River Drive in Lowell, Michigan, on Thursday, September 28th, from 4-7 pm. Stories in Bob’s honor are welcome. An additional visitation will be held one hour before the funeral service, from 10-11am, at the church. The funeral will be held at Cascade Christian Church, 2829 Thornapple River Drive, Grand Rapids, MI 49546 at 11am on September 29th. Memorial contributions may be made to Cascade Christian Church (<https://www.cascadechristian.com/>).





Live the Life You Want

With Melissa Spino, MA, LPC, CDMS
Life Transitions Therapy, LLC

Stopping unwanted relationship patterns

Previously, I wrote about recognizing relationship patterns. We know that unhealthy patterns can cause relationships to become problematic, toxic, and difficult to maintain. For this article, I want to focus on ways to stop unwanted patterns so you can work toward having healthier more fulfilling relationships.

Steps for stopping patterns

Relationship patterns affect three main things: who we choose to be part of our life, how we interact with them, and how we allow them to treat us. So, it’s critical to identify and break unhealthy relationship patterns.

Using the steps from the prior article, “Recognizing Relationship Patterns,” you should now have your list. If there are any that you want to change, below are ways you can work to break or

replace unwanted patterns.

Challenge faulty beliefs/patterns – Many of our beliefs, coping skills, and behavior patterns were learned in childhood. Some may have developed due to trauma, as a defense mechanism, or were the best our brain could develop with our limited brain development, reasoning, and analytical skills. Challenge, reason-out, and process these faulty patterns.

Self-awareness – Pay attention to your feelings, emotions, thoughts, and reactions. If you see the pattern, stop it. Each time you begin to repeat the pattern, stop yourself. Similar to breaking any habit, the more you do it, the more it becomes like muscle memory.

Replace the unwanted pattern – Take the self-awareness step further by replacing the unhealthy/unwanted pattern with a healthy one you want to

adopt. Do this over and over and, in time, you’ll create a new pattern.

Work through past trauma - If you were a child, traumatized or neglected by a parent and are repeatedly choosing friends and/or partners with the same traits, this is your brain trying to resolve and heal from the past trauma. We repeat what we don’t fix. So, it’s time to work through the trauma. This is difficult to do on your own and may require the assistance of a professional counselor.

Feeling you deserve to suffer - This is often a trauma response. It can also be due to growing up with a critical parent. You can work to change your inner self-talk to something more positive, but this can be difficult to do on your own, and may require the assistance of a professional counselor.

Journaling - can provide insight about possible triggers, reactions, and emotions. Free writing about difficult interactions, etc., can provide valuable insight about patterns. So, take the time to journal, and then go back and analyze what you wrote, with a critical eye to look for patterns.

Seek outside views – A different “set of eyes” can sometimes provide really helpful information. Seek out a friend, family member, clergy, or counselor to talk with, as they may notice something you didn’t.

Break the routine – Purposefully step out of your routine. Get out there and try new activities, hobbies, go to different events and interact with others. This helps get you out of your comfort zone and pushes past fears that keep you locked within unhealthy patterns.

Boost self-worth – Sometimes unhealthy behaviors go hand in hand with low self-worth. You can google ways to improve self-esteem or self-worth. I’ve also written articles about both self-worth and self-talk. You can find them on my social media page (link is on my website). One way to boost self-worth is by changing you inner self-talk. If you have an inner critic, it’s time to silence him or her.

Breaking the cycle of unhealthy dysfunctional relationships is not easy but it is worth it. This article is for informational purposes only and not intended to treat or diagnose. Be safe and well!

Four questions about Social Security that can help you plan your future

By Hillary Hatch,
Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

Social Security benefits are part of the retirement plan of almost every American worker. If you’re among the many people covered under Social Security, you should know what your future benefit may be. Monthly benefit payments will likely be an important part of your retirement income.

We base your benefit payment on how much you earned during your working career. Higher lifetime earnings result in higher benefits. If there were some years you didn’t work or had low earnings, your benefit amount may be lower than if you had worked steadily. If you never worked and did not pay Social Security taxes, you may be eligible for spouse’s retirement benefits. You must be at least 62 years old, and your spouse must already be receiving retirement or disability benefits.

