

The Clarkston News

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2 Sections 56 pages 50¢

Clarkston kids
show their creativity
with *Dolphin Splash*
see page 15A

Vol. 79

Wed. January 16, 2008

Birthday bash for businesses

Chamber celebrates past, plans for future

BY TREVOR KEISER

Clarkston News Staff Writer

In 1988, George Bush was president, the economy threatened recession, and the Clarkston Area Chamber of Commerce had about 50 members.

History may have repeated itself 20 years later, except the chamber now has 638 members.

Marking its 20th anniversary, the chamber Board of Directors hosts a celebration Thursday, Jan. 24, at Deer Lake Athletic Club.

"The 20th anniversary, I think, is an important opportunity for us to look back, pay homage to our tradition of the great people who have helped form our chamber, and all of our accomplishments," said Executive Director Penny Shanks, chamber member for 11 years.

"It's also a huge opportunity for us to look forward and to look at where we are going for the next 5,

10, 15, and 20 years."

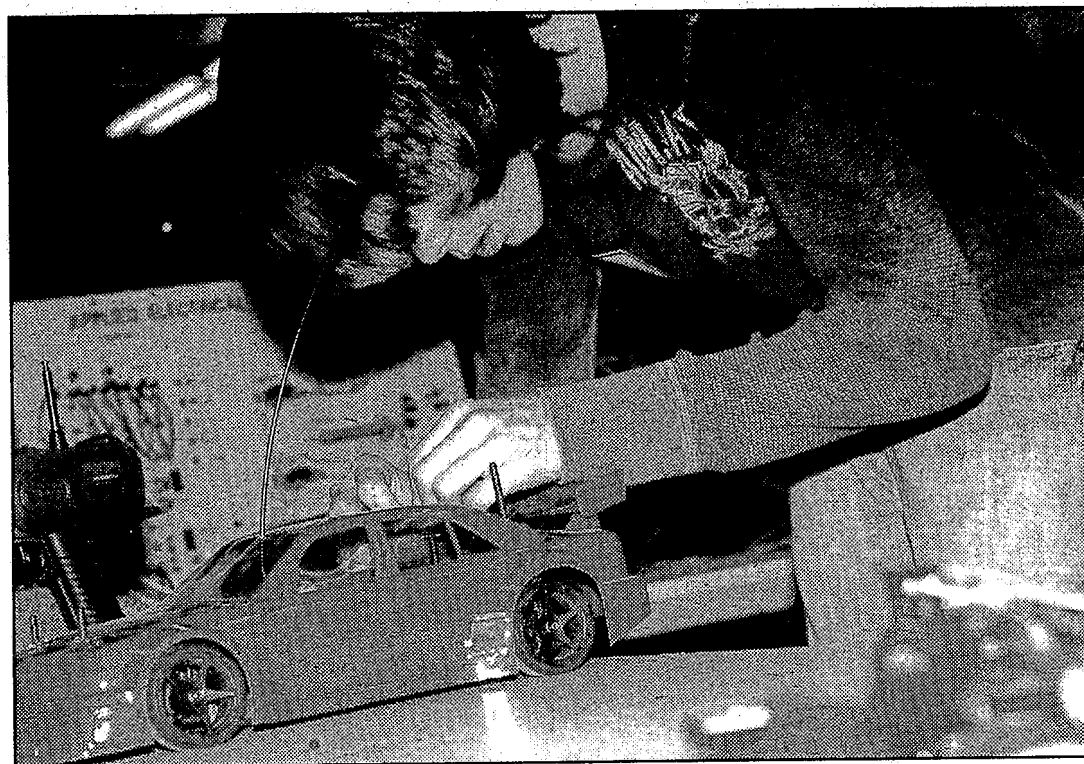
The evening will include socializing, dinner, dancing, with music by Rick and Dayna Lieder Band, and special speaker Robert Chioini, president and chief executive officer of Rockwell Medical Technologies.

"I think with the 20th anniversary, it's a way to celebrate a lot of the accomplishments that we've had," said Lou Melone, president of the 638 member chamber. "And I'm here, obviously, only for a short period, my 2008 stint, but we figured a nice anniversary party dinner and celebrating some of the things that the chamber has accomplished, and hopefully we can set a path goal forward."

Melone said his main goal for 2008 is helping small business owners in the chamber get tools and resources they need to make it through the current Michigan. Please see Chamber on page 5A



Steve Main, owner of Main Shoes, and Lou Melone, president of Clarkston Area Chamber of Commerce, at the chamber's Jan. 10 Business Over Breakfast at Main Shoes, 7113 Dixie Highway.



Engineering the future

Chris, a student at Oakland Technical Campus Northwest, readies his engineering project for demonstration. Please see page 27A for a story on the school program. Photo by Laura Colvin

Springfield on fast track to change

BY LAURA COLVIN

Clarkston News Staff Writer

Help wanted: Supervisor, clerk and treasurer. Part time, no benefits. Must win election.

It's not official yet, but one Springfield Township trustee believes current economic conditions warrant a look at the pros and cons of hiring a township manager and reducing full-time elected officials to part-time status.

At Thursday's board meeting, Trustee Denny Vallad suggested the township could save roughly \$76,000 annually by hiring a full-time manager to handle day-to-day operations, while a part time supervisor, clerk and treasurer could address statutory office requirements and set township policy.

Vallad, a 20-year board veteran,

was careful to point out that estimated savings were speculative and could only be determined by gathering information and implementing the plan.

But, he said, even if a switch turned out to be cost-neutral, a change could get the township operating in a more cost-effective manner.

"The whole thought was to look at this from an efficiency standpoint," he said. "How are we spending money? Are we getting the biggest bang for our buck?"

The idea, he said, was developed in a finance committee Vallad proposed last fall to look at ways the township could save money.

In addition to potential savings, Vallad and other members of the board saw additional benefits to hiring a township manager, or superintendent, to oversee operations.

Allowing the possibility of part-time elected officials, for example, would open the race to individuals who are otherwise employed and might not consider running for a full-time position.

"Or retired people who don't want a full-time job," said Vallad. "They have a lot of experience in business, and life in general, at that stage in their life, and certainly the township could benefit from those experiences."

Vallad said he and other members of the committee were planning to meet with the township supervisor, clerk and treasurer over the coming weeks to determine exactly how statutory, as well as day-to-day responsibilities, are carried out.

"What I'm trying to find out is how much time they're spending on these. Please see Change on page 10A

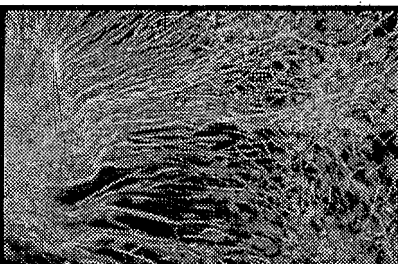
A Stem Cell

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What are the ethics?

The Kirk in the Hills will host a presentation by a panel from the Michigan Citizens for Stem Cell Research and Cures to discuss the potential for curing disease and the ethical questions involved. Our panel of experts will include:

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- Dorothy A. Nelson, Ph.D., Wayne State University
- Marcia Baum, Executive Director, MCSCRC
- Rev. Norman Pritchard, D.Div., Senior Pastor



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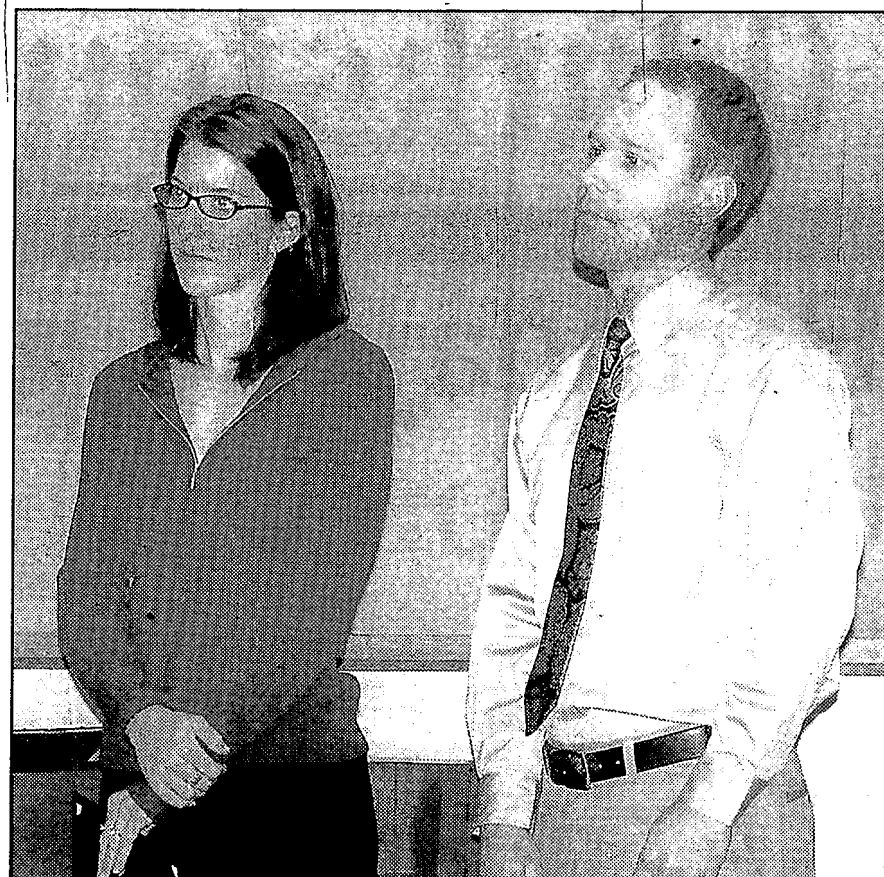
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Kyleen Cunningham and Brian Pierce receive their tenure at Monday's Board of Education meeting. *Photo by Phil Custodio*

Tenure time

Clarkston High School teachers Kyleen Cunningham and Brian Pierce took their oaths of tenure Monday.

Cunningham has taught Spanish at the high school for the past four years. Her performance has exceeded expectations in planning, subject knowledge, delivery, and

other areas, a critical factor in granting tenure in Clarkston, said Principal Vince Licata. Pierce, social studies teacher, has a strong work ethic, and commitment to his as well as the community, Licata said.

Both teachers also coach sports and other afterschool activities.

The Clarkston News

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Briefly . . .

Prizes for New Year's newest baby

The Clarkston News is looking for the the first Clarkston-area baby of 2008. We want to give you (and your parents) lots of prizes, including gift certificates to local restaurants, photo studios, and shops, and a year's subscription to *The Clarkston News* so you can stay informed.

The first baby born in the new year, living in Clarkston, townships of Independence or Springfield, or Clarkston Community Schools, will win.

Entry must include written statement from your family doctor giving exact time, day, date, and place of birth. Please include the baby's name, sex, weight, parents' names, address, and daytime phone number.

Shovel that snow

Clarkston city officials remind residents that failure to clear snow from residential sidewalks within 24 hours is a safety hazard as well as a violation of city ordinance.

Elderly or physically handicapped residents who need assistance with the task can call City Councilwoman Kristy Ottman, who will assign the work to local volunteers.

Ottman can be reached at 248-625-0584.

Story idea?

Tell us about it at

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ClarkstonNews@gmail.com

Working together

Multi-district study could solve school money troubles

BY PHIL CUSTODIO

Clarkston News Editor

The new year brings its share of challenges for Clarkston Community Schools.

First and foremost: keeping classroom standards high while tightening up the budget.

"Funding is the hottest issue right now," said Dr. Al Roberts, superintendent.

The school district uses a combination of budget cuts and revenue enhancement, Roberts said.

About 90 percent of the district budget comes from the state, which distributes money based on number of students.

State funding has not kept pace with cost increases from inflation and energy, he said.

Roberts' lobbying efforts include meetings with state officials at least every other month with the Oakland County Superintendents Association, in Lansing as well as Oakland County, and 2-3 times a year with the Tri County Alliance for Public Education.

One effort by the Tri-County Alliance, representing 86 school districts in Oakland, Wayne, and Macomb counties, is a comprehensive study of school finance.

"The study would provide legislators and school officials with the same standard — what does it cost to provide a quality education in Michigan," Roberts said.

"There's lots of uncertainty," said Dr. Jean Sergent, executive director for Tri County Alliance. "The situation is that school districts are receiving funding based on what's left (in the state budget)."

A definitive answer would simplify district budgeting by removing uncertainty and unpredictability in state funding, Roberts said.

The alliance includes more than 70,000 students, and almost half of the K-12 school funding budget, about \$7 billion.

They hope to use the combined influence, along with cooperation with Michigan Association of School Boards, Michigan Association of School Administrators, and other groups, to push through the proposal, Sergent said.



Clarkston Superintendent Al Roberts and Trustee Karen Foyteck discuss an issue at Monday's school board meeting. Photo by Phil Custodio

"Time is running out — we need to stop talking and take action," she said. "Proposal A was approved in 1994. This is 2008. Things have changed dramatically. We need to step back and evaluate the funding mechanism and make sure it is stable, adequate, and equitable."

The study would cost about \$750,000 from the state and last 6-9 months. It would fund a Commission on Education Finance, Excellence, and Equity, to determine the base operating cost for each district.

Until those efforts bring results, Clarkston's administration and school board officials are working to cut costs and increase revenues from other sources, Roberts said.

The school board cut funding to central administration, bus transportation, custodian services, and other support departments as much as possible, he said.

"There's not much left to cut without impacting kids," he said. "If funding doesn't increase, that means staffing cuts."

Still, Roberts is optimistic.

"I'm excited about our Young 5s, International Baccalaureate, and OSMTech programs," he said.

The specialized programs serve students' needs, and, with their limited open enrollment to students from other districts, also serve as sources of additional revenue.

Community support continues to be

strong, he said.

"The community is exceedingly supportive," he said. "Citizens seem to have a great amount of faith in us — we have to continue to earn their trust."

High attendance of homecoming and concert events in Clarkston shows a strong attachment of alumni to their alma mater, he said.

"Kids here make a real connection to the Clarkston Wolves," he said.

Long-term plans include cultivating those alumni relations, and considering bond and millage proposals.

Most of the \$83.7 million collected in the 1983 capital-improvement bond has been spent. Another bond issue, which probably won't come up for another 10 years, would require lots of input from parents and the community, he said.

Other tax options include millages for recreation and sinking fund. A recreation millage would fund pool operations, auditoriums, community education, and athletic fields, providing relief to the general fund. A sinking fund could be used to help pay the district's debt.


Before moving forward with any of those, the district needs to reevaluate its master plan and work on its budget. These will be topics of upcoming Board of Education workshop meetings, Roberts said.

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Racing fans cheer on their favorite reindeer at the 2007 Reindeer Races. *File photo.*

Reindeer run returns

Racetrack fans can join in some reindeer games for a good cause next weekend.

Christmas is Action of Oakland County is hosting its third annual Night at the Races, Saturday, Jan. 26, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 5660 Maybee Road.

Eighteen wooden reindeer, sponsored and decorated by local businesses, will compete. People "bet" Reindeer Bucks on their favorites, as an announcer provides a lively play-by-play.

"It's just a blast, a fun activity," said Diane Midgley of Christmas in Action. "You can cut loose, yell, scream, and have a good time."

The Reindeer Race is the group's only fundraiser, Midgley said.

"It's successful for us, and something different for the Clarkston area," she said.

The non-profit group organizes a Work Day each year on the last Saturday in April, providing free repairs and renovation work for local people in need.

At the 2007 Work Day, hundreds of volunteers spent most of the day cleaning, replanting, and landscaping yards, and repairing, repainting, and even rewiring three Clarkston houses.

Christmas in Action works with Lighthouse North and Independence Township Senior Center when selecting recipients.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. ad races start at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15, and must be purchased in advance. A light dinner is included with each ticket. Call 248-625-4711.

- Phil Custodio

Fundraiser set Jan. 24

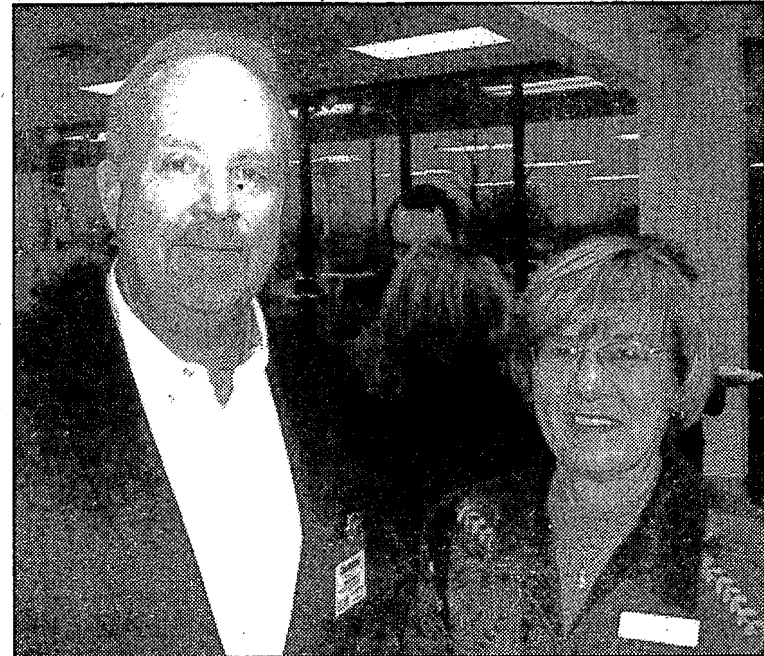
Real Estate One & Max Brook Realtors of Clarkston hosts a fundraiser for American Cancer Society and Special Olympics, 7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 24, at JD's Key Club, 1 North Saginaw, Pontiac.

Admission, \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door, includes pizza and entertainment. All cover charges and half the group's bar tab will be donated.

For more information or to RSVP, call Andrea Larson at 248-884-2994 or e-mail alarson@realestateone.com.



Katy Dixon, Discovery Business Solutions, and Chris Dillaway, Clarkston Chrysler Jeep, chat with Steve Main, owner of Main Shoes and host of the January Clarkston Chamber Business Over Breakfast.



Chuck Fortinberry, owner of Clarkston Chrysler Jeep, and Nancy Wasilk, Home Instead Senior Care, at the chamber Business Over Breakfast.

Chamber president plans small-business programs

Continued from page 1A
economy.

"Like I've told everyone, it's not a lot of fun, but you can't put your head in the sand. You've got to figure out how to get through it and move forward," he said.

He set up business education lunches starting in February with different speakers. Topics will include how to write business plans, traditional loan financing, balance sheets, alternative financing, marketing and business tricks, and exit planning.

"It's kind of the whole life cycle of small business owners," said Melone. "It comes down to just getting the tools, getting the resources to let them say 'where do I

need to go to find out this topic?' And we want the chamber to be the answer."

Melone has been a certified financial planner for the past 12 years. He spent six years with Morgan Stanley, and the past six years with Smith Barney, a wealth management firm on Wall Street and subsidiary of Citigroup.

"I deal with high net worth families and high net worth business owners, personal financial planning, estate planning, and business planning also buying and selling businesses," he said.

Melone grew up in Milford and moved to Clarkston nine years ago. He has been married to his wife, Aime, for nine years, and their son,

Austin, 6, attends Cedar Crest Academy. He joined the chamber to meet people because he didn't know any one when he moved here, he said.

"What's wonderful about Lou as president is he is very focused on the future and helping businesses now," Shanks said. "It's not just about sitting back and going 'we have a great chamber, isn't that wonderful.' It's how we can be better, how can we do more, how can we be more essential and help our businesses in the area. The 20th anniversary is just a really nice opportunity to really look at that whole picture and celebrate it."

To RSVP, call 248-625-8055. Cost is \$50 per person. Black Tie is optional.



Stacey Webb, Tropical Smoothie, and Steve Hyer, IGD Solutions, also at the BOB.

Community events?

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Keiser's Role

A column by Trevor Keiser

Political thoughts and the right to vote

Last Friday night, I spent the entire night flipping between C-Span and Fox News, trying to get some information on presidential candidates and listening to the candidates speak.

I must admit I was very proud of myself because I am not one who watches television news, even though I am in the news business. And I have never really cared much for politics.

To be honest, I never took the time to find out what each candidate stood for, I was "too busy" with school, life, sports, and everything else. Instead when it came time to vote I would just ask my parents who they liked and why, then vote accordingly.



This year I decided to watch some news, check some websites, listen to some speeches/ debates and educate myself on who the candidates are and what they say they hope to accomplish in office, so that I may make a vote according to who I think would be a good president.

Perhaps, I have also started taking an interest because of my job. Since I've been a reporter I have been pushed into the world of politics, at least at the local government level and a little at the state level.

From my twice monthly Independence Township Board meetings, to my stories concerning part-time legislature, I am finding myself more aware of how the world and politics work. How each decision at any level of government affects the general public.

Maybe because I am dealing with politics first hand as opposed to just reading it out of a book that my interest has been gained. Regardless of the reason, all of this has caused me to reflect upon our great nation and the road layed by our founding fathers for government to be ruled by the people. And with that ruling is our right to vote.

The revolutionary war took place between 1775-1783, it was estimated that 25,000 American Revolutionaries died during active military service. During that war on July 4, 1776, 56 men signed the Declaration of Independence, claiming their freedom from Great Britain and marking a new beginning. As it was written 232 years ago:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

Though I still believe politics in general are very corrupt and by no means do I think that America is a "perfect nation" without fault.

I am still proud to call myself an American and and thank God for the freedoms and liberties we have in this country as well as the men and women in the Armed Services preserving those freedoms everyday in the wars they fight.



From left are Clarkston Board of Education members Barry Bomier, Ronald Sullivan, Karen Foyteck, Joan Patterson, Stephen Hyer, Cherly McGinnis, and Joe Armstrong.

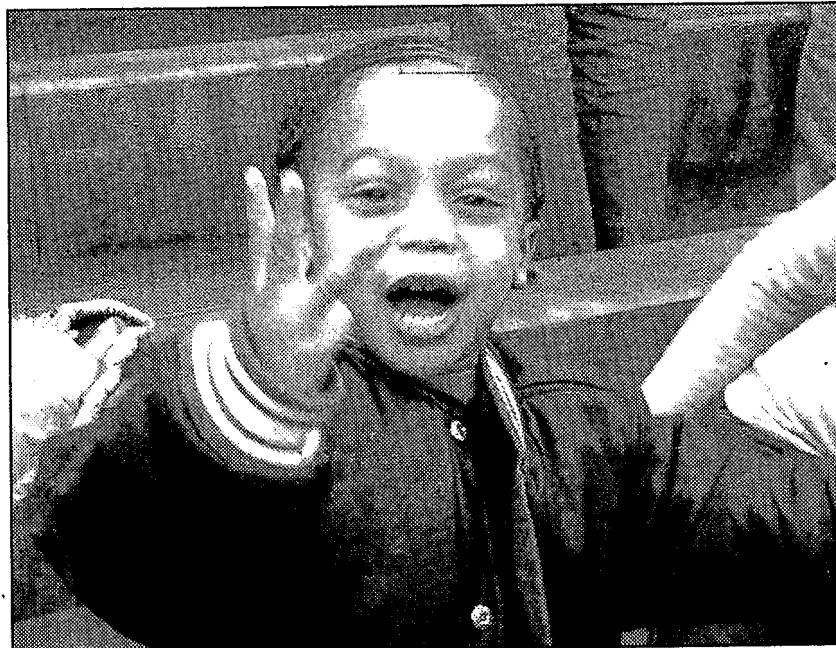
Honored for school service

The State of Michigan proclaimed January as School Board Appreciation Month, with the theme, "School Boards Lead Strong."

Clarkston Community Schools honored its school board. President Stephen Hyer, Vice President Barry Bomier, Secretary Joan Patterson, Treasurer Ron Sullivan, and trustees Karen

Foyteck, Cherly McGinnis, and Joe Armstrong, with several tokens of esteem, including donation in their name for students from the teachers' union and parent/teacher groups, and a box of cookies from food service.

"We thank you for all you do," said Brooke Davis, Clarkston Education Association.



Smile of the week

Jaden Simmons celebrates his third birthday by watching his cousin, Clarkston basketball's Julius Porter, help the Wolves win their game Friday. Photo by Wendi Reardon

Justice Thomas' freedom, unheard in campaign

Justice Clarence Thomas spoke at Hillsdale College recently. What he said about freedom isn't being said on anyone's campaign trail.

He was raised by his grandfather and grandmother starting at age nine. He said, "They made me what I am today. I always take offense when I hear it said that Yale or some other institution is responsible."

Hillsdale students questioned him about his book, *My Grandfather's Son*. I especially liked his answer to the question, "What is the most important lesson you learned from your grandfather?"

He told the students, "What my grandfather believed was that people had responsibilities, and that if they are left alone to fulfill their responsibilities, that is *freedom*. Honesty and responsibility, those are the things he taught.

"It's the same thing in a civil society. We're too focused on the benefits of a civil society and we think too little about the obligations we have -- the obligations to be civil, to learn about our history and our government, to conduct ourselves in a disciplined way, to help others, to take care of our homes. Too many conversations today have to do with rights and wants. There is not enough talk about responsibilities and duties."

Amen!

You don't, and will not hear, talk like this on any of the campaign trails. To-

day it's promises. Shades of Herbert Hoover, "A chicken in every pot!?" Or, the guy who promised, "Two cars in every garage." (Today that would have to be three cars.)

Jim's Jottings



a column by Jim Sherman

Now, the newspapers and airways are filled with office seekers promising total and complete medical care all the way to interment.

"What industry can't afford to do, I promise you my administration can."

I'm sure I heard one of them promise me free lottery tickets with 90 to 10 chances to win every week.

Health care and education are not your responsibility, they are your government's. It's not your duty, it's the government's.

