

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 34 Issue 41

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, August 16, 2006

Signs in storage after successful senior millage election

By Dan Schneider

Regulars at the Lowell Senior Center were happy after results came in from last Tuesday's primary election.

The Kent County senior millage renewal and increase, which funds county-wide programs that support senior citizens, passed by a wide margin. County-wide, 74 percent of voters were in favor of the millage. The .33 mill tax (33 cents per \$1,000 of taxable real and personal property value) supports the Lowell Senior Center among other programs.

"We're very happy that it passed," center coordinator Marcia Roth said. "That

means that we can still provide the transportation and keep the center open, all the centers open."

Roth said without the millage, Senior Neighbors would have had to close all

but two of the seven senior centers it operates county-wide. The center in Lowell provides seniors with a place to socialize, gather for daily lunches, and transportation to doctors' appointments

and other activities. It also delivers 200 meals weekly to shut-in seniors.

"A note of gratitude to the rest of the community who voted for it," said Philip Rice, who was eating lunch at the center, Monday. "It was almost a three-to-one vote, very close to it, so we got a lot of support, apparently."

Locally, 76 percent of voters supported the measure in the city of Lowell, 72 percent in Lowell Charter Township, 68 percent in Vergennes Township, and 63 percent supported the senior millage in Bowne Township.

Sandra Frost ran unopposed for the Republican nomination for fifth district county commissioner. Dennis

Brown ran unopposed for the Democratic nomination.

Incumbent fifth district commissioner Jack Horton did not run for re-election to that office, instead choosing to run for county drain commissioner. He received 15 percent of the vote in the Republican primary. William Byl won the Republican nomination with 30 percent of the vote. Brian McKay won the Democratic nomination unopposed. Horton was the highest vote-getter in three of the five municipalities comprising his county commission district: the city of Lowell, Lowell Charter Township and Vergennes Township. Tom Postmus won the most votes in Vergennes Township. Byl won the most votes in

Cascade Township, the most populated municipality in the fifth county commission district.

Helen Brinkman won the election for 17th Circuit Court Judge. She won the most votes in the city of Lowell and in Vergennes, Lowell and Bowne townships.

Running unopposed, Dave Hildenbrand won the Republican nomination for 86th district state house of representatives. Also unopposed, Melissa M. Casalina won the Democratic nomination.

In the state senate primary, Bill Hardiman won the 29th district Republican nomination unopposed. David LaGrand won the Democratic nomination unopposed.



After the passage of the Kent County Senior Millage last Tuesday, the Lowell Senior Center put its roadside signs in the garage for storage.

Juggling entertainment on the Riverwalk Plaza Monday night

By Dan Schneider

Kevin Gerard has juggled a variety of objects ... hoops, clubs, balls, things around the house. Even eggs.

"I actually didn't drop any for quite some time, but

then I dropped one," Gerard said. "But it was outdoors so it didn't make a mess."

Gerard, the 16-year-old founder of the Lowell Area Juggling Club, has been juggling for about three years. Monday evening, he was juggling with his father,

Tim, and younger brother, Josh, and other members of the club under the large tree next to Englehardt Library.

Gerard started the Lowell club in January "mostly because I'd been part of a club up in Greenville which wasn't working out because of scheduling, but I really wanted to still be part of a club so I started my own."

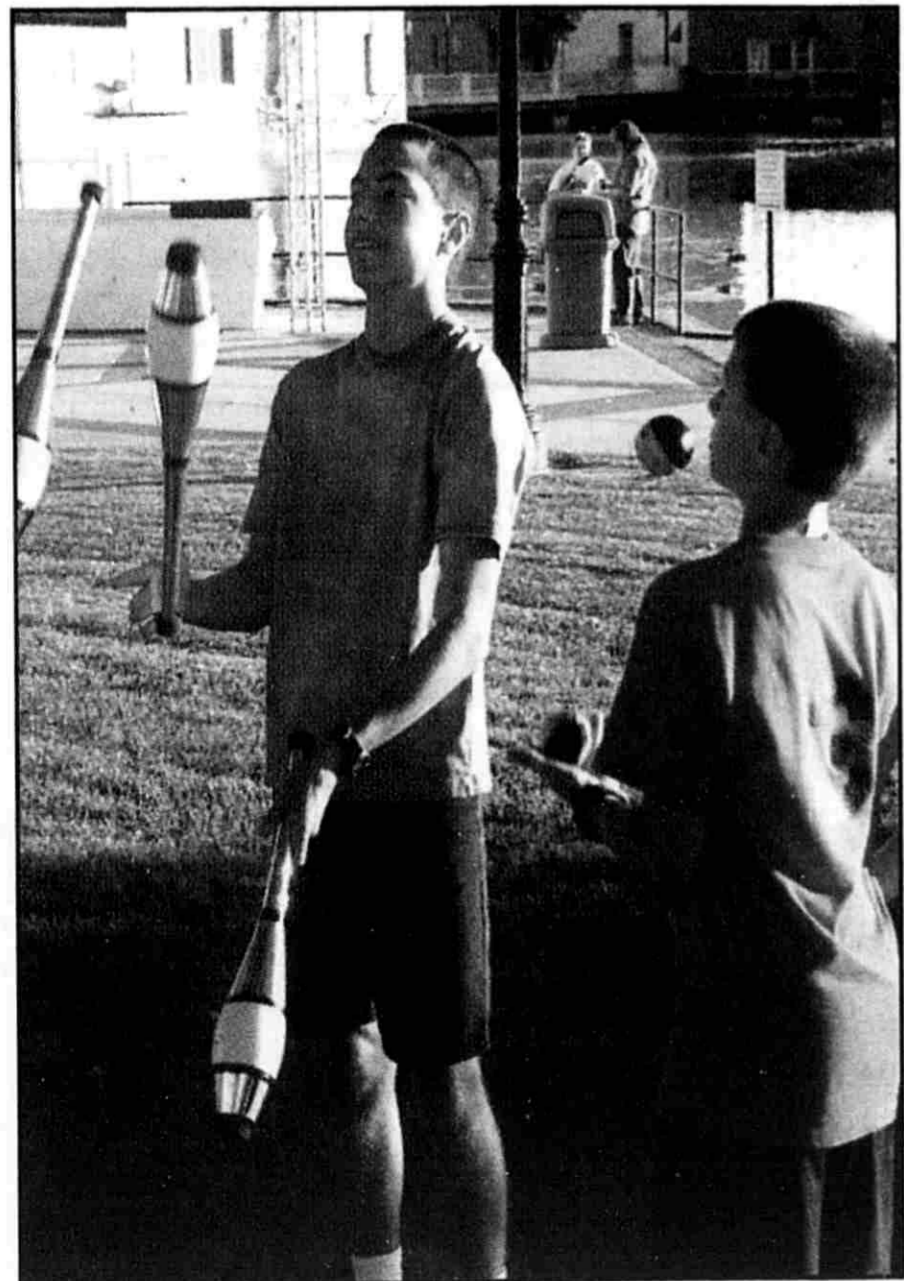
Membership currently stands at 10, with members coming from Alto, Ada, Greenville and Clarksville in addition to Lowell. The club is always looking for more participants. There are no dues or fees. Any skill level is welcome, but the club asks that prospective members be 12 years of age or older.

The club has already juggled at several community events around town, including the Riverwalk Festival in July. In May, they traveled to the Ann Arbor Juggling Festival and in April, they performed for residents at Cumberland Manor in Lowell.

The club meets biweekly Mondays from 7 to 8:30



Gail Franklin of Alto played an Irish waltz on the Riverwalk Plaza Monday evening. Franklin took six years of violin lessons as a child and took the instrument up again seven years ago, playing both classical and Irish musical styles. Franklin likes to play outside, which she did Monday while her husband practiced juggling nearby with the Lowell juggling club. "I thought if they're going to juggle, I'm going to take advantage," Franklin said. "Any time I can play, I take it with me." Franklin also plays with the Thornapple River Band. Their next gig is this weekend at the Danish Festival in Greenville.

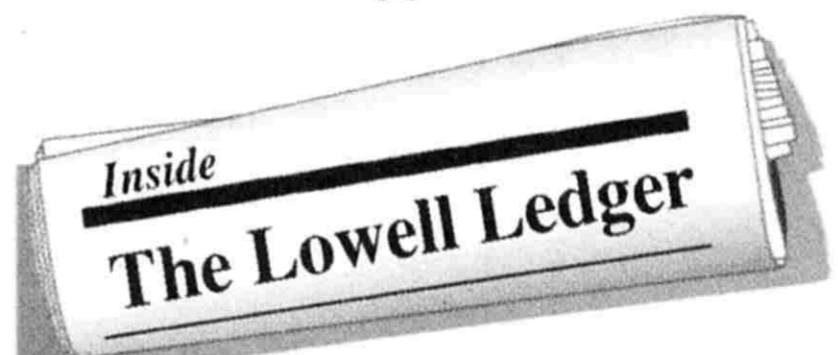


Lowell Area Juggling Club founder Kevin Gerard, left, juggles clubs while his younger brother, Josh Gerard juggles balls.

p.m. in the community room at Englehardt Library.

When weather permits, the meeting is held outside. The next meeting is Sept. 11.

Call 897-9879 about membership. The club's web site is www.freewebs.com/lowelljugglingclub.



Memorial Dedication ... Page 2

Successful Fair ... Page 13

Goat Quiz Bowl ... Page 24

To The Editor, continued ... From Page 5

Dear Editor,

How can this happen? How can a power pole be planted in the middle of private property without the homeowner's permission? No, it is not in the right of way, it is more than 20 feet from our road, which also happens to be private property. This is very irresponsible and unprofessional. We were not notified or given the option to have the cable line buried.

We had been on vacation and noticed the pole lying there Sunday night when we arrived home. We planned to call the Lowell Light and Power Company about it but have only been home two days. However today, we came home to find the power pole planted in our front yard. I called

LL&P and they actually came to my house and explained the need for the pole after I called them. But this is all after the fact. We were not notified or offered any options. The cable TV line could have been buried and no pole would have been needed.

Now we wonder about Bowes Road. Did anyone consider the population of the neighborhood? This is a walking route for the retired citizens in the area. Now the tree-shaded sidewalks are no longer cool and breezy. Did anyone consider options other than clear cutting Bowes Road? Why did power lines have to run down both sides of the street? First, the trees were cleared for the new lines

and now they have come back and cut the rest of the trees for maintenance on the old power lines. How many of the trees were really rotten? Were the homeowners really notified?

We have become very concerned. What is happening at LL&P? What's the point of a locally owned company if they no longer communicate and make decisions without considering the community? If it cannot be managed in a proactive community-focused manner, then why keep it? No, I don't want to see it sold, but there needs to be some accountability to the community.

