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Commission regroups after Springfield fire

BY DON SCHELSE
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Bracing for this week's forecast for more snowy, icy weather, the Road Commission for Oakland County said they are ready, despite last week's fire at their Springfield Township garage.

"We're very confident that we're in a good position to handle whatever storm comes," commission spokesman Craig Bryson said Monday.

Despite the loss of 17 pieces of heavy equipment in a Tuesday, Jan. 20 fire at their Dixie Highway garage, the commission has received help from several agencies, including the Michigan Department of Transportation and road commissions in Wayne and Genesee counties.

"We have more offers than we can take up on," Bryson said.

Springfield Township Fire Chief Charlie Oaks said the alarm came in at about 5:25 p.m., and the fire was designated "under control" at about 8:14 p.m. Crews were on site well into the early morning hours, however, for cleanup operations.



With the backdrop of a burned dump truck, Road Commission for Oakland County Managing Director Brent Bair briefs reporters the day after the Springfield Township garage fire. Photo by Don Schelske

Fire departments from Groveland, Brandon, North Oakland (Holly), White Lake, Waterford and Independence joined in the fight against the fire, and Oaks said the new North Oakland "Hazmat" team was mobilized because of concerns about motor oil and other chemicals in the garage. The Salvation Army brought two mobile canteens to serve hot food and drinks to the firefighters.

"We had some good mutual aid," Oaks said.

No one was injured in the incident, although Oaks said four or five firefighters slipped on the ice caused by water at the scene. The winter temperatures also caused frozen hoses, and some trucks

were difficult to operate in the cold, Oaks said.

Outside investigators have been called in to investigate the cause of the fire, although the first deduction was an electrical short in one of the trucks.

"We're pointing to a defective piece of equipment," Oaks said, "but there's a lot of things you can't rule out."

Brent Bair, RCOC managing director, gave high praise to firefighters for saving as much equipment as they could.

"You hear about firefighters rushing into burning buildings to save people,"

Bair said. "We had firefighters coming into our building to drive trucks out."

Oaks appreciated the praise, but said it was simply a matter of priorities.

"We get paid to do two things: protect lives first and property second," the chief said. "We did not jeopardize a life to save any property."

While most of the garage was destroyed, Bryson said the commission is still using the Dixie Highway site as a staging area. With the help of the loaned and leased equipment, crews will still be ready to respond according to plan when

snow and ice require it.

The long-range rebuilding is a bit uncertain. Bryson said insurance adjusters are still determining whether the facility is a total loss. While insurance will cover repair or replacement of the structure, the replacement of an estimated \$2,588,100 of vehicles and equipment must be paid from the commission budget.

"We now have to come up with money to replace trucks and so forth," Bair said. "Ultimately, it will come out of the roads."

School board to seek \$1.9 million in budget cuts

BY DON SCHELSE
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Clarkston Community Schools will seek an additional \$820,000 in savings from the current year's budget, with a target of \$1.9 million to be trimmed from the projected 2004-2005 budget.

How that is to be accomplished is still up in the air, but a Monday school board workshop identified a long list of possibilities, including "pay-to-participate" athletics, elimination of school accreditation, an incentive plan for staff resignations and larger class sizes to reduce the number of teachers.

Whatever plan is eventually adopted will almost certainly include dipping into the district's cash reserves, but trustees agreed to keep money set aside for the opening of new facilities in fall 2005 and to avoid the need to borrow funds each fall to counteract a state cashflow problem.

Bruce Beamer, executive director for business and financial services, had predicted a shortfall of \$1.6 million for the current school year based on earlier projections of a \$196 per student cut in the state

"foundation grant."

Because of a state budget agreement (which includes the delay of a scheduled income tax cut), the reduction is now \$84 per student, reducing the anticipated Clarkston cut to just under \$672,000.

Beamer said the current fiscal year is more comfortable, but even with the hoped for savings there will be a need for about \$341,000 from fund equity to balance this year's budget.

Officials continued to note variables such as energy and snow plowing costs, and a big variable for 2004-2005 is the state of the state budget and projected enrollment. Legal and contract considerations require the district to move quickly, however, if any potential



Dr. Al Roberts

layoffs are to be considered.

"You're going to impact people's futures based on a number that probably won't be definite until this time next year," Beamer said.

Continuing a claim of "fiscally conservative" spending, officials said the past three years' budgets have seen a combined spending reduction of about \$5 million. It helped the district reach the goal of more than 15 percent in fund equity, but continued budget pressures have made it more difficult to find ways to cut spending "without hurting kids."

"Frankly, my fear is that it's not doing more with less, it's doing less with less," Superintendent Al Roberts said.

The numbers used at Monday's workshop were based on a presumption that the district will gain about 100 additional students in 2004-2005, but will receive no increase in the proportional state foundation grant. An administrative task force produced three lists of potential reductions and one list of possible "revenue

Please see Budget continued on page 9A

Briefly

Oxford Bank announces appointments

The board of directors of Oxford Bank Corporation announced the bank appointments of Jerry Farstvedt and Nicholas Hevron to senior vice president from vice president, Patricia Halleck to vice president from assistance vice president, Cynthia Edgett to assistant vice president from bank officer and Robert Chetkovich and Barbara Manderville to bank officer.

Independence Board sets agenda

The Independence Township Board of Trustees have set the agenda for their Tuesday, Feb. 3 meeting.

The agenda includes: the Clarkston Creek transaction, a discussion of certified industrial park designation, ambulance purchases and water and sewer rate study.

The Township Board meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Independence Township Library.

Share your 'love story'

The Clarkston News will publish a special Valentine's section on Wednesday, Feb. 11, and we want to share your relationship stories.

Wedding, engagement and anniversary announcements are especially welcome, but send anything about your "special moments" to us no later than Friday, Feb. 6.

Local organizations awarding scholarships

Five area service organizations have announced they will work together to solicit high school scholarship applications.

This joint effort represents up to 14 local scholarships valued at \$500 to \$1,000 each. The joint scholarship cooperative undertaking is chaired by Sheila Ritter, Clarkston Area Chamber of Commerce and includes representatives from the Clarkston Area Optimists Club, Clarkston Farm and Garden Club, Clarkston Foundation and the Clarkston Rotary.

"We hope that a single application form, a coordinated deadline date and joint publicity efforts to encourage students to apply for these local scholarships will increase the number of students applying for these local funds," Ritter said.

The joint application form represents a pool of more than \$10,000 available through 14 individual scholarships. Limit of one scholarship per student from each organization.

The scholarship form is available at www.clarkston.org. Scholarship applications will also be available at the Chamber, Clarkston High School Counseling office and the Independence Township Library.

Deadline for applications is Friday, March 19. Applications should be turned into the Chamber of Commerce at 5956 S. Main.

Correction

In the Jan. 21 edition of *The Clarkston News* an article on the Oakland County Parks Nordic Ski Patrol said there would be a fun race and competitive event on Jan. 24 due to information we received. The event will take place Jan. 31 at 11:30 a.m.

The Clarkston News regrets the error.

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The Second Front

'New' firefighters stand guard in Springfield Township

BY DON SCHELSE

Clarkston News Staff Writer

They're not really new, but they represent a new stage of service with the Springfield Township Fire Department.

Ryan Hart and Matt Strickland were hired for the new positions authorized in the 2004 fire department budget. Each will work the day shift at each of the township's two fire stations, not only providing quick emergency response but also handling duties in equipment maintenance and fire prevention.

Both were formerly paid-on-call firefighters, Hart having four and a half years experience with Springfield (and part-time experience with the Royal Oak Township Fire Department), and Strickland has been with the Springfield department for seven years.

"I love it," Hart said of his new full-time status. "It's close to home. It's in the community I grew up in."

Both firefighters are certified emergency medical technicians. Strickland has special training in response to hazardous materials incidents and is a trainer in weapons of mass destruction for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Domestic Preparedness.

Strickland has lived in the area for eight years, and shares Hart's motivation: "I just want to serve the community I live in."

They'll do that not only with rapid response to fire and medical calls, but also with more ongoing equipment maintenance and enhanced ability to troubleshoot problems.

"The reliability of the equipment is going to be there, because there will be someone at each station," Strickland said. "A wise man said a fireman is a full-time janitor, maintenance guy and mechanic."

Volunteer and paid-on-call fire departments have found it increasingly difficult to find people available to respond to daytime emergencies, so many have increased their full-time staff. In 2003, the department had one day shift covered by paid-on-call firefighters.

Since the general procedure is to have equipment from both stations respond to all fire calls, there should be faster action with both stations covered.

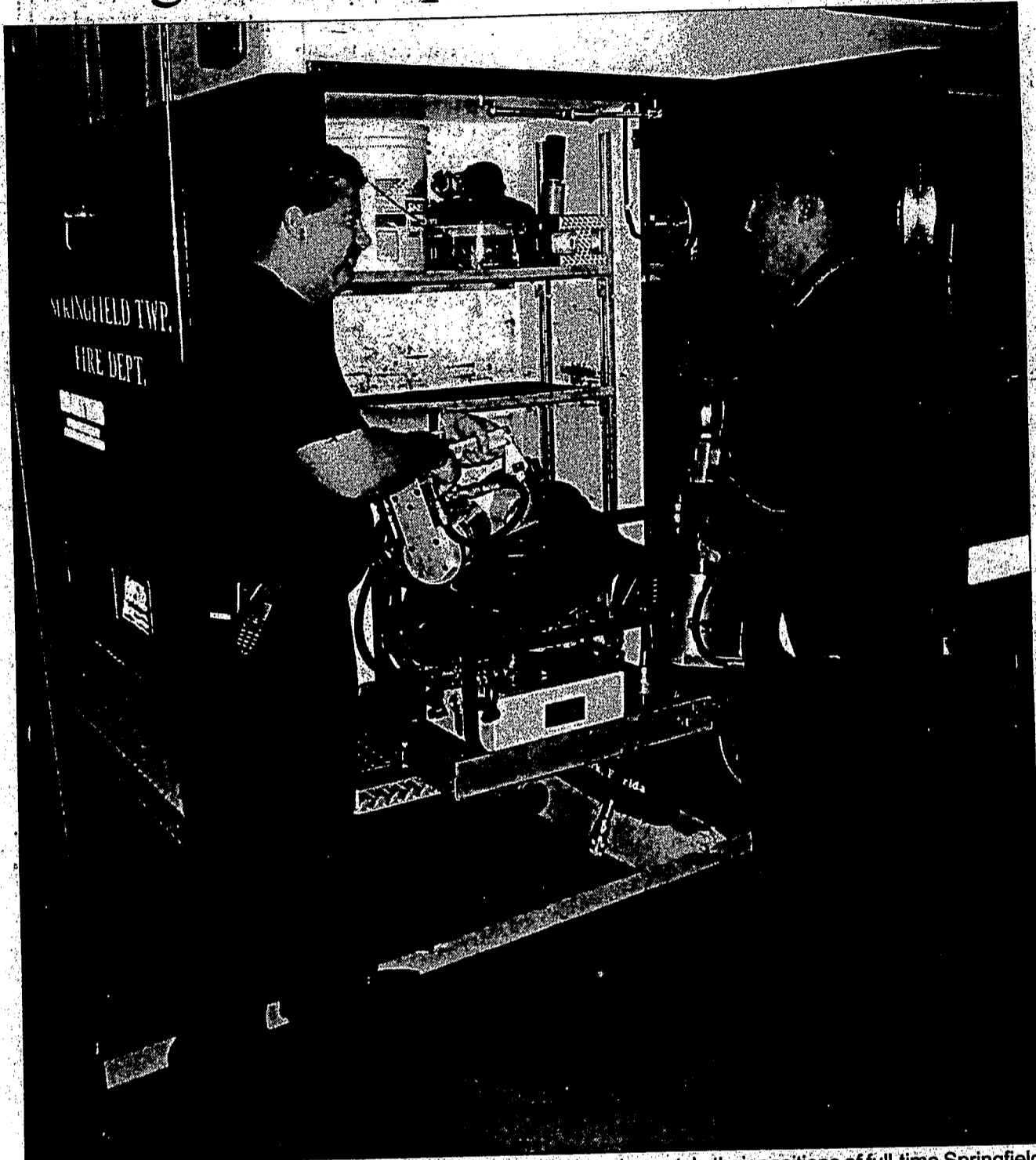
"We'll be there quicker. Normally we're at home," Hart said. "It's nice to have another guy at the other station."

Hart is engaged to be married to July. He and his fiancée enjoy off-roading at a variety of locations, with his favorite spot being the Silver Lake sand dunes.

Strickland is married with children ages 10, eight and four. He said he's really into "computer stuff" and spending time with his kids, especially with children's programs at Faith Baptist Church in Waterford.

Whether it sounds corny or not, both said being a full-time firefighter was a childhood dream.

"I'm glad it's finally happening after five years of working hard," Hart said. "I've wanted to do this since I was in second grade at Davisburg Elementary."



Matt Strickland (left) and Ryan Hart check the status of rescue equipment. In their positions of full-time Springfield Township firefighters, they will help keep all the equipment ready for action. Photo by Don Schelske

Fire Department awaits ambulance

One enhancement down, one to go. With new full-time firefighters on board in Springfield Township, the next issue to be resolved for 2004 is a unique agreement to house an American Emergency Response ambulance with the Springfield Township Fire Department.

While the agreement was reached in concept, township officials have yet to sign a formal contract with AMR. Late in 2003, township attorney Greg Need

raised several legal questions and the board delegated the legal task to him.

When details are finalized, fire department EMTs will staff the ambulance on medical calls when a regular ambulance is unavailable or too far away.

Fire Chief Charlie Oaks said he hopes to see a revised contract on the township board agenda in February.

— Don Schelske

Trustees back decision to deny wetland permit

BY DON SCHELSE

Clarkston News Staff Writer

Short of a lawsuit, those hoping to build a home on W. Princeton Avenue with a driveway through a designated wetland have run out of options.

The Independence Township Board on Tuesday, Jan. 20 voted 6-1 to deny an appeal of a Nov. 13, 2004 ruling by the township planning commission, which at that meeting was sitting as a "wetland board."

Trustee David Wagner cast the lone "no" vote against the motion to support the wetland board ruling.

The proposal, in connection with plans for a 1,900-square-foot house on W. Princeton Avenue, included a 10-by-30 foot driveway requiring an estimated 145

cubic yards of fill on 1.65 acres of designated wetland.

"There remains a reasonably debatable question as to whether the proposed project is in the public interest," Trustee Dan Travis said in making the motion. Travis cited 10 different issues involved in the case, including plans for a septic tank on adjoining property, a possible second access easement to the property and current flooding concerns voiced by neighbors.

In addition, Travis criticized the principals for making such plans on property purchased in a state tax default sale.

"It appears to have been knowingly purchased as an unbuildable lot due to the extent of the wetland on the lot," Travis said.

Attorney Lee Knopf represented the petitioners — owner of record Monica Nouhan; her husband, Harry, who has "power of attorney" for the property, and developer Dan Vackaro — in appealing the wetland board decision.

"The township's two experts recommended approval of what the applicant was trying to accomplish," Knopf said, citing reports from the township-contracted engineer and wetland consultant. "I think the planning commission didn't make the necessary findings under your ordinance to take the action they took."

Knopf said it was improper for the planning commission to vote in September 2003 to turn the issue

Please see Wetland continued on page 9A

Foundation grants funds to Clarkston schools' programs

BY ALICIA DORSET
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Two Clarkston middle schools will be able to offer unique and creative programs to its students again this year,

thanks to partial funding from a local group focused on helping education.

The Clarkston Foundation awarded grants to Chuck Keegan of Clarkston Middle School and Shelley Rowland of

Sashabaw Middle School. The grants were recognized at the Jan. 12 school board meeting.

"I'm very pleased that funding came through," Rowland said.

The foundation awards grants to teachers who provide programs geared toward the arts and sciences. Innovative program ideas that provide valuable knowledge to students take top priority in the awarding of funds.

"When we have great teachers with great ideas, it's a great combo," Clarkston Foundation president Jim Evans said.

Keegan received \$300 toward his annual school assembly 'Blues for Schools', presented by well-known blues performer Robert B. Jones. Jones, a former radio broadcaster and historian, teaches students how traditional blue music can not only be found in today's popular songs, but can provide valuable lessons.

The program, aimed at eighth graders, reaches 380 students and is in its third year at the school. Jones' presentation is a favorite with both students and Keegan.

"He (Jones) is a really good guy," Keegan said. "The kids really like him."

Keegan not only received funding from the Clarkston Foundation but also from the Student Leadership Council at his school. All around, the funds are what make the program possible.

"The foundation has been really good to us," Keegan said.

Rowland was able to put her \$1,000 grant to good use at her school as well.

The foundation recognized her program for 180 students entitled the 'Music Mentor Program'.

Rowland coordinates tutors for her band students to come in and work on instrument techniques once a week. The money goes to pay the tutors who range in experience from graduate students at college to professional musicians.

Bringing in the tutors allows Rowland's students to work in smaller groups and receive more individualized coaching.

"You should see the kids' faces light up when the instructors come," Rowland said. "They're additional musicians for the kids to identify with and model after."

The passion that both Keegan and Rowland possess for their students' education is the attitude that drives the mission of the Clarkston Foundation.

"This is what we're about," Evans said. "We're assisting the system to be even better." Half of the board members for the foundation are either teachers or administrators.

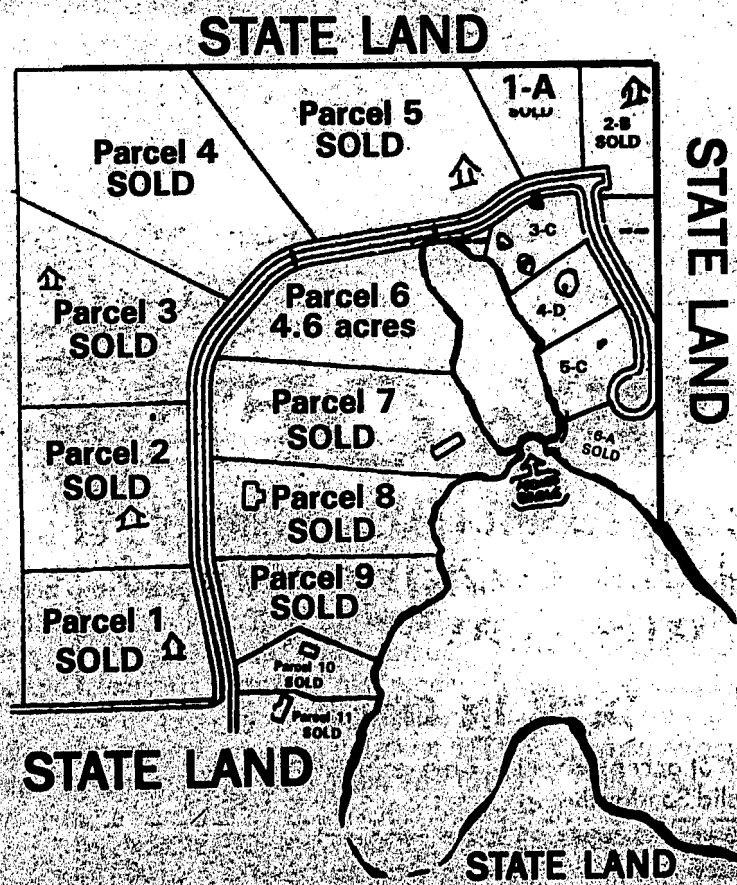
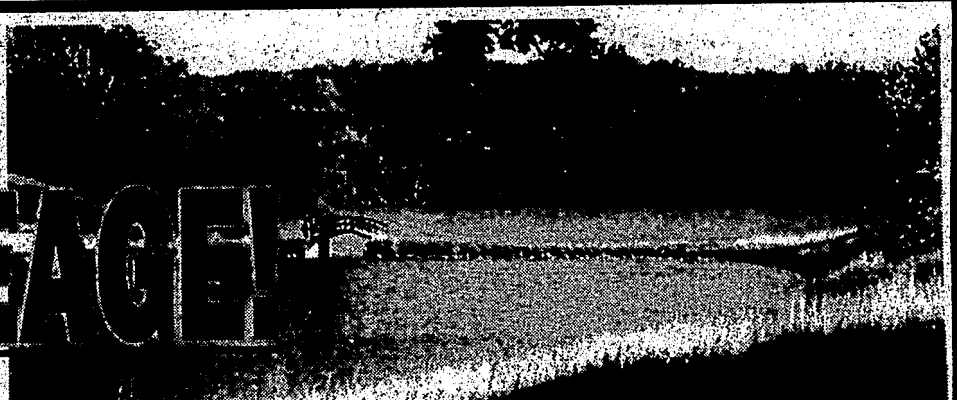
Since its inception in 1989, over 10,000 students have benefitted from the programs that the foundation has recognized. Annual grants to the schools range from \$10,000 to \$12,000. On average each year, the foundation receives about 12-14 funding requests.

