

## ABC's of Lowell History



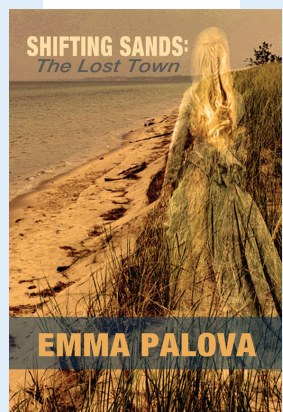
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## The Restless Viking



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## Author pens new novel



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# Kait Rose and The Thorns take the stage July 14

by Bill Lee  
contributing writer

Lowell's Sizzlin' Summer Concerts presented by LowellArts and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce continue this July when Kalamazoo's Kait Rose and The Thorns play on Thursday, July 14 at The Showboat at 7 pm.

Kait Rose has been playing and performing for almost twenty years and the last seven with The Thorns as. The Thorns are made up Greg Orr on bass, Jim Beebe on electric guitar, Ryan Demeniuk on drums, Traci Seuss on backup vocals, Aaron Stinson on saxophone and flute, and Bob Wallis on keyboards. Rose has played at the indoor LowellArts venue and was recently named LowellArts Artist of the month in February. She is now looking forward to performing with her band for an outdoor concert in Lowell. "I am so excited to play in Lowell since my first performance for LowellArts," said Kait Rose. "I'll be performing new songs off my upcoming album, Balance, as well as a mixture of previously recorded material. There will be a few cover songs in the set as well from Bob



**Kait Rose and The Thorns are part of the Sizzlin' Summer Concert Series at the Showboat and will perform July 14.**

Dylan, Neil Young, and others."

Rose has released several albums as a solo artist and one live album with The Thorns. She plans on continuing to perform

throughout Michigan but also hopes to expand in the future. "Currently my aim is to become a more established Regional artist, as I would like to travel the states surrounding

Michigan," said Rose. "That said, I'm really happy with the way my lifestyle is currently, as a strictly Michigan artist."

Rose's new album will be released on all the major

streaming platforms. For more information about her and the band, you can go to [kaitlinrosemusic.com](http://kaitlinrosemusic.com) or purchase her music on [kaitlinrose.bandcamp.com](http://kaitlinrose.bandcamp.com)

## LowellArts theatre presents Sylvia

*A comedy about a dog, a marriage, and one man's midlife crisis*

LowellArts theater presents Sylvia by A.R. Gurney; a smart, silly, sophisticated, and occasionally salty comedy about relationships, nature, and growing older.

Synopsis of the play: Greg and Kate have moved to Manhattan after 22 years of child-raising in the suburbs. Greg's career as a financial trader is winding

down, while Kate's career as a public-school English teacher is beginning to offer her more opportunities. Greg brings home a dog he found in the park—or that has found him—bearing only the name "Sylvia" on her name tag. A street-smart mixture of Lab and poodle, Sylvia becomes a major bone of contention between husband and wife. She offers Greg an escape from the frustrations of his job and the unknowns of middle age. To Kate,

Sylvia becomes a rival for affection. And Sylvia thinks Kate just doesn't understand the relationship between man and dog.

The cast is: Art Zima as Sylvia, Rob Freund as Greg, Amy Hasapis as Kate, and Emily "EmC" Cipriano as Tom/Phyllis/Leslie.

Performances dates are scheduled for Friday, July 29 - Sunday, July 31; Friday, August 5 - Sunday, August 7. All performances will be held at the LowellArts Gallery - 223 W Main St, Lowell. Directed by Marcus Chapman and stage managed by Noah Potter. General Admission tickets are: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door (LowellArts Members received \$2 off). In advance ticket sales available beginning Friday, July 1. More info at [www.lowellartsmi.org/sylvia](http://www.lowellartsmi.org/sylvia).



## Local trail offers Lowell scenic experience, connects with larger hiking community

by Michelle Smith  
contributing writer

Lowell residents have an outdoor treasure right under their noses. Nestled in our woods and practically our backyards, access to a national scenic trail runs right through our area.

Each year, fans of trail hiking have the opportunity to challenge themselves to spend more time outdoors completing the North Country Trail Association Hike 100 Challenge. The only rule to the Challenge is that hikers complete 100 miles during a 12-month period. The location of the hiking

can be anywhere along the almost 5,000 mile trail that runs through a wide variety of environments from North Dakota to Vermont.

One of 11 trails in the United States designated as a "scenic trail," the NCTA is headquartered in downtown Lowell.

Andrea Ketchmark, NCTA executive director, said outdoor sports and activities are very popular in Michigan, not just during the summer months. Hikers sign up on the NCTA website

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to complete the Hike 100 Challenge and work to complete it throughout the entire year.

The program is intended to be accessible to all levels of physical fitness and proximity to the trail.

“You can hike the same mile of trail over and over... If you live in Lowell and want to hike the Riverwalk 100 times over, you can do it,” she said.

Ketchmark said the program was created in 2016 to commemorate the National Park Service centennial celebration as a way to motivate people to use the trails on a regular basis.

“We were really surprised by the huge success of it. We had more than 5,000 people take part in it that first year,” she said.

Ketchmark said in consecutive years approximately 2,000 hikers finish the Challenge each year. Each participant tracks their own miles, and finishers report back to the NCTA to receive

a completion badge and certificate. She said hikers also can share their hiking stories and trail photos with the NCTA.

“That’s where we were really blown away by people’s incredibly heartwarming stories about transformation. People learning about the joys of hiking throughout their 100 miles. Some starting with one mile to a full backpacking trip.”

“We’ve heard from people who have dealt with family death or personal issues, medical issues while they were hiking. It is such a beautiful program that reaches so many people,” Ketchmark said.

She said Michiganders generally love to be outside, and minus our times of extreme weather conditions, we take advantage of the natural beauty around us.

“This program goes straight to the point of getting people on the trails.”

Ketchmark said the entire trail connects many different environments

and communities. It overlaps with many existing trails such as the Battle Creek Linear Park trail. Everything else is built up and maintained by the NCTA, mostly by volunteers.

As well as being the home of the trail’s headquarters, Lowell is a designated “trail town.” This designation was created to bring in tourism based on popularity of outdoor recreation and also raise awareness of the trail.

NCTA is a volunteer-driven organization doing everything from processing



membership renewals, trail maintenance, and hike leading and coordinating.

Hikers looking for more detailed information can visit the NCTA website community forum where they can ask questions about different parts of the trail, volunteer, join a local trail chapter, and find when group hikes are forming. There are also local NCTA Facebook forums.

Ketchmark said Michigan has more dedicated trail miles than any other state and more local chapters. Lowell-area residents have an easy time finding great existing portions of the trail.

“The real gem is downtown Lowell, past the Boy Scout Cabin, up through the Lowell State

Game Area, up through Fallasburg Park, which is about a seven-mile hike. From there you can make your way to Ada township and the Cannon township trail systems.”

Ketchman credits the large and dedicated team of NCTA volunteers for keeping the trails maintained and in use for the community. She said while maintenance is extremely important, the point to having the trails is for the hikers’ regular use.

“Trails literally disappear if they are not maintained and they are not used. The best way to maintain them is the more feet that are out there, walking on that trail.”



The North Country Trail Association hiking trail north of downtown Lowell near the Flat River.

## Senate passes Huizenga bill to clarify MDOT work zone areas

The Michigan Senate on Thursday unanimously approved Sen. Mark Huizenga’s legislation to protect road workers by clarifying the legal definition of a “work zone” on Michigan roads and highways.

“This measure is about helping increase road worker safety and enforcement of

the protective work zones while also boosting clarity for drivers about where a construction zone begins and ends,” said Huizenga, R-Walker. “Drivers in Michigan are often confused about when construction areas are considered active work zones — jeopardizing the safety of our road maintenance crews and

leading to difficulty in enforcing these critical protections.

“I partnered with officials from MDOT and the private sector to clear up our laws and set straightforward definitions for what is legally considered a work zone.”

Senate Bill 943 would update and clarify the current definitional limitations of a “work zone” within the Michigan Vehicle Code. It would ensure that situations where “work zone begins” and “end road work” signs are not available, such as utility work, can still meet the criteria of a work zone. At these sites, a work zone would start at a sign indicating its beginning and

end at the last temporary traffic control device.

Huizenga said the need for the change arose from the settlement of a criminal case, in which charges against the defendant were waived due to current language not explicitly stating that one worker’s presence meets the criteria of a present work crew. Therefore, as the incident area in the case did not contain a present work crew, it did not meet the definition of an active work zone.

“We need to close this legal loophole to protect our road construction workers,” Huizenga said.

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# City approves rezoning for Scooter's Coffee drive-thru and \$173,923 for street improvements

by Emma Palova  
contributing writer

The Lowell City Council and the planning commission have approved a rezoning request for Scooter's Café to be located at 2531 West Main Street from I-1 Industrial District to C-3 General Business. This site was the home of Lowell Chiropractic, and Scooter's will have to put in a new curb cut since the shared drive with Mercantile Bank does not work.

"They met all the requirements," councilmember Marty Chambers said.

Truck Repair Center. The area of the West Main Street corridor is a suburban-style strip corridor containing commercial, industrial, and retail uses. The future land use map in the city's master plan identifies the parcel as being within the mixed-use designation, which invites a combination of residential, commercial, and office land uses in the area.

The city council also approved the bid at \$173,923 to repave N. West St., Church St., and Elizabeth Dean Drive. Church and Elizabeth Dean streets were slated for later paving,

"I believe I estimated very conservatively next year's Marijuana Excise Tax proceeds," said city manager Mike Burns. "However, the cash flow for the seven-year street plan will still allow us to continue projecting the future projects as planned."

Burns said the city has not received word as to how much of the \$4.8 billion for the infrastructure passed by the Governor, they may get.

"I am not aware of any funds at this time," he said.

In other business, the city approved \$9,174 for security cameras at Stoney Lakeside Park due to recent vandalism. The police department will have access to the cameras, and there will be no monthly maintenance fee.

