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the lowell ledger

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tale of the
lowell troll
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helping to fill
pantry shelves



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summer
softball



page 7

Sweet farewell to the fair

by Emma Palova

It was a fair to remember. Some will remember it for 90-degree temperatures, others for their

well-auctioned off animals, and yet others for their well-deserved colorful ribbons.

And it wasn't just kids having fun, but adults

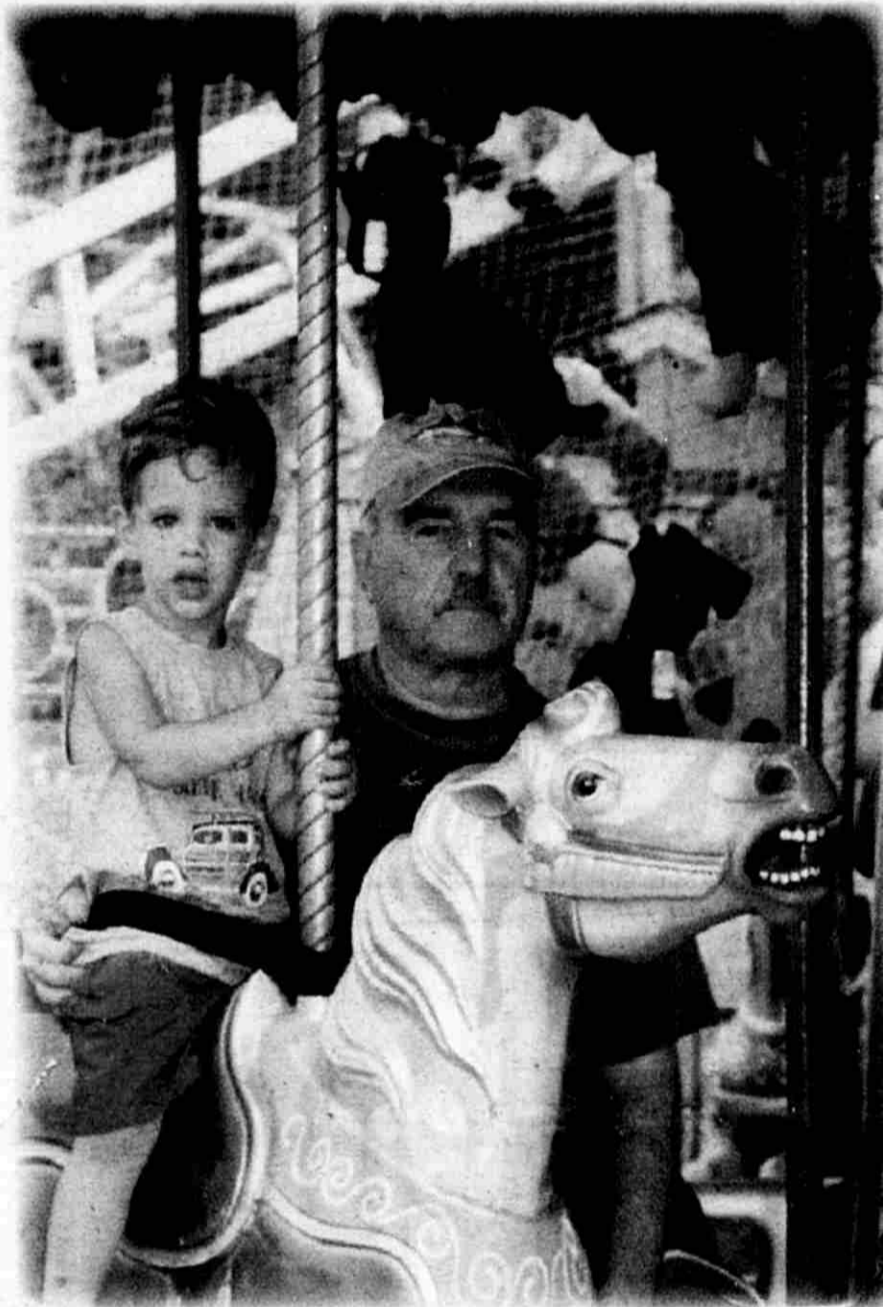
too enjoyed the country atmosphere. Janet Pallarido of Lowell came to the fair with her two other friends to try the rides and sample some elephant ears. However, at \$5 an ear, Pallarido ran out of money. But, the good people of Lowell and Caledonia helped out. Kelly Martin, with sons Cavan and Nathan, picked up the balance so Pallarido could have an elephant ear with apple compote. Cavan is being deployed to Afghanistan on Sept. 1.

"We come here every year," said Martin. "We like the local flavor."

What would the local flavor be without some sarsaparilla homemade soda in a tin mug at Bayou Billy's.

Franchise owner Jim Tucker of Niles has been coming to the Kent County Youth Fair for the last three years and he has been traveling around

Farewell to the fair,
continued, pages 8 and 9



Luke Carroll rides the carousel with grandfather Dave Fehlig.



The Get 'r Done 4-H Club's exhibit said it all as Green and Growing was the theme for this year's fair.
Photos by J. Boss

Bridge replacement project on target for Oct. 1 completion

by Emma Palova

The downtown bridge replacement project over Flat River is on target for Oct. 1 completion. The water in the river has been brought back up to the regular height and the barges will soon be removed.

The project is within the \$1.4 million budget according to Darrell Heuer, Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) delivery engineer.

The project has been running smoothly except for the recent 90-degree temperatures. But, the



concrete gets poured at night. MDOT has approved plans for signage warning of the dam by King Milling. The permanent signs will be up within the next two weeks.

MDOT has been working around downtown events, such as the ongoing Sizzlin' Summer concert series. Biweekly progress meetings are held on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce.

Additional detour signing has been placed on Monroe, Washington and Jefferson

Bridge replacement,
continued, page 2

Genesis Code to premiere Aug. 27 in Lowell

by Emma Palova

Filmed in Lowell and Grand Rapids last year, the movie Genesis Code will premiere Aug. 27 in Ada Lowell 5 theater.

The public premiere follows the official release at the second annual Grand Rapids Film Festival held at Celebration North Cinema on Knapp's Corner along with 61 other movies from around the world.

The premiere was preceded by months of private screenings and post-production process, as well as editing. A private screening was held in Lowell last fall. The movie was privately screened multiple times in Grand Rapids and in Wheaton and Peoria, IL.

The movie, directed by Patrick Read Johnson, is about a college hockey player

and a female journalism student struggling to find common ground with their spiritual faith and scientific studies.

