

R001
Springport Book Bindery
127 Railroad St
Springport MI 49284-9769

knee high?



page 9

hydroponic gardening



page 8

final week for food fight



page 7

50 CENTS

8 0 4 8 7 9 1 5 3 8 3 2



Dave Pasquale and mayor Jim Hodges by a red, white and blue cake made for his retirement.

Longtime Lowell city manager leaves strong legacy behind

by Emma Palova

Quiet, patient and inconspicuous, former city manager Dave Pasquale leaves behind a long list of accomplishments.

The retirement party for Pasquale, who served as city manager for 24 years, has shown that he was well-liked among citizens and colleagues alike.

In the guest book, Bev Hall wrote next to her signature, "Adoring citizen."

One of the youngest councilmembers, Andrew Schrauben, said he has always been impressed how many people Pasquale knew at the Michigan Municipal League conferences.

"He remembers and retains a lot," Schrauben said. "I liked his layback

approach, he never gets spooled up."

Mayor pro tem Sharon Ellison said Pasquale never made her feel stupid when asking a question.

City consulting engineers Williams & Works gave Pasquale a board listing all the city projects during his career.

Definitely, the most challenging one was the city hall and the police department since the city had to acquire property, according to Pasquale.

"We had to move the city offices out," he said.

Pasquale recalls one of his first projects in office. It was the construction of the wastewater treatment plant and the groundbreaking that followed on Aug. 10, 1987.

"I was getting used to the community," he said.

Shortly into his career, he met current mayor Jim Hodges, who was then the YMCA director in 1987.

At that time, the YMCA was more like a city department and the city owned the swimming pool.

Pasquale showed his meticulous personality in keeping a scrapbook filled with clips from The Lowell Ledger and the Lowell Buyers Guide. He systematically kept track of his career over the last 24 years, much like both papers following Pasquale's career. Former publisher Roger Brown wrote the first story

City manager, continued, page 3

July 18 completion date set for furniture distribution center

by Emma Palova

The Enwork furniture distribution center located in the industrial park is slated for July 18 completion.

The 27,000 square foot building will accommodate the company's growth and it will be used as corporate headquarters. The office portion is 6,000 square feet.

Owner Dave Powell has owned the business for the last seven years. Currently, he is leasing a portion of Attwood until he moves into the new building. Approximately 25 jobs will be transferred.

Furniture distribution center, continued, page 2



The Enwork distribution center nears completion.

Covered Bridge Bike Tour ready to roll July 10

by Emma Palova

The 17th annual Covered Bridge Bike Tour will pedal through the area on Sunday, July 10.

It starts on the Covered Bridge Road in the Fallsburg pioneer village with registration at the one-room schoolhouse.

There are several tour options ranging from 12 miles to 100 miles.

The most traveled route, according to chairman Ken Tamke, is the 28-mile route to Ada and back.

"It is a reasonably flat and easy ride for families and casual riders," said Tamke.

The second most popular route is the South 50, which travels along rivers and streams through beautiful farmland.

Although the main reason to bike any of the routes is fitness, the camaraderie and feeling of accomplishment and adventure of a bicycle tour with friends or family is even better.

"It is exhilarating and

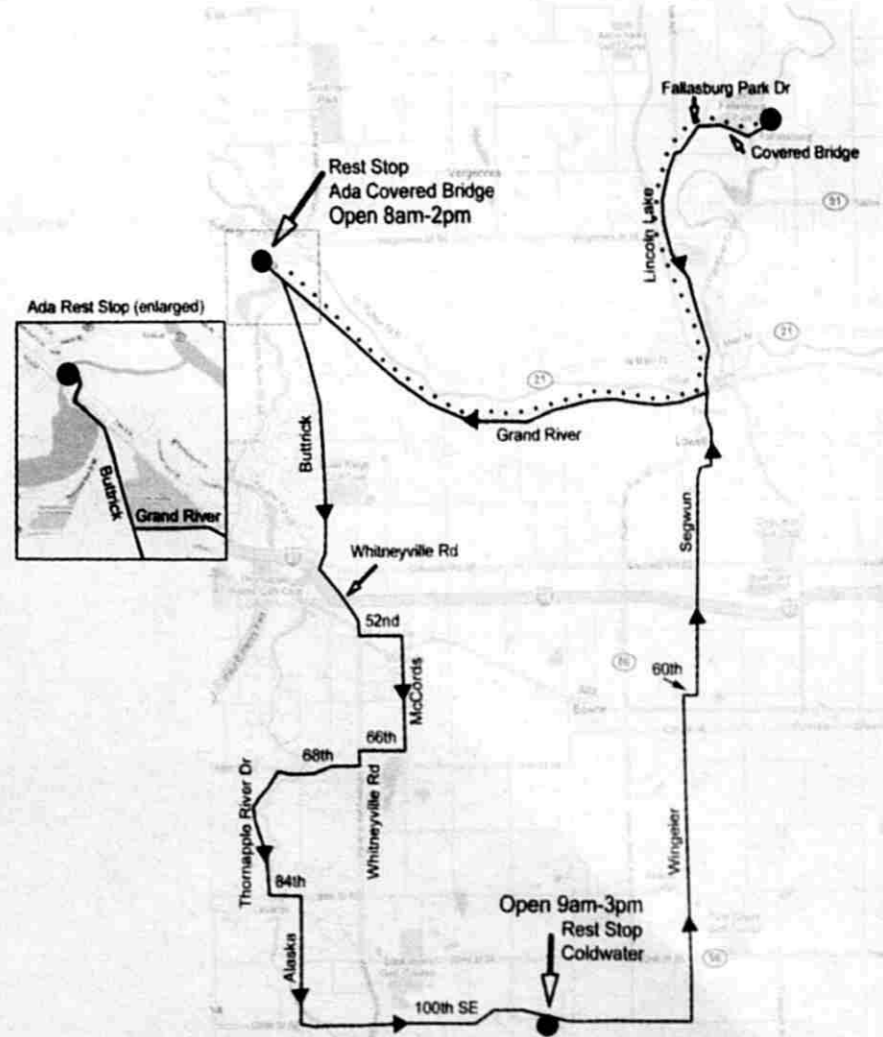
exciting to set out on a journey and successfully attain your goal, whether it be 12 miles, 28 miles, 50 miles or 100," said Tamke.

The Covered Bridge Bike Tour has grown from just a handful of registrants to 253 registrants last year.

But, 250 registrants means 300 plus riders as family registrations can cover multiple riders.

"We've had modest gains, with more people

Bridge Tour, continued, page 7



The most traveled route is the 28-mile ride to Ada and back to Fallsburg.

Friends of the library receive awarded grant

The Friends of the Englehardt Library, which recently awarded a \$12,000 grant from the Lowell Area Community Fund. The money will be used for the purchase of a laptop computer lab, for the Englehardt branch of Kent District Library, which will allow library staff to teach free computer classes to job seekers and people looking to enhance their computer skills. The Friends of the Englehardt Library will also purchase laptop friendly furniture for the branch, including counter height tables, tablet chairs and mobile laptop tables. "We are extremely grateful for this generous grant award. Our staff is looking forward to offering free computer classes and helping community members gain the computer skills they need in this increasingly digital world," said Kristin Meyer, branch manager of the Englehardt Library. The Lowell Area Community Fund was established in 1997 by longtime resident Harold Englehardt. The purpose of the Community Fund is to seek community cooperation and participation to create a healthy and dynamic community. To achieve this, the Community Fund provides grants in seven critical areas, including arts and culture, economic development, education, environment, health, human services and recreation.

