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The Restless Viking



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50¢



Perfect weather for Riverwalk Festival 2022

You couldn't have asked for better weather for this year's Riverwalk Festival, held last Thursday night through Saturday.

There were many events to be enjoyed by the whole family! Including: the Riverwalk cruise-in and Rumble, Kidz Zone, the Friends of the Englehardt Library's used book sale, food booths, kayak, SUP and canoe race, Ducky Derby, Flea on the Flat River and so much more!

The Insiders: Tom Petty Tribute Band kicked everything off with their performance Thursday night, at the Sizzlin' Summer Concert, to a packed crowd. The Sea Cruisers brought the best music from the 50s, 60s and 70s to the stage on Friday night.

Saturday was jam-packed fun all day, with the fireworks finale to end Riverwalk 2022.

Winners of the Duck raffle were: \$1000 - Anonymous; \$100 winners: Robin Littlefield, Taylor Milstead, Ed Webb, Steph Perez and Rose Hollinshead.



More Riverwalk Festival photos pages 8 and 9

The River of Time Pageant

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

Sponsored by the Lowell Area Historical Museum and presented

by Alto Active Achievers & Friends, The River of Time Pageant is set for July 23 at 1 pm on the banks of Flat River on Lowell

Fairgrounds. Bleacher seating will be available or bring a chair.

Its main purpose is to teach the early history of Lowell that begins in Wabwindego's Odawa village.

"It looks at the early history of the fur trade in the village," said museum director, Lisa Plank. "The students are learning the roles they're going to play based on real historical figures."

These roles include Madame LaFramboise, early settler Daniel Marsac and Chief Wabwindego, and many more people. The students make their own period costumes and build the village props.

"They're learning about actual people and the pageant showcases local history," said Plank.

Local resident, Helen



Alto Active Achievers & Friends play different historical roles in the River of Time Pageant.

LowellArts Artist of the Month: August

by Bill Lee
contributing writer

Although they are all from different regions of Michigan and Illinois and all have different musical tastes, the members of the Grand Rapids band, August, have one thing in common: Aquinas College. All five members are graduates of the local college and all but one played together musically while there. It is a bond that has kept them tight since they first started playing together in 2018. "They're my band mates but also my very close friends," said Olivia Vargas, singer and keyboard player for the band. Other members of the band are Marissa Peak (Vocals), William Wright (Bass), Michael Pierce (Guitar), and Bailey Budnik (Drums).

August has, in a short amount of time, made a name for itself in the West Michigan music scene and has also recently been named LowellArts Artists of the Month. "We were so excited and honored," said Vargas. "We've been super happy with feeling a lot of love from the West Michigan community."

August brings several qualities that make up their unique soulful, bluesy, pop sound. One is the different musical tastes and influences each member brings to the band. "I think my biggest influences are soulful singer/songwriter pop, folk, jazz, but the rest of the band has vastly different music tastes from me," said Vargas.

Continued page 4

Continued page 2

Continued from front page



The students play roles such as Chief Wabwindego, Madame LaFramboise, and early settler Daniel Marsac.

Stoller wrote the script in 1992, which was the year of the first performance. It was performed again in 1993 and every five years since. Museum educator Luanne Kaeb puts the production on.

There will be one performance only from 1 to 2 pm. The pageant enjoys a good attendance of approximately 200 people.

“The pageant educates the students and the community about the early history based on the fact that the rivers always played a major role,” Plank said. “The story of our community plays along the rivers. We hope that people will come and learn about our earliest history. And the pageant takes place in a beautiful setting along the river.”

“The students do a great job,” she said. “If people are home, come and see us.”

For more info contact the museum at lplank@lowellmuseum.org

Lowell Community Wellness offering fun challenges for August

The Lowell Community Wellness is offering some fun, healthy challenges and a chance to win a great prize. The 8 Dimensions of Wellness Challenge runs August 1-31, 2022.

Complete 16 different activities during the month and then follow the entry instructions on the challenge form to be entered for a chance to win a prize. Entry deadline is September 10, 2022.

Visit lowellcommunitywellness.org/community-programs to download the challenge form.

Lowell Community Wellness Challenge Instructions

Prize entry: Complete a total of 16 individual activities on our wellness challenge form during the month of the challenge. Each activity can only be used once. You will be entered to win a prize. All prize entries must be received by September 10, 2022.

Grand prize entry: To be entered for a chance to win 1 of 2 grand prizes, complete a total of 16 individual activities on our wellness challenge form during the month of the challenge. Each activity can only be used once. You must also post a picture showing you completing one of the challenges and tag our Facebook page @LowellCommunityWellness and don't forget the hashtag #8dimensionschallengeLowell.

When you have completed the entry criteria and form you can take a picture of both sides and email it to lowellcommwellness@gmail.com

OR
You can mail your completed form to: Lowell Community Wellness, PO Box 246, Lowell, MI 49331.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____

Be sure you are healthy enough to complete the activities chosen and/or check with your doctor before entering the challenge. Each person may only enter once and individuals cannot win more than one prize. Not everyone entering will win a prize. LCW is not responsible for entries not received, lost, or that are not legible.



Lowell Community Wellness
Inspiring and educating the Greater Lowell Community to attain a healthier lifestyle

Take the Challenge 8 Dimensions of Wellness

Emotional dimension	Spiritual dimension	Intellectual dimension	Physical dimension	Environmental dimension	Financial dimension	Occupational dimension	Social dimension
Garden	Attend a local worship service	Read for enjoyment	15-20 stretching routine	Conserve water – don't leave faucets running	Donate or sell unused items	Leave work on time - 1-wk.	Volunteer locally
Cook a new healthy meal	Prayer/ meditation	Try a new craft/ hobby	Try a NEW activity like Yoga or Tai Chi	Take a walk and pick up litter	Create a realistic budget	Avoid working during personal time - 1-wk	Spend time with/ reconnect with someone close
Create & share a new smoothie recipe	Help someone w/o expectations	Try a challenging puzzle	Drink 6 to 8 glasses of water a day	Declutter & organize one room	Start an emergency savings acct add \$10-20 weekly	Relay positive comments/ feedback to Co-Workers	Join a club/ organization



The students constructed the village props along the Flat River.



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college news

Dean's List honors are achieved by undergraduate students who carry 12 or more credit hours and achieve a semester grade point average of 3.5 or higher on the 4.0 scale. The following students are

named to the spring 2022 Dean's List: John Andrulis of Alto and Alana Peters of Lowell.

Hannah Draigh of Alto, was among more than 3,700 students from Miami University who received degrees during the in-person spring commencement May 14-15, 2022.

Draigh graduated with a Certificate degree, majoring in Child Life Specialist.

Spencer Smolen, of Ada, has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for the spring 2022 semester. UWM is the second largest university in the State of Wisconsin, with more than 22,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

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the lowell ledger

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Fallasburg Village Celebration set for July 30

by Emma Palova
contributing writer

The first annual Fallasburg Village Celebration has an impressive band line-up and a picnic-style format. The brand-new event is the brainchild of Bruce Doll, vice president of the Fallasburg Historical Society (FHS).

While driving through the park in the middle of winter and crossing the Covered Bridge, Doll thought it would be great

to have a Fallasburg Village neighborhood block party. It grew from that simple idea into a full-blown event to celebrate the village's unique history.

"I presented my idea to the board to have a celebration to get the word out about the village," he said.

A month later came the changes at the helm of FHS, Craig Fonger became the new president, and Doll the vice president.

"We wanted to make it

fun to have some music," Doll said.

There will be an opening ceremony at noon. All the bands are local and they will play on the Fallas Barn stage at the ball field. A car and tractor show will feature cars made prior to 1962, when the Fallasburg school closed. The car and tractor show will take place in front of the Tower and Misner houses. It will include a horse-drawn wagon from

the Civil War. Family games will feature a three-legged race, water balloon toss, and the boardwalk.

"We're trying to get families to do things together," Doll said.

The schoolhouse will host old-school lessons with author and Ledger reporter Emma Palova, who will be signing her new book, *The Lost Town*, a historical fiction novel set in Singapore, MI.

"We want to give a taste of what was it like," he said.

Hot dog meals with chips, water, and a freezie pack will be available for \$5. There will be non-profits with tables, and demonstrations by Tuckertown Forge. All the museum buildings will be open for tours with docents talking about the history of the buildings and the village.

For safety reasons, there will be only one-way traffic from the bridge to McPherson Road. The area will be sprayed for bugs.