Genesis Code, written by Michael Leighton, stars Logan Bartholomew as Blake, Kelsey Sanders as Kerry, Louise Fletcher as Ellen Taylor, Ernest

Movie premiere,
continued, page 3

City to adopt license fees for trash haulers and snowplow operators

by Emma Palova

The city will adopt license fees for garbage haulers and snowplow operators at the next city council meeting on Sept. 7.

A brief discussion was devoted to the issue at the Monday night meeting.

The council was unanimous that the fees will be minimal and the intent of the ordinance amendment is not to make money but provide for safety of the city residents.

"This is not intended to be a money maker for the city," said councilwoman Maryalene LaPonsie. "We want to set a minimal fee."

Resident Al Mathews said the haulers will pass the fees on to the city residents.

"You want to take away recycling," he said. "When are you going to stop? Just set a small structure fee."

Representatives of Flat River Waste encouraged a small fee as well, much like the cities of Rockford and Kentwood.

The ordinance amendment will require

haulers to be licensed and insured.

"There will be allowances for dates and pickup times," said city manager Dave Pasquale.

The ordinance amendment will limit the days so there aren't trash haulers on any given day in the city. The ordinance is intended for refuse hauling on a professional basis.

"This is for public safety," said mayor pro tem Sharon Ellison.

Along the same lines, the city will adopt fees for commercial snowplow operators on Sept. 7, after tabling the issue on Monday night.

Resident Barb Barber questioned what kind of business constitutes a snowplow. Barber has a student plowing her driveway in winter.

"The intent is for commercial people," said mayor Jim Hodges. "Neighbor kids are alright."

The ordinance amendment will regulate and license commercial snowplowers with trucks.

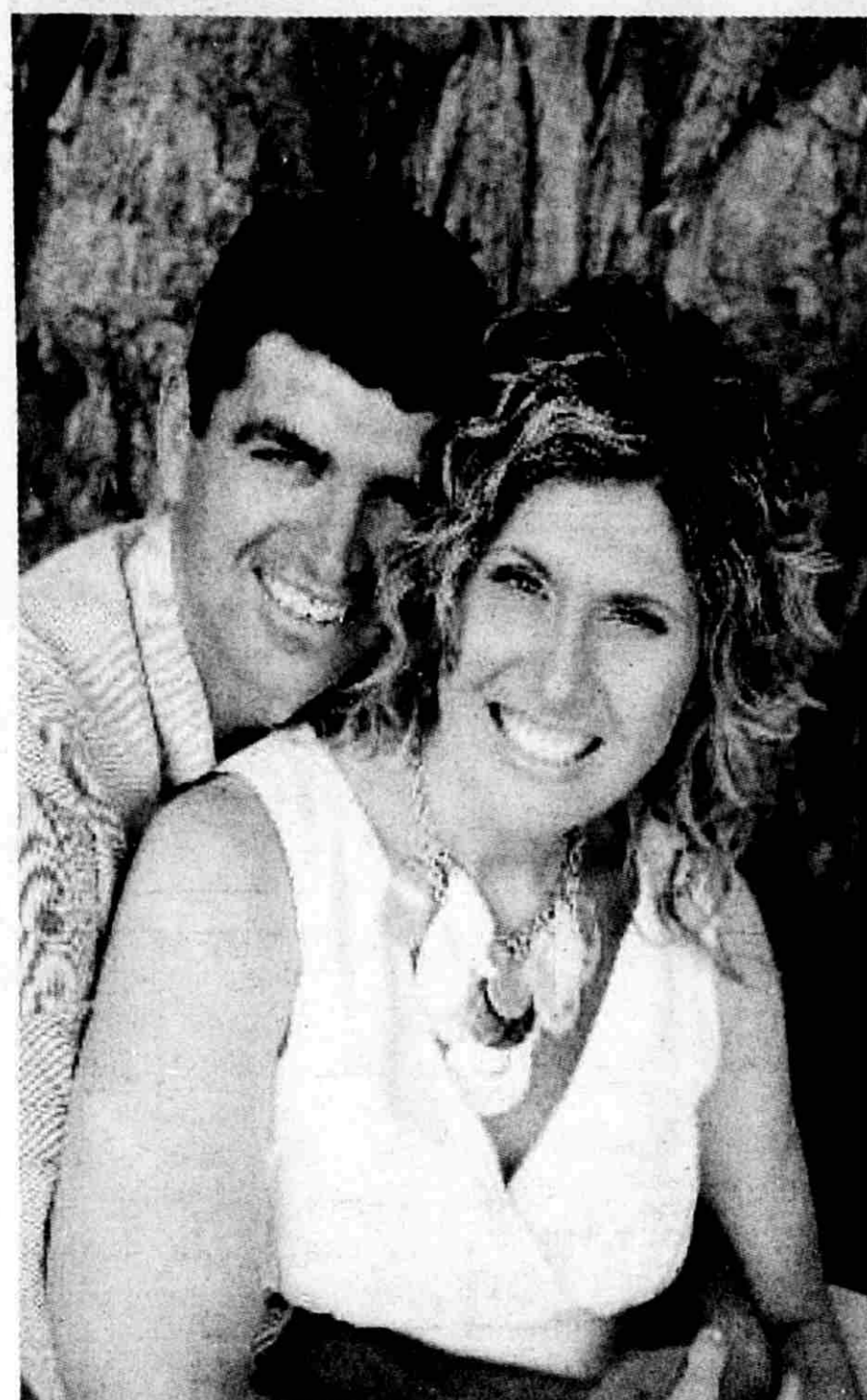
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CENTS



engagements

Gasper/McCormack



Maddie Gasper and Jason McCormack

Maddie Jo Gasper of Lowell and Jason Allen McCormack of Sunfield will be united in holy matrimony on September 25, 2010 at St. Mary Catholic Church, Miriam.

The bride-to-be is daughter of Ken and Jane Gasper of Belding. The groom-to-be is the son of John and Kathy McCormack of Sunfield.

the ledger
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In This Together...
Learn. Share. Laugh.

Dealing with grief and loss

Lowell Program

A death in the family is felt by all members. So too is the death of a town's "family member." A town is deeply impacted whenever they feel the loss of a known and cherished member of the community or even hear of someone in their community who has died. We recognize the Lowell community has experienced a great number of community member deaths in a brief period of time and it has an impact.

