



Clarkston volunteers still help to rebuild battered gulf coast, page 17A

Vol. 80 No. 13 Wed., January 7, 2009

1 Section 32 pages 50¢



Light up a new year

Wayne Curto, Tom Daigle, and Jim Schmidt, a Fountains owner, talk cigars as they await the new year at Fountains Golf and Banquet Center's New Year's Eve Party. For more pictures, please see page 8A. Photo by Trevor Keiser

City looks for its share of stimulus

TREVOR KEISER

Clarkston News Staff Reporter

The City of the Village of Clarkston is hoping to cash in on President-elect Barack Obama's Federal Economic Stimulus plan.

"Some of the numbers we have heard in this first round could be \$300-\$350 billion," said City Mayor Stephen Arkwright. "Michigan may get up to 25 billion, it's significant."

City Council gathered for a special meeting early Christmas Eve to come up with project ideas for any possible stimulus money. On Monday, they had another special meeting to discuss ideas with the Planning Commission.

Ideas include more efficient municipal buildings and building use, improving public and handicap accessibility within the city, refurbish historic buildings, Depot Park development, parking, and infrastructure improvements.

"Anything that makes the community able to have higher density and get more people into it is a benefit, in my opinion, versus someone leaving the community because it's easier to go live somewhere else," said Councilman Cory Johnston.

"Those types of things get people in and that gets the housing market going because people want to live here, which is what

Clarkston always had as its ace."

Though excited about the possibilities, Councilwoman Kristy Ottman said the city must be able to afford any improvements they make.

"Our tax base is not going to grow," she said. "We have virtually no new development that can come here, so while it's fabulous that we have great ideas, we have to support what we have."

Ottman also said they should focus projects on the city's greatest assets, which is downtown and Depot Park.

However, they only have 180 days to submit the projects.

Please see Stimulus on page 5A.

Making their move

Construction on Clarkston Medical Group's new home nears completion

BY PHIL CUSTODIO

Clarkston News Editor

Clarkston Medical Group's new 137,000-square-foot building on Sashabaw Road is running ahead of schedule and under budget, said Dr. Timothy O'Neill, CMG president.

"We picked the right people, no question," O'Neill said. "They have done a great job."

The medical office building, just south of I-75, is on track to open this summer. The entire Clarkston Medical Group is set to move there from its offices at 6770 Dixie Highway.

They will offer complete services, diagnosis, treatment, and procedures in pediatrics, internal medicine, family practice and emergency medicine, and a 15,000-

square-foot surgical center.

"It's more affordable, with no compromise in quality," O'Neill said. "Hospital fees drive up costs. Private doctors don't do that."

The building is designed for energy efficiency and takes advantage of the latest technology, he said.

Records will be stored and transmitted electronically, he said.

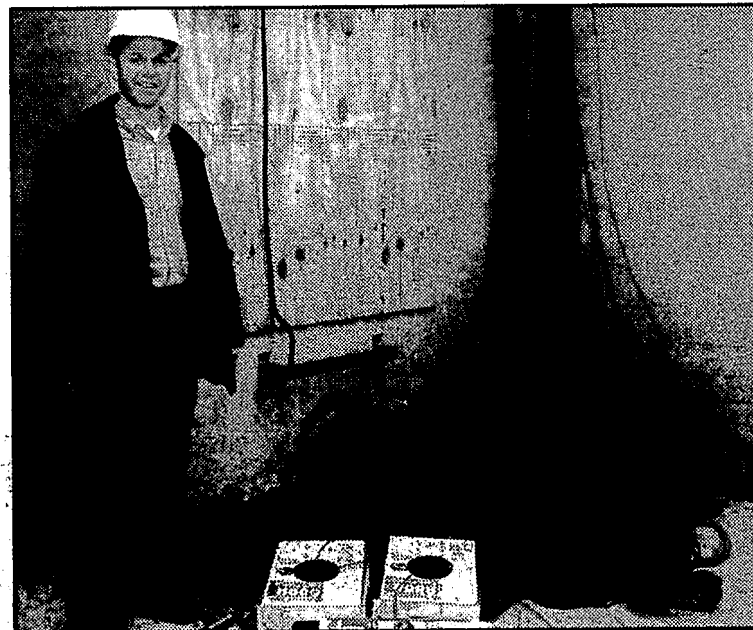
"That will speed things up," he said. "We wanted to take advantage of technology from the ground up."

The building will be divided into "pods," each with its own reception, examination, treatment, and administrative areas.

"We brought in a lot of good people," O'Neill said. "We assembled a team. Everyone here, I'm comfortable with treating me and my own family."

The group includes doctors affiliated with Genesys Regional Medical Center, North Oakland Medical Center, Beaumont Hospitals, St. Joseph Mercy Oakland, POH Regional Medical Center and

Please see CMG on page 4A



Dr. Timothy O'Neill, Clarkston Medical Group president, stands next to just one bundle of high-bandwidth cable, which will wire the new CMG building on Sashabaw Road for a paperless information system. Photo by Phil Custodio

The Clarkston News

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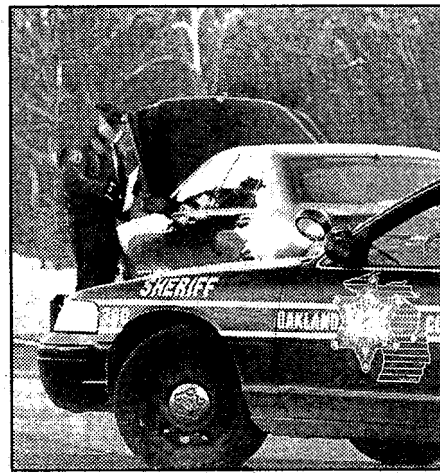
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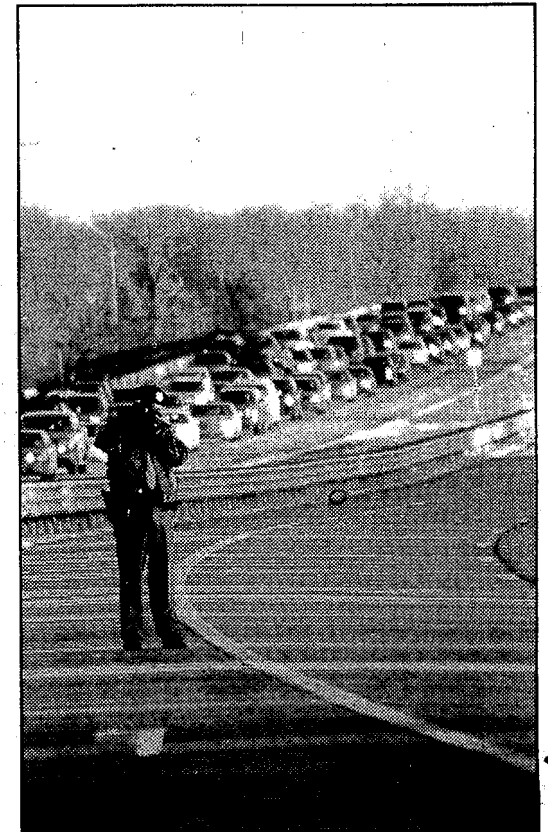
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A Michigan State Trooper checks out the car driven by the victim, in a fatal accident on I-75. Photos by Laura Colvin

Man hit, killed on I-75 at Sashabaw

State police are investigating the death of a driver on I-75 just south of Sashabaw Road. Police closed southbound I-75 lanes at about 3:30 p.m., Monday, detouring traffic onto Sashabaw Road. Northbound traffic remained open, although traffic backed up due to rubbernecking.



A trooper photographs the scene, as northbound traffic stacks up. The lanes weren't closed, but traffic backed up as drivers slowed down to take a look.

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Briefly . . .

Optimists' essay contest offers prizes, trip

Clarkston Area Optimist Club sponsors an essay contest for students under age 19, as of Dec. 31, 2008.

Topic is "The power of youth." Submissions must be received by noon, Feb. 6. Top three essays will receive \$100, \$50, and \$25 gift certificates to Borders. The district winner also earns a plaque, \$650 college scholarship, and entry into the Optimists' International Essay contest, in which first-place earns \$6,000 and trip to the Optimist International Convention. Second earns \$3,750, with \$2,250 for third.

Rules and applications are available at Clarkston High School counseling office, or contact Essay Chairman Joan Patterson, 248-625-3808 or tjipatt01@comcast.net.

Healing Hearts to meet, Jan. 13

Wint's Healing Hearts Grief Support Group for those of all ages who have recently lost a loved one will meet, 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 13.

Topic is "Coping Strategies." The meeting, led by Emily Trahan, bereavement counselor for Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, will be at Carriage House in Clintonwood Park, Clarkston Road.

No registration is necessary. Admission is free.

For more information, call 248-625-5231 or email www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Babysitting class slated for Jan. 29

Springfield Township hosts Adventures of Babysitting workshop, with hands-on activities and discussions, 7-8:45 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 29, at the township Civic Center, upper level conference room, 12000 Davisburg Road.

Topics include taking care of infants and children; growth and development; emergency situations; and safety precautions. A certificate is presented upon completion.

Participants, ages 8-14, must bring an infant-sized doll and a blanket. Fees are \$22/residents, \$27/non-residents. For more information, call 248-846-6558.

Woman's work just beginning for county-based commission

BY LAURA COLVIN
Clarkston News Staff Writer

After spending the last 12 months studying issues such as domestic violence, mental health and economic autonomy, the Women's Commission for Oakland County says its work has just begun.

"I think we had an outstanding first year," said WCOC Chairwoman Wanda Lohmeier, a Clarkston resident appointed in January 2007 by Oakland County Commissioner Tom Middleton. "We started with no foundation; all of us were new and still, we were able to do everything we were charged with doing."

As Middleton's appointee, Lohmeier represents parts of Independence Township and Waterford, as well as the Village of Clarkston, where she and her husband John live.

The 27-member commission was originally created and authorized by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners as a one-year project to survey the status and needs of women in Oakland County.

Early WCOC housekeeping duties, Lohmeier said, included electing officers, drafting and approving bylaws, and ensuring the group was adhering to the Open Meetings Act and Roberts Rules of Order. The WCOC also planned and facilitated a public forum, held May 7, where members heard from a number of speakers representing legal, medical, social, educational, and other areas of specialization.

"It was a tremendous success," Lohmeier said. "A lot of our direction came from that forum."

After the event, WCOC members decided on focus issues and formed Safety/Violence Against Women, Leadership, Economic Autonomy and Health and Wellness subcommittees.

The group is only the second of its kind in Michigan. Ingham County was first to boast such an assembly.

Lohmeier said each subcommittee put a tremendous amount of "effort and energy" into its work, noting the WCOC receives no public funding, and costs for photocopies, refreshments and other expenses were covered by donations.

But, she noted, in order to continue on successfully, the group will require a source financial support.

"Funding is critical to the success of any project," Lohmeier said. "You've got to have money."

The WCOC, however, said it isn't looking to the county to pick up the tab for its work, but instead has formed a finance committee and researched a number of grant and other funding opportunities.

The group is also working toward forming working partnerships with outside indi-



Woman's Commission for Oakland County Chair Wanda Lohmeier poses with fellow WCOC member Pamela Bard during a holiday gathering in Lohmeier's Clarkston home. Photo submitted

viduals and organizations.

"Those are some of the reasons we asked for two-year approval and not one," she said. "These kinds of things don't happen overnight; they take time."

While the WCOC as a whole hopes to move forward, not all members will continue with the group.

Of 25 women currently serving, Lohmeier estimated about 16, including herself, would like to continue on. Others, she said, have job or family demands, or other commitments. Still, Lohmeier said she had nothing but praise for each of her fellow WCOC members.

"They all have the commitment and passion to serve," she said. "They're not elected and they're not paid. These are service-oriented women committed to making things better."

While Commissioner Tom Middleton isn't a member of the General Government committee, to which the WCOC reports, he said Lohmeier has kept him apprised during the year.

"She's been doing a good job," he said. "She got the chairmanship and brought everyone together; if she's interested I would re-nominate her to continue on."

But, he warned, as the WCOC already knows, county dollars are just not available.

"This is going to be a really tight year," he said. "The resolution that put the Woman's Commission into existence didn't provide any funding. As long as (the WCOC) doesn't take money from Oakland County taxpayers, it'll probably get renewed."

