



The Lowell Ledger

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Wednesday, July 15, 2009

Riverwalk Fest celebrates summer

by Emma Palova

It was perfect, almost ala carte style. No one could have ordered better weather, better food, better music or beer.

The newly extended Riverwalk Festival attracted thousands of people to the downtown area and the fairgrounds last week, from as far as London, Canada.

Temperatures in the mid 70s created a fabulous backdrop for all the outdoor events, including Saturday's parade.

The festival kicked-off Thursday on the Riverwalk with country music by the Stolen Horses band. Even the ubiquitous duck mascot, donning a blue rubber hat, danced to the beat, as well as many couples and kids.

Hundreds of people streamed in, on foot or water, using any imaginable vessel. The Riverwalk, on Friday and Saturday, hosted crafts, arts and antique vendors.

Many crafters, like Don McQueen, were incredibly knowledgeable about their wares. McQueen makes simple wooden bird houses, bat houses and butterfly houses, all reasonably priced.

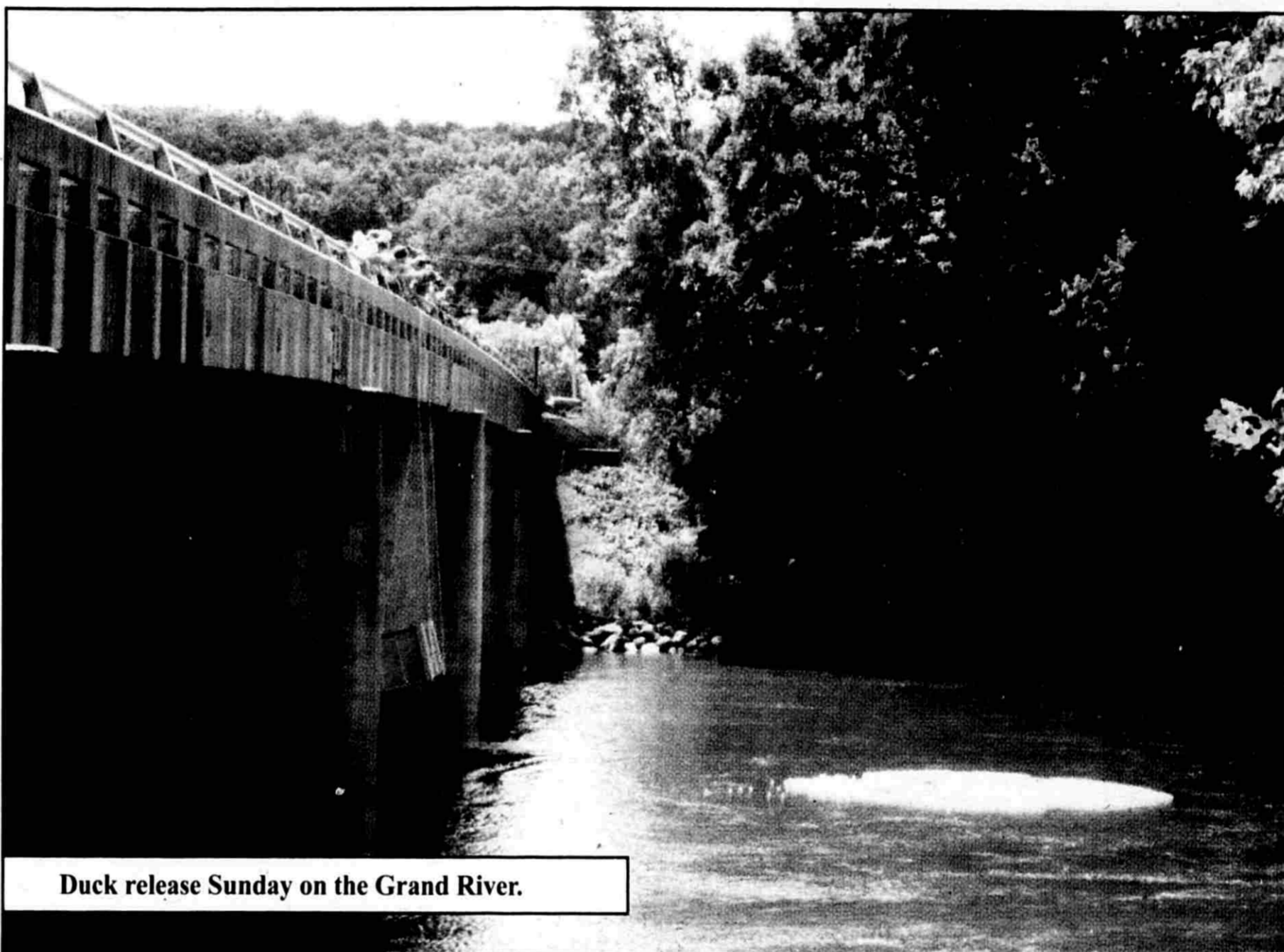
His wooden line includes a backyard birdhouse for starters, birdhouses for chickadees and wrens, and a great selection of bird feeders. McQueen attends most local events.

No event held in Lowell would be complete without the local artist galore participation. Cathy Dykstra and Connor Bergin manned the Studio 208 arts booth with high quality paintings for sale. They were getting ready for the "Clothesline" Art Show opening on July 21.

Also, sculptor/artist Jack Eppinga, better known as Blackclaw Jack, showed off his chainsaw art sculptures of animals by the Riverwalk.

Friday evening, the Lazy Blue Tunas provided music on the entertainment stage. Street entertainers, like Dave Simmonds of the West Michigan Bluegrass Association, fiddled on the streets of Lowell.

Kayaks and historic pontoon rides offered beautiful



Duck release Sunday on the Grand River.

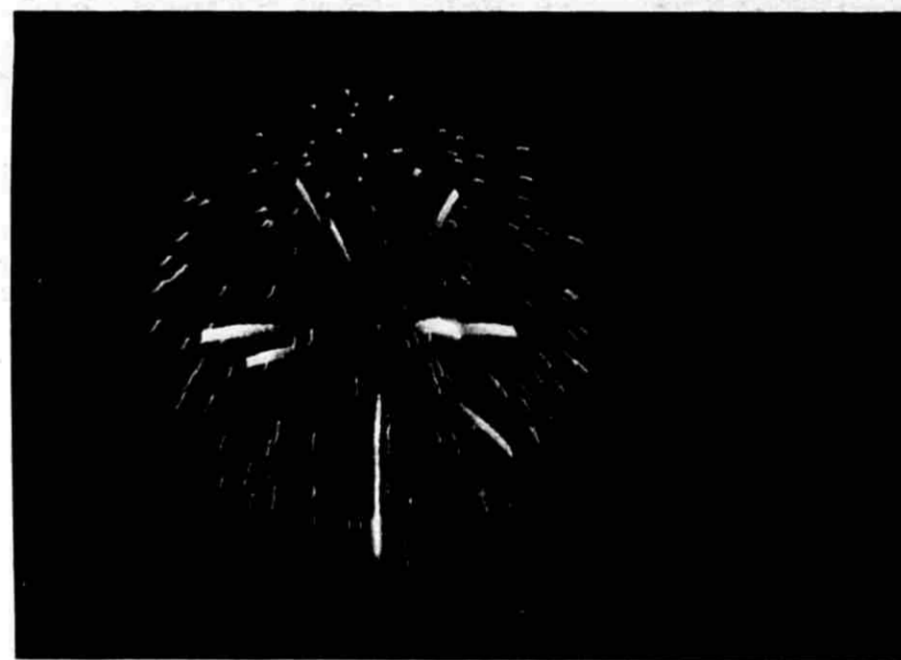
views of the downtown area. And there was the smell of pizza everywhere. Englehardt Friends of the Library held their annual used book sale on the lawn in front of the library.

An early stormy morning gave way to gorgeous sunshine on Saturday as the parade marched east on Main Street.

"It was a nice start to the Riverwalk Fest," said spectator, Maranda Ruegsegger. "It was great to see the old fashioned cars."

Motors, sirens and tractors dominated the parade, as

Riverwalk, cont'd., pg. 3



Fireworks Saturday at Stoney Lakeside Park.

Pauly's Brew B-Q Throw-down, a grand finale to Riverwalk



Motley Qu Crew barbecue Mary Z. and Mikey Z. serve up some pulled pork at the fairgrounds.

by Emma Palova

Succulent pulled pork in a spicy sauce, on a breezy Sunday afternoon at the fairgrounds, watered down with a smooth Huma Lupa Licjous I.P.A. by Shorts Brewery of Belaire; that's what the grand finale to the four-day Riverwalk Festival tasted like.

Pauly's Brew B-Q Throw-down, the newest addition to the Riverwalk, worked its magic as the ducks raced to the finish line at the nearby Grand River. While people in kayaks were awaiting the winning ducks, a different crowd flocked to the grilling booths and to the beer and cocktail garden.

"It exceeded our expectations," said co-organizer, Paul Faba, proprietor of Pauly's.

Listening to the music of Bob Van Stee and Jimmie Stagger, patrons of the

beer tent sampled crafty Michigan brew, along with first place 2008 ribs by Great Lakes BBQ and Feed Co. of Sparta.