Repeat it often enough, as attributed to Hitler, and people will come to believe it. So, the giving story is repeated often, with the 'how you going to pay for it?' never being brought up.

And, the food keeps being eaten, then some not-so-good food enters, and the result is pain only relieved by an enema. Be ready by having accepted your responsibilities.

- - - 0 - - -

After that serious stuff you deserve

my kind of relief: Horses can't vomit, butterflies taste with their feet, most lipstick contains fish scales and in every episode of Seinfeld there is a Superman somewhere.

- It's physically impossible for you to lick your elbow.

- The "sixth sick sheik's sixth sheep's sick" is said to be the toughest tongue twister in the English language.

- Thirty-five percent of the people who use personal ads for dating are already married.

- If the government has no knowledge of aliens, then why does Title 14, Section 1211 of the Code of Federal Regulations, implemented on July 16, 1969, make it illegal for U. S. citizens to have any contact with extraterrestrials or their vehicles?

(That one reminds me of our Department of Natural Resources law outlawing killing cougars, while at the same time it said none existed in Michigan.)

- It's physically impossible for pigs to look up into the sky.

- 23% of all photocopier faults worldwide are caused by people sitting on them and photocopying their butts.

- The electric chair was invented by a dentist.

- Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.

- Almost everyone who reads this will try to lick their elbow.

A Look Back

From *The CNews* archives

15 years ago - 1993

"Permits steady in 1992" Despite a shaky economy, the Clarkston area held its own or improved on the number of building permits over the past year. Building officials were hopeful conditions would continue to improve.

"Dog do-do crackdown possible" Clarkston City Council considered an ordinance requiring dog owners to clean up after their pets.

"Administrators answer bond issue questions" School officials provided details about a proposed \$16.1 million bond issue. It would be used to build a new elementary school, renovate schools, and upgrade technology.

"Laborer pens his way into science fiction arena" Bob Wagner of Independence Township was set to release his first novel, "Unearthly Visions." He hoped it would lead to a career as a writer.

25 years ago - 1983

"Levy pit nears public hearing" The Army Corps of Engineers and DNR were to host public hearings about a controversial proposal to mine 300 acres near the headwaters of the Clinton River. Levy Co. wanted to mine gravel.

"Loss of \$500,000 means 10.5 teacher layoffs" Enrollment was projected to drop by 263 students, requiring elimination of 10.5 teaching positions. School officials worried enrollment drops would mean the loss of a junior high school.

"Michigan senator to lobbyist" Clarkston School Board hired former Sen. Kerry Kammer as a lobbyist for \$3,400. They hoped he would bring in thousands for the district in additional state funding.

50 years ago - 1958

"Hi-Y Club had successful year" The 31 boys in the Hi-Y Club of Clarkston at the high school were proud of the success of their Christmas project. They sold wreaths and candy to help needy students.

"Clarkston locals" Paratrooper Bob Dewey enjoyed a furlough from his duties at Fort Campbell, Ky., with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Motsinger of Clarkston.

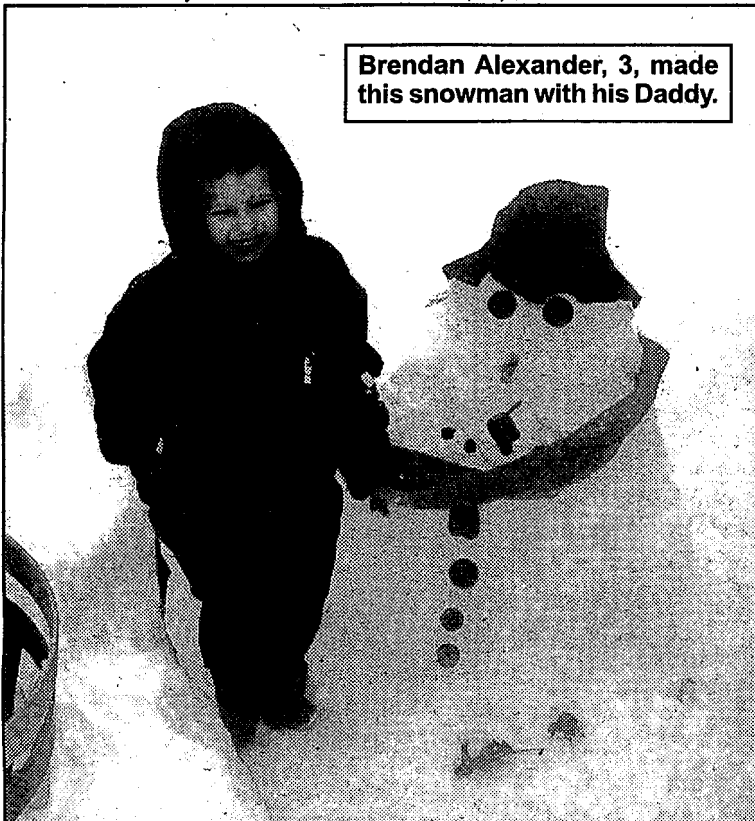
"Young people have monthly dance" The 21 Club enjoyed its monthly dance, with 189 members in attendance. The club was the proud possessor of a new portable record player and the latest records.

"Conservation district annual meeting" Independence Township hosted the group's annual meeting.

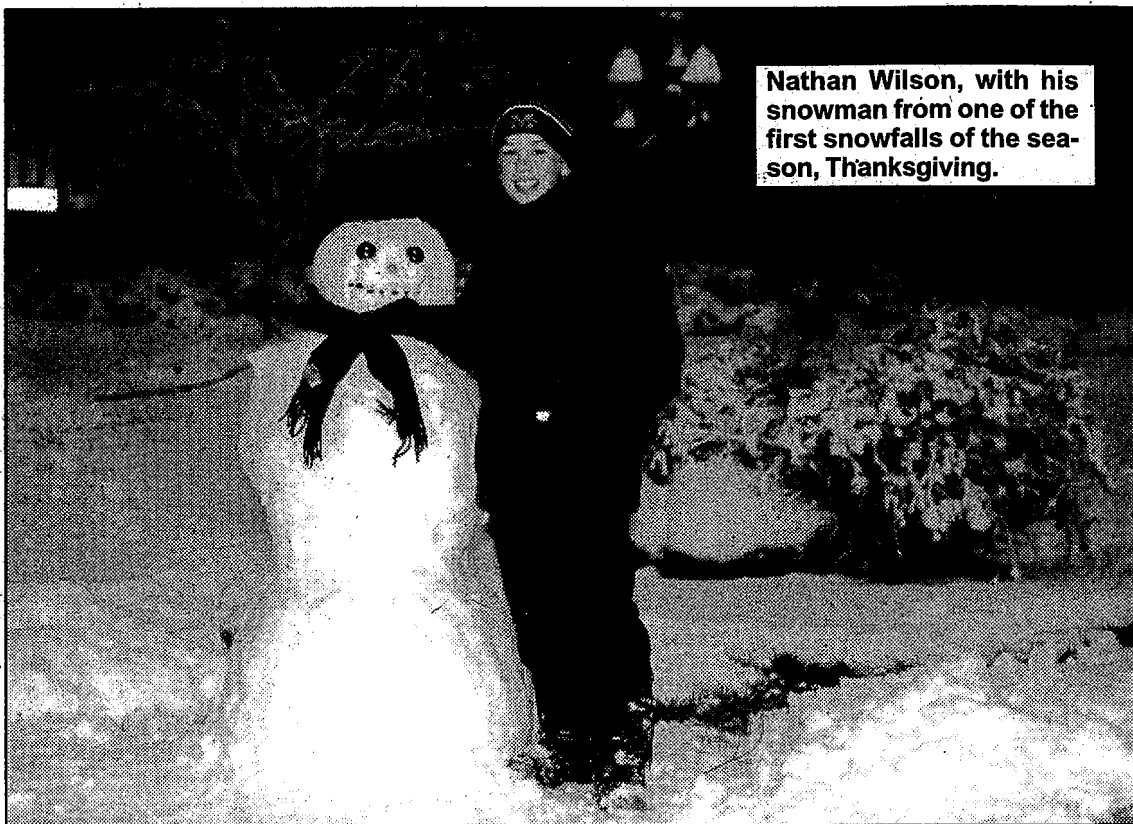
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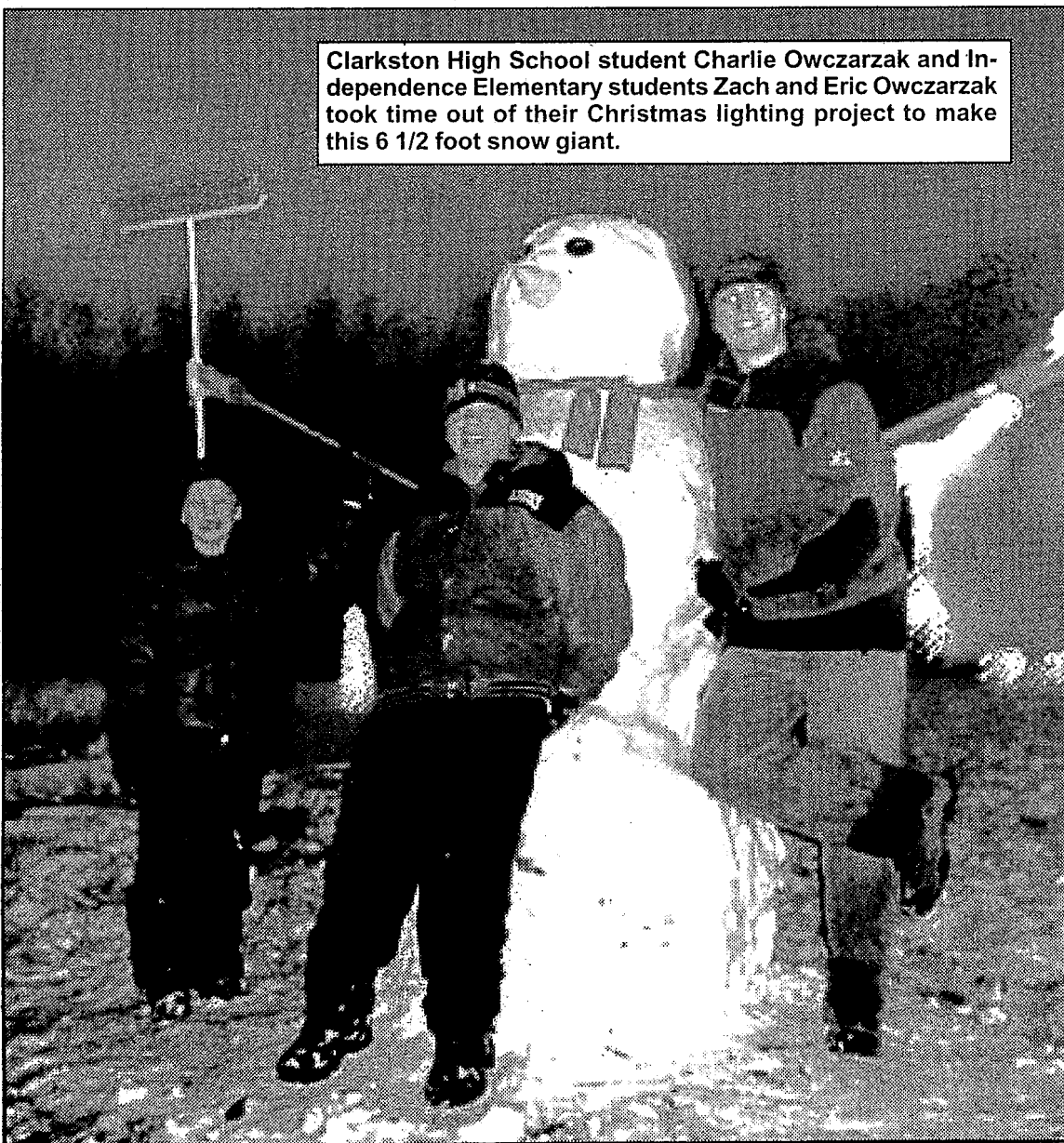
Please keep them short and to the point. We'll edit them for spelling, grammar, punctuation, clarity and length. We take the liberty of publishing (or not) all letters we receive. Please sign your letter (no photo copies!) and include a daytime phone for verifications. Deadline is noon, Monday. You can drop them or mail them to 5 S. Main Street, Clarkston, MI 48346; fax them at (248) 625-0706; or e-mail shermanpub@aol.com, attn: *Clarkston News*. Any questions call *The Clarkston News* at (248) 625-3370.



Brendan Alexander, 3, made this snowman with his Daddy.



Nathan Wilson, with his snowman from one of the first snowfalls of the season, Thanksgiving.



Clarkston High School student Charlie Owczarzak and Independence Elementary students Zach and Eric Owczarzak took time out of their Christmas lighting project to make this 6 1/2 foot snow giant.

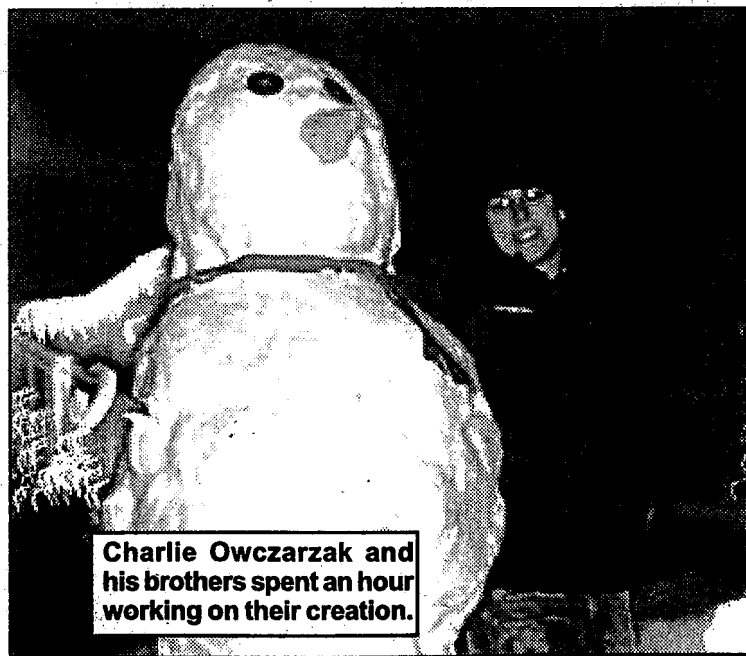
Rise of the snowmen

After a brief, few days of warmer weather, the snow is back, providing plenty of opportunity to build a snowman.

If you do, take a picture of it and send it to us (the picture, not the snowman).

We'll post all of them on our website, www.ClarkstonNews.com, and publish them in *The Clarkston News*.

E-mail photos, full-size as an attachment, to ClarkstonNews@gmail.com.



Charlie Owczarzak and his brothers spent an hour working on their creation.

Independence Twp.

Sun., Jan 6 A 60-year-old Independence Township woman living in the 5300 block of Hill Crest filed a police report after noticing some of her recently deceased husband's belongings were missing after relatives were at the house for a memorial gathering.

The district manager of a fast food shop in the 6600 block of Dixie Highway called police after arriving at the store to find a window smashed and cash register drawer containing about \$240 missing from inside.

Mon., Jan 7 Deputies were dispatched to the 7000 block of gateway Park Drive after a delivery person spotted two men in a pickup truck attempting to steal a newspaper box. Police discovered the box a short distance away with the money box missing.

Two men were arrested and jailed after police caught them in the act of stealing catalytic converters from parked vehicles at the Park and Ride located at I-75 and Sashabaw Road in Independence Township. Narcotics paraphernalia was also discovered in the vehicle, and one of the men told police he was out of work and had resorted to stealing car parts to support his drug habit.

Tues., Jan 8 A 50-year-old Independence Township woman living in the 5200 block of Stickney Road called police after returning home to discover someone had broken

Public Safety

Reports from Clarkston Police, Oakland County Sheriff Deputies and Independence Township Fire Department

out a window in her home while she was away and stole jewelry, cameras and other valuables from inside.

A 41-year-old Independence Township man living in the 5900 block of Rock Croft Drive was arrested and jailed on domestic violence charges after an argument with his 19-year-old son became physical.

Wed., Jan 9 A 64-year-old Waterford woman called police after discovering a window in her car was smashed and a briefcase stolen from inside while the vehicle was parked at Deer Lake Racquet Club on White Lake Road.

Deputies were dispatched to the 6600 block of Maple in Independence Township after a 26-year-old man hit the 29-year-old homeowner in the head with a hammer when the two had a dispute over an alleged break-in by the victim's brother. The victim, who police said had a bleeding "golf ball size knot on the left side of his head" said he didn't want to press charges because he and the attacker are friends.

A trustee at a club on Maybee Road called police after discovering someone broke into

a shed and stole returnable beer cans valued at \$144. The man told police the problem occurs several times a week.

Thurs., Jan 10 An employee at a grocery store on Dixie Highway called police after watching a 30-year-old Independence Township woman changing tags and attempting to return stolen products. The woman, who was arrested and charged with retail fraud, told police she had a shoplifting problem and had been in trouble before.

A 38-year-old Independence Township resident filed a police report after her daughter's clarinet, valued at \$1,346, was either lost or stolen at Sashabaw Middle School before Christmas break.

City of Clarkston

A house check program instituted by the Clarkston Police in October is catching on.

"We made over 400 checks last month," said Chief Dale LaCroix at Monday's city council meeting. "We've come across a few odds and ends, like downed wires, and we've been getting favorable remarks from neigh-

December busy month for police

Additional December statistics released by Clarkston Police:

Speeding tickets: 10
Impeding traffic: 7
Disregarding traffic control device: 17
Parking violations: 3
Other nonmoving violations: 17
Other police activity:
Traffic stop warnings: 47
Assist other agencies: 20
Building checks: 62
Misdemeanor arrests: 1
Miscellaneous calls for service: 59
Foot patrols: 58
Suspicious persons: 7
Depot Park checks: 50

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Springfield officials debate move to part-time

Continued from page 1A

various activities," he said. If you look at those responsibilities you ask yourself, 'does that require a full time person?'" he said. "My impression for any of those three offices is that they do not require 40 hours a week, and the only way you fill up that time is by assigning other activities to those elected officials."

If the township were to make the switch to a manager-type government, he said, deputies in the clerk and treasurer's offices would take on more responsibility in the day-to-day work to address requirements of the office.

Vallad's term, like the other six board members, expires in November.

"I haven't completely decided what I'm going to do yet," he said, noting that "under certain circumstances" he would consider running for one of the three part-time positions, although he declined to specify which.

Over the next few weeks, Vallad said, he and other members of the finance committee would gather and assemble information to help the township board through the decision process.

"I'm hoping to get back to the board for final consideration by February or March," he said, noting candidate petitions are due in May for the August primary election. "This either has to be in place by May or it doesn't get done for probably another four years."

Supervisor Collin Walls said he supports it.

"It's something I've looked at personally for several years," said Walls, who became supervisor in 1976. "I feel that it's time for us to take a look at the option. Ultimately, it may or may not prove beneficial, but we need to look at what's in the overall best interest of the community."

Walls, like Vallad, said he believed a switch to a township manager form of government had the potential to improve efficiency, especially by cross training among departments.

"You'd staff based on the overall needs of all the departments; you'd cross train and you'd share," said Walls, noting he hadn't yet decided if he would run for reelection in November. "We don't need to staff a department for peak load when the department next door is also staffed for peak load and those peaks are a different times (of the year)."

Springfield Township Clerk Nancy Strole said she thought the idea had merit, but warned the board not to make assumptions about any savings.

"It's an excellent idea, and we should definitely look into it further," she said at Thursday's meeting. "The time is right for this."

But, said Strole, state law holds the supervisor, clerk and treasurer responsible for specific functions of his or her office, and simply lopping off responsibilities and assigning them to

another individual is not necessarily feasible.

"I would caution the board to really scratch below the surface and don't just assume the cost savings are there," Strole said. "Simply by cutting out a full time clerk or treasurer doesn't necessarily mean the remaining staff is able to absorb all that extra work. There are certain statutory functions the clerk or treasurer would love to be able to spin off, but under the law it's not possible."

Strole did note, however, that the clerk or treasurer could delegate responsibilities to others—but was ultimately still responsible for the outcome. Treasurer Jamie Dubre, who wasn't at Thursday's board meeting because of circumstances related to a fire in her home, said she felt strongly against the idea.

"I don't think the board has enough information whatsoever to make a huge decision like this in such a short time," said Dubre, who was elected treasurer in 2002. "Personally, I think it's a bad idea."

Trying to gather a large amount of information before candidate petitions are due at the clerk's office in May, she said, could result in costly errors or oversights.

"We probably wouldn't save money," she said. "It would probably end up costing us money because we made mistakes rushing into something."

Dubre said she was also uncomfortable with the prospect of a township manager—picked by a vote of the board—handling tasks she, as treasurer, is statutorily responsible for under state law.

"I'm responsible for all the money, all the funds the township handles," she said. "Every single penny that comes in and out of here is my responsibility."

In addition, Dubre, who said she believes elected officials were chosen by voters and therefore belong in the office full-time, wanted to approach the matter with a different philosophy.

"I don't think (Denny Vallad) really understands what's going on because the trustees aren't here very often, and when they are (the offices) are closed," she said. "We've been looking at ways to increase revenue, not to cut services. It's hard, but there are ways; it's not always about slashing things."

Dubre said she understood the finance was formed by a group who intended to "think outside the box," but noted she didn't see the evidence.

"I don't think (Denny Vallad) is thinking out of the box," she said. "I think he's got one box in mind and he's working that one."

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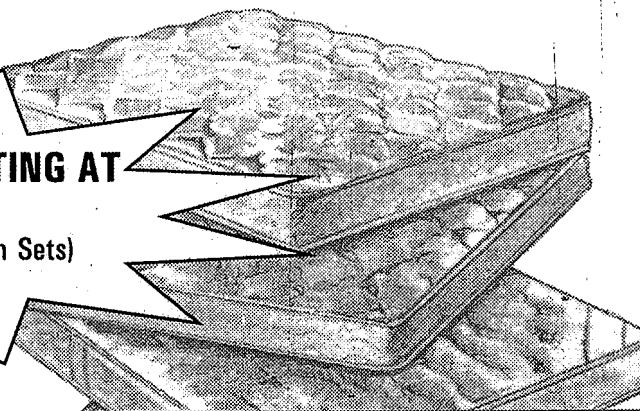
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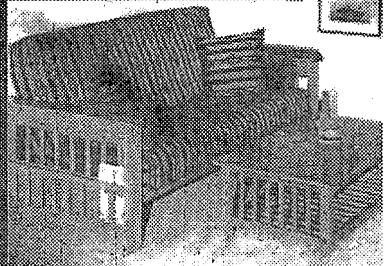
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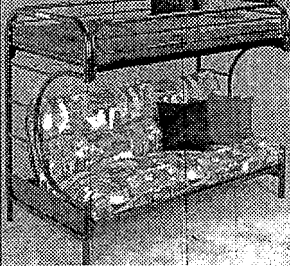
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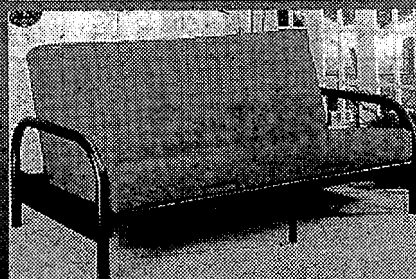
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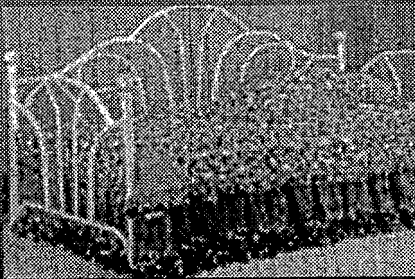
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Mabery honored as Patron of the Year

BY CATHY KIMMEL

Special to The Clarkston News

Sandy Mabery first came to the Orion Art Center in 2004 looking for a space to hold his community drummers.

In the years since, he has become actively involved with the center as a drummer, volunteer, artist, board member, corporate sponsor and most recently, as board president.

On Feb. 9, he will add another title into his repertoire as he will be honored as Patron of the Year at the Art Center's annual Snowflake Ball.

"Sandy is amazing because he doesn't think twice about diving into a large project," said Orion Art Center Executive Director Reggie Harrison.

"He doesn't hesitate to volunteer and help whenever it's needed."

According to Harrison, it is because of his dedication as a volunteer and as a board member that he is being honored as Patron of the Year.

"He is financially supportive of the Art Center, very generous with his time, an exemplary board mem-

ber and he's an artist as well," Harrison added. "We just want to thank him for everything he's done."

Mabery, a longtime Orion resident, believes that art is important in everyone's life, a practice he puts into play at Pine Tree Place, an assisted living home he owns and operates in Clarkston.

"I'm a real supporter of the arts, so we try to integrate art there," he said, noting that one of the reasons he got involved in drumming is the healing aspect it has to it.

In fact, Mabery and Pine Tree Place has sponsored the last two Healing Arts Shows, as well as sponsoring several Snowflake Balls.

"Everyone's an artist," Mabery said, "and beauty is in the eye of the beholder."

For him, the best way to express his artistic side, besides drumming, is photography. Since becoming involved in the Art Center, he has entered his photographs in several of the shows. Mabery said he most enjoys taking scenery photos.

"I just think life would be pretty dull without the arts," he added.

The Orion Art Center's 19th an-



Sandy Mabery (right) at the Orion Art Center's Wine Tasting, held last weekend. Photo courtesy of the Orion Art Center.

nual Snowflake Ball on Feb. 10 will be held at the Addison Oaks Ballroom. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the Art

Center at (248)693-4986 or visit www.orionartcenter.org.

Community drumming, directed by Mabery, is held every Sunday

(excluding holidays) from 7-9 p.m.

