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\$1.00



Calvin intern works for FHS and LHM

By Cliff Yankovich
contributing writer

Thanks to Devin Potrykus, Lisa Plank, Ken Tamke, and Craig Fonger for expanding my vocabulary last week, when we all met on the second floor at the Lowell Historical Museum. The word of the day: Accession. The third time the word was used in the first two minutes of our meeting, I raised my hand like a good student and asked what it meant. All four of them answered and let me know that, in their world, it describes “when something is added or taken into a collection”. As in, the ever-growing collection of historical artifacts that are being acquired by both the Lowell Historical Museum (LHM) and the Fallasburg Historical Society (FHS).

Devin is a history major at Calvin College, and this semester, January through May, he is working two, five-hour shifts a week, as an intern for both the LHM and FHS. On the morning we interrupted him, Devin was in the process of digitizing some old pictures from the parade down Main Street, when FHS was celebrating the centennial of the covered bridge in the village, in 1971. Apparently, the anniversary of the bridge was a very big deal, with various events taking place over the better part of the year, culminating in the parade.



Devin Potrykus is a history major at Calvin College, and this semester, he is working at both Fallasburg Historical Society and the Lowell Historical Museum.

As he scanned the pictures using a high resolution scanner, each picture was assigned a three-part number. The first number is of the year the picture was taken, the second number is to designate the donor of the picture (if known) and the last set of numbers indicate the number, in sequence, from that particular donor.

This accession business is painstaking and very detail-oriented. The pay-off for all of that work and effort comes when documents and pictures, that are very old and sometimes extremely fragile, can be passed around in emails and posted on the internet so that more interested people can enjoy and learn from them.

Ken Tamke, past president of the FHS, told me of a somewhat recent discovery. They found a book safe, a hollowed out book that looks like a book on the shelf but contains things secretly stashed inside. Inside the book safe, they found a series of letters, notes, and poems exchanged between John Wesley Fallas and his bride to be. Those items were

written in the 1840’s, so they are not something you want people handling and passing around. You can see them, and the other items that have been accessioned digitally, online at www.Fallasburg.org, if you click on the “Archive” link. Ken then

**Intern, continued
page 2**

Annual Chocolate Stroll coming Feb. 11

On Saturday, February 11, Lowell Downtown Historic District merchants have planned their sixth Annual Lowell Chocolate Stroll. This event began six years ago when local merchant, Martha Davis, of Tap House Boutique, recognized a need for a winter event to support the downtown merchants. “Winter months can be pretty slow in our little town.” Davis said “When I first began this event,

only a handful of merchants participated and now we have 20 or more participating stores, including our restaurants.” Each participating store will pass out free chocolate to those that come and shop during this event. “No purchase is necessary to receive your free chocolate, but our hope is that it draws people from Lowell, and outlying areas, to support local businesses.” Davis said

Laurie Chambers, owner of Red Barn Mercantile, has participated in this event from the beginning and raves about how fun it is to see the town full during winter months. “The downtown area suddenly wakes up from a long winter slumber.” Chambers said “Everyone is enjoying their chocolate treats, socializing and shopping, a great way to support our downtown merchants during the usual lull of winter.”

Lowell Chocolate Stroll draws hundreds into town, enjoying chocolate, shopping and supporting, not only the merchants, but the restaurants who will have chocolate drink specials. A warming fire will be added to this event, near the Flat River Grill, that was created originally during covid. “Now we use this fire to enjoy during the cold winter months, but it does remind us of a tough time we all made it through.” Davis said “The fire also draws attention to our beautiful Riverwalk area next to our brand new Showboat”

The Lowell Chocolate Stroll has a Facebook page for more information, called Lowell Chocolate Stroll. Punch cards are handed out at your first merchant destination. Travel down Main Street and receive a mark at each participating merchant, and when your card has at least 12 stamps, turn it in at your last destination for a Lowell Bucks prize drawing. Lowell Bucks work like cash in Lowell and can be used with any merchants that participate in the program. You will also find great deals, store drawings and so many wonderful people happy to greet you. Mark your calendar for Saturday, February 11, from noon - 5 pm, for the Lowell Chocolate Stroll in Downtown Lowell.



Intern continued

explained what happens to the pictures after they are scanned.

“They are stored in an acid-free sleeve and then put in an acid-free box. The boxes are kept in a climate-controlled environment after that,” Tamke said. Craig Fonger was quick to thank the LCTV Fund for providing the grant monies to install heating and air conditioning in the Misner House, to keep the stored items safe for the future.

The relationship between the FHS and Calvin College began in 2016, at the suggestion of two Board members, Bill VanVugt and Will Katterburg, both of whom were history professors there. The very first student to participate in the program was Katelyn Bosch VerMerris. In one of

those fun, small world turn-of-events, VerMerris is now the director of the Zeeland Historical Society and the Dekker Huis museum they have in Zeeland. VerMerris will be returning to Lowell on March 9th, when she will be giving a presentation at the LHM about “Women in the World War One workforce.”

Devin Potrykus hails from Ann Arbor and is in his junior year studying history at Calvin. When asked why he decided to intern in Lowell, he said, “I have always been fascinated by museums and the accession process. When the information about the internship here mentioned ‘collections’, it caught my interest.”

Since he was raised in Ann Arbor, we can forgive

Devin for never having visited Lowell or the Village of Fallasburg. Ken Tamke took care of a visit to Fallasburg, in short order, and took Devin out for a grand tour. The best part of the village for Devin was the schoolhouse. He enjoyed seeing all of the pictures of teachers and remarked about how much history was available to study right there in the little building. Plank, Tamke, and Fonger were all in agreement about the great job Devin has been doing for the two entities in his first month.

“Our main goal is to give the interns exposure to museum management,” Lisa Plank remarked. “That includes an effort to provide a full exposure to all of the programs at the museum, including the



Craig Fonger, Lisa Plank, Ken Tamke and Devin Potrykus.

many ways we reach out to the community.”

“What really piqued his interest was the possibility of doing some museum exhibit design out at Fallasburg,” Tamke added.

Potrykus is off to a good start, having already scanned and properly documented 105 photos. As hard as Devin might work over the rest of the semester, it would appear that he will only make a small dent in the hundreds of pictures and books the FHS would like to have digitized. The first priority are the pictures and documents of various kinds. There have been about 700 items accessioned so far in the FHS collection, but it is safe to assume that the demand for Calvin students to learn about museums and preserving history through the intern program will continue for years to come.

Thanks for teaching me a great new word. Keep up the good work, Devin.



Some of the photos that Potrykus has been scanning.

Becoming more financially confident

Commit to saving successfully during America Saves Week! This year’s theme is A Financially Confident You. You can increase your financial confidence by building healthy saving habits and taking advantage of resources available to support your financial stability.

America Saves Week, which runs from February 27 through March 3, is a great opportunity to learn about good financial habits and assess your own saving status. It’s also a perfect time to create a plan, start saving, and begin your journey toward financial stability.

Planning and saving are key to a successful retirement. The earlier you start saving for retirement, the better off you will be in the future. People who have a plan are twice as likely to save effectively. We encourage you to pledge to save for America Saves Week at www.americasavesweek.org. Visit www.ssa.gov/retirement for useful information to help you plan for your retirement.

It’s never too early in your career to begin saving. Our website, www.ssa.gov/people/earlycareer, has resources that can help young workers secure their today and tomorrow. Share our infographic, Anytime is the Right Time to Save for Your Future, that provides helpful information about saving at www.ssa.gov/benefits/assets/materials/retirement/EN-05-10549.pdf.

The sooner you start saving, the more your money can grow. Please share this information with someone you love.

Hillary Hatch is the Public Affairs Specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525 or via email at hillary.hatch@ssa.gov



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Lansing considers toll roads In Michigan – Bravo!

By Cliff Yankovich
contributing writer

The history of road maintenance in the Mitten has been a real roller coaster ride, especially the manner in which funding for roads has been dispersed over the last 20 or 30 years. Folks of my vintage can still remember when our roads, highways and freeways were something to brag about. That only made sense for the car making capital of the world to have nice, smooth roads on which to drive them.

These days, one needs off-road suspension, a five-point harness, and a mouth guard in place, when driving long distances, at highway speeds, in Michigan. All you have to do is travel to other states

and the reality of our roads comes sharply into focus. Having just taken a 2,000, or so, mile vacation in our car, the subject of toll roads was top of mind when recent headlines informed me that Lansing is considering the implementation of toll roads in Michigan.

In 2020, our elected officials ordered a feasibility study on toll roads and the results are now being shared with us. Seems, the experts think it can work in Michigan to the tune of a billion dollars a year. They advise starting with large portions of 75, 94, and 96. At the going rate of .06 cents a mile, it would cost about \$12.00 in tolls to drive I-94 from the Indiana line to Taylor

in Metro Detroit. Trucks would pay about four times that rate and provisions can be made to waive tolls for low-income travelers.

On the subject of trucks, they certainly should pay four times the price on toll roads as your family car, especially since Michigan has made allowances for some pretty hefty truck weights to be allowed on our roads; up to 164,000 pounds in gross vehicle weight. This is way more than most states allow and about 28% more than neighboring states of Ohio and Indiana. We allow more than twice the total weight that many states allow. The amount of truck traffic on 94, 96, and 75 contribute to the poor conditions on those roads. The impact of

the high traffic is multiplied when you factor in the amount of weight we allow here.

The State of Michigan seems proud of this fact. This is from MDOT’s website:

through West Virginia and in parts of North Carolina. On more than one occasion, we mentioned that paying for a toll road was well worth the pleasure of driving on well-maintained smooth

zilch to the gas tax coffers. More EVs are being sold every day. Rather than penalize those who purchase them, the fairest way to deal with the loss of gas tax would be to institute



AARP Foundation tax-aid available in Michigan

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is providing free in-person and virtual tax assistance and preparation now through April 18. The nation’s largest free, volunteer-based tax assistance and preparation program is offered in conjunction with the IRS. In 2022, the program helped secure more than \$1 billion in refunds for more than 1.2 million taxpayers.

latest changes to the U.S. Tax Code.

To access the Tax-Aide services, several options are available:

In-Person: In Tax-Aide’s traditional in-person service, taxes are prepared and filed by IRS-certified tax counselors.