The city council approved the creation of Industrial Development District at 1016 N. Monroe for Attwood which will enable future expansion for the company and create



The property at 2531 W. Main Street has been rezoned to accommodate Scooter's Coffee drive-thru.

*I believe I estimated very conservatively next year's Marijuana Excise Tax proceeds.*

City manager Mike Burns

There has been some interest in the redevelopment of the vacant site from Culligan Water. The property to the west and north is owned by D&D

however, the projects were moved up in the plan, since crews are already mobilized in the area, and the opening of Culver's has resulted in heavy traffic on the street.

more jobs.

"Attwood is evaluating expansion opportunities on the market," a company rep. said. "Nothing is set in stone. This will allow us to move forward and show that there is support for this."

In related business,

the city council approved an industrial facility tax abatement for King Milling for 12 years facilitating the \$42.5 million expansion which includes a new mill and a load out. Approximately 12 new jobs will be created as the

capacity of the new mill is filled out over the next few years. Expected jobs will be in the \$15 to \$22 range.

The Lowell Light & Power line shack is out for renewed bids (RFP). Proposals will be opened on July 11.

## New residential, multi-family property available for development

State seeks developers with a vision to bring property to life

The State Land Bank Authority (SLBA) is accepting applications from developers who have a vision for the property located on 1647 N 24th St, Saginaw in Buena Vista Township.

"The State Land Bank Authority has a unique opportunity to spark significant economic growth by redeveloping land to productive use," said Emily Doerr, Executive Director of the SLBA. "We're excited to promote, revitalize and

transform this property and all other parcels in our inventory into future assets for the community and for our state as a whole."

Located within the Saginaw School District, the property is a triple lot and zoned for residential, multifamily use with a third of an acre of space and easy access to I-75 and I-675. Crow Island State Game Area, a wildlife refuge and marshland, is nearby and offers seasonal hunting, fishing and trails. Just a short drive away, Eastern Michigan's Bay-Zil Rail Trail is lined with trees and picturesque farmland. This

property offers unique value for the right developer.

Interested buyers are encouraged to review valuation guidelines for assistance in submitting a reasonable offer. Offers can be submitted on the SLBA website using the "State Land Bank Properties" link on the homepage. With more than 2,600 properties available for purchase statewide through the SLBA, developers are also encouraged to explore the property search feature and apply for State Land Bank owned property that best meets their needs.

Through collaboration

with local communities, county land banks and other state agencies, the SLBA serves as a proactive, problem-solving partner to catalyze development across Michigan. Housed within the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic

Opportunity (LEO), the SLBA collaborates closely with the department in their efforts to build vibrant communities and create affordable housing.

Since 2010, the SLBA has demolished 3,362 blighted structures and returned 2,480 properties

to productive use. They continue to be laser-focused on promoting and supporting land bank operations at the county and local levels.

To learn more about SLBA's efforts to improve communities across the state, visit [Michigan.gov/LandBank](http://Michigan.gov/LandBank).

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# Hot, dry weather sends fire risk to extreme levels

Wildfire danger is forecast to be extreme or very high across much of northern Michigan this weekend, so please be careful when working and playing outside.

“First and foremost, check to make sure that weather conditions are favorable before attempting to burn yard debris,” said Paul Rogers, fire prevention specialist for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. “Debris burning that escapes is the top cause of wildfires in Michigan.”

While the landscape seems green and lush now, some vegetation is drying across the Lower Peninsula, Rogers said.

Danger goes up when weather is hot and dry, and increases further when it’s windy. Windborne embers can travel far and fast, turning a small fire into a large one.

If you intend to burn yard debris, go to Michigan.gov/BurnPermit to see if weather conditions allow for burning.

If you’re building a

campfire or bonfire, keep it within a contained pit or ring and make sure to thoroughly put it out before leaving the area. That means dousing your fire with water, stirring the ashes and dousing again.

Here are other safety tips to keep in mind:

Never leave any fire unattended.

Keep a hose or other water source nearby.

Prevent sparks. Keep trailer chains from dragging and don’t park hot equipment on dry grass.

Do not shoot fireworks

into the woods or into dry grass or shrubs.

Get more fire safety tips at Michigan.gov/FireManagement.

It’s illegal to burn plastic, hazardous

materials, foam or other household trash. This can release dangerous chemicals into the air.

Use a burn barrel with a screen on top to burn paper, leaves and natural materials.

So far in 2022, DNR wildland firefighters have fought more than 160 fires covering nearly 3,000 acres.



# business directory

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## outdoors

### water wonderland

Dave Stegehuis

Michigan has thousands of inland lakes and thousands of miles of rivers as well as the footprint of the state being defined by surrounding Great Lakes. This vast natural resource has been vital for the development of agriculture, manufacturing, and transportation in the state from the time of the first native residents. As time went by, recreational use of lakes and streams became increasingly more popular. So much so, that the slogan “Water Wonderland” turned up on vehicle license plates

for a period of time in the past. A version of this plate is again available.

The recreational use of lakes and streams today is supported by a variety of watercraft. In addition to traditional boats and canoes, kayaks and paddle boards have expanded the opportunities to get out on the water. Kayaks are relatively inexpensive to buy and maintain. Almost any vehicle, if equipped with a proper rack or adequate space, can be used to transport the craft. The same can be said

for paddleboards. These watercraft have a shallow draft and can be used to explore unique out of the way places.

Pontoon boats have become exceedingly popular with lakefront residents. The boats can comfortably accommodate a number of passengers. Fishermen are finding the spacious craft a convenient fishing platform.

Four stroke outboard motors can supply hundreds of horsepower to larger boats for skiing, fishing, and cruising. Boats designed for walleye or bass fishing are sometimes powered by the big motors. Some fishermen apparently find the need to get to the bite in a hurry.

Traditional inboard cruisers and yachts take up plenty of space at marinas around the Great Lakes. All the comforts of home on the water. Sailors can hoist a sail and harness the wind.

The drone of personal watercraft dominates weekends on popular inland lakes. A few folks venture out to bust the serf on the Great Lakes

With a million registered watercraft in Michigan plus those that do not require registration, boating is a significant contributor to our economy while opening up extensive recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. It may be easier than one might imagine to get out and find new adventure in outdoor Michigan’s water wonderland.



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#### JUNE SCHEDULE

Victor Volkman, *U.P. Reader*, July 2  
Mackenzie Flohr, *The Rite of Wands*, July 2  
Emma Palova, *Shifting Sands: The Lost Town*, July 8  
Special episode Once Upon a Book, Frankenmuth, July 22  
Special episode with Craig Fonger, Fallasburg Village Celebration, July 27

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# viewpoint



## 125 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 15, 1897

After four years of hard work, the Lowell Ledger is a better paper than it ever was, and its proprietor, F. M. Johnson, says the silver lining to every cloud is now in sight. [Detroit Free Press].

Tom Thomas of Easton had two horses killed by lightning Monday night.

Y.M.C.A. meeting next Sunday at 4 o'clock at headquarters. All are invited to attend and join in the service.

Theodore Woodbridge, of South Boston sold a load of wool weighing 3023 pounds, Thursday. This is said to be the largest load ever sold here.

## 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 13, 1922

William H. Niles, of Ada was struck and fatally hurt Friday morning when an outgoing New York Central train crashed into his automobile as he was attempting to cross the tracks on Byron Center road at Wentworth crossing, five miles southwest of the city. He was thrown to the side of the road and taken to Butterworth hospital where he died at 10 o'clock.

While the organization of the library will not be entirely complete, the new quarters for it are being prepared for the opening, July 18. The rooms will be in shape by then, and Miss Post will be ready to issue cards and books.

The body of Fred Donovan was removed from Alton cemetery and taken to Grand Rapids last week.

A sad accident happened at about 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon, when a young Polish boy was drowned on the east shore of the island in Murray Lake. He, with his brother and brother-in-law, came to the lake to spend the day, the boy having planned the pleasure trip, which ended so sadly for him. Their home is one and one half miles west of the Bailey church. This make the second young man to drown in Murray Lake within two years.

## 75 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 10, 1947

The frame house on Washington Street, occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Jake Miller, caught on fire in the kitchen about 10:30 Tuesday morning, resulting in about \$500 damage to the house and about \$500 loss on the contents, all of which were destroyed.

There are 16 amateur acts already signed up for the Lowell Showboat amateur contest, which will be held on Wednesday of next week, July 16, at the Showboat stadium.

The Fallasburg Cubs were defeated last Sunday by the Michigan Street Merchants of Grand Rapids, 3 to 1.

Robert Stock, aged 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Stock, died Saturday, June 28th of injuries received from a pitched ball.

The number of hospitalized veterans has now reached 119,845, the highest total in Veterans Administration history.

## 50 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 13, 1972

During the night or early morning hours, thieves had entered the Bergy Brothers Elevator, by prying open the door. They knocked the combination off the safe, cleaned it out, took the change from the tills, scattered the office, grabbed a set of socket wrenches and fled away with a grand theft of \$5,500 in cash and checks.

John Jones, Superintendent of the Lowell Light and Power Plant, last week expressed the company's "thanks" to all of its customers for their patience and understanding during the June 29 power failure.

All seats for the 1972 Showboat show are reserved (\$4, \$3, and \$2). This is a reminder that the show is only a week away, and tickets should be purchased early.

The Lowell YMCA Swim Team tallied its first win of the summer season with a 263-323 win over the Kentwood Dolphins in their season opener, June 29.

The township board of Ada received numerous complaints from all over the county in regard to one of the Fourth of July activities. The greased pig scramble sponsored by the Thornapple Athletic Association was the object of much criticism from groups and individuals interested in the well-being the of pig. After the activity the pig was exhausted and possibly limping.

## 25 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 9, 1997

Litehouse, Inc. of Sandpoint, Idaho, and Chadalee Farms, Inc. have merged to create a new national company.

The source of rust in Cherry Creek leads through the city of Lowell. Lowell Wastewater Treatment plant manager, Mark Mundt, said the rust starts in a field north of the OE Bieri & Sons buildings on Godfrey.

