



The Lowell Ledger

Volume 38 Issue 31

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, July 1, 2009

Lowell's fourth annual Relay for Life raises \$62,000



by Thad Kraus

Relay for Life, a life-changing event that brings together more than 3.5 million people each year to celebrate, remember and fight back against cancer.

The American Cancer Society's signature fundraiser celebrated its 25th anniversary.

The Lowell Relay For Life, in its fourth year fielded 22 teams and 175 participants, and raised \$62,000 to be used for education, advocacy, research and services.

Lowell's Relay for Life was held from noon on Friday until noon on Saturday. Eight participants walked for 12 hours and two participants walked the entire 24 hours.

A victory lap was taken Saturday by the 45 cancer survivors in attendance. They were then treated to

a chicken and rib dinner prepared by Backwater Cafe. Cake was also provided by Sue Anderson.

Activities during the 24 hours included a Ms. relay and the first Relay Idol.

The Ms. Relay had a man from each team dress up in his prettiest dress and try to collect money in his purse.

The Relay Idol contest showcased local talent. Jim Hodges and Liz Baker judged the event.

At dusk, while Amazing Grace was played by Louie the Bagpiper, candles in each bag (set up around the Lowell High School track) were lit while a scrolling of survivor names were shown.

"It's a way to reflect on the reason we do what we do. It allows us to honor the survivors," says Donna Cody, chairperson for the Lowell Relay for Life.

Riverwalk Festival 2009 extends into Sunday with barbecue championship

by Emma Palova

The annual Riverwalk Festival, with the ubiquitous duck mascot in his rubber shoes, will be bigger and better this year. At least that is the hope of the festival organizers who have expanded the festival to four days.

With highlights such as the duck race on the Grand River, the dunk tank, the FROM the Heart Parade, Grilling and Chilling on Avery Street, and the Brian Mead Memorial Cruise-in, the festival is action packed.

It will kick off on Thursday with Center Stage Entertainment by Stolen Horses, a country band. The festival will take place in several locations, downtown on the Riverwalk and at the Kent County 4-H Youth Fairgrounds. The Riverwalk will host arts and crafts on Saturday, while the fireworks will be Saturday night at 10:15 p.m. at the Stoney Lakeside Park.

Apart from the mainstays, there are many novelties this year. This

includes the much awaited BBQ State Championship which has received a nod from the Kansas City Barbecue Society (KCBS) and even from the Governor's office.

For the first time, contestants will compete in Pauly's Brew B-Q Throw-down for the Grand Champion title, with the grand prize of \$1,500, in the following categories: chicken, ribs, pork butt and brisket. There will also be a reserve champion who gets \$500.

The event will not only be judged by certified barbecue tasting judges, but it is also a certified state championship by the Governor's office.

"We will bring a lot of people together," said co-organizer and proprietor of Pauly's, Paul Faba. "We thought a barbecue cook-off could be fun."

The main purpose was to extend the Riverwalk into Sunday with additional activities, including the Farmers' Market.

"It's a great extension of the Riverwalk," said

Faba. "We got sanctioned by the KCBS and as a state championship. It ties in perfectly."

Approximately 20 contestants have signed up. Also, local food and commercial vendors will grill as well. A beer tent will be set up in the middle of the fairgrounds featuring Michigan crafted beers only.

"We want to make this a locally centered event," said Faba. "We hope this is a first of an annual event, and we'd like to see it grow."

"Our hopes will be for everyone to just come out and have a great time! We have a wide range of things to do with the family. We are excited that so many different organizations participate to make our festival different and always changing," said Liz Baker, Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce director. "The FROM the Heart Parade will be fun and at the same time, it challenges the community to assist those in need. The entertainment this year is top notch and we will have four days and it's all free. Adding

the Kansas City Society Barbecue sanctioned event will be the type of thing that will build in the next few years. The great part is that it brings certified judges from all over the Midwest. Pauly's Brew B-Q Beer and Cocktail garden will showcase local Michigan craft beers."

On Sunday, local music will be provided by Bob Van Stee and Jimmie Stagger. The State Farm Duck Race is at 12:30 p.m. on the Grand River, the Throwdown will take place from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the Lowell Area Farmers' Market will be open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For a complete schedule, go to www.discoverlowell.org.

THE RIVERWALK SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

THURSDAY:
(along the Riverwalk and Downtown)
Center Stage Entertainment featuring "Stolen Horses"—7-9 p.m.

Riverwalk schedule, cont'd., pg. 8



The ubiquitous duck mascot walking down Main Street during the '08 Riverwalk Parade.

Obituaries



MICHAUD

Dorothy Michaud, age 82, formerly of Lowell, passed away June 27, 2009 at Tendercare in Hastings. Dot requested that she be cremated. An 11 a.m. memorial service is planned on July 8, 2009 at the Lauer Family Funeral Homes-Wren Chapel, 1401 N. Broadway in Hastings. Please share a memory of Dot, with her family, at www.lauerfh.com.

BURT

Susann G. Burt, aged 79, of Lowell, passed away Tuesday, June 23, 2009. She was preceded in death by her husband, James Stewart; brother, William VanGorder; sister, Jane Christiansen; and grandson, Travis Lewis. She is survived by her children, Mike (Chris) Stewart, Laura (Jeff) Burd, Tim (Connie) Stewart, Kathy (Pete) Villeneuve; several grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. Susann enjoyed bowling, racing and spending time with her family. Funeral services were held June 27 at Roth-Gerst Funeral Chapel. Memorial contributions may be made to God's Kitchen, 303 S. Division Ave., Grand Rapids, MI 49503. "Miss Suzie finally made her checkered flag."



STORY

With sadness we announce the death of our beloved wife, daughter, mother, grandma and sister, Demaris "Dee" Story, age 40, of Lowell, who died unexpectedly June 27, 2009. She was preceded in death by her grandmother, June Seagrave; grandsons,

Alex and Ryan Story. She is survived by her husband, R. Scott Story; daughter, Krystina (Brandon) McKay; parents, Steve and Rusty VanderWeg; parents-in-law, Royce Story and Betty Story; sister, Heather (Sanish) Maliakal; grandfather, Phil Seagrave; grandsons, Jacob and Blake; also nieces, nephews and cousins. Dee lived her life with a smile, always placing her desires behind others. We are left with a deep loss, however, again Dee gave even after death, as many lives will be saved due to her giving to the Gift of Life. She will be forever loved and missed. Funeral service will be 11 a.m. Thursday, July 2, 2009 at Roth-Gerst Funeral Chapel, 305 N Hudson, Lowell with DeAnn Eddy officiating. Interment Graceland Memorial Park. Visitation will be Wednesday, 2 to 4 and 6 to 8. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Lend A Hand VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

WITTENBACH/WEGE CENTER NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Do you enjoy hiking and immersing yourself in nature? Are you an avid gardener looking for a new garden to tend? If so, the Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center (WWC) could use your help! We are currently seeking volunteers for the following positions:

- Trail ambassadors pick up trash along trails; inform WWC staff of items needing attention
- Gardeners assist staff with maintenance of our on-site gardens including our butterfly, rain and community gardens. Activities include weeding and watering gardens as well as harvesting produce from the fourth grade garden plots to be donated to the Flat River Outreach Ministry.

and watering gardens as well as harvesting produce from the fourth grade garden plots to be donated to the Flat River Outreach Ministry.

If either of these positions interest you, please attend our volunteer information meeting Thursday, July 9 at 6:30 p.m. here at the Center. The event will include background information on the Center and a brief tour of the grounds. Refreshments will be served.

If you are interested in volunteering but cannot attend, please let me know so other arrangements can be made.

The Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center is located at 11715 Vergennes (across the street from the Lowell High School) in Lowell.

Best online services at SocialSecurity.gov

Americans love their computers. In fact, a recent study shows that the number of Americans who use the Internet has more than doubled over the past 10 years, reaching nearly three quarters of the U.S. population. Nearly half of all Americans have a high-speed Internet connection at home, compared to only five percent at the start of the decade. The study indicates that Internet use is even beginning to outpace traditional media. Younger Americans spend more time online than in front of a television.

The Internet is a gateway to more than media and entertainment. It is a highly accepted way to do

business. As Americans become increasingly comfortable with the security and convenience of doing things on the Internet, online business is becoming more and more popular.

There is so much you can do at Social Security's website from the convenience of your home or office. Here are some of our best online services:

- Use our Retirement Estimator to get a quick and accurate estimate of your future Social Security retirement benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator.
- Retire online! You can complete and submit your retirement application in as little as 15 minutes at

www.socialsecurity.gov/retireonline.

• Apply for disability benefits online at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability.

There's even more you can do at www.socialsecurity.gov. So whether you're interested in planning your retirement or applying for disability, learning about Social Security's history or finding out about how the system works, our online office is the most convenient one to visit.

Vonda VanTil is the public affairs specialist for West Michigan. You can write her at SocialSecurityAdministration,50CollegeSE,GrandRapids,MI49503 or via email at vonda.vantil@ssa.gov.

North leads South in early going of food fight



by Thad Kraus

You can't coach quickness.

That appears, however, to be the difference in the early stages of the F.R.O.M. the Heart Food Fight.

The North Lowell Red Arrows have jumped out to a sizable 84 foot item lead.

"Both teams have all

the tools to win and it should be close, but the team with the most heart will collect the most food," said coach Noel Dean.

"The North Team may be quicker, but the South Team is bigger."

The North squad leads 845-761. It has been led by a strong starting Curves.

The North business brought in 191 items.

"I could hardly fit into that jersey," said North Team member, Deb Canfield. "I don't throw a football well, but I can collect food items." (Canfield collected nearly 50 items in the first week).

While shy in performance, South's Rick Seese had these words for the leaders, "Rumor has it that there are several Alto area players that will refuse to lose this challenge. This is going to be some battle."

College News

Elyse Welcher, of Ada, was named to the Dean's List at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, GA for spring quarter 2009. Full-time undergraduate student, who earn a grade point average of 3.5 or above for the quarter, receive recognition on the Dean's List. Welcher is an accessory design major and is seeking a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.