Low-Contact: Taxpayers interact with IRS-certified Tax-Aide volunteers in one or two

to prepare their own taxes, and if needed, a Tax-Aide IRS-certified counselor can coach them through the process by phone or through computer screen-sharing.

Access to these services depends on volunteer availability in each locality.

To find the nearest Tax-Aide location in your area, visit the Tax-Aide site locator. The site locator also features a Tax-Aide chat bot that can help book an appointment, answer questions about the program and transfer the conversation to a live agent, if needed or requested.

For more information, including which documents to bring to the tax site, visit aarpfoundation.org/taxaide or call 1-888-AARPNOW (1-888-227-7669).

“Michigan has a unique system of truck-weight law, based on maximum axle loadings, not gross vehicle weight (GVW). Gross vehicle weight includes the weights of the truck, cargo, fuel, and driver; axle loading is the weight on a single axle. Maximum allowable axle loadings are the same for a standard truck in all states, but Michigan allows use of more axles, in combination with lower axle loadings, for a greater gross vehicle weight than other states.”

Hooray for us, we allow heavier trucks to help make our roads wear out faster. All the more reason to get those toll roads up and collecting on the truck-heavy trio of 94, 96, and 75.

The estimated \$12.00 toll cost to travel the length of 94, coincides nicely with a recent experience of mine. My wife and I took a few days vacation in Charleston, SC. We drove there and we paid \$12.00 for the privilege of driving on the roads

pavement. There were some bumpy parts in southern Ohio, but the toll roads we drove on brought us back to the good old days of driving in Michigan. There was not a pothole to be seen on any of the toll roads we drove on.

It is a sad commentary that on our 2,000-plus mile round trip journey, through five other states, the worst roads we encountered were in the state we live in. We joked about crossing the state line and having to start looking out for rim-denting, teeth-rattling potholes, as our reward for coming home.

The proliferation of electric vehicles is another driving factor for Michigan to adopt toll roads (pun intended). In the 14,000 miles I have ridden my Zero DSR electric motorcycle, my contribution of gas tax money is equal to the brand name of my motorcycle. As of this writing, there are at least 10 people in my circle of friends who are driving EVs and they also contribute

toll roads. The more often your drive on them, no matter what the manner of propulsion is used, the more you pay.

Speaking of our gas tax in Michigan, it is clearly not getting the job done. Several municipalities have passed, and/or have considered, local income taxes in order to repair local streets and roads. Grand Rapids and East Lansing are two examples of those, with local income taxes being used for roads.

For my money, the institution of toll roads make sense. The one caveat I would put on my support would be that the legislation initiating the collection of tolls would contain iron-clad language to assure us that every dollar collected would be spent only on road repair and maintenance, with no loopholes allowing Lansing to divert the funds elsewhere. Toll roads would be a great step toward returning Michigan roads to their former glory.



Through the program, Tax-Aide volunteers provide free tax preparation and filing services to anyone who needs it, with a focus on taxpayers who are over 50 with low to moderate income. AARP membership is not required. All Tax-Aide volunteers are trained and IRS-certified to ensure they understand the

short, in-person meetings to exchange documents.

Contact-Free: Taxpayers interact with Tax-Aide’s IRS-certified tax counselors online or by phone and exchange documents electronically and securely.

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Book Corner

The Lost Girls of Willowbrook: A heartbreaking novel of survival based on true history

By Ellen Wiseman

by Alison Yarger
Contributing writer

Only vaguely do I remember watching Geraldo Rivera’s expose about Willowbrook State School, on Staten Island, in 1972; at 22, unfortunately, I didn’t pay close attention to it. This was 50 years ago, but rewatching the horrors that took place inside this institution was more than shocking. You can view a 27-minute clip from his expose at <http://www.preservepennhurst.org/default.aspx?pg=1642>.

I ask myself: how could this have happened? How could parents have left their children there to be beaten, starved, tortured, experimented on, left naked in the extreme cold or heat? The list of atrocities these

inpatients experienced was beyond description.

One thing to understand is that pretense at Willowbrook was prominent. When and if parents ever visited, they never were allowed into their child’s room; there was a visitation room only, which, of course, did not mirror their child’s room. There were no feces on the floor or smeared on the walls; there were no puddles of urine to step around; nowhere was there a stench of vomit. The deception, pushed by the administration and the state of New York at the time, was appalling.

As historical fiction, the story followed the life of identical twin sisters, Rosemary and Sage. As the book description stated,

Sage Winters knew her sister was different. The girls loved the same things and shared a deep understanding of one another, but Rosemary was awake to every emotion, easily moved to joy or tears, and seemed to need more protection from the world.

Six years after Rosemary’s death from pneumonia, Sage, now 16, still misses her deeply. Their mother perished in a car crash, and Sage’s stepfather, Alan, resents being burdened by a responsibility he never wanted. Yet despite living as near strangers in their Staten Island apartment, Sage is stunned to discover that Alan has kept a shocking secret: Rosemary didn’t die. She was committed to Willowbrook State School and has lingered there until just a few days ago, when she went missing.

Sage knows little about Willowbrook, always a place shrouded by rumor and mystery. A place where local parents threatened to send misbehaving kids. With no idea what to expect, Sage secretly sets out for Willowbrook, determined to find Rosemary. What

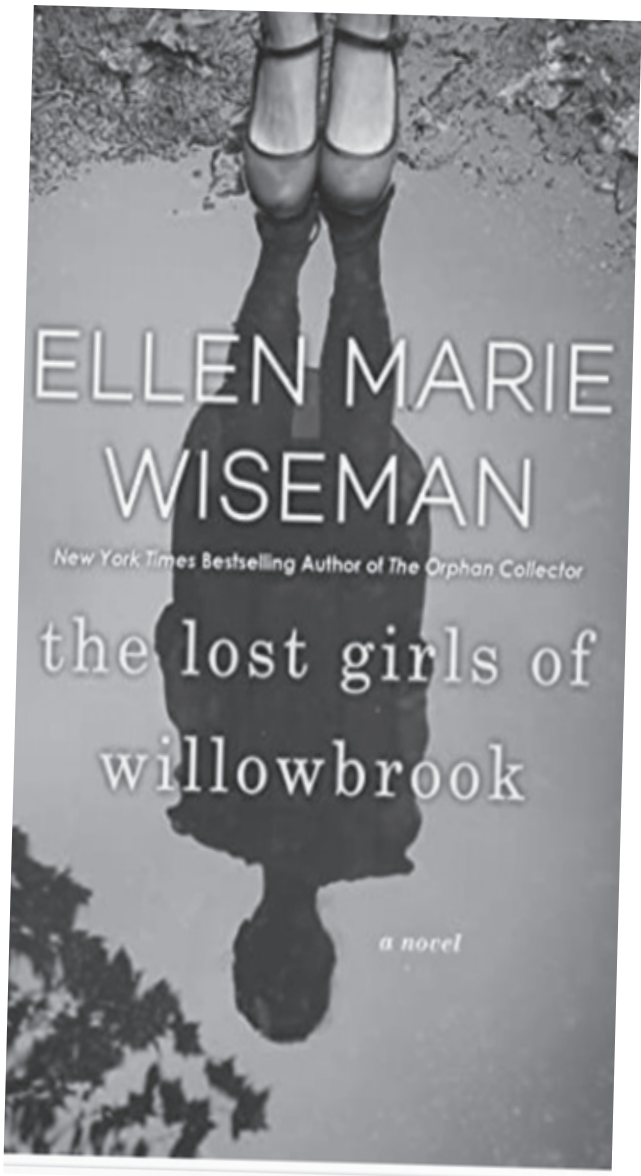
she learns, once she steps through its doors and is mistakenly believed to be her sister, will change her life in ways she never could imagined.

Having been inside the Coldwater State Home with a friend, whose father worked there, this summoned up the shocking images of children tied to chairs and rocking violently in cribs, the incessant moaning and keening, as well as their starved and vacant stares.

Wiseman captured the filthy conditions, the repulsive odors and the terror that took place within the walls of Willowbrook for these poor disabled and abandoned children. I couldn’t imagine being a parent who was forced, or even worse, chose to give up their child, and then to learn years later, how they had been treated.

I enjoyed the authors notes and acknowledgments that offered more details about Willowbrook and the inspiration for the novel. There were approximately six thousand poor souls, both children and adults, living in Willowbrook at the time it was finally forced to transfer people out and eventually shut its doors.

Although the book is centered around Sage, Eddie King, who took Sage under his wing, was prominent throughout the story. As a normal 9-year-old boy, he had been abandoned at a train station with a sign that said to take him to Willowbrook. About 10 years later, through the dehumanization of



Willowbrook and the fact he “worked” for them cleaning floors, Eddie made it his mission to give the destitute inpatients at Willowbrook a final escape from the depths of despair they were living in.

The ostensible amusement, lack of compassion and empathy shown by the staff was, for me, the hardest to comprehend. Little, if any, kindness was shown to the inpatients, not just by the staff members, but more notably by the

administration, which lauded and rewarded the staff for its brutality.

Yes, it’s a difficult book to get through, when you understand this wasn’t just a concocted ‘story’ – the background, the institution, the administration, and the staff all were authentic.

The narrative was rather predictable in places, but the writing style and descriptions were precise. As a country, we have a long way to go to help the mentally ill and challenged, but I take solace in believing we’ve made major strides in the closing of facilities like Willowbrook. It served to keep me aware that the oppression of vulnerable humans is not always in the past and we must diligently guard the dignity for the voiceless.

This was a challenging novel to read because of the heartbreaking topic and fear-filled plot. It’s a book I’d recommend for anyone over 18, as the material is unsuitable for younger people. I’d give it 4.5 out of 5 stars.