Anyone with questions regarding drumming can contact Mabery at 248-535-6203.



Clarkston teachers and staff Amy Black, Meredith Copland, Mary Fogg, Judy Kowalski, Laura Keenan, Gloria Lacy, Don Spring, Kim Werner, and Eric Yeloushan received school board recognition for their efforts. Photo by Phil Custodio

Recognized for hard work

Clarkston Board of Education honored nine teachers and staff members Monday with Employee Recognition awards.

Amy Black, special education teacher, Sashabaw Middle School, excels in classroom instruction and extras.

Meredith Copland, second-grade teacher, Bailey Lake Elementary School, designed "Keyboarding Camp," and ran a running club for students.

Mary Fogg, building health aide, Clarkston High School, keeps track of students' medical and dietary needs.

Judy Kowalski, counseling secretary, Clarkston High School, puts in long hours after school for students and parents.

Laura Keenan, special education paraeducator, Clarkston High School, works with five severely cognitively impaired students;

Gloria Lacy, fifth grade teacher, Springfield Plains Elementary School, works on her own to help individual students.

Don Spring, head custodian, Independence Elementary School, takes on additional tasks such as reading to students.

Kim Werner, classroom aide, Clarkston Elementary School, creates activities for center rotation.

Eric Yeloushan, second grade teacher, Andersonville Elementary School, designs technology workshops for staff.

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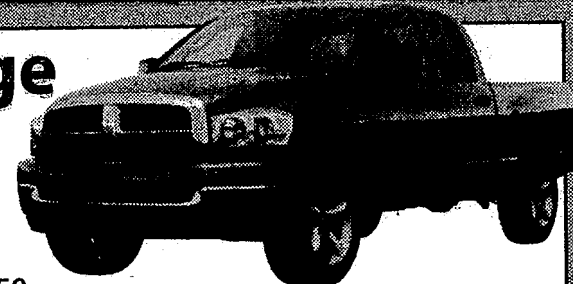
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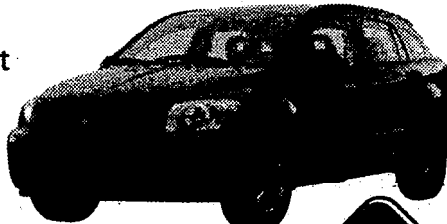
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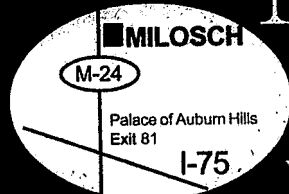
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DOLPHIN SPLASH

Springfield Plains Elementary

News with a "Porpoise"

Vol. 3, No. 1 January 2008

Mr. Gifford is an 'awesome' teacher

By Taylor McCallum, fourth grade

I, Taylor J. McCallum of Springfield Plains Elementary, have Mr. Gifford as my teacher. I have interviewed Mr. Gifford and want to share the information with the school. Here it is!

Favorite color: green

Favorite sport: football

Favorite Food: pizza

What he likes best

About teaching: the kids!

How he feels about

Being a new father: exciting, but challenging

So, you see, Mr. Gifford is an awesome teacher! I feel bad for anyone who does not have him! He is really funny and nice. Also, he thinks that kids will not learn if they don't want to (almost everybody dislikes school.) He thinks kids will learn if they like it and have fun with it. So, Mr. Gifford is a new meaning of nice and fun! His class is now learning a lot! Out of fun!! Every day when I go to his class, he always has something new and funny especially for us! No day in Mr. Gifford's class, is normal. I picked these questions because, some people don't know a lot about him and that is why I wrote this story. For people to know him a bit better and realize how great he is!!!!

He even has his own finger puppet, he calls, 'Councilor Hanky'. He brings him into class a lot and always has a joke for 'Councilor Hanky' to say. Everyone in the class always laughs at Mr. Gifford's jokes. So now you see why I feel bad for anyone who doesn't have Mr. Gifford for a teacher.

Congratulations Mr. Gifford!

By Julia Stebbins, fourth grade

Recently Mr. Gifford's wife had a baby, it is a boy. The baby's full name is Ryan Matthew Gifford. His weight is 5 lbs 3 ounces, and he was 19 inches long. He was born on September 27, 2007. I asked Mr. Gifford "how is Ryan doing now?" Mr. Gifford said "he is doing good and is starting to smile." I also asked Mr. Gifford "what's it like being a new Dad?" He answered; "I feel proud and it's exciting and special!" Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Gifford!!

Mrs. Leh

An interview with our new principal

By Olivia Groff, third grade

My name is Olivia Groff. I am in third grade in Mrs. Linenger's class. My school's new principal is Mrs. Leh. I decided to interview her. It's very special to interview an important person. I was a little bit nervous, but excited to go in her office. I walked into her office and sat down at a little table. I wrote many things and this is what they are.

Her birthday is on April 13th. She said her favorite colors are green and white because she went to MSU, but she told me a secret that she actually likes pastels. Her fa-

vorite type of animal is a dog. Her favorite kind of food is crab cakes. Mrs. Leh's favorite movie is Charlottes Web and favorite author is E.B. White. She has two children; one is Heather who is twenty-four and another one is A.J. who is twenty. Her favorite thing about Springfield Plains is the kids. She does not live in Clarkston. She does not have any pets. Her hobbies are knitting, walking, biking, cross country skiing, and traveling. She has been out of the United States. She really wants to go to Australia. Thanks for helping us get to know you Mrs. Leh and we're glad you're here!

Dr. Devereaux's Memorial

By Ariana DeHerder, third grade

On November 27, I attended Dr. Devereaux's memorial at Springfield Plains Elementary school.

The night started out in the gym. First, the school superintendent, Dr. Roberts, gave a speech about Dr. Devereaux's life and achievements. Then, Mrs. Schutte, a 5th grade teacher at Springfield Plains, also gave a speech about Dr. Devereaux. She used adjectives to describe

Dr. Devereaux, saying that Dr. Devereaux would be pleased by this since grammar was so important to her. One adjective Mrs. Schutte gave was classy. And she ended her speech with the adjective "rare." She said

Dr. Devereaux was a rare person. It was a very emotional speech.

After the speeches there was a slideshow presentation to watch while we waited for our turn to see the art that had been purchased as a tribute to Dr. Devereaux with the Dr. Devereaux Memorial Fund. The slideshow consisted of many pictures of Dr. Devereaux enjoying school functions with kids, teachers, and even Barney, her dog.



Dr. Devereaux

The prints that were purchased were displayed throughout the hallways. As groups moved from print to print, various teachers were on hand to explain about the print's artist and the history of the picture. My favorite prints were Nut Gatherers, Midsummer's Eve and Beauty in Costume. These prints will eventually be hung in the library. In addition to the prints, a portrait of Dr. Devereaux was commissioned, and this currently hangs in the display in front of the office.

It was a wonderful night, and a fitting tribute to Dr. Devereaux.

As I had walked through the halls, she always smiled and waved. She was always in a happy mood.

She had just died shortly after the 2nd grade had given her a card for her birthday. I remember the day we got the letter of her passing away. My mom was opening it and she had quickly scanned it and looked up sadly. I knew something was wrong. I asked my mom what was wrong and she said that Dr. Devereaux died.

I think she was the key to making SPE a great place to learn and still have a great time. I had seen her picture in the Clarkston News about her sad passing away. Now, in that article, a grownup did it. But now, here is a third grader, who goes to SPE telling my feelings about her.

The memorial was a great success. If you went, big thanks! Thank you for reading and have a nice day!

Sam, the ugliest dog ever

By Riley McMichael, fifth grade

Hi, my name is Riley McMichael and I am writing about Sam, the ugliest dog ever. Sam had won the ugliest dog contest three years in a row! (2003, 2004, 2005) Sam was a Chinese chested hairless and if you go on www.Samugliestdog.com you can see pictures of him (he's really ugly!).

Even though Sam was the ugliest dog ever, everyone loved him. So that means that even if you're very ugly you can have a lot of friends, and win prizes too!

However, Sam passed away November, 2005 and therefore, opened the door for another unique dog to step up. The reign of Sam has officially ended with the crowning of Archie from Florida at the World's Ugliest Dog Contest in June, 2006. However, everyone at the contest knew that if Sam were alive to compete, there would not have been a question that he would still hold his crown. In fact, he was unofficially dubbed the "UGLIEST DOG EVER!"

I wrote this article to inform you that Sam was very important to his family and to a lot of people. Even though Sam died November, 2005 he will still be special to everyone that knew him well, like his family members and especially his owner. My favorite thing about Sam was he was a loving, caring dog (read about him at his website!).

How to make homework easier

By Brian Gill, fourth grade

Homework is important, but sometimes it is hard to do. Here are some tips to make it easier.

1. Ask questions if you don't understand the assignment.
 2. Use extra time at school to get it done.
 3. Schedule enough time for homework after school.
 4. Have a quiet work place away from noise and distraction.
 5. Do the hard part first and get help if you need it.
 6. Take breaks when you need it but don't quit until you're done.
- Try these tips each day and see if your homework gets easier.

Mrs. Kanigowski helps make kids' lives better

By Mary Schlaff
and Riley McMichael, fifth grade

Here is something about this school that you may not know. Mrs. Kanigowski has put together groups that will make kids better people. These groups can help kids be better friends, get better self-esteem, use better social skills, overcome divorce, and discuss their feelings. Sometimes she meets kids individually but this year she found a way to meet with a lot of kids to make a difference in the kind of person they want to be. And, well frankly, who doesn't want to be a better person!

She meets with kids for a half hour, once a week for five weeks.

We asked her what made her think of

these groups and she said, "I have always done groups at SPE but I felt with this new setup of five week blocks I would be able to reach more students than I had before. I have serviced 100 different students so far in these groups already this year and it has allowed me to get to know students that I may not have had an opportunity to have met before. Also, in every group I have about 6 kids at a time."

We asked her how this changes kids and she said, "I think it has been great for the students who do not always work well in small groups or who may have a hard time relating to other kids socially. I also think it has been equally as important for those kids who express themselves wonderfully and can

be a great role model for others. To be in the group doesn't always mean you have a problem area. I feel these skills are very important to everyone, especially when dealing with friendship issues and self esteem issues.

I also feel that schools are becoming more and more academic based and a lot of things such as I teach in the groups, just do not get the time warranted in the classroom due to the time restraints and the need to meet curriculum. So, this has been a nice way to share the information."

We asked her what situations she helps kids get through and she said, "I deal with all types of issues on a given day. A lot of times outside issues such as family relationships affect their day here at school. Other

times, kid's behaviors and choices also effect their day so I spend a lot of time helping them get through those situations as well."

We asked her if she has a good time doing this and she said, "We have a great time! Every single student has asked to come back to the group and is disappointed when our time is up! My goal is to get them all through "the program" again!"

From our point of view, we think this is a great idea for all kids because they can help themselves be a better person.

Also, she says that she WILL do this in the following years. Thank you, Mrs. Kanigowski!

Q & A with Media Specialist Mrs. Crain

By Kristen Rushlow, fourth grader

Mrs. Crain is a very important part of our school. From kindergarteners to fifth graders, everyone knows Mrs. Crain. At one time or another during our education, Mrs. Crain has read to us and taught us about our library. She also takes care of our computer lab and video tapes our Thursday morning "News Splash." That's when students learn how to report things in front of a camera to be shown to the whole school every Thursday. Here are some questions I asked Mrs. Crain so we can get to know her better.

K: What does a media specialist do?

Mrs. C: A media specialist is a teacher. As a teacher, I share my knowledge of books, technology, research, and communication skills.

K: Do you like being a media specialist?

Mrs. C: Yes, I love being a media specialist! I enjoy working with all sorts of people: students, parents, teachers, administrators, and the community.

K: When you were a little girl did you dream of becoming a librarian? If not, what did you want to be?

Mrs. C: No, I didn't. I thought about

being a teacher but I really wanted to be an athlete - a swimmer and diver.

K: Tell me about your family.

Mrs. C: I am married and have been for 12 years. I have twin 9-1/2 girls (Mocha & Blazer). Actually, they are my dogs. I don't have any children of my own.

K: What is your favorite book?

Mrs. C: I honestly don't have a favorite. There are so many fantastic books I can't just pick one.

K: How do you keep track of all the books in the library?

Mrs. C: We have a system called the OPAC (online public access catalog) that helps us keep track of the materials we have in the media center.

K: How do you choose new books for the library?

Mrs. C: I read magazines, I look online, and I listen to my students and teachers for suggestions.

K: Where did the idea of the Birthday Book Club come from?

Mrs. C: It was an idea that was here long before me. The club was designed so we could add new items to our media center collection.

K: Do think your job is hard or easy?

Mrs. C: Some days are hard because I have so much I want to do, but I can't get to it all. Most days are not hard or easy, they are fun and full of excitement.

K: Have you ever worked at another school? If so, what was your job there?

Mrs. C: Yes, I have. Before coming to SPE I was a 3rd & 4th grade teacher for four years in West Bloomfield.

K: What is your favorite part of your job?

Mrs. C: Working with the students, staff, and parents. I enjoy the interaction and getting to know everyone.

Thank you, Mrs. Crain. Springfield Plains Elementary is lucky to have you!

The importance of family

By Mackenzie Proper, sixth grade

Family is such a powerful thing.

Not many people deeply think about the importance of family. Family isn't just the people that you live with but it is the people that you share your life with. They are the people that know everything and spend their everyday life with.

Family is so important because they can help you through thick and thin. No matter what happens they will always love you. It is always a great feeling to be loved and cared for. Family is also great because they always watch over you.

I know all this because I have a large family. I love having all of them to share my life with. Don't fight or hurt your family emotionally or physically. They are the most important thing you will ever encounter in life.

Compassion International is like pen pals, but a lot more

By Julia Rambeau, fifth grade

When a lot of kids hear the word *fun* they normally think of waterslides and birthday parties, not helping other people: Helping other people can be a lot of fun, if you know the true meaning. I love helping other people and that has a lot to do with our theme this year 'Be a star, lead the way'!

Kids in Ghana (Ghana is in Africa) normally share rooms and sometimes share extremely small beds. A girl in Ghana wakes up at

6:20 a.m., even on weekends, and gets sent to work sweeping with a broom made of reeds. That's just the beginning of her day. She has to take a 15 minute walk to haul water

for the family and make fires out of wood to cook food!

This girl is just a little bit younger than me and she has to share a tiny bed with her younger sister. Actually, she is very lucky because most of the people in Ghana have to

Actually, she is very lucky because most of the people in Ghana have to sleep on the hard, cold floor at night.

sleep on the hard, cold floor at night. In order to go to school, they have to pay for it. With many parents making only 70 cents a day, they can't afford extra things like clothes, medical care

or school.

When I read all of that, I was almost in tears. When my mom asked me if I wanted to sponsor a child, I said yes because I felt sorry

for how the girl's life was going. I really wanted to help this girl but I did not know how. My mom suggested giving up buying lunch every day. We decided that the extra money we saved by making a lunch would go towards our sponsor child.

With just giving about a dollar a day, the children receive food, clothes, medical care (if necessary), and education. Compassion International is like pen pals in a way except you learn a lot more about another culture. You send them a letter about how your doing and ask any questions that you might have, except you give them money and go along the way.

I am really happy that I am helping another person, and if you call the number, (800)-336-7676, you'll have that happy feeling too!

Summer

By Jacob Proper, third grade

Hot sun
Lots of fun
Bare feet
Blaring heat
Pretty flowers
NO rain showers
Burning hot sand
THIS SEASON IS GRAND!

Irregular Pagination

Be a star, lead the way question poll

By Jenna Walters, Hannah Glise and Mackenzie Gibson, fifth grade

Here at Springfield Plains Elementary, we want to be a star and lead the way. There are many good things you can do but there also are bad things you can do. Don't be that bad person, be the one who fixes that problem. Be the one who cares, respects, and is kind to everyone. Be the one who brings someone up when they're down. So, do a favor to yourself, your classmates and your school, be a star and lead the way!! Here are some suggestions from people in our school:

Lani Palmer: Be helpful

Jenna Walters: To be kind to others and care for others.

Madison Crawford: Be a positive and good role model for younger students at SPE.

Julia Stebbins: It means to me that being a leader is helping others and being a role model.

Mackenzie Proper: To be respectful and to set a good example.

Jacob Proper: To be responsible, also to respect things around you, and to set a good example.

Harley Barnowsky: To help people out and to respect other people.

Kristen Rushlow: To be a respectful and a good listener at SPE.

Paulina Velasco-Flores: To behave when grown ups are around.

Hanna Glise: To be a leader.

Megan Rushlow: To help others be the best.

David Posawatz: It makes me feel like I

mean something in the world and teach others to do something.

Riley McMichael: Teach others.

Mary Schlaff: To be helpful.

Ethen McMichael: Set a good example for others in our community.

What it means to 'be a star, lead the way'

By Harley Barnowsky and Lani Palmer, third grade

How can you be a star and lead the way? Leading is important, but only if your setting the right example.

What can you do to be a star and lead the way?

1. Help people out. Helping people out is a good thing to do. Helping people out means doing something good for others that make them feel good.

2. Help people solve their problems.

Helping people solve their problems means making them feel better about an issue they have.

3. Play with some one if they have nobody to play with. You can't say, "You cant play"!!!!!! If someone has no one to play

with them, then play with them. It will make them feel better. Imagine if that person was you.

4. If someone needs your help, give them it. You treat others the way you want to be treated.

5. If they are new to this school make them feel comfortable. Sometimes people are new to schools and they don't know anyone. So, if you see a new kid, give them a hand and make them feel better like they never knew they were new to this school.

6. Try your best - don't copy

7. Be a good sport - don't fuss

8. Use your manners - don't be rude

So, when you see the chance, be the first to LEAD THE WAY! Do these things and you are a STAR!!

Getting to know the Clarkston News' Mr. Rush

By Mary Schlaff and Riley McMichael, fifth grade

I think everyone who reads the *Clarkston News* will recognize this name, Mr. Don Rush. However, we wanted the students at Springfield Plains Elementary to get to know Mr. Rush better.

Mr. Rush works for Sherman Publications that prints the *Clarkston News*. He is the one that will help put our *Dolphin Splash* into the *Clarkston News*. This is very exciting and I know you all will agree. To be in elementary school and see your own article in a city-wide published newspaper is a big deal. Thanks to the *Clarkston News* for volunteering to help us out. It was fun thinking of all these questions.

We hope you all enjoy reading it. Here are some of the questions we asked him:

How long have you been a reporter? About 23 years

How long have you been working with the *Clarkston News*? Same

Do you live in Clarkston? I grew up in Clarkston, went to Bailey Lake Elementary, then North Sashabaw Elementary, then Sashabaw Jr. High then graduated from Clarkston High School in 1981. I sold my Independence Township home in 1999 and moved to Goodrich with my family.

How many children do you have? Do they want to be reporters also? Two boys, Shamus, 9 and Sean 7. No they do not. Shamus was to be a scientist, fly to Mars or do claymation. Sean, wants to be an inventor, chef and President of the United States.

Where did you go to college? Central Michigan University.

Why did you decide to become a reporter? I've always written . . . third grade until now. When I graduated from Clarkston High School I wanted to make a living, and figured reporting would let me write and earn a living.

How has technology changed being a reporter? Yes, I started with a type writer . . . and learned how to roll film for a camera, develop pictures, etc. Now it is all computers. Writing, layout, photography . . . all computers.

Do you have any stories that you will never forget? Yes — most of them.

What is your favorite topic to write about? Life

What is your most frustrating topic to write about? Death

About how many newspapers do you print every week? I personally, print zero. I am a writer-type. But, our pressman runs about 20,000 a week — newspapers, not shoppers.

How long does it take you to write an opinion? It depends, one hour seems good.

What do you like to do when you're not working? Being with my family and raise the boys.

Thank you, Mr. Rush and *The Clarkston News* for helping us make our *Dolphin Splash* a success and for helping to make our community a better place with your newspaper.

Now, I know some of you kids are probably asking yourselves "what is a typewriter or film?" Don't worry kids, you won't ever have to know thanks to technology. But, keep writing because, someday, you just might get paid for it.

Understanding Dolphin Advisor

By Madison Crawford, fourth grade

Dear Dolphin Advisor,

Everyday when I come to school, when my friend's see me and I'm doing something, they want me to stop and do something with them and they get mad if I don't. It keep's going on every day. How do I stop it?

Sincerely,

Can't be in two places

Dear Can't be in two places,

I understand what is happening. Your friend wants your attention. She will keep doing it if you don't tell her how you feel and set a boundary she will continue to bother you. When you tell her, be nice but serious. If she doesn't stop she's not respecting you. Good luck.

Understanding Dolphin Advisor

HEY! Don't pick on me



By Paulina Velasco Flores, third grade

I am worried that kids are getting picked on (as in getting teased) because I got teased when I was in 1st grade and in 2nd grade by a kid in my school. He called me name's like Paul, Dork, Polly Pocket's and Polly. Worst of all, I got teased by his friends, too. Plus, they were all boys that were always mean to me because I was born in Mexico! So be a STAR by being nice to others! Even the ones that pick on you because when you set a good example you become a better person. So for my advice, don't hurt the people that tease you or it will just hurt your feelings more!

Clarkston High kickers have a great season

By David Posaawatz, firth grade

My name is David Posawatz and my brother is on the high school varsity soccer team. The soccer team was in in the playoff race. Our first win in the playoffs was against Milford. Then, to win districts, we beat our rival, Lake Orion. We eliminated Traverse City West and Rochester to win regionals.

In the semi-finals, we beat Utica-Eisenhower on Halloween night to advance to the finals. In the finals we played East Kentwood and lost 2-0.

Seven important players are going to on

to college. They are Jimmy McCarty, Steve Nacy, John Timm (captain), Matt Hall, Kavon Khani, Danny Rathsburg, and Oliver Kupe (captain). Although we are losing those players, we have a strong junior class including Nick Posawatz (my brother), Isaac Platte, Kevin Pinkos, Alec Pappas, Craig Miller, Davis Vanderveen, Jacob Melvin, Collin Rumpshclag, John Verros, Brandon Verlinden, and Scott Messer.

That's all for now, good luck next year Clarkston and GO WOLVES!!!



A Patriots Fan

By Ethan McMichael, third grade

On Nov.4, 2007, New England Patriots faced the Indianapolis Colts. They were both undefeated. The Patriots season record was 8 and 0 and the Colts were 7 and 0. Patriots beat Colts 24 to 20. Colts are now 7 and 1. Patriots are now 9 and 0.

Tom Brady's picture is up top. Tom Brady is the quarterback for the Patriots. He looks like that because it was cold that day. He is a good player. It's too bad for the Colts that they lost. They were super bowl champs last year. But, I



Victory for Green Bay

By Julia Stebbins, fourth grade

I am from Wisconsin so I am a Green Bay Packer fan. Now when my family is watching the game, there is a LOT of screaming, shouting, and not many no's. That is because they have been winning the last few games. They have played 10 games and lost 1. It is amazing how many games they have been winning.

They have to play five more games and if they win all of those they might go to the Super Bowl which would be a good thing for me. On Thanksgiving they played the Lions and won the game 37 to 26. I hope they win the next few games! GO GREEN BAY!!!

<p>Mr. Roboto</p>	<p>One day Mr. Roboto was fighting crime.</p> <p>die</p>	<p>He got a call from his boss Bus. He had to fight his enemy fly-boy.</p>
	<p>Fly-boy was shot into space and captured by ALIENS!</p> <p>UFO</p>	<p>Mr. Roboto went to fly-boys house and tried to steal his soup. But fly-boys side-kick Buggy caught him and fought. But Buggy was shot to Pluto. But got shot by a transformer to Mars which was covered in ice cream.</p>
	<p>Pluto</p>	<p>Mars</p> <p>I love ice cream</p>
<p>Mr. Roboto lived happily ever after.</p>	<p>The End</p>	<p>By: Nicholas Wasik</p>

HANNA GLISE; It is wonderful to watch you do gymnastics! We are so proud of your hard work and positive attitude! Love, Dad and Mom

STEFANI GLISE; We love listening to you play the piano! We are very proud of your self-discipline and dedication! Love, Dad & Mom

NATHAN GLISE; Congratulations on a great flag football season! We are so proud of you for doing your very best! Go Cardinals! Love, Dad and Mom

SPRINGFIELD PLAINS ELEMENTARY; Thank you for making mine and my daughter's move to Clarkston a lot happier. Anonymous

HARLEY BARNOWSKY; To my daughter, Harley - love and miss you most!!! Can't wait to see you!! Love, Your Dad SSG Barnowsky - Fort Benning, Georgia

HAPPY GRAMS

HARLEY BARNOWSKY; Good job on your school grades! Proud of you!! Uncle Larry

SWEET PEACHY; love you sweet peachy. Kisses and hugs, from Grammie

XAVIER ANGEL; keep up the great work! Listen, Learn and Live. We love you! Mom and Dad

ISAAC ANGEL; Happy One, keep working hard. Write more stories, sing more songs. Just keep having fun! Love, Mom and Dad

COLTON JOYCE; We are so proud of you! Keep up

the good work! We love you!! Dad and Mom

CAMREN MILLS; you are doing a great job at Springfield Plains. Keep up the good work! Love, Mom and Dad

GARRETT ETENGOFF; keep up the good work at school. You're doing great! We love you very much! Mom, Dad, Alex and Brett.

