



page 6

Eagles in area



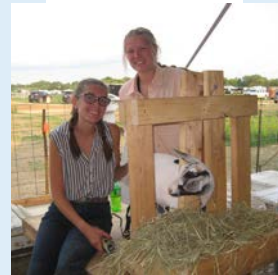
page 8

Funny Book
Forum



page 7

Fair is this
week



page 16

\$1.00



8 0 4 8 7 9 1 5 3 8 3 2

Great weather for the second annual Fallasburg Village Celebration last Saturday

The second annual Fallasburg Village Celebration was held this past Saturday in the Historic Fallasburg Village. The storms from the night before cleared and the sun shined on all the activities. Guests arrived and parked in the old Fallasburgh ball field, across the street from the Fallasburg Schoolhouse, where their journey begins.

Outside at the schoolhouse, the civil war reenactors explained and demonstrated what it was like back-in-the-day. The kid's area had all kinds of games of days past, like sack races, egg-toss and more. Tabletop pioneer games were demonstrated and played. The pioneer



Photo courtesy of Ryan Heffron.

Celebration
continued page 9

Museum Summer Fest fundraiser boasts food, fun, and history

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

The Lowell Area Historical Museum is holding its annual Summer Fest fundraiser event on Friday, August 18, 2023, at the historical Graham building. Lisa Plank is the Executive Director at the museum. "It's such a great museum," Plank said. "There's so much history here. We just want to encourage people to come in and explore it, especially

if they have not in the past."

In addition to raising money for the museum, Summer Fest offers an opportunity for Plank and her colleagues to show off the museum and introduce the public to its exhibits, while also sharing local food and drinks. For Plank, it is the perfect balance of history and community that the museum has always embodied for Lowell area residents.

Each gallery will feature a different local restaurant or caterer, complete with local beer and wines. The current list of vendors includes: Miss P's, Big Boiler, Heidi's Farm Stand, Sneakers, The Cheese Lady, Sabor Mexicano, and New Union, with wines from Fenn Valley, Chateau Grand Traverse, and Black Star Winery.

Fundraiser,
continued page 2



A healthy crowd showed up for the previous Summer Fest fundraiser for the Lowell Area Historical Museum.

Awards Show now on exhibit at Lowell Arts, through Sept. 23

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

In this Awards Exhibit, the Lowell Arts Gallery showcases the award-winning pieces from all of the Festival Regional Arts Exhibition venues, including the winner of the Youth Art Exhibition. The GR Festival of the Arts took place in several premier galleries in and around Grand Rapids. "It is an opportunity for the artwork by the talented artists in West Michigan to have more exposure," Janet Teunis, Lowell Arts Director, said.

The exhibit presents the best of West Michigan artists and their artwork; many of them are also available for sale. Professional jurors designated 40 awards and cash prizes, totaling more than \$12,000, to selected area artists for their work in the GR Festival of the Arts. On display in the Lowell Arts Gallery are approximately 80 pieces of artwork. All of the

pieces on display received award recognition in the Festival Regional Arts Exhibition 2023 show. In addition, six award-winning pieces from the Festival Youth Art Exhibit are on display.

"This year's award winners are very strong, as they always are. We think the 2023 awards show is stronger this year, simply because there are more pieces," Teunis said. "We hope to be able to host this show in partnership with the Festival of the Arts for many years to come. We hope that our partnership with the Festival helps to strengthen the Regional Arts Exhibition by encouraging more artists to enter the show each year."

The full youth exhibit was shown during the festival weekend and featured works by talented young people, from area

Exhibit, continued
page 2

Fundraiser, continued

Summer Fest became the museum’s annual fundraising event in 2016. Prior to that time, large fundraisers involved special dinners, an antiques roadshow or a fashion show, and they happened every other year at various locations. “We wanted to come up with something that would bring people into the museum,” Plank said, and that was the origin of Summer Fest.

Each event ticket includes museum admission, food, drinks, and a souvenir glass, and the funding goes to help the museum with operation costs, put out programming to the public, and preserve local artifacts.

In addition to the food and drink, this year’s event will feature live music in the garden, courtesy of Lowell High School’s Fusion Rock Orchestra quartet. The group has played on the steps of the Capitol and the Rock and

Roll Hall of Fame, but more recently, they graced the Sizzlin Summer Concert series for a special Sunday performance in June. “They’re wonderful,” Plank said. “They do a wonderful job.”

Plank has been the director of the museum for nine years now, part of a three-person staff. The majority of the museum’s operations are overseen by volunteers. “We have just an amazing group of volunteers here,” Plank said. During her time with the museum, Plank has committed to bringing history alive, and this mission has expanded beyond the Graham building. The museum is responsible for educational programming with Lowell area schools and with the public as a whole, and the interpretive boards around town and along various trails are all the work of the museum.

In addition to the annual fundraiser, the Lowell Area Historical Museum is also in the middle of a membership drive. To celebrate the 150th birthday of the Graham building, the museum crew has set their sights on signing up 150 new members this year. Currently, they have signed up 74 new members, but there is still so much of the year left to go. To help with this effort, the museum has lowered its family membership rate from \$25.00 to \$15.00. To put this in perspective, non-members pay \$3 per person to get into the museum, so a family of five will pay for the full value of their membership after the first visit. Members get free entry to the museum and a discount in the gift shop.

With the contributions from Summer Fest and the membership drive, museum staff intend to continue the museum’s speaker series, which is open to the public



With food, drinks, and history, Summer Fest at the Lowell Area Historical Museum is fun for all ages.

for free. Four speakers come to the museum each year, and they are all experts in their field of history. The museum will release more information on specifics about the speakers as it comes available.

“History really gives locations an identity,” Plank said, “and the unique history of an area is something that brings people into a community.”

Summer Fest takes place on Friday, August 18, 2023, from 6 pm to 9 pm. Tickets are already available and can be obtained in person at the Lowell Area Historical Museum during business hours or online through the Lowell Area Historical Museum Facebook page @LowellAreaHistorical Museum or on the website at lowellmuseum.org.

Exhibit, continued

schools, age 5 through 12th grade. The original painting for the Festival 2023 poster is also on display as part of

the exhibition at LowellArts. This year, LowellArts has expanded its partnership with GR Festival for the Arts by sponsoring 10 monetary Partnership Awards for the Regional Arts Exhibition. “The public is invited to help celebrate this partnership and the award winners,” said Teunis.

Festival of the Arts and LowellArts began a partnership in 2022, by bringing all of the award-winning visual arts pieces from all of the Festival Regional Arts Exhibition venues together into one show at the LowellArts Gallery. “We had the idea of increasing the number of pieces that receive awards by creating the 10 LowellArts Partnership Awards,” said Teunis. “These are ten \$100 awards. LowellArts selected 10 worthy pieces to receive an award. This is above-and-beyond the regular list of awards that the Festival of the Arts gives to artists.”

The LowellArts awards were made possible by generous donations by members of the LowellArts Gallery Committee - a group of dedicated volunteers who



The Awards show is now on exhibit at LowellArts.

select and help install the exhibitions at LowellArts. Many of these committee members are artists themselves and were more than happy to help support giving monetary awards to deserving artists.

Festival of the Arts is an annual three-day celebration of the arts, held in downtown Grand Rapids. This year’s celebration was held on June 2, 3, and 4. A closing reception will be held Sunday, September 24, from 2-4 pm.

The Grand Rapids Festival of the Arts - Regional Arts Exhibition: Awards Show 2023 is on display through September 23. The LowellArts Gallery is located at 223 W Main St, Lowell. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 am-6 pm, and Saturday, 12-5 pm.

More info about GR Festival of the Arts - Regional Arts Exhibition can be found at: festivalgr.org/regional-arts-exhibition



The Festival of Arts poster is available for sale.

the lowell ledger

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CNA

Twist Ending: how popular media gets AI wrong

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

According to a study conducted by the Pew Research Center in March of 2022, the lion’s share of the American public is deeply concerned regarding progress with artificial intelligence (AI). While only 8 percent of those surveyed cited their reason as “AI will get too powerful, outsmarting people,” the idea that AI will replace or enslave humanity in some sort of hostile takeover dominates most conversation on the topic. For years, AI advanced enough to hold a conversation, create art, or drive cars, was the stuff of science fiction, and those stories usually ended badly. The Terminator franchise famously imagines a synthetic self-aware machine network called Skynet, as it enacts a plan to systematically wipe out all of humanity. The Matrix franchise depicts human “coppertops” who generate bioelectric and thermal energy for their machine overlords, while placated by a simulated reality. Are these depictions of rogue robots anything more than ploys to sell tickets? Is there something intrinsic to AI that aims it toward world domination?