Sincerely,
Veronica Blough

Charity golf outing raises \$6,500 for Second Harvest Gleaners Food Bank

Friends and family of Sunny Ann Moyer, who was killed in a car accident on Dec. 31, 2005, came together to celebrate the life of the aptly named young woman by organizing the first annual Sunny Day Classic Charity Golf Outing.

The event, held at Tyler Creek Golf Course, took place on July 29, the day Sunny would have turned 23.

A total of 200 golfers participated, raising \$6,500. There were 84 sponsors, including Platinum Friend Sponsors, Byrne Electrical Specialists, Inc., and Saranac Brand Foods, which each gave \$1,000.

Proceeds from the event went to Second Harvest Gleaners Food Bank of West Michigan where Sunny had volunteered during college.

Her grandmother Wilma Demond had also once worked as lead food solicitor there and later retired from the Gleaners.

"It was the largest outing Tyler Creek has ever done," said Rita Goggins, event coordinator, who organized the day with the help of 32 volunteers and Tyler Creek staff.



Second Harvest Gleaners executive director John Arnold, left, with Ronni and Bob Moyer in front of one of the Gleaners' semi trailers. Monday afternoon, the Moyers delivered a check for \$6,500 to the Gleaners. The money was raised at the July 29 Sunny Day Classic golf outing in memory of Sunny Ann Moyer. The Gleaners will use the money to purchase a used semi trailer.

Congregational Church youth put on musical to benefit Sudan

By Dan Schneider

The First Congregational Church of Lowell's Youth Justice Squad is sponsoring a musical production to raise money for refugees in Sudan.

A cast of church youth will present three performances of the musical "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" Aug. 21, 22 and 23. Free-will donations will be taken to support the Church World Service's humanitarian work in Sudan.

It is the second time the Youth Justice Squad has used music to raise money for the cause. A concert in May brought in more than \$1,100 to help the refugees. Justice Squad member Mattie Kropf is hoping to improve on that with the musical.

"We're hoping that with three performances, we can raise three times as much," Kropf said.

She said the Justice Squad is about raising local awareness of global issues.

"We just want to see what we can do to help the world, and education is a big

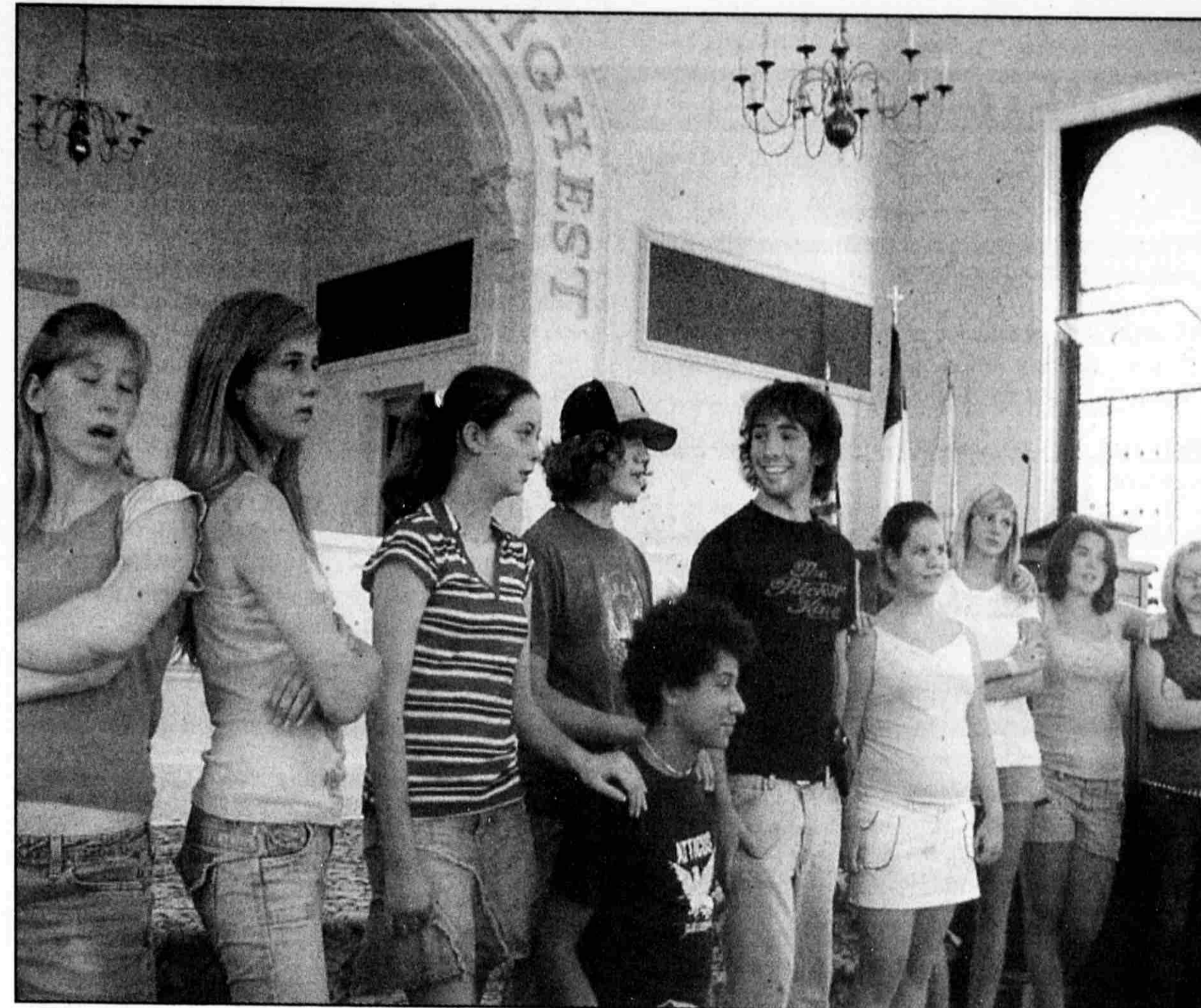
thing because not a lot of people know what's going on," Kropf said.

The refugees in Sudan are refugees within their own country. They were driven out of their homes by the two-decades-long civil war that has exacerbated the extreme poverty in the country. Despite a 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Sudanese government and southern rebel groups, violence continues, particularly in the Darfur region of Sudan.

"There's a lot of poverty and war displacing people, and AIDS and disease are spreading pretty bad," Kropf said. People in the refugee camps lack clean water and other basic necessities for life. The Church World Service's mission in Sudan is to provide them with food, medicine, water, sanitation, and other necessities.

Doing "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat" was the idea of church music director Monique Salinas-Stauffer.

"We have a lot of



Jim Dyer, center, plays the lead role in First Congregational Church's youth production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."

talented kids in the church and I've done musicals in the past so we thought it would be fun," she said.

They are putting the play together on a tight, two-week schedule with four-hour rehearsals six nights a week. "They've been a lot of work ... we do get tired, we do get testy with each other, but it's coming together well," said Kropf.

The production will not

have sets--"It's all theater of the mind," Salinas-Stauffer said--but the cast will be fully costumed. The performances will take place in the church sanctuary located at 404 N. Hudson Street.

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Toni Rempalski
Tyler Creek Golf & Campgrounds
VIP Salon
Vitale's of Ada
Wittenbach Grand
Women of the Moose

Event	Winner
Men-Closest to Pin	Todd Ramsey
Men-Longest Drive	Dennis Nowak
Men-Longest Putt	Kaiser Downing
No Guts No Glory Hole	Steve Coe
Women-Closest to Pin	Amber Mettermick
Women-Longest Putt	Candy Boik
Women-Longest Drive	Laura Brower

Congratulations to this year's winners!
Team Goatheads were the First-place team with -18. The team consisted of Terry Abel, Steve Rozeboom, Randy Carlson and Rocky Eickhoff.

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In The Service

Steven D. Kelly has graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader's Training Course at Fort Knox, Ky.

The 28-day course is a leadership internship for cadets between their sophomore and junior college years. College students experience and examine the Army without incurring an obligation to serve in the Army or ROTC, and are eligible to receive two-year college scholarship

offers and attend the ROTC Advanced Course at their college.

Cadets receive training in fundamental military skills, rifle marksmanship, small arms tactics, weapons training, drill and ceremonies, communications, and squad-level operations field training.

Kelly, a 2003 graduate of Lowell High School, is a student at Northern Michigan University in Marquette. He is the son of Allen D. Kelly of Lowell.

Army National Guard Pvt. Andrew M. Wodarek has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, he studied the Army mission, history, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military

weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, rifle marksmanship, map reading, field tactics, basic first aid, and field training exercises.

Wodarek, a 2005 graduate of Rockford High School, is the son of Mike Wodarek of Grand Rapids and Jamie Vachon of Ada.

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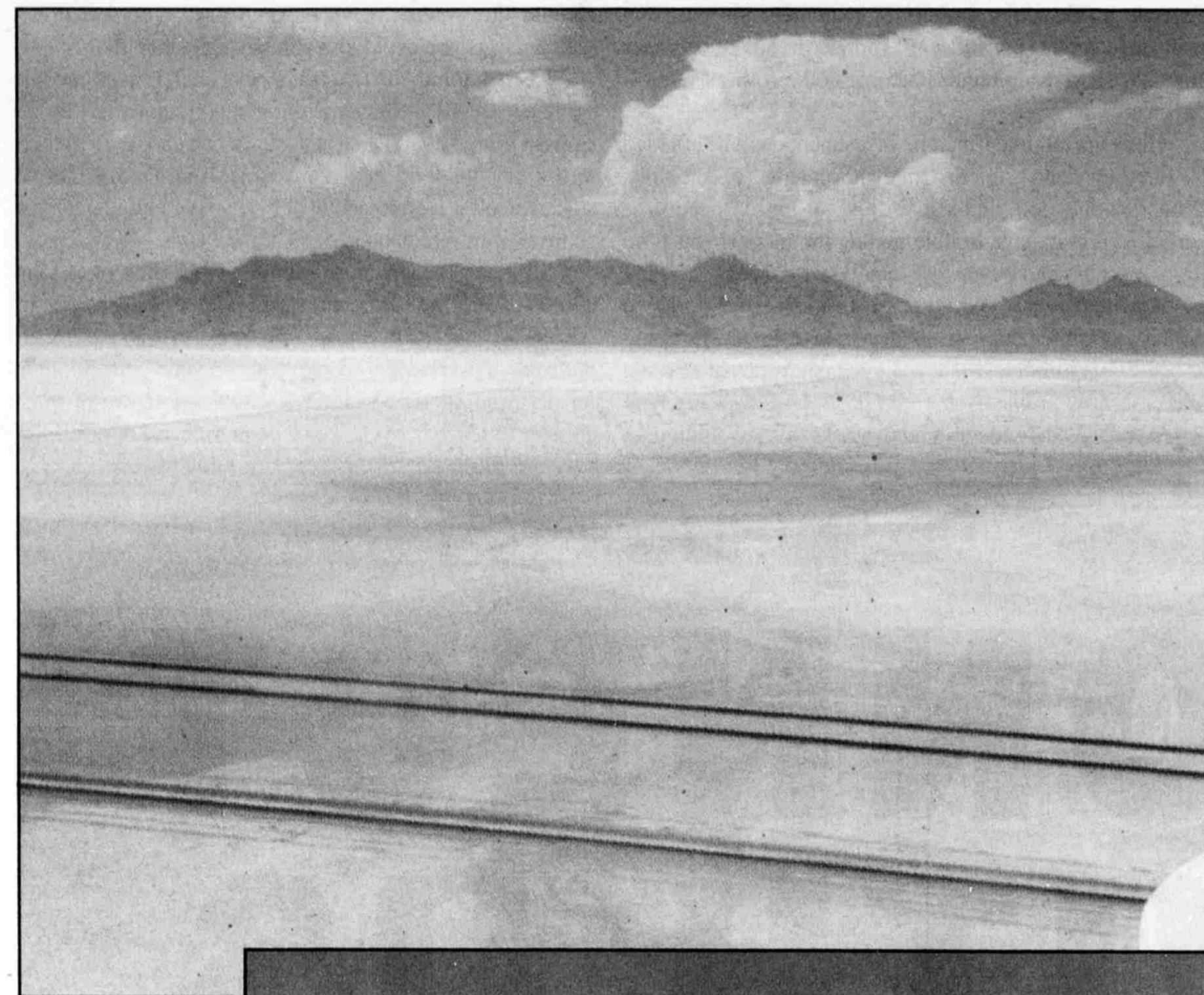
Cozy Corner, continued ... From Page 5