At Gilda's Club, we honor the full range of emotions - including those feelings of sadness, grief and loss. As part of our journey in life, we will all experience grief and loss. And, we believe it is important to take the time to grieve in the midst of losses - whether for a dear friend or loved one, or someone you might not have known as well. There are many ways to deal with the grief which are part of the healing process. We would like to pass along the following thoughts that may help after experiencing a death.

- Everyone deals with grief and loss differently, even when grieving the death of the same person.
- There is no "right way" to grieve; yet, the important thing is to allow yourself

time to feel whatever it is that you are feeling rather than "bury" those feelings. If tears and sadness come, let them come without forcing yourself to stop or avoid those feelings.

- Along with the feelings of sadness and loss, allow yourself to reflect on the moments and memories of the times you had together.
- Special occasions and holidays can be especially difficult. Give yourself permission to feel the sadness of not having your loved one present for these occasions; and, look for new traditions and opportunities to honor their memory.

- When those around ask, "What can I do to help?" don't be afraid to tell them what you need or ask them to listen to you as you talk through your feelings. This is a time to draw on their strength and their desire to show their care.

- For some individuals, it is helpful to plan a healthy distraction with taking time away by visiting family or friends.

- Be gentle on others. Well-meaning friends and family members may provide advice or comments that don't "feel right" for you.
- Be gentle on yourself.

Walking the road of grief and loss takes more time than most of us want to acknowledge.

- Be good to your body. Avoid excessive use of food, alcohol, or medications to "make it through." Equally, be careful of keeping yourself so busy you don't have time to feel the feelings.

- Reach out. Being with others who understand and are going through the same thing is often the best source of support.

At Gilda's Club Lowell, we offer adult grief support for cancer-related deaths. Our children's programs are for grief of any kind of death. If you are dealing with cancer or grief, we invite you, your family and friends to contact us at (616) 897-8600.

As a final thought, we at Gilda's Club Lowell would like to invite you to please join us at 314 South Hudson Street on Tuesday, August 31, 5:30-7 p.m. for Remembrance and Hope, an evening in which we will

take time to reflect on the lives of our loved ones and those in our community who have died. Bring your family and friends and pictures or special objects that remind you of them. We invite all to join us for this special gathering.

Remembering and honoring those who have died is an individual journey that has no set time limit; in fact, many people find that some portion of grief stays with them for the remainder of their lives. Acknowledging you will never "get over it" does not mean a lifetime of unresolved sadness, it actually helps us accept that grief and loss are a normal part of living life.

Gilda's Club is in Lowell at 314 South Hudson Street, thanks to a special partnership with The Pink Arrow Project II, Lowell Community Wellness and the Lowell Senior Neighbors. Stop by the Clubhouse every Tuesday from 12:30 to 8:30 p.m. For more information call 616-897-8600 or 1-800-326-1419, or go online to www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow.

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happy birthday!

AUGUST 18
Matthew D'Agostino,
Sandy Dykhuizen, Sean
Pawloski, Paul Reggie
Owen, Paul R. Owen II.

AUGUST 20
Mattie Dalziel, B.J.
Rittersdorf, Alexis
Holloway, Andrea Bryant,
Katelyn Kaczanowski,
Edwin Roth.

AUGUST 19
Peggy Idema,
Joseph Thaler, Lois
Boonstra, Braydon
Brown, Brian DeBold,
Daryl Chamberlain,
Charley VanKeulen, Betty
Wierenga.

AUGUST 21
Madelyn Pfaller,
Charlene DeShane-Dalga,
Tim Aksamitowski, Joshua
Hobrla, Tom Barnes,
Ethan Shindorf, Katelyn
Videto, Emma Yeiter.

AUGUST 22
Mike Blough, Shane
Teelander.

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The season ends for summer softball

Lowell Xtreme Softball finished another great season of girls' travel fast pitch softball at the Storm Classic tournament in Holland on Aug. 7-8. The 16U team placed first in its division to end their season with a 19-8-4 record, including a second place finish in Bellevue. The 14U team finished first in Holland and Byron Center ending the season with a 21-5-4



Teams, counterclockwise, 12U, 14U and 16U.

record. The 12U girls, in their first year together, finished first at the St. Louis tournament and had a final record of 12-12. Lowell Xtreme proudly hosted 24 teams at Creekside Park and Cherry Creek on the last weekend in July for the fourth annual Maggie Hilbrands tournament.



Lowell pitcher plays in Big League World Series in Kalamazoo



District 9, 16 to 18 year-old girls, secured berth to the championship game with a 7-1 record in pool play. Lowell pitcher, Morgan Groom, was youngest on the team and helped out pitching and playing shortstop. A 14-4 explosion against the all-stars of the Philippines won the championship Wednesday night which was televised on ESPN2. This was the 30th year the world championship has been held in Kalamazoo. Young women from Canada, Puerto Rico, Latin America, California, Louisiana, Delaware, Florida, and host (defending champs, Kalamazoo District 2) participated.

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THE LOWELL YMCA
Fall Soccer program begins
September 13 (First Practices)
(First Game September 18)
Register by August 26
No registrations on August 27.
\$10 late fee after August 28

U5 and U6 - coed
U8, U10, & U13 - boys & girls leagues
(U10 and U13 will travel to other YMCAs and have games at Creekside Park.)

Coaches Meeting Wednesday,
September 8 at Cherry Creek.

Call 897-8445 to sign up!
grymca.org
1335 West Main St. in Lowell 49331

area churches

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Church School...10:15-11:15 a.m.
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Celebration...10:40 a.m.
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Holy Day Masses: 9 A.M. & 7 P.M.
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Farewell to the fair, continued

with his soda stand for the last 13 years. Tucker does 12 festivals and events in Michigan and starts out the season in February in Florida.

If you buy a tin mug with soda from Tucker, you'll have a nice souvenir and \$1 refills for the rest of your life. So, yes, Tucker does get repeat customers in various cities. And by the way, Bayou Billy really exists.

"It just works," he said. Once, he had a customer

come with a 1999 tin mug. Sarsaparilla soda, made of sassafras, is the granddaddy of soda pops.

"It all started as a low-alcoholic beer because of bad water," said Tucker.

He also has cherry wine, orange zippy, cream soda, root beer and birch beer, all together seven old-fashioned flavors. They are all aged four years and sweetened with cane sugar.

"There are good people in Lowell," he said. He calls Fridays and

Saturdays money days. On a good day, Tucker can sell around 400 refills.

