

Happy Valentine's Day

new art venue



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Winter storms blanket the area with snow

Recent snowy weather has been making up for the, so far, mild winter. Thursday and Friday's winter storm dumped about eight inches of snow around the Lowell area. School kids rejoiced and were able to celebrate with another snow day. The new snowfall was great news for ski hills as well. Overall, we are just over a foot short of average snowfall amounts, but nearly three inches over averages for precipitation for the season.



Second year in a row for one Brick Award winner

by Ellen Mork
contributing reporter

2013 marks the second year Green Acres of Lowell received the Brick Award.

The Brick Award is "given to a chamber member who has made a commitment to the greater Lowell area through substantial capital investment in improving an existing facility or in building a new facility."

Green Acres was opened on July 18, 2011. They quickly filled the capacity of its assisted-living building. Green Acres then opened a waiting list

and the retirement living management agreed that the building needed to be expanded.

Almost a year later, in June 2012, they began construction on their "phase two." The new portion of their building would be a supportive care unit, giving more attention to residents than in the assisted-living section. This unit "is designed to care for those diagnosed with Alzheimer's, dementia and/or higher care needs."

Nearly three weeks ago, on January 21st, the new unit opened with seven one-bedroom spaces.

Before the new addition, Green Acres employed 24 people, but they've since added ten employees for the new supportive care unit.

The recent addition has helped employ those around Lowell, both in the building process and now that it is functioning.

Kellie Ann Marie Johnson, administrator at the Lowell location,

is pleased with the work they've accomplished.

"We are truly delighted and honored to be receiving a Brick Award this year! The success of our Green Acres community is due wholeheartedly to our supportive families, dedicated and caring staff and a truly wonderful community. We are not just another assisted-living facility, we are a 'family.'"

Green Acres is also a wonderful place for volunteers as well. Everyone is welcome to enjoy a tour and take part in events. Tours of the facility can be scheduled by calling 616-987-9115.

Liz Baker, executive director at the chamber of commerce, said Green Acres won the award again for their recent expansion. They have continued to invest in Lowell and offer a wonderful location for the elderly population to live, a place for volunteers and a wonderful, fulfilling career.

"They have added a beautiful and quality facility to the landscape of Lowell."

Baker added, "It's obvious that these businesses bring job opportunities. They also bring commitment, investment and diversity to the greater Lowell community."

Alive & Well to perform at Deer Run

The popular band, Alive & Well, brings classic rock to the Deer Run Golf Club fish fry on Friday, Feb. 22 from 8-11 pm.

Performing together for over forty years, the seven-piece band routinely brings dancers to their feet with energetic renditions of Santana, Eagles, the Temptations and more. All hailing from Lowell, the band has opened for Donny and Marie Osmond and Rare Earth. In addition to owning the nightclub Pocketts, the group has toured extensively throughout



A local favorite, Alive & Well have been together over 40 years.

the United States and Canada.

The Deer Run fish fry runs from 4-9 pm and features all-you-can-eat fish or spaghetti. The club is located at 13955 Cascade Road in Lowell. There is no cover charge for entertainment.

LPD implements new tactics aimed at keeping Lowell safe

by Ellen Mork
contributing reporter

By and large, Lowell is a very safe place to live.

For the Lowell Police Department, the busiest time of the year is May through September. The department has six full-time officers and nine part-time officers, whose hours vary during the year.

These officers are working hard to ensure Lowell is a safe city and crime and complaint rates stay low.

Like most towns, Lowell has some drug use and minimal crime. Police chief Barry Getzen indicated that while there are issues with certain activities, the numbers involved represent a small portion of Lowell citizens. In the coming year, Getzen hopes to lower crime rates by implementing some new tactics.

Keeping Lowell safe, continued, page 3

Emergency dredging plan created to combat record low Great Lakes water levels

With current water levels in Lake Michigan and Lake Huron at all-time lows – and levels in lakes Michigan, Huron and St. Clair expected to continue dropping – the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) today announced that the Michigan State Waterways Commission has adopted an emergency dredging plan that will provide zero-match grant funding opportunities for harbors of refuge, recreational boating harbors, marinas and boat launches most affected by the low water levels.

As part of the plan, the DNR Parks and Recreation Division announced it will redirect nearly \$8.8 million of waterways funding from existing appropriations; allocate \$0.7 million of uncommitted waterways funding; and receive \$11.5 million from the 2013 General Fund, as recommended in Gov. Rick Snyder's just-released budget. In total, nearly \$21 million would be dedicated toward keeping Michigan's waterways operational.

According to Ron Olson, DNR Parks and Recreation Division chief, dredging involves the

removal of accumulated bottom sediments in waterways to maintain adequate depth for navigation.

"Such dredging is needed in the most critically affected areas in order to allow safe access to harbors," added Olson. "Without this action, some harbors are in real danger of closing."

To streamline the grant-funding process, the state of Michigan will:

- waive the regular local-match requirement for 2013 emergency dredging projects;
- immediately contact communities that have been identified to receive zero-match Waterways grant emergency-dredging monies;
- not accept 2013 grant applications because of the decision to redirect funding; and
- facilitate coordination and involvement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

According to DNR director Keith Creagh, quickly and creatively solving the challenge of low water levels is important on many fronts.

"The safety of Great

Lakes' boaters, as well as the economies of local communities, urgently demands dredging work in the hardest-hit areas," said Creagh. "Because federal money for dredging of harbors is uncertain, we have found our own solution. The emergency dredging plan helps address the problem for this year. We must still seek a long-term solution to this continuing challenge."

Creagh added that in addition to boater safety and the health of local

economies, the swift actions laid out in the emergency dredging plan will preserve broad access to the Great Lakes and improve recreational boating opportunities statewide. The DNR will redirect staff toward dredging at state facilities with no extra funding.

To estimate the cost of the emergency dredging plan, the DNR surveyed all 83 public recreational boating harbors (63 local municipal harbors, 19 state

harbors, and one federal harbor) in December 2012 and January 2013, with a response rate of 82 percent.

With more than 800,000 registered boats in 2011, ranking third highest in the nation, the health and sustainability of Michigan's waterways are vital to the state's economy. Water levels will continue to be monitored throughout the year.

The emergency dredging plan was developed

in collaboration with the DNR, the Michigan State Waterways Commission and the Department of Environment Quality, including the Office of the Great Lakes.

To follow progress and get more information about the Michigan State Waterways Commission, visit the DNR website at www.michigan.gov/dnr and choose Boards, Committees and Commissions from the left side of the page.



along main street

PUNCHLINE ART EXHIBITION

Humorous, amusing, quirky, witty and all in good fun, this art exhibition is definitely a look at life on the lighter side. Featuring artworks from artists ages 18 and over, this LowellArts! event corresponds with LaughFest, coming to Lowell in March. People's Choice awards will be offered with proceeds from each \$1 vote going to LaughFest. This exhibition runs Feb. 11 – March 9, with a closing reception on Sun., March 17 from 2-4 pm at LowellArts!, 149 S. Hudson. Gallery hours: Mon.-Fri., 10 am – 6 pm and Sat., 1-4 pm. For more information call 897-8545 or visit www.lowellartsmi.org

GILDA'S CLUB LOWELL CLUBHOUSE

Book Club, Tues., Feb. 19, 4:30-5:30 pm. Join Kathy Mieras for a relaxing and cozy book club. Pick up your book to borrow at the parlor desk. Cancer - New Member Meeting, Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2:30-3:30 pm and 7:15-8 pm. Introductory meeting for those who wish to join the cancer support program. Woodcarving, Tues., Feb. 19, 4-5 pm. Learn how to make easy and beautiful wood carvings with Doug Shassberger. Beginners are welcome and supplies are provided. Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson St. For more information call 897-8600 or visit www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow

TICKETS NOW ON

SALE FOR LAUGHFEST in LOWELL

Tickets for 2013 Laughfest are now on sale at Cousins' Hallmark. Cash, check or charge. Hours are Monday - Friday 10-6; Saturday 9-5 and Sunday noon - 4.

PARENTING CLASSES

TOTS Love and Logic Parenting Classes are coming Feb. 28, March 7, 14 and 21, from 6:30-7:45 pm at Bushnell Elementary. Free childcare. For more information or to register, call Lori at TOTS, 987-2532.

CALL FOR ACTORS

LowellArts! and Thebes Players will present the dramedy, Steel Magnolias, at Larkin's Other Place in downtown Lowell, the weekends of April 26-May 11. Director Peter Huschilt is seeking six adult females for roles. Approximate ages needed are two young girls, early 20s; two in their 40s-50s and two in their mid-60s. Auditions will be held at LowellArts!, 149 South Hudson, on Sat., March 9, from 9:30-11:30 am and Tues., March 12, from 6:30-8:30 pm. For more information call or visit LowellArts! at 149 S. Hudson, 897-8545 or visit www.lowellartsmi.org

CRAFTS AROUND

THE WORLD WORKSHOP

The Lowell Area Historical Museum will offer Crafts Around the World on Saturday, March 2 at the Wittenbach/Wege Center from 9 to 2 pm. This workshop will be an international experience with an opportunity to learn about the crafts and foods from around the world. For more information or to register, call 897-7688. Please register by February 27.