Furniture distribution center, continued

The company designs, engineers and sells commercial office furniture, primarily tables for conference rooms and trainings, as well as work stations. The work stations are modern cubicles made from aluminum. Approximately 25 different companies in Michigan make the furniture. The biggest selling territory is California, according to Powell. "We sell large amounts of furniture," he said. Among the company's clients are Facebook, Sony, FedEx, Eli Lilly, pharmaceutical companies and the US government. The company has state contracts with West Virginia, Tennessee and South Carolina. The products are available through brochures and dealers. Dealer applications are on the website at www.enwork.com. "We wanted to keep the business in Lowell," said Powell. "We have the jobs; our employees live here and utilize Lowell."



GILDA'S CLUB OF LOWELL

Knitting, July 12, 6-7:15 pm; Book Club, July 19, 4:30-5:30 pm, "Stealing Buddha's Dinner;" Camp Sparkle, July 12 and 19, 2-4:30 pm, kids ages 6-12; Teen and Tween Talk, July 19, 6-7:15 pm, for youth in middle school or high school; Kids Talk, July 12 and 19, 6-7:15 pm, for children first to fourth grades. Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson St. Call 897-8600 for additional information.

online using your debit or credit card. Go to www.angelfoodministries.com. Any questions, call Esther, 897-7395.

YOUTH THEATRE CLASS

"Kid-friendly" Shakespeare adaptation of Hamlet for theatrical production. Everyone will be involved in every facet of the production, from acting to simple costume and set design. Ages 7-18. Sat., July 23, at the Lowell Area Arts Council. "Auditions" - Everybody gets a part - this is just to determine who gets what part. Classes: August 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, and 10 at Fallsburg Park. Public performance on Aug. 11, beginning at 6:30 pm. Call LowellArts! for information and to register, 897-8545.

Feel free to send your event information to the Ledger for Along Main St. All submission requests for Along Main St. are subject to space limitations. The Ledger makes no assurances that they will appear in print. To ensure that an event notification will appear in the Ledger, it is best to place a paid advertisement. All efforts will be made to place suitable items in the Along Main St. column but they are printed at the discretion of the publisher. For profit events, church services, yard sales and the like, will not appear in this column.

DISCOVER LOWELL YOUTH WORKSHOP

The Lowell Area Historical Museum presents a hands-on children's workshop, Thurs., July 21 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. The workshop is designed for children ages 8 to 14. An afternoon lunch and drink provided. Call 897-7688 for information and to register.

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

Sign up at the Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St., Sat., July 23, 10 am - noon. You may also order

Big catch for little kid



Brady Alexander is pictured with a 23 inch, 5.5 lb. smallmouth bass he caught on a local river. His father, Tom Alexander, was teaching the six-year-old how to fish when his son hooked this one.

the lowell ledger

(USPS 453-830)

Published weekly for \$22⁰⁰ a year for zip codes beginning with 493 or 495 \$32⁰⁰ a year any other zip code.

JON JACOBS PUBLISHER
JEANNE BOSS EDITOR
EMMA PALOVA LEAD REPORTER
CASEY CHENEY SPORTS
TAMMY JANOWIAK CLASSIFIED/ACCOUNTING
JON JACOBS ADVERTISING SALES

(616) 897-9261

E-Mail: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI

Published every Wednesday

POSTMASTER: Send address change to:

The Lowell Ledger

P.O. Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331

www.lowellbuyersguide.com

City manager, continued

on Pasquale prior to him taking the helm on June 24, 1987.

Along with wife Anne, the Pasquales were well involved in the community. Anne was known for her performances in the Thebes Players productions.

Dave Pasquale annually appeared in parades and in the flush tank.

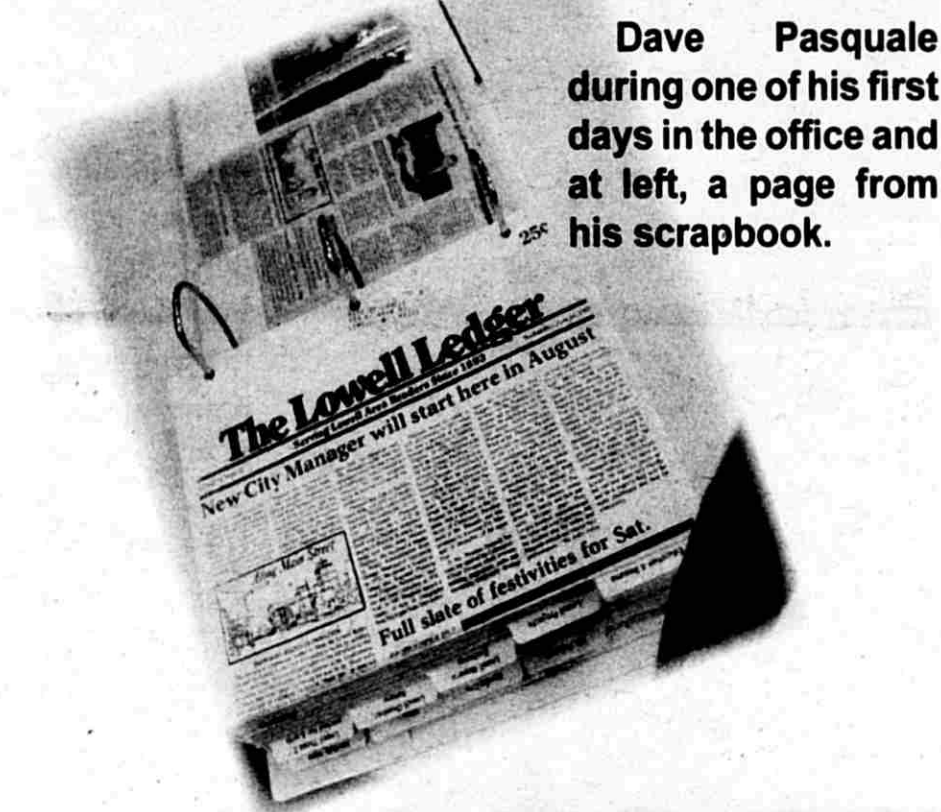
"We've known each other politically and socially for a long time," said Hodges.

Most recently, he steered the community through the M21 bridge replacement project over the Flat River and East Riverbank restoration.

He will most miss the people, but will continue to stay busy with possible consulting or teaching. The couple will continue to live in the community.