Much of this year's undertakings, he acknowledged, were structured to lay groundwork for the future.

"You really can't accomplish a lot the first year," he said. "Maybe that's another good argument for why they should continue to be authorized by the board."

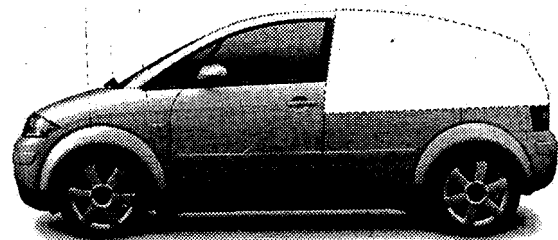
The 27-member WCOC is comprised of an appointee from each of the 25 Oakland County Commissioners, as well as two commissioners who serve as liaisons.

The WCOC's report is on file with the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

While not yet on the agenda, the group hopes to make a formal presentation at the next regular commission meeting, scheduled for Jan. 22 at 9:30 a.m. in the Oakland County Courthouse Auditorium located at 1200 North Telegraph Road in Pontiac. Meetings are open to the public.

For more information, visit www.oakgov.com. Click on 'Board of Commissioners,' then 'Woman's Commission for Oakland County.'

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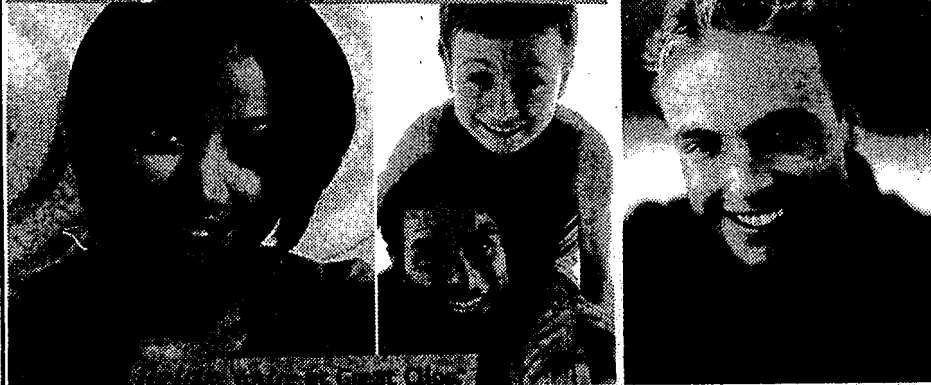
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From left, Dr. Timothy O'Neill of Clarkston Medical Group, Dr. Kirit Patel of Cardiology and Vascular Associates, Kari Gorz, vice president in charge of operations for Clarkston Medical Group, and Mary Slabinski, practice manager for AROC, stand in front of the new CMG building entrance. Photo by Phil Custodio

New CMG to have latest gear

Continued from page 1A

McLaren Regional Medical Center, as well as local practices invited to join.

"We're very honored to be part of this group," said Dr. Kirit Patel of Cardiology and Vascular Associates.

"This is a long term commitment," Patel said. "We're here to stay. We're all partners. We all share the risk. We're all invested in it."

Associated Radiologists of Clarkston will open an office with CMG, while maintaining its M-15 location, just south of I-75. Michigan Center for Orthopedic Surgery, located next door on Sashabaw Road, will also make the move. The building is 95-percent full, with about 8,000 square feet left for a few sub specialties, O'Neill said.

The building is designed for efficient treatment, with separate entrances for emergency and urgent care, and parking on all sides.

"Everything is designed with patient convenience in mind," said Kari Gorz, vice president in charge of operations for Clarkston Medical Group. "Flat parking. Urgent care has its own entrance. Even the bathroom has a separate changing area for children."

Patients will be diagnosed with ultrasound, stress, heart, virtual colonoscopy, mobile MRI, x-ray, and other tests, down the hall from treatment rooms and a pharmacy.

"We have the same instruments as a hospital, same equipment," O'Neill said. "We offer the

very latest in testing and treatment."

They will be able to perform procedures they used to send out of town to hospitals.

"That's a way to avoid the trip and keep patients in the community," he said.

CMG research department also conducts several clinical trials.

"We do a lot of research to keep sharp, keep learning," O'Neill said. "We see new technology and medicine about a year before they come out in common practice."

Along with the rest of the healthcare village, they hope to bring hundreds of jobs to the area.

"That's a good thing in these rough times," O'Neill said. "It's a big commitment. We're the largest private employer in the area. We're not stopping because of the economy."

"We said we'd do it. We made that commitment to the community," Gorz said.

The CMG building is part of Phase I of the \$600 million McLaren Health Care Village project. The first of three phases also includes a 30,000-square-foot cancer treatment center and 10 acres of landscaped healing gardens, open to the public.

"It will have trails to walk your dog or go for a run," Gorz said. "It's a great place to host fundraisers."

Clarkston Medical Group was founded 45 years ago by Dr. James O'Neill, Timothy's father. For more information, call 248-625-2273.

Stimulus plan just in case, officials say

Continued from page 1A

Johnston, who is doubtful they will get any money, said they should be smart as to what projects they submit.

"I think any project we put out has to be a realistic project that we want," he said.

"Let's not ask for something we don't want because we might get it. Who wants to waste government money or tax money, which is our money, on things when we really would like to be doing something else, but we can't because we were told 'we were going to give it to you for this.' So I think the projects need to be prioritized on what we need."

Arkwright said their submission should also include benefits of being a historic district as well as "going green."

Councilman Mike Gawronski agreed.

"I think we really need to sell ourselves as approaching this as becoming the model for the Midwest in how you integrate and move forward into a green future and still maintaining a historical background," said Gawronski.

Arkwright said he and Johnston would prepare a final plan this week and submit it to the council at the next meeting, Monday, Jan 12.

What do you think?

If successful, what should the city do with a stimulus check?
Let us know at 248-625-3370
or Clarkstonnews@gmail.com

City looks into sewer complaint

BY TREVOR KEISER
Clarkston News Staff Writer

When city officials checked a sewer running through Washington Road resident Norm Cristea's property in 2003, they said it was sound.

Six years later, the sewer broke, causing a sinkhole in his yard.

"It's an old plain pipe sewer that's cracked and broken," said Gary Tressel of Hubble, Roth, and Clark engineering firm. "It's probably the recent thaw and rain that highlighted it and caused it to fail."

Meeting with Clarkston City Council, Monday, Tressel said he called a contracting company to bid on relocating the sewer closer to Clarkston Mills, owned by Ed Adler.

"Subject to a modified drawing, Mr. Adler said he is 80 percent on board. He had some other people to talk to and would like to see the drawing," said Tressel. "We will require an easement from the homeowner as well."

Cristea said the easement, granting the city permission to do the work, was not a problem. However, he was concerned about removing trees screening the two properties, and possible damage to his house.

Landscaping issues could be avoided by going down Cristea's driveway, Tressel said.

"Then you wouldn't have to go to Mr. Adler at all," he said. "It would be all on the homeowner's property, trees would not be damaged. The length would be a little shorter."

Councilwoman Kristy Ottman said she had a hard time seeing the advantage of going under the driveway.

"It just seems to me it's less expensive to put in semi-mature evergreens than it is asphalt," she said.

Councilman Jim Brueck agreed.

"The more I think about it, if Mr. Adler and his company is willing to allow us to come down that 15-foot setback, I think it's a better prospect versus tearing up the guy's complete driveway and getting close to the house with excavation," said Brueck. "The house is already somewhat compromised. Let's not exasperate the issue."



Clarkston City Manager Dennis Ritter, Councilman Jim Brueck, and resident Norm Cristea examine a sinkhole in Cristea's yard. Photo by Laura Colvish

Mayor Stephen Arkwright said he wasn't sure Adler's property should be involved.

"Maybe I am missing something, but we're bringing somebody else into the mix that's not involved in it," he said. "It's not Mr. Adler's problem. We're asking a whole other property owner to get involved who has nothing to do with it at all."

Brueck made a resolution, approved unanimously, to authorize City Manager Dennis Ritter to get three bids for easements down the driveway, as well as Adler's property. It also authorized work to start as soon as possible.

The job should take two weeks, Tressel said.

"I think it's a step in the right direction and I know we need to get the existing drain rerouted because the other one is gone," said Cristea. "I would prefer not to go down our driveway. That would be a really big hassle, and then the other issue is repairing the house. I think coming close to the house with the really big equipment could cause

some problems, so we'll see."

Cristea brought the issue to the city in 2003 because he noticed cracks in the foundation of his house, he said.

Tressel said there were no "major structural problems" when officials checked the sewer at the time. Cristea asked City Council to have the drain rerouted, but no action was taken.

Where the sewer should be located was a stumbling block in 2003, Tressel said.

"I believe there was an official opinion rendered by the city attorney (Tom Ryan) that it had the legal right to be in its position because it pre-existed the house," Tressel said. "The council at that time elected not to move forward with any further action on it because it was active and it was not having any other actual problems other than a few cracks around the beam of the pipe."

A video inspection could not be completed because of the collapse, but they estimate about 20 feet of sewer pipe was damaged, he said.

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Phil in the Blank

A column by Phil Custodio

Forever sandwich

A submarine sandwich has taken up station on the north-side pitch of the roof on Rudy's Market. We can see it from the south-facing windows of our newsroom. We noticed it a couple weeks ago. Nobody knows how it got there.

Perhaps utility workers on our roof, breaking for lunch, some sort of food fight, a combatant ducking a whole submarine sandwich aimed for his head, watching it sail past, landing with a thud on the roof next door?

A petulant teenager taking the sandwich offered by a parent, scornfully lobbing it up onto the roof?

An ultralight pilot, or perhaps a balloonist, taking a midair lunchbreak, fumbling his sandwich, dooming himself to a hungry flight as he watches his uneaten entrée drop to Rudy's roof?

However it got there, it seems likely it will be there for a while. It has already endured rain, high wind, and snow. The rain dries, winds fade, and snow melts, but the sandwich is still there. It's starting to look pretty ragged, but seems in no hurry to dissolve, and no birds or squirrels have come forward to eat it. No one in the office seems eager to volunteer, either.

For a picture of the sandwich, in full color, check www.clarkstonnews.com.

I learn many things while collecting police reports each week for the Public Safety page. Just about anything can be classified as "drug paraphernalia" if used to prepare illegal narcotics: plastic spoons, steel wool, even plastic bags.

Another thing: a driver spinning out on snow and ice into a vehicle or ditch can be ticketed. They were going "too fast for conditions."

There's no mathematical formula to determine how fast that is. Speed limit doesn't matter. It's a subjective matter. If you slide across two lanes of highway with two or more complete rotations, that's an indication your speed is a bit on the high side for conditions.

My New Year's resolution last year was to train for and complete a half marathon, which I achieved, at great pain to my feet.

This year, given the economy and change we can believe in, a resolution just to stay healthy and happy seems challenge enough.



The Clarkston News

Viewpoints

Thanks for helping CAYA

Dear Editor,

The Clarkston Area Youth Assistance would like to give the staff and members of the Clarkston Brandon Community Credit Union a huge thank you as they continue their tradition of providing Christmas for CAYA children.

With the shaky economy, I was uncertain if all of the nametags would be taken from the Christmas Giving Tree, but fear not, the caring members and staff opened their hearts and wallets to demonstrate the true meaning of Christmas. It is not about what you are going to receive, but what you can give to others.

One of the most rewarding presents this year is a family financial situation and home life improving dramatically. Thanks to the generosity of a couple who gave much needed bike safety accessories to a young

Give Main St. mural a chance

Dear Editor,

In 1980, David Rockefeller was the speaker at the Detroit Institute of Arts' corporate luncheon. During a telephone conversation, I mentioned he would be speaking in the museum's Rivera Court.

"Where," he questioned?

I knew he could take a bit of ribbing, so I said, "you remember Diego Rivera? He did a mural in New York but it was torn down."

He laughed and said, "don't rub it in."

He set aside an hour in his schedule to study this world famous work.

Write a Letter to the Editor!

Will the new year bring more of the same, or are we in for change, as promised?

If so, what kind of changes do you expect, and what do you think of them? Can the Clarkston area continue to survive as the quaint, small community everyone loves, or will it have to change along with the rest of southeast Michigan?

We welcome viewpoints and opinions, but please keep them short and to the point. We'll edit them for spelling, grammar, punctuation, clarity

man.