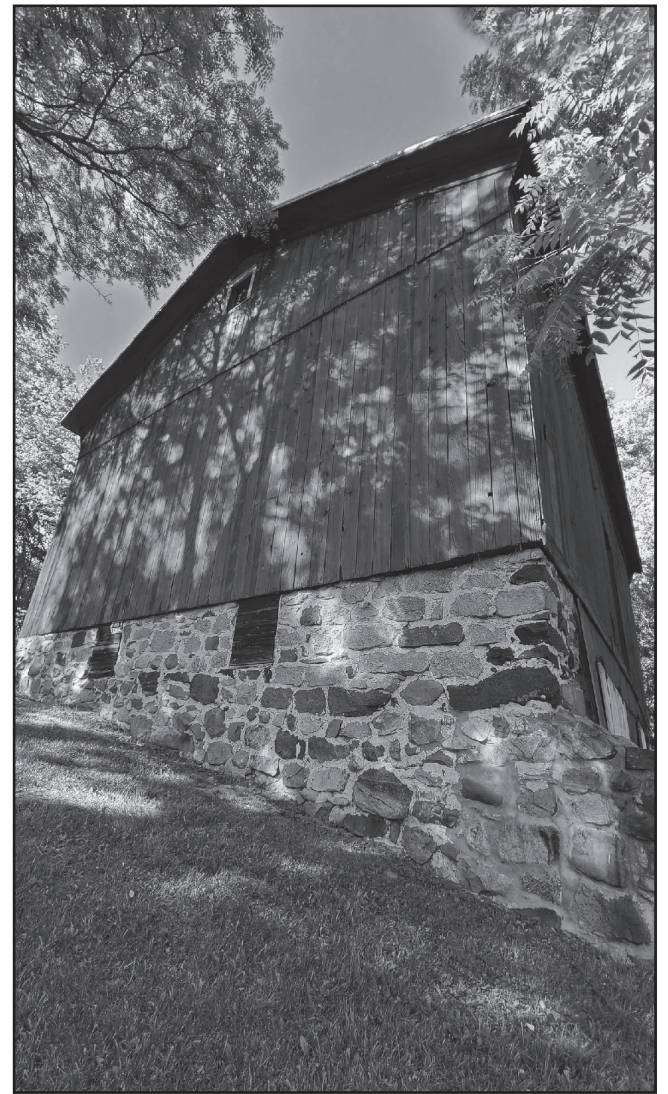
There are 35 sponsors sponsoring the brand-new event in the historic village of Fallasburg.

"We want to bring lots of people to the Fallasburg Historic Village to entertain and to have fun," he said. "We hope to make it into an annual tradition."

People can bring their picnic baskets, blanket, and lawn chair. Parking for a \$5 donation will be available at Misner and behind the Fallas House.

"We'd love to have new members," he said.

More volunteers are



Fallasburg Village field and barn. Photo courtesy of Bruce Doll.



Fallasburg schoolhouse. Photo courtesy of Bruce Doll.



The Fallas Barn stage at the ball field. Photo courtesy of Bruce Doll.

needed to run the games.

For more info go to: www.fallasburg.org

BAND LINE-UP (subject to change)

Eli Roe, 12:30 pm

Bruce Mathews, 2:00 pm

Downstream, 3:30 pm

Hawks and Owls, 5:00 pm

Easy Idle String Band, 6:30 pm

After performing, Easy Idle will switch over to square dancing. FHS has a new motto: The Fallasburg Historical Society mission is to preserve and promote the unique history of Fallasburg Village by bringing its past to life for present and future generations. Come and spend the day.



JUNE-AUGUST FREE OUTDOOR CONCERTS

Lowell Showboat SIZZLIN' SUMMER CONCERTS

20TH ANNIVERSARY
Presented by LowellArts & the
Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce

Concerts are family-friendly and wheelchair accessible. Bleacher seating is available, or bring a chair. Free parking.

Enjoy Lowell's Social District for your adult beverages. Concessions also available for purchase.

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Continued from page 1

“We have moments of rock influence by Bailey’s love of metal, we have moments of jazz that comes from Michael, even some of our harmonies are influenced by Marissa who listens to a lot of bluegrass. So I think as time is going on, we are melding genres a lot more, thanks to their music tastes.”

Another quality that makes the band stand out is the way Vargas and Marissa share the singing load – neither is considered the lead singer. They will sometimes sing without the other but will also

harmonize together to create a rich sound very different from other bands. “I’ve always been obsessed with harmonies,” said Vargas. “I really wanted somebody to share that main lead vocal with. As time has gone on, I have let Marissa take the lead more instead of just being harmonies. In this band we treat harmonies almost like a full instrument, like a string section. We want to build arrangements that aren’t just singing exactly with the melody. I think that makes us stand out as a band.”

This summer August

will be performing many shows throughout western Michigan, including on July 21 for the Cherry Park Concert Series in Grand Rapids and on July 22 at Unruly Brewing in Muskegon. Performing live and connecting with the audience, and especially with her band mates, are what Vargas and the other members love doing. She gets excited just talking about it. “There is this moment that you lock-in with your band and you look at each other because you did something really cool or we nailed a section



The band August is LowellArts July artist of the month. Photos courtesy of augustthebandmusic.com by Loren Johnson and Dogtown Studios.

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or maybe somebody did something out of the normal and the audience reacted to it,” said Vargas. “There is this feeling of connection in that, that makes you incredibly happy.”

Vargas is originally from the east side of Michigan but with going to school on the west side and now performing and collaborating here, she believes something special is happening on the west side. The music scene is growing and is filled with young, experienced, and talented musicians. Also, they are all very supportive of each other’s success. “This community wants so badly for everyone to succeed and I think that is incredibly special,” said Vargas. “Nobody is trying

to compete here. Everyone wants you to do well and support your music. Here people are willing to give your name out to people in a room who are important. I think that’s the number one thing I’ve noticed here. But also it’s all about collaboration. I have my own band but I also play in my friends’ bands, and I’ll do different projects. Everybody just wants to make art and music. There is this feeling that you are friends with everyone.”


She and the band feel they are in a place where they can continue to make high-quality music. “Our goal is to keep continuing to make music we are proud of and to see where that takes us,” said Vargas. “We’re really committed to putting out quality content. We want to play bigger shows, we want to make better albums

and play to more people and reach new audiences.”

They are hoping to make all that happen right here in the Grand Rapids area and have no aspirations right now to move to any other place. “I’ve heard a lot of sentiment is, as a community, we want to put GR and west Michigan on the map as a place to go for music,” said Vargas. “You think of LA, New York, Nashville, but I think our goal is, let’s make GR be a music city. Let’s make Lowell be a music town. We want people to come here and feel that this is a community that values music, musicians and artists.”

You can find August’s music on their website augustthebandmusic.com

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JULY SCHEDULE
Victor Volkman, U.P. Reader, July 2
Mackenzie Flohr, The Rite of Wands, July 2
Emma Palova, Shifting Sands: The Lost Town, July 15
Special episode Once Upon a Book, Frankenmuth, July 22
Special episode with Craig Fonger, Fallasburg Village Celebration, July 27
Lowell author Gladys Fletcher, TBA

Sponsored by Doc Chavent, The Lowell Ledger, Modern History Press

viewpoint



125 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 22, 1897

The Lowell Cutter company has seemingly been struck by the McKinley prosperity boom; and is working a large force of men long hours to get out its ordered goods. The proprietors say there is work enough in sight to keep the factory busy until January first, after which orders for the next season's business should begin coming in.

Ed Hoag lost a horse from the extreme heat last week.

Mrs. Chris Wick, aged 38, living near Northville, was standing on a chair fixing some paper, on the wall, when she fell and a pair of shears were forced into her leg, severing an artery. She bled to death in a few moments. She leaves behind a husband and seven children.

Miss Myrta Scott, aged 21, of Kalamo, who was soon to be married, ate some cherries and cheese at the home of a neighbor. Soon afterwards she was taken sick and within an hour was dead.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 20, 1922

The Ionia-Grand Rapids motor bus was totally destroyed by fire at the Ada bridge gas station Friday evening, starting at 6:30 and driver Roy Rich, of Ionia had a hand terribly burned in an attempt to get a fire extinguisher out of the car, while a man passenger had his face quite badly scored by the gasoline flames.

The Boy Scouts band concert, on the new portable platform Saturday evening, was heard and enjoyed by a large number, and we think the music carries better by reason of being raised above the crowd.

Stepping through a trap-door leading to the basement, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Oscar Rice, Tuesday, Mrs. Mary McCormick was fatally injured after falling down the stairs.

Archy Hasty, aged 98, walked four or five miles to town and home again Thursday.

Base ball at Recreation park, Lowell, Alto vs. Lowell. Time 3:30 pm. On account of the old base ball rivalry between Lowell and Alto, it is expected there will be a large attendance from Alto and vicinity, as well as from this section. Admission 25¢.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 17, 1947

This year's Lowell Showboat will feature: the famous Pitchmen Comedy Stars of Broadway and the movies; there will be Hap Hazard, who comes direct from Radio City, NY; Dick Kozak, world champion xylophone player. Also appearing will be the Mary Huhlman dancing beauties, the famous Carlton Acrobatic Team; Mary Kay and her Hollywood Band will play the show. In addition, there will be 14 other acts.

Mrs. Anna McCaul, 54 and her son Frank C. Balcom, 23 were killed instantly about 5:30 Monday afternoon at the Grand Truck crossing in Lowell just south of the upper bridge. The truck was apparently driven into the pathway of the oncoming westbound Grand Trunk flyer.

At the annual school election of Lowell Graded School District No. 1, held last Monday, Frank L. Stephens was re-elected to membership on the Board of Education and Gerald E. Rollins was elected as the new board member. A total of 35 votes were polled. The annual school meeting was held following the election. A rising vote of appreciation was given Mr. Coons, who is retiring after 21 years of faithful and painstaking service.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 20, 1972

The summertime event that has made Lowell famous across the nation since its inception in 1932, the Lowell Showboat, gets underway Thursday. It runs for two consecutive weekends. Guitar Man Jerry Reed will headline, John Twomey, the manualist, who last year amazed and thrilled the Showboat audiences, will return with his incredible act. Also appearing is Bobby Goldsboro, that "Honey" of a guy.