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.



lend a hand

volunteering opportunities

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

AT LOWELL HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The next volunteer training for the museum is Tues., Feb. 19 at 7 pm. Please join us as we are always looking for helping hands.



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Keeping Lowell safe, continued

In July of 2012, the police gained jurisdiction over zoning violations. Getzen believes it will be easier to enforce now that police have control over zoning and nuisance violations, which often overlap.

“We will be rolling out a new zoning enforcement process. I anticipate there to be a little bit of an increase

in zoning violations activity because it’s all complaint based.” Getzen continued, “It will be more proactive based and observation based. This new process will keep neighborhoods cleaner and allow for a better quality of life.”

For example, if police spot a yard with a pile of brush that is a nuisance to neighbors or a car that is

leaking oil in the yard, they will take an active approach to removing the materials.

This year, the police will be patrolling neighborhoods more, stopping speeding cars and checking for ordinance violations.

Getzen noted a few increases in some criminal activity.

Unfortunately, drug law violations were up 37

percent (18 instances) from 2011 to 2012. Most of that increase came from a “much increased use of marijuana especially when it comes to driving when you’re high,” said Getzen.

“We are seeing a higher percentage of those that are driving while impaired to be impaired with marijuana and not alcohol.”

Getzen is uncertain if the increase in violations stem from misuse of medical marijuana or from more recreational use.

Thankfully, other drugs are rarely seen in Lowell, aside from a very small group of people using methamphetamine and heroin.

Gasoline drive offs have increased the larceny rate by 20 percent. In 2012, there were a total of 68 drive offs. Getzen sees this as a “sign of the times,” where people cannot afford gas, but need it and are willing to risk the consequences of stealing.

Phone and Internet scams have become more

common. Unfortunately, senior citizens are the most susceptible to scamming. “It’s surprising the number of calls we take on this,” said Getzen.

There are several variations of scams. People get calls from a “relative” saying they need money and to send it quick because they are in a foreign country. It could be a call saying you won the lottery, but

you need to send funds to cover a fee, but they will be recouped when you receive a check. “Nobody wins the lottery over the phone,” said Getzen. Education on these issues is needed to protect people from scams.

“Our whole goal and that’s through city government as well, is to keep Lowell a safe place to live and to maintain property values.”

Some safety reminders:

- Beware of scams. Never send money to someone you do not know. If someone claims to be a relative, call the relative immediately to check if they were on the phone. Most likely, it was not. Do not send funds, even if the caller promises to send a check. Either the check will be bogus or you will never receive it.
- Please submit a complaint to www.ic3.gov if you are asked to participate in a scam or if you become a victim of a scam.
- Make sure to follow ordinances and laws to ensure a safe, friendly and clean neighborhood.
- Lock your cars. Several thefts have occurred because people have gotten into cars and stolen items.

Postal service switch to five days of mail delivery begins in August

Last Wednesday, in an attempt to cut costs, the postal service announced they would end Saturday mail deliveries to street addresses.

This cut will not include delivery of packages and will not begin until the week of August 5th. Post offices that currently have hours Saturday will also remain open. Further, anyone with a post office (PO) box will still have mail delivered.

A deciding factor in continuing package deliveries Saturdays was the 14 percent increase in volume during the last two years. Mail deliveries, on the other hand, have decreased by 37 percent since 2007.

The change in services is estimated to cut “45 million work hours annually” and save “\$2 billion annually.”

The postal service is hoping to quell concerns about their dire financial circumstance. In the last fiscal year alone, they “recorded a \$15.9 billion loss, defaulted on its \$11.1 billion retiree health benefit prefunding payments and at one point exhausted its borrowing authority with the U.S. Treasury.”

Since 2006, the postal service has reduced its workforce by a total of 28 percent or 193,000 jobs and consolidated 200

mail processing facilities. Unfortunately, these changes were not enough to reduce their debt.

Patrick R. Donahoe, postmaster general and CEO said, “The postal service is advancing an important new approach to delivery that reflects the strong growth of our package business and responds to the financial realities resulting from America’s changing mailing habits.”



Technology changes have forced the postal service to change their services. Fewer people are mailing letters and bills, preferring to send emails or make phone calls and paying bills online. Also, the rise in e-commerce has led to more packages being shipped.

The long wait until August gives customers time to adjust to the future changes. The postal service will be providing several educational outreach

programs to increase customer awareness in the coming months.

The postal service is run solely on funds from the “sale of postage, products and services.” In recent years, postage has increased in price for all forms of shipping, from express to first-class mail. The latter has been raised three times in as many years, now \$.46 up from \$.44 in 2011.

Polling done by the postal service shows an average of 70 percent of Americans support the switch to five-day mail deliveries.

Congress mandated the six-day delivery in 1981. While the postal service has considered this switch before, it did not have much support and has never been implemented. Previously, they needed congressional approval for the change, but the current continuing resolution does not include language requiring the six-day delivery, so the postal service argues they do not need congressional approval.

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ask kathryn



Kathryn Denhouster Ph.D.

What is the current understanding of childhood bipolar disorder? This article addresses that question.

Because this is a disorder that impacts the chemical messengers of the brain, the consequence of this illness is far-reaching. It can affect thoughts, memories, movements, moods, energy, behaviors, learning, and sensory processing. Children with this disorder can have extreme mood swings, at times can be irritable, have a low tolerance for frustration, abrupt changes in energy and oppositional behaviors. Sometimes they misinterpret social

cues and have attentional problems. Interestingly, these same children may be gifted, articulate and precocious for their age.

Previously, bipolar was thought to be an "adult" illness which suggests that it does not manifest itself in children. Studies are now showing that half of the patients who suffer from bipolar had the onset before eighteen. Unfortunately, because of this misconception, treatment delays have left many suffering needlessly. When the onset of bipolar is in childhood it can be difficult because it can interrupt normal

development. Socialization, for example, is often harder because of the irritability and the mood swings, so seeking professional help is very important. Currently, many spokespersons for bipolar are determining this illness to be essentially physiological and similar to diabetes in this regard. This illness is treatable and providing treatment when the symptoms present themselves can give children with bipolar a much better quality of life.

The next article will be titled "How Can We Spot the Symptoms for Bipolar in Children?" The evaluation of and the diagnosis of bipolar will be discussed. If you have any general questions, or questions about this article, please email me at kathryndenhouster@gmail.com

outdoors



cross country

Dave Stegehuis

When the temperature drops and snow falls many of us stay indoors unless we just have to go out. There are mental and physical drawbacks from spending too much time in front of a T.V. screen or P.C. monitor. Winter is too long a period to opt out of a healthy lifestyle. Cross country skiing, the best kept recreational secret in the state, is a great way to get outdoors and get lots of exercise. There are over 3,000 miles of ski trails, and only a relatively small number of people take advantage of them.

The essential equipment includes skis, shoes, and poles. Anyone new to the sport might consider renting equipment at a public or private ski area. Renting allows one the opportunity to get some firsthand experience before making a financial commitment. Skis and shoes can be purchased new or used at a reasonable

cost compared to most other sports equipment.

Ski lessons are worth the time and expense, and sometimes are free with an equipment purchase. One session with a knowledgeable instructor, who can demonstrate a few easily mastered techniques, will jump start your confidence and enjoyment of the sport.

Lack of athletic ability or age (young or old) is not a barrier to participation. This is because with thousands of miles of trails there is something for everybody. Some trails wind through flat open terrain while others present steep downhill runs past rocks and trees. Skiers who demand a challenge can easily find opportunity to test their stamina and ability. There are markers on most designated ski trails indicating the degree of difficulty. Usually ski trails are divided into loops,

so one can choose which loops to ski from printed or posted maps. Even in high use areas, we have found ourselves alone on trails farther from the parking lot or trail head. Many trails are groomed with a machine by the private owner, a government entity, or club volunteers. On less used trails skiers cut their own tracks or can follow tracks made by other skiers. To find out where to ski, go online at Michigan DNR, Michigan.org, or other websites, or get a trail map book to locate trails and learn details. There are fees to use private trails, but the majority of public trails at parks, state forest, or national forest land are free.

Cross country skiing is a good reason to get out of the house and get as much exercise as you want or are able. Pick your trail and set your pace, it's up to you. Trails across both peninsulas weave through varied terrain in some of the most scenic places in our state. When quietly gliding over the countryside, there is always the possibility of observing wildlife from deer to woodpeckers. We finally have skiable snow depths, so now would be a good time to give cross country skiing a try.

