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Riverwalk Fest 2011 sizzles in extreme heat

by Emma Palova

The Riverwalk Festival was hotter than ever, as it sizzled in 90-degree temperatures, under a hazy sky last week. It was an eclectic blend of food, musicians, queens, clowns and politicians.

The Rogue River Jazz Band kicked off the festivities Friday on the Riverwalk, while the crafters completed their setup along the Flat River. The ideal backdrop for vendors, like Feelin' Ducky peddling products embellished with tiny ducks, as it was for the actual fowl in the river. Hundreds of ducks were enjoying the warm waters of the river.

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The Riverwalk Festival parade passes by.

New city manager starts job in Lowell

by Emma Palova

Too new to have business cards yet, Mark Howe settled into the city manager's office on July 1 taking the helm after Dave Pasquale. He was sworn in at the last city council meeting by clerk Betty Morlock.

Howe likes watching the constant flow of traffic at the busy intersection of Main and Monroe streets from his corner office.

The first thing he noticed was the quality of the city water coming right out of the tap. Like most people, he was leery of

drinking water coming from a faucet.

"I was thirsty, so I went to get a glass of water," he said. "The water from the faucet was fantastic. We have great water."

Howe is not a newcomer to the Lowell area. He grew up on a family farm where cattle grazed in the fields. Howe left for college and moved back 18 years ago. He and his wife Tammy live at the east end of the Lowell zip code.

City manager
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Clerk Betty Morlock swears in new manager Mark Howe.

Tragedy and heat hamper Covered Bridge bike tour

by Emma Palova

With temperatures hovering around 90 degrees, the annual Covered Bridge bike tour held last Sunday saw a drop in registration. And it was marked by a cycling accident on Saturday that killed longtime Fallsburg Historical Society volunteer, Larry Martin.

Martin, 69, was killed while crossing, on his bike, a pedestrian walkway in

Byron Center on the eve of the tour.

"He was the heart and the soul of the tour," said chairman Ken Tamke.

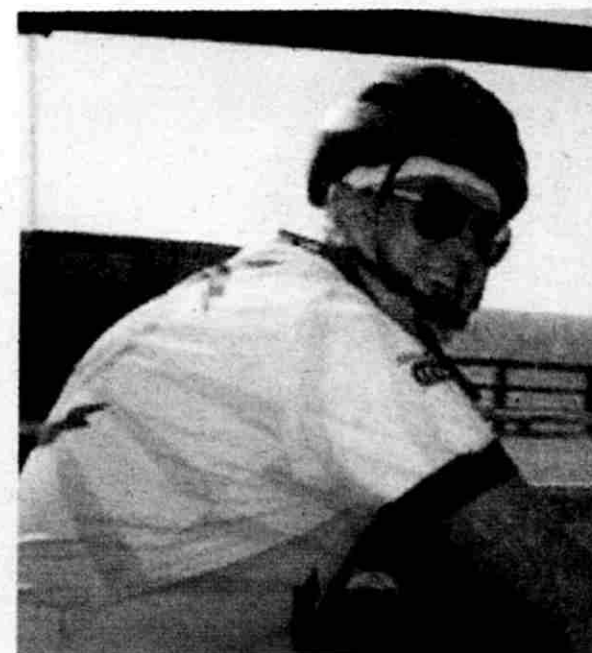
According to Tamke, Martin was planning on riding the Covered Bridge bike tour on Sunday.

"Larry was considered a catalyst in the success of the tour," said Tamke. "We are all deeply saddened."

Martin became involved in the Fallsburg

Historical Society as an active volunteer for the bike tour 10 years ago. He was referred to as goodwill ambassador for the tour and he guided Tamke through the intricacies of putting on a successful cycling event.

On tour days, according to Tamke, Martin drove the roads and assisted stranded bikers, and fixed flat tires. Occasionally Martin loaded the bike of an exhausted rider onto his bike rack and



Larry Martin planned on riding the Covered Bridge tour.

hauled them back to the Fallsburg village.

"Larry was invaluable in all facets of planning, preparation and administration of the tour because

Bike tour
continued, page 3

City manager, continued

He has been involved with the Grand and Flat River Valley rail to trail groups for the last couple of years.

"This is a great community," he said. "I want to be a part of the team. There's a great community spirit and positive atmosphere."

Howe came prepared with a 90-day action plan and a set of goals to be completed by September.

"I intend it to be a working document," he said.

The goals include developing positive council relationships and defining the manager expectations, improving communications, nurturing collaborative relationships, analyzing financial position, developing a long-term plan for street and sidewalk improvements, review water and sewer systems, and developing sustainable financial plans.

"Everything that I have done has prepared me for this," he said. "I don't want to be anywhere else; I want to be in Lowell."

Howe already feels comfortable at the city hall, since he can find the bathroom now.

"I am a big fan of the restaurants within walking distance," he said. "I've been to all of them."

Howe wants to get to know the culture and the staff at the city hall, and the dynamics of them. But, he already knows Lowell has great things going on.

"I've stepped into a great situation," he said.

As the former Ionia County administrator, Howe will play a similar role in Lowell in terms of financial management and interpersonal relationships. But, the major

difference, according to Howe, is that in Lowell he will be an integral part of building the community.

He will be using consultant Jay Kilpatrick of Williams & Works for

planning, although he has some planning experience from Ionia. His strength remains in finances and budgeting.

Howe is not overly worried about the vacant buildings in downtown or in the industrial park. He prefers to look at the flip side of the coin.

"We have a strong downtown and strong industries," he said. "It's only filling the gaps."

But, he will utilize past connections with the Bureau of Aeronautics and Ionia County Economic Alliance to work on economic development.

"I am looking forward to working with the airport," he said.

He will be using strategic planning to create a community vision in order to resolve certain issues, such as maintaining Lowell's own police department.

"We need to create a community vision of how important is it to maintain our own police department," he said.

Howe said he is willing to look into the city's millage rate, that is allegedly the second highest in the county after East Grand Rapids. If findings necessitate an explanation, Howe said he will explain.

His political experience of working for members of the legislature and the Congress has helped him.

"It has benefited me professionally to understand politics and Lansing," he said. "It helps you be aware of how you can navigate through."

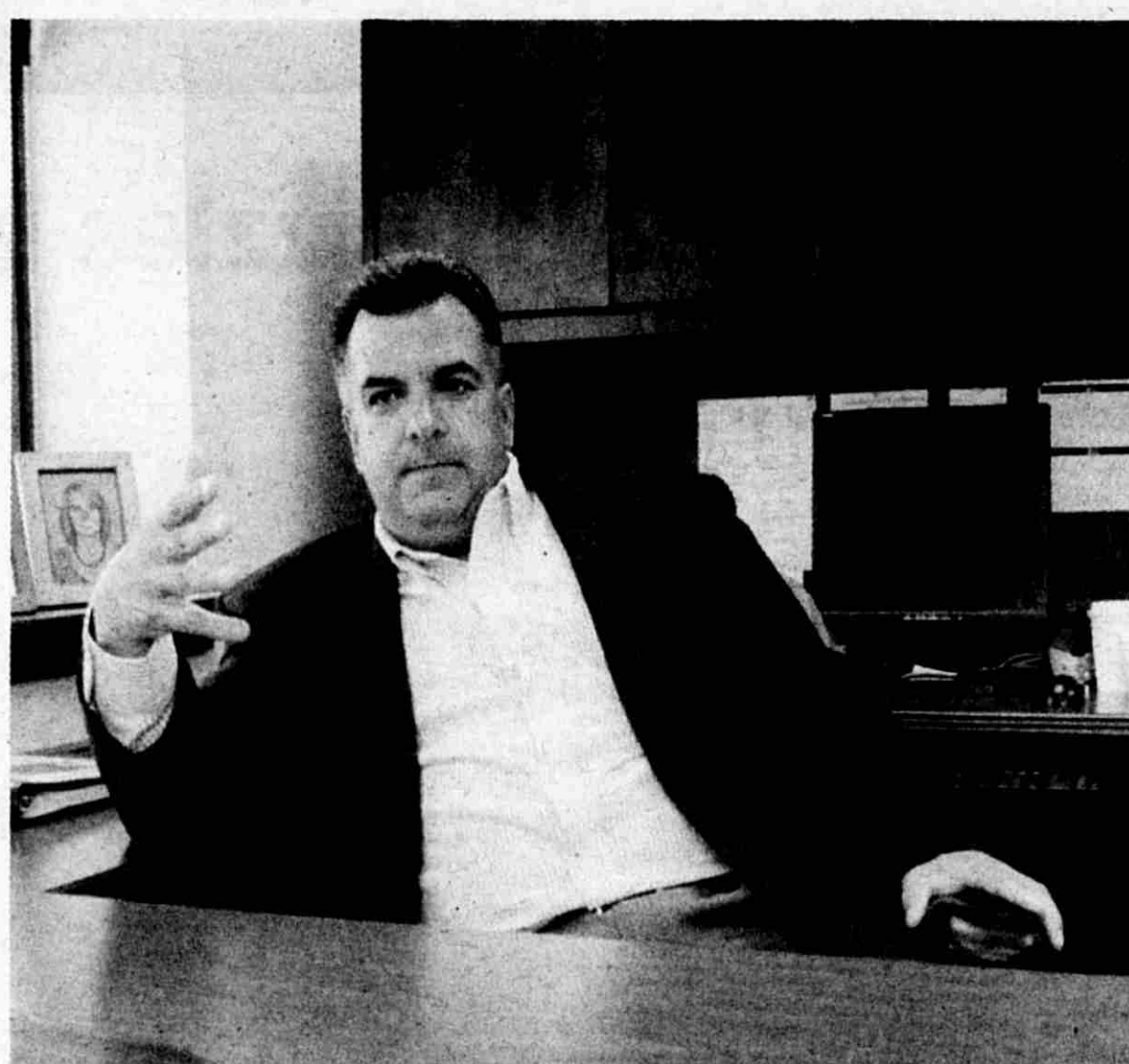
He has no immediate plans for major changes.