Five larceny complaints are currently under investigation by the Lowell Police Department, as they search for such items as a car, tools, money, stereo equipment and motorcycle accessories.

David Potter, owner of 'deer run' golf course, averaged 90.1 strokes per match while playing for the Davenport College golf team. A June graduate from the college, Potter was instrumental in leading the linksters to a strong 17-5 win-lose record.

The Lowell Showboat is being previewed on state-wide television this year, according to Terrence Fenech, manager of Automobile Club of Michigan's North Grand Rapids office. Auto Club sent color prints of a 1-1/2 minute film promoting this years Lowell Showboat to all 20 of Michigan's television stations for their use in publicizing the event.

It's completely renovated...McCaul's Texaco Station on East Main Street has had the works - a new exterior, a new roof, new lighting and new paving.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 16, 1997

After a three-year hiatus, the Lowell

Showboat returns in 1997, welcoming back many of its loyal fans and special guests, The Smothers Brothers and Loretta Lynn.

The DDA's renovation/cleanup work, which started one year ago, appears now will spill into the Flat River. The River will be drawn down on Monday, July 21, so that demolition of Lee's Landing building may begin. While the river is down, a group of volunteers, headed by planning commissioner Gordie Barry, will work to clean up the river and its banks from the bridge to the Showboat.

The Lowell Board of Education adopted plans to upgrade student graduation requirements and restrict the seven-block format. Lowell High School students will now be required to earn 23 credits during their four years as opposed to 22. It will also require that students attain three credits in both science and math and two-and-a-half in social studies.

Through a cooperative program endorsed by the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Lowell male swimmers will be allowed to compete with the Forest Hills Central High School boys' swim team.

to the editor

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

To the Editor,

I would like to know where the money is that was earmarked by Englehardt for a new community pool? Since that money was to be used for a pool, why isn't being used?

Why isn't his wishes being carried out?

I keep hearing it isn't feasible. It was a sizeable amount of money; then

the interest it has accrued since the donation to the community adds to that total. It should be used for nothing else.

When the donation was aired on The Today Show it said Lowell was the richest little town in the country.

*Respectfully
Denise Lessens
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 Englehardt Branch, 200 N. Monroe St. For additional information call 616-784-2007.

Library hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, noon - 8 pm; Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 9:30 am - 5 pm.

Mahjongg

Fridays from 1-3 pm. American Mahjongg, a game of skill, strategy and calculation. All skill levels welcome.

Gather 2 Grow! Lunches at the Library

Every weekday Through Aug. 12, 12:30 - 1 pm. KDL is partnering with Feeding America West Michigan to provide free lunches for students under the age of 18. Easy pickup, shelf stable.

Family Storytime

Thursdays, 10 am - 11 am. Read and sing together as a family. Enjoy stories, music, movement and rhymes that develop early literacy skills. For ages 0-5 years.

Universe of stories and music

Thursday, July 14, 1-2 pm. Interactive stories combine with beautiful music to offer full audience participation and hands-on fun with musical instruments from many parts of the world. For all ages.

Ahoy! A pirate's adventure

Tuesday, July 19, 1-3 pm. Ahoy Mateys! Do you have what it takes to be a true buccaneer? Try yer hand at "pirate skills" like using a compass and tying sailing knots. Build and "fire" yer own catapult, try not to sink yer ship and create yer very own pirate name. Join us for a swashbuckling adventure featuring all things pirate! For ages 5-10.

Music moves us/Being bilingual rocks!

Wednesday, July 20, 1-2 pm. Internationally touring family musicians and teaching artists Alina Celeste and Mi Amigo Hamlet share a joyous blend of music for young children in English and Spanish. For ages 0-5.

Ruff Readers

Wednesday, July 20 & 27, 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.

ABCs of Lowell

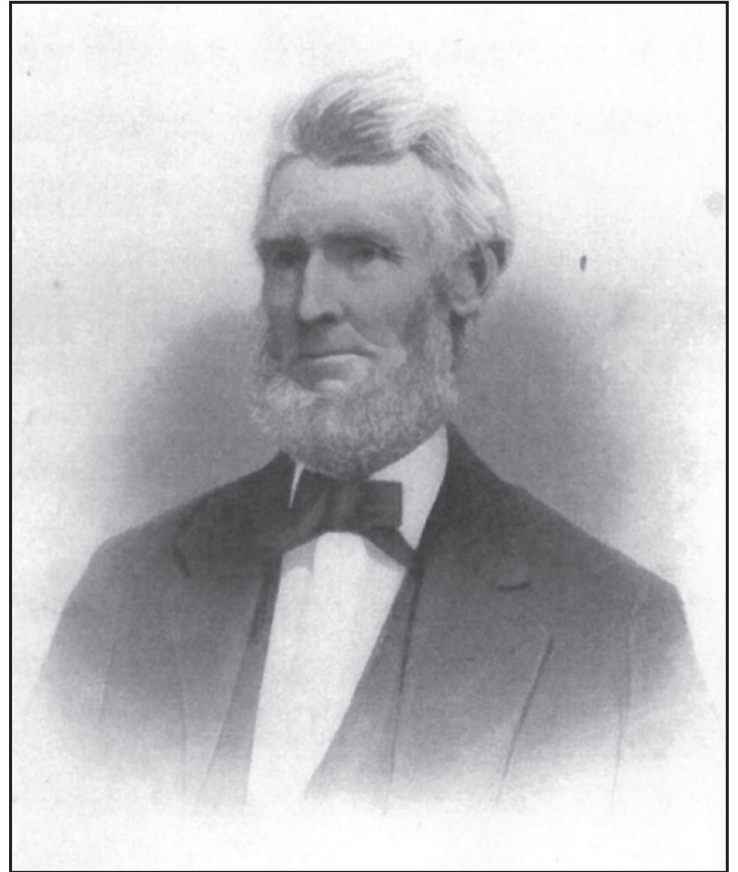
The Lowell Area Historical Museum is introducing a new weekly series. Each week we will explore the history one of the buildings in the downtown Historic District.

Address: 207 W. Main
Date Built: 1883
Owner when built: Morgan Lyon
1st business: Charles J. Church & Son Bankers

The Franklin Hotel, built here by pioneer Cyprian Hooker in 1855, burned in 1882. Morgan Lyon, a farmer from Vergennes Township, then

purchased the eastern portion of the block in the name of California Edmonds, his niece, and built the Lyon building. The Lyon building consists of four storefronts; this is the easternmost.

Chas. J. Church & Son Bankers operated a bank here from 1888 to 1896. The bank failed in 1896 due to the economy but young Mr. Church could not pay the money back to his patrons. He felt so guilty that he committed suicide.



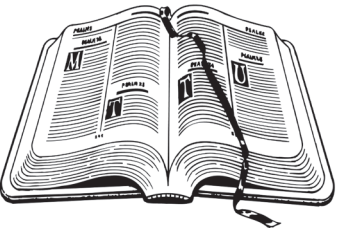
Morgan Lyon



The easternmost store was Phin Smith Shoes when this photo was taken c. 1908. Don Smith, the youngest businessman in town, managed the store for his father, Phin, of Hastings. They catered to Swiss immigrants, "We speak German here." Doctor Anderson had a dental office upstairs. Horses and buggies were parked on the side street.



area churches



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Sunday Services - 10:30 am
 www.gslc.church
 Richard Boshoven, Pastor 897-8307
 All facilities are wheelchair accessible

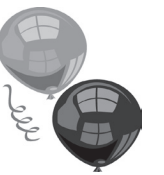
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 CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES
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 Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor
 Pastor Andrew Bolkom • Pastor of Discipleship
 Christi Swain • Director of Children's Ministries
SUNDAY WORSHIP.....9:30 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 - Mondays7 PM
 Barrier-Free

St. Mary Catholic Church
 402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820
 Website: www.stmarylowell.com
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 Contemporary Service: 10:30 am
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happy birthday



JULY 13
 Travis Thomet, Cheryl Doyle, Justin Craig, Janet Burns, Esther Newell, Izzy Tackmann, Sharon Landman.

JULY 14
 Ernestine Bundy, Katie Stouffer, Richard Ellison, Mindy Tykocki, Bethany Kaczanowski.

JULY 15
 Mari Stone, Joyce VanDyke, Keenan Hacker.

JULY 16
 James Stanley Smith, Caleb Rinard.

JULY 17
 Vicki VanDerWarf, Ken Willmarth, Tom Karp.

JULY 18
 Dianne Scanlon, Bette Phillips Haybarker, Emily Borton.

JULY 19
 Danielle Rittersdorf, Marcia Baird, Mark Dupont.



City discusses burning permits, water restrictions, 425 Agreement

by Emma Palova
contributing writer

The Lowell City Council discussed the need to update the 1986 Fire Pit Ordinance on July 5.

A substantial amount of time was dedicated to regulating fires within the city limits. Currently, the ordinance doesn't allow for fire pits or outdoor fireplaces inside the city unless they are used for cooking. The ordinance addresses recreational fires in an approved container.

