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The Clarkston News

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Vol. 75 No. 14 Wed., December 24, 2003

Car crash takes life of Dr. Aranosian

BY DON SCHELSKE
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Those who have benefited from the services of emergency medical technicians and paramedics owe at least some of their thanks to Dr. Robert Aranosian.

Hailed as the pioneer of emergency medical services in Oakland County, Aranosian lost his life Thursday, Dec. 17 in a car crash in Bay County at age 61.

The Clarkston resident was director of emergency services at POH Medical Center in Pontiac and chairman of the Oakland County Medical Control Authority, the sanctioning body for paramedics and EMTs. It was in 1975 that Aranosian helped establish the first program to have trained paramedics on ambulances out of Pontiac.

Over the years, Aranosian also served in numerous other medical posts. Among 30 current professional activities, he was deputy medical examiner for Oakland County, physician director for the Pontiac Silverdome, Palace of Auburn Hills and DTE Energy Music Theater. He has been published in nine medical publications, and was sought for between 50 and 70 medical presentations a year.

With his many professional accolades, Aranosian was perhaps better known for his willingness to keep ties with the people on the front lines of emergency medical services.

"He was always helpful to the fire departments in the county," Independence Township Fire Chief Steve Ronk said. "Anytime we needed something, he was always there."

Aranosian let people do their jobs, but he was not above stopping to offer his own assistance in emergencies, Ronk said.

"It was not unusual for us to have a major incident

somewhere, and you would turn around and there was Dr. Bob."

Bob Cesario, EMS director for the Independence Township Fire Department, said Aranosian's legacy is assured.

"Dr. Aranosian is probably going to be remembered as the father of emergency medical services in this county," Cesario said. "He trusted us. He knew the system he helped build."

Cesario admitted the shock coming from the news of Aranosian's car crash:

"It's ironic that this would be the way he died," he said. "He's going to be sorely missed."

Aranosian's passion for local service also included joining the political arena. He ran unsuccessfully for Independence Township trustee in 2000, including public safety as part of his platform.

"Police and fire services must be expanded," he said in a campaign questionnaire provided to *The Clarkston News*. Population growth and utilization of township services demand an increase in police and fire services."

Aranosian was born in Detroit April 18, 1942, the son of Barkey and Satenie (Keteyian) Aranosian. He was a graduate of Kansas City College of Osteopathic Medicine, where he became assistant clinical professor of emergency medicine from 1971 to the present. Licensed as an osteopathic doctor in Michigan and Kentucky, he was board certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Emergency Medicine in 1981.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia J. (nee Dixon) Aranosian; children, Bryan (Carrie) Aranosian, Nicole (Brian) Barker, Mary Beth Aranosian, Andrea Aranosian, Anna (Brent) Barger, Alexis Aranosian,



Dr. Robert D. Aranosian

Jennifer Thayer; grandchildren, Nathan (Kaya) Barker, Rylee and Plivia Aranosian, Austin and Robert Barger, Jacob Thayer. Sisters: Christine (Hachig) Kazarian, Diana (Martin) Shoushanian. Brother: Richard (Barbara) Aranosian; and many nieces, nephews relatives and friends.

Memorial tributes may be sent to "Dr. Robert D. Aranosian Memorial Fund" c/o 5/3 Bank (Attention Private Banking) 1000 Town Center, Southfield, MI 48075.

CHS grad helps capture Saddam Hussein

BY KYLE GARGARO
Clarkston News Editor

History took place halfway around the world with the capture of Saddam Hussein, and Clarkston High School graduate Michael Shelswell was right in the middle of it.

Shelswell placed a phone call to mother Muriel at 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 14.

"He had a very low voice and he said 'Mom, did you hear the news?'" Muriel said.

The news, of course, was one of the world's most wanted fugitives was in United States control.

"He couldn't tell us a whole lot. He did say that you could tell when you looked into his eyes that it was Saddam," Muriel said.

U.S. Army Spc. Michael Shelswell is assigned to the perimeter guard of the 4th Infantry Division. He has been stationed in Tikrit since March and has orders to stay until April.

"They are all very happy that they were able to get Hussein. They are really pleased with themselves," Muriel

said. "They seem in high spirits."

The 21-year-old keeps in contact with his family through telephone calls and the Internet.

"We talk a lot through the Internet and Instant Messaging," Muriel said.

While Michael is fighting for his country in Iraq, Muriel is trying to make sure none of the soldiers are forgotten. She enlisted the help of neighbors and sent a Christmas tree along with stuffed stockings to the Middle East.

"I would do anything for those kids. It seems for a little while they were forgotten, but the way my friends and neighbors came together to stuff the stockings was heartwarming," Muriel said.

"My son said they have received some of the packages and they are awesome. The soldiers are thanking me so much."

Muriel said it goes without saying how she feels about everyone serving their country in Iraq.

"I am so proud of all of them. It is not just my son. I worry about all of them every waking moment," Muriel said.



CHS grad Michael Shelswell is stationed in Tikrit. Photo provided.

Discolored Paper

Briefly

Dance team brings Christmas cheer

The Clarkston High School Varsity Dance team made Christmas brighter for nearly 100 children with a special Christmas performance at the Ennis Center's annual holiday celebration.

The Christmas theme was prevalent in their presentation.

Prior to the special night, the dance team girls assembled individual gift packages with handmade ornaments, chocolate dipped pretzels with candies and marshmallow treats.

Local business receives approval

Midstates Alliance Group is now an approved member of Allstate Insurance's Authorized Vendor Program, administered by Alacrity Services. Midstates Alliance Group is a general contractor specializing in insurance restoration and home improvement projects.

CHS student receives nomination

Congressman Mike Rogers announced the candidates he has nominated to the U.S. military academies. Among the nominees was Thomas Fick of Clarkston High School.

"Students recommended for academy appointments are selected based on character, leadership, potential and academics," Rogers said. "These young men and women are a credit to their schools, communities and families. They are willing to reach out for an education and career of service to their nation. We are extremely proud of each student being nominated. I wish each of them well as they continue through the application process with each academy."

The nominees, chosen by a panel of district residents appointed by Rogers, may apply for more than one academy. Fick is the son of Charles and Roberta Fick.

Corrections

In the Dec. 17 edition of *The Clarkston News*, a letter to the editor should have read tax payments will be posted until 3 p.m. on Dec. 31

The Clarkston News regrets the error.

To find out what is happening
Around Town turn to page two of
the Millstream section.

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The Second Front

Clarkston Jaycees become official charter

BY KYLE GARGARO
Clarkston News Editor

After six weeks working to start a Michigan Jaycees chapter in Clarkston, Cheryl Pellicci's goal was realized.

The group recently signed up member number 20, which is the amount they needed to start a chapter.

"I was surprised by how fast it happened," Chapter President Pellicci said. "We did it in only six weeks, and that is working only nights since we all have day jobs. It was all about getting the word out."

The Clarkston resident credited publicity in *The Clarkston News* along with their booth at the Clarkston Area Chamber of Commerce Expo in helping them get enough people involved. She is also thankful to local business Slick and Bubba's Elite and Expeditious Websites for paying the charter fee.

"We wanted to show our community civic duty," Slick and Bubba's owner and new Jaycee member Luc Poirier said. "We met Cheryl through the Chamber and her passion is contagious. She is a great leader."

Pellicci is excited by how the process has been going.

"When I started out I really did not know what to expect. I had never been involved with something like

'I was surprised by how fast it happened. We did it in only six weeks, and that is working only nights since we all have day jobs. It is about getting the word out.'

Cheryl Pellicci
Clarkston Jaycees President

this. Obviously we had a very good response," Pellicci said.

While they have enough for the chapter, Pellicci is still recruiting. Her goal is to have 30 members by the end of January.

However, up next is electing officers for the new Clarkston chapter. Among the positions that need to be filled are treasurer, secretary, liaison to the Chamber and others.

The group has already been active in the community by participating in last week's annual Holiday Parade. The group also has visions of taking over the annual Independence Day parade from the Indepen-

dence Fire Department.

"We are very excited. We want to be useful to the community," Pellicci said.

The group is putting together a website, www.clarkstonjaycees.org, where they will offer a community survey which will help them decide what the community needs. The website should be up and running in approximately two weeks.

"We definitely want to take into account what the community wants," Pellicci said.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Jaycees or signing up can visit the website or call Pellicci at (248) 872-1745.

Davison appointed CEO, president of Oxford Bank

BY C.J. Carnacchio
Special to The Clarkston News

Only in Smalltown USA can the boy who opened his very first savings account at the local bank grow up to be bank president.

"This is something I've worked towards and I appreciate the opportunity. I'm very excited," said Jeff Davidson, referring to his recent appointment as president and chief executive officer of Oxford Bank.

On Jan. 1, 2004, Davidson, who's been employed with Oxford Bank since September 1985, will become the 11th president and seventh CEO in financial institution's 119-year history.

"When I interviewed Jeff (in 1985), there wasn't any doubt in my mind he was a perfect fit with Oxford Bank right from the get-go," said current bank president and CEO Randy Fox. "I hired him so I'm not surprised he has become my heir apparent. I knew that he had talent. It was clear he was a talented young man."

Fox will remain with the bank for the next three years as chairman of the bank and chairman, president and CEO of Oxford Bank Corporation, the holding company which owns the bank.

Born and raised in Oxford, Davidson, who now resides in Metamora, is no stranger to the independent, community bank bearing the town's name.

"I became acquainted with the bank very early," said the 1971 Oxford High graduate, who's father, Donald Davidson, served on the bank's board of directors from 1964 to 1983.

"I opened my very first savings account at Oxford Bank. I obtained my very first car loan from Oxford Bank," said Davidson, adding that even though he worked for a competing bank during the early years of his career, he obtained his

first home mortgage from Oxford Bank.

"I had the opportunity to come on board (with Oxford Bank) early in my career, but I chose not to because my dad was on the bank board," Davidson explained. "I really wanted to prove myself outside Oxford Bank with the hope of coming back some day."

That day came in 1985 when Fox, who became president the prior year, was building his management team.

"Jim Sherman, Sr. (president of Sherman Publications, Inc. and owner of The Oxford Leader) recommended Jeff to me," Fox said. "He said, 'I think you two would click.'"

The pair did click and Davidson was hired as an assistant vice president with responsibility for branch administration. He was promoted to vice president in December 1987 and executive vice president in December 2001.

Since 1991 Davidson has served as the retail banking officer, which means all six of the bank's branches, including the main office, report to him.

Davidson's responsibilities have included strategic retail issues, regulatory compliance for security, bank secrecy, privacy and CRA, and all insurance requirements for the bank. In addition to the retail and branch offices, he has overseen the marketing, human resources, and auditing management team.

Fox said Davidson's promotion to executive vice president two years ago was an "opportunity for Jeff to show his stuff" and "test his mettle."

"At the December meeting, the board (of directors) concluded Jeff was the man," Fox said.

Davidson said he feels he's up to challenge and credits Fox with helping him get where he is today.

As the new bank president and CEO, Davidson said he's supported by a "strong



Oxford Bank President and CEO Randy Fox (sitting) and his successor as of Jan. 1, 2004, Executive Vice President Jeff Davidson.

management team," with whom he "shares a lot of the same values."

"We know what the bank is and what we want the bank to be," he said. "Continuing the bank's record growth" and "continuing to operate as a strong community bank with ties to each community we operate in" are some of Davidson's top priorities.

"Staying in touch with who we are" will be a key element of Davidson's administration.

When asked what separates Oxford Bank from the large, national banks, Davidson said it's the "decision-making process" that's completely "local."

"Customers walk in the bank and we're sitting right here. We're easy to get a hold off. We return phone calls," he said. "We're connected with the community. Customers appreciate that." But Davidson's connection to community goes beyond the bank.

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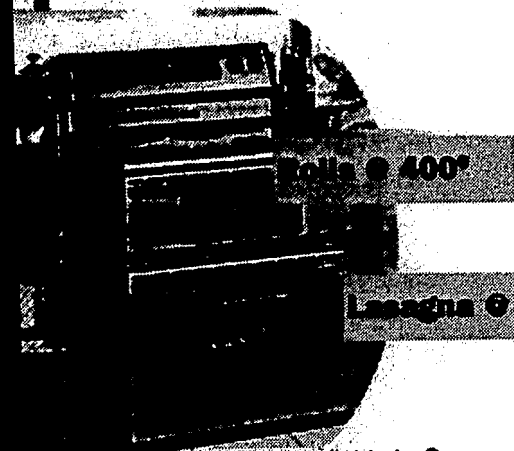
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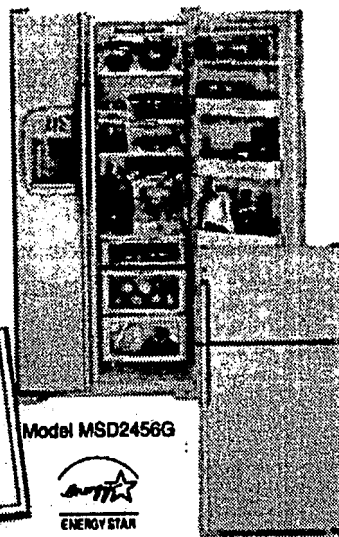
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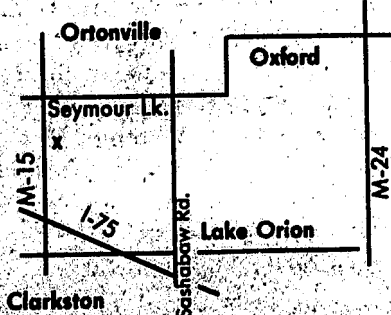
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Courts announce convenient way to pay traffic tickets

BY JENNIFER NEMER
Clarkston News Staff Writer

It'll mean convenience for you and efficiency for the courts.

In a collaboration effort by the Oakland County's four district courts which includes Clarkston, Novi, Rochester Hills, and Troy, a new online ticket payment option has been launched for people with certain civil infraction citations.

The program was launched to the public on Tuesday, Dec. 9, though it has been in use since Nov. 17.

"There will be a lot of different benefits," Judge Dana Fortinberry of the 52-2 District Court in Clark-

ston said.

Specifically, Fortinberry said the online processing will ease her staff's work loads so they will have more time to dedicate to more pressing matters.

"As a judge I love it because it makes our customer service quick and more efficient. And for people who need to pay a ticket, they won't have to wait in line in our lobby if we happen to be particularly busy that day, which is nice," Fortinberry said. "For those who were just passing through on the highway, they won't have to take a day off of work to come down here for a hearing. They can just log on to their com-

puter to pay."

The website is www.co.oakland.mi.us. Directions for use are clearly listed. Currently, there is a "Pay Tickets" icon on the home page. If it is not there, just click on "Online Services" and then "Pay Tickets." You will have to enter your name, and ticket number or driver's license number before proceeding to payment and checkout.

Secure software is used to protect your privacy. There is a small enhanced access fee that a user will have to cover for the purpose of maintaining and updating the site.


Schools treat seniors to lunch



Clarkston Community Schools held a holiday luncheon on Thursday, Dec. 11 for their Senior Gold Card Members in honor of their support to the district. Food was provided by Outback Steakhouse of Clarkston. Photo by Jennifer Nemer.

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Opinion

Pick up a paper, Bush

As leader of the free world President George Bush has to wear many hats. Our leader needs to be commander-in-chief, inspire the American people and decide policy. However don't ask him to read a newspaper because that seems to be too taxing.

At least that is what we are led to believe after Bush was interviewed by Diane Sawyer on ABC last week. When Sawyer asked why the President did not read newspapers he said, "I get my news from people who don't editorialize. They give me the actual news, and it makes it easier to digest, on a daily basis, the facts."

From what I have heard, there is no truth to the fact that the President can simply not read. But seriously, it is a little distressing to me when our leader relies solely on the people around him (people he has hired) to give him the news. Do you think these individuals have the ability to be as critical of the news as someone who is impartial does?

Now obviously Bush does not need to read newspapers to keep up with the everyday activities of the world in which we live. He has a competent staff and intelligence community which can make sure he is reading the pulse of the entire world.

But obviously that is not all a newspaper provides. How about reading an opinion columnist who might have a nonpartisan view on a specific subject? Better yet, how about reading the letters to the editor and be able to gage the opinions of everyday Americans that you were elected to serve? In my estimation, it is more than a little pompous to assume one can learn nothing from reading the newspaper.

And this is not just a biased rant from an individual who has made a career out of print journalism. I do admit that I am biased. However, I would feel just as comfortable with the President if he was receiving different opinions from television or magazine news coverage. The issue is not what media the President chooses to expose him to, but rather that he exposes himself to them.

In what organization would you feel comfortable receiving information just from those on the payroll? Do you really think a CEO of a Fortune 500 business is not getting facts and opinions from every source possible with the thought in mind that the more conflicting information you have the better prepared you are to make a decision? Why does this theory not translate to Bush, who is literally holding the most important job in the world?

Now I am sure President Bush is not the first president to go this route to receive the news, but he is the sitting president and he made it public record. In addition, he did paint himself as a common man who was just like you and I during his campaign. For all the talk that he is a Washington outsider, he truly is isolating himself from people other than his circle of trust in Washington.

So I urge the President to get in touch with the pulse of America and pick up a newspaper every now and again. Sure, you might not enjoy getting raked over the coals on a few decisions but maybe you will get a kick out of reading the Al Gore's son was arrested for marijuana.

(Kyle Gargaro is the editor of The Clarkston News. His e-mail address is KyleG44@aol.com)



Gargaro's World

Kyle Gargaro

Letters to the Editor

Resident appreciates club's performance

I would like to thank the Clarkston High School Drama Club for an incredible evening of music, dance and one-act plays.

The Drama Club recently hosted their annual CHS Theatre-a-thon from 3 p.m. until midnight on Dec. 5. During that time there was a constant flow of performances, more than 50 in all.

This event provides a wonderful showcase for the many talents of the students at Clarkston High School. All too often it seems that it is the school sporting events that get most of the recognition within the community

and student body. Of course they are important, but I believe that the commitment the CHS Drama Club has to providing our community with quality theatre is equally important.

They do a terrific job and deserve to be recognized for it. It is for this dedication that I want to thank them, and I look forward to attending their musical production of "Once Upon a Mattress" in February.

Toni Smith
Clarkston

Thanks to Clarkston police for giving time

I would like to thank the Clarkston Police officers who donated their time and served as waiters at Pete's Coney Island a couple weeks ago.

Through their efforts a substantial sum of money was raised for Toys for Tots.

Darryl Wood

Writer says goodbye to Clarkston

After three-plus years at *The Clarkston News*, my time here is coming to an end.

I will now be going on to graduate school to pursue a master's degree in journalism. I'll be relocating to Virginia Beach, Va. at the end of the month to attend a two-year program at Regent University, a Christian grad school that is home to "The 700 Club."