"We wanted to create an environment in Clarkston schools for students to achieve," Evans said. "We wanted to raise the level for arts and sciences."



Concentrating on his violin, Robert B. Jones performs for Clarkston Middle School in his 'Blue for Schools' presentation last year. The program was one of two initiatives awarded grants by the Clarkston Foundation.

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Opinion

Celebs should not influence voting

Everywhere you look celebrities are endorsing Democratic candidates looking to grab the party's nomination and beat George Bush in the 2004 Presidential election.

Wesley Clark has Madonna in his corner. Senator John Edwards has the support of filmmaker Jerry Zucker. Howard Dean is being endorsed by director Rob Reiner and actor Martin Sheen even though the former Vermont governor sounds like a llama in heat while giving a concession speech.

It does not stop there as Ohio Representative Dennis Kucinich has the backing of Willie Nelson and Danny Glover while John Kerry has James Taylor, Stephen Stills and Kathleen Turner on his side.

And let us not forget about Senator Joe Lieberman who is lucky enough to have the support of former game show host Monte Hall. Hmm, I wonder why Lieberman's campaign is losing steam?

However a better question is why would anyone make a decision on who to vote for based on celebrity endorsements? I guess I am not the norm in a celebrity worshiping culture since I could care less what they think or who they date. To spend my time wondering whether Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck are on again or off again this week would give me a headache.

I mean I do enjoy some celebrities for their talents. I think Eric Clapton is an incredible guitarist, Brett Favre is one of the greatest quarterbacks to play the game of football and Larry David is the greatest comedic mind around. However even if all three showed up at my front door and personally requested that I vote for Dean I would not be able to do it.

I am not really sure why these celebrities feel their opinion on politics should carry more weight than anyone else's. Since Hollywood tends to be politically a little left of the rest of the country you would hope their preaching would fall on deaf ears.

I guess when we are a culture that has an entire network dedicated to where celebrities party, what celebrities eat and the story behind their rise from humble beginnings, the celebrities themselves should not be blamed for thinking their opinion really matters to the country.

Maybe celebrities should use their fame and influence to campaign for people to register to vote without telling them who to vote for. This occurred recently with Hip-Hop mogul Russell Simmons along with artists including LL Cool J, Rev. Run and Jadakiss kicking off a "One Mind, One Vote," campaign aimed at registering two million voters. In the spirit of full disclosure, I only know who two of the above individuals are but I hear the other two are very popular.

The group was distraught at the fact that some 47 million people between the ages of 18 and 34 are not registered to vote. So I urge you all to forget the celebrities, do your own research and vote your conscience. See you at the polls.

(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

Public needs to be educated on cancer

It is said that testing for prostate cancer (PCa) should be done at age 50 for whites and 40 for blacks (who are more susceptible.)

It would be better said to subtract maybe 10 years and say 40 and 30 respectively. Many men are being diagnosed in their 40's and some even in their 30's. Usually, there are no symptoms and if there are it may be late in diagnosis.

Have your doctor or a urologist give you an annual PSA and the DRE test. There is a wealth of instant information out there via the Internet now and all related issues can be discussed in forums and support groups. Since it is difficult to get many or any of one's questions answered in a doctor's office, other methods for quick information are needed.

There are many decent books, tapes, articles and

such, but with Internet access it is even better. I was diagnosed at age 51 and can only say that I wish I got diagnosed sooner. I got the education of my life after seeing two different surgeons and found the opinions to be 'yes-curative and 1 percent chance of incontinence' to 'no' I will not operate on you.'

I found plenty out via books, tapes and Internet and am learning more daily. Two of the best sources for Internet usage on this are at: www.phcagroup.org and another at Webmd.com (prostate forum.)

My advice is take the time to investigate options, ask many questions, get second opinions, do not make a hasty decision as you may have only one chance to get it right.

Robert Parsons
Davisburg

Animal clinic helps during depressing situation

One of life's greatest experiences is the unconditional love of a pet.

Some have their pets longer than others. We were fortunate to have our nine-year-old Rottweiler, Isis, for as long as we did. I want to let all pet lovers know our experience.

In the attempt to get Isis well, and after going to a veterinarian that did nothing but charge us \$300, we went in search of a different vet. This brought us to Independence Animal Clinic on Sashabaw and Waldon. Dr. Brian Covert was the vet on duty and took care of Isis.

Isis was our baby, all 105 pounds of her. Dr. Covert had to come in on the weekend and feed, water, give medicine and help Isis expel herself. Isis could not walk

or stand on her hind legs. After three days of doing everything he could, we decided that she would not live a full life this way so we had to put her to sleep.

Dr. Covert and his staff were wonderful, caring and loving. You could hear it in Dr. Covert's voice when he told us what he would recommend; Dr. Covert stayed past his time to go home to see everything to the end.

It hurts to have lost Isis. There is an empty spot in our home and family, but we want to let everyone know how much we appreciate the service we received from Dr. Brian Covert and the staff of Independence Animal Clinic.

Thank you.

Cindy and Dessie Burroughs
Pontiac

Local Government Meeting Schedule*

Clarkston City Council

7 p.m., second and fourth Mondays of each month, Clarkston City Hall, 375 Depot Road.

Independence Township Board

7:30 p.m., first and third Mondays of each month, Independence Township Library meeting room, 6495 Clarkston Road.

Springfield Township Board

7:30 p.m., second Thursday of each month, Springfield Township Library meeting room, 12000 Davisburg Road.

Clarkston Schools Board of Education

7 p.m., second and fourth Mondays of each month, district administration offices, 6389 Clarkston Road.

(* - Schedule subject to change for holidays and special events)

Those in charge

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Springfield Township

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Washington DC 20510

senator@levin.senate.gov

Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D)

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245 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.,

Washington DC 20510

senator@stabenow.senate.gov

Some things to remember

The weather gods have conspired against us mere mortals. The roads, in a word, suck. Time is short and so... I'll leave you with something light. Smile. Manga, enjoy... blah, blah, blah.

In other words here's something my dear wife e-mailed me.

Subject: For those planning to visit Detroit

1. You must learn to pronounce the city name. It's Di-troit - NOT DEE-troit. If you pronounce it DEE-Troit then we will assume you are from Toledo and here for the country Music hoe-down.



Don't Rush Me

Don Rush

2. Forget the traffic rules you learned elsewhere. Detroit has its own version of traffic rules... Hold on and pray! There is no such thing as a dangerous high-speed chase in Detroit. Everyone drives like that.

3. When asking for directions, all directions start with, "What do I look like - #!#!#!# Triple A?"

4. The Chamber of Commerce calls getting through rush hour traffic on Jefferson a "Scenic Drive."

5. The morning rush hour is from 6 a.m. to 10 am. The evening rush hour is from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday's rush hour starts Thursday morning. Week-ends are open game.

6. If you actually stop at a yellow light, you will be rear-ended, cussed out and possibly shot. If you're first off the starting line when the light turns green, count to five before going. This will avoid getting in the way of cross-traffic who just ran their yellow light and then, again, getting shot.

7. Schoenherr can ONLY be properly pronounced by a native of the Detroit metro area. That goes for Gratiot and Lahser too.

8. Construction and renovation on I-94, I-96, I-75 and I-275 is a way of life and a permanent form of entertainment.

9. All unexplained and unpleasant sights are simplified by the phrase, "I guess we're not in Kansas

anymore!"

10. If someone actually has their turn signal on, it is probably a factory defect or they are "out-of-townners."

11. All old men with blue/white hair wearing a hat have total right-of-way.

12. The minimum acceptable speed on I-696 is 85 regardless of the posted speeds. Anything less is considered downright SISSY. Oh, and more than a car length between cars doing the minimum is also considered downright SISSY.

13. The wrought iron on windows in Detroit are NOT ornamental. *DON'T get out of your car.*

14. Never stare at the driver of the car with the bumper sticker that says "Keep honking, I'm reloading."

15. If you are in the left lane, and only going 70 in a 60 mph zone, people are not waving "because they are so friendly in Detroit." I would suggest you duck.

16. I-275/I-696 is our daily version of NASCAR.

17. You must go a quarter of a mile out of your way to make a left hand turn. If you want to turn left, go past your turn, get to the left, then make a left, then make a right. NOW you have gone left.

18. It's not M-10, it's "the Lodge."

19. That's not a lake, it's a pothole. Lakes are much smaller than potholes.

20. If someone tells you it's on Outer Drive, get a map.

* * *

Wasn't that nice? Kind of makes me glad I was born in Detroit and makes me kind of glad my folks moved up here in 1971.

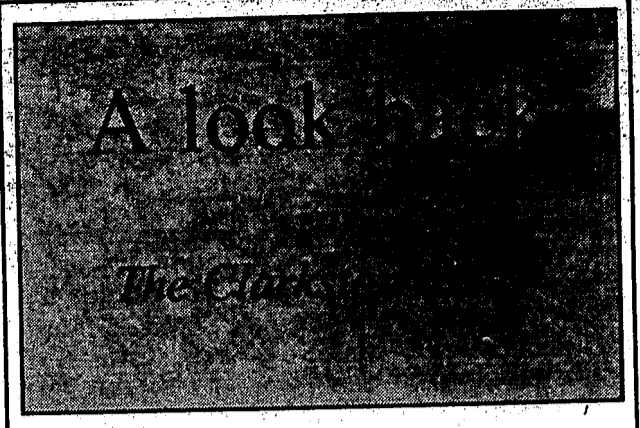
* * *

Does anybody remember the t-shirts that were all the rage in Metro Detroit in the 1980s? The shirts were black with white lettering boldly proclaiming: *Detroit - Where the Weak Are Eaten.*

I think only white guys from the northern suburbs bought and wore them.

* * *

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



15 YEARS AGO (1988)

• Lewis E. Wint of Clarkston was appointed to his sixth consecutive three-year term on the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission and his twelfth consecutive term as chairman. He is appointed to the parks commission by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. "I guess I'd like to think (they appoint me) because I've done a good job, or it wouldn't happen," Wint said in a telephone interview.

• A resolution to negotiate an architectural contract and a report on recently constructed school facilities could help the school board quicken its pace if it decides to ask voters to approve another bond issue in June for school construction. After spending the better part of a week visiting about 15 schools in three states, Connie Bruce, director of personnel services for Clarkston schools, and Dr. Robert Burek, Clarkston High School principal, made a report to the school board on school facilities.

• After a packed public hearing, Independence Township Planning Commission unanimously tabled plans for 305-unit manufactured home sub on Mann Road. The commission's action, after a three hour hearing, followed citizens' and commission members' concerns over the township's master plans and mature trees in the area.

25 YEARS AGO (1978)

• Construction on a new shopping center in Independence Township is slated to begin soon. Ground will probably be broken in the springtime for Independence Shopping Center located on Dixie Highway, west of Maybee Road between Hahn Motors and the House of Maple and Pine, according to Glen Reynolds of Danash Associates Inc., Pontiac builders and developers.

• Ecologically-dying Big Lake in Springfield Township was the catalyst for creation of a lake board recently by township officials. At a special hearing last Wednesday, township officials approved a resolution to create the board aimed at investigating and deciding ways to improve the weed-infested lake. The approval came after Township Supervisor Collin Walls reviewed petition signatures received last December from more than 140 Big Lake homeowners.

• After little controversy, Springfield Township officials have decided to take demolition of local buildings ruled unsafe into their own hands. During a special hearing Wednesday concerning why four property owners have not complied with a dangerous building ordinance, township officials ruled that bids will be taken by the township to have the structures torn down. The demolition costs eventually will be assessed against the owner's property.

50 YEARS AGO (1953)

• Following two years of study and survey by the Clarkston Community Board of Education and a representative Citizen's Committee, a school building bond issue has been proposed for Feb. 2. The plan calls for an expansion of four schools. Clarkston will vote on the \$600,000 bond issue.

• Solvej Peterson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert C. Peterson of 6285 Orion Road, Clarkston, has been chosen as the Daughters of the American Revolution, Good Citizenship Pilgrim from the Clarkston High School.

Toys For Tots gift goes to seniors for party

I was invited to party a few weeks before Christmas where everyone was to bring a gift. The gift couldn't cost more than \$15 and it had to be bisexual.

The Inviter apparently heard the bewilderment in my voice, because she said, "Something like maybe a disc."

I considered the possibilities, but the disc offering kept coming up. And, I figured if she gave that suggestion to me she gave it to all other guests, and I sure didn't want to let them think I had no imagination.

I'm also not prone to give practical things. This was a party for over-60-year-olds (I'm being kind 'cause some are way over 60). Discs are gadgets to them, and they have at (least one of everything else except incontinence control.

What to give, what to give, what to give? Something laughable and perhaps useful. Ah, I have it! Put some Viagra pills in it for men and whatever it is women use for that purpose in the package.

Dr. David Jennings' wife has been known to be a co-conspirator, so I called her. "Katherine, what do you think of my idea?"

"Jim, I think the idea could be hilarious, but do you know that some men can't take Viagra? It can be very risky for people whose heart might be affected by enlarging blood vessels, which Viagra does," she said.

That took the smile halfway off my face, but not totally. I reasoned, humorously to myself, maybe they wouldn't mind as long as they had a smile on their face?



Jim's Jottings

Jim Sherman

Later that day Dr. Dave called me. He gave absolutely no thought to being a party to my party gift idea. He put more warning labels in my ear than there are rooms in one of Saddam's castles.

He left me with the thought that if I gave this prescription pill, which he wouldn't prescribe for me, I was risking loss of home, lifetime in prison or the death penalty when Michigan gets it, child rejection and permanent halitosis.

Not quite giving up yet, I asked, "What about the woman pill?"

"That's Viagra, too," he said, and went into the war-path warnings all over again.

That did it. I had no other over-60-plus, bisexual gift ideas. I called youthful daughter Luan. A couple days later she brought a little radio thing with earplugs walkers and joggers use.

Ok, I'll wrap it and never tell the receiver it came from me. Well, that's not that house party's rules. The giver must be known.

Practically all the other gifts were food related. There were restaurant gift certificates, snacks, nuts, dips and non-dips.

As it turned out, and maybe some credit should be given the beverages, my gift was fine. A gift received did not necessarily stay with the giver. People switched.

Mine ended up being in a walker's hands and she was delighted.

Next day I called Luan and started questioning her on why she thought a noise receiver would be a good gift for the senior crowd.

"Oh, Dad," Luan started. "I thought I was buying a gift for Toys For Tots, 'cause every year you go to a Toys For Tots party."

Well, next year, if I'm invited, I'm going to take a pretty package of roadkill.

E-mail The Clarkston News at shermanpub@aol.com



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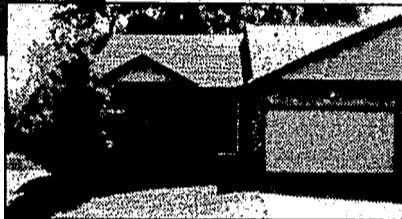
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CLARKSTON AREA

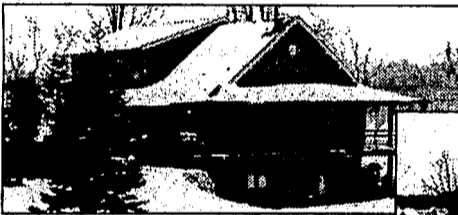


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LOG HOME



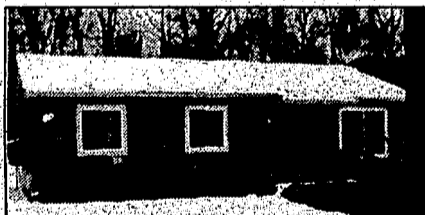
Log home with 2 story greatroom. Master bath has been updated new tile, corrian counter, \$4000. California closets. Many updates



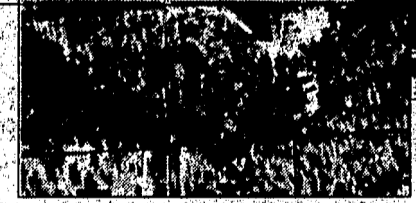
include well, roof, exterior stain, gutters, hot water tank, 8' wide deck surrounds exterior, mostly covered. 4 Acres ideal for horses or privacy. Garage is 1450 sq/ft with 10' door, heated 220 amp service. Walk-out level rough plumbed for 3rd bath. \$320,000



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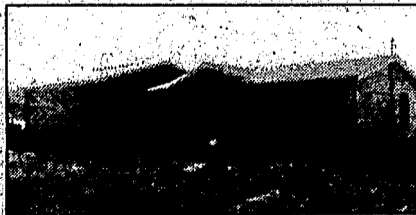
riding or mountain bike trails. Ceramic floor in kitchen, newer appliances. White Lake Twp. \$229,000



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POSSIBLE 2004-2005 SCHOOL BUDGET CUTS

The following is the "Priority 1" list of spending reductions recommended by a Clarkston school administrative task force. The logic behind the suggestions was that these areas would represent the least impact to core student instruction:

- Eliminate sales tax reimbursements
- Eliminate music informance stipends
- Saving for portable utilities
- Reduce use of space heaters
- Shift mail service to food service
- Eliminate K-8 NCA accreditation process
- Pay-to-participate athletics
- Eliminate remaining intramural budget
- Reduce administrative costs
- Reduce communications budget
- Reduce training for paraprofessionals
- Eliminate special ed funding for sound fields
- Reduce resource room supplies
- Reduce funding for police liaison (K-8)
- Eliminate subject area coordinators in non-core
- Restructure subject area coordinators
- Eliminate special ed. bus for afternoon Basic
- Eliminate contract service for 504
- Reduce language training in special ed.
- Eliminate Michigan Virtual University fees
- Reduce staffing allocations in K-12
- Implement severance incentive plan
- Eliminate contract service for psychiatric reevaluations

Budget

Continued from page 1A

enhancements" for board consideration.

Three "plans" were offered, each with a different level of dependence on fund equity to balance a budget with a projected 2005 deficit of \$2.5 million. Plan A would make enough cuts to prevent the need for use of fund equity, while Plan C has no cuts and would require a deep dip into fund equity.

The conceptual cuts were placed in three "priority" groups based primarily on their potential impact on core curriculum and service mandated by the state or federal governments.

Rejected outright were "Priority 3" cuts, which included the possible elimination of some special teaching positions, reduction in club expenses and unspecified "new transportation guidelines."

Trustees reached consensus that the "Priority 1" list (projected to save between \$1.2 and \$1.45 million) is not sufficient to keep a 10 percent fund equity, and there was debate on whether some "Priority 2" items belonged on the "Priority 1" list and vice versa.

The only real agreement was that administrators need to bring more specific information on several of the proposals, including pay-to-participate athletics, a staffing reallocation to effectively eliminate 7.1 teaching positions, a "severance incentive plan" to encourage resignations and avoid layoffs and possible outsourcing of custodial services.

"I question some of these items and maybe the amount," Trustee Mary Ellen McLean said. "What directly affects kids in the core curriculum?"

"These do not signify a plan that is being recommended," Roberts said. "We don't like any of these things, [but] we have some financial problems that require us to look at some of these options."