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JANUARY SCHEDULE
Donna Neumann, I Want a Birthday Party, Feb. 3
Jean Davis, Lansing Women’s Expo, Feb. 8
Lisa Jacovski, Let’s Talk, Learning to Bowl, Feb. 9
Janet Glaser, Feb. 10
Tana Jenkins, Love Rescued, Valentine’s special, Feb. 14
Diana Kathryn Plopa, A Tryst of Fate, Feb. 17

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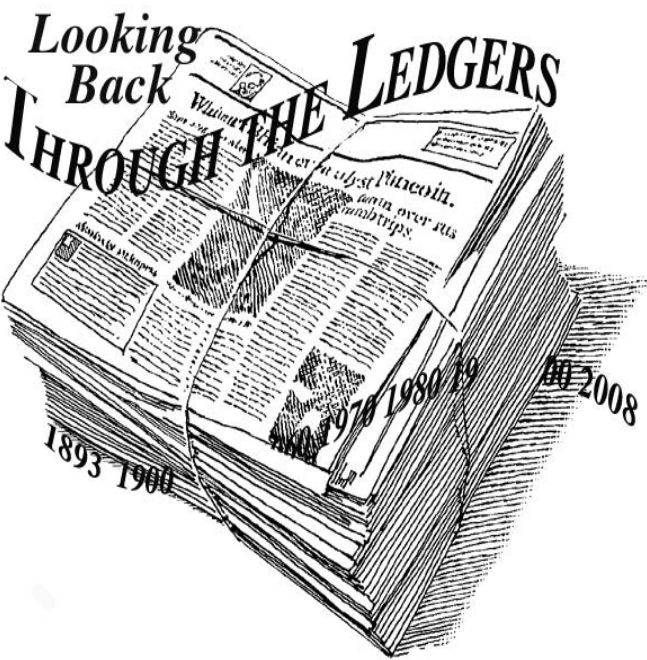
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viewpoint



125 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 10, 1898

Last Thursday, while operating a power-feed cutter propelled by horses, Fred O’Harrow, of South Lowell, had his right hand cut off above the wrist. The horses were going too fast to suit him and he was crowding in the feed to slow them down, when the rollers caught his mitten and drew in his hand with the unfortunate result stated.

Ladies should call at the Ledger office and see the elegant assortment of calling cards just received. All the latest styles.

Miles Way, a Portland boy, moved to Washington and there sold fake medicine on the streets until he earned enough money to buy a horse and start for the Klondike. He has just returned and says he is ready to settle for the wheel because he sold his first claim for \$15,000, immediately taking up another, for which he has been offered \$40,000. He will return to Alaska next month and proposes to pay his brother’s expenses if he will accompany him.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 15, 1923

The Ypsilanti Reed Furniture company is about to begin the manufacture of reed baby cabs at its Lowell factory. The necessary supplies are already arriving and new machinery is on the way.

The home of T.E. Rogers was destroyed Wednesday morning by fire discovered about 9 o’clock, a.m., with practically all its contents. Loss, on both, partially covered by insurance.

‘Member the great Saturday blizzard, in January five years ago? The exact date was January 11, 1918. Well, the big storm that began raging in Lowell, Tuesday night and continued thru Wednesday and well into Thursday, leaving drifted roads and paths that will be many days in clearing, was the first reminder since of what old Michigan is capable of doing in the weather line, once she gets her Winter back.

The Snow schoolhouse was burned down Wednesday morning. The teacher, Amos Butler, first discovered fire in the ceiling on account of the blizzard that was raging, but four pupils out of an enrollment of 33, were present and they got safely out.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 12, 1948

Lowell’s Golden Gloves boxing team scored well, in the first two evenings’ bouts that the team engaged in last week. From a team of eight men, two, Wayne Beak and Bob Hand, are scheduled to go into the semi-finals.

Charles A. Hill returned last week from Chicago, where he completed a four weeks’ course in practipedics, which deals with scientific shoe fitting. Gordon Hill is now in Chicago taking the same course.

Basil Hayward had the misfortune to step on a broken bottle underneath the snow, cutting through shoe and rubber, requiring several stitches in his foot.

The campaign for funds to complete the Community Memorial Building, is gaining momentum and appears to be a success. The Memorial building project will eventually house bowling alleys, a large banquet and community room, and the existing building will be altered to provide quarters for children and their organizations. The project will provide activities for all citizens of the community.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger Suburban Life February 1, 1973

Postmaster General, E.T. Klassen, announced January 4 that postal revenues, fees and income, for the first year of the U.S. Postal Service, provided 84 percent of total costs. The increase is up from an average 80 percent for the three-year period 1969-71. It meant that the Postal Service - in its first year of reorganization - required \$1.3 billion in a direct congressional appropriation, down 34.8 percent from a high of \$2.08 billion in 1971.

Lowell Area Schools’ students will have an extra three-day vacation this year, due to a special workshop for the teaching staff, scheduled for Wednesday,

Thursday and Friday, February 21, 22 & 23.

The Lowell Area Jaycee’s are going to have their 3rd annual auction at the old Lippert’s Pharmacy on Main Street on March 2 at 8 pm. In order to be a success, we are going to need items to auction.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 18, 1998

The second annual Lowell Rotary Auction is scheduled for April 18 at Note’s Old World Italian Dining. The proceeds will benefit the Lowell ACCESS 6 Food Pantry, Lowell Fire Department and a project for the Rotary International Foundation.

A committee representing the city of Lowell, Lowell and Vergennes townships, and the Lowell Area Schools met last Thursday to discuss possible funding options for a community pool.

Lowell had its first armed robbery for the year, last week, when the One Stop Mart, at 800 West Main Street, was robbed. The robbery happened at about 9:50 p.m., Feb. 12. According to the witness, a lone male entered the store and demanded cash from the register. The subject then fled with an undetermined amount of cash.

A contingent of 25 community members and the Showboat Board (five members) discussed the future of the Lowell tradition at the First Congregational Church of Lowell. The Lowell Showboat has an outstanding debt of \$24,937, following last year’s shows.



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The requirements are:

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

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



At Your Local Library

Kent District Library programs at Englehardt Branch, 200 N. Monroe St. For additional information call 616-784-2007.

Toddler Time

Tuesdays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Nurture your toddler’s love of books through music, movement and stories while helping to develop their language, motor and social skills. For ages 0-5.

Storytime

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

Teen Zone

Thursdays, 3-4 pm. Teen-only fun for you and your friends at the library! Stop by for activities that may include board games, food and more. For ages 11-17.

Mahjongg

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

Anti-Valentine’s Day Bash

Monday, February 13, 3-4 pm. If candy hearts and flowers make you gag, bring your disdain for the holiday to the Library and bash it with us! For ages 11-17.

Bookworms Book Discussion

Tuesday, February 14, 10 - 11 am. Join a fun, informal discussion of great books. This month, we’ll discuss Becoming Mrs. Lewis by Patti Callahan Henry. For ages 18+

Heart to Heart Craft Party

Tuesday, February 14, 6:30-7:30 pm. Roses are red, violets are blue, join our Valentine event, just for you! Celebrate Valentine’s Day with crafts. For all ages.

Meet the Sled Dogs

Monday, February 20, 6-7 pm. Come meet the sled dogs from Tun-Dra kennels and their owners. Ask questions about mushing, the Iditarod and more. The program will take place outside, so dress accordingly. For all ages.

KDL Lab Experience

Wednesday, February 22, 4-5 pm. Drop in and allow children to think creatively, tinker, explore and collaborate while engaging in a variety of hands-on activities based on STEM concepts.

ABCs of Lowell history

Address: 210 E. Main
Date Built: 1873
Builder: Sylvester Brower
1st business: Hunt and Hunter, Druggists

Leonard Hunt and Arvine Hunter formed a partnership as druggists in 1866 when they returned from the Civil War. Hunt and Hunter moved into their new building at 210 E. Main as soon as it was completed in 1873. From 1889 to 1895, it was A.P. Hunter & Son (H.H. Hunter), Druggists. From 1895-1901, it was L.H. Hunt & Co., Drugs and Stationery. A soda fountain was installed in 1896. The Lowell State Bank began in a corner of this drug store as a private bank. It moved down the block to the “Bank” building in 1891 after the National Bank folded.

The G.A. or G.A.R. used the third floor as a meeting place for veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic (Civil War), from 1885 to 1900. The Lowell G.A.R. was organized in 1882 and called Joseph Wilson Post No. 87 because Wilson and two of his sons had served in the Grand Army, Civil War. Some commanders of the post included: Lyman Sayles, Capt. Judd, Ben Morse, Len Hunt, William Eddy, S.P. Hicks, David Shear, William Andrews, Al Knee and Merritt Sayles. The



F. M. Johnson, Proprietor of The Lowell Ledger from 1893-1930, is writing in the cozy corner of his office using the alias Uncle Marcus, in 1928. By using this alias, Johnson could fearlessly champion his causes. According to Don MacNaughton, who was the printer of the Lowell Ledger for 39 years, “Johnson was a strict prohibitionist. His editorializing made people mad. That is why he kept the bat next to his desk. He was just a small little guy.”

Lowell G.A.R. disbanded in 1956, when the last member died.

The Woodmen, whose philosophy was “to help fellow man”, also met on the upper floors.

In 1901, Edgar Wadsworth purchased the building from the A.P. Hunter Estate.

The Lowell Ledger, one of Lowell’s weekly

newspapers, was printed by F.M. Johnson from this building, from 1907-1930, and then by R.G. Jefferies from 1930-1951, when the office was moved to its current location on S. Broadway. The Lowell Ledger office was on the first floor. Ola M. Johnson, daughter of Frank and Myrtilla, worked at the Ledger office as a “Public Stenographer and Typewriter.”

Three Island Lodge No. 809, Loyal Order of MOOSE, was organized

in 1912, with 203 charter members. The MOOSE bought the building in 1916 and occupied the second and third floors. Their name was changed to “Lowell Lodge” in 1923. In 1965, the MOOSE Lodge expanded to the first floor of both 210 and 212 E. Main. They continued using the building until 2011.

In 2015, 210 E. Main and 212 E. Main were totally renovated. The Main Street BBQ restaurant moved into this double storefront in 2016.

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FEBRUARY 10

Richard Korb, Eric Kimble.

FEBRUARY 11

Julie Kenney, Judy Goodwin.

FEBRUARY 12

Peg Stanford, Kurt Roudabush, Travis Bergy, Jan Herb, Penny Spanbauer.

FEBRUARY 13

Deb Heydenburg, Emily Gerard, Jodi Kennedy, Alyssa Ellis-Roach, Thomas Alberts Jr.

FEBRUARY 14

Heather Claypool, Carol Leyman, Gerri Ellison, Scott Treglia, Lori Rice.