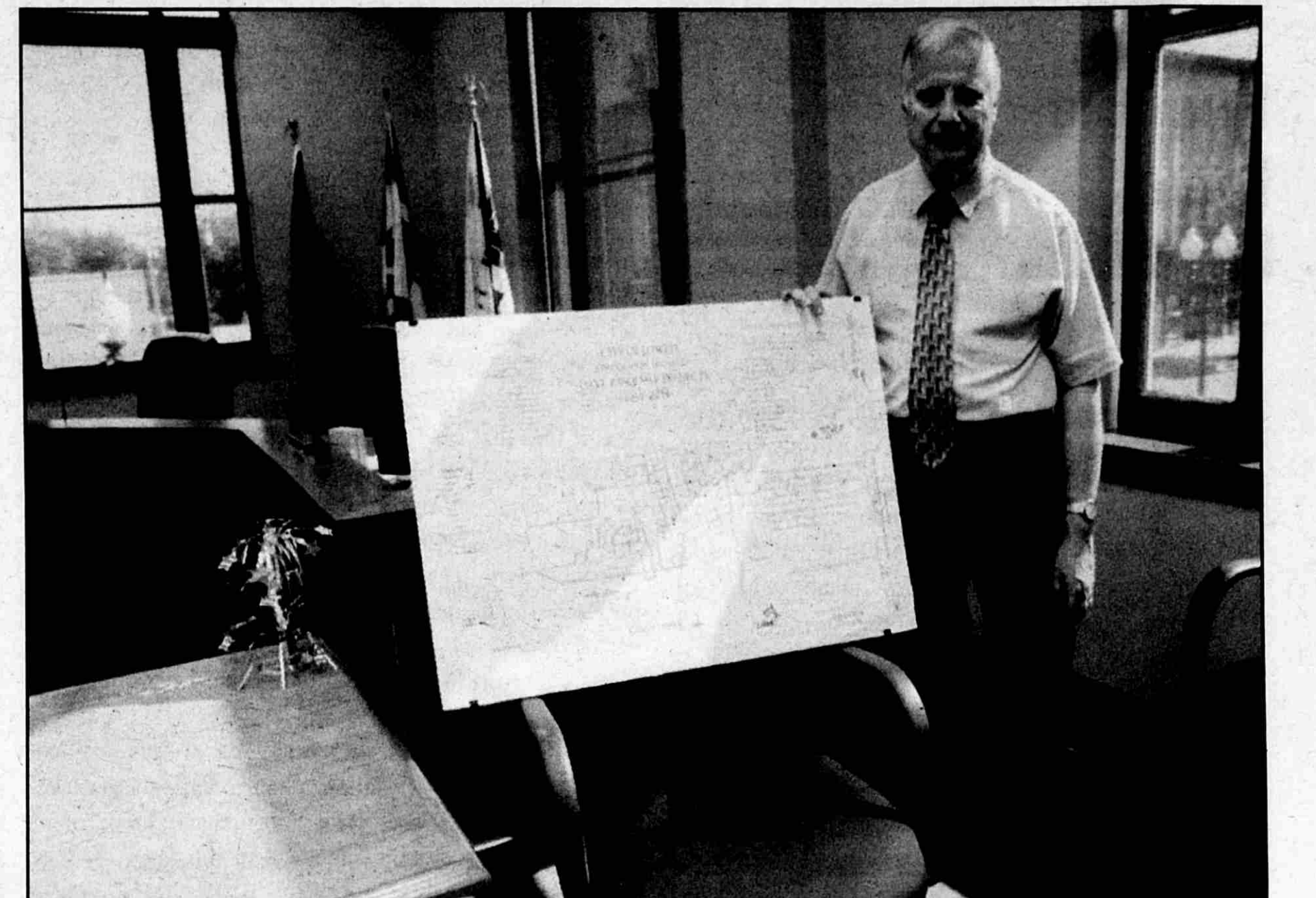
Dave Pasquale during one of his first days in the office and at left, a page from his scrapbook.



ADA LOWELL 5
Quality Theaters
616-897-3456
On M-21, 5 Minutes East of Amway H.Q.
www.GOTI.com
\$4.50 BARGAIN TWILIGHT DAILY 4:00-6:00 PM
SHOWTIMES 7/6-7/7 No passes
MONTE CARLO (PG) 4:25, 6:50, 9:20
TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON (PG-13) 6:15, 9:30
CARS 2 (G) 4:10, 6:40, 9:10
BAD TEACHER (R) 5:00, 7:30, 9:45
MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS (PG) 4:35
SUPER 8 (PG-13) 7:20, 9:50

Hall for rent with kitchen
SEATS 150
Located at the fairgrounds
www.kcfg.org
Call 897-6050

THE FOODMOBILE
MOBILE FOOD PANTRY
Available To Residents Of The Greater Lowell Area
THANK YOU JULY SPONSORS!
ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND
BOWNE CENTER UNITED METHODIST
FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION
(mostly produce)
LOWELL FAIRGROUNDS
Foreman Building, S. Broadway
SATURDAY, JULY 9, 2011
10:00 TO 11:00 A.M. (or until food is gone)
Bring your own box or bag.
FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES
11535 Fulton East, Lowell, MI 49331
616-897-8260
www.fromlowell.org



Dave Pasquale by the project board.

Check us out online ...
thelowellledger.com Find us on Facebook
Make us your homepage!

Daryl Wisdom MD FAARFM, Cheryl Wisdom MS RN FAARFM and
The Wisdom Wellness Center Presents
The Summer Wellness Lecture Series
These lecture seminars are FREE and open to everyone. At the Wisdom Wellness Center, we believe that information is power - but you need to have accurate information! Dr Daryl and Nurse Cheryl are Fellowship trained in something called Functional and Regenerative Medicine. They try to find the REASON for illness then fix that instead of just slapping a pharmaceutical bandage on symptoms. Sign up for one or all!
July 12 - Is Your Thyroid Really "FINE"? There's more to thyroid wellness than just a normal TSH level. Is fibromyalgia related to thyroid function? Are the adrenal glands involved? Is it normal to be cold and tired?? The answers are yes, yes and no! Learn why, and what you can do.
July 19 - Compounding Pharmacies What are they and why might they be important to your future wellness. David Miller RPh, PhD, owner of Keystone Pharmacy, will be our guest speaker for this session. At the Wisdom Wellness Center we could not do what we do to help patients without Dr Dave and his amazing compounding staff. It's not just about people!! Incredible animal stories, too!
July 26 - Oh My Aching Gut! GERD, constipation, Crohn's Disease, irritable bowel disease; the list goes on and on and on. What's going on? We will tell you what is causing most, if not all of your woes and how you can fix your gut without dangerous drugs or surgeries. Did you know you're supposed to only use stomach medication for 90 days?? How long have you been on yours??
August 2 - Heart Disease and the Cholesterol Connection Cholesterol causes heart disease, doesn't it? My cholesterol level is 240. That's dangerous, isn't it? Bring your labs, let's look. Diet and exercise didn't work, but did you really have any specific instruction? Did you know the easiest way to turn heart disease around is with two simple supplements and a dietary change?
August 9 - Bio-Identical Hormones: Clearing Up Confusion What does bio-identical mean? Why they are safe and the other stuff isn't. They do not cause cancer and actually can have an anti-aging effect! Both women and men can benefit from hormone optimization!
August 16 - Breast Cancer and other Breast Diseases No pink ribbons here, just the unvarnished truth. There is SO much you can do to prevent cancer in the first place, or prevent a recurrence. WHY do so many women (and men!) get breast cancer these days? We will go WAY beyond annual mammograms in this lecture.
All lectures will begin at 6:30 pm. These are RSVP events!! We have limited space. You MUST email, call or come in to reserve a seat.
nutriments of cascade (616) 957-0017
Class@NutrimentsOfCascade.com
The lectures will be held at Nutriments of Cascade located at 6809-A Cascade Road in the Family Fare plaza. There is plenty of free parking.
Learn more about the Dr Daryl and Nurse Cheryl at www.WisdomWellnessCenter.com

Canfield 411 E. Main • Lowell
PLUMBING & HEATING, INC. 616-897-0887
Rheem
• Residential
• Commercial
• Air Conditioning
• Heating Systems
• Licensed
• Insured
• Water & Sewer Hookups
• Video Inspection
• Same Day Water Heaters Installed
• Sales, Service & Installation of All Plumbing Fixtures
• Drain Cleaning
• Water Softeners
100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Work toward your own financial Independence Day

On July 4, we shoot fireworks, attend picnics, watch parades and otherwise celebrate our nation's independence and the many freedoms we enjoy. But as you go through life, you'll find out how important it is to work towards another type of freedom — financial freedom.