the Stearman up to 10,000 ft. to get a look at Lake Tahoe. The lake surface is about 6,000 feet. It has to be surrounded by some pretty good mountains to hold all that water up there. I got some pictures and descended down to Carson City.

I had given up on camping when I got to Carson City. I tied down the plane and a really nice local pilot gave me

a ride to a cheap motel near a railroad museum I wanted to visit. My driver also pointed out a casino nearby with a good (cheap) buffet. I love local advice. Nevada was now officially filled in on my map.

After a visit to the museum, I was ready for a dip in the motel pool. I took my cell phone, charts to plan the next day, a cold drink and a towel. I put almost everything down



The Bonneville Salt Flats from a few hundred feet. The Flats seem to go on forever and are almost spooky.

That's me on the ground at Montague, CA. I had just put the California sticker on my map. Mt. Shasta is on the horizon over the map.



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Flying IFR (I Follow Railroads) across Nevada.

on a poolside table and dove in. I surfaced at the far end of the pool to discover my cell phone was still in my pocket. Carson City was the first place I'd had cell service in days, and now my phone was junk. Fortunately, this would be the biggest calamity of the entire trip.

The next morning I checked out early and got a cab to the airport. The Stearman roared to life and I headed north to Reno. There I would again pick up the railroad as it tracks off to the northeast. The terrain is mostly flat and arid, but there are scattered mountains reaching up to 9,000 ft. The railroad wisely winds around these peaks avoiding steep inclines or the need for tunnels. I was now flying I.F.R. (I Follow Railroads).

My first fuel stop was at Battle Mountain, Nevada. There was an aerial firefighting operation there. The firefighting crews were as interested in my old airplane with the map on the side as I was in their big orange fire-bombers.

Having skipped breakfast, I took the courtesy junker to town for lunch. This was Nevada in July and of course the car didn't have working a/c. At least the windows would go up and down. Since this was Nevada, the restaurant was a mini-casino. There were people idly feeding the slots as I fed my face. Sorry, but the whole casino thing is lost on me.

After another hundred miles of following the railroad through this hot, dry Nevada landscape I had to make a slight diversion. This would be a homecoming for my old Stearman. About an hour later I touched down at Wendover, Utah, where I'd purchased the plane over 16 years ago.

Asking around, I soon found that none of the folks were around that I had dealt with back in 1990. The big old military hangar where the plane had been parked was still there. Wendover had been a primary training site for heavy bomber crews during WWII. The pilots and crews that dropped the first atomic bombs on Japan trained for those missions at Wendover. A nice museum has been established at the field since I was there last. I looked around, bought a T-shirt and took off. The last time I left Wendover I had about one hour of Stearman time in my logbook. I must have close to a thousand hours now.

Leaving Wendover I was immediately over the eerie Bonneville Salt Flats. There is something unworldly about flying over the "Flats" at low altitude. About fifty miles later I came to the western shore of the Great Salt Lake. Here I had to turn north and shoot a narrow gap between some military restricted airspace and the class "D" airspace around Salt Lake City. I was flying over the lake behind a line of thunderstorms passing off to the southeast. This was all very demanding, but lots of fun.

My purpose for this route was to get north and hook up with the railroad at Promontory Point. You will recall from your history lessons, this is where the Union Pacific Railroad met with the Central Pacific and the famed golden spike was driven. I circled around, took some pictures and headed east following what was the Union Pacific portion of the famed route.

Again, I'm way over on my word count and I'm still a long way from Lowell. Guess we'll be milking this trip for at least one more week.

2006 youth fair wraps up with record numbers

By Dan Schneider

Lowell's fairgrounds were quiet Monday after last week's Kent County Youth Fair.

Tents were down, the crowds gone, and the animals absent. A few carnival rides sat on trailers on the midway, waiting for semi trucks to haul them to their next destination. The grass that was green before the fair is now green only in spots, having been trampled by thousands of visitors' feet and hundreds of cows, horses, sheep, etc.

in everything," fair manager Ron Wenger said.

Part of the reason might have been the weather. The sun was out almost all week and 84 degrees Fahrenheit was the maximum temperature.

Nowhere was the success of this year's fair more evident than at the livestock auction. The auction brought in \$436,188, almost \$100,000 more than last year's total. It was a new record for the fair.

There were more animals this year than last

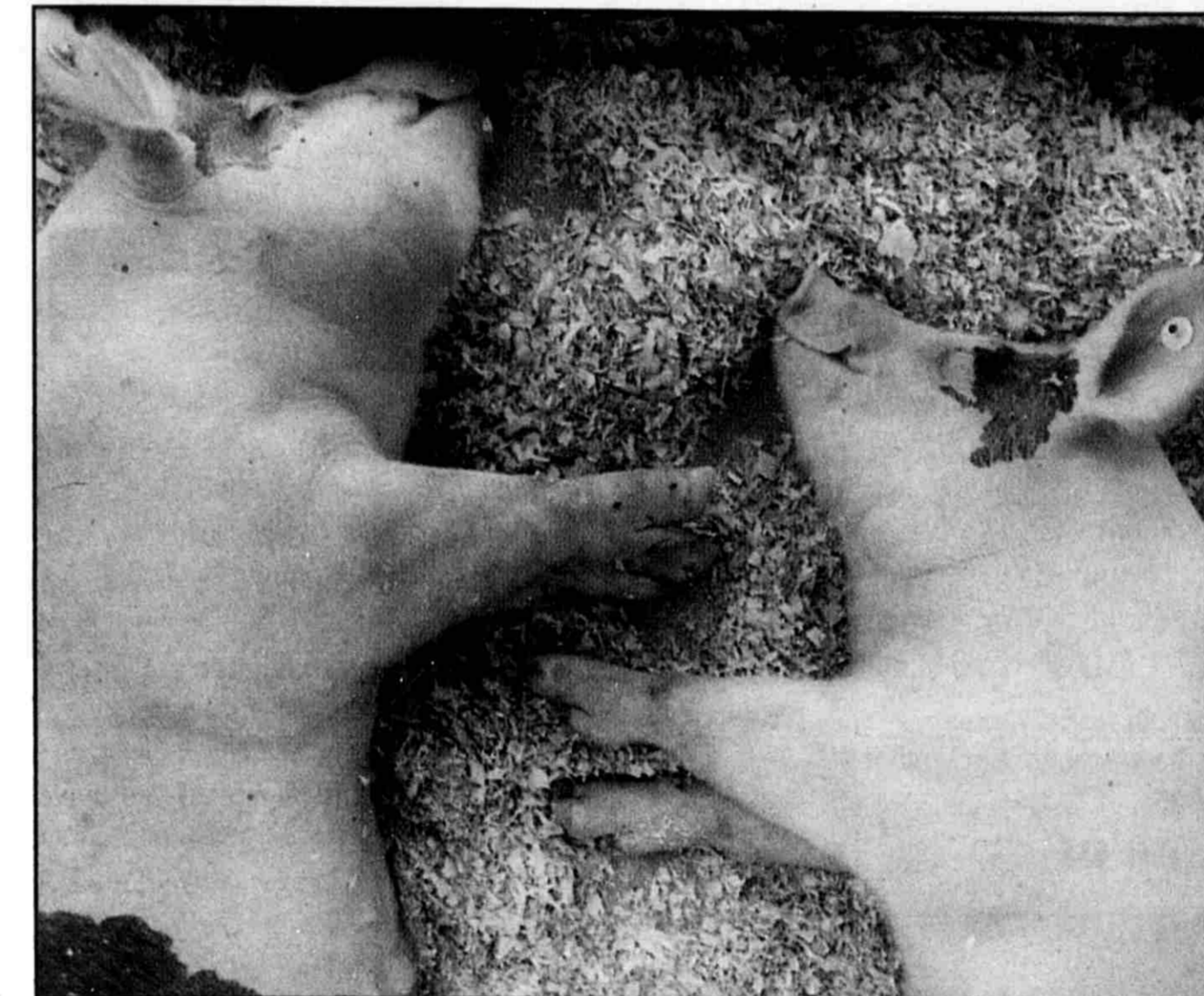
with 275 pigs sold in the auction.

Local companies such as King Milling and Michigan Wire often purchase several animals at the fair auctions. This year Meijer purchased a total of 31 animals at auction, including rabbits, chickens, turkey, sheep, hogs and steers.

"We end up turning it around and selling it and then the store takes it on the bottom line ... to support the youth," said Lowell Meijer store director Kevin D'Hondt.



Kendra Merriman, 12, of the South Kent 4-H Club, sheared her sheep Monday while her sister, DeeAnne, 13, held the animal still. It was Merriman's first time shearing a sheep, a skill she learned from Cherry Valley 4-H Club leader John Hawkins. Merriman said the electric sheep shears are heavy and it is important to stretch the wrinkles out of the sheep's skin while shearing.



For pigs at the fair, any time besides feeding time was a good time for a nap.

The youth fair does not have a reliable way to track the number of visitors it draws. But based on parking and other receipts, there were more people attending this year's fair than in years' past.

