

Consolidation talk at township meeting - see page 3A



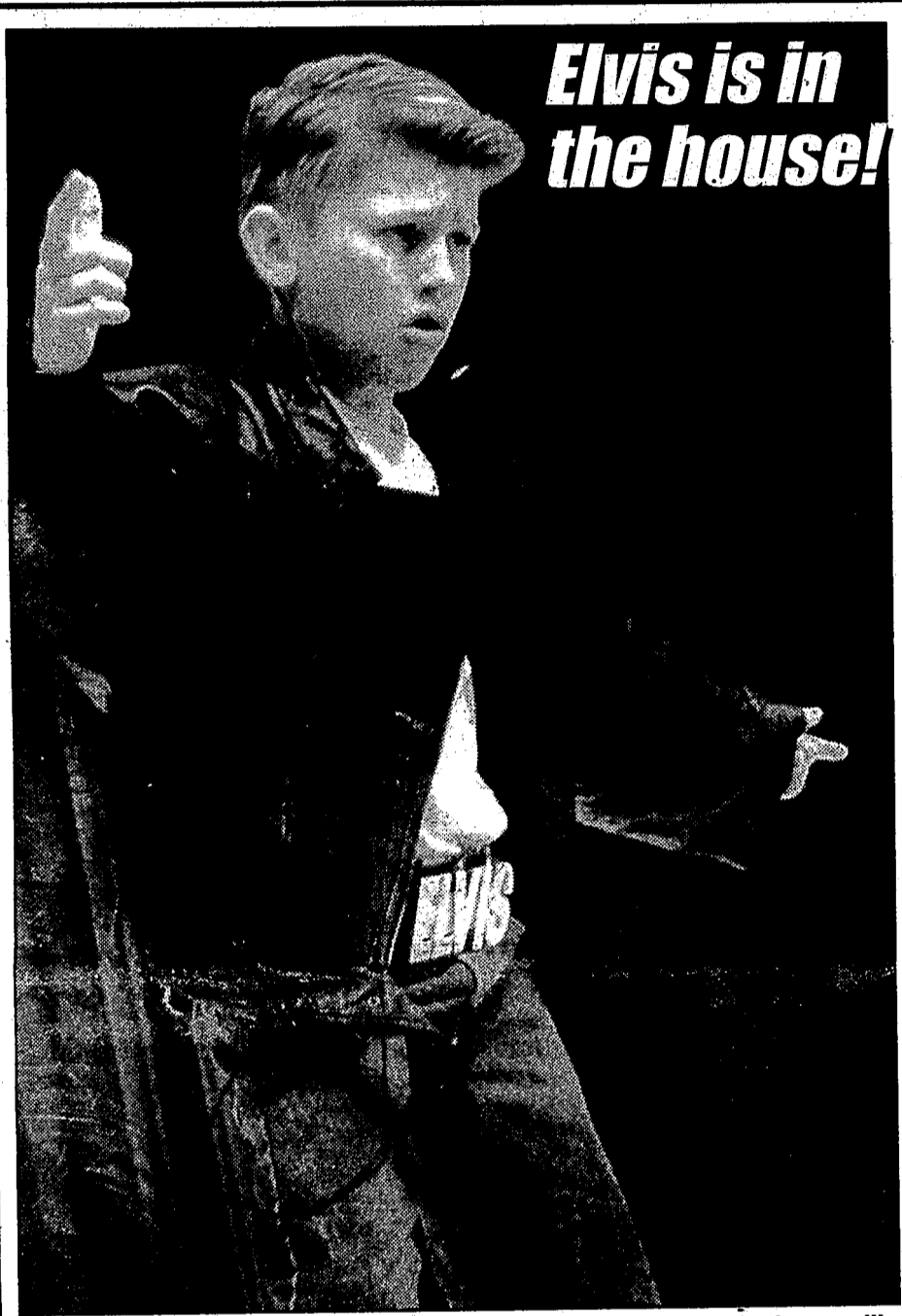
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Clarkston News

Our Community's Award-Winning Newspaper Since 1929

Vol. 78 No. 28 Wed., March 28, 2007

3 Sections 60 pages 50¢



Elvis is in the house!

Fifth-grader T.J. Craven's rendition of "Jail House Rock" had Andersonville Elementary students cheering for more during the school's variety show last week. See page 8A for more photos. Photo by Laura Colvin

\$6.5 million left But rules say school-bond money can't be used in general budget

BY PHIL CUSTODIO
Clarkston News Editor

About \$6.5 million is left over from a 2003 school bond issue, but that money can't be used to fix Clarkston Community Schools' financial troubles.

By law, the \$83.7 million borrowed from the state, along with \$4.5 million earned in interest, must be used for capital improvements, such as building projects. It cannot be used for operating expenses, such as teachers' salaries.

"The money must be kept in a fund separate from the operational budget," said Bruce Beamer, executive director of business services, at the March 26 Board of Education meeting.

"They're a completely different set of dollars than in operational budget," said Stephen Hyer, school board president.

The \$78 million operational budget is expected to be about \$4 million in deficit this upcoming year. Budget cuts and withdrawing of about a third of district fund equity, dropping it to about \$8 million this year, should balance the budget within two years, officials said.

Four years after Clarkston area voters approved the bond issue, all projects have been completed on time and under budget, Hyer said, including:

- Pine Knob Elementary: Six classrooms, technology, furniture, playground, paving and irrigation.
- Sashabaw Middle School: 24 classrooms; separate bus loop, staff parking; ex-

panded cafeteria, specialized classrooms for art, music, computer labs, science; technology and furniture.

- Clarkston Junior High: Expansion and improvements to auditorium, gym, cafeteria; parking, irrigation and site improvements.

- Community Education Center/Renaissance High School: Eight classrooms; renovate and remodel west side of building; selective demolition of a portion of east side of building; technology upgrades; parking and site improvements.

- Administrative Building and Early Childhood Center: Addition to serve all district preschool programs; space for full-day kindergarten; additional workstations for special services staff; expanded parking.

School administration will compile a list of capital needs for consideration by the board before the end of the school year, said Superintendent Al Roberts.

Needs identified so far include about \$600,000 in technology upgrades, for new computers and other hardware. Other needs will include projects such as repairs to school safety paths, resurfacing of tennis courts, and repairs to the bus garage.

"Safety will be the priority," Roberts said.

The district expects to have the debt paid by 2029. The leftover \$6.5 million could be applied to the debt, which would shorten the payoff time but only by less than a year, Beamer said.

"It wouldn't make a significant difference," Hyer said.

Optimists use 'license to fill' their scholarship fund

BY LAURA COLVIN
Clarkston News Staff Writer

This year's theme - 007 - practically mandated the joke, and party-goers saw it coming from a mile away.

"I'm Bondy," said the president of Clarkston Optimist Club at the organization's annual dinner-dance fundraiser. "Rob Bondy."

About 100 people attended Saturday's event to raise money for the group's many youth-oriented projects.

"It was great," said Bondy. "Attendance was down a bit because of the economy, but it was much more laid back this year and everyone had a good time. It was a lot of fun."

The annual event is the group's largest fundraiser of the year, and featured a 50/50 raffle as well as both live and silent auctions.

Popular live auction items included a Detroit Tigers baseball package - four seats in the lower level - which incited a two-person bidding war and eventually sold for \$1,000.

Lunch and 18 holes for two at Oakland Hills went for \$450, and a week-long stay in a Vanderbilt, Mich., cabin pulled in \$400.

A full-page ad in *The Clarkston News* went for \$300.

The live auction also included items such as a cocktail basket, Jamaican va-

cation, Detroit Pistons memorabilia, and a tour of the Independence Township fire station, including a "hands on look into the life of a firefighter."

Some 55 items and packages were also up for bid in the silent auction, including a one-year trash and recycling pick-up donated by Smith's Disposal.

"We're fighting over garbage," said Sherry Regiani, who engaged in a spirited, but good-natured bidding war with fellow Optimist Mary Jane Limburg.

When the evening was over, Regiani emerged victorious in the rubbish row.

The Dan Rafferty Band provided plenty of popular dance tunes to get the crowd up and moving. The band has per-

formed at several other Optimist events and is well-liked by the group.

When all was said and done, Bondy estimated the event raised about \$20,000 to fund the group's many projects. The Clarkston Optimist Club is one of about 3,500 Optimist International chapters worldwide, with the motto, "bringing out the best in kids."

Each club is autonomous and therefore has the flexibility to orient service projects directly to the needs of the community.

The Clarkston Optimists sponsor Junior Optimist Clubs at all levels from elementary up to high school.

Please see Optimist on page 22A

Millstream

Kristen Newlon volunteers her time and spirit at senior center

Page 1B



Inside Features

Opinion pages.....	6A
Cop Log.....	9A
Legal Notices.....	10B
Classifieds.....	14B



Sports

Spring sports are here, check in on Clarkston teams

Page 15A



Teachers, staff earn honors

Fifteen Clarkston Community Schools educators earned Employee Recognition Awards this month:

- **Kelly Anderson**, math instructional aide at Pine Knob Elementary;
- **Pam Bills**, Andersonville Elementary fifth-grade teacher;
- **Cheryl Bohn and Pauline Giddey**, Kids Connection caregivers at Springfield Plains Elementary;
- **Kathy Christopher**, supervisor for Student Support Services;
- **Bridget Donohoe**, ASD teacher at Bailey Lake Elementary;
- **Theresa Jenkinson**, cook/baker at Clarkston Junior High;
- **Sandy Mark and Jenanne Tomei**, lunchroom supervisors and classroom instructional aides at In-

dependence Elementary;

- **Jennie Mispelon**, math instructional aide at Pine Knob Elementary;
- **Jamie Rykse**, math teacher and coach at Clarkston Junior High;
- **Tanya Sassack**, special education teacher at Pine Knob Elementary;
- **Robert Sievwright**, custodian at North Sashabaw Elementary;
- **Jeanne Webster**, math aide at Sashabaw Middle School; and
- **Sarah Wilson**, first-grade teacher at Bailey Lake Elementary.

They were presented with their awards at the March 12 Clarkston Board of Education meeting.

- Photo by Phil Custodio

The Clarkston News

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5 S. Main Street Clarkston, MI 48346
Phone: 248-625-3370 • Fax: 248-625-0706

Email:

shermanpub@aol.com

Visit us on-line at:

www.clarkstonnews.com

Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon. - Fri.

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The Second Front

Briefly

Fundraiser set for Carpenter

A Wallyball Fundraiser is planned for Dave Carpenter, 1983 graduate of Clarkston High School in need of a lung transplant due to a rare disease.

The event is set for 3-6 p.m., Saturday, April 14, at Waterford Hill Courts, 6110 Dixie Highway. Cost is \$10 per person. Owner Terry Templeton is donating free court time.

For information, call Lisa Morrow at 248-620-0413 or e-mail LisaKMorrow@hotmail.com.

Deadline Friday for nominations

Nominations will be accepted through Friday for the 22nd Annual Clarkston Community Awards.

Categories are:

- Citizen of the Year.
- Young Person of the Year.
- Business Person of the Year.
- Adult-Youth Volunteer.
- Community Preservation.
- Community Beautification.
- Community Enhancement.
- Community Collaboration.

Nominations forms are available at the Clarkston Area Chamber of Commerce office, 5856 S. Main St.

Nominations must be received by March 30. Forms are also available at www.clarkston.org.

The 22nd Annual Community Awards Breakfast will be Thursday, May 24, at Deer Lake Banquet Center. Tickets for the event are \$15 per person.

Correction

The story "Solving problems as a team," page 8A, March 21 edition, should have listed the students' school as Andersonville Elementary.

Costa Daros, who was absent the day the picture was taken, is also a member of the team.

Clarification

"Employees take sides in DPW troubles," page 2A, March 21 edition, should have stated that names identifying sources who spoke only on condition of anonymity were changed to protect their identities.

Got a story? Call us at 248-625-3370 or email us at shermanpub@aol.com.

LeBair to train with FBI

BY LAURA COLVIN
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Lt. Dale LaBair handed over temporary command of the Independence Township substation Monday as he prepared to head off for 10 weeks of training at the FBI National Academy in Virginia.

Lt. Tim Adkins will take the reins in LaBair's absence.

"I'm excited to be out here," said Adkins, adding that he at times patrolled the area during the 90s. "It's a nice community."

Adkins has been with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office for about 20 years, and comes to Independence Township from an administrative assignment in Oakland County Jail, where he worked the last three years.

Adkins did not have plans to make any changes to the way the substation is run.

"My job is to keep the wheels rolling," he said.

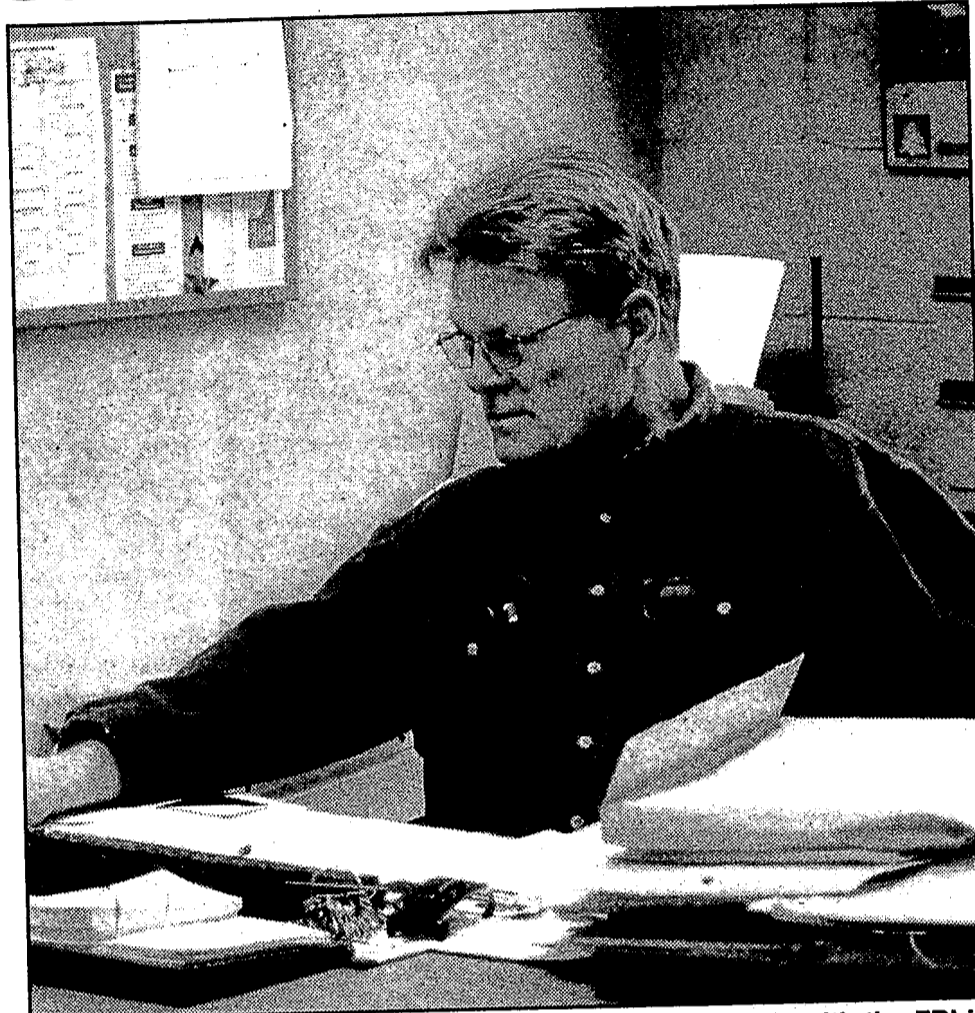
"Lieutenant LaBair has been running this substation for a long time and he's worked out all the kinks."

LaBair joined the OSCD on his 21st birthday in 1972. He's been in command of the Independence Township substation for the past 10 years.

"A lot of personal signature goes into running any substation," LaBair said, "but a lot of what we do here is tailored to what the people of Independence Township like."