His wife Debbie likes traveling and hauling around Bayou Billy. Sometimes they play a theme song. After all, it beats sitting behind the computer screen.

"I like the people," Debbie said. "They forget their problems and come here to have fun. We have a blast."

And customers, much like the Tuckers, follow the

heat. Their next stop is at the Berrien County Youth Fair.

Just a few steps away, the Reath Barn was one busy place with first the auction on Thursday afternoon and then various showings. Camden Utley showed his Holstein cow Dolly on Friday.

Friends Nikki Nugent of Murray Lake and McKenna Yaw showed Holstein cow Sunblock.

Beth Galloway of Rockford has been coming to the fair with daughter Andrea Galloway for four years showing horse Trixie.

"It's too hot," said Galloway. "It's the hottest week of the year. But, it's time to spend together."

Andrea values the time spent with her friends and showing Trixie. At seven, Briana Timmer of Lowell

uses her sister Carissa's ribbons for her explorer's project with her stick horse. "I like horses," she said.

Madalin Petersen showed her Toby Lamancha goat for the first time.

"He was good until he turned eight months," she said.

Olivia Griffin has been coming to the fair with her parents for as long as she can remember.

"I like the animals and the rides," she said.

And of course, there was the ubiquitous balloon man, aka Joseph Wierenga, earning his college money by blowing balloons of various shapes.

"It helps me get through college," he said. Wierenga is majoring

in architecture and civil engineering at Lawrence Technical University in Southfield. The most popular balloon shapes are poodles and swords said Wierenga.

Elise and Henry Marshall took the Super Paratrooper ride.

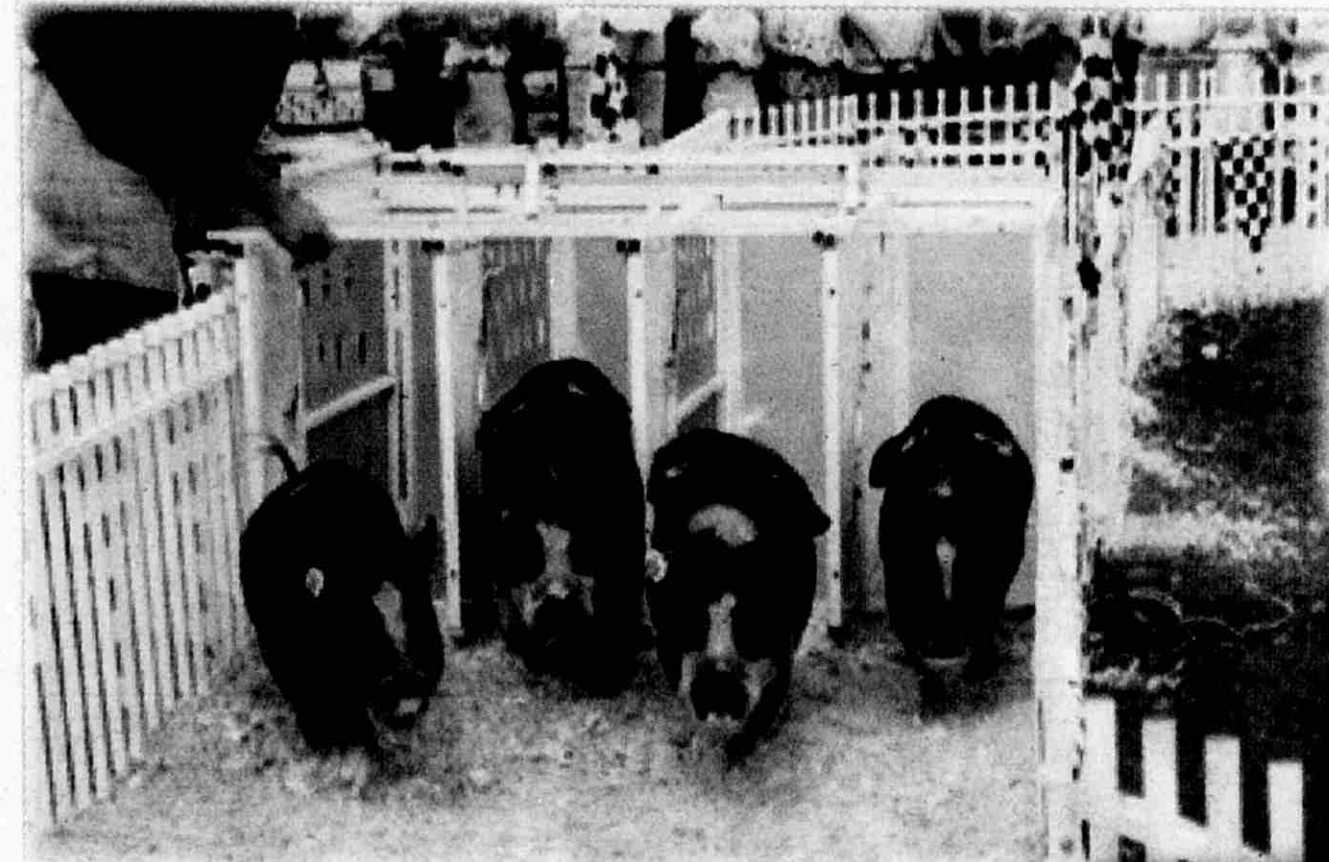
"It is fast," said Elise. Little Luke Carroll with grandpa Dave Fehlig boarded the carousel for a slow ride.

"We come to the fair every year," said Fehlig.