More specific deliberations are expected at the board's Feb. 9 meeting.

Next week: More details on possible budget reductions.

Wetlands

Continued from page 3A

over to the building department, then return the issue to the agenda in December. He cited letters from Travis (who also serves on the planning commission) and others in the procedural reversal.

Township attorney Steve Joppich, being careful not to advocate for the opposition, nonetheless said township officials were justified in the move.

"Additional information had been received by the building department," Joppich said.

Knopf also criticized the commission's response to residents'

protests about current flooding issues in the area, saying only the "scientific evidence" from experts should have been considered.

"Those objections weren't under the parameters of why you would deny the application," he said.

Joppich said the commission — and the township board — could use information outside the technical boundaries of the wetland ordinance to make their decision. Indeed, he quoted a section saying the permit should be issued only if the project "is clearly in the public interest" and can be denied "if there remains a debatable question."

Residents in attendance repeated some of their earlier protests.

Columbia Avenue resident Dave Buckley, who spoke at the November hearing, said residents who live there have credibility.

"I take offense that the attorney said there were no other credible experts," Buckley said. "I consider myself an expert. I live in the neighborhood, I see what happens, I know what happens."

Dartmouth resident Sharon Vaughn, who has led the protest for more than a year and is a former wildlife biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, repeated arguments in favor of saving the wetland and repeated that the area is in a 10-year drought cycle.

Some trustees attempted to ask additional questions, but Supervisor Dale Stuart said the deliberations had to be limited to the extensive testimony offered to the "wetland board."

"The township file is complete, all relevant matters have been explored and it is unlikely a new hearing would provide new facts," Stuart said.

Trustee Dan Kelly said the decision was "a close call," but he cited the "debatable question" provision.

"The wetland falls within our code," Kelly said. "It apparently has not been disputed that it is a valuable wetland and a resource that we should protect."

Attempts to reach Vackaro, who previously said a lawsuit could be filed if township officials did not approve the permit, were unsuccessful.



Attorney Lee Knopf and local resident Dave Buckley take their turns speaking to the Independence Township Board on Tuesday, Jan. 20. Knopf attempted to convince the board to overturn a "wetland board" decision to deny a permit for a new home on W. Princeton Avenue, but residents and others successfully argued for the denial to stand. Photos by Dan Schelske

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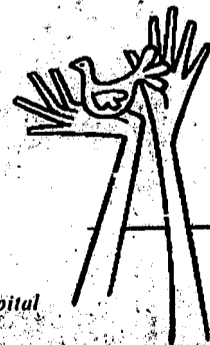
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Obituary

Margaret M. Pfahlert

Margaret M. Pfahlert (Schmansky), of Clarkston, died January 24, 2004 after a brief illness at age 66.

She was the wife of William for 48 years; mother of Deborah (Russell) Jewell of TX, Richard (Kathleen) of Waterford, Dennis of CA, Diane (Mark) Willing of Flint, Elizabeth (Michael) Galligan of Holly, Mary (Patrick Johnson) of Warren, and Sean of Clarkston; daughter of Beatrice (the late Eugene) Schmansky; also survived by 11 grandchildren; sister of Norman (Judy) Schmansky, Patricia (Joseph) Rehfus, John (Norma) Schmansky and Beatrice (Larry) Peysner.

Mrs. Pfahlert was the Sacristan at St. Daniel Catholic Church. A Funeral Mass is set for Jan. 29 at 10 a.m. at the St. Daniel Catholic Church, Clarkston. Rite of Committal All Saints Cemetery. Arrangements entrusted to the Lewis E. Wint & Son TRUST 100 Funeral Home, Clarkston. Memorials may be made to St. Daniel Catholic Church or American Cancer Society.

Cecil Phipps Jr.

Cecil "Clyde" Phipps Jr., of Pikesville, KY, died on Jan. 22 at age 57.

He was the husband of Diana for 35 years; father of Jim of Pikesville, KY, Ken (Tammie), Mark (Melissa), and Brian (Tammy) all of Clarkston; grandfather of Paige, Breanna, Emily, and Tyler; son of Cecil Clyde Phipps Sr. of NC; and brother of Bill (Colleen) of GA.

Mr. Phipps retired from General Motors and was a member of Waterford Township Church of Christ.

A funeral service was held Jan. 28 at Waterford Township Church of Christ. Internment at Crescent Hills Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Rochester College.

Lloyd Samuel McArthur

Lloyd Samuel McArthur, of Waterford, died January 24, 2002 at age 82.

He was the husband of Norma; father of Bonnie Dunavant of AL, Pauline (Thomas) Hart of South Lyon, Ann Marie Shaw of Waterford and Carolynne (Paul) Kuhn of SC; stepfather of Debbie (Alden) Barkley; preceded in death by his first wife Betty and sons Melvin and Donald; also survived by 13 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren; brother of Amanda Zscherer of Waterford.

Mr. McArthur retired from Pontiac Motor. A Funeral Service was held at the Lewis E. Wint & Son TRUST 100 Funeral Home, Clarkston with Rev. Pauline Hart officiating. Interment Ottawa Park Cemetery.

Jack K. Pankey

Jack K. Pankey, of Pontiac, died on Jan. 20, 2004 at age 65.

He was preceded in death by wife Joan and parents Seyborn and Juanita; father of Russel of Pontiac and Jacqueline Saucier of Clarkston; stepfather of Sharon Marks and Mark (Ruth) Barnard; grandpa of Christina Pankey, Heather Saucier, and Keith Zarnacki; great-grandpa of Michael Wheeler; brother of Barbara (Eulie) Davis of FL, Gerald (Linda) Pankey of Clarkston, and Melvin 'Dale' Pankey of Pontiac; also survived by several nieces and nephews.

Mr. Pankey retired from Pontiac Motors and also served in the U.S. Air Force. A funeral service was held Jan. 23 at the Lewis E. Wint & Son TRUST 100 Funeral Home, Clarkston. Internment Ottawa Park Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association.

Lolita E. Horsch

Lolita E. "Sally" Horsch, of Clarkston, died on Jan. 22, 2004 at age 87.

She was preceded in death by husband Harry; dear mother of John (Patricia) Reynolds of CA and Charles (Maureen) Horsch of CA; sister of Louise Johnson of Everett; grandmother of Kimberly (Randy) Saffels of CA and Jodi (Danny) Estrada of CA; great-grandmother of Whitney and Kylie.

Mrs. Horsch was a secretary for Independence Township for 13 years. Mrs. Horsch loved to volunteer in the Clarkston community. She was a member of the Eagles Auxillary #2887, the American Legion Chief Pontiac Post of Clarkston, Ladies Auxillary of Elks Lodge #810 of Pontiac, and served as an officer for the Moose Auxillary Lodge #2512 of Clarkston. Along with husband Harry, she enjoyed dancing all of her life and had danced in many countries throughout the world.


A memorial service was held Jan. 25 at Lewis E. Wint & Son TRUST 100 Funeral Home, Clarkston. Memorials may be made to Leader Dogs for the Blind.

Obits can also be found by visiting www.clarkstonnews.com.

Discolored Paper

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Aligning business vision, mission, execution

By Christine A. Zwicke, president, CZ Communications, LLC

How much time each week do you earmark for business planning?

The number one most essential tool to combat business failure is planning. It is the cornerstone of success. Fundamental business planning defines not only the company's long-term direction, but also maps its general course. In short, there's still contemporary wisdom in the old bromide "plan the work and work the plan."

But what's the best place to start?

Defining 'True North'

Where is it you want to take your business? In other words, if you don't know where you are going, how can you (and your team) plot the best way to get there?

Much like planning a dream vacation, you begin with a specific destination in mind. You may visualize (in full color) what it will feel, smell and sound like once you arrive. Knowing where you'll stay, you think about places you want to see, souvenirs you'll bring back and imagine who you might meet.

Similarly, the effective business Vision creates a clear picture of your destination by answering the key question: "Why are we in business?" As such, your target should be a stretch goal just beyond reach for, say, the next five to 10

years. Harley Davidson, producer of the world's highest profile motorcycles, provides an excellent example:

"We fulfill dreams through the experience of motorcycling, by providing to motorcyclists and the general public an expanding line of motorcycles and branded products and services to selected market segments."

So we know that Harley's envisioned destination is to fulfill the dreams of its motorcyclist customers and, for that matter, those of the general public who may not even own one.

Staying On Course

Are you are on track? With the Vision as your destination, your Mission provides the roadmap and answers, "How do we stay on course over the long run to best achieve our Vision?"

A clear word picture, the Mission points everyone involved in the right direction - even on those rough days when there may be serious doubts. It is a brief but unmistakable statement that describes the how of getting "there", taking the most direct route.

The Coca-Cola Company, keeps its people all over the world on track each day by reminding them:

"The basic proposition of our business is simple, solid and timeless. When we bring refreshment, value, joy and fun to our stakeholders, then we successfully nurture and protect our brands, particularly Coca-Cola. That is the key to fulfilling our ultimate obligation to provide consistently attractive returns to the owners of our business."

So, if the Coke people are not focused

on creating value-add solutions that provide refreshment as they bring joy and fun each day, it's a pretty sound measure of whether the company is off course in pursuit of its Vision: The Coca-Cola Company exists to benefit and refresh everyone it touches.

Getting the Job Done

Having the right word images and communicating them effectively is a critical part of the job. But right words without action serves no one who's in business to win. Putting your Vision and Mission to work for you means communicating them to ensure that they are clearly understood by everyone in the organization so you get genuine results.

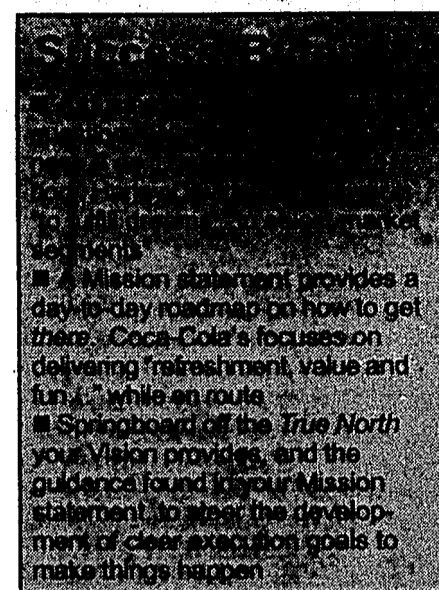
Execution, or as Webster's dictionary defines it, to create in agreement with a prescribed design, is key to getting things done. So if you are in charge of execution, what is it exactly that you do? Well, Larry Bossidy, Chairman of Honeywell International outlines it best in seven essential building blocks:

1. Know your people and your business (live it)
 2. Insist on realism (acknowledge strengths and weaknesses)
 3. Set clear goals and priorities (focusing on 3 or 4 well-chosen ones deliver best results)
 4. Follow through (proactively monitor and course correct)
 5. Reward the doers (incentivize your people to win)
 6. Expand people's capabilities (teach, rather than give orders)
 7. Know yourself (translate honest self-assessment into self-improvement)
- Vision, Mission and Execution are key to

Success Builders



Christine A. Zwicke



successfully working on your business rather than in it - a winning blend at the heart of creating long-term results. By developing and communicating where you want to go and how to get there, your team will join the 3 percent of those in the world who plan - beyond today - to win. Building on a strong Vision/Mission foundation, together with careful execution, can put your team that much closer to realizing the full potential of your business ambitions.

Christine A. Zwicke is president and founder of CZ Communications, LLC, Rochester Hills and Clarkston, helping small to mid-size companies increase profits through strategic business planning, management and integrated marketing solutions. Contact Christine by e-mailing her at caz@cazbiz.com.

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Aligning business vision, mission, execution

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Success Builders

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"We fulfill dreams through the experience of motorcycling, by providing to motorcyclists and the general public an expanding line of motorcycles and branded products and services to selected market segments."

So we know that Harley's envisioned destination is to fulfill the dreams of its motorcyclist customers and, for that matter, those of the general public who may not even own one.

Staying On Course

Are you are on track? With the Vision as your destination, your Mission provides the roadmap and answers, "How do we stay on course over the long run to best achieve our Vision?"

A clear word picture, the Mission points everyone involved in the right direction - even on those rough days when there may be serious doubts. It is a brief but unmistakable statement that describes the how of getting "there", taking the most direct route.

The Coca-Cola Company, keeps its people all over the world on track each day by reminding them:

"The basic proposition of our business is simple, solid and timeless. When we bring refreshment, value, joy and fun to our stakeholders, then we successfully nurture and protect our brands, particularly Coca-Cola. That is the key to fulfilling our ultimate obligation to provide consistently attractive returns to the owners of our business."

So, if the Coke people are not focused

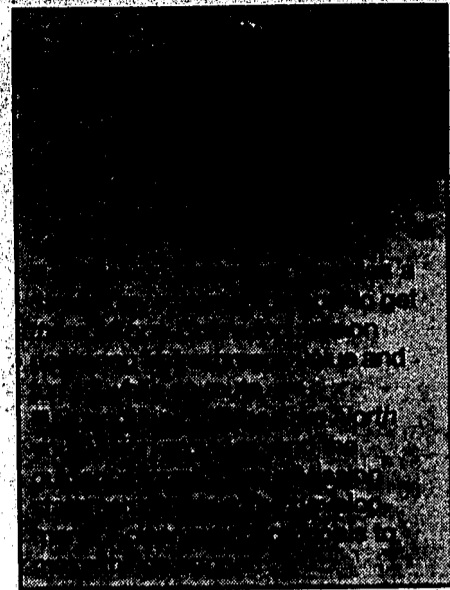
on creating value-add solutions that provide refreshment as they bring joy and fun each day, it's a pretty sound measure of whether the company is off course in pursuit of its Vision: The Coca-Cola Company exists to benefit and refresh everyone it touches.

Getting the Job Done

Having the right word images and communicating them effectively is a critical part of the job. But right words without action serves no one who's in business to win. Putting your Vision and Mission to work for you means communicating them to ensure that they are clearly understood by everyone in the organization so you get genuine results.

Execution, or as Webster's dictionary defines it, to create in agreement with a prescribed design, is key to getting things done. So if you are in charge of execution, what is it exactly that you do? Well, Larry Bossidy, Chairman of Honeywell International outlines it best in seven essential building blocks:

1. Know your people and your business (live it)
 2. Insist on realism (acknowledge strengths and weaknesses)
 3. Set clear goals and priorities (focusing on 3 or 4 well-chosen ones deliver best results)
 4. Follow through (proactively monitor and course correct)
 5. Reward the doers (incentivize your people to win)
 6. Expand people's capabilities (teach, rather than give orders)
 7. Know yourself (translate honest self-assessment into self-improvement)
- Vision, Mission and Execution are key to



successfully working on your business rather than in it - a winning blend at the heart of creating long-term results. By developing and communicating where you want to go and how to get there, your team will join the 3 percent of those in the world who plan - beyond today - to win. Building on a strong Vision/Mission foundation, together with careful execution, can put your team that much closer to realizing the full potential of your business ambitions.

Christine A. Zwicke is president and founder of CZ Communications, LLC, Rochester Hills and Clarkston, helping small to mid-size companies increase profits through strategic business planning, management and integrated marketing solutions. Contact Christine by e-mailing her at caz@cazbiz.com.

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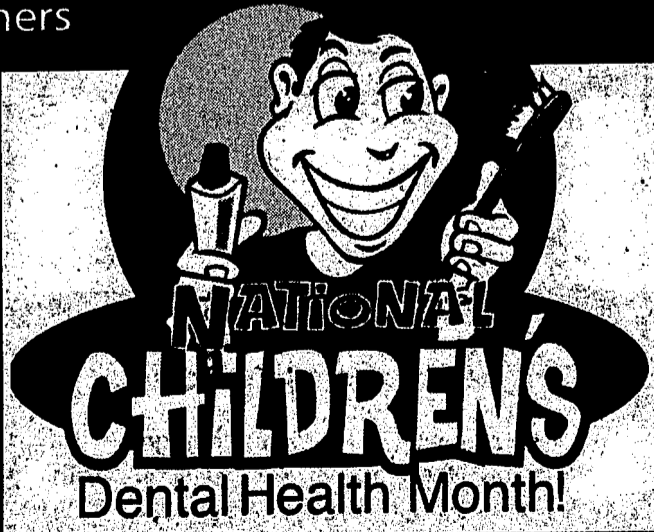
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Police and Fire

Independence Township

January 19: Firearm turn-in (condition of subject's bond) on Indianwood.

January 20: Larceny of jewelry on Parkcrest Circle. Victim said several items have disappeared in past three months, the latest being a diamond tennis bracelet.

Assist Michigan State Police with personal injury crash at I-75 and M-15.

Larceny of license plate from vehicle on Citation Drive.

January 21: Home invasion on Clintonville Road. Someone apparently entered through bedroom window and stole four rings, two bracelets and two necklaces from jewelry box. Loss estimated at \$1,330.

Larceny of license plate from vehicle at the Park and Ride lot at Sashabaw Road and I-75.

Breaking and entering at Dixon Metal at White Lake and Anderson roads. Someone apparently pried open outside and inner doors. Office safe was moved about one foot and hinges were cut, but lock was still in place and nothing was missing.

Larceny of brief case from vehicle, Farmer Jack parking lot on Dixie Highway.

Residential alarm on Reese Road, nothing found. Harassing telephone calls, Chestnut Hill.

January 22: Larceny of snowmobile trailer on Marysue.

Home invasion on Frankwill Avenue. Someone entered home through unlocked window (footprints found in snow) and took \$300 worth of jewelry.

Harassing telephone calls on Eagle Springs Court.

Juvenile harassment on Tuson Boulevard, conflict between sixth grade students at bus stop.

Fire at House of Maple on Dixie Highway. Employees discovered electrical panel on fire, cause determined to be water leaking in from roof. Smoke throughout building but no other damage reported.

January 24: Arrest for carrying a concealed weapon at Sashabaw and I-75. A 34-year-old Holly woman, a domestic assault victim, was found carrying a stun gun.

January 25: Suspicious circumstances on Glenwood Court.

Arrest for domestic assault and obstructing a police officer on Dartmouth. A 44-year-old woman is accused of hitting and pulling the hair of her 15-year-old daughter. When deputies arrived, the suspect was "visibly intoxicated" and "very uncooperative," deputies said.

Domestic assault on Whipple Tree involving a 33-year-old man who allegedly hit his 40-year-old same-sex partner.

Springfield Township

January 17: Domestic assault on Big Lake Road.

January 18: Theft of snowmobile on Northwest Court.

January 20: Fire at Road Commission for Oakland County garage on Dixie Highway.

Larceny of snowmobile trailer with three snowmobiles on Bigelow.

Assisted Michigan State Police at crash on I-75 near Dixie Highway.

January 21: Vehicle theft from Clarkston Chrysler Jeep on Big Lake Road.

Juvenile conflict on Kropf Avenue.

January 24: Assist Michigan State Police with crash on I-75 near E. Holly Road. Freeway closed because of a total of seven crashes in the area.

Vehicle theft on Ormond Road.

Arrest for recreational trespassing at Shiawassee Basin Preserve off Davisburg Road. Ice fisherman drove vehicle into prohibited area.

Home invasion on Foster. Someone stole deer head from garage wall.

January 25: Attempted larceny from motor home on Dixie Highway.

Animal cruelty at Clarkston Chrysler Jeep on Big Lake Road. Deputy on patrol found puppy leashed to fence in apparent pain from cold, waited about 25 minutes before being called to another incident. The deputy later returned to find employee with puppy, claiming to have left it "only five or six minutes." Warning issued.

January 27: Attempted larceny from motor home on Dixie Highway.

Multiple crashes close I-75 in multiple places

BY DON SCHELSKE

Clarkston News Staff Writer

Saturday, Jan. 24 was not a good day to be driving on I-75.

Reports taken by the Oakland County-Sheriff's Department and the Michigan State Police included an estimated 50-60 vehicles involved in crashes at various places along the freeway, according to Lt. Dale LaBair, commander of the Independence Township substation.

