



The Lowell Ledger

Volume 38 Issue 36

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, August 5, 2009

75th Kent County Youth Fair opens this weekend

by Emma Palova

The 75th Kent County Youth Fair will open this weekend with an anniversary parade on Sunday at 5:30 p.m. The

parade will go west on Main Street starting at the Methodist Church and ending at the fairgrounds for the opening ceremonies that will take place on the free entertainment tent.

Kent County sheriff, Larry Stelma, will be the keynote speaker. During the ceremonies, 4-H alumni Joe Oesch and Jim Fales will be introduced along with the

royal court coronation. This year's theme is '75 Years and Beyond.'

To celebrate the 75th anniversary, the fair will be selling commemorative

buttons for \$5. Also, a historical display will be featured at the exhibit building.

"I am hoping we're going to do well," said fair manager Ron Wenger. "We will provide affordable entertainment right at home."

And Wenger is optimistic about the turnout based on last year's record turnout. Last year was the biggest fair ever in sales, attendance and exhibitors, according to Wenger.

As far as the impact of the economy on the fair, Wenger was hesitant to make any predictions. In spite of the reduction in premium funding from the state, Wenger expects the exhibitors to hold their own.

The fair will still be paying out half of the premiums. A total of 1,283 exhibitors have signed up, while the overall entries have reached 7,171.

"We encourage the kids to get in the program, not to discourage them," he said.

And the fair has spruced up with blacktopping in the food area to keep the dust down.

Over the years, the fairgrounds have grown tremendously with organized parking, new barns, new sales area, updated campground, bathrooms and showers, fencing, and landscaping. The Kent County Youth

Fair opens this weekend, cont'd., pg. 3



Howard Russell of Superior Asphalt works on blacktopping the area between the food concessions and the barns.

Federal 'Cash for Clunkers' program boosts local car sales

by Emma Palova

Local car dealers cannot say enough about the dynamite 'cash for clunkers' federal program designed to get gas-guzzlers off the road and scrapped, while helping car dealers emerge from the recession. Most dealer lots have been wiped out with recent car sales.

Harold Zeigler Ford sold 56 vehicles during the month of July. Half of these were 'cash for clunkers' vehicles. Now, due to low inventory, the dealership needs to buy cars from out of state.

"Do I have enough to stay in business? Absolutely," said general manager Ted Holloway, "but we're pretty low. This was huge for us."

Focus and Fusion, with mile per gallon consumption in the low 30s and low 20s,

were among the best selling vehicles. On the other hand, SUVs, trucks and vans were the most traded in cars.

The \$1 billion program, ultimately looking for better fuel economy, matched up both qualifying vehicles after plugging in numbers like the date of manufacturing and mileage.

The customers received \$3,500 to \$4,500 toward the new vehicle, while the dealers will get reimbursed from the government.

"It's been great for the consumer, for Michigan, and ultimately it helped us sell vehicles," said Holloway. "It was great for the morale."

The program helped lift Ford Motor Co. to its first monthly sales increase in two years. Now, to keep it on track the Senate must pour in \$2 billion.

"It's scary," said Holloway. "We're on the hook for it. We're low on

inventory and it's hard to get new cars replenished."

Holloway said the dealership will just sit tight and wait if there's enough cash. But, the program has definitely proven that the economy is picking up.

And at Good Chevrolet Buick, even people who didn't qualify for a 'cash for clunkers' purchase were interested in buying a new car.

"It got them thinking about getting a new vehicle," said general manager Rodger Garner. "It's been a great shot in the arm. We have enough inventory."

The dealership sold as many cars last week as in the first three weeks of July.

"We had a great last week," said Garner. "We sold 10 new vehicles."

Some trade in vehicles like Mitsubishi, with 125,000 miles on it, would have made great used cars,

but under the program it had to be scrapped. Cobalts and Malibus were among the most selling vehicles.

"Some would have made nice used cars, but they have to be crushed by a certified crusher," said Garner.

The credit toward the purchase depends on the difference in miles per gallon in the old car and the new car. The greater the difference, the bigger the credit. On top of that, all the other incentives apply as well.

So, a \$17,000 Chevy Cobalt sold for \$8,000 using all the combined incentives.

Garner, much like other dealers, is hoping the government extends the program.

"I just hope this gets extended," he said. "It helps

Cash for Clunkers, cont'd., pg. 8

Residents complain about vandalism at Richards Park

by Emma Palova

As the city council approved a \$5,000 grant from the Lowell Cable Television Endowment Fund for upgrades at Richards Park, many area residents complained about the ongoing vandalism at the park.

The park, which has both a play set for little children and a concrete slab for skating, has attracted many teens involved in dangerous activities, according to some residents.

"The skaters have attracted other people bringing in dangerous activities such as drug exchanges," said Candice Fleszar. "There's a lot going out there. Its use has broadened. Older teens are hanging out there pushing out younger kids."

Fleszar said she doesn't go to the park anymore with her four children due to cigarettes, broken glass and swearing.

"I can go other places and I have," she said.

According to Fleszar, older men, who are not the parents, are hanging out there with kids. Sometimes kids get dropped off at the park and they're left there for hours.

"They're leaving the kids for the city to babysit them," she said.

Fleszar suggested a helmet law that would filter out the real skaters from the other kids.

"You need to put more thought into how you keep these kids safe," said Fleszar. "We need to get something for our kids. It's not about me. It's about the community. It's about the city of Lowell."

Fleszar said she paid her city taxes that equaled three fifths of the endowment grant toward the park upgrade.

Dick Cooper, who bought a house on Lincoln Lake because of Richards Park, said the park has deteriorated over the last three years.

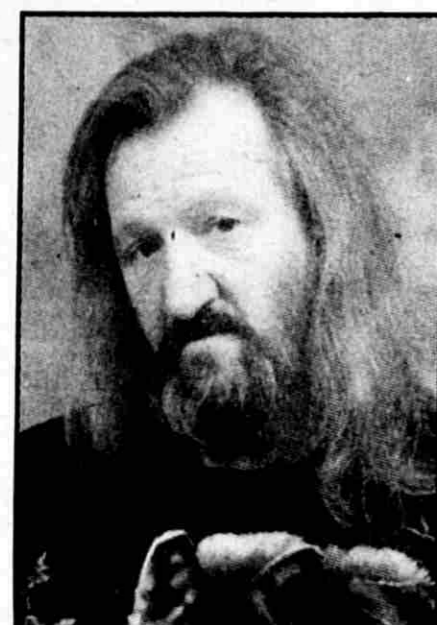
Richards Park, cont'd., pg. 9

Obituaries



GELDERSMA
Doris Geldersma, age 87, of Grattan, passed away Wednesday, July 29, 2009. She was preceded in death by her husband, C.J. "Jeff" and grandsons, Andrew Geldersma and Keith Lyons. Surviving are her children, Bill (Beverly) Lyons, Steven Geldersma, Stuart Geldersma, Dean (Marlene) Geldersma, Susan Geldersma, Douglas (Debra) Geldersma; brother, Glen Lyons; fifteen grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren. Funeral

service was held Saturday, August 1 at Bostwick Lake Congregational Church with Pastor Jason Hubbard officiating. Interment Ashley Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Bostwick Lake Congregational Church.



HAYDEN
Michael James Hayden Sr., loving father, also known as Old Man, Cowboy, Grandpa and Ba-pa, age 60, of Saranac, passed away unexpectedly Friday, July 24, 2009. He was preceded

in death by his wife, Cathi; father, Harold Hayden; and step-father, Lou Cooper. Surviving are his children, Michael (Kim) Hayden, Jr., Shannon (Steve) Eickhoff; mother, Jane Cooper; brother/best friend, Richard (Melissa) Zych; brother, Kenneth (Irene) Haydep; sister, Sue (Stan) Englund; grandsons, Steven (Booger Butt) and Austin (Thunder) Eickhoff; special brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Jerry and Sharlye Bender; aunts; uncles; also very close nieces and nephews. The old man loved country music, especially Waylon Jennings, David Allan Coe and Willie Nelson. He was a retired semi-truck driver and he can now drive a semi again and go for that one last ride he wanted. Mike was in the process of restoring his 1979 BSA motorcycle. He raised Siberian Huskies, enjoyed hunting and walks in the woods with his grandsons. He taught them how to track deer. A shout out to Broadway at B93. Funeral service was held Saturday, August 1 at Roth-Gerst Funeral Chapel with Rev. Rick Blunt of First United Methodist Church

of Lowell, officiating. Interment Blythefield Memory Gardens.

TIMMERS

Marie J. Timmers, aged 65, of Caledonia, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, July 27, 2009. She is survived by her husband of 48 years, Leon; two sons, Mike (Rhonda) Timmers, of Lowell, and Doug Timmers; five grandchildren, Haleigh, Lawrence, Ryan, Lisa, and Janessa; sisters, Clara (Richard) Ryder, and Alice VanDenBroeck; brother, Howard (Mary) Heacock; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Lorraine and Bill Rude, Lois and Dick Passage, of Lowell, Gloria Timmers, Linda and Jim Seeger, Les and Judy Timmers; and many nieces and nephews. Funeral services for Marie were held Friday, July 31 at the Matthyse-Kuiper-DeGraaf Funeral Chapel with Pastor James Hodge officiating. Interment in Bowne Center Cemetery. The family requests that memorial contributions be made to the Kent County Youth Fair. Condolences may be sent online at www.mkdfuneralhome.com.

At Your Local Library



PARK & READ PROGRAM

The Kent District Library (KDL) is participating in the Park & Read Program through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Park and Recreation, and the Library of Michigan. Kent District Library cardholders can visit any of KDL's 18 branch locations to borrow a book and a one-day vehicle permit good at any Michigan State Park and Recreation Area.

Many parks will have hammocks available for Park & Read participants so they can fully enjoy a great book in Michigan's great outdoors. Michigan's park system includes 285,000 acres of land, 13,500 camp sites, 879 miles of trails, and nearly infinite opportunities for outdoor adventures. The Park & Read certificate will give people the opportunity to visit one of these many parks for the day, for free.