It's been an exciting adventure thus far, simply taking the initial steps towards this new phase in my life.

It's a walk that has been bringing me closer to the Lord. He has been opening the doors, providing for my needs and assuring me this is what He has had planned.

As much as I am looking forward to this change (and being near the ocean!), it is bittersweet as it will be putting many miles between myself and my family who mean so much to me. I know they aren't thrilled about me moving so far away, but I appreciate the support they have been giving.

Looking back at my time at the paper, I see it has been a time of growth. I have learned so much, not only professionally, but personally as well. I thank

the Lord for the time He allowed for me here. It wasn't an easy road at times, but one I definitely needed to travel.

Since taking on this role, I've gotten to do a lot of cool things from flying in a helicopter to taking pictures of Marilyn Manson at his court trial. I always joked, "You never know where you'll end up as a reporter," when I'd find myself in heels and a skirt walking through a muddy, manure-laden farm or riding a lawn tractor in six-foot high weeds, like I did for a couple stories. Of course, I never got bored going into the schools and had so much fun with the kids when I'd photograph their special events.

Most of all, I enjoyed getting to know the people who make up this community. Many of you have touched me in special ways. Many of your stories will last forever in my mind. And many of you I have learned something from that I am taking with me.

I've very much enjoyed the camaraderie with several of you that I work with in the community on a regular basis. And of course my *Clarkston News* family has been very special to me.

Thanks, readers, for letting me share my faith with you. Thanks to so many of you who encouraged me as a writer and a believer. I've appreciated all your feedback.

It's been a pleasure writing for you. Farewell and God bless.



Just Jen

Jennifer Nemer

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For Dr. Bob's sake, hug your loved ones

Christmas is the time for family and friends to be together; to hold each other and to remember, we love.

Most area families this week are together. They'll be giving presents, swapping stories of Christmases past and enjoying each other's company. And, many area families have this opportunity because of the efforts of a very special man.

And, it is sad that this man's family will not be celebrating a joyful holiday. They'll be gathering, all right but this special man won't be physically with them.

Dr. Bob Araniosian who has headed up Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital's emergency medicine for decades, died in an auto accident last week.

**Don't
Rush Me**



Don Rush

Like many in the area, I first met Dr. Bob under extremely trying circumstances. In the late 1980s my sister Nancy, then a student at Clarkston High School, was involved in an auto accident with a school bus on Waldon Road. Independence Township firemen who were at the rescue scene, when they see me, still talk of the carnage of that accident.

For whatever reason, I was the first member of our family to arrive at POH. When I checked in, Dr. Bob took me to a room and explained the situation. In as kind and caring voice as I've heard he said, "We have two girls and we don't know who is who. One of them is alive -- and it sounds like it is your sister, but be prepared."

I followed him for the longest 40-foot walk of my life. We walked into a trauma room and in the far corner, behind a opaque plastic curtain was a patient. I saw her hand sticking out from under the curtain. I noticed the fingers on her left hand, and I knew it was Nancy.

Nancy was alive! She endured many years of surgery and pain after that accident, but she has survived. She has a good husband, Al Piper and they have two wonderful daughters, Ally and Katlyn. They have big dogs, a nice home and lots of love. She had a chance at life and took it. I

always thank the efforts of Dr. Bob.

Since Nancy's accident I talked to Dr. Bob maybe two times. That's it. But, whenever I read about him in the newspapers, whenever I saw his picture on a billboard, when I saw him as Grand Marshal of Clarkston's Fourth of July parade a few years ago, I silently thank him. Whenever his name was brought up in a conversation, I always tell the others in the conversation that, "He saved my sister's life."

Dr. Bob was a special guy -- not only because he saved many lives, not only because of his charitable works, but because I think he was plain and simple, a good man. In nearly 20 years in the news business I cannot remember anybody saying one bad thing about him. Which is odd, because somebody always knows somebody who knows something about everyone. I shudder to think what stories are floating around town about me. Northeast Oakland County's rumor mill has the goods on us all.

But, not on Dr. Bob.

It's ironic he died in an auto accident -- that nobody could save him as he had saved so many. It's sadly ironic that some reports say he wasn't wearing his safety belt.

It is just sad that one man who so positively touched the lives of so many in the area was unexpectedly taken away. Other doctors will come in and fill the void at POH and heroically save lives as he did, so I am sure the area's wounded will be in good hands. And while the area has lost a good man, it is sadder yet to think that his wife and children have lost a husband and father. We can replace a doctor. They cannot replace him.

Life is funny. It takes unexpected turns and has its ups and downs. Life has all that going for it, but one thing it isn't -- forever. Life is short, so this Christmas when you are gathered with friends and family remember the gift of Christmas is love. Get over petty squabbles, don't start any arguments. Get together and hug and love and say a prayer of thanks that you still have each other.

Some families are not as lucky so say a prayer for them, too.

Comments for Don can be e-mailed to: dontrushmedon@aol.com



15 YEARS AGO (1988)

• Independence Township board members Dec. 20 voted unanimously to approve a \$8.7 million budget for 1989. The budget covers only money for the general and special revenue funds. In 1989, the board is to consider budgets for non-union salaries and money for capital improvements, according to Clerk Richard Holman. Budget figures do not address specific items, but give bottom line appropriations for each department, Holman said.

• The new year may bring signs directing heavy-duty truck traffic away from the village. Continuing problems caused by the vehicles were discussed during a meeting between Independence Township, Michigan Department of Transportation, Village of Clarkston and Michigan State Police officials on Dec. 20.

• When a position on the Clarkston Village Council opened recently, it didn't take long to find a replacement. Members of the village council agreed planning commission member Dom Mauti would be perfect for the post. The council approved President Sharron Catallo's appointment by a 5-0 vote at its last meeting Dec. 12. "He's a good selection for the council," Catallo said. "Everyone on the council was happy, everybody mentioned his name (when the opening occurred)."

25 YEARS AGO (1978)

• Charles Kimbel has been named director of Independence Township Police Services. Kimbel, 50, took over a acting director of police services seven months ago when Jack McCall resigned. The Independence Township Board approved Kimbel's permanent appointment at its Dec. 19 meeting in a 5-2 vote. The board has set his annual salary at \$18,720, starting Dec. 18.

• Children who enjoy playing on frozen lakes may literally be walking on thin ice. Recently, area youngsters have begun to venture out on various ice-covered lakes and small ponds to skate or play hockey. However, local police and fire officials warn that the children may be taking their lives in their own hands. Independence Township Police Chief Charles Kimbel firmly recommended that frozen lakes should not be played upon at this time.

• Lack of public input will mean the Independence Township Board will continue to allocate \$100,000 in Community Development Act funds as in the past. The second, and final, public hearing for ideas on how to use the money for the next fiscal year was conducted at a board meeting last Tuesday. Clerk Christopher Rose said, "Since we got so few comments at the hearings with four comments on Tuesday and two comments at the first hearing, the board will spend it (the funds) in the same areas as in the past."

50 YEARS AGO (1953)

• Don't forget the New Year's Eve Frolic sponsored by the Youth Canteen at the Clarkston Community Center from 9:30 p.m. until? The young people are planning a fine evening with noisemakers and just everything that makes fun on New Year's Eve.

• Friday night Clarkston High's basketball team traveled to Holly for its third game of the season. The game was close the first two quarters. At half-time the score was 25-21 in favor of Clarkston. It remained close through the third quarter.

Jim's Jottings, by Jim Sherman, Sr.



Merry Christmas! Once again I'd like to share the warmth of the season with all of you. Those two boys on the right have a little more warming up to the season than the rest of us. With me are my grandchildren, from the left (standing) Karen Offer, Savannah, twins Haley and Trevor Speed and Dan Offer.

The power of your credit score Can a change in your score flag identity theft?

By William H. Langdon, Jr.,
RFC, CFS, BCM, RFP

When was the last time you pulled up all three of your credit scores? Your credit score determines whether you can get credit. Using a series of complex mathematical calculations that compare you to tens of millions of other people, lenders could accurately predict how likely you are to pay your bill. The higher your score, the better you look - and the lower your interest rates will be.

These standardized credit scores explain why you can get approved for a new credit card in about 60 seconds. Or, without telling anyone how much money you earn, you can be pre-qualified for an auto loan, car insurance or a mortgage over the phone. **Should You Be Concerned About Your Credit Scores?**

Until recently, the lending industry kept the scoring system a well-guarded secret. The good news is that now you can access your scoring information online.

You may ask, "What is a good credit score?"

The scoring scale ranges from 300 (poor) on the low end to 800, or more (outstanding) on the high end. Most people

rank between 600 and 800. If your credit score is 720 or greater, you qualify for the best interest rates according to California-based Fair Isaac Corp., the company that developed credit scoring in the first place.

If you're still not convinced that good credit scores are essential, here are some reasons why the answer is a strong "yes." A higher credit score translates into lower interest charges, so you can save a lot of money. Let's say you want to borrow \$100,000 on a 30-year mortgage. And let's pit a credit score of 520 against a higher score of 720. That 200-point difference is worth 3.45 percentage points, or an annual reduction of \$2,820 in your mortgage payment. Over the life of the mortgage, that adds up to an \$85,000 savings in interest charges.

Red Flag: Unexplained Credit Score Changes

Credit scores have another major benefit and can serve as an alert to costly identity theft. Identity theft and identity fraud are terms describing criminal use of another person's personal data, typically for economic gain. Unlike fingerprints - unique to you - your credit card and bank account numbers, Social Security number, phone calling card or other personal identifying data is not.

If your private information falls into the wrong hands, it shouldn't come as a surprise that you could lose just about everything you've worked for in a fairly short

period of time. And your losses may involve anything from out-of-pocket costs to the substantial price tag that comes with reinstating your reputation and, of course, restoring your credit scores.

To minimize your risk of becoming a victim of identity theft or fraud, there are four basic steps you can take. To remind yourself, remember the word "SCAM" that stands for:

1. **S - Be Stingy** about giving out your personal information to others unless you have a reason to trust them.

2. **C - Check** your financial information regularly, and look for what should be there as well as what shouldn't.

3. **A - Ask** periodically for a copy of your credit report. Your credit report should list all bank and financial accounts that are under your name, and it will provide other indications of whether someone has wrongfully opened or used any accounts in your name.

4. **M - Maintain** thorough records of your banking and financial accounts.

Credit Report Check: How-To

The three major credit-reporting agencies in the United States include Experian (formerly TRW), Equifax and Transunion. To learn more, you can contact these agencies online by visiting their Websites:

www.experian.com

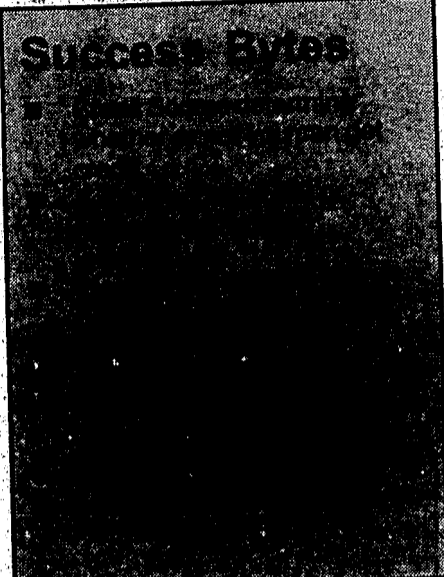
www.equifax.com

www.transunion.com

The credit score checking process is simple and takes about 15 minutes. It is recommended that you verify your scores at least



William H. Langdon Jr.



twice a year. To obtain a copy of your credit report and proactively monitor your standing, you can visit the following online resources:

www.freecreditreport.com

www.consumerinfo.com

www.myfico.com

We think you'll agree that your credit score is a precious asset that can - when watched over carefully - save you loads of money on interest charges and serve as an early warning system to help protect you from the costs of identity theft.

Bill Langdon, Jr., President and Founder of Langdon Capital Management, Inc., specializing in Investments, Retirement Plans, Risk Management. Clarkston and Waterford, Mich. E-mail address: lcmmi@aol.com

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★18v Cordless Drill & Saw	\$349
★18v Cordless Drill & Recp	\$379
★18v Cordless Hammerdrill Kit	\$269
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★12" Dbl/Bevel Miter Saw	\$340
★12" Slide Compound Miter Saw	\$690
Miter Saw Work Station	\$219
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Discolored Paper

Christmas memories from our readers

A Christmas story about two little angels

Written by Cynthia Lohmeier for her little angel Maggie

Once upon a time, not too long ago, there were two little angels who lived among the clouds. They were the best of friends and could always be found together.

The first little angel was called Olivia. She had light brown hair and blue eyes and was very curious and adventurous. She was so curious that she was always getting into trouble for getting into things and places she shouldn't, and for not paying attention to what she should be doing.

Now, the reason Olivia and Maggie lived among the clouds instead of in Heaven is because they were baby angels who had not yet been born. They had to wait until their families were ready for them so they could go be born and go down to Earth.

One day an angel from Heaven came down to the clouds to talk to the baby angels. She told them that there would be a great celebration to honor the birth of God's son Jesus, and that everyone in the clouds, in Heaven and on Earth would be welcome to join in the festivities.

"A party!" Olivia said, turning to her friend. "How exciting! I can't wait!"

"Even better than a regular party, it's a birthday party!" Corrected Maggie. Even though Maggie was just as excited as Olivia, she gave a little sigh. "I wish we had a birthday."

Olivia put her arm around her friend. "We will someday. But for now we have to think. What will we take as a present? What will we wear? Do you think they will have cookies and ice cream?"

The girls soon were completely involved with each other, whispering and giggling as girls will do when they are engaging in secret plans and dreams. In fact, they got so involved, that they didn't hear or see the angel from Heaven approach them.

"Olivia," said the angel placing a hand on her head. "It's time to go."

"Go?" said Olivia wondering if she had done something wrong. "Go where?"

The angel smiled at her. "Home" she said. "They're ready for you now."

"Really? They're ready now, NOW?" Olivia almost couldn't believe it. Out of habit, she turned to her friend to share the good news. She froze when she saw her friend's face. Maggie was smiling, but there were tears in her eyes. Olivia realized that while both dreamed of a family, her dream was coming true, but her best friend would be left behind. Would they ever see each other again?

"You'll miss the party," blurted out Maggie. "Livvy, I'm so happy for you." She blinked her eyes trying to hide the tears from her friend so she wouldn't spoil her good news.

"Come on Olivia." Said the angel holding out her hand. Olivia put her hand in the angels and with one look at Maggie, walked away.

"Good-bye" Maggie called after her. She took a deep breath and said softly, "Good-bye, hope your family loves you as much as I do."

She turned away and ran to the far side of the clouds. She climbed up in a cloud tree, hid her face in her arms and cried. She cried for days and days. Some of the other baby-angels tried to get her to come down and play. But the games only reminded her of Olivia and made her sad. She didn't want to listen to them talk about the birthday party either, because it made obvious the fact that she didn't have one.

A few weeks later, the angel appeared again, underneath the tree.

"Maggie," the angel called up to her. She raised her arms and lifted her from the branch. She held her close and smiled, "It's time to go home now, Maggie."

Maggie looked up disbelieving. "A home for me?" she asked. Maggie put her arms around the angel's neck and hugged her. "Home," she whispered softly to herself as the angel carried her toward the gate between the clouds and Earth. "I'm going home. What would it be like?" she wondered silently.

When they got to the gate, the angel put her down. "You have to go the rest of the way yourself."

"I'm ready," Maggie said eagerly, "Good-bye, good-bye!" She turned and ran down the path. She ran and ran in a hurry to get to the home she'd wanted for so long. But it was along way for the baby angel and soon grew tired. He stopped and sat down on a rock to catch her breath, but soon she was fast asleep.

When she woke up she was in a very warm place. The lights were very bright, and the sounds were so loud! It was voices she heard. Deep voices and high voices, and laughter! These people were very happy about something. She wondered what it could be. She opened her eyes, struggling to wake up. One of the voices sounded familiar. She looked around.

"Livvy? Livvy, is that you?" Maggie asked.

"Yes. You're two days late, and Maggie, guess what! We're cousins! That means we can always be together, just like always. We didn't miss the birthday party after all, it's coming up soon. They call it Christmas and we get presents, too" said Olivia.

Maggie looked up and saw her mom and dad looking down at her. She snuggled deeper into her mom's arms and reached out to grab her dad's finger. "Some presents come early" she thought to herself.

Mom and Dad agreed. Their Maggie was the very best kind of gift.

First little angel, Olivia was born on October 2nd and second little angel, Maggie was born on November 22nd.

It's Just Not the Same By Eileen Gattton

*I watch people at the mall,
buying gifts for you and me.
The hustle and bustle of Christmas
is everywhere to see.*

*Looking at Christmas lights on houses
up and down the street
Somehow, it's just not the same,
people tell me that I meet.*

*Christmas carols, heard only
at this time of year.
Tears fill my eyes as I remember,
those, no longer here.*

*I think of men and women looking
over endless desert sand.
Lord, I pray for your protection
in this lonely distant land.*

*Again, I remember the tiny baby
born in a manger stall.
God's gift to you and me
because He loves us all.*

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...

By Tammy M. Layton

My family's Christmas holiday celebration doesn't start until after Thanksgiving. (I just can't stand seeing Christmas decorations put out right after Halloween. Let us enjoy Turkey Day first!) Our stockings were hung by the chimney with care... This is more special than it sounds because my stocking happens to be 32 years old and I was "stuffed" in it and was delivered to my mother's arms after she gave birth to me on December 24th, 1971. Over the river and through the woods, a Christmas light looking we go. My husband and our two girls love driving through our beautiful little town of Clarkston and soaking up all the holly, jolly atmosphere! Christmas Eve is very hectic... Happy Birthday to me... I must have snow for my birthday!

We also celebrate my grandparents' anniversary. Can you believe they eloped on December 24th, 1948?!? My great, great uncle and aunt also married on Christmas Eve, a decade before that! Silent night... After the celebrations, we attend a wonderful church service in which my oldest, Tina, participates in every year. Oh, you better not pout, you better not cry... Eventually we end up at my husband's families for their Christmas. Yes, I have to spend my birthday with my in-laws, and in order to stay jolly, I'll have some spiked egg nog or some other potent holiday spirit! You know Dasher & Dancer & Prancer & Vixen... When we finally return home, we scramble to prepare Santa's snack and some carrots for the reindeer and sit down to read our new Christmas book. My husband started a tradition years ago of purchasing a new holiday book every year. We are accumulating quite a festive library! Then just before we nestle down in our beds and wait for the sugar plums to dance in our heads... we recite, 'Twas the Night before Christmas.