The freeway was closed at Sashabaw Road for a good portion of the day, with crashes beginning as early as 6:30 a.m. Another closure took place near E. Holly Road, where Springfield deputies noted seven different crash incidents.

Several reports noted "black ice" and the position of the early morning sun directly above the roadway as contributing factors for several of the crashes. In several incidents, multiple vehicles were involved because drivers were unable to react to the brake lights of vehicles in front of them.

Officials believe it was not for a lack of coverage by road crews. Sgt. Frank Schipani, commander of the Springfield Township sheriff's substation, said it was simply a matter of "bad weather."

"I think it was so cold that the salt wasn't working," LaBair said.


I-75 wasn't the only place for vehicle mishaps. Deputies took several reports on Sashabaw Road, including one which sent a 17-year-old Clarkston woman to the hospital when her vehicle slid off the road and overturned south of Pine Knob Road. Reports indicate moderate injuries.

In another mid-morning incident, a 26-year-old Clarkston man lost control while southbound on Sashabaw near Major Road. His vehicle crashed into a road sign then into a large electrical box controlling municipal sewer pumping station. Reports indicate moderate injuries, but the driver took himself to Clarkston Medical Center.

Jim Evans and the Clarkston Foundation are featured on the front page of the Millstream section.

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Former Clarkston resident Galley dies from brain cancer

BY CHRISTINE INA CASILLAS
Vail Daily Reporter special for The Clarkston News

Jeffrey Galley lived for adventure. A natural athlete, the 29-year-old Edwards, Colorado resident and former Clarkston resident, loved skiing, mountain climbing, camping and just exploring the world and life. Galley died Friday, Jan. 16 after battling anaplastic astrocytoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer.

"He didn't want to conform to anything," mother Judy Galley said. "He always wanted to do things his own way."

Galley moved to the valley in 1996 with his friend, Dave Smith. The mountains and the skiing drew the boys to Vail, Smith said. They would read SKI Magazine and dream about leaving their hometown of Clarkston to live in the mountains.

"It was pretty easy to move out here," Smith said. "We were both skiers in Michigan. Jeff and I sort of got lost after high school and it made sense for us to move here."

After two years of college, the duo decided it was time to change. The change came on Halloween of 1996.

"We stayed up all night partying," Smith said. "And then we left early the next morning and drove all the way out here. By the time we got here, we were at each other's throats because we couldn't find the house"

That same year, the duo began telemark and alpine skiing. At 20-years-old, Smith said it was time to go back to school. Galley stayed behind, and he began rock climbing.

"I knew Jeff through climbing," friend Tambi Katieb said. "We used to go climbing all the time. Climbing and bouldering."

The first time Galley tied a rope, Katieb said, was in the Flat Irons outside of Boulder.

"He just went up with no questions about it," Katieb said. "During the sum-

Jeffrey Galley Memorial

A memorial service and mass for Jeffrey Galley will be Jan. 31 at 11 a.m. at St. Daniels Catholic Church in Clarkston. A luncheon will follow the service. In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to the Vail Valley Medical Center, directed to the Shaw Regional Cancer Center at VVMC Foundation, P.O. Box 40,000, Vail, CO. 81658.

mers, we used to meet for lunch a couple of times a week and go bouldering. After, when he would start to get tired or we were just lazy, we'd get all of our gear out and sit around and get a sun tan, but tell everyone we went bouldering."

His mother remembered when Galley first came home after learning to rock climb, and he brought his gear home.

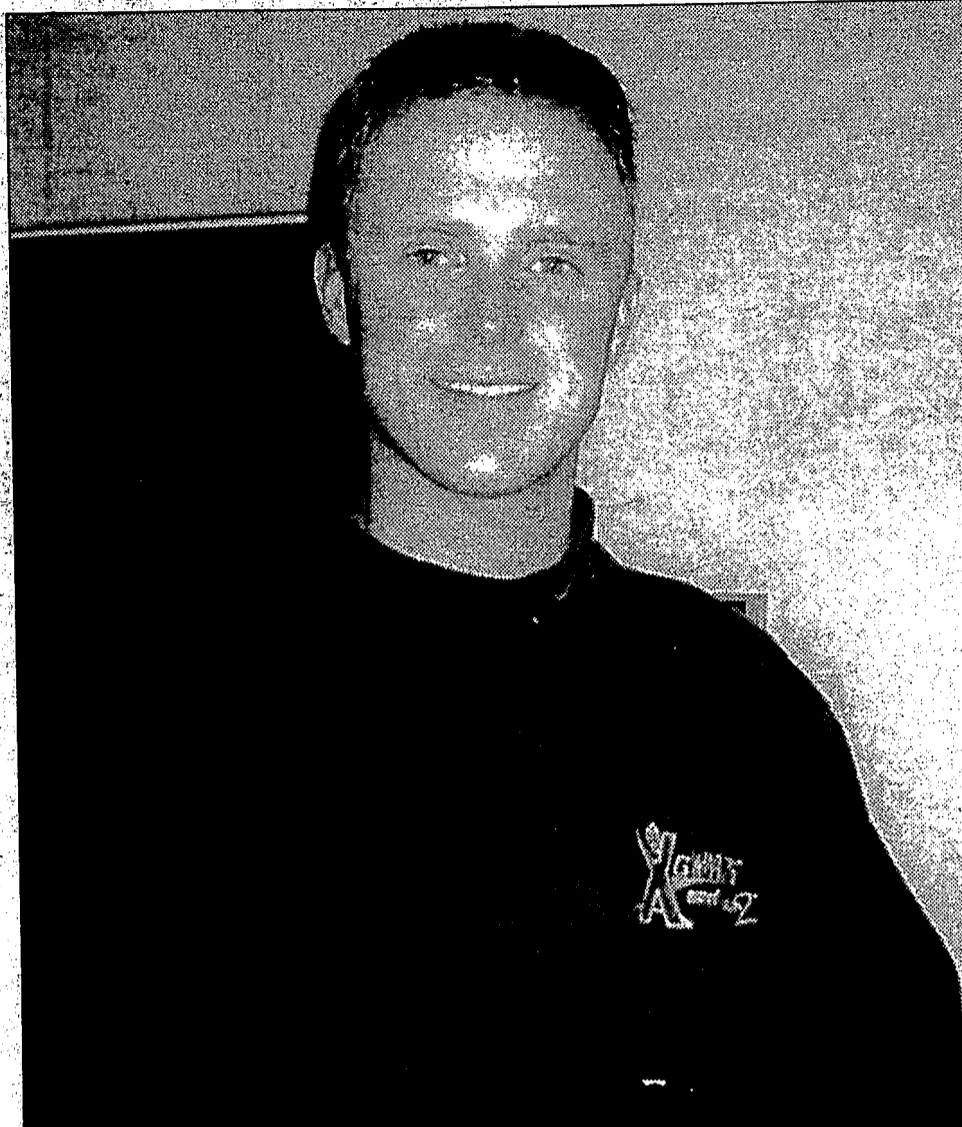
"When he brought his gear home, I thought, 'What are you going to climb in Michigan?' He would climb the bricks outside of the house," his mother said. "And he kept doing it. It was driving me crazy."

But it was the outdoors and mountains that drove him the most.

"He was a true mountaineer type of guy," friend Amanda Selig said. "He loved driving my jeep. There were places he would go with it, and say, 'I think I can make it out of here,' but we were probably in someone's back yard. 'We're not going to make it out of here,' I thought. But we did. He'd figure out how to get out of there."

Steve Visoski remembers an even more daring Galley.

"We went ski jumping last year," Visoski said. "After we found out about his tumor, we went to Steamboat. We were at one of those Olympic-style ski jumps, looking all the way down. I said, 'I don't know if we should do this. I don't think your doctor would approve of this.' And he said, 'You just keep your mouth shut.' Then this guy named Gunter came



Former Clarkston resident Jeff Galley died of a brain tumor Jan. 16. Photo provided.

up to us and said, 'Nobody jumps off this.' Jeff said, 'I do.' And we went off it."

On May 20, 2002, Galley was diagnosed with anaplastic astrocytoma. At the time, his mother wanted to bring him home to Michigan. But after she arrived with her husband, Ron, and they saw how close their son was to his friends and surrounding, they decided against it.

"He would have died quicker in the city, I know he would have," Judy Galley said.

His father agreed.

"Jeff got hooked on these mountains," Ron Galley said. "He was tired of the academic life and he didn't like the formalities of regimented schooling. But her was a good kid. He never would have left here. I wouldn't have wanted it any other way."

Jeffrey Galley is survived by his parents, Ron and Judy Galley; two brothers, Michael and Brian; two sisters-in-law, Tina and Whitney; a nephew, Nicholas; his grandparents, Pauline and Joseph Sedlar; and his grandmother, Marian Galley.



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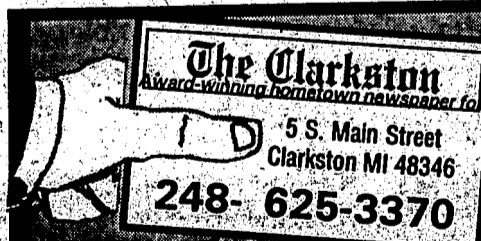
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Sports

Clarkston hockey team drops two tough games

The Clarkston hockey team played their best hockey of the season last week, but walked away with a 3-1 loss to #4 ranked Port Huron Northern on Thursday and a 3-2 loss to #7 Birmingham Unified on Saturday.

The Wolves would like to erase 36 seconds of the 90 minutes they skated, as both opponents scored back-to-back goals in a span of less than 20 seconds.

In Thursday's game, both teams came out strong but PHN scored first as Wolves goalie Mike Brach was screened on the shot.

Clarkston tied it at 1 when Adam Peters redirected a Griffin Cummings slapshot from the point. Steven Morin also assisted.

With one minute left in the first period, Northern scored two quick goals to take a 3-1 lead.

The Wolves dominated the second and third periods, outshooting Northern 26-6, but goaltender Andrew Smith stood on his head making some impressive saves.

"This was our best effort of the year," Clarkston coach Bryan Krygier said. "We played well. We made two mental errors in the first period but their goalie was the difference. He won the game for them."

Saturday's game against Birmingham Unified was the biggest of the season, as both teams are battling to win the league. The Wolves hold a slim one point lead, but Birmingham has a game in hand.

The first period was evenly matched. Birmingham drew first blood, as Ryan Tomaro sent a shot top shelf. CHS netminder, Aaron Catanese, made some huge saves, one on a breakaway, to keep it a one goal game at the first intermission.

The Wolves came out strong in the second period, scoring two unanswered goals. Morin tied the game at 1 as he stole the puck at center ice and skated in for an unassisted goal.

The Wolves took the lead on a bang-bang play as Mike Fogg got the puck behind the net from Kyle Cummings and sent a perfect pass to Mike Medonis, who was at the crease with his stick on the ice.

Four minutes into the third period, Birmingham tied



Steve Morin and the Clarkston hockey team had a tough week. Photo by Harry Knitter.

the game at 2. On the very next face-off, Birmingham shot the puck into the Wolves zone. Catanese came out to play the puck. The Wolves lost possession, and before Catanese could get back in net, Brian Walsh flipped the game winner into the empty net.

While Clarkston dropped to 10-3-3 overall, they are still ahead of last year's start of 7-5-4 after 16 games.

The Wolves play next at Royal Oak Thursday, Jan. 29 at 8 p.m. and at home on Jan. 31 at 6 p.m. against Grosse Pointe North.

Wolves defeat Pontiac Central

BY HARRY KNITTER
Clarkston News Staff Writer

On a frigid January night, who could blame you if you stayed home, slid another log on the fire, and sipped something hot all evening? But if you made it to the game between Clarkston and the Pontiac Central Chiefs, you enjoyed a dandy game, with the Wolves winning it going away, 78 to 55.

The Chiefs appeared to be faster, stronger and bigger than Clarkston; yet, with the game on the line, the Wolves outshot, out-hustled, and outplayed the tough Chief quintet.

The starting five for Clarkston set the example. In the third quarter, for instance, an errant pass went bouncing out of bounds and up toward the second row. It appeared to be irretrievable, but Ryan Kaltz went airborne, leaped over the line of chairs, and tried to scoop the ball back onto the court. The ball stayed out of bounds, but Ryan had made his point. The Wolves were out to play, to do everything necessary to win. And win they did.

Later, junior guard Brad Goodman drove the

Please see Hoops continued on page 16A

Athlete of the Week: Brad Goodman

Brad Goodman, who is one of the top three scorers on the Clarkston High School basketball team, is this week's Athlete of the Week. This is Brad's second year on the varsity team and, as a junior, has at least one more year of competition ahead. He is a B-plus student and an avid basketball fan who would love to play on a college team. He is also a baseball and soccer fan. His mother, Judy, says that Brad would qualify as a "gymrat."

On the Clarkston team, Brad averages about 15 points and works hard on defense.

His sister, Stacie, is a 4.0 student at Western Michigan University.



Brad Goodman

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Curling in Wisconsin



From left, Joel Cooper of Clarkston, Steve Scheffler of Troy and David and Victor Rennie of Clarkston are representing the state of Michigan in the Junior Curling National competition from Jan. 30 to Feb. 10 at Centerville, Wisc. Curling is a sport in which contestants slide a smooth "rock" on a strip of ice while their teammates sweep the pathway so that the rock will stop as close to the "button" or middle of the target. The boys shown are members of the Detroit Curling Club in Ferndale. They qualified for the tournament by achieving top ratings in club competition. Photo provided.

If I had my druthers...

When Dan Dickerson, a Clarkston resident and successor to Ernie Harwell as the number one play-by-play announcer for the Detroit Tigers, spoke to the Clarkston Area Optimist Club recently, he admitted that there could be no better job for him, even if the Tigers continued their losing ways.

Dan grew up in Michigan, followed the Tigers religiously, did trial auditions for the job, and worked under Ernie for a full year before taking over the job a year ago. He says he loves statistics, computing Earned Run Averages and fiddling with typical baseball stats in his spare time. He's a baseball junkie, he admits, and he gets his "fix" from his job.

He's in a pretty good position, I'd say, but I can think of other career choices that would turn me on almost as much as Dan's. If I had my druthers...

I would be one of the international golf pro's coming to Detroit for the Ryder Cup this summer. Instead of driving the ball into the woods, the ponds, or the middle of the parking lot, I would hit the ball straight and true, wind up in the center of the fairway, and I'd always find myself near the top of the leader board, collecting big payoff checks every week.

Or... I might enjoy being Curt Schilling, the pitcher who just bolted from the D-Backs. Curt has a fabulous fastball and, with Randy Johnson, has kept

the Diamondbacks in the thick of competition for years, and in the World Series once. Just one time, I would like to stand on the mound and fire bullets at my catcher, striking out the side on about 11 pitches.

Now that's my idea of a fulfilling job.

Or... I might want to take a crack at becoming Darko Milicic of the Detroit Pistons, who is a star of the future, but a very rich young man right now. Milicic is only 18 years old, but he owns two houses, two new cars and stands to earn millions in the next few years when he begins to earn his keep by actually playing and playing well. It might be fun to be Darko for a day.

As for me, just slip me behind a computer keyboard and let me write like Mitch Albom of the *Free Press*. Forget about his TV and radio gigs, just let me write so creatively, so clearly, that I would make the keys sing with journalistic perfection.

I would visit Oakland Hills Country Club and write beautiful words about the international stars on the Ryder Cup team as they hit 300 yard tee shots that landed in the middle of the fairway... then follow up with wonderful high, arching wedges and irons that land inches from the cup. Or...

Let me be myself, writing for *The Clarkston News*, with a free-wheeling column that winds its way around the sports world with a Clarkston slant. Let me play the piano as it's never been played. Let me watch my grandson score goals in his hockey games each weekend. Know somethin'? I like being me and I may not trade positions with Dan Dickerson after all.

In the Spotlight



Harry Knitter



The Clarkston hoops team huddles up before heading back on the court. Photo by Harry Knitter.

Hoops

Continued from page 15A

baseline and, when the Chiefs hemmed him in, did a 360-degree pirouette to free himself for an easy basket. The play brought the crowd to its feet.

Then, Kaltz grabbed a rebound at the Pontiac end, traversed both teams at center court, and scored on a coast-to-coast trip. Again, the crowd was on its feet.

At practice earlier in the day, Coach Dan Fife was cautious in avoiding a prediction of victory. But he was bullish on his team and on the rivalry, which has spawned some great matches in the past. He wasn't sure his team would respond when the going got tough. You bet they would, and they did.

The Wolves started slowly against a team that featured Javon White, a left-handed guard who made a habit of penetrating the Clarkston defense for easy layups -- until he was charged with his third foul.

Nevertheless, he scored 21 points, most of them by driving up the middle and laying the ball into the twine. Chris Johnston led the Clarkston attack with

20 points and nine rebounds in heavy traffic. Goodman had 16 and Kaltz 13 for the most balanced scoring of the season.

The Wolves outscored the Chiefs at the free throw line, 24 out of 30, compared to Pontiac's 9 of 15.

"We aren't big, but we're beginning to play as a team and make up for our shortcomings," Fife said on Friday. Offensively, his club is tops in the Detroit metro area with an average of 75 points per game.

"I'd rather be number one on defense (they rank 27th), but I'm happy to take the win. The role players like Chris Brookes, John Kast, Chris Miller, Kyle Rademacher, and Scott Lyons may not be starting, but they are playing more and we are looking like a team of 15, not just the starting five."

When the reserves went into the game in the fourth quarter, Pontiac began to play a playground-style of basketball, losing all semblance of organization in their defense and offense. The Wolves outscored them in the period by 25 to 6.

Bowling team wins

The Clarkston High School bowling teams won their matches last weekend at Cherry Hill Lanes, improving their standing for the season.

Bowling is a club sport at the high school, with four different venues used for competition.

The varsity boys team beat Walled Lake Western, 28 to 7, led by Sean Welch, who rolled a 451 series on games of 226 and 225. Steve McCartland bowled a 429 series with games of 182 and 247.

Bobbie Scott rolled a 203 game in the competition.

The varsity girls team defeated Walled Lake Western, 22 to 8, led by Amber Bratton with a 393 series on games of 191 and 202. Tracie Epifano followed with a 383 series on games of 189 and 194.

In the standings, the boys team is 5-2 for the season, second to Walled Lake Central, while the girls team is 6-1 for the season, 5 points behind Walled Lake Northern.

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Low-carb menu options coming to a local restaurant near you

BY ALICIA DORSET
Clarkston News Staff Writer

The low carbohydrate revolution is everywhere. The Atkins' Web site offers bagels with lower carbs (one bag for \$5.99 plus shipping) to consumers. *Low Carb Living* the magazine arrived at newsstands. Best friends debate the effectiveness of Atkins versus South Beach. Even the bread at local groceries stores has been stripped of it's hold on carbs.

And now restaurants are the next to join the bandwagon, making eating out an easier possibility for those joining the revolution.

"If you would have asked us a year ago about this lasting, we would have said, 'No way!'," Erich Lines, Clarkston Union general manager said. "I never thought it would balloon to what it is now."

Lines is one of several local restaurateurs revamping his menu to allow residents more low-carb friendly options when dining out. The demand has arisen and local businesses are listening.

According to Lines, a trend has been growing at the Union recently. Popular choices include buffalo burgers, sans bun of course, and steaks. The trend is increasing so greatly that management at the Union is discussing the possibility of adding specific low-carb entrees to the regular menu.

"The menu really hasn't changed that much in eight years," Lines said. "It's never really adhered to a specific diet trend."

Up the road on Main Street, Mesquite Creek has found themselves a popular choice for low-carb diners.

"The nature of our restaurant can satisfy that," owner Brian Hussey said. "We're always open to do that."

Salads, seafood, and chicken are regular requests for dieters, but thanks to specific Atkins entrees, individuals have other tasteful options to choose from.

Mesquite Creek offers beef sirloin with blue cheese and sauteed onions in addition to grilled chicken with pico de gallo.