To participate, library cardholders should look for the Park & Read posters and displays in KDL branches. If there are any cards available, take one to the library desk to check out a pass. Cardholders will then get a certificate good for a one-day park entrance to be used within the next seven days. Passes can not be reserved ahead of time and they can not be renewed. Each KDL branch will have two passes available for check out.

So grab a book, pick a park and enjoy a relaxing day of outdoor reading.

For more information, visit www.kdl.org or www.michigan.gov/dnr.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT
CIRCUIT COURT -
FAMILY DIVISION

PUBLICATION OF
NOTICE OF HEARING

File No. 09-187,169-GA

In the matter of EBINS
BROWN

TO ALL INTERESTED
PERSONS including:
JAHAN BROWN
whose address(es) are
unknown and whose
interest in the matter may
be barred or affected by
the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A
hearing will be held on
8/25/09 at 9:00 a.m.
at 180 Ottawa NW,
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
before Judge David M.
Murkowski (P35026) for
the following purpose:
to appoint a guardian
and conservator for
Ebins Brown.

Aug. 3, 2009

John D. Flynn (P27413)
1275 Hawthorne Hills
SE
Ada, MI 49301
616-897-6632

Tom Davis
121 Franklin SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
616-248-1379

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
File No. 09-187,159-DE
Estate of
SALLY JEAN WALTON.
Date of birth 9/28/1938
TO ALL CREDITORS:
July 28, 2009

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, SALLY
JEAN WALTON, who
lived at 2132 Rowe St. NE,
Grand Rapids, Michigan
died 5/26/2009.

Creditors of the decedent
are notified that all claims
against the estate will
be forever barred unless
presented to DEBORAH
L. WESTVEER, named
personal representative
or proposed personal

representative, or to
both the probate court
at 180 Ottawa Ave.
NW, Suite 2500, Grand
Rapids, MI 49503 and
the named/proposed
personal representative
within 4 months after
the date of publication
of this notice.

John D. Flynn (P27413)
1275 Hawthorne Hills
SE
Ada, MI 49301
616-897-6632

Deborah L. Westveer
2916 Coit NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505
616-364-7781

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Fair opens this weekend, continued ... From Page 1

Fair put approximately \$1 million into improvements at the fairgrounds.

Although the food area has changed, old time vendors still keep coming to Lowell. In fact, Wenger said he had a line up of vendors waiting to get in. For years, Brad's Concession, from Florida, has been bringing to Lowell its sausage and pizza wagons and elephant ears wagon.

DC Express, of Greenville, has been offering French fries and chicken sandwiches to the fair goers for a long time, much like Buer Concessions, of Greenville, with their ice cream.

For Tom and Justin Hall, who have been helping out Wenger, the fair is an exciting time. Tom gets together with his friends to see everything that the fair has to offer.

"I think we're going to have more people because of the economy," said Tom.

"It's an inexpensive way to have fun."

And Wenger agreed, laughing. "Where can you get entertainment for \$100 for the entire family?" he said. "We have the best entertainment values. Here you get the most bang out of your buck. Come to the fair."

Here are just a few highlights of each fair day: Monday's biggest attractions are the youth talent contest and the antique tractor pull. Tuesday's biggest draw is the dog agility show. On Wednesday, there is a horse pull at the track. The livestock sale takes place on Thursday. Last year was the biggest sale. The Extreme Cowboy Event will take place on Friday at the horse arena. An ice cream social will take place Saturday at 2 p.m. The 4th annual Midstate Rodeo provides the grand finale on Saturday at 7 p.m. The rodeo has been

voted 'Rodeo of the Year' for three consecutive years.

My Adventure Theater will feature interactive family fun daily by the entrance to the fair at 2:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

The children's barnyard with baby animals is always a big hit. Transportation from the parking lot to the grounds will be provided by a team

of 10 to 12 horse drawn shuttles, with the exception of Wednesday night due to the horse pull. Instead, there will be a tractor shuttle.

The mainstays of the fair are the carnival attractions provided by Elliott's Amusements of Mason. A daily wristband is \$18. For more information go to www.kcfc.org.



Gilda's Club opening on schedule for Sept. 13

Submitted by
Dave Thompson

On a bright and sunny Saturday morning, Brian Krezjewski, the construction coordinator for the Lowell Senior Neighbors' Center's Gilda's Club remodeling project, arrived at 7:25 a.m. wondering how many volunteers he'd have. There, waiting for him, were about twenty ready workers and by 8 a.m. that number had swelled to nearly thirty.

They were assigned various tasks based on their comfort level, ranging from stripping off old wallpaper (as many as five or six layers), pulling up old carpeting, patching and sanding plaster, to the full scale cleaning of a darkened old cellar. And they even took down a wall to enlarge what will become an arts and craft room for Gilda's Club.

Krezjewski marveled at the obvious eagerness shown by the volunteers and by noon, most of the jobs were completed for that day. He commented, "It was unbelievable how

much they were able to accomplish in such a short period of time! Those with special skills helped with the structural changes; those with basic skills did everything else. They were truly incredible!"

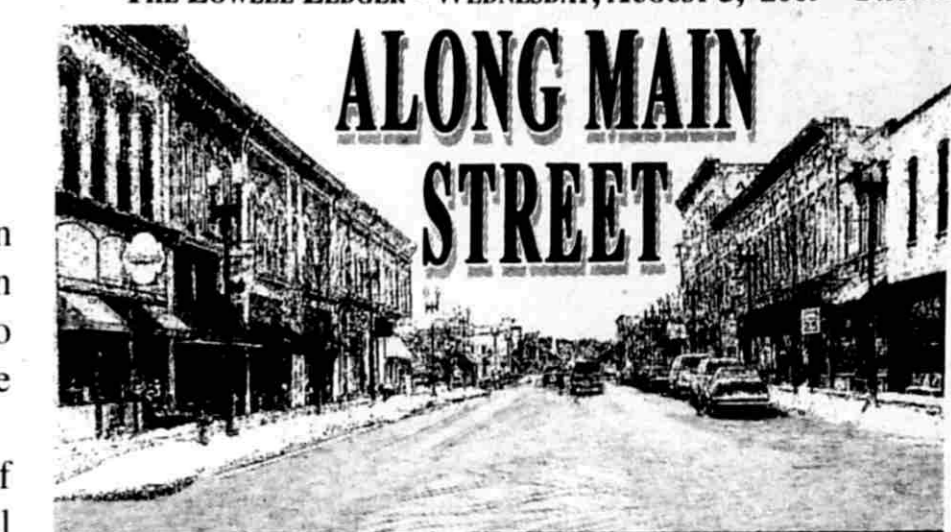
The volunteers came from all walks of life including mothers and daughters, a good number of Senior Neighbors and even students from the high school including the LHS Student Council members. One of the comments from a volunteer summed up the feelings of many, "I began

to work with a bunch of people I'd never met before but I left with a whole new group of friends." The most common commodity among the volunteers seemed to be the smiles that were ever present and everyone had a great time.

Krezjewski indicated that additional volunteers will be needed in the coming weeks to complete the project and he is particularly looking for a few people with special skills such as finish carpenters to handle the installation of crown moldings, bookcases, doors

and trim work, and also those with electrical skills to assist in the rewiring of the entire house. He indicated that those skilled details must be handled by licensed tradesmen. Toward the end of the month, the new entrance will be constructed on the southwest side of the house and during that time the Senior Neighbors' activities will be moved

Gilda's Club,
cont'd., pg. 8



ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

Order days at First Baptist Church, 2275 Main St., Fri., Aug. 7, 4-6 p.m. and Sat., Aug. 8, 10:30 a.m. - noon. Delivery Aug. 29, 8:30-9:30 a.m. For information call IlJean, 897-6609. Order online at www.angelfoodministries.org.

EAST KENT COUNTY REPUBLICANS

The EKCR will be meeting on Sat., Aug. 8 at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, 113 Riverwalk Plaza, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. to discuss current events on the local, state and national levels. For more information, call 897-6380 or 644-0759.

BLUEGRASS MUSIC CONCERT

Free at the fairgrounds, Thurs., Aug. 13, starting at 6:30 p.m. Two bands.

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

Sign up at the Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St., Fri., Aug. 14, 6-8 p.m. and Sat., Aug. 15, 10 a.m. - noon. Everyone welcome. "If you eat, you qualify." Any questions, call Esther, 897-7395.

TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC

Sat., Aug. 15, the sounds of traditional Irish music will fill the air as the Franciscan Life Process Center welcomes the Fenian Group. Entertainment begins at 7 p.m. and is free to the public, although donations are welcome. For more information call 897-7842.

CLASS OF 1944

Lowell High School Class of '44 65th class reunion will be held Aug. 29 at Schneider Manor, Bldg. D, 725 Bowes Rd. Social hour at noon and lunch at 1 p.m. For more information, call Jeanne Blaser Owens, 616-949-1624.

F.R.O.M. FOOD PANTRY

The pantry is in need of canned vegetables, fruit, juice, and personal care products. Please help if you are able. Visit www.fromlowell.org.

F.R.O.M. FOOD MOBILE

There will not be a food mobile for the month of August.

Engraved Paver Project for New Playground at Richards Park

Help Support Our Community . . .

The Rotary Club of Lowell is bringing Richards Park up to date with modern and safe equipment so that area children and youth have a safe place to spend time in healthy activities. One end of the park will be designed for younger kids, with a play structure and swings. The other end, which has an existing ice-skating rink, will be fitted with skateboarding equipment that is removable in the winter so the rink area will be usable year-round.

We invite you to join us at 8 AM on Saturday, August 15 for a Community Build Day to help assemble the equipment. Many hands make light work!

Another way to be involved in this project is to buy a commemorative granite paver stone, engraved as you direct, for \$100. The pavers will be used to edge the playground, and will be a permanent symbol of the support of families, businesses, and individuals for Richards Park.