"Parking was a record, carnival was a record, food sales were up, we were up

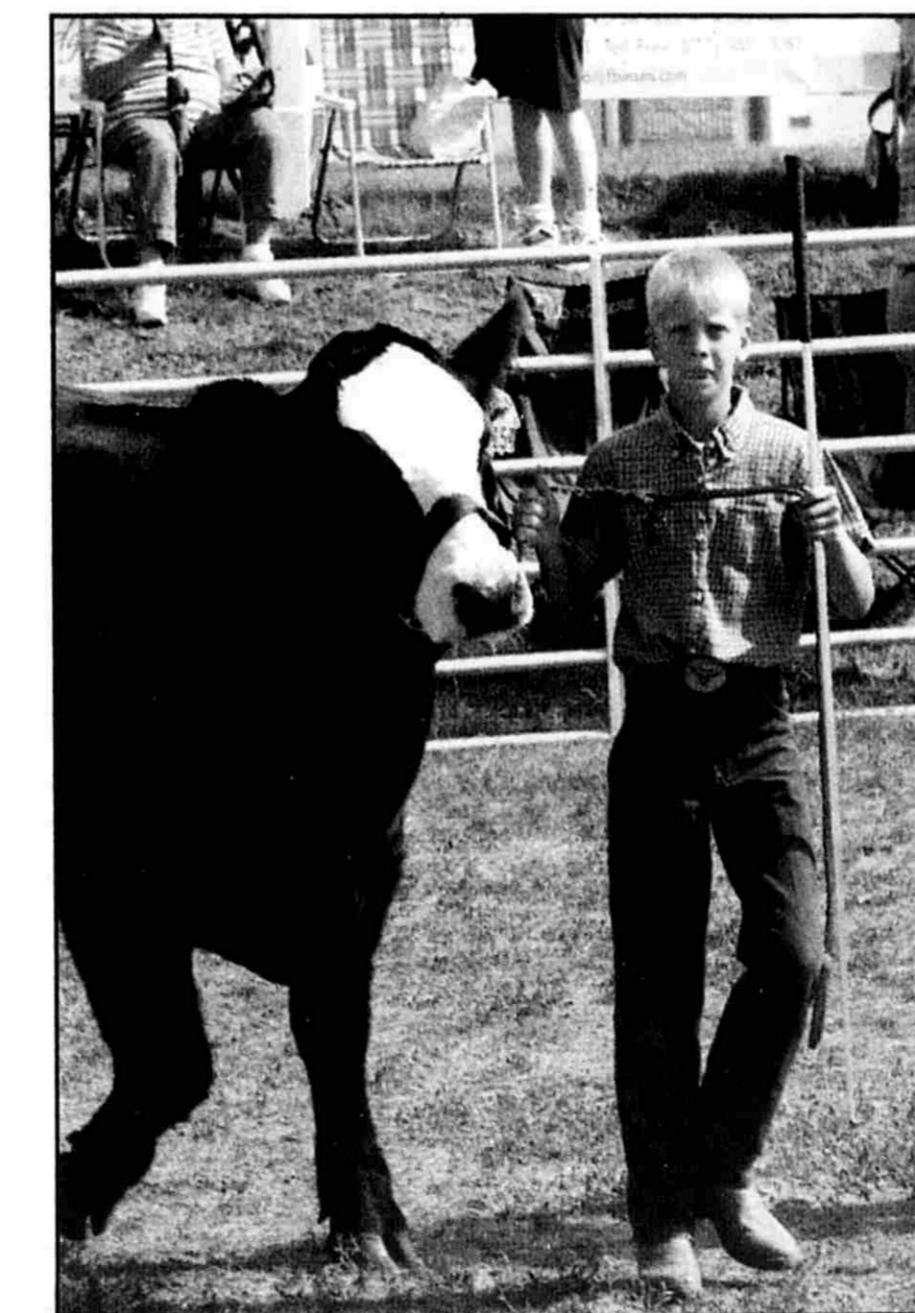
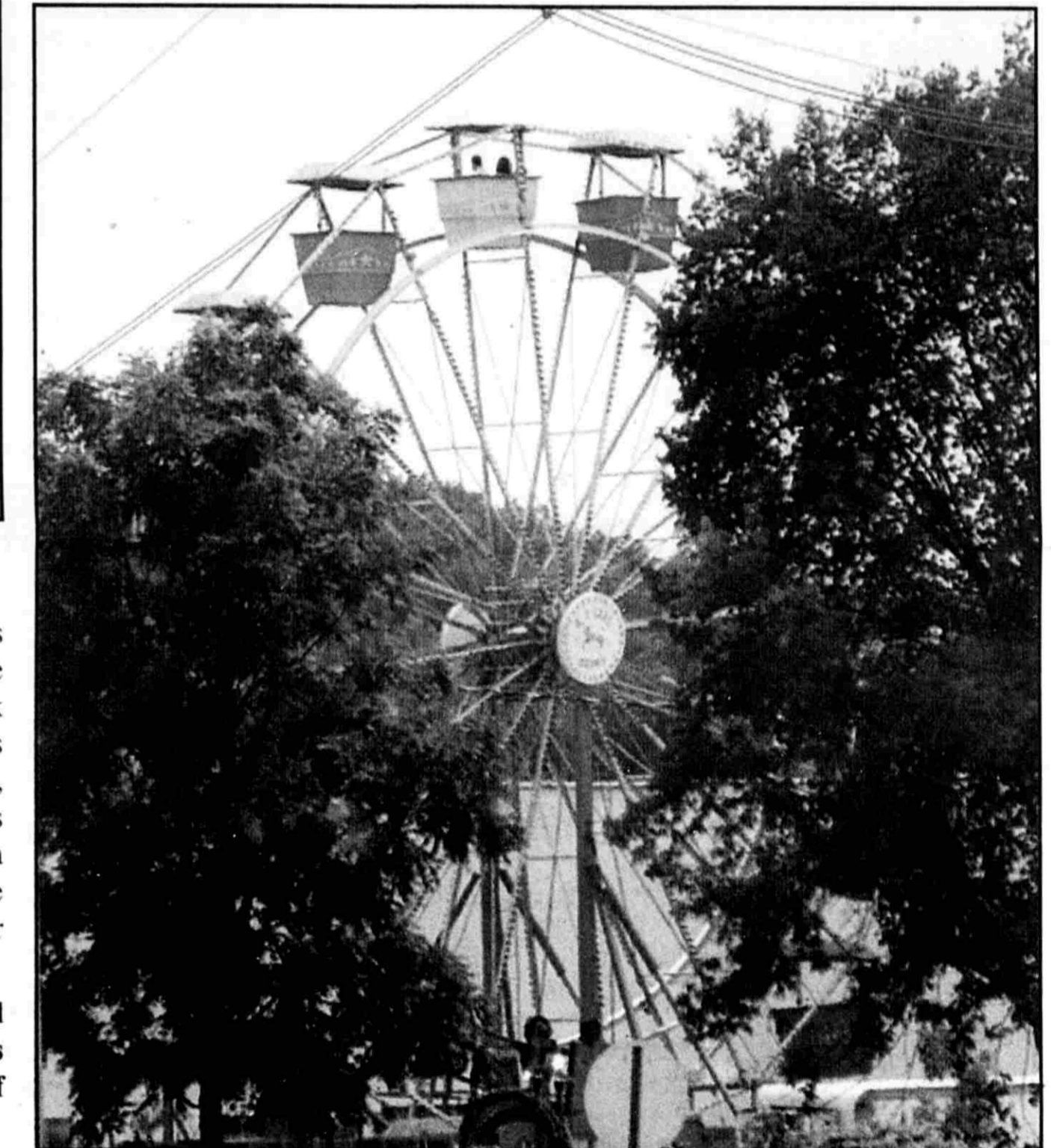
year, which was one factor in the record sale.

"More animals, but better prices," Wenger said.

The average price paid for beef animals this year, for instance, was \$1.73 per pound. There were 96 beef steers in the auction. Swine averaged \$2.23 per pound.

Thursday night was particularly busy, but the crowds came all week long. Though in past years Saturday night was slow, spectators filled the stands around the horse arena for a rodeo. It was the first time the fair has hosted a major Saturday night event.

The ferris wheel peeking above the trees was the first visible sign of the fair.

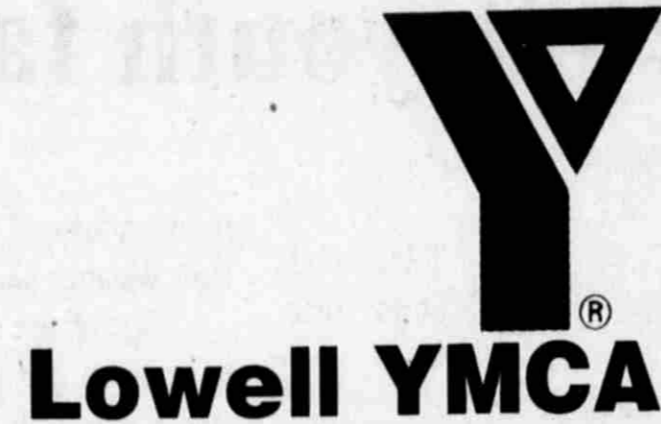


Brady Blasher, 10, of the East Kent Beef 4-H Club, was reserve champion in the Maine beef steer division. He raised the steer for a year and three months.



Jr. King, Connor Aker; Court Member, Morgan Olin; King, Adam Nitschke; Queen, Rebecca Winter; Court Member, Lindsay Bielema; and Jr. Queen, Janelle Sebela.

Fall Guide to fun



YMCA Mission Statement
Putting Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

LOWELL YMCA

(a branch of the YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids)

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 5:30 A.M.-9:30 P.M.