With his new lights, he can keep his job and ride his bike safely in the dark back and forth to work, plus do the family shopping. His new rear bike rack allows him to store his

purchases securely in the attached storage bag - no more juggling bags on his handlebars.

These accessories are truly a lifesaver in bad riding conditions. This family has no car, so they depend on the young man riding his bike everywhere to purchase what the family needs.

Tears were also brought to a mom's eyes as she picked up her hospitalized son's only Christmas Wish - a bike.

Thank you, Clarkston Brandon Credit Union, for caring about CAYA children.

Joyce Bleim
Independence Township

All art should cause discussion. Often the remarks are lively and sometimes heated. This should be one of the artist's objectives. As Martha would say, "it's a good thing." Don't make too much or too little of this work, just enjoy the process and learn from it.

If not enough people or enough of the "right" people like it after it is completed, it can be painted over or torn down just like the Rockefeller family did to their Rivera Mural years ago.

Boris Sellers
Independence Township

A Look Back From The CNews archives

15 years ago - 1994

"Teens go on binge of destruction"
Five teens allegedly caused damage at 11 homes in Springfield Township. The boys, ranging from 14-18, told police they damaged mailboxes, cars, homes, and trash cans.

"A newborn for the new year"
The Berdan family of Independence Township welcomed their newest addition, Jessica Lynn, born Jan. 1, 1994.

"Retired priest wins maritime award"
The Rev. Edward Dowling, retired priest at Colombiere Center, won the national Nathaniel Bowditch Maritime Scholar Award for his knowledge of Great Lakes shipping, a hobby of his.

"Teacher received Grammy nomination"
Danielle Blanchard, choir teacher at Clarkston Middle School, was up for a Grammy in Contemporary Pop Gospel for her song, "The Rosary Tapes: The Joyful Mysteries."

25 years ago - 1984

"Springfield family shares heritage"
Al and Anetta Crosby of Crosby Lake Road in Springfield Township found they were related to a pilgrim on the Mayflower, as well as singer Bing Crosby. They received the info in a 40-page family history sent by a cousin.

"Pine Knob sells for \$14 million"
A group of Farmington investors bought Pine Knob golf course, restaurant, and mansion, helping to pay back-taxes owed by its former owners.

"His teaching position is on again, off again"
Michael Kaul enjoyed teaching at Sashabaw Junior High, though the cycle of layoff and rehiring made life difficult.

50 years ago - 1959

"Many stranded New Year's Eve"
There were not enough sanders in the county to take care of all the icy highways. Along some main roads, especially where there were hills, from 40-50 cars were in the ditch or stuck in line, drivers afraid to proceed because of snowy road conditions. Many Clarkston homes were opened to weary, stuck drivers.

"New Year's Eve party honors 17th birthday"
Victor Ison hosted a party for Janie Eisenlohr, who turned 17, Dec. 31. The group spent much of the evening dancing.

"Auxiliary police class next Wednesday"
All men in the township, especially those with civil-defense experience, were urged to attend the class at Clarkston Community Center.

Faded Ink

Crappy New Year! (or is that old year?)

Some where, a 1-0-0-0-0-0 time ago an old-timer said something like this (and I prefer to picture and can hear the old-timer as character actor Walter Brennan -- in particular as the cantankerous, game-legged jailkeeper, Stumpy, in the John Wayne movie, *Rio Bravo*. You can pick your own favorite old-timer to make the quote more poignant to you). What's the old saying?

Once you've fallen so far and hit the bottom, the only place to go is up.

I think the saying was a way to brighten the downtrodden's day. A chippy little diddy to give hope.

The old-timer obviously hadn't envisioned new technological advancements in regards to suckatoods -- it's called a shovel. Anybody can fall further into suckatoodness so long as they have a shovel and keep digging.

And that reminds me of the Year of Our Lord, 2008. In a word, it sucked. In two words, it really sucked. Oh, I am sure there were good things that happened in 2008. I know folks fell in love, got married and had babies -- all wonderful things.

I know, I know -- it sounds like I'm a hater. My cheer isn't, "2008, the year I hate! Kick it in the shin, punch it in the nose, run out the year, let's go, go go!"

"I really don't hate 2008. What is there to hate? I mean it's not like the stock market crashed. We never paid \$4 for a gallon of gas. Tens of thousands of people didn't lose their homes to foreclosures. One in ten people in Michigan are not unemployed. People and jobs are not leaving the state like rats from a sinking ship. Home values have not fallen. Taxes have not gone up and neither has inflation.

The Detroit Lions professional football team (and I use that term "professional" only because they get paid to play) didn't boldly go where no other team had gone by losing 16 games and winning zero. The Detroit Tigers don't finish last in their division. The Michigan Wolverines didn't implode on the gridiron.

Don't Rush Me



A column by
Don Rush

The South doesn't hate the north. Government officials and elected types don't treat each other with contempt and disrespect. (What am I saying? In the previous sentence, for the word "each," insert the word "all"). And, we the people, don't feel the same way about the government and elected types.

Daily newspapers are not getting rid of the paper part of their names.

Israelis and the Palestinians don't hate each other and are not killing each other. Thousands have not died in Iraq. The Taliban doesn't hate women's rights and, in general, all things American. Russia didn't claim the North Pole as their territory, nor did they invade the smaller, neighboring country of Georgia.

And we didn't find out Joe the Plumber is not really a plumber.

No, there isn't a single reason to hate 2008.

But, I learned long ago, if you can't say something nice about somebody, don't say anything at all. So, I will not say anything bad about 2008. As fired Detroit Lions coach Rod Marinelli said, "The record speaks for itself."

Let's just bury 2008 and mutter a few nice words over its grave: Crap Happened.

* * *

I am glad that is out of my system. It's been a long time in the making. I don't know about (or care about) what you feel, but I feel better "sharing" with you.

So with that, and in accordance to my credo of always having a happy ending, let's look to 2009.

In 2009, we as a community will come together. We will rely more on ourselves and renew our relationship with neighbors. We will shop locally.

We will take the time to notice the nice gestures of family, friends and complete strangers. We will take time to smell the proverbial coffee, and raise beautiful, fragrant and bountiful gardens. We will listen to the birds and the bees and watch the trees sway in the breeze.

We will smile more, laugh more, hug more, love more.

Our spiritual awareness will be rekindled. In short, we will not whine in 2009.

Praises and complaints to start the new year

We tv news watchers all have our favorite deliverers. Oh, they change through the years as retirements, etc. take their toll.

I've gone from Edward R. Morrow to Paul Harvey to Walter Cronkite to Dan Rather, etc. Then I ran across Brit Hume. He'd been covering national politics a long time before he showed up on Fox News Network.

His hour-long, 6 p.m. program became a habit for me. His delivery was clear, touched with humor at times, class-sensitive and fair.

He retired from the nightly news show, but will be doing specials, and maybe even have a regular new program, I've heard. I miss him now, and it isn't just the holiday influence.

--- 0 ---

Is it just me, or have advertisers moved closer to the censor button with their messages?

Take the ads for pajamas before Christmas. They promoted a way to "get her to take her clothes off."

Buy her a new pair of pajamas.

In the first place, naked bodies of mature men or women don't exactly send one to the ice cream shop. Between what nature has done to us and the things we do to ourselves, it is visually disgusting.

Changes in bellies and buns, veins and hair, creases and wrinkles ain't what make poets and song writers rich. Besides, why don't these pajama makers show the same interest in getting men to take their clothes off? It isn't just men who shop for pajamas.

Men are as likely to look good naked as the opposite sex.

Then there's that ad for a doodad that holds straps together in the back to give the "perfect fit to make a 1-cup size difference."

That's too sexist. They have nothing for men, apparently. So, take that America!

--- 0 ---

I probably read the label wrong before I threw it away, but I think the discarded McDonald containers littering my front yard had my home address on them.

Or, maybe passersby see my yard art manure spreader and think it's a dump site.

• I don't have any problem believing it isn't butter, as per the slogan, "I can't believe it's not butter!"

• The Catholic organization Knights of Columbus and non-Catholic Knights Templar are airing ads on the tube for members. I can see this efforts rising to the conflict level, especially since the Templars wear swords and plumes.

• An investment tip from Jim Fitzgerald and Will Rogers for 2009: "Buy land. They ain't making any more of that stuff."

--- 0 ---

Everyone who reads the *Detroit News* or *Free Press* knows they've shrunk in news coverage, number of pages and circulation.

The men who run the *Detroit News* and *Free Press*, Dave Hunke and Paul Anger, say, "We worked with IDEC (a design company) to understand how the people in metro Detroit use media," which is grounded in understanding human needs, behaviors and social context, which helped us connect with current media consumption.

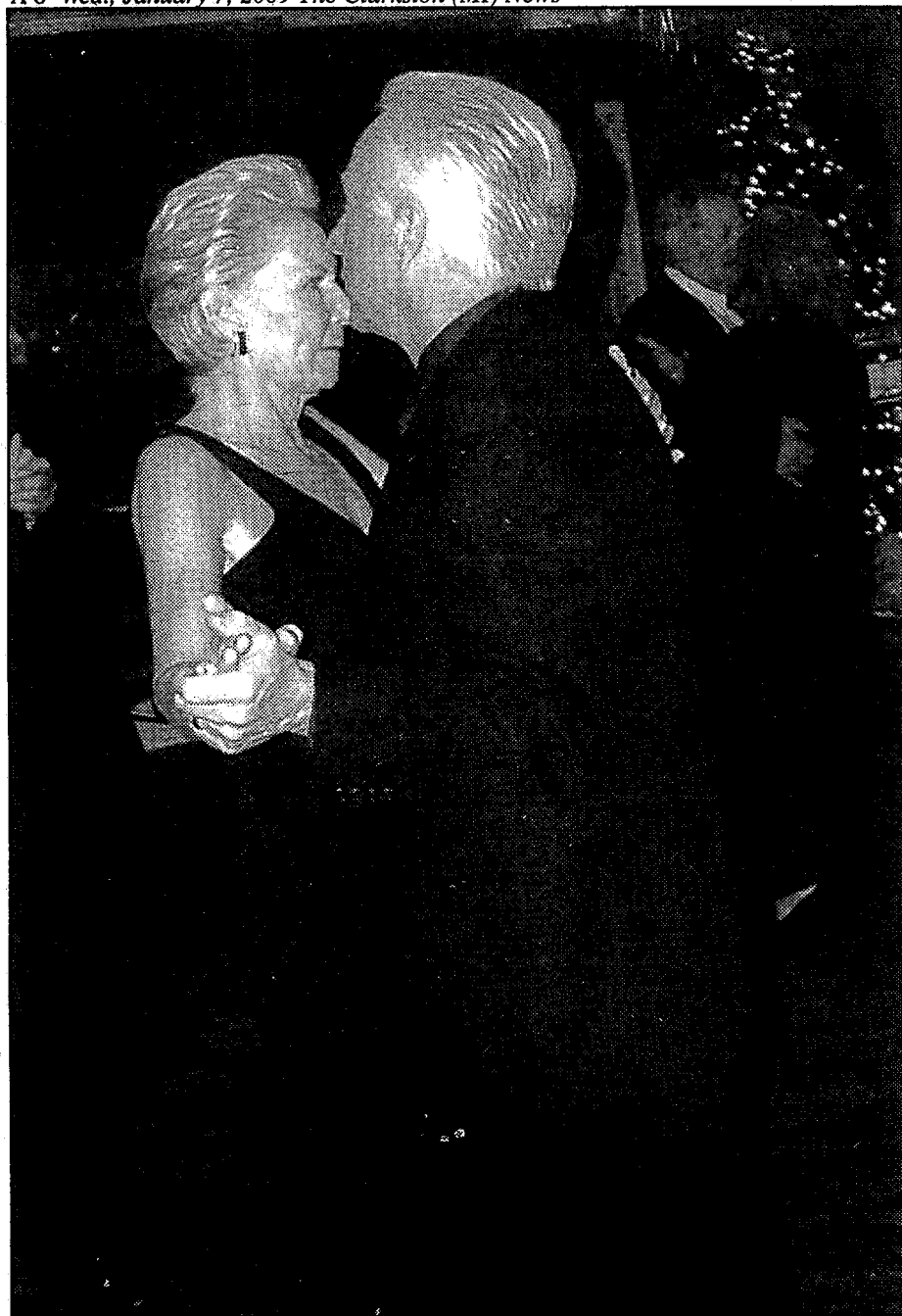
In this media publication, *Editor and Publisher*, article, they also say, "Our newsroom is looking forward to engaging our readers and continuing to innovate to evolve our offerings."