Our retirement page at www.ssa.gov/retirement is a great place to start mapping out your retirement plan. For example, have you considered:

- Which factors may affect your retirement benefits?
- What is the right time for you to start receiving your retirement benefits?
- What you need to do after you apply for retirement benefits?
- What documents you need to provide us for your retirement application?

You can use your personal my Social Security account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount to get an instant estimate of your future retirement benefits. You can also see the effects of starting your retirement benefits at different ages.

You may also wonder about:

- Benefits for a spouse or children.
- How work affects your benefits.
- Medicare.
- Whether you will have to pay taxes on your benefits.

You can learn more at www.ssa.gov/retirement. Please share this information with family and friends to help them prepare for their retirement.

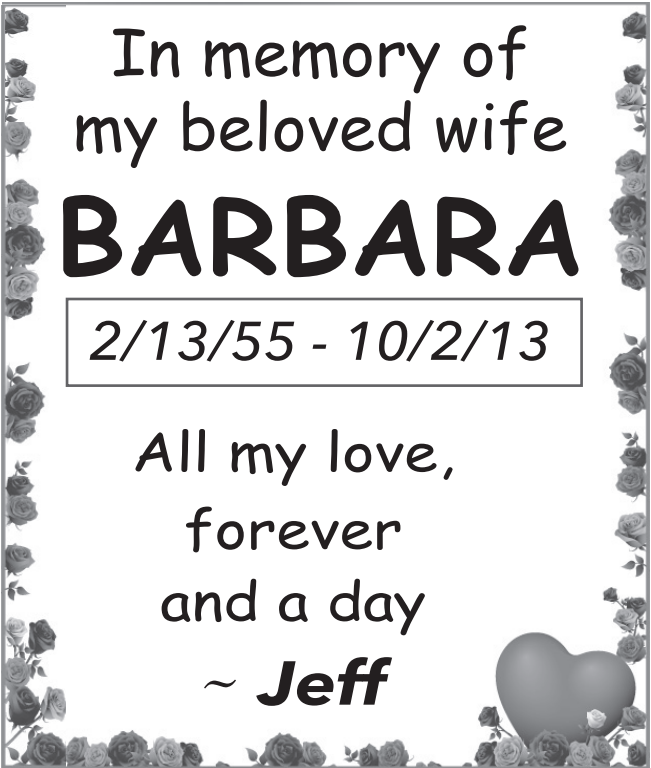
In memory of my beloved wife

BARBARA

2/13/55 - 10/2/13

All my love, forever and a day

~ Jeff



LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING STATE OF MICHIGAN

The Probate Court for the County of Kent

In the matter of Barbara Mercer Guardianship File No. 23-213,931-GA.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including her daughter, Emma Mercer and son, George Mercer, Jr., and any unknown children, siblings, and other heirs whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on October 16, at 1:30 p.m. at Kent

Co. Probate Court, 180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 Courtroom 9D and via Zoom before Judge Avery D. Rose (P77757) for the following purpose: Appointment of a Guardian.

Dated: September 10, 2023

Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner, 121 Martin Luther King Jr St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507 (616) 258-1182.

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

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Closed Fri., Sat. & Sun.

classifieds

for sale

USED TIRES - Call with size, 616-292-7649/616-295-8820. Rob's Auto - thanks.^{TFN}

NEWSPAPER END ROLLS AVAILABLE AT THE BUYERS GUIDE - Many uses, table cover, art projects, packaging, etc. Usually \$6 - \$9 each. Stop by & grab one today! 105 N. Broadway.

REACH OVER 100,000 AREA HOMES - with our Marketplace! One call & one payment, only \$40! Includes 20 words & 1 black & white photo. Only items for sale please. Perfect place to advertise a vehicle or camper for sale! The ad runs in the Lowell Buyer's Guide & News, Hastings Reminder, Marshall Advisor/Chronicle & Battle Creek Shopper News. Call 897-9555, email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com or stop by 105 N. Broadway for more info.

for rent

WE DO BUSINESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL FAIR HOUSING LAW - Equal Housing Opportunity. It is illegal to discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin.. Anyone who feels he or she has been discriminated against may file a complaint of housing discrimination: 1-800-669-9777 (toll free) 1-800-927-9275 (TTY).