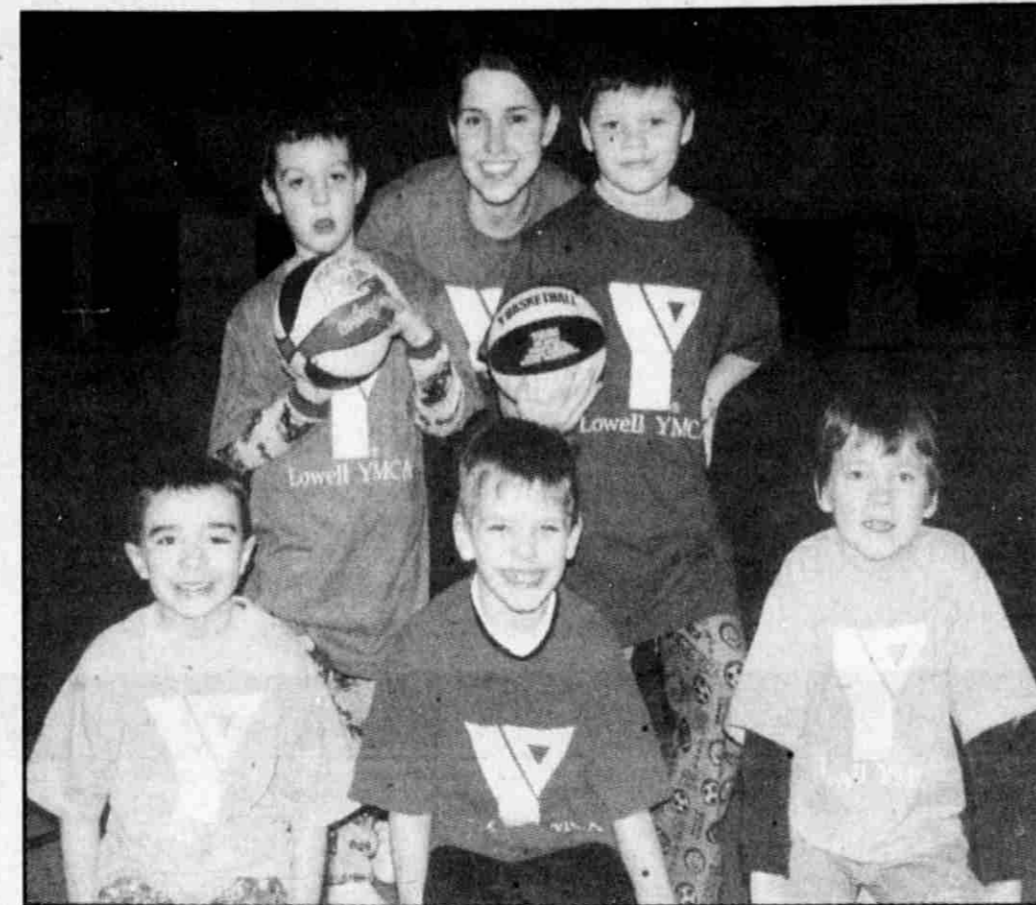
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SUNDAY: 11 A.M.-4 P.M.

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Preschool & Youth Programs

PRESCHOOL MINI-KICKERS SOCCER

Ages 3+
This instructional program meets at Creekside Park and teaches basic skills to beginners. It is recommended that children attend this class before beginning league play unless they already understand the basics of soccer including kicking, passing, dribbling, goal-keeping, and throw-ins. This class requires a parent or guardian/caregiver to participate.

September 9-October 21 (7 classes) Register by Aug. 25
Saturday 10:00-11:00 a.m.

YMCA Member: \$30 • Non-Member: \$54

RECREATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

Teams will meet at Creekside Park for practice and will play games on Saturdays. Teams are formed by age, and where possible - gender.

Under 6 players (born 8/1/00-7/31/01) practice optional
Under 8 players (born 8/1/98-7/31/00)
Under 10 players (born 8/1/96-7/31/98) may travel to other local YMCAs
Under 12 players (born 8/1/94-7/31/96) will travel to other local YMCAs
Under 14 players (born 8/1/92-7/31/94) will travel to other local YMCAs

September 5-October 21 (7 games)
Practices begin September 5, Games begin September 9
Registration Deadline: August 25

YMCA Member: \$34 • Non-Member: \$65

SOCCER COACHES CLINIC Thursday, August 31 at Creekside Park

with instructor Rodger Garner, former Professional Soccer Player, Olympic Development Coach, current Kentwood High School Soccer Assistant Coach.

U6 and U8 Coaches: 6:00 p.m.
U10, U12, U14 Coaches: 7:30 p.m.
Please attend to reserve your practice time, equipment, and team roster. Call Steve at 897-8445 to RSVP.

ROKEN KARATE FOR BEGINNERS

Ages 6+ (Must be 6 by start of the program)
Learn basic karate punches, kicks, blocks, and moves - you work at your own pace.

September 12-October 26 (7 weeks)
Tuesday: 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Thursday: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Location: Church of the Nazarene, 201 N. Washington
YMCA Member: \$45 • Non-Member: \$112



LACROSSE CLINIC

Grades 1-4
Learn the basics in a non-contact and fun lacrosse clinic. We emphasize the development of fundamental skills for the fastest growing game on two feet. We have a limited supply of sticks and helmets, so we encourage you to bring your own stick, gloves, and helmet with face shield.

September 12-October 17 (6 weeks)
Tuesday: 6:30-7:30 p.m. or
Saturday: 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Location: Creekside Park
YMCA Member: \$36 • Non-Member: \$68

ROKEN KARATE FOR ADVANCED

Ages 6+ (Must be 6 by start of the program)
White Belt/Black Stripe and sponsorship from Sensei, you are introduced to new skills and more difficult routines.

September 12-October 26 (7 weeks)
Tuesday: 7:10-8:25 p.m.
Thursday: 7:40-8:40 p.m.

Location: Church of the Nazarene, 201 N. Washington
YMCA Member: \$45 • Non-Member: \$112

ROKEN KARATE FOR ADULTS

Ages 12+
White Belt/Black Stripe and sponsorship from Sensei, you are introduced to new skills and more difficult routines.

September 12-October 26 (7 weeks)
Tuesday: 8:30-9:30 p.m.
Thursday: 8:50-9:50 p.m.

Location: Church of the Nazarene, 201 N. Washington
YMCA Member: \$45 • Non-Member: \$112

KINESTHETIC KIDS

Ages 3-4
This is a 45-minute class designed specifically for 3 and 4-year olds. Kids will work on developing basic skills such as hand-eye coordination, ball handling, kicking, agility, and balance. This class will also help kids to develop their social skills such as teamwork, following directions, and sharing.

starting September 14
Thursdays: 9:30-10:15 a.m.
YMCA Member: \$40 • Non-Member: \$55

PRESCHOOL TUMBLEBUGS

Location: All classes meet in the Lowell YMCA Teen Center
Cost for All Tumblebug Classes: YMCA Member: \$30 • Non-Member: \$60

Ages 24-36 months
September 12-October 24 (7 weeks)
Tuesday: 6:15-7:05 p.m.

Requires a parent or caregiver to participate. Parents work with their children on basic motor development at adventure stations to develop balance, coordination, and confidence using basic gymnastic skills and positions, building a strong foundation for your child to develop a sense of athletic achievement, self-esteem, and social skills.

Ages 3/Young 4's
September 12-October 24 (7 weeks)
Tuesday: 7:15-8:05 p.m.

Introduction to the magic of gymnastics. Children learn how to deal with the physical, mental, emotional, and social aspects of childhood in a playful, creative, and stimulating environment. We focus on balance, body awareness, and coordination in addition to specific gymnastics skills.

Older 4's and 5's
September 14-October 26
Thursday: 6:10-7:00 p.m.

Children will begin participating in specialized activities that are geared toward building strength, flexibility, and individual skills in gymnastics. Children begin to relate gymnastics to vocabulary with the skills they learn. Dress your child to participate... a leotard for girls; shorts and a t-shirt for boys.

YMCA MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL

Join the YMCA between

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Fall I Program Participants can receive the Fall Membership promotion early! Sign up beginning September 1 for membership and take advantage of the reduced rates that full facility members receive.

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the joining fee
Lowell-Only Membership



Teen Programs

HEALTHY U

Grade 6
This after school program teaches you how to eat right and improve your skills to help you live a healthy life! FREE YMCA Youth/Teen Membership! Check with the YMCA or the middle school counselors for further information.

Monday & Wednesday after school, at the Middle School FREE!

FIFTH QUARTER PARTIES

Looking for some place to go after the "home games"? Come down to the 5th Quarter party at the YMCA Teen Center. Food, music, dancing, and friends. After the "home" games are done until midnight.

YMCA Member: \$6 • Non-Member: \$9

TEEN CENTER DROP-IN

Hang out with friends after school, play games, skate, and surf the internet!

Fridays 2:30-6:00 p.m.

YMCA Member: FREE • Non-Member: \$3

SKATE NIGHTS

Skateboard or rollerblade at the Lowell YMCA Skate Park. This includes snacks and time in the Teen Center.

Fridays 6:00-9:00 p.m.
September 15, October 6, October 20

YMCA Member: \$6 • Non-Member: \$9

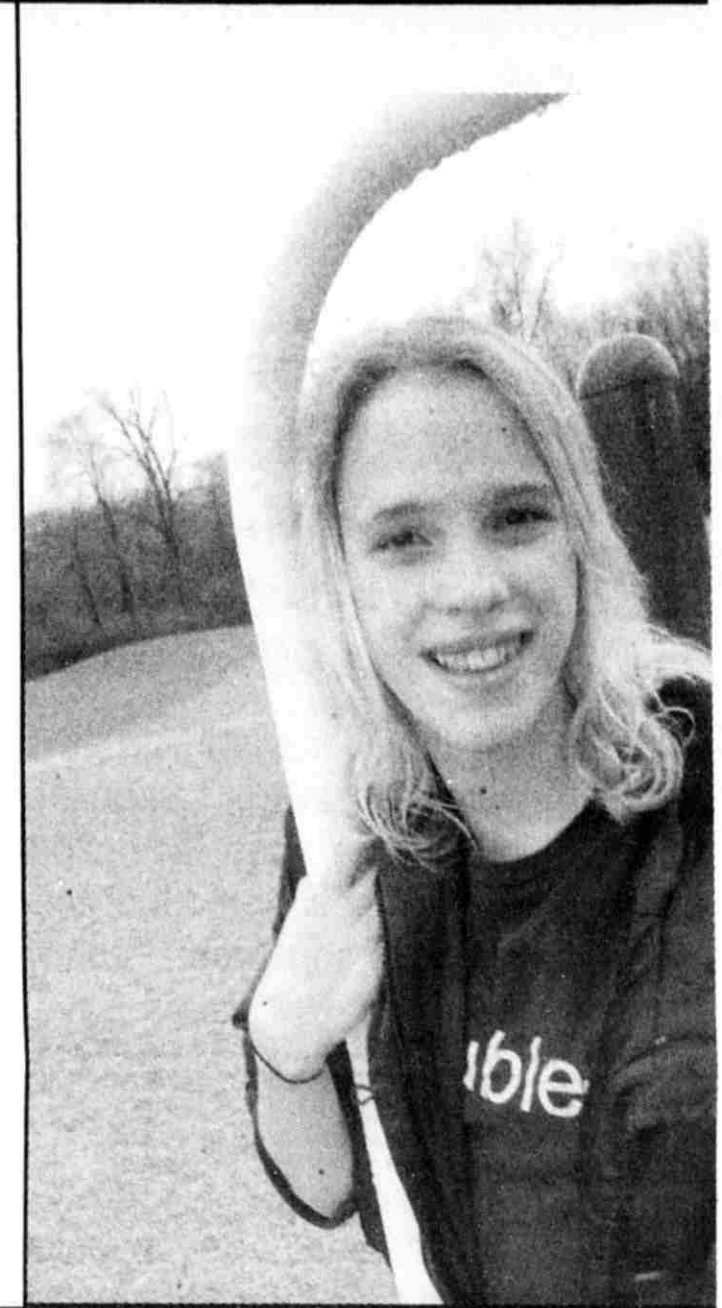
LEADERS CLUB

Grades 6-12
Leaders Club is one of the YMCA's most intensive and comprehensive teen programs. Young people meet on a weekly basis in small groups, working closely with their peers and a counselor on skill- and character-building activities, as well as on planning and organizing club projects. This program provides a safe haven for young people to become confident and competent adults with a sense of belonging in their community.