If reporters wrote with that same eloquence they'd all be writing for science fiction publications.

Keeping an eye on local trustees

Mike Clark records Independence Township Board trustees during a public meeting. Along with *The Clarkston News*, the Independence Township resident and businessman attends every meeting and makes his opinions known during public comment.
Photo by Trevor Keiser





Carol and David Plautz out on the dance floor.



Gina Fett takes drinks orders from Sue and Jim May and David and Carol Plautz.



City Police Chief Dale LaCroix and his wife Gina get their seating assignment from Angie Benscoter.

Toasting the New Year

Revelers filled both floors of Fountains Golf and Banquet Center to ring in the New Year.

The evening included tasty food, drinks, and dancing. Live music was performed by G Daddy's Band.

*Photo story by
Trevor Keiser*



Katheryn Curto and Julia Daigle enjoy their drinks.



Shayla Hamblin, Kari Wagner, banquet manager, and Angie Benscoter smile for the camera.

Public Safety

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

Yes man

An Oakland County Sheriff's deputy noticed a car with an expired license registration sticker, 7 p.m., Dec. 19, and stopped it at Dixie and Maybee. The driver, an 18-year-old Otter Lake man, smelled of marijuana. Asked if he had been smoking the drug, he said he had. Asked if he had any in his vehicle, he said he had some in the center console. Asked if deputies could search, he said yes, and they found a plastic bag of marijuana and a pipe. He was given an appearance citation for marijuana and the pipe.

Unlicensed snowmobiler

A deputy saw two snowmobilers driving down a sidewalk near Maybee Road and Timber Ridge Trail, about 3:30 p.m., Dec. 19. He pulled over to tell them they're not allowed to drive on sidewalks or roadways, and found one of them, a 39-year-old Waterford Township man, had a revoked driver's license. He was cited for operating with an expired license.

Drunk driver arrested

A deputy pulled over a 53-year-old Independence Township woman for ignoring a stop sign on Hunters Creek Boulevard, about 8 p.m., Dec. 21. The woman, who had an open bottle of beer in her cup holder, said she had a fight with her boyfriend and had about four beers. Breath test showed .150 blood alcohol level. She was given warnings for open intoxicants and running the stop sign, but arrested and taken to jail for drunk driving.

Catch and release

A deputy pulled over a 24-year-old Pontiac man for ignoring a stop light, 6 a.m., Dec. 23, at Sashabaw and Flemings Lake. He had a

New K-9 team for sheriff

Bomb-sniffing dog Yeager and his handler, Deputy Sherry Locher, graduated from Oakland Police Academy's K-9 School this past November, and are now part of Oakland County Sheriff's Office. They join a 15-dog K-9 unit, trained in bomb detection, handler protection, and tracking lost or missing people. Photo submitted



misdemeanor bench warrant out of Auburn Hills for driving with a suspended license. Auburn Hills said to advise and release him. Deputies cited him for driving with suspended license and running a stoplight.

Holiday smash and grabs

Two businesses in the 6300 block of Sashabaw Road were broken into, Dec. 23. Thieves smashed windows to get inside, ransacked desks, and stole money and property.

The driver's side window was busted out

and car ransacked, Dec. 23, at a Sashabaw Road business, but nothing seemed to have been taken. Someone smashed the passenger side window of a car parked at a Clarkston Road church, Dec. 24. The driver's side window was broken out and CDs taken, Dec. 24, at a Clarkston Road parking lot. A locked jeep's passenger side window was smashed and glove box opened, Dec. 24, in the 4900 block of Lancaster Hill Drive.

Several smash-and-grab robberies from vehicles were reported at Sashabaw Road busi-

nesses north of I-75, Dec. 23. At least two cars had their driver's-side windows broken out and items taken at a parking lot in the 7700 block of Sashabaw, and another was hit in the 6800 block. Another car's window was smashed open at that location, Dec. 27.

A driver's side window was broken out, Dec. 25, at a restaurant on White Lake Road and Andersonville. The center console seems to have been gone through, but nothing was reported taken, including an iPod and several presents.

Christmas Eye knife fight

Deputies were called to help when a 44-year-old Oxford Township woman's argument with an employee, a 19-year-old Flint woman, turned violent, about 5 p.m., Dec. 24, in the 5400 block of Whipple Lake Road.

The teenager reportedly pushed her into the kitchen, then grabbed a knife from a drawer. The 44-year-old said she grabbed her younger colleague by the throat and held her down until she could call 911. The 19-year-old requested Independence Township check her neck, but refused further medical care. Both were cited for disorderly conduct.

Making a break for it

Deputies were responding to a domestic assault on Woodlane Road, Dec. 25, when dispatch radioed to say the suspect left in a truck. Officers located and stopped the 50-year-old Independence Township man on Pine Knob Road.

He said he drank vodka and beer, as well as prescription pain medicines, and had with him an open bottle of whiskey and empty bottle of vodka. Breath test showed .241 blood alcohol level. He was arrested and jailed for drunk driving as well as domestic assault.

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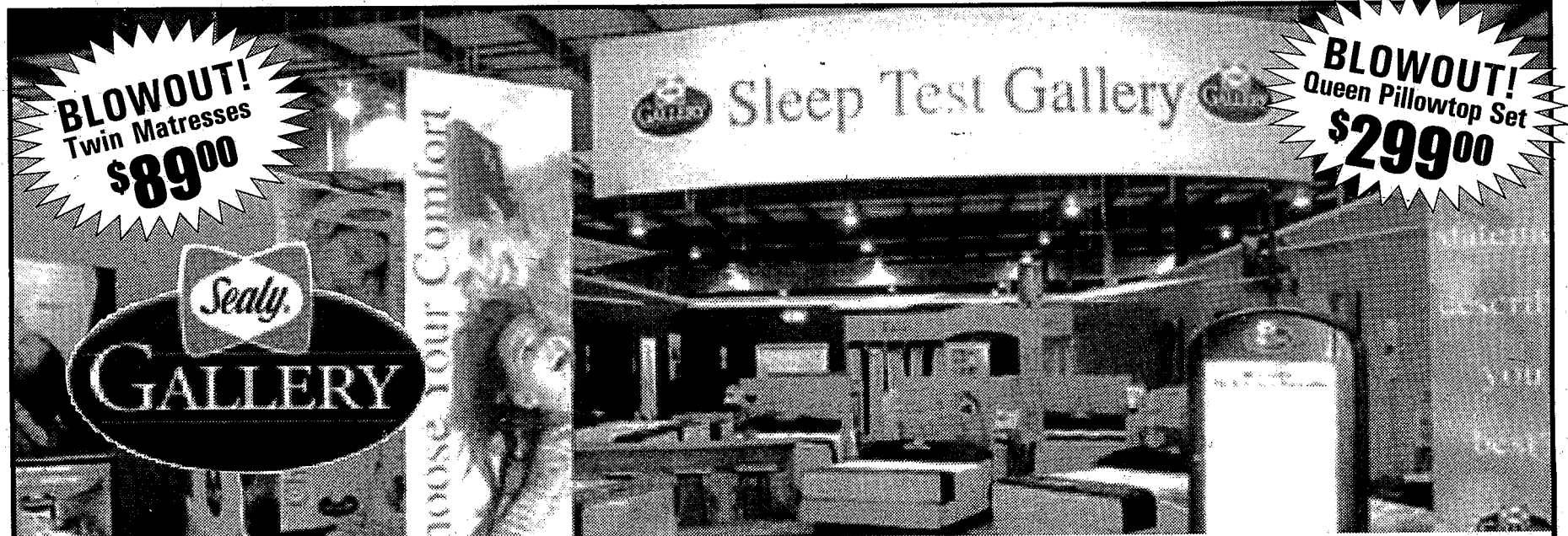
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Harry M. 'Tip' Stormer

Harry M. "Tip" Stormer of Waterford passed away, Jan. 3, 2009, at the age of 82.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Anna Mae "Annie," and his siblings, Richard, Mary, Walter, Hannah Weiers, Frank, Fred "Chad", Sarah, Nancy, and Edward. He was the uncle of Randy Skubek; brother in law of Jean and Daniel Skubek and Helen Stormer; also nephews Freddie, Shannon, David, Jim, Richard, and Chad; nieces Marian, Patti Ann, Kelli, Donna, and Susan; and special friend of Anna and Larry Robinette.



Mr. Stormer retired from General Motors/Fisher Body. He enjoyed bowling and playing volleyball and softball.

Visitation was Jan. 6 at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Funeral services/interment will be in Latrobe, Pa. Memorials may be made to Heart Association of Michigan. Online guestbook, www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Caroline Giles Forbes

Caroline Giles Forbes of Laguna Woods, Calif., formerly of Birmingham, Waterford, and Oxford, died Jan. 2, 2009, following a fall in her home, at the age of 89.

She was the beloved wife of the late Walter R. Forbes, Sr.; dear mother of Susan (Patrick) McKenzie of Laguna Beach, Calif., Walter R. Forbes, Jr. of Holly, Kenneth (Daughn) Forbes of Clarkston, John (Cecelia) Forbes of San Diego, Calif., and Lynda Forbes of Clarkston; loving grandmother of 13 and great-grandmother of nine.

Mrs. Forbes, with her husband Walter, owned and operated Forbes Printing &

Office Supply in Birmingham, Drayton Plains, and Oxford. They were founding members of Church of the Resurrection in Clarkston.

After moving to California, Caroline was a member of St. George's Episcopal Church in Laguna Hills and worked with elementary children in its Academy. She enjoyed a daily swim with her friends in Leisure World.

She was a devoted fan of the Detroit Tigers, Lions, Red Wings and Pistons and became a fan of the Anaheim Angels.

A memorial service will be held in California. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the charity of your choice.

John W. Kinney

John W. Kinney of Lapeer, formerly of Ortonville and Pontiac, passed away Jan. 3, 2009, at the age of 94.

He was preceded in death by his wife and best friend Grace and siblings Mark, Ellsworth, Ethel, Edna, Olive, and Mary. He is survived by many nieces and nephews.

Mr. Kinney served in the US Army during WWII and retired from Pontiac Motors.

Funeral Service Wednesday, Jan. 7,



12:30 p.m., at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston, where friends may visit, Wednesday 11:30 a.m. until the time of service.

Interment, White Chapel Cemetery. Memorials may be made to

Salvation Army.

Online

www.wintfuneralhome.com.

guestbook,

James A. 'Jim' Zasorin

James A. "Jim" Zasorin, formerly of Pontiac, passed away Dec. 28, 2008, at the age of 62.

He was preceded in death by his wife Judy. He was the brother of Peggy (Tom) Hunt, David (Donna) Hill, Cindy (Dale) Vandagriff, and JoAnn (Brian) Gannon; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends.

Mr. Zasorin retired from General Motors after 30 years of service.

Funeral Service was Jan. 3 at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Interment, Perry Mount Park. Memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association.

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guestbook,

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Big Deal.

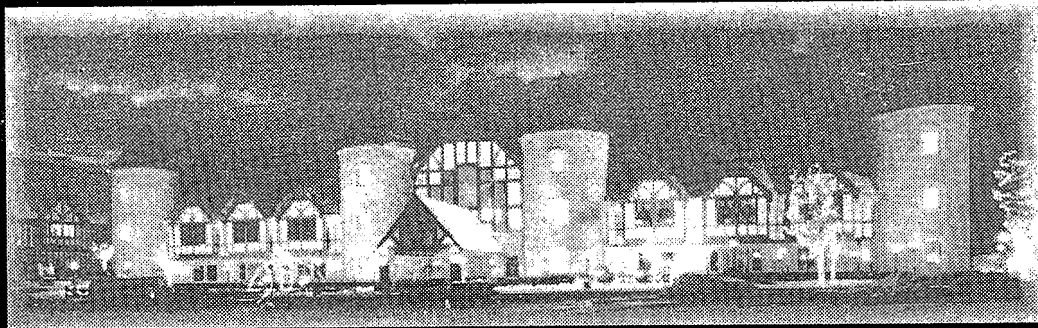
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| <p>Ravioli & Meat Sauce Large, stuffed, meat ravioli served with homemade meat sauce and Parmesan cheese</p> | <p>Whitefish Almondine Fresh Lake Superior whitefish sauteed in lemon butter and garlic wine sauce, topped with toasted almonds</p> |
| <p>Sirloin Steak 6 oz. sirloin steak char-grilled to perfection, topped with sautéed onions, mushrooms and zip sauce</p> | <p>Tenderloin Tips Grilled tenderloin tips, topped with red wine sauce, onions and mushrooms. Served with fresh vegetable and red skin potatoes topped with zip sauce.</p> |
| <p>Chicken Lemon Chicken breast sauteed with lemon butter, fresh herbs, white wine & chicken stock</p> | <p>All entrees served with soup or salad, dinner rolls & butter</p> |

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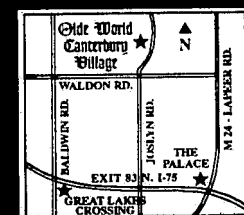
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Clarkston cagers come back strong from Christmas break

BY WENDIREARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer

Cagers went back to classes on Monday and are ready to get into the bulk of their season.

