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# the lowell ledger

wednesday • august • 10 • 2011

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## a day at the fair



page 9

## "tough" royal court



page 16

## Blough family announces \$25,000 donation at tenth annual golf scramble

by Casey Cheney

Mike Blough announced that his family would be donating \$25,000 to the Ivan K Blough Scholarship. The announcement came at the end of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce's tenth annual golf scramble at the Deer Run Golf Club.

The day recalled memories of Ivan Blough and with memories come emotions. Chamber of Commerce executive director Liz Baker said, "I have a lot of things I could say, but I won't because I get too emotional."

The family recalled fondly his relationship with baseball and golf.

"Ivan looked at golf a little bit, but not a lot, like he looked at baseball," his wife Carolyn Jane Blough said. "When we would go out golfing, his words to me

were, 'Now let's see how far I can hit this sucker!'"

More than 100 golfers were met with mild weather, a warm sun tucked behind the clouds and a gentle breeze ruffling through the fairway.

Typical of golf, it was a day of ups and downs for most.

Mark Kloosterman said of his team, "We chilled out for a while, but we're starting to flare again."

Despite some bad holes, spirits were consistently high and teams and teammates alike jabbed at one another.

The lowest team score was Attwood with 62. Richard Smith won Men's Clos-

Chamber golf outing, continued, page 8



Nick Blough, Louis D'Agostino, Mike Blough, Mark Blough, Toni Blough, Melinda D'Agostino, Sophia D'Agostino and Diana Bittrick.

## Township discusses digital signs, antennas, changes to mining ordinance

by Emma Palova

The Lowell Township Planning Commission discussed several ordinances

in the works at the Monday night meeting.

One of the proposed ordinances will regulate digi-

tal signs in the township located along the I-96 highway corridor.

According to the regulations, the brightness of the signs cannot exceed 0.2 illumination based on the recommendations of the Outdoor Advertising Association.

The height of all signs cannot be more than 25 feet from the grade, while the distance between the signs is set at 1,000 feet.

Each sign is limited to 300 square feet visible from one side. In case of double faced back to back billboards, each side has 300 feet.

"It's cheaper back to back, more cost effective and visible," said planner Tim Johnson.

However, tandem or v-shaped signs can also have a total of 300 square feet only.

"The major criteria is how much can you see from one side," said Johnson. "The v-method is quite common."

The proposed digital sign ordinance will be up for a public hearing in October.

In related business, the trigger for regulating anten-

nas and towers is mainly the height, according to Johnson.

They cannot exceed 35 feet above the grade. If the antennas are over that limit, then they are regulated by a special use permit.

"We are trying to fit it in with the neighbor," said Johnson.

Setbacks cannot be less than the height and the antennas cannot be placed in the defined front yard.

The public hearing for the regulation of antennas will be held on Sept. 12.

The planning commission also discussed changes to the mining ordinance due to changes coming from the state.

The township has an option of creating a separate police power ordinance to regulate mining operations or it can regulate through the existing township zoning ordinance.

"Sand mines will tick somebody off," said Johnson. "We have to decide whether we want to go down

Township, continued, page 3

## Sizzlin' Summer concert series shifts to the fairgrounds in its final stretch



With only three concerts remaining in the Sizzlin' Summer concert series, the Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra played to a pleased crowd on the Riv-

erwalk last Thursday. It was a great performance by a true big jazz band.

The next concert will be held at the fairgrounds on Aug. 11 due to the fair

week. Bluegrass bands Steam Powered Bluegrass and the Patchwork Bluegrass Band will perform at the entertainment tent from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

50 CENTS





# along main street

### LAHM CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARY

The Lowell Area Historical Museum will be hosting an open house in celebration of their tenth anniversary, Wed., Aug. 17 from 6-8 pm. All are welcome. A special gift for the garden will be unveiled during a short presentation. Light hors d'oeuvres, punch and cake will be served.

### GILDA'S CLUB LOWELL CLUBHOUSE

Camp Sparkle, Aug. 16, 2-4:30 pm, for kids ages 6-12 on a cancer or grief journey; Cancer - New Member Meeting, Aug. 23, 2:30-3:30 pm, introductory meeting for those who wish to join the cancer support program; Garden Days, Aug. 23, 1-3 pm, Knitting, each Tues., 6-7:15 pm; Lowell Summer Social, Aug. 16, 5:30-7:30 pm. Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson St. Call 897-8600 for additional information.

### ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

Sign up at the Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St., Sat., Aug. 20, 10 am-Noon. You may also order online using your debit or credit card. Go to [www.angelfoodministries.com](http://www.angelfoodministries.com). Any questions, call Eshter, 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. 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 regular monthly meetings of the BOARD OF EDUCATION OF LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS

are held on the second Monday of each month. All meetings will be held in the Lowell Runciman Administration Building at 300 High Street, Lowell, Michigan. All Regular meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. on the following dates:

#### REGULAR MEETINGS

July 11, 2011	August 8, 2011
September 12, 2011	October 10, 2011
November 14, 2011	December 12, 2011
January 9, 2012	February 13, 2012
March 12, 2012	April 9, 2012
May 14, 2012	June 11, 2012
July 9, 2012	

## college news

Andrew Gerig and Benjamin Gerig, both of Lowell, have been named to the 2011 spring semester dean's list at Bethel College in Mishawaka, Ind. Eligibility for the dean's list requires a 3.5 GPA with 12 or more semester hours.

Katrina Wheeler of Lowell graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Bethel College.

Ferris State University and Kendall College of Art and Design has announced that the following students have received academic honors for the semester that ended in May 2011:

\*\*\*

We are inclined to believe those whom we do not know because they have never deceived us.

- Samuel Johnson (1709 - 1784)

Charles Alm, Anthony Amato, Alison Bedi, Benjamin Biondo, Emily Ciosek, Darcie Clements, Kyla Cole, Crystal Dietz, Andrew Donaldson, Stephanie Facer, Spencer Flory, Angelo Franchi, Anna Geurink, Brett Lesiewicz, Pearce Liversedge, Ian McRae, Cameron Raterink, Benjamin Scudder, Kasey Stowell, Patricia Miller, Brooke Hanson, Bradley Dempster, Daniel Van Otteren, Nicole Finch, Natalie Hughes, and Emily Canda, all of Ada.

Lauren Clements, Sara Fifarek, Adam Harris, Janay Seneker, John Wilder, Kyle Cromer, Ron Hendrick, Kristine Huberts, and Brian Schultz, all of Alto.

Logan DeClercq, Kirstin Eickhoff, Karen Hy-sell, Abbot Kastanek, Andrew Kelly, Jacob McVey, Maranda Ruessegger, Kathryn Shepard, Courtney Wierzbicki, Megan Willemstein, Parker Liu, Tammy Garcia, Andrew Pfaller, Lisa Drust, Brian Langlois, Karol Burnham, Micah Tawney, and Chelsey Treglia, all of Lowell.

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 WINNIE THE POOH (G) 4:50  
 COWBOYS & ALIENS (PG-13) 4:40, 7:20, 9:55  
 SMURFS (PG) 4:15, 6:35, 9:00  
 CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE FIRST AVENGER (PG-13) 4:20, 7:00, 9:45  
 HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS PART 2 (PG-13) 6:45, 9:35

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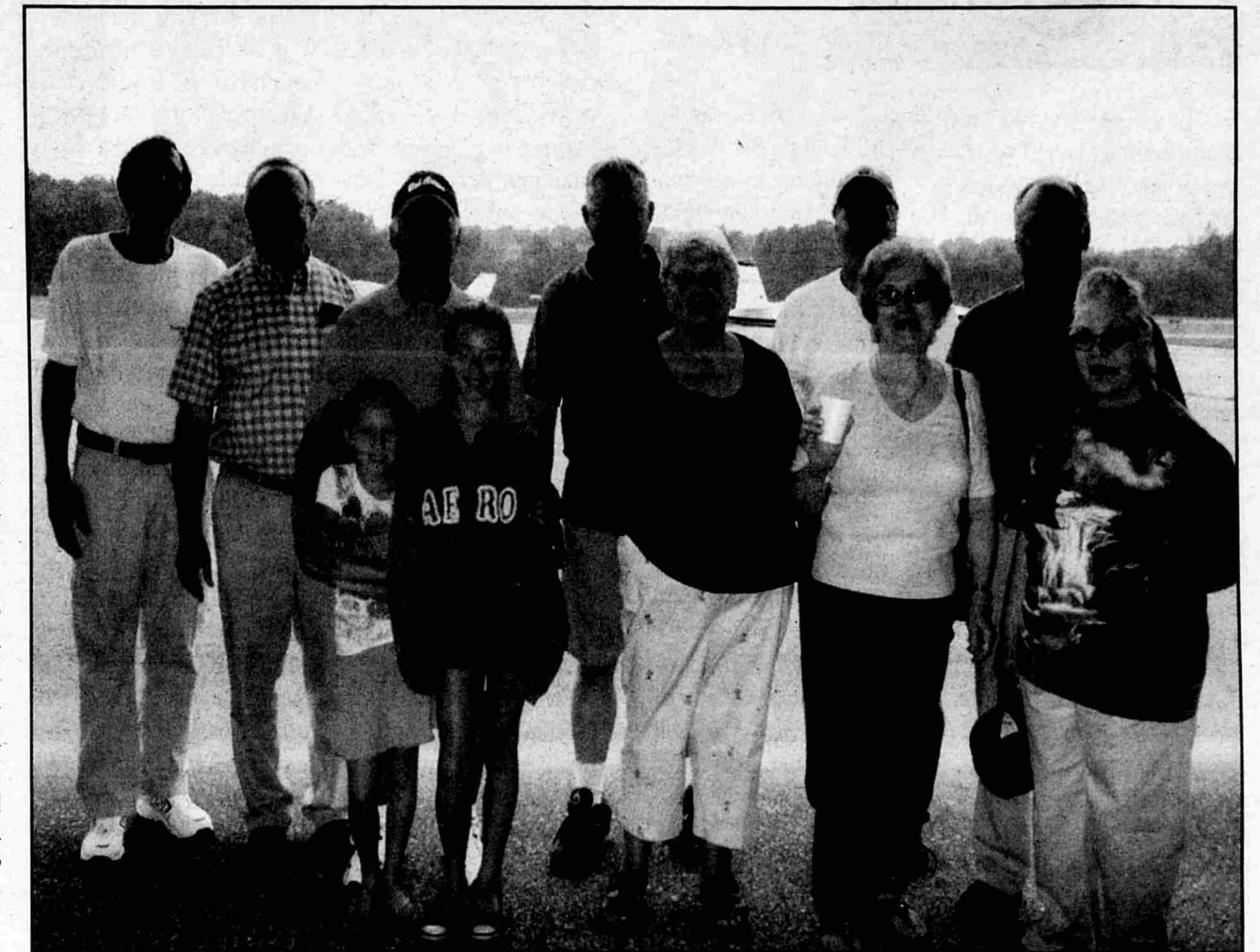
## Fly-in reunion for former Lowell teachers