Joshua Vaughan

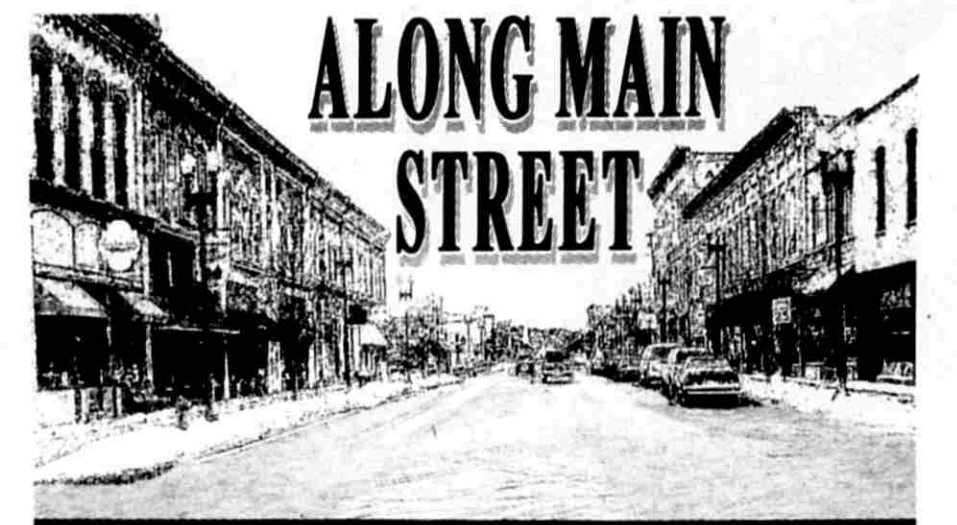
Joshua Vaughan, son of Thomas Vaughan, of Alto, has been accepted to the University of Northwestern Ohio in Lima, OH to begin classes in the August session where he will be majoring

in the Automotive/Diesel program. Joshua attended Lowell High School.

Brett Plattner M.D. has completed a four year medical residency in Internal Medicine/Pediatrics at Detroit Medical Center Hospitals and will begin a two year fellowship in Nephrology at University of

Michigan Hospitals in Ann Arbor on July 1, 2009.

Plattner graduated from Lowell High School in 1997. He completed his undergraduate studies at Kansas State University with a major in microbiology and completed Medical School at Wayne State University in Detroit.



USED BOOK SALE

Fri., July 10, 6 to 9 p.m. and Sat., July 11, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. under the striped tent at Riverwalk Plaza. Sponsored by the Friends of Englehardt Library. Proceeds to support library programming.

COVERED BRIDGE BIKE TOUR

The Fallsburg Historical Society presents the 15th Annual Covered Bridge Bike Tour, Sun., July 12. Register in advance online at www.fallsburg.org or on site at the Schoolhouse Museum from 7-9 a.m. the day of the event. Registration fee is \$15 for individuals and \$25 for families registered before 7/6. All proceeds benefit the continued preservation of Historic Fallsburg Village. For more information or to volunteer call 897-7161 or email fallsburg@yahoo.com.

WITTENBACH/WEGE CENTER

Anyone interested in volunteering to assist with trail and garden maintenance at the Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center (WWC) should attend an information meeting Thurs., July 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the WWC, 11715 Vergennes. Those interested but unable to attend, call Meggan Johnson at 987-1002.

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

Sign up at the Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St., Fri., July 10, 6-8 p.m. or Sat., July 11, 10 a.m. to noon. Everyone welcome. If you eat, you qualify. Any questions, call Esther at 897-7395.

Order days at First Baptist Church, 2275 Main St., Fri., July 10, 4-6 p.m. and Sat., July 11, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Delivery, July 25, 8:30-9:30 a.m. For info call IlaJean, 897-6609, or visit www.angelfoodministries.org.

CANCER WELL-FIT™ CLASSES

Lowell Community Wellness is offering a new wellness class designed for people experiencing cancer. This class will begin Mon., July 15 at 5 p.m. Contact Lowell Community Wellness at info@lowellcommunitywellness.org or by calling 340-7781 for more information.

FOODMOBILE

The next foodmobile, distributed by F.R.O.M., will be July 18 at the Fairgrounds at 10 a.m.

QUITTERS INFORMATION AND SUPPORT MEETING

Tues., July 28, 6-8 p.m. at Lowell Family Medical Center, 2550 W. Main St. This meeting is designed to support those who have quit smoking or are thinking about it. Call 616-446-7058 with any questions.

CLASSIC CAR NIGHT

Larkin's Classic Car Night Cruise, every Monday from 5-8 p.m. Park your classic ride in the lot directly across from Larkin's.

FOOD PANTRY IN NEED OF SUPPLIES

The F.R.O.M. Food Pantry is in need of canned fruit, juice, boxed potatoes, hamburger and chicken helper and cereals. Please help if you can.

CITY OF LOWELL HOLIDAY NOTICE

Lowell City Hall, Department of Public Works, Police Office and Light and Power will be closed on Friday, July 3, 2009 in observance of the Fourth of July holiday.



Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

Love and Memories are forever ...

The family of George A. Raimer would like to express our thanks to our family, friends, everyone for their support and so many acts of kindness and love at the time of his death June 3, during his lifetime and especially this past year. We have been so blessed with your prayers, hugs, visits, cards, letters, calls, food, floral tributes and memorial gifts. We give special thanks to Pastor Sims, Pastor Taylor and Pastor Margesson of First Baptist Church of Lowell, Dr. Mark Evenhouse, Dr. John Mogor, Dr. David Hamm, Dr. Mark Campbell and staffs at the Lemmen-Holton Cancer Center, U of M Melanoma Clinic, and Spectrum-Butterworth, Bob Lake and his staff at the Lake Funeral Homes, and Faith Hospice. We are so thankful for our relatives, friends and church family for the luncheons, photos and Kara's video tribute. We appreciate your help, your blessings and memories. May the Lord bless you all as he has us.

George's Family

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The Lowell Ledger

(USPS 453-830)

Published weekly for \$22 a year for zip codes beginning with 493 or 495
\$32 a year any other zip code.

J-AD GRAPHICS INC. PUBLISHER
EMMA PALOVA LEAD REPORTER
THAD KRAUS SPORTS/SALES
TAMMY JANOWIAK CLASSIFIED/ACCOUNTING
JON JACOBS ADVERTISING SALES

(616) 897-9261

E-Mail: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

Second Class Postage Paid Lowell MI

Published every Wednesday

POSTMASTER: Send address change to:

The Lowell Ledger

P.O. Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331

www.lowellbuyersguide.com

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THE PROPOSAL (PG-13)
MON-TUE 4:30, 7:00, 9:40

YEAR ONE (PG-13)
MON-TUE 4:20, 7:10, 9:30

THE HANGOVER (R)
MON-TUE 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

FREQUENT MOVIEGOERS
Sign up at www.gott.com for the Frequent Moviegoer Club
Earn points & see movies for a bargain price.

Join us for the 7th Annual Riverwalk Festival

Brian Mead Memorial Cruise-in

Saturday, July 11 at the Lowell Fairgrounds
STREET RODS • MUSCLE CARS
• CUSTOMS • ANTIQUE VEHICLES
DASH PLAQUES TO THE FIRST 100 CARS

Sponsored Awards and Cash Prizes
Car Show 8 am to 12 pm
Registration 8 am to 10 am
Awards following the FROM the Heart Parade
Rumble the Riverwalk combined with the parade

\$8 per car and all occupants before July 11
\$10 per car and all occupants day of show

LOWELL
Sponsored by: Bieri Auto Body; Diamond Plate/Harding Enterprises; Harold Ziegler Ford; L.A. Trim; GOOD Chevrolet Buick; Grand Automotive Family Showboat Automotive

Application online at www.riverwalkfestival.org or call the Chamber at 616-897-9161

Planning commission reviews capital improvement plan

by Emma Palova
The planning commission has reviewed the capital improvement plan (CIP) for the next five years. Some of the highlights include street improvements to Bowes, Sibley and Grindle roads with federal funds and water distribution system improvements. The city has also planned construction of an addition to the water treatment plant,

the installation of well no. 5. However, the water demand dropped in 1987 when Attwood stopped metal casting, so the urgent need has diminished. The Department of Public Works (DPW) stores the majority of its vehicles outside in summertime. A new storage building, located behind the DPW garage, would provide needed space for the vehicles, equipment,

sand and salt, as well as flammable materials, posts, street signs, fencing and lumber. The estimated cost is \$225,000. A new cemetery office/maintenance building for \$100,000 would replace the old shed. Plans for the city airport highlight its upgrade to the General Utility standards and includes the upgrade and construction of hangars.

Short term improvements to the city parks, as outlined by the recreation plan, include expanded irrigation at Creekside Park, improving the boat launch, a restroom and concession stand for recreation, new playground equipment, a new picnic shelter and light relocation at Richards Park, the construction of walkways and trails, paving of the Clarke Street parking area,

constructed on a concrete slab with hard exterior walls. They may be allowed for up to three years and then they should be removed. They may have one access door and should not exceed eight feet in height. A permit for a temporary garage must be obtained from the city hall prior to installation.

Viewpoint

To The Editor

To the Editor:

It is my understanding that the Lowell Community Wellness Committee recently decided to go to an all-volunteer organization. While it's tempting in this age of cell phones and Internet access to believe this will be a cost-effective way to continue the scope and quality of their programs, I doubt that is possible.

Over my twenty-five years as a member of the Lowell Area Arts Council, I've served in various volunteer capacities - including chairman of the board - and never in all that time has the LAAC been without paid staff. Yes, a huge percentage of the LAAC's work is done by an amazing group of dedicated volunteers, but a paid staff is absolutely critical to our survival because our operating budget, much like that of Community Wellness, relies on money from grants, fundraising and membership dues.

If not for Lorain Smalligan (Executive Director), Elaine Hommowun (Marketing/Graphic Design), Barb Pierce (Special Events/Community Outreach) and Erik Hayes (Financial Assistant), we would have to close our doors. They write the grants, schedule the events, contact the media, maintain the website and answer the questions that volunteers - no matter how well-trained and well-meaning - cannot.

I hope I'm wrong about the direction of Community Wellness and obviously since I'm not a member of the

committee, I'm looking at it from the outside in. However, I often participate in such activities as the 100 Miles in 100 days challenge and I'd like to know which volunteer to contact for a new pedometer when I drop mine for the second time and it breaks.