LaBair and Adkins said they know one another well and both were confident LaBair's 10-week absence would run smoothly.

"He's got some great sergeants here to point the way," LaBair added. "And if something does need to be changed we'll get some fresh perspective. I've



Lt. Dale LaBair is preparing to go back to school, this time with the FBI in Virginia. Photo by Phil Custodio

been here a long time and maybe can't see the forest through the trees."

In 2003, Adkins graduated from the same program LaBair will attend at the FBI National Academy, which is located just south of Washington D.C.

"It was the height of my career," he said. "The academics were great, and with the international student population there were a lot of opportunities for networking. You have connections all over the world when you come back."

The academy, situated on the U.S. Marine Corps Base at Quantico, Virginia, gears the program toward those in police administration and offers participants a 10-week course of professional study in topics such as behavioral science, forensic science, leadership development, communication, and health and fitness.

The health and fitness component

holds equal importance to other aspects of the program, LaBair said.

"They know that those of us in administration get fat and lazy," joked LaBair, who increased the intensity of his workout and lost about 30 pounds when he learned he'd been accepted to the program in October. "It was a good incentive."

Participation in the academy is by invitation only, through a nomination process.

Leaders and managers of state and local police, sheriffs' departments, military police organizations, and federal law enforcement agencies are drawn from all over the U.S., as well as from over 150 foreign nations.

The program began in 1935 with 23 students. As of March 2005 more than 38,000 participants had completed the course.

County to help with consolidation study

BY KELLY L. REYNOLDS
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Consolidating Clarkston and Independence Township is an idea at least worth checking out, officials decided last Tuesday.

Township Trustee Dan Kelly proposed consolidation as a way to increase government efficiency.

Clarkston Councilman Cory Johnston, speaking during public comments, said he is open to exploring the possibility.

"Becoming a city was the choice of the people," he said. "If the people don't want us, they can vote us out. It's a tough job and (consolidation is) a long, long process. Regardless of what happens, though, we need to recognize that what either of us do (Clarkston and Independence Township), affects the other. We

need to start working together. I'm in favor of any agreement or liaison between the both of us."

County Commissioner Tom Middleton, Clarkston-area resident, said the county could provide a free feasibility study to see if it is possible and how much it would cost to consolidate the city and township.

Township Supervisor Dave Wagner added, "it's time to have some discussions, there's no doubt about that."

Trustee Charles Dunn, who helped put the issue on the agenda, also said that this is not about sharing services - it's about consolidation, and that's a serious matter.

"There is not enough household revenue to support redundant services," he said. "We need to provide them (Clark-

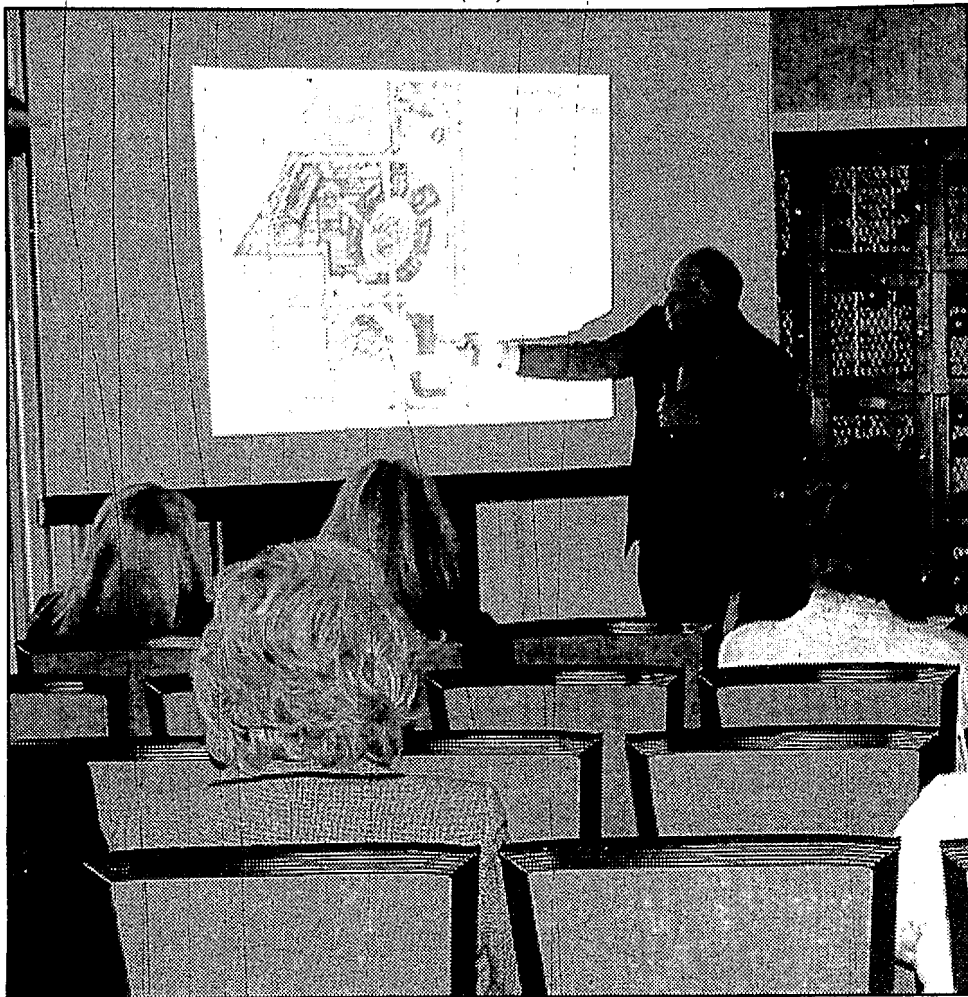
ston) services in the most efficient manner. Certainly protecting the culture is important, but can we afford to keep this redundancy going?"

Trustee Dan Travis, who was a trustee during the 1992 separation of city and township, said the city would always stay the city because of the "dent of the citizens."

He added that phone calls he received before the meeting had been all negative.

"They (the city and the council) would have liked to had some fore-discussion, but it's certainly worth chewing on," he said.

The board agreed not to take any action with the item at that meeting but agreed to look into the free feasibility study offered by the county.



Kevin Tompkins of McLaren Health Care explains plans for a new medical campus on Sashabaw Road to a group of Realtors. Photo by Phil Custodio

Clarkston attracts McLaren exec

BY PHIL CUSTODIO

Clarkston News Editor

If the proposed McLaren Health Care Village on Sashabaw Road at I-75 is approved, it could bring thousands of new residents to Independence Township.

Kevin Tompkins, vice president of marketing for McLaren Health Care Corporation, could be among the first.

Tompkins, who presented information about the project this past Wednesday to a group of Realtors at Oakhurst's Golf and Country Club, said he and his family have been house shopping in the Clarkston area.

"We've seen so many wonderful properties," he said. "Clarkston is a wonderful area."

The breakfast meeting was organized by Oakhurst staff and local Realtors. About 100 real estate agents gathered in the club's meeting hall for the information and question-and-answer session.

Answering questions, Tompkins said the project, pending final approval by Independence Township, could break ground this summer, June or July.

They have not yet applied for a Cer-

tificate of Need permit from the state for their proposed 300-bed hospital. The hospital is slated for phase two and three, about three years from now. Certificates expire after one year, so it would be too soon to apply now, he said.

"We feel very positive about our ability to demonstrate need," Tompkins said. "There are a lot of health care needs in this community."

Phase one, which would take about two years to complete, includes a 130,000-square-foot medical office building for a relocated Clarkston Medical Group and other practices.

It would bring about 1,000 jobs to the area, he said.

Finding homes for them would be the Realtors' job, said Donna McDonald, sales associate with ReMax Encore, who helped organize the meeting.

Tompkins said his family is considering existing houses or building a new one. They have been up and down Main Street in downtown Clarkston.

"It's been a lot of fun," he said. "We had lunch at the Clarkston Union - we loved it."

Car strikes 9-year-old girl

BY LAURA COLVIN

Clarkston News Staff Writer

A 9-year-old girl was listed in serious condition at Hurley Hospital in Flint after she was struck by a car on Pine Knob Road Saturday afternoon.

The girl had been playing with several other children at North Sashabaw Elementary school, and was on her way home around 4:30 p.m. when the accident occurred, police said.

"A group of kids crossed ahead of her, and it looks like she ran out without looking for traffic," said Lt. Tim Adkins, who assumed temporary command of the Independence Township substation Monday. "The driver of the vehicle saw her dart out, and tried to swerve."

Because the 60-year-old Holly woman swerved, he said, the child was struck by the side of the vehicle, a Ford Taurus, rather than head-on.

The girl, who lives in the North Sashabaw Elementary area, was transported to Genesys Medical Facility for assessment of injuries, then moved to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Hurley Hospital where she remained in serious condition Monday.

Adkins said alcohol was not involved, and the woman would not face charges.

"All the witnesses say she wasn't going fast and she did everything she could to avoid hitting the child," he said. "It's a tragic accident where kids were crossing the road without looking both ways."

BEHOLD THE BRUNCH.



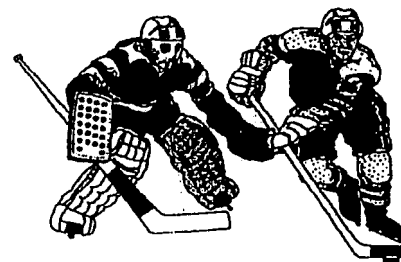
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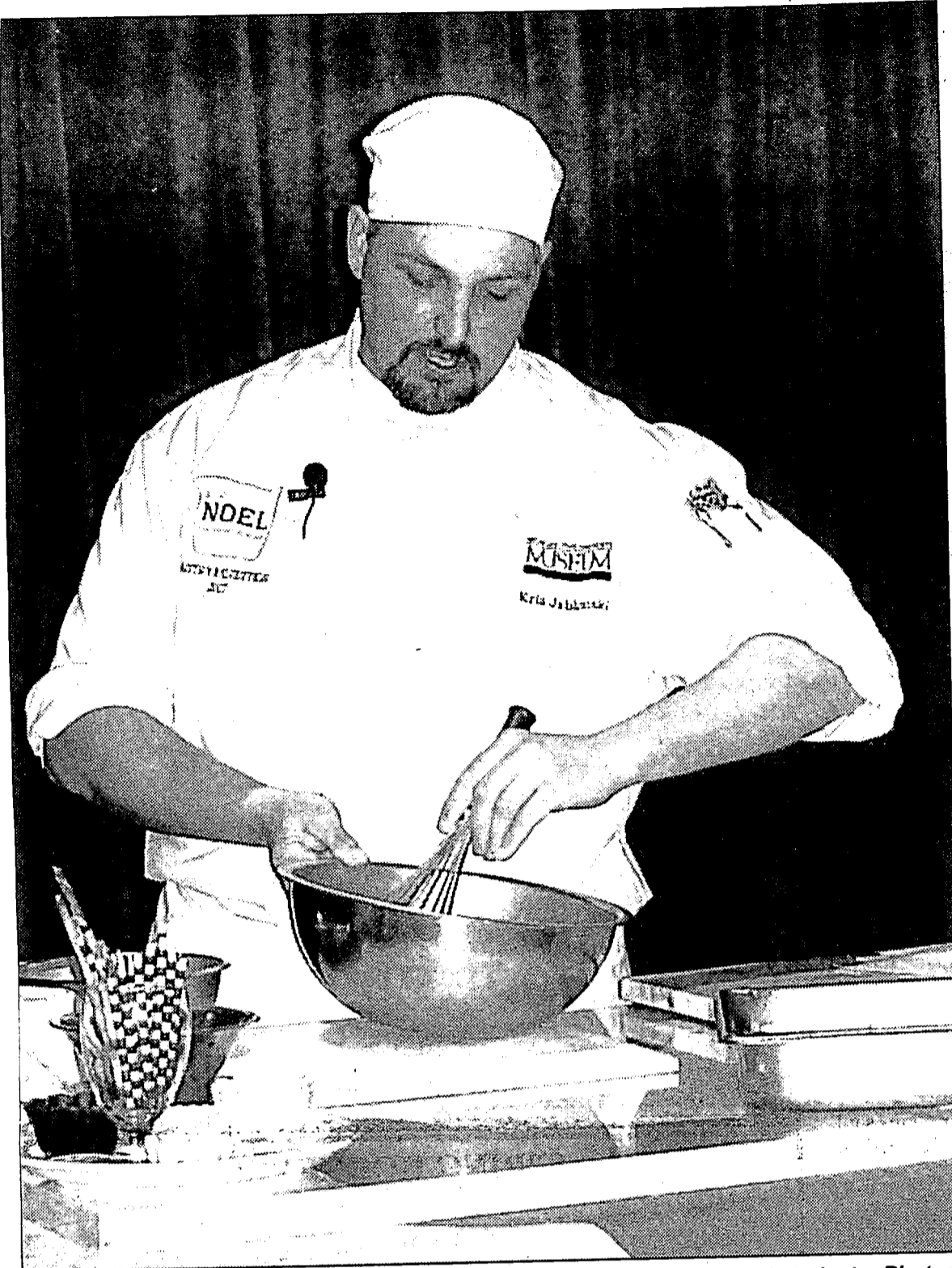
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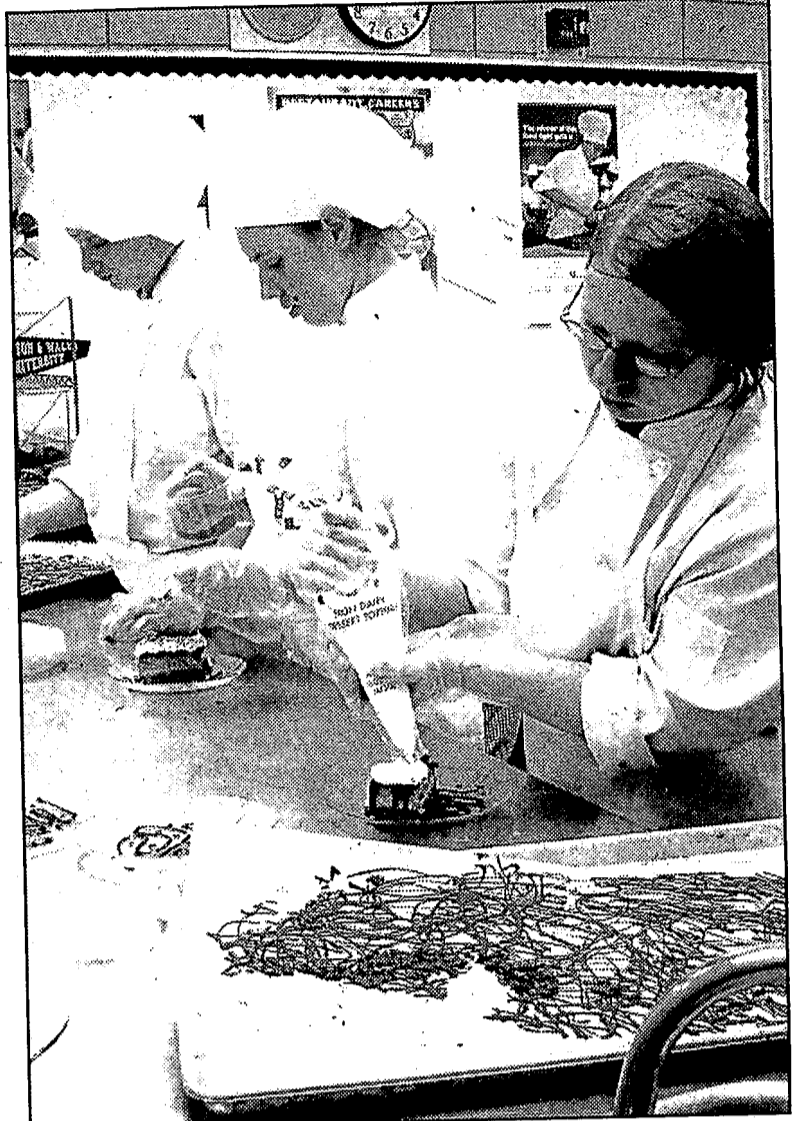
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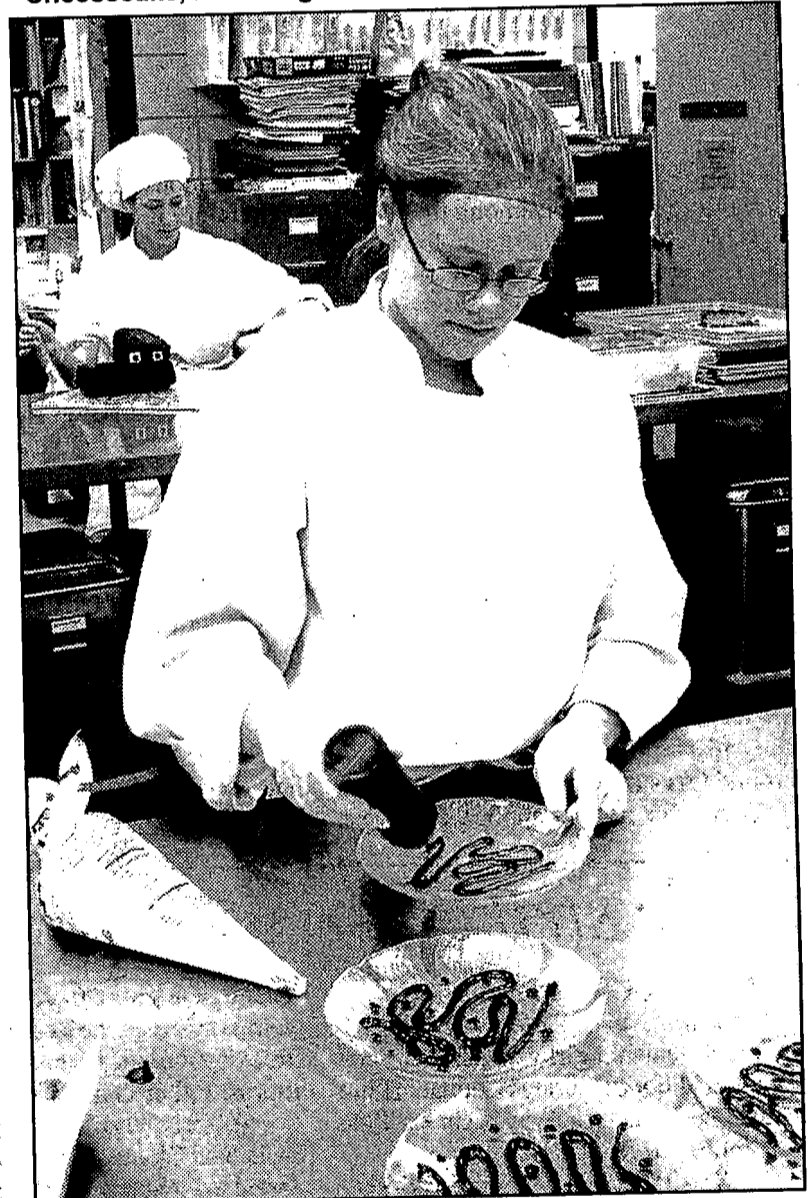
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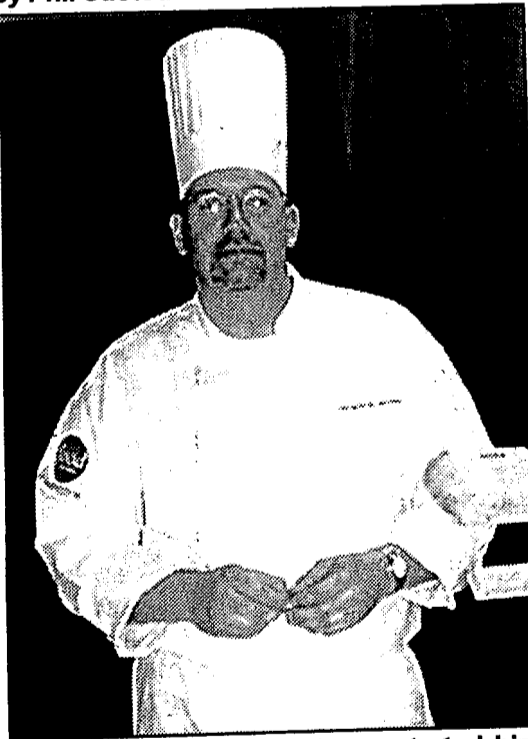
Chef Kris Jablonski demonstrates how to make creme brule for diners and students. Photos by Phil Custodio