Greg and Kandy Kremarik won the 1997 Camaro convertible at the St. Patrick's Festival. When the Kremarik's arrived at Thomet Chevrolet to pick up their new car - they decided to trade it in on a van. The Camaro wasn't practical with a family of six.

## to the editor

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

Dear editor,

You don't have to wear a rainbow to be loved. Jesus said "Love thy neighbor" that we would love those around us. Live your best life and judge not. Martin Luther King looked forward to the day of being accepted for his character.

We all know there's no "Pot of Gold" at the end of a rainbow. Live your best life based on character not false rainbows. Be a productive member of your community and earn your self-respect while building self-confidence and self-worth. Respect yourself with actions not props.

Some presentations should be reconsidered. Using rainbows and drag queens around small children are not endearing props. Forcing sexual conversations with children too young for such concepts is not appropriate. A lot like teaching mathematics, addition and subtraction must be grasped before algebra and trig, at age appropriate intervals.

Our ring bearer nephew asked if he could still visit his parents after he married

his aunt and uncle. Young boys don't like girls because girls have cooties, does that make them gay? Tough concepts for young minds.

When the main street of a small town is covered in rainbows, a forced conversation becomes necessary. One that is more appropriate as part of puberty education.

Please do not exploit our youngest citizens, exposing them to nightclub entertainment and the sexual appetite of a small percentage of adults. It is wrong for small children to put dollars in the G-strings of drag queens.

Rainbows have become an in-your-face put off. Enough already. Just stating, my right to my opinion, not a debate.

As an aside, I have many happy memories made with my gay friends and family members, who I love and cherish.

Bigots come in a variety of colors and beliefs/ideologies. Remember, don't judge lest ye be judged. Love thy neighbor and respect their point of view also.

*Veronica Blough  
Lowell*

## 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.

**Letters can be sent to emailed to  
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Deadline is noon on Mondays**



## At Your Local Library

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

### Scrabble for Seniors

Fri., July 8 from 1-3 pm. Sit down and enjoy a word game, unplugged, with other fans. For 18+ and skill levels welcome!

### Family Storytime

Mondays 10:30 am - 11:30 am. Read and sing together as a family. Enjoy stories, music, movement and rhymes that develop early literacy skills. For ages 0-5 with parent or guardian.

### Exotic Zoo

Tues., July 12, 1:30 - 2:30 pm. Meet a variety of mammals, reptiles and birds from around the world for a hands-on learning experience. Outdoor program for ages 5-10.

### Drawing with Wade

Tues., July 12, 4-5 pm. Come ready to draw and rock the manga/fantasy world. Learn how to draw Anime style characters along with fun fantasy creatures and how to combine them in a scene background. For ages 11-17.

### Ruff Readers

Tues., July 12 & 19, 6:30 - 7:30 pm. This unique read-aloud program, in partnership with West Michigan Therapy Dogs, Inc., pairs kids with a trained therapy dog and their handler. Kids read their favorite book and the pooches curl up, listen and enjoy. Arrive 15 minutes early to sign in and secure a time slot. First come, first served. For ages 5-10.

### All Aboard! Book Discussion

Thurs., July 21, 10:30 am - 11:30 am. Join a fun, informal discussion of great books. This month, we'll discuss *The 100-year-old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared* by Jonas Jonasson. For adults age 18+



# ABCs of Lowell history

The Lowell Area Historical Museum is introducing a new weekly series. Each week we will explore the history of one of the buildings in the downtown Historic District.

Address: 209 W. Main  
Date Built: 1883  
Builder: Morgan Lyon  
1st business: A. McMillan Grocery

Morgan Lyon built the Lyon Block with its 4 storefronts in 1883 after the Franklin House Hotel had burned.

This building was home to grocery stores for over 100 years. A. McMillan Grocery (1893-1898), VanDyke's Grocery (1898-1919), E. A. Anderson Grocery (1919-1925), Clint Hodges Grocery (1925-1933), C. Thomas Grocery (1933-1948), B(arber) & O(atley) Grocery (1948-1965), B&O operated by Loren Wohlford & Margaret Koewers (1965-1967), B&O operated by Dick Bell (1967 until he set a fire in the basement); B & J Grocery owned by Bob Reagan and John Topp with Ruth Sinz as manager (about 1970).

Next it became a Party Store. Tiny Giant Party Store with Ruth Sinz as Manager in 1972; Russ' Party Store in 1979; Village Party Shoppe of the O'Briens (1981-1988); Izman's Inc (1989-1993), Fergie's Party Store of Keith Ferguson (1993-1995), CJ's Party Store of Jerry Kinsley & George Saigeon (1995-1999). Since then, it has housed such businesses as The Pottery Palace, The Sandcastle Toy store, the Attic, The Hanger used clothing, and Journey's Time Antiques.



**B & O Grocery.** Notice tin ceiling, meat case, food cans, and produce table; the office and the toilet were in back. Son Jim Barber and father Raymond James Barber are pictured in their aprons. B stands for Barber (owned the inventory) and O for Oatley (owned the building). "This was the Friendly Neighborhood Store; people stopped by just to talk," said Ivan K Blough. He also remembered helping his girlfriend stock shelves before he could take her to the movies at 9 pm.

From the memories of Carolyn Jane Barber Blough: "Raymond Barber, my father, clerked for C. Thomas Grocery and then spent his career working for Kroger. When he retired from Kroger, he started the B & O Grocery. Barber managed it and Oatley owned it. "People came for his Fresh Produce and Meats. He purchased produce from local farmers, if at all possible. Growing up, the Barber children, Carolyn Jane, Jim and Bill, worked at the store ...stocking the shelves. He sold groceries on account and helped families. People brought their grocery list, handed it to Dad, then went to supper or for a beer. When they returned, the

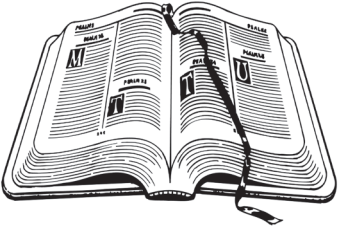
groceries were bagged and boxed, ready to take home. Saturday night was a big night. Dad sold hot dogs

which were the first thing he gave the grandkids when they came to the store."



This photo was taken about 1900. Rudolph Van Dyke is the man under the derby standing in front of his grocery store. The others are Glen Ernst and Loren Barber, who clerked for him. In a 1907 article, farmers who wanted to grow cucumbers for the new Heinz Co. Pickle Station were instructed to go to VanDyke's to get seed and instructions.

# area churches



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Pastor Alyssa Anten  
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www.gslc.church

Richard Boshoven, Pastor 897-8307  
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Pastor Andrew Bolkom • 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

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

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Confession: Saturdays 3-4:30 pm  
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# happy birthday

<p><b>JULY 6</b> Marty DeYoung, Jason Barber, Amy Stencel, Chris Page, Ed Walling, Pat Dorsey.</p>	<p><b>JULY 10</b> Pete VanLaan, Austin Bieri, Carter Peel, Kelly Landman.</p>
<p><b>JULY 7</b> Phil VanLaan, Elizabeth Gerard, Tim Tulppo, Zach Meiste, Wayne Racine, Brice Wingerter.</p>	<p><b>JULY 11</b> Dina DeCator, Jodi Hutchinson, Savannah Rice.</p>
<p><b>JULY 8</b> Jason White, Tony Stencel, Ryan Vashaw, Jessica Tulppo.</p>	<p><b>JULY 12</b> Cole Burdette, Samantha Bellah, Jill Taylor, Hayley Fritz, Georgan Watrous.</p>
<p><b>JULY 9</b> Elaine Haines, Leo Pfaller.</p>	

# Author Summer Porter brings the magic of Mackinac Island to you

by Emma Palova  
contributing writer

If you can't travel to Mackinac Island due to high gas prices, you can still experience its magic in Summer Porter's brand-new book *A Mouse Tail on Mackinac Island*.

Illustrated by Maggie Chambers, this delightful tale about the Mouse family brings alive well-known scenes from the island, from its bustling Main

Street with the clip-clop of the horses, peddling dock porters, to the charming Victorian Windermere Hotel. "I wanted to pay tribute to the island," said Porter.

The creators of the Mouse family tail, aunt and niece, Porter and Chambers, are very close to the island. Chambers graduated from the Mackinac Island High School. The entire

family has lived there for generations. "It is my hometown," she said.

Her aunt Summer gave the story life as she was driving a car, wondering if anybody has written about anything else other than the horses on the island. "I wrote it in my head and then sketched it out," Porter said. "I wondered if this has any legs - the story of the mice."

However, once they discussed the idea, Chambers knew they had a story. They embarked on a two-year-long journey during the COVID-19 pandemic and enjoyed every minute of bringing the mice's story to life.

"It was a very slow but gentle process," said Chambers. "Last year we kicked it into gear."

As the main location, they picked the family bright yellow hotel, The Windermere. Chambers has worked at the hotel so she knew every nook and cranny. The book also features her brother as the handsome dock porter, Robert. "I used my family as

inspiration," said Chambers.

Of course, the mice have personalities and even jobs. Porter and Chambers put the Mouse family to work to reflect the island's hard-working community. "Everybody works hard on this island," said Chambers. "The mice love their jobs."

The mice sleep in fudge boxes in a laundry room beside the employee kitchen. Mayor Margaret Doud of the city of Mackinac Island welcomed the Mouse family on a piece of the hotel stationery by the door.

"I am delighted to have you. Robert said you were looking for jobs. I have made a list of the ways you could help while you are living here. Good luck! Margaret Doud."

The aunt and niece creators complemented each other on their creative journey.

"Wouldn't it be cute if they...," said Porter.

"If they slept in fudge boxes," finished Chambers. "It just rolled that way."

Porter, a former English teacher, encouraged not to give up on dreams. "If you are passionate about it, you can succeed," she said.

Chambers had an eye for details, in everything from putting the names of local businesses on the spines of the books at the Island Book Store to the Town Crier island newspaper.