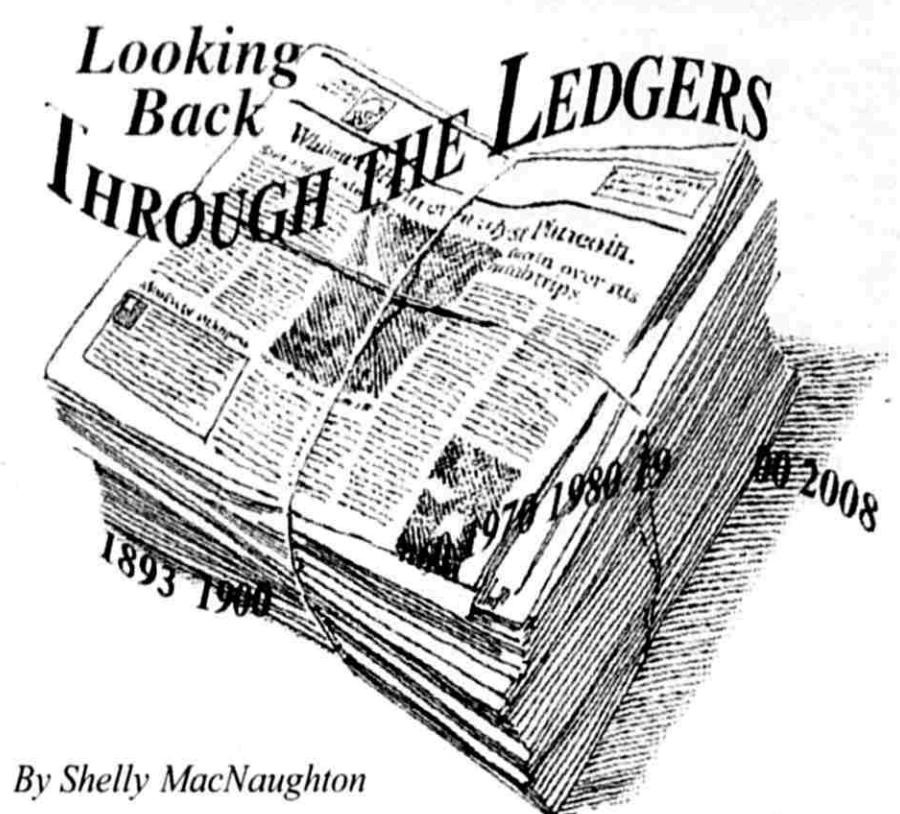
Laurie C. Kuna

Dear Editor,

Michigan has been in a recession for over eight years and has an unemployment rate at 15 percent, so I am not surprised to see a headline in the Lowell Ledger stating - Lowell's 2009-2010 school budget cut \$1.5 million. The article stated that we need to get in front of it and do everything we possibly can to maintain our educational programs and to balance our budget.

My comment to that statement is everything but more taxes. Michigan's shrinking work force has caused a lack of revenue. State employees have seen cut backs in wages and benefits to help balance the State budget. Will our school system do the same to help balance the school budget in the future? Just think about the toll that paid healthcare has taken on the automobile industry, then think about what it is doing to a nonprofit school system. Can paid healthcare insurance be justified for school teachers? I believe paid healthcare is just one of many thoughts that will be brought to the forefront in the search to maintain a feasible budget.

Sincerely,
Jim Howard



By Shelly MacNaughton

125 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL JOURNAL JULY 2, 1884

West Water Street yearns for better sidewalks. Henry Ward Beecher is 71 and the good die young. Col. Mc. Reynolds, of Grand Rapids, a veteran democrat as well as soldier, is a fighter against free trade. Bay City's democratic mayor is another. The woods are full of such fighters.

A committee of ladies called on the business men of our village, asking them if they were willing to close, if others would, from 10 o'clock to 2 on the Fourth. None refused except one.

100 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER JULY 1, 1909

The Lowell Specialty company paid its 12 1/2 percent dividend to stockholders Monday, and the latter are correspondingly happy.

Miss Irene Murphy is home from Big Rapids where she has been attending school.

Miss Virginia Knapp is taking a few weeks' outing with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. L. N. Pattison, at Whitmore Lake near Ann Arbor.

75 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER AND ALTO SOLO JULY 5, 1934

Ralph Townsend has installed an attractive neon sign at his tire and radio shop.

The work of modernizing store fronts along Main Street goes on slowly but steadily. That is the way of progress. Transformations from the old era to the new era are wrought almost imperceptibly but nevertheless certain.

50 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER JULY 2, 1959

An old-time steam calliope now belongs to the Lowell Showboat, reported the Showboat board of directors this week.

The calliope, patented in 1932, was bought from John Weidenfeller of Weidenfeller Engineering in Grand Rapids. Weidenfeller, a collector of old musical instruments, sold the calliope for \$1,600.

25 YEARS AGO THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER JULY 4, 1984

Saturday, July 14 is the 5th annual Grand Slam Garage Sale in Eastgate in the Woods. With virtually all the residents getting involved, the event is a bargain hunter's paradise. So grab your cash or checkbook, hop in your car and head on out to Eastgate on the 14th for garage sale items beyond your wildest dreams. The event is sponsored annually by Century 21 Reedy Realty, Inc. and those seeking further information can call there.

Everyone is talking about the Ledger!
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Levin, cont'd., pg. 7

At Your Local Library



Several KDL branches have Advanced Workstations in Education (AWE) Early Literacy Stations, provided by donations to the KDL Fund. Currently, the

Kentwood, Krause Memorial and Wyoming branches have Early Literacy Stations in their Youth Departments, and new stations will be introduced at the Alto and Tyrone Township branches later this month. The goal of the KDL Fund is to have an Early Literacy Station in each of the 18 library branches within the next year.

The stations are kid-friendly computers pre-loaded with educational software packages geared toward toddlers through second-graders. Designed with kids in mind, there is little to no adult intervention required. Language skills are covered in programs like The Cat in the Hat, and JumpStart Phonics. Math

skills can be developed by using Millie's Math Reader, Rabbit Math Adventure and more. Science programs include Sammy's Science House and My Amazing Human Body, while geography is covered in programs like USA Explorer and World Explorer. Kids can travel back in time in My First Amazing History or get creative with Crazy

ArtRoom. The Early Literacy Stations are loaded with additional programs as well, many designed for specific age groups and skill levels. Children can use the programs in either the English or Spanish language mode. The Early Literacy Stations are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold
Edward Jones
Serving Individuals Investors Since 1871

it's good to reflect on the many freedoms we enjoy in this country. But as individuals, we define freedom in many different ways - and one of the most important of these could be financial freedom. That's why you may want to take the steps necessary to eventually declare your own Financial Independence Day.

For example, consider the following:

- Pay yourself first. In difficult economic times, it can be hard to set aside money for your future. But if you can afford it, try "paying yourself first" by having some money moved automatically each month from your checking or savings account to an investment. If you never actually "see" the money, you probably won't miss it, and over time, you may be pleased by the growth in your investment. As your salary goes up, consider increasing the amount you automatically invest.

- Invest for growth. Given the most recent recession, it's understandable that many people would shy away from investments whose principal may fluctuate. It's understandable but not necessarily wise - because historically these investments can possibly offer more potential for growth when a recession ends. And you'll likely need this growth if you're

going to become financially independent. Although past performance is not an indication of future results, by holding these investments for the long term, you may be able to lower the risk involved, because over time, quality investments tend to overcome "down" periods and trend upward. You can also help control risk by including some fixed-income vehicles, such as bonds and certificates of deposit, in your portfolio.

- Reduce your debts. Debt may be your biggest obstacle to financial independence. It may take a fair amount of time to get rid of your debts, but consider your current situation and the options available to you, which might include evaluating your largest debts, paying down high-rate credit cards and avoiding new loans whenever possible. For example, mortgage rates are low compared to historical measures, so you might consider refinancing your existing mortgage to lower your monthly payment. This would give you additional cash flow that you could use to pay off credit card debt.

- Help protect your income. If you were to become ill or injured, and could not work for an extended time period, you might jeopardize your family's well-being and your prospects for financial independence. That's why you may want to consider purchasing a disability insurance policy. If you work for a large company, your employer may offer this coverage, but it might not be sufficient, so you may need to add some private coverage. And if you work for a small company or are self-employed, you'll need to find disability coverage on your own. True, it's an added expense - but it's also an investment in your financial future.

Financial freedom, like other types of liberty, does not always come easily. To achieve it, you'll likely have to work hard. But it will be well worth the effort when your own Financial Independence Day does arrive.

DECLARE YOUR FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE DAY

As a nation, we celebrate Independence Day this week with fireworks, picnics and parades. And as citizens,

SAVE THE DATE...

JUNE 26, 2009

Lowell Theater Pink Arrow Commercials Begin

JULY 6, 2009

Pink Arrow Billboard on M50/Cascade Road

JULY 8, 2009

Gilda's Club call for volunteers at 7 p.m. - Lowell City Hall

JULY 11, 2009 - HEALTH FAIR

Meet Varsity Football Players at Pink Arrow Table

Lack's Cancer Center information table

Gilda's Club Team Table

Parade at noon

Pink Arrow billboard

★★ Buy new Arrow Force II Ciber Pink

The Pink Arrow Project invites all volunteers to a community meeting to learn how you can help bring Gilda's Club to Lowell

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Outdoors

By Dave Stegehuis



CAMPGROUNDS

Now that we are officially into the summer season, it is a good time to travel about our state to get outdoors and enjoy the long comfortable days. We all know this won't last forever.

One relatively economical and certainly fun way to do this is to go camping. Camping with a recreational vehicle or a tent puts one on the front lines of Michigan's outdoors. Over a thousand campgrounds are located near historically significant sites, swimming beaches, rivers, lakes, forests, trailheads, and other attractions which appeal to a variety of personal interests.

Camping allows families to do things together without the distractions found at home. Everyone must work and play in a neutral setting which calls for cooperation in making decisions and completing tasks.

Jump Starting Auto Sales

With Senator Carl Levin

The Senate recently passed and President Obama signed into law a measure that will encourage people to purchase new, more fuel-efficient vehicles, stimulating the sale of new vehicles and reducing overall fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

The so-called "cash for clunkers" program would provide a credit for the purchase of new vehicles to people who turn in older, less fuel-efficient vehicles. The program will provide a much-needed boost to the struggling auto industry, including manufacturers, dealers, suppliers and other related enterprises.

New vehicle sales around the world continue to stagnate as automakers all over the world weather this

serious downturn in the U.S. and global economies. Sales have decreased 30 to 40 percent over the past year. It is imperative that we turn around this sales decline.