Monday 4:00 p.m.

YMCA Member: \$20 • Non-Member: \$30

FREE Alcohol Abuse Education
for kids, and parents
from the Century Council (Ask, Listen, Learn)
Pick up your free materials at the Lowell YMCA Teen Center.



Adult/Fitness Programs

TAI CHI CHUAN

This new and exciting addition is now at the YMCA! Tai Chi creates balance, flexibility, and calmness with an emphasis on deep breathing. Tai Chi integrates your body, necessary in centering and grounding.

begins August 19 (7 weeks)
Saturday 8:15-9:15 a.m.

YMCA Member: \$49 • Non-Member: \$65
YMCA Senior Member: \$24 • Non-Member Senior: \$30
Senior pricing is a special, one-time only offer.

PRE & POSTNATAL

Information on healthy eating habits for two and the importance of eating healthy for mother and baby. Each participant is required to secure a physician's release. Class is overseen by a physician.

starting September 12
Tuesdays & Thursdays: 10:30-11:30 a.m.
YMCA Member: \$75 • Non-Member: \$100

WOMEN ON WEIGHTS (WOW)

Age 18+
Women on Weights is a group setting with a personal coach. Functional movements that are safe and effective for all levels of group fitness are taught in this class. This 6 week program will help you break through to the next level. Sign up today.

starting September 11
Mondays & Wednesdays: 8:00-9:00 a.m.
YMCA Member: \$75 • Non-Member: \$100

MASSAGE THERAPY

Therapeutic massage offers a range of health benefits for the entire body. New clients receive \$5 off first visit with mention of this ad. Schedule an appointment with Jenn, our certified massage therapist.

YMCA Member: \$30/30 min. • Non-Member: \$35/30 min.
YMCA Member: \$50/60 min. • Non-Member: \$60/60 min.
YMCA Member: \$75/90 min. • Non-Member: \$95/90 min.

RUNNING CLUB

Age 10+
Whether you're training for your first 5K or headed out for a marathon, or walking your first mile... preparation is essential. This class is all about preparation and drills necessary to make you stronger, resulting in your run being smoother and faster with less effort and less chance for injury. Group will meet at Lowell YMCA Teen Center and will include assignments for activities to be done outside of class.

Tuesday 6:30 p.m. or
Saturday 8:00 a.m.
YMCA Member: \$28 • Non-Member: \$58

Child Care

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 6:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

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GENERAL PROGRAM REFUND POLICY

Class/program cancellations are accepted up to 72 hours prior to the start date of the class/program. Refunds will not be given after the start of class except for documented bereavement or medical reasons. We will refund 100% of the cost of the class/program if cancellation has been requested 72 hours or more in advance of the start date of the class/program. In the event that you must cancel your registration less than 72 hours prior to the start of a class/program, you will receive a credit voucher to apply towards a future class/program. Please contact the member service desk or a program director for more information. This policy applies to all programs except Camp Manitou-Lin, Child Care, and Extreme Fun Club.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Confidential financial assistance is available to those who qualify. Contact Marta at 897-8445 for more information.

The "V" symbol indicates that volunteers are needed for this particular program/activity. For more information, contact the YMCA at 897-8445 to be directed to the appropriate department.

Runners brave the heat at Sandy Foot Cross Country Camp

Submitted by Paul Judd

A host of Lowell cross country runners and members of the running community escaped the Grand Rapids' heat wave to participate in the Sandy Foot Cross Country Camp held in Ludington, the week of July 30th.

The week included two to three workouts per day including special events such as the 30-minute dune challenge, the Mojave 10-mile sand/trail race, the camper-counselor race, and concluding with the Sandy Foot 5km on the final day. The entire group experienced great workouts with only one running-related injury.

In addition to running, the workouts included Ab-lab drills, circuit training and water workouts. When not working out, the kids en-

joyed beach time and floats down the Au Sable River and really came together as a team.

Andy Mark led the men's group by setting a new record for the Mojave 10-miler with a time of 1:09.54 and by winning the Sandy Foot 5km with a time of 17:54 (2nd best student all-time). Monica Fitzpatrick led the way for the girls with 49 circuits on the Dune Challenge, a 1:32 in the Mojave 10-miler, and capped off the week by winning the Sandy Foot 5km in 21:48.

Other highlights of the week included Jonathon Woods surpassing his 2005 Sand Dune record of 55 with a 60 count this year.

The counselors did maintain their "senior" pride by defeating the campers in

the Camper-Counselor race by a mere 30 seconds. It was the closest margin in the history of the camp.

Major awards were as

follows: MVP - Boy: Andy Mark; Most Improved - Boy: Jesse Smoes; Rookie Camper: Corey Fitzpatrick.

MVP - Girl: Monica Fitzpatrick; Most Improved - Girl: Caitlin Sirowatka; Rookie Camper: Auslyn Foster

The tentative date for the 2007 Sandy Foot Camp is July 29 - Aug. 4.



Sandy feet indeed as runners climb the dunes during a cross country camp workout.

SYNOPSIS REGULAR MEETING OF THE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP BOARD July 17, 2006 - 7:00 p.m.

Minutes of the June 19, 2006 Regular Meeting were approved. Special meeting minutes of July 7 and 12, 2006 were approved. The meeting agenda and a list of invoices were also approved. Special Guest Kevin Wisselink of The Rapid gave a short presentation on bus service in Kent County.

Motions approved:

- Motion to increase Receptionist/Deputy Treasurer/Building Inspector Assistant pay to \$12 an hour
- Motion to approve a Special Use Permit for 11591 Lally
- Motion to adopt Resolution 1-2006, Greater Grand Rapids Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Motion to approve Bailey Lakes Private Road with contingencies
- Motion to re-zone a 100 foot strip of land with frontage on Lincoln Lake just north of 51 Lincoln Lake SE from R3 to Commercial
- Motion to approve a Special Use Permit for F&G Realty for building size
- Motion to approve Site Plan for F&G Realty
- Motion to re-zone 3.2 acres located at 501 Lincoln Lake SE from R2 to Industrial
- Motion to approve a Special Use Permit modification for Impact Church

Complete minutes are available on the township web site at www.vergenneswp.org, or at the township offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell.

The next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Vergennes Township Board is August 21, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Vergennes Township Hall located at the corner of Parnell Road and Bailey Drive.

Mari Stone, Vergennes Township Clerk

Safety Town participants learn the rules of the road



Kara Bolger, from left, Aly Holdridge, Payton Bidwell and Marlie Foster crossed the road safely while Big Wheel motorists waited at the crosswalk of the miniature town constructed at Bushnell Elementary. Safety Town was held at the school last week for young-fives and kindergarten students. The class teaches children bike, car, pedestrian and bus safety, and how to deal with strangers. Songs, a variety of activities, special guests and a miniature pedestrian village were used to teach important safety lessons. "It's high-energy because they are five year olds," said Safety Town coordinator Andrea Struckmeyer.

Safety Town instructors were addressed by cartoonish names such as "Careful Karen" and "Grandma Good Choices." Guests included Lowell firefighters, Lowell police officer Steve Bukala, Lowell Area Schools bus driver Betty Nelson and four Rockford ambulance paramedics. There were two sessions of the class with a total of 49 students.

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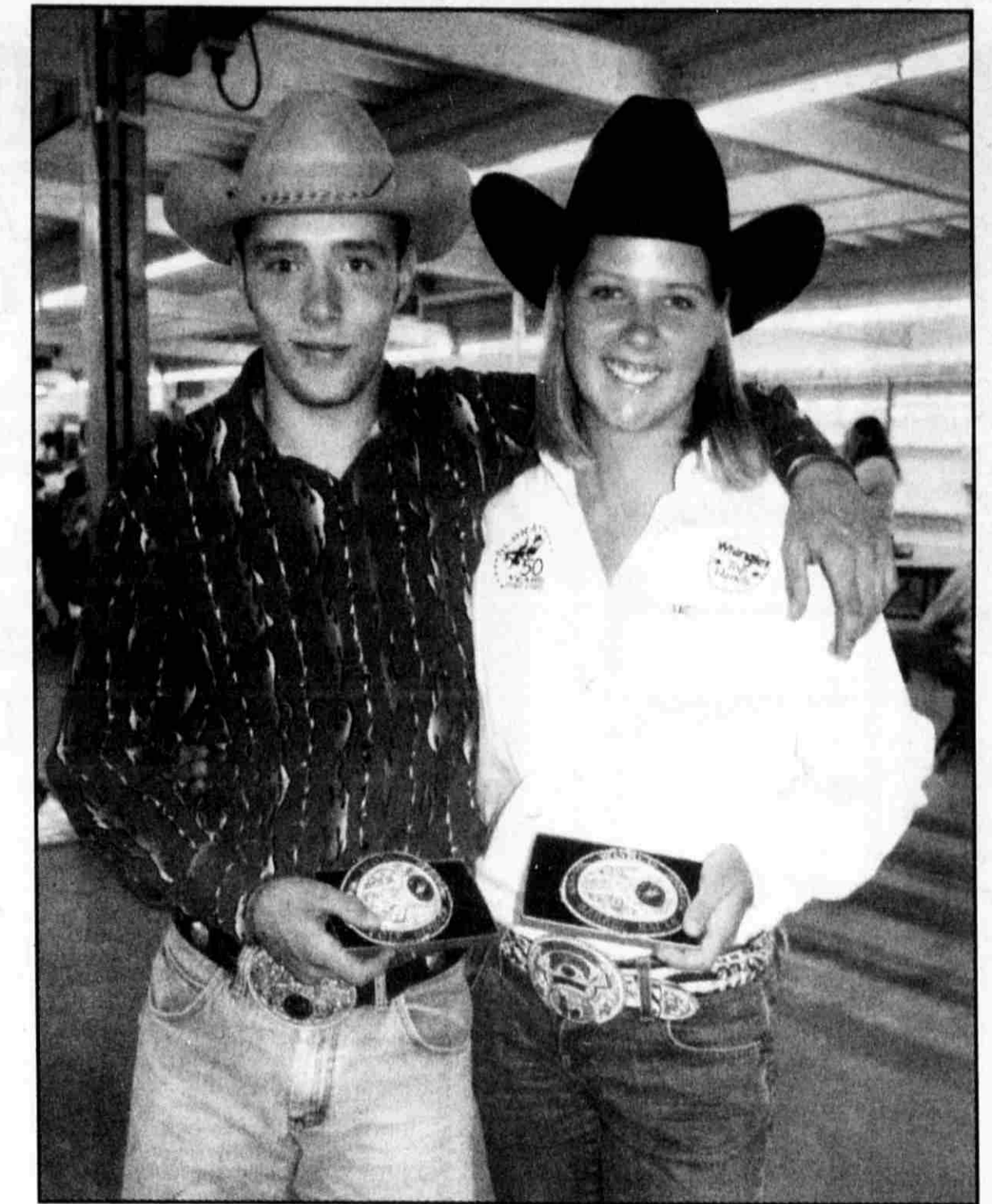
Area athletes come home Reserve World Champions

Jason Seely of Lowell and Kassi Sharp of Kent City each won the title of Reserve World Champion at the National Little Britches Rodeo in Pueblo, Colorado. Year-end finals were held July 16-22.