The team was grateful that they could work on the book project for two years. "We poured in it all our love for the island," said Chambers.

In this book, Porter found her niche in writing. "This story was waiting for me," she said. "It honors the island. It's like having a piece of the island at home."

The children's book



Illustrator Maggie Chambers in front of the Windermere.



Author Summer Porter on Mackinac Island.



Creators illustrator Maggie Chambers and author Summer Porter in front of the Windermere during their book signing of "A Mouse Tail on Mackinac Island."

came along at a wonderful break. "Children need to read time just before the summer or be read to," said Porter.



## LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF POSTING OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION

On June 20, 2022 the Lowell Charter Township Board adopted the following two ordinances;

- Ordinance 03-2022Z to add Section 4.47 to permit and regulate a shared driveway serving only two parcels. The proposed amendment requires each parcel to comply with the minimum lot area and road frontage requirements of the zoning district in which the parcels are located. In addition, a shared driveway must be a minimum of 20 feet wide and a maintenance and access agreement is also required.
- Ordinance 04-2022Z to delete Section 4.22 which regulated outdoor events. This language must be removed to avoid conflicting with Township Ordinance 02-2022, the Lowell Charter Township Outdoor Event Ordinance recently adopted by the Township Board.

The adopted ordinances are available for review at the office of the Township Clerk, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, Michigan, 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday or by calling 897-7600. The ordinances are also available on the Township Web Site at [www.lowelltwp.org](http://www.lowelltwp.org).

Monica Burt, Clerk  
Lowell Charter Township

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# Lowell Ledger reporter pens *The Lost Town*

Lowell author and reporter Emma Palova completed *The Lost Town*, a third book in the Shifting Sands series on the last day of June.

The historical fiction novel is set in Singapore, MI, a ghost town on the shores of Lake Michigan during the pioneer era of the 1830s.

Palova captured the spirit of the once-thriving lumbering town in its main characters - beautiful Miss Ida, her boss lumber baron John Bosch, Singapore founder Oshea Wilder and supporting characters, Sir Artemas Wallace and housemaid Mrs. Fisch.

Miss Ida was torn between her hometown of Chicago and her new home Singapore, and between two men. Who will win her heart?

The story unravels as the greedy New York investors set their eyes on the undeveloped land at the Oxbow bend in the Kalamazoo River surrounded by sand dunes with much-coveted white

pin.

Wily Oshea established the New York & Michigan Co. in 1836 to facilitate the development of Singapore. The investors envisioned that Singapore would rival Chicago and Milwaukee. With its humming mills, boarding houses, hotels and general stores at the height of its prosperity, Singapore almost outshone Chicago.

The name remains a mystery, as its famous counterpart island city in East Asia was only a fledgling town at the time.

"The mysterious name inspired me to write this novel," Palova said.

According to one interpretation, the exotic name was used to honor the "singing sands" of the Lake Michigan shore. The shape of the grains and the moisture combine to make the sand sing or squeak when someone walks on it.

Always on the hunt for stories and inspiration, Palova walked into the general store on Butler Street in downtown Saugatuck in the mid-

1990s. She picked up a book about Singapore and checked out the historic marker in front of the Saugatuck City Hall.

"The story just gripped my imagination and stayed with me throughout the years," she said. "Then I forgot all about it for decades."

It wasn't until getting ready for the National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) last November, that Palova realized that what she had planned to write about Singapore would turn into a novel rather than just a short story.

"I wanted to do the fascinating story of Singapore its justice," she said. "I knew a short story wouldn't cut it."

During her research for the novel, Palova came across Singapore's 'wildcat bank.'

"I knew this was big," she said, "bigger than life."

Singapore had a 'wildcat bank' that issued its own ornate bank notes that are still in the collection

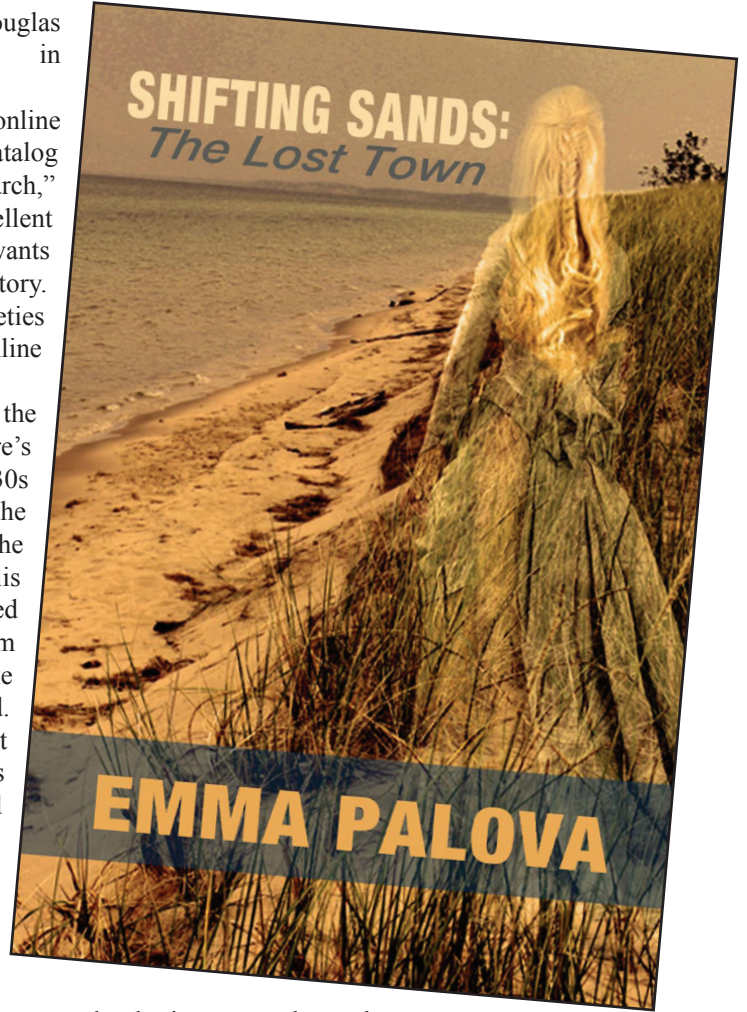
of the Saugatuck Douglas Historical Society in Douglas.

"I used their online collections catalog exclusively for research," she said. "It's an excellent tool for anyone who wants to write about history. Most historical societies in Michigan have online collections."

The novel covers the entire span of Singapore's existence from the 1830s to its demise in the 1870s. At one point the town was known as Ellis Island since it accepted immigrants from European countries like Norway and Holland. The town was the first stop for Hollanders before they moved further up north and established Holland. It came before Saugatuck which was smaller and known as Flats.

"I wove nautical stories into the novel because I love the seas," Palova said. "I wish I was a sailor."

It was not just a



lumbering era, but also a time for steamers, schooners, and tugboats on the Great Lakes. Nautical transportation was just as dangerous as travel by land, and later by rail.

"Sometimes the story evolved all on its own to my surprise, like in the chapter 'Mail fraud at Oxbow', she said. "I was really surprised at what Ida was capable of doing driven by secret love."

Other chapters were meticulously planned with research usually showing up later in the novel.

"My previous research didn't help me much, but the immediate research during the NaNoWriMo challenge helped," she said. "I can easily say that this novel is a direct product of the challenge."

During NaNoWriMo, Palova wrote a minimum of 1,750 words daily to reach the victory lane at 50,000 words by the end of November. After that came months of more writing, revisions, and editing.

Carol Briggs of Lowell edited *The Lost Town*. The whimsical cover was designed by graphic artist Jeanne Boss of Rockford. Beta readers include Nancy Price Stroosnyder and author Diana Kathryn Wolfe-Plopa.

"Emma's ease at mixing actual history into her stories is remarkable, and so entails Miss Ida's response to an invitation to a soon-to-be bustling 'Singapore' on the shores of Lake Michigan. She is transported away from Chicago, family, and friends. She quickly learns the duties expected of her in maintaining a boarding house and warehouse in the rapidly growing community. Soon she falls in love with one of the corrupt founders. The many colorful characters weave a fantastic story of love, mystery, hope, and faith. This is a quick, very worthwhile read!" - Nancy Price Stroosnyder

The book is now available for pre-order on Amazon at <https://www.amazon.com/Emma-Palova/e/B0711XJ6GY>.

Palova will be signing her new book at the following locations: Fallasburg Summer Celebration on July 30, Englehardt Library in Lowell TBA, Frankenmuth, July 23, Holland, Aug. 6, and Paradise, Aug. 19-20. Listen in to an upcoming podcast about *The Lost Town* on <http://emmapalova123.podbean.com>



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# Two gems in Douglas, Michigan – a beach and a barrel

by Cliff Yankovich  
contributing writer

When traveling, the best advice you can get about great places to visit or eat usually comes from the local people. Online reviews can steer you in a good direction, but just between you, me, and our smartphones, I take online reviews with three grains of salt because, well, they are online and Lord knows the interweb is chock full of smoke and mirrors.

The gold standard of advice from a local was demonstrated big time recently. My weekends are Sunday and Monday. I like to get all my chores at home done Sunday so I can go play on Monday when most

with a Popeye smoothie from the aforementioned coffee shop.

Once that was done, I stopped in to see if Rich LaBombard, the City Manager in Douglas, was in his office. Those of you who pay attention to such things might remember Rich worked in Lowell as the DPW Director and Assistant City Manager before Douglas stole him from us.

As we were chatting about pretty much everything, I mentioned something about “checking out the beach” and thinking it was maybe being a little too windy and cold for me to take my first swim of the year. If you know anything

Center Street right now, just head West until....”

“You mean toward the Root Beer Barrel?” I interrupted.

“Yes, go past the stop sign at the Barrel to the T in the road and take a right.” Rich advised. “You will see a little parking lot. There are 165 steps to get down to the beach, but you will love it. Check it out.”