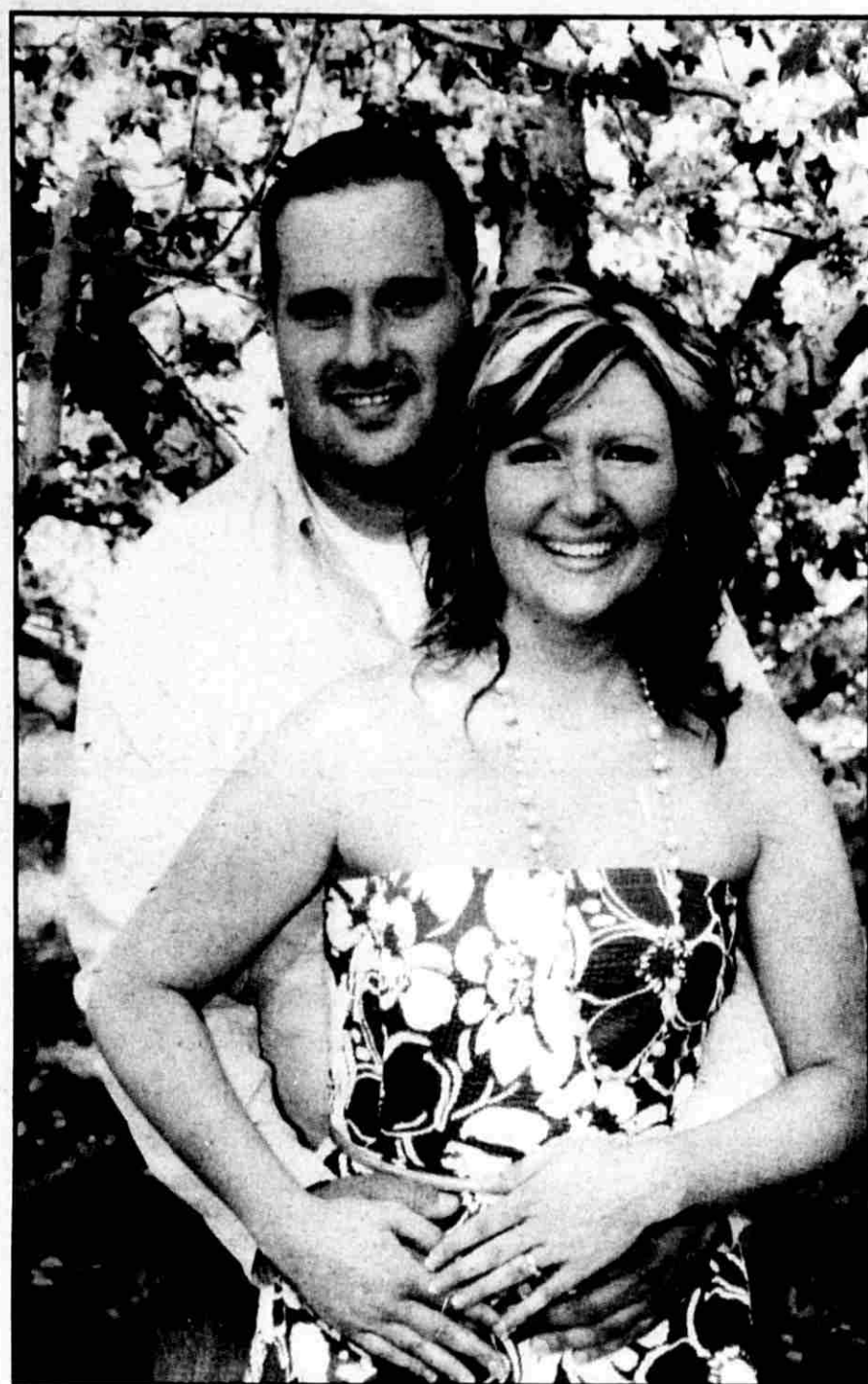
There is strong evidence that a vehicle trade-in program will do the job. In fact, nearly every major industrialized country in the world with an auto industry now has some kind of trade-in program in place, and those countries have seen increased auto sales.

In Germany, new vehicle sales have increased 25 to 40 percent since its program was implemented earlier this year. China saw an increase in new vehicle sales of 25 percent in April after its program was implemented. Other countries - such as Japan and Korea - have more recently followed suit and implemented similar programs. While it is too early to obtain sales data for these countries, they are expected to show similar increases in new vehicle sales.

Here's how the program works: an individual brings an older and less fuel-efficient vehicle to a dealership when looking to purchase a new car. In lieu of receiving the trade-

Engagements

Mulford/Rasch



Kevin Rasch and Kiley Mulford

Kiley Mulford and Kevin Rasch, of Saranac, announce their engagement. Parents of the bride-to-be are Brad and Connie Mulford, of Saranac. Parents of the groom-to-be are Duane and Deb Rasch, of Lowell. The bride is a graduate of Saranac High School and Douglas J. Academy of Cosmetology. She is a hairstylist and co-owner of V.I.P. Salon in Saranac. Her fiancé is a graduate of Lowell High School, Michigan State University, and Davenport University. He is employed with Crop Production Services. An August 29, 2009 wedding is planned.

Vacation Bible School raises funds for HydrAid

Calvary Christian Reformed Church held its Vacation Bible School last week. Their theme for the week was "Follow the Leader at Faith Island." They focused on how Jesus is the ultimate leader. They also heard good Bible stories about leaders like David, Gideon and Esther. Close to 70 children attended during the week. Because of all the water surrounding their island theme, the VBS leaders chose a fundraising project called the HydrAid bio-sand water filter.

The VBS leaders heard about the HydrAid water filter project from the Lowell Rotarians who just donated \$12,500 to help set up a HydrAid water filter distribution center in the Dominican Republic.

Over the week, the students brought in their pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and even a few dollar bills! At the end of the week the students had collected \$250! This is enough for five water filters to be sent to families who

do not have access to clean drinking water.

"It is kind of like the Bible passage about giving out cups of water in Jesus'

name. These children are giving clean water to five families in Jesus' name. I am so proud of them!" said Pastor Randy Meyers.

You can find out more about HydrAid clean water filters at www.hydrAid.org.



Pictured, first row, left to right: VBS co-leader Sarah Tase, Matthew Mayhew, Isaac Roth, Brodey Brinks; second row, left to right: Lennox Brinks, Cara DeWeerd; third row, left to right: Becky Bobo, Evangelist John VanderWall, Sarah Mayhew, Sabrina Antcliff, Oscar the Orangutan, Kylie Antcliff, Pastor Randy, and VBS co-leader Tammy Kozlik.




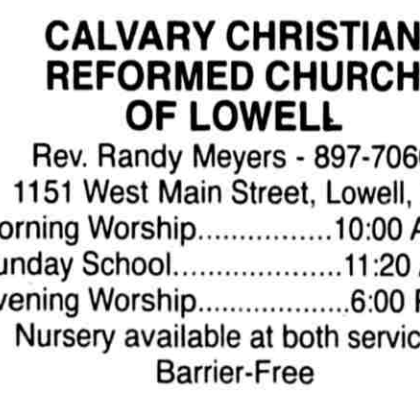

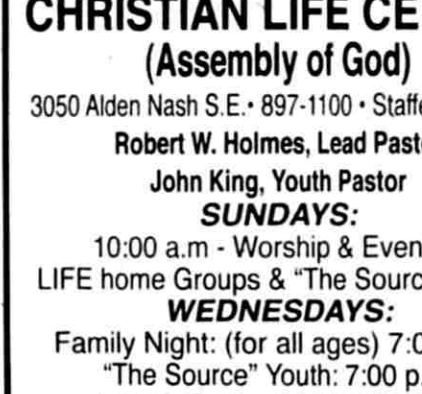






Happy Birthday

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>JULY 1: Brandon Hewitt, Dylan Borton.</p> | <p>JULY 3: Alice Ryder, Jamie Capen, Maxin Ligman, Janet Bieri.</p> | <p>JULY 5: Dave Burdette, Jacob Hiskey, Randi Ellis, Phyllis Condon, Brennan Page, Devinne Ossewaarde, Bob Canfield, Dee Doyle, Junie Hoag.</p> | <p>JULY 6: Marty DeYoung, Jason Barber, Amy Stencel, Darrel Heschke, Chris Page, Ed Walling, Jan Bieri.</p> |
| <p>JULY 2: Bradley Ball, Marilyn Sauber, Brandon Lee, Logan Brenk, Landon Trierweiler, Ryan Lynne Roth, Mary Jo Buechler, Calihan Janowiak.</p> | <p>JULY 4: Anne Armstrong, Barb Austin, Zachary Rhodes, Tara Sherman.</p> | <p>JULY 7: Phil VanLaan, Elizabeth Gerard, Tim Tulppo, Zach Meiste, Wayne Racine, Brice Wingerter.</p> | |

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|  <p>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M.</p> <p>OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey</p> |  <p>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL Rev. Randy Meyers - 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p> |  <p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 www.lowellumc.com</p> <p>WORSHIP..... 8:30 & 10:15 a.m.</p> <p>Rev. Rick Blunt Barrier-free entrance</p> |  <p>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God) 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Lead Pastor John King, Youth Pastor</p> <p>SUNDAYS: 10:00 a.m. - Worship & Evening; LIFE home Groups & "The Source" Youth</p> <p>WEDNESDAYS: Family Night: (for all ages) 7:00 p.m. "The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m. Loving God ... Loving People!</p> |
|  <p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org</p> <p>Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremmer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p> |  <p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbcloell.org Rev. David O. Sims & Rev. W. Lee Taylor</p> <p>Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA/EXCITE - TEENS, Wed. 6:15 & 6:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free</p> |  <p>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Fr. Eugene Okali 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com</p> <p>Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 P.M.; SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM Saturday confessions: 4-4:45 PM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETER WIGANS 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 49, EWIN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p> |  <p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL (United Church of Christ) 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906</p> <p>Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Thursday Faith Alive Worship.....7:00 P.M. Rev. Terry Tessari.....Interim Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director Barrier-free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship</p> |
|  <p>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Vance Dimmick Jr.</p> <p>9:45 A.M.Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M.Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery & Children Worship Programs Provided A friend...a family...a mission!</p> |  <p>Hope Community Church</p> <p>7000 Myers Lake Ave, Rockford (1/4 mile north of Belding Rd/M44) ELCA Lutheran Worship Sundays 10 AM Blended contemporary/traditional</p> |  <p>BIRD BERRY FARM STRAWBERRIES Pick-Your-Own and Ready Picked 2 1/2 Miles E. of Belding on M-44</p> <p>616-794-5041 Mon. - Fri. 8 am - 7 pm Sat. 8 am - 6 pm Sun. 10 am - 4 pm Call before coming to make sure we're open for picking.</p> |  <p>Classified Advertising DELIVERS Call 897-9555</p> |