We are asking you to join with us in this collaborative project to help build not just a playground but also our community through the fellowship of shared work. Community wide endeavors like this are what keep Lowell such a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Please Cut Here.....

Thank you for your support!

ORDER FORM
6"x12" granite Paver up to 3 lines of inscription,
16 characters per line of engraving.

Enclosed is my check payable to **Lowell Rotary Club** or cash for the total amount due of \$ _____

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The Paver Committee reserves the right to edit orders due to inappropriate language or spelling errors.

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P.O. Box 223, Lowell, MI 49331-0223**

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LOWELL AREA COMMUNITY FUND ACCEPTS GRANT PROPOSALS

All Proposals Must Be Submitted
Online No Later Than
August 21, 2009 to be considered.
Visit www.grfoundation.org/lowell
to submit your application.

The Lowell Area Community Fund, a fund of Grand Rapids Community Foundation, awards grants to tax-exempt, nonprofit charitable organizations that have an impact in the Lowell area. The LACF funds innovative projects or programs that encourage community cooperation.

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SHOWTIMES 8:30 - 8:45
• FUNNY PEOPLE (R) 3:30, 6:30, 9:30
• ALIENS IN THE ATTIC (PG)
4:50, 6:50, 8:50
• O-FORCE (PG) 4:20, 6:40, 9:00
• THE UGLY TRUTH (R) 4:45, 7:00, 9:20
• HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD
PRINCE (PG) FRI-WED 6:10, 9:10

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

Garden club celebrates its 60th anniversary

The Lowell Showboat Garden Club (LSGC) held its 60th anniversary celebration in July. "It couldn't have been a better day for the LSGC 60th anniversary celebration," said past president Eva King. The setting of the celebration was at the LSGC president's home of Tina Cadwallader. It was relaxing and enjoyable for everyone to sip herbal tea, look at the gardens and enjoy the company of fellow gardeners chatting about the

new and up coming plants, eco-friendly rain gardens and community projects.

"Many people don't know that the garden club takes care of the plants at the Showboat/Riverwalk area, the Lowell Airport, the F.R.O.M. building (landscaping) and works with the Wittenbach Center on fun family projects," said Cadwallader. "This club has a mix of people who have gardened for years that have lots of tricks they've used

for years. They are master gardeners who share new upcoming trends and people like me, who just wanted to know how to have a nice lawn without harming the environment. We welcome anyone who is interested in joining us. Everyone has something to add."

Cadwallader invites anyone interested in joining the Lowell Showboat Garden Club to call her at 897-7498.



Pictured are past presidents of the Lowell Showboat Garden Club, first row, left to right: Betty Dean and Avis King; second row, left to right: Donna Jean Ford, Dee Gabrion, Donna Smit, Tina Cadwallader, and Regina Grover; back row: Lowell city manager, Dave Pasquale.

Financial Focus

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

MILLENNIALS, GEN X AND BABY BOOMERS SHOULD INVEST FOR GROWTH

Is there a "generation gap" today? In some ways, it's possible. While many Baby Boomers are happy just to understand the basics of Facebook, "Millennials" are busy texting and twittering. And yet when it comes to investing, Baby Boomers (born between 1946 and 1962), Generation X (1963 - 1981) and Millennials (1982 - 2001) may have a lot in common.

Specifically, to achieve their long-term goals, these groups should structure their investment portfolios to provide some growth potential. However, due to their age differences, they may need to take different approaches in how they invest for growth. Let's take a look at all three groups:

- Millennials — One of your biggest objectives may be to save enough money for a down payment on a house. For this short-term goal, you may want an investment whose value won't fluctuate too much. At the same time, don't ignore the need to save for retirement, even though it's likely decades away. Contribute as much as you can afford to your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored plan, and if you still have money available, consider opening an IRA. And you may want to fund these accounts with an appropriate amount of growth-oriented investments, such as stocks or

stock-based vehicles. (Keep in mind, though, that the value of these investments will fluctuate over time, sometimes significantly, and there's no guarantee you won't lose any principal.)

- Generation X — Retirement is becoming more of a reality — so if you have been underutilizing your 401(k) and IRA, now may be a good time to ratchet up your contributions. And although you have less time to make up for market drops than your Millennial co-workers, you're not out of time, either — so you still need to invest for growth potential. Nonetheless, you may want to include a higher percentage of bonds and other fixed-income vehicles in your portfolio, especially if you're an older Gen X'er.

- Baby Boomers — Retirement is coming at you pretty quickly. And it's both a short-term and a long-term goal, because even though you may be leaving your career in just a few years, you could spend two or even three decades in retirement, starting a new career, going back to school or pursuing other interests you haven't had time to pursue. So

you're faced with a paradox: On one hand, you don't want to invest too heavily in high-growth vehicles, because these are the most risky — and a market downturn could cause the value of your portfolio to drop just when you need to start tapping into your investments. But you can't become too conservative and put all your money in fixed-income vehicles, because over time these investments may lose value to inflation — which means you'll lose purchasing power. Consider investing in quality stocks, which have growth potential, along with a good mix of bonds, Treasury bills, certificates of deposit and other vehicles that may offer the potential for both current income and preservation of principal.

Your need for investment growth never really disappears. But at different stages of your life, you'll have to balance this need against competing interests — so review your financial situation regularly, and make the right moves at the right times.

Franciscan Center celebrates the folk harp and Irish music

The Franciscan Life Process Center in Lowell will host "Music on the Green," an evening of traditional Irish music with the Fenian Group, Saturday, August 15. Joining the musicians will be a few guest harpists from HARPfest 2009: A Bit o' Irish, the three-day

harp workshop taking place August 13-15. Entertainment begins at 7 p.m. and is free to the public, although donations are welcome. For more information about either event, call (616) 897-7842.

The following weekend, the Franciscan Center will

have a booth at the Great Lakes Irish Music Festival at the Fifth-Third Ballpark in Comstock Park, Saturday, August 22. It promises to be a full day of wonderful music, great food and lots of family activities. At the Franciscan Center booth, guests may select from craft items chosen for the event plus a limited assortment of baked goods.

A collaboration between Fear n'Ti & Me Irish Productions and the West Michigan Whitecaps, the festival is known as one of the best Irish festivals in the country. Adult tickets are \$12, children 3-12 are \$1, three and under are free. Top-notch entertainment from Ireland will perform continuously on stage throughout the day.

At the Lowell Fair Grounds THURSDAYS • 3-7 PM

The Best Place to Be is At The Farmers' Market!

This Week At The FARMERS' MARKET:

Locally Home Grown, Baked & Handmade!
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• Raspberries • Green & Yellow Beans, Peas & More!

Every Thursday from 3 pm - 7 pm
MAY 14 THROUGH OCTOBER 8
Mark your calendar for two special added market dates:
Sunday, July 12, 11 am to 5 pm and
Saturday, Oct 10, 10 am to 2 pm

PINK ARROW SHIRTS AVAILABLE NOW!

- Aug. 4 - Sept. 10 at Pep Talk (Tue/Thur eves only) Open until 8 p.m. (except Aug. 27)
- Aug. 10-15 at Fair in Foreman Building
- Aug. 25 Fall Sports meeting at High School
- Aug. 25 & 26 at Burch Field from 5:30-7 p.m.
- Aug. 25 & 26 High School Open House
- Aug. 27 Freshman Orientation from 9-11 & 1-3

Also at Pep Talk During Normal Business Hours

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Viewpoint

To The Editor

Dear Editor,

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Now the city of Lowell has taken up the cause of cancer. Our football teams put on their "Pink" and proudly raise incredible amounts of money for their moms, their sisters, their friends and family who have or are a survivor of cancer. They are living proof that holding each other's hands and joining together as a community, we can make a difference. This they have told West Michigan loud and clear. Because of their efforts, Gilda's Club is coming to Lowell.

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4. Give a generous gift to Gilda's Club of Lowell by sending a check to: Gilda's Club Grand Rapids, Lowell Project, 1806 Bridge St. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504.

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Patty A. Elzinga



By Shelly MacNaughton

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WHEN SUBMITTING PHOTOS

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The Lowell Ledger

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Garden club celebrates its 60th anniversary

The Lowell Showboat Garden Club (LSGC) held its 60th anniversary celebration in July. "It couldn't have been a better day for the LSGC 60th anniversary celebration," said past president Eva King. The setting of the celebration was at the LSGC president's home of Tina Cadwallader. It was relaxing and enjoyable for everyone to sip herbal tea, look at the gardens and enjoy the company of fellow gardeners chatting about the

new and up coming plants, eco-friendly rain gardens and community projects. "Many people don't know that the garden club takes care of the plants at the Showboat/Riverwalk area, the Lowell Airport, the F.R.O.M. building (landscaping) and works with the Wittenbach Center on fun family projects," said Cadwallader. "This club has a mix of people who have gardened for years that have lots of tricks they've used

for years. They are master gardeners who share new upcoming trends and people like me, who just wanted to know how to have a nice lawn without harming the environment. We welcome anyone who is interested in joining us. Everyone has something to add." Cadwallader invites anyone interested in joining the Lowell Showboat Garden Club to call her at 897-7498.



Pictured are past presidents of the Lowell Showboat Garden Club, first row, left to right: Betty Dean and Avis King; second row, left to right: Donna Jean Ford, Dee Gabrión, Donna Smit, Tina Cadwallader, and Regina Grover; back row: Lowell city manager, Dave Pasquale.



Financial Focus

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

MILLENNIALS, GEN X AND BABY BOOMERS SHOULD INVEST FOR GROWTH

Is there a "generation gap" today? In some ways, it's possible. While many Baby Boomers are happy just to understand the basics of Facebook, "Millennials" are busy texting and twittering. And yet when it comes to investing, Baby Boomers (born between 1946 and 1962), Generation X (1963 - 1981) and Millennials (1982 - 2001) may have a lot in common.