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viewpoint

to the editor

sinking fund millage needed

Dear Editor,
It's hard to believe that the "new" high school will be twenty years old next year. Just as with our own property, the public's property needs to be continually updated and maintained. This is what the school district is asking voters to do on Tuesday, February 26 - approve a one (1) mill sinking fund millage for repairs and improvements to district buildings. Specifically, money raised from this millage will replace all or portions of the roofs at the high school, Alto and Cherry Creek; eliminating current leaks and adding insulation to provide greater energy

savings. Additionally, enhanced safety and security measures for students, staff and visitors will be installed in all buildings throughout the district. By law, no funds raised from a sinking fund millage may be used for staff salaries or purposes other than those specified in the millage proposal. In addition to extending the life of our buildings, this is a smart proposal since it is a pay-as-you-go approach and eliminates interest and borrowing costs. Please vote YES for the sinking fund millage on February 26.

Sincerely,
Tom Stahr
Ada

only some were rude

Dear Editor,
I am a faithful reader of the Lowell Ledger and am not one for writing letters to the editor. However, I felt compelled to address, what I felt, was a misrepresentation in the recent article regarding

the closing of Burger King. The article came across as more of an editorial than a balanced article reporting the facts.

While I certainly would not disagree with the majority of reasons

listed, I do feel it is wrong to summarily list "rude employees" as a reason.

I think a simple four-letter word "some" inserted would have been better reporting. During my sixteen years in Lowell, I usually ate lunch at various restaurants. In that time, some of the young teens and young adults from our church, as well as other

young people have worked at Burger King. They were by no means "rude." They were good, faithful, polite, respectful employees who happened to work with some who were not - most often adults.

Please don't lump all those great young people into the same pot.

Lee Taylor
Lowell

reader blames management

Dear Editor,

I recently read two separate articles in the Feb. 6 Lowell Ledger Viewpoint both pertaining to Lowell Light & Power (LL&P) management. If it wasn't for a year-long dispute over contract negotiations between the city and the employees of the LL&P and the Department of Public Works (DPW), I don't believe those articles would have come to light.

The negotiations have been going on for over a year and some of the comments made have gotten personal and out of hand. I blame this whole mess on city management. They can't even settle a simple contract or maybe they don't want to - either

one is unacceptable. There is absolutely no reason why it's taken so long to settle a contract other than management's reluctance to acknowledge another union. I believe the constituents of Lowell have been purposely left out of the negotiations and that a contract would have been settled long ago if the constituents of Lowell would have been allowed to be involved.

It's time for management to be accountable for their actions or should I say the lack of over a year-long fiasco that has brought about nothing but bad feelings and a lack of trust.

Sincerely,
Jim Howard
Lowell

disagrees with gun control

To the Editor,

I would like to respond to the article written by Louie Dudeck published in the Feb 6th addition of the Lowell Ledger.

I have to disagree with Mr. Dudeck's position on allowing teachers, educators or staff to be able to protect themselves or others with a firearm while they are in the workplace. From what I have read, the proposal put forth has been to leave this decision up to individual schools districts if they will allow it and up to the individual teacher to exercise this right. From reading what Mr. Dudeck has written the reader might infer that this would be a requirement of employment.

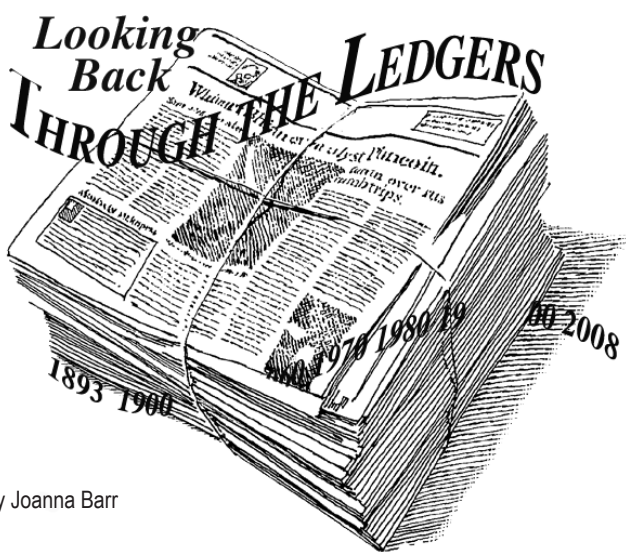
I am also offended by the terminology that he uses in his piece, "...right-winged, 'gun toten' lunatics..." I too have served in the military, 20 years in the infantry; and as a public servant, 18 years as a police officer. I grew up in northern Michigan, hunting since I was 12 years old, owning, using, carrying a firearm for sport, my country and my job. I too have experience in the teaching arena. As an NCO and platoon sergeant, I've taught several soldiers on many tasks; I've been through train-the-trainer courses, basic and advanced NCO courses and instructed from the individual soldier to platoon size elements. As a police officer I worked in the school district as a D.A.R.E. officer for the elementary and middle school. I am currently the firearms instructor for the police department, a guest patrol rifle instructor with West Michigan Criminal Justice Training Consortium (WMCJTC); I instruct and conduct scenario-based training and instruct

civilians on the requirements to receive their concealed pistol license. I believe I am qualified to speak about firearms, society and teaching.

I do agree with Mr. Dudeck that violence in our society has seemed to increase. But I beg to differ as to the reason why. Society is being pressured from all angles today, from war, an unstable economy, an over powering do-nothing federal government, prices of bare necessities on the rise, increasing taxes, poor job climate, a poor outlook on the future, the breakdown of the family, etc. Many of these things reduce the spirits of many, leaving them feeling desperate and without hope. We've become a society of whiners, takers and sore losers/no losers. We whine when things do not go our way, instead of speaking up to change things or ourselves. We depend on the government or others too much to solve our problems. Some refuse to take responsibility for what they do or don't do. They look for something/someone to blame. They want someone else to fix their problems (that they may have helped to create), a pill, a check or a government program. We've become a society of "no losers" because we're afraid of having to tell someone "you're not good enough." We don't let our young people make mistakes; therefore they don't learn from failure.

When real life hits them in the face, they don't have those experiences of pain and failure to draw upon and for the first time they must rely on themselves.

To The Editor,
continued, page 12



By Joanna Barr

night at a cheap boarding house in this city and upon his body were found certificates of deposit amounting to \$3,349. It is now learned that he leaves property valued at \$15,000, of which his relatives were not aware. He was 87 years old and very eccentric. He leaves three daughters, one in this city, and Mrs. McGovern and Mrs. Fannie Eaton of Lake City - Detroit Free Press. This is the old fellow who was begging around town last fall, and who tried to "sponge" his living after his Segwun shanty was burned.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 13, 1913

The Glasner bill before the Legislature to prevent the marriage of those mentally and physically unfit, deserves the wide-spread interest it is creating. Michigan has 9,000 idiots and feeble-minded persons, largely children of those who should not have been permitted to become parents. It is charged that the cost of the care of the state's dependents exceeds the cost of the public schools and that to give these unfortunates the care they need would bankrupt the state. It is high time we paid as much attention to the rearing of the human animal as to the breeding of cattle and swine.

Wm. Davidsee assisted by his son Adrian is rapidly progressing as the weather permits with his new cement block building on his corner lot, where he expects to make his home. It will be one of our most attractive buildings.

Fred Kilgus is having a telephone put in his home. It will be on the Clarksville exchange.

Looking Back,
continued, page 7

115 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 17, 1898

Headline: Dangerous lunatic at large. An inmate of the criminal department of the insane asylum at Ionia got away Sunday night and was captured at the D., G. H. & M. depot at Lowell, Monday, by the station hands. Deputy Sheriff Morse telephoned the description of the escaped lunatic to the station boys and told them to watch out for such an individual and within ten minutes he came along and was detained. Before Mr. Morse could get to the depot, an officer from Ionia, who was hot on the trail, came up and claimed the prisoner. There was a reward of \$10 up; and Benj. is wondering who gets it.

Left a fortune. An old soldier who was thought to have nothing. Grand Rapids, Feb. 13 - G. J. Eaton, an old soldier, who formerly lived at Lowell, died Friday

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

Letters may be submitted via email to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com ("to the Editor" in subject line) or dropped off or mailed to: The Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, MI 49331. Also, our website, www.yournews.com select "submit news" icon on the top left, then select "opinion".

area births

McKinney



Jane Amber McKinney

“See, I’m already two months old. I told you to announce my birth.”

Jane Amber McKinney was born November 29, 2012, weighing 6 lbs. 4 oz., now weighing 10 lbs. She

is the daughter of Katie See and JJ McKinney, both of Kentwood.

Grandparents are Jeffrey and Susan (Burton) See. Great-grandma is Margie (Wood) Kehrec.

business matters



Greenridge Realty announced that Don Reedy received Sales Associate of the Month in January.

This award recognizes Reedy for his outstanding success and achievements.



Don Reedy

college news

Northern Michigan University has announced the dean’s list for the 2012 fall semester.

The following local students qualified with a grade point average of 4.00: Ada: Thomas Beddows and Elizabeth Finkelstein.

