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Grand River Water Festival comes to
Lowell to educate about inland waterways

by Emma Palova

The Grand River Water Festival attracted environmental activists to the fairgrounds in Lowell last weekend. Some camped out, while others brought their blankets and listened to various speakers and music.

The West Michigan Environmental Action Council (WMEAC) organized the event on the banks of the Grand River so the public could take the time to celebrate Michigan's inland waterways.

The first time in Lowell, the two-day festival with a cause, attracted approximately 1,200 people. And the organizers are hoping

to keep the festival in Lowell due to the availability of camping, according to communications director Dan Schoonmaker.

The festival is in its fourth year educating about water protection issues and the environment via the interactive advocacy tent. The tent had a storm water display, demonstrations and native plant display.

The common thread uniting the participants has always been music, so more people trickled in for the Saturday night concert of K.

Water festival,
continued, page 2

Environmental activists gathered at the fairgrounds for a weekend of music and interactive nature displays.

Lowell's Relay for Life meets their 2011 goal

by Casey Cheney

Members of the Lowell community and beyond came out in droves to the annual Relay for Life at the Red Arrow stadium, raising almost \$70,000. Themed

Come Play at Relay, the event met its fundraising goal.

The Pink Arrow Power Hour on Friday night, crowding the track with

hundreds of pink shirts, was "probably the busiest hour on the track," Relay for Life chairman Jerry Holmes said.

"It seems like they re-

ally came out for that," he said. "Hopefully that'll be the start of a new tradition. It was a natural tie-in."

Relay for Life,
continued, page 7

Cancer survivors gather around for a group picture at the Relay for Life. All the survivors were treated to dinner and a pancake breakfast by the Backwater Cafe.



Jice Pharmaceuticals to invest \$215,000 into expansion

by Emma Palova

Jice Pharmaceuticals has caught the recent wave of expansions. Following

the suite of King Milling, Attwood and Litehouse additions, the firm has sub-

mitted a site plan for an expansion near the southwest corner of Washington and Kent streets.

The expansion will entail more space for storage and an adjacent metal building. The business located in an industrial zone will be applying to the zoning board of appeals (ZBA) for variances.

The existing structure on the site is non-conforming due to setbacks and an

adjacent residence. Also, the lot coverage cannot exceed 60 percent.

"It's a permitted use," said planner Jay Kilpatrick of Williams & Works. "It's a great reuse of industrial property."

The city may grant a variance allowing the expansion on a non-conforming property due to constraints imposed by the former Mid Michigan railroad.

A new set of site plans

will be submitted by Augustus Construction Co. of Lowell. The site plan will show sidewalks, landscaping, lighting, elevations, parking and details of land exchange between the applicant and the landowner to the west.

The construction is expected to start in the fall due to the lengthy permit-

City Council,
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Jice Pharmaceuticals proposes expansion on South Washington and Kent streets.

50
CENTS

DNR, 4-H youth and Ducks Unlimited band Canada geese

4-H Shooting Sports Members with their instructors and families, along with members of Ducks Unlimited worked with the Muskegon office of the Michigan DNR to band Canada geese, *Branta canadensis*, at the Attwood Corporation property along the Flat River in Lowell last Sunday.

Nick Kalejs, biologist from the Muskegon DNR office, was in charge of the event. He handled each bird while the leg bands were installed and then determined the age and sex of each.

Eighty-eight geese were captured and of those 79 were new juvenile or adult birds. Each bird was treated with care, to avoid stress while its sex and age was determined and a metal ankle band was installed, and released back into the wild.

One injured female, ensnared with heavy twisted fishing line, was captured with special effort by Ducks Unlimited member Eric Egan. Fish line was wrapped around both legs and in one area was found above the knee almost to the bone cut-

ting into the flesh. The line was removed and the injury site was disinfected prior to releasing the animal.

Goose banding is an effective way to track migration patterns and determine the lifespan of the animal.

Birds taken during the hunting season with bands are reported to (800) 327-BAND. Special thanks go to Attwood Products of Lowell for the use of their property along the river and Bill & Paul's Sports of Grand Rapids for their donation of kayaks and gear for the project.

Michigan State University promotes youth development through the 4-H Shooting Sports program, consisting of target shooting of archery, riflery, shotgun and muzzle loading sports.