And there's no way to "sugar-coat" this task, because it will be challenging. In recent years, a combination of factors — including depressed housing prices, rising health care costs, frozen or eliminated pension plans and the financial market plunge of 2008 and early 2009 — has made it more difficult for many of us to accumulate the resources we'll need to enjoy the retirement lifestyle

we've envisioned. In fact, the average American family faces a 37 percent shortfall in the income they will need in retirement, according to a recent report by consulting firm McKinsey & Company.

But now that we've gotten the "bad" stuff out of the way, let's turn to the good news: You can do a great deal to work towards financial freedom during your retirement years. Here are some suggestions that can help:

• Save and invest more. Obviously, the younger you are, the greater the benefit you'll get by increasing your savings and investments. But whatever your age, you'll find that it pays to save and invest more. During difficult economic times, of course, it's not always easy to boost your savings and investments, but try to find ways that are as "automatic" as possible.

• Rebalance your portfolio. It's always a good idea to periodically rebalance your investments to make sure they are still aligned with your goals and risk tolerance. But it's especially important to rebalance as you get older and you near retirement.

• Cut down on debts. It's easier said than done, but anything you can do to reduce your debt load will free up money to invest for your retirement.

• Consider working part-time during retirement. Many Americans are now living longer and enjoying happy, healthy retirements. In fact, the concept of "retirement" has changed so that it now includes any number of activities — including part-time work in a completely different area from one's previous career.

The 4th of July comes and goes quickly. So put strategies in place now to help you work towards your own Financial Independence Day.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

health



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

chronic insomnia

Insomnia is when you have trouble sleeping. Chronic insomnia is when your sleeping problem lasts for four weeks or longer. This causes you to feel tired and have less energy. You may also worry about being able to sleep. Some people with insomnia fall asleep easily, but wake up in the middle of the night and can't get back to sleep.

These tips can help you develop better sleeping habits:

- go to sleep only when you feel tired.
• use the bedroom only for sleep and sex.
• avoid reading, watching TV or worrying in bed.
• go to sleep and wake up at the same times each day.
• avoid napping.
• avoid caffeine or nicotine late in the day.
• keep your room at a comfortable temperature and as dark as possible.
• set aside some time to relax before going to bed.



If improving sleep habits fails, see your doctor about seeing a sleep therapist or using medication to help before sleep.



viewpoint

to the editor

boosters funding helps many

Dear Editor, An Open Letter to the Community of Lowell:

At a recent meeting of the Lowell Athletic Boosters, the boys' golf, girls' tennis and girls' soccer teams requested funds for indoor practice times due to the rainy spring we experienced this year.

the importance of our role in funding varsity and club sport teams here in Lowell. This request and others are considered at our monthly meetings. This funding is made possible by concession sales held at the many sporting events.

We are an independent organization run by volunteers with the sole purpose of enhancing the athletic programs at Lowell High School.

Every varsity and club sport team has representation and an equal vote on the

Boosters. The Boosters is not connected with any other organization or any one particular sporting team, rather, we support all athletes at Lowell High School.

Though Lowell is very fortunate to have many generous businesses supporting the school's extracurricular activities, these donations go directly to the teams and are independent from the Boosters. One hundred percent of the Boosters' revenues come from concession sales at all sporting events.

Aside from funding indoor practice times, the Boosters have supported other teams' requests over the past three years.

The following is a partial list: Lane fees for both boys' and girls' bowling, spring

vault and mats for the gymnastics team, mats for the cheerleading squads, stall fees and shavings for the equestrian team, conference fees for the ski team, video camera for the boys' basketball teams, indoor pitching mounds for the baseball team, headsets for football, camera and software for boys' golf, leaf blower to dry the courts for boys' tennis, mats and table clocks for the wrestling team, pole vault pit for track, boats and rowing equipment for crew, ice time for hockey, field rental and balls for lacrosse, indoor practice time for tennis, golf and soccer, and stipends for every sport

In addition, the Boosters have provided funds for

school and community programs:

Annual scholarship for a student athlete, scholar athlete medals, a portion of the athletic trainer's salary, commercial stove at Gilda's Club, camera and printer for Gilda's Club, and a donation to the Bus Drivers' Scholarship Fund.

Not only are the Boosters governed by volunteers, we depend on volunteers to work concessions at all the sporting events. On behalf of the Boosters, we thank each volunteer for the time and service you have so generously devoted to our student athletes.

Finally, I would like to thank the Lowell Community, in advance, for your continued support of the Lowell Athletic Boosters. Though we have experienced a setback, it only strengthens our resolve. As lifelong residents, we know firsthand that Lowell is an amazing community. We are confident we will band together and, in the end, be a stronger organization.

Regards, Doris Drain, Booster President, Beth Stevens, Incoming -Athletic Boosters President

appreciating the trails

Dear Editor,

Having an open Saturday morning, free of children and open house obligations, my husband and I chose to walk the North Country Trails in Lowell. Armed with bug spray and water bottles, we started out. Following the maps provided at the office and the blue marks on the trail, we had a very enjoyable and pleasant experience. Again in Lowell, there is another treasure, unknown by most.

Peaceful, well-marked and well-groomed, the trail hiking is superb.

Thank you to the landowners that open their land so the path can continue through Lowell. Thanks to the volunteers that maintain the trails so well. Thanks to God for His wonderful creation.

Heather Dilly, Lowell

making budget decisions

Dear Editor,

Lowell's 2011 State of the City Address was recently delivered on June 20, 2011. I would like to express my views on the state of the city. The state of the city address expressed support for the Downtown Development Authority (DDA).

budget in spite of a controversy over police department spending.

The high cost of the police department was brought up by a city councilmember only to succumb to deaf ears. You would think anything that takes up 35 percent of the city budget and is the single largest part of the city budget, like the Lowell police department is, should have been debated well before the approval of the city budget.

But it seems that didn't happen. In conclusion, my view of the state of the city is that it's not just the loss of property tax revenue and state revenue sharing that is affecting Lowell's ability to function properly; it also has a lot to do with the decisions being made.

Sincerely, Jim Howard, Lowell

Letters To The Editor:

The Lowell Ledger welcomes your Letters to the Editor. Letters are required to bear the author's signature, phone number and address (for verification purposes only, not for publication). Letters will be published at the discretion of the publisher. All letters are subject to editing for length and grammar. Thank you letters, advertising or personal attacks will not be printed.

Letters may be submitted via email to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com ("to the Editor" in subject line) or dropped off or mailed to: The Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, MI 49331. Also, our website, www.lowellbuyersguide.com has a link to submit emails on the left side of the home page.