Specifically, to achieve their long-term goals, these groups should structure their investment portfolios to provide some growth potential. However, due to their age differences, they may need to take different approaches in how they invest for growth. Let's take a look at all three groups:

Millennials — One of your biggest objectives may be to save enough money for a down payment on a house. For this short-term goal, you may want an investment whose value won't fluctuate too much. At the same time, don't ignore the need to save for retirement, even though it's likely decades away. Contribute as much as you can afford to your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored plan, and if you still have money available, consider opening an IRA. And you may want to fund these accounts with an appropriate amount of growth-oriented investments, such as stocks or

stock-based vehicles. (Keep in mind, though, that the value of these investments will fluctuate over time, sometimes significantly, and there's no guarantee you won't lose any principal.)

Generation X — Retirement is becoming more of a reality — so if you have been underutilizing your 401(k) and IRA, now may be a good time to ratchet up your contributions. And although you have less time to make up for market drops than your Millennial co-workers, you're not out of time, either — so you still need to invest for growth potential. Nonetheless, you may want to include a higher percentage of bonds and other fixed-income vehicles in your portfolio, especially if you're an older Gen X'er.

Baby Boomers — Retirement is coming at you pretty quickly. And it's both a short-term and a long-term goal, because even though you may be leaving your career in just a few years, you could spend two or even three decades in retirement, starting a new career, going back to school or pursuing other interests you haven't had time to pursue. So

you're faced with a paradox: On one hand, you don't want to invest too heavily in high-growth vehicles, because these are the most risky — and a market downturn could cause the value of your portfolio to drop just when you need to start tapping into your investments. But you can't become too conservative and put all your money in fixed-income vehicles, because over time these investments may lose value to inflation — which means you'll lose purchasing power. Consider investing in quality stocks, which have growth potential, along with a good mix of bonds, Treasury bills, certificates of deposit and other vehicles that may offer the potential for both current income and preservation of principal.

Your need for investment growth never really disappears. But at different stages of your life, you'll have to balance this need against competing interests — so review your financial situation regularly, and make the right moves at the right times.

Franciscan Center celebrates the folk harp and Irish music

The Franciscan Life Process Center in Lowell will host "Music on the Green," an evening of traditional Irish music with the Fenian Group, Saturday, August 15. Joining the musicians will be a few guest harpists from HARPfest 2009: A Bit o' Irish, the three-day

harp workshop taking place August 13-15. Entertainment begins at 7 p.m. and is free to the public, although donations are welcome. For more information about either event, call (616) 897-7842.

The following weekend, the Franciscan Center will

have a booth at the Great Lakes Irish Music Festival at the Fifth-Third Ballpark in Comstock Park, Saturday, August 22. It promises to be a full day of wonderful music, great food and lots of family activities. At the Franciscan Center booth, guests may select from craft items chosen for the event plus a limited assortment of baked goods.

A collaboration between Fear n'Ti & Me Irish Productions and the West Michigan Whitecaps, the festival is known as one of the best Irish festivals in the country. Adult tickets are \$12, children 3-12 are \$1, three and under are free. Top-notch entertainment from Ireland will perform continuously on stage throughout the day.

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WELCOME TO FARMERS' MARKET

At the Lowell Fair Grounds
THURSDAYS • 3-7 PM

The Best Place to Be is At The Farmers' Market!

This Week At The FARMERS' MARKET:
Locally Home Grown, Baked & Handmade!
Plants • Fresh Baked Breads • Cheeses • Maple Syrup
• Honey • Cut Flowers • Lettuce • Summer Squash
• Green Onions • Sweet Cherries • Sweet Corn
• Raspberries • Green & Yellow Beans, Peas & More!

Every Thursday from 3 pm - 7 pm
MAY 14 THROUGH OCTOBER 8

Mark your calendar for two special added market dates:
Sunday, July 12, 11 am to 5 pm and
Saturday, Oct 10, 10 am to 2 pm

PINK ARROW SHIRTS AVAILABLE NOW!

- Aug. 4 - Sept. 10 at Pep Talk (Tue/Thur eves only) Open until 8 p.m. (except Aug. 27)
- Aug. 10-15 at Fair in Foreman Building
- Aug. 25 Fall Sports meeting at High School
- Aug. 25 & 26 at Burch Field from 5:30-7 p.m.
- Aug. 25 & 26 High School Open House
- Aug. 27 Freshman Orientation from 9-11 & 1-3

Also at Pep Talk During Normal Business Hours

All Shirts \$15.00
2XL & 3XL Extra Charge

Get Them Early!!!

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SAVE **50% OFF**

HEATING/COOLING BILLS GUARANTEED!!!

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All-Weather Seal

Not good where other offer! Good on initial presentation.

Weddings

Jean-DesJarden



Kelli and Severin Jean

Kelli Beth DesJarden, daughter of Daniel and Linda DesJarden, of Lowell, was married Saturday, May 9, 2009 to Severin Joseph Jean, son of the late Harold and Frances Jean, of Holt. The Rev. Terry Tessari performed the ceremony at First Congregational Church of Lowell. A dinner reception followed at the Grand Volute Ballrooms. The couple honeymooned in Jamaica and will reside in Lansing.

Engagements

Happie/VanSpronsen



Justin VanSpronsen and Sarah Happie

Sarah Elizabeth Happie, of Lowell. The future groom is a graduate of Thornapple Kellogg High School and Western Michigan University. He and his parents, Robert and Mary VanSpronsen, are of Middleville. Justin VanSpronsen will exchange wedding vows Friday, August 7, 2009. The future bride, of Ada, is a graduate of Lowell High School and Aquinas College. Her parents are Brian and Deb

In heaven all the interesting people are missing.
- Friedrich Nietzsche (1844 - 1900)

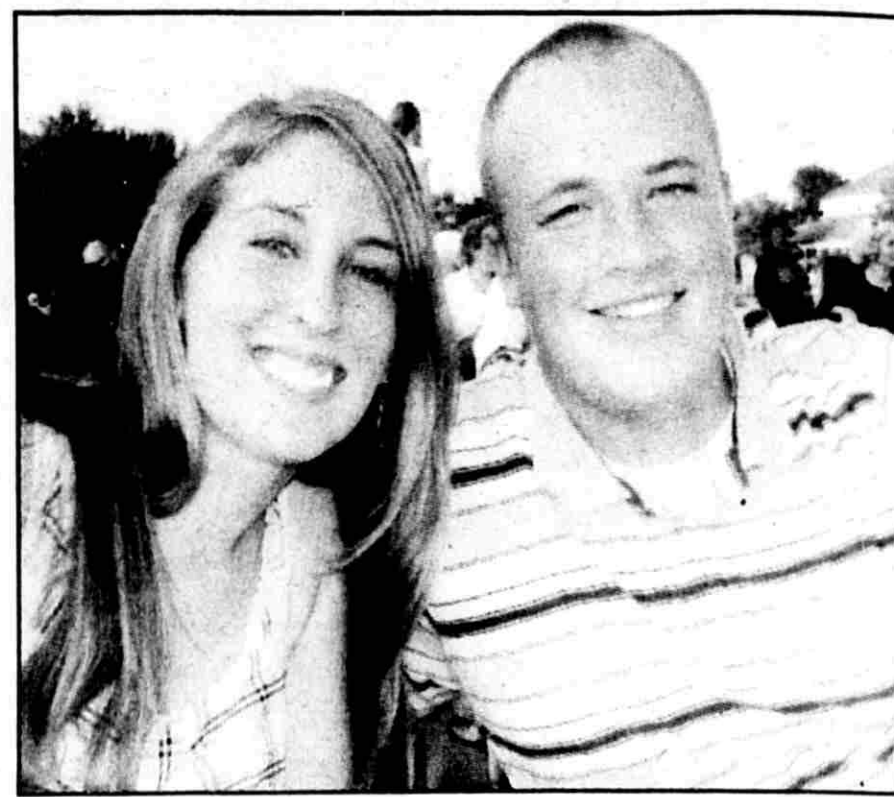
CATHOLIC INQUIRY

Are you looking for a church to join? Do you have a nagging voice inside urging you to check into the possibility becoming a Catholic? Were you baptized Catholic, but have never practiced the faith into which you were baptized? Are you curious about what the Catholic Church actually teaches?

Catholic Inquiry is where you will find the answers to these questions and more. Catholic Inquiry will meet beginning on Tuesday, August 18 at 7:00 PM at Saint Mary's Church, 402 Amity, Lowell.

For more information please contact the Office of Religious Education, 897-7915.

VancelGreen



Erica Vance and Brian Green

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Vance, of Braselton, GA. and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Green, of Lowell, are proud to announce the engagement of their children, Erica June Vance and Brian Scott Green. An August 15, 2009 wedding is planned in Chattanooga, TN.

Happy Birthday

- AUGUST 5:** Hoekstra, Sharell Wolf, Robin Abel, Stephen Martin Jr.
AUGUST 6: Jessie King, Kim Foster, Steven Vickers.
AUGUST 7: Barbara Wright, Don Grummet, Jaimi Smith, Steve Newell.
AUGUST 8: Jennifer Kimble, Chris Goggins, John Rasch, Allen
- AUGUST 9:** Pamela Esparza, Steven Burrows, Busha Wilson.
AUGUST 10: Madeline Scott, Arnie DeLoof.
AUGUST 11: Mike Wilczewski, Jordan Warren, Nicholas Brzezniak.

College News

Tyler Last, of Ada, has made the Dean's List at Kettering University for the spring 2009 semester. Last is pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering. The Dean's List at Kettering University is an honor earned by students, who in a given term, have attained a minimum weighted grade average of 92.0 out of a possible 100, have received no grades below 85, and have earned a minimum of 16 credits.

Ask Kathryn

With Kathryn DenHouter Ph.D.