MRS. DUDASH'S CLASS; Thank you for voting for me for the student council. I enjoyed listening to all the other speeches. Sincerely, Alex Leonowicz

ALEC JOHNSON; You have become such a great reader. We are so proud of how hard you are working this year. You did a wonderful job in flag-football. Nothing slows you down, not even a broken foot! Lots of hugs and kisses, Mom, Dad, Caleb and Molly

MOLLY JOHNSON; we are so proud of you for your endurance through cheerleading this year. You had a great attitude and you were a lot of fun to watch! We all think you are A-W-E-S-O-M-E! Lots of hugs and kisses, Mom, Dad, Caleb and Alec

ANDREW DALRYMPLE; great job in school and completing all your projects! Love, Mom and Dad

DANIELA MENDIETA; I'm so lucky to have you here at SPE with me! I love you! Mom

ERIKA MENDIETA; Thank you for helping me start each day with a smile! I love you! Mom

PAYTON GREENLEE; you are such a compassionate girl! I love you! Mom

PRESTON MILLS; we are so proud of you for your great work at Springfield Plains. Keep it up! Love, Mom & Dad

TRISTAN GREENLEE; what would I do without your daily humor. You brighten my day! Love, Mom

BRENDAN GREENLEE; you are an awesome big brother. Thanks for giving the kids cheese. XOXO Mom

MRS. WHALEY; we hope your having a super year. You're a fantastic teacher! The Millers and Mitch

THE SCHLAFF GANG; we can't wait for the next play date! The Millers

CATHY SCHLAFF; Thanks for serving again! You're awesome and we know you're always watching out for our children. XO Lynne Miller

BONNIE MILLER; just wanted to say hi. We love you and have a great year! XO The Miller Family

ROSS BAILEY; Thanks for letting Mitchell drive with you to football. You're a great chief!! The Miller Family

MITCHELL MILLER; Great job Chief!! Way to keep the grades up while working so hard during your first football season. Love, Mom

RYAN NICOSIA; You are doing a great job in first grade!! We are so proud of you!! Keep working hard! Love, Mom, Dad and Lyndsey

GRANT DIECHMAN; I'm so glad you are back from China. I really love getting those bones from you when I walk to your bus stop every afternoon. Your dog, Dupont

Alexis Green



Crazy laws from around the U.S.

By Noah Peterson, fifth grade

In Detroit, Michigan, it is against the law to fall asleep in a bathtub.

A Wichita, Kansas, law prohibits the playing of electric pianos and banjos between 11:30 p.m. and 9:00 a.m.

In Chillicothe, Missouri, it is against the law to throw rice at weddings.

In Zion City, Illinois, it is illegal to make ugly faces at anyone.

In 1924, a monkey was convicted in South Bend Indiana, of the crime of smoking a cigarette, and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$25.00 and the cost of the trial.

In Michigan, it is illegal to tie an alligator to a fire hydrant.

In parts of Oklahoma, it is illegal to box kangaroos

Fall

By Jacob Proper, third grade

Fall is such a peaceful time

Good enough to get a rhyme:

The leaves so bright

Dull by night

Crunch loudly as you walk

You see your breath as you talk

Gold, brown, red, green

What a beautiful scene

Fall is best

over all!



ANTHONY FINAZZO; Thank you for working so hard and always making us smile! Love, Mom and Dad

GWENDOLYN KIEFT; You mean the world to us! You always know how to warm our hearts!! Love, Mom, Dad, Jordan and Kyle

KYLE MCDONALD; we love you so unbelievably much! You can always make us smile!! Love, Mom, Dad, Jordan and Gwendolyn

MRS. TRIM; you are very kind and sweet. Thank you for letting me push the tables up. Love, Anya Leonowicz

PHOEBE PETERSON; Congratulations on becoming a student council member. We hope you have a great time! Love, Mom and Dad

ELENA JANE PETERSON; you are doing such a great job in kindergarten. We are so proud of you! Love, Mom and Dad

MERRICK CANADA; we love your jolliness and your kindness. You work hard and have fun. Keep up the good work! Love, Mom and Dad

THE MATTSTER; what a fabulous way to begin fifth grade. We are proud of you!! Love, Mom and Dad

Joshua Peterson, 3rd grader reports on Food Facts

Did you know . . .

That in South America, people eat roasted grasshoppers and crickets.

That in Columbia, South America, moviegoers eat toasted ants instead of popcorn.

That on the island of Sardinia (in the Mediterranean) people let flies lay eggs on their cheese and once they hatch they spread the maggots and cheese on their bread and eat it.

That in Korea, they eat live wiggling tentacles. People feel the suction cups pulling as they swallow.

and

Can you guess these riddles?

1. I am an old relative. My face can not see and my hands can not hold. What am I?

2. Where would you look for a knee on a house?

3. I reflect the sun and you watch me on T.V. What am I?

4. I am yellow, long and monkeys eat me. What am I?

Answers to riddles:

1. A Grandfather clock

2. The chimney

3. A DVD

4. A banana

From the pen of 4th grader Hannah Jeung What are you? Quiz

1. When you have a giant project due tomorrow do you...

A. Whiz right through it and join the baseball game outside, or

B. Draw and doodle on your paper instead

C. Take your time and make detail

D. Do your video games, after all, you can do it later

2. Your sister takes some time off so you can spend time with her. She asks you where you want to go, you say ...

A. the sport shop

B. art museum

C. her old college

D. Anywhere that sells video games, T.V., or cameras, etc.

3. Your getting your backpack for school you pick ...

A. The one that can hold my soccer

ball

B. The one that holds my art supplies

C. An organized one that's able to hold all my papers

D. The one that can hold my black Ipod.

What are you? Mostly:

A's - Sports Geek. You just love sports. You just couldn't live without them.

B's - Artist Alert! You're a big fan of creativity and arts. Maybe one day, you'll be a famous artist!

C's - School Person! I bet one day you'll be at a great college! You stay on top of homework and probably do extra credit.

D's - Electronic Kid! When ever a new computer or cell phone goes out on sale, you'll be the first in line to get it! Toy's and candy are o.k., but a computer would be sweet to receive!

Dare Devil or Scaredy Cat? Quiz

1. You're parents take you out to a Chinese restaurant for dinner, but your parents order for you. When your food arrives it looks disgusting! You...

A. Try a little and decide you like it.

B. Shove it up the table and complain for a hotdog instead.

2. You're on vacation at Hawaii and your parents point out a volcano tour. They decide to go after lunch. You say...

A. Sure! Sounds fun!

B. No!!!!!!! We could burn up in lava up there

3. You're playing truth or dare. Every time you're called on you say...

A. DARE!!!

B. anything but dare!

What are you? Mostly:

A's - Dare Devil! You're very daring!

B's - Scaredy cat! Even if things seem strange don't be afraid to try something new!

I Can Make A Difference By . . .

I can make a difference by helping the world

Pick up some garbage

Plant few flowers and trees

Control some fires

Help the elderly

Obey the laws

Listen to speakers

Everyone can make a difference

in this world

Even you and me!

School

I LOVE school

Friendly faces everywhere

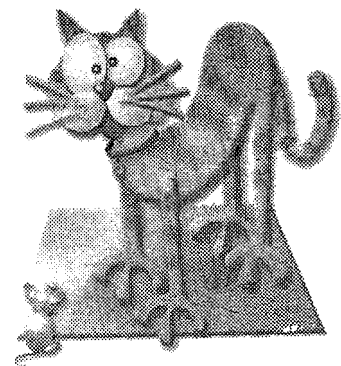
Teachers gentle voice echoing in your

ear

Learning knew things

Every day

I love school HIP, HIP, HORAY !



MADDIE GEBACZ; we think you're the greatest! Love, Mom and Dad

TAYLOR MCCALLUM; we just wanted to let you know how proud we are of you! Keep up the good work with school! Have fun and study hard. Love, Mom and Dad

HEATHER DECONINCK; I am so proud of you!! I love you sweetie. Love, Mom
HEATHER DECONINCK; you're doing a very good job. I love you! Love, Courtney

JACK ANDERSON; we are so proud of all you do! You are so helpful, thoughtful, and sweet. Keep up the good work! Love, Mommy and Daddy

MAX ANDERSON; you make us so proud. Your attitude, enthusiasm, and accomplishments are awesome! Keep doing what you do! Love, Mommy and Daddy

MAX CAINE; keep working hard and being so helpful! We all love your smiling face!! Love, Mom, Dad, Tori, Alex, and Livi

NOAH; you are so nice, you are funny! Your friend, Kelsey P.

CLAIRE KOSTECKI; You are my best friend! Haley Phillips

GRACE HECKENDORN; I like your hair and clothes. I think you're sweet as sugar. I'm glad you are my friend and in my class. Lilly Chalker

NATALIE MARTINDALE; you are a smart, sweet, little girl. We are very proud of you and love you very much!! Love, Mom and Dad

CLAIRE DURKIN; keep up the great work in first grade Claire! We're very proud of you. Love, Mom, Dad and Grace

LEXI GIESEY; thank you for being the best daughter. We love, you so much. Love, Mom, Dad and Tenley

CLAIRE AUSTIN; Thank you for being my friend. Grace Heckendorn

MATTHEW BAKER; Boss man, we are so proud of how well you've done in first grade. Keep up the good work! Love, Mom and Dad

OLIVIA BAKER; Livvy, how did you get to fifth grade so fast! We are so proud of all you've accomplished! Love, Mom and Dad

KIANA AYOTTE; I am so proud of you! Keep doing your best and remember how much I love you!! Love always, Mom

MRS. MATTHIES, MY CLASSMATES AND SPE STAFF; thank you all so much for the special care, help friendliness and cards since I broke my leg. You are great! Noah Nicklin

REBECCA STEFANI; we love you princess!! Love, your family



NICK STEFANI; we are all proud of you! Keep up the great work! Love, your family

EVAN WADE; you are doing a great job in first grade! Evan, we are so proud of you! Love, Mom, Dad, Olivia and Ava

MRS. LEH; I hope you're doing well fitting in at Springfield Plains and I wish you a good year. Anonymus

MRS. CAMPBELL; You are an awesome 5th grade teacher! Bonnie Miller

ANTHONY PAREDES; you are doing a great job in kindergarten! We are so proud of you and wanted to let you know to keep doing your best always. Love you, Mom and Dad

ANNA PAREDES; we want to thank you for helping Anthony feel comfortable and safe as a new kindergartener at SPE! You're a great role model and big sister. Thank you for all that you've done to help him have a great school experience. Love, Mom and Dad

NICK ABEL; we are so proud of you. You always try to do your best. Love, Mom & Dad

MRS. SIMEK; you are an awesome teacher! GO TEACHERS! Liana Smith

EMMA MORRIS; we love your happy attitude. Keep smiling! Love, Mom and Dad

CHAD MORRIS; you are doing a GREAT job in second grade. Keep up the hard work! Love, Mom and Dad

BECKETT CANTWELL; you're a great big brother! We love you, Evie and Cooper

LILLIAN CANTWELL; you're doing great in kindergarten! Love, Beckett

LYDIA EVANS; you are a good friend. I like you! Sophia Sesi

MRS. WHALEY; thank you so much for taking the time out to work with my son in finding ways to keep him occupied and challenged! You're a great teacher! Steve and Cindy Fisher

JAKE MARSH; you're doing a great job in first grade. Keep up the good work. We are very proud of you. Love, Mom and Dad

MIA KNAVISH; We're so proud of the great start you've had this school year! Keep up the good work. We love you!! Love, Mom, Dad and Kylie



JOSHUA PETERSON; you are a special and talented boy. We love you! Mom and Dad

NOAH PETERSON; Be proud. You are one of a kind! We love you! Mom and Dad
LINDSAY RUNFT; thank you for being a good friend! Love, Catherine Laube

VINEESE KASARI; thank you for helping out more and doing your best. Thank you and I love you, Mom

THE KIDS IN ROOM 405; I am so proud of all the hard work you are doing!! I am so glad to be getting to know all of you. Thank you for making me feel so welcome at SPE. Keep up the great work!! Mrs. Dudash

MRS. TRIM; you are a great custodian and you help clean every classroom great. You are a great cleaner and you probably get tired when you have to do all this cleaning. Stephanie Tanielian

COLLIN AND CALLIE SPYTMAN; keep up the good work! You are doing great in school, and so helpful at home. I love you, Mom

ANNA DAVIS; we are so proud of you! Keep up the hard work in the classroom and on the soccer field! Love, Mom & Dad

KAITLYN JOYNER; to our sweet sunshine, Kaitlyn. We love you! You're doing great in first grade! We're very proud of you! XO Mama and Daddy

MRS. MCCULLOCH; I love your first grade class. Hugs from Kaitlyn Joyner

HEATHER DECONINCK; You are a great friend! Thanks for always being there! Isabella Sesi

RILEY AND KORI; Keep up the good work. We are very, very proud of you! Love, Mom and Dad

JOSHUA ZAWADZKI; we are so proud of you! Keep up the good work! Have fun and enjoy your last year at Springfield Plains! G.L.Y.A.S.D.W.! Love, Dad, Mom and Jenny

TIMOTHY DALRYMPLE; Great job in school! We are proud of you! Love, Mom and Dad

ELIZABETH DALRYMPLE; we are so proud of how hard you are working in school. Great job on your reading. Love, Mom and Dad

EMILY MOORE; we are so proud of you! We are very happy at the hardworking, caring person you have become. We love you! Love, Mom and Dad

DRAKE PARKER; Thank you for being such a great big brother. I love you very much!!! XOXOXO Love, your baby sister

ISAAC; I like playing with you! Hailee

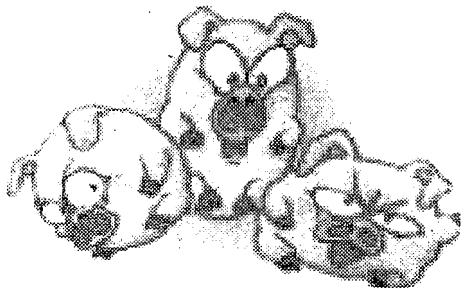
JACKLYN MARRA; you are off to a super start, Jaclyn! We are very proud of you! Love, Mom, Dad and Jake

JAKE MARRA; we are so proud of you, Jake! Keep up the great work! Love, Mommy, Daddy and Jaclyn

SARA MOSCONE; we are very proud of you, and we love you! Dad, Mom and Alex

ROB CHALMERS; you are doing so well in school and have so much to share! We are very proud of you! You are loved so very much! Love, Mom and Dad

I AM; handsome, smart, kind-hearted, good at sports, funny and a GREAT PERSON! LUCAS DISHON, did you know



Facts about pigs

By Megan Rushlow, fourth grade

Did you know that pigs are the fourth smartest animal on earth? Well, I do because I love pigs. Pigs are smarter than all animals except chimpanzees, dolphins and elephants.

Pigs learn tricks faster than dogs can. Piglets learn their names when they are two or three weeks old and will come when you call them.

Do you think pigs like being dirty? Well guess again, pigs actually like being clean. They try to keep clean but they also need to keep cool. Pigs don't have sweat glands, so they roll in mud to cool off. But, pigs are great swimmers and they would rather take a cool dip.

Do you like spending time with friends and family? Well, pigs do too. They even enjoy spending time with other species. Pigs love to snuggle up together and use grunts to communicate with each other.

Here are some more interesting facts about my favorite animal. Pigs have litters of 7 to 12 piglets about twice a year. They have a powerful sense of smell. A mature pig has 44 teeth and can run a seven minute mile!

I hope you enjoyed reading about pigs and have learned to appreciate these cute and cuddly animals.

Rust on, rust off

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Last Wednesday, Grapplers came back from their break ready for action and proved it by winning their meets against Rochester and Troy.

"We definitely looked like we haven't wrestled in about two weeks, but we wrestled hard," said Coach Joe DeGain.

"We got to take a little bit of the rust off from the past two weeks."

The Wolves first competed against Rochester to win 38-27.

Wrestlers to win by default by scoring the most in points were Jeff Sloney (103), Ty Foltz (112), Matt Dietz (125), Chris Burkhart (135), Adam Lauzun (160), and Sloan Hadsall (185).

Bryant Craft (171) pinned his competition 40 seconds into the first period. Mike Richmond (215) added points for the team with a pin as well.

The Wolves continued the dual meet against Troy and won 49-20.

The Wolves held control of the meet by earning their points from pins.

Sloney (103) pinned his competition with 45 seconds left in the first period. Another wrestler pinning their competition in the first period was Craft (171) with 41 seconds left in the period.

By the end of his second period, Foltz (112) made his pin with 18 seconds left.

More wrestlers to make pins were Matt Dietz (125), Zack Burrow (130), and Lauzun (160).

Richmond (215) won by earning the most points.

"Mentally it should have been a little bit of a wake up for them so they are more prepared," said DeGain.

"It will be a tough tournament for them on Saturday and its one of the toughest in the state. They needed a dual meet like this to get ready for it."

Grapplers took sixth place in the Bay City Western Invitational on Saturday.

They beat Linden and Dundee, who is ranked second in division three.

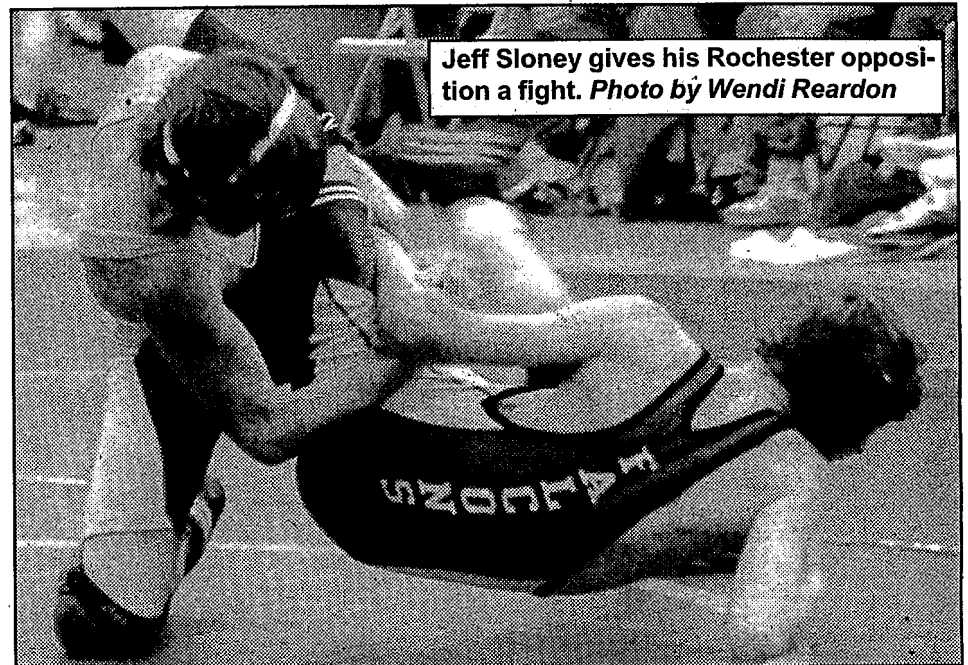
Evan King helped with the win against Dundee. He won the match that helped the team secure a victory over Dundee.

They lost to Montrose.

They continued onward in crossover competitions by beating Allegan, ranked fifth in division two and losing to Hesperia, ranked first in division four.

Each Clarkston grappler worked towards the team's success with each match they wrestled their opponents.

Adam Lauzun was 5-0, beating Chris



Jeff Sloney gives his Rochester opposition a fight. Photo by Wendi Reardon

Eggert from Dundee, who is ranked #1 in the state.

After a loss last year to Malcolm Martin of Hesperia, Alex Popp came back with a fight and won all five of his matches.

Bryant Craft was 4-1. His only loss came when he was bumped up to wrestle ranked #3 from Dundee who was 40 pounds heavier than him.

Matt Deitz and Erik Butterfield also were 4-1 for the day.

Sloan Hadsall, Jeff Sloney and King were

3-2. Anthony Herron helped the team with two wins and only one loss.

The grapplers will travel to Mount Orab, Ohio on Saturday to compete in the Hammer & Anvil Tournament.

"They are good enough to be ready for it," said DeGain.

"I think it will be fine, as long as we are not taking another two and half weeks off like we did for the holiday break. These guys know how to wrestle and they got the rust off. So they will be ready to wrestle."

Athlete of the Week Wrestler follows his family's lead

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Last year, Wendell Berry watched his stepbrother wrestle.

He had enough with watching this past November and joined the Clarkston Wrestling Club when the club resumed for the season.

While at the club he has help from family, his stepbrother and stepfather, Novice Assistant Coach Jim Hayward.

At the club, Berry wrestles in the 9-10 age group, 67 pound weight class.

He participated in the club's Hardcore Christmas Classic, but lost. However, Hayward knew something was on the horizon.

"He bounced back," said Hayward.

Berry continued onward and in his third tournament, took first place at the Clarkston's MYWAY tournament. The win was from scoring the most points in his three matches.

In his first match, he won by having the most points. In the following match, he

pinned his competition.

In his last match, he was ahead by four points. His opponent reversed the positions and put Berry on his back. With five seconds remaining, he reversed the positions again and scored two points he needed to win the match.

"I don't know how he did it," Hayward said.

"It was excellent. He put in a lot of hard work."

Last weekend, he went to Brighton to compete in an open tournament, where everyone can compete no matter what their experience is. He took first place by winning two matches.

With the win, Berry will be participating in open tournaments with his stepbrother.

"I was really pleased," said Hayward.

Away from the mat, Wendell is a talented athlete in other ways.

He enjoys playing baseball and football.

In his first year of competitive sports,

he played flag football and helped the team for their undefeated season.

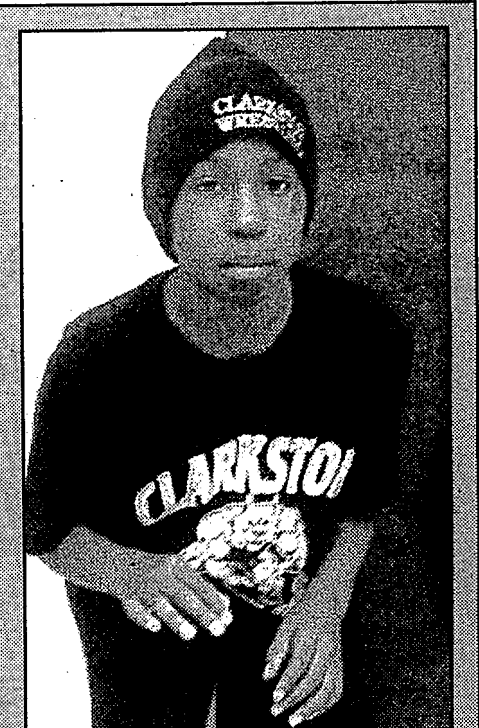
While his position was as a running back, he wants to be a wide receiver.

"He has a presence about him. It seems like he does it so easy," said Hayward.

Wendell goes on to the wrestling club on Tuesdays. On Tuesdays, Coach Joe DeGain and the Varsity wrestlers, like Adam Lauzun and Eric Butterfield help the youth wrestlers.

On Mondays, Tony Ryan coaches and teaches the kids.

"He is good with the kids and wrestled for Clarkston," said Hayward.





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Still winning, still learning

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Oliver Kupe scored the first basket seven seconds into Friday's game and the momentum grew from there.

"It's always a great game when we play Carman (Ainsworth), because their kids play hard and compete hard and weren't going to quit," said Coach Dan Fife after the game.

They beat number seven ranked Carman-Ainsworth, 60-51.

"I knew it wasn't going to be a 20 point game, I knew they were going to come after us I told our kids that. Knowing that they're going to come after you and meeting the challenge, it's a step for us. It's a big step in making us a better team."

Clarkston's cagers winning streak continues. With the win against the Cavaliers and their Jan. 8 victory against Southfield-Lathrup, 63-55, their record stands at 7-0.

The Wolves ended the first half against Carman-Ainsworth with a 15 point lead, 29-14.

In the third quarter, the Cavaliers picked up the pace in the last minutes, but were still behind the Wolves by 18 points, 43-25.

The Cavaliers picked up the pace quickly in the final quarter. They gained 20 points while the Wolves had only six, leading to a score of 49-45 with three minutes left in the game.

The Wolves jumped back into action as their defense got the ball away from their

opposition. Clarkston added four more points to the board and gained more distance in their lead.

The pressure built and in the last minute, Julius Porter added five points, and Brandon Pokley added two points from free throws, bringing the score 60-51.

"The first three quarters wasn't as hard as I expected," said Porter. "But the fourth quarter, they brought it. It was a different game in the fourth quarter but we worked at it, came out, played Clarkston basketball."

"I am happy about tonight's win, but it's a long season, seven and oh is nothing to get comfortable with," said Fife. "After the fun and games, we're still learning and trying to establish who we are and the character of our team."

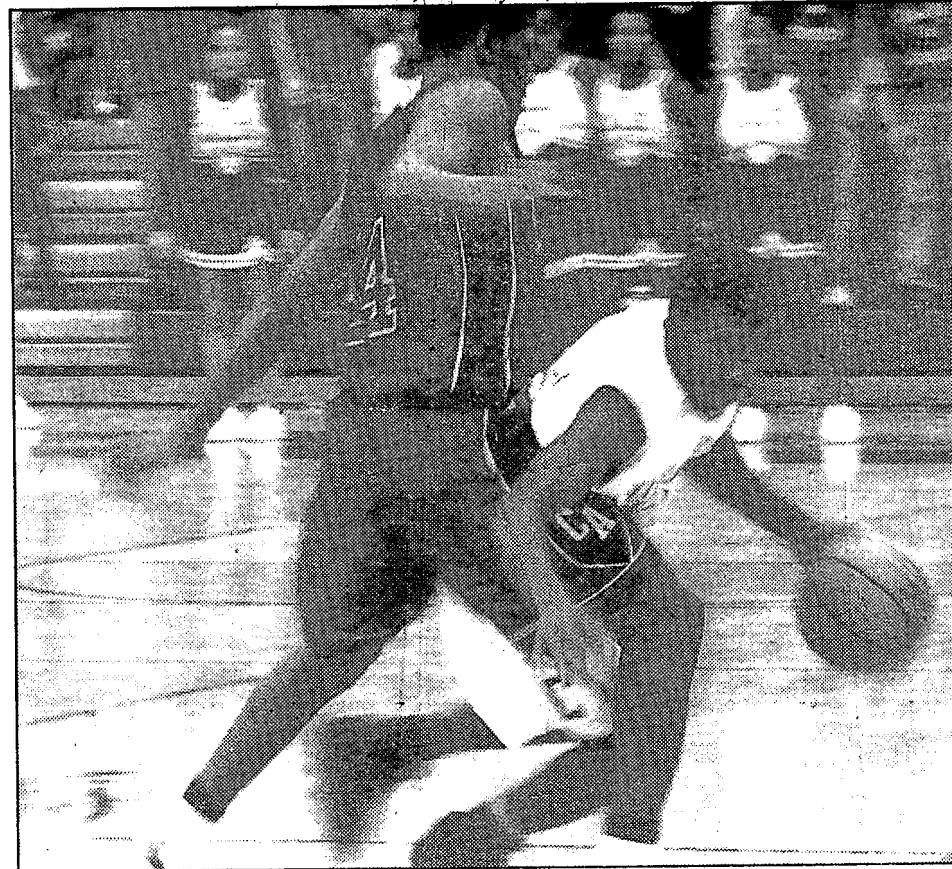
The Carman-Ainsworth squad dug too deep a hole in the first half, said Carman-Ainsworth coach Bob Root.