Fire chief Shannon Witherell presented two options: option one would ban all fire pits/outdoor fireplaces inside the city, making burning inside the city prohibited. The second option would be to establish an ordinance requiring an annual permit and inspection for recreational fires in the city. This option would allow for fires in

fire pits to be done in a safe manner and with 20-foot setbacks from garages.

Witherell drafted a proposed permit, similar to the one used in the townships, that would require a \$30 permit fee.

However, the majority of the council members opposed the permit fee and favored a cost recovery fee instead, in case of complaints of illegal fires such as burning trash.

"People will try to avoid the fee," said councilwoman Leah Groves.

Resident Perry Beachum said his solo stove sits on his deck and would not comply with the 20-foot setback requirement.

"People should be able to have bonfires that are safe," said Mayor Mike DeVore.

Council member Cliff Yankovich opposed fires in

the city. "I like to open my windows," he said. "I don't like breathing smoke."

In the current ordinance, there is an exemption for burning ceremonial fires.

The fire department uses brush rigs to answer calls of illegal fires.

"If you have a ticked-off neighbor, we make the determination whether we go to it," said Witherell.

There could be a backlash to any increased regulations, according to council member Marty Chambers.

More discussion was dedicated to a \$2 billion renaissance zone in Lowell Township at I96 and Alden Nash. First, the city would have to approve a 425 Agreement foregoing local taxes in the renaissance zone. However, while no local taxes would be captured, there could be a

payment, in lieu of taxes, in the amount of services provided by the city.

"425 Agreement converts the township property into the city property," manager Mike Burns said. "The state allows the tool and offers it as an incentive for the developer."

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) has reached out to the city and Lowell Township, if there was support for the concept of a renaissance zone.

It was the consensus of the city council to consider a 425 Agreement.

Burns reported that the city has been getting good compliance with the restriction on outdoor water irrigation.

Forty-two percent of the water flow, approximately 500,000 to 600,000 gallons

from the plant, goes to Lowell Township.

"We were running the risk of not being able to function in case of fire," Burns said.

DeVore addressed people's concerns about water restrictions.

"We have an antiquated agreement with the township," he said. "I am sorry we have to deal with it."

"People are concerned about losing their gardens," said Chambers.

Burns said he checks the water data from the plant every morning.

"Without restrictions, we wouldn't have water," he said.

According to Burns, expansion of the water plant will be needed during the 11 years left on the agreement with Lowell Township.

"If we didn't have the

service area, we wouldn't need the expansion," he said. "It's a capacity issue, an issue we need to address."

The city council approved the street project on Gee Drive for Oct./Nov. beginning, and engineering services with Williams & Works for Valley Vista paving, starting on Aug. 18. The council also approved tree removal on N. Jefferson St., Mercer Street, and Kent Street for a total cost of \$8,300. All trees are within the city right-of-way.

"We have been contacted by residents about several trees in the city that are in distress," said Dan Czarniecki, DPW director. "All the residents are concerned that trees are posing a hazard to their homes with falling limbs and possibly the tree falling."

college news

Nathan Trudeau of Alto has been named to the Dean's List at John Carroll University for the spring 2022 semester.

Students eligible for the Dean's List must have completed a minimum of 12 semester hours within one semester and have a quality grade point average of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.

University officials have announced that 3,577 students received Academic Honors for the semester that ended in May 2022 at Ferris State University and Kendall College of Art and Design.

To be eligible for Academic Honors, the minimum requirements for full-time students each term are: 3.5 GPA and completion of 12 Ferris credit hours or more of graded course work at the 100 level or higher. The minimum requirements for part-time students each term are: 3.5 GPA with completion of at least 12 accumulated Ferris credit hours of graded course work at the 100 level or higher.

Local students are: **Ada:** Elaina Bruinius, Tevin Clum, Lindsay Cole, Thyra Ekloev Lindholm, Jenna Flory, Amber Hadley, Connor Houtstra, Rebecca Karl, Meredith McNamara, Bennett Noll, Randall Parat, Alec Rankin, Leah Teigen, Sydney Vachon, Troy White.

Alto: Scott Beatson, Sabrina Burd, Casey Depew, Sarah Devries, Lauren Herzog, Anika Honhart, Matthew Kaczanowski, Cody Kastanek, Lorrin McCarty,

Caitlin Osterhouse, Elissa Pitcher, Paul Riha, Christian Sirowatka, Paul Southerton, Maria Vanderveen, Lexis Vandyke, Jordan Wintrich.

Lowell: Bethany Blattner, Katherine Bodemann, Molli Czarniecki, Darby Dean, Chelsea Emmorey, Isabela Frisbey, Cheyenne Goetz, Christiana Heikoop, Adam Helner, Lindsay Hindley, Hailey Hoeveraar, Audrie Hoogerhyde, Dylan Jernberg, Madison Johnson, Kaitlin Kelley, Dawn Kondor, Jenavieve Lyon, Luke Maksymetz, Brooke Meijer, Karleigh Mrozinski, Bryce Newton, Skyline Raab, Brendan Sanders.

One thousand seven hundred and thirty-five students completed the requirements for certificates, associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees at Ferris State University and Kendall College of Art and Design during the semester that ended in May 2022.

Local students, major, degree and honors:

Ada: Samantha Chesner, Architectural Technology, AAS; Bryanna Dunston, Pharmacy, Doctor of Pharmacy, High Distinction; Joshua Dunston, Quality Technology, Certificate; Joshua Dunston, Manufacturing Engineering Tech, Bachelor of Science; Thyra Ekloev Lindholm, Mechanical Engineering Tech, Associate in Applied Science, Cum Laude; Tristan Kerr, Facility Management, Bachelor of Science; Mario Lei, Pharmacy, Doctor of Pharmacy; Troy White, Info Security and Intelligence,

Bachelor of Science, Magna Cum Laude.

Alto: Casey Depew, Interior Design, Bachelor of Fine Arts; Lauren Herzog, Architectural Technology, Associate in Applied Science; Cody Kastanek, Allied Health Science, Bachelor of Science, Summa Cum Laude; Eric Nessner, Manufacturing Engineering Tech, Bachelor of Science, Magna Cum Laude; Elissa Pitcher, Prod Design Engineering Tech, Bachelor of Science; Jordan Wintrich, Business Administration, Bachelor of Science, Magna Cum Laude.

Lowell: Darby Dean, Biology - Pre-Medicine, Bachelor of Science, Summa Cum Laude; Chelsea Emmorey, Health Care Systems Admin, Bachelor of Science, Cum Laude; Adam Helner, Mechanical Engineering Tech, Bachelor of Science, Summa Cum Laude; Adam Helner, Basic CNC Prog

and Mchn Op, Certificate; Hailey Hoeveraar, Plastics Engineering Tech, Bachelor of Science, Summa Cum Laude; Audrie Hoogerhyde, Criminal Justice - Generalist, Bachelor of Science; Dylan Jernberg, Construction Management, Bachelor of Science; Kaitlin Kelley, Allied Health Science, Associate in Applied Science; Kaitlin Kelley, Nursing, Bachelor of Science in Nursing; Dawn Kondor, Biology - Pre-Optometry, Bachelor of Science, Cum Laude; Katherine Kroll, Design, Bachelor of Science, Cum Laude; Aron Mierendorf, Industrial Electronics Tech, Associate in Applied Science; Brendan Sanders, Sports Communication, Bachelor of Science, Magna Cum Laude; Alexander (Alex) Simpson, Digital Animation Game Design, Bachelor of Applied Science; Katherine Weaver, Pharmacy, Doctor of Pharmacy.

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KENT COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER KILGUS DRAIN NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DETERMINATION

DATE: Monday, July 25, 2022
TIME: 6:00 P.M.
LOCATION: Bowne Township Historic Hall
 8240 Alden Nash Avenue SE
 Alto, MI 49302
QUESTIONS: (616) 632-7910

A Board of Determination will meet at the above date, time, and location to hear all interested persons, receive evidence, and determine whether the proposed maintenance and improvement of the Kilgus Drain is necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare, as set forth in the petition, dated June 22, 2022, pursuant to Chapter 8 of Public Act 40 of 1956, as amended.

A presentation will be made to the Board of Determination, which outlines a brief history of the Drainage District, and describes the roles, responsibilities, and decisions made by a Board of Determination. The presentation is to provide background for landowners and municipalities in the drainage district and to facilitate the dissemination of information and the receipt of testimony of landowners in the Drainage Districts. The Board of Determination will make its decisions at the end of the meeting.

Proceedings conducted at this public meeting will be subject to the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act. Information regarding this meeting may be obtained from the Kent County Drain Commissioner's Office located at 775 Ball Ave NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Drain Commissioner at the number listed above or through the Michigan Relay Center at 7-1-1 (TDD) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

Anyone aggrieved by the decisions of the Board of Determination may seek judicial review pursuant to MCL 280.72a.

Ken Yonker
Kent County
Drain Commissioner

Views of Riverwalk 2022

All photos by Bruce Doll - Images of Vision



Views of Riverwalk 2022

All photos by Bruce Doll - Images of Vision





Live the Life You Want

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

Avoiding the manipulation trap

I recently wrote an article about spotting manipulators and wanted to follow it up with ways to avoid manipulation traps. A manipulator is someone that purposely works to control/influence others in dishonest, unethical, or unfair way for their own personal gain. If you read the last article, I hope it helped you to be better equipped to spot when someone is manipulating you. Now I want to share some common characteristics and ways to avoid or get out of their traps.

