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The Clarkston News

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Volume 16, Number 13, 1988

Friday, July 15, 1988

Builders keep busy in township

BY JULIE CAMPE
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Building in Independence Township was strong in the first half of the year but there were fewer new home permits than during the first six months of 1987.

"Overall, permit totals show us neck and neck (with 1987)," said Beverly McElmeel, director of the township building department.

So far in 1988, 264 permits were issued, compared to 275 for the first six months of 1987. Permits were issued for swimming pools, garages, decks, additions, new houses and new condominiums.

In the residential category, fewer permits were issued for new houses - 108, down from 142 in 1987, but 27 permits were issued for condominiums, up from 20 in 1987.

"We've traded residential for condos," McElmeel said.

In the commercial category, permits were granted for the remodeling of Pontiac Photo, the construction of Country Value Hardware, the addition of a spray booth at Clarkston Auto Body, the addition to Gott's Auto and the modification of the pavilion at Pine Knob Music Theatre.

The four remodeling projects and one new construction of this year are down from seven remodeling
(See BUILDING, Page 17)

Friday's concert for polka people

Polka music they want, and polka music they'll get for the third concert in Depot Park at 7 p.m. on Friday, July 15, in the month-long series sponsored by the Clarkston Area Chamber of Commerce.

"Due to popular demand, we are having polka music again," said Joan Kopietz, organizer of the Concerts in the Park. "It's happy music."

Jacob Raming and the Polk Leiders will provide the tunes that are lively enough to encourage some dancing in the park, she said.

The concerts are free, although those who wish to make donations can do so in the "Band-Aid" boxes found in area businesses. Soft drinks and popcorn are sold during the concerts to help pay expenses.

This year, for the first time in the series' nine-year history, clubs are helping the cause by staffing the refreshment stand and distributing programs. On July 15, members of the Waterford-Clarkston Business and Professional Women are providing the helping hands.

The park is located off Depot Road, adjacent to Clarkston Village Hall at 375 Depot.



Photo by Julie Campe

A PIGGY-BACK RIDE is just the right entertainment for Christy, 9, and Lindsay, 5, who played games as they watched their mother,

Sandy, play volleyball at Clintonwood Park on July 6. The Venezia family resides on Hatchery Road in Waterford Township.

Thomas leads board for year 9

BY PAT YOUNG
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Janet Thomas began her ninth year as school board president at the 1988 organizational meeting of the board on July 11. Thomas has served on the Clarkston board of education for 14 years.

"It's always gratifying to know you have the support of the board," said Thomas after the meeting. "They're all people I respect."

"Board members really do care about kids," she said. "You keep telling yourself that, hopefully, what you're doing will have a positive effect on education."

Mary Jane Chaustowich was named secretary, beginning her ninth year as secretary and board member. Elaine Schultz will again serve as treasurer, marking her sixth year as treasurer and board member.

John Needham, who was re-elected to a new four-

(See MEETING, next page)



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION: The top officials from Independence Township prepare to be interviewed July 7 by Clarkston News staff members Peter Auchter and Julie Campe at the United Cable public access studio on Waldon Road, Independence Township. From left, Supervisor Frank Ronk, Clerk Richard Holman and Treasurer John Lutz will appear on the show, produced by Gary Polley, scheduled for Channel 65 at 9:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, July 19 and 21. (Photo by Julie Campe)

The Clarkston News

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Meeting time moves up to 7:30 p.m.

(MEETING, from previous page)

year term on the board in June, was named vice president. He was out of town for the July board meeting, and will be sworn in as a board member at the August meeting. New board member Thomas Howard, also elected in June, was sworn in at the July meeting.

In addition to election of officers, board member appointments were made. Howard was named Oakland Schools designate, and Carolyn Place was named Oakland County School Boards Legislative Committee representative.

Superintendent Gary Haner's secretary, Sue Hubbard, is the assistant secretary to the board, and Clarkston schools Director of Business Services Bill Jackson

is the school elections administrator.

Salaries for board members will remain the same, \$30 per meeting, not to exceed 52 meetings per year.

The meetings were set to be on the second Monday of the month, the same as they have been, but the time was moved up half an hour. The school board will meet at 7:30 p.m. instead of 8 p.m.

Regular meetings will be in the administration building, 6389 Clarkston Rd. The building was also established as the "principal office," the designated building for posting notices, meeting times and other items of public interest.

The next regular school board meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 8, in the administration building.

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Drought drags on, roads get dustier

BY JULIE CAMPE
Clarkston News Staff Writer

The record-breaking hot weather this summer has affected more than just sweltering humans and the parched earth.

Dust from dry, dry dirt roads is permeating the nearby homes; pets and humans are endangered when their caretakers leave them in automobiles; and grass fires are springing up at the flick of a cigarette butt.

The dry weather affects almost everything, according to officials from Independence Township.

George Anderson, director of the township department of public works, said the voluntary sprinkler ban is still in effect. Residents were asked to water their lawns only every other day, he said.

"So far, it's worked," Anderson said. "We haven't had any real complaints. ... It's not that severe a thing to ask."

The water table was checked the first week in July and was found to be consistent with levels two years ago, so there's no immediate danger to the water tables as long as residents use water sparingly, he said.

A townshipwide ban on burning is in effect, too, said Fire Chief Gar Wilson. Most people are heeding the warnings, but, still, fires spring up frequently, he said.

Cigarettes tossed from vehicles on major highways appear to cause most of the grass fires, but one fire was classified as arson July 8 and 9, he said.

About 10 p.m. Friday, a pile of tires and junk was reported burning behind the weigh station on I-75 off of Clintonville Road.

Firefighters worked for four hours containing the fire, and it reignited or was deliberately reset again on Saturday, he said.

"But most of the people are abiding by the rules and not burning," he said.

During a July 5 township meeting, Trustee Daniel Travis asked residents on dirt roads to drive slowly to prevent the dust clouds from billowing into the nearby homes.

Although the roads have received a chloride treat-

ment, the dust inhibitor doesn't work well without moisture. He asked that residents sprinkle a little water on the surface of the dirt roads if they can spare it.

Trustee Dale Stuart asked the township to buy signs warning shoppers not to leave their children, their elderly or their pets inside automobiles because temperatures can quickly rise to above 100 degrees, even with a window cracked.

The signs should be displayed at the shopping centers in the area, he said.

Cars, too, react to excessive heat

Special care should be given to cars to prevent major problems in the heat, according to area automotive specialists.

It's much easier to prevent overheating than to pay for the damage from a hot engine afterward, said Alan Buchmann, owner of Drayton Car Care.

Most important, the antifreeze and coolant levels should be checked once every two weeks, he said.

"The hotter it gets, the hotter the engine runs, so they really need to keep an eye on that level," Buchmann said.

Next, drivers should make sure their engine belts are all working because they run the fans that help cool the engine.

He also recommends resisting the urge to use the air conditioning all the time.

"As hot as it is, in a traffic jam, I'd be very leery of running an engine with the air conditioner on," he said. "That can really cause a lot of damage. Overheating is the worse thing you can do to a car."

Another important prevention is the oil change - every 3,000 miles in hot weather, at which time the belts should be checked, he said.

If the car becomes overheated anyway, don't drive it, he said.

"If the engine light comes on, turn off the car immediately. Don't drive somewhere. Let it cool 10 minutes or so and try to drive somewhere to get it fixed," he said. "If the light comes on, stop and let it cool again."

Let the engine cool naturally, said Buchmann, adding water should never be poured onto an engine to cool it.

"It would break everything," he said. Some car parts are not affected, according to Chuck Rollins, an employee at Oakland Novus.

Heat doesn't adversely affect glass, so drivers shouldn't worry about that, he said.

"If a crack or a chip is already there, heat might affect it," he said, adding bumps or other big vibrations would do more damage than just heat.

"Cold has an effect," he said. "It's more likely to crack in the cold."

Similarly, cold has a worse effect on tires than does heat, said Mike Clancy, owner of AC Tire.

"When tires get hot, the air pressure inside actually increases three to five pounds. That doesn't cause a problem, the cold does," he said.

Heat, however, dries out the dashboard and other vinyl parts, causing them to crack, he said, suggesting the purchase of vinyl protectants.



Photos by Peter Auchter

HOT DRY WEATHER makes for a perfect outing to Deer Lake Beach Saturday afternoon for Independence Township residents who found the cool waters a perfect way to beat the heat. Britney Detkowski takes a whirl on an inflatable tube with her mother Cheri (above) while Travis Meier, 3, finds the warm beach more to his liking.

Mosquito shortage bad news for birds

Notice anything missing during these warm summer evenings this year?

The buzz, buzz from mosquitoes is rarely heard these days because the pesky bugs breed in water, and water is in short supply, says Naturalist Kathleen Dougherty from Independence Oaks County Park.

Even puddles and shallow streams are missing, so mosquitoes have no place to lay eggs, she said.

Because mosquitoes are dinner for many birds, such as swallows, bluebirds and purple martins, some animals are having a hard time finding food, said Dougherty, who consulted the nature center staff about their combined information on the impact of the drought.

Birds sitting on their nests incubating eggs are having a difficult time getting water.