Pistachio Bread

- 1 white cake mix (extra moist is the best)
- 1 small box pistachio pudding
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/4 cup oil (vegetable)
- 1/4 cup water
- 4 eggs

Mix all ingredients well and pour into 2 large or 4 small greased bread pans. Combine 2 Tbsp. brown sugar and 2 tsp. cinnamon and sprinkle on top of the bread. Bake in a 350 degree oven for 35-45 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Can be frozen. You can also make cake or cupcakes instead of bread. Just don't top with brown sugar and cinnamon until after you bake and frost with cream cheese frosting.

Christmas memories...

By Lillian Machowski

My Christmas memories go back over 65 years, as a child growing up in Mayfield, Pennsylvania. We lived in the last house on the block. I remember fondly how my mother used to put up poinsettias in every window of the house. To this day, poinsettias are placed around my home. Then my mother would decorate the tree and underneath the tree was village scene with a nativity, church and a green and red wooden picket fence around the village. (I still have the packet fence.)

Two weeks before Christmas my sister Florence and I used to go from door to door and ask people if we could come in and see their Christmas trees. The doors were always open. Mr. Hennemuth a neighbor in Jermyn always set up a whole room with Christmas

scenes. He had a train going around the whole room. We would lie on the floor, our heads propped up by our hands as he would run the train around and around to our delight. From time to time I would look up at their decorated tree and spy an unusual ornament and bring it to my sister's attention. We would ooh and awww. What fun we had. When we left he would always give us some candy.

My best friend Mary Nickolson always had a blue tree with angel's hair. I can see the tree standing in the corner with the glowing lights now as I close my eyes. I guess that's what memories are made of.

These are some of my memories of Christmas past; I'm looking forward to Christmas present and beyond.

Everybody at The Clarkston News wishes
all our readers a Happy Holiday season!

Police and Fire

Independence Township

December 15:

Report of larceny and credit card fraud on Pelton. Resident told a live-in nanny to leave, then later found missing a credit/ATM card on their investment account and \$2,500 in fraudulent charges.

Domestic assault on Waterford Road. Deputies arrested 23-year-old woman for assault on her mother.

Larceny from vehicle on Clinton Drive. Two vehicles entered, with numerous compact discs stolen from each.

December 16:

Harassment report on Ortonville Road. Woman reported death threats from ex-friend.

Malicious destruction to mailbox report on Snow Apple Drive.

Damage to vehicle report on Sashabaw Road. Vehicle damaged by shopping cart.

Family trouble on Minnewanna. Father said 15-year-old son pushed him during an argument.

Threats report on Clarkston Road. Business owner said customer made threats because of dissatisfaction over work done.

Subject arrested for operating while intoxicated on Sashabaw Road. Suspect registered a blood alcohol level of 0.17 percent.

December 17:

Assault report at the Kroger on Dixie Highway. Suspect parked on the right side of victim's vehicle, opened door and banged suspect's vehicle. When victim was behind vehicle getting out bottles, suspect yelled obscenities and punched victim. Victim was treated by fire department EMTs and taken to POH Medical Center. Case was still open at time of report.

Subject arrested for operating while intoxicated on

Sashabaw Road. Driver registered a blood alcohol content of 0.16 percent.

Harassment report on Jerome. Woman reported threats by her boyfriend's ex-girlfriend.

Hit and run crash on Maybee near Sashabaw. Someone driving a bakery-style truck backed into awning at business.

December 18:

Soliciting without permit on Dixie Highway. Subject from the House of David was soliciting donations in traffic.

Home invasion on Langle Drive. Someone stole weed-eater from garage. No forced entry.

Threats complaint on Ortonville Road.

Threats complaint on Caberfae Trail.

Home invasion on Windward Court. Suspect stole radio from Corvette, rolling toolbox from garage and items from inside the house. No forced entry.

Larceny from vehicle on Frankwill. Suspect stole snowboarding equipment.

Larceny from vehicle on Riverview. Suspect stole power drill and CD player.

Larceny from vehicle on Frankwill. Suspect stole power drill and saw from van.

Burglary on Cobden Lane. Suspect stole power saw from garage. No forced entry.

Burglary on White Lake Road. Suspects ransacked office, taking a computer unit, unknown amount of cash and a van from the business.

Threats complaint at 52-2 District Court. Someone phoned in threats to a sheriff's deputy.

Springfield Township

December 15:

Identity theft/fraud report on Eagle Hill. A man said

someone used his name and Social Security number. During a credit report check he discovered an SBC account in his name to an address in Highland Park.

Family trouble on Country Lane Drive. A woman said her husband was "high" and out of control and wanted him out of the house. He complied after deputies spoke with him.

December 16:

Counterfeiting report at Kim's Convenience Store on Dixie Highway. A clerk reported finding a counterfeit \$20 bill.

Suspicious circumstances on Big Lake Road. Someone claiming to be a DTE Energy employee told a business employee that power was to be shut off. Upon contacting the business owner on a cell phone, the suspect asked for personal information such as Social Security number and home address. DTE said their employees were not scheduled to be in the area.

December 18:

Fraud report on Sherwood. A woman said she received a call from a collection agency concerning an AT&T Wireless account she does not have.

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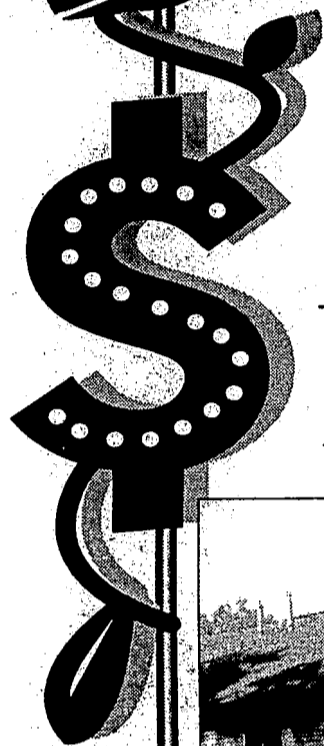
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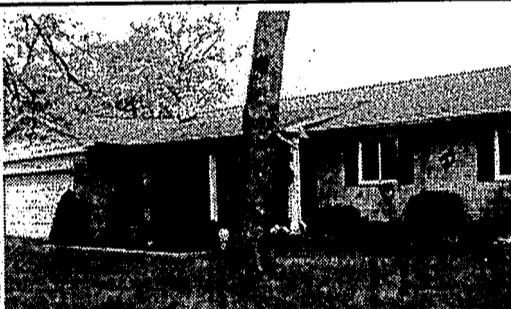
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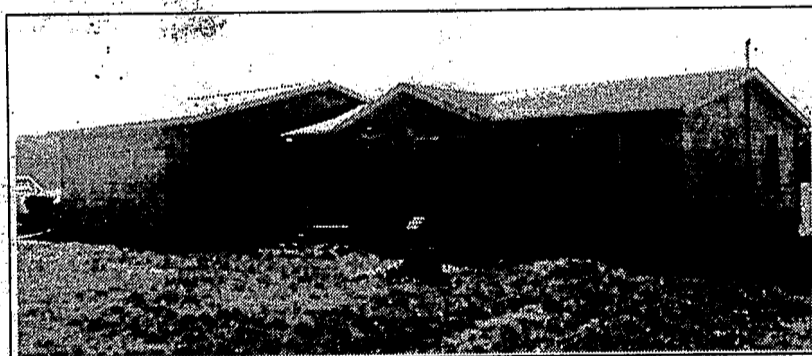
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Sports

Wolves defeat Lake Orion, Carman-Ainsworth

BY HARRY KNITTER
Clarkston News Staff Writer

The Clarkston Wolves demonstrated why their defense has been the strong point of their 4-0 basketball team as they defeated the visiting Dragons of Lake Orion in a one-sided effort, 72-46, Thursday, Dec. 18, at Clarkston.

The defense simply swarms to the ball like an army of bees to a cache of honey. Their opponents thus far haven't been able to penetrate the swarming defense, which forces turnovers, which result in baskets or fouls.

Coming close to the defensive highlight of the year, when they held Carman-Ainsworth scoreless in the third quarter and half of the 4th quarter of their game on Dec. 16th, the Wolves held Lake Orion to a measly two points in the second quarter of their game Thursday. The end-of-quarter scores Thursday were 18-8 at the end of the first, 34-10 at half, 55-25 at the conclusion of the third quarter, and 72-46 (final).

On the offensive side, it was Brad Goodman's good fortune to be in the right place at the right time, and he wound up the leading CHS scorer with 20. Chris Johnston was second with 18, including an alley-oop and a spectacular dunk that got the crowd going in the fourth quarter. Johnston spent almost the entire third quarter on the bench. Johnston had led the team with 59 points in the three games preceding their match with the Dragons.

Goodman was deadly from a distance as well as close range. He played a solid defensive game and scored consistently when he had the ball in the offensive end.

Earlier in the week came payback of sorts against Carman-Ainsworth from Flint's Big Nine Conference.

When your team holds the opponent scoreless for an entire quarter, plus four minutes of the next quarter, you know that there's some extra motivation involved. Not to mention skill.

But it took a little encouragement from the coach to light a fire under the Wolves' defense.

After Coach Dan Fife gave him a rather pointed

message about his defensive play, Kyle Rademacher responded with a gymnastic layup and followed up with a three-pointer from long distance, bringing the score to 29 to 17.

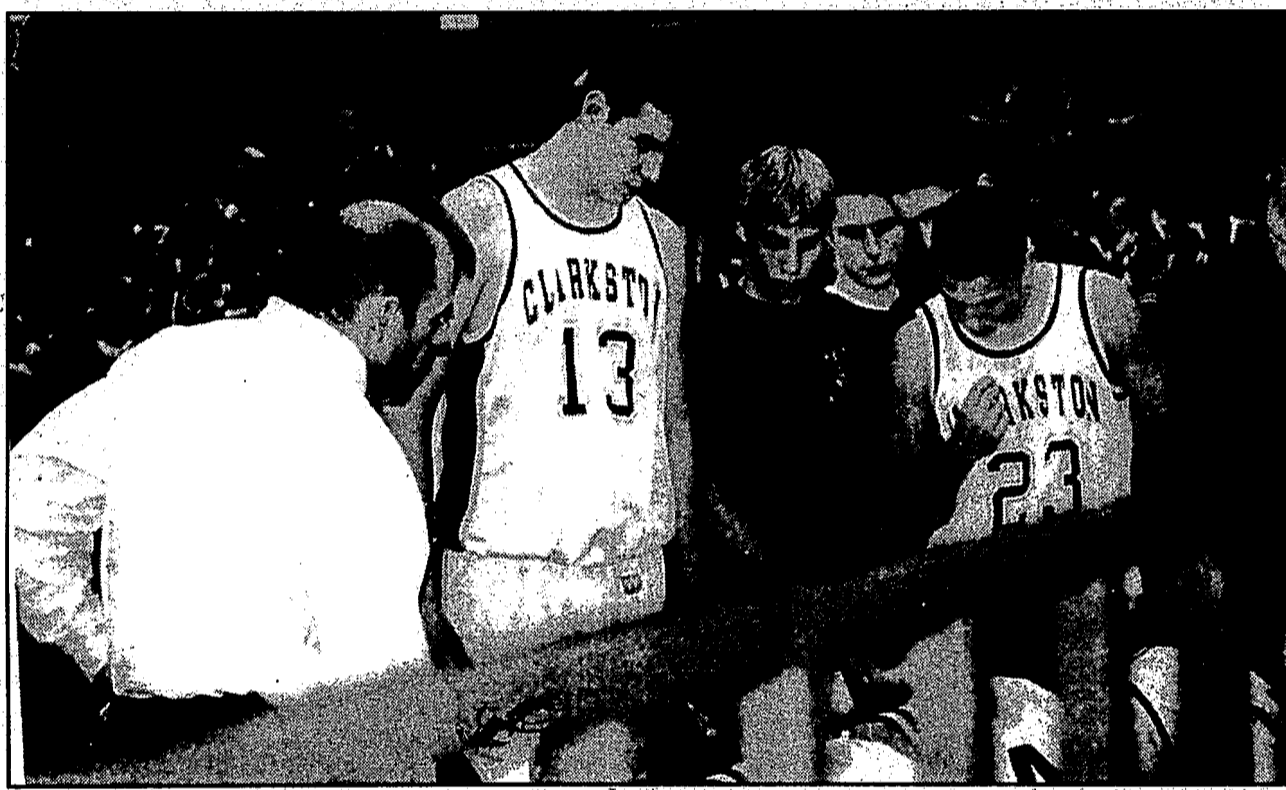
At the end of the second quarter, the score was 40 to 28, Clarkston in the lead. Twenty points later, the Wolves were ahead 60 to 28, and Ainsworth hadn't scored a single point during the third quarter against the Wolves' defense. Meanwhile, the Clarkston marks-

men were swishing the netting repeatedly as they built an insurmountable margin.

Then forward Zack McGee of Carman-Ainsworth hit a pair of free throws to break the drought.

The Clarkston JayVees recorded another impressive win over Carman-Ainsworth's JV squad, 53 to 35.

See Basketball on page 15A



The Clarkston bench huddles up during the varsity contest against Lake Orion. Photo by Harry Knitter.

Powerlifters finish 5th at Coloma meet

The Clarkston High School powerlifting team finished in a tie for fifth place in a Dec. 13 meet at Coloma. The team includes 10 lifters, less than a full roster.

Scoring is based on taking the best of three lifts in the squat, dead lift, and bench press, totalling the amount of weight lifted. Athletes are divided into weight classes and individual medals, and team points are awarded.

Boys' team lifters were Reed Body, Bill Hahn, Brett Kenerson, Steve MacIsaac, Jono Moehlig, Brad Nettle, and Nick Sorice. The girls' team was represented by Jenna Beano, Maggie Cornell, and Laura O'Neill.

Out of the 10 athletes who competed, seven medaled in their respective weight classes.

In the 123 lb. class, Jenna Beano placed second, lifting a total of 500 lbs. Maggie Cornell placed second in the 198 lb. class with a total of 520 lbs. At 145 lbs., Nick Sorice placed fourth with a total of 860 lbs. Bill Hahn placed second in the 155 lb weight class with a total of 975 lbs., Jono Moehlig placed first in the 181 lb. weight class, lifting 1,110 lbs. At 207 lbs., Steve McIsaac placed first, lifting 1,255 lbs., along with Brett Kenerson at 242 lbs., who also placed first with a combined lift of 1,230 lbs.

The Clarkston High School powerlifting team is coached by Chad Looper.

Athlete of the Week Johnson leads Wolves in scoring

BY HARRY KNITTER
Clarkston News Staff Writer

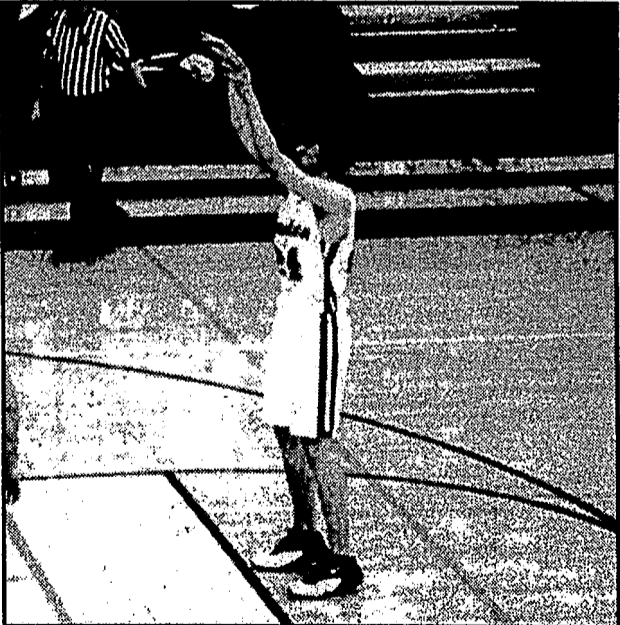
Although Coach Dan Fife teaches team play, there is an obvious star on this year's squad, Chris Johnston. Chris is a 6'6" senior who leads the team in scoring with 76 points in four games, a 19 point average.

He specializes in spectacular plays. When Chris intercepts an opponent's pass, watch for a dunk at the Clarkston end. When one of his teammates loops the ball toward the backboard, it's not an errant pass. It's probably an "alley-oop" that Chris will turn into a slam dunk.

He is a lean center that won't push a lot of opposing centers around. So Chris prefers to play on the wing and shoot jump shots or drive to the basket.

He likes to take the ball out after an opponent's basket and survey the court as the guards push the ball into the offensive zone.

Chris has already committed next year to Lincoln Memorial College in Tennessee.



Chris Johnson

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Wolves showcase hockey talent at Trenton tournament

Over the past 10 years, the number of high school varsity hockey programs in Michigan has tripled, making it the fastest growing high school sport with 200 teams at present.

Last weekend, the Wolves hockey team competed with 24 of the top ranked teams in the state at the fourth annual High School Showcase in Trenton. Clarkston has competed in this two-day, two-game event the past three seasons and are undefeated with a 1-0-5 record.

The Wolves were trailing 2-0 in both games, but came back Friday, Dec. 19 to tie Davison 3-3 and skated to a 4-4 ties Saturday against Traverse City Central.

The Wolves came out flat in the first game, allowing two even strength goals to Davison in the first 10 minutes of play. But at the 13:03 mark, Mike Medonis got Clarkston back in the game with his first goal of the season, stuffing the puck inside the left post off a pass from Kyle Cummings to narrow the gap, 2-1. Alex Handley also got the assist.

In the second period, the Wolves had a golden opportunity to tie the game when they had 1:02 of a five-on-three, but could not create any good scoring chances. The penalty kill seemed to energize Davison, as they immediately followed with a shot inside the right post to make it a 3-1 game.

Clarkston responded with two quick goals in the next 63 seconds to tie the game at 3-3. Danny Mutz got his first goal of the season on a pass play in front

of the net from newcomer Ricky Spano. Mike Fogg then scored his sixth goal of the season on a wrist shot through the five hole. Mutz assisted for his first two-point game of the season.

Both teams picked up their game in the third, but could not score. Clarkston goalie Mike Brach turned away 17/20 shots. The Wolves had 19 shots on goal.

"We are playing well in bits and pieces, but we're not playing to our potential," captain Kyle Buzzo said. "We haven't put a full game together yet."

"We were pretty well matched. Davison is a good team and well coached," coach Bryan Krygier said. They have been in the state finals or semi-finals three of the past four seasons.

In Saturday's game, both teams came out skating hard and aggressive, creating many penalties. The Wolves found themselves down 2-0 early in the first period as Traverse City took advantage of a 2:00 five-on-three, after Trevor Johns and Adam Peters were both called for roughing. TC Central added to their lead early in the second, scoring a short-handed goal on netminder Aaron Catenese.