"I like to be able to assess a situation and then make a decision to move forward," he said.

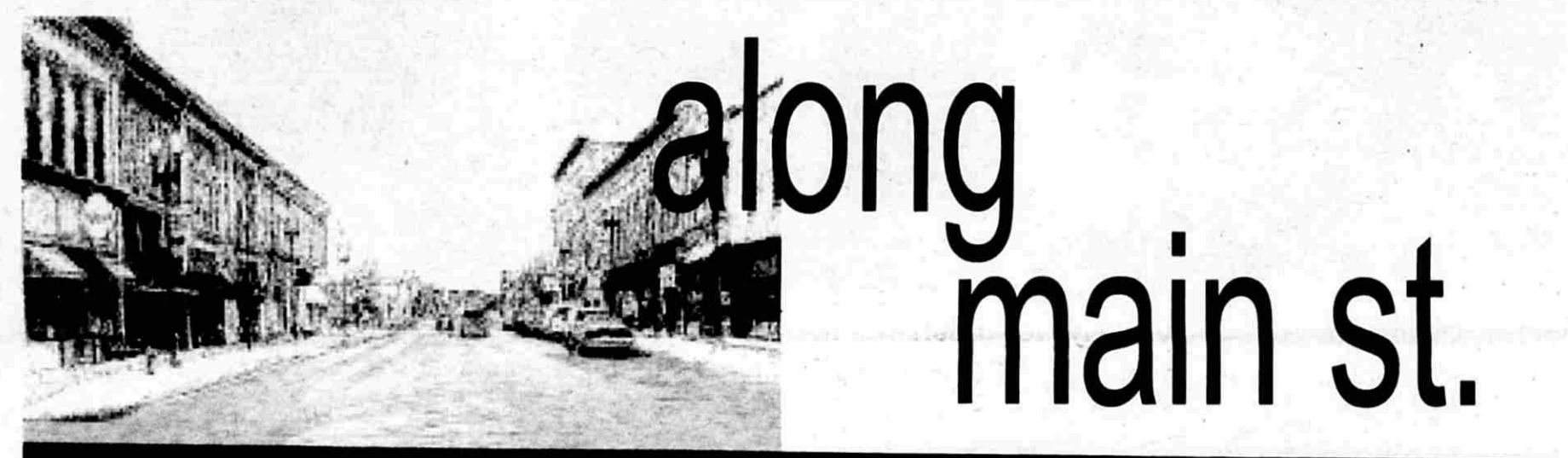
Known for speaking his mind, Howe said he has a different management style than Dave.

"Dave left me with a great situation," he said. "I am incredibly excited to be here and I am honored to be a part of the community."

Howe is already a member of the Rotary. He plans to volunteer in the community, develop strong relationships with the chamber and the Lowell Downtown Development Authority. He wants to make sure the city is consumer friendly.



Mark Howe settles in his corner office.



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.

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.

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

Sign up at the Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St., Sat., July 23, 10 am - noon. You may also order online using your debit or credit card. Go to www.angelfoodministries.com. Any questions, call Esther, 897-7395.

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 and 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.

The avoidance of taxes is the only intellectual pursuit that carries any reward.

- Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

Host families needed

Pacific Intercultural Exchange (PIE) needs caring host families for 15-18 year old foreign exchange students. They will be arriving in August for the 2011-12 school year to attend the local high school and returning to their country in June 2012. The students have had several years of English, have their own spending money and have medical insurance. The host family is responsible for board, room and guidance.

PIE local representatives help match the host families with students by finding common interests and lifestyles, such as sports, music, the arts, love of

young children or animals. There are no "typical" host families, large families, empty-nesters, single parents, retired or childless couples may apply.

PIE was started in 1974 and is designated a nonprofit organization by the United States Department of State. If you are interested in hosting one of these students or have questions, please call or e-mail Pat at 800-382-7439 or pblundy@iserv.net

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JEANNE BOSS EDITOR
EMMA PALOVA LEAD REPORTER
CASEY CHENEY SPORTS
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Bike tour, continued

he was active in the fraternity of avid cyclists," said Tamke.

Martin helped the Fallsburg Historical Society, including restoration work at the Tower Barn and termite work at the schoolhouse.

Saddened by Martin's passing, but careful not to cast a cloud over the bike tour, Tamke waited to make the announcement until the end of the tour.

Martin encouraged a donation program "\$1 Per Rider" to benefit the League of Michigan Bicyclists, a lobbying group dedicated to making Michigan a safe place to bike. In turn, this will help promote the bike tour online.

A direct descendent of the Falls family, Martin was proud of his Falls family heritage. His car has Falls on the license plate.

He volunteered his help in all the activities of the Fallsburg Historical Society, including restoration work at the Tower Barn and termite work at the schoolhouse.

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The delicious spaghetti delicacy, Nik enjoyed the Flat River. He swam by the Covered Bridge.

"I like the rocks and the turtles," he said. Tamke said if it wasn't for the blistering heat, the tour was poised for the biggest success ever.

"Naturally, our happiness is tempered by Larry's passing," said Tamke. "Larry was just a guy that was always there for you."

The Fallsburg Historical Society will donate "\$1 Per Rider" proceeds to the League of Michigan Bicyclists.

"We are very happy with our turnout this year,"

said Tamke. "Considering the temperature, it is remarkable to have 178 people ride under those

conditions. We did not have a single injury, dehydration or heat stroke."

The 18th annual

Covered Bridge bike tour will honor Martin for his passion and dedication to cycling.



Nik and Linda Mariani enjoying the annual bike tour in Fallsburg Park.

Teachers, principals and support staff ratify contracts with the district

by Shelly MacNaughton

Lowell Area Schools Board of Education held their regular meeting Monday night. The board welcomed new member Brian Krajewski. Krajewski and Mark Lessens were recently up for election and both secured seats on the board. Mark Lessens will continue to serve as board president. "Thank you to Brian and Mark for your dedication to the community, we welcome you. We appreciate all of our board members for their hard work and dedication," said superintendent Greg Pratt.

Nancy Hopkins retired from the board after 12 years of service. "Mrs. Hopkins spent the majority

of those years as president and she navigated the district through a number of superintendent searches and some challenging times in the district. I would just like to thank Mrs. Hopkins for her leadership," said Pat Nugent, treasurer.

Nugent offered a tribute to Roger Kropf. Kropf served on the Lowell Area Schools Board of Education for 17 years, 1975-1992. "One of my responsibilities for the board is the Lowell Education Foundation; they are constantly raising money to provide for things that the school can not. We are in the process of creating an endowment. To fund that

endowment we have the tribute tree," said Nugent. Family members of Kropf honored him by purchasing a leaf on the tribute tree and Nugent offered a testament to Kropf's years of service for the school district.

In other related news for the district, teachers, support staff, administrators and principals have all agreed on a two-year contract settlement with the Board of Education. All will receive 0 percent increase on base salary, no step increase and the equivalent of 1 percent to be paid off scheduled in year one. Teachers would then receive a half step in year two and 0

percent on base salary. All district employees will see an increase in prescription and office visit co-pays. Teachers and principals will contribute 10 percent in year one and 14 percent monthly for insurance in year two. Support staff will contribute 10 percent monthly in year one and 11 percent monthly in year two. "It was a pleasure to work with all groups involved to reach agreements and continue working on our focus of serving the students

within the district," said superintendent Pratt.

Roger Bearup offered a curriculum update to the board; the district is working on common core writing standards and preparing for summer school. "We are gearing up for summer school August 1-25 for K-5 elementary students; these are targeted interventions and we will offer some technology integration as well. A lot of great things happening," said Bearup.

"It is very nice to see the

extra dedication of teachers and principals throughout the summer. This is a busy time of year, perhaps one of the busiest times; there is a lot of planning that takes place," said Pratt.

Nugent spoke on the loss of Mr. Dave Burdette who passed away on July 3. "Mr. Burdette was a former principal at Bushnell and the middle school and very well-known community member during his time of service. I would just like to offer my condolences to his family," said Nugent.

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outdoors

Dave Stegehuis

Options

Michigan residents have a wide variety of choices when it comes to outdoor recreation. Most folks focus on one activity at a time. Fishermen go on fishing trips, golfers gather for golf outings, and bikers take road trips. These interests can take one all around the state from Detroit to Detour.

Most activities don't always consume an entire day which in the summer is a long time. Check out the area in which you find yourself for additional activities in order to take advantage of the extra time and the effort made to get there.

Our family rarely take trips solely for the purpose of touring about. We travel to hunt, fish, volunteer for mission work, visit relatives, or some other specific objective. However, on all of our travels we have discovered unique places, interesting friendly people, and a bit of adventure. Our excursions always provide some kind of double dip.

But rather than depend on chance to stumble across new experiences, it is better to plan ahead. For example, a golf trip to northern Michigan might include a tour of the wine country followed by a hunt for Moral mushrooms when in season. Off road vehicle riders could seek out a remote brook trout stream. There is always a festival of some kind going on somewhere. Moose and elk viewing will take the traveler well off the beaten path. Lighthouses and waterfalls are prime subjects for the photographer.

Small town chambers of commerce are staffed by friendly local people who can provide inside information on their area. On a trip up the inside passage off Alaska, at every port we skipped the dockside tour booths and headed straight for the chamber of commerce office or a hardware store to get a heads up on fishing spots and hiking trails. We found ourselves alone in less traveled places, having very special and sometimes challenging experiences.

There are many interesting and sometimes spectacular places in the world, but they are few and far between and not always accessible. Michigan has a lot of water, woods, rock and public land set in the context of changing seasons. There are more things to do here in a smaller area than most other destinations. When traveling, keep an open mind and an adventuresome spirit to get the most out of your next excursion.