From left, students Holly Feole, Emily Dewitt, and Chandra Klein prepare dessert, Bailey's Irish Cream Chocolate Chip Cheesecake, for their guests.



Kathleen Jones prepares a plate for a slice of cheesecake.



Chef Doug St. Souver demonstrated his fruit and vegetable carving skills March 21 at the school.

Learning the art of dessert

Students at Northwest Inn, Culinary Arts, Oakland Schools Technical Campus Northwest, welcomed guest Chef Kris Jablonski this past Thursday.

Jablonski was a member of the United States Culinary Team, and studied chocolate art in Brazil and France. He explained how chocolate is made, and prepared desserts such as souffle and creme brule. Students prepared a full meal, with Pork Scaloppine, Whitefish Mousse, and a Mandoline of Vegetables.

March 21, Chef Doug St. Souver demonstrated his fruit and vegetable carving skills. St. Souver recently competed in the Food Network Competition in Kona, Hawaii, and is the Inaugural Fantasy Fruit Sculpture Champion.

The Culinary Arts/Hospitality program is planning a Plated Victorian Tea Luncheon for May 9-10 and 16-17. Call 248-922-5843 to reserve a table at Northwest Inn, 8211 Big Lake Road.

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Opinion

'You ain't never met' a story like this

For those wondering what relevance Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard has to a story about Kid Rock, it's a simple connection.

The rocker showed his support for Bouchard's senate bid last fall and that forever linked the two, despite what that contribution may have been.

After seeing the contribution numbers online at the *Washington Post*, I didn't see a significant contribution from Mr. Ritchie.

I don't care what contribution was made to the campaign, but when Kid Rock, a celebrity by any measure, showed his face in support of the campaign, that forever linked the two.

From that point on, anything the Kid happened to be involved in, alleged or otherwise, dealing with the Sheriff's department, would be subject to curiosity.

I was glad to learn charges against Ritchie are not going to be pursued stemming from an alleged altercation with a woman at his home earlier this month. Having grown up around Clarkston, all I heard from the moment he moved in is, "How nice Bob is."

Being that I am the only person who hasn't met Mr. Ritchie, I can't comment one way or the other. But based on all the positive feedback, I'm going to venture a guess that he's a good guy.

Bouchard and Rock seemed like an odd couple pieced together to promote the the sheriff for the United States Senate seat.

Their pairing could have lead some to believe Ritchie may in one way or another received special treatment from the Oakland County Sheriff's Department.

The Clarkston News was told he had not been given any preferential treatment and printed such. But reminding people of the campaign stop at the Royal Oak Music Theater was our job. If we had failed to include that, wouldn't we have been giving special treatment ourselves?

As journalists we also find ourselves in a position where we, similar to the police, need to remain objective.

So, as much as we may like him, it was worth mentioning the connection and surely we aren't the only people who remember his endorsement.

Hypothetically, what if something later was found, that the incident that had been mishandled due to a kinship between the two?

There are others who would remember the endorsement in addition to us. It does seem however, that the reference in our paper struck a nerve, but it wasn't meant to suggest that anything *had* actually occurred because of favoritism shown Ritchie.

If a larger publication had made the same assessment, nothing would have been said. However, when *The Clarkston News* reads more like a hard-hitting newspaper, it must have come as a surprise.

We are all still committed to writing about the great things that happen in this area, for example, the Clarkston Cavaliers. The travel basketball team collected several hundred dollars for the Nothing But Nets, a campaign to help fight malaria in Africa.

We will still have those great community stories we're known for, but sometimes we have to be serious.

Going Home



Paul Kampe

'Dear Editor' (letters from our readers)

Clarkston Township? No Thanks

Dear Editor,

Well, here they go again.

The only time Clarkston wants to include Independence Township residents in Clarkston's affairs is when it is monetarily advantageous for Clarkston to do so, otherwise township residents are told that they should shut up and not claim to be from Clarkston and be happy to put the Clarkston name on everything supported by Independence Township residents' tax dollars.

So in the name of consolidation it is being proposed that Independence Township should change its name to Clarkston Township.

Why?

Clarkston is just a small half-square-mile, 900-resident town that was settled long AFTER Independence Township was chartered. If a financial agreement is reached that benefits Clarkston residents and a name change is in order, than it is only proper that Clarkston take the name of Independence not visa versa.

Independence Township residents have been carrying

the burden of supporting Clarkston projects without recognition long enough. If any name change is proposed then it is time for Clarkston to declare that it is now Independence.

I say NO THANKS! to the proposed township name change. After all, we wouldn't want to have to spend our tax dollars to re-paint our water towers with the Clarkston Township name. Thanks to the township's painted water towers, us dumb township residents just recently learned to say that we are from Independence Township and not from Clarkston.

Unfortunately, the only people that continue to act confused about where they live and who they serve continue to draw paychecks at Independence Township taxpayers' expense.

One thing is for sure. Independence Township residents have had enough of the ineffectiveness of township officials and will make big changes in the next election, no matter what the name of the township is!

Michael L. Powell and Lori Powell
Independence Township

Time for consolidation has come

Dear Editor,

Independence Township Trustees Charles Dunn and Dan Kelly should be commended for bringing up the politically sensitive issue of merging Independence Township with the City of the Village of Clarkston.

Michigan in 2007, and going forward, is in far worse financial shape than it was in 1992 when township and village separated. Revenue sharing from Lansing has been cut substantially and will probably be further reduced or perhaps eliminated. The cost of providing essential public services such as police and fire protection, etc. continues to go up while the ability of taxpayers to bear the higher costs keeps dropping.

Just as having a full-time state legislature and over

550 school districts in Michigan are luxuries that may no longer be affordable given declining student populations and lower tax revenue, neither is it practical to have 63 separate governmental entities in just Oakland County.

That is why Oakland County and the state are providing financial assistance to encourage communities and school districts to combine.

Residents of both township and village should at least examine and consider the option to merge to see if the tax and cost savings are worth the effort.

Make sure, however, to include the future value as well as Michigan continues to restructure.

Henry S. Woloson
Clarkston

Clarkston wants services cityhood offers

Dear Editor,

Recent area news articles have discussed a proposal by Independence Trustee Dan Kelly to "consolidate" the City of Clarkston with Independence Township by dissolving the city.

He justifies this, in part, using a theoretical \$900 tax savings for village residents since the city's millage rate is higher than the township's. However, we have always paid higher taxes, even prior to 1992 and cityhood, since as village residents we paid both village and township taxes.

Villages and cities form because their residents want and are willing to pay for more services than a township is authorized by law to provide.

Principally, villages and cities have statutory authority to levy taxes for, and receive state revenue sharing for, paving and maintaining (including snow plowing) streets and townships do not. In fact, a significant portion of the current increase over Clarkston's normal city taxes arises from our voters' approval of a 20-year funding plan to install water throughout the city and improve and repave most of the city's streets at the same time.

Conversely, township residents must ask to be specially assessed to get their roads paved, assessments which are not included in township millage rates, nor does the township maintain their roads.

As for sharing services, city government has from its inception done so whenever fiscally prudent and beneficial to all concerned. The city already has agreements with the township regarding fire, library, sewer, water, "dump day," recreation services, Deer Lake beach and

some police services.

Contrary to Trustee Kelly's implications, we are paying our fair share under such agreements; generally the same millage rate as township residents plus a reasonable administrative fee in lieu of the township general operating millage.

These agreements are typical of those between governments statewide and are the type of sharing efficiencies being encouraged by the state. We must, however, have our own DPW to maintain our streets and also presently choose to pay for more concentrated police services than the township can provide.

As residents of a city of only 1,000, we have a much greater say at the ballot box concerning how our government is managed and funded and the city's historic character is protected than we would were we voting in a township with a population of 36,000, with differing goals regarding area growth and development.

In fact, the threat of a township-controlled "Downtown Development Authority" such as Trustee Kelly proposes was one precipitating factor in our 1992 governmental change, as was the protection cityhood affords against forced annexation.

It is ironic that Trustee Kelly notes that "[t]here's no question in my mind that's what citizens want - smaller and more efficient government." Well, Mr. Kelly, we, as a small city, already have that, so why in the world would we want to give it up?

William K. Basinger
Clarkston

Best Image Possible

What do you think? Let us know at ShermanPub@aol.com, attn: Clarkston News

A Look Back

A peek back at those thrilling days of yester-year as reported in the pages of *The Clarkston News*

15 years ago - 1992

"Founder of Rudy's Market dies at 83" Rudolph "Rudy" F. Schwarze, who opened Rudy's Market in downtown Clarkston in 1933, passed away on March 31, 1992. Schwarze and his family had operated the store until 1990, and was named Citizen of the Year in 1976.

"Board asks public to nix 'schools of choice'" Clarkston Board of Education asked voters to exempt Clarkston from the state schools-of-choice program. If approved, elementary and junior high students would be allowed to go to any Clarkston school. That would increase busing costs by more than \$200,000, officials said.

"Educational fraud" - school district seeks out nonresident students With overcrowding at Clarkston schools, officials were looking for students who didn't belong there. Students living in other districts were attending Clarkston schools. About 20 students were found and sent to their home districts so far.

25 years ago - 1982

"Residents deny Independence raises" About 50 residents gathered at the 1982 Annual Meeting voted to freeze elected officials' salaries. The general-fund budget was set at about \$1.2 million.

"Village help gets 10-percent raise" The Clarkston Village Council voted to grant raises to clerk, treasurer, and village employees.

"Springfield board receives pay hike" An overflow crowd of residents approved \$1,200 raises for their supervisor, clerk, and treasurer. The raise was about a third of what was sought. About 117 residents attended the Annual Meeting.

"McDonald's receives final site plan approval" Independence Township Planning Commission voted to grant approval to the fast-food restaurant's site plan. Construction was set for April, 1982.

50 years ago - 1957

"Cast your vote Monday, April 1" State and township elections were set for the following Monday.

"Clarkston locals" Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Chamberlain of Holcomb Street are in Sarasota, Fla. They planned to be home about the middle of April, traveling through the Atlantic Seaboard states on their way.

"Interviews with seniors" Featured students David Cook and Ray DeGrow both reportedly enjoy steak dinners. Cook's favorite song was "Mary Ann." DeGrow's favorite saying was "if you are going to do something, do it right."

Hey school board, the devil is in the details

You know, there comes a time when you have to say, "Oops. Sorry. I messed up."

Speaking from a personal experience (excuse me, experiences), I know this is the case. The case in point I shall endeavor to delve, deals with the unholy trinity surrounding Goodrich schools. In the little hamlet of Goodrich, parents have lost patience with the three-headed monster of the school board, superintendent and the teachers union. Parents want results. They want people representing them and teaching their children to act responsibly and professionally. For those of you don't live in Goodrich and therefore gloss over Goodrich, Michigan news, I will do my best to get you up to snuff on why parents are disgusted with the whole lot of 'em.

A couple of Mondays ago, the school board went into closed session to discuss the job performance of the district's superintendent, Kim Hart.

What mucks this whole thing up is the school board posted, "Closed session for the purpose of a periodic personnel review," on the Sunday before the meeting. On Sunday, everybody goes to school... er, when nary a soul was paying attention. The notice, while, in accordance to law, is an example of why parents in Goodrich are steaming.

It was affirmed later the closed-to-public meeting was about Superintendent Hart. Understand this, if the board did/does nothing about Hart's contract by March 30, it's automatically renewed for two years.