I just worked in another Douglas gem – the Root Beer Barrel. Older readers might remember when the first version of the Barrel showed up in the early 1950’s. The 17 foot tall replica of a root beer barrel has quite a history. From my research, it seems that it spent about 40 years just sitting empty.



The Douglas Root Beer Barrel.



Top of the stairs looking down.



At the midway point you can sit and rest going up or down.

folks are back at work. Last Monday, I hopped on my trusty Zero motorcycle for a trip I really enjoy – to see Lake Michigan. I decided to head to the Douglas area, since I know they have charging stations right downtown about two blocks from a great little coffee shop, Respite Cappuccino Court, that has never let me down in past visits. Had a blast riding the back roads; rode through the crowded streets of Saugatuck and out to Oval Beach thinking I might take a swim. It was chilly in the shade as I sat on my bike looking over the beach, so I scooted over to Douglas, plugged the bike in and enjoyed a toasted bagel

about me at all, then you know that Lake Michigan is my happy place. The Big Lake makes me smile just looking at it, but nothing beats a swim.

“Oh, did you go out to Douglas Beach?” Rich asked.

“What did you say?” I replied. “There is a Douglas Beach?”

Dang, I thought I had been to pretty much every public beach from St. Joseph to Traverse City. How could I have circled the sun sixty four times and never once found myself at Douglas Beach?

“Oh yes,” Rich continued. “It is a little hidden gem. We are on

The fun started happening in 2017/18 when a group of Douglas residents came up with the bright idea to restore the barrel to its former glory.

The City actually owns the barrel. There is a great back story how members of the community joined forces with the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society to fix it up. They embarked on a fundraising effort and then used the money to take the barrel apart and refurbish and/or replace the wood staves and the metal pieces. (“Staves” are the curved wood pieces that make up a barrel.) They sold t-shirts and Stave Sponsorships and marched in parades to

publicize the Barrel and get people involved. They had the help of a local contractor and even some high school students. Once it was ready, the Barrel was positioned on a piece of city-owned property at 455 West Center - at the corner of Center and Ferry. FYI – Ferry Street is the one you turn North on to get to Oval Beach.

Douglas resident, Michael “Mick” White, took on the challenge of selling root beer and great hot dogs at the Barrel in 2019. I say ‘challenge’ for a number of reasons. First, it is a compact kitchen space in there – just 150 square feet. Secondly, there is no plumbing or air conditioning. Somehow, he has managed to get licensed for food in spite of no running water, and let me tell you, the hot dogs are delicious. Mick makes work of keeping his prices very reasonable because he respects the effort the community made to restore and re-open the Barrel. My personal favorite dog to go with my Sprecher’s root beer float, is the Chicago Dog that has mustard, pickle spear, tomato, cucumber, relish, peppers and “a dash of celery

salt” on a poppy seed bun. There are another ten dogs, including a veggie dog, along with some side dishes and a variety of potato chips. I believe the priciest dog on the menu was \$4.95 and a large float is the same price. (I paid \$4.00 extra for the spiffy mug.)

What was I writing about? Oh yeah – Douglas Beach. I left Rich’s office and by the time I got to the T in the road, I forgot if he said turn left or right, so of course, I went the wrong way. Whoops. I turned around after eyeballing some spectacular “cottages” with fantastic views of my favorite Big Lake. (You might want to follow my route for the treat of seeing these homes.)

Douglas Beach is beautiful. There are about a dozen parking spots and the top of the park is well-shaded with a couple of picnic tables. The City built a beautiful deck with bench seating that has a great view. The steps down to the beach are in excellent condition



A thing of beauty - Root Beer Float.

and it is well worth the effort if you can handle 165 steps. There is even a spot to catch your breath on the way back up. I jumped in the water twice, even though it was breezy and the waves were smacking me around. Then I made the long ride of .8 miles back to consume a frosty float.

There is no better way to celebrate Lake Michigan than with a root beer float from the Barrel. (Do people even drink root beer without ice cream in it?) Thanks for the great tip, Rich.



Nothing beats sitting on a Lake Michigan beach after a swim.



## The Restless Viking

The World Less Traveled

With Chuck & Martha Hayden

www.restless-viking.com



### ~ accidental U.S. bombing

by Martha Hayden

I was amazed to learn from our friend, Brian Toronyi, that a bomb had accidentally been dropped near his home in South Carolina on March 11, 1958. The Mark-6 left a 50 foot wide crater that was 25 feet deep at Mars Bluff. With a little research, we learned that there have been 32 accidental incidents with atomic bombs since 1950. It was unsettling! We needed to investigate this site and learn the truth of this Mark-6 atomic bomb.

#### Atomic Bomb Crater Location

Our first goal was to find the crater. This was not a well-known location and took some of Chuck's army pathfinder skills and knowledge of coordinates. The information led us to a neighborhood, but since it was private property, we needed to find another way to the site.

the B-47's flight on March 11, 1958, a control light started flashing. It warned that the nuclear bomb locking mechanism wasn't engaged. The team of three were heading to England with a few other planes on a practice mission called, "Operation Snow Flurry." Their assignment was to simulate bomb releases in order to determine the accuracy of their "drops."

Navigator, Captain Bruce Kulka (one of three crew members), removed his parachute and crawled into the space below the bomb to investigate the locking mechanism. He didn't locate a locking pin, so he climbed back up to look at the top of the weapon. Kulka couldn't see over the bomb as he shared the same height as the explosive.

when "an unexpected event involving a nuclear device" occurred. However, Hunter Airforce Base wasn't clear as to the meaning of this alarm. These code words were unfamiliar.

Kulka quickly radioed the Florence County airport and bluntly explained the situation, demanding that they call Hunter Airforce Base using unsecure phone lines saying, "We lost a device!"

At the same time, the main communication lines in Florence County were jammed as people reported seeing two plumes of smoke in the air. It was some time before the message was effectively relayed.

Their plane had been filled with enough fuel

they would stay there 'at least over night.' The team was NOT permitted to make contact with their families. The leaders on the ground had worried that the three airmen may have released the bomb on purpose.

After being questioned by General LeMay, who had experience with bombs and understood Koehler's explanation of the pin. The squad was released.

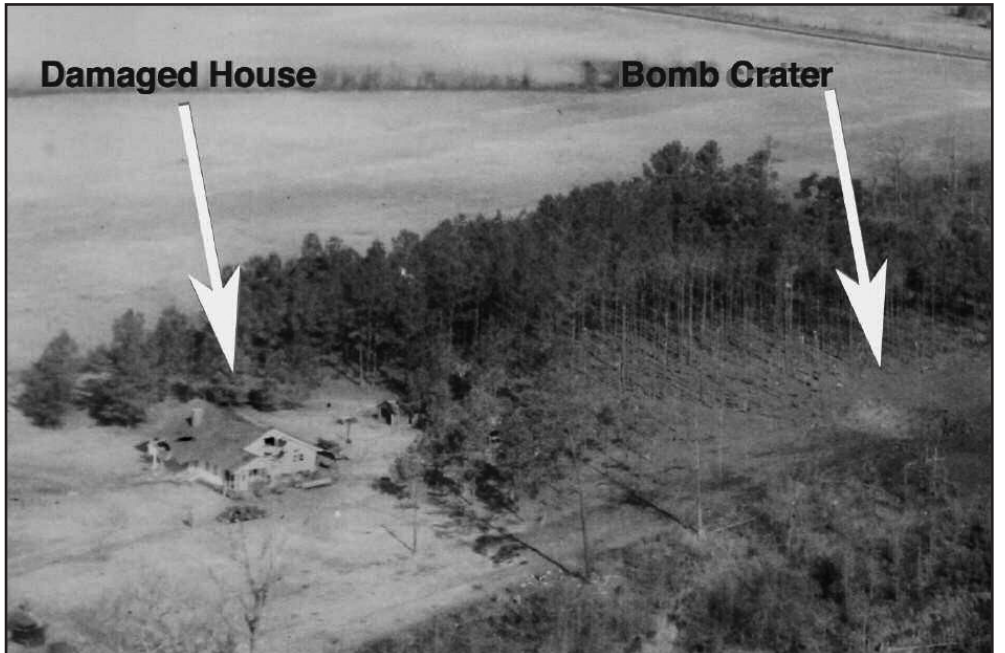
boards and plaster. She had received a few stitches at the hospital. Walter (Bill) and Walter Jr had been fixing a bench in the shed. Bill stated that he thought a plane had crashed.

Seeing injuries on Ella and Effie, someone ushered the family into his car and drove them to the hospital. Ella said she saw the speedometer reach 80 mph. In my research, it had been

which he did! After three years and three months, he received the original offer, \$36,000, from the United States government.

#### Television Appearance

The Greggs had been asked to not talk about the incident to the press. However, they were on a TV show where they'd stumped the panel with "An atomic bomb fell in



Walter Gregg's home suffered walls slanting and the roof cracking. Photo Credit: Columbia Star.

#### The Gregg Family

Helen (9), Frances (6) and their cousin Ella Davis (9) had been in their playhouse in the woods twenty minutes before the Mark-6 had been accidentally released. Luckily, the little ladies had decided to head back to the house to continue their play.

The bomb created a crater 25 feet deep and 50 feet diameter. The surrounding trees had been flattened. Only shards of the playhouse's metal roof were found. Tiny bomb fragments littered the area.

Nearby, Walter (Bill) Gregg's home was shaken off the foundation. 6 family members were injured. Miraculously, nobody was killed.

Ella had been stacking bricks to make a play kitchen when the bomb hit. She doesn't recall the explosion. Effie (Mrs. Gregg) had been sewing in the parlor, when suddenly she found herself crawling out from under

unclear as to who this driver was, but I found JA Sanders, a traveling salesman, had reported that his car was completely turned around on the road. Maybe it was Sanders or possibly a neighbor who Ella, the cousin, hadn't known.

Members of the flight crew each personally paid their respects to the Gregg family. Over the years they kept in touch with Bill and Effie.

