

Hibbard's a Lewiston landmark

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And don't forget about the combination of vanilla ice cream (dyed blue), cookie dough pieces and crushed Oreo cookies – more commonly known as “Cookie Monster.” It is “still one of the most requested – that’s why (it) runs every other week,” Buchner noted.

This year, “a lot of the focus ... is going to be on improving, looking see if there’s anything we can improve on that we’ve done over the years,” Buchner said.

Hibbard's also offers Perry's Ice Cream flavors – 19 on opening day – as well as floats and coolers (made with a choice of Pepsi, 7-Up, root beer, “Boston Cooler” or creamsicle).

But the big draw is custard – which can be enjoyed in a cone (waffle, sugar or “Jak'd”), a dish, in a sundae (including hot fudge, butterscotch and turtle), as a milkshake (try the peanut butter or loganberry), or a “Hibbard Hurricane” mashup.

For those not familiar, “Custard generally has a higher butterfat content and it has much less air in it,” Buchner said. “Your average ice cream will hold 50% to 100% air by volume. Custard is about 17%. So, it’s a much denser, richer taste and mouth feel.”

Hibbard's Original Frozen Custard opening hours of operation are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 11 a.m. to



Hibbard's Original Frozen Custard team members Aaron Hannam and Gabby Blose pose inside a custard frame designed by Lewiston artist Maureen Kellick.

9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, at 105 Portage Road.

“Come often,” Buchner said. “You know, it’s like I said: It’s going to be a fun year. It’s 85 years. We’re super excited for that. We’re really proud of that. The family has worked very hard to keep the product and the quality consistent all through the years, and it’s something that we’ll continue to focus on.”

Mayor Anne Welch said, “Congratulations to Hibbard's Custard stand on their 85th anniversary! Lewiston's oldest business. It's always great to see them open – signs of summer!”

Helium balloon ride coming to Niagara Falls this June

BY ELIJAH ROBINSON
Contributing Writer

This summer, locals and tourists alike will get a grand view of Niagara Falls, basking in the majesty of the sky as LIVE! Incorporated is getting ready to launch Niagara Falls' newest attraction: LIVE! On Air Fallsview Balloon Ride on the world's largest tethered helium balloon.

The attraction is set to open in mid-June and will offer a different view of the breathtaking Niagara Falls from above. The balloon ride will leave from 454 Main St., which is the former Rainbow Air and Hummingbird Helicopters landing pad. The first flight will take place in June and the attraction will be open for group bookings this summer.

Day trips will offer passengers views of the falls, with evening trips presenting views of the fireworks and falls illumination. According to the press release, LIVE! Incorporated will also offer private events and group bookings.

“We are excited to bring a major attraction to Niagara Falls, and see it as a huge opportunity,” said Jake Ventresca, assistant director of events and entertainment.

This trip will take riders more than 500 feet into the sky with panoramic views over the iconic Niagara Falls, and will host 180 riders of all ages per hour. The rides will be about 15 minutes in length, offering spectacular views of the falls.

According to a press release, each flight promises an awe-



LIVE! On Air Fallsview Balloon Ride (Image courtesy of LIVE! Incorporated)

Spring IT ON!



inspiring perspective that will leave you captivated and in wonder of the natural beauty below. LIVE! On Air Balloon will have

a rock 'n' roll theme to enhance the experience, featuring fun music and lighting from takeoff to touch down. Ventresca said the balloon “will have music playing during the ride to help enhance our riders' experience.”

Ventresca said safety is 100% LIVE! Incorporated's main priority. He noted there are multiple safety features with the balloon, and the pilots will go through a full training course for the balloon.

He noted LIVE! Incorporated has had events in Muskoka and in Niagara Falls, and plans are in the works to open hotels in the near future.

For more information about the upcoming attraction, visit the LIVE! Incorporated website at <https://live-incorporated.com/> and click the attractions page.



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