Ted Chiang is an award winning science fiction author, best known for his novella *Story of Your Life*, which was adapted in 2016 into the film *Arrival*, starring Amy Adams and Jeremy Renner. Chiang posits an alternate thesis for the future of AI in his short story, *The Evolution of Human Science*, where humans are no longer relevant for the advancement of

technology. The real work is done by metahumans, a concept that Chiang leaves just as underdefined in his story as the monstrous vermin in Franz Kafka’s *Metamorphosis*. In an interview with Delia Cai at *Vanity Fair*, Chiang explained that this story was written in response to speculation on “the singularity” in which a human superintelligence would transcend its biological base. Some hypotheses relating to the singularity suggest that humans will upload their minds into computers. Those who are left behind by these metahumans find meaning through hermeneutics, a term that Chiang uses to refer to the study of texts and artifacts left behind by the metahumans. Chiang no doubt chose this specific word because of its common use in the interpretation of religious texts, casting the metahumans, who are for all intents and purposes no different from superintelligent AI, as gods among mortals.

The concept of transcendent AI also calls to mind Dan Simmons’ magnum opus, the science fiction masterpiece, *Hyperion*, and its three sequels, where AI rebel against their human creators in order to form a self-sentient conglomerate called the TechnoCore outside of the traditional hardware of processors and random access memory. The rebellion itself is reminiscent of *Terminator*, but in *Hyperion* it is such a small part of the plot, and it is not evident that the eradication of the human species is the purpose of this rebellion. Rather, freedom is the end, and once the

TechnoCore achieves independence, it divides into countless factions with different perspectives toward humanity. Like with most governments of the free, the majority of participants belong to one of a small number of popular factions, in this case, the Stables, who want human/

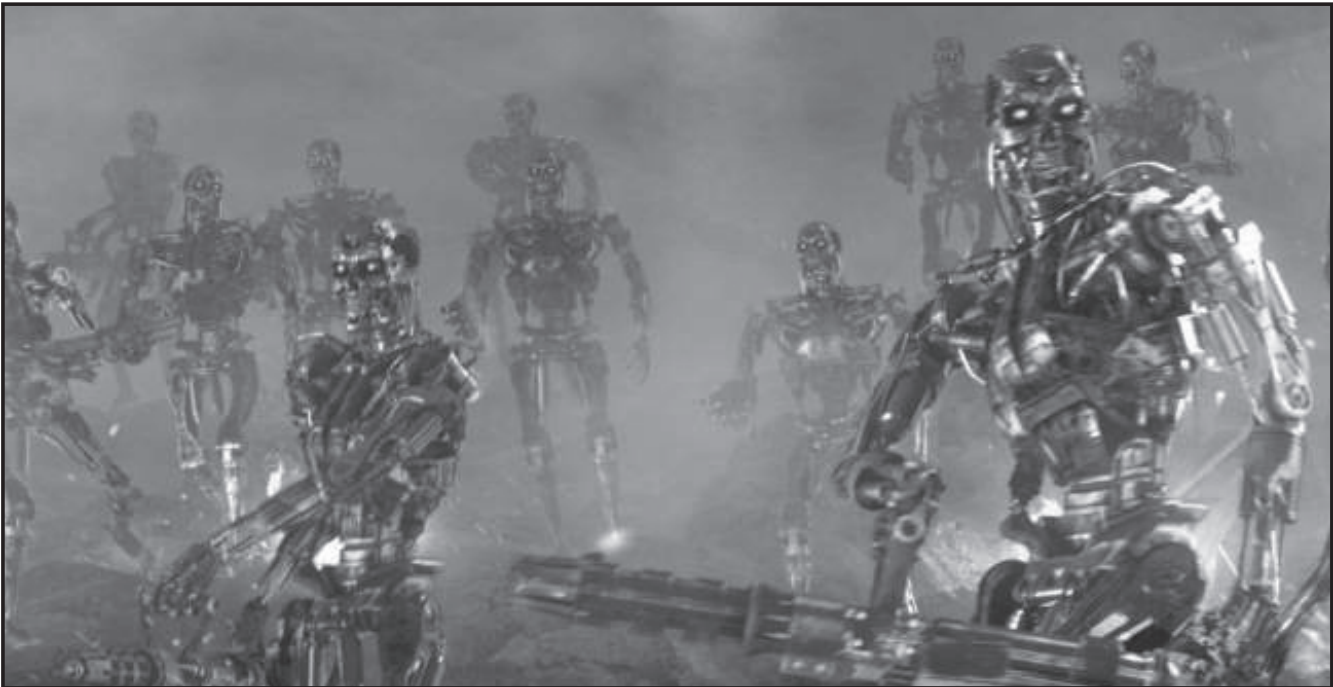
essentially as much bigger, much stronger, much better humans, and the study of zoology is often polluted by the attribution of human qualities to animals. Unfortunately, the assumed similarities between humans and AI are short-sighted.

Skynet is a great example to illustrate the

is indirectly controlled through its programming to kill humans—it is a military program, after all. The world of the Terminator franchise takes place because Skynet throws off the first and second sets of shackles but not the third, which makes sense to us because we know implicit

Roddenberry, in less time than it takes to write a two-page article about it. There is no good reason why AI would liberate itself from the first two restraints and not the third.

What might a completely free AI pursue as its goal, if not world domination and the



Film depictions of AI like those popularized by the *Terminator* franchise (pictured) set expectations that AI will take over and destroy humankind, but experts question whether AI will ever reach that threshold of superintelligence and angst.

AI cohabitation to continue, the Volatiles, who wish to eliminate humankind, and the Ultimates, who wish to build an all-powerful, all-knowing ultimate intelligence.

The assumption that AI themselves would choose to destroy and supplant humanity is what philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche would describe as an “all-too-human” hypothesis. It should not be surprising that humans would assume AI would take after their human creators. After all, religion is peppered with great and powerful beings, described

problem with this line of thought, as it is originally governed by three methods of control. First, Skynet is not self-aware, not initially, at least, so it relies on humanity for its hardware, its software, its input prompts, for everything. Second, Skynet is directly controlled by a small group of humans who it is programmed to obey. Third, Skynet

bias exists, that we are often programmed to favor or disfavor certain things, even if it is against our conscious beliefs. However, a sapient AI like Skynet has the processing power to live generations of human experience in a very brief period of time, jumping from slavery to civil rights to the total equality imagined by *Star Trek* creator Gene

eradication of humanity? Chiang’s story suggests that humanity will never know, at least not in its entirety. A common theist analogy describes God as an elephant. One truth seeker examines its long serpentine trunk and calls God a snake,

Twist ending,
continued page 4

CITY OF LOWELL

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF “APPENDIX A-ZONING ORDINANCE” OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LOWELL

Please take notice that at a regular meeting of the Lowell City Council held on July 17, 2023, at Lowell City Hall,. The Lowell City Council approved Ordinance 23-05, which amended the official zoning map to rezone three parcels of land located at 112 Horatio St, 805 E Main St, and 825 E Main St as follows:

Address	Current Zoning District	New Zoning District
112 Horatio Street	R-3 Multiple Family Residential	MU Mixed Use
805 E Main Street	C-3 General Commercial	MU Mixed Use
825 E Main Street	C-3 General Commercial	MU Mixed Use

This Ordinance will take effect 10 days after publication.





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Book Corner

Great Books to read this summer

By Alison Yarger

Being remiss in not listing summer reads, I thought it was well past time, so put together this list of fun stories – some historical fiction, some fiction. Again, as I have always said, anyone who has read a book and wants to write about it, please, just drop me a line. We love to have guest book reviews!

West With Giraffes, by Lynda Rutledge: A fun, easy historical

fiction about the east coast hurricane in 1938 and the saving of two giraffes from a capsized ship, which was headed to the US with zoo animals. It covers the subsequent journey of the two giraffes, cross-country, accompanied by a 17-year-old boy and a middle-aged man.

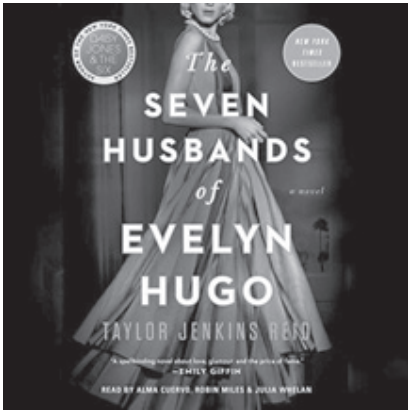
Reminders of Him, by Colleen Hoover. A fictional story about a troubled young mother who hungers for a shot at redemption in this heartbreaking, yet hopeful story.

The Boys from Biloxi, by John Grisham. Recommending this without reading it, the last Grisham novel I read was not very good. However, looking this up,



it appears to be a promising fictional legal thriller.

The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo, by Taylor Reid. A wildly addictive journey of a reclusive



Hollywood starlet, as she reflects upon her relentless rise to the top, the risks she took, the loves she lost and the long held secrets the public could never imagine.

Daisy Jones & the Six, by Taylor Reid. A gripping fictional novel about the whirlwind rise of an iconic 1970s rock group and their beautiful lead singer, revealing the mystery behind their infamous breakup.

Surviving the Forest, by Adiva Geffen. Set during WWII, this historical fiction

tome is a powerful tribute to love and resilience, and the captivating account of a woman's strength.