So, taxpayers -- excuse me, parents -- are up in arms. Yet, they are not up in arms about a closed meeting to review the super's employment. Employees can request their reviews be in private. Who wants to have their work critiqued before 500 people? Folks in Goodrich are fit to be tied because of a year and a half of crap, the manner in which the meeting went down, and the board's subsequent and apparently total shock at the community's ire, is the proverbial straw.

More back up information. Parents know Goodrich schools are on the Michigan Education Association's "critical list." Parents know teachers have worked without a contract for over a year. And, parents want due diligence in negotiating a sound, fair contract.

I state that knowing there are HUGE amounts of distrust between the teachers, superintendent and board. Parents have read of ruckuses concerning an "extra" million dollars found in the school's vault -- this after the district threatened teacher pink slips, shortened the school year and belt-tightened in the form of extracurricular activities cuts. And, parents have heard from teachers, via

their kids, "we won't go on any field trips because of the school board."

Goodrich is a close-knit, smallish community and folks have talked about this for the past year. It's a topic of discussion over coffee, over dinner, in the Goodrich Market Place (the town's grocer), on the street corner, over the fence with neighbors and in every newspaper that cares to print news about Goodrich. It is not new news, I think, except for the board members, teachers and administrators.

For the purpose of moving forward I state this to members of the unholy trinity who do not yet understand:

There is a mistrust in you, period.

Rightly, wrongly -- whateverly, now, you know parents think they and their kids are caught in a Bermuda Triangle where all good is sucked up, never to be heard from again. And, we are fed up.

Parents think you're being sneaky when they know something's afoot, but they get no confirmation. Get this, sources informed our newspaper on the Wednesday before, that such a meeting might transpire. We called on Wednesday, then on Thursday and again on Friday... is there a special meeting looming, we asked? Nope, was the answer.

Folks found out about the 4:30 p.m., Monday meeting, on Sunday. The notice was taped on a school window. The next day, hours before the meeting was to convene, it was added to the school's electronic billboard outside the high school.

Board president Mike Tripp fell on his sword and took the blame. Personal tragedy caused him not to post the meeting earlier. Other school board members were sick or out of town to handle posting duties. Unfortunate circumstances all around. But guess what, parents don't care for excuses anymore, there was plenty of time to post this meeting.

The superintendent's contract was set to expire two years after it was okayed. The board knew (knows) that. A job review and meeting should have been slated, set in stone and communicated at least a month before it sunsetted. For those who don't know, the next regularly scheduled school board meeting was seven days later, March 26 -- four days prior to the board having to deal or not with the superintendent. So, the review could have been completed, at the least, then.

So, when board VP Ken Rappuhn states, "The last thing I ever want to do is give the public the impression we aren't trying to communicate with them." Parents don't believe it. It is simple: **The board did not communicate.**

When there is mistrust even the slightest, inadvertent act of impropriety, seems like sleaz -- and, were they on the other side of the control switch, they would see that.

My how our tastes change in a lifetime

Funny how our hated foods of youth become our favorites later on. Not, "ha-ha" funny, just peculiarly.

When I was a lad, carrying my lunch to school 8 miles away, uphill both ways, mother frequently made up bean sandwiches. She'd mash navy beans left over from dinners and spread it between two slices of homemade bread.

I don't remember ever not eating every bite.

Today I still love beans, souped or saladed, baked or casserole with franks, bacon or ham. I can't say the same for sweet potatoes, rhubarb, broccoli or cauliflower. I spent many hours of my youth sitting at the table until that stuff mother told me to finish got finished.

Of that list of four, there is only one that I still resist today... sweet potatoes or yams, same thing. My mother, then wife Hazel and now daughter Luan still insist on spoiling the Thanksgiving Day spread with those orangeish tubers.

Also, in those home-bound school days I'd resist macaroni and cheese. Today I have a supply of Stouffer's frozen mac and cheese ready for my taste's call.

Dad grew our own eggplant. Mother fried it. I was force-fed it. Sometimes nowadays it'll appear on a menu with Parmesan accompaniment and I'll make it my main course.

I don't believe I was even exposed to anything Oriental in my early farm-life cuisine, but I would have undoubtedly disliked it. Today, teriyaki is another favorite.

However, I never liked dumplings, corn bread, rutabagas or squash. Squash got better with age and I'll go for a second helping of that over mashed potatoes.

Perhaps the biggest change in my eating habits and choices comes in soups. Mother probably made other soups, but bean is the only one I remember. Add a little vinegar and m-m-m-good.

But there is great inconsistency in soups. Cooks think we need cubed potatoes in practically every spooned liquid. In truth, I don't think they should even be in potato soup. Keep them out of my clam chowder. They're like filler. Cheap filler. Some cooks also think potatoes (filler) are needed in beef noodle, French onion, chicken noodle and beef barley soup.

What I'm getting at is, when you order your favorite soup you may be getting an experimental offering.

For that reason, whenever a waitress asks, "Do you want soup or salad?" I say, "Salad."

It's hard to screw up lettuce. Another thing. I swear recipe writers are fiction happy. They all have a theory that soups need a certain number of ingredients, like thyme, curry, or balsamic vinegar. What the heck is balsamic?

I read that ingredient, if that is what it is, in someone's squash and apple sauce soup in *The Detroit News*. Why would anyone try to link squash and apple sauce? I think some cooks are sniffing too much ginger, dill, paprika, sage, oregano or beau monde.

I'll close with some soup for thought, also from *The News*. Nearly 3 billion cans, boxes and other containers of soup are sold annually in the U.S. in hundred of flavors and styles.

Two companies - Campbell's and Progresso - make up the vast majority of the market. Until 1950, top-seller Campbell's offered only 21 flavors. Now they make 200 different soups, not just in cans but in cartons, microwavable containers and 1-cup size portable portions, many of which are ready-to-serve.

Progresso soups, which never require the addition of water or milk, now number 70 varieties.

Back to me. For some reason I've avoided Campbell's soups, thus Progresso's in my cabinet turntable. Taken with a handful of saltines, they satisfy that lunchtime urge.

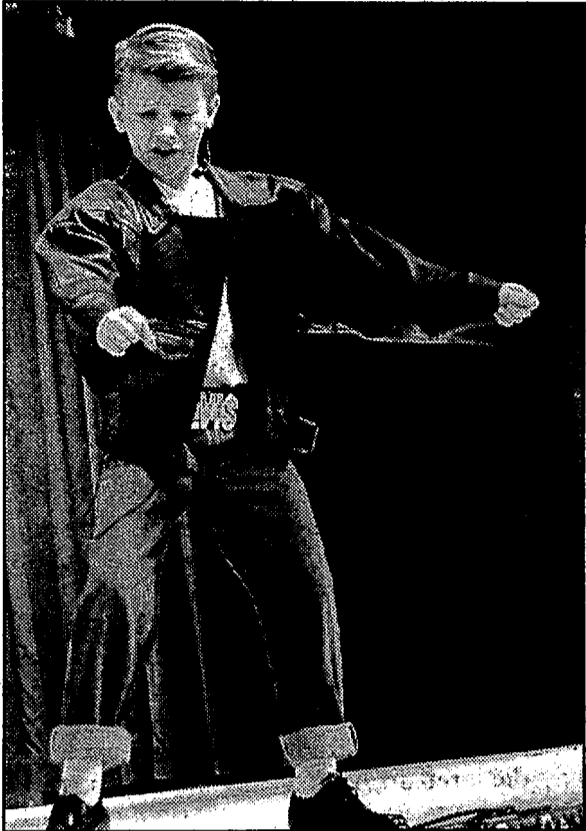
Jim's Jottings



Jim Sherman



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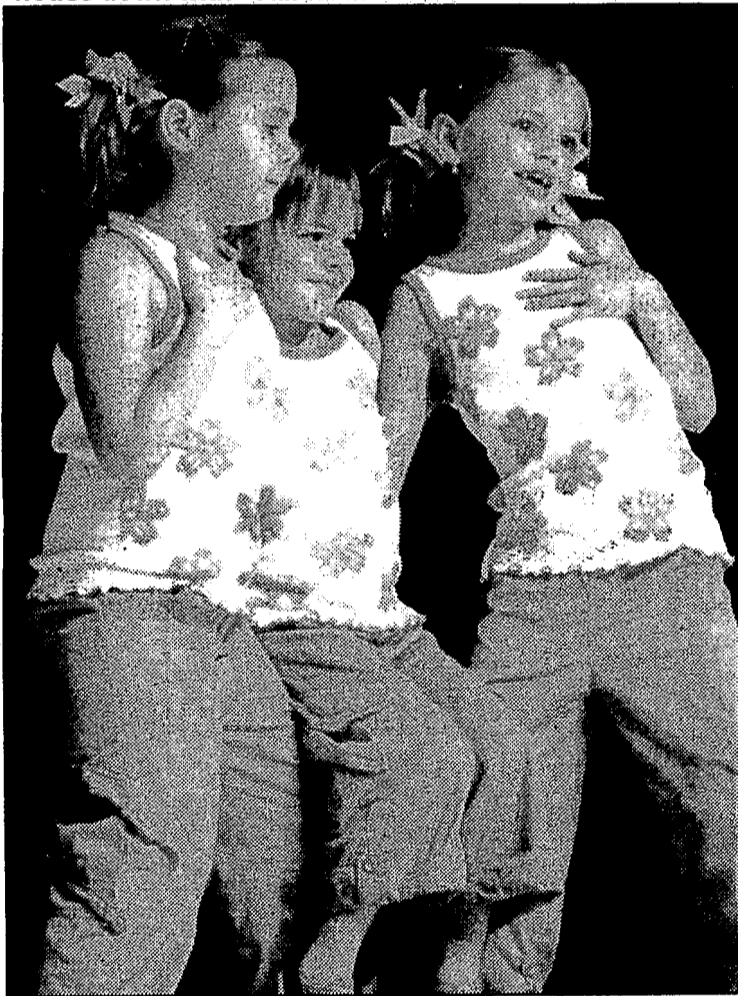
Elvis, a.k.a. 5th grader T.J. Craven, brought the house down with "Jail House Rock."



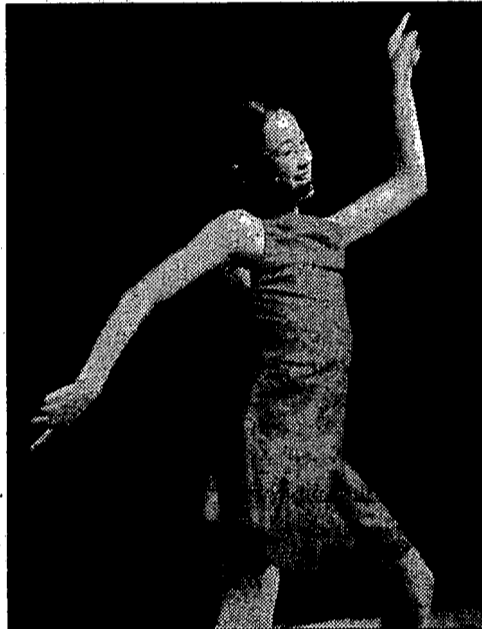
Fourth grade "Spunk Girls" Alena Jordan and Katrina Arrol danced to "Who I am."



Fourth-grader Helen Jeffers played "Perpetual Motion" on her violin.



First-graders Kristen Cumming, Anna Walker and Rileigh Landis danced to "The Other Side of Me."



Fifth-grader Bridget Lindsey danced to "Disco Inferno."

Now that's talent!

More than 60 Andersonville Elementary students from kindergarten through 5th grade showcased a variety of skills at the school's talent show last week.

An afternoon show was held for students, while an evening show was held for proud parents and other family members.

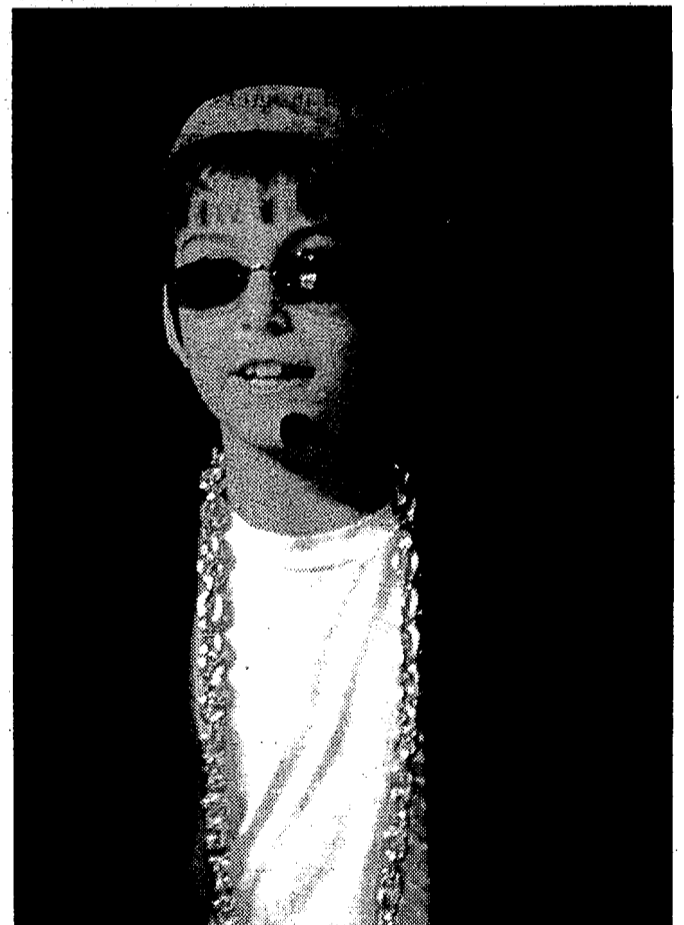
Photos by Laura Colvin



Anna Walker and Sadie Knill danced to "Rock 'a Hula."



Savannah Fields had everyone clapping along to "I love Rock and Roll."



Connor Matczak was the "Fresh Prince" of Andersonville with his Will Smith impression.



Fifth-grader Brenton Villeneuve gave a stellar performance on the piano.

Police and Fire

Independence Township

Sat., March 17 A 58-year-old woman was committed after consuming alcohol and overdosing on antidepressant medication. The woman had recently been diagnosed with cancer and claimed she did not want to burden her husband. The husband claimed his wife attempted suicide four years ago.

Sun., March 18 A construction company employee reported a trailer at a church construction reported missing tools after an unknown person removed the lock and entered the trailer. The site had been pilfered just a month ago, the man said.

Mon., March 19 A 19-year-old Independence Township woman reported receiving harassing phone calls from a 23-year-old Lake Orion man she had previously dated. The woman claimed her former boyfriend called her names and threatened to assault her or have her assaulted by someone else.

A homeowner in the 5300 block of Parview went to the garage to discover her car door open and a full case of CDs missing from inside the vehicle.

A 20-year-old Independence Township man was arrested and jailed on domestic assault charges against his 53-year-old father after deputies were called to the home for a dispute in progress.

The incident stemmed from a disagreement during a family poker game, which escalated when sleeping family members were angered by the noise.

A 31-year-old Independence Township woman called to report that she loaned her car to her boyfriend so he could attend an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, but found \$120 missing from her purse and worried the man was out buying crack cocaine. Deputies then discovered the woman had a personal protection order against the 29-year-old Madison Heights man, and he was arrested and jailed for PPO violation upon his return. The man said he'd been staying with the woman and thought it was OK.

Wed., March 21 An Independence Township woman discovered someone had made four separate withdrawals with her ATM card, totaling \$500, after she inadvertently left her purse at a gas station near Dixie Highway and Telegraph in Waterford. All the withdrawals were made in Waterford, as well.

A coach for the Clarkston High School boys' track team filed a police report after a member of his team was assaulted while running with teammates near the Independence Township Public Library on Clarkston Road. The boys claimed they had seen the man at the corner of Main Street and Clarkston Road, and a member of the team yelled "very nice" because he liked the man's car—in which three females were also traveling. The man then jumped out of his car near the library and began punch-

ing one of the boys in the face and stomach.