"We're very Atkins-friendly here!" Hussey said. "However, you sure can go off from it here, though!"

For those looking for low-carb meals on the go, Burger King is the latest restaurant to join the fast food chain's response to bunless burgers.

The Independence Township location prides itself on being a 'fast service' restaurant rather than fast food and is ready to embrace both low-carb and healthier diet trends.

"Burger King is responding to a culinary arts trend related to Atkins-type diets," Myron Grosz, franchise owner, said. "Really, any menu item can become low



Burger King's chicken Whopper is just one of the many new choices available for low-carb followers at the Independence Township location. The bunless chicken sandwich has just 3.5 grams of carbs. Photos by Alicia Dorset



Store owner Myron Grosz demonstrates how to create a low-carb Whopper at his Independence Township location.

carb." At Grosz's location, Whoppers are served to customers in a plastic dish with some of the usual ingredients: lettuce, pickles and onions. Missing from the equation are the bun, ketchup and mayonnaise.

Store employees are trained on the carb and nutritional values of each menu item and what additional 'allowable' items, such as bacon and cheese, can be added. The low-carb bacon Whopper with cheese has 5 grams of carbohydrates, 420 calories, and 32 grams of fat.

According to Grosz, his store sells about 10 low-carb Whoppers a day. He is intrigued to find the philosophies behind his customers' menu choices.

"I like to find out what the customer thinks of the new products," Grosz said. "I ask what prompted them to make their purchase. Primarily, people are trying to eat healthier and lose weight."

Not only does Burger King offer the traditional Whopper, it also features a low-carb chicken Whopper served the exact same way. For those not counting carbs but still wish to eat healthier, the chain offers reduced-fat chicken baguette sandwiches as well as seven calorie-conscious items that are under 380 calories each.

"Our new Fire-Grilled low-carb, Fire-Grilled low-fat, and Fire-Grilled calorie-conscious offerings give our guests food and taste that is consistent with their personal eating styles," Brad Blum, Chief Executive Officer of Burger King, said in a recent press release regarding the chain's new menu options.

The ability to eat out and adhere to diet guidelines allows local residents the freedom to enjoy some of their favorite restaurants around town. It's also caused those still unfamiliar with the trend to see what the revolution is all about.

"Low carb is everywhere," Grosz said. "It's here for fast service restaurants like Burger King and even the mom and pop places out on Dixie Highway."

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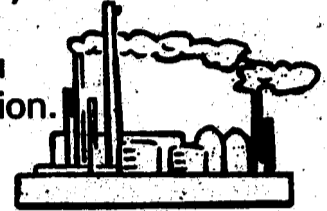
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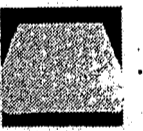

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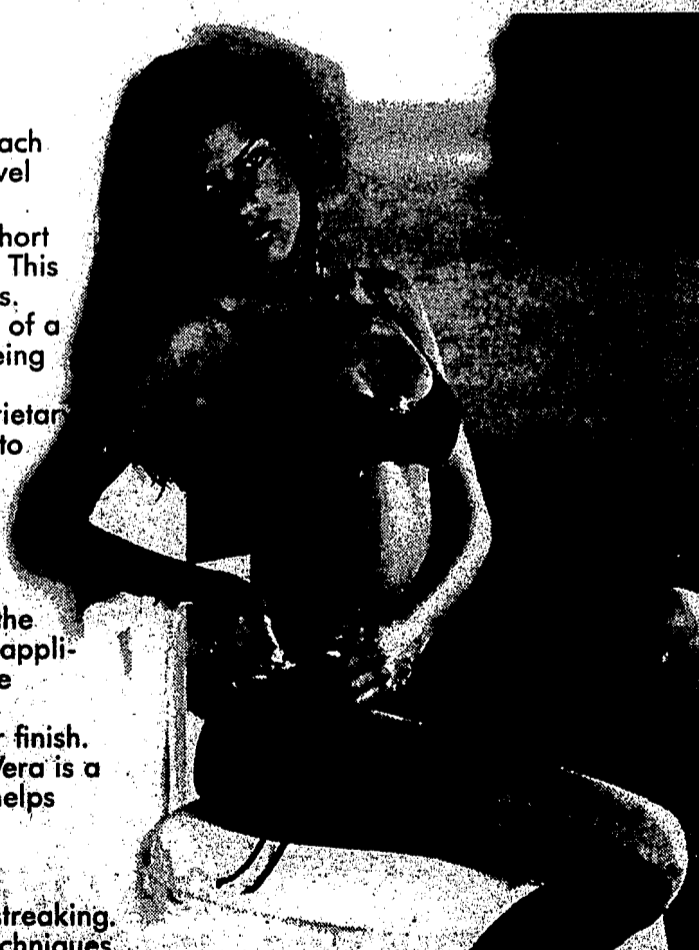
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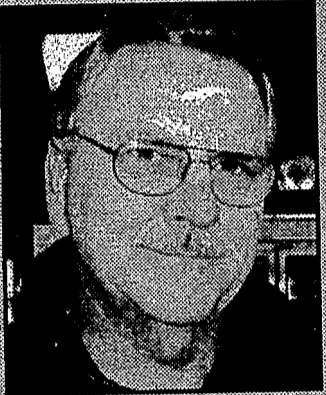


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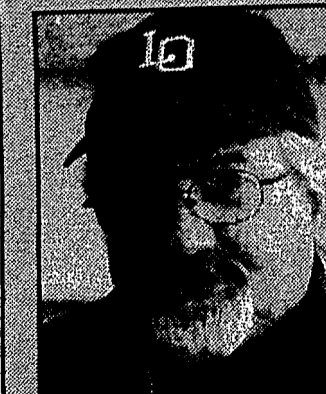
"You betcha. This is a very important year with such tremendous extremes."
— Ron Verduin



"No. I don't like dirty campaigns. I know who I'm going to vote for, so I'm not going to follow closely."
— Sharon Parke



"I don't really follow it. I don't know too much about the candidates."
— Emma Ashley



"Probably not. I know who I'm going to vote for."
— Dennis Baker

By Alicia Dorset

The Clarkston News'
Millstream

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

Evans helps with scholarships, hot dogs

BY DON SCHELSKE
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Jim Evans was standing in the concession stand line at a Clarkston High School junior varsity football game several years ago and wondered why it was taking so long to cook the hot dogs.

Evans is now one of those cooking the hot dogs.

It's one bit of evidence of the Independence Township resident's philosophy of not simply complaining about a problem, but doing something about it.

Evans is in his second three-year term as president of the Clarkston Foundation, an organization devoted to enriching the cultural arts and science education of local children.

The foundation gives grants to local school programs which are outside the regular budget, scholarships to college-bound students and recognition to local teachers through the annual Teacher of the Year award.

It is difficult to hold back his enthusiasm for the foundation's work.

"How can you not be excited when you see these students?" he said. "It was the students as much as the board of directors that sold me on the efficacy of the program."

While his two grown sons were athletes at Clarkston, he agrees with the foundation's motivation to "change the culture so our top math, science and performing arts students get recognized in the same way as our athletes."

The foundation has been in existence since 1989, and Evans was recruited to join in 1992. One of his first tasks was to create a unique fund-raiser, and he came up with the idea of "honorary degrees" for major donors.

Since 1993, those earning the "degree" have proudly worn athletic-style jackets with the foundation logo. It's a great conversation piece, and Evans said even activities such as his cooking hot dogs gives a chance to recruit help for the foundation.

"I'm a parent who's got something to give back," he said. "I thought if I could do anything to equalize the playing field for students who weren't getting the attention [like athletes], I could make a difference."



Jim Evans' smile comes from the joy of giving. Evans has his hands in several local service groups, including the Clarkston Foundation. Photo by Bob Flath

In addition to his work with the Clarkston Foundation and the athletic boosters, Evans is the founding member of the Clarkston Optimist Club. A certified social worker, Evans shares the giving attitude in his day job as coordinator of an "adventure-based counseling" service. He takes groups to exotic places for rock-climbing and other outdoor activities which provide "therapeutic experiences."

Back home, he finds plenty of adventure in helping encourage students to strive

for excellence. While he finds it ironic to be part of an organization promoting science and mathematics ("I can hardly spell science," he quipped), Evans said the foundation sees results when students earn advanced degrees and land careers in science, engineering and the arts.

"That maybe didn't happen without us getting involved in that child's life and saying, 'it's possible,'" he said. "We're that cheerleading section that says, 'You can do it.'"

He is quick to share the credit for the foundation's success. Deputy Superintendent Dave Reschke was a moving force in the creation of the foundation, and Evans said current administrators and teachers share the enthusiasm for the foundation's work.

"It's a wonderful partnership," Evans

See Evans on page 15B

'When you're helping somebody, you're sharing and learning at the same time.'

Jim Evans, President
Clarkston Foundation



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Independence Oaks County Park is offering the **Oakland County Parks Ski School** on Feb. 7, 15, and 21. Clinics will be held, with conditions permitting, from 10 a.m. to noon and 1:30-3:30 p.m.. Pre-registration one week in advance is required. Cost is \$9 per person or \$14 with ski rental. Fee includes park entry. For more information, call (248) 858-0906 or visit www.co.oakland.mi.us for a complete listing of winter activities.

Don't miss the **Daddy/Daughter Dances** on Saturday, Feb. 7. The two dances are at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., and will be held at the Clarkston Middle School. Cost is \$7 per person. Contact the Clarkston Com-

munity Education Center for more information at (248) 618-9352.

Club 5529 presents **Sound Piece with Jade Trees Weeping** on Friday, Feb. 6. Doors open at 8:30 p.m.. Tickets are \$7 at the door for general admission seating. Club 5529 is located inside the Clarkston Christian Association at 5529 Sashabaw Rd. For more information, visit www.5529music.com

Singing Valentines are being offered by the Pontiac-Waterford Barbershop Chapter Feb. 13 and 14. The package includes two 'love songs' sung by a male quartet, a flower for the honoree, and a picture of the event. The signing will be done at a location of your choice for only \$45. For an appointment, call (248) 698-4052.

Independence Township Parks and Recreation presents a **Daddy/Daughter Valentine Gala** on Thursday, Feb. 12. Dads, uncles, big brothers or that 'special someone' are encouraged to ask their favorite little girl! From 6-8 p.m. live music, light refreshments, dancing, and door prizes are all included at the Knights of Co-

lumbus Hall in Clarkston. A commemorative photo will help capture the evening. Tickets are \$6 for residents and \$8 for non-residents at the Parks and Recreation Office. Tickets are currently available and will be sold on first come basis. Dates may also pre-order a corsage for \$5. For more information, call Parks and Recreation at (248) 625-8223.

A **Winter Mountain Bike Race** is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 8 at Orion Oaks from 12-1:30 p.m. Pre-register online at www.tailwind.com or just come and watch the action.

Let your kids run loose at **The Tot Lot** at North Sashabaw Elementary! On Mondays, Feb. 23- Mar. 22 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the gym, the Parks and Recreation Department will provide equipment for infants and toddlers to play on or you can bring your own. It will be a non-structured environment for kids ages second grade and younger. Parent supervision is strictly required. Drop-in fee is \$2 for Clarkston school students and \$3 for non-residents. Punch cards for all five evenings are available at the Parks and Recreation office (\$10 for residents/\$15 for non-residents). For more information, call (248) 625-8223.

Cabin Fever Cure is set for Saturday, Jan. 31 at Independence Oaks County Park. Activities include an 11:30 a.m. cross-country ski competition, a walk/run/snowshoe fun race at 12:30 p.m., a chili cook-off at 1 p.m., and a hockey shoot-out, ice skating, bonfire and marshmallow roast from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Hayrides at the Wint Nature Center will be available from 1-3 p.m. The cost is \$5 per person or \$3 per person for families of four or more. Rental equipment is an additional \$5 a person. For more information, call (248) 858-0906.

Join the **Clarkston Village Players** for an evening of laughter with comedian and storyteller Norm Stulz. Due to an overwhelming response to the first sold-out show, a second has been added. The additional performance is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 7 at 10 p.m. Tickets are \$12 and are available at the Depot Theater, located at 4861 White Lake Rd. in Clarkston. For information or to reserve tickets, call (248) 625-8811. Visit the Clarkston Village Players at www.clarkstonvillageplayers.org.

Kids, hit the town on **Rockin' Kids Night Out!** Parents can enjoy a night to themselves while their children have an evening of fun. On Friday nights (Feb. 6, 27 and Mar. 19), Independence Township Parks and Recreation will offer a rockin' evening for kids ages 5-11 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Dinner starts the night out at Clintonwood Park Carriage House and continues with activities and games until 9:30 p.m. Parks and Recreation staff will chaperone as well as participate in the event. Cost is \$10 for residents and \$15 for non-residents. Registration is the Wednesday prior to each night. Visit the Parks and Recreation office to register. Each child's birth certificate is required to register. For more information, call (248) 625-8223.



This year's Daddy/Daughter Dances is set for on Saturday, Feb. 7.

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Members of Tiger Cub Den 8, Pack 126 enjoy looking at *The Clarkston News* during a recent office visit. Pictured are (from left) Josh Kuch, Mitchell McClelland, Johnny McLennan, Jake Lewelling, Andrew Williamson, Zach Brueck and Cameron McCue. Photo by Don Schelske

Tiger Cubs visit *The Clarkston News*, suggest story ideas

BY DON SCHELSKE
Clarkston News Staff Writer
The Tiger Cub Den 8, Pack 126 visited the offices of *The Clarkston News* last week to learn all about how reporters write stories and how editors put

together a newspaper. The first graders, who attend Clarkston Elementary School, earned an achievement award by going on the field trip. To make the experience complete, we asked the young-

sters what kind of news and feature stories they would like to see included in their local community newspaper. Their responses were as follows:
Josh Kuch — "Our

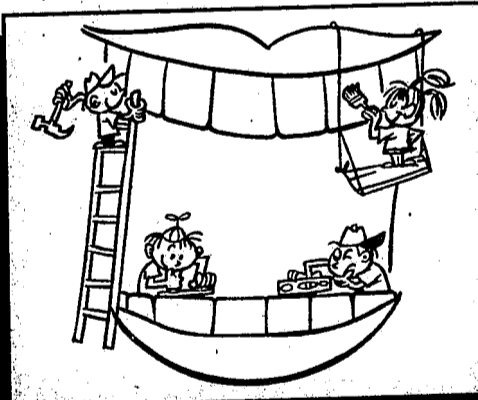
school."
Mitchell McClelland — "The Tiger Cubs taking a walk in the woods."
Johnny McLennan — "Teachers."
Jake Lewelling — "TV,

because there's cool shows on."
Andrew Williamson — "A bird stuck in a tree."
Zach Brueck — "A bird flying out of a birdhouse."
Cameron McCue — "A high school swim meet."

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Milestones



Paul M. Wolven and Aimee Lynn Van Houten

Paul M. Wolven and Aimee Lynn Van Houten were married on Saturday, Aug. 23, 2003 in Grand Blanc, Mich.

Father James Swiat officiated the double-ring ceremony at Church of the Holy Family. The two honeymooned in Aruba.

The couple resides in Farmington Hills. Both graduates of Michigan State University, Aimee is an accountant at Barton-Marlow in Southfield, and Paul works for Consumers Energy.

The groom's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Wolven of Clarkston. Grandparents include the late Charles and Reba Keneipp of Silverwood and Kenneth and Lulu Wolven of Marysville.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Van Houten of Grand Blanc. Grandparents include Mr. and Mrs. Paul Schneiderhan of Grand Blanc, and the late Frank and Katherine Van Houten of Flint.

At school...

Erin M. Macklom of Clarkston was named to the dean's list at Southwest Missouri State University for the fall 2003 semester.

To receive recognition, students had to maintain at least a 3.5 GPA and enroll in at least 12 credit hours.

Of the 15,873 undergraduate students enrolled during the fall semester, 3,458 earned a spot on the list.

The university is located in Springfield, Mo.

Mark Catanese of Clarkston was named to the fall quarter dean's list at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology for the spring quarter of the academic year.

Students had to earn at least a 3.3 GPA to receive the honor. The institute is located in Terra Haute, Ind.

Military accomplishments



Air Force Reserve Airman 1st Class **Judy A. Gross** graduated from basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, Gross studied various aspect of military skills, customs and traditions.

Gross is the daughter of Sun Stasevich of Clarkston and Guy Gross of Anchorage, Alaska.

She is a 2002 graduate of Eisenhower Senior High School in Lawton, Okla.

Announcements

Paul and Kerry Carpentier announce the birth of their daughter, **Madison McLean Carpentier**.

Born on Nov. 23, 2003 at Bon Secours Hospital in Grosse Pointe, Madison weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce, and was 20.5 inches long.

Grandparents include Carol and Tom Carpentier of Holly, John and Linda Bruce of Grosse Pointe Farms, and Maureen and Richard Vreeland of Freeport, Fla. Great-grandmother is Bernadette Carpentier of Cadyville, NY.



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Religion

Former pastor attempts to raise awareness

BY KYLE GARGARO
Clarkston News Editor

Clarkston resident Dr. Robert D. Walters took a trip to Bethlehem and is now looking to raise awareness on what is taking place in the Middle East.

Walters, a former Pastor at Calvary Lutheran Church in Clarkston, went with a group of eight to make an official trip to Bethlehem. There were four individuals from Michigan, three

from New England and one from Chicago.

"I volunteered to do this. I wanted to show my support for the Lutheran Christians in Palestine and Israel," Walters said.

The group spent six days in the area just before Christmas of 2002.

"We were there to stand in solidarity with the Lutheran Church in the holy land," Walters said.

What the group found was disturbing to them. Israeli checkpoints, destruction from bombs and curfews all angered Walters. They heard firsthand accounts of individuals who had lost loved ones to the fighting and stories of intimidation.

"When I told a friend I was going he said, 'For God's sake, why would you do this?' and I said, 'Exactly,'" Walters said. "The persecution of these people (the Palestinians) made me angry, not afraid. The sad part is the suicide bombers are playing right into the hands of the persecutors (the Israelis.)"

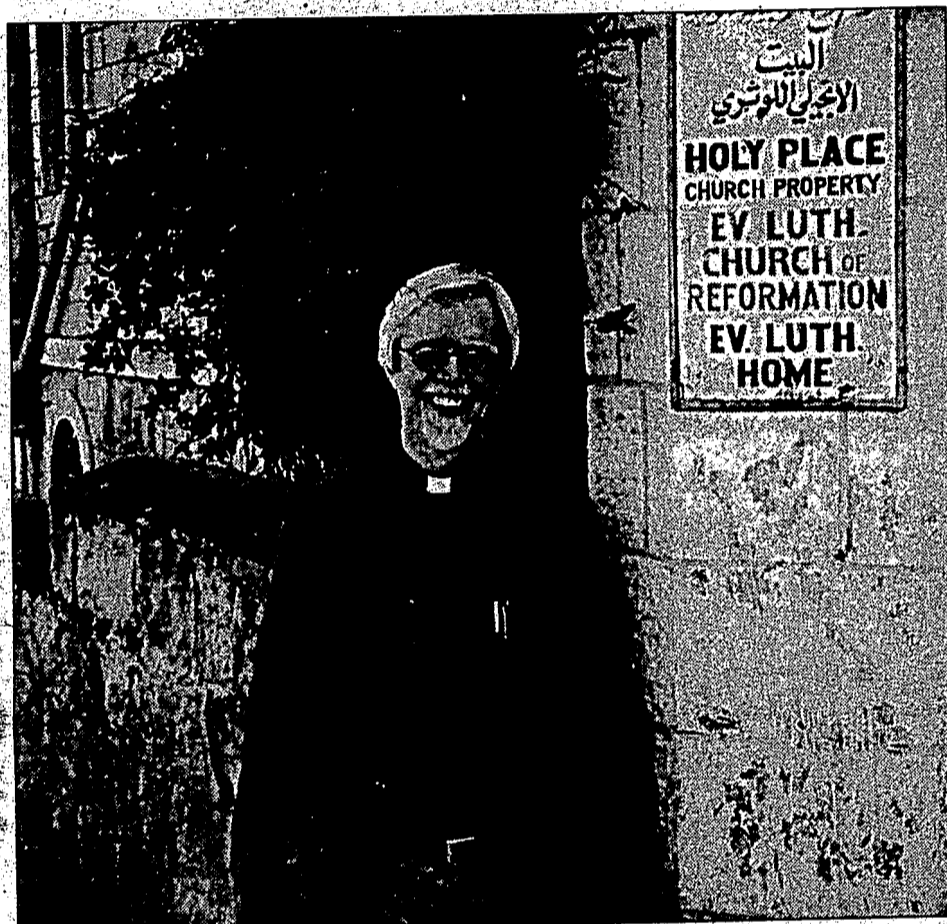
The goal of the group was to visit as many places as they could and Walters

said he is proud of the amount they were able to accomplish while over in the Middle East. The group still keeps in contact with the individuals they met during the trip.