The Wolves had some chances in the second period with a five-on-three of their own, but could not score until a CHS penalty created on a four-on-four. Mike Fogg turned on the light after literally crashing the net and scoring on passes from the Cummings brothers. The referee initially disallowed the goal, saying the net was off, but after conferring with the goal judge, the goal counted and the Wolves were on the board.

Penalties continued into the third period, and with Clarkston on a power play, Chris Degen was crosschecked in front of the net, giving the Wolves yet another five-on-three. This time they capitalized, as Trevor Johns sent a shot five hole from inside the blue line to narrow the gap at 3-2. G. Cummings assisted.

On the same shift, Johns scored again on a rebound off a G. Cummings shot, his third assist of the night, to tie the game at 3-3.

Late in the third, penalties again

reared their ugly face for the Wolves and Traverse City scored their third power play goal of the game to go up 4-3. But with a minute and a half left in the game, Buzzo sent a perfect pass from behind the net to an open K. Cummings in the slot, who sent a quick wrist shot to tie it up and preserve the three-year unbeaten streak. Medonis also got the assist.

"We didn't capitalize on our special teams as much as we should have," Krygier said.

"It's good we are going away to Alpena" Christmas weekend, Buzzo said. "I hope this will get us on track. That's what happened last year — we

had all these ties and then we went there and won."

According to Krygier, "This weekend was a benchmark to see how the Clarkston program is doing with other teams across the state. We are doing a lot of these things right but need to improve in the second half to be more ready for the top teams. All said, we matched up well and deserve to be one of the top 10 teams in the state."

The Wolves will travel to Alpena Dec. 26 for a two-day holiday tournament. The next league game is against Farmington at 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8 at Detroit Skate Club.

Wrestlers win county tourney

BY HARRY KNITTER
Clarkston News Staff Writer

With 250.5 points scored in two days of matches, Clarkston walked off with its third consecutive Oakland County Wrestling tournament, held this year at Troy High School. It was their eighth championship in 14 years, a remarkable achievement.

Individual standouts for the Clarkston matmen included Tony Lajoie, wrestling in the 135 lb. class. Lajoie pinned Shawn LaChance of South Lyon in 1:01 in the finals; Sean Turner, 152 lb. class, 8 to 3; and Jason Talbot, 275 lb. class, 10 to 6.

The weekend results:
TEAM STANDINGS

1. Clarkston, 250.5; 2. Milford, 220;
 3. Holly, 213.5; 4. Troy, 175.5; 5. Walled Lake Western, 167.5; 6. Oxford, 163;
 7. Rochester, 151; 8. Waterford Mott, 138.5; 9. (Tie) South Lyon and West Bloomfield, 130; 11. Birmingham Groves, 123.5;
 12. Madison Heights Lamphere, 117.
- Other Clarkston wrestlers finishing in the top three in their weigh class included Steve Smiley, 171, who took second; and Elliot May, who finished third in the 125 lb. weight class.

Basketball

Continued from page 13A

Top scorers for Clarkston were Brad Goodman with 15, Chris Johnston with 11, including a jam on an alley-oop pass from Kyle Rademacher, and dozens of contributions from the steady stream of competent performers that Coach Dan Fife sent into battle from his loaded bench.

After this game, Clarkston's record stood at 3-0 and Ainsworth, competing in the Big Nine Conference, is 1-2.

Youth soccer tryouts scheduled

Boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 11 are invited to a winter soccer tryout with the Clarkston Select Soccer Club (CSSC). The tryout will be held at the Oakland Yard Dome on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2004 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

The dome is located on the north side of M59 between Crescent Lake Road and Airport Road in Waterford.

Youngsters who make the team will be trained by professionals and play with quality teammates and compete with experienced, quality players.

The team is looking to add players to existing rosters or create new teams to train during the winter months, with competition scheduled for the spring of 2004.

Interested players and parents should contact the club secretary, Leslee Rogers, at 248-620-4607, or the Director of Coaching, Damian Huffer, at 248-882-0819.

The soccer club also has information available on their website: www.clarkstonsoccer.org.

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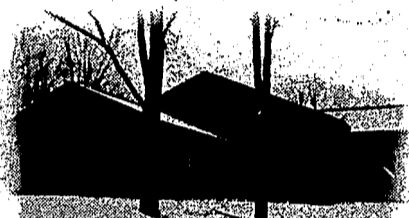
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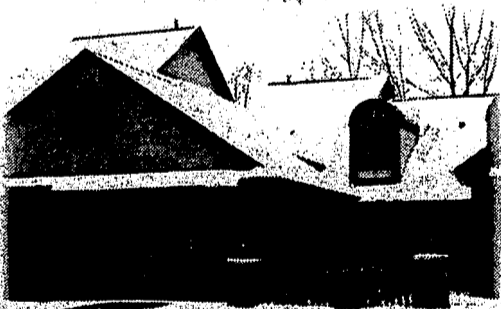
98-OAK \$359,900.



43-COA \$349,000



58-PIN \$329,888



66-STE \$269,500



16-SAS \$224,900



60-PAR \$178,900.

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People Poll

What are your plans for Christmas break?



"I'm going on a cruise to the Bahamas with my extended family. It's like 60 people. My grandparents paid for it."

— Brandon Boozer



"I'm going up north to ski race up near Boyne Highlands."

— Alyssa Vermeulen



"On Dec. 28 I'm going to St. Jude's for a stem cell transplant. I have Ewing's Sarcoma. I'll be back in April."

— Lauren Hart



"I plan to stay home, but for Christmas I'm going to a Chinese restaurant and to my aunt's house with my boyfriend."

— Darlene Welch

By Don Schelske

Millstream

The Clarkston News'

A section dedicated to showcasing all the reasons this is a great area to live and work!

McGinnis keeps kids in mind

BY KYLE GARGARO
Clarkston News Editor

With parents like Cheryl McGinnis, Clarkston High School students are in good hands.

The mother of three is the acting president of the Parent-Teacher-Student Association.

"We are a group of individuals who try to help the interests of the parents, staff, administration and the students," McGinnis said. "We try to be as supportive as possible when we are needed."

The group has a 400 person membership, which is a little lower than in years past, although some individuals are more active than others. The group mobilizes their volunteers by sending out a packet during the summer months where parents can sign up to help. When the group receives the replies from the parents, they form a database of volunteers which they use throughout the year.

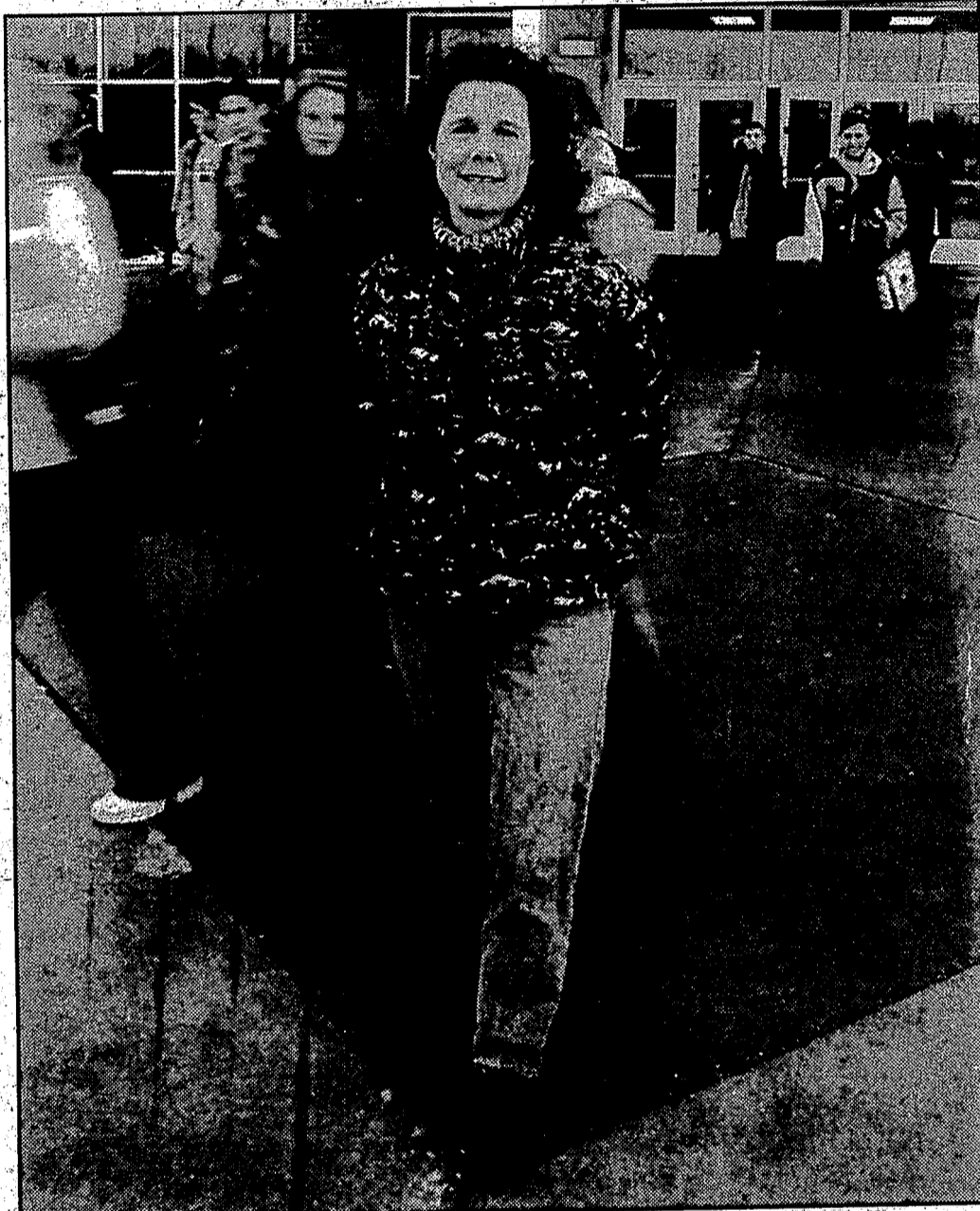
The group helps with items as simple as providing teachers with coffee and doughnuts during teacher conferences, and as time-consuming as assisting students with their schedules.

"Just this year we had about 25 to 30 volunteers come in and assist students with their schedules. It would normally take the counselors a month to meet individually with the students to finalize their schedules but with us in only took a week," McGinnis said. "We also helped with the MEAP test by packaging the test just the way the state wants it."

While McGinnis is the acting president, she is quick to point out it is the volunteers that make the most difference.

"We seldom get a rejection because the list is tailored to what the parents are comfortable with. Our parents really participate and really give of their time," McGinnis said. "A lot of us have full time jobs and we do what we are able to do."

McGinnis works full time with her husband Mark's business. Despite that she finds time to take an active interest in her children's education and the schools they attend.



Cheryl McGinnis feels at home with Clarkston High School students. Her philosophy is to work in the best interest of all the students. Photo by Bob Flath

"I am in the high school about two or three times a week. It is great to walk the halls. It is very refreshing to see a lot of the kids who know me by name. The kids have no problem with parents being in the building," McGinnis said.

While she has been helping the schools for numerous years, McGinnis has to really give it some thought to remember how it all

started.

"Now that I think about it, it was a Clarkston bond campaign to build a new elementary school," McGinnis said.

McGinnis heard about the movement from a group of women in her neighborhood, and after learning about the issues she decided to help out the cause. While the bond issue did not pass at that time, a journey of McGinnis helping the school district did.

A few years later after attending a rally at the school board offices, McGinnis co-chaired a bond issue for Springfield Plains Elementary. McGinnis has since chaired other bond issues and attempted to do what is in the best interest of Clarkston Community Schools students.

"I do it for the community," McGinnis said. "I never thought I should do it because

See McGinnis on page 5B

'I do it for the community. I never thought I should do it because my kids will have new desks or computers. I just think of all the students as a whole.'

Cheryl McGinnis
CHS Parent Teacher Student Association



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Discolored Paper

Around Town

The Springfield Township Business Association is looking for other local business owners to join. The group meets at 1400 Davisburg Rd. every last Tuesday of the month from 5-6 p.m. Recent ongoing topics of discussion include Main Street revitalization and parade planning. Call Diane Wozniak at (248) 882-3180 for more information.

Club 5529, a Christian hangout for 18 to 30-year-olds, will host the band Bleach with special guest Stasis on Friday, Jan. 2. Doors open at 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 at the door. General admission seating. Club 5529 is located inside the Clarkston Christian Association on Sashabaw, at the corner of Maybee. For more information, call (248) 620-4900 or logon to www.5529music.com.

Don't haul the Christmas tree to the trash. Take it to one of 10 Oakland County Parks to be recycled. Local parks, Springfield Oaks Activity Center in Davisburg and Independence Oaks in Clarkston, will accept trees Dec. 26-Jan. 10 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. seven days a week. Independence Oaks will accept trees through Jan. 31. There is no charge to drop off trees. Plastic, tinsel and wire

must be removed. Large quantities leftover from commercial lots will not be accepted. The parks system will process the trees into wood chips. For more information, call (248) 858-0906.

The Widowed Support Group will meet for an informal sharing meeting Thursday, Jan. 8 at 7 p.m., facilitated by bereavement counselor Alicia Brown. The topic for the evening is "Beginning a New Year -- Challenging The Myth of Time in Healing Grief." This holiday meeting is for anyone coping with a loss. All meetings are held at the Independence Township Senior Center in Clintonwood Park on Clarkston Road. There is no registration and meetings are free. Refreshments will be served. Any questions, or if anyone would like to be on a mailing list, call the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home at (248) 625-5231.

Outback Steakhouse is sponsoring a benefit cocktail party on Saturday, Jan. 10 with all proceeds supporting the proposed Spraypark at Clintonwood Park in honor of Renee Przybylski, who passed away from cancer. Tickets are \$15/person. For details, call the restaurant at (248) 620-4329. Tickets are available from Spraypark Committee members or at Independence

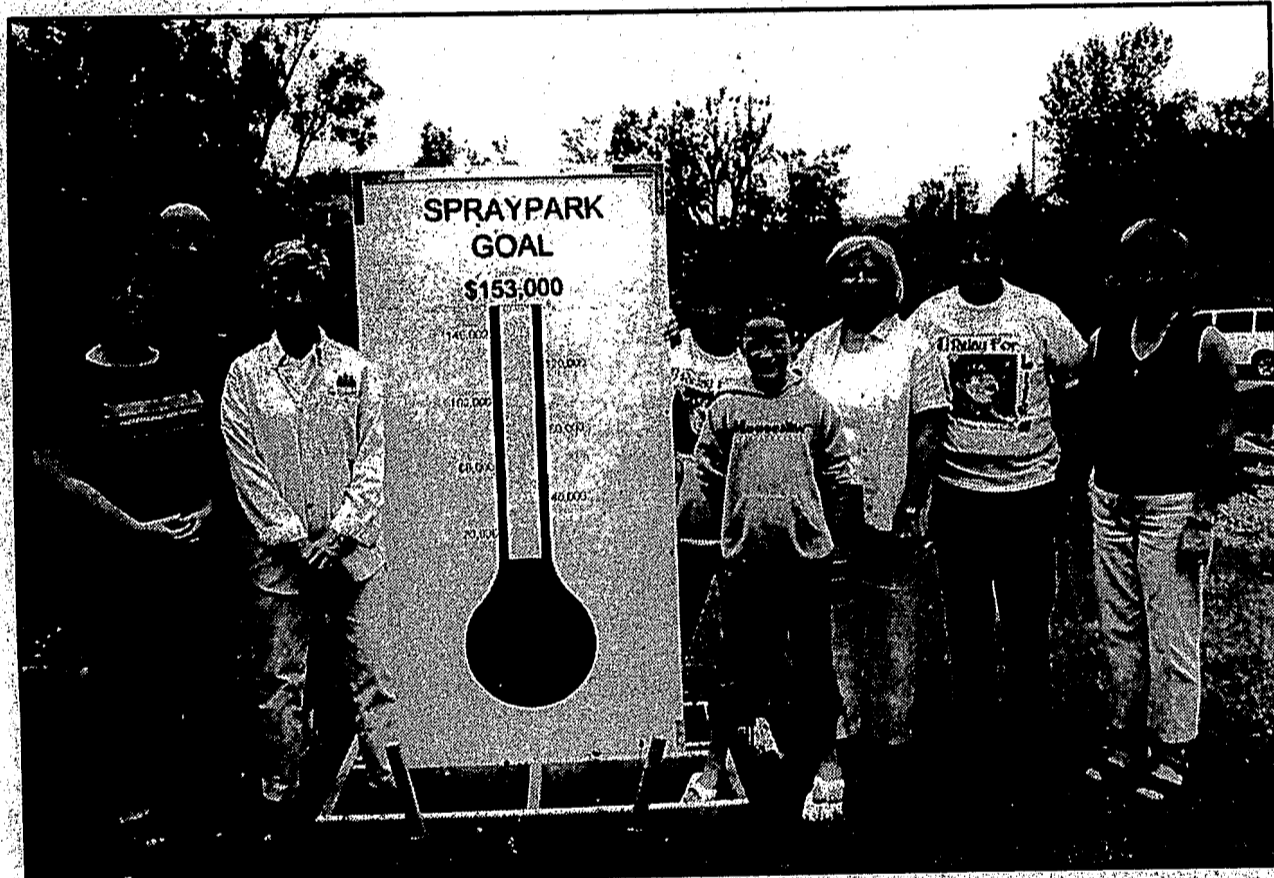
Township Parks and Recreation at 90 N. Main. or (248) 625-8223. In March, the Spraypark Committee set a goal to raise \$153,000 by Dec. 31 to build the Spraypark. So far, \$92,000 has been donated through businesses, organizations, individuals and fundraisers. To learn more about the Spraypark, visit www.clarkstonspraypark.org.

James Wilhelm, one of Clarkston's Edward Jones investment representatives, will host a free broadcast program, "Outlook 2004: A Turning Point for America?" featuring political adviser David Gergen at 6:45 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 7183 N. Main St., Ste. C. The broadcast features a panel of financial experts and Gergen, former advisor to both Democratic and Republican presidents, who will explore the state of the nation, economy and financial markets in 2004. During this one-hour televised event, the panel will discuss the aftermath of 2003, the upcoming presidential election and its effect on the economy, and strategies for one's portfolio in 2004. To reserve a seat or for more information, call Wilhelm at (248) 625-1232. If you are unable to attend, additional viewing opportunities are available.