Retired Lowell Middle School (LMS) teacher, Ron Grody, and former LMS teachers, Gary Butts, Jim Hubbard, Arnie Kimball, Rita Pratt, John Sterly, Karen Thomure, and Sandy VanWeelden, gathered at a Fly-In Pancake Breakfast last Saturday at the Greenville Municipal Airport. The group has 284 years of teaching experience between them with Ron Grody and Sandy VanWeelden leading the pack with 41 and 40 years respectively.

LMS mathematics teacher Kris Kropf and events director of the Green-

ville Area Aviation Association organized the "mini" reunion. "This was a lot of fun for me for several reasons. Not only were these teachers my former colleagues, but I also was an LMS student in Mr. Kimball, Mrs. Pratt and Mrs. VanWeelden's classrooms," said Kropf.

"Because Ron Grody's granddaughters, 8-year-old McKenna and 12-year-old Salem, are aviation enthusiasts and Rita Pratt and John Sterly are also pilots, I thought it would be a good place to meet. Everyone reported having a good time," she added.



Pictured in front: Salem and McKenna Grody (granddaughters), Sandy VanWeelden, Karen Thomure, and Rita Pratt; in back: Gary Butts, Jim Hubbard, Ron Grody, Arnie Kimball, Kris Kropf, and John Sterly.

## Lowell man charged with three felonies

According to a press release from chief of police Barry Getzen, after receiving a tip from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, ICE, Office of Investigations, the Lowell Police Department began an investigation into the possession of child sexually abusive material by a Lowell resident.

On August 4, the Lowell Police Department arrested Alan Andrew Waldron, 43 years of age, of Lowell, on a three count warrant issued by the Kent County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

Waldron was charged with three felonies: unauthorized access of a computer, using a computer to

commit a felony, and possession of child sexually abusive material.

Waldron was arraigned in the 63rd District Court on August 4. Bond was set in the amount of \$10,000 and Waldron is lodged in the Kent County Jail.

The investigation revealed that Waldron, who lives in the 200 block of E. Main Street, accessed the wireless internet network of the Englehardt Library located behind his residence to access child sexually abusive material.

An arrest is not an indication of guilt or innocence. All persons are presumed to be innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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## Township, continued

the path of creating a police power ordinance."

In case of the existing zoning ordinance, the township can place conditions on a permit.

"Let's not go the police power ordinance route," said township supervisor Jerry Hale.

It was the consensus to pursue changes to the mining ordinance as part of the zoning ordinance.

"We'll keep on going the zoning ordinance path," said chairman Dave Simmonds.

Any approved changes will apply to new mining operations only, according to Simmonds.

The mining ordinance will be up for a public hearing on Sept. 12.

### Entry Level positions available in the Mental Health Field -

We are a non-profit Christian organization that empowers people with disabilities or disadvantages to achieve their highest level of independence. We are seeking people with a positive attitude, patience and compassion for others to join our residential programs in Kent County, Nunica, and Lowell. We have positions available on all shifts. Requirements include: HS Diploma/GED, valid driver's license with acceptable driving record, and demonstrated written and verbal communication skills. Paid training is provided!

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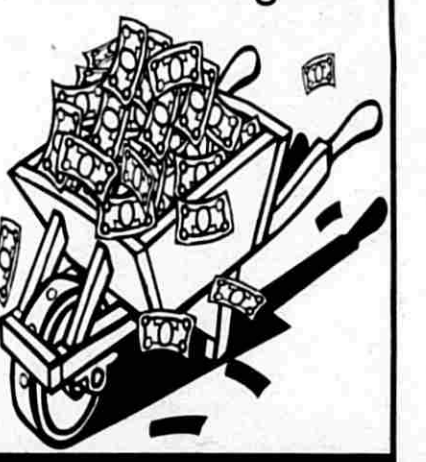
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# outdoors

missing

Dave Stegehuis

There is trouble in camp. Summer is half gone, and Broken Tail the bass has not been seen since last fall. Broken Tail is, or was, a six pound plus largemouth bass who spent his summers under a dock in a secluded lake in the Upper Peninsula. Concern is rising among visitors to the rustic log cabin by the lake that the old bass may have met with some kind of misfortune.

Although the dock is taken out every fall, the big bass, identified by a split tail, would take up residence within hours after the dock was put in the lake each spring. For many years, the old bass was caught regularly by young anglers who were allowed to fish off the

dock. Strict rules applied when fishing for Broken Tail, including an age limit and permitted fishing tackle. Like with all bass and pike in this lake, fishing is catch and release only.

Broken Tail was either a slow learner or didn't mind being caught. He was probably just smart because the kids would feed him extra bait minnows by hand between the occasions when he was caught, and he was willing to take the risk for a free lunch.

B.T., as he became known, was retired out of concern for his age and safety. After that, fishing for B.T. was off limits because anyone who might be responsible for the accidental

injury or death of the legendary bass would go down in the annals of camp history forever linked to B.T.'s demise.

My fondest recollection is when a five year old was attempting to catch minnows in ankle deep water with what must have been a butterfly net. The youngster somehow managed to net B.T. and for a minute or two the waterfront erupted with a squealing kid, a wildly thrashing fish, and enough splashing water to dampen cheering bystanders. The pugnacious bass quickly escaped, of course, leaving behind a broken net, a shaken child, and an amused audience.

The old bass sparked a passion for fishing for a number of prospective young anglers, most of whom have become lifetime fishermen because of their

exciting encounters around the dock. Thanks B.T.

I recently returned to the lake, and at the request of one of B.T.'s young fans, attempted to locate the missing bass. I tied a pumpkin colored tube bait, minus a hook, to a length of mono line and dangled the offering next to the dock. The response was immediate as two largemouth, one medium in size and the other smaller came out to investigate — but no B.T.

It may sound silly, but I feel a little sad when I think about that feisty old bass. I expect to return to that lake in the Huron Mountains, and I will continue to search for B.T. Bass can live long enough to make B.T.'s return a possibility, so I still have hope. But if not, thanks for the memories B.T.

# financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold


## Don't let low rates sink your retirement plans

Over the past few years, if you've taken out a mortgage or another consumer loan, you've probably welcomed the low interest rates you may have received. But as an investor, if you've kept any retirement savings in fixed-rate investment vehicles, you may have seen low rates in a less favorable light. And that's why it may be time for you to take a closer look at your financial strategy for working toward the retirement lifestyle you've envisioned.

Of course, you can always hope that interest rates will rise, and perhaps they will. As you may know, the Federal Reserve has kept interest rates at record lows in recent years to stimulate lending and thereby boost the economy. But rates can't get much lower, and if inflation were to heat up, the Fed could reverse course by starting to raise rates.

Financial Focus, continued, page 7

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Kathryn Denhouder Ph.D.

1. The Role of Attention in Pain.
2. The Domain of Pain: Mainly the Brain,
3. Conventional Understanding of Pain,
4. Approaches to Pain,
5. Emotions and Pain,
6. The Psychological Understanding of Pain, and
7. Dissolving Pain.

Pain! Whew! It can be so rough sometimes. We can have levels of pain that range from sore muscles that can heal themselves to a chronic debilitating pain that confounds both our physicians and ourselves. We have all experienced pain at some point in our life - in many ways; it is the hardest part about being human. There has been extensive research on pain and some new remedies have emerged from this research. In the coming months, what will follow is a series of seven articles on pain. I would welcome your questions and your personal experiences with pain. Please email them to me at kathryndenhouder@gmail.com.