By Shelly MacNaughton

50 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger July 13, 1961

Registrations are now being accepted for the second series of YMCA swim instruction classes to be given at the Frank Twining King Memorial Pool. Classes will start on Monday, July 25, and will continue once a week for six weeks.

Harold Metternick, former Alto school board head, was elected to the Lowell Area Schools' board on Monday.

Floyd W. Bergy, well-known Alto businessman, passed away Friday, July 17, after a lingering illness. Born on April 3, 1901, he was sixty-years-old at the time of his death.

25 Years Ago The Grand Valley Ledger July 9, 1986

Strand Theatre to become a furniture store Since 1919 the Strand Theatre has catered to vaudeville stage acts and lovers of the silver screen. In September of this year the building will open its doors to a different audience, furniture buyers.

Steve Larkin, owner of Larkin's Saloon and the future Strand Furniture, bought the theater from Bob DeNolf four weeks ago. He is hoping to open the only store of its genre in Lowell in September.

125 Years Ago The Lowell Journal Entry missing from files

100 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger July 6, 1911

Detroit, June 28 - Grading and construction work on the Detroit, Lansing and Grand Rapids railway will begin this summer it is expected. In the company's office here, it was said today that the exact route between Detroit and Webberville has been determined.

75 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo July 2, 1936

Now that Theron Richmond's and Ferry Rosewarne's homes have been visited by the night prowler, these gentlemen, doubtless, will join the ranks along with Dr. Lee, Carl Runciman and others who sleep with their trousers on. No doubt, always a wise precaution.

A Main Street visitor, last Monday, was editor Arthur A. Morris, of the Maple Rapids, Mich., Press. Mr. Morris is a grandson of Webster Morris, who when mustered out of the Union Army at the close of the Civil War, came to Lowell and founded the first weekly newspaper here on July 13, 1865.

business directory

TO ADVERTISE IN THE LEDGER BUSINESS DIRECTORY Call 897-9261

BUY LOCAL advertisement for a local business.

Rich's Service Co. advertisement for home appliance repair.

Automotive Supply, Inc. advertisement for car services.

Asphalt Paving & Repair advertisement for stormzand asphalt maintenance.

Fry Daddy's advertisement for fish and seafood.

Business & Service Directory advertisement for advertising services.

Bill Wheeler Certified Public Accountant advertisement.

Ostrander Windows, Siding & Roofing advertisement.

Footer for the business directory section.

Email Us! ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

Hydroponics garden center opens in Lowell

by Emma Palova

Lucid Hydroponics home garden center is now open in downtown Lowell.

Owner Jonathan Crandall has purchased the former Modern Photographics' building located on the bridge over the Flat River. "I got a good deal on the building," he said.

Originally, he wanted to start an arts gallery, "Lucid," with woodworking art sculptures.

But, the market just wasn't there for another art gallery, according to Crandall. On the other hand, he saw a need for a store with hydroponics in anticipation of a potential future dispensary of medical marijuana.

Crandall said that quite often dispensaries are located next to hydroponics, like in Caledonia.

Hydroponics is a method of growing plants using mineral nutrient solutions, in water, without soil.

Terrestrial plants may be grown with their roots in the mineral nutrient solution only or in an inert medium, such as perlite, gravel, mineral wool or coconut husk.

"Hydroponics are geared toward anything you want to grow inside," he said.

The benefits of hydroponics are year-round growth, control of the nutrients of the plant and faster growth cycle.

"You're optimizing the potential of the plant by giving it exactly what it needs at maximum level," said Crandall.

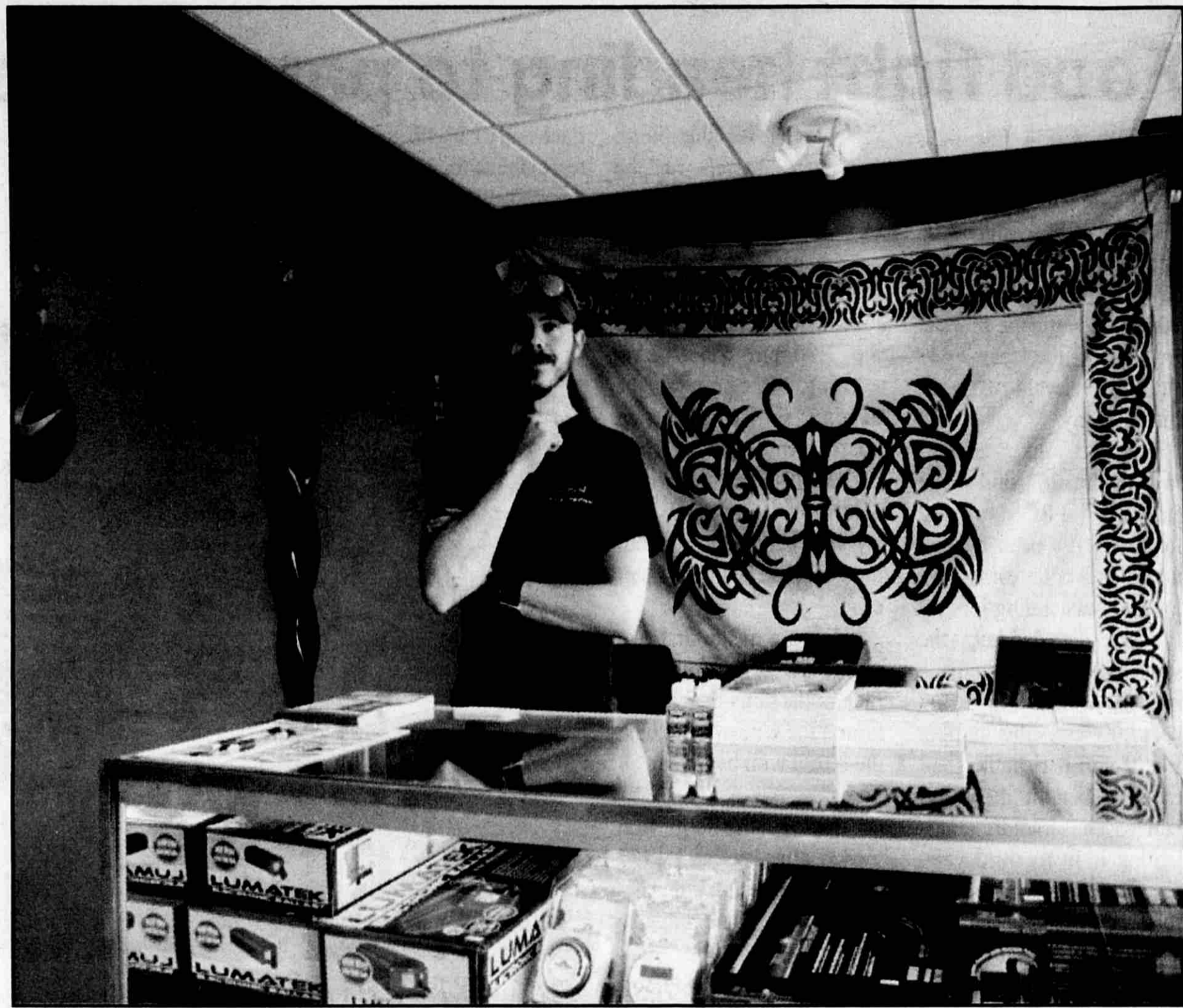
Plants can also be grown outdoors with nutrient rich solution rather than soil.