"It's the young and the old that are more affected than the middle-aged adults, as in our society," said Dougherty.

"It's quite dry. A lot of flowers out in the field that would normally be blooming are withering and drying up," she added.

That affects animals like the hummingbird, which depends on flowers and needs a lot of food to keep up with its high metabolism rate.

Animals that live beneath the ground are moving deeper to find moist earth, so robins and other birds can only find worms and grubs in freshly watered lawns or creek beds.

But most of the effects on nature can't be seen yet, said Dougherty. Plants that produce berries provide winter food for some animals. Also, younger and older animals have to travel farther to find water, and many young animals won't survive. These factors could mean fewer babies next year.

"It's going to have some long-term effects. Not only are people affected, but all of nature," she said. "I guess it shows that we're all dependent on the resources."

People should be informed, says road columnist

BY JULIE CAMPE
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Five years ago, Brent Bair moved to the quiet neighborhood of Lake Oakland Woods subdivision off Maybee Road in Independence Township.

Born and raised in Iowa, Bair liked the rural atmosphere of the Clarkston area and appreciated the easy access to the more populated areas of the state.

He and his wife, Linda, have enjoyed bike riding on the township safety paths, but, like other township resi-

dents, they're concerned about the pressure for development and rapid growth in Independence.

As chairperson of the township planning commission, an appointed position, Bair knows about all of the projects planned for the area, and he hears the concerns of residents.

People worry about the increasing number of accidents and the impact on the environment as the vacant land is steadily being developed, he said.

Bair also sees countywide problems in his position as director of planning and development for the Oakland

County Road Commission. People in Independence worry about the same problems plaguing such areas as West Bloomfield, Rochester and Rochester Hills.

"Clarkston-Independence Township is on the fringe of this growth and is going to see some of this," he said. "The residents ought to be informed of the facts and the impact of development."

Bair offered to share his expertise in a weekly column in The Clarkston News about road-related issues and issues facing the planning commission.

"I'm in a position to watch what's going on countywide," he said. "I'm observing a growing unrest in residents."

He named citizens groups formed to control growth in West Bloomfield and Rochester Hills. In Independence, Citizens for Orderly Growth (COG)

(See ROAD, Page 17)

The Roads We Travel

Traffic is like water

**Brent
Bair**

Here are a couple of questions I've heard from township and village residents:

"Cars cut through my subdivision and they speed; what can be done about it?" Also, "How can we keep trucks out of downtown Clarkston?"

If there were easy and effective solutions to either of these problems, they would have been long since implemented.

In regard to the first question, it should be noted that traffic is like water; it will seek the path of least resistance in reaching its destination. If cutting through subdivisions will save travel time, many people will try it. As the main roads become more congested, "short cuts" through subdivisions become more attractive.

A lot of methods have been tried to curb both traffic volumes and speed, including speed bumps, stop signs, speed prohibitions, one-way streets and enforcement.

Stop signs are the most often suggested method. A before and after radar study in Troy, however, found that the speeds of vehicles actually increased between the stop signs as drivers tried to make up lost time.

I have also been told by officers that when they crack down on drivers in a particular subdivision, the most common violators of the speed limit, or of running stop signs, are the residents of the subdivision themselves!

Closing the road in the middle will eliminate cut-through traffic and slow speeds, but it then complicates matters for emergency vehicles and makes getting around less convenient for the residents.

Traffic engineers continue to look for better solutions to this problem.

The most common method of prohibiting truck traffic is through weight restrictions. Seasonal weight

restrictions are commonly placed on many roads that were not constructed to handle the heavier weights during periods of freezing and thawing.

Most state highways, such as M-15 through Clarkston, however, were designed to be "all-weather" routes capable of handling trucks all year long.

Banning all trucks would cause problems for delivery trucks, snow plows and other emergency vehicles. Legal counsel would probably suggest that selectively banning trucks would be subject to challenge, unless sound justification such as damage due to weight is provided.

Another alternative is to establish special truck routes, although the concurrence of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) would be required, and no good alternate route appears to be available within Clarkston.

Any alternative route outside the village would have to be established by MDOT and/or the Oakland County Road Commission, and they would study the impact of such a change on their other roads.

Brent Bair is chairman of the Independence Township Planning Commission. His column on roads will appear weekly in The Clarkston News. Readers with road questions may write to him in care of The Clarkston News, 5 S. Main, Clarkston, MI 48016.



REVIEWING ORDINANCES is part of the job as a planning commissioner, and Chairperson Brent Bair heads the discussion at the July 7 meeting in the Township Hall annex.

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Candidate calls township home

BY JULIE CAMPE
Clarkston News Staff Writer

The first weekend in August, Richard Thompson plans to head up north to go sailing.

But until the Aug. 2 primary election, his every minute outside of work as chief assistant prosecutor in Oakland County will be filled with handshakes and smiles and speaking engagements.

The candidate for Oakland County Prosecutor has never campaigned for office, but he found it's not as difficult as it sounds.

"My only job is to meet the people," he says, adding his "very supportive" committee does all the rest.

"It took me several weeks getting used to being a candidate," he says. "At first, I thought, 'They're going to kick me off the doorstep,' but I have not had one bad situation."

His only complaint is the lack of time. Scheduled every day after work are speaking engagements, interviews or just door-to-door walking to talk to residents.

"It's important to get out there and meet people," he says.

Over the July 4 holiday weekend, Thompson appeared in parades in Southfield, Clawson, Oak Park and Milford. His wife, Marylyn Harty Thompson, also an attorney, represented him in the Clarkston parade.

Thompson, of Deerwood Road in Independence Township, moved to the area about eight years ago.

"It's ideal for me," he says. "When I come home from work, I want a nice quiet atmosphere, which I have."

Independence was a pleasant change from the Birmingham-Troy area where he lived before.

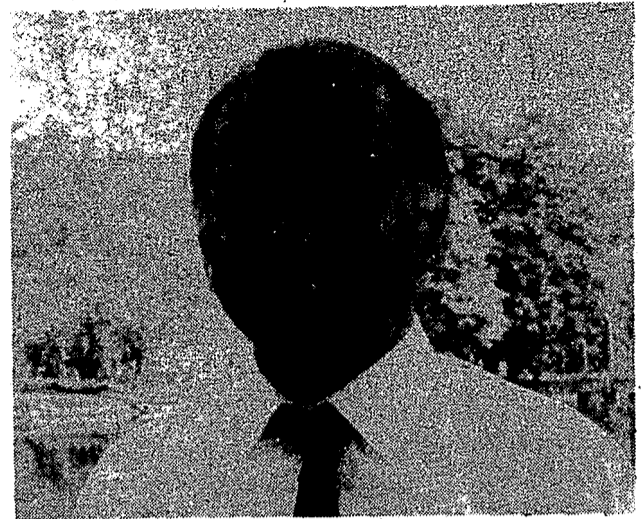
"The houses were very nice. It did not look like the typical suburb. It had hills and trees and a small town atmosphere. I like that," he says.

Thompson has received endorsements from Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson, with whom he's worked for 16 years, and Oakland County Sheriff John P. Nichols.

If elected, Thompson says he won't change anything but will continue the "tough" stance against crime that Patterson began.

"It's ideal for me. When I come home from work, I want a nice quiet atmosphere, which I have."

Richard Thompson



RICHARD THOMPSON'S campaign for Oakland County Prosecutor is in full swing.

The question most consistently asked by voters has been, "What's Brooks going to do?"

But Thompson takes it with a smile.

In answer to all the questions, he explains that Brooks is to join a private law firm in January and continue with his morning talk show.

Their interest in Patterson is a good sign, he says.

"Apparently, we've been doing the right thing. People want tough law enforcement," he says.

Street improvements to begin this week

Starting this week, residents on Eastview should have some relief from their dusty, pothole-filled road.

The tax assessment role was approved unanimously by the Independence Township Board in the last step before construction can begin in the second week of July.

The drainage and grade of the road off Maybee Road are to be improved in the paving process.

The improvements are required to change the private roads to public roads, which are maintained by the Oakland County Road Commission. Residents on private roads are responsible for snow removal, grading and dust control.

The cost of the improvements are to be paid for over 15 years by the residents, whose individual shares range from \$186.61 to \$319.90 per year.

Township engineer Tom Biehl noted that the dry conditions were excellent for road improvements, especially in low-lying areas that are usually plagued by drainage problems.

Neighboring Westview Road, also in the conversion process from private to public status, has been delayed at Oakland County Circuit Court because three property owners objected to the change.

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Opinions

Changing attitudes

Kathy Greenfield



I've noticed a few things created by this incredible summer we're sweltering through.

Everyone's talking about what they're doing to beat the heat. Shopping and movie-going seem to lead the list.

I was actually eager to go to the grocery store last week, and I didn't have to do much talking to get my husband to join me.

The only problem was that I knew that everything would have to be loaded, unloaded and put away in the heat.

Still, I seriously thought about reading a few more labels while roaming the supermarket aisles. Once back into the parking lot, I really wanted to turn around and go back inside.

Air conditioning has never been one of my favorite inventions. When I lived in Virginia, I considered it an absolute necessity, though, and I have always been happy that such is not the case in Michigan.