They begin this week with two OAA Red league games at North Farmington and Southfield-Lathrup.

"It's good to get started," said Boys Varsity Coach Dan Fife. "Our league is as good as it gets in the state. It is very good, very competitive."

During the break the team took advantage of every moment they had by practicing and competing in a few scrimmages.

They traveled Renaissance High School in Detroit for the annual PSL Holiday Classic on Dec. 27.

The Wolves played in the last game of the night against Henry Ford. Both teams began the game with an undefeated record, but it was the Wolves to walk away with the win, 65-60.

"It was a good experience to go down there," said Fife. "It was tough over Christmas, all of the players on every team had other things on their mind. The tournament was great it was just basketball people."

Matt Kamieniecki, Brandon

Pokley and Brandon Verlinden had a good game, said Fife.

Henry Ford was three points ahead going into the last half of the game, 27-24, but the Wolves pulled ahead.

"It was a close game," said Fife. "We were up by 10, then lost it. We regained it and got control."

Pokley had a good second half and scored 15 points in the half, including three 3-pointers. He scored 23 points for the entire game.

More high scorers for Clarkston were Kamieniecki, 14, Verlinden 12, and Tom Staton, 10.

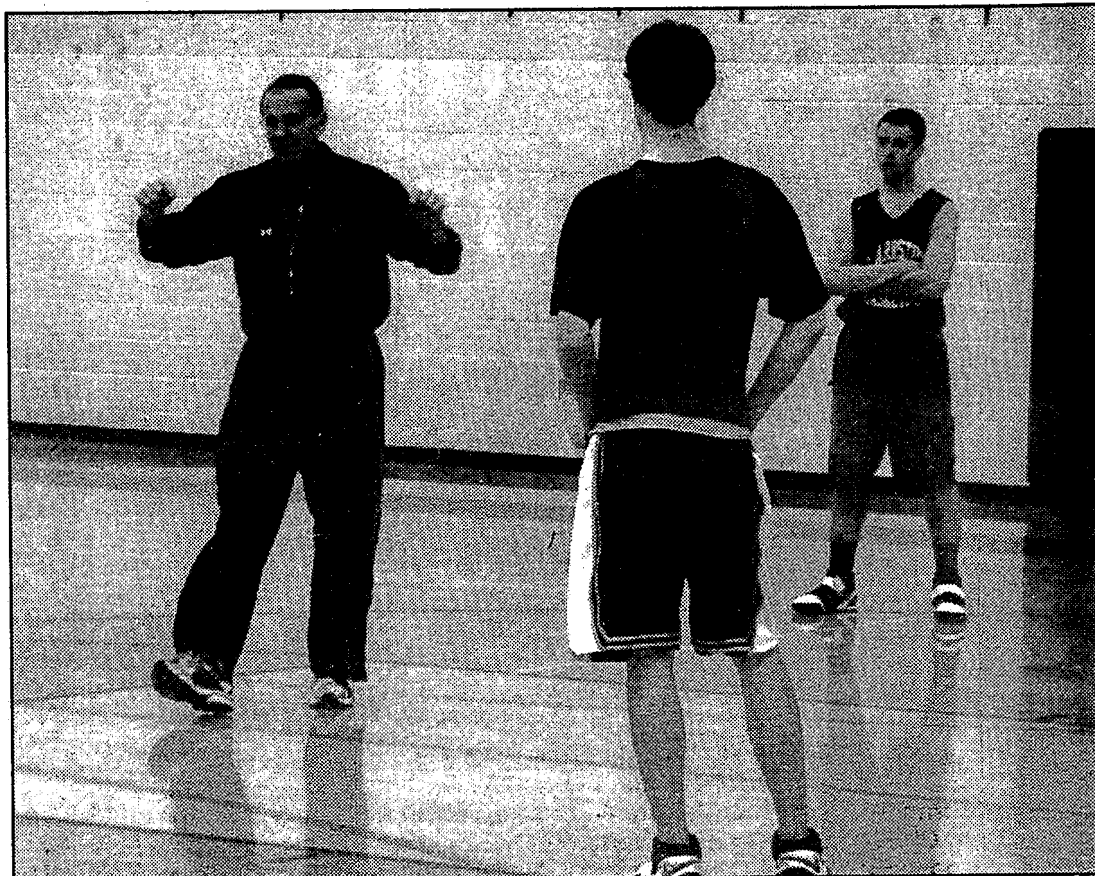
The leading scorer for Henry Ford was Karriem Baker with 18 points.

Clarkston (3-0) is currently ranked fifth in the state and third in Class A following Detroit Pershing (3-0) and Saginaw Arthur-Hill (7-0).

The boys played North Farmington on Tuesday. Next they take on Southfield-Lathrup on Friday.

The freshman team will start the night at 4 p.m., followed by JV. Varsity will end the night with their game at 7 p.m.

Check the Wolfpack Update on ClarkstonNews.com for the latest.



Varsity Boys Basketball Coach Dan Fife gives the team a few pointers during practice. Photo by Wendi Reardon

Athlete of the Week Coates sets school record

BY WENDIREARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer

As a volleyball libero, Jenna Coates was on top of her game, helping her team become OAA League and District champs.

For her efforts she was named to Class A third team.

"I feel really honored," said Coates. "I feel good, all of the coaches put me in and saw my hard work on the court. It's a team sport so for them to recognize me is great."

Coates ended her second season on the varsity team setting a new school record with 1,165 digs and 83 aces.

Coates started her club season for her team, Legacy 17 National in November. She is getting ready for her first tournament next month.

It is her third year playing for the club and she enjoys being a part of it.

"It is much more competitive and the pace is faster," she said. "We go everywhere and get to see how different parts of the country play."

The junior is already set for college and

is verbally committed to play volleyball for Central Michigan University.

She is going to study sports management so she can stay in the athletic atmosphere.

Coates has thought about coaching after she is done with college.

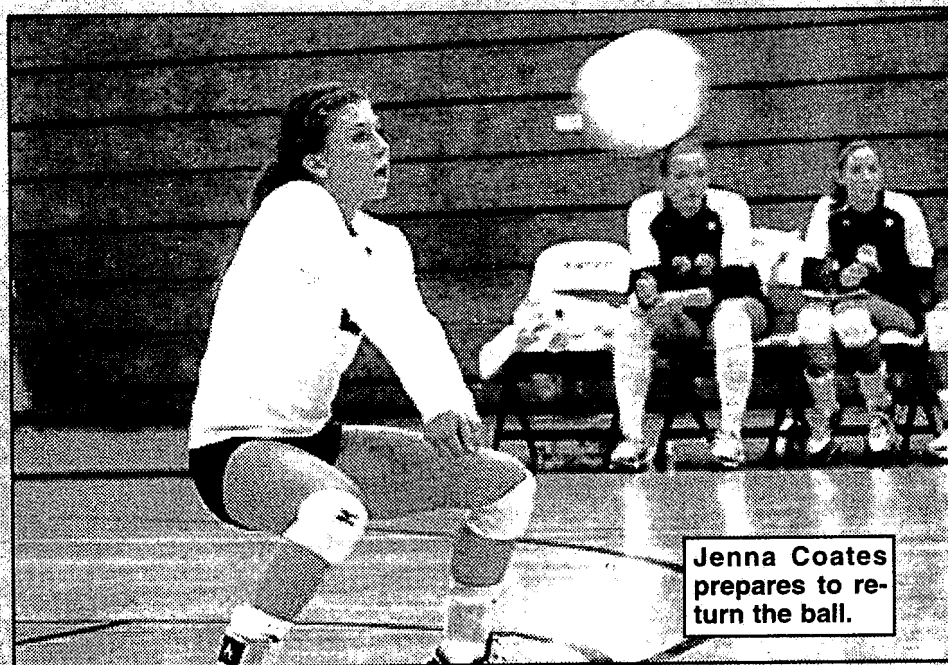
"It is more productive for the kids if the coach can do it and has real life experience," she said.

She has experienced some coaching by helping young spikers during the summer volleyball clinics and has advice for future varsity players.

"Keep working hard, keep learning," Coates said. "The more you want to push yourself to learn, the better you will be. There is always room for improvement."

Besides playing volleyball and studying to maintain her 3.4 GPA, she likes to hang out with her friends and has a goal to snowboard sometime this winter.

Her teammates Alexis Egler, Lauren Gardner, and Allison Reis received Honorable Mentions for the season.

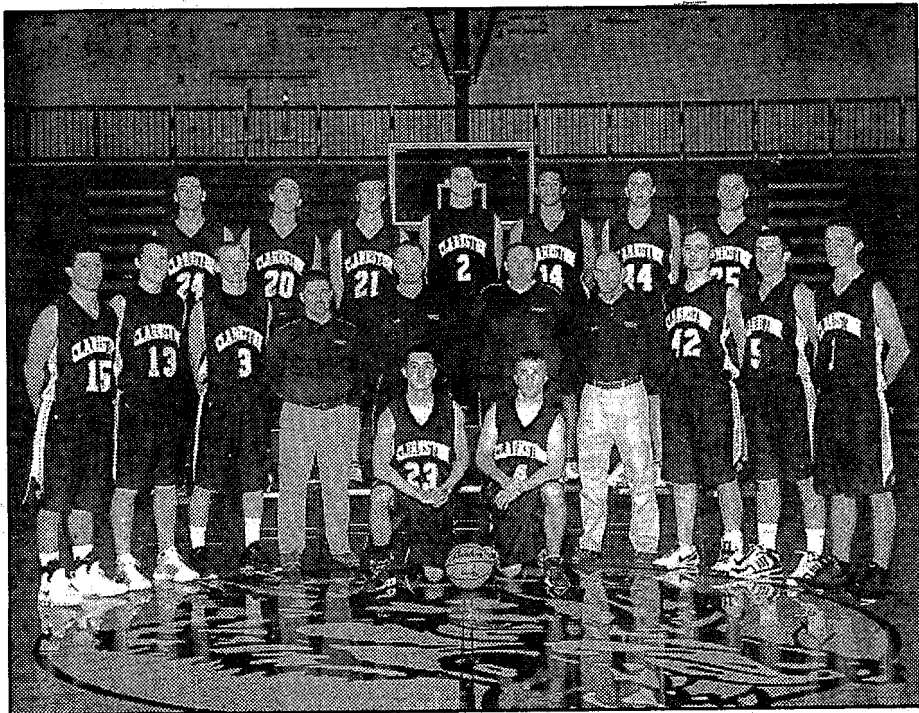


Jenna Coates prepares to return the ball.