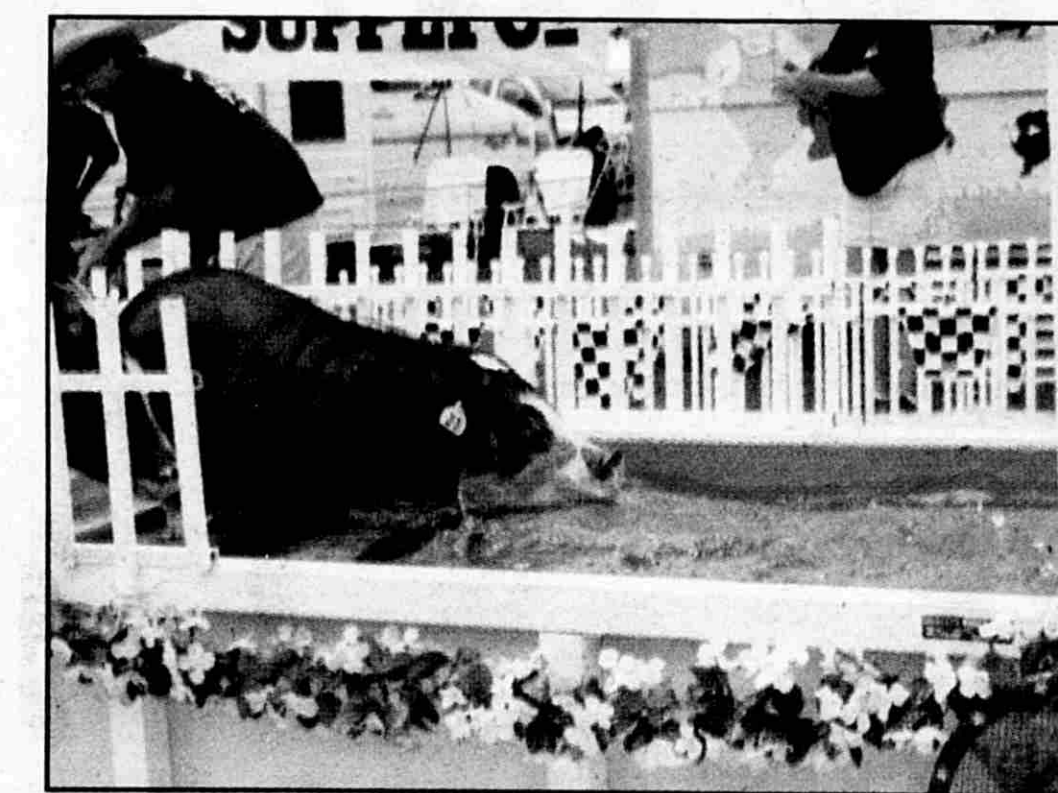
Marylene LaPonsie, who sits on the Lowell City Council, said it was a fabulous fair in spite of the awful heat.

"It was a good time," she said Monday night. "It does a lot for our city."

More images from the fair, continued, page 9



Pot belly pigs at the starting gate and swimming during the race for the finish. Photos by Emma Palova

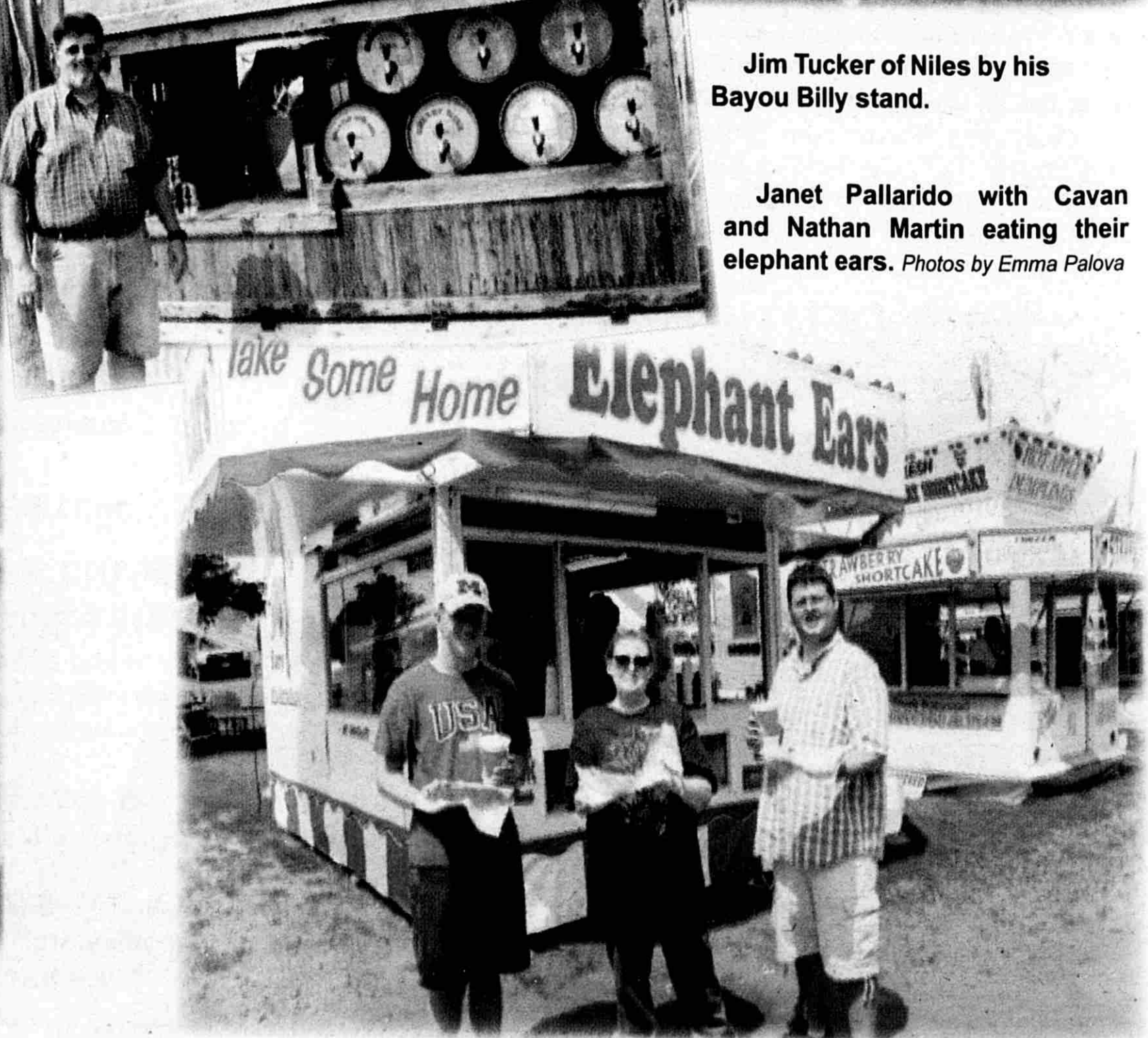


Jim Tucker of Niles by his Bayou Billy stand.

Janet Pallarido with Cavan and Nathan Martin eating their elephant ears. Photos by Emma Palova



The "Balloon Man," aka Joseph Wierenga, shows off his skills. Photo by J. Boss



Live swine auction honors memory of young Caledonia boy

by Thad Kraus
Sam Post made a lot of friends helping out in the barns at the Kent County Youth Fair.

The six-year-old showed a pig in the summer of 2006 as an Explorer.