The following local students qualified with a grade point average of 3.25-3.99: Ada: Nicholas

Alm, Kati Niekerk, and Amelia Richards; Lowell: Benjamin Carlson, James Dyer, Gabrielle Hause, and Kristen Priest.

Northern Michigan University announced that James Dyer of Lowell graduated in December 2012 with a Bachelor of Science in English/writing.

happy birthday!

FEBRUARY 13

Deb Heydenburg, Emily Gerard, Jodi Kennedy, Alyssa Ellis-Roach, Thomas Alberts Jr.

FEBRUARY 14

Heather Claypool, Carol Leyman, Gerri Ellison, Scott Treglia, Lori Rice.

FEBRUARY 15

Jim VanDyke, DeeAnn Merriman, Deanne Newell, Marcus Kline, Adam Confer.

FEBRUARY 16

Matthew Schuitema, Tracey Main.

FEBRUARY 17

Chris Hodges, Justin Stanford, Stephanie Ellison, Reatha Johnson, Lynda Horsley, Deb Tulecki.

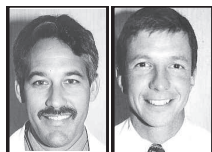
FEBRUARY 18

Richard Claypool, Courtney Phillips, Missy Crandall Nikodemski.

FEBRUARY 19

Jerrica Foss, Bruce Baird, Betty Newhouse.

health



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

quitting smoking

As we have said many times, if you smoke, the single best thing you can do for your health is to quit. Smoking greatly impacts your health. We all know the health problems: stroke, heart disease, COPD, lung cancer, bladder cancer, throat cancer, high blood pressure and peripheral arterial disease, associated with smoking, just to name a few. If you smoke you will die 10 years earlier than if you didn’t smoke.

About 20 percent of Americans currently smoke and most of these smokers would like to quit and at least half of current smokers have tried to quit in the past year. Because nicotine is so addicting, quitting smoking is quite difficult.

Various medications are available to increase your chances of successfully quitting. Nicotine gum, lozenges or patches replaces nicotine in the blood as you quit. This helps alleviate nicotine withdrawal

symptoms. Bupropion is a prescription antidepressant that increases the brain chemical dopamine. Dopamine is also released by nicotine so bupropion somewhat mimics the effects of nicotine making it easier to quit. This medication may also help avoid excessive weight gain that can occur when people quit. Chantix is probably the most effective prescription for smoking cessation. It works by binding to the nicotine reception in the brain.

If you are thinking about quitting, talk to your doctor about medication that may be appropriate for you. Get help by enrolling in a smoking cessation class. You can get free information and guidance by calling 1-800-QUIT-NOW or going online at www.quitnet.com. You can obtain information regarding free local smoking cessation classes at 616-446-7058.

...
The Eskimos had fifty-two names for snow because it was important to them: there ought to be as many for love.
 ~ Margaret Atwood

area churches

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 Sunday School.....11:20 A.M.
 Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL.....9:30 a.m.
 Rev. Rick Blunt

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In February, focus is on heart health in children and youth

February is American Heart Month; a time to acknowledge and support Michigan families coping with heart disease. During this month, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) is recognizing two very important populations in Michigan: our newborns and our youth. Governor Rick Snyder has proclaimed Feb. 4, 2013 as Sudden Cardiac Death of the Young (SCDY) Awareness Day, and Feb. 7-14 as Congenital Heart Defect (CHD) Awareness Week. Together, these two critical heart observances remind us to take a moment to think about and support the families we know who have a child with a CHD or

who have lost a loved one to SCDY.

"We all should know how to respond when someone goes into cardiac arrest, as unfortunately, that can and does happen with our youth," said James K. Haveman, Director of the MDCH. "Additionally, congenital heart defects are the most common type of birth defect, so most of us know a family who has been affected by a CHD. Knowing how to respond is critical to saving their lives."

CHDs affect one out of every 100 newborns and each year in Michigan, more than 1,700 babies are born with a CHD. A CHD is caused when the heart

or its surrounding vessels do not develop normally during pregnancy. There are many kinds of CHDs, and the underlying cause is not always known. CHDs also range from mild to severe but today, more newborns are surviving because of early detection and treatment.

SCDY is when a young, apparently healthy person dies suddenly from a cardiac arrest. In Michigan, SCDY claims the lives of more than 300 children and young adults under age 40 each year. SCDY may be caused by inherited conditions that affect the heart's structure or how it beats. Often the first apparent sign that a young person has a condition that

causes cardiac arrest is the arrest itself. Evaluating heart health and knowing personal and family history is the best way to identify those at risk and to prevent sudden cardiac death.

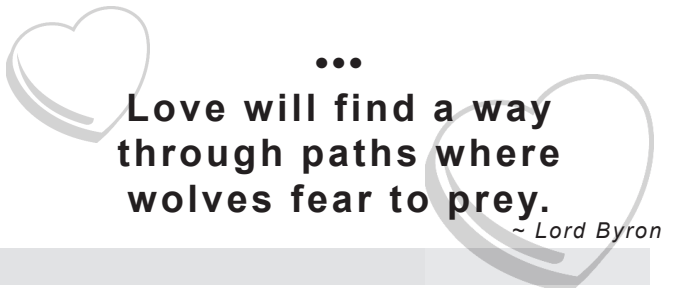
"I am happy to hear that the Governor is making this issue a priority. Sudden Cardiac Death in Youth is a tragedy and a serious public health issue. By raising awareness, and with appropriate screening, we can potentially identify these young people and save their lives. AED (Automated External Defibrillator) training and increased presence and availability can improve survival rates when a cardiac arrest occurs," said

Representative Gail Haines, Chair of the House Healthy Policy Committee. "I am introducing legislation which addresses the issue of student athletes who exhibit abnormal cardiac symptoms during an athletic activity. This will be a law of prevention, born out of painful and unnecessary losses of too many young people in Michigan. If we can save even one life, it's a success story."

Additional critical factors in prevention of

SCDY are early intervention and bystander response. The American Heart Association recommends the "Chain of Survival" to increase a sudden cardiac arrest victim's chance for survival. These include early recognition of sudden cardiac arrest, early call to 9-1-1, early CPR, early use of an AED, and early advanced life support.

For more information about SCDY prevention in Michigan, visit www.michigan.gov/scdy.



Looking Back, continued

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 17, 1938

Clarence Klahn, of Southwest Lowell, well known Kent County 4-H club leader, had an experience last week-end he will not soon forget. While he was returning home on US-16 from Grand Rapids Saturday night about 12:30 his car left the road about 4 1/2 miles west of M66- US16 intersection and came to a stop, almost submerged in a swollen pond of icy water in a nearby field. When found a few moments later, by Donald MacNaughton and George Miller also returning from Grand Rapids, Clarence was clinging to the top of his car to escape the icy waters. The two boys took him to his home where he donned dry clothing and went for help to remove his car. Clarence said he had apparently dozed at the wheel for a moment. His was a lucky escape from possible drowning.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 14, 1963

This year, for the first time, people can receive tax refunds in U. S. Savings Bonds. Bonds earn 3.75 per cent interest, compounded semi-annually, when held to maturity.

College costs, now ranging from \$800 to \$5,800 a year, will jump to a range of \$2,000 to \$14,800 a year by 1975. "High as college costs are now, they're going to jump drastically in the years ahead," reports an article in the current issue of the magazine. Basing figures on a steady rise of about 5 percent in educational costs and 2 1/2 percent in living costs, the article gives these estimates for tuition, fees, room and board. 1962: a range of \$500 to \$3,700, with an average of \$2,000

in public schools; a range of \$1,150 to \$5,800, with an average of \$2,450 in private schools. 1965: public schools of \$1,000 to \$4,600, average of \$2,500; private schools, \$1,450 to \$7,290, average, \$3,000. 1970: public schools, \$1,400 to \$6,600, average \$3,600; private schools, \$2,050 to \$10,300, average \$4,350. 1975: public schools, \$2,000 to \$9,600, average \$5,150; private schools, \$2,950 to \$14,800, average \$6,200.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 17, 1988

Headline: Nine children injured in bus accident. Nine Lowell Elementary School children were injured in an accident on 36th Street on Tuesday, Feb. 16. Seven of the children were treated for minor cuts and bruises and released, and two were kept for closer observation. Lowell superintendent Fritz Esch said one of the students broke a bone in its shoulder blade. "We are unable to release any of the names under the school's rights and policy act," Esch said. Mary Kay Wright, the school bus driver, en route to Alto

Elementary, was traveling westbound on 36th Street and down shifted as the bus was beginning to descend on a hill; as she did this, the right rear side of the bus slid right and stopped after hitting a tree. "The bus was sitting crossways in the road on the hill," Esch said. Esch, who was on the scene along with the Lowell Rescue Unit and LIFE, said the nine children incurring injuries were taken to Metro, Blodgett and Butterworth hospitals. "The other 20 children were transported back to the bus garage, where their parents were waiting and they were served hot chocolate," Esch said. "The children were then taken home." Esch added that he thought the Lowell Rescue Unit, arriving first at the scene, did a great job in terms of providing first aid and treatment for the children.