FEBRUARY 15

Jim VanDyke, DeeAnn Merriman, Deanne Newell, Marcus Kline, Adam Confer.



Janet Teunis named new LowellArts executive director

LowellArts has announced that it has hired Janet Teunis as the next executive director of LowellArts. In a corresponding announcement, Lorain Smalligan will be retiring from her position as executive director on March 1, after 24 valued years with the organization.

“We are grateful for years of dedication, service, and leadership Lorain has provided LowellArts and we wish her the best as she begins her retirement,” said Todd Drenth, LowellArts board chair.

Under Smalligan’s leadership, LowellArts has significantly advanced its mission and grown in size, reputation, and impact. Notably, Smalligan led a successful \$1.3 million capital campaign to move LowellArts to a new state-

of-the art facility in the heart of historic downtown Lowell.

LowellArts is in capable and familiar hands with the hiring of Teunis as executive director. Teunis has served as project director at LowellArts since 2013 and her responsibilities have included managing the organization’s marketing efforts, website, and gallery, as well as providing important leadership each year at the Fallasburg Art Festival.

Drenth said, “We are excited for the next chapter at LowellArts. Janet Teunis has the knowledge and expertise to further the organization’s mission of connecting artists and audiences through the visual and performing arts.”

Teunis has 23 years of experience working in arts management. From 2000-2013, she held positions

at the Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts (UICA). She has experience in artistic and programmatic leadership, human resources, management of programs and events, management of operations and marketing, and special event planning. Teunis has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Michigan School of Art, and is a practicing visual artist.

LowellArts occupies two adjacent storefront properties on Main Street, with 2,550 sq. ft. of gallery space – beautifully showcasing the work of hundreds of local, statewide, and international artists in a variety of group shows. The facility also includes a classroom space, allowing LowellArts to offer a variety of art classes for youth, teens, and adults. By utilizing the open-floor plan, high

ceilings, and flexible seating, the gallery is regularly transformed to allow for music and theater performances.

LowellArts also organizes the annual Fallasburg Arts Festival, a two-day, outdoor event, held each September at Fallasburg Park. In addition, LowellArts co-presents the popular annual Lowell Showboat Sizzlin’ Summer Concert Series with the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, which consists of weekly concerts held on Riverwalk Plaza, along the Flat River in front of the Lowell Showboat.



Janet Teunis has been named the new executive director of LowellArts.

Third graders learn local history during museum immersion program

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

The Lowell Area Historical Museum (LAHM) immersion program, for third graders from Lowell Area Schools, was initiated by teacher, Diane Titche, seven years ago.

For two days a week, third graders learn about local history in an interactive way that is tailored to the needs of the classroom. “It’s curriculum-based,” said LAHM director, Lisa Plank.

The kids get to explore the museum, as they pick their favorite topic and write

an exhibit label. As part of the museum experience, they get to design their own museum.

Throughout the years, the students have designed a wide array of museums, from traditional history and art museums, to dog museums. “They get to be creative,” she said. “There’s a lot of hands-on activity and learning.”

One of the activities is drawing a map of how Lowell was settled.

“I like that the immersion program not just introduces kids to local history but also offers engagement so they remember it,” she said.

The museum experience aligns with the social studies curriculum at the third-grade level. The kids study biographies of local residents at the museum, and they can expand on that in schools.

Volunteers and kids use the museum as a classroom to learn about local history and how museums work.

According to Plank, there has been a fantastic response from the kids, the teachers, and the parents, who have the opportunity to come along to the museum. “It’s a great program,” Plank said.

Email questions to history@lowellmuseum.org

Upcoming events:

Katelyn VerMerris will present Women in WWI in Grand Rapids workforce on March 9, at 1 pm, at Vergennes Township Hall.

Adam Oster, County Poor Farms on April 17, at 7 pm, at Vergennes Township Hall.



Third graders from Lowell Area Schools use the museum as a classroom during the museum immersion program.



Third graders learn about local history and biographies during the museum immersion program, along with their parents.

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Landmark Nightwing issue delivers powerful punch

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

The industry that brought you zap, pow, bang, thwip, bamf, and snikt pulled a total of zero punches during January of 2023. Here are some highlights from a mammoth month of comic book delight.

With the publication of *Action Comics* #1051 (1/25/23) and *The Flash* #790 (1/11/23), DC provides easy jump-in points for this year's Superman titles and



Flash's "One-Minute War" story arc.

In *Daredevil* #7 (Marvel Comics, 1/11/23) and *Punisher* #9 (Marvel Comics, 1/11/23), on-again, off-again allies, Matt Murdock and Frank Castle, hurtle closer and closer toward confrontation.

Also from Marvel,

the phrenetic and socially conscious *X-Terminators* miniseries concludes with issue #5 (1/25/23), as writer Leah Williams sets her sights on DC's Power Girl.

Fan favorite, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: The Last Ronin* continues its groundbreaking narrative with a new comic by IDW, titled, *The Lost Years*. Issue #1 was released on January 25.

Image Comics' *What's the Furthest Place From Here?* #12 (1/18/23), finally starts giving answers to the mystery that drew so many readers into the series, initially in 2021.

Comic book movie lovers might find that January of 2023 is a great time to supplement their silver-screen adoration with a paper or digital comic book subscription. Those who are looking for a great series to follow should look no further than the following list

of the top three comics from the past month.

Nightwing #100 (DC Comics, 1/28/23)

When writer, Tom Taylor and artist, Bruno Redondo, took over as the creative team for *Nightwing*, in early 2021, the series was immediately lauded as

one of the best comic book runs of all time. With their hopeful take, impressive designs and layouts, and infinite heart, readers got a taste of what fan-favorite circus performer, turned vigilante crime fighter, Dick Grayson, would do for his city given a nearly unlimited budget. With each issue, readers watched Blüdhaven slowly transform from a dark, grimy Gotham City clone into something curious and new that might, in time, rival the wondrous Metropolis.

Issue #100 begins with a classic comic trope: the inmates have escaped from Arkham Asylum and only Batman can stop them from burning Gotham to the ground! In this instance, replace Arkham with a traditional, for-profit, private prison, Batman with Nightwing (with a little help from his friends), and Gotham with Blüdhaven, and you have the formula for a truly memorable *Nightwing* drama. Those brought to tears by previous *Nightwing* issues may find themselves overcome as Nightwing advocates for a better world by helping, not punishing, unmasking villains, and giving everyone the opportunity to be part of the solution. This, in addition to a flooring interaction between Grayson and mentor Bruce Wayne, wherein Taylor continues fellow writer Tom King's project of developing an emotionally available Batman.

Nightwing #100 masterfully concludes a number of storylines featuring villains Blockbuster, Heartless, and Tony Zucco, but it will likely be remembered for the future it sets up, especially now that DC has announced a new Titans series, penned

by Taylor and illustrated by Nicola Scott.

Saga #61 (Image Comics, 1/25/23)

Saga fans are used to gaps between story arcs. In fact, readers of Brian K. Vaughan and Fiona Staples' heartbreaking series waited three and a half years for the release of Issue #55, after the series reached its half-way point. *Saga* #61 comes after a six-month hiatus, and it does not disappoint.

For those unfamiliar with the series, it follows the adventures of a young girl named Hazel, whose parents, Alana and Marko, fought for opposite sides in a space war. Wearing the marks of both sides, from Marko a pair of horns atop her head to mark her Landfall heritage, and from Alana four beautiful wreath-appropriate wings, Hazel is not supposed to exist. At the beginning of Issue #61, readers check in with Gwendolyn, The Will, Sophie, and Lying Cat, a motley crew of war-displaced travelers in hot pursuit of Hazel and company.

Reviews of this issue are all over the place. Some lament the slow pace of Vaughan's raunchy but delicate space opera, despite



what his previous magnum opus *Y the Last Man* delivered, using the same narrative methodology. Others jeer the cliffhanger at the end of the issue as a cheap, pulp-fiction contrivance. It's easy to hate the punch to the gut, and in so doing, misunderstand the motivations of the puncher. If there's one thing readers can expect from this new development, it's a carefully wrought story that hits them in the feels.

Long story short, what follows is likely to hurt.

Sins of Sinister #1 (Marvel Comics, 1/25/23)

One of the most uncomfortable details behind Jonathan Hickman's Krakoa era of X-Men comics has been Professor Charles Xavier's alliance with (former) villains Apocalypse, Destiny, Emma Frost, Exodus, Magneto, Mystique, and Sebastian Shaw. Their prominence on the island's Quiet Council governing body is uncomfortable, but no single member is more questionable than Mister Sinister. To start, Sinister is not even a mutant by birth, and a mutant gene is the one requirement for citizenship on Krakoa, and furthermore, he's shown no signs of reforming. He is only on this island because the resurrection process that prevents the total eradication of all mutants requires Sinister's genetic expertise.

Sins of Sinister is a reductio ad absurdum argument for what the Marvel universe would look like if Mister Sinister accomplished his objective of ultimate power. It's equal parts of *What If?* (think *Deadpool Kills the Marvel Universe*) and groundbreaking future X-Men timeline ("Days of Future's Past"). Writer Kieron Gillen compares the series to 1990s *X-Men Crossover Age of Apocalypse*, where Xavier's death, in the past, leads to supervillain Apocalypse's subjugation of earth, but Gillen takes his alternate future to the cosmic level. Beginning in February, ongoing series *Immortal X-Men*, *X-Men Red*, and *Legion of X* will be replaced by *Immortal X-Men*, *Storm & The Brotherhood of Mutants*, and *Nightcrawlers*, and nobody is safe, not Thanos, not Galactus, not anybody.

Mister Sinister has been an inconsistent character over the years, menacing now, comedic later, and who knows what next. In 2020, Sinister was a prominent character of Zeb Wells' surprisingly good *Hellions* series, which provided satisfying character development for Kwannon (Psylocke) and John



Greycrow. He's also been a central character, along with Mystique and Destiny, in Gillen's *Immortal X-Men*, which has been on fire since the 2022 *Avengers/X-Men/Eternals Crossover AXE*. Mister Sinister's increasingly interesting character arc gives a lot of promise for the future of *Sins of Sinister*.