The Clarkston Village Players present "Social Security" by Andrew Bergman, running Jan. 16, 17, 23, 24, 25, 29, 30, 31. Bergman's play focuses on the two adult daughters of widow Sophie: Barbara and Trudy. Barbara and her husband David are successful art gallery owners. Trudy is a housewife caring for her bland accountant-husband Martin. When a crisis befalls Trudy and Martin, they are forced to trundle mama in from Long Island and pawn her off on Barbara and David. The ensuing action involving Sophie and a 98-year-old world class painter named Maurice teaches us all that we're never too old. Showtimes are Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for Thursday and Sunday, \$12 for Friday and Saturday. For tickets call the Depot Ticket line at (248) 625-8811. Tickets are also available at Tierra Fine Jewelry, 64 S. Main in downtown Clarkston. Call (248) 625-2511. Visit www.clarkstonvillageplayers.org for more information. Depot Theater is located at 4861 White Lake Rd. in Clarkston.

Crosshill Community Preschool, located in the Davisburg United Methodist Church at 803 Broadway has openings in the afternoon 4's and young 5's classes. An afternoon 3's class will be starting on Jan. 20. Crosshill provides a developmental program with free play, directed activities, art, music, gym and snack. For enrollment or more information, call Vicki at (248) 889-4249 or the director at (248) 634-1064.

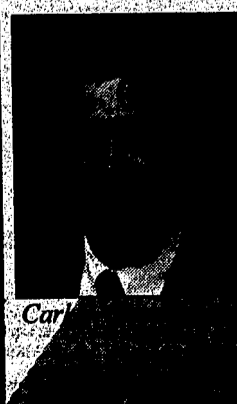
The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality will hold a public hearing on the Lake Waumegah Augmentation Well permit on Jan. 6 at 7 p.m. All interested persons are invited and the hearing will take place at the Springfield Township Civic Center.



Outback Steakhouse is holding a benefit cocktail party to raise funds for the proposed Spraypark at Clintonwood Park in memory of Renee Przybylski. File photo

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Obituary

Robert E. Field

Robert E. Field, of Stuart, Florida and Clarkston, went to be with the Lord December 19, 2003 at age 87.

He was the dear husband of Mildred (Long) Field for 62 years; dear father of Suzanne (Thomas) Nickmas of Stuart, Barbara (Paul) Lampkin of Waterford and Joann (Donald) Mendham of Rockford; grandpa of Steve and Mark Nickman, Julie (Scot) Harmon, Bradley (Debbie) Lampkin, Melissa Hughes, Stacy (Blake) King, Lori (Kevin) Spalding, Matthew and Marcy Mendham, Wendy (Dennis) Hopkins and Lyndsay (Brett) Johnson; great-grandpa of Sarrian, Makayla, Noah and Marrison Harmon, Amber and Logan Lampkin, Travis Robert, Stephanie Braeden, Luke and Hayden Spalding, Alana Nickman, Danielle and Katrina Hopkins and Carrissa Johnson.

Robert was born in Lansing in 1916, the son of the late Albert and May Field. He moved to the Pontiac area in 1918 and has lived in Florida and Clarkston six months each year for 25 years. He graduated from Pontiac High School in 1933 and from General Motors Institute, now Kettering University, in 1937. He worked 40 years at General Motors Coach, retiring in 1974 as Assistant Chief Engineer. He was a 64 year member of Central United Methodist Church of Pontiac and held a local preacher's license doing pulpit supply work in various Methodist churches. He was elected to the Board of Education of Waterford in 1961 and served through 1968 and was president of the board for two years. Robert served in both the US Army and the Navy in WWII.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lewis E. Wint & Son TRUST 100 Funeral Home, Clarkston. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Central United Methodist Church, Waterford.

Harold Reekwald

Harold Reekwald, of Millington and formerly of Holly and Clarkston, died December 18, 2003 at age 81.

He was preceded in death by his wife Ivalee "Rusty" and son Randy; father of Connie (Duane) Hummer of Waterford, Jim of California, Kathy (Ray) Wilmot of Millington, Dan of Holly, Russ (Michele) of Texas and Theresa (Tony) DeBlasio of Texas; also survived by 13 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Harold was a decorated veteran in the US Army during WWII. He owned and operated Clarkston Real Estate as a real estate broker with his late wife and his son, Russ. During retirement, he devoted his time to his love of art. A Funeral Service was held at the Lewis E. Wint & Son TRUST 100 Funeral Home, Clarkston. Interment Lakeview Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Genesys Hospice or Michigan Cancer Institute.

William "Leonard" Cotter

William "Leonard" Cotter, of Missouri and formerly of Clarkston, died December 16, 2003 at age 85.

He was preceded in death by his first wife Carmen; husband of Pauline; father of Phyllis Smith of Washington, Jeanne (Bob) Sawdon of Williamston, Scott of Rochester Hills and Rob (Karen) of Davison; also survived by 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; brother of Leland (Lyde) of Oxford.

A Funeral Service was held Dec. 20 at the Lewis E. Wint & Son TRUST 100 Funeral Home, Clarkston. Interment Ottawa Park Cemetery.

Thomas A. Wall

Thomas A. Wall, of Millstone Township, died December 15, 2003 at age 61.

Born in Yonkers, NY, he lived in Clarkston for 16 years before moving to Perrineville five years ago. He was a Navy veteran. He worked for Volkswagen of America in Detroit for 31 years in various positions, most recently as inventory manager, before retiring in 1999.

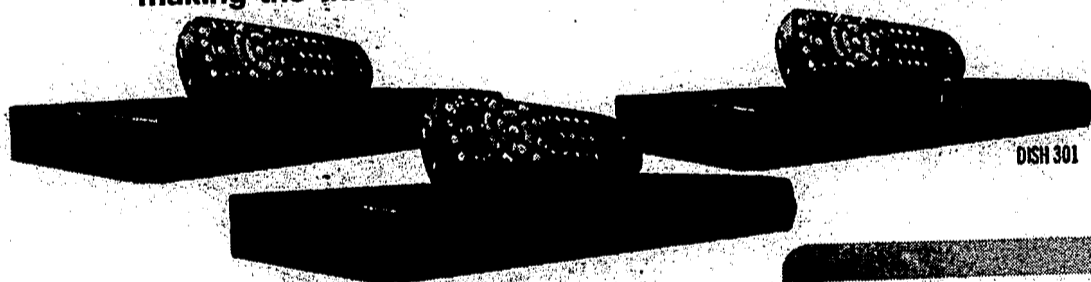
He is survived by his wife Ruth; three sons, a daughter and daughter-in-law, Thomas and Louraine Keene-Wall of Miami, Michael of Mesa, Arizona, Christopher of Sarasota and Michelle Wall of Perrineville; his mother, Dorothy Altieri and sister, Peggy Wall, both of Port St. Lucie, Florida.

A Funeral Liturgy was offered on Dec. 20 at St. John's Church in Yonkers, NY.

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How was your 2003?

It's been a rotten year.

During 2003, my wife and I mourned the deaths of four special people in our small church family. We have some dear friends who are facing Christmas without their loved ones, and we are missing some good friends.

My uncle died a couple weeks ago, leaving his wife of 50 years to face Christmas alone.

About three months ago, my mother-in-law suffered a stroke. She is now in a nursing home, paralyzed on one side of her body and unable to speak. My father-in-law (who has health problems of his own), has found it difficult to function in her absence.

Earlier this year, someone stole my camera equipment from my car. It was a good outfit, but so old it was not worth reporting to the insurance company.

After about a year of pain from an "old football injury" (i.e. taking pictures for a newspaper at a football game), I finally underwent knee surgery a few weeks ago. While definitely grateful for the relief of the previous pain, the recovery pain has been no picnic.

And let's not even go into all the car problems which have left my wife and myself either stranded, broke or both too many times this year.

Add the various personal and professional setbacks about which it would be inappropriate to cover in this space, and I feel like I have plenty of reason to despair.

(The only problem is, I feel guilty because of those whose lot in life is a lot worse than mine.) Any way you look at it, it was a rotten year.

However...

Contrary to the culture, I don't measure "good" and "bad" according to money, power, prestige or even

health. While it's not always easy, I'm learning to set my sights on a higher standard, one which has eternity's values in view.

Our church Christmas musical this year was entitled, "A Thrill of Hope." The creators of this work referred to many of the things that can bring us down at Christmas — death of loved ones, broken relationships, etc. — and they even referred to national tragedies such as Sept. 11, 2001 and the Columbia shuttle.

While there is recognition of suffering and disappointment, there is joy when people discover the real promise in the Christmas story. Or, more accurately, in the Christ of Christmas.

It's interesting how many times the word "hope" is used in the Bible. And it's a different definition than we're used to. Not a wishful thing, like, "I hope it doesn't rain." There is a sense of confidence in our expectation.

Reporter At Large



Don Schelske

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF OAKLAND NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate FILE NO.

Estate of William H. Peavey, Deceased
Date of Birth: May 3, 1925
TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent, William H. Peavey, who lived at 344 Broadway Davisburg, Michigan died February 24, 2003.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Mark Peavey, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac, MI 48341-0449 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: Mark Peavey
34632 Nashua Blvd.
Sorrento, FL 32776
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Schmidt, Isgrigg, Anderson & Miller
Robert G. Isgrigg, Jr. P24924
2745 Pontiac Lk. Rd.
Waterford, Michigan 48328-2653
(248) 682-8800

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ... And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God" (Romans 5:1-2, NIV).

Rather than despair in human trials and disappointments (which will always be present in this life), we can use this special season of the year to look at the big picture, a picture which must include more than the manger.

The birth of Christ was followed by the perfect life of Christ, which was followed by the sacrificial death of Christ to pay the penalty for our sins. That was followed by the resurrection of Christ, which demonstrated ultimate victory over death and made it possible for us to enjoy real, full, eternal life.

So, whatever that end-of-year holiday letter may include, those who know Christ are able to follow the encouragement to, "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer" (Romans 12:12, NIV).

Because of Christ, I can say that 2003 was a good year, and there are more to come.

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Smiles of the week



Tammy Honey (left), Karen Cooke, Wendy Kato, Mary Fogg, Debbie Jones and Sharron Belch are building aides at Clarkston High School. They wish everyone a Merry Christmas. Photo by Don Schelske

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5:30 pm Saturday:
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Dir. of Music: Carolyn Thibideau
Parish Visitor: Rev. Richard Hanna
C.E. Dir. Julie Smith
Sat. Worship Music Leader: Steve Keith
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6800 Waldon Road, Clarkston, 248-625-1611
(2 blocks S. of M-15) Website: clarkstonumc.com
"Vitality connecting people to people and people to God."
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Prayer Times: Sundays 8:30 am & 5:30 pm
Fellowship Times: Sundays 10 am & 12 noon
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7010 Valley Park Dr., Clarkston (W. of M-15, S. of I-75) 625-4580
Pastor: Msgr. Robert Humitz
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Sunday Masses: 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 am
Nursery Available: 9:00 & 11:00 am
Religious Education: 625-1750
Mother's Group, RCIA, Scripture Study, Youth Group

CLARKSTON FREE METHODIST CHURCH

Corner of Winell at Maybee Rd. 623-1224
Dave Coleman, Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor: Clancy Thompson, Director of Student Ministries; Amy Horvath
Worship Services: 9:00, 10:30, 11:45 a.m.
Christian Education Classes 9 am & 10:15 am
Evening Praise & Worship: 6:00 pm (Nursery & Child care provided)
Wednesday Family Program 7:00 pm

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Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
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Preschool: 620-8154

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6300 Clarkston Road
Clarkston (248) 625-1323
Home of Clarkston Christian School
Pastors: Greg Henneman, Bonita Laudeman
Kevin Kuehne, Michael Anderson
Sunday: Worship 9:30 & 11:00 am
School of Discipleship 11:00 am
Nursery Care at all services
Wednesday: Children's Ministries 5:30-8:00 pm
Sunday: Youth Ministries 5:00-7:00 pm
www.clarkstoncchurch.com

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10:30 am Worship Service
5:00 pm Choir Practice
6:00 pm Evening Service
Mon: 8:30 pm Awana
Wed: 10:00 am Morning Prayer Partners
7:00 pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study

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Sunday: Worship Service 10 am (Contemporary Praise)
Children's Ministry 10 am
Sunday Morning phone: 623-2596
Wednesday: Bible Study & Prayer 7 pm
Children & Youth Ministry 7 pm
2nd Wednesday of each month is Ladies Meeting only

NORTH OAKS COMMUNITY CHURCH an Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 am
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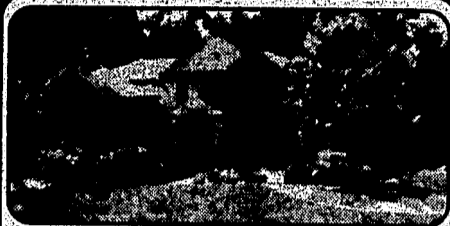
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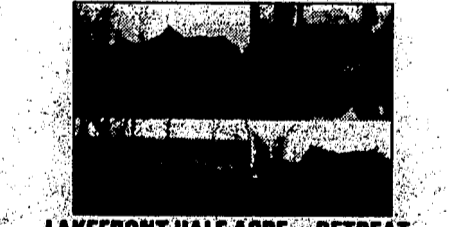
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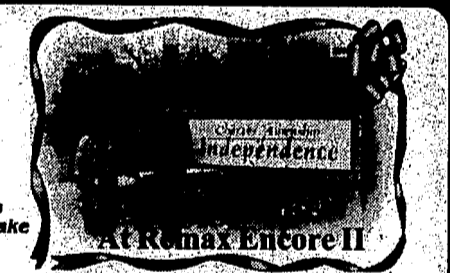


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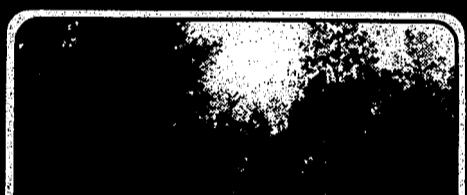
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Trading one ticket book for another



The Clarkston Police Department took on waiting tables at Pete's Coney II in Clarkston on Dec. 1 from 4-8 p.m. Police Chief Ernest Combs joked the Pete's staff made the officers look stupid in their serving duties. One waitress told the Chief plainly he was "out of his element." All the tips collected, more than \$1,400, were donated to Toys for Tots. Photo provided.



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Cheryl McGinnis invites other parents to get involved with the CHS Parent Teacher Student Association. Photo by Bob Flath

McGinnis

Continued from page 1B

my kids will have new desks or computers. That is never a consideration. I just think of all the students as a whole."

While not classifying herself as a "popcorn mom," McGinnis says she was always an interested parent.

"I think parents should think outside the box. They should know the curriculum. They should do what they feel is the right thing to do. Parents must take an active role in their student's education at every level. I am a firm believer I am my child's first teacher," McGinnis said. "Sometimes it is hard for parents to look at the whole picture, but that is something they need to do. Sometimes you have to look at what is good for every-

one."

The group meets the second Tuesday of each month in the Clarkston High School media center at 6:30 p.m. The group is always looking for new members and McGinnis is looking for someone to succeed her as president. The 20-year Clarkston resident has been president for three years.

"It doesn't take 100 volunteers to make a change, it just takes one," McGinnis said. "My heart tells me this is what I should be doing but believe me, this is not a Cheryl McGinnis thing."

McGinnis is the mother of Sarah, senior, Natalee, sophomore and Patrick, seventh grade.

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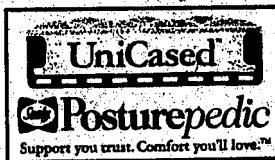
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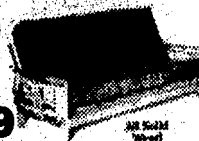
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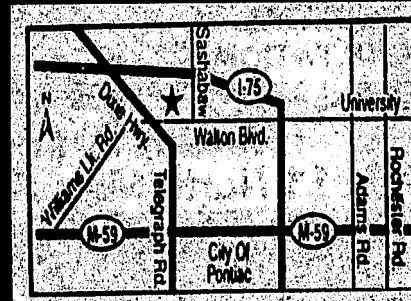
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Welcome to Christmas in the village

BY DON SCHELSKE
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Jann Neil didn't intend to launch a new Christmas tradition. It just kind of happened.

Using commercially-designed holiday "village" buildings, Neil decided to go for the local look, and transformed some of the generic buildings into her own version of Main Street Clarkston.

An old church building is Neil's representation of the Clarkston Union. Rudy's Market is represented, as is Village Apparel and Gifts and Morgan's apartments. A gazebo reminded Neil of Depot Park.

It all started with a house which reminded Neil of the duplex in which she lives in the Village of the City of Clarkston.

"That inspired me," she said, and soon

some of the other buildings followed. "I thought, 'I'm going to make this our village.'"

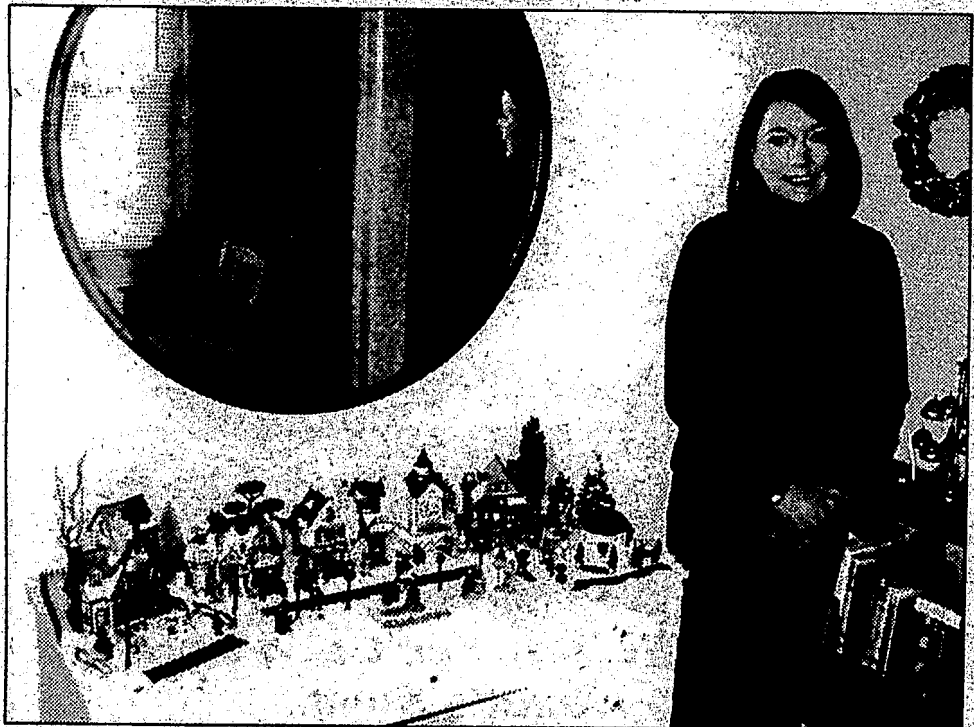
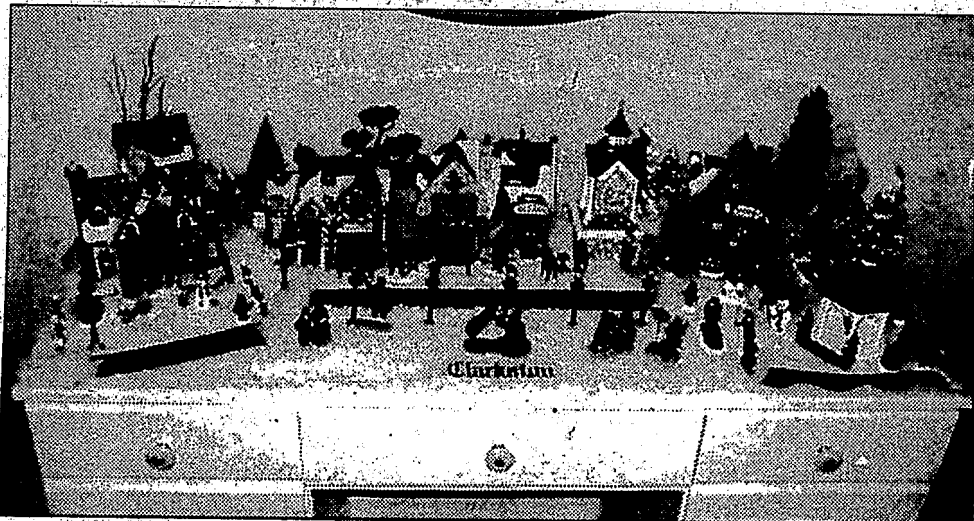
The display includes lots of little details, including street signs for S. Main Street and N. Holcomb, musicians to honor the Clarkston Conservatory and other figures and street benches. On a couple of the buildings, realistic-looking signs came from logos clipped from ads in *The Clarkston News*.