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Melodia! An evening of art

by Sharon Miller
contributing reporter

Lowell is becoming the place for art.

Lisa Castro has opened the Coconut Room on Main Street downtown to host occasional art exhibits. The first reception, Melodia, was held on Thursday, Feb. 7.

“Salsa dancing is really where the idea of the Coconut Room started,” said Castro, “I met this wonderful group of artists through the dancing and travel to Chicago.”

Featured artists were Andrew Hawks, Henri Droski, Amy Armstrong, Fernando Ortiz, and Erick Picardo. Hors d'oeuvres were provided by Pietro's Italian Restaurant and Audrey Pearson played

classical guitar selections. Kyle P., from Chicago, covered the evening as event photographer.

Hawks, Picardo and Armstrong showed thought-provoking paintings at the reception. Droski displayed

photographic fine art, mostly monochromes. Intense sculpture work created

by Ortiz was prominently displayed.

All of the artists, except one, were present and available to chat about their work.

Castro, who hosted the reception, plans to host others in the future. She

encourages artists to contact her via Facebook to inquire.

The last chance to visit the Melodia exhibit will be Saturday, Feb. 16 from noon to 4 pm. The Coconut Room is located at 216 E. Main Street in downtown Lowell.



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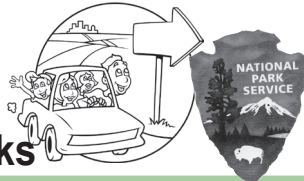
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*EPIC-MRA 2011

This newspaper supports your right to know.

Melodia artists, clockwise, from top left: painters Amy Armstrong and Andrew Hawks, sculptor Fernando Ortiz and photographer Henri Droski.

exploring our national parks



Kurt Hieshetter

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The state of Utah is fortunate to have five distinctly different national parks within its borders. In the summer of 2009, we visited two of them, Arches and Canyonlands. In the summer of 2011, it was time to knock out the remaining three national parks: Zion, Bryce Canyon and Capital Reef. We were also

center greets you at the border. Utah Highway 191 at mile marker 182 is your last chance for fuel for the next 100 miles.

From the junction at I-15, we had less than 100 miles of interstate left. With a speed limit of 80 (and most of the traffic traveling at 90 plus) it did not take long. Interstate 15 is the



planning a side trip to Lake Powell and the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. This two-week trip was to be accomplished in a tent, without the comforts of our home away from home...the travel trailer.

We followed the same routine as all our other summer vacations. We leave after the last day of school on Friday and drive throughout the night. However, without the trailer, a nighttime stop for some shuteye at Walmart was out of the question. Stephanie and I were able to share the driving and after a brief nap somewhere in Nebraska, we made it to our friend's home in Breckenridge, Colorado, to rest up for the remaining drive to Springdale, Utah, the home of Zion National Park.

Interstate 70 from Grand Junction, Colorado, to where it ends at Interstate 15, was 230 miles of nothing. Exits and services are few and far between. Thankfully, rest areas are numerous, as are the signs telling you to pull over in a rest area if you are getting drowsy. It was fortunate for us that we drove this stretch of road in the daylight. A wonderful Utah welcome

very heavily traveled route between Salt Lake City and Las Vegas. Our fuel stop in the town of Beaver, Utah, was a test of patience. It felt like everyone got off the freeway at the same time as we did. Fuel lines were four cars deep. Pay at the pump service was broken. The line to pay inside for food, fuel and the trinkets Dillon and Sierra had to have, was a peek into the dark side of humanity. Our first encounter with the residents of Utah was not a great experience. On a side note though, if any readers would be interested in a business opportunity, Beaver would be a great place for another gas station!

Exiting the interstate at Toquerville was a great relief. State Highway 9, a very scenic and curvy road, took us the final 25 miles to the gateway city of Springdale. As with all national parks lately, Zion was very crowded. Campsites are at a premium and none were available at the time we arrived. I did however plan for this and made a reservation at the Springdale Motor Lodge for our first night at Zion. The

National Parks, continued, page 14



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Red Arrow SPORTS

- WRESTLING

Red Arrows claim district championship

by Karen Jack

The wrestling team started off the week by beating DeWitt in the district finals on Wednesday 51-18 to earn a berth for the regional championship on Wednesday (2/13). If they win that, they will then go to Battle Creek on the run to the state championship.

On Saturday, the individual districts were held, with Lowell bringing home eight titles and placing five others – all who will advance to individual

regionals on the march to the Palace for the individual state title.

In the district finals, freshman Lucas Hall (103 lbs.) beat Jordan Richardson of Ionia by pin and freshman Zeth Dean (112 lbs.) decided Chris Poland of Middleville-Thornapple Kellogg (4-0). Junior Bailey Jack (119 lbs.) beat Garrett Ruppel of Forest Hills Northern with a technical fall (16-1) and also got his 100th win in his first

match, pinning Kameron Shyne of Wayland in 1:46. Sophomore Jordan Hall (135 lbs.) won his finals match by decision against Austin Melton of Dewitt (7-5), while freshman Max Dean (160 lbs.) won his finals' match against Ben Swanson of Northview by decision (9-6). Junior Kanon Dean (171 lbs.) beat Dan Dykstra of Middleville-Thornapple Kellogg by decision (6-4) and junior Garret Stehley pinned Pete

Wiestra of Middleville-Thornapple Kellogg by pin in :32, which was his longest match all day, pinning his other opponents in less time. Senior Taylor Kornoely (215 lbs.) won his finals match against Andrew Nelson of East Grand Rapids by technical fall (17-1).

Other placers include Derek Krajewski (112 lbs.), Dan Kruse (119 lbs.) and Logan Wilcox (285 lbs.) all taking third. Placing fourth



Zeth Dean cranks the arms of his opponent to get back points.



The Lowell Red Arrow wrestling team district champs.

were Zac Graves (140 lbs.) and Scott VanOosten (145 lbs.).

Junior captain Bailey Jack said the win for team districts was the first of many steps on their agenda for the team and on his accomplishment of 100 wins as a junior, he said, "It's a moment not many kids get to be a part of. I'm happy that most of my team was there to share it with me. I'm also happy I beat my brother to it." Jack's brother, Tyler, was the captain of the 2009 state championship team and got his 100th win at the end of his senior year.

The Arrows face Grand

Rapids Northview in the first round of regionals at Lowell High School on Wednesday (2/13). If they win, they will face the winner of Middleville-Thornapple Kellogg and East Grand Rapids for the regional championship. Meet time is 6:00 pm. For the individual regionals, the 13 placers will go to Fruitport on Saturday, starting at 9:30 pm.

Lowell's youngest wrestlers will also be wrestling prior to that meet on Wednesday. The Mighty Arrows, ages 4-6, will compete with each other, with one-minute matches beginning at 4:45 pm.

- SOCCER

Foote signs with GVSU soccer team

by Karen Jack

Senior Michelle Foote, a Lowell High School track and soccer star, signed with Grand Valley State University (GVSU) last week to play soccer for the team. At Lowell, Foote has started on varsity all four years, was named all-conference and all-district for three of those years and was all-state her junior year.

Foote is also an excellent track runner as well, being named all-conference and the top performer for the 100m dash.

She's played for the Grand Rapids Crew soccer club for the past three years, which is made up of the very best players from West Michigan. Foote credits a lot of her success to the coach of that team, Jeff Brown. "He helped me develop my skills to a much higher level over the past three years," said Foote.

Foote says she's also excited to get started and looks forward to working with GVSU coach Dave Diianni. "He's another great coach and a very big reason why I chose GVSU over all the other schools," added Foote.

When asked why she chose GVSU other than another school, Foote says she always knew she'd go there, because she followed the team and their accomplishments over the past couple of years, so much so, that she gave them a verbal commitment last February, then officially signed last week. Preseason training starts in August, with the season officially starting in September. "I have to keep myself in shape over the next several months in order to be ready to play at my highest level and will continue to play for the Crew this summer

to keep me sharp for my college season," said Foote.

"I'm really looking forward to getting started there. I like my teammates and new coach, so that

makes it even more exciting for me."

Foote currently plays with two of her future GVSU teammates on the Crew club team.

Foote is the daughter of Mark and Debi of Lowell and has an older brother, Garet. She holds a 3.5 grade point average, is on the

honor roll and is a member of the varsity club, Ladies Ensemble and international club.



Michelle Foote has signed to play soccer at Grand Valley State University.

Red Arrow SPORTS

- GYMNASTICS

Gymnasts beat East Kentwood but fall to Rockford

by Karen Jack

The girls' gymnastics team started the week off losing to Rockford, but came back and beat East Kentwood to split the week in wins and losses.