Other Noteworthy January 2023 Comics

Batman #131 (DC Comics, 1/4/23)

Batman/Superman: World's Finest #11 (DC Comics, 1/11/23)

Captain America: Sentinel of Liberty #8 (Marvel Comics, 1/4/23)

The Flash #791 (1/18/23)

Human Target #10 (DC Comics, 1/11/23)

Human Target #11 (DC Comics, 1/25/23)

Immortal X-Men #10 (Marvel Comics, 1/18/23)

Legion of X #9 (Marvel Comics, 1/11/23)

Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers #104 (Boom! Studios, 1/11/23)

Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers/Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II #2 (Boom! Studios, 1/25/23)

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles #136 (IDW Comics, 1/18/23)

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: The Armageddon Game #4 (IDW Comics, 1/18/23)

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: The Armageddon Game – The Alliance #3 (IDW Comics, 1/4/23)

Wolverine #29 (Marvel Comics, 1/11/23)

X-Force #36 (Marvel Comics, 1/4/23)

X-Men #18 (Marvel Comics, 1/11/23)

X-Men Red #10 (Marvel Comics, 1/4/23)

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Turbulence doesn’t diminish Gerard Butler’s plane

by Bill Lee
contributing writer

Gerard Butler, the 53-year-old Scottish actor, has been in quite a few movies since his career began in 1997. He is one of those actors whom you have seen in smaller movies like *PS I Love You* with Hilary Swank, *Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life*, and a minor part in *Tomorrow Never Dies* in 1997. Then in 2007, he burst into the scene starring as King Leonides of Sparta in *300*, the alpha male, tes-

tosterone mega hit about The Battle of Thermopylae during the Greco-Persian Wars. *300* grossed nearly five hundred million dollars worldwide. Since then, he has acted in 34 movies, a mix of romantic comedies and action thrillers, but nothing has come close to the box office smash of *300*. And since 2013, starting with *Olympus Has Fallen*, Butler has also been a producer in every movie in which he has acted. His actor/producer role

includes the recently released *Plane*, starring Butler and Mike Colter. The one hour and forty-seven minute thriller was directed by Jean-Francois Richet, a French director who worked with Mel Gibson in the 2016 movie, *Blood Father*. *Plane* is a movie of two halves: on the plane and off it. The first thirty minutes of *Plane* are gripping and make you want to never take a flight again. Butler plays Brodie Torrance, a commercial pilot and widower, who has worked for more than a few airlines and who has a bit of a checkered past. Now a captain for Trailblazer Airlines, Torrance lives in Singapore, completely across the world from his young adult daughter, who lives in Hawaii. The story opens on New Year’s Eve and Captain Torrance is video-chatting with his daughter, while he rushes through the airport to fly his plane from Singapore to Tokyo. He plans to see her the next day after his flight. She is worried about delays but he assures her, “There won’t be any delays.” Of course, the audience knows that delays will

be in his future but in what form will they come? Immediately, we find out as Torrance is getting ready for the flight. The first conflict is the intense weather he, his flight crew, and 14 passengers will have to endure; and second, is an unexpected passenger in the form of convicted murderer, Louis Gaspere, played by Mike Colter. Gaspere is handcuffed and in the hands of a police officer, who will be joining them on the flight. Seems a little unrealistic that a convicted murderer would be on the same plane as commercial passengers, but hey, I’ll bite. Some of the most interesting scenes in the movie take place on the plane, as writers Charles Cumming and JP Davis give us a behind the scenes look at the flight crew and their interactions and banter as the passengers board. In the cockpit, Torrance and his first officer, Dele, played well by Yoson An, show us the inner-workings of the plane and its instruments as it takes off and then runs into some turbulence. Not just any turbulence either. We’re talking roller-coaster turbulence so vicious that two people, a flight attendant and passenger, get flung around the cabin. Captain Torrance tells the passengers to “prepare for impact” as plane goes down, and the second half of the movie begins in earnest on an island inhabited by bloodthirsty terrorists. A number of conflicts pick up as they become stranded on the island. Can the murderer Gaspere be trusted? Will the terrorists find them? And if they do, what will happen? Will a rescue team find them even if there is no cell service or any way to communicate to the outside world? How will they survive? *Plane*, in essence, becomes a rescue movie in the second half. Other actors in



their 50s, like Butler, have played in similar roles. Liam Neeson, in the *Taken* movies, and Bruce Willis, in the *Die Hard* movies are two that come to mind. Unfortunately, *Plane* is not on the same level as those movies. To be fair, I think Gerard Butler is an actor who could pull this off, and he actually does so. He’s a masculine tough guy with a soft side who can cry but also smack around a terrorist or two. The script of *Plane*, like turbulence, has its ups and downs and fails to make connections with the characters. It also fails by developing only one character, Butler’s. We see the deeper side of Captain Torrance, but need to see that in others, as well. In *Taken*, Neeson is saving his daughter from Albanian trafficker, Marko Hoxha; In *Die Hard*, Willis is saving his ex-wife (whom he still loves) from Hans Gruber, played insidiously by Alan Rickman. Both movies have multiple-developed charac-

ters with deep connections. In *Plane*, Butler is saving his passengers and crew from Junmar, a Filipino separatist that we don’t really get to know, and although Captain Torrance will do anything to save the passengers, the payoff at the end just doesn’t produce much emotion. Also, one area that could have been developed more was the relationship between Gaspere and Torrance. As it stands, they seemed to work too easily. With that said, I found *Plane* to be entertaining and worth the popcorn. It packed a punch, and although the characters and script were a little flat, it provided enough bravado and action to keep me interested. In the end, I liked it. It wasn’t one of the best rescue movies I’ve seen but it was good enough, and Gerard Butler, who also produced it, is an actor I would go see again. I give *Plane* 3 out of 5 popcorn kernels.



Truck catches on fire last Tuesday on N. Hudson

A Red Creek trash truck caught on fire last Tuesday on N. Hudson at Main Street. According to the Red Creek driver, it was possibly a brake problem with

the truck which overheated, catching the truck on fire. It was not the garbage being hauled. The truck was towed from the scene to the fairgrounds and the trash was

transferred to a dumpster. Both the truck and dumpster were moved to their final destination. There were no injuries in the incident.



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

Relationship discussions
to have before committing

The top reasons couples come to me for counseling are communication issues and not being in agreement with core- life values. The first can usually be worked through, the second issue is more difficult. This leads me to the subject of this article. There are critical topics that, if discussed before you commit, can save you some frustration, pain, and heartache.

Discussions before committing

Hopefully, you will be with your chosen partner for life, so take time and really get to know him or her. These discussions can help you both prepare for future challenges, because knowing each other’s values, beliefs, and opinions on important issues, lessens surprises that can lead to the relationship ending. Having different opinions, worldviews, and such, doesn’t mean your partner is wrong for you but you need to be aware of them. The below list will help you start to explore values, beliefs and resolve potential future issues. Just know that these discussions may bring out beliefs or values that are a deal-breakers for you or

your partner but it’s better to know now.

Discussion list

If a couple comes in for premarital counseling, these are some of the first things we discuss. This is not a complete list of important topics to discuss but it’s a good start. There is no guarantee of compatibility, but by having these discussions, you will at least know if you are in agreement on core values and beliefs and have less surprises when future challenges come up. Depending on your life stage, some of these questions may not apply.

- What is your definition of fully committing to your partner? Do you believe in marriage, monogamy, etc. What is your definition of infidelity. What do you consider a betrayal? What are your intimacy and sexual expectations? Do you need cuddling, hand-holding, hugging, words of love and appreciation? Is emotional, physical, mental, and spiritual intimacy vital to you? Do you get that from your partner currently? In terms of sex, don’t assume a belief in monogamy (one partner), as you may find, when asked, your

partner prefers polyamory (more than 1 partner) or doesn’t consider certain acts “cheating”. Do you match sexually in terms of frequency, preferences, beliefs, and are fulfilled by your partner, etc. Trust me, you want to discuss these things.

- What are your core values? Do they match your partners? What are each of your deal-breakers, things you will not tolerate? Can differing values be resolved or not? Can, and will, you change your behaviors so you don’t cross your partners boundaries?

- How do you expect to be treated by your partner? See additional questions under core values, above.

- Where do you want to live and make a life together? I’ve had one partner shocked because she found out her significant other had a 10-year career plan, resulting in them moving to another country. It apparently “never came up” in discussion. Are you open to living in another town, another state, another country? Maybe moving away from family and friends is a deal-breaker or you have a career or own a business you are passionate about.

- Do you want to have children at some point? Any idea when? How many? Depending on the stage of life you & your partner are in, you may not have an answer. Maybe one of you can’t physically have children so you need to discuss alternatives. If your partner says no to children and you want kids, can this be resolved without building resentment?

- How do you see your future children being raised? Will they will be raised in a specific faith or not? Will they attend public or private school or be home-schooled? Will you both work or will one of you stay home and raise the children? Will they be in daycare or stay with a family member while you’re working?

- What are your religious/spiritual beliefs?

have your back if their family causes issues and you enforce boundaries? How will you relate to your family of origin when you have children? All relationships have boundaries; what are yours as a couple?

- How do you handle relationship conflict? Do your conflict behaviors match, balance each others, or create a storm? What if you can’t come to an

unhealthy behaviors, don’t assume your partner will, or can, change and it isn’t reasonable to expect it.

Consider pre-commitment counseling

Pre-martial or pre-commitment counseling is a safe space to bring up difficult discussions. If you want to spend the rest of your life with this person, then invest the time upfront. Couples



If you have different beliefs, this can often be resolved, but you need to know in advance. Are you okay with this? Can you work to resolve the differences without the expectation that your partner will change?

- What are your beliefs about money? Are you a spender, a saver, or in-between? Will you have joint or separate accounts or both? Do you want to have savings for emergencies, large purchases, retirement or are you not concerned with these things? How do you feel about having debt? Do you want to control spending and bill payment or share the task? How compatible are your spending, saving, financial beliefs and habits?

- How is your relationship with your family and your partners family? How you handle boundaries and issues with the families should be discussed and agreed upon. How often will you see them? What happens when issues come up and who handles it? If one or both of your families are behaviorally unhealthy how will you handle it as a couple? Will your partner

agreement on an issue?