North edges South in dramatic food fight finish

In dramatic fashion, the North Lowell team crafted an exciting comeback victory to win the Flat River Outreach Ministries 2011 Food Fight. It was a friendly competition among all those working and living south of Main Street in Lowell against all those north of Main Street. The object was to collect the most non-perishable food items.

"Wow! What an incredible finish," exclaimed Kraig Haybarker, FROM board member. "It just doesn't get any closer than this!"

It was a tense moment at FROM. All the trucks were in, all the barrels unloaded and all the items were counted, except one red North team barrel. At that very moment, the South team led by 239 items. Everyone stopped and watched as the last items were pulled from the barrel. The final North score was announced to the scorekeeper, "268 North." It was not the ending that most expected. The South led by over 1,000 at the end of the third quarter, 10 days earlier, and looked like a cinch to win their second consecutive Food Fight championship. However, the North never gave up,

chipping away at the huge lead a little bit at a time. Down by 398 items heading to the parade "showdown,"

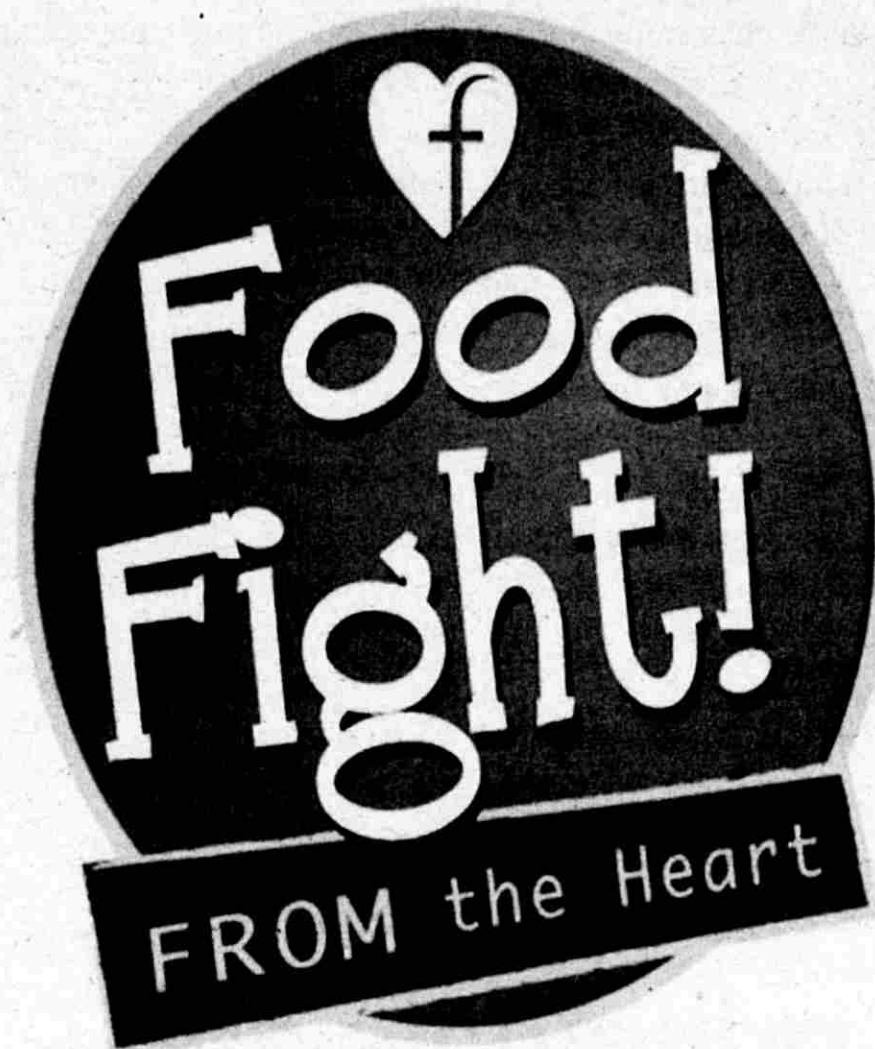
Ministries Food Pantry. The 2010 total was 16,383 and 2009 total was 8,496. "This community is so

team took the lead in 2010 with three days remaining, finishing the parade with a 337 item margin of victory. The 2009 results were similar, when the North team finally ended the seesaw battle, winning by only 88 items.

"I think this contest officially ranks as one of the top rivalries in West Michigan — North Lowell vs South Lowell," said Emmette, "and they are both home teams, from Lowell."

"To the best of our knowledge, there is nothing like it throughout America," said Ann Dimmick, FROM board chair. "It may be the largest community contest for such a cause. The need continues everyday and we do our very best to provide for the greater Lowell area. We are just so very fortunate to have the support from such a great community. Thank you, Lowell!"

The play-by-play action and event history can be reviewed anytime at the www.fromfoodfight.org website. Plans for Food Fight 2012 are already being reviewed. Anyone interested in helping or any comments can be sent to foodfight@fromlowell.org or messages can be left at the Food Fight Hotline, 421-0029.



the North came to Main St. ready to march to victory and that they did. They did it by scoring a record 4,845 items in the fourth quarter and by garnering a decisive edge at the parade. The final score was North Lowell 16,178, South Lowell 16,149. The margin of victory was only 29 food items. The 2011 FROM Food Fight totaled 32,327 food items and dollars to benefit Flat River Outreach

wonderful," said FROM board member, Jody Haybarker. "The generosity is overwhelming."

"It was like a great football game, with a great ending," said Dave Emmette, FROM board member. "Everyone in the community had fun and our pantry benefited when we needed it most."

The slim comeback victory by the North team seems fitting, after the South

viewpoint

to the editor

new doctor in town

Dear Editor, What great news that a new orthodontist has decided to open her practice in Lowell. Odd that she was never introduced as Dr. Gietzen during the introductory story. I love the informality of Lowell and as I grew into adulthood I became comfortable addressing people like Dr. Kyser as "Bob" although it never seemed appropriate to address Dr. McKay as "Orval."

It just seems to me that as many accomplishments as Dr. Heather Gietzen has achieved, she has earned the honor of being introduced as Doctor Gietzen. Once she and her patients grow more comfortable and friendly a more personal salutation might feel natural, except maybe for the youngest of those patients.

The story and the photo that ran with it appears to be another introduction of a new floral shop owner or another clothing store opening. Am I just an old fogey or is it not still appropriate to give our medical field professionals a bit more respect?

Thanks for the opportunity to voice this. I love getting the Ledger every week, as I have for all the years I've lived out west. Keep up the good work and thanks again for keeping the community ties strong.

Tim VanderVeen, Superior, Arizona

Lowell Patriotic Kids Club

Dear Editor, I understand the solemnness of Memorial Day and that kids shouldn't ride bikes in that parade. But why should we drop it all together? It is time to start this tradition again. Instead of riding our bikes in the Memorial Day parade, perhaps our kids can ride our bikes in the Riverwalk parade. Before the next Riverwalk parade, check in the Ledger for announcements. Thank you all for your help and support.

Sincerely, Theresa Reagan

Riverwalk fireworks

Dear Editor, Several years ago we had a parade and fireworks here on the 4th of July. This went on for about three or four years.

The Jaycees spent many hours planning and fundraising to pay for the fireworks and they enlisted the help of many other service organizations. Only one problem. Nobody

came. They all went to Grand Rapids for the fireworks anyway.

Now we get to go visit other communities to enjoy the holiday, then the next week they get to join us! The chamber has done a wonderful job with this festival; it is their largest fundraiser of the year and I think we should thank and applaud them, not "rain" on their parade.

Don Green

barefoot friendly

Dear Editor, Did you know it's not against the Michigan Health Code to go barefoot in an eating establishment? Michigan Health codes do not regulate what your customers wear or what they don't wear.

People can wear or not wear whatever they want in a restaurant. No worries to the store owner either. If the person's foot is injured while barefoot, the person is responsible, not the establishment.

The excuse, you could cut yourself on a piece of glass, is silly unless your place of business is full of cut glass. If you are worried about glass, you might better worry about getting it cleaned up.

Thank you to the businesses in Lowell that are barefoot friendly.

Signed, Brandon Mulnix

75 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo July 9, 1936

Local Centennial celebration committees throughout the state are requested, by the Centennial Celebration Joint Committee in Lansing, to send in the complete programs of their celebrations and such local history data as may have been discovered during the local celebration, for permanent filing with the Michigan Historical Commission.

50 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger July 13, 1961

Frank Stephens, Guy Quiggle and Henry Brown consult on a carpentry problem while readying the 1961 Lowell Showboat for her opening night voyage, Monday, July 24. Stephens reports that the Robert E. Lee has been repaired, refurbished, repainted, and the showboat stage has been torn up and rebuilt.

25 Years Ago The Grand Valley Ledger July 16, 1986

After nearly a month of delay, construction will begin on Lowell's first Family Fare Supermarket.

Thirteenth Macker is a tremendous success. The largest tournament of its kind, in the world, came to a close Sunday evening, though a few refused to let it end.

After most of the crowd dissipated following the tournament-ending slam dunk contest, a few remained trying desperately to keep the weekend alive.



By Shelly MacNaughton

125 Years Ago The Lowell Journal

Entry missing from files

100 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger July 13, 1911

The Lowell Specialty Company has bought, of L. P. Thomas, the corner lot adjoining its factory on the west, 66 frontage on Main Street and running back to the railroad about 132 feet. The consideration was \$1500.

Twenty votes were cast at the annual school meeting of District 1 at the Central building Monday evening, rather better than average attendance for this district.

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.

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Partnership Shows Commitment to Manufacturing



Sen. Carl Levin

When we think of Michigan's economy, we think of many things: tourists drawn to our lakes and beaches and forests, our developing industries such as biotechnology and alternative fuels, and our thriving agriculture.

