



The Lowell Ledger

Volume 38 Issue 37

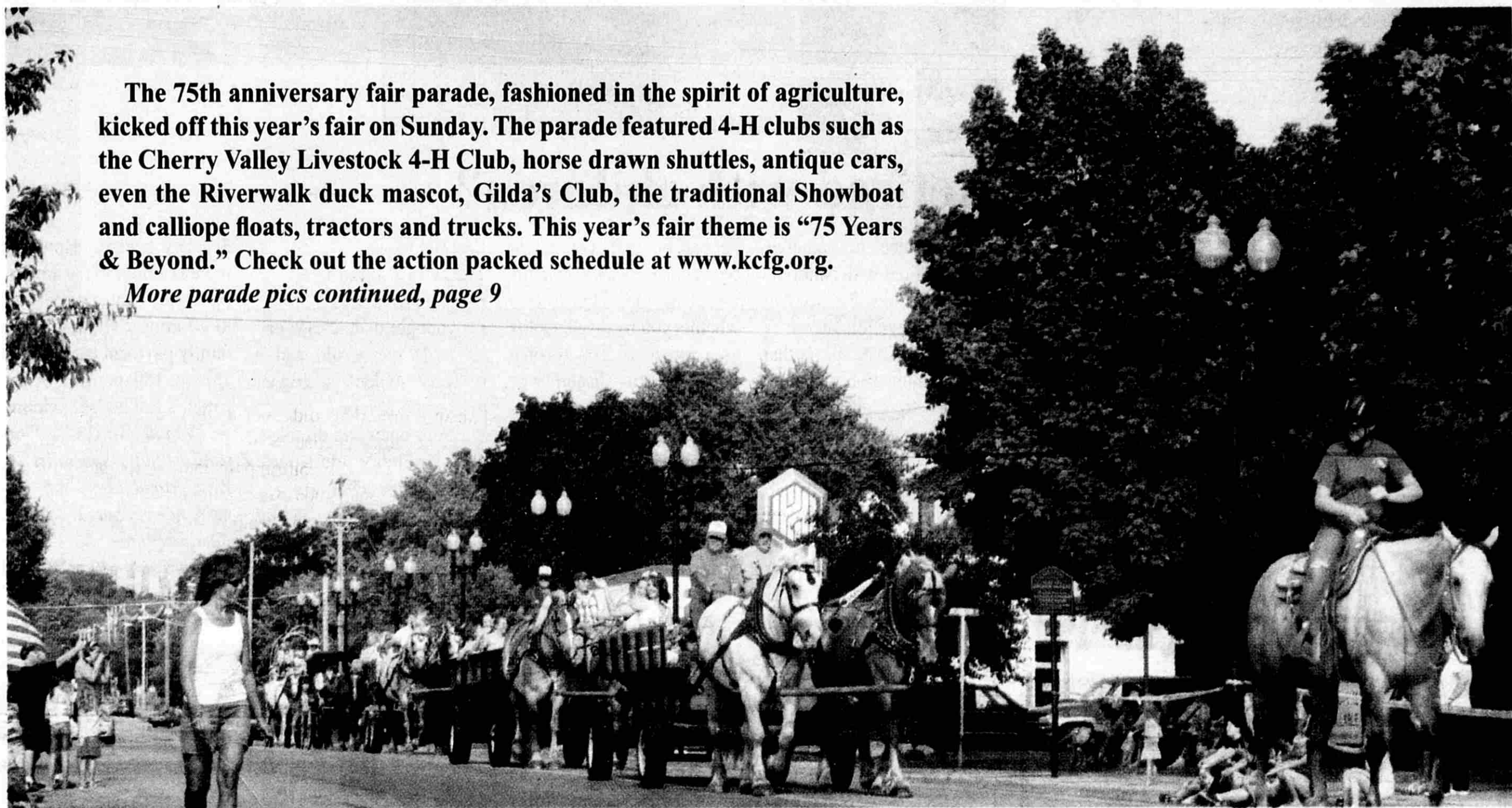
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Wednesday, August 12, 2009

'75 Years & Beyond' the fair comes to Lowell

The 75th anniversary fair parade, fashioned in the spirit of agriculture, kicked off this year's fair on Sunday. The parade featured 4-H clubs such as the Cherry Valley Livestock 4-H Club, horse drawn shuttles, antique cars, even the Riverwalk duck mascot, Gilda's Club, the traditional Showboat and calliope floats, tractors and trucks. This year's fair theme is "75 Years & Beyond." Check out the action packed schedule at www.kcfg.org.