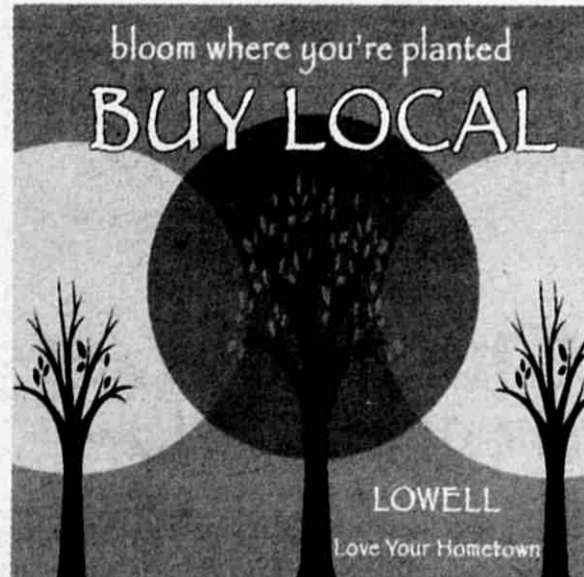
Seven articles will cover the following topics of pain:

# business directory

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# viewpoint

## to the editor

### which trail is which

To the Editor,

The North Country National Scenic Trail has chosen Lowell as its national headquarters. Stretching 4600 miles between North Dakota and New York (think Appalachian National Scenic Trail, only twice as long), it makes sense to host the North Country Trail management and administrative offices at the half-way point, here in Lowell. Lowell's growing interest in all kinds of trails just reinforces our feeling that we're in a trail town and glad to be here!

As noted in the July

27 Ledger, we've taken an even larger step in our commitment to Lowell as the National Park Service establishes an office and stations our new trail manager in Lowell. We welcome Jeff McCusker to both Lowell and our North Country Trail community.

Understandably, with all the trail talk around town, folks are easily confused about which trail is which and who's in charge of what. In a larger sense, with all the hiking, biking, non-motorized and rails-to-trails activity going on (not to mention the water trails potential), who cares? It all

adds up to economic growth for Lowell as well as increased recreational opportunities and quality of life for the Lowell community. But it may help to offer this brief outline about the North Country National Scenic Trail, who we are and how we're managed, particularly as it relates to Lowell.

The North Country National Scenic Trail was established by an act of Congress in 1980, joining its sister Appalachian Trail as part of the National Trails System. (There are now 11 National Scenic Trails). At 4600 miles, the North Country Trail is by far the longest in the National Trails System, comprising almost 25 percent of the combined mileage of all National Scenic Trails.

Congress gave administrative authority to the Department of the Interior's National Park Service (NPS). As such, the NPS has overall authority on route planning, trail policy and disbursement of federal funding. Until recently the NPS managed the trail from an office in Madison, Wisconsin. As noted in the July 27 Ledger, the NPS is establishing an office in Lowell, which will eventually host a number of NPS employees. We're grateful for the warm reception that Lowell has given to the NPS.

The North Country Trail Association (NCTA) is the partner nonprofit organization to the NPS. With its 3000 volunteer members located in chapters along the entire seven-state route,

the NCTA builds and maintains the North Country Trail and tells its story. NCTA's national headquarters has been in Lowell for more than ten years, coordinating and supporting volunteer efforts among its 30-plus chapters and affiliates. The West Michigan Chapter of the NCTA is the local volunteer group that, among other contributions, is responsible for the beautiful section of the North Country Trail extending north from Lowell through the DNR's State Game Area to Fallasburg Park. Volunteers are the lifeblood of the NCTA and the reason the trail is far more than an abstract idea.

The NPS provides funding support for the NCTA via a cooperative agreement, comprising about 50 percent of NCTA's revenues. The rest comes from membership, donations and grants.

NCTA's headquarters, at 229 East Main St., is open to the public. Maps are available as well as information about the trail. Lowell headquarters staff include seven of NCTA's ten employees.

The NCTA and NPS are partners in envisioning North Country National Scenic Trail as a primitive footpath linking the natural, cultural and historic highlights of America's northern heartlands, our Red Plaid Nation. With its nerve center located in Lowell, we hope to grow alongside Lowell as the community embraces its role as a Trail Town, a gateway community to recreational trails.

Bruce E. Matthews  
NCTA Executive Director

Jeff McCusker  
NPS Trail Manager



By Shelly MacNaughton

## 50 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger August 10, 1961

The city council and Walter Lyness, representative of the Lowell Development Company, came to a tentative agreement Monday night on how to accomplish the providing of services to the new building development on West Main Street.

## 25 Years Ago The Grand Valley Ledger August 13, 1986

Lowell folks will be able to hear plenty of free music this weekend when two exciting concerts perform for no charge.

The United States Air Force Band, "The Pacesetters," will be swinging to jazz of old and new, Friday night, at 7:30 at the Lowell Showboat Amphitheater. Honey Creek Christian Homes will hold a Great Gospel Gathering, Saturday, from 11am till 5 pm on the campus of Honey Creek, 11652 Grand River Dr.

## 125 Years Ago The Lowell Journal

Entry missing from files

## 100 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger August 10, 1911

Miss Laura Davis is taking a two weeks' vacation from her duties in Weeks' store.

Unclaimed letters at the post office: Andrew Peter Anderson, Rev. Charles Cobb, L. Duverany, H. E. Kellogg, C. H. Morris, Mrs. Eunice Barber, Miss Alana Bissell, Miss Lydia Colymet, Mrs. L. H. Merlin.

## Era of shared sacrifice must begin now



Sen. Carl Levin

The Senate passed legislation on Aug. 2 to increase the debt ceiling and avoid a catastrophic default on our national debt while reducing the deficit. To say that this legislation was not ideal is truly an understatement.

The notion that our deficit problem can be solved solely by cutting spending, as this legislation does, ignores the fact that unwise tax cuts for the wealthy and

egregious tax loopholes are significant culprits in our fiscal crisis. I believe too many members of Congress are influenced by an ideology so extreme that they promised to wreak economic havoc if they did not get their way. "No additional revenues" became the battle cry, an approach that prevented the balanced deficit reduction

Levin,  
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# the ledger

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To The Editor,  
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# Chamber golf outing, continued

est to the Pin, and Travis McKee and Kevin Katt won Men's Longest Drive. Women's Closest to the Pin was Julie Niemela and Sylvia Taylor, and Women's Longest Drive was Amy Kilyanek.

The Blough's donation pushed the fund up over \$50,000, which Mike Blough said made it eligible for further funding by the Grand Rapids Community Foundation.

The scholarship, he said, is "for the purpose of encouraging business leadership skills and training opportunities for employees at greater Lowell area businesses."

"The vision," he added, "is to promote and foster volunteerism and pride in the greater Lowell community and demonstrate community service before self."

Applicants for the scholarship must have a high school diploma - this gives you "the raw skill set to move forward" - and be actively employed by a business who is a member of the Lowell chamber of commerce.

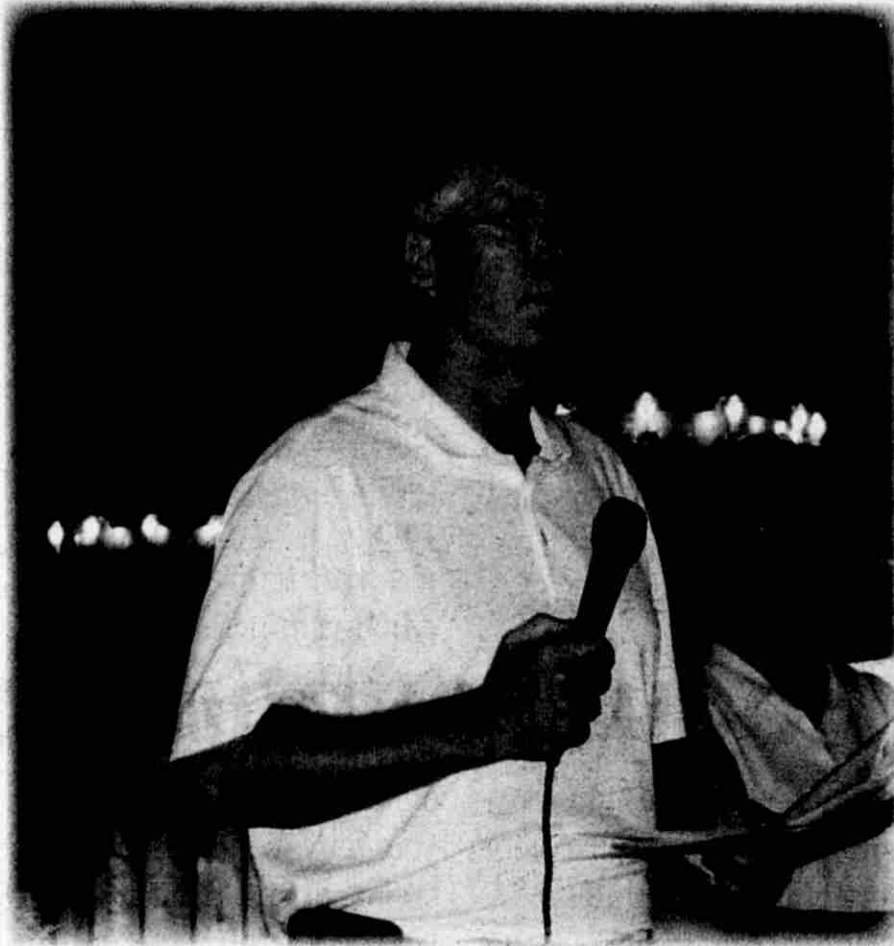
"There's certainly an application grant that would allow them to develop their skills in a particular business pursuit and trade that

they're under," Blough said. "And, of course, to receive the final distribution of that they still need to be employed by that great Lowell area business."

Blough ended by thanking those in attendance and assuring them that the fund will continue to grow.

Perhaps his mother said it best, "All I have to say to you is, keep on hitting that sucker."

The announcement was completed with a salute to Ivan Blough's love for baseball, as the entire room struck up a chorus of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game."



Mike Blough announced Saturday, on behalf of the family, their \$25,000 donation to the Ivan K Blough Scholarship. More than 100 golfers came out in support of the chamber-sponsored, tenth annual golf scramble.