"It forces flowering," said Crandall.

But overall, growing plants using the hydroponics technology is more efficient because of the elimination of outside factors that are out of control.

"You are controlling the growing environment," said Crandall.

Basic setup, for example, for growing pepper plants requires hydroponics, lighting, nutrients and growing medium.



Jonathan Crandall inside his store Lucid Hydroponics.

Crandall, who worked for Kent Beverage for 10 years, chose Lowell for his store because he has friends in Lowell and the location of the building.

He did all the renovations, plumbing and insulation.

Among the many hydroponics products is a bucket for 12 plants. The nutrient solution is pumped from the top of the bucket and it is absorbed by the growing medium, such as condensed clay and pellets. Excess solution is pumped back into the reservoir.

"You get a larger yield, year-round growing and faster growth," he said.

Hydroponics can also be solid organic.

"They are for serious growers," said Crandall.

Also in the store is Crandall's artwork, inspired by nature.

Crandall has a bachelor's of fine arts from Kendall with concentration in functional art sculpture and woodworking, and a minor in photography.

"There is a need for this, it's more convenient," he said.

Crandall calculated in the convenience factor when he renovated the building. So, he lives above the store.

For preferred customers only, he is also available at night in case of an emergency.

This may be a blown lamp and a customer could lose his crop.

He offers competitive pricing and can order anything from a catalogue.

"I hope to have a successful business," he said.

"I love the location."

FLAT RIVER ELECTRIC, LLC

* Residential * Commercial
* Multi-Family

616.987-0596

LITHO 105 N. BROADWAY
LOWELL, MI 49331
616.897.9261

We approach each project from a unique perspective ...
Yours!

We're Growing!

OFFERING DIGITAL 4-COLOR PRINTING ON SITE!

SPECIALIZING IN ...

- Fliers - Black or Full Color
- Brochures • Catalogs
- Post Cards • Business Cards
- Envelopes/Letterhead
- Booklets • Programs • Posters

EXPERIENCE THE POSSIBILITIES

BIRD BERRY FARM STRAWBERRIES

Pick Your Own

2 1/2 miles east of Belding on M-44

616.794.5041

MON - FRI: 8 AM - 7 PM
SAT: 8 AM - 6 PM
SUNDAY: 10 AM - 4 PM

Enjoy the fireworks

SATURDAY NIGHT

at
Stoney Lakeside Park,
Bowes Road

Sponsored by

THE LAURELS OF KENT
A Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

350 N. Canal St. • Lowell, MI 49331
Phone 897-8473

Corn farmers face the reality of a rainy spring

by Casey Cheney

Keith Feldman, a farmer in Alto, said this spring, "Simply put, was too cold and too wet."

Grain farmers could not plant their fields as they normally would have because cold, wet soil produces poor germination.

The diagnosis is simple, but the prognosis much more complex and uncertain.

"Of course, we live and die by the weather," Feldman said. "We're the biggest gamblers in the world."

Some farmers plowed through the mud knowing nothing would come of it, but realizing also that too much waiting could be disastrous. Some farmers replanted their fields that were hit the hardest. Others let the chips, and the seeds, fall where they may.

Though many seed providers compensate the farmers for seed costs in replanting, the cost of fuel alone is enough to discourage many from trying it.

"You get lots of generalizations," Feldman said of how the weather affects crops. "You've got to think of how that affects you."

Because of the uncharacteristic rain, however, each farmer planted their fields over a couple of months, drastically impacting the time of harvest and the anticipated yield for that year.

"A day in the spring is a week in the fall," Feldman said about the grain's maturity. "That's just devastating."

A late fall, he added, means more moisture in the crop, which requires the use of artificial drying and adds expense to maintaining a

harvest guaranteed to supply a less-than-average profit.

"You're almost guaranteed less yield and poor quality of grain itself," Feldman said.

er and eventually they will need to make space for the new harvest.

A positive for grain farmers this year is that demand will likely be the same

fall would be severely reduced by an early frost, a last wicked curve ball that could be thrown his way.

Even that would not sound defeat, however.

"It doesn't mean the good crop to help build up the stocks.

"Our stocks have been at historical lows," Martin said. "We can't really afford having a hiccup this year."

A June report from the Ultimately, the price on grain will stay strong. The global market has helped this, as has the more general uncertainty in the stock market. Martin said that five years ago, people started in-



Feldman's corn (on the left) was planted on time and is on schedule for the anticipated maturity this time of year. His neighbor, however, was not able to plant at the same time, putting his harvest off by weeks.

yield would be zero," he said. "But it would be a lot less quality."

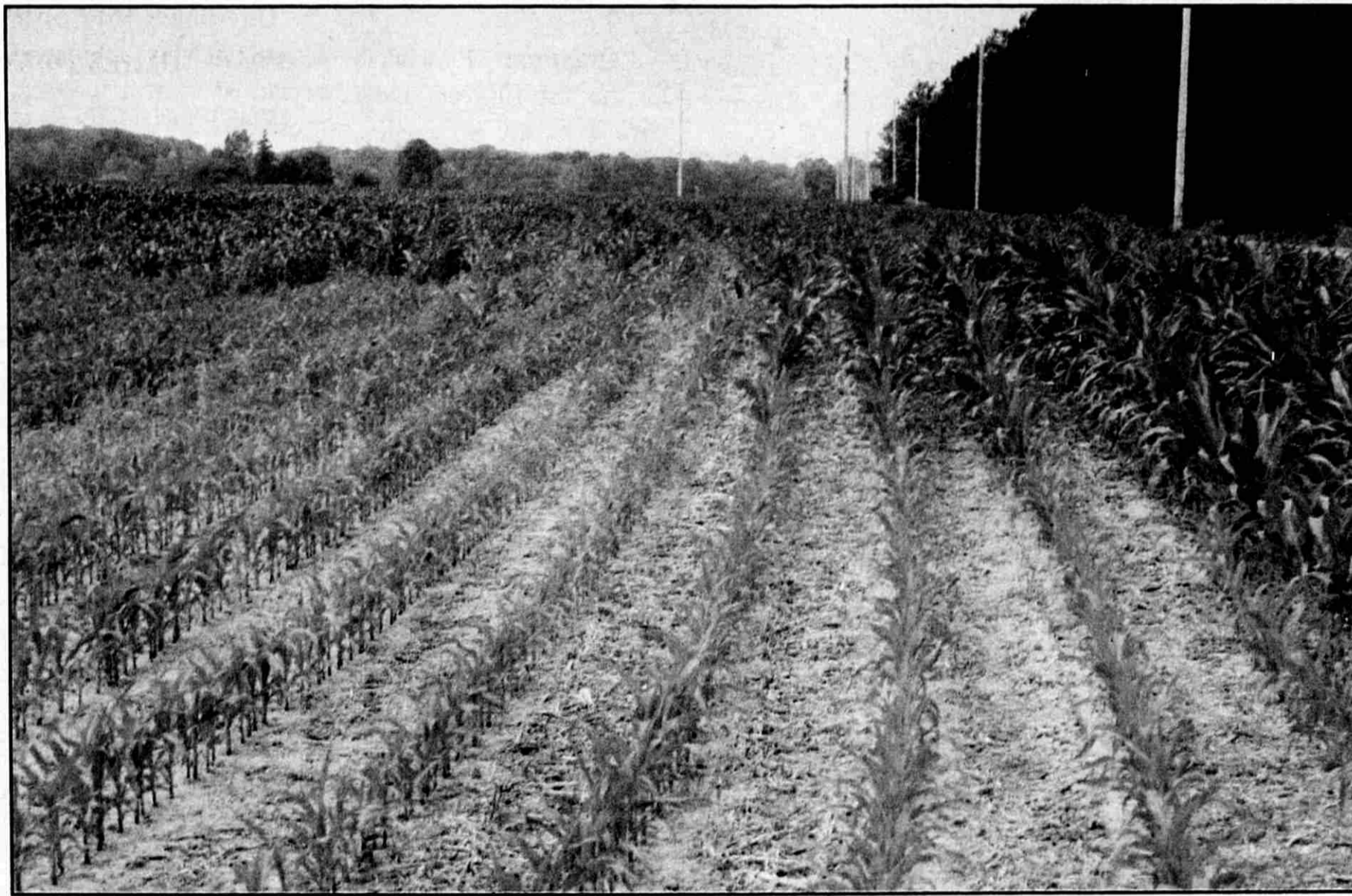
The life of the farmer, Feldman said, is hard compared to other jobs.