A 27-year-old female was picked up in St. Clair Shores and transported to Oakland County Jail when it was discovered she had a valid felony warrant out of Independence Township.

Thurs. March 22 The job of a 29-year-old Madison Heights man went up in smoke after he was accused by his employer of stealing a large quantity of cigarettes, valued at approximately \$18,000, over the course of his employment at an Independence Township gas station. The employer installed surveillance equipment and claimed he could clearly see the employee taking the cigarettes. The man initially denied the allegations, but later agreed to repay the money.

Springfield Township

Fri. March 16 A 24-year-old Springfield Township man reported receiving threatening phone calls from his ex-girlfriend, who claimed the man was the father of her child. The man claimed the 23-year-old woman had refused a paternity test for the child, but threatened to set him up in a crime, destroy his family's business reputation, and inflict harm to the man, his vehicle, and his home if he did not support the child.

A 52-year-old Davisburg man was

arrested and jailed on domestic assault charges after throwing a cup at his 47-year-old girlfriend during an argument, causing the woman's lip to swell and bleed. More than half the woman's front tooth was chipped off, as well.

Thurs. March 18 Deputies were dispatched to assist Springfield Township firefighters with a brush fire in a field near the 9000 block of Patrick in Holly. It was unclear how the fire originated, but firefighters noted a child's fort in the center of the burned area.

Mon. March 19 An employee at a car dealership on Dixie Highway called police after arriving at work to discover the passenger window smashed from a customer's car left for repair. An after-market stereo, speakers and amp were missing from the vehicle.

The manager of a Springfield Township car dealership on E. Holly Road called police to report an unknown person smashed out the driver's window of a vehicle parked in the company's used car lot during the weekend, and made off with an after-market stereo, speakers and amp.

A 51-year-old Davisburg woman called police to report an altercation with her sister, a 54-year-old White Lake woman. The two had recently resumed contact after a 20-year estrangement resulting from a dispute over their deceased mother's property, but quickly resumed arguing over family possessions.

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Snacking, napping your way to better health

By Ernie Harwell



You know, it seems most people are convinced that improving your health has to be all hardwork and sacrifice. But the more we learn, the clearer it becomes that getting, and staying, fit involves some of life's more pleasurable activities.

Take eating for instance. Some medical experts are increasingly advising patients to eat five or six small meals a day, rather than the traditional "three squares." Recent studies have shown that eating several small meals daily may lower blood cholesterol and reduce insulin levels, both of which can cut the risk of heart disease - even when total calories aren't reduced.

Some call it "grazing." Some call it snacking. Whatever you call it, eating five or six meals instead of three doesn't sound like "a sacrifice" to me. The same can be said for naps. While admittedly not possible for everyone, the latest research indicates that even a 20-minute nap promotes greater alertness and a more positive attitude - especially for people who keep late hours or have trouble sleeping at night.

During my broadcaster day, I was faithfully up by 7 a.m., but I always tried to fit in a brief nap before night games especially those two-night doubleheaders.

Thomas Edison, Winston Churchill and Albert Einstein all faithful nappers - were alert and positive enough to suite me.

So if you're serious about reaching greater fitness and want to do more than regular exercise. Consider snacking and napping along the way. And please remember to take care of your health before it's lonngggg gone!

Ernie Harwell, "the voice of the Detroit Tigers" for more than four decades, retired after 55 years behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 86, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking long walks with "Miss Lulu," his wife of more than 60 years. His latest book, a collection of his baseball columns entitled "Life After Baseball," is available at local bookstores or by calling 1-800-245-5082.

A Partnership Between Genesys Health System and POH Medical Center

Child's play SCAMP to raffle custom Victorian playhouse

BY LAURA COLVIN
Clarkston News Staff Writer

It's a kid's dream come true, and just in time for summer—a huge playhouse with real doors and windows, a front porch and lots of room to move around.

In fact, the Victorian playhouse to be raffled by Clarkston SCAMP in early June was modeled after the downtown Clarkston home of Terry and Steve Coventry.

"I'm not sure why they chose our home above all the others," said Terry Coventry, noting the city is home to many beautiful historic homes. "But I think it's great. This house has a lot of history, and we feel like we're the guardians of that history while we're here."

The playhouse measures approximately 16 feet long, 10 feet wide and nearly 12 feet tall.

Only 250 tickets will be sold at \$100 each in the playhouse raffle, and Coventry plans to buy at least one.

"It's so cute," said Coventry. "Our grandchildren already have half a stake in it. They're insisting we buy tickets."

The project was planned in celebration of the SCAMP Home Tour 25th anniversary, which takes place June 2-3.

SCAMP is a five-week summer day camp for children and young adults with special needs, and the tour of 10 historic area homes is the organization's largest

fundraiser of the year.

And, for the first time in about 15 years, the tour will include the Coventry's home.

Originally built around 1876 near Dixie Highway and White Lake Road, the home once housed a retail store—where many local people would register for wedding gifts.

The house was later moved to its current location on Main Street, but old-timers still remember the store.

"We still have people approach us and say 'Oh, you're the couple who bought the old Boothby house,'" Coventry said. "I think it will always be the Boothby house."

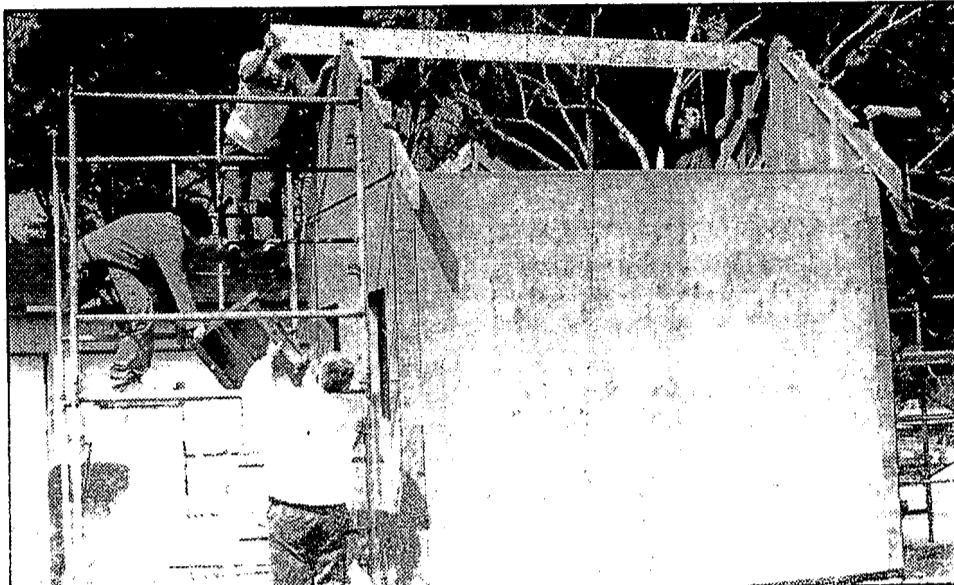
After much discussion, SCAMP planners decided the playhouse will be painted the same color as the real house—pink.

Duane Olds, construction technology instructor at Oakland Technical Campus on Big Lake Road in Springfield Township is in charge of construction.

The biggest challenge, he said, will be moving the playhouse from OTC to its new location.

"In anticipation of that we tried to build the house so it would come apart in two sections," he said. "Because of the height, final construction will take place on site."

The original design included a functional loft—with a ladder—that ultimately



Students build a Victorian-style playhouse for SCAMP. Photo by Laura Colvin.

had to be cut out for practicality—at 14 feet, the house was just too tall.

A total of 28 students are enrolled in the first year construction class, and all have worked on the project at one point or another.

"They're learning how things go together, how to build from a blueprint, and getting experience with power tools," he said. "They're also learning about teamwork."

Clarkston Medical Group donated \$5,000 for all supplies, said Donna Clancy, SCAMP spokesperson.

Knowing the structure's large size might leave potential ticket holders wondering what to do with the house should they win, the group approached the city of Clarkston seeking permission to place

the house in Depot Park, should the winner choose.

"We have tentative approval from the planning commission," said City Manager Art Pappas. "But we're still waiting to hear back from the city planner, the engineer and watershed group. We don't know for sure."

With any luck, alternative placement won't be necessary, and some local kid will be the envy of the neighborhood this summer.

The winner will be announced during the SCAMP Home Tour Patron's Night at the Oakhurst Golf and Country Club Sat., June 2.

Those interested in purchasing tickets can call the SCAMP office at 248-620-1882.



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No charge for children 4 years or younger

CHEF'S NOTES:

Kids Corner

A knee high display of chicken tenders, Mac & Cheese with cinnamon applesauce

Omelet and Monte Cristo Stations

Our chefs will prepare omelets made to order your style along with mini ham, turkey and cheese sandwiches dipped in creamy egg batter and pan-fried

Treats and Sweets Symphony Station

An array of pies, cakes and mousse parfaits and miniature delights topped off with some of our chefs delicious creations

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Faded Ink

Committee to study keyholing regulations

BY KELLY L. REYNOLDS
Clarkston News Staff Writer

It's back to the docks for residents looking for more boating restrictions on local lakes.

After going back and forth for several months between Independence Township Board of Trustees and Planning Commission and not gaining approval from either, trustees decided Tuesday to form a sub-committee for more study.

An ordinance amendment under discussion would limit "keyholing," which is when residents from new multiple-family homes are allowed access to a lake through a single lakefront lot.

The amendment would support the integrity of the lakes and promote their ecological balance, because too many watercrafts can "create conditions amounting to a nuisance, impair important and irreplaceable natural resources, cause reduction in property values, and threaten the health safety and general welfare of the public."

Keyholing refers to the use of one dock by more than one property owner on a parcel of land. An example would be residents of a condominium or apartment complex using the same dock on a lake.

The issue of keyholing has been ongoing for several years, but has recently been brought back up because Tim Birtsas wants to develop his 28-acre parcel of land, with more than 200 feet of lake frontage on Deer Lake.

"We haven't determined what we want to do yet," Birtsas said. "We'll have some high-end residential, possibly some office property, but we haven't gotten specific what we want to do."

Birtsas said he wants to make it clear

that he favors some type of control on pollution and traffic on the lakes, but current proposals wouldn't be effective.

"What people are concerned about is pollution and boats and what they're suggesting does not affect everyone," he said. "The way you can affect everyone is by doing a general ordinance, not a keyhole amendment. The reason the residents are in favor of this is because it won't affect them at all. We are in favor of a keyholing ordinance, we just don't think they have it right yet."

According to Birtsas' attorney, Susan Friedlaender, about 70 to 80 percent of the existing docks on Deer Lake are keyholed.

"Everybody must be regulated," said Friedlaender. "Don't take away the right of the last person on the block."

Many residents at the meeting disputed her findings, but said they were against keyholing.

Trustee Dan Travis agreed with the residents.

"We will not allow keyholing onto the lakes, simple as that," he said. "It's not going to happen - not on our watch."

Treasurer Jim Wenger said he just wants to see what makes sense.

"Do we continue fairness to the riparians (those who already own access to the lake) or to those who want to come in," he asked.

The amendment was tabled until the sub-committee, consisting of Trustees Dan Travis, Dan Kelly and Charles Dunn, gives the board its report. Then the issue must go back to the planning commission, which will hold another public hearing. It would then return to the board of trustees for final approval.

Spring tree sale for conservation district

Orders are now being taken for the Oakland Conservation District's spring tree sale.

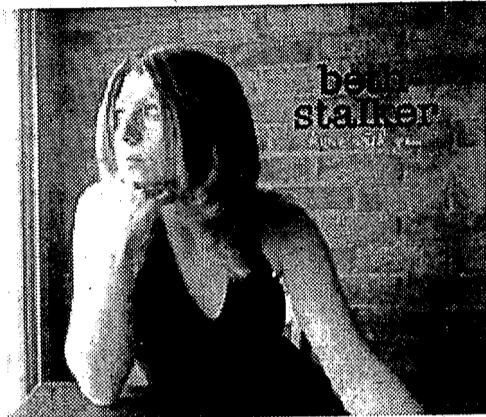
The conservation offers a large selection of trees, shrubs and plants as part of its annual fund-raiser. The sale provides the district with half of its operating funds.

ing funds.

Orders must be placed by April 7. Tree pick-up dates are April 27, noon - 5 p.m. and April 28, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Springfield Oaks County Park in Davisburg.

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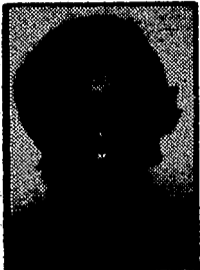
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Cityhood preserves small-town roots

In light of the growing debate brought on by Independence Township Trustee Dan Kelly concerning the City of the Village of Clarkston dissolving its cityhood and becoming a central part of Independence Township tax base, I thought it would be wise to clarify a few points of interest.



Kristy Ottman

City residents pay the same millage as township residents for the use of services such as fire, library, and the midnight police shift.

We also pay a 10 percent administrative fee for each contract. All told, the township receives an additional \$19,600 per year to process our paperwork.

These numbers do not represent the additional fees that are associated with Water & Sewer and other permits and services that village residents pay over and above Independence Twp. residents.

It is difficult to conclude that the statement made at the Independence Township Board meeting that the city does not pay its share is anything other than ridiculous.

More importantly than that, however, is the little known fact that the city owns Deer Lake Beach and leases the property, with no 10 percent fee, to Independence Township for only \$1 dollar a year.

The city also donates its Community Development Block Grants to the Independence Township Senior Center every year.

Whenever possible we accommodate requests to use our parks, hang banners over Main Street and use our lightscape for promotions of functions. The majority of these accommodations have little or no monetary requirements and almost all of these requests are for functions held in Independence Township.

The resolve of the city residents to maintain our own identity is not to promote an elitist attitude or separate ourselves from Independence Township, as an editorial letter writer exclaimed.

Rather, it is just the opposite.

The incorporation of the Village of Clarkston as a city was enacted to preserve and protect the history of Independence Township's first town.

The city is where the roots were laid down for the growth of the outlying area. How many communities have the original homes of the settlers, the history of progression and more importantly, the charm of yesteryear?

We host parades, concerts in the park, Taste of Clarkston and many other functions, without charging Independence Twp. or its residents, simply because it is the right thing to do.

It is disappointing that Mr. Kelly only felt the need to bring up the consolidation issue under the guise of Gov. Granholm's budget address.

The city is the epitome of shared resources and consolidation.

I would think that the governor could use the city and Independence Township as examples of how to not only coexists but thrive.

Kristy Ottman is a councilwoman with the City of the Village of Clarkston.

Author to visit Springfield library

Gilbert (Nick) vanFrankenhuyzen, author of "Mackinac Bridge: The story of the five-mile poem," will visit Springfield Township Library-6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 1 for storytelling, book signing, and question-and-answer time with guests.

VanFrankenhuyzen is visiting the library as part of the Library of Michigan's 2007 "Michigan Notable Authors Tour."

This year, 18 authors whose works were chosen as 2007 Michigan Notable Books selections will visit nearly 70 libraries throughout the state.