For barbecue contestant Susan Murray, of the Black Pig BBQ team from London, Canada, the trip to Lowell was much like a camping trip for other people.

"This is what we do for fun," she said. "I love to meet all the new people; I love the atmosphere."

The team grilled all night long, 20-pound cuts of brisket, pork, ribs and chicken. Then, they let the meats set, just in time for the certified panel of judges.

But, the real judges were people just browsing around and tasting.

The Motley Qu Crew, wearing necklaces with pig charms, offered samples of

Brew B-Q, cont'd., pg. 3

Obituaries



PARISH
Shirley A. (Wert) Parish, passed away at her home in Ruskin, FL. She was

formerly of Lowell and a graduate from Lowell High School, class of 1955. She was preceded in death by her parents, William and Genevieve Wert; daughter, Shelli; brother, Bill Jr.; and sister, Charlotte Geesey. She is survived by her husband, Charles; son, Maurice Satterlee, of Florida; brother, Ronald Wert, of California; sisters, Joan (Brad) Schirmer and Marjorie Hawley, both of Michigan. Memorial services are pending.

Safeguarding your information safeguards you

At home, you can lock your doors. When it comes to your car, you can activate the alarm system. But what can you do to protect your identity? Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America. Someone illegally using your Social Security number and assuming your identity can be more trouble than a car thief or house burglar. Identity thieves can use your number and your good credit score to apply for more credit in your name. Then, they use the credit cards and do not pay the bills. You may not find out that someone is using your number until you are turned down for credit or you begin to get calls from creditors demanding payment for items you never bought.

What better time than National Safety Month to educate yourself in protecting your personal information? Here are some quick tips:

- Keep your Social Security card at home in a safe place - wherever you keep your important paperwork.

- Safeguard your number as well — don't give it to just anyone; many places you do business with may ask for it as a means of identification even though they can use other identifying information.
- Shred before you toss — identity thieves can rummage through your trash or recycling material and find a goldmine of information, so be sure to destroy any identifying information before you throw it out.

If you believe someone may be using your number or identity, you should contact the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftc.gov, or call 1-877-IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4338) (TTY 1-866-653-4261.)

Vonda VanTil is the public affairs specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 50 College SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or via email at vonda.vantil@ssa.gov.

Arbor Day Foundation honors new members with 10 trees planted

Every American has an opportunity to help plant trees in our nation's forests by joining the Arbor Day Foundation during the month of July. The Arbor Day Foundation will honor each new member who joins the foundation through the Replanting Our national forests campaign by planting 10 trees in our National Forests that have been destroyed by insects, disease, and devastating

fires. Membership costs \$10. The Arbor Day Foundation's Replanting Our national forests campaign will plant trees in America's forests for future generations to enjoy. The need to replant our national forests is greater than ever. Wildfire season started early this year and the previous three years brought unprecedented wildfires throughout the country.

The Arbor Day Foundation will work with the U.S. Forest Service, as it has for more than 20 years, to determine which forests will receive the trees based on the greatest need. The U.S. Forest Service has identified a 1-million acre backlog that needs replanting mainly because of record wildfires in recent years.

"Future members can make a positive impact throughout America by planting much-needed trees in our national forests," said John Rosenow, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Planting new trees will help restore these national treasures for the benefit of generations to come."

To join the Arbor Day Foundation and help plant trees in our national forests, send a \$10 membership contribution to Replanting Our National Forests, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410 or go to www.arborday.org.

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HIGH SPEED INTERNET SURVEY

Please take notice that a survey to assess the need for reliable and affordable high speed internet access in Lowell Township is being taken through August 15th.

The survey can be accessed on the township website at www.twp.lowell.mi.us. Paper copies will be available at the township or you can take the survey online at Lowell Township Hall.

The final culmination of this work will be the creation of a Marketing Report or kit. The report/kit will include all relevant information needed to build a business case in which to compel service providers to engage in our market. It will contain information necessary for service providers to provide high speed internet service to all Lowell Township residents.

The cost of this project is being paid for by a grant from the Lowell Area Community Fund. Residents of neighboring townships and the City of Lowell are welcome to participate, and any results collected for them will be forwarded to their municipal offices. It should be noted that Vergennes and Ada Townships are conducting similar studies with the assistance of the same professionals. These efforts are being coordinated in order to attain the best outcome for the entire community.

The trouble with a rat race is that even when you win, you're still a rat.
Lily Tomlin

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Safe Walk to School project underway

by Thad Kraus

In October of last year, Michigan's Lt. Governor, John D. Cherry, announced that Lowell's Cherry Creek Elementary would be the only Kent County school to receive 'Safe Routes to School' funding.

In April, it was announced that Lowell would receive \$155,000 from the Michigan Department of Transportation to go with the \$70,000 grant from the Englehardt Community Fund.

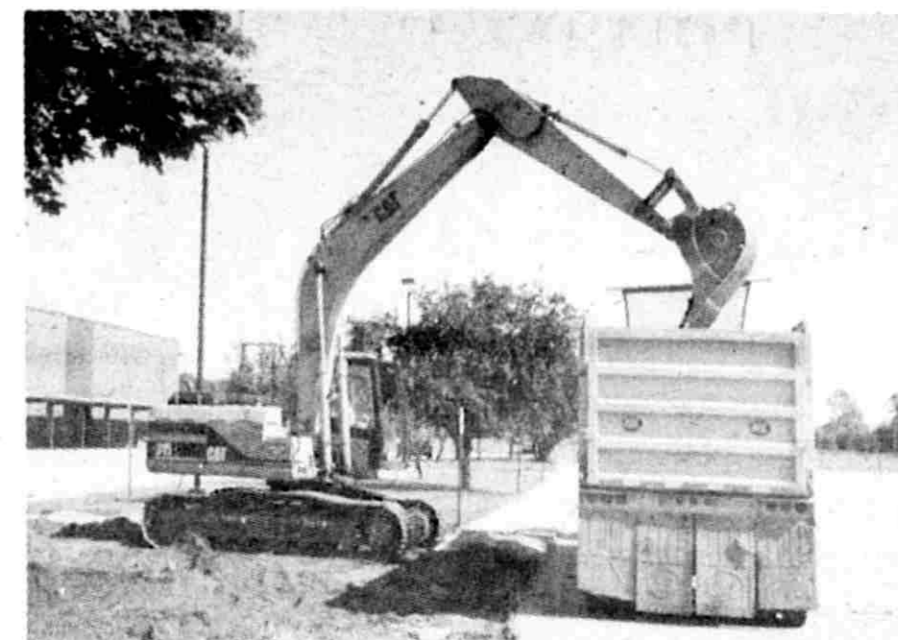
On Monday, all of those funds were put to work as Millbocker & Sons Inc., out of Allegan, commenced work at Cherry Creek Elementary.

The work will change the site from which students are picked up. Beginning with the 2009-10 school year, students will be picked up on the east side of the school as opposed to the west side.

With the installation of the sidewalk, students will be able to leave the school walking away, from car and bus traffic.

Completion date for the Cherry Creek part of the project is slated for Aug. 15.

The other phase of the project will run a 19-foot walk from the corner of Foreman Road and Gee Drive to the corner of Gee Drive and Alden Nash. This phase of the



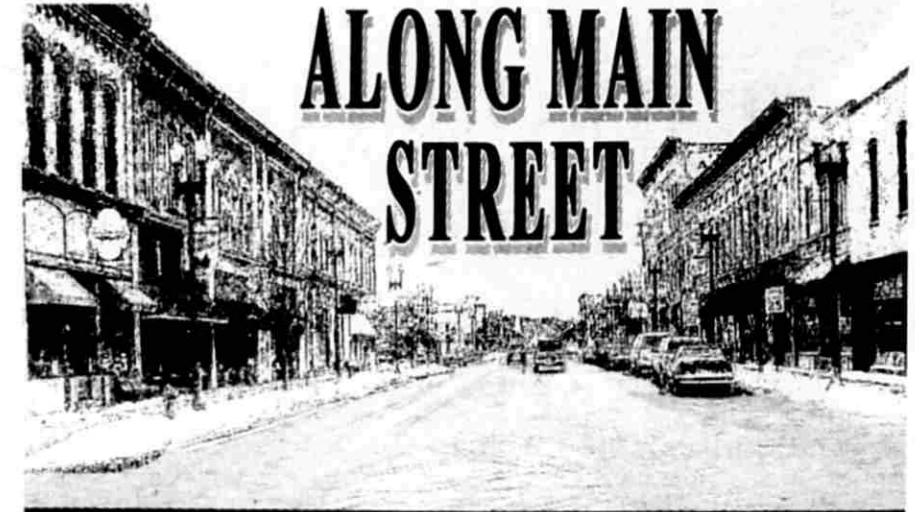
Work began on Monday to open up entries on the east side of Cherry Creek Elementary so that buses can get through the channel to leave the school.

project is scheduled to be completed by Sept. 2 in time for the first day of school on Sept. 8.

"Lowell was the only small school to receive funding," Lowell director of transportation, Larry Mikulski, explained. "We were able to successfully complete what others have not done."