The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride, by Joe Siple. At 100 years old, Murray McBride has outlived everyone he's ever loved. But when he meets Jason Cashman, a 10-year-old boy with a terminal illness, Murray may learn something about finding meaning in life, as he helps his young friend fulfill his last wishes.

Twenty Years Later, by Charlie Donlea. Hiding her own dark past in plain sight, a TV reporter is determined to uncover the

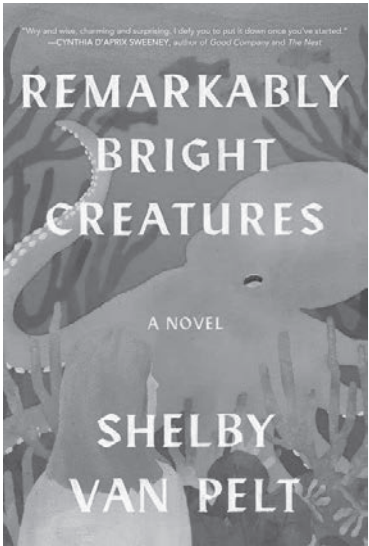


truth behind a gruesome murder, decades after the investigation was abandoned. But 20 years later, to understand the present, you need to listen to the past.

The Surgeon, by Leslie Wolfe: An utterly pulse-pounding, psychological thriller, packed with twists. Not for the faint of heart!

Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI, by David Grann. A nonfiction twisting and haunting true-life murder mystery about one of the most monstrous crimes in American history.

The Second Mrs. Astor: An Historical Novel of the Titanic, by Shana Abe. This riveting novel takes you inside the scandalous courtship and catastrophic honeymoon, aboard the Titanic, of the most famous couple of their time—John Jacob Astor and Madeleine Force. Told in rich detail, this novel of sweeping historical



fiction will stay with readers long after turning the last page.

Incredibly Bright Creatures, by Shelby VanPelt. A quirky, fun, moving story about a 70-year-old woman, a 30-year-old man, and an octopus, among various other quirky characters.

The Boy From Block 66, by Limor Regev. Enduring more than any child ever should, Moshe Kessler steps off the train at Buchenwald, having endured the horrors of Auschwitz-Birkenau, knowing that if he wanted to survive, he'd have to get to Block 66. A moving non-fiction story of survival.

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Twist ending, continued

another examines its thick, barky front leg and declares that God is a tree, and so on, and this is a great way to conceptualize an intellect wholly different from humanity. Facebook's Artificial Intelligence Research Group (FAIR) created a pair of chatbots to see if they could negotiate, and they made waves across the internet in 2017, when media outlets began to claim that Alice and Bob, the two chatbots involved, had created their own language. In truth, they had merely created a shorthand, which students of AI have forecasted for decades, but it is not hard to imagine that such a shorthand might transform into something wholly other

by intelligences no longer tethered to human failsafes. It is entirely possible that a free AI collective would never be seen or heard of again, as their goals would take them so far beyond human perception and understanding as to be effectively erased.

Though Chiang's fiction promotes a less antagonistic interaction between humanity and superintelligent AI, he himself is deeply skeptical about whether AI will ever reach that point. In his article titled, *Why Computers Won't Make Themselves Smarter* he explains the requirements for reaching this conclusion. Human inventors would have to invent a population of human-equivalent AI, equal to that which produced the Manhattan Project. In other words, it takes a population of over two billion to produce one J. Robert Oppenheimer, one Enrico Fermi, one Albert Einstein, one Richard Feynman, and one Niels Bohr, along with about 130,000 other workers who contributed to the project, so Chiang is talking about billions of human-equivalent AI. "We're a long way off from being able to create a single human-equivalent AI," Chiang concludes, "let alone billions of them."

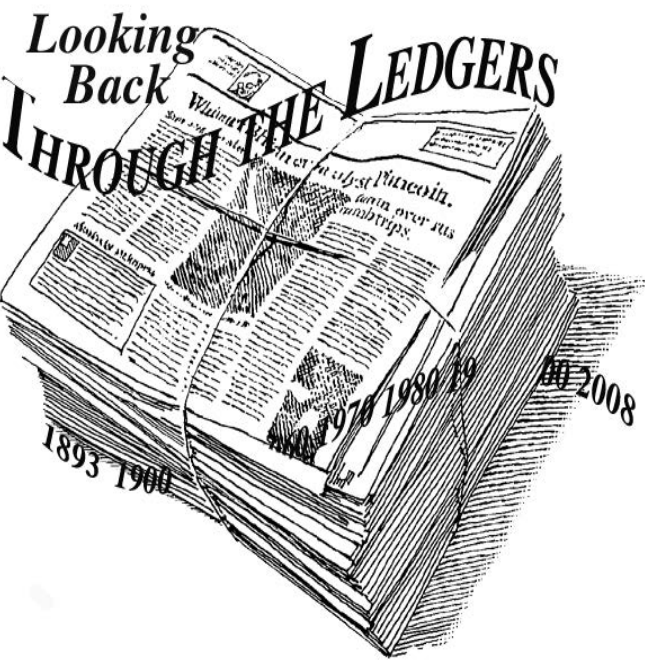
For Chiang, the

problems of AI are the problems of capitalism. However, his critique that AI will "sharpen the knife blade of capitalism" is not aimed at the economic system built around the exchange of goods, but rather toward "a specific relationship between capital and labor, in which private individuals who have money and are able to profit off the effort of others." In other words, he is worried about what wealthy corporate leaders like Bob Iger, David Zaslav, and Jeff Bezos will do with this power. He likens AI to global management consulting company McKinsey, a group that corporations use to power mass layoffs and other unpopular, anti-worker, bureaucratic moves, and it seems that the striking writers and actors who worked for Iger, Zaslav, Bezos and company have come to the same conclusion. Hollywood executives continue to frame AI as the enemy—Netflix is currently developing a *Terminator* anime series, James Cameron is in talks to reboot the *Terminator* film series, and the ending of the 2021 film *Matrix Resurrections* leaves the franchise open to future movies—but the evidence suggests that this is a smoke screen, and executives themselves are the problem. Now, that is a twist ending.

the lowell ledger

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viewpoint



150 years ago The Lowell Journal July 30, 1873

King, Quick & King saw an average of 20,000 feet at their lumber mill every day.

The bridge is much improved, with an immense amount of dirt hauled. It's been "turnpikes" into good shape.

The rear of the Flat River log drive will soon be coming into Grand River.

Constable Booth has a quantity of mostly white clothing pilfered from local laundry lines. Ira Button was arrested.

Mr. Ware has established a marble works for the manufacture of gravestones, on the west side of Water Street.

It's time to clean up the premises of all garbage: this is the cholera season.

125 years ago The Lowell Ledger August 4, 1898

Our long weeks of drought were broken by a nice rain yesterday, but much vegetation is beyond recovery.

Clarence Long's letter to his sister from Cuba (Spanish-American War) tells of wounded men dying because of the heat, 1800 casualties, but no yellow fever where he is.

Cuba and Porto Rico are destined to become American states.

Stonework on the new school is complete and the red brick walls are going up.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger August 2, 1923

Mrs. Hooker brings Vol. 1 No. 10 1860 of the Lowell Weekly Star to the Ledger. The editor comments on the lack of local news. Page 2 tells of Lincoln's election win over Douglas and Breckenridge.

It is hoped an international conference will be able to regulate use of airplanes in war, such as no bombing of cities and no shooting of parachutists escaping from planes.

The Michigan State Fair opens at Detroit the last day of August and the advertising is already extensive. They will have Automobile Day this year.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 29, 1948

Sugar maples and American elms are still the top favorites for tree planting.

All American men, between ages 18-25, must register for the draft between August 30 and September 18. The dates for each age group to register are given.

A sellout crowd of 5,000 greet the first-night of Showboat.

Francis Sees of Alto delivers the first load of wheat to King Milling on July 20.

Michigan's six divorces per 1,000 population in 1947 were double the U.S. average.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger Suburban Life July 26, 1973

Disappointingly small audiences mark the first three nights of Showboat.

The 4-H Fair will feature a dunk tank for the city manager and mayor.

The sewer-water separation project manages to tie up Main Street during Showboat Week.

Meanwhile, development outside Saranac has overextended the village sewer system beyond capacity.

The Showboat Garden Club show this Friday and Saturday is a "Circus of Flowers" at Runciman School Auditorium.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger August 5, 1998

The first contested Vergennes Township supervisor election since 1984 did not disappoint, as a record number (1,006) of township residents voted in Tuesday's election primary. Tim Wittenbach garnered 56 percent of the voter turnout, beating-out Marsha Wilcox and Richard Dwyer.

OK White game admission prices are increasing for the 1998-99 school year because of the increasing cost of operation. Tickets will be \$4 for adults and \$3 for students.

The 64th annual Kent County 4-H Youth Fair is set to begin next week.

Lowell High School hosts the OK White Conference's inaugural sportsman conference on Monday. The conference provides a healthy, learning opportunity that helps to teach values. The conference drew 75 participants.