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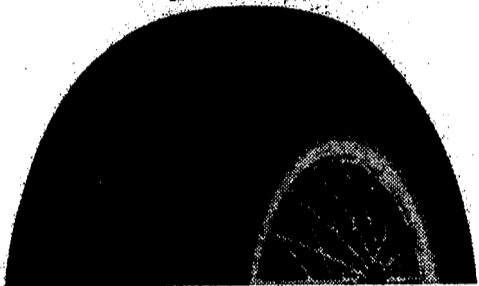
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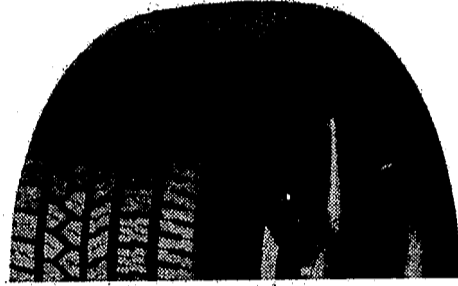
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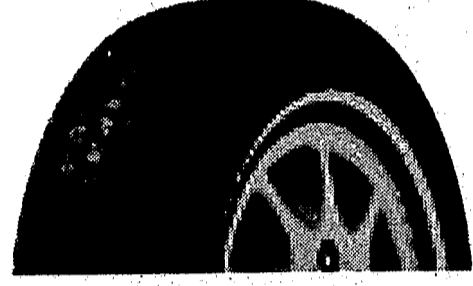
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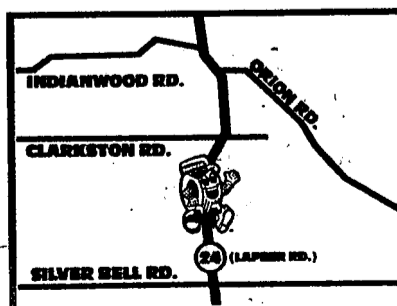
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Classifieds

Clarkston News Sports

It's on! Clarkston wins soundly over Irish, 9-4



The Clarkston defense roughed up Notre Dame all night. Photo by Paul Kampe

BY PAUL KAMPE

Clarkston News Staff Writer

Against Pontiac Notre Dame Prep, Clarkston's lacrosse team put up all the fight in a 9-4 win on a warm spring night before a sparse home crowd Monday.

Trailing 3-1 late in the first, Michael Proctor scored with 1:37 remaining in the quarter and Nicholas Perry scored early in the second to tie the game 3-3.

Clarkston (1-1) scored four unanswered goals from the 9:00 point of the second quarter through the end of the third for a commanding 7-3 lead.

The Irish (0-2) owned the time of possession all night long making themselves at home in the Clarkston zone where a plethora of opportunities were denied by the Wolves' defense or squandered by bad passes and violations.

"We need to utilize and finish when we're running our plays. We didn't seem to not run our plays like we practiced all week," Notre Dame coach Ben Ingram said.

"We held the ball like we wanted to...but today they got us on their run-and-gun game and they took it to us."

The Wolves added two more fourth quarter goals to pad their lead after Rob-

ert Healy scored his third goal of the game for the Irish at 8:45 of the quarter.

Chris Salo's hat-trick for the Wolves came from his capitalization on offense passing and shooting. Clarkston coach Brian Kaminskas said.

"He really ran our fast break well," Kaminskas said. "He did a great job moving to the ball. He was able to see the field and distribute the ball on offense. He took some pretty good angles to the cage and forced some slides on a lot of other guys to get open."

Procter, Perry, Taelor Hasse, Eric Salo, Matthew McEntee and Jon Avery each had one goal for Clarkston.

The five-goal win was a sharp turnaround from Friday's 12-2 loss versus Warren De La Salle.

"We concentrated over the weekend on clearing, riding the ball and ground balls and the guys did much better," Kaminskas said.

"(On defense) we talked about denying the dodge and not allowing a player to go toward the net and take a shot and we made a couple of adjustments and the guys really came around to it."

The Wolves travel to Grand Blanc Wednesday at 7:45 p.m.

Another dream season deferred

Wolves fall to state champ Saginaw in quarterfinals

BY PAUL KAMPE

Clarkston News Staff Writer

Finding themselves in familiar territory March 20 against Saginaw, Clarkston's basketball team played its fifth consecutive state quarterfinal game. Again, Clarkston played a close game, but came up short. The Wolves fell to eventual state champion Saginaw 44-30 at Saginaw Valley State University after taking a one-point lead into halftime.

The Trojans employed a renowned full-court press to stop the Wolves.

"We didn't handle the pressure well all night," Clarkston coach Dan Fife said.

"It was like trying to scale a mountain." The third quarter, a typical safe-haven for the Wolves, went the way of the Trojans (24-1). Saginaw outscored the Wolves 16-5 in the period, giving Clarkston at 10-point deficit to start the fourth quarter, 31-21.

"We turned it over six times and missed three or four layups and shots," Fife said.

But the Wolves (21-4) made the game close down the stretch, trailing 34-30 with two minutes remaining.

"They were fighting," Fife said of the Wolves. "It

Athletes of the week

Wolves make fifth consecutive quarterfinals

BY PAUL KAMPE

Clarkston News Staff Writer

Making their fifth consecutive state quarterfinals appearance last week, the Clarkston basketball team finished another stellar season, which included a share of the Oakland Activities Association championship.

The Wolves (21-4), along with fellow champs Pontiac Northern, represented OAA Division I in the elite eight, and another, Southfield Lathrup, advanced to the regional finals.

"OAA I is going to be strong no matter who is in the division," Wolves coach Dan Fife said.

Emerging with another 20-plus-win season is a strong showing, Fife said.

"It was an outstanding year.

"Any time you win 20 games in high school basketball is a great season.

"They don't have anything to be ashamed of and they should be very proud of their season. For our kids to be one of the final eight, that's quite an accomplishment."

After rolling over Waterford Mott in the district playoff opener, Clarkston won its 13th consecutive district championship over Lake Orion on the Dragons' home court two weeks ago.

The team's leading scorer, guard Dan Owens, is



The Wolves celebrate their regional championship after defeating Macomb Dakota March 16. Photo by Paul Kampe

committed to play for Ashland University in Ohio next season.

The Wolves return offensive threats Oliver Kupe and Julius Porter, and 6-foot-5-inch Matt Kamieniecki should see more time next season. The betting odds are for another team poised to be in contention for the OAA crown and a deep run in the playoffs.



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Late bloomer dominates the mats

Clarkston's Maguire makes up for lost time with state championship

BY PAUL KAMPE
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Mike Maguire, Clarkston's state champion wrestler at 119 pounds, didn't always have that path set in stone. The Clarkston senior was a bit of a late bloomer in the sport, which he began in eighth grade at Clarkston Middle School.

After moving to Clarkston from Pontiac, Maguire dropped the basketball and put on headgear after his friends invited him to join the ranks.

"I grew up with a basketball in my hands and the first couple friends I had when I moved here got me to tryout for wrestling," Maguire said.

"It took me a little bit to catch on and when I started wrestling other schools I began to get good at it.

"I kept one or two moves and got good at those."

His wrestling career with the Wolves came about ironically when Maguire was cut from the freshman basketball team. Maguire began wrestling on the junior varsity, with a record less than .500.

"I knew I had a lot of work to do especially with the guys in front of me," Maguire said.

Maguire shadowed former state champions Braden L'Amereaux and Tony Lajoie for improvement.

"I looked up to them because I wanted to be like that. I didn't know if I had started wrestling soon enough. I work

hard and wrestle every day to make the most of it," he said.

Clarkston coach Joe DeGain noticed Maguire's drive as he worked his way to improve in his sophomore (30-11) and junior (43-13) seasons.

"He was very focused and there was one thing on his mind and you could see it in his eyes and the way he represented himself on the mats," DeGain said.

"He's always been a really great athlete and wrestler, but confidence is what grew in him. I think he just got tired of losing and decided he was the man all of a sudden and that really paid off for him.

"I hope the other kids in the club and all the underclassmen look to Mike and try to mirror what he did."

This season, Maguire finished 58-3 after defeating Zac Stevens from Monroe at the state finals March 10 at The Palace of Auburn Hills. It took Maguire a while after the championship match for his win to sink in.

"It just came too fast. It didn't seem like a six-minute match. I knew all my hard work was paying off this year and I really didn't know what to think. It only

sinks in when I look at the medal, watch the tape or someone congratulates me," Maguire said.

The championship victory broke the school record held by A.J. Grant, a former 112 and 125-pound state champion from Clarkston. Grant, now an assistant wrestling coach at the University of North Carolina, was trying to persuade Maguire to visit the school in hopes of luring him to wrestle for the Tarheels next season.

"He introduced me to the head coach and was telling me about the weather and asked when I was coming for a visit," Maguire said.

"It was funny that I was just like him when he was a senior."

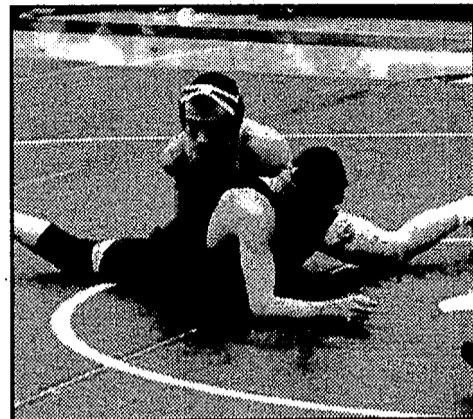
Maguire said his four years of hard work have paid off more than he had expected.

"I knew I wanted to wrestle in college, but I didn't think I would get anyone like North Carolina (scouting me), so I need to make the best of it," Maguire said.

"I knew I was going to do better than I did last year and I knew the hard work would keep paying off."

Wrestling outside the "murderer's row" of Clarkston's 152-215-pound wrestlers, Maguire was equally consistent. He began the year wrestling at 125 pounds and went down to 119 later in the year with a flawless transition.

"He was a big deal, we knew every



Mike Maguire helped the Wolves to the team state semifinals earlier this month. Photo by Collin Baumgartner

time we sent him out onto the mat that we could count on him and that's always a great guy to have on the team," DeGain said.

Now, Maguire plans to head to Virginia Beach, Va. from Thursday-Sunday for the National High School Seniors Wrestling Championship, where many of the top high school senior wrestlers in the country will be showcased.

"There's a lot of really good kids and a lot of colleges are there," Maguire said.

"I'm going to go out there and have fun and do as best I can."

After four years filled with DeGain's notorious strength conditioning, Maguire likely has enough left in the tank for another tournament victory.

Continued from A15

Wolves stopped again in quarterfinals, lose to champion Trojans

was typical of a close game."

Like many close games, the contest turned into a foul-and-free-throw shooting affair, which came on the wrong night for the Wolves who shot 4/11 from the stripe.

"Our inability to take care of the ball and make free-throws was our downfall," Fife said.

Clarkston held Saginaw's big men Draymond Green and Josh Southern, both division I NCAA recruits, to 12 points combined.

"It was a low-scoring game where we needed it to be, but we didn't get it

done," Fife said.

"Defensively, we were as good as we could be. If we could have taken care of the ball, things would have been different."

Clarkston committed 22 turnovers on the night.

"At this time of the season, you can't have that," Fife said.

The Trojans' guard duo of Daniel West and Mike Green slowed the Wolves. West scored 13 points and Mike Green had 14.

Oliver Kupe led Clarkston with 14 points and Dan Owens had six.



Oliver Kupe (24), shown here in the regional finals against Macomb Dakota, led the Wolves in a loss to Saginaw with 14 points. Photo by Paul Kampe

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Clarkston lacrosse falls in season opener to Pilots, 12-2

BY PAUL KAMPE

Clarkston News Staff Writer

An impressive start it wasn't, but Clarkston's boys lacrosse team found a beginning ground in their season-opening 12-2 loss to Warren De La Salle Friday.

Dexter Jacques scored twice in the opening minute and Dan Shortt scored his first of three goals at 9:39 of the first period to give the Pilots a 3-0 lead.

Adam Haslinger answered for the Wolves at 7:08 of the first quarter, but that was the last goal Clarkston would have before the waning minutes when Jon Avery scored with 6:39 left.

"We know we need to do a lot of work on transition and on ground-balls. The kids worked hard and

there was no quit, so we're certainly thrilled with their work ethic and their pride," Clarkston coach Brian Kaminskas said.

After opening with five goals in the first quarter, the Pilots scored only three in the second and none in scoreless third quarter. Kaminskas chalked Wolves goalie Zack Lewy's tough outing on nerves.

"He had a lot of first-game jitters and it really showed in that first half. At halftime, we made some adjustments and we settled in and got comfortable," Kaminskas said.

"They know they can leave this one on the field and we always tell them to find something they can use to make themselves better."

In a sound victory, Pilots coach Chris Ferrari found areas for his team to improve upon after their first game.

"I'm pleased. It was a little sloppy, but it was the first game," Ferrari said.

"I'm pleased with the result, the guys played together as a team today and they did a lot of the things that we've been working on so far this season."

The Pilots, in a new system on the attack, learned seemed to learn their new schemes quickly.

"We put in the new offense this year and we're still learning it, but they're looking for each other, which is a key thing in an offense, to not try and do too much by yourself," Ferrari said.

Boys ready to begin eighth season

BY PAUL KAMPE

Clarkston News Staff Writer

Brian Kaminskas, in his second year as Clarkston boys lacrosse coach, feels the team will return much of the components that led them to a 10-6 record in his first season.

Defensively, the Wolves return all but one player, a cause for great expectations from the coach. "We expect to be really strong there," Kaminskas said.

Competitive fire seems like the team's strong suit on D.

"We have a lot of depth and terrific and smart athletes," Kaminskas said.

"They work really hard and they're not accepting anything less than the best from each other. They just

keep pushing each other to get better and better."

Goalie Zack Lewy, another return player, will play in net after rotating over the winter as Clarkston's hockey netminder.

"He already knows the systems. He's already taking control of different sliding and defensive schemes. It's going to be a tremendous help to have him back," Kaminskas said.

The Wolves face a challenge on the other side of the field, where they don't have nearly the same experience on offense.

"There's some learning curves we have to address, but we have great athletes, so half the work is already done," Kaminskas said.

Junior midfielder Grant Hoben is expected to make

a big contribution for the Wolves.

"Because of his speed and his ability to read the defense, we're expecting a tremendous contribution to our offense," Kaminskas said.

"(Last season) he spent some time learning, but at the end of the season, he picked up the pace and became a factor for us."

A lot of lacrosse players play hockey and vice versa, Kaminskas said. Joining their goalie off the ice are Eric and Chris Salo and Jeff Thompson. The ice-time gives them a better view of the field and increased hand-eye coordination, Kaminskas said.

The boys kicked off their season Friday. Their next home game is this Friday against Flint Powers at 8 p.m.

The second year is a charm for girls program

Varsity program established, ready to begin season this week

BY PAUL KAMPE

Staff Writer

There is a first time for everything, and this season is the inaugural for the varsity girls' lacrosse team.

Steve Reardon, who along with Renee Turner, Justin Tanner, and Kaitlyn Sitar, will coach the team, watched the girls improve

in a recent scrimmage at Swartz Creek.

After fielding only a junior varsity team last season, the program now has more than 50 members, enough to divide into split squads.

The girls will play close to 14 games by Reardon's estimate, and

he hopes for a .500 season in the team's pilot run.

"We have some natural athletes that have picked it up pretty quick," Reardon said.

"We're pretty tough on defense and we have seven or eight hard shooters on offense."

Overall, Reardon said,

the team is nearing the same skill level of other programs in just its second year of existence.

The number of players in girls' lacrosse is rapidly growing, Reardon said, because of the relatively low startup costs. The sports' youth has been a hindrance in schedule-making, because of the lack of game officials familiar with the sport. That has been the most difficult part of getting the program up and running.

Sitar, a four-year player from the club program at Albion College, said the girls are beginning to take a handle on the nuances in the rulebook.

"They're very interested in learning the rules and the right way to play," Sitar said.

"They're very interested in piecing that together.

"Making sure everyone is on the same page with the rules has been a big deal. They're definitely

getting there. (Versus Swartz Creek) they were so excited and ready to keep playing. They're ready to attack the season and take it game by game and start playing."

The girls' willingness to learn and mesh well as a team has made the going easier, Sitar said, and the team is only getting better.

"The first year was more to learn and now there are (two teams), and the varsity is ready to win," Sitar said.

The girls take on Flint Carman-Ainsworth Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in their home opener.