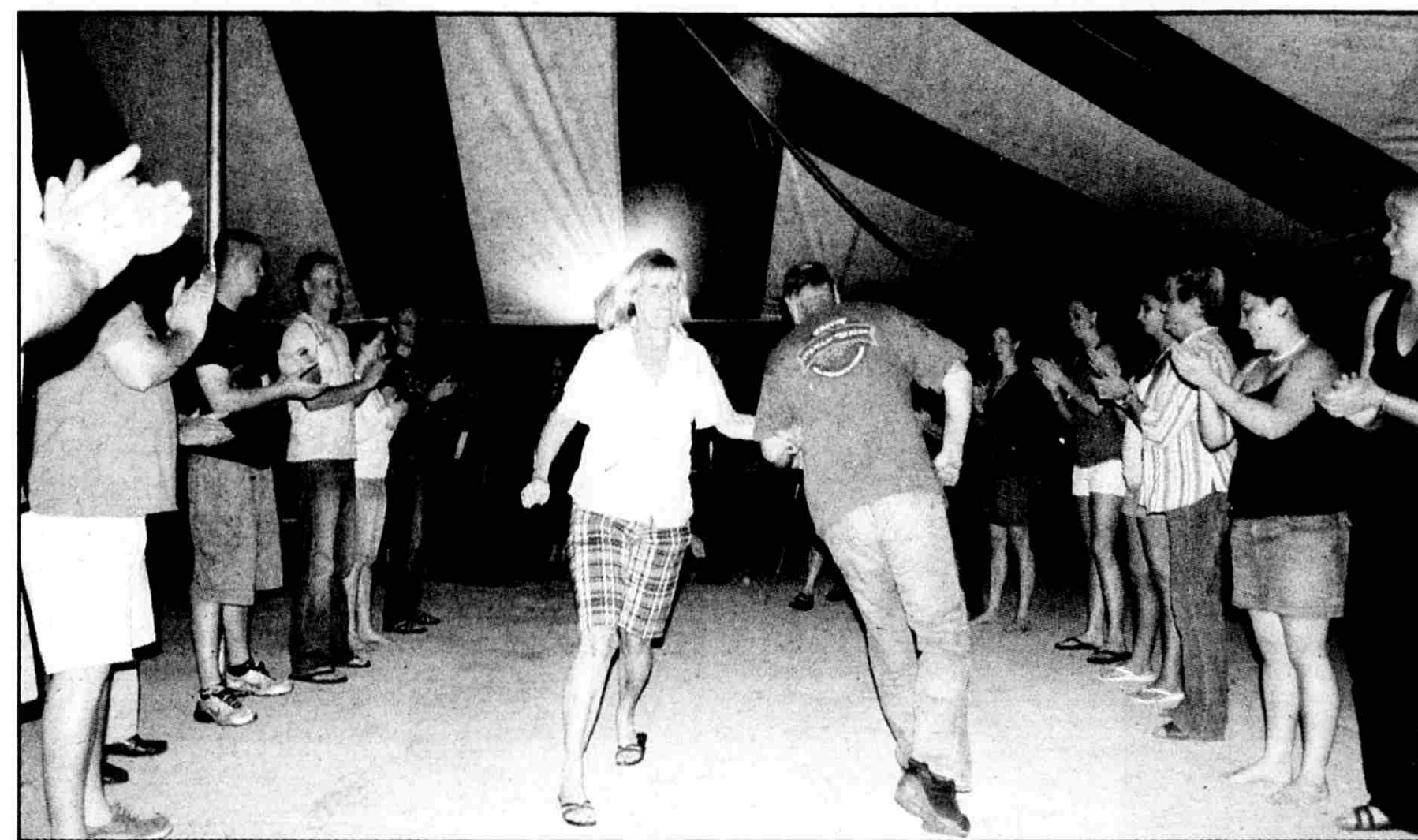
St. Patrick Parish Festival attracts crowds; pastor bids farewell

The annual St. Patrick Parish Festival featured good music, food and games all weekend long. The fun started on Friday with the bluegrass music of the Ez Idle band of the West Michigan Bluegrass Association. Couples danced the night away with country

line dancing to the sounds of the banjo and other strings. The big night on Saturday was dedicated to cards. The Las Vegas tent with card tables for Black Jack, Texas Hold 'Em and Roulette was filled to the last spot. Sunday's famous chicken dinners and polka attracted

crowds, as well as the beer tent. It was also the last festival and Sunday mass for Father Rock Badgerow, who is leaving for parishes in Pentwater, Mears and Weary. For six years, Badgerow astonished the congregation with his unique style and

humor. In his farewell newsletter he apologized. "For anyone offended by my words or actions, I ask your forgiveness. I am truly sorry," he wrote. "I will always have fond memories of my time in this beautiful parish."



Levin, continued ... From Page 5

in value from the dealer, the consumer will receive a credit of \$3,500 to \$4,500 toward the purchase of the new vehicle. After the sale is finalized, the dealership will then obtain a voucher from the federal government and the vehicle will go to a disposal facility.

To be eligible for the credit, the old vehicle must have been registered and insured continuously for one full year prior to trade-in, and must have a fuel economy rating of 18 mpg or less as determined on www.fueleconomy.gov, or in the case of a work truck, be older than a 2002 model.

The new vehicle must have a fuel economy rating of 22 mpg or greater for new passenger cars, 18 mpg or greater for new light duty trucks, and 15 mpg or greater for new large trucks. To receive a credit, the new vehicle must have a higher fuel economy rating than the old vehicle.

The amount of the credit would depend upon the incremental improvement in fuel economy of the new vehicle over the old vehicle. For eligible purchases, a credit of no less than \$3,500 would be available, and the credit could be as much as \$4,500 based upon the fuel economy of the new vehicle. Higher fuel economy, therefore, would bring higher savings - thereby creating a positive incentive for individuals to buy more fuel-efficient vehicles.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which is administering the program, will be releasing detailed regulations soon on how the program will work and be administered. More information is available at www.cars.gov.

To ensure that the older less fuel-efficient vehicles are not used on the road again, the old vehicle will be taken to a registered disposal facility where it will be dismantled by removing the drive train and engine block. Other used car parts could be sold separately by the disposal facility.

This program is expected to drive up to one million new vehicle sales. Those vehicles will be more fuel-efficient than the clunkers they replace, and they'll help sustain jobs at automakers and dealerships alike. It's an important measure to help automakers get back on track and to help improve Michigan's economy.

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Infertility can be caused by problems in the woman, man, or both. Some causes are:

- low sperm count or abnormal sperm in the man;
- if the tubes in the woman are blocked;
- problems with the woman's ovaries and ovulation (the release of eggs); or
- problems with the woman's uterus.

There can be more than one cause of infertility. In one out of five cases, a cause is never determined.

Diagnosing the cause for infertility will usually involve blood and semen tests and ultrasounds or other tests to evaluate the man's genitals and the woman's pelvis.

The treatment of infertility depends on its causes. Some women can take medicines to help ovulation. Some may need surgery if there is a blockage. The male may need something to boost his sperm count. Other procedures may be effective, usually advised by an infertility specialist.

*Knowledge comes,
but wisdom lingers.*

Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809 - 1892)

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Riverwalk schedule of events, continued ... From Page 1

Showboat Cash Bar - 6-9 p.m.
State Farm Duck Ticket Sales - 6-9 p.m.

FRIDAY:
(along the Riverwalk and Downtown)
River Valley Credit Union Arts & Crafts - 6-9 p.m.
Commercial & Non-profit Vendors - 6-9 p.m.
Englehardt Friends of the Library Used Book Sale - 6-9 p.m.
State Farm Duck Ticket Sales - 6-9 p.m.
Street Entertainers - 5-7 p.m.
Historic Pontoon Tours - 6-8 p.m.
Grilling & Chilling on Avery Street - 6-9 p.m.
Showboat Cash Bar - 6-9 p.m.
Center Stage Entertainment featuring "Lazy Blue Tunas" - 7-9 p.m.
Late Night Shopping/Merchants - Until 8 p.m.

FRIDAY:
(along the Riverwalk and Downtown)
River Valley Credit Union Arts & Crafts - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Commercial & Non-profit Vendors - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Englehardt Friends of the Library Used Book Sale - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Good Chevy Buick Kidz Zone - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Lowell Community Wellness Health & Fitness Fair - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
State Farm Duck Ticket Sales - 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
"FROM the Heart Parade" & Rumble the Riverwalk - Registration 9:30 a.m., Parade 12 p.m.
Bill & Paul's Kayak Fun on the Flat River at the boat launch - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Grilling & Chilling on Avery Street - 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Street Entertainers - 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Bill & Paul's Kayak & Canoe Race on the Flat River at the boat launch - 10 a.m.
Flush Tank - 1-4 p.m.
Laurels of Kent Pet Parade - 2 p.m. at Laurels of Kent
Jaws of Life Demonstration - 2:30 p.m. on Avery St/Police Station
Historic Pontoon Tours - 4-8 p.m.
Center Stage Entertainment featuring "Alive & Well" & "Bronk Brothers" - 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Showboat Cash Bar - 4-9 p.m.
Laurels of Kent Fireworks - 10:15 p.m. at Stoney Lakeside Park

SATURDAY:
(Lowell Fairgrounds)
Brian Mead Memorial Cruise-in - 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., Awards to follow the parade
Pauly's Brew B-Q Throw-down - Registration 8 a.m.
Motorcycle Poker Run from the Fire Station - 8:30 a.m.
Antique Fire Truck Muster - 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Flat River Antique Tractor Club Pull - 5 p.m.

SUNDAY:
(Lowell Fairgrounds)
Pauly's Brew B-Q Throw-down - 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Awards - 3:30 p.m.
BBQ Food & Commercial Vendors - 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Lowell Area Farmers' Market - 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
State Farm Duck Race - 12:30 p.m. on the Grand River
Beer & Cocktail Garden - 12-5 p.m., under the Big Tent
Entertainment in the Garden - featuring Bob Van Stee, Jimmie Stagger - 1-5 p.m.

At Your Local Library



ENJOY A SHOW WITH THE WIGGLES AND THE KENT DISTRICT LIBRARY

Join the Kent District Library as we partner with the Devos Performance Hall, in conjunction with the Reach Out and Read initiative, for an exciting evening with The Wiggles on August 13 at 3:00 and 6:30 p.m. Bring your entire family and get ready to laugh and move to the music as The Wiggles "Go Bananas" on stage. We're excited to announce that KDL will be giving away a family four-pack of tickets at each of our 18 branch locations. Stop by any KDL branch between

July 13 and August 8 to register. Ticket prices are \$17, \$24 and \$32. Tickets are available at the Van Andel Arena box office, Ticketmaster ticket centers or online at ticketmaster.com. The Wiggles are the world's number one preschool band and have performed over 300 shows to more than 1.5 million fans in the U.S. alone. You don't want to miss this! Learn more about The Wiggles at www.thewiggles.com.au. For more information, visit us at www.kdl.org.