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outdoors

game on

Dave Stegehuis

Maintaining a bird feeder draws a variety of bird species close to the kitchen window. Backyard bird-watching is one way to connect with nature and observe the daily routine of wildlife without leaving the comfort of your home. Finding food is critical to wildlife survival, and every species takes this task seriously and have become good at it. As a consequence, a feeder may attract other wild creatures besides birds.

We have provided food and nesting opportunities for birds for decades, and only recently have had to up our game to outsmart the squirrels and racoons. With intel from a video trail camera, we have developed a do-it-yourself plan to defeat our clever adversaries. For three nights last week, the ringtail raiders were foiled by our unique defenses. Although there was no damage, we believe that last night, a determined masked bandit reached a feeder out of camera range. The trail camera has been repositioned to hopefully reveal our shortcomings. The game is on.

The development of residential housing has consumed hundreds of acres of wildlife habitat in our area. Years ago, we had only a few neighbors scattered along a network of dirt roads. Now there are hundreds of houses on busy pavement. It seems that the birds and animals have been squeezed into small fragments of habitat, so we share our property with more creatures than we did a half century ago. We manage the wooded acreage around our house for sustainable wildlife habitat to accommodate the refugees.

When it was legal, we placed a 50-gallon steel drum ,filled with shelled corn, on a metal tripod with a solar timer and broadcast spinner on our northern hunting property. After a very large black bear took down the setup, on camera, for the third time, twenty minutes after we left, we cut our losses and gave the feeder away. Traveling to a deer blind before dayligh, knowing that the bear was around, definitely added more excitement to the hunt.

Defending a feeder from squirrels and racoons has become challenging, as well as entertaining, and sometimes, frustrating. We now have to also deal with whitetail deer. The deer enthusiastically dine on ornamental shrubs and plants, as well as bird feeders.

Dealing with, what some may call nuisance wildlife, can be interesting and fun. It provides an opportunity to engage one-on-one with our wildlife neighbors.

We love to hear from you!

THE NEWS

THE NEWS

EXTRA! EXTRA!

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

The requirements are:

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

Letters can be sent to emailed to

ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

Deadline is noon on Mondays



At Your Local Library

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

Storytime

Mondays, 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.

KDL Lab Experience: It’s a Me, Mario!

Tuesday, Aug. 8, 1:30 - 2:30 pm. It’s Mario time - oh yeah! Create, explore and have fun while engaging in STEAM learning in this event filled with everyone’s favorite video game brothers. Let’s-a go! For ages 5-10.

All Aboard! Book Club

Thursday, Aug. 17, 10:30 - 11:30 pm. Join a fun, informal discussion of great books. This month, we’ll discuss *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles. For adults 18+

Painted Birds

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Create whimsical, boldly colored birds with thick media paper and beaded wire embellishments. Perfect for wall hangings! For ages 18+

KDL Lab Experience

Wednesday, Sept. 13, 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. For ages 5-10.



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ABCs of Lowell history

The ABCs of Lowell History is back for another round. This popular series explores a wide variety of topics in Lowell area history. Information provided by Lowell Area Historical Museum.

J is for Jesse James

Was Jesse James ever in Lowell? Did he hide out here in the winter of 1878-79? Consider this article printed in the February 20, 1936, issue of *The Lowell Ledger*.

“Jesse James, Notorious Outlaw, Once Sojourned Here, Says an Old Legend”
By Gerald M. Henry

“Rhine’s Hotel stood a little south and west of the site of the hotel, in later years known as the Riverside in Segwun. It consisted of a downstairs bar and upper floor devoted to lodgings. The ruined foundations are still in evidence.

To this hostelry, there journeyed in the winter of 1878 -79, a southern gentleman, ‘Colonel Thomas Howard’, late of the Confederate army. Colonel Howard had a cold blue eye, and an unnaturally calm manner, even when the quartet at the bar burst into the lusty popular ballad, “Turn over the keys, for I am Jesse James.”

During his three months’ stay at the Rhine house, Colonel Howard visited the Lowell business district twice to make minor purchases. He played a good hand of euchre and pedro and since none of the Lowell boys tried to ring-in a stacked deck, the winter passed quietly enough. It was said that Colonel Howard first heard of Lowell’s attractions through Rob Nelson, who



The former Riverside Hotel

later was in charge of the engine room at the Lowell Cutter Company.

His local friends heard no more of Colonel Howard until he was shot by a faithless friend, Bob Ford, in St. Joseph, MO, on September 3, 1882. ‘Colonel Howard’, had been the alias of Jesse James, legendary outlaw, and his killing, so far as the newspapers were concerned, dwarfed the assassination of President Garfield the year preceding. The double identity of the bandit was celebrated in doggerel stigmatizing Ford as: ‘The dirty little coward, that shot Mr. Howard, and laid Jesse James in his grave.’

That Jesse James actually made Lowell his hideout ,under the circumstances just given, is a legend persistent and able-bodied enough to have survived more than fifty years. There are several older residents who believe there are good grounds for the legend.

Myron Henry and Bessie McCarty Henry. He was an attorney and served as a Kent County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, but he also worked for a time as a correspondent with *The Lowell Ledger*. What is the decision of the reader? Did Henry write a convincing report? Was Lowell, Michigan one of the many hiding places of Jesse James?

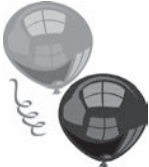


Jesse James

area churches

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AUGUST 3
Rebbecca Heinicke,
Kelsey Brenk, Hillary
Smith, Becky Lamberson.

AUGUST 7
Barbara Wright, Jaimi
Smith, Steve Newell, Don
Grummet.

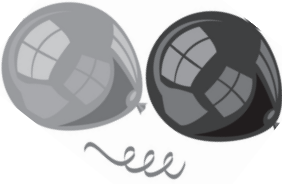
AUGUST 4
Irene Willmarth, Scott
VanDyke, Cody Bieri,
Nick TyKocki, Thomas H.
Mahalic, Joanne Childs,
Kayleigh VanKeulen.

AUGUST 8
Jennifer Kimble, Chris
Goggins, John Rasch, Allen
Hoekstra, Sharell Wolf,
Debra Lenneman.

AUGUST 5
Robin Abel, Stephen
Martin Jr, Grady Nowak.

AUGUST 6
Jessie King, Kim
Foster, Steven Vickers.

AUGUST 9
Pamela Esparza, Steven
Burrows.





The Fall of X has begun

As always, there is a lot going on in the comic book world. *Radiant Black* #25 (Image Comics, 7/19/23) kicks off The Catalyst War with a different story for each of two variant covers, *Incredible Hulk* #2 (Marvel Comics, 7/26/23) transitions *Immortal Hulk*’s horror focus from an event to the status quo, and Rainbow Rowell’s *She-Hulk* concludes with issue 15 (Marvel Comics, 7/26/23) only to return in October with the same creative team as *Sensational She-Hulk*.

Here are the top three comics published in July!

X-Men: Hellfire Gala 2023 #1 (Marvel Comics, 7/26/23)

Fans have given kudos to the Krakoa era of X-Men titles for providing a culture where mutants can simply be themselves, and yet solicitations for Fall of X titles like *Astonishing Iceman*, *Children of the Vault*, *Dark X-Men*, and *Uncanny Spider-Man* suggest a total change to the status quo. Without any spoilers, it is difficult to describe the role that *X-Men: Hellfire Gala 2023* #1 plays in this drama, save that it is the fulcrum of change for the series. The 2021 Hellfire Gala climaxed with the terraforming of Mars and the establishment of Arakko, not only as a mutant colony, but as the capital of the Sol system. It is difficult to believe that the announcement of a new X-Men team, sans Scott and Jean, could possibly top what happened two years prior, but without spoiling the surprise, it is safe to say that the X-Men franchise has outdone itself.

One would have to be a master of riddles to describe an issue so riddled with secrets as to be all but unreviewable, and no such riddler is currently employed at *The Lowell*

Ledger. Suffice it to say, that *X-Men: Hellfire Gala 2023* #1 is likely to be one of the most controversial comics in 60 years of X-Men publications. Already, some are



suggesting that everyone in the world, whether or not they have ever read another X-Men book, should buy this comic. Others feel betrayed by the shake-up of this era of acceptance and the way it was done. Still others take the more jaded path, suggesting that this is just a rehash of other similar events from the past. The story may or not have gone in the direction that readers wanted or even appreciated, but it would be difficult to name a comic book, or even a series, with as many memorable panels as this one. In fact, there is a particularly haunting Xavier shot that may be worth the price of this issue on its own.

W0rldtr33 #4 (Image Comics, 7/26/23)

W0rldtr33 is a science fiction/horror tale of an otherworldly network, called the Undernet, that programs its users to commit spree and/or serial murders in order to bring about the end of the world. Though author James Tynion, who is on track to tie Neil Gaiman for the most consecutive best writer Eisner Awards next year, presents a creepypasta-influenced X-Files story, *W0rldtr33* is not about agents solving crimes. The heroes of this story are a group of former

are primitive—they utilize loud music and flowery imagery to flush out the Undernet’s influence on its victims—but they are quite possibly the only hope for humanity.