Seely, 18, was runner-up in the Senior Boys Bull Riding. Before heading to the Nationals, Jason

won the 2006 Bull Riding Championship for the Michigan chapter of the Little Britches Rodeo Association. Having competed in Little Britches Rodeo for three years, he hopes to join the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association next year. He is the son of Keven and Jeni Clouser of Lowell. Sharp, a sophomore

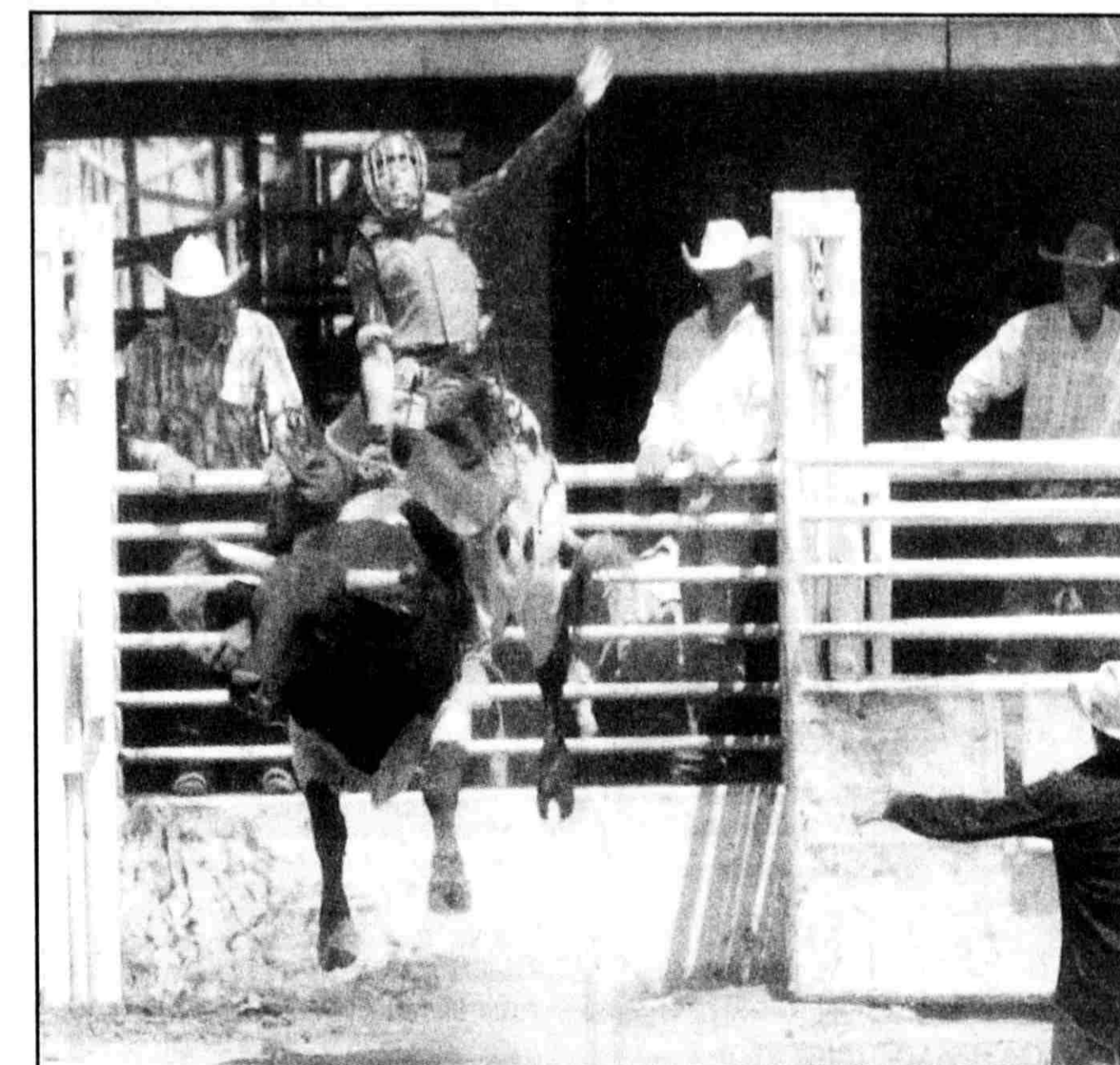
at Grand Valley State University, finished second in the Senior Girls Barrel Racing. She won the All-Around Champion Girls title for the Michigan chapter of the Little Britches Rodeo Association. She is the daughter of Andy and Sue Sharp of Kent City.



Jason Seely and Kassi Sharp, reserve world champions at the National Little Britches Rodeo.



Kassi Sharp won her reserve champion buckle in the Barrel Racing.



Jason Seely captured the runner-up spot in the Senior Boys Bull Riding.

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-Hannah Shumway

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AAA offers safety tips for air travel after recent terror plot

On Aug. 10, 2006, British police announced the arrest of several individuals in connection with a major terror plot against airlines traveling from Britain to the U.S. As a result, the U.S. government elevated its terrorism alert to Red,

the highest level for flights originating in the United Kingdom bound for the United States. Additionally, the threat level for all commercial aviation operating in or destined to the U.S. has been raised to High, or Orange. Travelers

have been prohibited from taking liquids of any type into the airport beyond security check points. This has resulted in slowdowns and passenger anxiety at some security checkpoints across the U.S.

PROHIBITIONS

How will the heightened security measures impact AAA members?

Travelers face tighter security restrictions and longer lines because of rules imposed by U.S. and

British officials. Travelers are advised to arrive at the airport three hours in advance for international flights and two hours in advance for domestic flights.

What is prohibited in my carry-on bag?

The new rules ban almost all liquids and gels from being taken aboard flights. That means you should not carry: sunscreen, lotion, perfume, hand sanitizer, shampoo, toothpaste, hair gel or beverages. Those items must be put in your checked luggage if you want to take them along when you travel.

You can still bring baby formula, breast milk or juice if you're traveling with a child; prescription drugs if your name is on the bottle; and insulin or other "essential" non-prescription medications.

As of Aug. 10, some airports were prohibiting laptops and cell phones in carry-on luggage. Travelers should be prepared to pack these items in checked luggage.

Are the rules different in the United Kingdom?

If you're on a flight leaving the United Kingdom, there are more restrictions: You will need to check ALL luggage — that means no carry-ons whatsoever — and every passenger will be hand-searched at security checkpoints. Only a few personal items, such as wallets, glasses, medications and travel documents, are permitted, and a bag used to carry those items must be plastic. On flights to the USA, passengers will be searched again at the gate before they board.

Do the rules in the UK also apply to flights from the USA to the UK?

There is some confusion among the airlines on this subject. American Airlines says the restrictions apply to UK-bound flights, some other airlines say they do not. We are working now to clarify this.

Are there any exceptions to the new rules in the USA?

A few. You can still bring baby formula, breast milk or juice if you're traveling with a child; prescription drugs if your name is on the bottle; and insulin or other "essential" non-prescription medications. Screeners should not make you sample the liquids.

Can I still bring medicine along if it's not in liquid form?

Yes.

If I forget to remove liquids or gels from my bags before I get to the security checkpoint, what happens?

Screeners will ask you to put them in a checked bag or give them to someone who isn't traveling. Otherwise they will be confiscated.

What should I do if the screeners overlook something?

Safetu tips, cont'd., pg. 24

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Honest Americans foot the bill for tax haven abuses

With Senator Carl Levin

For most Americans, taxes are taken out of our paycheck before we get it, and then we settle the difference with the government each year before April 15. No one likes paying taxes, but it's our civic duty and as Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes noted: "Taxes are what we pay for civilized society."

Taxes are not automatically deducted, however, on income earned through investments and other transactions. Instead, this income is reported by the taxpayer, usually after consulting and planning with lawyers, accountants, and tax professionals. Shamefully, some Americans are exploiting this system to dodge taxes through schemes relying on the secrecy of offshore tax shelters.

Experts estimate that offshore tax haven abuses by individuals cost the U.S. Treasury between \$40 billion and \$70 billion every year. Ultimately, that tax gap must be made up by average working Americans, and that is totally unfair.

Recently, I led a Senate investigation into these offshore tax haven abuses. The report the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations released on Aug. 1 blows the lid off tax haven abuses that make use of shell corporations, phony trusts, and fake economic transactions to help some people dodge large amounts of taxes that they owe to the U.S. Treasury. During its yearlong investigation, the Subcommittee issued more than 70 subpoenas, conducted more than 80 interviews, and reviewed more than two million pages of documents.

Tax haven countries have, in effect, declared economic war on honest U.S. taxpayers by giving tax dodgers a way to avoid their tax bills and leave them for others to pay. Offshore tax havens have low or no taxes, but most importantly they have legal systems that shroud all transactions in a "black box" that is impossible to penetrate. Tax havens sell this secrecy to attract customers for their secret offerings.

This legal black box allows tax dodgers to hide assets,

mask who controls them, and obscure how their assets are used. An army of "offshore service providers" — lawyers, bankers, brokers, and others — then joins forces to exploit the black box secrecy and help clients skirt U.S. tax, securities, and anti-money laundering laws. Many of the firms concocting or facilitating these schemes are respected names here in the United States.

These schemes require the secrecy of tax havens because they can't stand the light of day. Our investigation laid out six case studies that illustrated the scope and seriousness of the problem. In one case, the participants simply transferred fake stock back and forth as if it were fantasy baseball to create the illusion of economic activity. Some of the transactions we discovered would be comical because of their complexity but for the sobering fact that just six of these transactions cost the Treasury about \$300 million in lost revenue.