"I thought our kids responded in the second half and picked up our level of play and actually were more aggressive late in the third quarter and early fourth quarter," Root said. "We got back in the game. I was proud of them for that. But you can't get behind a good team like Clarkston that far and expect to win."

High scorers for the night were Porter with 16 points, Pokley with 12, and Kupe with 10.

Carman Ainsworth high scorers were Kieon Arkhurl with 16 and Jon Lee with 13.

The JV team lost to Carman-Ainsworth



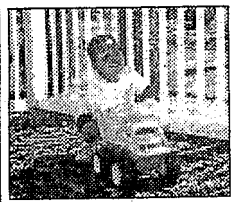
43-29.

This week, the Wolves travel to Flint Northern High School on Tuesday and West Bloomfield on Thursday.

"Anytime you go to an away gym you don't know what to expect," said Coach Fife. "But I feel a lot better knowing our subs are coming out and I've got a lot of confidence in our bench. We were playing too many kids that were getting tired and I'm wearing them down so it was great to get great minutes from those kids - Tyler Scarlett, Brandon Hughes, Brandon Verlinden and Luke Prudhomme."

Julius Porter rounds around Carman-Ainsworth's defense to make score for the Wolves. Photo by Wendi Reardon

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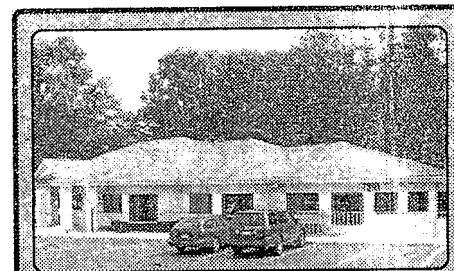
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Icers back in action

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Clarkston's hockey team may have lost their first game back from a long break, but they came back defensively strong.

Farmington Unified won the game last Wednesday, 2-0.

Both teams were equal in the game, until the third period.

With 9:48 left, Adam Phillips scored the first goal for Farmington Unified.

The second goal was made by Phillips with less than a minute left when the net was empty.

The team had pulled goalie Garrett Knappe with an intent to tie the game.

"We played pretty good going into the third period," said Coach Bryan Krygier. "We had more defense. To give up one goal is pretty good - overall better defensively, better game for us."

North Farmington out shot Clarkston 23-15.

This week, the team has a busy schedule with three games.

On Tuesday, the Wolves traveled to Port Huron to play Port Huron Northern High School.

"They are well-coached," said Krygier. "It will be a test for us."

On Thursday, Wolves will host Birmingham Consolidated in a rematch. They played against Birmingham Consolidated in their first game of the season, tying 4-4.

Then, the Icers will host state title holders Grosse Pointe North on Saturday.

"They are really a tough team," said Krygier.

The Icers' Thursday game will begin at 8 p.m. Their Saturday game will begin at 6 p.m. Check www.ClarkstonNews.com to see how your Wolves did.

Lessons learned

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Lady Cagers lost both their games against Flint Powers Catholic and Southfield-Lathrup last week, bringing their overall record 5-5.

They began the week last Monday playing a close game with Flint Powers Catholic, losing 57-54.

"It was a pretty good game for us," said Coach Tim Wasilk.

During the game, the Lady Wolves remained behind in the score by only a few points.

In the third quarter, the team added 20 points to their score which brought them into the lead by one point.

While Clarkston put 10 more points on the board in the last quarter, Powers put 15 onto their score and won the game by four points.

Jennifer Johnston led the team and put 21 points on the scoreboard. Alyssa Swindlehurst followed with 12 points.

The Lady Cagers continued the week and played Southfield-Lathrup on Thursday and lost 41-14.

"We had an off night, they were on," said Wasilk.

"Lathrup competed hard and came from the inside. They had a good game plan. Lathrup ran a solid half court trap. They sped up the game with their traps and their pressure which forced us to take quick shots and we struggled shooting the ball."

The struggle began at the beginning of the game and continued for the four quar-



Rachel Reis looks for a way to score around Southfield-Lathrup's traps. Photo by Wendi Reardon.

ters.

Tiffany Settlemoir, Mikaela Parrish, Taylor Daugherty, and Jennifer Johnston each were able to get the ball past Lathrup to make a basket.

Kaleigh Kenny added four points for her team.

High scorers for Lathrup were Amber

Avery with 12 points and Dasha Johnson with 8 points.

After the tough game, Coach Wasilk is hopeful it helps the Ladies in their next games.

"Going against tough team, it makes you better."

On Friday, they will host Avondale. JV will play at 5:30 p.m. with Varsity following.

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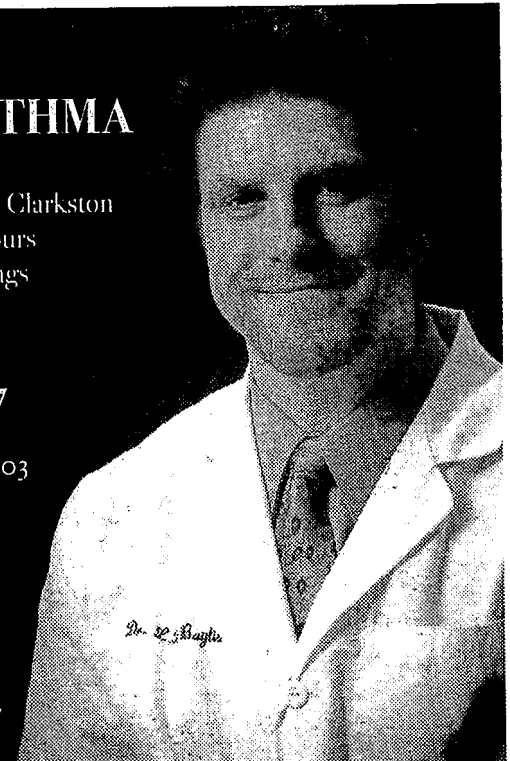
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Racing to the finish

BY WENDI REARDON
 Clarkston News Sports Writer

Instead of beginning their season on Wednesday, the change in weather last week postponed the Varsity ski teams' first meet by one day.

On Thursday, they were ready for the season to begin and raced against Detroit Country Day and Cranbrook-Kingswood for their first meet.

The girls team won against Country Day 30-10 and Cranbrook 30-10

The boys team also won their competition with Country Day 19-17, but lost to Cranbrook 26-14.

The girls team had four skiers place in the top fifteen.

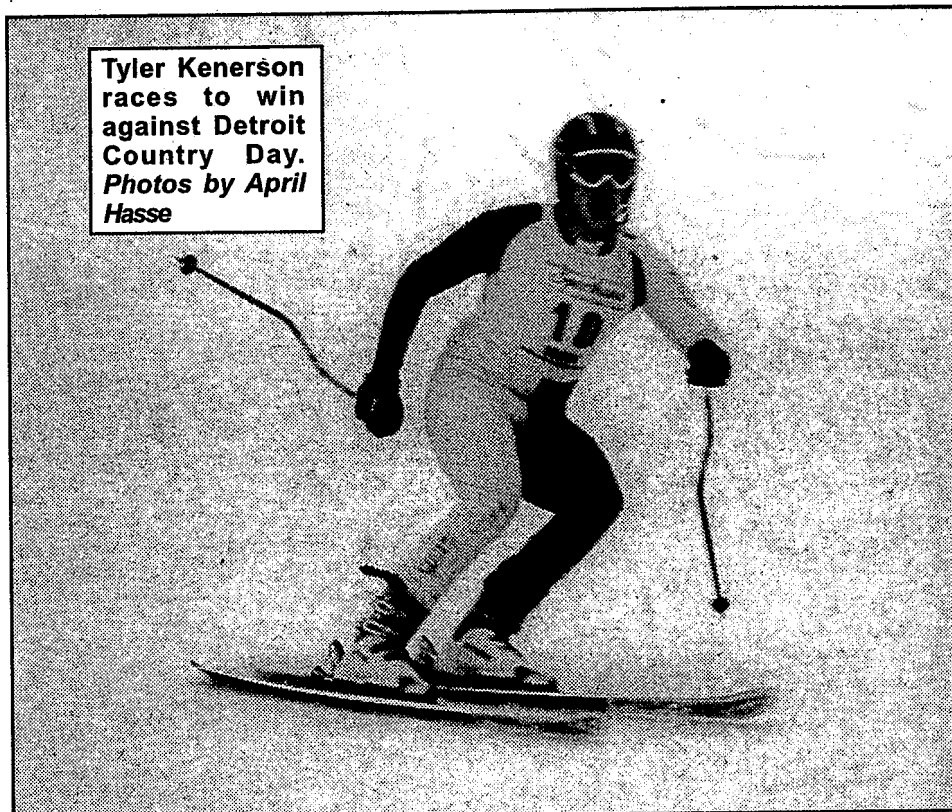
Captain of the girls team, Hannah Wolf took first place with a total time of :33.54.

Maddy Dunn finished in third place (:34.37). Kelly Peters came next in fourth place (:34.93). Erica Halsey took 6.5 place (:35.72) and Heather Baron took eleventh place (:36.74).

"The girls did good," said Coach Mike Foyteck.

For the boys team, only two placed in the top twenty. Chris Bland took eleventh place (:33.89) and Tyler Kenerson finished nineteenth (:34.75).

The boys team is consisted of boys that



Tyler Kenerson races to win against Detroit Country Day. Photos by April Hasse

are pretty young, said Foyteck.

Bland and Kenerson are the only returning Varsity skiers from last year. Nick Kellogg was on the JV team last year.

"A little bit to work on," said Foyteck. "Hopefully get more training and get out there."

As long as the weather keeps cooperating and keeps getting colder, the teams will be able to do more training and continue competing.

Tuesday and Wednesday the Varsity

teams will compete against Rochester Adams and Notre Dame Prep.

"The girls team will be fine. The boys hopefully will be, but we'll see."

Last week, the girls team for Notre Dame came in second place following Clarkston and Adams came in fifth place.

The boys team for Notre Dame placed in fourth and Adams was in tenth place, while Clarkston placed in the middle of the two schools at seventh place.

Both meets begin at 4:15 p.m.

NEWS FLASH!

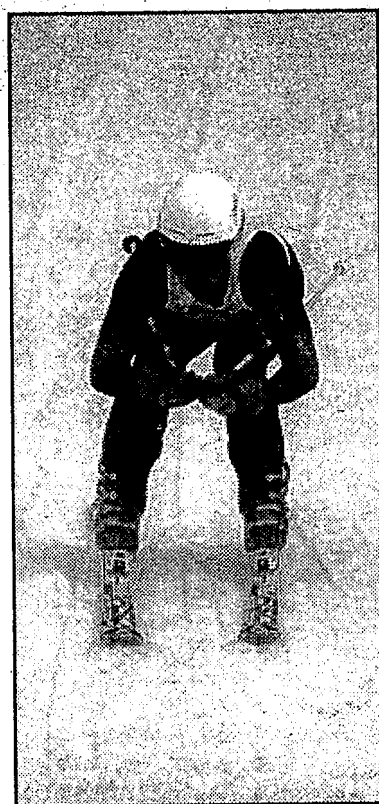
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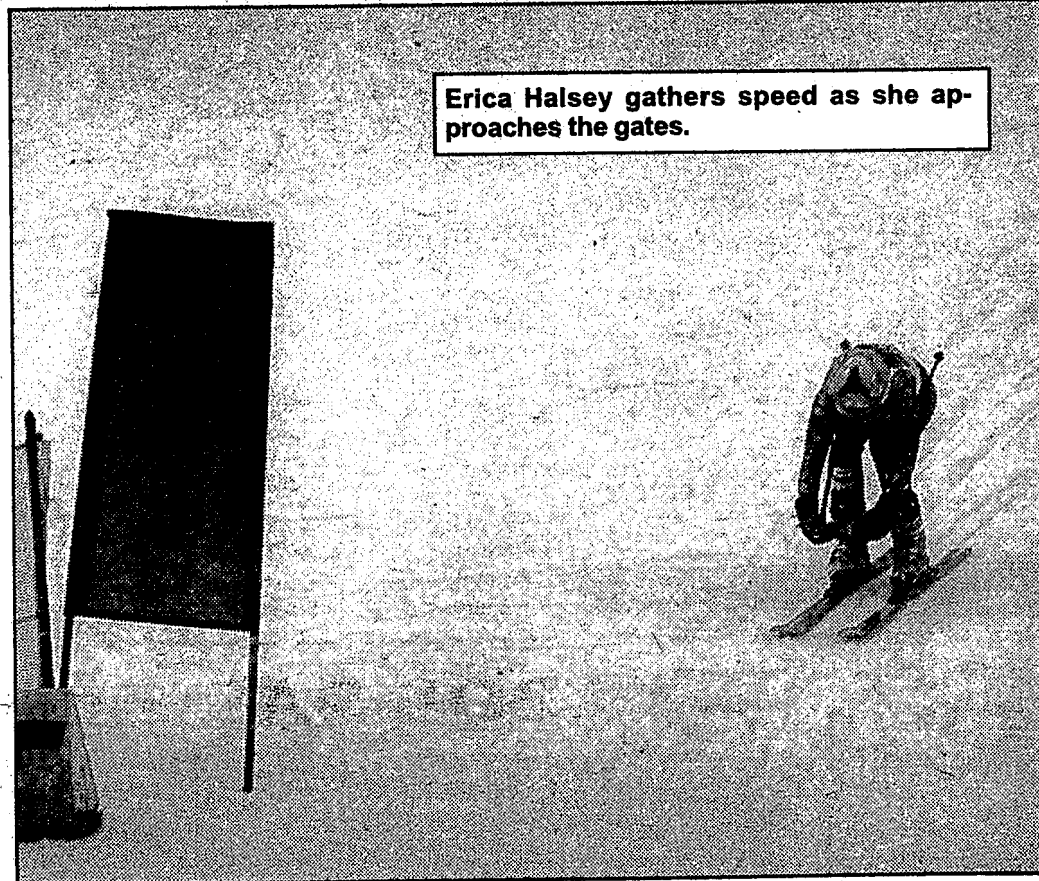
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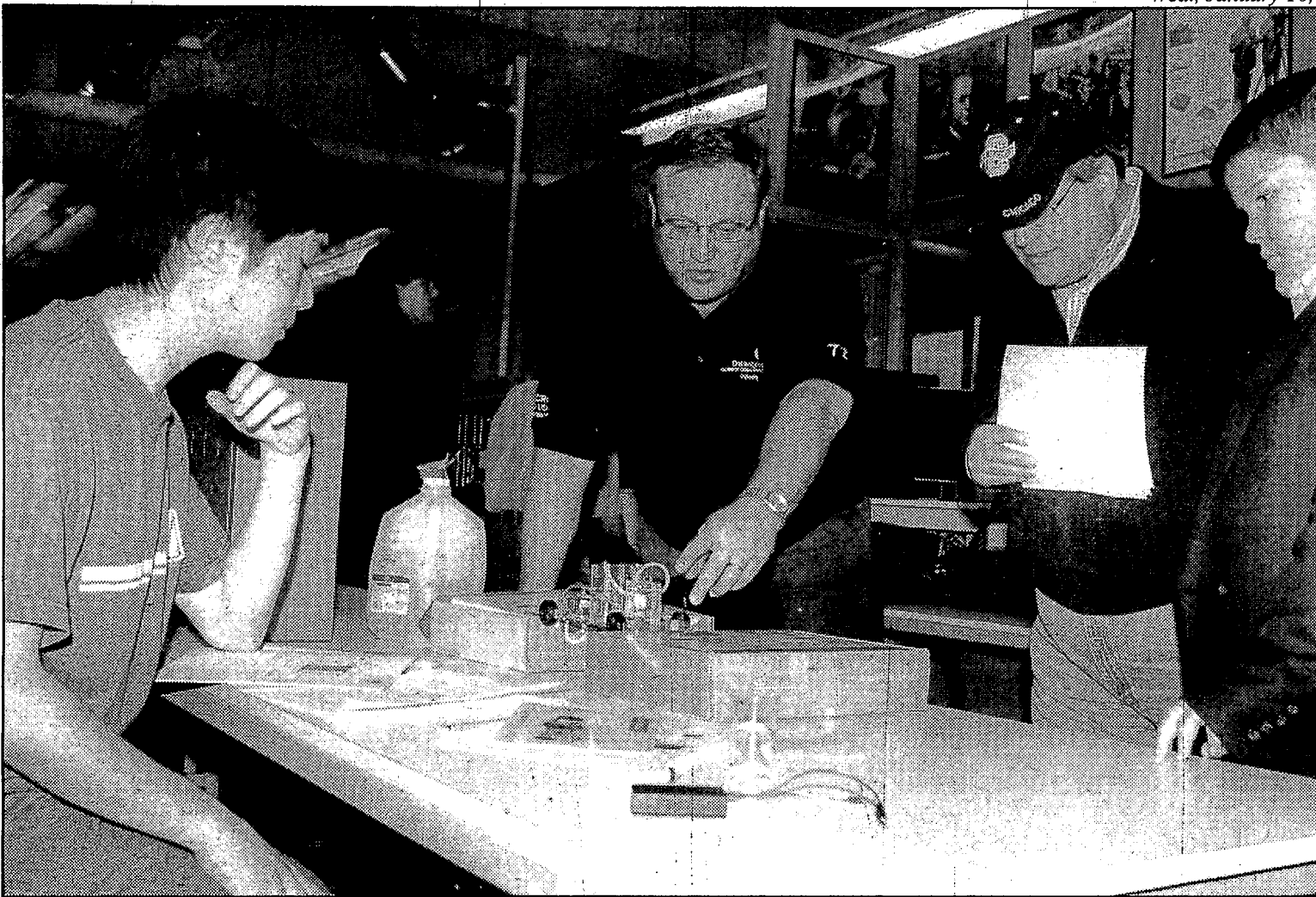
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Chris Bland finishes eleventh for the meet.



Erica Halsey gathers speed as she approaches the gates.



OTEC student John Kim, left, and instructor Don Peters, center, talk to interested parents and students about Kim's favorite project: an intelligent fuel cell car. Photo by Laura Colvin

Interested?

Oakland Schools Technical Campus Northwest will host a College and Career open house Thursday, Feb. 7 from 4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at 8211 Big Lake Road in Clarkston.

Featured events include:

- Demonstrations in Culinary Arts, Natural Resources,
- Visual Imaging art show
- Sports car display;
- Captain Nutrition challenge; and
- Valentine flowers, pizza, pop, and bake sale to benefit student clubs.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to learn about careers in Visual Imaging Technology, Engineering and Emerging Technologies, Agriscience and Natural Resources Technology, Business Management and Marketing, Construction Technology, Culinary Arts and Hospitality, and Health Sciences.

The event is free and open to the public. Call 248-922-5800 for more information.

Students discover OTEC opportunities

BY LAURA COLVIN
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Young engineers are in high demand, and it's a trend likely to continue through the coming decade.

That was the message presented to students and parents at "Discover the Future of Engineering," an informational event at Oakland Technical Campus Northwest (OTEC) in Clarkston last week.

Speakers from educational institutions, as well as those who work in several different fields talked to students about various types of more common career options such as computer, mechanical, industrial, electrical, chemical, and aerospace engineering, as well as lesser known areas such as nuclear, environmental, software, architectural engineering.

"We wanted to explain what engineering

is, and expose as many students as we could to the different aspects," said Don Peters, an engineering and emerging technologies instructor at OTEC.

"We're seeing such a large retirement in those areas, and at the same time we're also seeing an explosion of new technology."

Peters was one of several instructors who worked to plan and facilitate the event.

At OTEC, students are immersed in a non-traditional learning environment that provides them with the technical, academic, and workplace skills necessary to pursue a successful career.

The curriculum, equipment, technology and staffing at each campus is designed to meet the current and emerging needs of today's industries.

In addition to speakers at last week's event, current OTEC students demonstrated

solar power and windmill experiments, 3-dimensional simulation software, and a number of other projects involving pneumatics, robotics, electronics and other technologies.

One student, John Kim, showed off his intelligent fuel cell car for onlookers.

"It's my favorite project so far," said Kim, explaining that each student involved with the project was responsible for building his or her own car from a kit, then documenting data from numerous tests and measurements on the model.

OTEC instruction in a number of career preparation options for students in four campuses across Oakland County: Pontiac, Royal Oak, Wixom and Clarkston.

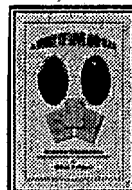
"I'd like to see more students really take advantage of the technical education opportunities they have here in Oakland

County," said Kirk Thams, vice president of operations at X-R-I Testing in Troy. "I can't stress that enough; these kinds of programs are not prevalent in the rest of the county."

Thams, whose company provides testing services to aerospace and automotive manufacturers, said his field is overflowing with jobs for young people, especially those who are interested in math, science and technology.

"Opportunities in non-destructive testing exist in every industry in every state in the country," he said "There's a huge shortfall and it's going to continue at least until 2015."

Oakland Schools Technical Campus Northwest is located at 8211 Big Lake Road in Clarkston. Call the campus at 248-922-5800 or visit www.oakland.k12.mi.us/CFE.



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Not Photographed: Jill, Tara

People Poll

January 16, 2008

Page B1

What do you enjoy about Wolves games?



"Seeing my friends and watching the game."

-Carly Giroux



"I like to see my friends and watch the game too."

-Katie Chadwell



"They're fun and I know a lot of the team. It's exciting."

-Michael Kanen



"See the home team play and hang out with friends."

-Nick Werner

By Wendi Reardon

The Clarkston News' Millstream

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

Scout improves preserve

BY PHIL CUSTODIO
Clarkston News Editor

William Maley of Independence Township bridged out of Cub Scouts with its highest award, the Golden Arrow.

Now at the end of the trail as a Boy Scout, he leaves with its highest award as well, the rank of Eagle Scout.

"The Eagle award means I accomplished something for the community," said Maley, who has been a scout since second grade. "It's something I can look back on and say, 'I did this all by myself.'"

Maley is a member of Boy Scout Troop 192, which meets at The Knoll building in Springfield Township and sponsored by Rotary Club of Davisburg.

William is the son of Gary and Tammy Maley and has a younger brother, Johnathon. His father is scoutmaster of the troop, and Johnathon is a fellow scout.

William plans to stay involved in scouting, such as helping out with his brother's Eagle project.

"I'll give him some pointers," he said.

For his Eagle project, William worked with the Oakland Land Conservancy to plan, design, and install a new heavy-duty gate and fencing for the 34.4-acre Golden Preserve for Biological Diversity in Springfield Township.

"Nature is one of the Boy Scout's principles - helping to conserve it is one of our values,"



William Maley earned his Eagle Scout with a preservation project. Photo by Phil Custodio

he said.

Most challenging part of the project?

"All the planning - getting approval by the land conservancy took months," said Maley, who logged 368 hours in the project.

It also included gathering supplies, arranging for the state to mark utilities, and organizing volunteers.

"It was fun," he said.

It will also look good on college and employment applications, William said.

The Golden Preserve contains diverse native habitats including streams and wetlands that are part of the headwaters of the

Shiawassee River. Heather Huffstutler and Donna Folland of the Oakland Land Conservancy helped Maley during his entire project.

The new gate replaced a rusty old gate that had no padlock. Previously four-wheel-drive vehicles and motorcycles had free access to the property. Scouts from Troop 192 of Davisburg helped install the custom-made cedar welcome sign and new heavy-duty gate. Fourteen Boy Scouts and 10 parents helped on the service project.

William raised money for his Eagle project by working at Davisburg Rotary's Haunted House.

Donations included steel by Contractors Steel
Please see Conservation on page 10B

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Winter Fishing Tournament, Independence Oaks County Park. January, February and March monthly contests. Prizes awarded at the end of January, February, March, for the biggest fish caught. Catch and release encouraged, but fish may be kept if legal. Register catches at boathouse drop box. Fishing license and vehicle permit required.

New Year's Tea, 2-4 p.m., Jan. 16. Flavored teas, sandwiches, pastry delicacies, hosted by English volunteers. \$6. Independence Township Senior Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. 248-625-8231.

Annual Fish Dinner, 5 p.m., Jan. 19, Davisburg United Methodist Church, 803 Broadway. \$9/adults, \$5/children ages 5-12, \$1/children 4 and under. Proceeds benefit local charities. 248-634-3373.

The Big Chill, A Teens Outside Event, 1-7 p.m., Jan. 19, Independence Oaks County Park. Ages 11-17. Winter bonfire party, s'mores, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, snow hut building, sledding in kayaks, broomball, winter kickball, stone soup and hot chocolate. \$30/person. Pre-registration required. 248-858-1486.