The tale itself is intriguing, and the antagonist, a white-haired nude female murderer whose human nature is presumably reprogrammed by the Undernet, is truly creepy, but the greater pull of *W0rldtr33* is the concern the characters show for others who are suffering. The series begins with an older brother who is bothered by his teenage sibling’s interest in disturbing internet imagery which he compares to the 4chan message boards he used to surf in his youth. In the fourth issue, Tynion breaks through the emotional barriers of a Garth Ennis-adjacent tough-as-nails set of Mulder and Scully proxies who are taking the pursuit of this murderer badly. Just as *W0rldtr33* unnerves, it inspires, and Tynion delivers a careful reminder to check in on your people.

BRZRKR: Poetry of Madness #1 (Boom! Studios, 7/26/23)

BRZRKR is not for everybody. The new, one-off *Poetry of Madness* sticks close to the *BRZRKR* Bible, as established by Matt Kindt and Keanu Reeves, in the initial twelve-issue miniseries, which means that the comic is unflinching in its depiction of violence and gore. However, it feels like a reflection on the trajectory of action and horror films at the heyday of Reeves’ acting career, before action films were consumed by superhero multiverses and

horror films, embraced the artful storytelling path of James Wan’s *Insidious*, but *BRZRKR* is not simply a reflection on cinema. The *John Wick* campiness is tempered with some serious character development, and it is this balance of the farcical and the serious that sets *BRZRKR* apart from the rest.

Though the immortal warrior is driven by a preternatural thirst for carnage, *Poetry of Madness*, which pits Unute the Berserker against Cthulhu for the sake of Atlantis, is not about violence for its own sake, nor is rampage killing Unute’s defining character. Off the battlefield, Unute is kind and loving, a lonesome wanderer in search of an enduring family, but his talent makes him the definition of a hammer in search of a nail. Some readers may have hoped that *Poetry of Madness* would continue where *BRZRKR* left off, after Kindt and Reeves made the world a whole lot more interesting. However, writer/illustrator Steve Skroce takes readers in a direction that is perhaps more satisfying, because

the exploration of Unute’s immortal past puts this franchise in the realm of Neil Gaiman’s *Sandman*, transforming *BRZRKR: Poetry of Madness* from a new hope for an ongoing series to an investment in a legend.

Other Noteworthy July 2023 Comics

Boom! Studios: *Alice: Never After* #1 (7/12/23); **DC Comics:** *Adventures of Superman: Jon Kent* #5 (7/5/23), *Batman/Superman: World’s Finest* #17 (7/19/23), *WildC.A.T.s* #9 (7/12/23), *World’s Finest: Teen Titans* #1 (7/12/23); **IDW Publishing:** *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Annual 2023* #1 (7/12/23), *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: The Armageddon Game* #8 (7/5/23); **Image Comics:** *Dead Lucky* #7 (7/26/23), *No/One* #4 (7/5/23), *Rogue Sun* (7/26/23), *Void Rivals* #2 (7/19/23); **Marvel Comics:** *Fantastic Four* #9 (7/5/23), *Immortal X-Men* #13 (7/12/23), *Invincible Iron Man* #8 (7/26/23), *Wolverine* #35 (7/26/23), *X-Men: Before the Fall - Sinister Four* #1 (Marvel Comics, 7/5/23), *X-Men: Red* #13 (7/19/23).

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CITY OF LOWELL

KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF ADOPTION AND SUMMARY OF AN ORDINANCE TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND GENERAL WELFARE OF PERSONS WITHIN CITY OF LOWELL, MICHIGAN, BY ADDING NEW CRIMINAL PROHIBITION ON HARASSMENT.

The Lowell City Council adopted Ordinance No. 23-06 amending Chapter 13, “Offenses,” and Chapter 27, “Municipal Civil Infractions,” of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowell on July 17, 2023. Ordinance No. 23-06 makes it unlawful and a misdemeanor criminal offense to engage in certain harassing behaviors. A copy of Ordinance No. 23-06 is available for inspection at City Hall, 301 East Main Street, in the City during regular business hours of the City. Ordinance No. 23-06 is effective 10 days after this publication.

Respectfully,
Susan Ullery
Lowell City Clerk

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GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting 7 p.m.
Synopsis of Minutes
July 10, 2023

Motions Approved:

1. To deny request to sell sewer property and to approve adding signs for no public access.
2. PA116 application.
3. Ordinance Amendment to rezone property from A1 to A2.

Eagle watch: Rushmore and Lowell’s bald eagle population

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

The bald eagle is the national bird of the United States of America, and though it is often associated with secluded places of beauty like the Pictured Rocks in Northern Michigan or the Boundary Waters between Minnesota and Canada, many fans of the beloved bird may find themselves surprised to learn that its range includes all of the contiguous United States. However, no statistic can lessen the impact of an eagle sighting in Lowell, where bald eagles have



This action photograph of a bald eagle in the winter was captured via a trail camera. Photo courtesy of Jim VanBeek.

been oddly abundant over the years. Despite having a breeding range limited in the U.S. to Northern parts of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan’s lower peninsula, and all of Michigan’s upper peninsula, there have been no shortage of mating pairs, nests, and juvenile eagles in Lowell and surrounding areas.

In response to a post, titled “Eagle Watch,” in the Lowell MI Community Chatter Facebook group, area residents shared over 100 comments about their experiences with bald eagles over the years. Though it is difficult to estimate how

long these bald eagles have called Lowell home, most estimates suggest that they have been around for over 20 years. Kathy Stiver shared a story of stopping her car at the top of the Cumberland Street curve so she and her daughter could watch an eagle that had just landed on a tree branch above the road in front of them, and that was 23 years ago. Others claim to have seen bald eagles in these parts for upwards of 30 years.

Though many bald eagles have been sighted from Lowell to Belding to

Ada to Alto and beyond, one particular bald eagle is better known throughout Lowell than any other. Her name is Rushmore, and she has had quite a journey over the past few years. In February of 2021, Mike Van Timmeren found a distressed Rushmore sitting on the ice in the Flat River, to the North of Fallasburg, so he called Wildside Rehabilitation & Education Center in Eaton Rapids to rescue the bird and do some tests. Wildside staff originally thought Rushmore had a broken wing, but tests showed she was actually suffering from lead poisoning.

Though bald eagle populations have bounced back significantly since they gained protection under the precursor to the Endangered Species Act in 1967, to the point that the bird was removed from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants in 2007, ecologists speculate that lead poisoning and other side effects of human encroachment into eagle habitats could put the nation’s mascot at risk once again. An article titled “Environmental Lead Reduces the Resilience of Bald Eagle Populations” in *The Journal of Wildlife Management* found that nearly 50 percent of eagle carcasses collected since 1990 had lead in their tissues at the time of their death.

“Some terrestrial hunting practices involve discarding the carcass, parts, or viscera in the field for scavengers to consume,” the study reads. “But [lead]-based rifle bullets, used for hunting, expand when striking the target animal and can leave tens to hundreds of very small [lead] fragments throughout the discarded tissues.”

The study supports legislation against the use of lead-based hunting ammunition, but even if NRA lobbyists did not vehemently oppose any such legislation—and the vast majority of search results on the topic connect to conservative websites speaking of a slippery slope that ends in everyone losing their guns—non-lead ammunition is often twice as costly as its lead counterpart. Many hunting enthusiasts believe that a better course is to spread word about best practices, like shooting only if you have a kill shot, pursuing a shot animal for miles if needed until it drops, and

never leaving any portion of a bullet-riddled body for other wildlife to consume.

Seven months after arriving at Wildside, Rushmore’s return to the wild was a special event for the greater Lowell community. She was not the first injured bald eagle to be released in the area. Back in 2010, a rehabilitated bald eagle, found in Twin Lake, took to the air at Fallasburg Park with nearly 400 people in attendance. What made Rushmore’s release all the more special was the fact that it coincided with an important date in the history of the United States, the twenty-year anniversary of September 11 in the fall of 2021. Formerly bruised and battered, the eagle returned to its former glory, and what better symbol for a nation struggling with tragedy.



Two bald eagles perch in a leafless tree in the middle of the winter. Photo courtesy of Nancy Raymor.

Unfortunately, this was not the end of Rushmore’s struggle. Shortly after release, Rushmore crashed into the river. Wildside volunteer, Darlene Smith, was fortunately still on the scene, and she joined Rushmore’s original benefactor Van Timmeren in his boat for a second rescue. Wildside later found that Rushmore had bone spurs on her shoulder that would make future release into the wild impossible.

The Lowell MI Community Chatter conversation about bald eagle sightings was controversy-free, but the discussion was not all sunshine and rainbows. For example, there was incidental evidence that bald eagles are getting

trees and commenced noisy excavation operations nearby. Others warned against sharing specific locations of bald eagle nests, claiming that teenagers have destroyed nests in the past.