PRICELESS STORAGE - Indoor/outdoor. 2 loctions in Lowell. Rent online at www.mypricelessstorage.com or call 616-558-2900.^{TFN}

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.VFW8303.org. Jan., Feb, March & April Veterans Potluck at 2 pm on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.^{TFN EOW}

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT - \$1,500/month. 10,000 square feet. Large open area, 2 offices, restrooms, breakroom. Upper level at 525 Burton Street SW (Semi truck and trailer repair shop), located near 131 and Burton SW. Available parking for Semi trucks and trailers. Available October 1, 2023. Contact Ron at (616) 243-4520 or email marilyn@transportrepair.us for more information.

WHISTLE STOP MINI STORAGE - 12661 Vergennes, N. of Lowell. 5x10; 10x10; 10x20; 10x30; 12x40. Fenced lighted, key code entry. Call for more information, 897-8872.

misc.

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-866-718-3124

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Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-866-495-1709

wanted

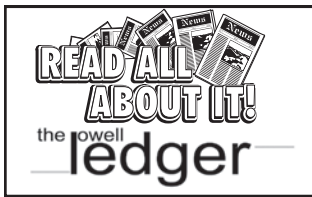
CALL FOR AUTHORS TO BE FEATURED - on "For the Love of Books Podcast" hosted by author and journalist Emma Palova of Lowell. Celebrating its one-year anniversary with 50 episodes, the show features Indie and small press authors, and their events. Email emmapalova123@gmail.com. Listen in on podbean and other major podcast apps: For the Love of Books Podcast.

help wanted

DRIVERS & SUB-DRIVERS NEEDED - Full Time Wage: \$20.20-\$21.45 (based on driving experience). Sub Wage: Starting at \$17.50 (tiered rates that increase yearly). Training Paid for by the District. Interested parties can contact Kara Mrozinski, Director of Transportation at 616-987-2545 or Dustin Cichocki, Director of HR at 616-987-2517.

TIMBER CREEK RANCH - is looking for a business manager. Up to 20 hours a week. Safe base organization for neglected and abused young men. Some experience preferred. Please call Wes at 616-558-7464.

HVAC SERVICE TECHNICIAN/INSTALLER WANTED - Experienced preferred but will train the right person. Call 616-794-1140.



services

NEED A DUMPSTER? - Dumpster rental, 10-20 yards. Mention this ad for \$10 to \$20 off. Call or text Doug for estimates at 616-295-6640.^{TFN}

METAL ROOFING - Buy direct and save \$\$\$ from your local Michigan manufacturer. Pole Barn packages, standing seam roofing and siding available. Call Ken at 269-758-3330.

WORK WANTED - Double D's tree service Plus 70' & 40' bucket trucks. Tree trimming and removal, brush chipping, Stump grinding. Free estimates and Insured. Call Dave Delinsky 616-212-3008.^{TFN}

DRIVER'S LICENSE SUSPENDED OR REVOKED? - Don't get sucked into \$100-\$300 evaluation fees...I NEVER charge for your record evaluation & consultation! Driver's license RESTORATION: Flat fees only, no hourly billing. FREE consultation & evaluation of your case. Have a question? Call Attorney Martin Mead (616) 235-0330.

services

SCANNING SERVICE - Do you need something scanned & emailed? The Buyers Guide now offers this service! Price is \$1 for the first sheet & 50¢ for each additional sheet. Stop by 105 N. Broadway, Mon. - Thurs., 8 - 4 p.m. Ph. 897-9555 with any questions

CARPENTER WANTS JOBS, JOBS, JOBS - New homes, remodeling, additions, flooring, siding, decks, kitchens, baths, plans drawn. Licensed since 1967. References. Mel Cooke, 676-9239. No Sunday calls please.