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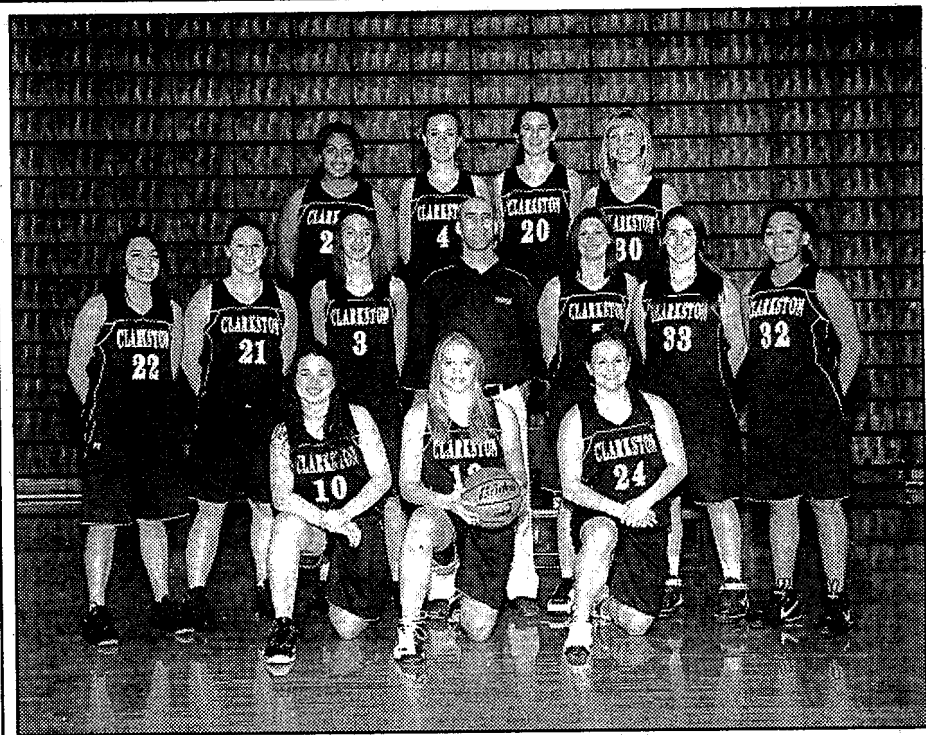
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Cagers ready to play

Boys Varsity Basketball team is Jonathan Baenziger, Matt Calvano, Chris Canada, Jordan Clark, Max Collins, Matt Kamieniecki, Shane Kouri, Jared Lawrence, Brandon Pokley, Luke Prudhomme, Tom Ronk, Tyler Scarlett, Tom Staton, Chris Young, Brandon Verlinden, Head Coach Dan Fife and Assistant Coach Eric Chambers. *Photo provided by Visual Sports Network*



Good luck, Lady Wolves!

Girls Varsity Basketball team is Kayla Brimacombe, Eryn Cornell, Connor Daugherty, Taylor Hasselbach, Megan Hastings, Erica Harris, Christina Jokisch, Kaleigh Kenny, Anna Manilla, Jena Manilla, Mikaela Parrish, Head Coach Tim Wasilk and Assistant Coach Marisha Sunday. *Photo provided by Visual Sports Network*



Jordan Clark looks for an open player to pass the ball to.

Wolves Back in Action

Wednesday, Jan. 7

4:15 p.m., Boys and Girls Varsity Ski - Slalom at Pine Knob Ski Resort
5 p.m., Wrestling @ Lake Orion against Troy Athens and Troy

Thursday, Jan 8

4:15 p.m., Boys and Girls Varsity Ski - Giant Slalom at Pine Knob Ski Resort
5:30 p.m., Girls JV Basketball v. Rochester, Varsity follows

6:30 p.m., Boys Swim @ Birmingham Groves

Friday, Jan 9

5:30 p.m., Boys JV Basketball @ Southfield - Lathrup, Varsity follows

Saturday, Jan 10

9 a.m., Boys and Girls Varsity Bowling @ L'Anse Creuse North Baker's Dozen Tournament
8 p.m., Hockey @ Stoney Creek (Onyx Ice Arena)

Check ClarkstonNews.com for the latest on your teams

Have photos you want to share?

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Know an athlete of the week?

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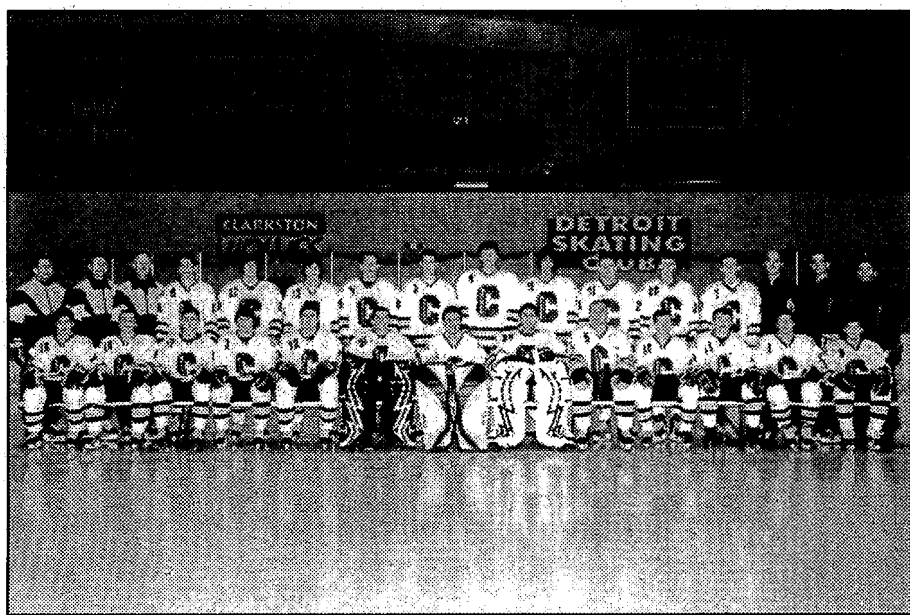


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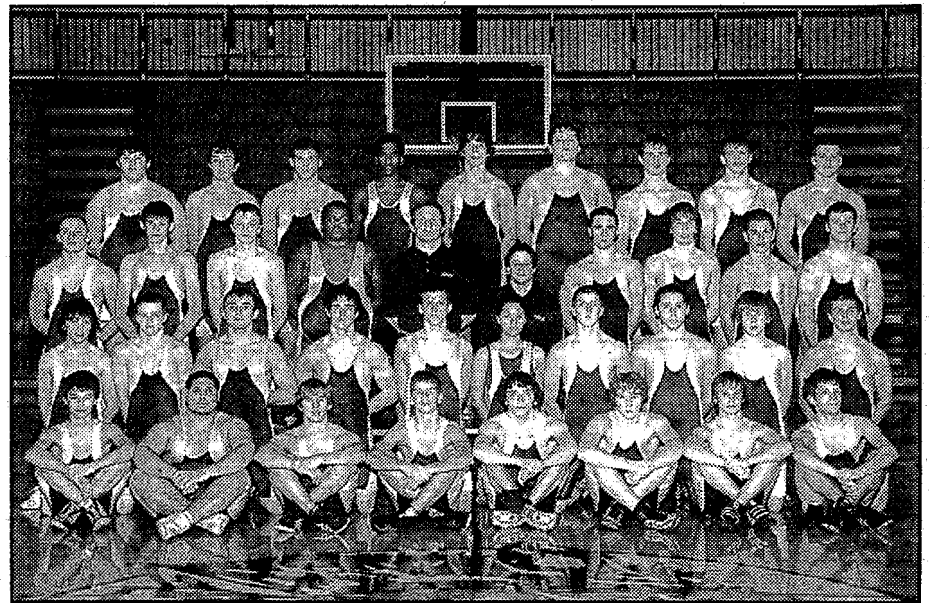
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Ready to hit the ice

Icers are Matt Campbell, David Cannons, Luke Conner, Dillon Drayer, Michael Fiteny, Tyler Frakes, Adam Frank, Chad Frost, Jon Graham, Sean Hancock, Hunter Hughes, Connor Lyons, Garrett Knappe, Adam Matynowski, Jeremy Messing, Austin Morse Neeko Muniz, Nick Posawatz, Michael Rajala, Cole Schaffer, Jack Schlau, Dan Smith, Jonathan Williams. They are led by Head Coach Bryan Krygier and Assistant Coaches Ralph Humphlett, Roman Krygier, Jay Manojlovich and David Morin. *Photo provided by Visual Sports Network*



Grapplers hold them to the mat

Grapplers are Joshua Acosta, Keera Allen, Derek Booker, Blaine Bowman, Kyle Broughton, Ryan Brown, Zachary Budrow, Chris Burkhart, Ryan Butterfield, Lucas Carroll, Matt Deitz, Scott Devos, Cody Ellsworth, Andrew Fairse, Ty Foltz, Ethan Frick, Michael Glowacki, Sloan Hadsall, Mike Henige, Spencer Karrick, Kyle Kenyon, Evan King, Mitchell Manns, Naron McDougal, Alex Popp, Mike Richmond, Zak Roberson, Jeff Stoney, Matt Vandermeer, Raymond Wilkie, Mike Williams, William Williams, and Justin Wisser. They are led by Head Coach Joe DeGain and Assistant Coach Derek Mosocovic. *Photo provided by Visual Sports Network*

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People Poll

January 7, 2009

Obama's greatest challenge?



"The economy."

Kris Wikle



"Getting us out of the war. Too many lives have been lost already."

Renea Huth



"The economy; keeping people working."

Jackie Metzloff



"Improving the economy."

Bob Schultz

By Laura Colvin

The Clarkston News' Millstream

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

Dirty hands, warm hearts

BY LAURA COLVIN
Clarkston News Staff Writer

They call themselves "No dirt" for short, but when the North Oakland Disaster Relief Team goes to work, nothing could be further from the truth.

Just before Christmas, the Clarkston-based group traveled to Biloxi, Mississippi to continue rebuilding efforts in the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina wreaked disaster in 2005.

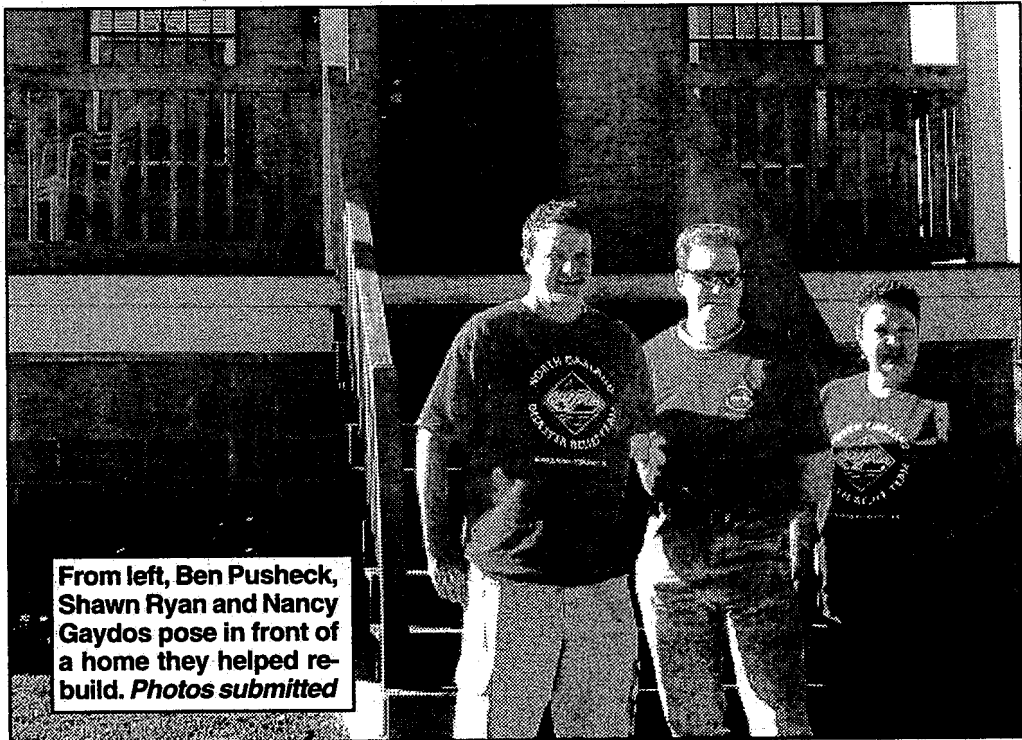
"I don't think people realize how much is still so undone down there," said Lisa Gaydos, a NODRT volunteer who lives in White Lake. "Whenever there's a big crisis, you get all these people interested, but the interest wanes as time goes by and people think 'Oh, that was three years ago.' But everything is not back to normal."

And she would know. Gaydos and other members of NODRT have been to Biloxi a number of times. They've seen the devastation, the flattened homes and the displaced families, and say they'll continue making the trip each year as long as it means they're helping someone in need.

"One of the things we do is give people hope," said NODRT co-founder Stan Garwood, an Independence Township resident. "When they come up to you and say 'you came all the way from Michigan? Thank you, thank you. I can't wait to get back into my house,' that makes it all worthwhile."