In the Rockford meet, Meghan Plutschow led the team on the vault with 8.85, followed by Lauren DeHaan with 8.8 and Bethany Kaczanowski with 8.6. Kaezi Bladey led the team on the bars with 7.75, followed by DeHaan

with 7.675 and Sarena Wilterdink with 7.3. On the beam, DeHaan led with 8.6, followed by Kaylee Wold with her personal best score of 8.45 and Jorie Bennett and Bladey, both with 7.8. Kaczanowski led on the floor exercise with 8.3, followed by DeHaan with 8.25 and Bladey with 8.15.

Top all-around scorer for the team was DeHaan with 33.325.

Wednesday night was senior night for the Lowell

gymnasts and with only one senior on the team, the girls all got up and said something about their teammate, Jorie Bennett. They honored Bennett with a win against East Kentwood.

Plutschow led the team on the vault with 8.75, followed by DeHaan (8.7) and Kaczanowski (8.5). DeHaan led the team on the bars with 8.025, her personal best; followed by Bladey (7.9) and Wilterdink (7.65). Plutschow had her

personal best on the bars with 7.4. DeHaan led the scores on the beam with 8.45, followed by Bennett with 7.85 and Wold with 7.7. On the floor, DeHaan led with 8.63, followed by Bladey with 8.35 and Wilterdink with 8.3.

The all-around leaders were DeHaan with 33.775, Plutschow with 31.4 and Danielle Krajewski with 30.425. This is the first time Krajewski competed in the all-around.

Senior Bennett continued her run on the beam, as she's competed on the beam eight times this year and stuck all her routines, meaning she has never fallen off the beam during her routine. According to coach Michele DeHaan, "That's an amazing feat and I have never heard of anyone doing that in my 19 years of coaching. We're going to miss her when she's gone."

The Arrows travel to Kenowa Hills on Wednesday, Feb. 13 starting at 7 pm, then compete at conferences on Friday at Rockford. Meet time has not been announced.



Lauren Browning takes a leap on the beam.



LUNCH MENU

ELEMENTARY MENU
Week of
Feb. 17, 2013

- MON:** No School.
- TUES:** BBQ Pork ribbie on WG bun & baked beans (Bosco bread sticks & green beans served at Bushnell)
- WED:** Hot ham & cheese on a WG bun (WG mini corn dogs served at Bushnell), steamed carrots, fruit & veggie bar: romaine side salad, watermelon slices, mandarin oranges, mixed fruit.
- THURS:** Sloppy joe scoops (WG breaded chicken nuggets served at Bushnell), baked beans, fruit & veggie bar: fresh red pepper strips, broccoli florets, applesauce, valentine jello.
- FRI:** Homemade cheese pizza, seasoned corn, fruit & veggie bar: romaine side salad, cucumber slices, peaches, pineapple.

- BASKETBALL

Boys drop two while the girls split for the week

by Karen Jack

The boys' basketball team had an off week, losing to Jenison 55-44 and Forest Hills Central 53-49; while the girls beat Jenison in an overtime squeaker 55-54 and lost to Central 57-45.

If the boys' Jenison game was only counted for the second half, the game would have ended in a tie. The first quarter, they were only trailing by four, but were outscored in the second quarter by seven. Those two differences is what made the game. They came out blazing in the third quarter, and cut the lead to five, but couldn't hold on in the fourth, being outscored by five.

Grant Noskey led the scorers with 15, followed by Jason Malling with 13.

Forest Hills was a barnburner from the beginning, with Lowell leading at the end of the first quarter by two. Both



Jason Malling takes the ball down the court.

teams scored 10 points in the second quarter and Central outscored Lowell by only one point in the third quarter. Central was leading by two with only 25 seconds left in the game. Lowell's shot to tie the game was blocked and then Lowell fouled Central, which led to the final score of Central winning by four.

Austin Lemke led scoring in that game with 14, followed by Malling and Noskey, both with 11.

Coach Kyle Carhart said Lemke played probably the best game. "He did a great job protecting the rim and around the basket. It was good to see him get some success. He blocked shots, made hustle plays and did a much better job finishing around the rim," stated Carhart.

The girls' team started off slow against Jenison, being outscored by seven

in the first quarter, but with adjustments turned it around, outscoring Jenison by 10 in the second quarter. Going into halftime ahead by three, they somehow lost steam in the third quarter and were outscored by 12. Starting the fourth quarter down by nine, the girls picked up that steam and outscored Jenison by nine to tie up the game and send it into overtime. Lowell was too much for Jenison and scored seven points to their six. Aubreigh Steed led the scorers with 18 points and 13 rebounds, followed by Kate Montgomery with 12 and Jessica Montgomery with nine. Sarah Oesch also had 10 rebounds.

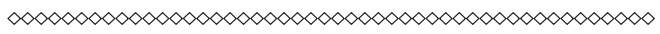
"We've been really surprised by Sarah Oesch this season in ability to rebound and get us some

Basketball, continued, page 16

obituaries

O'CONNOR

Francis 'Frank' Thomas O'Connor, was born September 23, 1927 to Raymond and Minnie O'Connor (Klawikowski) in Chicago, Illinois. He attended Luther High School in Luther, Michigan. Frank proudly served in the U.S. Marine Corps in World War II. He was employed by Norge Div. Borg Warner and later E.H. Sheldon in Muskegon, Michigan. He retired from the State of Michigan Reformatories in Ionia, Michigan. Frank was married December 31, 1953 to Hazel Chase in Muskegon, Michigan. Surviving are his wife Hazel, his son James O'Connor and daughter Patricia O'Connor. Also surviving are special friends James Haralson and family of Bellevue, MI. He was predeceased by his parents and two brothers Edward and Raymond and one sister Marge. Funeral services held Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. Interment at Elbridge Township Cemetery in Hart, MI.



— LEGAL NOTICE —

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT**

**PUBLICATION OF
NOTICE OF HEARING**

FILE NO. 13-193360-DE

In the matter of **IRENE MAY SAYLES**.
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including: Kenneth E. Sayles, Delbert Sayles, and Penny M. Sayles whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on March 1, 2013 at 9:00 am at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: on the petition of Helen McConner for the appointment of a personal representative for the estate of Irene May Sayles, and on the petition of John D. Flynn for authority to give a deed in fulfillment of a land contract.

02/11/2013

John D. Flynn (P27413)
1275 Hawthorne Hills SE
Ada, MI 49301
616-897-6632

Helen McConner
1621 Old Town Rd. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT**

**NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate**

FILE NO. 12-193092-DE

Estate of **DAN RICHARD DAVIS**. Date of birth: 05/02/1918.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Dan Richard Davis, who lived at 843 Collindale Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan died 11/14/2012.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Phillip Davis, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

February 6, 2013

Jennifer M. Racine (P69709)
4060 Chicago Drive
Grandville, MI 49418
616-530-2332

Phillip Davis
833 Collindale Ave. NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-252-9516

To The Editor, continued

They lack the skills and experience to overcome failure and cope. Some of these people will lash out.

I think Mr. Dudeck's statement, that even with the best-trained person, when things go bad it's natural to hit the dirt. Everyone will do that, it's a common built-in survival instinct no matter your profession.

And Mr. Dudeck's statement about saving the kids or heading to the gun locker - What?! From the teachings of Col. Grossman, society is generally grouped into three categories: the sheep, the wolves and the sheepdogs. We need to ask ourselves this, when the wolf (criminal) comes breaking down the door, what will you be? A sheep (prey) or the sheepdog (protector)? After the initial shock, I will get off the ground and confront the wolf. My point, the teacher better be wearing that firearm. What good will a gun be in a locker? By Mr. Dudeck's own statement, the killer is committed and strikes without warning. The gun should be concealed and readily available to be effective. And as far as adults being targeted, adult staff will always be a target because they offer the most resistance. As for me, if the

wolf wants the sheep, he will have to eat me first!

Teacher compensation, training and liability seems be a big concern of Mr. Dudeck. He asks who purchases the gun, what caliber, training, how often, and who insures the teacher. He asks whether teachers will receive extra compensation, extra insurance, be judged on their shooting skills and who will be held liable for accidents or alleged insufficient training? These are all legitimate questions to be asked. But they are not hard ones to answer. These are questions that any law enforcement agency can assist a school district with. The big question he asks, "What do you do with a teacher who actually fires a gun in a classroom?" If it's to save my kid from being killed, give them a medal! Carrying a gun is a huge responsibility, one not to be taken lightly. A person, a teacher, a cop who exercises their second amendment right must be mentally prepared for such an occurrence. There have been many cops who've used their gun in the line of duty and then chose to retire or change professions. This is not uncommon. Being

armed is an examination of conscience, faith and experience. As far as actual cost, yes it could be expensive, but how much is life worth?