But more than anything else, we still think of manufacturing. Michigan makes things, and we have for more than a century. Whether it's the world's best cars and trucks, or office furniture, or vehicles and equipment for our defense, Michigan has long boasted world-class manufacturers. Manufacturing will continue to be the beating heart of the Michigan economy long into the future. Indeed it is a growing sector.

That's why a new initiative announced by President Obama is good news for our state. The Advanced Manufacturing Partnership will use a whole range of existing federal programs to bring together private industry, academic institutions, and federal agencies to pursue new technologies that will boost manufacturing and provide the jobs working families depend on.

The president's initiative recognizes Michigan's leading role in American manufacturing. Four Michigan-based institutions will be among those leading the initial partnership: Dow Chemical of Midland, Ford Motor Co. of Dearborn, Stryker Corp. in Kalamazoo and the University of Michigan. And Andrew Liveris, the chief executive officer at Dow, will co-chair the effort. Liveris has earned national attention for his efforts to promote partnerships between government and industry as a way to boost manufacturing employment — and his warning that because other nations are doing the same, America's manufacturing leadership requires our doing so.

The new initiative gives momentum to creation of the jobs that will help America prosper in the decades to come. It embodies the vital recognition that U.S. manufacturers are not only competing with foreign companies, they are competing with the governments that support those companies.

Other nations are investing and creating public-private partnerships in advanced manufacturing, energy efficiency and other key sectors, and if we fail to match

Levin, continued, page 7

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happy birthday!

- JULY 13**
Travis Thomet, Cheryl Doyle, Justin Craig, Janet Burns, George Miles, Esther Newell, John Jones, Izzy Tackmann, Sharon Landman.
- JULY 14**
Ernestine Bundy, Katie Stouffer, Richard Ellison, Mindy Tykocki, Bethany Kaczanowski, Joyce VanDyke.
- JULY 15**
Mari Stone, Kyle Aksamitowski, Keenan Hacker.
- JULY 16**
James Stanley Smith, Caleb Rinard.
- JULY 17**
Vicki VanDerWarf, Ken Willmarth, Marian Mayou, Tom Karp.
- JULY 18**
Dianne Scanlon, Bette Phillips Haybarker, Emily Borton.
- JULY 19**
Bob Elzinga, Danielle Rittersdorf, Marcia Baird.

Conscience is what makes a boy tell his mother before his sister does.

- John Maynard Keynes (1883 - 1946)

college news

Western Michigan University's graduates for the 2011 spring semester: Benjamin R. Lightfoot of Alto with a Bachelor of Science in engineering (aeronautical), Corrine A. Bieber of Lowell with a Bachelor of Science in dietetics, and Carla J. Wobma of Lowell with a Master of Arts in literacy studies.

Nikita Jo Miles of Lowell graduated from Iowa State University in international business with a Bachelor of Science in marketing.

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement, Trinity Christian College has named Chelsea L. Schuen of Ada, Lauren E. Stegehuis of Alto

and Annalise M. Flier of Lowell to the dean's list for spring 2011.

Melody Dernocoeur, a 2005 Lowell High School graduate, recently graduated summa cum laude from Arizona State University's Global Studies program, and also with a certificate in religious studies. She is currently completing a six-month internship at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague.

Sigma Alpha Lambda is proud to announce that Kimberley R. Kline, daughter of Mike and Pam Kline of Lowell; and Casie Pedley, daughter of Dave and Karen Pedley of Lowell; have recently become recognized as members of Sigma Alpha Lambda, National Leadership and Honors Organization at the Grand Valley State University.

in the service

Bradley J. Klanderma has entered Basic Cadet Training at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo., in preparation to enter the first academic year at the academy. The six-week, two-phased orientation program must be successfully completed by the cadets prior to entering

their freshman year. The training prepares men and women to meet the rigorous mental and physical challenges experienced by new cadets.

Phase one involves personal in-processing, orientation and training in the fundamentals of being a cadet. Cadet trainees are

prepared to adjust from civilian to military life and disciplines, learn proper wear of the uniform, saluting policies and procedures, drill and ceremony, marching, and living quarters standards.

During phase two, cadets train outdoors living in tents while learning to function in field conditions. Cadets apply and practice team work, cohesion and learn to deal with physically

and mentally demanding situations. They complete the obstacle, confidence, assault, leadership reaction courses, and participate in a rescue mission termed Operation Warrior.

He is the son of Thomas and Sandra Klanderma of Alto.

Klanderma graduated in 2011 from Forest Hills Northern High School, Grand Rapids.

Beat the heat, go online

If the dog days of summer have you turning up the air conditioning or fan, here's a hot tip to keep cool. When the time comes to apply for your Medicare benefits, don't worry about trudging into the heat and making your way in the blazing sun to a Social Security office. Just pour

yourself a tall glass of iced tea, sit back in the comfort of your home or office, and go to www.socialsecurity.gov.

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Keep in mind that if you're applying to start receiving Social Security benefits at age 65 or are already receiving benefits, your enrollment in Medicare is automatic and no additional application is needed. However, if you're within four months of your 65th birthday and you plan

to delay your retirement benefits, you should consider applying for Medicare.

Applying for Medicare on the Internet is convenient, quick, and easy. There's no need to drive to a local Social Security office or wait for an appointment with a Social Security representative. In most cases, once your

application is submitted electronically, you're done.

There are no forms to sign and usually no documentation is required. Social Security will process your application and contact you if we need more information. Once we process your application, you'll receive your Medicare card in the mail.

Social Security makes it easy to apply for Medicare

and do a number of other things from the comfort of your home or office. Stay cool and visit www.socialsecurity.gov.

Vonda VanTil is the public affairs specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp St NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525 or via email at vantil@ssa.gov

area churches

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Worship Service..... Sunday -10:00 A.M.
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Celebration..... 10:40 a.m.
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Adult Bible Study..... 7:00 p.m.
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AWANA/EXCITE-TEENS..... Wed. 6:15 P.M.
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financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Is your portfolio like a baseball team?

If you're a baseball fan, you're no doubt aware that the MLB All-Star Game is being played on July 12. But while you'll probably appreciate the grace and skill of the players, you may not realize just how much a baseball team can teach you about other aspects of life — such as investing.

Specifically, consider the following characteristics:

- **Consistency** — Baseball teams need to be consistent. They choose quality players and must have the patience and discipline to stick with those players during slumps. As an investor, you should choose quality investments and have the patience and discipline to stick with them over the long haul.
- **Diversification** — A baseball team doesn't have just one type of player — it contains pitchers, catchers, infielders and outfielders. Your portfolio also needs to be diversified because if you own only a single type of investment, and a market downturn strikes that asset class particularly hard, your portfolio could take a big hit. Owning a diversified mix of stocks, bonds, government securities, certificates of deposit (CDs) and other investments can help reduce the effect of market volatility on your holdings. Keep in mind, though, that diversification, by itself, can't guarantee a profit or protect against loss.

• **Unity** — While a baseball team contains a diverse collection of players, they all strive toward a common goal. And the mix of investments in your portfolio needs to work together to help achieve the various goals you've established, such as a comfortable retirement, college for your children and a legacy for your family. To work toward your individual objectives, you will need to create an investment mix that's based on your risk tolerance, time horizon, family situation and other factors.

• **Flexibility** — While every member of a professional baseball team is a good player, one might be better than another in a given situation. For instance, a faster runner might pinch-run for someone else. And as you move on in your "game" of life, you will need flexibility in making your investment decisions. As one example, when you near retirement, you may want to reduce your exposure to risk somewhat, so you might decide to replace some — but certainly not all — of your growth-oriented vehicles with investments that can offer greater protection of your principal.

• **Good management** — Even the best group of baseball players needs a manager to guide them and make decisions during a ballgame. And to help you make investment choices during different times in your life, you might benefit from working with a financial professional — someone who knows your risk tolerance, investment preferences and long-term aspirations.

You may never find yourself surrounded by the greatest ballplayers in the world — but remembering these traits can help keep your portfolio "in the game."

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

Levin, continued

their investments, America and American workers will be left behind.

The partnership will focus on four areas: manufacturing capability in areas vital to our national security; faster development of advanced materials; investing in next-generation robotics; and developing energy-efficient manufacturing techniques.

It's important that this effort recognizes and strengthens the vital relationship between the health of our manufacturers and the security of our nation by focusing on capabilities in critical national security industries. Michigan is a leader in applying our manufacturing strength to national defense. And

many of the security-related issues that the partnership will tackle are right up Michigan's alley, including advanced batteries, metal fabrication and alternative energy.

The other focus areas — advanced materials, robotics and energy-efficient manufacturing — also touch on Michigan's strengths. Our manufacturers and research institutions are at the forefront in these areas, and this new federal commitment will boost their efforts to create good jobs and keep manufacturing strong.

For too long, leaders in Washington have looked at manufacturing as yesterday's news, and

that was bad news for Michigan. But this new partnership, along with the federal commitment to a strong auto industry, support for advanced battery manufacturing, efforts to improve alternative energy production and other measures show that Washington has recognized the importance of manufacturing.

A noted economist recently wrote, when asked about the importance of manufacturing: "It has been at the foundation of human material and social progress at least since the Industrial Revolution and it is likely to remain so in the foreseeable future." Manufacturing is certainly at the foundation

of Michigan's progress and future, and it's great news for our state that leaders in Washington recognize its importance.

health



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



osteoporosis

Osteoporosis literally means bones that are porous or weak. When your body loses calcium, your bones become weak and are more likely to break. Osteoporosis is best diagnosed with a type of x-ray which can accurately measure the density of your bones. This is usually done on the hip and lower spine bones.