- Do your lifestyle choices match, in terms of sleeping habits, wellness (diet, exercise, emotional health, etc.) ,activities, career, hobbies, etc. Address any issues that need to be resolved in these areas. Differences don’t automatically meet incompatibility.

- What are your beliefs about dividing household chores? This can be a hot button for couples, when one feels they are always doing more, and resentment can build. How will you fairly divide chores?

- Do you both plan to work full-time to support the household? Do one or both of you have demanding careers? How do you see that impacting the relationship or having children? What are your boundaries with career impacting personal time and the relationship? How will each of you contribute to the household and relationship (financially, time-wise).

- What are your boundaries and beliefs regarding other relationships, like friends and co-workers?

- Unless one of you has

in pre-martial counseling are often surprised to find out their partner has a very different outlook or opinion that they had imagined. Assumptions cause a lot of problems, so it’s important to ask the questions and get to know your partner on a deeper level.

You don’t always have to see a professional counselor for pre-commitment/marriage or couples counseling, and it’s not covered under many insurances. Below are some low-cost, to possible, no-cost options;

- Your church may offer pre-martial counseling at little, to no, cost.

- Local universities that offer counseling and psychology programs may have a counseling center staffed by master’s, and doctoral students supervised by faculty that are professional counselors or psychologists.

- Heart of the City counseling services, offered by Cherry Health, offers counseling services regardless of income or insurance status. Sliding fee payment scale, based on income/family size, is available to those without insurance. Medicaid and Healthy Michigan are accepted, as are many other insurances.

Pre-commitment counseling gives you the opportunity to learn even more about your future partner, along with skills to improve communication and resolve conflicts in a healthy way. I hope you find this information helpful but it is not intended to diagnose or treat.

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Red Arrow

SPORTS

Friday night delight - Red Arrows stun Wildcats

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

“There’s no way this score is correct.” That’s how one sports reporter responded when hearing that Lowell beat Northview on Friday night, 51-50.

Now to be clear, they do great work in the high school basketball scene in West Michigan, and later highlighted how well Lowell performed against Northview in an article, but it’s a microcosm of the belief in Lowell boys basketball.

“Most people think ‘It’s just Lowell basketball’

and don’t think we’re very good,” junior, Ben Gaskin, told westmichiganballers.com, covering West Michigan basketball. “But we believe in ourselves. We believe we can win. I think Northview overlooked us,” Gaskin added.

It’s no secret that the boys basketball program has struggled to win in the past, only putting three winning seasons together in the last 14 seasons. One reason is specialized basketball players don’t happen at Lowell much.

This season is no different. Aidan Fitzpatrick,

Dawson Huhn, and Alex Binns played on the football team. Drew Veldman and Gaskin golf, along with numerous other examples.

M u l t i - s p o r t participation has been encouraged by Lowell officials and athletics specialists for years, and it leads to well-rounded teams. The flip side is Lowell doesn’t get a lot of basketball players that go onto the collegiate level, which other OK White programs have had.

Life in the OK White is often challenging in basketball, as well.

Northview, Forest Hills Northern, Grand Rapids Christian, and Forest Hills Central have all had huge runs in just the last decade.

So when Lowell went into Northview Friday night, there probably wasn’t a lot of belief. Northview is also a top-ten ranked team in the state, in fact, they’re ranked third in Division 1. Lowell played the Wildcats well, last go around at home, only to fall behind in the third quarter. This time it was Lowell who dominated the third quarter, using a 19-9 third to take the lead and hang on for a victory.

Lowell led by 10 with just 3:19 to go, but Northview wouldn’t go away quietly. The Wildcats brought it down to four with just 46 seconds left, and forced to foul put Aidan Fitzpatrick on the line, who made one of two free throws. Northview responded with a three, and all of a sudden, the lead was just two. Forced to foul again, Fitzpatrick came in clutch and made good on both free throws, with the Wildcats responding with another three to make it just a one point contest. It didn’t matter though, as time had

expired and Lowell came away with a 51-50 victory. Gaskin hit five threes and scored 21 in the win, Veldman had 16, and the Red Arrow student section surrounded the bench in celebration of one of the biggest upsets in the state this season.

Earlier in the week, Lowell beat Allendale 63-59, jumping out to an early 28-13 lead over the winless Falcons, and hanging on for the win. Lowell is on the road this week against Greenville and FHN.

Wrestlers win 14th straight conference title

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

P o s t s e a s o n commencing; The Lowell wrestling program is ready again for the annual push for the state competition, on both the team and individual level. This past week, Lowell got off to a good start by clinching their 14th straight OK White Conference championship.

In a conference with number seven in the state Greenville, the two programs had plenty of back-and-forth. The Yellow Jackets were the last team to win the OK White title before Lowell started their run. Lowell finished with

Landon Miller, Tacho Gonzales, Carson Crace, Landon Musgrave, Logan Dawson, Jackson Blum, and Owen Segorski winning individual conference championships. Lowell wrapped-up the team portion of the schedule, undefeated earlier this season. Trevor Boone and Braddock King added second-place finishes, while Casey Engle, Ari McFarland, and Easton Rich placed third.

The team district will be between Lowell, Hastings, and Ionia. The Red Arrows will take on Ionia in the semifinals, at 6 pm, with a potential final to be held

shortly after against the Saxons. All action will take place on Wednesday at Ionia High School. The Saxons are ranked number eight in the state, while the Red Arrows enter the postseason as the top-ranked team in Division 2. The other ranked team in the region is Greenville, meaning that of three of the top ten teams in the state, only one will advance to the team state tournament.

Individual districts will be held at Hastings on Saturday. The program won’t announce starters until the day of competition.

Competitive cheer joins the 700 club

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

A number can be particularly special. The difference between 699 and 700 is literally one point. It’s simple math, right? That’s not always the case because the sentimental value of breaking through a particularly rounded number can be very high.



That’s how the Lowell competitive cheer team was feeling on Saturday ,as for the first time in program history, their total score eclipsed the 700 mark.

It happened on Saturday at the Northstar Invitational, hosted by Forest Hills Northern, where the Red Arrows would go on to finish in fourth place. A high round one score for the season of 224, and a program record 281.4 third round score contributed to the eventual total of 703.1.

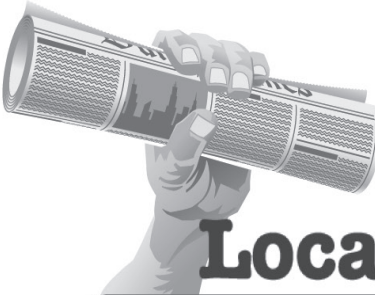
F o r e s t

Hills Northern won the invitational with a score of 770.12, with two program records of their own, the Huskies finished top ten in the state last year. The state competition moves to McGuirk Arena at CMU this year, following the closure of the DeltaPlex in Grand Rapids, where the competition had previously been held.

Lowell heads to Northview this week for their final conference competition, as they prepare for districts.



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obituaries

MARENTETTE

Raymond Marentette, 81 of Lowell, formerly Howard City, passed away January 28th of cancer. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Ann (Hurley). Ray was a proud Navy Vet and a millwright at GM for over 30 years.



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VERGENNES TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC NOTICE

There will be a meeting of the Vergennes Township Zoning Board of Appeals on February 23rd, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Vergennes Township Hall located at 69 Lincoln Lake Ave (Lowell) to hear the following business:

- A variance application has been received from Cory Deeds, on behalf of Ja Hill Enterprises for the property addressed as 679 Lincoln Lake Ave SE, Lowell, MI 49331 and known as parcel number 41-16-34-285-006. The variance is to request a setback reduction of approximately 66' and for a reduction in parking requirements by utilizing an alternative formula. Relevant zoning ordinances include: 201.309, 201.309.D.3, 201.417.4, and 201.502.D.
- The complete variance applications can be reviewed at the Vergennes Township Hall from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays and from 9 a.m. to noon on Thursdays or on the website at www.vergennestwp.org. Public comment will be heard at the meeting and comments received by mail, email, in person or in the Township drop box will be considered if received at the Township office prior to 6:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Comments may be emailed to: zoning@vergennestwp.org
- To view the application on the website, click on "Departments", then "Zoning Board of Appeals", then "Pending Applications."

Michigan Veteran Homes seeks volunteers for No Member Dies Alone program

Michigan Veteran Homes (MVH) is looking for volunteers to join the No Member Dies Alone (NMDA) program at each Home, highlighting the need to offer companionship and assistance to veteran members who are entering the final stages of life.

NMDA is a one-of-a-kind program in which volunteers provide comfort at the bedside when family and friends can't be present. These acts of kindness, such as holding a member's hand, talking or listening, or reading or playing music, helps each member feel more comfortable and ensures that no one should have to face the challenge of death alone.

MVH is seeking volunteers to join the NMDA program, at each of the three Homes, located in Chesterfield Township, Grand Rapids and Marquette. If you are interested in volunteering, you can apply at one of the Homes. In addition to the regular volunteer application process, anyone desiring to serve as a vigil volunteer will also have a special interview to determine fitness for the No Member Dies Alone team. Sensitivity and compassion are crucial and team members must feel reasonably comfortable interacting with those nearing death.

"When I retired from a very fulfilling 40-year career as an educator, I knew I needed to find something to do that had meaning and purpose," said Mike Micele, a Vietnam veteran and NMDA volunteer. "Joining the NMDA program has been one of the most powerful and life-changing experiences of my life. It is truly spiritual work. In some cases, these veterans don't have friends or family present so to be there and tell them they are loved and there is nothing to fear is beyond words. The best gift we can give a dying member is our time, presence and love. This is work that needs doing and demands our best."

MVH provides all the training necessary, including orientation sessions on member privacy regulations, bedside protocol, communication skills and self-care. Opportunities to follow experienced volunteers are offered, as well.

"Volunteers are an important part of our team that provides care and comfort to our veteran members as they enter the final stages of life," said Jodi Thompson, Director of Psychosocial Services and Quality of Life for MVH. "While there are several things volunteers can do to promote relaxation and lessen pain, sometimes it's as simple as being present. We hope to grow the program at each of our three Homes so that our veteran members receive the support they deserve."

If you are interested in volunteering, please direct all inquiries to the volunteer office at Michigan Veteran Homes at Grand Rapids - Volunteer Coordinator, Becky Smit, at smitr@michigan.gov or 517-281-8963.