"What was happening over there made me sick. They were confiscating land in the name of security and when kids threw rocks, they would bulldoze their home," Walters said.

The group has written their experiences down and put them into a book entitled, "Walking in their Footsteps: An

Please see Pastor continued on page 11B



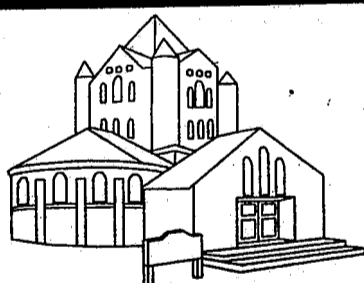
Former Calvary Lutheran Church Pastor Dr. Robert Walters stands in front of the Reformation Church sign. Photos provided.



An Israeli Defense Force Personnel Carrier in the streets of Bethlehem.

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Local resident brings Tigers action to fans

BY KYLE GARGARO
Clarkston News Editor

While the term "dream job" has become somewhat of a cliché, Dan Dickerson really has one.

The Independence Township resident is greatly enjoying his time as play-by-play announcer for the Detroit Tigers.

"It is awesome. It is so much fun," Dickerson said. "It truly is a dream job. I can't imagine a better job than this."

As a kid in Birmingham, Dickerson couldn't imagine being in this position while listening to legendary Ernie Harwell call games. Little did he know that one day he would be able to both work with and eventually succeed Harwell.

"That I listened to Ernie Harwell as a kid made this that much more special. It might be an intimidating situation because of the status of Harwell, but it wasn't because of the type of person he is. He has a remarkable ability to put people at ease and be so personable," Dickerson said.

Harwell was such a personable individual that when Dickerson called him in 1992 in the hopes of getting Harwell to listen to some of his announcing tapes, Ernie invited Dickerson to his home. The two listened to the tapes at Harwell's kitchen table before the legendary announcer gave Dickerson some helpful hints he still uses today.

It was eight years later when Dickerson joined Harwell in the broadcast booth, but he was no rookie to radio. Dickerson first got bit by the "broadcasting bug" when he was a freshman at Ohio Wesleyan University.

"It was a small school of only about 2,000 so you just had to show up at the radio station and you got a shift," Dickerson said. "It was just perfect for me. I got some experience as a disc jockey as well as experience in news and sports."

Dickerson began his professional broadcasting career in Grand Rapids with WMAX radio in 1980.

"I was doing strictly news but I knew that I eventually wanted to do sports. I always had a love for sports," Dickerson said.

After finally getting a chance to do some sports out in Grand Rapids in 1987, Dickerson returned to news and the metro Detroit area after marrying his wife Lori in the fall of 1988. Lori was working for the *Detroit Free Press* and her boss was able to open some doors for Dickerson which led to a part-time job at WWJ.

"He knew the predicament we were in and made some phone calls and wrote a few letters. I am very grateful for his help," Dickerson said.

The two-day-a-week job quickly turned into full time for Dickerson. In addition to his news job, Dickerson was able to get back into sports by hosting the Detroit Lions postgame shows.

However, Dickerson got his big break in the fall of 1995 when he became a fill-in play-by-play announcer for the University of Michigan football. Frank Beckman was broadcasting Tiger games and due to a scheduling conflict, Dickerson was able to broadcast a few Wolverine games.

"When I look back on it today, it was a huge opportunity. I was able to broadcast major college football games in a major market," Dickerson said. "I always



The voice of the Wolves, Dale Ryan (left) meets the voice of the Tigers, Dan Dickerson, at last week's Optimist Club meeting. Ryan handles the duties of P.A. announcer at Clarkston basketball and football home games. Dickerson is the Tigers' play-by-play announcer and lives in Clarkston. Photo by Harry Knitter.

knew that eventually I wanted to do play-by-play."

Dickerson was a fill-in for Michigan football for four years which included broadcasting the Alamo Bowl. The opportunity also included broadcasting some Michigan basketball.

All that experience, along with some help along the way, helped Dickerson land his dream job as Detroit Tigers announcer.

Dickerson said he is enjoying his job as much as ever. The announcer finds it humorous that people will ask if he still enjoys the job since last year was a rough one for the Tigers on the ball field.

"I always say that I am fine. Sure, you would like to see the team win a little more, but I still get paid to go to the ballpark everyday and watch baseball. So I tell them I am fine," Dickerson said.

Dickerson said he learned a valuable lesson from working with Harwell.

"He always told me that every game stands on its own. Whether it be a star on the other team or Jeremy Bonderman making his first start there is a reason everybody tuned into the game. It sounds simple but it is important," Dickerson said. "I remember back in 1975 when they lost 19 in a row, as a kid I still tuned in and listened."

In the off-season, Dickerson is spending his time teaching a class at Michigan State University. For those who also want a career in sports broadcasting, the Tigers announcer has some advice.

"I tell the students to never let anyone discourage you from what your dream is. In radio there seems to be fewer jobs but they are always looking for good, creative and energetic people," Dickerson said. "I tell them to make sure they do an internship to get their foot in the door. You have to show people that you have value and that you are sharp. That is how you get an opportunity."

Dickerson and wife Lori, along with their children nine-year-old Rachel and five-year-old Justin, moved to Independence Township six years ago. At the time they were in Royal Oak and were looking to help Lori with her commute to East Lansing. A friend who was a builder suggested Clarkston.

"We love it here. We love the feel of the village. My wife enjoys walking into Rudy's Market and having them know her first name. We belong to Deer Lake and love it. We know a lot of really good people and love the small town feel. This is the perfect place for us. We couldn't be happier," Dickerson said.

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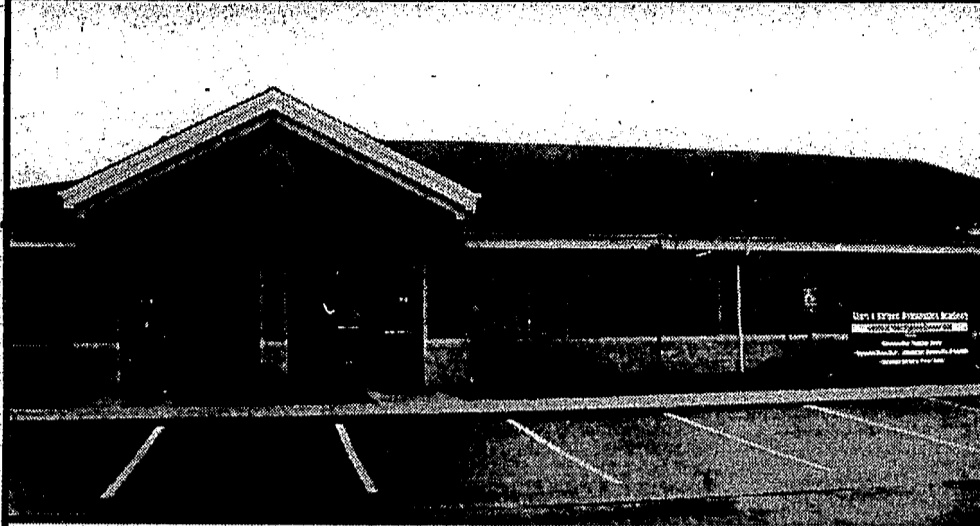
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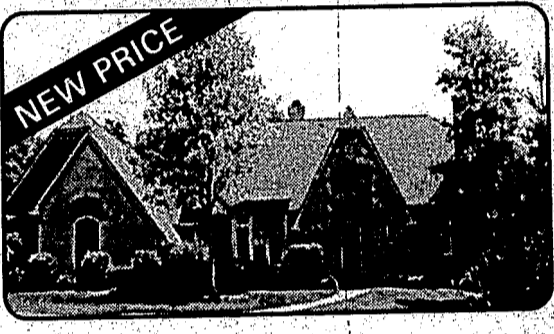
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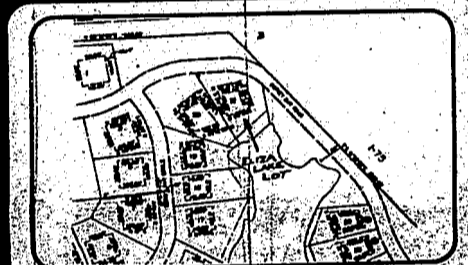
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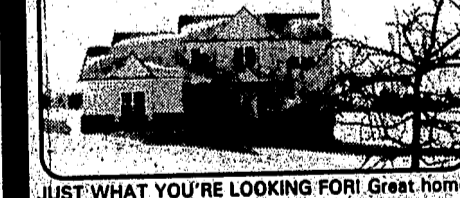
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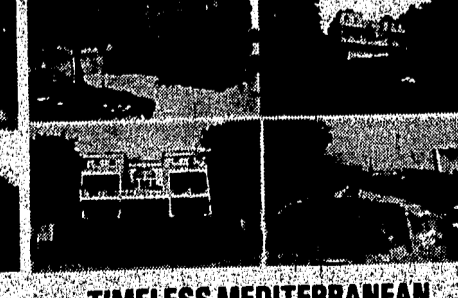
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Jenna Cruz attempts to write with her mouth during one of the activities at Clarkston Elementary's 'Reach for the Stars' program. Photos by Alicia Dorset

Students learn to overcome obstacles, reach for their stars

BY ALICIA DORSET
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Sometimes students need to look to the stars for a little motivation. That's exactly what the third graders at Clarkston Elementary did on Jan. 21.

For the 17th year, students were treated to 'Reach for the Stars', an all-day enrichment program that presented famous individuals who overcame difficult obstacles in their lives.

"The program shows good life lessons for kids to learn so that they can overcome obstacles," Kristyn Godlew, public relations representative, said.

At the start of the school day, students entered the gym to fast-paced music and colorful decorations. Every third grader was equipped with a star-decorated bag filled with pencils and worksheets on the day's celebrities. Eight stations presented a 15-minute presentation on a different 'star' who overcame something challenging and an activity for the students to participate in.

This year's stars included Walt Disney, Joni Eareckson Tada, Ghandi, Temple Grandin, Sally Ride, Harriet Tubman, Oprah Winfrey, and Jim Abbot.

The variety of backgrounds represented was a factor that pleased third grade teacher Mary Hughes.

"We're not going to study someone who inherited daddy's money," Hughes said. "You need to go to school and learn to work hard."

Each station involved the students in unique ways. At the Harriet Tubman stop, children learned how she fought against slavery. They then had a chance to crawl through a recreated version of the underground railroad.

Students visiting the Jim Abbot station learned about the famous one-armed baseball player's career and then tried pitching to classmates with one arm behind their backs.

While visiting the Ghandi lecture, students learned some of his famous philosophies, including "Be the change you want to see in the world."

The hard work that made the day a success was made possible by Clarkston Elementary's PTO. The group started planning for the day months ago. The event continues to evolve over the years.

"We really have a wonderful group," Hughes said. "They go above and beyond. It's usually hard to get volunteers before and after the holidays, but you can call these parents and ask if they can help and then they're here."



To learn what it was like for Harriet Tubman to navigate her way through the underground railroad, students crawl through a recreated tunnel to get a similar feeling of what the journey to freedom felt like.

Parents involved in planning select a famous person to feature that year and prepare all props and materials from an ongoing 'bank' of resources. New individuals and materials are added and updated.

PTO president Lori Blicher and her husband served as presenters in the past and found the experience very rewarding.

"I love being with kids one on one," Blicher said.

"They ask good questions and it's interesting to see their thought process. It's amazing to see what questions come out."

Students make references to the lessons learned at 'Reach for the Stars' throughout the school year and apply them to then-current situations. Teachers make sure to follow up with the students to review the messages.

The day's events, which also included classroom reflections, a presentation on Helen Keller, and a special assembly by speaker O.J. Anderson, left lasting impressions on not only this year's third graders, but those from previous years as well.

"I had one fifth grader stop by my room this morning and wished that he could be back in third grade for 'Reach for the Stars' day!" Hughes said.

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Pastor

Continued from page 5B

account of the December 2002 ELCA Delegation from the New England and Southeast Michigan Synods to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jerusalem and the West Bank."

Members of the group are also attempting to raise awareness by telling their story to whoever will listen. They have made presentations to different congrega-

tions.

"The hard part is that people here can't fathom what it is like to be forced out of your land," Walters said. "I know some are going to accuse me of being anti-Semitic but really I oppose the policies of the modern state of Israel and the mindless support of our government."



The Bethlehem Police Station after it was bombed by Israel in April 2002. Photos provided.

Clarkston High School Academic Achiever



Name: Jenna Clavette

GPA: 3.92

Plans after graduation: Michigan State University to study political science.

Athletics: Basketball, volleyball and soccer.

Special recognition: MVP freshman year on junior varsity basketball, all-district varsity soccer sophomore and junior year.

Clubs/organizations: S.T.A.R. club, science club and National Honor Society.

Community involvement: Community Service 24 hours.

Favorite high school memory: All the friendships I have made that I know will last for a lifetime. The district semifinal game against Pontiac Northern was unforgettable.

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BACKS UP TO Indian Springs Park, over one acre, Clarkston schools, 2 1/2 car garage plus workshop could be 3rd car garage, home just painted inside and out, new windows, new doors, new roof, just move in. \$157,900 (SF) Call Sharon Frericks, 248-625-5556 Ext 114



WATERFORD, 3 bedroom ranch, updated and ready to move in. Remodeled kitchen with oak cabinets, hardwood floors under carpet in bedrooms and living room, 28x28 garage is a mechanic's dream come true. A must see! \$174,900 (SF) Call Sharon Frericks, 248-625-5556 Ext 114



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LAKEFRONT CONDO Two story condo with 2 bedrooms, Florida room, finished walk-out, huge deck and 1 car garage. Updates include kitchen, baths, windows and roof. The dock is ready for your boat! Independence. \$159,900 (KT) Call Kim Turner, 248-625-5556 Ext 111



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CANAL FRONT to Commerce Lake. Sellers have replaced roof, windows, siding, central air and furnace. They have left the "fun stuff" for the people hooked on the decorating shows! High Demand Walled Lake Schools. \$269,900 (KT) Call Kim Turner, 248-625-5556 Ext. 111



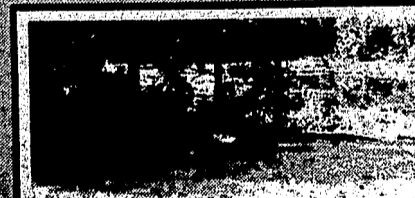
DEER LAKE FARMS home on cul-de-sac. Two story with 3,300 square feet plus a finished walk-out basement. 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths and a 3 car garage. 1.25+ acre lot and each homeowner has deeded interest in the beach and boat lot on Deer Lake. \$399,900 (KT) Call Kim Turner, 248-625-5556 Ext. 111



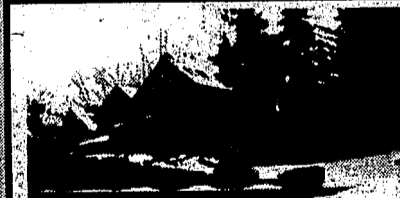
CLARKSTON CUL-DE-SAC 4 bedroom with 1st floor master and private bath. Dining room, study, 1st floor laundry, 3 car garage, c/a, fireplace, large kitchen, hardwood floors, deck, brick pavers and more. A must see! \$419,900 (SL) Call Sandy Lawrence, 248-625-5556 Ext. 115



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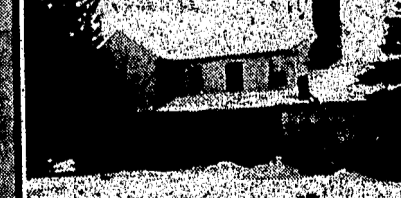
CLARKSTON 4 bedroom with outstanding golf course setting with den/office, large master suite & bath, family room, formal dining, 1st floor laundry, 2 story tower, in popular sub with sidewalks. \$281,750 (DD) Call Darlene Darby, 248-625-5556 Ext. 110



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'Saul and Patsy' get everyone reading during campaign

BY ALICIA DORSET
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Saul and Patsy. While this couple might not be famous right now, their fame is set to grow once the third annual 'Everyone's Reading' campaign kicks off.

The Independence Township Library is one of seven libraries participating in the Metro-Area Book Club's event again this year, featuring author Charles Baxter's latest book, 'Saul and Patsy'.

"Charles Baxter is a wonderful writer," Patience Beer, Independence Township Library Head of Adult Services, said. "His novels are considered serious literature, but accessible as well."

The book is a fictional story based on the status of Saul and Patsy's marriage after moving to a small town in Michigan. Baxter, who lived in Michigan for 30 years, is known for using the state as a setting for many of his works.

"This book happens to be set in Michigan," Beer said. "He (Baxter) often writes about the Midwest."

Each of the seven libraries participating in the Metro-Area Book Club will host different functions to highlight the book. Independence Township has their own activities planned to highlight the book.

The library will host two book discussion groups at its normal daytime and evening discussions. Everyone is welcome to participate.

"Hopefully this will give people a chance to read something they might not have selected before, something they might not have been exposed to," Beer said.

Getting involved in the campaign is easy. The library has 16 copies of the book available to check out, in addition to audio and CD versions. Since the book, which was published last August, is so new, demand is expected to be high. The book club also has an agreement with Borders to feature the title at a 20% discount at their stores for readers.