FREE AD! - Place & pay for a classified ad in the Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger for 3 weeks & receive the 4th week FREE! You must mention the special in order to receive this offer. Valid only with new classified ads, and must be paid for when ad is placed. Call 897-9555, fax 897-4809 or email to: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com, Lowell. Ph. 897-9261.

coming events

TOPS (TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY) WEEKLY MEETINGS - Tuesdays, 6:30 pm at Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd., Lowell. Cost \$37 per year and \$5 per month...start losing weight TODAY

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.

AL-NON IN PERSON MEETINGS - are held at the FROM Building, 11535 Fulton E. on Fridays at 10 am in the Lowell Serenity Club Room and Tuesdays at 7 pm in Room 21. Enter through the southeast parking lot door. Al-Anon principles can help those affected by someone's problem drinking. There are no dues or fees. For more info call 616-987-6587.

ATTN LOWELL WIDOWS - We are meeting at various places for lunch or dinner most Mondays. All are welcome. Questions on location, call Elaine 616-856-8022 for more information.

AUXILIARY BINGO - Every Tuesday, 1-5 pm. Doors open at noon. Public welcome! Must be 18 or older. Food & beverages available. Hard cards & chips format. 25¢ per card per game. No up front buy in required. Alto American Legion Post 528. License A22680.

PROUD
TO BE
LOCAL

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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

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!

Puzzle solutions
on page 13

Guess Who?

I am an actress born in Mississippi on September 30, 1982. I participated in the World's Our Little Miss Scholarship Competition in 1985. I gained fame on "Party of Five," a hit TV show, and went on to make various movies in the 1990s and beyond.

Answer: Lacey Chabert

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
	34								35	
36								37		
38								39		
40								41		
42									43	

WILDERNESS WORD SEARCH

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

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

WILDERNESS
WORD SEARCH

ALPINE
ANIMALS
AVALANCHE
CLIMATE

COASTAL
CONSERVATION

CYPRESS
DECIDUOUS
EXPLORE
FLORA
FOREST

HORIZON

LAKE
MAPLE
MEADOW
MOUNTAINS
OAK
OASIS

RAPIDS

REMOTE
RIDGELINE
SOIL
STREAM
VALLEY

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to the great outdoors.

R D S B I

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Birds

CLUES ACROSS

1. Outsourcing (abbr.)
4. Post
8. German city on edge of Black Forest
10. “___, but goodie”
11. Spiced stew
12. Passionately
13. Monetary units
15. Group of living organisms
16. Organic compound derived from ammonia
17. High honors
18. 5-year-olds’ classes
21. Swiss river
22. Old woman
23. Cash machine
24. A way to soak
25. Hair product
26. Deride
27. “The Blonde Bombshell”
34. Cause to become insane
35. Bluish greens

36. Supported with money

37. Type of equation
38. Court officials
39. Indian god
40. Rids
41. Leak slowly through
42. Units of ionizing radiation
43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

1. Native of Slovakia
2. Deli meat
3. Fibrous substance in fungi
4. Cutting
5. Vedder and Van Halen
6. Horror comic novelist
7. Rulers of Tunis
9. Shaped like a circle
10. Make a pig of

oneself

12. Aphorism
14. Witness
15. Single Lens Reflex
17. Freshwater North American fish
19. Nautical ropes
20. Leg (slang)
23. Pokes holes in
24. Moved quickly on foot
25. Fix-it shops
26. Type of bread
27. Repaired
28. Synthetic diamond (abbr.)
29. Type of drug (abbr.)
30. German city along the Rhine
31. Animal disease
32. Martini necessities
33. Get away from
34. Village in Mali
36. Djibouti franc



The Bat, The Cat, The Gotham War

Chip Zdarsky concludes his *Daredevil* run with issue 14 (Marvel Comics, 8/16/23), just as his Batman run gains momentum. Following the events of July’s *X-Men: Hellfire Gala 2023*, every x-title has a renewed sense of urgency and immediacy, making it hard to think of anything else. Tom King continues to make waves at DC with *Danger Street* #8 (8/9/23) and *Penguin* #1 (8/23/23). On the coattails of the infamous *Immortal Hulk*, Al Ewing unveils *The Immortal Thor* #1 (Marvel Comics, 8/23/23), and, verily, it does not disappoint.