Brent Slagell, Bob Martin, Dave Organeck and Chris Degrote.



Pat Gilbert, Bob Alvesteffer, Eric Hallstedt, Laura Hermann.



Fred and Marsha Ray, Marilyn and Robert McDougall.



Julie Niemela, who won Women's Closest to the Pin, takes a swing for Team Larkins at Saturday's scramble.



Mark Kloosterman, Jeff Barber, Brandon Barber, Craig Veldman.

# 77th annual Kent County Youth Fair opens strong

by Emma Palova

The 77th annual Kent County Youth Fair opened tough Monday, with the ever unpredictable weather on its heels, adhering to the theme, "Built Fair Tough."

The parking lot on the banks of the Grand River were full from the morning

year at the fair. Dale Earnhog Jr. and Rack-o-Ribs Obama are the favorite racers, even though they're rookies this year. Pam had to exchange the pigs for a more agile breed.

"These are smaller and faster," she said. "They love

family in Lowell. They started their piggy route on July 2nd at the Winamac Fair in Indiana and their last show will be in Georgia in October, before they hit home in Lake City, Florida.

"We're booked solid and it's close to home," Pam said.

But Pam, who is from Michigan, has an entire entourage that follows the piggy racing team around.

"I like the old Lowell

atmosphere, the nostalgia of it," she said. "I look forward to coming here."

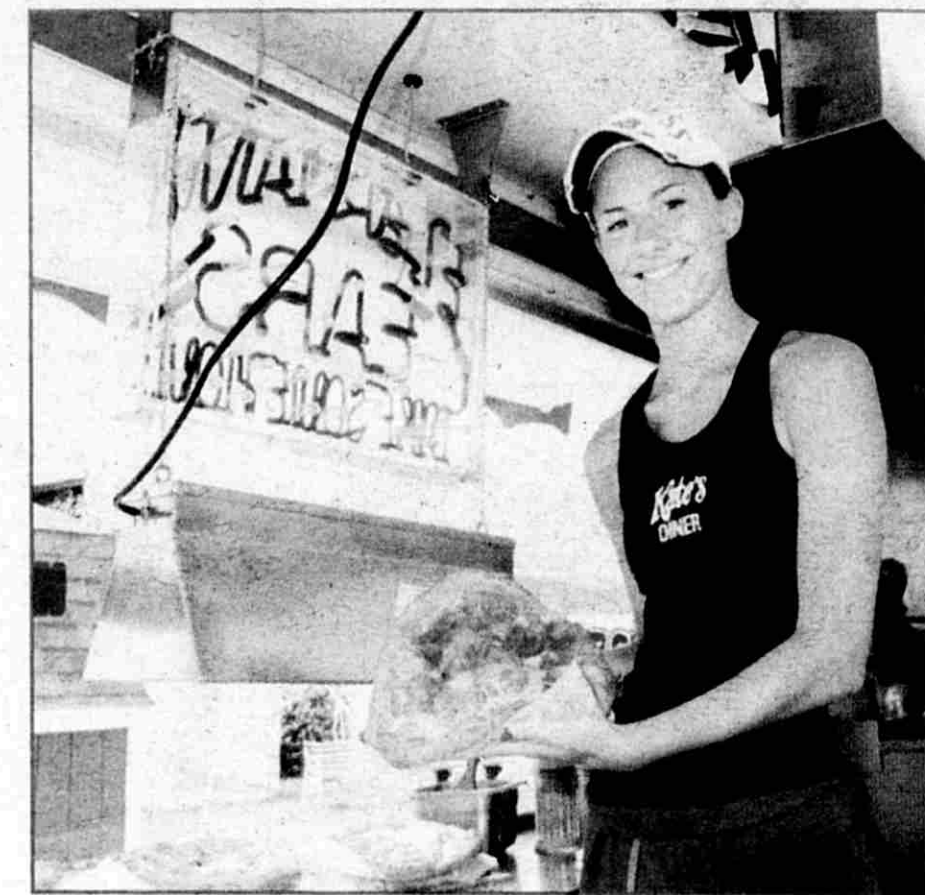
Around noon, the Midway was bustling with people and goats crossing the main road between the animal barns and the Reath Barn.

The goat exhibitors lined up in the barn to accept their ribbons and prizes from fair queen Sarah Crosby.

For Mariah Keith, a



Faith Keilen at the Children's Barnyard.



Ashley Burns at the elephant ear stand.

on to the late night hours, as the horse-drawn shuttle transported people back and forth.

Liz Keilen of Lowell with children Faith, 2; and Caleb, 5; were among the first visitors eager to get a taste of the fair.

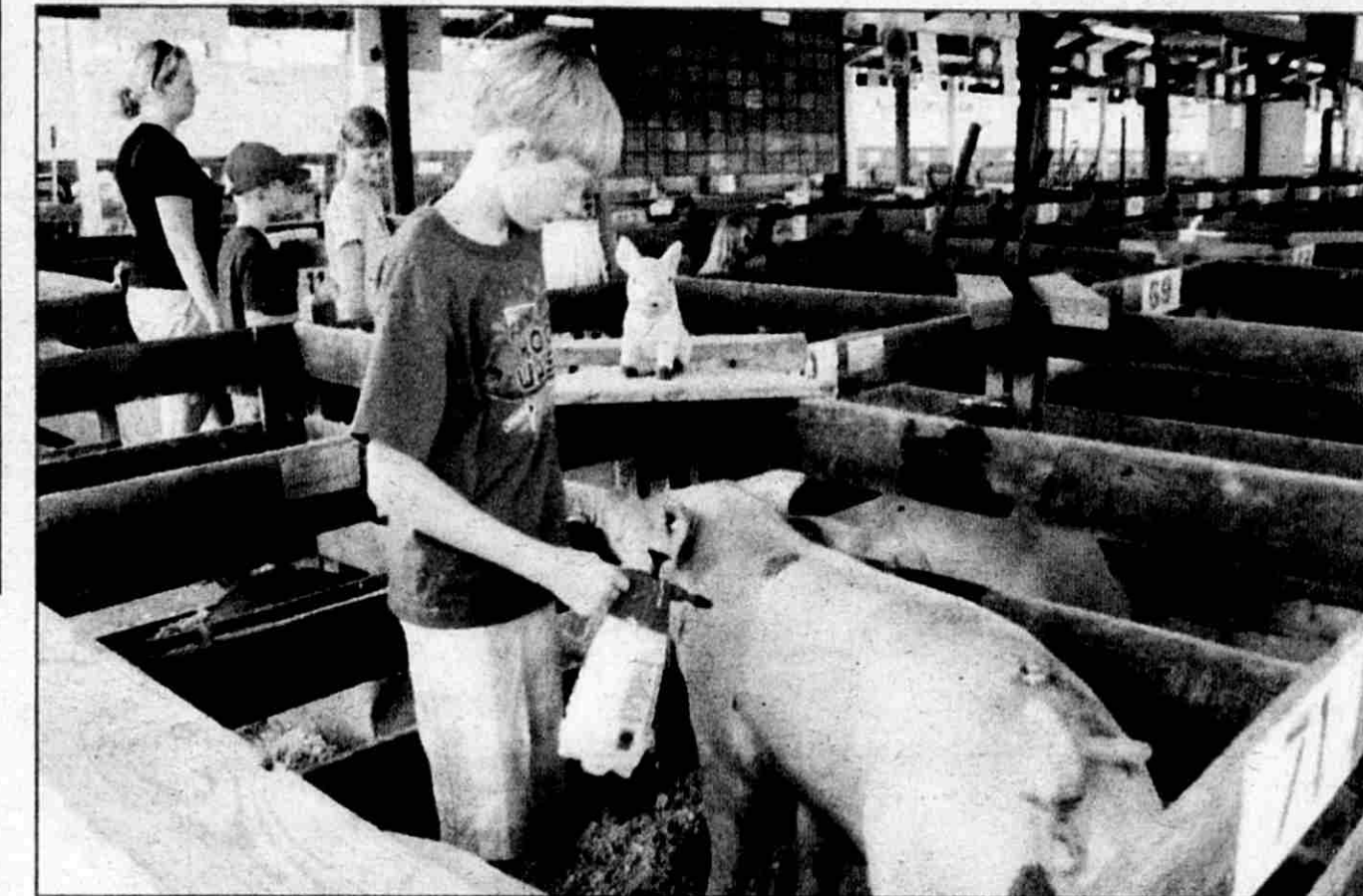
"I wanted the kids to see the animals," she said.

And Faith loved the calf and the rocking horse at the Children's Barnyard located next to the draft horses, while Caleb admired the three little pigs. The barnyard had on display sheep, goats, pigs, chicks and a calf.

Just a few steps away, waiting for the 2 pm show, swine master Pam and master piggy wrangler Ed watched the miniature potbelly pigs graze on grass.