Mikulski explains that the entire effort was successful because of determined parents and a collaborative effort on the part of the City of Lowell and the Lowell School District.

In addition to providing a safe route to school for kids, it also provides adults with a safer place to walk/jog on Gee Drive.



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

LOWELL SHOWBOAT GARDEN CLUB
The garden club will be celebrating their 60th anniversary with a gala celebration following the club's annual garden tour on July 18, 12-3 p.m., at 806 Lafayette.

LOWELL YOUTH FOOTBALL
Sign ups are Sat., July 18, 8 a.m. - noon and Tues., July 21, 6-8 p.m. at Lowell High School fieldhouse. New players need to bring birth certificate.

PLAY PRODUCTION
"On with the Show - Summer Theatre Spectacular." You will work with the instructor and other students to prepare a short play for a final public presentation on Aug. 5 on the Lowell Showboat. July 18, 27, 28, 29, & Aug. 3, 4, 5 at the Lowell Public Library. Class fee \$55. Call the Lowell Area Arts Council to register, 897-8545.

PINK ARROW ARTWORK
Last call! Artwork can be left at the Lowell Area Arts Council until 6 p.m., Tues., July 21. Art pieces will travel along Main St. this summer on display. First place selection will appear on the cover of the program.

CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP
The Lowell Area Historical Museum along with Fallasburg Historical Society will be hosting a children's workshop in Fallasburg Village. It will be open to students ages 8-14, on Thurs., July 23, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Call the museum to register, 897-7688. Cost: \$12 per student.

CLASS REUNION
Lowell High School Class of 1994 will be having a class reunion at Fallasburg Park on Sat., Aug. 22, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Contact Shannon Bennett-Kennedy for more information, 616-437-6329 or shannondanyel@hotmail.com.

Riverwalk, continued... From Page 1

well as hot rods and bikes. Some politicians also used the parade as a platform to campaign. The Lowell Area Historical Museum and the Red Arrow Fiddle Club had great parade floats. An unknown float, pulled by dappled Belgian horses made an appearance during the parade.

Other floats carried the Kent County 4-H court and the Ionia Free Fair queen. Classic cars and motorcycles cruised down Main Street.

Music in the evening featured "Alive and Well" and the "Bronk Brothers."

Fireworks over the Stoney Lakeside Park closed the third day of the Riverwalk Festival.

Sizzlin' Summer Concert Series



Country band Stolen Horses during Sizzlin' Summer Series on the Riverwalk Thursday.

Brew B-Q, continued ... From Page 1

pulled pork. "We know we're going to win," said chef Mary Z. The event was for both food lovers and beer connoisseurs such as Jake Pala of the West Side Distribution Co. The only regrets Pala had was that the tent wasn't open longer and on both festival days. He sampled the Shorts Brewery portfolio, enjoying the I.P.A. the most.

"It's one of the best I.P.A.s I've ever had," he said. "It has good balance of hops and it's very smooth. And the barbecue added

a much better atmosphere to the Riverwalk Festival, especially for the food and beer enthusiast."

Michigan Brewers were meticulously picked from near and far. The Schmozh Brewery of Grand Rapids was three beers strong with the famous Hopknocker, Amber Tease and Pale Ale.

"They had a good selection of brewers," said Pala. "Congrats to Hopcat for starting their brewery in G.R."

And the Grand Champion winner of the first \$1,500 prize, swiping the

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July 23

Lowell showboat
Sizzlin' Summer Concerts

Live Music on the Flat River
On the Riverwalk • Historic Downtown Lowell



Flat River Big Band

The Flat River Big Band was formed in 1981 as an outgrowth of the Danish Festival Band of Greenville. The band operates on a year round basis with its members coming from all walks of life. This includes area high school and middle school band directors, business people, factory workers, engineers, and others. A common love for big band music is what unites the group. The band is a full big band featuring seventeen instruments plus a vocalist.

The music played by the Flat River Big Band, featuring Jeff Ayres on trumpet, includes the music of big bands such as Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Stan Kenton, Woody Herman, Les Brown, Benny Goodman, Glen Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Harry James, Ray Elgart, Sy Zentner and others.

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PUBLIC ENEMIES (R) 4:00 7:00 9:50
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THE PROPOSAL (PG-13) 4:30 7:20 9:40

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Construction throughout the district is progressing on track

by Shelly MacNaughton

The Lowell Area School Board held its regular meeting Monday night. Larry Mikulski, armed with photos and diagrams, presented construction updates to the board. Virtually every school in the district is undergoing construction of some sort this summer.

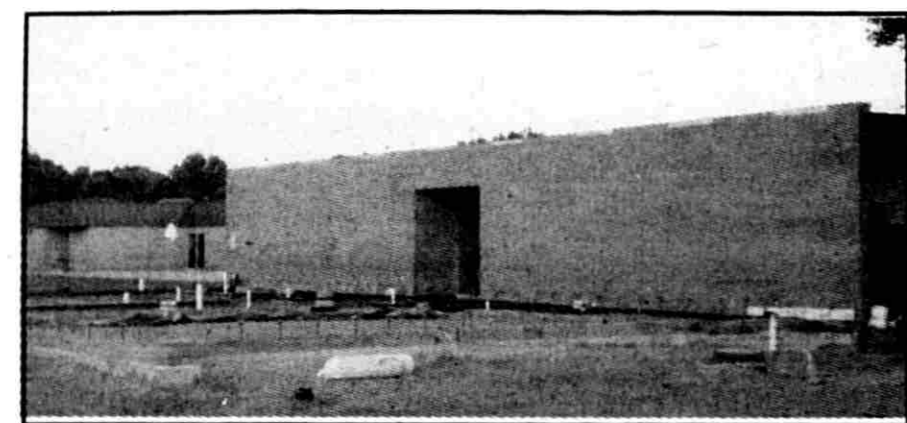
The high school is having its HVAC system upgraded to allow better controls of each classroom. A new bus garage has been built. Many of the schools have received new carpet, windows, doors, etc.

Alto Elementary and Murray Lake Elementary each have two new classrooms being built. Those classrooms are expected to be finished in December. Mark Lessens, President of the Board of Education, questioned the safety of the construction site when kids return in September. Mikulski assured the board that much of the outdoor construction is slated to be complete by the time the kids return.

A major initiative taking place at Cherry Creek is the reorganization of the parking lots and addition of sidewalks. The work is being done by the Safe Walks to School program and Mikulski presented the progress of this project. A new ten foot wide sidewalk is going in

at Cherry Creek and should be finished by August 15. Once that is complete, work will begin along Gee Drive installing a new ten foot wide sidewalk all the way to Alden Nash. The student walkers leaving Cherry Creek will have a safe route that does not interfere with parent pick up or bus loading. "The Safe Walks to School program is a joint effort with the City. The money used comes from a state grant, not the general fund," said Superintendent Greg Pratt.

The Board approved and accepted the low bid of \$63,415 from Automatic Equipment Sales & Service for the district card access system. "The card access system

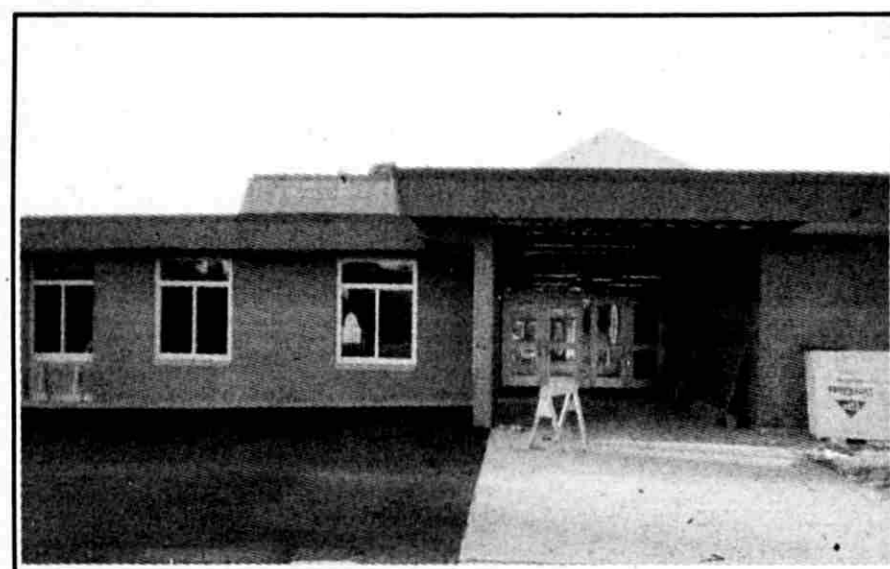


New classrooms are being built at Alto Elementary.

is part of our security. Security was the number one concern for many of our parents. This will bring all our current card systems up to date and will tie in to the rest of our security system," said Pratt.