Open auditions, 6 p.m. Jan. 20, and 7 p.m. Jan. 21. Clarkston Village Players' drama "A Dance Lesson." Depot Theater, 4861 White Lake Road. Description of play and characters at ClarkstonVillagePlayers.org. Men encouraged to audition. 248-625-8811

Needle Craft Night, 6:30 p.m. Jan. 22, Springfield Twp. Library, 12000 Davisburg Road. Register, 248-846-6550.

Girls Softball Pitching Clinic, Independence Township Parks and Recreation, 6 p.m.,

Around Town



Folk concert at Carricks

Carrick House Concerts host Rachael Davis and Steppin in It, performing the rootsy, swing, jazz, blues, folk music of Shout Sister Shout, 4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 27. Doug & Telisha Williams will open with southern-style folk music of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. Admission, a \$14 donation, includes pizza, snacks, and beverage. The Carrick home is just north of Pine Knob and Clarkston roads. RSVP in advance, 248-394-0113. Check carrickhome1@netscape.net.

Tuesdays, Jan. 22-March 4. For girls 7-16. Coached by Clarkston Varsity Softball staff and others. Register before Jan. 18 to avoid late fee. 248-625-8223.

Blood drive, American Red Cross, 2-8 p.m.,

Jan. 23. St. Trinity Lutheran Church, 7925 Sashabaw Road. 248-684-2813.

Adult book club, 1 p.m.; Jan. 24: "The Boleyn Girl" by Philipa Gregory; Feb. 28: "The Namesake" by Jhumpa Lahiri. Springfield Twp. Li-

brary, 12000 Davisburg Road. Register, 248-846-6550.

Infant, Child & Adult CPR, 6-9 p.m., Jan. 24. 10 and older. \$30/residents, \$35/non-residents. Springfield Township Civic Center, upper level Conference Room, 12000 Davisburg Rd. 248-634-0412.

Fund raiser, Reflections of Clarkston/Hair Company, benefits Lighthouse, 12-7 p.m., Jan. 25. Free color/highlight with donation. 5641 Dixie Highway. 248-623-9696.

Beneath the Ice, examine organisms living under a frozen pond, 1 p.m., Jan. 26, Environmental Discovery, Indian Springs Metropark. \$1.50/child. 248-625-7280.

Forecasting your Future Fun Day, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Jan. 26. Astrology, Palms, Tarot, Reiki, and books, tools, and essential oils. Widdershins, Sweetgrass & The Healing Center in downtown Davisburg. 810-422-8320.

Night Sky Navigation, 1 p.m., Jan. 27. \$3/child. CUBEX Planetarium, Nature Center, Indian Springs Metropark. 248-625-7280.

Inclusive cross-country ski clinics, 12-2 p.m., Jan. 27; Feb. 2, 10, 16, 24; March 1, 9. Independence Oaks County Park. Pre-registration one week in advance; includes park entry fee. \$10/person; \$15/person with ski rental. 248-625-0877.

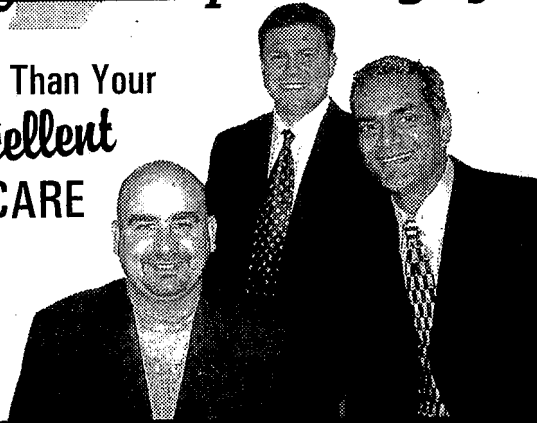
Adventures of Babysitting workshop, 7-8:45 p.m., Jan. 31, Springfield Township Civic Center, upper level Conference Room, 12000 Davisburg Rd. Care of infants/children; growth and development; emergencies;

Please see Around Town on page 16B

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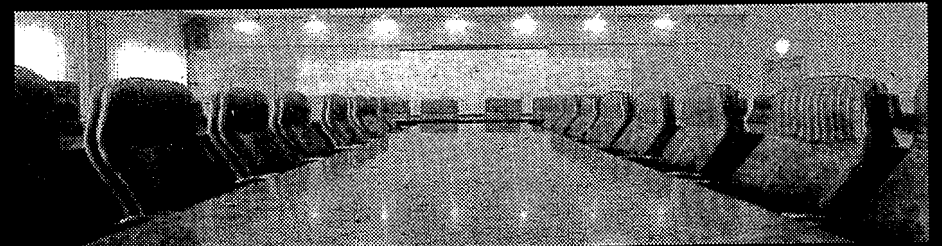
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BY TREVOR KEISER

Clarkston News Staff Writer

After 20 years, the Clarkston Village Players present Neil Simon's, "God's Favorite" once again at the Depot Theatre.

This play comedy is a loose modern day tale of the Biblical story of Job.

"It is God who gives and God who takes away," said Joe Benjamin (played by Al Bartlett.)

Joe, the modern day Job, finds himself blissfully happy, living the rich life of success with his family in Long-Island New York.

But even with all of his success, Joe doesn't understand the reasoning why his oldest child David, continues to live a life on the wild-side as a partier and drunk. Joe's constant prayer is for David to change his ways.

Joe's beliefs are tested when Sidney Lipton, (played by Mel Case) a messenger from God asks him to renounce God. When Joe refuses, he goes through a series of trials in which all of he owns is taken from him, as well as physical sufferings of the body and health.

After Joe has faced all the trials will he still hold firm to his beliefs that God is a good and loving God?

Other cast members include Joe's wife Rose Benjamin (Linda Mishler), Joe's twin daughters Sarah and Bonnie Benjamine (Hali Kivari

and Lyndsay Breckenridge) Joe's servants Morris and Mady (Mike Cavin and Melissa Breckenridge).

The play was produced by Jennifer Gentry Salski and directed by Joe Mishler, whose been a drama teacher at Holly High School since 1972 as well as written a number of plays that have been performed.

"I thought it was a challenge, between the characters and changing the set three times," said Mishler who picked to direct the play. "I like directing here, it's a lot different than Holly High school's auditorium and I like working with all the great people and cast."

Mishler said being a director was like being an artist. Starting with just a script and an empty stage and watching as the stage is filled and seeing both the actors and the set develop.

"Plays are characters and story telling at its best. It's never the same. Some characters are on one night and off the next, and sometimes they're all on," he said.

God's Favorite will be performed January 18-19, 25-27, and 31, and Feb. 1-2 at Depot Theater, 4861 White Lake Road. Showtime's are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. Thursdays and 2 p.m. Sundays.

For ticket information call 248-625-8811 or visit www.clarkstonvillageplayers.org.



Servants Morris and Mady heard a noise and want to know if everything is alright. Please see page 8B for more photos. Photo by Trevor Keiser

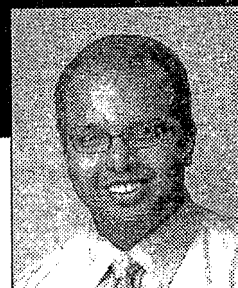
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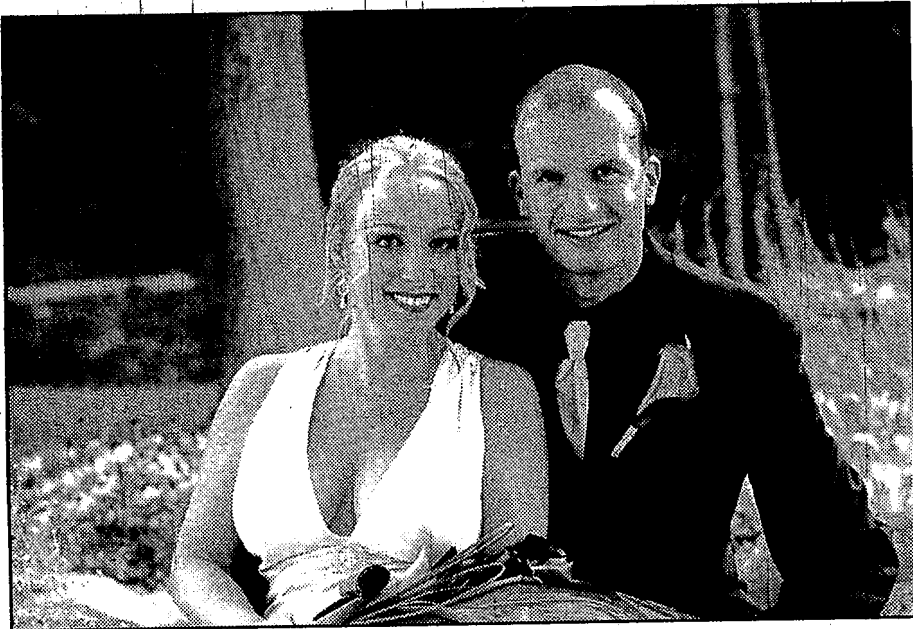
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Milestones



Jessica and James

Independence woman marries

Doug and Sharry Doty of Independence Township are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, Jessica Lynn, to James Hart Snyder, son of James and Barbara Snyder of Crestline, Calif.

The wedding and reception were at

Pine Knob Mansion in Independence Township on Sept. 1, 2007.

The bride is the human resource manager for Ensynch in Tempe, Ariz. The groom is employed by DirectTV.

The couple resides in Surprise, Ariz.

In our country's service...

Air Force Airman 1st Class **Andrea N. Ingersoll** has arrived for duty at McConnell Air Force Base, Wichita, Kan.

Ingersoll, a command post apprentice with one year of military service, is assigned to the 22nd Air Refueling Wing.

She is the daughter of Catherine Thorp of Independence Township and Randy Ingersoll of Romeo. Her grandparents are Barbara and Al Buscemi of Independence Township, and Chuck and Katy Collins of Wimauma, Fla.

The airman is a 2007 graduate of Clarkston High School.

Airman First Class **Jamin Ruff** has joined the 127th Wing, Michigan Air National Guard, at Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

Ruff will serve as a Services Specialist in the 127th Services Flight, supporting the

guard as both a state militia and part of the U.S. Air Force.

The airman has served eight years active duty in the Air Force and deployed twice to Kyrgyzstan. He was stationed at both Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., and Cannon AFB, N.M.

Ruff, a 1998 graduate of Oxford High School, completed his Associates Degree through the Community College of the Air Force in May 2007. He is the son of Von Ruff of Grand Blanc and Lois Hills of Clarkston.

Navy Hospitalman Apprentice **Craig R. Alexander**, son of Debbie S. and David J. Alexander of Clarkston, Mich., recently reported for duty at Naval Hospital, Jacksonville, Fla. Alexander is a 2006 graduate of Clarkston High School of Clarkston, Mich. and joined the Navy in June 2007.

Drop off your milestones at our downtown office at 5 S. Main St. or e-mail them to ClarkstonNews@gmail.com, attn: Milestones.

"Work is really busy right now."

"As soon as I've got a little more cash."

"I don't have a thing to wear."

"I have no idea where to start."

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Religion

Don't despair, the sun will return

2008 greeted us with a record snowfall. It was said to be one of the largest on record for Michigan with Clarkston being one of the hardest hit areas.

The prediction for the storm was that we would get 4 to 8 inches. Since I particularly detest snow I was hoping for the much lower figure.

When I left a New Year's Eve party in the early morning hours the snow was just beginning. You can imagine my unpleasant surprise when I woke up New Year's Day to the record snowfall!

I was particularly disappointed when I learned that other metro areas only received one to four inches.

I was having company on New Year's Day and worried about my guests being able to make it to dinner. Fortunately they owned four-wheel drive vehicles and were able to make it to my driveway, even though one still managed to get stuck.

When I saw the mounting piles of snow from all the plowing my only thought was, "Oh no, this snow will be with us forever!"

I sit here less than a week later and am amazed as I look out my window.

The sun is shining. There is no snow in sight. Even the

mountains of snow in the parking lot have disappeared. It is amazing the difference in a week!

I am also well aware that the opposite may well be the case next week at this same time.

In the past when discussing my dislike for Michigan winters people have advised me to take up a winter pastime so that I can enjoy the winter.

I have followed their advice.....I now vacation in the south during the winter months. My winter pastime is visiting Florida, Mexico and next week I will be taking a mission trip to El Salvador.

The problem is I will soon be back and the sight of snow from the arriving plane will not be pleasant to me. The truth is if I bide my time the sunny days and warm weather will soon return to Michigan as well.

The other storm we are enduring is the economic storm in Michigan. Many people talk as if it is the end of the world and are caught in the emotional distress of seemingly endless storms.

I want to remind all who live in Michigan that our economy is much like our weather.

We have storms and sometimes they seem endless but the truth is if you simply wait a better day is certainly on the horizon.

We should not plan our life as if the better day is not
Please see *Spiritual Matters*, page 11B

Spiritual Matters



Pastor Loren Covarrubias

In our churches...

Annual Fish Dinner, 5 p.m., Jan. 19, Davisburg United Methodist Church, 803 Broadway. \$9/adults, \$5/children ages 5-12, \$1/children 4 and under. Proceeds benefit local charities. 248-634-3373.

Prayer Partner Training, 10:30 a.m., second Sunday. Participants will receive a prayer syllabus. All welcome. Peace Unity, at Sashabaw Presbyterian, 5300 Maybee Road. 248-891-4365.

God is Closer Than You Think, video/book discussion series by John Ortberg, Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, Calvary Lutheran Church, 6805 Bluegrass in Clarkston, SW corner of M-15 and I-75. 248-625-3288.

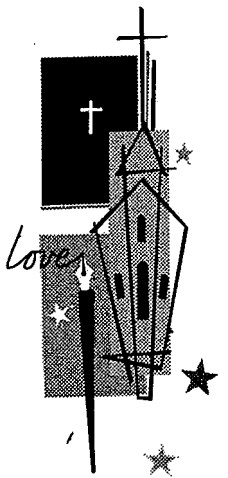
Bethany North, peer support to all faiths dealing with divorce or separation, general meeting, 7:30 p.m., fourth Monday, Cushing Center, St. Daniel Catholic Church, 7010 Valley Park, call Tim, 248-628-6825, or Joann. 248-673-2539. www.bethanyofsoutheasternmichigan.org.

Wednesday Evening Feast - Food for Body and Soul, 6:10 p.m., praise and worship at 7 p.m., classes for all ages from 7:15-8:30 pm. Nursery provided. Through Nov. 14. Calvary Lutheran Church, 6805 Bluegrass Drive, I-75 and M-15. 248-625-3288.

Calvary Lutheran Church has a weekly **Wednesday**

Please see *In Our Churches*, page 11B

CHURCH DIRECTORY



CLARKSTON FREE METHODIST CHURCH

5482 Winell-Clarkston (corner of Maybee & Winell) 248-623-1224 Service 9:00 - 10:30 www.ClarkstonFMC.org Wednesday 7 pm Youth & Adult Ministry

HOLLY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

207 E. Maple Street Holly, MI 48442 248-634-9494 website: <http://www.hollypc.org> Rev. Dr. Herb Swanson

Rev. Dr. Randy Cullen, new pastor Sunday School 9:15 am snack, 9:30 am classes Coffee/Fellowship 10-10:30 am Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am Childcare Provided

NORTH OAKS COMMUNITY CHURCH

Evangelical Presbyterian Church Sunday Worship 10:30 am New Location 9600 Ortonville Rd. (M-15) Clarkston, MI 48348 (2 miles north of I-75; church entrance is on Hadley Rd.) (248) 922-3515 www.northoakschurch.org Pastor Steve I. Brown

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CLARKSTON

5972 Paramus, Clarkston, MI (248) 625-3380 Located 2 blks. N. of Dixie Hwy. (E. of M-15) Pastor: Russell Reemtsma Sun: 9:30 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service 6:00 pm Evening Service Wed: 6:15 pm Awana Club 6:30 pm Teen Ministry 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study

ST. TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

"Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod" Pastor James Krueger 7925 Sashabaw Road (1/4 mile N. of DTE Music Theater) Clarkston, MI 48348 (248) 625-4644 www.sttrinitylutheran.com e-mail: sttrinity@comcast.net Worship: Sun. 8:15 am & 11:00 am Sat. 6:00 pm Sunday School 9:45 am Preschool: 3-4 years old Preschool: 620-6154

ST. DANIEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

7010 Valley Park Dr., Clarkston (W. of M-15, S. of I-75) 625-4580 Rev. Christopher Maus Saturday Mass: 5:00 pm Sunday Masses: 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 am Nursery Available: 9:00 & 11:00 am Religious Education: 625-1750 Mother's Group, RCIA, Scripture Study, Youth Group

CLARKSTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6600 Waldon Road, Clarkston 248-625-1611 Website: clarkstonumc.org Sunday Worship: 9:00 am & 11:15 am Sunday Connection Service: 6:00 pm Fellowship Time: 10:00 am & 12:15 pm Nursery available for both services Children's Sunday School: 9:00 am, 10:10 am & 11:15 am service Adult Sunday School: 10:10 am Sunday Youth Groups: Grades 6-7 - 5:00pm, Grades 8-9 & 10-12 - 7:00 pm

OAKLAND EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Services held at Mount Zion Center 4453 Clintonville Rd. at Mann Rd., Waterford, MI Sunday School at 9:15 am Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 am Bible Study Wed. Eve. at 7:00 pm Family Dinner before at 6:30 pm Church Property - Yellow House 7205 Clintonville Rd., Clarkston, MI Office Address: 404 Cesar E. Chavez Av., Pontiac, MI Phone (248) 858-2577 Fax (248) 858-7706

CALVARY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

6805 Bluegrass Drive, Clarkston (W. of M-15, just S. of I-75) 625-3288 Sunday Worship: 8:15 am (traditional worship) 9:30 am (blended worship) 11:00 am (contemporary praise) Nursery available Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 (Seasonal) Meal, worship, small groups Wed. evening - Dinner & Bible Study 6 pm (Seasonal) Relevant messages, caring people.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

6490 Clarkston Rd., Clarkston Father Les Harding Sunday 8 am & 10 am Holy Eucharist Sunday School 9:55 am Nursery Provided Bible Study - Wed. 7 pm www.clarkstonepiscopal.org 248-625-2325

PEACE UNITY CHURCH

A new spiritual community: We invite you to attend our Sunday Celebration's and Children's Church at 9am. Followed by coffee/social hour in the "Taste of Heaven Cafe" Peace Unity meets at Sashabaw Presbyterian Church 5300 Maybee Rd. in Clarkston Spiritual Education, prayer, mastermind, and social activities offered as well. Rev. Matthew E. Long, founding minister Peace Unity Church P.O. Box 837 - Clarkston, MI 48347 peace.unity@sbcglobal.net Where ever you are on your spiritual path we welcome you!

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

5449 Clarkston Rd., Clarkston (248) 394-0200 Fax: (248) 394-2142 Rev. Doctor Martin Hall Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School 10:00 am Dream Keepers Youth Group Bible Study Wednesday 7:00 pm Youth Groups 6-12 Wednesday 6:30 pm www.FirstCongregationalChurch.org

BRIDGEWOOD CHURCH

6765 Rattalee Lake Road Clarkston, 48348 (248) 625-1344 Services: Sunday 9:00am & 10:45am Morning Worship Service Exploration Station - Children's Ministry Wed. 6:45pm Fit For Life - Adult Life Ministry c.r.a.v.e. - Student Life Ministry Ozone - Children's Life Ministry Nurture Center/Wonderland available for all services A Church For Life www.bridgewoodchurch.com

SASHABAW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Little Church with a BIG Heart" 5300 Maybee Road, Clarkston Worship 11:00 am Nursery Provided Phone (248) 673-3101

DIVINE MERCY PARISH

"A Mission Church" Mass celebrated at Davisburg Elementary School 12003 Davisburg Rd. Saturday at 5:00 pm Sunday at 10:00 am Celebrant: Msgr John Budde website: www.divinemercyparish.net

CLARKSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

6300 Clarkston Road - Clarkston (248) 625-1323 Home of Oakland Christian School Pastors: Greg Henneman, Bonita Laudeman, Kevin Kuehne, Michael Anderson, Dan Whiting Sunday: Worship 9:30 & 11:00 am Spiritual Formation 11:00 am Nursery Care at all services Wednesday: Children's Ministries 6:00-8:00 pm Sunday: Youth Ministries 5:00-7:00 pm www.clarkstonchurch.com

DIXIE BAPTIST CHURCH

8585 Dixie Highway, Clarkston, MI (248) 625-2311 website: www.dixiebaptist.org Home of Springfield Christian Academy & Children's Ark Preschool Pastor: J. Todd Vanaman Sun: 10:00 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Fellowship 11:00 am Worship Service 6:00 pm Worship Service - Wed: 6:45 pm AWANA 7:00 pm Teen Meetings & Adult Bible Study Nursery available for all services.

Obituary

Eugene R. Flynn

Eugene R. "Gene" Flynn of White Lake passed away Jan. 10 at the age of 83.

He was preceded in death by his wife Ruthe (Stoppert) and his first wife Helen E. (Ostrander) Flynn. He was the loving father of Duane J. (Pamela M.) Flynn of Gastonia, N.C.; stepfather of Nancy J. Pass of Crystal Springs, Fla. and the late John D. Stoppert; grandfather of David P. of Morganton, N.C., and Andrew D. (Sabine A.) of Alpharetta, Ga.; brother of Zelda M. (Robert P.) Grant of Waterford, Winnie J. (the late "Dick" P.) Curran of West Bloomfield, and the late Orvis K. Flynn.

Mr. Flynn was an active member of Calvary Lutheran Church. He retired in 1993 from Manville Mfg. Corp. (Home of the Dishmaster) as President and General Manager after 45 years of service.

He was a Life Member of the Pontiac Waterford B.P.O.E. #810, Life Member of



Chapter #69 Society of Manufacturing Engineers, Life Member of Chapter 114 Disabled American Veterans and a former member of the Pontiac Civitan Club.

Visitation was Jan. 11 at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Funeral Service was Jan. 12 at the Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church, Clarkston. Interment Ottawa Park Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the church. Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.

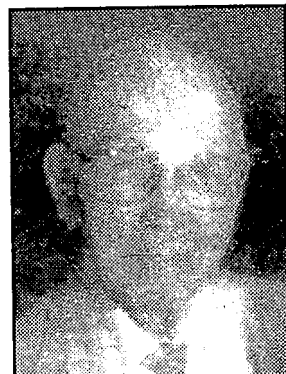
Ralph H. Beatty

Ralph H. Beatty of Goodrich, formerly of Auburn Heights and Waterford, passed away Jan. 3 at the age of 88.

He was preceded in death by his wife Dorothy. He was the father of Maryann (Rev. Sam) Sheehy of Okla., Carole (Alex) Maxim of Goodrich, and Linda (Rod) Allen of Clarkston; also survived by seven grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

Mr. Beatty retired from General Motors and was a member of Lake Louise Church of the Nazarene.

A Private Memorial service was held at the Church on Friday Jan. 11. Arrangements entrusted to the Lewis E. Wint &



Son Funeral Home, Clarkston.

Memorials may be made to Lake Louise Church of the Nazarene 2300 S. Ortonville Road, Ortonville, MI

48462. Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Deidre Irene (Welch) Currie

Deidre Irene (Welch) Currie of Clarkston died suddenly Jan. 8 while giving birth to her son.

She was the loving wife of Archie Welch; daughter of Irene and Noel Currie of New Zealand; sister of Sonya Currie and Steve Currie, both of New Zealand; also survived by family, friends and many other lives that she touched.

Mrs. Currie was a devoted Nutritionist, Environmentalist, and Humanitarian.

Celebration of Life Service was Jan. 12 at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home,



Clarkston. Interment New Zealand.

Memorials may be made to the family for the future care of Deidre and Archie's son. Online guestbook, www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Lyman L. Shroyer

Lyman L. Shroyer of Conway, Ark., formerly of Waterford, Birmingham, and Detroit, born in Warsaw, Ind., passed away Jan. 13 at the age of 93.

He was the beloved father to Marilyn (Leslie) Hays of Novi, Connie (Kenneth) LaBenne of Troy and William (Ellen) Shroyer of Conway, Ark.; also survived by none grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 68 years, Edith, sister Lillian, and brother Robert.

Mr. Shroyer retired as president of Michigan Lead Battery Company after 36 years of service. During WWII, the military requested Lyman's expertise as a civilian to train Navy personnel in turret gun-

neries at the Alameda Naval Air School.

He was a proud member of Masonic Fraternity Lodge 484 for nearly 70 years, and High-12. He was a scout master, Boy Scouts of America. Lyman was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church, Waterford.

Friends may visit at the Lewis E. Wint and Son Funeral Home, Clarkston, Thursday, Jan. 17, 3-9 p.m. Funeral Service Friday, 11 a.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church. Interment Ottawa Park Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to American Cancer Society. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston.

Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Obituaries are updated daily at ClarkstonNews.com

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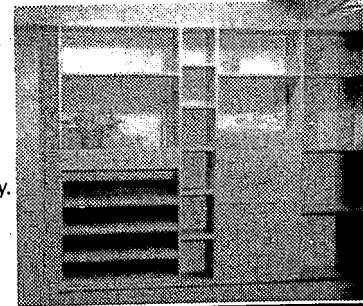
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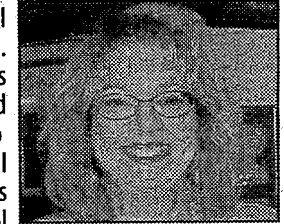
At 25 yrs old, unable to put my own socks on, and almost incapable of taking care of my 4 kids because of severe nerve pain, I thought all hope was gone. Then God lead my husband and me to Dr. White's office. After trying everything under the sun and being told my only other option was surgery, I was a bit skeptical of the DRX. But I wanted to say we tried it all. **Good thing!!!** Within the first week my nerve pain, migraines, and hunched over walk disappeared. My family started to notice me laughing again. I can now play on the floor with my kids. Go for a bike ride, a simple walk, dance, and fish. I kind of lost myself for a couple years. The extreme pain will do that to you. **The DRX has changed my whole mental and physical state of mind.** I found myself again, and I am enjoying every minute without pain. Thanks to Dr. White and his awesome staff.