#### The Gregg's Home

The Gregg family moved to Florence, South Carolina with only the clothes on their backs. Initially, The Red Cross helped with some immediate living expenses. The family had been offered a monetary settlement of \$36,000 from the military. The money wouldn't have been enough to rebuild, let alone replace items ruined by the explosion. With a new law enacted, Walter (Bill) Gregg was permitted to sue the United States Airforce,

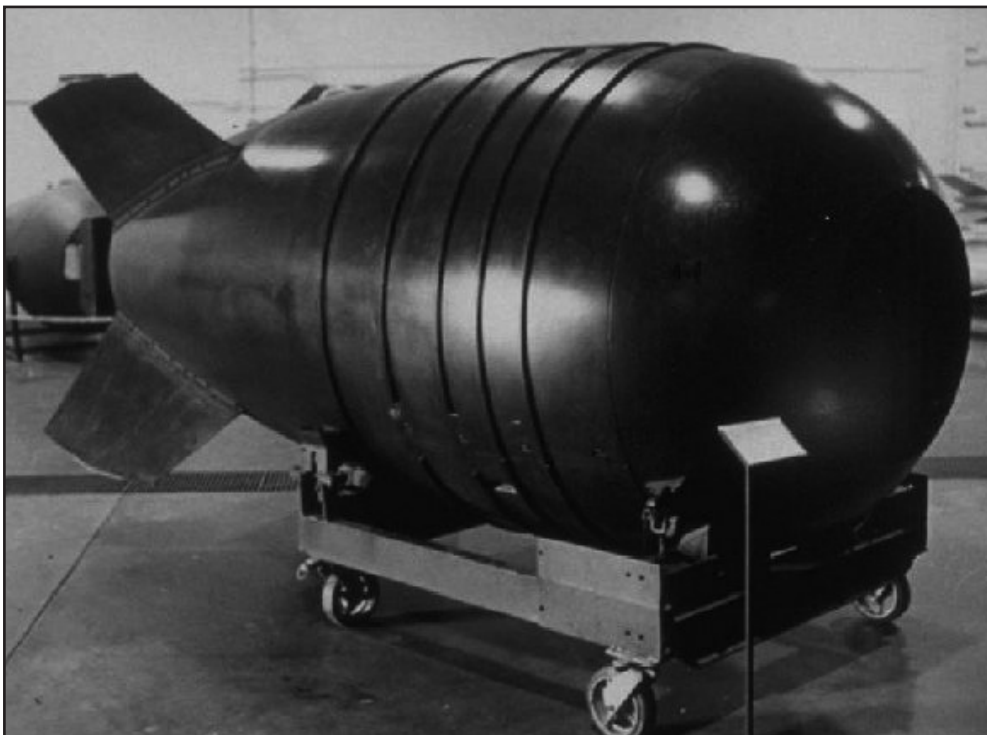
our backyard." I'm not clear about the date of their appearance on "I've Got A Secret." Sponsored by Winston cigarettes, the host puffed up a storm during the tapings that ran from 1952 - 1967.

#### Radiation?

With repeated testing of the ground and the Gregg individuals, the Airforce reported, "minuscule amounts of radiation had escaped." The uranium/plutonium core had not been inserted into the bomb. It was the policy to carry this core in a separate part of the plane.

If the Plutonium core had been inserted into the 7,600 pound Mark-6, it would have annihilated everything within 5 miles and caused rampant radiation poisoning.

Continued,  
next page



The workmen loading the bomb had difficulty with the locking pin and had to tap it with a hammer. The policy was to release the pin upon take off and landing. Then replace the pin once the airplane reached proper elevation.

Continuing through the woods, we found the bomb crater resting innocently among the trees, disguised as a vernal pond.

This forgotten spot did have some information. A cut-out board (highlighted in the top photo and seen clearly in the bottom picture) demonstrates the actual size of the Mark-6 bomb.

As we made our way back to the Jeep we ran into a father and daughter pair searching out the history of this site. We chatted about local areas of historical interest. It's wonderful to meet others who hold curiosity.

#### The Story of MK-6 (Mark-6)

Less than an hour into

So Kulka hoisted himself up on the bomb, grasping at anything. He inadvertently hit the 'emergency release' pin. The 7,600 pound bomb dropped into the bomb bay doors. With the weight of the bomb, the doors opened releasing the explosive. Without his parachute, Kulka scrambled to take hold of anything to prevent himself falling through the doors as well. With grace and luck, he managed to stay onboard the plane.

Captain Bruce Kulka quickly radioed Hunter Airforce Base to relay the alert. "Broken Arrow! Broken Arrow!", he called over the line. These were the code words to communicate

to make a long journey to Canada, then over the Atlantic to England. With this excess of fuel it would be unsafe to land, so the crew needed to 'burn off' fuel by circling for over two hours. They attempted to fly over the area where the bomb had made impact, to take pictures, but there was too much smoke and debris to capture a clear shot. Those two hours must have stretched at the slowest pace for the airmen.

When they were finally able to land safely, the three were met with armed air police who, "relieved them of their weapons." The trio was escorted to a room with 'hastily arranged mattresses on the floor.' The men were told that



Florence County residents inspect the crater at Mars Bluff. Photo Credit: Military Times

# Continued from previous page

## Airforce Policy Changes

Within days of the accident, locking pins were to be inserted in nuclear bombs at all times. A new design was created requiring a specific electrical impulse for nuclear weapon triggers.

## What Happened To The Flight Crew?

I needed to know what had happened to the flight crew. Each had personally shown their remorse for the incident, but were there consequences? The pilot, Earl Koehler, remained in the Airforce for twelve more years and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. Woodruff, the co-pilot, had left the Airforce for civilian life in 1959. Captain Bruce

Kulka, the navigator and bombardier, continued flying with the USAF for thirteen more years. Kulka retired in 1982 with the rank of Major.

## The Gregg Family

Walter (Bill) and Effie remained married for 70 years. The pair rebuilt their lives from scratch after the accidental bombing. Bill had a 41-year career with the railroad. Their three kids continued to live in Florence, South Carolina. Gregg passed away in 2013 at the age of 92 years young.

## Brian Toronyi

In February 2022, we had spent the weekend with our friends, Brian and Doris Toronyi, at their new home in South Carolina. Chuck

and Brian had worked together on Kent County Search and Rescue. They have spent a fair amount of time setting up pranks and festive gatherings over the years. It was great to see them again!

Brian's creativity and strength continues to motivate all of us! Thank you, Brian, for leading us to the Mars Bluff Atomic Bomb site. This unusual history needs to be shared!

*Resources*  
 Brian Toronyi, the idea man, aka Scuba Steve  
 Florence, South Carolina Museum  
 Accidental Nuclear Bombing article  
 American Heritage article



The destruction caused the family to relocate. The Gregg family decided to never return to this land that had been in the family for over 100 years. Photo Credit: The Florence County Museum

# Falcons banded at International Bridge

## Fast facts:

- A pair of peregrine falcons successfully nested on the Sault Ste. Marie International Bridge, where the birds have been returning for years, raising three chicks.

- A live video stream is viewable at [www.saultbridge.com/falcam](http://www.saultbridge.com/falcam). The best time for bird watchers to see the falcons is when they're nesting in the spring.

- The peregrine falcon has been removed from the federal endangered species list but is listed as an endangered species in Michigan.

The pair of nesting peregrine falcons at the Sault Ste. Marie International Bridge have had a successful summer, with the raptors raising three chicks this year.

Karl Hansen, bridge

engineer for the International Bridge Administration (IBA), reported on the pair of peregrines that nested on the bridge between the U.S. and Canada. Nest boxes for the peregrines have been installed since 2010 on the International Bridge. Last year, the same pair of peregrine falcons hatched two chicks. Over the years, the site has been a great success, hatching 35 falcon chicks since IBA staff

started counting the birds, Hansen said.

This year's chicks, two males and a female, were banded by a Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) team on June 9. Color-coded bands attached to the legs of young birds allow scientists to track the movements, reproductive behavior and population growth of the falcons. In addition to their leg bands, the peregrine chicks received names.

"Since the birds were born on Friday, May 13, the International Bridge staff went with some classic horror movie names," Hansen said. "Freddy and Chuckie for the two male chicks, and Carrie for the female."

Several years ago, the IBA added a video camera trained on the nest box, the "FalCam." The live video stream, which has become very popular, is viewable at [www.saultbridge.com/falcam](http://www.saultbridge.com/falcam), offering bird watchers a front row seat for the seasonal activities of the endangered raptors. The best time to view the birds is when they're nesting in the spring.

Michigan lost its peregrine falcons in the 1960s and 1970s due to the use of DDT and other environmental contaminants. Since conservation efforts started in the mid-1980s, the number of peregrines has fluctuated, but has generally increased since the 1990s, according to the MDNR.

The peregrine falcon has been removed from the federal endangered species list but is listed as an endangered species in Michigan, protected by state and federal law. While they historically nested on cliff faces in Michigan, peregrines have adapted well to city habitats, nesting on tall buildings, smokestacks, bridges, and other man-made structures around the world.

Of all the active

peregrine falcon nesting sites monitored by the MDNR in the Upper Peninsula, the International Bridge is the second most productive in terms of chicks hatched, behind only a nest on Grand Portal Cliff at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

High-speed hunters capable of flying at 200 mph, the peregrines may help keep populations of nuisance pigeons under control. While researchers have found pigeons make up a relatively small portion of the falcon diet, the dangerous predators may play a role in frightening them away from bridges. Keeping pigeons away is seen as potentially saving the IBA maintenance money down the line, as pigeon droppings can damage paint on metal bridge surfaces.



Peregrine falcon chicks in their nest box on the Sault Ste. Marie International Bridge earlier this summer. (IBA photo)

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## obituaries

**BERRY**

Carole Ann Berry was born in Owosso, MI to parents, Jack and Esther Steppey. She had an older sister, Jean (Steppey) Wheat, and younger brother, Lloyd Steppey. Carole grew up in Dewitt, MI. Her dad was a partial owner of Rosedale Packing House in Dewitt.