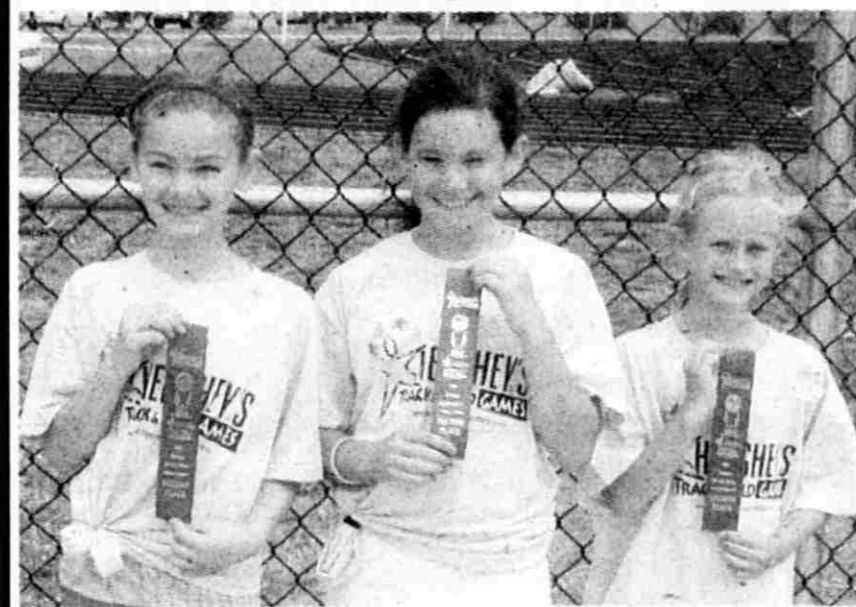
Roger Bearup presented a curriculum update to the board. "Summer school, during the first session of summer, had 27 students receive credit. Session B began today and the classes are full. I'm very proud of our students. They are working hard," said Bearup.

"I just want to thank all of those involved in our summer work programs; we have a lot of staff that work throughout the summer and I just want to thank them for all their hard work," said Pratt.



Bushnell School renovations include the administration office being relocated to the front of the school. Bushnell is also receiving new windows and doors.

LHS track camp participants place at State



Athletes who attended Lowell High School's track camp in June earned first place in their event which qualified them for the State Hershey Track Meet which was held July 10 at Holt High School. Pictured above are: Paige DeHaan, Sela Bauman, and Elise Marshall, (missing is Maura Fitzpatrick), who took second place in the girl's 9-10 year old 4x100 relay. Pictured below are: Lauren DeHaan, Bethany Kaczanowski, Colleen Cater, and Amy Carpenter who placed fourth in the girl's 11-12 year old 4x100 relay.



Viewpoint

To The Editor

Dear Editor:

I was reading in the Lowell Ledger that Richards Park is getting a makeover.

When I read the article, I was a bit surprised to see logical, down to earth and meaningful decisions.

A decision to fit the ice skating rink with skateboarding equipment that will be removed in the winter deserves a thumbs up. But then I came to an article that stated the city approves archery hunting. There is one thing I found out in going to city council meetings and that is that there are some that put logic on the back burner.

I believe that there are other means to deter deer from eating shrubbery than archery hunting in the city limits. You only use extreme measures when all other means have been exhausted. It's hard to believe that all other means have been exhausted.

Even if all means have been exhausted, it doesn't warrant deer hunting inside the city limits over a small amount of shrubbery being nibbled on. I believe this subject was brought to the forefront by a council member. Need I say more? Could the decision just be a pacifier?

Jim Howard

Dear Editor:

Families and children are suffering in Michigan, and we believe their stories need to be told. With recent cuts to the state budget, many of the programs that help strengthen families and keep them together when abuse

and neglect is a real possibility, have been eliminated. These family preservation programs have helped reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect since their inception in the 1990s.

In-home workers from agencies across the state work with families, many times right in the family home, to address issues that may lead to abuse and neglect. The worker and the family identify the family's natural strengths that could resolve existing issues, and then, acting as a team, work to help the family function and thrive while staying together in their own home. Since their inception, the success rate for these programs has been more than 80 percent.

We recognize the financial constraints imposed upon our Governor in these challenging times. However, the recent Executive Order eliminated or drastically reduced funding for many of these programs. We are concerned that thousands of children will end up in the foster care system if help, previously provided by the state to struggling families, is eliminated. In the end, this will cost the state even more money and further erode Michigan's family structure.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities West Michigan, one of the providers of both family preservation and foster care services across the 11 counties of the Diocese of Grand Rapids, I encourage you to write your local legislative representatives and express your concern about these most vulnerable families. The family preservation programs help to keep children safe. This has an impact on all of us and must be a funding priority.

Sincerely,
Constance Christenson,
Chair Board of Directors
Catholic Charities West Michigan



By Shelly MacNaughton

125 Years Ago The Lowell Journal July 16, 1884

C. G. Stone's new house begins to look quite homey. Ionia saloons shamefully violated the liquor law on July 4.

The toy pistol (prohibited by state law) made its appearance in a few places on July 4, with the usual results. Lock-jaw—death. The law is a good one but it will not enforce itself.

Strange as it may seem, the democrats and greenbackers will hold their county conventions on the same day, July 24, in Grand Rapids. Remarkable coincidence, once more.

100 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger July 15, 1909

Through the enterprise of Edwin Fallas, another new and prosperous industry has been launched in Lowell, the manufacture of tin cans. A large number of hands are now busily engaged with a fine equipment of up-to-date machinery and tools, turning out six thousand and upward, gallon cans per day, not just providing for the Lowell factory's canning season, but for outside canning factories as well. Carloads of lots have already been sent to Ludington and other points.

75 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo July 19, 1934

Julius Wester, proprietor of a lunch room in Alto, was brutally beaten by two thugs as he sat in his automobile in front of his place of business about two o'clock Wednesday morning. Robbery was the motive of the attack. The thugs obtained only a few cents in change. Wester succeeded in removing from his pocket, a wallet containing something over \$100, and hiding it in his car.

50 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger July 16, 1956

The long dry period has brought water levels in Lowell wells to the point which requires a sprinkling ban in the village, starting at once. Lowell Utility Superintendent, Roger Westenbrock, has ruled that sprinkling will be permitted on the east side of the village on even days and on the west side of the village on odd days of the month.

25 Years Ago The Grand Valley Ledger July 18, 1984

With three items on the agenda, The King Milling Co. pretty well dominated the Monday, July 16 meeting of the Lowell City Council. King Milling has two new projects in the works and a problem with an old project that all need action from the council.

King has planned a truck parking and maintenance facility on property that they own south of Main Street and east of the Flat River. The King Milling Co. is also planning another project, the construction of a second \$500,000 bushel grain storage bin.

Recovery and Reinvestment in Michigan
With Senator Carl Levin

fish from moving between the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes. The electric barrier is made of long steel cables that are attached to the bottom of the canal. A low-voltage current is sent through the cables, which creates an electric wall in the water. This electric barrier is not harmful to fish, but they turn back when they swim into the electric current rather than continuing through it. A temporary barrier first became operational in 2002, and the Army Corps is currently working toward completion of a permanent barrier.

The barrier will hopefully keep Asian carp from entering the lakes from the Mississippi River, but we also need to guard against the possibility of the fish being introduced into the lakes in other ways.

As we saw with the Arkansas fish farmer, a single person buying some of these live fish can have devastating – and costly – ecological consequences. A 1900 law, called the Lacey Act, prohibits the importation or interstate transportation of any species that it designates as "injurious" – which are species that threaten the interests of people, agriculture, forestry or wildlife of our country.

I recently introduced a bill in the Senate, the Asian Carp Prevention and Control Act, that would classify the bighead carp as injurious under the Lacey Act, thereby making it illegal to import or transport the fish live and, hopefully, help to minimize the risk of intentional introduction. Three other species of Asian carp (silver, largescale silver, and black) have previously been classified as injurious under the Lacey Act.

I hope that my bill will be approved by Congress and signed into law, and together with the completion of the permanent electric barriers, these safeguards should help to ensure that the bighead carp are kept out of our precious Great Lakes.

Carl Levin is the senior U.S. senator from Michigan.

Protecting the Great Lakes from Asian Carp
In 1972, a fish farmer in Arkansas bought some Chinese fish, called bighead carp, to help control algae in his ponds. He and others used the fish at contained fish ponds in the south for over two decades, until a 1994 flood washed several thousand of the fish out of the ponds and into the Missouri River. Since then, the fish – which can grow to be more than a yard in length and weigh up to 100 pounds – have reproduced and migrated throughout U.S. waterways, and now bigheads and other species of Asian carp are the most abundant fish in portions of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers.

The problem is that, because the quick-growing fish are large, prolific, and eat huge amounts of food (up to 40 percent of their own body weight each day), the carp out-compete native species of fish for food, living space, and spawning areas, and they wreak havoc on the fragile ecosystems of the rivers and waterways.

We have witnessed the ecological destruction caused by the fish, and the accompanying financial burden, for many years. And now, bighead carp are continuing their northward migration up the Mississippi River and are close to invading the Great Lakes, which are connected to the river through a man-made sanitary and ship canal in Chicago.

There are a number of things we can do – and have done – to help keep the Great Lakes free of this invasive species.