"They're almost guaranteed to get paid no matter what. Especially the weather man," he said, adding that

Department of Agriculture said the number of acres of corn has increased by millions. Martin, however, said many of those cornfields have since been converted to soybean fields and many of the acres of corn simply did not grow.

In response to this investing their insurance and retirement funds into commodities, something tangible. Grain falls into this category. Investors will stay invested in their product as long as they think it will be profitable and it will grow.

"We are historically higher than we've ever



Where farmers replanted, like what's pictured, the crop is significantly behind the rest of the field. This means the replanted corn will mature at a much later date.

got, and the price is going to affect that," Feldman said.

Companies like Herbrooks in Saranac and the Ethanol plant in Woodbury need a certain amount of grain, which Feldman said they will get but for a price.

"There's a greed factor," he said. "It's like opening a valve. Word gets out fast and trucks start rolling in." Even the supply Feldman looks forward to this

the struggle is "self-inflicted."

"You can take all you can from this land and it will ask for more," he said. "We aren't complaining. We just like to be understood."

A look at the market

With ethanol plants and foreign exports, Tim Martin, the grain manager at Caledonia Elevator, said grain farmers need to produce a

anticipated leap in supply, the market prices have taken a hit, decreasing by the maximum amount two days in a row last week.

"It's bogus," Martin said of the report. "I think prices should be higher and I think they will be higher."

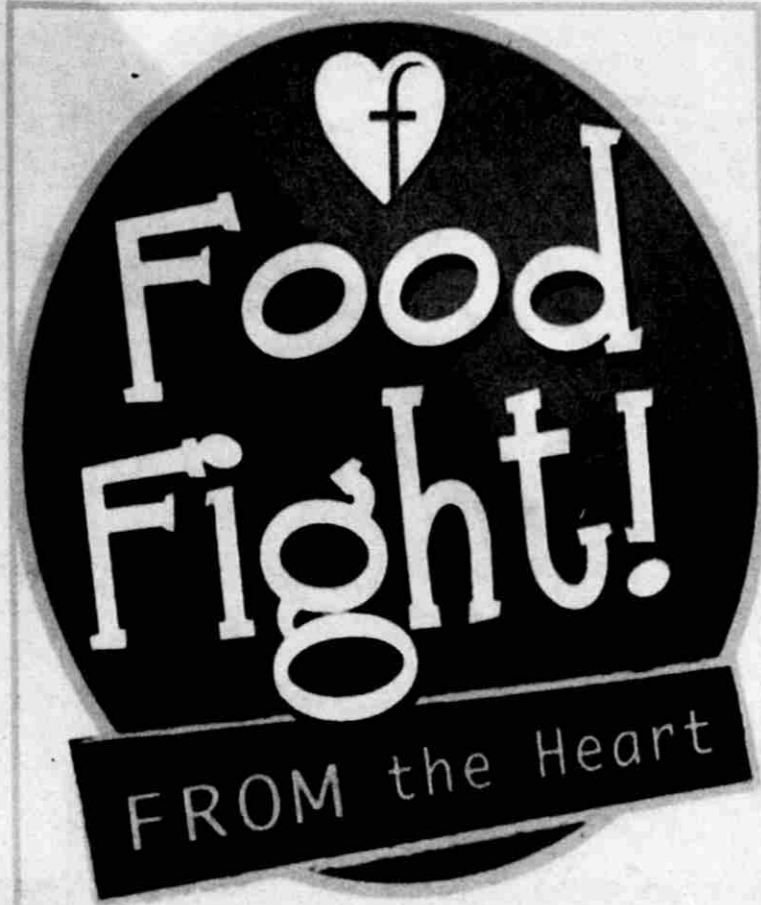
Additionally, Martin said he anticipates a report in July from the USDA saying they made a mistake in June.

been," he said of corn, beans and wheat.

However, he said, "It's not indicative of where we'll be in six months."

Martin's official predictions for this fall are corn - \$7-8; beans - \$13; and wheat - \$6-7.

Those predictions did come with a disclaimer: "I'm no sage who can say where this is going."



FROM Food Fight 2011

Boxscore

Through Monday, July 4
FOURTH QUARTER ENDS THIS SATURDAY!

www.FROMfoodfight.org

	1	2	3	4	T
North	4,763	3,779	2,786	1,681	13,009
South	4,506	3,348	4,485	1,128	13,467

f FLAT RIVER
OUTREACH
MINISTRIES

**11535 E. Fulton St.
Lowell, MI 49331**

616-897-8260

www.FROMlowell.org

"Seeking to meet the needs of people in the Greater Lowell Area in their time of need"

~Thank You to Our 2011 Event Sponsors~

**ALL WEATHER SEAL ~ B.C. PIZZA ~ BRIAN & CHERYL DOYLE FAMILY
LOWELL LEDGER/BUYERS GUIDE ~ METRIC MANUFACTURING
RIVER VALLEY CREDIT UNION ~ SNAP FITNESS**