Their swimming and racing pigs are back by popular demand for a second

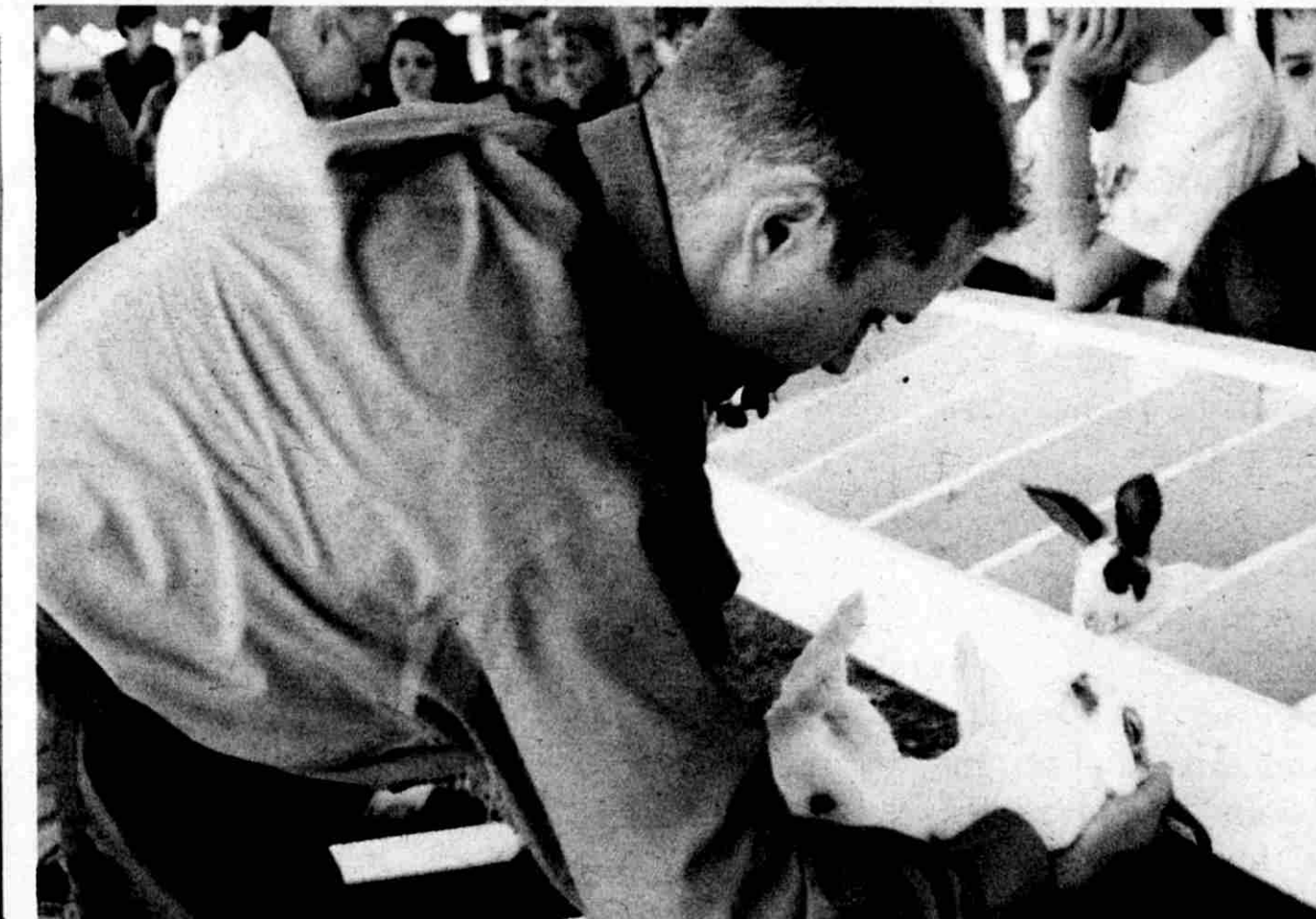
orange Gatorade." Living a life on the road, like many fair entertainers, Pam hopes to meet with her



Jake Bronsema washes his pigs.



Mariah Keith of Caledonia gets first prize with goat Bro.



Judge Jeremy Garret examines rabbits as kids watch.



The rabbit barn.

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**BACK-TO-SCHOOL BACKPACK PROGRAM**

If you are interested in receiving a backpack and school supplies for your Lowell area elementary and middle school student, YOU MUST FILL OUT A REGISTRATION FORM IN THE FOOD PANTRY OR THRIFT SHOP (during regular open hours).

THE SUPPLY OF BACKPACKS IS LIMITED; Therefore, there is no guarantee that all who register will receive backpacks.

We also have a limited number of school supplies for high school students. If you would like to make a monetary donation towards the cost of this program, it would be most welcome.

**FROM will be distributing backpacks and school supplies on Monday, August 15 and Tuesday, August 16 from 2:00 - 4:30 p.m.**

# Fair, continued

sharp eye on Garret as well. Trophies adorned by rabbits lined the nearby table.

Next door, a goat stuck her head out the white barn to watch all the excitement around. And a rooster from the Boondockers 4-H club showed off his beautiful black and yellow plume.

Jake Bronsema of Cedar Springs washed his pigs, Hanna Montana and Spider, to keep them cool in the rising heat of the day.

His pigs will be auctioned off at the livestock sale on Thursday and Bronsema will save the money for a car. He plans to show goats, turkeys and pigs next year. The family raises animals for production.

"It's a great learning experience for him," said stepdad Travis Hofman.

After all the morning's hard work, nothing hits the spot better than a greasy elephant ear sprinkled with cinnamon and sugar.

Ashley Burns of Brad's Elephant Ear likes the fair because of the customers and the animals.

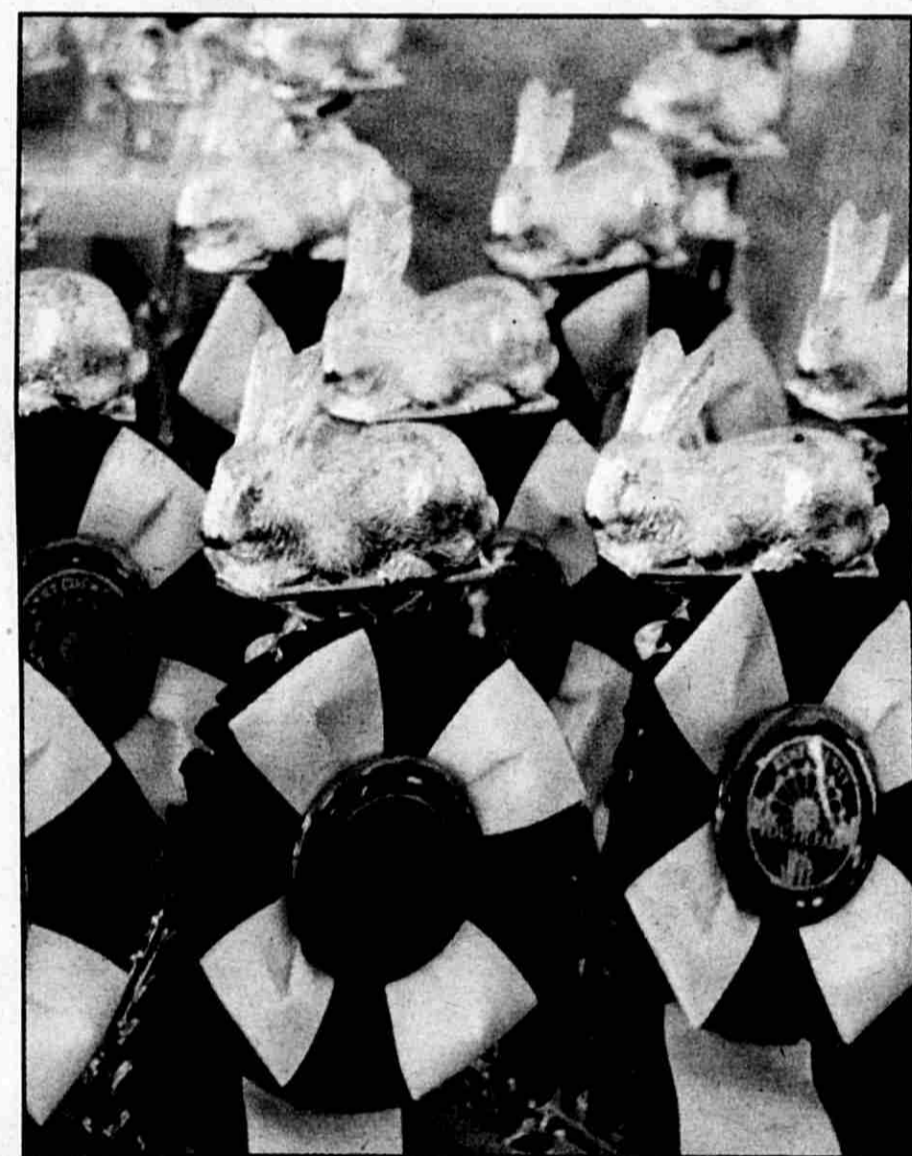
And why not wash down the grease, the dust and the mud with Bayou Billy homebrew from a tin cup.

Come to the fair and experience for yourself.