The Army Corps of Engineers built an electric dispersal barrier to prevent the carp and other non-native

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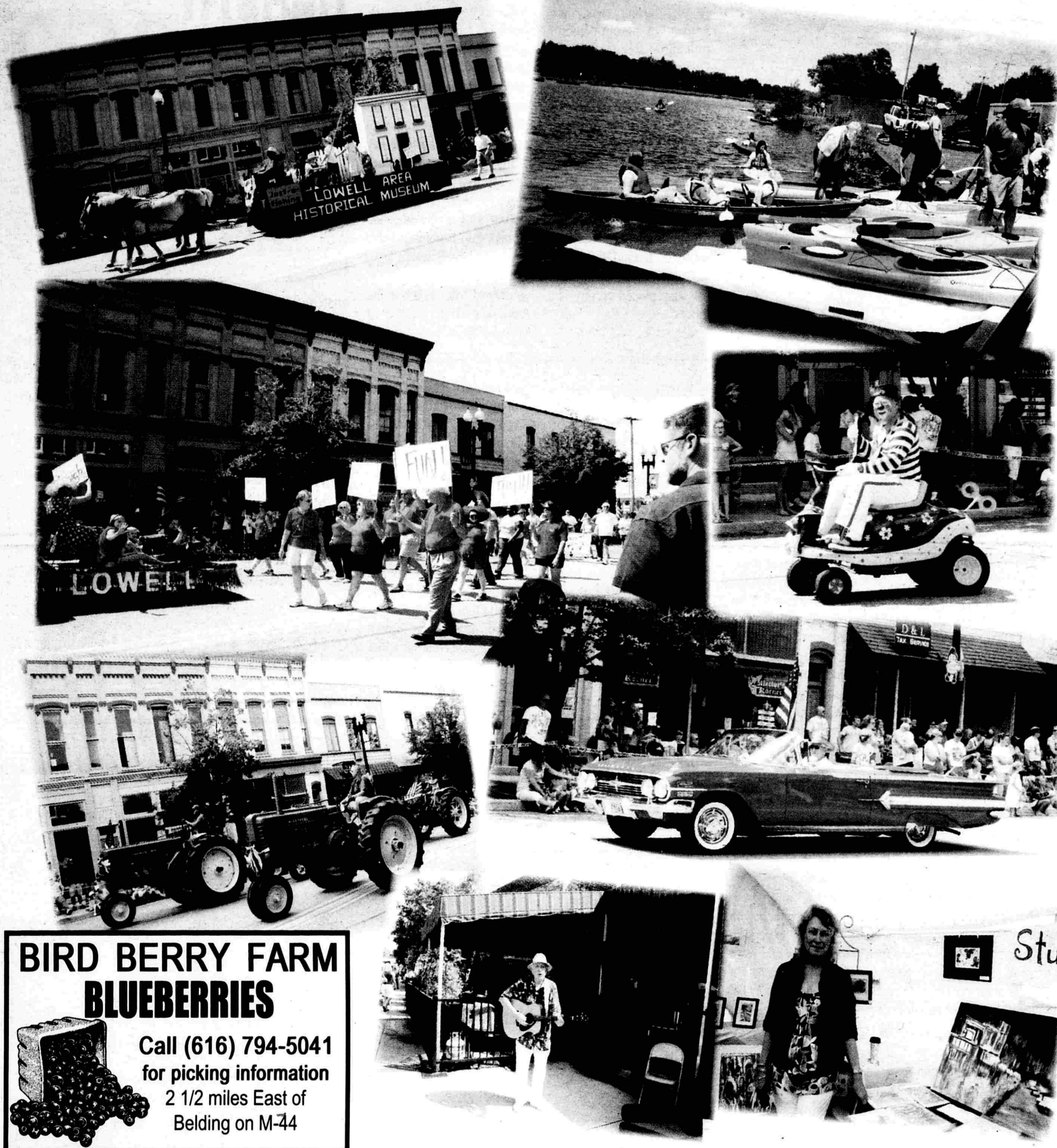
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Thank you to all who helped me tell the story of wheat seed to bread during the Riverwalk Festival Parade last Saturday. It would not have been such a success without the following farms and businesses:

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Thanks again,
The Little Red Hen

Annual Covered Bridge Bike Tour draws hundreds to historical village

by Emma Palova

The 15th annual Covered Bridge bike tour drew 150 registered participants from all over Michigan, last Sunday.

For Bill, Mike and Matt Morrow, all of Ada, it was their third year on the 40-mile long tour.

"We love it out here," said dad, Bill Morrow.

The trio registered at the school house and took a short break by the water pump. Along the way, there were several stations where refreshments were served, including by the Ada Covered Bridge and the Misner House Museum.

The tour options ranged

from the shortest 12-mile long route to the longest 100-mile tour. One of the most popular tours is the 28-mile route from the Fallsburg Covered Bridge, along Grand River Drive, to the Ada Covered Bridge.

"We had several people register for the 100-mile tour," said chairman Ken Tamke.

"This is the biggest fundraiser for the Fallsburg Historical Society," according to Tamke. "This is our World Series."

The longest 100-mile loop ventures down south into Gaines Township, returns to Fallsburg and goes north into Ionia County

and to the Whites Covered Bridge. Many riders choose to pedal the southern 50-mile long loop.

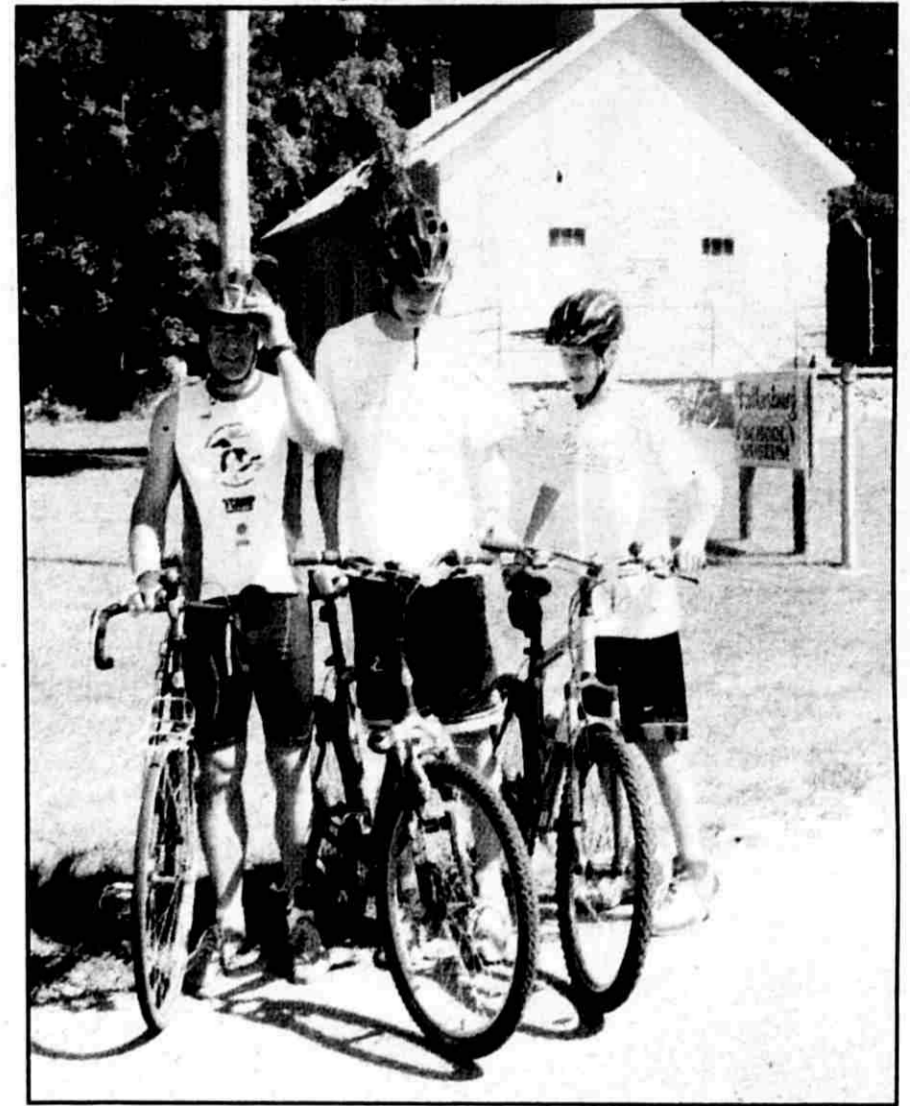
Every year, bikers flock to the Fallsburg Historic Village to take in the peaceful atmosphere in the park. On Sunday, bikers could be seen all around Lowell and Vergennes Township.

However, most of the routes go over public streets and roads exposed to traffic. Some have cracks, potholes, manhole covers, drainage gates, poorly-maintained railroad crossings, loose gravel, foreign objects, and aggressive animals.

All the participants had to sign a release from

liability of the sponsors. The registration fee was \$15 per individual and \$25 per family.

All the proceeds from the bike ride go toward the preservation of the Fallsburg Historical Village. The village was placed on the National Register of Historical Places in 1999. The village, located on 42 acres north of Lowell, boasts the Fallsburg Covered Bridge, one room school house, Falls House, Misner House, Tower Farm, Waters House, and Betsy Falls site.



Bill, Mike and Matt Morrow in front of the Fallsburg schoolhouse.