This is the last article in a series of five articles on the effects of pornography. The effects of porn/cybersex on our society is profound. The most startling statistic is that currently, Internet pornography is a 97 billion dollar industry and all indicators point to an ever increasing use of the Internet for this purpose. There are many victims of pornography. The one addicted is impacted of course, but marriages are negatively impacted, and this is an ever growing menace on our children.

How do we turn this porn/cybersex addiction around? Dr. Vanderbeck and Dr. Baird, in their book, Behind Closed Doors, discuss how to create order out of chaos. The chaos refers to the hyperfocus one needs to "feed" their addiction. The time taken away from the family and the secret life that gets harder and harder to conceal are all indicators of this addiction. Patrick Carnes, in his book, Out of the Shadows, cites six warning signs of porn/cybersex addiction:

1. Admit that one is powerless over their sexual compulsion and that their life has become unmanageable.
2. One accepts that a Power greater than themselves can restore him/her to sanity.
3. One makes a decision to turn their will and life over to the care of God.
4. One makes a fearless moral inventory of themselves.
5. One admits to themselves and to another human being, the exact nature of their wrongs.
6. One is ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

What this describes is the chaos that comes from an Internet porn addiction. How can one make order from this chaos? Naomi Rosenblatt and Joshua Horwitz, authors of Wrestling with Angels: What Genesis Teaches Us About Our Spiritual Identity, Sexuality, and Personal Relationships, writes, "In his first creative burst, God displays all the loving concern of an ideal parent as He prepares the world for humanity's arrival. Establishing basic boundaries of order and predictability, He begins to build the safe and secure

infrastructure that every infant must have to establish trust in his/her world. A child learns to trust through predictability and routine."

As adults we need this structure and routine too. When we are in "recovery" from addiction, we need a "healing routine," and a carefully structured daily life plan. This "healing order" can come from the support of a group such as the Sexual Compulsive Anonymous Group. This group uses a twelve step model to recovery which includes:

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HEALTH

With Drs. Paul Gauthier, Jim Lang, Wayne A. Christenson III, John G. Meier & Tracy Lixie



HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

Your blood pressure is an indirect measurement of the pressure within the arteries of your circulatory system. Hypertension, or high blood pressure, occurs when the pressure remains elevated for long periods of time.

Blood pressure readings are expressed as systolic and diastolic pressures. The systolic reading is the maximal pressure within the arteries during contraction of the heart. The diastolic reading is the pressure between heart beats. For example, a blood pressure of 130/70 indicates a systolic reading of 130 and a diastolic reading of 70.

Hypertension is diagnosed if the systolic reading is 140 or higher, or if the diastolic reading is 90 or higher. Most physicians agree that a normal blood pressure should be less than 120/80.

Left untreated, hypertension puts a strain on your circulatory system

7. One humbly asks God to remove one's shortcomings.
8. One makes a list of persons they have harmed and makes amends to them.
9. Direct amends is made to such people except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. One continues to make personal inventory, and when one is wrong he/she will promptly admit it.
11. One seeks God through prayer and meditation to improve one's awareness of God, and
12. by having had this spiritual awakening, one carries this message to other people that are wounded by sexual compulsivity.

Finding a counselor that can help you work through this struggle is key to your recovery as well. A good life plan, the twelve step program, and a God-centered counselor can guide you through the struggles of addiction to a life that has integrity and wholeness.

I welcome any comments or questions that you might have. Please email me at kathryndenhouer@gmail.com.

leading to stroke, heart failure, kidney failure and visual disorders. Hypertension has been called the "silent killer" because there are usually no symptoms until serious damage occurs.

Hypertension is one of the most common chronic medical conditions seen in a family physicians' office. It is usually a life long condition that can not be cured and requires ongoing treatment to prevent serious complications. You can help lower your blood pressure by:

- losing excess body weight;
- following a healthy low salt, low fat diet;
- stop smoking;
- limiting alcohol intake to one drink per day for women and two drinks per day for men;
- stay physically active; participate in aerobic exercise (running, biking, swimming, walking) 30-50 minutes per day, 3-5 times per week.

Most of the time, daily medication will be required to control your blood pressure. Make sure you take your medications everyday as directed. By working with your physician you can find the medication that is right for you.

For more information on hypertension, you can contact the American Heart Association at www.heart.org.




Thank You!!!

**Double RR Ranch
Firstbank - Kurt Lardie
Meijer
Mynt Fusion Bistro
Williams Air Power**

**Alpha Women's Center of Lowell
thanks you for making
our LifeWalk a success!**

**We would also like to
thank everyone who walked
or sponsored a walker!**

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

 <p>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M. OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	 <p>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL Rev. Wendy Maines • 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 WORSHIP.....8:30 & 10:15 a.m. 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 SUNDAYS: 10:00 a.m. - Worship & Evening; LIFE Home Groups & "The Source" Youth 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 Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	 <p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbcloowell.org Rev. David O. Sims & Rev. W. Lee Taylor Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA/EXCITE-TEENS Wed. 6:15 & 8:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free</p>
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<p>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Pastor Mike Conklin 11:00 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>TODD GILLAN, DDS, PC 2186 MAIN STREET • LOWELL LOCATED ACROSS FROM ARBYS WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO CALL GILLAN DENTAL EXCELLENCE (616) 897-8491 CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN LOWELL</p>

College News

Erin Beddows, of Ada, was among those honored on the Lewis University Dean's List for spring semester 2009. To be eligible for this honor, students must have completed a minimum of 12 semester hours of credit with a grade point average of 3.25 out of a possible 4.0.

If you see the VanOosten Twins on August 10 tell them HAPPY 40TH!



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Cold July impacts wheat harvest

A line of trucks, hauling in wheat from all over Michigan to King Milling, formed last week at the fairgrounds. Although the harvest is usually wrapped up by the end of July, this year due to cold and damp weather, the harvest was late. The crop suffered from bad conditions in quality and yield. "We had to turn down wheat that was too sprouted," said president Brian Doyle. "The crop had a hard time maturing. It started sprouting, growing into the head." King Milling has, so far, taken in approximately one million bushels of wheat, compared to two million bushels last year. But, the company has to make up for the lower yield, by purchasing wheat from storage or elevator businesses. "Last year was a phenomenal year," said Doyle. "We had the best crop."



Gilda's Club, continued ... From Page 3

to Schneider Manor to await the reopening on September 13. Anyone interested in volunteering is asked to call Krezjewski at 642-5281.

Any time there is construction in an old house, there can be a surprise or two. The old Hale house was no different. As work began on the upper most attic - Widow's Watch level,

workers were surprised to find evidence of serious fire damage that had ravaged the top floors. No one seemed to know how many years ago it happened, but studs for the new walls had been placed beside the charred remains of the fire. To top that, an old prosthetic device for a child's leg was also discovered. It was believed

to have belonged to a Hale daughter who had lost a leg to cancer over sixty years ago. Therein laid a twist of irony as the house was being prepared to become part of a Gilda's Club project where cancer patients and their families will have a place for comfort, recreation and friendship during the time

that their treatment is going on elsewhere.

Coming Events:

- Watch for the beautiful Senior Neighbors - Gilda's Club mini-house in the Kent County Youth

Fair parade and in the Gilda's Club booth during fair week.

- Look for the new sign and flag pole in the Lowell Senior Neighbors' and Gilda's Club front yard, coming soon.

- Remember the Pink Arrow games on September 11.

- Plan to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony and open house on Sunday, September 13.

Cash for Clunkers, continued ... From Page 1

people in tough economic times to be able to afford a new car."

The dealership ordered more cars in anticipation of the program, but until the Senate passes extra money, it will only be negotiating

deals but not delivering new vehicles.

"We'll wait until we're sure the money is available," said Garner.

Wittenbach Grand sold approximately 25 cars and is wiped out of inventory.

"It was a fantastic program. We've sold a lot of vehicles," said general sales manager Mark Shoe.

Keith Klostra, of Grand Chrysler Dodge Jeep, stated that the 'cash for clunkers' program was a great boost to the dealership. "Grand sold a bunch of cars off its lot." Klostra also mentioned that he was very happy to see the dealership's customers receive such great deals. "I hope the federal government extends the 'cash for clunkers' program."

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Richards Park, continued ... From Page 1

"It used to be a nice quaint place for people to gather," he said, "but the profanity now is something that is uncalled for."

Cooper said whenever his wife tries to correct the kids, she gets called names.

"I am concerned how this is being controlled," he said.

Apart from profanity, the park has suffered from vandalism. Picnic tables have been destroyed, trash cans are being dumped out and the sign has been broken.

Police chief James Hinton acknowledged the situation at the park.

"Activity in Richards Park has increased," he said. "There is art graphic on the concrete."

However, even though there have been drug and other arrests in the park, there is not a lot the police can do, according to Hinton.

"It's very grey. It's frustrating," Hinton said. "It's a catch 22. I feel sorry for the people."

Currently, there is not a sign for rules and a helmet ordinance may or may not help.

"The park rules need to be clarified," he said. "Unfortunately we are dealing with adolescent behavior. Anything publicly owned gets damaged from time to time."

Dan Brubaker, chairman of the LCTV board and resident, said the nature of the park has changed.

"The park has become like a teen center without an adult," he said. "It has mixed use for teens and little kids."

But, the scheduled improvements by the Lowell Rotary that will pour approximately \$75,000 into park improvements offer some hope.

"I want to see the improvements," said resident Ray Wolfe. "The activities are getting worse. The improvements may draw in adults. The minority of kids are causing problems."

In the future, the skaters may be relocated to a designated area at the Stoney Lakeside Park.

"Hopefully, the skaters get transferred to Stoney Lakeside," said council woman Sharon Ellison. "But the city may or may not be inclined to open another skate park. We need to crack down on rules."

Council member Jeff Altoft said it's only a few kids that do the bad stuff.

"It's police chief Hinton's job," he said.

The improvements scheduled for Aug. 15 will spruce up the park with a new swing set, an indestructible wave, a climbing tower and a skateboard park.

"Fixing up will help," said mayor Jim Hodges. "It will add respect to it and it will bring back the park for the neighborhood."