ADA/LOWELL 5 2175 W. Main St. FREE 20 Oz. Drink 897-3456
ADVANCED EYECARE PROF. 1335 W. Main St. \$15 OFF Exam/Glasses (Non-Covered) 897-7000
ALL WEATHER SEAL 309 E. Main St. FREE Insulation w/Qualifying Purchase 897-7300
ALTO BAR (Must Call for Details) 6064 Linfield \$5 OFF 1 lb. NY Strip Steak Dinner 868-9961
ALTO BEAUTY SHOP 6077 Linfield 20% OFF Total Cost 868-6454
ALTO LP GAS 6040 Alden Nash SE \$2 OFF a 20 lb. Cylinder Fill 868-6242
ARROWHEAD GOLF 2170 Alden Nash NE 2 FOR 1 Greens Fees (call for details) 897-7264
ARTIC INC. HEATING & COOLING \$10 OFF Any Service Call (3 food items) 897-4123
BC PIZZA 1335 W. Main St. 20% Off Reg Price Dine-In/Pick-up 897-9261
CANFIELD PLUMBING & HTG 411 E. Main St. 10% OFF Service Call 897-0887
CHIMERA DESIGN 208 E. Main St. 10% OFF Any Reg. Priced Item (call about the Auction!) 897-9480
CITY LOOKS SALONS 11901 E. Fulton St. 10% OFF Products 897-2122
COUSINS HALLMARK/RIVER HOLLOW 223 W. Main St. 25% OFF Any One Full Price Item 897-5000
CURTIS CLEANERS 1410 W. Main St. 15% OFF Regular Price/\$5 Max 897-9809
DAISY FLORAL & GIFTS 505 W. Main St. 10% OFF Any \$35+ Purchase 897-2588
DEER RUN GOLF 13955 Cascade Rd. SE 2 for 1 18 holes (cart & 2 food items req) 897-8481
DERY PHYSICAL THERAPY 901 W. Main St. GIFT BASKET Drawing (1 item=1 entry) 897-7055
ELLA'S COFFEE & CUISINE 307 E. Main St. \$.50 OFF Any Specialty Drink 897-4857
EQUIPMENT SOLUTIONS 2401 W. Main St. 10% OFF Your Rental 897-8451
FLAT RIVER COTTAGE 317 E. Main St. WEEKLY In-Store Specials 897-8601
FLAT RIVER GRILL 201 E. Main St. 10% OFF Food Purchase 897-8523
FROM THRIFT SHOP 11535 E. Fulton St. \$2 OFF Total Purchases Over \$10 897-8260
FRY DADDY'S 608 W. Main St. \$1 OFF Any Regular Priced Basket 897-3474
GIGGLES & GUMDROPS 217 W. Main St. 15% OFF Entire Purchase 307-7340
GLASS HOUSE DESIGNS 215 W. Main St. 25% OFF Wed. Night Open Studio Project 987-4527

WEEKLY FOOD FIGHT SPECIALS!
July 6 — July 9
Bring in a non-perishable food item and get

TEAM COACH SPONSORS

DR. JUDD T. CARROLL, D.M.D., P.C.
IN HONOR OF THE BOY SCOUTS
JAMES & CARLA COON—BIERI AUTO BODY
LOWELL CAR WASH—SMEELINK OPTICAL
GREENRIDGE REALTY, INC—KATHY CLARK
VELDA ROSENBERGER
JAMES & MARGARET VANSTEE
BILL & DIANE WIELAND—ANONYMOUS (5)

TEAM CAPTAIN SPONSORS

Acceptance Financial and Insurance
Dean & Jan Bailey—Ball's Softee Cream
Crystal Flash Energy—Dependable LP Gas
Bill & Denise Dommer—Koffee Klatsch
Roger & Diane LaWarre—Iris Clark
Edward Jones Investments/Chris Godbold
Firstbank—Steve Fleming Family
Halbeisen/LeSage Family—Rick & Jodie Seese
Lowell Granite Company—James E. Reagan D.D.S.
Noreen K. Myers, Attorney at Law—Optec, Inc.
David & Christine Kleinpaste—Dr. John Mogor
White's Bridge Tooling—Wittenbach Grand GMC
In Memory of Elliot Bruinekoel—Bill & Alice Young
Deborah Wilks, State Farm Agent—Anonymous (5)

Ada/Lowell 5—Addorio Technologies—AIC Insurance
Alto Beauty Salon—Mark Allen/Allen Edwin Homes—Alto Marathon
Bill & Ardie Barber—Canfield Plumbing & Heating—Nila Smith
Drew Condon Insurance—Elite Auto Body—George & Amy Fotis
Grand River Orthodontics—Bob & Sally Kline—LA Trim
Lowell Family Medical Center—Main Street Inn—Gloria Jackson
Modern Photographics—Bob Reagan—Rollaway—Marian Schneider
Nook Equipment—Subway Restaurant of Lowell—Doug & Lynn Hiser
Doris & Gerald Magle—Dave & Jan Thompson—Anonymous (4)

"FROM The Heart" FOOD FIGHT RIVERWALK PARADE!

This Saturday, July 9— Begins at Noon!

Your last chance to score for your team!
Bring non-perishable food items and deposit them in the red (North Team) or white (South Team) barrels lining the parade route!

Parade entries: Don't forget your food entry fees!
www.FROMfoodfight.org

GRAND CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP 930 W. Main St. \$18.95 Oil Change (Restrictions Apply) 897-9281
GREAT CLIPS 11675 E. Fulton St. St. \$2 OFF Any Regular Priced Haircut 897-9520

HAROLD ZEIGLER FORD 11979 E. Fulton St. 15% OFF Any Service Repair up to \$100 897-8431
HEIDI'S FARM STAND 11999 Cascade Rd. SE 25% OFF All Muffins 897-6707
HOOPER PRINTING 2125 Bowes Rd. Buy 250 Business Cards GET 250 FREE 897-6460
ICE CREAM CABOOSE 6300 Alden Nash SE 10% OFF Total Order 868-6602
KEISER'S KITCHEN 700 E. Main St. 10% OFF Summer Salads 897-8455
LACC & LAAC (Begins June 16) Riverwalk Plaza FREE Thursday Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts
LARKIN'S RESTAURANT 301 W. Main St. FREE Soda with Meal Purchase 897-5977
LOWELL CAR WASH 1941 W. Main St. FREE Vacuum with Gold Wash 897-0400
LOWELL LEDGER/BUYERS GUIDE 105 N. Broadway 15% OFF Any Pre-paid Ad (w/5 Food Items) 897-9555
MAINLINE COFFEE 11260 E. Fulton St. FREE 12 Oz. Coffee Drive-Thru
MODERN PHOTOGRAPHICS 216 W. Main St. FREE Family Photo Session (call for details) 897-5606
MYNT FUSION BISTRO 800 W. Main St. FREE Special Appetizer w/Entree 987-9307
PAULY'S 11250 E. Fulton St. Shop Pauly's! Go South Team! 897-2669
QUALITY EXPRESS Quick Lube 11729 E. Fulton St. 20% OFF Regular Priced Detail (appt. req.) 897-2700
REDFROG TECHNOLOGIES 1400 W. Main St. 10% OFF 897-5814
ROOKIES SPORTSCARDS Plus 106 W. Main St. 20% OFF Any Board Game or Graphic Novel 897-5650
SHOWBOAT AUTOMOTIVE 1450 W. Main St. FREE Pen or Pencil -Your Choice Go South! 897-9231
SMEELINK OPTICAL 505 W. Main St. RX POLAROID w/Purchase (restrictions apply) 897-0330
SNAP FITNESS 2173 W. Main St. FREE 30 Day Trial or \$5 OFF Easy Fit 987-4000
SNEAKER'S BAR & GRILL 211 E. Main St. FREE Soft Beverage w/M meal 897-6746
SPRINGROVE VARIETY 123 W. Main St. 15% OFF Purchases 897-9918
SPRINT OF LOWELL 2050 W. Main St. 20% OFF All Purchases 365- 5760
THREE BROTHERS PIZZA 1004 W. Main St. Cheese Bread \$2 or \$2 Off Deluxe Pizza 987-4430
TWO SEASONS M-21 Next to McDonald's 10% OFF Any Flat Drive-Up
WALGREEN'S 11980 E. Fulton St. 15% OFF Summer Clothing 897-3160