In years past, I complained a lot about my freezing office that gets too cold while people with desks in the front of the building are too warm. Lately, I've found myself eager to get to work where I can cool off.

I was happy that my car did not come with air conditioning. Windows and a sun roof that opens have been fine. Until now.

Wouldn't it be nice to have some relief from watering flowers and lawns?

I was surprised last week when a robin joined me as I dumped water on our front lawn. Apparently the birds are desperate for food, enough so to make people less threatening as the worms move closer to the earth's surface during watering sessions.

Finally, after all these years of considering mosquitoes the most worthless insects on earth, I've come to appreciate their role in the feeding of birds.

If I had the choice of fewer mosquitoes only at the expense of fewer songbirds, I'd opt to tolerate the insect pests. There is no choice here, of course; mosquitoes are uncommon because of the drought and some birds, apparently, are hungry.

All this, however, has not made the distinctive sound of mosquitoes buzzing my ears more pleasant.

My dog has mastered the art of eating ice cream on a stick held by my husband, who always saves the last few licks for Brandy.

The sight continues to be surprising. My husband holding the stick, the dog carefully lapping his tongue around it as he keeps all possible drips from falling anywhere but in his mouth.

Brandy has also mastered the art of pestering to go down to the lake. An Irish setter, he's tall enough to get close to your face if you're sitting down.

Hot dog breath on muggy summer days works wonders in the begging department.

Letters to the Editor

Thanks for music

We would like to thank the Lake Orion High School Band for their concert in the park. It added greatly to our first picnic and cars in the park 4th of July show.

We would also like to thank owners for sharing their cars following the parade. It was very well received, and we hope to be back next year.

Jon Abbott, Co-chairman
Clarkston Touring and Chowder Society

Water protection

The drought we are experiencing draws attention to the need for abundant clean water supplies.

Water is a basic human necessity, as we well know, used for drinking, growing food, and to wash. Three-quarters of the earth is covered with water, yet usable fresh water is very scarce in the form of lakes, rivers, streams and aquifers.

Usable water is becoming increasingly scarce because sources of clean water are becoming contaminated by highly toxic industrial and commercial wastes.

Some of this is caused by illegal dumping, yet much of this is caused by temporary containments that fail to contain the toxic substances until they can safely decompose to non-toxic substances. The problem is, there is no system of checks and balances to maintain safe containment.

Permanent disposal is the only completely safe way to dispose of toxic wastes; however, it is expensive. The processes involve the application of decomposing bacteria, superheating, use of breakdown catalysts, petrification, and toxic waste absorption by atomic bonding minerals.

The result of contaminated water on our health is cumulative. The cumulative chemical actions on our bodies over years can cause or aggravate such serious diseases as cancer, leukemia and anemia. Some diseases may not show up for many generations in the future, from genetic damage to present generations.

Let us stop this needless human suffering. Elect responsible politicians that are concerned and can be trusted for the present and the future.

George Vitinoros
Candidate for Independence Township Trustee

Editorial

Music makers in the parade . . .

As I looked at the parade pictures I took throughout the July 6 paper, I realized none showed the bands which performed in the July 4 parade through Clarkston. Yet, I remember standing there, hot and sweaty with two cameras around my neck, watching them march by in the heat, never missing a beat.

What a tough job! They deserve credit. Not only did Clarkston High School Band perform, but Lake Orion Marching Band did, too. Lake Orion even performed later in Depot Park while the Clarkston Touring and Chowder Society cars were on display.

You use the pictures that turn out the best, but they don't always tell the whole story. It wouldn't be a parade without a band.

You did a good job, band members.
-Pat Young

We welcome our readers' opinions. Letters to the editor must arrive at The Clarkston News office by noon Monday to be considered for publication in Wednesday's paper. We reserve the right to edit all letters for brevity and clarity and to limit the number of letters from any one individual on any one topic. We discourage copies of letters sent elsewhere, and require all letters be signed and include a phone number and address. We may withhold names on request, but will not publish unsigned letters. Address all letters to: Letters to the Editor, The Clarkston News, 5 S. Main, Clarkston, MI 48016.



Jim Sherman

Jim's Jottings

I like bumper sticker logic, tea bag tag idioms and common sense facts of less than 10 words.

You know, sayings like: Happiness may be thought, sought, or caught—but not bought. Or quote: "You can't lead a horse from behind"—Ruth Shanahan.

But, I wonder if people would put the same sticker on their bumper when they change cars. Like the one that says, "I'd rather be golfing". There's no way I'd put a saying like that out for public display after the way I played last week.

I was humbled at Fox Hills in Plymouth. That was after being humbled at Oxford Hills and Indianwood in previous outings. Only once this summer would I have felt good about pasting on a "rather be golfing" sticker.

For a few hours I loved the game, and for those moments I give you the Ten Commandments for Golfers:

1. Thou shalt hold golfing in highest esteem—but ye shall not become neglectful of less important matters such as family and home.
2. Thou shalt not force thy wife nor anyone smaller than thee to carry thy clubs without sufficient remuneration.
3. Thou shalt not fake a broken leg nor a muscular seizure when thou slicest a ball into the rough.
4. Thou shalt not tee up thy ball when it lieth in the rough out of sight of thy fellow players.

5. Thou shalt not play thy opponent's ball just because it lieth closer to the green than thine.

6. Thou shalt not kick, shove, nudge, throw nor blow thy ball toward or into the cup.

7. Thou shalt not curse when thou toppest a ball nor when thou slicest a drive nor when thou landest in a sand trap (thou mayest, however, curse softly to thy self when thou hast lost more than four balls.)

8. Thou shalt not kick thy opponent's ball into, nor thy ball out of any sand trap.

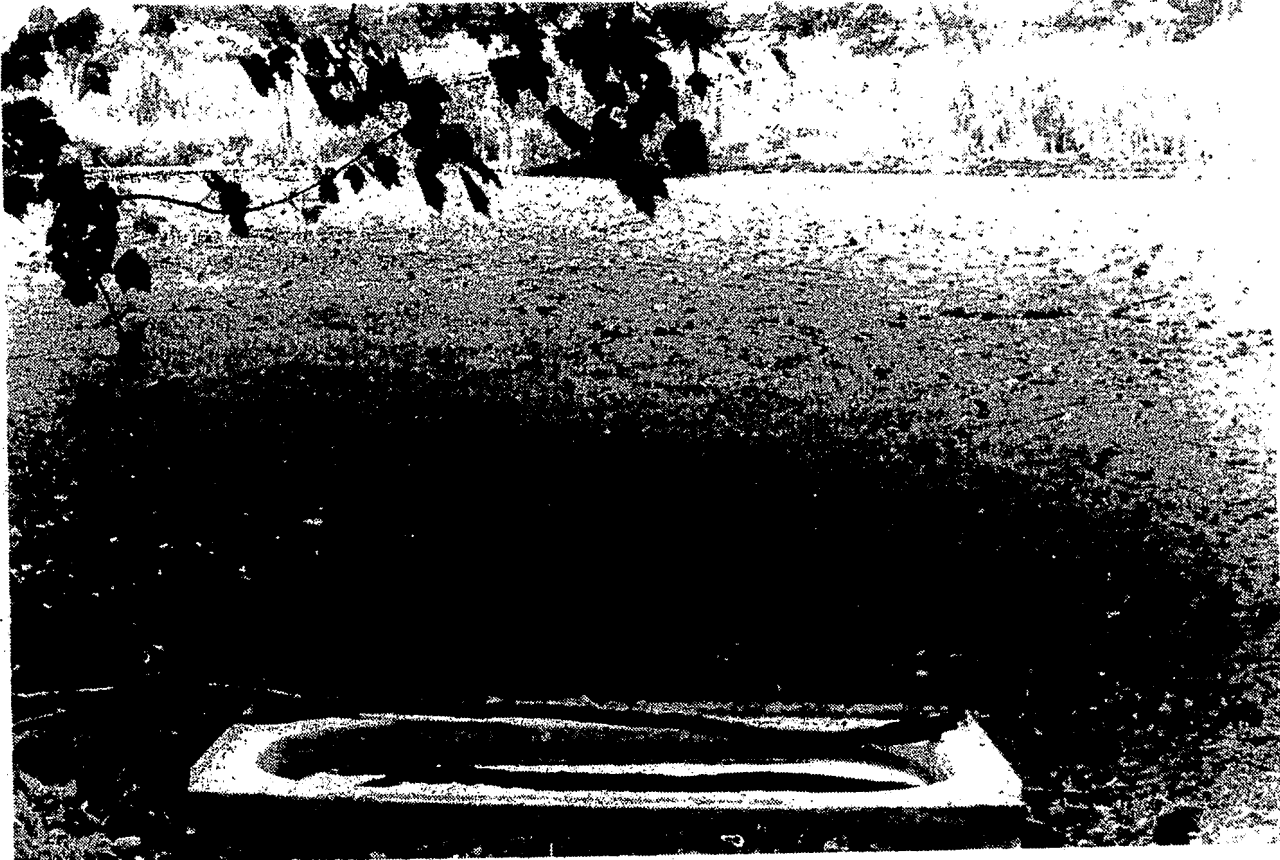
9. Thou shalt not wrap thy putter around thy golf bag, nor a tree, nor thy caddy's neck simply because thou missest a two foot putt.