One of the most disturbing things we found was the degree to which reputable professionals aided and abetted abusive tax shelters. Each of the facilitators claimed not to know what the others were doing. The professionals hid behind shaky legal opinions to justify their roles and donned blinders to block out evidence of the sordid business they were involved in.

These tax haven abuses are eating away at the fabric of the U.S. tax system, and undermining U.S. laws intended to safeguard our capital markets and financial systems from financial crime. It is long, long past time for our country to shut down their use by U.S. citizens.

The best step we could take to shut down these abuses would be to change how the government views transactions in offshore tax havens. It's this simple: the law should presume that a tax haven is being used to dodge taxes. That's what these countries are used for, and we need to start calling it what it is. The burden should be on the individual who places assets in a tax haven to prove that income received there should not be taxable to him or her.

Congress should also enact S. 1565, the Tax Shelter and Tax Haven Reform Act, which Sen. Norm Coleman, R-Minn., and I introduced last year. This bipartisan bill would authorize the Treasury Secretary to issue a list of tax havens that don't cooperate with U.S. tax enforcement and eliminate U.S. tax benefits for income in those jurisdictions.

The ability to penalize uncooperative tax havens would hand our government a mighty club to combat abuses.

Our investigation shined a needed spotlight into the black box of offshore tax havens. It revealed a system that is corrupt and corrupting. Honest Americans are footing the bill for tax haven abuses, and we need to shut those abuses down.

Lend A Hand

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

SENIOR NEIGHBORS OFFERS FREE ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR AND CLINIC

Senior Neighbors will offer two free events for seniors in the community and their friends and families to help them develop their important estate planning documents.

An estate planning seminar will be held Wednesday, Sept. 13 from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. An estate planning clinic will be held Wednesday, Sept. 27 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Both events are at Mayflower Congregational Church, 2345 Robinson Rd. SE.

For a free private 45-minute no-obligation session with volunteer attorneys specializing in estate planning, call Senior Neighbors, Inc. at 459-6019. Appointments are limited, so seniors are encouraged to sign up soon.

College News

Over 1,600 students earned degrees from Grand Valley State University in April.

From the Lowell area are: Michelle L. Bosscher, Jason M. DeBoer, Lindsay M. Koehn, Jennifer S. Manion, Caleb L. O'Boyle, Stacey A. Pniewski, Lauren C. Schnug and Cheryl J. Valentine.

From the Alto area are: Charles J. Bron, Megan S. Eastman, Joshua S. Ekkens, William A. Hollstein and Jaclyn C. Workman.

From the Ada area are: Kellie A. Baker, Donna L. Crow, Melissa M. Deacon, Michael B. Deming, Tam T. Dinh, Kristi S. Dykstra, Nathan H. Entingh,

Angela M. Jaworowski, Daryl J. Kamp, Kimberly A. Kessenich, Delores K. MacFarlane, Jeffrey D. Rowe, Glenda L. Sanchez, Danielle E. Spitters, Jeanne L. Stark, Lindsay R. Warnes and Renee L. Wirth.

About 3,500 students were among the May graduates at Central Michigan University.

From the Lowell area are: Abigail E. Conklin, William E. Stouffer and Jennifer M. Wisner.

From the Alto area are: Jamie A. Rich and Jessi Jo Sterk.

From the Ada area are: John R. Meyer and Hillary A. Walker.

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Quiz bowl builds knowledge that leads to better care of animals

By Dan Schneider

What do you call a goat that naturally has no horns?

What two nutrients are important in building healthy bones and teeth?

True or false: Bucks which do not get adequate

exercise may become sterile.

Those were among the more than 400 questions 4-Hers studied for the Goat Quiz Bowl, which took place last Thursday in the event tent at the Kent County Youth Fair.

The last question is the one Kristen Hufstader, 19, of the Cherry Valley Livestock 4-H Club answered correctly to win the senior division. The answer is true: male breeding goats do need to get their exercise to avoid sterility.

As for the other questions, a goat that naturally has no horns is called a "poll" and calcium and phosphorous are important nutrients for developing healthy teeth and bones.

Knowledge of such information is useful not only for winning quiz bowls.

"The more you know about your project animal, the better care you can give your project animal," goat superintendent and goat quiz bowl moderator Maruszka Hufstader said. "It would be great if there were other animal groups that had a quiz bowl."

Currently, the Goat Quiz Bowl is the only quiz event at the fair. But Hufstader said other animal groups are welcome to use the buzzer equipment to set up a quiz bowl of their own. The electronic buzzers are on lone from Michigan State University, which hosts a statewide goat quiz bowl each spring.

At the Kent County Youth Fair, contestants sit behind microphones at a table on the stage in the event tent. The moderator reads questions from a table set up on the ground in front of the stage. Also on that table are the ribbons and the first place trophies--green trophies with golden goats perched on top of them.

Kristen Hufstader was glad to win the trophy this year. "I am very happy because I haven't done too

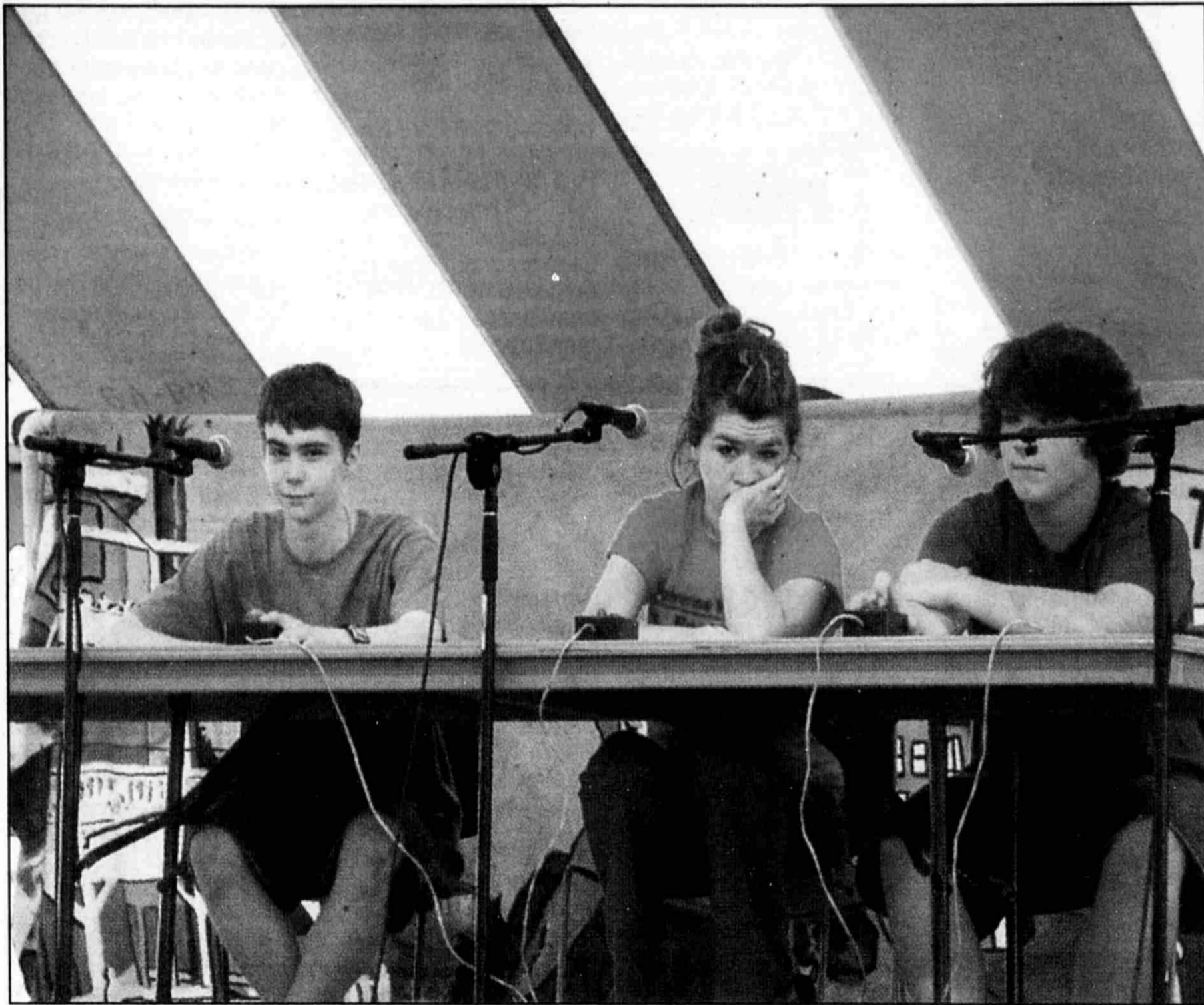
well the last few years, but I really studied hard for this because I really wanted it," she said.

Kristen Hufstader said she has been raising goats almost from the time she could walk. Despite all that experience, she said, she gained a lot of practical knowledge studying for the quiz bowl.

"It's stuff that we should really all know for proper caring of animals such as goats," she said. "It's a fun event, but in the process we learn to take care of our animals better, especially through studying."

Kristen Hufstader benefited from all the studying. Showing three goats this year, she was champion for dame and daughter (a mother and daughter goat shown together); reserve overall grand champion for dairy, and third place in showmanship.

John Jansen placed second in the senior division of the Goat Quiz Bowl. Ethan Malski won the junior division, answering six questions correctly in the final round. Samantha Vlaming placed second in the junior division with four correct answers.



John Jansen, from left, Carolyn Chalmers and Taylor Harding answered questions about goats last Thursday in the second preliminary round, senior division, of the Goat Quiz Bowl at the Kent County Youth Fair.

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Safety tips, continued ... From Page 20

If your toothpaste or hair gel inadvertently makes it through a checkpoint, authorities recommend you turn it in to a security officer. You won't necessarily get in trouble for having it, but it could cause concern if other passengers see it. Will I have to wait longer in lines?

Most likely. AAA advises that you get to the airport at least three hours

before an international flight and two hours before a domestic flight.

Why can I put liquids and gels in a checked bag but not carry them aboard?

Transportation Security Administration spokesman Amy Von Walter says authorities are concerned that liquids could be one part of a bomb, not necessarily a fully-assembled explosive. If those parts are in carry-

on bags, someone could put the bomb together in flight; if they're in the cargo hold, they couldn't.

How long will these new rules last?

U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said the rules would be "constantly evaluated and updated when circumstances warrant."

- Allow extra time to arrive and go through security at the airport.

- Bring only necessary items in your carry-on luggage, which may have to be checked.

- If you are carrying medication, be sure to have your prescription-marked container with you.

- Save receipts for additional expenses if you have Travel Delay coverage.

Where can I go for more information?

Visit AAA.com and link on the home page titled, "Travel Information Updates."

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