More parade pics continued, page 9



City considers granting franchise for solid waste collection

by Emma Palova

The Lowell City Council discussed the option of granting an exclusive franchise to one of the waste haulers at a recent meeting.

However, the council members were evenly split over the issue. Even though the exclusive franchise

could realize some cost savings for the city, the concerns mainly included limiting free enterprise and the amount of trash disposed with the proposed 95-gallon carts.

Currently, the city uses several haulers with a combination of trash bags and carts. So, on any particular day, carts may be

out in the streets and waste haulers may contribute to increased traffic.

"I am somewhat torn," said mayor pro tem Jim Pfaller. "I struggle to fill a 35 gallon bag. I am not inclined to support a monopoly on trash hauling or imposing carts on people."

Councilwoman Maryalene LaPonsie also

wasn't in favor of granting the exclusive franchise to one hauler.

"I don't like taking away people's choices," she said.

But, council member Jeff Altoft said having one hauler would get a little bit of traffic off the streets.

"There is going to be cost savings," he said. "If there is a spill, we have no way to track it down. If we're to conserve energy, we should pursue this."

Smaller carts and a trash bag option plus recycling could be part of the bid.

"Right now, they go on all days of the week," said Altoft. "It would cut down on noise and speeding."

The city staff will research the price of having an exclusive hauler. If the

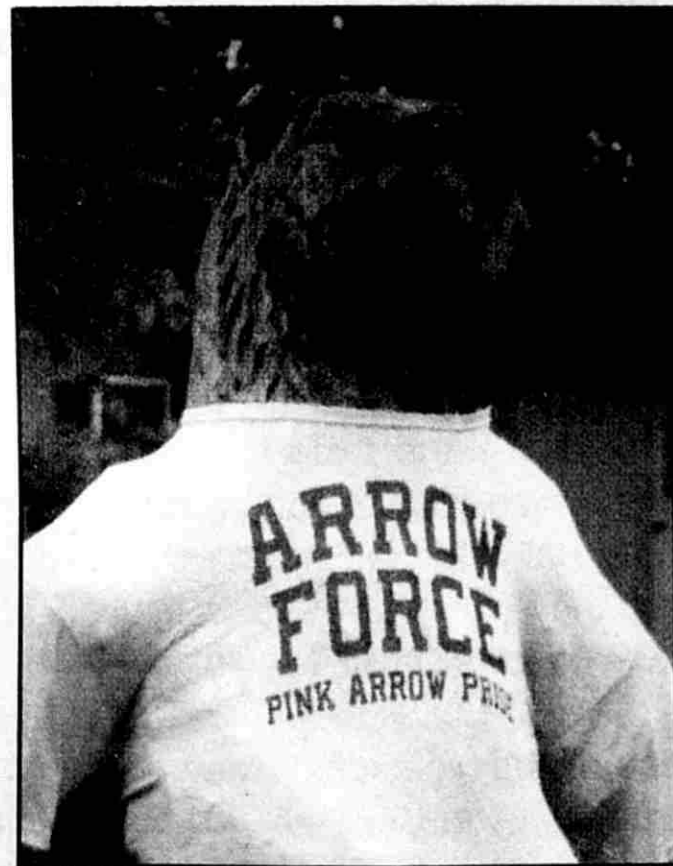
City considers franchise, cont'd., pg. 4



Railroad ties are stored near the Lowell Area Schools bus garage.

Where is Stumpy the bear?