City manager Dave Pasquale said the Rotarians felt that the project is making a statement.

Along with the \$5,000 grant for the park, the city council approved a total of \$64,750 from the LCTV Endowment Fund for the following projects:

Gilda's Club received

\$10,000, Lowell Area Recreational Authority for connecting Lowell Area Trailways received \$15,000,

Lowell Area Schools Public Access Channel \$10,750, city of Lowell (for the repair of Englehardt Public Library

roof) \$10,000, Lowell Charter Township (for CDBG sidewalk project) \$4,000

and Flat River Outreach Ministries (for heating/AC unit replacement) \$10,000.



Trinity Jones, Dustin Richards, and Cassidy, Alex and Jaden Duram play at Richards Park.

CORRECTION

In the July 29 edition of *The Lowell Ledger*, the story titled, "Retiring teacher is second to none in capturing educational moments," incorrectly stated that Lani Rice was a second-grade teacher. Rice retired from Lowell schools, after 22 years, as a first-grade teacher.

~ River Revelry ~
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A FEW NOTABLE EVENTS FROM JULY 23 - JULY 29 • 2009

- The U.S. homes that Bernie Madoff owned, estimated around \$22 million, are about to go on the market.
- Nissan unveils "Leaf," an electric hatchback, taking its goal of leading the industry in the zero-emissions field.
- Sen. Chris Dodd is diagnosed with prostate cancer.
- The government 'Cash for Clunkers' program lifts Ford sales up two percent in July.
- Lawyers for O.J. Simpson hope to convince the Nevada supreme court panel to release him from prison on bail, while it reviews his conviction.
- A Monroe College grad is suing her alma mater for \$70,000 on the grounds that she can't find a job.
- Italian police tell Reuters that a well-preserved 4,500-year-old skeleton was found on a beach south of Rome.
- In an assault against free speech, Hugo Chavez, Venezuela's president, pulls 34 radio stations off the air on August 1.
- Michael Moore plans a Michigan comedy festival. The event will take place in Traverse City next year. It will run over a weekend and feature movies, stand-up and sketch comedy, and other entertainment.
- Former president Bill Clinton pays a surprise visit to North Korea to try and negotiate the release of two American journalists.

- A Continental jet flying from Brazil to Texas hits severe turbulence. Several people who weren't wearing seat belts were injured.
- Swiss diplomats push for meeting with U.S. hikers who have been arrested in Iran.

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Wide representation at freestyle rumble in Lowell

by Thad Kraus

The opportunity to wrestle in a national event without leaving the comfort of their own community.

That's what 35 wrestlers from the Flat River Wrestling Club experienced on Saturday at the 2009 Grand River Rumble Freestyle Duals.

The event drew 19 clubs representing nine states and Canada.

There were wrestlers representing 20 high schools and seven middle schools.

"Both divisions were well represented," said Lowell wrestling coach Dave Dean. "An event like this allows for the wrestling community to reconnect in a fun atmosphere."

Along with providing strong competition, it also raises funds and eliminates area athlete travel expenses.

Along with Lowell, there was a strong representation from the Forest Hills, Rockford and Westland wrestling communities.

For Dean, it's an opportunity to sit back and analyze what's going on.

"I think it's a good thing for a wrestler not to always

hear my voice. I think this helps to create more fun for the wrestler and therefore has more of an impact," Dean explained. "All kids are sensitive to being micro managed. When that happens, wrestling quits being fun and there are breakdowns."

The Lowell coach credits Rob Stehley with coordinating the event.

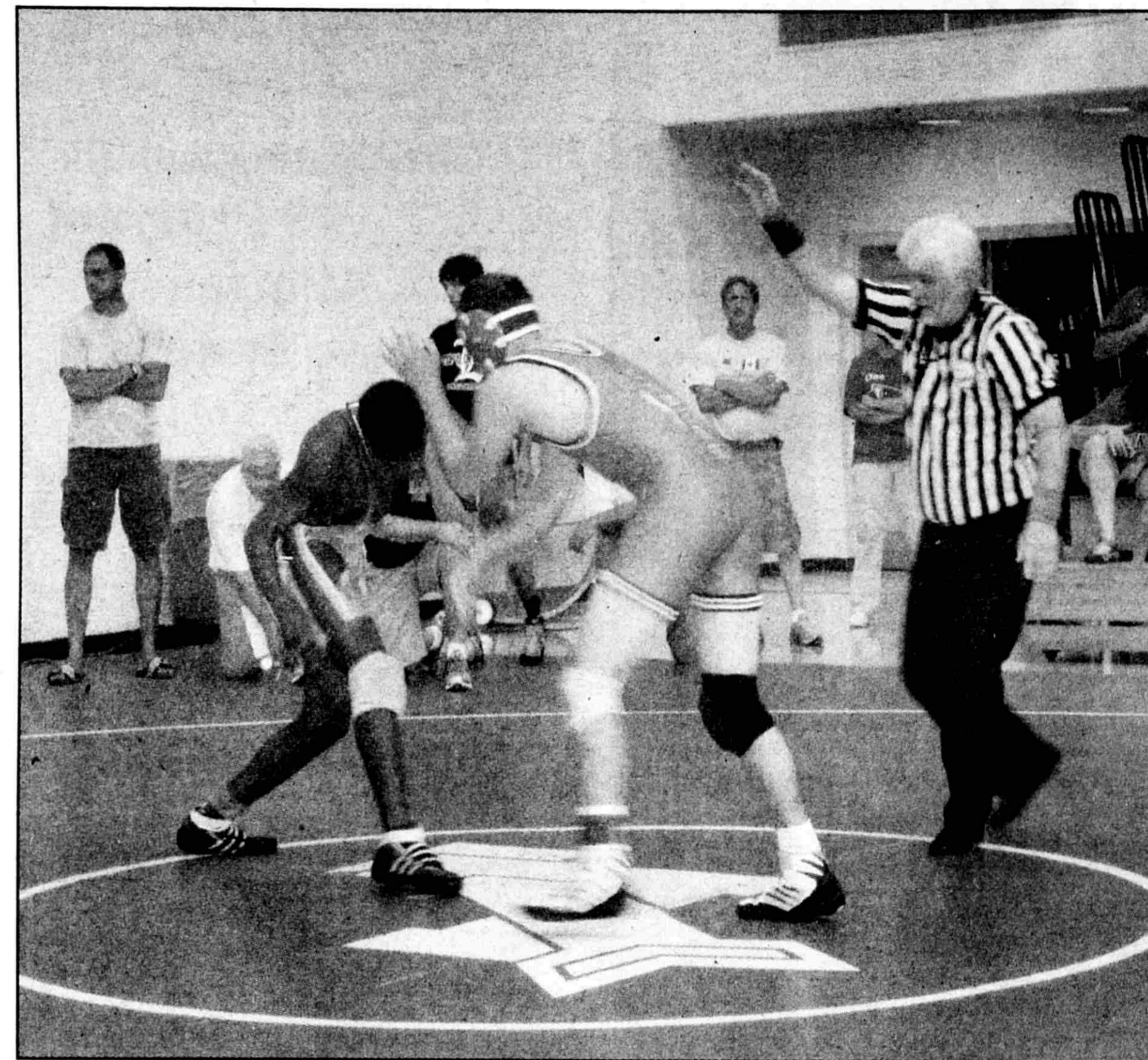
"Rob is responsible for putting it together and promoting the event. He does a wonderful job," Dean said.

Lowell hosted an International Freestyle event on Thursday, July 30 involving two Canadian clubs, three Michigan teams and one team from Pennsylvania.

Lowell lost a number of close matches to a talented Canadian group of grapplers.

"That was a pretty good Canadian team we wrestled," Dean confirmed. "While they don't emphasize mat skills, they are very good on their feet."

These events help wrestling communities build new relationships.



There were 19 different clubs representing nine states and Canada at the 2009 Grand River Rumble Freestyle Duals held Saturday at Lowell High School.

Picture submitted by Jeff Brower

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Lowell's Morse selects Illinois

by Thad Kraus

Go big or go home! That is what Lowell wrestler, Jackson Morse, will be doing following his senior year at Lowell High School.

Actually, Morse will go Big Ten, as he has accepted a scholarship to wrestle at the University of Illinois.

"Illinois is a top 25 wrestling school," Morse explained. "It is where I felt like I fit in the best."

Morse's choice came down to three Big Ten schools, the other two being Michigan and Northwestern.

"I talked to my parents and Coach Dean (Dave)

about the three schools, but in the end it was my decision," Morse explained. "Illinois is still close enough that it allows for family and friends to come watch me wrestle."

Prior to his decision, Morse, on a visit to Illinois, wrestled with the starter at 157.

"I did quite well. Their coach was impressed," Morse said. "At that level all wrestlers are technically sound."

His style is a good fit with that of Illinois.

"Their style meshes well with my own and I connected well with their coach," Morse said.

The Lowell senior said that now and leaving for Illinois, he will focus on improving his fundamentals, his skill on the bottom and his conditioning.

The latter will start immediately as he prepares for the cross country season.

Dean has no doubt that Morse can be successful at the next level once he's through at Lowell.

"Absolutely. He's already beaten wrestlers who have gone on to that next level and were considered

some of the best recruits in the country," Dean explains. "Jackson has great mental skills and displays great composure while having all the physical and athletic skills to go with it."

Morse and his Red Arrow wrestling mates will also go big this winter as Lowell is bumped up to Division I.

"Division I is going to be a little bit more difficult, but we're excited to take on the challenge of bigger schools and compete with them," Morse said.

OKAY -
Someone Has To Say It ...
by Thad Kraus

How has rookie all-everything quarterback, Matthew Stafford, taken to off-season life in the deep south?

Let's see, you're 21 years old and have just signed a \$72 million contract with \$42 million guaranteed... what would you do with your summer leading up to your first NFL summer camp?