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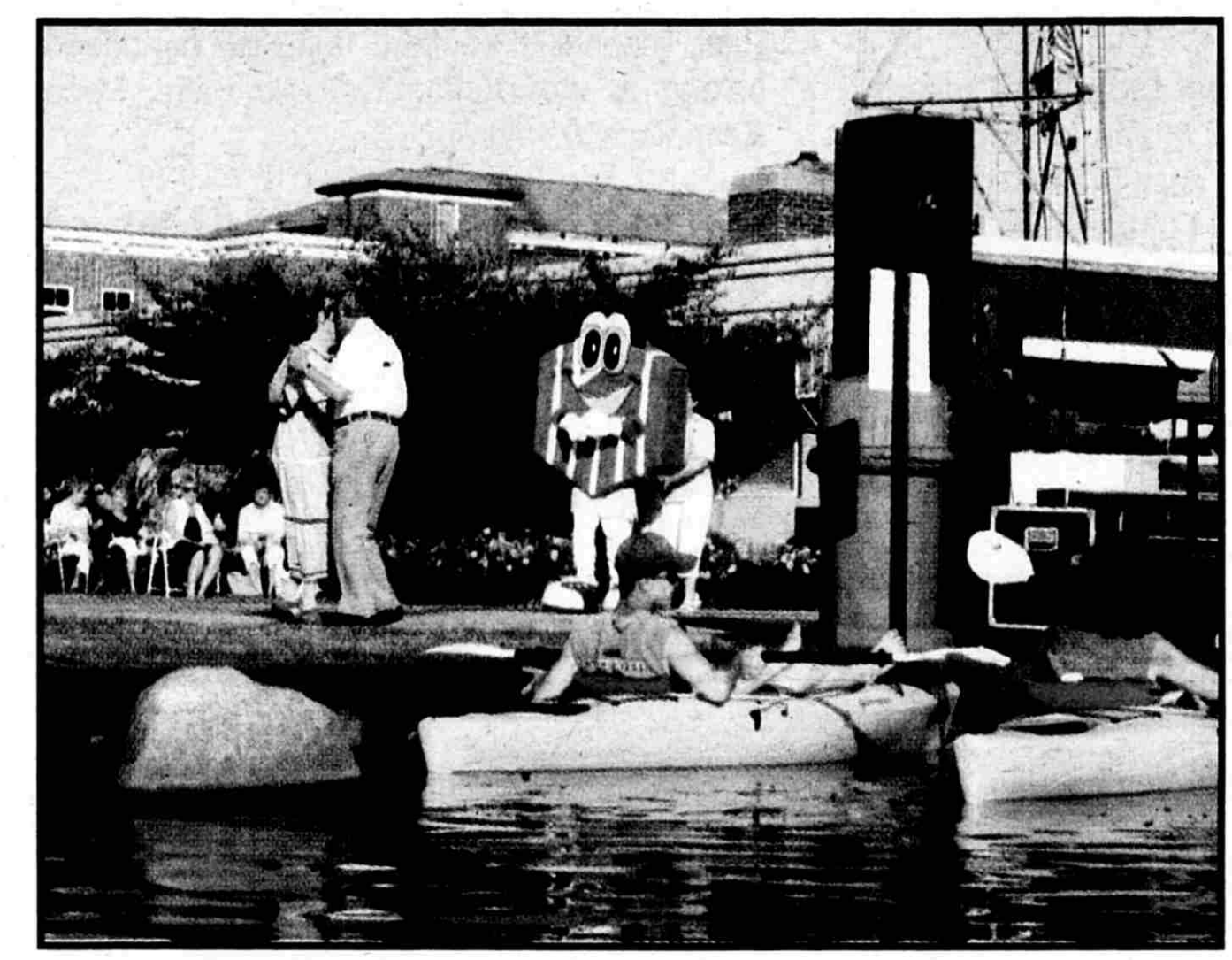
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Sizzlin' Summer Concert series continues

The Riverwalk rocked again last week with the music of The Sea Cruisers. The band played the music of the 50s, 60s and 70s. Over the years, the band has worked with performers such as The Association, Chubby Checker, Pete Witig and Tommy James and the Shondells. Concert goers danced to the old time rock and roll music, while boaters rocked in their boats. Next, on July 2, there will be a patriotic Americana program by Hark Up Rapid City Swing Band, Voices of Freedom and Blue Water Ramblers.



Curtis Cleaners offers free dry cleaning for job seekers

To help job seekers look their best, Curtis Cleaners is offering to dry clean your suit, shirt/blouse and tie for free during the month of July if you are going to a job interview. This offer is available for men and women at both of our locations, 450 Michigan St. (downtown Grand Rapids) and 1410 West Main, Lowell, for the entire month of July. If you are currently unemployed and looking for a job, we will dry clean your suit at no charge for an upcoming job interview. Simply bring in your application as proof of an upcoming interview and we will clean and press your suit for free. Curtis Cleaners is offering this service at no charge to help get West Michigan back to work.

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A FEW NOTABLE EVENTS FROM JUNE 25 - JULY 1 • 2009

- Farrah Fawcett, 62, loses her battle with cancer.
- Pop music icon, Michael Jackson, dies suddenly at the age of 50.

- For the first time since territorial days, rain will be free for the catching in Colorado. More and more thirsty states part ways with one of the most entrenched codes of the west.
- Obama opposes trade sanctions in climate bill. On Sunday, Obama spoke out against a provision that would impose trade penalties on countries that do not accept limits on global warming pollution.
- In Moscow, one of the largest mass layoffs in recent Russian history is to occur on Wednesday, with the government shutting down every last legal casino and slot machine parlor across the land. The gambling industry says the ban will leave more than 400,000 people without work.
- U.S. troops pull out of Baghdad leaving security to the Iraqis. Troops will remain on two bases near Baghdad airport in case their firepower is needed. The government of Iraq has declared June 30 "National Sovereignty Day."
- A Yemenia Airbus jet crashes into the Indian Ocean reportedly killing all on board except a child who was rescued floating at sea.
- Bernard Madoff's day of reckoning arrives. The Ponzi mastermind faces a maximum of 150 years in prison at his sentencing.
- At the age of 50, Billy Mays, television pitchman, is found dead in his Florida home. An autopsy is set for this week.
- Margaret Delfino, at the age of 90, donates 200th pint of blood, bringing her total to more than 25 gallons.
- Four years since the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, there are still nearly 3,000 mobile FEMA trailers across the Gulf Coast.
- In Rome, the first-ever scientific test on what are believed to be the remains of the Apostle Paul, "seems to confirm" that they do indeed belong to the Roman Catholic Saint, Pope Benedict XVI said Sunday.
- Iran begins recounting some of the votes cast in its disputed presidential election, Monday, in an apparent attempt to placate opposition protesters.

It is of interest to note that while some dolphins are reported to have learned English -- up to fifty words used in correct context -- no human being has been reported to have learned dolphins.

- Carl Sagan (1934 - 1996)

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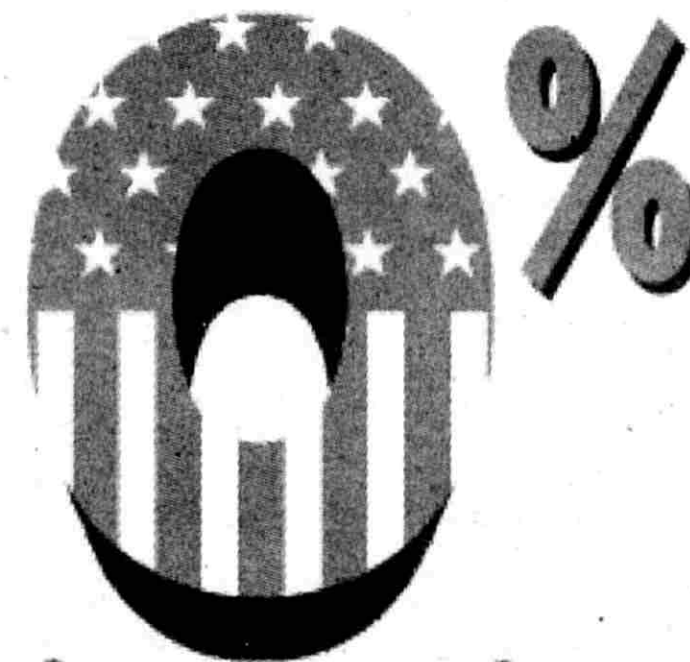
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| <p>2006 Pontiac G6 Adjustable pedals, keyless entry, silver, traction control. Was \$10,995 NOW...\$9,995 Payment Low As... \$199 mo. 0 Down. W.A.C.</p> | <p>7 to choose from! Ranging in options. See dealer for details!</p> | <p>2006 Buick Lucerne CXL 33,216 miles, sunroof, remote start, Northstar V8 \$16,742</p> | <p>2008 Ford Escape SEL Front wheels drive, 3.5 V6, DOHC, alloy, CD, keyless entry, full power \$18,950</p> |
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| | | <p>1998 Chevy Lumina 6 cyl. auto. air full power \$2,995</p> | <p>1996 Chevy Monte Carlo Auto air, full power \$2,999</p> |
| | | <p>2003 Pontiac Grand Am 6 cyl. sunroof, CD, chrome wheels \$5,999</p> | <p>2005 GMC Envoy SLT Sunroof, CD, 4x4, tow package, loaded \$15,999</p> |

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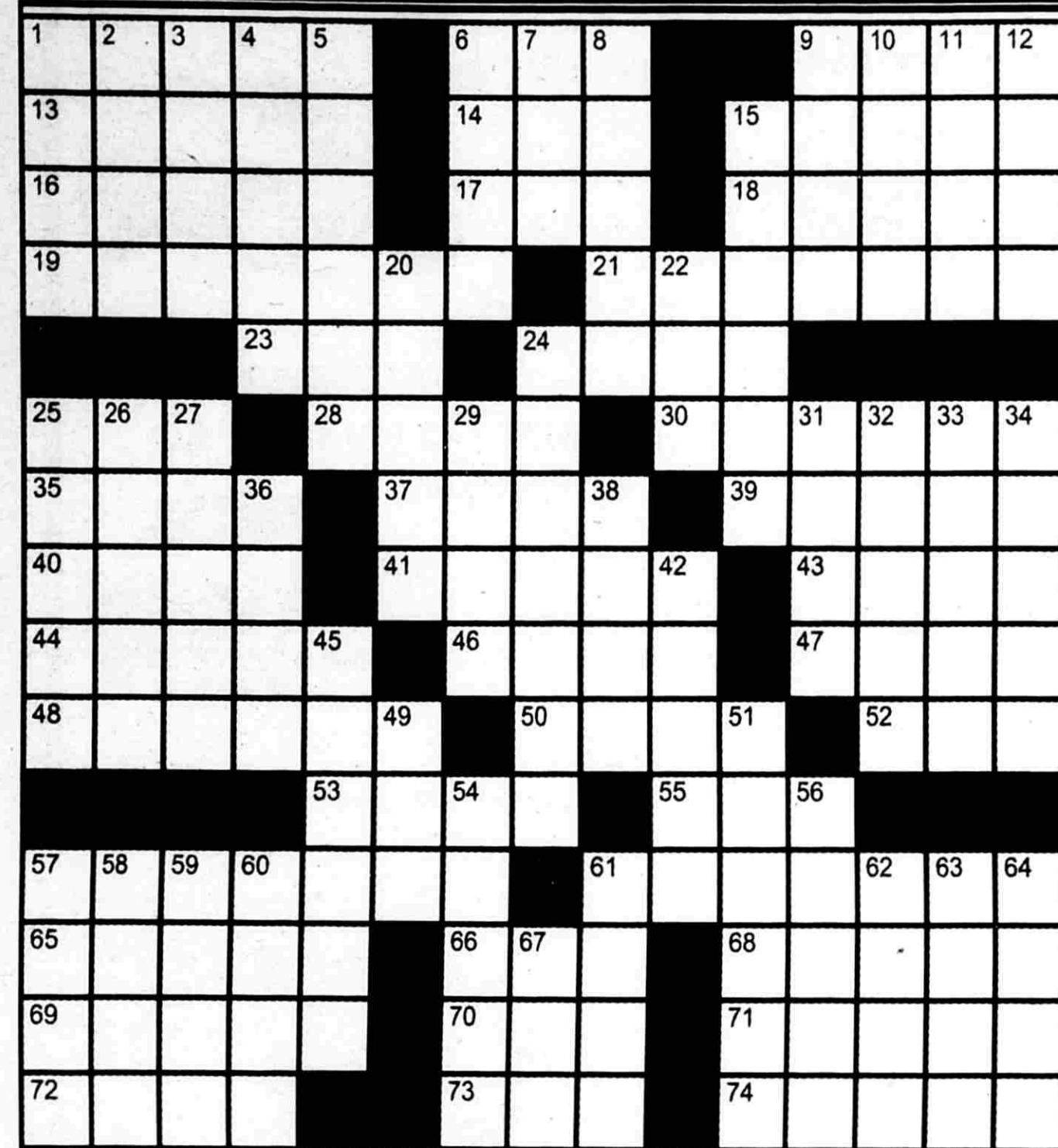
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|---|--|--|

Grand Wittenbach • Expires July 11, 2009. No Diagnosis. Includes up to 1 lb. freon. Grand Wittenbach • Expires July 11, 2009. Up to 8 quarts oil. Grand Wittenbach • Expires July 11, 2009. Parts Extra.