Here are the top three comics published in August!

Batman/Catwoman: The Gotham War - Battle Lines #1 (DC Comics, 8/30/23)

Those suffering fatigue from the civil wars that come to Gotham every year or so—“City of Bane,” “Joker War,” “Fear State,” “Shadow War”—may overlook *The Gotham War*, but they must do so at their own peril, because the current conflict has one of the most enticing premises in the history

of *Batman* comics. While Batman was asleep for eight weeks, following the events of *Knight Terrors*, Catwoman has scooped-up all of the goons of Gotham. It helps that Penguin is no longer on the scene, and it helps more that Catwoman knows what these people are going through. Each person receives a cat-delivered message reading, “If you risk your life... you deserve the rewards.”

The Gotham War is more appealing than others because it plays upon the socioeconomic divide in America today. Catwoman is the Robin Hood who challenges former villains to play by a couple of important rules, earn money like never before, and stay safe, and as a result, crime is down 75 percent. Practically, it feels like a needle exchange or supervised drug-use clinic—the criminals are still committing crimes, still causing harm to themselves and others, but the damages are reduced in a way that neither the Gotham Police, the Bat Family, nor the Justice League could ever accomplish. Catwoman can be on the side of the angels and remove the “mission” that has stood between her and Batman, but also

between Batman and happiness, without betraying her antihero criminal impulses, and yet Batman resists. Bat Family members are taking sides, and *The Gotham War* will play out across Chip Zdarsky’s *Batman* and Tini Howard’s *Catwoman* titles. This is sure to be a memorable run.

X-Men #25 (Marvel Comics, 8/2/23)

For two years, *X-Men* has served as a counterpoint to Krakoa-era norms, but following the tragic events of *X-Men: Hellfire Gala 2023* #1, it is once again the flagship x-desk title. Writer, Gerry Duggan, makes this clear in *X-Men* #25 by teasing stories that will appear in other x-titles like *X-Men: Red*, *Uncanny Avengers*, and *Ms. Marvel: The New Mutant*. He also takes time to check in with some central Fall of X characters. Cyclops, back broken and eyes stitched shut, is now in Orchis custody being coerced to support the official human-supremacist story about the so-called “mutant massacre”, Emma Frost wears a disguise—which many readers think looks a lot like Moira MacTaggart—and does what she can for the mutants of New York City, and Kate Pryde takes center stage.

Krakoa has offered a Kate Pryde, formerly Kitty Pryde, for all seasons, and the Fall of X has been a dark season indeed. Following the events of the Hellfire Gala, Kate Pryde returned to Xavier’s mansion to retrieve the murderous blades gifted her by the ninja Ogun, during Chris Clairmont’s 1984

miniseries, *Kitty Pryde and Wolverine*. She has taken on the name Shadowkat and rejected the Krakoa law to “murder no man”. To be fair, that law became invalid the moment Orchis destroyed the people, the land, and the leadership of Krakoa. While it is difficult to see the heart and soul of the *X-Men* franchise embrace an “ends justify the means” philosophy, the delivery could not be better. Some were frustrated that Duggan seemed to relish the destruction at the queer-coded Hellfire Gala event, but the Jewish-coding of this issue delivers a powerful punch. Mutants have always been both a specific group and one that represents other minority groups, and Duggan couples humankind’s current will toward genocide, with the historical precedent set in the Holocaust. Furthermore, the kind and merciful Kitty Pryde is not lost because the torch is passed to Ms. Marvel, who serves as a perfect young Kitty proxy. Finally, Shadowkat is an effective symbol for mutantkind, a people who must do things they never would have done previously, just to survive, and she’s come to deputize the entire mutant population: “Every mutant still standing is an X-Man.” In this one sentence, Duggan not only justifies the expansive purview of his *X-Men* book; he also ushers in a new era of empowerment for mutantkind.