10. Thou shalt not expound upon thy low score nor upon thy putting prowess to anyone excepting other golfers—they won't believe thee anyhow.

I also like so-called 'amazing facts', like: The average number of offspring per birth for an octopus is 200,000. Of these, only one or two will reach maturity and reproduce in turn.

And, water snakes are known to have as many as 99 young in one litter. A bolt of lightning is more than twice as hot as the surface of the sun. In China, bats are considered bearers of good luck, happiness, and long life. In the 1500's some English doctors thought spider and butter sandwiches could cure high fever.

Have a nice week.



MICHIGAN'S DROUGHT is hard on wildlife as well as people. The Blevins family, in an effort to help the animals who come to their dried up Independence Township pond in search of water, filled an old bathtub for them. (Photo by Pat Young)

How dry we are

COLORFUL UMBRELLAS to ward off the hot sun were the norm at Clarkston High School for those fans of a Pony League game between Ozzie Jackson Real Estate and the Blue Ribbon Group Saturday evening. (Photo by Peter Auchter)



'If it Fitz...'

Walls should fall at Pentagon

Jim Fitzgerald



"It is as I have long suspected: Reagan's head is strangely positioned."

That comment came from reader J. Ryskamp of Caledonia. He was referring to something former White House aide Michael Deaver said about the way President Ronald Reagan's posture affects his thinking.

According to Hedrick Smith's book, "The Power Game: How Washington Works," Deaver made the remark in 1985 after Reagan said something preposterous about South Africa: "They have eliminated the segregation that we once had in our own country."

Reagan said that in a radio interview by phone from his California ranch, while sitting down. The president's physical position was the problem, according to Deaver.

"You never let Ronald Reagan do an interview from his ranch," Deaver said. "He's relaxed . . . He should be standing up . . . The way he thinks changes when he sits down."

Perhaps Reagan had been sitting on his head too long when he said, concerning alleged bribery and fraud within the Pentagon: "I have to say it should be understandable about how such things can happen in something as big as our government is."

In other words, when a large bunch of government employees get together, some of them are sure to be crooks and there's nothing we can do about it.

Why? Why should I be expected to believe it's a law of nature that, say, a certain percentage of Pentagon procurement officers can't be trusted with my tax money?

I'd rather believe that if the people in charge did their job right, generals couldn't be crooked without getting caught - quickly. Most people alive today can't remember a time when there wasn't a terrible stench emitting from the relationship between the military and the defense industry. Is anyone old enough to chew really surprised by the current Pentagon scandal?

Reagan evokes a picture of bribe-takers squirreled away in private offices, making fraudulent deals with scant chance of some supervisor peeking over their shoulders and blowing the whistle. It's a huge problem crying out for a brilliant solution, and I have it:

No more private offices.

The Associated Press reported that Steelcase Inc. of Grand Rapids, the world's largest office furniture company, is promoting "the physical openness of the building" as the best way for big business to improve "group creativity."

"We're trying to provide as many opportunities as we can . . . for people to run into one another," a Steelcase executive said. "Research shows that 80 percent of professionals' ideas come from face-to-face communication."

Certainly it's likewise likely that the physical openness of a building would improve group honesty. Surely a

survey would show that procurement officers are less likely to accept bribes when face-to-face with co-workers eager to squeal on them.

So all inside walls should be removed from the Pentagon.

Most newspaper buildings, including the Free Press building, long ago adopted physical openness. Reporters work shoulder to nose in a huge city room, sharing desks and equipment with the stiff-lipped magnanimity born of having no damn choice. Rest rooms would be a problem at the Pentagon, but not insurmountable. In our city room, the rest rooms are enclosed, but there are no signs on the doors, and only veteran, trusted employees know where they are.

Along with the inside walls, all chairs should be removed from federal government buildings. This would send a message to skeptics who think it was dumb for President Reagan to say we should understand that dishonest employees are an inevitable part of big government.

The message would be that if all government employees have to remain standing in physical openness, they will be smart as well as honest. They won't have to worry about the way they think changing when they sit down and reveal strangely positioned heads.

Please don't be seated, Mr. President.

Sheriff's Log

Monday, July 4, a property owner was told to stop clearing the wetlands on his Deer Lake site off Deer Park Trail until he obtained a permit from the state Department of Natural Resources.

Monday, a wallet and \$25 cash were found on the side of Clarkston Road at Clintonwood Park, Independence Township.

Tuesday, two propellers worth \$625 were stolen from a boat on Sagamore, Independence Township.

Wednesday, moldings were stolen from a vehicle on Cramlane, Independence Township.

Wednesday, two vehicle tires worth \$300 were punctured with a sharp object at Bowman Chevrolet, Dixie Highway, Independence Township.

Wednesday, a \$500 radio was stolen from a vehicle on Oak Park, Independence Township.

Wednesday, a \$55 scooter was stolen from a residence on Oak Park, Independence Township.

Wednesday, \$3,500 worth of plumbing tools and fishing gear were stolen from a van and boat on Sunnyside, Independence Township. The thieves also caused about \$1,000 damage.

Thursday, children playing near Lake Oakland found a pistol in the water off Major Road, Independence Township.

Thursday, hood emblems were stolen from two vehicles on Pinewood and one vehicle on Cramlane, Independence Township.

Thursday, moldings were stolen from a vehicles on Cramlane and Almond Lane, Independence Township.

Friday, a boat was stolen from a residence on Indianwood, Independence Township.

Friday, a video cassette recorder and a microwave oven were found in a field off Michigamme, Independence Township.

Friday, gas exploded twice in the furnace room in a residence on Bigelow Road, Springfield Township, but the owner turned off the gas in time and nothing was damaged.

Friday, a 7-year-old boy spray-painted two motorcycles, a 1969 Corvette, three doors, a tractor, a boat and

a window at his neighbor's house on Sherwood Drive, Springfield Township. The boy's parents said they would pay for the damage.

Friday, emblems were stolen from a vehicle on Chappleview Drive, Independence Township.

Saturday, a Waterford resident received a ticket for failing to obey police orders when he attempted to turn left onto Clarkston Road off of Pine Knob Road following a Pine Knob Music Theatre concert. Police were directing all traffic right on Clarkston Road.

Saturday, a mailbox on Perry Lake Road, Independence Township, was blown apart by a firecracker.

Saturday, a tinted sunroof was stolen from a vehicle on Waldon Road, Independence Township.

Saturday, four teens received tickets for possession of alcohol at Pine Knob Music Theatre, Pine Knob Road, Independence Township.

Saturday, a \$19 purse and \$15 wallet were stolen from a locked vehicle at Pine Knob Music Theatre, Pine Knob Road, Independence Township.

Sunday, two vehicles were damaged at the Shell Gas Station, Ortonville Road, Independence Township.

Sunday, juveniles are suspected of taking a \$100 sign at Pine Knob Golf Course, Waldon Road, Independence Township.

The above information was compiled from reports at the Oakland County Sheriff's Department.

Dixie gun threat

A 45-year-old Holly man was charged with felonious assault July 11 after he allegedly pointed a gun at a Flint man following a traffic incident.

Richard Molina was arraigned Monday before Judge Gerald McNally at the 52nd District Court.

He was released on \$1,000 personal bond and is awaiting a July 15 preliminary hearing before McNally, said Detective Sgt. Doug Hummel of the Oakland County Sheriff's Department.

About 11:30 p.m. July 9, James Rice, 21, of Flint, was driving northbound on Dixie Highway, following a vehicle driven by his cousin.

Rice's cousin motioned for him to pull over, so they parked in the A & P parking lot at M-15, where the cousin told Rice another car was swerving next to her, trying to run her off the road.

Molina soon pulled in and got out of his car. Rice asked, "What's your problem?"

Molina allegedly answered by pulling a blue, steel pistol from his pant leg and threatening Rice and his cousin. Rice ran to his car, and Molina drove away.

Police traced the license plates and arrested Molina at Dixie Highway and Grange Hall Road, said Hummel.

Attacker takes ear

An 18-year-old Independence Township man lost part of his left ear July 10 when it was bitten during a fight at Pine Knob Music Theatre.

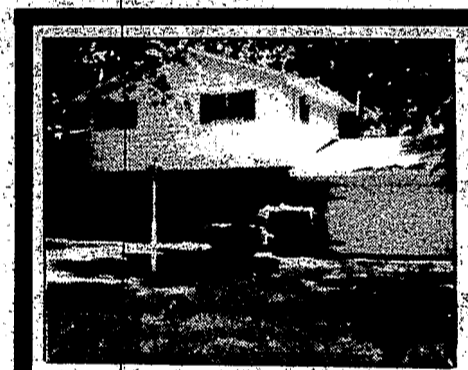
About 10 p.m. Sunday at the White Snake concert, Greg Fahr of Pinedale Road was walking up the hill when he was attacked by someone he knew, said Detective Sgt. Doug Hummel of the Oakland County Sheriff's Department.

Fahr, who was treated at Pontiac General Hospital, had not been questioned as of July 11, so the cause of the fight is not known, said Hummel.