Angela Wagner
Mom

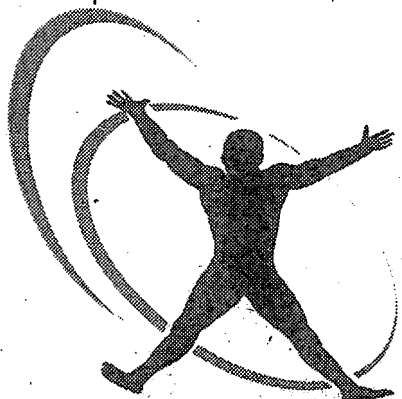
When I first came to see Dr. White I had been suffering with back pain and sciatica pain in both legs for several years. I didn't think anything was going to work for me short of having surgery, which has been suggested several times. I had been through physical therapy, epidurals, pain clinics. I felt like an old woman who was in constant pain. It was becoming harder and harder to function. The first time I sent for Dr. Whites literature I read it and threw it away, figuring it would never work. My husband then sent for the literature for a friend and he told me he wished I would try it. What did I have to lose, so we came and talked to Dr. White. I qualified for the procedure so I started the next week. **After the first treatment I immediately started feeling better.** I thought it was too good to be true so I waited until after the second or third treatment before I said anything. I was afraid if I spoke too soon I would jinx myself. I'm happy to report that I finished the procedure and **I am virtually pain free.** As long as I continue to do my stretches and exercises like instructed I am able to do most anything. I have been told that the pained look that I carried in my facial features has gone away, I walk better and I'm really starting to enjoy life again. I would **highly recommend** the DRX Decompression Machine for anyone who qualifies. I had 2 herniated discs and I hope they stay gone forever.

Jan Bachusz
Clarkston, MI Business Owner

The key is **PAIN RELIEF!** That's what I received from Dr. Whites' treatments. The quality of my day to day life has improved significantly. I had suffered with lower back pain, pain down into the buttocks and sometimes the leg. I tried conventional physical therapies with little or no improvement-several times. I refused steroid injection in my back and would not take pain medication on a regular basis. I read about Dr. Whites treatment and went for a consultation with my MRI report. He approved me for treatment and the rest is history! Dr. White and his staff walk you through every step with personalized attention. Caring and Kindness. This is not an over night cure. It took **TIME** and **COMMITMENT** on My part to achieve this high amount of **PAIN RELIEF.** Thank you Dr. White for changing my tears when I first started to smiles! That says it all! Please if you wish to speak with me personally, just call Dr. Whites office and they will tell you how to contact me. I live in the area, own a business in Flint and just want others to experience similar pain relief from Dr. Whites' treatments.



Ginny Smith
Business Owner - Flint, MI



Dr. Jason White
Decompression Specialist
Clarkston Graduate

248-328-9800

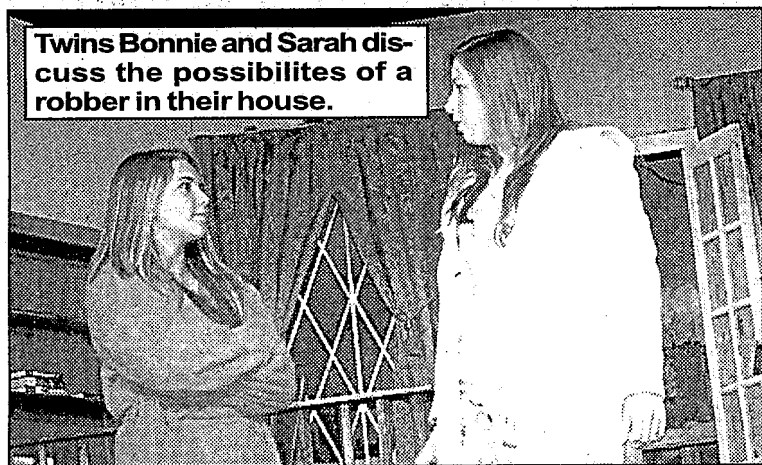
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Messenger Sidney Lipton reads the long list of trial ahead of Joe.

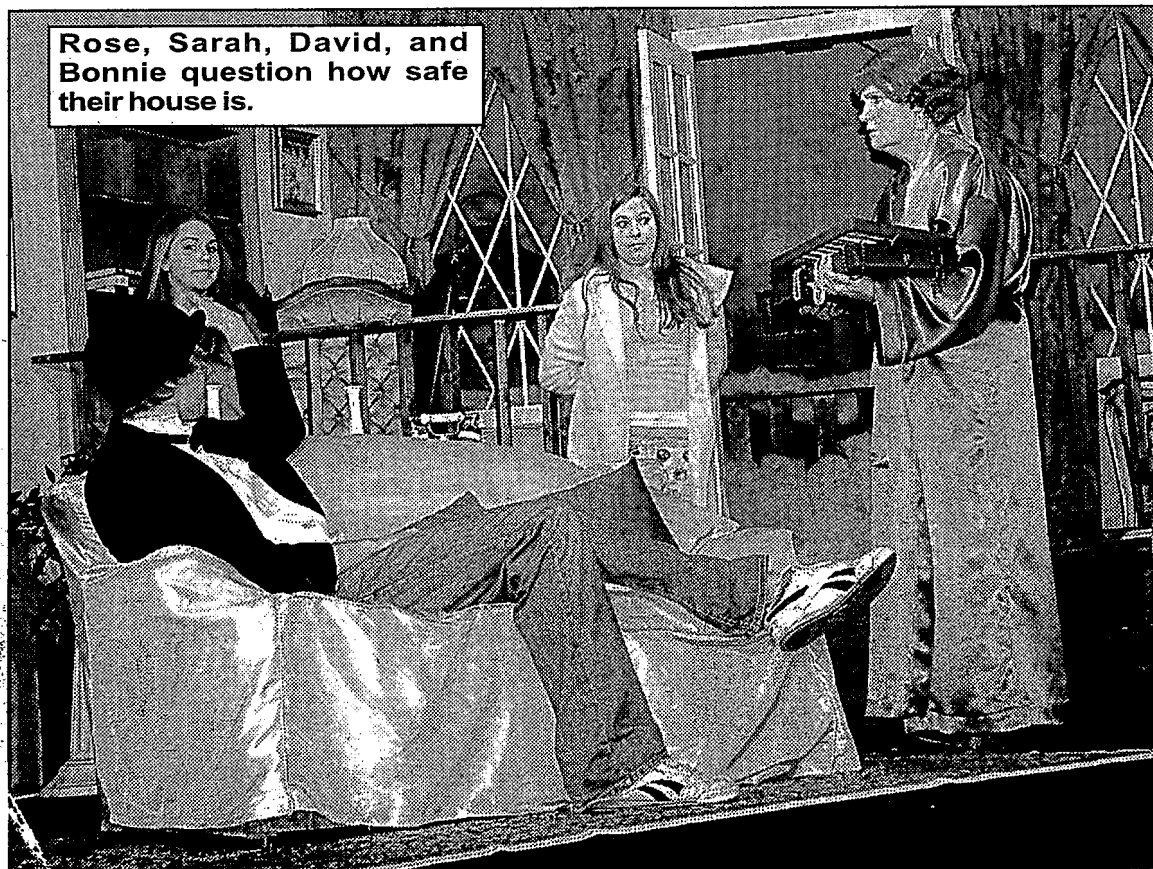


Twins Bonnie and Sarah discuss the possibilities of a robber in their house.

Doing a good Job

Joe Benjamin, even in the midst of trial and tribulation, doesn't let his faith be shaken, in the Clarkston Village Players' production of "God's Favorite."

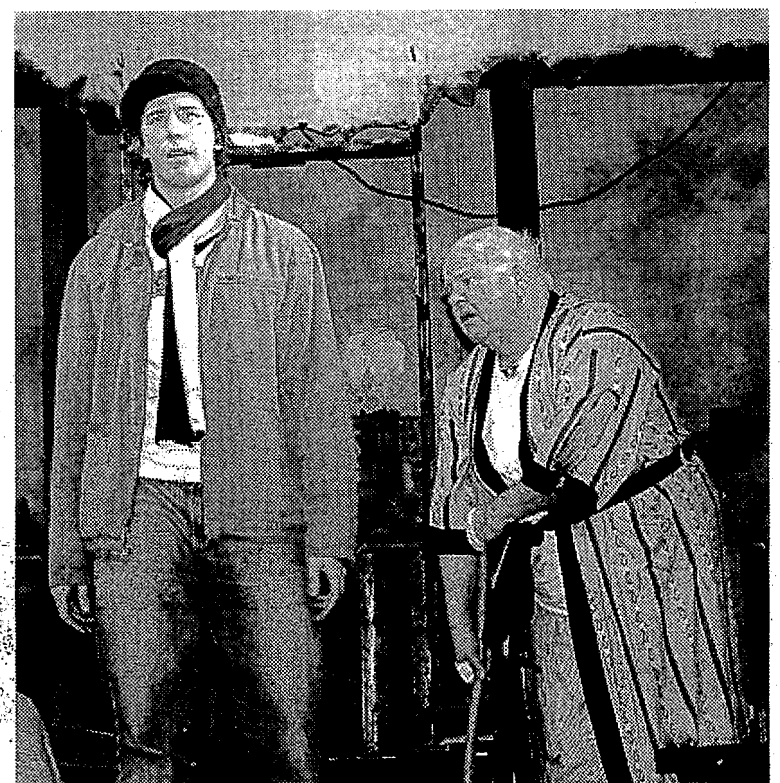
Photo story by Trevor Keiser



Rose, Sarah, David, and Bonnie question how safe their house is.



Joe finds a mysterious pair of glasses.



When David comes home blind, Joe questions why God would allow such a thing to happen to his son.

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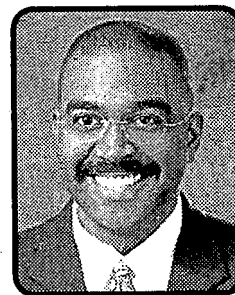
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Eagle earns honor with preservation project

Continued from page 1A

Company, workplace to build the metal gate at Detroit Pump & Manufacturing, wood poles to create the fence by Lori and Tom Isaacs, design consulting and labor by Darren Artero, and discounts for supplies by Tractor Supply Company and The Home Depot. The service work was provided by Troop 192.

According to Boy Scouts of America, about four percent of all scouts earn Eagle. Requirements include success through seven ranks, at least 21 merit badges, and leadership in the troop.

William earned 29 merit badges. Throughout his scout career, he attended summer camps at Lost Lake and Camp Tapico, and memorable field trips to historic sites such as U.S.S. Silversides exhibit in Muskegon. He learned outdoor skills such as camping, first aid, and fire building, and forged many friendships, he said.

"What I experienced in scouts will help me later in life," he said.

Maley was elected and served his troop in leadership roles, librarian, patrol leader, assistant patrol leader, historian, and

chaplain's aide.

He especially enjoyed and excelled in the position of chaplain's aide, Gary said.

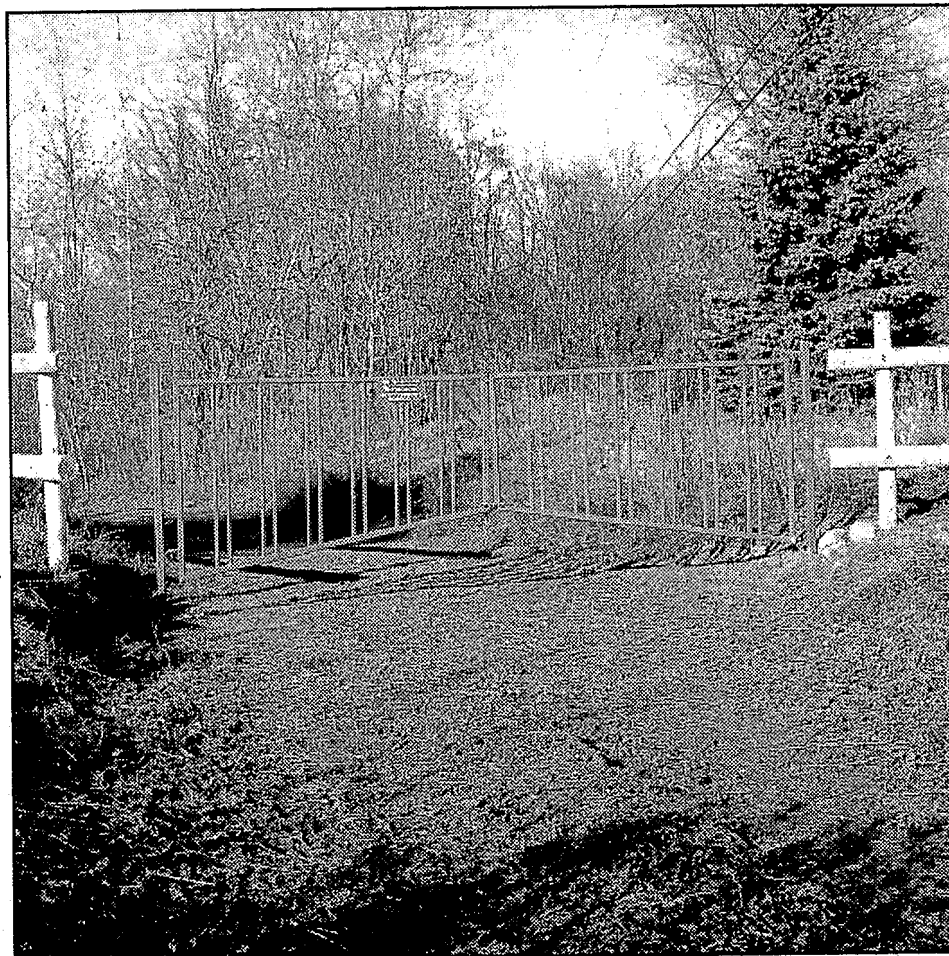
"Billy jumped in, and did the training and found a comfort level in doing it," he said. "I believe it gave him confidence and a sense of accomplishment within the troop. It also gave him a better understanding of what his involvement should be within his own church community at Saint Dan's. Any time help was needed, Billy would eagerly step-in."

Participation includes alter server, usher, pancake breakfasts, and clothing drives, he said.

A senior at Clarkston High School, William is a member of the school's Military History Club and volunteers at the local public access television station.

After graduation from Clarkston High School in June, he plans to study civil or mechanical engineering at Oakland Community College and Michigan Technical University.

As a career, he is interested in city planning and building, or design and testing of cars, airplanes, and boats.



Eagle Scout William Maley led a project to build this gate and fence.



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In our churches

continued from 5B

Evening FEAST. Dinner is served at 6 p.m., worship at 6:50 p.m. and classes for all ages from 7:15- 8:30 p.m. The church offers a free nursery. Calvary Lutheran Church at 6805 Bluegrass Drive in Clarkston at the southwest corner of M-15 and I-75. Call the church for more information at 248-625-3288.

Church of the Resurrection has **bible study** every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. Study is currently on "Paul's letter to the Romans." Church of the Resurrection is located at 6490 Clarkston Road. Call 248-625-2325 for more information.

Living Well and Dying Well - It's Not Just About Me!, learn about end of life matters such as advance directives, organ donation, supportive care, and funeral planning, 6:10-8:30 p.m., Wednesdays in January. Calvary Lutheran Church, SW corner of I-75 and M-15. 248-625-3288.

St. Daniel Catholic Church holds **Rainbows meetings** on Thursdays from 7-8 p.m. in the Cushing Center. Rainbows is an outreach program for children and adults dealing with change in their lives due to death, divorce or other significant loss. St. Daniel Catholic Church is located at 7010 Valley Park Drive. Call 248-625-1750.

Women's Bible Study, 9:30-11:15 a.m., Fridays, Jan. 11-March 14. Studying Beth Moore, "Believing God: Experiencing a Fresh Explosion of Faith." Calvary Lutheran Church, SW corner of I-75 and M-15. 248-625-3288.

Childcare provided. Calvary is at the SW corner of I-75 and M-15 in Clarkston, behind Oxford Bank. 248-625-3288

Spiritual Matters

continued from 5B

coming because indeed it will.

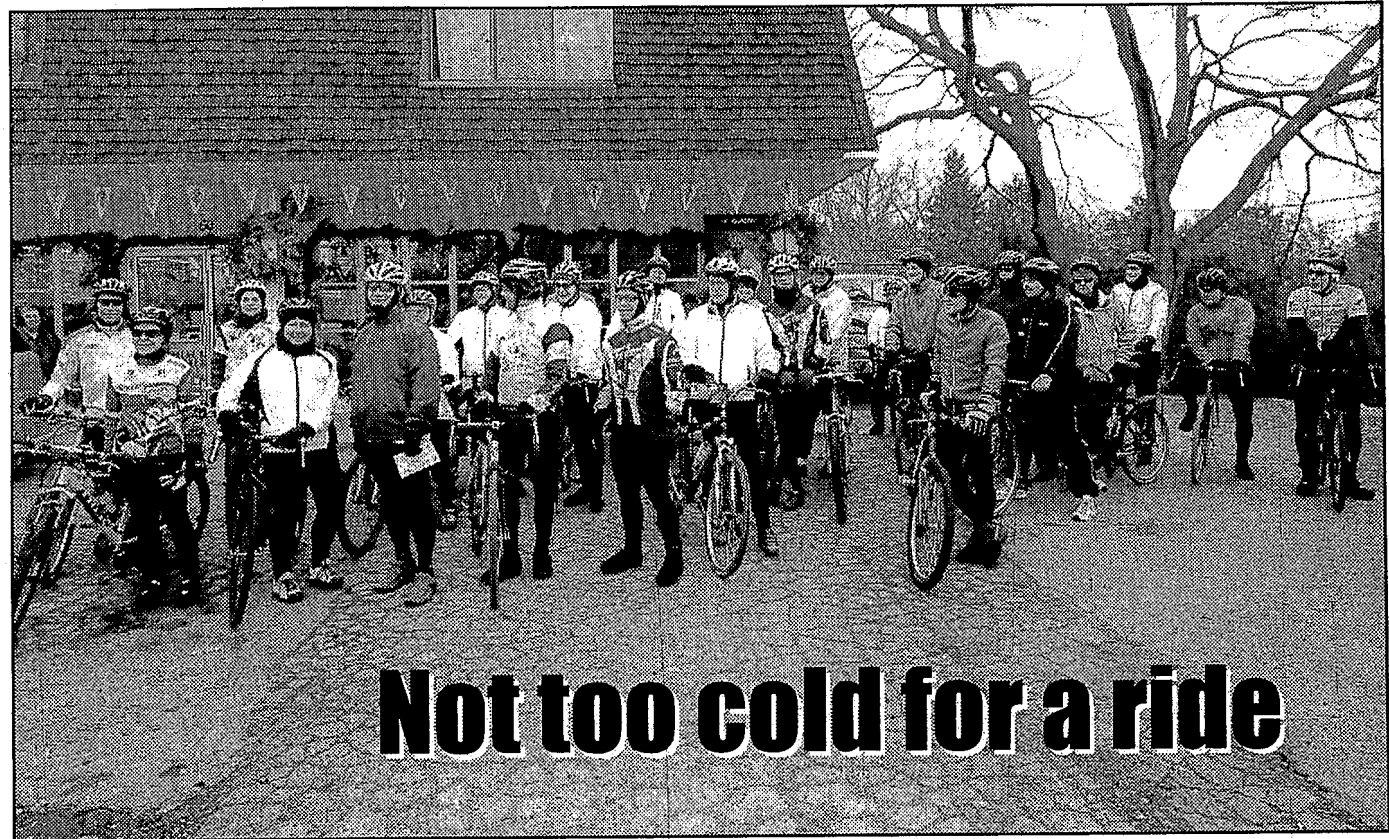
The Bible says, "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

This is true of the weather but more importantly it is true of the economy. Start getting your seed ready because spring is just around the corner!

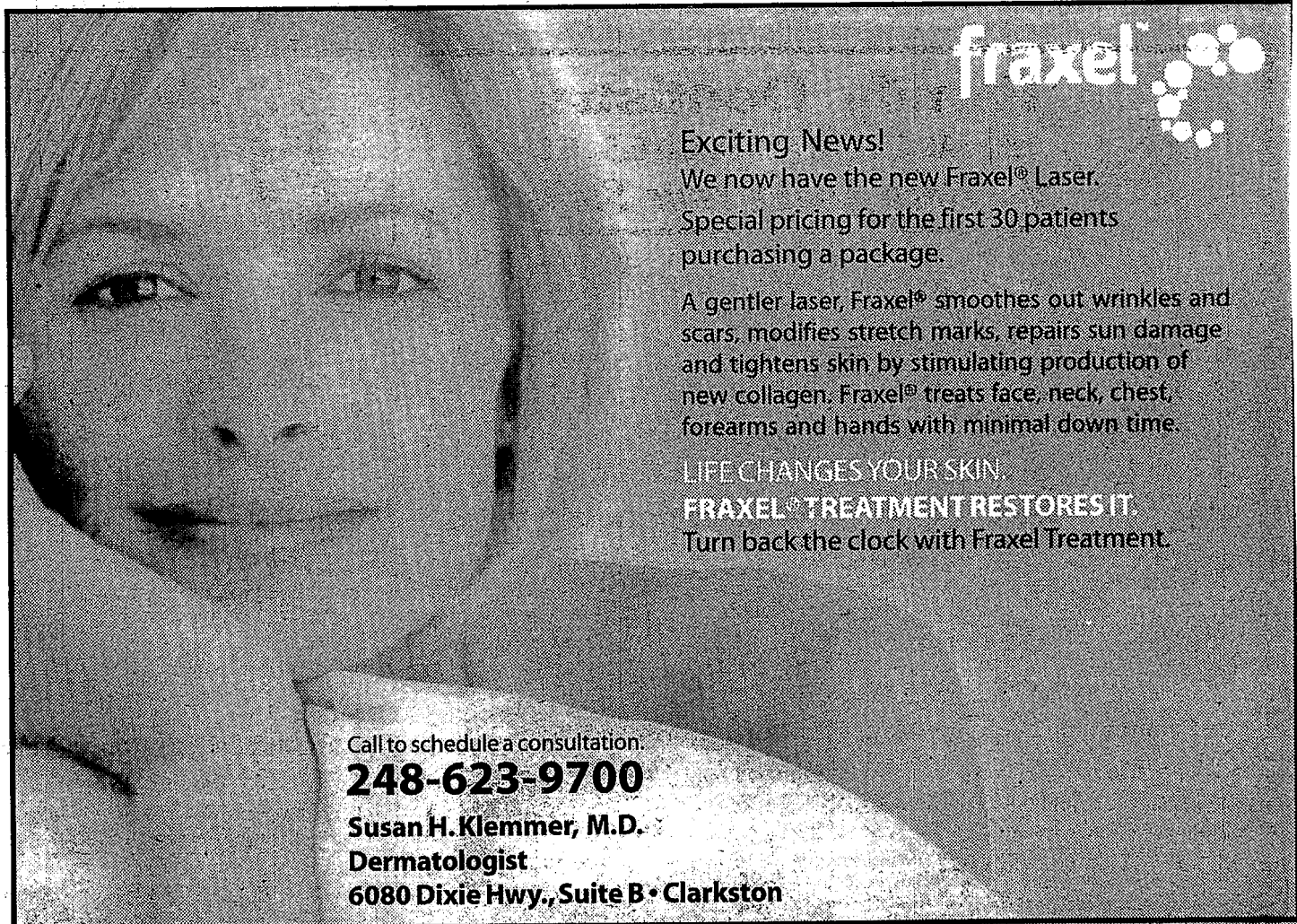
Loren Covarrubias is pastor of Mt. Zion Temple.

Like to participate
in Spiritual Matters?

Please give us a call at 248-625-3370 or e-mail us at
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We love hearing from new voices!