In October of that year he was diagnosed with leukemia and one month later (Nov. 25) he passed away.

His memory and

enthusiasm for the fair was honored at Thursday's live auction.

His parents, Mike and Theresa, along with their children (Jennie, Matt and Joshua) raised a pig (named Scooby) and auctioned the swine off. The proceeds benefitted the fair as it went toward reducing its debt.

Scooby weighed in at 246 pounds and sold for \$6 a pound. Before all the

bidding stopped Scooby was resold six more times, bringing in \$7,100 for the fair in memory of Sam.

"This year would have been Sam's first year to show his own pigs and sell them at the auction," said Theresa Post. "He loved the fair and loved to help out in the barns."

Scooby was one of 232 swine to be auctioned off. There were a total of 520

large and small farm animals auctioned off, bringing in a total of \$373,064.25. Of that, \$21,367.25 was resale which benefits the fair, FFA and the livestock development committee.

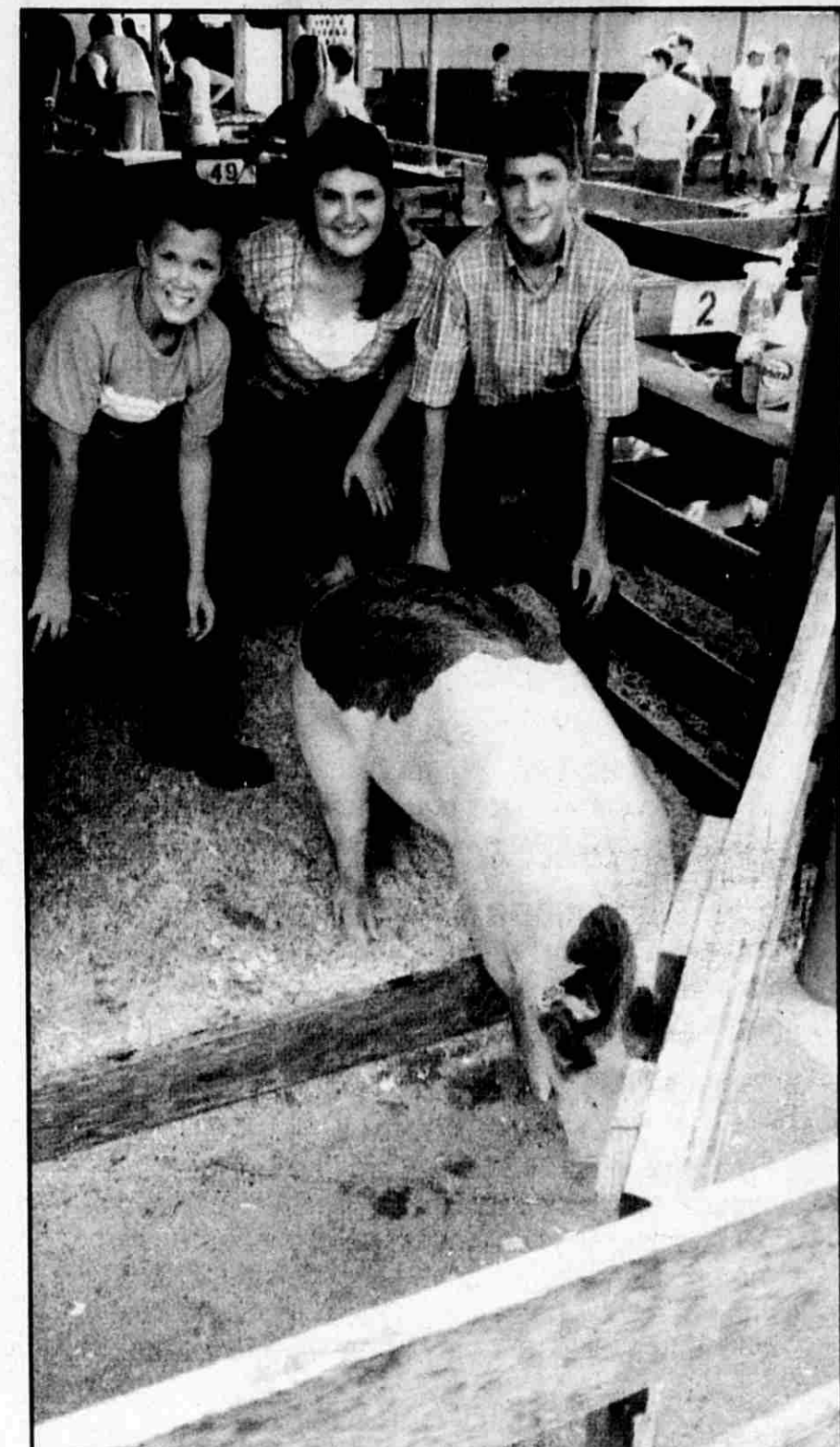
The largest small animal single sale of the day came in the turkey division.

Cody Acker, Reserve Champion Meat Pen, stood in awe as his 39 pound bird was sold to Family Farm and Home for \$725.