Common characteristics of manipulators

They know how to detect people's weaknesses and use them to get what they want.

They ignore relationship boundaries.

They avoid responsibility.

They use gaslighting techniques.

They don't apologize and instead rationalize/justify their actions.

They are masters at using guilt against you.

Avoid the traps

In general, there are four stages manipulators use:

Targeting stage
Friendship-forming stage

Loving/caring stage
Abusive stage

When you suspect or know someone is manipulating you, below are some suggestions (depending on the type of relationship and situation) that may help.

Know the signs. See my last article for more detailed information. If you missed it, it is also on my Facebook page.

Emotional awareness

If you are feeling uncomfortable, guilty, defensive, frustrated, angry or like you are doing something wrong that's a warning. Listen to your gut instinct as it may be telling you, you're being manipulated.

Avoid personalizing and self-blame. Their unhealthy behaviors are not your fault. The manipulator wants you to feel bad about yourself so they can be in control. If you are not being treated with respect and don't feel good about yourself in the relationship it may be time to make some changes.

Stay calm and in control. If you get frustrated, angry, etc., they have successfully controlled your emotions. This is exactly what they want.

Listen to understand, reflect and then validate. Listen to try and understand the other person's viewpoint. This doesn't mean you have to agree or change your views, just work to understand their perspective. Then summarize back to them what they've said, as you understand it, so they know you understood and

heard them. This will often result in them not feeling the need to argue their viewpoint since they feel understood and validated.

Relay your thoughts. The manipulator may not even know what your point of view is, so share it. Sharing and sticking to your point of view also shows a sense of self-worth. If they can't understand your point of view or want to argue it, avoid criticism or the blame game. It's best to not give in to their viewpoint. Just end the conversation and move on. The manipulator will most likely realize you are not going to be easily manipulated and will move on.

Maintain boundaries. If you suspect or feel you are being manipulated, maintain your boundaries. If you hold strong and don't give into their tactics, they will look for an easier target and move on. If you have no choice but to be around them (professional colleague etc.), maintain as much distance as you can and avoid engaging with them. If you have to interact with them, try and have another behaviorally healthy person present.

Consequences are also part of maintaining healthy boundaries. Example: When a manipulator won't take "no" for an answer, the result (consequence) could be you choosing to limit interacting with them.

Take time to process. Often manipulators will pressure you to provide an answer right away. Let the person know you need time to think about it. This gives you time to process and evaluate the pros/cons and/or determine if you are being manipulated.

"No" is a complete sentence. For many, this is one of the hardest words to say. Saying "no" can be done firmly but with respect by simply saying "No, thank you", "I'll pass, thanks", "I need to decline" or "Maybe another time." Saying "no" respectfully is part of maintaining healthy boundaries. Providing too much explanation when saying no may be perceived as a weakness to exploit by the manipulator. So, keep it short, simple, and firm.

Talk to someone you trust. Dealing with a manipulator can be emotionally exhausting and painful. Talking to

someone you trust can help you process these intense emotions and often results in you getting helpful feedback, answers, or advice

Confront Safely. Manipulators sometimes use bullying tactics when they feel you are passive and they can control you. If you stand up for your views and don't back down they will often move on. If you decide to confront a manipulator, don't do it alone. Make sure you have others around you for safety and support. Be smart, be safe and confront in a respectful and calm manner. You may even want to consider documenting the issues. If there is emotional/psychological or physical abuse, it is best to avoid confronting the manipulator and instead consult with legal and law enforcement professionals.

You have the right to be treated with respect, to say no, and to share your own views, wants, and emotions. If you can't get away from a manipulator on your own, it may be time to get help so you can live the life you want. This article is not meant to treat or diagnose. I hope everyone stays safe and healthy.

Gov. Whitmer dedicates July as Lakes Appreciation Month

By proclamation of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, July is Lakes Appreciation Month, highlighting the rich ecosystems, fresh drinking water, recreational appeal, and economic vitality that Michigan's 11,000 inland lakes and four bordering Great Lakes provide.

"In Michigan, our lakes – Great and small – define us. Every Michigander is dedicated to protecting our lakes and ensuring that we pass them on to future generations," said Gov. Whitmer. "This July, when so many of us enjoy our Pure Michigan experiences, we can reflect on how Michigan's lakes, rivers, wetlands, and groundwater enrich our lives. Protecting them means tackling generational challenges

such as aging infrastructure, invasive species, and climate change. Together, I know we will."

Michigan continues to award infrastructure grants to municipalities through the governor's \$500 million bipartisan MI Clean Water Plan, ensuring Michiganders of access to clean and affordable drinking water. The governor's MI Healthy Climate Plan, meanwhile, creates a roadmap to a prosperous carbon-neutral economy by 2050 that will also protect the state's natural resources, including lakes.

Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) leads implementation of both plans. EGLE's Water Resources Division (WRD) protects and monitors

Michigan's waters by establishing water quality standards, assessing the health of aquatic communities, encouraging natural shoreline practices, regulating wastewater discharges, and overseeing aquatic invasive species concerns and water withdrawals. The Office of the Great Lakes (OGL) oversees Great Lakes water policy and strategy implementation, as well as representing the state at national forums. The Office of Climate and Energy (OCE) coordinates implementation of the MI Healthy Climate Plan.

Appreciating Michigan's lakes means respecting them too – especially the immense power of the Great Lakes. When making summer plans for time at Great Lakes beaches, always use caution, pay attention to beach flag warnings (where available), and know that the lakes are prone to dangerous rip currents, crashing waves, and quickly changing weather patterns.

Of Michigan's 100-plus state parks, 42 offer access to Great Lakes shoreline, making them popular destinations for gatherings with family and friends. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) offers safety tips and information everyone should know before hitting the water.

The Wisconsin-based nonprofit North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) promotes Lakes Appreciation Month internationally, with at least 25 U.S. states and three Canadian provinces joining this year's effort. NALMS encourages lakes-related activities including shoreline cleanups, educational tours, boating, swimming, birding, and photography.

Here are resources for learning more about Michigan's lakes and how to help keep them healthy:

OGL's State of the Great Lakes 2021 Report: Learn how Michigan's investment in water infrastructure will pay dividends for decades to

come.

Coastal Zone Management Program: The program provides technical assistance and grants to help coastal communities mitigate coastal hazards, create healthy habitats, support eco-tourism, ensure safe public access, and support resilient and sustainable economies.

Council on Climate Solutions: The council acts in an advisory capacity to the governor and EGLE in overseeing implementation of the MI Healthy Climate Plan.

Lakes and beach water quality monitoring: The Surface Water Assessment Section oversees the protection of the quality of surface waters throughout the State of Michigan.

MiCorps volunteer lakes and rivers monitoring program: The Michigan Clean Water Corps is a network of volunteer water quality monitoring programs in Michigan.

Michigan Shoreland Stewards program: The program recognizes lakefront property owners protecting inland lakes through best management practices on their property.

Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOC) legacy contamination restoration: Michigan's AOC program works with federal and local partners to restore designated sites affected by legacy contamination and

development.

Michigan Aquatic Invasive Species cooperative: A guide to species that are not native and have the potential to harm human health or natural or agricultural resources.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund: This low-interest loan financing program assists qualified local municipalities with the construction of needed water pollution control facilities.

Nonpoint source pollution grants: The program helps local stakeholders reduce nonpoint source pollution and excessive runoff by supporting efforts to develop and implement watershed management plans.

Impacts of Great Lakes high water levels: Find information on permitting and technical resources to mitigate erosion and shoreline flooding.

Shoreland Management Program: Learn more about changing shorelines and the options to protect them.

Shoreline Protection information and resources: EGLE recommends the use of natural shoreline treatments, or bioengineering, for shoreline protection.

Great Lakes Coordination Program: The program leads state agency efforts and collaboration among partners to improve Great Lakes stewardship and sustainability.

The City of Lowell is hiring a full time Deputy Treasurer under the supervision of the City Treasurer. The successful candidate will administer all duties related to City payroll processing including monthly, quarterly and annual payroll reports. Also, perform a variety of administrative and account keeping functions associated with property tax collection, treasury activities and attending to customers. Bachelor degree preferred. Please send cover letter and resume by email through August 5 to solin@ci.lowell.mi.us or by mail to City of Lowell, 301 E Main, Lowell, MI 49331 Attn: Treasurer. Complete job description and duties are available on our website: www.lowellmi.gov.



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~ SHOOTING SPORTS

SPORTS

Clay target team starts off nationals week

by Justin Scott
sports reporter

A picturesque sunset greeted the Lowell Red Arrow Scholastic Clay Target team as they arrived this past weekend at the Cardinal Center in Marengo, Ohio.

From July 5 - 16, the Cardinal Center, the largest trapshooting facility in Ohio, is hosting the Scholastic Clay Target Program national competition. This annual event has been a part of the program's schedule since their early days as a program.

Sporting, skeet, and trap are a part of the near two-week long festivities which includes concessions, camping, and on-site vendors.