If you have osteoporosis, you have a higher risk of fractures if you fall. Therefore, it is important to lower your risk of falling. You can do this by exercising, which improves strength and balance. You can also add handrails on stairs and in bathrooms, and remove loose rugs from your home.

To lower your risk of osteoporosis, be sure to get enough calcium and vitamin D. Your body needs vitamin D to help absorb and use the calcium. You get calcium from dairy products (i.e., cheese and milk), vegetables, almonds, tofu, and drinks with added vitamins and minerals (i.e., orange juice, rice milk and soy milk). You can also get vitamin D from milk, fish and drinks or cereals with added vitamins and minerals. You should get at least 1200 mg of calcium and at least 800 I.U. of vitamin D from supplements and your diet. Your doctor may also prescribe certain prescription medicines if you have osteoporosis. These medicines help decrease the risk of hip and spine fractures in patients with osteoporosis.

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Riverwalk, continued

Just a few steps away, on the lawn in front of the Englehardt Library, the Friends of the Library held their annual used book sale. The sale was busy, as people hunted for their favorite authors.

The food vendors on Avery Street offered everything from hot dogs to creations presented by CaterCat. Always a favorite,

personal wood-fired pizza attracted many hungry event-goers.

Community nonprofit organizations set up their booths by the Showboat to make the public aware of their presence in town.

Historic pontoon tours showcased the downtown from a different angle through the nooks between the back of the buildings on the bridge.

The next day as the temperatures steadily continued to rise, parade watchers formed clusters in the shade of the buildings on the south side of Main Street. The actual bridge over the Flat River and other sunny spots were deserted.

Watching the parade pass by from one of the landmark buildings, the Main Street Inn, guests got

a good view of the entire parade as it headed east.

Occasionally, the parade was loud with sirens of emergency vehicles blasting into the street corridor. However, the classic cars were a colorful spectacle from the past, along with the milk trucks.

The Lowell Area Historical Museum dedicated its float to the

150th anniversary of the Civil War. A live soldier dressed in a black uniform from that era was perched on the float.

And the blue Smurfs marched along as volunteers over the Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM), with the clowns collected cans for the pantry.

City officials, dressed casually, waved to the spectators.

And it wouldn't be a parade without queens, their courts and politicians. Gliding down Main, was Miss Belding, the Ionia Free Fair queen and the Kent County 4-H royal court.

Riverwalk continued, page 9



Top: Kayaking on the Flat River.



Left: Dairy milk trucks are stationed on Avery Street.



Above: Classic cars rumble down Main.

Left: Crafters' lane with precious treasures and vendors like Joanna Barr.



Top: Billboard for the upcoming Pink Arrow Project.

Left: Used book sale by Friends of the Library.



Riverwalk, continued

The fireworks on Stoney Lakeside Park wrapped up the event on Saturday.

Chamber director Liz Baker said that overall the festival went great.

"The weather always plays a part," she said. "The high temps and humidity probably kept a few away."

Parade attendance and entries were down, but the good turnout for the Riverwalk Cruise-In and the added Divco milk trucks made for a perfect parade, according to Baker.

"We had wonderful entertainment including 20 street entertainers," she said.

And even though the Saturday night concert was interrupted by a power outage, Douglas James, from the band, kept the crowd entertained.

"We had a great variety of crafts this year," she said, "from cement garden critters to an artist who could write your name on a tiny piece of rice."

The winners of the

\$1500 State Farm Duck Race were:

Carol McGregor was the \$1,000 winner and Clayton Inman, Deb Adams, Julia Stewart, Julie Simmons, and Brenda Lynema were all \$100 winners.

The winner of the \$250 Rumble the Riverwalk was Mart & Rema DeYoung.

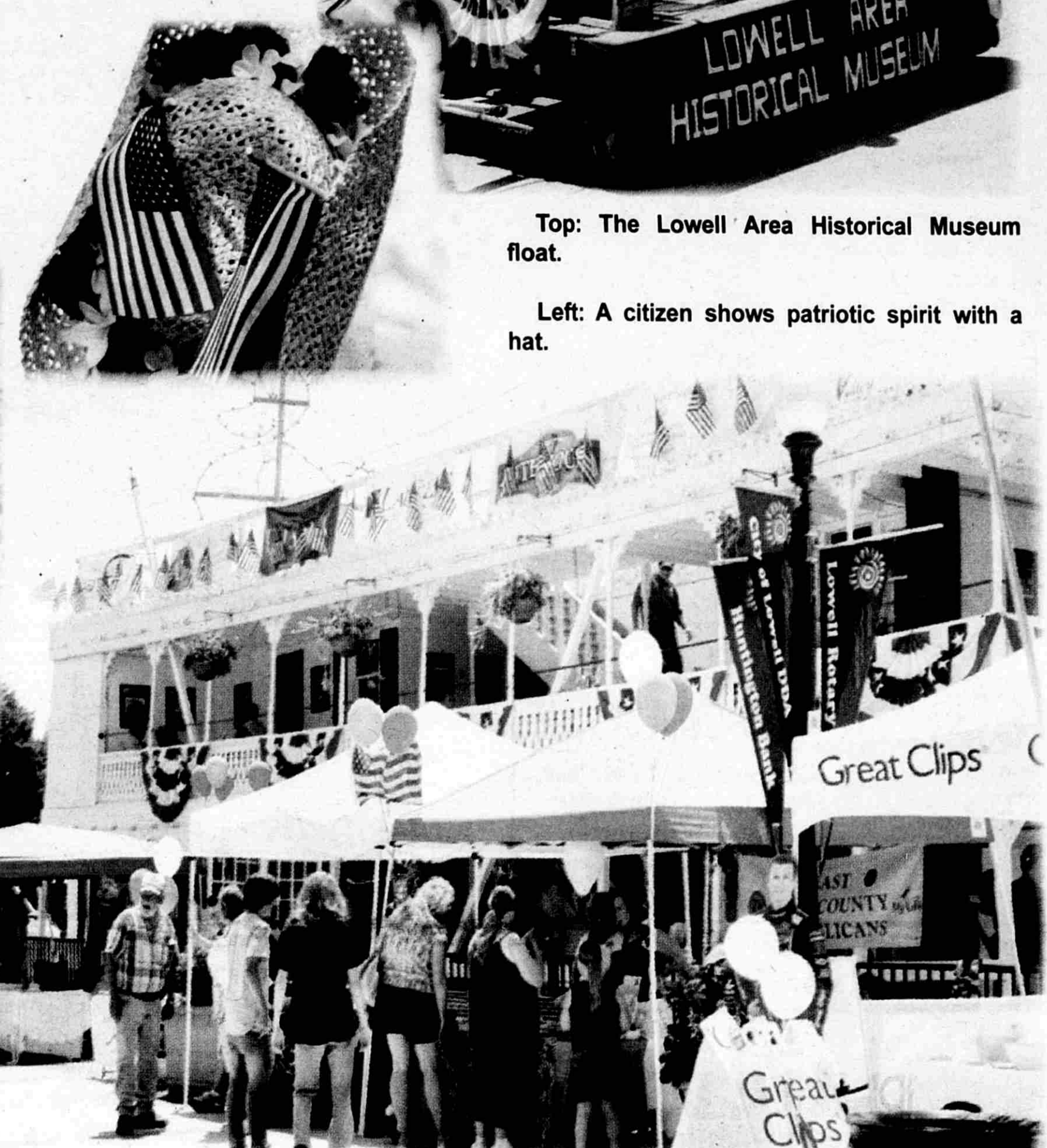


Top: The Lowell Area Historical Museum float.

Left: A citizen shows patriotic spirit with a hat.



The Rogue River Jazz Band kicks off the Riverwalk.

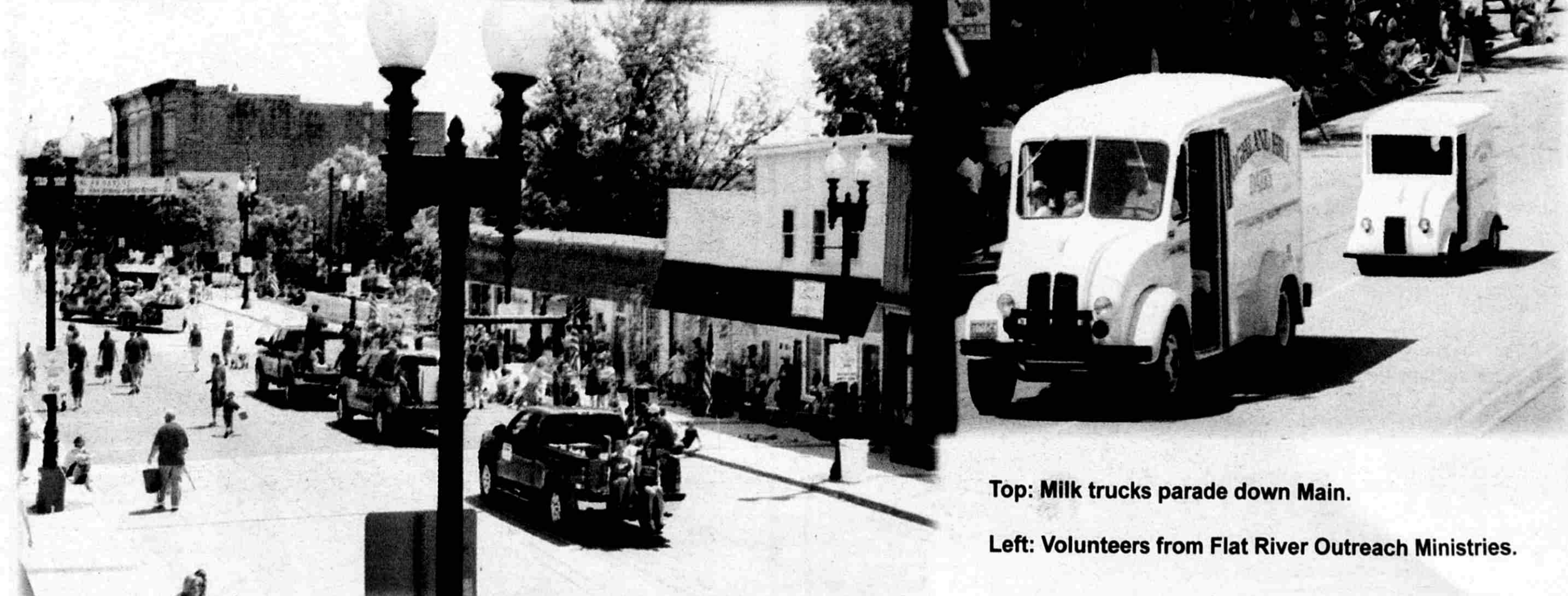


Top: Showboat is decked out for the festival with patriotic banners.