A local celebrity, of sorts, Stumpy the bear on Bowes Road, has recently disappeared from the face of this earth to the dismay of most. Always decked out for the occasion, Stumpy weathered all storms, sunshine, snow and the rain. However, in recent months, the bear started rotting due to extremely wet conditions. "We had to cut him off. Right now, he's drying out in the barn," said owner Mark Mundt. "It's a very sad thing. He was part of our life." The famous bear even used to get his very own mail always titled, "Dear Mr. Bear." One letter said: "You brighten up my day." But don't cry yet, because Mr. Bear will be back in the spring after he dries out. "It's been great, we'll bring him back," said Mundt. Sometimes Stumpy dressed up as a Lowell football player, Michigan State player, Easter bunny, Santa Claus, a farmer, and in the summer he would sport a yellow bikini. Mundt's wife Theresa made the costumes. "He had no idea he'd be a celebrity," said Mundt. Mundt said he and his wife would give some thought to the bear's comeback outfit. Stumpy was carved out of a pine tree by Michael Blane in 2004. In the meantime, enjoy the cubs.



Stumpy, as he appeared last year wearing an Arrow Force t-shirt to show his support for the cause.

Lowell man to climb Kilimanjaro for a cause

by Emma Palova

For Neil Kirby, 40, of Lowell, a planned ascent to the Kilimanjaro peak in Tanzania, Africa has turned into helping a cause.

After training for the climb in 2005, the American Foundation for Children with AIDS has sought out Kirby to lend a helping hand.

"Originally, this was just a vacation," said Kirby.

But now, Kirby, along with his friend Brian Hauenstein, will have a solid reason to complete a difficult climb that even an NBC team with Ann Curie couldn't finish.

"I finally have the confidence now," said Kirby.

Kirby has been training in the Canadian Rockies in Banf, Alberta as well as at the

local YMCA. He has done everything from carrying weight lifting plates in his back pack to walking on a stair stepper while breathing through his nose to simulate the lack of oxygen. He will be a part of a team of eight from all over the world to participate in the five-day summit.

"It's a big feat," he said.

Only eight finalists, who raised \$6,000 to \$10,000 for the cause, were able to go as part of a series of global climbing events. On that fifth day, climbers in the USA and Africa will reach the top of different mountains as part of a coordinated global effort to help kids with AIDS.

Kirby will carry all sorts of gear, from shorts to a ski mask, for this non-

technical climb without pick axes. Due to the nature of Kilimanjaro, which is a land mass consisting of three volcanoes, Kirby and his team will be hiking 45 miles to reach the summit.

"It is the largest single land mass on the face of the planet," he said.

So, the team, along with a guide and porters, will have to conquer the uninhabited mountain that spans five different ecological systems from rainforests to the arctic climate.

The biggest challenge of the climb to the summit at 19,300 feet is the lack of oxygen and the body's weakened ability to fight the UV rays, according to Kirby.

Kirby has received two rounds of shots against malaria and hepatitis, and he will get one more round of shots before he goes.

"The pro is that you're medicated against malaria, but you have less UV protection the closer you get to the sun," he said.

And the most important danger of the climb is edema or swelling of the brain due to lack of oxygen and dehydration.

"The brain swells and pushes against the skull," Kirby said.

That is why the NBC team with Ann Curie had

to turn back at the height of 15,700 feet.

But Kirby, who has just turned 40, says he is ready from a physical and mental standpoint. He only fears that his body may refuse to acclimate.

The team will attempt to reach the summit on the fifth day of the climb. They will head out at midnight in order to reach the peak during early morning to avoid the sun's rays.

"It's great," he said. "It's a wonderful opportunity to turn a vacation into a cause."

Kirby is no stranger to various causes; some events have included cycling for multiple sclerosis and runs for charities. And he is a member of Leading For Our Kids group that raises money for Helen DeVos Children's Hospital.

Kirby works as a digital media specialist for Meijer. He is scheduled to leave on Sept. 12. A fundraiser to benefit 'Climb Up so Kids can Grow Up' will be held on Aug. 26 at the Intersection in downtown Grand Rapids at 5:30 p.m. Following are the performing music bands: Brian Vander Ark, Outer Vibe, Liz Larin and Twice Since Yesterday.

For more information or to donate go to www.firstgiving.com/neilkirby.



Neil Kirby trained in the Canadian Rockies in Banf for the Kilimanjaro Expedition 2009.

Fair parade continued ... From Page 1



Photos by Emma Palova and Bruce Doll

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A FEW NOTABLE EVENTS FROM AUGUST 6 - AUGUST 12 • 2009

• Director John Hughes dies at the age of 59. Hughes was born in Lansing, Michigan. He is famous for movies such as The Breakfast Club, Ferris Bueller's Day Off and Home Alone.