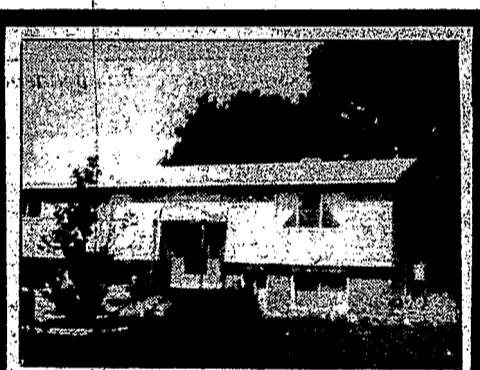
Charges against Fahr's attacker are pending an investigation, Hummel said.

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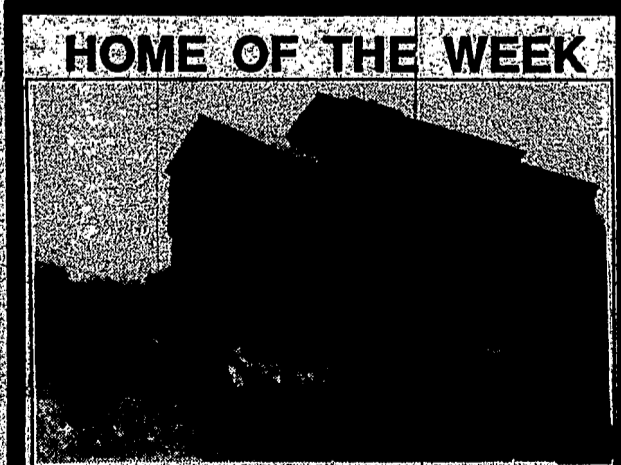


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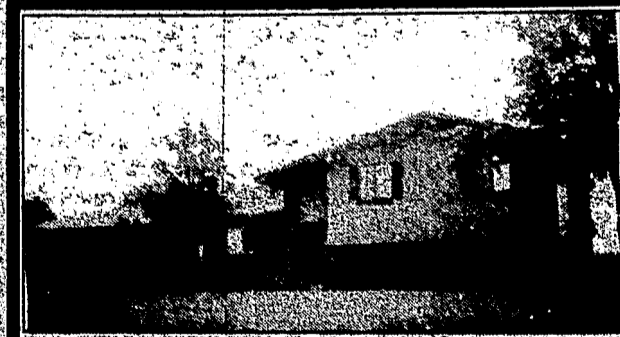
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Poetry Corner

A Place Like This

By Bruce A. Stewart

Seat in the sand
 Birch peeling as if watching a snake.
 The ground alive in a world of mindless miniature.
 Water is an emerald three part green.
 Valleys of Jack pine walk in the blue.
 This place of paradise will always be the same.
 Water of crystal.
 Lake is its name.
 Thousands of white caps move its gold.
 A place such as this bought and sold.
 I will always come back.
 Peacefully enjoy.
 It's part of my life.
 It's the little boy.

Bruce A. Stewart resides in Independence Township.

Growing

By Tom Erickson

In this way, we touched:

As the sun that kisses the earth,
 Within the first breath of the morning.

Caressed, as the ocean caressed the sands
 On the beaches of time.

Touched, as the wind touches the trees,
 In the middle of a summer afternoon.

Our lips touched, as the gentle morning
 Dew that touches the grass.

And within this way,
 We grew.

Copyright TEE 6/27/88

Tom Erickson resides in Independence Township.

Blueberry rock

Carolyn Walker



There is a stretch of land along Lake Superior where children's imaginations are held captive until adulthood.

Children, for it is a must that there be at least two in touch with their creative minds, stand in the sun-warmed sand and face the water.

At the horizon ships of great size bob like corks, beckoning, on waves that touch the sky a long distance away.

If they turn and walk to the right, the children eventually pass a large squarish rock on which two lovers carved their names decades ago.

The children stop at the rock and trace their forefingers through the wave-smoothed carvings.

It is, they sense, only remotely possible that the lovers were Chippewas who printed in English. But they like the thought.

Perhaps, they later suggest, poking fun at their own inadequate understandings, the lovers were castaways from a freighter or ferry/fairy?

If they turn left instead, walking away from what love put down so many years ago, the children encounter after a long while the land of the Blueberry Mormons.

That is what the children call them, though nobody has actually seen such a being - only their vast field of blueberry plants surrounded by pine trees on a peninsula that juts into the great lake.

Because they are never seen, little is known but much is imagined of the Blueberry Mormons.

They must be a rigid religious sect that survives on blueberries whole, blueberries mashed, blueberries baked and blueberries creamed, the children guess.

They also suspect that they are a mostly bearded lot of suspended old men and women dressed in long dark dresses with white aprons and color-coordinated hats, and that they practice secret rituals on the beach after dark.

A bonfire smoldering in the sand lends credibility to the children's suspicions.

As they turn back to their starting point, the children discuss the possibility that the Blueberry Mormons might, if they catch them, suspect them of mischief, gaping and murmuring as they are.

They wonder if the Blueberry Mormons get violent.

It does not occur to the children for many years that the lovers preserved in rock may have, in fact, been Blueberry Mormons themselves.

But, you have to admit, it was a possibility.

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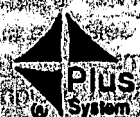
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	Saturday only	9:00 to 1:00
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Village rejects bay plan for on-street parking

BY PETER AUCHTER
Clarkston News Staff Writer

With the motion already defeated, village council Trustee William Basinger voted with ease against a two-spot \$6,000 parking bay for downtown Clarkston. "I wavered a lot on this during the past two weeks but since (my vote) won't matter anyway, I vote 'no,'" he said.

President Sharron Catalo's motion to approve the expenditure for the parking spots was defeated by a 4-2 margin. Trustee Eric Haven was the other council member to vote with the president.

Trustees James Schultz, Frank Millard and Gary Symons joined Basinger as the dissenters. Trustee Douglas Roeser was absent.

"I feel we shouldn't cut into our curb," said Millard. "I don't care who pays for it. I don't like it."

When the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) installs the traffic signal at the intersection of

Waldon Road and Main Street later this year, several on-street parking spaces will be removed to provide room for a left-hand turn lane.

Dr. Gary Ushman, whose Main Street dental office would no longer have on-street parking in front, was opposed to the plan and asked the village council to seek an alternative to losing the spots.

Catalo met with MDOT officials on several occasions in an attempt to work out a solution. She said MDOT was concerned about safety and wouldn't allow the on-street parking close to the intersection to remain.

Finally, an MDOT engineer devised a plan that would return two of the four lost parking spots by gouging out the curb area in front of Ushman's office and building a parking bay. The village would have to pay the \$6,000 price tag.

When he found out what it would cost Clarkston, Ushman thought paying for it wasn't a good decision for the village to make, Catalo said.

After the vote, she expressed dismay over the

council's decision to reject the bay proposal after all her efforts.

"I was directed to talk to whoever about whatever, and now I've done that and we are not doing anything," she said.

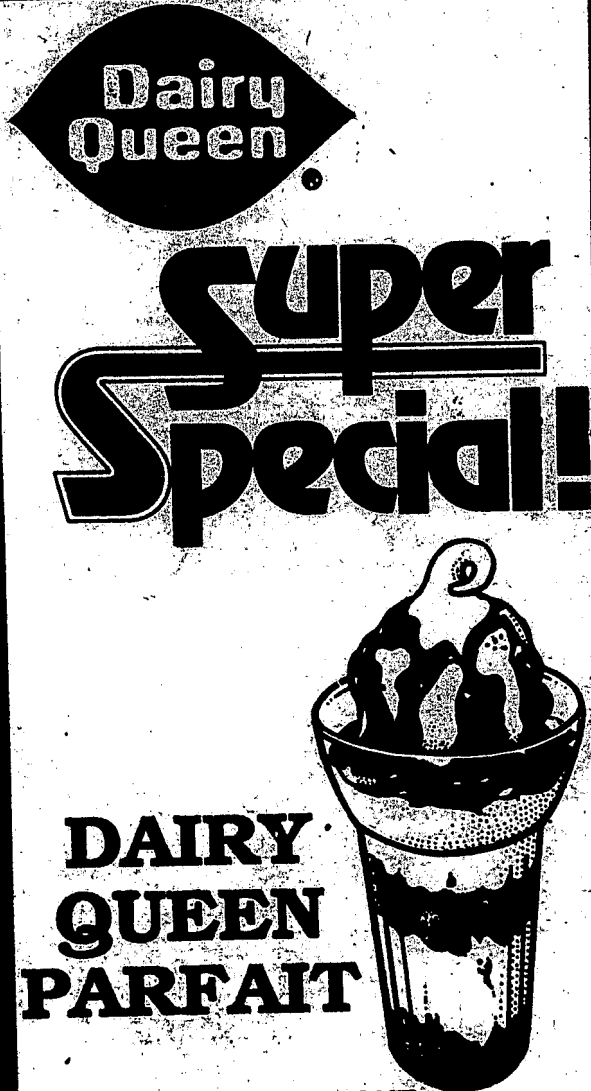
Crash victim dies

An 18-year-old Warren woman whose vehicle crashed into into a steamroller on I-75 June 27 died July 10 from injuries sustained in the accident.