Safe Routes will continue along Gee Drive, trails update

By Emma Palova

The Safe Routes to School project, to build a sidewalk between the driveways to Cherry Creek Elementary and a 10-foot long non-motorized paved trail along Gee Drive, started Monday.

The project is slated for Sept. 2 completion, just in time before school starts, according to project engineer, Dave Austin, of Williams & Works.

The crews will be working on improvements to the bus loading and unloading area and placing new sidewalks between the driveways at Cherry Creek Elementary.

A 10-foot wide non-motorized trail will be placed from Alden Nash to Creekside Park for a total length of 4,000 feet.

The project is funded by a Safe Routes to School grant in the amount of \$235,000 and with \$70,000 from the

Lowell Area Community Fund. The total project cost is just under \$305,000.

"It will provide safe walking access from Gee Drive to the park and the school, and it will connect to future trails," said Austin.

City manager, Dave Pasquale, said the path will not only be for school children but for residents in general to walk to the city.

Together with the Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA) and the Rails to Trails group, the community trails will tie together Vergennes Township with the city and Lowell Township, and eventually connect with other trail systems.

"It will be a benefit to the entire community," said Pasquale.

LARA is now waiting to hear on grant applications from the Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Department of

Transportation.

LARA has, so far, raised \$360,000 in private funds and continues with brick sales.

Also, the Rails to Trails group is making progress. The railroad ties from Ionia to Lowell have been removed. The A&K Railroad Materials and Choder's crews are currently removing railroad ties from Belding to Lowell.

The labor intensive process entails the removal of spikes, anchors, ties, plates, and bars from the railroad bed. Magnets are used to lift the bars and plates up.

When knocking the anchors off, the crews have to walk the entire railroad line with sledge hammers.

Currently, eight miles worth of railroad materials are stored on a leased property at the OE Bieri Industrial Park, north of town, off Lincoln Lake Road.

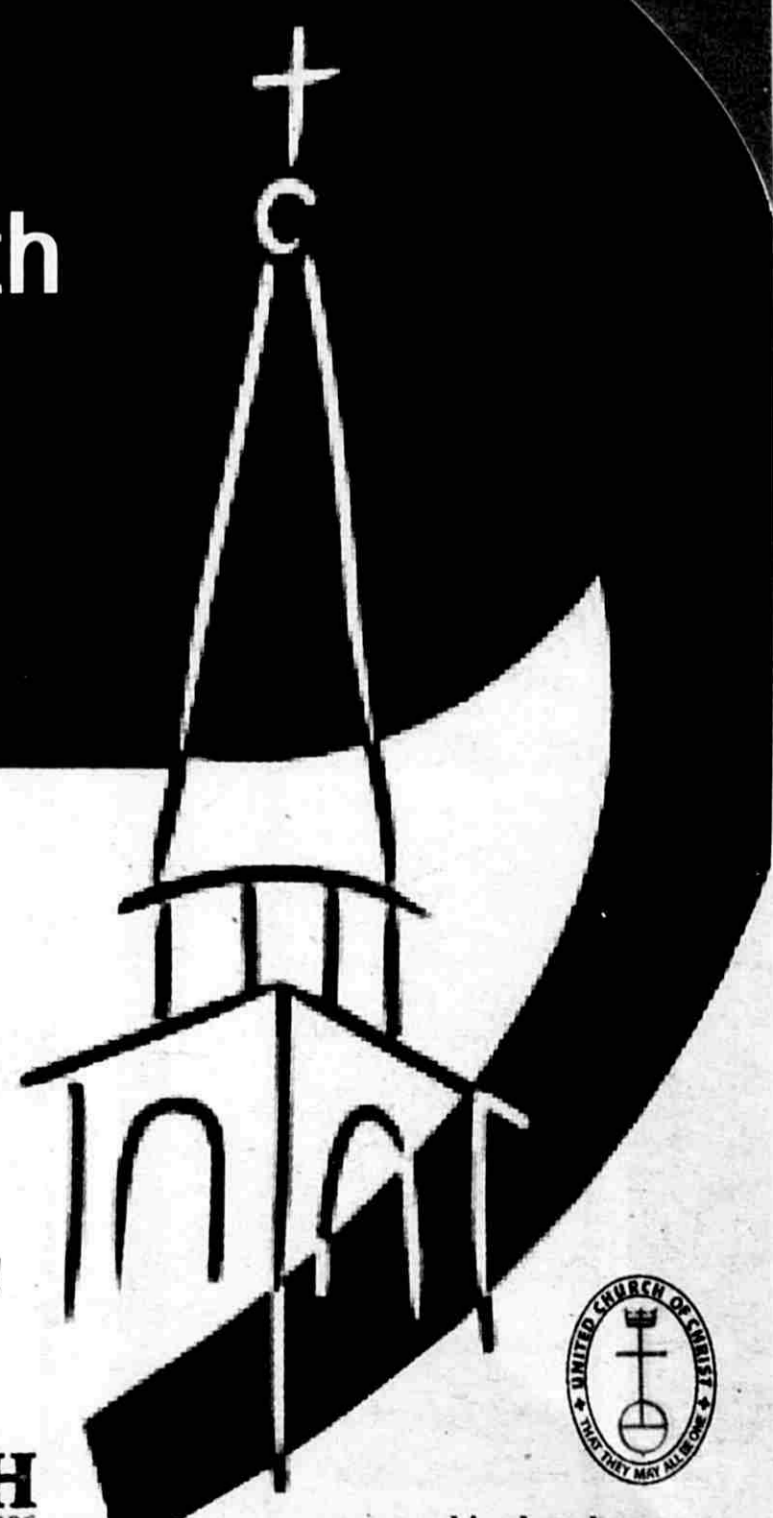


James Peterson of A&K Railroad Materials.

A total of 36 more miles of tracks will be stored on the property and eventually shipped out to sell to a different railroad company. The ties are first sorted and graded.

Also, the Mid Michigan railroad cars are parked between Foreman, and five miles north of Lowell, to Bailey Road as part of the purchase agreement.

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A FEW NOTABLE EVENTS FROM JULY 16-JULY 22, 2009

- President Obama announced Monday, his choice for surgeon general, Dr. Regina Benjamin, a 52-year-old family doctor from a Gulf Coast Clinic in Alabama.
- Authorities are beginning efforts to identify each one of the approx. 100,000 graves in a suburban Chicago cemetery where former workers allegedly dug up plots to resell them.
- North Korean leader, Kim Jongil, has life threatening pancreatic cancer.
- The new H1N1 influenza virus bears disturbing resemblance to the virus strain that caused the 1918 flu pandemic.
- Sen. John McCain, along with Sen. Carl Levin, file an amendment to cut extra money for F-22 Jets. The amendment would eliminate \$1.75 billion.
- Pontiac G-8 to live on as a Chevrolet Caprice. GM has not yet determined a timeline for a car line change.



Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold
Edward Jones
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Are you on track toward your financial objectives?

It's been almost two years since turmoil began in the financial markets. And during that time, your own financial picture, along with that of virtually every other investor, has probably changed. Still, you can do a lot to get back on track toward the future you've envisioned — and you can start today.

What moves should you make? Here are a few to consider:

- Assess your current situation.** You're well aware of the change in your portfolio's value over the past two years, and you may well have already made some adjustments. But if you're going to position yourself properly for the future, you need to review your entire financial situation: your savings, spending, investments, insurance and income needs. Only then can you chart the course that's right for you.

- Re-evaluate your goals.** Since you are already reviewing your financial picture, now is a good time to also re-examine your goals. Would you like to help pay for a child's college education? Do you know when you plan to retire? When you do retire, what sort of lifestyle do you envision? If you haven't already done so, identify your goals and try to put a price tag on them.

- Review your strategy for reaching your goals.** Once you know about how much money your goals may require, you'll need to review your savings and investment

strategies to determine if they are likely to provide sufficient funds. You'll need to look at your investment mix to see if it's providing the right combination of growth and income opportunities. At the same time, you'll want to analyze your feelings about investment risk. Before the market decline, many investors believed they were more comfortable with risk than they actually were. Because different investments carry different levels of risk, it's essential that you know your risk tolerance and factor it into your investment decisions.

- Start making necessary changes.** To attain the goals you've identified, you may well need to make some changes. For example, during the most recent bear market, the value of your growth-oriented investments likely fell considerably, which means these investments may now make up a smaller percentage of your portfolio, relative to income-oriented vehicles. Yet to achieve your long-term objectives, you may need a good amount of exposure to investments that have the potential to provide growth, such as stocks. Consequently, you may need to rebalance your portfolio, possibly with the help of a professional financial advisor — someone who knows your goals, risk tolerance, family situation and other key factors.

- Be flexible.** After you've identified your goals and revised your investment strategy accordingly, you have taken some important steps — but you're still not done. None of us can predict what will happen in our lives, and as we've seen, the financial markets are equally unpredictable. So you will need to be flexible with your investment moves and prepared to make changes as necessary.

In short, establish an investment strategy that's right for your needs and follow it as best you can, but be prepared to adjust your path as time goes by. By staying diligent, you can help yourself advance toward your important goals — in all economic environments.