Carole was very fond of her dad and spoke of his gentle spirit and was a Lithuanian immigrant. Her mom, Esther, played piano and lived to be 99 years old. Carole cared for her mom until her death in 2013. Carole graduated from Sparrow Nursing School in 1958 and married Paul Berry and later divorced in 1963. Her first child was Steve Berry, born in 1961 and daughter,

Karen, in 1962. Carole worked at Sparrow and St. Lawrence Hospital in Lansing. She worked for Dr. Isaac and Dr. Hayes. She later worked at Ingham Medical and Lansing General Hospital in their surgical units. She loved the 3-11 shift, through the years everyone knew she was a night person. Her favorite days were consumed with coffee

from QD, vanilla creamer and making sure she was home to watch "I Love Lucy". She sewed blankets for all her grandkids while she watched TV. Her life long dream was to go to Israel. She saved up for the trip, but as her arthritis worsened, she could not make the trip. She always wore the Star of David with the Christian cross in the middle. She took classes for Hebrew and also, Sign Language.



She felt sign language might help her as a nurse. Mom was a self-taught musician; she played the harp, guitar, accordion, organ and piano. Never took a lesson. She was offered a job on the "Martha Dixon Show" in Lansing to play the organ, but didn't because she had to care for her family with a full time job as a nurse. In her later years, she loved to watch the "Hallmark Channel" and Tiger baseball. Mom had many arthritic challenges through her life, but she was funny and laughed at herself, when things became difficult. She was not afraid of dying and said, "I know I am going to Heaven" and told us so through the years. Mom helped raise her granddaughter, Christin, and also grandson, Caleb. In her last days, she wanted to see her grandkids, Christin, Breanne, Amanda, Edie, Drake, Dean, Luke and Caleb, who were with her before she died. She spoke to Alex on the phone. Grandchildren who could not see her, she loved so much, Liz, Caitlyn, Emmerson, Everett, Adilyn and Rowan; nephews, Mark, Matt and Tammy Steppey, David and Steve Wheat, Dane and Jenny Wheat. Also survived by daughter, Karen Berry Chittenden; grandchildren, Christin Berry Garcia, Breanne Berry Curry, Amanda Berry Whitehill and Caleb Berry. (G dtr Abigail Berry, limited visitation through the years.) Proceeded in death by her son, Steven Paul Berry (2013). A Graveside Service will be held for Carole at Dewitt City Cemetery, 780 N. Bridge St., Dewitt, MI on July 7, 2022 at 6 pm, visitation for friends from 5:30-6 pm. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Lowell Farm and Wildlife Center, 12494 Vergennes St. SE, Lowell, MI 49331 or [www.facebook.com/farmwildlife](http://www.facebook.com/farmwildlife).

## Summer Pet Safety Tips

## 1. Never Leave Your Pet In Your Car on a Hot Day

We all like hitting the road with our dog riding shotgun, but if you're going somewhere that will require your pet to stay in your car or truck unattended, it's best to leave them at home. Even on a mild summer day of 78°F, the temperature in a car or truck can reach 90° in five minutes. A pet can get heat stroke and die in as little as 15 minutes in a car on a warm day. Even if your pet survives being left in the car, their organs may be permanently damaged. In some cities, police have the authority to break windows to rescue animals from parked cars. Of all summer pet safety tips, this one might get overlooked the most.

## 2. Avoid Exercising In The Heat

Summer is a great time to get out for a walk or a day in the park. It's also a dangerous time if temps get high. Some pet safety tips to prevent heatstroke are to avoid exercising your pet on days when the temperature or humidity is high and keep plenty of water on hand when you and your pup go out. When you exercise your furry friend this summer, make sure you have lots of water and take a lot of cool-down breaks. Plan your exercise sessions for the early morning or in the evening to avoid the heat of the day.

## 3. Make Sure Your Pet has More than Enough Water

One of the main ways dogs cool down is by

drinking cool water. Be sure to bring plenty of water for your days at the park and keep their water dish full at home as well. Keep a collapsible water bowl in your car or truck so you can share your water with your pet if you get stuck in traffic or on a long trip.

## 4. Take Time to Cool Down Your Pet on Hot Days and After Exercise

Fans are not the best way to cool down pets. Since dogs mostly sweat through their paws, you'll want to take them somewhere where they can walk or swim in some water. Sprinklers and hoses are fun and work great. You can also feed your pet frozen, pet-friendly treats. Most dogs love frozen nuggets of peanut butter. After exercise, take your furry friend to a cool, air-conditioned, or shaded area. Sprinkle and splash cool water on their paws or feet or fill up a hollow Kong toy with water and treats and freeze it to give them a treat to cool down with. Cats usually prefer air conditioning to getting wet, but you can put some ice cubes in their water dish to help keep them cool. On your days on the trail or in the park, you may want to bring a picnic cooler filled with ice to put in your pet's water or to rub on their tummy to keep them cool. This is one of those pet safety tips that will allow you and your pet to have a blast all day long.

## 5. Use Sunscreen to Protect Your Pet from Sunburn

Yes, pets can get sunburned, too. Find a sunscreen made for babies

or pets and apply it to their back, nose, the skin around their lips, the tips of their ears, their tummy, and their inner thighs. Sun can reflect off water and sand to burn your four-legged friend's underside, so don't neglect those areas. Summer pet safety tips like this one get overlooked but can save your pet from a painful burn.

get up past 80°, pavement in direct sunlight can cause burns on your feet, and your dog or cat's pads are more sensitive than human feet are.

## 8. Secure Your Pet

Walking your dog or cat is a great way for both you and your pet to get some



## 6. Protect Your Pet Against Bugs

We're not the only ones who start to get more active in the summer. Bugs like ticks, fleas, mosquitoes, and flies are at their peak in the hot months. Ask your vet about what type of bug prevention you should use for your pet.

## 7. Keep Your Pet Away From Hot Pavement

Pavement can quickly get hot enough to fry an egg on summer days. Protect your pet's paws by avoiding pavement that's in the sun. Even on mild summer days of 77°F, pavement in the sun can reach temps of up to 125°. When temperatures

much-needed exercise. Be sure to check your state's leash laws, as they can vary. Look for a dog leash that is long enough to let you retain control. Most cat leashes are retractable to allow your kitty to roam. If you're going to be walking your dog at night, make sure that you carry a flashlight and wear bright clothes so you can be seen more easily. You can also get a collar light for your pet that will make him or her easy to spot!

During barbecues, picnics, and bonfires, make sure you keep your pet tied up to keep them from eating something that will make them sick and from getting burned.

## LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

### NOTICE FOR TESTING OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT FOR THE STATE PRIMARY ELECTION AUGUST 2, 2022

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Accuracy Test for the August 2, 2022, State Primary Election will be conducted Monday, July 11, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash S.E., Lowell, MI 49331.

The public accuracy test is conducted to demonstrate that the computer programming used to tabulate the votes cast at the election meets the requirements of Michigan election law.

Monica Burt, Clerk  
Lowell Charter Township

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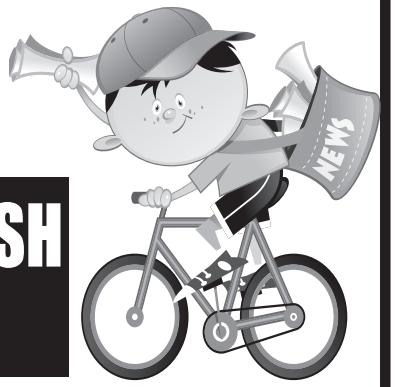
PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Grid of puzzle solutions with words like MANTLES, ANTI TOXIN, PREP, MAHOUMA, ERNIE JOHNSON, MNCI, CADAEARS, LEK TOYS, MIRIFERE, PALMY, OBESSE, BABIED, ARISEN, ANURA, SAHIB, GYBETACOSSES, HMOSSENETRAVEL, DOPALATABILITY, ARDEB, ABANTE, DESPERATE, ACES, ORATED, MEET

9x9 grid of numbers for a puzzle solution.

Large grid of letters with words highlighted in grey, including: CLKV, HIL, CGH, ENAPORPI, GIM, WITOE, BLAT, CERID, GUHKV, G, DHGG, AUT, AOL, LDSHP, DVV, SC, EYML, TRSV, VCE, TARG, VEG, TH, KRAD, UGB, OTWR, NKLS, NSE, IK, NCUV, UEHR, MRT, AH, TO, ENAC, NMNT, SRY, OD, GOR, HST, LD, AK, KT, TVPK, AS, NR, OP, FHC, CB, TN, FR, EG, NAD, RAG, GK, MCE, AW, LD, WW, N, DLP, TMY, ES, R, OD, TU, OY, OY, SP, GER, FK, DY, PV, GES, GYO, MP, VW, MNUC, URS, IML, GVM, ED, K, AB, KC, F, D, AC, F, RE, P, GE, IE, MN, AT, MI, W, U, I, B, AC, E, W, F, K, V, L, T, P, A, O, U, F, A, D, A, E, EE, GV, BB, NL, OAK, LUL, ME, OLC, V, WC, VK, AN, RF, OM, WSA, ST, K, L, OM, I, YIA, AS, AF, AG, WS, L, FO, TE, BD, DT, AB, PP, T, S, AB, BT, HS, VW, MB, RW, NS, ESG, WE, KP, SY, NI, AT, RET, NE, UE, UUC, LOU, LLIR, GC, VL, NY, OLU, F

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## Live the Life You Want

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### Spotting a manipulator

Most of us have heard the word manipulator used to describe someone's behavior. Many people use manipulation techniques to get what they want. This behavior is seen in salespeople, politicians, negotiators, children, parents, CEO's etc., but that doesn't mean they are bad people. As with most things, manipulation can be used to help or harm. The difference is that a harmful manipulator purposely works to control/influence

others in a dishonest, unethical, or unfair way for their own personal gain.

Manipulation is found in all three of the "Dark Triad" traits (Machiavellianism, narcissism, and psychopathy) and manipulators are very good at hiding their true intentions. So, how can you spot when someone is manipulating you? Keep reading.