Patricia R. Leibel was pronounced dead at 5:45 a.m. Sunday at Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital.

Leibel was driving to work about 7:47 a.m. June 27 when she lost control of her 1979 Chrysler in the right northbound lane of I-75, just south of Clarkston Road.

She crossed the left lane and dropped into the median where she hit a 10-ton steamroller in the construction zone, according to reports at the Oakland County Sheriff's Department.



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Skateboards can't roll on main walks

Every summer, skateboards are out in force in downtown Clarkston. Every summer, pedestrians complain to village council members about the hazards the sidewalk surfers create.

Due to the complaints the village council voted 6-0 to adopt a traffic control order July 11 that bans riding skateboards on the sidewalks adjacent to Main Street in the village.

The order goes into effect after signs are posted and it's been published in the newspaper for two weeks. The ban won't come a minute too soon for Village Marshal

Charles Smalley.

"I think this is a step in the right direction," he said after the village council approved the order. "I would like to see all the people police the problem - especially the adults."

President Sharron Catallo agreed it was time something was done to curb the problem skateboard riders were causing downtown.

"It's been consistent," she said. "There have been a lot of people who were almost hit."

PROBATE NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF OAKLAND
CLAIMS NOTICE
INDEPENDENT PROBATE
Estate of Louis P. Abraham,
Deceased.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Your interest in the estate may be barred or affected by the following:

1. The decedent, whose last known address was 4772 Curtis Lane, Waterford, MI 48095 died March 9, 1988.

2. An instrument dated June 26, 1980 has been admitted as the will of the deceased.

3. Creditors of the deceased are notified that all claims against the estate will be barred unless presented within four months of the date of publication of this notice, or four months after the claim becomes due, whichever is later.

Claims must be presented to the independent personal representative: Adele M. Abraham, 4772 Curtis Lane, Waterford, MI 48095.

Notice is further given that the estate will be thereafter assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it. Parvin Lee, Jr. (P-16509) Attorney 1090 W. Huron Street Pontiac, MI 48053 681-1200

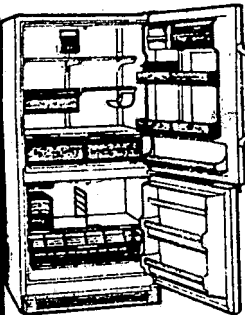
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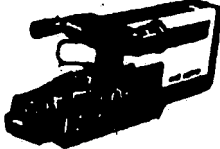
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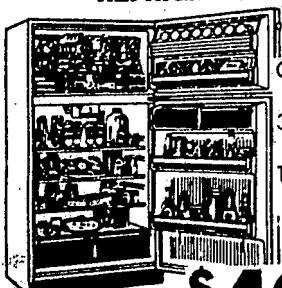
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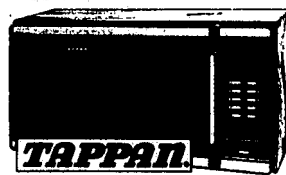


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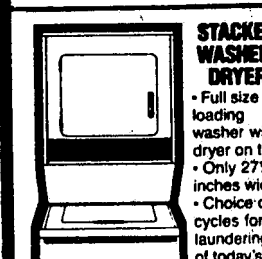
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Gary Haner takes helm of schools

BY PAT YOUNG
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Gary Haner, who became superintendent of Clarkston schools on July 1, has been acquainting himself with his new school district and surrounding community. From his office, where he is still in the process of unpacking, he talks about the upcoming months.

"With the recent millage, we're able to return to the quality level we were at," Haner says, "But now it changes the focus from trying to return to that level to evaluating whether what we are doing is the best that can be done for the dollars available."

Haner says he wants to assess and evaluate what the community wants from its schools, and where it wants to go with its buildings and programs.

"To that extent, one of the things I would like to do in the fall is convene a 'committee on excellence' consisting of school board members, employees in all categories, representatives from school groups of parents (PTA, Boosters, etc.), community groups, and interested others," Haner says. "It would be a short-term committee, to meet four to six times. And the task of that committee would be to identify the current concerns and desires in regard to the school district."

The committee, Haner says, would set priorities for the things considered most important and incorporate them into goal setting by school board and employees.

In addition to the committee on excellence, Haner says he will work with groups individually, with immediate plans to meet with the Clarkston CARES group.

Haner says he also sees an immediate need to observe, learn and evaluate the functions of the administrative staff and to get acquainted with the internal functions of the administration building. All administrations function a little differently, he says, and he wants to see if there is any realignment necessary.

"But my basic goal would be to work one year before making any major changes," Haner says. He also plans to continue the same budget-conscious philosophy of the Clarkston school district.

Haner says there are two reasons he came to Clarkston.

"First, because of the community itself, as a place to live, the type of people here," he says. "I consider myself very much a people person. And Clarkston is a community of the type of people I enjoy being around, with a focus on life that is important to us as a family."

"Second, I came for professional reasons. Clarkston was very attractive to me. I was not job hunting. The only reason I had my resume prepared was to bring it to Clarkston," Haner says. "Clarkston's reputation is well thought of in the educational family around the state - quality education on a minimum budget."

"I feel there is an increasing opportunity to do more and better things for the children," he adds. "The community, as it has grown, wants and expects more from the schools. I want to work where people want quality schools, and I feel I bring the administrative background and ability to (continue this trend)."

Plus, Haner says, his own personal experience with Clarkston gave him an ongoing awareness of the quality of the programs here.

Haner and his wife, Sue, did their student teaching in Clarkston before joining the staff in 1966. He taught sixth grade at Pine Knob Elementary School for five years. She also taught at Pine Knob, in the first and third grades.

When he left Clarkston in 1971, Haner served as elementary school principal in Howell, then in Water-

"I consider myself very much a people person. And Clarkston is a community of the type of people I enjoy being around ..."

Gary Haner, Superintendent
Clarkston Community Schools

ford. He was superintendent for instruction in Gaylord from 1976-78; and superintendent of schools in Martin from 1978-80, Grand Rapids from 1980-83 and Climax-Scotts from 1983-85. He most recently comes from the Pinckney school district, where he also served as superintendent.

The Haners have two children, Bret, who will be a senior this fall in Pinckney, and Connie, who will be a junior.

Haner plans to commute to Clarkston from the Pinckney area until his son graduates from high school next year. His daughter will transfer to Clarkston schools, perhaps in January 1989, and will commute with her father.

If late meetings or weather makes traveling difficult, Haner says that won't be a problem. Sue's mother, Helen Hall, lives on Andersonville Road in Waterford. (Sue graduated from the former Township High School in Waterford.) There will always be a place to stay.

But the family is definitely moving to Clarkston, probably buying a home here next spring, Haner says. His wife, who has been substitute teaching, is anticipating a full-time teaching position in the Huron Valley



Gary Haner began his duties as the new superintendent of Clarkston Community Schools on July 1. His office is in the administration building at 6389 Clarkston Rd.

(Milford) School District.

Haner, who has been active in community events throughout his career, was in downtown Clarkston as a judge during the July 4 Parade.

"Just sitting there on the porch of the bank and observing the people was a good experience," he says. "The people are so upbeat and positive. They're so involved in the community."

Engagements

Weddings

Anniversaries



We want to

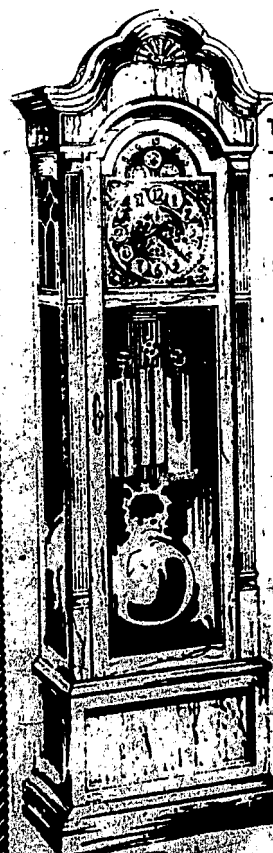
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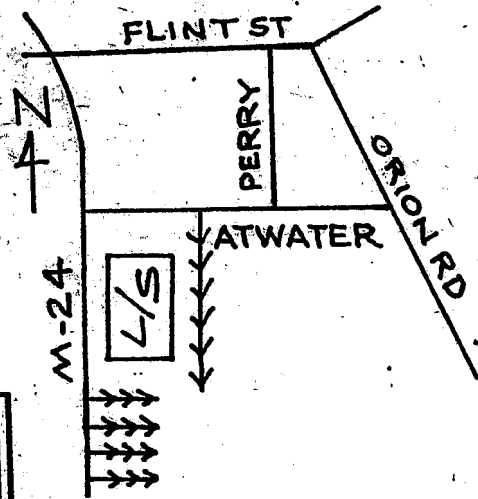
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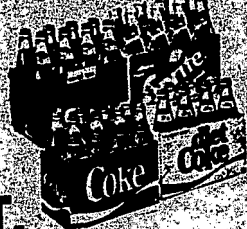

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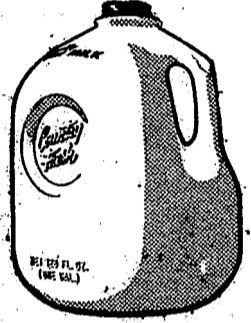
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Road service no longer silent

(ROAD, from Page 4)

united to survey residents about growth issues and to serve as a liaison between the people and the government officials.