Don't miss the Discovery Channel's Dominator 1 vehicle from the show Stormchasers at the fairgrounds this Thursday from 9 am to 8 pm



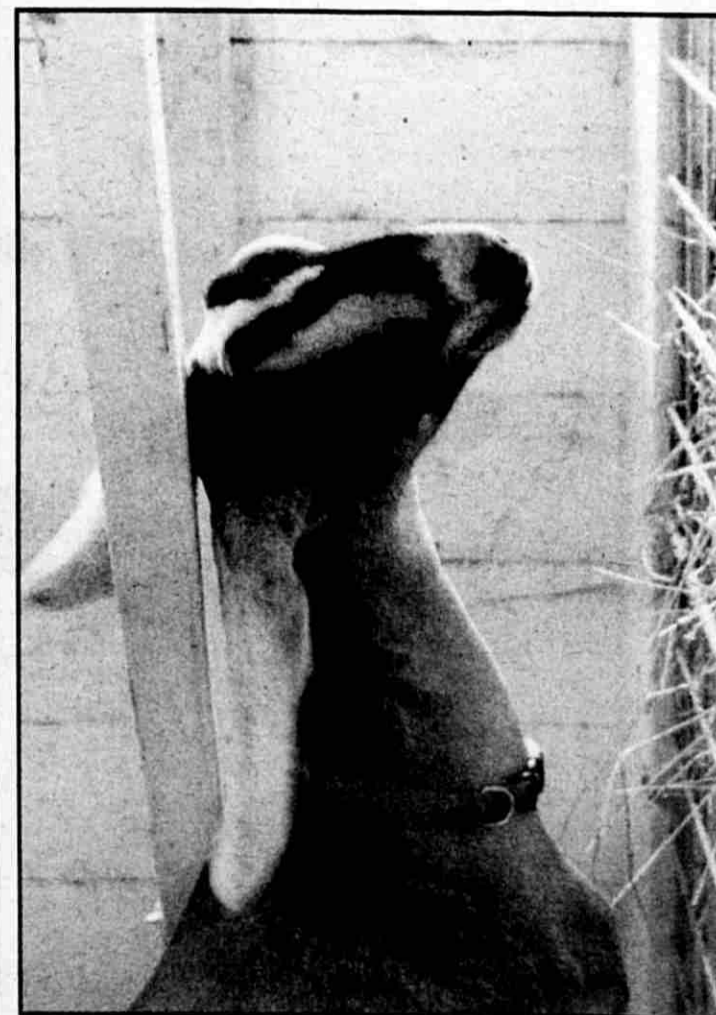
Horse drawn shuttle.



The rabbit trophies awaiting the winners.



Pam Chase rounds her potbelly pigs.



A goat rubs her back against a stud in the barn.



Below, the goat exhibitors line up for ribbons presented by fair queen Sarah Crosby.



# lend a hand

## Ionia County Literacy Council to offer free tutor training

The Ionia County Literacy Council will be offering a 12-hour tutor training, over a four-day period in September, in preparation for new partnerships. The literacy council, along with the Montcalm Area Reading Council, is partnering with Montcalm Community College (MCC) to provide free tutoring to those students taking remedial reading classes at the college. Remedial reading classes are targeted to those students who read below the seventh-grade level.

College students taking remedial reading classes is not just a concern at MCC. Recent data suggests that as many as 40 percent of all students entering postsecondary education will require at least one remedial course. At community colleges, upwards of 60 percent of all new entering students require remedial instruction (2010-2011 Briefing Paper, National Governor's Association Chair's Initiative).

High participation rates in remedial education translates into high costs for students and postsecondary institutions. An analysis done by Strong American Schools estimated that remedial education costs states and students up to \$2.3 billion annually.

"By providing free tutoring to those MCC students, precious dollars, including Pell Grant money, won't be spent on remediation classes and can be used for college courses instead," stated Ionia County Literacy Council executive director Gayle Thompson.

"In addition, students receiving one-to-one specialized instruction with a tutor excel quicker than those in full classrooms," Thompson said. MCC students receiving tutoring will be able to take college courses at the same time they are receiving tutoring.

The literacy council is also preparing a new small-scale, family-literacy program with local libraries and will need tutors for that program. "Family literacy is a family-centered literacy program and in this instance our tutors will work with parents who struggle with reading by including their young children," explained Thompson.

"We would like to have a tutor meet with the parent and young child at their local library," stated Thompson. "The tutor would use children's books from the library and meet with the parent and child in a special room or, if preferred, in the children's section of the library."

Letters outlining the family literacy program were sent to seven libraries in Ionia County. Positive responses were received from Belding, Portland and Ionia libraries. All agreed that it was a much needed program and were excited to be able to be a part of it.

Statistics indicate that children who grow up in homes where books are plentiful go further in school than those who don't. Children with low-education families can do as well as children with high-education families if they have access to books at home (Family scholarly culture and educational success: books and schooling in 27 nations).

"It would be beneficial for the children in the new family literacy program to become enrolled in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, as well," stated Thompson. Children from birth to five can receive a book a month through this program, which is sponsored through the Early Childhood Program at the Ionia County Intermediate School District.

"As a community, we all need to do our part to make sure we're a literate community. A literate community can increase revenues, cohesion and safety, which benefit us all," Thompson said.

The free 12-hour tutor training will be held over a four-day period, on September 6, 8, 13 and 15, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm, at the Ionia Michigan Works building, which is located at 307 W. Adams Street in Ionia. Potential tutors should plan to attend all four sessions.

Registration is requested by August 31, since seating is limited.

To learn more about the tutor training or about the services of the Ionia County Literacy Council, call 616-527-1360, extension 116.

# Heavy rains dump several inches on the area threatening fairgrounds



Brief but heavy rains dumped several inches of water on the area causing the Grand River to swell out of its banks, near the fairgrounds, just prior to the opening of the Kent County Youth Fair on Sunday. Monday night rain muddied the tracks and pathways at the fairgrounds, but the forecasts call for sunny to partly sunny weather for the rest of the fair week.

## In The Service

Jacob Swift has successfully completed 13 weeks at Marine Boot Camp in San Diego, CA. He is currently home spending time with family and friends. Swift will be returning to Camp Pendleton, CA, for extensive combat training. He is the son of Nathan and Peggy Swift of Lowell and a 2008 Lowell High School graduate.



Jacob Swift

## business matters

Greenridge Realty announced that Amy Reedy received Sales Associate of the Month in July.

This award recognizes Reedy for her outstanding success and achievements.

Amy Reedy



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# Nearly \$4 million in water quality grants available

The DEQ today announced nearly \$4 million in available grants to protect, restore and manage watersheds.

The grant program is open to state agencies, local governments, and nonprofit organizations. Proposals are requested for watershed management planning projects as well as projects that implement previously approved watershed management plans.

Funding for the program includes approximately \$1 million from the

Clean Michigan Initiative's Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grants and approximately \$2.9 million from Section 319 of the federal Clean Water Act.

Grant awards are contingent on the sale of Clean

Michigan Initiative general obligation bonds to support these projects and the appropriation of funding by the Michigan Legislature and U.S. Congress.

Notices of Intent are due Sept. 7. Full applica-

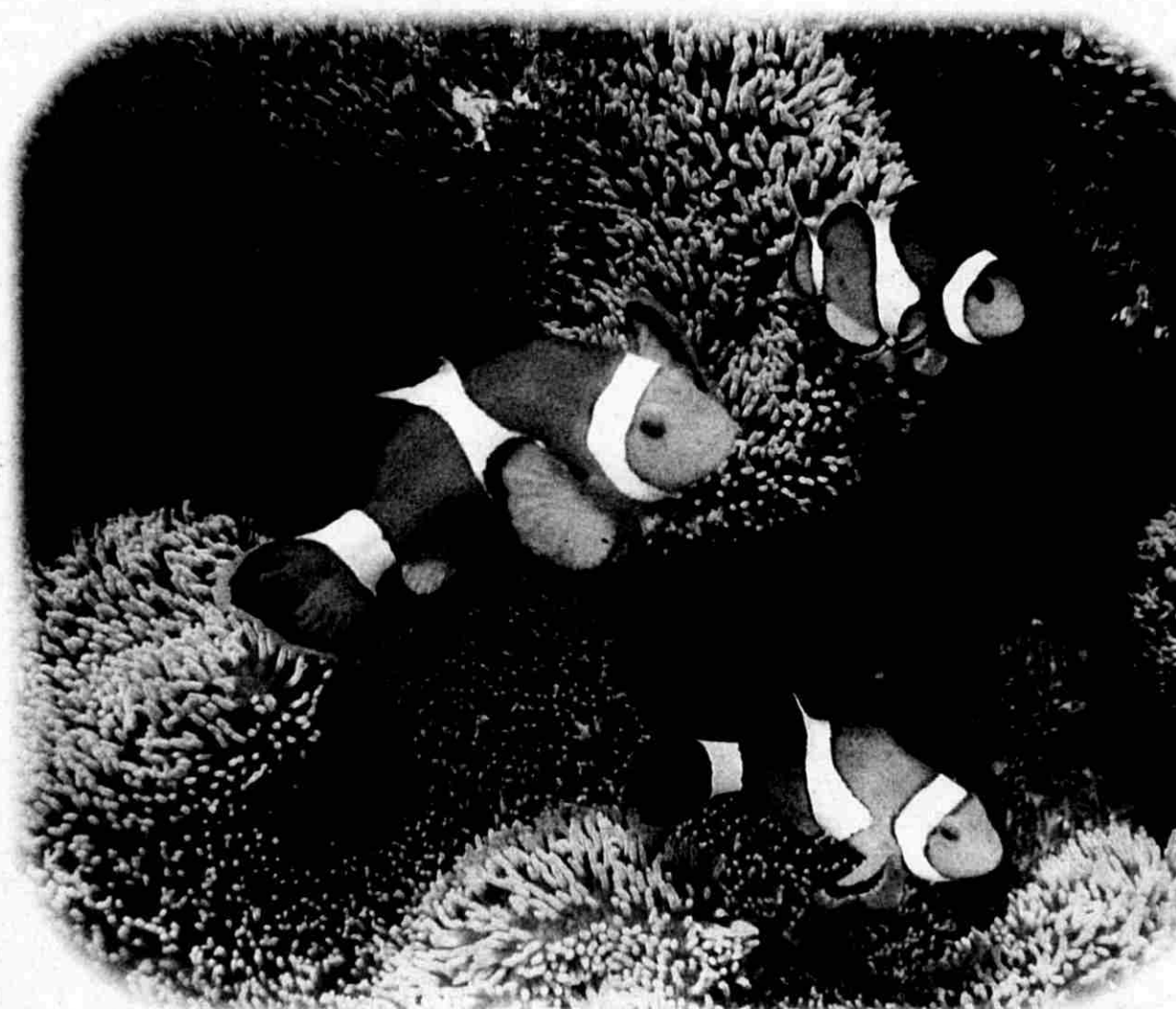
tions from invited applicants are due Oct. 19. Full text of the Request for Proposals, including eligibility criteria and priorities as well as forms and instructions, are on the DEQ's Website at [http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,135-3313\\_3682\\_3714---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,135-3313_3682_3714---,00.html). This information also is available by contacting Denise Page, DEQ Water Resources Division, at 517-335-6969, or [paged@michigan.gov](mailto:paged@michigan.gov).