• California town officials shut down a seven-year-old's lemonade stand due to lack of permits. Daniela Earnest was saving her money to take her family to Disney World.

• Sonia Sotomayor won confirmation as the nation's first Hispanic Supreme Court Justice. The senate voted 68-31 to make her the 111th justice.

• Baitullah Medsud, the leader of Pakistan's Taliban, was killed in a U.S. missile strike. Medsud has been blamed for the assassination of Benazir Bhutto, former Pakistani Prime Minister.

• Congress plans to spend \$550 million to buy eight jets, even though lawmakers have criticized firms receiving taxpayer funds for using private jets.

• A small plane and a sightseeing helicopter collided Saturday and plunged into the Hudson River in New York, killing all passengers on board.

• A strong earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 7.1 has shaken the Japanese capital of Tokyo and surrounding areas according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

• Up to 400 people missing in Taiwan as Typhoon Morakot hits Asia.

• 47 passengers on a Continental Express flight were made to wait on the ground for over six hours in Minneapolis.

• In California, dozens of people are stranded on an amusement park ride when it stalls. They were left hanging in 90 degree heat for over four hours. On the same day, in a similar incident in Michigan, two dozen people were injured.

• Eunice Kennedy Shriver, sister of President John F. Kennedy and founder of Special Olympics, dies at 88.

• Tiger Woods wins the Bridgestone Invitational but is fined for an angry response to his opponent being timed - he thought unfairly.

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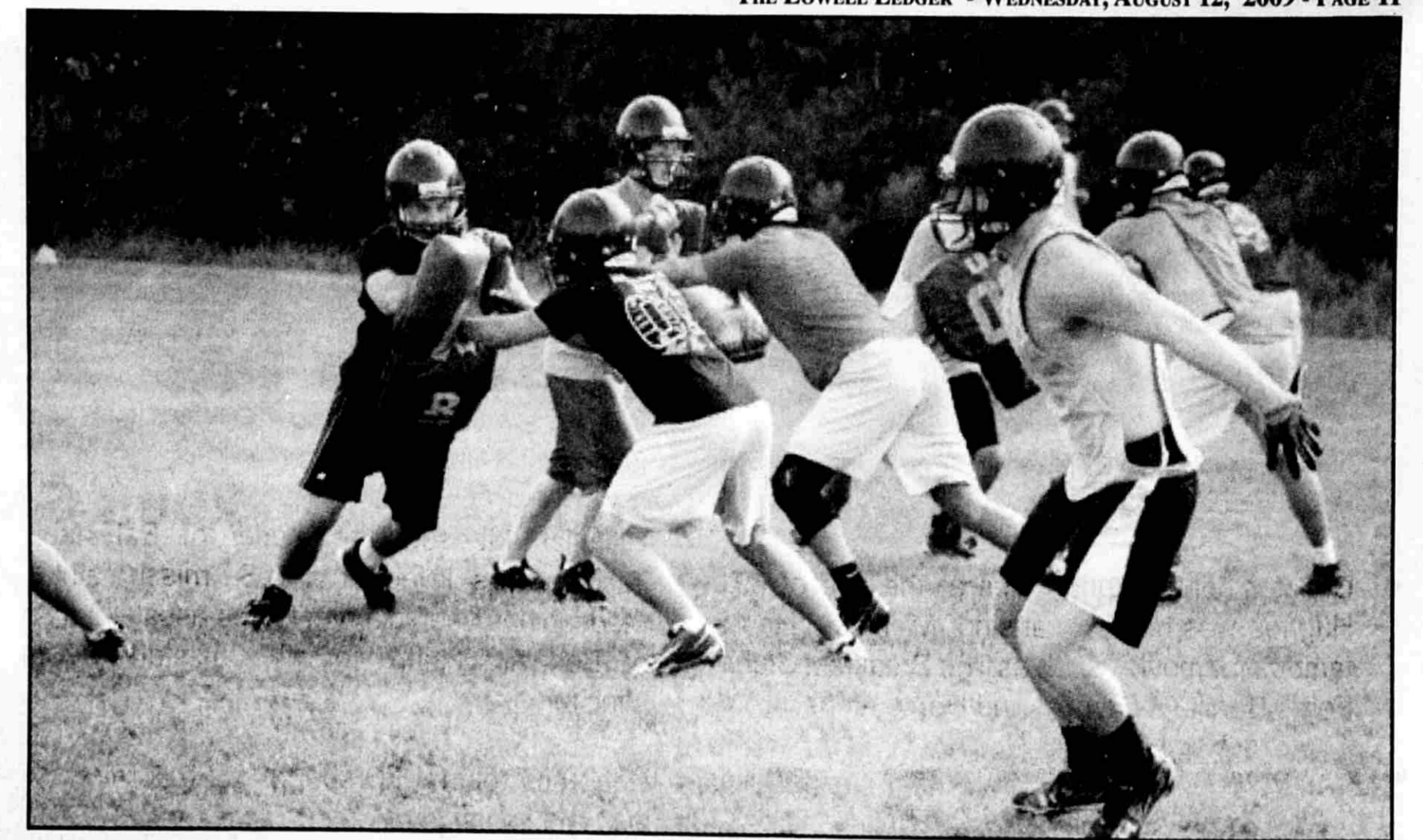
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Practice opens for 2009-10 Red Arrow gridders