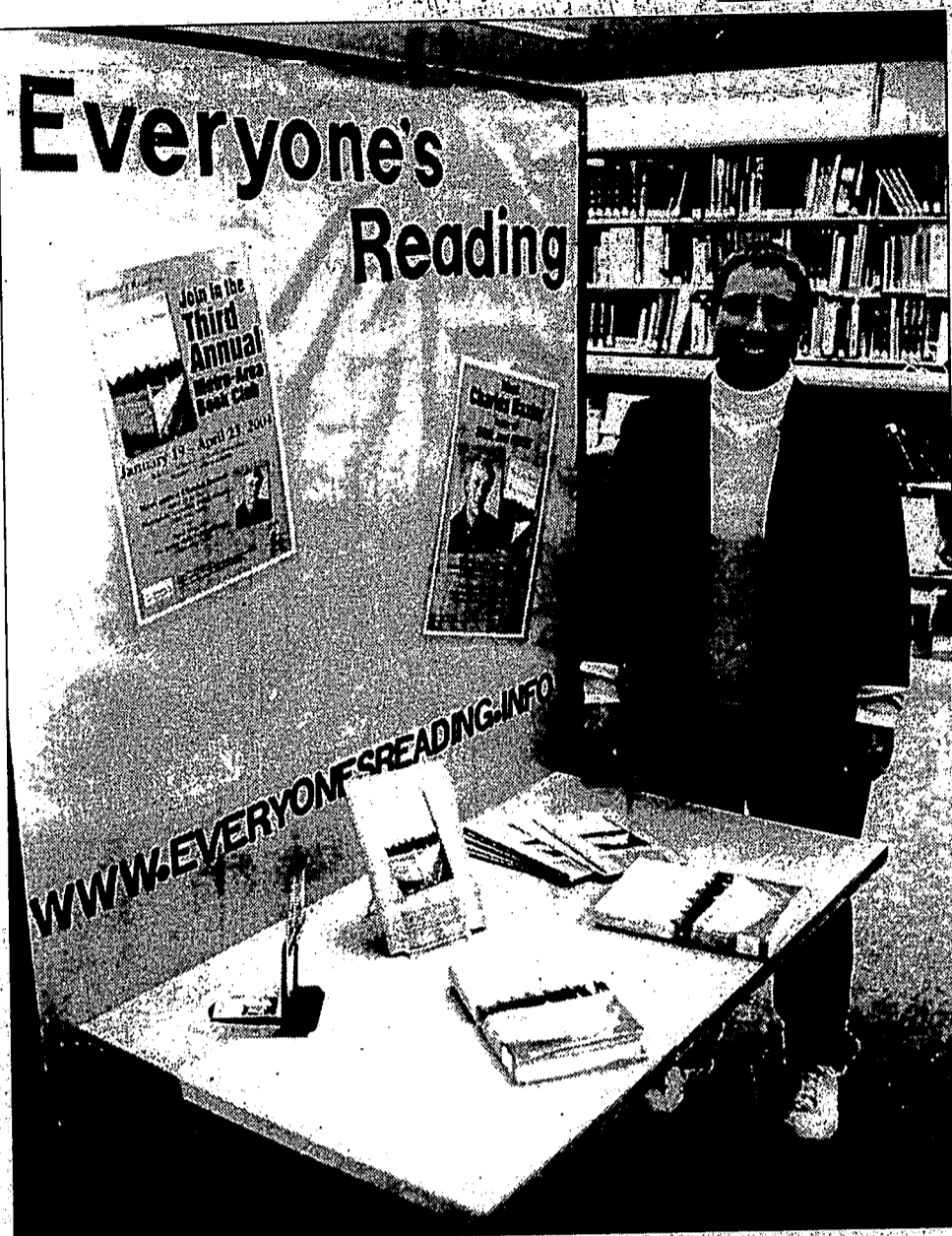
"This year the program is a little different than others," Beer said. "We're featuring a very new book."

Reading guides and questions are available at the library as well as online on the campaign's Web site. Information about other libraries' events, such as appearances by the author himself in April, is also available.

Both the Brandon Township Public Library and Orion Township Library will also have events related to the campaign.

According to Beer, the 'Everyone's Reading' campaign has been steadily building since its debut in 2002. Past books included "Pay it Forward" by Catherine Ryan Hyde and "A Lesson Before Dying" by Ernest J. Gaines.

'Everyone's Reading' is based on other library reading initiatives throughout the country. The Metro-Area's is unusual in that the selected book is a recently-published title and that the author will be participating in some of the activities.



Patience Beer, Head of Adult Services at the Independence Township Public Library, stands by the 'Everyone's Reading' display that welcomes patrons upon arrival.
Photo by Alicia Dorset

EVERYONE'S READING AT INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

- Daytime discussion book group:
Thursday, Feb. 5, 10-11:30 a.m.
Community Meeting Room
Everyone is welcome
- Evening discussion book group:
Tuesday, Mar. 16, 7:30-9:00 p.m.
Youth Activities Room
Everyone is welcome

"We liked selecting Baxter because of the fact that we could bring him in," Beer said. Baxter recently moved back to his native state of Minnesota.

So far "Saul and Patsy" has received good responses from critics. Beer herself is a fan.

"I enjoyed it very much," Beer said. "I love Baxter's sense of humor, his irony, and his command of language. You'll read a phrase and just go, 'Yes!'"

For more information, call (248) 625-2212.

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Some movie about hobbits teaches a lesson

After watching Jan. 25's Golden Globes, I realized something: maybe it's time I saw 'The Lord of the Rings' and paid more attention to Hollywood politics.

I never like to admit that I love watching award shows but, sure enough, I found myself sucked into the Sunday night event, complete with a bowl of chocolate-covered peanuts in my hands and a wish to see Jude Law win Best Actor for his work in 'Cold Mountain'.

Between the Lines



Alicia Dorset

As my best friend, Katherine, and I scratched other plans for the evening and settled in for the red carpet gala, this movie about hobbits and rings kept winning awards. I started to get irritated: to my knowledge, there were no hobbits in Law's Civil War epic, and I feared his chance to win was growing slim.

"Is this movie really that good?" I asked Katherine. "Now, Jude Law... wow! Let me tell you about

'Cold Mountain'!"

"It's very good," she interrupted. "But I think they're just trying to reward the trilogy as a whole since this is the last in the series."

I asked what the third installment was about. Of course, I did not get a response as I was told that I was most likely the only person who hadn't seen the last film and to be quiet. My questions were taking away from Elijah Wood's presentation speech on the film.

I began to wonder if it was really fair to reward a whole group of films instead of the one particular entry that was actually nominated. I don't think 'Ghostbusters' received special honors when the sequel premiered. And to my knowledge, I don't seem to remember lifetime achievement honors being bestowed upon Mike Meyers when the third 'Austin Powers' movie arrived.

My friend's take on Hollywood politics proved itself to be even more of a possibility when all of the actresses in HBO's 'Sex and the City' were all nominated in the same category for Best Supporting Actress.

"See, they were all nominated because the show is ending this year," she said. "That's all."

Now I was officially at a loss.

She pointed more examples of Hollywood politics at work, such as Matt LeBlanc receiving a nomination since 'Friends' was heading off the air as well.

I remained silent for the rest of evening and ate the

No matter how much we would hope that politics would be left out of certain carefree events, there are always hidden agendas that you need to make yourself aware of.

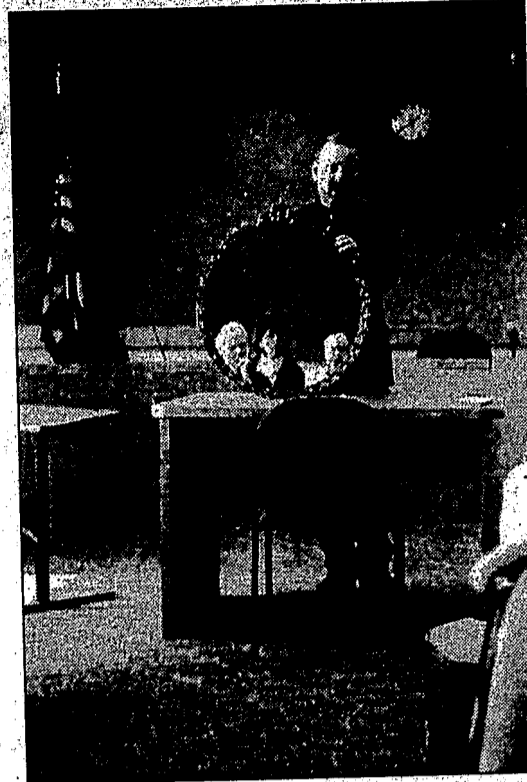
last of my peanuts while watching LOTR win Best Original Score. I guess the trilogy music was very moving.

I learned a few things from 2004's Golden Globes. First, no matter how much we would hope that politics would be left out of certain carefree events, like movie award shows, there are always hidden agendas that you need to make yourself aware of.

Second, I need to see the last LOTR movie. I don't think my best friend will speak to me until I do.

I was happy to see Bill Murray take a trophy home on Sunday for his work in 'Lost in Translation'. Apparently someone on the voting committee was upset that the 'Ghostbusters' pair of monumental films had gone without proper recognition and aimed to correct the injustice.

Maybe Hollywood politics aren't that bad, after all.



A day at the fair

Bruce McKenzie displays an antique mirror brought in to the antique appraisal fair held at the Springfield Township Library Jan. 22. The mirror was one of many items brought in for appraisal at the event sponsored by the Friends of the Springfield Township Library.

Photo by Alicia Dorset

Scholarships to be offered to tech students

Denso Oakland Schools Education Foundation will award \$30,000 in scholarships each year for the next three years to high school seniors attending one of the four Oakland Schools technical campuses, including the Northwest Campus in Springfield Township, who plan to attend a post-secondary institution.

Scholarship applications may be obtained on the Oakland Schools Web site (www.oakland.k12.mi.us) or from counselors at the technical campuses. Students must submit completed applications to their technical campus counselor no later than 3 p.m. Feb. 23.

Scholarship awards will be determined by the student's personal goals, academic achievement, internships and work experience, and financial need. Recipients will be announced March 29 and will be recog-

nized at a spring awards ceremony.

Scholarships will range from \$500 to \$2,000 and may be applied to any post-secondary institution for tuition, books and other course-related materials and fees.

DOSEF was founded in 1991 by Tony Takeuchi, chairman and CEO of Denso International America Inc., and Dr. Bill Keane, Oakland Schools superintendent, to award post-secondary tuition scholarships to Oakland County students. Since 1991, \$141,750 in scholarships have been awarded.

For more information on the application process, call Diane Trawick, career focused education, Oakland Schools, at (248) 209-2047.

Discolored Paper

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Found in this pristine Lorimer-constructed estate composed of nearly 8,000 sq. ft. of superb amenities. \$1,600,000 78-FIE

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From 3,700 sq. ft. of delightful living space, positioned upon a roomy .67-acre site. \$349,900 98-OAK

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The epitome of living the simple life

Chic yet comfy, savor its delicious appointments and hassle-free lifestyle. \$315,000 72RAB

NEW LISTING
A country home with city conveniences within reach!

5 gently sloping acres embrace this 1997-constructed colonial. \$279,000 11-CLA

Symbolizes our continued commitment to our community and to the donation made with each sale to the Clintonwood Spray Park on behalf of our valued clients.

Evans

Continued from page 1B

said, noting a lot of the volunteer work put in by school staff. "When those teachers show us that leadership, we get excited."

Indeed, he believes teachers need encouragement as well. The Teacher of the Year program used to offer a \$50 prize and a bunch of roses. Noting the small number of male nominees, Evans contacted the folks at Suburban Ford, and now the honor includes free use of a new car for one year.

"That to me is the balance we have," he said. "To have great students, you have to have great teachers."

The foundation continues to seek new ways to help. In addition to giving more than \$12,000 annually to local school programs, the foundation last year offered the first annual summer science academy. The reaction was so positive, the foundation wants to make the extra-curricular activity a year-round program.

In addition, the foundation has an-

nounced plans for a similar academy for the performing arts. The cost for such programs is expected to require income of \$60,000 a year over the next five years.

"We're looking for a major sponsor for these projects," he said.

He and his wife, Anne (director of student support services for Clarkston schools), share the belief that giving leads to reaping.

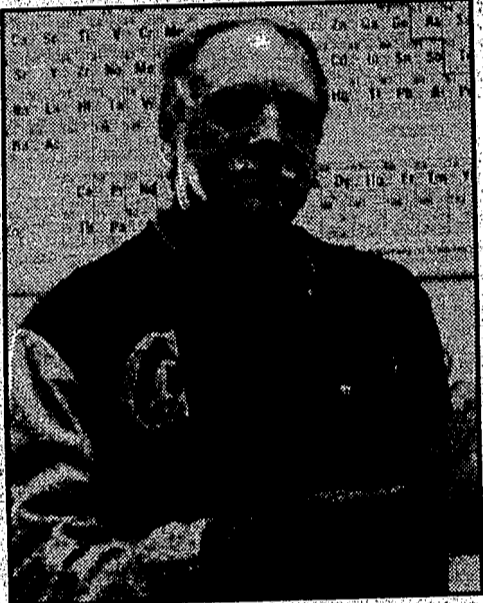
"As Christians, we believe that tithing of yourself is more important than any type of giving. It's easy to write a check," he said. "When you're helping somebody, you're sharing and learning at the same time."

It seems Evans is always on the go, but he considers activities such as his hot dog duty as "spare time" fun. He loves seeing students, and even works to make fans from the visiting team feel welcome.

"We're boosters for every student that comes, including the opposing team," he said.



Dr. Jack Shader (above photo, left), a Clarkston Foundation board member, and Jim Evans (right) consult with Clarkston High School science teacher Jason Siko. Evans said one of the secrets of the success of the Clarkston Foundation is the partnership with and support of Clarkston school teachers, who help with special programs such as the summer science academy. Foundation President Evans (left) models the varsity-style Clarkston Foundation jacket, available to those who donate to earn an honorary "degree in civic affairs." The group hopes to recruit even more donors and supporters so the foundation can continue and expand science and cultural arts programs not covered by the regular school district budget. Photos by Bob Flath



Join the Clarkston Foundation

It doesn't take much to help the Clarkston Foundation, but the key is to get as many people involved as possible, according to President Jim Evans.

With new goals such as a year-round science academy and a performing arts academy, the foundation needs to add to their current endowment of \$225,000. They are seeking \$60,000 per year over the next five years.

Donors may enjoy a "general mem-

bership" for \$25. Those who can give larger amounts (or give over a period of time) may earn honorary "Degrees in Civic Affairs" at the following levels: Associate's, \$100; Bachelor's, \$250; Master's, \$500; and a "Ph.D. in Civic Affairs," \$1,000.

For more information, call the Clarkston Foundation at (248) 623-5475, or send checks to PO Box 711, Clarkston, MI 48347.

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OUR NEW CONTEST IS THE LAUGHINGSTOCK OF PETS EVERYWHERE.



WINNING DINNER FOR TWO AT CASTELLO DI BOLOGNA WILL HAVE THEIR OWNERS SMILING, TOO.

Pets are flashing their brightest smiles while their owners' cameras snap away.

It's all due to our *Paws and Jaws Smiling Pet Photo Contest* recognizing February as National Pet Dental Health Month. Winners in each of four categories get dinner for two at Castello Di Bologna at Canterbury Village in Lake Orion (\$50 value) for the owners and treat-filled goodie bags for the winning pets. Grand prize for best photo of all is a painted pet portrait by Waterford artist Karen Yeomans.

Categories are 1) dogs, 2) cats, 3) rabbits and 4) pocket pets like guinea pigs, mice, hamsters and ferrets.

During February we're also offering 10% savings on cleaning, polishing and scaling dogs' and cats' teeth - a procedure that can safeguard your pets' health and help them live longer. But book your appointment soon, times fill up.

So now you have two reasons to get your pet smiling. Be sure to sign, and then drop off or mail your photo and entry form by February 28, 2004. Finally there's a contest you and your pet can both sink your teeth into.

Paws and Jaws Smiling Pet Photo Contest OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Please type or print clearly.

Owner's Name _____ Pet's Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Entry category 1) Dog _____ 2) Cat _____ 3) Rabbit _____ 4) Pocket pet _____

ENTRY RULES: Complete the official entry form (or a photo copy) and include FOUR COLOR photo prints of each pose, 3 x 5 or larger. No digital files, please. Entries will be judged on photo quality and originality. Enter as many photos as you like, but each must be accompanied by a separate completed entry form.

Mail (or deliver) your entry to "Paws and Jaws Smiling Pet Photo Contest," Independence Animal Hospital, 9473 Sashabaw Rd., Clarkston, MI 48346 Phone: (248) 620-2900

Entries must be postmarked or received by February 28, 2004.

TERMS: Judging is solely at the discretion of Independence Animal Hospital. The decision of the judges is final. All entrants agree that their pet's photos are the property of Independence Animal Hospital and can be used by Independence Animal Hospital for all display and promotional purposes.

I understand and agree with the above entry rules and terms.

Pet owner signature _____ Date _____

independence  TM
Pets are family.

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Smile of the Week



Jeannie Parke of Davisburg enjoys a quiet day at the Springfield Township Library.

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SHARP WATERFORD COLONIAL!
 Fabulous Waterford location! 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath brick & vinyl Colonial, smartly decorated. Large deck in fenced backyard, built in 1996. This is a must see. \$225,000. (JB6929Y)

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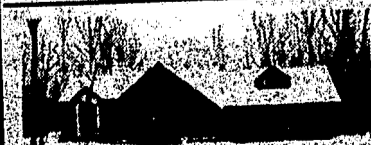


PRESTIGIOUS HOME ON THE 9TH FAIRWAY
 of Oakhurst Golf Course, 8500 sq ft of quality! 2 kitchens, 4 bedrooms, 5 full baths and 2 half baths, wine cellar, movie theatre, sauna & much more! Gated Community. Inside photos at www.reoagent.com/bschaefer priced at \$2,250,000.00. (BS4999R)



POPULAR DEERWOOD SUBDIVISION
 offers you this move-in condition home located on almost ¾ acre. 1 & 1/2 story contemporary w/very open floor plan, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Vaulted ceilings, fieldstone fireplace & oak hardwood floors. Finished basement w/wet bar. \$349,900.00. (BS6627D)

IMPRESSIVE CLARKSTON HOME
 located on 1.5 acres of privacy and beauty. 2800 square feet, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, Better Homes and Garden feel from the second you open the door. Hardwood floors T/O total main level. Absolute quality. Better than New! Priced at \$419,900.00. (BS5287R)



QUALITY & CRAFTSMANSHIP
 show in this gorgeous log home w/open floor plan. Hickory cabinets, Corian KIT, GRT RM & MSTR BD have floor to ceiling stone fireplaces. 3.5 car garage, partially finished BSMT with 9 foot ceilings. One look and you will fall in love! That Up North feeling is only 35 minutes from Auburn Hills. \$424,900. (10470M)

Cindy Falet

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 Fax: 248-625-6991
 Email: cindy@realestateone.com
 Website: www.cindyfalet.com



OUTSTANDING QUALITY
 Enjoy spectacular view on the expansive decking of this Colonial in a very desirable Clarkston sub. Open kitchen with island and nook. This home features 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths and lower level walkout, first floor laundry and great room with beautiful gas fireplace. Within walking distance to Independence Elementary. Immediate occupancy. \$283,900. (CF6838H)



SIMPLY THE BEST IN CLARKSTON!
 Nothing to do but move-in! Inviting foyer opens to gorgeous winding staircase. Numerous upgrades in this 4 bed colonial. 9 ft ceilings, crafted moldings, & wonderfully flowing floor plan. Awesome kitchen w/ island and eat-in area opens to LRG GRT RM w/ soaring ceilings, great view & fireplace. L/L walkout. Almost an acre premium lot setting. 4 car side entry garage, beautiful deck and patio!! \$409,900. (CF5024A)

More 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.

The Knights of Columbus present a bingo fund-raiser to support the Spraypark at Clintonwood. The event takes place on Saturday, Jan. 31 at 6:00 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person and games start at \$12. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. The Knights of Columbus Hall is located at 5660 Maybee Rd. in Clarkston. For more information, call (248) 625-8223 or visit www.clarkstonspraypark.org.

The Widowed Support Group will meet for an informal sharing meeting Thursday, Feb. 5 at 7 p.m., facilitated by bereavement counselor Alicia Brown. The topic for the evening is "Sharing and Caring Support". 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 mail-

ing list, call the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home at (248) 625-5231.

Independence Township Parks and Recreation is now accepting registration for its **Start Smart Program**. The six-week program allows parents to work one-on-one with their child on a particular sport. Classes include basketball, soccer, baseball, and other sports development classes. Classes begin in February on Wednesday or Thursday evenings depending on the class. Class cost is \$30 for residents and \$40 for non-residents. For more information, call (248) 625-8223 or visit the Parks and Recreation office.

The Clarkston Village Players present "Social Security" by Andrew Bergman, with remaining show dates on Jan. 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. Show times 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 Clarkston High School pool will be open on Friday evening, Jan. 30, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The pool schedule may be viewed at www.clarkston.k12.mi.us/cc. Schedules may also be found at the pool, the Community Education Center, and the South Sashabaw Early Childhood Center.

Clarkston Area Youth Assistance is now accepting registration for the 'No More Whining, Develop Positive Behavior in Children' parenting

classes. Classes begin Wednesday, Feb. 25 and go through Mar. 31 once a week from 9:30-11:15 a.m. at the Clarkston

Store employee accused of embezzlement

A 45-year-old Pontiac woman was accused by Farmer Jack store security of embezzlement, and police reports say the woman admitted taking merchandise without paying for it.

