

Kids Korner

Eleven-Year-Old Wins Prize For Cross-Stitch Sampler

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Food And Family
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LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) — "It was hard. I felt like giving up near the end," Alyson Wattai said of the counted cross-stitch sampler, which required several hours of work everyday for three weeks.

Fortunately Alyson finished the project just in time to enter it in a contest sponsored by the Lebanon Historical Society. Her perseverance resulted in a red ribbon for the sampler that placed second in the hand-crafted category.

That accomplishment is quite notable. Alyson was competing against students one to two years older than her. Students in most Lebanon County schools were assigned projects of their choice for a social studies grade and to enter in the contest.

Students could choose to complete either a report, timeline, diorama, or handcraft associated with Pennsylvania history. Handcrafts needed to use materials that were used for similar projects during the 17th-19th century. For that reason, Alyson used linen, which isn't the easiest material for sewing projects.

Although the sampler was also her first cross-stitch project,

Alyson is quite competent with a needle compared to most girls her age.

"She begged for a needle and thread when she was 3-years-old," her mother Karen said. That's because she saw her mother, an accomplished needlecrafter, enjoying the craft. Karen has won numerous awards for tatting and needlecraft projects.

Now, that the project is finished, Alyson is eager to start another cross-stitch project to enter in competition at the Lebanon Area Fair.

"The alphabet letters are harder to stitch than the flowers," Alyson said of the project that requires counting the threads to know where to stitch.

Alyson's sampler was displayed at the Lebanon Community Library for several weeks. Now it holds a place of honor in the Wattai home.

Alyson said that she was inspired to try cross-stitch after watching her mother work on projects. Now Alyson's friends are intrigued after watching Alyson work.

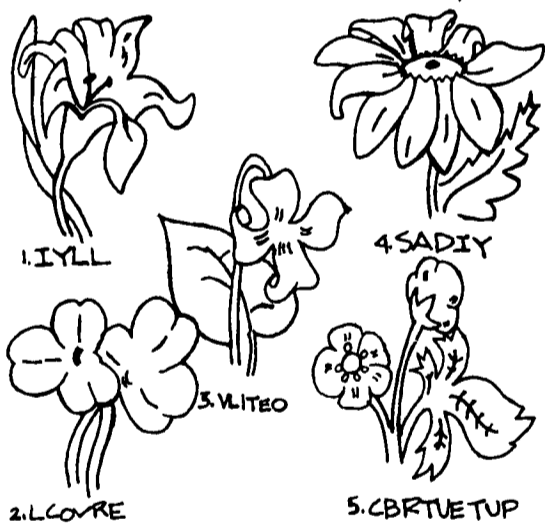
"Some of my friends want me to teach them how to do it. I might teach them this summer," Alyson said.



Eleven-year-old Alyson Wattai, Lebanon, won second-place in a contest sponsored by the Lebanon Historical Society for this counted cross-stitch sampler.

"Pretty" Mixed-Up Flowers

Unscramble to find out the name of each pretty flower.



SEEK AND FIND

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

- | | | |
|--------|-----------|----------|
| ANT | CENTPEDE | MILLPEDE |
| BEDBUG | COCKROACH | MOSQUITO |
| BEE | FLEA | SPIDER |
| BEETLE | FLY | WASP |

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS

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

with Twig Walkingstick



Dear Twig: When my Dad mows the lawn, he cuts it real short. It looks like the haircuts he gives me in summer! My Mom read it's better to cut the grass longer. Can you explain? Can you keep me from getting any more buzzcuts?

I can't help you with those haircuts. As you can see, I'm no style-setter myself. Plus I'm the one who gives Bob the Bug his haircuts. But I can help you with your lawn. The answer is Yes, in most cases, it is better to cut your grass longer. Research by Joe Rimelspanch, an Ohio State scientist who studies the best ways to grow turfgrass, bears this out. He found that cutting a lawn short almost always leads to more weeds—something most folks don't want—because a short lawn lets more sunlight reach the soil, and that helps weeds grow. On the other hand, cutting the grass longer—say, two and a half to three inches high—makes for thicker turf and keeps most weeds from getting started. It's also nicer to play on! Short grass does have fewer diseases, but Joe says the diseases of longer grass tend to come and go and aren't too much of a problem. So, let it grow—a bit longer, at least!

At length,

Twig

TRAIN OF THOUGHT

Historic Railroad Stays On Track

(NAPS)—For a trip back in time, many travelers say, a great place to start is the Pocono mountains of Pennsylvania.

In the early 1800s, Honesdale, PA was the center of the coal industry in the area. A gravity railroad was constructed to transport coal from the Lackawanna Valley, over the mountains and into the small-but-growing town where it was transferred to canal barge.

In 1828, a young engineer, Horatio Allen, went to England to commission a locomotive. In 1829, he floated back up the canal with what was to become known as the Stourbridge Lion. It was the first locomotive to travel on tracks in the United States, making Honesdale the birthplace of the American railroad.

Today, you can still ride those historic rails behind a 1949 BL-2



Visitors to the birthplace of the American railroad say they can feel the history in the air—or maybe it's just the wind as the 50+-year-old-engine passes.

diesel locomotive, the only one of the 54 manufactured still operating. Five vintage cars follow as the train meanders along the shimmering Lackawaxen River.

The Stourbridge Line Rail Excursion is now in its 21st year of operation and features Easter, Halloween, Christmas and Winterfest rides. Train Robbery Runs, complete with masked "robbers" depart on Sundays in summer. Other summertime specialty runs include Bavarian Festival and Dinner Theater and Rail and Raft. Autumn means Fall Foliage tours.

Each ride hugs the riverbank and affords views of the Poconos that can only be seen by riders on the Line. An accordion-playing "engineer" and two talented fiddlers help keep things lively.

For more information or to make the required reservations, call the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce at 800-433-9008, or log onto www.stourbridgerail.com. To learn more about the Pocono Mountains, call 1-800-POCONOS (1-800-762-6667) or else see 800poconos.com. Pennsylvania Memories Last a Lifetime.

Answers

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