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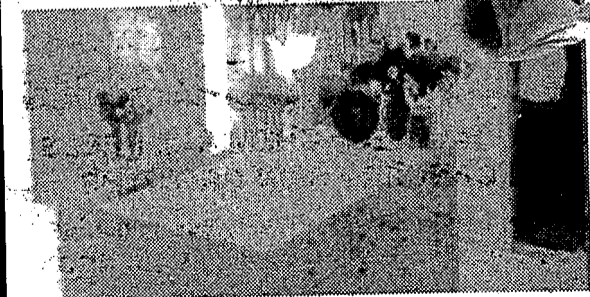
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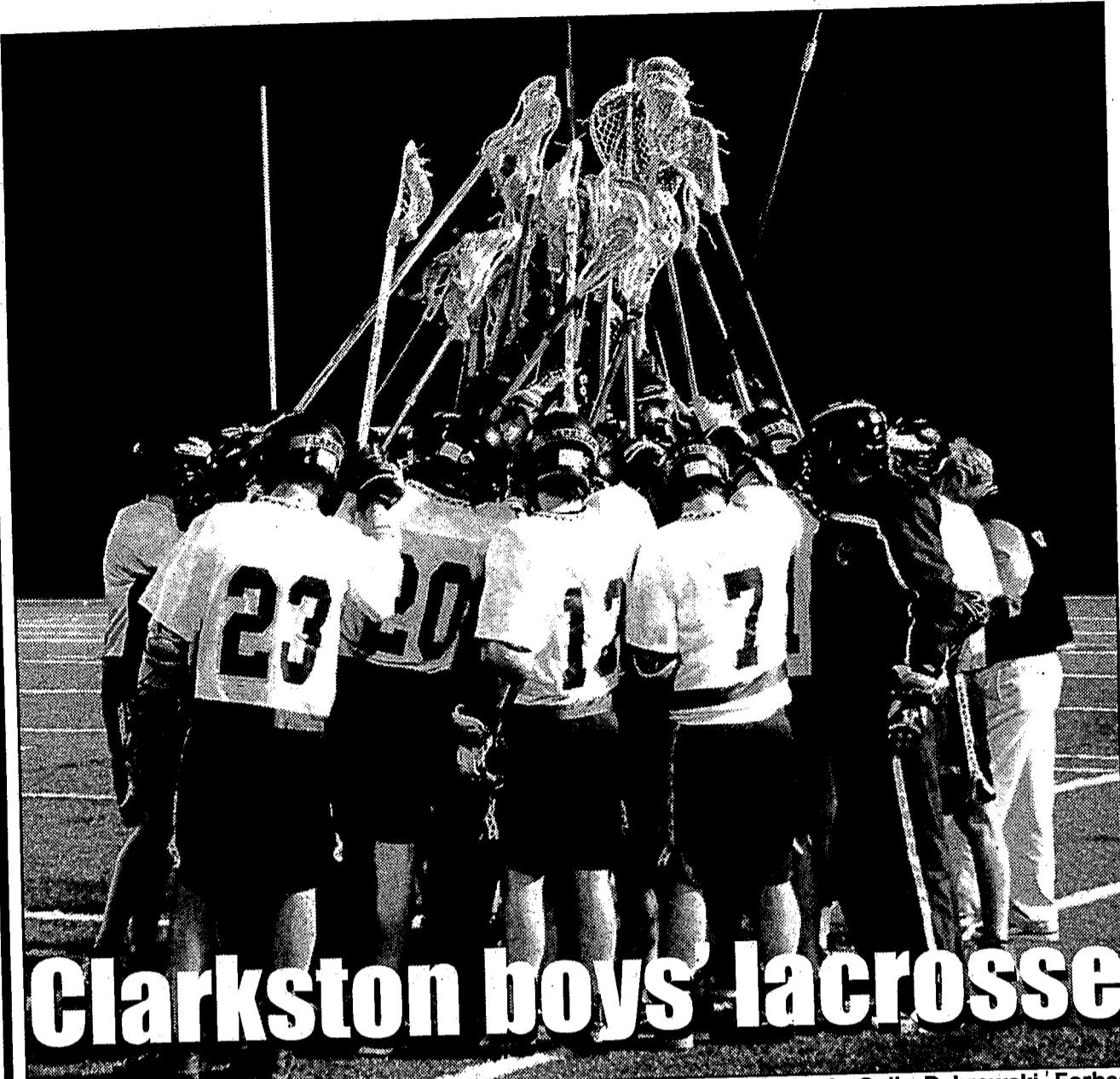
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Clarkston boys' lacrosse

The Wolves are: Warren Anderson, Jon Avery, Andrew Baker, Curt Cook, Colin Dabrowski, Forbes Dever, Nick Fantin, Kevin Glaier, Stephen Giannaris, Weston Gliess, Adam Haslinger, Taelor Hasse, Grant Hoben, Nick Johnson, Robert Julian, Zack Lewy, Jackson Marr, Daniel Marsac, James Maurer, Matthew McEntree, Ryan Morell, Ryan Morin, Nicholas Perry, Michael Proctor, Phillip Rutila, Chris Salo, Eric Salo, Andrew Schram, Warren Swartz and Jeff Thompson. Photo by Paul Kampe



Clarkston girls' lacrosse

Girls' Lacrosse varsity: Heather Arnold, Amanda Baker, Kellyn Carpenter, Jessica Craig, Rachel DeRiso, Danielle Dreslinski, Lauren Fredericksen, Becky Furlo, Bianca Gonzalez, Jessica Goyke, Laure Grunis, Andrea Ingersol, Stephanie Kincaid, Lindsay Kolich, Kately Kovacic, Karissa McCatty, Kelli McKay, Mickayla Meola, Courtney Morse, Rachel Napier, Liz Osterhage, Lindsay Petku, Brooke Reardon, Kelsey Reardon, Samantha Rogers, Katie Sherman, Carrie Thams and Lauren Thams. Junior Varsity: Sarah Butzler, Katie Chasins, Rachel Compagnoni, Jenica Dabrowski, Justine Dezess, Suzanne Kohlmeir, Andrea Kovacic, Devon Lawrey, Katie Lowes, Kara Marsac, Joanna Mazlarz, Cassandra Neynaber, Chesney Oldenburg, Melinda Ortiz, Sarah Ponsetto, Amanda Rosenhan, Stephanie Rosenhan, Hannah Sim, Amy-Kate Swayne, Carrie Thams, Kelsey Thompson and Krissy Works. Photo by Paul Kampe

Best of Luck to the Girls Lacrosse Team!

Look for their results in
The Clarkston News



Go Wolves!

The Clarkston News

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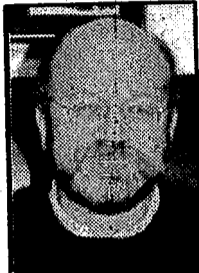
Village life isn't just what township 'allows'

I have a lot of thoughts on the issue of "consolidation." I first heard about this when Robyn, my wife, was at the Village Hall talking to the City Manager.

I then had the opportunity to talk to Trustee Dan Kelly at a lake board meeting prior to the last Township Board meeting. I was also at the last Township Board meeting and he and I both spoke on this subject.

I have read the many articles that have been in the papers. The Clarkston City Council, and residents, were never formally informed of this pending action and every version I read or hear about is a little different.

But the idea seems to be consistently the same from Mr. Kelly and now Trustee Dunn, get rid of the City of the Village of Clarkston and make it all part of the Township, with a name to be determined at some time in the future, and we will all save money.



Cory Johnston

A bold move to say the least.

I have a lot of respect for someone taking on this subject, or even the less contentious issue of just saving money, and I thank Mr. Kelly and Mr. Dunn for introducing the subject for discussion.

There are a lot of comments I would like to make but all the information is not yet available. So my safest way to start a discussion is just to respond to Mr. Kelly and his quoted statements as printed in *The Clarkston News* last week.

Kelly: "The Township is currently allowing the city to have the benefits of a library, a fire department and parks and recreation..."

Allowing?

We pay the Township almost \$250,000 every year for night time sheriff, library and fire services. We pay 10 percent more than township residents for what we believe are exactly the same services.

Prior to renewal of the library contract last year we were paying 19 percent more than township residents for the use of the library. The library and fire service were originally started in the Village of Clarkston by village and township residents and moved out of the "Village" as they expanded to meet the growth of the township.

We pay for services rendered and assume that the fees are equitably derived by the township administration as part of the 10 percent "administration" fee!

There are other legal considerations with these agreements but since I am not a lawyer I will leave that for others. The simple truth is we are purchasing a service just like the township purchases police services from the Oakland County Sheriff Department.

If someone thinks the current contracts are not fair and equitable, or they just don't want our money, please come and talk to us.

Parks and Recreation? We have a sharing agreement for parks and recreation because we allow the township to use Deer Lake Beach as a public access and recreation site. The Deer Lake Beach property is owned by the Village of Clarkston and Independence Township uses it at no cost except for the shared use of township parks.

If this arrangement is not satisfactory, the township can terminate the contract and we will all move on.

Kelly: "And yet, we're allowing them to stay their own little entity."

I hope this is not what was said, not what was intended, or at least taken out of context.

As I understand the process, we became a "city" because we were a "village" before that. I think we have actually been a village about as long as Independence has been a township.

We do not need township permission to be a city and the township has absolutely no say on whether we exist as one or not.

It is not even up to the Clarkston City Council. This is strictly up to our residents.

However, the Village of Clarkston and Independence Township have been working together for almost 175 years. I think we should all "allow" that to continue in the equitable and shared manner we always have.

Kelly: First, Governor Granholm and the state legislature said sharing and consolidation of government would be the basis of granting state shared revenues in the future.

The actual speech by Governor Granholm said: "Cities and townships that want to see their revenue sharing increase this year will need to show us they are sharing services or consolidating with other units of government to save taxpayers money," as copied from the state web site.

As a trustee, I am sure Mr. Kelly is aware of the interpretation of laws and statements. Did the Governor mean consolidation and sharing of government services, consolidation of governments, and what exactly is a unit of government?

The first relevant noun is "services" so I think under standard protocols of interpretation, this is what is being defined. I am not sure but I will be happy to ask the governor and see if her intent is to get rid of local government and control. Perhaps we can get rid of all of them and just be the State of Michigan thereby getting rid of the problem of what to call the Township.

Kelly: Second, township and city are incurring expenses for contract negotiation and legal representation. The Consolidation would save both money.

I have no doubt that if one of us did not exist, somebody would save some money by not having to pay the other.

But let's put this in perspective.

If my memory is correct, we have five contracts with the Township; fire, night time police, library, water and sewer. These contracts have ranged from 3 to 10 years in length. So on average we are negotiating less than one contract per year.

The township charges a 10 percent administration fee on most if not all of these services, presumably to

cover things like legal costs. We have never been told exactly what the administration fee is for but we trust Independence Township to only be charging the cost of providing the service, since this is not a tax.

In the total township legal budget, or even ours, this has got to be a very, very small percentage of the whole. I will refrain from going into detail about the ongoing "keyholing" ordinance since that did not come up until after Mr. Kelly was quoted, but how much has Independence Township spent in legal fees on that and there is still no ordinance.

With all due respect to attorneys, I would keep them out of this. Policy is the responsibility of elected officials, not their attorneys.

Kelly: The third reason the consolidation would work, is that it would save tax dollars, especially for city residents, but also for those living in the township.

We all appreciate this concern as we would all like to save money on taxes.

However, it became obvious at the Township Board meeting that this is not the primary concern of the Village of Clarkston residents in attendance.

We know what we pay in taxes and we know that Village of Clarkston residents pay more than township residents.

Many of us have lived in the village for many years and have moved from one village house to another. I did, the people who bought my house have done so twice, some of my former and present neighbors have and other council members have.

I admit it is difficult to understand, or explain, but it is the way we are in the Village of Clarkston.

It takes much more than just an understanding of the bottom line to know why we do what we do. To me it's just that while you can always live cheaper, it's the living better that matters.

I am less than half way through *The Clarkston News* article, and could keep this up for quite awhile.

I have a lot of things to read, including the information Mr. Kelly submitted to the Township Board. As I have said to Mr. Kelly, and the Independence Township Board, I am all in favor of cutting costs and taxes, working together, and I think we can share far better than we are doing.

I hope this begins an honest discussion that includes our residents. With all the current problems Independence is now facing, this may not be the ideal time, but the offer from me is always there and I am confident the Village of Clarkston will be.

Cory Johnston is a member of the Clarkston City Council.

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Allison Palmer and Sarah Maulbetsch belt out the tune "What is this Feeling."



Owen Alexander strums on the guitar, with the help of Valerie Kirsch.

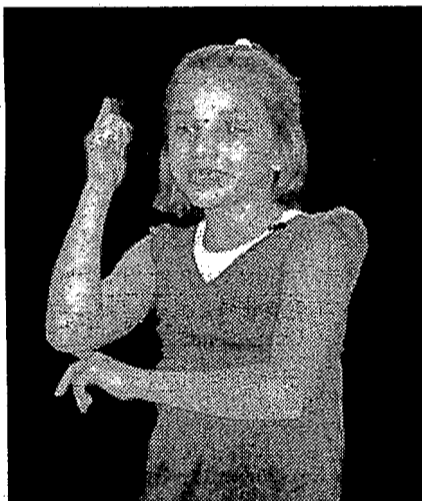
Lots of variety at Indep. El.

Independence Elementary students rehearsed for their eighth annual Variety Show last week.

The show was March 22, and featured students doing their best dance, music, and comedy routines.

With the show, students and teachers enter the home stretch, fourth and final semester of the school year.

Photo story by Phil Custodio



McKenna Cameron, left, and Maureen Stewart dance to "Together We Can."



Thomas Ridge plays a tune on his violin.

Car raffle to benefit Milzow fund

A fully loaded 2007 black Saturn Sky Roadster is being raffled to benefit the Jacqueline Milzow Scholarship Fund.

One thousand tickets will be sold for \$100 each. They are available at Clarkston's Deer Lake Athletic Club, 6167 White Lake Road.

Each ticket also grants admission to a raffle party, with entertainment, strolling dinner, auction, and cash bar.

The party is set for 7-11 p.m. March 31 at Deer Lake Banquet Center.

The fund was established in 2004 in memory of Milzow, special education teacher in Pontiac and Clarkston community activist.

It awarded scholarships to Clarkston SCAMP summer day camp for children and adults with special needs.

Last year, the fund provided \$5,000.

It also provided a \$4,200 scholarship to a student to attend Orchard Lake St. Mary's Preparatory High School.

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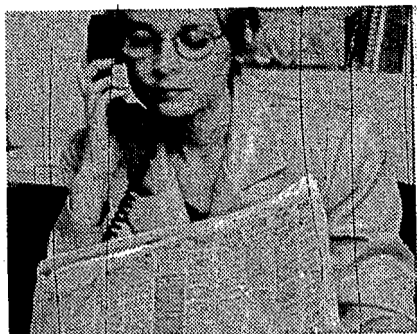
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- April 20, 21, 22 Westland Mall
- April 27, 28, 29 Meridian Mall (Okemos)
- May 4, 5, 6 Midland Mall
- June 2 WCSX Pet-a-Palooza/Craft Heritage Park - Taylor
- June 9, 10 19th Annual Metro Beach - Mt. Clemens
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Collecting food for a good cause

The Girls Scouts from Bailey Lake Elementary School in Clarkston gathered food for one of their service projects. The canned and boxed food items will be donated to the Lighthouse of Oakland County for Easter dinner. Photo submitted

Deputies available for local meetings

BY LAURA COLVIN
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Deputies who patrol Independence Township's subdivisions want residents to know they're available to speak at neighborhood association meetings and other events.

"Many homeowners' associations have started scheduling their spring meetings," said Deputy Tony Allen, one of Independence Township's two dedicated patrol officers. "We'd like them to get us on the schedule early to talk about crime prevention in the neighborhoods."

As dedicated patrol officers, Allen and partner Dave Stewart spend 100 percent of their time on the road driving through neighborhoods to watch for and prevent crime.

Property crimes, said Allen, is the latest trend among law-breaking citizens of the community.

"People drive around looking for open garage doors," he said. "They'll steal lawn mowers, weed whips, cars."

Valuables such as computers, cameras, radio equipment and CDs are frequently stolen from both locked and unlocked cars left in the driveway or open garage, as well.

And, Allen added, many times a homeowner who leaves the garage door open also leaves the door leading to the house unlocked.