For more information on the NMDA program, please visit No Member Dies Alone (michigan.gov). About Michigan Veteran Homes: Michigan Veteran Homes (MVH) is the entity that provides day-to-day operational oversight of the state's veteran homes on behalf of the Michigan Veterans Facility Authority (MVFA) and is a branch of the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA). MVH strives to ensure that quality long-term care is provided to the veterans and their eligible family members that live within the Homes. High quality care for this phase of life is central to the "member for life" concept that DMVA embraces. The MVH operates the Michigan Veteran Homes at Grand Rapids (MVHGR), the Michigan Veteran Homes D.J. Jacobetti (MVHDJJ) in Marquette and Michigan Veteran Homes at Chesterfield Township (MVHCT). For more information, please visit: <https://www.michigan.gov/mvh>.

Help someone you love apply for Social Security and more

This Valentine's Day, take time to remind your loved ones that Social Security helps people in all stages of life. We provide easy and convenient ways to learn about and apply for benefits. Using our online services, you can assist friends and family members to:

- Apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- Check if the person you are helping qualifies for SSI – and also apply – at www.ssa.gov/ssi.
- Apply for Social Security Disability Insurance benefits.
- When the unexpected happens and a loved one can no longer work, due to a serious medical condition, our disability benefits can be a lifeline. Find out more at www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability.
- Create a personal mySocial Security account.
- If your loved one is planning for retirement or interested in estimating their future benefits, they can create a free and secure my Social Security account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount and view their Social Security Statement.
- Check the status of a pending application for benefits.
- Checking the status of an application is quick and easy with a personal mySocial Security account. If you don't have an account, you can create one at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.
- Appeal a decision for benefits.



If someone you know was denied Social Security benefits or SSI, they can request an appeal. We provide information on how to appeal decisions for both medical and non-medical reasons at www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/appeal.html.

To discover more ways you can assist others, please visit www.ssa.gov/thirdparty/.

Hillary Hatch is the Public Affairs Specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525 or via email at hillary.hatch@ssa.gov

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

misc.

PORK STEAK DINNER - Fri., Feb. 10, 5-7:30 pm at Alto American Legion Post 528, 6056 Linfield Ave., Alto. Public Welcome.

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

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

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.

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~ Rock Island

by Martha Hayden

Rock Island is known as “Wisconsin’s Best Kept Secret” and “The Jewel of Arts and Nature.” Located in Lake Michigan, north of the Door Peninsula, DaViking (my husband, Chuck) and I decided to travel on three ferries so we could learn about this mysterious, rustic state park. In true fashion, we needed the “behind the curtain” tale of this 974-acre, wilderness isle and the Icelandic inventor, Chester Hjortur Thordarson who had once built an Icelandic compound and retreat here. Join us on our caper to Rock Island!

As we approached Rock Island on an open-topped ferry, the cleverly assembled boathouse came into view. Chuck rattled history into my ear as I marveled at this monolith. “The top part is a Viking Meeting Hall and in the balcony, Chester Thordarson kept all his books. He had 11,000 rare books.”

Chester Hjortur Thordarson, born Hjörtur Þórðarson-

At six years old, he and the Thordarson family immigrated from Iceland to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Sadly, a few months after their arrival, their father died. The name “Hjortur” (shock tu) was difficult for his American teacher to pronounce, so she gave him the name, “Chester.” This name stayed with him, even though he left school after second grade.

The Thordarson family moved around often until 1881, when the family purchased a farm in Red River Valley, North Dakota. Without extra money, it was decided that only the women and young children would ride a train across the thousand miles to their new home. Chester, at 13 years old, was expected to walk, barefoot. It took him two and a half months to march these miles.

At 18 years old, in

1886, Chester Hjortur joined his sisters, who were living in Chicago. Knowing that edu-

cation was important, he enrolled into 4th grade. Yes, at 18 years old! He completed 7th grade by the age of 20 and started looking for a job.

Chester was hired by an electrical manufacturing company. He was paid \$4.00 each week as an electrical manufacturer. He spent \$3.00 for room and board. The remaining dollar he used to buy science and nature books, as his passion for learning continued into his adult years.

Thordarson Electric Manufacturing, Chicago-

In 1894, with \$75.00 in his pocket, C.H. Thordarson (the name he was using) started his own electric manufacturing business. He married a fellow Icelander, Juliana Fridricksdottir, whose family lived on Washington Island. (North of the Door Peninsula, See the map below.)

C.H. Thordarson invented nearly one hundred electrical patents: inductors, transformers and high voltage coils. These inventions set the foundation for our country’s electrical grid and transmission infrastructure.

P u r c h a s i n g Rock Island 1910-

C.H. Thordarson held an admiration for nature and wanted a place where he could study, read and discuss the big ideas of the century. With Rock Island’s fishing industry no long viable, the island population had lessened. This made the land available for private purchase. He bought 800 acres of Rock Island.

The Boathouse, Viking Hall and Library-

C.H. Thordarson hired fellow Icelanders (many had lived just south on Washington Island) to construct a Viking Hall with a boathouse foundation. A loft was planned to hold his growing book collection.



The Boathouse

As Chuck and I strolled down the sloped walkway, along the stone wall, mustiness gathered in my nose. We turned and entered the archway to the boathouse. As my eyes adjusted to the darkness, I focused on the sound of lapping water kissing the sides of the boats in the slips. It gave me a peaceful feeling.

As we talked, our voices rang with an echo in the cavern-ness boathouse. I felt comfortable in the damp space. The stone walls and musty smell reminded me of St. Mary’s Roman Catholic gym in Lake Leelanau, Michigan. It was next door to my mother’s childhood home. Many memories have been linked to the structure. I’d climbed the stone walls and played inside the gym. In the basement, relatives had cooked chicken and made stuffing for the annual chicken dinner every August. Boy, my mind drifts easily over decades.

The Viking Hall-

Next, we headed back up the ramp and into the Viking Hall. I wasn’t prepared for the century-old beauty of the stacked stone walls and hefty wooden beams, with sunlight pouring in through the arched windows.

The room was filled with carved furniture. I wove my way through, admiring the Icelandic sagas etched into the wooden pieces. There were so many stories depicted! Chuck explained that these tables and chairs had been sold, and then years later, bought back to complete the restoration of the property. And then, I turned around. The fireplace was magnificent!

There were games set out on the tables and wonderfully displayed pictures and artifacts. C.H. Thordarson even had honorary

degrees hung on the wall!

The Loft-

The wooden stairs creaked under our feet as we mounted the steps. The loft had once housed C.H. Thordarson’s 11,000-volume collection of rare books. Most were about the natural sciences, including botany and ornithology. The books are now part of the University of Wisconsin – Madison’s rare book assembly. The view from the loft overlooking The Viking Hall was stunning!

DNR Officer, Randy Holm, said, “Edison and

er Came To Fruition-

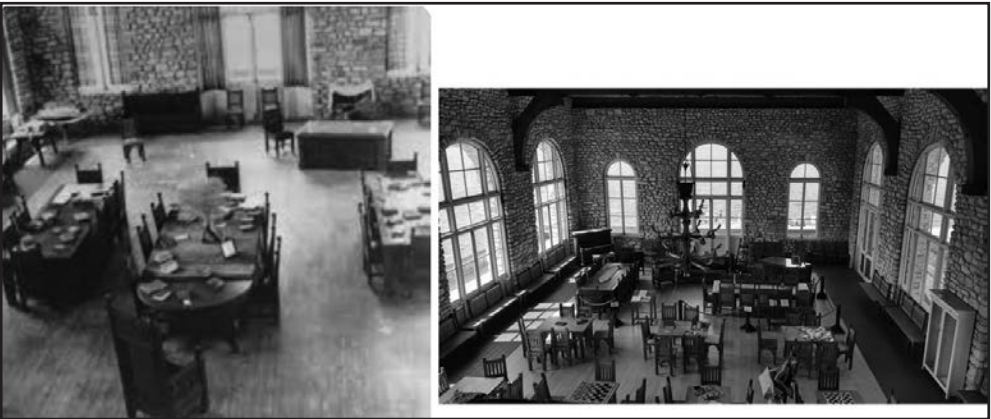
C.H. Thordarson had planned to construct a grand house on the island for his spouse. His wife hadn’t eagerly embraced the whole “nature thing” very well. He wanted to keep her happy! C.H. Thordarson also had a model for a 100-room hotel, which would have brought many visitors to this haven. Sadly, C.H. Thordarson passed away in 1945 before these plans could be enacted.

The Pottawatomie

Lighthouse- Chuck and I sat at a

keel became stuck. The family had spent the night in an emergency shelter on the Rock Island while they waited for the tow boat. (Before their departure from Chicago, the couple had paid to have a tow service ready, just in case, but these companies work at their own pace.) The tow boat was due that afternoon.

After being towed, the father sailed around the island, inspecting the vessel along the way, as well as when he arrived in port to pick up his family. The



The Viking Hall then (left) and now (right). Photo Credit: (Left)Wisconsin Historical Society

Henry Ford were known to have come here to Rock Island. Chicago’s Mayor, Thompson, had his own cabin, built by C.H. Thordarson, as a retreat.” Another guide mumbled that mafia leaders had also gathered here, however, I couldn’t find any evidence of that ...

The Pagoda-

C.H. Thordarson was heavily influenced by Japanese gardens. He brought many new plant species to the island, dug out ponds and had a pagoda constructed. It was used for gatherings, often at meal times.

Following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, C.H. Thordarson had the Japanese gardens removed from his property. He had no longer felt a kinship to the Asian nation. The Pagoda remained as it had been, a functional area to meet.

Stone Carvings-

In the hall, there had been a reference to some stone carvings along a cliff-type wall, along the shore. So, we took a hike to investigate. At first they weren’t apparent, but with careful inspection, we located several. Yes! We got our feet wet! This area had once been shoreline, but with higher water levels, it was now a squishy hike. We continued on down the trail to locate Chester’s gravesite.