At a recent cocktail party, friends saw the display and loved it.

"My friends thought it would be pretty clever," she said.

Neil is a 10 year area resident and one-year city resident, and she said her Christmas village is just a reflection of how she feels about Clarkston.

"I love living here," she said. "It's so secure."



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Everest students share Christmas writing

(Students at Everest Academy read The Clarkston News was looking for writings for our Christmas issue and they responded. Here are a few of their writings)

My Best Christmas By Theresa Schmid Grade 3

One night my dad woke me up. He said he was going to give me a present. It was from three people named Santa Claus, Francis Gogas and my dad. I got my coat and went outside.

Now of course it was my Christmas present, but this was in the end of November. My sister was outside too. We were wondering what was going on. We were wondering why dad was smiling too. Then he led us towards the barn.

The barn lights were on so that made it mysterious. But when I walked inside, I smiled. I smiled because I saw two lovely horses. One was spotted and her name was Mickey. The second one was brown with a blaze down her face and her name was Buck.

Dad said I could choose one to be my own. It was hard because they were both wonderful. Then I chose Mickey. She was a beautiful Appaloosa. That, was the best Christmas ever.

What Christmas is like to me at my house By Sadie Makuch Grade 3

*The lights are bright
Oh look and see
All the colors
On the tree*

*The angel sits way up high
Her wings reach to touch the sky
She brings good news of Jesus' birth
The good news goes all around the earth*

*Four Advent candles we light to show
The coming of Jesus, you know!*

The Best Christmas Ever By Rachel Wayne Grade 3

Once in the city of Clarkston, there was a little girl named Kathy. She was a nice girl, but the only thing was, she thought Christmas was all about gifts. Her parents didn't know what to do.

First, they thought they shouldn't give her any presents. But, they also knew this meant they wouldn't be giving anything to their one and only child. Next, they thought they should tell her what Christmas is really about. "That's it" said the mom, "Let's tell her what Christmas really means right now."

So the parent called to her and she went down the stairs to her parents. They said, "Well, we need to tell you what Christmas is about. Christmas doesn't mean getting presents."

"Then what is Christmas about?" Kathy asked.

"Well, once in the city of Nazareth there was a virgin named Mary and a carpenter named Joseph. One day, an angel appeared to Mary and said, "do not be afraid the Lord is with you, and you will be the mother of the Savior of the world. And you will marry a carpenter named Joseph."

Mary was surprised. Then, the angel appeared to Joseph and said, "Do not be afraid the Lord is with you and you will be the foster father to the Savior of the



Everest Academy students who wrote for the paper include, back from left, Ethan Schultz, Nick Ender, Michael Christen, Matthew Williams and Nick Dennis, back from left, Mike Settle, Sadie Makuch, Theresa Schmid, Rachel Wayne and Rachel Rizik. Photo by Kyle Gargaro.

World and you will marry a virgin named, Mary."

He was so surprised. Then, they went to Bethlehem and it was a long journey. But once they got to Bethlehem, nobody had a place for them to stay. Finally they found room in a stable. And soon after that Jesus was born. Angels were rejoicing, shepherds came running everyone wanted to see Him.

"And that is the story of Christmas. You see, Christmas is about giving and the birth of our Lord."

"Wow," said Kathy.

The next morning it was Christmas and before Kathy looked in her stocking she said a prayer for Jesus.

The Forgotten Town Rachel Rizik Grade 3

A long time ago, when everyone believed in Santa, Christmas was coming. All the elves were busy making toys. But, Santa was alone in a room. He was thinking about the last Christmas.

The last Christmas he was at his old town, where he used to live. He saw that nobody lived there. At last, Santa came out of the room. He decided that he would write a letter to the president. Santa dropped it through the chimney of the White House.

When the president found the letter her read it to everyone. It said:

Dear Everyone, There is a town where no one lives. It is east of Sunset Road. If you move there, I will give you great presents.

People thought about the letter, and thirty people moved there. Now at the North Pole the elves were working harder than before. Santa was very happy. The thing that Santa didn't know was that they were happy at the new town. They didn't want Santa to know. They thought he wouldn't give them great presents.

Christmas was that night. Santa didn't have all the gifts ready. He would have to go without them. Santa was at the town now, he stopped and thought for a minute. Santa realized that the town was the best gift

of all. He wrote a note to the thirty people that said, "The best gift that I, Santa, will give you is this town." The town became the most famous town ever.

My Christmas Experience Nick Dennis Grade 5

My Christmas experience is probably standard and no different than how you or anybody else spends their Christmas. Yet the good thing about Christmas is that normal is still always very special to you. In this essay, I will go into the reasons why I believe that normal is still special.

One of the reasons why normal is still special is that you do traditions year after year that bring back memories of things that have happened in past years. One of my family traditions is going to see Handel's Messiah, A DSO production.

This is something that I have come to enjoy more and more over the years. The reason that this is special to me is going out and spending time with my family. In the years to come I will be able to look back and think fondly of this experience.

Another fantastic tradition is every year putting on a school play for my family. I do not particularly enjoy it but I know my family does so I put on a smile and do it. One of the most common but special events is when I go to both of my grandparent's houses for parties. Here I will spend time with my cousins and have Christmas dinner while watching television.

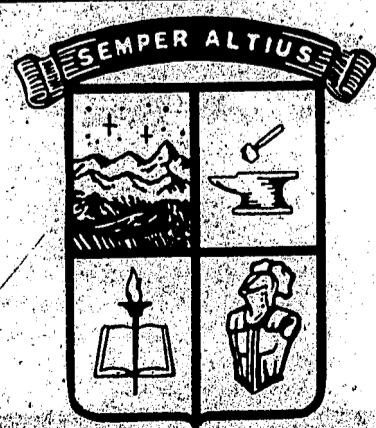
All of these things are what makes Christmas so common but special to me.

My Family's Christmas Tradition Michael Christen Grade 5

Every Christmas my family goes to Chicago to celebrate the holidays with my mom's side of the family. We have a really good time.




At first we watch television or we talk. Then we

Please see Everest continued on page 13B



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Everest

Continued from page 12B

eat my Aunt Sharon's fabulous food. Then we talk some more and later we exchange gifts. Then we talk some more and finally, some time after midnight we have to leave. I always have a good time with my aunts, uncles and cousins, especially with my cousin Rudy because he's always nice to me.

When I am at my aunt's house I feel welcome. My parents really make a sacrifice to take me to Chicago because they can not get tired because they have to drive back on Christmas Day. We always sleep in on Christmas morning so my dad is able to get a little rest.

It takes over five hours to drive to Chicago so we are on the road for almost 11 hours. My dad does most of the driving and always wants to leave Aunt Sharon's and Uncle Anton's before anyone else in the family.

Christmas is the best time of the year because my family is the best.

The True Meaning of Christmas

By Mike Settle

Grade 5

On Dec. 25, Christmas Day, you find gifts under your Christmas tree. Many people think Christmas is about giving and receiving gifts, but there is a lot more to it.

Christmas is about celebrating Jesus' birthday and spending time with your family. Getting gifts are to show you that you are part of Jesus and its your birthday. You go to Mass either on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Usually in the afternoon, you spend time with your family for the rest of the day.

I like to play video games with my family and all the other stuff. Christmas is an important time for me because I get to see my cousins in North Carolina. Also sometimes I get to see my cousins in Colorado.

Everybody can see the mangers and all the angels. Going to stores or on the streets there are the "Money for poor" people asking for money. Some schools even have toy drives for people who don't get presents. But most of all, everyone is happy because its Jesus' birth-

day. Merry Christmas.

Christmas Day

Nick Ender

Grade 6

One cool, brisk morning on Christmas Day, I slowly crept down the tall pine staircase. I smelled the dripping sap of the pine tree as it slowly oozed down to the base of the tree. I had reached the bottom of the stairs just to feel the icy cold tile smack on the bottom of my warm feet.

My toes tingled as I slowly inched across the room. I slowly crawled onto the freezing red sofa. My hand was sliding across the couch to try to grab the remote, but just then I heard a slow and long creak on the staircase. I rapidly turned my head towards the stairs just to see my sleepy and weary family slowly coming down the steps.

They had peculiar looks on their faces that told me there was something different about this Christmas than the others ones. They signaled my brother and me towards the extra bedroom. We were very curious and just plain excited. My parents slowly opened the door as we peeked inside and saw... a new computer. We were absolutely speechless; this, by far, was the most awesome gift we had ever received in our lives.

God had blessed our home that day. We still thank our parents for the great offering and sacrifice of their money to buy us this gift. We may not always have this computer but that Christmas Day will be one to remember.

Thanksgiving at Christmas

Matthew Williams

Grade 8

We all have many things to be thankful for, and we should call to mind all of the blessings we have received and will receive this Christmas.

As a Christian, I am most thankful for Christ's birth. Without this great event, there would never have been a Christmas holiday at all. Besides this, the thing I am

most thankful for this year is having the opportunity to go to Rome over Christmas break. Several boys in the sixth through eighth grade at Everest Academy were invited to go on this trip.

I will be able to see Pope John Paul II in Rome. I also have an uncle who is a priest there. I am very grateful for this opportunity that I may never receive again. It is one of the best Christmas gifts I have ever received.

I am also grateful for all the other gifts I receive for Christmas. I try not to take them for granted. This Christmas, my two sisters are coming home. This is yet another gift I greatly appreciate. These and many others are what makes Christmas special to me. But as we get caught up in the Christmas rush, we shouldn't forget the true meaning of Christmas, Christ's birth.

My Christmas Traditions

Ethan Schultz

Grade 8

My family has many Christmas traditions that date back to before I was born. These include both spiritual and secular traditions.

About five days before Christmas, my brother and I accompany my father on the hunt for a tree. We usually have to cut a tree down from our property at our cabin because the tree lots are closed. One year, we drove around for hours in search of a tree lot. When we found one, the sign read closed. We had to restrain our grandma so she would not jump the tree lots fence and pilfer one of the leftover trees.

After we somehow end up with a tree, we decorate it as a family. We pull out the pheasant feathers and deer antlers and anything else woody we can find and put them on the tree.

One of our newer traditions is to attend Midnight Mass. While we are there we pray that the new year will bring us closer to Christ. After Mass, we sit around to listen to the choir sing traditional Christmas carols. We then go home to await the break of day and a great Christmas breakfast.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



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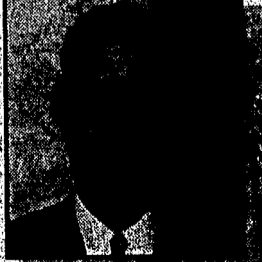
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*Getting
into the
Christmas
spirit!*

North Sashabaw Elementary School helped everyone get into the holiday spirit with a Christmas Singalong Friday, Dec. 19.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Because the People Want to Know
INDEPENDENCE TWP.

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF OAKLAND
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
ORDINANCE AMENDING
THE MORGAN LAKE
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT**

An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance No. 83, as amended, the Charter Township of Independence Zoning Ordinance, for the purpose of amending the Morgan Lake Planned Residential Development situated in Sections 25 and 36 of the Township, in accordance with the Zoning Ordinance, as amended, and the concept development plan for the undeveloped residential and clubhouse phases of the PRD and to amend the regulations applicable to and infrastructure for the development and use of the property under the PRD.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1 of Ordinance

The approximately 336 acres of property in the Northwest and Southwest 1/4s of Section 25, the East 1/2 of Section 36 of the Charter Township of Independence more particularly described on the attached legal description (the "Property"), was previously re-classified in the Zoning Ordinance and on the Zoning Map as PRD, Planned Residential Development, subject to and in accordance with that certain amendment to the Zoning Ordinance entitled "Ordinance Granting Morgan Lake Planned Residential Development," adopted on November 1, 1994, and amended on October 17, 1995, inclusive of a Concept Development Plan (as previously supplemented), Concept Development Plan Text/Narrative (as previously supplemented), Permit Conditions (as previously supplemented), Development Agreement (as previously supplemented) and other documentation (as previously supplemented) set forth in said amendments to the Zoning Ordinance (the "Original Morgan Lake PRD Ordinance, as amended").

Section 2 of Ordinance

An amendment to the Morgan Lake Planned Residential Development rezoning is granted subject to, and all development and use of the Property shall be under and in conformity with, the Original Morgan Lake PRD Ordinance, as amended, and the following documents, plans, permits, agreements and amendments to the Morgan Lake Planned Residential Development: Concept Development Plans (as previously supplemented), Narrative (as previously supplemented), Permit Conditions (as previously supplemented), Development Agreement (as previously supplemented), Conservation Easements (as previously supplemented), and PRD Affidavit (as previously supplemented):

1. The Amended Concept Development Plan Narrative/Text and Amended Concept Development Plans, dated October 13, 2003, as revised to-date, and only as approved by the Charter Township of Independence Board of Trustees.
2. The First Amendment to Permit Conditions for the Morgan Lake Planned Residential Development.
3. The First Amendment to Development Agreement for Morgan Lake Planned Residential Development.
4. The Conservation Easement -- Open Space and Conservation Easement -- Wetlands, and Escrow Agreement (pertaining to said Conservation Easements), dated October 25, 1995, which are reflected in that certain Affidavit Providing Notice of Escrow Agreement recorded at Liber 15787, Pages 512-514, Oakland County Records, and further referenced at Liber 23566, Page

220 Oakland County Records.

5. Agreement Implementing Tree Preservation and Clearing Plan, dated March 1, 1996.

6. Any and all permits issued by the Township within the Morgan Lake PRD subsequent to approval of the Original Morgan Lake PRD Ordinance, as amended.

7. Any and all other written agreements entered into between the Township and owners of property within the Morgan Lake PRD subsequent to approval of the Original Morgan Lake PRD Ordinance, as amended.

8. Any and all conditions of approval of the Independence Township Board of Trustees and Planning Commission pertaining to the proposed amendments to the Morgan Lake Planned Residential Development.

9. Recordation with the Oakland County Register of Deeds Office of an Affidavit by the owner of the Property affected prior to commencement of construction and prior to the sale of any property in the as yet undeveloped portions/phases of the Morgan Lake Planned Residential Development Property, containing the legal description of the entire Morgan Lake PRD, specifying the date of approval of this amendment to the Morgan Lake Planned Residential Development and declaring that all future development of the Property has been authorized, restricted and required to be carried out in accordance with the Original Morgan Lake PRD Ordinance, as amended, and this ordinance.

Section 3 of Ordinance

Amended only as specified in this Ordinance, the Zoning Ordinance, including without limitation the Original Morgan Lake PRD Ordinance, as amended, shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 4 of Ordinance

The provisions of this Ordinance shall become effective eight (8) days from the date of publication, unless a notice of intent to file a petition requesting submission of this Ordinance to a vote of the Township electors is filed within seven (7) days of publication. If the notice of intent is filed within seven (7) days of publication, the Ordinance shall take effect thirty-one (31) days from the date of publication, unless a petition determined to be adequate by the Township Clerk is filed within thirty (30) days of publication, the Ordinance shall be submitted to a vote of the Township electors, and if approved, the effective date of the Ordinance will be the date that voter approval is determined. A petition requesting submission of this Ordinance to a vote of the township electors shall be deemed adequate by the Township Clerk if it is signed by a number of registered electors residing in the portion of the Township outside the limits of cities and villages equal to not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total vote cast for all candidates for governor at the last preceding general election at which a governor was elected.

CERTIFICATION

It is certified that the foregoing Ordinance was duly adopted by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Independence on the 16th day of December, 2003.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE

By: Joan E. McCrary, Clerk

INTRODUCED: 07/15/03

ADOPTED: 12/16/03

EFFECTIVE: 01/08/04

PUBLISHED: 12/24/03

Property Description Exhibit

T4N, R9E, SEC 25 & 36 OAKLAND COUNTY CONDOMINIUM PLAN NO 975 THE RIDGE AT MORGAN LAKE GOLF CLASSIC CONVERTABLE AREA L 16227 P 193 5-14-96 FR.001 TO 004, 007, 401.001, 007 & 426-033. 5-15-02 CORR TO 245.41 A T4N, R9E, SEC 25 S 1/2 OF SE 1/4 OF NW 1/4 20 A J266

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**SYNOPSIS
TAKEN BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD
THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP
OF INDEPENDENCE**

Supervisor Stuart called the December 16, 2003 meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Independence Township Library. Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call: Present: Kelly, McCrary, Rosso, Stuart, Travis, Wagner, Wenger
Absent: None

- There is a quorum.
1. Approval of the agenda as submitted.
 2. Approved the Consent Agenda as amended.
 - Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of December 2, 2003
 - Approval of Purchase Orders in the amount of \$505,268.05
 3. Approved motion of Bid Award for Test Production Wells.
 4. Approved motion entering into contract with Inland Lake Landscaping for Hillview/Waldon Creek Phase III Driveway Proposals.
 5. Approved motion of Second Reading and Adoption Request of Revised Concept Development Plan, Eagle Ridge at Morgan Lake PUD.
 6. Approved motion of Final Plat Approval for Hidden Acres.
 7. Approved motion to adopt the Emergency Response Cost Recovery - Schedule of Costs.
 8. Approved motion authorizing the signing of the RCO Agreement - Sashabaw Road Drainage.
 9. Approval of Accounts Payable Check Run in the amount of \$583,825.13.
 10. Approved motion to enter into Closed Session at 8:10 p.m.
 11. Approved motion to reopen the Regular Meeting at 9:22 p.m.
 12. Approved motion to adjourn at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joan E. McCrary
Township Clerk

Published 12/24/2003

Merry Christmas!