It is "an invitation for crime," he said, noting that a person stealing from a garage won't usually hesitate if access to the house is also available.

Still, he said, deputies see garage doors left open at all times of the day and night.

"Keep the garage locked," he said. "Stay vigilant and don't go out and leave the door open."

As for those committing the crime, Allen had a stern warning:

"If it's an attached garage we classify it as a home invasion," he said. "Most kids don't know that, they call it garage hopping. But it's a felony."

The deputies will talk about crime prevention at association meetings, scout meetings and other events, Allen said, and will pass out informative material and allow time for a question and answer period.

For more information or to schedule a dedicated patrol deputy to speak at a meeting or other event, Email Deputy Tony Allen at Allen@oakgov.com or Deputy Dave Stewart at Stewartda@oakgov.com. Inquiries can also be directed to the Independence Township substation at 248-620-4968.

Optimist scholarships to help local students

Continued from page A1

"The have the most youth clubs in the state," said Lou Moss, the 2006-2007 Michigan Optimist governor, who attended Saturday's event. "The members are truly dedicated to kids and the community."

The club also sponsors programs such as high school and music scholarships, oratorical and essay contests, basketball competitions, and youth gold outings. And last year, the scholarship program was expanded to include students from Renaissance High School, the Clarkston Community School's alternative high school.

"We weren't doing justice to all the kids in Clarkston," said Sandy Diederich, a longtime Optimist

member who helped put together a proposal supporting expansion of traditional scholarship criteria. "These kids have had different obstacles in their life, but they are just as deserving."

While the traditional scholarship awards are based on academic achievement and community involvement, she said, Renaissance students are awarded based on character and commitment to personal growth.

Regular Clarkston Optimist Club meetings are held at the Liberty Golf and Banquet Center each Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. For meeting and membership information, call Roger Deiderich at 248-625-5915.

See page 8B for photos from the fundraiser.

CAYA to honor outstanding youth April 19

Clarkston Area Youth Assistance will recognize local outstanding youth at its annual Youth Recognition Event at 7 p.m. April 19 at Clarkston United Methodist Church.

Youth nominations were solicited from Clarkston-area schools, community organizations and individuals. The purpose of this event is to recognize youth who have made an outstanding contribution to an individual or an organization without compensation for their time. Nominees are selected based on voluntary services; paid services are ineligible.

With the help of volunteers, CAYA identifies the needs of the community and implement programs that

help school-aged children and their families. The organization is one of 26 in the county.

It is principally funded by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, and administered and sponsored by Oakland County Circuit Court - Family Division. CAYA is sponsored locally by Clarkston Community Schools, the City of the Village of Clarkston, and the townships of Independence and Springfield.

CAYA offers family education programs, school presentations, a mentoring program, a yearly youth recognition event, summer camp, and skill building experiences for the youth in our community.

Call Youth Assistance office at 248-625-9007.

Community volunteers read to kids

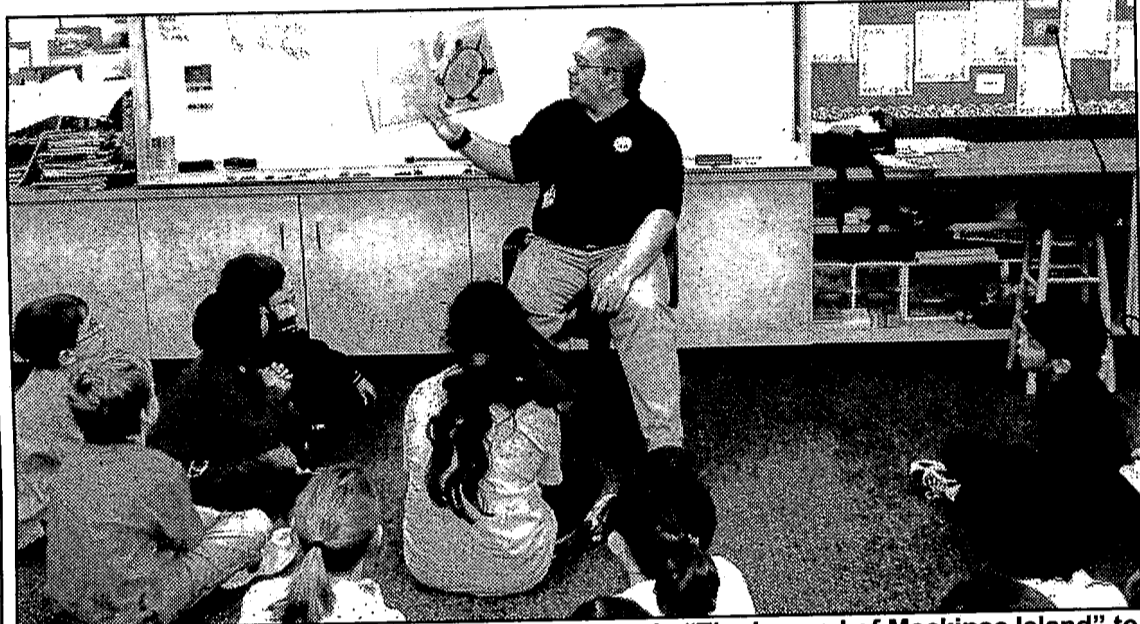
About 24 local school, business, and community professionals dropped in at Springfield Plains Elementary School this past Thursday.

Celebrity Reader Day invited members of the community to read to students and talk to them about what they do.

Readers were invited from state and county government, fire and police departments, school administration, and media personnel.



Michigan Rep. John Stakoe talks about state government with fifth graders in Marcie Mendieta's class.



Phil Custodio, Editor of *The Clarkston News*, reads "The Legend of Mackinac Island" to Megan Munafa's fourth-grade class.

Project Healthy Living scheduled for May 3

Clarkston Health Center and Sunrise Assisted Living present the 2007 Project Healthy Living 10 a.m.-2 p.m. May 3.

Free screenings include blood pressure, body composition, hearing, vision, glaucoma, podiatry exams, Osteopathic Manipulative Therapy evaluations and pulmonary function.

Free counseling services will be available for diabetes, nutrition, medication and dental health.

Health screening tests include:

- 22-profile blood panel, \$40. Four-hour fasting is recommended for this test, as glucose will be affected by a non-fasting state. Do not take any unnecessary medications.;
- Prostate Specific Antigen blood test for men, \$25;
- CA 125 ovarian cancer antigen blood test for women, \$25;
- Colorectal cancer

screening kits, \$8;

• H-pylori blood test for ulcers, \$15;

• Cardio CRP blood test, which may indicate the chances of heart attack or stroke, \$25; and

• Iron blood test, \$5.

Mammograms will be offered for \$70 due at the time of the exam.

Pre-registration is required and appointments can be made by calling 248-620-4222.

Other fee-based exams not requiring pre-registration include: Bone density screening, \$25; ankle brachial index stroke screening, \$35; and carotid artery stroke screening, \$35.

Clarkston Health Center is located at 5625 Water Tower Place in Clarkston off of Dixie Highway, north of White Lake Road, next to the blue water tower. Call Marie Bristow, 248-620-4290, or check www.projecthealthyliving.org.

Recycling at Springfield library

Springfield Township Library earns money by collecting paper for recycling.

Its recycling bin is open 24/7, and accepts office paper, shredded

paper, newspapers, magazines, wrapping papers, and junk mail.

For more information, call the library, 12000 Davisburg Rd., at 248-846-6550.



SPECTACULAR EASTER BRUNCH & DINNER BUFFET

April 8th, 2007

Brunch Buffet:

10 am - 2 pm

Dinner Buffet:

3 pm - 5:30 pm

\$19.95 Adult

\$9.95 Children (ages 4-11)

Toddlers 3 and under no charge.

1 1/2 Hour Seating, Non Smoking

Reservations are a must.



Open To The Public:
No Membership
Required

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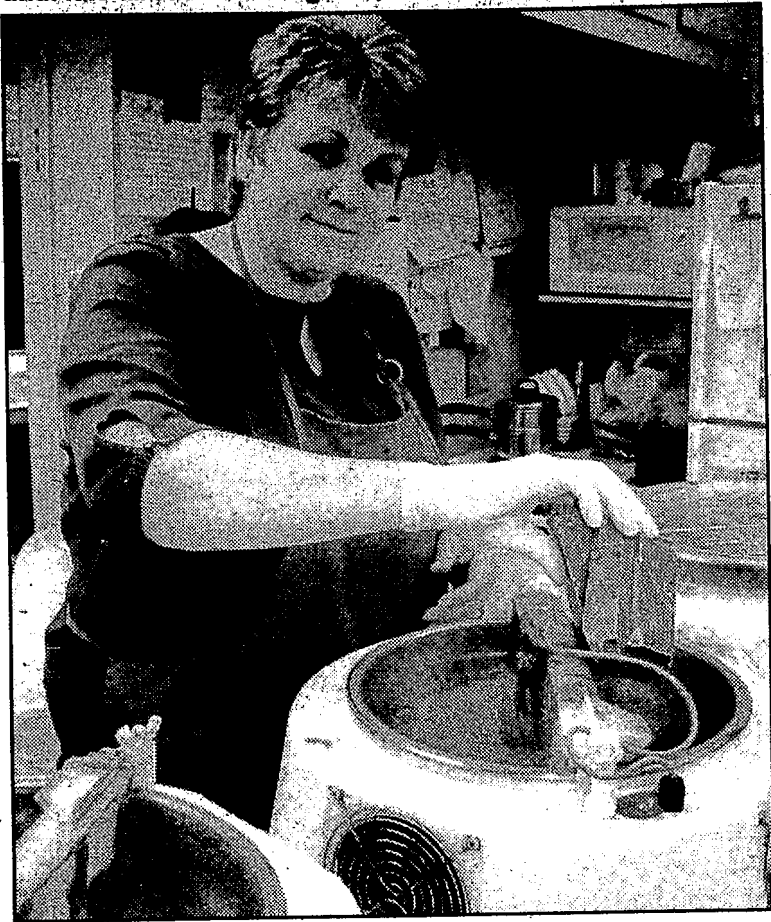
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Located on White Lake Rd. just south of Dixie Hwy. in Clarkston • www.deerlakeathleticclub.com

Step one: Melt the chocolate. Gaylene Portela places chunks of pure Belgian chocolate, broken off a five-and-a-half pound block, into a tempering pot. The chocolate is heated and stirred until it is about 84-90 degrees, then cooled, or tempered.



Step two: pick a mold. Chocolate Moose has hundreds of plastic molds in baskets all over the store. Easter calls for lots of chocolate bunnies.



In a new national survey by the National Confectioners Association, chocolate and candy bunnies far outrank live rabbits as the most desired Easter gift.

The leading reason confectionery bunnies hop to the top, at 38 percent, is they don't need feeding or clean up. Other winning attributes:

Chocolate is always the best present (20 percent); Chocolate bunnies are always sweet (13 percent); Chocolate bunnies don't bite back (8 percent); Chocolate or candy bunnies don't run away (6 percent).

Most prefer a solid chocolate bunny (42 percent), followed by hollow chocolate (21 percent), marshmallow (10 percent), and other types (9 percent).

Step three: Prepare to pour. Portela carefully spoons melted chocolate into a squeeze bottle. Some chocolate makers pour straight into the mold, but she likes the control a squeeze bottle has over the flow.



Time to make the chocolate bunnies

Christie Kojima and her staff at The Chocolate Moose in downtown Clarkston are hard at work making hundreds of chocolate bunnies, cream-filled eggs, and other treats for the upcoming Easter holiday.

New this year are four types of cream-filled

eggs: Cranberry Nut, Very Berry, Irish Coffee Toffee, and Pina Colada.

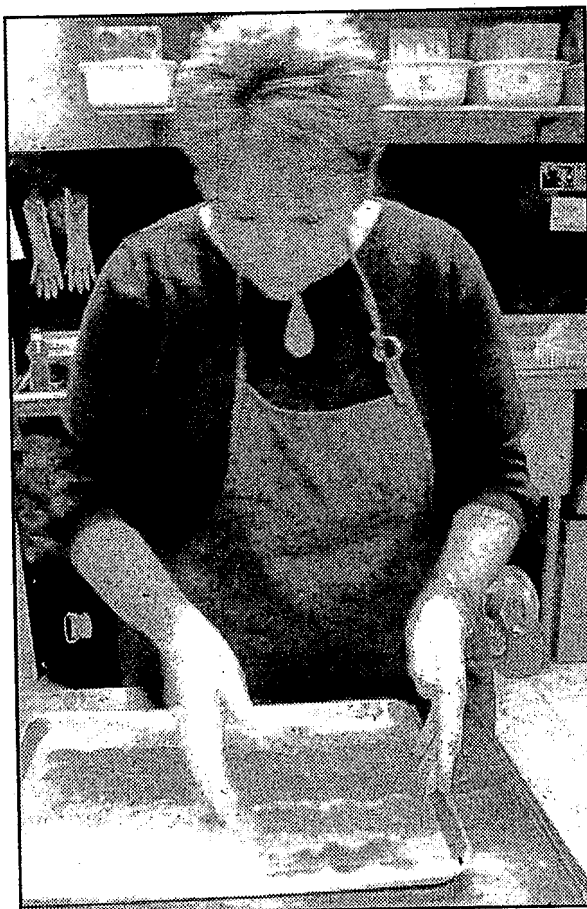
"My favorite is Pina Colada," said store manager Gaylene Portela.

They make all their chocolate in the shop, 23 S. Main Street. Portela demonstrated how.

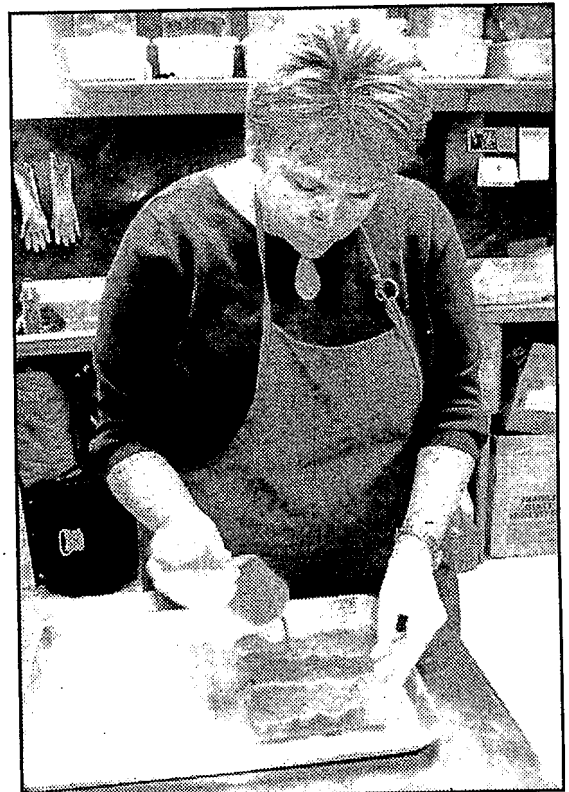
Photo story by Phil Custodio



Step six: Box it up. After about a half hour cooling in the fridge, the 4.5-ounce bunny is ready for packaging. It's boxed, wrapped, and available at the Chocolate Moose for \$5.95.



Step five: Give it a shake. Portela gives each mold a careful jiggle to eliminate air pockets.



Step four: Pour into the mold. She squeezes out just enough melted chocolate to fill it. The plastic mold doesn't need non-stick spray or any other type of preparation — it just needs to be clean.

NCA has released "The Big Bunny's Top 10" about the leading reasons chocolate bunnies outrank live rabbits as Easter gifts:

10. They don't require bathing
 9. Don't need their toenails clipped
 8. Won't hop out of your Easter basket
 7. Don't shed on your Easter clothes
 6. Can't bite back when you nibble on their ears (76 percent of people eat the ears first on candy bunnies)
 5. Can come to the dinner table
 4. Can be shared with your friends and family
 3. Are easy to travel with
 2. Are always sweet in nature
 1. Never require feeding or clean up
- More info? Check www.CandyUSA.org.

SECTION(S)

MISSING