Left: City clerk Betty Morlock enjoys the parade.



Kent County 4-H Youth Fair royal court closes the parade.



Top: Milk trucks parade down Main.

Left: Volunteers from Flat River Outreach Ministries.

Stolen Horses and Hank Mowery bands rock the Riverwalk

In the ongoing Sizzlin' Summer concert series, hundreds of people enjoyed the Stolen Horses country music show on the Riverwalk followed by the Hank Mowery and the Hawktones blues concert last Thursday.

Both bands attracted hundreds to the downtown area leaving no empty parking spots. The concerts also filled up the Showboat which offers sandwiches and drinks. Pontoons and kayaks voyaged to the shores of the Riverwalk to take in the summer fun. The music always attracts eager dancers to the stage.

People must have been ready for some good music after a previously rained out concert.



Stolen Horses performs at the summer concert series.

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Stolen Horses put on a great mix of rock, rap and country music, while Hawktones concentrate on blues.
 Stolen Horses are a West Michigan band with Nashville style musicians, including David Lyle on rhythm guitar and lead vocals; John Afton, lead guitar and vocals; Rusty Kitchens on bass guitar and vocals; and Sean Kittredge on drums and vocals.
 Stolen Horses played covers from today's charts, traditional country to the core, and their originals.
 Hank Mowery and the Hawktones got onto the blues scene in the early 1990s. The band weaves together a show combining old school sensibilities and modern day energy. The Hawktones play Chicago standards, Texas shuffles or West Coast swing.
 The Hawktones recently updated with Troy Amaro on guitar, Chris Bracey on drums, Chris Corey on piano, and Junior Valentine on bass.
 The next concert will take place July 14 with swing band Java Jive. They play the classics of popular music with a jazzy, swinging style. The band plays mainly music of the 30s and 40s, the songs of the big band era.

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ask kathryn



Kathryn Denhouter Ph.D.

This is the last article in a series of seven that has been discussing "emotional intelligence." Emotional intelligence is defined by Daniel Goleman as, "the capacity for recognizing our own feelings and those of others, for motivating ourselves, and for managing emotions well in ourselves and in our relationships." These are a distinct intelligence, yet compatible with academic intelligence. The intellectual and emotional intelligence expresses activity in different parts of the brain. The intellect has its activity in the neocortex part of the brain and the emotional activities take place in the lower brain, the subcortex. High functioning individuals use both of these sections of the brain together, which creates a more purposeful and emotionally practical functioning.

This last article is entitled, "Our Children and the Future of Work." Goleman emphasizes in his book, "Working with Emotional Intelligence," the importance of emotional competence. Emotional intelligence is crucial for our children as a standard in the world of work. For instance, the current trend on the job is called "telecommuting." Autonomy and self-reliance are critical skills for the employee to have

to make this kind of work successful. The skills of self-control, trustworthiness, and conscientiousness are all part of emotional intelligence. As people work less for "the company" and more for themselves, emotional intelligence will be required to maintain the relationships so important for the workers' survival. Often today, we have a group come together to do a project and then the group disbands when the project is completed. It is almost like a "virtual" work place that relies heavily on computers and teleconferencing. Emotional intelligence is critical because we need to be very flexible when linking with people that are new to us to chat and to share information and ideas.

The good news is that emotional intelligence can be learned. Emotional competencies can be assessed and upgraded. Our emotional intelligence needs to be "tuned up" for our corporation and our world of work. Our children need to learn the relational part of the world of work to be successful employees in the future. If you have any questions about emotional intelligence or would like to be assessed for emotional intelligence (Emotional I.Q.) please contact me by e-mail at kathryndenhouter@gmail.com

Fire destroys Maplewood Square townhomes



A fire that broke out on Tuesday at 11:25 p.m. consumed three townhomes in the Maplewood Square townhouse complex off M21 West. The fire was contained at 1:25 a.m., according to Lowell fire chief Frank Martin. There are no speculations as to what may have caused the fire, said landlord, contractor Michael Nosko. Damages are currently being assessed. The homes will be rebuilt by Nosko Residential Contractors. There have been no prior incidents of fire in the complex built 10 years ago.

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obituaries

GANNON

Ruth S. Gannon, age 84, of Grand Rapids, passed away July 9, 2011. She was preceded in death by her husband Marvin. She is survived by her children, James Gannon, Patricia (Robert) Condon, Michael (Liz) Gannon, Dennis Gannon, Kevin Gannon, Theresa (Larry) Peavey, Marvin Gannon; brother, Art (Minnie) Kellogg; sisters, Gwen (Frank) Barrett, Judy (Dan) Pikaart; 20 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren; also several nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held Tuesday at Roth-Gerst Chapel. Interment Plainfield Township Cemetery.



POWERS

Hazel Powers, age 90, of Lowell, passed away Sunday, July 10, 2011. She was preceded in death by her husband, Roger D. Powers Sr.; daughter, Lavada Burke; daughter-in-law, Gladys Kuipers-Powers; stepdaughter, Dorothy Richardson; brother, Luther Scott; and sisters, Helen Williams, Georgia Pranskaitis,

and Lillian Anderson. She is survived by her children, Calvin (Kay) Powers, Shirley (Roy) Rood, Barbara Manley, Roger (Sue) Powers; special adopted daughter, Claustine; 16 grandchildren, Deb Stover, Brenda Traxler, Tony Burke, Cindy Jojola, Robert and Steven Powers, Becky Trierweiler, Carol Dyer, Lee, Roy Jr. and Burton Rood, Theresa Ogden, Marsha Newbold, Lewis Manley, Kim Thomas, Todd Powers; 47 great-grandchildren, Lavada Baas, Sherry Barris, Candy Devries, Jacki and Jodi Traxler, Andy Dean, Zack and Luke Burke, Andrew, Christopher, Michael and Matthew Jojola, Jordon Hofettler, Jesse, Whitney and Michael Powers, John and Jennifer Trierweiler, Jessica Barry, Jenette Millering, Amber Perry, Jeff and Jason Smit, Melissa Lopez, Lisa, Mike and Tom Dyer, Ami, Crystal, Matt Ryan, and Mercedes Rood, Christine, Amanda, Daniel and April Ogden, Coty Grove, Blake and Brook Newbold, Dylan and Mikala Manley, Ryan and Karlee Thomas; Elizabeth, Brendan, Riley, Grace and Collin Powers; 37 great-great-grandchildren, Desiree Lovell, Alexis Dean, Frankie, David and William Barris, Candyce and Anna Devries, Makenzie Traxler, Jade Hofettler, Ezekiel, Sylvie and Hazel Powers, Allia Trierweiler, Audrey and Kristal Barry, Bradly and Briana Millering, Cheyenne, Trenton, Sierra and Sean Heintzelman, Josiah and Larissa Perry, Alexis, Mariah, and Jake Smit, Adalynn and Aubrey Lopez, Hanna, Adrianna and Ryan Rood, Camron Bower, Carlos, Adriana and Natalie Martinez, Daniel Roy Ogden, Kayla and AJ Thompson; and also four more expecting great-great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild, making a total of 107 grandchildren. Funeral service will be held Thursday, 11 am, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. Rev Burdette Faulk officiating. Interment Rosedale Memorial Park Cemetery. Visitation will be Wednesday 2-4 and 6-8. Memorial contributions may be made to Flat River Outreach Ministries, 11535 Fulton St. E., Lowell, MI 49331.



DRAFT SYNOPSIS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2011

Motion to excuse the absence of Mayor Pro Tem Ellison.

Motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2011 meeting as corrected.

Motion to approve the accounts payables as presented.

Motion to approve the designation of City Manager Mark Howe as a signatory for bank accounts.

Motion to establish a public hearing for August 1, 2011 to consider variances related to building additions at 218 S. Washington for Jice Pharmaceuticals.

Motion to establish a public hearing for August 1, 2011 to consider special assessment of an extension of the water main on Hunt Street.

Motion to adjourn at 8:03 p.m. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, July 18, 2011.

Complete minutes will be available after approved on July 18, 2011 on the City's web page at www.ci.lowell.mi.us or at City Hall.



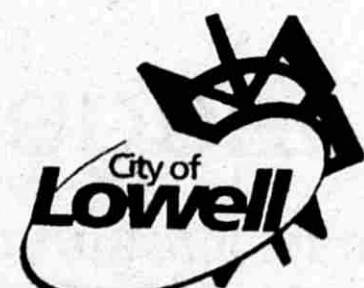
Betty R. Morlock City Clerk

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The JULY BOARD OF REVIEW will meet as follows: TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.

ACT 14 OF 1985, being Section 211.53(b) of the General Property Tax Laws, provides for corrections of clerical errors or mutual mistakes of fact relative to the correct assessment figures, and the corrections of Principle Residence Exemptions, these shall be verified by the local assessing officer and approved by the board of review at a meeting held for that purpose, to be held on any day of the week of the 3rd Monday in July.