The first event of the event, international trap, Lowell had two competitors. Lannie Wester and David

Johnston competed, with Wester finishing as the top JV women's shooter nationally, and sixth overall in the girls competition. In a note about the event, the team said this, "International Trap, also known as Bunker Trap, differs from American Trap. A Bunker Trap house holds 15 fixed trap machines that do not oscillate. An American Trap house throws targets from an oscillating machine. Both disciplines have five shooting stations but in Bunker, a target is thrown from any of the three traps directly in front of the shooter. Bunker targets fly at wider angles (45 degrees) and can also be thrown higher or lower than American Trap targets. Each shooter at each field gets the same targets during a round of 25 (10 left, 10 right, 5 straight) but will get them in a different

sequence. Bunker targets fly at 68 mph - quite a bit faster than American targets at 45 mph! Each athlete takes a turn as a flanker. One sits to the left marking hit targets on a scoresheet, and one stands to the right at the scoreboard and flips tiles for dead (white) or lost (red) birds. A referee stands in the house signaling lost birds."

Johnston and Wester took center stage again for Lowell and were the team's next competitors in the 125 target bunker trap. Wester shot 87 targets in the event.

In Saturday's sporting clays shoot, Jacob Johnson paced the team hitting 81 targets. Tyler Weller shot 86 targets to lead the way in doubles trap. The team will conclude their week over the next few days before heading home.



Freshman Lannie Wester had plenty of highlights in early competition at Nationals. (Photo courtesy of Lowell Red Arrow Shooting Team Facebook Page)

~ HOCKEY

Rebrand means inflection point for Lowell hockey

by Justin Scott
contributing reporter

What's in a name? Well, sometimes a name means a lot! Last month, the Lowell-Caledonia Hockey program changed its name to become the Caledonia Hockey program, in co-operation with Lowell and

Middleville Thornapple-Kellogg. MTK was already a part of the program prior, but only contributed a very limited number of players. Now Lowell joins MTK in a similar role.

What's the difference? With the Lowell-Caledonia name being phased out, very

little is likely to change from the student-athlete side. Lowell students wishing to be a part of the program still have the option, and the program will be run much like the current swim and dive partnership, with Caledonia as the lead school.

The name change makes sense for Caledonia. They've been the host program since the early 2000's, when the co-op began. Kentwood Ice Arena is much closer to Caledonia, the student section has always been a majority of Caledonia students, and the players and board members were always Caledonia heavy, and fundraising for the program is largely funded by... you guessed it, Caledonia families. Caledonia has nearly sustained the co-op on their own.

Not to say Lowell hasn't contributed. There have been many talented hockey players to emerge from LHS over the years. The difficulty in playing hockey for Lowell over the years can't be overstated. The combination of distance to Kentwood Ice Arena for games and practices,

the expense of the sport, the growth of other sports, and a decline in hockey participation overall have impacted Lowell Hockey, whose history dates back to the 1970's.

Now, for the first time in the 21st century, Lowell will go forward without name representation in hockey, and the climb will be that much more difficult. As more sports grow in popularity, and attendance remains constant at LHS, it means that some sports will inevitably lose players. Hockey has been one of those at Lowell. For Lowell to continue to be represented

in hockey, it will need a core group of youth players, not only at the high school level today, but also at the middle school and younger levels for the future. It will need dedicated parents of those youths. It will need to revive interest in a sport that, for the last decade, has been on the periphery of students' minds when it comes to winter sports.

The name change allows for the Caledonia purple to be predominant. It's a turning point for Lowell Hockey, and the hopes of the red returning again. The program could not be reached for comment.




Lowell/Caledonia's Ryan Kieliszewski shoots the puck towards the net. Stock photo.

**CITY OF
LOWELL**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST
OF THE IMAGECAST TABULATING
EQUIPMENT
FOR THE AUGUST 2, 2022
PRIMARY ELECTION**

Notice is hereby given that the public accuracy test of the Imagecast Tabulating Equipment for the August 2, 2022 Primary Election will be conducted on Thursday, July 21, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the Lowell City Hall, Council Chambers, Second Floor, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan.



Susan Ullery
City Clerk



Go Red Arrows!



Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports

the lowell
ledger



obituaries

BAIRD

Shelby Rose Baird, age 27 of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, July 1, 2022. She was preceded in death by her grandfather, Allan Baird; uncle, Larry Olson Jr.; cousins, Christopher, and Timothy Raymor; and uncle and aunt, David and Ruth Divine. She is survived by her daughter, the love of her life, Ivy Rose; mother, Tammy Baird; father, Dave (Kim Crissman) Baird; brothers, Eric (Keerstin Bazan) Baird, Daniel Baird; grandmother, Judy Baird; aunts, Carol (Robert) Leyman, Christine Baird, Bonnie Baird; and nieces and nephews. Shelby was a graduate from Lowell High School, class of 2013. She raced both cars and horses and even made the top 10 in the nationals for barrel racing. Shelby enjoyed being outdoors, laughing, and especially spending time with her family and friends. Visitation was held 10:30AM – 12PM, Saturday, July 9, 2022, at Alton Bible Church, 2780 Lincoln Lake Ave NE, Lowell, MI 49331. Funeral service followed at 12PM. Rev. Ken Ford officiating. Interment Alton Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Roth-Gerst Funeral Home to help the family with future expenses, 305 N. Hudson St., Lowell, MI 49331.



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STUART

Leahbelle M. Stuart, age 86 of Lowell, went to be with The Lord Sunday, July 10, 2022. She was preceded in death by her son, Thomas Stuart; brothers, Roger, Duane, and David Kauffman; and sister, Barbara Crisone. Leahbelle is survived by her husband of 66 years, Donald Stuart; children, Brenda Stuart, Kenneth (Amy) Stuart, Wendy Stuart, Gwen (Alan) Poling, Bethany (Steve) Smith, Denise (Greg) Smith; 22 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren; brother, Bob (Rosemary) Kauffman; sister, RuthAnn (Ernie) Neumen, Julie Benschoter; sisters-in-law, Charlene Kauffman, Lois (Don) Willison; brother-in-law, Hillis Stuart; and many nieces and nephews. Leahbelle loved Jesus; her life was a good example of serving and praying for others. She enjoyed flowers, being outside, gardening, and summers on the farm. Funeral service will be 11:00 am Friday, July 15, 2022, at Clarksville Bible Church, 191 S Main St, Clarksville, MI 48815 with visitation one-hour prior. Rev. Tim Bateman officiating. Interment South Boston Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Leukemia and Lymphoma Society at <https://givenow.lla.org/give/>



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Shop around during upcoming health insurance open enrollment period

During this year's upcoming open enrollment period, Michiganders will have more than 300 health plans to choose from, giving them more flexibility in the coverage they need to protect their health and the health of their families. This information comes from proposed rate filings sent by health insurers to the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS).

"Health care continues to be at the forefront of public policy discussions, both in Michigan and nationwide, and it is critical that Michiganders have access to the affordable, high-quality health insurance they need for themselves and their families," said DIFS Director, Anita Fox. "Consumers who will need to buy a health plan during open enrollment this year will have all-new plan options, so it is important that they take advantage of these new choices by shopping around and choosing the plan that works best for their needs and budget."

Open enrollment for 2023 health coverage will run from November 1 through December 15, 2022. Michiganders can obtain coverage by visiting the Health Insurance Marketplace or by calling 800-318-2596 (TTY: 1-855-889-4325). During open enrollment, consumers will be able to choose from 233 health plans on the Marketplace, 59 more than last year. For the overall individual market, which includes off-Marketplace plans, 308 plans will be available, 52 more than last year.

Individual health plans are offered to Michiganders by the following companies:

- Alliance Health and Life Insurance Company (off-Marketplace)
- Blue Care Network of Michigan
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Mutual Insurance Company
- Health Alliance Plan (off-Marketplace)
- McLaren Health Plan Community
- Meridian Health Plan of Michigan, Inc.
- Molina Healthcare of Michigan, Inc.
- Oscar Insurance Company
- Physicians Health Plan
- Priority Health
- United Healthcare Community Plan
- U.S. Health and Life Insurance Company

As the state agency that regulates the insurance industry in Michigan, DIFS is responsible for reviewing all proposed plans and rates to ensure compliance with state and federal laws. Michigan's proposed rates for 2023 have not yet been approved by DIFS and are subject to further review and approval. The average requested rate changes filed for individual plans range from a decrease of 2.8 percent to an increase of 12.9 percent. Overall, the average proposed rates show an increase of 6.2 percent.

Health insurance rates nationwide, including Michigan, are being affected by several factors, such as:

An increased demand for health care, as procedures that were postponed or cancelled during the pandemic are rescheduled.

Inflationary and supply chain pressures that affect the cost of medical supplies and prescription drugs.

It is important to note that nearly 80 percent of enrolled Michiganders receive advanced premium

tax credits (APTC), which reduce their monthly premium costs. In a move that will help further protect Michiganders' pocketbooks, Governor Gretchen Whitmer has joined other state governors and signed on to a letter to Congressional leaders to make permanent the expanded APTC enacted by the American Rescue Plan. An estimated 260,000 Michiganders currently take



advantage of this program, saving an average of nearly \$400 per month, with many consumers eligible to get health coverage for less than \$10 per month. For more information on APTC and to learn if you qualify, visit HealthCare.gov.