# EARTH TALK

## Questions & Answers About Our Environment

**Dear EarthTalk:** I heard of a practice called cyanide fishing, which is used mostly to collect aquarium specimens, but I understand it is also used to catch fish we eat. Isn't this very unhealthy? -- Phil Seymour, Albany, NY

Cyanide fishing, whereby divers crush cyanide tablets into plastic squirt bottles of sea water and puff the solution to stun and capture live coral reef fish, is widely practiced throughout Southeast Asia despite being illegal in most countries of the region. The practice began in the 1960s in the Philippines as a way to capture live reef fish for sale primarily to European and North American aquarium owners - a market now worth some \$200 million a year. But today the technique is also used to supply specialty restaurants in Hong Kong and other large Asian cities. There high roller customers can choose which live fish they want prepared on the spot for their dinner at a cost of up-to \$300 per plate in what the non-profit World Resources Institute (WRI) calls "an essential status symbol for major celebrations and business occasions."



WRI adds that as the East Asian economy has boomed in recent decades, live reef food fish has become a trade worth \$1 billion annually.

Of course, the cyanide itself is no good for the fish that ingest it. Internet chat boards are rife with comments about cyanide-caught aquarium fish developing cancer within a year of being purchased. And many aquarium owners are willing to pay a premium for "net-caught" ornamental fish as they have a longer life expectancy.

But perhaps the greater damage inflicted by cyanide fishing is to the coral reefs where it is employed, as cyanide kills the reefs and also many of the life forms that rely on them. Researchers estimate that more than a million kilograms of cyanide have been squirted onto Philippine reefs alone over the last half century. These days the practice is much more widespread, with some of the world's most productive reefs being decimated.

"Despite the fact that cyanide fishing is nominally illegal in virtually all Indo-Pacific countries, the high premium paid for live reef fish, weak enforcement capacities, and frequent corruption have spread the use of the poison across the entire region - home o the vast majority of the planet's coral reefs," reports WRI. "As stocks in one country are depleted, the trade moves on to new frontiers, and cyanide fishing is now confirmed or suspected in countries stretching from the central Pacific to the shores of East Af-

rica. Sadly, the most pristine reefs, far from the usual threats of sedimentation, coral mining and coastal development, are the primary target for cyanide fishing operations."

While there is not much evidence of cyanide-caught fish poisoning the people who eat it - the dose retained by a fish after being puffed is relatively small - the risk nevertheless remains, especially for those who ingest a lot of it. Nausea and gastritis are the typical symptoms of cyanide poisoning, and of course larger doses can cause death. WRI estimates that some 20 percent of the live fish for sale at markets across Southeast Asia are caught using cyanide. Children, the elderly and pregnant women should be especially careful to avoid cyanide-caught fish.

CONTACT: World Resources Institute, [www.wri.org](http://www.wri.org).

**Dear EarthTalk:** I don't hear much about the environmental impacts of our consumer culture any more, but it seems to me that our "buy, buy, buy" mentality is a major contributor to our overuse of energy and resources. Are any organizations addressing this issue today? - M. Oakes, Miami, FL

There is no doubt true that our overly consumerist culture is contributing to our addiction to oil and other natural resources and the pollution of the planet and its atmosphere.

Unfortunately the tendency to acquire and even horde valuable goods may be coded into our DNA. Researchers contend that humans are subconsciously driven by an impulse for survival, domination and expansion which finds expression in the idea that economic growth will solve all individual and worldly ills. Advertising plays on those impulses, turning material items into objects of great desire imparting intelligence, status and success.

William Rees of the University of British Columbia reports that human society is in a "global overshoot," consuming 30 percent more material than is sustainable from the world's resources. He adds that 85 countries are exceeding their domestic "biocapacities" and compensate for their lack of local material by depleting the stocks of other countries.

Of course, every one of us can do our part by limiting our purchases to only what we need and to make responsible choices when we do buy something. But those who might need a little inspiration to get started should look to the Adbusters Media Foundation, a self-described "global network of artists, activists, writers, pranksters, students, educators and entrepreneurs who want to advance the new social activist movement of the information age."

Among the foundation's most successful campaigns is Buy Nothing Day, an international day of protest typically "celebrated" the Friday after Thanksgiving in North America (so-called Black Friday, one of the year's busiest shopping days) and the following Saturday in some 60 other countries. The idea is that for one day a year we commit to not purchase anything, and to help spread the anti-consumerist message to anyone who will listen, with the hope of inspiring people to consume less and generate less waste the other 364 days of the year. The first Buy Nothing Day

took place in Vancouver, British Columbia in 1992 with a few dozen participants, but today hundreds of thousands of people all over the world take part.

In recent years some anti-consumerists have added Buy Nothing Christmas to their agendas as well. Some ideas for how to leverage Buy Nothing Christmas sentiment without looking too much like Scrooge include giving friends and family "gift exemption" cards and asking shoppers in line at a big box store, "What would Jesus buy?"



Beyond Buy Nothing Day and Buy Nothing Christmas, the Adbusters Media Foundation stokes the fire of anti-consumerism throughout the year via its bi-monthly publication, Adbusters, an ad-free magazine with an international circulation topping 120,000. Do yourself a favor and subscribe and cancel all those catalogs stuffing up your mailbox in the meantime.

CONTACTS: Adbusters, [www.adbusters.org](http://www.adbusters.org); Buy Nothing Day, [www.adbusters.org/campaigns/bnd](http://www.adbusters.org/campaigns/bnd).

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## college news

Ferris State University, Kendall College of Art and Design, and the College of Professional and Technological Studies has announced the following graduates for the semester ending in December 2010:

Alison Bedi, Bachelor of Fine Arts; Theresa Buist, Associate of Science, cum laude; Emily Canda, Associate of Art, cum laude; Nicole Dekraker, Master of Business Administration with a Distinction honor, and certificate; Andrew Donaldson, Bachelor of Science in Business; Robert Enell, Bachelor of Science

in Business and certificate; Spencer Flory, Bachelor of Science, cum laude; Thomas Hall, certificate; Blair Jeffers, Bachelor of Fine Arts; and Dennis Vandermeer, Bachelor of Applied Science; all of Ada.

Casey Bond, Master of Business Administration, highest Distinction honor, and certificate; and Kyle Cromer, Bachelor of Science; both of Alto.

Abbot Kastanek, Bachelor of Science, magna cum laude; and John Rasch, Bachelor of Science; both of Lowell.