Study play book? Workout? Watch film? Pick the brain of Falcons 2008-09 NFL rookie of the year, Matt Ryan?

It seems the Detroit Lions' first-round pick chose none of the above. Instead, he did what all of us dream about... he partied hearty with friends and some fine Georgia felines, reaping what his talents have harvested.

If pictures and tabloid-like stories are any indication, the Bulldog has game... He also throws a pretty good pass... a football pass that is!

Let me start this by saying if I was 21 years old with a contract that guaranteed me at least \$41.7 million and I had a chance to go on a boat ride with several beautiful blonde women, I would have done exactly what Stafford did this summer.

However, recent successful rookie NFL, quarterbacks, the Falcons Matt Ryan and Baltimore's Joe Flacco, did not have similar photos pop-up on web sites like Deadspin. That doesn't mean they didn't have fun. It could mean they just didn't have smucks taking pictures while they were keg lifting or exercising with 12 ounce curls while with some hotties.

It's a lesson learned for the young Stafford. With public life comes full disclosure, even when it's not of your own volition.

The pictures are not terribly provocative. He didn't hurt anyone. No law was broken.

Why should the public begrudge him of having a good time, celebrating his good fortune

It's a whole different story if his escapades interfere with his work ethic and/or his performance on the field. Stafford faces unimaginable pressure as the first pick in the draft. He is being viewed as a franchise savior, and he hasn't even taken a snap, yet. None of us can possibly relate to being in that kind of spotlight.

Let's be honest, if he does as well on the field as it appears he did off the field, no one is going to care. Nor should we care about a 21-year-old having a good time on his summer vacation!

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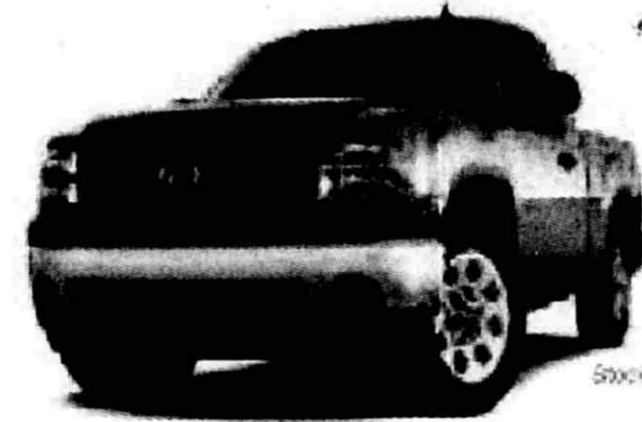
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Lowell author publishes first book

by Emma Palova

Inspired by a free-write exercise designed to break a writer's block, author John DeJong started writing his "Little Bigfoot" fantasy novel some 20 years ago.

But it wasn't until DeJong retired that he got serious about it. So finally, a lifelong hobby turned into a systematic daily routine, much like work, with the end product, a slick paper cover book.

"I feel great," said DeJong. "It turned out really good."

But, the journey to getting the story about the misadventures of a Sasquatch tribal being, Nenco and her son Heshni, was long and rough. Nenco is a Bigfoot and Heshni is a Little Bigfoot, thus the title.

"If you don't have an agent, the publisher will not talk to you," said DeJong. "If your name isn't Stephen King, John Grisham or Dean Koontz, the agents don't want to talk to you."

The search for an agent took almost a year. Whenever DeJong mentioned the novel was a fantasy, agents were not interested. Like many other authors, DeJong ran into a literary wall.

"I just couldn't break into it," he said.

So, DeJong took the self-publishing route using the Createspace site on the Internet. Although cheaper than Lulu, there were software problems with the site, and DeJong got the run around again.

"It was a horrible experience," he said.

But, now the book is out and available for order on createspace.com and amazon.com for \$14.95. It doesn't even have the original writings from that old free writing exercise.

DeJong's favorite part in the book is when young Indian Jim Oddawa sets a trap for Nenco.

"I like the way he used grandfather's teachings," he said.

The book, which depicts the Sasquatch as a tribal being with a religion and family ties, is appropriate literature for the entire family, according to DeJong. He gives credit to Kathy Casler for proofing the book. But, he does not recommend the self-publishing route.

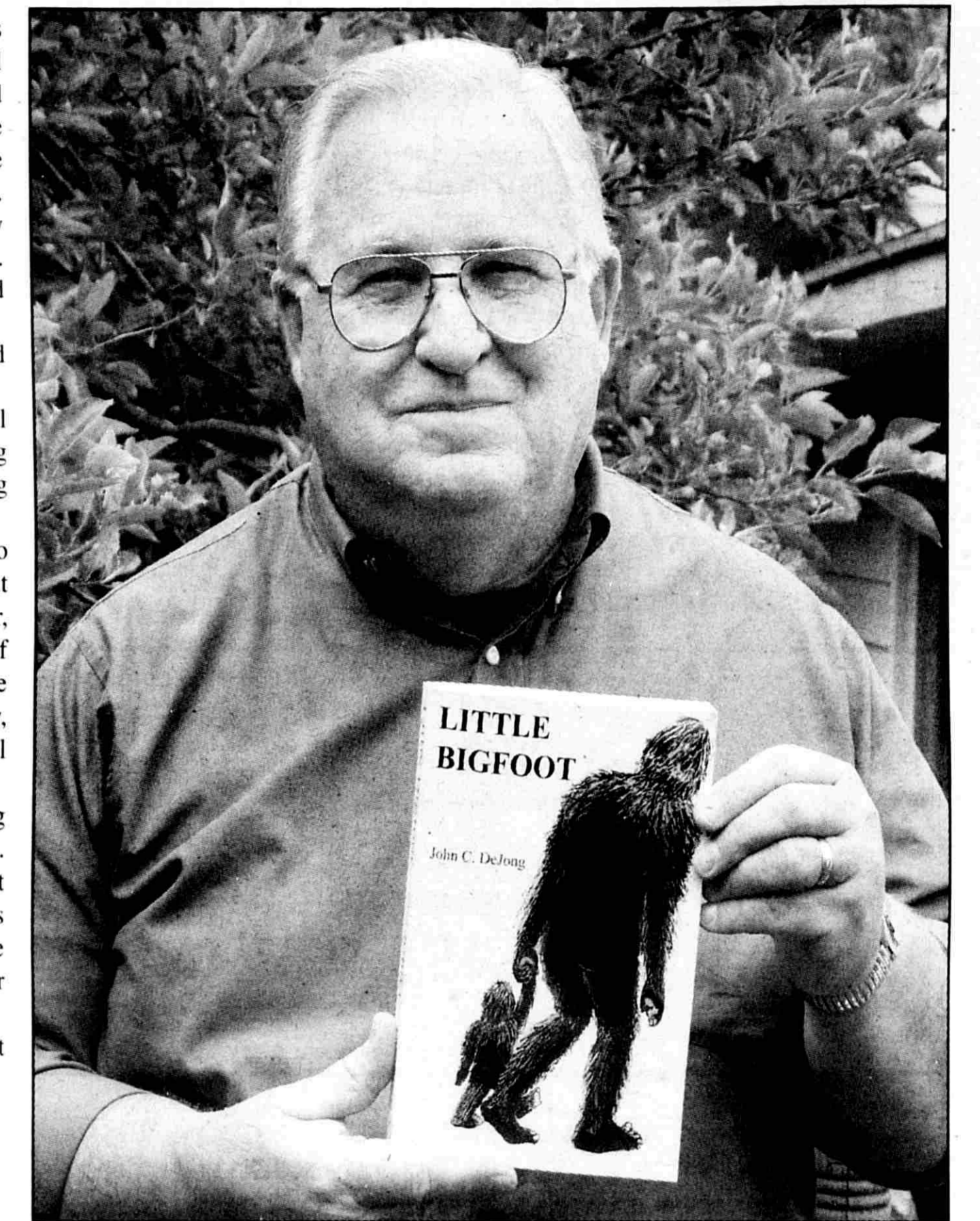
"Only if you cannot find an agent," he said.

After talking to several retail companies, DeJong hopes to have a book signing in the future.

DeJong would like to write another book about the apostle John. However, at 71, DeJong is not sure if he has enough energy for the necessary research. Already, he is thinking about a sequel to "Little Bigfoot."

DeJong started writing as a U.S. Navy journalist. He continued to write short stories, poems and songs as a hobby. DeJong wrote songs with entertainer Robert Hurst.

"We almost got recorded," said DeJong.



John DeJong with his book "Little Bigfoot."

Governor Granholm requests federal disaster assistance for Michigan farmers

Frost/freeze conditions damaged state crops in 27 counties.

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm officially requested federal disaster assistance from U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) secretary Tom Vilsack for farmers in 27 Michigan counties who are facing fruit, vegetable, and other frost-sensitive crop losses because of severe frost, freeze, snows, and cold weather this spring. The requests were based upon 30 percent or more in loss estimates calculated locally in each county.

"Maintaining the viability of Michigan

agriculture is vital to the health and welfare of our citizens as our farmers grow and produce the food we eat everyday," said Granholm. "This disaster declaration is a fundamental first step to ensuring Michigan farmers have the additional resources they need to overcome Mother Nature's challenges and can continue to provide us with fresh, wholesome products."

From November 1, 2008 to July 24, 2009, 27 counties experienced frost/freeze conditions that particularly affected fruit and vegetable production such as apples and cherries. The impacted counties are

in both the Upper and Lower Peninsulas.

Federal, state, and local agencies are working together to quickly and effectively assess crop losses and expedite the process to obtain a federal agricultural disaster declaration. The Michigan Department of Agriculture is working with the USDA-Farm Service Agency (FSA) to compile crop damage estimates due to Michigan's current extreme weather conditions. USDA-FSA is the agency responsible for compiling the official crop loss statistics and administering the federal emergency farm loan programs.

In order for Michigan to receive federal disaster status, the original crop loss estimates must be verified from harvest yield data. If losses of 30 percent or more are confirmed, and the disaster request is granted, eligible state producers will have access to USDA-FSA's low-interest emergency loan program for up to 100 percent of their weather-related agriculture production losses.