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2007 Jeep Cherokee's LOADED, all have remainder of factory warranty, low miles, & unbeatable pricing Payment \$299** mo. 0 Down, W.A.C.	3 to choose from!	2005 GMC Envoy SLT Sunroof, CD, 4x4, tow package, leather Was \$15,999*	2008 PT Cruiser Touring Great MPG's, full power, CD, remainder of factory warranty Was \$10,999*
		2007 Chrysler Town & Country Show-N-go 3rd row seating, 21K, DVD player, loaded Was \$17,999*	1996 Chevy Monte Carlo Auto, air, full power Was \$2,400*

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Clearing will enable center to show visitors the green

by Thad Kraus

It is a natural fit for the ecosystem that one finds at the Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center.

The Red Pines, that cover a large area of the land at the Wittenbach Center, are not native to the area.

The center, identified as the chosen location, will help assist Michigan Green in planting 1,000 Red Oak, White Oak and Sugar Maple seedlings on the Wittenbach/Wege nature preserve properties. The timing could not have been better.

"Actually, the timing is great," said Wittenbach director, Meggan Johnson.

The Wege preserve will be removing planted pines as the school removes every third row and every third tree in the remaining rows at the center.

The clearing will expose the native seed bank to more sunlight allowing for habitat more native to the area to flourish.

The trees are tentatively scheduled to be cleared the first week in August.

On Oct. 9, one hundred students selected from all four elementary schools will help plant the 1,000 seedlings.

One of the lucky students will receive a DELL computer; five of the students will receive

a Michigan Green energy kit; while all one hundred students will get a backpack.

"We are planting the seedlings in the fall to avoid the heat of the summer," Johnson explained.

Johnson has coordinated times with volunteers to follow up and come in and water the plantings.

"Not all the seedlings will take, but to get 50 percent would be fantastic," Johnson said.

The Red Pine logs will be removed by a company out of Cadillac.

Lowell was the first site selected throughout the state for the planting of 1,000 seedlings.

Meggan Johnson, director of the Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center, identifies a transition zone. To the left, is the lush, green, much desired area as opposed to the barren, deserted area to the right.



Summer reading program free to all children

There is a new treasure in Lowell! Have you heard of Arrow Readers on the Move?

All Lowell School District elementary students have the opportunity to join in on the fun this summer.

Arrow Readers on the Move is a program traveling throughout the Lowell community uniting students, books, teachers and technology.

Think of it as an open accelerated reader time for students to check out books in their name, curl up to read and take accelerated reader quizzes.

Students may also take books home and return them on their next visit.

The program is made possible through a grant from the Lowell Area Community Fund.

Arrow Readers on the

Move director Kim Lum notes that most students fall behind in their reading level over the summer and then spend the first few months of the new school year playing catch-up.

"This program targets keeping those reading skills sharp while students also have fun," Lum said.

The summer reading program can be found on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. until



Joseph Audia assists Cypress Condon with her reading.

noon at the Key Heights community building and 6 to 8 p.m. at the Alto Public Library.

On Wednesdays it is at the Murray Lake Elementary library from 9 a.m. until noon and at the Runciman Administration building from 6 until 8 p.m.

On Thursdays, the Arrow Readers on the Move program is at the Runciman Administration building from 9 a.m. until noon and from 6 until 8 p.m.

Parents interested in signing up their child can do so at any of the above locations.



OKAY - Someone Has To Say It ...

by Thad Kraus

The return of David Mayo, Grand Rapids Press sports writer, has received its fair share of press and reaction from readers on his front page column in the Sunday, July 5 edition.

Mayo was arrested back in February on drug-related charges.

On Tuesday, June 30, he was sentenced to three years probation, 240 hours of community service and \$5,000 in fines along with other conditions for a four-year felony of manufacturing marijuana. A two-year misdemeanor charge of maintaining a drug house was dropped.

It's hard to find fault with the sentencing when an NFL player gets 30 days for a drunk-driving, manslaughter charge (what a country).

In Mayo's "I've come out the other side" column he states he is no superstar athlete. However, in his 24 years of covering superstar athletes for the Press, Mayo learned the art of the professional athlete's non-apology, apology!

Which is what he served up in the July 5 column.

He wrote "I regret if anyone endured any fallout from a problem of my creation."

That sounds eerily similar and all too familiar to "I apologize to all who were offended."

Don't apologize for those who endured a fallout. Apologize for what you did. That's why you're a felon today. It's a felon whether someone else endured a fallout or not.

I read his column two-three times, listened to the Bill Simonson interview and not once did Mayo say, "I'm sorry for manufacturing marijuana." The misdemeanor charge of maintaining a drug house was dropped through a plea deal, therefore leaving it up to public opinion as to whether a drug house existed.

In my case, I used the eye test. The pictures which were published indicated to me that there was more marijuana there than one keeps for recreational use.

I was hoping Simonson would have asked if Mayo was ever half baked while covering a boxing event in Las Vegas or some other major sporting event in any other part of the country.

I would think the Press would wonder about that too!

A few years, back when Dusty Baker was being grilled by the Chicago Press for the Cubbie woes, to deflect harsh criticism and tough questions in the press conferences following the games, he would bring his little boy into the press conference and sit him on his lap. It was a way to soften the belly of the press.

It seems Mayo may have gleaned a thing or two from Baker.

He opened his column by writing, "There is nothing quite like the teary eyed look on your wife's face as a cop handcuffs you both and knowing your decisions are responsible for it." Then he added, "May none of you ever have to bear such guilt."

That seems eerily similar and all too familiar - soften up the reader and possible critics, in this case with an emotionally personal experience involving a family member (his wife). For me, it read as a plea for sympathy. However, if you're not going to apologize for what you did, why is it necessary to seek sympathy?

I'm all for redemption and giving people who come out on the other side a second chance, but I hesitate to extend such courtesy to those who just "speak out the other side."

To Miss a Little...

Anyone who read last week's column knows that the end of it was cut off. Someone once said, to miss a little is to miss a lot. So here's a lot of what you missed.

To any legislator in Lansing listening or reading this - if you want to help Michigan's Tourism Industry - take your lunch hour and go out and clean a decaying carcass off the side of a highway (here's the little) and when you're through, don't forget to clean up your lunch.



by Thad Kraus

Gary Vandermark has had more DNFs (did not finishes) in his 23rd year of racing than he cares to discuss.

Malfunctions preventing him from getting to the finish line have included a broken rotor and a spark plug falling out.

A good thing Vandermark is a patient driver on and off the track.

"You have to be patient on the track because you're not going to win the race on the first lap," he explains.

In his first year racing in the late model division, patience is needed to help meet the challenges from week to week. These would include reading the track, identifying the set up and making the right adjustments.

"There are probably 18,000 different adjustments you can make to your car. The key is to make the right ones, otherwise you can adjust yourself right out

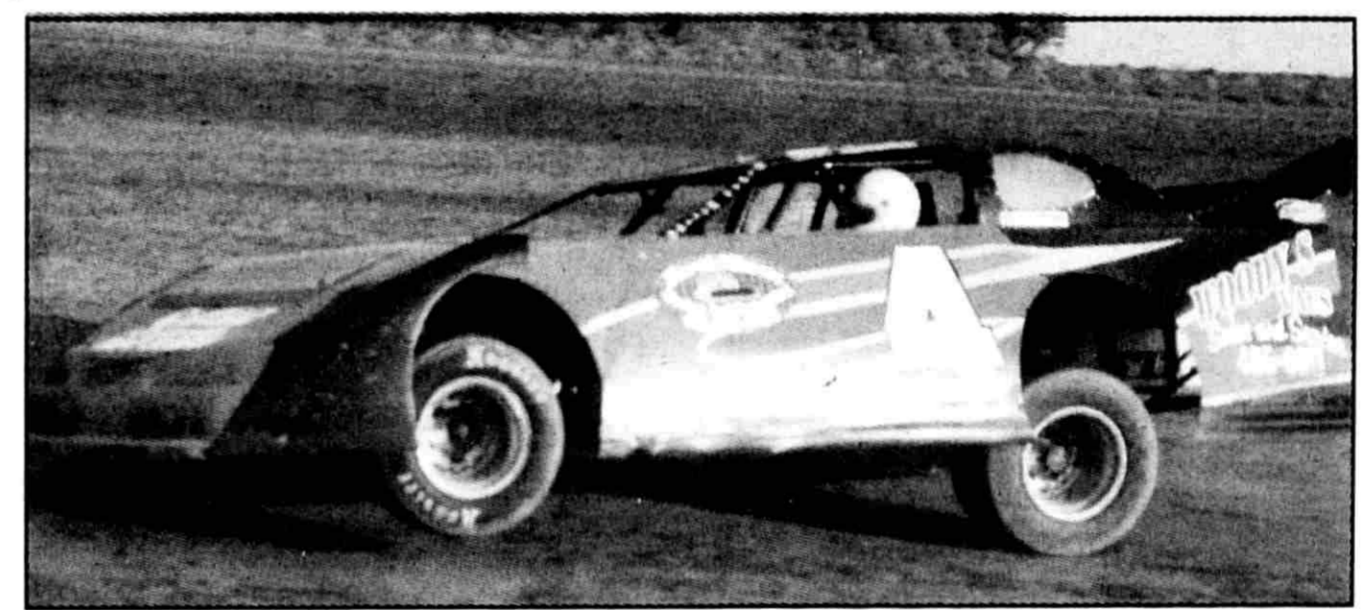
of the race," Vandermark explains.