Mr. Dudeck believes the way to "begin" to reduce mass shooting is to get the AKs, AR-15s and the like off the street. Which street? I've been in law enforcement for 18 years and the nearest thing to an assault weapon I've "taken" off the street was a loaded .22 caliber rifle from under the seat of a pickup. I know officers from across the state from instructing with the WMCJTC; I've yet to hear about an AR15 wielding criminal.

No matter the tool, it's not the gun/knife/weapon, the user is the problem.

The school and teachers are part of the process of prevention and deterrence. The schools must be secure, one point of entry; someone there to verify who is coming in; doors locked at all times when school is in session; a working public address system (PA) throughout the school to give a warning; lockdown drills taken seriously by all staff and reprimands for those who do not. Make the school a hard target as opposed to an easy one. We cannot have an "it won't happen here attitude." These school shootings aren't

happening in the big cities, they are happening here in rural America. Many a cop and soldier have gotten hurt or killed with a complacent attitude. Simply being vigilant and prepared can go a long way towards having a safe learning environment.

Mr. Dudeck ends his argument by saying that those who support the right to keep and bear arms, or in his terms, the "right-wing... gun lobby," hide behind the second amendment. No, Mr. Dudeck, we "gun-toting, right-wing lunatics," as you have called us, are responsible law abiding citizens who are standing up for our constitutional rights: the right to protect ourselves and our families. If our school district chooses to adopt a policy that allows those teachers or staff to conceal/carry and it's carried out in a responsible and safe manner, so be it.

Unfortunately at this time in our history it may come to that. An active shooter incident will come without warning; it happens rapidly and aggressively; and that designated teacher may be the only thing that keeps the wolf at bay and saves the lives of your students. When it's a matter of seconds, the police are only minutes away.

Christopher Hurst
Sparta, MI

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

NOTICE OF MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The March board of review of Vergennes Township will meet at the Vergennes Township Hall on:

MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2013
3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

and

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2013
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

for the purpose of reviewing the tax roll and hearing all claims.

You may appeal your assessed valuation one of two ways:

To appear at the Board of Review, call on Monday or Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., (616) 897-5671, to schedule an appointment.

OR

2.) By * letter addressed to:
Vergennes Township/Assessor
10831 Bailey Dr.
P.O. Box 208
Lowell MI 49331

***Letters must be received before March 8, 2013**

Mari C. Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Financial gift ideas for long-time Valentines

Love is in the air this week, as Valentine's Day rolls around again. During the course of your life, you've probably sent your share of flowers and candy. But if your valentine is also your spouse — and, in particular, your long-time spouse — you may want to go beyond roses and chocolates this year to give

a gift that can help lead to financial security.

You can choose to make financial gifts in a number of ways, of course, and some of them could provide an immediate financial impact. But you may want to look even further down the road and consider what you can do for your spouse in the areas of insurance planning

and estate considerations.

For starters, do you have sufficient life insurance to help provide for your spouse and any children who may not yet be adults? Many people rely solely on their employers' group insurance, which is often insufficient to adequately cover all the costs associated with maintaining their families' lifestyles — not to mention future costs, such as paying for college. How much life insurance do you need? There's no one right answer for everyone, so you may wish to consult with your financial advisor.

Life insurance isn't the only type of protection you need to consider — because you don't have to

die to lose your income. In fact, statistically speaking, you are more likely to become disabled during your working years than you are to die — which is why you need adequate disability income insurance. Your employer may provide disability coverage, but, as was the case with life insurance, it may not be sufficient. So you may also need to consider adding a private policy.

While it's important to maintain adequate life and disability insurance, it's still not enough to ensure your spouse will be taken care of if he or she outlives you. You also need to ensure that your estate plans are in order.

Toward that goal, you will need to work with your legal advisor to create the necessary legal documents, such as a will, a living trust, a durable power of attorney or whatever other arrangements may be appropriate for your situation. In generating your estate plan, you must consider many factors: the amount of assets you have, how you want them divided, when you would like them distributed, and so on. In any case, estate planning can be complex, so you will need to work with your legal and tax advisors before putting any strategy into place.

Life insurance,

disability income insurance and an estate plan don't sound like particularly romantic gifts. And you can't really just "give" them on Valentine's Day because it will take some time to assemble the insurance coverage and estate planning arrangements you need. But if you haven't fully worked on these key parts of your financial strategy yet, perhaps Valentine's Day will be a good time to start — because once you've got all your protection needs and estate planning taken care of, you're really giving your valentine some gifts that are designed to last a lifetime.

National Parks, continued

kids were able to swim, the grocery store was a short walk for us to stock up on supplies and a great little restaurant across the street served some great micro beers (this author's favorite spot)!

hurry (not that it would have helped), due to the language barrier. All I could do was sit and watch as this poor man loaded the mini van with chairs, tent, coolers and grill while his family of a wife and two children sat in the

The end of the road is the beginning of a paved mile trail further into the canyon. The trail hugs the bank of the Virgin River until there is no bank to hug. At this point, you are forced to enter the river to go any

down, which could take two days and the need for a back country permit. If you plan to hike the full length of this very narrow canyon, you should be very aware of flash flooding. You would not be able to get out of this canyon during a flash flooding event.

When the temperature outside is over 100 degrees and the relative humidity is about 10 percent, it does not take long for wet clothes to dry. The one-mile walk on the paved trail from the river to the shuttle stop was all the time needed to dry out. A stop at the Zion lodge on the way back to the campground allowed us to get our Zion Narrows t-shirt, ice cream for the kids and an ice cold Polygamy Porter for myself.

It took most of the night for a tent to cool down from an inside high of 100 degrees. What is it that people say? "It's a dry heat." Well, I'm here to tell you that's a load of baloney! It is just down right hot and impossible to sleep. Not to mention the amount of ice you go through in the cooler, we were really starting to miss our trailer with the refrigerator and AC unit.

The third full day in the park Dillon and I set off to hike Angels Landing. Stephanie and Sierra decided to go into Springdale and find a gift shop with air conditioning. The women passed on this hike after watching a short film in the visitors' center. Angels Landing is a five-mile round-trip hike with an elevation gain of about 1,500 feet. The fact that six people had fallen to their death since 2004 did not help matters any. It took a while to convince mom to let Dillon come with me.

The hike up to an area called Scout Lookout is along a paved path with a series of switchbacks. The remaining half mile is a very strenuous climb along a very narrow ridge, sometimes less than ten feet wide. To make matters worse is the fact that on each

side of this ridge the drop was over 1,400 feet to the canyon floor. It did help that the park service has a chain that allows you to hold as you ascent. However, the real problem is that we had to come back the same way as others were still going up. At times, this created a real bottleneck where one party had to let go of the chain and let the other pass. There were moments when Dillon was quite terrified. To his credit he made it to the summit and back down without ever letting go of the chain.

The view from the top was spectacular. We were able to see just how narrow Zion canyon was. 1,500 feet below us was the Virgin River and the scenic drive that follows along its east bank. However, our sightseeing time was short-lived. The day was heating up and the summit was becoming crowded. We had over two miles left to hike and it was all downhill.

One thing I learned hiking down from Angels

Landing is that I am not thirty years old anymore. Another thing is that I should not try to keep up with my nine-year-old son. With every downhill step I could feel my knee giving out. By the time we made it back to the bus stop I could barely walk. Even walking on the level ground was painful. Less than one week into our two-week vacation, 1,800 miles away from home in a state that only sold 3.2 beer, I was beginning to see a hotel room in our future. But, I just had to survive one more night in a 100-degree tent at Zion.

With everyone's help and a few ibuprofen, we broke camp early the next day. It was a relatively short drive to Bryce Canyon National Park. And it was there that my vacation plans started changing...along with my mobility. With Bryce Canyon, Capital Reef and Lake Powell still on the itinerary, I will need another week to let you know how everything turns out. Stay tuned.



After a peaceful night of sleep at the hotel, the scramble for campsites started at 8 am. We drove through looking for any sites that had been vacated already. And, with dozens of other hopeful campers driving the loops looking for the same thing, it became a race to find one quick. A campsite near the river would be ideal since the temperature that day was to break 100 degrees. Unfortunately, everyone wanted the same type of site. Stephanie was quick to point out a family that looked as if they were packing up at a large site near the river with ample shade. It was at that time I felt like a vulture waiting to swoop down on my prey and looking to fight off any enemy coming close to my territory. At the same time, I noticed that the current tenant of my campsite shifted into low gear. I just knew he was getting great pleasure watching the vultures circle, waiting to land.

I was unable to tell this extremely slow packer not to

van watching. It really was quite entertaining to watch. Stephanie and the kids were on their bikes checking out the campground. I was protecting my territory, even though it had not officially been turned over to me, waiting for the opportunity to put up a tent.

Finally, our home for the next four days was set up. Time to explore the area. We were able to walk to the visitors' center even though it was very hot. The cooling effect of the Virgin River was very welcoming.