C.H. Thordarson’s Grave-

Through a wooded area along the shoreline, a white fence marked the perimeter to a few graves. The trail to C.H. Thordarson’s grave was matted down among the long grass. Other guests had left trinkets and rocks to honor this man, an inventor who has forever changed our lives with his electrical inventions. He had been interred here after passing away from heart failure in Chicago. Plans That Nev-

picnic table contemplating the mile hike to get to the Pottawatomie Lighthouse. Built in 1836 and named for the tribe who had once inhabited the island, the Pottawatomie Lighthouse holds the honor of being the oldest Door County lighthouse. Chuck had planned to take in this site.

It was hotter than I’d expected. I’d worn pants, since poison ivy is prevalent on the small island. As we cooled off in the shade, Chuck relayed stories of light keepers. All the while, I was losing motivation for our next hike. I ate a snack and drank some water that I’d packed (there isn’t a store on the island). I was having a ‘Cinderella at midnight moment.’ Would we make it to the lighthouse?

My attention was drawn to the young mother and two daughters, who we’d met earlier when we’d gotten off the ferry. They were at a nearby picnic table eating lunch while waiting for their patriarch to sail around the island. We began chatting with them again. Their story is a fascinating one...

The Listing Vessel-

When we had initially arrived on the island, we had taken time to hike out to a rocky peninsula, where we’d noticed a sailboat listing in the shallow water. DaViking loves to help and is knowledgeable about everything adventurous! As Chuck said, “They’re having a more interesting adventure than us. Let’s check out the listing sailboat!”

There, we met two young girls, contently tossing rocks, and their mom, patiently pacing with their fluffy, white dog. The family had been sailing the previous night, using navigation charts, which had claimed 18 feet of water, but alas, it wasn’t. Their sailboat’s

young ladies were well-versed in tying the lines to the cleat on shore. We bid them safe travels and happy adventures. I admired their carefree lifestyle, the confident youngsters and the mother’s patience. We enjoyed meeting this family!

Well, you guessed it. We didn’t hike to the lighthouse. After our conversations and curiosities, we boarded the next ferry and headed back to Washington Island.

The Ferry-

With soggy feet, we hiked down to the ferry dock. It was about time for the next ferry service. I was looking forward to changing into dry shoes, which I had in the Jeep. We agreed that it would be good to set-up camp back on Washington Island. (Boy, our energy disappears more quickly these days!)

Rock Island State Park-

In 1964 the State of Wisconsin purchased the land. Most of the buildings were in disrepair, so they were torn down. A rustic campground was created under the shade of cedar trees. There’s a water spigot and outhouse for visitors and campers. Wagons and wheelbarrows are available to haul gear to one’s campsite. There are no cars or bicycles permitted. Yup. It’s definitely rustic and charming!

Taking a peek ‘behind the curtain’ to learn about C.H. Thordarson left an impression. I am inspired to soak in nature, continue to be curious and appreciate people’s talents from long ago and today.

Resources:
Rock Island State Park Website
PBS Video
Michael R. Anderson’s site
Door County Pulse article
Door County Pulse article
Only In Your State article



The boathouse and Viking Meeting Hall had been built using dolomite rocks. It reminded me of our son’s neatly-stacked Lego structures.

FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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

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 a singer born in Mississippi on February 11, 1979. I grew up in a family of musicians. My younger brother is a performer as well. I gained fame on a hit TV series in the 1990s.

Answer: Brandy

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
55					56				57			58
59					60				61			
62					63				64			

ALL ABOUT BABY WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions
on page 13

ALL ABOUT BABY
WORD SEARCH

BABY
BASSINET
BATH
BOTTLES

BOUNCER
BURP CLOTH
CARRIAGE
CARRIER
CAR SEAT
CRIB
DIAPERS

HAT
MOBILE
MONITOR
ONESIE
PAJAMAS
RATTLE
SLING

SPIT
SPOONS
STROLLER
SWADDLE
SWING
TOYS

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to babies.

F I T N A N

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

Answer: Infant

CLUES ACROSS

1. Functions
5. Records electric currents associated with contractions of the heart
8. Trigonometric function (abbr.)
11. Secret political clique
13. Type of gibbon
14. Nocturnal S. American rodent
15. Famed American playwright
16. Mesopotamian goddess
17. Abba __, Israeli politician
18. Long ridge of gravel and sediment
20. A place to stay
21. Actor Idris
22. One who behaves in a rebellious way
25. A way to measure movement
30. Distinguish oneself
31. Type of drug (abbr.)
32. Basketball great Baylor
33. Masses of salivary matter
38. Calls balls and strikes
41. Plant that grows along the ground
43. A recreational activity in the air

45. Consumes too much
47. Island nation
49. Pistol
50. Mixtures of soul and calypso
55. Ancient Greek City
56. Similar
57. Roughly trimmed tree trunk used in a Scottish game
59. Semitic fertility god
60. Born of
61. Frogs, toads, tree toads
62. School in the northeast (abbr.)
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. “__ the Man” Musical, baseball player

CLUES DOWN

1. Fiddler crabs
2. Discount
3. Partner to “flows”
4. Ethnic group of Laos
5. Beloved “Seinfeld” character
6. Book of tickets
7. The last name of “Hermione”
8. Type of TV package
9. Helps to heal a cut
10. Town in Galilee
12. Actor Horsley

14. “Hocus Pocus 2” actor Ed
19. Bird-loving group (abbr.)
23. They respond when someone is sick
24. Emerged
25. Midway between south and southeast
26. Monetary unit of Afghanistan
27. Unit of work or energy
28. Indicates near
29. Famed river
34. For each
35. News organization
36. CNN’s founder
37. They __
39. Areas off to the side
40. Satisfies
41. A spare bed
42. Legendary singer Diana
44. Frothy mass of bubbles
45. A kind of sorcery
46. River in South Africa
47. Philippine Island
48. County in China
51. S. American plant
52. Beverage containers
53. Edge
54. Protein-rich liquids
58. Moved quickly on foot

Michigan Senate panel removes flunking from third grade reading law



Democratic lawmakers advanced a bill Tuesday that removes a requirement that students far behind in third-grade reading repeat the grade.

Democrats, freshly in power in Lansing, are eager to dismantle the read-or-flunk provision in the state's third-grade reading law, passed by Republicans under then-Gov. Rick Snyder. They took the first step Tuesday, passing the bill out of the Senate Education Committee.

The current law requires third graders, who are a year or more behind on reading, to repeat the year. While the law has many loopholes, Democrats and a number of education advocates say the retention requirement is punitive, and note studies showing that low-income students and students of color were more likely to be held

Sen. Dayna Polehanki, D-Livonia, bill sponsor and chair of the Senate Education Committee, noted other studies showing

grade retention has negative psychological effects on students, can be costly for school systems and doesn't ensure students are actually able to read.

Polehanki told Bridge she felt "darn good" about Tuesday's 5-1 committee vote, which she noted maintained other aspects of the reading law, such as providing more intensive supports for struggling readers.

All five Democrats on the committee voted in favor of Senate Bill 12, while Sen. John Damoose, R-Harbor Springs, voted no and Sen. Ruth Johnson, R-Groveland Township, voted to pass but said she hopes to support the bill in the future with an amendment. The measure now goes to the full Senate.

Damoose said now is not the time to take away accountability to schools.

"I just don't think right now, with the way schools are performing, is the time to look at weakening accountability or weakening any standards. It's not that I'm in favor of keeping kids back," Damoose told reporters after the vote. "That's a horrible solution. But it is one more tool in



The Senate Education Committee passed a bill Tuesday that would remove a requirement to hold third-grade students back if they are a year or more behind in reading. Sen. Dayna Polehanki, D-Livonia, sponsored the bill. (Bridge photo by Dale Young)

the toolbox, if absolutely necessary, sort of as a last resort."

Damoose said he wants to recommend an amendment that would allow parents to direct some funds to get tutoring services.

"Because the bottom line, every time we talk about doing something new in schools, we hear that the schools are understaffed, they're underpaid, they don't have the resources to do these types of things. And so, if that's the case, we can't wait till everything like that is fixed, that's gonna take a while to fix. We need to give the parents and kids, who are struggling right now, a solution."

Both Democrats and Republicans have endorsed investing more heavily in reading tutors to help struggling students catch up by third grade.

State Superintendent, Michael Rice, highlighted the need for tutoring and additional reading support.

Student Opportunity and the Michigan Association of School Boards, also support the bill, while more conservative groups, including the Mackinac Center for Public Policy and Great Lakes Education Project, opposed it.

W a s h t e n a w Intermediate School District Superintendent, Naomi Norman, told Bridge the law has helped the state focus on early literacy but that the retention component puts a "tremendous burden on the individual child."

She said she would like to ensure that there are enough literacy coaches in the state so that coaches are working with teachers at the recommended ratio.

in the latest budget. The state allocates money for literacy coaches, additional instruction time and teacher training to help literacy efforts.

The third-grade reading law was passed in 2016, but the retention component did not go into effect until students took their standardized assessments in the 2020-2021 school year. That means, the first group of students that were retained were in fall 2021.

Loopholes in the read-or-flunk law, as it came to be known, are generous.

Michigan State University researchers found that only 545 students were actually held back this fall, even though nearly 5,700 were eligible for retention because they were a year or more behind.

Researchers also found that Black students and those from low-income families are more than twice as likely to be held back, compared to their white and wealthier peers.

The House Education Committee also heard testimony Tuesday on the third-grade reading law, but has not yet voted on the issue.

Minority Vice Chair, Jaime Greene, R-Richmond, told Bridge she believes retention should be an "absolute last resort," but questions the urgency of removing the retention component.

"What's the 911?" she asked. "Why is it urgent? Why is this being (run) through so quickly?"

Lawmakers, from both parties, have qualms about flunking students but there are differences on how to best help struggling readers

He said there are likely "untapped resources in our community," including faith and service organizations who are willing to help with tutoring.

"Let's eliminate the punitive, lean into the research base and evidenced-based approaches to improve literacy in the state," Rice said.

The Michigan Department of Education supports Polehanki's bill. Other groups, including K-12 Alliance of Michigan, the Michigan Alliance for

Additionally, she wants to ensure there are enough supports in place for fourth and fifth-grade students who are behind in reading.

Beyond mandating retention, the law also outlines how schools are to assess students for reading skills, what interventions to provide and how to notify the parents about the child's progress.

Michigan has sharply expanded its investment in early literacy efforts in recent years, growing from \$29.9 million in fiscal year 2018-2019 to \$72.4 million

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