May your holidays be
warm, safe and happy.



Thank you to all our readers and
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11 MONTH OLD Bullmastiff pit, pure-bred female. Shots. Asking \$360. 248-393-0097. IIRX1-2

LAB PUPS AKC/OFA, chocolate/black, field & show lines, vet checked, dewes, shots, wormed, 18 years experience. Very trainable. Ready December 20th. \$500. 248-627-3255; 248-202-2620. IICZM22-2

2 COYOTE HOUNDS for sale, cold nosed, running walkers. \$750 both. 810-395-4895. IILZM1-2

SHIH-TZU PUPPIES AKC. Small, non-shedding. \$400-\$550. Cell 586-260-4199. IILX1-2

CHRISTMAS PITBULL PUPS 95% housebroken, 3rd shots, 3rd worming, dewclaws, born 9/2/03, available now. 248-431-7429. IILZM52-4

AKC UKC FFA Chocolate and yellow lab puppies. 248-627-6897, ask for Cindy. IIRMX1-2

AKC SHIH-TZU PUPPIES 6 weeks old. Champion bred and older females. Absolutely adorable. \$600 810-688-4803 IILX52-4

220 HORSES

WANTED TO BUY: Western & English used saddles. 248-628-1849. IILZM14-tfc.

230 FARM EQUIPMENT

2001 JOHN DEERE 4300 tractor. 250 hours. With loader & quick-change pallets forks. \$16,000. 248-867-1699. IILX1-2

240 AUTO PARTS

PICKUP CAP SHORT bed Dodge, 1992 through 2002. Green, third brake light, dual locks. \$350. 248-391-7559. IILX2-2

FIRESTONE STEEL-TEX radial A/T, LT245/75R16. Off 2500 Chevy. 8,000 miles. Very good condition. Best offer. 248-626-0596. IICZM22-2

250 CARS

1996 LINCOLN TOWN car. Absolute comfort! Immaculate condition. \$10,000. Call for details after 2pm. 248-693-9420. IILX44-12nn

1997 FORD Escort, 167,000 miles, automatic, air, CD, runs great, \$2100 or best offer. 586-504-9763. IILZ51-12nn

1989 CADILLAC SEDAN DeVille. Tan & silver color. New front tires. V-8. Runs good, looks good. \$1,300 obo. 248-628-7394. IILX1-12nn

1988 CHEVY NOVA (Toyota), runs great. Needs front axle; mechanically perfect otherwise. Good body! \$900 obo. 248-628-0815. IICZ21-8nn

1996 GRAND AM, red, V-6, sunroof, good transportation but high miles. Needs "TLC". \$650. Call for more information, 810-614-8486. IILZ1-4nn

1997 CHEVY LUMINA- 85,000 miles, four door, V-6, loaded, good condition, \$4000 obo. 248-738-5202. IICX23-2

1995 CHEVY CAPRICE, 4 door, 56,000 miles, V-8, loaded with PL/air/FW; auto. New tires, excellent condition \$5,500. 248-335-7468. Leave message. IILZ2-12nn

2001 DODGE NEON Highline. Excellent condition. Runs & drives like new. 45,000 miles. \$5,600 obo. 248-969-2441. IILX2-2

1992 OLDSMOBILE Cutlass Supreme, new motor, ball joints, tie rod ends, wheel bearings, brakes. \$2,000 obo. 248-693-2210. IILZ48-12dn

1998 VW PASSAT wagon, good condition! 96,000 miles, A/C, power locks, power windows, alarm, turbo, cruise. \$7,000. Keyless entry. 248-620-5378 evenings. IICZM22-9f

2000 PONTIAC SUNFIRE GT: Silver, tinted power windows, locks, sunroof, remote start, CD, low miles, \$7300. 248-202-0758. IICZ14-4

1997 CAMARO RS, 30th Anniversary Edition, clean, loaded, CD changer, 72,000 miles, \$7900. Call 810-636-3423. IILZM7-12nn

1986 MUSTANG- high output motor, roll cage, traction bars, 8.8 rear end, fuel cell, BBK headers, Flowmaster dual exhaust, H-pipe, fiberglass hood, T5 transmission, Holly Blue fuel pump. \$1600 obo. 248-802-0235. IILZ43-12nn

2002 PONTIAC SUNFIRE. 35,600 miles, excellent condition. \$13,000 obo. More details call 248-236-9912

1994 CHRYSLER CONCORD. Low miles, excellent condition. \$4,000 obo. 248-627-9299, 248-505-0179. IILX18-1f

1998 LeSabre Custom, excellent condition, plenty of options. \$10,000. 248-693-9489, after 7pm, except Wednesdays, leave message. IILX1-2

2001 VW JETTA CLS, 27,000 miles, 6 cylinder, 5 speed, power sunroof, cruise control, power windows, heated sideview mirrors, Monsoon stereo, 8 speakers, 16" alloy wheels, excellent condition, \$15,500. 248-628-5390. IILZ51

2001 FORD FOCUS WAGON SE, 23,000 miles, power locks & windows, air, cruise, stereo CD player, \$9300 obo. 248-693-1072. IILZ45-12nn

1988 GRAND MARQUIS- 65,000 miles, power locks, windows, doors, seat & mirrors. Cruise, tilt, air, am/fm cassette. Very good condition, \$1,900. 248-310-6975. IILZ50-8nn

1995 PONTIAC GRAND Prix SE. Rebuilt trans, new brakes. Runs great, everything works. \$3,800 obo. 248-431-1515. IILX43-12nn

1992 OLDS REGENCY 98, very good condition, car is loaded, runs great! \$2200 obo. Call 248-628-1176 or 248-568-2071. IILX1-2

1997 NISSAN MAXIMA, 78,000 miles, V-6, 5 speed, new brakes, excellent condition, loaded, \$5500 obo. 248-391-1942. IILZ46-8nn

1994 FORD TAURUS Wagon. Runs, drives, looks good. 120,000 miles. Great transportation. \$1,500 obo. 248-310-2687. IILX50-12nn

WANTED: VAN or station wagon, 1992-1997, moderate mileage & price. For Sale: 1994 Taurus Wagon for parts, 3.8 engine, front end damage, 87,000 miles, \$800. 248-682-8928. IILX1-2

1990 CORVETTE COUPE. 58,000 miles. White w/ red interior, auto. Excellent condition, senior owned. \$13,000 obo. 248-693-4382. IILZ46-8nn

1993 GEO PRIZM (Toyota), good engine/ automatic transmission, needs sensor(?), otherwise good body/mechanical. \$1800 obo. For parts or driver. 248-628-0815. IICZ21-8nn

1998 VW PASSAT wagon, good condition! 96,000 miles, A/C, power locks, power windows, alarm, turbo, cruise. \$7,000. Keyless entry. 248-620-5378 evenings. IILZM14-12nn

1998 BUICK LeSABRE: 41,000 miles. Excellent condition. Loaded, extended warranty remaining. \$8,000 obo. 248-634-3472. IILX23-2

1994 BUICK ROADMASTER Estate Wagon. New tires, fuel pump, exhaust, springs & shocks, brakes & battery. LT1 engine. 173,000 miles. Good condition. \$3,100. 248-969-7761. IILX45-8nn

1996 DEVILLE- Spring Edition, lumbar heated seats, new tires, new brakes, sunroof, convertible/ cloth top, sweet, \$5800. 248-922-5998. IILZ18-8nn

1990 CHEVY CAVALIER- runs great, some rust, \$800. 248-563-4077. IILX1-2

1998 CAVALIER- 78,000 miles, new tires & brakes, very clean, \$4200. 586-556-6365. IILZM10-12nn

1989 HONDA-PRELUDE 2.0 SI Performance air intake & muffler, \$1200. 248-627-6993 after 6pm. IILZM7-8nn

1994 BUICK ROADMASTER Limited: V-8, automatic, leather seats, Grand Touring suspension, concert sound, good tires, excellent condition, 96,000 miles. \$3800. 248-625-6627; 248-877-5843. IICX22-2

1998 GRAND AM GT: 4 door, red, fully loaded; great condition, sunroof, 112,000 miles, \$3900 obo. 248-706-5875 or 248-634-1653. IICZ22-4nn

1999 GRAND AM SE, 4 door. Auto, all power, black. \$55,000 miles. \$7,000 obo. 248-895-6178. IILX1-4nn

1997 ESCORT WAGON, 136,000 miles, automatic, air, excellent condition, \$2,600 obo. 248-620-6809. IICZ21-4nn

1972 CHEVELLE Malibu Convertible- flame orange/black, original owner, less than 50,000 miles, 350 V-8 4bbl. carburetor automatic transmission, rally wheels, all stock equipment, undercoating/ rustproofing when new. Asking \$12,900. 248-628-6094. IILZ50-12nn

1997 FORD CONTOUR V-6, 5-speed, air, cruise, windows. 99,000 miles. \$3,200 obo. 248-814-9606. IILX1-12nn

1994 FORD PROBE. Red, loaded!. Good condition. \$2,150. 248628-9824. IILX1-4nn

2001 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA Wolfsburg Edition, 5-speed, 1.8L, 4 cyl, turbo. 44,800 miles. \$13,000 obo. 248-628-6191 or 248-894-9329, ask for Mike. IILX1-12nn

260 VANS

1998 PONTIAC EXT Montana, loaded, towing package. 84,000 miles. Good condition. Asking \$7,900. 248-693-1105. IIRMX252-12nn

2001 DODGE GRAND Caravan Sport. Immaculate inside & out, lots of options. \$10,500 obo. 248-969-2441. IILX2-2

2001 PONTIAC MONTANA. Excellent condition. Seats 6, power locks & windows, cruise, CD player, OnStar, luggage rack. 36,000 miles. \$13,500. 248-393-0965. IILX2-4nn

2001 DODGE CARAVAN Sport. Power door, quad seats, loaded. Nice. \$9900. 248-627-4629. IILX13-12nn

1992 FORD AEROSTAR, only 5700 miles on new engine, rebuilt transmission, many other new parts. Runs rough, still needs some work, \$2500. Call 248-673-8784. IILZ52-12nn

1994 GMC VAN. \$2,500 obo. 248-852-8888. IILX2-2

2000 CHEVY 1-ton cargo van, loaded, mint condition, dual ladder rack, alarm, lined interior, 50,000 highway miles, maroon, contractor ready. Must see \$14,500. 248-693-0490. IILX44-12nn

2000 AWD ASTRO: less than 30,000 miles. Excellent condition. Power, cruise, CD, rear defroster, towing package. Well maintained. \$14,250. 248-625-7686. IICX23-12nn

1998 GMC SAFARI SLT: AWD, 8 passenger, loaded, excellent maintenance, 93,000 miles, \$8,200. 248-620-3339. IICZ15-8nn

FOR SALE: 1998 Ford Windstar minivan, 90,000 miles, dark green with beige interior, excellent condition, \$4500. Oxford 810-459-4530, ask for Tom. IILZ45-8nn

1990 FORD VAN F250, 8 cylinder. Good work truck. Many new parts. \$1500 obo. Must see 248-814-7072. IIRMX248-12nn

2002 CHEVY ASTRO: loaded, very clean, all power, 35,000 miles, \$14,000. 248-625-7375. IICX22-2

1998 PONTIAC TransSport, 114,000 miles, runs and drives excellent! \$4800 obo. 248-673-2495. IICZM20-12nn

1994 CHEVY ASTRO, AWD, loaded, clean, ABS brakes, all power, 98,000 miles, \$4,000. 248-693-7572. IIRZ46-8nn

1996 DODGE GRAND Caravan LE, loaded, rebuilt transmission, new tires, runs & drives great! 111,000 miles. \$4200 obo. 248-393-2567. IICZ16-12nn

2001 PONTIAC MONTANA EXT, loaded, 35,000 miles, excellent condition, power sliding door, blue/ silver, 8 passenger, rear auto controls, traction control, OnStar, luggage rack, CD player, \$13,200. 248-627-4710. IILZ14-12nn

1995 GMC SAFARI: Loaded! Burgundy, clean body, 85,000 miles. These engines keep going and going! Great shape, air, Asking \$3,500 obo. Jeff 248-336-8084. IICZ9-8nn

2001 CHEVY ASTRO, luggage rack, dutch doors, 87,000 highway miles, \$10,900. 248-620-9143. IILZ2-12nn

270 TRUCKS

2000 DODGE RAM 4x4: White, automatic, air, cruise, 59,000 miles. Meyer snowplow (not used commercially). Too many new extras to list! Asking \$14,000. 248-328-9888. IICZ22-4nn

1991 CHEVY S10: 4 cylinder, 5 speed, runs good, \$850. 248-391-1796. IILX2-2

2001 FORD F150 4x4 SuperCab Offroad, excellent condition, tow package, 5.4L V-8, XLT, A/C, tilt, cruise, am-fm 6 CD, loaded, sliding back window, stepside, bedliner. Asking \$16,500. 248-627-8341. IILX7-8nn

1998 GMC S15 pickup, 4 cylinder, 5 speed, red, runs good, \$1250 obo. 248-623-1751. IILX1-2

1979 & 1980 JEEP Wagoneers for parts. \$250 takes both. 248-693-3925. IILX1-2

1995 S10 PICKUP, with tonneau cover, great shape, \$2995. 248-628-4043. IILX1-2

1994 FORD EXPLORER, needs work, good parts car. \$800. 248-628-6191. IILX1-2

1998 DODGE RAM Pickup SLT 4x4, 5.9L 360, silver, hard tonneau cover, Rhinoliner, newer tires, very clean, 124,000 miles. \$7800. 248-824-3347. IILX14-12nn

1994 CHEVY SUBURBAN, rarely used 4WD, fully loaded, leather seats, center seats fold down for extra cargo space. Trailer hitch, luggage rack, rear defroster, separate rear heat control, \$6600. 248-628-0504. IILZ43-12nn

1998 TOYOTA 4RUNNER SR5. V-6, 100,000 miles, \$12,600. 248-884-9251. IILZ21-4nn

2003 JEEP WRANGLER Freedom Edition, flame red, black hard top, 5 speed, 5,000 miles, loaded! Must sell! Cost \$23,420/ sell for \$19,000 obo. Extra warranty included. 248-625-7513 ask for Jean. IILZM18-2001 GMC SONOMA extended cab pick-up, 19,600 miles. Pewter, body color cap, 4 cylinder, 5 speed, gauges, cruise, A/C, power brakes and steering, AM/FM/CD. Perfect condition. \$9,500 obo. 248-625-4870. IILZ16-8nn

1998 MERCURY MOUNTAINEER, AWD, 4 door, 5.0L V-8, white with gray leather, A/C, power moonroof & windows, electronics message center, luggage rack, many extras, clean, well maintained, 69,000 miles. \$9300. 248-814-8556. IILZ543-12nn

2002 GMC SIERRA 3/4 ton 2WD truck, 2500HD, V-8, red, 4 door, crew cab, 8 foot bed with liner, CD player, tow package, alarm. Paid \$32,400, asking \$25,400. Call, 810-796-4062. IILZ11-4nn

1990 DODGE RAM 50, 4WD, interior clean, runs great, good tires, 129,000 miles, \$650. Dan 586-752-0938. IILX1-2

1998 DODGE DURANGO SLT, V-8, 4x4, black with gray leather interior, loaded, power everything, 3rd row seat, new tires, 50,000 miles, \$10,400 obo. 248-628-1390. IILZ52-4nn

2002 RENDEZVOUS CX, loaded, moonroof, 3rd row seat, \$13,900. 248-922-3698. IILZ43-12nn

JEEP CHEROKEE CLASSIC, 4x4, black, 4 door 1998, 39,000 mi. Stored all winters. Trailer hitch, power, new tires, great condition. \$9,950 obo. 248-693-1816. IILX52-4nn

2002 CHEVY AVALANCHE Z-71, 4x4, loaded, black/ graphite leather, Onstar, 3 piece hard top, excellent condition, factory warranty, 30,750 miles, \$23,500. 248-693-7759. IILZ45-12nn

1997 DODGE DAKOTA Club Cab Sport, V-8 Magnum, fully loaded with tow package, mint condition, \$7000 obo. 248-625-1737. IICZ21-4nn

1998 FORD F150 pickup, Triton Edition, extended, 3rd door, loaded, bedliner, trailer hitch, new tires & brakes, all maintenance. Red. Excellent condition, \$7900. 248-828-1947 or 248-563-6511. IILZ48-12nn

1999 CHEVY BLAZER LS, 4x4. New tires, new brakes, power, extra clean inside & out, runs & drives like new, \$8900 obo. 248-255-5616. IILZ51-4nn

1997 OLDS BRAVADO, fully loaded, all wheel drive, leather, moonroof, automatic start, CD cassette, heated seats, very clean, 78,000 miles, \$8200 obo. 248-379-2252. IILZ50-8nn

1994 CHEVY BLAZER, 4 door, 4WD, power locks & windows, runs good, \$3300 obo. 248-249-3390. IILZ51-12nn

1989 FORD F-350 Dump Truck, 4x4, automatic, 100,000 miles, 460 with 7-1/2ft. Western plow, additional 8ft. x8ft. fall cleanup box and leaf loader. \$6900. 248-261-2854. IILZ45-12nn

1991 SUBURBAN 4x4, 3rd row seat, \$3950. 248-922-3698. IILZ43-12nn

1984 CHEVY SILVERADO 4x4, with snowplow, loaded, many new parts. Needs head gasket. \$2500 firm. 248-627-9885. IILZ17-12nn

1988 GMC DUMP truck, 7 yard, diesel, automatic, air brakes. \$9000. 248-931-2764. IICZ23-8nn

2000 GMC JIMMY, pewter, 4WD, new tires, am/fm CD player, moonroof, excellent condition. 47,000 miles. \$10,700 obo. 248-693-9081. IILX52-4nn

1988 GMC SIERRA 1/2 ton short box. Very clean. New motor Chevy 350 built. 3" body lift. Lots of new parts. Must see. \$3,500 firm. 248-802-6858. IILZM12-12nn