On July 19, 2011, a meeting will be called for this purpose at 11:00 a.m. in the City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331, to conduct business as provided for in Section 211.53(b), Michigan Compiled Laws.



Betty R. Morlock City Clerk

Michigan organ donor registrations see 25 percent jump

New Efforts Expand Registry Second Month in a Row The number of people who added their names to Michigan's Organ Donor Registry in June jumped 25 percent from the same month last year, Secretary of State Ruth Johnson announced.

A total of 35,265 people joined the Registry last month, which was up from the 28,104 that signed up in June 2010. It was the second consecutive month a major increase was seen - May numbers were up 20 percent from the year before. The surge in registrations follows Johnson's implementation of a new policy in April requiring employees at branch offices, time permitting, to ask customers if they want to sign up on the registry.

"For years, Michigan has ranked nearly last among states in organ donor registration," Johnson said. "In cooperation with Gift of Life Michigan, the Michigan Eye-Bank and our other partners, we are doing everything we can to turn the numbers around. The more people who are registered as willing to donate, the more lives will ultimately be saved."

The Michigan Organ Donor Registry currently has about 2.2 million residents enrolled, less than one-third of the state's adult population. Each organ donor has the potential to save eight lives and enhance the lives of as many as 50 patients.

"Recent changes in procedures at the Department of State are already having a significant impact on donor registrations, providing hope to the 3,000 Michigan patients currently waiting for a life-saving organ transplant," said Richard Pietroski, CEO of Gift of Life Michigan. "We are very pleased that Michigan residents, when offered the opportunity, are registering their decision to be organ, tissue and eye donors. The Department of State's actions will save and improve lives."

Other recent efforts by the Secretary of State to increase organ donor registrations include placing reminders on widely used forms and on a checklist for customers at busy branches, providing links to the registry on more of the Department of State's web pages, forming an advisory committee of experts to develop recommendations and encouraging donation via social media.

Johnson said anyone interested in joining the registry may sign up at the Secretary of State website at www.Michigan.gov/sos. Those who sign up will receive a red heart sticker for the front of their license or state ID card. A newly designed Michigan driver's license signifies registered donors with a permanent red heart on the front of their license. Signing the back of your driver's license does not enroll you in the donor registry.

For more information about organ donation and the Secretary of State's office, visit www.Michigan.gov/sos and sign up for the official Twitter feed, www.twitter.com/MichSOS, and Facebook updates, www.facebook.com/Michigansos.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ALICE BUIST TRUST TO ALL CREDITORS: The Settlor, Alice Buist, who lived at Breton Manor, 2589 44th St., SE, Kentwood, MI 49512, died on 6/3/2011. There is no personal representative of the settlor's estate to whom Letters of Administration have been issued.

Craig A. Bruggink, attorney for Trustee, 429 Turner Ave., N.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49504, within four months after the date of publication. Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

Craig A. Bruggink P.L.C. (P29358) Attorney for Trustee 429 Turner NW Grand Rapids, MI 49504 616-456-4038

Sharon Bouma Successor Trustee of the Alice Buist Trust, uad 10/29/02 amended on 11/29/05 and 6/8/07. 2915 Lakeshore Dr., N. Holland, MI 49424 616-399-0957

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classifieds

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for sale

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WOOD HEAT - Clean, safe & thermostatically controlled. Central Boiler Classic Outdoor Wood Furnace. 25 year warranty. Call SOS your "stocking dealer" Dutton, MI 616-554-8669 or 616-915-5061.

LOGBED SET - Cedar (complete), \$125. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook. Delivery available.

BLACK POMERANIAN - Needs loving home (have too many dogs), neutered male, \$75, please call 987-3109.

TWIN BED - Mattress, box spring & frame, (Sealy), \$85 complete. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook.

200 APPLIANCES - Washers, dryers, refrigerators & stoves. Guaranteed. From \$69. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook. Delivery available.

QUEEN PILLOWTOP MATTRESS SET - (new), \$248/set. Thick & plush. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook.

FOR SALE - Dining room table & 4 chairs. Light maple, like new. \$75. Call 616-240-1128.

BED & MATTRESS SET - queen, Sealy, \$95 includes frame. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook. Delivery available.

SEMI LOADS 10 CORDS OF 8 FT. WOOD - semi loads of 8 ft. logs, 10 in. average diameter, super clean, processed & carried out of the woods, delivered to your property. See pictures at www.coxx.com or call Al at 231-846-0346 anytime. Please clip this ad & give it to a fellow wood burner.

COUNTRY HOUSE FOR RENT - 3 miles from Murray Lake. Recently remodeled ranch w/garage, 2 bedrooms w/large closets, hardwood floor in living room, full basement w/laundry facilities, appliances included. Available in July. For more details call 897-9798.

KENMORE REFRIGERATOR & STOVE SET - (2006), cost \$900, sell \$199 for pair. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook.

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help wanted

COMMERCIAL CLEANING POSITION - Janitorial position available in the Ada area. Part-time, Tuesday 3.5 hours, Friday 7.5 hours. Start time after 5 p.m. Reliable transportation & valid drivers license required. We offer competitive wages. Stop in soon to fill out an application: Metropolitan Building Maintenance, 868 Barnum SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49509.

NOW HIRING - and training for career positions with West Michigan's leading real estate company. Call Rick Seese, Greenridge Realty, Inc. for a confidential interview. 616-437-2576 or 616-974-4250.

DRIVER - CDL-A, 2 years experience, clean driving record, regional 6 state area, home every weekend, pay is based on percentage of load. Send resume and references to: Driver, P.O. Box A, Ada, MI 49301.

for rent

FOR RENT - Lowell, 2423 sq. ft. of industrial space with loading dock, small office and 10 ft. ceilings. More space available if needed. \$1,200/month plus utilities. 616-897-6505.

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.vfw8303.org. Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.

MORRISON LAKEFRONT - newer 3 bedroom, 2 bath, deck, dock, fireplace, lg. great room, Jenn-Aire kitchen, all appliances, washer & dryer, attached 2 stall garage, \$1,100. plus utilities per mo., deposit & no pets, 616-693-2560.

PRICELESS STORAGE - Indoor/outdoor. New Units on Alden Nash, 1 mile South of I96. Call for specials 558-2900.

ALTO LIBRARY HOURS: Tues. & Wed., 12-8 p.m.; Mon. & Sat., 9:30-1:30 p.m.; Thurs., 1-5 p.m. Info., call 647-3820.

ENGLERHARDT LIBRARY HOURS - Mon.-Wed., noon - 8 p.m.; Thurs. & Fri., 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat., 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 647-3920.

LOWELL AREA ARTS COUNCIL GALLERY HOURS - Tues. - Fri., 10 - 6 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m.; Monday by appt.; 149 S. Hudson. Visit www.lowellartsCouncil.org or call 897-8545.

ST. MARY'S PREGNANCY CRISIS CENTER - 402 Amity, Mondays: 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Thursdays: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Non-denominational. Help for pregnant women/adolescents in need. Provides support, referrals, food, clothing/infant items. Lowell area. 897-9393.

sales

LARGE SALE - Multi-family, July 15 & 16, 8:30-4:00 p.m. NW corner of Lincoln Lake & Vergennes, 12691 Vergennes. Large variety of items.

MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE - 8333 Pratt Lake, Alto, July 22 - 23, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Girls' clothes size 4-7, boys' clothes size 6-8, bikes, child's art desk, stroller/car seat combo, playstation w/games, tag-along for adult bike, games, toys, household items, & tug boat sandbox w/cover.

GARAGE SALE - July 15 & 16, 8 to 5 p.m., 10432 Bennett. Lots of children's clothes, toys & household items.

misc.

PLEASE JOIN US - Sat., July 16, to celebrate the life of Joyce Ann Smith who passed away Feb. 3, 2011. Friends & family are invited to attend the service that will be held at 1595 Alden Nash Rd, Lowell, at 3:00 p.m.

UPS SHIPPING AT THE LOWELL LEDGER! Call for a price quote! 897-9261

misc.

DANCING ON THE RIVERFRONT LOWELL - Every Sunday - Country night, 5-7 p.m. Theme nights on Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. - July 13 theme is 70s & 80s. Donations accepted. For more info contact softonthefirstentertainment@yahoo.com

services

CUSTOM & DESIGN SHEET METAL INC. - Metal fabrication, welding of all types & powder painting. Call 616-897-7336.

NEED A DUMPSTER? - 14 to 20 yards available. Garage, attic, household cleanup, roofing, trash, junk, etc. Dependable service & affordable prices. Mention this ad & receive 10% off. Call for free estimates. Contact Doug 616-295-6640.

TAXES, PAYROLL, QUICKBOOKS, & ACCOUNTING SERVICE - by certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-6351.

services

LAWN & GARDEN - Rototilling for gardens & lawns, mowing, fertilizing & general lawn care. Servicing NE Grand Rapids, Ada & Lowell area. Call Aaron for free estimate 616-328-9558.

RITESIDE FENCE - "Let us help you end up on the right side of the fence." Riteside fence is a full service fence company offering professional installation & do-it-yourself products. We offer vinyl fence, wood fence, chainlink agricultural fence, aluminum & iron fence. Licensed & insured. Visit: www.ritesidefence.com Call: 616-446-1033.

HANDY REPAIR SERVICE - All kinds of service work: locks rekeyed, deadbolts installed, screen & window repair. Call Bob Ford, 299-3198.

LAMINATING SERVICE AVAILABLE - Next day service. Drop off & pieces will be available by 9 a.m. the next day. Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

BRICK - BLOCK - STONE - Chimney repair & concrete work. Call 897-0698 ask for Darryl.

services

COPIES COPIES - We have color & black & white copiers! Excellent quality! As low as 10c per copy for black & white. Stop by our office, Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway.

GEE'S ROLLING DUMPSTERS - 15 yard. \$170 for household trash or \$250 for shingles/drywall. 616-205-6871.