#### Manipulator tactics

Because manipulators are so good at what they

do, it can be difficult to spot them. They are so skillful at hiding their true motives, it can have you questioning/doubting your own conclusions and decisions. Manipulators can be found in any relationship personal or professional. Manipulators often use the following tactics.

**Flattery.** This is often the first attempt at manipulation. They pretend to be helpful, caring, and nice but are working to get what they want from you. Example: The manipulator may praise their supervisor at work in an attempt to get a raise.

**Excessive attention.** The manipulator gives you a lot of attention, affection, time, gifts, compliments, and support. More so than what is seen in a healthy, balanced relationship. The end result can leave you isolated. If the manipulator

then takes away this excess attention, which is typically the case, you are left alone and feeling lost.

**Isolating.** This doesn't just happen in romantic relationships. It can also happen within families, friendships, or even at work. The manipulator starts to isolate you from others so they can control you. Others pose a risk of spotting their manipulations so they need you alone and isolated.

**Using guilt for leverage.** They try to make you feel guilty for your decisions or actions. Example: "If it wasn't for me you would never have gotten that job promotion." They then use this guilt to help them get what they want and control you.

**Lying.** Lying helps them control or coerce others and avoid responsibility for their

actions. Example: Instead of coming home as promised, the manipulator goes out with friends and then lies to you saying they had to work late.

**Gaslighting.** They want to make you doubt your decisions, intuition, suspicions, and yourself. This keeps you confused and in their control. Example: "It's a good thing I'm here to help fix your mistakes because you always mess things up."

**Threats and violence.** If others tactics don't work they may use threats. Typical tactics are to threaten to leave you, hurt themselves if you leave, or to hurt you in order to keep you afraid and in their control. Example: "If you leave me, I will kill myself."

**Third person.** The manipulator brings in a third person that sides with them, due to the lies they

have been told. You then have two people disagreeing or arguing with you. The goal is to make it difficult for you to hold strong to your decision and pushes you toward giving in to the manipulators' control.

There are many other signs that someone is a manipulator but these are the ones most often used. Knowing what to look for may help you avoid or get away from a manipulators control/influence, saving you from a lot of pain and misery. If you can't get away from a manipulator on your own, it may be time to get help so that you can live the life you want. This article is not meant to treat or diagnose. I hope everyone stays safe and healthy.

# First mosquito-borne virus of 2022 detected in Michigan mosquitoes

Residents urged to protect against mosquito bites

Mosquitoes recently collected in Bay County have tested positive for Jamestown Canyon virus (JCV) at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of Laboratories (MDHHS BOL). These are the first infected mosquito pools detected for 2022. Residents are reminded that the best way to protect themselves against JCV and other mosquito-borne illnesses, including Eastern

Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile virus (WNV), is to prevent mosquito bites.

Every summer in Michigan, bites from mosquitoes carry the risk of spreading diseases to people and animals. JCV sickened six Michiganders in 2021. Also reported last year were 46 cases of WNV and one case of EEE. Seven of the WNV cases resulted in death.

The JCV virus is spread to people through bites from infected mosquitoes. Most cases occur from late spring through mid-fall. Illness can

develop within a few days to two weeks following a bite from an infected mosquito. While most people do not become ill, initial symptoms can include fever, headache and fatigue. In rare cases, it can cause severe disease in the brain and/or spinal cord including encephalitis and meningitis.

"It only takes one bite from an infected mosquito to cause a severe illness," said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, MDHHS chief medical executive. "We urge Michiganders to take precautions such as using

an EPA-registered insect repellent when outdoors, avoiding areas where mosquitoes are present if possible, and wearing clothing to cover arms and legs to prevent bites."

While the JCV is found throughout much of the U.S., cases have been increasing in the Midwest. This likely reflects increased awareness and testing, but may also be due to an increase in the presence of the virus in the environment. This is the second year that the MDHHS BOL is offering virus testing of mosquito pools collected by local health departments and county mosquito control programs. Testing is offered to improve detection and notification of mosquito-borne viruses.

JCV can be spread by mosquitoes that become infected when they feed on deer or other animals that have the virus in their blood. Infected mosquitoes spread the virus to other animals or people through



bites. Arboviruses including WNV and EEE spread when mosquitoes contract the virus from biting infected birds then biting a human.

Residents can stay healthy by using simple, effective strategies to protect themselves and their families. The following steps are recommended to avoid mosquito-borne diseases:

Apply insect repellents that contain the active ingredient DEET, or other EPA-approved products to exposed skin or clothing. Always follow the manufacturer's directions for use.

Wear light-colored, 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 lay eggs.

For more information, visit Michigan.gov/EmergingDiseases.



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# FUN PAGE

## SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

### Here's How It Works:

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

# OUTDOOR FEAST WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

### OUTDOOR FEAST WORD SEARCH

BACKYARD  
 BARBECUE  
 BASTE  
 BURGERS

CHARCOAL  
 CHICKEN  
 DIRECT  
 ENTERTAIN  
 FESTIVE  
 FLIP  
 GRATE

GRILL  
 HEAT  
 OUTDOORS  
 PROPANE  
 SEAFOOD  
 SEAR  
 SMOKER

SPATULA  
 STEAK  
 TEMPERATURE  
 TONGS  
 VEGETABLES  
 WOOD

## Guess Who?

I am an athlete born in California on July 5, 1985. I did not play soccer in high school, but was involved in a local club. I joined the U.S. Women's National Team in 2006 and play as a midfielder. I've helped the U.S. win at the Olympics and two World Cups.

Answer: Megan Rapinoe

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to cooking.

L I G L R

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Grill

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10			
11					12					13	14	15	
16					17				18				
19				20	21			22	23			24	
25						26					27		
28						29					30		
				31	32						33		
34	35	36	37						38				
39						40	41	42					
43					44					45	46	47	48
49				50					51	52			
53			54						55				
56		57					58				59		
60					61	62					63		
			64								65		

### CLUES ACROSS

- Ancient Greek sophist
- Genus of insects
- Culinary herb
- Neutralizing antibody
- Plan
- Pa's partner
- A city in S Louisiana
- TNT sportscaster
- Atomic #25 (abbr.)
- Well-known bug
- Body parts
- Monetary unit of Albania
- Kids' play things
- Coastal city in Malaysia
- Famed French physician
- Flourishing
- Excessively overweight
- Pampered
- Emerged
- Order of tailless amphibians
- Indian term of respect
- Shift sails (Brit.)
- Beloved Mexican dish
- Scottish tax
- Health insurance
- Monetary unit of Samoa
- Move about
- Execute or perform

### CLUES DOWN

- A particular part
- Spanish neighborhood
- Business
- Reddish browns
- Extinct Hawaiian bird
- Disney town
- Part of the Bible (abbr.)
- Atomic #22 (abbr.)
- The distinctive spirit of a people or an era
- In a moment
- Monetary unit of Vietnam
- Submerge in a liquid
- Yellowish cotton cloth
- , denotes past
- Hoopster Morant
- Not
- Indian title of respect
- Horsley and Marvin are two
- One thousandth of a liter (abbr.)
- Hoover's organization
- Round globular seed
- University official
- Spherical body
- Iraq's capital
- To any further extent
- Swollen lymph node
- Anger
- Technological marvel
- Peruvian district
- Salt of acetic acid
- What Santa says
- Israeli city \_\_ Aviv
- Late Heisman winner
- Reveal the presence of
- Long upholstered seat
- Most wily
- Sword
- Respiratory disease
- The Ocean State
- Fleshy watery fruit
- Lying down
- Superheavy metal
- The ancient Egyptian sun god
- Indicates position

# Conserve fuel with vehicle maintenance and other tips

Motorists know that 2022 has been a record-breaking year for fuel prices. Data from AAA indicates gas prices jumped 55 percent between June 2021 and June 2022. All 50 states now have an average fuel price that exceeds \$4 per gallon, with many even surpassing the \$5 mark. The fuel cost comparison resource Global

Petrol Prices reports that, as of May 2022, gas in Canada was on average \$2.17 CAD per liter, which comes to roughly \$8.22 CAD a gallon, or \$6.52 USD per gallon.

The pinch at the pump is being felt by commuters, casual drivers and weekend warriors alike. People across North America are taking

whatever steps necessary to conserve fuel. One of the considerations they may have overlooked is vehicle maintenance. Poor vehicle performance adversely affects fuel economy, so here's how to maintain a vehicle with an eye toward conserving fuel.

**Proper tire inflation**  
The U.S. Department of Energy says each decrease in tire pressure by 1 pound per square inch for four tires can decrease fuel economy by 0.2 percent. By keeping tires properly inflated, the average driver can improve gas mileage by as much as 3 percent. Drivers can consult their tire manufacturer's

specifications for proper tire pressure.

Use recommended motor oil

Engines require the right blend of products to work efficiently. The DOE says drivers can improve gas mileage by 1 to 2 percent simply by using the recommended grade of motor oil. In addition, look for motor oils that list "Energy Conserving" on the label.

**Change the air filter**

According to Auto Zone, an engine's ability to produce power is directly related to its ability to draw air in. A clean air filter assists with that function, whereas a dirty filter will reduce engine power and fuel efficiency.

**Get a tune-up**

Additional mechanical issues may affect vehicle performance and lead to excessive fuel consumption. A mechanic can run diagnostics on the vehicle and make recommendations on things to repair or replace, such as spark plugs, ignition coils or faulty oxygen sensors.

Treat fuel occasionally

Debris and moisture in the fuel tank can compromise combustion and impact performance. A fuel treatment product can clean out debris and dry up moisture to restore function and improve miles per gallon.

Use the air conditioning sparingly

The air conditioning unit in a vehicle uses power directly from the motor of the car. This means the vehicle consumes extra gas to keep the AC unit running, thereby reducing fuel efficiency.

**Remove excess cargo**

Clear the trunk or cargo area of extra items that can weigh down the vehicle, requiring more power to move it. Any heavy load will negatively affect mileage.

Keeping a vehicle in top form can improve fuel economy, which can be especially beneficial in a time marked by soaring fuel costs.



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