Perhaps residents in Independence can learn from the trials in the other areas, he said.

The careful management of growth is important, said Bair.

"We, who live in Oakland County, enjoy a higher quality of life than someone living elsewhere," he said. "Roads and traffic are beginning to affect that quality of life. People are concerned about congestion, development and the environment."

While sewer and water services are heading in the right direction, roads are not meeting the growth demands, he said.

"Most services received tend to be silent. You flip a switch and expect lights to come on. Roads are becoming less of a silent service. I would like to see, someday, roads become a silent service again," he said. "We've got a long way to go."

But Bair believes it is possible.

"I'm encouraged by the caliber of the people I work with in the township, planning commission and ZBA (zoning board of appeals). That gives me a positive attitude toward the future of the township," he said.

An 11-year employee of the road commission, Bair

has served as director of planning and development for five years and supervises a staff of 16. He also chairs the Federal Aid Urban Task Force, which is responsible for appropriating federal money for county, city and state roads.

He developed the road commission's highway risk management program, is a member of the transportation research board and is in charge of financial planning for the road commission.

Bair received bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering with a specialization in transportation planning from the University of Iowa, Iowa City. He also completed the coursework and competency examinations for a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa but did not complete his dissertation.

Building rate drops slightly

(BUILDING, from Page 1)

projects and one new construction in the first six months in 1987.

Still expected this year are permits for an office on Dixie Highway, a park shelter at Independence Oaks County Park, an addition at St. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, four units for Steeple Ridge Condominiums and site condominiums at Sashabaw Creek Meadows.

"It's still a busy year," McElmeel said. "It's a prime area. ... I think the pace will be generally the same with a slight drop to finish out the year."

"Our highest activity occurred in 1986, and then it started to come down," she said, adding 1987 was also a strong year but didn't break the records that 1986 growth did.

"Whenever you issue (permits) in the hundreds, you have a lot of activity," she said. "It is tapering down, but in the planning end, we're still very strong."

Teen apologizes to school board

BY PAT YOUNG
Clarkston News Staff Writer

She sat quietly through the entire meeting, standing up at the end to make her apology to the Clarkston school board.

"My name is Karri Reoch," she said, "and I've come to apologize to the board for the comments I made at the last meeting."

It was a different tune last month, when Reoch tearfully and emotionally chastised the board for not changing a policy that kept her from going through the Class of 1988 graduation ceremony. Clarkston High School has a policy that states a senior must have required credits to graduate.

Reoch, a half-credit short at the end of her senior year at CHS, is attending summer school and will earn her high school degree in two weeks.

Board President Janet Thomas thanked Reoch for the apology, adding that she was welcome to come back when the board approved policy handbooks for the individual schools later this summer or fall.

"But I don't want to mislead you into thinking that just because you make a suggestion the policy will change," Thomas added. "The preponderance of opinion is in favor of the policy."

"We don't write policy," Thomas told her. Each school reviews policy books yearly, before the board approves them. Suggestions by the board go back to review committees.

Reoch was also told she could go through graduation ceremonies next June, if she wished. And new Superintendent Gary Haner told her he would be glad to help her get any answers to questions she might have about why she was denied the half credit this spring.

The Clarkston News 625-3370

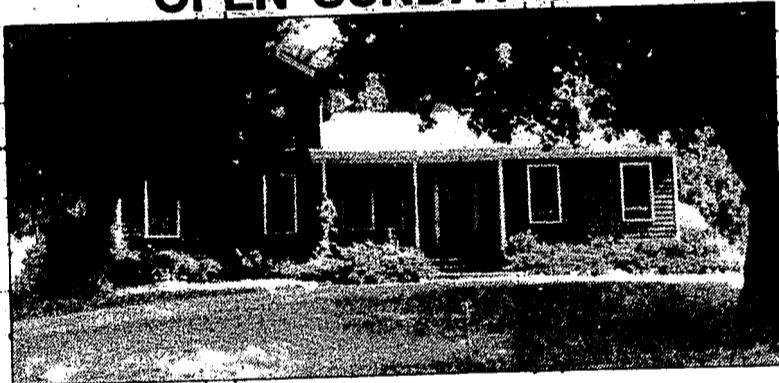
Firefighters' helper

A new \$11,707 air compressor should help firefighters breathe better while fighting fires.

Breathing Air Systems, Reynoldsberg, Ohio, submitted the lowest bid that met specifications, and the Independence Township Board unanimously approved the purchase.

The system will compress air to 2,100 pounds per square inch for self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). The SCBA, or air pack, is similar to the air pack a SCUBA diver wears under water.

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53 Waldon

1880's Clarkston Village farmhouse completely rebuilt in 1982. Kitchen is cook's delight, peaceful living room, cozy family room with fireplace, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1st floor laundry. 9 acre lot may be splittable. Home and property are filled with character, charm and warmth. \$148,750

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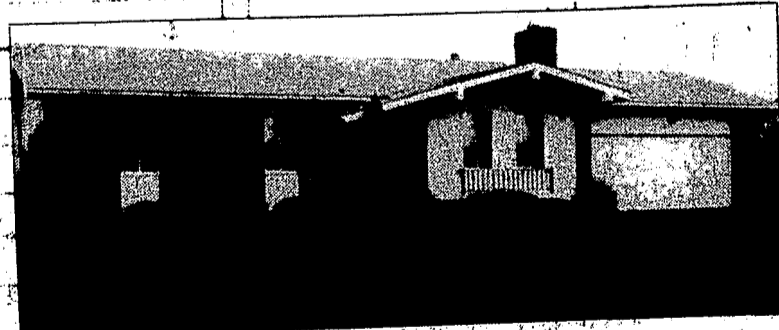
Clarkston Mini-Farm

Located appr. 1 mile north of I-75 on 4+ serene acres. Quaint bungalow features 4 bedrooms, hardwood floors, wet plaster walls, full basement and a 2 car detached garage. Property affords privacy and convenience plus many mature pine and fruit trees. \$119,000



Clarkston All Sports Lake Front

Lovely scenic setting complimented by the yard's gentle slope to the lake. Some of this home's many features include a finished walk-out lower level, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, and a 1st floor laundry. Extras include central air, underground sprinklers, great lower level workshop, and mature landscaping. \$228,900



Immediate Occupancy

Be settled before school begins in this well maintained 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, Clarkston ranch. Decorated in neutral tones, this home provides a living room with fireplace, full basement, and underground sprinklers. Nice established family sub. \$94,900.00

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Scoreboard

Parks and Recreation softball standings

These are the softball standings for the summer leagues as compiled by the Independence Parks and Recreation Department as of July 10.

MEN'S GAMMA AMERICAN - UPPER	W-L
Double M Fab	7-1
J & L Construction	6-2
Excelda Manufacturing	4-3
Morris & Associates	3-5
Cannon Fire	3-5
Machine Engineering	2-5
Gin Mill	2-6

MEN'S GAMMA NATIONAL - UPPER	W-L-T
P.B.I.	9-0-0
Jenkins Tree Service	8-2-0
Tune Saloon	7-2-0
Village Place	4-5-0
Charlie's Construction	1-7-1
Coach's Corner	1-8-1

WOMEN'S BETA AMERICAN	W-L
Excavating Contractors	9-1
Rob's Place	7-3
Art Explosion	4-6
Winner Boats	0-10

MEN'S GAMMA AMERICAN - LOWER	W-L
Campbell Electric	9-0
Daubenspeck Refrigeration	6-3
E.D.S.	4-5
Dave Swayne Remodeling	4-5
Carter MacIntosh Group	2-7
Grant Electric	2-7

MEN'S GAMMA NATIONAL - LOWER	W-L
Turning Point	7-2
LaFlamme Building	7-3
Pontiac Firefighters	6-3
Custom Homes	6-4
Buddy's Pizza	4-5
Perkin-Elmer	3-6
C.C.S.I. Sparks	0-10

WOMEN'S BETA NATIONAL	W-L
P.B.I.	10-0
Acutus	7-3
A.L. Williams	5-5
Dixson Metal Processing	5-5
Buddy's Pizza	3-7
Hill Steel	0-10

PONY	W-L
Ozzie Jackson Real Estate	2-0
Nu-Day Construction	1-1
Coach's Corner	1-1
Blue Ribbon Group	0-2

GIRLS SOFT T-BALL	W-L
Kammer & Associates	6-0
North Electric	5-1
Pool Mart	4-2
Tune Saloon	2-4
Country Cords	1-5
Bruce Mercado, D.D.S.	0-6



TOM FRIEND of Waterford Township attempts to kill the ball against blocker **Melissa Stark** of Almond Lane, Independence Township. Friend's team won the match at Clintonwood Park July 6. (Photo by Julie Campe)

WIDGET AMERICAN	W-L
Primo	2-0
C.A.C.C. Lifesavers	1-1
Marco's Pizza	1-1
Oakland Disposal	1-1
Scott Woody	1-1
Carla Eden's Hair Salon	0-2

MIGHTY MISS	W-L
Domino Construction	2-0
Pontiac Overhead Door	2-0
Evans Realty	1-1
Dr. Baetz Denistry	1-1
Waterfall Jewelers	0-2
Sunroom	0-2

WONDER DRUGS
5789 M-15, Clarkston 625-5271

MONTCALM AUTO GLASS
263 W. Montcalm - Pontiac 335-9204

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Sports

Dedicated women give horse 2nd chance

BY PETER AUCHTER
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Medical opinions dictated three years ago that a 6-year-old gelding afflicted with a viral infection of the spinal column should be destroyed.