For more information on the federal emergency farm loan programs, please visit the USDA-FSA web site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

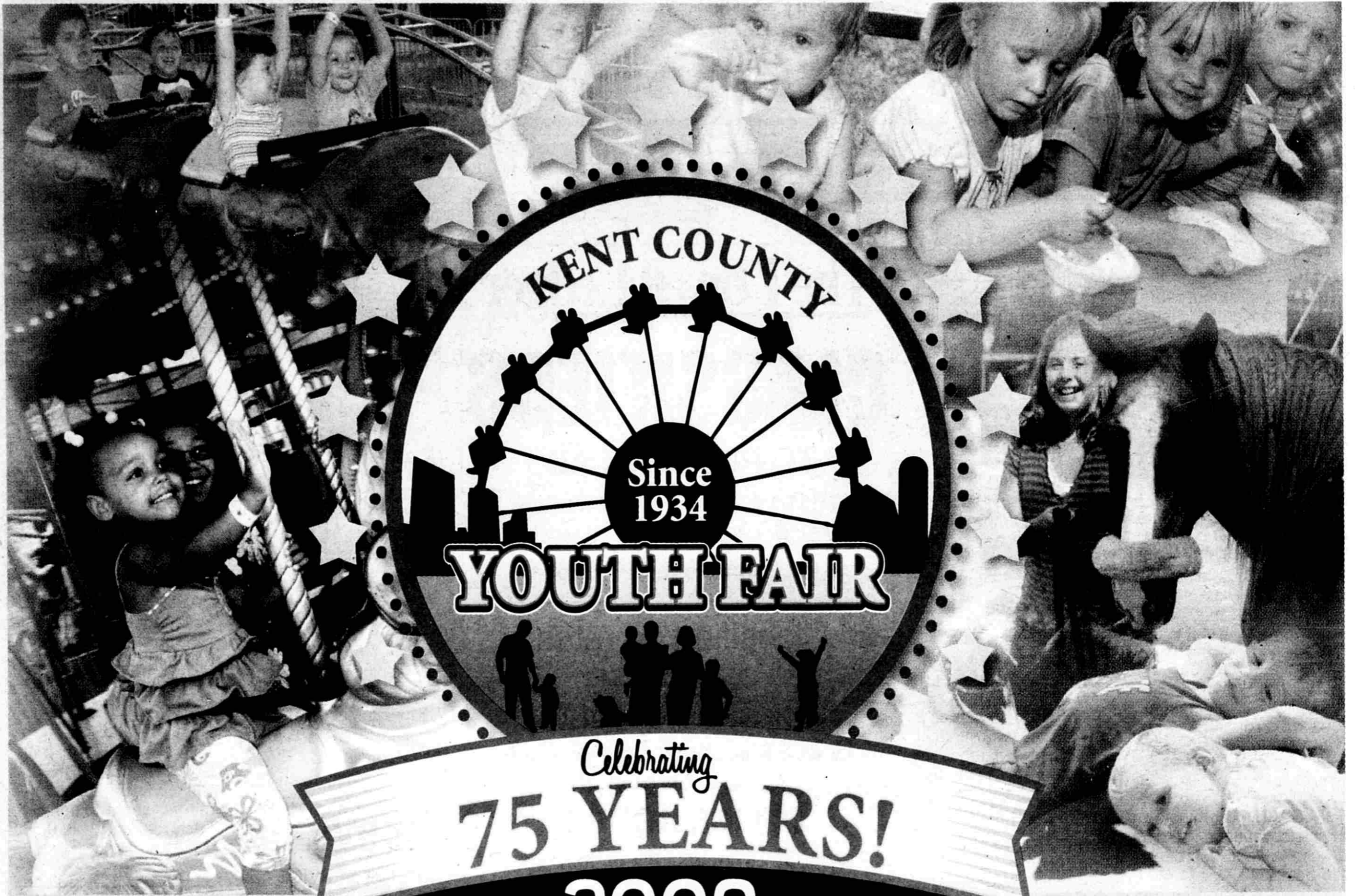
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Thank you to our Participants, Judges and Community who made our 2009 Pet Parade a Success! There were excellent costumes and sportsmanship. We look forward to next years Pet Parade held at The Laurels of Kent on Saturday July 10, 2010 at 2pm.
Congratulations to the Winners!

A MESSAGE FROM THE FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES
FOOD PANTRY
FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES
The North/South Food Fight resulted in an enormous collection of food for the pantry. However, nearly 300 families are receiving food each month (and the number keeps growing) and over 100 children are receiving lunches weekly. The food goes out of the pantry almost as fast as it comes in.
In these difficult times, the need remains intense.
PLEASE HELP IF YOU ARE ABLE.



2009 Entertainment Schedule

Sunday, August 9th

- 4:30 pm-6:30 pm **Pork Dinner**
- 5:30 pm **75th Anniversary Parade**
- 6:30 pm **Opening Cermonies & Royal Court Coronation**

Monday, August 10th: Hometown Hero's Day

- 9 am-2 pm **ORV Safety Class**
- 10 am-6 pm **Community Stage Events** - Schedule posted & on website
- 1 pm-5 pm **Bingo**
- 2:30 pm **My Adventure Theater** - Family Interactive Fun!
- 5 pm-Close **Carnival Rides open - Wristband Ride Special for \$14**
- 6 pm-10 pm **Bingo**
- 6:30 pm **My Adventure Theater** - Family Interactive Fun!
- 6:30 pm **Youth Fashion Show**
- 7 pm **Trebuchet Workshop** *Get Ready for Pumpkin Chuckin'!*
- 7 pm **Antique Tractor Pull** - Open Event
- 7 pm **Youth Talent Contest & DJ the Clown**
- 7:30 pm **My Adventure Theater** - Family Interactive Fun!

Tuesday, August 11th: Grandparents' Day

- 10 am-6 pm **Community Stage Events** - Schedule posted & on website
- 10 am-11 am **Free Grandparent Refreshments**
- 10 am-2 pm **Boating Safety Class**
- Noon-2 pm **Reading for Rides**
- 1 pm-5 pm **Bingo**
- Noon-4 pm **Free Blood Pressure Check**
- 2 pm-Close **Carnival Rides open - Wristband Ride Special for \$18**
- 2 pm-3 pm **Free Grandparent Refreshments**
- 2:30 pm **My Adventure Theater** - Family Interactive Fun!
- 6 pm-10 pm **Bingo**
- 6:30 pm **My Adventure Theater** - Family Interactive Fun!
- 7:30 pm **The Pub Runners: Irish & Folk Songs & Sing Alongs**
- 7:30 pm **My Adventure Theater** - Family Interactive Fun!

Wednesday, August 12th: World Community Day

- 10 am-6 pm **Community Stage Events** - Schedule posted & on website
- 1 pm-5 pm **Bingo**
- 2 pm-Close **Carnival Rides - Wristband Ride Special for \$18**
- 2:30 pm **My Adventure Theater** - Family Interactive Fun!
- 6 pm-10 pm **Bingo**
- 6:30 pm **My Adventure Theater** - Family Interactive Fun!
- 7 pm **Draft Horse Pull**
- 7 pm **The Jobs** - covering Your All Time Favorite Songs
- 7:30 pm **My Adventure Theater** - Family Interactive Fun!

Thursday, August 13th: Agriculture Day

- 10 am-6 pm **Community Stage Events** - Schedule posted & on website
- 10 am-6 pm **Bingo**
- 2 pm-Close **Carnival Rides open - Wristband Ride Special for \$18**
- 2:30 pm **My Adventure Theater** - Family Interactive Fun!
- 6 pm-10 pm **Bingo**
- 6 pm **Garden Tractor Pull** - open Event
- 6:30 pm **My Adventure Theater** - Family Interactive Fun!
- 6:30 pm-8:30 pm **West Michigan Bluegrass Music Assoc. Presents - The Patchwork Band & Black Canyon Bluegrass Band**
- 7 pm **Extrication Demonstration**
- 7:30 pm **My Adventure Theater** - Family Interactive Fun!

Friday, August 14th: Handi-Capable Day

- 10 am-6 pm **Community Stage Events** - Schedule posted & on website
- 11 am-1 pm **Lunch for Special Needs Individuals**
- Noon-2 pm **Carnival Rides for Special Needs Individuals**
- 1 pm-5 pm **Bingo**
- 2 pm-Close **Carnival Rides open - Wristband Ride Special for \$18**
- 2:30 pm **My Adventure Theater** - Family Interactive Fun!
- 6 pm-10 pm **Bingo**
- 6:30 pm **My Adventure Theater** - Family Interactive Fun!
- 6:30 pm-10:30 pm **Country Karaoke**
- 7 pm **Extrication Demonstration**
- 7:30 pm **My Adventure Theater** - Family Interactive Fun!
- 7:30 pm **Extreme Cowboy Event**
- 8 pm-11 pm **Family Dance with Lia's Line Dancing & Dance Moves**

Saturday, August 15th: Kids' Day

- 10 am **Guitar Hero Qualifications** - Check website for schedule
- Noon-11 pm **Carnival Rides open - Wristband Ride Special for \$18**
- 1 pm-5 pm **Bingo**
- 2 pm **Ice Cream Social**
- 2:30 pm **My Adventure Theater** - Family Interactive Fun!
- 3 pm **Puff the Dragon Pedal Pull: Youth Classes**
- 4:30 pm **My Adventure Theater** - Family Interactive Fun!
- 5:30 pm-10:30 pm **Guitar Hero Contest Finals & Concert with Blue Star Pilot**
- 6 pm-10 pm **Bingo**
- 6:30 pm **My Adventure Theater** - Family Interactive Fun!
- 7 pm **4th Annual Rodeo** (Rain or Shine)
- 7:30 pm **My Adventure Theater** - Family Interactive Fun!



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