The start of high school football practice indicates that Fall can't be that far off. Lowell held its first day of practice on Monday. The Red Arrows, who finished 11-1 while winning a third straight O-K White Conference championship last season, open up play this year at home on Thursday, Aug. 27 against Detroit Mumford. Head football coach, Noel Dean, enters into his 14th season at Lowell.



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DRAFT SYNOPSIS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL MONDAY AUGUST 3, 2009

Motion to approve the agenda as submitted.

Motion to approve the regular minutes of the July 20, 2009 meeting as corrected and the accounts payables was approved.

Motion to approve the 15th annual Tony's Toy Run at the Fairgrounds on Sunday, September 13, 2009.

Chief of Police James Hinton announced the promotion of Officer Steve Bukala to Police Sergeant effective July 20, 2009.

Motion to approve the proclamation recognizing the Kent County Youth Fair on its 75th anniversary and announced Fair activities from August 9 through August 15, 2009.

Motion to approve the Attwood Corporation application for an Industrial Facilities exemption Certificate under Public Act 198.

Motion to approve amending the enabling resolution that dollar for dollar matches from grant applicants is not needed.

Motion to approve the LCTV Endowment Boards' recommendations for the first round of grant requests.

Motion to purchase BS&A Financial Software for the City offices.

Motion to approve Rehmman Robson as the City auditor for the next five years.

Motion to establish a public hearing for Monday, September 8, 2009 to consider the request from Flat River Grill to extend the licensed area on the Riverwalk to accommodate added seating.

Motion to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, August 17, 2009.

Complete minutes will be available after approved on August 17, 2009 on the City's web page at www.ci.lowell.mi.us or at City Hall.



Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

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Lowell City Airport hosts biplane fly-in

Michigan Stearman pilots from Owosso, Brighton, Howell, Fowlerville, Kalamazoo, Mason and Fort St. Lucie, Fla., flew up and out of the Lowell City Airport Friday as part of an annual weekend fly-in (around).

The itinerary for the gaggle of planes took pilots north along the Lakeshore with stops in Empire, Charlevoix, Hessel and St. Ignace.

The St. Lucie entry

was, former Lowell Ledger publisher, Roger Brown.

"There were 10,000 built during WWII and there are 1,000-1,500 Stearman still going," Brown said. "Many survived the war as crop dusters."

Army Stearman were blue and yellow while the Navy planes were all yellow.

The Stearman (Boeing Model 75, a biplane, became a subsidiary of Boeing in

1934. Widely known as the Stearman, Boeing Stearman or Kaydet, it served as a primary trainer for the USAAF, as a basic trainer for the USN (as the NS & N2S), and with the RCAF as the Kaydet throughout World War II. After the conflict was over, thousands of surplus aircraft were sold on the civil market. In the immediate post-war years they became popular as crop dusters and as sports planes.



Alan Wright, of Kalamazoo, is with his 1943 Navy Stearman.



Roger Brown stands next to his 1941 Army Stearman which has been custom painted.



Bob Pingston, of Fowlerville, and Judy Schultz, flew in a 1943 Army Stearman.

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