Lisa Bellairs, along with older sister Bea Fisher, decided to buck the odds in 1985 and find a way - anyway - to help get their horse, Sizzling Iron, back on his feet for good.

Years of experience around horses taught them not to abandon hope until the horse itself did, despite the gloomy medical reports.

"We didn't want to give up on him," said Bellairs, while relaxing in the upstairs kitchen of their parents' home on Big Lake Road, Springfield Township. "He has a lot of heart."

Fisher, who owns the horse and bred it on her farm outside Lapeer, agreed.

"He's one in a million," the 1963 graduate of Waterford Kettering beamed proudly.

It seems Sizzling Iron was suffered from a disease called "Wobbles." The human equivalent is spinal meningitis.

The sisters consulted veterinarians and they predicted a 20 percent survival rate for their prized possession. Neither had the heart to destroy the horse, however.

"I'm around horses like (other) people are around their cat or dog," said Bellairs, a 1981 graduate of Lakeville High School between Lapeer and Davison. "His will was everything. He wanted to be a racehorse."

After sending away for experimental medicine from Washington State University, the long recovery process began.

Fisher, considered one of the few successful women trainers in the business by her younger sister, stayed in the barn with the horse, helping to make him as comfortable and safe as possible. Once Sizzling Iron recovered enough to stand, Bellairs did a lot of the road work to get him back into shape.

Together they turned what could have been a tragic event into a happy one for all. Sizzling Iron has returned to the DRC with a vengeance, winning three races in a row at one point to show the racing world that miracles can happen.

"We are very proud of our daughters," said Gloria and George Bellairs, the sisters' parents.

Bellairs, who works at the Detroit Race Course



BEA FISHER (left) and sister Lisa Bellairs are part of a remarkable comeback story for Sizz-

ling Iron, a horse afflicted with a spinal column viral infection three years ago.

(DRC), resides in Westland near the track due to the long hours and dedication her job requires.

As an assistant trainer, she arrives daily - seven days a week - at the track around 5:30 a.m. to take the eight horses in her charge out for their morning exercise. The mundane routine stays the same, day-in and day-out, for Bellairs yet she enjoys her profession immensely.

"You have to be dedicated," she said. "That's true with any livestock."

After her morning runs and various other chores are completed, she helps out during the afternoon races at the track by leading the horses on ponyback into the stalls before each contest. Once that's completed, then it's back home for a little rest before the whole grueling cycle is repeated the next day.

zling Iron, a horse afflicted with a spinal column viral infection three years ago.

One good aspect of her job is the physical conditioning she undergoes daily while riding the horses that can attain speeds of 45 mph. Her upper body and back are well developed and she's often asked by strangers if she's a bodybuilder. But that's not why she works so hard at the track.

"Everybody is waiting for a horse to win big," she said. "The long hours are worth it when a horse runs well."

Both sisters began their "careers" as members of 4-H by showing horses when they were youngsters. Bellairs owned her first horse at age 8 when her family moved into their Springfield Township home from Waterford.

As she grew older, her interest in horses increased proportionately. After attending Clarkston schools through the 11th grade, she moved to Columbiaville to live with her sister on her horse farm and complete high school.

Fisher, who has been around horses for 20 years, currently owns about 23 horses with her husband Lowell.

While Sizzling Iron's amazing recovery from "Wobbles" may sound like a fairy tale, Fisher doesn't necessarily agree. Each horse is special in his or her own way.

"There are a lot of horses down there (at DRC) that could have a story written about them," she said.

But Sizzling Iron will forever hold a special place in their hearts.

"He's just a big pet," said Bellairs.

Boosters benefit

A dinner-dance will start the fund-raising season for the Clarkston Athletic Boosters late next month at the Deer Lake Racquet Club.

The fall "Kick-Off Dinner Dance" on Sunday, Aug. 28, begins at 6:30 p.m. with a cocktail hour with a cash bar. Dinner is served at 8 p.m.

Impersonator Larry Moscrave will provide the entertainment, as will his band for those who wish to dance. Local businesses are contributing gifts for door prizes.

"Everyone in the Clarkston area is very proud of our first-rate athletic program," said Bob Sanderson of the boosters club. "The Clarkston Athletic Boosters are requesting your support to maintain our fine program."

Tickets cost \$25 per person. For more information, call 625-5815.



BRYCE JARRET of the Blue Ribbon Group Real Estate's Corey Olsen during a Pony League game at Clarkston High School. cuts at a fast ball thrown by Ozzie Jackson

Parks and Recreation softball standings

These are the softball standings as of July 10 for Independence Township as compiled by the parks and recreation department.

BOYS T-BALL	W-L
Delmar Studio	6-0
Glenwood Real Estate	5-0
A.L. Williams	4-1
G.M. Service Specialists	4-1
Morgan's Service	3-2
A.C. Tire	3-2
E.D.S.	3-2
Diary Dream	3-3
Art Moran Pontiac	3-3
Fitzpatrick & Bannasch, Inc.	1-5
Keebler Kings	1-5
Oxford Bank Sluggers	0-6
Independence Truck Repair	0-6

WIDGET NATIONAL	W-L
Al Dittich Oldsmobile	2-0
Alexander's	2-0
Viking Oilers	1-1
Dunlap-ERA	1-1
Dandy's Oil	0-2
Clarkston Cafe	0-2

PEE WEE	W-L
Tigers	6-1
The Water Station	6-1
Spring Lake Country Club	5-1
Moore's Disposal	4-2
Bruno's Mobile Home Service	4-2
Independent Mortgage Corp.	4-2
Power Hitters	4-3
E.D.S.	3-3
Jack Christiansen Fireballs	3-3
Fitness USA	2-4
Elston's	1-6
Eagles	0-6
Rumph Chiropractic	0-7

MINI MISS	W-L
Ozzie Jackson Real Estate	6-0
Waterfall Jewelers	5-0
T. Warner, Builders	4-1
Coach's Corner	4-1
Kammer & Associates	3-2

MEN'S ALPHA	W-L
Pittman Construction	6-1
Sam Case & Son	6-1
Oakland Merchants	5-2
Victor's	5-2
Boat Bar	3-4
Bud Light	3-4
Crate & Fly	3-4
Pontiac Coil	2-5
Omega Electric	0-8

MEN'S BETA AMERICAN	W-L
Little Caesar's	8-0
Steel Technologies	6-1
Autoworkers Insurance	5-2
Sweep Away Cleaner	4-4
Waterford Refrigeration	4-3
Tri-County Power Rodding	3-4
Clabaugh Trucking	3-4
Drillers	2-5
Curran Builders	2-5
P.B.I.	1-6
Village Muffler	1-7

CO-RECREATIONAL	W-L
Arrow Uniform	4-0
Davies Masonary	3-0
Ashley Fire Extinguishers	3-1
Club Rio De	2-1
Irish Pacers	2-1
White Lake Plastics	1-3
Clarkston Carbide	1-3
Deer Lake Cleaners	0-3
CasualT's	0-4

MEN'S BETA NATIONAL	W-L
Century 21/Hallmark West	6-1
R.D.A.	5-2
Kelly's Sport Center	4-2
Tri-County Custom Sport	4-3
American Body Building	2-5
Comcast Cable	2-5
Cocktail Club	0-7

MEN'S OMEGA MAJOR	W-L
Smith's Disposal	4-0
First Federal Savings	3-1
Steel Technologies	3-1
Haines & Co.	2-2
Coach's Corner	1-3
Dillinger's	1-4
Tri-County Custom Sports	1-4


MEN'S SIGMA AMERICAN	W-L
Coach's Corner/Dairy Dream	4-1
Standard Drugs	4-1
LaFontaine Motors	4-1
C.A.C.C. Lifesavers	3-2
4 Baggers	3-2
Dixie Party Store	3-2
Bloomfield Dodge	3-2
McLean's Seal Coating	2-3
Water Engineering Service	1-3
Russell Bros. Painting	1-4
Alliance Welding	1-4
Riverwood Construction	0-4

MEN'S SIGMA NATIONAL	W-L
Instant Rain Irrigation	4-1
Sharpe's Party Store	3-1
Victor's	2-2
Smile Designers	2-2
Coach's Corner	2-3
Sadows Auction Gallery	1-3
Sigma Pi	1-3

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 - *Sport Orthotics *Warts of the Hands & Feet
 - *Fractures & Sprains of the Foot & Ankle

Dancer's Clearance Sale continues...
Big Reductions have been taken on the
entire clearance inventory...

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Save at least 50%... up to 75%
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