He's done alright. Going into the weekend, the Lowell driver is seventh on the points list.

It's a list he doesn't pay that close of attention to from week to week.

"You can drive yourself nuts looking at that every week," says Vandermark.

Vandermark started out in street stock and the past 13 years raced modifieds before making the switch to late models this year.



Gary Vandermark has been a fixture at the 1-96 Speedway for the past 23 years.

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Lacks Cancer Center expands role in Pink Arrow Project

"This important partnership not only raises awareness of the importance of screenings and early detection of breast cancer, but has also created a lot of positive energy in Lowell," commented Tara Geror, Marketing Director of Saint Mary's Health Care and Lowell resident. "We're proud to be a part of it, and as a resident of Lowell, I'm especially proud because I see the effect that it's having."

In our second year of sponsoring the groundbreaking Lowell

Pink Arrow Project, The Lacks Cancer Center at Saint Mary's aims to increase the community's awareness of cancer prevention and treatment. This year's Pink Arrow Project will not only turn the football team and fans pink on September 11, but has been expanded to include two other athletic events to be held on that day. September 11 will be a daylong festival of athletic contests coupled with reminders of the importance of screenings for early cancer detection

and remembrances of those lost to the disease.

As the first major partner, with Lowell Community Wellness, to sponsor the Pink Arrow Project in its kickoff last year, The Lacks Cancer Center at Saint Mary's will repeat some of the activities that were so successful, such as the varsity football team's visit to the cancer center to meet some of its medical leaders and to watch a video of Chris Spielman, former Ohio State and NFL All-Pro linebacker. Spielman talked of his fights on the football field and his much more difficult fight to support his wife as she underwent breast cancer treatments. This year's visit is planned for August 4. The Lacks Cancer Center also hosted the girls' Varsity Club last February, providing a tour of the center and educational sessions with our clinical cancer experts. "It was a wonderful, educational, eye-opening

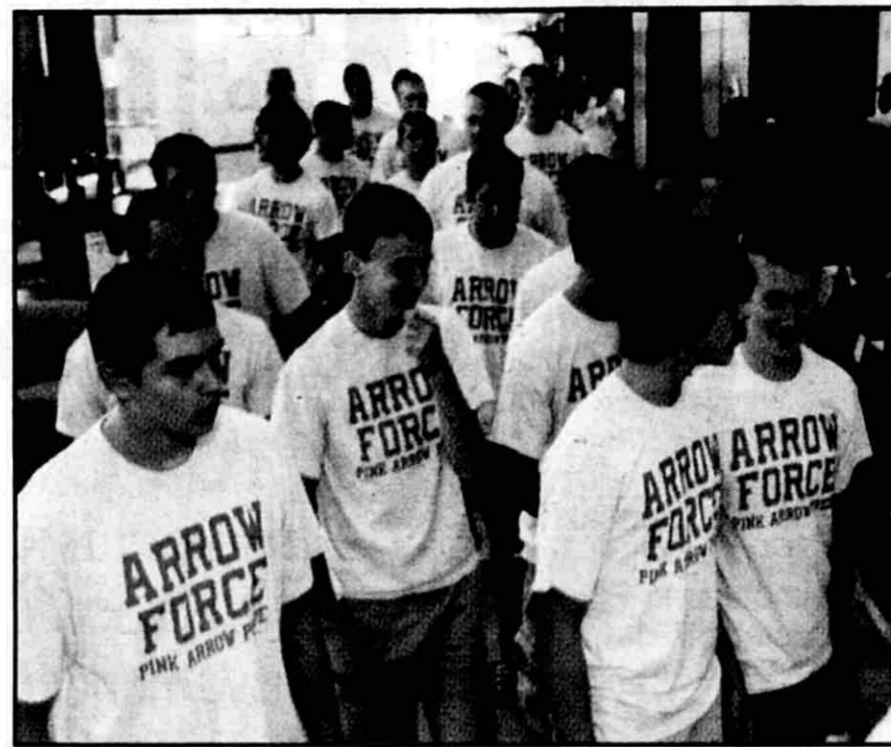
experience," one of the girls remarked as the group left. "I'm going to go home to remind my own mom to make an appointment for a

cancer prevention and treatment in the Lowell community. They will also partner with Gilda's Club, Grand Rapids' Lowell

7 p.m. The football game will follow the varsity volleyball's outside game versus Forest Hills Northern and the cross-country meet, which both begin at 5 p.m.

During the games, the cancer center will sponsor a booth with informative brochures and will have clinical experts on hand during both games and all the festivities to inform and educate anyone seeking more information about cancer detection and treatment.

"Educating women about breast health is the first major step in cancer prevention," remarked Dr. Jamie Caughran, medical director of the Comprehensive Breast Center at Saint Mary's, part of The Lacks Cancer Center. "This project does so much good in so many ways."



mammogram."

During the annual Riverwalk in July, the cancer center sponsored an informational booth, and the football team carried a banner from The Lacks Cancer Center.

These same experts, from The Lacks Cancer Center at Saint Mary's, plan an expanded collaboration this year, including offering educational sessions on

program, once it is up and running, to bring in speakers.

With the rest of the Lowell community, The Lacks Cancer Center at Saint Mary's will be at the big game on Friday, September 11, as the Red Arrow varsity football team turns pink to take on Union High School at



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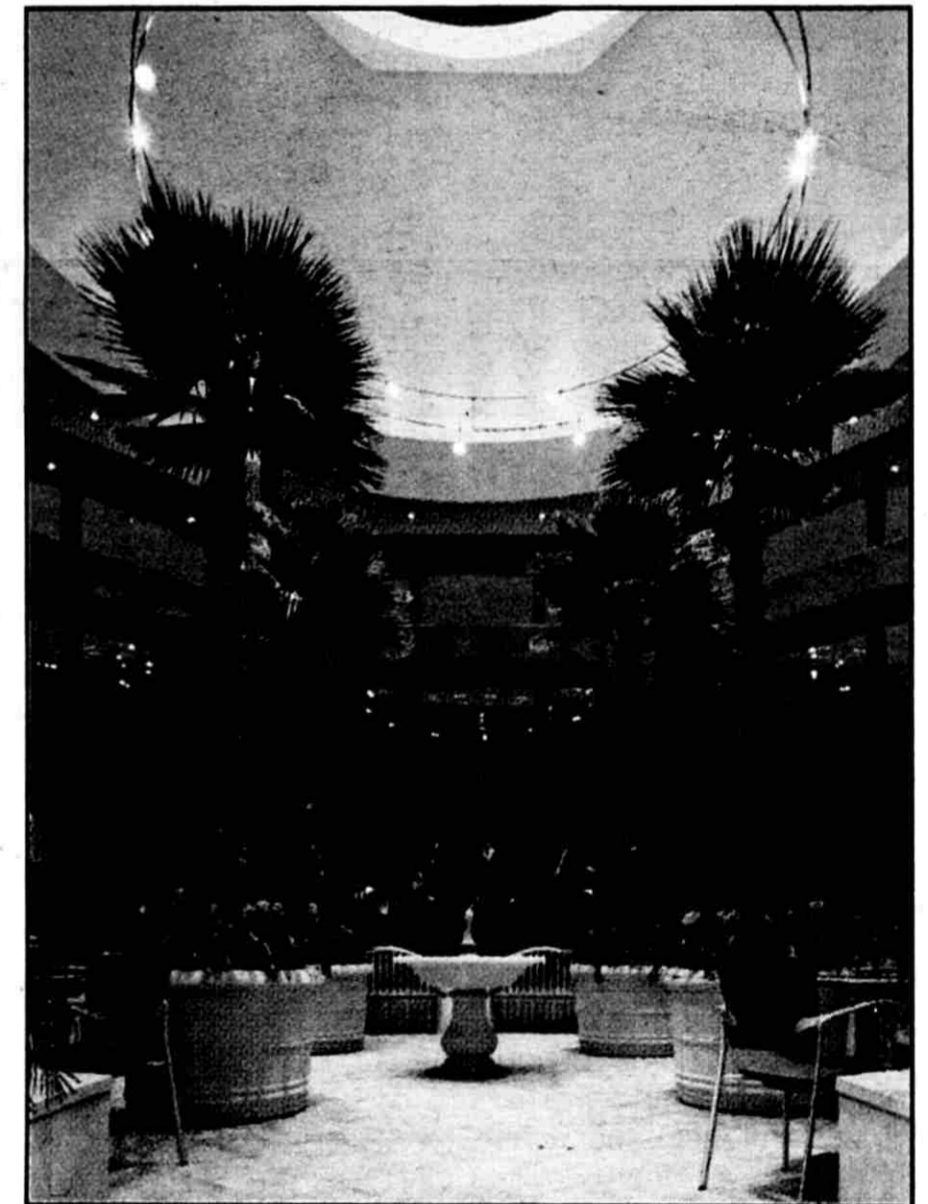


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