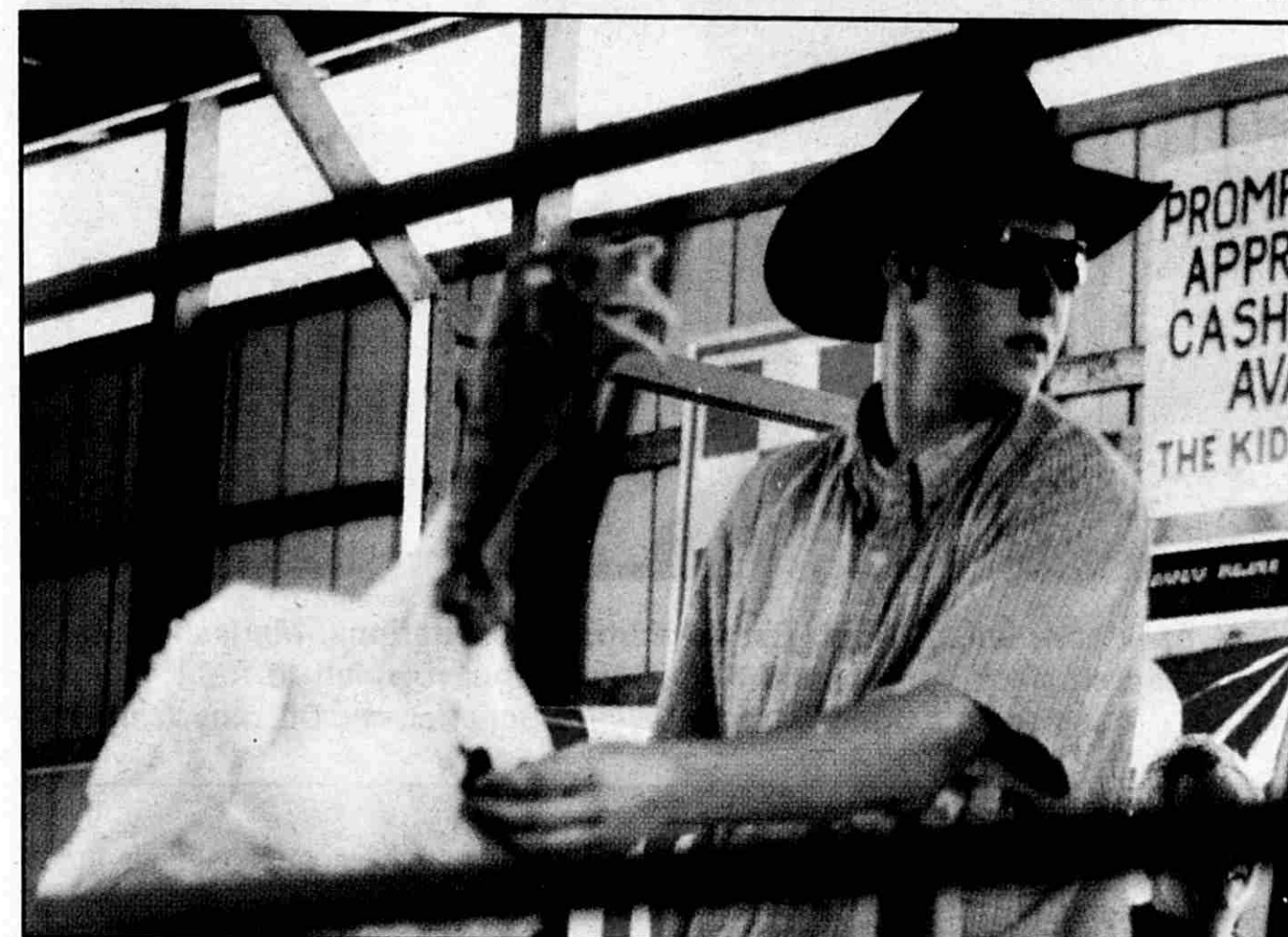
The Lowell graduate secured buyers to bid on his turkey. Michigan Turkey Producer and Family Farm and Home did so in grand style before Family Farm and Home won the bidding war.

Lambs received the highest price per pound (\$2.99) of the large animals sold. Pigs brought in an average price per pound of \$2.34, while feeder steers and steers brought in \$1.45 and \$1.41 per pound respectively.

In the small animal division, goats sold for an average of \$206; birds, \$132.75; and rabbits, \$45.83.



Joshua, Jennie and Matt Post (left to right) gather around Scooby prior to his livestock auction which was in memory of their late brother Sam.



Cody Acker stands and waits with his turkey as secured buyers' bid and did not stop until the price reached \$725. Photo by Thad Kraus

Images from the fair, continued



Sweepstakes winners, front row, left to right: senior winner, Kristin Bielema and junior winner, Emily Biermacher; back rows, left to right: Beth Schuitema, Lindsey Blodgett, Calina Mills, Sarah Crosby, Clara Harding, Jarren Harkema, Cody Acker, Lindsay Klomprens, Elle Madsen, Kendra Merriman, Hannah Johnson, Alexandria Schut, Zoe Beloncis, Sam Lauer, Allison Oesch, Lydia Reyburn, Sarah Oesch and Kendall Hewitt. Photo submitted by Bruce Doll



Camden Utley with Holstein Dolly. Photo by Emma Palova



With the "green" theme there were several creative entries in the exhibition barn.

Everyone pitches in with the work at the fair. Photo by J. Boss

Levin, continued

We need that determination, because I believe we have to fight — and win — a revolution in transportation...

A century and a half ago, in Port Huron, a young man working as a telegraph operator spent his every spare moment buried in science and technology books...

We are on the threshold of a second electric revolution, one that transforms our streets and highways...

The men and women of our research and development labs and innovative businesses can make that happen...

Based on what we know today about technology development...

Someone had to say it!



This marked the second year we have taken such a journey. Fishing isn't new to us...

We even traveled to Canada a few years and spent a week in search of walleye and trout. While fishing with Pops on your forearm.

was always a great deal of fun, catching fish never seemed to enter into the equation.

As we grew older, we labeled our fishing failures as the "Kraus Curse."

Last year, each of our first attempts at landing a salmon ended with the fish escaping before we got it into the boat.

The day got better, however, and by the time the charter boat had docked we'd boated 13 good-sized salmon.

There was no precure failure this year. The rain, which had been called for,

amazingly missed us or never materialized and with few exceptions, a fish on the line resulted in a fish in the boat.

We caught our limit (25) plus five for the two-man charter crew.

The saying goes, "a bad day fishing is better than a good day at work."

So imagine how much better a day it is when you catch something!

Memories of fishing with Pops won't allow me to proclaim it the best time I've ever had fishing...



AUGUST 11 - AUGUST 17



Sound Off!

The Ledger's "Almost" anything goes column!

Sound Off!

The Ledger's "Almost" anything goes column!

- China passes Japan as the second largest economy. Defense secretary Robert Gates plans to retire in 2011. A Boeing 737 carrying at least 127 people breaks apart while landing in Colombia...

When submitting your opinion to Sound Off!, we ask you to follow a few guidelines. Sound Off! is meant to be a way for you to compliment or vent your feelings with civility...

We welcome your comments, with or without signatures, but signing your name to your comment does increase the odds of seeing it in print.

Threatening or deliberately cruel comments will not be accepted and, of course, no advertising a product or service please.

So basically, submit anything - but not everything will make it to print.

The Ledger reserves the right to choose what is printed, and reminds the public that views expressed in Sound Off!, unless otherwise stated, are not the opinions of The Ledger staff or its publishers.

To the owners of the creepy dolls at that burnt down house along Flat River Drive: If you don't remove them, I will.

Another great fair. Thanks to everyone involved and a special thanks for the pig races. What fun!

last week's poll result:

What is your favorite thing about the fair?