The Flying Rhino's 19th annual Polar Rhino Bicycle Ride was set for New Year's day, but about 10 inches of snow buried those plans. Instead, 26 members of the cycling club, 14 from the Clarkston area, took advantage of Sunday's relatively balmy 30 degrees to complete the 17-mile ride through Clarkston and Independence Township. Photo by John Meyland



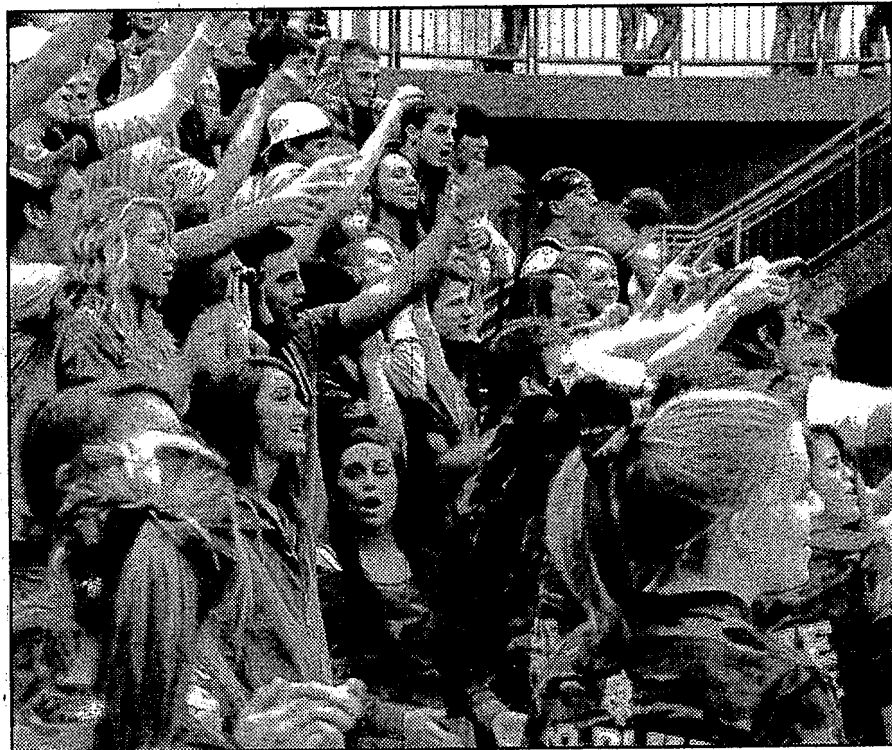
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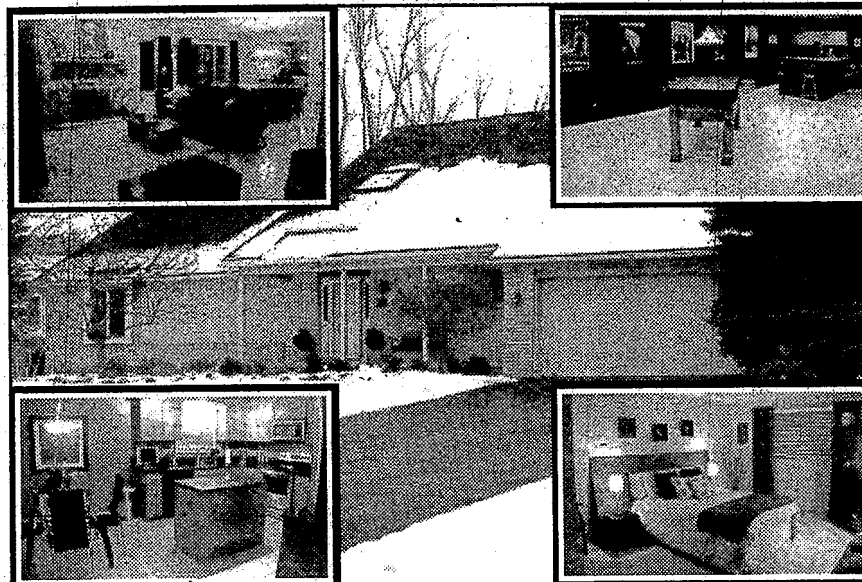
And the crowd goes wild

Clarkston basketball fans show their appreciation for the Wolves' efforts at Friday's game against Carman-Ainsworth. Photo by Wendi Reardon

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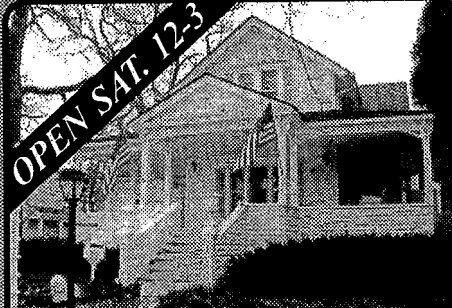
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OPEN SUN. 1-4
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OPEN SAT. 12-3
Majestic 2,700 sq. ft. Victorian w/charismatic amenities: French doors, antique chandeliers, vintage glass, and hardwoods. Double lot w/in-ground pool and 3-car garage w/loft. \$450,000 61 Holcomb Rd., downtown Clarkston.



OPEN SUN. 1-4
Exquisite ex-model w/2,918 sq. ft. plus a finished walkout. 4 bedrooms include an entry level master, 3 full / 1 half baths, and a 3+ car garage. Newer, popular Clarkston sub. \$380,000 4515 Ava Ln., Clarkston.



OPEN SUN. 1-4
Emerald green surroundings hug this unconventional 2,900 sq. ft. abode w/3-4 bedrooms, 2 full / 2 half baths, solarium, skylights, and stone. Traditional neighborhood setting. \$369,900 7550 Deerhill Dr., Clarkston.



OPEN SUN. 1-4
Voluminous and neutral 2,940 sq. ft. Colonial w/4 bedrooms, 3 full / 1 half baths, pillared formal dining, and hardwood floors, 9-ft. ceilings, and moldings t/o. 3-car garage. \$327,731 5425 Woodcreek, Clarkston.



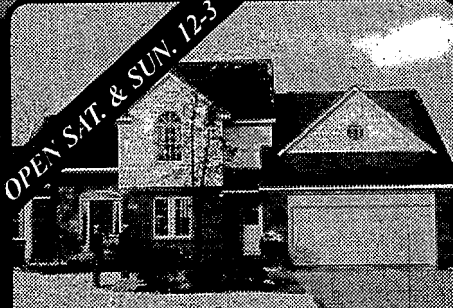
OPEN SUN. 1-4
2,500+ super stylish sq. ft. w/hardwoods, ceramic, stone, and recessed lighting t/o. Entry level master suite w/posh bath, finished basement, and situated in a coveted sub. \$314,900 6627 Deer Ridge Dr., Clarkston.



OPEN SAT. 1-4
Pleasing ranch featuring cathedral ceilings, extra-large rooms, and fresh neutral carpet t/o. 2,250 fin. sq. ft. w/3 bedrooms, 3 full baths, and first floor laundry. \$220,000 6448 Waters Edge Way, Clarkston.



OPEN SUN. 1-4
Low maintenance ranch w/over 2,300 finished sq. ft. 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths, ceramic island kitchen, and 4-seasons room. Found on a treed, .5-acre parcel. \$212,000 9062 Tartan Dr., Clarkston.



OPEN SAT. & SUN. 12-3
Five-star energy efficient model home w/4 bedrooms, 2 full / 1 half baths, extensive hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings, island kitchen, and a partially finished basement. \$199,900 10345 Valley Creek, Goodrich.



OPEN SUN. 1-4
1-acre spread opens to a 117-acre nature center and envelops this totally updated 3-bedroom quad w/a 2-car garage, large deck, shed, and 2-story playhouse. \$189,900 1958 Denby Dr., Waterford



OPEN SAT. & SUN. 1-4
Fantastic 4-bedroom bungalow + a basement in leafy Elizabeth Lk. Estates. Updated kitchen w/all appliances included, new furnace & full bath, C/A, and beach privileges. \$140,000 357 S. Roslyn, Waterford.



OPEN SAT. 1-4
Clarkston's newest and most affordable condo community boasts space-saving floor plans, designer amenities, private garage w/storage loft, and a near-village locale. From the low-100's Call for directions.



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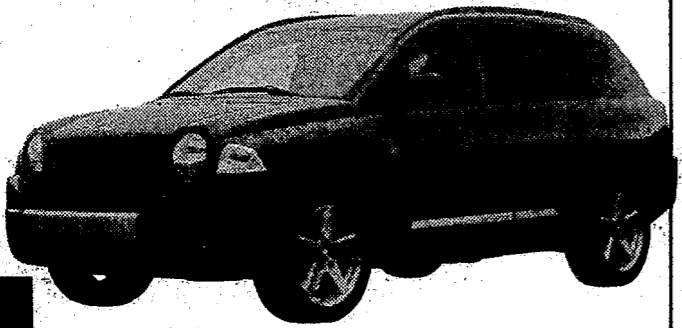
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Sales 10-3
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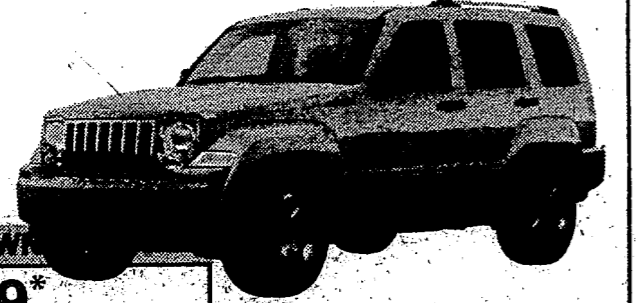
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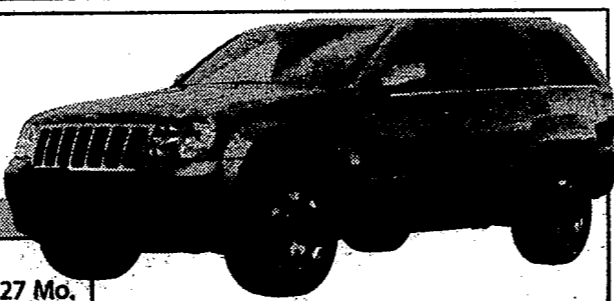
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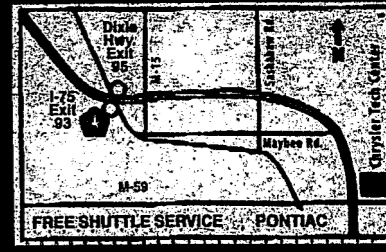
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Around Town

Continued from page 2B

safety precautions. Bring an infant-size doll and blanket. 8-14 years. \$22/residents, \$27/non-residents. 248-634-0412.

Start Smart, Independence Township Parks and Rec., six-week program, parents work one on one with their child, ages 3-5, in a supportive environment to learn basic skills of a sport. Soccer or All Sports classes. Begins in February. 248-625-8223.

MRPA Hoops Challenge, Independence Township Parks and Rec., 7 p.m., Feb. 4, Clarkston Junior High School gym. Boys and girls ages 8 to 15. Free. Winner of each age division will advance to area competition. 248-625-8223.

Fund-raiser dinner, benefits Clarkston Area Lions Club's local activities for visually and hearing impaired, 4-8 p.m., Feb. 5, Pete's Coney Island II, 6160 Dixie Highway.

Teen Valentine Party, 6:30 p.m., Feb. 12. Chocolate fondue, games, and valentines for friends. Springfield Twp. Library, 12000 Davisburg Road. Register, 248-846-6550.

Beaded bookmark craft, ages 8 and up, 11 a.m., Feb. 16. Springfield Twp. Library, 12000 Davisburg Road. Register, 248-846-6550.

Animal Tracks and Facts, 1 p.m., Feb. 16, Environmental Discovery Center, Indian Springs Metro Park. For ages 7 and older. \$1.50. 248-625-6640.

Mothers & More, non-profit dedicated to improving lives of mothers through support, education, advocacy, 7:15 p.m., third Monday, Red Knapp's Restaurant, 6722 Dixie Highway. 248-969-9788.

Clarkston Community Band rehearsals, 7 p.m., Tuesdays. Especially needed: percussion, clarinets, trumpets. \$30/semester. Band room, Sashabaw Middle School, 5565 Pine Knob Lane. Independence Township Parks & Recreation, 248-625-8223 or www.clarkstonband.org.

BNI, Clarkston-Waterford Chapter, 7 a.m., Tuesdays, Liberty Golf & Banquet Center, 6060 Maybee Road. Call Cheryl Bean at 248-625-7550.

Gentle Yoga, 8:30 a.m., Tuesdays, through Dec. 11. \$32 for seven weeks. Carriage House, Independence Township Senior Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. 248-625-8231.

Grace Under Pressure, self-confidence, coordination, self-discipline, self-defense. 7-8

p.m., Tuesdays, through March 25. 5 years and up. \$30/residents, \$35/non-residents. Hart Community Center, Davisburg. 248-634-0412.

Sanchin Ryu Karate: K-8th grade, 6-7 p.m., Tuesdays, through March 25, \$30/residents, \$35/non-residents. Adult and family, 5 years and up, 7-9 p.m., Jan. 15-March 25, \$45/resident, \$90/family; \$50/non-residents, \$95/family. Hart Community Center, Davisburg. 248-634-0412.

Yoga Classes, Wednesdays, through Feb. 27. 18 and older. \$70/residents, \$75/non-residents. \$12/walkin. Springfield Township Civic Center, upper level Conference Room, 12000 Davisburg Rd. 248-634-0412.

De-Stress Gentle Yoga, 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays, through Dec. 19. \$28 for 6 weeks Carriage House, 6000 Clarkston Road. 248-625-8231.

Knit or crochet program, second and fourth Wednesday, 7-8:30 p.m., Independence Township Library, 6495 Clarkston Road. All levels welcome. Tea and coffee. 248-625-2212.

Line dancing in Clarkston, Thursdays, Beginners 1-2:30 p.m., Intermediate/Advanced

3-4 p.m. \$3. Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road. Call Independence Township Senior Center, 248-625-8231.

Clarkston Area Lions Club, second and fourth Thursday, 6:30-8 p.m., Carriage House, next to the Senior Center, in Clintonwood Park. Visitors welcome. 248-802-8603.

LBN - Independence Township Chapter, 7:15 a.m., second and fourth Thursdays, North Oakland County Board of Realtors, 4400 W. Walton. Call Stacy Meagher, 248-241-6000.

Lego Robotics, 6-7 p.m., Thursdays, through March 6. Grades 4-8. Levels 1 and 2. \$40/residents, \$45/non-residents. Hart Community Center, Davisburg. 248-634-0412.

Catapults/Trebuchet, 7:15-8:15 p.m., Thursdays, through March 6. History, science, construction of tabletop Storm the Castle launcher. Grades 4-8. \$40/residents, \$45/non-residents. Hart Community Center, Davisburg. 248-634-0412.

Movies & Munchies, 1:30 p.m., every third Thursday. Springfield Twp. Library, 12000 Davisburg Road. 248-846-6550.

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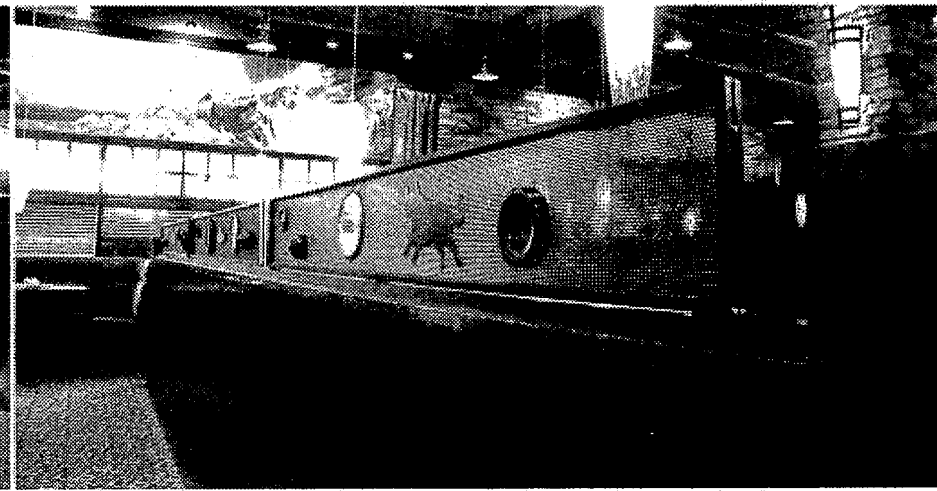
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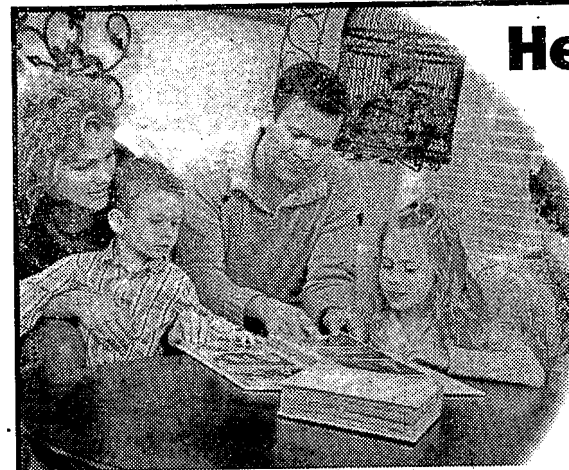
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Cheering on the team

Clarkston basketball players Luke Prudhomme and Shane Kouri stand and cheer for their teammates at their win Friday against the Carman-Ainsworth Cavaliers. *Photo by Wendi Reardon*



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PUBLIC NOTICE
Because the People Want to Know
INDEPENDENCE TWP.
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Independence Township Board of Appeals will meet on Wednesday, February 6, 2008 at 7:30 PM at the Independence Township Library, 6495 Clarkston Road, Clarkston, MI 48346 to hear the following cases:

Case #08-0004 Phebus, John, Petitioner
APPLICANT REQUESTS 35' SIDE YARD SETBACK VARIANCE AND 3'6" HEIGHT VARIANCE TO CONSTRUCT ACCESSORY STRUCTURE (REBUILD DUE TO FIRE)
6108 Pine Knob Rd., 7 Acres, R-1R
08-26-200-015

CASES TO BE UNTABLED

Case #07-0043 Green, Linda, Petitioner
(Tabled from December 5, 2007)
APPLICANT REQUESTS 10' SIDE YARD SETBACK VARIANCE PLUS 2' SETBACK VARIANCE BETWEEN BUILDINGS FOR ACCESSORY STRUCTURE (ALREADY BUILT) ON NON-CONFORMING LOT OF RECORD
4265 Meyers Rd., Lot 39, R-1A
Kleinstuber Sub of Outlot A, Lake Oakland Hills
08-34-479-005

Case #07-0044 Bouscher, James, Petitioner
(Tabled from December 5, 2007)
APPLICANT REQUESTS FRONT YARD PLACEMENT VARIANCE, 6' SIDE YARD SETBACK VARIANCE PLUS 1' 6" SETBACK VARIANCE BETWEEN BUILDINGS FOR ACCESSORY STRUCTURE (ALREADY BUILT) ON NON-CONFORMING LOT OF RECORD
4271 Meyers Rd., Lot 40, R-1A
Kleinstuber Sub of Outlot A, Lake Oakland Hills
08-34-479-006

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT THE ABOVE REQUESTS MAY BE EXAMINED at the Township Building Department during regular business hours. Written comments may be sent to the Zoning Board of Appeals c/o the Independence Township Building Department, 90 N. Main St., Clarkston, MI 48346 prior to the Public Hearing. For further information call (248) 625-8111.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelagh VanderVeen, Clerk

The Township will provide the necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at a public hearing/meeting upon advance notice in writing or by calling the Township Building Department (248) 625-8111

PUBLIC NOTICE

If it's not in
The Clarkston News,
how will the
public notice?

Zoning changes. Tax increases. Legislative proposals. These are just a few topics where government actions can affect your life and community. Imagine if government no longer had the legal obligation to publish this information in your newspaper. How would public notices get noticed? In our democratic society your newspaper fulfills an essential role in serving your right to know. It should not be your responsibility to know how to look, where to look, when to look or even to know what you're looking for to be informed. It is the government's responsibility to publish and deliver public notice information as it becomes available. So take notice. Your right to know is being served... right here in your newspaper.

Public Notices in Newspapers.
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Owner has concrete plans for future

BY TREVOR KEISER
Clarkston News Staff Writer

With 25 years of experience, Independence Township resident Darren Francisco, president of All Performance Concrete Construction is no amateur when it comes to the concrete business. He has owned three different companies and been in business for himself for seven years.

"I absolutely love what I do, I wouldn't do anything else. I've done a whole lot of different jobs and I've always come back to concrete and stayed with it my entire life. I could never do retail," he said. "When I'm done with a job I can look at it and be proud of what I've done or learn how I should do it better the next time. Every job is a different site a different location (and) I'm working in the outdoors."

Francisco started doing concrete at age 15 working for an uncle, whom he admired. He worked for his uncle's company I.C. Chamberlain Cement Contractors Inc. on and off throughout school, until he was laid off from a current job, distributing beer in Flint, then his uncle took him on as a full time employee.

After his uncle retired in 1996, Francisco went and worked in Scottsdale AZ. for a while, before coming back to Mi. His friend offered him a job working for his company that eventually went out of business and then he bought into a company to help his friend, until Francisco decided to start his own company.

All Performance Concrete does both residential and commercial work; including flat work, footings, foundations and demolition.

"There is nothing that I can't learn because I will never say 'I don't know.' You learn something new on every job. Any man who tells you in this business that he knows it all that's like fools gold," said Francisco. "I learn something new on every print and every job I work at. The engineers and architects are always unfolding new technology, better ways (and) better products to make it better for everyone."

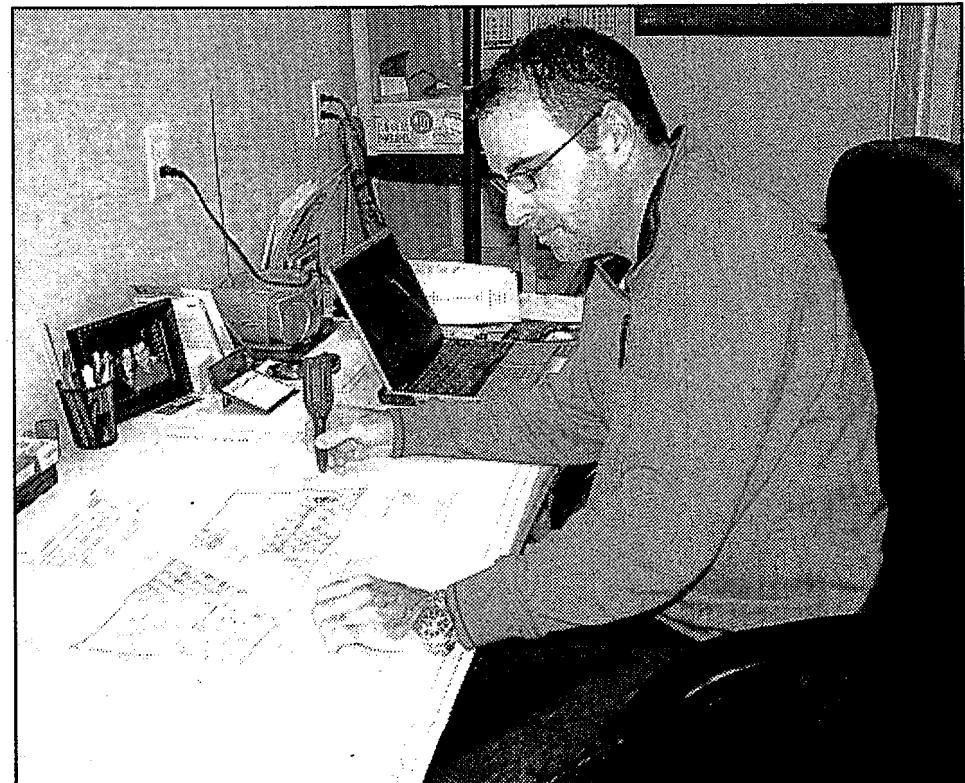
Francisco recalled an old inspector who taught him that he can never claim that he knows everything, or become to cocky about knowing how to do a job, but that each job should be done according to plan.

"I took it to heart and it stayed with me," he said.

He gets his jobs through an online service called "Blue Book." He gets e-mails sent to his company for jobs that our up for bid. Through Blue Book, Francisco is able to view blue prints of each job and pick and choose which job he would like to bid on.

There is a lot of competition going on especially with a struggling economy. The average job will only allow five cement contractors to bid on the job said Francisco.

"The competition that is out there, I wouldn't say they are all stand up companies. I am not going to put a company down,



Darren Francisco scales out his blue prints and checks for accuracy three times. Photo by Trevor Keiser.

but there is a lot of cut throating and under-bidding going on in this state. Michigan is in trouble, so it makes it tough for me to put my bid in," he said.

Profit margins have gone down to less than five percent, when it should be ten percent or more, noted Francisco.

"We're back to early 90's prices in a lot of areas, but the price of concrete from your ready mix company goes up every year."

Even with a tough economy, Francisco continues to say his job doesn't feel like it's "work" because it's what he loves to do.

"Some projects are harder than others, (but) nothing is more gratifying in my life than to see a project turn out exactly how I envisioned it when I bid on it."

Francisco said he will take on three jobs at a time and hire his labor accordingly. Whatever job is most technical he will be on site and perform the job himself, especially if it's commercial.

"If I had a commercial job going and taken on residential jobs, decorative. I have other crews that I can throw on and allow them to perform that project. At least one point of the day, I will make it a point to go out and see how they are doing, make sure the customer is happy, guys are keeping the site clean, doing a good job, that type of thing," he said. "But my commercial business is where it's at for me, I love the decorative residential don't get me wrong, but where the money's at for this company to stay alive and grow is commercial."

However, the "artist side" comes out of him when he does residential, said Francisco.

"Decorative residential is like painting pictures like an artist: It's fun."

When scaling out a job, Francisco uses three different tools: a tape measure, an architect ruler, and an electronic tool. He always checks each measurement three times.

"If you don't check your measurements, a mistake could cost you thousands of dollars. It could mean the difference between profit or loss," he said. "If you make a mistake on a project they don't care how much money it costs for you to fix it when you sign your name to a contract you are bound to it."

His sister Vicki is both project manager and office manager for the business. She takes care of the marketing, phone calls, as well as works on bids.

"She does a wonderful job keeping things moving in the office," said Francisco. "My wife Shar is also my business partner."

When not working Francisco's hobbies include, bow hunting, fishing, living on a lake, and cooking.

"Some of my buddies would joke 'Darren's hobby is decorative concrete,'" he said with a laugh.

Francisco also enjoys spending time with his wife and family. He has three kids Chantel, 21, Travis, 16, Jaguar, 6, and his three step-kids Ashley 19, Jordan, 14, and Jacob, 11.

"I wouldn't call that a hobby, I would call that a passion," he said.

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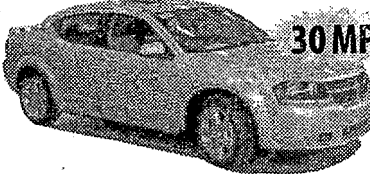
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