PAUSE, PONDER & PASS SOME TIME!

CROSSWORD THEME - GREEN LIVING



CLUES

ACROSS

1. *What a garden bed should do to vegetables
6. Ostrich-like bird
9. One thousandth of a kilogram
13. Prefix for "between"
14. Where yoga's done
15. Space exploration mission
16. Express contempt
17. Anger
18. Cowboy movie
19. *Homemade plant food
21. *Purpose of blue or green bin
23. ___ Lanka
24. Strategic board game
25. Pine covering
28. Withered
30. Non-stick
35. *Most frequent complaint about compost piles
37. Flower holder
39. Donald Duck's girlfriend
40. Famous song by "The Kinks"
41. Make corrections
43. Cuzco valley empire
44. Bottomless pit
46. Done to a road
47. Not counterfeit
48. Advice on shampoo bottle
50. Fictional city-dwelling crocodile
52. DNA transmitter
53. Gapes wide open
55. Shack or shanty
57. *Cow emission that creates greenhouse gas
61. *Popular homemade cleaning ingredient
65. Kitchen tear-jerker
66. A solution of sodium hydroxide
68. Accepted or habitual practice
69. Shrek and Fiona, e.g.
70. "Game, ___, match!"
71. Provided with clues
72. Stepped
73. Owns
74. World of the dead

DOWN

1. Reduced Instruction Set Computer
2. The A in A.D.
3. Individual unit
4. Oozes
5. They're frowned upon in America's pastime
6. *What most cars do with pollutants
7. Sea in Spain
8. Embryo cradles
9. Between black and white
10. Officer training program
11. Cain's unfortunate brother
12. Frenchman's mother
15. Marked by smallpox
20. A strainer
22. New York time
24. Seals again
25. *A renewable energy
26. Acrobat maker
27. A growth on a mucous membrane
29. It's in multi-level parking garages
31. *Socially responsible type of trade
32. Inside a jacket
33. Ancient Italic language
34. African antelope
36. Tear down
38. One turns green with it?
42. New ___, India
45. American Indian people of Yucatan
49. *With hole in ozone layer, would-be sun-lovers fear it
51. Harem guardian
54. Natives of Wales
56. Electric motor inventor Nikola
57. Type of point or question
58. Short for engineer
59. Beginner
60. *Tilled the garden
61. VA patients
62. Cheap trinket
63. "A Death in the Family" author
64. Cincinnati ballplayers
67. Affirmative response

Answers on Page 14

RANDOM THINGS...

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Independence Day is the birthday of a nation, marking the anniversary of its freedom from the rule of another country. Many countries large and small celebrate their Independence Day.

The best-known Independence Day is that of the United States, celebrated every July 4. It is the anniversary of the day on which the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776. The Congress declared the American Colonies free and independent states.

In early days, American Independence Days were occasions for shows, games, military music, and fireworks. Today, most cities and states forbid the sale of fireworks, though many have large public fireworks displays organized by professionals. Celebrations today often include parades, games, concerts, speeches, and picnics.

The Philippines achieved full independence from United States rule on July 4, 1946. But the Philippines' Independence Day is on June 12, commemorating the declaration of independence from Spain made in 1898.

The territory once ruled by the United Kingdom as India gave rise to five separate nations. India became independent on Aug. 15, 1947, the day after Pakistan gained full self-government. In 1948, Burma (now Myanmar) became fully independent on Jan. 4, and Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) won its independence on Feb. 4. Bangladesh, previously the eastern part of Pakistan, declared its independence on March 26, 1971.

A notable year for first Independence Days was 1960, when 18 countries gained full self-government. British Somaliland and Italian Somaliland became the nation of Somalia when the two territories gained independence from the United Kingdom and Italy. Cyprus and Nigeria also became independent of the United Kingdom that year. Fifteen African countries also gained independence from French or Belgian rule in 1960. These nations were Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo, and Zaire (now Congo [Kinshasa]).



ATTENTION READERS Are You Feeling CREATIVE?

If you would like to submit a poem, verse, cartoon, drawing or recipe for the Reader's Corner, we'd like to print it.

Not all will be accepted and submissions will not be returned unless a self-addressed, stamped envelope is included.

You may bring your signed creations to the Ledger office 105 N. Broadway, OR mail them to: Ledger/Readers Corner P.O. Box 128 Lowell, MI 49331 OR E-mail: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com Subject: "Readers Corner"

196 SPEEDWAY DRIVER TRACKS

by Thad Kraus

John McClure lost his father at the age of 15, but he carries on his dad's love for the racing circuit.

"It's what we've always done. I did it as a kid with my dad and now I just have a bug for it," McClure explains.

Any success the Clarksville man has enjoyed, McClure credits to a low crash ratio.

"If you crash every week, then you're spending the whole week repairing and if you're repairing, you're not working to get faster," McClure explains.

So it makes sense that

his philosophy on the race track is to take care of his car. "If your car doesn't make it to the end, you can't win," McClure said.

He races modifieds and late models. This year, it has been all late model, however, McClure said he will get into some modified races by the end of the year.

McClure's preference is late model. "There's more motor (450 horsepower)," he said.

His signature racing memory is a modified race he won 10 years ago at I-96 Speedway. "I was a 10th place car all night, but

everything seemed to go my way, including the guys in front running out of fuel.

McClure managed his time on the track and kept his car in the race, positioning himself to win the \$2,500 purse.

He describes himself as a fair, older, more responsible driver these days. One that also prefers racing on a dry, fast track.

He has his driving sights focused on winning the Crystal Great Lakes National. It's a lot of fun and a great event," McClure said.

He also enjoys racing in Iowa the week after Labor Day. There are roughly 400 drivers who compete for a seat in the 30-car field.

The McClure pit crew

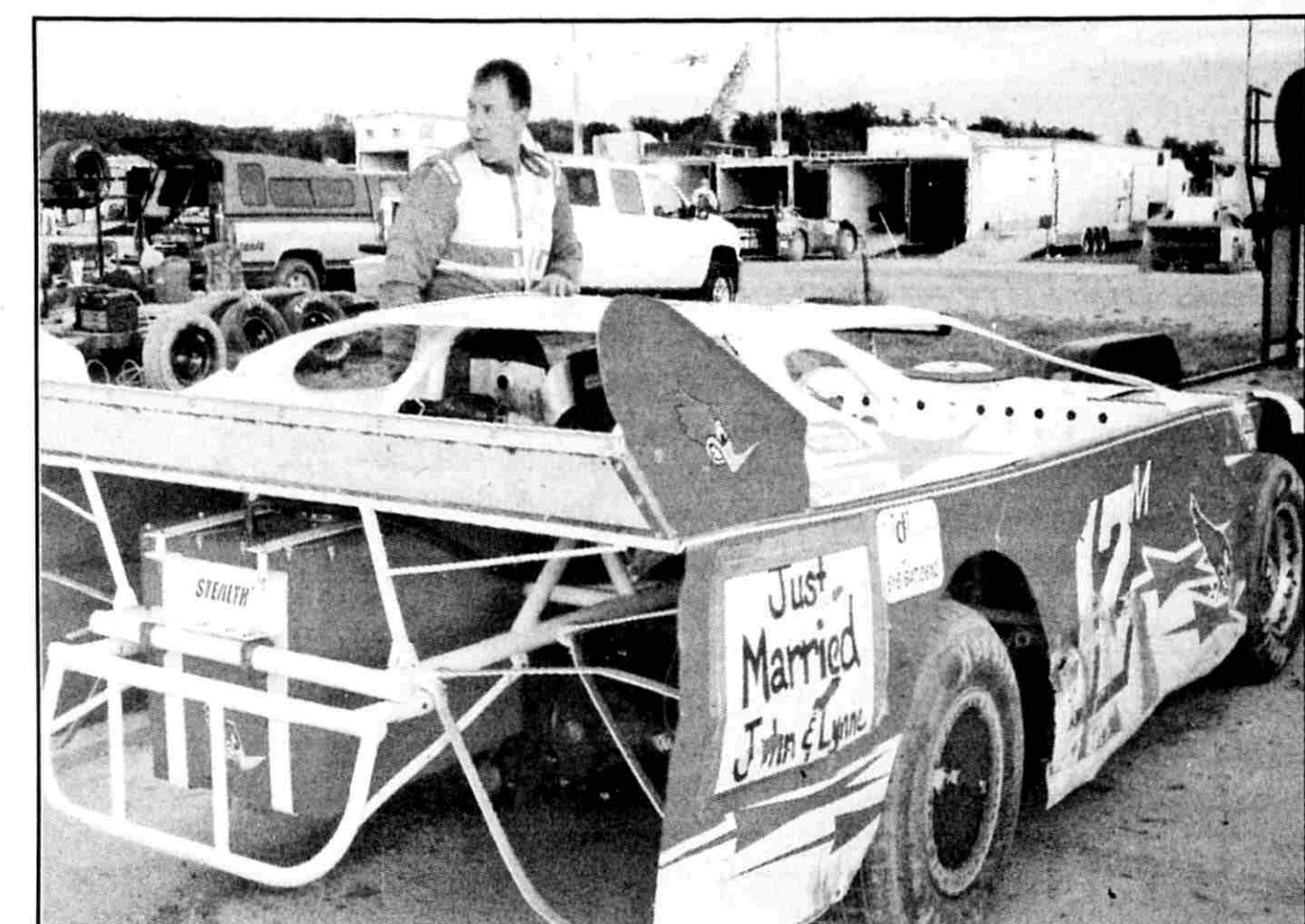
consists of Kevin Wadkins, Tim Sloan and Trevor Sloan. McClure also helps out during the week.

However, his focus was distracted some in June by a wedding to his bride, Lynne.

Not a whole lot. They got married on a Friday and Lynne allowed him to stick around and race on Saturday. McClure finished 12th.

"Racing is as much

about meeting other drivers and building friendships as it is about racing," McClure concludes.



John McClure is pictured with a modified feature at the I-96 Speedway.