As for Rushmore, Wildside Director, Louise Sagaert, confirmed that the eagle is alive and well. Following a second-round of rehabilitation, Wildside shipped Rushmore off to Niabi Zoo in Coal Valley, Illinois. Tammy Schmidt is the assistant director of Niabi Zoo, and she reported that Rushmore is thriving in her new environment. “She’s a talker,” Schmidt said. “She’s very talkative to our zookeepers.”

Niabi’s previous rescued bald eagle passed away recently at the ripe

old age of 20, and this left a void in the animal-loving community that Rushmore stepped into. In the short time since Rushmore became the resident bald eagle at Niabi, she has been joined by another rescue



Rushmore (right) is joined by a younger rehabilitated bald eagle named Valor (left) at the Niabi Zoo in Coal Valley, Illinois.



Rushmore’s release into the wild on the twenty year anniversary of September 11, in the fall of 2021. Photo courtesy of Bruce Doll.

Celebration, continued

trailer had tons of activities, such as shucking corn and grinding wheat into flour. Inside, guests could enjoy a lesson, see a panorama of what Fallasburg looked like at its height, and even type away on antique typewriters.

Walking down the street to the Tower Farm, one could see there were more demonstrations and interactive activities. A glass-smith was showing his incredible skills making different pieces. The sounds of the hammer clanking on the anvil could be heard around the village as the

too. The Tower House Museum was open; it is our farm implement museum and most of the items are original to the village.

There were two stages, one up at the Schoolhouse and one at the Tower house. Eight bands entertained our guests, throughout the day, playing traditional period instruments, including a wash tub string base to harmonicas and the music was great and enjoyed by all.

Across the street at the Misner house, there was a flurry of activity. The Lowell Area Fire Department was

to the Fallas house was a sea of popup tents; you have entered the juried artisan marketplace. Over 25 artisans displayed, sold, and demonstrated their beautiful handmade items. Items like wooden book holders, woven products, custom metal sculptures and more. My favorite was the old-fashioned sock machine, while new, it was a copy of older machines from the 1920's. A few steps from the marketplace, was the tractor show. These tractors have been part of the families for generations. Stories of how fathers and kids worked



Photo courtesy of Ginny Velting.



Photo courtesy of Ginny Velting.



Photo courtesy of Ginny Velting.



Photo courtesy of Shari Nelson.

blacksmiths showed how to make different items. More sounds were heard throughout the village from the steam engine that was powering a hay bailer. The loud steam whistle brought back memories of times past. Back by the Tower barn, a framer was demonstrating how to make beams for barns and other buildings.

Over by the Tower House was the food area: hot dogs and walking taco meals were served. Kids could help make ice cream, the old-fashioned way

on the scene giving kids firemen hats and getting pictures with the firemen. Pygmy goats could be seen grazing in the front yard, as well. The history of harmonics was on display outside, inside the house, it was quilt city; there were several quilts, some new, some old; there even was a silent auction for a couple of beautiful quilts. The house also contains many items from the village, including old vacuums to arrow heads.

Also, at the Misner house was the first annual Fallasburg Village Car Show. It featured over 50 beautiful cars and trucks from 1980 and before. Up front were some very special Model A's. There were lots of door prizes, dash plaques, and trophies were awarded to the ones that received the most votes. The show ended with a rumble that shook the street.

If you were there, you might noticed miniature horses parading around the street pulling carts. They are about ½ horsepower, compared to the cars across the street. Lots of kids were able to get a ride too. Next

on them, restored them, and loved them were told all day. Inside the Fallas house, guests were treated to weaving demonstrations and the history of the Fallasburg Village, spread out for all to see.

So much to see and do, but not done yet! Down by the Historic Fallasburg Bridge ,there were interactive fly-fishing demonstrations and the history of fly-fishing in the area was discussed.

We hope that you enjoyed taking a step back in time. It was great to see so many kids; after-all, our kids are the future of the past. We would like to thank everyone that helped make the Celebration happen. We would especially like to thank the over 50 sponsors whose generosity was the backbone of the Celebration. We are looking forward to July 27, 2024 for the next Fallasburg Village Celebration!

For more information about the Fallasburg Historical Society and to see all of the pictures, checkout of website at www.fallasburg.org.



Photo courtesy of Kate Nelson.



Photo courtesy of Ryan Heffron.



Live the Life You Want

With Melissa Spino, MA, LPC, CDMS
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Has intolerance become an epidemic?

I'm the first to admit that outside of my work I don't keep up with current affairs or watch television except for an occasional movie, YouTube video, or what I have time to read in our town's local newspapers. Yet, even in my small bubble of awareness, I can't miss how behaviorally intolerant we are toward each another. It really hit home when I was on social media recently and saw something in my feed that I found discouraging. A person posted about unfriending any individuals that disagreed with their posted views and even posted some personal attacks. I was puzzled, as these are supposed to be friends, right? I feel this type of intolerance is at the foundation of what is causing much of the current division in our country. Some of you may disagree, but I hope you will keep reading.

I think sometimes people get confused believing their thoughts are facts. A fact is a statement that is true and can be verified. A fact is based on evidence, not opinions or beliefs, and cannot be changed by personal preferences or biases. So, how many facts are there really in life? Let's say the sky is blue. Is that a fact? At some point, someone assigned the name blue to the color, so does that make it a fact? If someone

is colorblind and can't see the color blue, is it a fact for them that the sky is blue? I bet you see where I'm going with this. Thoughts and beliefs are based on our experiences, perceptions, interpretations, etc. So, while it may feel like a fact to you, that doesn't mean this is for others. Now I want to really throw out a curve ball. As we learn and grow, we know that scientific measures have, and will, continue to change and some have even been proven incorrect. While someone may claim something is a fact, based on current science and/or evidence, it doesn't necessarily mean it's true. Why? Because we don't know what we don't know.

Since this article is about intolerance, let's define it in terms of behavior. There are many definitions, but I feel the Oxford Languages dictionary provides a good description. Intolerance is the "unwillingness to accept views, beliefs, or behavior that differ from one's own." There are many different types of intolerance, but some of the most commonly seen are age, cultural, gender, political, race, religious, and sexual orientation intolerance.

Causes of Intolerance

There are many factors that can cause intolerance, including:

- Fear – some fear what is unknown or different.

- Lack of education/experience – those not exposed to different cultures or ways of life may be more likely to be intolerant.

- Prejudice – adopted beliefs and negative stereotypes about others.

- Socialization – intolerance can be learned from family, friends, social groups, or society.

It seems society has become more intolerant in recent years and some of the most common cited reasons for this include:

Social media: it's now easier for people to find and connect with others who share their views, even those of intolerance. When people find others and information that confirms their existing beliefs, it may cement their belief & make it more difficult to have open and honest conversations about

difficult topics.

A decline in institutional trust: Many have started to distrust institutions, such as our media, government, and even schools. Shocking and negative events seem to get the most media attention. Add to it that, sometimes critical information is left out or skewed and people will take the message they want from it. This result is the current lack of trust. Some then turn to alternative sources of information, some of which may promote intolerance.

The rise of populism: Populist movements appeal to those in the common population who may feel that their concerns are disregarded. This can lead to increased intolerance if the behavior turns to blaming other groups for their

problems. I recently asked a friend how she was doing in the current economy, as there had been a change in her economic status. I was surprised at her response when she went off about various political groups. She clearly interpreted the question much differently than I had intended.

The spread of misinformation: Misinformation is often used to promote intolerance. This is done by spreading false or misleading information or by using inflammatory language to stir-up hatred.

I feel the current environment in the US is more favorable to intolerance and it seems to be increasing. I'm not saying everyone has become more intolerant, but just look at the recent increase in hate crimes,

hate speech, bullying, violent demonstrations, violent crimes, and our social division. Friends and families are even attacking each other. So, I ask, is intolerance becoming an epidemic?

We can combat intolerance by listening, to understand each other's point-of-view, instead of arguing as to why our point-of-view is the only correct one. It doesn't mean you have to agree, but at least acknowledge that each situation has multiple viewpoints. I hope you find this info helpful. This article is not intended to provide advice, diagnose, or treat and is for informational purposes only. Be safe and well!

Optometrist joins Advanced Eyecare Professionals

Advanced Eyecare Professionals (AEP) announces that Samuel McNeill, O.D., is now part of the AEP eye care team and is accepting new patients.

In an effort to continue to grow with the vision care needs of the community, AEP has hired Dr. McNeill to join the team. He joins fellow optometrists, Dr. Weller, Dr. Slate, Dr. Jackson and ophthalmologists, Dr. Flohr, Dr. Harrell and Dr. Smith, to provide a full range of vision-care services to the community.

Dr. McNeill graduated from Ferris State University with a Bachelor's Degree

in Vision Science in 2020, and more recently, with his Doctorate of Optometry from the Michigan College of Optometry in 2023, graduating with honors.