No/One #5 (Image Comics, 8/23/23)

By all measures, *No/*

One should not work. It is incredibly wordy, like the nine-panel comics of the 1960s, and it moves quite slowly. Amid the other titles that combine to form Kyle Higgins’ Massive-Verse, such as *Radiant Black*, with its constant assault on establishing a status quo, *Rogue Sun*, with its compelling family narrative and vibrant colors, and *The Dead Lucky*, with one of the most memorable protagonists in modern comics, *No/One* should be pushed to the back and forgotten, but instead it shines. Perhaps, because of Higgins’ position as Massive-Verse showrunner and the support of these other massively popular series and miniseries, writers Higgins and Brian Buccellato took risks setting-up a slow burn, compelling narrative with the promise of an explosive conclusion.

No/One follows the exploits of a vigilante whistleblower, named No/One, who exposes corruption in Pittsburgh and a number of their copycats who have no compulsions against killing, but the superhero and supervillain stuff happens in the background, much like in Greg Rucka’s definitive run on *Punisher*. The drama focuses instead on the mystery of No/One’s identity and the consequences within the Pittsburgh community of all these masked people jumping from skyscrapers. Fans of noir will immediately enjoy *No/One*, and those who enjoyed HBO’s *The Wire* will find in its pages a close friend. At the end of the day, it is difficult to describe

exactly what makes *No/One* one of the best comics out there right now. Perhaps the slowly rising waters of its narrative feel familiar, like those of political unrest, increased incidence of extreme weather, and rumors of COVID spikes that we, ourselves, deal with daily. What is for certain is that Higgins and Buccellato build tension like few others, and readers’ patience is guaranteed to be rewarded.

Other Noteworthy August 2023 Comics

Boom! Studios: *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers* #111 (8/23/23), *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers 30th Anniversary Special* #1 (8/30/23); **DC Comics:** *Adventures of Superman: Jon Kent* #6 (8/2/23), *Batman/Superman: World’s Finest* #18 (8/16/23), *WildC.A.T.s* #10 (8/9/23), *World’s Finest: Teen Titans* #2 (8/9/23); **IDW Publishing:** *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* #142 (8/16/23); **Image Comics:** *The Cull* #1 (8/16/23), *The Dead Lucky* #8 (8/23/23), *Local Man: Gold* #1 (8/30/23), *Rogue Sun* #15 (8/23/23), *Void Rivals* #3 (8/16/23), *w0rldtr33* #5 (8/30/23); **Marvel Comics:** *Alpha Flight* #1 (8/16/23), *Fantastic Four* #10 (8/2/23), *Ghost Rider* #17 (8/16/23), *Immortal X-Men* #14 (8/9/23), *Incredible Hulk* #3 (8/30/23), *Invincible Iron Man* #9 (8/23/23), *Jean Grey* #1 (8/23/23), *Marvel Age* #1000 (8/30/23), *Ms. Marvel: The New Mutant* #1 (8/30/23), *Scarlet Witch* #7 (8/2/23), *Uncanny Avengers* #1 (8/16/23), *X-Force* #43 (8/23/23), *X-Men: Red* #1 (8/16/23).

Veterans Day

Tribute

The Ledger, along with local businesses, will be saluting area Veterans in the Nov. 8 edition.

If you would like to spotlight a Veteran living in our area, please mail, email or bring their picture, along with their name, branch of service and years served, and your name and phone number to:

The Lowell Ledger, PO Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331
They may also be emailed to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

If the Veteran you want to honor was in last year, we still have their photo. No need to resubmit.

Deadline for photo submission is Thursday, Nov. 2 by 4 pm
You, or the Veteran you are honoring, must be from the Lowell area.

the lowell ledger

105 N. Broadway, Lowell
616-897-9261

Veterans participate in Pink Arrow Pride



On Friday, Sept. 22 the Lowell Veterans Color Guard lead the cancer Survivors, cheerleaders and palyers to the field. Rifle men were: David Maltman, Navy retired, and Breyond Haywood, Michigan National Guard, retired both with Iraq service. Flag men were Phil Mellac, Army and Joel Fruel, Marine, Iraq service; followed cadence caller Herman Weststrate Jr., Vietnam service. Photo courtesy of Bruce Doll - Images of Vision.