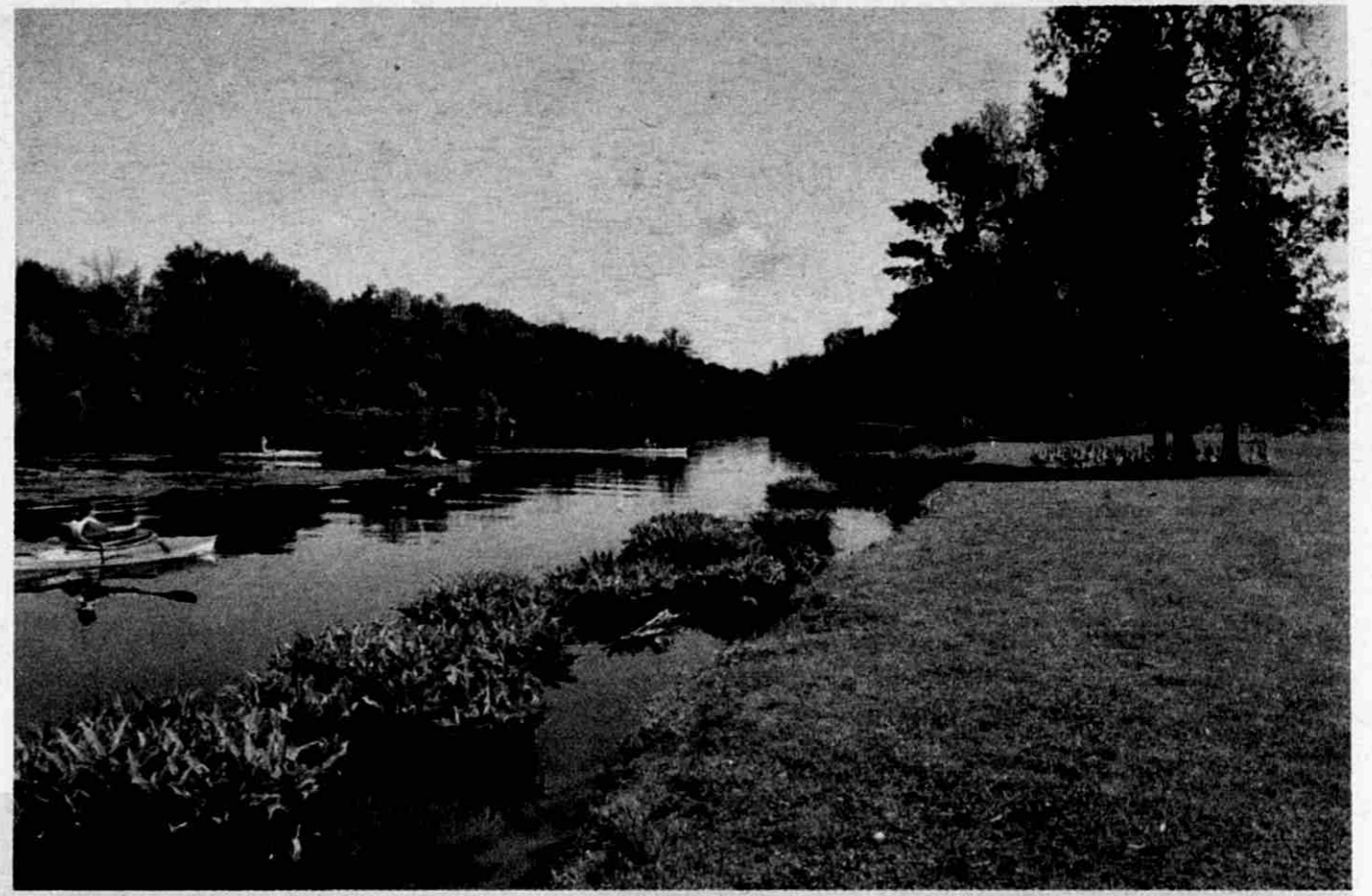
Many olympic athletes have started their Olympic careers in 4-H programs nationwide. Michigan's program is a model for the rest of the states in ensuring a safe and effective program. If you or your child ages 9-19 is interested in becoming a part of the program, contact your local 4-H club or a MSU Extension office for a club near you.



Nick Kalejs carries injured goose.



Qualifying shoot at Rockford Sports Club.



Kayaks driving the geese onto land.



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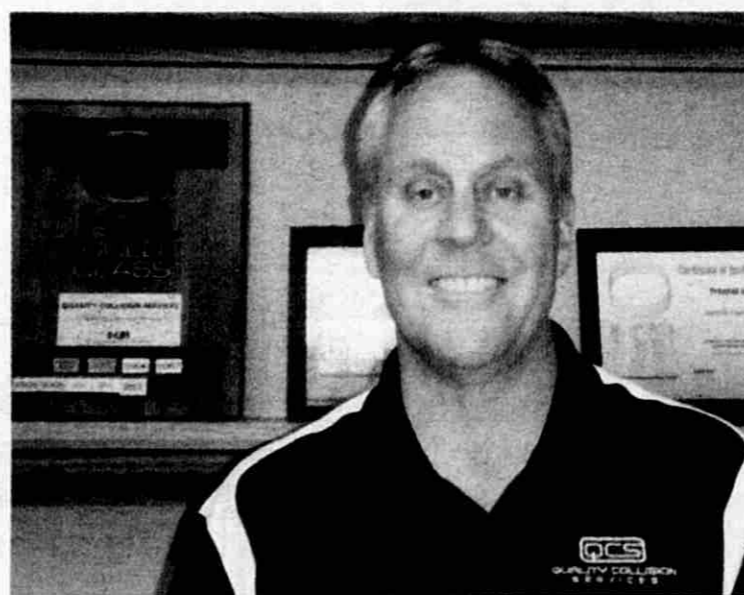
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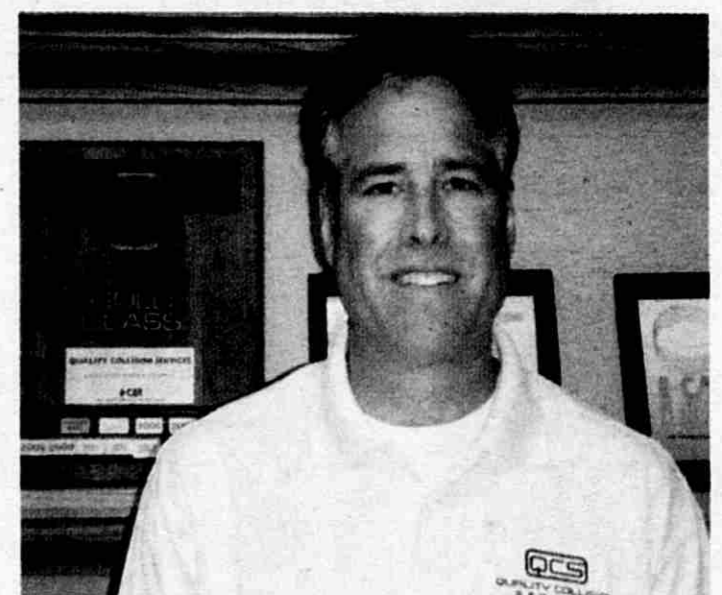
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