Oakland County Sheriff's deputies are seeking a warrant for the woman, who worked at the Dixie Highway Farmer Jack store until she was apprehended Tuesday, Jan. 20.

According to an asset protection specialist, the woman was first seen taking groceries out of the store on Dec. 23, then again on Jan. 20. Upon being confronted outside with about \$119 worth of merchandize, the woman

Community Ed building, located on Waldon Road. The class fee is \$30 and includes the price of a book. Baby-sitting is avail-

able. Preregistration is required. For more information, call CAYA at (248) 625-9007.

able. Preregistration is required. For more information, call CAYA at (248) 625-9007.

week. The employee denied taking any money from store receipts, reports said. — Don Schelske

PUBLIC NOTICE
 Because the People Want to Know
INDEPENDENCE TWP.
TOWNSHIP BOARD
AGENDA
7:30 P.M.
TOWNSHIP LIBRARY
 DATE: February 3, 2004

1. Call to Order
 2. Pledge of Allegiance
 3. Roll Call
 4. Opening Statements and Correspondence
 5. Approval of Agenda
 6. Public Forum - Individuals in the audience have the opportunity to address the Township Board on an issue that is not on the agenda limiting their comments to not more than three minutes.
 7. Consent Agenda
 - a. Minutes - January 20, 2004
 - b. Approval of Purchase Orders
 - c. Approval of Accounts Payable Check Run Unfinished Business
 1. Clarkston Creek Transaction
 2. Discussion of Certified Industrial Park Designation
 3. Second Reading and Adoption of a Rezoning Request, from OS-2 to PUD Tom Althoff, Vision Development, Petitioner Proposed Sashabaw Car Wash, 1/35 Acres on Sashabaw Road, S. of Waldon, 08-27-201-022.
 8. New Business
 1. One Day Liquor License - Everest Academy
 2. Ambulance Purchases
 3. North Oakland County Mutual Aid Interlocal Agreement
 4. Library REclassifications
 5. Update of DWRP Project Plan
 6. Water and Sewer Rate Study
- Items removed from Consent Agenda for action or discussion will be moved to the last item under Unfinished Business. Only those matters that are listed on the agenda are to be considered for action. A majority vote of the Board members may add or delete an agenda item.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF OAKLAND
CIRCUIT COURT -
FAMILY DIVISION
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE
OF HEARING
FILE NO. 2004-291, 881-DE
 in the matter of Virginia L. Priebe, Deceased
 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including: Jim Stern whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on FEB. 11, 2004 at 8:30 a.m. at 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac, MI 48341-0449 before Judge GRANT for the following purpose: Petition to probate and appointment Robert A. Burns II as Personal Representative.
 Creditors of the Deceased are notified that all claims against the Estate will be forever barred unless presented to the (proposed) personal representative or to both the probate court and the (proposed) personal representative within four (4) months of the date of publication of this notice.
 January 20, 2004
 Robert A. Burns II
 28000 Rollcrest
 Farmington Hills, MI 48334
 (248) 539-8409
 Schmidt, Isgrigg, Anderson & Miller
 Robert G. Isgrigg, Jr. P24924
 2745 Pontiac Lk. Rd.
 Waterford, Michigan 48328-2653
 (248) 682-8800

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF OAKLAND
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Trust
 Trust of Frederick Curtiss, Date of Birth: 10/9/27
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Frederick Curtiss, who lived at 2132 Island Dr, Rukland Township, Michigan died July 14, 2003.
 Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the trust will be forever barred unless presented to Barbara Schambre, Trustee 6087 Marshall, Canton, MI 48187 within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
 Barbara Schambre
 Trustee
 6087 Marshall
 Canton, MI 48187
 David M. McCleary P36290
 2636 Dixie Hwy
 Waterford, MI 48328
 (248) 674-1716

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF OAKLAND
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Trust
 Trust of Mary E. McArthur, Date of Birth: 2/13/14
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Mary E. McArthur, who lived at 8865 Clark Rd Clarkston, Michigan died 11/9/03.
 Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the trust will be forever barred unless presented to Bruce McArthur, Trustee 8735 Dixie Highway Clarkston 48348 within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
 Bruce McArthur
 Trustee
 8735 Dixie Hwy
 Clarkston, MI 48348
 248-625-3333
 David M. McCleary P36290
 2636 Dixie Hwy
 Waterford, MI 48328
 (248) 674-1716

Kidsave International

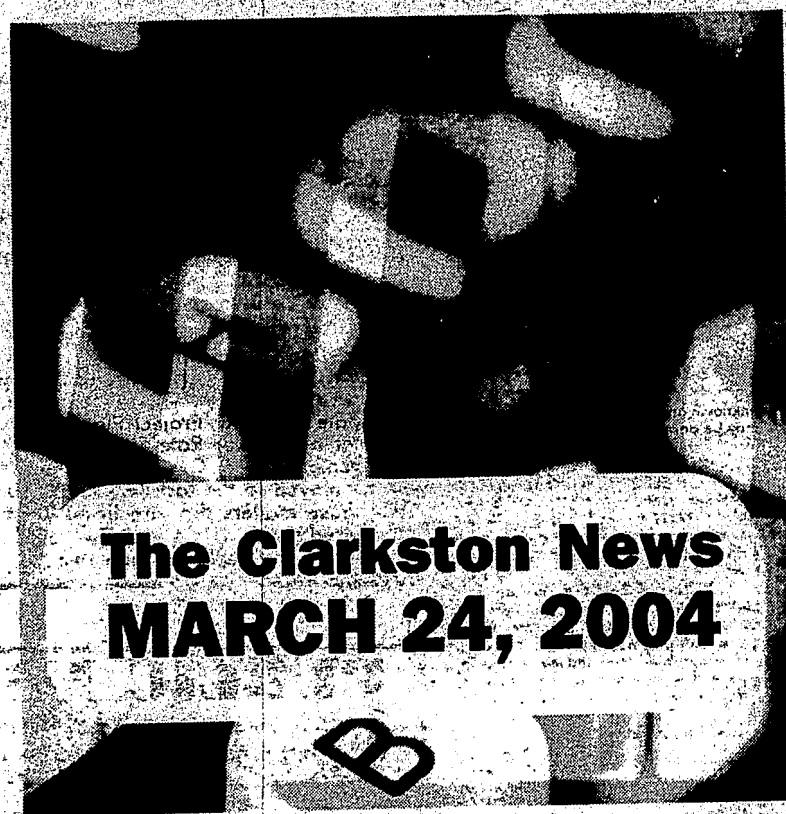
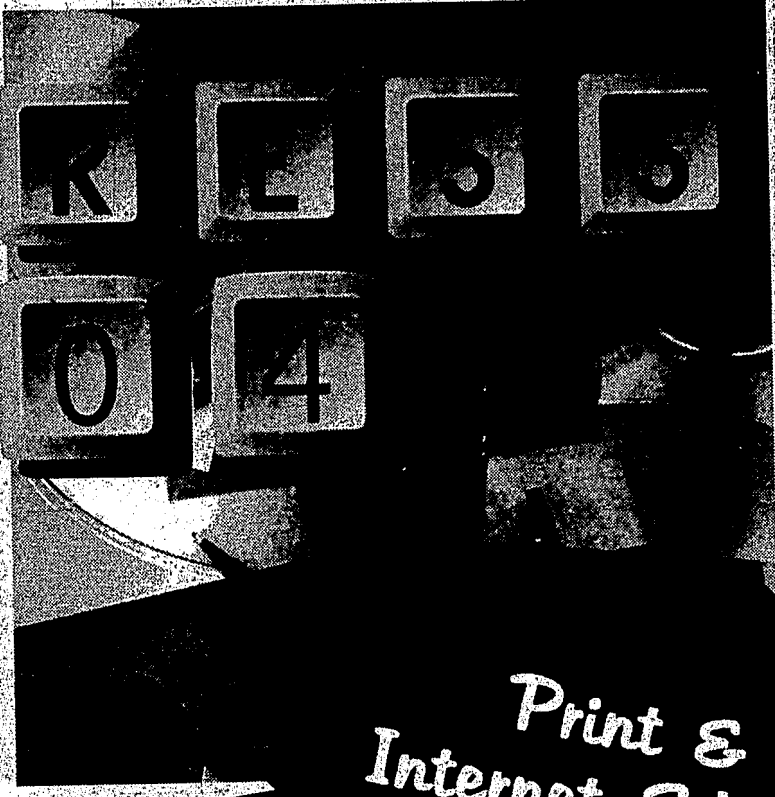
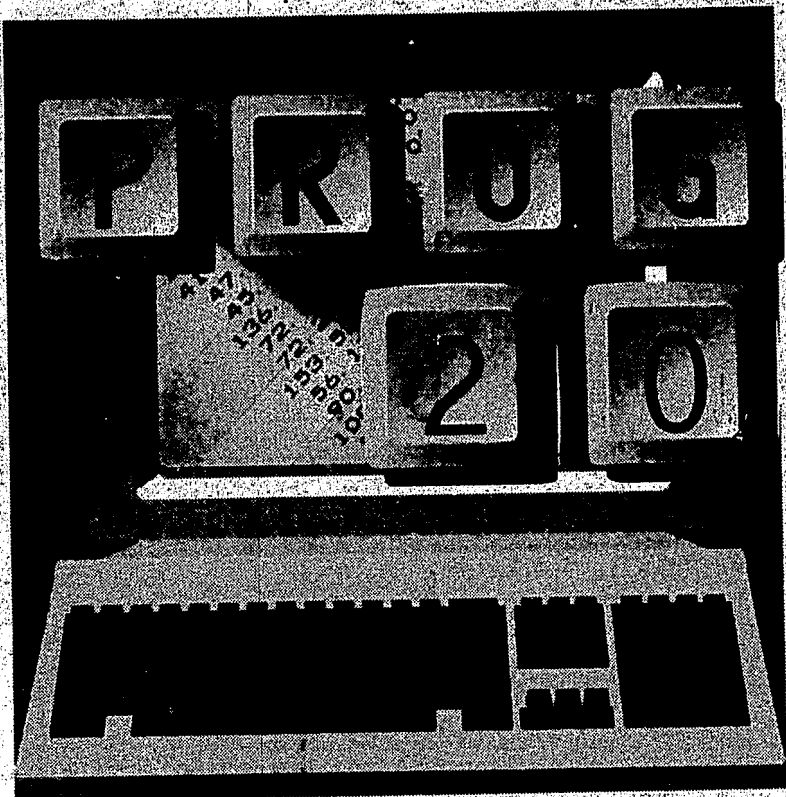


Last year the Summer Miracles 2003 for Kidsave International was a huge success. A total of 10 children from two different orphanages in Kazakhstan visited North Oakland County, including Clarkston, and lived with families and attended day camps. The plan to bring 10 more children in for 2004 is underway. The major fund raising event will be held Saturday, Feb. 7 at River Crest in Rochester Hills. Suggested pre-paid donation ticket price is \$35 and includes dinner, live music and a silent auction. For more information call Susan Powers at (248) 393-0465 or visit www.kidsave.org.

PUBLIC NOTICE
 Because the People Want to Know
INDEPENDENCE TWP.
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
 A Meeting of The
INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2004-2008
 Will Be Held At:
THE TOWNSHIP SENIOR CENTER
5980 CLARKSTON ROAD
 On:
Thursday, February 5, 2004
At 6:00 P.M.
 Public comment will be received on the proposed plan.
 Published 1/25/2004

PUBLIC NOTICE
 Because the People Want to Know
INDEPENDENCE TWP.
SYNOPSIS
TAKEN BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD
THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE

- Supervisor Stuart called the January 20, 2004 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. Approved motion to enter into Closed Session at 7:00 p.m.
 2. Approval of the Agenda: as amended.
 3. Approved the Consent Agenda: as amended.
 - Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 6, 2004.
 - Approval of Purchase Orders in the amount of \$987,780.85.
 - Approval of Blanket Purchase Requisitions for 2004.
 - Approval of Accounts Payable Check Run in the amount of \$1,145,065.83.
 4. Approved decision of Welland Board regarding request for Welland Permit for Round Lake Woods Subdivision.
 5. Approved motion of a First Reading of a Rezoning Request from C-1 to OS-2, Sashabaw & I-75, part of 08-22-400-005.
 6. Approved motion of a First Reading of a Rezoning Request from R1A to PUD: Sashabaw Orchard Acres, 08-27-100-017, 024 through 027.
 7. Approved motion of a First Reading of an Amendment to Liberty PUD Final Site Plan, 08-27-300-007, 028, 08-27-324-001 through 065, 08-28-400-805 & 807.
 8. Approved motion of Safety Path Committee Recommendations for 2004 Path Construction and Engineering costs for a total of \$561,763.13.
 9. Approved motion of Revised Safety Path Master Plan.
 10. Approved motion of Request to apply for Specialized Services Grant with SMART.
 11. Approved motion of Planning Commission reappointments.
 12. Approved motion to adjourn at 9:50 p.m.
- Respectfully Submitted,
 Joan E. McCrary
 Township Clerk



Print & Internet Edition Taking Progress To A New Level

Be a part of this exciting annual business section that celebrates and profiles area businesses.

You'll receive an in depth story, photograph, an additional creative display ad, and a listing on our Honor Roll pages in The Clarkston News. All of it will be prepared for you by our staff for one price (no hidden costs)!

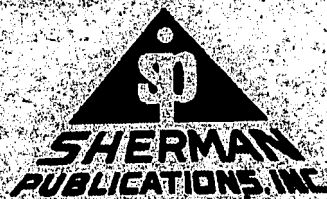
PLUS

Your story will be on clarkstonnews.com

PRICES: \$375 1/2 Page
\$625 Full Page

SPOT COLOR - \$25.00 (on ad only)

FINAL SPACE AND COPY DEADLINE: Thursday, Feb. 26
PUBLICATION DATE: Wednesday, March 24

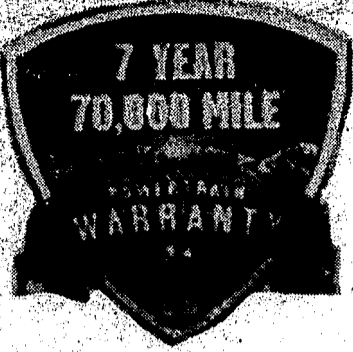


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\$500 Auto Show Bonus Just Announced

2004 Grand Cherokee 4x4

This is not a misprint - Loaded 4x4



AM/FM/CD, keyless entry, power windows & locks, cruise/tilt, power seats, alum. wheels, white letter tires, more. Stk. #21220

CHRYSLER EMPLOYEE \$182* 39 Months	LOWEST PUBLIC \$238* 39 Months
PURCHASE \$19,779**	PURCHASE \$21,654**



2004 Chrysler Town & Country

V-6 automatic, tilt/cruise, power windows, power locks, dual sliding doors, AM/FM/Cass/CD, air cond., overhead console. Stk. #80706

CHRYSLER EMPLOYEE \$175* 36 Months	LOWEST PUBLIC \$215* 39 Months
PURCHASE \$15,607**	PURCHASE \$17,082**

2004 PT Cruiser



Automatic, air, power windows, CD/cassette, tilt, deep sunscreen glass. Stk. #90535

CHRYSLER EMPLOYEE \$94* 24 Months	LOWEST PUBLIC \$131* 24 Months
PURCHASE \$12,982**	PURCHASE \$13,910**



Rear Air & Heat

2004 Pacifica

ABS, CD, power windows, power seats, aluminum wheels, keyless entry, dual air/heat, power locks.

CHRYSLER EMPLOYEE \$229* 39 Months	LOWEST PUBLIC \$266* 39 Months
PURCHASE \$22,194**	PURCHASE \$23,440**

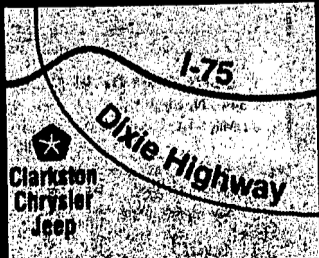
2004 Liberty Sport



Keyless entry, tilt, power windows & locks, automatic, AM/FM/CD, more. Stk. #12033

CHRYSLER EMPLOYEE \$146* 24 Months	LOWEST PUBLIC \$205* 39 Months
PURCHASE \$16,331**	PURCHASE \$17,986**

*\$1995 total due, including 1st month payment (security deposit waived on approved credit). Includes all factory rebates. Lease Loyalty / Jeep Military Rebate. Add 6% usage tax, title, plates. **Add destination, tax, title, plate & doc fee. Also includes all applicable rebates. Lease pull-ahead on Chrysler Corporation Financing contracts. PT Cruiser includes trade-in cash (must have trade-in).



Sales Open
Mon. & Thurs.
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Tues., Wed., Fri.
7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
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Clarkston



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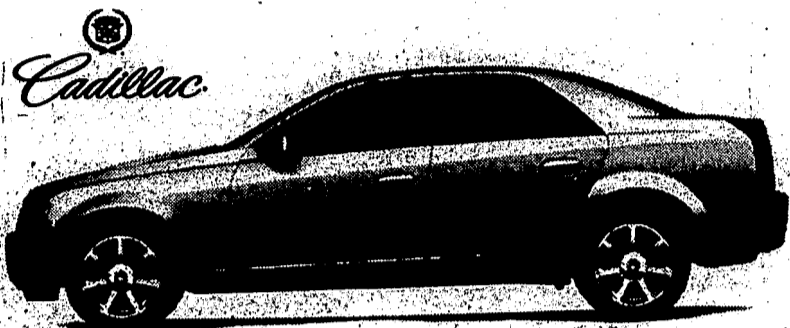
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\$958 due at signing.

12,000 miles per year

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Lifetime Oil Change with this ad for Buick retail purchases and leases.

#1 Buick Dealer in metro Detroit area in 2003!



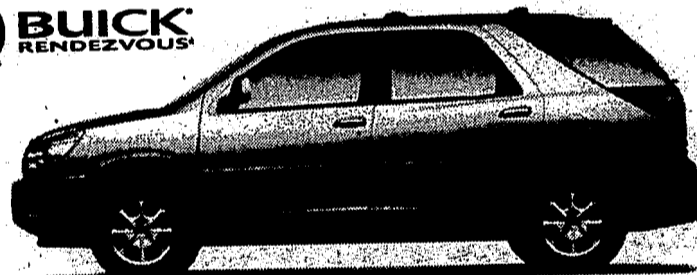
2004 BUICK RANIER

\$317 Per Month 36 Months

\$1237 due at signing, including a \$325 refundable security deposit.

12,000 miles per year

Taxes, title and plates extra



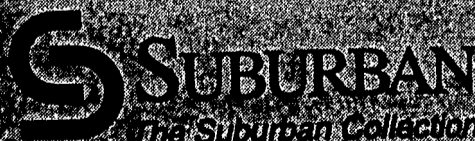
2004 BUICK RENDEZVOUS With Front Wheel Drive

\$211 Per Month 36 Months

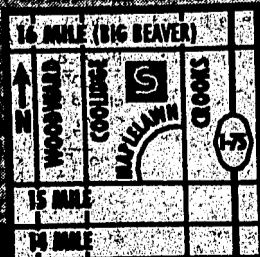
\$1031 due at signing, including a \$225 refundable security deposit.

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Claramae Boyce gets a few pointers on Polynesian dancing while Mike Turk, Director of Parks and Recreation, and Gerry Townsend, Senior Center volunteer, practice their new moves in the background. The luau attracted about 45 guests.

Take a trip to the islands

Photos by Alicia Dorset



Participating as a volunteer, Claramae Boyce learns a few new steps during the program put on for members of the Independence Township Senior Center Jan. 21. Boyce, age 93, is known for her love of dancing at programs like the luau.



Mary Salada and Eileen Attard entertain the audience with Polynesian dancing to Elvis on a cold winter afternoon luau.



Dancing wasn't the only activity at the center's luau. Mary St. Louis was one of the lucky recipients to win a luau-theme gift bag including bubble and a tropical fish key chain. The event was made possible by sponsorship by Pine Tree Place.

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