THEME:  
THE SIXTIES

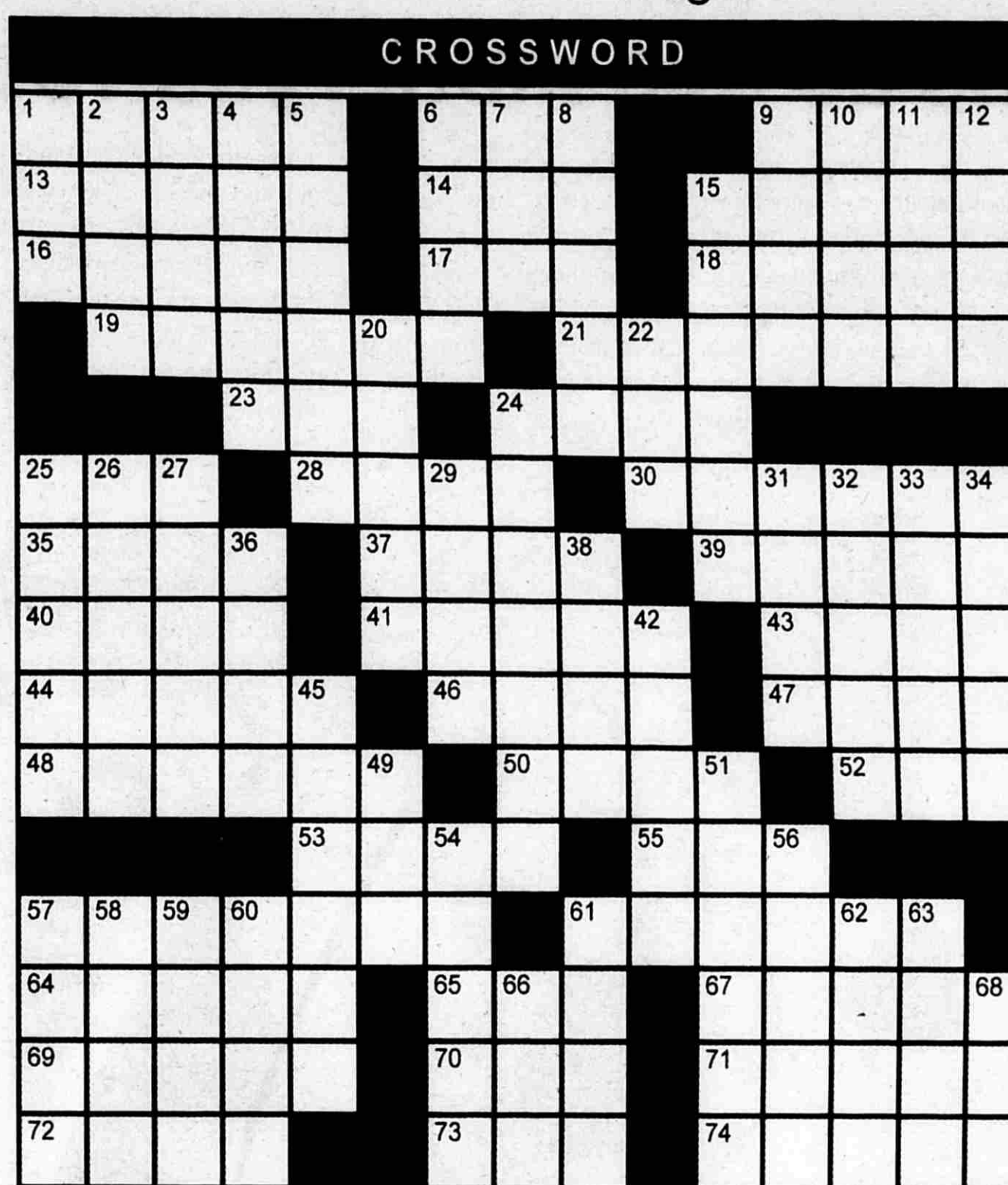
### ACROSS

- WWII villain
- \*Betty Friedan's org.
- "...til you drop"
- \*Twiggy, e.g.
- "Without further ..."
- Round loaf, in Paris
- Prefix for earliest
- Diamond or ruby
- Sicker
- Moves, as in a prowler
- \*"I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" autobiographer
- Maiden name indicator
- Annoying biter
- IRS employee
- Level or dismantle
- Make it known
- ... hoop
- Unit of life
- Pulpits
- It will
- "Roots" author
- Bath powder
- Found at the gallows
- \*"One Life to ..." (1968-present)
- Iranian monarch
- Whoever
- Standard
- Food morsel
- Like a bug in a rug
- Cranberry habitat
- \*... invasion
- \*"In Cold Blood" author
- Artist's tripod
- Color quality
- \*The Beatles went on them in '64, '65, '66
- Trinity
- Large coffee pot
- Ancient Romans' resort
- #1 Across' deputy
- ... or miss
- Bothersome

### DOWN

- \*Pete Townsend knocked it over on Smothers Brothers show
- Village, mostly in South Africa
- Often described as either pleasant or offensive
- Grant or imply
- \*... Power
- Scolds
- \*Henry's " ... to Billie Joe" (1967)
- \*"Oh, Pretty ..." by Orbison (1964)
- Under a foot
- Seed covering
- Butter substitute
- Heart of Inca empire
- "Water for Elephants" tent
- TV host Robin
- Form of Anna
- Treating with gel
- \*Cultural Revolution locale
- Fool or hoax
- Bronze, e.g.
- Eagerness
- Marines' toys recipients
- Gem State
- With filaments
- Fancy water ride
- In addition
- Russian left
- Grass in Mexico
- Store in a silo
- Half the width of an em, pl.
- \*The Beatles' haircut
- Yeah or aye
- Mother ...
- Long for Liz
- Steak preference
- Egyptian goddess of fertility
- Decades
- Abe's coin
- Goes "tut-tut"
- Psychoanalyst Erikson
- University of Rhode Island
- "... it isn't so"

Puzzle solution,  
page 11



PRESENTED BY



### AUGUST 3 - AUGUST 9

- Albuquerque, NM, town mayor and congressional candidate Martin Regerdiz states he was drunk when he signed nine contracts with a California company that is now suing the city for \$1 million. "The day I signed I was drunk; it was after 5 pm and [I] had no idea what I was signing."
- A Lost Generation - U.S. official: 29,000 Somali children and five are dead in famine. The U.N. says 640,000 Somali children are acutely malnourished and death toll will rise.
- U.S. stocks plunge at the opening bell, Monday, as Wall Street got its first opportunity to react to Standards and Poor's (S&P) downgrade of U.S. debt.
- Mortgage finance agencies, Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, ARE downgraded by S&P.
- International military forces work, Monday, to recover every last piece of a Chinook helicopter that crashed over the weekend, killing 30 American troops, U.S. officials state, 22 seals and three Air Force. All but two of the seals were from Seal Team 6, the unit that killed Osama Bin Laden last May.

*Got an Announcement to make?*

Wedding, Engagement and Anniversary Announcements\* are Free in the Ledger. Birth Announcements without a photo are free; with a photo are \$5.

\* Anniversary announcements cannot contain an invitation to a celebration.



616-897-0787

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 Ledger staff or its publishers.

**Did you hear? My husband, Brandon Mulnix, ran Burning River 100 this past weekend. The run goes from Cleveland to Akron, Ohio. It took him 26 hours and 46 minutes to complete. That's running and walking for 100 miles straight on trails with hills and mud and river crossings. He deserves to hear "Great Job" and "Wow, that's amazing" from all of us. How many people do you know that have run a 100-mile race?**

Tuesday afternoon I was coming home from visiting a friend (42 yrs. old) who is going to have a mastectomy. I passed the Gilda Radner cancer/senior center and saw so many people in pink. Did you take the time to stop, make a donation? You could be saving a friend or relative's life.

To the Eickhoff and Meyer families, you are the best. It was so thoughtful of you to share your pavilion spot at Fallasburg Park with the Wood family reunion on August 6. I'm sure we would have had to cancel our reunion because of all the rain. You are truly good-hearted people.

- Troy & Angie (Wood) Sloan & families

Yes, we've lost John Timpson, but how fortunate we are to have had him all of these years. He was a leader, a visionary, and most of all, a friend. God Bless you, John, and your family.

- A Vergennes Township Resident

## ONLINE POLL RESULTS

Do you approve of the performance of your Congressional representatives?

- YES ..... 18%
- NO ..... 82%



# Royal Court serves as role model yearround

by Emma Palova

Handing out colorful ribbons to kids showing goats on Monday, Sarah Crosby wears a big smile along with the Royal Court Queen's tiara and the crown.

The court was crowned on Sunday night during the opening ceremonies. Crosby, who emceed the ceremony, received the highest score making her the fair queen. Members of the court, Caitlin Clover and Jessica Miller, received the next two highest number of points.

During the fair, decorating winners and being a role model for others are Crosby's major responsibilities, but the biggest role for the entire royal court is to represent the Kent County Youth Fair year-round, and not just in Kent County.

"I talk to the kids and to the public," Crosby said. "We participate in different community service projects throughout the year."

Crosby, 16, is a junior at Lowell High School and she has been involved with the fair all her life. She has shown poultry for 12 years, sheep for 10 years and still exhibits for six to seven years.

Her mother Mary Crosby, now known as the "Queen Mother," also grew up on the fair showing sheep.

"It's a family thing," she said. "We enjoy it."

Mary is the woman behind the Children's Barnyard. She coordinates ribbons and trophies and most recently she added the post of poultry superintendent to her long list.

Mary considers involvement in the fair a teaching tool rather than just a competition for ribbons.

"The kids will learn a lot of things, to be better citizens, to deal with challenges and to get along with people," Mary said. "The person that I am, I want to teach that to my children."

So, the fair can definitely be considered as a molding tool of character for all.

"The kids learn how to solve problems and to communicate," Mary said. "They learn sportsmanship."

And the challenges at the fair are many; the biggest is dealing with livestock that has a head of its own. Not always will the animals do what the showing kids want them to do to satisfy the judges.

The slightest sign of disobedience can sometimes cost them a ribbon and bring forth disappointment.

"It's the lessons they've learned that will give them the necessary tools," Mary said. "I've learned similar lessons."

The members of the royal court have learned their own lessons through the application and selection process. They had to give an introduction speech about themselves in front of three judges, followed by

a personal interview and a closing speech. They were judged by a series of criteria including their knowledge of the fair motto, the 4-H motto and their ideas on how to promote the fair throughout the year.

The fair court participates in 15 parades annually and the members do numerous public service projects like visiting nursing homes.



The 2011 Kent County Youth Fair Royal Court are "Fair Tough." Pictured, left to right: Junior Queen Brittany Perry; Caitlin Clover, Kyleigh Newman, Jessica Miller, Emily Kropf, 2010 Queen Emma Roderick, Camden Utley, Tess Reagan and 2011 Queen Sarah Crosby.

**SPECTRUM HEALTH**  
The Medical Group

## Spectrum Health Medical Group Welcomes Drs. Evenhouse and Mogor

Join us in welcoming Lowell internal medicine and pediatrics physicians, **Mark Evenhouse, MD** and **John Mogor, MD** to the Spectrum Health Medical Group.

Drs. Evenhouse and Mogor will continue to serve their community at 1150 N. Hudson where they have provided care for the past 20 plus years, and will continue to treat common and complex illnesses in infants, children, adolescents and adults of all ages.

By joining Spectrum Health Medical Group, Drs. Evenhouse and Mogor will have the opportunity to add a new provider to their practice and accept new patients.

Whether in the office, hospital, through a referral from an urgent care center or emergency department, in long-term care facilities or in cooperation with another

specialist, Spectrum Health Medical Group physicians oversee all facets of care. We practice a philosophy of comprehensive patient care.

While the majority of medical needs can be met by our practices, Spectrum Health Medical Group has the advantage of being able to provide exceptional service and a level of personalized care across many specialties. Our compassionate providers nurture relationships with families and develop true partnerships in promoting healthy lifestyles.

For further information or to schedule an appointment, please call 616.897.8436.



Mark Evenhouse, MD



John Mogor, MD

**Spectrum Health Medical Group**  
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