- CARNIVAL...0% FOOD...18% ANIMALS...36% ENTERTAINMENT...0% THE ATMOSPHERE...46%

To vote on the current poll question go to: thelowellledger.com

Rudd's SEPTIC SERVICE advertisement with phone number 897-8560 and list of services.

DRAFT SYNOPSIS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2010. Includes agenda items like approving the agenda, regular minutes, and accounts payables.

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THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE. For puzzle answers, games, opinion polls and much more go to: www.thelowellledger.com AND CLICK ON KIDS SCOOP BUTTON

Kid Scoop FIT & FUN

First Lady says, "Let's Move!"

First Lady Michelle Obama's nationwide "Let's Move!" initiative is all about health and preventing childhood obesity.



Hold this page up to your bathroom mirror to read the answer:

Obesity is a condition in which a person has too much body fat...

First Family Makes Some Healthy Changes—So Can YOU

Mrs. Obama said that she fed her kids on the run and didn't cook a family meal very often.

To improve their health, the Obamas made simple changes to their daily activities. These included exercising frequently, no sugary sodas, limiting candy, TV only on weekends...

Color in one box for every 10 minutes you spend exercising each day. Can you increase the amount of exercise each day?

WEEK ONE activity tracking table with columns for Monday through Friday.

WEEK TWO activity tracking table with columns for Monday through Friday.

Standards Link: Health: Know strategies that improve and maintain family health.

Think Before You Grab!

The First Lady's message is to think before you grab that huge, loaded cheeseburger, with soda and fries. Think about the calories. Think about the impact of it in 10 years.

Choose one item in each column on the menu below to make a meal. Add up the points of the foods you chose. Then see what your point total says about your choices.

Food menu with columns A-D, item illustrations, and point values. Includes Cheeseburger (10), Fries (9), Raisins (2), Soda Pop (9), Chicken Nuggets (9), Carrot Sticks (4), Ice Cream Bar (10), Lowfat Milk (3), Hot Dog (8), Green Beans (3), Cookies (8), Water (0), Turkey Slice (3), White Bread (6), Apple Slices (3), Ham Slice (4), Chips (8), Lollipop (10), Juice (7).

8–15 points: Great! You're making some good choices. 16–24 points: Uh oh: You aren't making the best choices. 25+ points: Yikes! That's one unhealthy meal! Try again.

Standards Link: Health: Know healthy eating practices.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Today's Kid Scoop page uses a few big words that you may not know. Cut out the pieces and match them to reveal what each word means.

Word puzzle grid with words like initiative, pediatrician, calorie, doctor who specializes in the care of children, socialization, the process of learning how to behave, the first step in a process, a unit of energy, producing value in food.

Standards Link: Vocabulary: Use a dictionary to locate the meaning of words.

Online Scoop logo and text: Find out more about "Let's Move For Kids" and lots of other ways to get fit and healthy. Visit: kidscoop.com/kids

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

Word search puzzle grid with words: INITIATIVE, DESERTS, TYPICAL, PERFORM, VENDING, OPTIONS, OBESITY, HABITS, DAILY, VALUE, EVERY, FRESH, COOK, OVER, KIDS.

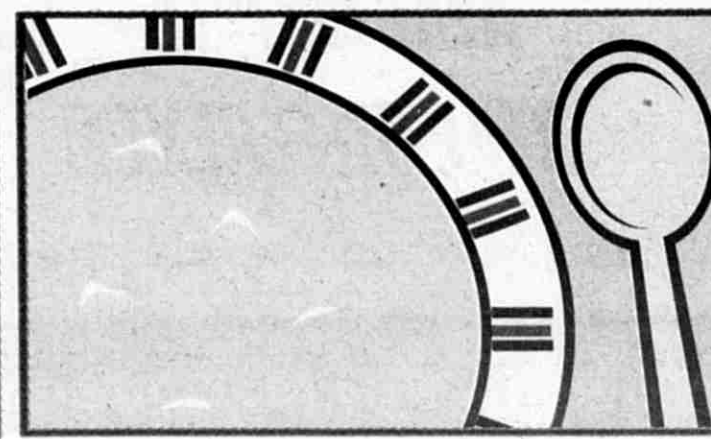
Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Food Jigsaw Puzzle

In the newspaper, find a picture of a food and carefully cut it into six pieces. Give the pieces to a friend to see if he or she can reassemble the picture.

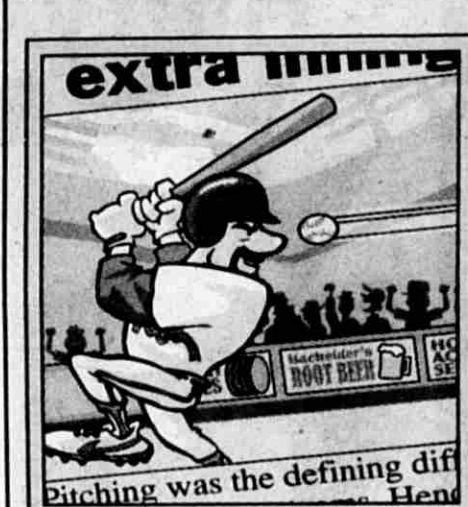
Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.



How do you make gold soup?

ANSWER: Add 14 carrots.

Hold That Pose!



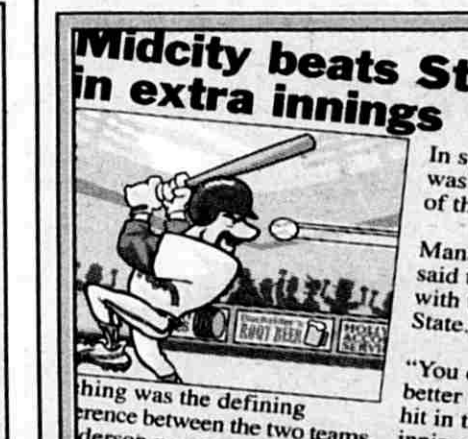
Find an action photograph in the newspaper.



Attempt to imitate and hold the pose in the photograph. Try not to laugh!



Have a friend try. Who can hold the pose longest?



After you catch your breath, read the caption or article that goes with the photo.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Kid Scoop-doku

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word HEALTH in each vertical and horizontal row.

HEALTH grid puzzle with letters H, E, A, H, L, T, H scattered in a grid.

Write On! Let's Move

The First Lady is encouraging people to find fun ways to get up and move. Describe one of your favorite ways to include physical activity in your life.

CONTINUED!!

Hurry...while they last!

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