UPS SHIPPING COPY SERVICE, (black & white & color!) FAX SERVICE, LAMINATING, & MUCH MORE AVAILABLE AT THE LOWELL LEDGER BUYERS GUIDE 105 N. Broadway HOURS M-Th 8-5 p.m. Fri 8-2 p.m. Closed Sat. & Sun. Ph. 897-9261 Fax 897-4809 email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

Community Calendar with various event listings including meetings, classes, and social events.

Lowell FFA attends leadership training

Submitted by Kevin Nugent,
Lowell FFA Advisor

Even though school has been out for several weeks, the Lowell FFA Chapter has been busy attending several leadership conferences to prepare for the coming school year.

After being elected in April, the 2011-2012 Chapter officer team attended the Region V Leadership Camp in May. Of the six FFA regions in Michigan, Region V covers the area from the lakeshore to Ionia and from Caledonia north to Beal City. Chapter officer teams from schools in the area meet to set goals and share ideas for the next year. They also elected regional officers to plan and prepare regional activities for the year. Lowell's Caitlin Clover was elected to serve as the Region V vice-president and Emma Roderick was elected as the Region V District III vice-president. They will serve as regional officers until the 2012 camp next May.

In June, Caitlin Clover and Katy Mork attended the Washington Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. With support from the Michigan Farm Bureau and the Lowell Agricultural Supporters, they were able to attend the five-day



Attending the State Leadership Camp from Lowell were, front row, left to right: Kendra Merriman, Emma Roderick, Sarah Crosby; back row, left to right: John Mark, Caitlin Clover, Katy Mork and Sara Fosburg, State Region V vice-president.

conference that is designed to improve leadership skills and prepare students to make a difference in their chapters, communities and future professions. In addition to touring the nation's Capitol, members were able to meet with their congressmen and participate in community service activities.

In July, the Chapter officer team, along with the regional officers, attended the State Leadership Camp for chapter and regional officers. At this camp presented by the State FFA officers, officer teams were able to work on individual

and chapter goals for the coming school year. The 2011-2012 officer team from Lowell, includes Emma Roderick, president; Kendra Merriman, vice-president; Katy Mork, PALS vice-president; Sarah Crosby,



Lowell FFA members, Caitlin Clover and Emma Roderick, attended the State Leadership Camp for regional officers as part of the Region V officer team.

secretary; John Mark, treasurer; Emma Blough, reporter; and Drew Corson, sentinel. Former Lowell student Sara Fosburg, who is currently serving as the State FFA Region V vice-president, was one of the presenters at the conference.

As the summer winds down, the FFA is busy preparing for contests and the Kent County Youth Fair. The Lowell chapter will

of these animals is a major fundraiser for the chapter and helps fund activities, like traveling to the National Convention and the activities the members participated in this summer.

Formerly known as Future Farmers of America, FFA is a national youth organization of nearly half a million student members — all preparing for leadership and careers in the science,



Attending FFA's 2011 Washington Leadership Conference, June 14-19, from Lowell were (from left) Katy Mork and Caitlin Clover of the Lowell FFA Chapter.

have members competing in upcoming state livestock judging, tractor driving and dairy showmanship contests. Members are also busy raising animals for the FFA to exhibit at the fair. Caitlin Clover is raising and will be showing the FFA lambs, Katy Mork and Jacey Culross are working with the FFA pigs and John Mark is taking care of the FFA feeder calf. The sale

business and technology of agriculture — from 7,000 local FFA chapters across the country. Lowell FFA is one of the largest chapters in Michigan with over 100 members. FFA strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

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LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 11-190408-DE

Estate of
ANNE MARY MALKSI,
aka ANNE M. MALKSI,
deceased. Date of birth:
11/18/1929.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Anne
Mary Malksi, aka Anne
M. Malksi, who lived at
1315 Walker Blvd., NW,
Grand Rapids, Michigan
49504, died 05/02/2011.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all

claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to John Malksi, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Craig A. Bruggink
(P29358)
429 Turner Ave., NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-456-5048

John Malksi
630 Northway, NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49544
616-791-8101

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: Isn't spray sunscreen a health and environmental nightmare when it seems that more of the sunscreen ends up going up my nose than on the kid at the beach next to me? -- Lillian Robertson, Methuen, MA

Spray cans of sunscreen may no longer contain chlorofluorocarbons (also known as CFCs, which were phased out in the 1990s for causing holes in the stratospheric ozone layer), but many contain other chemicals that are no good for our health or the environment. Researchers have found that the chemicals and/or minerals in the vast majority of commercially available sunscreens — even the rub-in creamy or oily varieties — can cause health problems just from ordinary use; inhaling them only magnifies the risks.

And just what are the risks? According to the non-profit Environmental Working Group (EWG), there are two major types of sunscreens available in the U.S. "Chemical" sunscreens, the more common kind, penetrate

(FDA), despite repeated requests from public health and consumer advocates, to implement sunscreen safety standards, some of which were proposed by government scientists more than three decades ago.

EWG only considers a small percentage of the sunscreens on the market — none of which come packaged in spray cans — safe for human use. Some of the top rated varieties come from manufacturers including All Terrain, Aubrey Organics, Badger, Blue Lizard, California Baby, La Roche-Posay, Purple Prairie Botanicals, thinksport, and UV Natural. None of the mainstream drug store variety brands appear on EWG's recommended list. The full list is available on the sunscreens section of EWG's Skin Deep website. With summer now upon us, stock up on good sunscreen before it's too late.

CONTACT: Skin Deep, www.ewg.org/skindEEP.

EarthTalk® is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of E - The Environmental Magazine (www.emagazine.com). Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com. Subscribe: www.emagazine.com/subscribe. Free Trial Issue: www.emagazine.com/trial.



July 6 to July 12

- A British man is sentenced to 10 years in jail after he rigged his wife up to a homemade electric chair after she asked him for a divorce.
- Grand Rapids - A gunman opens fire in two Michigan homes, Thursday, killing seven people before leading police on a high-speed chase through downtown Grand Rapids and taking three hostages. The standoff ended with him killing himself.
- Twelve-year-old Mumpy Sarkar of India ends her life in an attempt to donate organs to her father and brother, but is cremated before her suicide note., detailing her wishes was found.
- Betty Ford helped mold a society; her candor made Betty Ford a figure whose power is still felt all these years after the "me" decade ended. Mrs. Ford died Friday at the age of 93.
- Stun gun is found on Jet Blue plane. An airline crew found the stun gun in a seat back pocket while cleaning the plane after it landed in Newark Liberty Airport.

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616-897-0787

Sound Off!

The Ledger's

"Almost" anything goes column!

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. A healthy way to get something off your chest or spread a little kindness.

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 The Ledger staff or its publishers.

We are always out of town for the fourth of July. I'm so glad when we come home we can enjoy the fireworks in Lowell.

So I ask again, why would the city paint new parking-spot lines in front of the "no parking" sign at the Lowell post office?

I am very disappointed with those who attended the Riverwalk parade on Saturday. When the American flag carried by military representatives went by 90-95% of the people at the parade sat on their duffs and did not stand. Where has the respect for the flag and those who serve and have served this country gone? I was taught that you stand for the flag as it goes by in a parade.

this week's

poll result:

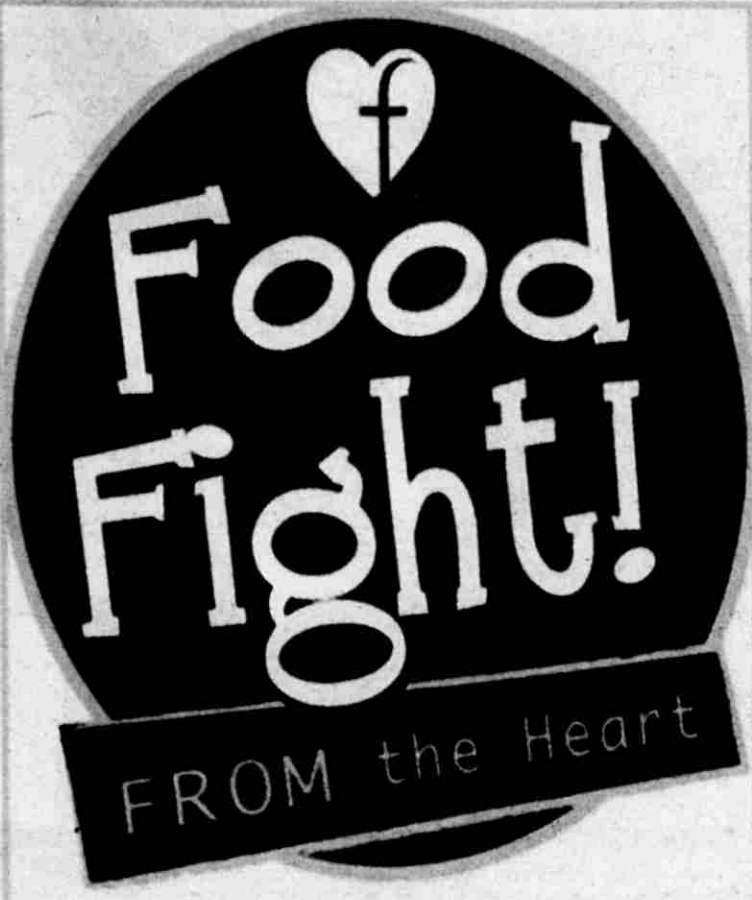
Now that Casey Anthony's trial is over what best describes your reaction?

16% Our justice system works. There is probably more we don't know about the case

42% She got away with murder

0% She's innocent

42% We'll probably never learn the truth



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Koffee Klatsch • JAMES & CARLA COON • Edward Jones Investments/Chris Godbold
Rollaway • RIVER VALLEY CREDIT UNION • JAMES & MARGARET VANSTEE
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