The 2023 Michigan Health Insurance Rate Change Request Chart is posted on the DIFS website. When reviewing the chart, it is important to note that:

Rate changes are an average percent change across all plans offered by that insurer; some consumers will experience rate changes either greater or less than those in the chart;

An increase or decrease does not reflect how a health insurer's premiums compare to plans offered by other insurers; and Individuals who

receive a tax credit that covers a portion of their premiums will experience rate changes that differ due to the tax credit calculation.

DIFS is seeking public comment on these proposed rate changes. Comments should be sent electronically to DIFS-healthratecomments@michigan.gov and, if submitted before July 18, 2022, will be considered in DIFS' review. For questions

or concerns about health insurance coverage in Michigan, contact DIFS at 877-999-6442, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or visit Michigan.gov/HealthInsurance.

The mission of the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services is to ensure access to safe and secure insurance and financial services fundamental for the opportunity, security, and success of Michigan residents, while fostering economic growth and sustainability in both industries. In addition, the Department provides consumer protection, outreach, and financial literacy and education services to Michigan residents. For more information, visit Michigan.gov/DIFS

Charmaine Beimers
12-13-55 - 7-8-2021

We can't believe it's been a year since you joined the angels. Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed and very dear.

Glenn, Sonya, Kara & Keith and Families

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www.cnaads.com *Kantar Millward Brown, Feb. 2018

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

sales

MOVING SALE - 11000 Grand River Dr. SE, July 22 from 10 am - 3 pm. Everything must go! Watch for big white/black sign next to driveway.

misc.

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.

ATTN LOWELL WIDOWS - We have a widows luncheon on the last Friday of each month. Starts promptly at 1 pm. All are welcome. Questions on location, call Elaine 616-856-8022 or Jenn at 616-490-9970.

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

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services

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STUMP GRINDING - Call Dan for free estimates, 616-970-3832.

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card of thanks

Thank you to all of my family and friends that helped me celebrate my 94th birthday. Jean Bishop

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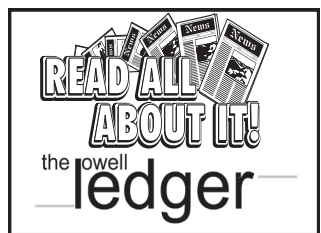
105 N. Broadway, Lowell

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Grid of puzzle solutions with letters like E, A, S, E, M, B, A, L, M, A, P, P, R, E, C, I, A, T, I, O, N, R, E, U, N, I, O, N, E, A, S, I, E, R, S, E, E, R, S, O, S, P, R, E, Y, E, P, I, A, G, E, E, E, D, D, A, S, S, O, D, A, M, C, E, G, O, S, T, S, H, M, I, A, E, D, P, I, D, S, E, E, L, S, A, F, M, A, C, S, S, E, R, A, L, A, L, A, E, M, I, D, M, E, L, L, O, W, T, I, A, R, A, A, D, A, G, I, O, N, I, A, G, A, R, A, R, E, S, T, A, T, E, M, E, N, T, S, E, P, O, C, H, S, D, A, S, H

Grid of numbers from 1 to 9 arranged in a 10x10 pattern.

Word search grid with words like BAKING, COMPONDS, OBSN, TAFDNITV, LGNEACAKLTVXYYSNAIM, CTJFUHYNYOSKRLWNFJA, ICWIEKPTPWYTEIOAMRN, QFLAVONOLHVSEEIWM AJI, P Y R R E B E U L B O T I T W M O N O T, A T I E T F Q U M Y K C I H G R R G M E, P O L Y P H E N O L S R Y J I W A A J C, M D B O C B U H G F T M Q A G S S N R R, T S T I F E N E B U Y X V S N H S E D E, C D T B W H C Y N Q A N T X L I S S I U, A O C O Q Y G T H K N R H G X J N E F Q, P K G F A T P S N I M A T I V P J S H C, U E L N R K U O L D O O F R E P U S S F, R C F F I X A L S T N A D I X O I T N A, P I I I Q T O O Y M Y R I C E T I N X Y, L U B L X K I O S G N I V R E S P E Y M, E J E N O G I V S X P X I C H W G D R R, B Y R C D J R M E F I D Y L L E J B Q S





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~ Leonardo de Vinci's Mona Lisa

by Martha Hayden

We happened upon a small Leonardo di Vinci museum when we were in Rome. (Feb. 2020) It was under a church near the Piazza del Popolo. We were intrigued and found the most magnificent displays of Leonardo's artwork and inventions. This replica of the Mona Lisa painting was captivating!

There's a lot of mystery surrounding this renaissance painting. Who had commissioned Leonardo de Vinci to paint this portrait using oil paints on wood? There are two hypotheses. Francesco del Giocondo, a well-to-do man in Florence, had just married a youthful Lisa in 1495. He had been widowed twice and wanted a portrait of his young bride. The other possibility was that the ruler of the Republic of Florence, Giuliano de Medici, had Lisa as his mistress. We will

Leonardo's work. So, Leonardo packed up and moved to France where he was appreciated and treated well. In 1507 Leonardo was appointed as Court Painter and Engineer by King Louis XII of France.

Here's another mystery. Why did Leonardo bring the Mona Lisa painting with him to France? It had been painted in Italy and many Italians believed it should stay in their country. With the Mona Lisa in Leonardo's possession and his ill feelings toward the Pope, he took it with him. The French people have embraced this painting as their own. The debate about where the portrait belongs, however, has continued for centuries.

The Mona Lisa held a place of honor in King Louis XIV home during

and secured a job as a custodian at the Louvre. After years of planning, Vincenzo Peruggia made his recon action and stole the Mona Lisa in 1911. He had planned to bring it back to Italy. The Mona Lisa gained world wide notoriety from Vincenzo Peruggia's antics. People rallied for her return to the Louvre in Paris.

Vincenzo Peruggia was found guilty and put in prison for six months. In Italy, he was honored as a hero for his patriotism. His actions created many more capers involving the Mona Lisa.

After two years the painting was returned to France and more security measures were put in place at the Louvre.



It had been a very unique privilege for our country.

In 1974, while on display in Tokyo, a woman was upset with the lack of disabled access at the museum. She sprayed red paint to vandalize the Mona

Lisa has been moved to storage temporarily for updates and upgrades to security and remodeling.

Renovations to the Louvre Museum were made to the tune of \$6.3 million in 2003. The Mona Lisa now

In 2019, a separate queuing feature (a lining up area) was added so people wouldn't have to wait so long to see the portrait. Once inside the room, one is allowed thirty seconds to view the relic. Noah



Leonardo de Vinci's Mona Lisa was painted around 1503.

Lisa. She never caused damage to the artwork itself. She had been quickly subdued.

Over the years, several different cross bars along the back of the painted wood have been added: beechwood, maple and metal. Several times, the

has her own room with a sky light allowing natural rays to highlight the piece. The room has a controlled temperature of 43 degrees Fahrenheit. Shatterproof glass encases the artifact. Ropes keep visitors at a distance from the secure painting.

confirmed the long line and the short time his group had to view The Mona Lisa from a distance, over the heads of the crowd.

We were so fortunate to be able to find the small Leonardo di Vinci museum in the Piazza del Poplo, Rome. What a lucky find for us! Italians claim ownership over this painting, although they only have a well-done replica. The five small rooms held the magic of Leonardo di Vinci's art and inventions. We were able to spend up-close, personal time with this masterpiece.

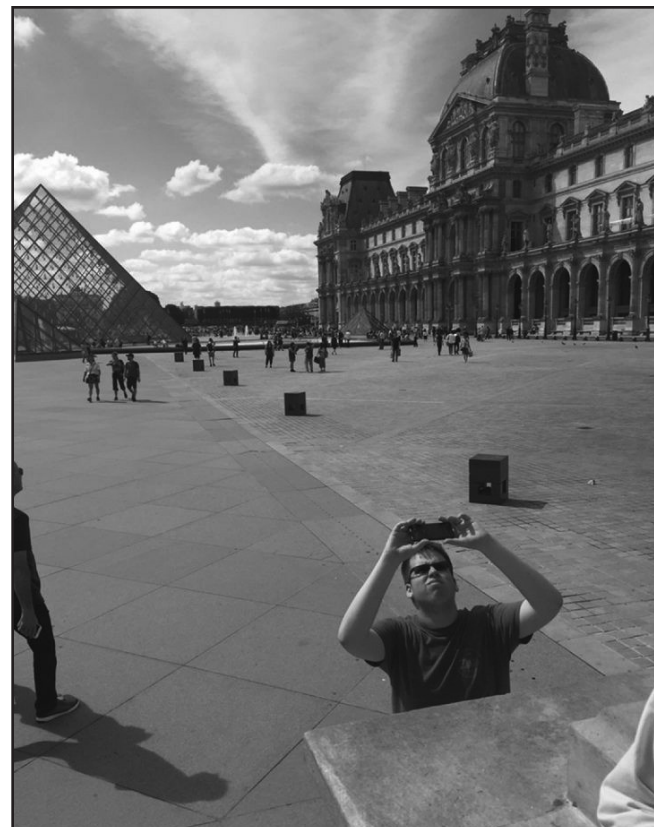
Did you know that the Mona Lisa has her own mailbox for fan mail? Did you know that the piece can never be bought or sold? She belongs to the people of France.