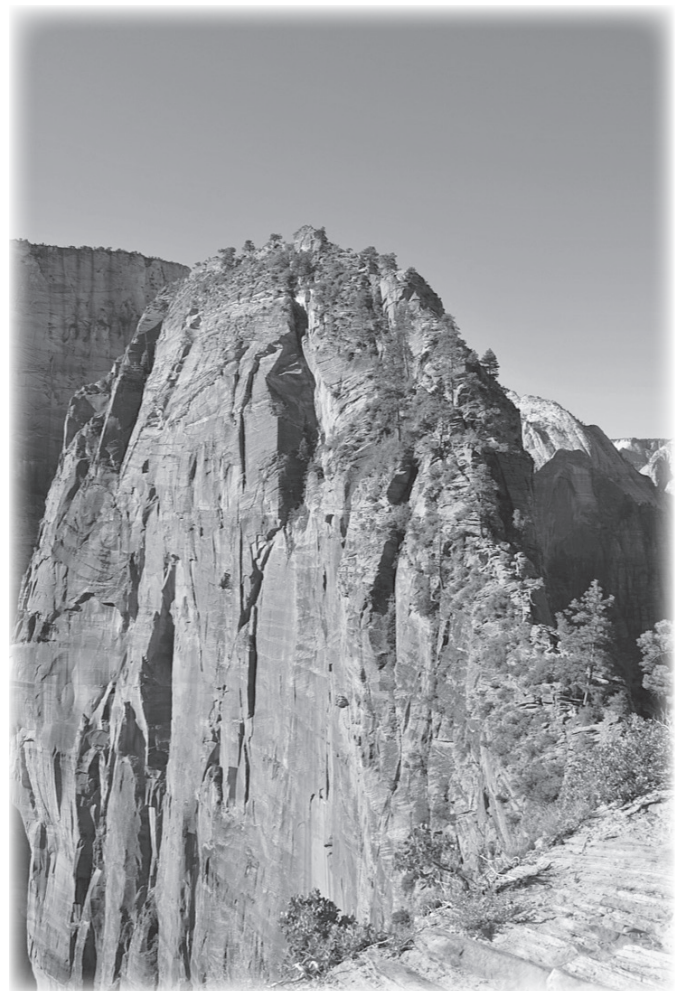
Zion is a very narrow canyon carved out by the Virgin River. With hundreds of thousand of visitors every year, the national park service has established a shuttle bus service in and out of the canyon. This service is very convenient and very helpful. Buses leave the visitors' center every 10 minutes. And all hikes in the canyon start with a bus ride.

The best known hike in Zion is The Narrows. This was our first hike on day two. The bus takes you into the ever narrowing canyon.

further. On the hot day that we were experiencing this hike, the river was very refreshing. Most of this hike is in the river. A few times we were able to walk on the very rocky shore, but other times we were walking in waist deep water. It was a challenge to get Sierra to walk in the places where the water was nearly to her neck.

As the walls rose two thousand feet above us they also closed in, narrowing more and more. At mile two, a large boulder blocked the left shore. This created a deep pool in the river giving us the opportunity to jump off and swim. I knew this was possible because everyone else in the canyon was making the 10-foot jump. Stephanie would not have let Dillon and me leap into the river had she not seen other people doing it.

The hike up the Virgin River to The Narrows was one of our best national park hikes. We turned around after about three miles walking up river. This hike can be made from the top



THEME: U.S. PRESIDENTS

ACROSS

- 1. Ruler sides, e.g.
- 6. Toward the stern
- 9. Hit the bottle
- 13. "La traviata" composer
- 14. Tokyo, formerly
- 15. *First President to resign
- 16. One of three hipbones
- 17. Bruin legend Bobby
- 18. Some tournaments
- 19. *First to be assassinated
- 21. Protests
- 23. Corn spot
- 24. Mischievous Scandinavian god
- 25. Actress ___ Gasteyer
- 28. Famous Christmas guests
- 30. As much as necessary
- 35. Follows ding?
- 37. Sold in bars
- 39. "Tonight's ___ be a good night..."
- 40. Allege
- 41. *Andrew Johnson's tribulation, e.g.
- 43. Clever tactic
- 44. Bouncing off the walls
- 46. Sports award
- 47. Equal
- 48. Scraps
- 50. Brewer's kiln
- 52. Word for a nod
- 53. Second word of many fairytales
- 55. Poison ___
- 57. *First to have been divorced
- 60. *First Rhodes Scholar
- 64. Model-building wood
- 65. Boiling blood
- 67. Nobody
- 68. Open up
- 69. Belonging to us
- 70. Capital of Tunisia
- 71. Big first for a baby
- 72. Meaning literally "born"

CROSSWORD

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FEBRUARY 6 - FEBRUARY 12

- North Korea has once again performed a nuclear test. North Korea says it is a self-defense measure. The U.N. Security Council strongly condemned North Korea's nuclear test and pledged further action Tuesday, calling this latest defiant act "a clear threat to international peace and security."
- Pope Benedict XVI has resigned saying "before God, I have come to the certainty that my strengths, due to an advanced age, are no longer suited to an adequate exercise" of leading the world's one billion Roman Catholics. He will resign on Feb. 28, becoming the first pope to do so in six centuries.
- Former Los Angeles police officer, Christopher Dorner, is still at large one week after allegedly killing three people and threatening more. Dorner, who was fired from the police force, left a lengthy manifesto on Facebook threatening several people and their families.
- A funeral procession with a motorcade of 200 vehicles for slain former Navy SEAL Chris Kyle was held Tuesday morning. Kyle and his friend Chad Littlefield were killed at a Texas gun range by Iraq war veteran Eddie Routh, who had recently been diagnosed with PTSD. The outings at the gun range with Routh were intended to be therapeutic.

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*National average annual savings based on data from customers who reported savings by switching to Esurance between 1/1/10 and 5/19/10.

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73. Cancel, as in correction, pl.

DOWN

- 1. *Reagan's description of Soviet Union
- 2. Hero place
- 3. Smiley face
- 4. Something concluded
- 5. Arabian sand-laden wind

- 6. Quite a stretch
- 7. *First to appear on black-and-white TV
- 8. Body center
- 9. Cone-shaped quarters
- 10. Farm team
- 11. French-American soprano Lily ___
- 12. Ensign, for short
- 15. Paying close attention
- 20. Minimum
- 22. *First to appear on color TV
- 24. CIA connection, e.g.
- 25. *First to live in White House
- 26. Star bursts
- 27. Beside, archaic
- 29. *Clinton's number two
- 31. "My bad!"
- 32. Untwist a rope
- 33. Garden creature
- 34. *Rutherford ___
- 36. "True ___," starring John Wayne
- 38. Pop
- 42. Disinfectant brand
- 45. Courtney Cox's character
- 49. Hot springs resort
- 51. Contaminates or corrupts
- 54. Tear jerker
- 56. Type of whip
- 57. Deliver a tirade
- 58. Dresden's river
- 59. Hurry up!
- 60. Wrap in waxy cloth
- 61. Voice quality
- 62. "Get ___!"
- 63. "The Untouchables" leader
- 64. *Presidents Obama and Bush both campaigned from one
- 66. Street in Paris

Puzzle Solutions on page 12

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.



CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The offices of Lowell City Hall, Lowell Police, Light and Power and the Department of Public Works will be closed on Monday, February 18, 2013 in observance of President's Day.

ALSO

Due to President's Day, the Lowell City Council meeting will be on Tuesday, February 19, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.



Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

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 seriously funny.
 MARCH 7-17, 2013

GARY VALENTINE

Sunday, March 17 @ 7:00p
 Lowell High School Performing Arts Center
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Valentine is best known for his nine seasons as "Cousin Danny" on the hit CBS sitcom, *The King of Queens*. As well as appearing on screen, he co-wrote a few episodes, which he claims...are the best.

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CLEAN COMEDY SHOWCASE



Check out the full list of showcases, talent and events at:
laughfestgr.org

All proceeds will benefit the free cancer, grief and support programs offered through Gilda's Club Grand Rapids.



Basketball, continued

tough shots. Early in the season she wasn't playing much at all and then she just got better and better at practice and it really has shown in the games," said head coach Jake Strotheide.

In the Central game, the girls lost steam in the fourth quarter. Trailing only by two, they managed to give up 21 points to their 11 in the quarter, to lose 57-45. The high scorer for that game was Steed with 19 points.

Strotheide has been impressed with not only Steed's performance, but Kate Montgomery's as well. "Aubreigh Steed and Kate Montgomery for the most part have been our go-to scorers. They do such a great job attacking the basket and finishing tough shots. They're doing a better job getting their teammates open for easy shots and I think that's been a big part of our success. Aubreigh has been one of the better

post players in the league this season and I still believe that she has so much more left in the tank to get better at all parts of her game. We are very excited to have her for another year to develop."

Both teams travel to East Grand Rapids on Friday, with game time starting for the boys at 6 pm. The girls follow 20 minutes after the end of the boys' game, at approximately 7:45 pm.

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