I-96 Speedway Results - June 27

Micro Sprints

1. Colin Erwin
2. Mike Fountain
3. Jay Steinebach

UMP Modifieds

1. Shannon Fisk
2. Travis Strenler
3. Mark Anderson

SOD Sprints

1. Dustin Daggett
2. Greg Dalman
3. Steve Irwin

Road Beaters

1. Rob Nieman
2. John Primm
3. Charles Peterson II

Street Stocks

1. A.J. Ward
2. Aaron Wolf
3. Ronald Wiers



Local Area Youth Soccer Players, Are You Ready For The Next Step?

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Someone has to, continued ... From Page 13

are honest, win or lose, (sometimes brutally) about the plight of their teams.

Don't be misguided here, none of them root outwardly in the press box.

That is unacceptable by all standards. Who did you think you were fooling?

Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former.

- Albert Einstein (1879 - 1955)

So what is wrong with a local hometown sports writer admitting he would like to see Lowell win if the story written is fair and balanced in depicting the game played?

This just in, a guy named Thad.

So it's time to drop all the pretentious garbage, which I dare say, only I was caught up in and put on the Red Arrow license plate, don the Lowell jacket and wait for fall to get here!



GARAGE SALES
This Week!

EARLY DEADLINE
Due to the 4th of July, the Buyers Guide deadline for the July 5 edition has been moved to Thursday, July 2 at noon. All early copy is appreciated.

OUTDOOR FURNITURE
Wrought iron, brass beds, baby items, cribs, etc., baby-adult clothes, children's toys & much more. July 3, 4 & 5, 8-5 p.m.
9571 Riverside Dr., Saranac.

MULTI-FAMILY SALE
Thurs., July 2 & Fri., July 3, 9-7 1100 Parnell bet. Bailey & McPherson. Sectional sofa, wing back chairs, handmade oak curio cabinet, misc. furniture, new pool, like new football equipment, 10 hp Johnson boat motor, household items, home decor, bedding, name-brand clothes, boys & girls infant to tweens, women's to XL & mens to XXL, kids toys, books & much more.

MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE
241 Donna, Lowell. Chest freezer, household decor, toys, books, tools, sporting goods, etc. July 2 & 3, from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

GARAGE SALE
July 2 & 3, 820 N. Jefferson, 9-5 p.m. Antiques, household items, Honda lawnmower w/bag, small dog cage, teen clothes (girls & boys), sporting goods & more.

3 FAMILY GARAGE SALE
2991 Alden Nash S., July 3 & 4, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., dining set, beds, chairs, computer equipment, weight set, clothes, etc.

GRAND GARAGE SALE
Thurs. & Fri., July 2 & 3, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. 948 Riverside. Clothes, books, kids stuff, furniture, dishes. Two families.

Deadline is 5 p.m. Monday
Price is 20 words for \$13, each additional word is 25¢.
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Faxed to 897-4809

Sound Off

The Ledger
"Almost"
Anything
Goes Column



Go to ...
www.lowellbuyersguide.com

and vote in our poll or
Click "Contact Us" to submit comment

Or CALL...897-0787

As a future permanent resident of Oakwood Cemetery in Lowell, I would like to comment on the subject of allowing dogs to be walked in the cemetery. There are five generations of my family buried

in Oakwood (Mapes & Runciman), and I think the cemetery would be a wonderful place for people to walk their dogs. Not only is it a peaceful place to be, but people might connect a bit

more with the history of Lowell as they pass by the gravestones. I plan on having a bench for my marker, so in the future, please feel free to stop and sit with your beloved dog for a bit. All I would ask is to clean up any "deposits" made!

-Joe Mapes, Vicksburg, MI.

What is with the women, not just teen girls, who can't seem to notice that their pants are not covering their rears when sitting? This is not attractive on anyone.

To the people who took the solar lights on Monroe street. Grow up. I hope when you buy a house and put something in the yard, somebody steals it.

Was Michael Jackson the biggest pop star ever?

Answer our poll question this week!

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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

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FIREWOOD - 10 cord semi load, 8 ft. length. Premium oak, delivered. 231-846-0346 (anytime). See pictures at coxx.com

AIR CONDITIONERS - bunk beds, twin beds, futons, from \$69. Hammond Wholesale, 989-584-1600.

SUMMER SPECIAL - \$10,000 discount on your choice of lots in Alden Nash Meadows, South of Murray Lake School on paved road. Call Linda 616-897-8820.

MOVING SALE - 27" JVG TV, bakers shelf, Phillip's DVD, all for \$350; exercise step glider, \$100 obo; exercise machine, \$100 obo; Torti cat & accessories, \$15. Need good home, spayed, all shots, declawed, 2 yrs. old chihuahua all shots, spayed \$125 to good home only. 897-5582.

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FOR SALE - 14 ft. vinyl boat w/trailer & trolling motor & new fish finder, \$800 obo; also 7500 watt Generac electric start portable generator, 15 hp w/only 36 hours on it, paid \$1,200, asking \$900 obo. Call 682-5353.

MAHOGANY BEDROOM - Dresser, night stands, mattress, frame, \$175. HammondWholesale.com.

1980 MOBILE HOME - 80X14, \$2,500 in Lowell, lot #77 Key Heights Village. For more information call 616-450-6951.

20 COUCHS - loveseats, chairs, ottomans, micro suade, cloth, leather, used but good condition, \$50 'til gone. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main, Carson City, 989-584-1600.

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AKC LAB PUPPIES - for sale, \$200. Call 616-648-2944 or 560-2407.

FOR RENT

CENTER COURT APT - first month rent free! (w/12 month lease.) 2 bedrooms, \$600; 1 bedroom, \$500; on-site laundry & cats allowed. Center Court Apt., 201 N. Center St., Lowell. Call CB Richard Ellis/Grand Rapids, 877-780-2200.

HALL FOR RENT - with kitchen, seats 150. Call 897-6050.

COTTAGES ON THE WATER - With air. Canoe, paddle & rowboat included. Pontoon rental available. Martiny Lake chain, Barryton, MI. Ron, 897-5062.

COUNTRY HOME FOR RENT - 2 miles south of Lowell. Quiet small 3 bedroom, one bath w/base-ment. 3 season porch. \$650 per month plus utilities, \$325 deposit. 616-826-0639.

OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE IN ADA - upto 2,000 ft, storage also available. Easy access! 8120 E. Fulton. Call Walter at 231-499-0559 or 361-6105.

FOR RENT - Very small 2 bedroom house, 2 mi. N. of Lowell. Large garage, no laundry hookup, no pets. Good references & deposit required. \$550/mo. Call 897-7130.

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.vfw8303.org. Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.

THORNAPPLE VALLEY LION'S 4th OF JULY FLEA MARKET - Sat., July 4, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Booth Space is available, call Dave Anible at 676-2418 or Tom Hauck at 949-1408.

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LOWELL AREA JUGGLING CLUB - first Monday of the month at Englehardt Library Community Rm. 6:30-8:30 p.m. 12/older. 897-9879. www.freewebs.com/lowelljugglingclub.

WOMEN FOR SOBRIETY - meets every Monday, 7-8 p.m. at Bowne Center United Methodist Church, fellowship hall, 12051 84th St., corner of Alden Nash. Call Sue at 868-6219 or www.womenforsobriety.org.

BOWNE TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY - meets the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Historical Museum at 84th/Alden Nash.

AMERICAN LEGION CLARK-ELLIS POST 152 - meets the fourth Monday at 3100 Alden Nash S.E. at 7:30 p.m.

V.F.W. POST #8303 - meets the first Monday at 7 p.m. at 3116 Alden Nash S.E.

LOWELL SHOWBOAT GARDEN CLUB - meets the 3rd Monday in the Church of the Nazarene Fellowship Hall, 211 N. Washington St. at 7 p.m.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 102 - every Monday, 7-8:30 p.m. during school year in Scout Cabin at the end of N. Washington St. Ages 11 and up or completing 5th grade. Call Tim Vanderwulp at 897-4302.

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Dig fails to find body of missing man but does uncover some evidence

by Thad Kraus

Executing a state search warrant in connection with the disappearance and death of Donald Dietz back in September of 2007, authorities failed to locate a body, but did uncover evidence.

The scope of the search removed a poured cement patio behind a house at 909 Bowes Rd.

The dig was contracted out to Lowell's Stormzand Asphalt.

The residence was previously lived in by a suspect, Rami Saba.

State Police Lt. Curt Schram would not go into details as to the information which led authorities to the home on Monday morning, nor would he disclose what evidence was uncovered in the search.

Saba has not been charged with the kidnapping or the murder of Dietz, however, he remains a

prime suspect along with Philadelphia resident, Raogo Ouedraogo.

In recently filed court records, federal prosecutors stated that the targets of the investigation were both Ouedraogo and Saba.

Both men face federal bank fraud, identity theft and conspiracy allegations for trying to gain access to Dietz's \$450,000 life savings.

Court records note



The state canine unit was used in the dig at 990 Bowes Rd. on Monday morning. State and local officials were on the scene for a little over four hours.



Local excavator, Stormzand Asphalt, helped state officials by removing the concrete patio.

that while the indictment conservatively refers only to the kidnapping and incapacitation of Mr. Dietz, "the reality is that Mr. Dietz is dead."

Saba was arrested back in March on a four-count

warrant, authorized by Ionia County Prosecutor, Ron Schafer, charging that he lied under oath during an investigative subpoena.

He is being held on a \$1 million bond on the allegation that he lied during

testimony taken in March of 2008.

Saba is accused of falsely answering four queries while being investigated for homicide and kidnapping, according to state police.

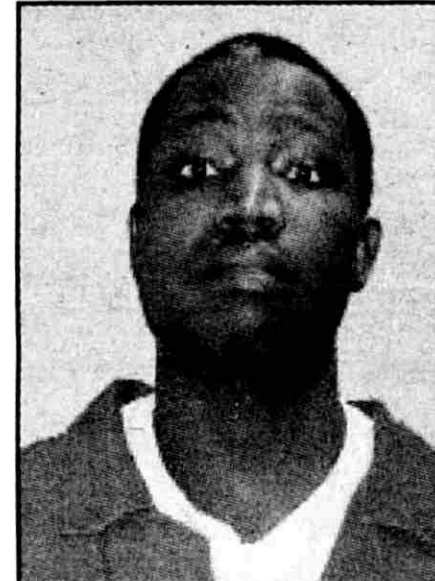
The federal case against Saba is scheduled to start on Aug. 4.

Ouedraogo's court case is not expected to start before the end of the year.

The Burkina Faso native, who is free on bond (\$500,000), is unable to account for the 14 hours between his arrival in Grand Rapids and when he checked into a hotel, according to authorities.



Rami Saba is being held in Ionia County on \$1 million bond.



Raogo Ouedraogo is free on bond at this time.

In the truest sense, freedom cannot be bestowed; it must be achieved.

- Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882 - 1945)

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