NODRT, a church-based, non-profit organization, was founded in 1999 by Garwood and Bob Hadden, a longtime friend.

In the beginning, a small core group sent information to local churches, recruiting volunteers from Clarkston United Methodist, Calvary Lutheran, St. Daniel's, Clarkston Community



From left, Ben Pusheck, Shawn Ryan and Nancy Gaydos pose in front of a home they helped rebuild. Photos submitted

Church and a number of others.

But while the organization is church-based, members come from all walks of life; to come along on a trip, Garwood said, volunteers need only be over 18 and willing to work hard to help others.

Twice a year, the group travels to locations around the country.

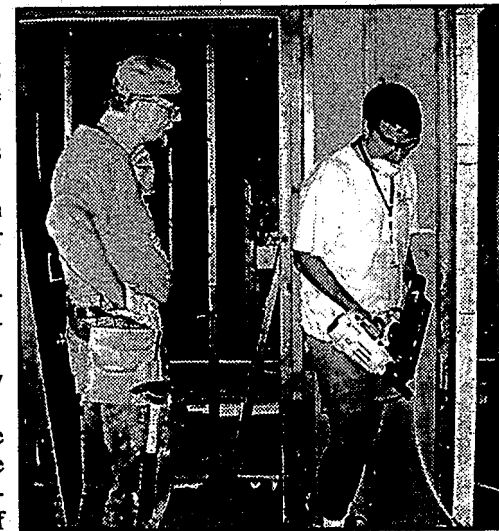
Since 2005, the weeklong 'Big Trip' has taken them to the Gulf Coast, while efforts on shorter trips, usually 4-5 days, are focused elsewhere.

In May, NODRT is planning a trip to a location not yet determined. They'll go, Garwood explained, wherever the need is greatest.

And they're hoping to bring along some new recruits.

"For me I get more out of it than I give," he said. "The feelings I get when I walk away restore me. You're giving people their hope back and helping them restart their lives and I can't think of anything more worthwhile."

Please see Home on page 24A



Stan Garwood, left, talks with Ben Pusheck on the job.

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Around Town

Shallow Water Aerobics, 12-1 p.m., Tuesdays/Thursdays, starting Jan. 13, Clarkston High School. Water walking and low-impact aerobics. Ideal to combat arthritis. \$42 for 12 classes. Call the senior center, 248-625-8231.

Spaghetti Dinner, 5-7 p.m., Jan. 16, all-you-can-eat spaghetti and meat sauce, tossed salad, garlic bread. \$5. Independence Township Senior Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. 248-625-8231.

Singles Dance, Bethany North Oakland, 8 p.m.-12 a.m., Jan. 17, St. Daniels Catholic Church, Cushing Center, 7010 Valley Park. \$12. 248-891-8938.

Fish dinner, 5-7 p.m., Jan. 17. Davisburg United Methodist Church, 803 Broadway. \$5/ adults; \$3 children 5-12; \$1/children 4 and under. 248-634-3373.

Zumba Gold Fitness, 9:15-10 a.m., Tuesdays, starting Jan. 20. Easy Latin and other dance moves for exercise. \$48 for 8 weeks. Independence Township Senior Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. 248-625-8231.

Uptown Palladium Trip, Jan. 20. Movie "Not Easily Broken," gourmet lunch, free popcorn and pop, transportation. \$27. Call the senior center, 248-625-8231.

Adult Basketball League, 18 and over, 12-5 p.m., Sundays, Clarkston Junior High. 6595 Middle Lake. \$450/resident team. \$550/non-resident team. Referee fees are an additional cost. Independence Township Parks and Recreation, 248-625-8223.

Pony Basketball League, for high school boys not on the school team, mid afternoons, Sundays, Clarkston Junior High, 6595 Middle Lake. \$200/resident team. \$300/non-resident team. al cost. Independence Township Parks and Recreation, 248-625-8223.

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.



From left, Clarkston Village Players Cynthia Haaseth of Davisburg, and Karen and Dale Dobson of Milford rehearse a scene. Photo provided

CVP set to stage comedy

Clarkston Village Players present the comedy "Don't Mention My Name," weekends, Jan. 9-24, at Depot Theater, 4861 White Lake Road.

Curtain times are 7:30 p.m., Thursdays; 8 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays; and 2 p.m., Sundays.

The play, directed by Joe Mishler and

produced by Sue Owen, features a man with amnesia, waking at a bed and breakfast, facing mysteries not least of which is his own name.

Admission is \$11 and \$13. For tickets or information, call 248-575-4104. Tickets are also available at Rudy's Market, 9 S. Main St., Clarkston.

Therapeutic Yoga classes, Mondays, 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m.; Tuesdays, 7:15-8:30 p.m., Jewels Yoga Fitness, 4612 Mountain View Trail, Independence Township. \$12 walk-in fee. 248-390-9270.

Bingo, Mondays, 6 p.m., sponsored by Divine Peace Metropolitan Community Church, at Knights of Columbus hall, 5660 Maybee Road. 18-way bingo, double action, regular jackpots to \$500, local progressive. 248-332-

1186.

Clarkston Rotary Club, Mondays, 6:30 p.m., Deer Lake Athletic Club, 6167 White Lake Road. 248-625-4244.

Fountains charity poker, 5:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday. \$30 buy in. Fountains Golf and Banquet, 6060 Maybee Road. 248-625-3731.

Clarkston Community Band rehearsals, 7 p.m., Tuesdays. Especially needed: percus-

sion, clarinets, trumpets. \$30/semester. Band room, Sashabaw Middle School, 5565 Pine Knob Lane. Independence Township Parks & Recreation, 248-625-8223.

Needlework Night, fourth Tuesday, 6:30-8 p.m. Stitch and visit. Everyone welcome. Springfield Township Library, 12000 Davisburg Road. 248-846-6550.

Community Singles, third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Community Presbyterian Church fellowship hall, 4301 Monroe St., off Sashabaw, Waterford. All ages, men and women. 248-394-0412.

BNI, Clarkston Waterford chapter, Tuesdays, 7 a.m., Green Apple restaurant, Dixie Highway at Walton. 248-673-6007.

Belly Dancing, Tuesdays, 10-11:30 a.m., Bay Court Park. Independence Township Parks and Recreation, 248-625-8223.

Pickle Ball, Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., First Congregational Church gym, 5449 Clarkston Road. \$3 drop-in fee. Call Independence Township Senior Center, 248-625-8231.


De-Stress Gentle Yoga, 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays, \$6/drop-in. Carriage House, Independence Township Senior Center, 6000 Clarkston Road, 248-625-8231.

Clarkston Area Optimist Club, 7:30-8:30 a.m., Wednesdays, Clarkston United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, 6600 Waldon Road. 248-622-6096.

Meet and greet, North Oakland Bethany, last Wednesdays, 6 p.m., Mesquite Creek, 7228 N. Main St. 248-464-0756.

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.

Local Business Network, Ortonville/Clarkston Chapter, first and third Thursdays meets, 7:45-8:45 a.m., Mico's Real Estate, 7183 Please see Around Town on page 19A



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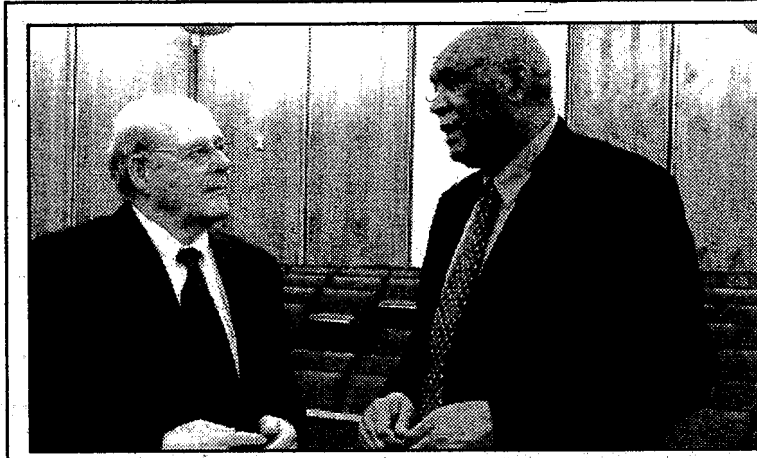
Continued from page 2B

Main Street. 248-505-5091.

Local Business Network, 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.

Volunteering, Avalon Hospice, sit with patients, hold their hand, listen to stories, personal care, or just be there. Two hours a week or more. 800-664-6334.

Volunteering, Oakland County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, 248-559-1147.



Moving to Lansing

Oakland County Commissioner Thomas F. Middleton of Independence Township talks with Commissioner Vincent Gregory, who is ending his service with county Board of Commissioners to serve in the Michigan State House of Representatives. Middleton, a former state representative, shares a few pointers at the board's final meeting of the year, Dec. 11. *Photo submitted*

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January Networking Luncheon
January 22, 2009 at Outback Steakhouse
11:45-1 p.m.

January Women in Business
January 27, 2009 at Fountains
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Speaking of Success--Marty Zimmerman
10:45-1 p.m.
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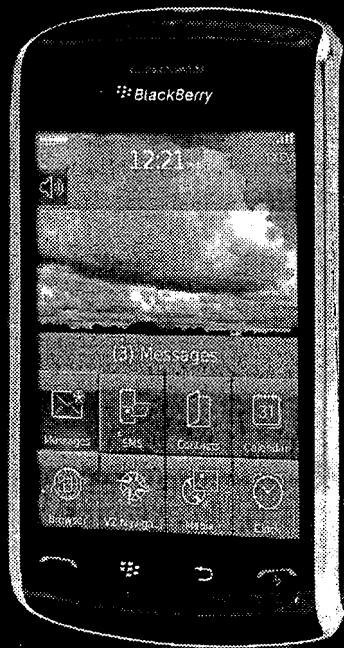
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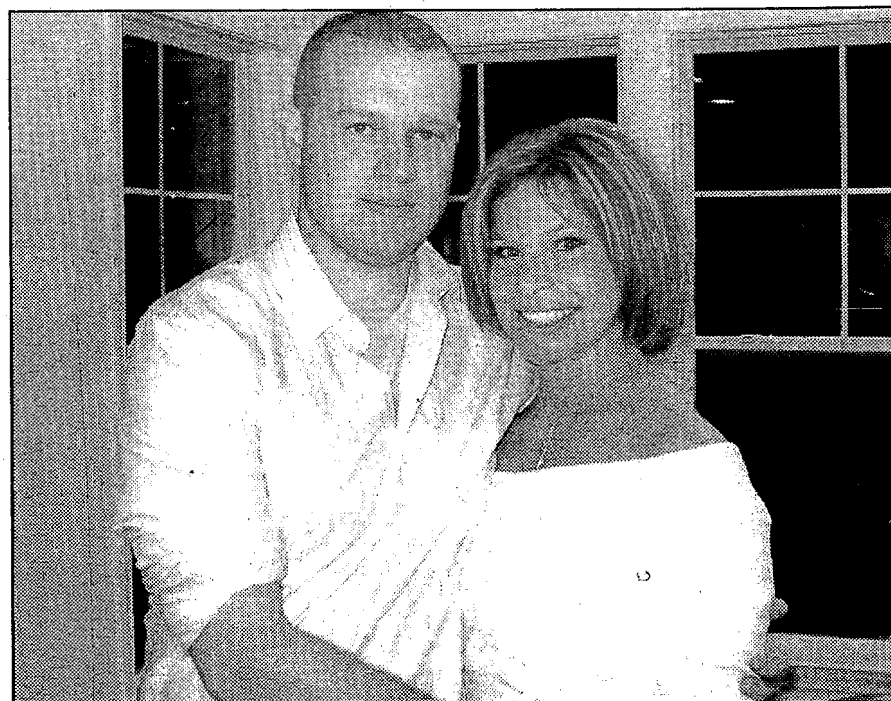
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Milestones



Justin and Sarah

Steel - Muhlbeier

George and Katie Steel of Holly are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Sarah, to Justin Muhlbeier, son of Susan Nicolai and Ralph Muhlbeier.

The bride-to-be is a 2002 Clarkston High School graduate and now is pursuing a degree in radiology at Keiser University in

Tampa, Fla.

Mr. Muhlbeier graduated from the University of Washington in 2007 with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and is now serving in the United States Army's 82nd Airborne Division.