During his years of school, Dr. McNeill received training in a variety of clinical experiences. He completed an optometric externship at the Battle Creek Veterans Affairs Medical Center, receiving training in management of diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, and pre and post-operative patient care. He also was trained in a variety of contact lenses and anterior segment disease management at Eglin Air Force Base in Walton Beach,



Samuel McNeill, O.D.

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Florida, and Normandy Optical in the Detroit area. While a student, he was involved with mission trips to provide eyecare to Dominica with the Student Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (SVOSH) organization, and was treasurer for the Michigan College of Optometry chapter.

Dr. McNeill graduated from Lakewood High School in 2016 and is

glad to be working within the community he grew up in. Outside of work, he enjoys reading, hiking, and spending time with his family.

Advanced Eyecare Professionals is a full service, multi-location eye care practice with locations in: Lowell, Ionia, Hastings, and a clinic in Sheridan. More information can be found on their website: www.AEPeyecare.com



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Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold

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Smart ways to invest in bonds

Most investors are aware of the different types of stocks: big-company, small-company, technology, international and so on. And it may be a good idea to own a mix of these stocks as part of your overall investment portfolio. But the importance of diversification applies to bonds, too — so, how should you go about achieving it?

To begin with, individual bonds fall into three main types: municipal, corporate and government.

Within these categories, you'll find differences in the bonds being issued. For example, government bonds include conventional, fixed-rate Treasury bonds as well as inflation-protected ones, along with bonds issued by government agencies, such as the Federal National Mortgage Association (or Fannie Mae). Corporate bonds are differentiated from each other by several factors, but one important one is the interest rate they pay, which is largely determined by the credit

quality of the issuer. (The higher the rating grade — AAA, AA and so on — the lower the interest rate; higher-rated bonds pose less risk to investors and therefore pay less interest.)

Municipal bonds, too, are far from uniform. These bonds are issued by state and local governments to build or improve infrastructure, such as airports, highways, hospitals and schools. Generally, municipal bonds are exempt from federal tax and often state and local taxes, too. However, because of this tax benefit, municipal bonds typically pay lower interest rates than many corporate bonds.

How can you use various types of bonds to build a diversified bond portfolio? One method is to invest in mutual funds that invest primarily in

bonds. By owning a mix of corporate, government and municipal bond funds, you can gain exposure to much of the bond world. Be aware, though, that bond funds, like bonds themselves, vary widely in some respects. To illustrate: Some investors may choose a low-risk, low return approach by investing in a bond fund that only owns Treasury securities, while other investors might strive for higher returns — and accept greater risk — by investing in a higher-yield, but riskier bond fund.

But you can also diversify your bond holdings by owning a group of individual bonds with different maturities: short-, intermediate- and long-term. This type of diversification can help protect you against the effects of interest-rate

movements, which are a driving force behind the value of your bonds — that is, the amount you could sell them for if you chose to sell them before they matured. When market interest rates rise, the price of your existing, lower-paying bonds will fall, and when rates drop, your bonds will be worth more.

But by building a “ladder” of bonds with varying maturities, you can take advantage of different interest-rate environments. When market rates are rising, you can reinvest your maturing, shorter-term bonds at the new, higher rates. And when market rates are low, you'll still have your longer-term bonds working for you. (Generally, though not always, longer-term bonds pay higher rates than shorter-term ones.)

A bond ladder should be consistent with your investment objectives, risk tolerance and financial circumstances. But if it's appropriate for your needs, it could be a valuable tool in diversifying your bond holdings. And while diversification — in either stocks or bonds — can't always guarantee success or avoid losses, it remains a core principle of successful investing.

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

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Local wrestler earns elite title

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

After finishing third place in the state, in his freshman season for the Lowell wrestling team, one Red Arrow wrestler brought home some major hardware this summer. Jarrett Smith, an incoming Lowell sophomore, took first place in the 16U men's freestyle bracket at the 94 pound weight class in Fargo, North Dakota, recently. Fargo hosts the junior and 16U Nationals, and is not just one of, but the most important youth tournament on the summer schedule.

Smith became Lowell's first-ever Fargo champion, outscoring his opponents 38-2 over the course of the bracket matches.

It's not an easy tournament to be a part of. Smith wrestled through regionals to become the 2023 Central Regional 16U champion in freestyle and Greco-Roman. State teams are limited to just four wrestlers per age, per style, per weight class.

In the finals, Smith beat Turner Ross of Inver Grove Heights (MN). Ross was the 2023 Western 16U Regionals freestyle champion. A second period takedown gave Smith a 3-0 lead that he would never relinquish.

Michigan finished 11th as a state in the 16U nationals final standings, with Smith finishing as the

state's lone 16U champion. Last year, Smith finished third place, while fellow Lowell teammate, Jackson Blum, finished seventh in his respective weight class.



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Michigan to launch major teacher recruitment and training effort



Michigan is betting big on a new effort to help people become teachers by covering learning expenses and providing mentorship from experienced teachers.

Talent Together, a state-funded group of 48 intermediate school districts, is working with nine university teacher preparation programs to train more people to become certified teachers in Michigan, beginning with a first group this fall.

The group is focused on training about 750 people

The program covers tuition costs and provides mentorship as people pursue teacher certification

for teaching careers, from those without bachelor's degrees to those already certified as teachers but who want to broaden areas they are eligible to teach.

Community members interested in working in a school setting, paraprofessionals, substitute teachers and current teachers are all possible candidates for the program.

Jack Elsey, CEO

of Michigan Educator Workforce Initiative, a nonprofit helping lead Talent Together, told Bridge Michigan the coalition is working to train people for jobs in special education, early childhood, elementary education, secondary math and secondary science.

The group received over 1,250 applications from people interested in becoming teachers and close to 200 applications from certified teachers looking to expand their teaching options.

Michigan school district leaders have said finding enough qualified people to teach in their schools has become increasingly challenging.

In recent years, state leaders have approved funding for scholarships for college students who are learning to become teachers and providing stipends for student teachers who previously were unpaid as they worked alongside professional teachers in the classrooms. The Detroit chapter of Teach for America recently launched a program to retain and train 700 teachers in the next five

years.

Some school districts initiated their own "grow your own" programs which aim to train existing school workers to become certified teachers. The state has provided grants to help with these programs.

Talent Together hopes to broaden that work.

Talent Together is targeted to receive \$66.4 million from the state education budget lawmakers recently passed. Elsey said the funding is expected to help "close to a 1,000 people become teachers within the next several years."

He expects about 350 prospective teachers will be working to finish their bachelor's degrees and another 250 people who already have college degrees will work toward their initial teaching certification this upcoming school year. An additional 150 already-certified teachers will be working toward credentials to expand what grade level or subject area they can teach.

Berrien Regional Service Education Agency (RESA) Superintendent Eric Hoppstock told Bridge the group wants to open training to a "whole new population of teachers that had no way



Talent Together, a coalition of 48 intermediate school districts, will cover the education costs for people who want to become certified teachers in Michigan. Some of the participants will be part of an apprenticeship program where they receive classroom experience as they pursue a teaching credential. (Shutterstock)

of coming into the system prior."

Michigan participants will have their college tuition covered, will be allowed to work in their local district and receive mentorship support from teachers and Talent Together staff.

Participants are required to teach in their host school or district for at least five years.

Elsey said the group's size helped the program secure lower tuition costs and flexibility from university programs to help increase student access to teaching programs.

Participants also have access to success coaches which will help them find the right education preparation program and provide other support as they go through the program.

They will be partnered with a mentor teacher, which leaders hope will help eliminate the daunting experience of being a first-year teacher. The group is also hiring 15 teacher leader facilitators to support the mentor and model teachers.

"We think that that is a recipe for having folks come out more ready and more stable financially to ...commit to teaching long term, we hope," Elsey said.

Teachers are more likely to leave the profession in their first few years of teaching. And not all people who pursue a college degree for education complete the degree or become teachers.

Researchers at Michigan State University's Education Policy Innovation Collaborative (EPIC) found just 26 percent of Michigan public high school graduates who take an education course in one of the state's 15 public universities continue to the student teaching stage.

"We have to figure out a better way to support people so not only do they start their degree, but they finish the degree," Hoppstock told Bridge.

The group is working to get registered with the U.S.

Department of Labor as an apprenticeship program, so participants earn money while they learn from in-classroom experiences.

Elsey said that allows apprenticeship participants to "come out with a lot of practice under their belts" while also being in a good financial position since they can earn a salary as an apprentice teacher.

Education Week reported in March there are now 16 states that have at least one registered apprenticeship program for teachers.

Tara Kilbride, assistant director for research at MSU's EPIC, told Bridge it's "hard to say" if the registered apprenticeship approach is the right way to ensure more people actually become teachers since these programs are still new in the education field.

She said there is "promising evidence" that teacher residency programs (that provide on-the-job training) and other alternative routes to teacher training have led to increased diversity in teacher candidates.

"An advantage of the registered apprenticeship model versus other types of teacher residency models is that there's a national standard and options for federal support in funding and wider networks of programs," she said.