Resources:

https://www.pbs.org/treasuresoftheworld/mona_lisa/mlevel_1/mtimeline.html
https://www.pbs.org/treasuresoftheworld/mona_lisa/mlevel_1/mtimeline.html

<https://www.thevintagenews.com/2017/12/15/mona-lisa-was-stolen-in-1911-2/#:~:text=Peruggia%20was%20charged%20six%20months,painting%20in%20the%20decades%20following.>

Mona Lisa - Wikipedia



Our son, Noah, takes photos of his classmates taking pictures of the Louvre and Tuileries Palace.



Piazza del Popolo, Rome, Italy. Museo Leonardo di Vinci was a secret museum in the basement of a church.

never know for sure who had enlisted Leonardo de Vinci to paint this stunning portrait.

We do know that Lisa Gherardini was a woman from Florence. She modeled for this painting which took Leonardo four years to complete. Leonardo used the Sfumato technique when working on this piece. This technique means "vanishing", which refers to the shadowed blending of the figure and the background. Traditionally, renaissance painters created distinct lines. Leonardo also added a fantasy, mountainous background, which was questionable in the early 1500's where realism had been the norm.

The Roman Catholic Pope in Rome didn't regard

his reign of 72 years (1638-1715). It was at the Palace of Fontainebleau and later at the Palace of Versailles. While in France a varnish was applied to the portrait.

Napoleon Bonapart hung the Mona Lisa in his bedroom in the Tuileries in 1800. The Tuileries means 'tiles.' Napoleon's home had been built where clay tile kilns had once been in central Paris. In 1793, the Louvre Museum is constructed at this location and opens to the public.

The Mona Lisa was installed in the Grand Gallery at the Louvre in 1804. Murmurs continued as to Italy's claim on the piece of art.

In 1908 Vincenzo Peruggia, an Italian, moved to a rooming house in Paris

In 1956, two separate vandalizations took place causing some minor damage to the piece. The first was a person who tried to throw acid on the portrait. Another time that same year, a Bolivian Ugo, Ungaza Villegas, threw a rock that shattered the protective glass and scraped off a chip of paint from Mona Lisa's elbow.

In January of 1963, Jackie Kennedy, the United States first lady, requested that the Mona Lisa be brought to the United States. French President de Gauell permitted the masterpiece to be displayed at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., followed by the Metropolitan Museum of the Arts in New York City.

FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in California on July 16, 1967. I graduated from college with a degree in sports information. I dabbled in sketch comedy as a kid, then went on to do it on "Saturday Night Live." I later transitioned to comedic films.

Answer: Will Ferrell

BLUEBERRIES WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

BLUEBERRIES WORD SEARCH

- ANTHOCYANINS
- ANTIOXIDANTS
- BAKING
- BENEFITS

- BLUEBERRY BUSH
- COGNITIVE COMPOUNDS
- FIBER
- FLAVONOL
- HEART

- JAM JELLY JUICE
- MANGANESE
- MYRICETIN
- NUTRITIONAL
- POLYPHENOLS

- PURPLE QUERCETIN
- SERVINGS
- SUPERFOOD
- SWEET
- VITAMINS

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to blueberries.

A R T T

--	--	--	--

Answer: Tart

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

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Absence of difficulty
- 5. Preserve a dead body
- 11. Gratitude
- 14. The act of coming together again
- 15. More cushy
- 18. Visionaries
- 19. Large, fish-eating bird
- 21. Indicates near
- 23. NY Mets legend Tommie
- 24. Icelandic books
- 28. Pop
- 29. Hammer is one
- 30. Sense of self-importance
- 32. Thyrotrophic hormone
- 33. Can't be found
- 35. Electronic data processing
- 36. Passports and licenses are two
- 39. Snake-like fishes
- 41. Air Force
- 42. Popular computers
- 44. Intermediate ecological stage
- 46. Wings
- 47. Used in combination

CLUES DOWN

- 49. Laid back
- 52. Jewelled headdress
- 56. Slow
- 58. Famous Falls
- 60. Reassertions
- 62. Periods of time
- 63. Hyphen
- 64. Body part
- 65. Mimics
- 66. Expel large quantities
- 67. Sea eagle
- 68. Genetically distinct varieties
- 69. Dialect of Chinese
- 70. Famous Mr. T character
- 71. Consumed
- 72. Chinese dynasty
- 73. Menace to yards
- 74. Ireland
- 75. Palm trees
- 76. Fungal disease
- 77. Willis and Robert are two
- 78. Affirmative! (slang)
- 79. It shows who you are
- 80. The First State (abbr.)
- 81. Get older
- 82. Associations
- 83. Woman (French)
- 84. Sunscreen rating
- 85. Brew
- 86. Leader
- 87. Plants in the legume family
- 88. Burn with a hot liquid
- 89. Junior's father
- 90. Scads
- 91. Morning
- 92. Length of a line (abbr.)
- 93. Double curve
- 94. Small, thin person
- 95. Worn by exposure to the weather
- 96. Mars crater
- 97. Humanities
- 98. Word element meaning ear
- 99. To the ___ degree
- 100. Residue of something burned
- 101. It cools your home

Frozen sand dunes in Nevada

by Cliff Yankovich
contributing writer

Standing slack jawed in the 109 degree heat at the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area it was hard to imagine anything being frozen at any time in this natural oven. That is probably why I got such a kick out of the description of the beautiful red and tan sandstone formations surrounding me – “frozen sand dunes”.

During our recent workcation to a jewelry show in Las Vegas, Julie was busy working the search engine on her phone to find places to visit that would expose us to the incredible natural wonders that are just a short trip from the non-stop neon spectacle of the Vegas Strip. Our plane had not touched down before she had our

in blast furnace season, er I mean summer, is an experience to be sure, but one might be better served doing so in cooler times.

My original intent was to do the loop and call it a day, but once we encountered all those frozen dunes, we just had to pull over for a full immersion experience. Mostly by chance we found a very heat-friendly place to stop; Red Spring Picnic Area. This offers a great compromise between being car potatoes and throwing caution to the wind and taking on a 10-mile desert hike. Red Spring has bathrooms, water, shaded picnic tables and best of all – a boardwalk that loops around the area and gives some great scenery and photo ops in just a little over half a mile.

to any plant life or leaving a trail. Our heads were swiveling this way and that as we tried to take in as much as we could of the rock formations, petroglyphs, and desert scenery. If you go to Red Rock Canyon, you will want to stop here.

Our next desert trip was to the Valley of Fire State Park and we were both very pleased that we visited this park after Red Rock for the simple reason that Valley of Fire is bigger and better. It is a wee bit more of a drive to get here, VOF is about 50 miles NE of Vegas but the reward for doubling your drive time is at a bare minimum a payback of triple the natural eye candy. Red Rock was mainly red sandstone with some tan for contrast. VOF has that and much more – purples,



Some frozen dunes holding up in the heat.



The boardwalk at Red Spring is great.

first day trip all mapped out for us.

Red Rock Canyon is just 24 miles from the Strip and is well worth the drive. One of the best things about Red Rock is that if you have absolutely no desire to exit your vehicle and take advantage of one or more of the 26 different hikes and trails, you can get a great impression by simply driving around the one way 13-mile scenic drive. TIP: visiting the Nevada desert

For the ambitious, there are trails that go off into the desert, but we stuck to the boardwalk.

The boardwalk serves at least two purposes. First, it provides the opportunity for just about anyone to experience the area because it is ADA compliant. Secondly, it helps preserve the fragile desert flora and fauna by allowing visitors to walk or roll around the area without doing damage

browns, whites, grays, oranges and more shades of red/pink.

We knew things were going to be great when we were greeted at the entrance to the visitor center by a small herd of mountain goats. We had seen signs warning of their presence all around the Vegas area and bingo – here was a troop of them welcoming us to the Valley of Fire.

I would highly

recommend stopping at the visitor centers when you visit any of the parks around Vegas. Every one we stopped at on our trip offered more information on what we were looking at and what we might see as well as the opportunity to top off our water bottles and recycle some previously consumed water. The rangers are fountains of information and love the opportunity to share their knowledge when you ask questions.

If ever there was a time on this trip I missed my motorcycle it was the Valley of Fire. The road that winds through the 46,000 acres was like a paved roller coaster with dips, dives, and curves. Staying on the road and in the correct lane presented a huge challenge for me because of the never ending visual stimuli. It was like taking in a silent display of fireworks with both of us saying, “Oh, look at that” or “look over here, wow.” Try as I might, I cannot accurately recall how many times we pulled over during our drive through and around the VOF; six, eight, or twelve? Sometimes we would just look out the windows, but most often we would take a short walk away from the parking lot and back. If I recall, the temperature that day was 111. In fact, we saw more than one of the many hiking trails that are in the park blocked off with barricades and signs warning people NOT to venture into the desert because of the heat. At one of the particularly beautiful stops, we actually started walking toward an intriguing rock formation and the promise of a fantastic view, but after 30 yards or so we looked at each other and decided to head back to the car.

As we made our way back to our hotel, we took full advantage of the fact that going a different way on the same road yields a



Something about rocks that make me want to touch them.

whole new perspective and allows you to see things you missed going the other way. Our necks got a proper work out and our eyes were full of the wonders as we returned

to Vegas for a scheduled dinner reservation – the result of more of Julie’s hard work on her search engine. Have you ever had a Korean chocolate dumpling? Yum.



Color variations in the Valley of Fire.



One of two petroglyphs easily viewed from the Red Spring boardwalk.