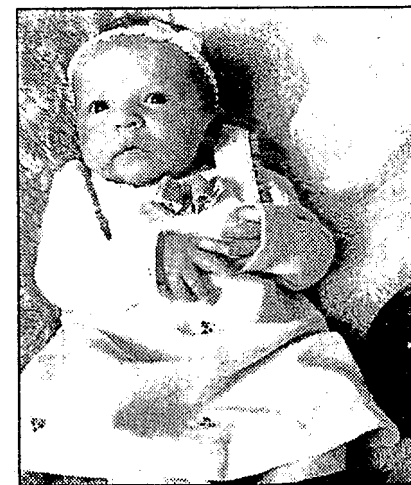
A June 2009 wedding is planned.

Welcome Jaelyn

James and Jessica (Doty) Snyder of Surprise, Ariz., are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Jaelyn Renee Snyder.

Jaelyn was born in Phoenix, Nov. 23, 2008. She weighed 7 pounds, 15 ounces, and was 19 1/2 inches in length.

Her grandparents are Douglas and Sharry Doty of Clarkston, and James and Barbara Snyder of Crestline, Calif.



Got a Milestone to share?

Births, engagements, weddings, military, business, school achievements - we'd love to see them! Send them to 5 S. Main St. or Clarkstonnews@gmail.com

Faded Ink

Religion

Faith in a broken world

The lights of Bethlehem are still in the rear view mirror as we leave Christmas behind and enter into 2009. But now the sound of angelic choirs is replaced with warfare, accusations and justifications.

As I write this, war is occurring in the streets of Gaza. Israel is claiming the right to protect itself from acts of violence. Palestinians are condemning they are the victims of brutal aggression. The U.S. is government is placing the blame squarely on Hamas.

Meanwhile, more than 500 have been killed in the past two weeks.

Peace on Earth and Good Will to all.

Certainly there have been other seasons of Christmas challenged by the brokenness of the world.

Tragedies on international or personal scale do not suddenly cease to occur just because we have lit some candles, sang some hymns and greeted each other with wishes for a peaceful and joyful new year. Some of you have recently experienced trials, life changes and grief in the midst of the season of peace and joy.

So is it just back to business as usual in this year? Do we only hope that next year we can find peace in one of

the boxes where we stored the Christmas decorations?

I suppose the answer is affected by whether we thought Christmas and its message were meant to be sentiment or a calling.

Jesus did not come into a world of bliss. He entered into poverty, born to an oppressed people and was rejected by many.

In the midst of this he offered to us the kind of peace that passes all understanding. He offered for his followers to live in the Kingdom of God, not just a better world.

In such a Kingdom, believers experience the living God and discover their lives are intended for service, not entitlement. We are not expected to be immune or removed from brokenness, but transform it by grace.

The power of faith is not measured by the absence of conflict.

It is found in its ability to live in the midst of brokenness and offer hope.

It is to live with confidence that the love given to us can conquer hate as we give it to others.

A world or life in chaos is not denial of Christmas hope, it is its birthplace.

The year ahead holds a lot of opportunity for faith. May you be blessed with a healthy heavenly dose.

The Rev. Rick Dake is pastor of Clarkston United Methodist Church.

Spiritual Matters



Pastor
Richard Dake

In our churches...

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, biblically based, financial workshop for everyone, Sundays, 4 p.m., starting Jan. 25. Free preview, 10:30 a.m., Jan. 11, Calvary Lutheran Church, 6805 Bluegrass Drive. 248-625-1611.

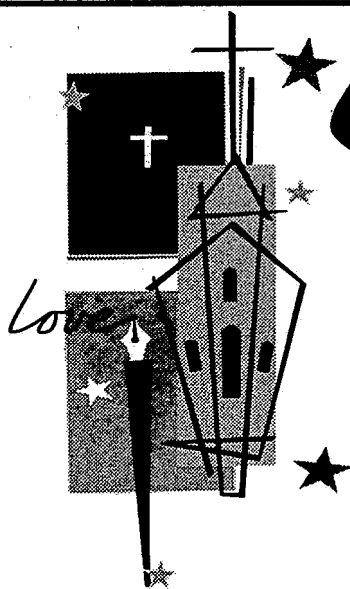
Prayer Partner Training, 10:30 a.m., second Sunday. Participants will receive a prayer syllabus. All welcome. Peace Unity, at Sashabaw Presbyterian, 5300 Maybee Road. 248-891-4365.

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.

Yoga, 10 a.m., Wednesdays, instructor Noreen Daly. Beginning and intermediate techniques. Bring mat. \$7/class. Peace Unity and Holistic Center, 8080 Ortonville Road. 248-625-5192.

Wednesday Evening FEAST, dinner at 6 p.m., worship at 6:50 p.m., classes for all ages, 7:15- 8:30 p.m. Free nursery. Calvary Lutheran Church, 6805 Bluegrass Drive. 248-625-3288.

Rainbows meetings, Thursdays, 7-8 p.m., Cushing Center, St. Daniel Catholic Church, 7010 Valley Park Drive. Outreach program for children and adults dealing with change in their lives due to death, divorce or other significant loss. 248-625-1750.



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As time goes by, the condition of many homes grows worse as rot and decay set in.

Home help brings hope

Continued from page 17A

In addition to Gulf Coast trips, missions have taken NODRT members to Virginia, Ohio, Indiana and West Virginia.

While the group currently has about 100 members on its mailing list, only about half are active.

Of those, only 16 were able to go on the most recent trip; the time before that, only 9 went along.

"It's never as much as you hope for," said Kathy Garwood, Stan Garwood's wife and also a NODRT member. "I guess because we feel this is such a great thing to do, we

hope everybody feels that way."

While skilled tradesmen and women are welcome, there's more than enough work, members say, for able-bodied individuals who have the skills and desire, simply, to roll up their sleeves and work hard.

Volunteers do everything from painting and drywall to carpentry and electrical work, and many learn new skills along the way.

Immediately following a disaster, however, is when NODRT members seem to get dirtiest.

"I remember the first year we did mucking-out, which is just horrible," said



Group members pose during a recent trip to the Gulf Coast. Photos submitted

Kathy Garwood.

"Everything—drywall, carpet, everything—is moldy and wet. We carried out a freezer full of shrimp and meat, and it all drained out on us."

The experience, she explained, can be emotionally overwhelming.

"Coming back, you don't even feel like eating," she said. "We have so much here. You go into a restaurant and you could hardly eat your whole meal because they have so little. It still bothers me."

But Kathy agrees with her husband, Stan.

"You're giving people their hope back," she said. "And you realize how much you have."

Member Ben Pusheck said his experience has been similar.

"I've done Habitat for Humanity and other things in the past," he said. "But I'd

get there and find they already had more than enough people."

His first trip to work in the Gulf Coast, Pusheck said, was a wake up call, and taking a week of vacation with NODRT each year helps him to look at his own life in terms of 'what can I do,' verses 'what do I need.'

"Our norm is Clarkston, where a small house is 2,800 square feet," he said. "Down there, the norm is 800 square feet, and you've got a mom with four kids and she's happy, smiling, going 'thank you, thank you. I can't wait to get into my home.' It resets you."

Donations from churches and member families help support NODRT efforts, but the organization is in need of additional funding as well as volunteers.

For more information, email gbuschur@calvary-lutheran.org, call Stan Garwood at 248-625-3123 or write to NODRT, 9340 Dixie Highway, Clarkston, MI, 48348.

Obituary

Michael W. Powers

Michael W. Powers of Grand Blanc, formerly of Clarkston, passed away, Jan. 4, 2009, at the age of 62.

He was the husband of Judy; father of Marc of Clarkston and Jeff (Ruth) of St. Clair Shores; and grandpa of Justin and Jacob.

Mr. Powers retired from Bloomfield Township as a firefighter.

Obituaries updated at
ClarkstonNews.com

STATE OF MICHIGAN FILE NO:
PROBATE COURT 2008-320, 756DE
COUNTY OF OAKLAND

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

Estate of Robert Leslie Cross. Date of birth: March 23, 1945
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Robert Leslie Cross, who lived at 1727 Timson Lane, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302 died 11/18/2007.

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

12-23-2008
Cheryl Kaye Cross
1727 Timson Lane
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302 248-626-7333



Memorial service will be Thursday, Jan. 8, 12:30 p.m., at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston, where friends may visit Thursday, 11:30 a.m. until time of service. Online guest book, www.wintfuneralhome.com.

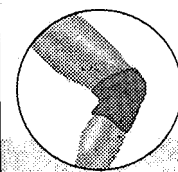
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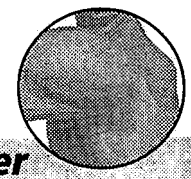
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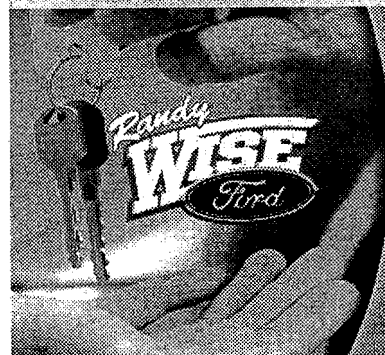
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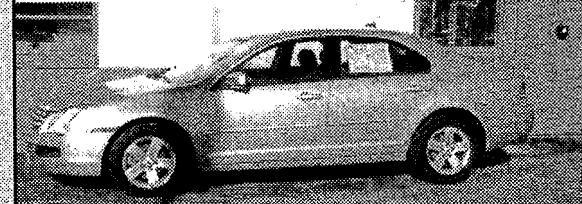
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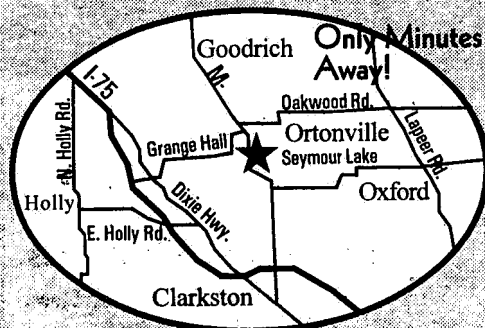
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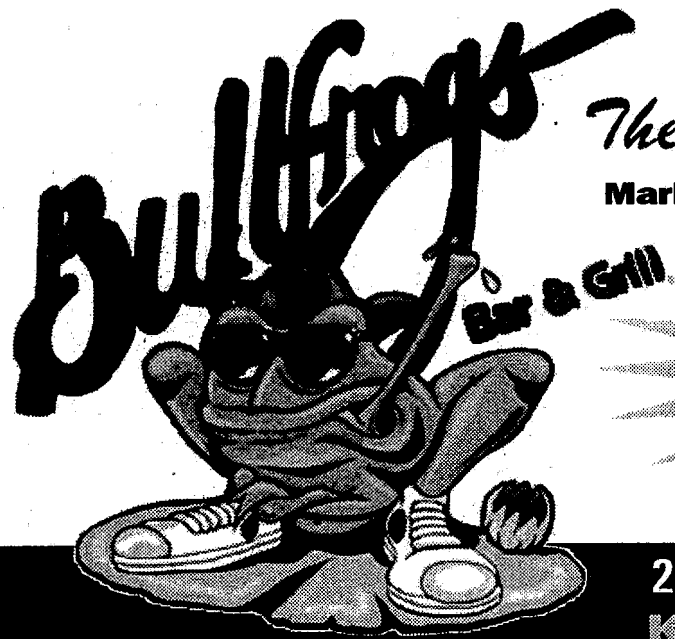
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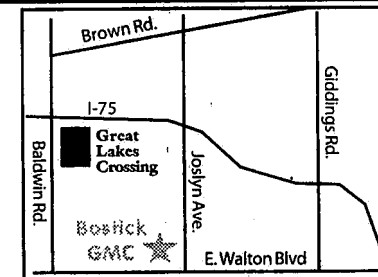
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| '06 Chrysler 300 Limited Stk.#979J \$16,995*** | '06 Chrysler 300C Stk.#91060J \$18,996*** | '05 Pontiac Grand Prix 4-Door Stk.#1010J \$13,396*** | '06 Honda CR-V Stk.#1038J \$16,996*** | '07 Dodge Caliber Wagon Stk.#975J \$12,995*** | '07 Dodge Caliber 4-Door Stk.#984J \$13,995*** |
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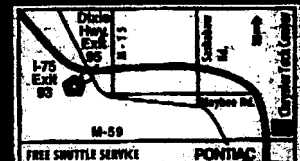
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