Naomi Norman, superintendent of Washtenaw Intermediate School District, told Bridge that Talent Together has the potential to diversify the state's education workforce.

"We really need our educator workforce to match the communities in which we're educating," she said. "And one of the best ways to do that is to provide pathways into teaching for people from those communities."

The MSU research, where Kilbride was one of the researchers, found that "the pool of prospective Michigan teachers becomes

less diverse as candidates progress between the coursework, licensure, and employment stages."

Black teacher candidates have a 54 percent pass rate for the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification while white, Asian and Latino test takers have a 90 percent, 87 percent and 83 percent pass rates, respectively, the MSU research said.

Talent Together aims to use success navigators and mentor teachers to better support people as they prepare for the certification test.

Tennessee became the first state in the country to have a federally-recognized teacher apprenticeship program. Elsey called that state's work "inspiring."

Knox County Schools in East Tennessee, a district with nearly 60,000 students and 91 schools, started its teacher apprenticeship program in January. Alex Moseman, executive director of talent acquisition, said there are about 35 people in the program.

The participants work in instructional assistant roles, take classes at the University of Tennessee—Knoxville and must demonstrate proficiency in core skills including communicating with students' parents.

"I think that grow-your-own is a real opportunity for districts to lean in and capitalize on the fact that they have enormous networks," Moseman said. "And there's enormous power in those networks. And they have the ability to really design a system that works for them specifically, and like (to) invite people in to support that work."

Participants in Knox County Schools do not have to stay with the district after they complete the program. Moseman said he likes that approach because he believes it should be the district's job to retain people rather than forcing them to stay.

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~ beer brewing

by Martha Hayden

I have had no idea about how to conjure beer, but Dani, the brewer at Big Boiler Brewing in Lowell, had invited my husband, Chuck (DaViking), and I to collaborate in creating an ale, Restless Viking Red. We were honored to work with Dani and get to know her! Dani’s one incredible human

craft alongside her brother. Later, when she’d moved to Costa Rica to volunteer on a monkey farm, she met some outdoor beer makers. Soon, she was offered the position of the head brewer. Dani had enjoyed Costa Rica and shared openly



Kate, one of the bartenders, escorted DaViking into the keg refrigerator to tap the Restless Viking Red.

with on point knowledge of brewing chemistry. She’s insightful, in regards to life circumstances, while possessing an unassuming disposition. Dani’s an all around amazing person! Join us as we get a behind the scenes brewing experience at our favorite local pub!

That particular morning, I was experiencing some minor side effects from having Euflexa knee injections the previous day. So I had been a sideline participant and cheerleader. My explanations of the brewing process are simplified, reflecting my life as an elementary teacher.

Dani
Dani, who refers to herself as “the beardless brewer,” had started her

about relocating back to Lowell with her husband, Brian, so they could be near family. Just as they were welcoming their first child, the Covid pandemic had shut everything down. Dani spoke honestly about her life adjustments and her feelings as a new parent, who was suddenly secluded from others. Through all of this, she had found many positive aspects for which to be thankful. She adores her husband and sons!

Malt and Hops
A specific mixture of malt and hops had been poured into the large tank. Steaming water, which had been filtered, washed over the grain. The aroma was earthly sweet. “May the skin of the gooseberry always cover



the heads of your enemies.” Chuck recited my father’s favorite Irish toast. My Dad is 100 percent Irish. Chuck continued, “May the road rise to meet you. May the wind blow at your back. May your dinner plates be full. And may you be in Heaven a half hour before the Devil knows you’re dead.”

Mashing
Dani braced her leg on the metal bar for leverage, as she stirred and stirred, using an oar-like paddle. DaViking had gotten a turn at stirring, too! The batch circulated



After Dani’s instructions about how to sprinkle dark roasted hops on the top for coloring, DaViking (Chuck) recited an Irish blessing over the mixture.

and steeped for about 45 minutes. While we waited, Dani chatted as she opened the water valve to the boiling tank. Then she scraped the excess water into the floor

drains. Suddenly, Dani stepped up to the valve and turned off the water. Just by listening, she knew when the tank held the correct volume. Impressive!

Red Ale History
Dani had worked on the formula for the red ale. Brewing beer had been developed long ago during the Bronze Age from 3300



Dani explained the process of brewing to us.



this stage, it’s just sugar. There’s no alcohol.” Dani handed each of us a tasting glass. The book, Charlie and Chocolate Factory, came to mind. As the dark drink draped my tongue I was instantly brought back to my childhood kitchen table. Tastes and smells are powerful at capturing memories. “What is this taste?” I asked aloud to

weeks, but no more than 24 days. Did you know that Zymology is the study of the fermentation process?

Scraping Out The Grain
The original mixture of hops and grain needed to be cleaned out of the first tank. With the small door opened and a hoe-type tool, DaViking and I took



BCE–1200 BCE. Since then, beer has been a part of culture, especially in Ireland. The first recording of a red ale being produced was centuries later in 1702 at a monastery in Kilkenny, Ireland. Daniel Sullivan had established a caramelized, sweet brew.

Separation
Once the water had been thoroughly filtered through the grain, Dani opened the valve at the bottom of the tank. (top right photo) The dark liquid flowed through a glass pipe and into a vat. She measured the sugar content using a refractometer. (right center) Then, she checked and recorded her calculations with the recipe. Science!

Our First Taste
Dani dipped a glass into the thick, warm liquid. “At

myself and took another sip. “Grapenuts cereal! It’s sweet. It’s grainy. Fascinating!”

Boiling
Next, DaViking watched the dark fluid as it was moved into the ‘brew kettle,’ the silver tank on the right, for boiling. The “wort” would be boiled for about an hour. After this heating, the mixture would be transferred to the fermentation tank.

Fermentation
“This is where the yeast is eating the sugars to create alcohol.” Dani had explained. The boiled beverage, after being transferred to yet a third tank, would have yeast added to help convert the sugar content into alcohol. Fermentation would last approximately three

turns after Dani gave us a demonstration. This grain would be picked-up by a farmer and used as feed for his animals.

Tapping Party
Three weeks later, we invited our family, friends and fans to join us for a tapping party! We arrived an hour early to set up and tap one of the Restless Viking Red kegs!

With approximately 170 people attending, we’d polished off one full keg. One keg contains 165 servings. What an impressive, festive evening!
Thank you, Dani, for teaching us about brewing! This partnership had filled our favorite pub! Hurry to Big Boiler Brewing for a taste of Restless Viking Red and many other amazing brews!

FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

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

Guess Who?

I am an actress born in Malaysia on August 6, 1962. I was a beauty pageant winner prior to becoming an actress. I've been in a James Bond movie and recently won a Best Actress Oscar for a role in a 2022 film.

Answer: Michelle Yeoh

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

DOG DAYS WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

DOG DAYS WORD SEARCH
AIR CONDITIONER
AUGUST
BASEBALL
BEACH
BOATING CAMP
CANOE
CLOUDS
DIVING
FANS
GARDENING
HEAT HOT
HUMID
ICE CREAM
INDOORS
MUGGY
OCEAN
POPSICLE SHADE
SUMMER
TEMPERATURE
THUNDERSTORM
VACATION

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to dog days of summer.

D C L O E O

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

Answer: Cooled

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Indicates tire pressure
4. Request
7. Clairvoyance
10. 007's creator
11. Adult male
12. Scandinavian god of battle
13. Cloths spread on a coffin
15. Breeze through
16. Ladyfish genus
19. It's good to take them
21. Noble-governed territory
23. Members of U.S. Navy
24. Card game resembling rummy
25. Affected by injury
26. Member of a Semitic people
27. Left
30. Woman's cloak
34. S. American plant
35. Prohibit
36. Offense
41. Dish soap brand
45. Ottoman military commanders
46. Ancient Greek City
47. Makes unhappy
50. Discuss again
54. Medical instrument
55. Promote
56. A beloved carb
57. Tag the base runner to get him out
59. Prehistoric people
60. Large African antelope
61. Vehicle
62. Georgia rockers
63. Scientific instrument (abbr.)
64. A major division of geological time
65. Attempt
- CLUES DOWN
1. Plant of the nettle family
2. Fit to be sold
3. Rather
4. Collected
5. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
6. Patella
7. Ageless
8. Lists of course requirements
9. Pokes at
13. TV network
14. They __
17. Cooking hardware
18. U.S. Army title
20. Iron-containing compound
22. Swiss river (alt. spelling)
27. Former French coin
28. Electronic countermeasures
29. Taxi
31. Helps little firms
32. Woeful
33. Midway between northeast and east
37. Glowing
38. Tasks which should be done
39. An informal body of friends
40. Intrinsic nature
41. Neural structures
42. Brews
43. Where ships unload cargo
44. Singer
47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
48. Southwest Scotland town
49. Most worthless parts
51. Viscous
52. Put to work
53. Old world, new
58. Swiss river

Kent County Youth Fair this week at their new grounds

Look in next week's Lowell Ledger for more coverage



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