1959 FORD F500 WRECKER, 10 ton winch, \$700. 248-649-0689. IILX1-2

2000 GMC SOMONA extended cab, 4x4, 113,000 miles, very clean, non-smoker, one owner, \$7600. 248-640-3112. IILZ17-12nn

280 REC. VEHICLES

2 ARCTIC CAT Kitty Kats, with helmets. \$850 each. 248-922-0243. IILZM17-2

2003 YAMAHA JKPW80: ridden one summer, \$1,199. Call 248-922-2886. IICZM23-2

1998 ARCTIC CAT Z L 5 0 0, 1400 miles, \$2,000 obo. 810-797-3001. IILX1-2

1997 ARCTIC CAT ZRT600 triple. 3K miles, studded, cover. Excellent condition. \$2,000. 248-379-4827. IILX1-2

2000 SKI-DOO MXZ700, black, studded, 1,650 miles. Good condition. \$3,400 obo. 248-693-8143. IILX1-2

1996 ZRT600 ARCTIC Cat with 99 Triton drive-on/ drive-off trailer. Many extras. \$3,500. Must sell. 810-796-3032. IILZM1-4

2002 POLARIS EDGE X600, 3500 miles, excellent condition, \$3500 obo. 248-628-0176. IILX1-2

290 RENTALS

FOR RENT: 2 bedroom upstairs apartment. \$775/month. Includes washer, dryer. Available immediately. 248-693-4638 or 248-693-6850. IIRX-2

LAKE ORION lakefront apartment for rent, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, lakeview & privileges, \$850/ month, plus a utility fee. 248-408-3170. IILX2-3

OXFORD: 2 BEDROOM spacious apartment. Large living room, kitchen, appliances, \$530/ month plus utilities, security. Credit check. 248-674-4664 or 248-851-0335. IILX2-2

FOR RENT: 1 bedroom apartment, Ortonville, quiet country setting, non-smoking preferred, no pets. \$475/ month. 248-627-6559. IILZM18-1

ORTONVILLE LAKE FRONT ranch. Appliances, dining room, deck & dock. Garage tool \$900. Rental Pros. 248-373-RENT. IILX2-1

DOWNTOWN LAKE ORION: 1 & 2 bedroom apartments starting at \$590. Nice, clean & quiet. Winter special. 248-693-0340. IILX2-2

COMMERCIAL for lease, great M-24 exposure in Oxford Township, 700 sq.ft., Red Carpet Keim 248-628-4869. IILX1-2c

CLARKSTON LAKEFRONT short-term lease. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, partially furnished. Great views. \$1,200 a month. 248-394-0816. IILX52-4

CLARKSTON SHARED living, \$445 monthly, utilities, cable. Available: furniture, laundry, internet access. 248-620-9175. IILZM2-2

HOME IN VILLAGE of Orion for rent. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, full basement, garage. \$1,200 monthly. 248-814-

290 RENTALS

CLARKSTON: FIRST MONTH'S rent free! One and two bedroom apartments. Heat, water, and storage unit included. Vertical blinds, private balcony, A/C, and laundry facilities. Starting \$575/month. 248-922-9326. IILX22-4c

OXFORD: 1-BEDROOM apartment available. Heat, water, & garbage pick-up included. Section 8/MSHDA accepted. Available immediately. \$475/month. 248-431-7556. IILX PRIME OFFICE SPACE, downtown Oxford, available March 1, 248-628-7150. IILX62-3

FOR RENT: OXFORD 3 bedroom, basement, 2 car garage. \$925/month. Louise 248-628-4869. IILX1-2c

CLARKSTON LAKE FRONT: 3 bedroom, central air, 2 baths, 2 car garage. Option to buy. \$1,100. Rental Pros. 248-373-RENT IILX2-1

ORION TWP.

3 Bedrooms, 2.5 baths, approx 1900 sq. ft. plus finished walkout basement. F/P, C/A, hardwood floors, executive home. Country setting. \$1900 monthly. 248-975-6068. RM22-2

FT. MEYERS BEACH: oceanfront, 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Weekly, December, Christmas, January, April. 248-391-3248. IILZM52-3

OXFORD: 3-BEDROOM with basement, no garage. \$925/month. \$1,200 security deposit. 248-628-3508. IILX2-3

WATERFORD: OPTION TO BUY homes. 2 bedroom, \$725, 3 bedroom, \$850. Rental Pros. 248-373-RENT IILX2-1

ORION: 2 bedroom spacious house, appliances, \$650/month plus utilities, security & credit check. 248-674-4664 or 248-851-0335. IILX1-2

CLARKSTON THREE bedroom home, finished basement, two car garage, short term lease, \$1000/month. 248-343-3183. IILZM23-1

KEATINGTON: 2-BEDROOM ranch condo for rent. \$775/month. 248-814-9605. IILX1-2

TWO MOBILE HOMES for rent. Parkhurst Estates, Oxford: 1 bedroom, 1 bath, partially furnished, \$435/month; 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$550/month. Call Dave, 248-693-4782. IILX1-2c

310 REAL ESTATE

THINKING ABOUT BUYING OR SELLING A HOME? Call now for a free no obligation market evaluation at

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FSBO, L.O., 980 SQ. FT. ranch, \$148,900. Corner lot. Many updates, attached garage. 248-693-3565. IILX1-2

OAKLAND TWP. 2,000sqft, 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath Colonial. 1 acre, 3 car garage, totally remodeled. Fireplace, basement, crown moulding, sprinkler system, alarm, new appliances, hardwood floors, professionally landscaped. Lake Orion Schools. \$295,000. No brokers please. 248-693-4407. IILX2-2

LAKE ORION: 463 Joslyn, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2958 sq.ft. Super clean! Vacant. \$50,000 below market. \$395,900. Broker, 248-760-3739. IILX2-2

LAKEFRONT LOTS (not all sports). Electric, phone and natural gas underground. Paved roads. \$183,900 each. 810-417-5999. IILX23-52

DRYDEN TWP. corner parcel over 3 acres. Great for walkout. Nice gently roll. Great location. \$56,900. Call Bill Holden, ext. 300, RJ Holden Associates. 810-678-2246. IILZM1-2

NORTH WEST ARIZONA: 40 acres. Water rights, association fee. \$27,000 obo. 248-391-3458. IILX1-2

GAYLORD: 10 acres, hardwoods, private gravel road, \$32,900. \$6000 down, \$250/month, 9% land contract. 1-877-679-5792. IILZXM17-2

LAKE ACCESS LOTS, beautiful home sites, walkouts, Electric, phone and gas underground. Paved roads. 1.5-5 acres, beginning at \$57,900. 810-417-5999. IILX23-52

LAPEER: 107 ACRES with house. For more info: list #10094703, www.forsalebyowner.com, or call 810-664-6292. IILZM1-2

LAPEER 1.11, 1.22 and 1.54 ACRES +/-. Oxford 5.24 acres +/-, 248-628-6333. IILX1-2

LAKE ORION: NEW construction. Ranches from \$202,900. Colonials from \$208,900. Free A/C & fireplace with mantel. Many extras. Many homes to choose from. Model 810-499-2620. Hours: 12-6pm or Real Estate One. 248-391-6267. EHO. IILX48-tfc

CLARKSTON SCHOOLS: Ranch, three bedrooms, one bath, approximately 1200 sq. ft., Big Lake privileges, fenced yard, \$135,000. 248-535-8145. IILZM22-2

YOUR CHRISTMAS Present in Paint Creek! Gift yourself this immaculate 2001 home with open floor plan, neutral decor, cathedral ceiling, fireplace, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1st floor master and laundry. Full daylight basement plumbed for 3rd bath; water purification and security systems, underground sprinklers, 2 car garage. Oxford Schools. Reduced to \$217,900. Carol Porretta, RJ Holden Associates. 810-678-2246. IILZM1-2

CLARKSTON: 3 bedroom ranch, basement, 2-1/2 car garage, fenced yard, only \$179,900. Broker 248-620-9143. IILX2-2

CLARKSTON RANCH: 5611 Delmas. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car, vacant. Was \$244,900; now \$219,900. Broker, 248-760-3739. IILX2-2

NEW CONSTRUCTION Metamora, 1-1/2 story, beautiful country setting. 3 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths, 1st floor master bedroom. Full basement, fireplace, C/A, 2 car attached garage. \$219,900. 248-975-6068. LZM2-2

320 MANUFACTURED HOMES

1996 MANUFACTURED HOME in Oxford. 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, fireplace, deck, all appliances, central air. \$33,000 obo. Must sell. 517-244-0909. IILX2-1

SASHABAW MEADOWS: 14x70 Skyline, 3 bedrooms, 1-1/2 baths, many updates, with all appliances. \$10,000 obo. 586-453-9631. IILZXM17-2

ORION LAKES

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CZ23-4

1999 COMMODORE 1400 sq. ft., 1.5 bath, 3 bedrooms, dishwasher, garbage disposal, central air; 10x10 deck, 5x6 porch, 8x9 shed. Some landscaping. Washer & dryer will stay. Lake Villa Mobile Home Park. Asking \$42,000. Phone 248-310-7322 ask for Bob. IILZM1-2dh

1996 DOUBLEWIDE: 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, all appliances, excellent condition. Ready to move in. Good credit & down payment required. Be in by Christmas if you act now. Call 248-693-8508 for details. To schedule appointment, leave message & phone number to call back. \$34,500. IILX1-2

330 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

SMALL COSMETIC: Store for sale, includes all inventory, fixtures and customer list. \$25,000. Serious inquiries only! 248-623-3295. IILX23-1f

INVESTMENT THAT RETURNS 3% per month. It offers diversity outside of the stock market. Low risk to reward ratio. Call Mark for details. 248-628-9896, cell 248-672-3032. IILX1-2

PLASTIC NO HUNTING SIGNS:

.70 cents each, \$8.00 dozen, \$66.50 per 100. Tax included. Available at THE OXFORD LEADER, 666 S. Lapeer, Oxford. IILX9-tf

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340 CHILD CARE

STATE LAW REQUIRES all childcare facilities to be licensed and some to be registered. Call Bureau of Regulatory Services 248-975-5050, if you have any questions. IILX9tf

LICENSED DAY CARE, full time only. Clarkston. Call Ruth, 248-623-2648

LICENSED DAYCARE in Oxford has openings. Fun and Exciting atmosphere, planned daily activities, meal and snack provided. Flexible hours. More information call 248-330-7128. IILZM2-1

HOME DAYCARE in Brandon/Ortonville. Meals, snacks. Cindy. 248-627-1087. IILZXM18-2

350 WORK WANTED

COMPANION/SITTER available, 30 years experience. Light lifting/house keeping. 248-364-3062; ask for Beverly. IILX2-2

360 HELP WANTED

LOOKING FOR motivated people to start a new career. Be your own boss and have flexible hours with unlimited income potential in real estate sales. Sales licensing required. Call John Burt Realty GMAC at 248-628-7700. IILX20-tfnc

AVON EARNINGS PAY holiday bills. Representatives & unit leaders needed. Free kit & training. No door-to-door. Julie, 800-260-1020. IILZM2-4

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LX2-2c

QUASAR INDUSTRIES has immediate opening for full-time Janitorial Position. Apply in person at 1911 Northfield; Rochester Hills, 248-852-0300. IILX2-1

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- Oxford Leader • Penny Stretcher
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& Monday in The Citizen Add Metamora Crossroads for \$11.00

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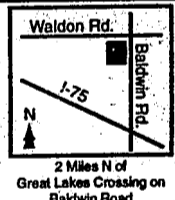
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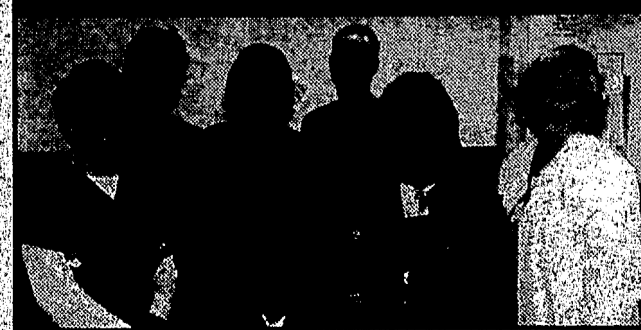
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READERS NOTE: Some "WORK AT HOME" Ads or Ads offering information on jobs or government homes may require an "INITIAL INVESTMENT". We urge you to investigate the company's claims or offers thoroughly before sending any money, and PROCEED AT YOUR OWN RISK. IILIX9-dht

LOOKING FOR a job with a no-layoff guarantee? Call Sharon Williams at Real Estate One, 248-627-5414. IIZXM17-4c

WORK FROM HOME. Earn \$450-\$1500 per month, part time; \$2000-\$4500 full time. 1-800-533-8527. IIZXM16-3

MEDICAL OFFICE in Oxford is looking for full time experienced Medical Assistant with x-ray knowledge. Fax resume to 248-628-1344. IILIX62-4dht

CHANGE YOUR LIFE! Start a new career. Call Carol Yost at Real Estate One, 248-391-6267. IILIX51-4c

HELP WANTED: Need someone to pick up free hardwood. Willing to pay. 248-628-3035. IILIX1-2c

CUSTOMER SERVICE/SUPERVISOR needed. Work in your home. Health & Wellness industry. Part-time available. High earning potential. Call for free info. 248-802-3663. IILIX1-4

RECREATION PROGRAM SEEKS youth instructors. \$7.50-\$10 per hour. 248-814-8002. IIRX1-2

SERVICE PLUMBER- full or part time, nights and weekends. 248-628-0100. IILIX51-4c

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CZM23-1

DIRECT CARE ASSISTANT- wouldn't you like a job where you enjoy assisting and supporting special population adults? We will train if needed. Variety of shifts. \$7.90 per hour and good benefits. Call 810-798-2517 or 586-752-1583 (Almont) IILZ1-3

AVON REPRESENTATIVES needed full or part time, set your own hours, 40-50% earnings, call Donna Independent Rep. 877-297-2024. IILX1-4

MAINTENANCE PERSON- part time, seasonal. Please complete an application at: Independence Village of Waterstone, 701 Market St., Oxford, MI 48371, or fax to 248-236-8309. IILX62-4dht

FATTY'S PIZZA has immediate openings for Drivers and experienced Pizza Makers. Lake Orion 248-391-9226; Oxford 248-628-4471. IILZM51-4dht

DIRECT CARE- Midnight positions open in Oxford, off M-24. Higher starting pay if MORC trained. Insurance benefits after 90 days full time. Call Renee, 248-628-7157, or Kim 248-693-0447. IILZM51-4

360 CARD OF THANKS

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN (Never been known to fail). Oh most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven. Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me you are my mother. O Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times). Holy Mother, place this prayer in your hands (3 times). Say this prayer 3 consecutive days. Publish it; it will be granted to you. In loving gratitude. D.C.

LIONS CLUB- THANK YOU for caring. Merry Christmas! Laura, Zac & Luke. IILX2-1dht

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LX51-4

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LX7-tf

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LX2-4

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LZ9-tfc

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CX22-4

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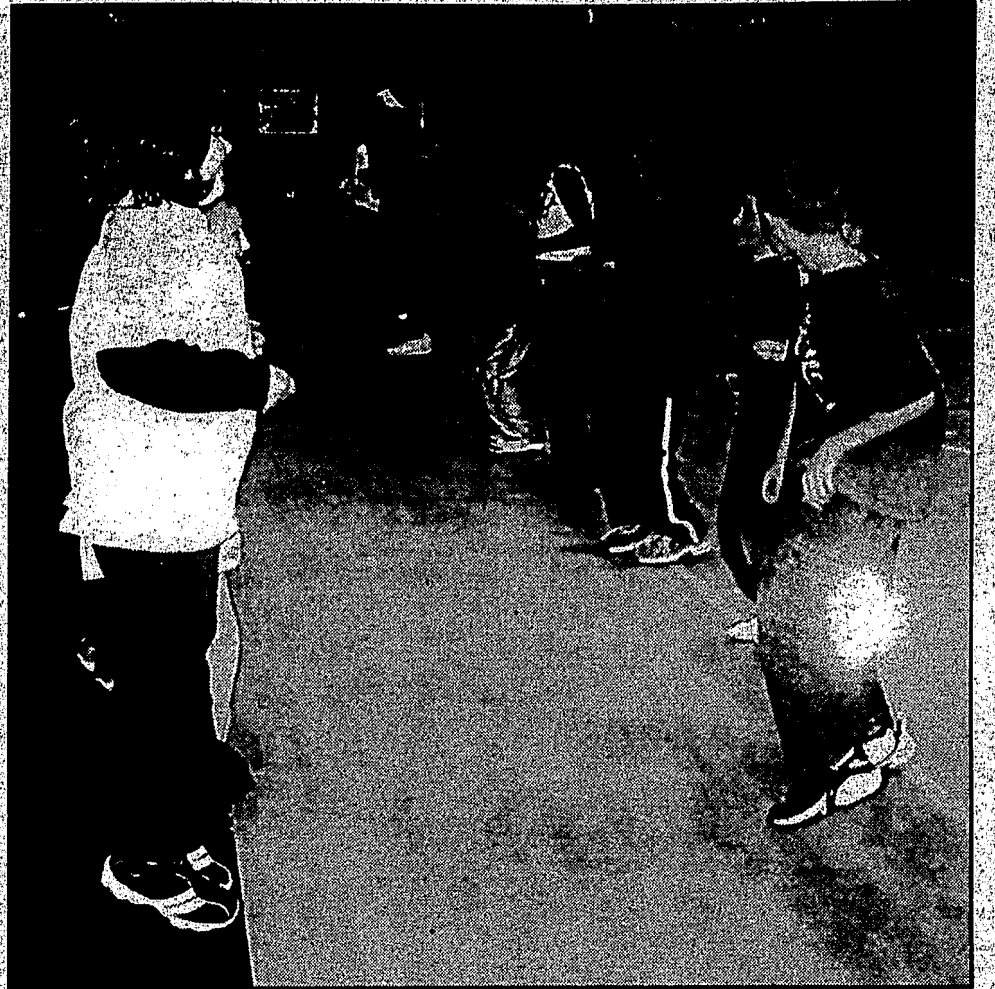
North Sashabaw Elementary School helped everyone get into the holiday spirit with a Christmas Singalong Friday, Dec. 19.

Parents were invited to attend (and participate) as students led in singing of

favorite holiday songs. Along the way were special performances of dancing, sign language and a unique rendition of "The 12 Days of Christmas." (Who will ever forget the performance of the men demonstrating "10 lords a-leaping?")



Mike Seiltz enjoys the singalong, helping his son Benjamin (9-1/2 months) get into the rythm of the music.



A group of North Sashabaw Elementary School students demonstrates a unique dance to "Jingle Bell Rock." Photos by Don Schelske



Students (above) sport all sorts of Christmas apparel, including stocking caps and reindeer antlers, to add to the festive mood.

A group of North Sashabaw students (left) demonstrate their skill at sign language during the singing of "Jingle Bells." The students learned the signing during their recess periods.



the back page...



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